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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(2)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 21, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the disbursement of up to \$3,200,000.00 from the Miami-Dade County Tree Trust Fund for the planting of trees on Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) managed preserves and other publicly owned lands within Miami-Dade County for the purposes of increasing the tree canopy in Miami-Dade County

Resolution No. R-523-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh

MDC001

Memorandum



Date: June 21, 2023

To: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Resolution Authorizing the Disbursement of up to \$3,200,000.00 from the Tree Trust Fund for the Planting of Trees on Publicly Owned Lands for the Purposes of Increasing Miami-Dade County Tree Canopy

Executive Summary

This item authorizes the disbursement of up to \$3,200,000.00 from the Tree Trust Fund for the planting of trees on publicly owned lands for the purpose of increasing Miami-Dade County tree canopy. This disbursement will fund planting of trees in public places on lands owned by Miami-Dade County and managed by the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. It will also seek to provide plantings to other County owned properties such as those managed by the Internal Service Department (ISD) and Public Housing and Community Development Department (PHCD). These public properties are located throughout Miami-Dade County.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve the attached resolution authorizing the disbursement of up to \$3,200,000.00 from the Tree Trust Fund to plant trees within lands owned by Miami-Dade County and managed by EEL and other County owned properties managed by ISD and PHCD for the purposes of increasing Miami-Dade County tree canopy for the reasons set forth below. The proposed tree planting areas are recommended by the Report Related to Ordinance No.21-122 Regarding a Plan for Disbursing the Remaining Tree Trust Fund Balance dated December 8, 2022 (Attachment A).

Scope

The planting of trees will have countywide benefits. The proposed tree planting projects are located in all 13 Commission Districts.

Delegation of Authority

This resolution has no delegation of authority.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

This resolution authorizes the disbursement of \$3,200,000.00 from the Tree Trust Fund for tree planting, consistent with Section 24-39 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code) that allows the Tree Trust Fund to be used for the planting of trees on public property. The available unencumbered balance of the Tree Trust Fund specifically earmarked for planting trees on public property Fund TTF112 as of September 30, 2022, was approximately \$3,214,493.00.

Track Record / Monitor

The Division Chief of the Water Resources Coordination Division within the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), Craig Grossenbacher, will monitor the disbursement of funds for this project.

Background

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 89-9, the Tree and Forest Protection Ordinance, the Miami-Dade County Tree Trust Fund was established for the purposes of acquiring, protecting and maintaining public and private natural forest communities and planting trees on public property. The Tree Trust Fund is funded by (1) mitigation contributions received pursuant to conditions specified in a tree removal permit, (2) grants and donations, and (3) fines and penalties for environmental damages to tree and forest resources. Under Section 24-39 of the Code, certain disbursements from the Tree Trust Fund, such as this one, require approval by the Board.

Disbursements from the Tree Trust Fund are used to protect and enhance Miami-Dade County's most important upland tree resources, specifically, natural forest communities, pinelands and hammocks and for planting of trees on public property. The properties listed below are publicly owned natural areas managed by the Miami-Dade County EEL Program and lands owned by the School Board of Miami-Dade County that would benefit from increased tree canopy.

Since the 1980s, DERM has had a well-established habitat restoration and enhancement program that has included upland forest and urban tree canopy which has utilized funds from grants, donations, referendum monies, as well as monies from the Tree Trust Fund. DERM's Adopt-a-Tree program has provided over 215,000 trees to the community since its inception to restore Miami-Dade County's urban tree canopy. In addition, over the past 5 years DERM has planted approximately 7,000 trees across Miami-Dade County. In 2018, DERM created a restoration plan and supervised the planting of 3,008 trees at the Powers property near the Deering Estate. This project resulted in the planting of over 4 acres of forest with an average 95% survival rate of planted material, well above the national average for projects of this type. In 2019, DERM planted 895 trees at the EEL site known as Holiday Hammock using Tree Trust Fund monies from a disbursement previously approved by the Board, which resulted in the restoration and enhancement of unique hardwood hammock habitat. Since 2019, the EEL program has planted over 150 trees at additional EEL sites throughout the County. In July 2019, DERM completed a spoil island restoration project within the Bill Sadowski Critical Wildlife Area that resulted in the planting of 870 trees. During the summer of 2020, DERM also planted approximately 2,000 trees focused primarily at Miami-Dade County public schools.

