



City of Eustis News Release

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Mayor James Rotella
Vice Mayor Evelyn Smith
Commissioner Scott Ales
Commissioner Jonnie Hale
Commissioner Karen LeHeup-Smith

For Immediate Release –

*News Release 21/07
June 5, 2007*

Eustis selected as 2006 Florida Tree City of the Year

Top honor received out of 129 Florida candidates

EUSTIS – The City of Eustis has been selected as the 2006 Florida Tree City of the Year through the Trees Florida 2007 Awards Program. Trees Florida 2007 is co-sponsored by the Florida Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, Florida Urban Forestry Council, Florida Division of Forestry, and the University of Florida Extension.

Eustis has invested greatly in tree planting and landscape projects for many years and has a vibrant tree program. The tree inventory, conducted in 2006, revealed that approximately 5,003 trees are maintained on streets and city property. With a population of 17,249, the urban forestry expenditures total \$224,471 in 2006.

The City's success in its tree program and selection for this award is due to the City Commission's support of the hard work and dedication of the Eustis Public Works Department, under the direction of John Futch, and the Eustis Tree Committee, chaired by Jim Thorsen. The Eustis Tree Committee's 11 members were selected by the City Commission and advised them on matters such as tree trimming, tree removal and replacement, identifying areas of City property and rights of way where additional trees should be planted and maintained, care of newly planted trees, areas of critical concern in need of immediate attention (both for tree trimming, removal and re-planting), public notification regarding proposed City action affecting individual properties or trees.

Eustis will be recognized at the annual Awards Luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, June 12th at the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club located in Palm Harbor, Florida. This event is held in conjunction with the Trees Florida 2007 Annual Conference which is being held June 9-12.

Released by: Jim R. Myers, Jr., Acting City Manager



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