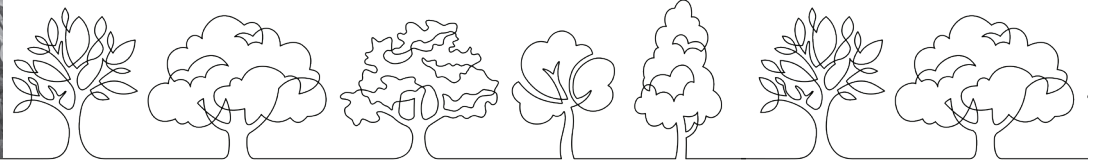




# From THE DESK TRUCK of

**BILL STINEHART**  
CITY OF SUWANEЕ ARBORIST &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER



If you needed a hip replacement, you wouldn't make an appointment with your dermatologist; nor would you seek out a surgeon who wasn't board certified. It's risky to hire someone without the right credentials to work on anything that you are invested in. The City of Suwanee also felt that way, which is why they hired an International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist with 30 years of experience to manage the trees within our community. (That's me.)

**Healthy trees serve many purposes – from providing oxygen to reducing erosion and water runoff, reducing energy cost to improving air quality, providing shade, creating wildlife habitats and of course, aesthetically improving the landscape while increasing property values.**

Part of my job at the city is planting and caring for trees so they that they become established for shade, energy savings, beauty, and habitats for local fauna. I oversee the **planting of over 150 trees annually** in various subdivisions and common, public areas to insure adequate shade canopy throughout the city. Besides maintaining new and existing trees, we also removing harmful, non-native plants, helping to further care for and allow our community forest to thrive. Additionally, the arborist team frequently presents educational tree seminars to subdivisions and Homeowner Associations.

We are also working to actively increase the community forest by reserving land around the city in natural, undisturbed areas, preserving habitat and ecosystems at the same time. **The City of Suwanee has increased its parks and greenspace to more than 325 acres since 2001.** Currently within the city limits, there are ten parks, 160 acres of preserved lands, and over 630 acres of protected wetland areas and stream buffers.

Suwanee's various public and private tree enhancement and preservation initiatives are robust and have

been in place for a number of years. During property development for most sites, new developments are required to provide common areas set aside for trees and other vegetation. On some occasions, the city also requires projects to include small pocket parks for both the community and animals to enjoy. We continue to work with builders and developers to **save large, specimen trees** by adequate root protection buffers during construction, deep injection fertilizers, and disease and pest control.

The National Arbor Day Foundation has qualified Suwanee as a Tree City USA every year since 1990 for our commitment to the community forest, the laws we have in place to protect and increase our tree population, and for participation in the Arbor Day program.

For the past 32 years, the city has celebrated Arbor Day by planting new trees in different areas around town. In 2021, volunteers planted over 100 trees at the Arbor Day celebration alone. **I encourage individuals, families, scouts, and other groups to join us on Saturday, February 26 at 10 am in Sims Lake Park.** Those interested can contact me at [bstinehart@suwanee.com](mailto:bstinehart@suwanee.com) or 770 904-3381 for more information.

**Bill Stinehart is an ISA-certified arborist and horticulturist with 30 years of horticultural and irrigation management experience.** *Bill designs and maintains the shrub-tree health and annual flower-color program throughout the City of Suwanee. His favorite tree is the American fringe (*chionanthus virginicus*).*

