



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING**

#25-0970

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: November 18, 2025

TITLE: The City of Fort Lauderdale Urban Forestry Master Plan - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

The City of Fort Lauderdale has long prioritized the importance of its urban forest and its associated benefits. The Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan sets a goal of increasing the tree canopy to thirty-three percent (33%) by the year 2040. The creation, adoption, and implementation of an Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) is essential to attaining these planning objectives and developing strategies to best manage the City's urban forest now and into the future.

Trees provide many benefits to the City including shade, beautification, carbon sequestration, energy savings, property value increases, and reduction of stormwater runoff. Historically, the City has faced significant challenges with maintaining, enhancing, and managing its urban forest in the face of climatic changes, storm events, pest/disease outbreaks, and accelerated development pressure.

The UFMP evaluates the status of the City's urban forest, establishes a clear set of priorities and objectives, and provides a sustainable, strategic, and holistic framework for the management, maintenance, enhancement, and regulation of trees throughout the City. Recognizing the collective ecological, environmental, economic, cultural, and social contributions of the City's trees, the UFMP will benefit both the public and private aspects of the urban forest and the community at large by guiding appropriate tree planting, maintenance, and regulation of trees.

On February 6, 2024, following a competitive selection process, the City Commission awarded RES Florida Consulting, LLC, Inc (RES) a contract to prepare the City's Urban Forestry Master Plan (CAM #24-0090). In April 2024, the City began working with RES to develop the Urban Forestry Master Plan. RES collected input through twelve (12) meetings with internal stakeholders, five (5) public meetings with the community, and a public survey which received nearly 800 responses. RES reviewed relevant City plans, ordinances, and

processes relevant to the urban forest. RES also reviewed relevant City and regional plans, and available tree canopy and natural resource data.

On September 17, 2025, a draft of the UFMP was released for public comment for a twenty-eight (28)-day period. On September 30, 2025, RES presented the draft plan to the Sustainability Advisory Board. Comments received during the public input period were reviewed and revisions made as appropriate to create the final Urban Forestry Master Plan.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area, Goal 3: Be a sustainable and resilient community

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Ready and We Are Here

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Conservation Element
- Goal 3: Conserve, protect, and appropriately utilize the City's terrestrial and marine habitats.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – City of Fort Lauderdale Urban Forestry Master Plan

Exhibit 2 – Presentation

Prepared by: Laura Tooley, Urban Forester
Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation