

WELCOME

Tree Policy Workshop
4/23/26



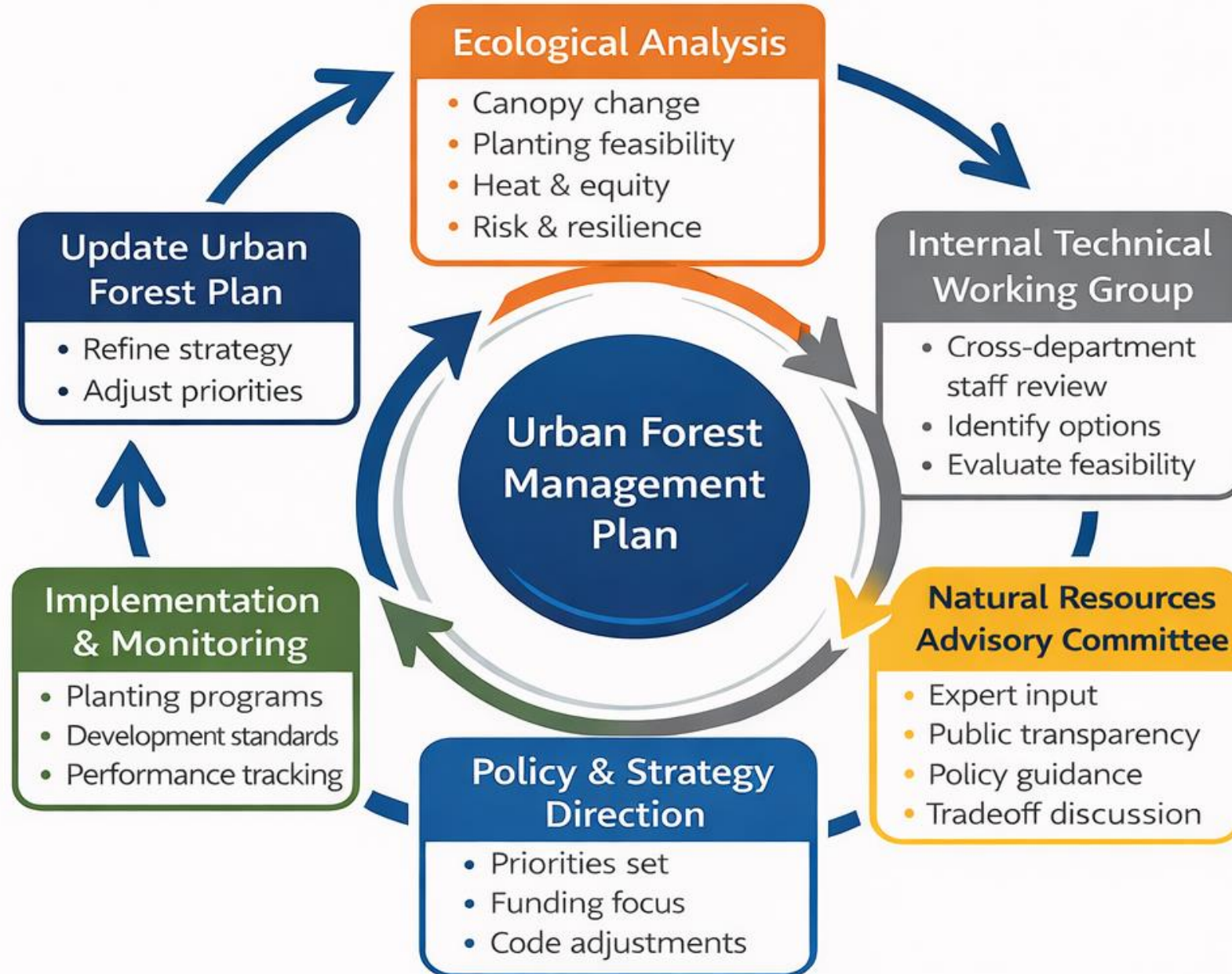
Outline

1. Urban Forest Master Plan Overview
2. Post-Storm Canopy Analysis (USF)
3. Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC)
4. Background & Context
5. Resources
6. Planting Programs
7. Fees & Enforcement
8. Policy

A blurred image of a city skyline at night, with various buildings and lights visible against a dark blue sky. The image is out of focus, creating a bokeh effect.

1: Urban Forest Master Plan Overview

How Tampa Guides Urban Forest Decisions





2: Post-Storm Canopy Analysis Presentation

File No. CM26-20528

Ecological Analysis

- Canopy change
- Planting feasibility
- Heat & equity
- Risk & resilience

University of South Florida to make a 15-minute presentation on the Post Storm Tree Canopy Assessment. *(Original motion initiated by Hurtak-Maniscalco on January 8, 2026.)*

Post-Hurricane Changes to Tree Canopy and Resident's Relationships with Trees

Tampa City Council Presentation

Dr. Shawn Landry
School of Geosciences
University of South
Florida

Dr. Rebecca Zarger
Department of
Anthropology
University of South Florida

Rory McKenna, M.A.
Department of
Anthropology
University of South Florida

Dr. Andrew Koeser
Gulf Coast Research
and Education Center
University of Florida

Background

- The Urban Ecological Analysis (Canopy Analysis) has been updated every five years since 2007.
- Most recent Canopy Analysis was completed in 2021.
- Due to the impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, City Council requested an interim, GIS-based assessment, to estimate storm-specific impacts to the canopy.
- In 2026, staff will be bringing a contract forward for the five-year update to the Canopy Analysis.

Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton

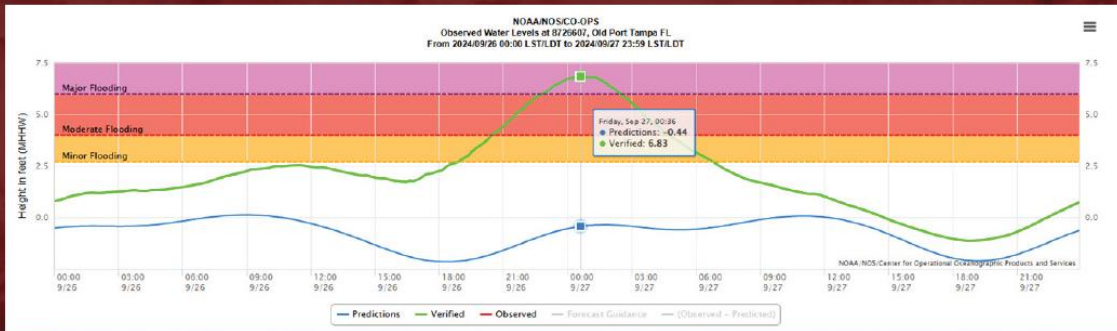
HURRICANE HELENE

Landfall: September 26, 2024



WIND	60-70mph peak wind gusts, max. of 68mph near KTPA
RAIN	2-5 inches, max. total of 4.55" near Temple Terrace
SURGE	Peak water level of 7.2 ft. above MHHW measured at East Bay - surpassing previous site record of 4.56 ft. above MHHW set during Hurricane Idalia on August 30, 2023

