

RESOLUTION NO. 2007- 13

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF VERO BEACH,
FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A CHAMPION
TREE/PALM AWARD PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the City of Vero Beach is a member in good standing of "Tree City, U.S.A.;" and

WHEREAS, the duties of the Tree and Beautification Commission include advising the City Council on all matters concerning trees and the beautification needs of the City and recommending action necessary and desirable to maintain the City as a member in good standing of "Tree City, U. S. A.;" and

WHEREAS, the Tree and Beautification Commission recommends that the City of Vero Beach establish a Champion Tree/Palm Award Program to recognize and promote the largest, most historical, most prolific flowering, and most unusual tree and palm specimens in the City of Vero Beach; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Vero Beach finds that a Champion Tree/Palm Award Program will serve to recognize and promote Vero Beach's living legacy of Champion Trees and Palms,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. Establishment of Champion Tree/Palm Award Program; Duties of the Tree and Beautification Commission.

The City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida hereby authorizes the Tree and Beautification Commission to establish a Champion Tree/Palm Award Program that will recognize and promote Vero Beach's living legacy of Champion

Trees and Palms. The Program will include five categories, each with specific measurement criteria as listed in Section 2, below: Champion Tree, Historical Tree, Prolific Flowering, Champion Palm; Unusual Tree. After receipt of a nomination on a City of Vero Beach Champion Tree/Palm Nomination Form, the Tree and Beautification Commission will establish a monthly schedule to visit properties containing nominated trees/palms lying within the city limits of Vero Beach.

The Commission members will view, measure and photograph the nominated tree/palm to determine if it qualifies for the nominated category. The Commission will use the measurement criteria as listed in Section 2, below, to determine height, crown width and trunk circumference, as well as blooming and unusual qualities.

Historical nominations will be verified by photos with dates, personal knowledge, newspaper/magazine articles, or any other verification method acceptable to the Commission. Each tree/palm will be given points based upon its measurements or visual observations in the case of the blooming and unusual categories, as determined by a majority vote of Commission members.

The nomination and measurement information will be recorded on a Champion Tree/Palm Record form, which will be kept on file in the City Clerk's office. If a newly nominated tree/palm of the same species receives more points, it will replace the current Champion Tree/Palm for that species.

Once each month, the designated Commission member will measure and photograph any trees/palms nominated since the last month's measurement

date. Certificates of recognition will be awarded by the Tree and Beautification Commission to the respective property owner of new Champion Trees/Palms on an annual basis, during the Arbor Day ceremony. With the express written permission of each individual property owner, the names and locations of all winners will be placed on the City website. Property owners that have had their Champion tree/palm replaced by a new Champion will have an emeritus Champion Tree/Palm status on the City website.

Section 2. Five Categories for Nomination of a Champion Tree/Palm; Measurement Criteria for each Category.

A. Five Categories for Nomination of a Champion Tree/Palm:

- 1) Largest Tree
- 2) Historical Tree
- 3) Prolific Flowering
- 4) Champion Palm
- 5) Unusual Tree/Palm

B. Measurement Criteria for Each Category:

- 1) Largest Tree = Tree Height, Crown Width, Trunk Circumference

Height = 1 point per foot

Crown Width = 1 point per four feet of width

Trunk Circumference = 1 point per inch

To calculate points, add height @ 1 point per foot plus circumference @ 1 point per inch plus crown width @ 1 point per 4 feet to give total.

2) Historical Tree/Palm = Historical significance due to location planted or who planted it or age of tree, if it can be determined.

Points given on a 1 – 10 scale (10 being highest), based on historical significance, to be determined by Tree and Beautification Commission members with a majority vote of those present.

3) Prolific Flowering = Trees that provide an extraordinary show of flowers.

Points given on a 1 – 10 scale, based on show of flowers, to be determined by Tree and Beautification Commission members with a majority vote of those present.

4) Champion Palm = Measurements of palm height or crown width, based upon species.

Height – 1 point per foot
Crown Width = 1 point per foot of width

5) Unusual Tree/Palm = Tree/palm specimen with curious, bizarre, or odd growth habit or shape

Points given on a 1 – 10 scale, based on the unusual characteristics of tree/palm, to be determined by Tree and Beautification Commission members with a majority vote of those present.

C. Criteria by Species for Palms.

(Note: This list is not exhaustive of the species possible for nomination.)

