

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Virtual|Electronic Meeting

AGENDA

Call to Order & Chair Report (<i>B. Menard</i>)	5:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve July & September Minutes	
Committee Reports	5:10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education & Advocacy (<i>P. Van Yahres</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Annual Dashboard [Financial Data]○ Cville ReLeaf○ Draft Annual Report to City Council	
Arborist Report (<i>M. Ronayne</i>)	5:55
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree Planting List & Schedule• Review Operating Budget Request• Review CIP Budget Request• Status of Canopy Study, Mall Trees, Nominated Trees	
General Public Comment ^(†)	6:40
Items/Announcements Not on Agenda	6:45
Action Items for Next Meeting	6:55
Adjourn	7:00

(†) At the discretion of the Chair, public comments related to particular agenda items may be solicited at that point in the meeting.

This virtual/electronic meeting is open to the public. You may participate electronically by registering at www.charlottesville.gov/zoom or via telephone by using the number provided with the Zoom registration. Or you may contact staff at 434-970-3182 to receive the dial in number. In addition to the Zoom webinar, this meeting will be available on the City's streaming platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and www.charlottesville.gov/streaming.

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the public meeting may call the ADA Coordinator at (434) 970-3182 or submit a request via email to ada@charlottesville.gov. The City of Charlottesville requests that you provide a 48-hour notice so that proper arrangements may be made.

Tree Commission

September 2021 Minutes

Date: September 14, 2021

Time: 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Location: Remotely via Zoom meeting

Attending: Brian Menard, Mark Rylander, Peggy Van Yahres, Jeffrey Aten, Vicki Metcalf, Jean Umiker-Sebeok, Jacqueline Dugery, Jeff Pacelli, Mark Zollinhofer,

Absent: Jody Lahendro Anson Parker,

Staff: Mike Ronayne, Brian Haluska, Todd Brown, Sam Sanders

Attendees: Brian Haluska, Roxanne White

Guests: none

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

July Minutes Corrections –

Action on the minutes was deferred until the October meeting.

Sam Sanders addresses the Tree Commission – With Todd Brown's departure, Sam commits the City's efforts to support the Tree Commission, Parks Dept., and Urban Forestry program. The Tree Commission stated interest in being involved with hiring of the new director.

Committee Reports

Education and Advocacy – Data Charts and C'ville ReLeaf - Peggy

Peggy shared the data charts created by Brian Ray using Tableau which shows last year's activities. The charts will be part of the Annual State of the Forest Report to Council.

C'ville ReLeaf has been awarded \$13,000. Most tree planting will take place in 2022. The group will provide a presentation to students at Venable this fall. The group will also be working with Carolyn Schuyler from Wildrock to teach children at the Lugo-McGinness Academy about trees and green jobs. They are also looking for teachers to help develop a unit on trees.

Arbor Committee – Tree Planting Locations – Jeff Aten

The group would like to amend some of the criteria for preferred tree planting locations. Also, the committee is going to explore ways to review and provide suggested locations to the urban forester. The criteria will be returning to the Commission next month.

Codes and Committees – Upcoming Zoning Ordinance Rewrite - Tim Padalino

Tim reviews the four recommendations for the zoning rewrite so that they may be prepared when the process begins. The recommendations have a focus on trees, sustainability, process and stronger consequences for enforcement of tree protection.

Arborist Report - Mike

Report on FY 2021 - Last planting cycle there was no additional funding provided for tree planting, but Parks was able to plant 23 trees using leftover funds. The entire \$218,000 operating budget was utilized for tree maintenance last year.

CIP Request – Mike has not heard of a timeline for the CIP process. He plans to put forward a \$100,000 request for tree planting and \$100,000 for emerald ash borer affected trees.

Mall Planter - Mike is still waiting to hear back from NDS and the contractor as to how and when he and the Commission are to provide input for the new planter at the CODE building on the Mall extension.

Canopy Study – RFQ is posted and closes Friday. The RFQ specifies that the project be completed by December 1st so that data obtained may be used in the Commission’s Annual “State of the Forest” Report to Council.

Garrett Street Trees – Arborist reports were provided in support of the Commission’s nominations and all nominated trees will be moved forward to Council for consideration under the City’s Tree Conservation Ordinance. Brian will draft a letter to accompany the nomination packet, for which he will seek input from the Commission.

Other Items Not on Agenda

Mall Tree Pruning at 414 E. Main St. – A property owner on the Mall hired a contractor not under the City’s supervision and improperly pruned one of the Mall trees for a project involving their property. The citizen had conferred with Mike about this and had been informed of the proper procedure, including that any work on the tree would be done by the City’s contractor with costs assessed to the property owner. The Commission will explore solutions and remediation.

Jeff Pacelli – Asked if the Commission would be interested in contacting another Tree Commission or City arborist that has dealt with emerald ash borer. Commissioners thought this a good idea, and Brian suggested that Jeff coordinate this with Mike.

