



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Anna Prizzia, *Chair*
Mary Alford, *Vice Chair*
Charles S. Chestnut, IV
Ken Cornell
Marihelen Wheeler

Administration
Michele L. Lieberman
County Manager

September 26, 2023

Tina Certain, Chair
Alachua County School Board
620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Chair Certain,

The Alachua County Tree Planting Program works to establish High Value Trees on County-owned rights-of-ways, developed County properties, and properties which directly influence the public sphere. The Alachua County Board of Commissioners has prioritized the establishment of trees on road segments where traffic calming is most needed and multimodal transportation choices are most likely to be utilized, such as approaches to schools. Additional priorities include the placement of trees that shade or buffer buildings, parking lots and playgrounds.

Over the past five years, the County Arborist has partnered with school principals and staff to plant trees at five schools in the County, and on road rights of way adjacent to schools. However, there are many more needs and opportunities to establish trees on school campuses for the benefit of students, parents, staff and the community.

The purpose of this letter is to request School Board's partnership, collaboration and cooperation where feasible to help the County meet these needs as it pertains to planting trees for public benefit on school board property. We ask that the School Board consider entering into an Interlocal Agreement with Alachua County to allow for our successful tree planting partnership to continue.

Many road right-of-ways leading to our schools are too narrow to accommodate trees. As a result, our students traverse high traffic areas exposed to exhaust, congestion, and extreme temperatures on their way to and from school. Tree planting projects on or near school grounds can help alleviate these conditions. The County Board of Commissioners respectfully request your partnership in our resolve to establish trees for the benefit of our students.

As we prepare our work plan for fiscal year 2024 and beyond the County Arborist will identify appropriate locations for new trees on or near school board property. As she has in the past, she will reach out to school officials to coordinate and implement tree planting projects on or

near public schools. I would appreciate your support for these endeavors by encouraging school facility managers and leaders to participate. Through this program, tree planting and tree maintenance until the tree is established, are funded through the County Tree Mitigation Fund.

Attached please find the Alachua County Tree Sponsorship Interlocal Agreement and informational brochure. If you have questions regarding this program please contact the County Arborist, Lacy C. Holtzworth lholtzworth@alachuacounty.us at (352) 548-1266.

Sincerely,

Anna Prizzia, Chair
Alachua County Commission

Chr23.XX
AP/LCH/lch

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
School Board Members boardmembers@gm.sbac.edu
Department File

The Benefits of Trees

- **Trees Clean Air:** A canopy of leaves filter pollution such as smoke, soot and smog from dusty, dirty highways, industries, and construction sites.
- **Trees Cool Air:** Leaves absorb heat as they transpire moisture from the ground, lowering air temperatures 2- 10 degrees.
- **Trees Save Energy:** Strategic placement of trees insulate buildings from weather extremes and reduce energy bills.
- **Trees Clean Water:** Tree roots intercept storm water, reducing soil and nutrients erosion into waterways.
- **Trees Reduce Stress:** Time spent with trees lowers stress hormones; cortisol and adrenalin, reducing blood pressure and anxiety.
- **Trees Increase Property Values:** Views of trees increase consumer spending at restaurants and shops and improve property sales by 5-15%
- **Trees Calm Traffic:** Reducing road glare and improving trip aesthetics helps to lower travel speeds and limit road rage.
- **Trees Reduce Noise:** Trunks branches, and leaves absorb and dissipate sound vibrations.
- **Trees Build Community:** Creating healthier, safer environments where neighbors can enjoy outdoor recreation, and a sense of place.

