

Dear Tree Advisory Board Members and City of Gainesville Commissioners,

I am presently serving on the College Park/University Heights (CPUH) citizen advisory board. As a board, we've been working closely with Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) staff to reimagine our district's neighborhoods and commercial areas. Conversations about upgrading the NW 1st Avenue corridor began in the 1990s. This highly-desirable Midtown location, in great proximity to the University of Florida campus and the Ben Griffin Stadium, is situated in the core of the College Park/University Heights redevelopment area. NW 1st Avenue is home to a diverse array of uses, including stores, offices, churches, fraternities, institutions, and residential.

The current condition of the street does not come close to conveying its true potential. Cluttered aboveground utility lines, dumpsters in the public right-of-way, disjointed sidewalks, inefficient parking, illegal curb-hopping, poor waste management, inconsistent street-lighting, and a lack of trees contribute to an unattractive pedestrian environment. The university's current momentum and evidence of even more private development on the horizon in the near future for College Park, demonstrates that it is increasingly important that we invest in public spaces that showcase the best our city has to offer.

Trees are an integral part of what makes Gainesville such a compelling place to live. NW 1st Avenue would be a worthy candidate of tree mitigation funding support, in light of the activity it receives from both visitors and residents, coupled with the projections for substantial increased street usage. The CRA would be adding 51 trees in a location where few exist and none are required for this redevelopment project. The before and after impacts will be substantial!

Please consider supporting using the Tree Mitigation Fund to support the NW 1st Avenue tree specific improvements vision.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration! Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of further help.

Sincerely,



Clay Kallman

Chair, College Park / University Heights
Citizen Advisory Board



May 5, 2016

Dear Tree Advisory Board Members and City of Gainesville Commissioners,

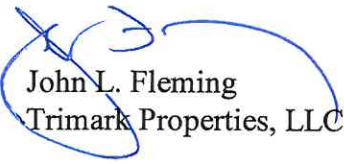
In the past I served on the College Park/University Heights (CPUH) citizen advisory board, both as a member and as the chairperson. Even though I am not currently serving on this board, I still attend almost every meeting. The board has always worked closely with Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) staff to reimagine our district's neighborhoods and commercial areas. Conversations about upgrading the NW 1st Avenue corridor began in the 1990s, which I remember vividly. This highly-desirable Midtown location, in great proximity to the University of Florida campus and the Ben Griffin Stadium, is situated in the core of the College Park/University Heights redevelopment area. NW 1st Avenue is home to a diverse array of uses, including stores, offices, churches, fraternities, institutions, and residential.

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John L. Fleming
Trimark Properties, LLC





City of Gainesville
Attn: Tree Advisory Board

Dear Commissioners and Members of the Tree Advisory Board,

As President and CEO of Roger Development Group, I am writing to ask that you support tree installation costs for the NW 1st Avenue street improvements project through the Tree Mitigation Fund.

Our land development firm recognizes the great potential of Gainesville's College Park area. We recently began construction on One College Park—a vibrant, 1.77-acre mixed-use project along NW 1st Avenue that includes ground-floor retail, student housing and an internal parking garage.

However, our development is only one piece of the broader puzzle. Currently, the street is barren and unwelcoming to visitors. Attractive streetscaping, better lighting, and adequate on-street parking will be critical to the success of our ground floor business tenants and the experience of our residents.

Adding 51 trees through the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency's NW 1st Avenue project will greatly improve the experience of both residents and visitors alike. The additional shade will encourage visitors to linger and spend more time in the area.

We believe that these improvements will transform the street from a "back alley" to a signature corridor. With NW 1st Avenue's proximity to the University of Florida and Football season traffic, we are confident that this investment will have great public benefit.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach to me at (305) 582-9047 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Roger Development Group, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Oscar Roger", is written over the typed name.

Oscar Roger
President



University of Florida Foundation, Inc.

2012 W. University Ave.
PO Box 14425
Gainesville, FL 32604-2425
352-392-1691
352-392-8736 Fax

Dear Members of the Tree Advisory Board and Board of City Commissioners,

On behalf of the University of Florida Foundation, I ask that you please consider supporting tree-related costs for the NW 1st Avenue street improvements project. We believe this is a great opportunity to make a significant public impact in a highly-visible location.

