
ANNUAL REPORT
on the
ENVIRONMENT

2004



Fairfax County, Virginia

Environmental Quality Advisory Council

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INTRODUCTION

This year's Annual Report on the Environment has been prepared by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC). Staff support for the coordination and printing of the Report has been provided by the Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning.

The Annual Report on the Environment, which is an update on the state of the County's environment, serves a threefold purpose. Initially, it is intended to assist the Board of Supervisors in evaluating ongoing environmental programs and to provide the basis for proposing new programs. The document also aids public agencies in coordinating programs to jointly address environmental issues. In addition, the report is directed to citizens who are concerned with environmental issues.

The Report contains chapters on major environmental topics including: land use and transportation; air quality; water resources; solid waste; hazardous materials; ecological resources; wildlife management; and noise, light, and visual pollution. Within each chapter are: a discussion of environmental issues; a summary of relevant data; and a discussion of applicable government programs. Where relevant, discussions of legislative issues are provided. Most of the chapters conclude with recommendations that identify additional actions that EQAC believes are necessary to address environmental issues.

This report covers activities affecting the environment in 2003; however, in some cases, key activities from 2004 are also included.

While the Environmental Quality Advisory Council has prepared and is responsible for this Report, contributions were made by numerous organizations. Many of the summaries provided within this report were taken verbatim from materials provided by these organizations. EQAC therefore extends its appreciation to the following organizations:

Audubon Naturalist Society
Clean Fairfax Council, Inc.
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Fairfax County Deer Management Committee
Fairfax County Department of Health
Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services
Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning
Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Fairfax County Executive's Office
Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
Fairfax County Non-Motorized Transportation (Trails) Committee
Fairfax County Park Authority
Fairfax County Police Department, Division of Animal Services
Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee
Fairfax Water
George Mason University, Departments of Biology and Environmental Science
and Policy
Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
International Dark-Sky Association
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
Reston Association
Upper Occoquan Sewage Authority
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Department of Transportation
Virginia Outdoor Lighting Taskforce

In addition, EQAC wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the County's interagency Environmental Coordinating Committee, which coordinated the staff responses to the recommendations within EQAC's 2003 *Annual Report on the Environment*.



FAIRFAX COUNTY

V I R G I N I A

Board of Supervisors
County of Fairfax
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

Chairman Connolly and Members of the Board:

EQAC is pleased to present the 2004 Annual Report on the Environment. In this report, we discuss various environmental issues in Fairfax County and make recommendations as to what actions the county should take to resolve identified problems. The Report consists of eight chapters – each chapter addressing a different aspect of the environment. The chapters this year have been rearranged to reflect the order of topics listed in the newly adopted environmental vision for Fairfax County. EQAC commends the Board for adoption of this document, *Environmental Excellence for Fairfax: A 20-Year Vision*, and we look forward to working with the Board in pursuit of these goals.

I would like to mention some significant points made in the Report.

EQAC joins with the Board in recognizing the extraordinary impact of land use and transportation decisions in the county on the environment and our quality of life. We support increased growth and utilization of transit nodes, most specifically existing and planned Metro stations, where appropriate in the county.

Air Quality has been a focus of EQAC's report in the last few years. We commend the Board for moving forward with a comprehensive agenda for the county on clean air and for adding the position of Air Quality Planner back into the budget. We thank Kambiz Agazi for the exceptional work he did in understanding and presenting the issue to the Board and the public, and for clarifying choices in the program. We thank the Board for its continued support of telecommuting and for supporting the proposed clean air legislation in the General Assembly. We urge continued support and funding of the county's clean air program.

Since the late 90's, the county has engaged in a progressive and systematic approach to assessing the health of our streams and then moving forward with watershed protection and restoration efforts. Staff in the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services are to be congratulated for their program and their work. The Countywide Stream Protection Strategy and Watershed Management Planning Program, the perennial stream mapping project and the related changes to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance are examples where the county is making good progress. However, funding, as always, is an issue. There is an "environmental debt" that has been building for many decades. We urge the Board of Supervisors to move forward with funding for a Stormwater Environmental Utility Fee to fund the building and maintenance of needed and existing stormwater practices.

Board of Supervisors
Continued

Each chapter of this year's Annual Report contains the remainder of our recommendations. We urge you to consider and act on each of these.

This report covers 2003, but also includes significant actions from 2004 that could impact EQAC's comments and recommendations. We recognize that the report does not capture all ongoing actions; if we tried to accomplish this, the report would never be finished.

As previous reports have done, we would like to commend the outstanding efforts of some groups whose actions improve and safeguard the environment in Fairfax County. The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) continues to provide excellent education programs, to consult with the county on innovative stream restoration work, to have a large and successful stream monitoring program, and to be available to citizens and developers alike for site work consultation. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) continues to obtain easements on privately owned environmentally sensitive land. Volunteers from the Audubon Naturalist Society provide valuable data on water quality. Fairfax ReLeaf continues to promote tree preservation and tree replacement programs. The Park Authority staff continues to have a few people, working with a very small budget, who are slowly enhancing environmental efforts in the county's parks. The members of EQAC thank all these groups, and all others who work to preserve and enhance the environment of the county.

