

**ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**c/o Department of Environmental Services**  
**2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705**  
**Arlington, VA 22201**

December 16, 2019

Honorable Christian Dorsey, Chair  
Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Support for Becoming a Biophilic City

Dear Chair Dorsey,

The Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) has been briefed several times about the [Biophilic Cities](#) initiative, and we support Arlington County's effort to become a Biophilic City.

The Biophilic Cities initiative works to build an understanding of the value and contribution of nature in cities to the lives of urban residents. Partner cities work in concert to conserve and celebrate nature in all its forms and the many important ways in which cities and their inhabitants benefit from the biodiversity and wild urban spaces present in cities.

Recent scientific literature in this field supports the many ways in which nature benefits human health and well being including reducing stress, decreasing rates of depression and anxiety, and boosting the immune system. Natural elements can also boost worker productivity, decrease the length of hospital stays, improve student test scores, and increases residential property values. Arlington County seeks to be a healthy, inclusive, attractive, sustainable community, and adopting biophilic design principles by embracing nature throughout our urban environment would reinforce and support these goals. For these and other reasons, E2C2 supports Arlington County becoming a Biophilic City.

Becoming a Biophilic City is just the first step. Being a Biophilic City requires embracing nature in our outdoor and indoor spaces, and building these concepts into our County identity. E2C2 supports these efforts and will support County implementation through environmental reviews and policies.

E2C2 looks forward to helping Arlington County become a Biophilic City, and advocating for the implementation of biophilic design principles throughout the County. We thank the Board for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Mike Hanna, Chair  
Environment and Energy Conservation Commission