



## Conservation Montgomery

January 5, 2022

Testimony for the Montgomery County Council (Public Hearing is scheduled January 18, 2022)

**RE: Bill 48-21, General Provision – County Symbols – County Tree – Established**

Dear Councilmembers:

Conservation Montgomery supports designating the Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) as our official County tree. This long-lived native species is a primary component of our Eastern forests and occurs naturally throughout the County. It is adaptable to a wide range of soil types, light conditions and moisture availability. The fall color and winter silhouette are outstanding.

Black Tupelo is an excellent choice for habitat restoration and for planting around homes and buildings. It also performs well as a street tree if given adequate root space and planted away from overhead wires.

While most county residents are familiar with maples, oaks and elms, they are probably less aware of the tupelos. Designating the Black Tupelo as our official County tree will give this tree species the recognition it deserves. \*Below, we list a few locations of magnificent examples of this tree for those of you that wish to see it in full grandeur.

On behalf of the board, we are pleased to begin the New Year supporting a non-controversial Bill. We strongly urge you to do so too. Please designate the Black Tupelo as our official County tree.

Sincerely,

John Parrish  
Conservation Montgomery Advocacy Committee

\*Exceptionally large Black Tupelos occur at many County locations. Here are four locations to easily see this tree in full splendor.

- 1611 Cedar View Court – this is a vacant lot facing Georgia Avenue at 16th Street in the Montgomery Hills section of North Silver Spring. The trunk diameter measures 38 inches.
- 15825 Shady Grove Road – in front of a bio-tech building at Gaither Road in North Rockville. The trunk diameter is 45 inches.
- 3800 Damascus Road (MD 650) – in a pasture at the southwest corner of Howard Chapel Road & MD 650, in Unity. Trunk not measured.
- Opposite 306 Ridge Road – this is a common area of the Piedmont Crossing subdivision next to Washington Grove Conservation Park in Washington Grove. The trunk diameter is 48 inches.

Cc: County Executive Marc Elrich