

Tree Planting on Public Property

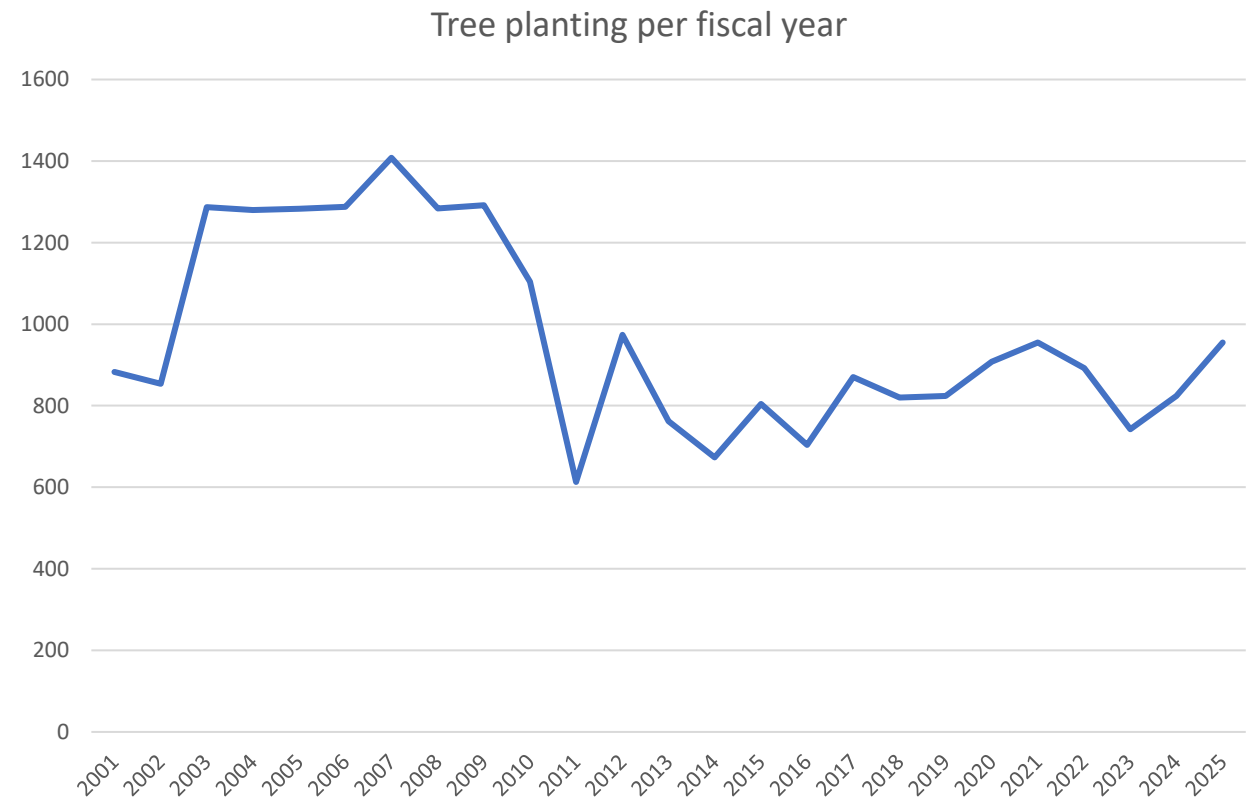
Vincent Verweij, Urban Forest Manager
Arlington County, VA

