



City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

Alexandria Waterfront Committee
Department of Recreations, Parks and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria Virginia 22314



September 30, 2010

James Spengler, Director
Alexandria Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs
Lee Center
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Spengler:

On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee, I would like to commend the effort by City staff—including Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs staff, in particular—to clean up the City's Waterfront parks following the microburst storm of August 5, 2010.

As you are aware, this storm hit the City with hurricane-force winds, and caused extensive damage in the Del Ray, Old Town, and North Ridge areas. Hundreds of trees across the City were felled by the storm, including along the Waterfront. Oronoco Bay Park and Founders Park, in particular, saw damage to many of their fine long-lived trees.

Fortunately, the City was timely in responding to the damage, thanks in part to the tireless efforts of staff to continue working until the job was complete. Downed trees were removed, damaged trees pruned, stumps ground, and sod was placed upon newly-bare grounds. Our Committee understands that the high caliber response was the result of many valuable lessons-learned from the February 2010 snow storms.

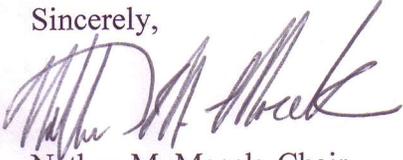
There's an old proverb that reads, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; the second best time is now." Now, the hard work of replacing Alexandria's lost trees begins. We are encouraged by plans to replant trees throughout the City and in the Waterfront parks this fall, and pledge our support of this effort.

We urge your Department to coordinate its replanting efforts with the Waterfront Concept Plan, which encourages open vistas of the water from perpendicular streets, and to identify appropriate locations for additional shade trees that will provide much-needed shelter from the hot sun. The Waterfront Committee hopes that initial actions to repair the damage of the microburst storm become a sustained program to maintain and enhance the City's tree canopy.

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If you would like to discuss matter, please contact me at 202/365-2927 (mobile) or natemacek@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,



Nathan M. Macek, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

CC: Alexandria City Council
James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Judy Guse-Noritake, Chair, Park and Recreation Commission
Faroll Hamer, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Richard Baier, PE, Director, Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
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