

2022 At A Glance

Last year was a banner year for MTF. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, who dedicated over 530 hours to our efforts, and increased financial contributions from the community, we accomplished a great deal:

- We launched an innovative new program to plant trees in McLean neighborhoods. MTF identified two Tree Champions who served as neighborhood advocates, encouraging others in their communities to plant more native trees in their yards. We supplied deeply subsidized trees and planting services and worked with our Tree Champions to reach out to their neighbors. It was hugely successful. On a very busy day in November, we planted a total of 22 canopy trees in the Pimmit Hills and Rosemont neighborhoods. We are eager to expand this effort, and we hope that some of you will consider becoming Tree Champions in your neighborhoods this year.

- We continued our Neighborhood Tree Program aimed at teaching homeowners how to plant and maintain trees. We had the pleasure of working with 6 families, helping them plant new native trees in their yards. You can see their smiling faces on our website map.

- We expanded our efforts to plant native trees in public parks. We planted a total of 15 trees in Lewinsville, Churchill Road, Tysons-Pimmit, and McLean Hamlet Parks with the help of volunteers, who discovered parks they had never even heard of before! Some of the trees planted were sponsored by families as living tributes to loved ones under our Tree Sponsorship program. We, of course, continued watering and maintaining all the trees we had planted in recent years.

- We launched a long-term initiative to remove English ivy and other invasive vines from mature trees in McLean Central Park. These invasive species endanger trees and smother native plants. With a group of faithful volunteers, we worked in the park for two hours almost every Monday from January to April, stopping only when poison ivy appeared. We will soon return to the park to continue this important work.

- We launched two three-year projects to remove invasive species in Churchill Road and Lewinsville Parks and restore the areas with native plants. We have totally cleared two sizeable areas of porcelain berry, bush honeysuckle, and other invasive species, and we hope to start replanting this fall.

- We joined Fairfax County's Operation Stream Shield (OSS) designed to help improve water quality in streams and provide dignity in work to people experiencing homelessness. Under the program, we have been working with 10 individuals to reclaim a large area along the run in Churchill Road Park.

- Lastly, we rolled out the new website you are on, which, as you can see, is loaded with information on trees.

Last year was indeed a great year for MTF and we are brimming with confidence that, with the continued support of the McLean community, 2023 will be even better.

Carol

Carol Wolter
Chair