



September 23, 2022

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

Re: Chesapeake Bay Preservation Plan

Dear Chair Cristol:

Members of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission received a presentation at the September 12 Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group meeting from DES staff on the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Plan. The commission notes that the update of this plan is mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality in Virginia, and is intended to capture the significant work that has already been accomplished since the last plan was adopted in 2001. The work completed on the Stormwater Master Plan, the update to the Resource Protection Area maps, the update of the Floodplain maps, and adoption of LDA 2.0 will all be captured in this update to an element of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Given that the County is simultaneously moving forward on the development of the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP), the commission strongly recommends that the two plans are better coordinated, especially given the substantial overlapping policy objectives. In particular the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Plan should include a cross reference to the recommendations in Strategic Direction 1.2.3 of the FNRP to review development standards for currently unregulated impermeable surfaces, lot coverage, setbacks and tree canopy requirements in an effort to retain tree canopy coverage and plantable spaces. These are important issues both for the successful management of our natural resources and for the management of stormwater runoff and mitigation of flooding. Likewise, we suggest that both plans would benefit from a recommendation to develop biophilic design guidelines to offer to developers examples of green infrastructure that should be incorporated into the built environment to meet these key policy objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,

Phil Klingelhofer, Chair
Forestry and Natural Resources Commission

Cc: Members, Arlington County Board
Members, Planning Commission
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Greg Emmanuel, Director, Department of Environmental Services