



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2018-10

WHEREAS, the sustainability of New Castle County's (the "County's") biodiversity and local ecology is important to the quality of life of all County residents; and

WHEREAS, research by the University of Delaware establishes that Delaware's local ecology is suffering from the extinction and extirpation of local plants and animals, including 31% of its reptiles and amphibians, 20% of its fish species and 34% of its dragonflies; and

WHEREAS, the population of many of Delaware's bird species has decreased almost 50% over the past 50 years; and

WHEREAS, 40% of Delaware's native plant species are threatened or have been extirpated; and

WHEREAS, the loss of species and biodiversity in ecosystems decreases watershed management (water quality and flood control), reduces pollinators, reduces carbon sequestration and reduces soil enrichment; and

WHEREAS, New Castle County Code Section 40.23.280 prohibits the use of invasive exotic species in new development and provides a list of recommended native plant species; and

WHEREAS, the County owns and maintains over 6,000 acres of parkland and open space in addition to property surrounding over 50 County facilities; and

WHEREAS, the use of native plant species on County land and the promotion of native species County-wide increases biodiversity, improves the local ecology and controls the proliferation of invasive species which pose significant environmental threats and economic threats to resource-based industries and agricultural economy

THEREFORE, I, the County Executive of New Castle County Matthew Meyer, direct that the following procedure be implemented:

1. The County shall use only native plant species in the development of new landscaped areas and in the rehabilitation of existing landscaped areas on County property such as parks and landscaped areas surrounding buildings.
2. County departments shall encourage the integration of native vegetation in new and existing landscaped areas County-wide to prevent the introduction of exotic species into the natural landscape.
3. This Executive Order shall become enforceable immediately upon signature by the New Castle County Executive. This Executive Order will remain in effect until and unless rescinded by subsequent order of the New Castle County Executive.

Matthew Meyer
New Castle County Executive

May 3, 2018

Date