EQAC would also like to thank and commend the county staff for their continued outstanding work. We thank them especially for providing the data for this report and their willingness to meet with EQAC to discuss various issues. We commend the county's Environmental Coordinating Committee's (ECC) continued efforts at managing environmental action within the county. We appreciate the ECC's willingness to meet with EQAC twice a year and to discuss issues of environmental significance.

EQAC would especially like to thank and acknowledge two individuals. First, Noel Kaplan of the Environment and Development Review Branch, Department of Planning and Zoning. Noel provides county staff support to EQAC. Noel sets up and tapes every EQAC meeting, follows up on actions generated from the meetings, and coordinates the inputs and publication of the Annual Report. Although the members of EQAC write the Annual Report, it is Noel who makes publication of the document possible. EQAC thanks him for his hard work and long hours in our support.

Second, Kambiz Agazi, Environmental Coordinator, Office of the County Executive, who also attends all our meetings and provides advice and suggestions. His insight and overview of county environmental activities are invaluable. EQAC thanks him for his assistance and valuable contributions.

Every year, Fairfax County's programs continue to improve and advance in their efforts at environmental stewardship. If there would be one message to summarize EQAC's 2004 Annual Report on the Environment it would be to stay the course. We encourage you to continue to both support and fully fund these valuable efforts at protecting the county's environment and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.

Board of Supervisors
Continued

The members of EQAC thank the Board of Supervisors for their leadership and look forward to working with you to achieve the goals of the Environmental Excellence Vision for Fairfax County in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stella M. Koch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stella M. Koch, Chairman
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

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SCORECARD
Progress Report on 2003 Recommendations

I. WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC strongly recommends that Fairfax County develop a method that incorporates into their land use considerations a protocol that would assist them on the individual and cumulative effects of such decisions on the county's waterways.</p>	<p>Staff concurs with EQAC's recommendation. This recommendation is in the process of being addressed at both the watershed scale and the project-specific scale. The county has begun a multi-year effort to develop watershed management plans for all county watersheds. At the project-specific scale, the BOS has authorized public hearings to revise submission for zoning applications to require more detailed information on stormwater management facilities and the adequacy of downstream drainage.</p>	<p>EQAC is pleased that the recommendation is in the process of being addressed. EQAC notes that land use planning and transportation planning that take into account impacts on the county's streams are the single most effective tools for the protection of streams and rivers.</p>	<p>In process, with more to be done.</p>
<p>2. EQAC continues to strongly support the full funding and implementation of a Comprehensive countywide Steam Management Program.</p>	<p>Staff agrees with this recommendation and it is in the process of being addressed. A major aspect of this recommendation is being pursued through the Watershed Management Planning initiative – under which the staff will develop watershed master plans for the entire county over the next six years. The Stream Physical Assessment project supports the development of the watershed management plan and was started in 2002. This is now complete. The baseline Stream Protection Strategy (SPS) report released in January, 2001 included broad stream restoration and preservation recommendations. The county updated its base stream map of all stream channels through the recently completed Perennial Streams Mapping Project.</p>	<p>EQAC's recommendation is on the way to being satisfied – if the county continues with its current activities in this area. EQAC continues to be concerned about the funding needed to complete the watershed master plans and to implement the recommendations. EQAC continues to emphasize this recommendation.</p>	<p>In process, with more to be done.</p>

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>3. EQAC recommends the funding of the Stormwater Utility Program/Watershed Protection and Restoration Program. The Program should place equal importance between environmental protection, restoration, and monitoring as compared to infrastructure improvement and maintenance. The Program should also include a Watershed Board to oversee the Program. Also, the Program should encourage bioretention and recharge to aquatic systems and other innovative practices.</p>	<p>Staff agrees with the overall thrust of this recommendation and is in the process of addressing most of the recommendation. Staff is currently developing a Stormwater Environmental Utility implementation strategy. The March, 2002 Conceptual Plan for a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program offers a balanced approach to environmental programs, watershed planning, infrastructure improvements, and maintenance requirements. The concept of a Watershed Board for general program guidance needs to be developed further before staff can evaluate whether this would be a constructive move. In the interim, the Stormwater Management Business Team will provide general program guidance with the assistance of EQAC and the guidance of the ECC.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to emphasize this recommendation. EQAC supports the staff process that hopefully will lead to a mid-2005 approval of a funding source for watershed protection and restoration. EQAC is concerned about the continued availability of funds for a Comprehensive countywide Steam Management Program without such a dedicated source of funds.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>4. EQAC recommends posting of affected county streams with a health warning for fecal coliform bacteria until such time that the county conducts a study as to the source of microbiological threats.</p>	<p>Posting of individual streams in Fairfax County is not a viable solution to public awareness. Contamination levels of streams are intermittent. Routine posting of streams would be resource intensive and generally ineffective. The Health Department has issued a general advisory to avoid contact with any open unprotected body of water for recreational purposes such as swimming and wading. This advisory is disseminated to the public via a number of channels – including the Health Department’s Web page and the Fairfax County Annual Stream Water Quality Report. A pamphlet on the implications of high fecal coliform bacteria levels is being developed in conjunction with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and this will be distributed to Fairfax County libraries.</p>	<p>EQAC disagrees that posting is not a viable solution. While the efforts to disseminate information on the problems of contamination in the county’s streams are helpful, they are passive in nature and do not go far enough. <u>The majority of the county’s citizens remain unaware of the problems with fecal coliform bacteria.</u> EQAC continues to recommend that the county’s streams be posted if testing shows contamination.</p>	<p>No.</p>

