

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF VIENNA, VIRGINIA TOWN COUNCIL APPROVING SUPPORT OF PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ALONG THE W&OD TRAIL

WHEREAS, the W&OD Trail is one of the most popular parks in Virginia with nearly 3 million annual users; and

WHEREAS, the 45-mile long, 100-foot wide park is owned and operated by NOVA Parks, with Dominion Energy transmission lines on 33 of the 45 miles; and

WHEREAS, the park is both a trail and a wildlife corridor that runs through the heart of urban and suburban areas of Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Energy has recently clear cut virtually all the trees in a 4-mile section of the park in the Vienna to Dunn Loring area; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Energy has expressed their intention to clear cut almost all the trees on the entire 33 miles of the park with transmission lines from Shirlington in the east to west of Leesburg over the next two years; and

WHEREAS, Dominion has stated that no vegetation, including trees that have a potential to grow over 10 feet, will be allowed on this 33 miles of the W&OD Trail; and

WHEREAS, it appears that Dominion has no established policy for preserving trees and vegetation that would not pose any hazard to its transmission lines along the W&OD Trail;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Vienna requests the following actions of Dominion Energy related to the W&OD Trail:

- Request Dominion Energy end its plan to clear cut most of the trees on the 33 miles of the W&OD Trail that have power transmission lines overhead.
- Request Dominion Energy adopt a formal and written policy of selective pruning of only the trees that pose a direct impact on the transmission lines, much as Dominion has informally used on the W&OD for decades.
- Request Dominion Energy, as part of its formal written policy, adopt a vegetation height limit that allows for a wider variety of native trees and shrubs,

and provide a list of trees and shrubs that are acceptable for planting in Northern Virginia.

- Request that where tree cutting is necessary to assure the reliability of the electrical grid, Dominion Energy replant those areas with a mix of native species designed to support pollinators and manage those and other areas of the park for invasive species for enough years to allow for the establishment of the native species and related habitat.
- Request Dominion Energy submit a site plan for the entirety of the project to include the full scope of work, limits of clearing and grading, tree inventory, etc.
- Request Dominion Energy, as part of its formal, commit to replant to the new planting standards.
- Submit a list of trees it intends to plant in Town of Vienna for review by the Town against the Town's approved tree list

ADOPTED this 24th day of March 2025.

Linda J. Colbert, Mayor

A COPY ATTEST:

Melanie J. Clark, MMC
Town Clerk