



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

## **Resolution in Support of Protecting the Natural Environment Along the W&OD Trail**

**March 18, 2024**

The following is a suggested resolution from NOVA Parks:

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

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;

Whereas, the park is both a trail and a wildlife corridor that runs through the heart of Northern Virginia;

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

Whereas, Dominion Energy has expressed their intention to 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;

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;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Fairfax County requests the following actions of Dominion Energy related to the W&OD Trail.

- Request Dominion Energy end plans to 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 selective pruning of only the trees that pose a direct impact on the transmission lines, much as Dominion has used on the W&OD for decades.

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Supervisor Walter Alcorn

- Request Dominion Energy adopt a vegetation height limit that allows for a wider variety of native trees.
- 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.

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