

RIVERDALE PARK



Tree Canopy Management

The Town of Riverdale Park (TRP or Town) is committed to creating a healthy environment for its residents and reducing its environmental impact. One strategy that supports both goals is to increase tree canopy coverage. Trees reduce ambient temperature, remove carbon from the atmosphere, and improve public health.

TRP has created a Town Tree Plan and has increased its inventory to more than 900 tagged trees along town streets. The Town continued to expand this tree canopy in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. For new tree plantings, TRP spent [\\$4,523](#) in 2017, [\\$2,743](#) although \$7,000 were approved for 2018, \$5,966 although \$7,000 were approved for 2019, and \$4,000 were approved for the 2020 budget. In early 2020, the proposed 2021 budget included \$20,000 for additional native trees plantings, but after the covid-19 epidemic started, the proposed [2021 budget](#) includes \$3,500 for new tree plantings, although this figure does not include the trees for the new “Field of Dreams” park. Meanwhile, the Town expects to receive \$100,000 in funds from Prince Georges’ County for native tree planting. The Town also spent \$899 for seasonal plantings and trees that serve as a buffer break against road traffic along the new Field of Dreams park that is being developed (see the approved Field of Dreams design on p. 10 of the [2020 Approved Budget](#)). The proposed 2021 budget also discusses TRP’s plan to develop a Tree Program Guidebook. The proposed 2021 budget states that “proper planning for the maintenance, care, and replacement of Town-owned trees is necessary to protect and grow the Town’s tree canopy, and to budget accordingly. A detailed guidebook outlining the processes for continual assessment and care will be developed.” Additionally, the Town sponsors and supports a number of tree planting events, as described below.

Each year in the spring and fall, the TRP Department of Public Works (DPW) plants trees in front of residential properties. Residents desiring to have trees planted adjacent to their property can contact DPW, which is periodically advertised in the TRP newsletter, the Town Crier, such as in the [May 2018](#) and [October 2017](#) editions of the Town Crier. The Town also publicizes opportunities for residents to obtain free trees from external entities such as Pepco (see [May 2018](#) and [April 2019](#) editions of the Town Crier). Available trees are native species and include eastern redbud, northern red oak, crape myrtle, river birch, and red maple.



For its 2020 Centennial celebration, which has now been postponed until a later date, the Town is hiring an arborist to pick locations to plant 100 trees and identify trees that are 100 years old or older. The Town anticipates soliciting submittals from residents to nominate their favorite tree in TRP for the Centennial celebration.

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Lastly, the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR CDC) planted more than 100 trees and shrubs during its Fall 2018 Go Green Plant Trees campaign at no cost to local business and residents. This project was advertised in the [September 2018](#) edition of the Town Crier newsletter. The demand was high and the entire allotment of trees was quickly apportioned.

2018 Arbor Day Tree Planting with Riverdale Elementary School

The Town sponsors annual Arbor Day tree plantings in which Town staff join Riverdale Elementary School (RES) staff and students to plant trees at RES. On April 26, 2018, roughly 800 students of RES helped to plant seven trees, representing each of the seven grade levels (including pre-K). Students made placards for the trees from each grade level to indicate which tree was planted by their grade level. TRP residents were invited to join students at the Arbor Day tree planting in the [March 2018](#) Town Crier newsletter.

