

Youth Recommendations for Environmental Protection & Healthy Natural Spaces

Keeping Parks & Waterways Clean

Organize more cleanups at Four Mile Run. One student recommended creating a group dedicated to cleaning Four Mile Run and continuing to monitor its condition. They emphasized that existing cleanup and restoration efforts are helping somewhat but are not yet enough to address the amount of litter residents see.

Source: Jeremy Sosa Alvarenga, *Four Mile Run Pollution Control*, 2026.

> *"more clean ups"*
>
> *~ Jeremy Sosa Alvarenga, 2026*



Add more trash cans and signs at Cameron Run Park. One student recommended making trash cans more available and adding signs reminding visitors to clean up after themselves and properly dispose of their waste. They emphasized that reducing litter would prevent pollution and protect wildlife and their habitats.

Source: Tanya Ventura Flores, *Pollution in Cameron Run Park*, 2026.



> *"add more signs and more available trash cans"*
>
> *~ Tanya Ventura-Flores, 2026*

Use stricter rules and stronger consequences for littering at Four Mile Run and Cameron Run Park. Both students believed that people visiting these areas were a major source of litter and pollution. They recommended stronger littering rules and consequences, and one student specifically proposed increasing fines to discourage visitors from leaving trash behind.

Sources: Sosa Alvarenga, 2026; and Ventura Flores, 2026.

> *"more consequences on people who litter"*
>
> *~ Sosa Alvarenga, 2026*

> *"increase the fine"*
>
> *~ Ventura-Flores, 2026*

Reduce pollution runoff and improve water quality at Cameron Run Park. One student called for limiting the pollution entering the park's water system and reducing litter so fewer water samples contain unsafe levels of bacteria.

Source: Ventura Flores, 2026.

> *"pollution and runoff are still affecting water quality"*
>
> *~ Ventura-Flores, 2026*



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Protecting the Environment Together

Protect wildlife and keep parks and waterways safe for recreation. Students emphasized that reducing litter and water pollution would prevent animals from eating harmful trash, protect wildlife habitats, and reduce hazards such as glass and other sharp objects along paths and in public spaces.

Source: Sosa Alvarenga, 2026; and Ventura Flores, 2026.

Work with City and community partners to protect Four Mile Run and Cameron Run Park. Students identified the City of Alexandria, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, and Four Mile Run Conservancy as groups that could support cleaner, safer parks and waterways. They described possible roles including organizing cleanups, observing and sharing information about environmental conditions, restoring habitat, managing stormwater, and supporting safe recreation.

Source: Sosa Alvarenga, 2026; and Ventura Flores, 2026.

Share updates about cleanup progress and the condition of Four Mile Run. One student identified the City of Alexandria and Four Mile Run Conservancy as groups that could report how much pollution has been removed and provide information about the stream's condition.

Source: Sosa Alvarenga, 2026.

"animals will no longer eat trash and be harmed"

~ Jeremy Sosa Alvarenga, 2026





"protect the wildlife and their homes"

~ Tanya Ventura-Flores, 2026