

*You don't have a garden just for yourself.  
You have it to share.*  
- Augusta Carter



## **ARLINGTON VILLAGE GROUNDS POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTS**

*The following policies and guidelines were developed by the Grounds Committee and ratified by the Board of Directors to provide clarity on community landscaping goals and the role of individual homeowners.*

### **Beautification through teamwork**

Residents of Arlington Village have a common interest in, and responsibility for, the appearance of our grounds. In recent years the Village has embraced a landscape philosophy that favors attractive, resilient, low-maintenance plants that provide visual interest through different seasons. As the Village seeks more responsible stewardship of natural resources, future landscaping projects may embrace *Xeriscaping*, or plantings that are highly water efficient.

Maintaining our property requires the collaborative efforts of Village management, the Grounds Committee, and individual residents. Management provides basic grounds maintenance including lawn mowing, fertilizing, and weed control. Management also ensures that

trees and shrubs are pruned, planted and replaced as required, and that planting beds are mulched and weeded on a seasonal basis.

Residents are encouraged to participate in landscape beautification providing they comply with these policies and guidelines. Individuals can make a major contribution by watering turf, shrubs, and trees (especially young plants) during summer dry spells. Many residents share this responsibility with neighbors, in the process, strengthening community bonds and pride of ownership.

Residents should inform management of problems as they occur, such as trees or branches downed by storms, or any plantings that appear to be faltering or dead. Prompt notification ensures safety and speedy resolution.

Responsible pet management is another key factor in maintaining attractive and healthy plantings. Always pick up after your pet and restrain it from urinating on plants and trees. [GoodPooch.com](http://GoodPooch.com) advises asking one's dog to eliminate on one's own lawn before embarking on a walk, or to find less trafficked areas such as easements and grassy strips along the street curb.

As funds allow, the Village initiates projects to enhance the common areas of our property. Major designs and installations are undertaken by landscaping professionals. Other enhancements are small-scale volunteer initiatives in which residents perform the labor of installing plants. Homeowners are encouraged to collaborate with neighbors on ideas for projects that would enhance the common areas and bring these to the Grounds Committee for consideration. (Note: All proposals affecting common areas would need to be vetted through the Grounds Committee)

**The Grounds Committee meets** once a month in the Village meeting room at 1400 S Edgewood St. Please check the Crier, the Village website, or call the Village office at 703-920-1000 for date and time.

The Committee looks forward to working with Village residents on maintaining and improving our grounds.

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### **House fronts and highly visible public areas**

Landscape architect Kate Davidson has created [Landscape Design Prototypes](#) for the different planting beds in front of our homes and other visible areas of the property. These plans take into account the amount of space available, exposure to sun or shade, flat or sloping terrain, foot traffic, and any evidence of erosion. These designs can be of great use to residents as individual plants need replacement or as beds require more extensive renovation. Residents should examine these plans and determine which one best matches their individual unit. Any proposed planting for the building fronts must follow the general guidelines of the appropriate prototype. Each proposed planting for building fronts must include some evergreen shrubs; these are the anchor plants that keep the Village green year-round.

Each Landscape Design Prototype is followed by [lists of plants](#) [link to Kate's legend] suitable to the particular site and conditions described. In order to maintain a coherent design throughout the Village, and to ensure ease of maintenance, all new front yard shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers should be chosen from these lists. Many of these plants are currently visible in newer plantings throughout the community. If you are not familiar with the appearance of a particular plant, an Internet search can often locate a picture, as well as information on the size it will attain when full-grown.

Regarding flowers, residents may plant annuals (plants that live for a single season) in front of their individual units. Any type of perennial requires permission from the Grounds Committee, as these multiply and return each spring.

### **Backyards and less visible areas**

The areas in back are subject to fewer restrictions in terms of plant choice, but homeowners should be mindful of the general considerations below. Most important regarding backyards is to seek

permission before enlarging existing plant beds. It is important to keep individual lawns as open as possible for ease of mowing. This saves the Village time and money, while maintaining an overall coherence of landscape design.

