# Item G-9 Red Road Landscape Improvements

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2020





# Project Overview



# **Project:**

This project is part of the City's ongoing tree planting program that is being implemented by the Landscape Services Division of the Public Works Department.

The City's Public Works Department has planted over 4,000 trees in the last six years.

# **Public Meeting:**

Red Road is a State Road (SR-959), and is designated a State Historic Highway.

Tree plantings along Red Road require a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) landscape permit and must comply with FDOT design criteria.

The City received FDOT comments for the FDOT landscape permit (2019-L-690-00008) requiring a public meeting be held in accordance with State laws (Chapter 89-383 and Chapter 2007-196, Laws of Florida) regarding State Historic Highways.



# Project Overview



# Why Palms and Not Larger Trees?

The FDOT design criteria does not allow for new trees to be planted in the grass swale areas along Red Road.

The City submitted and received approval for a design variation for lateral offset, clear sight triangles and stopping sight distances in order to allow for the Solitaire Palms to be planted.

Solitaire Palms meet the FDOT frangible or breakaway requirements for a maximum 4-inch trunk diameter as well as the 8.5-foot height clearance to the bottom of the palm canopy for visibility.

These proposed plantings are subject to FDOT approval of the submitted landscape permit, and the final Solitaire Palm locations and quantities may vary somewhat from the proposed plans.



# Proposed Scope of Work



Red Road (East side)
from SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street to US1

- About 3.5 miles of Red Road

227 Solitaire Palms

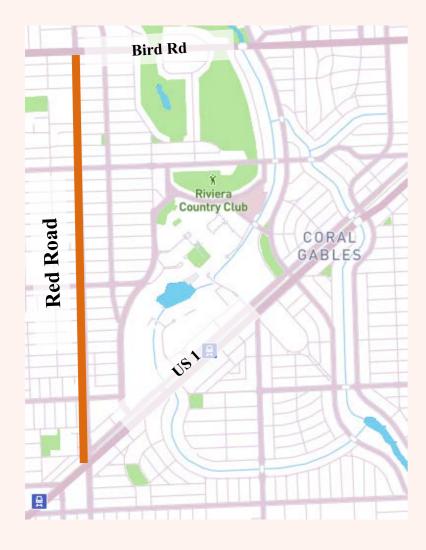
Ptychosperma elegans

**3** Planting Beds of Green Island Ficus Shrubs

Ficus microcarpa 'Green Island'

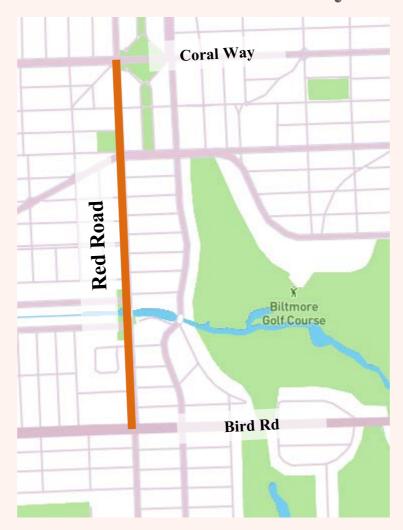
# Proposed Scope of Work

US 1 to Bird Rd



107 Palms

**Bird Rd to Coral Way** 



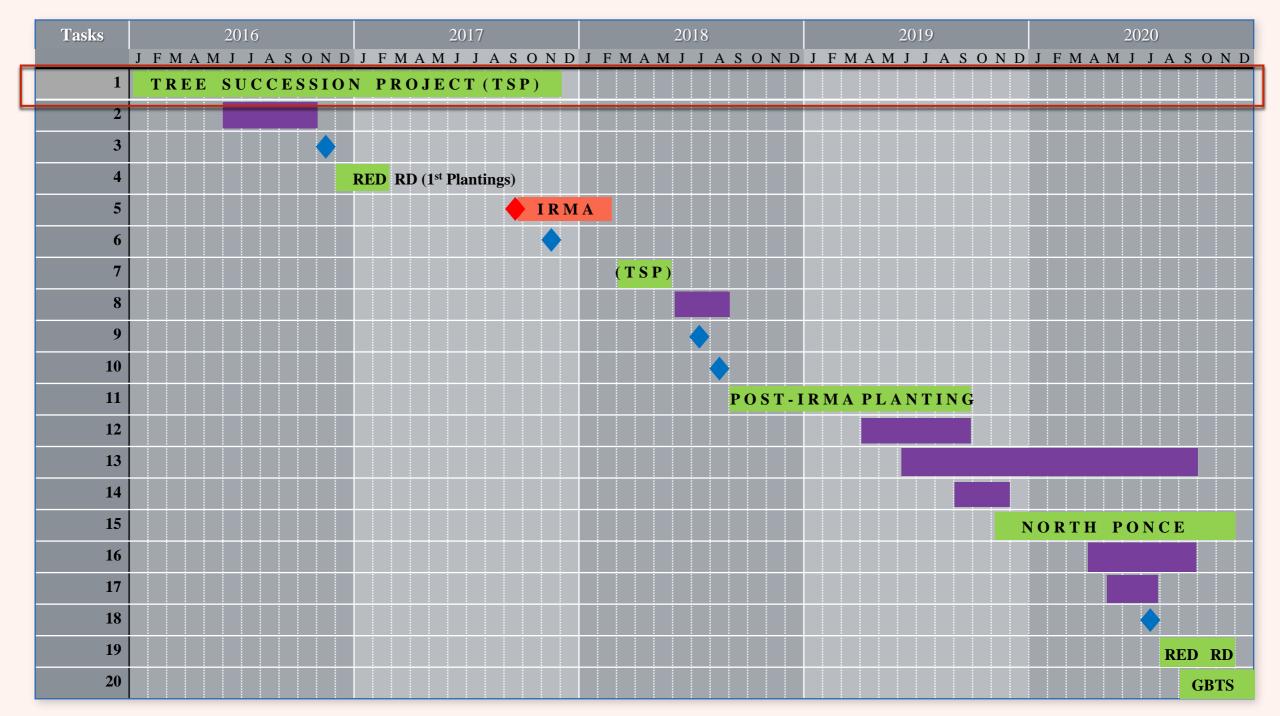
103 Palms

Coral Way to 8th Street



17 Palms

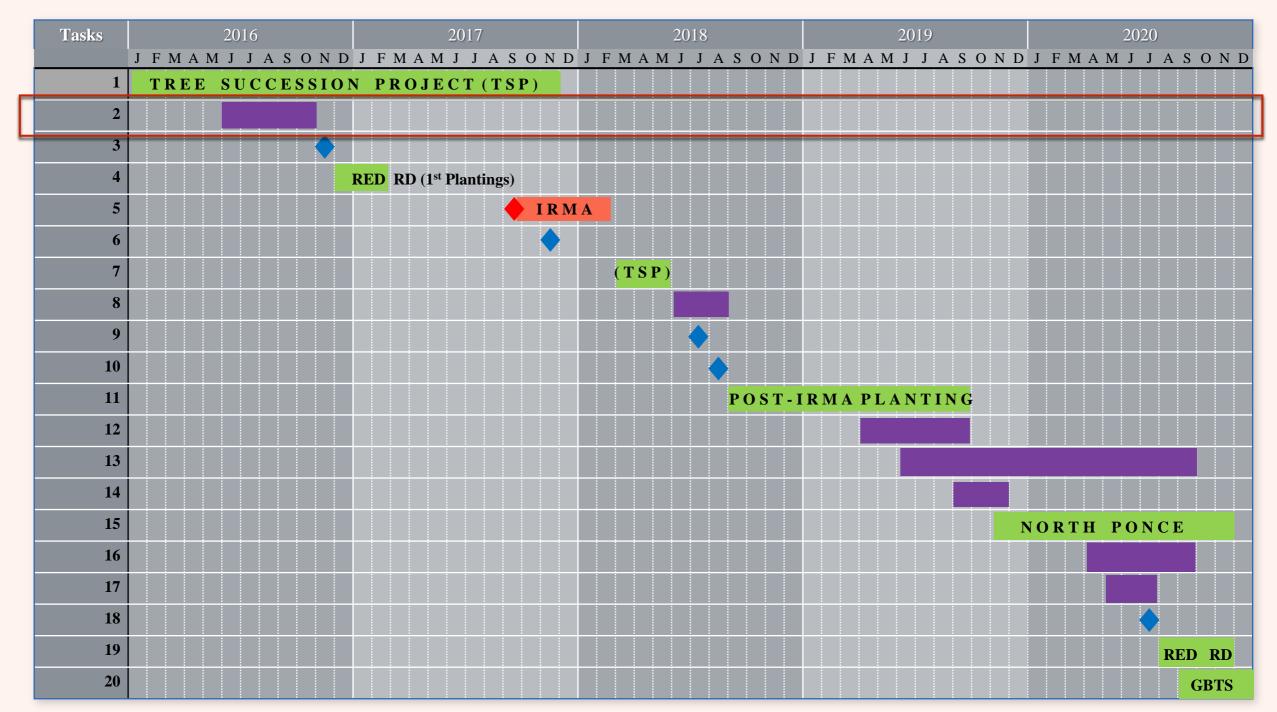




#### 1) 2015 - September 2017:

In spring of 2015 the City began the Tree Succession Project, and the ongoing planting of trees and palms citywide continued through September of 2017.

