

Native Plant Exemption in City Code



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

City of Richmond
RVAgreen
2050

Why? To implement City plans

Richmond 300 Objective 17.7

Increase and enhance biodiversity within Richmond

Revise the City's weed ordinance to allow for exemptions for native plant species and plants for health pollinator communities on private lands.

RVAgreen 2050 Strategy ENV-3.3

Land Management Practices

Enhance land management practices to increase capacity for flood resilience measures.

Bee City Resolution RES. 2023-R061 (January 2024)

Bee City USA Affiliate Designation

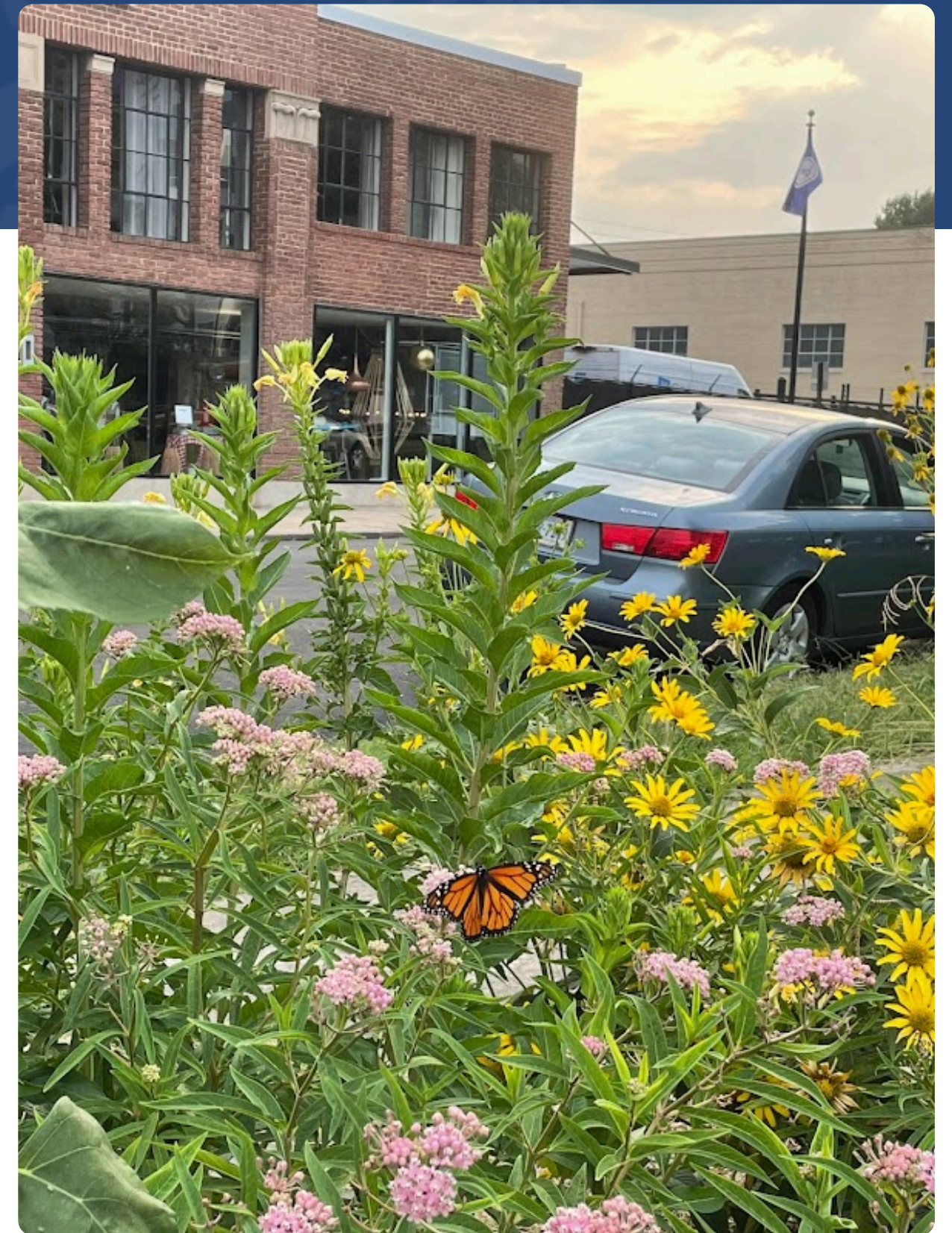
Revise City policies to support pollinator conservation.