Helene brought record surge



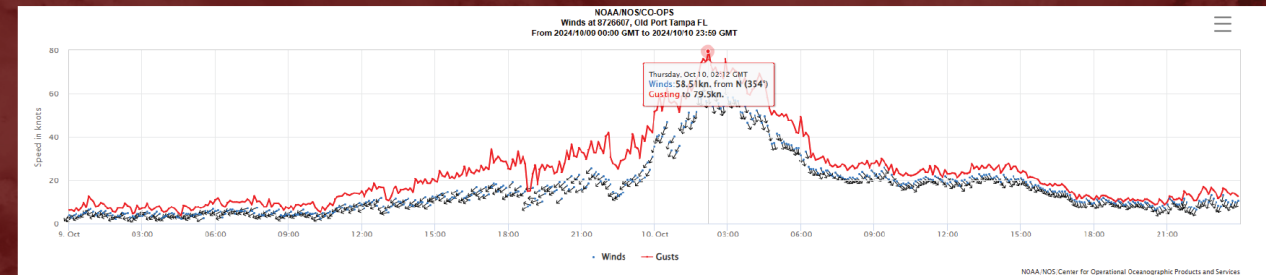
HURRICANE MILTON

Landfall: October 9, 2024

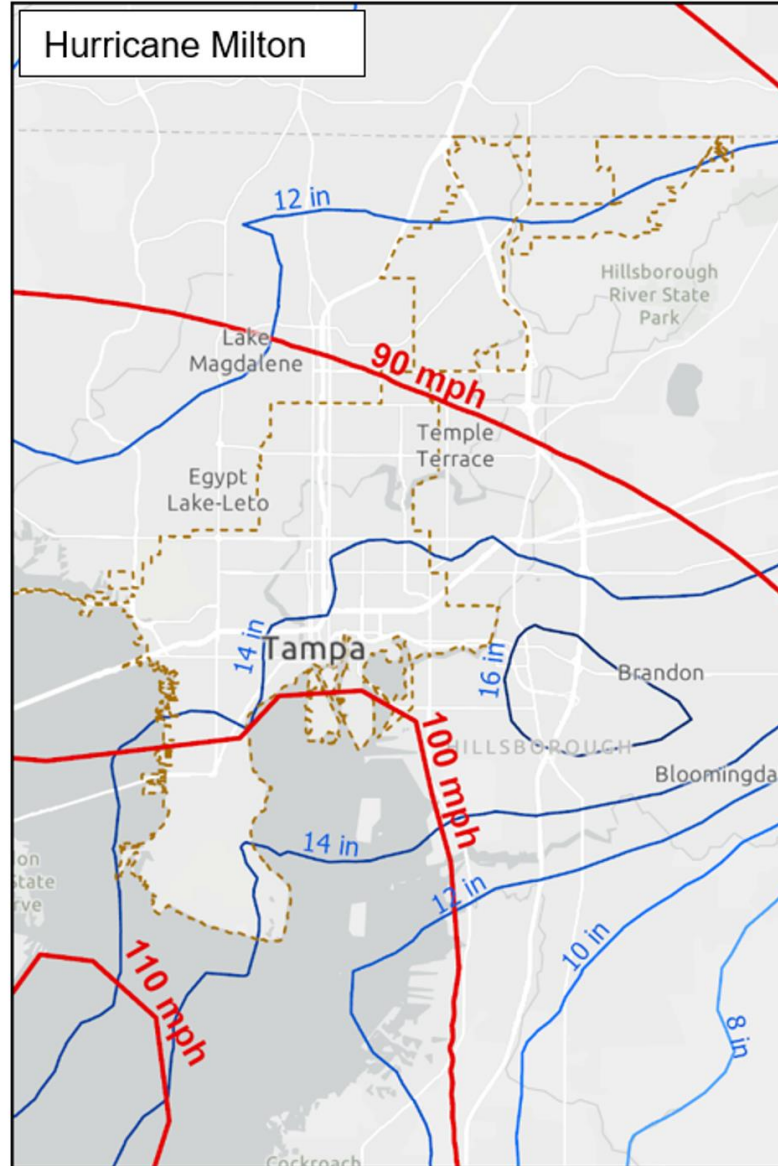
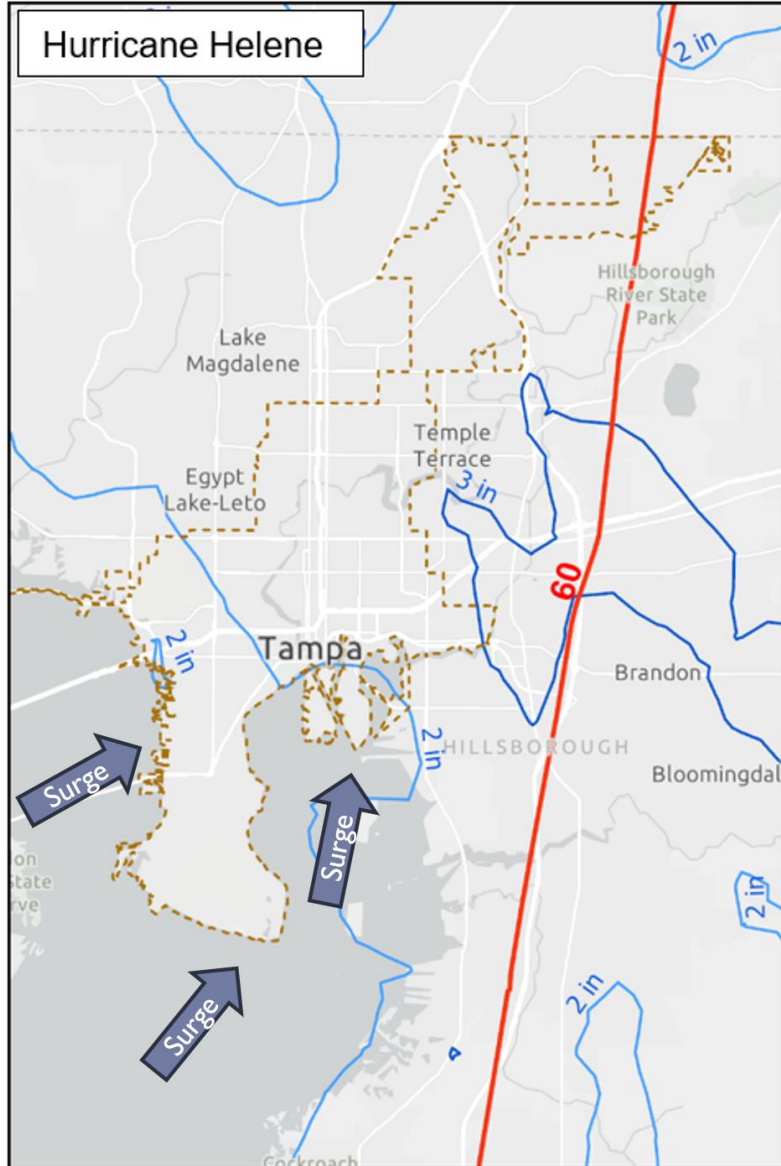


WIND	80-100 mph peak wind gusts , max. of 93 mph near KTPA
RAIN	11.43 in. - second highest 1-day total for KTPA , just shy of all-time record of 11.45 in. set on May 8, 1979
SURGE	Peak water levels of <1 ft. above MHHW

Milton brought record rainfall and strong winds



Impacts Varied: Peak Wind, Rainfall and Surge



Back-to-back storms and saturated soils exacerbated the effect of the winds during Milton

Purpose of this study

- Quantify Post-storm Tree Canopy Loss
- Follow-up on 2021 survey to see if tree preferences changed as a result of the hurricanes



Post-Storm Tree Canopy Change Analysis



Methods

- Canopy Change
 - January 2024 (pre-storm) to January 2025 (post-storm)
- Most Canopy Loss was Likely Due to Storms
- Canopy/not-canopy Dot-based Method (US Forest Service)
- 13,294 Random Points (all land use categories)
- Three photo-interpreters plus one adjudicator (i.e., me)



Most Canopy Loss was Likely Due to Storms

Canopy loss between January 2024 and January 2025 was not entirely due to storms, however...

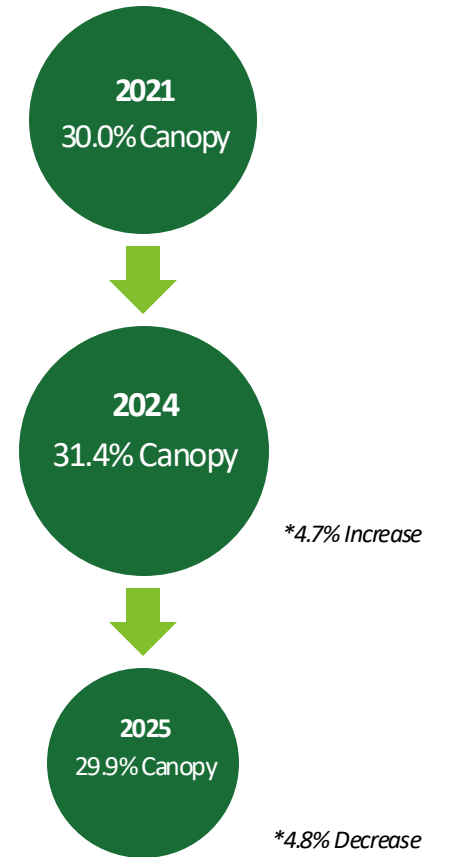
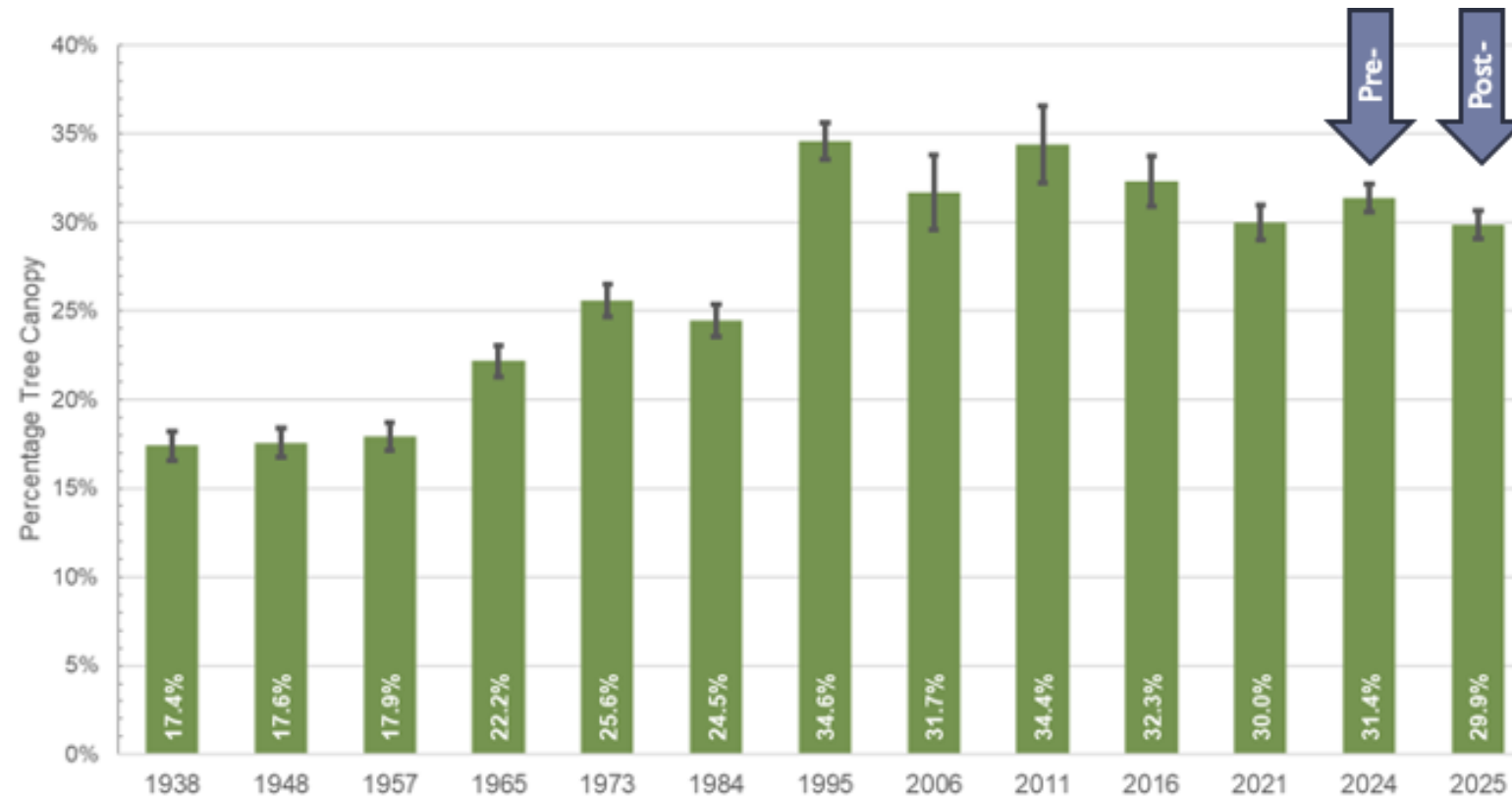
- City contractors disposed of at least 973,435 cubic yards of vegetation/mulch out of the total 1.37 million cubic yards. (Source: Riley Tuff, Fire Rescue – 10/1/2025)
- Urban Forestry staff responded to over 769 tree damage work orders; many were for multiple trees. (Source: Eric Muecke, City of Tampa - 9/17/2025)
- Additional disposal was by private tree services and residents

Contractor	PTD Loads	PTD CYD
Ashbritt	15890	557,131.00
C and D	927	24,082.00
Mixed	3553	129,731.00
Mulch	1024	92,386.00
Vegetation	10386	310,932.00
Ceres	4624	136,742.00
C and D	192	5,284.00
Mixed	319	7,878.00
Mulch	276	25,701.00
Vegetation	3837	97,879.00
Phillips Jordan	13373	587,479.00
C and D	2175	85,637.00
Compact CD	448	48,959.00
Mixed	1069	49,920.00

Work Order Category	# of WO		
Helene Cut Up	13	8944	334,048.00
Helene Debris	154	4423	92,260.00
Helene inspection	100	953	20,236.00
Helene Prune	9	1375	28,450.00
Helene Removal	39	297	8,369.00
Helene Residential CT Tab	32	1798	35,205.00
Milton Cut Up	3	38310	1,373,612.00
Milton Debris	29		
Milton Inspection	68		
Milton Prune	23		
Milton Removal	227		
Milton Stump	72		
TOTAL	769		

