



Mayor's Landscape Summit 1.18.23

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The landscape and urban forest of the City of Mandeville has always been an important element of the character of the City since its founding in 1840. The landscape consisting of native trees, shrubs and ground covers supplemented by available garden plants imported from New Orleans during the nineteenth century impart a special look and feel to this coastal community. In the current time the remnant urban forest ties the town, its history and its people together together with a high quality of life. Yet, the urban forest is slipping away due to recent hurricanes and additional development in the community.

Common landscape spaces include parks, playgrounds, the lakefront, street edges, boulevards and other public open spaces such as the Trailhead, the Trace and tree filled forests, marina edges and sunny meadows where wildflowers grow and pollinators thrive. Of course, private gardens add to the urban forest character of the community of Mandeville, once referred to as "The Heart of the Ozone Belt," a place on the Northshore where brackish coastal waters, pine tree smell and cooling shade made healthy summer living an attraction far and wide.

This program is being sponsored by the Mayor to re-energize citizens about the importance of the landscape of the city as the 'green infrastructure' of the city that is just as important as the normal infrastructure of streets, sidewalks, city blocks, drains, and common utilities and historic cottages that give shape too and define the city.

Green infrastructure does important work for the city. Our trees and private garden do such environmental work as filtering the air, producing oxygen, sequestering carbon, casting shade that block ultra-violet light, reduce urban heat build-up, lower energy costs in buildings, maintain biodiversity of plants and animals and reduce runoff, prevent soil erosion and infiltrate water back into the ground water table. Trees in the urban forest also assist human health for those living in cities. Trees reduce stress and eliminate mental fatigue while producing healthy fruit and nuts in addition to providing shady glens where children can play and people can walk, jog and bike for exercise and maintain physical fitness. Green Infrastructure like all city infrastructure must be maintained in some manner. We must maintain our urban forest for it to provide environmental services we need and want.

Cities that have landscape codes, as Mandeville does, write standards that supplement the urban forest within commercial and industrial areas. Our code supports water conservation, aesthetics, land values, human values, improved community design and preservation of native plant communities and ecosystems into the design of each commercial site and certain residential zoning districts. For instance, each single family home is required to grow from 6 to 24 trees based upon the size of the lot.

All of the design standards of the Mandeville Landscape Code, CLURO Sec. 9.2, help bind the city together with green buffers, hedges, and planted walls that also promote structural organization by land use. The greening of commercial areas provides for identity, privacy, screening of objectionable views, reduction of noise and nearby commotion and glare from nighttime automobile use.

In addition to purely environmental and economic services a city shaded by live oaks, magnolias, bald cypress, hickory trees, and coastal pines adds an aesthetic charm to this place unequalled in many communities of similar size and population. Our urban forest covers the landscape of the city found in private gardens, neighborhoods, parks, playgrounds, public open spaces, around civic buildings such as schools and along public streets. We must plant more trees and protect our parks and open spaces.



Outline of the Landscape Summit

Opening Comments from <u>Mayor Madden</u>	5 Minutes
Why is the landscape of this town important? <u>Buck Abbey, ASLA</u> , Landscape Architect, professor Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, LSU	5 Minutes
Urban Forest & Landscape Code CLURO 2.4 & 2.9. <u>Cara Bartholomew</u> , Director of Planning City of Mandeville	5 Minutes
Role of Park & Parkways Commission, CLURO, Sec 2.4. Urban Forest & Landscape Projects <u>Scott Discon</u> , Chairman, Discon Law Firm	10 Minutes
Landscape Areas in Small Communities <u>Keith Villere</u> , Landscape Architect, former Mayor of Covington, Presently sits on the Covington Planning Commission	10 Minutes
Projects in Progress	
The Re-Leaf Program Scott Discon	5 Minutes
Harbor Field Restoration- <u>Vaughan Sollberger</u> , Architect, KVS Architecture	5 Minutes
Marigny Avenue Replanting <u>Franklin Kyle</u> , Landscape Architect, Kyle Associates	5 Minutes
Summary of Current Projects, Mayor Madden	5 Minutes
Urban Forest Tree Selection <u>Will Afton</u> , Park & Parkways Commission, LSU AgCenter Agent	10 Minutes
Tree Planting on Private Property <u>Christy Sessions Kervin</u> , Landscape Architect Park & Parkways Commission Colline LLC Landscape Architects	5 Minutes
<i>Just One Tree</i> , A Challenge and Program Summary <u>Buck Abbey</u> , Landscape Architect	3 Minutes
Public Hearing Each Citizen has three minutes to ask questions, raise points or seek clarification from Speakers	45 Minutes
Closing Remarks <u>Mayor Madden</u> Program Ends 8:30 PM	