7/20/26



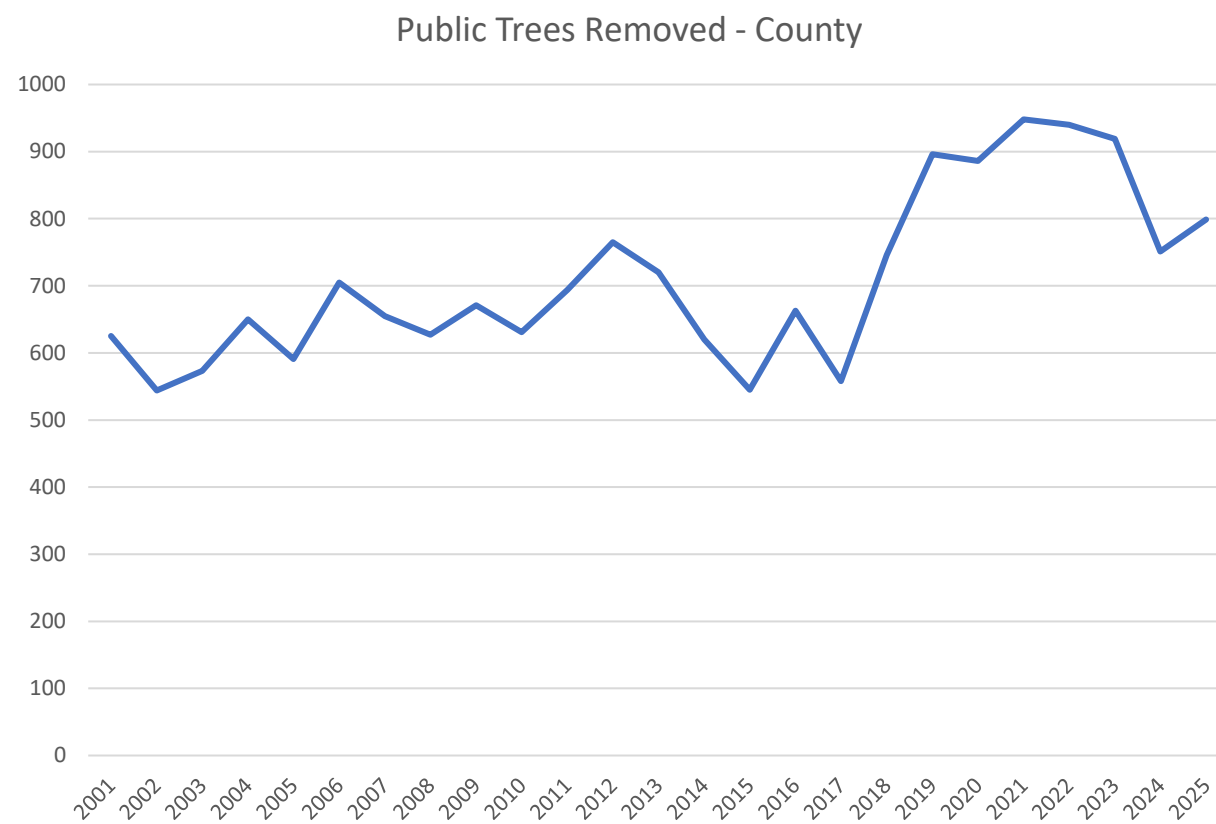
Tree planting - overview

- ~900 trees planted/year. Between 2003 – 2010, tree planting was between 1,100 – 1,400. The great recession in the late 2000s likely reduced this quantity
- Stormwater fund, replenished by stormwater utility fee, pays for tree planting. Other funds pay for watering
- 1 Tree Planting Coordinator
- 1 Contract (currently Davey)
- Volunteer plantings 1-2 times a year



Intent of tree planting

- Reduce heat island, air and water pollution, sequester CO2, provide habitat
- Replace removed trees from reactive and circuit maintenance
 - ~700 trees removed per year since 2001
- Improve ecosystem services in unplanted areas
- Improve Tree Equity Scores

