

EAP Phase 2 Update – Water Resources Opening Paragraph

Water is essential human for human life and has significant impacts on the economy and wellbeing of a community particularly in the City of Alexandria that has a deep history as a river town associated with the Potomac River. Managing water resources wisely in a densely urban community in a sustainable manner is both vital and challenging. The City has embraced “One Water” approach that integrates management of safe drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater resources in a sustainable manner.

The City’s drinking water is sourced from Potomac River or Occoquan River by Fairfax County Water Authority for treatment and is supplied to Virginia American Water Company which is the drinking water distributor for the City. City’s wastewater is collected through City maintained collection system and is conveyed to either Alexandria Renew Water Resource Recovery Facility and Arlington County Wastewater treatment Plant for treatment to a very high standard before discharging it to local waterways. All of City’s stormwater also drains into local waterways that eventually drain into Potomac river and Chesapeake Bay.

Protection of the City’s water resources are heavily governed by local ordinance as well as state and federal regulatory action such as the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Virginia Stormwater Laws, and legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly requiring remediation of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) outfalls by 2025. More importantly, the City has prioritized the protection of its water resources recognizing them as a fundamental element of the quality of life in the community and an integral part of the City’s thriving economy.

As the City continues to grow and become increasingly more densely populated, well thought out planning for development activities and infrastructure improvements has become critically important. Through forward thinking and planning, the City protects and enhances its existing water resources, reduces water use, and mitigates instances of flooding to protect property. Through outreach and education and the enhancement of opportunities for water related recreation and water reduction actions, the City connects people to its waterways and the importance of their protection. Ultimately, the City strives to see its waters once again become fishable and swimmable.

Reducing water use and smart stormwater management within combined sewer areas impact the GHG emissions by reducing the energy required for water treatment and distribution. Reducing the volume of water processed and managed by measures such as low flow fixtures, rain barrels, and stormwater irrigation contributes to the energy and cost savings.

Through its Chesapeake Bay Action Plan, MS4 Program Plan, Virginia Stormwater Management Program Implementation, Long Term Control Plan, future planning initiatives such as an update to the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan, and creation of a Stormwater Management Master Plan, the City continues to implement numerous

actions to protect its waterways. Dedicated funding through the Stormwater Utility Fee and Sanitary Sewer Fees provide for implementation of these coordinated plans, The water resource action in the EAP 2040 sets the framework for future actions to protect and enhance the City's water resources and provides benefits for Environmental Health when using the waterways and passive recreational use of the restored waterways.