

Environment

The environment section of the Policy Plan and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, within the county's Comprehensive Plan, guide environmental planning efforts in Fairfax County. The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance establishes a regulatory framework to protect streams and the Chesapeake Bay from pollution that may result from development. The Policy Plan includes goals and objectives that reflect the belief that environmental protection and preservation are important contributors to a high quality of life.

The Lorton area includes parts of three watersheds. Generally from north to south they are the Accotink Creek Watershed, the Pohick Creek Watershed, and the Lower Occoquan Watershed. Highlighted unique facts: The Noman M. Cole Pollution Control Plant, which treats a large majority of the county's wastewater, lies at the lower stretches of Pohick Creek. Approximately half of the Lower Occoquan watersheds area is overlain by the Watershed Protection Overlay District. This zoning district was established in 1982 by Fairfax County in a progressive move to protect the Occoquan Reservoir, a major source of drinking water for the county. This designation restricts development to one residential dwelling unit per five acres, thereby protecting the streams draining to the reservoir from the damaging impacts of more intense land development – primarily nutrient and sediment pollution.

