Urban Forestry Program
Improvements

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Alexandria’s Urban Forest

- 30,000+ trees along streets, in landscaped parks and public properties.
- 10,000’s more in natural areas and private property
- Strategic goal of 40% canopy cover by 2035.
Mitigates heat island by up to 9 degrees F
Mitigates 669,000 cubic ft/year of stormwater runoff. (5 million gallons)
Stores 11,000 tons of carbon (C)
Sequesters an additional 363 tons C / year
Planting is currently driven by resident 311 requests

- Resident places planting request
- Staff inspects site and begins correspondence with resident
- Resident chooses tree species and locations
- Money leftover is used for staff directed planting
Resident request model does not support City objectives or values

- Skews composition of tree population to be less diverse, less native and more ornamental
- Biases planting resources towards residents that have the time, capability, and competency to engage with City staff
- Requires significant staff/contractor time per tree in driving, setup, phone calls, and email
- Resident 311 planting orders from FY2022 consisted of 62% small, ornamental trees
Willow oak provides 1250 sq ft. canopy after 20 years
Redbud provides 500 sq. ft. Canopy
Alexandria’s largest willow oak stores 8x more C than our largest redbud.
Proposed Proactive Planting Approach

- No longer accept 311 planting requests
- Staff use data, expertise and strategic goals / values to determine location, species, and timing of plantings
- Notify residents before planting
Improvements can be implemented without additional budget or staff

- Requires no new staff capacity
- Frees up significant staff time for other priorities
- Requires no extra funding to implement, though number of trees planted increases linearly with any additional funding secured
- Aligns with Urban Forest Master Plan recommendations 1, 4, and 15
Current Reactive Maintenance Approach Driven by 311s

- Staff inspect trees based on resident requests or emergency callouts
- Some proactive inspection of schools and parks
- Work assigned and handed off to contractor
Issues with current approach

- Biases maintenance towards residents with time, competence, and capability of engaging with City staff
- Requires significant staff/contractor time per tree in driving, set-up, phone calls and email
- It is potentially 2x more expensive per tree.
- Increases risk and liability by reacting to rather than preventing failures
Each tree receives juvenile prune for structure at age three by staff or contractor.

All trees maintained by systematic maintenance cycle. Frequency of care determined by budget.

Cycle rotates through city from small area to small area.

Staff inspects and builds work to be completed by contractor.

Aligns with Urban Forest Master plan recommendations 23, 38.
MK Wis. tree failures increase as proactivity decreases
MK Wis. service requests increase as proactivity decreases

Request Pruning

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0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000

Call Center Requests
Request Pruning Performed
Scheduled maintenance program will require additional funding

- $328,000 in annual funding for 10 year inspection cycle requested FY 2023
- An additional $140,000 would fund a 7 year cycle.
- An additional $328,000 would fund a 5 year cycle
Proposed Next Steps

- Strategic planting program could begin FY 2023. Existing 311 planting requests will be honored
- Scheduled tree maintenance cycles could begin FY2023
- Present to City Council
- Public updates through website and outreach program to be determined