

## APPENDIX B

FY 2009 Annual Report from the EPC

Agenda for July 21, 2009 EPC Meeting

2010 Earth Day Press Release

2010 Earth Day Poster

Potomac Watershed Clean Up 2009 Flyer

Holmes Run Clean Up 2009 Press Release

Four Mile Run Clean Up 2010 Press Release

Detailed Summary of Four Mile Run Clean Up Results





Environmental Policy Commission

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## **Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report**

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

## 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.” This report provides a summary of EPC’s activities during Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09), which were primarily focused on the development of the *Environmental Action Plan 2030*. This report also describes EPC activities outside of the Eco-City effort, including service on several additional commissions and hosting the City’s annual Earth Day festival.

## 2. Who We Are

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 13 members, including five members from the field of environmental sciences, five citizen-at-large members, one member from the field of urban planning, one member with experience in Federal or state environmental statutes/regulations, and one student attending high school in the City of Alexandria. The student position was vacant during FY09. The Commission is supported by the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), Office of Environmental Quality.

The table below identifies the Alexandrians who served on the EPC during FY09.

Danielle Fidler ( <i>Chair</i> )	Joy Pochatila ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )
Peter Pennington ( <i>Earth Day Chair</i> )	Jennifer Hovis ( <i>Secretary</i> )
Scott Barstow <sup>2</sup>	Keith Freihofer
David Boxer	Patrick Hagan
Carol Braegelmann <sup>1</sup>	Ernie Lehmann <sup>1,2</sup>
Jessica Bayliss Brown <sup>2</sup>	Laura Medhurst <sup>2</sup>
David Evans <sup>1</sup>	Kurt Moser
	Phil Vorhees <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Membership expired during FY2009.

<sup>2</sup>Membership began during FY2009.

### 3. Eco-City Alexandria

The primary focus of the EPC during this fiscal year was the development of the Eco-City *Environmental Action Plan 2030*, which outlines the goals and activities that will help the City and its residents achieve the vision outlined in the Eco-City Charter.

The Eco-City initiative was born in a memo from Councilman Krupicka and Vice Mayor Pepper to the City Manager in September, 2006. The Eco-City effort is a partnership between the City and the Virginia Tech Urban Affairs and Planning Program.

The initial phase of the Eco-City effort was complete in 2007 with the development of a "Greenventory" of existing City programs and policies that impact or address environmental sustainability, as well as a compendium of model practices from around the world. The next key step in the effort was the development of an Eco-City Charter, which was unanimously adopted by City Council in June 2008. The charter, which was the first of its kind in the region, outlines the City's guiding principles and vision for a sustainable Alexandria.

#### Phase I Environmental Action Plan

The Environmental Action Plan serves as the road map for City leaders, staff, and citizens to implement the Eco-City Charter. The Action Plan establishes general policy goals, identifies specific action steps, sets tentative timelines and develops measures of success. These goals serve as the bridge between the Charter's sustainability vision/principles and the specific actions (e.g., policies, programs and projects) that may be undertaken by the City, EPC, and the community in the coming years.

In order to initiate the development of the Environmental Action Plan (EAP), the EPC maintained the subgroups that were created during the research and drafting of the charter. Each subgroup included 3-4 EPC members and was assigned to one of the following principles outlined in the charter:

- Land Use & Open Space
- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Transportation
- Energy
- Green Building
- Solid Waste
- Environment & Health
- Emerging Threats<sup>1</sup>
- Implementation

In the early stage of development, the EAP was split into two phases. Phase I included goals and action steps that are either underway, or can be implemented in the short term (2009-2011). This would be followed by a Phase II Action Plan, which addresses mid- and long-term goals and actions (2012-2030).

Each subgroup worked with Virginia Tech graduate students to review the lengthy list of goals and actions suggested by the public during the development of the charter. The subgroups then met extensively with City staff to discuss activities currently underway or planned for the short term that could be included in the Phase I EAP. The draft Phase I EAP was released for

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<sup>1</sup> This principle was subsequently renamed "Global Climate Change and Other Emerging Threats" in response to citizen requests for additional emphasis on climate change.

public comment in the fall of 2008, followed by an Open House in November at the Lee Center. The event allowed the public to discuss the proposed short-term goals and actions with EPC members and City staff, and provide feedback on priorities and potential gaps. After analyzing and incorporating the public's comments, EPC developed a final Phase I plan that consisted of 38 goals and 123 action steps to guide sustainability efforts through FY11. City Council approved the Phase I Environmental Action Plan in January 2009.

