

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

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5-14-02

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 30, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF THE FY-2001 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ALEXANDRIA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COMMISSION

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**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of the FY 2001 Annual Report from the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council receive the FY 2001 Annual Report from the Environmental Policy Commission and thank the Commission members for their efforts on behalf of the City.

**DISCUSSION:** The Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) is an advisory body comprised of fifteen citizen members appointed by City Council to provide advice and make recommendations to City Council and, where appropriate, to the Planning Commission and the City Manager on issues relating to clean air, land use, noise pollution and abatement, pesticides, herbicides and contaminants, solid waste, water quality and supply, other topics relating to conservation and protection of environmental conditions, and other such matters referred to the Commission by City Council. The EPC is staffed by the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Division of Environmental Quality.

The EPC prepared a report which highlights the principal activities of the EPC for FY 2001 (July 1, 2000 through June 2001). Highlights on the Commission's work for FY 2001 included:

- The EPC adopted a resolution in support of and participated in the development of the Water Quality Management Supplement (WQMS) to the Master Plan that City Council adopted in January 2001.
- The EPC participated in the "Experience Four Mile Run!" community workshop that was held on May 5, 2001 at the Birchmere and Four Mile Run
- The EPC continues to take a leadership role in working with other boards and commission, citizens and civic groups in identifying and prioritizing environmental/quality of life issues. EPC representatives participated on the Open Space Steering Committee and the Windmill Hill Park Steering Committee.

- The EPC continued to support the annual Earth Day event during FY 2001 in conjunction with the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities and T&ES, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, 4H and Alexandria Volunteer Bureau. Earth Day in 2001 included three events, a stream clean-up of Four Mile Run on April 21, 2001, the previously described Four Mile Run Community Workshop and the annual Earth Day Celebration that took place on June 2, 2001 in Four Mile Run Park.

The FY 2001 EPC Annual report includes two new sections. The first new section covers issues and indicators related to Alexandria's Environmental Quality of Life. This new section includes:

- Summaries of environmental programs and events in the City
- Statistics from existing environmental programs in the City
- Summaries of new environmental programs started in FY 2001

The second new feature is a Progress Report prepared by the Division of Environmental Quality on the status of implementing the Water Quality Management Supplement to the Master Plan that City Council adopted in January, 2001. This is included as Appendix A of the EPC's 2001 Annual Report.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Letter from Cindy Chambers, Chair, EPC, to City Council

Attachment 2: Environmental Policy Commission Annual Report for FY 2001

**STAFF:**

Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

William J. Skrabak, Division Chief, Environmental Quality

Bill Hicks, Watershed Program Administrator

Rose Boyd, Director, Citizen Assistance



*City of Alexandria, Virginia*  
*Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission*



*P. O. Box 178*  
*Alexandria, Virginia 22313*

April 22, 2002

Honorable Mayor Kerry Donley and Members of City Council  
Suite 2300, City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: FY 2001 Environmental Policy Commission Annual Report

Dear Mayor Donley and Members of Council:

On behalf of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), it is my pleasure to forward to you the EPC's FY 2001 Annual Report.

This year's report not only summarizes the activities of the Commission over the past fiscal year but also includes a new section on the indicators of Alexandria's Environmental Quality of Life. This new section includes:

- Summaries of environmental programs and events in the City,
- Statistics from existing environmental programs in the City, and
- Summaries of new environmental programs started in FY 2001.

The Commission plans to provide these types of environmental statistics in each year's Annual Report so that trends in Alexandria's quality of life can be tracked from year to year. In the coming year, the Commission plans to solicit input from the community on other environmental indicators that may be important to Alexandrians. Additionally, the Commission is also looking at ways to increase citizen participation and community outreach on environmental issues. For example, the EPC recently formed an Environmental Restoration Subcommittee to develop and prioritize environmental restoration project ideas and to encourage public participation on this important topic.

The Commission looks forward to continuing to work on environmental issues affecting the City. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cindy Chambers".

Cindy Chambers  
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission

cc: Phil Sunderland, City Manager  
Richard Baier, Director, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services  
Environmental Policy Commission Members



**Fiscal Year 2001 Annual Report  
July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) was established under Chapter 4, Article M, of the City Code to “advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, where appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager.” A summary of EPC’s activities during Fiscal Year 2001 (FY2001) is presented below. This report also includes background information on the EPC and the makeup of the commission’s membership.

