

**RESOLUTION: A RESOLUTION ON DOMINION ENERGY TREE-  
CUTTING ALONG RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN W&OD PARK****DRAFT: 25 MARCH 2025**

Resolution by the Environmental Affairs Committee of the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF), Mary Glass, Chair and POC, [environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org](mailto:environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org). To be introduced at the 8 April 2025 General Membership Meeting **for Emergency Consideration**.

**WHEREAS** the ACCF supports the Requested Actions in the Northern Virginia Parks Authority's 12 March 2025 letter to Amanda Keyes, Dominion Capital Projects, attached to this resolution<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS** the ACCF adopted the "RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION"<sup>2</sup> at its 12 November 2024 meeting requesting actions from Arlington County including:

"5. That A[rlington] C[ounty] parks plans and site plans should be required to preserve existing mature canopy as well as increasing ecosystem-enhancing canopy trees and ground level vegetation, planted in soil and maintained for long-term survival of the plantings..."

7. That Arlington County proceeds to develop a comprehensive, climate-facing green infrastructure strategy that includes natural sites as well as necessary use of green infrastructure integration with built infrastructure..."

**WHEREAS** the Arlington County Urban Tree Canopy Assessment September 2024<sup>3</sup> noted the importance of retaining existing tree canopy:

"Over the study periods, public land has shown a 4% increase, private land has increased by 3.7% and right-of-way areas grew by 3.2%. The largest contributor to tree canopy growth is the shift of grass and other vegetation to tree canopy. Notably, parks across Arlington County saw a 6% rise in tree canopy, growing from 59% to 65%, partly driven by the expansion of existing trees, including recent plantings."

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<sup>1</sup> [Northern Virginia Parks Authority's letter](http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2025-04/2025-03%20ACCF%20EnvAff%20Cmte%20Res%20Dom-WOD%20Docs%20NoVA%20Parks%20Letter%20Dominion%2020250312.pdf) to Amanda Keyes, Dominion Capital Projects, 12 Mar 2025, archived 29 Mar 2025 at <http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2025-04/2025-03%20ACCF%20EnvAff%20Cmte%20Res%20Dom-WOD%20Docs%20NoVA%20Parks%20Letter%20Dominion%2020250312.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Arlington county Civic Federation Resolution on Climate Adaptation, adopted 12 Nov 2024 <https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2024-11/2024-11%20ACCF%20PSCComm%20Res%20Climate%20Adapt%20APPROVED%2020241112.pdf>, accessed 27 Mar 2025

<sup>3</sup> Arlington County Urban Tree County Assessment, September 2024, <https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2024/Latest-Tree-Canopy-Study-Shows-Modest-Gains-with-Work-Remaining-Towards-40-Goal>, accessed 27 Mar 2025

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**WHEREAS** the Arlington County Board adopted a resolution “Protecting the Natural Environment along the W&OD Trail” on 18 March 2025<sup>4</sup> with requests to Dominion that included:

- End plans to cut most trees
- Selectively prune only those trees that pose a direct threat to power lines,
- A vegetative height limit allowing for more native species of trees, and
- Where trees are removed, replacement planting of diverse species be conducted and maintained including control of invasive species.

**WHEREAS** the Arlington County Board has expressed consistent opposition to the Dominion transmission lines within the W&OD right-of-way due to the deleterious effects on the recreational use of the corridor and the extensive loss of trees associated with it, and confirmed this in a resolution passed 10 July 2004<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS** the April 2024 Metropolitan Council of Governments’ report “CONSERVING TREES AND FORESTS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON<sup>6</sup>” stated that:

“...trees and forests should be regarded as an indispensable component of public infrastructure. These natural resources provide a wide range of services to COG member jurisdictions.”

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<sup>4</sup> Resolution by the Arlington County Board, “Protecting the Natural Environment along the W&OD Trail”, adopted on 18 Mar 2025, archived 29 Mar 2025 at <http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2025-04/2025-03%20ACCF%20EnvAff%20Cmte%20Res%20Dom-Arl%20Co%20Board%20Resolution%20re%20W%26OD%2020250318.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Resolution by the Arlington County Board, “Resolution in Opposition to Dominion Virginia Power’s Proposed 230KV Transmission Line Corridor in the W&OD Regional Trail”, 10 Jul 2004, pp.2-3, archived 29 Mar 2025 at <http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2025-04/2025-03%20ACCF%20EnvAff%20Cmte%20Res%20Dom-Arl%20Co%20Board%20Minutes%20re%20W%26OD%2020040710.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Report: CONSERVING TREES AND FORESTS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON Metropolitan Council of Governments’, April 2024 <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2024/04/10/conserving-trees-and-forests-in-metropolitan-washington-climate-energy-tree-canopy/> p4

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**Therefore, be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation takes the following positions and recommends and requests actions by Arlington County (AC).**

- 1) That Arlington County engage in discussions with NOVA Parks and Dominion and other key stakeholders, including ACCF, to explore alternatives to the current plans for trimming and removing trees from the W&OD Park in light the AC Board's recent resolution on climate change and the AC General Plan,
- 2) That Arlington County explore less destructive alternatives to control vegetation that is potentially a genuine risk, including new technologies such as [LiDAR](#) and others that can give real-time information using existing GIS and monitoring systems on transmission ROW's.
- 3) That Arlington County review the history of transmission ROW vegetation clearing locally and in other jurisdictions, and how applicable state and federal regulations are interpreted.