NEIGHBORHOOD TREE SUCCESSION AND INITIATION PLAN

Prepared for: City of Coral Gables

Prepared By:

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Lisa Hammer, Horticulturist

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INTRODUCTION

Curtis + Rogers Design Studio, Inc. was retained by The City of Coral Gables Public Works Department to prepare a Neighborhood Tree Succession and Initiation Plan for the residential streets. The goals of the project were as follows:

- 1. Develop a program to ensure the longevity of the urban forest in the residential areas of Coral Gables, by replacing missing canopy
- 2. Promote species diversity within the City
- 3. Evaluate species based on their appropriateness for the area and their past performance
- 4. Identify new tree species for inclusion in tree pallette
- 5. Preserve the historical plant pallette themes

This project was divided into 4 tasks and they are as follows:

- Task 1: Tree Inventory and Analysis
- Task 2: Tree Mapping
- Task 3: Preparation of the Neighborhood Tree Succession and Initiation Plan
- Task 4: Presentation to City Commission

This report will summarize the process taken in each task and report the findings during the inventory and analysis portion. It will include maps showing the existing tree and palm locations, the locations of proposed tree and palm locations and an excel spreadsheet (in electronic format) with the information by street address. In addition, the report will include planting details, specifications and a probable order of costs.

TASK I - INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

In Task I, C+R was given the task to inventory and analyze all of the existing trees and palms (approximately 38,000 trees and palms) that are in the single family residential right of ways. C+R was also instructed to look at a particular sampling of the Coconut Palm streets to determine if Coconut Palms were appropriate for those streets.







Photo 1- Oak Tree Street

Photo 2- Black Olive Street

Photo 3- Coconut Palm Street



Zone 1







ID	UNIQUEID	ADDRESS SUFFIX	STREET	ONSTR	FROMSTR	TOSTR	SIDE	SITE	SPP	DBH	COND	HIGHT
1820.0000	0 100	1412	MADRID ST	MADRID ST	MESSINA AV	ORTEGA AV	Front	2	SWIETENIA MAHOGANI	26	Fair	31-45 FT
1821.0000	0 1000	917	MEDINA AV	MEDINA AV	CAPRI ST	PIZARRO ST	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	8	Good	15-30 FT
1822.0000	0 10001	1556	MURCIA AV	RED RD	ALCALA AV	MURCIA AV	Side	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	18	Good	15-30 FT
1823.0000	0 10002	1556	MURCIA AV	RED RD	ALCALA AV	MURCIA AV	Side	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	15	Good	15-30 FT
1824.0000	0 10003	1569	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Median	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	9	Fair	15-30 FT
1825.0000	0 10004	1569	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Median	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	8	Good	15-30 FT
1826.0000	0 10005	1569	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Median	3	BUCIDA BUCERAS	10	Good	15-30 FT
1827.0000	0 10006	1560	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	9	Good	15-30 FT
1828.0000	0 10007	1560	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	12	Good	15-30 FT
1829.0000		1552	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	13		15-30 FT
1830.0000		1552	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	11		15-30 FT
1831.0000		921	MEDINA AV	MEDINA AV	CAPRI ST	PIZARRO ST	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	10		0-15 FT
1832.0000		1542	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	3	BUCIDA BUCERAS	10		15-30 FT
1834.0000		1542	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	15		15-30 FT
1835.0000		1536	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	15		15-30 FT
1836.0000		1536	ALCALA AV	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	12		15-30 FT
1837.0000		3700	ALHAMBRA CR	ALCALA AV	RED RD	ALHAMBRA CR	Side	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	20		31-45 FT
1839.0000		3700	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	PLASENTIA AV	ALCALA AV	Front	2	QUERCUS VIRGINIANA	7		15-30 FT
1840.0000		3710	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	PLASENTIA AV	ALCALA AV	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	9		31-45 FT
1841.0000		3710	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	PLASENTIA AV	ALCALA AV	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	19		31-45 FT
1842.0000		1115	CAPRI ST	MEDINA AV	CAPRI ST	PIZARRO ST	Side	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	7		0-15 FT
1843.0000		3711	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	PLASENTIA AV	ALCALA AV	Front	2	QUERCUS VIRGINIANA	2		0-15 FT
1844.0000		3711	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	PLASENTIA AV	ALCALA AV	Front	1	QUERCUS VIRGINIANA	2		0-15 FT
1845.0000		3613	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	ALCALA AV	MURCIA AV	Front	3	BUCIDA BUCERAS	29 7		31-45 FT 31-45 FT
1846.0000		3613	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	ALCALA AV	MURCIA AV	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS			31-45 FT
1847.0000 1848.0000		3613 3603	ALHAMBRA CR ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR ALHAMBRA CR	ALCALA AV ALCALA AV	MURCIA AV MURCIA AV	Front	1 1	BUCIDA BUCERAS BUCIDA BUCERAS	32 16		15-30 FT
1849.0000		3519	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	MURCIA AV	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	3	BUCIDA BUCERAS	18		15-30 FT
1850.0000		3519	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	MURCIA AV	ALHAMBRA CR	Front Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	18		15-30 FT
1851.0000		3519	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	MURCIA AV	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	18		15-30 FT
1852.0000		3513	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	MURCIA AV	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	5	DELONIX REGIA	5		0-15 FT
1853.0000		1115	CAPRI ST	MEDINA AV	CAPRI ST	PIZARRO ST	Side	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	11		15-30 FT
1854.0000		3511	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	MURCIA AV	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	4	BUCIDA BUCERAS	21		31-45 FT
1855.0000		3511	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	MURCIA AV	ALHAMBRA CR	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	23		31-45 FT
1857.0000		3425	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	TARAGONA DR	SALVATIERRA DR	Front	3	BUCIDA BUCERAS	22		31-45 FT
1858.0000		3425	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	TARAGONA DR	SALVATIERRA DR	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	20		31-45 FT
1859.0000		3425	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	TARAGONA DR	SALVATIERRA DR	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	20		31-45 FT
1860.0000		3417	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	SALVATIERRA DR	TREVINO AV	Front	5	BUCIDA BUCERAS	22		31-45 FT
1861.0000		3417	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	SALVATIERRA DR	TREVINO AV	Front	4	BUCIDA BUCERAS	24		31-45 FT
1862.0000		3417	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	SALVATIERRA DR	TREVINO AV	Front	3	BUCIDA BUCERAS	13		31-45 FT
1863.0000		3417	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	SALVATIERRA DR	TREVINO AV	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	8		31-45 FT
1864.0000		1201	CAPRI ST	MEDINA AV	CAPRI ST	PIZARRO ST	Side	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	13		15-30 FT
1865.0000		3417	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	SALVATIERRA DR	TREVINO AV	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	24		31-45 FT
1866.0000		3405	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	SALVATIERRA DR	TREVINO AV	Front	1	PLANTING SITE LARGE	0	N/A	
1867.0000		3400	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	SALVATIERRA DR	TREVINO AV	Front	1	BUCIDA BUCERAS	25		31-45 FT
1868.0000	0 10043	3400	ALHAMBRA CR	ALHAMBRA CR	SALVATIERRA DR	TREVINO AV	Front	2	BUCIDA BUCERAS	24	Good	31-45 FT

Figure 2- Sample Excel Spreadsheet









Figure 3- Sample Map







TASK I - INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

Process

The Curtis + Rogers team divided the city into 5 zones (refer to Figure 1) in order to methodically confirm the locations and species of all trees and palms. The original information was provided by The City of Coral Gables Public Services Department in an excel spreadsheet digital file format (refer to Figure 2 for a sample page). C+R imported the information into GIS and mapped all of the trees and palms (refer to Figure 3 for a sample map). After the maps were created the C+R team began confirming the information. A team of seven C+R professionals walked every street to confirm the location of the trees and the species of the trees. In addition, they were documenting the discrepancies, looking for spaces where trees are missing and capturing the character of the street.

The information provided to C+R included future planting locations. We found that in some cases, that even though there was an open space for a tree, and it would follow the spacing on a particular street, a tree would not do well for numourous reasons such as the canopy of a tree from private property overhanging in the right of way (photo 4), too close to an intersection, not enough space between driveways (photo 5) or there are utilities in the way (photo 6)..

Once all the data was confirmed, C+R began the task of mapping the information. The original spreadsheet was updated to reflect the confirmed data. This information was then brought back into the GIS mapping and new maps were created with the updated information.



Photo 4- over hanging canopy



Photo 5- not enough space between driveways



Photo 6- existing utilities

Findings

The City of Coral Gables appears to have a balanced diversity. Few predominant species are found, and continued diversification and balance should be striven for.

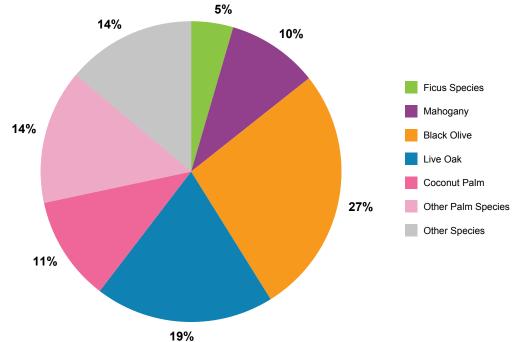
Predominant Trees

- Black Olive
- Live Oak
- Coconut Palm
- Mahogany

CORAL

19%

Coral Gables Tree Species



While C+R confirmed the information received, Lisa Hammer, Certified Arborist, was performing a Level 1 Limited Visual Assessment of all trees. This was performed with the objective of identifying obvious defects which pose immediate hazards and significant tree health issues, as seen from the drive-by perspective. Using a motor scooter, the arborist drove down every street in the single-family residential areas, noting any tree that met the above criteria, locating it by address and tree number on the maps provided, and making brief comments in regard to the defects observed. This information was later compiled with the master plan data. Work began in the northwestern quadrant of the city and proceeded toward the south and southeast.