Disbursed funds subject to this request will be used for the planting of trees including site preparation, maintenance and survivorship of the trees until they are established. The cost of implementing the list of projects below is based on previous project costs that were similar in scope and will allow DERM to efficiently spend Tree Trust Fund dollars for the purpose that funds are collected by DERM. The tree plantings will be tracked using an existing application, created by DERM and County ITD staff, to report the ecosystem benefits these plantings will provide the County. Trees will be planted in accordance with "right tree, right place" principles, with tree species appropriate for South Florida's habitats and with resilient strategies to address climate change adaptations. Tree planting projects will be managed by DERM for the purposes of protecting, managing and replacing tree canopy in accordance with the County's Tree and Forest Resources Program identified in Section 24-2 of the Miami-Dade County Code. Additional information related to these tree planting projects can be found in the County Mayor's Report Related to Ordinance No. 21-122 Regarding a Plan for Disbursing the Remaining Tree Trust Fund Balance, (Attachment B) which is dated December 8, 2022 and which was presented to this Board in January.

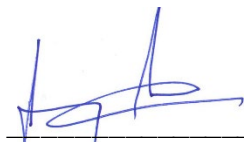
The funds that are being requested for disbursement pursuant to this request will be used for tree plantings at the following locations:

MDC003

1. The following Miami-Dade County properties, which consist of (a) State of Florida-owned properties which are leased to Miami-Dade County and managed through the EEL Program, (b) County-owned properties that are managed through the EEL program, and (c) County-owned properties that are managed by PROS and located adjacent to EEL lands:
 - Calderon Pineland (SW 140th Ave and theoretical SW 190th St
 - Florida City Pineland Preserve (SW 344th St and theoretical SW 184th Ave)
 - Matheson Hammock Park (9610 Old Cutler Rd)
 - Deering Estate (16701 SW 72nd Ave)
 - Navy Wells Pineland Preserve (SW 360th St and SW 192nd Ave)
 - Bill Sadowski Preserve (17555 SW 79th Ave)
 - Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve (13200 SW 124th St)
 - Rock Pit #39 (SW 336th St and SW 192nd Ave)
 - West Biscayne Pineland (SW 288th St and SW 192nd Ave)
 - Tamiami Complex Addition Preserve (SW 131st St and SW 122nd Ave)
2. Public property owned by School Board of Miami-Dade County (throughout Miami-Dade County) subject to a pending Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is currently being negotiated with the School Board of Miami-Dade County, which will be presented to this Board for approval via a separate Board item.
3. Miami-Dade County owned properties such as those managed by the Internal Service Department (ISD) and Public Housing and Community Development Department (PHCD)

The same principles and best management practices that have been utilized to successfully complete the previous tree plantings described herein, will be applied to all the proposed planting projects that are the subject of this request.

In accordance with Section 24-39(3) of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I have received and considered the attached recommendation of the Director of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, (Attachment A) and I recommend approval of the attached resolution.