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>5. EQAC recommends a pilot program of monitoring and studying the effectiveness of stormwater detention facilities.</p>	<p>This recommendation is being partially addressed at this time. The Kingstowne Environmental Monitoring Program is used in evaluating the efficiencies of erosion and sediment controls installed in the Kingstowne development. Also, a second nearby monitoring station has been installed to evaluate nutrient loads from the Silver Springs segment of Dogue Creek. Staff also oversees monitoring activities associated with ad hoc projects. While a comprehensive countywide program to monitor the effectiveness of stormwater management ponds and BMPs would be desirable, it would be cost prohibitive.</p>	<p>EQAC agrees that a comprehensive program would be cost prohibitive. However, EQAC's recommendation is for <u>selective</u> monitoring with the purpose of determining efficiencies. EQAC continues to endorse such a program.</p>	<p>Some small amount.</p>
<p>6. EQAC recommends that increased emphasis be placed on monitoring and enforcement of predevelopment stormwater management controls.</p>	<p>The Public Facilities Manual (PFM) Section 11-0109.5 does require temporary/permanent detention to accommodate the increased runoff caused by changed soil and surface conditions effectively during and after development. With the exception of adequate outfall requirements, the PFM does not specify the minimum standards of detention pertaining to volume and velocity that must be provided during construction. Staff concurs that there is a gap in the stormwater management design that could result in impacts to the county's streams during construction activities. Staff recommends that they collaborate with the local professional civil engineering community to define, clarify, and implement the county's design and plan submission requirements pertaining to PFM section 11-0109.5.</p>	<p>EQAC concurs with the staff recommendation to improve the PFM in regard to stormwater management design. However, EQAC also stresses the importance of monitoring and enforcement of existing stormwater management controls (and, of course, any new controls as they are implemented).</p>	<p>No.</p>

II. AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends full funding for staff in the Health Department supporting air quality management activities in the county.</p>	<p>The Health Department concurs with the recommendation. The county's capacity to monitor air quality issues at current levels are being met as long as staff are able to keep the equipment properly functioning; however, there are no funds for new equipment purchases. Equipment manufactures have indicated that the life expectancy for a continuous air monitoring analyzer is five years, yet monitoring equipment in excess of 15 years is still being used. Currently, monitoring staff is working beyond capacity with the present network.</p>	<p>The old monitors can be expected to fail beyond repair at any time and should be replaced. Furthermore, sufficient manpower should be provided to enhance operations and maintenance of the air quality network and to provide a more thorough analysis of the monitoring data.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>2. EQAC continues to be concerned about coordination and integration of critical analysis and conclusions about air quality management in the county. EQAC recommends close coordination and communication between EQAC and the county.</p>	<p>The recommendation is being addressed. The county is strengthening its air quality planning and management capability through a mechanism that differs from EQAC's proposal of last year to increase staff for these purposes. The staff agrees with and fully supports EQAC's recommendation to continue and intensify close coordination. Coordination and communication between EQAC and county staff have advanced significantly over the last two years.</p>	<p>EQAC's concerns continue. We are pleased with progress to date, but continue to be concerned regarding the county's ability to monitor its efforts in a systematic and strategic manner.</p>	<p>Some progress, but more needs to be done.</p>

III. ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Ecological Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that the county BOS develop and implement a countywide Natural Resource Management Plan. Two tasks should be done first: complete a countywide Baseline Natural Resource Inventory and adopt a unified Natural Resource Conservation Policy.</p>	<p>Staff concurs with EQAC's recommendation. A countywide Baseline Natural Resource Inventory survey is being conducted by the Urban Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services that can eventually take into account all terrestrial biotic resources, including flora and fauna existing on private and public properties. In addition, the Fairfax County Park Authority recently adopted a 2002-2006 Natural Resource Management Plan for Park Authority lands. The Stormwater Planning Division is coordinating the development of watershed plans the each of the county's watersheds.</p>	<p>This is a long-standing EQAC recommendation. EQAC notes that efforts are underway that support EQAC's recommendation. EQAC supports these efforts and reiterates its recommendation.</p>	<p>Improved progress, but more needs to be done.</p>
<p>2. EQAC recommends continued support for the public-private partnership with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) and further recommends the existing three-year agreement be extended.</p>	<p>The Fairfax County Park Authority supports this recommendation and the recommendation is in the process of being addressed.</p>	<p>EQAC commends the BOS for creating the original public-private partnership with NVCT. The BOS did fund NVCT for an additional year past the term of the original three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). However, a new MOU was not put into place. EQAC supports a continuing partnership with NVCT, not a year-to-year program. Therefore, EQAC recommends that a multi-year MOU be accomplished.</p>	<p>Program funded, but no MOU.</p>
<p>3. EQAC recommends that the BOS continue to support proposals to amend Virginia State Code §15.2-96 1, allowing the county to enact tree preservation ordinances.</p>	<p>Due to unwillingness by local Virginia State policy makers to patronize a similar proposal adopted in the 2003 Legislative Program, the BOS Legislative Committee chose not to include the proposal in the 2004 Legislative Program. Virginia State Delegate Mark D. Sickles did patronize a bill that contained most of the same tree preservation amendments contained in the 2003 proposal. Delegate Sickles actions did not result from a proposal submitted as part of Fairfax County's 2004 Legislative Program.</p>	<p>EQAC is extremely disappointed that the Fairfax County's 2004 Legislative Program did not include any proposal for tree preservation. However, EQAC is pleased that one of the local delegates did submit a bill incorporating tree preservation amendments. EQAC continues to recommend that the BOS continue to pursue legislation that would allow a tree preservation ordinance.</p>	<p>No.</p>