## 2. WHO WE ARE AND OUR AREAS OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

The Alexandria City Council established the EPC in 1970 to advise and make recommendations to the City Council and City Manager, where appropriate, on matters relating to the following:

- Clean air
- Land use
- Noise pollution and abatement
- Pesticides, herbicides and contaminants
- Solid waste
- Water quality and supply
- Other matters referred to the EPC by the City and citizens
- Other topics relating to the conservation and protection of Alexandria’s environment

The EPC consists of 15 members, and is supported by the City of Alexandria’s Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) Department. The EPC is comprised of the following:

- One member from the field of sanitary engineering
- One member from the field of intergovernmental relations
- One member from the field of urban planning
- One member from the field of ecology
- Two members from the field of environmental science
- One member from the field of engineering
- One member designated by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
- Five citizen-at-large members
- One student attending high school in the City of Alexandria
- One lawyer with experience in Federal or State environmental statutes, regulations and procedures

Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) members as of June 30, 2001, their representative roles on the commission, and their interests and expertise are included in the following table:

| NAME (POSITION)          | MEMBER SINCE | EPC REPRESENTATION     | INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE                                 |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---|
| Susan Anderson           | April 2001   | Citizen Member         | Environmental Planning                                  |
| Ross Bell                | June 1998    | Citizen Member         | Intergovernmental Affairs/<br>Waterfront Committee      |
| Cynthia Chambers (Chair) | Nov. 1997    | Citizen Member         | Water Quality   |
| Kevin Connell            | Sept. 2000   | Sanitary Engineering   | Water Quality   |
| Kevin DeBell             | June 2001    | Citizen Member         | Water Quality/Watersheds                                |
| Cindy DeGrood            | April 2001   | Environmental Sciences | Intergovernmental Affairs/<br>Environmental Restoration |
| Lisa Edouard             | Feb. 1999    | Ecology                | Regulatory Affairs/Urban Planning                       |

|   |            |                             |  |
|---|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Laura Hilden  | March 2001 | Citizen Member              | Financial Management                           |
| Kenyon Larsen<br>(Secretary & 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair) | Oct. 1998  | Environmental Sciences      | Haz. Waste/Wetlands/ Environmental Restoration |
| Doug MacMillan  | Sept. 1998 | Intergovernmental Relations | Trees/Law/Beautification                       |
| Jessie Morales  | March 2001 | Student Member              | Earth Day/Students/Outreach                    |
| Paula Potoczak  | Jan. 2000  | Chamber of Commerce         | Law  |
| Molly Theobald<br>(2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair)            | Nov. 1998  | Urban Planning              | Earth Day                                      |
| Tom Tyler   | Nov. 1994  | Law                         | Environmental Quality of Life                  |

### 3. INDICATORS OF ALEXANDRIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

In an effort to track progress of the City's environmental quality programs, the EPC would like to highlight the following FY2001 indicators to illustrate the state of Alexandria's environmental quality of life. These environmental statistics are projected to be provided in the EPC's annual report each year so that trends in Alexandria's environmental quality of life can be tracked from year to year.

#### Annual Environmental Highlights

Each year several environmental programs or events exemplify the importance of environmental quality to Alexandrians. The following fiscal year 2001 environmental highlights symbolize Alexandria's environmental quality of life.

- **Fall 2000** – City establishes an Environmental Quality Division within T&ES. William Skrabak is named as the first Chief of the Division of Environmental Quality.
- **Winter 2000/2001** – The City's Division of Environmental Quality spearheads efforts to form an Environmental Coordination Task Force to coordinate environmental issues amongst Departments.
- **January 2001** – Passage of the Water Quality Supplement to the City's Master Plan by City Council. This effort brings Alexandria into compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, provides the City's long-range vision on water quality, and puts Alexandria at the forefront of Virginia waterfront cities in complying with the Act.
- **April 2001** – The Solid Waste Division introduced their new recycling mascot Robbie the Recycling Squirrel to promote recycling programs in schools, recreation centers, and youth groups.
- **April 2001** – Four Mile Run Earth Day stream cleanup attended by over 100 people
- **May 2001** – A Four Mile Run Watershed Workshop was held to brainstorm ways to protect and restore Four Mile Run. Thanks to Congressman Jim Moran for securing \$1 million in Federal funding to study and restore this important watershed.
- **June 2001** – Alexandria Earth Day. Alexandrians converged on Cora Kelly Park to celebrate Earth Day. Attended by over 2100 people.
- **Spring 2001** – Mulch from leaves picked up in fall is available for free to Alexandria residents or delivered for a nominal fee. More than 300 loads were delivered to residents in this fiscal year.

#### Alexandria's Environment by the Numbers

It is difficult to measure the environmental quality of life with accuracy. Some qualities cannot be quantified. But we must look to some numbers as indicators of environmental quality. The following table presents Fiscal Year 2001 (July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001) numbers from environmental programs.

The EPC plans to include this section in future annual reports so that trends in Alexandria's environmental quality of life can be tracked.

| ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS                                       | GROUP RESPONSIBLE  |
|--|--|
| 380 Trees Planted  | Alexandria Dept. of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities |
| 3 Cleanups of Cora Kelly Park                                  | Alexandria Dept. of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities |
| 144,949 tons of waste picked up (waste + recyclables)          | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 25,349 tons recycled   | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 17.5 % recycling rate  | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 3,032.99 tons of paper recycled                                | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 242 tons of scrap metal recycled                               | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 1,534.23 tons of commingled aluminum, plastic & glass recycled | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 1,417 tons of leaves/trees mulched                             | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 12 tons of tires recycled                                      | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 1,605 tons of auto bodies recycled                             | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 6,628 tons of construction waste recycled                      | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 4 tons batteries recycled                                      | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 17,100 dry tons of sewage treatment sludge recycled            | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 400 drums of household hazardous waste                         | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 27,200 tons of City waste delivered to Waste-to-Energy Plant   | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |
| 119,600 tons of total waste delivered to Waste-to-Energy Plant | Alexandria Solid Waste Division *                              |

\* Estimated tonnage

### New for FY2001

This section highlights new environmental ideas or programs that were started in this fiscal year.

