Herndon Centennial Golf Course Hole #9 Protective Netting Request: Data Review and Mitigation Options

Town Council Work Session

September 8, 2026

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Agenda

- Background on resident concerns related to golf balls entering adjacent properties
- Data and site evaluation findings
- Near-term and long-term mitigation strategies
- Council direction on next steps

Background: How We Got Here

2024	May 2025	June 2025	April 2026	June 2026
Residents at 1117 Burwick Drive contact Town citing property damage (broken windows, vehicle and siding damage)	Residents attend Town Hall meeting, request netting along Hole #9	Tee box renovation and irrigation project completed	Dominion began invasive removal and replantings in W&OD easement	On-site community meeting held June 24 with Estates at Eagle Lie residents; staff shares findings to date and receives feedback
Resident petition submitted requesting protective netting along Hole #9	Town advises realignment project nearing completion	Hole #9 realigned to reduce directional conflict with adjacent properties	Formal complaint received from resident at 1119 Burwick Drive regarding impacts from Golf Course activity	Staff performs analysis, including resident input, to prepare a data review memo to the Town Manager
Town responds: tee box realignment project underway, aiming to reduce number of golf balls exiting course through active play			Staff meets with resident April 17; resident requests netting installation	
			Cross-departmental review initiated	

Data Review: What the Data Says

48,000
Rounds played per year at Herndon Centennial Golf Course

3
Average golf-related claims per year across entire course

$1,000
Average cost per claim through the Good Neighbor Program

1*
Claims filed for the Burwick Drive / Hole #9 area (2019–2026)

*One claim received July 1, 2026 — currently being processed. No personal injury incidents recorded in this area.

Where Claims Occur

Most damage reports are concentrated at the Community Center parking lot and Crestview Drive near the 7-Eleven.

Vegetation Buffer Impacts

Dominion removed invasive vegetation along the W&OD Trail in early 2026; reducing natural buffer. Replanting and invasive removal work continuing into Fall 2026. Gap in buffer on Course property near 150-yard marker on Hole #9.

Tee Box Realignment

Tee Box Realignment and Irrigation project completed June 2025. Some residents confirmed fewer golf balls entering their property since realignment completed — though impacts persist.

Shot Geometry Analysis

Reaching the nearest affected property requires a 40+ degree deviation off-line — well outside typical recreational golfer dispersion. Data does not support active tee shots as the primary source.

Other Contributing Factors

Wildlife documented relocating balls from the course. Maintenance operations on trail and adjacent properties also displace balls. Range balls found on neighboring properties further support these explanations.

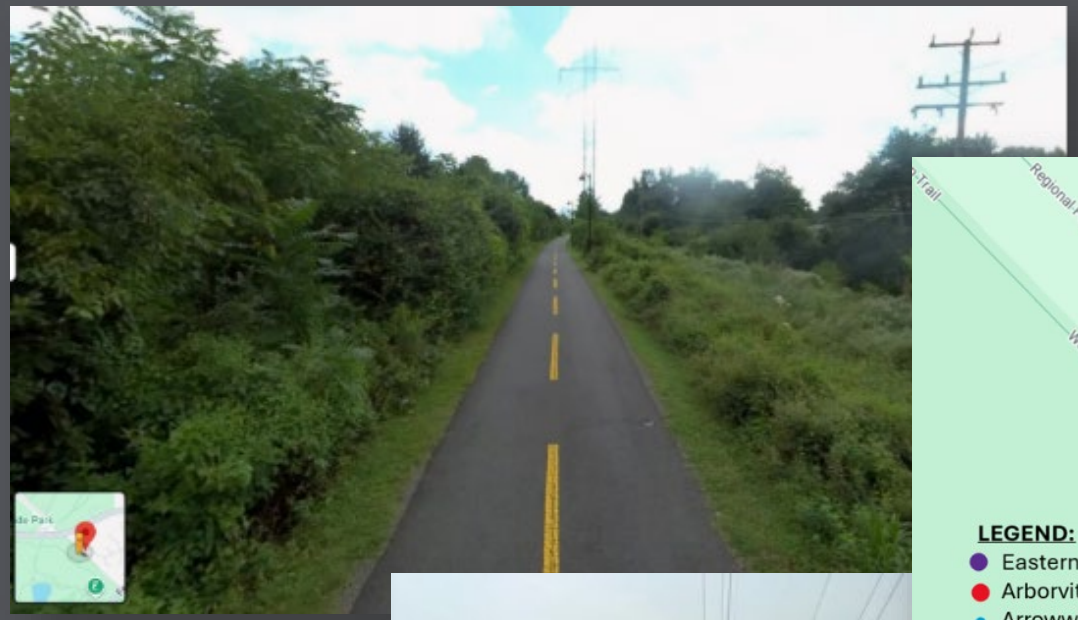
Trail Safety

No personal injury incidents have been recorded in this area. The shot geometry analysis further supports a low probability of injury to W&OD Trail users from active play.

