



Arlington Naturally

Caroline Haynes
Bluemont Civic Association
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Environmental and economic benefits of trees and green infrastructure are well documented:

- Clean air
- Clean water
- Mitigate heat island effect
- Improved stormwater management
- Reduced energy costs
- Improved biodiversity
- Increased resiliency





Science catching up
with what we know
intuitively:

Nature is restorative and
regenerative. We feel better,
physically and emotionally, and
more productive with regular
engagement with nature.

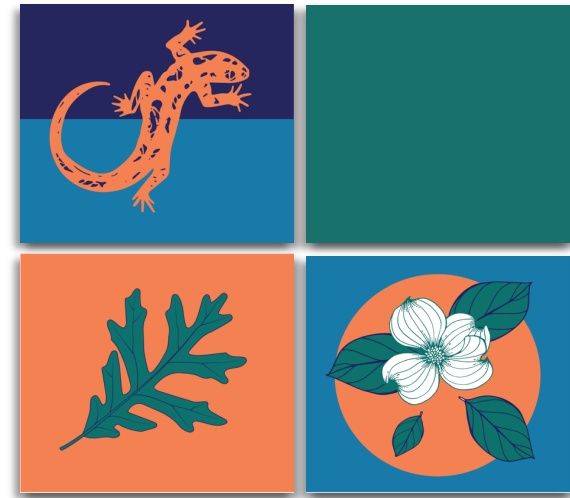


Some key resources to build a sustainable, natureful Arlington:

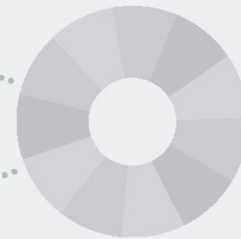
Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP)

Biophilic Cities

Community Action



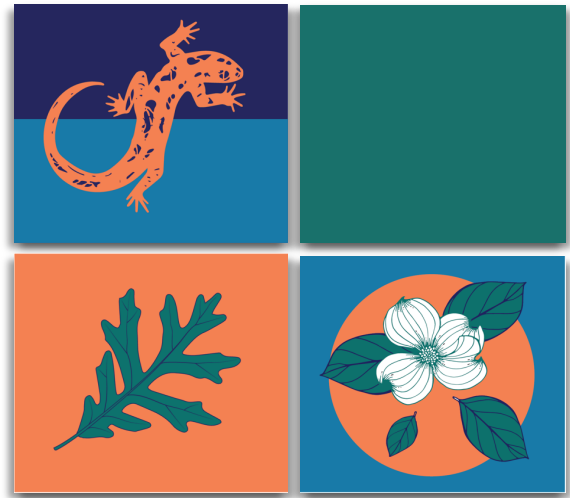
Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP)



*An element of
Arlington County's
Comprehensive Plan*



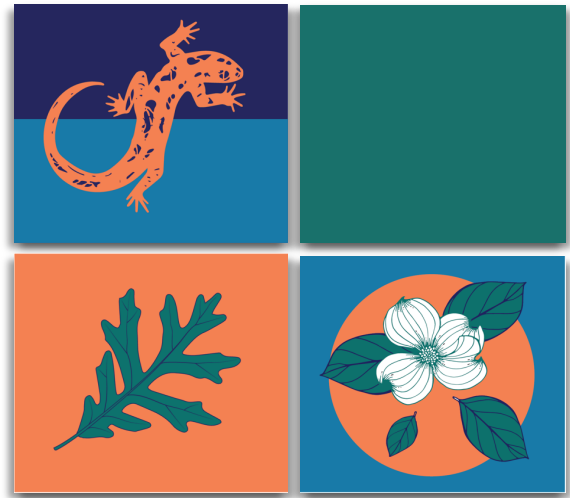
- A new element of Arlington's Comprehensive Plan
- A combined update to the 2004 Urban Forest Master Plan and 2010 Natural Resources Management Plan
- Policy guidance for integrated natural resource and urban forest management across private and public land in the County
- Adopted by CB December 2023



