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Introduction

The step-by-step outline provided in this document summarizes the process for restoring trees so that they will bring shade and beauty back to the community with reduced risk. Restoration typically requires more than one pruning to develop strong tree structure, so remember that patience is a virtue when dealing with storm-damaged trees.

Various factors determine the period of time necessary for recovery: age and health of tree, size, species, and extent of damage. These factors are interrelated, and together determine the amount of care a tree will need after a storm. A restoration pruning program typically lasts from two to five years and perhaps much longer for large and severely damaged mature trees.

Know what trees can be restored. The structure of the tree should be intact, without any visible cracks or large wounds on the main trunk, limbs, or main roots. Trees can recover from complete leaf loss or significant damage to the canopy, including several broken limbs, but major trunk damage is often irreparable.

Contents

I	Response Plan for Immediately after a Storm	p. 2
II	Allow Time for Recovery	p. 6
III	Restoration Pruning Program	p. 6
IV	Restoration of Palms	p. 8
V	Start a Tree Management Program	p. 10