Sustainable Landscaping for HOAs
Considerations for Sustainable Landscapes

- Choice of plants
- Soil testing
- Use of chemicals/fertilizers
- Watering practices
- Managing runoff/drainage
- Other pollutants (paint, cleaners, pet waste)
Plant Native Trees and Shrubs

Inkberry- *Ilex glabra*

Winterberry Holly – *Ilex verticillata*
Drought-tolerant Native Plants

- Black eyed Susan
- New England Aster
- Button Bush
- Golden Ragwort
- Coneflower
Lawn Care

- Minimize use of fertilizer – use slow release, with rates below 2 lbs N 1000 ft$^2$, apply in fall.
- Consider using mulch for feeding grass in addition to plants
- Green and Clean Landscapers – VA DCR
Efficient watering

- Water when lawn needs it - footprints don’t spring back up or plants are wilting

- Water thoroughly and less often - thorough soaking to 4-6” depth

- Consider drip irrigation or soaker hoses (collect rainwater)

- Water in early morning - can prevent 40% evaporation loss
Rain Gardens

- Water conservation
- Reduce runoff
- Increase recharge
- Encourage birds & butterflies
The Arlington area had ongoing water issues – one building had major foundation issue as well.
After – raingarden installed and invasive vines removed from hillslope, and hillslope replanted with native plants
Fairlington Villages
Tuckahoe Townhouses
Arlington Oaks Condo
Use a rain barrel or cistern to collect rain water for gardening
Where to install a rain barrel?

- Need to install it under a gutter
- Best if near plants or landscaped areas where you can use the water
- Need to elevate the barrel 1-2 feet for better pressure;
- Need to have an overflow hose for the barrel and direct that to planted area;
- Can use with soaker hose or regular hose (will flow out more slowly though).
StormwaterWise Landscapes

• Sustainable stormwater incentive program for Arlington private property owners.

• Reimbursement/matching grant program

• An education and outreach initiative

• MS4 permit requirement

• 50 residential and HOA slots for 2016
StormwaterWise 2016

- Applications open till April 1st
- Arlingtonva.us/stormwaterwise
- Up to $4000 in matching grants (50% of project costs)
- Practices include pavement removal, permeable pavement, rain gardens, and conservation landscaping
Questions?

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