Approach to the Plan

- A new, integrated, ecology-focused perspective on environmental planning
- A community-wide approach to conservation emphasizing education, outreach, and volunteerism
- A focus on reconnecting nature to daily life
- An emphasis on equity and environmental justice





FNRP Content – Strategic Directions



1. **Conservation**

Increase and protect tree canopy, natural areas and biophilic features throughout the County

2. **Climate Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience**

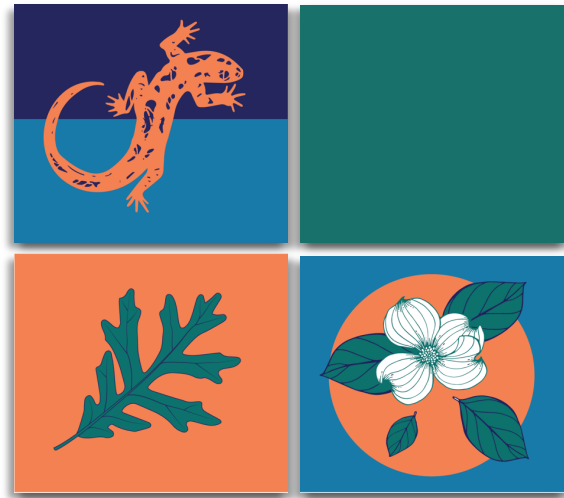
Employ Arlington's natural assets to protect public health and well-being

3. **Biodiversity**

Share vibrant landscapes with people, plants and animals

4. **Operations**

Manage organizational resources for maximum return



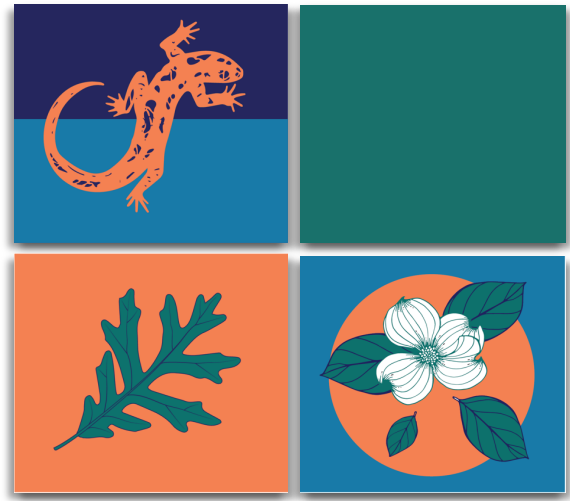
FNRP Content - Draft Priority Actions

Top 10 priority actions from over 80 plan recommendations.

Priority actions identified through planning process.



- 1.1.1 – Reestablish and maintain at least 40 percent tree canopy through tree planting and conservation programs tailored to local conditions and ecological contexts.
- 1.1.2 - Ensure 70 percent of Arlington's trees are regionally native by 2035.
- 1.1.5 - Advance urban forestry and natural resource goals through County public space acquisitions.
- 1.2.1 – Seek legislation at the state level that authorizes Arlington County to develop locally-appropriate policies to conserve and manage its natural resources.
- 1.2.3 - Enhance development standards to optimize retention or replacement of tree canopy, natural vegetation, permeable surfaces and biophilic elements.
- 1.4.3 - Recruit and train community, cultural and faith-community leaders in addition to existing partner groups to serve as nature ambassadors and proponents of grassroots conservation.
- 2.1.1 – Direct resources to neighborhoods currently underserved by existing tree canopy, ecosystem services or access to natural areas.
- 3.1.6 - Adopt a native plant requirement for public and private sites to expand use and retention of local and regionally native plants.
- 3.3 – Establish a County-wide natural infrastructure and conservation connectivity network
- 4.4.1 - Move from “reactive” to “proactive” maintenance of publicly owned natural assets, outside of extreme storm events and other emergencies.



