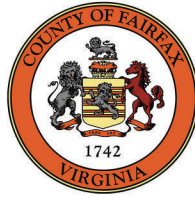


Why Natural Landscaping?

Climate change affects all of us. Resource conservation, the basis for many natural landscaping designs and techniques, can reduce the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. At the same time, water quality in our streams, rivers, lakes, and bays can be improved. Natural landscaping includes:

- Low Impact Development practices that use trees, vegetated swales, rain gardens and other natural features, instead of concrete structures, to treat stormwater.
- Use of native plants to imitate natural plant communities, reducing maintenance and providing greater wildlife benefits than conventional landscapes.
- Reducing lawn in favor of larger areas of native plants and mulch. Reduced mowing and fertilizer and pesticide use results in less air and water pollution.



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Fairfax County Natural Landscaping Committee

Urban Forest Management Division, DPWES
12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-5503
Phone: 703-324-1770
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/
environmental/natural_landscaping.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/natural_landscaping.htm)

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
12011 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-1111
Master Gardener Horticulture Help Desk
Nov.-Mar. Tue/Thur 9:30am-12:30pm
Apr.-Oct. Mon-Fri 9:30am-12:30pm
Phone: 703-324-8556 TTY: 711



To request this information in an alternate format, call Fairfax County's Urban Forest Management Division at 703-324-1770, TTY 703-324-1877.

Natural Landscaping



Stormwater management pond planted in native vegetation to improve water quality and reduce maintenance.

What is Natural Landscaping?

Natural Landscaping, also known as conservation or beneficial landscaping, is landscape design and maintenance that mimic natural ecological patterns and processes to achieve a functional and environmentally sound setting in which to live and work.

Fairfax County
Natural Landscaping Committee

Benefits of Natural Landscaping

- ✦ Saves time and money on landscape maintenance
- ✦ Improves air quality
- ✦ Improves water quality
- ✦ Provides wildlife habitat
- ✦ Protects Chesapeake Bay and local waters
- ✦ Reduces heating and cooling costs for buildings
- ✦ Conserves groundwater
- ✦ Manages stormwater more efficiently

The use of native plants is a big part of natural landscaping. These plants are adapted to the local environment and require less irrigation, less pesticides and less fertilization, saving you time and money and benefiting the environment.

One mature tree with a 26-foot canopy can absorb the emissions of a vehicle driven 11,500 miles every year. Shade from trees also can reduce a home or building's cooling costs by 10-20 percent in the summer.

Quick and Easy Natural Landscaping Tips

- ✦ Choose pervious hard surfaces that will allow water to infiltrate into the ground below.
- ✦ Think before you spray. Pesticides kill beneficial insects like pollinators and predators that eat destructive insects.
- ✦ Choose a lawn care company carefully to be sure they are environmentally sensitive.
- ✦ Reduce turf grass.

The evaporation from a single large tree can produce the cooling effect of 10 room-size air conditioners operating 24 hours/day.



Natural landscaping can have tremendous curb appeal while conserving resources

Learn more at these related websites:

www.epa.gov/GreenScapes

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/youyourland

www.ext.vt.edu/resources

A gasoline-powered lawn mower pollutes as much in one hour as an automobile driven 20 miles