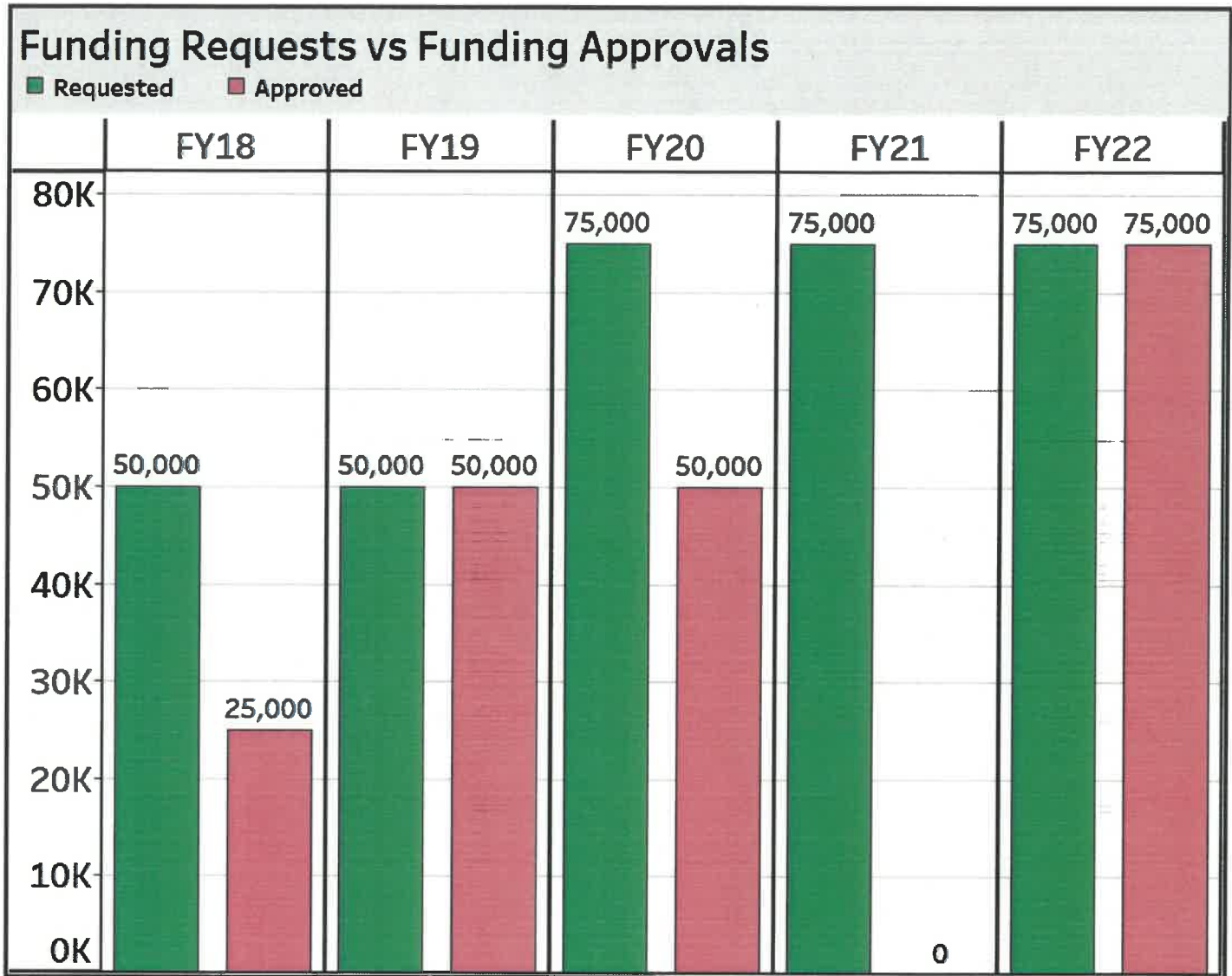
Public Comment:

Roxanne White reported issues accessing the Agenda and Agenda Packet from the City website. Mike will confirm that it is posted and accessible in the correct location for the public.

Meeting Action Items:

- Chair and vice chair will return with updated charts for Annual State of the Forest Report
- Mike will follow up on CODE planter
- Mike will confirm agenda items are on website
- Brian will draft a letter for Garrett Street trees
- Group will work on input for tree planting priorities

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.



Cville ReLeaf Update
*Nurturing Kids and Communities
Through Nature*
9/29/2021

1. TREE PLANTING

Trees to be Planted at Venable and Lugo McGinness Academy (*Venable serves children in the 10th and Page neighborhood, our target neighborhood. Both schools are on the border of 10th and Page*)

Working with City arborist, about 17 trees will be planted at these schools this fall.

2. EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

"The Value of Trees and Nature in the City" Presentation to 3rd and 4th Graders at Venable

We and Lucy Hartley, a City park planner, are preparing this presentation for November 3 and 4. It will also include tree related activities for the children on their playground.

(To teach them about the benefits of trees, on the same day last week we compared the temperature on the hot unshaded playground for young kids and their shaded playground for older kids. It was 20 degrees different! See photos opposite)

Lugo McGinness Academy

At the City's alternative school, we are working with Carolyn Schuyler from Wildrock to develop a unit on the value of trees and nature in the City.

The City of Promise

Lucy is hoping to work with Sarah Shedd, their early learning director, to present a similar presentation and activities to their 3rd and 4th graders.