- **Forest Buddies Program:** Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities initiated a Forest Buddies Program at the William Ramsey Recreation Center to have children plant, care for, and track the growth of native trees and shrubs.
- **Wildflower Conservation Plot Initiative:** Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities implemented a new Wildflower Conservation Plot initiative involving senior volunteers in managing a plot in Cora Kelly Park and created a native flower meadow in Four Mile Run Park.
- **Recycling Pilot Programs:** The Solid Waste Division's Office of Recycling initiated pilot recycling programs at four recreational centers.
- **Goose Vamoose:** A program to utilize dogs to chase geese off active recreation areas was initiated by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.
- **Weekly Household Hazardous Waste Collection:** The City initiated a weekly household hazardous waste collection program. A collection site at 3600 Wheeler Ave. is open every Monday from 10 to 6 for drop off.

## 4. FISCAL YEAR 2001 COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

During FY 2001, the EPC worked with other city commissions and groups to address water quality, energy and open space issues facing the City, and to increase the visibility and importance of

environmental issues to city residents. Key highlights of the EPC's activities are described individually below.

#### **4.1 Water Quality Management Supplement to the City of Alexandria Master Plan**

In December 2000 the EPC unanimously endorsed the then-proposed Water Quality Supplement (WQS) to the City's Master Plan. The Planning Commission and City Council subsequently approved the WQS in January 2001. The WQS includes a number of action statements. City staff provides regular updates on their progress on implementing these action statements. The City's first progress report is attached to this annual report. The supplement focuses on water and habitat resources, water quality and restoration efforts. The WQS to the City's Master plan is available from Alexandria's web site at: <http://ci.alexandria.va.us>.

#### **4.2 Four Mile Run**

On May 5, 2001 over 100 people gathered at The Birchmere to focus on the efforts to protect and restore Four Mile Run. At this Four Mile Run Workshop, there was a presentation on the history of and the current issues facing Four Mile Run. During break-out sessions community discussion groups addressed three main questions:

- 1) What do you value about Four Mile Run?
- 2) What problems and issues concern you?
- 3) What are the short and long term actions for Four Mile Run?

The City participated in various aspects of this event. A 60 page summary of the day-long meeting was prepared as an outcome of this workshop.

#### **4.3 Waste-to-Energy Plant**

The waste-to-energy plant was activated in 1988 as a means to address decreasing landfill disposal options for waste streams. Fees are charged for the waste disposed at the plant, and for the resulting energy generated by waste incineration. The facility provides energy for 23,000 homes. Recent economic trends associated with the plan have resulted in financial losses as disposal fees for waste have declined and, due to a legal decision, municipalities can no longer direct private waste haulers to take waste to specific locations. Several efforts are under review to prevent future financial losses. These steps include, but are not limited to, renegotiating waste supply contracts and evaluating funding approaches.

#### **4.4 Earth Day**

Each spring the City hosts an Earth Day celebration, and this year Molly Theobald led the EPC's efforts in support of Earth Day. The City's observation took place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Four Mile Run. The June gathering was the culminating event for Earth Day 2001. Other associated events included a stream clean-up on April 21<sup>st</sup>, and the previously mentioned Four Mile Run workshop on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 2100 people attended the Earth Day celebration. EPC distributed a survey on environmental concerns, and the results are attached to this report. The results of the survey were presented to the Earth Day Committee and will be used to plan future Earth Day events.

#### **4.5 Wind Mill Hill Park**

In May 2001, public meetings were held to present comments to City boards and commissions, including the EPC. The EPC discussed the proposals and voted on five concepts that should be considered in the final park plan. In late June 2001, City Council discussed options for the proposed Windmill Hill Park located at the end of Gibbon Street. Council resolved to create a steering committee to help plan the park components with public input. At least one member of the steering committee will be from the EPC. As of the end of this fiscal year, the EPC member on that steering committee had not been selected.

#### **4.6 Open Space Assessment**

A review and assessment of open space conditions in the City of Alexandria was initiated during FY 2001 as a follow-up to the City's 1998 Quality of Life Summit. Under the leadership of the Parks and Recreation Commission, during the spring of 2001 community meetings were held in each of the Parks and Recreation Districts to solicit citizen concerns and input regarding open space needs. This process included an Open Space Summit held on June 23, 2001. Attendance at the Open Space Summit surpassed 100 people. The comments will be used to draft an open space report which will contain recommendations for future action by the City of Alexandria. The draft report will be prepared during the Fall of 2001, with final release expected in 2002. Tom Tyler, Laura Hilden and Cindy DeGrood attended the Open Space Summit, and Tom and Cindy have been the EPC representatives to the Open Space Work Group responsible for preparing the expected report.

#### **4.7 Environmental Restoration**

In the FY 2002 capital improvement budget, the City included \$100,000 in FY 2002, FY 2004, and FY2006 for "Environmental Restoration Projects." In testimony to the City Council on the FY2002 budget, the EPC supported the City's efforts to include such funding in the budget.