#### Phase II Environmental Action Plan

Upon approval of the Phase I EAP, the EPC immediately began the development of the Phase II plan that would include a comprehensive list of long term goals and actions. An Eco-City Café was held in March 2009, which provided citizens an opportunity to share their long-term vision for a sustainable Alexandria. The EPC worked closely with City staff to review the ideas generated during the café then held a weekend retreat in April in order to develop the final draft Phase II EAP. The draft Phase II EAP was the result of public comments received since the start of the Eco-City effort, as well as extensive discussions between the EPC, City departments and staff, and VA Tech. The draft Phase II plan was released to the public at the City's annual Earth Day event, on April 25, 2009.

Finally, in May 2009, the EPC convened a second Open House at the new Charles Houston Recreation Center. Unlike other events, this open house served as a "call to action" as more than 50 participants offered suggestions on how they as individuals and businesses could advance the EAP and Eco-City agenda.

The Phase II goals and actions were incorporated into the Phase I EAP; together these plans are referred to as the *Environmental Action Plan 2030*. The final EAP 2030 was unanimously approved by City Council in June 2009. The comprehensive plan contains 48 goals, 50 preliminary targets and 353 actions spread across the ten principles initially identified in the charter.

#### **4. Other Issues**

City Staff provided continuous updates to the EPC on other developments in the City, such as the settlement and subsequent engineering studies for the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station, the Norfolk Southern ethanol transloading facility, and the issuance of the final Urban Forestry Master Plan. During FY09, the EPC worked with several other City commissions and groups to address water quality, energy, air quality, green building, transportation, and open space issues facing the City.

Members of the EPC continued to serve in an official capacity on the following City commissions and working groups:

- Open Space Advisory Group
- Mirant Community Monitoring Group
- Urban Forestry Steering Committee
- Earth Day Planning Committee
- Waterfront Committee
- Transportation Commission
- Stormwater Working Group

- ACPS Environmental Stewardship Group
- Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group Transportation Subcommittee
- Green Building Working Group
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force

In addition to formal representation in the above organizations, EPC members routinely participated in meetings with respect to the following groups or City projects:

- Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group
- BRAC Advisory Group
- Wayfinding Stakeholders Advisory Group
- Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) public meetings
- Braddock East Advisory Group
- Landmark/Van Dorn Corridor plan
- Flu Advisory Group
- Eisenhower West Industrial Land Use Study
- Alexandria Commission for Employment
- Environmental Coordination Group
- Energy Conservation Group
- Environmental Health Working Group/Partnership for a Healthy Alexandria

#### Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award

In FY09, the EPC partnered with the Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA) to establish the *Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award*. This is the first award program to formally recognize outstanding citizens who have demonstrated their commitment to protecting the natural environment and promoting sustainability. In addition to citizens, an Alexandria group, club, organization or corporate neighbor were also eligible to be nominated. The award is named in honor of Frances Ellen Pickering's lifelong dedication to preservation and conservation in the City of Alexandria.

As part of the annual Earth Day celebration, the EPC and ASA announced the selection of Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hertel as the first recipients of the new award. Ms. Chimento and Mr. Hertel, residents of the Old Town section of Alexandria, fought tirelessly to improve air quality within the city. Aside from donating much of their time, they have also spent their own money to ensure that the City and State governments had hard technical data to support their concerns relating to emissions emanating from the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station. Their work has been the catalyst that raised the awareness of this issue to City Council and eventually led the City to achieve a \$34 million dollar settlement with Mirant aimed at installing improved stack and fugitive PM2.5 controls at this plant, in addition to the \$35 million dollars Mirant recently spent on a stack merge project. A tree was planted in honor of the award recipients during Alexandria Earth Day 2009.