All City Schools • "Urban Heat and Canopy Coverage" Unit

Erin Giebner, an environmental science teacher at CHS, is coordinating the ISTEM elementary, middle and high school teachers to develop lessons and activities to be incorporated into all classrooms. Part of this unit will be introducing teenagers to jobs in the green industries.

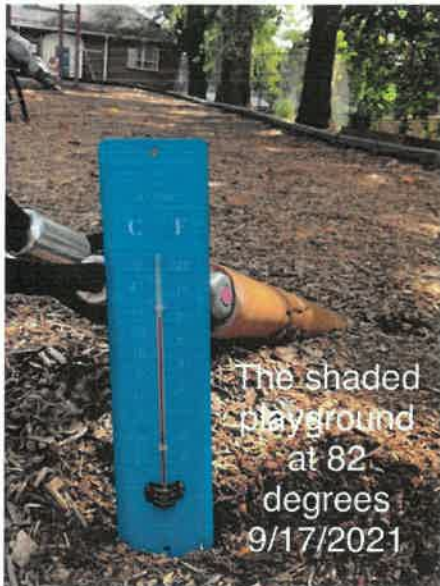
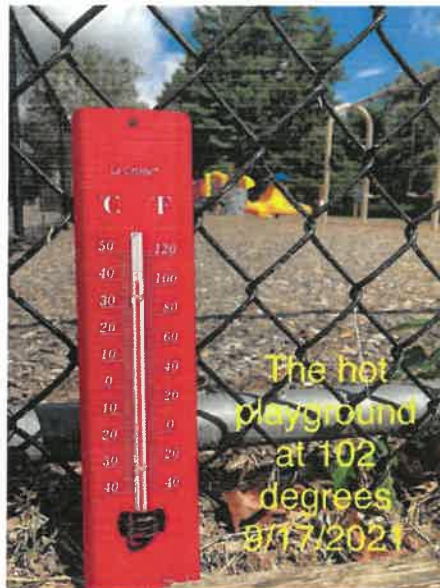
Spring Event at Washington Park
Lucy is helping us plan an event around Arbor Day to introduce teenagers and families to job possibilities in the green industries and local environmental organizations.

3. MARKETING AND FUNDRAISING
Web site and Educational/Fundraising Materials

Part of the Genan Foundation donation is for a web site. We are developing a logo, one page handout and the web page.

4. TIMELINE AND OUTREACH

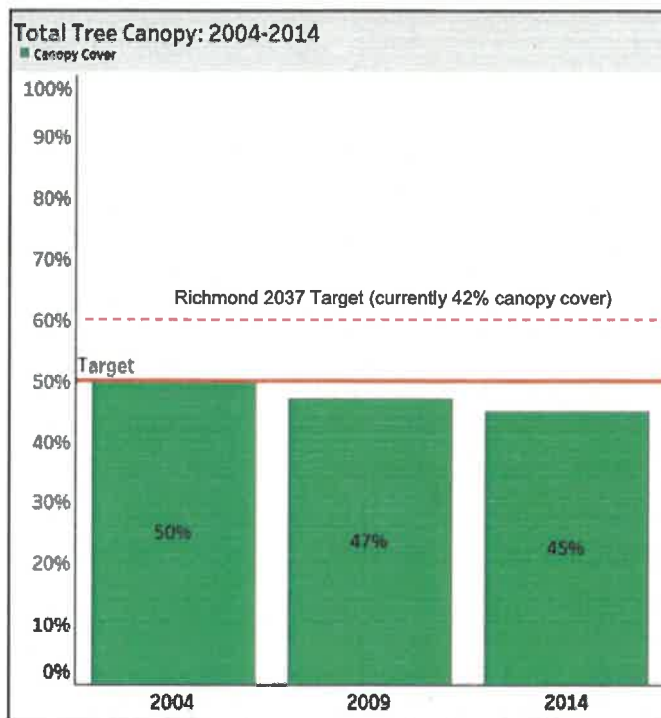
We have developed a detailed timeline of our activities and list of people and organizations to contact once we have our marketing/educational materials complete.



STATE OF THE URBAN FOREST

FY2020 Annual Report of the Charlottesville Tree Commission

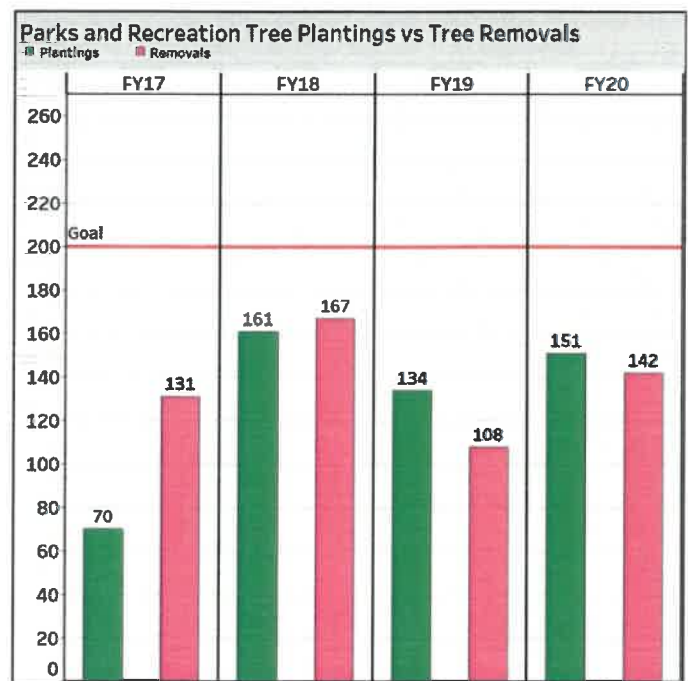
City Council established the Tree Commission in December 2010 with the charge to **“protect and improve the urban forest,”** in pursuit of a **“better quality of life for City residents and . . . environmental and aesthetic benefits.”** Throughout the pandemic year, a year of social upheaval and environmental crises as well, the Commission endeavored to execute this charge. Beyond addressing environmental sustainability and aesthetic benefits, the Commission more fully embraced the reality that **improving the urban forest is also a matter of environmental justice and social justice.** These are all defining challenges for Charlottesville. Here are some measures of how the City and the Commission responded this past year.



Critical Importance of the Urban Tree Canopy – Increasing the City’s urban tree canopy is critically important for enhancing numerous City goals: public health; energy conservation; environmental sustainability; water and air quality; stormwater

management; and environmental justice. **Unfortunately, Charlottesville’s overall tree canopy cover continues to decline, and the City has not succeeded in meeting its annual tree planting goals each of the past four years.**

The amount of the City’s land area with tree canopy cover declined 5% between 2004 and 2014, which is a loss of roughly 325 acres of canopy. Although the next canopy study (aerial flyover) will not occur until summer 2021, preliminary *i-Tree* software projections suggest a consistent pattern of loss, with an additional 2% decline (135 acres) since 2014. As such, **the City’s total land area covered by tree canopy has declined from 50% to 43% in the last 16 years – a 7% decline, or total tree canopy loss of approximately 460 acres. (See map on page 4.)**



Critical Need to Plant Trees – “Number of trees planted” each year is a primary measure for assessing whether or not Charlottesville is achieving its Strategic Plan vision of a “green city”. **The City’s goal is to plant 200 trees every year, but it has not met this goal in any of the past four years.** Only 129 trees have been planted on average each year, which is a 65% success rate. To compound this disappointing trend, over the same period the City has removed more trees than it has replaced.

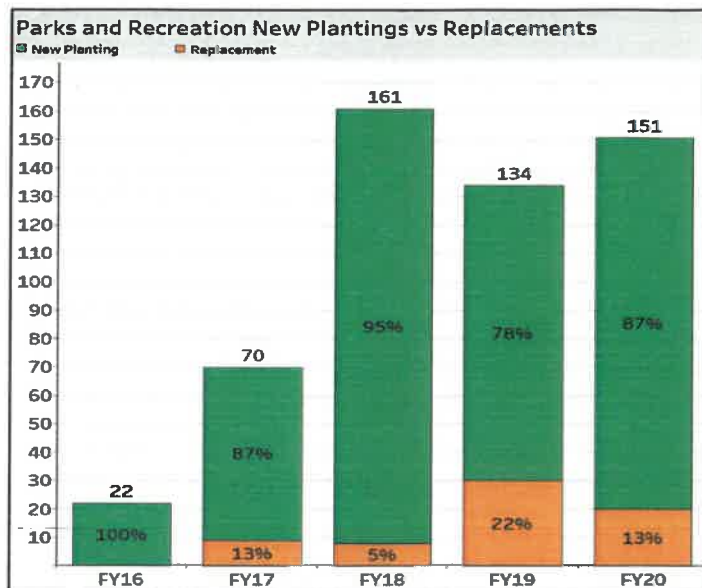
With 548 trees removed and 516 trees planted over the past four years, the City has an overall tree replacement rate of 94%, thus averaging less than one tree planted for each tree that it takes down. This means that additional trees are not being planted to counteract the years-long

decline in the tree canopy. And a majority of trees planted each year by the Parks and Recreation Department simply replace those that have been removed.

The urban forest is suffering further fragmentation and degradation as a result of the development of private land, a process in which the City's review and regulation is limited and a substantial number of trees (many with large, mature canopies) are cut down.

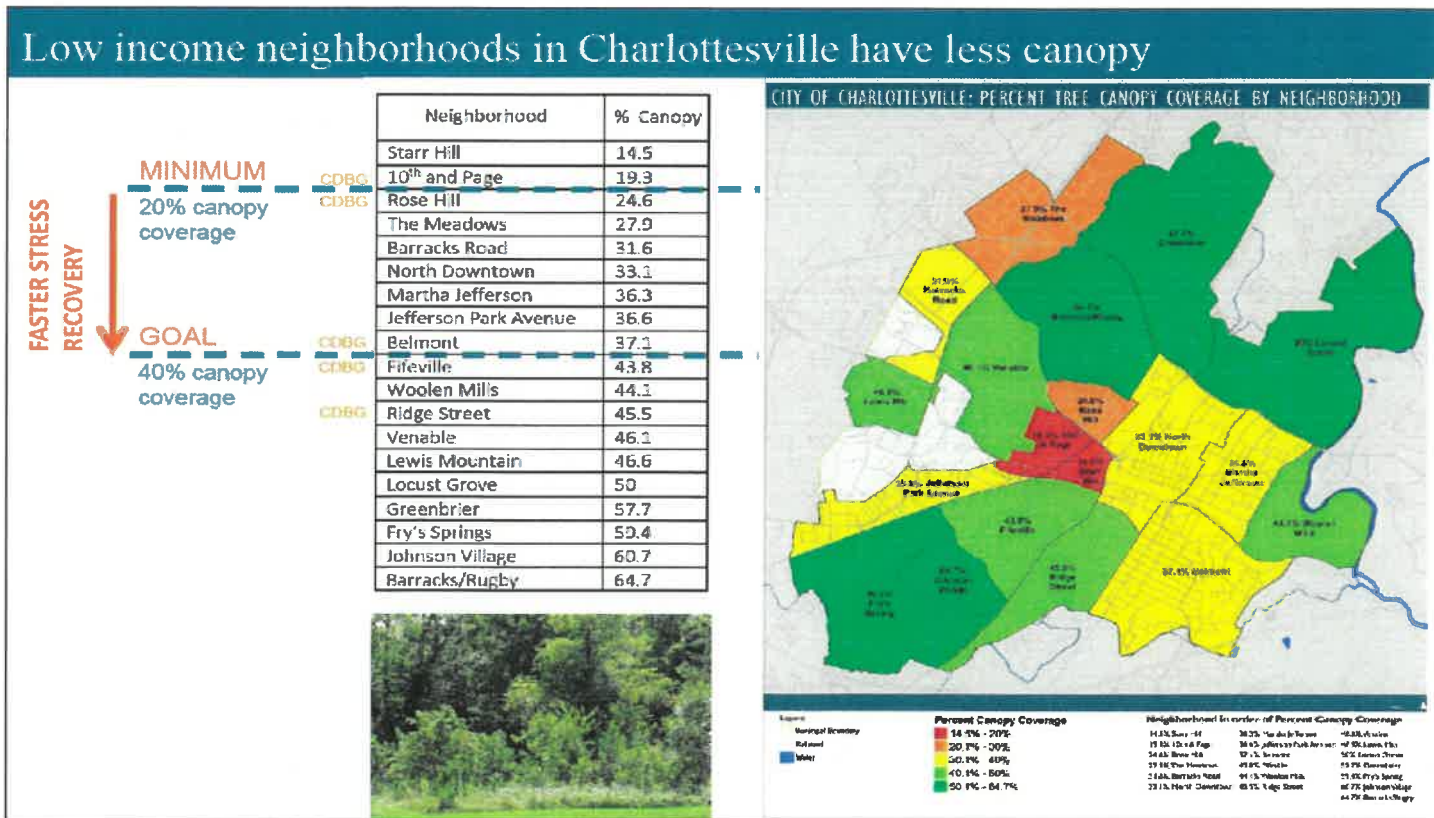
Tree Canopy, Heat Islands, Public Health, & Justice – Nine of the City's 19 neighborhoods are "low-canopy" (below 40% canopy cover), and two are "extremely low-canopy" (below 20% canopy cover).

Science reveals that residential zones with tree canopy cover below 40% are effectively unhealthy neighborhoods, accounting for the majority of heat-related illnesses in any community. Neighborhoods with less than 20% canopy face even higher surface temperatures and greater utility costs, and their residents suffer the greatest physical stress.



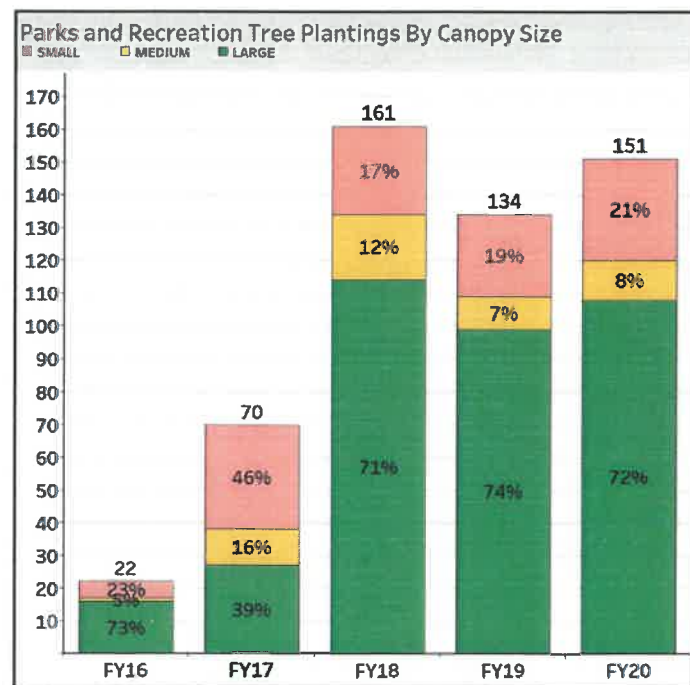
The map below of tree canopy cover by neighborhood clearly shows that ***the City's low-canopy and extremely low-canopy neighborhoods correlate with historically and predominantly African-American neighborhoods, and with lower-income neighborhoods that are designated as CDBG-eligible.***

These neighborhoods retain higher ground heat and have a more extreme urban heat island effect than high-canopy neighborhoods. By these measures, Starr Hill and 10th & Page (below 20% canopy) and Rose Hill and The Meadows (below 30% canopy) fare worst in the City.



