

**CITY OF SANIBEL
VEGETATION COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

Issues:

- Aid in the Recovery of Hurricane Ian, Milton, Helene, and other extreme weather events
- Promote the use of native plants, the removal of invasive plants, and the adherence to the Sanibel Fertilizer Ordinance as directed by the City
- Promote the preservation and conservation of water resources
- Promote recruitment of Vegetation Committee members by the City

Accomplishments:

- Issued a proclamation designating January 17, 2025 as Florida Arbor Day on Sanibel
- Issued a proclamation designating October 2025 as Florida Native Plant month on Sanibel
- Participated in multiple outreach events at the Sanibel Farmer's Market to educate the public on the importance of native plants and the negative impacts of invasive exotic vegetation.
- Native plant walks were hosted on City Hall grounds from December 2024 through April 2025 to provide identification and information on planting and care of native plants. Literature about native plants and gardening with resilient and salt-tolerant species was provided to the nearly 75 participants in attendance.
- Facilitated the digitalization of the native plant walk education packet for the public.
- Coordinated and conducted an in-person Arbor Day activities at Community Park to begin revegetating areas that were impacted by recent hurricanes. A Mahogany was planted, with special recognition to the founding members of Sanibel for the 50th Anniversary.
- Continued to work with Natural Resources to increase and enhance aspects of City Hall property used for the education of landscapers and visitors.
- Coordinated a guest speaker series and featured 7 different topics to assist residents and business owners with hurricane resilience, current conservation initiatives, and landscaping best management practices
- Held 11 meetings at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month except August.

Recommendations to City Council

- Continue Arbor Day activities
- Continue City Hall Plant walks including e-mail notification and press releases when City Grounds are restored
- Provide aid in the revegetation of demonstration garden after recent hurricanes on City Hall grounds for native plant walks
- Continue providing native plant articles for the Sanibel newspapers and City website
- Continue to provide educational opportunities pertaining to the natural environment to the public.

Full Members

Barbara Wyskowski, Pam Miller, Barbara Boyce, Barbara Horvath, Vincent Simonelli

Adjunct Members:

Ruth Brooks

City Liaison – Rachel Rainbolt, Conservation Officer

Date Submitted: Date TBD, 2026