IV-1. IMPACTS OF DEER IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Deer Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue to implement and monitor the comprehensive deer management program as set forth in the November 1998 Integrated Deer Management Plan and refined by the Deer Management Committee in the summer of 1999 and in subsequent meetings.</p>	<p>This recommendation continues to be addressed. The Fairfax County Park Authority continues to work with the county Wildlife Biologist to move toward the objectives stated in the countywide Deer Management Program. Diligent efforts of Park Authority and Police Department staff have reduced the herd population in several parks to the point where previously bare forest floors are again covered in wildflowers and seedling trees and shrubs.</p>	<p>EQAC notes that actions taken to date continue to support EQAC’s recommendation, but the results are a long way from restoring natural areas to the former levels of biodiversity. The changes noted in several parks are encouraging; however, actions to manage the deer population need to continue and to be increased.</p>	<p>In process.</p>
<p>2. EQAC strongly endorses on-going public input into the Deer Management Plan.</p>	<p>This recommendation continues to be addressed. The Deer Management Committee has met in the past to review and comment on the results of management efforts and on staff recommendations. The frequency of committee meetings has decreased as the program has become more routine. Public input is frequently obtained through participation and interaction with various committees, advisory commissions, and civic meetings.</p>	<p>These efforts are providing the desired public input and should be continued.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>3. EQAC strongly commends active participation of the Fairfax County Park Authority in the deer management program.</p>	<p>This recommendation continues to be addressed. The Park Authority continues to work within the guidelines of its Wildlife Conflict Resolution Policy to reduce and mitigate the impact of an overabundant white-tailed deer population. The agency is continually researching ways to minimize the effect the herd has on parks. Park staff works with the county Wildlife Biologist, his staff, and police officers to carry out herd reduction activities.</p>	<p>EQAC encourages continued participation by FCPA in deer management.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Deer Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
4. EQAC believes the deer management program must address problems of small private property owners.	The Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (DGIF) will issue permits to property owners experiencing damage from any wildlife, but many citizens are not aware of this program. DGIF and Fairfax County have increased efforts to inform citizens of this program. Additionally, state code now allows an extended urban archery deer-hunting season. The county Deer Management Web page provides information about methods available to private property owners.	While the staff response outlines some options available to small private property owners, more needs to be done. EQAC recognizes that this problem is complicated by the overlay of existing State regulations and recommends that county program officers work closely with State officials to ease these where possible.	In process.
5. EQAC believes the management program must accomplish: (1) immediate, sustained reduction of deer population; (2) ongoing monitoring of availability of methods for maintaining population limits; and (3) consideration of development and its effects on ecosystem health and biodiversity.	The deer management program continues to reduce local herds to levels consistent with long-term carrying capacity of remaining habitats. Managed hunts, sharpshooting, and private/public partnerships are combined to apply the necessary control pressure to first stabilize and then reduce deer herds. Fairfax County continues to monitor developments and progress of non-lethal methods of deer herd control. There are several strategies within the recently completed FCPA Natural Resource Management Plan that relate to wildlife conflict resolution, continued evaluation of forest habitat values, and the impacts of park and private development on the biodiversity and ecosystem health in the parks.	The Deer Management Program is making inroads into the overpopulation of deer in the county. However, this needs to continue until all local herds have been reduced to levels consistent with carrying capacity.	In process.
6. EQAC strongly recommends the Board of Supervisors continue to provide for a vigorous and enhanced program of public education as is now being done by the Division of Animal Services and on the county Web site.	Educational efforts have been underway since the start of the Deer Management Program. The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist is working with Channel 16 to produce three one-half hour wildlife programs. Publications available in the Fairfax County Library system will be updated and expanded annually. Celebrate Fairfax provides an opportunity to reach a large number of county citizens. An interactive display on wildlife concerns was again part of the Public Safety display.	The county certainly has been conducting a vigorous program of public education. This program needs to be continued and enhanced such as suggested by county staff.	Yes.

IV-2. IMPACTS OF GEESE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Geese Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC finds the current programs are effective and should be continued.	The Animal Services Division concurs with EQAC's recommendation and intends to continue and expand the current programs.	EQAC continues to support continuation and expansion of current efforts.	Yes.
2. EQAC feels that the current programs need to be replicated in many other areas of the county.	The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist, in association with GeesePeace, conducts a series of volunteer training sessions prior to the spring nesting season each year. To date, approximately 170 volunteers/cooperators have been trained to addle eggs under the accepted protocol.	The training of volunteers, and other efforts to control the geese population, should continue.	In process.
3. EQAC recommends enhanced public education outreach to sensitize Fairfax County residents to the pollution problems caused by geese and the programs available for addressing them.	The Animal Services Division is presently partnered in a public/private partnership with GeesePeace. This organization provides information to county residents who experience problems with Canada geese. The pollution of surface waters by geese is an issue that has been incorporated into the array of educational efforts now being used.	EQAC recommends continuation of public education efforts.	In process.
4. EQAC recommends enhanced public outreach to acquaint Fairfax County residents with the destructive role excessive goose populations play in our marshland habitats.	The Animal Services Division continues to work in cooperation with State and Federal officials to gather data on the effects of resident goose populations upon local tidal marshlands. This information will be provided to the public through existing methods. The Division is working with Channel 16 to produce programming to cover Canada geese.	EQAC encourages the collection of these data and the dissemination to Fairfax County citizens.	In process.

