

**CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION AGENDA**  
**May 5, 2026**  
**5:00 – 7:00 pm**

**In-Person Meeting – Parks and Recreation Office**

**Commissioners in attendance:**

1. Shanti Levy, returning Vice Chair
2. Hannah Brown
3. Jordan Hackworth
4. Beth Mizell
5. Worthy Martin
6. Jonathan Rice
7. Cole Thornton
8. Woody Parrish
9. Shea Wales
10. Betsy Roettger
11. Helen Snyder

**Current Commissioners not in attendance:**

None

**City:**

Steve Gaines - Urban Forester, Charlottesville Parks and Rec  
Oak Bradshaw - Inspector, NDS

**Call to Order (S. Levy) 5:00**

**Approval of March Minutes (S. Levy) 5:00-5:05**

- March minutes approved

**Introductions 5:05-5:20 (S. Levy, H. Brown)**

**Chair Elections 5:20-5:30 (S.Gaines)**

- Nominated slate for Chair and Vice Chair approved. FY2026 positions as follows:
  - Shanti Levy - Chair
  - Hannah Brown - Vice Chair
  - Secretary - Cole Thornton

**Staff Report and Discussion (S. Gaines) 5:30-6:00**

**1. Urban Forest Management Plan – Update**

- a. Introduction of management plan and scope for new commissioners
- b. SOWT session May 8th. Tree Commissioners invited to attend 11am session
- c. Cville Connect platform has been launched. Includes Urban Forest Management Plan highlights now (more details coming later). All encouraged to take and share survey.

- d. NDS has shared survey with community leaders; city has put up fliers
- 2. State of the Forest Presentation - Share presentation reception and outcomes**
    - a. Tree Commission has permission to pursue meetings with the Planning Commission and Stormwater Task Force to discuss suggestions from presentation
    - b. Tree Preservation Packet discussed in presentation is an on-going effort; background provided to new commissioners.
    - c. Typically, the State of the Forest presentation occurs in January. Anticipating preparation to start in October 2026
  - 3. Recent Events – Both Earth Day and Arbor Day were successful.**
    - a. Eco-Fair at Botanical Garden to be yearly event
  - 4. Invasive Vegetation Control/Containment**
    - a. Rx Fire (consultant) to begin treating management tracts by the end of month. Management will include targeted, follow-up treatments
      - i. ~50 acres across the city have received management
      - ii. Each parcel has an associated management plan
    - b. Invasive management has targeted vines as a primary threat to tree canopy.
    - c. Invasive management methods tried: Goat browse, prescribed fire, manual labor, and herbicide treatment have been applied.
      - i. With the scale of the problem, manual labor is challenging.
      - ii. Goat browse - goats ate down invasives, but they came back. No control.
      - iii. Herbicide is quickest and easiest. Similar invasive management approach to VA Department of Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, and other government agencies
    - d. City to use daubers to treat cut stems more this year. Will minimize herbicide spraying.
    - e. CHIPP - launching in Fry's Spring. Starting survey and work days.
      - i. No website yet
      - ii. Contact [cvillechipp@gmail.com](mailto:cvillechipp@gmail.com) to join mailing list, learn about work days
    - f. State of the Forest report recommended exploring a penalty for property owners who let invasive vines grow unchecked.
      - i. For overgrown lawns, anyone can take pictures and load it to my Cville app. Warnings are harsh.
      - ii. Preference to pursue voluntary assistance programs over penalty based programs for invasive vine management

#### **New/Old Business 6:00-6:55**

- 1. Administrative Updates (S. Levy, S.Gaines)**
  - a. The Tree Commission Teams folder has been altered. Commission members are now listed as guests, with Parks and Rec staff as administrators
- 2. State of the Forest - Next Steps Discussion (All)**
  - a. Vulnerable Parcels Mapping
    - i. Next Steps - Aligning efforts with NDS, regulate environmental

- regulations across the city
- ii. Mapping was initial, could use further development
- iii. Environmental Regulations upgrades are ongoing this year. They were not updated in 2023.
- b. Canopy Collective
  - i. Goal - Provide social space and planting. Design spaces that offer experiences, shade, and greater biodiversity
  - ii. Next steps - explore demonstration parcels on city-owned sites. Meet with city staff to discuss

**3. FY2026 Initiatives (S. Levy, S. Gaines, H.Brown)**

- a. Alternating commission meetings will be work sessions
- b. New 2026 projects may include:
  - i. Tree Talks in Fifeville
  - ii. Neighborhood based canopy reports (character, percentage)
- c. First-ever **Cville Tree Week**, taking place **November 1–7, 2026**

**6:45 Adjourn**