

City of St. Petersburg  
**Health, Energy, Resilience, and Sustainability Committee**  
April 16, 2026 - 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM  
City Hall, Room 100

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Members: Committee Chair Brandi Gabbard, Committee Vice-Chair Richie Floyd, Council Member Gina Driscoll, and Council Member Corey Givens Jr

Alternate: Council Chair Lisset Hanewicz

Staff Liaison: Millicent Battle – City Council Legislative Aide

**1) Call to Order**

**2) Approval of Agenda**

**3) Approval of February 19, 2026 Minutes**

**4) New Business – April 16, 2026**

- a) **A Discussion on Post-Hurricane Impacts to the St. Petersburg Tree Canopy – Maeven Rogers, Sustainability and Resilience Director**

**Attachments:**

- 1) Committee Chair Gabbard New Business Item, March 3, 2022
- 2) Memorandum
- 3) PowerPoint Presentation

- b) **Implementation of a Community Food Forest Program – Maeven Rogers, Sustainability and Resilience Director**

**Attachments:**

- 1) Committee Chair Gabbard New Business Item, May 19, 2022
- 2) PowerPoint Presentation

- c) **A Discussion on the Designation of the City of St. Petersburg as a Bird Sanctuary in Accordance with Florida Administrative Code Rule 68A-19.002 – Heather Judd, Assistant City Attorney**

**Attachments:**

- 1) Council Member Driscoll New Business Item, March 26, 2026
- 2) Florida Administrative Code Rule 68A-19.002
- 3) Draft Letter
- 4) Draft Ordinance

**Upcoming Meeting Dates and Tentative Agenda Items**

**May 21, 2026**

- a) TBD

**General Attachments:**

Minutes of the February 19, 2026 HERS Committee Meeting  
Pending and Continuing Referral List  
Agenda Item Support Material

City of St. Petersburg  
**Health, Energy, Resilience, and Sustainability Committee**  
**February 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes**  
City Hall, Room 100

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**Present:** Committee Chair Brandi Gabbard, Committee Vice-Chair Richie Floyd, Council Member Gina Driscoll, and Council Member Corey Givens Jr

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Council Member Mike Harting, City Administrator Rob Gerdes, Chief Assistant City Attorney Jeannine Williams, and Sustainability and Resilience Director Maeven Rogers.

**Staff Liaison:** Bryan Casañas-Scarsella – City Council Legislative Aide

- 1) **Call to Order** – 10:01 AM
- 2) **Approval of Agenda** – CM Driscoll motioned for approval. All voted in favor.
- 3) **Approval of January 29, 2026 Minutes** – CM Givens motioned for approval. All voted in favor.
- 4) **New Business – February 19, 2026**

**A discussion on the Storm Squad Initiative and the Initiative on Coastal Adaption and Resilience (iCAR)** – *Dr. Barnali Dixon, Executive Director of iCAR, University of South Florida St. Petersburg, and Erica Hall, Storm Squad Executive Board Member*

iCAR Executive Director Dr. Barnali Dixon thanked the group and introduced Community Resiliency Information Systems (CRIS), which was launched in 2019 in partnership with the previous mayor and emergency management leadership, including Fire Emergency Management Manager Amber Boulding. She informed the committee that the original system focused on neighborhoods within city limits, assessing biophysical, socio-economic, and environmental vulnerabilities, including risks like chemical storage sites that could become hazardous during storms, and recognized that flooding at a dog park presents different health concerns than flooding at a Brownfield site. She stated that neighborhood level analysis, combined with community education and outreach, helped inform efforts such as the Storm Squad. Building on that foundation, Dr. Dixon explained that the team expanded the platform into CRIS-HAZARD, scaling it countywide with additional data, applications, and mapping tools to aggregate information such as seawater spills and storm impacts into a centralized, decision-ready system. She stated that CRIS-HAZARD was funded by a \$1.49 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the platform integrates biophysical, environmental, and social risk data, includes survey capabilities, and makes information transparent and publicly accessible. She highlighted that the City of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County are the only community in the nation with this comprehensive model.

Dr. Dixon highlighted two primary components of CRIS-HAZARD: a flood app and a network of static, solar powered cameras designed to resemble bird boxes to deter theft. Installed ahead of Hurricane Helene, the cameras withstood both Helene and Milton and captured images every 15 minutes with daytime and nighttime reference views. She stated that unlike traditional gauging stations that only measure water height, these cameras provide measured flood elevation data and visual documentation of impacts to roads, seawalls, and other infrastructure, allowing

analysis of how quickly water rises and recedes. Dr. Dixon explained the system expanded from eight to 32 active cameras in Pinellas County with 17 located within the city limits. She also stated that additional installations are underway in partnership with the county. Using sites such as Bartlett Park, Lake Maggiore Shores, Denver Park, Bear Creek, and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg seawall, Dr. Dixon demonstrated real time storm surge levels ranging from roughly two and a half to more than three feet, including rapid rises of two and a half feet in 15 minutes. The live dashboard allows users to view current and reference images, animate flood progression, map inundation, and connect exposure data to income levels and social vulnerability metrics. She emphasized that validation efforts show strong agreement between camera derived, and field collected high water marks.

Dr. Dixon compared the flood app to Waze<sup>1</sup>, explaining that it helps residents avoid flooded roads and understand when water has cleared. Residents can upload photos, and AI extracts estimated water height to support emergency response and situational awareness. Submissions undergo quality control, cross checked against camera imagery, rainfall, and tide data before appearing on the public dashboard. She highlighted that during Hurricanes Helene and Milton, multiple resident uploads were mapped and analyzed in real time. The tool was refined through hands-on usability testing with the Storm Squad to ensure it is practical, accurate, and responsive to community needs.

Storm Squad Executive Board Member Erica Hall greeted the committee and described the Storm Squad as a neighborhood-based resilience initiative active in Bartlett Park, Harbordale, Childs Park, Jordan Park, Campbell Park, Palmetto Park, Lake Maggiore Shores, and Lealman, with each community experiencing and documenting flooding differently. The initiative centers on real-time flood reporting, community data collection, disaster preparedness education, and direct connections to response resources, grounded in community-based participatory research where residents act as co-creators who test and refine the flood app, provide ground truth data, interpret survey results, and set local priorities. She highlighted neighborhood strengths, including reporting and coordination with the Office of Emergency Management in Bartlett Park and Harbordale, storm surge pattern identification in Lake Maggiore Shores, and expanded outreach in Jordan Park, Campbell Park, and Palmetto Park, while recognizing Childs Park and the Childs Park Neighborhood Resilience Collective for sustained leadership and a resilience hub pilot. She emphasized collaboration over duplication, aligning CRIS-HAZARD data, camera infrastructure, and reporting tools with existing community structures, and noted the ongoing partnership with the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USF-SP) through iCAR as the research backbone supporting this work.

Ms. Hall explained that Storm Squad builds on Dr. Dixon's CRIS-HAZARD platform by combining camera data, AI-supported flood depth modeling, and social vulnerability metrics with resident leadership and social media engagement to document recurring impacts and guide responses. She said that the flood app delivers verified, decision grade data by cross checking resident submissions with rainfall, tide, and camera information before publishing to a public dashboard. She highlighted Community reporting has already prompted a real-time response from Council Member Gina Driscoll and cleanup, reinforcing the point that data creates visibility,

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<sup>1</sup> Waze is a community-driven GPS navigation app that uses real-time, user-submitted data to provide the fastest routes, live traffic updates, and hazard alerts.

visibility creates accountability, and accountability drives action. Survey findings show flooding leads to missed work, property damage, and heightened risks for elderly and disabled residents, framing resilience as an economic and public health issue as much as an environmental one. In partnership with the Pinellas County Office of Emergency Management, the Storm Squad connects residents to resources and strengthens coordination, underscoring her conclusion that durable resilience emerges when strong community leadership, rigorous data, and institutional response operate in alignment.

Committee Chair Gabbard thanked Dr. Dixon and Ms. Hall for their proactive approach to resilience, noting that it is often discussed in reactive terms tied to trauma and recovery rather than in a forward-looking way. She shared that she first saw the presentation at a Council of Neighborhood Association (CONA) meeting and subsequently filed the new business item to bring the discussion to committee. She then recognized CM Driscoll as a champion for her neighborhoods.

CM Driscoll thanked Committee Chair Gabbard for bringing the item forward and commended the presenters for their passion and significant work. She asked about collaboration with the City, particularly how the camera data could support infrastructure planning and long-term resilience efforts. Sustainability and Resilience Director Maeven Rogers confirmed that she and Dr. Dixon met to discuss merging efforts and that a proposal had been submitted to fund continued operations, as the NSF grant is ending. The primary funding need identified was approximately \$18,475 for Wi-Fi services to maintain the cameras once grant funding expires. Dr. Dixon clarified that while the infrastructure remains, she cannot continue paying for Wi-Fi after the grant period.

CM Driscoll expressed interest not only in maintaining the current system but also in scaling it. She requested involvement from City leadership, including Engineering Director Brejesh Prayman, to explore expansion opportunities. She referenced District 6, which includes downtown to 54th Avenue South along the waterfront, and noted that several Storm Squad neighborhoods fall within her district. She described specific vulnerabilities in Coquina Key, where limited bridge access during flooding creates safety concerns, and suggested that cameras at bridge access points would be a game changer. Dr. Dixon explained that bridge installations often require Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) permissions and complex contracts, which were difficult to pursue within her grant timeline, but stated she is willing to collaborate if the City can help navigate those processes.

Dr. Dixon also noted that Duke Energy funding had previously supported stipends for Storm Squad captains to ensure accountability and compensate socio-economically vulnerable residents for their time, though that funding has ended. CM Driscoll asked about future Storm Squad expansion. Dr. Dixon stated that initial neighborhoods were selected based on socio-economic and biophysical vulnerability, but that coastal neighborhoods such as Shore Acres and Bahama Shores would be logical next steps now that a working model exists.

Council Member Mike Harting asked how the app is marketed and how users are found. Dr. Dixon explained that a soft launch occurred prior to Hurricane Helene through a CONA meeting. The app is platform-agnostic and smartphone compatible, designed in partnership with

community members to ensure accessibility. CM Harting asked about funding beyond the NSF grant. Dr. Dixon explained that the grant covers research and development through fiscal year 2026 but does not support ongoing Wi-Fi costs beyond that. Pinellas County is in the process of funding Wi-Fi for cameras outside of the city limits. Ms. Hall added that as the community partner, she seeks grants to support ambassadors, stipends, and town halls, noting that some prior funding streams related to climate and equity are no longer available.

Council Member Corey Givens thanked the presenters for providing an integrated mapping and modeling tool to support policy decisions, noting his representation of Childs Park. He asked how to incorporate residents who may not be tech-savvy. Dr. Dixon explained that the app was designed with elderly and underserved communities in mind, modeled around the simplicity of taking and uploading photos, like sending pictures to grandchildren. CM Givens also asked about camera expansion suggesting Maximo Mornings and Bay Point neighborhoods. Dr. Dixon stated that additional cameras are planned in Riviera Bay and Perry Bayview Parks with current funding, but expansion beyond that would require additional resources and assistance navigating regulatory approvals, particularly for highway and bridge locations. CM Givens suggested including Stormwater Pavement and Traffic Operations Director Marshall Hampton in the conversation.

Committee Vice-Chair Richie Floyd shared that he accessed the camera dashboard in real time during the presentation and asked whether modeling and simulation data are publicly available. Dr. Dixon confirmed that flood modeling layers are accessible through the CRIS-HAZARD platform, including 10-year and 50-year projections developed in collaboration with Argonne National Laboratory. She explained the system's modular design to ensure low bandwidth functionality during storms, separating nimble real-time tools from more data intensive modeling features. Committee Vice-Chair Floyd asked about the overarching vision for community involvement. Dr. Dixon described a two-way communication system where data is collected from communities and resources are returned, including legal services for their property issues, disaster recovery information, and preparedness education. Ms. Hall explained that ambassadors from each neighborhood serve as liaisons, bringing hyperlocal needs to the Storm Squad and uploading flood data using tablets.