IV-3. WILDLIFE BORNE DISEASES OF CONCERN IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Wildlife Borne Diseases Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that the BOS provide continued active support to the reorganized Stream Monitoring Program in which the Stream Protection Strategies Program of the DPWES will perform sample collection and field testing and the Health Department will perform lab testing and analysis functions. EQAC recommends that the county staff ensure the posting of advisories on the county Web site when polluted waters are identified.</p>	<p>Starting in December, 2003, the Stormwater Planning Division within DPWES began conducting regular sample collections from pre-existing sites. DPWES is currently in the process of redesigning the sampling structure to develop a representative set of monitoring locations that meets the information needs of the Health Department, but which also serves as an enhancement to the larger stream monitoring and watershed management programs. The resulting information will be made publicly available on an annual basis, and reports to the Environmental Committee of the BOS will be developed and reported as needed.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to support this recommendation, encouraging the BOS to provide active support to the reorganized Stream Monitoring Program. EQAC notes that making information publicly available on polluted waters annually does not address EQAC's recommendation that this be done as polluted waters are identified.</p>	<p>In process.</p>
<p>2. The Health Department should continue and enhance its excellent public education programs.</p>	<p>This recommendation is in the process of being implemented and is being enhanced as EQAC has recommended. The Health Department has translated some of its more essential West Nile Virus public education material into Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and basic Chinese and is in the process of evaluating the impact of this program with a study that will be concluded before FY2005.</p>	<p>As stated, EQAC believes the Health Department's efforts are creating excellent public education programs.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Wildlife Borne Diseases Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>3. The Police Department should continue its animal control program and, in conjunction with the Health Department, expand public education initiatives in key areas such as rabies and wildlife contributions to pollution of surface waters.</p>	<p>The Animal Services Division routinely provides the public with information on rabies and other wildlife borne diseases. Rabies is addressed on the Animal Services Web page. The Animal Control Section has developed a program to canvass neighborhoods in areas which exhibit a high number of positive rabies cases. This program provides education to the public on rabies and ensures that owners of domestic animals are in compliance with county ordinances concerning rabies vaccinations.</p>	<p>EQAC supports the current efforts.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>4. EQAC recommends that the BOS provide active support to the newly instituted program for epidemiology and abatement of insect vector-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and malaria. EQAC also recommends that the BOS monitor this program.</p>	<p>This recommendation is being addressed. The BOS has provided and continues providing support for the newly instituted program for epidemiology and abatement of insect vector-borne diseases. The Health Department has provided periodic reports on the program and the Health Department periodically informs the BOS in more direct manners.</p>	<p>EQAC supports the current efforts.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

VI. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous Materials Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC continues to recommend an aggressive public education campaign on how to properly dispose of household/residential, commercial, and industrial hazardous waste. The “HHW Disposal Program” can be used. The county should partner with the Northern Virginia Board of Realtors and request them to distribute the flyer to all new residents, buying or renting, who they work with.</p>	<p>DPWES contacted the Government Affairs Committee of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR). The “HHW Disposal Program” flyer was printed in NVAR’s monthly magazine in March, 2004 and will be reprinted from time to time. This magazine is distributed to 7,500 members. In addition, NVAR will provide a link from its Web site to the DPWES Web site. An electronic copy of the pamphlet was sent out.</p>	<p>EQAC is pleased that DPWES was successful with this recommendation. This is one avenue to try to reach many people and businesses. EQAC believes more homeowners and home businesses need to be educated about the hazardous materials located in homes and home offices. EQAC continues to believe creative partnering with NVAR and other organizations may be able to accomplish this with little cost to the county.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Hazardous Materials Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>2. Financing for the printing of Hazardous Waste and Environmental Crime materials might be available through federal grants with the Emergency Management Program. It is suggested the county discuss the possibilities with Fire & Rescue, FJLEPC, and the Emergency Management Coordinator.</p>	<p>Fire & Rescue reports that staff from the Emergency Management Office (EMO) provided information the funding is available from the Office of National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency. The funds have been made available to the county and are for hazard preparedness for disasters or emergencies resulting from natural disasters or accidental or man-made events. EMO Staff advised that an educational awareness program that addresses hazardous material releases and other situations that citizens are requested to report would meet the criteria established for funding for this grant. Staff previously checked with EPA and learned a limited amount of educational materials were provided for in-house copying and distribution on previous occasions. Current information from EPA indicates an uncertainty of whether there will be funding for educational programs. Staff has requested that personnel who regularly review available grant programs examine these programs for specific language that may be appropriate for funding the printing of hazardous waste and environmental crime educational materials. This includes grant program review personnel in Fire and Rescue and the EMO. Staff will continue to follow through to access funding that is currently available as well as continuously get updates from grant program review personnel to determine if additional funding becomes available.</p>	<p>EQAC recognizes all staff's good work with this effort and hopes continued efforts will find funding to help with this informational and educational outreach effort.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Hazardous Materials Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>3. Environmental crimes require citizen's eyes. EQAC recommends an advertisement and educational campaign to state what types of hazardous materials and other environmental situations citizens are requested to report including who they are to contact. This could be done through community association newsletters, press release stories to the media, and age appropriate material sent home through the schools.</p>	<p>Fire and Rescue reports that there has been limited activity for improving the community education program for environmental crimes since the 2002 EQAC Recommendation. Fire and Rescue's Hazardous Materials & Investigative Services Branch (HMIS) participated in four different community events, including Celebrate Fairfax and Fall for Fairfax. At each of these events, photographic displays of environmental crimes scenes are presented with handout literature provided to visitors. The information provided includes the brochure from the FJLEPC on how to report spills, leaks, or releases of hazardous materials, coloring books with an environmental theme, and refrigerator magnets with telephone numbers to report releases of hazardous materials and environmental crimes. HMIS has also attended neighborhood association meetings as requested and has also provided information for neighborhood association newsletters. HMIS is listed as the contact for four headings of "Environment" at the county Web site. HMIS utilizes citizen contact made during incidents and telephone calls for educational purposes. Press releases are issued when a significant environmental impact occurs as a result of a release of hazardous materials. Daily information is provided to citizen inquires for proper disposal of HHW materials.</p>	<p>EQAC realizes this is a task that is not easily, if at all, measurable. This must be an on-going effort. HMIS has, and is, making great efforts with this campaign. EQAC continues to suggest two additional venues for citizen education: The Police Academy for citizens active with Neighborhood Watch and the Police Citizen Advisory Councils; and the Citizen Community College programs being offered through some District Councils and Police Districts.</p>	<p>Yes. Continuous effort is necessary.</p>

VII-1. NOISE

Noise Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that in regard to airport noise that Fairfax County (1) support the use of runways with the least impact, especially during sleep hours; (2) work with local, state, and federal groups to encourage airlines to restrict use of noisy aircraft during sleep hours; and (3) encourage the design and construction of new runways and taxiways to make best use of compatible land and water.</p>	<p>Staff supports the consideration of EQAC's suggestions, where applicable, during the Part 150 (which address noise abatement issues) and Environmental Impact Studies that are underway for National and Dulles Airports. Staff notes that much of EQAC's recommendations address issues not under the control of Fairfax County; however, DPZ intends to track on comment on the ongoing studies and will support EQAC's recommendation in their comments.</p>	<p>The current staff approach should continue.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

VII-2. LIGHT POLLUTION

Light Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the recently enacted Outdoor Lighting Ordinance to determine any areas in which enhancements and modifications may be needed.</p>	<p>The new Ordinance became effective on June 17, 2003. Overall, it is believed that the new standards are working well and will be effective in the reduction of glare. However, some issues have arisen which may require minor adjustments to the county's lighting standards in the future. Staff recommends that the outdoor lighting standards be re-evaluated in a few years to determine if any amendments are required.</p>	<p>EQAC agrees with the staff approach.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

Light Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>2. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct that exterior lighting fixtures installed on Fairfax County facilities and properties be consistent with the new Ordinance.</p>	<p>All new exterior lighting fixtures installed on Fairfax County facilities and properties are required to, and will adhere to, the new Ordinance. The retrofitting of the 500 to 600 older exterior lighting fixtures located at county facilities is not being pursued at this time. There are no funds available for the initial conversion of these existing light fixtures. Furthermore, some of the fixtures would need to be increased to a higher wattage in order to meet current lighting standards. No funds exist for the higher annual operation and maintenance costs for the increased intensity required.</p>	<p>EQAC is pleased that all new fixtures will be in compliance with the Ordinance. See recommendation #3 for EQAC’s discussion and disagreement with staff over the costs of replacing older fixtures.</p>	<p>Yes for new fixtures.</p>
<p>3. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct that all older lighting fixtures under county control that do not meet the above standards be replaced on a phased basis.</p>	<p>At the present time, there are no funds available for the initial conversion of the existing streetlights or the additional annual operation and maintenance (O&M) payments for the increased intensity required for some of the older fixtures (some of the older fixtures do not meet current lighting standards – replacing them with cutoff fixture would require an increase in wattage).</p>	<p>EQAC reiterates the recommendation. Additionally, saying that replacing some fixtures with cutoff optics would result in cost increases is flawed logic. Since these do not meet lighting standards, they should be replaced with upgraded wattage lights. The replacement, with cutoff optics, would be cheaper than a replacement without cutoff optics. However, the use of cutoff optics will reduce the wattage required. Overall, estimates are that the cost of conversion will be repaid by lower O&M costs within a three to five year period.</p>	<p>No.</p>

