



# CITY OF HARRISONBURG PUBLIC WORKS

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## Public Works to host student tree planting project at landfill

HARRISONBURG, Va. – An upcoming project will soon help make a big difference in an area of the community in need of increased tree canopy.

Harrisonburg Public Works will partner with state and local agencies, as well as student volunteers, for a tree planting event on Wednesday, May 13, at the Rockingham County Landfill property. Students from Rockingham Academy will join City staff and project partners to assist with planting efforts, providing a hands-on educational opportunity focused on environmental stewardship and urban forestry.

This initiative represents a collaborative effort between Harrisonburg Public Works, Rockingham County and state partners to improve environmental conditions in an area identified as a priority for increased tree canopy. The site currently consists largely of impervious surfaces, which contribute to stormwater runoff and elevated temperatures. The project is supported by a \$3,502.75 grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry, funded through Virginia's Water Quality Improvement Fund. The funding will support the planting of 25 trees along the landfill's industrial entrance corridor.

The newly planted trees will help intercept and filter runoff before it reaches Blacks Run, an impaired local stream, while also delivering long-term benefits such as improved air quality, shade and reduced dust and noise. The project supports the City's broader Urban Forestry Program goals of expanding tree canopy and enhancing resilience in areas with environmental stressors.

"This project highlights the value of partnerships in creating healthier, more sustainable communities," Public Works Greenspace Manager Jeremy Harold said. "We're excited to work alongside students and our regional partners to make a lasting impact."

City staff will prepare the site ahead of the event, and all trees will be planted under the supervision of Urban Forestry professionals to ensure proper installation and long-term success. The trees will be maintained through an established care and watering plan.



*(Above) Public Works Greenspace Manager Jeremy Harold delivers trees during a 2024 planting initiative.*

In addition to its environmental benefits, the event offers participating students a unique opportunity to learn proper tree planting techniques and gain a deeper understanding of the importance of urban forestry initiatives.

Find more information about Harrisonburg's Urban Forestry Program at [www.harrisonburgva.gov/urban-forestry-program](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/urban-forestry-program).

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Written or oral questions and comments may be submitted to Public Works Outreach and Communications Specialist Maya Waid by emailing [maya.waid@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:maya.waid@harrisonburgva.gov) or calling 540-434-5928.

*The **City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 56,879 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).*

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