Urban Forestry Update

Town Council Work Session

September 9, 2025

TOWN OF Herndon

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Summary of Updates

- Tree Inventory Findings
- FY25 completed activities
- FY26 expected activities
- Highlighted special projects
  - Urban Forestry Management Plan
  - Canopy Analysis
  - Donation program for public trees

Inventory & Equity Data Summary

- Low species diversity
- Poor size/age distribution
- Tree Equity Score: 85



Completed Work in FY25

- **13 trees** trimmed
- **99 trees** dead/hazardous removed
- **151 trees** planted (grant funded)

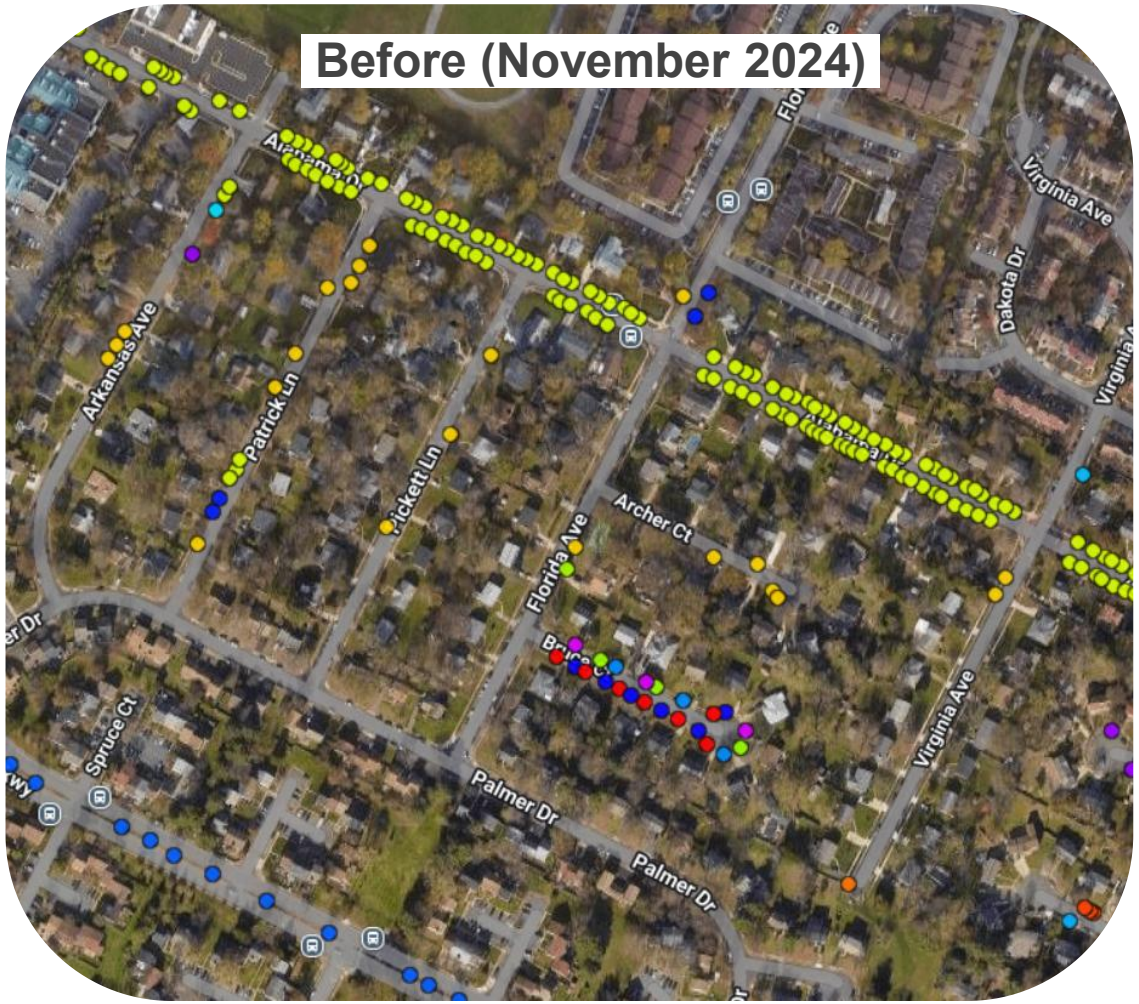
**all contracted forestry work*

Future/Carryover Work

- **990 trees** require pruning/other work
- **184 trees** identified for removal
- **779 trees** that are invasive or threatened
- **2736 potential planting sites**

**based on 2024 inventory data*

FY25 Chandon Tree Planting





FY25 Chandon Tree Planting





FY24 Bruce Court Tree Planting





Grants Awarded FY25

- Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant - Planting: **$91,000**
- Urban and Community Forestry – Maintenance: **$65,000**
- Community Forest Revitalization Program
  - Accepted into program, state funded
    - Goal is to help Herndon create and support long-term and sustained community forestry projects and programs
  - Green Infrastructure Center is providing technical assistance
    - Canopy Coverage Maps
    - Urban Forest Management Plan Review
    - Landscape Ordinance Audit

Canopy Coverage Analysis - Map



Locality	Canopy Coverage
Falls Church	48%
Vienna	38.7%
City of Fairfax	37.86%
Leesburg	27%
Herndon	***26%***
Manassas	23.8%

Washington DC	37%
Arlington	35.2%
Alexandria	32.5%

FY26 Program Activities

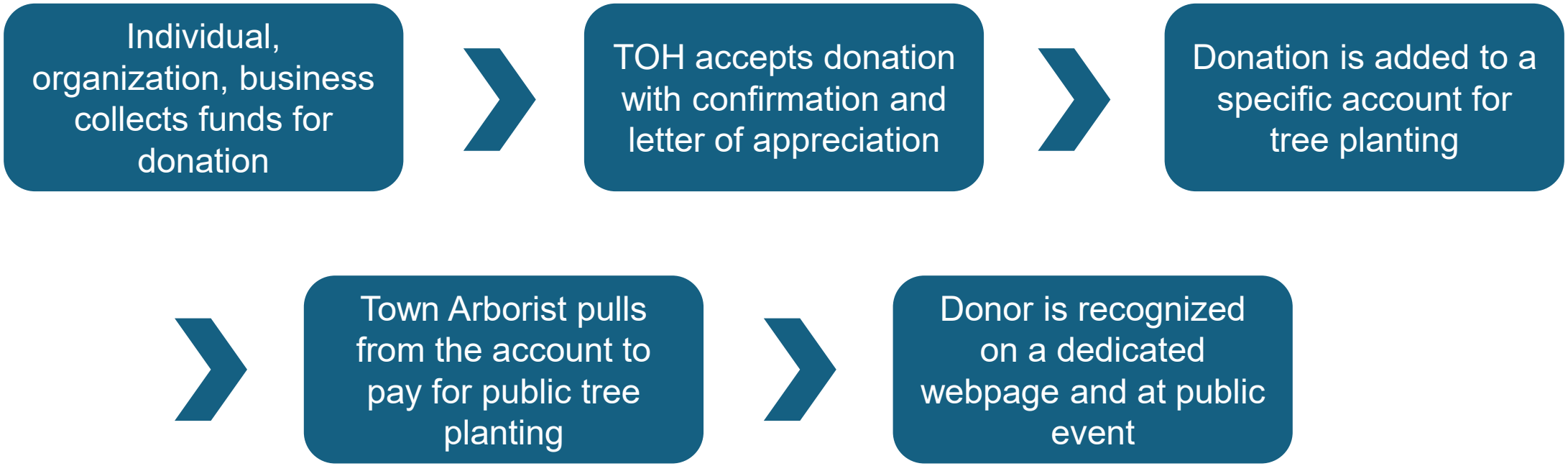
- Canopy Coverage Analysis
- Urban Forestry Management Plan
- On-going hazardous tree removal and new tree planting
- Establishment of strategic tree maintenance protocols
- Pursuit of available funding opportunities
- Implementation of donation program for public tree planting

Urban Forestry Management Plan

- What will it do?
  - Set clear goals and priorities, guide budgeting and resource allocation, identify risks and vulnerabilities, and support long term planning
- How will it be used?
  - A policy and decision-making tool, roadmap for staff to implement standardized practices, budgeting and funding guide, and educational resource.
- What will be in it?
  - Inventory and canopy assessment, goals, objectives, maintenance and planting strategies, risk management plans, budget and resource analysis, community engagement plan
- Why it's important?
  - Protects public safety, improves environmental health, ensures fiscal responsibilities, builds community resilience, strengthen community engagement and equity.

Donation Program

- Anticipated launch in Fall of 2025
- Opportunity for private contributions specific to tree planting



Successes

- $156,000 awarded for tree planting and maintenance in FY25
- Grant awarded for out-sourced technical assistance
- Completed inventory and began strategic re-planting program
- Establishment of donation program
- Commencement of canopy analysis

Challenges

- Availability of funding
- Modernizing development standards
- Appropriate and practical canopy coverage and tree planting goals

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