

**CITY OF NORTH PORT ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
BOARD BUDGET PROPOSAL**

- Propose that 100% of the funds raised for the Environmental Protection Fund goes toward planting new trees and buying parcels of land that are environmentally beneficial to the City of North Port.

- Based on the above statement, I propose the Natural Resources Division is funded by the City's General Funds/Budget just as the other departments in the City of North Port are funded. I believe this is needed for the long-term sustainability of the Natural Resources Division.

- Assuming 100% of the funds raised goes to planting new trees and buying lands, I propose 40% of those funds (raised in that calendar and/or fiscal year) goes toward purchasing new trees.

- Assuming 100% of the funds raised goes to planting new trees and buying lands, I propose 25% of those funds (raised in that calendar and/or fiscal year) go toward the planting new trees.

- Assuming 100% of the funds raised goes to planting new trees and buying lands, I propose 25% of those funds (raised in that calendar and/or fiscal year) goes toward buying lands that are environmentally beneficial to the City of North Port.

- Assuming 100% of the funds raised goes to planting new trees and buying lands, I propose 10% of those funds (raised in that calendar and/or fiscal year) are held in reserve the following year's budget.

- **The proposed changes are not intended to alter the mitigation fee collection process and structure, that contributes to the Environmental Protection Fund (per JE's proposal).**

Provisional clause for funds not spent on items listed above:

- Funds for the items may be held over to the following year for approved larger projects that are still of the nature of buying/planting new trees or buying of environmentally beneficial lands to the City of North Port. Funds are not to be held over for more than two calendar and/or fiscal years.

REASONING FOR PROPOSAL ITEMS LISTED ABOVE

- The funds are raised based on the removal of trees. It is crucial that trees are replanted, and replanted as soon as possible. This is why up to 65% of the funds are designated to the purchasing and planting of new trees. It is also why the funds are to be used in short span, not to exceed two calendar and/or fiscal years.
- The Natural Resources Division was not completely established years ago, and the funds for the department have been generated by the tree removal fees. This was needed to get the funding for the department upfront and going. However, the importance of this department should not be left to funds raised on tree removals. It is possible the amount of development or trees being removed would be lowered so much that the Natural Resources Division would run out of funding. This is why I propose the Natural Resources Division be funded by the City's General Funds.
- Another reason for the Natural Resources Division to be funded by the City's General Funds is the Natural Resources Division is benefiting the entire City of North Port and not just new development. It should be the privilege and responsibility for all North Port residents and not just new residents and developers. Since this is a shared benefit, it should also be a shared cost.

PROPOSAL FOR LOCATIONS OF TREES TO BE PLANTED WITH FUNDS

- Due to the complexity where trees can be saved on parcels of land, I would like to propose the trees be planted on developed lots in the rear easements of the property given the following conditions:
 - 1) There are no existing or proposed power lines or other utilities in the rear easements (above or below grade).
 - 2) The existing owner(s) of the developed property agrees to maintain the trees to the best of their ability.

*Changed "Environmental Department" to "Natural Resources

*Changed "Tree Fund" to "Environmental Protection Fund"