

**Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Recommendations (full AUGUST 30  
Planning Commission public hearing list)**

**Chapter 7: Development Standards**

**7.03 Tree Planting, Replacement, and Preservation**

- (7.03) There should be a requirement to join tree plans with neighboring contiguous habitats to reduce habitat fragmentation and promote wildlife corridors.
- (7.03) Invasive plant species should be removed during the development process, and the planting of native vegetation along corridors that provide connections to other natural, environmental, and heritage resources should be prioritized.
- (7.03.A.4) There should be a 100% native trees and shrubs requirement for new vegetation.

**7.04 Landscaping, Buffer Yards, and Screening**

- (7.04) This language should be strengthened to recommend using native species whenever possible.
- (7.04) Language should be included throughout section 7.04 to "require the removal of invasive plant species during the development process"
- (7.04.01) The County should encourage the use of native plants in landscaping, especially for government buildings and sites.
- (7.04) The purpose could be strengthened by utilizing more language from Comp Plan NHR Policy 6 Strategies and actions related to 6.1 and 6.2 to conserve and protect natural heritage resources and wildlife habitats.
- (7.04.01) NHR Policy 6 Strategy 6.2.D should be included in this section to encourage the preservation and plantings of native vegetation to protect pollinators, migrant birds, and other wildlife.
- (7.04.1.D) This section should include a requirement that it is existing *native* vegetation and supplemented by new *native* vegetation, and there should be a 100% native vegetation requirement for new vegetative material.
- (7.04.03 A.7) This section should include language for existing native vegetation and native trees.
- (7.04.07.A) Landscaping requirements should include reference of sustainability measures and support for wildlife corridors that can be further described in the FSM. For instance, 100' buffers for delineated exemplary or high quality wildlife and habitat communities that exclude roads or buildings, and prohibit vegetation clearing except for removing invasives. Applications should note the location and prioritize protection of exemplary and high quality habitat communities on adjacent parcels to protect areas critical for maintaining connectivity between high value habitats. Additionally, exemplary or high quality wildlife areas should be mapped, and protection prioritized, as part of wildlife corridors, to ensure barrier-free movement between identified wildlife corridors. Necessary conditions should be maintained to provide habitat function for species along wildlife corridors and species of greatest conservation need as identified by the VA Wildlife Action Plan.

### **7.05 Light, Noise, and Vibration**

- (7.05) International Dark Sky Association Standards should be more fully incorporated including the establishment of light zones to determine appropriateness of lighting, especially for rural areas. Exemptions should be more limited and/or greater standards should be in place for homes, roads, all types of athletic fields, and public monuments as these items create some of the greatest amounts of light trespass and sky glow.

## **Chapter 11: Procedures**

### **11.06: Site Plans**

- (11.06) As part of site plans, native plant communities should be mapped and ranked according to their ecosystem functional value, and applications should note the location of mapped exemplary and high quality wildlife and habitat communities on adjacent parcels to protect areas critical for maintaining connectivity between high value native plant communities. Language should be added to ensure future updates to LSDO and FSM.

## **Chapter 13: Definitions and Rules of Interpretation**

- (13.03) Definitions should be added for vernal pools, natural open space, environmentally sensitive area/open space, meadow, turf grass, lawn, native grass, native plant, wildlife corridor, linear park, light pollution, light glare, light trespass, light glow, light spill over, light noise.