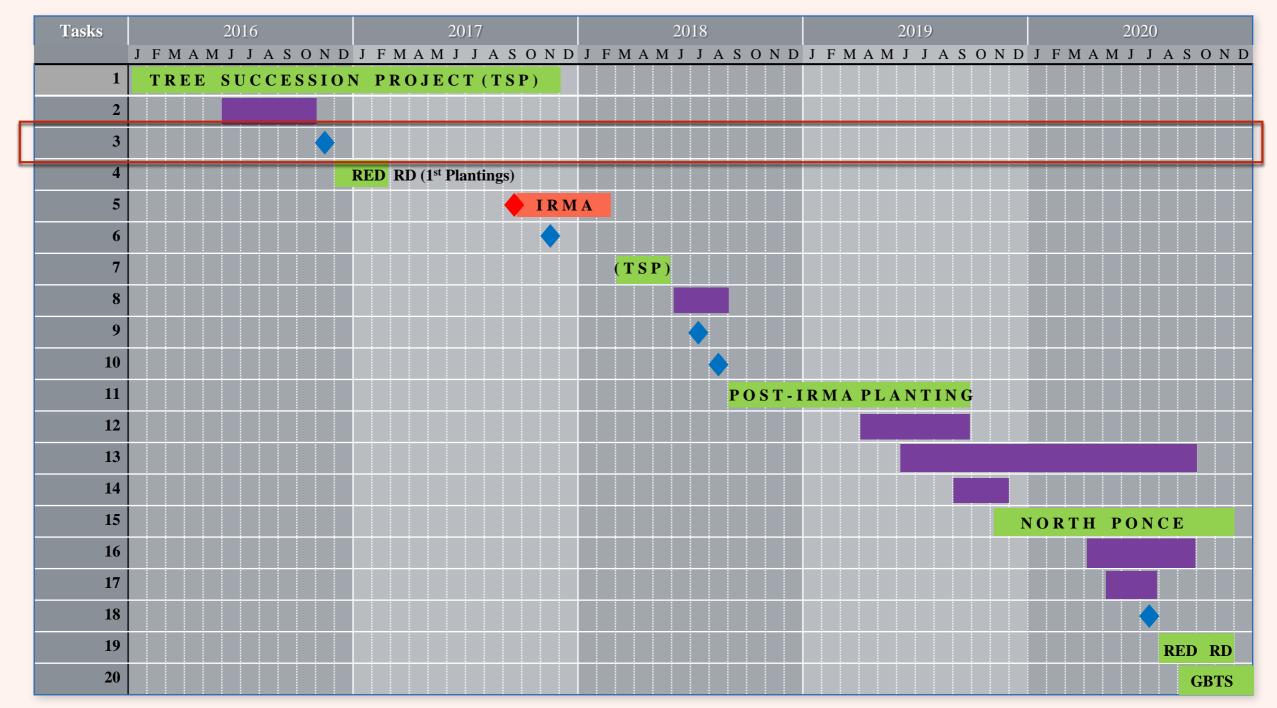




#### 2) Summer 2016:

In summer of 2016 the City submitted Red Road landscape permit plans to FDOT.

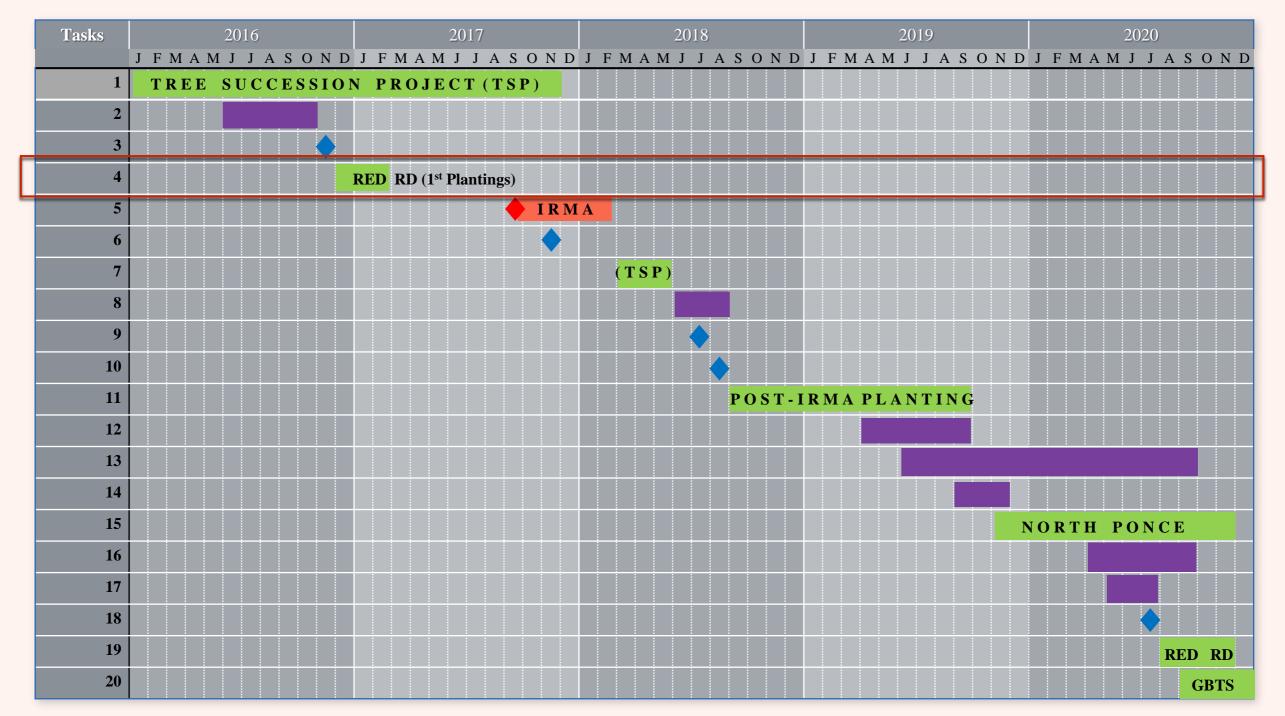




#### 3) November 9, 2016:

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the original FDOT landscape permit (2016-L-690-09) for the Red Road landscape improvements was obtained and had an expiration date of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.





#### 4) Late 2016 to early 2017:

In late 2016 to early 2017, the first seven Solitaire Palms and Green Island Ficus shrubs were installed in the swale areas along Red Road between Cantoria Ave. and Bird Road. The remaining Solitaire Palms were programmed to be installed in the fall of 2017.

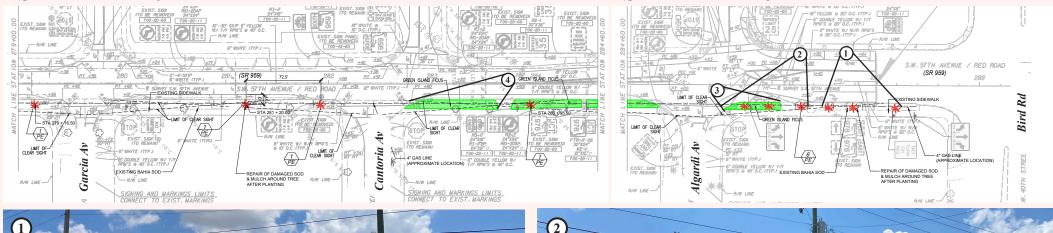


# Red Road FDOT Landscape Permit Plans

Cantoria Ave to Bird Rd Planted in 2017

#### SHEET LD-19

#### SHEET LD-20













Red Road Looking North Towards Bird Road (Feb 2019 Google Street View)