Jimmy Morales
Chief Operations Officer

Attachments

Memorandum



Date: January 6, 2023

To: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

Thru: Lourdes M. Gomez, Director
Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources

From: Rashid Z. Istambouli, P.E., Interim Assistant Director
Division of Environmental Resources Management
Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources

Subject: Recommendation for the Disbursement of up to \$3,200,000.00 from the Tree Trust Fund to the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources for the Purposes of Planting of Trees on Environmentally Endangered Lands Preserves and Other Publicly Owned Lands for the Purposes of Increasing Miami-Dade County Tree Canopy

Pursuant to Section 24-39 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code), I am recommending the disbursement of up to \$3,200,000.00 from the Tree Trust Fund for the purposes of planting trees on public property. Upon adoption of Ordinance No. 89-9, the Tree and Forest Protection Ordinance, the Tree Trust Fund was established for the purposes of acquiring, protecting and maintaining public and private natural forest communities and planting trees on public property. The Tree Trust Fund is funded by (1) mitigation contributions received pursuant to conditions specified in a tree removal permit, (2) grants and donations, and (3) fines and penalties for environmental damages to tree and forest resources. Under Section 24-39 of the Code, certain disbursements from the Tree Trust Fund, such as this one, require approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

Disbursements from the Tree Trust Fund are used to protect and enhance Miami-Dade County's most important upland tree resources, specifically, natural forest communities, pinelands and hammocks and for planting of trees on public property. These funds will provide important funding assistance for planting trees in areas managed by the Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and as well as planting trees on other public lands that would benefit from increases of tree canopy. Disbursed funds will be used for the planting of trees including site preparation and follow-up for maintenance and survivorship of the trees until they are established.

There are sufficient unencumbered funds currently available in the Tree Trust Fund to fulfill this request.

Memorandum



Date: December 8, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Report Related to Ordinance No. 21-122 Regarding a Plan for Disbursing the Remaining Tree Trust Fund Balance

Executive Summary

On November 2, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved Ordinance No. 21-122, amending various sections of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code), including Section 24-39 of the Code to set aside Tree Trust Fund monies to be used within the County's unincorporated service area. The Ordinance directed, among other things, that 60% of Tree Trust Fund collections be allocated to Neat Streets Miami. Section 6 of Ordinance No. 21-122 further directed the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to present a written report to the Board regarding a plan for disbursing the remaining balances (after disbursement to Neat Streets Miami) in the Tree Trust Fund. This report responds to the directive associated with Ordinance No. 21-122.

The County has long recognized the environmental role that trees play in providing critical wildlife habitat, protecting our water quality, cleaning our air, and improving our quality of life. Trees are an indispensable element in our urban landscape as our best tool in combating the urban heat island effect and extreme heat events, and in protecting our communities during wind events, reducing urban runoff and erosion, as well as buffering against impacts of Climate Change. Scientists in the County are at the forefront of understanding how our remaining natural areas and trees in the urban environment create cooling micro-climates and other beneficial effects and how we can maximize the value of our tree resources. This report emphasizes that our investments in tree canopy must advance the diverse functionality, purpose, and interaction between urban trees and our natural forests, preserves and parks. The County will need to make significant new and sustained investments in our natural spaces and our urban landscape that amplifies the value of both.

Origins of the Tree Trust Fund and Historic Use of Funds

In 1989, the Board of County Commissioners passed Ordinance No. 89-8 which established a Tree and Forest Resources Program within DERM for the purpose of protecting, preserving, and replacing tree canopy, preserving natural forest communities including associated understory (shrubs, grasses, ferns, and vines), and providing protection for large "specimen size" trees and environmentally important tree resources. Ordinance 89-8 also established the Tree Trust Fund for the purposes of acquiring, protecting, and maintaining "natural forest communities" and planting trees on public property to mitigate the loss of trees from development. The Tree and Forest Resources Section of DERM is responsible for implementing Section 24-49 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code), which requires a permit for the removal of natural forest communities, specimen trees and other regulated trees. Through implementation of this permitting program, careful analysis of tree removal is considered based on the permit applicant's proposal and Code requirements, including any applicable Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) provisions, and also State Statutes limiting the County's ability to provide protection from removal.

