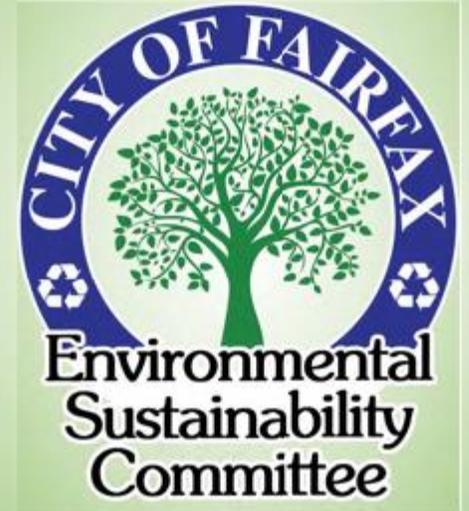


City of Fairfax Environmental Sustainability Committee

2015 Annual Report

CITY OF FAIRFAX
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Committee Members: Tim Killian (Chair) Susan Crata
Bruce Knight Adam Basinger
Judy Fraser Mark Chandler
Jon Buttram

Annual Report of the ESC

- Committee Administration
- Outreach and Education
- Schools
- Stormwater Management
- Recycling and Solid Waste
- Development Review and Comment
- Trees, Land and Park Stewardship
- Invasive Plant Species
- *Protecting Our Natural Environment* Speaker Series
- 2016 Work Plan
- Comment to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Annual Report of the ESC

- Committee Administration
 - New Chair
 - Two new ESC members
- Outreach and Education
 - Fall Festival
 - 5th Annual Earth Art Show
 - Derby-Q
- Schools
 - Green/ECO Clubs
 - AP Environmental Studies
 - Awards and Achievements



Stormwater Management

- VDEQ Stormwater Management Basic Course
- VDEQ Stormwater Management BMPs
- Danielle Wynne, Fairfax County, Stormwater Planning Division
 - Spoke on the biological health of our streams

 Stormwater Management
Basic Course



Recycling and Solid Waste

- Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)
- SWMP Advisory Committee.
- Solid Waste Services Guide and Recycling Magnet
- OTC Prescription Medicine Drop-Off

OTC, Prescription Medicine Drop-Off Set for May 30

Participate in Medicine Take-Back Day by bringing unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications to the City of Fairfax Police Station, 3730 Old Lee Highway. Pills, ointments and liquids in sealed containers will be accepted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 30 at the police station. Drop-off is anonymous. Information: 703-385-7829.

November 10, 2015

City of Fairfax, Virginia
Solid Waste Management Plan



David Summers, Director
City of Fairfax Department of Public Works
10655 Armstrong St., Room 200 A
Fairfax, VA 22030

Single Family and Townhouse
Solid Waste Services Guide
SUMMER 2015



The City of Fairfax is committed to providing excellent solid waste management services and aims to minimize the amount of waste being sent to the landfill through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery.

Source reduction, also known as waste prevention, is the most preferred method of waste management and goes a long way toward protecting the environment.

Here are some steps you can take to make an impact:

- REDUCE TRASH**
 - Take reusable bags to the store
 - Buy items with less packaging
 - Buy items in bulk or in large containers instead of single serving packages
 - Use reusable containers, cups, and napkins
- REDUCE YARD & FOOD WASTE**
 - Start a compost pile for food waste, leaves, grass clippings, and twigs
 - Use a mulching mower and leave grass clippings on the lawn
- REDUCE RECYCLING MATERIALS**
 - Use reusable bags, glasses, and water bottles
 - Read the newspaper online
 - Asked to be removed from mailing lists to reduce the amount of junk mail
- REUSE**
 - Donate unwanted clothes, books, furniture, and household items
 - Buy items from thrift stores or online resale sites
 - Use plastic bags more than once before recycling

These actions save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by decreasing the consumption of raw materials and energy used during manufacturing, transportation and disposal.

www.fairfaxva.gov/recycling

CITY OF FAIRFAX
www.fairfaxva.gov/Recycling

Place all recyclable materials in the blue bin.



Empty and rinse out all food residues.