Midtown is often the first part of the City that a Gator parent or new student will see when they step foot off-campus for the first time. It is a popular destination for Gainesville visitors after university events like conferences, concerts and theater performances. On Gator football game days alone, more than 85,000 people pour into Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, before exploring other parts of the city. Visitorship isn't just seasonal either: total visitor spending for UF athletic events throughout the year is estimated at \$88 million, according to a recent UF study.

Unfortunately, while the College Park redevelopment area receives substantial exposure and visitor interaction, the current overall pedestrian experience on NW 1st Avenue is quite lacking. Cluttered overhead utilities, disjointed sidewalks, unsightly dumpsters and poor shade contribute to an undesirable urban environment.

The NW 1st Avenue project, led by the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency, will dramatically improve this experience by adding urban street trees, undergrounded utilities, more efficient parking, and other significant upgrades.

We value the ecological and economic benefits of healthy trees. When the UF Foundation expanded our Alumni Hall along NW 1st Avenue, we invested in an attractive tree-lined pedestrian plaza to foster an attractive environment for guests and residents. Extending this theme on the four blocks within the NW 1st Avenue corridor scope, between NW 20th Street and NW 16th Street, will create a consistent and aesthetically-pleasing series of tree canopies. This public investment will lead to a greater business success and increased property values in the area.

The City of Gainesville is a nationally-recognized Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation—the NW 1st Avenue corridor is an ideal location to further this reputation by adding 51 new street trees.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration. My number is 392-9251—please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Susan Goffman'.

Susan Goffman
Executive Director, Legal Services
UF Foundation

May 6, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter in support of the tree migration fund for NW 1st Avenue in Gainesville, Florida.

As someone who currently works in the area and has also lived in the area in the past, I believe this project will make for a great addition. These trees will provide much needed shade on the street which will undoubtedly increase foot traffic in the area, benefitting the local businesses and increasing the chances that people choose to walk or bike instead of drive. This obviously has positive effects on the environment along with the increased beauty of the street. Upon completion, NW 1st Avenue will be a gathering place for students, community members and visitors to enjoy the restaurants, churches and other local businesses in the area safely and pleasantly. The improvements on NW 1st Avenue will be a great addition to the city overall, but most specifically the midtown area as we continue to add enhancements.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Community Redevelopment Agency as they seek funding for additional trees in the corridor. Any efforts that will make the area better for the community, businesses, and city as a whole are worthy of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Wampole". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nicole Wampole
Chief Operating Officer
Study Edge

April 13, 2016

Tree Advisory Board Members
302 NE 6th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Members,

The City of Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is requesting landscaping funding from the tree mitigation funds for a project on NW 1st Avenue between NW 16th Street and 20th Street. The proposed plan includes 47 shade trees at 6" caliper, which is three times larger than the minimum requirement for trees on new streets (2" caliper). Since this is an improvement to an existing City street, no new trees are required by code; therefore, all proposed trees are above the minimum requirement. The proposed trees will be planted in new bump outs between parking spaces. This is a very urban area with loading, trash collection, pedestrian, bicycle, scooter, and vehicular traffic. The bump outs are limited in size because of all these demands on the street, so the CRA is proposing to include approximately 400 to 500 CF of improved soil volume below the pavement at each tree. This improved soil volume will be achieved by a system such as Silva Cell, which provides space for healthy root growth while supporting the pavement above. If sufficient funds are available, the project will also include a permeable pavement system within the bump outs; this system will allow for increased air and water exchange to the root zone below. The permeable pavers will also intercept a small amount of direct rainfall and some runoff from the sidewalk, but the greatest improvement to the stormwater system will be the provision of large, healthy shade trees that will intercept rainfall on the canopy and provide increased evapotranspiration

I am in support of CRA's endeavors of providing Allee Elms as street trees in these heavily used areas with pedestrians, foot traffic, bikes and automobiles. The Chinese Elm adapts easily in extreme heat and is very suitable for tree wells. The Allee Elm is an upright cultivar and will provide a long service life in the urban areas with proper pruning. Allee Elm forms a graceful, upright, rounded canopy of long arching branches and provides a beautiful exfoliating bark. Shade is so important in these areas of our city.