#### **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COMMISSION RETREAT**

On February 24, 2001, the EPC held a retreat to discuss the Commission's goals, roles, vision and mission and how to best serve the City. Members of the Commission, City Staff members and members of the public attended and participated in the retreat.

The Commission's mission statement reads as follows:

*The Commission will fulfill its mandate from the City of Alexandria by:  
1) establishing environmental goals, 2) proactively improving the City's environmental policies, and 3) monitoring the state of the environment of the City.*

Based on the mission of the EPC, the retreat resulted in the identification of the following goals for the Commission's upcoming year:

- ✓ Goal 1: Better define roles and responsibilities of EPC members and have a more active membership.
- ✓ Goal 2A: Implement a systematic scheduled review of City environmental policies and implementing organizations to determine if and how improvements can be made.
- ✓ Goal 2B: Increase citizen participation and have EPC subcommittees work with citizen groups.
- ✓ Goal 3: Develop an annual action calendar of regularly occurring activities and items to accomplish for the year.

The retreat also resulted in action items to accomplish these goals and each of these items has been accomplished or is in progress. Goal 1 has been accomplished through the development of a matrix of EPC roles and responsibilities that is updated regularly. Goal 2A is in progress. Goal 2B has been implemented and continues to evolve as activities are developed. Goal 3 has also been accomplished through the development of a strategic planning calendar.

Overall, the retreat was effective in helping to focus the commission on goals for the upcoming year and how to accomplish the goals. By working together and in partnership with others in the Community and with City Staff, the Commission can effectively accomplish its roles and responsibilities. The annual retreat is an event that should be continued in the future as a means of reviewing the past year's accomplishments, setting goals for the future and looking at ways to improve the Commission's processes to continually improve the effectiveness of the Commission in meeting its mission.

## **6.0 ATTACHMENTS**

Attached to this Annual Report are several important environmental reports.

- Appendix A: Progress Report on Water Quality Supplement to the City's Master Plan
- Appendix B: EPC Earth Day Survey Results
- Appendix C: Issue Areas/EPC Member Responsibility Matrix
- Appendix D: EPC Attendance Record



City of Alexandria

Transportation and Environmental Services

**Water Quality Management Supplement Update  
for the Environmental Policy Commission  
2001 EPC Annual Report**

*New Initiatives:*

**Adoption of Water Quality Management Supplement, January, 2001**

On January 13 of this year the City Council adopted the Water Quality Management Supplement to the Master Plan, thus, fulfilling the phase II requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Program and completing a process that began in late 1996. The document was prepared by the Northern Virginia Region Commission (NVRC) in close collaboration with Alexandria's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. Development of the Supplement involved a series of meetings that included City Staff, NVRC, and the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC). The document was docketed for the February 1, 2000 Planning Commission meeting where it was remanded back to the EPC and to the City to address citizen concerns. The EPC had public workshop on the plan and accepted additional comments. A revised document was approved by the Planning Commission in December of 2000 and adopted by City Council in January of 2001. On March 19, 2001, the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board "determined that the amendments made to the City of Alexandria's Comprehensive Plan have made its Phase II program consistent" with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

This document emphasizes Alexandria's water and habitat resources; it focuses on water quality impacts and directs the City, through specific initiatives, to preserve our existing resources and reclaim and better manage our watershed. As proof of the City's commitment, the City Council has earmark money for FY 2002, continuing through FY 2006, for environmental restoration.

**Four Mile Run Workshop, May 5, 2001**

The City helped put together a community workshop, entitled "Experience Four Mile Run" to discuss and focus on issues concerning Four Mile Run. "Friends of the Potomac" and the

National Park Service were the sponsors of the event with other partners including non-governmental organizations, governmental agencies, and, local municipalities. The event was well attended with more than 100 participants, including several elected officials.

The event included speakers, a sneak preview of a documentary on Four Mile Run, small group discussions, and an outside "Four Mile Run Experience." A final report was generated from the input of the participants and will be used by the local interest groups and municipalities in future planning in the Four Mile Run Workshop.

### **Four Mile Run Environmental Restoration (\$1,000,000 EPA Grant in Partnership with Arlington County)**

Alexandria has been working with Arlington County during the year to secure a noncompetitive grant for environmental restoration in Four Mile Run from 1-395 downstream to the mouth of the stream. The total money for the grant will be just less than \$1,000,000 beginning in FY03. The total effort will be equally divided into three parts, an engineering study of flow capacity in the run, conceptual plans for the run, an environmental project in the run. Any remaining monies will be used in the environmental project portion of the project. We expect that this effort will be a foundation for future environmental restoration both in Four Mile Run and other flood control channels in the area.

### **Providing Support to TMDL Development under NVRC's lead**

Four Mile Run is listed on EPA's 303d list for Fecal Coliform requiring the region to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load under the EPA-State approved program. The City is following the Northern Virginia Region Commission's lead in this matter. Although NVRC is in "early production" mode there has been one of three public meetings held for public participation. DEQ and several Alexandria Citizens participated in this meeting in Arlington.

