



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager
Greg Veliz, Assistant City Manager
Mark Finigan, Finance Director

FROM: Karen DeMaria, Urban Forestry Manager
Carolyn Sheldon, Senior Grants Administrator

DATE: August 4, 2017

RE: **Authorization to apply for and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Administration in response to 2017 National Urban and Community Forestry Grant Funding Opportunity #17-DG-11083112-001**

ACTION STATEMENT:

This resolution will authorize the City to apply for and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Administration in response to Urban and Community Forestry Grant Funding Opportunity #17-DG-11083112-001.

BACKGROUND:

Urban and Community Forestry grants are administered by the Florida Forest Service and funded as part of a nationwide campaign by the USDA Forest Service. Eligible activities include, but aren't limited to, hiring consultants to conduct community tree inventories, tree canopy assessments, help develop urban forestry management plans and tree ordinances, developing in-house training and public education programs for urban forestry, hiring temporary staff to help manage urban forestry projects, and installing small projects to demonstrate proper tree planting, food forests, and maintenance. Such funding provides the necessary link between cities and Florida's natural resources, allowing even the most urbanized citizens to enjoy the benefits trees have to offer.

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

In July 2015, the City of Key West received a \$20,000 Urban and Community Forestry grant to map the canopy of the City of Key West and to inventory trees on City property with an emphasis on trees growing on City right-of-way (grant

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.

application attached). The project was to help the City set specific management goals and directives for an Urban Forestry Management Plan and to specifically help the City target specific areas in need of additional canopy. The finding received paid for the inventory of approximately two thirds of the City street trees. An additional \$10,000 is being requested to finish the street tree inventory and to start mapping City parks.

A resolution approved by the City Commission is required indicating support for the project. The project titled "*Keys Trees: Inventory & Assessment of the Subtropical Trees in Key West, Florida*" will:

- Document the species, height and health of every street and park tree on City property.
- Complete the first street tree map for the City of Key West.
- Increase efficiency of Urban Forester and Community Service workers.
- Increase community understanding of big picture and specific steps to protect tree canopy.
- Increase right tree, right place plantings community wide.
- Educate staff and the public regarding proper tree planting and maintenance.

OPTIONS / ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES:

1. The City Commission can authorize the City to apply for and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Administration in response to Urban and Community Forestry Grant Opportunity #17-DG-11083112-001. This will allow the City to receive up to \$10,000.00 in grant funding to complete the inventory already started and to assist in the development of an Urban Forestry Management Plan.
2. The City Commission can forgo the application. With this option, the City would not apply for up to \$10,000.00 in grant funding from the Urban and Community Forestry Grant program.