One recommendation down, 83 to go!

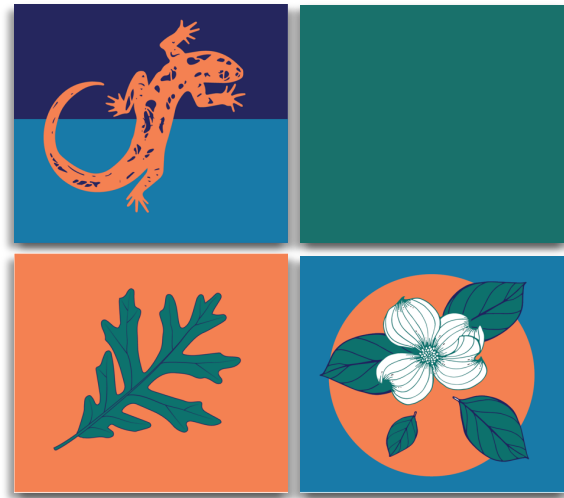
1.2.6 REVIEW AND UPDATE CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE II OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE TO ALLOW AND ENCOURAGE NATURALIZED AREAS USING NATIVE PLANTINGS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY.

Currently, the Condition of Private Property section of the Arlington County Code does not contain definitions for native plants or managed natural landscapes, which potentially complicate code enforcement related to perceived overgrowth of native plants and food crops. To mitigate this and avoid future conflicts with the FNRP's recommendations to encourage conservation and native planting on private property, this section of the County Code should be reviewed for potential conflicts with adopted County policy regarding native plantings and urban agriculture and revised to incorporate the appropriate definitions and other changes necessary to encourage conservation on private property.



EARLY SUCCESS FOR NATURE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In September 2023, the County Board amended Chapter 10, Article II of the Arlington County Code. This section of the Code deals with managing “overgrowth” on private property and could have discouraged private property owners from using native plants and creating backyard habitats. During the FNRP planning process, the County Code was updated to distinguish between these managed landscapes and weeds, law areas, or foreign growth, bringing the code in line with the FNRP's goals and enabling private property owners to contribute to native plant biodiversity and habitat for native species across the County.

