

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
City of College Park, MD  
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Contact:  
Ryna Quinones  
Communications Coordinator  
rquinones@collegetparkmd.gov  
(240)487-3508



### **Update on PEPCO Tree Removals in North College Park**

COLLEGE PARK, MD, December 30, 2016 - In April, PEPCO began pruning and then later removing trees in College Park as part of the line clearance work on their electric feeder lines. This work affected all areas of the City; most recently a North College Park feeder that provides power to approximately 700 homes. Many considerations were taken into account before permission was granted for removal of any City trees located in the City's right-of-way; reasons included line clearance, safety risks, tree decay or death, blocking of street lights, electrical power disturbances (particularly those reported by the property owners), and trimming challenges that warranted the removal of the entire tree. On the North College Park feeder, there were instances of tree growth pushing utility poles, trees growing next to transformers, trees exhibiting signs of decay, tree overhang blocking street lights, and a tree that was at risk for falling, potentially causing a complete feeder outage.

After careful examination of over 70 trees along that North College Park electric feeder, the City and PEPCO agreed upon the removal of 61 trees on City property, including ten dead trees. City staff denied the removal of ten trees, and a majority of the trees removed were under six inches in diameter. Trees were also removed on private property, which did not require City approval; PEPCO received signed consent from property owners for all the trees located on private property.

Current tree trimming and removal is expected to be completed by the first week of January. As part of PEPCO's regular rotation schedule, PEPCO is not expected to return to College Park for four years. The City will contract crews to remove and grind the tree stumps after PEPCO has finished. In the spring, PEPCO contractors will be planting more than 70 trees in North College Park in the City's right-of-way that are at least five to six feet tall to replace those that were removed.

Going forward, the City will work more closely with PEPCO to better communicate to our residents when and the type of work being performed in their neighborhoods. The City has requested that PEPCO provide at least two weeks notice prior to work commencing so that the City may provide more detailed information and an improved timeline to our residents through current and expanded communication tools. The City urges residents to subscribe to the City's email listserv at [www.collegetparkmd.gov/cpconnect](http://www.collegetparkmd.gov/cpconnect) or connect with us on Facebook ([facebook.com/collegetparkmd](https://facebook.com/collegetparkmd)) or Twitter ([twitter.com/collegetpark\\_md](https://twitter.com/collegetpark_md)) for the latest City news and information.

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News and media outlets are encouraged to contact Ryna Quinones regarding any inquiries or stories about the City of College Park. For all media inquiries, please contact her via email at [rquinones@collegetparkmd.gov](mailto:rquinones@collegetparkmd.gov) or by phone at (240) 487-3508.