

Forestry and Natural Resources Commission
March 25, 2021
Staff and Commission Reports

Staff Reports

Maintenance:

- Several residents in local historic districts have requested the County Forester's assistance in assessing their trees.
- Tree crew assisted in chainsaw safety training for the division
- Total requests for tree maintenance are going down, from 200 at the beginning of the year, to close to 100.

Planning:

(Projects with high impact or high opportunity highlighted in **bold**)

Long-term planning

Site plans (special exception and by-right)

New and under review:

- Westmont Shopping Center – Landscape and CEP plans are nearing completion.
- Clarendon West #1 – Plans recently received and pending review.
- 2450 Crystal Drive – Plans are in review.
- **1201 N Vernon St Duplex** – Plans are in review and the applicant is further exploring ways to preserve more trees on site.
- 600-700 Army Navy Drive / DEA Plaza Floodproofing Repairs – Plans are nearly approved.
- 2001 S Clark St – Options are being explored for a more greenscaped walkway

Approved and/or under construction:

- **Crystal Substation Expansion** – Landscape and CEP plans are both approved.
- **Rosslyn Holiday Inn** – Landscape Plans are being reviewed, and include rooftop trees
- **Clarendon West** – Site is being completed

DES

- **Gulf Branch Stream Restoration** – After nearly a year hiatus, plans are being discussed and the project is moving forward.
- 2900 S Eads St – Plans are approved. The site cannot fit all the tree replacements so leftovers will be planted at a nearby park.
- N Woodrow St Outfall Repair – Plans are approved.
- Tributary A Outfall Restoration – Plans are in review, but nearing completion.
- Four Mile Run Dredging – Plans are approved.

- Lynnbrook Property Stormwater Improvements – Plans are nearing completion. Eight trees are required for planting due to the two tree removals. Five trees will be planted on site (private property) and three trees will be planted at Hayes Park.
- Several intersection improvement projects, watermain replacements, and bus stop projects throughout the County were approved and/or in review. Most have very minimal tree impacts.
- Fire Station 8 demolition plan was approved. Plans are being finalized for the replanting of the site.

Parks

- Jennie Dean – Tree Protection Fencing was installed around the overlook. Demolition of the park is ongoing.
- Zitkala-Sa (Henry Clay) – Construction is ongoing. A small maple tree was removed due to grading for a stormwater BMP. A new one will be planted post construction.
- Lubber Run Pedestrian Bridge Replacement – The core team met to discuss replacement of the bridge due the piers wash out from the July 2019 storm. One tree large tree eroding on the bank will likely be removed.
- Glencarlyn Bridge Replacement – The core team met to discuss replacement of the bridge due the piers wash out from the July 2019 storm. Tree impact will be minimal.
- Tuckahoe Playground Resurfacing – The core team met to discuss the surface replacement, erosion control, and existing trees. Tree impact will be minimal.

By-right projects

- The Febrey House is moving forward with site work, and is following permit requirements for tree protection.
- Staff performed 123 reviews in March, on projects impacting trees.

Schools

- Staff is continuing to work with DES staff on the stormwater vault at Walter Reed School

Federal

- Pentagon Access Corridor 8 – Plans were accepted. More trees are being planted than are being removed.
- Final plans for the Columbia Pike roadway realignment for the National Cemetery are being reviewed. Significant replanting will be part of the project.
- Fort Myer is performing some tree removals along their fence, and working on replacement plans on the base.

Tree Planting:

- Staff is working on the production portion of spring planting. They are visiting sites for stumps or changes, and making maps for staff and contractors.
- Replacements for Fall 2019 trees that did not survive are being worked on.

Outreach:

- As part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, staff is working with the National Landing BID, to plant cherry trees on the Hayes Street median, near the Pentagon City Fashion Mall.
- Arbor Day will likely be held at Carlin Springs Elementary School, with a limited audience, on April 30, at 9:00 AM. More information will follow.

Personnel:

- Vaccine distribution is happening for staff of our division, as part of the 1B group.

Other:

- Staff is working on finalizing the permits of a drone deer survey, with assistance from the Police Department, and permits through the FAA.
- Staff is working on updates to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Guidance Manual, which guides all tree protection and landscape conservation requirements.
- Soil remediation with woody and non-woody organic material are being discussed with solid waste staff, potentially as part of future site development requirements.

Commissioner reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (Caroline Haynes)

Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP): The consultant team reported back on their findings from the range of engagement opportunities, focus groups, interviews with County Board members, etc. The next step is to use the feedback to help identify key issues that will be addressed in the plan. Not surprisingly, there was lots of discussion about the need to preserve existing trees and natural areas, plant more trees and look for opportunities to expand parks and natural spaces.

Park and Recreation Commission (David Howell)

No report. Meeting held after FNRC.

Planning Activities Notification

Pentagon City Planning Study: The fourth public engagement meeting was held on March 22. The consultant team provided a summary of what they have heard to date on developing a vision and comprehensive plan for the Pentagon City study area. There was lots of discussion about the concept of developing "green ribbons" of tree canopy and other linear parks along the ground plane throughout the planning area, connecting parks and privately owned public spaces.

PSMP-IAC: In February, the advisory group had an update on the FNRP and was led through a series of questions, similar to the outreach conducted with other commissions and advisory groups, including the FNRC. (The consolidation and update of the FNRP was one of the key recommendations in the 2019 adopted PSMP.)

Another key recommendation in the PSMP was to *analyze athletic field utilization to improve data on the current use and assess future athletic field needs*. Public feedback from Athletic Field Use is available on the PSMP [webpage](#).

The next meeting is scheduled for April 12.

Lee Highway (Caroline Haynes)

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Tree Stewards (Kate Donohue)

Pruning and invasive removal at two locations at George Mason Drive and 10th Street.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable (Kit Norland)

No report

Tree Canopy Fund (Kate Donohue)

Information about the 17-year cicadas will be provided to the owners of trees planted this spring. While the cicadas may do some damage, it is unlikely to cause long-term harm. Cicadas prefer species in the Rose family, which are not among the TCF options.

The list of species to be offered for planting in fall 2121 is being prepared. It is likely to include the canopy trees offered a year ago (American Hornbeam, Pin Oak, Hackberry (aka Sugarberry), American Sycamore, Swamp White Oak, American Linden) plus River Birch.

Bicycle Advisory Committee (Noreen Hannigan)

No discussion on forestry or natural resources.

Arlington Tree Action Group

No report

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (Phil Klingelhofer)

On March 14, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) held its monthly meeting, with two items on the agenda, neither of which was directly within the UFC purview:

Discussion / Action Items

- Presentation by County Board member, Matt de Ferranti

- Presentation by Marty Swaim, the non-profit Challenging Racism

Project Status Report. For a current status report on all approved NC projects, click [here](#).

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (Teresa Leonardo)

No report

Virginia Department of Forestry (Jim McGlone)

No report

Arlington Public Schools (Jim Meikle)

No report

Virginia Cooperative Extension (Kirsten Ann Conrad)

No report