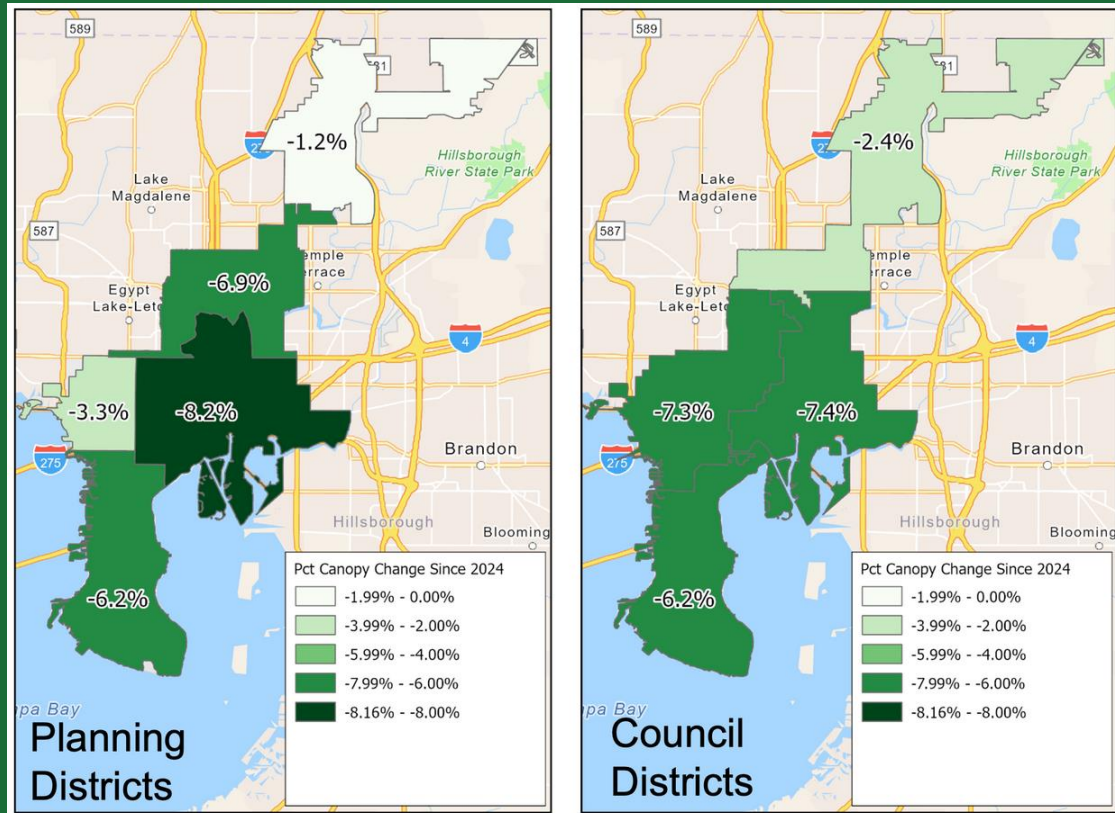
Citywide Tree Canopy

Pre- and Post-Storms



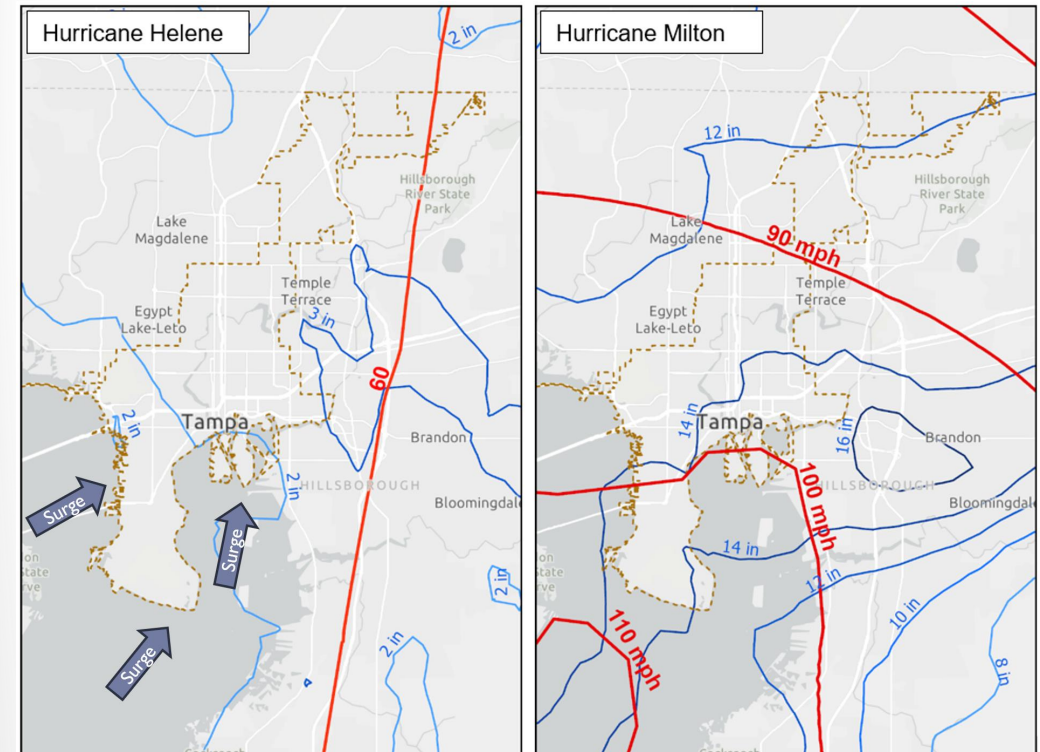
Post-Storm Tree Canopy

Change as a Percentage of 2024
Total Canopy



4.8% decrease Citywide as a percent of 2024 Canopy

Canopy loss seems to reflect areas of peak wind and rainfall totals, but could also reflect maintenance in historically underserved neighborhoods.



Causes of Damage

Strong Winds



Newly planted trees without established root systems



Trees with trunk decay (e.g., Laurel Oak)



Low-wind resistance species



Causes of Damage

Saturation

Saturated soils likely contributed to the loss of many wind-resistant Live Oaks

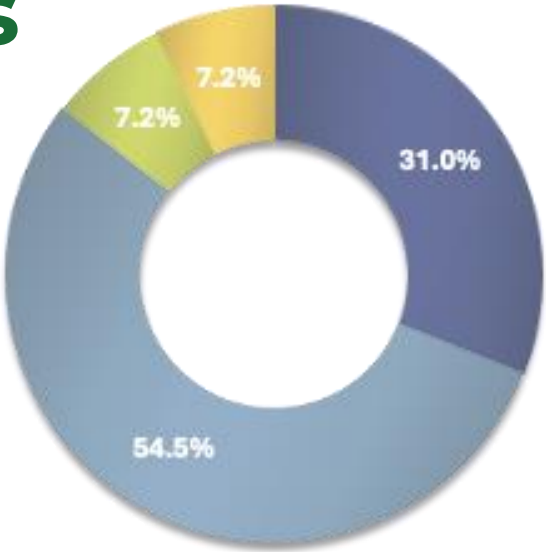


Saturated soils likely contributed to the loss of many wind-resistant Live Oaks



Resident Views Post-Storm Survey

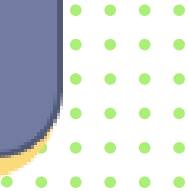
Have your preferences about trees changed as result of the 2024 hurricanes?



- My preference for trees has increased
- My preference for trees has not changed
- My preference has decreased
- Other - explain

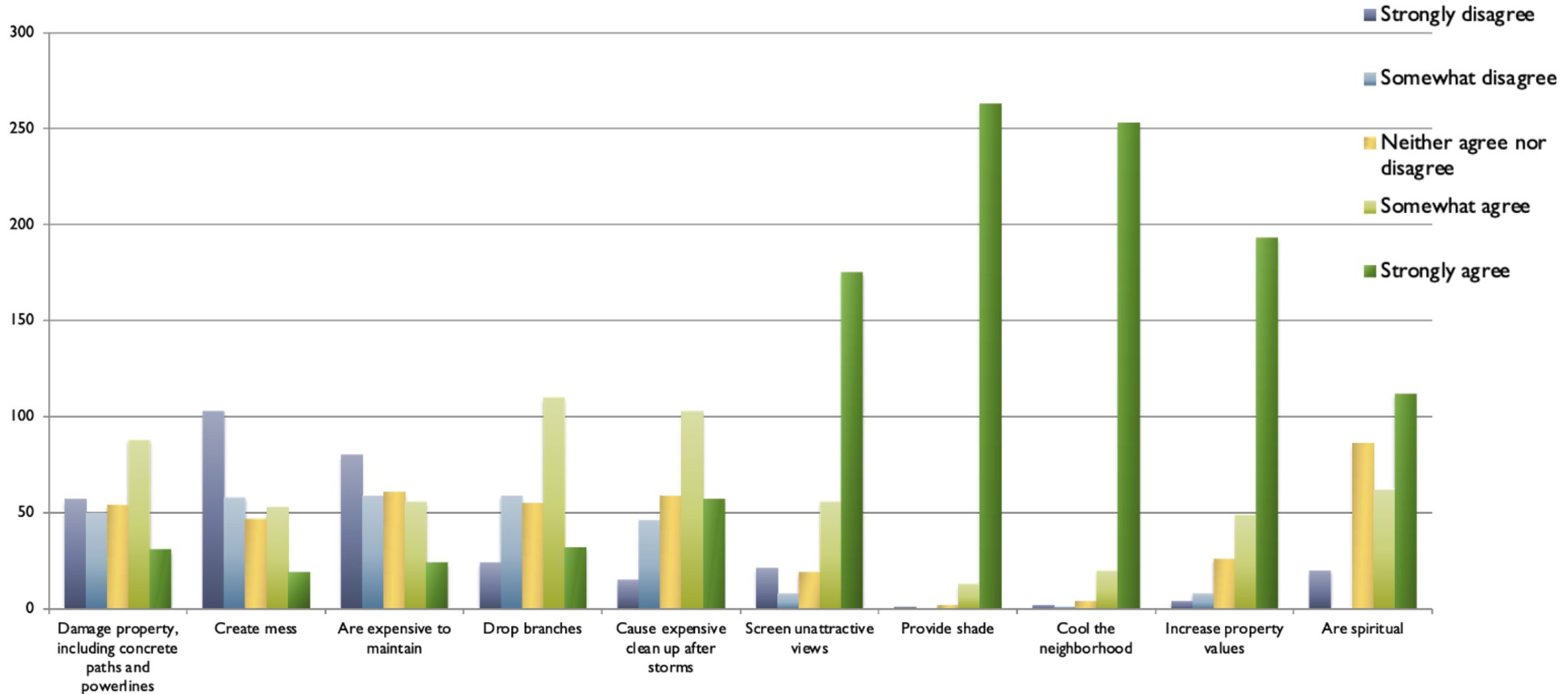


85% said their preference for trees either stayed the same or increased



Resident Views: Benefits of Trees

Post-Storm (2025) Survey Results: What matters most to residents about trees?