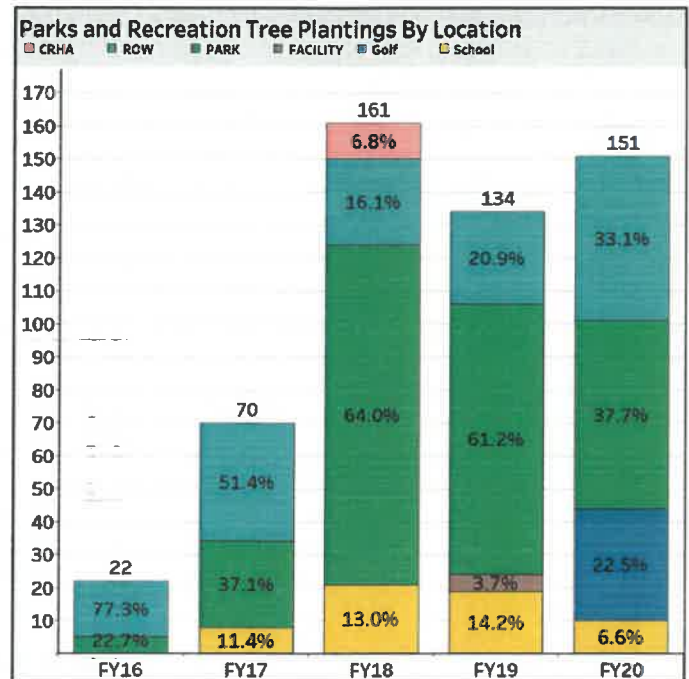
The neighborhood-level data reflect the conclusions of a study by Jeremy Hoffman of the Science Museum of Virginia, which confirms **a strong correlation between low-canopy areas and neighborhoods that were historically subjected to racially inequitable “red-lining” zoning and lending practices.** That study concludes that the “consistency of greater temperature in formerly redlined areas across the vast majority (94%) of the cities included in this study indicates that current maps of intra-urban heat echo the legacy of past planning policies.” In these ways, **the City’s goals of increasing the urban tree canopy cover must be understood as significant opportunities for addressing and advancing social justice and environmental justice in Charlottesville.**

Planting Large Canopy Trees – Planting trees with a larger canopy size helps to increase the overall cover of the urban forest and complements the quantity of trees planted. As the graph below indicates, **Parks and Recreation continues to increase the percentage of large canopy trees that it plants each year to improve long-term canopy cover.** This is in accord with the goals of fostering healthier neighborhoods, providing greater shade for pedestrians and cyclists, reducing energy costs, and mitigating pollution.



Location of Trees Planted on Public Property – The graph top right shows that despite a priority to plant street trees in the public right-of-way (ROW) Parks and Recreation has planted a majority of trees in City parks.

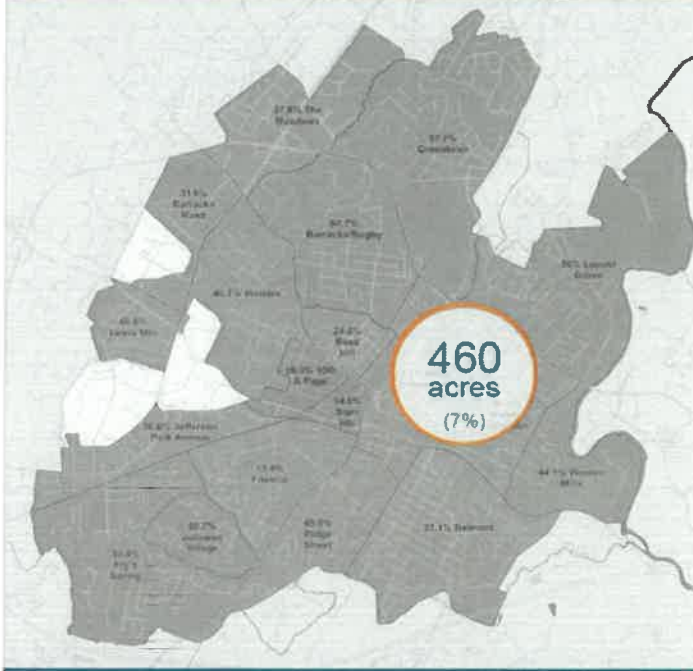
These trees contribute to the overall tree canopy, but they do not provide needed shade for urban neighborhoods, especially those with low canopy, to protect residents and pedestrians and to help reduce



energy costs and promote health. FY2020 trends are mixed, with an increase of ROW planting and a decrease in parks planting, although the latter is offset by a decrease in plantings on school property and significant planting on the golf course.

In order to improve tree canopy cover in an equitable manner, in FY2020 Parks and Recreation developed a weighted scale to help prioritize the planting of trees in public ROW within low-canopy and extremely low-canopy neighborhoods that are designated as CDBG-eligible.

