

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN (UFMP) UPDATE

2-18-16



URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW



- Adopted in 2009 - provides recommendations for the management of the City's Urban Forest – 20,000 trees
- Includes 53 recommendations that address:
 - Tree canopy – 40% goal
 - Tree planting
 - Tree maintenance
 - Coordination with other City Departments
 - Public Education
 - Trees on private lands

RPCA: URBAN FORESTRY WORK PLAN



Tree Planting

- \$113,000 in current annual CIP funds
- 450 trees planted /year
- 350 are replacements for dead/diseased trees
- \$100,000 in additional CIP funds in FY 17
- 250 additional trees/year in FY17
- Cost increase to add tree establishment service
- 530 total trees to be planted in FY17 and beyond

RPCA: URBAN FORESTRY WORK PLAN



Tree Maintenance (Pruning and Removals)

- \$700,000/year in operating budget
- Reactive work - 1,000 service requests/year
- Proactive work – goal of 5 year maintenance cycle
- 4,000 total trees managed/year
- Improved efficiency by contractor-provided maintenance - FY 15

PROGRESS ON KEY UFMP RECOMMENDATIONS



Tree Canopy Coverage

- Adopted 40% canopy goal – currently is 34%
- Canopy Analysis every 5 years – done in 2014
- Plant 250 additional trees per year – additional \$100,000 in FY 2017
- Created “establishment maintenance” by tree contractor for new trees

PROGRESS ON KEY UFMP RECOMMENDATIONS



Plan, fund, and implement a 5-year pruning cycle for street trees

- Implemented strategy to emphasize proactive tree maintenance
- Reduced cycle from 12 years to 7 years so far
- \$300,000 in FY 19 CIP funding will enable the goal of a 5-year cycle

PROGRESS ON KEY UFMP RECOMMENDATIONS



Conduct an inventory of all street trees

- 20% inventory is done each year (approx. 4,000 trees)
- GIS based tree inventory
- Inventory results drive work plan for following year
- Empty tree wells identified for planting
- Developed quantitative methods to evaluate tree health

PROGRESS ON KEY UFMP RECOMMENDATIONS



Continue Spring and Fall Tree Sales

- Spring 2016 sale is scheduled
- 172 trees new trees planted through Fall 2015 sale

Control invasive plant species

- Program established in Natural Lands Mgt. Section
- 61 acres of land managed/year for invasives

PROGRESS ON KEY UFMP RECOMMENDATIONS



Improved planning for tree planting programs

- Empty tree well plantings with additional CIP funding
- Tree planting coordination with T&ES to meet storm water requirements
- Landscape Guidelines update scheduled for 2017
- Active coordination with other agencies to implement UFMP goals

COORDINATION WITH THE Environmental Policy Commission



UFMP goals part of the Environmental Action Plan

- Tree loss during development process
- Align City's tree/canopy requirements with UFMP goals
- Update of the Landscape Guidelines
- Focus on native tree planting
- Tree replacement strategies – Old Town
- Funding to implement UFMP goals