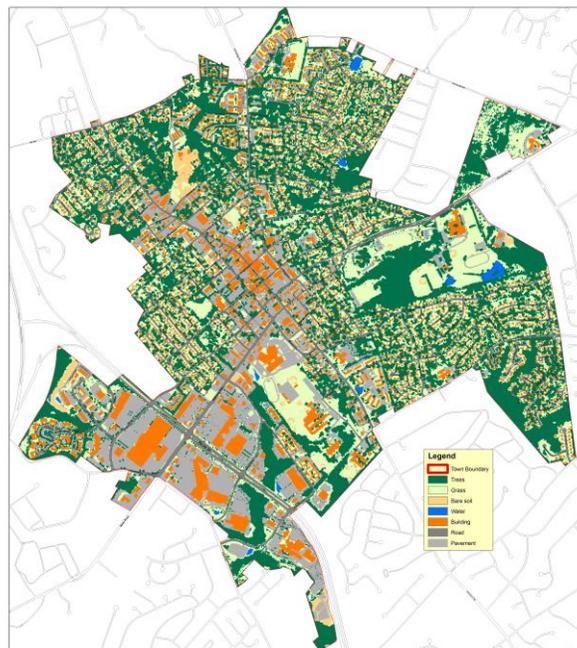


Town of Bel Air

2018 Tree Plan

Enhancing Bel Air's
Urban Tree Canopy



26 Years as a Tree City USA

Town of Bel Air Tree Committee

Town of Bel Air Tree Plan 2018

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 2018. This plan serves as the Committee’s agenda for tree planting, maintenance and stewardship projects for the coming year.

Review of Accomplishments in 2017

Annual Recognition

The Town received Tree City USA recognition from the National Arbor Day Foundation for



TREE CITY USA®

the twenty-fifth consecutive year and the

PLANT Award from the Maryland Urban and



Community Forest Committee for the twenty-fourth consecutive year.

Arbor Day 2017

Arbor Day 2017 was one of the busiest the Town has ever experienced. With seedlings provided by the Forest Conservancy District Board for Harford County, Committee members manned a table at the first Farmers Market in April to provide a mix of 300 trees. Instructional brochures from the International Society of Arboriculture and the Maryland DNR Forest Service were handed out describing proper tree planting techniques. The Committee also provided ceremonial 25-year Tree City USA pencils. Arbor Day 2017 marked the fourth year the Committee has offered seedlings at the Market, and it has grown each year.

Tree Plantings

The Committee's long term planting plan for Rockfield Park was completed through riparian and buffer plantings in Rockfield Park. Members of Scout Troop 283 planted more than 200 trees along the stream course and



additional buffer plantings were added to the Ewing Street side of the park. Another Eagle Scout project included a number of tree plantings on the Main Street parking lot property.

Although several street tree requests through the Residential Street Tree Program were received, only one tree was planted.

Memorial Grove

The build-out plan for the Grove continued last year with additional split rail fencing and landscaping provided through an Eagle Scout project. Another memorial tree was also added.



Revision to the Tree Ordinance

The Committee completed its revision of the Tree Ordinance. Written in 1992, the Ordinance had not been updated and lacked information specific to the Town's street tree planting policies. The Ordinance is currently in review and should be enacted early in 2018.

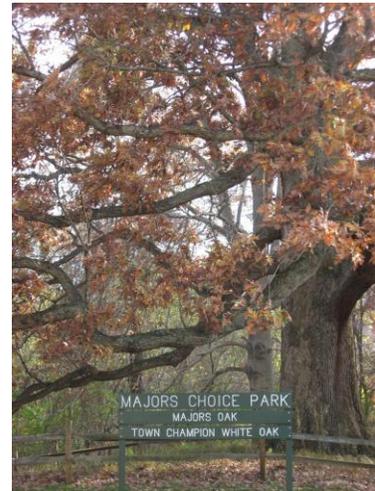
Tree Plan Objectives for 2018

Arbor Day 2018

The Committee will again provide trees at the first Saturday Farmers Market donated by the Forest Conservancy District Board for Harford County. This effort is coordinated with help from the Maryland DNR Forest Service and the Master Gardeners of Harford County. The Committee plans to have 300 seedlings of various species available for area residents along with information on proper planting locations and planting techniques. The Committee also hopes to provide wooden rulers to promote proper tree care by serving as mulch measuring tools.

Major's Oak

The Committee has arranged spring pruning of the Major's Oak, the Town's champion White Oak tree located in the 300 block of North Shamrock Road. Work will include dead wood removal, selective trimming and inspection and repair of lightning protection installed back in 1996. The Planning Department will develop an Eagle Scout project for any additional maintenance needs (mulching, fence or sign repair, etc.).



Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has expanded its range to include most of the State and has been found just outside the Town. The Committee took a close look at the Town's street tree population but found a very limited number of Ash trees that present attributes that make the trees worth saving through an ongoing inoculation program. The Committee will work with the Public



Works Department to determine whether any of the selected trees will be scheduled for annual maintenance. The Town may work with the Maryland DNR Forest Service inoculation program which provides matching funds.

Memorial Tree Grove

The Committee will continue the expansion plan design for the Grove to include an extended walkway and picnic area. The Grove is nearing build-out regarding memorial plantings, so the additional space provided for expansion of the Grove should be utilized in the near future. Prior to installing the extended walkway the area will require fill and regrading.



Promotion of the Town's Urban Tree Canopy Sustainability Goal

The Committee has set a goal to maintain the Town's urban canopy percentage (~37%) by designing and implementing tree planting and protection projects. With nearly 70% of rights-of-way without canopy coverage, the Committee will continue to promote the Residential Street Tree Planting Program. The Program provides free road-side tree planting to Town residents by request if a proper planting site exists. The Committee will investigate development of a phone-based application for resident's use that will utilize GPS coordinates to inform the Planning Department when and where trees are on planted on private property. This application will also be adapted for street tree planting requests. The Committee will also continue to investigate planting opportunities on public and private lands, and plantings associated with stormwater management projects.

Continuing Partnerships

The Tree Committee maintains an excellent working relationship



with the Maryland DNR Forest Service and most recently

has been partnering with the Forest Conservancy District



Board for Harford County. The Committee continues to enjoy the support of the

Harford County Master Gardeners at the annual Arbor Day tree give-away

during the first Farmers Market. The Committee will continue these

partnerships in its efforts to meet urban tree canopy goals.