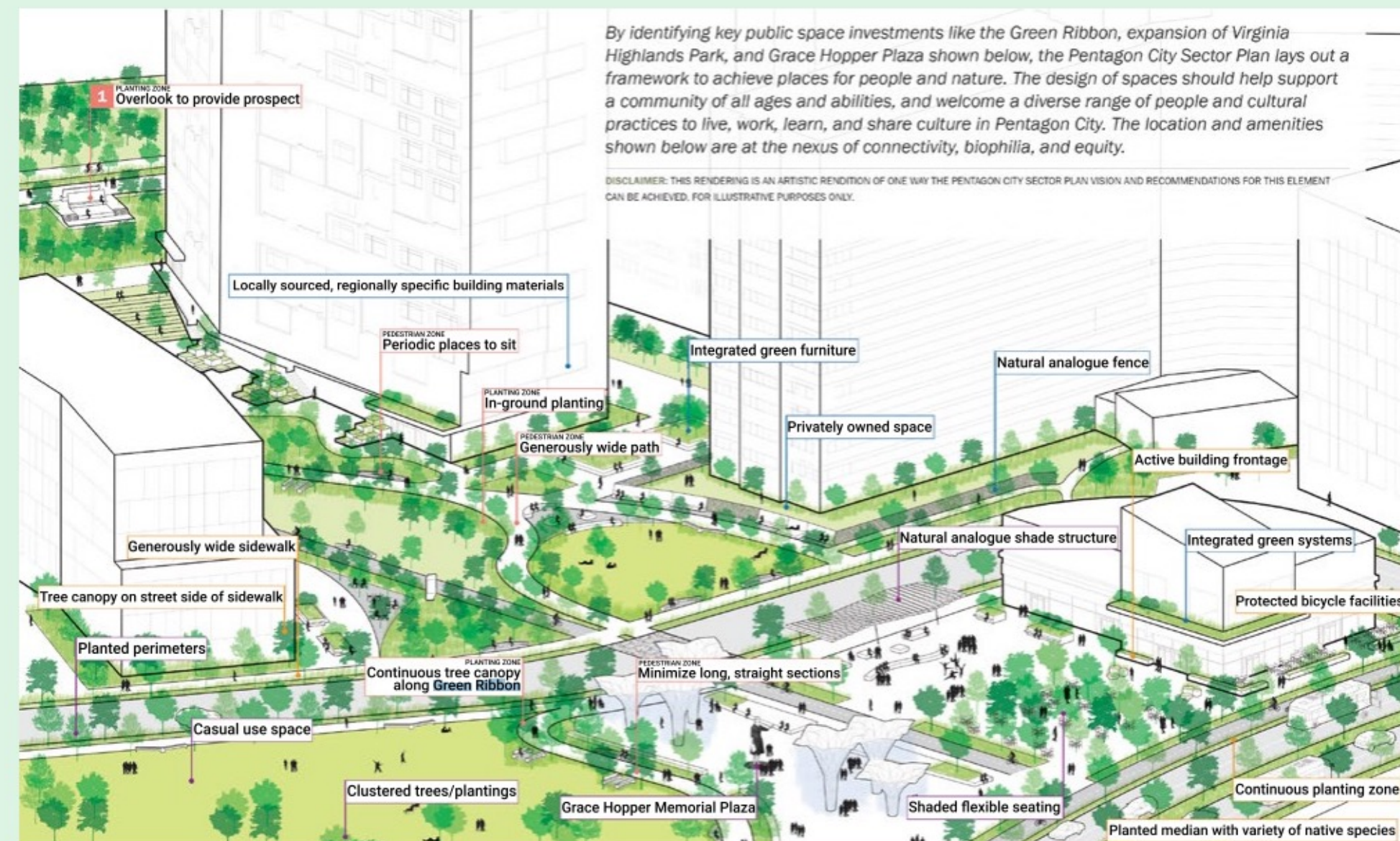


FNRP Content – Biophilic Design

BIOPHILIA IN ACTION

THE PENTAGON CITY SECTOR PLAN (PCSP)

While limited in area, the PCSP demonstrates biophilic concepts that can be adapted for use in many different planning contexts — from site plan requirements to sector plans and form-based codes.



The Pentagon City Sector Plan (2022) applies biophilic design principles to open space and pedestrian corridors so that visitors, residents and workers experience nature both outdoors and in.

NATURE IN THE SPACE

the direct integration and experience of nature in a space

- visual + non-visual connection with nature
- non-rhythmic stimuli
- thermal + airflow variability
- presence of water
- dynamic + diffuse light
- connection with natural systems

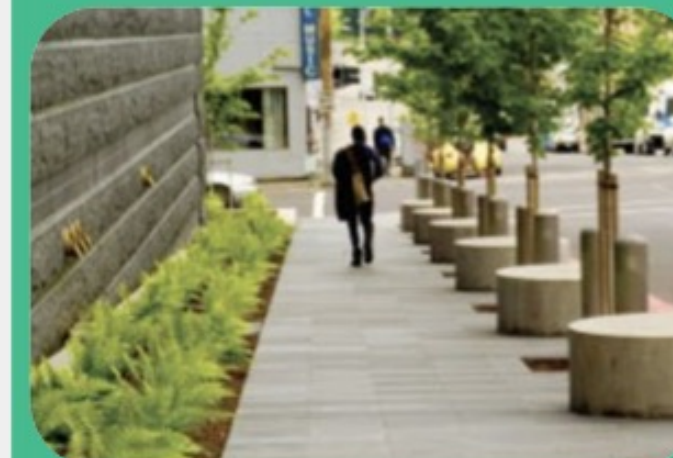


Photo Credit: PWP Landscape Architecture, US Federal Courthouse—Seattle

NATURE ANALOGUES

the direct integration and experience of nature in a space

- biomorphic forms + patterns
- material connection with nature
- complexity + order



