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Trees affected by I-595 expansion relocated to new homes in Davie

By Scott Fishman, Forum Publishing Group

March 27, 2010A recent project saved and relocated 336 trees in Davie that would have otherwise been destroyed by the Interstate 595 expansion project.

Nearby cities also were involved, moving 15 to 50 trees. A majority of the trees were root pruned months ahead of time and moved using backhoes, a crane and large trucks.

Royal palm, pitch apple, slash pine, red maple, crape myrtle and other trees were taken to Davie parks and street medians in need of canopy. Bamford Park, Waverly Park, Shenandoah Parkway and other Davie locales are a little greener thanks to the effort.

"Davie viewed this as a great opportunity to save 336 trees and increase the tree canopy in town at virtually no cost to the town," said town spokesman Braulio Rosa. "The survival rate of the trees has been very good at over 95 percent. Overall, the project was a tremendous success."

Each of the trees had to be hand watered following their planting. The goal was to put trees in all areas of the town.

Tim Lee, Davie's urban forester, attended several meetings with the Florida Department of Transportation to plan the project. Most of the work on the six-month endeavor, funded through an FDOT grant, was done by Dixie Landscape.

Due in part to this project, the town's landscape division recently received the 2009 Outstanding Urban Forestry Program award by the Florida Urban Forestry Council.

"We are honored to receive this prestigious award for our program," Lee said. "It's the highest award that an urban forestry program can receive in the state of Florida, and it is very nice to be recognized by our peers for all the hard work that we have put into the program."

The town also was named a Tree City USA Community by the Arbor Day Foundation. It's the 18th year that Davie got this national recognition.

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