

**Proposed Letter for Consideration and Approval by the Parkfairfax Board**

Parkfairfax Condominium Unit Owners Association  
3360 Gunston Road  
Alexandria, VA 22302

June 2021

Mayor Justin M. Wilson  
Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett Parker  
City Council Members  
Canek Aguirre  
John Taylor Chapman  
Amy Jackson  
Del Pepper  
Mo Seifeldein  
301 King Street, Room 2300  
Alexandria, VA 22314

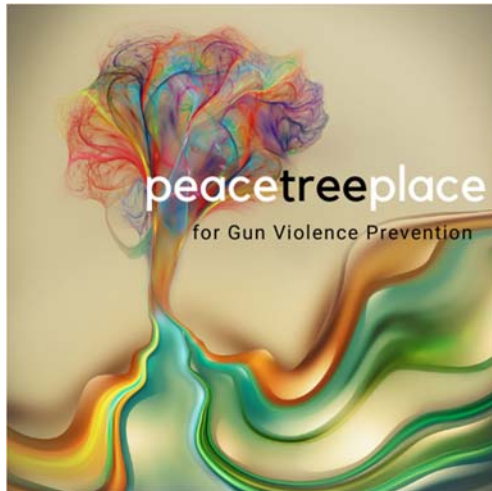
Dear Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, and Alexandria City Council Members:

The Parkfairfax Condominium Unit Owners Association Board of Directors is pleased and proud to support the effort by Paul Friedman, a member of our community, to formally name the section of Chinguapin Park where he led the effort to plant trees to bring attention to the cause of preventing gun violence.

Paul has lived in Alexandria and Parkfairfax for the past 30 years. He's currently the Executive Director of the Alexandria-based gun violence prevention nonprofit, Safer Country.

Starting in 2017, as Executive Director of VTV Family Outreach Foundation, which was founded by the families of the victims of the April 16, 2007 Virginia Tech mass shooting, Paul Friedman initiated a project to create a tree grove as a place of reflection to honor the victims and survivors of the tragedy. I worked with the City and the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center on Prince Street.

The grove layout was designed by a Virginia Tech grad student in the Architecture and Design program. The Center's students also designed and produced a hand-crafted bench for the grove. In addition, the University donated a 2,000-pound Hokie stone from its private quarry, which is the stone used to for all Virginia Tech buildings.



67 trees have been planted:

- 32 redbud trees, which flower in the spring, were planted in the shape of an ellipse for those who died from gunfire;
- 17 tupelo trees, which flower in the fall, were planted in the shape of an inner half-ellipse for those injured by gunfire;
- 18 oak and other native trees were added as a frame for the design.

Gun violence is a national crisis that goes beyond what happened at Virginia Tech. We need a place to gather to express feelings and connect with life-giving trees. We also need a sign to establish its identity and, hopefully, protect it from future development for other purposes.

Thus, on behalf of the Parkfairfax community, we would like to ask for your support to officially name the tree grove in Chinquapin Park **Peace Tree Place for Gun Violence Prevention**.

Our hope is that this tree grove remains a dedicated section of Chinquapin Park as a physical representation of Alexandria's commitment to preventing gun violence.

Sincerely,