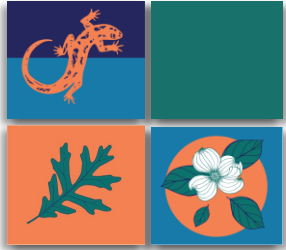


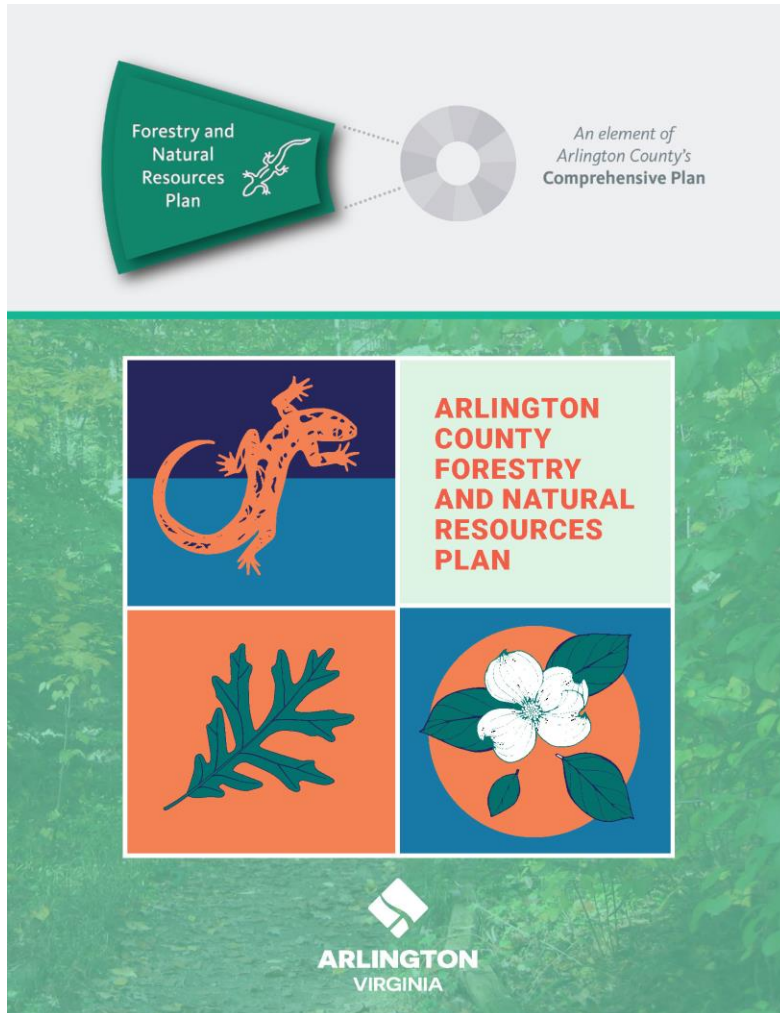
Agenda Item #45 - Adoption of the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) as an element of the Comprehensive Plan

- Introduction
- Public Engagement
- Plan Content
- Feedback and Changes Since the RTA
- Next Steps
- Recommendation





FNRP Overview and Planning Context



- A new element of Arlington's Comprehensive Plan
- A combined update to the 2004 Urban Forest Master Plan and 2010 Natural Resources Management Plan
- Policy guidance for integrated natural resource and urban forest management across private and public land in the County