### **On-going Flood Control Channel Maintenance is taken a more Environmentally Friendly Face.**

The EPC and DEQ have participated with the City's Engineering Division to help ensure that the City's ongoing flood control channel maintenance is done in an ecologically sound manner. DEQ and the EPC led a community discussion and walk through of the Cameron Run Flood Control Channel in early September and a second walk through with the City's Arborist and the City's horticulturist to locate and identify specific flora and fauna needs in the work areas. A proposal was prepared by DEQ for approval by the EPC for the remainder of the work. The actual work took place

in early 2002 without much public outcry.

The Holmes Run flood control channel is scheduled for maintenance work in FY03. The EPC has worked with DEQ and FEMA regarding the pilot program for limited maintenance work in the channel. We have worked to reach a final plan with much citizen input through public meetings throughout the project development.

Both projects have taken on a new approach consistent with goal number 3 in EPC letter to City Council dated September 8, 2000.

### **City has developed a Sampling Protocol for Base Line Sampling in Strawberry Run Watershed.**

DEQ has worked with the Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA) to develop a stream sampling protocol for an unnamed tributary to Strawberry Run. The tributary had drawn much attention from the surrounding community because of development pressures bordering the water course. The first sampling event took place in mid September. A report for that event is being prepared by ASA. A second sampling event will take place in late October.

### **Wetlands Mitigation for Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, Four Mile Run Park Wetlands Work**

A part of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project is to mitigate wetland impacts of the construction by creating new wetlands. DEQ has worked diligently with the project to locate some of those creations within the city limits. A site was located in the City's Four Mile Run Park on the northern border of the City. DEQ has canvassed the adjacent neighborhood of Hume Springs to ensure that everyone was aware of the project and to listen to citizen concerns. DEQ and Project staff have attended several local civic association meetings to discuss the project and solicit citizen input. The project will entail the creation of additional wetland and riparian creation along an unnamed tributary to Four Mile Run and Fragmite eradication in an existing wetland within the park.

### **Adoption of Environmental Crimes Ordinance**

In the spring of this year the City Council adopted a new ordinance dedicated to reducing harm done to the environment. The new ordinance, Environmental Crimes, outlines offenses and punishments. DEQ worked with City Staff to draft the ordinance and guided the final adoption through the City's process.

### **Schedule Environmental Working Group Meeting**

DEQ has been working to fulfill this initiative by organizing a group of City Staff to meet regularly to discuss each department's ongoing projects that may have impacts environmentally. The first meeting is expected to occur in late October.

### **Cameron Lake – Regional BMP**

DEQ met with Parks and Recreation staff at Cameron Lake to discuss solutions to the overabundant geese population at the park and other possible improvements to the lake. This is consistent with goal number 5 in EPC letter to City Council dated September 8, 2000.

### **Stream Inventory –Virginia State Grant (CBLAD)**

DEQ submitted a grant application to the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department to fund a project to perform a thorough inventory of the City's streams and tributaries. The City is expecting award of all or part of this grant request for FY03. This is consistent with goal number 8 in EPC letter to City Council dated September 8, 2000.

#### *Continued Initiatives:*

### **Standardized Comments for Site Plan Review**

DEQ has worked to ensure that current developers plans adhere to Article XIII, Environmental Management, of the City's Zoning Ordinance. DEQ has developed a consistent interpretation of the ordinance and has developed standardized requirements for a developers engineer to follow.

### **Leadership in innovative Urban BMP designs**

DEQ has often been sought out from across the nation to provide advice and guidance in the design and construction of sand filters to be used for stormwater in the urban environmental. City staff often participates in regional discussions on BMP design and implementation. This is consistent with goal number 10 in EPC letter to City Council dated September 8, 2000.

### **Site Plan Review / Resource Protection Areas**

DEQ has striven to ensure that all development projects that may impact Resource Protection Areas adhere to Article XIII, Environmental Management, of the City's Zoning Ordinance. DEQ has developed a consistent interpretation of the City's Ordinance

and worked diligently to protect RPAs. This is consistent with goal number 11 in EPC letter to City Council dated September 8, 2000.

### **Requiring Mitigation for Wetland Impacts**

DEQ has begun to consistently require from developers the mitigation of impacts to wetlands that result from the project. The mitigation has been on-site or off-site wetland enhancement, or riparian enhancement and now DEQ is examining the possibility of monetary contributions to be used for City managed wetland or stream restoration projects.

### **Combined Sewer System Permitting**

DEQ worked closely with the City's consultant to prepare an application for renewal of the City's VPDES – CSO permit (Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System – Combined Sewer Overflow.) This is consistent with goal number 7 in EPC letter to City Council dated September 8, 2000.

### **DEQ's Active Role in City Projects**

DEQ is playing an active role in City projects to ensure that the City holds to Article XIII, Environmental Management, of the City's Zoning Ordinance. This effort includes both DEQ's review of City projects prior to approval and education of the other City departments concerning what is required to meet Article XIII.

**Preliminary report on responses to the EPC questionnaire distributed at Earth Day celebrations on Saturday, June 2, 2001, at Four Mile Run Park.**

**Residency:**

- Of the 43 legible respondents, 36 were residents, 6 were non-residents, and one provided no answer.

**Questions about Earth Day logistics:**

- The majority of respondents favor changing the date to Earth Day in April (17 of 24 respondents)
- A slim majority of respondents favor moving the location to somewhere else (12 of 20 respondents); the waterfront/Old Town was the most common suggestion (4 of 12 respondents).
- The majority of respondents favor linking to a clean-up (17 of 21 respondents).
- Lists of suggested locations, how respondents heard about Earth Day, and miscellaneous comments are attached.

**Questions about the city environment.**

- See attached table. A crude analysis of the means can be done by assuming that means over three indicate a generally positive response, and means under three indicate a generally negative response.
- Based on this rule of thumb, most respondents rank the city as being responsive on environmental issues, having a high environmental quality of life, having clean streets and parks, and doing a good job at recycling.
- Also based on this rule of thumb, most respondents rank the city as having poor water quality in creeks, streams, and our section of the Potomac, and having inadequate open space.
- The survey asked about the most important environmental issue; the list of responses, broken down by residency, is attached.

Laura Hilden, EPC Citizen-at-large, June 18, 2001

# Descriptives

## Descriptive Statistics

|                       | N  | Minimum | Maximum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
|-----------------------|----|---------|---------|------|----------------|
| city responsive       | 42 | 1       | 5       | 3.55 | .99            |
| quality of life       | 43 | 1       | 5       | 3.37 | .93            |
| water quality         | 41 | 1       | 5       | 2.90 | 1.02           |
| water quality potomac | 42 | 1       | 4       | 2.71 | 1.04           |
| clean streets         | 43 | 1       | 5       | 3.81 | .98            |
| clean parks           | 42 | 2       | 5       | 3.79 | .84            |
| recycling             | 42 | 1       | 5       | 3.69 | 1.00           |
| open space            | 42 | 1       | 5       | 2.50 | 1.29           |
| Valid N (listwise)    | 37 |         |         |      |                |

## Report

|             |      |          |
|-------------|------|----------|
| change      |      | link to  |
| day         | move | clean up |
| N           | N    | N        |
| Grand Total |      |          |
| 24          | 20   | 21       |

# Report

resident enviro issue

No Answer work on clean up along Potomac

no roadside trash  
reduction of compostables from the waste stream  
clean water  
recycling

yes sewers  
open space, restoring creeks  
overall awareness--schools do good job, what about rest of population?  
streamside enhancement, e.g. Cameron Run  
open space, community gardens  
green space/open space  
more green space, should be required percentage  
cleanliness  
health care for children more important  
water, air, and noise pollution  
get rid of cars  
cans and bottles-solid waste  
pollution  
Jones Point  
probably the air quality  
cleanliness  
green space  
do more clean-ups, get citizens involved  
air  
compost for garbage, recycling for apartment complexes, recycle more items  
cleaning streams and preserve trees  
more open space for children  
impact of overcrowding, recycle cardboard  
more areas for dogs off leash  
water in rivers/streams, etc.  
recycle paper

# Report

How did you hear?

work for city  
flyer  
through Bill Skrabak  
NOVA greens  
Jaycees  
press  
cooperative extension  
flyers  
signs  
web site  
work  
flyer  
friends  
Alexandria Gazette  
rec center  
internet  
working in it  
school  
internet  
optimist club  
newspapers  
school  
newspaper  
newspaper  
4-H program  
live in area  
live in area  
DES Foundation  
media  
school  
EPC  
EPC  
poster  
friends and signs  
Alex. Chamber of Commerce  
internet  
work for city  
committee member  
posters and road signs  
poster  
school  
Alex Journal/Alex Transportation newsletter

## Report

new location suggestions from Q12

T.C. Williams  
Fort Ward  
waterfront  
waterfront  
bigger central loc.  
more accessible site  
good location  
TC Williams  
anywhere but here  
Old Town  
keep in Alex  
more popular park  
waterfront

## Report

MISC12 - "what would you like to see different?"

nothing  
more community involvement  
"parking" more publicity  
more people  
lower beverages prices  
likes Greens and Action for Animals  
more people  
very well done  
it's great!  
t-shirt sales  
more people  
everything is good  
invasive plant removal  
more announcements  
increased participation  
better signage--early  
have vegetarian organic food cart  
include more vendors  
more signs with maps showing how to get here  
more publicity  
compost bins should be for sale like Arlington Co.

