

## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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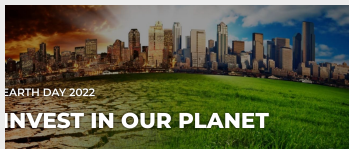
### Earth Day | Planting Reminders | Free Trees

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Spring is often the time of year when residents think of cleaning up an area around their patio or outside their fence. What a better way to do that than by planting something. Of course that means there are rules and plenty of them. If you haven't reviewed the Mew's Handbook lately, you may want to do so. It can be found online at [https://](https://fairlingtonmews.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/fairlington-mews-handbook-20141.pdf)

#### Earth Day

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Friday, April 22, is Earth Day this year. The theme is *Invest in our Planet*. Arlington has loads of activities for the entire family. Check out the calendar at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Earth-Day-Events>

And remember, every day is about the earth, not just one day, or one month, or one year. Keeping the earth healthy is a responsibility for all of us.

#### ONLY Leaves on Trees

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Nothing should be tied on the trees in the common areas. "But it's just a baby swing", "It's just a dog rope", "It's just a string of lights", etc. Tree maintenance is the

Most people forget, or do not realize, that property outside of the patio fence is common property. The patio itself is considered a **limited common area**. What does that mean? For example, the condominium has access to your patio for gutter repairs, painting, and other things that support the well being of the community. Owners can plant within their fence, but if it gets trod on or needs to be removed for a fence, building, or plumbing repair you may lose it and have no recourse.

Here are the important rules to remember for planting. Co-owners may plant...within their patio enclosures, provided that:

- Planting is limited to inside the fence
- Structural changes do not extend beyond the height of the fence. This includes sheds, pergolas, and suspended furniture supports
- No climbing vines are planted
- No plant whose height exceeds 20 feet.

Residents may plant annual and perennial flowers in their front beds but need to submit a **Flower Bed Waiver** to the Landscape Committee. This should be done yearly.

If a resident would like to change shrubs or trees at their residence, a **Landscape Modification Request** is needed. DO NOT remove or replace the shrubs or trees yourself as these belong to the Condo Association.

biggest chunk of the landscaping budget. Making sure our trees are healthy is everyone's concern.

### **Native Plant of the Month**

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**Shooting Stars**

These dear little plants bloom in early spring and certainly look like a shooting star. They always make me smile just looking at them. Sometimes a purple version of this flower occurs.

All of this, as well as Environmental Enhancements schedule, can be found at the Mews website, <https://fairlingtonmews.org> under the Maintenance and Landscaping heading. Still need more information? Visit the Handbook at the same address above under the Handbook and Documents heading. Pages 20, 21, 24, and 29 are the most useful.

### **Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees**

If residents are thinking about planting in the front of their units this spring, the Handbook says that annuals or perennials are preferred. If you are a frequent reader of this newsletter, you know that native plants are an important part of the landscape. All of the Fairlington communities, not just the Mews, are working hard to reintroduce more native plants to the grounds. Suggestions for flowers and shrubs can be found at the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia website <https://mgnv.org> under "Plants".

### **Trees**

New trees have arrived from EcoActionArlington. The weather delayed the delivery a bit. Since November, the Mews has received a total of nine free trees and we need individuals in Cts 2, 8, 9, and 12 to fill the water bags several times a week. A long hose is provided if needed.

### **Useful Links**

For more on Landscaping News check out the archives at <https://fairlingtonmews.org/mews-news/>

Find out more about other Fairlington Gardeners at <https://www.facebook.com/FairlingtonGardening/>