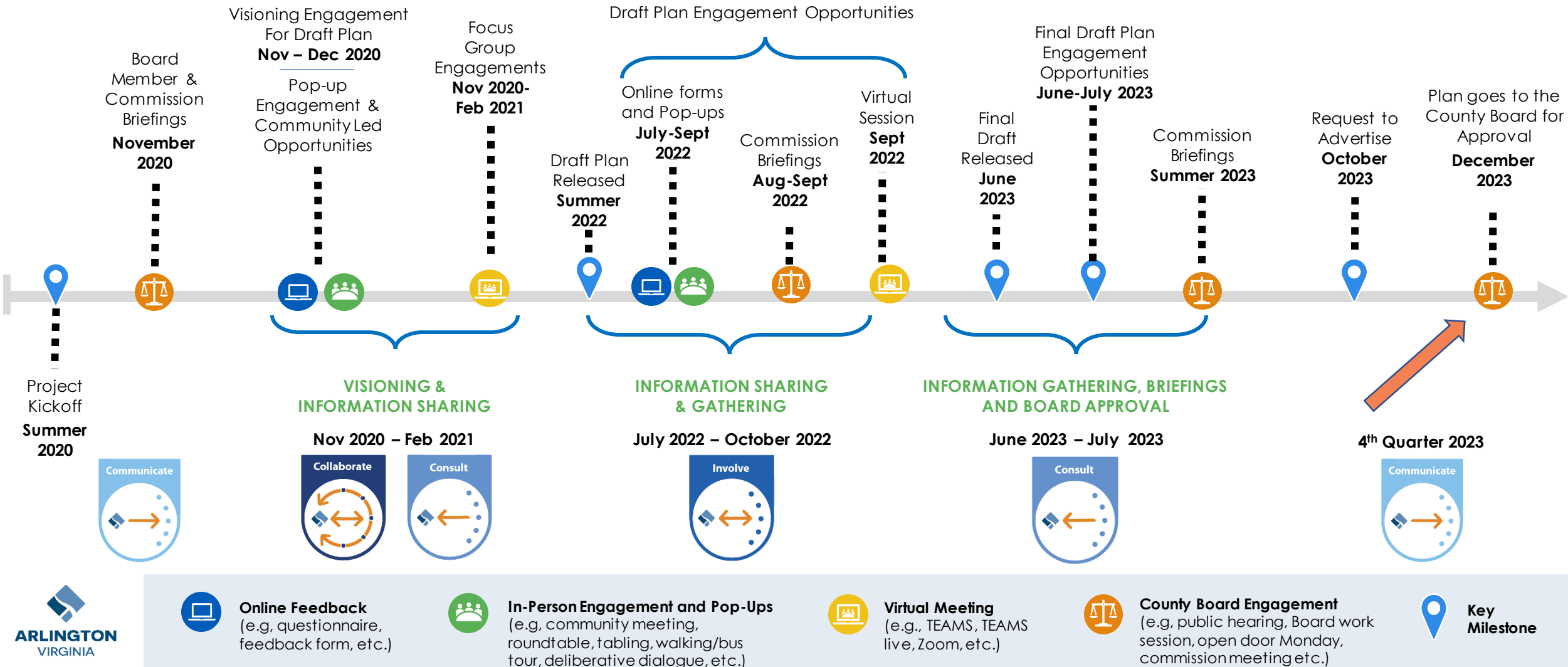
Adoption - December 2023

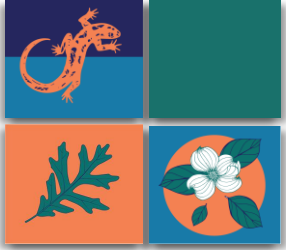
Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Public Engagement Timeline

Origin: Element of Comprehensive Plan

Funding: General Fund

Staff Contact: Ryan Delaney (fnrp@arlingtonva.us)





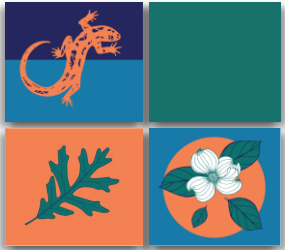
Planning Process

NRJAG Members:

- Caroline Haynes (Chair)
- Phil Klingelhofer
- David Howell
- Joan McIntyre
- David Evans
- Mikaila Milton
- Shruti Kuppa
- Jill Barker
- Sarah Baryluk

Comprised of members from FNRC, PRC, and C2E2 charged with oversight of FNRP.

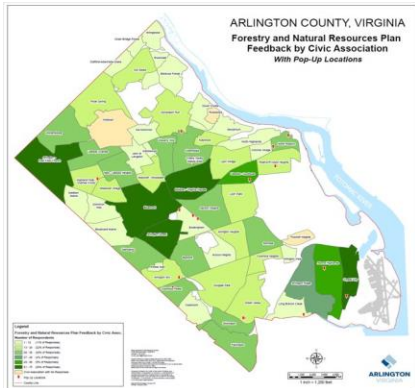
- Interdepartmental core team
- Regular input from the Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) and constituent commissions
- Benchmarking research
- Robust public engagement



Public Engagement - Overview

Online Engagement	Education	Pop-up Events	Virtual Sessions	In-Person Sessions
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1,113 Participants
Three Online Engagement Periods (2020, 2022, 2023)