Great care and attention are paid to minimizing impacts to natural forest communities, preserving specimen trees in place, or relocating these trees within a development property where feasible. This effort helps in reducing air and water pollution, improves physical and mental health, strengthens social connections, and helps foster active living and neighborhood pride. In addition, this effort maximizes the ability of existing tree resources to continue in their function to remove carbon dioxide and other air pollutants, provide superior shading and habitat value even in urban settings, and their important contribution to flood protection. Trees and their root systems prevent soil erosion, reduce urban stormwater runoff, and reduce water pollution through natural filtration. Dense tree and forest resources are particularly adept at promoting water infiltration to the ground, intercepting and absorbing heavy rainfall, and providing regional flood protection. We also now know from studies that significant concentrations of clustered tree canopy and other natural areas like Pine Rocklands amplify cooling effects, providing cool refuge to nearby heat islands. This is not to say that single trees do not provide shade and cooling in their direct footprint, but forested areas can provide greater cooling, beyond what the same number of trees would do if not located in a clustered tree canopy area.

DERM's Tree and Forest Resources Section also makes every effort to mitigate the loss of tree resources by having the replacement tree canopy be planted within the property where the tree removal is proposed, thereby achieving the benefits that those trees were providing prior to removal or relocation. However, not all trees approved for removal can be replanted on site. In fact, when large, specimen trees are removed from a site, replacement canopy often requires the planting of multiple trees to mitigate the loss of the canopy from that single specimen tree. The Tree Trust Fund is the alternative way for the County to mitigate the loss of trees to development where no other alternative is practicable. Historically, the Tree Trust Fund prioritized tree planting on public property to ensure the mitigation of the trees lost on private property would survive to maturity and provide a lifetime of environmental benefit. Before 2016, use of the Tree Trust Fund for street trees was not prioritized since street trees typically have a shortened lifespan due to the stress of the urban setting, exposure to vehicular hazards, and constraints in tree and root growth from the physical barriers presented by sidewalks, streets, and building footprints. In addition, sometimes street trees are removed prematurely due to root disruption of subterranean infrastructure, lifting of sidewalks, and damage and disease caused by improper maintenance and pruning, such as "topping", "hat-racking" and "lollipoping."

Leveraging our Investment in Trees

Since the 1980s, DERM has had a well-established habitat restoration and enhancement program which has included upland forest and urban tree canopy and which has utilized funds from grants, donations, referendum monies, as well as monies from the Tree Trust Fund. Over the past 5 years DERM has planted approximately 7,000 trees across Miami-Dade County utilizing a combination of funds to maximize opportunities beyond the Tree Trust Fund. By completing these projects without using funds solely from the Tree Trust Fund DERM has been able to amass Tree Trust Fund monies for acquisition of ecologically sensitive upland forest areas, as well as projects that would truly amplify tree canopy beyond the tree canopy replacement required by the regulatory process. In addition, DERM's Adopt-a-Tree program has provided over 215,000 trees to the community since its inception in the year 2000, to restore Miami-Dade County's urban tree canopy.

Similarly, since 2017, Neat Streets Miami, through its Million Trees Miami and Keep Miami-Dade County Beautiful initiatives, has planted 14,627 trees, the majority of which were purchased with private funding. It has given away 9,900 trees and 2,745 plants to residents, which were entirely purchased with private funding. It has also planted an additional 5,452 trees on public land since 2016 through the GREEN Miami-Dade County Matching Grant.

Role of the Tree Trust Fund in Upland Property Acquisitions and Restoration

The Tree Trust Fund remains one of only two funding sources dedicated to restoring and enhancing the tens of thousands of acres of habitat the County owns through the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and is critical to keeping our environmental investment in forests of all types healthy and thriving. It has been an especially important revenue source for the acquisition of globally imperiled pine rocklands, most recently showcased in the coordination with the Parks Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) for the purchase of the 20 acre “Camp Choe” scheduled for the September 1st Board of County Commissioner’s meeting, of which 14 acres are designated “natural forest community” pine rockland that will be restored by DERM and preserved into the future.

