ALEXANDRIA
Environmental Policy Commission

AGENDA

Environmental Policy Commission
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2016
7:30 - 9:30 PM
City Hall, Room 2000 (Second Floor)

7:30 – 7:35	Welcome and Public Comments
7:35 – 7:50	Staff Consent items and EPC updates • Transportation Commission EPC Representative • Eisenhower West/ Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group Implementation Group • Environmental Policy Commission Elections, Tyler Orton/EPC
7:50 – 8:20	Natural Resources Management Plan, Robert Taylor and Rod Simmons/RPCA
8:20 – 8:50	Potomac Yard Metro, Lee Farmer/TES
8:50 – 9:05	Fitzgerald Square Letter to Council/Ryan Wojtanowski
9:05—9:20	Strategic Plan/Kyle Winslow
9:20 –9:25	Agenda for next Work Session and Full Meeting
9:30	Adjourn

Environmental Policy Commission May 16, 2016 Meeting
Consent Item Reports

Staff Report/Prepared by Lisa Goldberg

Alexandria Earth Day took place at the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields on April 30, 2016. A total of 47 exhibitors were present including several environmentally-related programs from the City The Earth Day Proclamation was read by Mayor Silberberg. The Mayor and Council members Lovain, Chapman and Pepper, and State Delegate Mark Levine dedicated a tree at the event in honor of National Arbor Day. The Ellen Pickering Award was presented to the St. Stephens and St. Agnes School

Transportation and Environmental Services staff will be presenting the proposed framework of the Long Term Control Plan Update for the Combined Sewer System to City Council on May 14. For more information about the Long Term Control Plan Update, visit the City's combined sewer system website, www.alexandriava.gov/Sewers. In addition, feedback on the proposed framework can be provided by visiting AlexEngage, the City's online engagement forum. For questions, contact Erin Bevis-Carver, P.E., Sanitary Section Lead, T&ES Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Division.

Staff is in the process of hiring a consultant to assist in the development and incorporating eco-district elements into the Old Town North (OTN) small area plan.

The City's contractor for the Oronoco Outfall remedial investigation will begin a final phase of upland soil gas and groundwater well installation during the week of May 16. Shortly after the well installation the contractor will sample the new and existing ground water wells in the vicinity of the former Alexandria Town Gas (ATG) plant, including Founder's Park, the 400 blocks of N. Union and N. Lee Streets and the 100 blocks of Oronoco and Princess Streets.

City Staff are working with the City Attorney's Office to revise the Alexandria City Noise Ordinance. The revision is necessary to address language within a few sections that was deemed "vague" and currently unenforceable following a ruling by a state supreme court on a similar ordinance.

Staff represented the City of Alexandria at the USPTO annual Green Fair at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Building in Alexandria on April 21.

Due to limited resources, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) decided to close the City of Alexandria's continuous emissions monitoring air quality laboratory at 3200 Colvin St. as of May 4, 2016. This lab monitored ambient nitrous oxides and carbon monoxide emissions and was part of Virginia's northern region within the state network of emissions monitoring as required by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. VDEQ recently opened a Near Road Emissions monitoring station in Springfield, VA that measures these same pollutants. The Near Road Monitoring site is mandated by the revised Nitrogen Dioxide Standard promulgated in 2010. Recognizing the costs of running additional stations, EPA allows states to relocate emissions monitors, as done in this instance, to meet the revised standard.

Kyle Winslow: On 5/5 **the Underground Transmission Line & Substation Working Group (UTLWG)** met to consider a Resolution (available here: https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2708798&GUID=4D4ABF63-D881-432C-B909-EB3D582D641C) that would express Council's strong preference against an above ground 230kV transmission line as pat of a proposed Dominion project. The Working Group believed the Resolution as written adequately reflected some of the environmental considerations related to an above ground transmission line, including consistency with Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan and the 80-foot right of way that would impact trees in Potomac Yard Rail Park. At the Working Group meeting, Dominion indicated they were not leaning towards an above ground transmission line but needed to show SCC that they were considering it to justify an underground alternative.

On 5/10 at the City Council Legislative Meeting, Council adopted the Resolution. Council also expressed skepticism with the City's decision to still include the Potomac Avenue alternative on the list of least objectionable transmission line routes, and the Working Group chair and Council both questioned Dominion's forthrightness with regards to providing the latest data about the proposed project.

From here, Dominion is expected to file their proposal with the SCC in Q3 (expected July). There will be a public comment period, and it is likely the Working Group will meet closer to or right after the filing date (TBD) to discuss new recommendations to Dominion's filed proposal. There will be an opportunity for EPC to weigh in on environmental considerations with the Working Group depending on the route.

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
April 18, 2016 Regular Meeting

EPC Members in Attendance

x	Jim Kapsis (Chair)	☒	Susan Gitlin	x	Scott Barstow
☒	Tyler Orton	☒	Steve Milone		Jessica Lassetter
	Aaron Karty	x	Natasha Anderson	x	Geoffrey Goode
x	Ryan Wojtanowski	x	Kyle Winslow		

X= Present

City Staff
Bill Skrabak, Lisa Goldberg, Lalit Sharma,

Other Attendees
Seth Brown, Maureen Sturgill

Begin 7:37 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Public Comment
- None

Staff Consent and EPC Updates
- Kyle Winslow provided an update on the Strategic Plan Community Meeting
- Ryan Wojtanowski provided updates on the Waterfront Commission and will update the EPC on the progress of the proposed Community Improvement District.
- Jim Kapsis updated the group on progress with City Council on the Sustainability Coordinator and requested volunteers to review the budget to provide recommendations on potential reduction areas.

Earth Day Report/EPC Activity (Maureen Sturgill, RCPA)
- This year's event will take place in Braddock Park near GW Middle School
- The EPC will support the parking process for the event, the booth, and other tasks
- The EPC's table will have an activity on recyclables and how the materials can be reduced or reused.

Combined Sewer Overflow Planning (Lalit Sharma)
- City Staff provided an update on the Combined Sewer Overflow planning process
- A new long term control plan must be submitted by August 2016
- The City's current primary strategy will be to store and treat the water when there is an overflow scenario and green infrastructure will be a secondary strategy due to the cities findings that green infrastructure wouldn't provide enough reduction in stormwater runoff
- The recommendation is that Hoofs Run will get a 10 foot tunnel and Royal St. will get a 3 million gallon tank to store overflow water

- The Green Infrastructure recommendation is to spend $1-2Million from 2018-2023 on Green Infrastructure and spread the infrastructure throughout the city
- Another strategy being explored is targeted sewer separation
- The current plan would have the plan implemented by 2035 and would have a monthly impact on resident's water rate around $10-$15 per month

Urban Forestry Letter to Council

- The Planning Commission has added their support to the letter to City Council
- The Letter to council was approved, as written, unanimously by the EPC

Old Town North Letter to SAP Advisory Group

- Ther letter was approved, as written, by the EPC with additional feedback from Susan

Next Meeting/Work Session 5/2/16

- Discuss letter from Steve Milone on the Combined Stormwater Overflow Plan
- Strategic plan discussion
- Natural Resources Management Plan (May 16)