Promotional Videos
Infographics & Signs



Collect & Update Data

Collect and update information about the number, size, type and condition of the County's trees. (4.1.4)

Conduct inventories of animals, birds, reptiles and insects on cycles—staggered by organism type—to measure for biodiversity goals. (4.1.5)

21 Bi-lingual Pop-Ups
1,130 Participants

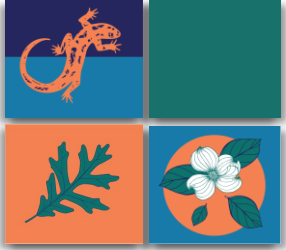


Open House, Focus Groups & Office Hours



In-Person Open House

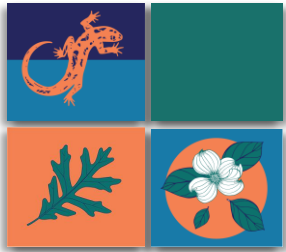




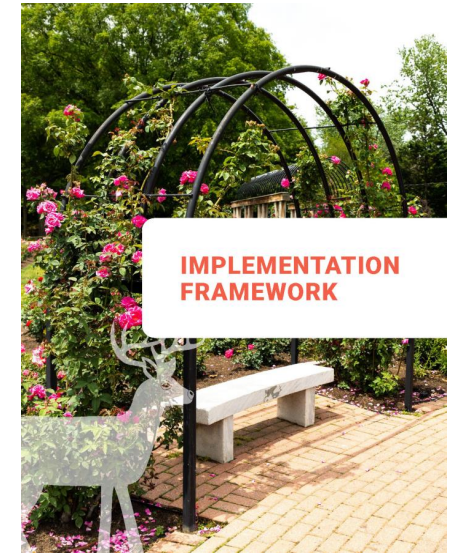
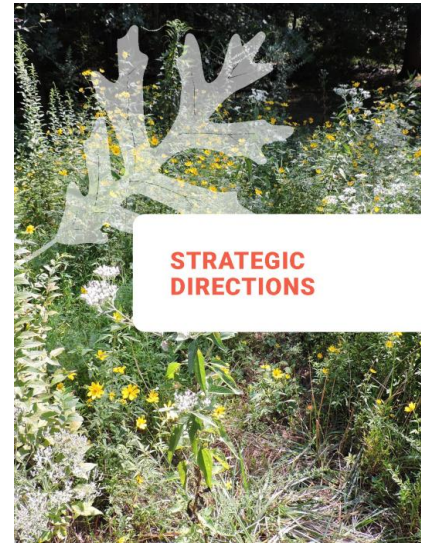
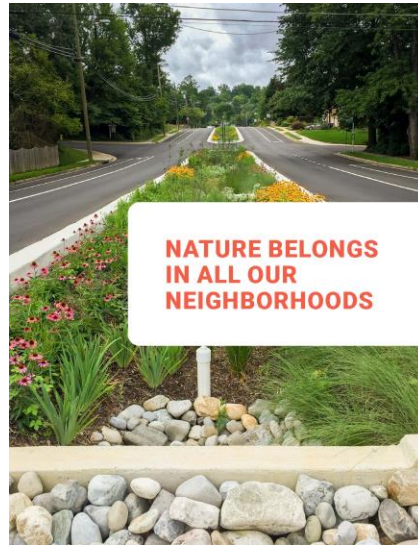
Approach to the Plan

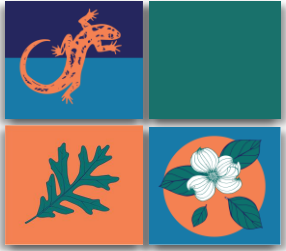
- A new, integrated, ecology-focused perspective on environmental planning
- An emphasis on equity and environmental justice
- A community-wide approach to conservation emphasizing education, outreach, and volunteerism
- A focus on reconnecting nature to daily life



