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City Hosts Urban Tree Canopy Community Meeting

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg invites members of the community to learn more about the city's urban tree canopy and its role in stormwater management.

On Wednesday, July 25 a presentation will be made about the health and extent of Harrisonburg's urban forest canopy, to review strategies for best management of the canopy, and find out how trees play a role in reducing stormwater runoff.

The Green Infrastructure Center (GIC), a primary project partner, will present the findings of the 18-month study of Harrisonburg's tree canopy. This study launched in 2017 with public participation through a meeting and public input session.

"We are at the conclusion of our study and would like to share the results with the community, while also getting their input on such valuable assets," explained Chris McCormick, community natural resource planner with GIC.

After the presentation, members of the community will have the opportunity to view maps of current canopy cover, review potential planting areas, and share urban forestry-related ideas.

City staff will be available to describe current and planned tree planting projects, as well as how tree cover can be utilized to reduce a homeowner's stormwater utility fee. Tree canopy coverage, rain barrels, and disconnected downspouts are all options for property owners to reduce their annual stormwater utility fee.

This event will be held on **Wednesday, July 25 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m**. in classroom 1 of the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center.

Project partners include the city of Harrisonburg, Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Green Infrastructure Center. Funding for this project was provided by the United States Forest Service and matched in-kind through participation by the city.

Additional information and event details can be found at https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/tree-canopy-meeting

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at *www.HarrisonburgVA.gov*.

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