Consensus increases with more "positive" statements

Resident Views Post-Storm Survey



I am not that concerned about future storm damage to property from trees

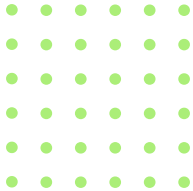
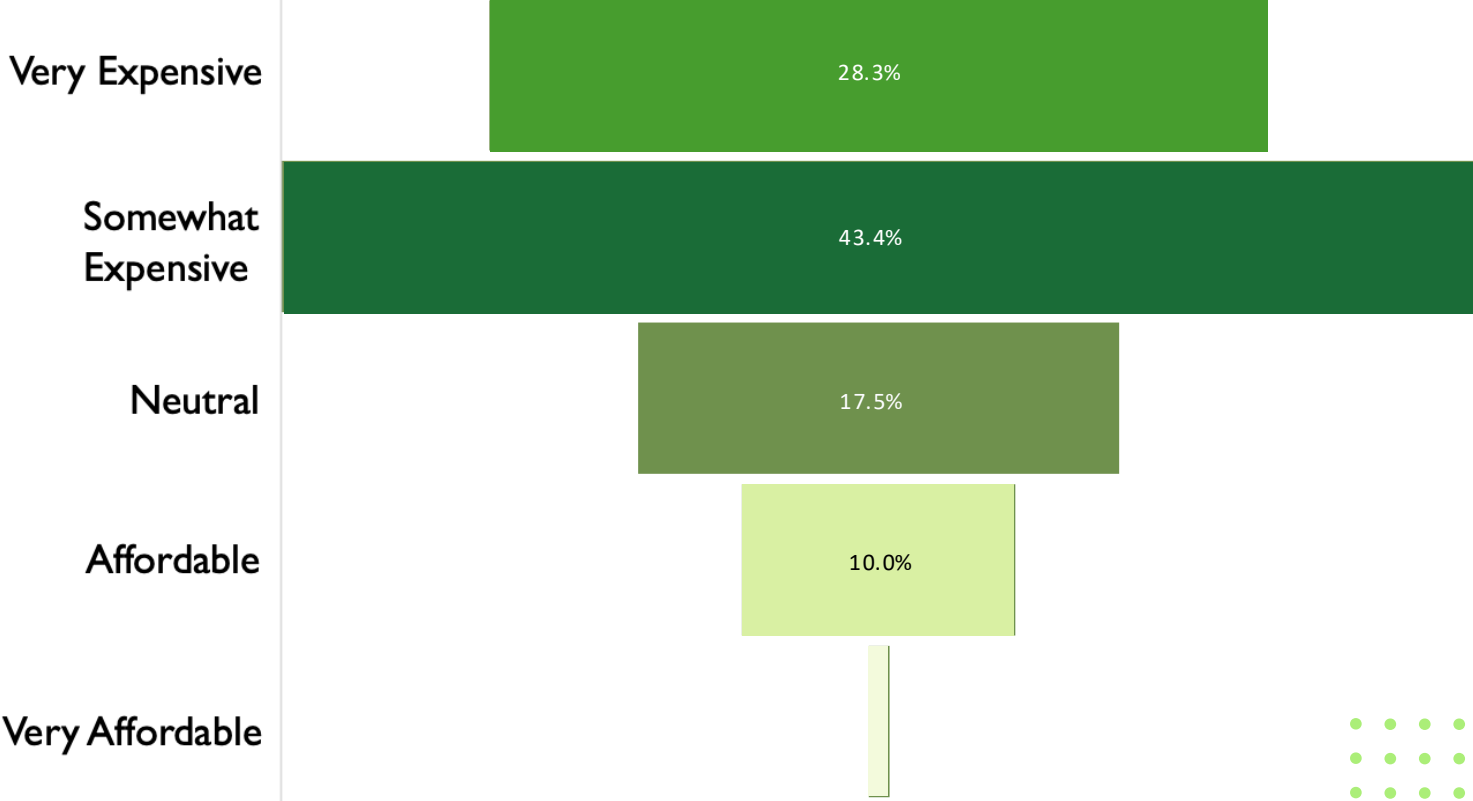
I think the benefits of trees are worth the risk when considering hurricane damage to property

I am more concerned about trees falling on my place of residence or business after seeing recent hurricane damage



Resident Views

Costs of Private Tree Trimming



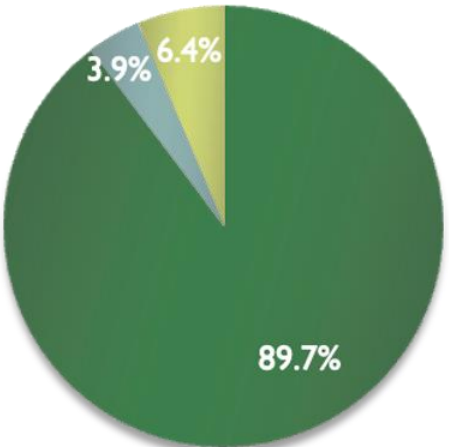
“I would prefer *_(more? fewer? or current amount?)_* trees in ___?”...

Resident Views

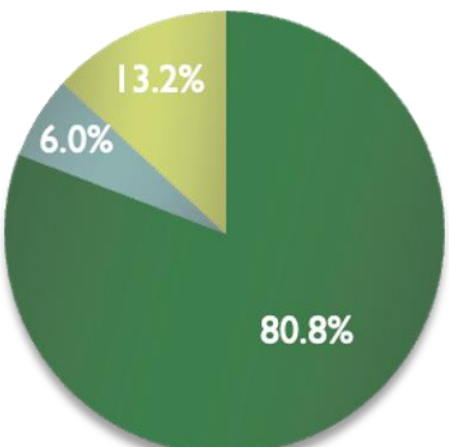
Desire for New Trees

Post-storm increase in desire for new trees

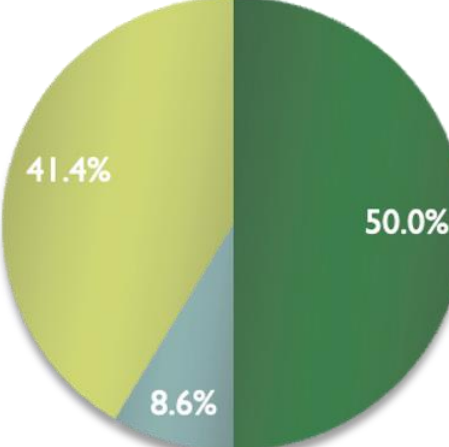
- more
- fewer
- the current amount



The City of Tampa

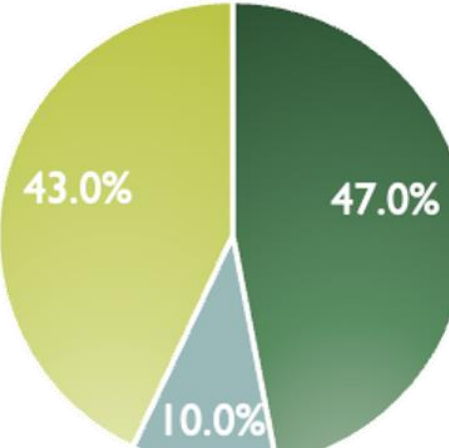
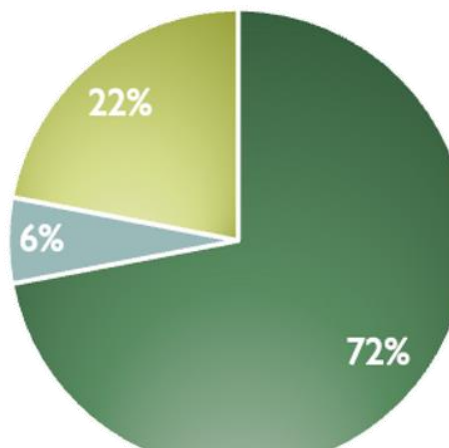
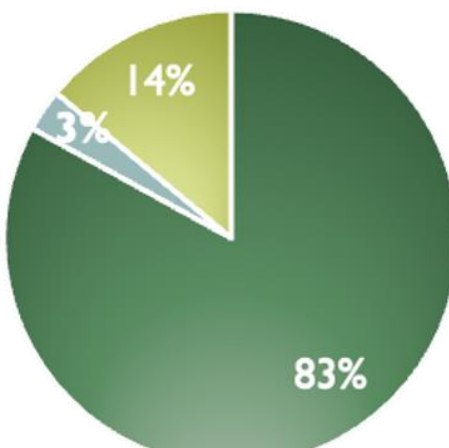


