

Meeting Notes: Liberty Reservoir Tornado Restoration Project

Date: 3/19/26, 6:30 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: Ben (City of Baltimore)

Project Overview

- **Location:** Liberty Reservoir (Pouder Rd, Cherry Tree Ln, Little Morgan Run area)
 - **Cause:** EF1 tornado caused significant forest damage
 - **Project Type:** Forest restoration & reforestation (~50 acres)
 - **Led by:** City of Baltimore, Maryland Forest Service, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
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Why This Project Matters

- Area heavily damaged with fallen trees and invasive species
 - Limited natural regeneration is occurring
 - Forest previously consisted of low-resilience pine plantations
 - Liberty Reservoir is a critical drinking water source
 - Goal: Improve water quality, forest health, and wildlife habitat
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Project Goals

- Restore to native mixed hardwood forest (oak-based)
 - Increase: Forest resilience, Biodiversity, Water quality protection
 - Use a nearby healthy forest as a reference model
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How Work Will Be Done

- Work completed in ~10-acre sections
 - Activities include:
 - Removal of damaged trees
 - Site preparation
 - Tree planting
 - Use of cover crops to control invasives
 - Maintenance:
 - Mowing + limited aquatic-safe herbicide
 - Minimum 3 years of follow-up care
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Timeline

- Work has already started
- Clearing/logging:
 - ~9–12 months
- First planting:
 - Expected Fall (upcoming)
- Full project:
 - Multiple years to complete
- Maintenance:
 - At least 3 years post-planting

What to Expect (Community Impacts)

Access & Safety

- Temporary closure of woods roads
- Restricted access due to heavy equipment & debris

Noise

- Chainsaws & machinery
- Typical hours:
 - Weekdays: 7 AM – 2 PM
 - Occasional Saturdays
 - Minimal Sunday activity

Traffic

- Increased truck traffic, especially on Cherry Tree Lane & Poudet Road (later phases)

Visual Changes

- Short-term: area may look worse
- Long-term: healthy native forest





Environmental Management

- Invasive species controlled through:
 - Mowing
 - Targeted herbicide (minimal use)
 - Cover crops
- Acknowledged ongoing challenge due to spread via wildlife & human activity

Community Involvement

- No immediate volunteer work
- Future opportunities:
 - Trail planning
 - Community input
- Residents asked to:
 - Share accurate information
 - Inform neighbors about project activity

Key Clarifications

-  Not related to nearby development
-  No land being sold
-  Fully grant-funded project
-  Focused on restoration & water quality

Contacts

- **Email:** reservoirs@baltimorecity.gov
- **Phone:** 410-795-6151, Liberty Reservoir Office
- **Friends of Liberty Reservoir** can help share updates

Bottom Line

- A long-term restoration effort to rebuild a healthier, more resilient forest
- Designed to protect drinking water, improve habitat, and support future recreation