Committee Chair Gabbard resumed discussion, emphasizing the need to return to proactive resilience planning following recent storms. She asked whether the cameras could assist with post-storm damage assessment to reduce strain on City staff. Dr. Dixon explained that both static cameras and app submissions could complement field work by providing verified flood height data, potentially reducing the need for extensive on-the-ground assessments. She referenced a proposal under review to integrate Ring camera data and geofencing notifications to provide localized flood height alerts.

Committee Chair Gabbard asked about interim notification tools, such as bookmarking cameras and receiving alerts when water reaches certain heights. Dr. Dixon stated she would explore the feasibility, noting that the app already allows flood status uploads and that broader usage depends on community awareness. Committee Chair Gabbard requested that administration explore funding the approximately \$20,000 needed for Wi-Fi and develop an educational plan to promote the tool through City channels, including social media and utility billing communications. City Administrator Rob Gerdes confirmed the administration's willingness to conduct follow-up

meetings with engineering, technical, and marketing staff and to return to the committee with updates.

CM Driscoll suggested exploring eligibility for Neighborhood Partnership Grants to fund additional cameras as capital projects, potentially matched with volunteer engagement. Administrator Gerdes noted that legal considerations regarding cameras in the right-of-way would need review. CM Driscoll reiterated how a neighborhood association, such as Coquina Key, could apply for a grant to fund cameras at bridges and parks, matched by community engagement efforts. Dr. Dixon expressed support for the idea.

Committee Chair Gabbard concluded by stating the presenters would be invited back in the summer after further coordination with staff. She also clarified that two planned cameras in Riviera Bay are proposed at the Sunlit Cove boat ramp and at the 83rd Avenue Knife Gate Pilot Project to complement City infrastructure improvements.

***Committee Chair Gabbard adjourned the meeting at 11:18 AM.***

Health, Energy, Resilience, & Sustainability Committee Pending & Continuing Referral List						April 16, 2026	
	Topic	Return Date	Date of Referral	Prior Meeting	Referred by	Staff	Notes
1	A Discussion on Post-Hurricane Impacts to the St. Petersburg Tree Canopy	4/16/2026	1/23/2025		Gabbard	Claude Tankersley, Maeven Rogers,	
2	Implementation of a community food forest program. In addition, the discussion should focus on recurring funding from the general fund and with the initial seed funding coming from BP funds or other one-time funding sources.	4/16/2026	5/19/2022	9/22/2022 9/21/2023 3/27/2025	Gabbard	Claude Tankersley, Maeven Rogers,	1/16/25 - Will be ready to proceed at the next HERS meeting 3/27/2025 - CM Gabbard asked that the item remain on the HERS referral list as it moves forward
3	A discussion on the designation of the City of St. Petersburg as a bird sanctuary in accordance with Florida Administrative Code Rule 68A-19.002.	4/16/2026	3/26/2026		Driscoll	Heather Judd	
4	Municipally Owned or Supported Grocery Stores in Food Deserts		9/28/2023	1/29/2026 11/13/2025 8/21/2025	Gabbard	Andrea Falvey	1/29/2026 - Committee agreed to modify language of original NBI, which will be voted on by full Council. Resolution for co-op also be sent to full Council. Item will remain on the referral list. 1/16/2025 - Administration could be ready to be part of a discussion around March, April or May of 2025. CM Gabbard took over sponsorship of this item from CM Floyd. 3/27/2025 - Administration indicated that they would be ready to discuss this item whenever the committee is ready. 11/13/2025-Motion to approve co-op resolution failed; committee decided to keep item on the referral list for further discussion.
5	Resilience Hub Concepts and an update on the Pilot funded by Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg: Childs Park Neighborhood Resilience Collective (NRC)		7/21/2022	7/28/2022 9/21/2023	Driscoll	Maeven Rogers, Claude Tankersley	7/28/2022 - Update from OSR on this item within a few months. 1/26/2023 - Waiting for new Sustainability and Resiliency hire to proceed. 1/16/2025 - Ready to proceed whenever OSR is ready.
6	Discussion of the City's Environmental Purchasing Policy (now being referred to as the "Sustainable Purchasing Policy") and a potential ordinance to formalize the City's commitment to sustainability as part of a broader discussion of a "Sustainable City Hall"		6/10/2021	6/4/2020	Driscoll	Maeven Rogers, Claude Tankersley	7/30/2020 - Combined with the discussion of a "Sustainable City Hall" per Chair Driscoll's request 1/28/2021 - Update on EPP provided, action by Administration should occur by Spring 2021. 10/21/2021 - Mayor Kriseman approved the Sustainable Purchasing Policy 1/26/23 - Waiting for new Sustainability and Resiliency hire to proceed. 1/16/25 - To remain on referral list for intermittent updates as progress is made.

7	Beautification, access points, jurisdictional responsibilities, and ownership related to the Pinellas Trail.		5/1/2025		Gerdes	Aaron Fisch, Evan Mory, Cheryl Stacks, Marshall Hampton, Chief Kovacsev	
8	ISAP Update: Report from Administration on our ISAP energy consumption, renewable goals, and progress to date.		1/11/2024	7/31/2025	Floyd	Maeven Rogers, Claude Tankersley	1/16/25 - Ready to proceed whenever OSR is ready 5/15/25 - Update Part #1 occurred; Committee requested that education and community categories be added to the Part #2 update. 7/17/25 - Presentation only partially completed.
9	Study on the future of our electrical grid with respect to renewable energy sources, our franchise agreement with Duke Energy, and a potential public utility		5/4/2023	7/31/2025	Floyd	Ursula Schryver, Senior Vice President, Education, Training and Events, American Public Power Association	1/16/2025 - City of Clearwater should be receiving the results of their municipal utility study within the first quarter of 2025, Chair Floyd would like to have the discussion after receiving that guidance.
10	An update on the Duke Energy Franchise Agreement negotiations and potential extension.		2/12/2026		Gabbard		
11	A discussion on the Storm Squad Initiative and the Initiative on Coastal Adaption and Resilience (iCAR).		6/12/2025	2/19/2026	Gabbard	Dr. Barnali Dixon, Executive Director of iCAR, University of South Florida St. Petersburg Erica Hall, Storm Squad Executive Board Member	02/19/26-Update planned for Summer 2026.
Upcoming Meetings: 5/21, 7/16, 8/27, 9/17, 10/15 & 11/12							Updated: 3/26/2026

# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA NEW BUSINESS ITEM

TO: Members of City Council

DATE: February 24, 2022

COUNCIL DATE: March 03, 2022

RE: Referral to the Health, Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Committee

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**ACTION DESIRED:**

Respectfully requesting a report to the Health, Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Committee regarding city policies and tools to increase and protect our tree canopy. Discussion to include an update on the current tree mapping technology, corridor tree planning efforts, current and future resident education and incentive programs, and the implementation of a community food forest program. In addition, the discussion should focus on recurring funding from the general fund and with the initial seed funding coming from BP funds or other one-time funding sources.

Presenters to include our City Arborist, Chair or members of the Urban Forestry Committee, and any other relevant staff.

Council Vice-Chair Gabbard  
District 2



# MEMORANDUM

**TO: Committee Chair Brandi Gabbard and Members of the HERS Committee**  
**FROM: Office of Sustainability and Resilience, Maeven Rogers, Director**  
**DATE: April 16, 2026**  
**RE: Post-Hurricane Impacts to the St. Petersburg Tree Canopy & Update on Implementation of the Community Food Forest Program**

**Purpose** To provide City Council with an update on tree canopy impacts following Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton (October 2024) and to outline progress on the Community Food Forest Program funded by BP dollars.

**Background & Key Updates** Using a professionally recognized methodology known as dot analysis, the Office of Sustainability and Resilience conducted research and found that the City experienced approximately a 1.79% loss in tree canopy due to storm damage experienced from Hurricane Helene and Milton. Data was collected in April 2024 (pre-storm) and analyzed again in January 2025 (post-storm). The study provides a breakdown by district, including land cover categories such as impervious surfaces, bare earth, vegetation, water, and tree canopy, both at the district and citywide levels. As a result of the 1.79% canopy loss, the City is estimated to experience an annual increase of approximately 59,636.16 pounds of air pollution and 10,636.62 pounds of particulate matter. Additionally, the canopy loss is estimated to contribute to an increase of roughly 19.652 million gallons of stormwater runoff annually.

The Community Food Forest Program, funded from BP dollars, has undergone several updates as it moves closer to implementation. The City has been working to establish a grant structure and develop an RFP. The City will host two listening sessions, followed by three additional sessions designed to help prepare potential grantees to apply for funding and urban agriculture businesses. The Office of Sustainability & Resilience will work with Procurement, St. Pete Youth Farm, Marketing and The Greenhouse to ensure program's success.

**Next Steps** The City of St. Petersburg will target district-specific tree programs and giveaways in areas with lower canopy coverage. The Community Food Forest Program will continue to move forward, with listening sessions anticipated to begin in late May and continue into June. Continue advancing grant and RFP processes to move toward program implementation.



Maeven Rogers, Director Office of Sustainability & Resilience  
City of St. Petersburg  
P.O. Box 2842  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-2842  
O: 727-000-000

*April 16, 2026*

# Office of Sustainability and Resilience

HERS Committee



# AGENDA ITEMS

- I. Post-Hurricane Impacts to the St. Petersburg Tree Canopy.**
- II. Implementation of a Community Urban Agriculture Program.**



# POST-HURRICANE IMPACTS TO TREE CANOPY

- **Canopy Modeling Methodology**
- **City Land Cover Classes**
- **District Models**
- **Post-Hurricane Impacts**
- **Environmental Impacts**



# METHOD FOR TREE CANOPY MODELING

- **iTreeCanopy**
  - USDA Forest Service's web-based application
    - Same program used in 2017 City study, same methodology used by Pinellas County
  - Application selects random points within study area, user classifies point into a land cover class
    - Statistical model estimates total amount and percent of each land cover class within study area
    - 500-1,000 points recommended by program
      - 500 points selected within each City District = 4,000 points total
        - Standard Error (SE) = approx. 2% for all models, consistent with industry standard
  - Land cover classes:
    - TREE : tree canopy (trees, large shrubs and palms, woody plants providing shade)
    - VEGETATION : non-tree vegetation (small shrubs, grasses, understory plants)
    - BARE EARTH : ground, soil, earth
    - WATER : freshwater and saltwater
    - IMPERVIOUS : roadways, sidewalks, pavements, and buildings



# METHOD FOR TREE CANOPY MODELING

Canopy  
iTree. A tree canopy assessment tool

Home Project Menu Feedback

**⚠️ A change in USDA Forest Service policy has created an immediate funding lapse for i-Tree. Functionality, maintenance, and support for all i-Tree tools will be impacted by this loss of funding. (Learn More)**

**Conduct your survey:** Add survey points by clicking the small **+** button below. With each point you add, the map shifts to a random location. Use the Cover Class dropdown to record the land cover at the yellow crosshairs at map center. The more points you survey, the lower your standard error, and the more precise your sampling will be. More points provide a better estimation of Land Cover across your study area.

Cover Class	% Covered	Area Covered (mi²)
I	~40%	~0.1
S	~5%	~0.1
T	~20%	~1.5
V	~25%	~1.8
W	~5%	~0.1

01 Water: 1.8%±0.59 Impervious: 44.7%±2.2

**View Results** [Report](#)

**Add New Point**

Cover Class

- Tree
- Vegetation
- Impervious
- Water
- Bare Earth

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**Save your Project**

[Save](#) Save often - don't lose your data!