Questions or need an extra bin?
Call 703-385-7837
Email WeCare@fairfaxva.gov

DO NOT RECYCLE



Development Review and Comment

- Generalized Development Plan (GDP) for the Mantua Professional Center Development Project (The Enclave).
 - The Committee review addressed potential environmental and sustainability issues of the proposed development.
 - The Committee submitted their comments in September prior to final approval of the developer's plan.
- The ESC stands ready to assist in further reviews of future development/redevelopment projects in support of the City's environmental and sustainability goals.

September 3, 2015

From: City of Fairfax Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC)
To: Senior Planner, City of Fairfax Department of Community Development and Planning

Subj: ESC Questions and Comments on IDI-RJL Development Mantua Professional Center Development Project (The Enclave)

Discussion: As agreed, the Community Development and Planning Department will identify projects with environmental aspects that would be of interest to the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) for review. The Mantua Professional Center development 'The Enclave' has been identified by the Planning Department as a candidate project for ESC review. This project has been evaluated by the City of Fairfax Planning Commission and has been presented to the City Council during its meeting on June 23, 2015.

Background: The City Sustainability Coordinator provided a briefing to the ESC on the nature and status of the proposed IDI-RJL development 'The Enclave' on July 9, 2015. The ESC agreed to review the Generalized Development Plan (GDP) (amended May 1, 2015) and provide questions, comments and recommendations within the scope of the ESC charter. The ESC received the GDP, and later obtained the City staff comments from the June 23, 2015 City Council meeting for review. Based on reviews by members of the ESC, the following questions and comments are submitted for the assigned Planner and Community Development Division Planner.

Questions:

1. **Property Divisions.** It appears that there is a portion of the property (identified as "Existing Preserved Open Space Area" in the drawing (Sheet 7)) that has no development planned. Is this area a historical part of the parcel or added for the purpose of this particular development?

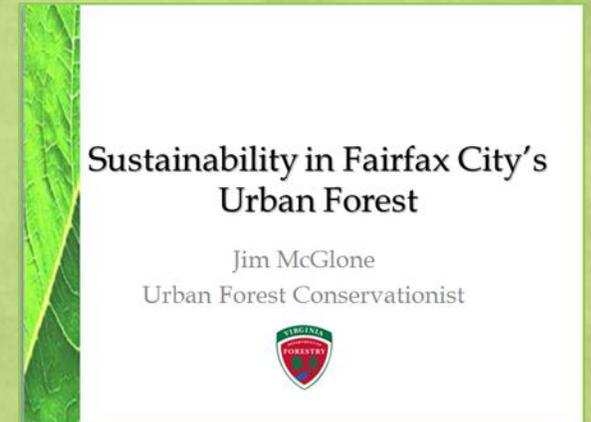
Staff Comment: This area is part of the existing parcel. The applicant is proposing a lot line adjustment that impacts what properties several of the parking spaces are in, but does not impact the "preserved area".

In regards to the Existing Preserved Open Space:

- a. Is this area critical to the 33% tree canopy proposed by the developer?
- b. If this portion were not included, would the development meet the 15% tree canopy requirement? (Sheet 9 – 10-year Tree Cover Calculations)

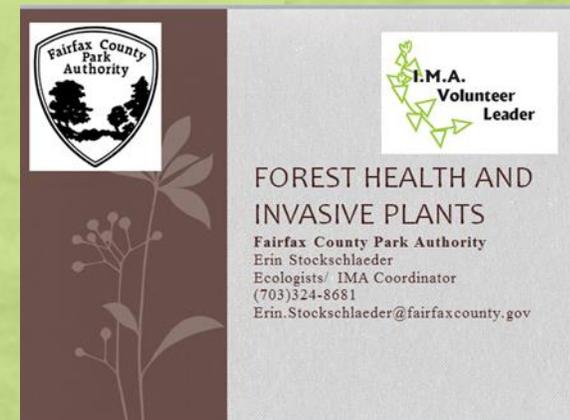
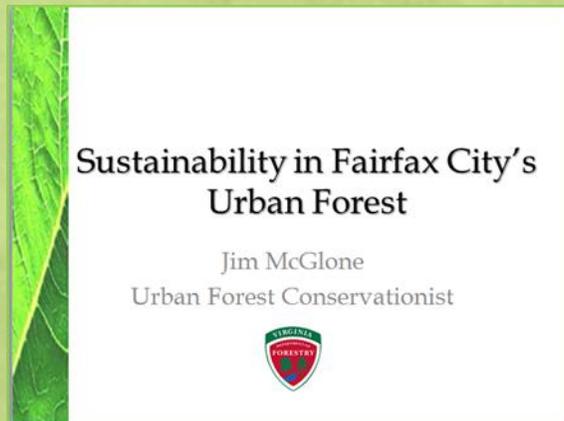
Trees, Land & Park Stewardship and Invasive Plant Species

