

# City of Alexandria Urban Forestry Master Plan



# Growing Concerns about City Policies and Procedures for the Management and Preservation of Trees on Public and Private Property



- Trees being removed on public and private property
- Utility line clearance practices
- Replacement and planting new trees

# Council Action May 2004

- Establishment of a 12 Member Urban Forestry Steering Committee
- Charged to Prepare a Comprehensive Urban Forestry Plan
  - Characterize and quantify the current state of Alexandria's urban forest
  - Identify strategies to improve the health, quality, density and diversity of the urban forest

# Scope of Work



Three Primary Areas of Interest:

1. Policies, operations, programs and services
2. Ordinances and regulations
3. Public awareness

# Submit a Report to the Manager



Propose New or Revised:

1. Policies
2. Ordinances and Regulations
3. Procedures
4. Operations, Programs and Services

# Submit a Report to the Manager

Provide:

1. Performance Measures
2. Cost Estimates for Recommendations



# Process

- City Green Canopy Study
- Davey Resource Group (August 2005)
  - On Site Evaluation
  - Interviews: Mayor, CMO, Directors of Recreation, Transportation & Environmental Services, Planning & Zoning
- Public Meeting (January 2006)
- Online Survey (January 2006)
- Tree Canopy Study Update (January 2008)

# Context of the Report

The Urban Forest includes all parts of the city where trees provide canopy cover.

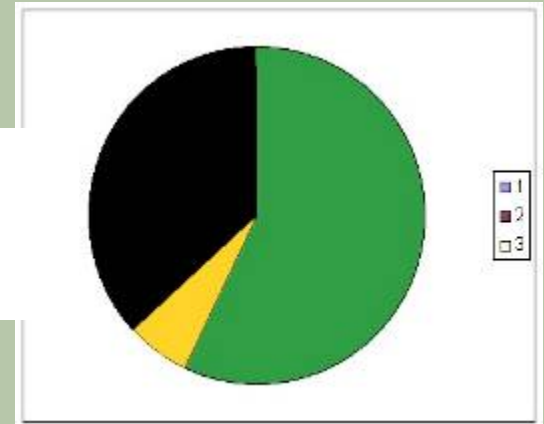
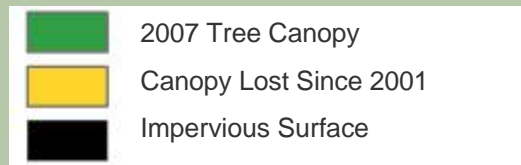
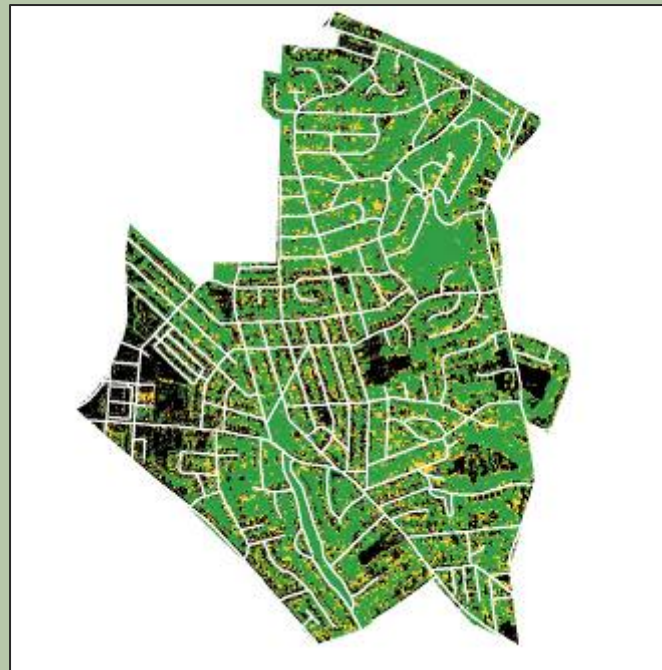
Public	Private	Institutional
Street Trees	Residential	Alexandria Hospital
Parks	Commercial and Industrial Sites	Theological Seminary
Schools Libraries, etc.	Undeveloped Land	Private School Campuses
Stream Valleys		Cemeteries



# Key Challenges

- The City's tree canopy cover is decreasing

Northridge  
Study Area



# Key Challenges

- Development and Other Pressures
  - Negatively affecting tree health and longevity
  - Limited space for new trees to be planted



# Key Challenges

- There is no citywide management plan
  - Goals, objectives or performance measures
- The current program is reactive not proactive
- Planting and care of the tree is limited and focused on street trees
- Lack of public education and outreach

# Recommendations

- Tree Planting
- Tree Care
- Management
- Public Education and Outreach



# Plant more trees.

- Adopt American Forests' recommended tree canopy goal of 40%
- Plant 400 additional trees annually
- Develop master landscape, planting and maintenance plan for all public properties
- Create ways to promote tree planting on private properties; such as grants, a tree bank, tree sales

## Provide better care for the trees we plant and the trees we have.

- Fund and implement a five year pruning cycle for existing trees
- Fund and implement a three year establishment program for new trees
- Employ new methods of planting and installation to facilitate tree planting in restricted, high-use, difficult, and special needs areas

# Improve the management of the urban forest by transforming a reactive program into one that is proactive and accountable.

- Develop a management plan and provide additional resources needed to effectively manage the plan
- Establish benchmarks and report progress in an annual State of the Urban Forest Report to City Council
- Create and Urban Forest Specialist position

# Provide public education and outreach to encourage the preservation and expansion of the urban forest.

- Develop and implement an effective public outreach and education strategy
- Fund an additional extension agent
- Rededicate Fort Ward Park as the City's Arboretum
- Build an effective website



# Estimated Costs

## Fiscal Budget Impact of Proposed New and Expanded Programs

Action	Estimated Annual Cost	FY 2009 Budget	Added Cost
Increase Tree Canopy	\$177,750	\$105,000	\$72,750
Five Year Pruning Cycle (as part of) On-Going Tree Maintenance Program	\$976,945	\$496,945	\$480,000
Reorganize Arborist/Horticulture Section	\$2,007,476	\$1,596,476	\$411,000
Educational Opportunities and Public Outreach	\$95,000		\$95,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,257,171</b>	<b>\$2,198,421</b>	<b>\$1,058,750</b>

# Conclusion

- The recommendations presented are ambitious, but realistically achievable
- Short and long term; some recommendations can be acted on immediately; some have already been implemented

