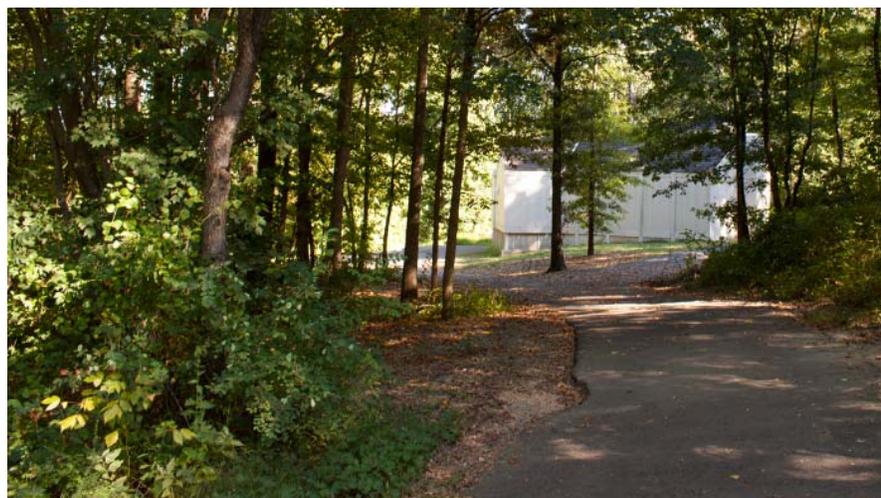


# Annual Report on the Environment 2010

Detailed Report



## Environmental Quality Advisory Council



A Fairfax County, Virginia  
Publication--November 2010

A summary version of this report is available in hard copy, on CD  
and online at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eqac](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eqac)



To request this information in an alternate format, call the  
Department of Planning and Zoning: (703) 324-1380 TTY 711

**The cover shows: electrical transmission lines along Interstate 495; noise barrier construction along Interstate 495 near Gallows Road; and a trail within Mason District Park in Annandale. Cover design and photos by Kevin Sun, Student Member, Environmental Quality Advisory Council.**

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ANNUAL REPORT  
on the  
**ENVIRONMENT**

2010



**DETAILED REPORT**

Fairfax County, Virginia

**Environmental Quality Advisory Council**  
November 2010

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and online at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eqac](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eqac)



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## INTRODUCTION

This year's Annual Report on the Environment has been prepared by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council. 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.

Similar to last year's Annual Report, EQAC is presenting this year's report in two formats: (1) A detailed report similar to the reports that have been produced each year; and (2) A summary report providing highlights of recent activities, key issues, and comments and recommendations associated with each of the major topical areas covered in the larger report. In addition, most of the chapters of each report format include discussions of stewardship opportunities. Both report formats are provided electronically, but only the summary document is being made available in hard copy. It is EQAC's hope that this approach to report formatting will provide interested readers with the level of detail or generality that they desire while saving resources associated with hard copy production.

The report continues to include chapters on major environmental topics including: global climate change as it relates to Fairfax County; land use and transportation; air quality; water resources; solid waste; hazardous materials; ecological resources; wildlife management; and noise, light, and visual pollution. An appendix addressing state legislation relating to the environment is also provided within the detailed report format, as is an appendix providing EQAC's resolutions and positions taken over the past year. Within each chapter of the detailed report format are: a discussion of environmental issues; a summary of relevant data; and a discussion of applicable government programs. Most of the chapters include information regarding stewardship opportunities and conclude with recommendations that identify additional actions that EQAC feels are necessary to address environmental issues. References are presented only in the detailed report format. As was the case in last 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 2009; however, in some cases, key activities from 2010 are also included.

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

Alice Ferguson Foundation  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
Clean Fairfax  
Coalition for Smarter Growth  
Fairfax County Deer Management Committee

Fairfax County Department of Information Technology<sup>1</sup>  
 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 Department of Vehicle Services  
 Fairfax County Executive's Office  
 Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator  
 Fairfax County Facilities Management Department  
 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department  
 Fairfax County Health Department  
 Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment  
 Fairfax County Park Authority  
 Fairfax County Police Department, Division of Animal Services  
 Fairfax County Restoration Project  
 Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist  
 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 Land Conservancy  
 Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority  
 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
 Northern Virginia Conservation Trust  
 Northern Virginia Regional Commission  
 Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority  
 Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory  
 Reston Association  
 United States Environmental Protection Agency  
 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 Environmental Quality  
 Virginia Department of Forestry  
 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
 Virginia Department of Transportation  
 Virginia Outdoor Lighting Taskforce  
 Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Finally, 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 2009 *Annual Report on the Environment*, as well as the ongoing efforts of the interagency Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> In the published version of this report, the Fairfax County Department of Information Technology was inadvertently omitted from this list. EQAC regrets this error.



