



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**OFFICE OF  
THE MAYOR**

MAYOR DEANNA REED

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**Proclamation Recognizing the Urban Forestry and Urban  
Wood Programs as a 2022 Governor's Environmental  
Excellence Award Gold Medal Winner**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize successful and innovative efforts that improve Virginia's environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Harrisonburg's Urban Forestry Program manages and improves the City's urban forests through staff and community tree plantings, maintenance activities, and partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, Harrisonburg's Urban Wood Program reclaims public trees for a higher second life by turning top branches into mulch, bottom branches into firewood, and trunks into lumber; and

**WHEREAS**, Harrisonburg's Urban Forestry and Urban Wood Programs are a 2022 Gold Medal Governor's Environmental Excellence Award winner; and

**WHEREAS**, Harrisonburg Public Works partnered with the Virginia Department of Forestry to develop, promote, provide grants, and expand the Urban Forestry and Urban Wood Programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the urban forest in Harrisonburg is recognized as a valuable asset for the community and it is important that all residents have access to trees as it provides water quality benefits, air quality benefits, carbon sequestration, habitat improvement, traffic calming benefits, and a reduction of the urban heat island effect; and

**WHEREAS**, the Urban Wood Program has diverted over 300 tons of woody debris from the landfill generating over 10,000 board feet of lumber that is used in city projects and by woodcrafters to create products that are sold keeping the resources and revenues local and offsetting the need to purchase virgin materials; and

**WHEREAS**, Jeremy Harold, greenspace manager with the Harrisonburg Public Works department and Mike Hott, landscape manager with the Harrisonburg Public Works department were integral to the success of the Urban Forestry and Urban Wood programs through dedication to promote the program and develop innovative partnerships with community members, businesses, and other City departments and programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, that I, Deanna Reed, as Mayor of the City of Harrisonburg, hereby recognize the accomplishments of the Harrisonburg Public Works Department, the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department, and, in particular, Jeremy Harold and Mike Hott, in receiving a Gold Medal Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for the Urban Forestry and Urban Wood Programs. On behalf of the City Council, we commend you for your hard work and dedication.

GIVEN under my hand this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2022.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna R. Reed, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Ulmer, City Clerk