

RESOLUTION

PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ALONG THE W&OD TRAIL

Adopted by the Arlington County Board on March 18, 2025

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

WHEREAS, the 45 miles-long, 100-foot-wide park is owned and operated by NOVA Parks, and Dominion Energy operates transmission lines along 33 of the park's 45 miles; and

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

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; and

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; 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;

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

- End plans to cut most of the trees on the 33 miles of the W&OD Trail that have power transmission lines overhead;
- 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;
- Adopt a vegetation height limit that allows for a wider variety of native trees; and,
- Where tree cutting is necessary to assure the reliability of the electrical grid, replant these areas with a diverse 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.