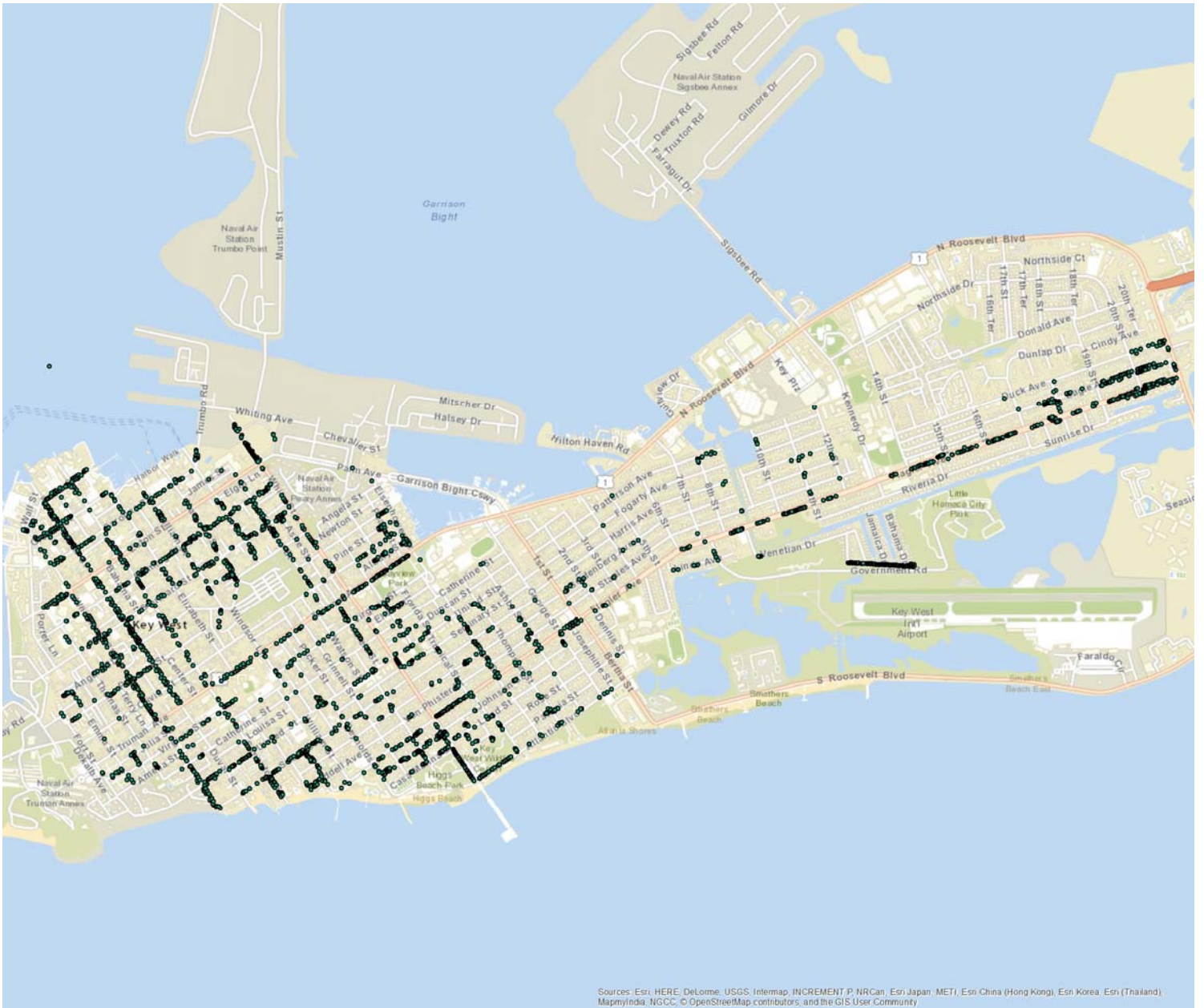
FINANCIAL IMPACT:

With the authorization to apply for funding from the Urban and Community Forestry Grant program, the City could potentially receive up to \$10,000.00. The match for this funding is dollar for dollar and will be City Staff labor for hours worked on the project as well as a portion of the cost to upgrade land development regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Commission select Option 1, authorizing the City to apply for and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service for Urban and Community Forestry Grant funding.

Map Showing Street Areas Inventoried (2015 Urban Forestry Grant)



Grant Report: Key West Tree Survey & Assessment

March 2017

Made Possible by the US Forest Service and Florida Division of Forestry



The background of the slide is a photograph of a large, mature tree with thick, gnarled trunks and dense green foliage. In the foreground, a wooden park bench is partially visible. The scene is set outdoors, likely in a park or residential area, with a white fence and a building visible in the background.

Goals:

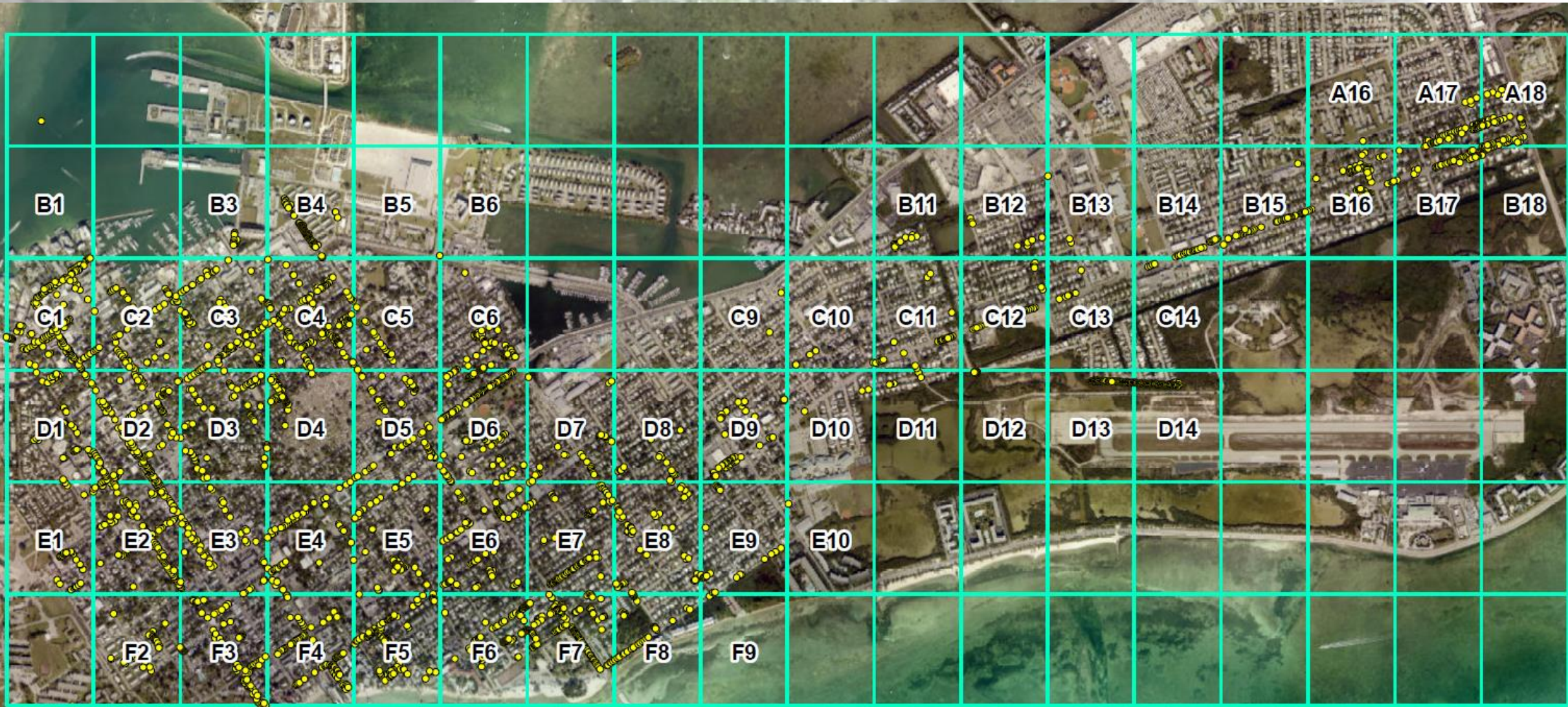
1) Document current status of City trees

- A) Street Tree Identification and Analysis**
- B) Canopy Cover across island**

2) Update Tree Management

- A) New canopy goals**
- B) Policies and Incentives**
- C) Internal Maintenance/Reporting**

3,052 GPS'd trees = 2/3 of island streets



Recorded Species, Height, DBH, Stems, Defects, Health, Pests, Sidewalks, Utilities, New planting sites,