My Neighborhood



My Yard

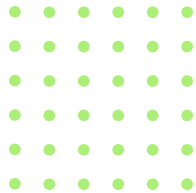
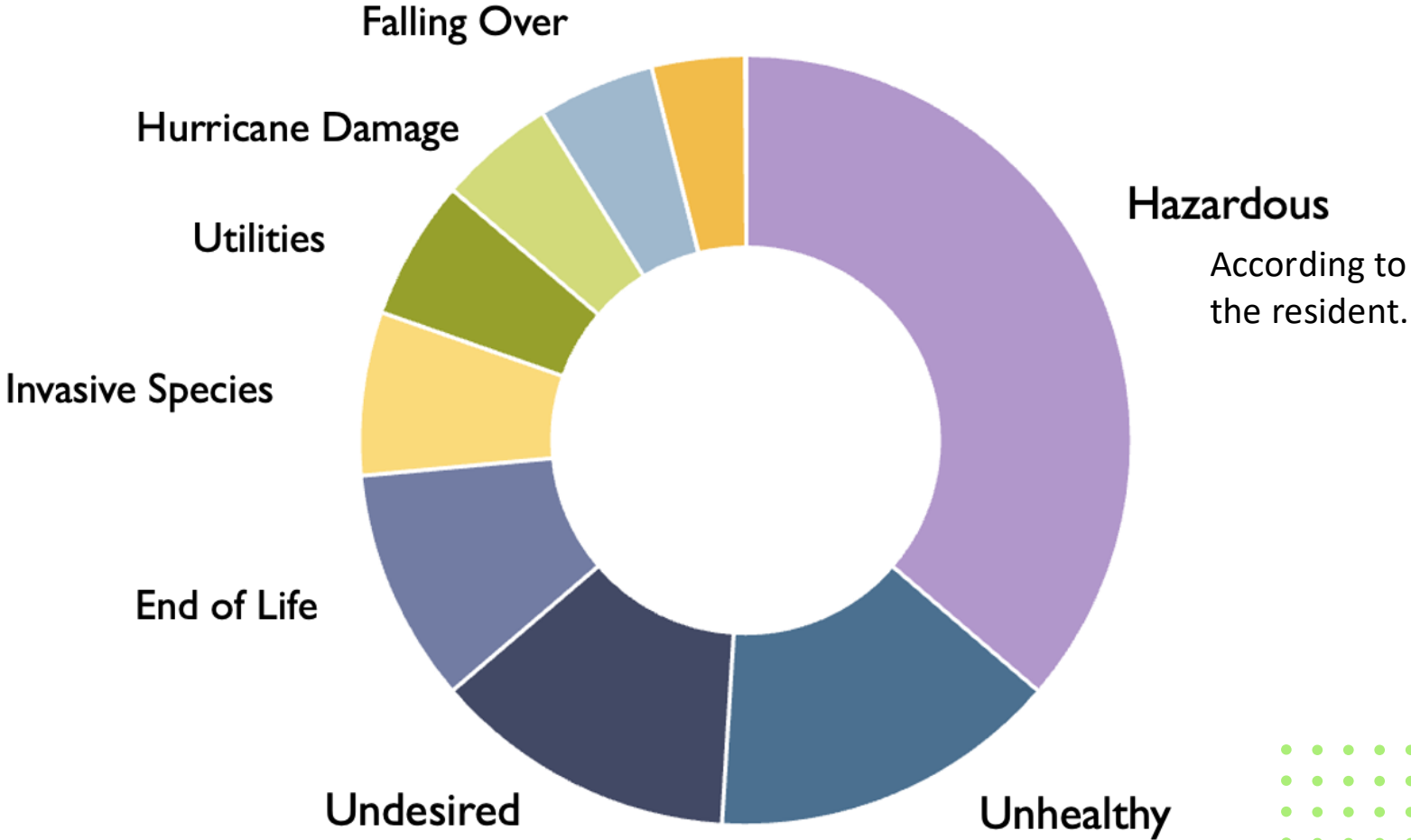
2025



2021

Why do/did you remove a tree from your property?

Resident Views: Reasons for Tree Removal





Summary of Recommendations

- **Preserve and maintain the trees that survived – they made it through the worst storm events in 100 years!**
 - Funding for street tree and park trees is inadequate
 - Tree Maintenance assistance for residents is needed
 - Most planting spaces are on private land
- **Reorganize city’s tree management structure**
 - Prioritize tree species in code, policies and programs (e.g., TreeMendous)
 - Type 1 trees
 - Improve organizational structure (look at cities like San Francisco)
- **Include community leaders in planting design**
 - Planting with community input improves support and resilience of canopy
- **Plant new trees**
 - Limited spaces available for Type 1 species - diversify
 - Planting should minimize infrastructure conflicts
 - Prioritized space for trees in infrastructure projects and development
- **Develop a Tree Stewards Program**
 - Improve maintenance and upkeep by involving interested residents
- **Select trees based on “right-tree-right-place”**
 - Wind resistance, salt tolerance, and other location appropriate properties
 - Update the City of Tampa Tree Matrix as a guide
 - Provide resources and education to residents

Questions?



Q & A

Post-Storm Canopy Analysis



3: Natural Resources Advisory Committee

File No. CM26-21491

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

- Expert input
- Public transparency
- Policy guidance
- Tradeoff discussion

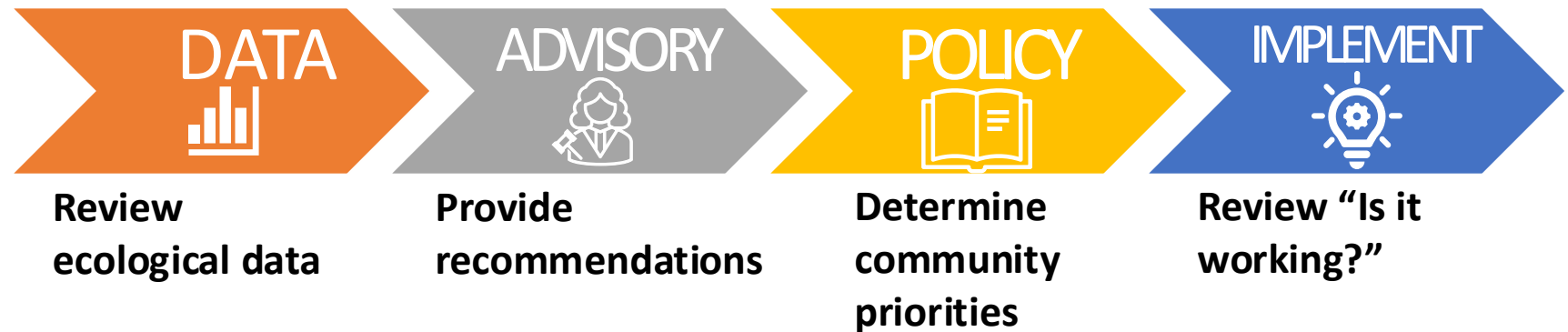
Motion: (Hurtak-Maniscalco)

Council to discuss the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, resolution, appointment process, and staggered terms. *(Original motion initiated by Maniscalco-Viera on February 5, 2026.)*

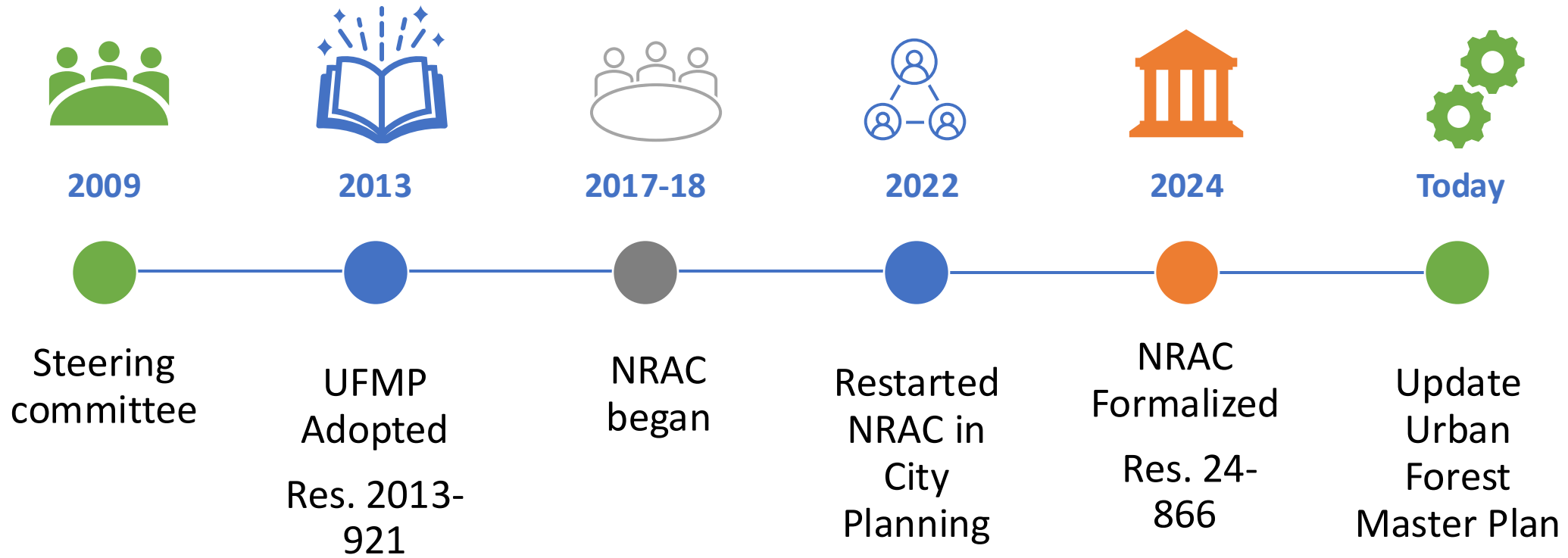
Motion: (Maniscalco-Young) That said agenda item be continued to April 23, 2026 workshop session. Motion carried unanimously with Hurtak being absent.

What is the Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC)?

Consists of members representing the City's community and professional experts, to assist the City Planning Department annually in making **recommendations** as part of the Urban Forest Master Plan.



History of the NRAC



Natural Resources Advisory Committee Responsibilities

- Review the existing UFMP
- Provide recommendations in the implementation/update of the Urban Forest Master Plan
- Audit the alternatives for actions
- Collaborate with the Internal Technical Advisory Committee on priority issues within the UFMP



NRAC Board Composition

	Role	Appointing Authority
1	Certified Arborist	Mayor
2	Developer/Builder	Mayor
3	Engineer	Mayor
4	Professional Scientist	Mayor
5	Landscape Architect	Mayor
6	Real Estate Professional	Mayor
7	Neighborhood Representative	Council
8	Neighborhood Representative	Council
9	Neighborhood Representative	Council
10	Neighborhood Representative	Council
11	Neighborhood Representative	Council

Meeting Frequency and Terms

- NRAC resolution (Res. 24-866) will require a minimum of 2 meetings per year
 - A minimum of four meetings are expected to support the UFMP update process in the first year
- Meeting frequency and schedule will be determined based on the update to the plan and the need for continued guidance from the NRAC
- Additional meetings may be scheduled based on need and available resources
- Staff recommends initial appointments for 3 years with staggering terms after first term served for continuity purposes

Next Steps

- Finalize the composition of the board
- Finalize staggered terms of the board members
- Determine if Resolution 24-866 needs revisions
- Approve the mayoral candidates
- Appoint the neighborhood representatives

A blurred image of a city skyline at night, with various buildings and lights visible against a dark blue sky. The image is out of focus, creating a bokeh effect.

4. Background and Context

[Tree Policy Workshop](Hurtak-Maniscalco)

That a workshop discussion on the City's tree-related policies and procedures be scheduled for April 23, 2026, and that Councilwoman Lynn Hurtak work with Administrator Ocea Wynn to develop a more detailed outline for that discussion.

CM26-20535

[Proposed Ordinance – Tree Trust Fund Type One & Two Trees] (Hurtak-Miranda)

That Staff be requested to return with a proposed ordinance, to be presented on February 19, 2026, amending the City Code so that the Tree Trust Fund may only be used for Type One and Type Two tree plantings.; (Hurtak-Mansicalco) That said agenda item be continued to April 23, 2026.