- Jim McGlone, Urban Forest Conservationist with the Virginia Department of Forestry
 - Spoke about the many issues that affect urban forests and the benefits from maintaining a health urban forest
- Erin Stocksclaeder, Fairfax County Park Authority
 - Spoke on the benefits of maintaining a health forest and highly diverse forest.
- Valerie Morgan, City Resident
 - Gave a presentation to the ESC on invasive plants in the City.
 - Led the ESC on a tour of the wooded area adjacent to Sherwood Community Center.



Protecting Our Natural Environment Speaker Series

- Jim McGlone, Urban Forest Conservationist, Virginia Department of Forestry: *Sustainability in Fairfax City's Urban Forest*
- Danielle Wynne, Fairfax County, Stormwater Planning Division: *Biological Health of Our Streams*
- Erin Stocksclaeder, Fairfax County Park Authority: *Forest Health and Invasive Plants*



Protecting Our Natural Environment Speaker Series: Assessment and Observations

- Solutions for Protecting Our Streams and Woods
 - **Staffing:** Dedicated staff time and training can yield large returns.
 - **Funding:** Ongoing funding will be needed to protect our natural areas.
 - **Setting Goals:** Although regulatory requirements serve a worthwhile function, the City will need to do more to ensure healthy ecosystems.
- General Observations
 - **Staff:** Positive and ongoing interdepartmental coordination is important for efficient and effective stewardship.
 - **Leadership:** The health of our natural areas will best be served by an ongoing commitment on the part of political leadership.
 - **Partnering:** Expertise are available to the City on all these issues from State, County and private sources.

2016 Work Plan

- ESC Activities for 2016
 - School environmental program support
 - Review and comment on City land use and development proposals
 - Provide recommendations to the General Assembly legislation package
 - Serve as Advisory Committee for integrating sustainability into the City Comprehensive Plan
 - Support the Workplace and Neighborhood Sustainability Challenges, Sustainability Procurement “Playbook” and STAR Leading Indicators Pilot Project grant implementation.
 - Support implementation of Solid Waste Management Plan including the hiring of a Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator

2016 Work Plan

- ESC Priorities for 2016

- Increase understanding and awareness of the City's natural resources
- Current and future stormwater management actions and policies
- Support City adoption and implementation of an invasive plant species management plan
- Identify more opportunities to educate citizens on energy, environmental and sustainability issues.
- Identify multi-modal transportation opportunities within the City
- Determine impact of VDEQ revised aboveground storage tank regulations on fuel storage tanks in the City
- Support solid waste and recycling program implementation within the City

Revised State Regulations Will Enhance Safety of 'Tank Farm' Located in City

Already one of the most regulated facilities in Virginia, the Pickett Road petroleum storage complex ("tank farm") will be subject to new regulations November 1 requiring upgrades to several above-ground tanks.

These regulations require storage tanks in the city be equipped with a release prevention system by 2021. This typically takes the form of a "double bottom."

Most of the tanks in the Fairfax facility already meet the proposed standard, and owners of the remaining tanks already had planned these upgrades.

