

#170383B

Urban Forest Management Plan and Division Update

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GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE
MARCH 22, 2018

Vision

In order to strengthen the City's urban forest, the City will merge tree professionals into one team within the Public Works Department. This team will be led by the City Arborist, charged with carrying out the Urban Forest Management Plan.



The new team will be called the
“Urban Forestry Program”.

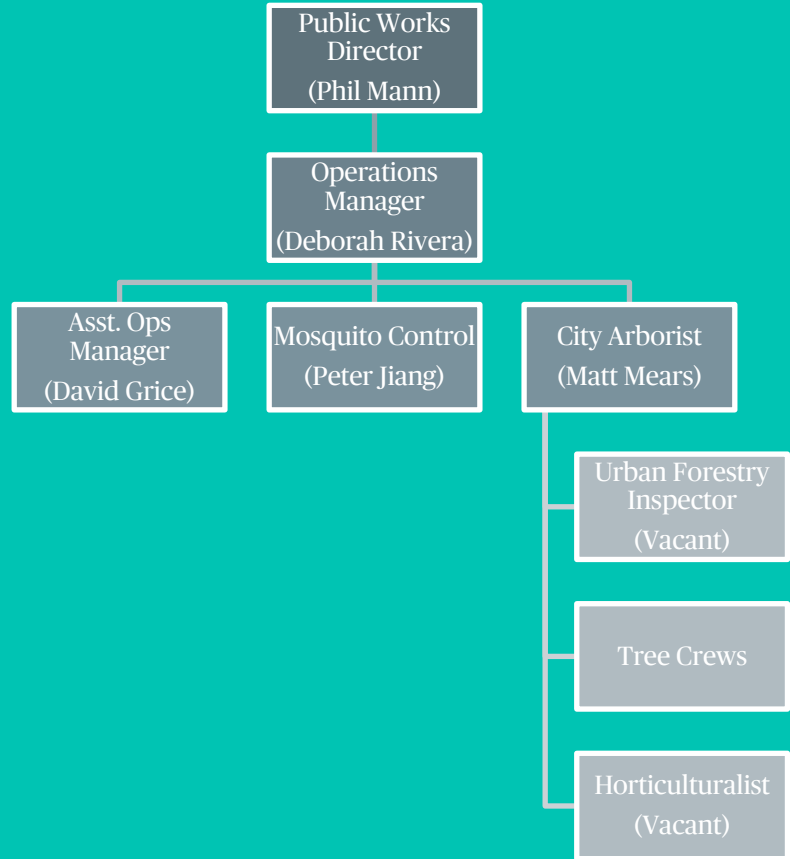
This will establish a united team
dedicated to the protection of
our urban canopy.

New City Arborist started 3/12/18.

Horticulturist to be hired.



New organizational chart



TRANSITION PLAN

Our departments will work together to ensure a smooth transition of the positions into the Public Works Department and provide continued support for personnel until this transition is complete.



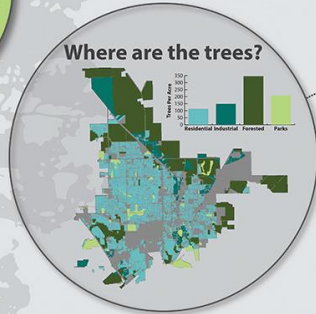
Gainesville's Urban Forest

What is an urban forest?

"The term urban forest refers to all publicly and privately owned trees within an urban area—including individual trees along streets and in backyards, as well as stands of remnant forest."

(Nowak et al. 2001)

There are over **7 million trees** in Gainesville covering



47% of the total area

22% in Orlando

32% in Tampa

21% in Miami

1 person = 15,000 people

Gainesville's urban forest is worth

\$1.4 billion¹
+
\$24.4 million/year

¹This is a compensatory value that reflects what it would cost to replace the entire forest with new trees (e.g. deliberately or due to a storm).



\$7.7 mil/yr
Residential Energy Savings



\$2.7 mil/yr
Public Health Benefits



\$2.7 mil/yr
Public Health Benefits

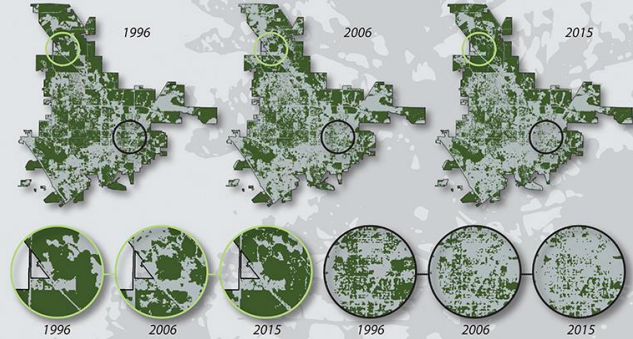


\$5.8 mil/yr
Carbon Sequestration



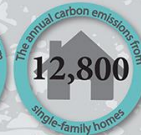
\$7.7 mil/yr
Avoided Stormwater Runoff

Canopy Cover Change 1996-2015



Changes to Gainesville's canopy occurred between 1996 and 2015. In some areas (left), canopy was lost then gained, likely due to timber harvest followed by reforestation. In other areas of the city (right), canopy has been lost over time without gains.

Every year, Gainesville's urban forest sequesters carbon equivalent to...



What species make up Gainesville's urban forest?



Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda
17%



Slash Pine
Pinus elliottii
11%



Laurel Oak
Quercus laurifolia
9%



Water Oak
Quercus nigra
8%



Red Maple
Acer rubrum
8%



Carolina Laurel Cherry
Prunus caroliniana
5%



Sweetgum
Liquidambar styraciflua
4%



Wax Myrtle
Morella cerifera
4%



Swamp Tupelo
Nyssa biflora
4%



Sugarberry
Celtis laevigata
2%

City Arborist will facilitate the Urban Forest Management Plan



URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

12/8/16 GPC voted to fund the
Management Plan utilizing Wild
Spaces Public Places funding

A defined scope of services is
needed to contract with the
University of Florida



OTHER UPDATES

Department of Doing will provide an update to the General Policy Committee on their proposed changes to the Tree Ordinance April 26, 2018.

Weiss property land acquisition is moving forward jointly with the County. The City is obligating up to \$1.5 Million in Tree Mitigation Funds.

Thank You.