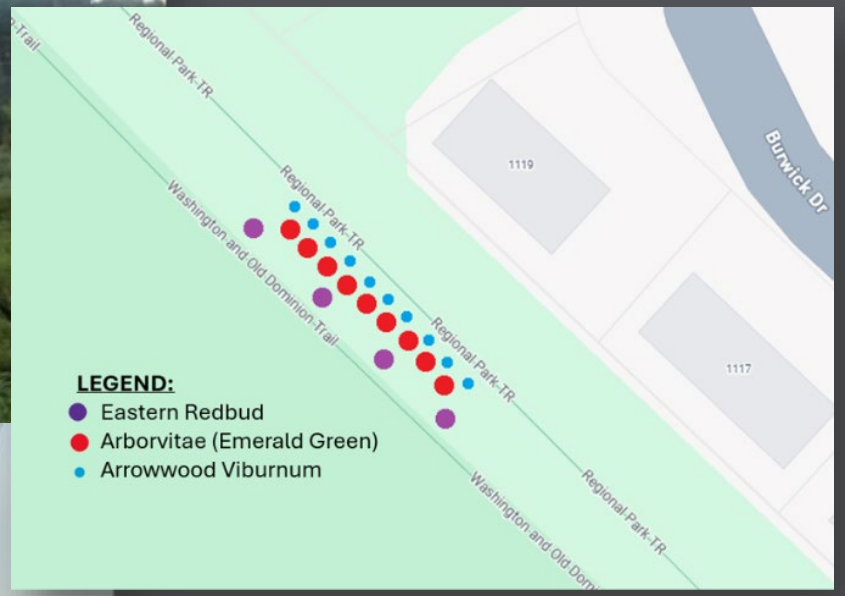




Claim Locations



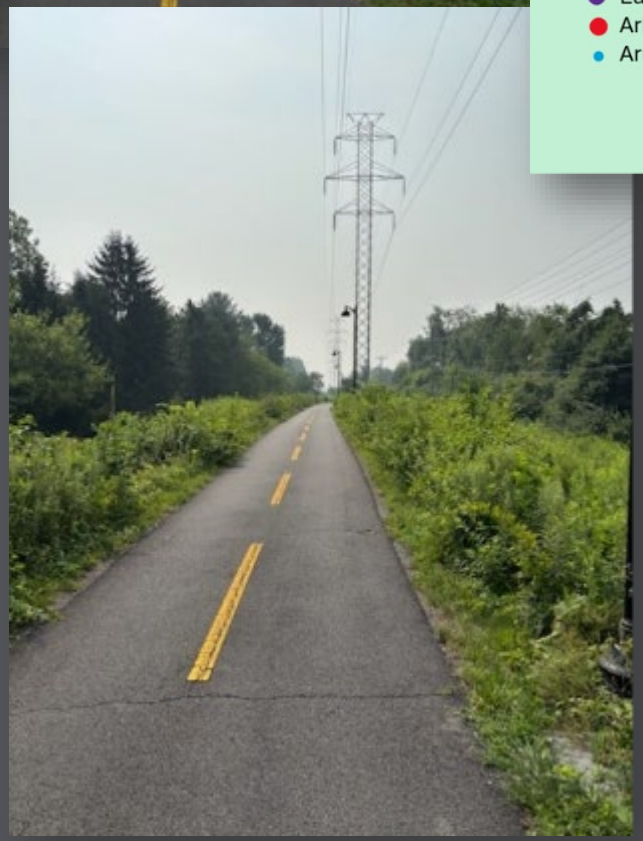
Vegetation along W&OD Trail, rear of 1119 Burwick Drive facing Ferndale Dr, 2022



Dominion Planting Plan – 1119 Burwick Drive



Gap in vegetation and tree buffer on golf course near 150-yard marker



Vegetation along W&OD Trail, after vegetation removal, July 2026



Mitigation: Vegetation and Signage

1. Dominion Replanting Along W&OD Trail

IN PROGRESS – DOMINION ACTION

Dominion is replanting the W&OD corridor behind 1119 Burwick Drive. Dominion will also spray for invasives on both sides of the trail prior to replanting. This will restore some of the natural buffer removed in April 2026.