# 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

November 16, 2010

Chairman Bulova and Members of the Board:

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council is pleased to present the 2010 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. This report covers 2009, but also includes significant actions from 2010 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 and would be even longer. The report consists of nine chapters – each chapter addressing a different aspect of the environment. The chapters are arranged to reflect the order of topics listed in the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Agenda. We have again have created two versions of the report; one a printed summary version, and secondly, an on-line complete version with all data included. We have again highlighted environmental stewardship opportunities within the report chapters.

EQAC thanks the board for its continued strong support of environmental programs. We understand that, although budget constraints lessened this year, they continue to impact all programs within the county and have resulted in some very challenging choices, including those affecting environmental services.

EQAC asks that you continue to support the environment programs you have established. The programs are important if we are to maintain the high quality of life we have in Fairfax County and the high standards we have set for ourselves. We note that, for Fairfax County residents, quality of life is not just about good schools and jobs but also about having a clean and healthy environment in which to live and recreate. This support for environmental programs includes funding for the Environmental Improvement Program for the upcoming fiscal year. The EIP is a reflection of those non-stormwater programs, including implementation of the Cool Counties initiative. Funding the EIP is necessary to implement the Environmental Agenda adopted by the board for this county.

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Board of Supervisors  
Continued

We therefore have three key requests this year among the many recommendations we have made in our report. The key recommendations are:

1. EQAC commends the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for its leadership to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the county. We also commend the continued efforts of the county's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee, being led by Deputy County Executive David Molchany. We thank you for the funding of the countywide greenhouse gas emissions inventory to be finished this fall. We fully support the residential energy education and outreach effort that will be getting under way soon that will address ways to increase energy efficiency in individual households. **EQAC encourages the county to expand these efforts to include energy use benchmarking and monitoring in non-residential buildings.**
2. EQAC commends Fairfax County for its support of its ongoing stormwater program, which includes dam maintenance, infrastructure replacement, water resource monitoring and management, watershed restoration and educational stewardship programs. EQAC realizes under the present budget there will be no monies available from the General Fund and that the funding for the stormwater program will come from funds generated through the Stormwater Service District rates. However, one only has to look at the variability over the last five years of water quality in our streams to understand the depth of need of increased funding for these programs.

**EQAC recommends that the rate be increased by another ½ penny for funding the stormwater program through the Service District.** This would result in some additional funding for modest watershed improvement programs and some funds for infrastructure replacement. In terms of infrastructure replacement, the present level of funding is simply not acceptable. We also realize that there will likely be a need for additional increases for water quality projects to meet future permit conditions, and for infrastructure reinvestment, as the system is continually growing and aging.

3. EQAC commends the county for its high density mixed use development planned near Metro stops and for the finalization of the Tysons Plan this year. All of these efforts recognize the need for increased transit use in the county to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **EQAC recommends that the county improve transit utilization through a systematic plan that includes multiple options within a community.** For example, specific projects for the Wolfrap Road bicycle and pedestrian bridge, Pohick Stream Valley “VRE 2 VRE” and the “Bobann Bikeway” provide trail connections to transit opportunities. In addition, we need to ensure that the public is aware of all of these opportunities as they become available. These are the kinds of improvements to our overall transportation system that we want the county to continue with and to expand on.

Board of Supervisors  
Continued

As we do each year, EQAC 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. Fairfax ReLeaf continues to promote tree preservation and tree replacement programs. The Park Authority Natural Resources staff continues to provide exemplary service due 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.

