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ANNUAL REPORT  
on the  
ENVIRONMENT

2006



Fairfax County, Virginia

Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
December 2006

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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 residents and others 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 feels are necessary to address environmental issues. In this year's report, recommendations are presented in two formats: items addressing ongoing considerations and continued support for existing programs are noted as "comments." Items addressing new considerations, significant refinements of previous recommendations, or issues that EQAC otherwise wishes to stress are presented as "recommendations."

This report covers activities affecting the environment in 2005; however, in some cases, key activities from 2006 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  
Citizens for the Abatement of Airport Noise  
Clean Fairfax Council, Inc.  
Coalition for Smarter Growth  
Fairfax County Deer Management Committee  
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 Health Department  
Fairfax County Park Authority  
Fairfax County Police Department, Division of Animal Services  
Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Fairfax ReLeaf  
Fairfax Water  
Illuminating Engineering Society of North America

International Dark-Sky Association  
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin  
McLean Conservancy  
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  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
United States Geological Survey  
United States National Museum of Natural History  
Upper Occoquan Sewage Authority  
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Virginia Department of Forestry  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
Virginia Outdoor Lighting Taskforce  
Virginia Outdoors Foundation

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 2005 *Annual Report on the Environment*.



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

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

December 4, 2006

Chairman Connolly and Members of the Board:

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) is pleased to present the 2006 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. Again this year the chapters are arranged to reflect the order of topics listed in the board of supervisors' Environmental Agenda.

EQAC thanks the board for its continued strong support of environmental programs. We find that every year, Fairfax County's programs continue to improve and advance in their efforts at environmental stewardship. We specifically thank the board for the strong improvements in watershed and stream stewardship reflected by substantial increases for stormwater funding and the commitment to having watershed planning completed and implementation projects begun for all 30 Fairfax County watersheds. In addition we acknowledge the significant improvements to the air quality program. We again thank you for the addition of an Air Quality Program Manager, for leading the region in air quality programs by purchasing wind energy, doing diesel retrofits for county Connector and school buses, for the purchase of hybrid automobiles for county fleets and for actively promoting the county's telework program.

As real estate tax revenues flatten in response to a slowing in the real estate boom of the past few years we would first and foremost ask that you continue to support the depth of environmental programs that have been developed over the last decade. These programs are essential if we are to maintain the high quality of life we have in Fairfax County and the high standards we have set for ourselves. This includes funding of all requests for the Environmental Improvement Program for the upcoming fiscal year. The EIP is a reflection of those non-stormwater programs necessary to implement the Environmental Agenda adopted by the board for this county.

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Board of Supervisors  
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As was stated last year, all of the above mentioned efforts are important pieces of managing a very large and challenging whole, Fairfax County's environmental legacy. In the light of the Environmental Agenda document and subsequent Environmental Improvement Program we ask that the board also change focus from the discrete programs to the overall picture of the county's environmental management. We think this may be the most significant challenge facing Fairfax County, the integration of these programs in a synergistic fashion. In light of the county's approaching build-out, we ask that you look at this integration of various programs and potential for maximizing efforts. We do not have an adequate green infrastructure plan that looks at connecting the thin green lines, the parks and Environmental Quality Corridors in a way that maximizes our efforts at protection. With the exception of the Tysons Corner and perhaps Merrifield efforts, we have not initiated a hard look at the gray infrastructure (parking lots and other paved impervious surface) throughout the county in terms of re-use, reducing auto reliance and sharing parking. We have just begun the process of creating integrated plans for some segments of the county in terms of building and transportation that focuses on transit and on increasing pedestrian friendly environments. EQAC thanks the board for recent county-led efforts to define transit-oriented development for the Policy Plan and for hiring PBPlacemaking to aid the Tysons Land Use Task Force in creating a publicly acceptable redesign of a true TOD, pedestrian friendly Tysons Corner. We also thank the board for the very necessary Traffic Demand Management RFP, which will include changes in parking requirements for TOD areas. One of the challenges for this county as it diversifies its types of development will be to create regulations that are not countywide but specific for those kinds of development.

To accomplish the above requires the replacement of the county's rather old information system UDIS. We therefore, thank the board for funding the efforts underway to update and replace that system for the county with a highly flexible database that will allow the county to do innovative design and management for all the county's resources. We also thank the county staff for implementing the Integrated Parcel Lifestyle System which will go long way towards understanding how land in the county is being used and how it changes over time. Additionally, we urge that the county integrate the use of 1) planimetric data, which portrays features you can see such as buildings, driveways pools etc., 2) oblique data, which allows the creation of three dimensional images for use in the planning process and 3) models, which, although they are expensive, can analyze the data and create reports and projections. A good and flexible land use planning and data management system would go a long way towards helping the county integrate environmental management with land use and transportation planning in a meaningful way.

In addition, we have three more specific requests.

The county has passed an outstanding lighting ordinance in recent years that protects the night sky and neighborhoods. We feel, however, that this ordinance does not adequately address the issue of glare. We urge the board to request that county staff readdress this issue. It is glare that often pits neighborhoods against lighted

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recreational fields and we believe that solutions are available if the county will consider them.

We also recommend the hiring of a soil scientist. The county has a diversity of soil types, some problematic for buildings and infrastructure. The presence of staff with understanding of these issues would be a welcome addition to our resources.