Financial Investment in the Urban Forest – In FY2020, Council allocated \$50,000 for tree preservation and planting. **Given the cost of \$350 per tree, Parks and Recreation unfortunately was unable to meet the Commission’s goal of planting 200 trees per year.** The approximately 140 trees planted were not sufficient in number to replace trees that were removed. The Commission was grateful that Council increased the FY2021 allocation exclusively for tree planting to \$75,000. Regrettably and understandably, the pandemic caused this allocation to be zeroed out. However, approximately \$7,600 remained in the



previous year's operating budget which, along with private donations, will allow for planting 23 trees.

Perhaps the most immediate and serious threat to Charlottesville's urban forest (and to private property and personal safety) comes from the inexorable spread of the emerald ash borer through our City and region. Sufficient funding is essential for dealing with the inescapable damage caused by these insects. Parks and Recreation has been taking measures to protect the City's most important and vital ash trees, but the current inventory shows that 270 ash trees will need to be removed. The Commission's FY2021 request for \$50,000 for removals was not approved. But funds will need to be allocated for this work, as removal is time-sensitive and safety-critical. Unlike most trees which die slowly, an infected ash tree becomes extremely brittle and breaks apart quickly, posing a significant danger to people and property.

With regard to the preservation of trees generally, the Commission greatly appreciates that Council recognized this important need and for several years has provided funding through the operating budget. These funds are used for pruning, repairing, and protecting existing large and valuable trees in the community, especially those now protected by City ordinance.

FY2020 Activities of the Charlottesville Tree Commission

As with other City bodies during the pandemic, the Tree Commission was forced to suspend in-person meetings for nearly the entire second half of the fiscal year. Despite the severe limitations this placed upon the Commission's collaborative efforts, its members continued individually and in small groups to educate and advocate on behalf of City trees, and to engage in the planning and regulatory activities of an array of City and nonprofit bodies. What follows is a summary of efforts undertaken during this extraordinary year.

Education & Advocacy —

- Assembled a digital resources package to orient new Commission Members and inform general public.
- Undertook significant updates of tree data using internal and external data resources.
- Developed a visual presentation about the state of the trees in the City to be used in reporting to City Council, Planning Commission, and educating public.
- Working with the Piedmont Environmental Council, initiated the beginnings of a "Green Coalition" composed of many groups interested in trees and the environment.
- Engaged with the Environmental Sustainability Division of Public Works to discuss "City Green Points 1.0: Charlottesville's Green Infrastructure Guide".
- Reviewed and provided detailed written and oral comments opposing construction of a shared use path within the median on Route 20 from the City line to Route 53.
- Registered strong disapproval of the removal of eight mature oaks on Garrett St. in connection with construction of the Apex Energy building.
- Raised concerns with NDS about adequacy of tree protection at development on corner of E. High & Locust.
- Worked with City Arborist on Meade Ave residents' concerns about utility pruning; addressed issue with Dominion, which corrected some of the pruning cuts.
- Participated in monthly USFS webinars on *Loss of Tree Cover in Urban Watersheds: The Importance of*

Local Codes and Policies; Rx for Hot Cities: Urban Greening and Cooling to Reduce Heat-Related Mortality in Los Angeles and Beyond; and Redlining's Intensifying Harm: Rising Temperatures, Hotter Neighborhoods, and How Trees Can Help.

- Registered concern about several downtown mall trees that had grown into the metal grates surrounding them. Parks & Recreation responded by cutting the grates back.
- Prepared wooden tree identification plaques which were installed at a nearby dog park.

Codes & Ordinances —

- Continued to participate in virtual meetings of the C'ville Plans Together Steering Committee.
- Participated in C'ville Plans Together public webinars seeking community input.
- Prepared for a thorough review of city zoning code and comments on proposed changes affecting trees.
- Continued to participate in steering committees for Barracks Road & Emmet Street and Fontaine Avenue SmartScale road projects.

General —

- Submitted comments to Council concerning budget (pre-pandemic) for trees.
- Worked with City Council to authorize Commission to meet virtually.
- Trained with city Communications Department staff on managing Zoom webinar.
- Worked with City Clerk's office and City Council to appoint four new members and renew terms of three current members, bringing Commission to full membership.
- Worked with City Arborist to address damage to gravestones in Maplewood Cemetery resulting from fall of large red maple during July storm and damage to large white oak in Forest Hills Park during September storm.
- Updated criteria for urban tree canopy assessment in spring 2021, allowing City Arborist to submit request for funding from Va. Dept. of Forestry.
- Assisted in constructing a solar kiln to recycle UVA trees into lumber.

