

# **Cottage City's Private Property Tree Maintenance Program Stage 2 Report**

**Spring/Summer 2025**

**Final Report from Cottage City Green  
Team's Tree Canopy Committee**

# Goal of the Program

**The Pilot Project (2023-24)** was launched with \$25,000 from Cottage City Commissioners from the town's ARPA Funds.

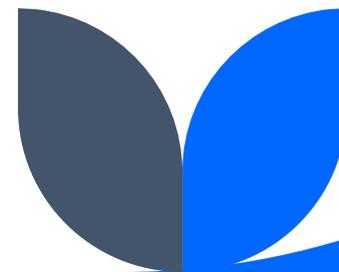
The program/request from the Green Team's Tree Canopy Committee was to help residents preserve our mature tree canopy and remove hazards posed by trees in need of maintenance and invasive plant removal on private property.

Due to the success, the Tree Committee requested additional \$20,000 for servicing more residents from remaining ARPA funds in 2025.

**Stage 2 was launched in Spring of 2025. It was launched through promotions in the town newsletter & social media.**

18 homeowners completed the first step of the application process. (March 2025)

13 homeowners completed the entire process after personal outreach (April 2025)



\* 13 homeowners completed the entire process/paperwork. Onsite visits were made to each property by Denise Hamler (Tree Canopy Co-leader/volunteer) and town's tree contractor American Landscaping Brian Martins.

\* The final work order was for 13 homeowners and included removal of diseased trees, dangerous limbs and invasive vines cut/trimmed. The initial bid was \$3000 over the budget and work order had to be re-evaluated coming in at \$20,000.

\* All the work was completed on August 25, 2025.

\* The contract, oversight & payment was made by Cottage City staff.



## The program was well received by the residents:

“ The American Landscaping crew was professional and efficient and work they performed was excellent, they had to communicate with Pepco on power lines and never let up until all the permitting was approved.” BK, Parkwood

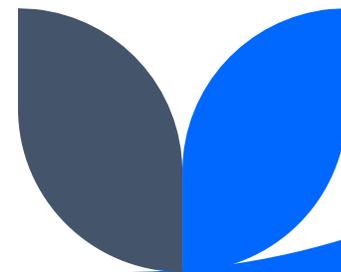
“This program is a wonderful initiative and I strongly believe it should be funded for a third round.” EC, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

“ I appreciate the work removing the invasives on my trees, when I see neighborhoods with trees overrun with vines, I thank you again – please let us continue to find the funds to continue to eradicate these vines.” AR, Cottage Terrace

“ Even I did not know how severely my maple tree was suffocating the magnolia tree until after American Landscaping had done the work, share my photos with the commissioners as proof the Green Team’s program and efforts are reaping sustainable result” CK, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

“ I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your efforts in keeping Cottage City a vibrant and green community. Your leadership and dedication makes a difference. EC, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

# Feedback

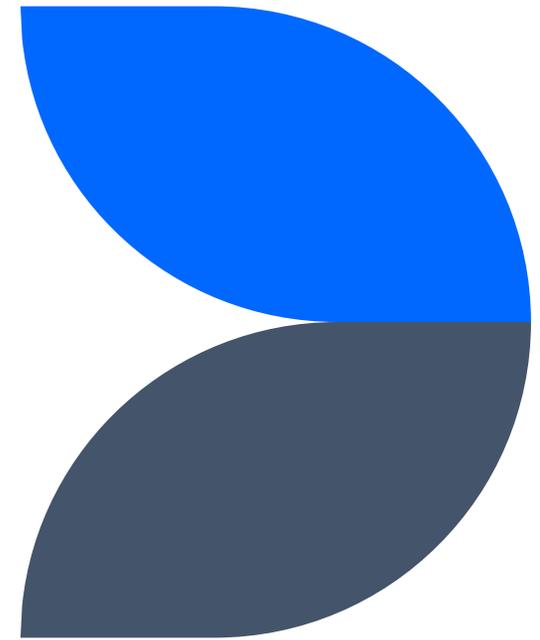


# Lessons Learned & Next Steps

- 1) The 2-step process was cumbersome in Stage 1 and we were able to streamline it to make it easier in Stage 2.
- 2) We need to do more outreach to reach residents.
- 3) The program requires volunteer labor from the Tree Canopy Committee in follow-up with the residents and reviewing the applications; and communicating with American Landscaping and town manager.
- 4) There is a continued need for private property tree assistance since many residents cannot afford the high cost of tree work and our mature trees are in need of maintenance.

# Recommendation

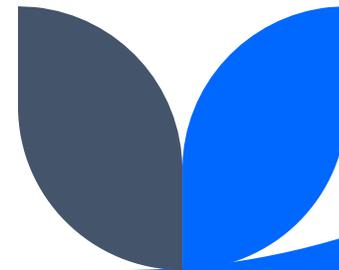
- 1) Consider allocating money in the town's 2026-27 budget for a third round of the program.



# Many thanks to Cottage City and Tree Canopy Committee

Wanda Wheatley, Commissioner, Chair  
Commissioner John Brooks, Co-leader  
GreenTeam/Tree Canopy Committee  
Cottage City Commissioners  
John Hoatson, Town Manager  
Elisabeth Taylor, Office Manager

On Behalf of the Green Team's Tree  
Canopy Committee:  
Team Leader: Denise Hamler  
Barbara Klieforth  
Laura Guischarde  
Will Davidson



# Thank you!

“ The American Landscaping crew were great. Their leader Luis is an artist. They used a system of ropes and pulleys, very carefully bringing down the large diseased tree bit by bit...Plus there were Pepco lines to navigate around. When they left at the end of the day the only clue that they had been there was the tree stump. AND now we have ample sun for our solar panels. A win-win.”

BK and LG on Parkwood

**Questions can be addressed to  
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