

**SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES IN
CITY OF SANIBEL VEGETATION
STANDARDS AS A RESULT OF
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 04-
001 EFFECTIVE MARCH 02, 2004.**

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Date: March 22, 2004

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the major amendments and discusses the rationale behind the changes.

Many changes were made to the Sanibel Code with respect to vegetation matters. Most of the changes are clarifying amendments which do not represent substantive or policy changes. There are exceptions, and these are discussed in the following section of this report.

Definition of Native Plants

Before Amendments

Native Plants were defined by reference to the Native Plant List adopted by City Council Resolution No. 93-07.

As Amended

Native Plants are defined as those plant species whose natural range included Florida at the time of European contact (1500 A.D.) as identified on the Atlas of Vascular Plants Website, which is identified as follows: Atlas of Vascular Plants, University of South Florida Institute for Systematic Botany: <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/default.asp>

Rationale: This change puts the decision of what plants are native into the hands of the recognized experts and is also intended to remove any controversy that may exist locally. Four (4) plants on the previous native plants list are no longer considered native with this new definition; but hundreds of additional plants are added to the native plant list with this new definition, giving people a greatly expanded list from which to select.

Horticulturally Available Native Plant List

Before Amendments

This term was not in the ordinance.

As Amended

Horticulturally Available Native Plants List means a list of native plants maintained by the City Manager or the Manager's designee.

Rationale:

The new definition of native plants results in a very long list, and not all the plants considered native are available locally. In order to make the native plant list user-friendly, a sub-set of this list has been developed and will be made available to the public as the Horticulturally Available Native Plant List. It is anticipated that most people will choose to select from this shorter list to satisfy the Code's requirement to plant natives. This list was not adopted by Code, but is referred to in the Code and will be maintained by the Natural Resources Department, as the City Manager's designee.

Gulf Beach Zone Vegetation (Only Seaward of the 1974 CCCL)

Before Amendments

The Code required that 75% of plants installed in this, and all other zones, be native plants.

As Amended

The ordinance now requires 100% of the plants installed in this zone be native plants.

Rationale:

The State of Florida currently requires that 100% of the plants installed in beach and coastal areas shall be native plants. This change brings the Land Development Code into better consistency with existing state regulations and the Sanibel Plan by recognizing the importance of the beach dune system. The ordinance states that Coconut Palms may also be planted in the Gulf Beach Zone.

Australian Pines

Before Amendments

The Sanibel Code did not classify the Australian Pine as either a native or a non-competing exotic for purposes of determining compliance with the requirement to plant 75% native.

As Amended

The amended ordinance classifies the Australian Pine as non-native, which means that a property owner with Australian Pines on their parcel may either have to plant additional native plants to satisfy the 75% native requirement, or remove some of the Australian Pines to comply with the 75% native requirement.

Rationale:

This change will encourage property owners to either plant more native plants, or remove more Australian Pines.

The 75% Native Plants Requirement

Before Amendments

The requirement to landscape with 75% native was applied to the entire parcel and all plants combined, regardless of size or type of plant.

As Amended

The amended ordinance changes how someone must go about satisfying the 75% native requirement. Under the amended ordinance the property owners are required to satisfy the 75% native requirement within each category of native plants (trees, shrubs and groundcover).

Rationale:

This requirement is intended to assure a variety of native trees, shrubs and groundcover.

This regulation applies only to new development or redevelopment of a parcel or the substantial improvement of an existing principal building, or when revegetation is done.

Penalties

Before Amendments

This was not in the Code.

As Amended

This is a new Section 122-104 Penalties. This new section subjects someone who violates the vegetation standards to a penalty which requires that the foliage, wildlife habitat and wildlife food

Penalties (Cont'd.)

Before Amendments

As Amended

source be replaced.

Rationale:

This emphasizes the importance of native vegetation to support Sanibel's wildlife population.

Vegetation Buffer Maintenance Standards

Before Amendments

As Amended

The maintenance standards required that plants be permitted to mature to their natural height.

The amended ordinance adds a requirement that plants be permitted to mature to their natural growth pattern and be permitted to produce their natural fruit and provide cover for wildlife by emulating their natural growth patterns.

Rationale:

Under previous standards it was common to see the lateral branches of plants cut off, which defeats the purpose of the buffer to be both a visual screen and provide wildlife habitat.

NOTE: In its Resolution No. 03-09 the Planning Commission recommended that City Council review vegetation buffer requirements, particularly for commercial development; and that City Council give special consideration to instituting a requirement that vegetation buffers be applied more uniformly to all property owners, regardless of the time at which the property was developed. This is a matter for future consideration.

