

Draft Fairfax County Natural Landscaping Policy *(as presented in 2007)*

On reviewing the policy plan language, it seems that the best place to insert natural landscaping is under Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, Policy Plan, Public Facilities, Countywide Objectives and Policies, **new** objective 6:

Objective 6: Use environmentally-friendly techniques and Natural Landscaping methods where practical to minimize resource consumption, reduce stormwater runoff, and decrease life-cycle maintenance requirements for public facilities and sites.

Policy a: Adopt Natural Landscaping practices as generally promoted by the US Environmental Protection Agency for use at all Fairfax County public facilities.

Policy b: Plan and design new facilities and sites using Natural Landscaping, Low Impact Development (LID), and other similar practices or methods.

Policy c: Consider modifying or retrofitting existing facilities and sites after thorough evaluation, to incorporate Natural Landscaping, LID, and other similar practices or methods to the greatest extent practical.

Policy d: Educate staff on environmentally sound practices such as Natural Landscaping and LID, and encourage a sense of stewardship of natural resources at all levels of County employment.

Policy e: Educate the public about environmentally sound practices such as Natural Landscaping, LID, and the stewardship of natural resources in Fairfax County.

[Note: The intent of the natural landscaping efforts at the federal level is spelled out pretty well in the EPA source materials at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/greenacres/toolkit/chap1.html> :

“Local officials are in a position to advocate natural landscaping and bring its benefits to their communities. Local governments demonstrate the benefits by using native plant materials on government owned and managed lands. Government officials can amend comprehensive plans and adopt ordinances to promote the appreciation and use of natural landscapes. Citizen education about the benefits of natural landscaping can provide a powerful incentive, especially if government officials can point to pilot projects of their own.”]