

Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment Annual Report, 2018

The Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment (“The Committee”) is instructed by the Town Code, Section 16-102, to assist Council and Mayor with preparation or update of an Annual Town Tree Plan regarding care, preservation, pruning, etc. of trees on public land and right of ways. Below are listed the committee’s regular and annual activities, as well as special initiatives undertaken in 2018, followed by our priority goals for 2019 and metrics for 2018. A list of current and past Committee members (updated 1/1/19) with contact information is appended.

Mission and Organization

The Committee’s primary function is to educate University Park residents on the value and benefits that trees, plants, and well-tended environments provide.

In 2018, the Committee was comprised of ten members and Council Liaison Laurie Morrissey (Ward 3). Chris Aubry has served as Chair since 2013. See appended list of members.

Since May 2013, the Committee has conducted regular, monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00-8:30 p.m., typically at Town Hall. All meetings are advertised in the town’s newsletter; the public is encouraged to attend. The January meeting, which serves as the Committee’s planning meeting for the upcoming year, is approximately two or three hours in duration. This too is open to the public. See appended list for dates.

Monthly Activities

- Approximately 10 months every year, the Committee sponsors a two-hour activity in which volunteers remove ivy from the trunks of public trees. The event, known as the “Ivy League,” is advertised in the newsletter and via the town’s listserv. Incentives have been offered for participation.
- Most issues of the newsletter include an article focusing on the care and maintenance of trees or tree advocacy.

Bi-Annual Activities

- The Chair and other members meet with Director of Public Works twice a year, typically in spring and late summer, to strategize logistics for plantings, discuss ways to improve their interactions, and update each other on developments.

Annual/Ongoing Initiatives

- Since 2013, the Committee has selected sites and provided specific recommendations for concentrated plantings of street trees, replacing the previous model of responding to individual homeowners’ requests, in an effort to increase efficiencies in maintenance. This annual initiative is a tri-lateral partnership between the Committee, Public Works, and the volunteer residents.
- The Committee’s Ward Stewards program (launched 2017) assigns members to specific wards to monitor and record trees that are in distress or dead. The reports are consolidated and provided to Director DPW.
- The annual “Foliage Crawl” promotes appreciation of trees – Committee members lead informative walks through town in autumn.
- Committee members are committed to attending UPES’s annual Arbor Day Ceremony.
- The Committee encourages residents to participate in the Annual Stream Cleanup.
- The Committee’s reflector at TreeComm@UPMD.org is utilized by residents to communicate questions, concerns, and suggestions to the Committee.

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New Initiatives undertaken/achieved in 2018

- The Committee succeeded in expanding the Shade Tree Reimbursement program into the “Tree Reimbursement Program,” which now includes approved understory trees. This included formal authorization by Council and Mayor and subsequent development of new guide for the additional trees.
- Educational Outreach: “Trees in Winter” launched on 2/18/18 – participants learned how to identify trees without their leaves.
- Initiated regular maintenance of vegetation in Deakins Cemetery.
- Realignment of Committee membership occurred in the wake of the June 2018 Council election. Previous Liaison transitioned to Member; new Liaison Morrissey joined. Two additional members were also recruited.
- Several meetings with the Sustainability Committee and Parks/Public Facilities were organized as the Committee became more formally engaged with the town’s efforts to create a unified plan for all of UP’s public spaces.
- Committee members re-fenced the 2016 native plants west of UPES.

Specific Goals for 2019

- Continuation of regular programming, i.e. annual tree planting (Sheridan Street Corridor, Ward 1), monthly Ivy League, newsletter articles, etc.
- Monitoring/maintaining the 2016 plantings from Natives in the Park initiative, including fencing and signage.
- Educational Activities, which might include
 - Creating an interactive map to catalogue the Committee’s Notable Trees. This would be either housed on or linked from the Town’s website
 - Recruiting a Subject Matter Expert as a guest speaker at a committee meeting.
 - Continued promotion and expansion of Shade Tree Reimbursement Program.
- Building/strengthening alliances with mission-similar entities, including UP’s Green Team, Anacostia Watershed Society, Right Tree, Right Place, Neighborhood Design Center, and University of Maryland Extension.
- Continue enhancing inventory of street trees.
- Supporting the Pollinator Meadow.
- Advocating for removal of paving on 42nd Avenue to expand Henson Green.
- Sustaining regular monitoring and reporting of street tree health through Ward Stewards program.
- Development of an “Adopt a tree” program where homeowner agrees to refill alligator bag.

