



STAFF REPORT

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council **MEETING DATE:** August 15, 2023
FROM: Michael Daniels, AICP, Development Services Director
SUBJECT: First Reading of Ordinance O-23-2023 regarding proposed Landscape Ordinance Revisions

BACKGROUND

The Citizens Advisory Committee, led by Chris Gay have evaluated the City's current Landscape Ordinance and are recommending changes regarding the following areas:

1. Purpose and Intent
2. Definitions
3. Landscape Design and Materials
4. Tree Preservation during development and construction
5. Removal of Tree Requirements
6. Exceptions and Exemptions
7. Conditions for Tree Removal
8. Tree Replacement Requirements
9. List of Recommended Plants

Mr. Gay made a recommendation to City Council on May 16, 2023, and Council directed to staff to work with Mr. Gay and move forward with proposed revisions. Mr. Gay presented the landscape ordinance changes to the Planning and Zoning Commission at the June meeting.

Included in the packet is:

1. The existing landscape ordinance
2. Proposed changes to the landscape ordinance
3. Ordinance O-23-2023, showing the proposed changes.

The substantive changes to the Landscape Ordinance

- Referencing IFAS (University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) for tree identification as opposed to provide static tree lists for canopy, understory and nuisance trees.
- Revising and adding tree terms in the definition section.
- Adding provisions for property owners to be able to preserve trees that meet the definition of "protected tree" and "protected area".
- A section was added to address tree canopy roadways where within these designated areas, action taken regarding tree removal application will City Council approval at publicly noticed meetings.
- A section was added regarding buffering requirements adjacent to incompatible uses.
- Organizational changes were made throughout the document.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to recommend approval of first reading of ordinance O-23-2023 regarding revisions to the Landscape Ordinance for form and legality