



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715
Phone: 410-962-2809 Fax: 410-962-3660
Contact: Mary Beth Thompson or Bob Nelson
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Trees planted in Spring Valley park

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District planted 22 trees of varied species this month in Friendship Park, a children’s playground in the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

“By planting trees on city-owned property, we are repaying the city for trees we had to take out for our arsenic-affected soil removal project,” said Ed Hughes, project manager.

The Corps is in the process of investigating and cleaning up Spring Valley, the site of an Army experiment station that existed there during World War I. Hughes manages the Corps’ hazardous and toxic waste projects in Spring Valley. One of those projects is the removal of arsenic-affected soil from about 140 properties, including some city-owned land.

“When a tree has to be removed due to elevated arsenic levels, we owe the property owner — in this case, the city — for that tree,” Hughes said. “Everyone hates to see mature trees go, and replacing them tree for tree is impossible.”

To resolve this difficulty, the city and the Corps agreed that the Corps will recompense for the lost trees by planting an equivalent number of diameter-inches of tree on city-owned property. For example, five four-inch-diameter trees would replace one 20-inch-diameter tree. The tree planting in Friendship Park this month is an example of that process.

The photos below are also available electronically at the project web site:

<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>.

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Spring Valley trees 2-2-2



Children play in Friendship Park as Corps of Engineers contractors on the far side of the playground prepare to plant trees. (Photo by Maj. Thomas J. Verell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.)



Workers plant trees in Spring Valley's Friendship Park to replace trees taken out during the removal of arsenic-affected soil from city property. (Photo by Maj. Thomas J. Verell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.)



Newly planted trees will one day bring shade and added beauty to Friendship Park. (Photo by Maj. Thomas J. Verell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.)