

Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment Annual Report, CY 2021

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 2020, followed by our priority goals for 2022 and metrics for 2021.

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.

At the close of 2021, the Committee was comprised of ten members and Council Liaison Laurie Morrissey (Ward 3). Chris Aubry has served as Chair since 2013.

Since May, 2013, the Committee has conducted regular, monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00-8:30 PM, formerly at Town Hall. Beginning in April 2020 and continuing throughout 2021, meetings were held on same time and date, but via Zoom. 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 2-3 hours in duration. This too is open to the public.

Regularly Occurring Activities

- On most weeks, a TPE member will post a tree-centric educational piece to the town’s listserv, readily identified by the subject line *UNIVERSITY PARK IS “TREMENDOUS”*
- Approximately ten 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 for one community planting, 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. (*Tabled due to COVID*)

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- Committee members are committed to attending UPES’s annual Arbor Day Ceremony. (*Tabled due to COVID*)
- 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.

New Initiatives undertaken/achieved in 2021

- In lieu of the monthly meeting, the Committee met in January for a 2.5-hour working session to discuss plans for the coming year.
- Began providing ivy removal support to HHUP enrollees, per specific requests as facilitated by HHUP Chair.
- Pursuit of new initiatives were not as numerous in past years, due to the global pandemic. TPE did again interact with the Sustainability Committee 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 continued its efforts to develop and implement a tree ordinance for University Park. Activities concentrated on revising the draft ordinance and informing council members of our intent. Our Liaison Laurie Morrissey met with Mayor Carey and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson numerous times to on various aspects of the proposed ordinance, notably the reforestation aspect, in which TPE and DPW would identify canopy deficient areas within UP and offer homeowners new shade trees on their property at no cost, planting and all associated costs included.

Specific Goals for 2022

- Passage/adoption of a town-wide tree ordinance.
- Continuation of regular programming, i.e. annual tree planting (NE quadrant of Ward 6), monthly Ivy League, newsletter articles, *etc.*
- Educational Activities, which will include
 - Interfacing with Sustainability Committee on Pollinator Meadow activities
 - continued promotion and expansion of Shade Tree Reimbursement Program.
- Revision of the Approved Shade Tree list.
- Procuring LIDAR survey for 2016 and 2021 either through UMD or UVM.
- Initiate conversation for coordination of update of Town’s Tree Inventory using UMD Capstone student’s recommendation of OpenTreeMap. (40 volunteers, 3 days is required)
- Building/strengthening alliances with mission-similar entities, including UP’s Green Team, Anacostia Watershed Society, and University of Maryland Extension.
- Sustain regular monitoring and reporting of street tree health through Ward Stewards program. Further explore development of an “Adopt a Tree” program where homeowner agrees to refill alligator bag.

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TPE CY 2021 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DATE(S)	VOLUNTEERS/ ATTENDEES	2021 HOURS	RESULTS
Survey, Annual Planting	Wards 2/6	3/20/21 & 6/26/21	6	30 (12 survey, 18 plan)	Selected Pollinator Meadow over NE Ward 6. 8 trees and 28 shrubs Site plan drawn to scale.
Survey, Ward Stewards	All Wards	By 11/30/21	8	32	Town wide Inventory of distressed/dead trees updated
Annual Tree Planting	Wards 2/6	10/17/20	6	17.5	1 tree and 7 shrubs planted on periphery of the Pollinator Meadow.
Ivy League	Throughout UP	2 nd Saturdays	16	74	Removed ivy from ~ 70+ trees on public land. Weeded milkweed bed along Wells Run
UP IS "TREEMENDOUS"	ListServ	Most Mondays	10	40	Building coalition of tree enthusiasts – much response and crosstalk.
			<i>NON-ADMIN TOTAL</i>	193.5	
Administration (Chair)	Desk/Computer	Weekly	1	90	Position papers, research, correspondence, outreach, minutes, agenda, reports, <i>etc.</i>
Meeting Attendance	ZOOM	2 nd Wednesdays	10	132	Cohesion, Goal setting, achievement
			<i>ADMIN TOTAL</i>	222	
			<i>GRAND TOTAL</i>	415.5	