General Conditions

In general, the arborist found most of the street trees to be in good general condition when age, size, and location factors are considered. Many of the City's trees are old and as such, have incurred storm damage, lightning damage, vehicle damage, pest/disease infestations, or other common occurrences under local urban conditions. However, they continue to provide the desired functions of canopy coverage, shade, and the overall environmental benefits of urban trees.





Recommendations

Under a Level 1 assessment, our scope was to identify obvious defects which pose immediate hazards and significant tree health issues, as seen from the drive-by perspective. In cases where trees were no longer performing the desired functions due to the above, and recovery or hazard abatement was not likely, the arborist recommended removal. If there was a chance that defective or unhealthy trees could be remedially treated, she recommended pruning or further evaluation to determine if there might be other options.

Risk Assessment

Many of the damaged trees pose some level of risk due to their potential to fail, limb drop, trunk splitting, breaking, toppling, etc., even though they may have healthy canopies. Should these damaged trees split, break, or topple, people or property could be at risk of injury or damage.

This evaluation was a Level 1 Risk Assessment only and the threshold levels for risk acceptance have not been established by the City. Therefore, the arborist recommended removal only for those trees that she deemed to be at an immediate risk of failure in which the consequences would be severe. For all others of concern, she recommended Further Evaluation, in which case additional risk assessments (Level 2 or 3) could be performed and/or the City can evaluate the tree and determine the level of acceptable risk.

Most Common Tree Problems

Trunk Damage

The most common problem noted on the larger hardwood trees was trunk damage from storms (limb rip-outs and splits) and vehicles (particularly trash pick-up equipment). Mahogany trees and black olive trees seemed to most affected, but some of the live oaks and other species also had damaged trunks. In many cases trunk damage was severe and the trees are at risk of failing, even though they may still have a healthy canopy. For future plantings, you may want to consider eliminating mahogany trees due to their great potential to split, and make sure that black olives and live oaks have acceptable branching structures. If feasible, consider potential alternatives to locating trash piles adjacent to trees.

Lightning Damage

Another common problem noted was lightning damage. Many trees showed signs of past or recent lightning strikes. Those with structural defects were treated as above for those with trunk damage. For those which were in an obvious state of decline, removal was recommended, as recovery would be unlikely. If the stress and damage was moderate, Further Evaluation was recommended, as there could be a chance for recovery.

Coconut Palm Problems

Many of the coconut palms showed stress symptoms due to cold damage in 2009-2010 and rugose spiraling whitefly infestations in the past two years. Both of these stressors have ultimately resulted in nutritional deficiencies. Some palms were so severely stressed that recovery is unlikely, in which case the arborist recommended removal. For those which could potentially recover with remedial fertilization and pest control treatments she

recommended Further Evaluation. The City must make a management decision as to whether remedial treatments are desirable to help save the trees. Otherwise, they could be left as is, in which case they may eventually die, or they could be removed and replaced now as part of the Tree Succession Plan.

In general, she did not note any streets in which the coconut palms were in such poor condition that an entirely new street design was warranted.

Weeping Fig Trees

Some large weeping fig (Ficus benjamina) trees remain, although many have been lost to storms in past years. Those which remain are in variable condition. Some are partially toppled, some have numerous dead branches, and ficus whitefly infestations are recurring and causing significant defoliation. Following these stressors are infections of wood-rotting diseases such as Hypoxylon canker and Kretzschmaria deusta, which will eventually kill the tree. The arborist expects that most all of them will be gone within the next several years. She has recommended removal for any that are diseased, dangerous, or in very poor general condition. For some she has recommended further evaluation. On streets that have only a few weeping figs left, you may want to consider removing them and re-designing.

Lofty Fig Trees

The lofty fig (Ficus altissima) trees are mostly in good condition, but sthe arborist noted a few that are diseased with one or both of the wood-rotting diseases mentioned above on the weeping figs. She recommended removal of the diseased trees. This species is on Miami-Dade County's list of prohibited species, therefore, those which are removed cannot be replaced with the same species. If significant numbers of lofty figs die out in a specific area, some re-design may be needed.

Oueen Palms

There are numerous queen palms (Syagrus romanzoffianum) and overtop palms (Syagrus amara) in Gables By The Sea (Bella Vista Avenue and adjacent side streets). These palms are not well-adapted to alkaline soils and as such, many are in very poor condition due to nutritional deficiencies. Again, removal was recommended for many of them which are beyond recovery, and unless a stringent fertilization program is implemented, more can be expected to decline. This might be an area to consider for a new street tree design.

Purple Trumpet Trees

Riviera Court is lined with purple trumpet trees (Tabebuia impetiginosa). These trees are not well-adapted to our soils and many on this street are missing or in poor condition. This is another street to consider for a new street design.

Bottlebrush Trees

Some old bottlebrush trees (Callistemon viminalis) remain. Most are in poor general condition due to damage, stress, or disease (gall disease). The arborist only recommended removal for those in very poor condition, but some consideration should be given to removal of most, if not all, bottlebrush trees in an effort to update current plantings.







