



**Green Print**

**2024**

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## **Introduction**

The City of Naples is a beautiful community located on the Gulf of Mexico. Residents and elected officials take great pride in the integration of natural and built environments that provide for an appealing quality of life. Having a diverse and well managed urban forest adds greatly to preserving small town character, environmental sensitivity, and an extraordinary quality of life; all part of the City's initiatives and priorities in the 2021 Vision Document.

The Comprehensive Plan for the City of Naples states, "Naples is a premier city that offers a high quality of life exemplified by cleanliness, safety, well-maintained homes and businesses, distinctive architecture, tree-lined streets, landscaped medians, a high level of municipal services, environmental corridors, pristine beaches, and tropical climate." A critical element goal is to "Make Naples the green jewel of southwest Florida", the Urban Forest and its management is a large part of meeting this goal.

The 2024 Green Print provides an overview of the care, preservation, pruning, planting, removal, or disposition of City trees and palms. It provides data concerning work performed to the urban forest during FY2023-2024 (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024) and outlines the work to be completed during FY2024-2025 (October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025). This plan assists in helping the City of Naples continue their commitment to environmental stewardship, best practices, and public safety.

The city continuously works to maintain a resilient urban forest. Naples strives to plant native species of both trees and palms. Maintaining diversity in the tree population is a key consideration for final planting recommendations. Research shows that urban forests should maintain diversity in species to mitigate the opportunities for catastrophic disease or pest infestation that could significantly alter the character and quality of the existing tree canopy. The city works diligently to ensure the local tree population is diverse and to avoid the dominance and vulnerabilities of monocultures. Trees introduced into the built environments of Florida's urban communities are not always comprised of native species. Therefore, non-invasive, tropical exotics have a role when enhancing the City's character and tree-minded community.

## State of the Urban Forest

### Inventory

The Urban Forest stands at 20,642 inventoried, managed sites with an additional 99 vacant locations for planting.

Tree Category	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Of 2024 Total
<i>Vacant</i>	1,064	88	134	99	
<i>Palm Trees</i>	14,098	14,045	13,794	13,719	66.82%
<i>Understory Trees</i>	995	1041	969	981	4.69%
<i>Majorstory Trees</i>	5,974	6,057	5,907	5,942	28.62%

Tree Location	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Of 2024 Total
<i>Median and Island Trees</i>	2,814	2,799	2,721	2,712	13.18%
<i>Park Trees</i>	4,517	4,550	4,393	4,379	21.28%
<i>ROW Trees</i>	13,736	13,794	13,690	13,551	66.32%

Top 10 Species	Count	% Of 2024 Total
Cuban Royal Palm	5248	25.42%
Coconut Palm	3256	15.77%
Palmetto (Sabal/Cabbage Palm)	2642	12.80%
Mahogany	1802	8.73%
Southern Live Oak	933	4.52%
Foxtail Palm	750	3.63%
Cuban Laurel	695	3.37%
Solitaire Palm	490	2.37%
Shady Lady Black Olive	490	2.37%
Montgomery Palm	296	1.43%

## Tree City USA



### 27 Years

Maintaining a tree board or department

Having a community tree ordinance

Spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry

Celebrating Arbor Day



### 17 Years

Building the team

Measuring trees & forests

Planning the work

Performing the work

The community framework



### 5 Years

Establish Responsibility

Set the Rules

Know What You Have

Allocate the Resources

Celebrate Achievements

## **Arbor Day**

The City of Naples celebrated Arbor Day on Saturday, June 1, 2024, with Royal Poinciana Fest. The goal of the event is to take a moment to celebrate trees and our environment. Our local environmental partners joined us providing information about environmental causes and/or their organization. Many who live in Naples and Collier County do not know of some of the great groups that we have right here to support and visit.

The city gave away Royal Poinciana saplings for the event in addition to other great “swag”. We also unveiled our first Tree Walk. The walks will be in parks and other City areas and provide species identification and QR codes with information on the trees of our Urban Forest.

Arbor Day 2025 will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Baker Park. It will be our first annual Naples Tree Festival.





# City of Naples

## PROCLAMATION

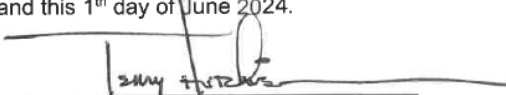
- WHEREAS** in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and
- WHEREAS** this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and
- WHEREAS** trees are a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife, and
- WHEREAS** trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and
- WHEREAS** trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and
- WHEREAS** trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and
- WHEREAS** the Royal Poinciana tree is a strikingly beautiful flowering tree that is beloved by many residents and visitors, and
- WHEREAS** the City of Naples celebrates Arbor Day 2024 by hosting a Royal Poinciana Festival.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry Hutchison**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Vice Mayor of the City of Naples, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 1, 2024, as

### **ARBOR DAY**

in the City of Naples and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Terry Hutchison, VICE MAYOR**

***Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Accomplishments***

***Pruning – Hardwoods***

The trim cycle was completed in FY24. A total of 2,960 trees were trimmed.