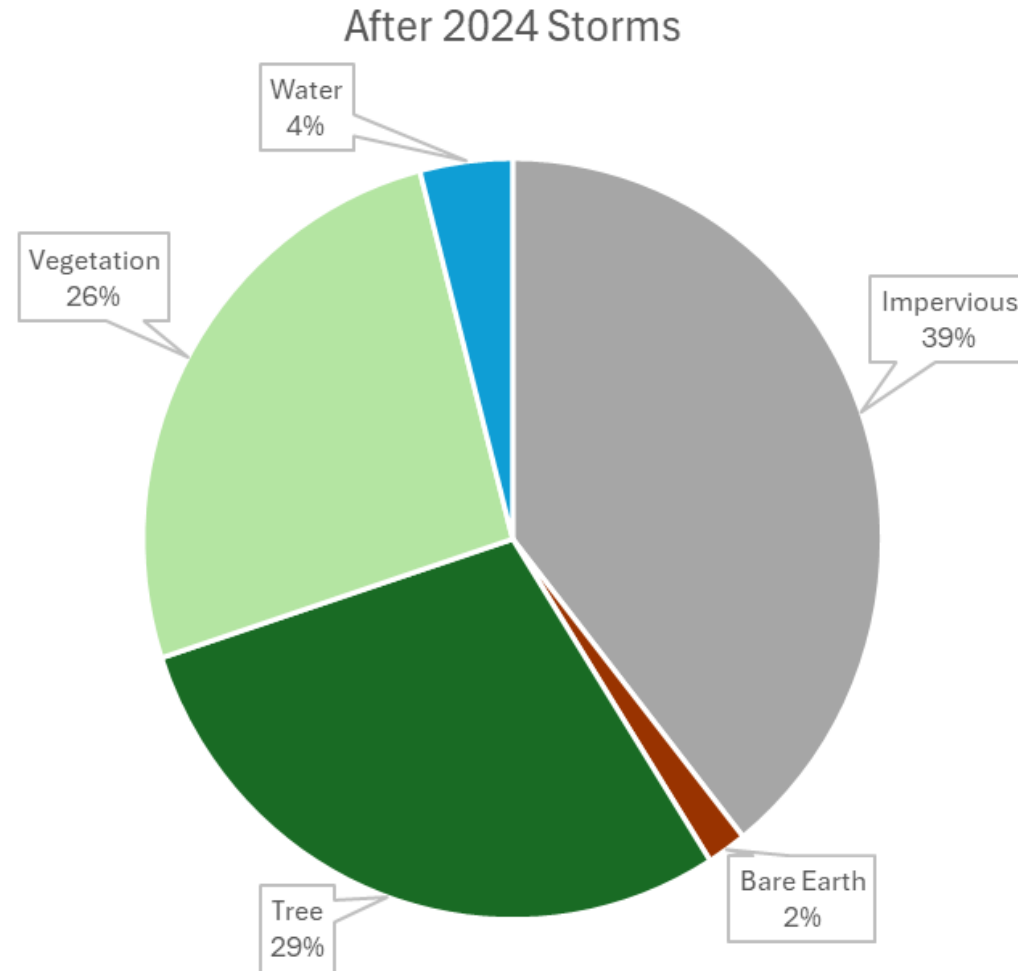


# METHOD FOR TREE CANOPY MODELING

- **Individual models run for each City Council District:**
  - April 2024 Pre-Storms analysis completed using 2024 Pinellas County Satellite Imagery
  - January 2025 Post-Storms analysis completed using 2025 Pinellas County Satellite Imagery
- **Dot Methodology**
  - April 2024 Pre-Storms analysis completed using 2024 Pinellas County Satellite Imagery
  - January 2025 Post-Storms analysis completed using 2025 Pinellas County Satellite Imagery
- **Considerations:**
  - Model cannot identify tree cover species (native vs. non-native and/or invasive)
  - Slightly different results than 2017 canopy analysis which can be expected due to nature of data collection methodology
  - Points sometimes cover multiple land cover classes
    - Select land cover of majority of point
  - Visual limitations such as shadows, synthetic turf, etc.

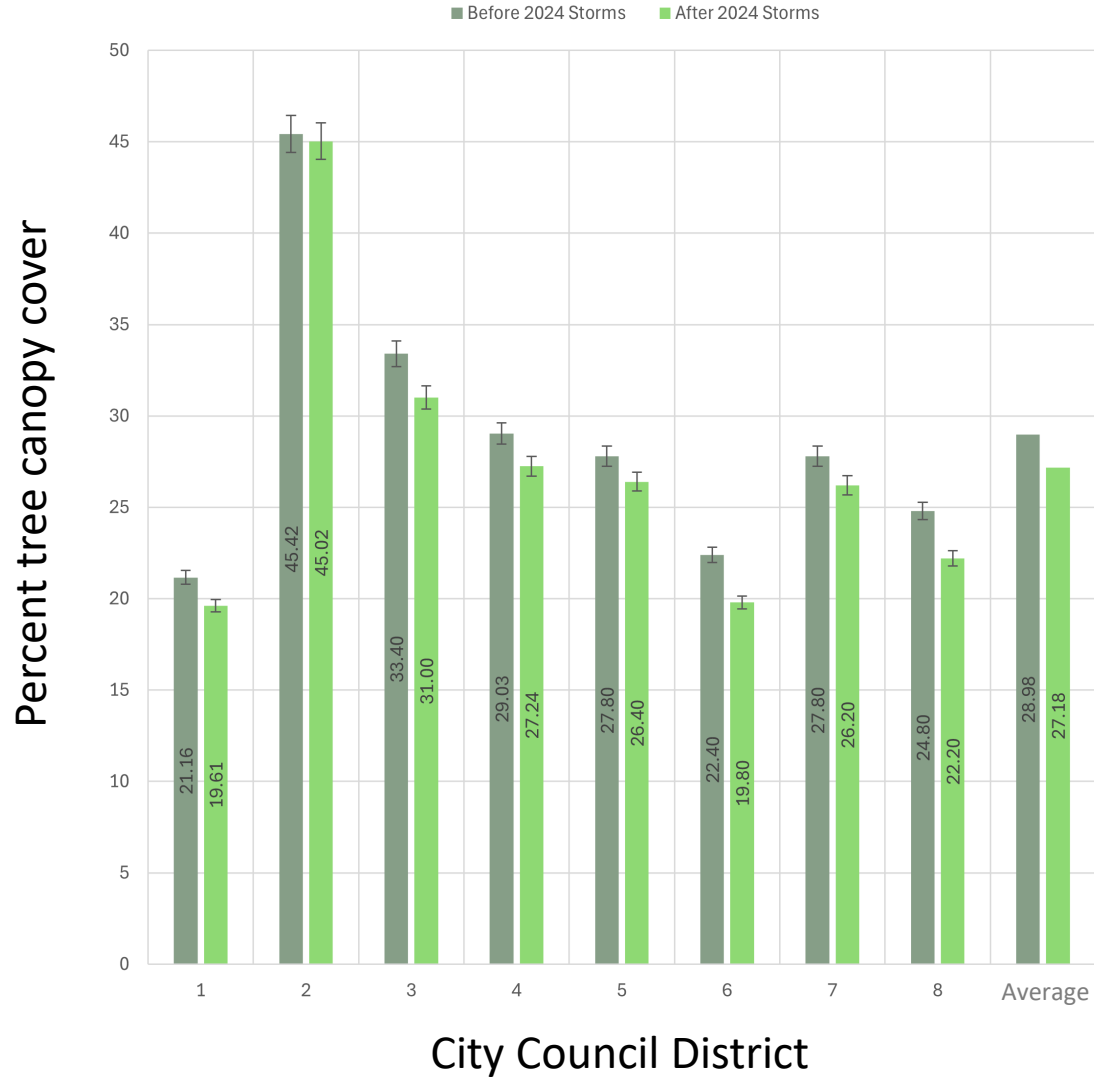


# TOTAL CITY LAND COVER CLASSES



# POST-HURRICANE IMPACTS TO TREE CANOPY

Impacts to Tree Canopy Cover % From 2024 Hurricanes



# POST-HURRICANE IMPACTS TO TREE CANOPY

District	Tree Canopy Cover		
	Before 2024 Hurricanes (Approx. April 2024)	After 2024 Hurricanes (Approx. Jan 2025)	Difference
1	21.16 %	19.61 %	- 1.55 %
2	45.42 %	45.02 %	- 0.40 %
3	33.40 %	31.00 %	- 2.40 %
4	29.03 %	27.24 %	- 1.79 %
5	27.80 %	26.40 %	- 1.40 %
6	22.40 %	19.80 %	- 2.60 %
7	27.80 %	26.20 %	- 1.60 %
8	24.80 %	22.20 %	- 2.60 %
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>28.98 %</b>	<b>27.18 %</b>	<b>- 1.79 %</b>

Change in percent of total land area covered by Tree Canopy  
(includes other non-tree land cover classes)



# POST-HURRICANE IMPACTS TO TREE CANOPY

District	Tree Canopy Cover			
	Before 2024 Hurricanes (Approx. April 2024)	After 2024 Hurricanes (Approx. Jan 2025)	Difference	Proportion
1	21.16 %	19.61 %	- 1.55 %	- 7.3 %
2	45.42 %	45.02 %	- 0.40 %	- 0.9 %
3	33.40 %	31.00 %	- 2.40 %	- 7.2 %
4	29.03 %	27.24 %	- 1.79 %	- 6.2 %
5	27.80 %	26.40 %	- 1.40 %	- 5.0 %
6	22.40 %	19.80 %	- 2.60 %	- 11.6 %
7	27.80 %	26.20 %	- 1.60 %	- 5.8 %
8	24.80 %	22.20 %	- 2.60 %	- 10.5 %
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>28.98 %</b>	<b>27.18 %</b>	<b>- 1.79 %</b>	<b>- 6.2 %</b>

Proportion of total Tree Canopy lost



# POST-HURRICANE IMPACTS TO TREE CANOPY

District	Tree Canopy Cover			
	Before 2024 Hurricanes (Approx. April 2024)	After 2024 Hurricanes (Approx. Jan 2025)	Difference	Proportion
1	21.16 %	19.61 %	- 1.55 %	- 7.3 %
2	45.42 %	45.02 %	- 0.40 %	- 0.9 %
3	33.40 %	31.00 %	- 2.40 %	- 7.2 %
4	29.03 %	27.24 %	- 1.79 %	- 6.2 %
5	27.80 %	26.40 %	- 1.40 %	- 5.0 %
6	22.40 %	19.80 %	- 2.60 %	- 11.6 %
7	27.80 %	26.20 %	- 1.60 %	- 5.8 %
8	24.80 %	22.20 %	- 2.60 %	- 10.5 %
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>28.98 %</b>	<b>27.18 %</b>	<b>- 1.79 %</b>	<b>- 6.2 %</b>
Pinellas	<b>38.8%</b>	<b>37.0 %</b>	- 1.8 %	- 4.6 %
Tampa	<b>31.4%</b>	<b>29.9 %</b>	- 1.5 %	- 4.8 %

Comparison to nearby jurisdictions



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF CANOPY LOSS

**AIR QUALITY IMPACTS** : Trees absorb through leaves, complex surfaces for pollutants to be deposited. Trees with more leaf area and trees which don't drop leaves reduce more pollutants. Valuation relates to population density in vicinity of trees.

