

# Plan Amendment, Natural Landscaping at County Facilities

Planning Commission –  
Environment Committee Meeting  
April 25, 2019  
Joe Gorney, DPZ-PD  
Charles Smith, DPWES-SWPD  
Hugh Whitehead, DPWES-UFMD



# Progress to Date

- ▣ BOS Authorization
- ▣ Planning Commission Environment Committee
  - January 24, 2019
  - March 21, 2019
- ▣ Stakeholder Meeting – April 8, 2019



# April 8, 2019

## Stakeholder Participants

- ▣ DPZ-PD
- ▣ DPWES-SWPD
- ▣ DPWES-UFMD
- ▣ DPWES-BDCD
- ▣ FCPA
- ▣ HCD
- ▣ NCS
- ▣ OCR
- ▣ NVSWCD
- ▣ FMD
- ▣ FCDOT
- ▣ Fairfax Water
- ▣ Police
- ▣ Fire & Rescue
- ▣ Library

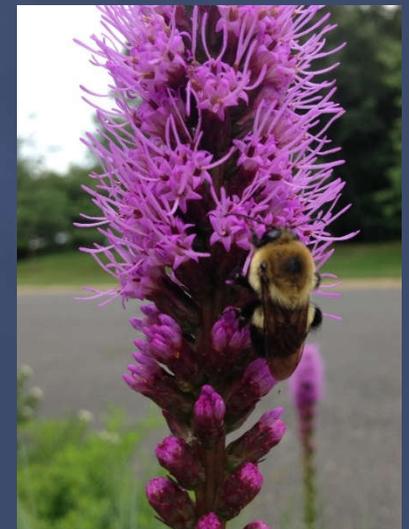
# Stakeholder Themes

- ▣ General Themes
- ▣ Applying Natural Landscaping to Current Landscapes
- ▣ Maintenance & Monitoring
- ▣ Contracts & Contracting
- ▣ Green Roofs
- ▣ Community Gardens/Edible Plants in the Landscape
- ▣ Volunteers
- ▣ Education/Partnerships
- ▣ Examples



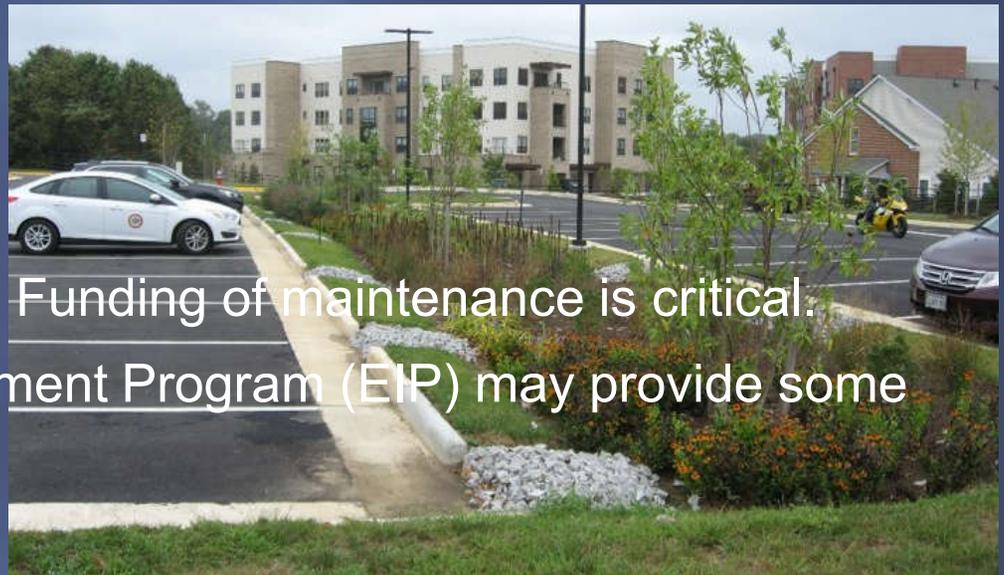
# General Themes – Setting the Stage

- ❑ Improve ecological function of each site within the context of individual land uses and with consideration of the client's needs.
- ❑ Success is dependent on: thoughtful design; carefully chosen plants; site preparation; plant establishment; & maintenance.
- ❑ Turf areas will continue to be desirable amenities but portions might be able to be converted to functional natural areas.
- ❑ The stakeholder process should include a diverse group of staff and community members.



