DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BELVOIR
9820 FLAGLER ROAD, SUITE 213
FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-5928

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

IMBV-PW

26 June 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR US Army Fort Belvoir Personnel

SUBJECT: Fort Belvoir Policy Memorandum #27, Tree Removal and Protection

1. References.

a. American Association of Nurseryman Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1), as amended.

b. Fort Belvoir Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Appendix L, Section 1.7: Protection of Retained Trees.

2. Purpose. To ensure protection and preservation of specimen trees on Fort Belvoir.

3. Applicability. This policy applies to all military, civilians, and tenant activities on Fort Belvoir.

4. Policy.

a. Fort Belvoir's urban forest and associated natural resources are a major asset to the Installation and its residents. In recognition of the value and benefits that trees provide to the Fort Belvoir Community, all proposed tree removals as well as construction and excavation activities that may impact the growth and survival of trees, require prior review and written approval by the Fort Belvoir Director of Public Works.

b. It is the policy of Fort Belvoir to promote site planning techniques and construction practices that maximize retention and protection of trees before considering removal. Site reviews regarding natural resource impacts shall be made early in the planning and design process. When considering open trenching of utility lines, consideration must be given to boring, pipe-bursting, slip-lining and other techniques that lower impacts to trees. Utility rights-of-way shall be co-located except when prohibited by code. Tree protection measures for retained trees shall be required for all construction. Project leaders, master planners, and designers shall meet with DPW Environmental and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) to review project objectives, design features, natural resource impacts and mitigations, and compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations.

c. Construction projects shall include a DPW approved landscape plan. The construction design and landscape plan shall include mitigation for tree loss and identification of all trees four inches and larger in diameter at breast height that may be impacted by the construction project, to include specimen trees that should be preserved as well as tree replacements and new plantings.

d. Two new trees shall be planted for each live tree four inches in diameter and larger removed through construction, unless the project in question is expressly exempted from this replacement requirement. The rationale behind this 2:1 replacement ratio is that trees planted in urban forest situations only survive for an average of seven years and trees being replaced are generally far larger than trees planted as in-kind, compensatory mitigation. Requirements for size and species will depend upon site characteristics and location. DPW-ENRD will make this assessment. Tree replacements will generally adhere to a prescribed scheme that includes nursery-grown landscape trees for those removed in improved grounds and high visibility areas, and native tree seedlings with a mixture of landscape trees in unimproved grounds. If it is not possible to plant the required number of replacement trees, project-related alternatives such as environmentally-beneficial restoration, enhancement, or preservation measures may be done. DPW approval of out-of-kind, compensatory mitigations is required and funding must be equivalent to that required to plant the remaining trees. DPW-ENRD maintains a list of mitigation options and restoration sites.

e. All trees to be planted shall meet the specifications of American Association of Nurseryman Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1) latest edition. Plantings shall be prepared in accordance with the Fort Belvoir Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Appendix L, Section 1.7 and DPW-ENRD requirements.

f. A Tree Protection Plan shall be prepared in accordance with DPW-ENRD requirements and included with the 35 percent design submittal.

g. Dogwood, Holly, Redbud, and Mountain Laurel are to be left standing on utility rights-of-way unless an exception is specifically approved in writing by DPW-ENRD.

5. PROPONENT. The Directorate of Public Works is the proponent for this policy at 703-806-4142.

MICHELLE D. MITCHELL
Colonel, AG
Commanding