



## DSCA News Flash - Greenspace

Dear {Contact\_First\_Name} {Contact\_Last\_Name},

This News Flash info is provided to members on the **DSCA Greenspace Committee** and to individuals who selected the **Topic of Interest = Greenspace**.

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**City Receives Grant Award for Urban Forest Program - Tree Inventory**

**From:** Laura Wittenbauer <[Laura.Wittenbauer@sarasotaFL.gov](mailto:Laura.Wittenbauer@sarasotaFL.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 11:53 AM  
**To:** John Lege <[John.Lege@sarasotaFL.gov](mailto:John.Lege@sarasotaFL.gov)>  
**Subject:** Grant Award - 2020 Managing Community Forests Grant

Good morning John,

I've received notification from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that the above-referenced grant has been awarded to the City of Sarasota. We were ranked first with our submittal.

As a Certified Tree City Community for the past 34 years and supported by the Tree Advisory Board, the *Developing an Urban Forestry Program for the City of Sarasota* project will be a three-year grant. In the first year of the award, the city will be having a partial street tree inventory performed. Information to be gathered during this phase will include tree condition, species, height, diameter, maintenance needs, and ownership among other attributes.

The second year of the grant is to have an urban forest master plan that identifies diseased and dangerous trees for removal, make recommendations for priority planting areas, assess canopy goals, measure progress and make ordinance recommendations.

The third and final year of the grant is to purchase and install 115 native trees. The city will have at least two community planting events within low-income areas in the identified Opportunity Zones.

The total project cost is \$110,001.20 and is a 1:1 match grant with the Grant providing \$55,000 and the City portion being \$55,001.20 funded by the Tree Replacement Fund. Mark Miller, Senior Arborist will be the Project Manager and I will be providing all reporting and reimbursement requests.

Regards,

Laura

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**Senior Process Analyst**  
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## **City Engineer Seeks Feedback on New EDCM Landscaping Systems Chapter**

Dan Ohrenstein held a Zoom call on Nov. 19 with several interested residents and arborists. We agreed to have DSCA & Rosemary District representatives review this first draft of the Landscaping Systems Chapter 5, including the **Downtown Street Tree Plan (found in Table 5-3 of EDCM Ch.5)**.

The Engineering Design Criteria Manual is used by City Staff and developers to establish uniform practices, with the intent to protect the public safety, in accordance with good engineering practices. This addition of the Landscaping Systems chapter adds important criteria for shade trees over sidewalks in the Right-of-Way along City streets.

The DSCA Greenspace Committee will meet soon to consider a process to evaluate the proposed **Tree Selections** for each of the street blocks within the DSCA Neighborhood boundary. [DSCA-NeighborhoodBoundary-2017x.pdf](#) We will need to engage the condo associations and other nearby residents and businesses for their feedback on proposed tree species recommendation for the Street Tree Plan on their street.

From: Daniel Ohrenstein <[Daniel.Ohrenstein@sarasotaFL.gov](mailto:Daniel.Ohrenstein@sarasotaFL.gov)>  
Subject: EDCM Landscaping Chapter - Preliminary Draft  
Date: November 6, 2020 at 5:20:35 PM EST  
To: David Lough <[davidlough1@gmail.com](mailto:davidlough1@gmail.com)>  
Cc: "Gregory, Emmett" <[Emmett.Gregory@kimley-horn.com](mailto:Emmett.Gregory@kimley-horn.com)>  
David,

Good afternoon. Please see the attached PDF of the preliminary draft of the new **EDCM Chapter 5**.

**[EDCM Landscaping Chapter - Draft 2020-11-03.pdf](#)**

If you could please send back any comments within 2 weeks, I would greatly appreciate it. It would be helpful if you might be able to provide any diagrams that may be useful or if you have any comments on the Downtown Street Tree Plan pertaining to the Rosemary District.

The Downtown Street Tree Plan is in keeping with the Downtown Greenspace Policies. [DowntownGreenSpacePolicies-20110207.pdf](#)

One important detail that will need to be developed that will go in the Utility Chapter is the standard utility cross-section. I've attached my preliminary draft of that as well. The utility detail is an ideal to aspire to and would take decades to achieve, as utilities tend toward their expected slot within the right-of-way.

I may have explained this before, but the EDCM Chapter 5 is based on a number of key ideas. The main one is to make street trees a standard within the EDCM to which new development along the roads listed in the tables must meet. The second is to make sure that a standard minimum amount of soil volume is planned for the trees. The third is to favor larger trees but allow for smaller trees in the event of existing utility constrictions. Other details are provided to make planting conditions as favorable as possible, but the landscape architect is still given discretion.

Given that the City is urban in nature, more formal tree planting is proscribed, with trees in rows and standard spacing. The trees on both sides of the street would be the same species. However, variations in existing utilities would likely generate some diversity along long stretches by requiring different species. The Thoroughfare Street Tree Plan is also largely an ideal that would take decades to achieve and require the collaboration of Sarasota County and FDOT as well. This plan is structured to change along different neighborhoods to respect the mosaic of the City. Overtime, though, new development will start changing the character of the streets as more leafy and comfortable to walk along.

After we get the Rosemary District's comments, the chapter will pass through another round of internal review and comments before going to the Commission. Thank you.

Best regards,

Daniel Ohrenstein, PE, LEED AP BD+C  
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City of Sarasota Public Works Department  
Engineering Division  
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The DSCA Greenspace Committee will meet soon to review any comments from downtown residents and business members. Please let us know if you have comments on any of the above news items.

Best regards,

Patrick Gannon  
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