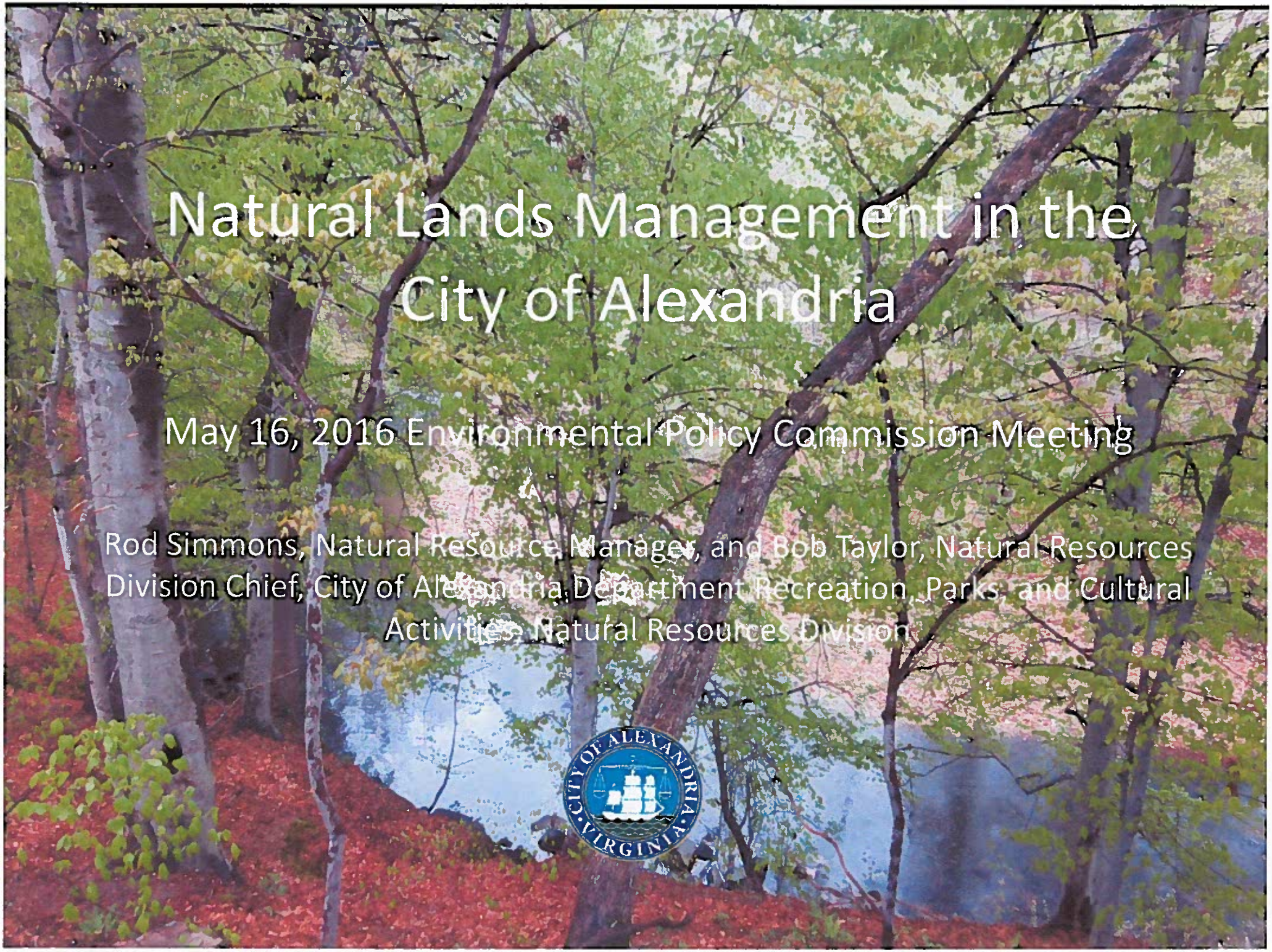
Internal Next Steps: Members of the EPC will review certain areas of the budget. Volunteers are Tyler, Scott, Geoff, and Steve

Tyler - Safe Secure and Just Communities

Scott -

Geoff -

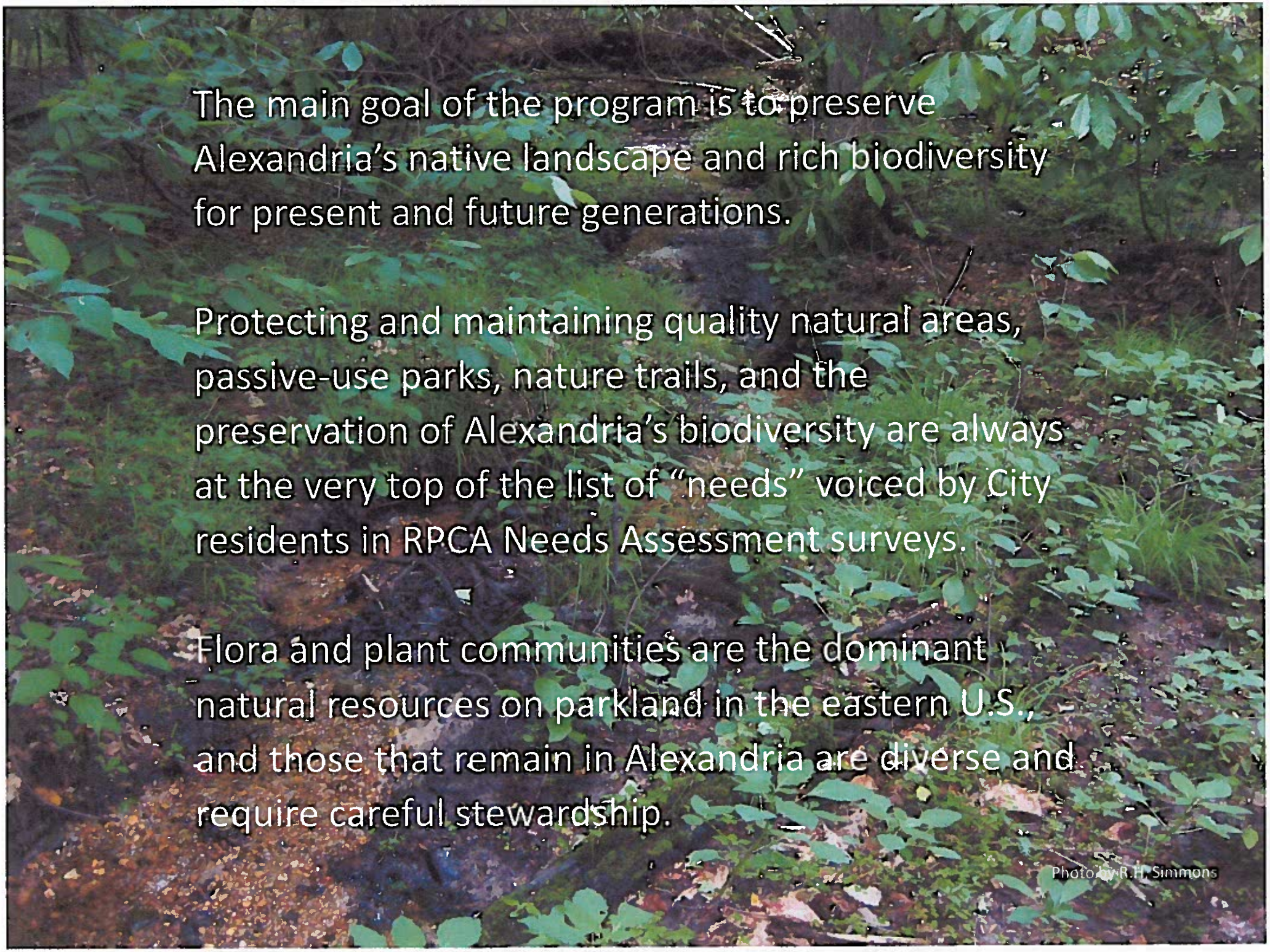
Steve -



Natural Lands Management in the City of Alexandria

May 16, 2016 Environmental Policy Commission Meeting

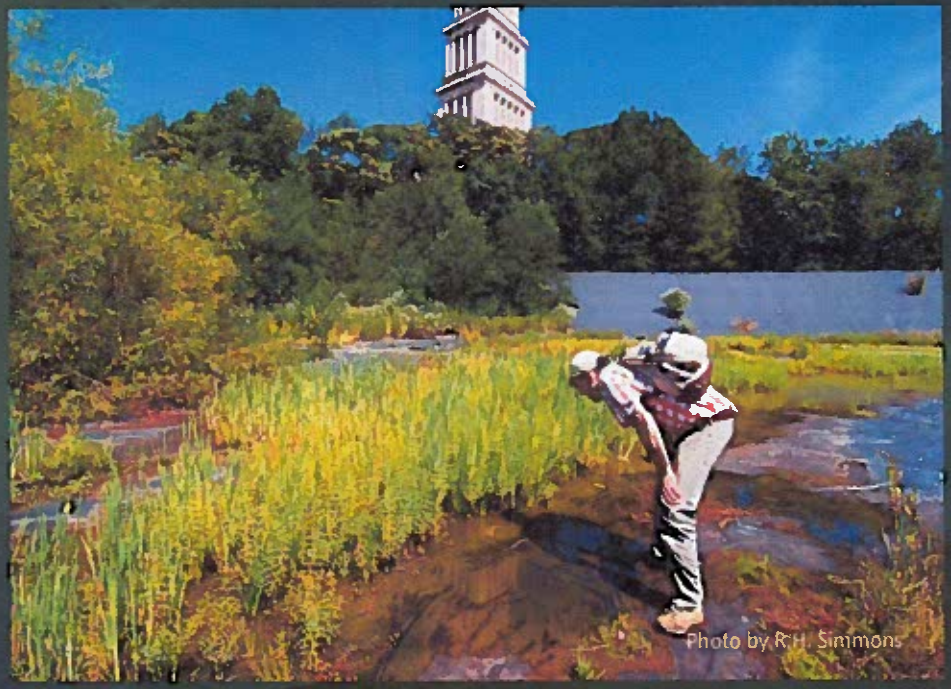
Rod Simmons, Natural Resource Manager, and Bob Taylor, Natural Resources Division Chief, City of Alexandria Department Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities - Natural Resources Division


The main goal of the program is to preserve Alexandria's native landscape and rich biodiversity for present and future generations.
Protecting and maintaining quality natural areas, passive-use parks, nature trails, and the preservation of Alexandria's biodiversity are always at the very top of the list of "needs" voiced by City residents in RPCA Needs Assessment surveys.
Flora and plant communities are the dominant natural resources on parkland in the eastern U.S., and those that remain in Alexandria are diverse and require careful stewardship.
Photo by R.H. Simmons

Natural Lands Management Section actively stewards nearly 600 acres of City natural area parks and easements and assists with resource management of over 500 acres of non-City owned natural areas.