- | | | |
|---|--------|----------------------|
| 1) Acoelorrhaphe wrightii (Paurotis Palm) | Height | Clump Diameter (dbh) |
| 2) Arenga engleri (Dwarf Sugar Palm) | | Clump Diameter (dbh) |
| 3) Butia capitata (Pindo Palm) | Height | Trunk Diameter (dbh) |
| 4) Caryota sp. (Fishtail Palm) | Height | |
| 5) Chamaerops humilis (European Fan) | Height | |
| 6) Livistona chinensis (Chinese Fan) | Height | |
| 7) Livistona decipiens (Ribbon Fan) | Height | |

8) Phoenix canariensis (Canary Date)	Height	Crown Spread
9) Phoenix dactylifera (Medjool Date)	Height	Crown Spread
10) Phoenix reclinata (Senegal Date)	Height	Clump Diameter (dbh)
11) Phoenix roebelenii (Pygmy Date)	Height	Single or Multiple
12) Rhapsidophyllum hystrix (Needle Palm)		Clump Diameter (dbh)
13) Rhapis excelsa (Lady Palm)	Height	Clump Diameter (dbh)
14) Roystonea elata (Florida Royal Palm)	Height	
15) Sabal causiarum (Hat Palm)	Height	
16) Sabal palmetto (Cabbage Palm)	Height	
17) Serenoa repens (Scrub Palmetto)		Clump Diameter (dbh)
18) Syagrus romanzoffiana (Queen Palm)	Height	Crown Spread
19) Trachycarpus fortunei (Windmill Palm)	Height	
20) Washingtonia filifera (California Fan)	Height	
21) Washingtonia robusta (Mexican Fan)	Height	

*dbh = diameter at breast height (4 ½ feet)

Section 3. Adoption of Champion Tree/Palm Nomination Form (Appendix A), and Champion Tree/Palm Record Form (Appendix B).

The City Council of the City of Vero Beach hereby adopts as part of the Champion Tree/Palm Award Program Appendix A, "Champion Tree/Palm Nomination Form," Appendix B, "Champion Tree/Palm Record," and Appendix C, "Measuring Method for Nominated Trees" as and in the form shown in said Appendices attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall become effective upon passage.

This Resolution was heard on the 3RD day of April,
2007, at which time it was moved for adoption by Councilmember
Darge, seconded by Councilmember
Abell, and adopted by the following vote:

Mayor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Vice Mayor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Councilmember	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Councilmember	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Councilmember	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

ATTEST:

CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA:

Sign: Tammy K. Vock
Print: Tammy K. Vock
Title: City Clerk

Sign: Thomas P. White
Print: Thomas P. White
Title: Mayor

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

Approved as conforming to municipal
policy:

Margaret Sue Lip
City Attorney

Sam M. Gabban
City Manager

Approved as to technical requirements:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty", is written above a solid horizontal line.

Director of Public Works

This document was prepared in
The Office of the City Attorney
Post Office Box 1389
Vero Beach, Florida 32961-1389

APPENDIX A

**CHAMPION TREE/PALM
NOMINATION FORM**

If you would like to nominate a tree/palm that is within the city limits of Vero Beach, please fill out this form and forward it, with a photo of the tree/palm, to the Tree and Beautification Commission, City of Vero Beach, 1053 20th Place, Vero Beach, FL 32960.

Nominated By _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Nomination Category _____

Tree/Palm Property Address _____

Name(s) of Property Owner(s) _____

Tree/Palm Species _____

Location of Tree/Palm on Property _____

Permission by Property Owner(s) to visit property of nominated tree/palm, to measure and photograph the nominated tree/palm and to use property owner(s)' name(s) and location/picture of nominated tree/palm on the City website and in other City publications

Property Owner(s)' Signature(s)*

By signing and granting the above permission to the City of Vero Beach, I/We certify that I/We are the owners of the subject property.

*Permission of Property owner(s) is required prior to processing the nomination. All property owners must signify permission by signing this form.

APPENDIX B

CHAMPION TREE/PALM RECORD

Permission to visit property of nominated Tree/Palm, and to use property owner(s) name(s) and location of nominated Tree/Palm on City website and in other City publications has been obtained by each individual property owner.

NOMINATION CATEGORY: _____

DATE: _____

BOTANICAL NAME: _____

COMMON NAME: _____

PROPERTY OWNER(S) NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____

TREE/PALM HEIGHT (FEET): _____ PTS _____

TREE/PALM CIRCUMFERENCE (INCHES): _____ PTS _____

CROWN SPREAD AVERAGE (FEET): _____ PTS _____

SHOW OF FLOWER: _____ PTS _____

UNUSUAL SPECIMAN: _____ PTS _____

HISTORIC TREE/PALM: _____ PTS _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

CONDITION OF TREE/PALM: _____

NOTES: _____

TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEMBER:

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

APPENDIX C

MEASURING METHOD FOR NOMINATED TREES

These measuring instructions are based on acceptable international standards to scientifically record the dimensions of trees:

GIRTH

Girth is measured as the circumference in inches at breast height, which is four and one half (4.5) feet above ground level.

