



# **Tree Canopy Replacement Grant**

**City Commission**

**Department of Sustainable Development**

**August 8, 2024**



# Background



- **Fall 2023 – Residents voiced concerns over tree canopy replacement requirements as it relates to costs as they face higher insurance fees and other operating costs.**
- **Q1 2024 – At the direction of the Commission, Staff prepared the Tree Canopy Replacement Grant guidelines for Commission consideration modeled after the Neighborhood Enhancement Grant.**
- **March 14, 2024 – The Tree Canopy Replacement Grant was presented to the Commission. It was met with concern regarding code requirements for the canopy replacement. The Commission tabled the item and asked staff for a workshop to discuss.**
- **May 1, 2024 – City Commission Workshop: Staff received direction on the grant guidelines and funding parameters.**
- **July 22, 2024 - City advised that our tree canopy coverage has dropped from 31% in 2018 to 19% in 2023.**



# Workshop Guidance



- ✓ **Research ganoderma issue.**
- ✓ **Include Condo Associations as an eligible applicant.**
- ✓ **Clarify all categories and limits.**
- ✓ **Remove \$250,000 funding reference in grant.**
- ✓ **Clarify priority funding.**
- ✓ **Reduce amount that can be administratively approved to \$5,000.**
- ✓ **Remove application deadline.**
- ✓ **Alter Terms of Agreement/maximum grant amounts.**



# Eligible Projects



1. *Diseased Tree/Palm: Replacement of trees/palms where disease has been proven by a certified arborist's report or the City's Urban Forester as the source of the tree's ultimate demise. In such case, the applicant is responsible for the total cost of each replacement tree **while the grant will cover the cost of the remainder of the required canopy replacement**, as determined by the Land Development Code, up to the limit of this grant. In the case of more than two trees, the event shall be considered catastrophic.*

- This category was altered to cover 100% of the cost of the canopy replacement, while maintaining the requirement for the applicant to pay for the replacement tree itself. For example, the removal of a tree would require the replacement tree (paid for by the applicant), and any additional trees required for canopy mitigation (paid for under this grant).
- Limiting the category to two trees provides for a clear distinction between this category and catastrophic.
- Assisting the community with this cost supports the City's goals to increase canopy in the community to combat GHG levels and our ever-increasing heat.

# Eligible Projects



*2. City Infrastructure and Sidewalk Conflicts: Replacement of tree canopy where a certified arborist or the City's Urban Forester has determined that further growth will affect City infrastructure or a community sidewalk. In such case, the applicant is responsible for the total cost of each replacement tree while the grant will cover the cost of the remainder of the required canopy replacement, as determined by the Land Development Code, up to the limit of this grant. In the case of more than two trees, the event shall be considered catastrophic.*

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# Eligible Projects



- 3. Street Tree/Palm Replacement: A project providing street tree replacement when applying the “Right Tree, Right Place” concept. Proposed street tree removal must follow City tree removal guidelines and codes, must utilize a new Street Tree Plan (available through the Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program) approved by the City, or utilize the landscape waiver process to alter the approved street tree for the location or community. Any proposed removal must also have a Tree Removal Permit (TRP) and meet the requirements of the TRP. Due to the historic practice of street trees being a 1:1 replacement, this category is a 50% matching grant with limits noted below under “Terms of Agreement”. In the case of more than two trees, the event shall be considered catastrophic.*

**This category remains a matching grant due to the fact that street trees have historically been required to be replaced at a 1:1 ratio, and therefore, the requirements of the first two categories of the grant would not normally work in this scenario, especially given that 90% of TRPs are for one or two trees. This category is a 50% match, meaning the grant would cover 50% of the cost of replacement, up to two trees. As with the previous two categories, if the applicant has more than two trees needing to be replaced, it would be considered catastrophic and follow the guidelines of category four.**

# Eligible Projects



- 4. Catastrophic Tree or Palm Loss: Replacement of palms or tree canopy lost due to a catastrophic event, such as a widespread pathogen or infestation, hurricane, lightning, or other natural disasters, or due to mass loss under grant scenarios 1, 2, or 3 above. Upon determination by a certified arborist or the City's Urban Forester that a tree has been lost due to one of the reasons listed above, an eligible applicant may apply for this grant. In such case, the applicant is responsible for the total cost of the first replacement tree or palm and 50% of the cost for the remainder of the required palm or canopy replacement, or required trees per code or approved landscape plan, as determined by the Land Development Code, up to the limit of this grant.*

With the expected active hurricane season this year, in order to help as many neighborhoods as possible, this category retains the 50% contribution on the part of the applicant beyond the first tree/palm. The financial limit on this category will provide support to the community while supporting the City's goals to increase canopy in the community to combat GHG levels and our ever-increasing heat. The new language bridges the space between the first three categories to this more extensive category, providing for more extensive canopy replacement projects.

# Terms of Agreement



## Grant Limits

1.	<i>Tree Canopy Replacement, Disease:</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
2.	<i>Tree Canopy Replacement, Infrastructure Conflict:</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
3.	<i>Street Tree Replacement:</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
4.	<i>Catastrophic Palm or Canopy Replacement:</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>

- By limiting the first three categories to respond to the loss of up to two trees, the grant limit is reasonable at \$20,000.



# Terms of Agreement



## Grant Limits

1.	<i>Tree Canopy Replacement, Disease:</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
2.	<i>Tree Canopy Replacement, Infrastructure Conflict:</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
3.	<i>Street Tree Replacement:</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
4.	<i>Catastrophic Palm or Canopy Replacement:</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>

- The catastrophic replacement category is limited to \$30,000 as directed by Commission, which will cover a good portion of replacement while sparing the fund to help as many communities as possible.
- Limiting the grant encourages regular maintenance of the community trees in the first three categories.
- The terms of agreement may be altered by the City Manager, or designee, after a natural disaster.



# Examples

## Example Category 1 & 2:

- 1 large Black Olive (category 1) with 3671 SF of canopy:
- $3671 \text{ sf canopy} / 300 \text{ sf (as required by code)} = 12.23 \text{ trees, or } 13 \text{ trees.}$
- First tree is absorbed by the applicant. Remainder 12 trees x \$700 = \$8,400.00 provided by the grant.

## Example Category 3:

- 1 large Black Olive (category 1) with 3671 SF of canopy:
- 1:1 replacement
- Cost \$700.00 – Grant award \$350.00

## Example Category 4:

- 5 oak trees(category 1) with 1500 SF of canopy each:
- $1500 \text{ sf canopy} \times 5 = 7,500\text{sf} / 300 \text{ sf} = 25 \text{ trees}$
- First tree is absorbed by the applicant.
- Remainder 24 trees (@ \$700) =  $\$16,800 / .5 = \$8,400$  absorbed by applicant and \$8,400 provided by the grant.