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Four trees and shrubs planted by committee/volunteers.**
- **28 trees were planted by residents utilizing the town’s Tree Reimbursement funding. (near record-breaking)**
- **Town-wide inventory of distressed/dead trees updated.**
- **193.5 volunteer hours (Exclusive of meetings/administrative hours)**

Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment
Members and Meetings

CURRENT MEMBERS, 12/31/2021								
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			
Burghardt	Karin	4124 Woodberry St	July, 2021	302-299-0332	karinburghardt@gmail.com			
Erickson	Eric	4317 Sheridan	2016	202-413-6933	axelcd@gmail.com			
Jasinski	Matthew	4206 Van Buren	March, 2021	240-381-1168	matt.j.jasinski@gmail.com			
Morrissey	Laurie	6607 44th Ave	2018 Council Liaison	301-906-0276	lauriemorrissey919@gmail.com lmorrissey@upmd.org			
Sondak	Karen	6805 Pineway	2009	240-351-9054	ksondak@yahoo.com			
Thompson	Joe	4403 Sheridan	2018	734-891-1822	jdthoms20@gmail.com			
Young	Tim	4317 Sheridan	2016	202-413-6933	dcanswerguy@gmail.com			
PREVIOUS MEMBERS								
Thompson	Tiegh	6506 41st Ave	2015-7/1/2021 (Resigned)	301-346-3641	moosesylvania@verizon.net			
Leonardi	Michelle	6714 Queen's Chapel	2018- 12/31/2019		mpleonardi@gmail.com			
Crocker	Edna	4400 Holly Hill	2015-12/31/2019		edcrocker3@verizon.net dcrocker@umd.edu			
Williams	Josephine	6803 Pineway	2014-1/2018 RESIGNED 2017		qajowills@msn.com			
Fletcher	Joanne	4100 Van Buren	2011 Affiliate, 2018 2/17-9/2017 RESIGNED Sept 2017		joann.fletcher1113@gmail.com			
Lauwers	Nele	4408 Van Buren	2014-2017, spearheaded Natives in the Park RESIGNED 2017		nele.lauwers@gmail.com			
Leaderman	Alice	4322 Woodberry St	2008 Former Chair Resigned 2013		alvarn7@verizon.net			
Hicks	Lindsay	4320 Sheridan St	2013, Resigned 2015		hicks.lindsay@gmail.com			
Mitter	Kim	6501 41st Ave	2010, Resigned 2014		kmitter@umd.edu			
Strickman	Linda	4317 Sheridan	2010, Resigned 2014		lindastrickman@gmail.com			
MEETINGS								
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
	1/14/2015	1/12/2016	1/11/2017	1/10/2018	1/9/2019	work session	1/20/2021	
	2/11/2015	2/10/2016	2/8/2017	2/14/2018	2/13/2019	2/12/2020	2/10/2021	
3/26/2014	3/16/2015	3/9/2016	3/8/2017	3/14/2018	3/13/2019	3/11/2020	3/10/2021	
	4/8/2015	4/13/2016	4/12/2017	4/11/2018	4/10/2019	4/8/2020	4/14/2021	
5/7/2014	5/13/2015	5/11/2016	5/10/2017	5/9/2018	5/8/2019	5/13/2020	5/12/2021	
6/4/2014	6/10/2015	6/8/2016	6/14/2017	6/13/2018	6/12/2019	6/10/2020	6/9/2021	
7/9/2014	7/8/2015	7/13/2016	7/12/2017	7/18/2018	7/10/2019	7/8/2020	7/14/2021	
8/13/2014	8/12/2015	8/10/2016	8/16/2017	8/8/2018	8/13/2019	n/a	n/a	
9/10/2014	9/9/2015	9/14/2016	9/13/2017	9/12/2018	9/11/2019	9/9/2020	9/8/2021	
10/8/2014	10/14/2015	10/12/2016	10/11/2017	10/10/2018	10/9/2019	10/14/2020	10/13/2021	
11/12/2014	11/11/2015	11/9/2016	11/8/2017	11/14/2018	11/13/2019	11/11/2020	11/10/2021	
12/10/2014	12/9/2015	12/7/2016	12/13/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	12/1/2021	