- Increased Air Pollution Annually = 59,636.16 lbs
  - Carbon Monoxide (CO)
  - Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)
  - Ozone (O3)
  - Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)
  - Particulate Matter < 2.5 microns
  - Particulate Matter > 2.5 microns
    - Increase Particulate Matter > 2.5 microns Annually = 10,636.62 lbs

**AIR POLLUTION BENEFITS** Conclusions from statistics for an urban environment, trained to Pinellas County.

Description	Removal Rate (lbs/ac/yr)
Carbon Monoxide removed annually	1.754
Nitrogen Dioxide removed annually	5.030
Ozone removed annually	60.571
Particulate Matter > 2.5 microns and < 10 microns removed annually	15.432
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns removed annually	2.462
Sulfur Dioxide removed annually	1.366

Source: iTree Canopy

English Units: lbs = pounds, T = ton, ac = acre



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF CANOPY LOSS

**HYDROLOGICAL BENEFITS**      Conclusions from statistics for an urban environment, trained to Pinellas County.

**STORMWATER IMPACTS** : Trees capture rain on surface and evaporate, and/or absorb through roots.

- Bigger trees with greater leaf area prevent more runoff.
- Increased Stormwater Runoff Annually = 19.52 million gallon

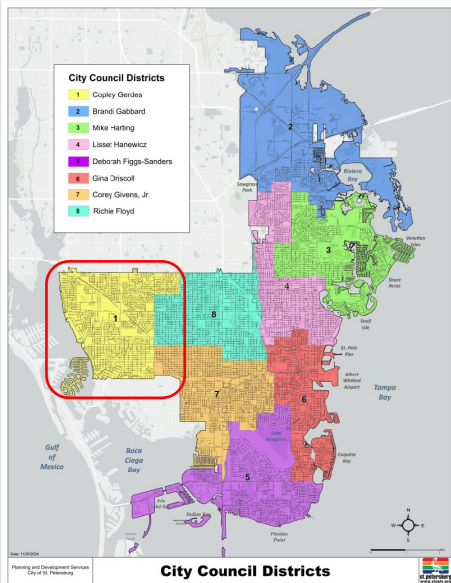
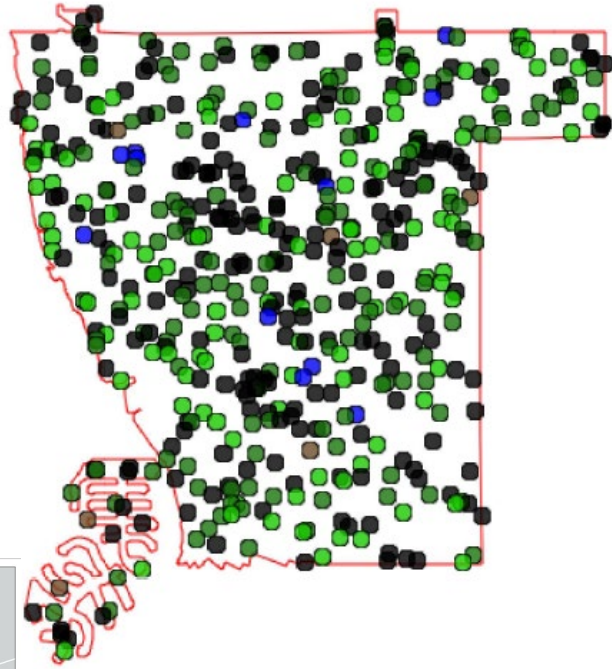
Description	Tree Effects (gal/yd <sup>2</sup> /yr)
Avoided Runoff	4.891
Evaporation	19.507
Interception	19.507
Transpiration	55.392
Potential Evaporation	154.657
Potential Evapotranspiration	134.548

English Units: gal = gallons, yd = yards

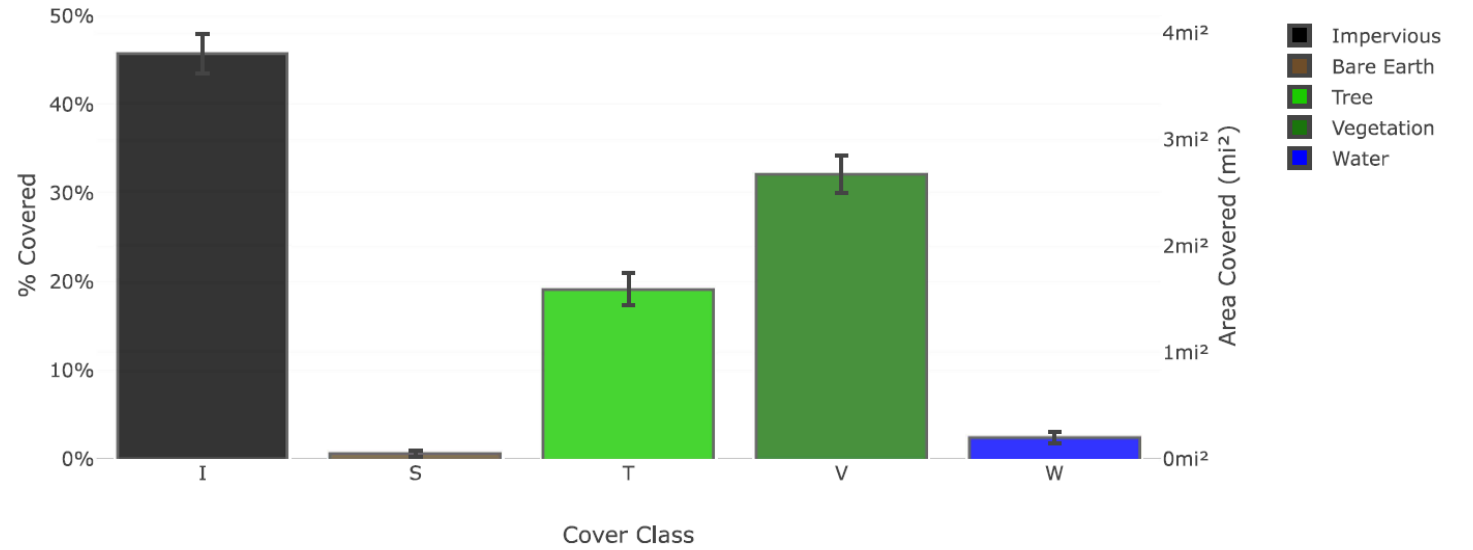
Source: iTree Canopy



# DISTRICT 1 MODEL (POST STORM)

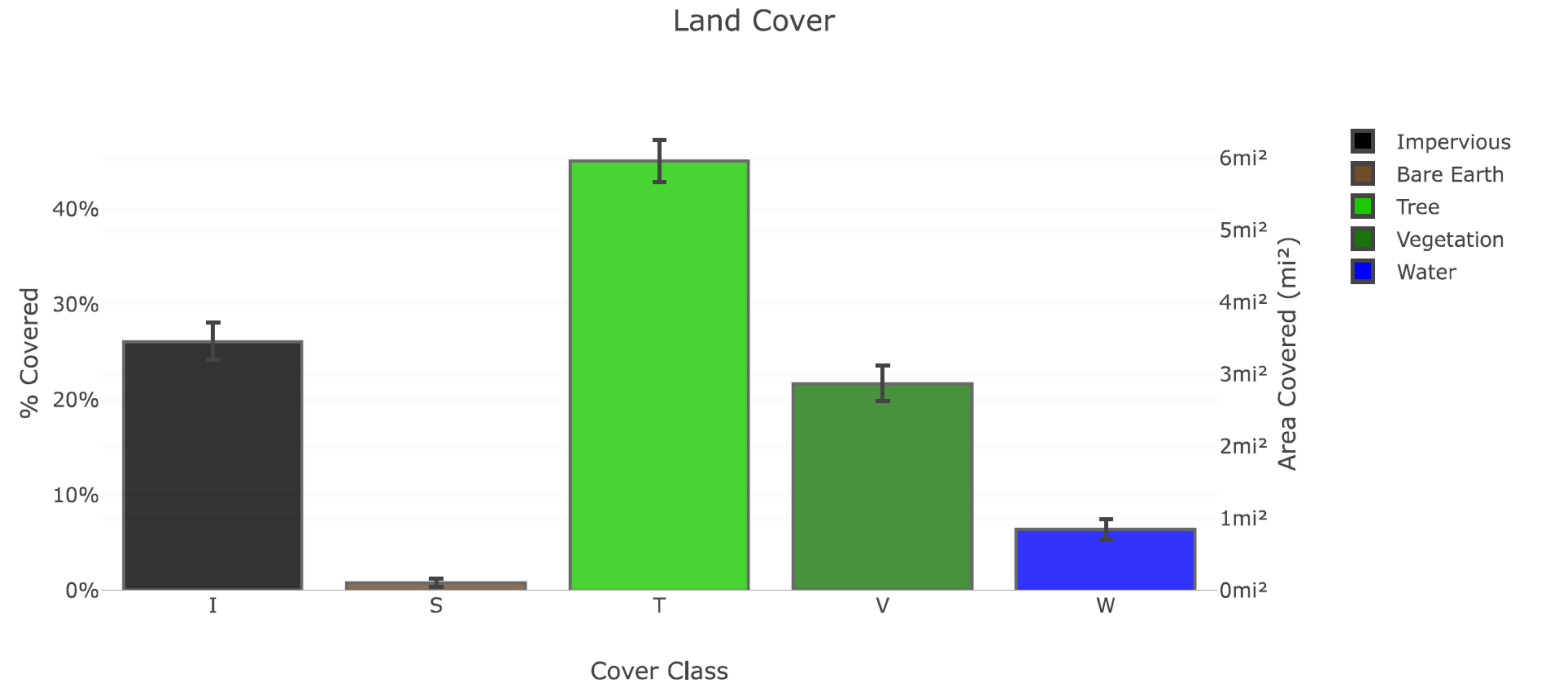
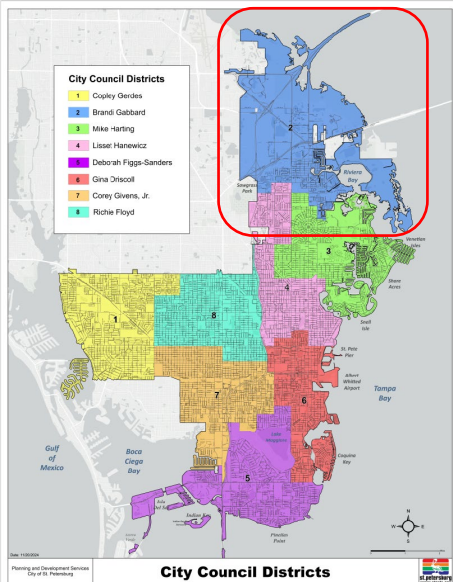
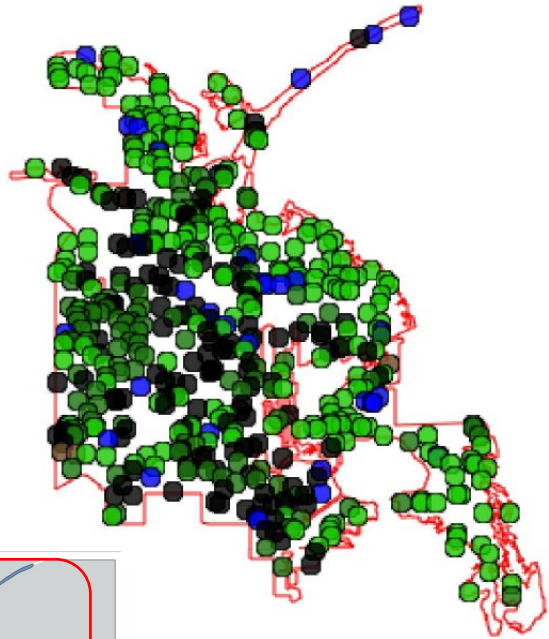


