



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, Interim County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.

AE

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2025068

CEER #2025068, titled Landscape Contractor Certification, was received by the County from Lori Losi.

Citizen Statement:

Current lawn and tree maintenance companies work with no supervision. In the long run this costs tax payers in the form of pollution in the IRL and tree and vegetation damage caused by improper trimming.

Citizen Recommendation:

To generate revenue ---(and possibly cut some sources of pollution)
Institute a certification requirement for lawn and yard work contractors. This could be a certification that the companies pay for—the training, annual certification, inspection etc... It would be especially important for those companies working in the IRL watershed. KBB has such a program with 9 companies certified. The companies certainly could brag in their advertisements about this. The certification would mean that the companies would have to test soils, not excessively irrigate, understand how and when to fertilize (or not at all when not needed), not let clippings and unneeded pesticides become pollution. Brevard's groundwater supplies and the IRL do not need any preventable sources of pollution that cost tax payers to clean our drinking water and waterways.

Trees improperly trimmed fall and die costing tax payers and the county for clean up.

Staff Analysis:

A very similar CEER submitted was considered by the Board last year - #2024028.

Brevard County licenses irrigation contractors. See e.g. Section 22-529, Brevard County Code of Ordinances, including as a class of competency "irrigation specialty contractor."

There are currently 70 active licenses certified by the County, and four certified by the State and registered with the County. Broader local licensing requirements are generally preempted under Fla. Stat. Section 489.117. For those certified by the County, the educational materials our test providers draw from include information on pollution and prevention of runoff.

Contracted landscapers are required by law to receive training and certification from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for the application of pesticides and fertilizers. Each individual seeking certification must satisfactorily pass an examination. UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County regularly provides the training and continuing education needed to obtain and recertify these required certifications. Examples are listed below.

Pesticide Applicator Trainings and Continuing Education

Chapter 482 (Structural Pest Control) of the Florida Statute states that all general use and restricted use pesticides applied within 10 feet of any building (i.e., "for-hire" contracted landscapers) must receive certifications and maintain those licenses with continuing education provided by FDACS approved education, such as by UF/IFAS Extension. For Ch. 482-Structural Pest Control, we provide training and continuing education for Commercial Lawn and Ornamental, Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance, and Special ID Card holders.

Fertilizer Applicator Training and Continuing Education

Florida law states that all commercial fertilizer applicators must have a Limited Urban Fertilizer (LUF) Certification from FDACS. To get this certification, each commercial applicator must be trained in the Green Industries Best Management Practices Certification Class (GI-BMPs) and receive a certificate of completion from UF/IFAS and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. We regularly provide this training at UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program offers a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional (FFLCP) designation to individuals who have completed the required training in FFL principles and are familiar with the latest UF/IFAS recommendations. These trained professionals have demonstrated the ability to recognize and address common landscape issues by using environmentally sustainable landscape management practices that help preserve and protect Florida's water and natural resources. UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County provides the required in-person *Field Module* training, annually, for landscapers pursuing the FFLCP designation.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2025068 with revisions as educational and licensing programs are already implemented.

CC: Frank Abbate, County Manager

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 10:20 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2025068

Recommendation # 2025068

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2025068 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	lora losi
Address	6534 Ridge Ct, Titusville FL 32780
Phone	(321) 607-6009
Email	losi.loral@gmail.com
Alternate Email	losi.loral@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2025068
Recommendation Title	Landscape Contractor Certification
Areas Affected	Business
Department Affected	PERMITTING AND ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT
Current problem	Current lawn and tree maintenance companies work with no supervision. In the long run this costs tax payers in the form of pollution in the IRL and tree and vegetation damage caused by improper trimming.
Recommendation	To generate revenue ---(and possibly cut some sources of pollution) Institute a certification requirement for lawn and yard work contractors. This could be a certification that the companies pay for—the training, annual certification , inspection etc... It would be especially important for those companies working in the IRL watershed. KBB has such a program with 9 companies certified. The companies certainly could brag in their advertisements about this. The certification would mean that the companies would have to test soils, not excessively irrigate, understand how and when to fertilize (or not at all when not needed), not let clippings and unneeded pesticides become pollution. Brevard's groundwater supplies and the IRL do not need any preventable sources of pollution that cost tax payers to clean our drinking water and waterways. Trees improperly trimmed fall and die costing tax payers and the county for clean up.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.