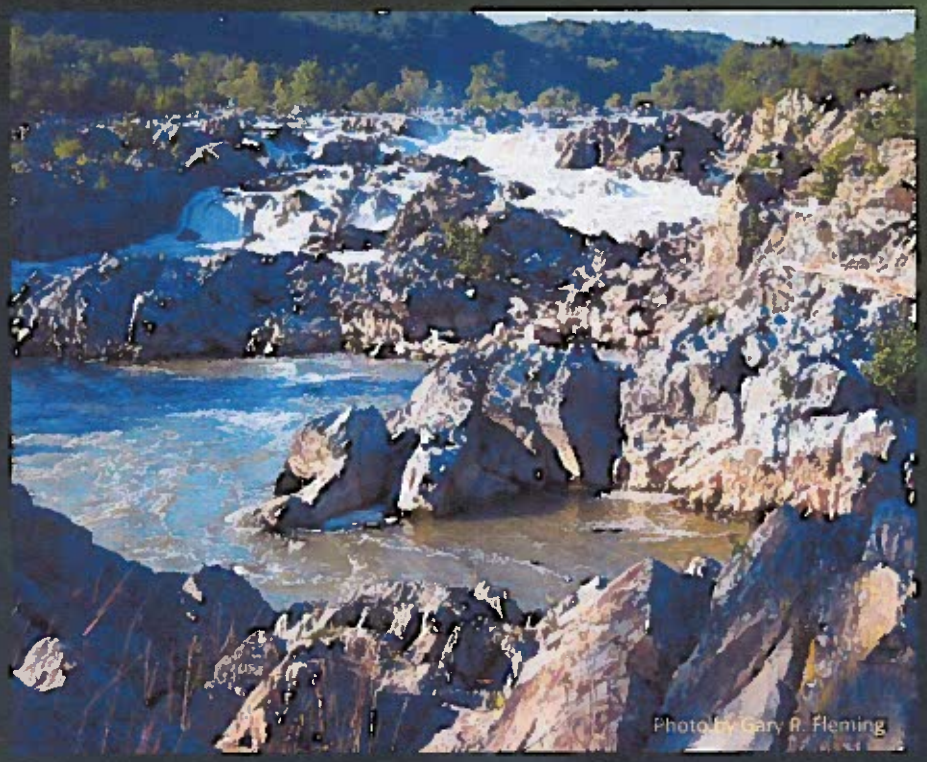
Natural Lands Management includes:

Natural Resource Inventories and Assessments



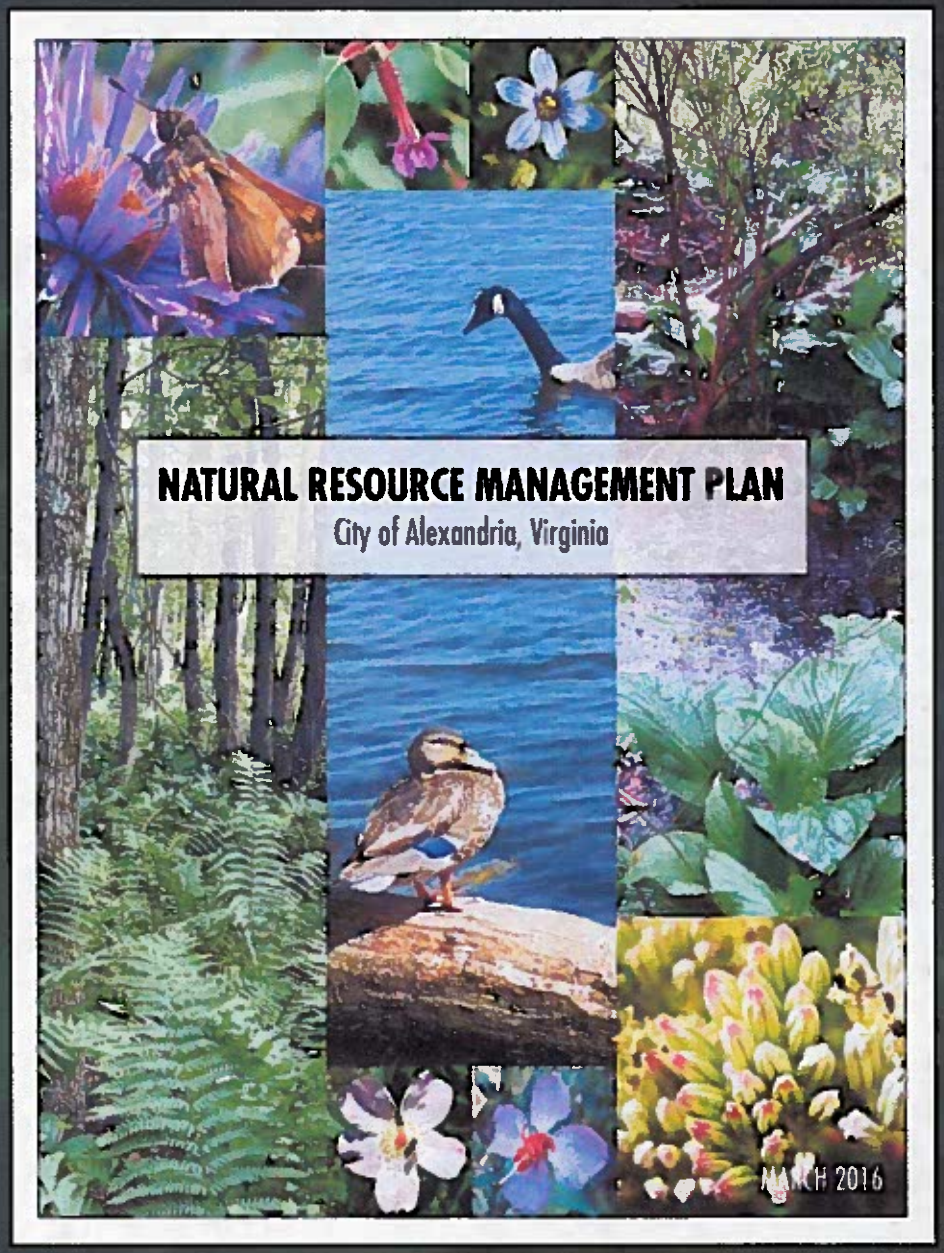
City Flora Project and City of Alexandria Herbarium (AVCH)

