



Council Agenda Form

MOTION #		DRAFT #
DATE SUBMITTED: 8/31/2022	DATE TO GO BEFORE COUNCIL:	
SUBMITTED BY: D Schaible		
DEPARTMENT: Legislative		

TITLE OF MOTION: Hyattsville Tree Canopy Restoration Budget Request

RECOMMENDATION:

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the Hyattsville Tree Canopy Budget Request, which would allocate ARPA funds to address and reverse the ongoing loss of tree canopy in Hyattsville.

This budget request includes funding to accomplish the following tasks:

- Conduct a comprehensive, City-wide survey to identify public locations to plant trees, updating our current [Treekeeper](#) database as needed, considering general spacing requirements, tree well dimensions, and the presence of aboveground and underground utilities.
- Work with homeowners and commercial property owners to identify appropriate privately owned locations for tree planting.
- Plant and maintain 750 trees, spread out over the entire City, [with a priority on parts of our City with less existing tree cover, including locations near our Metro stations and east of Route 1.](#)

BACKGROUND

Trees provide invaluable ecological services in urban environments like ours, filtering and slowing stormwater, mitigating floods, shading our homes and streets, improving air quality, sequestering carbon, increasing property values, and providing habitat for wildlife. However, [a recent study completed by Davey Resource Group](#) shows that Hyattsville has experienced a dramatic loss in tree cover between 2009-2018. The study attributes most of the loss to three factors: 1) Land development of previously treed areas; 2) Infestation of invasive pests, particularly the emerald ash borer, which has decimated native ash stands; and 3) The natural loss of mature trees that exceeds their replacement rate. Climate change has also shown to be a factor and [the extreme heat and drought of 2019 led to significant loss of native white oaks](#). Per the tree study, these factors have combined to reduce tree cover in Hyattsville by 236 acres in only 9 years, a loss of over 30%.

The Hyattsville Tree Canopy Restoration effort would constitute a significant reinvestment in our urban tree canopy to reverse these trends. This project would identify desirable locations for trees and provide funding to plant and maintain up to 750 trees. If the survey identifies more than 750 locations to plant trees, which is likely, these additional locations could be planted using additional ARPA funds or via grants.

For the survey and planting work, Hyattsville may want to consider hiring a paid intern from the UMD College Park College of Agricultural and Natural Resources' Urban Forestry program. This work would include:

- Working closely with City Arborist Dawn Taft to survey and prioritize locations for new tree planting.
- Work w Miss Utility to minimize conflicts w below ground utilities.
- Make sure that appropriate native tree species are planted that are compatible with the locations site constraints.
- Conduct outreach to adjacent property owners to inform them of proposed tree planting and allow them to opt out if desired.
- Conduct outreach to private property owners, particularly larger commercial property owners, to seek partnership

and offer City support for tree planting on private property.

- Update the City's tree canopy software as new trees are planted.
- Provide construction monitoring during planting and maintenance activities, including identifying trees that have died and need to be replanted.

ANTICIPATED STAFF RESOURCES REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT:

Support from City Staff will be needed to hire a consultant or intern to update our tree inventory and conduct outreach to residential and commercial property owners. Most of this effort will fall on the DPW, particularly the city arborist. Additional support will be needed to procure and administer a landscape contract to plant and maintain 750 trees.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR / DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR COMMENT: (must be approved by City Administrator):

Tracey Nicholson, City Administrator

STRATEGIC GOALS AND ACTIONS:

Goal 3 – Enhance a safe and pleasant community

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

<https://hyattsvillemd.treekeepersoftware.com/index.cfm?deviceWidth=1280>

[2020 Hyattsville MD UTC Assessment Change Analysis FINAL\(1\).pdf - Google Drive](#)

[Maryland Pest Alert - Problems on White Oaks.pdf - Google Drive](#)

[Tree Equity Score](#)

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACT: TBD by DPW. Estimate breakdown by CM Schaible below:

- Paid intern for four months over two years, \$2,500 per month x 8 months): \$20,000
- 750 trees x \$325 = \$243,750
- Additional cost for July/August watering, first 2 years, 750 trees x \$50 = \$37,500
- Subtotal: \$301,250
- 10% contingency \$30,125
- **TOTAL: \$331,375**