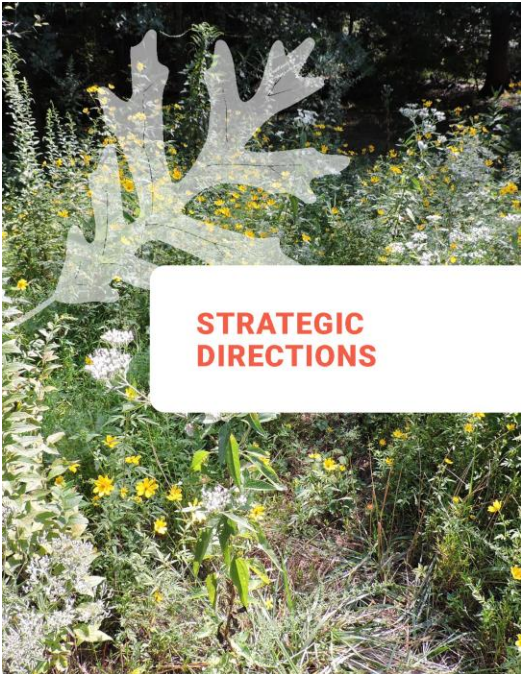


FNRP Content

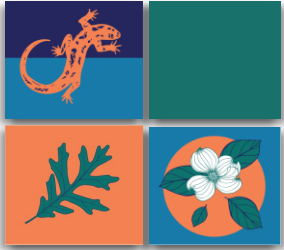




FNRP Content – Strategic Directions



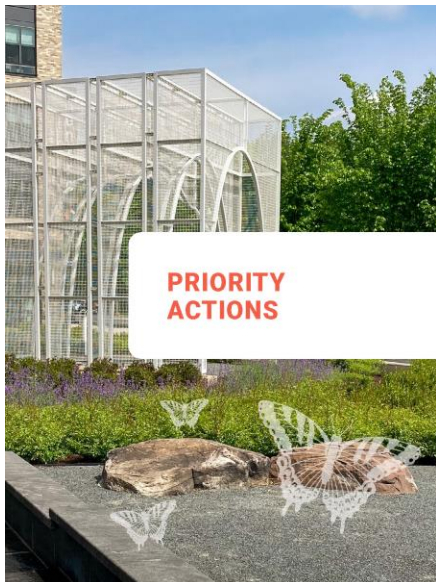
- 1. Conservation**
Increase and protect tree canopy, natural areas and biophilic features throughout the County
- 2. Climate Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience**
Employ Arlington's natural assets to protect public health and well-being
- 3. Biodiversity**
Share vibrant landscapes with people, plants and animals
- 4. Operations**
Manage organizational resources for maximum return



FNRP Content - Draft Priority Actions

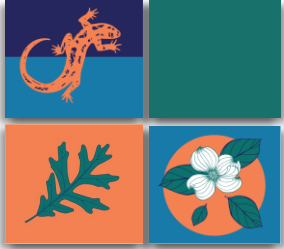
Top 10 priority actions from over 80 plan recommendations.

Priority actions identified through planning process.



- 1.1.1 – Reestablish and maintain at least 40 percent tree canopy through tree planting and conservation programs tailored to local conditions and ecological contexts.
- 1.1.2 - Ensure 70 percent of Arlington's trees are regionally native by 2035.
- 1.1.5 - Advance urban forestry and natural resource goals through County public space acquisitions.
- 1.2.1 – Seek legislation at the state level that authorizes Arlington County to develop locally-appropriate policies to conserve and manage its natural resources.
- 1.2.3 - Enhance development standards to optimize retention or replacement of tree canopy, natural vegetation, permeable surfaces and biophilic elements.
- 1.4.3 - Recruit and train community, cultural and faith-community leaders in addition to existing partner groups to serve as nature ambassadors and proponents of grassroots conservation.
- 2.1.1 – Direct resources to neighborhoods currently underserved by existing tree canopy, ecosystem services or access to natural areas.
- 3.1.6 - Adopt a native plant requirement for public and private sites to expand use and retention of local and regionally native plants.
- 3.3 – Establish a County-wide natural infrastructure and conservation connectivity network
- 4.4.1 - Move from “reactive” to “proactive” maintenance of publicly owned natural assets, outside of extreme storm events and other emergencies.