#### Eco-City Blog

In FY09, the EPC entered the blogosphere in order to promote the Eco-City effort. With the help of VA Tech graduate students, the Eco-City Alexandria blog was created at <<http://ecocityalexandria.wordpress.com/>>. The blog has provided a new method of announcing important events and sharing key products with the public. This tool is also being

used to start a dialogue with individuals near and far about the small steps everyone can take to further common sustainability efforts.

In April 2009, [Washingtonian Magazine](#) highlighted the Eco-City Alexandria blog as one of the Best Blogs in Washington. Not only does the blog promote Eco-City Alexandria, with greater support it could be the genesis of a burgeoning green network in the region.

The EPC plans to utilize the blog more frequently in the future as implementation of the EAP moves forward. The blog will be used to announce community events and to solicit volunteers for the many action steps identified in the EAP.

#### Additional Outreach Activities

In addition to the blog, the EPC has participated in several other events in order to conduct outreach on the Eco-City Alexandria effort. Within the City of Alexandria, EPC members have given presentations to citizen associations, met with church leaders, and participated in special events such as the Home Ownership Fair. At the Regional level, the EPC participated in the World Water Monitoring Day event held at Haines Point, in Washington, DC and staffed a table at an Earth Day celebration at the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO).

#### Adopt-a-Block

In FY09, the EPC reaffirmed its commitment to the City's Adopt-a-Block program. In March 2009, the commission conducted an extensive cleanup of King Street (Route 7) between Interstate 395 and Quaker Lane. Additional cleanups have continued in FY10 and will continue to be scheduled quarterly.

#### Tours of Local Facilities

This year the EPC had the opportunity to tour several industrial facilities in the City, in an effort to understand operations and discuss sustainability issues. This effort began in August 2008 with a tour of the Virginia Paving facility and continued into spring with tours of the Covanta energy-from-waste facility, the ASA treatment plant, and Mirant.

## **5. Alexandria Earth Day**

Alexandria Earth Day 2009 was celebrated at Ben Brenman Park on April 25<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme was "Take the Green Route" and more than 2,100 people attended! Attendees enjoyed live music and a puppet show, while the City Arborist held another successful tree sale. City departments, local businesses and non-profit organizations provided educational displays and hands-on activities for all ages. Exhibitors were required to sign a zero-waste contract in order to participate in the event in an effort to recycle or compost all waste materials.

In support of this year's theme, the planning committee conducted extensive outreach on the many alternative modes of transportation available to event attendees. DASH bus provided fare refunds to riders, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) provided a free bike valet, and event sponsor VPSI, Inc. provided free shuttle service from the King Street Metro station. The exhibit area also included a variety of displays promoting fuel efficient vehicles and local biking/pedestrian amenities. The EPC's Peter Pennington served as Chair of the 2009 Earth Day Committee.



## **AGENDA**

**Monday, September 21, 2009  
7:30 PM, Council Work Room (Second Floor)**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 7:30 – 7:35 | Welcome and Introductions  |
| 7:35 – 7:50 | Public Comments  |
| 7:50 – 8:10 | Committee and Staff Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mirant</li><li>• EECBG funding</li><li>• Stream crossing and restoration/stabilization on Holmes Run at Chambliss</li></ul>  |
| 8:10 – 8:35 | Administrative Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of meeting minutes</li><li>• EPC letter re Virginia legislative priorities</li><li>• EPC Annual report for FY2009</li><li>• EPC Representative in Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group</li><li>• EPC Business member</li></ul> |
| 8:35 – 9:20 | EAP 2030 Implementation Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EPC Retreat briefing</li><li>• Work session with City Council</li></ul>   |
| 9:20 – 9:25 | Next meeting and Adjourn   |





# City of Alexandria, VA

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## City of Alexandria to Host 17th Annual Earth Day, Saturday, April 24

### News Highlights

- The 2010 Earth Day theme is "Teach (Green), Learn (Green), Live (Green)"
- The Alexandria Earth Day Committee has committed to making Earth Day a zero-waste and carbon neutral event

### More Information

- Visit [www.alexearthday.org](http://www.alexearthday.org)

The City of Alexandria will host the 17th Annual Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Dr., on Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. This year's theme, "Teach (Green), Learn (Green), Live (Green)," promotes public education and outreach about green living in order to ensure a green and sustainable future for all, in keeping with the goals of the Eco-City Alexandria initiative.

