

Dear Cathy,

I've been a resident now for almost two years, and I really enjoy our "canopy." Just recently a very large old tree near my unit just sort of... flopped over. Personnel came and cut it up and hauled it away within a week, but it started me wondering about the stewardship of our trees in Parkfairfax. Will this tree be replaced?

Wild About Green Space

Dear WAGS,

The circle of life for many species of trees is only 40-60 years. Also, several years of drought and the microburst storm of August 2010 really did a number on foliage generally in Parkfairfax. But the fact remains that our landscape maintenance staff, as well as the volunteer landscape committee, are dedicated to ensuring our excellent tree cover lasts far into the future. Our landscape director, Neal Howlett, reports that at least 25 trees have been planted every fall for the past fifteen years. In addition, 65 trees were planted in 2010, and 100 in 2011. Manage your expectations, however: the crews do not necessarily replant in the exact locations of trees that came down or were removed, and of course the replacements are saplings that do not provide an instant canopy! Donations (in the form of checks) earmarked for tree replacement are accepted at the front office, and if you would like more information on related issues, visit www.parkfairfax.info, click on Resources and go to Landscape information.

Hope this helps,

Cathy