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## Adopt-a-Tree in Arlington

WEEKLY WATERING ALERT  
MUST WATER

# Tree watering

# Program overview

# Planting Program

- Tree planting (~900 trees/year)
- Watering bags used for all planted trees
- Watering for 2 years
- Diversity and focus on native plants
- Reforestation and soil restoration projects in parks
- Assistance to EcoAction Arlington's programs



# Watering

- Trees planted by the Forestry unit have a target of receiving water for 2 years after planting
- Watering bag is added in spring
- Landscape staff helps water ~1,800 trees every two weeks, ideally
- 4 staff are needed full-time to water all trees
- Trees planted by other departments are contract-watered.

# Some issues with watering

- Watering staff is partially made of temporary staff. Hiring has been difficult during pandemic
- Climate extremes have led to wetter periods and dryer periods. Long-lasting droughts, like in 2019, are almost impossible to manage for.
- Contract watering is expensive and hard to confirm
- Adopt-a-Tree has limited adoption rates

# Temporary solutions

- Water trees for 1 year
- Water only larger trees (over 1 inch)
- Prioritize most recent planting, and as staff comes on board, water the remainder
- Additional outreach for Adopt-a-Tree program

# More permanent solutions

- Plant more, smaller caliper trees
- Improve soil to enhance water retention
- Refocus planting efforts on reforestation-style plantings, limit street tree replacement
- Additional volunteer involvement
- Make temporary positions permanent for watering staff

# Links

- County educational page on watering:  
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Trees/Tree-Care-and-Removal/Watering>
- Adopt-a-tree:
- <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Trees/Support-Trees/Adopt-a-Tree>
- Casey Trees watering alerts:  
<https://caseytrees.org/take-action/water/>