



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 23-00575

Agenda Date: 9/26/2023

Agenda Item Name:

Alachua County Tree Planting Program Chair Letter

Presenter:

Andi Christman, Environmental Protection Department, Land Conservation Program Manager, 352-264-6803; Lacy Holtzworth, Environmental Protection Department, County Arborist, 352-548-1266

Description:

Chair Letter to the School Board of Alachua County requesting Tree Planting Program partnership.

Recommended Action:

Request the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve and authorize the Chair to send a Chair letter to the School Board of Alachua County requesting partnership with Alachua County's Tree Planting Program (Exhibit 1).

Prior Board Motions:

On 9/11/2018, the Board approved the Alachua County Tree Planting Program Operating Procedure, and adopted Resolution 18-78 establishing a Tree Sponsorship Policy. (Exhibit 2)

Fiscal Note:

The Alachua County Tree Planting Program operates utilizing funding from the general fund 001.41.4150.572.XX.XX, and the Alachua County Tree Mitigation fund 264.41.4150.572.XX.XX. Adequate funding exists in both funds to support these actions.

There is no additional cost or guaranteed budget commitment for this item; tree planting costs are part of the annual tree planting program's regular budget. The County will purchase and plant the trees and the partner in an interlocal agreement will provide the long-term maintenance of the planted trees.

Strategic Guide:

Environment

Background:

The Alachua County Tree Planting Program, managed by the County Arborist, plants trees throughout the County. Since 2018, the program has planted and is maintaining 1,116 trees, including plantings in all 9 municipalities. Building on the successes of the program over the past 5 years, the tree planting program now enters into the next 5-year period, with continued focus on the following priority planting areas as established by the Board in the Tree Planting Program Operating Procedure, and assessment of longer-term goals for community.

To expand on program successes and further increase local community support and buy-in, staff recommends pursuing establishment of Interlocal Agreements between the County and each municipality, as well as with the Alachua County School Board to offer more comprehensive tree planning, planting and tree preservation assistance and guidance.

Staff requests a Chair letter to the School Board of Alachua County, to aid in partnership for future tree plantings on School District properties within the County, through an Interlocal Agreement (Exhibit 1).

The County Arborist prepares an annual Tree Planting Work Plan, summarizing accomplishments of the previous year, and establishing goals for the upcoming year. The Fiscal Year 2024 Tree Planting Work Plan is provided for reference (Exhibit 3).