



8/29/2022

Casey Trees Background

Dear Dawn:

Casey Trees is a Washington DC based nonprofit, established in 2002, committed to restoring, enhancing, and protecting the tree canopy of the nation's capital. The mission of Casey Trees is what separates us from other commercial tree contractors. We are committed to allocating time, human capital, and educational resources towards the betterment of the arboriculture field in the great DC metropolitan area. This includes but is not limited to offering educational tree training sessions with outside agencies.

A Washington Post article chronicling DC's canopy decline from 50% to 35% between 1950 and 2001 encouraged Betty Brown Casey, a longtime area resident, to establish Casey Trees in 2002. To fulfill our mission, we plant trees, engage thousands of volunteers in tree planting and care, provide year-round continuing education courses, monitor the city's tree canopy, develop interactive online tree tools and work with elected officials, developers, and community groups to protect and care for existing trees and to encourage the addition of new ones.

Since our founding, we have planted over 45,000 trees, and installed 4,665 trees in the last year alone. Several hundred of these trees have been planted in accordance with Hyattsville Department of Public Works. Casey Trees strives to increase the total number of trees planted in and around DC, while simultaneously improving tree equity across the region. Trees are a vital piece of urban infrastructure and are often not distributed equitably. People of color and low-income families are more likely to live in areas with low canopy coverage, preventing these communities from experiencing the many benefits mature trees provide. Casey Trees has prioritized installing trees and increasing community engagement in areas that have been historically under-resourced to increase community resiliency and reduce the severity of climate change impacts.

Casey Trees provides a maintenance program on newly planted trees to promote establishment and long-term tree survival, including watering, weeding the tree ring (drip line), mulching, deer protection, staking and guying, and pruning. The maintenance program is specific to the partner and the project. After trees have been in the ground for three years Casey Trees completes a structural prune on each tree to remove dead, diseased, damaged, or crossing limbs. Casey Trees will also remove competing leaders, and complete elevation pruning to allow lawn mowers or other pedestrian and vehicular traffic to easily maneuver underneath the tree without contact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Shaut".

Robert Shaut
Director of Tree Operations
301-633-2339