

# SECTION 6

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

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### 6.1 Selected Awards and Recognitions

**2016 Public Technology Institute (PTI) Sustainability Solutions Significant Achievement Award – Smart Irrigation Systems.** Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) replaced the existing irrigation controllers with a smart irrigation control system that is web based and works off of local weather data to automatically adjust watering times. The system is beneficial for several reasons:

- The system saves water consumption due to the fact that it will only water when needed, if it is cloudy for several days and there is not much evaporation, the system will dial back watering times or postpone watering completely.
- The system is able to learn flow for each particular zone, if it notices a spike in flow (i.e., a broken head), it will shut off that zone and send an email or text alerting that there is a problem. If the system senses flow and the system is not scheduled to water (i.e., main line break), it will shut the water off completely and send an email or text.
- The system is Web based and has a smart phone app, if a problem is reported to FCPA, it has the ability to shut off the water from anywhere at any time. The manufacturer reports that smart irrigation technology can save 20% - 40% on water consumption.



**2015 Public Technology Institute (PTI) Sustainability Solutions Significant Achievement Award – Athletic Courts Lighting Control.** Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) installed Push Button Strobe Control Units for all tennis courts lighting systems. The system is beneficial for several reasons:

- The system saves electricity consumption due to the fact that it will only turn on the lights when needed. The lighting for each set of the courts is controlled separately.
- The push button strobe lighting controls allow players to activate the courts lighting only when needed, and automatically shut off the lights when a predetermined amount of time has expired, or an OFF button is pressed.
- Astronomical time clocks is part of the system to ensure the push button controls are only active during hours specified by Fairfax County park authority, so daylight saving is considered in this system.
- With less use of the lighting system, energy cost and also maintenance cost will be lower.



**2015** *National Association of Counties (NACO) Best in Category Achievement Award in the category of Children and Youth.* The NACO award honored the Stream Crime Investigation laboratory that teaches high school students about stormwater, watersheds and water quality monitoring. The lab exercise replicates how stormwater professionals identify and track the sources of pollutants in a storm drainage network.

**2014** *Best Urban Best Management Practice (BMP) in the Bay Award (BUBBA) in Habitat Creation.* The Brookfield Park wet pond rehabilitation project won second place in the best habitat creation category in the award contest sponsored by the Chesapeake Stormwater Network. Several divisions of the Department Works and Environmental Services and the Fairfax County Park Authority worked together to restore the dam in the Brookfield Park and plant native vegetation for habitat.

**2014** *National Association of Counties (NACO) Best in Category Achievement Award in the category of Environmental Protection and Energy.* NACO awarded the Stormwater Planning Division of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services for developing “A Field Guide to Fairfax County’s Plants and Wildlife”. The field guide was developed collaboratively with stormwater staff and Fairfax County Public Schools as part of the fifth grade science curriculum to highlight the links between ecology and our watersheds.

**2013 and 2014** *National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Platinum Peak Performance Award.* Platinum Awards recognize outstanding compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits for five or more consecutive years. At the time of the 2014 award, Fairfax County’s Norman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant had achieved 100 percent NPDES compliance for 16 consecutive years – one of only nine municipal water treatment plants across the nation to do so.

**2013** *National Association of Counties (NACO) Best in Category Achievement Award in the category of Environmental Protection and Energy.* The NACO award honored the county’s Government Center stream restoration project, an innovative water quality project that included a stream restoration and pond retrofits on county property. NACO Achievement Awards recognize innovative county government programs in one of 21 different categories.

**2013** *The Coalition for Smarter Growth Sanders-Henn Community Hero Award.* The non-profit group honored county staff in the areas of planning,

revitalization, transportation, housing, parks and public services for their on-going efforts to make Tysons a green, walkable urban center.

**2013 National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) Best in Show Award.** The Best in Show Award, selected by the NAGC Board of Directors from all first-place Blue Pencil & Gold Screen winners, was presented to the Fairfax County Park Authority for its invasive plant control program, “Take Back the Forest.” This program, which involves a partnership between county government, county schools, and REI, Inc., brings more than 500 volunteers into parks over a 30-day period to remove non-native invasive plants and replace them with native plants.

**2013 Virginia Recreation and Park Society Award.** The Fairfax County Park Authority was recognized for its Huntley Meadows Wetland Restoration in the Best New Renovation/Addition – Parks, Playgrounds, Blueways, Greenways and Trails category for populations of greater than 100,000.

**2012 NACO Best in Category Achievement Award** for the “Stormy the Raindrop” public education campaign. The campaign, which was developed by the Stormwater Division of the county’s Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, centered on a child-friendly character named Stormy the Raindrop.