In most situations, this measurement can be taken with a simple tape rule. For very large diameter trees, care must be taken to assure the tape rule doesn't snag below 4.5 feet as it snakes around the trunk.

UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Trees may be growing on ground that isn't level or steeply sloped or a tree may have branches below 4.5 feet or have multiple stems.

Measuring on Slopes: When the ground around the trunk isn't level, measure 4.5 feet above the lowest point where the trunk meets the ground, then measure 4.5 feet above the highest contact of tree with earth. Then take the average of these two distances, or halfway between these two points on the trunk.

Measuring on Very Steep Slopes: On occasion, the slope is so steep that the average point is lower than the highest point where the trunk touches the ground, making a girth measure at this point impossible. In such a case, measure the girth at the lowest practical point, which usually means at the highest point where the trunk meets the ground.

Measuring a Leaning Tree: When a tree is leaning significantly away from vertical, measurement should be made at right angles to the axis of the trunk, not in the usual horizontal plane. The measurement should still be taken at a point an average of 4.5 feet above ground level, measured vertically, not along the leaning trunk.

Measuring a Low-Branching Tree: Some trees have a branch or growth projecting from the trunk below 4.5 feet which obstructs or influences the girth measurement. In such a case, circumference is then measured at the point below breast height which yields the smallest measurement.

Measuring a Multi-stem Tree: A few species often develop sprouts that form multiple stems at 4.5 feet. In these instances, the largest stem should be measured at 4.5 feet.

Measuring a Tree with Butt Swell: A tree—particularly a few tropical species such as Bald Cypress—may have a swollen circumference near ground level which rapidly tapers to a much narrower trunk. Measurements must be made at 4.5 feet, although a second circumference measurement can be taken at a higher level that is useful to convey a clear description of trunk size.

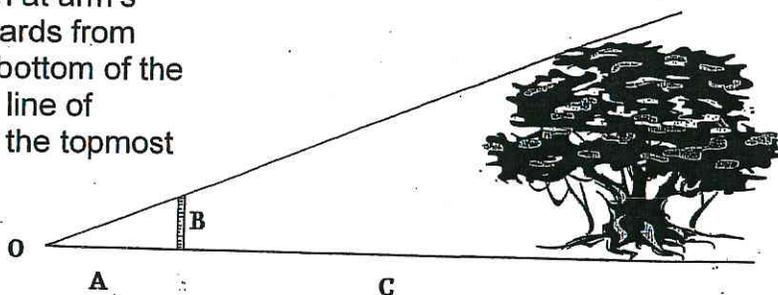
HEIGHT

Height is measured as the distance in feet between the base of the tree's trunk and the topmost twig.

A rough estimate can be obtained by a simple manual sighting technique using a straight ruler, tape measure and a little trigonometry, as described below. The first challenge is to find a spot which permits an unobstructed view of both the base and the top of the tree.

ESTIMATING HEIGHT BY MANUAL SIGHTING:

Method 1.: Hold a ruler of fixed length at arm's length in front of you and step backwards from the tree until the line of sight through bottom of the ruler touches the tree's base and the line of sight over the top of the ruler touches the topmost twig of the tree. Ideally, this sighting should be taken with your eyes as close to the ground as possible to assure the sighting triangle is a right triangle. Measure the distance in feet from your eyes (**O** in diagram) to the ruler (**B** in diagram) and from your eyes to the base of the tree (**C** in diagram). The height of the tree is then distance **C** multiplied by distance **B** and divided by distance **A**. For simplicity, if the ruler **B** is one foot, then the height of the tree is simply **C** divided by **A**.



Method 2: Make a clearly visible mark on the tree trunk at a fixed, measured height above ground level. Hold a ruler in front of you and step backwards until the one-inch measure on the ruler matches the distance from the ground to the mark on the trunk. Notice how many inches on the ruler match the entire height of the tree. The height of the tree is then the number of inches multiplied by the height in feet of the mark.

AVERAGE CROWN SPREAD

Crown Spread is measured as the distance between the outermost tips of the farthest-reaching limbs of the canopy. It is measured along the widest and the narrowest axes and then the average of these two maximum and minimum dimensions is computed.

Two measurements must be made: first of the widest spread of the tree's limbs, then the shortest spread of branches. Only living branches should be measured. To do this, stand under the farthest-reaching branch, then measure to the farthest reaching branch on the opposite side. Repeat this procedure with the two limbs with the narrowest width. Average crown spread is computed by adding the two measurements together, then dividing by two.

Measuring a Low-Branching Tree: Trees with a branch or growth on the trunk below 4.5 feet should have the entire crown included in the measure, including the low-branching limb.