Definition of Endangered Native Plants

Before Amendments

As Amended

This was not in the Code.

An indigenous plant species that has been identified as in danger of becoming extinct because of harmful human activity or environmental factors, and that is thus the subject of protective regulations and

Definition of Endangered Native Plants (Cont'd.)

Before Amendments

As Amended

conservation measures. These plants are identified on the following two lists: Federal List: http://endangered.fws.gov/50cfr_plants.pdf; State List: <http://floridaconservation.org/pubs/endanger.html#plan>

Definition of Invasive Exotic Vegetation

Before Amendments

As Amended

This was not in the Code.

A plant species introduced to Florida, purposely or accidentally, from a natural range outside of Florida, which is able to proliferate and aggressively alter or displace indigenous biological communities and identified on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's List: <http://www.fleppc.org>

Definition of Material Alteration of Vegetation

Before Amendments

As Amended

The previous definition found in Section 122-143 was confusing and unclear.

The new definition is found in Sec. 122-101 of the amended ordinance, and is easily understood.

Definition of Threatened Native Plants

Before Amendments

As Amended

This was not in the Code.

An indigenous plant species that, although not presently in danger of extirpation, is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future in the absence of special protection and management efforts. These plants are identified on the following lists: Federal list: http://endangered.fws.gov/50cfr_plants.pdf; State List: <http://floridaconservaton.org/pubs/endanger.html#plan>

Definition of Minor Improvements

Before Amendments

This was not in the Code.

As Amended

The new definition is found in Sec. 122-101 of the amended ordinance, and means development activities with an estimated cost of \$2000, or less.

The significance of this definition is not the definition itself, but how it is applied in the amended ordinance, which is discussed next.

Required Removal of Invasive Exotic Vegetation

Before Amendments

With the issuance of any development permit, the property owner was required to remove the following invasive exotic vegetation from the parcel: Brazilian pepper, Melaleuca, earleaf acacia, lead tree, java plum, air potato, exotic inkberry and mother-in-law's tongue/bowstring hemp.

As Amended

The issuance of a development permit for a minor improvement does not carry with it the requirement to remove the invasive exotic vegetation from the parcel. Issuance of a development permit that is not for a minor improvement still carries the requirement to remove the same invasive exotic vegetation as the previous ordinance, however, if the cost of removing the exotics exceeds the cost of the development, the exotics may be removed within three (3) years.

Trimming Seaward of the 1974 CCCL

Before Amendments

The ordinance required a permit for any trimming of vegetation seaward of the 1974 CCCL, but did not provide specific standards, except for the limitation that no more than 25% of the total leaf surface could be removed.

As Amended

Standards for trimming native vegetation are set out in Section 122-170 (a) (4) and (5). These standards are intended to assure plants are not reduced in height to less than 4 feet, except for certain species that can't be reduced in height at all.

Rationale:

This change is intended to provide a more naturally appearing beach dune system and provide additional wildlife habitat. Both purposes are important to achieve the goals, objectives and policies set out in the Sanibel Plan.

The City of Sanibel's Horticulturally Available Native Plant List

* All plants native to Florida are protected by City Ordinance 98-07

* For a complete list of native species protected by the City, refer to USF Institute of Systematic Botany's website at <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/default.asp>

* Any plant that is a "dune" species is suitable for planting seaward of 1974 Coastal Construction Control Line

* Some of the plants listed may not have originated on Sanibel, but are plants native to southwest Florida and are well suited for the island.

* Although coconut palms (*Cocos nucifera*) are not native to Florida, for the purposes of this list, they will be considered a neutral species and will not be classified as exotic or native and will be permitted to be planted seaward of the 1974 CCCL