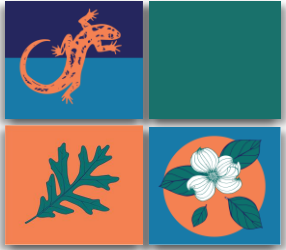
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FNRP Content - Implementation Framework



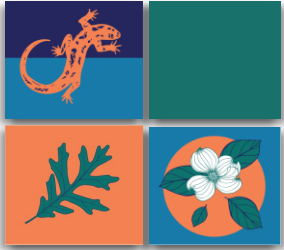
Item	Description	Time Frame Ongoing, Short, Medium, Long	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Cost Range Estimate \$-\$\$\$	Potential Funding Sources
1. Conservation						
1. Sustain Arlington's tree canopy and natural areas						
1.1.1	Maintain 40 percent tree canopy County-wide through conservation and tree-planting programs tailored to local conditions and ecological contexts.	Ongoing	DPR, CPHD, DES	NVCT, NVRC, EcoAction Arlington, nonprofits, VDOT, NPS, NOVA Parks, DOD, DOS, private property owners, County commissions, BIDs, development community	\$\$\$	Operating budget, capital budget, federal funding, state funding, private funding
1.1.2	Ensure 70 percent of Arlington's trees are regionally native by 2035.	Long	DPR, CPHD, DES	NVCT, NVRC, EcoAction Arlington, nonprofits, VDOT, NPS, NOVA Parks, DOD, DOS, private property owners, BIDs, development community	\$\$	Operating budget, capital budget, federal funding, state funding, private funding



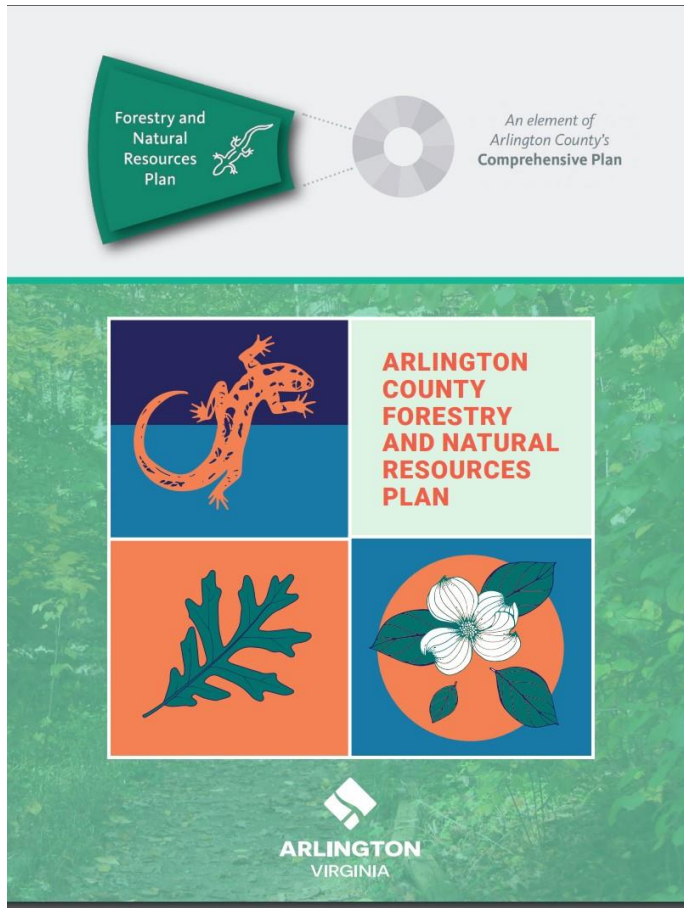
FNRP Content - Appendices



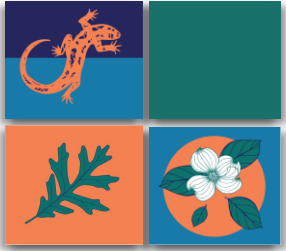
- **Appendix A** – Additional Resources
- **Appendix B** – Race and Housing in Arlington County
- **Appendix C** – Progress Since Approval of Prior Plans
- **Appendix D** – Arlington Environmental Organizations
- **Appendix E** – Draft Native Plant Standard
- **Appendix F** – Definitions and Acronyms
- **Appendix G** – How the FNRP Relates to Other Plans



What we heard since the RTA



- Support for the plan and its recommendations
- A sense of urgency around implementation, funding, and progress reporting
- Language suggestions to increase the urgency of tone in the Executive Summary



Edits Since the RTA – SD1

1.2.6 REVIEW AND UPDATE CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE II OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE TO ALLOW AND ENCOURAGE NATURALIZED AREAS USING NATIVE PLANTINGS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY.