As we do each year, 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 David Molchany, 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. As always, it gives me great pleasure as the representative of EQAC 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, as I did last year, 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

Board of Supervisors  
Continued

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 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". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Stella M. Koch, Chairman

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**SCORECARD**  
**Progress Report on 2009 Recommendations**

**I. CLIMATE CHANGE**

<b>Climate Change Recommendation</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>1. Explore whether commitments should be sought from developers to: (1) encourage reporting of greenhouse gas emissions estimates; and (2) reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption or by obtaining energy from sources that do not emit greenhouse gases. The use of electronic reporting standards employed by the Climate Registry or other sources should reduce the need for human intervention in the handling of data. The pursuit of commitments to LEED certification at the Silver level or higher should be considered as well.</p>	<p>1) Staff is interested in getting further guidance from EQAC regarding the anticipated needs and uses for energy consumption data and greenhouse gas emissions estimates from buildings that will be constructed in Fairfax County. Staff feels that reporting should be encouraged but that it should not be tied to the development process as the issue is as important for existing buildings as it would be for new buildings, and as there would be difficulties in developing approaches that would be acceptable to applicants and enforceable.                  2) While staff supports the use of energy from sources that do not emit greenhouse gases, staff believes that it is unlikely that developers will be amenable at this time to commitments to renewable energy approaches due to cost efficiency concerns.</p>	<p>1) The report has clarified that energy use information provides the most reliable indicator of efficiency. While LEED certification should reduce greenhouse gases, the proof will be in the actual energy savings. Other jurisdictions have set the standards so that developers may want to increase density beyond the stated requirement and the proffering of agreements for environmentally sensitive actions, including LEED certification can be used for modest increases in density that increase developer profit. The EQAC has suggested that information on greenhouse gases be collected by a regional agency such as the Council of Governments using uniform reporting formats. 2) While economics will play a role in decisions to undertake actions to reduce greenhouse gases, we believe that the positive reactions of citizens will likely also play a role in influencing company behavior.</p>	<p>Progress made, but not yet completed.</p>

## II. LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Land Use & Transportation Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that the county produce an updated version of the “State of the Plan, An Evaluation of Comprehensive Plan Activities.” EQAC also recommends that the county consider the process for a complete review of the Comprehensive Plan.</p>	<p>Staff recommends that, upon completion of the current Area Plans Review cycle and the Area Plans studies, there be an evaluation of the collective implications of all Plan changes that will have been made of the past several years. Upon completion of this evaluation, there could, based on the results, be an assessment as to whether additional Plan changes should be considered. Staff feels that a full scale rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan would only be productive if this evaluation was to suggest a need for fundamental changes to the Plan.</p> <p>Until the aforementioned Plan evaluation is performed, staff feels that the best approach to Plan monitoring is the current approach described above; this approach serves as a tool for both in-house DPZ purposes and the larger goal of shared use in the county system. Furthermore, the new GIS-based approach monitors Plan changes at a more detailed level than analyzed in the <i>State of the Plan</i> document. The current monitoring tracking system allows up to parcel-level analysis, while the <i>State of the Plan</i> analysis provides only summary information for large areas, such as planning districts.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to recommend that the county evaluate the Plan and publish 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” to cover plan activities between 1995-2008 and assess impacts through 2025.</p> <p>EQAC understands the constraints on the staff to complete APR and the Area Plan Studies and looks forward to a more comprehensive review once those tasks are complete.</p>	<p>No.</p>

<b>Land Use &amp; Transportation Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>2a. EQAC is an advocate of the county GIS system and the Integrated Parcel Lifecycle System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New nonresidential pipeline data needs to be incorporated into IPLS.</li> <li>• IPLS should incorporate data regarding planned nonresidential land use intensities.</li> </ul>	<p>County staff agrees with this recommendation and put resources into place to begin work integrating the nonresidential development pipeline into IPLS. Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) staff will take the lead on the nonresidential development pipeline work in coordination with the Department of Information Technology (DIT) and the Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSM). DPZ staff will research the availability of nonresidential development pipeline data and determine the business rules for creating and analyzing new IPLS tables containing these data. DIT staff will work with DPZ staff to create the tools that will use the business rules to pull the desired data into the IPLS tables and to create the analysis tools specified by DPZ staff. DSM staff will work with DPZ and DIT staff to facilitate the work. Staff anticipates beginning the work on designing a nonresidential development pipeline interface for IPLS in March 2010.</p>	<p>EQAC anticipates the completion of the integration of non-residential pipeline data and nonresidential land use intensities into IPLS.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>2b. EQAC recommends that the county continue to expand the ability of the general public to access GIS and IPLS tools, as appropriate and feasible. This includes the next iteration of My Neighborhood</p>	<p>Planning for the next version of My Neighborhood is underway. The GIS Branch will work with the Department of Systems Management for Human Services during that planning to identify approaches to include IPLS data and the annual American Community Survey data in the reporting of My Neighborhood.</p>	<p>EQAC appreciates regular updates to My Neighborhood that include new sources of information.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