NL = Not Listed on the State or Federal Protected Species Lists

Ground Covers/Grasses

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>	2'	Upland/Dune	High	High	Dry	NL
Dwarf Fakahatchee / Gama Grass	<i>Tripsacum floridanum</i>	3'-4'	Upland	High	Moderate	Moist to Dry	Threatened-FL
Elliot's Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>	2'	Upland	High	Low	Dry	NL
Fakahatchee Grass / Eastern Gama Grass	<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	5'-6'	Upland	High	Moderate	Moist to Dry	NL
Hairy Gramma Grass	<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>	1'-2"	Upland	High	Moderate	Dry	NL
Purple Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	2'	Upland	High	Low	Dry	NL
Muhly Grass	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	3'	Upland/Dune	High	High	Dry	NL
Panic Grass	<i>Panicum amarum</i>	1'-3'	Upland	High	High	Moist to Dry	NL
Salt Marsh Cord Grass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	3'-5'	Salt Marsh	High	Moderate	Moist to Wet	NL
Salt Meadow Cord Grass	<i>Spartina patens</i>	1'-4'	Beach/Dune	High	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Saw Grass	<i>Cladium Jamaicense</i>	To 6'	Wetland	High	High	Moist to Constant Flood	NL
Sea Oats	<i>Uniola paniculata</i>	5'-8'	Beach/Dune	High	High	Dry	NL
Seashore Paspalum	<i>Paspalum vaginatum</i>	2'-3'	Beach/Dune	High	High	Dry	NL
Spartina / Cord Grass / Sand Cord Grass	<i>Spartina bakeri</i>	5'-6'	Wetland	High	High	Moist to Constant Flood	NL
Vasey Grass / Gulf Dune Paspalum	<i>Paspalum monostachyum</i>	3'-5'	Beach/Dune	High	High	Dry	NL

Ground Covers/Flowers

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Ambrosia	<i>Ambrosia hispida</i>	Under 1'	Beach/Dune	Moderate	High	Dry	NL
Bacopa / Water Hyssop	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	Under 1'	Wetland/Bay	Moderate	High	Moist to Occasional Flood	NL
Black Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	2'	Upland	High	Moderate	Moderately Dry	NL
Blanket Flower / Fire Wheel	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1'-2'	Beach/Dune	High	High	Dry	NL
Blue Porterweed	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	1'-2'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
BlueEyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	1'	Upland	High	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Camphor Weed	<i>Heterotheca subaxillaris</i>	2'-3'	Upland/Wetland	High	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Dotted Horsemint / Spotted Bee Balm	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	2'-3'	Upland	High	Low	Dry to moist	NL
Dune Sunflower	<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	1'-2'	Beach/Dune	High	High	Dry	NL
False Nettle	<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	1'-3'	Upland	High	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Florida Coontie / Florida Arrowroot	<i>Zamia pumila</i>	3'-4'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Golden Creeper	<i>Ernodea littoralis</i>	2'-4'	Upland	Moderate	Low	Dry to moist	NL
Gopher Apple	<i>Licania michauxii</i>	1'-2'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	NL
Iron Weed	<i>Vernonia blodgettii</i>	2'-3'	Upland	Moderate	Low	Dry to Moist (Seasonal Flood)	Endangered-FL
Lyreleaf Sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	1'-2'	Upland	Moderate	Low	Dry	NL
Marsh Pink	<i>Sabatia grandiflora</i>	To 3'	Wetland	Moderate	Moderate	Moist to Occasional Flood	NL

