

**CITY OF SANIBEL  
VEGETATION COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

**Issues:**

- Aid in the Recovery of Hurricane Ian
- Promote the use of the Environmental Handbook, the Native Plant slide show, and the Wildflower photo guide as found on the City's website as Community Educational tools
- 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:**

- Applied for and received the 2022 Florida Native Plant Society Award of Excellence – City of Sanibel Native Demonstration Garden, Institutional Division
- Issued a proclamation designating October 2022 as Florida Native Plant month on Sanibel
- Facilitated the development of digital classroom materials for the Vegetation Competency Exam to educate contractors of the vegetation standards of Sanibel, native plant identification and fertilizer application.
- Held classes and exams online for Vegetation and Fertilizer contractors. A total of 96 persons took the classes; 3 persons passed using the Spanish version\*
  - A total of 44 new contractors took the class from October through December 2022 to assist in the Hurricane Ian recovery efforts.
    - 34 of those were issued a Vegetation Competency card and 1 was also issued a fertilizer endorsement card.
- Conducted walks twice monthly, in season, on City Hall grounds to provide identification and information on planting and care of native plants. Literature provided to participants about native plants and gardening on Sanibel. A total of 130+ people attended the plant walks.
- Coordinated and conducted “no contact” Arbor Day activities at City-owned Community Park. A Sweet Bay Magnolia was planted, with special recognition to former City Manager, Judy Zimomra
- Continued the series of informative newspaper articles related to vegetation matters of concern to Island residents (28 articles in the series).
- Continued to work with Natural Resources to increase and enhance aspects of City Hall property used for the education of landscapers and visitors.
- Continued the revision of the Environmental Handbook
- Held 9 meetings at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month except August (October and November meetings canceled due to Hurricane Ian)

## **Recommendations to City Council**

- Continue Arbor Day activities
- Reestablish City Hall Plant walks including e-mail notification and press releases when City Grounds recover from Hurricane Ian
- Provide aid in the revegetation of demonstration garden after Hurricane Ian on City Hall grounds for native plant walks and the Landscaper's course
- Continue providing native plant articles for the Sanibel newspapers
- Continue to provide educational opportunities pertaining to the natural environment to the public.
- Support City Council's efforts to create an exemption in state law for the city to be able to license those occupations that affect water quality.
- Celebrate Florida Native Plant month with education booth at Sanibel Farmer's Market.  
(Event was cancelled in 2022 due to Hurricane Ian)

## **Full Members**

Barbara Boyce, Phyllis Gresham, Claudia Hoffman, Edward Holden, Barbara Horvath, Mariana Pardo, and Pam Miller

## **Adjunct Members:**

Ruth Brooks, Jonathan Dean, Jennifer Maughan, and Phillip Marks

**City Council Liaison** – Councilman Dr. Scott Crater

**City Liaison** – Rachel Rainbolt, Conservation Officer

**Date Submitted:** May 3, 2022