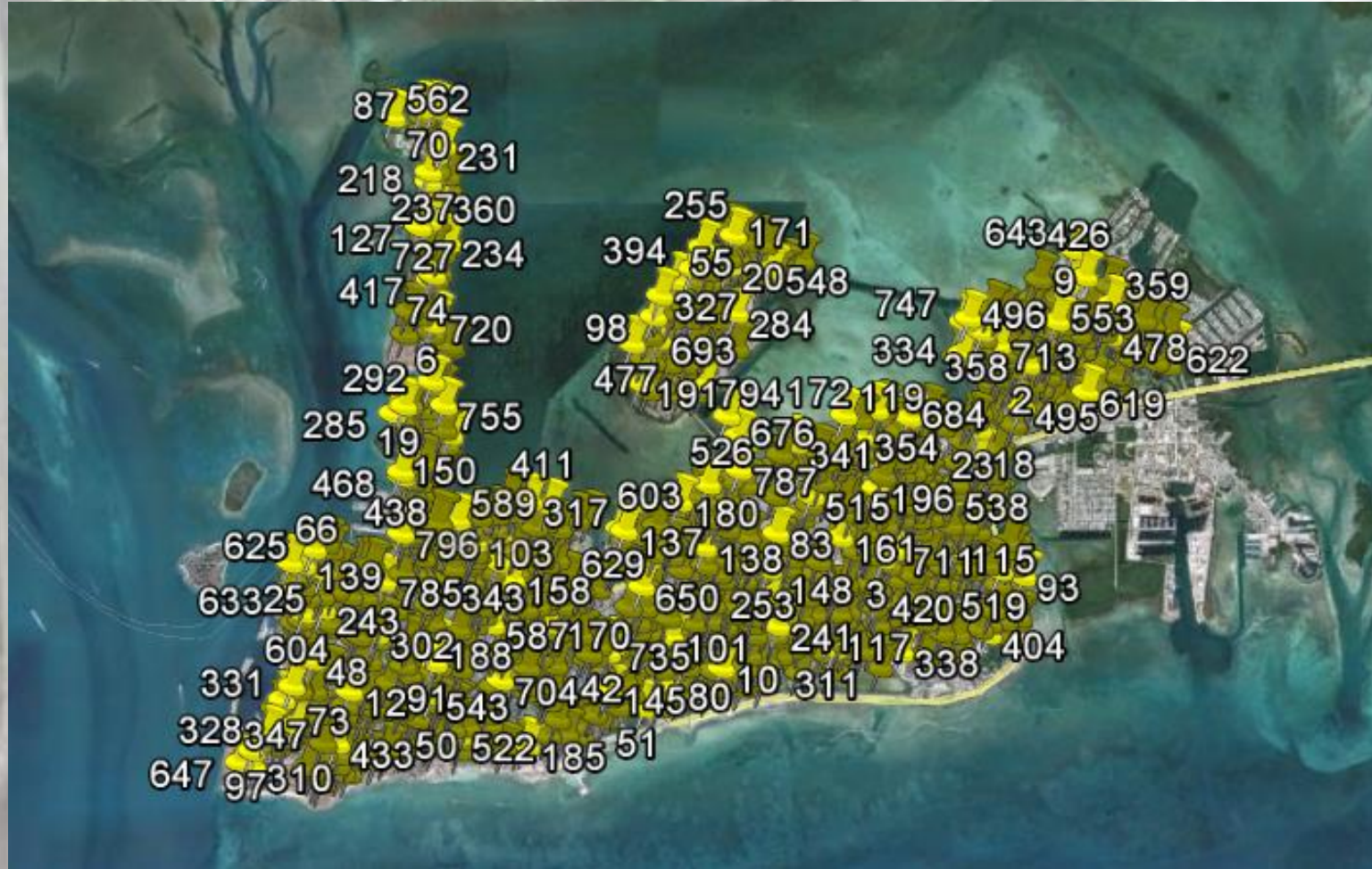
Major Findings:

- Most prominent (>33%): Coconut palms, Silver buttonwood, Christmas palms
- Highest public value: Sandbox, Sapodilla, Banyan Tree, Mango
- Highest \$ value: Mahogany, Royal Poincianna, Gumbo Limbo
- 98% of planting sites already planted
- 29% are “young” trees (shorter than 15’)
- 14% had associated sidewalk damage
- 9% conflict with utility lines
- <5% in need of near term maintenance



Canopy Cover:

- Overall:
 - 30% Canopy (21% pervious)
 - 36% Impervious
 - 17% Short Vegetation
 - 8% Bare Ground
- Canopy in Sub Areas:
 - 34% North Stock Island
 - 32% Old Town
 - 31% New/Mid Town
 - 30% Salt Ponds
 - 19% Military
 - 13% Commercial



Next Steps / Policy Recommendations:

- More trees planted!
- New Landscape Position
- ROGO/BPAS incentives for street trees
- Maintenance/training for young trees
- Canopy Goals for sub areas
- Pilot of new planting technologies
- Stronger punitive measures for re-offenders
- More flexipave, less sidewalk
- Adopt a Heritage/Landmark/Champion Tree
- City request app for mobile phones
- Increased parking lot planting
- Increased permeability!
- Arbor Day (4/29/17)



TREE CITY USA®