TASK I - INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

Hong Kong Orchid Trees

Some Hong Kong orchid trees (Bauhinia blakeana) trees remain in scattered locations. This species is highly susceptible to trunk and limb breakage and most of the trees are damaged. The arborist only recommended removal of the most severely damaged trees, or those near streets or sidewalks where there are significant "targets". But in general, some consideration might be given to replacing all of these trees with alternative species for greater long-term performance.

Young Live Oaks

There are numerous recent (last several years) plantings of young live oak trees. Most are performing well but some scattered trees show symptoms of stress. In severe cases, the arborist has recommended removal. In moderate cases, she has recommended further evaluation to determine the cause of stress, which might be abated with remedial treatments or prevented in future plantings.

Conclusion

C+R met with the city at various stages during the inventory and analysis process to discuss our progress and our findings. It was evident very early on that this task was greater and would take much longer than originally thought mostly because work started at the beginning of summer and the rainy season. In order to keep the project moving forward we agreed to start working on specifications, looking at costs for the replacements and production of what would become the final deliverables to shorten the schedule at the end of this project.

During these meetings the concern of the whether or not Coconut Palms was an appropriate species was discussed at length. After many meetings and review trips C+R was finally given a criteria in which to assess the palms. The criteria was to look at the percentage of trees that were missing, dead or unhealthy looking at each of Coconut Palm streets. If any of these streets had more than 30% of missing, dead or unhealthy looking palms they should be changed to shade trees. The final plan reflects the proposed species of the streets that met this criteria.







TASK II - MAPPING

Once the analysis was completed C+R began the process of calling out and mapping tree species for the individual streets. This process evolved over time as we received direction from the City Manager and city staff. We began by color coding the different species of the streets that were predominantly one species. During this initial process we began to see that some streets were mixed. Some were mixed with two or three species and some were just completely mixed. After we color coded everything we met with the city to discuss our progress and seek direction on the mixed streets.

The color coding helped us see the distribution of species throughout the entire city. This was useful when determining which species these particular streets should be converted to. During our numerous meetings it was determined that we would look at the streets with two or three species by block instead of as a whole. In doing so we found that many cases the blocks were already one species therefore no decision was required. It was also determined that a few streets were historically completely mixed and should stay that way. It would be left up to the city staff to decide what tree to plant if a tree needed to be replaced at the time of replacement. The color coded plans also included the change from Coconut Palms to street trees.

Once we finalized all of the streets C+R started finalizing the tree master plan so that the plan could be presented to the residents. For purposes of simplification the team divided the entire City into 5 zones as follow:

ZONE 1

From Coral Way (SW 24th St) north to City limits From Red Road (SW 57th Ave) to Douglas Road (SW 37th Ave)

ZONE 2

From Bird Road (SW 40th St) to Coral Way (SW 24th St) From Red Road (SW 57th Ave) to Douglas Road (SW 37th Ave)

ZONE 3

From US1 to Bird Road (SW 40th St)
From Red Road (SW 57th Ave) to Le Jeune Road (SW 42h Ave)

ZONE 4

From Sunset Dr (SW 72nd St) to US1 From Red Road (SW 57th Ave)to Le Jeune Road (SW 42h Ave)

ZONE 5

From Sunset Dr (SW 72nd St) south to City Limits

A total of 5 community meetings where held, one meeting per zone (refer to figure 4). Residents were invited to ask questions and/or make comments. The main resident concerns were as follows:

- Coconut Palms not looking good and not providing enough shade
- Black Olive Trees staining sidewalks and there were some complaints of the Black Olive Trees destroying sidewalks
- Crepe Myrtle Trees not providing shade and not flowering
- Queen Palms not doing well in some areas
- When is this project of replacing trees and palms going to begin
- Who will take care of the trees after they are installed