Ground Covers/Cactus							
Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Mistletoe Cactus (Rhipsalis)	<i>Rhipsalis baccifera</i>	Vine	Tree Canopy	Low	Low	Dry	Endangered-FL
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	1'-2'	Upland/Dune	Low	High	Dry	NL
Spanish Lady	<i>Opuntia triacanthos</i>	2'-4'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	Endangered-FL
Aquatic Plants							
Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria lancifolia</i>	2'-3'	Aquatic	Low	Low	Wet to Occasional Flood	NL
Blue Flag Iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>	1'-2'	Aquatic	Low	Low	Wet to Occasional Flood	NL
Golden Canna	<i>Canna flaccida</i>	To 3'	Wetland	High	Low	Moist to Occasional Flood	NL
Pickering Weed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	1'-2'	Aquatic	Low	Low	Wet to Occasional Flood	NL
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	2'-3'	Aquatic	Low	Low	Wet to Occasional Flood	NL
Spike Rush	<i>Eleocharis spp.</i>	1'	Aquatic	Low	Low	Wet to Occasional Flood	NL
Swamp Hibiscus / Scarlet Rose Mallow	<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	2'-3'	Aquatic	Low	Low	Wet to Occasional Flood	NL
Small Shrubs to 6' at Maturity							
Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Beauty Berry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	6'-8'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	NL
Christmas Berry	<i>Lycium carolinianum</i>	To 6'	Upland/Wetland	Moderate	High	Moist to Occasional Flood	NL
Florida Maytens	<i>Maytenus phyllanthoides</i>	To 6'	Upland/Wetland	Moderate	High	Dry to Moist	Threatened-FL
Lantana / Buttonsage	<i>Lantana involucrata</i>	3'-5'	Upland	Low	High	Dry	NL
Salt Wort	<i>Batis maritima</i>	1'-3'	Salt Marsh	Low	High	Occasional Flood	NL
Sea Lavender	<i>Tournefortia gnaphalodes</i>	2'-4'	Beach/Dune	Low	High	Dry	Endangered-FL
Short Leaf Wild Coffee	<i>Psychotria sulzneri</i>	6'-10'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	NL
Wild Coffee	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	To 6'	Upland	Low	Moderate	Dry to Moist	NL
Wild Cotton	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	To 6'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Occasional Flood	Endangered-FL
Medium Shrubs 6' to 12' at Maturity							
Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Bahama Cassia	<i>Cassia bahamensis</i>	2'-4'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	NL
Bahama Maidenbush	<i>Savia bahamensis</i>	5'-8'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	Endangered-FL
Bay Cedar	<i>Suriana maritima</i>	9'-12'	Beach/Dune	Low	High	Dry	NL
Coco Plum	<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i>	To 12'	Upland	Moderate	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Dwarf Palmetto	<i>Sabal minor</i>	4'-6'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Fire Bush	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	10'-15'	Upland	Low	Moderate	Dry to Moist	NL
Jamaica Caper	<i>Capparis cynophallophora</i>	To 8'	Upland	Moderate	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Joewood	<i>Jacquinia keyensis</i>	To 8'	Upland	Moderate	High	Dry	Threatened-FL
Native Inkberry	<i>Scaevola plumieri</i>	4'-6'	Beach/Dune	Moderate	High	Dry	Threatened-FL
Necklace Pod	<i>Sophora tomentosa Var. truncata</i>	To 10'	Upland	Moderate	High	Dry	NL
Needle Palm	<i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i>	5'-8'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Saw Palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	To 6'	Upland	High	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Scrub Palmetto	<i>Sabal etonia</i>	5'-8'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Seven Year Apple	<i>Genipa clusifolia</i>	To 10'	Upland	Low	High	Dry	NL
Snowberry	<i>Chiococca alba</i>	To 8'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Moist	NL
Varnish Leaf	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	To 8'	Upland	Moderate	High	Dry to Moist	NL
White Indigo Berry	<i>Randia aculeata</i>	To 10'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL

Small Trees 12' to 25' at Maturity							
Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Buccaneer Palm	<i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>	10'-15'	Upland/Dune	Low	High	Dry	Endangered-FL
Buckthorn/Saffron Plum	<i>Sideroxylon celastrinum</i>	To 20'	Upland	Low	Moderate	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Cat's Claw	<i>Pithecellobium unguis-cati</i>	To 25'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Coral Bean	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	15'-25'	Upland	High	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Dahoon Holly	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	15'-25'	Upland	High	Moderate	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Everglades Paurotis Palm	<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>	To 25'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Occasional Flood	Threatened-FL
Fiddlewood	<i>Citharexylum spinosum</i>	15'-25'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	NL
Florida Silver Palm	<i>Coccothrinax argentata</i>	To 25'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Moist	Threatened-FL
Key Thatch Palm	<i>Thrinax morrisii</i>	To 25'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Moist	Endangered-FL
Marlberry	<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i>	To 20'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Myrsine/Rapanea	<i>Rapanea punctata</i>	To 25'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Paradise Tree	<i>Simarouba glauca</i>	To 25'	Upland	Low	Moderate	Dry to Moist	NL
Redberry Stopper	<i>Eugenia confusa</i>	To 20'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Moist	Endangered-FL
Satin Leaf	<i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>	To 25'	Upland	Low	Moderate	Dry to Moist	Threatened-FL
Silver Buttonwood	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i> Var. <i>sericeus</i>	15'-20'	Upland/Wetland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Simpson Stopper / Twinberry	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	To 25'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Moist	Threatened-FL
Spanish Stopper	<i>Eugenia foetida</i>	To 20'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Sweet Acacia	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	15'-20'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Thatch Palm	<i>Thrinax radiata</i>	To 25'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Moist	Endangered-FL
Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	To 25'	Upland	High	Moderate	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
White Stopper	<i>Eugenia axillaris</i>	To 20'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Moist	NL
Wild Lime	<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	15'-20'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Wild Olive/Florida Privet	<i>Forestiera segregata</i>	To 15'	Upland	Moderate	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Medium Trees 25' to 40' at Maturity							
Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Black Mangrove	<i>Avicennia germinans</i>	25'-40'	Salt Marsh	Moderate	High	Moist	NL
Cabbage Palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	To 30'	Upland/Wetland	High	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Green Buttonwood	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	25'-35'	Upland/Wetland	Low	High	Dry to Constant Flood	NL
Gumbo Limbo	<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	30'-40'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Hercules Club	<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	To 30'	Upland	High	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Jamaica Dogwood	<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>	25'-35'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Lignum Vitae	<i>Guajacum sanctum</i>	20'-30'	Upland	Low	Moderate	Dry	Endangered-FL
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	30'-40'	Upland	High	Moderate	Dry to Moist	NL
Locust Berry / Long Key Locust Berry	<i>Byrsonima lucida</i>	To 25'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry	Endangered-FL
Mahogany	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	25'-35'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	Endangered-FL
Pigeon Plum	<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i>	30'-40'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Pitch Apple	<i>Clusia rosea</i>	20'-30'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Pond Apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>	25'-35'	Wetland	High	Low	Moist to Occasional Flood	NL
Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	25'-40'	Salt Marsh	Moderate	High	Occasional to Constant Flood	NL
Sand Live Oak	<i>Quercus geminata</i>	30'-40'	Upland	High	Moderate	Dry to Moist	NL
Sea Grape	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	30'-40'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Southern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	25'-30'	Upland	High	High	Dry	NL
Sweet Bay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	25'-40'	Upland/Wetland	High	Low	Moist to Constant Flood	NL
White Mangrove	<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>	25'-40'	Salt Marsh	Moderate	High	Occasional to Constant Flood	NL
Large Trees 35' to 60' at Maturity							

