

Jim Kornas

Subject: FW: Root Barrier - question from Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee

From: Czaplewski, Ryan J. <rczaplewski@ufl.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 3:14 PM
To: Linda Scherzinger <scherz17@yahoo.com>
Cc: Jim Kornas <jkornas@cityofmarcoisland.com>
Subject: RE: Root Barrier - question from Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee

Hi Linda,

Sorry I had been teaching a few classes and in/out of meetings, below is some of the information on root barriers. Like we had discussed, root barriers are not a full proof method of keeping tree roots away from utilities or sidewalks. While they do work to some extent, at some point in time they will fail.

Root growth barriers - Roots - Landscape plants - Edward F. Gilman - UF/IFAS

The Use of Root Barriers to Protect Infrastructure from Roots – Tree maintenance, analysis, and preservation specialists

As for the shallow rooted trees, I am still waiting to hear back from a few colleagues, but some good options are the black olive “shady lady” (*Terminalia buceras*) as well as Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)

Thank you,

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From: Linda Scherzinger <scherz17@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 8:55 AM
To: Czaplewski, Ryan J. <rczaplewski@ufl.edu>
Cc: Jim Kornas <jkornas@cityofmarcoisland.com>
Subject: Root Barrier - question from Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee

Good Morning,

My name is Linda Scherzinger and I'm on the Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee. We are working on a project (first started by our former Chair, David Leaser) to increase the tree canopy on Marco Island. We've successfully placed trees along one side of one of our major thoroughfares, however, the other side has water main lines/pipes. Our

Water & Sewer Management Dept is reluctant to let us plant trees on that side of all of our roads because they fear the tree roots will encroach upon/break the pipes. However, they have asked if there is some type of root barrier we could utilize to enable the right tree in those places.

I reached out to the Naples Botanical Garden for assistance and Kristen Hood recommended that I contact you. Are you available to have a conversation with me about this topic?

Thanks so much in advance,

Linda Scherzinger

Vice Chair, Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee

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