We also wish to raise a concern about resources dedicated to deer management and other wildlife management issues. With needs for increasing wildlife management efforts, we are concerned that simply maintaining the existing level of staff support for these efforts may result in a dilution of these efforts and a reversal of the gains that have been made in deer management. Additional staffing in the county's wildlife management program is needed.

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 2005, but also includes significant actions from 2006 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 the following groups whose actions improve and safeguard the environment in Fairfax County. The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District continues its work 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 residents and developers alike for site work consultation. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust 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 a small group of dedicated individuals, 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 like to thank and commend the county staff for its continued outstanding work. We thank staff especially for providing the data for this report and for a continued willingness to meet with EQAC to discuss various issues. We commend the county's Environmental Coordinating Committee, which is chaired by Deputy County Executive Robert A. Stalzer, for its 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.

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EQAC would also like to thank and acknowledge the work of two individuals. Every year we do this and every year the members of council continue to be impressed with the work and input of these two people. First, we need to mention 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 cannot thank him enough for his hard work and long hours in our support.

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

Third, I would like to personally recognize my fellow EQAC members. They represent a diversity of views that allows for knowledgeable discussions and results in thoughtful recommendations. They spend extensive time investigating issues, write excellent resolutions and produce comprehensive chapters on subjects they have carefully researched. They are to be commended for their efforts.

In conclusion, EQAC encourages the Board of Supervisors to both support and fully fund all of the valuable programs designed to protect the county's environment and enhance the quality of life for its residents. We continue to urge you to take a look at how to integrate these excellent programs to maximize your efforts and returns.

The members of EQAC thank the Board of Supervisors for its leadership and look forward to continue working with you to achieve the goals of the Environmental Agenda in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stella M. Koch".

Stella M. Koch, Chairman  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

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**SCORECARD**  
**Progress Report on 2005 Recommendations**

**I. LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION**

<b>Land Use &amp; Transportation Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
1a. EQAC recommends that the county produce an updated version of the “State of the Plan, An Evaluation of Comprehensive Plan Activities.”	Staff anticipates that an analysis of Comprehensive Plan changes will be complete in early 2007. However, the document will lack an evaluation of the interrelationships among the Plan’s underlying principles (as recommended by EQAC). Staff believes that this latter point is addressed in Staff’s response to Recommendation #1b.	1a & 1b: EQAC encourages staff to proceed on these two recommendations and reiterates its recommendation.	In process.
1b. EQAC recommends that the county assess the state of the county with respect to the PLUS principles set forth in 1975.	Staff supports EQAC’s recommendation and plans to bring this recommendation to the attention of the Planning Commission for its consideration. Staff feels that this recommendation presents a possible framework for evaluation of change in the county and addresses that portion of Recommendation #1a dealing with interrelationships among the Plan’s underlying principles.		Not yet.
2. EQAC recommends that the county continue to pursue replacing or upgrading the UDIS System, to include the capability of tracking the full lifecycle of each land parcel in the county.	Fairfax County has begun developing an integrated parcel lifecycle system that will allow parcel level data to be captured in a GIS based data warehouse. Work began in 2006 and will continue into calendar year 2007.	EQAC encourages staff to continue with the development of this UDIS replacement and to include the additional capability of tracking each land parcel.	In process.

<b>Land Use &amp; Transportation Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>3a. EQAC recommends that the BOS and DPZ continue to consider land use and transportation together when revising the Comprehensive Plan.</p>	<p>This recommendation is being addressed and staff concurs with the need to evaluate the implications of proposed land use changes on transportation facilities during the review of proposed Plan amendments.</p>	<p>The UDIS replacement will improve the county’s ability to understand the macro effects of the changes caused by Plan amendments.</p>	<p>In process.</p>
<p>3b. EQAC recommends that the county identify and collect data on a parcel level that allows analysis of the parcel effect on environmental quality.</p>	<p>This recommendation is partially being addressed. However, funding is not currently available to support a comprehensive update of all county planimetric data. Staff recognizes that updating all planimetric data has benefits beyond determining environment impacts. The cost would be an annual average of \$404,000 if updated on a four-year cycle.</p>	<p>EQAC believes that the benefits associated with updating the county planimetric data are justified and continues to support this recommendation.</p>	<p>Only partially.</p>
<p>3c. EQAC recommends that the county develop models that allow analysis of the macro effects of land use and transportation decisions.</p>	<p>Staff is working toward evaluating and updating the county’s Transportation Plan, working with COG on addressing air quality issues, and continuing to improve the use of TDMs. However, to obtain full benefits from the transportation model for analyses and conducting subarea studies, additional resources of funding and staff are needed.</p>	<p>EQAC reiterates this recommendation.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>3d. EQAC recommends that the county adopt new standards to support Low Impact Development as part of the Public Facilities Manual. The county should also encourage Green Building.</p>	<p>This recommendation is in the process of being addresses. Some LID practices are being proposed for the PFM. Staff plans to propose Comprehensive Plan text to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to support green building practices.</p>	<p>The process is underway toward addressing this recommendation, but more needs to be done. EQAC reiterates this recommendation.</p>	<p>Partially in process.</p>