<b>Land Use &amp; Transportation Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>2c. EQAC is impressed with the ways that the county has incorporated three-dimensional models across the various agencies. These have had a transformative effect on business operations. We recommend that the county continue to enhance its investment in GIS technology and updates to the source data.</p>	<p>The GIS Branch obtained 3-D models of two key areas of the County: Tyson’s Corner and the Reston/Herndon toll road corridor (5 sq miles of Reston/Herndon and 3 sp miles of Tyson’s Corner area). In all, 3-D models exist for over 2,000 buildings in those two areas. Those models and orthoimagery are viewable through Virtual Fairfax which will be released in FY 2010. In addition, several copies of software that enable 3-D model creation have been obtained.</p>	<p>The Virtual Fairfax application has been released and is a wonderful addition to the tools available to planning boards and commissions as they proceed to plan for future changes to the County. EQAC will continue to recommend that additional data be incorporated into these tools.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>

<b>Land Use &amp; Transportation Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>d. EQAC further recommends that the county develop a Digital Comprehensive Plan. The Digital Comprehensive Plan would combine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Integrated Parcel Lifecycle System as a base data capability.</li> <li>2. Three dimensional representations of the county.</li> <li>3. Future projections for planned changes and growth, as well as various alternatives.</li> <li>4. Environmental and Transportation models with both local and macro impacts.</li> </ol>	<p>The recommendation for a digital Comprehensive Plan is being addressed in part. The Comprehensive Plan in digital format is available on the Department of Planning and Zoning's website. The website has been redesigned in order to make the Plan and its contents more accessible to the general public. The website outlines and provides links to the Policy Plan, individual Area Plans, and their respective community planning sectors and/or special areas. If a user has knowledge of a specific property's location within the Plan, the user can directly and quickly link to the corresponding Plan recommendation. At the same time, a new feature provides a link to a webpage that helps a novice user determine the location of the Plan in which a property is located. The linked website allows a user to click on a location within a map of the county and directly connects the user to the corresponding Comprehensive Plan text. The reference map provides several options by which to search a property location. The options include Planning District, major roads, and local streets. Three-dimensional modeling, growth projections, and environmental and transportation modeling are currently being used by the county to anticipate and assess growth and land use changes. The results of these modeling tools are available to the general public in paper or other non-digital forms.</p>	<p>EQAC envisions this as a longer term project to transform the Comprehensive Plan from a text form into a GIS form with many layers of information, 3-d models such as those provided by Virtual Fairfax, projections of plan capacity based on zoned density, and models to consider changes. The current online Comprehensive Plan while being digital, does not embrace new technology to enhance planning and the integration of Land use and transportation.</p>	<p>No.</p>

