



Formed to preserve, promote and celebrate our world class trees

June 2023 Progress Update

Grant Awards:

- 1) **Mobile Tree Commission Agreement in Principle:** At its regular May meeting, The Tree Commission voted unanimously, with one noted abstention, to approve FOMT's request to match FOMT funding to purchase 20 Eastern red cedar or a comparable species (or \$1400, whichever is less) to replant Airport Boulevard's Phase 1 (Montlimar Drive to I-65). This completes funding for Phase 1. The City of Mobile's Urban Forestry Department is drawing up a detailed map of the exact locations of the trees to be replaced.
- 2) **Alabama Power "Good Roots" Grant:** FOMT has accepted a \$1000 stand-alone grant from Alabama Power's grants group. This is FOMT's first public grant ever, so it represents a major milestone in our non-profit's mission for the trees and those of us in their shade. This money is earmarked for Airport Blvd. Replanting Phase 2 (Montlimar Drive to Azalea Road).
- 3) **Mobile Council District 5 Discretionary Grant:** FOMT thanks Council member Joel Daves for supporting Phase 2 of the Airport Boulevard Replanting with a verbal pledge of \$5000 towards tree purchases.
- 4) **National Fish and Wildlife Fund:** NFWF notified us that its Coastal Resiliency Fund received eight times more grant applications than needed to fill their annual allocation. A NFWF rep told us that we met every eligibility requirement and that their inability to fund Phase 2 does not at all reflect on the project's merits, but only due to having so many eligible applications. NFWF encourages us to seek additional funding in future grant cycles.
- 5) **Inflation Reduction Act Funding:** Due to the City delays in mapping Airport Phase 1, FOMT is missing the deadline to apply for a direct federal grant to fund Airport Blvd replanting Phase 2 (Montlimar to Azalea) through the new Federal Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program. FOMT can still apply sometime late summer for a share in the Federal IRA pass-through grant coming directly to Alabama. The annual amount is larger than most states' allocation, 3.375 million dollars, yet is substantially less than the state's previously anticipated 10 million. FOMT meets all eligibility requirements and is SAM.gov approved. Yet, due to the smaller state allocation, the state advises us that competition will likely be stiff.

6) Gulf Coast RC&D Council: Our application was submitted on time and in good order utilizing all available data. A Council decision is expected in October for potential project implementation in Fiscal Year 2024 (starts Oct. 1).

7) Additional Grant Opportunities: We are in touch with Dale Dickens at Alabama Forestry about other potential grants coming later in the year.

8) "Founding Friends" Campaign: continues with a minimum donation of \$100 as one of the many potential local matching funding sources. Mail your tax deductible contributions to our PO Box below.

Recently Completed Projects:

- 1) **Environmental Center** (Salt Air Road): Mobile County planted four of our donated live oaks the week of May 15th at its Environmental Center site on Salt Air Road in South Mobile County.
- 2) **Escatawpa Hollow Park:** Mobile County has planted 10 FOMT live oaks, an in-kind donation from our Advisor Phillip Dodd, near the new campground on the Mississippi line at Highway 98. When completed, Escatawpa Hollow Park will be Mobile County's Northwest welcome site.

Advisory Council Appointment: FOMT is very pleased that David Roberts, a former long-time advisor of the City of Mobile's Traffic Division, has joined our advisory council to advise us on urban tree projects that interface with vehicular traffic. To see his brief biographical sketch, visit the Advisor Board page on our website www.mobiletrees.org

Promotion: mobiletrees.org: FOMT's web curator Dr. Ann Jurgens-Pond is continuing to upgrade our interactive website with many helpful features. Check us out to see what's new. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

FOMT Facebook page: created to reach additional Mobilians not signed up for FOMT's Facebook Group page which has seen membership top 800 members!

Instagram: FOMT's website is now linked to Instagram for additional reach.

ArtWalk: FOMT now conducts business sessions in Cathedral Square at 5 PM after "set up" ends and before visitors arrive at 6 PM. This gives us a full hour to conduct routine business and then promote FOMT at ArtWalk. This substantially reduces members' meeting and travel time. **Our next quarterly business meeting is July 14th.** Bring your ideas, enthusiasm and checkbook and become a Founding Friend with a tax-deductible contribution to:

FOMT P.O. Box 8072, Mobile, Alabama 36689