

MBTA-C Zoning: Adding Climate Resilience and Natural Spaces

WHAT?

Enhance the MBTA-C zoning to include provisions for climate change mitigation and enrichment of Arlington's natural streetscapes, preserving and increasing the tree canopy and accessible open spaces.

WHY?

Residents in new MBTA-C Districts deserve the same natural environment that current residents in Arlington enjoy: shade trees and wildlife, places to sit, relax and chat with neighbors, and a safe, pleasant, walkable, accessible streetscape.

Arlington citizens have consistently given high priority to green open space and the tree canopy, and is reflected in town bylaws and planning documents:

- **Arlington's Action Plan for MBTA Communities** Section 3.2 "Non-Housing Characteristics" - "*preserving and expanding the Town's street tree canopy.*"
- **Arlington Master Plan – Arlington town goals:** Article 4, The Environment: Recognizing the fragility of our natural resources, we must ensure that Arlington's residential areas, commercial centers, and infrastructure are developed in harmony with environmental concerns.
- **Arlington Housing Production Plan – 5 -Year Plan:** "Make equitable access to shared green spaces and a healthy living environment a priority for siting affordable homes."
- **Arlington's Tree Protection & Preservation bylaw**, Title V, Article 16 – "preservation of the tree canopy and planting of replacement trees is essential to preserving the character and aesthetic appearance of the Town and maintaining quality of life and the environment in the Town."
- **Arlington Net Zero Action Plan:** "Community and stakeholder input was consistent: by an overwhelming majority, respondents view climate change as a serious crisis (July 2020 survey, 87 percent of respondents rated climate change as "Extremely Important" to them personally)." "..... Support was strong for building efficiency and electrification measures, for making walking, biking and public transit more attractive, for planting more trees, and for greening Arlington's electricity supply" Net Zero Buildings High Priority Measures: NB13: Promote the planting of trees on private property.
- **Exploring Urban Ecology, Closing the Gap & Enhancing Urban Biodiversity in the Town of Arlington, Tufts Urban Environmental Policy and Planning, June 2023:** "Trees have been widely recognized as the main provider of ecosystem services in urban areas"

THIS



NOT THIS