Land Cover

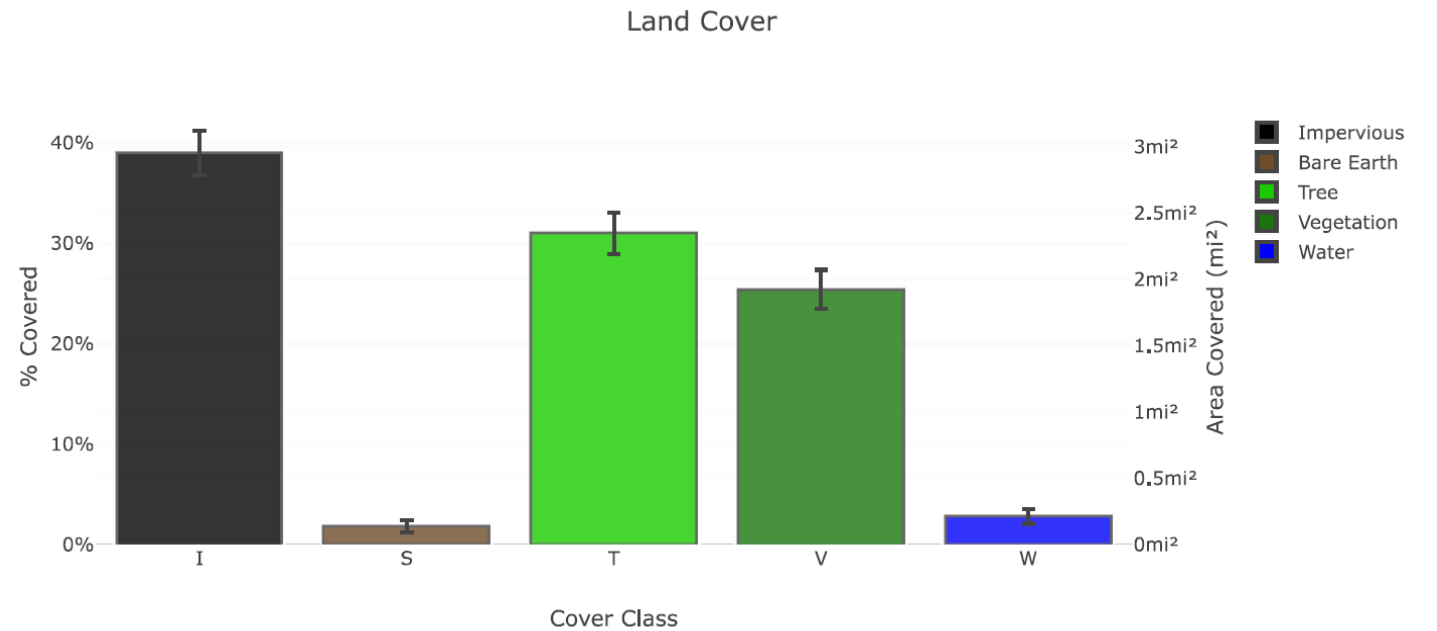
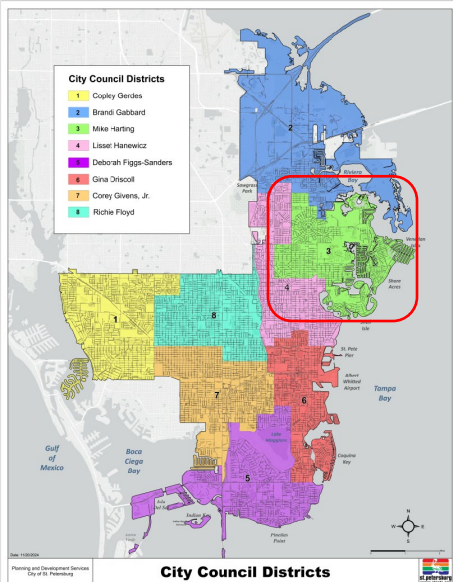
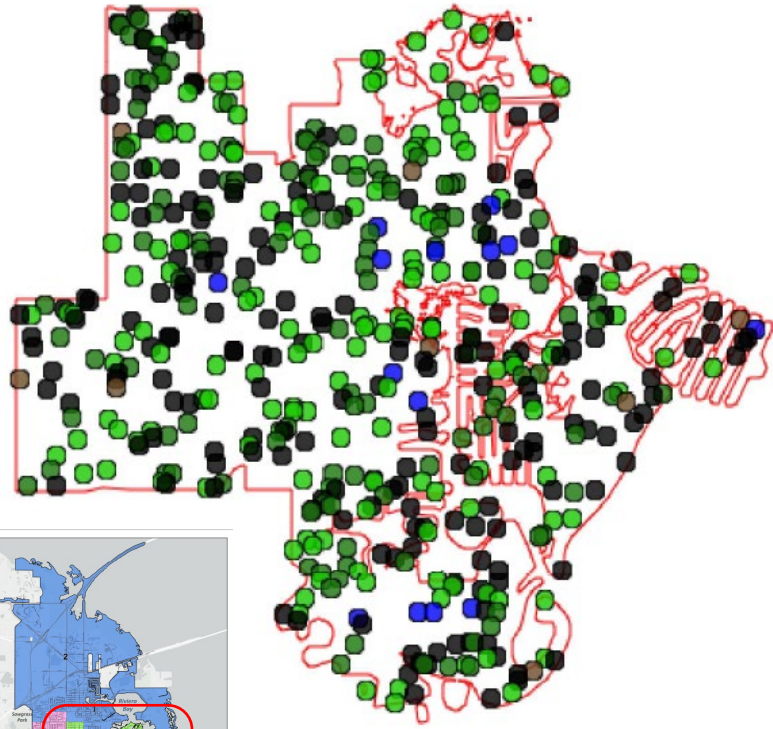


- Impervious
- Bare Earth
- Tree
- Vegetation
- Water

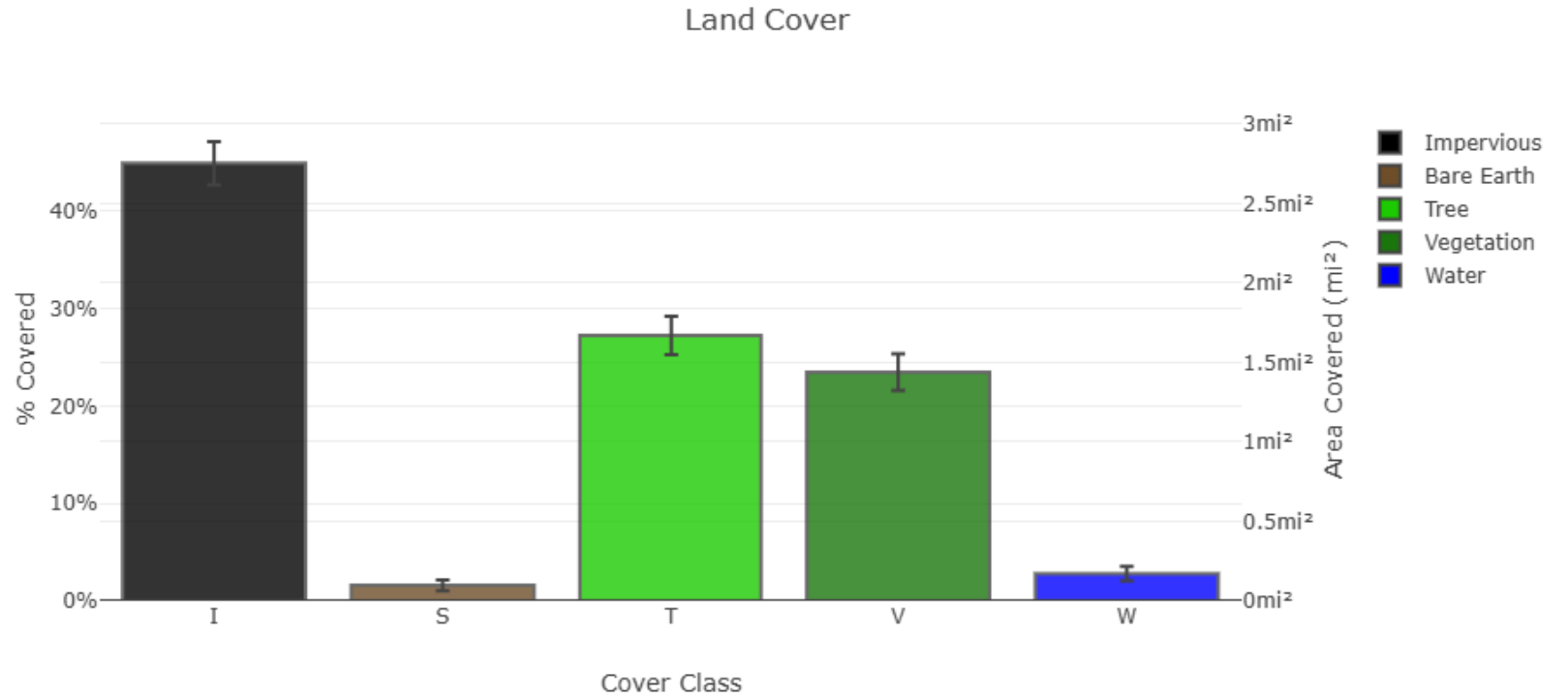
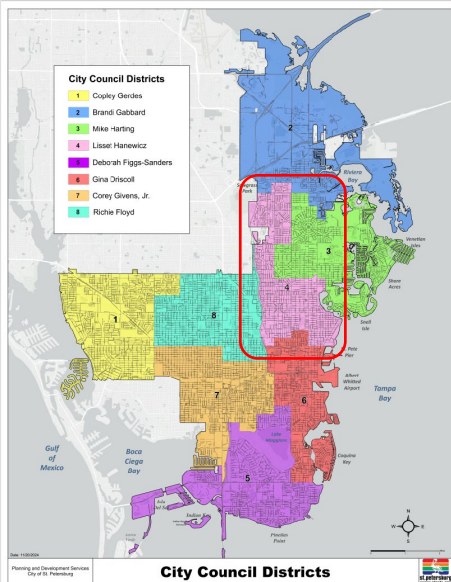
# DISTRICT 2 MODEL (POST STORM)



# DISTRICT 3 MODEL (POST STORM)

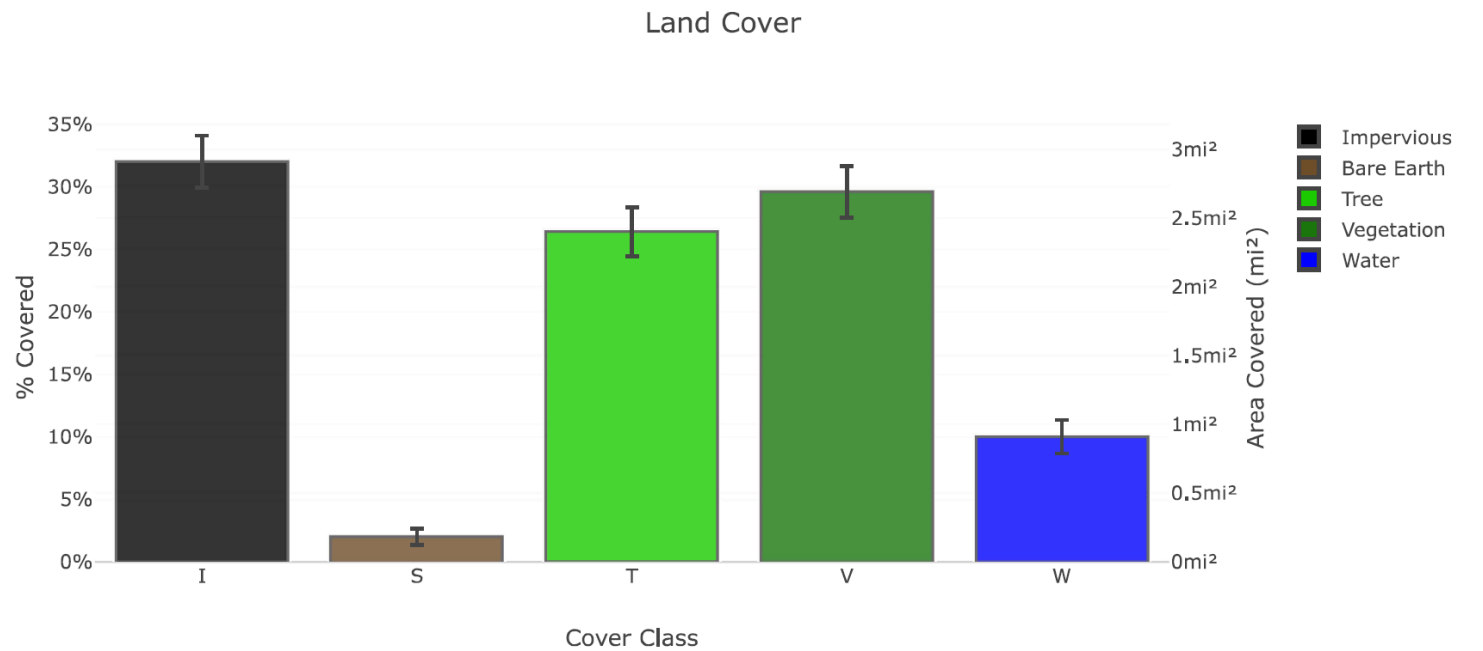
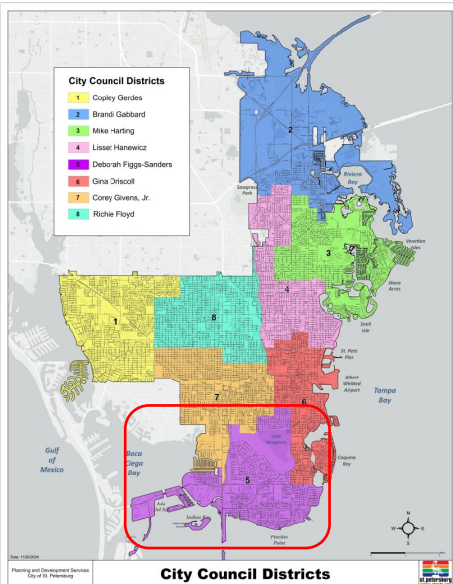
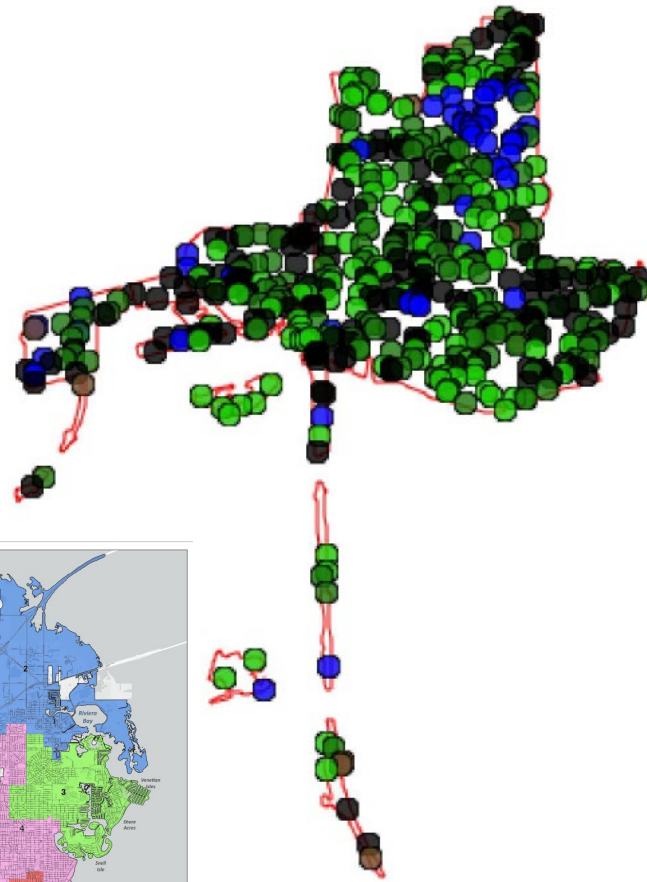