CM25-15694/CM24-9966

Prior to approving the transfer of \$334,748.48 from the South Tampa and Central Tampa Tree Trust Fund, Council is to see the data required to create the annual report referenced in Chapter 27, Section 16-86(f) Reporting. Which states, a tracking and report system for each of the five (5) trust funds shall be established to track each payment made into the fund and each mitigation tree planted. Annually a report shall be prepared, for each fund, and forwarded to City Council with the following information: 1) Each payment made into the fund along with the identifying information of the source of such funds, such as a corresponding building permit number; 2) Each expenditure from the fund, including the types of numbers of trees; 3) The coordinates or other physical location information of mitigation trees planted by the city with funds expended from the tree trust fund; and 4) The status of the health of each mitigation tree planted at the six (6) month and one (1) year mark after planting. By “types” of trees, the ordinance is referring to type 1,2,3 or palm as stated in Table 284.3.2-A, which is the City Tree Matrix. Further, the Builders and T-TAG agree, they want to see the data collected for the 5 separate planning districts (Central Tampa, Westshore, University, New Tampa, and South Tampa) before any change to the current Tree Trust Fund Ordinance or expend any money from the fund; further, staff to provide a report on the Tree Canopy Study. *(Original motion initiated by Hurtak-Maniscalco on June 26, 2025)(Updated motion initiated by Viera-Hurtak on October 9, 2025)*

Ocea Wynn, Administrator of Neighborhood and Community Affairs, appeared and presented on said item.

Kayla Caselli, Sustainability and Resilience Officer; Rory Jones, Water Department Director; Brad L. Baird, P.E., Deputy Administrator of Infrastructure appeared and answered questions of council.

Motion: (Hurtak-Maniscalco) That said agenda item be continued to the April 23, 2026, Workshop. Motion carried unanimously.

Tree Policy Roundtable 3/25/26

- City of Tampa hosted a tree policy roundtable at Hanna City Center
- 90-minute discussion with neutral moderator
- Speaking role participants included: neighborhood representatives, advocacy groups, technical tree professionals, developers, and electric utility
- City representatives were available to provide background, answer questions, and remain in a listening role
- **Feedback embedded throughout the presentation in the corresponding sections**

Summary of Key Recommendations

- Provide input for FY27 tree-related resources
- Prioritize maintenance of tree canopy
- Support and expand ReLeaf planting program
 - Fund implementation of completed plans, including Davis Islands, Nuccio Parkway, Ybor, & West Tampa
 - Staff has received planting requests that could expand the program to other neighborhoods, such as West Tampa Heights
- Amend Sec. 16-86 to provide more flexibility, such as funding plantings, maintenance, and support services on public and private property
- Continue to support diverse and “right tree, right place” plantings while prioritizing native and canopy trees

5. Resources

Policy & Strategy Direction

- Priorities set
- Funding focus
- Code adjustments

Resources FY26 Overview

Fund Source

Amount

Tree Trust Funds

≈ \$6 million

Urban Forestry (GF)

≈ \$4.2 million

Sustainability & Resilience (GF)

≈ \$70,000

\$10.27 million

*GF = General Fund

A blurred image of a city skyline at night, with various buildings and lights visible against a dark blue sky. The image is out of focus, creating a bokeh effect.

5. Resources: Maintenance

Maintenance

Background & Status

- **FY26:** \$4.2 million (General Fund)
 - 2014 National Municipal Forestry Survey suggests an estimate of \$4.5m - \$9.9m for a city of Tampa's size
- **Scope:** 1,200 miles of right-of-way/medians, 200 parks, 8 cemeteries, 350 miles of alleys
- Maintenance backlog with aging canopy & storm impacts

Maintenance

Roundtable Feedback

- **Maintenance was prioritized** as a high Return-on-Investment (ROI) expenditure and urgent need
- Trees should be seen as **green infrastructure**
- Neglect of maintenance has storm and safety risks
- Low canopy/high heat parts of the city tend to have residents with economic, physical, and social hardships that reduce their ability to plant and maintain new trees. Maintenance gap perpetuates inequity in the canopy
- Mixed opinions on whether tree trust funds should be used to help with the maintenance of the existing canopy

Maintenance Plans & Recommendations

- Explore increasing resources to fall within the “best practices” range
- Example: City-Wide Tree Services Contract
 - Source: General Fund
 - Used by all city departments to do tree removals, stump grinding, and pruning
 - FY18 = 100k → FY26 = \$829k

5. Resources: Tree Trust Funds

Policy & Strategy Direction

- Priorities set
- Funding focus
- Code adjustments

[Tree Trust Fund Oversight](Carlson-Hurtak)

That Council schedule a workshop to discuss whether oversight of the Tree Trust Funds should be assigned to the City's Natural Resources Committee, with said workshop to be held on April 23, 2026.

Tree Trust Funds

Background & Status

- Funds collected from tree removals on public and private (majority) property
- Currently ≈\$6 million
- Divided into 5 planning districts
- Used **“solely for the selection, acquisition, installation, and maintenance of mitigation trees”** and the **urban canopy analysis** every 5 years

Tree Trust Funds

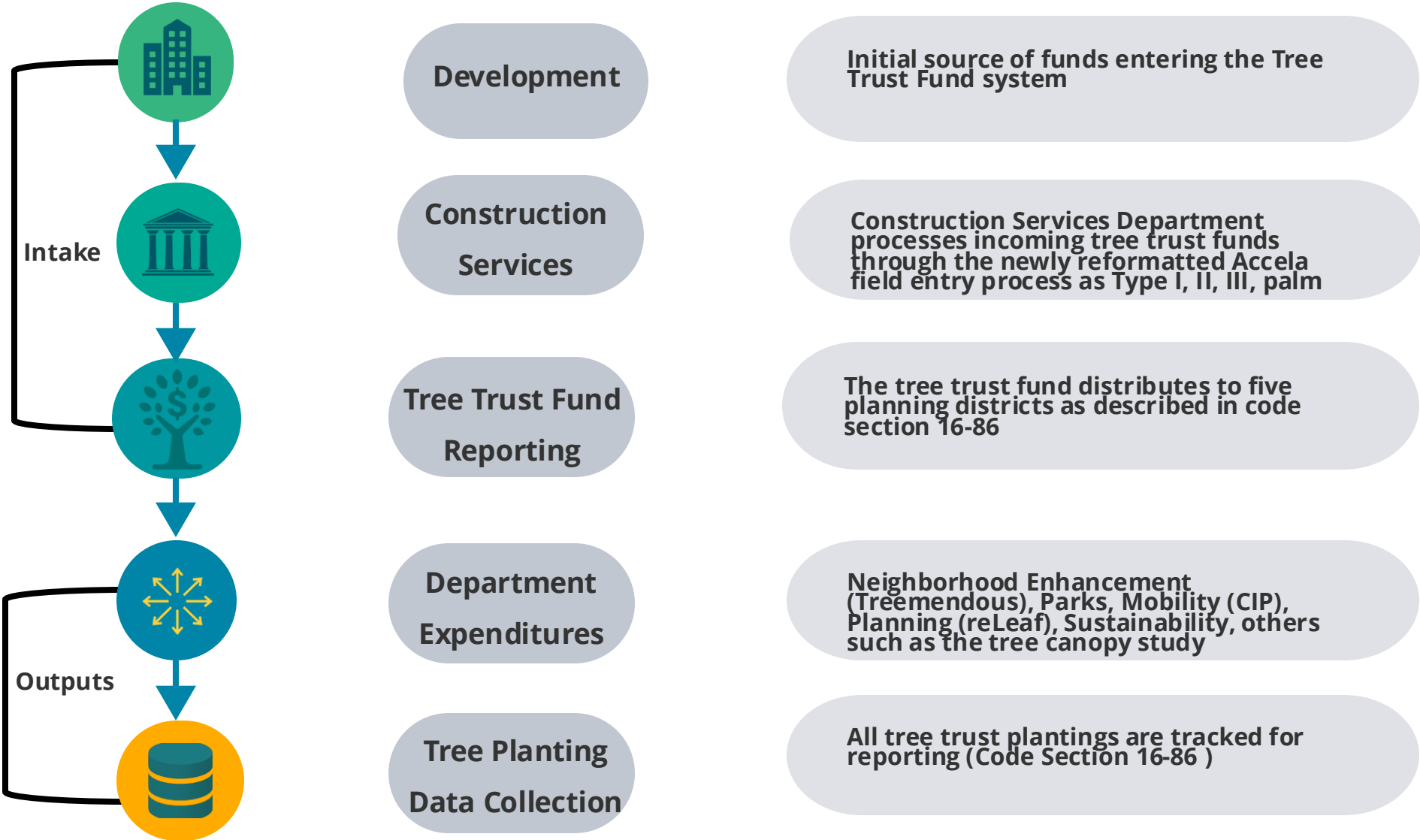
Background & Status

Annual report for collection and expenditures provided to council:

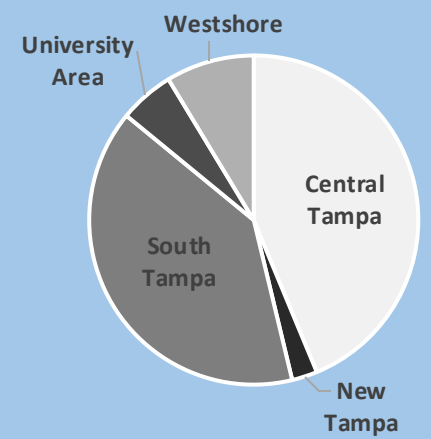
1. Each payment made into the fund along with the identifying information of the source of such funds, such as a corresponding building permit number
2. Each expenditure from the fund, including the types of numbers of trees
3. The coordinates or other physical location information of mitigation trees planted by the city with funds expended from the tree trust fund
4. The status of the health of each mitigation tree planted at the six (6) month and one (1) year mark after planting

TREE TRUST FUND FLOW PROCESS

Intake, Distribution, and Data Collection Workflow



Total Collected by Planning District



New Tampa \$149.7k

2.5% of FY20-25 payments

\$323.2k

University Area

5.4% of FY20-25 payments

Westshore \$518.6k

8.7% of FY20-25 payments

\$2.62m

Central Tampa

43.7% of FY20-25 payments

South Tampa \$2.44m

39.7% of FY20-25 payments

Total Payments Collected
~\$6 million

Tree Trust Funds

Roundtable Feedback

- Prioritizing planting shade trees, including their establishment and maintenance (watering, pruning)
- Co-locating plantings with areas that will provide heat mitigation and pedestrian shade for transit corridors
- Mixed opinions on utilizing for:
 - Maintenance of existing canopy
 - Depaving/soil volume enhancements
 - Remediating sidewalk heaving from tree roots (e.g. flexipave)
 - ADA component

