



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Baltimore City Tree Mitigation Bill, Introduced by Councilman Mark Conway, Signed into Law**

**BALTIMORE, Md.** — Mayor Brandon Scott signed 23-0465 (Tree Removal on City Property - Permits and Procedure), introduced by **Councilman Mark Conway**, which protects city trees and trees on Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) property. For nearly two decades, BCRP has required an inch-for-inch caliper replacement for healthy trees removed from public streets and parkland. This ordinance codifies the Forestry division’s mitigation requirements for tree removal in the rights of way and on parkland as they had been practiced for years. This policy supports two prongs of Baltimore City’s [2019 Sustainability Plan](#) that support preservation of the city's existing tree canopy: “Adopt a tree ordinance to preserve trees and forests on public and private property;” and classify trees and forests as public infrastructure, similar to (and as valued as) sidewalks and street lights.” Both actions are key to reaching the city's overall goal of 40% tree canopy coverage by 2037.

In a statement, **Councilman Conway** said:

“Tree mitigation is a cornerstone climate and environmental issue. Trees are incredibly important pieces of environmental infrastructure, and it’s important to plant more of them, take care of them, and replace them when they are removed for any reason. This legislation is years in the making and I couldn’t have done it without our dedicated partners and advocates in the sustainability and climate resilience space. I’m incredibly proud that this bill was signed into law, and it will pave the way for equitable tree management and mitigation across the city.”

**Reginald Moore, Director of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks**, was quoted saying:

“BCRP is excited about the implementation of Council Bill 23-0465, which addresses tree removal on City property, specifically our street and park trees. This bill codifies our long-standing policy of requiring mitigation for the removal of public trees. It's a crucial step in safeguarding these vital resources and nurturing our urban tree canopy's growth.”

**Katie Lautar, Executive Director for Baltimore Green Space**, the city’s environmental land trust and a critical partner in ensuring the environmental growth and redevelopment of Baltimore, was quoted saying:

"We are excited to have supported the Baltimore City Rec and Parks Forestry Division as they continue to be on the leading edge. They achieved being one of the few cities gaining in tree canopy and now they put into law one of the strongest protections for park trees in Maryland. We can't wait to watch the surrounding counties be inspired to protect their canopies as well."

**Darin Crew, Director of Restoration for Blue Water Baltimore**, a trusted nonprofit and protector of Baltimore’s waterways, said in a quote:

“Formalizing this policy ensures that our street trees and public forests on Parks property will continue to reduce flooding and clean our streams. This is one of the most innovative local government policies in the state to protect tree canopy.”

*Mark Conway represents Baltimore’s Fourth District on the Baltimore City Council and chairs the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee. Before joining the council in 2020, he served as Deputy Director of CitiStat and Executive Director of the Baltimore Tree Trust. He is currently the Executive Vice President at the Chesapeake Conservancy, where he oversees programs and the work of its Conservation Innovation Center. He holds a B.A. and Master of Public Policy (MPP) from the University of Maryland.*

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