Contact
The Alachua County Arborist
352-458-1266

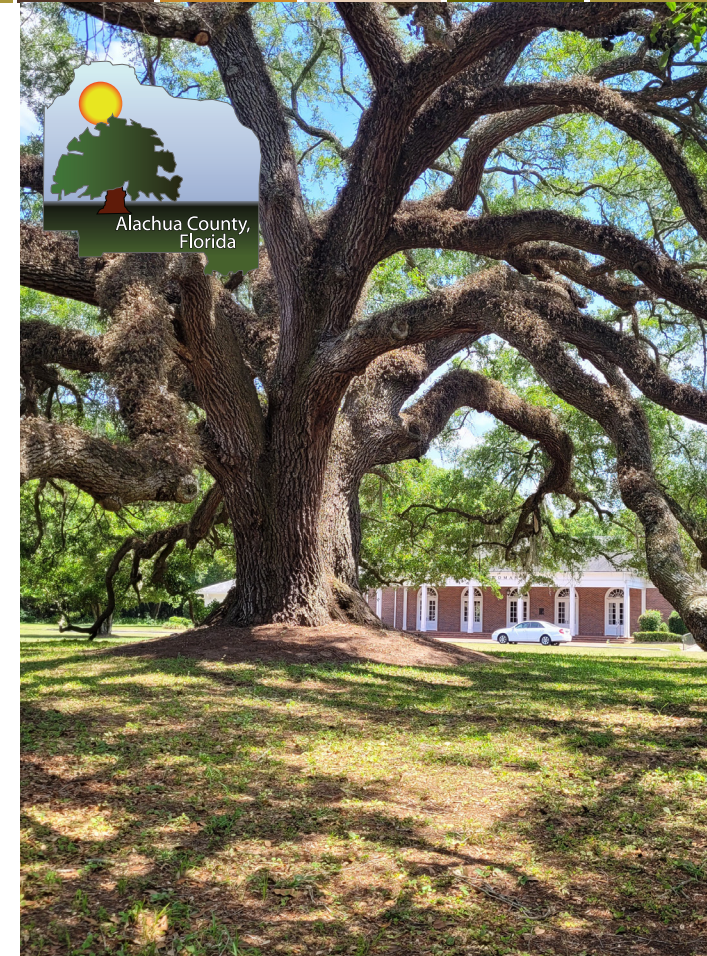
5620 NW 120th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32641

**Become a tree sponsor in your
neighborhood!**

Leave a Legacy of Trees



***Symbols of strength,
longevity, tranquility,
knowledge, and life.***



**Alachua County's Tree
Sponsorship Program**

**Environmental Protection
Department**

5620 NW 120th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32641



Tree Sponsorship Agreement

- The County plants the Trees.
- The County maintains the Trees for 3 years.
- The Trees benefits the property.
- The property owner provides long term tree care.

“Your commitment and dedicated service has helped beautify High Springs for futures Generations.”

- High Springs City Commission

Finding Places for Trees

The Alachua County Tree Sponsorship Program plants and establishes high quality shade trees, appropriate for site conditions near public rights-of-ways, public spaces, and on properties influencing the public sphere. We seek tree sponsors to help us grow trees, where trees are wanted, needed, and where trees could benefit our communities and neighborhoods for generations. Become a Tree Sponsor in your community and neighborhood. Contact your County Arborist.

Pedestrian Path	Activity Centers	Public Health	Program Funding
Trees planted along sidewalks and pathways help neighborhoods become, safer, healthier and more desirable places to live. Properties adjacent to sidewalks or paths offer excellent opportunities for new trees.	People, pets, even wildlife can suffer permanent damage after experiencing the effects of heat related illness. Planting trees to help shade heat islands is a top priority of the County’s Tree Sponsorship Program.	Safety is paramount. All trees must be planted to meet local utility separations and state transportation requirements. No trees will be planted where they will grow to conflicts with utilities, facility operations, or transportation routes.	The Alachua County Tree Sponsorship Program is paid for by Tree Mitigation Funds. Only high-quality tree species are mitigated and suitable for this tree planting program. Our trees are nursery grown and meet the Division of Plant Industries, Nursery Grade and Standards #1 or better.

Learn More about Trees

Calculate the benefits of trees in your neighborhood.
<https://mytree.itreetools.org>

Excellent Tree Care Resources
<https://www.treesaregood.org>



**TREE SPONSORSHIP INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ALACHUA COUNTY AND
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY**

This Agreement is made and entered on this _____ day of _____, 2023, by and between the Alachua County Public Schools District, a corporation of Florida, by and through its Alachua County School Board (“School Board”), and Alachua County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, by and through its Board of County Commissioners (“County”) (collectively referred to as “Parties”).

