

Town of Bel Air

2011 Tree Plan



Town of Bel Air Tree Committee

Town of Bel Air Tree Plan 2011

The following annual Tree Plan (the “Plan”) was prepared by the Town Tree Committee (the “Committee”), as required by the National Arbor Day Foundation for Tree City U.S.A. recognition, for review and acceptance by the Board of Town Commissioners as the official tree plan for the Town of Bel Air for the year 2011. This plan serves as the Committee’s agenda for tree planting, maintenance and stewardship projects for the coming year.

Review of Accomplishments in 2010



2010 marked the nineteenth consecutive year the Town has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The Town also received the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service-sponsored PLANT Award in 2010 marking the eighteenth year the Town has received the recognition.



Arbor Day 2010 was used to further the Bond Street and Main Street corridor planting plans. The available planting areas along Pennsylvania Avenue between Main Street and Bond Street were cleared of dead and diseased trees and replanted with trees that tie the plantings along the two corridors together.

The Department of Public Works logs all tree removals and replacements as a condition of approval for issuance of a Blanket Roadside Tree Permit by the Forest Service. Following is an accounting of the street tree work during the calendar year 2010.

DATE	ADDRESS	Tress Removed	Trees Elevated
1/13/10	Boulton St. & Kelly Ave		2
4/30/10	Bond St. & Thomas St.		1
6/7/10	3 Edgehill Court		3
6/7/10	7 Linwood Court		4
6/25/10	Hickory Ave. & Courtland St.		3
7/6/10	735 Reedy Circle		1
8/19/10	Atwood Rd. & Marketplace Dr.		6
9/3/10	Rockfield Playground		3
9/15/10	804 Maxwell Place		4
9/28/10	701 Bedford Road		1
10/7/10	700 Bedford Road		1
10/7/10	611 Dorsey Road		1
10/7/10	6 Hunter Drive		1
10/7/10	Deerbrook Rd. & MacPhail Rd.		5
10/7/10	108 S. Bond Street		6
4/9/10	308 N. Shamrock Road	4	
4/13/10	509 Idlewild Road	1	
5/11/10	402 Hemingway Drive	1	
6/16/10	Shaw Street	4	
6/26/10	705 Churchville Road	2	
7/13/10	Rockfield ball field	1	
7/21/10	404 Lee Way	1	
7/26/10	709 N. Shamrock Road	1	
10/5/10	Atwood Road	1	
10/5/10	602 MacPhail Road	1	
10/5/10	503 Churchville Road	1	
10/12/10	934 Jackson Boulevard	1	
10/12/10	743 Roland Avenue	1	
	TOTALS:	20	42

Limited funds in the Forest Conservation fee-in-lieu account and an aging tree population continue to challenge the Committee's efforts to maintain the Town's street tree canopy. As a result the Town

was unable to plant enough trees to replace the 20 trees lost during the year. Only seven (7) trees were planted in the public right-of-way last year.

Tree Plan Objectives for 2011

The reduction of construction projects over the past several years resulted in no receipt of forest conservation fee-in-lieu funds, the funding mechanism the Tree Committee has used to fund all tree planting projects over the past 20 years. However, two previously approved projects have recently moved forward, both of which were approved subject to a forest conservation fee-in-lieu fund requirement. Consequently, the fee-in-lieu fund now has money that should enable the Committee to complete one outstanding planting project and fund the street tree inventory project.

Planned Projects

Arbor Day 2011



To celebrate Arbor Day 2011 the Committee will coordinate tree removal and replacement at Shamrock Park. A declining Crabapple tree will be removed to make room for the placement of a Pin Oak to continue the line of oak trees along Lee Way. Additionally, a Sugar Maple will be planted next to the playground to provide additional shade.

South Main Street Corridor, Phase II



This phase of the two-phased South Main Street project will include more than thirty (30) trees along the eastern side of the MD 924 roadway from the Idlewild Road intersection to East MacPhail Road. A matching grant from the Forest Service may be possible that would partially fund this project, and the Committee will investigate this option. Planting will most likely occur in the fall of 2011.

Tree Inventory

In the early 1990s the Town was supplied with a street tree inventory prepared by the Forest Service. The STEMS program used to store and utilize the data was based on the data collector's



gait and therefore estimated distance from one tree location to the next. Although the data provided the Committee a useful tool, the system quickly became outdated and there was no way to integrate the data into a new software system. The database was used with aerial photography to create a

generalized street tree inventory for planning purposes. Now that the Town is required to maintain, and, if at all possible, increase canopy coverage, an up-to-date inventory has become a necessity.

Data for the inventory will be collected and compiled using the Forest Service i-Tree Streets Tree Inventory program. This program “focuses on the ecosystem services and structure of a municipality’s street tree Population” by quantifying “the trees’ annual environmental and aesthetic benefits, including energy conservation, air quality improvement, carbon dioxide reduction, stormwater control, and property value increases.” Besides the quantitative benefits of using the software, the completed inventory maps will provide assistance in determining future tree removals and planting locations and will therefore be beneficial in forecast budgeting.

There are several means to accomplish the inventory: a contracted project using professional arborists; an approved internship project through a local university; volunteers; or in-house. The Committee has discussed the pros and cons of each approach. With the funds recently received in the fee-in-lieu fund the Committee has the ability to consider hiring a firm to complete the work. If time permits completing the project in-house would be cost effective and leave in place a substantial funding source. The Committee will move forward with the inventory beginning in late spring.

Continuing Partnerships

As has been mentioned in previous reports, the Town Tree Committee has an excellent working relationship with the Maryland Forest Service and the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company. The Committee continues to enjoy the luxury of having two State foresters on board, and this has proven to be an advantage in securing roadside tree planting project approval. With the support of BGE, the Committee has a



great partnership in developing and maintaining a viable urban canopy with limited impact to overhead transmission lines. BGE has played a part in several street tree projects by providing tree removal services at no cost to the Town; BGE's participation in the 2010 Arbor Day project on Pennsylvania Avenue included tree removals.

The Committee intends to continue these cooperative efforts in planned and future street tree planting projects.