# Palms & Shrubs Planted in 2017 CORALGABLES





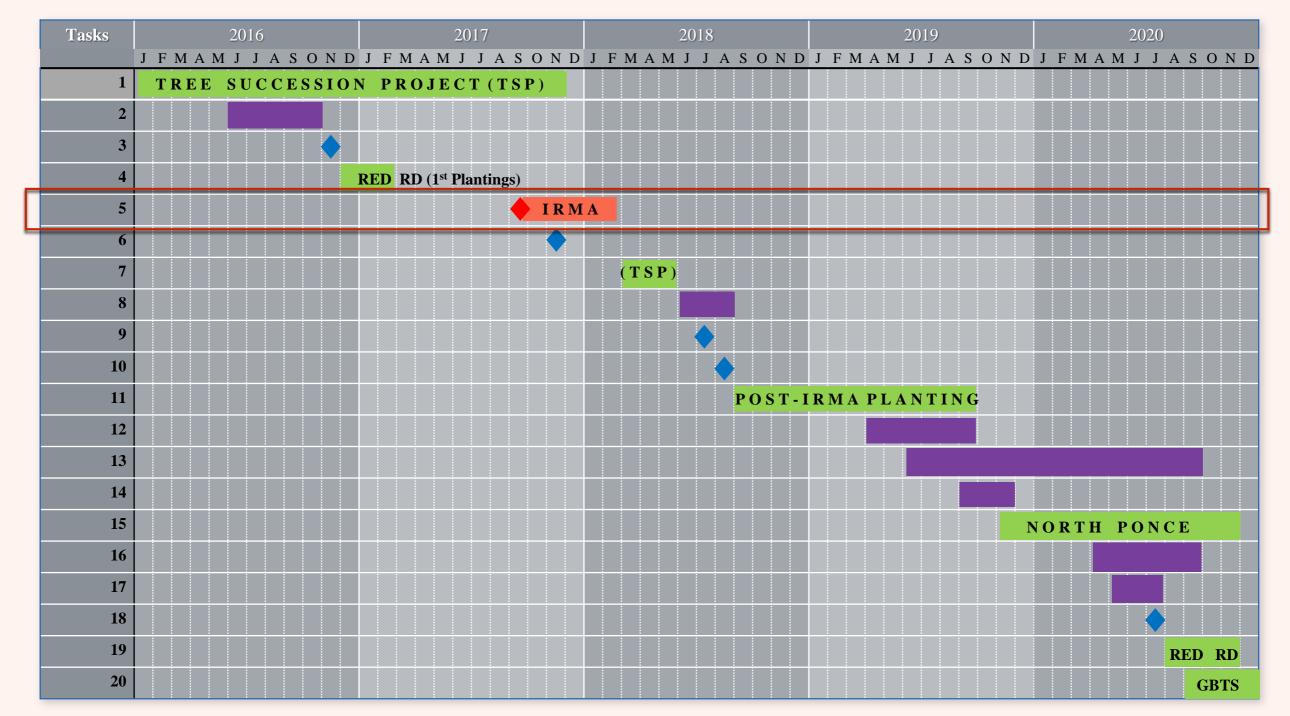


Algardi Ave. Looking South on Red Road

# Palms & Shrubs Planted in 2017 CORALGABLES



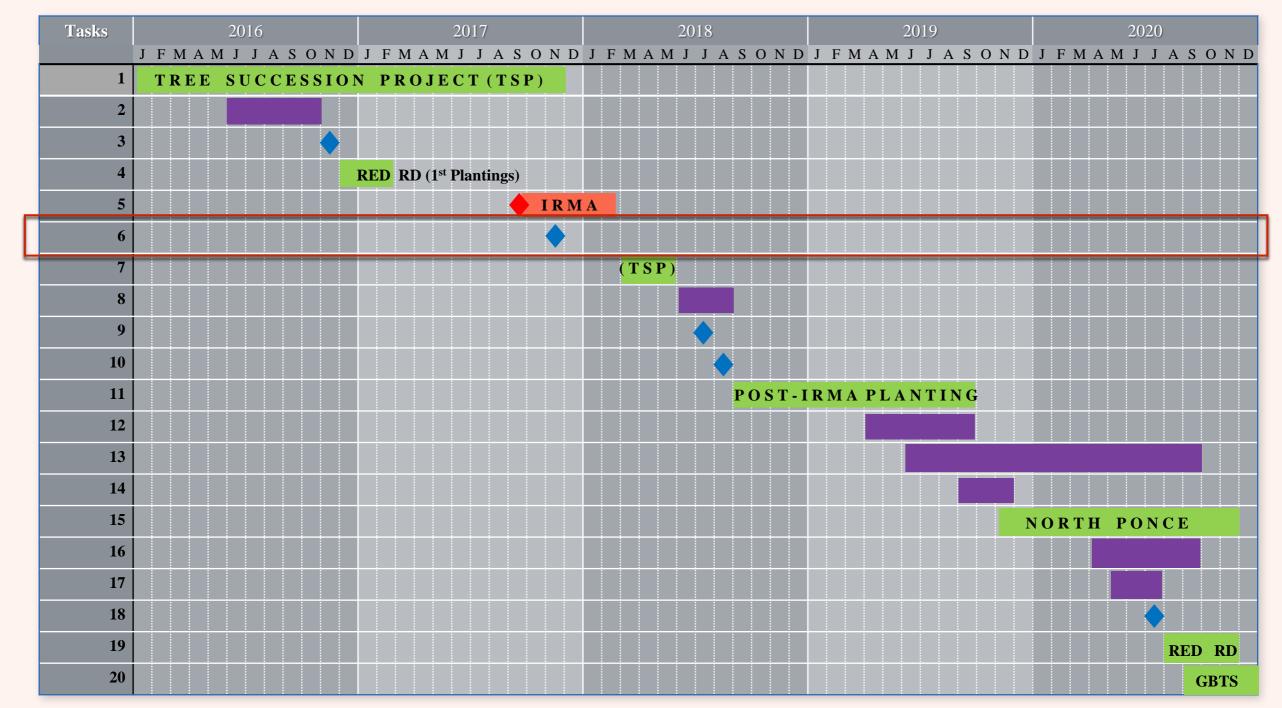
**Red Road Looking South Towards Cantoria Ave.** 



#### 5) September 9-10, 2017:

Hurricane Irma struck on September 9-10, 2017 and was followed by months of cleanup and recovery efforts. New tree plantings were suspended until post-hurricane cleanup and recovery efforts were nearly completed.

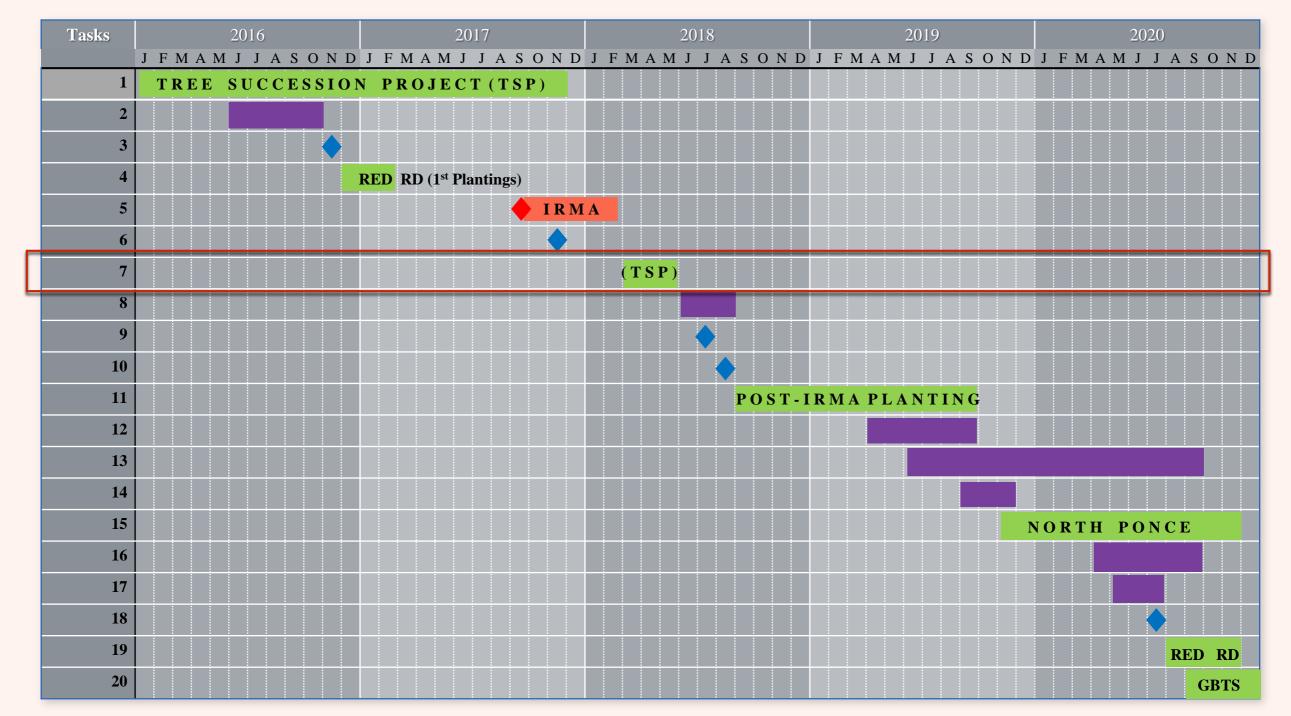




#### 6) November 9, 2017:

On November 9th, 2017 the original Red Road FDOT landscape permit (2016-L-690-09) expired.

