

Town of Bel Air Tree Plan 2010

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 2010. This plan serves as the Committee’s agenda for tree planting, maintenance and stewardship projects for the coming year.

Review of Accomplishments in 2009

For the eighteenth consecutive year the Tree Committee’s agenda and the Town’s urban forestry program met the minimum requirements necessary for Tree City USA recognition. Additionally, the Town received the State Forestry Department’s Maryland Community PLANT Award for the seventeenth consecutive year.



Arbor Day 2009 celebrated the completion of the Main Street Reconstruction Project with the planting of four planting pits created through sidewalk improvements along the 400-block of North Main Street. The Committee selected a columnar variety of Maple because this area presented one of the few roadside planting sites in the commercial district not impacted by overhead transmission lines. These plantings offset tree removals occurring in other areas of Town as a result of an aging urban streetscape.



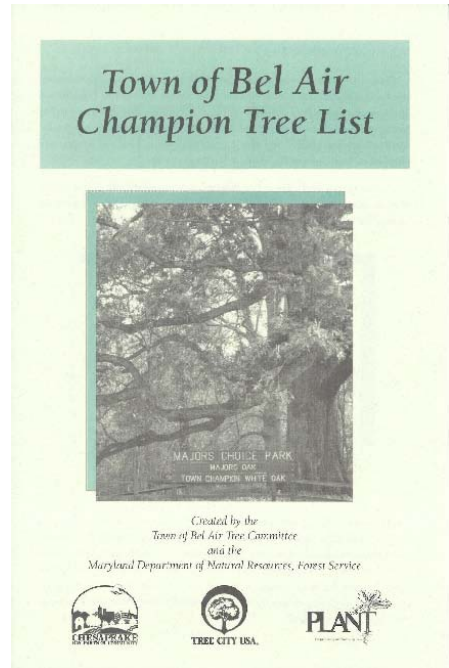
Diminished funds in the Forest Conservation fee-in-lieu account and an ageing tree population continue to challenge the Committee’s efforts to maintain the Town’s street tree canopy. The Department of Public Works logs all tree removals and replacements as a condition of approval

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 2009.

Date	Address	Removed	Elevated
2/3/09	Major Choice Drive		2
5/4/09	823 N. Shamrock Road	1	
5/5/09	727 Linwood Avenue		1
5/6/09	719 Linwood Avenue	2	
5/26/09	Ewing St - near pump station	1	
5/26/09	613 Foxcroft Drive	1	
5/28/09	703 Churchville Road	1	
6/5/09	Deerbrook @ MacPhail Rd		5
6/5/09	Rockfield Playground		1
6/18/09	335 Choice Street	1	
6/22/09	39 Hickory Avenue		1
9/1/09	407 Webster Street		2
9/2/09	818 Benjamin Road		1
9/2/09	Shamrock Rd & Benjamin Rd		2
9/8/09	407 Idlewild Road	2	
9/10/09	110 Idlewild Road	1	
9/24/09	440 E. Broadway	1	
9/24/09	833 Comer Square	1	
9/24/09	309 Shamrock Road	1	
10/7/09	Trout Dale & Benjamin Rd	1	
10/9/09	135 Wallace Street		1
10/27/09	355 Catherine Street	1	
10/30/09	707 & 709 Benjamin Road	2	
11/16/09	East Howard Street		4
11/18/09	539 Rockspring Avenue	1	
	TOTALS:	18	20

Champion Tree List

The Committee completed the revision and printing of the Town's Champion Tree list. The Town champion of each species measures a minimum 75% the size of the corresponding State champion. Several Town champion trees were lost in recent years. However, the list boasts 5 state champions. The Town's champion White Oak, the Majors' Oak, is displayed on the cover of the pamphlet.



Tree Plan Objectives for 2010

Planned Projects

Although funds for tree planting projects are currently limited, there are several approved redevelopment projects that, when constructed, will result in fee-in-lieu funds to support Committee-designed projects. As funds become available the Committee will move forward on implementing the following projects.

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 when the Town's required matching funds are available. It's possible that planting could occur in the spring of 2011.

Pennsylvania Avenue Project

Cherry trees that were planted along both sides of the Pennsylvania Avenue right-of-way east of the Bond Street intersection several decades ago have been in decline for several years; several trees have been removed at the request of the Forest Service. This year's Arbor Day project will include the removal of the existing eight trees and replacement with columnar serviceberry and cherry trees. The Baltimore Gas & Electric Company will partner with the Town in this project by providing the tree removal service. A local landscape firm will be contracted to plant single stem serviceberry trees in the planting strip on the north side of the roadway (to mirror the Bond Street planting at the property corner) and cherry trees in the planting pits on the south side adjacent the M&T Bank parking lot.

Memorial Grove

The Committee's development plan for the Memorial Grove moved one step closer to completion with the construction of the loop path through the back portion of the lot by the Department of Public Works. The Department made a substantial contribution to the grove by clearing the back portion of the lot and improving the stormwater outfall area. The additional space created made room for a longer loop path, and as a result the loop was serpentine to accommodate a planned memorial sculpture, additional tree plantings and an additional seating area.



Tree Inventory

The Town has acquired 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.” With this computer-based program the outdated street tree inventory created back in the mid-1990s will be revised and updated to include all roadside trees on Town, County and State roads within the Town boundaries. 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.

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. The Committee works with BGE on all street tree planting projects and provides opportunities for discussion on proposed tree species selection and planting location.

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