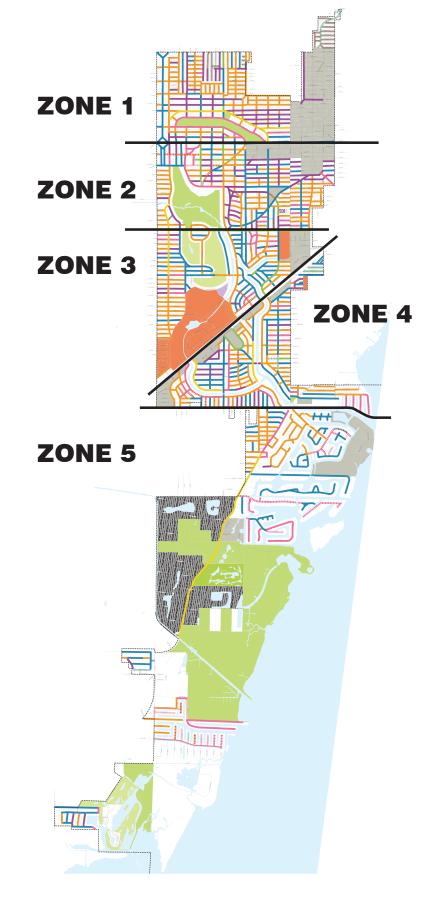
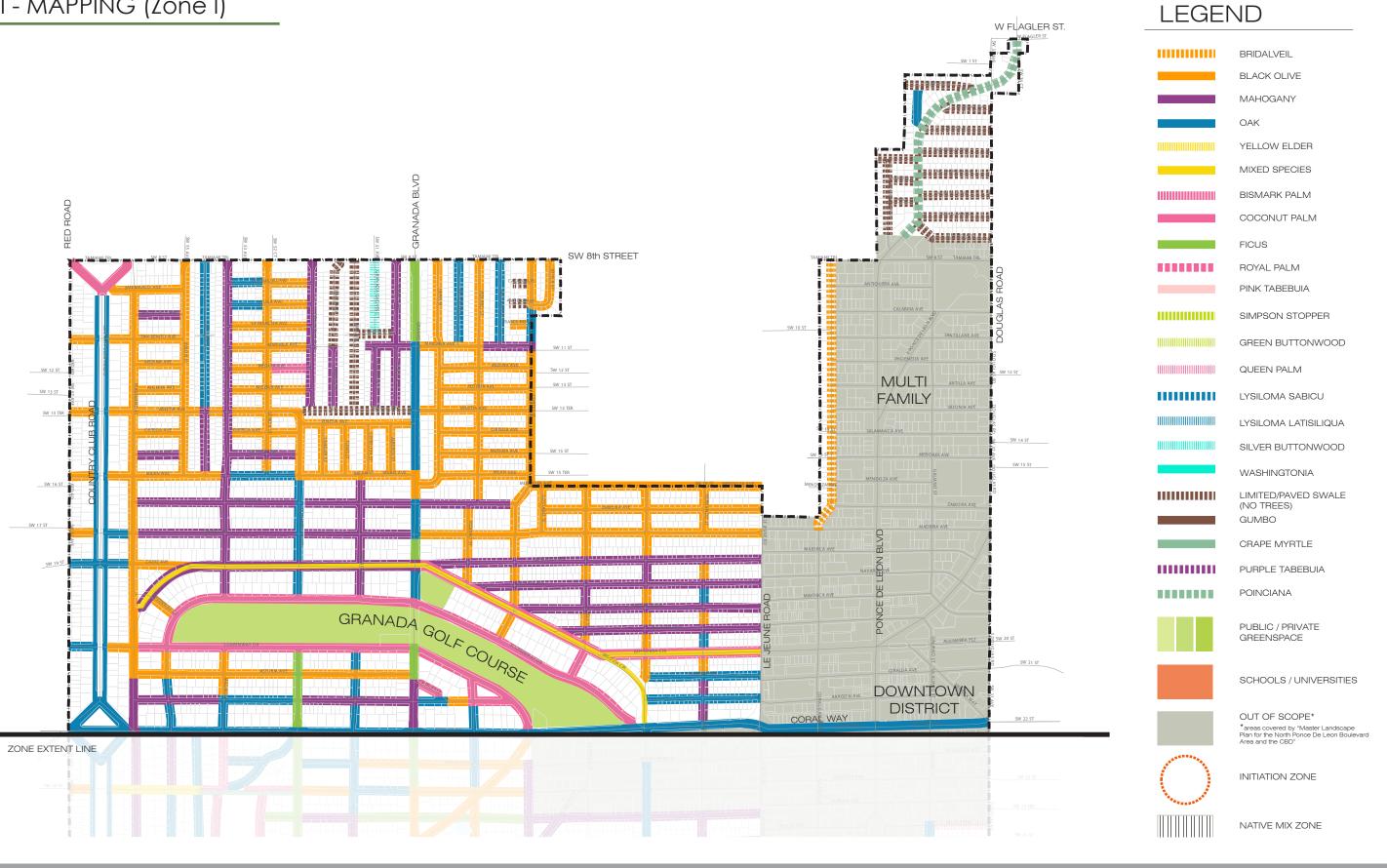


