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UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

University of Florida/IFAS Extension in Hillsborough County is just one of the many Extension Services set forth by Congress in 1914. Land-grant universities dispersed several Extension Services within rural areas, providing research-based information to the public for nearly a century. Extension Services provide helpful information within subjects such as agriculture, forestry, horticulture, and even simple gardening techniques.

The first week I spent working for Rob Northrop, I proposed a case study dealing with the use/non-use of the right-of-ways and medians on the highway. Metropolitan areas are increasingly getting larger, practically eliminating biodiversity and rural infrastructures. I proposed that the given land could be used to cultivate pulp-sized timber. I listed the complications and benefits of harvesting along the highway and how returns could eventually increase, and how money would be saved by eliminating the costs of maintenance crews. The main goal was to speak with German professors, because Germany uses their right-of-ways and medians to harvest timber, but I never received any feedback.

For the remainder of the time, I helped Mr. Northrop, Dr. Landry, and Rob Irving by critiquing an application called the Tampa Open Tree Map. The application was funded by the City of Tampa and the Florida Forest Service. The application is a web-based map that marks the location each tree, including important structural properties and plot type for each tree. The application also puts each tree through a model that calculates yearly ecosystem services (i.e. storm water use, conserved energy, air pollutants removed, carbon dioxide reduced, total carbon

dioxide stored). I used the application on an Apple product for seven weeks, recording over 2,000 trees. The extensive use of the application helped give insight of what needed to be changed, eliminated, or improved. The use of this application will become useful for Tampa's urban forester Rob Irving, because it will allow Mr. Irving to keep better inventory on the cities' trees.

During my internship I was introduced to many important people within the urban side of forestry. I felt like meeting and speaking with many of the people I met helped give me true insight to what goes on within the planning, protection, and care for urban trees. I was able to see how recreational parks and "green spacing" for building regulations were put together. I witnessed how upset people would get if they could not have a beautiful tree removed from their property, or how upset people would get if they had to have a tree removed. I have learned many new ways to determine the downfall of trees that are typical within urban areas. I have become more experienced with many typical field instruments and measurements. I also have learned many new species that reside in Florida, and even got to refresh the ones that I have learned in Sewanee. I enjoyed every day at my internship. As soon as I left in the afternoon, I was itching to get back in the morning.



Dealing with the urban side of forestry, I was lucky enough to meet several landscape architects that either owned their own firms or worked for the city or for the government. They were always nice enough to give advice towards graduate school, explain what type of projects they specialized on, and reinforced the idea that you should love what you do in life and that I would be a great candidate for the job because of my traditional forestry and ecological background.



#### References Cited

Landry, Sean. 2013. Tampa Open Tree Map. <http://www.tampatreemap.usf.edu/>

University of Florida Extension Service Hillsborough County. September 1, 2013.

<http://hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu/index.shtml>