

**City of New Port Richey Environmental Committee
Annual Report**

2023

Summary

Full Report Available On Request From City of New Port Richey



**City of New Port Richey Environmental Committee
2023
Annual Report
Presented July 2024**

The Environmental Committee is composed of seven regular and two alternate members; the alternates serve as members in the absence of a regularly appointed member. Members of the environmental committee must be "resident electors" of the City of New Port Richey. Quorum is four members. Members appointed to terms of two years, and renewable. Committee policy is to advance alternate members to full membership when openings occur, subject to approval by City Council.

**Summary
Full Report Available On Request From City of New Port Richey**

Committee Members

**Chair: Dell deChant
Vice-Chair: Rose Mohr
Secretary: Linda Blake
Amber Blais
Tia Rowe
Tom O'Neill
Rob Marlowe**

**Alternate
*Open***

**Staff Liaison
Colin Eichenmuller**

Events, Projects, Proposals

Hosted 34rd annual Arbor Day celebration in January 2023 (established in 1989)
Supported and endorsed annual Collards Festival (January 2023)
Supported and endorsed annual Loquat Festival (Florida's only) (March ,2023)
Assisted with planning and organization of annual "Okra Occasion" (August 2023)
**Maintained and further developed City's membership in Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
(New Port Richey is one of only two Florida cities in the MUFPP)**
Maintained (in support of Public Works) the "Fruit Tree Peninsula" (opened April 20, 2018)
Supported and endorsed continued development of Grand Gardens
Proposed & spearheaded the City's pursuit of "Green City" certification
*** application is dormant and should be revisited**
Proposed & spearheaded the City's successful award of "Monarch City U.S.A." certification
*** Supported and developed plans for a regular Monarch Festival**
- First annual festival in 2022
Reaffirmed proposed polystyrene/Styrofoam prohibition at City events (October 2022)
Reaffirmed review (with recommendations) of *Alleyway Management Plan* (September 2023)
Recommended increase in number & type of trees in City's reforestation program (August 2023)
Reaffirmed recommendation for opposition to "New Port Corners" development
Maintained Tree City USA status (ongoing)
Maintained community garden initiative (ongoing)
Reviewed Urban Agriculture Applications (ongoing)
Reaffirmed recommendation to include use of public/City property for Community Gardens

Related City Projects Supported by Environmental Committee

Tasty Tuesday (weekly)

Yard Debris to Mulch Recycling (ongoing)

Developing Local Food systems (ongoing)

New Port Richey Library Seed Exchange (ongoing)

Urban Agriculture Project (ongoing)

Recommendations Looking Ahead

The committee offers proposals with minimal cost and high return

Benefits of these proposals:

Economic

Ecological

Cultural

Public Safety (crime prevention)

Quality of Life

Points of Pride

Regional Leadership

Consult full version of this report for details on each recommendation noted here

1. Promote City's Environmental Programs and Initiatives

2. Designation of Environmental and Food Systems City Support Services

3. Discourage Use of Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Food and Drink Containers at City Approved Events (modification of proposal first offered in 2019)

4. Herbicide/Pesticide-free Zones & Non-Toxic Community (originally proposed in 2017)

5. Native Planting Ordinance

6. Increase Tree Planting/Reforestation

7. Pursue Agro-Tourism Designation

√ Committee pledges full support and assistance to the Council and City Staff in pursuit of these proposals.

√ Committee requests Council endorsement of these proposals.

√ Committee welcomes inclusion of these items on upcoming council agendas and/or at work sessions.

Respectfully submitted:

Dell deChant

Chair, New Port Richey Environmental Committee