WHEREAS, Alachua County adopted Resolution 18-78 and an accompanying Tree Planting Policy to encourage the planting and sponsorship of trees on property not owned by Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, trees when planted and maintained near public spaces benefits the public and helps to create safer, healthier, more walkable and livable communities and neighborhoods, and trees growing near the street rights-of-ways, parking lots and buildings absorb harmful pollutants, reduce glare, and help moderate temperatures; and

WHEREAS, both Parties are interested in entering a relationship whereby the County provides and plants trees on the Property owned by the School Board; and

WHEREAS, the County maintains the Alachua County Tree Planting Program in compliance with the Alachua County Tree Sponsorship Policy; and

WHEREAS, the School Board desires to enter into this Agreement and will be responsible for long term care of trees planted by the County on School Board property; and

WHEREAS, Section §163.01, Florida Statutes, known as the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, authorizes local government entities, including cities and counties, to enter into agreements to cooperatively and efficiently use their powers to provide public services that will advance the general health, safety and welfare of their citizens; and

Now therefore, the Parties agree as follows:

Effective Date. This Agreement is effective upon execution by all parties and expires when all parties have performed all their collective duties under this Agreement,

1. **Rights of the Property Owner.** The School Board hereby grants to Alachua County (County), its agents, and affiliates, and assigns, a license to enter School Board Properties during normal business hours, with reasonable notice, for the sole purpose of planting and ensuring care to any trees planted by the County for the entirety of the Establishment Period. The Parties understand that any trees planted by the County, once planted on the property not owned by the County, become part of the Property, and the Property Owner shall have responsibility for long term Tree care. The County has no obligation to

maintain any trees planted on the Property but shall provide maintenance care at its own discretion during the Establishment Period.

2. **Right of the County.** The Parties understand that County, County staff, or designated agents under the direction of County staff shall have access to the property for the sole purpose of planting and establishing Trees including watering, trimming, weeding, staking, fertilizing or similar activities, for a period ending 3 years after planting.

The County shall provide to the School Board and plant on the School Board Property, (TBD) trees. The County Arborist and the School Board must agree on the exact location for each species of tree prior to planting. The trees will be appropriate, high-quality shade trees for the site's location and conditions. If the School Board does not agree to the tree species or the recommended planting locations offered by the County Arborist, the County Arborist may terminate this Agreement.

Alachua County is granted a license to enter the Property for the purpose of planting the trees and, in its discretion, maintaining the trees through watering, weeding, staking, fertilizing, and pruning of the trees, as determined necessary by the County Arborist for good growth and structure of the Trees. This license is for the duration of the Establishment Period, unless otherwise terminated.

3. **Indemnification.** The Parties understand that all trees contain an element of risk in both their planting and their maintenance. The Property Owner agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County, County staff, or designated agents under the direction of County staff, against any loss, liability, claim, damage, injury to person or property, and expense whatsoever including, but not limited to, any and all expenses whatsoever reasonably incurred in investigating, preparing or defending against any litigation commenced or threatened or any claim whatsoever caused by the trees, installation of trees, maintenance of trees, or exercise of any other rights granted to the County under this Agreement. This indemnification provision will survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement. Nothing contained herein constitutes a waiver by the County or City of sovereign immunity or the provisions or limits of liability of §768.28, Florida Statutes.
4. **Termination and Amendments.** Either Party may terminate this Agreement with 30 calendar days' written notice. Any amendments to this Agreement must be in writing and executed by both Parties.
5. **Notification.** For purposes of this Agreement, the Parties shall contact the following individuals, if necessary, for implementation:

Lacy C. Holtzworth
Alachua County Arborist
lholtzworth@alachuacounty.us

Shane Andrews
Schools Superintendent
Contact Information

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____

Anna Prizzia, Chair

ATTEST

APPROVED AS TO FORM

J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq., Clerk

(SEAL)

Alachua County Attorney

Alachua County School Board, FLORIDA

By: _____

Alachua County School Board

ATTEST

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Tina Certain

Alachua County School Board Chair

Alachua County School Board Attorney

(SEAL)