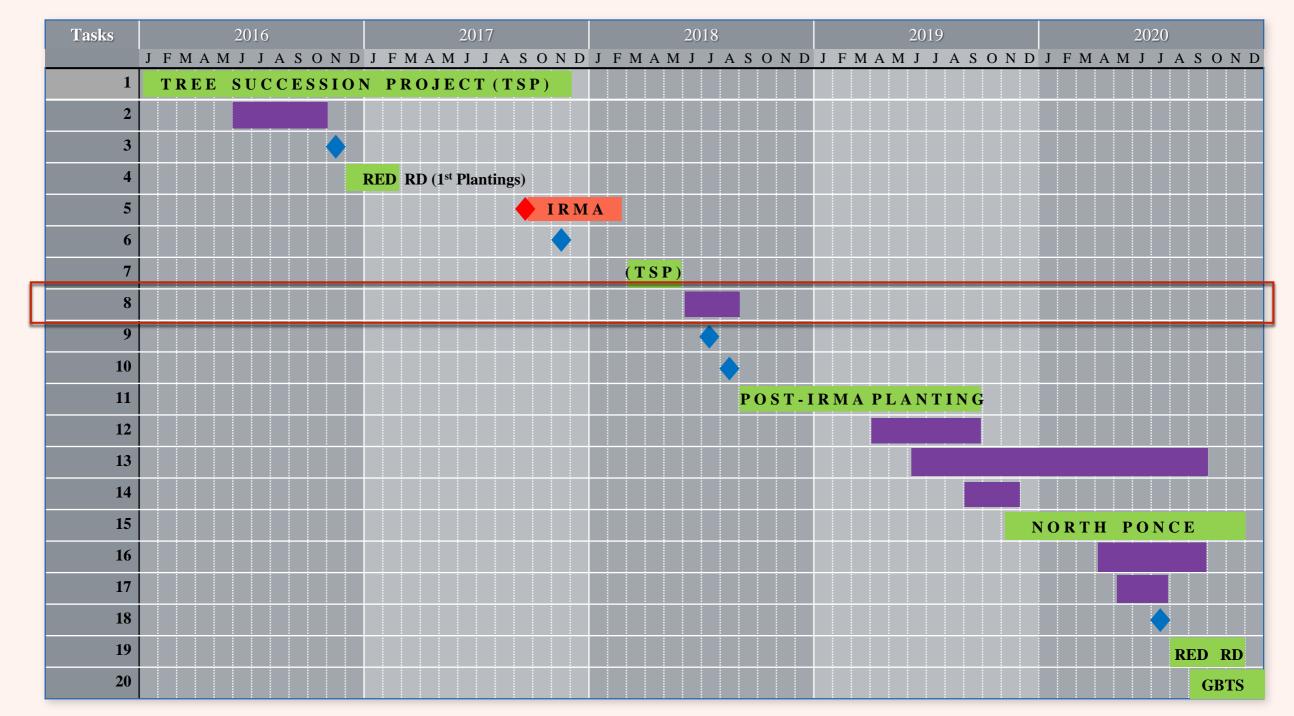




#### 7) March - May of 2018:

In March through May of 2018, the remaining 150 Tree Succession Project oak trees were planted in Old Cutler Bay.

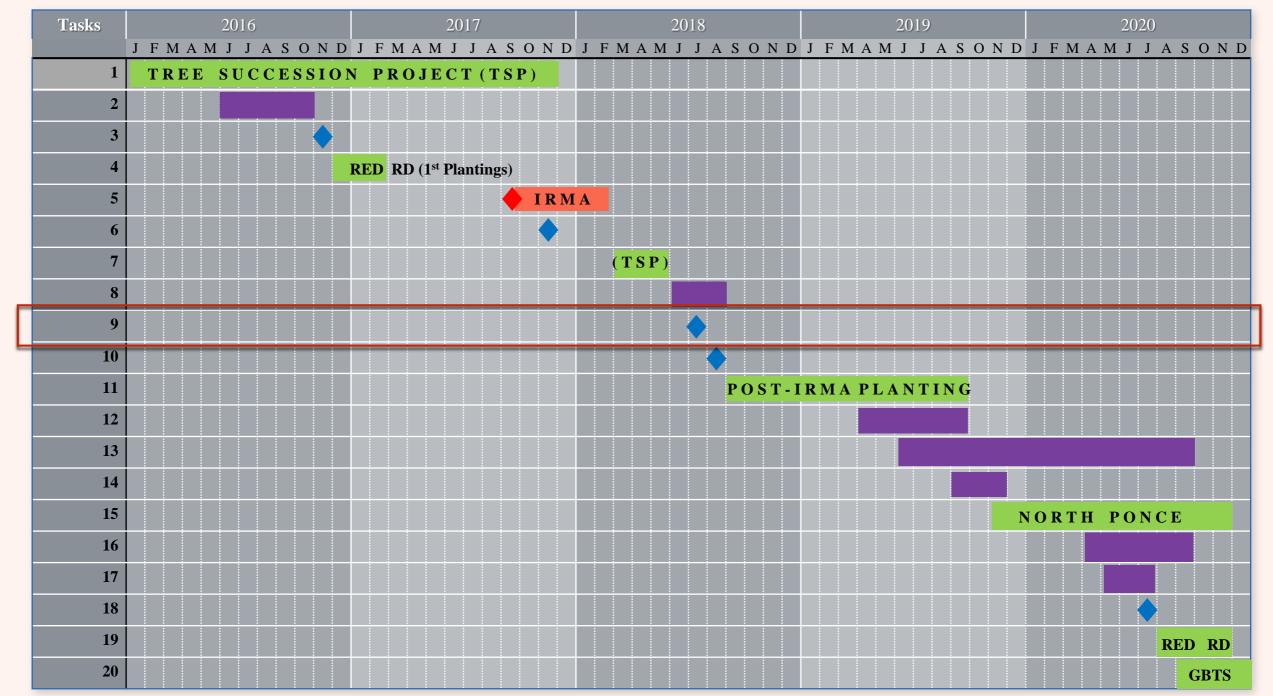




#### 8) June 28, 2018:

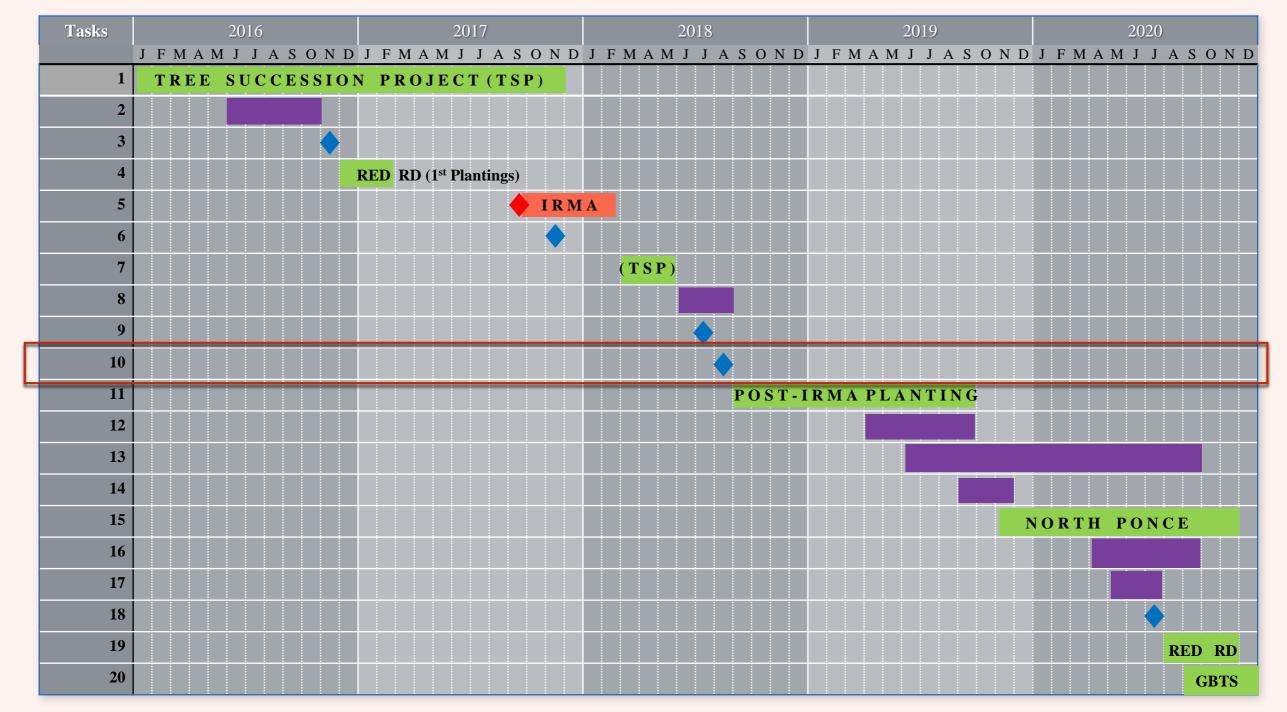
On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 an Invitation for Bids (IFB) was issued to purchase approximately one thousand (1,000) new trees and palms to be planted along residential streets throughout the City to replace those lost or damaged during Hurricane Irma.