Mimosa	<i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>	Under 1'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry	NL
Peperomia	<i>Peperomia alata</i>						NL
Rain Lily	<i>Zephyranthes simpsonii</i>	1'	Wetland	Low	Low	Dry to Moist	Threatened-FL
Rhexia	<i>Rhexia spp.</i>	2'-3'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	NL
Salt Marsh Mallow	<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>	2'-3'	Upland	Low	High	Seasonal Flooding	NL
Scorpion's Tail	<i>Heliotropium angiospermum</i>	1'-2'	Upland	Moderate	Low	Dry	NL
Sea Oxeye Daisy	<i>Borrchia frutescens</i>	To 3'	Wetland/Upland	Low	High	Dry to Constant Flood	NL
Sea Purslane	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	To 8"	Beach/Dune	Moderate	High	Moist to Occasional Flood	NL
Seacoast Marsh Elder	<i>Iva imbricata</i>	1'-2'	Beach/Dune	Low	High	Dry	NL
Seaside Goldenrod	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	1'-8'	Beach/Dune	Moderate	High	Dry	NL
Silk Grass	<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	2'-3'	Upland	Low	Moderate	Dry	NL
Spider Lily	<i>Hymenocallis latifolia</i>	To 3'	Upland/Wetland	Moderate	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Spiderwort / Blue Jacket	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	1'-2'	Upland	High	Low	Dry	NL
String Lily	<i>Crinum americanum</i>	2'-3'	Upland/Wetland	Low	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	2'-3'	Wetland	Low	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Tampa/Beach Verbena	<i>Glandularia tampensis/maritima</i>	1'-2'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	Endangered-FL
Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>	2'-3'	Upland	Low	Low	Dry	NL
Tropical Sage	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	2'-4'	Upland	Moderate	Low	Dry	NL
Wild Allamanda	<i>Pentalinon luteum</i>	3'-8'	Upland	Low	Moderate	Dry to Moist	NL
Yellowtop	<i>Flaveria floridana</i>	3'-5'	Upland/Wetland	High	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Ground Covers/ Ferns Fern Allies							
Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Boston Fern	<i>Nephrolepis exaltata 'Bostoniensis'</i>	1'-2'	Upland/Wetland	Moderate	Low	Moist	NL
Bracken Fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	1'-2'	Upland	Low	Low	Moist	NL
Giant Leather Fern	<i>Acrostichum danaeifolium</i>	To 6'	Wetland	Moderate	High	Moist to Constant Flood	NL
Golden Leather Fern	<i>Acrostichum aureum</i>	To 6'	Wetland	Moderate	High	Moist to Constant Flood	Threatened-FL
Marsh Fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	To 3'	Wetland	Moderate	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Psilotum	<i>Psilotum nudum</i>	1'-2'	Upland/Wetland	Low	Low	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	2'-3'	Wetland	Low	Low	Moist to Constant Flood	NL
Swamp/ Blechnum Fern	<i>Blechnum serrulatum</i>	To 3'	Wetland	Moderate	High	Moist to Occasional Flood	NL
Giant Sword Fern	<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>	To 6'	Upland/Wetland	Low	Moderate	Dry to Moist	Threatened-FL
Ground Covers/Vines							
Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Bay Bean	<i>Canavalia maritima</i>	Vine	Beach/Dune	Moderate	High	Dry	NL
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea imperati</i>	Vine	Beach/Dune	Low	High	Dry	NL
Climbing Aster	<i>Symphoricarum carolinianum</i>	2'-4'	Upland/Wetland	High	Low	Mod. Dry to moist	NL
Coral Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Vine	Upland	High	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Corky-stemmed Passion Flower	<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	Vine	Upland	Moderate	Low	Dry to Moist	NL
Cross Vine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Vine	Upland	Moderate	Low	Dry	NL
Jacquemontia/Sky Blue Clustervine	<i>Jacquemontia pentanthos</i>	Vine	Upland	Moderate	Low	Dry to Moist	Endangered-FL
Moonflower Vine	<i>Ipomoea alba</i>	Vine	Upland	Moderate	Low	Dry	NL
Railroad Vine	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	Vine	Beach/Dune	Moderate	High	Dry	NL
Rubber Vine / Mangrove Vine	<i>Rhabdadenia biftora</i>	Vine	Wetland	Moderate	Low	Dry	NL

