

For Immediate Release
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George's Inc. Helps Plant Riparian Buffer on Blacks Run

Harrisonburg, VA – It took eight people approximately one-half day to plant trees to improve the long term health of Blacks Run.

City of Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation staff, with the help of Conservation Services, planted 300 trees as part of a riparian buffer planting on Blacks Run. The donation of trees was fully funded by George's Inc. as part of their continued efforts to clean-up the Blacks Run watershed. The tree planting spread across approximately one acre of streamside land near the city's public utilities department. The tree mix included Cottonwood, Willow Oak, Red Maple, River Birch, Sycamore, and Black Walnut.

Riparian buffers provide water quality benefits to waterways and are vital to the health of the Blacks Run watershed. "The vegetation slows down floodwaters, helping to maintain stream banks and protecting downstream property," said Trey Jarrels, the city's Stream Health Coordinator. "The buffers also provide shade to help lower water temperature, as well as provide habitat for local wildlife. Most importantly, riparian buffers are a natural filter that prevents excessive nutrients and sediment from reaching the stream."

The city would like to recognize and thank George's Inc. for funding the project as well as the city's public utilities department for providing the land.

"Both contributions are appreciated as we continue our collaborative efforts to clean up both city waterways and the Chesapeake Bay," said Jarrels.

The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department manages 10 parks, a playground, bike trails, soccer complex, softball and baseball fields, and two pools. The largest park in the City of Harrisonburg is Hillendale Park that encompasses 74 acres. More information about the parks can be found online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/parks-recreation.



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