



The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society

September 14, 2021

Mayor Tarter and City Council Members
City of Falls Church
300 Park Avenue
Falls Church, Va., 22046

SUBJECT: Restore City Support for RainSmart Program

The RainSmart Program, implemented under a Memorandum of Understanding between VPIS and the City, is making a useful contribution to management of stormwater.

The RainSmart program provides grants to City residents for purchase of rain barrels and for installation of rain gardens and related projects. To date, the program has supported installation of over 54 rain barrels with more approved for installation soon. In addition, the program has supported installation of six rain gardens and several rain garden projects are in development.

More information about the program is available at:

<https://www.vpis.org/environment/rainsmart-program/>.

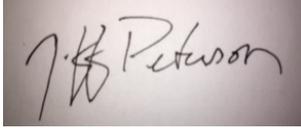
The RainSmart MOU calls for the City to reimburse VPIS for eligible expenses up to \$10,000 per year. Although final annual invoices have been less than the fully authorized amount, this amount of available funding allows the development of multiple projects over the course of a year with the understanding that some will go through to final payment and others will not.

For FY 2022, the City cut RainSmart funding from \$10,000 to \$5,000 annually. VPIS did not object to this cut because we were unaware of it until after the budget was final. This funding cut will significantly reduce our ability to bring promising rain garden and conservation landscape project along through the development, review and approval process.

VPIS urges the City to restore the base funding level of \$10,000. VPIS believes that a significantly expanded program could play an important role in supporting investments in stormwater management by property owners throughout the City.

We look forward to working with you on this important program.

Sincerely,

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Jeff Peterson".

Jeff Peterson
On behalf of the Board
Village Preservation and Improvement Society

cc: City Manager
Environmental Sustainability Council
Urban Forestry Commission