Meadows Project Update

13 October 2025

Key Update Documents: See MC Landing Page

Major Documents Related to the Meadows Committee and/or to the Washington Grove Conservation Park (WGCP) and/or the Piedmont Crossing Local Park (PCLP) (Upper and Lower Meadows)

- Updated Meadow Restoration Plan (September 2025) (PDF)
- Meadow Restoration Plan as approved by the Town Council (December 2024) (PDF)

- Committee Guidelines (PDF)

- **Committee Minutes and Other Communications**

  For any agendas and minutes not listed below, see the **Committee's Google Drive file**

  - September 2025 Summary of Committee's Objectives and Timeline (Google Drive)
  - Minutes of the August 2024 *ad hoc* Meadows Committee Meeting (PDF)
  - Minutes of the July 2024 *ad hoc* Meadows Committee Meeting (PDF)
  - August 2024 Update (Presentation from *ad hoc* Meadows Committee to Town Council) (PDF)
  - Minutes of the June 2024 *ad hoc* Meadows Committee Meeting (PDF)

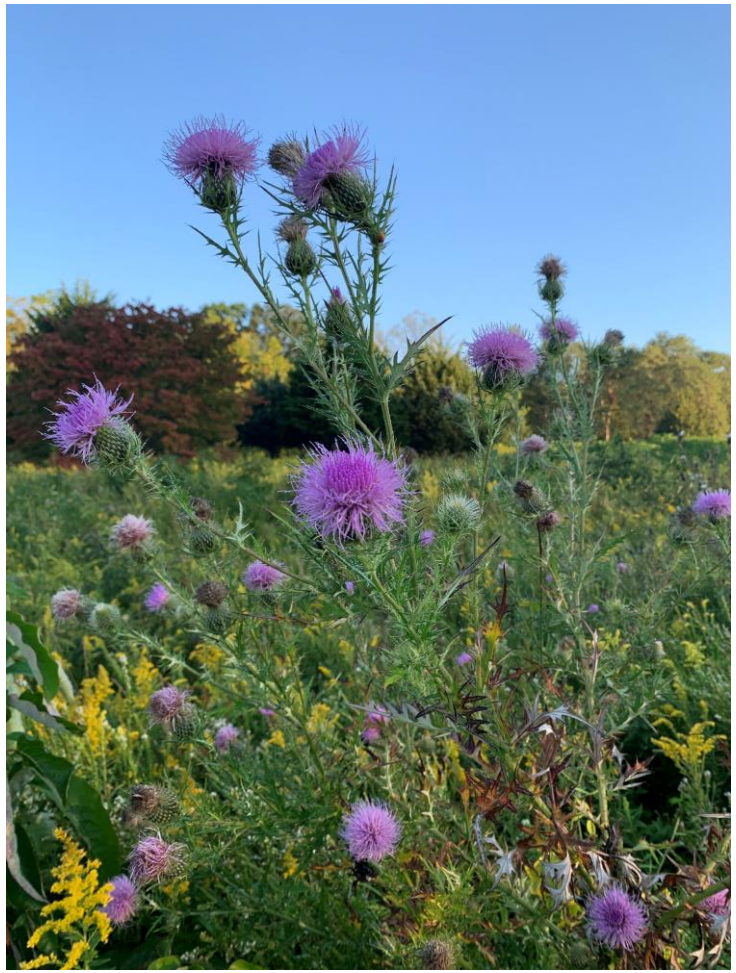
Next Steps: Expected in 2025

- Planting event to thicken the tree line between the two meadows
- MP to refresh park signage
- NNI control by Parks
- Additional Weed Warrior event/activity
- Bluebird nest box construction
- Bird counts
- Plant inventory documentation

Next Steps: First Half of 2026

- **Phase 2 tree reduction**
- Annual mowing (~ Feb)
- Parks to perform spot removal of aggressive woody saplings (after mowing)
- Bluebird trail maintenance (after mowing)
- Third planting event (~ May)
- Hold an educational and celebration event for Grovers and guests
- NNI control by Parks
- Weed Warrior events (2-4 each year) and activity
- Bird counts
- Plant inventory documentation

We Are Seeing Progress!