<b>Land Use &amp; Transportation Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>3. The current recession presents a unique opportunity to view foreclosed homes, vacant commercial space and the expected employment rebound as targets of opportunity in achieving transportation and land use goals. EQAC recommends that the county prepare a strategy for the recovery that includes ideas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to expand options for affordable housing by investing and partnering appropriately in areas that will need increased affordable options as the economy rebounds.</li> <li>• Identify vacant offices and homes in locales with good transit options and coordinate with the real estate industry to aid in marketing those properties.</li> <li>• Coordinate with agencies and businesses to inform prospective/new workers of opportunities for desirable commutes and local housing amenities.</li> </ul>	<p>The BOS has adopted policies and programs that address these recommendations. The Affordable Dwelling Unit Program, requires the provision of affordable housing in new construction that is four-stories or lower (at least 12% of all housing be affordable, ADU and/or Workforce Housing). In redeveloping areas not subject to the ADU Program, the Workforce Housing Program requires that 12% of the total number of units be either ADUs or workforce units. Significant partnering efforts have preserved affordable units accessible to public transportation and jobs, reducing displacement of the lower wage workforce and impacts on transportation and land use. Fed. funds are being used to support non-profit orgs.' purchase of foreclosed homes to assist those in need. DHCD assists first-time homebuyers in buying foreclosed homes. Engagement with the real estate community makes this possible. Comp. Plan Amendments for Lake Anne, Springfield, Annandale, Baileys Crossroads and Tysons were adopted within the past year. Enhanced amenities that include affordable housing close to employment and transportation opportunities have been incorporated within each amendment. County public/private partnerships include the establishment of the county's first Community Development Authority.</p> <p>The Economic Development Authority gathers and maintains information on office/flex buildings and provides options. EDA does not give preference to any particular type of space or promote one particular property over another. Information provided to customers is based solely on the criteria that the customer conveys to the EDA.</p> <p>Housing preservation activities have been redirected by the BOS through adoption of the Housing Blueprint to primarily serve lower income and at risk individuals. The 2010 budget for preservation activity was cut in half and these funds are obligated. Budget constraints reduce the ability to respond to EQAC recommendations to support lower income individuals in these and other programs.</p>	<p>EQAC commends the board and county agencies for the extensive work and programs in place to address land use and transportation issues through the real estate market.</p> <p>EQAC encourages the county to continue to coordinate these efforts across agencies and in concert with potential real estate opportunities arising from depressed property values and increased vacancy rates.</p> <p>EQAC recognizes that the overall budget constraints in the county impair the ability to implement these programs fully.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

### III. AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC acknowledges the budget limitations that can be expected to continue for a few years, yet also recognizes that without a continued commitment to traditional air pollution problems, the area will not attain national air quality standards. EQAC commends the Board of Supervisors for retaining, in the FY 2010 budget, the county's air quality management position and recommends that this position be retained in future budgets as well.</p>	<p>The air quality management position is being retained.</p>	<p>EQAC thanks the Board of Supervisors for retaining this position.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

#### IV. WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that Fairfax County adequately fund and implement its ongoing Stormwater Program. EQAC recommends that the Stormwater Program continue to be funded by the Service District, and that the rate be increased to a penny and a half. We realize that there will likely be a need for additional increases for water quality projects to meet future permit conditions, and for infrastructure reinvestment, as the system is continually growing and aging.</p>	<p>The County Executive recommended that the Stormwater Program be funded by an increased rate of a penny and a half in the FY2011 budget.</p>	<p>The Board of Supervisors did adopt this penny and a half in the FY2011 budget. EQAC thanks the County Executive for proposing the penny and a half for the FY2011 budget and the Board of Supervisors for adopting this recommendation in the FY2011 budget.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

## V. SOLID WASTE

There were no recommendations in the 2009 Annual Report

## VI. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

<b>Hazardous Materials Recommendation</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
1. EQAC recommends that the county continue to find ways to help people more easily recycle household hazardous waste. As examples of the need for such efforts, with the increased use of rechargeable batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs, more households in the county will have these hazardous waste items to dispose of on regular basis. Consideration should be given to continuing remote household hazardous waste collection events.	Staff does not concur with this recommendation at this time. Fairfax County has two permanent sites that accept household hazardous waste. Remote collection events serve less people than the two permanent sites and cost more (\$32 per customer at the permanent sites versus \$58 per customer at the remotes. Staff could reconsider the remote sites when more funding becomes available.	EQAC continues to believe that remote hazardous waste collection events would better serve the citizens of Fairfax County. More household hazardous waste could be correctly handled with these remote sites.	No.

## VII. ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Ecological Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. The Fairfax County Park Authority approved a Natural Resource Management Plan in 2004. This partially fulfills a long-standing EQAC recommendation to develop and implement a countywide Natural Resource Management Plan. However, most of this plan cannot be implemented without additional staff and funding for the FCPA. The FCPA staff estimates that implementation will require \$3 million plus per year. A more phased approach will allow FCPA to begin to manage 10 percent of parklands and set up the program to be phased in over time. Phase 1 with this approach would require \$650,000 and six positions. EQAC strongly feels that the plan needs to be implemented. Therefore, EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors provide sufficient funding to implement Phase 1. EQAC recommends that some of the six staff positions should be found from internal FCPA staff assets.</p>	<p>The Park Authority concurs with the recommendation to fund and implement the Natural Resources Management Plan, but at this time cannot realign staff from other important existing programs and services to the natural resources management program. We are unable to reallocate staff to the natural resources management program without sacrificing other important existing programs and services to the public. However, the Park Authority will continue to work with the Department of Management and Budget to seek funding in future years. If funding is provided, we will look at our positions again to see if any can be realigned to the natural resources program.</p>	<p>The Park Authority has two equally important missions – to provide active recreation to Fairfax County citizens and to protect the natural resources of Fairfax County. However, for many years, the priority has been given to active recreation. The Staff response continues this allocation of resources. EQAC strongly believes that the two different missions of the Park Authority need to be brought into balance. EQAC reiterates its recommendation.</p>	<p>No</p>