Geologic Atlas of the City of Alexandria and Vicinity

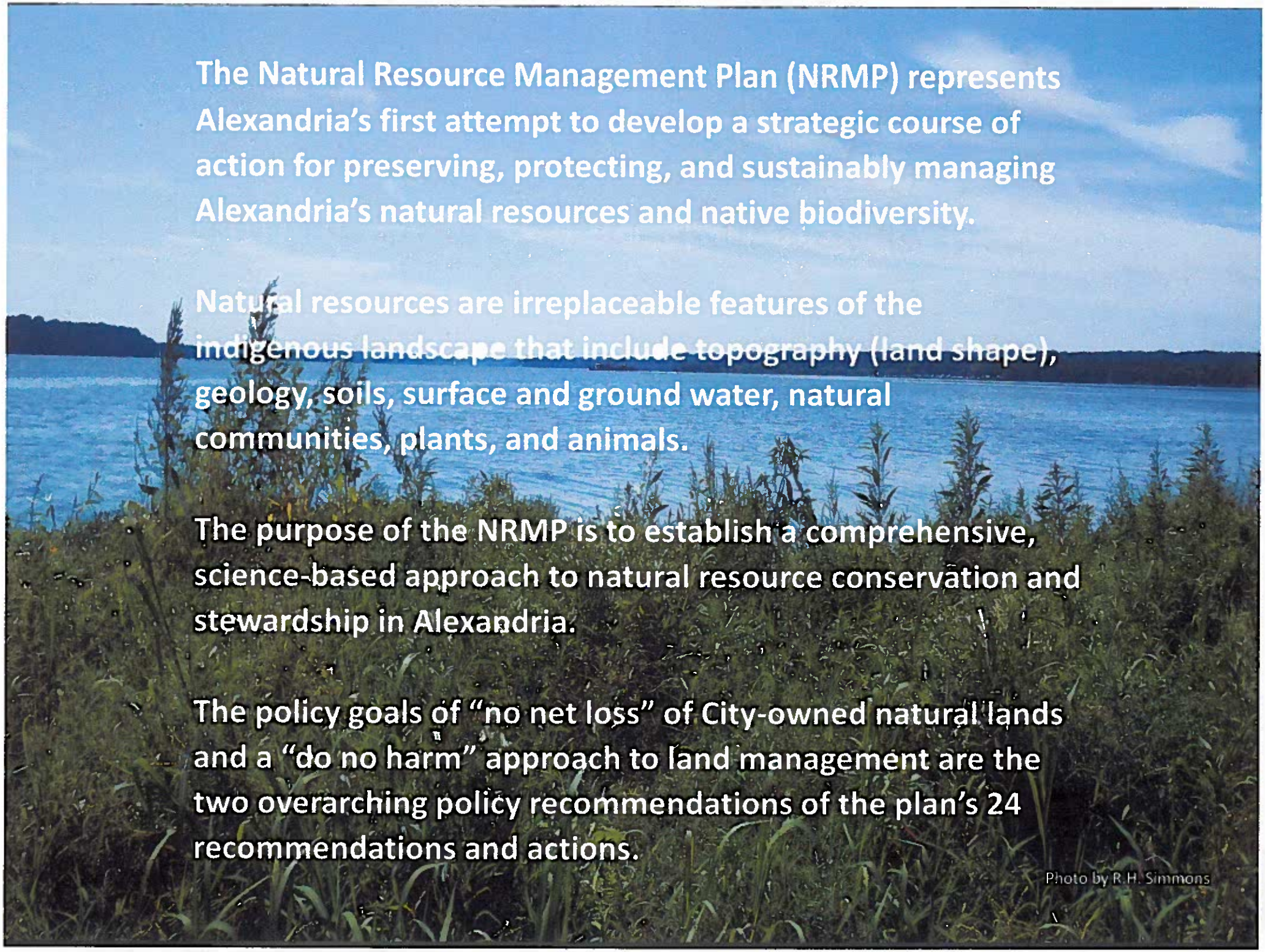


The Geologic Atlas is an invaluable tool for planning, land management, protection of water resources, and identifying significant geologic resources, as well as an important resource and service to City residents and others.

Photo by R.H. Simmons



- Environmental Review
- Natural Resource Management Plan
- Natural Resource Technical Reports



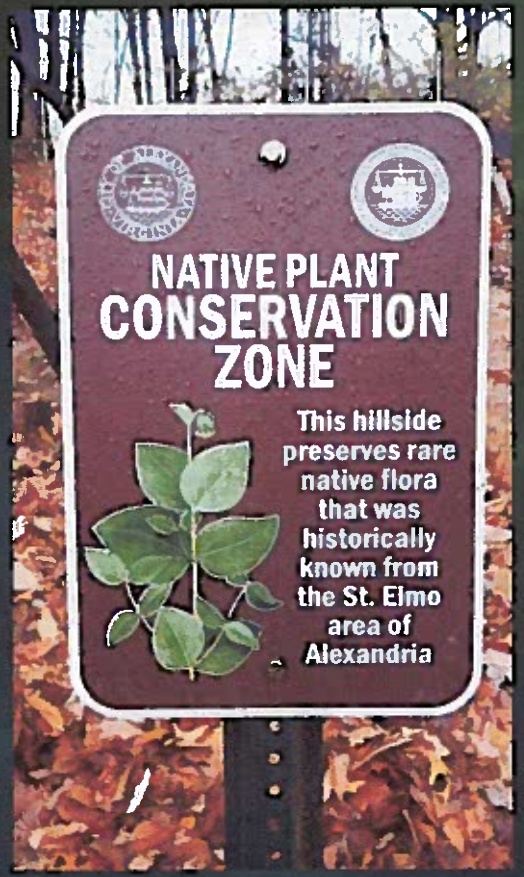
The Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) represents Alexandria's first attempt to develop a strategic course of action for preserving, protecting, and sustainably managing Alexandria's natural resources and native biodiversity.

Natural resources are irreplaceable features of the indigenous landscape that include topography (land shape), geology, soils, surface and ground water, natural communities, plants, and animals.

The purpose of the NRMP is to establish a comprehensive, science-based approach to natural resource conservation and stewardship in Alexandria.

The policy goals of "no net loss" of City-owned natural lands and a "do no harm" approach to land management are the two overarching policy recommendations of the plan's 24 recommendations and actions.

Photo by R.H. Simmons



Natural Area Stewardship and Ecological Restoration Plantings

Non-Native Invasive Species Management

RPCA's initiatives in removing invasive plants in 2014 and 2015 were listed among Alexandria's 2014 and 2015 Top Ten Environmental Accomplishments

Emerald Ash Borer image courtesy City of Lenexa, Kansas

Outreach and Initiatives

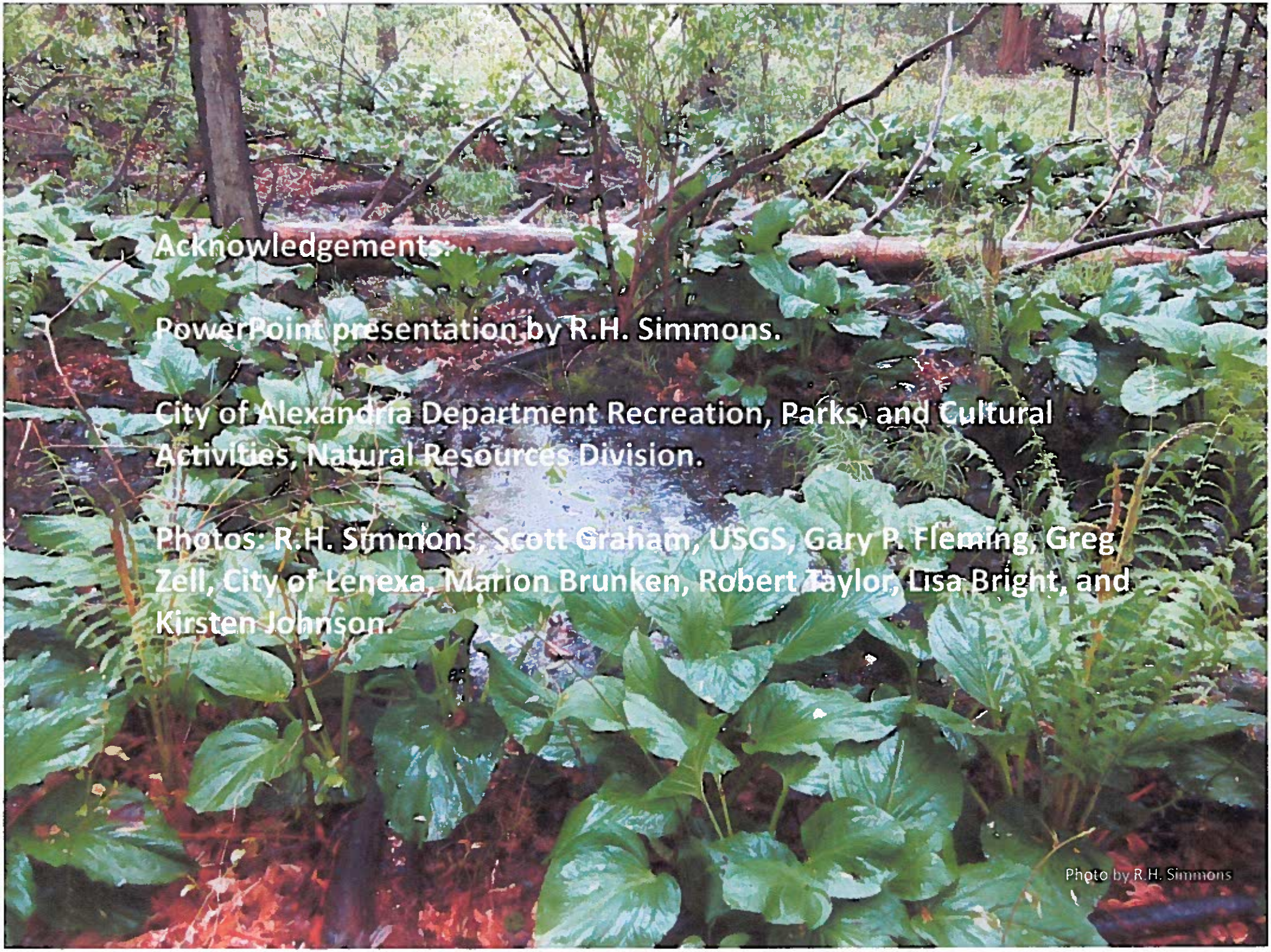
Locate, measure, and score Alexandria's old-age and champion trees for the Alexandria Notable Tree Program and Register, posted online at http://alexandriava.gov/Trees#Notable_Trees

For further information:

City of Alexandria Natural Resource Management webpage at: http://alexandriava.gov/48838

City of Alexandria Flora and Natural Communities webpage at: http://alexandriava.gov/22560

Geologic Atlas of the City of Alexandria and Vicinity at: https://www.alexandriava.gov/89974


Acknowledgements:
PowerPoint presentation by R.H. Simmons.
City of Alexandria Department Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, Natural Resources Division.
Photos: R.H. Simmons, Scott Graham, USGS, Gary P. Fleming, Greg Zell, City of Lenexa, Marion Brunken, Robert Taylor, Lisa Bright, and Kirsten Johnson.
Photo by R.H. Simmons

POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION

Environmental Policy Commission

May 16, 2016

AGENDA

I. Background

II. Station Location Decision

III. Station Design

IV. Potomac Greens Park and Potomac Yard Park

V. Construction Impacts

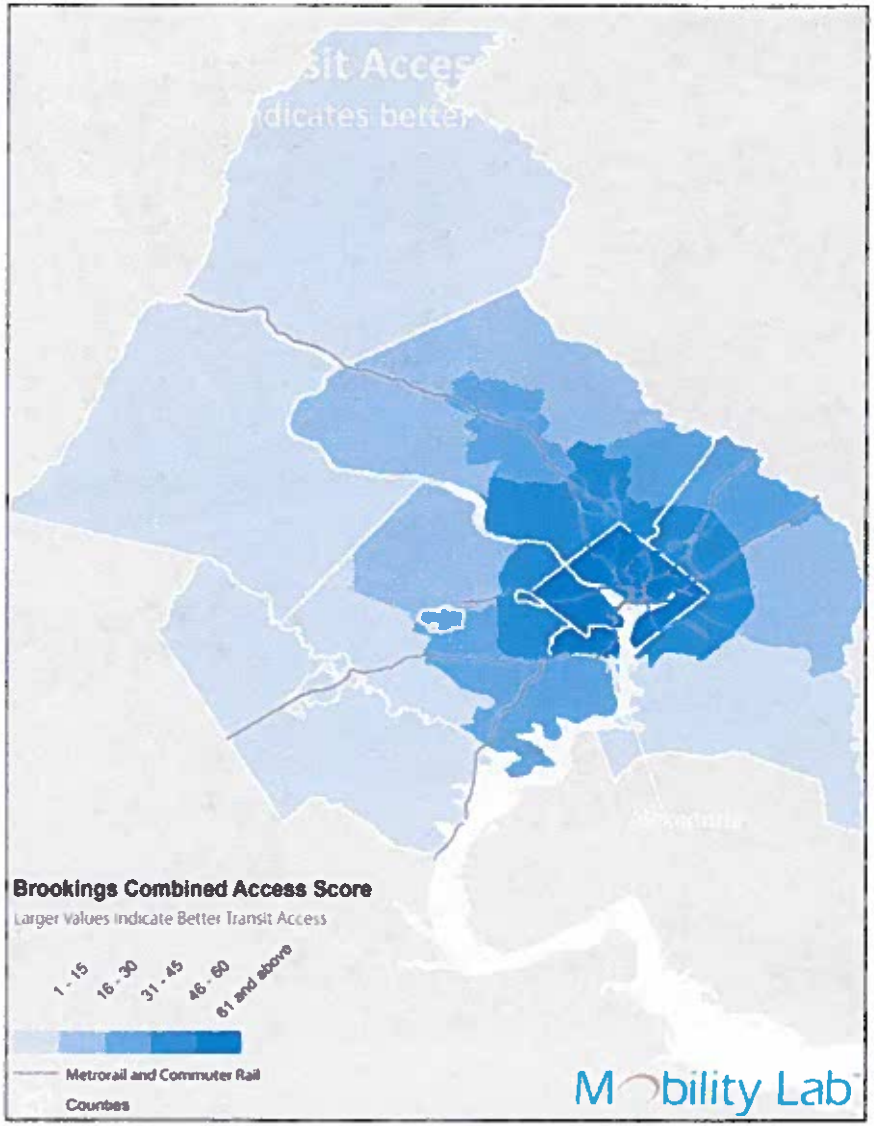
VI. Next Steps

VII. Comments/Questions

VIII. Adjourn

ALEXANDRIA IN THE REGION

- Located in the core of the Washington region
- Good access to jobs and other opportunities
- Highly desirable place to live, work, and play
- Continued regional growth = continued development pressure
- How are we responding?

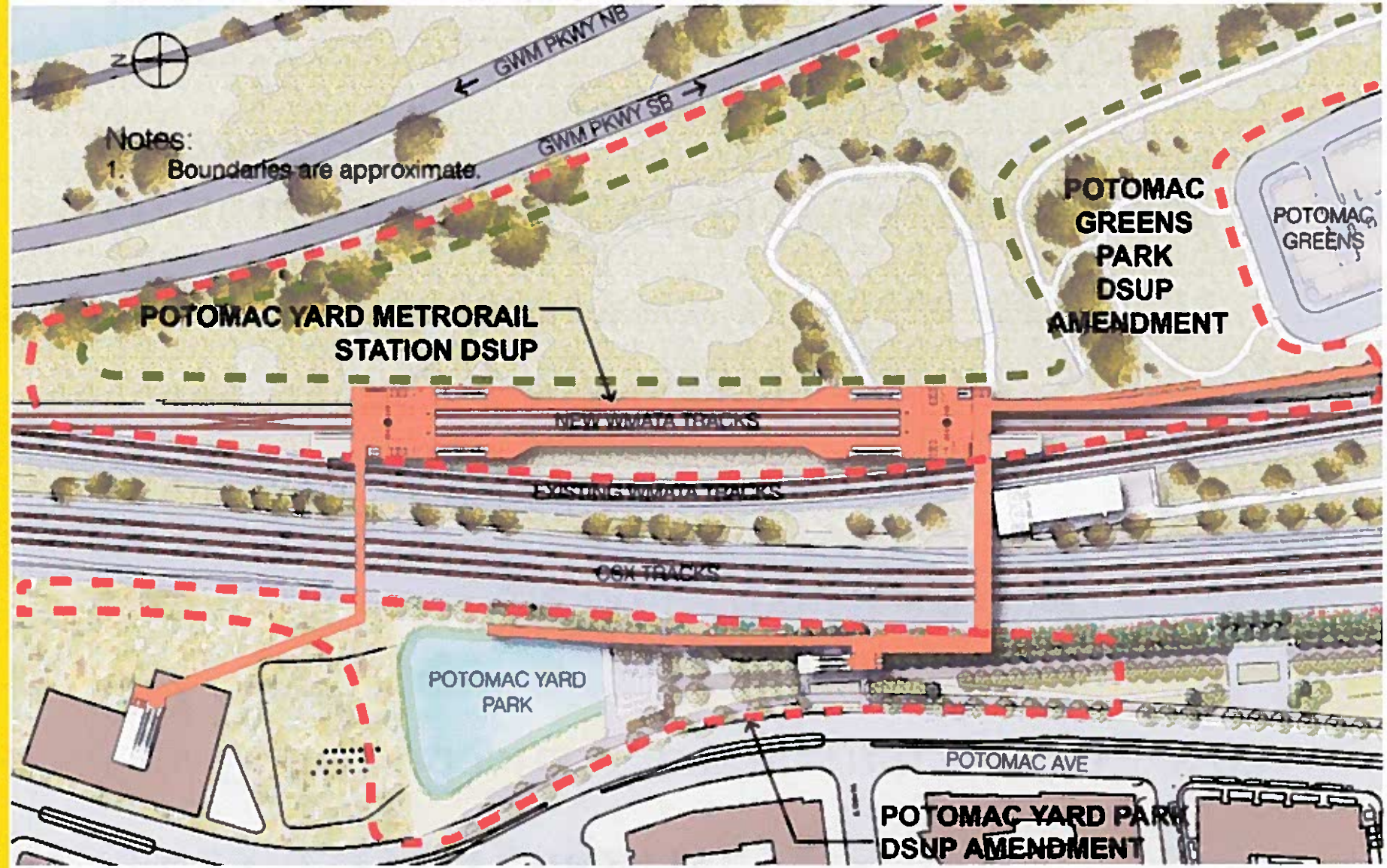


POTOMAC YARD

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

- City Council adopted the preferred alternative on May 20, 2015
- Alternative B as the preferred alternative
  - Support high-density mix of uses
  - Support adjacent communities
  - Economic development and regional benefit
- Construction access from Old Town Greens and Potomac Greens
- Mitigation framework for impacts to the George Washington Memorial Parkway

POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION LOCATION

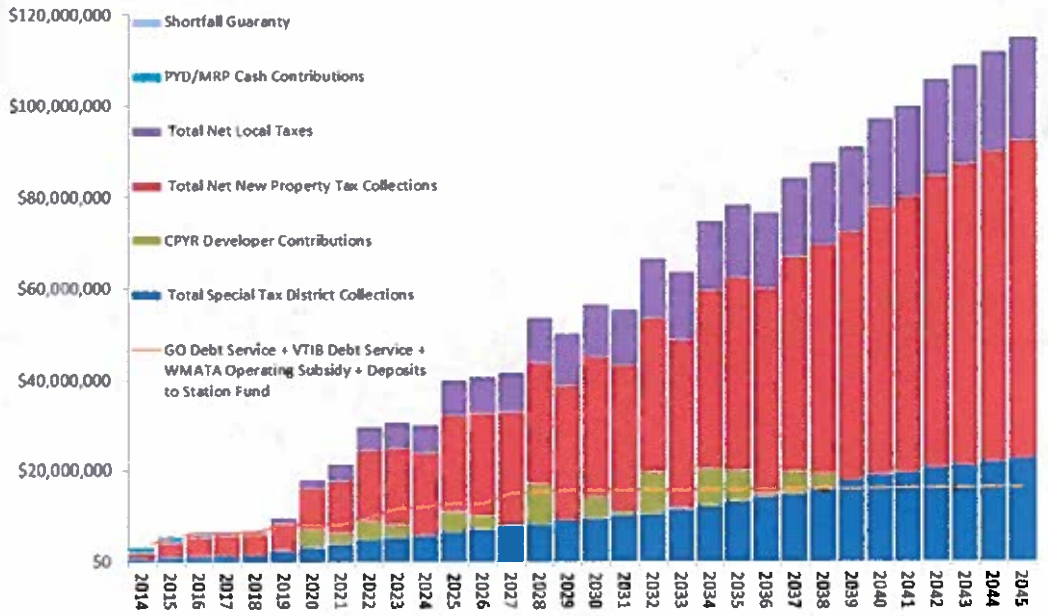


STATION FUNDING AND FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY

Sources for Construction

Sources	Amount of Funds (millions)
TIFIA Loan	$ 88.0
NVTA Funds	$ 69.5
VTIB Loan	$ 50.0
General Obligation Bonds	$ 35.6
TIGER Grant	$ 20.0
Other Sources	$ 5.0
TOTAL	$ 268.1

