

July 17, 2023

Honorable Christian Dorsey
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Amended County "Weed Ordinance"

Dear Chair Dorsey,

Thank you for listening to concerns that the prior amendments to the County "Weed Ordinance" conflicted with County policies to encourage native landscaping for stormwater management. The new amendments before you are consistent with important County goals to encourage rain gardens, conversation landscaping, native plant gardens, and meadow vegetation, for example, for the urgent purpose of addressing excess stormwater runoff.

With climate change producing ever more torrential downpours, it is more important than ever that the County adopt consistent policies to encourage the type of vegetation and landscaping that will hold stormwater and reduce runoff which scours our streambeds and floods our rivers with harmful pollutants. Moreover, the revisions are consistent with the County's Biophilic Cities Resolution by encouraging gardens and landscapes that create habitat for diverse populations of insects, birds, mammals, and reptiles.

We encourage your vote in favor of the proposed amendments. Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to improving Arlington County.

Sincerely,

Shruti Kuppa



Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Members, Arlington County Board
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

Commission Members

Shruti Kuppa
Jill Barker
Sarah Baryluk
Nelson Dimpter
Sergio Enriquez
Dean Foster
Colt Gregory
Gretchen Hickey
Neal Hunter
Mark Lincoln
Adam Rasmussen
Melissa Riggio
Alex Sanders