

Worksession

Agenda Item #	3
Meeting Date	January 21, 2009
Prepared By	Todd M. Bolton City Arborist
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Annual Report from the City Arborist on 2008 Tree Related Programs
Background	Every year, the City Arborist provides a report to the City Council identifying significant activities affecting the urban forest. The report addresses several areas, including tree planting, maintenance, and tree removal activity within Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	None
Attachments	2008 Annual Report of the City Arborist Tree City Annual Application
Recommendation	Receive and discuss the City Arborist's annual report for 2008
Special Consideration	

Annual Report to Takoma Park City Council **Urban Forest Program - 2008**

Presented January 21, 2009, by Todd M. Bolton

There were several changes in operations between 2007 and 2008. The City Council approved the use of two contractors to perform the majority of tree work in the City. A significant amount of street and park tree pruning was performed as a first step in implementing the Forest Management Plan. In the past year, the City Arborist worked extensively with the tree inventory data and the GIS system to develop more accurate representations of the City's urban forest. The State of Maryland and Montgomery County provided aerial treatment for gypsy moths in several portions of the City.

Arbor Care and Excel Tree Experts performed inspections, pruning, and removals along approximately four miles of roadway, as well as in Jeque and Spring Parks, in the spring of 2008. In total, about 500 trees were worked on. A significant number of the trees slated for pruning ended up being removed. Many red maples in the 12 to 24 inch d.b.h. range—many planted along Trescott, Central, and Garland Avenues—seem to be particularly poor at barrier formation and, as a result, contracted fungal or other diseases.

The work done by Arbor Care and Excel Tree Experts in 2008 covered ten percent of the City streets, but they were some of the most heavily planted areas. The City Arborist anticipates pruning approximately the same number of road miles in 2009. This will be a great start to implementing the urban forest management plan.

In the past year, the City Arborist continued to make the tree inventory more accurate and more useful. Trees were remapped so they are represented along the streets in front of the correct house and in the order that the data indicates they should be. In 2009, the City Arborist will have a part-time intern verify the presence/absence of the inventoried trees. Perhaps of greater importance will be the work to locate potential planting areas, which will create a more realistic estimate of the stocking percentage the City has achieved.

Gypsy moth caterpillars are subject to infection by two endemic pathogens; one is a BT virus and the other is a native fungus. Both of these pathogens require moisture to be able to infect the larvae, and several dry springs over the last seven to eight years has allowed the populations of gypsy moth to grow. The City Arborist is aware of at least two large oaks lost to stress created by defoliation during the summer of 2007. The State has a fall egg mass monitoring program, which is used to estimate the probable population of gypsy moths for the following spring. The count, plus other factors, is used to determine desirable spray areas. After the likely spray areas are selected, they are prioritized and winnowed according to available budget. This past spring, the early analysis selected three areas of the City that, according to initial criteria, should be sprayed. After refining the statewide selection list within the limits of the budget, the State was only able to spray one of the blocks. However, Montgomery County determined that there was need for spraying beyond what the State budget would cover. County staff worked to organize and implement a spray program, which included spraying the balance of areas in the City which the State had determined should be sprayed. Although this was done without charge to the City, the City Arborist believes that Takoma Park may be expected to contribute in the future. As the cost

for the City would probably be less than the removal cost of two large trees, the City Arborist believes that this would be a worthwhile expenditure of City funds.

During 2008, the City removed approximately 60 street and park trees, while planting approximately 78 street and park trees. Over 500 trees were given away during the Arbor Day Celebration and at the Folk Festival. The “Bulk Buy” program encouraged residents to plant 33 overstory shade trees in this past year. The Housing and Community Development Department also planted over 30 trees as part of the Carroll Avenue streetscape project and work along New Hampshire Avenue.

The City provided permits to remove 191 trees during 2008. Sixty-six (66) of these permits were granted with the condition that a replacement or tree fund contribution was made. The remainder was granted for removal of dead or hazardous trees, which do not require replacement. The City received \$2,450 in Tree Fund donations and agreements to plant 65 trees.

The following table lists permit-related activities from 2008:

	2008	2007	2006	2005
Tree Removal Applications Received	243	193	225	285
Total Private Tree Removals	339	222	275	357
Permits (# of trees)	69	60	91	172
Waivers (# of trees)	180	118	153	153
Denials (# of trees)	45	19	21	27
Emergency waivers (# of trees)	5	20	17	22
Undesirable Species (# of trees)	35	24	24	unknown
Tree Protection Plan Permits	35	31	35	32

Overall, the tree canopy in Takoma Park is shrinking every year. A rough calculation of canopy removed and replaced based on the number of trees removed and replanted by private property owners indicates that approximately 7.5 acres of cover was lost, and 0.18 acres was replanted.

TREE CITY USA Application for Recertification

Mail completed application with requested attachments to your state forester no later than December 31.
The TREE CITY USA award is in recognition of work completed by the community during the calendar year.
Please provide information for the year ending.
(Some states require information in addition to this application. Check with your state forester.)

As CITY MANAGER of the community of THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK MD
(Title - Mayor or other city official)

I herewith make application for this community to be officially recertified as a TREE CITY USA for 09, having achieved the standards set forth by the Arbor Day Foundation as noted below. (year)

Standard 1: A Tree Board or Department

List board members, and meeting dates for the past year; or name of city department and manager.

SEE ATTACHED

Standard 2: A Community Tree Ordinance

Check One: Our ordinance as last submitted is unchanged and still in effect.
 Our ordinance has been changed. The new version is attached.

Standard 3: A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita

Total community forestry expenditures \$ 210,058
Community population(s)..... 19,000

Attach annual work plan outlining the work carried out during the past year. Attach breakdown of community forestry expenditures.

Standard 4: An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Date observance was held 4/19/08
Attach program of activities and/of news coverage. Attach Arbor Day proclamation.

Barbara B. Matthews City Manager 01-04-2009
Signature Title Date

Please type or print the following:

Mayor or equivalent:

Name: Barbara B. Matthews
Title: City Manager
Address: 7500 Maple Avenue
City, State, Zip: Takoma Park, MD 20912
Phone #: 301-891-7230
E-mail: barbaram@takomagoval.org

City Forestry Contact:

Name: TODD M BOLTON
Title: ARBORIST
Address: 31 OSWEGO AVE.
City, State, Zip: SILVER SPRING MD 20910
Phone #: 301-891-7612
E-mail: TODDB@TAKOMAGOVAL.ORG

NOTE: Application will not be processed without Standard 3 and 4 attachments.

Certification

(To Be Completed By The State Forester)

(Community)

The above named community has made formal application to this office. I am pleased to advise you that we reviewed the application and have concluded that, based on the information contained herein, said community is eligible to be recertified as a Tree City USA, for the _____ calendar year, having in my opinion met the four standards of achievement in urban forestry.

Signed _____ State Forester Date

Person in State Forester's Office who should receive recognition material:

Name: _____ UPS Address: _____
Title: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
Agency: _____ PH #: _____ E-mail: _____

Standard 1: Tree Commission

NAME	ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Pat Howell (Co-Chair)	7410 Aspen Avenue	09/30/08
Carol Hotton (Co-Chair)	101 Sheridan Avenue	09/30/07
Melanie Fosnaught	1207 Elson Place	09/30/08

2008 Meetings

January 8	July 8
February 12	August 12
March 11	September 9
April 8	October 14
May 13	November 18
June 10	December 8

Standard 2: City Tree Ordinance

The City Tree Ordinance did not change in 2008. The last revision was in 2007.

The City has a strict ordinance requiring permits for removals of trees over 24 inches in circumference, as well as tree protection plans for project in which over 50 square feet of soil will be disturbed within 50 feet of a tree with a circumference greater than 24 inches.

Standard 3: Community Forestry Program

- I. Total Expenditure: \$ 226,337.00
- II. Community Population: 19,000
- III. Annual Work Plan:

The City's Urban Forest Management Plan continues to evolve. This year the city began implementing a relatively formal management plan developed in conjunction with a tree inventory prepared by Davey Resource Group in 2001. The City hired Davey to perform an inventory of street, park and city land trees in 2000. The inventory was completed and presented in 2001. However it was not used until 2006 when we began to convert the data into a GIS usable format.

One of the prime recommendations of the Management Plan written by Davey was that the City begin to perform regular annual maintenance pruning. Having the inventory data in GIS format allowed the city to organize pruning blocks along approximately 4 miles of road. According to the inventory data the two companies under contract inspected, pruned, or removed approximately 500 trees, absorbing approximately \$60,000 of the \$100,000 tree care budget. The balance of the budget was spent on unplanned removals, pathogen control and other miscellaneous tree care expenses.

The City planted around 60 trees along streets and as replacements for removals from Parks. Species were selected depending on site parameters and desired services. Species planted along streets included White and Swamp White oaks, Redbuds, and both Flowering and Kousa Dogwoods.

2008 Community Forestry Expenditures

Urban Forest Expenditures

Municipal Tree Maintenance	\$107,415
Tree Planting	19,921
Tree Commission/Postage	1,241
Training	3,176
Supplies	1,421
Payroll	<u>76,884</u>
Total	\$210,058

City of Takoma Park's total expenditures on Community Forestry Program: \$196,817.

Standard 4: Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Provided:

- City Council Resolution in support of Arbor Day
- Invoice for tree seedlings purchased for Arbor Day
- Takoma Park Newsletter article promoting Arbor Day in Takoma Park

Introduced by: Councilmember Clay

RESOLUTION #2008-24
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ARBOR DAY 2008 IN TAKOMA PARK

WHEREAS, the environment is important to the residents of Takoma Park; **AND**

WHEREAS, trees are an important part of the character of Takoma Park and provide many benefits to citizens, such as improving air quality, reducing the need for air conditioning, serving as windbreaks, stabilizing soils, providing watershed protection, and providing wildlife cover and food; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Urban Forest Division of the City's Department of Public Works, and citizen groups such as the Takoma Park Tree Commission and the Takoma Park Committee on the Environment, have organized an Arbor Day celebration; **AND**

WHEREAS, cities play a vital role in promoting and encouraging the protection and planting of trees and other environmentally sound practices; **AND**

WHEREAS, this event is designed for the local community to participate in Arbor Day activities; **AND**

WHEREAS, Arbor Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 19, 2008 on the grounds of the Takoma Park Library from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; **AND**

WHEREAS, the activities will include educational opportunities and the distribution of free tree seedlings; **AND**

WHEREAS, the City Arborist, the Takoma Park Tree Commission, the Committee on the Environment, Friends of Sligo Creek, Maryland Department of Forestry, and others will be on hand to answer questions and provide information.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, in honor of Arbor Day 2008, supports the local environmental celebration of Arbor Day in Takoma Park on Saturday, April 19, 2008 and encourages citizens to participate.

ADOPTED this 24th day of March, 2008.

**GYPSY
MOTH
SPRAY**

Coming late April
Contact Montgomery
County DEP.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world...*

Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

¡EN ESPAÑOL!
Seminario Para
Quien Compra
Casa Por Primera
Vez (pagina 4)

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

APRIL 2008

Residents Urge Legal Action:

Metro Development Opposed

On Wednesday, March 19, a community workshop was held to discuss the question, "What should the Takoma Park City Council do now that WMATA has approved the sale of land at the Takoma Metro station for a townhouse development?" Approximately 60 people and all seven city councilmembers, attended the workshop.

A large majority of those who spoke at the hearing urged the City Council to oppose development at the property, and many urged the City to take legal action to prevent the development. The Council will be considering revising the City's position, which currently only focuses on preserving transit access, through the spring.

The workshop was facilitated by the firm, Justice and Sustainability Associates, who worked to help gain community comment at this phase of the controversial project. In addition to the people who attended the workshop, more than 200 others submitted completed questionnaires on the issue. The surveys, and the facilitator's report, will be shared with the Council and posted on the City's web page, at www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro.

The prospect of development at the Takoma Metro Station has been under consideration for the past 10 years. Plans for a mix of commercial and townhome-residential have stirred numerous discussions, and eight City Council resolutions, expressing concern over transit access, safety and density. Much of the controversy's history can be seen at www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro.

Earth Day Celebrations Expand

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Takoma Park celebrates Earth Day all month this year with new events as well as old favorites. All are designed to help residents celebrate nature, encourage conservation and educate about energy use and environmentalism.

Although it is not directly related to Earth Day events, the Takoma Horticultural Club presentation on invasive weeds certainly fits with the theme of the month, and it is the first event on the calendar. Betty Marose, Extension Educator and Weed Science Specialist in the Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland, will discuss the ecology and management of invasive weeds, using integrated approaches, Wednesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Azalea Room. Participants are invited to bring their "favorite" weeds for identification and advice on control strategies.

The annual Arbor Day Celebration, sponsored by the City of Takoma Park, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Library lawn, includes pruning demonstrations and lessons, information tables from organizations like the National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat project and Friends of Sligo Creek, and activities for the kids. The annual tree giveaway will make a variety of species available to residents for planting, including black cherry, chestnut oak, white oak, swamp white oak, persimmon, white ash, black walnut, bald cypress, catalpa and white pine. International Society of Arborist members will be on hand to show off their climbing rigs, and may even let visitors give them a try themselves. Plus, City Arborist Todd Bolton will be available to answer your



Leo Blain emerges from his hunt for trash to "surf" on the port-o-potty door he and his father, Mike Blain, found in Sligo Creek during the 2006 Sweep the Creek event. This year the annual clean-up, sponsored by Friends of Sligo Creek, is April 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. at various locations along the creek. See fosc.org for more information.

Photo: Courtesy of FOSC

questions about the trees in your yard, or in the city. (For related story on pruning, see page 7.)

