College Park Airport Safety Project

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M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation
Prince George’s County
Goals

- Safety for Public and Pilots
- Environmental Stewardship
  - Minimize Impact & Restore Resources
- Enhanced Amenities
- Improved Communications
Background: Field of Firsts

- College Park Airport is the oldest continuously operating airport in the world!

- Known as ‘Field of Firsts’ due to the significant aviation firsts that happened here.
  - 1909: Wilbur Wright, of the Wright Brothers fame, taught U.S. Army officers how to fly here - resulting in first pilot to solo in a military aeroplane
  - 1912: First mile-high flight by a military aviator
  - 1918: First U.S. Postal Air Mail Service
  - 1924: First controlled helicopter flight
Background: Safety Project

- Every 4-8 years, trees in designated areas near College Park Airport must be trimmed to meet Maryland Regulation 11.03.05.03: “A person may not allow trees to grow to such a height as to be an airport hazard or allow trees that are an existing airport hazard to grow any higher.”

- The last tree trimming was in 2012

- Later in 2012, FAA began strengthening and increasing obstruction restrictions for small airports in terms of allowable height and impacted area

- The 8 years of growth and stricter restrictions resulted in a greater number of trees impacted in 2019-20
Background: Safety Project

- To date, 387 trees have been removed to meet stricter FAA regulations - especially tighter rules governing 200 feet from runway

- Environmental stabilization measures include:
  - Installation of a staked straw bales along the trail near CSX/Metro underpass
  - Seed with annual rye and soil stabilization, straw mulching and matting along area adjacent to Paint Branch and near CSX/Metro
Revised
Obstruction Mitigation Plan
Obstruction Mitigation Plan

• Tree trimming strictly limited to FAA safety requirements for ongoing, unchanged airport operations

• In compliance with all federal and state regulations and in consultation with Maryland Department of Environment, Army Corps of Engineers, Prince George’s County Soil Conservation District and Planning Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland Historic Trust

• Independent 3rd party oversight to ensure best management practices and environmental regulations are met
Obstruction Mitigation Plan

- Updated approach includes minimal ground disturbance, limited machinery, expanded hand-tools - minimizing impact to ecosystem, canopy and overall environment
- Going forward, trimming will take place every 4-5 years instead of every 7-8 years - resulting in less impact to trees
- Revised plan includes modest to heavy trimming with no additional tree removals - limiting ground disturbance, meeting environmental regulations
- Conduct bi-annual tree monitoring and mitigate for additional loss
Tree Trimming Impact Counts by Zone

- G: 90 trees
- F: 293 trees
- E: 310 trees
- D: 212 trees
- C: 299 trees
- B: 446 trees
- A: 206 trees
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>0 to 10 ft</th>
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Tree Trimming Impact Counts by Zone

A: 20 trees
B: 8 trees
C: 30 trees
D: 53 trees
E: 228 trees
F: 156 trees
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Revised Tree Trimming Plan

- Trees to be trimmed: Approx. 3,000

- Total tree count by amount trimmed
  - 0 to 10 ft. 1,662 trees
  - 10 to 20 ft. 812 trees
  - 20 to 30 ft. 271 trees
  - 30 to 40 ft. 64 trees
  - 40 to 50 ft. 86 trees
  - > 50 ft. 91 trees
Commitment to Community
A total of 1,510 trees will be planted -- 900 more trees than is required by regulations.

Represents 4:1 ratio of trees replanted to trees removed and includes 70% canopy trees.

Planted in City of College Park and surrounding area.

Reviewed by regulatory agencies as well as Town of Riverdale Park and City of College Park.
Tree Re-Planting Plan

- **Survivability Strategy**
  - Phased Approach
  - Species Selection & Size (2.5” caliper trees)
  - Water Support (water bags, by truck / hand)
  - Deer Protection (expanding plastic pipes)

- Conduct bi-annual survivability monitoring and mitigate for loss
Tree Re-Planting Plan

• Phase One - Spring 2020
  - 120 trees

• Phase Two - Fall 2020
  - 570 trees

• Phase Three - Spring 2021
  - 240 trees

• Phase Four - Fall 2021
  - 580 trees
Phase One

Zone 2 Species & Counts
- Viburnum lentago - 10
- Viburnum dentatum - 8
- Viburnum prunifolium - 10
- Cornus sericea - 5
- Amelanchier canadensis - 5
- Magnolia virginiana - 5
- Aronia arbutifolia/melanocarpa - 8
- Lindera benzoin - 8
- Cercis canadensis ‘Covey’ - 4
- Chionanthus virginicus - 4

Zone 1 Species & Counts
- Cercis canadensis - 5
- Cornus florida - 10
- Quercus rubra/alba/palustris - 10
- Acer rubrum (‘October Glory’ & ‘Red Sunset’) - 10
- Betula nigra - 3
- Fagus grandifolia - 2
- Nyssa sylvatica - 5
- Tilia americana - 2
- Platanus occidentalis - 4
- Carpa ovata - 2
- Ulmus americana ‘Valley Forge’ varietal - 2

Zone 3
- TBD

Zone 2
- Spring 2020

Zone 1
- Spring 2020

Kentilworth Avenue
Campus Drive
Zone 4
Fall 2020

Zone 4 Planned Types
- Flowering: 12
- Canopy: 34

Zone 5
Fall 2020

Zone 5 Planned Types
- Flowering: 67
- Canopy: 55

Phase Two
Zone 6
Fall 2020

Zone 6 Planned Types
- Flowering - 25
- Canopy - 32

Phase Two
Phase Two

Zone 7
Fall 2020

Zone 7 Planned Types
- Flowering: 14
- Canopy: 35

Zone 8
Fall 2020

Zone 8 Planned Types
- Flowering: 30
- Canopy: 66
Phase Two

Zone 9
Fall 2020

Zone 4 Planned Types

- Understory Tree- 15
- Shrub- 185
Enhanced Amenities

• Two 20x20 permanent shade structures in Old Calvert Road Park

• Upgraded disc golf course including custom artwork such as tree sculptures
Communications

• Interpretative signage at multiple sites informing public of Safety Project work as well as overview of area’s historical highlights

• Quarterly online progress reports
Future Partnership
Planting a Partnership

- City of College Park, Town of Riverdale Park, University of Maryland and Department of Parks and Recreation

- Create shared vision and collective action plan to increase canopy, address storm water management, enhance habitat

- Conduct quarterly meetings to develop strategy, report on progress and explore additional opportunities
Questions

Email PublicAffairs@pgparks.com