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ACTIVITY METRICS, 2018

ACTIVITY	DATE	EST. HRS	MEASURABLES
TREE SURVEY 1: For annual community planting Eight Committee members selected 33 sites/trees in Sheridan Street, Ward 1 and QCR cul-de-sac.	4/21/18	20	Selected sites for 33 trees
TREE SURVEY 2: To backfill town/utility removals Five Committee members selected sites/trees for 35 trees throughout Ward 2 and QCR to backfill town/utility removals.	9/16/18	12	Selected sites for 35 trees
TREE PLANTING 1: 16 committee members and volunteers planted 33 street trees in Ward 1 along Sheridan Street.	10/27/18	41	33 trees planted
TREE PLANTING 2: DPW contractors planted 35 trees per Tree Survey 1, conducted 9/16/18 – Ward 2/QCR.	December 2018	n/a	35 trees planted
EXPANSION OF TREE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM: Subcommittee developed new guide for approved understory trees.	January-August	80	Added new category, 21 trees
ARBOR DAY CEREMONY, UPES: Two committee members attended. Advance promotion	4/27/18	4	Outreach
IVY INTERVENTION: Members met with residents to suggest ivy remediation strategies at their homes.	Various	6	Increased awareness of best practices
NATIVES IN THE PARK MAINTENANCE: Committee members and volunteers watered and weeded. Fencing repaired/installed.	March-June 2018	12 20	Habitat for pollinators maintained.
IVY LEAGUE Committee members and volunteers removed ivy from town trees in public right of ways. Two-hour sessions staged 2 nd Saturday of most months	Jan-Nov 2018	68.5	Two or three dump truck loads of ivy removed.
<i>COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ADMIN, ADVOCACY, NEWSLETTER, LISTSERV</i>	<i>Yearlong</i>	<i>~300*</i>	<i>Not “tangible”</i>
TOTAL TANGIBLE HOURS		263.5	
TOTALS (approximate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added 21 trees to town’s Tree Reimbursement Program • Over 70 recommendations for locations/trees made. • 35 trees planted by committee/volunteers. • 35+ additional trees planted by DPW, per committee’s input. • 200 native plants maintained in park • Town-wide inventory of distressed/dead trees compiled. • 183.5 volunteer hours (Exclusive of meetings, administrative functions) 			

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**Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment:
Members and Meetings
Current 1/1/2019**

CURRENT MEMBERS					
LastName	FirstName	Street Address	Date active	Cell Phone	email
Aubry	Christopher	4207 Tuckerman St	2011, Chair 2013	301-357-5197	aubrycp@elitemail.org
Alvarez	Beth	4103 Van Buren St	2013		alvarez@umd.edu
Alvarez	Roy	4103 Van Buren	2012 (Liaison 2012-5/2018)	240-515-1569	ralvare1@umd.edu
Crocker	Edna	4400 Holly Hill	2015		edcrocker3@verizon.net dcrocker@umd.edu
Erickson	Eric	4317 Sheridan	2016		axeldc@gmail.com
Leonardi	Michelle	6714 Queen's Chapel	2018		mpleonardi@gmail.com
Morrissey	Laurie	6607 44th Ave	2018 Council Liaison		lauriemorrissey919@gmail.com lmorrissey@upmd.org
Sondak	Karen	6805 Pineway	2009		ksondak@yahoo.com
Thompson	Joe	4403 Sheridan	2018		jdthomps20@gmail.com
Thompson	Tiegh	6506 41st Ave	2015	301-346-3641	moosesylvania@verizon.net
Young	Tim	4317 Sheridan	2016		dcanswerguy@gmail.com
PREVIOUS MEMBERS					
Williams	Josephine	6803 Pineway	2014-1/2018 <i>RESIGNED 2017</i>		gaiowills@msn.com
Fletcher	Joanne	4100 Van Buren	2011 <i>Affiliate, 2018</i>		joann.fletcher1113@gmail.com
Lauwers	Nele	4408 Van Buren	2/17-9/2017 <i>RESIGNED Sept 2017</i>		nele.lauwers@gmail.com
Leaderman	Alice	4322 Woodberry St	2014-2017, spearheaded <i>Natives in the Park</i> <i>RESIGNED 2017</i>		alvarn7@verizon.net
Hicks	Lindsay	4320 Sheridan St	2008 Former Chair <i>Resigned 2013</i>		hicks.lindsay@gmail.com
Mitter	Kim	6501 41st Ave	2013, Resigned 2015		kmitter@umd.edu
Strickman	Linda	4317 Sheridan	2010, Resigned 2014		lindastrickman@gmail.com
MEETINGS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
		1/14/2015	1/12/2016	1/11/2017	1/10/2018
		2/11/2015	2/10/2016	2/8/2017	2/14/2018
	3/26/2014	3/16/2015	3/9/2016	3/8/2017	3/14/2018
		4/8/2015	4/13/2016	4/12/2017	4/11/2018
	5/7/2014	5/13/2015	5/11/2016	5/10/2017	5/9/2018
	6/4/2014	6/10/2015	6/8/2016	6/14/2017	6/13/2018
	7/9/2014	7/8/2015	7/13/2016	7/12/2017	7/18/2018
	8/13/2014	8/12/2015	8/10/2016	8/16/2017	8/8/2018
	9/10/2014	9/9/2015	9/14/2016	9/13/2017	9/12/2018
	10/8/2014	10/14/2015	10/12/2016	10/11/2017	10/10/2018
	11/12/2014	11/11/2015	11/9/2016	11/8/2017	11/14/2018
	12/10/2014	12/9/2015	12/7/2016	12/13/2017	n/a No meeting this month