The event features City agencies, organizations, and individuals dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. This year, Alexandria City Public Schools will participate and display school activities and projects that help to make Alexandria an Eco-City; the 2010 Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Awards will be presented; and exhibitors will provide environmental educational activities for the whole family.

Other activities include the Annual Earth Day Tree Sale; the Plastic Bag Recycling Collection Award Presentation with Senator Patsy Ticer; live acoustic music by Ted Hovis and classic rock music by the band, The Road; the Arbor Day tree planting; and a performance by Blue Sky Puppets. There will also be a Green Home Workshop; a guided bike tour along Holmes Run; live animal exhibits; and a used book and media items collection. Food and beverages will be sold.

The event is sponsored by the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Department of Transportation and Environmental Services; and Environmental Policy Commission.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be relocated to the Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, located at 435 Ferdinand Day Drive. For more information on Earth Day, call the Special Events Hotline at 703.746.5592 or the Special Events Office at 703.746.5418.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, call Maureen Sturgill at 703.746.5418 (TTY 703.838.4902) or e-mail [Maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov).

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For more information, contact Andrea Blackford, Communications Officer, [Office of Communications](#), at 703.746.3959 or [andrea.blackford@alexandriava.gov](mailto:andrea.blackford@alexandriava.gov)





Alexandria Earth Day

Teach

Live

Learn

Saturday, April 24, 2010

# BEN BRENNMAN PARK

4800 Brenman Park Drive

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

*A Festival For  
Youth & Our Future*

Exhibits • Demonstrations • Music • Puppets • Food • Fun

[www.AlexEarthDay.org](http://www.AlexEarthDay.org)

ECO-CITY  ALEXANDRIA

Poster Sponsored By: American Advertising Distributors of Northern Virginia



City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Office of Environmental Quality and Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

# 2009 Clean VA Waterways River Cleanup

## Potomac River at Founders Park



**SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 2009**  
**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**  
*(RAIN OR SHINE!)*



**Volunteers  
Needed!**



**Help clean up our local streams and the  
Potomac River**

*Make a difference in just a few hours!*

**FOUNDER'S PARK AT 351 N. UNION STREET**

**RSVP TO 703-746-4071**

**OR [jesse.maines@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jesse.maines@alexandriava.gov)**

**Clean Virginia Waterways is Part of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup**

**ECO-CITY  ALEXANDRIA**





*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

Department of Transportation & Environmental Services  
Solid Waste Division and Office of Environmental Quality

**City Seeks Volunteers for  
Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative Holmes Run Cleanup  
To Celebrate 12<sup>th</sup> Annual America Recycles Day**

**Saturday, November 14, 2009, 9:00a.m. – 11:30a.m.**

The City of Alexandria is seeking volunteers to participate in the Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative Holmes Run Stream Clean Up, Saturday, November 14, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., rain or shine. The City is hosting a cleanup of Holmes Run and volunteers will meet at the Beatley Bridge at North Pickett Street. There will be a table set up in Holmes Run Park near the Beatley Bridge for volunteers to sign in and get supplies.

The City is hosting this clean up to celebrate the 12<sup>th</sup> year of America Recycles Day and as part of the City's Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative. The Plastic Bag Initiative asks residents to "*Make the Right Choice! One Plastic Bag at a Time!*" By participating in the stream clean up, residents can help combat the negative impact that plastic bags and other litter have on our environment.

The mission of the Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative is to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle more plastic bags in the City by increasing environmental education, creating and informing residents about opportunities, and meeting the goals of the Eco-City Alexandria Initiative.

Come join us in removing litter from our community and informing others on its negative impacts by collecting data to help us develop solutions for litter problems in our community and the metro region.

