



# St Pete Citizen Forester

2023 Annual Report

# St Pete Citizen Forester

## History and Purpose

### **History**

The Citizen Forester program was created in 2022 by the St. Pete Urban Forestry Committee (UFC) to provide an empowering and engaging opportunity for residents to participate in tree service projects that beautify and increase quality of life in their neighborhoods

### **Purpose**

In the last year, the program has further developed into an education, advocacy, and social interaction hub

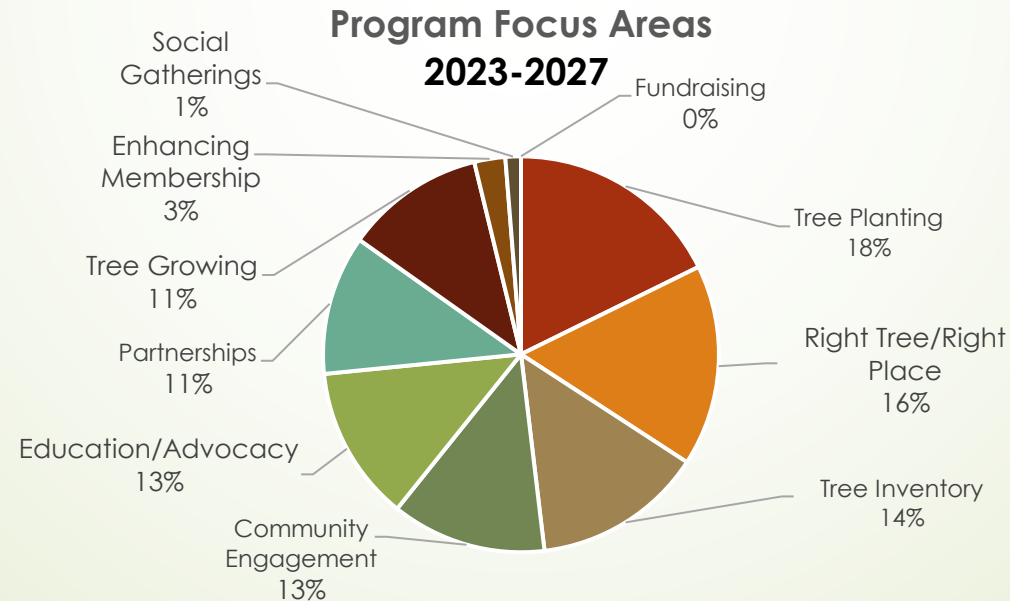


# St Pete Citizen Forester

Focus areas

## Five-year program planning exercise

This year, the UFC created a member poll to learn which program focus areas members would prioritize. These focus areas will direct program development in the 2023-2027 period



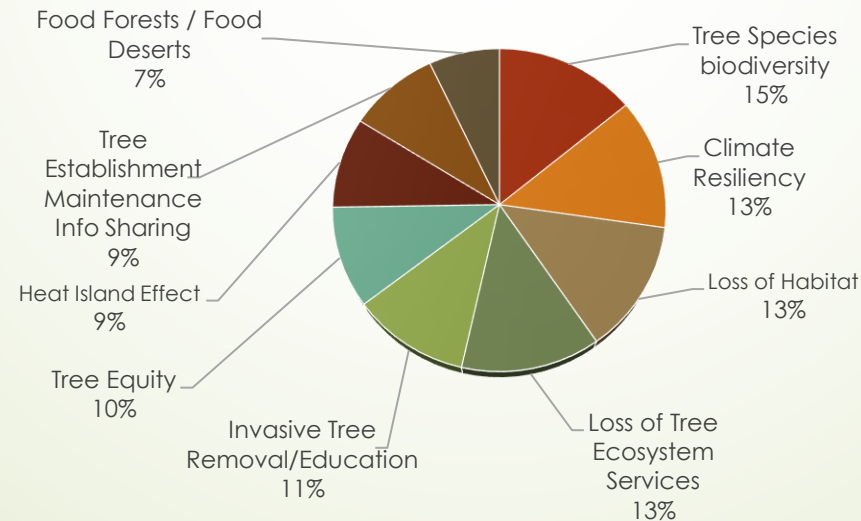
# St Pete Citizen Forester

## Five-year Education/Advocacy Planning Process

In 2024, the UFC will facilitate a series of town hall meetings to discuss resident's environmental concerns. These meetings will include live polling and group interactive problem-solving sessions. The data will be used to create several education tracks for members to better understand the complexities of these issues and identify potential solutions for St. Pete.

