



PELICAN LAKE WORKSHOP AGENDA

October 19, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Council Chambers – 340 Ocean Drive and YouTube

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84273958149?pwd=ckxqQkhQSnZkZHZvQlRUN2ErczY3UT09>

Meeting ID: 842 7395 8149

Passcode: 124495

(If you are participating via Zoom, please be sure to login at 2:45pm as the meeting will lock at 3pm and no other entries will be permitted.)

CALL TO ORDER

Mission Statement: *“The Town’s objectives are to achieve a healthy, vibrant lake and to promote native plant species for the well being of fish, waterfowl and birds.”*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Pelican Lake Maintenance
2. Discussion on Tree Trimming

ADJOURNMENT



Meeting Name: Pelican Lake Workshop
Meeting Date: October 19, 2023
Prepared By: C. Copeland-Rodriguez, Town Clerk
Item Title: Pelican Lake Maintenance

DISCUSSION:

At the September 13, 2023, Town Council Meeting, Council gave unanimous consensus to add a discussion on Pelican Lake Maintenance to the Pelican Lake Workshop agenda.

Prior to July 2020, the landscape maintenance for the property south of Town Center surrounding Pelican Lake had historically been the responsibility of the Public Works Department. The work involved mowing, limited edging and trimming. Also, limited tree trimming and clearing clippings from sidewalks and other aesthetic landscape activities. The area has always been well maintained but with a focus toward a natural look. In May of 2020, the Council requested staff to look into estimated costs to upgrade the level of maintenance to Pelican Lake to project a more manicured look.

On June 24, 2020, Council made a motion to upgrade landscape services around Pelican Lake, authorize the Town Manager to amend the existing landscape maintenance contract with Complete Property Maintenance, Inc. for \$3,225 for Pelican Lake services and forego the bidding process due to not being advantageous. The motion passed 4-1 with Vice Mayor Lyons opposed.

The currently approved manicured look involves edging, trimming and blowing; replacing mulch twice a year; no fertilizer; extra tree trimming; pulling weeds and removing debris; and hedge trimming.



Meeting Name: Pelican Lake Workshop
Meeting Date: October 19, 2023
Prepared By: D. Dyess, Town Manager
Item Title: Discussion on Tree Trimming

DISCUSSION:

At the last Pelican Lake Workshop, a discussion was had about the trimming of the palm trees. There was concern about pruning the trees back and a desire to leave them uncut. I agreed to not prune the trees and they have filled in with a large portion of dead fronds around the bottom.

Public works is now spending a lot of time picking up dead fronds from the ground. With any windstorm staff has to pick up throughout the town two and sometimes three times a day. While I agree the hurricane cut is not what should be done, I would like to have a conversation about pruning at the 9 and 3. Please see the attached IFAS pruning recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and come to an agreement on pruning.

Pruning shade trees in the landscape

Pruning palms

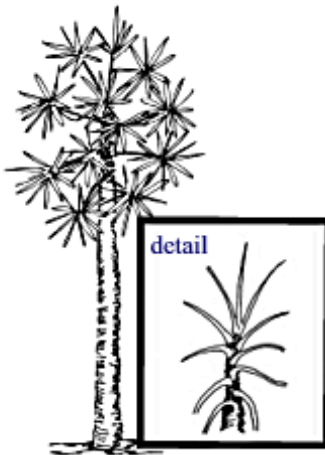
Edward F. Gilman¹ and Nathan J. Eisner²

Introduction: Palms and cycads are often thought of as low maintenance plants; however, most palms require regular pruning to keep them attractive and safe. Many palms maintain a set number of live fronds. A regular turnover of foliage occurs as dying lower fronds are replaced by new ones at the apex. These dead fronds are not detrimental to the health of the tree. If there is an excessive number of older yellow fronds determine the cause before pruning. There could be a severe nutrient problem, caused by a potassium or magnesium deficiency, that could worsen if the palm is pruned or fertilized with high nitrogen or the wrong type of fertilizer.

There are several reasons for pruning palms **1)** Removing dead and dying lower fronds improves the appearance of a palm. **2)** Dead and dying fronds and loose petioles are weakly attached to some palms and can place people and property at risk should they fall from tall palms. People have been severely injured by falling fronds. Dead and dying palm fronds should be removed regularly to reduce this risk. **3)** Pruning can remove fruit clusters, especially in public landscapes where falling fruit and flower debris can be messy as well as hazardous. Some palms generate copious amounts of seedlings near the plant. Removing flowers or fruit reduces the number of potential seedlings. **4)** Remove sprouts from the base of the trunk.

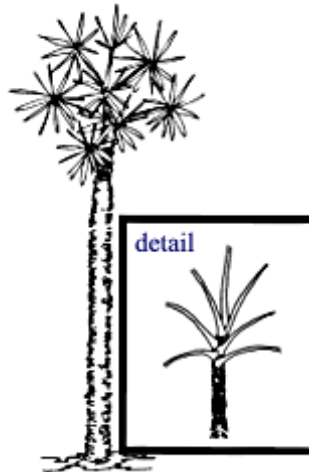
Objectives: **1)** Remove dead and dying fronds and developing flowers and fruits to reduce risk and enhance aesthetics; **2)** remove sprouts or stems to maintain one trunk.

before pruning



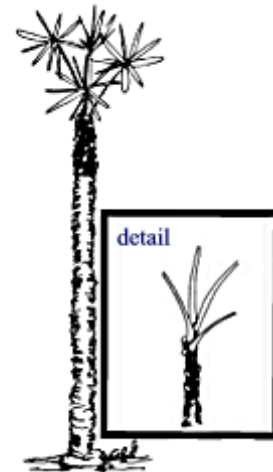
Consider removing lower fronds that are chlorotic or dead. There is no biological reason to remove live green fronds on palms. There is no research supporting the notion that removing live green fronds reduces future pruning requirements.

after pruning



Remove lower fronds that are dead or more than about half chlorotic. Do not remove green fronds or the palm could become stressed. (If you decide to remove green fronds, do not remove those growing horizontally or pointed upward.)

over-pruning



Over-pruned palms look terrible and could attract pests. In the detail above you can see that many upright fronds were removed. Why remove green fronds when the palm was planted for its tropical look. That tropical look results from live green fronds.

Execution: It is preferable not to remove live, healthy fronds. If they must be removed, however, avoid removing fronds that are growing horizontally or those growing upward. Fronds removed should be severed close to the petiole base without damaging living trunk tissue. There is little reason to shave or sand the trunk smooth. The pineapple shape crafted at the base of date palms is not necessary for good health of the palm.

Further information:

- 1) Gilman, E.F. 2002. Illustrated guide to pruning, second edition. Delmar Publishers, Albany, NY. 330pp.
- 2) Gilman, E.F. 2001. Illustrated pruning and planting CDROM. Horticopia, Inc., Purcellville, VA.
- 3) American National Standards Institute (ANSI A300). 1995. *American National Standard for Tree Care Operations – Tree, Shrub and Other Woody Plant Maintenance – Standard Practices*. New York: American National Standards Institute.

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