Common Name	Latin Name	Height	Habitat Type	Frost Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Water Requirements	State/Federal Status
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	25'-80'	Wetland	High	Low	Moist to Constant Flood	NL
Longleaf Pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>	To 80'	Upland	High	Low	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Laurel Oak	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	30'-60'	Upland	High	Moderate	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Mastic / False Mastic	<i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i>	30'-50'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Moist	NL
Pond Cypress	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	30'-40'	Wetland	Low	Low	Occasional to Constant Flood	NL
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	30'-40'	Wetland	Low	Low	Occasional to Constant Flood	NL
Royal Palm (Florida)	<i>Roystonea regia (syn. elata)</i>	25'-50'	Upland	Moderate	Moderate	Dry to Occasional Flood	Endangered-FL
Sand Pine	<i>Pinus clausa</i>	To 60'	Upland	High	Low	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Shortleaf Fig	<i>Ficus citrifolia</i>	40'-60'	Upland	Moderate	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Slash Pine	<i>Pinus elliotii</i>	40'-60'	Upland	High	Low	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Strangler Fig	<i>Ficus aurea</i>	30'-40'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL
Wild Tamarind	<i>Lysitoma latifolium</i>	30'-50'	Upland	Low	High	Dry to Occasional Flood	NL

March 22, 2004

Dear Concerned Citizen, Licensed Landscapers and Builders:



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

AREA CODE - 239

CITY COUNCIL	472-4135
ADMINISTRATIVE	472-3700
BUILDING	472-4555
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	472-3111
FINANCE	472-9615
LEGAL	472-4359
PARKS & RECREATION	472-9075
PLANNING	472-4136
POLICE	472-3111
PUBLIC WORKS	472-6397
UTILITIES	472-1008

On March 2, 2004, Sanibel City Council adopted Ordinance 04-001, amending the Sanibel Code regarding Vegetation. The final legislation is the product of several City Council hearings, Committee meetings and Planning Commission hearings, which included public participation and input.

We realize that education and familiarity with the laws governing Sanibel Vegetation are a critical component to compliance. In an effort to be certain interested parties become familiar with the new legislation, we have enclosed the following:

- Ordinance 04-001, as adopted by Sanibel City Council (New language appears with an underscore and deleted language appears with a strikethrough. **PLEASE NOTE:** Ordinance 04-001 represents only the approved amendments to the Sanibel Code and is not the Code in its entirety.)
- A matrix prepared by City Staff summarizing the major code changes implemented with the adoption of Ordinance 04-001.
- A matrix of "Horticulturally Available Plant List" (Included on this list are the native plants that are available through plant nurseries.)

We hope this information is helpful to you. We look forward to working with you to maintain the native habitats that exist on our Island. If you have any questions regarding these amendments or if you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact City Hall at (239) 472-3700.

Sincerely yours, /

Judith Zimomra
City Manager

JAZ/cjm

Xc: Sanibel City Council
Executive Staff
Vegetation Committee

HISTORY OF CITY OF SANIBEL VEGETATION COMMITTEE*

And the seed was planted
And the seed grew
And the seed created an island
And the island flourished

Berdenna Thompson

Thousands of years ago a mangrove seed washed up on a sandbar. Over time, mangrove seeds multiplied and grew into an impenetrable forest, a living seawall of many tangled roots and branches catching and holding sediment that washed in with the waves. The mighty mangrove sculptured Sanibel from a sandbar into a barrier island.

Sanibel has weathered many challenges: forces of nature, Native Americans, pirates (let's believe in them), lumbering, and farming. Now, as in the recent past, the island has struggled to maintain a balance between exploitation and preservation.

