

## East Pensacola Heights (EPH) Canopy Restoration and Community Building Project

**Situation:** There is an agreement between researchers and the general public that a healthy tree canopy in suburban settings provides many benefits. The 2014 Pensacola Urban Canopy Study states that trees' benefits are solid and unquestionable, including improving water quality, lowering ambient temperatures, saving energy, reducing noise and air pollution, increasing neighborhood desirability and quality of life, enhancing property values, providing wildlife habitat, and providing aesthetic benefits. In the East Pensacola Heights community, tree loss from storms, including Hurricane Sally, new development, and the prevalence of the fragile and relatively short-lived Laurel Oak species has significantly reduced its tree canopy coverage. The East Pensacola Heights Neighborhood Association plans to address this loss by leading a neighborhood tree planting project with an emphasis on planting native long-lived hurricane-resistant canopy trees to increase community tree canopy coverage. The project includes outreach and education to help homeowners properly plant and care for new trees, keep existing heritage trees healthy as well as adopt more environmentally friendly landscape practices.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes – Impact		
	Activities	Participants	Short	Medium	Long
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Pensacola Heights Neighborhood Association (EPHNA)</li> <li>• Emerald Coast Utility Authority (ECUA) - Larry Williams, District 3, Board Member</li> <li>• Boys Scouts of America Gulf Coast Council – Troop 425 James Zettler, Scout Master</li> <li>• UF Extension Service, Beth Bolles, Extension Agent</li> <li>• Florida Native Plant Society Longleaf Pine Chapter, Duane Tant, Member</li> <li>• East Pensacola Heights Community</li> <li>• City of Orlando Street Tree Program – Kathy Hall, Program Manager</li> <li>• Miami-Dade Street Tree Program – Nikki Anderson, Program Manager</li> </ul> <p><b>Vendors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panhandle Growers Nursery</li> <li>• Lowe’s / Home Depot</li> <li>• Superior Trees</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach out to possible partners, make connections with partners, research successful street tree programs – EPHNA – Edna Lora</li> <li>• Fundraiser October 23, 2021 EPHNA - Edna Lora and Duane Tant – Complete – raised \$522.00                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Plant a tree, build a community demonstration</li> <li>○ Garden tour of Duane Tant’s food forest garden</li> <li>○ Community-wide yard sale and membership drive</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>In-Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach – EPHNA                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Door knocking campaign with door hangers (create and produce 500 door hangers with info on how to order tree)</li> <li>○ Develop and produce flyers to post in businesses</li> <li>○ Tree planting train the trainer event -Beth Bolles of UF Extension Service / EPHNA / Boys Scouts</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Education – Plan and conduct educational sessions to include developers, real estate professionals, and landscaping contractors that work in EPH – EPHNA Environmental Committee</li> <li>• Develop and finalize sign up process to ensure trees are planted correctly and the correct tree is chosen to plant (Right tree/right place) City of Pensacola and EPHNA</li> <li>• Finalize list of approved native trees –City of Pensacola/EPHNA</li> <li>• Create planting contract for ongoing tree maintenance – City of Pensacola / EPHNA</li> <li>• Plan tree planting day scheduled for January 23, 2022 (day after Florida Arbor Day) – EPHNA</li> <li>• Call for delivery of donated compost – EPHNA</li> <li>• Order mulch and pick up – EPH Neighborhood Association/ ECUA Larry Williams</li> <li>• Enrollment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise funds to pay for items not included in grant – complete (raised \$522)</li> <li>• Raise awareness of importance of restoring the tree canopy in EPH</li> <li>• Excitement generated about tree planting project</li> <li>• Process and necessary documents developed and used by project participants</li> <li>• Tree recipients fully understand responsibility of tree care and maintain trees appropriately</li> <li>• Trees are put in the ground to help restore tree canopy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger social connections within EPH</li> <li>• Citizens are more informed about the importance of maintaining tree canopy and the importance of trees in our ecosystem</li> <li>• Generate interest in environmental issues facing our community</li> <li>• Increase EPHNA membership</li> <li>• More neighbors involved in community events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPH tree canopy constantly being restored proactively by citizens of EPH</li> <li>• Citizens understand and embrace green infrastructure</li> <li>• Community health and cohesion improved</li> <li>• Runoff into watershed reduced</li> </ul>	

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- Follow developed sign up process to select tree recipients
  - Site visits to select right tree/right place
  - Recipient signs care contract and is placed on planting schedule
  - Planting Day – All Partners
    - Gather tools, supplies and trees at Lion’s Park
    - Train the trainer at Lion’s Park
    - Volunteers plant trees with help from homeowner
- Post-Project**
- Ongoing maintenance and tree care – EPH Neighborhood Association/tree recipients
    - Plan and conduct education campaign on social media about tree care and the importance of urban forestry – EPHNA Environmental Committee
    - Spot check health of trees and communicate with home owners on issues providing help as needed -
    - Plan and conduct educational sessions about green infrastructure, the use of native and edible plant species in landscaping design –EPHNA Environmental Committee

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- Approach**
- Leverage community assets whenever possible and meet people where they are.
  - Transparency through clear communication of expectations and challenges.
  - Use of asset-based community development and community organizing models –residents, associations, nonprofits, government, and the business community, act collectively as co-producers of the community’s well-being.