City of Alexandria
Urban Forestry Master Plan
Growing Concerns about City Policies and Procedures for the Management and Preservation of Trees on Public and Private Property

- Trees being removed on public and private property
- Utility line clearance practices
- Replacement and planting new trees
Council Action May 2004

- Establishment of a 12 Member Urban Forestry Steering Committee

- Charged to Prepare a Comprehensive Urban Forestry Plan
  - Characterize and quantify the current state of Alexandria’s urban forest
  - Identify strategies to improve the health, quality, density and diversity of the urban forest
Scope of Work

Three Primary Areas of Interest:

1. Policies, operations, programs and services
2. Ordinances and regulations
3. Public awareness
Submit a Report to the Manager

Propose New or Revised:

1. Policies
2. Ordinances and Regulations
3. Procedures
4. Operations, Programs and Services
Submit a Report to the Manager

Provide:

1. Performance Measures

2. Cost Estimates for Recommendations
Process

• City Green Canopy Study

• Davey Resource Group (August 2005)
  – On Site Evaluation
  – Interviews: Mayor, CMO, Directors of Recreation, Transportation & Environmental Services, Planning & Zoning

• Public Meeting (January 2006)

• Online Survey (January 2006)

• Tree Canopy Study Update (January 2008)
## Context of the Report

The Urban Forest includes all parts of the city where trees provide canopy cover.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Institutional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street Trees</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Alexandria Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>Commercial and Industrial Sites</td>
<td>Theological Seminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools Libraries, etc.</td>
<td>Undeveloped Land</td>
<td>Private School Campuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream Valleys</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cemeteries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Challenges

• The City’s tree canopy cover is decreasing

Northridge

Study Area
Key Challenges

• Development and Other Pressures
  – Negatively affecting tree health and longevity
  – Limited space for new trees to be planted
Key Challenges

• There is no citywide management plan
  – Goals, objectives or performance measures

• The current program is reactive not proactive

• Planting and care of the tree is limited and focused on street trees

• Lack of public education and outreach
Recommendations

• Tree Planting
• Tree Care
• Management
• Public Education and Outreach
Plant more trees.

- Adopt American Forests’ recommended tree canopy goal of 40%
- Plant 400 additional trees annually
- Develop master landscape, planting and maintenance plant for all public properties
- Create ways to promote tree planting on private properties; such as grants, a tree bank, tree sales
Provide better care for the trees we plant and the trees we have.

- Fund and implement a five year pruning cycle for existing trees
- Fund and implement a three year establishment program for new trees
- Employ new methods of planting and installation to facilitate tree planting in restricted, high-use, difficult, and special needs areas
Improve the management of the urban forest by transforming a reactive program into one that is proactive and accountable.

- Develop a management plan and provide additional resources needed to effectively manage the plan
- Establish benchmarks and report progress in an annual State of the Urban Forest Report to City Council
- Create and Urban Forest Specialist position
Provide public education and outreach to encourage the preservation and expansion of the urban forest.

- Develop and implement an effective public outreach and education strategy
- Fund an additional extension agent
- Rededicate Fort Ward Park as the City’s Arboretum
- Build and effective website
### Estimated Costs

**Fiscal Budget Impact of Proposed New and Expanded Programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Estimated Annual Cost</th>
<th>FY 2009 Budget</th>
<th>Added Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase Tree Canopy</td>
<td>$177,750</td>
<td>$105,000</td>
<td>$72,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five Year Pruning Cycle (as part of) On-Going Tree Maintenance Program</td>
<td>$976,945</td>
<td>$496,945</td>
<td>$480,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reorganize Arborist/Horticulture Section</td>
<td>$2,007,476</td>
<td>$1,596,476</td>
<td>$411,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Opportunities and Public Outreach</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$95,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,257,171</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,198,421</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,058,750</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

• The recommendations presented are ambitious, but realistically achievable

• Short and long term; some recommendations can be acted on immediately; some have already been implemented