

Tree Advocacy Committee



**Recommendations to
Town Council**

March 9, 2026

Item 1a: Remove street tree veto right for landowners, including residents

- 18 % opt-out rate in past 2 years
- 36 trees not planted in past 2 years
- Estimated 81 trees won't be planted in next 2 years
- Survival of Town-planted trees is greater than 90%



Item 1b: Remove street tree veto right for landowners, including developers

- Developers usually clear-cut front yards
- Street trees can replace some of lost canopy
- Make ROW wide enough for street trees



Item 2: Tree Conservation Award

- Recognizes developers who go above and beyond in preserving or planting new trees
- Awardees will receive a plaque and recognition by Town Council
- Can be extended to homeowners as well



Item 3: Create Heritage Tree Program

- **Heritage Tree Programs already in place in Williamsburg, Fredericksburg and City of Falls Church**
- **Preservation of specimen trees or historically or culturally significant trees**
- **Can provide legal protection of such trees as defined in Virginia State Code:**
[§ 10.1-1127.1. Tree conservation ordinance; civil penalties](#)



Item 4: 250 Trees for Vienna 250

- Arbor Day Foundation program
- Replace usual Fall Tree Giveaway
- 5 gallon buckets of native trees
- Distribution at Community Center during an October Farmers Market
- Town residents only



Item 4: 250 Trees for Vienna250

- Homeowners will be charged a nominal fee for seedling, perhaps \$10
- TAC will apply for Virginia Dept of Forestry grant
- TAC will fundraise for difference in price, if needed



The screenshot shows the Virginia Department of Forestry website. The header includes the department logo, name, and navigation links: About Us, Contact Us, Resource Library, Logger Notification, Newsroom, and Employee Login. Social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn are also present, along with a search bar. The main navigation menu lists: Wildland & Prescribed Fire, Forest Management & Health, Forest Utilization & Sustainability, Land & Water Protection, Urban & Community Forestry, and Education & Recreation.

The 'Urban & Community Forestry' section is expanded, showing a list of links: Learn, Community Assistance, Community Forest Planning, Urban Forestry Recognition Programs (Tree City USA), Arbor Day in Virginia, Plant Urban Riparian Forest Buffers, Stormwater Management, and Community Forest Revitalization Program.

The 'Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant Program' page is displayed. It includes a title, a paragraph describing the program's purpose, and a 'Funding' section with a list of bullet points. An image shows three people planting trees in a field.

Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant Program

The Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant Program is established to encourage the creation of **long-term, sustained canopy cover** to improve water quality across the Commonwealth. This grant is used to fund **tree-planting** efforts that raise public awareness of the benefits of trees and impacts on water quality.

Funding

- The recommended funding range is \$1,000 – \$55,000.
- Some project match is expected and can include in-kind and volunteer hours.
- Grant funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis. Under limited circumstances, DOF can directly pay costs for a project. Please reach out to the program contact for more information.
- Applications must be submitted 30 days prior to the estimated planting date and an award must be issued prior to beginning the project or incurring project expenses.



Item 5: Tree-related Welcome Packet for New Residents

- Helps new residents care for trees stressed by the construction process
- Fosters appreciation for value of trees
- Provides information on Town's Tree Conservation Ordinance & TAC
- Uses readily available materials





Council Guidance: Prioritization, Scope, Next steps

1a: Remove street tree veto right for landowners, including residents.

1b: Remove street tree veto right for landowners, including developers.

2: Tree Conservation Award

3: Create Heritage Tree Program

4: 250 Trees for Vienna 250

5: Tree-related Welcome Packet for New Residents

