



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals served on the Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC) in FY2024: Patricia Esswein (Chair), Cindy Weinberg (Vice Chair), Alan Chen (Town Liaison), Mala Persaud, Craig Burns, Lea Giovanniello, Roxanne Paul, Miguel Ordonez, Lasya Vijayanand (Student Member), and Noah Weinberg (Student Member). Roxanne Paul and Miguel Ordonez joined the Commission in November 2024 following former members Christina Caplan and Bill Comerford stepping down in September 2024 and November 2024 respectively. Christina Caplan was replaced by Patricia Esswein as chair of the CSC. Additionally, Calle Biles stepped down as a member in March 2025 after moving away from Vienna and there is currently an open position on the CSC.

MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS

The Conservation and Sustainability Commission met 10 times during the fiscal year 2025. Additionally, the Commission also hosted the Green Expo in April 2025, the Spring Native Plant Sale in May 2025, the Fall Native Plant Sale in September 2024, and the Fall Tree Giveaway in October 2024. Details of items discussed at these regularly scheduled meetings are included as a table starting on the next page of this report.

COMPLETED PROJECT

The Conservation and Sustainability Commission completed the following projects:

- Support the launch of the inaugural Tree Advisory Committee as part of the Town's comprehensive effort to support the tree canopy coverage and delegating responsibilities with the new committee.
- Continuing community outreach to promote sustainability with the CSC events including the Spring and Fall Native Plant Sales, the Green Expo, and Fall Tree Giveaway and various outreach efforts including the Eco-Efficient Homes Initiative and the CSC Green Tips.

CURRENT PROJECT

- Assist the implementation of a permanent composting drop-off location with the Department of Public Works upon successful completion of a pilot composting program at the weekly Vienna Farmers Market.

PENDING PROJECT

- Coordinated effort to reduce or eliminate single-use plastics at Town sponsored events.
- Extend outreach and educational efforts to promote sustainable actions in the Town's business and residential communities

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE VIENNA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

Due to a proposed reorganization, the VPAC is currently not meeting and has no active CSC members.

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WINDOVER HEIGHTS BOARD OF REVIEW

Craig Burns currently serves as a member of the Windover Heights Board of Review.

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Roxanne Paul currently serves as a member and chair of the Tree Advisory Committee.



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REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS

July 25, 2024	Regular Meeting with 8 agenda items and discussion with guests regarding issues with the Town's weed ordinance. An update on the composting initiative at the Vienna Farmers Market was also provided.
August 22	Regular Meeting with 11 agenda items with updates on the composting initiative and TAC updates with a discussion on possibly revising the Town's weed ordinance.
September 14	Fall Native Plant Sale hosted at the Vienna Community Center and organized by Cindy Weinberg where native plant options are available for purchase and featured information booths from Native Vienna and the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance Wildlife Sanctuary Program.
September 26	Regular Meeting with 13 agenda items including a farewell to Christina Caplan, chair of the CSC and discussions on deer population management and the annual Town Council presentation requirements and a brief update on composting.
October 19	Fall Native Tree Giveaway hosted at the Vienna Community Center and organized by Patty Esswein where 100 native tree seedlings were distributed to residents
October 24	Regular Meeting with 13 agenda items with a focus on deer population management and preparation for the Tree Advisory Committee inaugural meeting. Recaps were provided for the Native Tree Giveaway and the completion of the pilot composting program.
November 21	Regular Meeting with 13 agenda items including welcoming new members Miguel Ordonez and Roxanne Paul to the CSC. Cindy Weinberg was formally nominated and voted as co-chair of the CSC.
December 19	Regular Meeting with 9 agenda items focused on brainstorming CSC priorities for 2025 and a discussion on composting updates.
January 23, 2025	Regular Meeting with 7 agenda items focused on the inaugural TAC meeting and a discussion on 2025
February 27	Regular Meeting with 14 agenda items focused on supporting the TAC and discussion on the Dominion work on the W&OD trail. Additional discussion on outreach events and reducing single-use plastics at Town events.
March 27	Regular Meeting with 15 agenda items focused on planning for the Green Expo and Spring Native Plant Sales with discussion on composting, new CSC t-shirts, outreaching efforts and a recap of the TAC meeting.
April 24	Green Expo at the Vienna Community Center, hosted by the CSC with 30 local exhibitors showcasing hands-on demonstrations of green landscaping, composting, recycling, energy efficiency, wildlife conservation, and other sustainable topics.
May 3	Spring Native Plant Sale (as above)
June 26	Regular Meeting with 16 agenda items focused on Town composting updates, WINGS internship, recap of the Spring Native Plant Sale, and discussion on business outreach.