Photo Credit: Jamie Navarro, Patio de las Jacarandas

NATURE OF THE SPACE

the direct integration and experience of nature in a space

- prospect
- refuge
- mystery
- risk/peril

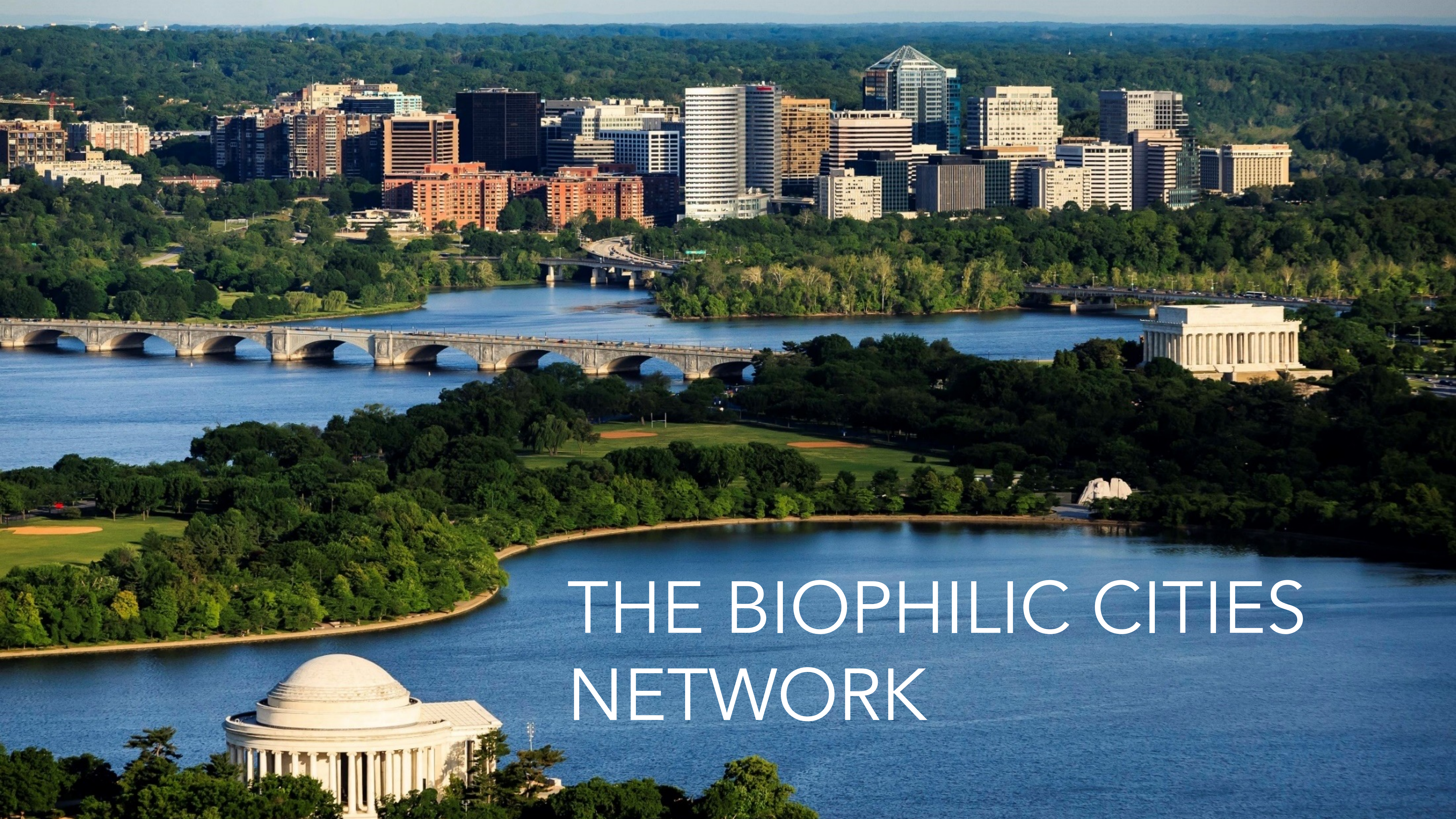


Photo Credit: OLIN, Long Bridge Park

Further in-depth guidance for County staff, developers, and other institutional land managers in Arlington can be found in the American Planning Association's 2022 PAS Report: *Planning for Biophilic Cities*.



BIOPHILIA:
Humans possess an
innate connection to the
natural world



THE BIOPHILIC CITIES NETWORK

Arlington's Participation in Biophilic Cities Network

- Expand biophilic planning and governance
- Expand educational opportunities on the benefits of biophilic design
- Incorporate natural infrastructure in built environment and protect existing natural resources
- Create publicly accessible urban nature projects
- Provide equitable access to nature





Community Action is Key

- Show up and speak up for policies in FNRP and Biophilic design
- Participate in local planning projects
- Support budgetary commitments for FNRP implementation

Help reconnect fragmented natural systems in your own back (and front) yard:

- Plant trees and native plants to support our native insects, birds and other fauna
- Reduce lawn area and other impermeable surfaces



Volunteer in our local parks





City Nature Challenge

April 26-29, 2024

City Nature Challenge

- CNC is a friendly worldwide competition among metro areas to see whose residents can spot and identify the most plants and wildlife
- More than 450 cities in over 50 nations on 7 continents participating
