

## McLean Trees Foundation Celebrates Arbor Day with Plantings of New Trees In McLean

McLean Connection, April 28, 2016



McLean Tree Foundation (MTF) volunteers, from left, Bruce Lipton and Ray Lewyckj prepare a planting hole for a Redbud tree in Lewinsville Park, McLean, in celebration of Arbor Day. Photos courtesy of Joyce Harris

In recognition of Arbor Day and the numerous benefits that trees give to the community, the McLean Trees Foundation (MTF) donated and planted three Redbud trees in Lewinsville Park and two White Oak trees in Churchill Road Park with the help of ten volunteers.

“Studies show that trees in parks and other recreational areas improve leisure and recreation experiences”, said Joyce Harris, Chairman of MTF. “Additionally, trees provide us with health, environmental, economic, aesthetic and quality-of-life benefits.”

The Redbuds were planted in Lewinsville Park along the entrance road and adjacent to the basketball courts. In Churchill Road Park, the White Oaks were planted near the entrance signs to the Park. MTF volunteers will water and maintain the trees for two to three years until they become established with stronger root systems. All trees were mulched and protected from deer with stakes and monofilament.



MTF volunteers plant a Redbud trees in Lewinsville Park, McLean, in celebration of Arbor Day. From left to right: Bruce Lipton, Tom Blackburn, Brenda Frank, and Eric Simpson.

“We appreciate MTF’s contribution of trees to our parks,” said Russell Arrington, Area 1 Manager for the Fairfax County Park Authority. “We know that MTF has limited resources and manpower, so this is a very nice gift to the community. Everyone benefits from trees.”

Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*) are one of the first trees to bloom in spring with pink to purplish flowers and have a moderate wildlife value. White Oaks (*Quercus alba*) are slow growers and have a high wildlife value, supporting more than 500 species of caterpillars.



MTF volunteers plant two White Oak trees in Churchill Road Park, McLean, in celebration of Arbor Day. From left: Merrily Pierce, Carol Wolter, Brenda Frank, Janet Gale, and Joyce Harris.