

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Agenda
New Port Richey – Public Library
Thursday – February 12, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.





ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

City of New Port Richey

The Environmental Committee of the City of New Port Richey develops and endorses environmental events in the City, renders annual and special reports as members may deem advisable, and explores new environmental initiatives for the City. The ECCNPR was established in 1989 and recreated in 2011.

Meeting Agenda

New Port Richey Public Library

Thursday – February 12, 2026– 6:00 p.m.

ANY PERSON DESIRING TO APPEAL ANY DECISION, WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ANY MEETING OR HEARING, WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. THE LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE TRANSCRIBED VERBATIM MINUTES; THEREFORE, THE APPLICANT MUST MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH A PRIVATE REPORTER (OR PRIVATE REPORTING FIRM) AND BEAR THE RESULTING EXPENSE. (F.S.286.0105)

Welcome

Roll Call:

Dell deChant, Committee Chair; Rose Mohr, Vice Chair; Margaret (Sophia) Carswell, member; Amanda Zborek, member; Catherine Capello, Secretary.

- Note: Amber Blais has resigned from the committee after many years of service. We recognize her care and commitment to the committee and the City.

City Staff Liaison, Colin Eichenmuller

Volunteer Coordinator, Sasha Bartenuk

Guests

Vox Pop (3 minutes for members of the audience – on items not on the agenda)

Approval of Minutes January 8, 20256

Regular Business

Liaison Officer (A) Advice on EC agenda, and (B) CC items: A) Advice from City Liaison is requested on all items before committee and (B) items on City Council agenda relevant to Environmental Committee (open)

Business of Committee I – On-going Projects and Events

Congress Avenue Land near Gulf Middle School (Colin)

Update on development of the property and environmental issues.

Library Seed Lending Program (Amanda)

- Note: Seed of the month program.

Urban Agriculture Program (Dell)

Dell or Catherine will draft a new garden registration for New Port Richey for approval by the City

Update on inclusion of City Property in Urban Agriculture Ordinance (All)

- Update from Colin

Wildflower Installation Initiative & Wildflower Ordinance (Chair & Colin)

- Colin reports on administration's plans for Wildflower Ordinance

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Colin Rose, Catherine)

- Update from Colin and Rose
- Update from Colin: 2 dwarf mangos will be planted around March
- Report from Catherine: FarmNet acquisition of 3 native wildflowers and donation of one to City for FTP

River Report (Colin & Sophia)

- Sophia report on review of municode for the current policies regarding the river, seawalls and mangroves

Duck Colony (Colin)

Business of Committee II - New Projects and Topics (and projects of limited duration, including annual events)

HOA Garden Club Story (Sophia and Catherine)

- Update on presentation for development of Garden Clubs at HOAs
- Tentative completion of presentation slated for March.
- Next steps: Will committee review, approve, endorse, and make available to public (especially HOAs)?

Discussion of City's Acquisition of old Schwettman/Gulf High School Property and Building (Colin & Chair)

- Discussion of presentation(s) at CRA
- Next steps

Mangrove Planting Project (Catherine & Colin)

- Update of joint project of the city and the county (with Barrett Doe) to plant mangroves on the gulf.

Review of City's urban reforestation program (Dell, Sasha, Colin)

- * *Monthly* Report on Tree Budget, remaining funds for planting (Colin)
- Next week

Annual Report and Proposals: Follow up (Colin & All)

- Discussion of presentation(s) on January 20 (All)

Grey Preserve invasive plant removal project (Sasha & Colin, others)

Invasive removal will be March 7, with start time of 9:00 a.m. and Vaden Edmondson is the contact and Lead
See Vaden Edmondson <Vaden.Edmondson@fdacs.gov>.

Seasonal Events - Note: Events noted here are supported and endorsed by Environmental Committee.

* Volunteers needed for all events.

Calendar 2026

April 11: Events from April 6 -11 - **Florida Loquat Festival** 13th annual (Sims Park) (Presented by New Port Richey FarmNet in cooperation with the City of New Port Richey) (Sim's Park/Peace Hall).
- Volunteers welcome

Earth Day/Week (April 22, 2026) – 36th annual (1st 1992)

(Tori Ladd, Manager/Director) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library)

Monarch Festival – 5th Annual (May 2, 2026) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(Host: New Port Richey ENV COM, New Port Richey Public Library, and New Port Richey FarmNet)

September 3, 2026, 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. **The West Pasco Okra Occasion**, 11th annual

(Presented by New Port Richey FarmNet. Host: Host New Port Richey Public Library,)

November 21, 2026 , 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. **New Port Richey Sweet Potato Roundup** 11th annual

(Presented by New Port Richey FarmNet. Host: Host New Port Richey Public Library,)

January 15, 2027 – **Arbor Day** 38th annual (3rd Friday in January) (Host: ENV COM) 10:00 a.m. Frances Ave.

Colin: Contact Genesis School (?)

January 9, 2027 - **Collards Festival** at Grand Gardens, 12th annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens)

(Grand Gardens) 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. +

Plants & Pints, 3rd Tuesday, monthly. Next event, February 17, 2026, 5:30 to 7:30, Ordinance One

Meeting Schedule for 2026 "The environmental committee shall meet once every ninety (90) days unless it determines to meet more frequently." * Committee has determined it is best to meet monthly.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Library