# Frequencies

## Frequency Table

### resident

|         |        | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid   | no     | 6         | 13.6    | 14.3          | 14.3               |
|         | yes    | 36        | 81.8    | 85.7          | 100.0              |
|         | Total  | 42        | 95.5    | 100.0         |                    |
| Missing | System | 2         | 4.5     |               |                    |
| Total   |        | 44        | 100.0   |               |                    |

### change day

|         |        | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid   | no     | 7         | 15.9    | 29.2          | 29.2               |
|         | yes    | 17        | 38.6    | 70.8          | 100.0              |
|         | Total  | 24        | 54.5    | 100.0         |                    |
| Missing | System | 20        | 45.5    |               |                    |
| Total   |        | 44        | 100.0   |               |                    |

### move

|         |        | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid   | no     | 8         | 18.2    | 40.0          | 40.0               |
|         | yes    | 12        | 27.3    | 60.0          | 100.0              |
|         | Total  | 20        | 45.5    | 100.0         |                    |
| Missing | System | 24        | 54.5    |               |                    |
| Total   |        | 44        | 100.0   |               |                    |

### link to clean up

|         |        | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid   | no     | 4         | 9.1     | 19.0          | 19.0               |
|         | yes    | 17        | 38.6    | 81.0          | 100.0              |
|         | Total  | 21        | 47.7    | 100.0         |                    |
| Missing | System | 23        | 52.3    |               |                    |
| Total   |        | 44        | 100.0   |               |                    |

## Earth Day Survey

|   |   |   |   |     |    |
|---|---|---|---|-----|----|
| 1. Overall, do you think the city of Alexandria (city officials, staff, commissions) is responsive to environmental issues and concerns that are within the city's control? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4   | 5  |
| (1 = unresponsive; 5 = extremely responsive)  |   |   |   |     |    |
| 2. How would you rank Alexandria's "quality of life" in terms of its environmental health and programs?   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4   | 5  |
| (1 = poor quality; 5 = excellent quality)   |   |   |   |     |    |
| 3. How do you rank the water quality of Alexandria's streams and creeks?  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4   | 5  |
| (1 = very polluted; 5 = very clean)   |   |   |   |     |    |
| 4. How do you rank the water quality of Alexandria's section of the Potomac?  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4   | 5  |
| (1 = very polluted; 5 = very clean)   |   |   |   |     |    |
| 5. How would you rank the city streets in terms of cleanliness?   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4   | 5  |
| (1 = trashy/dirty; 5 = very clean)  |   |   |   |     |    |
| 6. How would you rank the city parks in terms of cleanliness?   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4   | 5  |
| (1 = trashy/dirty; 5 = very clean)  |   |   |   |     |    |
| 7. How would you rank the city's programs for recycling and waste reduction?  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4   | 5  |
| (1 = inadequate job; 5 = excellent job)   |   |   |   |     |    |
| 8. Do you feel there is enough open space in the city?  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4   | 5  |
| (1 = insufficient space; 5 = plenty of space)   |   |   |   |     |    |
| 9. What environmental issue does the city need to work on the most?   |   |   |   |     |    |
| 10. Are you a resident of Alexandria?   |   |   |   |     |    |
|   |   |   |   | Yes | No |
| 11. How did you hear about today's Earth Day event?   |   |   |   |     |    |
| <i>WORK AT ALEX. SANITATION AGTH.</i>   |   |   |   |     |    |
| 12. What would you like to see different about Alexandria's celebration of Earth Day?   |   |   |   |     |    |
| (options)a. Change the date to the Nat'l Earth Day in April?  |   |   |   |     |    |
| b. Move the location? Where?  |   |   |   |     |    |
| c. Link it to a Clean-Up effort?  |   |   |   |     |    |

**LIST OF EPC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
LAST UPDATED JANUARY 2002**

|    | Responsibility   | Assigned EPC Member                                    | EPC Position (default if no member is signed up) |
|----|--|--|--|
| 1  | Beautification Commission  | Doug Macmillan   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair                       |
| 2  | Planning Commission  | Cindy Chambers   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair                       |
| 3  | Parks and Recreation Commission  | K. Larsen, C. DeGrood                                  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair                       |
| 4  | City Council   | Cindy Chambers   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair                       |
| 5  | City Budget Process  | C. Chambers  | Field of Law                                     |
| 6  | State Legislature  | R. Bell  | Field of Law                                     |
| 7  | Regional Groups (Washington COG, E2C2)   | Ross Bell, R. Hays                                     | Intergovernmental Relations                      |
| 8  | Earth Day  | M. Theobald,   | First Vice Chair                                 |
| 9  | Annual Report  | Kenyon Larsen  | Secretary  |
| 10 | Master Plan 5-Year Review/SAP Reviews  | DJ Fix   | Field of Urban Planning                          |
| 11 | Site Plan Reviews  | Chambers, Debell                                       | Field of Urban Planning                          |
| 12 | Woodrow Wilson Bridge  | L. Edouard, DJ Fix                                     |  |
| 13 | Open Space   | Tom Tyler, C. DeGrood                                  |  |
| 14 | Quality of Life  | Tyler, Edouard, DeGrood                                |  |
| 15 | Streetscape Process  |  |  |
| 16 | Solid Waste/Recycling (America Recycles Day/Waste 2 Energy plant)  | Hays   | Field of Engineering                             |
| 17 | Trees  | D. Macmillan, C. DeGrood                               | Field of Ecology                                 |
| 18 | Oronoco St. Outfall  | Larsen, Connell, Debell                                |  |
| 19 | Sewer Issues   | Connell, Fix, Debell                                   | Field of Sanitary Engineering                    |
| 20 | Eisenhower Valley Development (Carlyle, Cameron Run)   | P. Potoczak, DJ Fix                                    | Field of Urban Planning                          |
| 21 | Watershed Issues/Flood Control/Water Quality Supplement to Master Plan/4-Mile Run Restoration/Wetlands/Resource Protection Areas | K. Larsen, K. Connell, C. Chambers, C. DeGrood, DJ Fix | Environmental Sciences (2)                       |
| 22 | Website  | Edouard, Debell  | Secretary  |
| 23 | Waterfront Committee/Association   | R. Bell, DJ Fix  | Field of Environmental Sciences                  |
| 24 | Membership/Volunteer Recruitment   |  | Chair, Secretary, Vice Chairs                    |
| 25 | Files  | Larsen, Debell   | Secretary  |
| 26 | Minutes  | Larsen, Debell   | Secretary  |
| 27 | Calendar   | C. Chambers  | Chair, Secretary, City Staff                     |
| 28 | Environmental Organizations (1000 Friends, etc.)   | Tyler  | Chair, Secretary, Vice Chairs                    |
| 29 | Neighborhood Associations  | Potoczak, Hays   | Intergovernmental Relations                      |
| 30 | Schools  |  | Chair, Student                                   |

