



NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

Neighborhood Environmental Project Case Study Form

Neighborhood/Community Name Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club

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PROJECT INFORMATION: *Track 5 Community Awareness -Tree Count and Inventory Survey*

Please provide an overview of the project. Why did you choose it? What were the conditions like before and after implementing the project?

Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club (MLG&CC) is a senior residential community located on 272 acres of property. Prior to hurricane Charlie (2004) the park had over 5000 trees which were ravaged by the storm, and many were lost. In September 2017 we again received significant tree losses due to hurricane Irma. In addition to corporate budgets the community has memorial, beautification, and golf course funds that residents contribute to for the replacement of trees and flowers. Prior to Irma the community and corporation had replanted most lost trees/palms with attention given to their replacement with natural Florida species. As before and now we do not know the number, type, location, or health of trees in our community. We are experiencing disease outbreaks specially to palms, pines, citrus and now some oaks. The Corporation and the MLG&CC Natural Resources Committee (NRC) plan to conduct a tree count and inventory survey to determine where and what type of trees to recommend and plant. Trees or palms removed due to disease and replacement plants need to be recorded. Tree inventory and health data will expedite disease treatment and avoid introducing trees with a lower chance of survival. A comprehensive inventory of trees is important for assessments after experiencing tropical storms. The NRC Committee and the Superintendent for Property and Grounds will oversee the survey data.

Please list your goals for this project:

- Identify all trees and palms in the community
- Prepare maps and tables indicating tree types and locations
- Establish the overall health of the tree landscape
- Prepare a tree replacement strategy and recommendation list for homeowners
- Inform Corporation Board of tree replacement needs and disease issues.
- Place survey report on NRC website
- Present data at homeowner meetings

What specific steps did you take to implement your project? What kind of ongoing maintenance will it require? (Please give sufficient detail so that someone interested in duplicating this project could do so.)

- Divided community into 20 zones
- Prepared maps of the 20 zones
- Prepared a list of all known tree types

- Recruit 40 volunteers to conduct survey from Feb 4-9, 2018
- Hold a ½ day training session on tree identification (slides, web site assistance, etc.)
- Advise NRC Committee on further actions
- Prepare report for the use by the General Manager and Board of Directors.
- Recommend tree replacement strategy

This program will require annual review and continuous record keeping.

Describe the results you achieved. What were the environmental benefits? Please be as specific as possible about any tangible results (i.e., numbers of acres naturalized, new species observed, or number of fledglings).

We plan to identify and numerate all the different tree types in the community. This includes trees considered “invasive”. The data will assist the property manager in locating and treating diseases. Currently we have termites, basal butt rot, pygmy palm weevil, citrus canker, and citrus greening. The location of trees and their types is needed to replace trees and to prepare a tree replacement strategy. The information will assist homeowners when they wish to plant or donate money for tree replacement programs. The publication and presentation of the data and the involvement of residents in the survey will increase community awareness on the value and ongoing maintenance of this resource.

How did people respond to the project? How did you communicate your actions and results?

We anticipate full community support for this program. This is based on past volunteer projects and the number of Club functions already carried out in the community. There is significant support from the Corporation Board and General Manager given the realty value of having green spaces. Residents are certainly aware of the health benefits of living in a community that promotes recreational activities in combination with natural serenity areas. We communicate our results through reports, newsletters, NRC website, local TV channel and by presentation at monthly homeowner meetings.

**What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again?
What would you recommend to others implementing this project?**

Currently we would not change anything. Yes, if they are responsible for managing areas with many trees.

How much did it cost to implement this project?

The training session is expected to cost \$120 for coffee and treats. Volunteers donated about \$100 for paper and printed materials. We will require over 400 hours (50 for program development and 350 for tree count) of volunteer support.

What are your anticipated or actual financial savings?

During the past 12 years the Corporation, Clubs and homeowners have spent over 1 million dollars on new trees. We anticipate the survey will reduce the cost of managing the community tree inventory by 10 %.