Tree Trust Funds

Plans & Recommendations

- Prioritize funds on planting new trees with a focus on:
 - Diversification & Resilience
 - Larger tree types
 - Right tree, right place
- Considerations with less consensus:
 - Support plantings on private property
 - Supplement maintenance budget (General Fund) for trees on public and private property
 - Solutions to save existing and plant larger trees (e.g. suspended pavement solutions, tree pits)

Q & A

5. Resources

6. Planting Programs

Implementation & Monitoring

- Planting programs
- Development standards
- Performance tracking

Planting

Roundtable Feedback

- Consensus that plantings should make up the majority of tree trust fund expenditures
- Mixed opinions on type of trees to plant:
 - Part of the group only wanted Type I and II trees funded
 - Most of the group wanted trees planted faster
 - Some discussed the complexities of tree planting and recommended focusing on diversification
 - Example: Oaks make up 8% of the stem count & 35% of the leaf area*. If an oak pest/disease were to occur, Tampa could lose over 1/3 of its leaf area “overnight”

*City of Tampa Tree Canopy Analysis 2021



6. Planting: Tree-Mendous

Tree-Mendous Background & Status

- Run by (1) staff member in Urban Forestry Division
- Plants ≈ 500 trees per year in the right-of-way on behalf of adjacent property owner's request
- Residents provide watering for one (1) year
- Residents choose tree species from a "menu" of 11 species
- 6-12 month waiting list

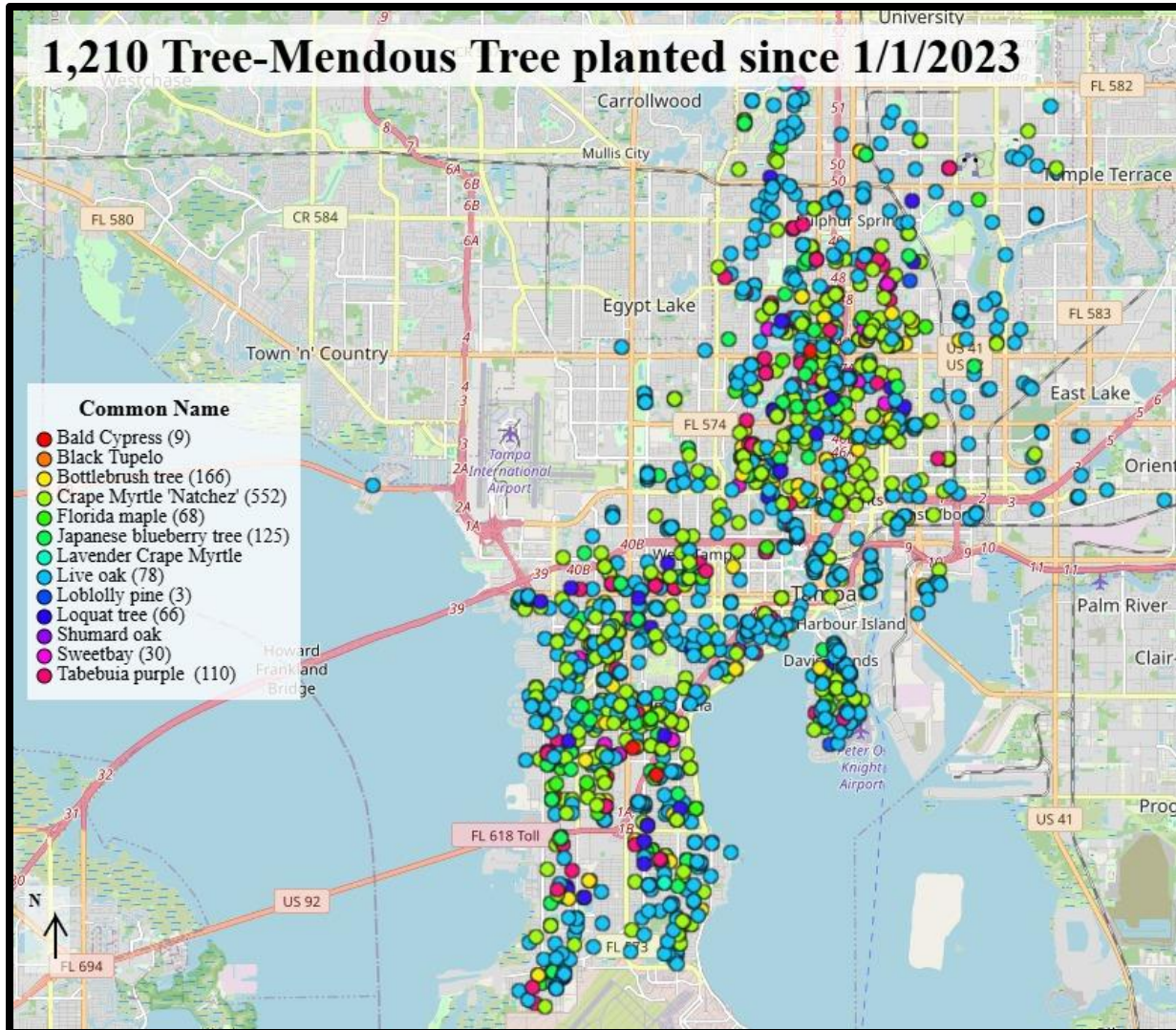
TREEMENDOUS TAMPA Free Tree Program

Requirements

Location must be inside the City of Tampa limits
Trees are planted and must remain on city right-of-ways
Must commit to watering tree(s) for a full year.



Tree-Mendous Background & Status



Top Trees	Count	%
Crape Myrtle 'Natchez'	552	46%
Bottlebrush Tree	166	14%
Japanese blueberry tree	125	10%
Tabebuia purple	110	9%
Live oak	78	6%
Florida maple	68	5%
Loquat tree	66	5%
Sweetbay Magnolia	30	2%
Bald Cypress	9	<1%
Loblolly Pine	3	<1%
Black Tupelo	1	<1%
Crape Myrtle 'Lavender'	1	<1%
Shumard Oak	1	<1%

Tree-Mendous

Plans & Recommendations

- Leverage knowledge of high ROI during FY27 budget
 - Tried & true
 - High demand
 - Quick scalability
 - No establishment maintenance costs
- Program changes for consideration
 - Diversity Rule: 10% species, 20% genus, 30% family
 - Allow plantings 8-10 ft onto private property (would require code change in Sec. 16-86) to increase opportunity for larger tree species



6. Planting: ReLeaf



Planting Program: Tampa ReLeaf

Launched: June 2024

Managed by: City Planning, Sustainability & Resiliency

Purpose:

- Increase tree plantings across the city
- Expand tree planting access to all departments
- Addressing Canopy Analysis issues: Urban Heat Islands
- Loss of trees due to storms

Focus:

- Streets
- Parks
- Public lands

ReLeaf

Background & Status

- 11 scheduled projects
- 3,000+ trees
- “Right Tree, Right Place” principle
- Majority of the trees proposed are Type I, Type II
 - Type III trees planted are less than 30%
- Areas with the highest concentrations of Type III trees proposed:
 - Ybor (highly urbanized)
 - Downtown (highly urbanized)
 - W. Tampa (overhead powerlines)

ReLeaf

Background & Status

What was considered in planting decisions?

- Planting spaces
 - Large space, no conflicts = Type I or II
 - Small planting space = Type III
 - Tree grate = likely type III
- Utilities
 - Above ground = Type III or no tree
 - Below ground = Type I, II, or III
- Cultural
 - Existing trees
 - Community preferences



ReLeaf

Roundtable Feedback

- Historic Ybor Neighborhood Association expressed support for funding the ReLeaf plans created for Ybor
- Davis Islands Civic Association has expressed interest in proceeding with the project plans for the Davis Islands Trail



ReLeaf

Plans & Recommendations

- Support and expand ReLeaf planting program
- Fund implementation of 11 completed plans, including Davis Islands, Nuccio Parkway, Ybor, & West Tampa
- Staff has received planting requests that could expand the program to other neighborhoods, such as West Tampa Heights

ReLeaf- Sample Plan in W. Tampa (Type I)



Type 1 Tree: Large, Shade = 181



Type 2 Tree: Columnar, Narrow = 72



Type 3 Tree: Small, Ornamental = 258



Large Space with little to no conflicts

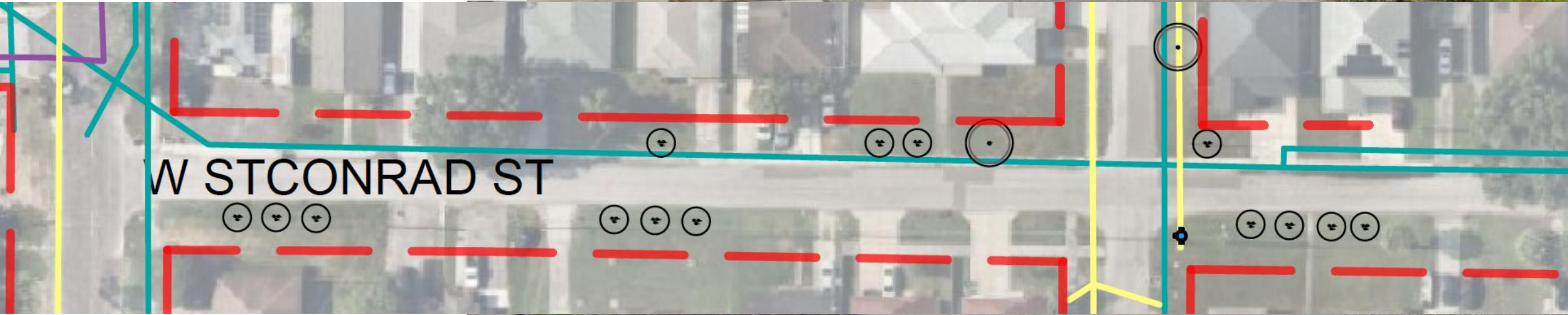


ReLeaf- Sample Plan in W. Tampa (Type III)

Large spaces with numerous conflicts. Without type III trees the number of trees planted reduces to 2 trees in comparison to 16 trees



- Type 1 Tree: Large, Shade = 181
- Type 2 Tree: Columnar, Narrow = 72
- Type 3 Tree: Small, Ornamental = 258



A Comparison Using Ecological Benefits

MyTree Benefits

Crape Myrtle (Type III)

Serving Size: 14 trees

Estimated i-Tree benefits this year: \$43.51

Discover benefits of all your [community trees!](#)

Annual values:	
Carbon Dioxide Uptake	\$36.68
Carbon Sequestered ¹	169.54 lbs
CO ₂ Equivalent ²	621.66 lbs
Storm Water Mitigation	\$5.03
Runoff Avoided	562.72 gal
Rainfall Intercepted	2,878.79 gal
Air Pollution Removal	\$1.80
Carbon Monoxide	0.57 oz
Ozone	13.25 oz
Nitrogen Dioxide	1.74 oz
Sulfur Dioxide	0.89 oz
PM _{2.5}	0.25 oz
Values are totals to date:	
Carbon Dioxide Uptake⁴	\$53.75
Carbon Storage ⁴	248.44 lbs
CO ₂ Equivalent ^{2, 4}	910.94 lbs

14 Crape Myrtles give an estimated i-Tree benefits of \$43.51 annually in comparison to 2 Live Oaks providing estimated i-Tree benefits of \$15.37

MyTree Benefits

Live Oak (Type I)

Serving Size: 2 trees

Estimated i-Tree benefits this year: \$15.37

Discover benefits of all your [community trees!](#)

Annual values:	
Carbon Dioxide Uptake	\$14.61
Carbon Sequestered ¹	67.53 lbs
CO ₂ Equivalent ²	247.6 lbs
Storm Water Mitigation	\$0.50
Runoff Avoided	55.41 gal
Rainfall Intercepted	283.45 gal
Air Pollution Removal	\$0.26
Carbon Monoxide	< 0.1 oz
Ozone	1.66 oz
Nitrogen Dioxide	0.24 oz
Sulfur Dioxide	0.11 oz
PM _{2.5}	< 0.1 oz
Values are totals to date:	
Carbon Dioxide Uptake⁴	\$22.67
Carbon Storage ⁴	104.78 lbs
CO ₂ Equivalent ^{2, 4}	384.2 lbs

Benefit estimates are based on USDA Forest Service research and are meant for guidance

A Comparison 20 Years Later...

