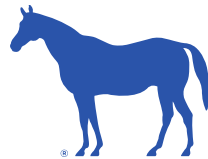


URBAN FORESTRY AND STREET TREES UPDATE

Heather Wilson, Urban & Community Forestry Senior Manager

Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

August 18, 2026



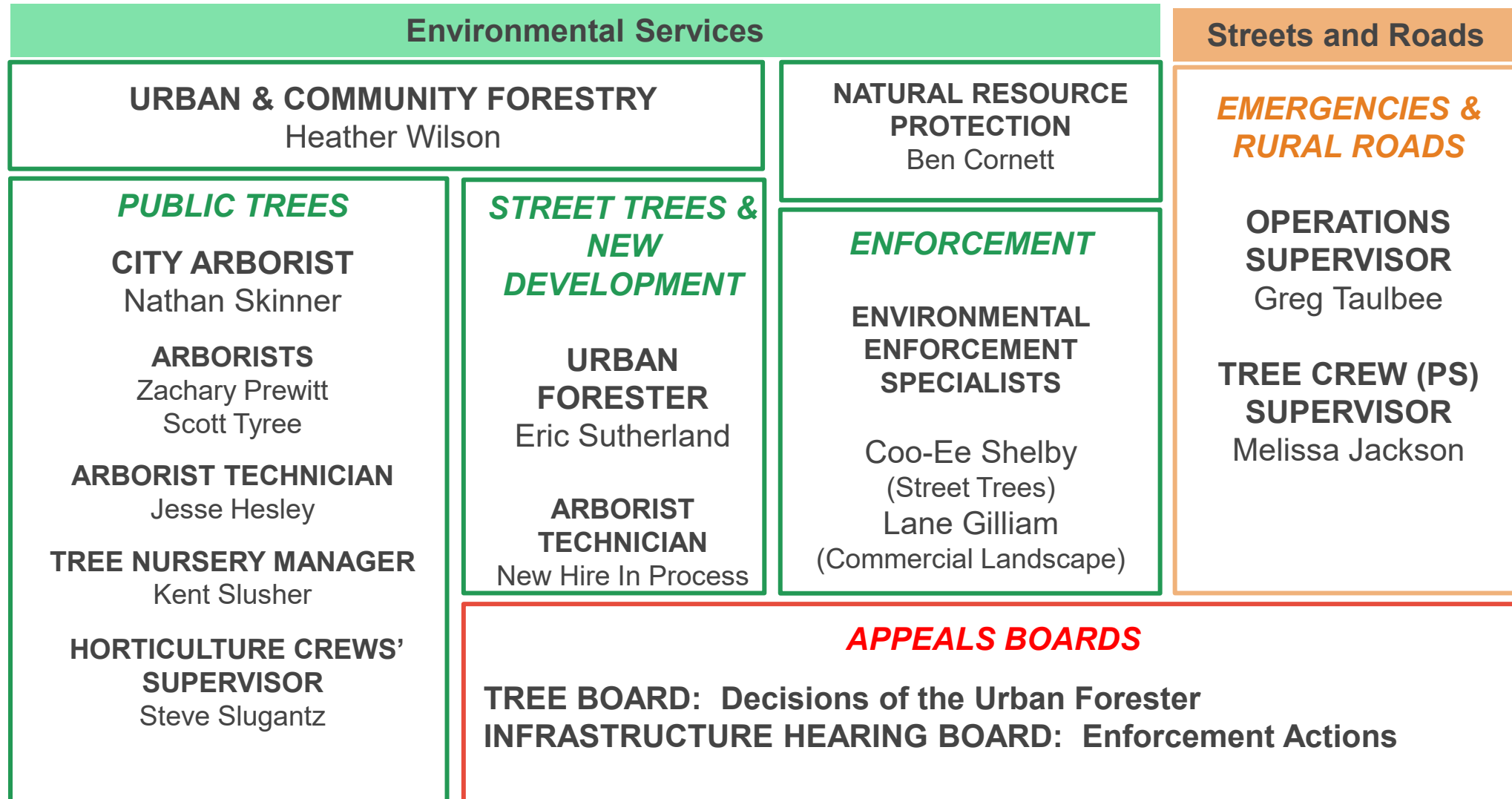
LEXINGTON

Topics

- **Urban Forestry Organizational Chart**
- **Private Property Tree Planting Program**
- **Street Tree Courtesy Pruning Program**
- **Hazard Street Tree (Cost-Share) Program**
- **Revisions to**
 - **Chapter 17B (Street Trees)**
 - **Hazard Street Tree (Cost-Share) Program Guidelines**
- **Main Street Replanting Plan**
- **Questions**