Cost: No cost to Town | Timing: Fall 2026

2. Town Vegetation Enhancement Along W&OD Slope

TOWN ACTION – BUDGET NEEDED

Town may supplement Dominion plantings with additional screening along the trail slope to extend coverage beyond 1119 Burwick Drive. Design replicates Dominion screening. Approximately $10,000 per property.

Cost: $27,000–$30,000+ | Timing: Fall 2026 or Spring 2027

3. Closure of Vegetation Gap – 150-Yard Marker

TOWN ACTION – COORDINATION W/ DOMINION

A gap in the golf course tree buffer near the 150-yard marker on Hole #9 serves as a Dominion utility access point. Closing this gap with targeted plantings on golf course property would reduce a specific point of exposure.

Cost: Included in tree line estimate | Timing: Fall 2026 or Spring 2027

4. Golf Course Tree Line Enhancement

TOWN ACTION – BUDGET NEEDED

Add 10–20 canopy and evergreen trees to gaps and thinning areas along the golf course buffer adjacent to Hole #9. Will not have an immediate impact but supports long-term buffer health.

Cost: $6,000–$15,000 | Timing: Fall 2026 or Spring 2027

5. Course Signage

TOWN ACTION – OPERATIONAL

Install course signage advising golfers of their responsibility for damage to adjacent property and encouraging mindful play near course boundaries.

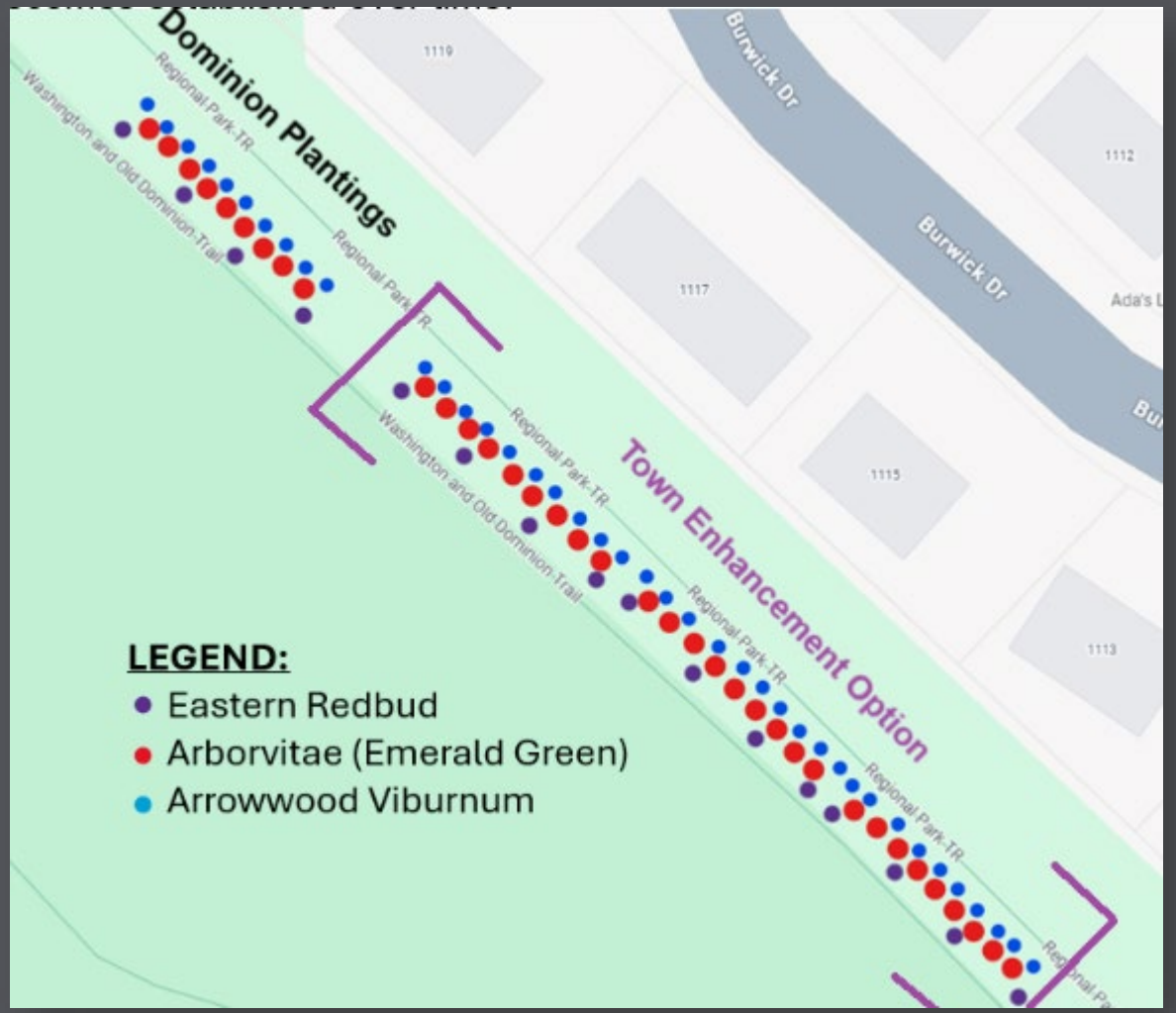
Cost: Minimal – operational | Timing: Immediate