<b>Land Use &amp; Transportation Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
4a. EQAC urges the BOS to continue to aggressively support telecommuting among county staff.	The BOS endorsed the COG goal of 20% of the area’s eligible workforce telecommuting by 2005. This goal was met. During 2006, the county will continue to increase the number of teleworkers throughout the county organization.	EQAC commends the BOS and the county staff in achieving its goal of 20% telecommuting by county staff.	Yes.
4b. EQAC commends the BOS for maintaining its leadership role in improving the environment through greater use of teleworking by establishing a program directed at encouraging employers in the county to adopt or expand telework opportunities.	The Fairfax County Employer Services Program, sponsored by the Department of Transportation, assists public and private sector businesses and employees in finding transportation solutions, including telework. In 2005, they made 75 site visits, held 15 Transportation Fairs for county employees, and worked with 16 businesses to develop Transportation Demand Management Programs.	Fairfax County has established a leadership role in teleworking and should continue this role through an aggressive campaign to encourage greater use of teleworking as a transportation solution.	In process.
4c. EQAC recommends that the BOS work with the federal government to encourage an increase in teleworking. EQAC also recommends that the county work with the Virginia congressional delegation to secure resources to establish teleworking sites within the county.	The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and staff regularly review and comment during funding proposals and legislative initiatives that advance teleworking in the region.	EQAC encourages the continuation of seeking increased funding and support for teleworking.	In process.

<b>Land Use &amp; Transportation Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>5a. EQAC commends the board of supervisors for funding the Non-Motorized Transportation (Trails) Committee [now the Trails and Sidewalks Committee] in FY 2005 and recommends that the BOS continue to provide regular funding to this committee.</p>	<p>In November of 2004, county voters approved a \$165 million general obligation bond referendum as part of the board’s four-year Transportation Plan. Of the \$165 million, \$10.8 million was designated to fund pedestrian improvements such as sidewalks and trails. Additionally, \$2.0 million was appropriated as part of the FY 2005 budget for streetlight, drainage, sidewalk, trail and walkway projects, \$990,000 of which was earmarked for sidewalk and trail construction. Currently, both the Non-Motorized Transportation Committee [Trails and Sidewalks Committee] and the Pedestrian Task Force are developing lists of priority projects.</p>	<p>EQAC recommends that trail projects continue to be funded.</p>	<p>In process.</p>
<p>5b. EQAC recommends that the county focus on improving transit utilization through a systematic plan that focuses on multiple transit options within a community.</p>	<p>This recommendation is being addressed on an ongoing basis. The BOS has directed the Department of Transportation to initiate a number of projects that are relevant to this recommendation.</p>	<p>EQAC recommends that these efforts be continued and reiterates its recommendation.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

## II. AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. County staff should continue to participate in the regional planning efforts through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in identifying both quantifiable and qualifiable emission reduction measures and strategies to reduce air pollutants so that the Clean Air standards can be attained.	Staff agrees with this recommendation and supports it by participating in regional air quality planning efforts. This recommendation is therefore addressed.	EQAC is pleased that our recommendation has been acted upon in this vital area of air quality.	Yes, and these activities should continue.
2. EQAC is pleased with the work of the county's Air Quality Subcommittee that included a variety of air quality management strategies as shown in the interim report and Clean Air Café menu that was presented to the board's Environmental Committee. EQAC recommends that the board adopt and implement all the recommendations shown in the menu and report.	This recommendation is in the processed of being addressed. Staff agrees with and fully supports EQAC's recommendation to implement the recommendations shown in the interim report and Clean Air Café menu. Staff is continuing the process of implementing more recommendations as funding becomes available.	EQAC is pleased with progress to date. EQAC commends the board and its strong support for air quality and recommends that the board continue to fund air quality projects and initiatives shown in the county's Environmental Improvement Program.	Solid progress – needs to continue.
3. EQAC is pleased to see the air quality outreach effort that the county has started. EQAC recommends that the board continue to fund the air quality outreach program.	Staff will continue the work on this. In 2005, the county became a media sponsor with Clean Air Partners. This is a public-private partnership to build and broaden awareness of how individuals contribute to air pollution and to promote easy and effective voluntary actions to reduce the production of air pollution.	Good progress. EQAC comments the board for this effort.	Significant progress – needs to continue.

### III. WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC commends the board for its actions in spring 2005 authorizing one penny of the real estate tax to be dedicated to the stormwater management program. However, since this commitment will require reauthorization every year, EQAC continues to encourage the creation of a more stable funding source for watershed improvement.</p>	<p>This recommendation is being addressed via the annual budget process. There was one cent of the real estate tax in the budget for FY 2007.</p>	<p>EQAC is pleased that the board of supervisors approved the one penny of the real estate tax to be dedicated to the stormwater management program for FY 2007. EQAC continues to encourage the creation of a sustainable and stable funding source for watershed improvement initiatives.</p>	<p>In process via the budget process, but not the stable source EQAC suggests.</p>
<p>2. EQAC is pleased that Fairfax County is investigating and reexamining the current definitions and requirements pertaining to adequate outfall. However, EQAC cannot over emphasize the importance and need for increased monitoring of predevelopment stormwater management controls and taking enforcement action to ensure inadequate controls are corrected prior to construction and if necessary during construction.</p>	<p>The recommendation is being addressed. In a Letter to Industry, dated October 3, 2005, professionals who prepare plans for review and approval were notified of a new requirement to analyze and address adequacy of outfalls during the construction phase. A committee of professionals from the public and private sector developed recommendations for amendments to the Public Facility Manual's provisions for adequate drainage. The board of supervisors adopted the amendments on February 6, 2006. The board approved additional site review and inspection positions for Land Development Services in the FY 2006 budget. These additional positions will assist in identifying issues early in the plan review and inspection phase of construction.</p>	<p>EQAC commends the board of supervisors for adopting amendments to the PFM's provision for adequate drainage. EQAC notes the need for increased monitoring and enforcement to ensure inadequate controls are corrected prior to construction. It is important that the county hire the appropriate number of staff to handle the estimated inspection workload. Hopefully, the increased staff positions will be sufficient. If not, more should be added.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