Figure 4- Street tree master plan





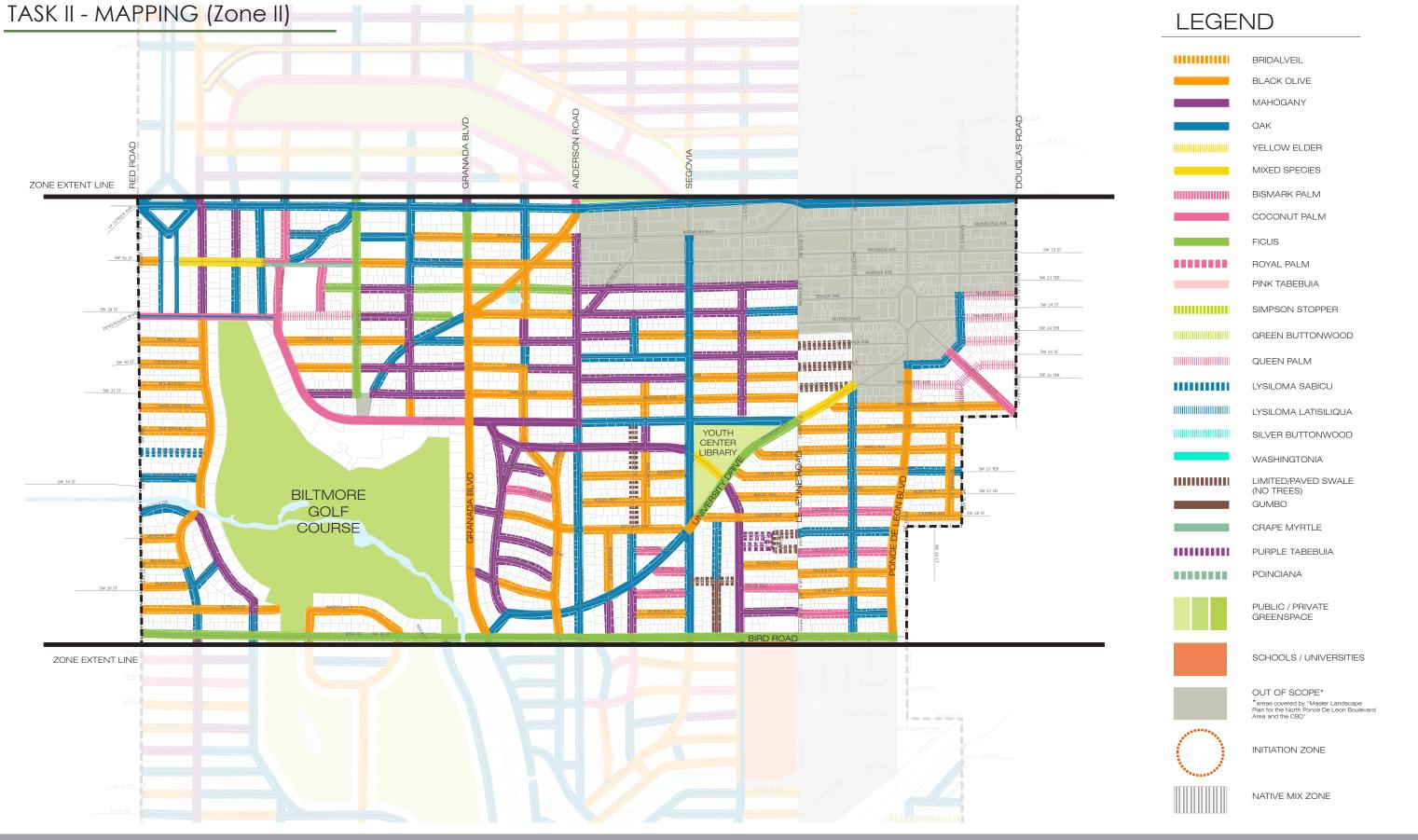








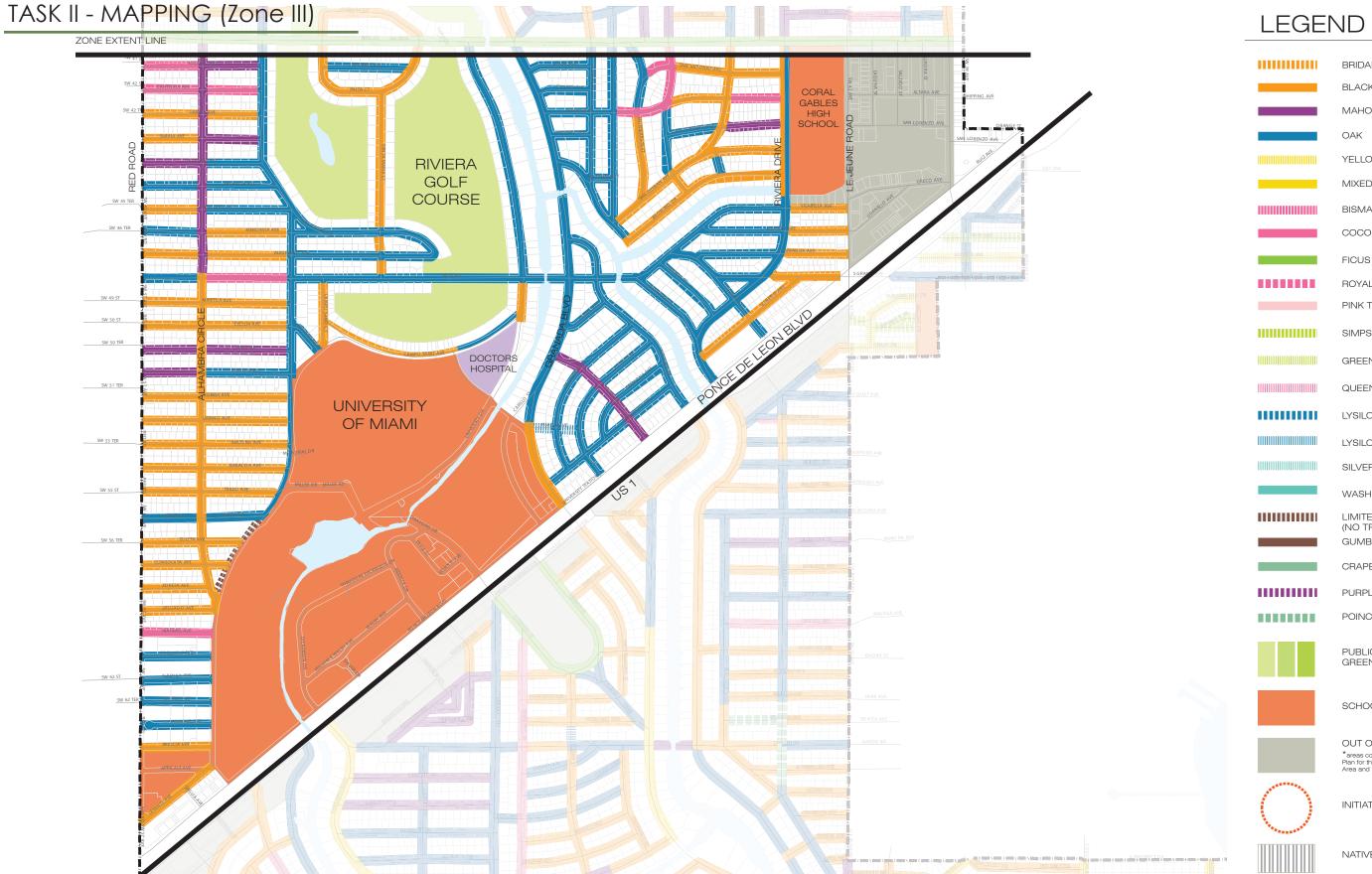
















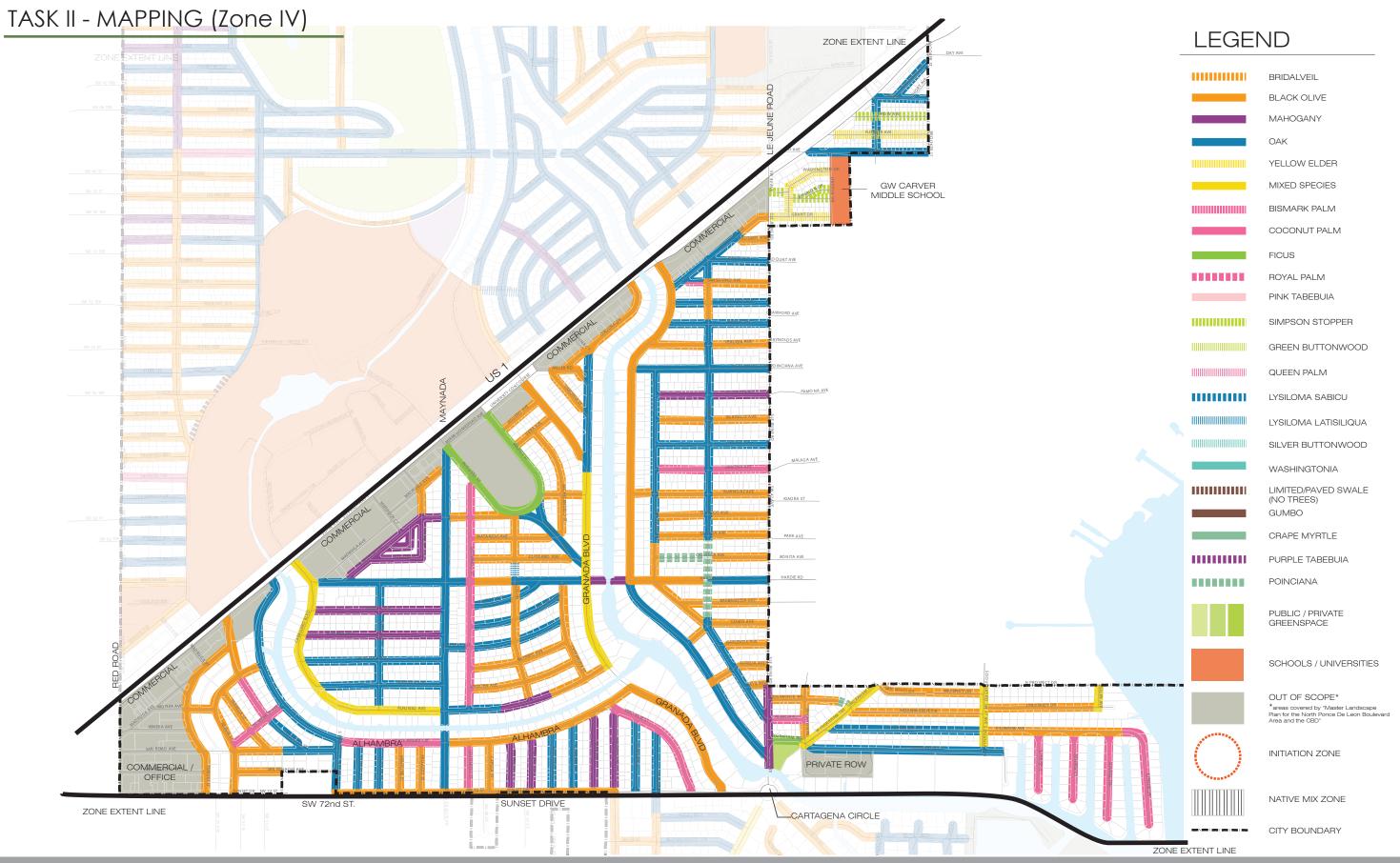
INITIATION ZONE

NATIVE MIX ZONE























TASK III - NEIGHBORHOOD TREE SUCCESSION PLAN

Task III was the creation of the neighborhood tree succession and initiation plan. The tree succession plan is the replacing of currently missing and damaged trees in the city and the initiation plan is the introduction of trees to the newly annexed neighborhoods. The plans produced reflect C+R's following recommendations.

