

June 28, 2024

Honorable Chair Libby Garvey  
Arlington County Board  
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Weed Ordinance Enforcement

Dear Chair Garvey:

We appreciate the action taken by the County Board in adopting amendments to the County "weed" ordinance (Chapter 10, Article II, Condition of Property Ordinance,) dated September 23, 2023. The Forestry and Natural Resources Commission seeks clarification regarding how the updated ordinance is being enforced. We received a report of some confusing direction to a resident who was instructed to "apply" for a native plant exemption, but the process for doing so is unclear and there is no information on the County website about how that process works.

We request clarification on how this ordinance is being implemented. Adding some Frequently Asked Questions to the County's webpage on native plant landscaping would help to clarify both the process, the benefits and what is and is not acceptable. Likewise, adding information about "Cues to Care" would provide additional clarification. Given that there are numerous County policies that encourage native landscaping, for stormwater benefits as well as to attain biodiversity and biophilic objectives, we seek assurances that native landscaping on private property is being appropriately supported, and not discouraged, and that inspectors and the supporting staff in the Department of Parks and Recreation have the resources they need to implement these updates to the ordinance.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,



Phil Klingelhofer, Chair  
Forestry and Natural Resources Commission

#### Commission Members

Phil Klingelhofer, Chair  
John Carey  
Caroline Haynes  
David Howell  
Kate Donohue  
Stephen Sockwell  
Josh Handler  
Mikaila Milton  
Noreen Hannigan  
Bill Browning  
Bob Benson  
Neal Hunter  
Elizabeth Gearin

Cc: Members, Arlington County Board  
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager  
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Samia Byrd, Director, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development