<b>Water Resources Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>3. EQAC strongly recommends that Fairfax County continue to coordinate efforts and develop a protocol for assessing the impacts and cumulative effects of land use considerations and decisions on the county's water resources.</p>	<p>Staff notes that effort enumerated in the staff response to a similar recommendation from EQAC in its 2004 Annual Report continue. The additional stormwater management information that is now provided during the zoning process enhances the county's ability to evaluate stormwater management needs and implications during this process. The county continues its multi-year effort to develop watershed management plans for all thirty of the county's watersheds. By the end of 2005, about 60 percent of the county had watershed management plans completed or in development.</p>	<p>EQAC is pleased that the recommendation continues to be addressed and worked on. EQAC notes that land use planning is the single most effective tool for the protection of water resources.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>4. EQAC commends county staff for investigating and evaluating LID and innovative BMP techniques for inclusion in the PFM. EQAC recommends that the county continue to encourage such innovative measures, that the appropriate staff members are educated on reviewing designs and inspecting projects that incorporate these new techniques and that staff coordinate efforts on developing a process through which these plans are addressed in a timely matter.</p>	<p>Staff agrees with this recommendation and it is in the process of being addressed. In 2005, six LID practices were identified by DPWES for inclusion in the Public Facilities Manual. DPWES will provide appropriate training for review and inspection staff as part of the implementation of the PFM amendments after adoption. DPWES is also working with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Engineers and Surveyors Institute on preparation of a regional manual for LID techniques and practices.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to commend county staff for its work in incorporating LID practices into the PFM and encourages the continuation of this process.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

<b>Water Resources Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
5. EQAC continues to support the full funding and implementation of the comprehensive countywide watershed management program.	Many efforts in support of EQAC's recommendation are underway in the county, funded by the dedicated penny on the real estate tax. The watershed planning effort will continue. Six LIDs are in the process of being added to the Public Facilities Manual and others will be investigated.	EQAC's recommendation is on the way to being satisfied – if the county continues with its current activities.	In progress, with more to be done.
6. EQAC continues to recommend posting of health warnings for county streams with high fecal coliform and E. coli bacteria levels until an investigation is conducted and the source of the contamination is identified and remediated. EQAC recommends that these investigations be carried out and remediation plans be implemented whenever there are actual threats to public health.	As recommended by EPA, Fairfax County completed its transition in 2005 to using E. coli as our indicator of possible fecal contamination versus using fecal coliform bacteria. Staff does not support the proposal for a sign campaign. One reason is that a stream could be above the DEQ maximum allowance during one sampling period and below it the next time. This would require staff to constantly put up and take down signs. Staff concurs with a public information campaign.	EQAC continues to recommend either posting health warnings at county streams with high bacterial levels OR the creation of an improved public outreach information that is effective in reaching more residents.	No.
7. EQAC notes the MS4 requirement to develop a long-term watershed monitoring program to verify the effectiveness and adequacy of stormwater management goals and identify areas of water quality improvement or degradations. EQAC recommends a monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of stormwater detention facilities.	In calendar year 2006, as part of the MS4 permit requirements, a pilot study will be conducted to determine the effectiveness of various BMP control types. Efforts are ongoing to determine the phosphorous, nitrogen and total suspended solids removal efficiencies of site-specific stormwater Best Management Practices. The results of expanded monitoring of the Kingstowne development on Dogue Creek revealed that the performances of existing BMPs are not meeting expected levels and that further analysis is needed to determine the cause. In 2005, several innovative BMPs were constructed at the Providence District Government Center and Merrifield Fire and Rescue – Station 30. Data were collected on stormwater runoff prior to this construction and will be collected post construction.	The steps taken in 2005 and 2006 partially address EQAC's recommendation. Once analyses are complete of the programs mentioned by staff, EQAC suggests that an improved monitoring program be devised.	Not yet, but progress is being made.

