

## URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

**WHEREAS**, Arlington derives important economic, environmental and social benefits from its urban forest; and

**WHEREAS**, the involvement of interested and knowledgeable citizen representatives can foster measures to improve the health and sustainability of Arlington's urban forest;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Arlington County Board, which initially established the Urban Forestry Commission by adoption of a charge on June 10, 1990, hereby reestablishes the Arlington County Urban Forestry Commission.

The Commission shall be advisory to the County Board, and in that capacity may undertake studies, develop recommendations, conduct public meetings and educational programs, hold hearings, prepare reports, and appear before public bodies to further the objectives stated above.

The Commission shall provide the Board with advice and recommendations relating to planning, programming and budgetary matters for the planting and preservation of trees on public property.

The Commission shall also coordinate planning and implementation of education and outreach activities to foster the planting and preservation of trees on private property.

The Commission shall be composed of eleven (11) members, with a chairperson to be appointed annually by the County Board. Members shall serve for three-year terms and shall be appointed as follows:

- One member from the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee;
- One member from the Environment and Energy Conservation Commission;
- One member from a tree-related profession; and
- Eight members appointed at-large, preferably including individuals with direct knowledge of urban forestry matters, either from their professional background or from volunteer activities, including participation in organizations such as Tree Stewards.

In addition, the Commission may appoint *ex officio* members to represent organizations with an interest in the urban forest. These may include advisory commissions (e.g., the Park and Recreation Commission), non-profit organizations (e.g., Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment), community groups (e.g., Tree Stewards), or County organizations (e.g., Arlington Public Schools). Such members shall have no vote. The Commission shall meet on the call of the chairperson.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the functions of the Arlington County Urban Forestry Commission shall include:

1. Overseeing implementation of the Urban Forest Master Plan, which is an element of the Public Spaces Master Plan.
2. Overseeing implementation of the Tree Preservation Ordinance.
3. Making recommendations concerning tree canopy goals for the County as a whole and for parts of the County covered by area or sector plans; the Commission should participate in task forces preparing such plans.
4. Making recommendations concerning tree preservation and planting in development projects; the Commission should participate in the site-plan review process for those projects.
5. Studying and making recommendations concerning elements of the County budget that relate to the urban forest.
6. Coordinating implementation of the Tree Canopy Fund, working closely with County staff and the non-profit organization selected to handle the funds involved.

7. Cooperating with Arlington Public Schools to foster planting and care of trees on school properties, and to promote outdoor learning opportunities and the “green partnership” between the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and Arlington Public Schools.
8. Making recommendations with respect to elements of transportation plans that have implications for the urban forest, including street trees and trees near trails in wooded parks.
9. Making recommendations concerning implementation of elements of the Public Spaces Master Plan that relate to trees and natural areas, including development of a natural resources management plan and a land acquisition policy for the County.
10. Monitoring efforts to control invasive plants that threaten the urban forest, making recommendations regarding the scope and nature of those efforts.
11. Coordinating a variety of tree-related outreach and education activities, including Arbor Day ceremonies, Tree City USA awards, and the Notable Tree Committee.
12. Coordinating the County-wide Champion Trees program, working with staff and volunteers to identify champion trees and selecting some of them each year to be designated as Specimen Trees under the Tree Preservation Ordinance.
13. Participating in the Regional Urban Forestry Roundtable, sharing information with other Northern Virginia jurisdictions and working to develop common goals for tree conservation legislation.
14. Preparing an annual work plan for the Commission with input from the County Board.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Manager shall designate a County staff member to serve as coordinator to the Urban Forestry Commission, which duties shall be in addition to such other responsibilities as now exist.

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 10, 1990; AMENDED JUNE 10, 1995, AND MAY 8, 2007