Tracking Miami-Dade County’s Tree Canopy
Getting to the Root of the Issue
Tree Inventories

- Assess individual trees
- Usually public space trees
- Roadway rights of way
- Parks
- Municipal properties

Data can include:
- Species
- Size
- Condition
- Maintenance needs
- May also include environmental services
Canopy Studies

- Assess larger areas
- Public and private trees
- Different methods result in different types of data sets. Can be customized to meet needs of study.
- Data may or may not include:
  - Canopy size
  - Other land class sizes
  - Species
  - Size
  - Condition
  - Maintenance needs
  - Environmental services
Tree Inventories in Past 15 Months

**Miami-Dade County:**
- Miami Beach
- Palmetto Bay
- Country Walk
- Kendall Breeze

**Other South Florida:**
- Coconut Creek
- Lake Worth
- Los Mangos

Total trees...+/- 50,000
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What did we learn?

- Diversity is HIGH in Miami-Dade County (182), yet still a few tree species dominate.
- Not always the best condition.
- Trees are often planted where they shouldn’t be (under power lines, in small spaces).
Recent Canopy Studies

Miami-Dade County
- Miami Beach (i-Tree Canopy)

Other South Florida
- Lake Worth (i-Tree Canopy)
- Davie (i-Tree Eco)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cover Class</th>
<th>Percent Canopy Coverage/SE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entire City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Canopy</td>
<td>15.4±1.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plantable Greenspace</td>
<td>10.9±0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Plantable Greenspace</td>
<td>13.2±1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impervious Surface</td>
<td>54.4±1.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Water</td>
<td>6.10±0.76</td>
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</tbody>
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What did we learn?

• In some regions, tree canopy has bounced back to pre-hurricane levels

• Some, but not much space is available for planting new trees in public spaces
What are the goals?

• Maintain existing tree canopy
  • Tree protection codes (and code compliance)
  • Landscape requirements
  • Maintenance and management
• Increase tree canopy coverage
  • Million TREES Miami Campaign - plant 1 million trees by 2020 in order to achieve a 30% tree canopy cover
• Assess and track canopy
Recommendations

- Coordinate efforts across the County (and region)
  - Tree protection, tree planting
  - Education
  - Work with cities, HOAs, private, state and federal land owners
  - Coordinate canopy assessment activities

- S.O.A.P.

- Add resiliency to tree canopy
  - Address threats of new pests, development, increased flooding (coastal and otherwise), invasive species
  - Add diversity, re-assess tree lists

- Assess role of invasive trees and their replacement in the canopy

- Find ways to get more trees into the urban forest
  - Maximize available public space responsibly (right tree right place)
  - Give trees to residents (Fort Lauderdale)
  - Plant trees in private residential lots (Orlando)
  - Multi-purpose trees (fruit and nut trees)