- In past five years, DC Metro area in top ten in participation, observations and species identified





- We'll be looking for signs of life in local parks, neighborhoods, and backyards to see what plants and animals share our environment.
- It is a great way to highlight flora and fauna of your favorite park!

Create your own iNaturalist account



- > Visit [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)
- > Download the app from the [AppStore](#) or [Google Play](#)
- > Sign In
- > Start sharing your observations
- > Get feedback from actual scientists, experts, and other naturalists



Three easy steps:

1. **Observe!**

(Friday April 26 – Monday April 29)

Find Wildlife

It can be any plant, animal, fungus, slime mold, or any other evidence of life (scat, fur, tracks, shells, carcasses!) that you find in the DC metro area.





2. Take a Photo of What you Find

Be sure to note the location of the critter or plant (your phone will do this automatically)



3. Share Your Observations

By uploading your findings to [iNaturalist](#).

Key Dates:

- April 26-29: Observations
- April 30 - May 5: Crowd-sourced identifications made on iNaturalist
- May 6: Global results announced



People can officially join the project at iNaturalist.org - [City Nature Challenge 2024: Washington DC Metro Area](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2024-washington-dc-metro-area) (Simply click “Join” in the upper left corner.)



Resources on the DC Area CNC website

- <https://citynaturechallengedc.org/>
- Links to videos on how to use iNaturalist
- Links to videos on how to take quality photos
- Links to tips on identification

