

Note from Bryan Hoffman of Friends of the Rappahannock:

In collaboration with the Town of Irvington and the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, the Rappahannock River Roundtable requested funding from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to support urban tree planting at the Irvington Town Commons.

We are pleased to share that the Rappahannock River Roundtable was recommended for funding of \$612,000 to support eligible best management practices (BMPs) in qualifying geographic regions across the Rappahannock River Watershed. This includes a focus on living shorelines, urban tree canopy, and riparian forests buffers. This grant funding is provided wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement C2-95306901-0 to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Friends of the Rappahannock is the fiscal agent for the Rappahannock River Roundtable and will administer all funds.

This grant is not finalized until we receive a signed approved contract from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Based on the information provided by the approved Town Commons master plan, we anticipate being able to fully fund eligible tree planting component costs.

Anticipated timeline:

- January 2025- Signed DEQ contract and executed award agreement
- January-February 2025- Irvington council approves species list and planting plan.
February 2025- Friends of the Rappahannock Urban and Community Forestry staff source and procure all planting material and associated supplies. Only species and materials approved by the Town Council will be included.
- March 2025- Site preparation, project planning, materials purchasing.
- April 2025- Installation of trees and associated materials. This could be a combination of a landscape contractor and a community volunteer day.
- May - October 2025- watering and maintenance of trees.