**VIII-1. IMPACTS OF DEER IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

<b>Deer Management Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<p>1. Insofar as staff resources permit, managed hunts should be continued as they have become both cost-effective and efficient in reducing excesses in the deer herd.</p>	<p>The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist developed a new Archery Program as a management tool to more effectively implement the Deer Management Program. Managed hunts and sharpshooting operations remain integral strategies as a core component of the Deer Management Program.</p>	<p>EQAC is glad to see that managed hunts and sharpshooting operations continue. However, deer continue to be a problem in many of Fairfax County parks and these operations should increase.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>2. The sharpshooter events should be continued since the Police Department Tactical Teams must engage in required practice in order to maintain proficiency, and using deer as targets is both cost effective and more closely replicates operational situations than does practice on the target range.</p>	<p>Sharpshooting remains an integral strategy. The Wildlife Biologist, however, recommends that the assertion of sharpshooting events as target practice be discontinued. Rather, they should be noted as a cost effective and efficient (humane) strategy for reducing excesses in the deer herds.</p>	<p>EQAC is glad to see that sharpshooting events continue.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

**VIII-2. IMPACTS OF GEESE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

<b>Geese Management Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken by Agency or Department</b>	<b>EQAC Comments</b>	<b>Completed</b>
1 EQAC strongly recommends that, insofar as staff time is available, the goose management program be continued, particularly the public outreach and training activities so that a cadre of volunteers can be created to provide the labor to do the actual egg-oiling that is the principal control measure.	The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist will begin the process of public education and community outreach to educate the public regarding addling (egg oiling) and the training of interested parties in March 2010.	EQAC commends the Wildlife Biologist for the public education and community outreach program.	Yes.

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**VIII-3. COYOTES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

There were no recommendations in the 2009 Annual Report

**VIII-4. WILDLIFE BORNE DISEASES OF CONCERN IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

There were no recommendations in the 2009 Annual Report

**IX-1. NOISE**

There were no recommendations in the 2009 Annual Report

## IX-2. LIGHT POLLUTION

Light Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. The Zoning Administration Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning should attempt to have a draft of the proposed revisions to the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance by summer 2010. EQAC will collaborate with them to this end.</p>	<p>Each year the Board of Supervisors adopts a Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program (ZOAWP) which contains a Priority 1 list of amendments that staff will be working on during the year and a Priority 2 list of items that will be maintained for future prioritization. The 2009 Priority 1 ZOAWP adopted by the Board on March 30, 2009 contained an item to consider revisions to the outdoor lighting standards. Staff began working on this amendment and in early 2010 a workgroup consisting of county staff and private sector individuals will be reconvened to review aspects of the outdoor lighting standards that may require revision. It is anticipated an amendment should be ready to present to the Board for authorization to advertise public hearings in fall 2010.</p>	<p>EQAC is pleased that staff is moving forward on this recommendation.</p>	<p>In progress; nearing completion.</p>
<p>2. The Fairfax County Park Authority should attempt to have a finished draft of the “white paper”, which discusses the scientific basis for the glare problem and the limitation for a solution to it, and improved technical design specifications for athletic field lighting design ready for publication by late spring 2010.</p>	<p>The recommendation for the completion of the White Paper is in the process of being addressed through a series of collaborative meetings with key members of EQAC and DPZ. The final “white paper” will include a more comprehensive discussion on glare, control limitations and possible solutions for control and should be available for public review by mid-summer.</p>	<p>EQAC thanks the Park Authority Director of Planning and Development for the opportunity to collaborate on this paper. The final document reveals that much of the glare problem is dependent upon source-to-background contrast ratio and as such is a fundamental law of nature and not under the control of man.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

## IX-3. VISUAL POLLUTION AND URBAN BLIGHT

There were no recommendations in the 2009 Annual Report