

APPENDIX C

FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Awards have been established to recognize county residents, organizations, businesses and county employees who unselfishly dedicate time, energy and expertise for the betterment of the environment in support of countywide environmental goals and initiatives. Award recipients are selected by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council, and the awards are presented each fall during a meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The recipients of the 2012 Environmental Excellence Awards were:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| County Resident Award: | Elaine Tholen |
| County Resident Award: | Betsy Washington |
| Organization Award: | ServiceSource |
| Business Award: | Walker's Grille |
| County Employee Award: | Ron Tuttle |

Elaine Tholen has been recognized for her dedication, persistence and passion in formulating and implementing a variety of hands-on environmental stewardship educational efforts within Fairfax County Public Schools. Her nomination highlighted the following:

- Assistance with the development of the Get2Green effort to green the school system.
- Numerous partnerships with other FCPS staff in support of school gardens, energy conservation and habitat enhancements at public schools.
- Development of a partnership with the National Wildlife Federation supporting its Eco Schools USA program in Fairfax County, with an increasing number of schools participating [as of August 2012, there were 45 Eco Schools in the FCPS system and many more working toward that designation].
- Leadership efforts supporting Centreville High School's attainment of the "Green Flag" award, the highest award level in the Eco Schools program.
- Building of numerous partnerships in support of the Get2Green project, including George Mason University, Fairfax County government, nonprofit environmental groups and other environmental professionals.

The following excerpt from the nomination attests to Elaine's commitment:

“Recently I heard Peter Noonan, the assistant superintendent for instruction for FCPS, say that in order for progress to be made you need to have [four] ‘p’s”—there needs to be a person with a passion who has a plan and is persistent. The school system is making progress on the environmental stewardship initiative because we have that person in Elaine Tholen. She definitely has a passion for making a difference in the lives of her students, and thus in the lives of us all.”

In reviewing her nomination, an EQAC member stated that, “not only do her efforts have an impact with respect to improving the environment as an outcome, but she also touches the teachers who educate our children who will be learning directly from Elaine's efforts.”

EQAC was pleased to select Elaine as one of this year's award recipients.

Betsy Washington has been recognized for her commitment to conservation and restoration throughout the Lake Barcroft community through education, leadership, fundraising, organization of volunteer efforts, development of partnerships and dedication of time, labor, expertise, enthusiasm and passion. Her nomination highlighted the following efforts:

- Betsy's numerous volunteer activities, including: her service as Secretary on the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) Board; her service on the board of her former Fairfax County neighborhood; her chairmanship of a “beautification committee” that emphasized the greening of open spaces; development of green gardens at several schools near her Lake Barcroft community; and education, outreach and landscape conservation efforts in that community.
- Since 2003, authorship of conservation column of a monthly newsletter, with a broad range of topics but with an emphasis on watershed-friendly landscaping.
- Leadership of a community program to manage beaver damage through humane approaches to deterrence and through a policy of living with nature in Lake Barcroft.
- In partnership with the Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District, the development of a Lake Barcroft Association Landscape Philosophy that is designed to protect water quality through the protection and enhancement of riparian area buffers, urban forest protection and use of native plants in landscaping.
- Design and, with many partners, establishment of a Resource Protection Area Demonstration Garden in a shoreline area that had been overrun by invasive plants. Her vision, inspiration and educational efforts resulted in support from over 200 volunteers and in the donation of \$8,800 from community residents for this effort.
- Continued management of the RPA Demonstration Garden with volunteer support and educational efforts centered around the garden and its environmental benefits; included is an online database listing all of the over 120 native plants in the garden.
- Design and leadership in the establishment of a second RPA garden along a Lake Barcroft shoreline.

- Native tree seedling giveaways each Earth Day.
- In coordination with the head of Lake Barcroft Maintenance and Improvements Committee, development of a Tree Replacement Program through which native trees are provided to Lake Barcroft residents who have lost overstory trees, along with free site assessments advice and planting of these trees.

Betsy was nominated for the Environmental Excellence Award by one of the students of her Woody Plants and Native Plants course at George Washington University. The nominator described Betsy as *“the most knowledgeable, enthusiastic and energetic person I’ve encountered during almost 18 years of school”* and highlighted the wealth of knowledge Betsy has gained from her *“years of practical hands on experience, most of it voluntary work.”* The nomination highlighted Betsy’s vision, expertise and passion in sharing her knowledge with others, concluding that Betsy *“never misses an opportunity to show her commitment to and passion for the environment.”* EQAC thanks Betsy for all of her efforts and is pleased that she has been recognized for them.

As described in its nomination, **ServiceSource** “is a non-profit sheltered workshop that has been in Fairfax County for over 30 years providing employment and training to persons with disabilities.” ServiceSource has partnered with Fairfax County’s Solid Waste Management Program in the creation and implementation of the Keep It Green Program, through which labor provided by ServiceSource is applied in the reconfiguration and/or repair of computers for reuse or the dissembling of obsolete electronics for proper recycling. ServiceSource has been recognized for its commitment to waste reduction and pollution prevention through these efforts.