Native Thistle – Anna Spector

Monarch on Milkweed

Bee Balm – David Stopak

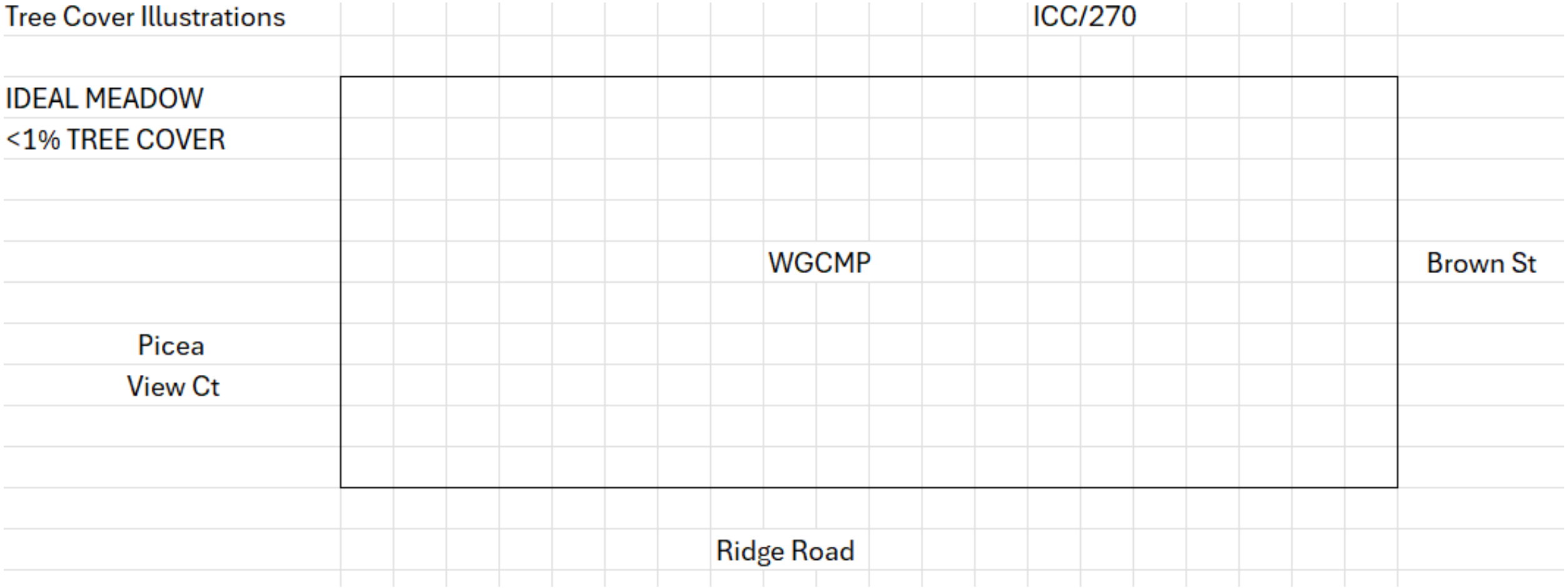
Objections to the Tree Reduction

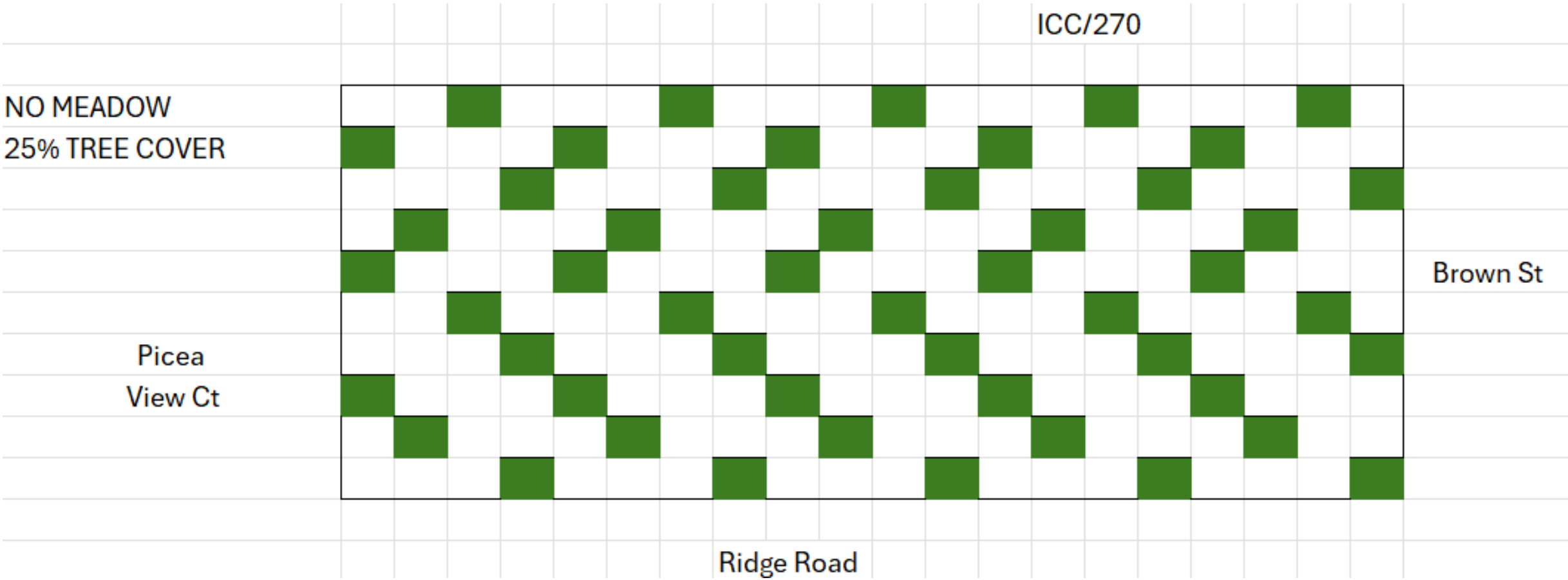
- Removing cedars would harm essential carbon capture.
- We have done enough already. Tree cover is <25% max allowed by Parks.
- Aesthetics: We enjoy walking through the treed areas. In the winter we enjoy the evergreens. The cedars screen the ICC.
- We are moving too fast; more time needed to see if this is working.
- Can we change the plan?
- We are the “Town Within a Forest”! Don’t cut them down. We like it the way it is.

The cedars are needed for carbon capture (CC)

