

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program Awards

\$15,000 to Conduct Village's First Ever Tree Inventory Study

Palmetto Bay, Fla. – Feb. 19, 2015 The Village of Palmetto Bay recently completed its first tree inventory study. Funding for this project was provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program during the fall of 2014. These funds were made available to organizations and municipalities to develop or enhance their urban and community forestry programs. With the \$15,000 grant award and \$40,734 Village funds, the Village was able to get a precise count and condition check of every tree on public property in the Village. With the tree inventory data uploaded into the Village's GIS software program. This information can be easily be downloaded into a computer application for use by Public Works in the field and accurately identify maintenance needs for existing trees on a routine basis.

In an effort to have a greater understanding of our urban canopy the Village hired, the well-respected E. Sciences, Inc. to conduct the Village-wide Tree Inventory. The study revealed there are 25, 566 trees made up of nearly 200 species in the Village's Right-of-Way, public facilities and parks. The boundaries for this project were south of SW 136th ST, north of SW 184th ST, east of the center southbound lanes of US-1 and west of Biscayne Bay. The data collected included, but was not limited to, unique identification number, species, trunk diameter, condition, primary maintenance needs, and location of each tree inventoried. The data collected demonstrated that many of our existing trees need scheduled maintenance. To make the necessary changes needed to improve our urban forest, the Village's Public Works Department along with our Tree Advisory Board plans to develop and implement an Urban Forestry Management Plan. Creation of such a plan will support the management and maintenance of trees including daily management, routine and specialized maintenance for pruning neglected foliage and/or removing dead and hazardous trees from Village property. The Village of Palmetto Bay would like to thank the US Forest Service, state political leaders and the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service for providing technical and financial assistance in promoting an urban forestry project that will produce long term improvements in the quality of life for the residents and further our commitment to building upon our urban forestry initiatives.