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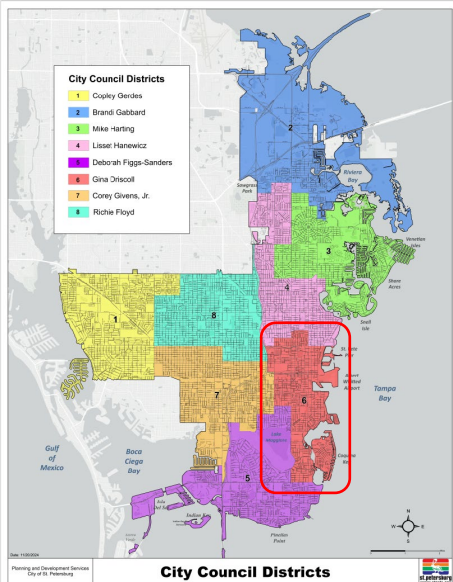


- Impervious
- Bare Earth
- Tree
- Vegetation
- Water

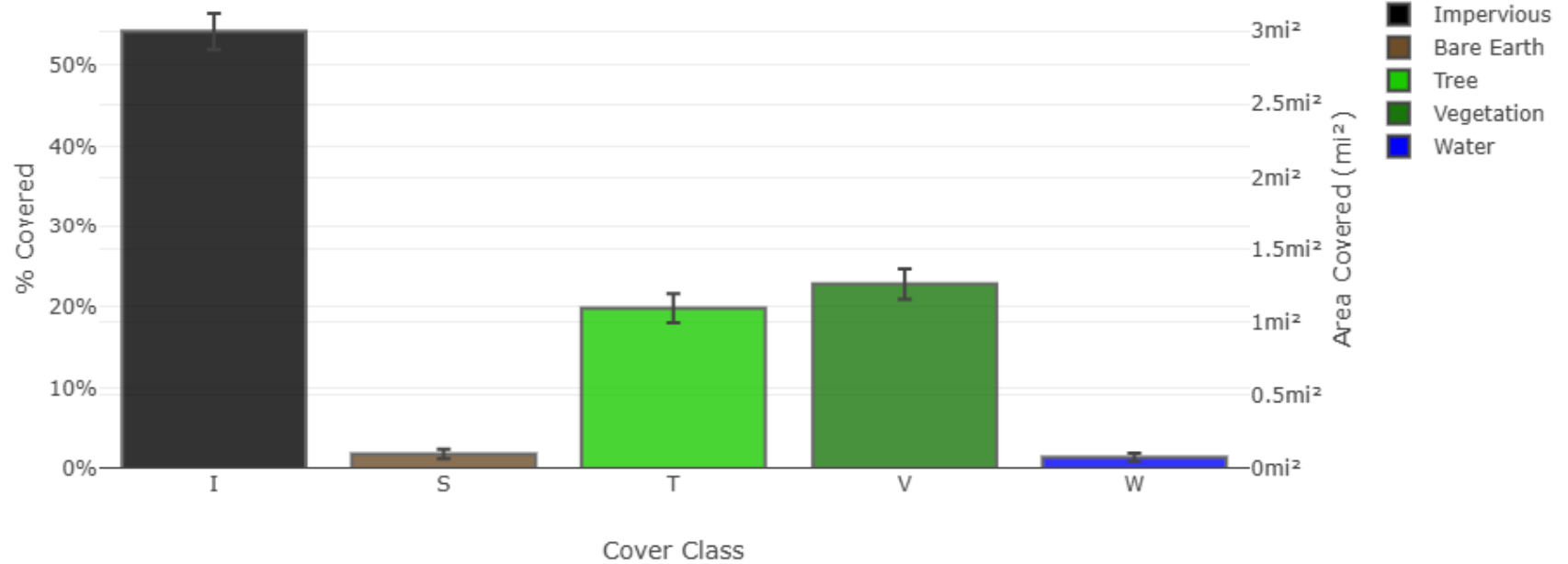
# DISTRICT 5 MODEL (POST STORM)



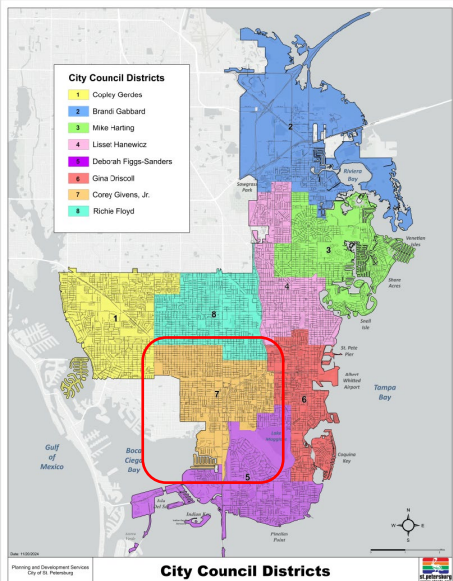
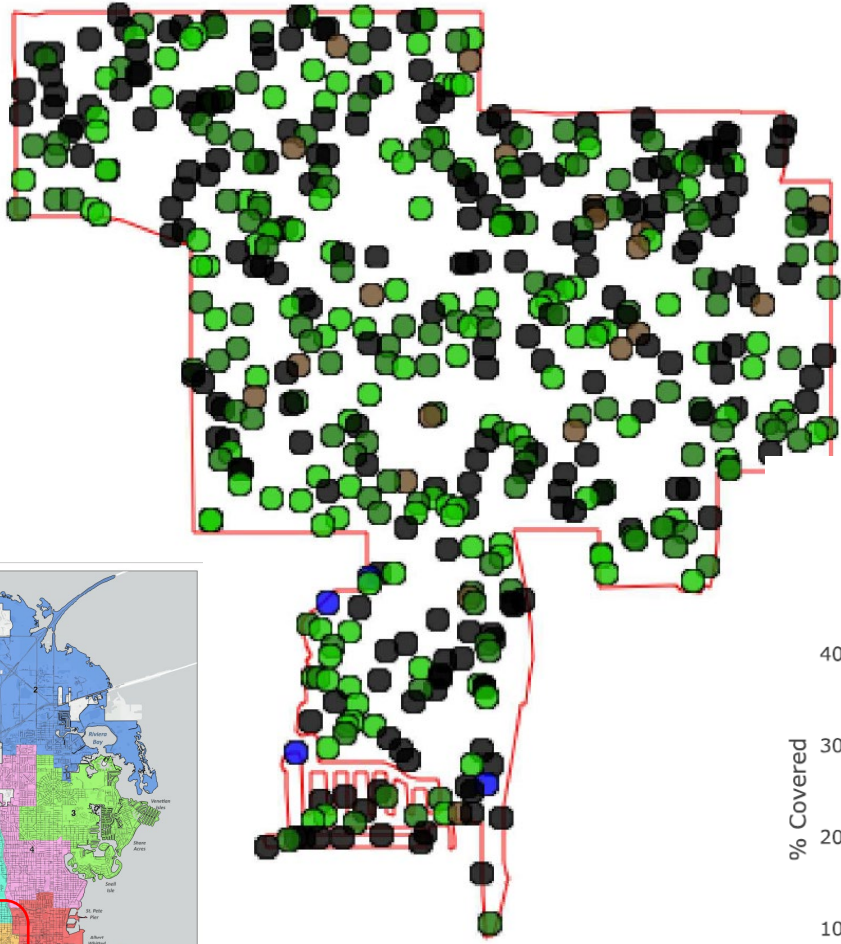
# DISTRICT 6 MODEL (POST STORM)