It is important to note that Tree Trust Fund monies have also been intentionally reserved in recent years for future acquisition of pine rockland, like Camp Choe and other globally imperiled pineland habitat that remains unpurchased on the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Acquisition List. EEL operates as a willing seller program and has acquired or brought into its management over 27,000 acres since the inception of the program in 1990. Despite the successful 30-year history of the program, over half of the properties on the Board-approved acquisition list s have not been made available for purchase, and the program, recapitalized last through the 2004 Building Better Communities Bond Program, is drawing down the last of the available funds for acquisition of Environmentally Endangered Lands, which has historically focused on strategically and biologically important habitat. DERM has looked to the Tree Trust Fund in this context as a key resource that needed to be reserved for important pine rockland acquisitions in light of EEL’s uncertain funding future and buttressed by the ability under the Code to use the Tree Trust Fund for such purchases. While my proposed budget will provide the first substantial increase in funding since 2004 for the continuation of the EEL program into the immediate future, this County will still need longer term, consistent investment to secure and improve sensitive habitat, especially considering the development pressures facing our community, the importance of maintaining and increasing “green infrastructure,” and the ecosystem services that these natural areas provide to increase our resilience and protect rare and endangered species from extinction. The EEL program pioneered green infrastructure long before the world realized the value of such purchases for carbon sequestration.

Importantly, EEL program lands and its tree and forest resources also play a larger strategic role in protecting the County’s water resources, including Biscayne Bay. This includes playing an important role in water supply protection, recharge of the Biscayne aquifer, water storage, water management and flood protection, and improving surface and groundwater water quality. Acquisition decisions undertaken by the EEL Program have been historically and strategically coordinated within DERM and other County departments for larger County water management purposes, and EEL program management directly and inextricably relates to DERM’s groundwater and surface water modeling and monitoring of saltwater intrusion around wellfields and elsewhere in the County. Purchases and restoration decisions continue to

be undertaken with a view towards this critical water quality protection goal and relate to planning of land acquisition in support of the County's future water storage needs. Hydrologic restoration is also a key activity of the EEL program relating to water management and DERM's responsibility to operate and maintain the County's surface waters and water control plan in addition to working with our state and federal partners in the coordination of Everglades restoration. Management of the EEL program is much broader than tree planting, yet restoration on these sites, of which tree planting is a significant component, is critical to meet regional stormwater management goals. Tree trust fund monies are important to these initiatives.

Avoiding Dependency on Tree Trust Fund Receipts for Urban Tree Planting

If we are to meet our goal of 30% tree canopy countywide, we cannot solely depend on tree trust fund receipts. These receipts are mitigation for impacts to existing canopy lost to development and therefore are an attempt to repair a deficit. The County's goal should actually be to *reduce* contributions to the tree trust fund by making the option to mitigate in dollars less attractive than designing new developments to preserve as many trees as possible in the first place. Instead, both at the state and local level, tree protections (and mitigation requirements) have been significantly eroded through the adoption of laws that facilitate tree removal. Requests by DERM biologists to redesign site plans to preserve existing on-site canopy or attempts to impose requirements to develop alternative mitigation projects on-site (or in proximity to the impacted site) are often rejected by permit applicants as being overly burdensome or unfeasible. While monetary contributions will fund replacement trees, projects resulting from trust fund expenditures really help us "break even" with our tree canopy. For these reasons, Neat Streets Miami works to amplify their portion of the Tree Trust Fund by seeking private funding, averaging between \$700,000 - \$1.2 million per year, but we clearly need to invest more than what is available through the Tree Trust Fund in any given year.

Budgeting for More Robust Canopy Funding

In recognition of this fact, I am proposing through this year's budget another \$1.5 million allocation to PROS for the installation of new street trees along County maintained rights-of-ways, and an additional \$2.5 million allocation for additional tree planting activities. This is in addition to plantings that will be realized through Tree Trust Fund activities proposed by DERM and Neat Streets Miami and is the most robust level of funding that has been proposed for tree planting activities in this County in many years. Past allocations have not provided the amount of funding that will help us accomplish our ambitious 30% canopy goal, and we must commit to continue a long-term investment strategy that addresses both the acquisition and improvement of critical remaining habitat and in our long-neglected urban tree canopy.