### **General considerations**

- start by consulting [Landscape Design Prototypes](#) and plant lists for your particular site
- consider the opinion of your immediate neighbors before proceeding on planting plans for either front or back – the Committee will need to know that projects that affect more than one unit have been approved by neighbors
- ask the Committee for advice on new or substitute plantings
- favor native species and avoid invasive plants  
[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/invspinfo.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspinfo.shtml)

### **Committee approval is required for the following**

- planting a tree anywhere
- planting anything in a common area; for instance, in a courtyard, around a trash enclosure, or transformer boxes, etc.
- enlargement of any existing planting beds, in front or back of units (attach rough sketch of desired enlargement)
- plant removals in front, or from a common area in the back
- plant installations, or redesigns in front (use [planting proposal](#), and attach rough sketches)
- perennials (plants that return each year) at building fronts

### **Strictly prohibited**

- planting, removing, or pruning anything in the ravine, or other naturalized area
- planting or removing anything from a neighbor's area
- pruning anything in a neighbor's area, without their approval
- vegetable gardens, except in containers, restricted to backyards

### **Approval process**

Requests for new plantings should be submitted in writing, preferably by e-mail, to the Grounds Committee, via Facilities Manager John McKinney [avcondojohnmc@aol.com](mailto:avcondojohnmc@aol.com).

*Small-scale projects:* Simple, straightforward requests will be handled by one or two members of the Grounds Committee.

*Large-scale projects:* More ambitious proposals—those that might impact several households, or the larger community—will go before the entire Committee and, if necessary, the Board of Directors. These projects will require residents to complete the [planting proposal](#) and attach a rough sketch of the proposed landscape project.

*Projects in process or completed that are not pre-approved are subject to retroactive review by the Committee. If the plantings do not substantively conform to Village Policies and Guidelines, they are subject to removal and replacement at homeowner's expense.*

### **Timing**

Requests will be considered and acted upon as soon as possible. Small projects can be handled more quickly than those requiring broader community input. If possible, submit the planting proposal to the Village Facilities Manager electronically at ([avcondojohnmc@aol.com](mailto:avcondojohnmc@aol.com)). This will allow him to contact committee members with greater timeliness. Hand drawn plans can be accepted if dropped off at the Village office.

*Please be considerate of committee volunteers and plan ahead.* Larger projects require advance planning. As a guideline, planting projects are best undertaken in the Spring (April/May) or the Fall (October/November). Submit your proposal well in advance of your ideal planting date, and allow more time for ambitious projects.

- Spring planting proposals should be submitted by February.
- Fall planting proposals should be submitted by August.

### **Costs and labor**

In general, costs for an approved proposal that enhances only an individual's property will be borne by the homeowner(s).

The Village has a small budget for subsidizing projects that have a more public impact. Under certain circumstances, Arlington Village may cover costs, in full or in part. These subsidies are generally applicable to building fronts, corners, and courtyard plantings. Approved proposals affecting multiple dwellings, or in highly visible areas of the community, will be considered for full or partial financial assistance.

In some cases of approved plant removal, the Village will undertake the task of extraction. In general, this means that residents can ask for help with removing large/overgrown shrubs. The availability of Village staff to assist in this way is at the sole discretion of the Facilities Manager as to timing and the work the Village can do.

### **Notification**

The Grounds Committee will approve resident requests in writing. The approval will indicate that the project has been approved in whole or in part. The Committee will do its best to suggest acceptable alternatives to projects that are not approved in whole or in part.

### **Gardening Resources and Links**

*Advice from Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia* (sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Program)

[http://www.weblogs.cals.vt.edu/turf\\_garden/](http://www.weblogs.cals.vt.edu/turf_garden/)

Wondering why your hydrangeas won't bloom, or how to manage weeds in your lawn? Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia can help you find the answers to these and other problems.

- Call the Horticulture Help Desk (703-228-6414), year round, *Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon.*
- Visit the Virginia Cooperative Extension at its new location, 901 S. Highland Street, near the Career Center, *Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.*
- Saturday Plant Clinics will be held during the 2007 growing season at the Arlington Farmers' Market, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am through September, Intersection of North 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Courthouse Rd.

*Fairlington Village Gardening Advice*  
<http://www.fairlington.org/gardenadvisor.htm>