- *TIFIA: Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act*
- *NVTA: Northern Virginia Transportation Authority*
- *VTIB: Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank*
- *TIGER: Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery*

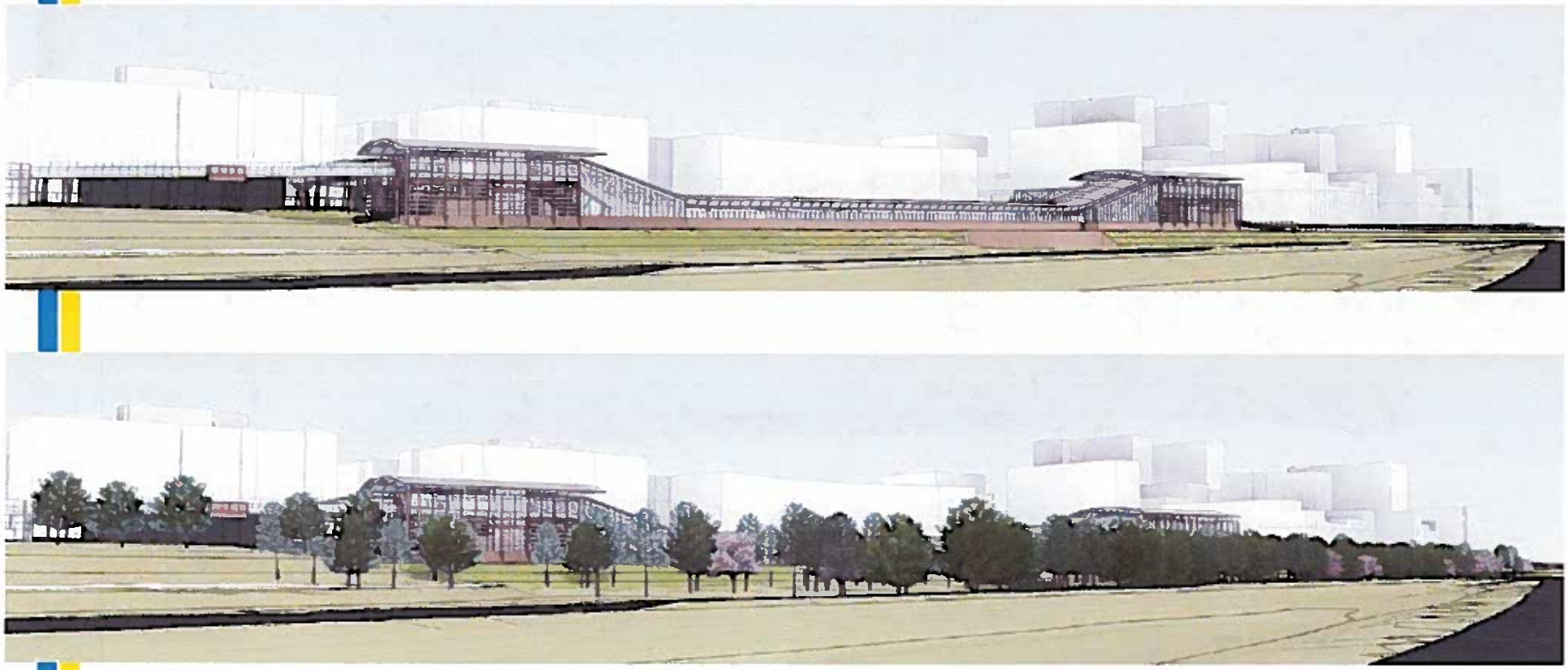


METRORAIL STATION DESIGN

North mezzanine looking southwest

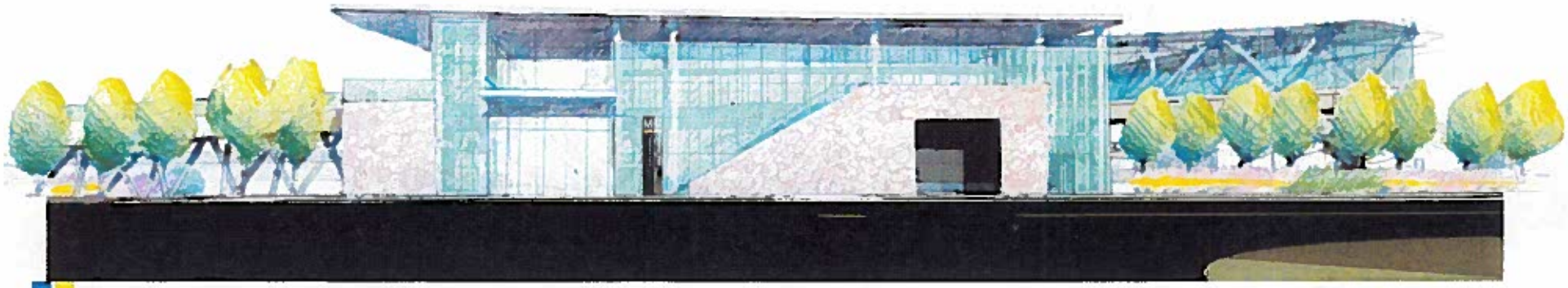
View from George Washington Memorial Parkway Southbound Lane with Landscaping

METRORAIL STATION DESIGN



View from Parkway Northbound Lane

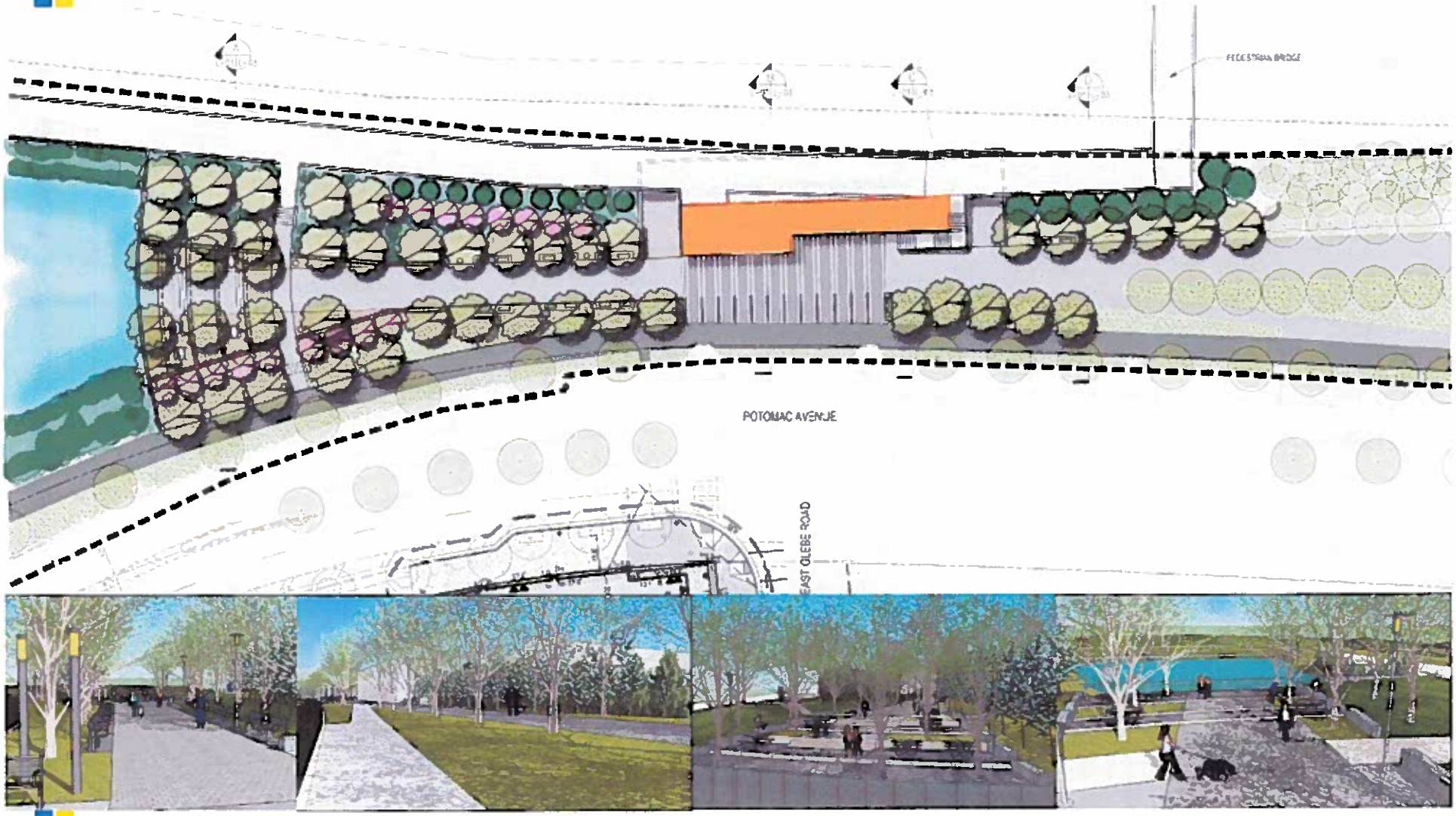
Western Pavilion (at East Glebe Road)



