



The Fairfax County Tree Commission  
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 518  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
703.324.1770

June 28, 2021

Supervisor Dan Storck , Chair, BOS Environment Committee and  
Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035

Re: Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter 5a – Annual Report

Dear Supervisor Storck and members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:

On February 5, 2019, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter. Action 5a of the Green Initiative charged the Tree Commission to recommend “low-cost and no cost options” for citizen tree planting in Fairfax County and to report annually to the Board on progress and accomplishments. This letter serves as an annual update on the progress that has been made in FY21.

A grand total of **22,247** trees were planted or distributed through the following efforts in FY21:

- The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) distributed at low or no cost over **2,015** tree seedlings including 1,500 to Facilities Management Division and 500 to the Fairfax County Park Authority in Fairfax County. Also the DOF Virginia Trees for Clean Water provided a grant to Herndon for 15 trees and 2 more projects for tree planting have been approved.
- Fairfax ReLeaf planted **6,538** seedlings at sites within the County.
- Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District distributed or planted **7,671** low or no cost trees. This included (a) distributing 6,496 seedlings to 394 customers, (b) With the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) 555 trees were planted at 14 tree planting events with the FCPA’s Invasive Management Area program in target areas with medium-high vulnerability and low tree canopy coverage and 620 trees were planted with the FCPA for Natural Resources Restoration Project.
- McLean Trees Foundation (MTF) planted **14** trees in the Dranesville District. Six trees were under the Neighborhood Tree Program and 8 trees were planted at local parks. This past year was unusual in that MTF lost 1 planting season and cancelled group activities during the pandemic.
- Earth Sangha distributed over **6,009** trees within Fairfax County: 438 installed by Earth Sangha, and 5,571 distributed to parks, churches, schools, and homeowners for self installation) at low cost.
- Plant Nova Natives has begun a 5-year native tree planting and preservation campaign with its 140 partnering organizations known as “Plant Virginia Trees: Plant NOVA Natives” focused on

government, non-profit, private and individual landowners. The goal is to change the landscaping culture and address climate change and contribute to the Virginia Dept of Forestry's goal of planting 600,000 trees by 2025.

- Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD) entered into a contract with a non-profit to work with residents to plant trees on private property. This pilot program is focused on areas near the Richmond Highway Revitalization District.

For the coming year, the Tree Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve permanent annual funding for a full-time position in the Urban Forest Management Division to support tree planting on public and private property.
2. Approve a permanent funding source for tree planting on public and private property.
3. Establish a §15.2-2114.01 Local Stormwater Management Fund to provide an additional funding source for private tree planting to manage storm water and prevent erosion.
4. Increase funding to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District to increase its staffing so that it has greater capacity to create and service Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) projects.
5. Support our search for new messaging and approaches to persuade citizens who are reluctant to plant trees by tasking county agencies to meet with the Tree Commission to discuss how residents' resistance to tree planting might be overcome.
6. Support Tree Commission and UFMD efforts to gather reports of tree planting in Fairfax in support of Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) III goals by tasking all County agencies to report tree planting as directed by the Tree Commission and UFMD.

Sincerely,



Catherine C. Ledec, Chairman  
Fairfax County Tree Commission

CC: Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, Environmental Quality Advisory Council