**What to wear?**

Volunteers should wear comfortable shoes and clothes that they do not mind getting dirty and wear sunscreen if needed. The cleanup will take place along the shoreline where it is rocky, so keep that in mind. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. To volunteer, please contact Stacy Herring at 703-519-3486 or [stacy.herring@alexandriava.gov](mailto:stacy.herring@alexandriava.gov).

**For more information about the City's Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative** visit:  
[www.AlexandriaVA.gov/PlasticBags](http://www.AlexandriaVA.gov/PlasticBags).

*We appreciate your time, effort and participation and look forward to seeing you there!!*





## City of Alexandria, Virginia

Department of Transportation & Environmental Services  
Office of Environmental Quality and Solid Waste Division

# Celebrate Earth Day by Volunteering!!!

[www.alexearthday.org](http://www.alexearthday.org)

## Alice Ferguson Foundation's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup and the City of Alexandria's Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative

### Four Mile Run Stream Cleanup

**Saturday, April 10, 2010 from 9:00am – Noon**  
**(Rain Date: Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9:00am – Noon)**

*Do you want to do something for Earth Day this year?*

The Stream Cleanup will be held Saturday, April 10th, from 9 a.m. to noon, with the rain date being April 17<sup>th</sup> at the same time. **We now have THREE SITES:** 1.) 3700 Commonwealth Avenue in Four Mile Run Park, 2.) Four Mile Run at Mt. Vernon Ave, and 3.) Eaton Square Clubhouse at 801 Four Mile Rd. Check [www.alexandriava.gov/Environment](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Environment) or [http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/cleanup/SelectCounty\\_new.php](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/cleanup/SelectCounty_new.php) to see what sites are added, or for other sites in the City.

The mission of the Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative is to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle more plastic bags in the City by increasing environmental education, creating and informing residents about opportunities, and meeting the goals of the Eco-City Alexandria Initiative.

Come join us in removing litter from our community and informing others on its negative impacts by collecting data to help us develop solutions for litter problems in our community and the metro region.

#### **What to wear?**

Volunteers should wear comfortable shoes and clothes that they do not mind getting dirty and wear sunscreen if needed. The cleanup will take place along the shoreline where it is rocky, so keep that in mind. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. To volunteer, please contact Jesse Maines at [jesse.maines@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jesse.maines@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4071.

For more information about the City's Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative visit:

[www.Alexandriava.gov/PlasticBags](http://www.Alexandriava.gov/PlasticBags)

*We appreciate your time, effort and participation and look forward to seeing you there!!*



**Alice Ferguson Foundation's 22nd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup  
 City of Alexandria 2010 Hosted Cleanup Sites: Three locations on Four Mile Run  
 Saturday, April 10th**

**1. Four Mile Run Park at 3700 Commonwealth Ave**

Number of Volunteers	Bags of Trash Collected	Pounds of Loose Trash	Estimated Number of Plastic Bags (Grocery and Zip-Close)	Estimated Number of Cigarette Butts	Top Three Brands	Interesting Items Found
52	87	50	370	463	7-Eleven, McDonald's, Miller Lite	Plated Turkey, Dead dog, Lots of Styrofoam

**2. Four Mile Run Park at Mount Vernon Ave Bridge**

Number of Volunteers	Bags of Trash Collected	Pounds of Loose Trash	Estimated Number of Plastic Bags (Grocery and Zip-Close)	Estimated Number of Cigarette Butts	Top Three Brands	Interesting Items Found
25	40	70	307	100	Hurricane, Monster Energy, Colt 45	VHS Tapes, Bike, Shopping Cart

**3. Four Mile Run Park at Eaton Square (801 Four Mile Road)**

Number of Volunteers	Bags of Trash Collected	Pounds of Loose Trash	Estimated Number of Plastic Bags (Grocery and Zip-Close)	Estimated Number of Cigarette Butts	Top Three Brands	Interesting Items Found
5	30	1200	100	87	Corona, 7-Eleven, Miller Lite	Bike Parts, Personal Items

**Totals: Three City of Alexandria Hosted Sites**

Number of Volunteers	Bags of Trash Collected	Pounds of Loose Trash	Estimated Number of Plastic Bags (Grocery and Zip-Close)	Estimated Number of Cigarette Butts
82	157	1320	777	650