

Green Print

2027

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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 urban forest offers numerous environmental and physiological benefits including temperature modification and cooling, reduction of air pollutants, energy conservation and overall this helps to increase property values. Scientific studies have proven that urban trees improve our emotional well-being, reduce stress and offer health-related benefits. One such experiment showed that auto commuters experienced less physiological stress when driving routes that were dominated by trees, rather than routes with building dominated roadsides.

The 2027 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 FY2025-2026 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026) and outlines the work to be completed during FY2026-2027 (October 1, 2026-September 30, 2027). This plan assists in helping the City of Naples continue their commitment to environmental stewardship, best practices, and public safety.

Naples continuously works to maintain a resilient urban forest. 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 City of Naples manages 20,037 trees and palms planted in public spaces. The city has about 83 vacant sites due to natural attrition or storm damage.

Tree Category	2026
Vacant	*83*
Palm Trees	*13,278*
Understory Trees	*992*
Majorstory Trees	*5,768*

Tree Location	2026
Median and Island Trees	*2,578*
Park Trees	*4,361*
ROW Trees	*13,184*

The top 3 species are Cuban Royal Palm (5,193 – 26%), Coconut Palm (3,141 – 16%), and Palmetto or Sabal Palm (2,439 – 12%). In total, these palms make up over 50% of the city's managed forest. Urban forests should ideally contain no more than 10% of any species to maintain health and prevent disease outbreaks. The city has been successful in reducing the quantity of these palms, however, there remains work to be done to better balance the urban forest species concentration.


Tree City
USA
29 YEARS
Tree Cities
OF THE WORLD
7 YEARS
Arbor Day
Foundation
WELCOME TO
NAPLES

Tree City USA

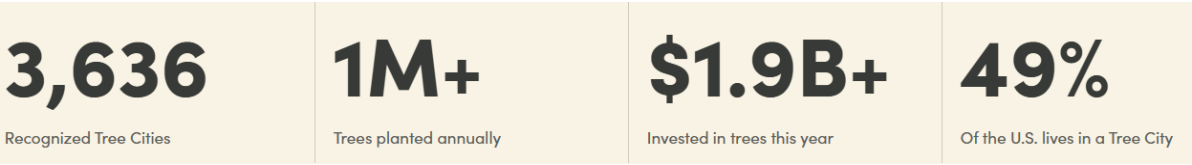
Tree City USA is an annual national recognition program designed to raise awareness of the value of community trees, set foundational standards for communities of all sizes, and celebrate community improvement.

Since 1976, the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program has recognized communities of all sizes, from Sibley, North Dakota to New York City. Tree City USA national recognition helps communities demonstrate and promote their commitment to a greener place to call home. The City of Naples has earned the Tree City USA designation for 29 years.

To qualify as a Tree City USA community, you must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

The 4 standards are:

1) A Tree Board or Department
2) A Public Tree Care Ordinance
3) Annual Expenditure of $2 Pre Capita on Community Tree Care Activities
4) An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation



Growth Award

The Tree City USA Growth Award is an annual recognition presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to participating Tree City USA communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement during the calendar year.

The Growth Award recognizes major milestones and annual activities in five categories that combine to build sustainable community forestry programs over the long term. The City of Naples has earned the Growth Award for 19 years.

Tree Cities of the World

Now more than ever, trees and forests are at the heart of healthy, livable, sustainable communities around the globe.

Tree Cities of the World was launched in 2018 through a partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to inspire cities and towns to care for and celebrate their urban tree canopy. The City of Naples has been a Tree Cities of the World since inception and continues to earn the designation for 7 consecutive years.



To be recognized as a Tree Cities of the World, a community must meet five core standards that illustrate a commitment to caring for its trees and forest. The goal is to connect cities around the world in a network dedicated to sharing and adopting the most successful approaches to managing community trees and forests.

