

February 14, 2025

Honorable Takis P. Karantonis
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Park and Recreation Commission Comments on Climate Action Resolution

Dear Chair Karantonis,

The Park and Recreation Commission (“PRC”) commends the County Board for publishing and requesting public comment on a draft Climate Action Resolution dated January 28, 2025.

We are pleased that the Community Energy Plan will be revised, but its role should be one of many elements of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan. A comprehensive Climate Action Plan should include factors in addition to carbon emissions, such as natural resources, that contribute to climate change and resilience. Carbon emissions are critically important in addressing climate change, but a comprehensive Climate Action Plan should specify the importance of natural resources on both our public and private lands in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change impacts.

We are pleased that our long-standing request for increased collaboration on climate issues among County departments as part of the proposal at Paragraph 11 but recommend that this paragraph be elevated to the top priority for the proposed Climate Action Plan. We remain steadfast in our opinion that preserving, protecting and expanding Arlington’s tree canopy will help control excessive stormwater and erosion that threatens our community, especially in vulnerable communities.

The Climate Action Plan should follow the example of the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan’s Vision Statement that acknowledges the importance of natural capital in creating resilience in the face of climate change.

We concur with the comments of David Howell, dated February 3, 2025, about the importance of including the concept of Biophilia in the Climate Action Plan, as well as his eloquent and detailed arguments for including the value of natural capital in the Climate Action Resolution. We appreciate the opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,



Jill M. Barker,
Chair – Park and Recreation Commission
cc: Members, Arlington County Board

Commission Members

Jill Barker, Chair
Gary Shinnars, Vice Chair
Erika Allen
Nelson Dimpter
Andrew Damitio
Daniel Garay
Neal Hunter
Claire Pascocello
Adam Rasmussen
Melissa Riggio
Alex Sanders
William Way