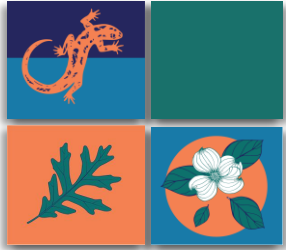
Currently, the Condition of Private Property section of the Arlington County Code does not contain definitions for native plants or managed natural landscapes, which potentially complicate code enforcement related to perceived overgrowth of native plants and food crops. To mitigate this and avoid future conflicts with the FNRP's recommendations to encourage conservation and native planting on private property, this section of the County Code should be reviewed for potential conflicts with adopted County policy regarding native plantings and urban agriculture and revised to incorporate the appropriate definitions and other changes necessary to encourage conservation on private property.



EARLY SUCCESS FOR NATURE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In September 2023, the County Board amended Chapter 10, Article II of the Arlington County Code. This section of the Code deals with managing “overgrowth” on private property and could have discouraged private property owners from using native plants and creating backyard habitats. During the FNRP planning process, the County Code was updated to distinguish between these managed landscapes and weeds, law areas, or foreign growth, bringing the code in line with the FNRP's goals and enabling private property owners to contribute to native plant biodiversity and habitat for native species across the County.

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Edits Since the RTA – SD4

4.1.4 REPORT ANNUALLY ON IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS.

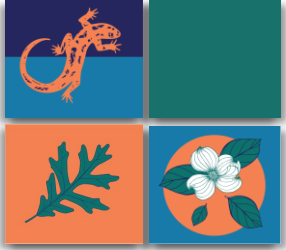
The County should report findings regularly on the number of trees removed, planted and included in restoration projects, at minimum, and as appropriate, acres existing, conserved, removed and mitigated via development-related permitting processes as implementation metrics of the FNRP's goals. These reports should include updates on progress within the Tree Equity Areas identified in **2.1.1**. The measures reported on will vary year to year and will depend on their data collection interval as outlined in the Outcome-Oriented Performance Measures chart. Map updates would indicate what areas of the County were most affected. If possible, consider dividing data between public and private lands. Consider adding reporting on the five-year survival of County-planted trees.



4.1.4 REPORT ANNUALLY ON IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS.

The County should report findings annually on implementation progress towards the FNRP's goals. These reports should include the results of inventories identified in **Action 4.1**, progress within the Tree Equity Areas identified in Action **Step 2.1.1**, as well as updates on other projects or policy changes derived from the FNRP's recommendations. The measures reported on will vary year to year and will depend on project funding and the data collection intervals outlined in the Outcome-Oriented Performance Measures chart above. The County should consider a virtual dashboard, including maps and interactive elements, to clearly communicate implementation progress and share information on the County's conservation activities with the public.

Adoption - December 2023



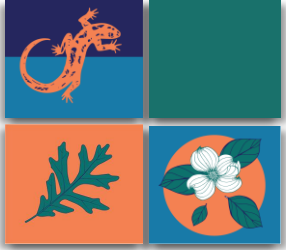
Edits Since the RTA – Graphics and Photos



Top left: A 1964 photo of the late columnist and local historian Charlie Clark's boyhood football team at Bluemont Park. The American Sycamore from the original photo is pictured to the right as it currently stands. Photo credit: Charlie Clark



Asclepias syriaca (common milkweed) Photo Credit: David Moss

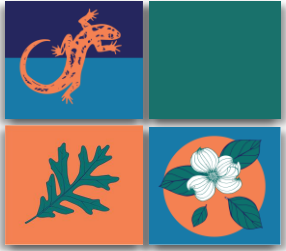


Next Steps

- Deer Management Project
 - Winter 2024
 - Publish summary of engagement #1
 - Share new educational materials
 - Host public meetings
 - Winter/Spring 2024
 - Share deer management recommendations
 - Open engagement #2