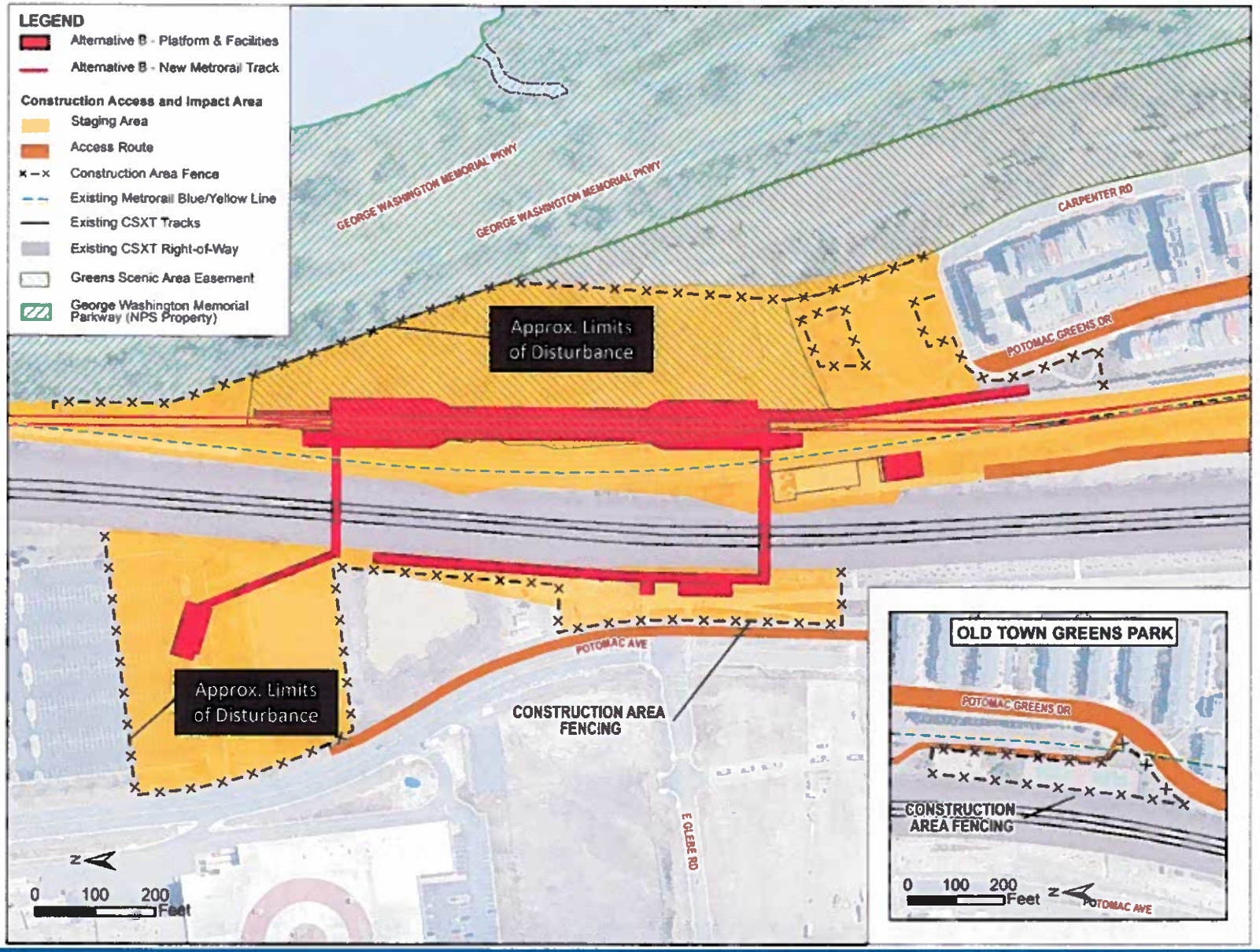
View looking east

POTOMAC GREENS PARK

Potomac Yard Park



CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS



Project Impacts - Concerns and Mitigation

Concerns	Potential Mitigation
Construction Traffic & Parking	Restrict Hours Bus Workers Secure Site Inspector Presence Time Restrictions
Contaminated Soils	Testing of Materials Prior to Removal Ensure Proper Handling
Construction Noise	Noise Mitigation
Night Work	Provide Advance Notice Minimize Frequency
Damage to Homes	Pre-Construction Home Inspections
Temporary Loss of Amenities	Work with Community to Relocate
Security Concerns During and After Construction	Secure Construction Site Secure Access when Station Closes

CONTAMINATED SOILS

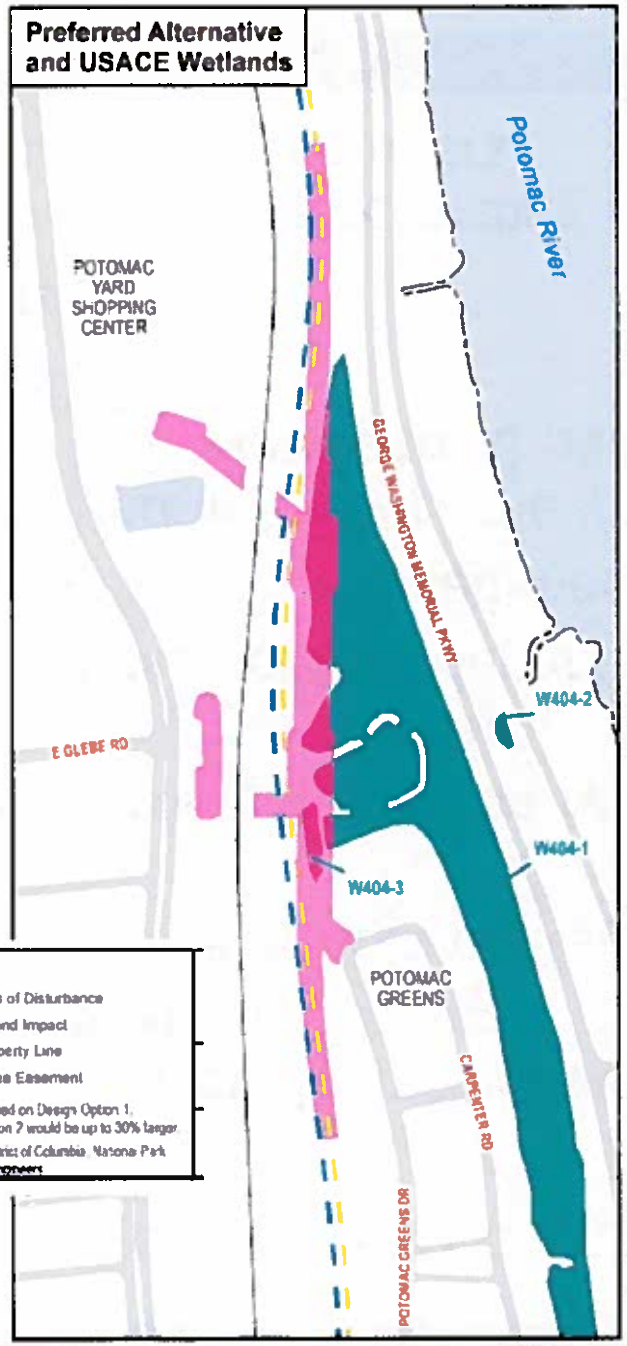
- The site is part of a former rail yard (Potomac Yard)
- Environmental remediation took place in the early-mid 1990s
- Following remediation, EPA determined the site needed no further action
- Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) prepared as part of the environmental analysis for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station
- Sources of contamination include:
  - Flyash
  - Dredge spoils
  - Three oil-water separator ponds (previously removed)
- Ten samples collected from seven borings for Phase II ESA
  - Arsenic exceeded EPA risk screening levels in all samples
  - No other metal exceeded the risk screening level
  - Petroleum hydrocarbons detected in one sample
    - Believed to be a remnant of the oil-water separator ponds
  - A single PCB (Aroclor 1260) detected in low concentrations (below the risk screening level) at two locations

