



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Parks and Recreation Administration**

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Building B, Room 203  
Viera, Florida 32940

**Inter-Office Memo**

**TO:** Frank B. Abbate, County Manager

**THRU:** Jim Liesenfelt, Assistant County Manager *RL*

**FROM:** Mary Ellen Donner, Parks and Recreation Director *ME*

**SUBJ:** Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2024019

**DATE:** 04/01/2024

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CEER #2024019 was received by the County from Titusville Tree Team/Kay St. Onge.

**Citizen Statement:**

Brevard County parks need more trees and better maintenance. Increasing temperatures and lack of shade reduce residents' utilization of parks. Shoreline erosion is occurring in many parks as well as excessive polluted stormwater runoff into the Lagoon.

**Citizen Recommendation:**

In order to reduce costs, Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department could consider encouraging and promoting residents to volunteer at the many Brevard County Parks. Volunteers in Titusville have worked with N. Brevard Parks and Recreation to plant 140 trees in two parks, Chain of Lakes Park and Sand Point Park, as well as numerous mangroves in parks along the Lagoon. These trees have thrived due to the ongoing care of volunteers. Volunteers could also be utilized to pick up palm fronds, a time consuming endeavor of Parks and Recreation. Native trees planted in parks would provide shade to residents recreating in the parks, encouraging greater participation. Trees planted would reduce erosion along the Indian River Lagoon and reduce polluted stormwater runoff into the Indian River Lagoon. Native trees planted in parks would provide bird habitat. Be sure to plant the right tree at the right place, taking in account infrastructure, and the tree's requirements.

**Staff Analysis:**

Brevard County Parks and Recreation supports urban forestry, recognizing the economic, psychological, and environmental benefits of enhancing the quality of life for Brevard's residents. Parks Operations budgets annually for the purchase and planting of trees in county parks.

Staff already works regularly with volunteers who approach the County with tree donations and planting considerations. There is also a Memorial and Honorary Tree planting program where constituents may purchase and plant trees in parks and department-managed lands coordinated with County Parks and Recreation personnel.

Standards are necessary for establishment and survival rates when planting trees. Department staff may designate a park and an area within the park where donated trees may be planted. The volunteer/sponsor will contact the Department with a request for a tree planting(s), including the intended park(s), the location of the planting within the park(s), and the date and time of the requested planting. Department staff will evaluate the request and either confirm it or suggest alternatives to the request as required. When the request is approved, the volunteer/sponsor will be responsible for purchasing or acquiring the tree(s), arranging for transporting the tree(s) to the park, and properly planting it. The volunteer/sponsor is also responsible for maintaining, watering, and fertilizing the tree through establishment until it is self-sufficient. Selected trees should be nursery-grown in a container and shall be "Florida No. 1" or better in grading standards. Trees should be a minimum of 15 gallons in size, but a 30-gallon or larger container is preferable. County staff will provide the volunteer with a list of acceptable tree species per park use and environment.

County policy requires all volunteers to coordinate through the Brevardians Responding as Volunteers (BRAVE) program, which assists the County in providing expanded services to the public. To apply, the BRAVE volunteer application can be downloaded [https://www.brevardfl.gov/docs/default-source/human-resources-documents/brave-volunteer-application-packet.pdf?sfvrsn=d0209ceb\\_2](https://www.brevardfl.gov/docs/default-source/human-resources-documents/brave-volunteer-application-packet.pdf?sfvrsn=d0209ceb_2) and submitted to the Office of Human Resources.

**Staff Recommended Action:**

Staff recommends rejecting the recommendation as it has already been implemented.

## Recommendation Details

## Contact Information

<b>Full Name:</b>	Kay St. Onge	<b>Email Address:</b>	stongekay@yahoo.com
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	2360 Maryland Ave. Titusville fl 32796	<b>Alt Email Address:</b>	stongekay@yahoo.com
		<b>Phone Number</b>	321-567-4265

**Group/Organization** Titusville Tree Team

## Recommendation Information

**Recommendation Title:** Trees in County Parks  
**Areas Affected:**

**Department:** PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Brevard County parks need more trees and better maintenance. Increasing temperatures and lack of shade reduce residents' utilization of parks. Shoreline erosion is occurring in many parks as well as excessive polluted stormwater runoff into the Lagoon.

**Problem Description:**

In order to reduce costs, Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department could consider encouraging and promoting residents to volunteer at the many Brevard County Parks. Volunteers in Titusville have worked with N. Brevard Parks and Recreation to plant 140 trees in two parks, Chain of Lakes Park and Sand Point Park, as well as numerous mangroves in parks along the Lagoon. These trees have thrived due to the ongoing care of volunteers. Volunteers could also be utilized to pick up palm fronds, a time consuming endeavor of Parks and Recreation. Native trees planted in parks would provide shade to residents recreating in the parks, encouraging greater participation. Trees planted would reduce erosion along the Indian River Lagoon and reduce polluted stormwater runoff into the Indian River Lagoon. Native trees planted in parks would provide bird habitat. Be sure to plant the right tree at the right place, taking in account infrastructure, and the tree's requirements.

**Recommendation Description**

## Attachments

There are no attachments for this recommendation.

## Administrative Action

## Evaluation

## Recommendation Timeline

User	Status	Date	Remarks
CEER WebUser	Citizen Submitted	Dec 17, 2023	

User	Status	Date	Remarks
Karen Conde	Department Assigned	Dec 20, 2023	PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT Assigned

Awaiting action from department director