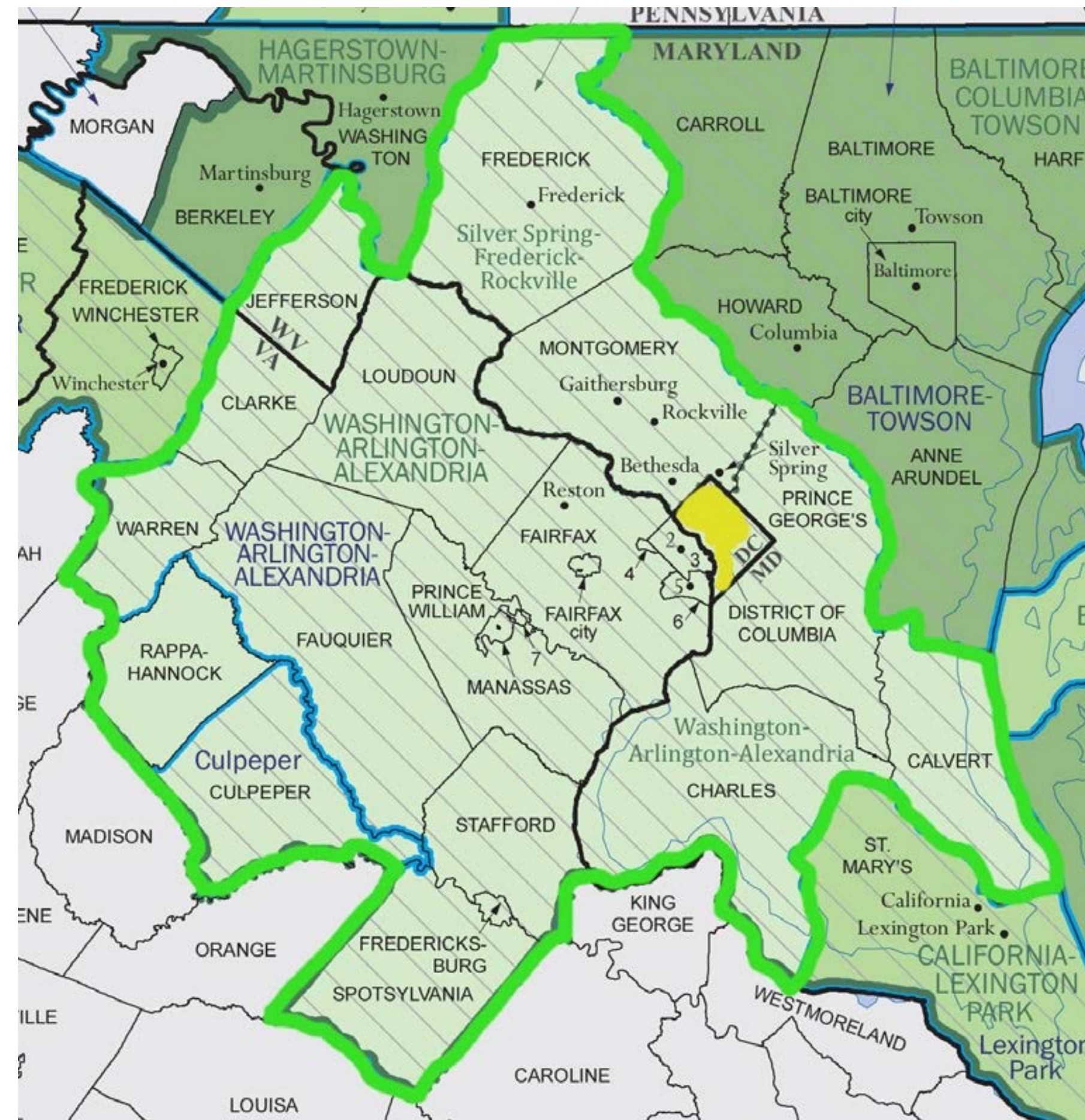


Join an observation event in Bluemont

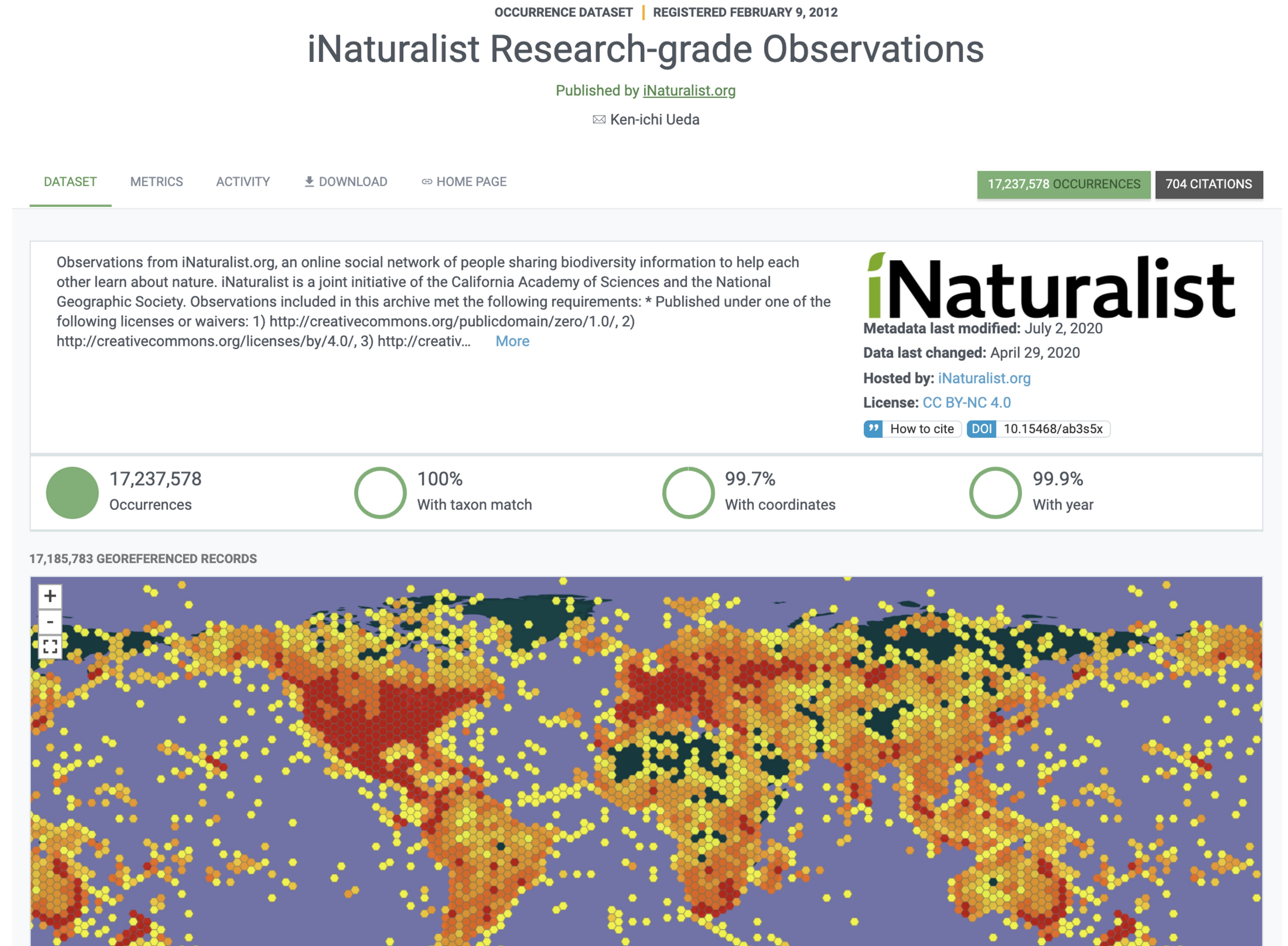


- Saturday, April 27, 2:00 – 3:30 PM
Lacey Woods Park
- Sunday, April 28, 2:00 – 3:30 PM
Mary Carlin Woods Park

And if you want to go farther afield....



Millions of
data points
shared
openly and
used in
research and
conservation



A fun event with a serious intent

- Data collected during CNC provides valuable information to scientists on urban ecology and global wildlife diversity
- Local data has been used to document new species and presence, predominance and locations of species

