

NEST

Neighbors Encouraging Shade Trees

advocating to increase the shade tree canopy in Bryant Park, Lake Worth Beach, Florida

Shade Tree Plan Background and Benchmarks

November 13, 2025

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Background

November 7th 2023, City Commission Unanimously Approved the Tree & Landscape Board's recommendation to allocate \$25,000 from the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund and match the request with \$25,000 from other city funds to plant native shade trees in Bryant Park by the end of 2023 or as soon thereafter as possible with the location, sizes and groupings as proposed in the **Matching Fund Request*** from NEST.

November 7th 2023, City Commission Unanimously Approved matching the \$25,000 from the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund to the Tree Fund from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act 2021) funds.

* Matching Fund Request

Top Three Suggested Locations for Native Shade Trees in Bryant Park

1. Along the full length of concrete sidewalk running parallel to the seawall from the Lake Worth Bridge to the South end of Bryant Park at the Pavilion. Shade Trees could be staggered on both sides of the walkway in natural grouping of small, medium and large trees.

- **Phase One Accomplished** - Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, Central Bryant Park, 27 trees planted shading the Wellness Walkway South of the Water Treatment Plant
- **Phase Two Partially Accomplished** – Fall 2025 Joyous Trees Circle, Bryant Park Northeast Corner, 15 Multi-trunk Silver Buttonwood Trees; **Paused**: 9 Green Buttonwood Trees Shading Bryant Park Northeast Corner and Wellness Walk

2. At the North end, on the West side of the benches at the Band Shell to provide shade for the seating area. Shade trees could be staggered on both sides of the walkway.

3. In and around the children's playground at the south end. Shade trees could be staggered on both sides of the walkway in natural groups of small, medium and large trees.

Bryant Park Trees Planted, Projection, Characteristics:

Total Trees Planted, Forty-two – Thirty-nine 25-gal and Three 65-gal Native and Suitable coastal Trees

Total Trees Projected to be Planted by the end of 2026 – One Hundred and Five Trees

Florida Native Silver and Green Buttonwood Tree Characteristics:

- Ideal for seaside planting, highly tolerant of full sun, sandy soils, windy and salty conditions
- Silver Buttonwood trees annual growth rate is typically 1-3 feet in height; mature height of 15 to 20 feet
- Green Buttonwood trees annual growth rate is typically 1-3 feet in height; mature height of 30 to 45 feet

NEST Founding Members 2023

Roseann Malakates • Tracy Rosof-Petersen • Gael Silverblatt • Susan Ona • Susan Guyaux

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Benchmarks

In August of 2023 **NEST** received support from the Tree and Landscape Board, Former City Horticulturist David McGrew, City Commission, Public Works and Grounds Maintenance Staff, Amelia's SmartyPlants Garden Center, many neighbors and residents for this Shade Tree Project along Bryant Parks paved Wellness Walk, playground, exercise area and other heavily used park spaces where shade is lacking.

2024

October 2 → City Horticulturist and Tree & Landscape board liaison David McGrew retires

October 24 T&LB & staff meeting → including Asst. Public Works Director, Paul from Amelia's SmartyPlants GC

- pause tree plantings because of staff shortage
- registered vendor Amelia's SmartyPlants accepted for in-kind professional services, and supplier of Florida Fancy #1 trees, tree delivery, tree planting, mulch, on-going maintenance and fertilizing
- revise NEST tree & shrub list to include Green Buttonwood and Suitable coastal trees in compliance with city ordinance Section 23.6-1 Native and Suitable trees tolerant of sun, sandy soils, windy and salty conditions

November 7 T&LB & staff meeting → including Asst. Public works director, Paul from Amelia's SmartyPlants

- at PBSO request revise Shade Plan to eliminate Tiny Forests with underbrush, plant only Shade Trees
- all trees must be 25-gallon or larger
- trees to be planted on the west side and at least 8' from sidewalks, and spaced 12' apart

December 16 Phase One Planting → Nine Trees: Six 25-gal & Three 65-gal Native & Suitable Coastal Trees

2025

February 10 & 17 Phase One Planting→ Nine 25-gal trees Native and Suitable Coastal Trees

March 10 & 17 Phase One Planting→ Nine 25-gal trees Native and Suitable Coastal Trees

May 14 TL&B tree recommendation→ appropriate native and non-native plants

August 14 T&LB & staff meeting→ including City Manager and Asst. Public Works Director

- approved Phase Two site plan with tree locations, including Joyous Trees Circle Grouping

September 16 LWB CC meeting→ NEST comments and distributes September update and Phase Two site plan with tree locations

October 27 Phase Two Planting→ Fifteen 25-gal Multi-trunk Silver Buttonwood Trees in a 60-foot diameter Circular Grouping

November 4 LWB CC meeting→ Pause future tree installs until commission discussion on Nov 18th

November 18 LWB CC meeting→

Future Plantings

Phase Three➤ January/February 2026 South End, 27 trees surrounding the playground and adjacent areas

Phase Four➤ Fall 2026 number of trees and locations to be determined

Adding shade to our city is not just about comfort, it's about creating a sustainable, walkable community for generations to come. This project demonstrates a successful collaboration between city government and resident-initiated proposals. Bryant Park is the gem of our city and a symbol of our community's enduring commitment to preserving nature along with our shared history.

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