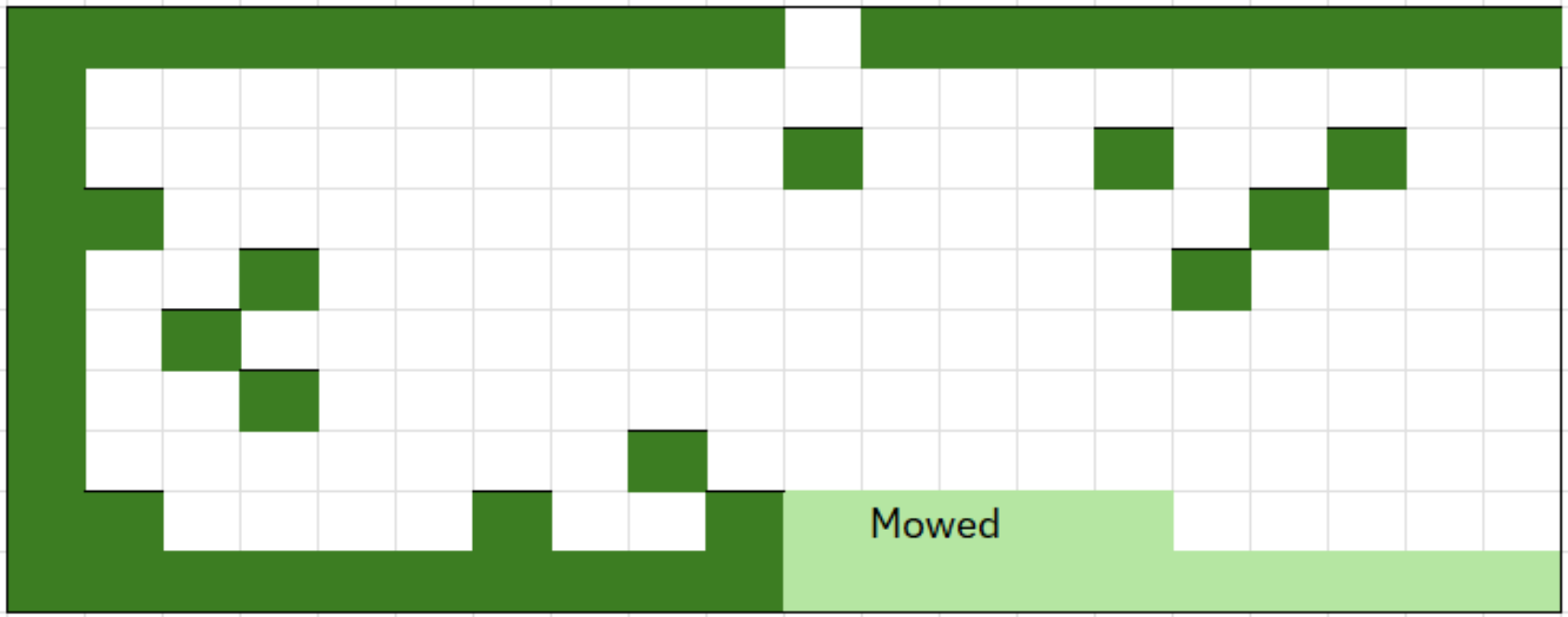
- CC is essential. Both trees and meadows do it. CC by meadows is more secure.
- Big Picture: we would need **24 times more trees in all of TWG** to offset the town's GHG emissions.
- TWG 2021 CO2 emissions: 6,063 tons
  - Sequestered by all the trees in the Grove: 250 tons
- Woods, F&BC, and Parks (Meadows) plant trees

“We have done enough already” (<25% tree cover)