After the hurricane of 1926, Sanibel was covered with sand and shell. Today, it is a charming island still growing with beauty created by nature. The stewardship of man has strived for harmony with the island's natural systems by preserving wildlife and its habitats. Sanibel enjoys a great diversity of native plants, some found in only a few other places on earth. Native vegetation is critical to the survival of many species of wildlife.

The environmental heritage is the result of strenuous, energetic work by those who envisioned the future. In 1930s, a small group became interested in saving the island's native wildlife. They had no particular leadership, direction or influence until a gentleman from Des Moines, Iowa, appeared. J.N. "Ding Darling, an influential political cartoonist, was a fiery spirited individual on conservation matters.

*Approved by Sanibel Vegetation Committee

Many of Darling's cartoons addressed the threat of wildlife extinction, air and water pollution, and the destruction of the environment. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him as head of the U.S. Biological Survey, which later became the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. Darling served from March of 1934 to November of 1935.

During 1936, Darling objected vigorously to the bulldozing of the northern shore of Sanibel. Land, sold by the State of Florida, rich in mangroves and hammocks, was being marketed by land developers. Despite Darling's concerns, the land was not preserved, but with his persistent efforts, Sanibel and Captiva were designated as a wildlife refuge by a special act of the Florida Legislature in 1939. In 1945, with the help of Darling, portions of Sanibel and Captiva became the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Darling continued offering his support toward preservation until he left Florida in 1960. He passed away in 1962.

A press-aide to Florida's Governor Farris Bryant(1961-1965) suggested Sanibel form a Memorial Committee to recognize Darling. The islanders quickly responded. Emmy Lu Lewis, part-time resident and interested conservationist, headed the group, and with the help of the Audubon Society, solicited statewide support. In 1967, land owned by the State of Florida, by the school district and some by private owners, was acquired by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge and the 1967 land acquisition became known as the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, a formal recognition of Darling's accomplishments and contributions.

The Memorial Committee was renamed "The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation." Fish and Wildlife officials urged SCCF to continue to help combat the increasing pressures of impending development after the construction of the causeway in 1963. A sea of faces appeared

over this new, arched structure. Masses of people visited, and even wanted to live on Sanibel. Many islanders understood the future consequences of this influx. At that time, Sanibel was under the rule of Lee County but the Commission's philosophy was to serve people not birds.

Events started to change this laid-back, peaceful community. There were 175 junk cars removed, mainly from the refuge. Some land owners began to strip and clear vegetation so their land could be sold. It became a time of critical concern. There is story after story of how people worked hard to save the island's natural systems.

Ann Winterbotham served as chairperson of the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation and the Sanibel Planning Commission. Ann and her husband moved to Sanibel in 1964. They had no knowledge of the native vegetation. Their landscaper's design called for Australian pines, melaleuca and Brazilian pepper. Today, in the State of Florida, it is illegal to plant these non-native invasive trees. The proliferation of these weed trees stimulated an effort to educate people on the islands about the benefits of native plants.

Something was needed to popularize the use of Sanibel's native plants for landscaping. Ann and Mada Harrison, a member of SCCF, found the most informative references about Sanibel's native plants at that time, were in George Cooley's scientific papers published in "*Rhodora*" *Journal of the New England Botanical Club* Oct. 1955, Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University.

Ann and Mada became very knowledgeable about native vegetation and collected plants from all over the island to exhibit them at Sanibel's shell fairs. One day, they were busy digging up plants on the bayside in Francis Bailey's yard, at the original site of Bailey's store. He came out and asked, "What are you doing?" And they replied, "We're just saving these plants, Francis." He let them take the plants.

In 1973, Ann and Mada put together an identification book, "*Native Trees and Shrubs for Captiva-Sanibel Landscaping*." Mada was the author and Ann drew the illustrations.

Dick Workman came to Sanibel in 1973 to fill the position as the administrative director of SCCF. He began a newspaper column, "Growing Native" in the **Island Reporter** to continue the native plant education that Ann and Mada had started. Later, selections from the columns were consolidated into his book "*Growing Native*" published in 1980 by the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

Before the city's incorporation, Dick Workman took Porter Goss for a canoe ride along with George Campbell, a wildlife enthusiast, to show them what had happened to the Johnston tract. On the way, George rocked the boat. Without hesitation, he jumped into the water to capture a banded water snake. When the tract of land came into view they were devastated. The vegetation had been completely stripped away.