To help beautify the City, you can participate in Main Street Takoma's Spring Clean Up, Saturday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will pick up litter, mulch tree boxes and plant flowers. Gathering points are at Laurel Avenue by the clock tower, Morris Park at Takoma Junction, and Triangle Park, at 4th Street NW in the District. Members of Main Street Takoma will be on hand at each location to provide gloves and bags for trash removal, and mulch and plantings for the

gardening work. Those who want to help are encouraged to bring their own gardening gloves and tools.

There will be a big bash at the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-op Earth Day Celebration Sunday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., coordinated in part with Junction Day. The celebration, held in the parking lot next to the co-op, will include two popular bands, Magpie (from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and Afrofunk dance band Chop-teeth (at 4 p.m.). In between, a drum circle will gather - bring your own drum, or

EARTH DAY
continues on page 7

Construction Begins on New Takoma Park Firehouse

Exactly 81 years after it was first built, and more than a decade of wrangling over complicated plans to rebuild, the Takoma Park Fire Station is about to be rebuilt. Since the project to replace the aging building began, planners have had to address the demolition of an existing residential property, possible eviction of aging tenants, transfer of land ownership from City to County, and plans to shift an entire fire station to temporary quarters. There are also smaller-scale issues, like asbestos abatement that must precede demolition.

Needless to say, firefighters are cheering the onset of physical progress. The first step, the construction of a temporary station on the parking lot adjacent to the existing facility, is expected to begin this month. The temporary quarters will involve trailers and tents that will accommodate career and vol-

unteer firefighters and their equipment. The station will continue to operate at full scale during construction and after it moves into the temporary quarters some time this fall.

Fire officials say the current firehouse is too small and decrepit to properly accommodate modern firefighting requirements. Its replacement, which is costing about \$11 million, should be ready for occupancy in 2010.

As the project progresses, the house at 7135 Carroll Avenue will be demolished to make room for the expanded firehouse. Its next door neighbor, 7133, at one point targeted for a similar fate, is being spared. The residences were a difficult stumbling block during the planning process. The County wound up purchasing 7135 from its elderly owner, renovating the house next door and moving the owner to that property, which

was purchased from the absentee owner. The tenant at 7133 had county assistance finding alternative housing.

Construction on the new firehouse is expected to begin in the fall, and take about a year and a half to complete.

INSIDE:

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- POLICE CHIEF'S FIRST YEAR** page 9

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PRESTON, MD. 21655

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FAX: 410-673-7285

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TODD M BOLTON
31 OSWEGO AVENUE
SILVER SPRING MD 20910

ORDER #: 08- 49523
DATE: 4/15/2008

CREDIT CARD RECEIPT

SPECIES	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
BALDCYPRESS	75	\$0.750	\$56.25
BLACK WALNUT	50	\$0.750	\$37.50
CHESTNUT OAK	75	\$0.750	\$56.25
PERSIMMON	75	\$0.750	\$56.25
WHITE PINE	50	\$0.450	\$22.50
	# OF TREES	SUBTOTAL	\$228.75
		DELIVERY	\$34.31
SHIPPING METHOD		AMOUNT PAID BY CREDIT CARD	\$263.06
UPS			

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER!

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ORDER NUMBER

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WARRANTY & SHIPPING - PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE

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If we are out of a size you ordered, may we substitute the same quantity and variety in a different size? YES NO

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(301) 891-7812

LINE NO	QUANTITY ORDERED	QTY SHIPPED	QTY B/O	NAME OF ITEM	ITEM NUMBER	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED AMOUNT
1	75	75		ASH WHITE 3 YR 1-2 FT	WHASH53 N	0.7200	54.00
2	75	75		OAK SWAMP WHITE 2 YR 10-20"	SWOAK42 N	0.8600	64.50
3	75	75		OAK WHITE 3 YR 1-2 FT	WHOAK53 N	1.7100	128.25
4	50	50		CATALPA 2 YR 1-2 FT	CATAL52 N	1.0900	54.00
5	50	50		CHERRY WILD BLACK 2 YR 1-2 FT	WCHES2 N	1.1200	56.00
				CHG APR 1			
				SHIP APR 16 TO ARRIVE APR 17			
				FOR SALE ON APR 19			

SUB-TOTAL

358.7

SHIPPING

71.3

ADJUSTMENTS			SALES TAX 4	0.0
AMT. RECEIVED	4 VISA 04/01/08 P/e	428.10	FUMIGATION	0.0
BALANCE			ORDER TOTAL	428.1

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 02/01/08
 19.00.03

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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PAGE NO. 1

**Thank You
 For Your Order**

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