

Fairlington Arbor Landscape Committee Charter

Date Established: February 24, 2026

Renewal date: February (annual recommitment of Committee members)

Charter review date: February 2029 (every 3 years)

Background: The Fairlington Arbor Board has historically relied on the help of its residents in gardening, landscaping, and beautification efforts that complemented and extended the work performed by the Arbor's grounds maintenance contractors. Over the years as the Board's composition has changed, (including the General Manager position), there have been different levels of engagement and conflicting approaches towards addressing the Arbor's landscaping needs to the extent that some projects done in one year were reversed in following years and resident participation was reduced and ultimately eliminated. It would be beneficial to have a stable and structured Committee focused on establishing and maintaining enduring landscape-related standards in the Arbor and engaging the Arbor community in the pursuit of these efforts.

Purpose: To develop a coherent vision and a set of best practices that implement science-based standards (Arbor Landscape Standards) for sustainable landscaping*, which will provide a reference point for the Board to follow as its members change over time; to assist the Board in implementing its approved and established Arbor Landscape Standards; to engage the community in common area beautification efforts (the Committee will be provided a limited annual budget for this); and to assist the Arbor Board in landscape-related budget and other planning efforts.

*Sustainable landscaping is an approach that balances attractiveness with the local climate and environmental requirements and builds landscape resilience. Key principles include maintaining soil health, implementing water conservation practices, enhancing biodiversity, integrating natural pest management, and implementing cost efficient designs that minimize maintenance, resource use and negative environmental impact.

Scope: The Committee will:

- Develop and, once approved by the Board, periodically update a science-based Landscape Standards document for the Arbor.
- Assist the Arbor Board in developing long-range landscaping plans that follow the Arbor Landscape Standards for projects such as court rejuvenations, removing invasive plants, new plantings, and pruning trees and shrubs.
- Participate in discussions with landscapers on court-specific rejuvenation/renovation plans.
- Coordinate with the General Manager plans related to the Committee's gardening and landscaping projects in common areas.
- Organize and coordinate with the General Manager community-wide gardening events.

- Educate the community about the Arbor’s Landscape Standards, the Committee’s activities, and seasonal gardening information through venues such as the newsletter, website, and bulletin boards.
- Provide budget recommendations related to Arbor landscaping and Committee projects.
- Review and provide input on proposed general landscaping contracts.

Expected Outcomes:

- A structured and disciplined approach to Arbor landscaping that can be consistently followed for years to come, thus ensuring a harmonious and more sustainable Arbor landscape.
- Individual landscape decisions are made in the context of established long term goals, informed by sustainable landscaping best practices.
- A more engaged Arbor community.
- A more family friendly landscape that offers an enhanced living experience for its residents while optimizing property value.

Deliverables:

- An Arbor Landscape Standards document (March 2026). At a minimum, this document will enumerate:
 - Landscaping practices that grounds maintenance contractors and landscape design companies must include in future landscaping contracts.
 - The Arbor’s approach to common area landscaping, including appearance, sustainability, pesticide/fertilizer use, and drought/heat resistance.
 - Guidelines for plant selection.
- Limited Committee gardening and landscaping work done in line with established Arbor Landscape Standards to include periodic community-wide planting/clean-up events.
- Feedback on landscape-related budgets, plans, and contracts.
- Periodic updates to the Board on its activities.
- A community communication plan related to the Arbor’s Landscape Standards and the Committee’s activities.

Committee Members and Roles and Responsibilities:

- Membership:
 - 3-5 Committee members are selected by the Arbor Board President.
 - Members serve one-year terms and can renew that membership each year.
- Chair: Monika Schiller
 - Serves as the point of contact for the Arbor Board and the General Manager.

- Organizes and leads official Committee meetings.
Note: Any Arbor resident may participate in these meetings and provide feedback and recommendations but may not cast votes.
- Submits official Committee meeting notes to the Arbor Board.
- Updates the Board on Committee Activities.
- Vice-Chair: Paula Soderlund
 - Fills-in for the Chair when necessary.
- Other members: Tina Byrd, Anne Kusserow, Karen Mo
 - Work in whatever capacity necessary to execute on the Committee's purpose.
- All members:
 - Provide input into the Arbor vision/standards document and maintenance.
 - Provide input and content to the communication plan.
 - Provide feedback to the Board, as needed.
 - Vote on specific recommendations provided to the Board.
 - Convene working meetings.
 - Lead and/or participate in gardening activities and projects.
 - Serve as note-takers at Committee meetings.

Arbor Board Roles and Responsibilities:

- Works to faithfully implement the Arbor's established landscape vision/standards, ensuring future Board members are apprised of the long-term plan and goals for the Arbor's landscaping efforts.
- Supports and enables the Committee to do its work.
- Maintains open communication with feedback to the Committee on its recommendations and suggestions.
- Selects Landscape Committee members and takes into consideration recommendations on future membership from current Committee members.
- Approves an annual Committee budget with a minimum of \$1,000 to support the above-discussed Committee and community-wide projects.
- Adjudicates conflicts or disagreements between interested parties (e.g., Committee members, owners, the General Manager, landscaping contractors).