

*Sanibel, Florida was named a 2013 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 25th consecutive year, in honor of our commitment to effective urban forest management.*

**WHEREAS:** *Sanibel achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.*

**WHEREAS:** *The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.*

**WHEREAS:** *"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Sanibel make smart investments in urban forests." said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees bring shade into our home and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits."*

**WHEREAS:** *Cleaner air, improved storm water management, energy savings and increased property values and commercial activity are among the benefits enjoyed by Tree City USA communities.*

**WHEREAS:** *The City of Sanibel Vegetation Committee was formed in July 1976 and have been collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on basic ecological principles as they relate to Island vegetation. Vegetation Committee members have assisted with vegetation inspections conducted to obtain a development permit and to obtain a certificate of occupancy and supported the City's efforts to achieve the Tree City designation.*

**WHEREAS:** *Vegetation Committee consists of very important, hard working members who volunteer and deicate their time to this committee.*

**NOW, THEREFORE,** *I, Kevin Ruane, Mayor of the City of Sanibel, Lee County, Florida on behalf of the members of Sanibel City Council and the citizens of Sanibel, declare the City of Sanibel a 2013 Tree City USA.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Sanibel to be affixed hereto.*