As noted in its nomination, obsolete, unwanted electronics, known as “e-waste,” contain a variety of heavy metals and flame retardants that, if improperly managed, can cause the release of contaminants into the environment. The glass in cathode ray tubes contained in many computers and televisions is of a special formulation that contains lead, which makes it unsuitable for disposal in municipal solid waste systems. However, federal environmental regulations allow residents to dispose of cathode ray tube-containing equipment into the municipal solid waste management system. This equipment, though, can be recycled, which prevents any pollution that may be associated with its disposal. This is why the county has provided recycling capacity for electronic equipment at its Electric Sunday events.

The Keep It Green Program has, since its inception in 2002, recycled over five million pounds of e-waste, equating to approximately 60 tons of lead that have been prevented from being disposed of at the county’s waste to energy facility. These results would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of ServiceSource, and EQAC is proud to be able to recognize its efforts.

Walker's Grille is a small, family-owned restaurant that opened in March 2011 in the Metro Park development near the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail station in the Lee District. The restaurant has the distinction of being the first restaurant in Virginia to receive the Gold level of certification through the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED[®]) program.

The nomination noted the following statement from the U.S. Green Building Council: "This project demonstrates a steadfast commitment by the owner in conjunction with a creative team that challenged each other to identify better materials and processes while pushing the envelope of energy efficiency and water conservation. The Walker's Grille fit-out is a validation of how sustainable design and construction principles are not just reserved for traditional commercial office, institutional, and municipal construction but rather effective energy efficient and sustainable strategies that can be applied to all facilities, including the restaurant industry."

Included in the restaurant's green strategies are the use of high-efficiency equipment to reduce energy and water consumption, a recycling program to reduce waste, the use of sustainable building materials brought in from relatively short distances, support of local farmers and dairies and support of all-natural beef and poultry producers.

EQAC thanks Walker's Grille for its initiative.

Ron Tuttle is a Senior Landscape Architect with the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. He has been recognized for his expertise and commitment in support of environmentally sensitive site and stormwater management design for numerous county projects and the 495 Express Lanes project. His nomination highlighted the following:

- Research on various Low Impact Development techniques, both in support of amendments to the county's Public Facilities Manual and in support of site-specific application for individual projects in Fairfax County.
- Leadership on numerous county working groups.
- A proactive approach to the identification of innovative stormwater management, habitat enhancement, environmental restoration and other site design opportunities on numerous development and stormwater management projects.
- Assistance with the creation of conceptual designs and implementation of low impact development practices for projects within Laurel Hill and for the Lorton Road widening project.
- Leadership in the successful pursuit of design modifications to the original design of the 495 Express Lanes project to include enhanced water quality features and incorporation of habitat enhancements within stormwater management facility designs.
- Nurturing of partnerships with other county agencies in furtherance of environmentally-sensitive design approaches to their development projects.
- Substantial support to the Fairfax County Restoration Project.

The nomination concluded that “*Fairfax County is fortunate to have an employee as dedicated to his profession as Ron Tuttle.*” EQAC agrees and commends Ron for the numerous efforts he has pursued, well beyond the expectations of his position.

EQAC congratulates each of these award recipients.

In past years, Environmental Excellence Awards have been awarded to the following people and organizations:

2011

Organization Awards: Fairfax County Restoration Project
Fairfax County Dept. of Vehicle Services

2010

County Resident Award: Maureen Goble
Business Award: Project Performance Corporation
County Employee Award: Meghan Fellows

2009

Organization Award: Earth Sangha
Business Award: Allen Wayne, Ltd.
County Employee Award: Carl Sivertsen

2008

County Resident Award: Chet McLaren
Organization Award: Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter
Project Management Team
Business Award: “Jack-the-Ripper” Certified Arborists, Inc.

2007

County Resident Awards: Scott Birdwell
Eleanor Quigley and Penelope Firth
Organization Awards: Great Falls Citizens Association
Invasive Management Area Volunteers
County Employee Award: Judy Fincham

2006

County Resident Award: Ken Andrews
Organization Award: Northern Virginia Soil and Water
Conservation District
Business Award: Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.

2005

County Employee Award: Janet Rahman

2004

County Resident Award: Ned Foster
Organization Award: Reston Association

2003

County Resident Award: Joseph Chudzik
Organization Award: Students Against Global Abuse
County Employee Award: Noel Kaplan

2002

County Resident Award: Charlie Creighton
Organization Award: Hickory Farms Community Association

2001

County Resident Award: Chris Koerner
Organization Award: Bailey's Beautification Alliance

2000

County Resident Award: Norma Hoffman
Organization Award: Friends of Sugarland Run
County Employee Award: Gary Roisum

The nomination period for the Environmental Excellence Awards occurs during the spring of each year. EQAC encourages interested individuals, organizations, county employees and businesses to submit nominations.