**LIST OF EPC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
LAST UPDATED JANUARY 2002**

|    |   |  |                                   |
|----|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 31 | Education   | C. DeGrood                             | Chair, Student                    |
| 32 | Press   | Hays                                   | Chair                             |
| 33 | Green Buildings   | K. Larsen                              |                                   |
| 34 | Annual State of the Environment Report (In Annual Rpt.) | Larsen                                 | Secretary                         |
| 35 | Annual Retreat  |  | Secretary, Chair                  |
| 36 | Noise   |  | City Staff – Raise to Leadership  |
| 37 | Pesticides/IPM (Gypsy Moth, Mosquitoes)                 |  | Field of Ecology                  |
| 38 | Greening of City Policies                               | Macmillan, DeGrood,<br>Debell          |                                   |
| 39 | Air Quality Issues                                      |  |                                   |
| 40 | Meeting Incentives (drinks, snacks)                     |  | Rolling Responsibility (Opt Out?) |
| 41 | Environmental Policy Foundation                         | Tyler, Hays                            | First Vice Chair                  |
| 42 | Grant Opportunities                                     | S. Anderson                            |                                   |
| 43 | Green Incentives for Developers                         | C. DeGrood                             | Field of Urban Planning           |
| 44 | Wildlife Habitat/Native & Exotic Plants/Birds           | S. Anderson, C. DeGrood                | Field of Ecology                  |
| 45 | Resource Protection Areas (RPAs)                        | S. Anderson, C. DeGrood                |                                   |
| 46 | Outreach  |  | Officers                          |
| 47 | Archeological Commission                                | Hays                                   |                                   |
| 48 | Windmill Hill Park Committee Reps.                      | S. Anderson, D. McMillan               |                                   |
| 49 | Environmental Restoration Subcommittee                  | Larsen, Andersen, Bell,<br>Degrood,Fix |                                   |
|    |   |  |                                   |
|    |   |  |                                   |

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
MEETINGS ATTENDANCE REPORT**

**JULY 1, 2000 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2001**

**COMMISSION:** Environmental Policy Commission **CHAIRPERSON:** Cindy Chambers

2000

2001

| MEMBER'S NAME      | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Susan Anderson     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | X   | X   | X   |
| Ross Bell          | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | U   | U   | X   | X   | X   |
| Cindy Chambers     | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   |
| Sam Cole           | U   | X   | U   | U   | U   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Kevin Connell      |     |     |     | X   | X   | X   | E   | X   | X   | U   | U   | X   |
| Michele Coualoglou |     |     |     | X   | X   | U   | X   | X   | U   | U   |     |     |
| Cindy De Grood     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | E   | X   |
| Lisa Edouard       | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | E   | X   | X   | X   | U   | X   | X   |
| Tom Fryer          | X   | X   | X   | U   | X   | U   | U   | U   | U   | U   |     |     |
| Laura Hilden       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | X   | X   | X   | X   |
| Kenyon Larsen      | X   | X   | X   | U   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | E   | E   | X   |
| Doug Macmillan     | X   | X   | X   | X   | E   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   |
| Jessie Morales     |     |     |     |     | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | U   | X   |
| Nancy Pomerleau    | X   | X   | X   | U   | U   | X   | U   | U   | U   |     |     |     |
| Paula Potoczak     | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   |
| Edward Raynolds    | X   | X   | X   | X   | U   | X   | U   | U   | U   |     |     |     |
| Molly Theobald     | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   | U   | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   |
| Tom Tyler          | X   | X   | X   | U   | X   | X   | X   | X   | E   | X   | X   | X   |
| Don Zdancewicz     | X   | X   | X   | U   | X   | U   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT

E - FOR EXCUSED

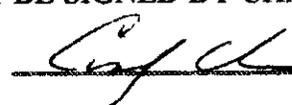
U - FOR UNEXCUSED

**LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS**

**Sam Cole, Michele Coualoglou, Tom Fryer, Nancy Pomerleau, Edward Raynolds, Don Zdancewicz**

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FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED: 

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