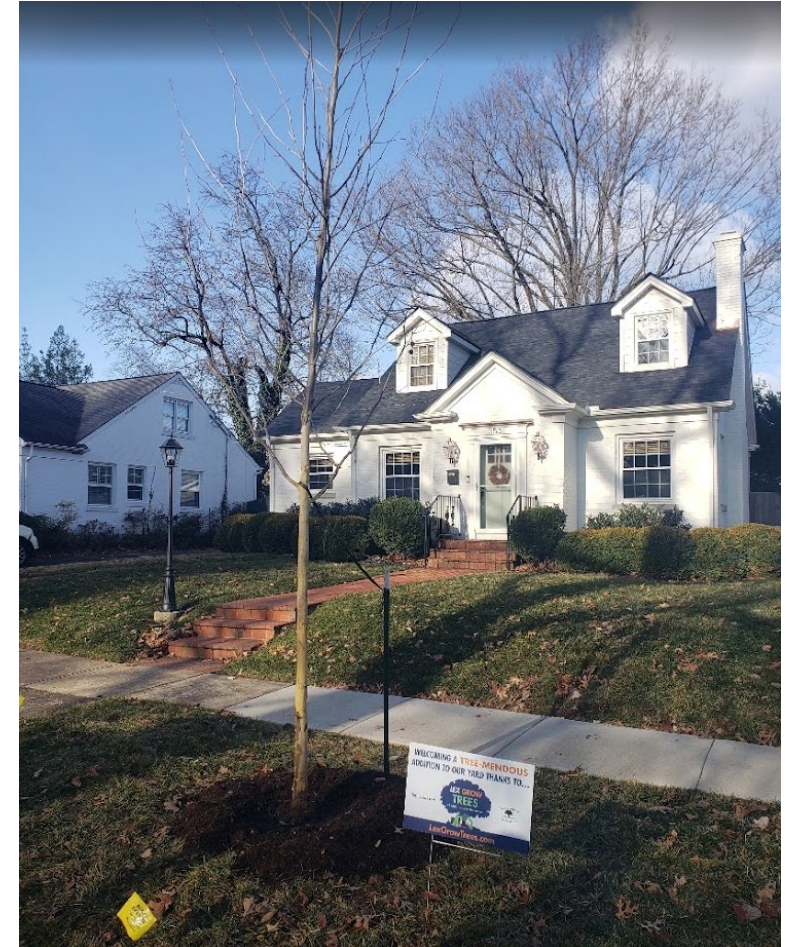


Urban & Community Forestry Organizational Chart



Private Property Tree Planting Program (2026)

- Eligibility – Any property owner or tenant with owner's approval
- Contractor – Dave Leonard Tree Specialists
- Funded - \$150,000
 - *Applications closed 72 hours after opening*
- FY26 Totals: 249 participants
 - 201 – invoiced to date
 - 47 – remaining to be planted
 - 2 – had to decline



