

Free Native Canopy Trees! Sign up by Friday, May 19th for Consultation **By Brooke Alexander, Ashton Heights Tree Canopy Fund (TCF) Coordinator, Arlington** **Regional Master Naturalist (ARMN)**

The County is again offering free native canopy trees for private property installation. They provide both free trees and free installation. It is a great program -- Your part is to keep the tree alive!

I am the Ashton Heights Tree Canopy Fund Coordinator. After the consultation, I will assist with the application, check trees after planting and provide ongoing maintenance advice and future oversight. The program is administered through the Ashton Heights Civic Association (AHCA) and Arlington EcoAction in conjunction with Arlington County staff.**

When to apply?

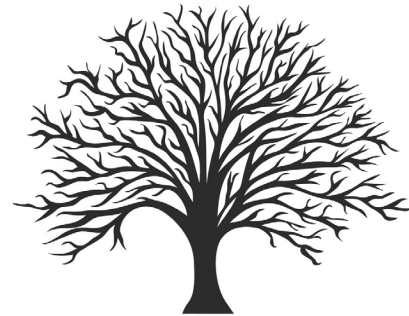
STATE YOUR INTEREST TO ME BY **FRIDAY, MAY 19th**. Send an email to Brooke Alexander: brooke.alexander52@gmail.com with your name, street address, and phone number.

What's next?

I will arrange individual consultations with potential applicants to be scheduled in early June. I am a retired biologist and landscape designer. I will bring info on the trees that are offered this time, and together we will look at your available spaces. All decision makers need to be at this consultation.

What trees are offered this iteration?

- American Linden
- American Sycamore
- River Birch
- Sugarberry
- Swamp White Oak
- American Hornbeam
- Pin Oak



When will the trees be installed?

Late Fall 2023

Why?

Ashton Heights is losing our wonderful tree canopy. Our big trees are over a hundred years old. That means that each will take over 100 years to be replaced. Ashton Heights has few medium aged and younger trees. So we are facing a continued decline in tree canopy. But, the more younger trees we plant now, the sooner Ashton Heights can increase its tree canopy.

How much tree canopy have we had historically?

In 2008, the first time it was measured, the Ashton Heights tree canopy coverage was 48%. In 2016, the canopy had declined to 40%. And the last measure in 2021 showed us at 31%.

Let's add to our future tree canopy by planting trees now!

** Note that it is possible to apply on your own. But higher priority will be given to applications coming through Ashton Heights with me, as you have an ARMN overseeing the program. PLUS, the added bonus of advice from a retired landscape designer. For those who would like to apply on their own, the application is available here: [Tree Canopy Fund Planting Application – Fall 2023 - ecoactionarlington.org](https://ecoactionarlington.org).