9) July 10, 2018: At the July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 City Commission Meeting, Agenda Item J-5 was unanimously approved by Commission. Item J-5: (18-7605) – "A Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Procurement Officer to award the Irma Tree Replacement project for Public Works to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder(s), in an amount not to exceed the available budget, pursuant to Invitation for Bids (IFB) 2018-014 and Section 2-763 of the Procurement Code entitled "Contract Award"."

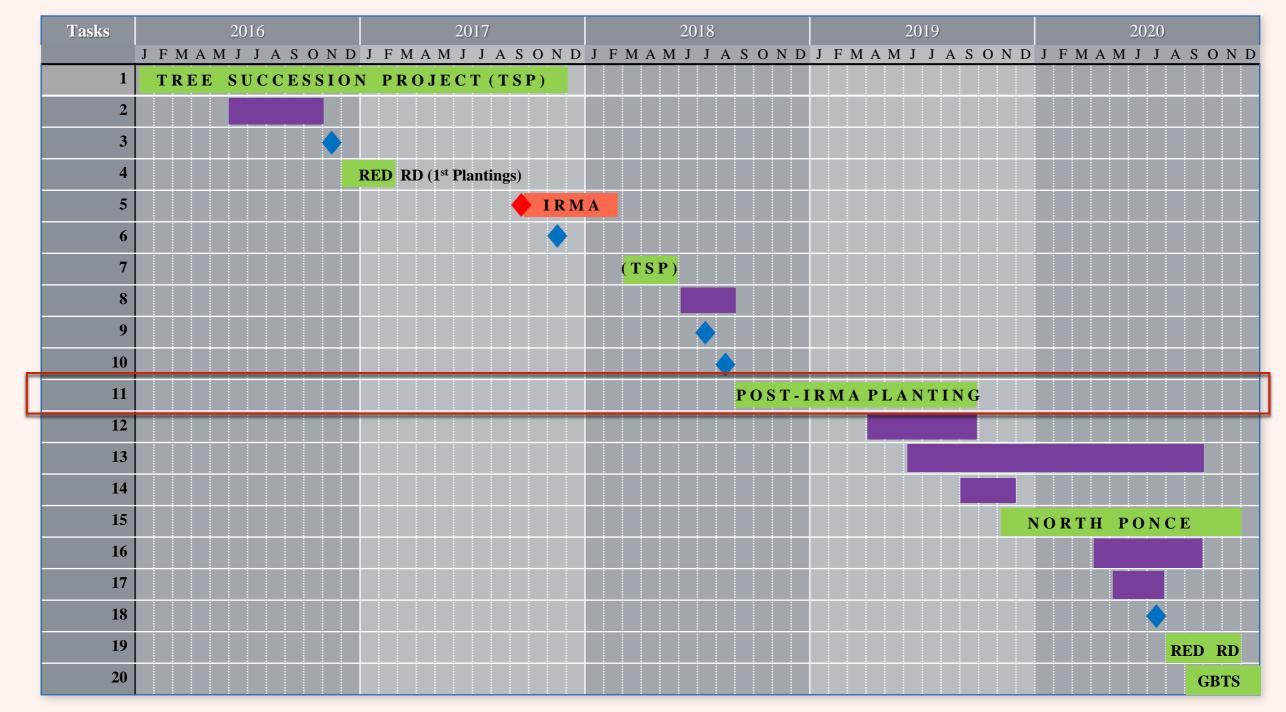




#### 10) August 2018:

In August 2018 the bid award for the post-Irma citywide tree replacement planting was signed by the City Manager.

