

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
City of New Port Richey
Meeting Agenda
New Port Richey – Public Library
Thursday – December 11, 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

Thursday – December 11– 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; Amber Blais, member; Margaret (Sophia) Carswell, member; Amanda Zborek, member; Catherine Capello, Secretary.

- Chair notes resignation of member, George Russell

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/Summary of Actions November 13, 2025

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

Library Seed Lending Program (Amanda)

- Note: Seed of the month program. This month's seed _____ \

Urban Agriculture Program (Dell)

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)

- Update from Colin and Rose
- Update from Colin on next trees at FTP – committee recommends dwarf mangos

River Report (Dell & Colin)

- Committee's proposal submitted to City Council (Dell)
- Updates on previous topics presented for discussion and action
- New topics for review.

Duck Colony (Colin)

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

Discussion of City's Acquisition of old Schwettman/Gulf High School Property and Building

- Committee's proposal submitted to City Council (Dell)

Mangrove Planting Project (Catherine & Colin)

- Update on communication with Megan Moore (Colin)

Reminder: TBRPC, *RRAP* includes installation of mangroves as a resiliency "action item."

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

- * Tree Walk: Set next date, time – report from Sasha,
- * Monthly Report on Tree Budget, remaining funds for planting (Colin)

Annual Report and Proposals: Follow up (All)

- Follow up with City Council on the proposals in the *Annual Report*.
- Tentative date: January 20, 2026. Request for agenda item sent to City Clerk. No response yet.

Herbicide by City Departments (Chair & Colin)

Final review of City Public Works policies on herbicide application

- Last listing unless the committee deems otherwise

Grey Preserve invasive plant removal project (Amanda, Sasha, others)

Report on removal event December 6 Amanda, Sasha, others)

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

* Volunteers needed for all events.

Calendar 2025-2026

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

January 17 2026 - **Collards Festival** at Grand Gardens, 11th annual (Presented by NPR FarmNet, Host: Grand Gardens)
(Grand Gardens)

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).

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,)

Plants & Pints, 3rd Tuesday, monthly. Next event, November 18, 2025, 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, January 8, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Library