

Venetian Trees are defined in Code. Sec. 118-4 as: A tree of native or non-native species, that has significance, desirability, or utility to the community.

Provide a brief description of the tree and why you feel it qualifies as a Venetian Tree:

I am nominating the Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) located in the back yard of 232 Gulf Drive in Venice as a Venetian Tree because it plays an important ecological role in Venice and needs intervention to survive.

The oak is likely more than 50 years old and its trunk is over 10 feet wide. Its canopy supports a variety of wildlife, and I regularly observe Great Horned Owls, Blue Jays, Mockingbirds, Red-Bellied Woodpeckers and their young, and Red-Shouldered Hawks. The tree's roots support the banks of Deertown Gully that is threatened by erosion and future sea level rise. The tree is part of a corridor of trees along Deertown Gully including a wooded strip of land along the Corso (see map below) that provide habitat, filter stormwater, prevent erosion, reduce temperature and wind speed, absorb sound from the airport, and beautify the area.

Unfortunately, like many of Florida's natural resources, the oak has suffered mistreatment. I discovered that the gardener hired by the previous owners had done some improper pruning and covered its root base with many layers of plastic and a heavy layer of stones. I contacted a certified arborist at Simply Trees who believes that the tree can be saved and improve with intervention. The proposed restoration is very expensive (see attached proposal with photos) and a grant from the Venetian Tree Program will help me be able to save this beneficial and beautiful giant.

