



The Fairfax County Tree Commission  
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Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
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May 25, 2021

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 500  
Fairfax, VA 22035

Sent via email to: [ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov)

RE: Proposed Amendments to Resource Protection Area (RPA) Planting Requirements Chapter 118 (Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance) of *The Code of the County of Fairfax, VA* (County Code) and Chapter 12 (Tree Preservation) of the Public Facilities Manual (PFM)

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The Fairfax County Tree Commission and the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) recommend that the Board of Supervisors support the proposed Amendments to the RPA planting requirements described in the April 13, 2021 staff report.

The proposed amendments will improve implementation of the RPA planting requirements by eliminating the differences between Chapter 118 of the County Code and Chapter 12 of the PFM. The proposed Planting Density table enhances clarity of the requirements for users. Reducing the required caliper (diameter) of the largest over- and under-story trees, reducing the density of understory shrubs, and specifically requiring native species will improve planting results on-the-ground with higher survival rates, in addition to reducing project costs. These changes will also help restore and enhance natural ecological functions and improve the ability of affected RPAs to protect us from the adverse effects of climate change. County Staff state that they have consulted with Virginia DEQ and that the proposed changes are acceptable and consistent with state regulations. Staff met with both the Tree Commission and EQAC and both groups are supportive of the resulting amendment language.

We recommend your support of the proposed amendments. Thank you for your support of our Urban Forest.

Signed version available upon request –  
[treemail@fairfaxcounty](mailto:treemail@fairfaxcounty)

Sincerely,  
Catherine C. Ledec, Chairman  
Tree Commission

Stella Koch, Chairman  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

cc: Fairfax County Planning Commission  
John Freidman, Land Development Services, Site Code Research & Development Branch