Recommendations:

- The city should continue with the historical thematic street tree planning
- The city should follow the Florida Power and Light's plant the right tree in the right place program
- The city should review the succession plan every five years which may include review of particular species for community preference replacements
- The city should continue to strive for species diversification
- The city should explore and implement a treatment plan for the Black Olive trees in order to minimize staining

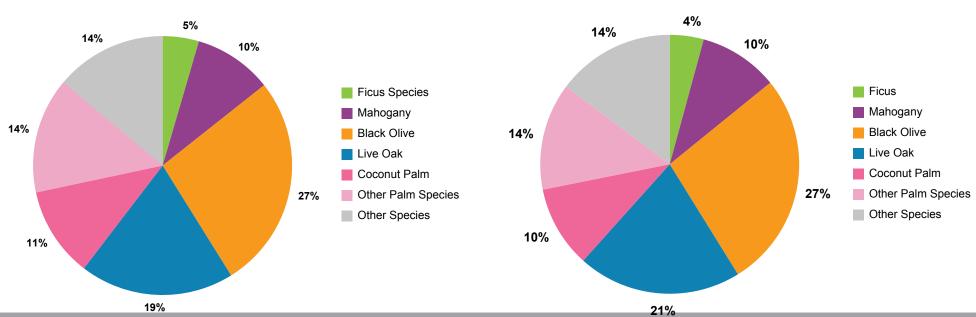
In order to increase diversification in the future C+R recommends the addition of the following new species:

Bridalveil - Caesalpinia granadillo Verawood - Bulnesia arborea Wild Tamarind Tree - Lysiloma latisiliqua Yellow Elder- Tecoma stans Glossy Privet- Ligustrum japonicum Simpson Stopper- Myrcianthes fragans Pink Shower Tree - Casia bakeriana White Tabebuia - Tabebuia roseo-alba Purple Tabebuia - Tabebuia ipe Yellow Poinciana - Peltophorum pterocarpum

These plans were completed after the public meetings and include replacement of the Coconut Palms that met the criteria set forth by the city.

Existing Tree Canopy by Species

Proposed Tree Canopy by Species









TASK III - NEIGHBORHOOD TREE SUCCESSION PLAN

Trees to be purchased for initial phase of tree succession and initiation program

Species	Specifications					
Bismarkia nobilis- Bismark Palm	10' CT ,18'-20' oa					
Bursera simaruba -Gumbo Limbo	14-16' ht, 7' sp, 4"dbh					
Caesalpinia granadillo- Bridal Veil	12' ht, 5'sp, 2"dbh					
Coconut nucifera - Green Malayan Coconut	15' gray wood					
Conocarpus erectus "sericeous"Silver Buttonwood	12'-14' ht, 6' sp, 3 "dbh					
Conocarpus erectus-Green Buttonwood	14-16' ht, 7' sp, 3 "dbh					
Delonix regia - Royal Poinciana	14-16' ht, 7' sp, 4"dbh					
Ficus aurea- Strangler Fig	14-16' ht, 7' sp, 4"dbh					
Ligustrum Japonicum -Japanese Privet	10' ht., 10'sp.					
Lysiloma latisiliqua- Wild Tamarind	12'-14' ht, 6' sp, 3 "dbh					
Myrcianthes Fragans-Simpson Stopper	10-12' ht,5' sp, 2"dbh					
Quercus virginiana-Live Oak	14-16' ht, 7' sp, 4"dbh					
Roystonea regia -Royal Palms	14' gray wood					
Swietenia mahogany- Mahogany	14-16' ht, 7' sp, 4"dbh					
Syagrus romanzoffiana - Queen Palm	14' gray wood					
Tabebuia heterophylla- Pink Tabebuia	12'-14' ht, 6' sp, 3 "dbh					
Tabebuia impetiginosa- Purple Tabebuia	14'-16' ht, 8' sp, 4 "dbh					
Tecoma Stans- Yellow Elder	10-12' ht,5' sp, 2"dbh					
Mixed species to be planted throughout City						
Bulnesia arborea - Verawood	14'-16' ht, 7' sp, 3 "dbh					
Cassia bakeriana- Pink Shower Tree	14-16' ht, 7' sp, 4"dbh					
Ligustrum Japonicum -Japanese Privet	10' ht., 10'sp.					
Quercus virginiana-Live Oak	14-16' ht, 7' sp, 4"dbh					
Tabebuia impetiginosa- Purple Tabebuia	14'-16' ht, 8' sp, 4 "dbh					





