

TLC for Trinity Trees

February 2020



An amazing group of volunteers arrived at Trinity on February 29th to tackle a massive mulch pile and English Ivy-laden trees on our church property. Volunteers also fueled the team with coffee, breakfast, and lunch.

The motivated and hardworking crew included about twenty Trinity members, ten Tree Stewards and an Arlington Regional Master Naturalist. The team far exceeded our goals and even finished three hours early, calling off our afternoon work crew!

The **Mulch Masters** moved 10 cubic yards of mulch and not only covered all 48 trees along the front of 16th Street, they moved uphill and mulched another 8 trees. There were pitchforks, buckets and wheelbarrows in motion nonstop once they started.

The **Ivy Army** sought to remove ivy from 30 dominant large trees and if possible, move deeper into the woods and do smaller and less accessible trees. In the end, ivy was clipped and removed from the base of 126 trees!! Several tree stewards who arrived after lunch insisted on also removing invasive porcelain berry, oriental bittersweet vines, and 5 shrub Japanese honeysuckles.

This effort was organized and expertly led by Romana Campos, who, along with Sam Jordan, spent hours preparing: flagging the targeted trees, pruning interfering branches, and testing tools to find the best equipment to get the job done.

What's Next?

In the coming weeks/months, the English ivy will gradually die off. The tree branches will leaf out and oxygen produced by their leaves will no longer face competition from ivy. There will not be a haven of humidity and rot from ivy on the surface of the bark. Our trees will breathe a sigh of relief. The Trinity Earth Care Team is grateful for the time and energy of our awesome volunteers! Thank you, thank you, thank you to ALL who participated in ways big and small!

Please note: the April 3 issue of the *Arlington Connection* features a terrific story about our efforts: <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2020/030420/Arlington.pdf>

TLC FOR TRINITY TREES BY THE NUMBERS

- 20 Trinity Volunteers
- 10 Arlington Tree Stewards
- 8 Regional Master Naturalist
- 2 Master Gardeners
- 56 Dominant Trees mulched (goal was 48)
- 8 Invasive Honeysuckle Shrubs removed
- 10 cubic yards of mulch
- 126 trees with ivy removed (goal was 30)
- 0 cases of poison ivy