

# **The Year in Forestry FY2018**

## **Hurricane Irma**

FY 2018 started off with Hurricane Irma recovery. Forestry field staff was reassigned to the Solid Waste department to assist in the curbside pickup program (September 2017 – December 2017). Forestry activities were limited to one crew for additional (non-Irma) tree emergencies.

## **Collecting Usable Data**

Starting in January 2018, we began collecting data suitable to identify the current workload and response of the Forestry Division. We did not get a good grip on data until March when we also began collecting the completed service requests.

## **Identifiable Backlog as of January 2018**

In January we were able to identify 858 outstanding service requests for pruning and removals that dated back as far as 2012 (this count does not include stump removals).

## **Generating Service Requests and Record Keeping**

The Forestry Division does not have an electronic work order system and still utilizes PDF forms to record the Name, Address, Phone Number and Complaint.

The PDF Service Request form is then:

- Printed and taken to the field for inspection
- Inspection notes are collected on the form
- The form is placed in a folder awaiting completion
- The Site Supervisor reviews the information in the folders
- The Site Supervisor assigns work orders to the crews
- Service Crew Supervisors oversee the work in the field and mark the service request as completed or ongoing
- Once completed, the PDFs are scanned for documentation and tracking and filed

## **January to September Service Requests Received**

From January 2018 through September 30, 2018, the Forestry Division has received 1,924 service requests. The averages are:

- Forestry averages 214 incoming Service requests per month
  - 67 requests are for tree/s pruning per month
  - 67 requests for tree/s removal per month
  - 48 requests are workday/workhour emergencies per month
  - 31 additional after hour/weekend emergencies per month
- Over 500 stumps along City streets and in the Parks await the time for City staff to schedule removal.

## **January to September Service Requests Completed**

From January 2018 through September 30, 2018, the Forestry Division has completed 712 emergencies and 285 pruning and removal service requests. The averages are:

- 36 Pruning or Removal requests completed per month – **THIS MEANS THAT WE ARE FALLING BEHIND AT 99 SERVICE REQUESTS PER MONTH (pruning and removal)**
- 48 workday/workhour emergencies completed per month
- 31 additional after hour/weekend emergencies completed per month

## **FY 2018 Tree Numbers (January 1 to September 30, 2018)**

- 359 Trees Removed
- 985 Hardwoods Pruned
- 573 Palms Pruned
- 466 TreeMendous Tampa right-of-way trees planted
- 712 emergencies responses
- 651 Planning and Design plantings

## **Forestry SWOT Analysis**

### ***Strengths***

- The Forestry Crew is full of smart, professional and safety-conscious staff.
- Many crew members have taken on new roles in the division and are really beginning to learn the process, take ownership and run with the new responsibilities.
- Forestry works as a team.

### ***Weaknesses***

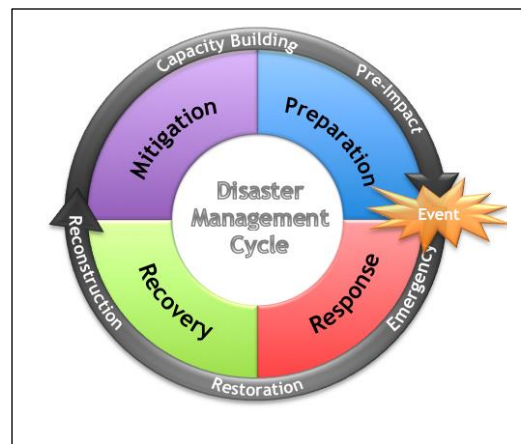
- The number of emergency responses restricts our ability to address the growing backlog of service requests.
- We have no street tree inventory and no work order management system.
- Permit process may be hindering private tree care.