<b>Water Resources Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>8. Dredging of stormwater management ponds creates the need for adequate disposal areas. Homeowners' associations and private pond owners need assistance in the disposal of the materials removed from ponds. Creating spoil disposal/recycling areas in the county should be considered.</p>	<p>Staff concurs that this is an emerging issue that will require considerable evaluation. There are wide-ranging implications and the potential for considerable costs and liability for the county. Criteria need to be developed to justify the use of county funds. More analysis and study needs to be done.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to believe that this issue needs to be addressed and recommends that the county conduct a study to analyze and explore options.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>9. EQAC commends the county for its existing stream protection requirements for perennial streams. EQAC encourages the Board of Supervisors to support future protective measures for intermittent and headwater streams such as the establishment of protective buffers on either side of a stream.</p>	<p>Two joint meetings of the Planning Commission's Environment Committee and EQAC were held to discuss options for stream protection prepared by staff. Staff is doing a representative analysis across the county to determine the impacts of applying a 50- or 100-foot buffer around non-perennial streams (with the exclusion of roadside ditches). Staff supports the continuation of these discussions. Staff also notes that establishing and restoring deficient streamside buffers along perennial streams within existing Resource Protection Areas also warrant attention.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to support future protective measures for intermittent and headwater streams. EQAC has been involved in discussions of this with staff and the Planning Commission's Environment Committee and will continue as needed.</p>	<p>No.</p>

## IV. SOLID WASTE

There were no Solid Waste recommendations in the 2005 Annual Report

## V. 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. Continuous partnering with the Northern Virginia Board of Realtors and solid waste haulers to distribute information to all new residents in the county is suggested. New residents would be anybody buying or renting a house, townhouse, or condominium. Creative use of other organizations is also encouraged.</p>	<p>This recommendation involves two separate and distinct waste streams (and regulations) that involve hazardous wastes generated by residents and hazardous wastes generated by commercial and industrial establishments. Whenever appropriate, news releases are prepared for every hazardous materials reduction or collection event. In addition to distribution to the media, information is included in “Newslink” and daily E-mail newsletter to county employees. Events include: expanded/mobile household hazardous waste recovery, partnering with Northern Virginia Board of Realtors, partnering with Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, partnering with targeted retail/wholesale/supply outlets, creative use of other organizations and other special events. While most of this recommendation is being implemented, it is difficult to implement asking waste removal companies to include outreach materials in their mailings to their customers.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to recognize outreach and educational efforts made by staff for hazardous materials disposal. These efforts have reached many people and businesses. Staff has worked with creative partnering to assist with this effort. All of the effort could be evaluated as accomplishing the recommendation. EQAC recognizes this fact, but continues to strongly believe, with the growth in Fairfax County, that there are many more residents and businesses to reach, as well as the need to continuously remind those residents and businesses currently complying. These efforts, as well as new ideas, by the staff should be continuous each year.</p>	<p>Yes, efforts have been, and are continuing. EQAC believes these efforts need to be consistent and ongoing.</p>

<b>Hazardous Materials Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>2. EQAC recognizes the county's ability to collect rechargeable batteries at the I-66 transfer station, the I-95 SW site and special programs with the business community. Schools and other organizations should be encouraged to come up with creative initiatives to promote significant increases in recycling rechargeable batteries. Possible sites to house recycling drop off bins should be explored, such as outlying areas of parking lots. With the growing popularity and use of rechargeable battery products, especially cellular phones, EQAC recommends an aggressive program to promote recycling of NiCad rechargeable batteries.</p>	<p>Fairfax County is in the process of implementing a comprehensive rechargeable battery program for county residents and businesses. This plan includes: partnering with the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation to recycle rechargeable batteries, updating the county Web site to add an entire page devoted to proper management of all batteries, a new educational campaign about recycling rechargeable batteries to county residents, initiating discussions within NVRC about developing a regional approach to providing information about recycling electronics and other items that contain toxic components and including battery recycling in all recycling events conducted by the county.</p>	<p>EQAC appreciates staff embracing and implementing this recommendation on recycling rechargeable batteries. We hope this will continue to be implemented. The key to the success of this recommendation will be in the continued implementation at this same or increased level.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

<b>Hazardous Materials Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>3. EQAC recommends continuing to advertise and educate the public regarding the types of hazardous materials and other environmental situations citizens are requested to report, including whom they are to contact. Possible avenues are community association newsletters, press release stories to the media, and age appropriate material sent home through the schools. Avenues that are not connected with environmental information should be explored to reach people not drawn to environmental events.</p>	<p>The Fire &amp; Rescue Department works through its Public Information Officer, the Office of Public Affairs and the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee to advertise and educate the public in this area. The FRD, OPA and FJLEPC will continue to work together to develop avenues for disseminating educational materials regarding the release of hazardous materials, proper disposal of household hazardous waste and chemical emergency planning. However, resources are very limited and most of the costs have been solely borne by FRD in developing and distributing these materials. Recent budget cuts have resulted in greatly curtailing the efforts to develop additional programs and have caused efforts to focus on maintaining what is currently in place. There is limited funding supporting the efforts of FJLEPC in developing and maintaining its Web site. FRD does not have staffing or resources to be able to support the FJLEPC in this endeavor outside developing Web content. An additional hindrance to fully developing educational programs of this type is that the FRD staff position currently assigned as liaison to the FJLEPC and developing educational outreach programs from hazardous materials is an exempt limited term position. Neither FRD nor the FJLEPC have the budgetary resources to develop, print and market the needed programs/educational materials. The FJLEPC relies on donations to print its brochures regarding proper notification procedures for hazardous materials releases.</p>	<p>EQAC has a member serving on the FJLEPC and is aware of the struggle for funding by the multi-jurisdictional, federally mandated organization. If a chemical release (accidental or intentional) occurs, it is FRD that will be the primary agency involved and will incur costs related to handling the incident. Education to reduce the risks of releases should be recognized as a necessity in the county's budget. It should not only be recognized as a potential cost savings for the FRD, but a pro-environment investment. EQAC strongly recommends the county address this need in the next budget.</p>	<p>Yes, as far as is possible without funding support.</p>