Species or Location	Estimated Time Frame	Status
<b>Street Trees</b>	<b>October - March</b>	
Mahogany		Completed
Riverla Dr		Completed
Black Olive		Completed
Shady Lady		Completed
Stoppers		Completed
Satinleaf		Completed
<b>Parks</b>	<b>April to May</b>	
Lowdermilk Park		Pending Restoration Work
Fleischmann Park		Completed
Anthony Park		Completed
Sandpiper Park		Completed
Goodlette Linear Park		Completed
Orchid Linear Park		Completed
Seagate School Park		Completed
City Operation Center		Completed
<b>Medians</b>	<b>June to July</b>	
Central Ave		Pending Restoration Work
Banyan Blvd		Completed
Gulf Shore Blvd N (Lowdermilk)		Completed
Golden Gate Parkway		Completed
Misc cul-de-sac - South		Completed
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Ave S (Annual)</b>	<b>August</b>	Completed
<b>Tropical Flowering (Annual)</b>	<b>September</b>	
Royal Poinciana		Completed
Copperpod		Completed
Hong Kong Orchid Tree		Completed
Queen Grape Myrtle		Completed
Golden Shower Tree		Completed
Wild Tamarind		Completed



**Pruning – Palms**

The trim cycle was completed in FY24. A total of 6,825 palms were trimmed.

Species	Estimated Start Date	Status
Coconut palms	October 1	Completed
Date Species	December 15	Completed
Coconut palms	April 1	Completed
Cabbage palms	June 15	Completed

**Removals**

There were 121 trees and palms removed.

Species	Count to Date
Hardwoods	36
Palms	85
Total	121

**Notable Canopy Loss**

The city experienced a higher-than-normal loss of Cuban Laurel trees and many continuing to decline that may lead to additional removals in the coming year. Removals were done along 7<sup>th</sup> Ave N and 6<sup>th</sup> St N. We are anticipating more Cuban Laurel removals in the upcoming year.

### **Invasive Exotic Tree Management**

The removal of 1 Bishopswood tree in Anthony Park was completed this year. The location was replanted with a Rainbow Eucalyptus.

### **Tree Fill-in 2024**

The Tree Fill-in Annual planting was funded at \$300,000 as a Capital Improvement Project. This funding allowed for the planting of 133 trees and palms City-wide.



### **Designated Street Trees Program**

Staff continued to work with the Homeowners Associations to select species based on Right Tree, Right Place while reducing palm species, there were three streets needing new species adopted. It was decided to remove the East Palatka Holly trees on 11<sup>th</sup> St N between 10<sup>th</sup> St N and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave N that are in poor condition. The replacement street tree will be the Hong Kong Orchid (*Bauhinia blakeana*). Additionally, we will assess and begin to interplant along 10<sup>th</sup> St N to add Royal Poinciana trees (*Delonix regia*) to the existing Sabal palms. As the Sabal palms decline or die, they will either be replaced with Royal Poinciana (*Delonix regia*) or the site simply deleted from the inventory.

**Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Work Plan**

***Hardwoods Pruning***

Species or Location	Estimated Time Frame
<b>Street Trees</b>	<b>October - March</b>
Cuban Laurel	
Southern Live Oak	
Rustyleaf Fig	
Gumbo-Limbo	
Green Buttonwood	
Bay Rum	
Vera Tree	
Cuban Pink Trumpet Tree	
Silver Trumpet Tree	
East Palatka Holly	
Bottlebrush	
Silver Buttonwood	
<b>Parks</b>	<b>April to May</b>
Baker Park	
Cambier Park	
River Park	
Cambridge Perry Park	
Naples Landings	
Seagate Linear Park	
Broad Ave S Park	
Rodgers Park	
Alligator Lake East/West	
Bow Line Park	
City Hall (8th & 8th Lot)	
Fire Training Center	
<b>Medians</b>	<b>June to July</b>
GSBN - North End	
Park Shore Dr	
Mooring Line Dr	
Harbour Dr	
Goodlette -Frank Rd	
US 41	
Misc cul-de-sac - North	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Ave S (Annual)</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Tropical Flowering (Annual)</b>	<b>September</b>
Royal Poinciana	
Copperpod	
Hong Kong Orchid Tree	
Queen Crape Myrtle	
Golden Shower Tree	
Wild Tamarind	

**Palms Pruning**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Estimated Start Date</b>
<b>Coconut palms</b>	<b>October 1</b>
<b>Date Species</b>	<b>December 15</b>
<b>Coconut palms</b>	<b>April 1</b>
<b>Cabbage palms</b>	<b>June 15</b>

**Tree Fill-in 2025**

The Tree Fill-in Annual planting was funded at \$300,000 as a Capital Improvement Project. This funding allowed for the planting of those trees and palms lost to Hurricanes Helene and Milton as well as loss to natural attrition.