



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Norfolk Airport Authority to Undertake Tree Removal and Replacement Project**

**Norfolk, VA – July 23, 2021** The Norfolk Airport Authority (Authority) announces an upcoming tree removal and replacement project at Norfolk International Airport in an effort to protect pedestrians, infrastructure, and property. The Airport exists within a forested campus with numerous native and introduced trees. The Authority, as the operator of the airport, takes great pride in the stewardship of this woodland.

Due to a steady decline in the overall health of certain woodland areas over the past few years, crews have had to remove several diseased trees and limbs to avoid risks to pedestrians, vehicles, and structures. In November 2020, the Authority engaged the services of a certified Arborist to assess the health and risk potential of trees on airport grounds, parking lots and roadways.

Of particular concern in the tree condition assessment were Willow Oaks on the parking lot perimeters and roadway medians which had insufficient soil volume for healthy growth and root development, posing a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles. Also of concern were large Oak Trees and Loblolly Pines on either side of the raised glassed-in pedestrian bridge between the Arrivals and Departures buildings. These trees have been impacted by previous wind events and pose a threat to pedestrian walkways, vehicles on roadways and nearby buildings and infrastructure. In addition, the assessment concluded that trees along access roadways leading to and from the terminals were considered a risk to airport users and vehicles, due to planting location and condition.

#### Tree Condition Assessment Recommendations:

- Removal of trees in poor or declining health.
- Canopy cleaning of salvageable trees.
- Proactive removal of trees posing a risk to pedestrians, infrastructure, or vehicles.

With hurricane season well underway, the tree removal project will begin in August, followed by a replacement project in the fall. This second phase includes planting lower-growing flora and trees such as Muskogee Crape Myrtle which are easily pruned and have an extended blooming season.

For comments and additional information please contact:

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