



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

City Manager

City Council Regular Meeting Date: December 2, 2025

To: City Council
From: Dana A. Souza, City Manager
Date: November 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of Donor Agreement for the Roots in Resilience.

BACKGROUND: At previous City Council meetings, Councilmember Henshaw has discussed the initiative titled, Roots in Resilience. This Sanibel Re-Greening is a citizen-driven initiative that seeks to restore and enhance the island's vegetative character by reintroducing large, resilient native trees and complementary vegetation to public roadways and public and quasi-public spaces that has been damaged or destroyed by recent storms. This long-term effort supports Sanibel's identity as a sanctuary barrier island and strengthens the community's ecological resilience.

The long-term goal of this initiative is to plant 50 native trees and other native vegetation annually for the next 50 years. This sustained effort will help rebuild the island's natural canopy, replenish critical habitat, improve storm resilience, and reinforce Sanibel's environmental legacy for future generations.

Through a public-city partnership model, private donations will be raised to support the annual purchase of native plant materials. Roles and responsibilities include:

- Native tree and vegetation selections will be jointly recommended by Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) and the City's Natural Resources Department, ensuring ecological appropriateness and long-term viability.
- The City of Sanibel will be responsible for purchasing, planting, and maintaining all trees and vegetation using donated funds.
- Donated funds will be managed by the Charitable Foundation of the Islands (CFI) consistent with donor intent, transparency, and the requirements of the City.

The City may independently budget funds to assist with the re-greening of Sanibel as funding allows. The FY26 capital improvement budget includes \$250,000 for Causeway Boulevard & Periwinkle Way Landscape Improvements.

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

The City Council is asked to approve the Roots in Resilience Fundraising Agreement – Agreement to Establish a Pass-Through Fund, between the City, the Roots in Resilience founders and CFI, thereby authorizing fundraising activities to improve public roads and space.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve the Roots in Resilience Fundraising Agreement – Agreement to Establish a Pass-Through Fund, between the City, the Roots in Resilience founders and CFI, and to authorize the City Attorney to approve minor amendments to the agreement as may be necessary.