



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: *Testimony for Resolution
Landscape Manual Update*

To: *Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer*

From: *Lynda Eisenberg, AICP, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning*

Date: *December 15, 2025*

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CE

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports Resolution ____ -2026 to replace the 1998 Landscape Manual with the proposed updates 2025 Landscape Manual. This is the manual's first substantial update since 2010 and our community has grown and changed, as well as our needs for sustainable, attractive and resilient landscapes. The goals of this update are to:

- Revise planting requirements that resulted in too much or too little landscape planting.
- Clarify sections of the Manual that were ambiguous or confusing.
- Include requirements that support other County initiatives such as the Climate Action Plan, Green Infrastructure Network, and Howard County Bee City.
- Reorganize the content to a more modern and user-friendly format.
- Add requirements for uses that were not prevalent in 1998.
- Update specifications to current regional best practices.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the County budget.

cc: Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator
Chad Edmondson, Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning