



Town of Luray

45 East Main Street
P.O. Box 629
Luray, Virginia 22835



PUBLIC NOTICE **VDOF Trees for Clean Water Grant Award**

October 26, 2020

The Town of Luray is proud to announce that the Town has been awarded funding through the *Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant* administered by the Virginia Department of Forestry to plant trees along Hawksbill Creek.

The grant program is made available by funding from the United States Forest Service Chesapeake Watershed Forestry Program and Virginia Water Quality Improvement Funds. The program's objectives are to restore and improve water within the Chesapeake Bay, as well as to raise public awareness about the benefits of planting trees.

Luray's project focuses on enhancing the riparian buffer along Hawksbill Creek with the installation of ten locally sourced trees in the spring of 2021. Tree species to be planted include: 'October Glory' red maple, 'Dura Heat' river birch, black gum, and pond cypress. In addition, an interpretive sign will be developed and installed along the town's Hawksbill Greenway for the purpose of increasing public awareness concerning the roles that trees play in water quality and stormwater management.

Enhanced tree canopy along the Hawksbill Creek will also serve to improve water conditions for the creek's stocked trout. Listed as a Heritage Trout Waters stream, Hawksbill Creek provides great fishing opportunities for anglers of all ages. Planting trees to enhance buffer vegetation has far-reaching impacts on all components of the ecosystem along the Hawksbill, which gives the project a holistic approach to environmental management. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by May, 2021.

If you require any questions, please contact Jennifer Jenkins, Superintendent of the Department of Parks & Recreation, at (540) 843-0770.