



Engaging Our Community in Caring for Our Environment.



EcoAction Arlington Announces Restore NoVA Forests

August 22, 2024

EcoAction Arlington is proud to announce the launch of the **Restore NoVa Forests** initiative. This project will seek new solutions to address a key concern in our region, the steady loss of tree canopy due to increasingly dense urban and suburban development. Trees provide huge yet undervalued economic and social value to the Northern Virginia region. This decline harms residents and businesses that benefit from the ecosystem services that trees provide. And is counterproductive in addressing climate change. While tree canopy restoration is a major priority in the region, with work by some community groups, and Arlington County, progress is limited in part due to a range of views on the scope of the problem, barriers to progress, and appropriate steps to overcome them.

In alignment with the goal the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government set in April 2024—a minimum tree canopy coverage of 50 percent across the metropolitan Washington region—our efforts will seek to increase dialogue with a broader segment of stakeholders for our trees, including government, nonprofit, business leaders, professionals, and civic leaders. Through these stakeholder engagements, we will identify and seek solutions to barriers to protecting mature trees, expanding canopy coverage, reducing urban heat island impacts, and ensuring equitable distribution of trees in Northern Virginia. By listening closely, building trust, and seeking common ground, we will explore opportunities to enhance incentives, investments, programs, and policies that address diverse interests and perspectives. After these initial conversations, we expect this will lead to convening a facilitated dialogue session later in the year, to consolidate the most fruitful ideas as well as areas of common ground.

For more information, please contact Jim Lyon, EcoAction Arlington board member at jameslyon410@gmail.com.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

EcoAction Arlington educates, advocates, and acts to create a sustainable community by improving our natural environment, encouraging environmentally-friendly behaviors, ensuring environmental justice, and addressing the climate crisis.

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