Proposed Tree Planting list FY 2022

Approximate Location	Closest physical address	notes	neighborhood	sector	sidewalk/Trail	Large canopy tree	score	proposed species
1009 Rougemont Ave	1009 Rougemont Ave	overhead utility						Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
1009 Rougemont Ave	1009 Rougemont Ave	overhead utility						Cercis canadensis
101 Stewart Cir	101 Stewart Cir							Lindendron tulipifera
103 Stewart Cir	103 Stewart Cir							Quercus nigra
105 Stewart Cir	105 Stewart Cir							Platanus acerifolia
408 Elliott Av.	104 Elliott Av.							Viburnum prunifolium
107 Alhena Av.	replace sugar maple							Acer saccharum
107 Alhena Av.	continue allee sugar maple							Acer saccharum
107 Alhena Av.	continue allee sugar maple							Acer saccharum
107 Alhena Av.	continue allee sugar maple							Acer saccharum
107 Alhena Av.	continue allee sugar maple							Acer saccharum
1300 Pen Park Rd.	1300 Pen Park Rd.							Acer saccharum
1411 Monticello Rd.	1411 Monticello Rd.	replace silver maple	Bahmont	facility	1	Y	4	Quercus virginiana
1430 E High St	1430 E High St							Quercus virginiana
1430 E High St	1430 E High St							Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
1430 E High St	1430 E High St							Taxodium distichum
1505 Bunker Hill Dr.	1505 Bunker Hill Dr.							Quercus shumardii
1506 Bunker Hill Dr.	1506 Bunker Hill Dr.							Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
1506 Bunker Hill Dr.	1506 Bunker Hill Dr.							Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
1506 Bunker Hill Dr.	1506 Bunker Hill Dr.							Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba'
1527 Oxford Rd	1527 Oxford Rd							Taxodium distichum
1527 Oxford Rd	1527 Oxford Rd							Quercus nigra
1534 Oxford Rd.	1534 Oxford Rd.							Quercus shumardii
1534 Oxford Rd.	1534 Oxford Rd.							Lindendron tulipifera
1534 Westwood Rd.	1534 Westwood Rd.	replace black locust at side of address	Barracks/Rail by	ROW	n			Quercus shumardii
1608 Oakleaf Ln.	1608 Oakleaf Ln.							Platanus acerifolia
1608 Oakleaf Ln.	1608 Oakleaf Ln.							Ulmus americana 'Jefferson'
1618 Gordon Ave	1618 Gordon Ave							Cercis canadensis
1618 Gordon Ave	1618 Gordon Ave							Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
1618 Gordon Ave	1618 Gordon Ave							Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
1618 Gordon Ave	1618 Gordon Ave							Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
1618 Gordon Ave	1618 Gordon Ave							Cercis canadensis
1705 Gordon Ave	1705 Gordon Ave							Quercus niellos
1709 Monticello Rd.	1709 Monticello Rd.	relace ash on Duval Av. side of address	Bahmont	ROW	n			Quercus nigra
2007 Jefferson Park Ave	2007 Jefferson Park Ave							Viburnum prunifolium
223 Old Lynchburg Rd	223 Old Lynchburg Rd.	replace dogwood		ROW	Y	3	3	Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
2309 Jefferson Park Av.	2309 Jefferson Park Av.	replace car struck dogwood	Fry's Spring	ROW	Y		2	Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
2407 Jefferson Park Av.	2407 Jefferson Park Av.	stump	Fry's Spring	ROW	n			Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
2407 Jefferson Park Av.	2407 Jefferson Park Av.	open space	Fry's Spring	ROW	n			Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
2407 Jefferson Park Av.	2407 Jefferson Park Av.	open space	Fry's Spring	ROW	n			Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
2407 Jefferson Park Av.	2407 Jefferson Park Av.	dead dogwood	Fry's Spring	ROW	n			Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
250 W. Main St.	250 W. Main St.	replace zelkova at curb of Lewis and Clark building	North Downtown	ROW	Y	3	4	Zelkova serrata
250 W. Main St.	250 W. Main St.	replace zelkova in tree pit	North Downtown	ROW	n			Zelkova serrata
250 W. Main St.	250 W. Main St.	replace zelkova in tree pit	North Downtown	ROW	n			Zelkova serrata
319 Monte Vista Av.	319 Monte Vista Av.	replace dogwood at curb	Variable	ROW	Y	3	3	Magnolia grandiflora
39 University Cir.	39 University Cir.	replace dogwood	Variable	ROW	2		2	Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
39 University Cir.	39 University Cir.	Replace dogwood on eth St SE side	Variable	ROW	2		2	Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
400 Garrett St.	400 Garrett St.							Quercus nigra
500 14th St NW	500 14th St NW							Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
500 14th St NW	500 14th St NW							Quercus nigra
500 14th St NW	500 14th St NW							Magnolia grandiflora
5th St. median	0 5th St. SW	replace dead oak	Jackson-via	ROW	n			Quercus bicolor
5th St. median	987 5th St. SW	replace dead oak	Jackson-via	ROW	n			Quercus nigra
5th St. median	987 5th St. SW	replace dead oak	Jackson-via	ROW	n			Quercus bicolor
600 Preston Pl	600 Preston Pl							Quercus bicolor
600 Preston Pl	600 Preston Pl							Quercus shumardii
600 Preston Pl	600 Preston Pl							Quercus shumardii
600 Preston Pl	600 Preston Pl							Quercus shumardii
601 Lehlinton Av.	601 Lehlinton Av.	replace dead dogwood	Locust Grove	ROW	Y	3	5	Taxodium distichum
609 Davis Ave	609 Davis Ave							Cornus florida 'cherokee princess'
609 Davis Ave	609 Davis Ave							Taxodium distichum
609 Davis Ave	609 Davis Ave							Quercus shumardii
609 Davis Ave	609 Davis Ave							Lindendron tulipifera

