

OPEN SPACE

Last spring, City Council approved funding for the development of an open space master plan, including \$1 million in capital funding to begin to implement the master plan over the next six years. The plan will characterize and inventory current open space, identify future open space needs and propose mechanisms to meet those needs.

GREEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

This spring, City Council increased the annual tree planting budget from \$40,000 to \$80,000, to enhance the City's tree canopy, added a staff position in the Planning and Zoning Department to work on streetscape and open space design, and increased operating funds for tree maintenance, watering, plantings and ground cover in median strips and gateway entry points, waterfront maintenance, and replacement of benches and other amenities in parks.

WASTE-TO-ENERGY AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Completion is set for late fall on construction of the \$46.1 million bond-financed retrofit of the waste-to-energy plant's air quality control technology. The construction project will result in a more attractive facility that has improved odor control and vehicle circulation and reduced air emissions that will make it among the cleanest of its kind in the world.

ALEXANDRIA SANITATION AUTHORITY WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Scheduled for completion in the spring of 2002, construction continues on the \$200 million upgrades to the Alexandria Sanitation Authority's wastewater treatment plant, which will improve the water quality of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay by ensuring that the plant's discharges meet rigorous pollution reduction requirements.

ORONOCO STREET OUTFALL

This year, the City was accepted in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Voluntary Remediation Program. Participation in the program is part of a City effort to remediate the environmental impact of the oily substance that is visible in the Potomac River near the outfall from the storm sewer underneath Oronoco Street near Lee Street adjacent

Did You Know?

* The waste-to-energy facility on Eisenhower Avenue burns much of the solid waste generated by Alexandria and Arlington residents. Each year it processes about 650 million pounds of waste, and produces electricity sufficient to power 23,000 homes.

* The City recycled 30,000 cubic yards of leaves, and over 10 million pounds of newspaper, aluminum, plastic, glass, and old appliances last year.

to the former site of the Alexandria Town Gas Works, which operated in the late 1800's and into the 1940's. The City has erected absorbent and containment booms around the affected outfall area to protect the river, has established a group to communicate with citizens, and soon will begin soil and water sampling as part of the development of a plan to address this condition.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SERVICES

On July 1, the functions of air quality monitoring, responding to contaminated land issues, reviewing land use and development proposals impacting the environment, and providing of staff to the Environmental Policy Commission were transferred from the Health Department to the City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, to consolidate services and improve coordination and communication on environmental issues. The Health Department continuously regulate restaurants and food service establishments and addresses other public health matters.



City employees who participated in Alexandria's second annual Bike to Work Day learned about bike safety and maintenance, while helping to reduce traffic congestion and parking demands. Alexandria now has 83 new bike racks throughout the City thanks to a State program.