

# Our Commitment to Trees and Environmental Stewardship



## Tree City USA: Celebrating Panama City Beach's Commitment to Trees and Environmental Stewardship

Panama City Beach is proud to be recognized as a Tree City USA, a designation that underscores our commitment to environmental stewardship and the natural beauty of our coastal community. The Tree City USA achievement reflects our dedication to maintaining a thriving tree canopy, fostering ecological health, and creating a sustainable future for residents and visitors alike. Tree City USA is a nationwide program by the Arbor Day Foundation that recognizes cities for their dedication to urban forestry. To qualify, municipalities must meet several high standards and maintain those standards every year.

### A Conservation Leader in the Florida Panhandle

Panama City Beach is one of the few cities in the region managing a conservation area as large as our 2,900-acre [Conservation Park](#). This dedication to sustainable practices not only protects local ecosystems but also serves as a model for neighboring communities.

### How We Maintain a Healthy Tree Canopy

Our tree management efforts at Conservation Park focus on preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of Panama City Beach. Key initiatives include:

- **Ecosystem Management:** Conservation Park staff conduct prescribed burns to promote the health of native pine trees, such as longleaf and slash pines. These burns assist in seed germination, reduce wildfire risks, and maintain the balance of our natural ecosystems.
- **Invasive Species Control:** By removing invasive species like cogon grass, we protect our canopy trees and reduce the risk of intense fires.
- **Tree Planting:** Each year, we plant hundreds of pine trees to bolster our canopy. This year alone, 250 longleaf pine trees will take root in our conservation areas.
- **Sustainable Forest Practices:** Tree thinning and selective removal help address the impacts of past silviculture practices, ensuring our forests remain healthy and balanced.

## Why Trees Matter

Trees are vital to our community for many reasons, including:

- **Improved Air Quality:** Trees filter pollutants and provide oxygen.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Our tree canopy plays a key role in mitigating climate change.
- **Recreational Value:** Conservation Park offers residents and visitors a chance to enjoy hiking, wildlife observation, and more within a beautifully managed forest.
- **Ecosystem Services:** The park's wetlands filter and transport reuse water, supporting the City's utility systems.

## Join Us in Celebrating Our Trees

We invite you to explore our efforts and learn more about the importance of trees by visiting Conservation Park and joining the City Biologist on guided hikes to learn more about tree planting programs and forest management. Check the City Calendar on our homepage for dates and times.

## Learn More

For more information about Panama City Beach's Tree City USA designation and our conservation efforts, please email the [Conservation Park City Biologist, Tannyr Lamica Bush](#).