MyTree Benefits



Crape Myrtle

Serving Size: 14 trees

Expected i-Tree benefits

over 20 years: **\$3,336.96**

Discover benefits of all your [community trees!](#)

Carbon Dioxide Uptake **\$2,920.31**

Carbon Sequestered¹ 13,497.11 lbs

CO₂ Equivalent² 49,489.41 lbs

Storm Water Mitigation **\$256.42**

Runoff Avoided 28,695.42 gal

Rainfall Intercepted 146,802.65 gal

Air Pollution Removal **\$160.23**

Carbon Monoxide 29.08 oz

Ozone 912.03 oz

Nitrogen Dioxide 132.42 oz

Sulfur Dioxide 58.69 oz

PM_{2.5} 30.1 oz

Benefit estimates are based on USDA Forest Service research and are meant for guidance

In 20 years, the estimated monetary benefits are almost 3X from the 14 Type III trees planted in spaces where Type I or II trees cannot be planted

MyTree Benefits



Southern Live Oak

Serving Size: 2 trees

Expected i-Tree benefits

over 20 years: **\$1,231.56**

Discover benefits of all your [community trees!](#)

Carbon Dioxide Uptake **\$1,030.63**

Carbon Sequestered¹ 4,763.38 lbs

CO₂ Equivalent² 17,465.73 lbs

Storm Water Mitigation **\$113.94**

Runoff Avoided 12,751.17 gal

Rainfall Intercepted 65,233.6 gal

Air Pollution Removal **\$86.99**

Carbon Monoxide 12.95 oz

Ozone 459.43 oz

Nitrogen Dioxide 70.55 oz

Sulfur Dioxide 29.73 oz

PM_{2.5} 16.04 oz

Benefit estimates are based on USDA Forest Service research and are meant for guidance

Q & A

6. Planting Programs

7. Fees & Enforcement

Policy & Strategy Direction

- Priorities set
- Funding focus
- Code adjustments



7. Fees & Enforcement: Tree Mitigation Fee

Tree Mitigation Fee Background & Status

- **\$300 per tree mitigation fee** for tree removals has not been raised since 2001 (Reso No. 2001-0573)
 - Increased from \$125 fee set in 1996
- Mitigation fee is **collected for qualifying Type 1, Type 2, Type 3, and Palms**
- Sec. 16-86(b) has language that says funds should be “**approximating the cost of required mitigation trees**”
- **City pays 2-5x the current mitigation fee to replant a tree**
 - Price can include staff/contractor management, site selection, acquisition, installation, 1 yr of maintenance/watering, and 6 months/1 year inspection
 - Programs like Tree-Mendous tend to be more cost-effective because watering costs are outsourced to the property owner and staff time is not included in per tree cost

Tree Mitigation Fee Roundtable Feedback

- **Strong consensus to increase the fee** and add code language to adjust it every X number of years
 - Low fees do not provide a deterrent for removals
- Research shows a 10 to 15-year delay to gain back the ecosystem services of mature trees when new trees are planted
- City should explore opportunities to further incentivize retention (first choice) in addition to the mitigation fee (last choice)



Tree Mitigation Fee Plans & Recommendations

- Consider increasing the fee to match current planting costs
- Create two rates: homestead residential and commercial property
 - Provides equity for homeowners when doing renovation projects or removing a tree at the end-of-life

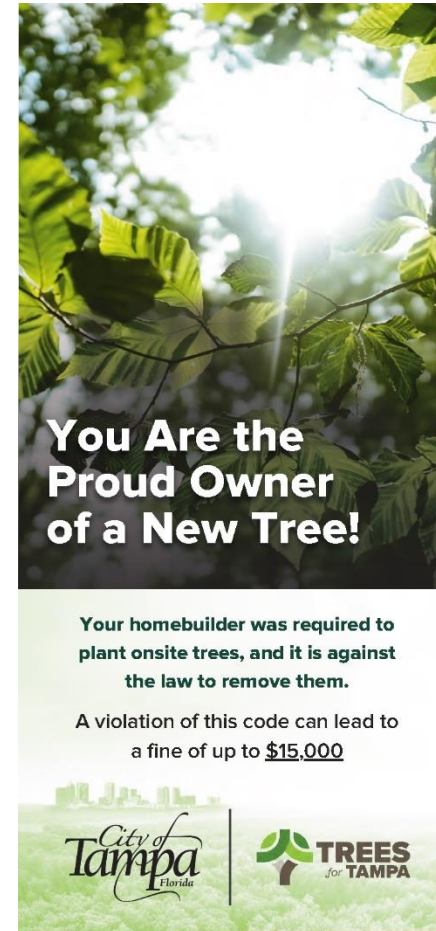
7. Fees & Enforcement: Enforcement

Enforcement Background & Status

- **No licensure of arborists exists at Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation**
 - State legislation preempts local governments from creating occupational licenses ([Florida Statute 163.211](#))
- City can **file an ethics complaint to the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) if a certified arborist violates the city code.** However, non-certified arborists are legally allowed to provide tree cutting service
- When trees are removed illegally by private companies, the responsibility and city violation remain with the property owner
- City can put a lien on a violating business's property if located in Hillsborough County
 - No legal pathway to penalize if they are outside Hillsborough County

Enforcement Background & Status



- Door hangers are provided to sites where mitigation trees are planted



You Are the Proud Owner of a New Tree!

Your homebuilder was required to plant onsite trees, and it is against the law to remove them.

A violation of this code can lead to a fine of up to \$15,000.

Questions?
Contact the City of Tampa:
treequestions@tampagov.net



¡Eres el orgulloso dueño de un árbol nuevo!

Se requirió que su constructor plantara árboles, y eliminarlos va en contra de la ley.

Una violación de este código puede dar lugar a una multa de hasta \$15,000.

¿Preguntas?
Comuníquese con la ciudad de Tampa:
treequestions@tampagov.net

Enforcement

Roundtable Feedback

- Instances of residents being taken advantage of by companies that illegally remove trees and then **“pay double”**: **price for the removals by the private company and violation from the city**
- Homeowners get fined, while tree cutters (“Bob with a truck and a chainsaw”) face no penalty
- Residents can be misled and pay tree cutters who do not obtain permits
- Calls to shift accountability to the performing contractor

Enforcement Plans & Recommendations

Expand and reinvigorate “Know the Law Before You Saw” campaign

- Continue: door hangers, private arborist trainings
- Create: social media toolkit, FAQs, handouts
- Explore how to connect resources and trainings directly with landscaping businesses (e.g. [FNGLA](#))





Enforcement Plans & Recommendations

- Explore opportunities to provide permit discounts if it comes from a business/individual who has taken the city's private arborist training
- Incentivize retaining trees vs planting trees on a property

Q & A

7. Fees & Enforcement

8. Policy

Policy & Strategy Direction

- Priorities set
- Funding focus
- Code adjustments

A blurred image of a city skyline at night, with various buildings and lights visible against a dark blue sky. The image is out of focus, creating a bokeh effect.

8. Policy: Management & Oversight

Management & Oversight Roundtable Feedback

- Some uplifted urban forestry as the department to lead efforts and utilize Tree Trust Funds
- Some said whichever department can do it “fast & right”
 - Frustration was expressed with the slow turnaround to get trees in the ground



Management & Oversight Plans & Recommendations

- Work should be led with expertise of a certified arborist
- Urban forestry could be empowered to manage tree trust funds and planting programs with additional resources

8. Policy: Sec. 16-86 Code Amendments

Sec. 16-86 Code

Background & Status

- Amended in 2019 (Ordinance No. 2019-54) to create planning districts
 - Central Tampa
 - Westshore
 - University
 - New Tampa
 - South Tampa



Sec. 16-86 Code

Roundtable Feedback

- Disagreement on whether trust funds can be used on private property as the code is written today
- Support for only type 1 & 2, with some participants preferring “right tree, right place” approach
- Support to keep funds divided by districts

Sec. 16-86 Code Plans & Recommendations

- **Expand eligible expenditures to include:**
 - **Trees on private property** for programs like tree giveaways, neighborhood association plantings, Tree-Mendous, and school plantings
 - If implemented, tree reporting requirements will need to be adjusted
 - **Support services needed for planting and maintenance such as:**
 - Planning & design
 - Site preparation, soil amendments, fertilization, irrigation/watering, suspended pavement systems, tree grates/guards
 - **Tree inventories and Urban Forest Master Plan**
- **Continue allowing plantings of Type 1, Type 2, Type 3, and Palms**
 - Create a policy to prioritize large canopy and ensure species diversity
 - Support for policies that allow adequate spacing and promoting trees as green infrastructure

Q & A

8. Policy

Summary of Key Recommendations

- Provide input for FY27 tree-related resources
- Prioritize maintenance of tree canopy
- Support and expand ReLeaf planting program
 - Fund implementation of completed plans, including Davis Islands, Nuccio Parkway, Ybor, & West Tampa
 - Staff has received planting requests that could expand the program to other neighborhoods, such as West Tampa Heights
- Amend Sec. 16-86 to provide more flexibility, such as funding plantings, maintenance, and support services on public and private property
- Continue to support diverse and “right tree, right place” plantings while prioritizing native and canopy trees

THANK YOU

Tree Policy Workshop
4/23/26