Street Tree Courtesy Pruning Program

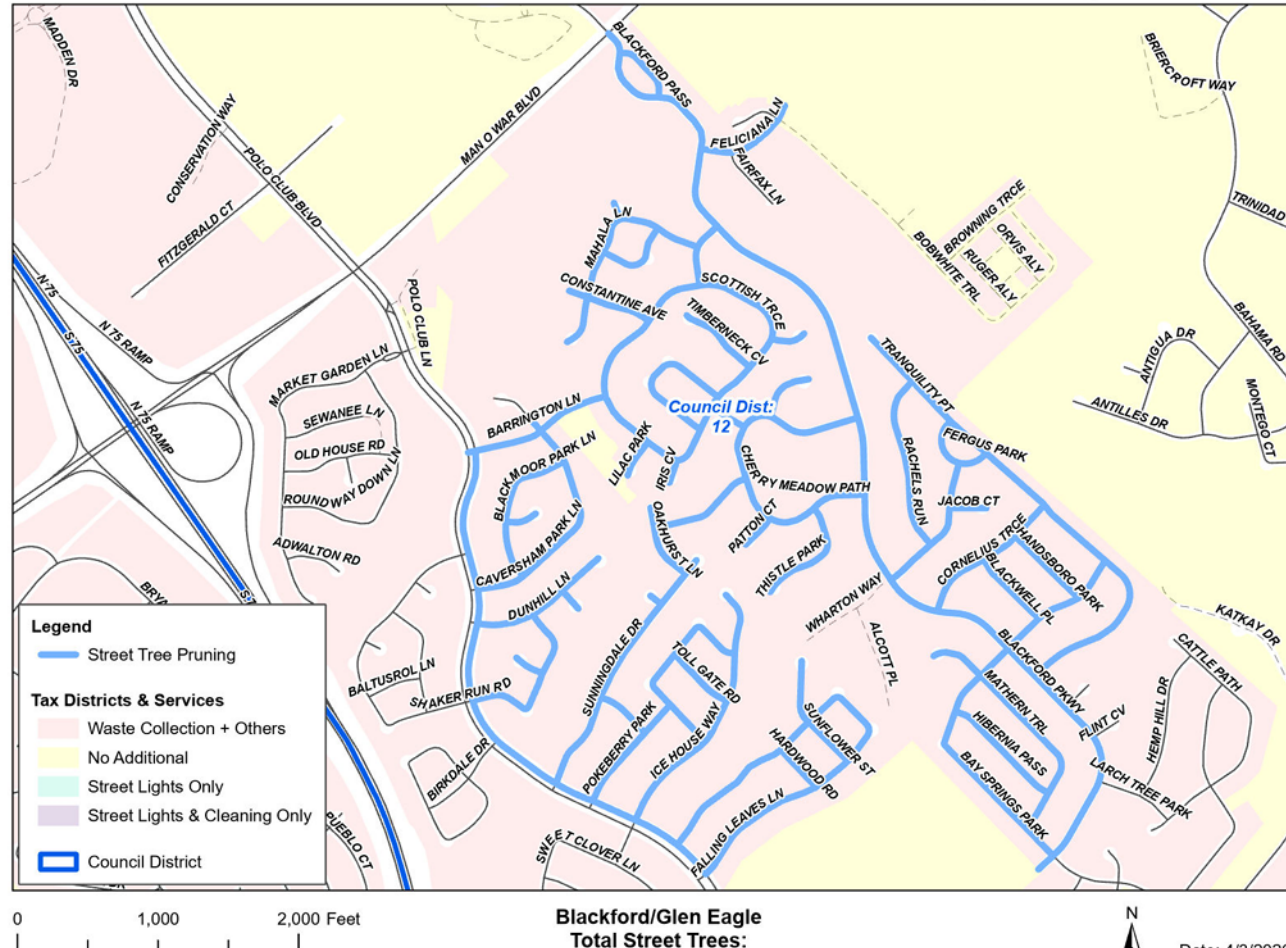


FY2016 – FY2026

- Street trees pruned = 43,951
- Total Funds Spent = \$627,099
- Average cost per tree
 - \$16.18/tree (FY26)
 - \$14.27/tree (FY16-FY26)
 - \$13.99/tree (FY16-FY25)

Street Tree Courtesy Pruning Program

LFUCG Environmental Services - 2026 Street Tree Courtesy Pruning



FY26 Subdivisions:

- Blackford / Glen Eagles
- Bluegrass Wilkes
- Brighton Woods
- Forest Cove / Squires Woods / Fairways at Lake View
- Gardenside Prospect Hill / Sky Crest
- Hartland North
- Lafayette / Chatham Village
- Meadowthorpe
- Shadow Wood
- Summerfield