Errant Ball Signage
Holes 1, 9, 10, 13, 16

Proposed signage language:

ATTENTION GOLFERS - Please use caution and direct golf balls away from the "DIRECTION". There are homes close by on the other side of the fairway. Individual is responsible for any damage to nearby property due to errant golf shots.



Mitigation: Netting Solution

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The existing tree canopy in this area is approximately 75 feet tall. A 60-foot net would be shorter than portions of the existing canopy.
- A 60-foot net would primarily intercept balls exiting through the vegetation buffer — not over the tree canopy.
- Increasing height above 60 feet requires full structural engineering (larger poles, deeper foundations, specialized drilling) — significantly increasing cost.
- No netting configuration eliminates all errant balls. Shot geometry suggests active tee shots are not the primary source.
- All cost estimates are rough order of magnitude; actual costs are expected to be higher.

NETTING ROM COST ESTIMATES

Span	Height	ROM Estimate	Coverage/Notes
350 - 450 LF	60 feet	$114,000 - $146,700	Minimum span for highest-probability corridor
700 LF	60 feet	$244,500	Full span – start point to green; most comprehensive coverage
450 LF	80 feet ★	$1,248,874	Full structural engineering required above 60 feet

★ Heights above 60 feet require full structural engineering — larger two-pole configurations, deeper foundations, and site-specific engineering — significantly increasing cost per linear foot.

BUDGET & TIMING NOTE

Netting is not included in the FY 2027 Adopted Budget. Implementation would require a budget amendment (FY 2027) or could be included in future CIP. Funding source: Golf Course Enterprise Fund.



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Council Consideration: Mitigation Options

OPTION 1 — Vegetation + Signage + Master Plan

- **Vegetation Enhancement:** Add canopy and evergreen trees to golf course tree line where gaps exist; supplement Dominion W&OD plantings within easement
- **Signage:** Install golfer responsibility signage
- **Master Plan:** Include comprehensive evaluation of course impacts — including netting solutions — as part of the Golf Course Master Plan process launching in FY 2027
- **Resident Follow-Up:** Re-engage community after plantings are established to assess whether impacts have meaningfully reduced

Cost: $33,000–$45,000 (Vegetation)
Signage: Minimal – Operational
Master Plan: Funded in FY 2027 Budget
Timing: Vegetation - Fall 2026 / Spring 2027
Signage, Immediate - No budget amendment required for vegetation if within operational threshold

OPTION 2 — Option 1 + Minimum Netting System

- **Option 1 Vegetation + Signage**
- **Add Minimum Netting:** 450 LF at 60 feet in height — minimum span to address the highest-probability corridor for balls leaving the course
- **Important Note:** At 60 feet, netting is shorter than portions of the existing 75-foot tree canopy and would primarily reduce balls exiting through the vegetation buffer, not over the canopy
- **Continued Monitoring:** Track claims and resident-reported impacts through the Good Neighbor Program after installation

Cost: $179,700–$191,700 (Vegetation, $33,000 - $45,000 + Minimum Netting, $146,700)
Signage: Minimal – Operational
Timing: FY 2027 Budget Amendment or future CIP Request - Requires Town Council Action

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