

# Arborists Remove Dead or Dying Pear Trees in Central McLean

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An arborist from Bartlett Tree Experts selectively prunes a Bradford pear tree along Dolley Madison Boulevard in McLean.

Bartlett Tree Experts, Area Wide Protective (AWP) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recently donated their services to the McLean Trees Foundation to remove dead or dying Bradford pear trees on the Dolley Madison Boulevard median between Elm Street and Beverly Road.

Of the 113 Bradford pear trees planted in 1972, just 40 remain on the median strip and they are in poor condition, foundation officials said.

Bartlett Tree Experts removed 10 trees that were dead or had significant amounts of dead limbs. Crew members also removed large dead branches from some trees to reduce the risk of falling limbs, officials said.

The workers performed these duties over a five-hour period, during which lane closures were required in both directions on Dolley Madison Boulevard.

Afterward, the company distributed wood chips from the project to create mulch paths at Chesterbrook Living Classroom on Kirby Road in McLean.

The classroom, sponsored by the city of Falls Church water utility, is an environmental project designed to promote a healthy watershed and reduce the effects of stormwater runoff.

Students from schools in Falls Church and Fairfax County use the outdoor laboratory to observe, analyze and enhance ecosystems, plants and wildlife, foundation officials said.

Bartlett Tree Experts, based in Springfield, is a family owned international company that provides scientific tree- and shrub-care services. Area Wide Protective provides traffic-control services for utilities and contractors.

“We are grateful to Bartlett Tree Experts for making the Dolley Madison Boulevard pear-tree project possible and for their guidance on tree care,” said Joyce Harris, chairman of the McLean Trees Foundation. “AWP and VDOT, who assisted Bartlett by donating traffic-control services, did an outstanding job of managing traffic under challenging conditions. Furthermore, the wood chips from this project have now been put to good use on a site designed for stormwater control.”