

# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

# Proclamation

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## URBAN AGRICULTURE MONTH

**WHEREAS**, agriculture plays an important role in Arlington, producing fresh local food on rooftops, indoors, and in gardens; and Arlington County is a regional urban agriculture leader and has provided matching grant funding to support commercial controlled-environment agriculture enterprises creating new jobs in this emerging sector; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington supports community gardens and other design elements of biophilic cities to encourage an appreciation of natural processes and the importance of a healthy ecosystem; and supports the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington resiliency planning addresses food insecurity resulting from the coronavirus pandemic impacts, natural disasters, extreme climate events, and man-made emergencies, highlighting the importance of sustainable food systems through a coordinated regional approach to growing, distributing, and accessing healthy food; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington has ten farmers markets generating direct sales to up to 2,000 customers each market day that expand job opportunities for local producers and provide gleaning for donation and matching SNAP and SFMNP benefits; pop-up food markets distributing fresh food; 413 County-supported community garden plots, including an ADA accessible space; yard and food waste collection for composting, and additionally County libraries support gardeners through their educational programs and demonstration gardens; and school gardens offer outdoor learning opportunities for our youth; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and its Master Gardener and Master Food Volunteer programs provide extensive public education programs that promote and facilitate the production and preparation of nutritious food; and

**WHEREAS**, Friends of Urban Agriculture and its Plot Against Hunger program promotes the urban agriculture sector, including supporting school gardens, local gardeners and gleaning opportunities at area farms to offer fresh produce for individuals and donations to local food pantries, and supports demonstration urban gardens in partnership with the County and local civic associations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Katie Cristol, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim October 2022 as

## URBAN AGRICULTURE MONTH

in Arlington County to promote and educate residents to the benefit and importance of urban agriculture programs in our community to promote healthy and sustainable food systems.



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Katie Cristol  
Chair