The initial test poll (below) identified nine potential concerns

### Key Environmental/Social Issues to address (2023-2027)



# St Pete Citizen Forester

## Programs

### Tree Inventory program (2023)

- ☛ Citizen Foresters engaged more than 50 St. Pete residents from seven neighborhoods in St. Pete to demonstrate the tree inventory process
- ☛ A total of 15 neighborhoods inventoried 2269 trees
- ☛ Neighborhood tree inventory participants

- ☛ Driftwood
- ☛ Old Southeast
- ☛ Palmetto Park
- ☛ Historic Kenwood
- ☛ North Kenwood
- ☛ Euclid/St. Paul

- ☛ Crescent Lake
- ☛ Crescent Heights
- ☛ Historic Old Northeast
- ☛ Greater Woodlawn
- ☛ Central Oak Park



# St Pete Citizen Forester

## Programs

### **Tree Inventory program (2023) (Continued)**

- 🍃 Five new tree inventory kits were donated to St. Pete libraries for resident use
- 🍃 To date, more than 135 trained residents have contributed nearly 750 hours inventorying trees in their communities



# St Pete Citizen Forester

## Programs

### Tree Planting (2023)

- ☛ Citizen Foresters participated in three tree planting events across South St. Pete:
  - ☛ TakeMAR Pinellas Trail tree planting (Phase 1)-20 Citizen Foresters were trained and assisted in planting 140 native trees
  - ☛ TakeMAR Pinellas Trail tree planting (Phase 2)-Four trained Citizen Foresters served as Tree Captains to lead 100 volunteers to plant 100 native trees
  - ☛ St. Pete Ceremonial Tree Planting-Citizen Foresters planted a tree in Childs Park to celebrate the kickoff of the Community Canopy Volunteer Street Tree Planting Program



# St Pete Citizen Forester

## Programs

### Tree Education and Advocacy

In 2023, St. Pete Citizen Foresters tabled at these events:

- 🍃 RaptorFest
- 🍃 St. Pete ScienceFest
- 🍃 TakeMAR Pinellas Trail plantings
- 🍃 Green Thumb Festival
- 🍃 Deuces Food Forest

Citizen Foresters contributed more than 650 volunteer hours as educators and advocates for St. Pete's tree canopy in 2023. Citizen Forester's invested **\$20,670** (using Independent Sector's \$31.80 per volunteer hour value) in 2023.





# St Pete Citizen Forester

## Programs

### **Membership**

In 2023, St. Pete Citizen Foresters added 208 St. Pete residents to its membership. The program drew in new members by actively tabling, organizing tree inventory events, leveraging member referral, and through the St. Pete urban forestry website link..

St. Pete Citizen Forester program participation is voluntary. Members receive weekly emails containing important news, upcoming events, invitations to Urban Forestry Committee Meetings, and opportunities to engage in St. Pete and local conservation partner activities..



# St Pete Citizen Forester

Urban Forestry Commission

## 2024 Citizen Forester Goals

In 2024, the Urban Forestry Committee (UFC) and Citizen Foresters plan to lead projects aimed at plant at least 600 trees in St. Pete neighborhoods while targeting areas with low canopy cover. To facilitate this goal, more than 50 Citizen Foresters will be trained to lead volunteers using the established tree planting training protocol.

The UFC is also expanding their education and advocacy opportunities to improve access to urban forestry knowledge while amplifying engagement in urban forestry programming.

The UFC and Citizen Foresters are seeking collaboration with other regional municipal and NGO conservation programs to share resources and amplify positive environmental change.



# St Pete Citizen Forester

## Questions?

Contact Dean at [Dean.hay@stpete.org](mailto:Dean.hay@stpete.org)

## Would you like to join the Citizen Forester Network?

Follow this [link](#) to register

## Would you like to learn more about St. Pete Urban Forestry programs?

Follow this [link](#) to the St. Pete webpage