The 5 standards are:

1) Responsibility for City Trees
2) City Tree Policies
3) Tree and Forest Assessments
4) Annual Budget for City Trees
5) Celebrating City Trees and Achievements

Arbor Day

The City of Naples celebrated Arbor Day on Saturday, June 6, 2026, with our Naples Tree Festival. The goal of the event is to take a moment to celebrate trees and our environment. Our local environmental partners join 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 2026 event had an estimated attendance of 250. The city gave away some great "swag" sponsored by local businesses. Marine Industries Association of Collier County provided a fishing clinic for kids. This clinic offered a chance for kids to learn the basics of fishing in our Florida waters.





Special for this year, to mark America 250, we planted a Live Oak tree to honor our nation's enduring spirit.

Tree Fest 2027 will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2027, at Baker Park. This will mark our 5th year hosting this event.





City of Naples

TERESA LEE HEITMANN
MAYOR

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 world, and*

WHEREAS, *trees are a solution to combat climate change by reducing erosion, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, and providing habitat for wildlife, and*

WHEREAS, *trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, 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 City of Naples is recognized for the 29th year as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its Urban Forest practices, and*

WHEREAS, *the City of Naples has been awarded the prestigious Tree City USA Growth Award for 19 years, and*

WHEREAS, *the City of Naples is recognized for 7 years as a Tree Cities of the World, and*

WHEREAS, *the City of Naples celebrates Arbor Day by hosting the Naples Tree Fest on June 6th.*

NOW THEREFORE, I, Teresa Lee Heitmann, *by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Naples, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 24th, 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, and

IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of April 2026.*

Teresa Lee Heitmann
Mayor

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Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Accomplishments

Pruning – Hardwoods

The trim cycle was completed in FY26. A total of 3,711 trees were trimmed.

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

Pruning – Palms

The trim cycle was completed in FY26. A total of 7,446 palms were trimmed.

Species	Estimated Start Date	Status
Coconut palms	1-Oct	Complete
Canary Island & Medjool Date Palms	15-Dec	Complete
Coconut palms	1-Apr	Complete
Cabbage palms	15-Jun	Complete

Removals

There were 136 trees and palms removed.

Species	Count to Date
Hardwoods	42
Palms	94
Total	136

Tree Fill-in 2026

The Tree Fill-in planting expended $236,794.05 and planted 161 trees and palms City-wide. The planting focused on canopy trees to improve the canopy coverage along city rights-of-way.



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. Seagate Drive had previously been planted with Cuban Laurel trees which are no longer planted because of the damages incurred after Hurricane Wilma by the high level of failure. Additionally, this species is a Class 1 Invasive Exotic. The selected replacement tree, part of a blanket decision after Wilma, was to plant the Live Oak. In working with the Seagate Homeowners Association, they did not wish to have Live Oaks planted and asked to change the species. The new species selected is the Shady Lady Black Olive (*Bucida buceras* 'Shady Lady').

Fiscal Year 2026-27 – Work Plan

Hardwoods Pruning

Species or Location	Estimated Time Frame	Status
Street Trees	October - March	
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		
Parks	April to May	
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		
Medians	June to July	
GSBN - North End		
Park Shore Dr		
Mooring Line Dr		
Harbour Dr		
Goodlette -Frank Rd		
US 41		
Misc cul-de-sac - North		
5th Ave S (Annual)	August	
Tropical Flowering (Annual)	September	
Royal Poinciana		
Copperpod		
Hong Kong Orchid Tree		
Queen Crape Myrtle		
Golden Shower Tree		
Wild Tamarind		

Palms Pruning

Species	Estimated Start Date	Status
Coconut palms	1-Oct	
Canary Island & Medjool Date palms	15-Dec	
Coconut palms	1-Apr	
Cabbage palms	15-Jun	

Tree Fill-in 2027

The Tree Fill-in 2027 planting project is funded at $300,000 as a Capital Improvement Project. This funding allows for the planting of vacant sites from natural attrition with a focus on increased shade with the planting of canopy trees.

