

September 21, 2017 [via e-mail]

Dear County Board,

We are writing to thank you for your support of the annual Tree Stewards tree give away to county residents ([environment.arlingtonva.us/register-for-your-free-tree/](http://environment.arlingtonva.us/register-for-your-free-tree/) and [treestewards.org/](http://treestewards.org/)).

As you well know, the county is losing tree cover to development. The Tree Stewards annual give away has allowed our neighborhood to affordably add to our tree stock. We are using the trees for a beautification and restoration project on the Rt. 50 shoulder in our Boulevard Manor neighborhood. It is great the County supports efforts of groups like Tree Stewards to improve not only our residential areas but our public spaces too.

In general, does the County perhaps in conjunction with the State (VDOT?) have a comprehensive plan for restoring and beautifying the Rt 50 corridor?

On a recent visit to Maine, one of our members discovered the Maine DOT is looking into how to improve pollinator habitat along the shoulders of the roadways it maintains. (See: <http://bangordailynews.com/2017/08/07/homestead/study-shows-maines-roadside-habitats-an-important-area-for-pollinators/>)

Rt 50 is a main artery going into our nation's capital. It may never be a grand avenue, but it still could be made more stately and aesthetically appealing. Currently it is a hodge-podge of pleasant landscaping to outright neglect in some areas.

It would be great if there was a joint project (County, VDOT, perhaps a State University, and Civic Associations) to remove invasives, plant native trees and create a series of native species flower/butterfly gardens at appropriate places along the shoulders and medians.

Not only would it be more pleasing to the eye and friendly to the environment, but in the summertime motorists stuck in traffic or the stoplights would benefit from shade or reduced glare.

On behalf of the BMCA Board, our wonderful resident member and naturalist advocate Josh Handler, and lastly myself.....Thanks again for your support.

Chris Tighe  
BMCA President