

Fairfax County Board Of Supervisors

July 19, 2022

RESOLUTION PASSED — To recognize Cathy Ledec for her service in support of Fairfax County environmental initiatives. Requested by Chairman McKay and Supervisor Storck

Remarks prepared by Catherine Ledec, Environmental Advocate:

It is truly an honor to stand before you today.

Thank you so much for recognizing my volunteerism as an environmental advocate. This is important and meaningful for all County-wide volunteers who are working to improve environmental conditions on private and County lands for the benefit of all of us. Thanks to all of you with whom I've worked with over the years.

Our work is not yet done. There are 2 events I would like to bring to your attention that include followup actions are still needed from you.

1. Thank you for your February 5, 2019 decision to remove the conceptual paved bike trails from Huntley Meadows Park property and to remove these from the County's Plans. This decision ensures the continued protection of the Park's globally recognized natural and historic resources for future generations. The Cinder Bed Bikeway is another place where a transportation corridor should not be. Please protect our scarce natural habitats and relocate this bikeway to existing roadways.

2. As Chair of the Fairfax Tree Commission, we delivered the first ever consolidated annual report to you in November 2021. This included more than 20 policy recommendations that should be implemented. To date there's not been a satisfactory response to these. They may not be easy but they need to be done.

I urge you to implement these recommendations.

I look forward to hearing about all the great things that you will do to protect our environment and natural resources.

I'll be watching you from my beach chair on Cape Cod!



Dear Neighbors,

It is with sadness that I announce the **departure of Cathy Ledec** from the County Tree Commission (among many other duties and services to our community) due to her **impending move out of the area**. Cathy is a **Tree Warrior and force of nature** – by being a force FOR nature, with an intensity and focus that is truly remarkable and has **served our natural world extremely well**. She is a strong community activist, with a focus on environmentalism. Her achievements are not just volunteering, but also organizing, motivating others, demonstrating leadership, and serving as a **role model and mentor**.



Cathy has served on the **Fairfax County Tree Commission** since 2016, and as Chair since January 2019, until she recently stepped down. As Chair, Cathy led the creation of the **2019 Fairfax County Tree Action Plan**, which was subsequently approved by the Board of Supervisors, and led to the institution of the **Community of Practice** in 2020. During Cathy's tenure, she led discussions and compiled research for the Commission to comment on a variety of **County Board priorities**, including solar projects and trees, the Joint **County/Schools Environmental Task Force (JET)** recommendations, land use decisions affecting trees, actions affecting trees in the **Community Energy and Climate Action Plan's (CECAP)**, among others. As noted by the current Chair of the Tree Commission, Cindy Speas, "Cathy's work made the Tree Commission more relevant in a changing environmental world through the adoption of the Tree Action Plan and the Community of Practice."

Cathy has served on the **Friends of Huntley Meadows Park** since 2010 and as its elected President since 2012, where her leadership has contributed significantly to the **long-term preservation of natural resources** at Huntley Meadows and throughout Fairfax County. She volunteers with the Resource Management Division (RMD) of the County Park Authority (FCPA) assigned to Huntley Meadows, **educating the public** on the importance of being good environmental stewards and contributing to data collection supporting scientific research. Cathy has led countless cleanups, invasive species removals, bird counts, nature walks and organized volunteers for many other park activities. In 2020, Cathy received the **Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award** for 17 years of volunteer service at Huntley Meadows Park and for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Cathy is truly a **protector of our natural world**, from every bee to every tree. Her knowledge of trees, natural landscaping, climate and environmental issues, living shorelines and so much more is unmatched, as is her **passion and enthusiasm**. She has a strong conviction that we must preserve what we have, improve what we can, lead by example and **love Mother Earth**. Cathy is an inspiration to us all and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors and new community!

Respectfully yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Storck".

Dan Storck
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Cathy was honored as Lady Fairfax 2018



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