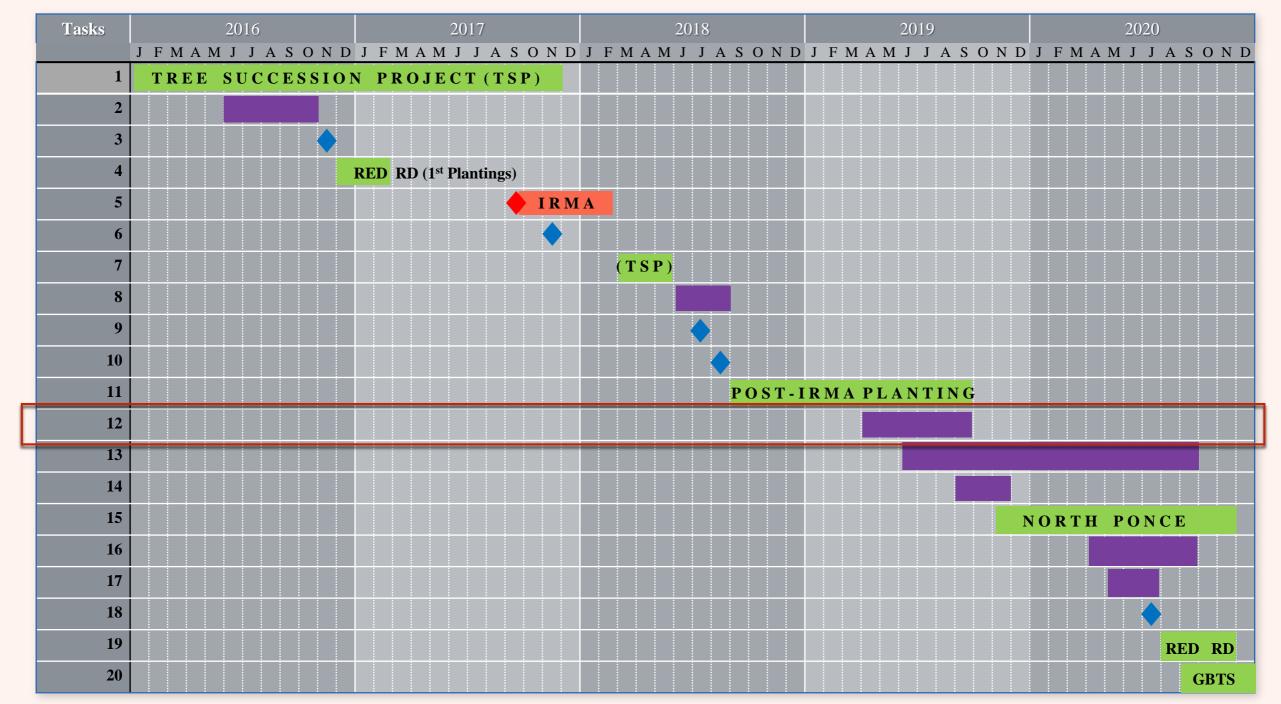




#### **11) July - September 2019:**

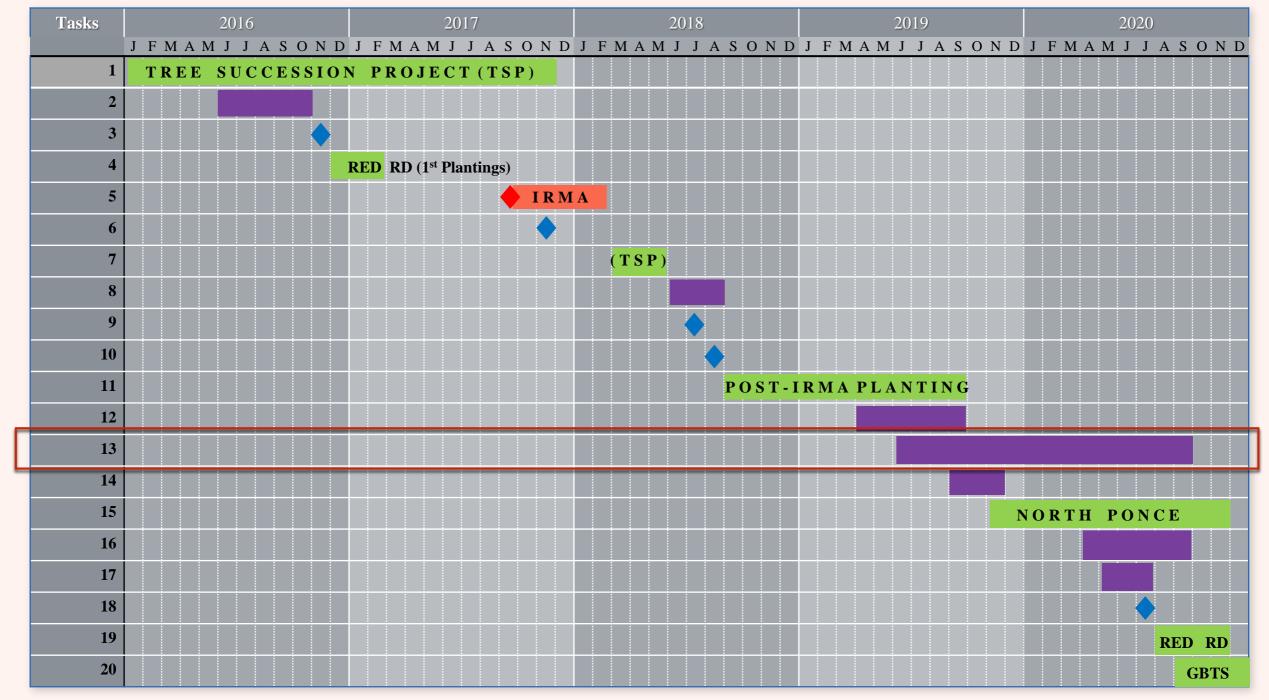
The last post-Irma tree was installed on July 26, 2019 and miscellaneous punch list items were completed in August and September of 2019.





**12**) **April 18, 2019:** On April 18, 2019, an Invitation for Bids was issued (IFB 2019-012) to procure the Solitaire Palms for Red Road; however, the two lowest bidders, Manuel Diaz Farms, Inc. and Superior Landscaping & Lawn Services, Inc., did not have Solitaire Palms that met the FDOT size specification. The price of the third bidder exceeded the City's budget for the palms. As a result, the bid was cancelled in August/September of 2019.

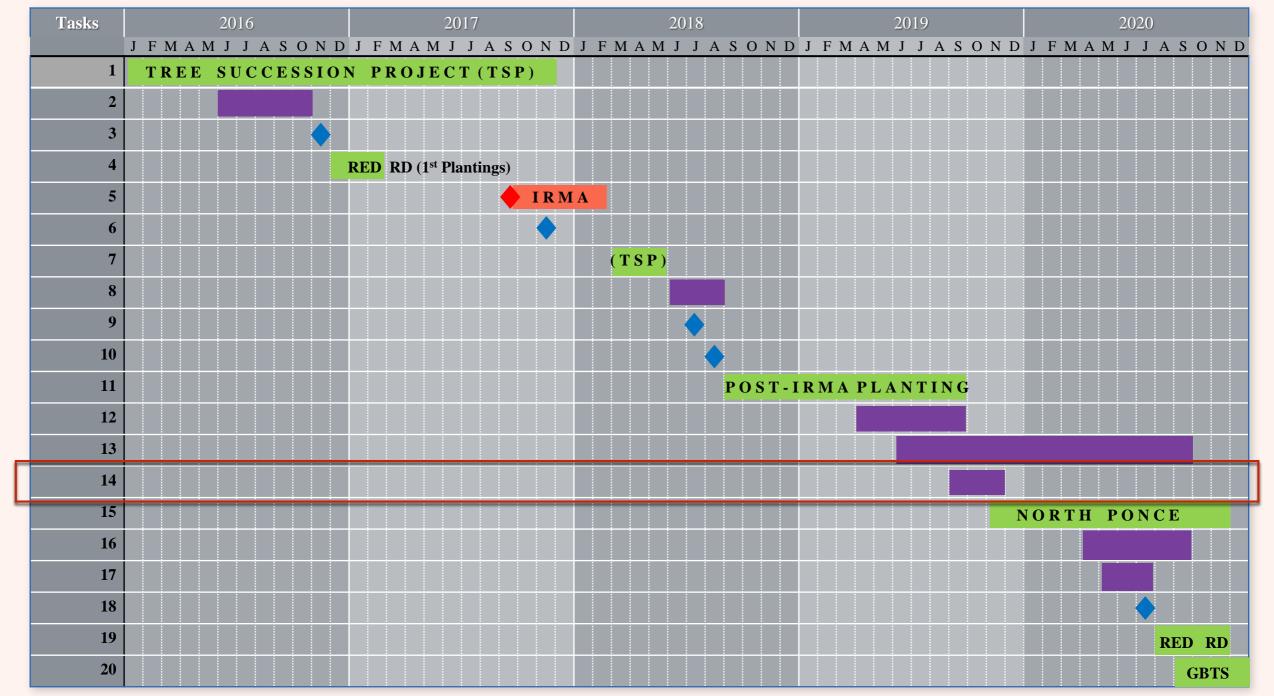




#### 13) July 2019:

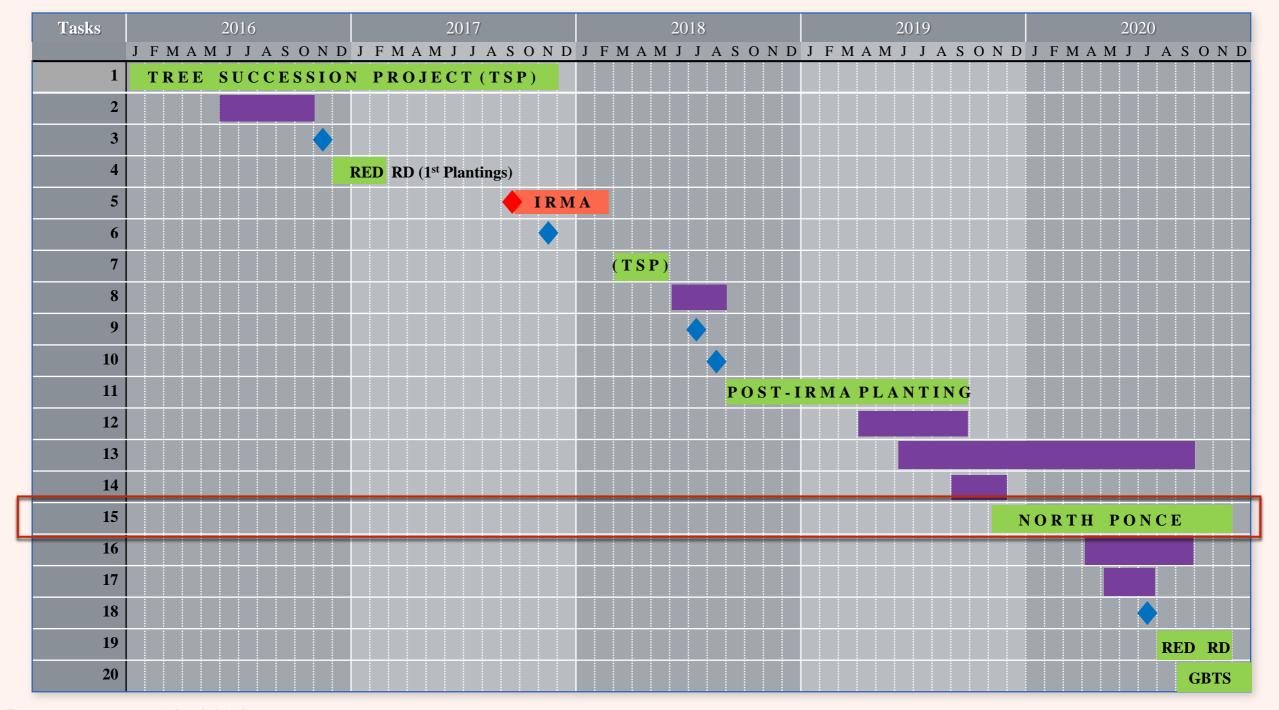
In July of 2019 the plans for the new FDOT landscape permit (2019-L-690-00008) were submitted.