# Applying Natural Landscaping to Current Facilities

- A toolkit and templates would be helpful:
  - Seeding resources.
  - Nursery/supplier list for native plants and seed mixes.
  - Contracting resources
- Replace plants with native species as they die. Consider the following:
  - Stormwater control
  - Energy conservation
  - Carbon storage
  - Air quality
- Installation is only one cost. Funding of maintenance is critical.
- The Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) may provide some funding.



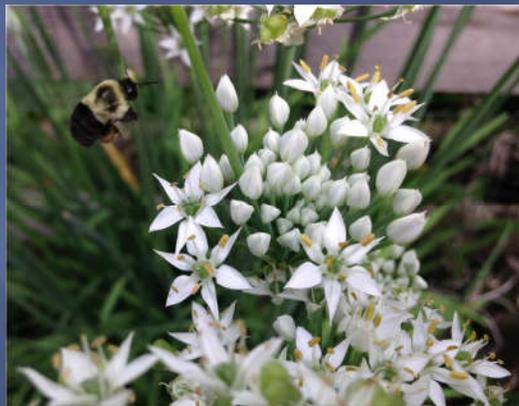
# Maintenance & Monitoring

- Once established, a landscape should need less maintenance (watering, pruning, weeding).
- Plant in layers (above and below ground).
- Plantings would reduce rainwater energy and sediment transport.
- Plantings would rely less on herbicides.
- Invasives will still be a concern.
- Biggest Impediment – long-term post-establishment maintenance.
- Intensive efforts will be needed during grow-in period.
- MSMD – maintenance cards for SWM facilities may offer a model that could be applied/tailored to natural plantings.
- FMD is a critical link.
- RFPs could be a vehicle to promote Natural Landscaping.
- Consider Public Safety requirements.
- Outdoor lighting considerations.
- Non-native invasives exist on both managed and unmanaged areas.



# Contracts & Contracting

- ❑ Update contracts in contractor registry and increase use of contractors knowledgeable in natural landscaping.
- ❑ Take advantage of MWCOCG rider clauses to use contracts from other jurisdictions, including Arlington's native plant contract.
- ❑ Develop list of local nurseries growing native plants.
- ❑ Install landscapes at appropriate time of year (i.e., not August).
- ❑ Hold contractors to submittal dates & use of specified plants.



# Green Roofs

- ▣ These systems could replicate native ecosystems.
- ▣ Majority of maintained roofs are not planted with native species, but provide opportunity for retrofit.



# Community Gardens/ Edible Plants in the Landscape

- ▣ Community Gardens and natural landscapes can coexist and complement each other.
- ▣ Adjacent natural areas can function as a natural pest barrier and host parasitoid insects and their host plants.



# Volunteers

- ▣ Volunteers are not “free.” They require management and clear guidance.
- ▣ Participation may be inconsistent and unreliable.
- ▣ Ongoing participation is important to long-term success.
- ▣ Default will be to use contractor.
- ▣ Liability – should develop MOU for volunteer work on county properties.



# Education/Partnerships

- ▣ Build partnerships local groups, including Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals; Cooperative Extension; & Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association.
- ▣ Highlight/promote projects with placards
- ▣ NVSWCD Sustainable Garden Tour (June 9, 2019)



# Natural Landscaping Examples

- ▣ NVSWCD Projects - Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)
- ▣ Reston Association – Reston Specific Streetscape
- ▣ Fairfax County Government Center
- ▣ Mount Vernon Government Center
- ▣ Oakton Library
- ▣ I-95 Landfill



# Stakeholder Next Steps

- ▣ Feedback to stakeholders re: PC Environment Committee direction
- ▣ Discussion of spin-off topics
- ▣ Inclusion of volunteer groups
- ▣ Outreach to agencies not represented at April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting



# Natural Landscaping at County Facilities

Joe Gorney, DPZ-PD

[joseph.gorney@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:joseph.gorney@fairfaxcounty.gov), 703-324-1267

Charles Smith, DPWES-SWMD

[charles.smith@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:charles.smith@fairfaxcounty.gov), 703-324-2467

Hugh Whitehead, DPWES-UFMD

[Hugh.whitehead@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Hugh.whitehead@fairfaxcounty.gov), 703-324-1770