

Introduced & 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: October 20, 2020  
Adopted: December 1, 2020

**CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND  
ORDINANCE NO. 09-2020**

Introduced by: Councilmember Luke Chesek

**Creating Chapter 12C of the Mount Rainier Code to Create the Mount Rainier Native Plant Network**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council has the authority to legislate on matters concerning public health;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council recognize the loss of bio-diversity that threatens entire ecosystems, including those the human race relies upon for its own survival.

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council recognize the importance of native planting throughout its community to promote bio-diversity in our city.

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council believe that it can promote the use of native planting on all properties in its city –single-family homes, apartment complexes, businesses, and public properties – to create a native ecosystem that can be used as model across the nation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, effective immediately, Chapter 12C, Urban Forest, of the *Mount Rainier Code* is hereby created as follows:

**Section 12C. Native Plant Network**

**Section 12C. Establishment of the Mount Rainier Native Plant Network.**

A. The Mount Rainier Native Plant Network is established to:

1. Encourage and promote the existence of properties committed to growing native plants that promote bio-diversity on all our

- lands – whether a public property, a single-family home, a multi-family apartment complex, or business – and restore more of an ecological balance in our City; and
2. Educate the general population on the benefits of growing native plants.
- B. Each fiscal year, the City Manager’s proposed budget shall include funding for signage to designate membership in the Native Plant Network after consideration of a cost proposal from the Green Team.
- C. A property can become a member of the Native Plant Network by being designated as such by the Mount Rainier Green Team.
- D. Tiered membership in the Native Plant Network shall be determined by the Green Team as follows:
1. Native Seedling Member – a Native Seedling Member of the Native Plant Network has 10% of its landscape/non-structured property (or equivalent coverage in vertical planting or green roofs) covered with native plantings.
  2. Native Forest Member – a Native Forest Member of the Native Plant Network has 50% of its landscape/non-structured property (or equivalent coverage in vertical planting or green roofs) covered with native plantings.
  3. Biodiversity Member – a Biodiversity Member of the Native Plant Network has at least 25 native plants on the property regardless of lot coverage.
- E. The Green Team shall share the addresses of members in the Native Plant Network with Code Compliance to assist Code Compliance in administering Section 6-112 of the City Code.
- F. The Green Team shall establish an interactive online map or other online tools to track membership in the Native Plant Network and use this map to promote the existence and benefits of the Network and educate the general population on the benefits of planting native.

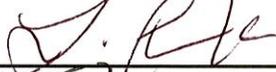
G. The Green Team may seek funding – through grants or voluntary contributions – to assist in the purchasing signage or other tools to promote the existence of the Native Plant Network.

**THIS ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2020.**

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Latasha Gatling, Interim City Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Malinda Miles, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward 1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward 1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward 2

  
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Scott Cecil, Councilmember Ward 2