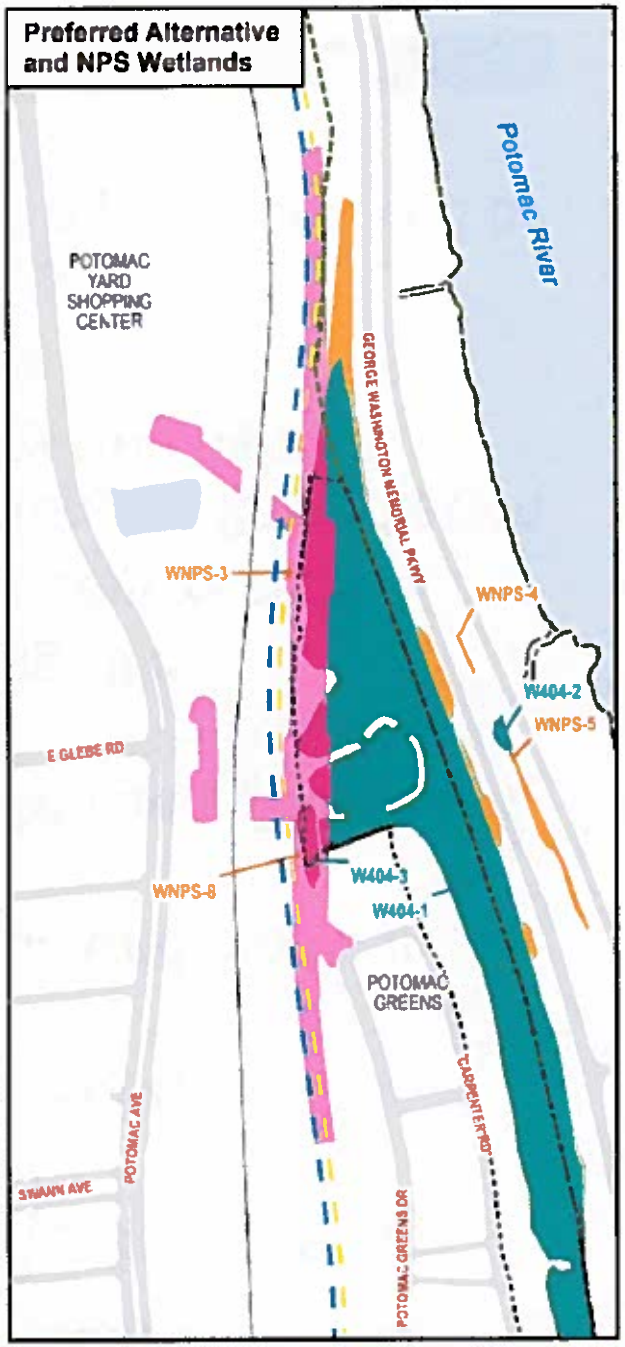
PHASE II ESA BORING LOCATIONS

Environmental Site Management

- Steps to protect workers and community during construction:
  - Place two-foot layer of clean soil over site to provide construction yard with a firm base
  - Layer will encapsulate or hold contaminated media in place
  - Any soil removed from site will be tested and disposed of properly
  - Trucks will be covered before departing site
  - Site will have an erosion and sediment control plan
  - Site will be enrolled in the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program, which will provide third-party oversight of construction activities
- Following construction:
  - Wetlands will be restored according to a plan approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WETLANDS





LEGEND

- Existing Metrorail Blue/Yellow Line
- CSXT Tracks
- City/County/State Boundary
- USACE and NPS Wetland Area
- W404-4 USACE and NPS Wetland Identifier
- NPS-only Wetland Area
- WNPS-1 NPS-only Wetland Identifier
- Permanent Limits of Disturbance
- Permanent Wetland Impact
- NPS/GWMP Property Line
- Green Scenic Area Easement

Note: Impacts shown are based on Design Option 1. Impact areas for Design Option 2 would be up to 30% larger.

Source: City of Alexandria, District of Columbia, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Upcoming Public Outreach

- Open Houses
  - May 23, 2016 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Charles Houston)
  - June 2, 2016 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Charles Houston)
- Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group (PYMIG)
  - May 17, 2016 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Charles Houston)
- Del Ray Farmers Market
  - Saturday, May 28
  - Saturday, June 11
- Four Mile Run Farmers Market
  - Sunday, May 15
- Updates to Civic Associations
- Updates to Boards and Commissions

Next Steps

- Spring 2016
  - DSUP Process: June 2016 public hearing
  - Finalize EIS
  - Develop Request for Proposals (RFP) documents for the design-build contract
  - Develop construction mitigation elements
  - Develop concept-level cost estimate and update financial feasibility analysis
- Summer 2016
  - Advertise design-build contract
  - Records of Decision

QUESTIONS?

For more information, visit:
www.alexandriava.gov/PotomacYard

May 17, 2016
Honorable Mayor Allison Silberberg
City of Alexandria
City Hall, Suite 2300
301 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Fitzgerald Square Park, Interim Plan

Dear Mayor Silberberg and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), I am writing in general support of the Department of Implementation and Planning's (DIP) Fitzgerald Square Park Interim Plan. As proposed, the interim park plan will not present an issue with regard to the Resource Protection Area along the river, as DIP does not anticipate adding fill in the flood plain or creating additional impervious surface. However, there are still two environmental considerations.

First, while the EPC understands the desire to open up the view of the water from Wales Alley, we are also aware that this will result in the loss of the row of trees that runs perpendicular to the river at that location. With our tree canopy currently decreasing (instead of increasing, as directed by the City's Environmental Action Plan), this part of the interim park plan is a concern. We recommend that an account (size and coverage) of whatever trees are removed be made in order to properly compensate for their loss; first, with trees in planters as pictured in the interim plan, and ultimately with permanent installations either at this location or elsewhere in the city when this section of the waterfront is complete.

The EPC also recommends that the asphalt section of the plan be resurfaced with materials and paints that will reduce the "heat island" effect. This will create a cooler, more hospitable atmosphere in the summer, and provide a more interesting, eye-pleasing appearance year round.

Finally, while both options have their strengths, the EPC favors Option 2 because it is more versatile, and as a result, the public might accept it as a final version of the park -- resulting in considerable savings for both the City and the environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Kapsis, Chairman, Environmental Policy Commission

EPC CALENDAR - FY2016

July 2015 through June 2016

Conference Room 2000 at City Hall Unless Noted Otherwise
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

DATE	EVENT	AGENDA ITEMS	ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
7-6-2015	**Work Session**		
7-20	Regular Meeting	•	•
8-??	**EPC Picnic/ Retreat**		•
9-14	Work Session	EAP Indicators	•
9-28	Regular Meeting	• Solarize Alexandria, Bill Eger • Update on the Eisenhower West SAP – Radhika, P&Z • Presentation on West End Transit Way, Allan Fye	• Budget letter to City Council • Solarize (Bill Eger)
10-5	Work Session	Green Infrastructure	Seth Green
10-19	Regular Meeting	• Earth Day Planning • Memo to Council: Sustainability Coordinator • Work Session on Green Infrastructure	• Budget
11-2	Work Session	Urban Forestry	•
11-16	Regular Meeting	Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, Steve Sindiong	•
12-21	Regular Meeting	• Budget Letter • Memo to Council: Sustainability Coordinator	• Indicators
1-4-2016	**Work Session**	**Environmental Indicators**	
1-25 resched: 2-8	Regular Meeting	Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Report, Michael Clem	Fitzgerald Square Indicators Sustainability Coord. Workshop Memo.
2-22	Regular Meeting	• Indicators	•

DATE	EVENT	AGENDA ITEMS	ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
		• Budget • Resource Recovery Followup	
3-7	Work Session	• Landscape Guidelines/Urban Forestry	•
3-21	Regular Meeting	• Fitzgerald Square Proposal, Tony Gammon, Deputy Director, Dept. Project Implementation	• Earth Day Report/EPC Activity • Indicators
4-4	Regular Meeting	• Budget • Old Town North • Strategic Plan • Urban Forestry Letter	
4-18	Regular Meeting	• Update on the CSO Program, Lalit Sharma/Bill Skrabak	• Earth Day Report/EPC Activity • Landscape Guidelines letter to Council
5-2	Work Session	• OTN Letter • CSO Letter • Budget Letter	• Reminder about June elections
5-16	Regular Meeting	• Natural Resources Management Plan, Bob Taylor/Rod Simmons, RPCA • Potomac Yard Metro, Lee Farmer, TES • Letter to Council Fitzgerald Square, Ryan Wojtanowski • City Strategic Plan, Kyle Winslow, EPC	• Earth Day Recap • EPC June Elections • EPC slots on other Commissions
6-6	Work Session		
6-20	Regular Meeting	• Stormwater Management, Jesse Maines • Green Building Update, Planning and Zoning • EPC elections	• FY2016 Annual Report and Member Attendance Report

Holidays: January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 15: President's Day