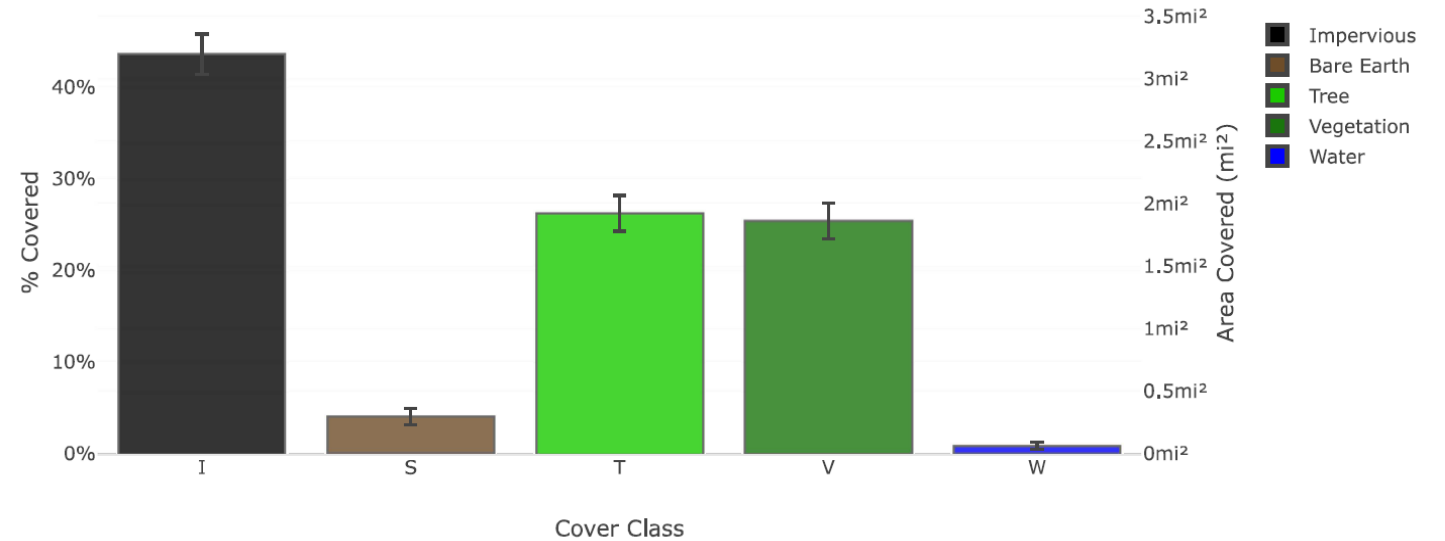
Land Cover



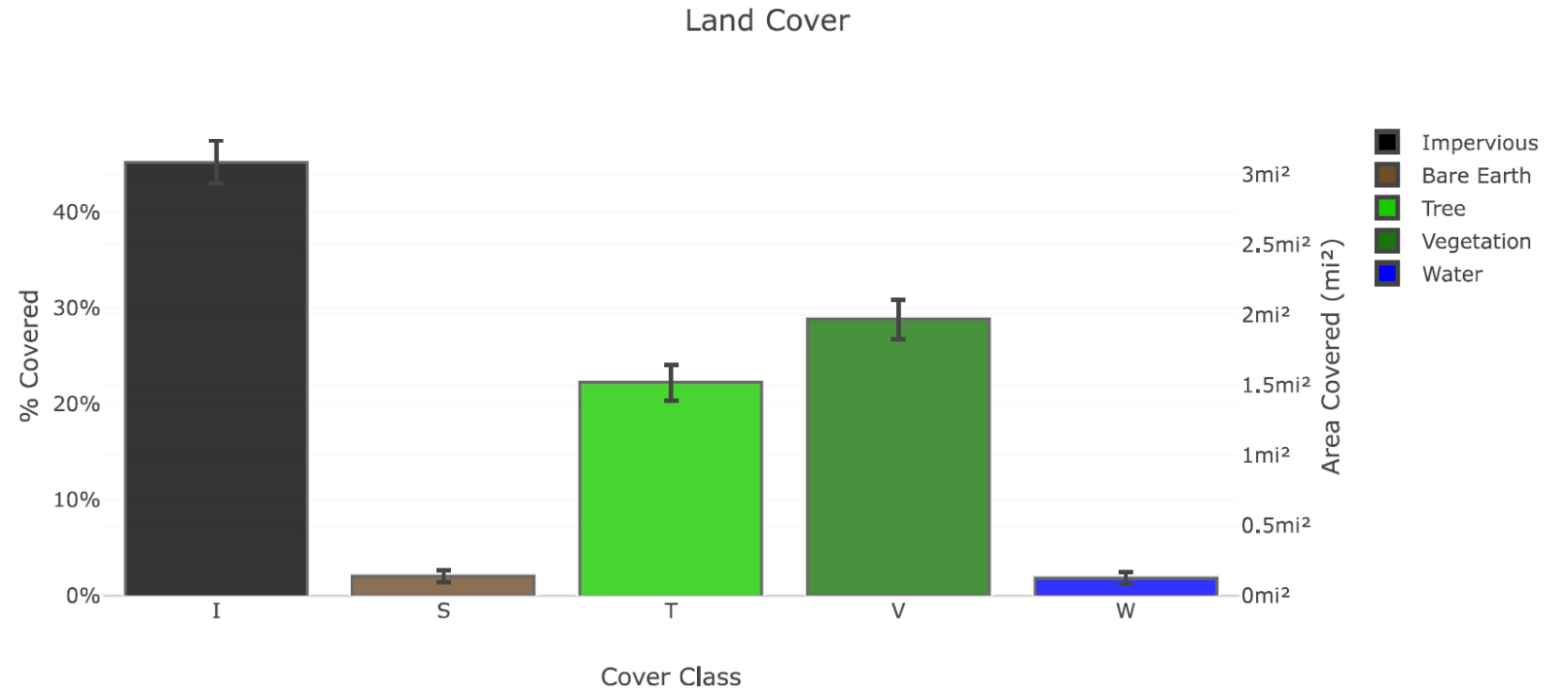
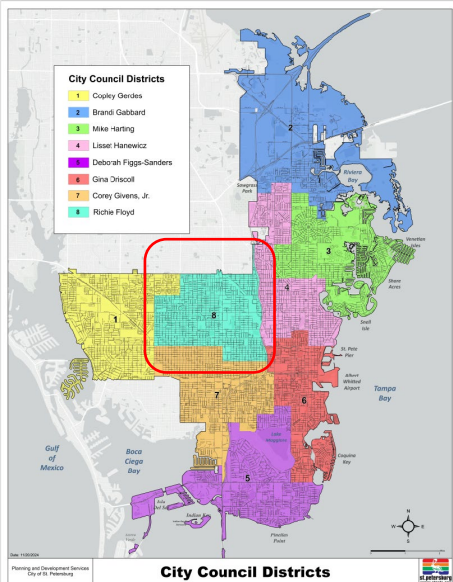
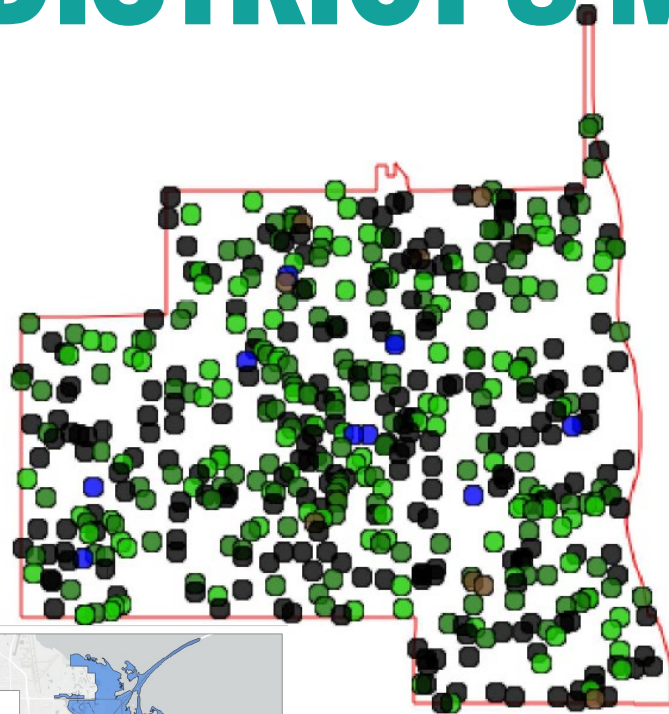
# DISTRICT 7 MODEL (POST STORM)



Land Cover



# DISTRICT 8 MODEL (POST STORM)



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA NEW BUSINESS ITEM

TO: Members of City Council

DATE: May 03, 2022

COUNCIL DATE: May 19, 2022

RE: Referral to the Health, Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Committee

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**ACTION DESIRED:**

Respectfully requesting a report to the Health, Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Committee regarding the implementation of a community food forest program. In addition, the discussion should focus on recurring funding from the general fund and with the initial seed funding coming from BP funds or other one-time funding sources.

Presenters to include our Urban Forester and Sustainability Coordinator, Chair or members of the Urban Forestry Committee, Chair or members of the St. Pete Food Policy Council, and any other relevant staff.

Council Vice-Chair Gabbard  
District 2

# COMMUNITY URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Bartlett Park  
Community Garden



15th Street Farm





# Brief History

- September 2022 Presented a Food Forest Pilot Overview to HERS
- September 2023 Requested HERS approval to use a portion of BP Settlement Funds for pilot
- March 2025 Plan presented to HERS

Food Forest Pilot Projects	Community Garden Expansion Projects
Services to provide technical assistance, project design, equipment, materials, and community engagement	Services to support additional capacity, provide professional guidance, equipment, materials, and community engagement
Eligible for existing or new urban ag spaces	Eligible for existing permitted garden locations
Preference for projects located in Healthy Food Priority Areas and USDA-defined Low Food Access Areas, to increase access to fresh food and green space.	Preference for gardens that serve the greatest number of people and gardens, Healthy Food Priority Areas, and USDA-defined Low Food Access Areas.



*Score sheet in development to assess applicant eligibility and prioritization criteria.*



# Priority Areas

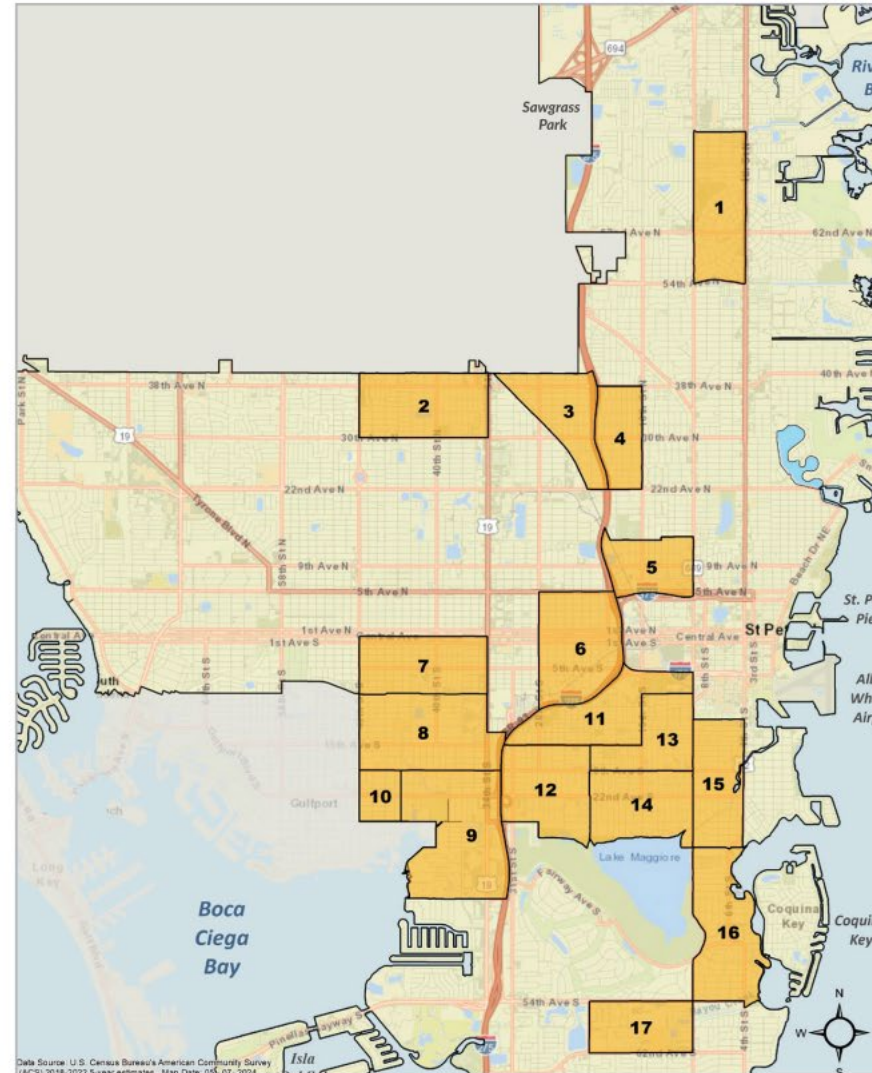
## Food Forest Pilot Projects

Preference for projects located in Healthy Food Priority Areas and USDA-defined Low Food Access Areas, to increase access to fresh food and green space.

## Community Garden Expansion Projects

Preference for gardens that serve the greatest number of people, Healthy Food Priority Areas, and USDA-defined Low Food Access Areas.

Healthy Food Action Plan, Healthy Food Priority Areas



Healthy St. Pete Parks & Recreation Department | City of St. Petersburg

## HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREAS

Map Number	Census Tract	Population	Below Poverty	Percent Below Poverty
1	244.03	4,276	672	15.7%
2	228.01	5,037	864	17.2%
3	230	2,864	488	17.0%
4	231	2,635	285	10.8%
5	234	1,782	483	27.1%
6	218	2,212	334	15.1%
7	220	3,114	801	25.7%
8	208	4,068	864	21.2%
9	201.09	2,808	589	21.0%
10	201.10	1,547	116	7.5%
11	287	1,530	552	36.1%
12	207	3,128	562	18.0%
13	212	2,478	1,082	43.7%
14	206	4,344	587	13.5%
15	205	3,463	1,255	36.2%
16	203.01	3,927	659	16.8%
17	202.08	2,486	308	12.4%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022 5-year estimates.



# Next Steps

## Listening Sessions

- OSR to hold 2 in-person listening sessions to understand the needs of community gardens and food access.
- Provide awareness of upcoming opportunities for both, potential community recipients and contractors.

## Community Workshops

- OSR to hold 3 workshops to provide an overview of the program, eligibility criteria, detailed guidance on how to apply, and guidance on the RFP process for professional services contractors.

## Grant Applications

- Community organizations and entities to be selected to receive support services from the awarded contractor.

