



CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEMPLE TERRACE WINS TWO PLANNING & DESIGN AWARDS

TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – (10/18/13) – The City of Temple Terrace took home two trophies Thursday night in the 2013 awards presented by the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission.

The *31st Annual Planning & Design Awards* were announced Oct. 17 during a banquet at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa. The Planning Commission received nearly 30 entries for this year's awards program, officials said. The program invites submissions from planners, architects, builders, developers, residents, community groups, local governments and others that provide examples of sound planning and good design in Hillsborough County. Fifteen awards were issued this year, officials said.

The Temple Terrace Community Development Department was honored with the prestigious *Executive Director's Award* for its development of a citywide Golf Cart Program. The program, enacted last year, allows residents to operate registered golf carts on city streets and "contributes to the city's goal of creating a truly multimodal transportation network with alternative modes of transportation and a community that is less dependent on the automobile," project managers wrote.

"It is an honor and privilege to be the recipient of the Executive Director's Award," said Community Development Director Charles Stephenson. "Such recognition emphasizes the efforts of the city's commitment to being a truly multimodal community. It was a great project to work on, one the entire community can benefit from and enjoy."

The department also shared an *Award of Merit* with the city's Code Compliance Department and Parks & Recreation Division for the creation of an Adopt-A-Tree program. The tree project is held in conjunction with the Code Compliance Department's monthly neighborhood sweeps. Volunteer groups help plant trees in residents' yards, at no cost to homeowners, to help restore the city's urban forest.

“We are honored by The Planning Commission’s recognition of our tree-planting efforts,” said Code Compliance Director Joe Gross, who spearheaded the program with Parks Planner Dana Carver. “The program’s popularity has relied on the many adoptee homeowners, our shovel sponsors and monthly volunteers, and the ongoing support of our elected officials and department colleagues. The outlook for a rejuvenated urban forest in Temple Terrace is very promising.”

More than 200 people attended this year’s awards banquet, hosted by Tampa Electric Co. The ceremony was emceed by ABC Action News anchor Brendan McLaughlin.

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