Street Tree Courtesy Pruning Program

FY16 – FY26 Statistics by Council District

	Council District												
Fiscal Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total by Yr:
FY16							94						94
FY17	1				207	104	151						463
FY18	318	2832		367	96	1133	275	284	245	220	347		6,117
FY19		1138				1468	3061		787	116	418		6,988
FY20							1732	23	1418	2055			5,228
FY21		3935				2418							6,353
FY22	119			2600		592						663	3,974
FY23		134		950			156	387				747	2,374
FY24	82				624			1079	2222	158	24	208	4,397
FY25	180		5	167	333			211	1736		10		2,642
FY26						556	407			313	809	3236	5,321
TOTAL:	700	8,039	5	4,084	1,260	6,271	5,876	1,984	6,408	2,862	1,608	4,854	43,951

Hazard Street Tree (Cost-Share) Program

	Council District												
Fiscal Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total by Yr:
FY15	2	8	4	1	40	22	1	0	21	20	15	39	173
FY16	0	10	4	8	19	50	15	5	4	9	13	20	157
FY17	2	7	5	10	21	40	18	0	34	7	16	24	184
FY18	2	1	4	5	33	45	7	3	20	13	7	23	163
FY19	3	6	16	0	39	29	12	4	9	16	7	36	177
FY20	0	3	14	2	19	26	8	10	15	40	4	24	165
FY21	0	5	1	3	2	5	1	2	2	12	2	11	46
FY22	0	2	5	4	13	2	3	3	4	4	0	2	42
FY23	0	4	8	6	37	23	8	4	73	18	9	15	205
FY24	0	2	8	2	20	10	3	1	16	14	5	20	101
FY25	2	3	5	4	19	3	2	5	12	5	1	11	72
FY26	3	3	11	2	8	5	3	4	13	9	4	5	70
Total by CD:	14	54	85	47	270	260	81	41	223	167	83	230	1555

- 70 homeowners participated
- 91 hazardous street trees were removed and replaced
- 2nd year in a row with participation from all 12 CDs

Hazard Street Tree (Cost-Share) Program

- \$150,000 budgeted
- \$150,740.90 expensed, with Lex Grow Trees funds covering the difference
- 25.2% of the funds were applied to fifteen 100% grant participants who met the low- to moderate-income qualifications (goal is 25%)
- Average costs to LFUCG:
 - \$1,506.28/tree for 50% cost-share participants
 - \$2,360.63/tree for 100% grant participants

	# of Trees Removed / Replaced	LFUCG \$ Expended	LFUCG Costs per Tree Removed / Replaced
FY15	173	\$61,439	\$355
FY16	157	\$73,906	\$471
FY17	184	\$101,407	\$551
FY18	163	\$96,128	\$590
FY19	177	\$129,192	\$730
FY20	165	\$96,873	\$587
FY21	46	\$32,729	\$712
FY22	41	\$45,783	\$1,117
FY23	202	\$195,547	\$968
FY24	151	\$171,779	\$1,138
FY25	97	\$153,039	\$1,578
FY26	91	\$150,741	\$1,656
TOTAL:	1647	\$1,308,564	\$795

Chapter 17B (Street Trees)