My recommendation through the budget to allocate significant funds to tree planting outside of the Tree Trust Fund is also in recognition of the fact that the tree regulatory program should not be used to develop a master plan for tree canopy county wide and is by definition an unsustainable funding source that is counterproductive to canopy amplification.

Finally, we must accept that decisions on tree investments cannot sacrifice one aspect of tree benefit for another. Adequate tree canopy is vital to the environmental and economic well-being of our community and figures significantly into our regional water management strategy. We cannot sacrifice important restoration and preservation goals, yet we must also ensure that our corridors and urban spaces are

adequately resourced to achieve impactful canopy enhancement. A key component of creating and improving permanent canopy is implementing planting models that buffer and protect against common causes of tree loss in the County.

There is also new information about maximizing the cooling benefits of trees in street corridors that must inform our decisions going forward. Efficacy depends on a critical baseline for canopy percentage, pervious versus impervious area and air flow dynamics. Our canopy goals should emphasize development of corridor locations wide enough to accommodate the type of canopy depth that will optimize cooling dynamics. We also cannot forget the importance of permanent, clustered tree planting locations likeliest to bear that canopy for extended periods of time. Such areas will necessarily include restoration projects on existing and future County preservation lands, many of which are located within our urban communities, but will also include new public and private urban spaces. Again, these ambitious goals will require significant investment - investment well beyond the means of the Tree Trust Fund alone. The Tree Trust Fund is but one small element of what the funding of our County tree policy should be.

Tree Trust Fund Balance and Expenditure Plan

The total balance of the Tree Trust Fund as of April 30, 2022, was \$7,621,979.00. Of this balance, \$4,072,598.00, or approximately 54% of the Tree Trust Fund, has been approved for projects that are consistent with Section 24-39 of the Code.

This encumbered balance includes:

- **Restoration of natural areas within specific PROS lands totaling \$455,307.70**

Dolphin Center Preserve	\$52,323.99
7-acre natural habitat located at NW 199 Street and the Florida Turnpike in Miami Gardens	
Ives Estates Preserve	\$109,229.26
7.12 acres of Natural Forest Community located at 20901 NE 16th Avenue	
Whispering Pines	\$289,052.00
5.2-acre pine rockland and hammock located at SW 87th Court and Caribbean Boulevard in in the Town of Cutler Bay	
Highland Oaks Forested Wetland	\$4,702.45
Planting trees in the PROS site, proposal pending	

- **Acquisition and restoration of globally imperiled pine rock lands privately owned that is necessary for the protection of endangered species endemic to Miami-Dade County totaling \$2,772,691.00**

Camp Choe	\$270,000.00
Acquisition of 14 acres of NFC pine rockland located at 11300 SW 158 Street and 11300 SW 162 Street	
Restoration of the 14-acre NFC will be required. A restoration plan and budget will be developed after acquisition by DERM.	
Other Natural Forest Community opportunities	2,502,691.00
Currently evaluating acquisition of other designated NFCs with willing sellers, primarily in southern part of the County where remnant habitats are located	

- **Restoration of Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) sites totaling \$608,048.00**

Holiday Hammock	\$386,183.98
Restoration of the Holiday Hammock EEL Preserve including the planting of trees located at theoretical SW 400 Street and SW 207 Avenue	
Florida City Pineland	\$130,752.01
Restoration of a 9-acre designated natural forest community at the Florida City Pineland, an Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program preserve. The proposed restoration consists of the removal of invasive species, the necessary substrate rehabilitation and selective vegetative management.	
County Line Scrub	\$71,799.00
Restoration of pine rockland habitat in north Dade	
Big and Little George Hammocks	\$19,313.00
Restoration of EEL sites located between S.W. 138th and S.W. 144th Streets and S.W. 152nd Avenue	