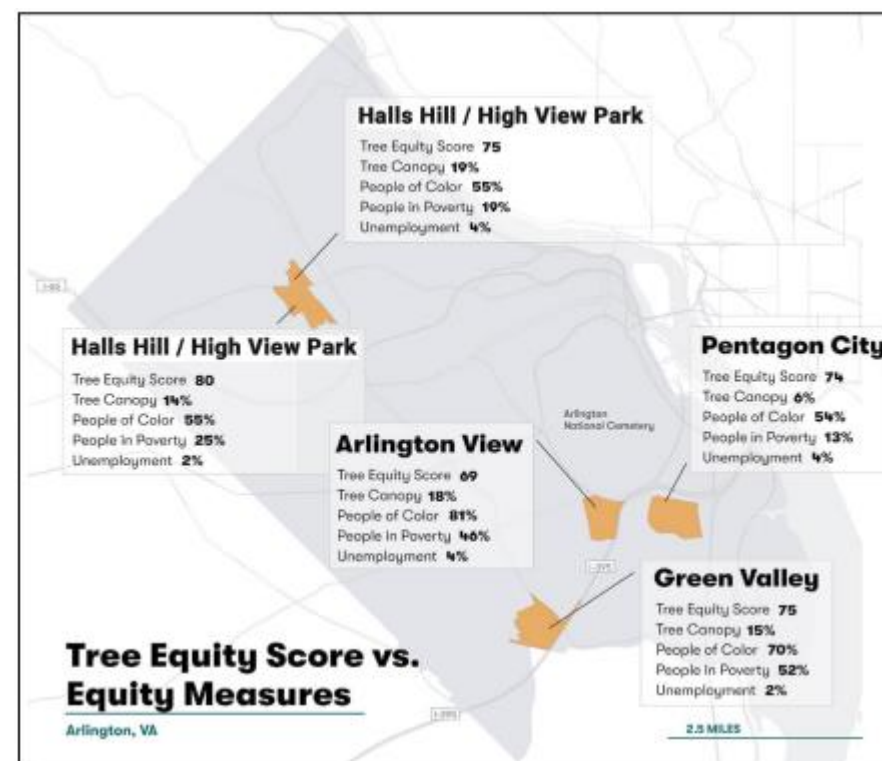


Guidelines

- Minimize conflicts with surrounding uses and utilities (administrative regulation 4.3)
- Prioritize native trees to help get to above 70% regionally native (FNRP Action Step 1.1.2)
- Prioritize areas with low tree equity scores (FNRP Action step 2.1.1)
- Diversity targets: Max. 10% of each genus, except *Quercus*, which has a max of 20%

1.1.2 ENSURE 70 PERCENT OF ARLINGTON'S TREES ARE REGIONALLY NATIVE BY 2035.

2.1.1 DIRECT RESOURCES TO NEIGHBORHOODS UNDERSERVED BY EXISTING TREE CANOPY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OR ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS.



Current street tree statistics

- 19,962 publicly-maintained street trees
- 3,835 privately-maintained street trees
- 12,993 regionally native (65%)



Oak, Willow	1969
Maple, Red	1554
Redbud, Eastern	1104
Oak, Pin	762
Crapemyrtle, Common	742
Zelkova, Japanese	690
London Planetree	607
Elm, American	559
Dogwood, Flowering	525
Pear, Callery	511
Oak, Northern Red	498
Hackberry, Common	424
Linden, Little Leaf	337
Cherry, Kwanzan	310
Cherry, Okame	308
Redcedar, Eastern	302
Blackgum	301
Ginkgo	292
Maple, Silver	248
Hornbeam, American	242

How do tree sites get selected?

Reactive:

- Based on requests: The tree planting coordinator visits the site and communicates with the resident if it is appropriate for planting, and if so, schedules planting in the next season
- Based on removals: After stump removal, the tree planting coordinator visits the site for compliance with planting regulations, and schedules a tree to be planted after the soil recovers, usually about a year.
- Commemorative trees: A site is selected in collaboration with the applicant/donor to commemorate a person

Proactive:

- The tree planting coordinator finds sites in low tree canopy/low Tree Equity Score neighborhoods and parks to plant trees



REPORT A PROBLEM

Report a pothole, graffiti, service streetlights, downed trees, traffic and parking, etc.

Details	Location	Contact Info
Type of Issue (Required)		
Tree Planting		
Transportation/Safety Investigation		
▼ Tree Inspections, Maintenance, and Planting		
Fallen Tree/Limb		
Stump Removal		
Tree Inspection/Maintenance		
Tree Planting		
Tree Inspections, Maintenance, and Planting > Tree Planting		
Utility Cover Damaged/Missing		
Describe the issue		

Add Photos or Files

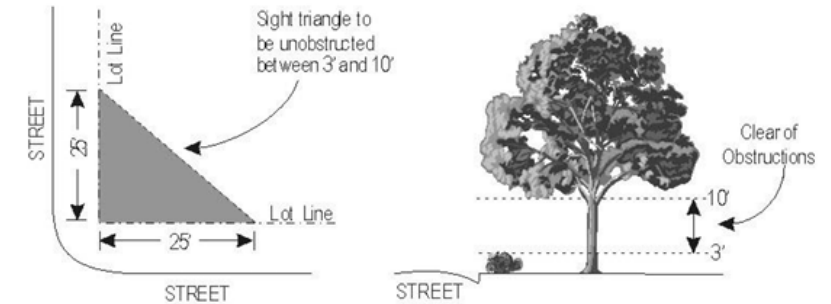
Further review

- Parks planning reviews planting sites for conflicts with future development
- Traffic Engineering and Operations reviews planting sites for conflicts with future projects and sight lines.
- The Urban Forest Manager reviews all sites, and confirms diversity targets are met, and no other known conflicts exist.

