

Holmes Run Native Tree Planting Plan

Phase One – October 29 & 30, 2010

City of Alexandria Dept. RPCA, Horticulture and
Natural Resources Section, and Dept. T&ES, Office
of Environmental Quality



Along upper streambank of Holmes Run, plant 4 (1" cal.) River Birch and 1 (1" cal.) Green Ash just west of picnic tables – Earth Sangha stock.

Along upper streambank of Holmes Run, plant 1 River Birch, 2 Sycamore, 11 Black Walnut, 2 Sweetgum, 1 Persimmon, 7 Ironwood, and 1 Pin Oak (all 1" cal.) - Earth Sangha stock.

On smaller dry knoll, plant 1 White Oak, 1 Black Oak, and 1 Scarlet Oak (all 3-3.5" cal.). White and Black oaks from Natural Landscapes Nursery and Scarlet Oak from Ingleside Plantation Nurseries. Plant 3 Mockernut Hickory (1.5" cal.) from Natural Landscapes Nursery and 3 Black Gum (2" cal.) from Ingleside Plantation Nurseries.

On large dry knoll, plant 2 Scarlet Oak, 2 White Oak, 2 Chestnut Oak, 1 Black Gum, and 1 Pitch Pine – all 3-3.5" cal. except Pitch Pine (1" cal.). White and Chestnut oaks from Natural Landscapes Nursery, Scarlet Oak and Black Gum from Ingleside Plantation Nurseries, and Pitch Pine from Lou Aronica. Also plant 15 Winged Sumac (1-3 gal. containers) – from Earth Sangha.

Holmes Run Stream Valley Native Tree Planting – Phase One (All Veterans Park), October 29th and 30th. RPCA - Horticulture and Natural Resources Section and contractor - J&J Landscapes; T&ES – Office of Environmental Quality; and 10 volunteers planted a total of 62 native trees that naturally occur in the Holmes Run stream valley.

Common Upland Oaks

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*)

Chestnut Oak (*Quercus montana*)

Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) – successional oak that requires fairly high light; lifespan of about 100 years.

Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)

Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*) – characteristic tree of coastal plain, becomes uncommon to rare in piedmont of our region.

Black Jack Oak (*Quercus marilandica*) – small tree of dry forest edges; serpentine barrens; Oak-Heath Forest.

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) – prefers more mesic soils than above oaks and occurs in our region on lower to mid-slopes of ravines and streambanks; also characteristic of mafic and ultramafic soils.

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) – tree of upland hardpan clays, upland depression swamps, and bottomland swamps.

Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) – tree of upland depression swamps and bottomland swamps.



Photo © R.H. Simmons

A rich diversity of oaks is represented in the greater Washington, D.C. area, including Alexandria.



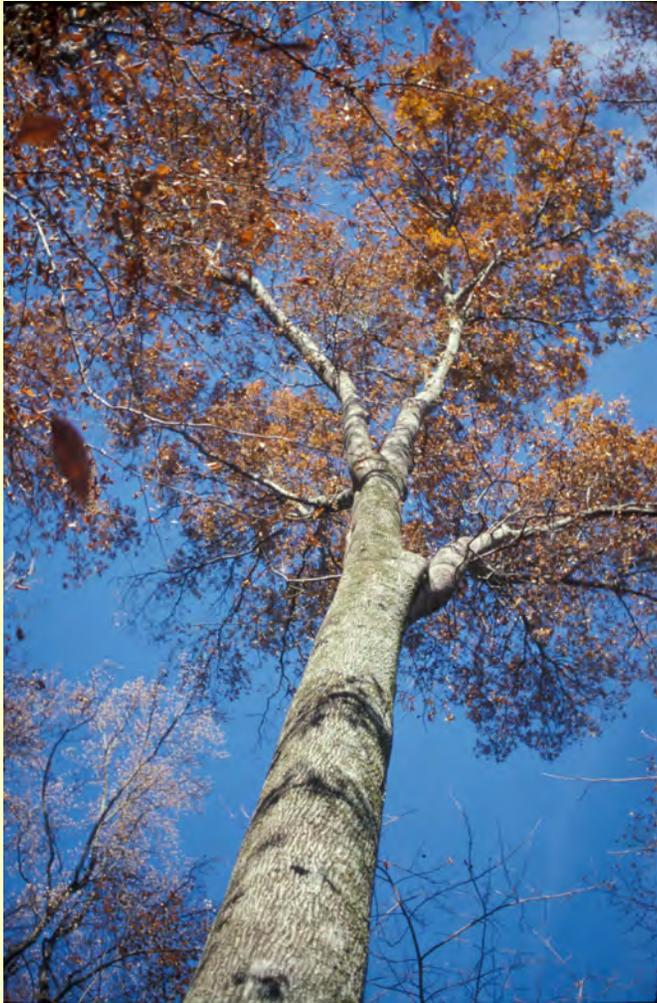
Quercus x incomita
Photo © R.H. Simmons



Old-age stand of Black, White, and Chestnut oaks.



Brilliant fall color of Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*).



Hickories of the upland forest: Mockernut Hickory (*Carya alba*), Pignut (*Carya glabra*), and Sweet Pignut or False Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovalis*).



Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)



Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*)

Common Trees of Mesic and Rich Soils

White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)

American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) – common tree of floodplains, streambanks, and bottomland forests.

Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) – common, long-lived tree. However, it can easily spread and become numerous or monotypic in fertile sites.

Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) – long-lived tree originally of mesic ravines and streambanks. However, in the 20th century as a result of repeated logging and disturbance, it has invaded upland oak forests and is changing forest composition in many uplands.

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) – large, common tree of floodplains and streambanks.

River Birch (*Betula nigra*) – common tree of floodplains and streambanks; reaches its largest size in our region along the Holmes Run and Four Mile Run floodplains.

Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) – characteristic tree of coastal plain, becomes uncommon to rare in the piedmont of our region.

American Hornbeam, Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) – characteristic understory tree of mesic woodland, streambanks, and floodplains.



Old-age River Birch (*Betula nigra*) in Holmes Run floodplain, City of Alexandria.



Jim Plyler of Natural Landscapes Nursery delivering large oaks to the planting site. The White Oaks were grown from acorns from the ancient London Grove Meeting House Oak – an original “Penn Oak” from Chester County, Pennsylvania.



Large oaks arranged on knoll for planting.



City contractor planting a large White Oak. All plantings of oaks, hickories, and Black Gum were back-filled with clayey-loam from a nearby Oak-Heath Forest.



Skilled volunteers planting a diversity of native trees along the upper streambank of Holmes Run at All Veterans Park.



Volunteers planting native trees.





Completion of Phase One planting of native trees along Holmes Run at All Veterans Park.



Acknowledgements:

PowerPoint presentation by R.H. Simmons, RPCA – Horticulture and Natural Resources Section.

All photos by R.H. Simmons, except digital image of All Veterans Park by Claudia Hamblin-Katnik, T&ES, Office of Environmental Quality and River Birch photos by Greg Zell.

City of Alexandria, Dept. RPCA, Park Operations and Horticulture and Natural Resources Section, especially John Walsh, and Dept. T&ES, Office of Environmental Quality, especially Claudia Hamblin-Katnik and William Skrabak.