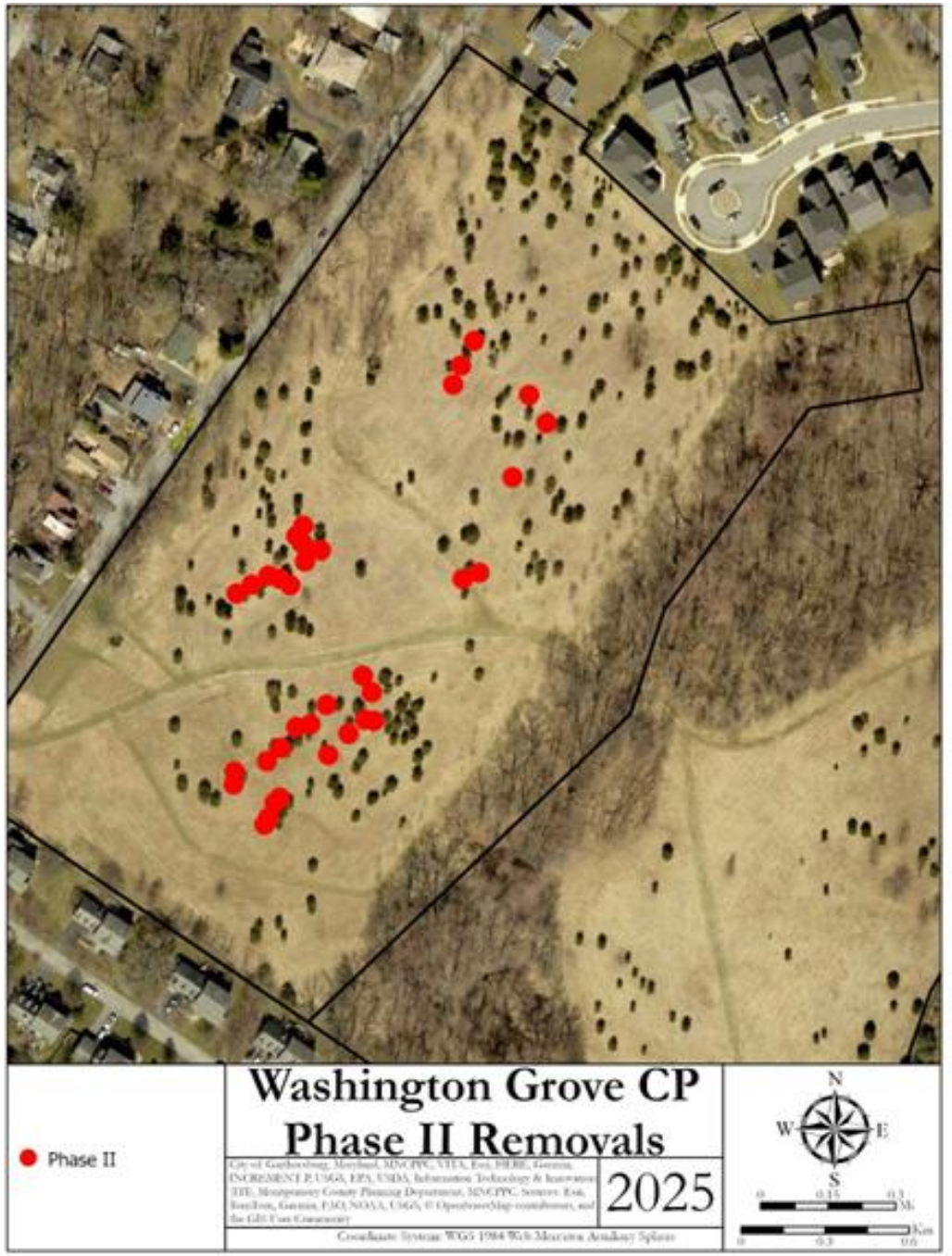

ICC/270
NO MEADOW
25% TREE COVER
Brown St
Picea
View Ct
Ridge Road

ACHIEVABLE MEADOW
25% TREE COVER



Phase 2 Plan (Revised Sept. 2025)

- 35 Trees
- Selected based on:
  - Expand core area
  - Create more natural boundary
  - “focus of removal of diseased or distressed trees and maintain sufficient cover to block the view of I-370/200”



“We enjoy walking through the treed areas. In winter we enjoy the evergreens. Cedars screen the ICC.”

- The majority of the cedars will remain after Phase 2.
- There will still be wooded paths along the periphery on three sides of the park.
- The revised plan still recognizes the need to screen the ICC
  - Includes the planting event – 40+ trees and shrubs.

“Slow Down, You Move Too Fast”

- We have had four seasons to observe the effects of Phase 1
- It’s clear that the cedars were inhibiting growth. We have two clashing ecologies.
- Parks reaffirmed its Dec. 2024 plan
  - Slight reduction in the number of trees to be removed
  - Additional actions to address the current state
- We have a strong working relationship with Parks and good momentum; not going forward is going backward.
- None of this is a TWG expense

“Can we change the plan?”

- Not on our own – Parks has the easement.
- Parks has the experts, we should respect them. Look at Rachel Carson Park as evidence of what they can do.
- Parks has been very willing to work with us and respond to our input. It’s great to have a cooperative relationship.
- There have been multiple adjustments to the plan based on our input: e.g., two phases, tree selection in phase 1, sensitivity to the views of Picea View Ct and the ICC, focus on the wisteria, the upcoming planting. And things are getting done that have been on the wish list for years – bollard replacement, refreshed signage.

“We love our trees”

- Yes, we do – that’s why we have F&B and Woods Committees. That’s why all three committees – Meadows via Parks -- plant trees.
- Tree reduction in the meadow is consistent with our legal agreement with Montgomery Parks.
- We have less than 10 acres of land that was set aside to be meadow.
- Which is a better act of land stewardship, accepting the restoration plan, or not?

“If [meadows] are not managed, they would revert to forest or be overrun by non-native invasive plants, and eventually, native plants and animals would be eradicated from the area”. – *MP Meadow Management & Restoration Program*