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Town Council Adopts Resolution to Protect Environment Along the W&OD Trail

The Vienna Town Council continues to hold the line on its tree-conscious agenda and sustainability forward vision for the Town. At its regular Town Council meeting on Monday, March 24, 2025, the Council voted unanimously in favor of a resolution to support the protection of the natural environment surrounding the W&OD Trail in response to Dominion Energy's recent clear cutting of trees along a four-mile section of the park in the Vienna area.

In the approved resolution, the Council joined calls from neighboring jurisdictions to request an end to Dominion Energy's plan to cut down trees along the 33 miles of the NOVA Parks owned and operated trail and adopt policies for selective pruning of trees and vegetation height limits.

"The community has been vocal about their disappointment with Dominion's decision to clearcut trees along the W&OD Trail over the last several months," said Vienna Mayor Linda Colbert. "The Council and I are asking Dominion to work with the Town on replanting and replacing what they've already cut down here in Vienna as soon as possible. We look forward to their cooperation in helping us continue to protect our environment."

As part of the resolution, the Council also requested that Dominion Energy commit to replanting a mix of native species in clearcut areas along the trail, and to manage the land to ensure the newly planted native species can establish themselves to fully realize a complete habitat restoration. The Council also asked Dominion to submit a list of trees it intends to plant on Town property to ensure they are listed on the Town's approved tree list.

Since July 2024, Dominion Energy has been replacing wires and upgrading the electrical transmission system along the trail between the utility's Clark and Idylwood substations to meet the region's growing energy needs. The utility's plan also included cutting down mature trees along the way to protect the new lines from potential damage in the event severe weather caused trees to fall on the utility lines. The Vienna portion of this project was completed at the end of 2024, and the second phase of the project, east of the Town of Vienna, is set to be completed in summer 2025.



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