

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 2015 Environmental Excellence Awards were:

County Resident Award:	Duane DeBruyne
County Resident Award:	Stephen Robinson
Organization Award:	Friends of Accotink Creek
Organization Award:	McLean Trees Foundation

Duane DeBruyne has been recognized for his dedication and initiative in support of volunteer cleanup efforts in the Occoquan Reservoir. For many years, he has assisted Friends of the Occoquan with its biannual cleanup events, and he has greatly enhanced these events through his enlistment of the Lake Braddock Secondary School’s Crew. The nomination that was submitted for Mr. DeBruyne highlights his leadership role in ensuring the success of cleanup efforts by personally collecting trash using his own motor boat and by staying after the cleanup events to ensure the proper disposal of filled trash bags. The nomination also highlights his “let’s get this done” spirit by citing his efforts to remove a refrigerator from the water and an abandoned motor vehicle near the reservoir—it concludes that “no clean up challenge is too big for him.” The nomination further notes his efforts to inspect and clean up hard to reach areas and his determination to clean up the Bull Run Marina area even when organized clean-up efforts have been focused elsewhere. Mr. DeBruyne’s nomination describes him as a “true volunteer committed to keeping the main Fairfax watershed clean” and a “big contributor to the 60 tons of trash pulled from the river.”

Stephen Robinson serves as the Grounds Committee Chair of the Spring Hill Community Association. In that capacity, he has developed good working relationships with the account and branch managers of the landscaping vendor for the community in support of environmentally-sensitive maintenance practices, and he has become a valuable source of information to his community about environmentally-sensitive approaches to tree and lawn care. Mr. Robinson also maintains a comprehensive snow removal program for the community, and he coordinates closely with the community’s snow removal company to minimize the use of chemicals—he ensures that chemicals are not used unless they are necessary and that, when they are needed, mechanical spreaders are used to reduce product use (by an estimated 50 percent). Other

environmental initiatives Mr. Robinson has championed have included (but have not been limited to):

- Reductions in hours of operation and lighting for a community fountain, thereby saving energy.
- Mitigation of drainage problems around a community gazebo through the installation of catch basins, a French drain and landscaping.
- Management of the community's annual spring cleanup event.
- Support for the installation of two "Solar Sync" advanced weather sensors to reduce irrigation needs (by an estimated 25-30 percent).
- Leadership of efforts to obtain grant funds for implementation of a "Spring Hill Rainwater Mitigation and Filtering Project," resulting in the construction of a 1,200 square foot rain garden.

As noted in its nomination, **Friends of Accotink Creek** is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to restoring, promoting and protecting the water quality, natural habitat and ecological well-being of the Accotink Creek watershed. This organization is being recognized for an impressive range of efforts, including the following:

- Twice-yearly cleanups, each spanning multiple weekends and each involving as many as 300 (or more) volunteers, at key points along a 15-mile stretch of Accotink Creek.
- Partnerships with county agencies, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and private sector entities on stream restoration projects.
- Enhancement of public awareness of watershed issues through a stream naming effort (leading to the naming of Wakefield Run).
- Leadership of plant rescue efforts in conjunction with a stream restoration project construction site.
- Implementation of a freshwater mussel rescue program through which volunteers return stranded mussels back into the stream bed after severe storms.
- Collaboration with the Friends of Lake Accotink Park on a contract for a private study of mussels in order to determine their overall health and sustainability, and the funding of environmental scholarships at Lake Accotink Park.
- Invasive plant removal programs at least twice per month (two sites).
- The planting of native plants at Americana Park and native habitat restoration in a wetland area.
- Additional environmental assessments, cleanup, outreach/education and advocacy efforts, as well as support for other similarly-oriented Fairfax County Park Authority-recognized friends' groups focused on the Accotink Creek watershed.

The **McLean Trees Foundation** was founded in 1970 as a semi-autonomous working committee of the McLean Citizens Association before incorporating in 2004 as a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization. The organization is being recognized for its efforts in support of the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of McLean's urban forest, both on public and private property. Efforts that have been highlighted in the nomination include:

- The planting of thousands of trees and shrubs in parks, on school grounds, at government sites, in commercial corridors, in residential areas, on traffic islands and along sidewalk rights-of-way.
- Community outreach and volunteer efforts supporting tree maintenance/care.
- Other educational, fundraising and community/public relations projects.
- Creation of the McLean Neighborhood Tree Program, through which trees are planted in front yards of residences.

EQAC congratulates all award recipients.

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

2014

County Resident Award:	John DeNoyer and Ann Csonka (posthumous)
Organization Award:	Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center, George Mason University
Business Award:	Davis, Carter, Scott Ltd
Business Award:	Guernsey Office Products
County Employee Award:	Joyce Doughty

2013

County Resident Award:	Alan Ford
Organization Award:	Herndon Environmental Network
Business Award:	Burgundy Farm Country Day School
Business Award:	Potomac Vegetable Farms
County Employee Award:	Sean Duffy
County Employee Award:	Randall G. Miller

2012

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

2011

Organization Award:	Fairfax County Restoration Project
Organization Award:	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 Award:	Scott Birdwell
County Resident Award:	Eleanor Quigley and Penelope Firth
Organization Award:	Great Falls Citizens Association
Organization Award:	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
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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.