

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

City of New Port Richey

Meeting Agenda

New Port Richey – Public Library

Thursday – May 1, 2025 – 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

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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; Amber Blais, Secretary; member; Tom O'Neill, member; Margaret Carswell, member Amanda Zborek, member.

City Staff Liaison, Colin Eichenmuller
Volunteer Coordinator, Sasha Bartenuk
Monarch Festival Chair: (Deb Morris)

Guests: George Russell (committee applicant)

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

Approval of Minutes April 3, 2025

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

Urban Agriculture Program (Rose Mohr)

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

- Committee to revisit in light of City Council election
- Discuss and set date for revisit

Wildflower Installation Initiative & Wildflower Ordinance (Chair & Colin)

- Colin is asked for update if any to report from staff direction from Admin
- Committee to revisit in light of City Council election
- Discuss and set date for revisit

Library Seed Lending Program (Amber)

- Update on Hudson HS Ag Teacher and engagement with the committee's projects.

Fruit Tree Peninsula (Colin)

- Update from Colin.
- Inquiry on irrigation at the native wildflower planter (call for volunteers to maintain)
- Inquiry on restorative intervention on weaker of two loquat trees
- Discussion of next replacement trees (for terminal peach trees)

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

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

- * Tree Walk: April 19, time – report from Sasha,
- * Report on Tree Budget, remaining funds for planting (Colin & Tom)
- * Earth Day Tree Walk: April 21, 10:00 a.m. – report from Chair
- * Next walk – date, location
- * Colin: Request for brochures for Sasha.

Proposal to increase Environmental Committee meetings to twice a month.

- Discussion.

Fluoride Report (Margaret and Colin)

- Update from Colin on his research
- Update from Margaret
- Last listing of this item, unless committee desires to re-list.

Discussion Grand View Heights (Tom & Margaret: Tom, environmental expectations; Margaret, alternative vision)]

Mangrove Planting Project (Margaret)

- Margart reports on municipalities in Florida with mangrove planting projects. Outcome of contact with Tampa Bay Watch.
- Contact with Megan Moore on mangrove installation projects.
- Discussion of engagement with City Council to promote mangrove installation projects – note mangrove installation is an “action item” in the TBRPC, RRAP

TBRPC, *RRAP* Assessment and Review of Report to City Council (Chair)

- Tentative date for City Council review and approval of TBRPC *RRAP* is CC meeting of June 3.
- Chair has requested Committee's review, assessment, and recommendation to be included on the agenda of the June 3 meeting.

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

* Volunteers needed for all events.

Calendar 2025

April 12, 2025 Florida Loquat Festival 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Florida Loquat Festival 12th annual (Sims Park) (Host New Port Richey FarmNet, City of New Port Richey – and others) (Sim's Park/Peace Hall).
- **Brief Report** (Chair)

Earth Day (April 22, 2025) – 35th annual (1st 1992)

- (Tori Ladd, Manager/Director) (Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM & Library)
- **Brief Report** (Chair, Colin, Others)

Monarch City Day (May 3, 2025) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM, Library, New Port Richey FarmNet) (Sasha, Dell, Amanda)

Proclamation: April 15, City Council, 6:00 p.m. – Attend if you can

- Question to Sasha on Vendors: Honey and others
- ***Volunteers needed: day-of assistance.***
- ***Volunteers needed: pick up & transport Milkweed plants from Green Isle Gardens week before festival***
- **11303 Florida 33
Groveland, FL 34736**

September 6, 2025 -The West Pasco Okra Occasion, 10th annual

(Host: Host New Port Richey ENV COM, Library, New Port Richey FarmNet, NPR {Public Library})

* Location New Port Richey Public Library

* Possible addition of a Mango promotion event ("Mango Magic")

November 22, 2025 - New Port Richey Sweet Potato Round-Up 10th annual

* Location First United Methodist Church, New Port Richey

January 10, 2026 - Collards Festival at Grand Gardens, 11th annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens)
(Grand Gardens)

January 16, 2026 – Arbor Day 37th annual (3rd Friday in January) (Host: ENV COM)

April 4, 2026. Tentative: Florida Loquat Festival 13th annual (Sims Park) (Host New Port Richey FarmNet, City of New Port Richey – and others) (Sim's Park/Peace Hall).

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

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

Meeting Schedule for 2025 "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, May 1, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Library