

# City of Tampa Urban Forest Management Plan

## Definitions

### Urban Forest

(working definition – City of Tampa)

The urban forest consists of the remnants of native forest found within parks, medians and rights-of-way; and planted trees, palms and shrubs found on all public and private property within the City of Tampa.

### Urban Forest Sustainability

(working definition – City of Tampa)

The ability of an urban forest management plan to direct the sustainability of an urban forest can be judged by:

1. its success in retaining trees and shrubs, and natural parks; the strength of its tree/shrub planting program, and creation of new natural parks;
2. the effectiveness of its tree/shrub maintenance, natural parks restoration;
3. its fiscal efficiency and ability to ensure that the tangible values (economic) and ecological services of the urban forest are distributed in a socially equitable manner; and
4. its clear and simple design, including quantifiably measurable goals and objectives which allow value can be understood and judged fairly.

### Adaptive Urban Forest Management Plan

(working definition – City of Tampa)

Adaptive Management is a scientific approach to a urban forest management decision process that promotes flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood. Careful monitoring of these outcomes both advances scientific understanding and helps adjust policies or operations as part of an iterative learning process. Adaptive management does not represent an end in itself, but rather a means to more effective decisions and enhanced benefits. Its true measure is in how well it helps meet environmental, social, and economic goals; increases scientific knowledge; and reduces tensions among stakeholders.