

FY23 URBAN TREES PROGRAM
CITY OF HAGERSTOWN

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN PLANTING PROGRAM

AWARDED AMOUNT

\$66,619.00

NUMBER OF TREES

175



PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Hagerstown is augmenting its existing street tree planting program, increase tree canopy coverage in City parks and other City-owned properties, and possibly to do mass forest plantings on undeveloped private land in various areas around the City. Not only will these plantings enhance the quality of life for City residents by improving air and water quality, providing shade to mitigate the heat island effect prevalent in urban environments, and help with the “greening” of an oftentimes sterile urban streetscape, the park and forest plantings will provide urban wildlife habitat. The City is proposing a multi-year plan to accomplish these plantings.

In Year 1, the City plans to plant approximately 100 street trees, along with approximately 15 trees in City parks. Approximately forty (40) of the street trees will be installed in existing tree pits where trees have died or been removed. The remaining sixty (60) street trees will be planted in grass strips between the curb and sidewalk; using the grass strips will eliminate the need to remove existing sidewalks to create the pits, thereby decreasing the installation costs. See the photo below for an example of this “grass strip planting”. The plantings in the parks will be planted in areas where mature trees have been removed in order to reestablish the canopy that was lost.

The City’s Comprehensive Plan contains a stated goal to increase overall canopy coverage in the City to 30 percent by 2030. While achieving that goal is unlikely (for a number of reasons), the City is taking steps and looking for opportunities to plant as many trees as possible by that deadline. They recognize that they have neighborhoods that are being stressed and that are experiencing varying degrees of blight, and trees and landscaping can serve to beautify and reinvigorate those areas. Hagerstown takes pride in the tree planting it has accomplished; the City has earned “Tree City USA Growth Awards” from the Arbor Day Foundation for more than thirty consecutive years. With the growing challenges posed by climate change, and the increasing efforts to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, they feel that tree planting is one of the most effective ways to address many of these goals at once.

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