



Alachua County Tree Planting Program Operating Procedure Date:

Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on 9/11/2018

Subject: County Tree Planting Program

Prepared by: Lacy C. Holtzworth, County Arborist

Objective: *The Alachua County Tree Planting Program shall establish High Value Trees, appropriate for site conditions on County owned right-of-ways, developed County properties, and properties directly influencing the public sphere.*

Implementation: Encompassing the goals of both the County's *Right of Way Tree Planting Program* (as outlined in the Public Works Operating Procedure ORB-17, July 26, 2002) and the County's *Comprehensive Plan*, The County's *Tree Planting Program* shall plant High Value trees in locations that include but are not limited to; County owned - road right-of-ways, building grounds, storm water facilities, parks and parking lots. This Program also allows Staff to request private properties owners and municipal officials access to plant and establish trees on properties that meet the following program priorities. Unless otherwise directed, the County Arborist shall be responsible for scheduling, planting and maintaining tree planting projects to facilitate the most efficient use of staff and resources. Tree Planting projects shall be implemented based on the following (2) priorities:

1. First priority shall be placed on road segments where traffic calming is most needed and multimodal transportation choices are most likely to be utilized such as approaches to schools, commercial centers, employment centers, and service centers including libraries, parks, churches and community centers.
2. Second priority shall be locations that facilitate shade and buffering for pedestrians, cyclists, buildings, parking lots, and recreational amenities.

Public health and safety shall be paramount. All tree planting projects shall follow the guidelines of the most current edition of the *Manual for Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance of Streets and Highways*. All Projects will accommodate local utility setback and separation requirements. No trees will be planted where they will grow to pose conflicts with utilities, transportation or facility operations.

Only High Value tree species appropriate for site conditions will be selected. All trees purchased will be nursery grown; meeting or exceeding Florida Division of Plant Industry, Nursery Grades and Standard #1. High Value trees are defined as species with structural resilience and disease resistance, resulting in medium to large trees, in good health, requiring minimal maintenance. Species with these characteristics include but are not limited to Live Oak, Bluff Oak, Winged Elm, Magnolia, Bald Cypress, Southern Red Cedar, Holly, Long Leaf and Spruce Pines.

The County Arborist shall develop and maintain a list of proposed tree planting projects. The list of proposed projects for the coming year shall be provided to the Board of County Commissioners each year in conjunction with the presentation of the Department's budget. Accompanying project descriptions should include addresses or locations, estimated tree quantities, estimated cost and aerial photos. A completed project list shall also be compiled with actual tree locations, quantities, species, and final installation cost.

Funding: The primary purpose of the Arboriculture Division's operating expense shall be to administer the County's Tree Planting Program. \$45,000 shall be appropriated annually for all cost directly associated with tree purchase, planting and establishment maintenance, up to 3 years after planting, on County maintained right of way. The County Tree Mitigation Fund, collected specifically to mitigate the loss of High Value Trees shall carry forward annually all new or remaining funds, to support all cost directly related to purchasing, planting and establishing new trees on any County owned property, as well as private or municipal properties where maintenance agreements can be arranged.