

Natural Heritage Committee Work Plan FY 24/25

Work Item	BAP Goal	Description	Target Date	Lead Members
AC44 Action Steps	Multiple	Review draft AC44 action steps for the Environmental Stewardship, Rural Area, and Parks/Recreation chapters (plus other chapters as needed), and provide suggested revisions to staff.	Depends on AC44 schedule -- TBD.	Rob McGinnis,
Riparian Buffer Overlay District	14	Review draft ordinance and provide suggested revisions to staff.	Depends on draft ordinance release date – TBD.	Rob McGinnis,
Budget Recommendations	Multiple	Draft and send in NHC budget recommendations for FY 25/26.		
New member recruitment	-	Find and encourage applications from people with relevant experience in biodiversity protection and environmental education.	Ongoing	
Biodiversity Indicators & Assessment	21	Delegate two members to evaluate other localities' action plans and/or reports to find potential local indicators of biodiversity status. Report to the full committee on available data sources and potential indicators. Evaluate and update the county's Biodiversity Assessment.		
Biodiversity education, information, & engagement	3, 20	Delegate two members to identify and draft potential updates to the County's Environmental Stewardship Hub. Review changes with a full committee and provide updates to staff for posting. Plan presentations to BOS.	TBD	
Biodiversity Action Plan – preliminary preparation for future update	From plan overview	Delegate two members to work with staff on identifying needs and issues for any eventual update of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Report to full committee with outline of recommendations.	Ongoing	
Wildlife Corridors	7	Provide support for ongoing research & efforts in identifying and protecting wildlife corridors in the County as well as identifying and creating safe wildlife crossings.	Ongoing	
Biophilic Cities		Provide support as needed for aspects of the proposed Biophilic Cities project that relate to Albemarle County.	Ongoing	Mona El-Khafif,

Natural Heritage Committee Tasks

Duties/Function: The Natural Heritage Committee is an advisory committee that maintains the County's Biodiversity Assessment; advises the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and County staff on applying biodiversity information to land-use decision-making; and supports biodiversity education in the County.

TASKS:

- A. Input on and oversight of the maintenance, expansion, updating, and evaluation of the ongoing Biodiversity Assessment begun by the Biodiversity Work Group, and development of a protocol for assessing changes in the state of biodiversity (with reference to planning goals).
- B. Assistance in staff development of an action plan that specifies detailed steps for achieving protection of biodiversity as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.
- C. Development of policy recommendations to the Board in response to biodiversity issues and information gathered from the Biodiversity Assessment. The Committee should be consulted on programs, regulations, and Comprehensive Plan changes that may affect biodiversity protection.
- D. Development of educational materials and programs on biodiversity.
- E. Provision of periodic reports to the Board of Supervisors on the state of biodiversity in the County.