Light Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>4. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors ensure that the Fairfax County Public Schools and the Fairfax County Park Authority fully comply with the new Ordinance.</p>	<p>The Fairfax County Park Authority ensures that all new and replacement lighting is in compliance with the new Ordinance. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is compliant with the new Ordinance. In addition, as lighting fixtures are replaced for maintenance purposes, FCPS is changing the fixtures to be in compliance. Most building-mounted lighting completed prior to June, 2003 does not meet the current Ordinance. These fixtures will be upgraded to meet the Ordinance through normal attrition.</p>	<p>EQAC supports to approach of the Park Authority and the Schools. EQAC encourages a phased replacement of the older fixtures rather than just relying on attrition.</p>	<p>Yes, for the most part with the exception of older fixtures.</p>
<p>6. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors fully support county staff efforts to disseminate its new booklet and provide information of the county Web site to promote public awareness of light issues. EQAC also recommends that the BOS support county staff efforts to develop any additional technical information needed for the education of architects, contractors, electricians, and builders to what the county permits in the field of illumination.</p>	<p>A booklet entitled “A Guide to Fairfax County’s Lighting Standards” was prepared by staff and distributed in September, 2003. This booklet provides an overview of the outdoor lighting standards that became effective on June 17, 2003. In addition, staff has assisted many builders, architects, and engineers in the design of outdoor lighting for both new developments and redevelopment of existing sites.</p>	<p>EQAC comments the staff on an outstanding booklet.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

VII-3. VISUAL POLLUTION AND URBAN BLIGHT

Visual Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC strongly urges the BOS to again consider the Fairfax County Sign Task Force report and either implement its findings or reconstitute the Task Force to find alternatives that are more palatable to the Board and the citizens of the county.</p>	<p>The Virginia General Assemble did adopt an amendment to Virginia Code as recommended by the Task Force that provides authority for Fairfax County to enter into an agreement with the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner to enforce Virginia Code that prohibits advertising within the limits of any highway. However, this enforcement agreement will not apply to political signs and special event signs that may remain in the right-of-way for no more than three days after the election or special event. The staff of the Zoning Enforcement Branch of the Department of Planning and Zoning is in the process of formulating a proposed approach for implementing an enforcement program should the BOS decide to enter into such an agreement.</p>	<p>EQAC reiterates its support of the general premises underpinning the Task Force recommendations.</p>	<p>Partial.</p>
<p>2. EQAC support the general premise underpinning each of the Task Force’s recommendations, but believes that before the county seeks any amendments to the Code and introduces new programs of its own, a study should be performed to determine the impact on existing programs, staffing, and budget, and that a cost benefit analysis be performed to determine the extent to which the proposed amendments or additions would contribute to reducing visual pollution in a cost-effective manner.</p>	<p>As part of the pilot sign enforcement program mentioned in Recommendation #1 above, staff will identify the impacts. A cost benefit analysis for a sign removal program will be conducted upon the conclusion of the initial pilot program.</p>	<p>EQAC supports the staff approach.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Land Use and Transportation Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1a. EQAC recommends that the county produce an updated version of the “State of the Plan, An Evaluation of Comprehensive Plan Activities between 1990-1995 with an Assessment of Impacts through 2010” (originally published in 1996) to reflect current population shifts, build out, and infill development.</p>	<p>This EQAC recommendation has been partially addressed during the 2003 Plan Monitoring Year, which is a component of the Comprehensive Plan Review Cycle. During the 2003 Plan Monitoring Year, Comprehensive Plan amendments between 1995 and 2003 were quantified and analyzed to determine how potential build-out has changed. The “State of the Plan” document included an in depth policy and implementation evaluations in order to identify needed changes in policy or implementation approaches. However, since the mid-1990s Plan Review Cycle, the county’s approach for policy and implementation has changed; the Policy Plan is now reviewed by functional area. Therefore, staff does not believe that there is a need to reproduce the 1996 State of the Plan document.</p>	<p>EQAC still believes that a single document will be valuable in planning.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>1b. EQAC recommends the county upgrade or replace the Urban Development Information System (UDIS), which was developed in the 1970s and is still the primary information system for mapping land use.</p>	<p>The UDIS should not be considered the only alternative for meeting EQAC’s recommendation. UDIS is a methodology for linking information between disparate databases containing land parcel information. UDIS has the capability to collect and/or generate annual information on most of what EQAC suggested be incorporated into UDIS. Staff concurs with EQAC that the functionality of UDIS should be reviewed and the feasibility of incorporating additional capabilities (such as impervious surfaces) be considered as part of the review process.</p>	<p>While UDIS has undergone some modifications, EQAC continues to recommend replacement or upgrade of UDIS to incorporate all of EQAC’s specific recommendation.</p>	<p>Partial.</p>

Land Use and Transportation Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1c. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors and county Department of Planning and Zoning continue to consider land use and transportation issues together when revising the Comprehensive Plan. The county should collect data that allows analysis of the macro effects of land use and transportation decisions. These data should support models that integrate congestion, air quality, commuting patterns, and health effects.</p>	<p>The evaluations of proposed Plan amendments consider land use and transportation impacts on a micro, not macro, level. The county’s Department of Transportation is beginning a comprehensive review of the county’s Transportation Plan. The air quality component of EQAC’s recommendation can be considered at a number of levels. At the local level, the idea of incorporating air quality modeling analysis into land use decisions would not be appropriate for site-specific development or Plan amendment proposals, but may have merit for larger scenarios.</p>	<p>EQAC reiterates its recommendation.</p>	<p>Partial.</p>
<p>1d. EQAC recommends that the BOS consider mixed-use principles when locating future public facilities so they are within walking/biking distance of major population centers.</p>	<p>The Public Facilities Section of the Policy Plan contains policies and locational standards that encourage many public uses to be accessible, conveniently located, and in support of community identity. Staff concurs with the recommendation and will continue to strengthen and refine Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) policies that relate to the EQAC recommendation.</p>	<p>EQAC encourages staff to continue the improvement of Plan and CIP policies to promote mixed-use principles.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