Native Plant Benefits

Native plants are any indigenous plant, including any grass, wildflower, forb, fern, shrub or tree, which evolved to occur naturally in and is well-adapted to local ecosystems, comprised of local soils, climate, wildlife, and growing conditions of the Mid-Atlantic region.

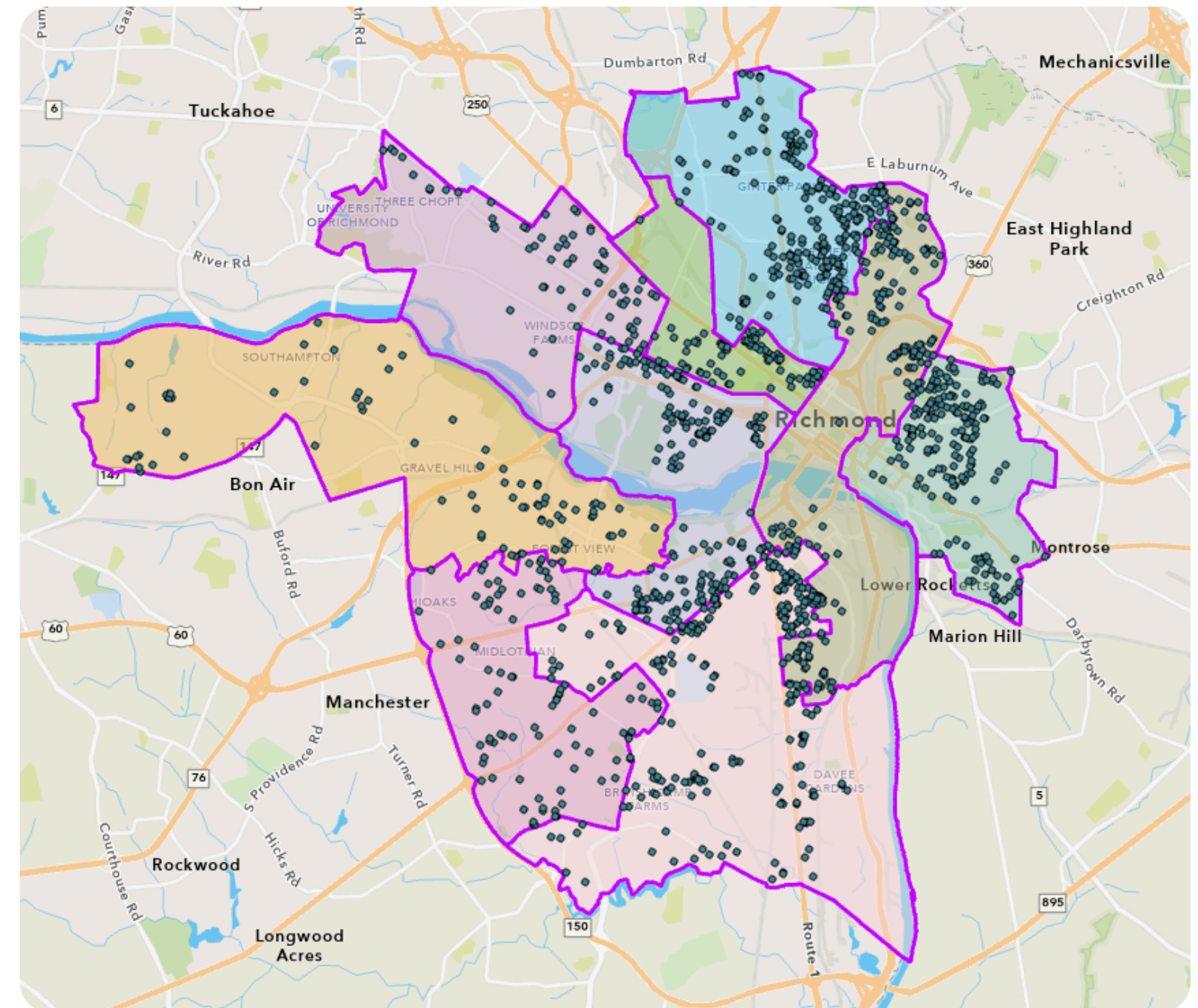
Benefits

- Increases habitat & supports biodiversity
- Mitigates heat & flooding in vulnerable neighborhoods
- Reduces need for irrigation
- Reduces maintenance and fuel costs
- Reduces noise pollution and GHG emissions associated with lawncare



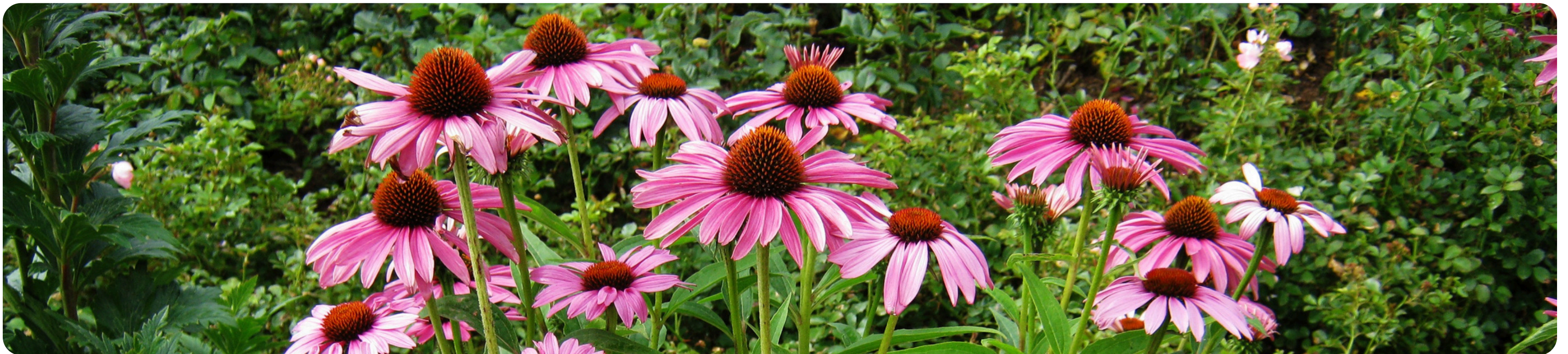
1,452 Weed Violations Citywide in 2025

Council District	Weed
1	70
2	89
3	245
4	83
5	211
6	193
7	201
8	262
9	98



4 Key Updates

1. **Definition for “Native Plants”**
2. **Adds native plants to list of items exempted from lawn height restriction**
3. **Designates woody debris as habitat if properly managed**
4. **Outlines four indicators of intentional stewardship to ensure compliance**



Common Native Landscapes

Rain Garden / Bioswale



Wildflower Meadow



Pollinator Garden



Indicators of Intentional Stewardship

Plant arrangement

Informational signage

Regular maintenance

Defined borders



Engagement & Outreach

- Engaged **Richmond Bee City Committee** and **Wild Ones Local Chapter** regarding ordinance update.
- Developed **Virginia Friendly Landscaping** webpage (www.rvagreen2050.com/va-friendly-landscaping) with a resource library, plant guides, directory of local nurseries, list of local organizations to support residents.
- **Attend neighborhood gatherings, community events, district meetings, and business associations** to educate residents and businesses about Virginia Friendly Landscape resources.
- **Distribute seed packets** for residents to establish their own native gardens.



Thank you



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