4. Visual clearance (corners)

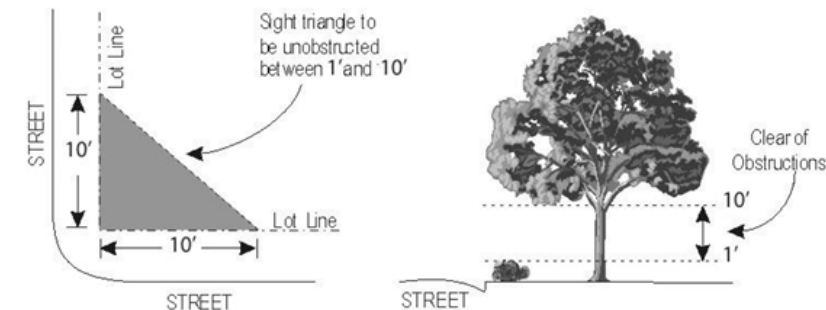
(a) R and RA districts

On any corner lot in an R or RA district there shall be no planting, structure, retaining wall, fence, shrubbery or obstruction to vision between a height of three feet and a height of 10 feet above the curb level within the triangle formed by the street right-of-way lines and a line connecting said street lines 25 feet from their intersection.



(b) C, M and P-S districts

On any corner lot in any C or M district, no building or obstructions shall be permitted between a height of one foot and a height of 10 feet higher than the curb level within the triangle formed by the street right-of-way lines and a line connecting said street lines 10 feet from their intersection.



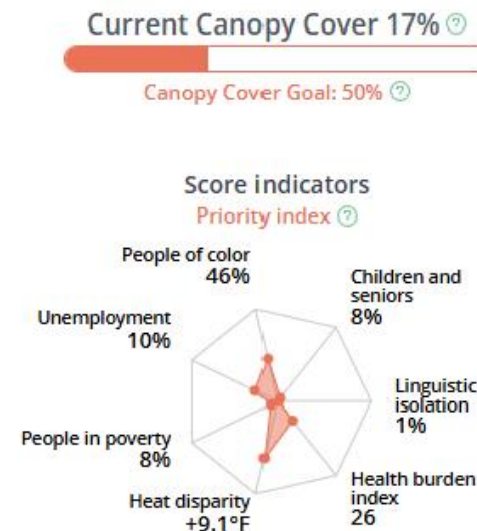
Planting and watering coordination

- The tree planting coordinator sends in lists for quotes to our contractor by July 1 for Fall, and by October 1 for Spring
- Before planting: The [public-facing tree planting map](#) is updated. This is a good time to reach out with concerns and questions.
- During planting: The tree planting coordinator work with the contractor by flagging sites and addressing conflicts, and answers questions from the public. This starts on October 1 for Fall, March 1 for Spring
- After planting, the contractor waters for 1 year, in-house crews water for the second year. Watering bags are used to slowly release water.



Supplemental projects in Tree Equity and low canopy areas

- In Fiscal Year 2025: 100 trees were planted in low Tree Equity Area schools, with a Virginia Department of Forestry Trees for Clean Water grant
- In Fiscal Year 2026, 115 trees were planted in low Tree Equity Areas and low tree canopy neighborhoods, using additional stormwater funding from public tree removals by by-right developments



After planting – Equity areas



Upcoming programs

- Circuit planting – looking at every neighborhood to find planting spots and planting them
- Adjacent resident notification
- Food forest

A NEW TREE IS COMING TO YOUR STREET!

The forestry office has identified a space for a new tree in the public right-of-way in front of your home.

Trees in your neighborhood improve air quality, provide cooling shade, reduce noise, and make streets safer and healthier.

After planting, the tree will receive watering until it's established, and the County will maintain the tree by request and as determined by our staff.

Arlington County's Urban Forestry Office plants 900 trees a year. Know of another place that could use a tree? Scan the code below and select "Tree Planting" in the dropdown.

QUESTIONS OR CONFLICTS WITH THE NEW TREE PLANTING?

Contact urbanforestry@arlingtonva.us



bit.ly/4rc3Lmf

Questions?

- Learn more at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability/Trees/Plant-Trees>
- Contact the forestry office at urbanforestry@arlingtonva.us

