



City of Bowie

Memorandum

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM, City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Treebates Program Closes

From February 15 to April 30, 2025, the Department of Planning and Sustainability temporarily revived the Treebates program, a rebate program for residents planting a qualifying native tree. Residents had to submit a receipt and a picture of the planted tree to receive a rebate of between \$75 and \$250, depending on species & planting method. We were pleased to provide rebates for 25 residential trees, including three common pawpaw trees (the only fruit tree truly native to Maryland), 16 ornamental trees (holly, serviceberry, redbud, etc) and six large, canopy trees.

This fall, we hope to bring back Plant One Tree on Us (POTOU), our turnkey residential tree planting program, using a contractor. Anyone wanting information on POTOU or the importance of Bowie's tree canopy should contact Tiffany Wright (301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org).

2. Planning Director Variances (PDVAR) Recap

Prince George's County retains zoning authority within the City of Bowie. However, the City is delegated authority to review certain variance requests in accordance with provisions outlined in the County Zoning Ordinance and City Code. Typically, when a County permit application involves deviations related to fence setbacks, lot coverage, or specific driveway placement concerns, the applicant is referred to the City for variance review. The City's authority for these cases is defined under Sections 27-4202 and 27-11002 of the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance.

Variance requests that are simple and routine in nature, fall within the scope of staff-level approval and are classified as Planning Director Variance Administrative Request (PDVAR) which is further spelled out in R-86-19. Requests requiring further deliberation are presented to the Bowie Advisory Planning Board (BAPB) and are processed as Bowie Variances (BV).

So far in Calendar Year 2025, the Planning Department has reviewed and approved four PDVAR, with one additional case currently under active review through the BV process. A summary of PDVAR approvals is provided below. For further information on PDVARs please contact Mrs. Diaz and for information regarding the current BV-1-2025 please contact Mr. Hall.

PDVAR-1-2025, variance granted regarding 27-11002 driveway expansion

PDVAR-2-2025, variance granted regarding 27-4202 lot coverage and 27-11002

driveway expansion

PDVAR-3-2025, variance granted regarding 27-4202 lot coverage

PDVAR-4-2025, variance granted regarding 27-11002 driveway placement