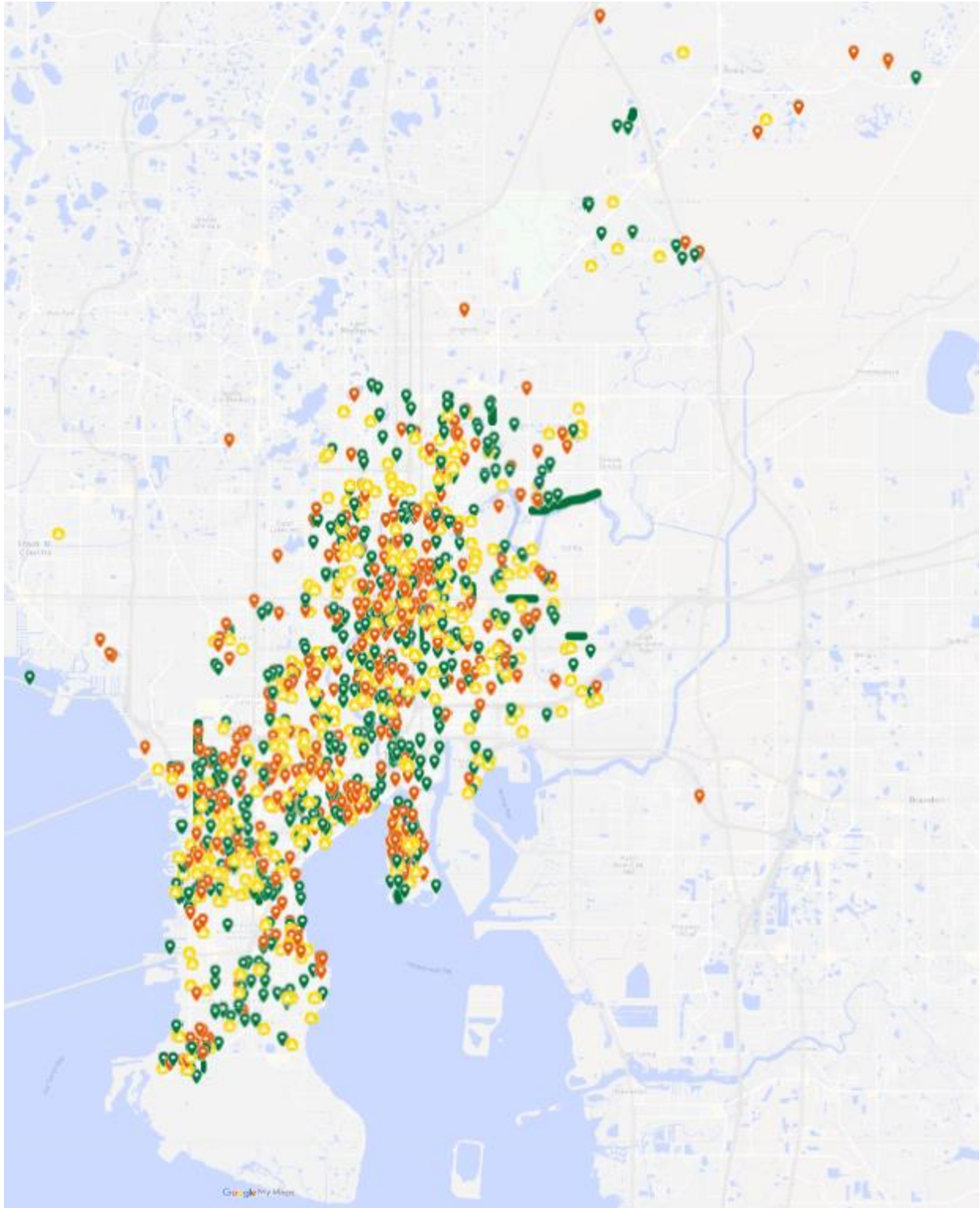
### ***Threats***

- Hurricanes and storms always present a risk. A strong tree maintenance program is the first step toward mitigation and preparedness.
- Tampa is a port community and is always susceptible to the potential invasion of non-native invasive tree pests that could dramatically affect the urban forest.
- Aging forestry equipment and breakdowns are affecting production.