One Sunday, Ann Winterbotham, then the chairperson of the Planning Commission, went with a land engineer to look at a piece of property for development. He insisted it was not a wetland and she knew that it was. When they arrived, Ann stepped off the road up to her waist in water with fish swimming around her.

After extensive legal work, Sanibel incorporated as a city in 1974. Current U.S. Congressman Porter Goss was the first Mayor of Sanibel. A priority of the new city was to develop an ordinance to prohibit the kind of wholesale clearing that was going on.

Branches of government were departmentalized and ordinances needed to be defined and written. Councilman Charles LeBuff drafted the ordinance that created the Vegetation Committee. Dick Workman became the first chairman of the newly formed Committee in 1975. The city manager, David Bretsky, and the Vegetation Committee wrote the first ordinance. But

the city attorney, Neal Bowen, felt it was not workable and needed revising before it could be challenged.

The city was trying to protect what it had, but it was difficult to convince people that what the city was doing was important. Before an area of land was developed the owner had to consult with the Vegetation Committee to see what native plants should be saved. Some people were dissatisfied with this arrangement. They wanted to plant their own choices of vegetation and did not want to be regulated.

This became a major issue for the Vegetation Committee. As a result, the Committee's approach was to have a vegetation member inspect the property and hopefully meet with the owner to explain the benefits of the city's ordinance, and provide assistance in planning the landscape.

George Campbell was the next chairman of the Vegetation Committee. He felt the success of the Committee was its one-on-one interaction. He said, "People moving here do not know the difference between a hibiscus and a wild coffee plant."

The "Sanibel Report" documented what was native to the island and what needed to be protected. The Report was written in 1975 by John Clark, who authored many books on coastal management and worked for the Conservation Foundation in Washington D.C. This Report was primarily funded by SCCF. (The Conservation Foundation in Washington D.C. and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation are separate entities.)

During the summer of 1975, islanders contributed many hours of their time to assist in the collection of data for the city's guide book. Highly qualified experts from around the country, under the supervision of the Sanibel Planning Commission, wrote the "Sanibel

Comprehensive Land Use Plan.” This was adopted on July 19, 1976 and based on the “Sanibel Report.”

People who owned large pieces of land gradually realized that removing all the vegetation was not the way to sell property. Following the ordinances, resulting from the “Sanibel Comprehensive Land Use Plan,” would be a more profitable way. Most realtors began to understand that prospective buyers came here for the island’s natural beauty.

With the increase of building, the city began to realize it needed more meaningful protection for sensitive wetlands and local zoning was not enough. Over the years, intensive fund-raising and land-purchasing by SCCF has continued. Likewise, the City of Sanibel has been buying land for the purposes of conservation.

Since the founding of the Vegetation Committee in 1975, there have been approximately 8,000 vegetation field inspections done by Committee members. Many people and organizations have helped city government preserve the natural systems and the Vegetation Committee has played an important role in leadership.

The Vegetation Committee’s success has come about through personal contact with homeowners, supplemented by educational information. When a homeowner is not present during an inspection and there’s a problem with the vegetation, a meeting is set up with the building contractor. If the problem cannot be solved, then it is handled by the City’s Natural Resource Director.

Educating the public about conservation matters is always of prime importance. People who protect and care for natural resources help preserve a healthy ecological system.

The Vegetation Committee's duties as established by the city ordinance are:

"Sec. 2.48. Duties

The Vegetation Committee shall advise the Planning Commission, the City Council and the city manager about sound ecological management of vegetative resources in the city and may review and comment about proposed development. The committee should collect, analyze and disseminate information on basic ecological principles as they relate to island vegetation. The committee should, in addition, make available to the best of its ability expert technical assistance for any person on the island who desires advice concerning clearing or landscaping for a development activity. Such assistance shall include, but not be limited to the identification of individual specimens of vegetation that should be preserved, advice on arrangements for transplanting of individual specimens to other parcels on the island, and the location of appropriate native species for landscaping.(Ord.No. 76-28, 3,7-19-76)"

Members of the Vegetation Committee are certified vegetation inspectors.

The Vegetation Committee meets the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 in City Hall.

The public is invited.

An inspector signs up for a day of vegetation inspection for the following month.

The inspector picks up an application for a vegetation inspection at the planning dept.

An on-site inspection follows.

Native plants are identified and inventoried.

Impacted vegetation within building-site is moved and transplanted by contractor.

The inspector may recommend a change in the site-plan to preserve native vegetation.

The report is then routed to a city planner for further review.

Before a certificate of occupancy is issued a final vegetation inspection is required.

All pre-existing native plants have to be verified and replaced if missing.