



Alpharetta Natural Resources  
Commission Work Session  
MARCH 17, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL  
2 PARK PLAZA

*This action summary is provided as a convenience and service to the public, media, and staff. It is not the intent to record proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. This is not an official record of the Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission Meeting proceedings.*

*Urnette,*

1. CALL TO ORDER
  - a. Natural Resource Commission Work Session began at 6:38pm in the Executive Conference Room #121 on March 17, 2026.
2. ROLL CALL
  - a. Present were:
    - i. Commissioners: Beth Ott, Herb Velazquez, Mike Buchanan, Kate Tunison, Lindsey Ann Burnett, Vijay Desai, Jaqueline Jenna
    - ii. Staff: Terry Porter
3. WORK SESSION ANNOUCEMENTS
  - a. At the adjournment of this work session, the Natural Resources Commission will convene and conduct its monthly public meeting.
4. WORK SESSION ITEMS
  - a. Staff Reports
    - i. Arborist Report
      1. Herb Velazquez and David Shostak are working on tree canopy study. Geographical Informational System has more recent data to show the city's current tree canopy.
    - ii. Environmental Programs Update by Terry Porter
      1. Household hazardous waste event is currently out for pricing. potential dates are early in May.
  - b. Programming Updates
    - i. Tree City USA
      1. Arbor Day at Innovation Academy Recap. The tree planting was held on March 11, 2026. Five trees were planted on the campus. These include two Princeton American Elm, two Nuttall Oak, and one Sweet Bay Magnolia. The Georgia Senate just passed a bill to change the state flower from the Cherokee rose to the Sweetbay Magnolia making this tree a great choice for Arbor Day. \$710.00 of the NRC budget was used. The Innovation

Academy students helped dig the holes and plant the trees. The Appen Media Group will run an article about the collaborative event.

ii. Keep Alpharetta Beautiful

1. Future program ideas and suggestions

- a. A list of potential programs discussed, and Jacqueline Jenna presented ideas for managing volunteer and NRC coverage. The goal is to create a calendar of future events for the year. The format shows dates of events, volunteer type and more.
- b. An art drawing contest was discussed. The title is “Tree Art Competition”. Herb Velazquez to discuss with the City’s Art Center and Melissa Filosi at Alpharetta Elementary School regarding details. Jenna Jaqueline mentioned doing adult version in the fall.
- c. Vijay offered to speak on recycling and composting options available from Green Cell and PRISM, a non-profit collaboration serving our area.

2. Speaker at the Library.

- a. Mike Buchanan reached out to Linda Markson with Nurture Native Nature. She is willing to give a talk at the library. Potential dates planned for July 2026.

3. Communications and Outreach Options

- a. Earth Day Tent at Farmers Market will be requested for April 18. Earth Day is April 22, 2026.
- b. Rain barrel workshop was discussed.
- c. Great or Greatest American Clean-up was discussed
- d. We need to find locations to add native plantings in public spaces.
- e. Bat house workshop and possible giveaway of bat houses. Approximately 30 bat houses were created by students at Innovative Academy and donated to the NRC.
- f. Vijay Desai will send out event suggestions through google forms. NRC members will provide feedback.

iii. Wildlife and Alpharetta’s Wild Side – No discussion.

5. ADJOURNEMENT

- a. A motion was made by Kate Tunison and seconded by Vijay Desai to end the Natural Resource Commission Work Session. The motion passed unanimously. The Work Session ended at 7:35pm.