During the planning process no regulated trees will be removed and one high quality heritage 40" Live oak will be preserved on NW 1st Street near the post office. Caution activities during construction will be taken to make sure the tree is well preserved. The preservation of this Live oak tree is so important for our urban forest because it is a landmark and is probably over 100 years old or more.

I would truly appreciate your consideration of support with this project. If you need additional information concerning this matter, I can be reached at (393) 393-8188.

Sincerely,



Earline Luhrman
Urban Forestry Inspector
Certified Arborist-FL-0794
Liaison of the City Beautiful Board

1639 NW 11th Road
Gainesville, FL 32605-5319
May 9, 2016

Dear Tree Advisory Board Members and City of Gainesville Commissioners,

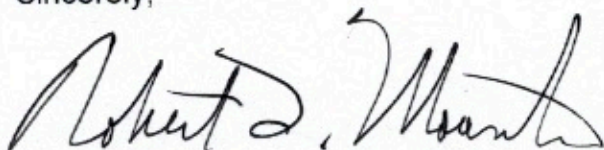
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Please use of the Tree Mitigation Fund to support the NW 1st Avenue tree specific improvements vision. Thank you for your time and careful consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert T. Mounts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "M".

Robert T. Mounts
Member, CPUH Redevelopment Advisory Board

From: [Meg Niederhofer](#)
To: [Poe, Lauren B](#); [Budd, Harvey M](#); [Warren, Helen K.](#); [Goston, Charles E](#); [Chase, Todd N.](#); [Carter, Craig E.](#); [Hayes-Santos, Adrian](#)
Cc: [Lyons, Anthony R.](#); [Sela, Sarit](#); [Wynn, Suzanne M](#); [McCrate, Nathalie A.](#); [Demetropoulos, Linda S.](#); [Luhrman, Earline K.](#); [Siburt, Mark D.](#)
Subject: Re: Thank you! (NW 1st Avenue)
Date: Sunday, May 08, 2016 11:34:34 AM

To: City Commissioners
From: Meg Niederhofer

Re: NW 1st Avenue Corridor improvements

On Thursday I walked this proposed project with three employees from the CRA, Nathalie McCrate, Sarit Sela, and Suzanne Wynn. We looked at the plans and discussed various alternatives for tree species, the use of "silva cells", and best management construction practices in the rootzone of the private Heritage Live Oak that is close to the public right-of-way . They had already met with Earline Luhrman, Urban Forestry Inspector and Mark Siburt, City Arborist, who obviously gave them good advice which they incorporated into the plan.

I have nothing but praise for this plan and its ability to transform NW First Avenue into a corridor that is truly inviting and reflective of a great mid-sized city. The Tree Mitigation Fund, in my opinion, should be used to fund aspects of this project that will result in new shade trees along the corridor. The Tree Advisory Board will be considering this plan on Monday, and although I am no longer a member of the Board, I will be there and will continue to support the City's efforts to truly deserve the title of Tree City USA. Many communities qualify for the designation, but Gainesville's preservation and replanting of the urban forest sets us ahead of all others. Thank you for your support of wise tree management.

On May 5, 2016, at 4:53 PM, McCrate, Nathalie A. wrote:

Hi Meg,

Thanks for taking the time to walk the NW 1st Avenue corridor with my colleagues Sarit Sela, Suzanne Wynn, and I! We enjoyed learning more about your experiences and recommendations for which street trees would work best in that environment. We especially appreciated your recommendations on preparing the large oak tree prior to construction—I just called Herb Poole and set up a time for us to take a look at the roots next week!

We are bringing the project to the Tree Advisory Board on Monday and the CRA Board on May 16... If you could please write a note to the board members and city commission, that would be wonderful! It is exciting to envision how beautiful that street could look with 49 new shade trees! ☺

Kind Regards,

~Nathalie

Nathalie McCrate

Project Manager

Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency

802 NW 5th Ave, Suite 200

Gainesville, FL 32601

Hours: Monday to Thursday 7am-6pm (closed on Fridays)

T: Main: (352) 393-8200

T: Direct: (352) 393-8213

T: City Cellphone: (352) 672-5017

www.gainesvillecra.com

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FYI: Under Florida's public records law, most written communications to or from City officers and employees regarding City business are public records and are available to the public upon request. Your e-mail communications may be subject to public disclosure.