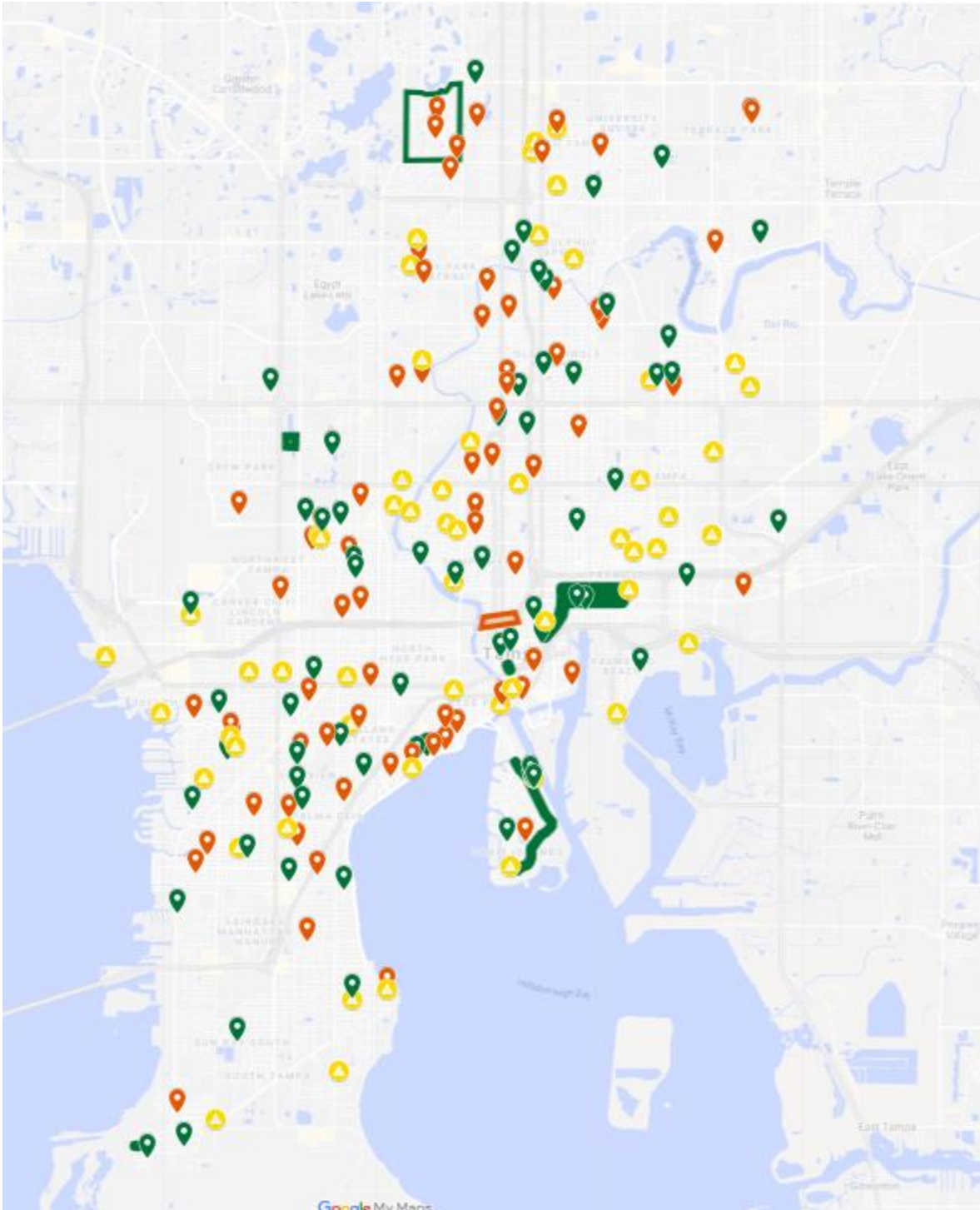
### ***Opportunities***

- The increased funding for area tree management and palm maintenance are already making a difference in the services that we can provide. Some examples include: monthly contracted removal lists, Area Pruning of Gaslight Park for the Winter Village, pruning nearly 500 palms in Ybor City in time for the Snow on 7<sup>th</sup> Parade, and looking to area maintain Woodlawn Cemetery.





From January 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018 Forestry received 1649 service requests. Pruning requests are in green, removal requests in orange and emergencies in yellow.



In September 2018 Forestry received 275 service requests: 78 pruning requests (green) including all of Forest Hills, approximately 500 palms in Ybor City and all of E Davis Blvd and S Davis Blvd; 73 removal requests (orange); 58 workday/workhour emergencies (yellow) and an additional 66 night and weekend emergencies (not shown).