

## **Discussion Item**

# Landscaping and Tree Strategy

# Parkfairfax Condominium Landscape Committee Report November, 2020

## Green Infrastructure Initiatives - Water Remediation and Retention

The Landscape Committee discussed this issue last month – but the Committee is reposting these notes for Board reference for their November meeting:

To have a constructive discussion on these kinds of issues in Parkfairfax – the Committee started with a couple of definitions (as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency):

- What is Green Infrastructure (GI)?

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many community benefits. While single-purpose gray stormwater infrastructure—conventional piped drainage and water treatment systems—is designed to move urban stormwater away from the built environment, green infrastructure reduces and treats stormwater at its source while delivering environmental, social, and economic benefits.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE TOUR OF PARKFAIRFAX

11/21 @ 9AM  
*starting at the office*

*Rain date 12/5*

- What is Stormwater?

When rain falls on our roofs, streets, and parking lots in cities and their suburbs, the water cannot soak into the ground as it should. Stormwater drains through gutters, storm sewers, and other engineered collection systems and is discharged into nearby water bodies. Higher flows resulting from heavy rains also can cause erosion and flooding in urban streams, damaging habitat, property, and infrastructure.

The Committee had a discussion on what sorts of recommendations and help we could provide to the community to help with this process. In order to gain momentum and buy in from the Community – this must be a collaborative effort (Board, Committees and Residents) and must include: educating ourselves on the issue, identify areas of concern throughout the property and possibly contracting to project plan with a consultant-engineering & landscaper (1 year, 5 year, 10 year) process. Based on this outline – the Committee put together a suggested list for the information gathering/education portion of the process, which includes:

- GI Tour of Parkfairfax with management and residents (SCHEDULED FOR 12/5 @9AM)
  - Questions:

- What kind of initiatives are already in place?
  - What is the degree of success?
  - What about the mosquito problem?
  - How does it affect the process?
- Implementation of the last Master Plan (not adopted by the Board in full)
  - Questions:
    - how much of the plan was implemented?
    - What are the success of those plans that were implemented?
    - What have we learned for the next round?
- GI Survey of Residents and Staff
  - Questions/Process:
    - What issues have appeared in Buildium?
    - Query the staff – what are issue areas
  - Suggestion: following survey, Landscape Committee along with volunteers from other Committees to visit problem spots and convene a meeting of volunteers to review and provide a list to the Board
- Speakers from Plant NOVA Natives and VA Cooperative Extension Service
  - These organizations have had multiple presentations geared specifically for the needs of HOAs. We feel confident that getting a few of these speakers to discuss our issues with us will help continue to educate the community.

We look forward to continuing these discussions with the Board and working with them to find good solutions to our green infrastructure challenges.

### Tree for Tree Discussion

In anticipation of the Board's discussion on the Tree for Tree replanting discussion, the Committee asked for some data from Parkfairfax Management:

- Removal/Replanting in common areas:
  - 2018-19 Removed 62 replanted 18 29%
  - 2019-20 Removed 52 replanted 17 32%
  - 2020-21 Removed 49 replanted 32 65%
- Pruned/removed this year (these are Parkfairfax Trees only)

Placement	Number (Percentage)
Roofline	17 (18%)
Rear of Buildings	36 (39%)
Front of Buildings	25 (27%)

Natural Area	15 (16%)
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Following a robust discussion, the Committee has the following recommendations for a multi-pronged approach, including:

- For the total number of trees removed we would like to see a 50% (or better replacement) rate
  - 60% overstory (shade trees ex. maple, oak etc.)
  - 40% understory (ex. dogwood, redbud etc.)
  - Native/drought resistant
  - Deer resistant if possible
- trees that mitigate water run-off/erosion (by placement, type or landscaping)
- work with the City to ensure that City trees that have been removed are replaced quickly
- Explore the City's tree planting program (<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Trees>)
- Continue with the Adopt-a-Tree program
- Update and promote the donation/memorial tree program

We hope this helps the Board in their discussion