



Arlington County Civic Federation

Adopted ACCF Committee Charges and Year-End Reports for FY2023

b. **Environmental Affairs.** It shall be the duty of this committee to study, report, and recommend action to the Federation on all matters pertaining to environmental affairs. The committee shall serve as liaison for the Federation with the Environmental Improvement Commission and other official committees and organizations concerned with these matters.

FY2023 Report **Mary Glass, Chair**

The Environmental Affairs Committee recently received good news. The final written report of the “Urban Tree Canopy Assessment of Arlington County Virginia: An Analysis of Forest Cover and Benefits”, June 2023, has been released and is already having positive results. In addition to providing detailed information on the canopy in all our neighborhoods, it also has recommendations on where we can take action to have the greatest positive impact on our tree canopy and other land cover. Several neighborhood civic associations are already using the data to start tree planting programs. Soon, the study will be shared with other civic associations to promote similar efforts.

The Environmental Affairs Committee, led by Eric Ackerman and Mary Glass conducted two years of Collaboratives to understand and make recommendations on Arlington’s Tree canopy. One result was the 2021 resolution adopted by the general membership supporting the need for the data from such an updated study to prepare the new Forestry and Natural Resources Plan currently. The most recent draft was released 6/1/23 but allowed public comment only until 6/30/23. You can read the plan and submit your comments at Please submit your views by that time at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/FNRP>.

Another offshoot of ACCF’s tree canopy work has been the establishment of a new, independent information hub for exchanging information and the activities of a wide range of individuals and groups engaged in advocacy for preserving and planting trees. The website, the Arlington Consortium for Tree Sustainability (ACTS) is in its initial stages of development. Work will continue through the summer at <https://www.arltreeconsort.net>.

In the coming year, the Committee will encourage the County to review the findings of the 2023 canopy study and incorporate the data into next draft of the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan. This new data is important in deciding policy. The study also supports the 2022 comments of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission's regarding the loss of canopy and the urgency of taking action.

Also during 2023-2024, the Committee will be aggressively recruiting new members from the voting and alternate delegates to continue the work and suggest other environmental issues that the Committee could investigate.

A copy of the report is attached. Thank you for your time.