14) September to November 2019: In September to November of 2019, our City Landscape Superintendent reached out to numerous nurseries in order to find vendors that had Solitaire Palms that meet the specifications at a Special/Bid competitive price. Achilles Trees was the lowest price vendor that had Solitaire Palms that meet the specifications and at the quantity that the City needs. Achilles Trees was awarded a Special/Bid Waiver Procurement in October/November of 2019, and they are currently holding and caring for the Solitaire Palms at their nursery.

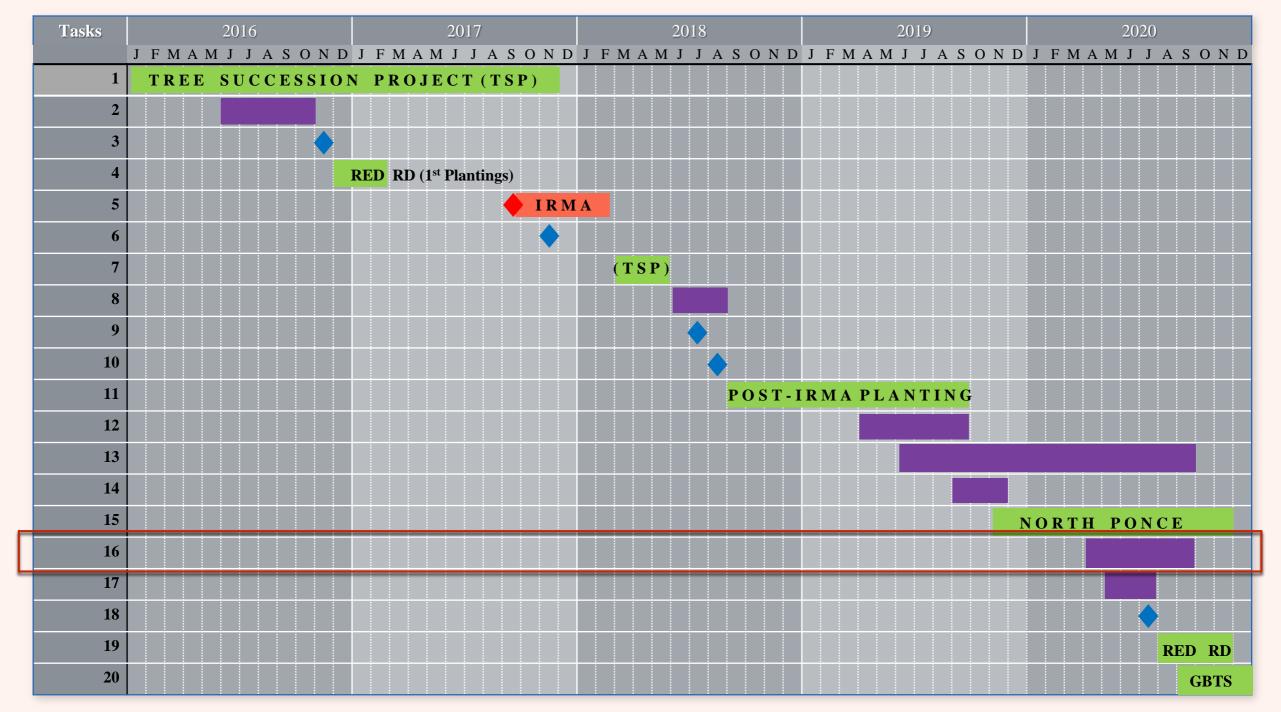




#### 15) November 12, 2019:

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, tree plantings in the North Ponce neighborhood swales began on Antiquera Avenue, and the remaining planting are anticipated to be completed by the end of November of 2020.

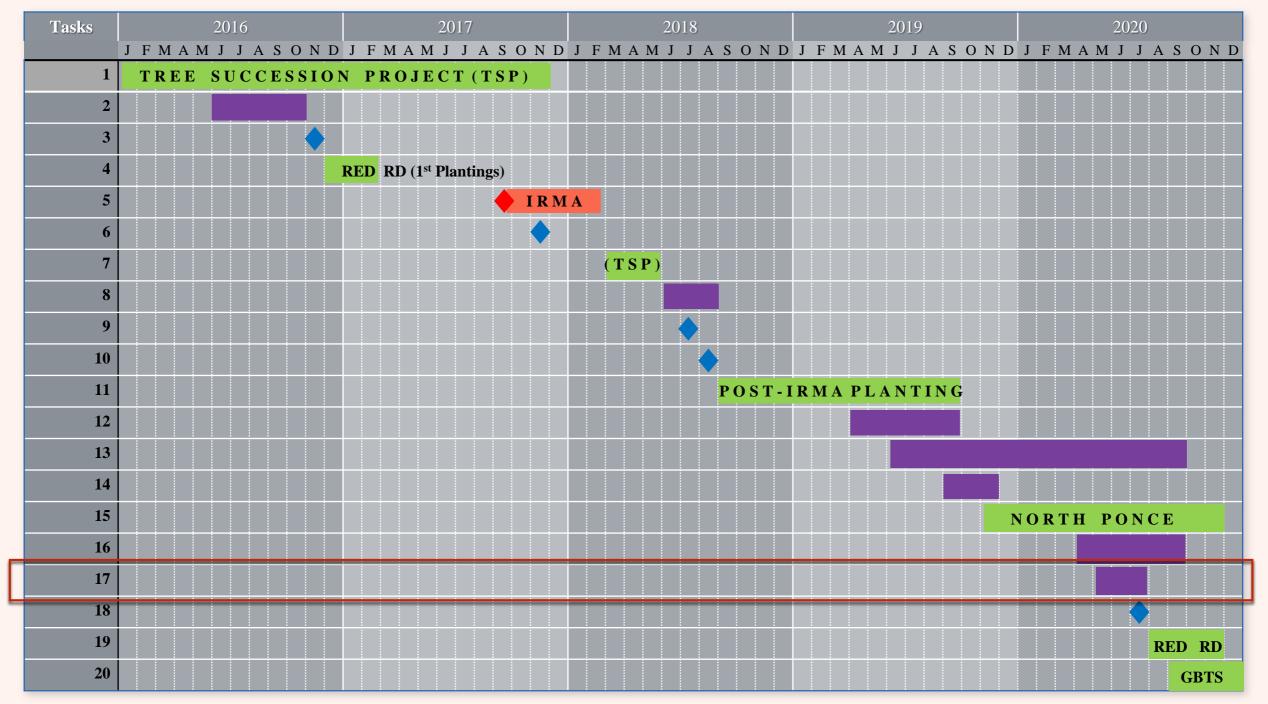




#### 16) April 2020:

In April of 2020, due to new FDOT design criteria changes that would now prevent palm plantings on Red Road, the City submitted and received approval for a design variation for lateral offset, clear sight triangles and stopping sight distances and resubmitted for the new FDOT landscape permit (2019-L-690-00008).