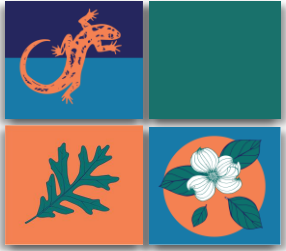
Adoption - December 2023



Next Steps

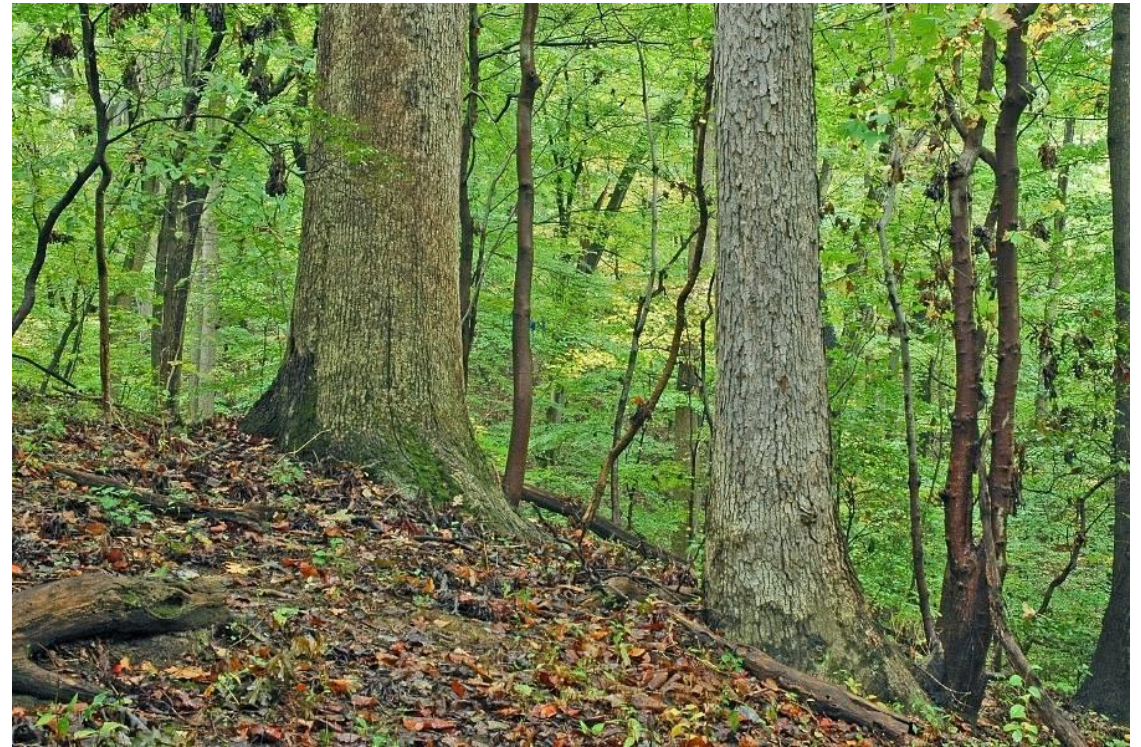
- 2024 Tree Canopy Study
 - Summer 2023
 - LiDAR data collected
 - Winter 2024
 - Contractor selection
 - Spring 2024
 - Data analysis
 - Summer/Fall 2024
 - Develop report

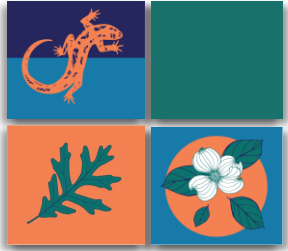




Next Steps

- FNRP Implementation Planning
 - Kick-off January 2024
 - Establish Plan Oversight and Coordination Framework
 - NRJAG
 - Interdepartmental Staff Team
 - Develop Work Plan
 - Communications and Outreach





County Manager's Recommendation

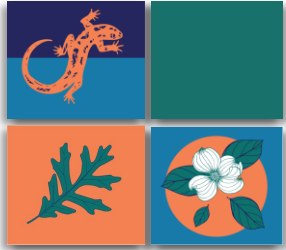
Adopt the attached resolution (Attachment 1) to adopt the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (Attachment 2) as an element of Arlington's Comprehensive Plan.



FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN

NATURALLY ARLINGTON





Resolution

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN AS AN ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County has been presented with a draft of the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan, a new element of the County's Comprehensive Plan: and

WHEREAS, the proposed draft of the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan is provided as Attachment 2: and

WHEREAS, the development of the draft has been informed by three years of robust public engagement: and

WHEREAS the County Manager recommends that the proposed draft be approved and adopted by the County Board: and

WHEREAS the Planning Commission, after a duly advertised public hearing, recommends the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan to the County Board: and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2023, the County Board of Arlington County held a duly advertised public hearing on the proposed Forestry and Natural Resources Plan.

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the County Board of Arlington finds that the proposed Forestry and Natural Resources Plan dated December, 2023, set forth in Attachment 2, should be, and is hereby, adopted as an element of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Adoption - December 2023