- **Restoration projects within the City of Miami totaling \$236,551.00.**

Virginia Key North Point	\$117,433.19
Planting of trees in a coastal restoration project	
Bill Sadowski Critical Wildlife Area	\$11,282.88
City of Miami	\$107,835.35
Planting trees within the City of Miami, awaiting a tree planting proposal	

The remaining unencumbered balance of the Tree Trust Fund as of April 30, 2022, was \$3,500,000.00. A proposal to encumber approximately \$3,200,000.00 of the remaining monies in the Tree Trust Fund is being recommended by DERM Environmentally Endangered Lands managers is outlined below and will be presented via resolution for the Board's consideration.

This disbursement would fund planting of trees in public places on lands owned by Miami-Dade County and managed by the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. It will also seek to provide plantings to other County owned properties such as those managed by the Internal Service Department (ISD) and Public Housing and Community Development Department (PHCD). As noted above, we will also seek to engage other public entities with large land holdings such as the School Board for clustered canopy enhancement and "living laboratory" educational opportunities throughout Miami-Dade County. Our mutual public land holdings must be viewed holistically from a master planning perspective with respect to canopy potential.

Proposed locations for tree planting and restoration work in 2022-23 totaling \$3.2 million

The following Miami-Dade County **EEL managed areas**, which consist of public property owned by the State of Florida which are leased to Miami-Dade County (managed through the EEL Program) and EEL managed areas on County-owned property:

Calderon Pineland	\$13,000
SW 140 th Ave and theoretical SW 190 th St	
Florida City Pineland Preserve	\$34,000
(SW 344 th St and theoretical SW 184 th Ave	
Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve	\$170,000
13200 SW 124 th St	

Matheson Hammock	\$50,000
9610 Old Cutler Rd	
Navy Wells Pineland Preserve	\$600,000
SW 360 th St and SW 192 nd Ave	
Deering Estate	\$34,000
16701 SW 72 nd Ave	
Bill Sadowski Park	\$69,000
17555 SW 79 th Ave	
Rock pit #39	\$120,000
SW 336 th St and SW 192 nd Ave	
West Biscayne Pineland	\$103,000
SW 288 th St and SW 192 nd Ave	
Tamiami Complex Addition Preserve	\$207,000
SW 131 st St and SW 122 nd Ave	
Total	\$1,400,000

Public property owned by School Board of Miami-Dade County, PHCD housing sites, ISD properties throughout Miami-Dade County

School Board locations	\$500,000
Countywide	
PHCD housing properties	\$500,000
Countywide	
ISD and other County properties	\$800,000
Countywide	
Total	\$1,800,000

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Lourdes Gomez, Director, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, should you have any questions.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney

Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
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Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Jane Gilbert, Chief Heat Officer
Lourdes M. Gomez, Director, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 21, 2023

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(L)(2)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(2)
6-21-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-523-23

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENT OF UP TO \$3,200,000.00 FROM THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TREE TRUST FUND FOR THE PLANTING OF TREES ON MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) MANAGED PRESERVES AND OTHER PUBLICLY OWNED LANDS WITHIN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSES OF INCREASING THE TREE CANOPY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

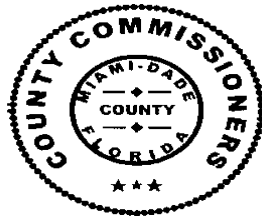
WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board, having considered all the applicable requirements contained within section 24-39 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, hereby approves the disbursement of up to \$3,200,000.00 from the Miami-Dade County Tree Trust Fund for the planting of trees within Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) managed preserves and other publicly owned lands within Miami-Dade County, as specified in the County Mayor's memorandum, for the purposes of increasing the tree canopy in Miami-Dade County.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	absent		
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	absent	Sen. René García	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	absent
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of June, 2023. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell
Dennis A. Kerbel