**2012 NACWA Excellence in Management Award.** This award acknowledges significant achievements in the utility management arena. It honors agencies that have implemented and sustained, for a continuous three-year period, successful programs that address the range of management challenges faced by public clean water utilities in today’s competitive environment.

**2011 American Planning Association Daniel Burnham Award.** This award, which recognizes advancement of the science and art of planning, is granted to only one urban plan in the nation each year. The APA honored the Comprehensive Plan for the Tysons Corner Urban Center. Plan elements include a tiered approach to density that is focused around four transit stations, a long-term goal of reducing the jobs-to-household ratio from 13:1 to a more balanced 4:1, incentives to reserve 20 percent of new housing units for moderate-income households, and innovative stormwater management facilities designed to retain at least the first inch of rainfall on site.



**2011** *The Governor's COVITS (Commonwealth of Virginia IT Symposium) Award for Innovation in Local Government.* The county was honored for its introduction of mobile applications that provide 24/7 access to government information and services for users of iPhone/iPad, Android and BlackBerry devices.

**2011** *Governor's Environmental Excellence Bronze Award, Government Category,* for stormwater outreach. The Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize the significant contributions of environmental and conservation leaders in the areas of sustainability and land conservation.

**2010** *National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Gold Medal Award, Class 1 Category* (population 250,000 and over). The Fairfax County Park Authority was awarded the NRPA Gold Medal for demonstrating excellence in long-range planning, resource management, and agency recognition.

**2010** *Virginia Mosquito Control Association (VMCA) Outstanding Service Award.* The VMCA recognized the Health Department's Disease Carrying Insects Program for its consistent contributions to mosquito control awareness and education throughout Virginia, for its on-going commitment to serving county residents, and to its provision of educational opportunities to partner organizations.

**2009** *NACO Achievement Award* for the Herrity Building Garage Vegetative Roof.

**2008** *MarCom Platinum Winner and Communicator Award of Excellence.* The award was presented to the Fairfax County Park Authority for its Non-Native Invasive Plant Identification and Control Handbook. The MarCom awards, sponsored by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, honor excellence in marketing and communication.

**2008** *Public Technology Institute Solutions Award, Sustainability Category,* for the county's plug-in electric hybrid vehicle fleet trial program. Solutions Awards recognize the members' use of technology to solve specific problems, improve community services and internal operations and reduce costs.

**2007** *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Partner.* Fairfax County was recognized for its efforts to reduce the risk of climate change through green power purchasing.

**2007 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency EnergyStar partner.** Partners team with EnergyStar to save energy through energy-efficient products and practices.

**2007 Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Bronze Excellence Award, Integrated Solid Waste Management Program category.** The Excellence Awards recognize outstanding solid waste programs and facilities that are environmentally and fiscally responsible, advance worker and community health and safety, and implement successful public education and outreach programs.

**2006 Businesses for the Bay Environmental Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement for Nutrient Reduction by a Local Government.** The award recognized the county's achievement in reducing phosphorous and nitrogen discharges from its wastewater treatment plant significantly below legally-allowable levels. The discharge reductions benefit more than 3,600 species of plants, fish and shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay, one of the nation's most biologically diverse estuaries.

**2006 NACO Achievement Award for Environmental Excellence.** The award recognized the county's 2005-2006 Environmental Improvement Program, which is designed to integrate and link environmental goals and objectives into all levels of county decision-making and to provide a strategic approach to prioritizing environmental actions for implementation.

**2006 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) Community Partner of the Year.** The LMOP helps to reduce methane emissions from landfills by encouraging the recovery and beneficial use of landfill gas (LFG) as an energy resource. The LMOP honored Fairfax County as a Community Partner of the Year for its use of LFG to produce electricity, dry sludge at its wastewater treatment plant, and heat the county's facilities using infrared heaters.

**2005 NACO Achievement Award, Environmental Protection and Energy Category,** for Fairfax County's air quality protection strategy, "Improving Air Quality in the Washington Metropolitan Area: A Commitment to Air Quality Excellence."

**2004 Chesapeake Bay Program, Gold Chesapeake Bay Partner Community.** Launched in 1997, the Bay Partner Community Program recognizes local governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed for their commitment to protecting and restoring the Bay and its tributaries. Fairfax



County was first designated as a Gold Chesapeake Bay Partner Community in 1997 and recertified in 2004.

**2004** *NACO Achievement Award for watershed management planning.*

**2004** *National Association of Clean Water Agencies Excellence in Management Award.* The award honors member agencies who have implemented successful programs that address the range of management challenges faced by public wastewater utilities, including environmental quality, system capacity and reliability, operations and maintenance, asset management, use of technology, finances, rate management, and customer relations.

**2003** *NACWA Excellence in Management Award* for significant achievements in the utility management arena.