## VI. 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 comprehensive survey and mapping of vegetation ecosystems that occur in Fairfax County is needed. Satellite imagery (2002/2003) will be used to map the county based on the National Vegetation Classification System. This effort is expected to be complete in 2007. The Fairfax County Park Authority adopted a Natural Resource Management Plan for Park Authority lands in 2004; however, insufficient funding exists to implement this plan. Another effort relating to natural resource management is the development of watershed management plans.</p>	<p>This is a long-standing EQAC recommendation. EQAC notes that efforts are underway that support EQAC's recommendation. However, inadequate funding exists to implement the Natural Resource Management Plan. 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 and further recommends the existing three-year agreement be extended.</p>	<p>Staff agrees with EQAC that NVCT has proven its value to the county. Funding was appropriated to the NVCT for FY 2006 for \$258,120. Staff supports contributory agency status for NVCT. No further action is required. The Board of Supervisors will determine on a year-to-year basis the funding that can be allocated to NVCT.</p>	<p>EQAC commends the BOS for creating the original public-private partnership with NVCT. The BOS is funding NVCT past the term of the original three-year MOU. However, a new MOU was not put into place. EQAC supports a continuing partnership with NVCT, and believes that a multi-year MOU is the best avenue to accomplish this.</p>	<p>Program funded, but no MOU.</p>

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<b>Ecological Resources Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
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.	Staff concurs that the county should continue to pursue new tree preservation legislation or amendments to existing Virginia State Code § 15.2-961 at the Virginia General Assembly. Efforts to place a strong emphasis on tree preservation have failed to date.	EQAC is extremely disappointed that the efforts to enact tree preservation ordinances have failed. EQAC continues to recommend that the BOS continue to pursue legislation that would allow a tree preservation ordinance.	No.
4. Fairfax County no longer has soil science expertise on the county staff. However, the BOS did provide funding to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District for mapping of the county's soils. EQAC recommends that the board of supervisors continue the agreement with NVSWD to provide soil scientist expertise	Staff concurs that the expertise of the soil scientist is needed in the county beyond the completion of the soil survey update. Funding the current soil scientist position within NVSWCD is cost-efficient for the county. If the expertise of a soil scientist were to be continued, a funding allocation would be needed in the FY 2008 budget.	EQAC reiterates its recommendation and supports funding for the soil scientist position in NVSWCD.	No.

## VII-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>The list of parks selected in the summer of 2005 as potential sites for deer reduction totaled 25. While this list has grown annually, the staffing and budget have both decreased. As a result, past gains have been lost in some locations. Based on the number of dead deer picked up by the Virginia Department of Transportation, the county's deer population is approaching a record high, which may exceed the 1966 level. A marked improvement is observed in the understory in parks where deer populations have been reduced to desired density levels. While it will take years for the habitat to rebound, these early precursors are encouraging.</p>	<p>EQAC notes with concern the lost of gains in the deer management program. This loss is due to inadequate staffing and budget. Where gains have been maintained, the parks show evidence of habitat rebound.</p>	<p>In process, but needs increased staffing and budget.</p>
<p>2. 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 deer population. The effect of increasing demands using limited resources appears to have diluted the overall effort and gains made have been lost in some locations.</p>	<p>EQAC notes with concern the lost of gains in the deer management program. This loss is due to inadequate staffing and budget. Where gains have been maintained, the parks show evidence of habitat rebound.</p>	<p>In process, but needs increased staffing and budget.</p>
<p>3. EQAC believes the deer management program must address increased attention to the problems associated with owners of small private properties who are suffering serious impacts from deer.</p>	<p>The Virginia Department of Game &amp; Inland Fisheries will issue permits to property owners experiencing damage from any wildlife, but many residents are not aware of this program. Starting in the fall of 2005, DGIF adopted a regulation allowing crossbows to be used during legal hunting seasons. Public education efforts will be expanded to include information on these changes. Efforts to adapt regulations and state code sections to further address problems by these landowners are ongoing.</p>	<p>County staff should be prepared to update residents who contact the county with regard to deer problems and any new rules should be made available on the relevant section of the county's Web site.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

<b>Deer Management Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
4. 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. (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. Funding for this program competes with other police priorities, thus making progress challenging.	This recommendation continues to be addressed, but additional resources are needed.	In process, but additional resources are needed.
5. EQAC strongly recommends that 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's Web site.	Educational efforts have been underway since the start of the Deer Management Program. Efforts include programs on Channel 16, publications available in the Fairfax County library system, interactive displays at Celebrate Fairfax, and programs by the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist.	This recommendation continues to be addressed.	Yes.
6. EQAC endorses ongoing public input into the Deer Management Plan.	The county's Web page devoted to deer management issues continues to be updated and expanded. This site provides a wealth of information to residents about the issue and the efforts being undertaken to deal with the associated problems. Residents are able to send e-mail through this site to voice their opinions or to ask questions. Input is also received from residents via telephone, e-mail or conversations at meetings of special interest groups, civic associations, professional conferences, garden clubs or other public gatherings.	This recommendation continues to be addressed.	Yes.

