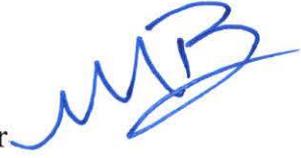


COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2025
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator
SUBJECT: Tree Replacement Plan at the Waterfront



As previously discussed, several trees were removed to accommodate the construction of the new Dockmaster building at the waterfront. In coordination with that effort, the Public Works Department has developed a plan to replace those trees as part of our long-term commitment to maintaining the area's natural beauty and environmental integrity.

The proposed plan schedules the tree planting for fall 2025, which is the optimal season to ensure the successful establishment and survival of the new trees. This schedule also allows time for proper site preparation and selecting appropriate tree species. The attached memorandum includes an example of the expected progression of tree growth over time to help visualize how the landscape will evolve in the years following planting.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Attachment:

- Memorandum from Public Works

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2025

TO: Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator

FROM: K. Scott Ashworth, Assistant Director Public Works

SUBJECT: Waterfront Trees

Due to the construction of the new Dockmaster building at the waterfront, it was necessary to remove several trees along the boardwalk. I am writing to propose replacement of these trees with Southern Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), a species that is well suited to our local environment and offers numerous ecological and aesthetic benefits.

Rationale:

1. **Climate Adaptability:** Southern Live Oaks are highly resilient to the heat and humidity of our area. Their ability to thrive in diverse soil types and withstand droughts makes them a more sustainable choice in our changing climate.
2. **Ecological Benefits:** As native trees, Southern Live Oaks support a wide variety of wildlife, from birds to insects, thereby contributing to our local biodiversity. Their dense canopy provides much needed shade, helping to mitigate urban heat island effects and offering a cool respite during the warmer months.
3. **Aesthetic Appeal:** The Southern Live Oak is known for its striking, sprawling canopy and graceful appearance, making it a valuable addition to the landscape. Over time, these trees create a majestic, timeless visual appeal that can enhance the beauty of the area as seen in the NPS picnic area.
4. **Long Term Growth:** While the initial planting of Southern Live Oaks may involve a higher upfront cost compared to more common species, these trees are long-lived, requiring minimal maintenance once established. Their deep roots and sturdy branches make them resilient to storms and pests, ultimately offering lower cost of care in the long run.

Implementation Plan:

- **Site:** 2-3 trees in the triangle between the stage and new Dockmaster building. Planting would take place in the Fall of 2025 to ensure survivability. Please see attachment for pricing options and pictures.
- **Tree Sourcing:** We will work with local nurseries and tree vendors to acquire high quality Southern Live Oaks, ensuring that they are properly acclimated to the local environment. New trees will be planted with consideration for spacing and future growth.
- **Size:** Installing trees in the space will limit the size of the trees that can be planted. The trees will have to be hand-dug to avoid the geothermal well field, brickwork,

and other utilities. We are proposing a 3.5" caliper tree that will require a 14-foot hole for transplanting.

Conclusion:

I believe Southern Live Oaks will provide long term benefits for our landscape, enhance the local ecosystem, and offer a more sustainable, attractive environment for the community. I would appreciate your approval to move forward with this project and look forward to discussing the next steps with you.

Attached you will see some pictures of what the tree will look like at various stages of growth.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further details.



Initial Planting



After a few years



Mature Tree