Tree Ordinance, Tree Canopy Goals, and Outreach/Education

City Council Work Session
Sept. 11, 2019
Goals Identified in Council Priorities

- Create a more user-friendly and easier-to-understand Tree Ordinance
- Establish Tree Canopy Goals
- Improve the maintenance of mature trees
- Increase planting on City and private property
- Improve outreach and education
Process So Far

- Initial strategy session Oct. 2018
- UVT tree canopy assessment Feb. 2019
- Resident survey spring 2019
- Tree Commission recommendations July 2019
- CoE efforts on tree canopy goals
- Council work sessions
- Suggestions from individuals and groups of residents
Benefits of the urban forest we want to promote:

- Sequesters carbon to enhance resilience and mitigate climate change
- Reduces energy consumption
- Mitigates temperature extremes
- Promotes health through control of air, noise, and visual pollution
- Supports wildlife
- Enhances aesthetics of the city
- Improves property values
- Improves quality of life
- Controls stormwater runoff
- Supports the biologic and hydrologic integrity of watersheds, including Long Branch, Takoma Branch, Sligo Creek, and the Chesapeake Bay
Overview, cont.

- Stewardship of our urban forest is a community effort
- Goal of a healthy, biodiverse, resilient urban forest
- Regulation of the urban forest provides benefits to residents/property owners