## VII-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. However, GeesePeace personnel notified the Animal Services Division that they would be unable to continue the program partnership with Fairfax County. While the Animal Services Division desires to continue a goose management program, it is unclear what the new program will encompass.	EQAC continues to support continuation and expansion of current efforts. Since termination of the partnership with GeesePeace, the BOS should ensure that adequate county funding is provided.	Yes, but additional resources may be needed.
2. EQAC feels that the current programs need to be replicated in many other areas of the county.	A new program will require a fresh look at the mechanics of this process. Subject to the design of a new program, efforts will be directed to expand the number of trained volunteers and of cooperating property owners.	A new program needs to be undertaken. Some additional resources will be needed to bring it to the desired level.	No.
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 will be working in cooperation with state and federal officials to gather data on the effects of resident goose populations upon local tidal marshlands in Fairfax County. This information will be provided to the public through existing methods. The division has worked with Channel 16 to produce programming, which covers Canada geese, and the issues related to them.	This part of the program is being pursued at a level consistent with the funding available. Some additional resources will be needed to bring it to the desired level of outreach.	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 is presently developing a goose management program to replace the program formally known as GeesePeace. The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist provides information about all available options and programs to property owners through telephone and e-mail contacts. A new Web site will be developed to better convey current information and available management options.	This part of the program is being pursued at a level consistent with the funding available. Use of various media to provide educational material to the public has been excellent. However, some additional resources may be needed to bring these activities to the desired level.	In process.

### VII-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>Fairfax County changed from using fecal coliform bacteria to E. coli as an indicator of possible fecal contamination. This combined with updated procedures to determine E. coli levels will increase the precision of the results and reduce the amount of human error. The county's Annual Report on Fairfax County's Streams (including biological stream monitoring results) is available for download from the county's Web site. News releases for local and regional newspapers on information related to the annual report and stream advisories will be prepared by the county's communication staff. The news release will be posted on the county's Web site.</p>	<p>The reorganized stream monitoring program appears to be working well and more efficiently than before.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>2. The Health Department should continue and enhance its excellent public education programs.</p>	<p>This recommendation is continuing to be implemented and enhanced as EQAC has recommended. During the summer of FY2005-FY2006, the West Nile Virus program distributed over 175,000 pieces of educational information material to residents.</p>	<p>This recommendation is being very satisfactorily addressed.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

<b>Wildlife Borne Diseases Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<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. Both the Health Department and the Animal Services Division participate in the Animal Control Regional Roundtable. This is a group compiled of representatives from the animal control departments and health departments of various jurisdictions throughout the region. This group has chosen to expand the topics of discussion beyond rabies to include all wildlife diseases.</p>	<p>This recommendation is being very satisfactorily addressed.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>4. EQAC recommends that the BOS provide active support for the Disease Carrying Insects Program that assesses the epidemiology and abatement of insect vector-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus. 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 Disease Carrying Insects Program. The Health Department provided periodic reports on the program and the Health Department periodically informs the BOS in more direct manners.</p>	<p>This program appears to be progressing satisfactorily.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

### VIII-1. NOISE

Noise Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. Continue to support airport noise compatible (day and night) and compatible land use planning near airports in the county. Proposals for rezonings for residential development should not be supported in areas with projected noise impacts of DNL 60 dBA or greater.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been addressed. Comprehensive Plan policy recommends against new residential development inside the DNL 60 dBA noise contour.</p>	<p>The recommendation has been addressed.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>2. Develop and distribute materials to educate the public on airport noise issues. Incorporate these educational materials into the county's overall environmental educational efforts.</p>	<p>This recommendation has not been addressed and is not in progress. Pursuit of EQAC's recommended educational efforts would be desirable but would need to be considered in terms of overall resources available for this and other demands on staff resources.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to recommend a public education program.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>3. Encourage the use of opportunities provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) that allow for third party contributions to noise barrier construction when the VDOT cost criteria preclude VDOT's construction of such barriers.</p>	<p>VDOT adopted a Noise Abatement Policy based upon Federal Highway Administration regulations. The State Noise Abatement Policy provides opportunity for third party funding when the cost of a noise abatement measure exceeds VDOT's cost effectiveness ceiling but the measure otherwise satisfies the criteria contained in this policy.</p>	<p>Fairfax County should continue to use its proffer authority with developers to provide noise abatement measures and/or funding mechanisms to provide noise abatement measures consistent with VDOT noise abatement specifications. Fairfax County should also continue to coordinate with VDOT to determine where sound walls are already planned as part of a VDOT road construction project, which may offset abatement costs for the developer and/or VDOT.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