## Select Professional Services Contractor

- RFP to select a local contractor to carry out professional services for planting, (re)developing, installing community gardens/food forests. These services will be professional support for above applicants.



# Metrics of Success



## Food Production & Distribution

- ✓ Total pounds of food produced at each site
- ✓ Document where the food goes (e.g., community members, food pantries, markets, mutual aid groups)
- ✓ Evaluate garden/forest performance over one year (three growing seasons after being established)

## Growth of Garden & Food Forest Network

- ✓ Updated inventory of permitted gardens and food forests across the city
- ✓ Track how many new gardens are permitted to participate in this program

## Community Satisfaction

- ✓ Track participation: number of volunteers/events, workshops, and partner organizations
- ✓ Document community satisfaction from feedback and engagement activities

## Investment & Resource Allocation

- ✓ Spending per site, per year, to understand cost-effectiveness and resource needs
- ✓ Compare funding levels across different project types





# Scaling Operations & Future Opportunities

## **ACTIONABLE NEXT STEPS**

The following is a list of actionable next steps, or initiatives, that St. Petersburg can implement as part of the Healthy Food Action Plan's goal of improving the city's food system and promoting health equity. Inherent in the effort to complete these items, tracking, research, and reporting of food systems related policies and programming will be essential.

### **Support Local Food Economy & Community Building**

Support diversified funding for local food systems grantmaking initiative

Increase capital support for existing local food retail strategies and programs

Incentivize citywide food production and processing

### **Improve Food Access & Security**

- Develop individual neighborhood food plans for Healthy Food Priority Areas
- Increase the number of affordable retailers in Healthy Food Priority Areas
- Create a formal network of urban food producers supplying individuals, institutions, and retailers

### **Strengthen Community Health & Wellness**

- Create municipal positions for food systems planning
- Develop a comprehensive food systems planning program
- Develop a citizen advisory council to inform and approve planning projects within the Healthy Food Priority Areas



# Scaling Operations & Future Opportunities

## Needs Assessment

This round of funding for the Community Urban Agriculture Program will provide the basis of a structured needs assessment. This assessment will guide future budget requests and external funding strategies. It will identify:

- Gaps in technical assistance, infrastructure, and community capacity
- Estimated costs for scaling gardens and food forests citywide
- Priority neighborhoods and long-term investment needs

## Grant Opportunities

Continue to pursue funds that support urban agriculture, food access, and community capacity-building. These external funds can expand both project types beyond the initial BP-funded pilot phase.

## Building an Urban Food Network

Partnerships with local farms, growers, and community organizations are laying the foundation for a coordinated Urban Food Network. This network will support knowledge-sharing, training, distribution pathways, and collaborative programming across St. Pete's urban agriculture ecosystem.



# Scaling Operations & Future Opportunities

## Pre-Qualified Local Vendor Pools (On-Call Contracts)

Create a roster of pre-approved contractors for services identified in the Needs Assessment. Community entities can request support without conducting their own procurement; the city can circulate through the roster as task orders come in or similar to a co-op, allow the community organizations select the contractor based on rate (\$) and needs.

## Community Urban Ag Co-op

Centralize purchasing of materials and services and share resources. With a co-op, the participants can share the cost of a bulk purchase (lower costs) and remove the need for navigating competitive bid processes.

A co-op can act as a fiscal agent for small groups that may not have a formal 501(c)(3) nonprofit status or administrative infrastructure such as grant management capacity, procurement systems, etc.

## Public Private Growing Agreements

City to partner with local farms, schools, businesses, housing authorities, faith organizations, and more to host food forests or gardens on their land with city support.

## Green Infrastructure & Food Hybrid Funding

Blend food production with stormwater benefits, heat mitigation, tree canopy goals by working with existing projects and pursuits for resilience funding and urban forestry grants.

# THANK YOU



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA NEW BUSINESS ITEM

TO: Members of City Council

DATE: March 5, 2026

COUNCIL DATE: March 26, 2026

RE: Referral to the Public Services and Infrastructure Committee for a Discussion on the designation of the City of St. Petersburg as a bird sanctuary.

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## **ACTION DESIRED:**

Respectfully requesting a referral to the Public Services and Infrastructure Committee for a discussion on the designation of the City of St. Petersburg as a bird sanctuary in accordance with Florida Administrative Code Rule 68A-19.002.

### **Attachment**

Florida Administrative Code Rule 68A-19.002

Council Member Gina Driscoll  
District 6

**68A-19.002 Establishment of Restricted Hunting Areas, and Bird Sanctuaries, Procedure.**

(1) The Commission may establish bird sanctuaries for the protection of all birds and other wildlife and restricted hunting areas within any developed area upon the written request of the local governmental body having jurisdiction over such areas. In requesting establishment of such restricted hunting areas or bird sanctuaries, the governing body shall, by proper resolution or ordinance, officially agree to assume the responsibility for enforcement of regulations of the Commission which apply to such areas, including posting the area boundary with signs bearing the words "RESTRICTED HUNTING AREA, Hunting by Special Permit Only" or "BIRD SANCTUARY, No Hunting" established by Rule 68A-19.002, F.A.C., which shall be placed at intervals of no more than 500 feet, be easily visible from any point of ingress or egress and provide other necessary notice of such area to the public. Said governing body shall agree to instruct its duly authorized law enforcement personnel to enforce said regulations within the area.

(2) Following receipt of the request of the governing body the Commission shall, through its staff, investigate to ensure that the tract under consideration is sufficiently developed as to preclude recreational hunting in the interest of safety and that its closure will not result in a denial of reasonable and lawful hunting opportunity.

(3) Action by the Commission for the establishment of restricted hunting areas or bird sanctuaries as recommended by its staff shall be taken at its July and January meetings.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 8-1-79, Amended 6-21-82, Formerly 39-19.02, Amended 5-10-87, 11-23-97, Formerly 39-19.002.*

**April 9, 2026**

**Subject: Request for Designation of the City of St. Petersburg as a Bird Sanctuary**

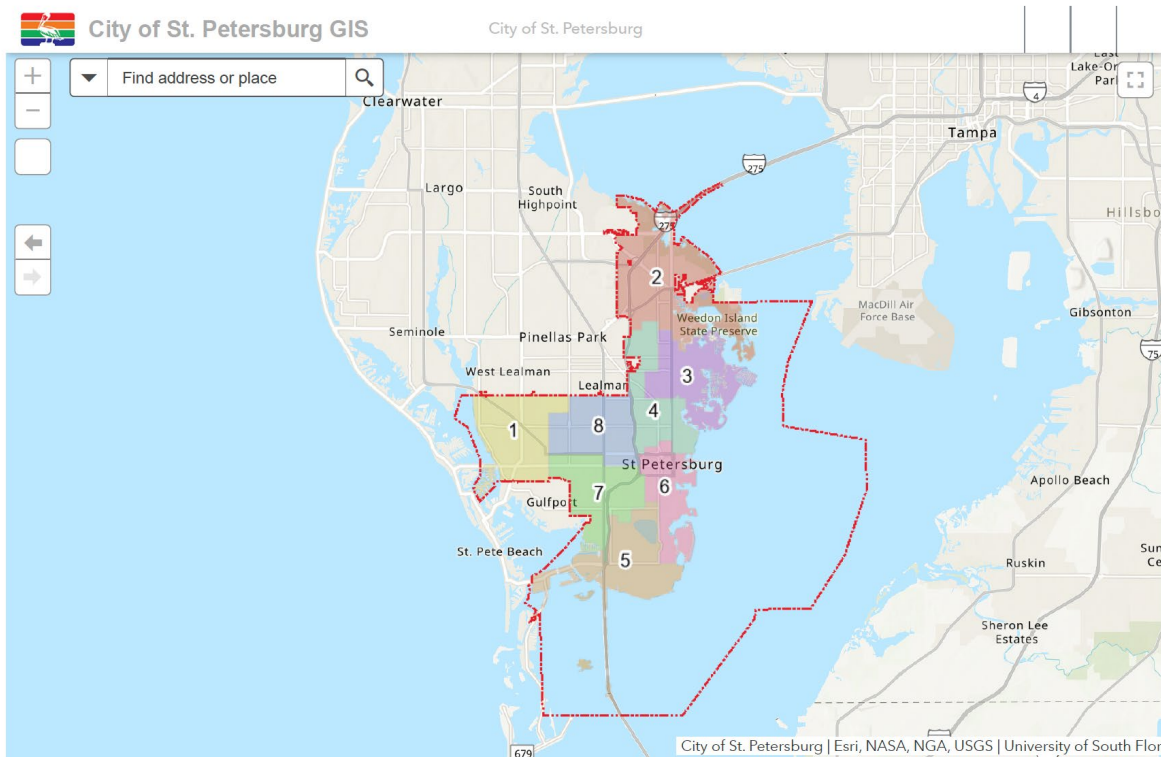
**To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

**From: The City of St. Petersburg**

**Request:** The City of St. Petersburg is requesting that Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission designate the City of St. Petersburg as a Bird Sanctuary for the protection of all birds pursuant to Fla. Admin. Code R. 68A-19.002.

**Location and Description:** The City of St. Petersburg is located in Pinellas County, Florida. With over 300 miles of coastline and several inland waterways and parks, the city provides a habitat for hundreds of bird species. The city serves as both a year-round home to native species as well as a seasonal stop for migratory birds. It is the desire of the City of St. Petersburg to protect these birds from being hunted or otherwise harmed within city limits. Pinellas County is the most densely populated county in the state, making the City of St. Petersburg's designation as a Bird Sanctuary essential for the protection of its residents in addition to its birds.

**Ownership and Management Authority:** The City of St. Petersburg has jurisdiction over the area for which the designation is requested. The City of St. Petersburg has the authority to enforce any violations that occur following its designation as a Bird Sanctuary.



AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG AMENDING THE CITY CODE RELATED TO ANIMALS; ADDING A NEW SECTION 4-10 DESIGNATING THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG AS A BIRD SANCTUARY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

**SECTION ONE.** Chapter 4, Article I, of the St. Petersburg City Code is hereby amended to add a new Section 4-10 to read as follows:

**Section 4-10. - City designated as bird sanctuary.**

- (a) *Bird Sanctuary.* The entire area within the City limits is hereby declared a bird sanctuary.
- (b) *Prohibition.* It shall be unlawful for any person within the City limits to shoot, kill, trap, or in any manner injure, disturb, or displace any bird of any kind or their eggs or young.
- (c) *Exemptions.*
  - (1) Any fowl raised within the limits of section 4-31 shall not be considered a “bird” for purposes of this section.
  - (2) The City shall have the authority to take any and all remedial actions to address any nuisance or threat to public health or property created by birds within the City.
- (d) *Signage.* The City will post area boundary signs in accordance with Florida Administrative Code 68-19.002.
- (e) *Penalty.* Any person who violates any provision of this section may have a penalty enforced against said person as provided in section 1-7.

**SECTION TWO.** Coding: As used in this ordinance, language appearing in struck-through type is language to be deleted from the City Code, and underlined language is language to be added to the City Code, in the section, subsection, or other location where indicated. Language in the City Code not appearing in this ordinance continues in full force and effect unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Sections of this ordinance that amend the City Code to add new sections or subsections are generally not underlined.

**SECTION THREE.** COMPLIANCE WITH § 166.041(4), FLORIDA STATUTES. Pursuant to City Council resolution 2023-507, a business impact estimate was prepared for this ordinance and posted on the City’s website no later than the date the notice of the proposed ordinance was published.

**SECTION FOUR.** The provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed to be severable. If any provision of this ordinance is determined unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such determination shall not affect the validity of any other provisions of this ordinance.

**SECTION FIVE.** In the event this Ordinance is not vetoed by the Mayor in accordance with the City Charter, it shall become effective after the expiration of the fifth business day after adoption unless the Mayor notifies the City Council through written notice filed with the City Clerk that the Mayor will not veto this Ordinance, in which case this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon filing such written notice with the City Clerk. In the event this Ordinance is vetoed by the Mayor in accordance with the City Charter, it shall not become effective unless and until the City Council overrides the veto in accordance with the City Charter, in which case it shall become effective immediately upon a successful vote to override the veto.

Approved as to Form:

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Assistant City Attorney  
(00000000)