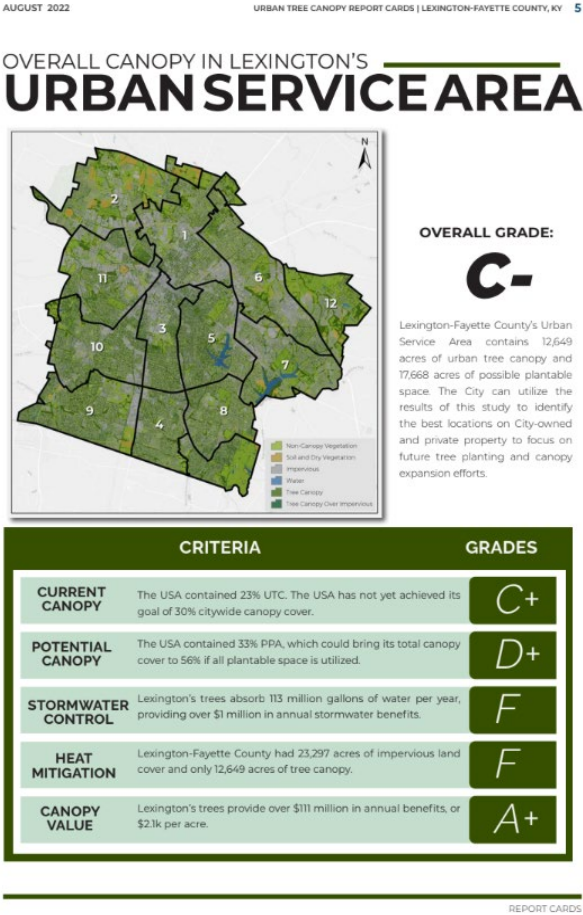
AN ASSESSMENT OF URBAN TREE CANOPY IN LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

“ To be without trees would, in the most literal way, to be without our roots. ”
-Richard Mabey

PREPARED BY
PlanIT Geo, Inc., Arvada, Colorado

PREPARED FOR
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

COMPLETED
August 2022



Chapter 17B (Street Trees) Revisions

- Correct the definition of "tree planting easement"
- Clarify removal and replacement requirements
- Provide the Tree Board with the authority to promote urban forestry through the distribution of funds, grants, or other incentive programs
- Provide the Urban Forester with the authority to rectify tree topping through removals and replacements

Chapter 17B (Street Trees): *Hazard Street Tree (Cost-Share) Program Revisions*



Program Guidelines

- (1.) Offer to assist with planting of trees (to replace a missing tree)
- (3.) Existing “stump” or “missing tree” added as evidence for program eligibility
- “Their” (to replace “his”) – throughout document

Chapter 17B (Street Trees): Hazard Street Tree (Cost-Share) Program Revisions

The Process

- (1.) Removed requirement of pre-inspection arrangement (addressed in (5.)
 - Added in timeframe of application packet posting
 - Additional grammatical changes
- (2.) Removed from Program Process – addressed by edits to (1.)
- (3.) Additional language around the approved vendor list
- (4.) Addition of clear guidelines on timing of process for eligibility
- (5.) Timeline for trigger of tree inspection and notice of “approval to proceed”
- (6.) Reiteration of requirement of notice of “approval to proceed” before commencing work
- (7.) Added language requiring documentation of invoice payments

Chapter 17B (Street Trees): *Hazard Street Tree (Cost-Share) Program Revisions*

Income Eligibility Qualifications for One Hundred Percent Grants

- (1.) & (3.) – for 100% coverage, clarifying that the cost of stump grinding is included



3-Year Plan for Main Street Tree Replacements

- Downtown Tree Count – 74 (total planting spots)
 - Removed (2024) / Missing – 20 trees
 - Currently recommended for replanting (of empty spots) – 18 trees
 - Standing dead/dying (2026) – 18 trees
 - Total to replace = 36 trees
- Recommended Replacement Schedule
 - Winter 2026-27: Planting empty locations (18 trees)
 - Winter 2027-28: Remove & replace 9 of 18 dead/dying
 - Winter 2028-29: Remove & replace remaining 9 of 18 dead/dying



Lexington Urban & Community Forestry Crew

- UCF at Work
 - Greenways – 458 acres
 - Parks – 8,348 acres
 - Water quality lots – 7.44 acres
 - Median trees – ~2130 trees
 - ROW trees (like Man O War Mondays)
 - Nuisance areas – 6 linear miles
 - LFUCG Facilities – 24.79 acres
 - Town Branch Trail, Town Branch Commons, Legacy Trail, Brighton Trail, Walnut Grove, Pawpaw Patch
 - Hisle Nursery – 17.43 acres
 - Reforest the Bluegrass (26 locations) – 200+ acres
 - Street Tree Oversight
- Totals over 9,000 acres of managed areas (not counting street trees, right-of-way trees, and median trees)



Questions?



LEXINGTON