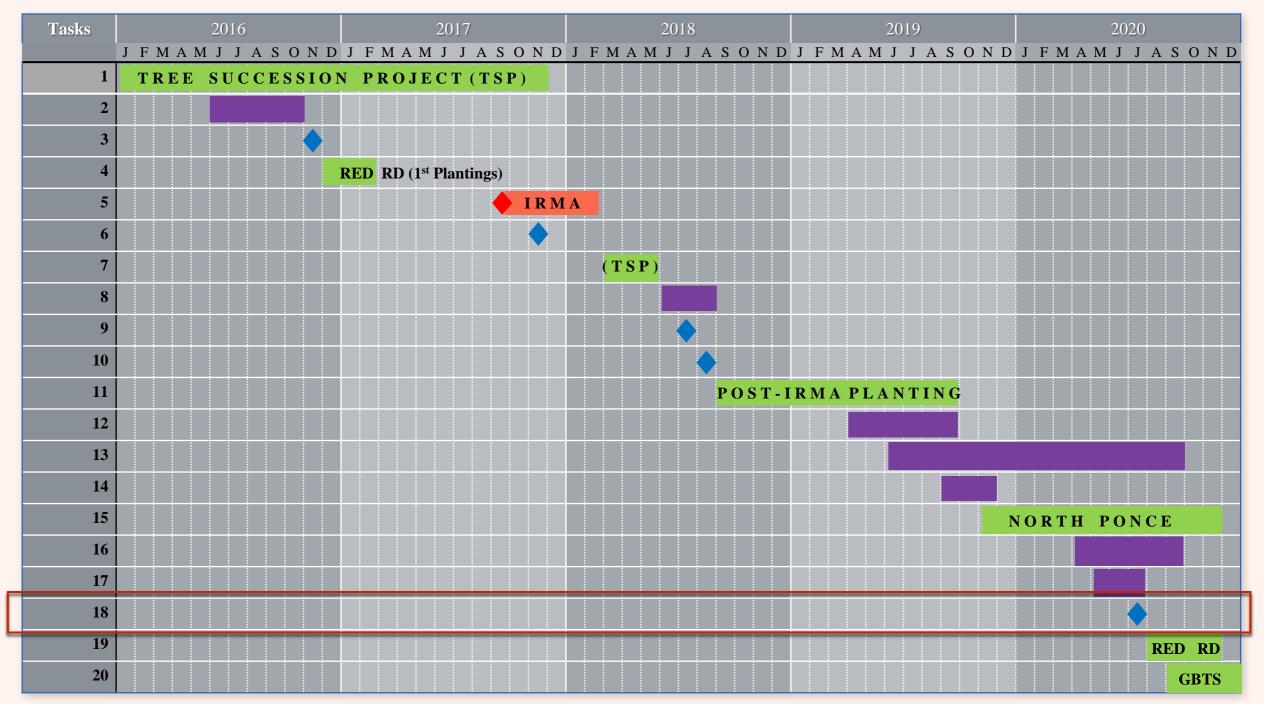




#### 17) May 2020:

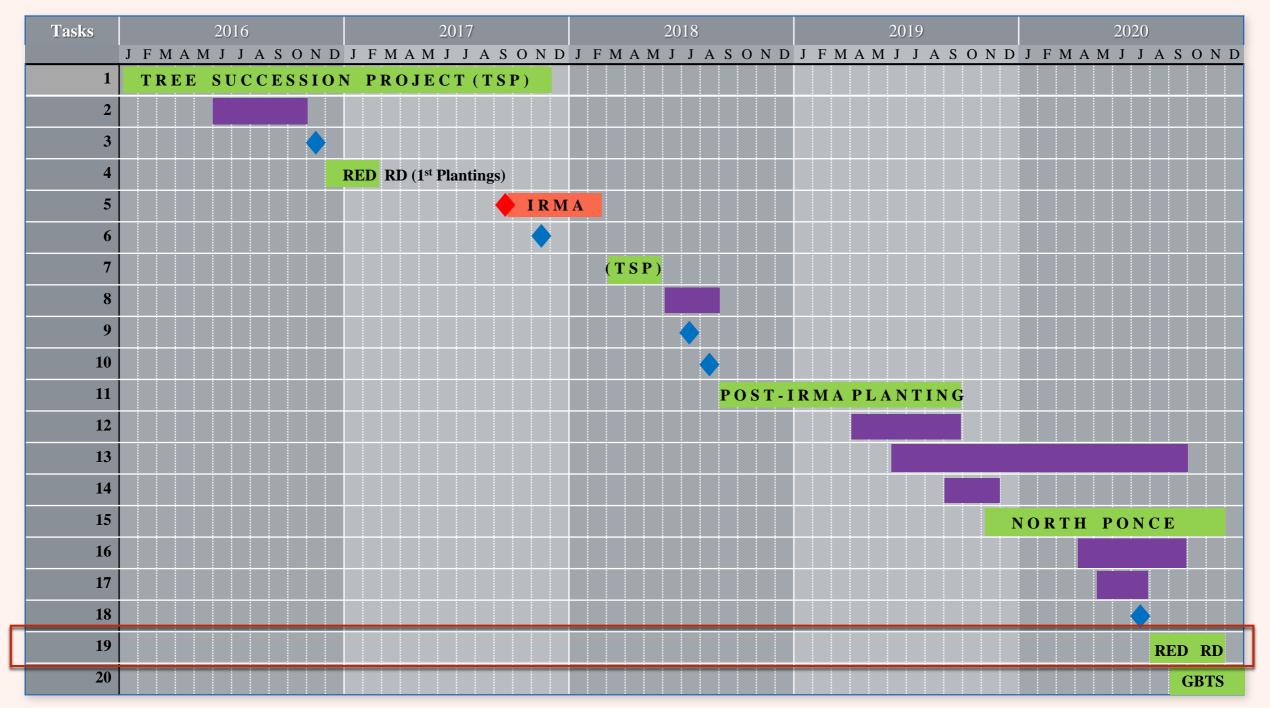
In May of 2020 the City received FDOT comments for the FDOT landscape permit (2019-L-690-00008) requiring a public meeting be held in accordance with State laws regarding State Historic Highways. Once the public meeting is held, the City can proceed with the FDOT landscape permit process.





**18) July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6pm:** On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6pm, a public meeting will be held virtually via Zoom regarding the Red Road landscape improvements that include planting of palm and shrubs in the median islands and along the grass swale areas along the east side of Red Road. The scope of work includes the planting of approximately 227 Solitaire Palms (*Ptychosperma elegans*) and three planting beds of Green Island Ficus Shrubs (*Ficus microcarpa 'Green Island'*).

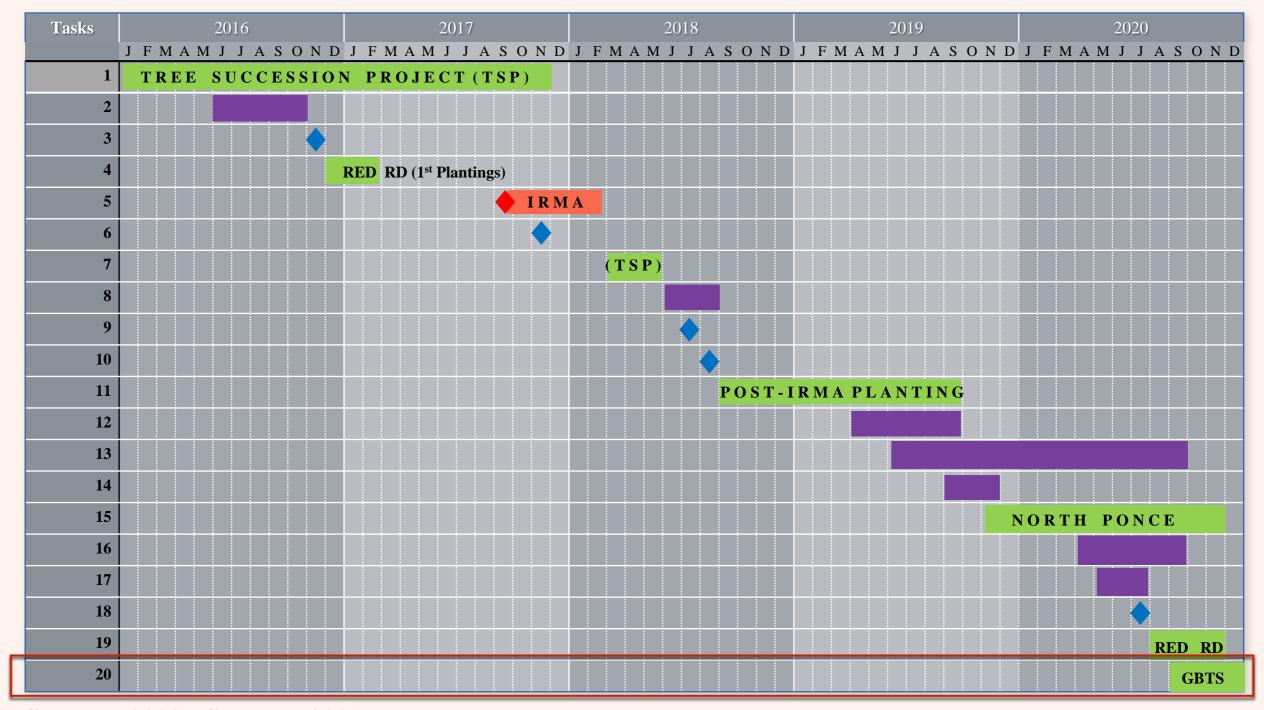




#### 19) Summer 2020:

In summer of 2020, pending issuance of the FDOT landscape permit (2019-L-690-00008), approximately 227 Solitaire Palms and three areas of Green Island Ficus shrubs will be installed along Red Road.





#### 20) Summer 2020 - Summer 2021:

In summer of 2020, additional tree plantings in Gables by the Sea will continue. Removal of invasive plant species from the mangrove areas along Lugo Ave. and Virtudes St. will be conducted in collaboration with the County and along Cartagena Ave. in collaboration with Montgomery Botanical Center.