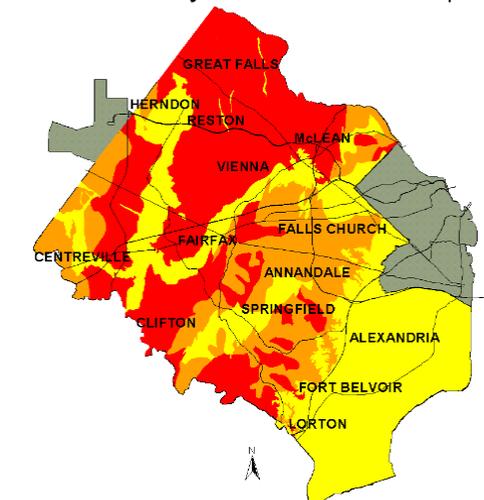
City staff and representatives of civic associations near the tank farm participated

on the Regulatory Advisory Panel that drafted the revised regulations, which will be enforced by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The revised regulations were published in the Virginia Register and on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website (<http://townhall.virginia.gov>) for public comment.

The rewrite of the storage tank regulations was prompted by legislation sponsored by Virginia Senator Chap Petersen (34th District) and Virginia Delegate David Bulova (37th District), following an October 2010 tank farm "summit" initiated by city leadership. *Information: 703-385-7830.*

Fairfax County Radon Potential Map



Comment to Capital Improvement Plan(CIP)

- Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator
 - The ESC supports the hiring and funding of a *Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator* per Section 9-1 of the SWMP
 - As stated in the SWMP, this position is critical for the implementation of the Plan.
- Arborist
 - The ESC continues to support the funding for an on staff arborist.
 - The ESC has identified three critical areas of work: preventive care and monitoring; tree policies and plan review; and outreach.

9.1 Projected and Estimated Costs for Near-term Actions

The following cost projections were generated for some of the SWMP actions (see Chapter 7 for detailed list of actions) that had sufficient data to estimate future costs; were anticipated to be of high priority and most likely to take place within the near term. These estimated costs were calculated in July of 2015.

1. Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator

Many of the ongoing, expanded, or new staff responsibilities described in the Implementation Plan (Chapter 7), will require new staffing as there is currently no appropriate staffer in the Public Works Operations Division. This position is critical for the implementation of the SWMP. Notably, the City is currently the only jurisdiction in Northern Virginia without a designated Solid Waste

MEMO

To: Mayor Silverthorne and City Council Members
From: The Environmental Sustainability Committee
RE: Proposed Arborist Position
Date: February 27, 2015

In its advisory capacity to the City Council, the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) has reviewed the Community Appearance Committee's (CAC) letter to City Council dated January 28, 2015. The ESC supports the CAC's request for consideration of funding for an on staff arborist. The ESC has identified three critical areas of work: preventive care and monitoring; tree policies and plan review; and outreach.

In general, trees in urban environments require care and maintenance to thrive in what can be highly stressful conditions. As a recent example, the City recently planted several stately American Elms at the new Old Town Square Park. While the particular variety that was chosen is resistant to Dutch Elm Disease, the trees will need to be monitored for any sign of beetle activity to truly safeguard them. A trained arborist will know what signs to look for and how to treat potential problems before a problem becomes fatal to the tree. Without this type of technical knowledge our trees are unnecessarily vulnerable to both natural and human activities. Calling in an arborist after damage has occurred is often too late. Vigilant monitoring by a trained arborist is a critical component of protecting tree health in our City.

The monitoring and implementing actions necessary to enhance the vitality and longevity of our trees is time consuming and technical work, but a ounce of prevention is, in this case, an arborist. Without supervision by an arborist, even accepted practices can backfire. Techniques that are common for reducing labor and crew hours while promoting tree health, such as tree gates for watering, can become vectors for disease if left on trees during the winter. In addition to the skilled use of time saving techniques, an arborist can save the City time and money through proper tree selection and planting strategies, and help with the efficient and strategic use of crew time by prioritizing the most urgent and worthwhile tasks.

The City needs to update and coordinate tree related policies including tree management guidelines, tree replacement scheduling, review standards, and guidance for plan review, a nother service which an arborist could provide. Over the years many trees in the City have been poorly selected, improperly planted, and minimally maintained. Developers often have little incentive to plant species or specimens that will be best for long term vitality and inexpensive maintenance. Improper selection of species can lead to heavier maintenance costs, such as linden trees and white pines which present unnecessary risks and property damage due to inherent structural weaknesses. All new plantings need additional care and attention until they are well established. A carefully planned replacement program is so important to ensure that we maintain a sustainable tree canopy.

Questions or Comments?

