VNCC Maintenance and Planting Report

Winter, 2025

Overview of Removals

Address	Species	DBH	Task
8905 Clifford Avenue	Sugar Maple	32	Remove, grind stump deep for replanting
3504 Hutch Place	Pin oak	28	Remove, grind stump deep for replanting
3601 Inverness Drive	Sugar maple	34	Remove, grind stump deep for replanting
3705 Inverness Drive	Stump	N/A	Grind stump deep for replanting
3712 Kenilworth Driveway	Silver maple	35	Remove, grind stump deep for replanting
3716 Kenilworth Driveway	Red maple	15	Remove, grind stump deep for replanting
9011 Montgomery Ave (Corner of Husted)	Stump	N/A	Grind Stump deep for replanting
3806 Montrose Drive	Ornamental cherry	16	Remove, grind stump deep for replanting
3605 Stewart Driveway	Catalpa	16	Remove, grind stump deep for replanting
3704 Stewart Driveway	Box elder	26	Remove, grind stump deep for replanting

Removals

The following seven trees have been recommended for removal. I have included my reasoning for each:

8905 Clifford Place (Sugar Maple)

This sugar maple has *ganoderma* root rot fungi on the root flares, indicating extensive root rot. This tree is therefore at risk for uprooting in heavy winds. A separate assessment from Davey Tree also recommends removal.

3504 Hutch Place (Pin Oak)

This pin oak has root and basal rot (basal rot was noticed on my second visit to the site.)

3601 Inverness Drive (Sugar Maple)



This sugar maple is listed as a possible champion tree. However, there is significant basal decay, and it is weighted toward the house. While I would have liked to maintain it, I believe it is a safety issue at this point.

3712 Kenilworth Driveway (Silver Maple)



This silver maple has a large column of decay in the trunk, and its canopy is dying back.

3716 Kenilworth Driveway (Red Maple)


This red maple is declining and has decay in its larger scaffold branches.

3806 Montrose Drive (Ornamental Cherry)


This ornamental cherry has significant decay at the base and some splitting. The remaining trunk leans toward the road.

3605 Stewart Driveway (Catalpa)


This catalpa is declining and has significant root rot on the structural roots. It leans toward the roadway.

3704 Stewart Driveway (Box Elder)


This box elder is almost entirely dead and has significant decay.

Pruning

Address	Species	DBH	Task
9006 Clifford Ave (Husted Drive side)	Red maple	36	Prune dead, broken, crossing, or diseased branches
3603 Husted Drive	Sugar Maple	29	Prune dead, broken, crossing, or diseased branches
3801 Kenilworth Driveway	Silver maple	21	Prune dead, broken, crossing, or diseased branches
3813 Kenilworth Driveway	Pin oak	37	Prune dead, broken, crossing, or diseased branches
3700 Stewart Driveway	Tulip poplar	44	Prune dead, broken, crossing, or diseased branches
3710 Stewart Driveway	Pin oak	22	Prune back so branches no longer near roof line
3714 Stewart Driveway	Willow oak	59	Prune dead, broken, crossing, or diseased branches

Invasive Species Management

I noted eight trees in the Village ROW that are considered invasive species to our area of Maryland. There are seven white mulberries (*Morus alba*) and one mimosa tree (*Albizia julibrissin*.) Long term, we could look at removing these and replacing them with native trees as the Village budget allows. There are also areas around that have invasive busy honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii.)*

Invasive white mulberry and invasive bush honeysuckle on Montrose Drive

Tree Planting

Planting in the right of way should take into consideration the soil volume needed to support a tree. Planting what will eventually be a large shade tree in insufficient soil volume will one day cause the sidewalk, curb, driveways, and roadways to heave as the tree's structural roots push on it. Repairing this damage often requires cutting and tearing tree roots, leading to decay and possibly uprooting trees.


Large shade trees in small planting areas lead to infrastructure issues

The narrow strip between the sidewalks and roadway can still be used as planting spaces for smaller, understory trees. Here is a listing of recommended native trees based on locations as well as the current dominant species in the Village inventory:

Understory tree options for strip between sidewalk and road: Eastern redbud, witchhazel, red chokeberry, flowering dogwood, American serviceberry, and yellowwood.

Shade tree options: American elm (DED resistant cultivars), Southern magnolia, Sweetgum (seedless cultivars), American sycamore, and white oak

A relatively high percentage of the inventory is pin oaks, willow oaks, red maples, silver maples, and sugar maples, so I have not recommended them right now. That will change as existing trees are removed over time. Maples in general may not be appropriate in our area without dedicated weekly watering during establishment.

I had previously walked with the Village Manager to discuss some planting areas and sent my recommendations for those. Moving forward, I am updating and tracking areas for potential planting. Depending on the Village's goals and budget for planting in a given year, I can provide the number of spots needed.

Near the church has a number of potential spots that could be a nice choice for a gathering space for an Arbor Day event. There are also several spots on Inverness Drive and two stumps to be ground out that can then be replanted.

Overall, the inventory is not a monoculture of a single species, which is very positive from a plant healthcare and urban forestry standpoint. It is less susceptible to a single pest or disease.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this report. Thank you very much for your business.

Sincerely,
Richard Jones
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist MB-5401
Maryland Licensed Tree Expert #2658
Maryland Qualified Professional for Forest Conservation

Disclosure Statement:

Trees are living systems and are susceptible to multiple health and structural issues. Not all of these issues can be detected by an arborist. Arborist (Richard Jones) cannot guarantee that the trees will remain healthy and safe, even if recommended action is taken. All trees present a certain degree of risk, and the only way to completely eliminate tree risk is to remove the tree.