Land Use and Transportation Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>2a. EQAC commends the BOS for actively supporting teleworking among the county staff. EQAC urges the BOS to continue funding the program and to increase the goal to 50% of the eligible workforce.</p>	<p>The county’s goal for teleworkers is 20% of the positions considered eligible for telework by 2005. This would represent 1,000 teleworkers. By March, 2004, the number of teleworkers has risen to 673. This 20% goal is aggressive.</p>	<p>EQAC concurs that the 20% goal is aggressive and agrees with the staff.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>2b. EQAC recommends that the BOS take a leadership role in teleworking by establishing an aggressive program directed at convincing each employer in the county to achieve a minimum “Level 3” Employer Services Participation Program.</p>	<p>At a joint press conference held on February 11, 2004, the Fairfax County Board Chairman, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), and the Greater Washington Board of Trade announced a new effort to encourage 50,000 more commuters to telework by 2005. Plans are underway for a fall, 2004 Washington Area Conference on Telework that will specifically challenge major employers in the metro area to meet the COG goal of 20% teleworking by 2005. Regional efforts such as these are most effective in bringing attention to telework.</p>	<p>Regional efforts are certainly effective and worthwhile. Fairfax County should remain involved in them. However, Fairfax County has established a leadership role in teleworking and should continue this leadership role by establishing an aggressive Fairfax County program aimed at employers in the county.</p>	<p>Partial.</p>
<p>2c. EQAC recommends that the BOS work with the Federal government to encourage increases in teleworking. EQAC recommends that the BOS work with the Congressional Delegation to secure resources to establish teleworking sites in the county.</p>	<p>Fairfax County is an active partner with members of its state and federal delegations to secure funding for telework initiatives and for passage of legislation that supports telework.</p>	<p>EQAC encourages the continuation of seeking increases in teleworking and for supporting funding.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

Land Use and Transportation Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>3a. EQAC recommends that the BOS provide annual funding to the Non-Motorized Transportation Committee to implement those projects that have the greatest potential for increasing non-motorized methods of transportation.</p>	<p>In December, 2003, the Board endorsed the Non-Motorized Transportation Committee’s Trails Plan priorities. In the past, the Board has provided funding by magisterial district for trail projects. Although little money has been available in recent years to support trail construction, the Board has provided \$2.5 million in the FY 2005 budget. In June, 2003, the Board approved the composition of a Pedestrian Task Force. One of this Task Force’s missions is to produce a 10-Year Capital Plan for pedestrian facilities. This should be complete in 2004.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to recommend that trail projects be funded, reversing the trend of recent years. EQAC recommends that the BOS endorse the Capital Plan produced by the Pedestrian Task Force and fund the projects with the greatest potential for increasing non-motorized transportation.</p>	<p>In process.</p>
<p>3b. EQAC recommends that the BOS work with Metro and the Fairfax Connector to increase the number of stops available within communities, to explore a multiple size fleet that can penetrate further into communities, and to increase the number of runs per day on existing routes during peak hours.</p>	<p>Bus service planning is done on an ongoing basis, but service is done within fiscal constraints. When warranted and fiscally possible, service levels are increased. Also, service areas are increased in response to development. However, when warranted and due to periodic needs to reduce budgets, service areas and levels are decreased. Two examples of increased service levels and areas of service are the Dulles Corridor and the Richmond Highway Corridor.</p>	<p>EQAC concurs with staff that planning should be done on an ongoing basis and that service should be increased when warranted.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

Land Use and Transportation Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
3c. EQAC recommends that the Health Department and the Public Affairs Office produce and disseminate brochure(s) explaining the interrelationship between commuter choices and public health.	The specific recommendation to develop and distribute a new brochure has not been addressed. The Air Quality Subcommittee of the Environmental Coordinating Committee is considering recommendations to expand the distribution of public outreach materials produced by Clean Air Partners, EPA, and others. Staff recommends that the consideration of the development of a new brochure be deferred pending completion and implementation of Subcommittee recommendations.	EQAC continues to believe that a brochure showing the linkage between commuter choices and public health is needed.	No.
3d. EQAC recommends that the BOS urge the State Police to fully enforce HOV restrictions and to increase the penalty for HOV violations.	The Fairfax County Police Department assists the Virginia State Police on targeted HOV violation campaigns several times a year. However, the State Police are the primary enforcement agency. Based on existing staffing, it would be difficult for the State Police to more fully enforce HOV violations short of some type of photo enforcement. The issue of increasing fines has not been addressed. The Fairfax County Police Department and the Department of Transportation concur with the recommendation to increase the fine. They would seek to have 50% of the fine returned to the county. This funding could be earmarked for enhanced enforcement and education.	EQAC continues to recommend increased HOV enforcement and increased fines. EQAC supports the position of the Fairfax County Police Department and Department of Transportation.	No.