



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

April 6, 2023

Jeffrey McKay, Chairman
Dan Storck, Chairman of the Environmental Committee
Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

Sent by email to: clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov

RE: Staff comments on Tree Commission's 2021-2022 Annual Report per Board Matter

Dear members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Tree Commission (TC) wishes to thank the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for issuing a Board Matter asking staff to comment on its recommendations in the 2021-2022 Tree Commission Annual Report, presented to you on October 6, 2022. The TC thanks staff for its time and energy in responding. The TC believes this thoughtful staff remarks and analysis will provide a platform to reach agreements on positive actions. It also will help us continue a meaningful dialogue on finding different approaches and solutions to preserving, protecting and expanding our valuable urban forest in the face of ongoing development pressures and increasing pest and invasive threats.

The TC positively notes that staff indicate they are implementing fourteen of the TC's recommendations. We also note that staff await further direction from the BOS in thirteen other recommendations. Another seven recommendations are included in the Mt. Vernon Infill Task Force's final report, and staff await action from the Board after it receives and considers that report. The TC intends to review and address these three categories, including any additional recommendations, in its 2022-2023 Annual Report. There are four recommendations for changing state code, and the TC will address those during the development of the 2024 legislative package.

We are stronger champions of our threatened tree canopy when elected officials, staff and citizens partner together to achieve success.



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Sincerely yours,

Please email TreeCommission@fairfaxcounty.gov for official signed version of letter

Cindy Speas, Chair
Fairfax County Tree Commission

cc: Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Attorney
Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Bryan J. Hill, County Executive
Christina Jackson, Chief Financial Officer
Chris Herrington, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Tracy Strunk, Director, Department of Planning and Urban Development
Bill Hicks, Director, Land Development Services
Jai Cole, Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
Brian Keightley, Director, Urban Forest Management Division