Noise Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>4. Encourage the retention and planting of noninvasive vegetation to provide visual shielding of residents from highways. Where possible, support the provision of vegetated areas adjacent to highways that are wide enough and dense enough to provide noise reduction benefits to residential areas near the highways. Where feasible and appropriate, pursue such approaches in lieu of noise walls.</p>	<p>Narrow bands of trees are ineffective as noise barriers and only provide psychological benefit. For a vegetated area to have a significant impact on noise, it must be dense enough so that it cannot be seen through and wide enough to provide a significant benefit. Staff agrees with EQAC's recommendation to preserve and plant trees where possible adjacent to highways, generally in addition to, rather than instead of, more traditional structural barriers.</p>	<p>EQAC supports retention and planting of noninvasive vegetation.</p>	<p>In process.</p>
<p>5. Review all airport and highway studies that require Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements under the National Environmental Policy Act for consistency with county policies addressing transportation-related noise and mitigation.</p>	<p>Staff concurs with this recommendation and is addressing it on a continuing basis as NEPA-related documents are issued. For example, staff provided reviews of Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements for proposed new runways at Washington Dulles Airport and reviewed Environmental Impact Statements (including sections on noise) for the Tri-County Parkway and Battlefield Bypass.</p>	<p>EQAC supports the staff in reviewing NEPA-related documents as they are issued.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

## VIII-2. LIGHT POLLUTION

Light Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1a &amp; 1b. 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 [outdoor lighting] ordinance and consistently follow the recommendations of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America. EQAC further strongly recommends that the Board of Supervisors appoint a small independent task force to develop recommendations and specifications for athletic field lighting throughout the county, and that these be used to amend the ordinance.</p>	<p>1a. It is the policy of Fairfax County Park Authority to ensure that all new and replacement lighting projects comply with the county's new Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, and follow the recommendations of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America. In November 2004, the Park Authority commissioned an independent technical consultant to (1) research currently available lighting systems, (2) provide a comparative analysis, (3) provide a report summarizing the study and findings, and (4) develop generic technical specifications for athletic field lighting projects. The resulting draft report was presented at a public meeting on November 17, 2005. The Park Authority believes that this study was developed and conducted in a professional manner. Therefore, it does not see a need for another study.</p> <p>1b. Fairfax County Public Schools is compliant with the new lighting ordinance, both for new projects and for fixtures being replaced for maintenance reasons.</p>	<p>The new Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, while excellent in most respects, has one major deficiency. At the time of adoption, good standards for glare (as opposed to illumination on the ground) did not exist and were not included in the ordinance. EQAC believes that the study done for the Park Authority is flawed. For example, it does not adequately address glare. The failure to address glare is a problem with the lighting fixtures of the Fairfax County Public Schools.</p>	<p>No.</p>

<b>Light Pollution Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
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 [outdoor lighting] ordinance. 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.	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 as a stand-alone initiative. There are no funds available for the initial conversion of these existing light fixtures. However, if existing facilities are modified or renovated, these existing exterior lights will be upgraded to current standards.	EQAC still believes that a phased replacement of nonconforming light fixtures is warranted. Replacing nonconforming fixtures with conforming fixtures as these fixtures are modified or renovated will help.	Yes for new fixtures, but only partially for existing fixtures.
4. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the recently enacted Outdoor Lighting Ordinance to determine any areas in which enhancements and modifications may be needed.	The new ordinance became effective on June 17, 2003. County staff monitors the effectiveness of these standards and have found that the outdoor lighting regulations are overall effective in controlling glare and reducing light levels in certain commercial developments. Staff recommends that a comprehensive review of these lighting standards be conducted within the next several years.	This recommendation is being very satisfactorily addressed. However, EQAC notes that glare needs to be covered by an amendment to the ordinance.	Yes, but glare needs to be addressed.

<b>Light Pollution Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
5. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors support county staff efforts to develop any additional technical information that may be needed for the education of architects, contractors, electricians and builders as to what the county permits and does not permit in the field of illumination and the technology available for compliant installation.	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.	This recommendation continues to be very satisfactorily addressed.	Yes.

### VIII-3. VISUAL POLLUTION AND URBAN BLIGHT

<b>Visual Pollution Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>1. EQAC strongly recommends that the lack of an explicit provision in Article 12-300 of the present [sign] ordinance for assessment of civil penalties be rectified at the earliest opportunity. (EQAC provided suggested language.)</p>	<p>Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-2209 specifically provides that designation of a specific zoning violation for a civil penalty shall be in lieu of criminal sanctions, except for a violation resulting in injury to persons, and precludes prosecution of that specified violation as a misdemeanor in a criminal case. The BOS is considering entering into an agreement with the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner which would permit the county to enforce the provisions of Va. Code Ann. § 33.1-373, which prohibits advertising in the public rights-of-way.</p>	<p>It is encouraging that the BOS is considering establishing an agreement with the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner that would permit the county to enforce the provisions of state law regarding signage unlawfully placed in the right-of-way. EQAC encourages this approach.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>2. 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 Assembly 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 the section of the 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.</p>	<p>EQAC reiterates its support of the general premises underpinning the task force recommendations.</p>	<p>Partial.</p>

<b>Visual Pollution Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>3. EQAC supports the general premise underpinning each of the Fairfax County Sign 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 development of this sign enforcement program, staff will identify the impacts on existing programs, staffing and budgetary considerations. This information will be presented to the board of supervisors. A cost benefit analysis for a sign removal program may be conducted upon the conclusion of the first year of the program.</p>	<p>EQAC reiterates its recommendation.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

