



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 17-09a

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Acting Executive Director
DATE: December 8, 2016

WHEREAS, Virginia's native plants provide essential watershed services by helping to reduce stormwater runoff, filtering water, reducing erosion and flooding, and enabling efforts to beautify the region; and

WHEREAS, Native plant biodiversity has declined in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Northern Virginia parks and open spaces currently contend with hundreds of nonnative plant species, some of which are invasive and compete with native plant species, degrade soil, facilitate erosion, decrease recreation opportunities, and alter the region's natural landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Gardens and managed natural landscapes comprising Virginia native plants, being perfectly suited to Virginia's climate and soil, require far fewer fertilizers, soil amendments, or pesticides, and use less water than conventional turf grass landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Gardens and managed natural landscapes comprising Virginia native plants provide natural links between fragments of natural areas, and instill a greater understanding and appreciation for Virginia's natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Virginia native plant horticulture is a growing industry with the potential to employ thousands of Virginians; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission recognizes the essential value and importance of Virginia native plants in a managed natural landscape; and

Be it further resolved, Managed natural landscape means a planned, intentional and maintained planting of native grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadow vegetation, and ornamental plantings; and

Be it further resolved that native plants are defined by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Program as plants that occur in the region in which they evolved.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on December 8, 2016.



ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER

