



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 11, 2022

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)

**SUBJECT:** EQAC FY 2023 Budget Comments

EQAC thanks the Board of Supervisors for both their continued support of the many environmental programs in the budget, including fully funding the Environmental Improvement Plan, and their strong support for the work being done within the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

We have comments to make in two specific areas.

### **FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY (FCPA)**

#### **1) Fully fund FCPA's \$751,000 Natural Resources Sustainability Request.**

We appreciate the recommendation to increase the Invasive Management Areas (IMA) program funding by \$50,000, however only doing so does not meet the significant need for a more sustainable program to begin to manage the 17,000 acres of natural land owned by FCPA.

FCPA currently spends \$159/acre to manage only 4,700 acres of natural land. However, the national average is between \$3,000 and \$6,000 per acre. FCPA needs more resources to be better stewards of the property they own.

#### **2) Ensure that if there are any changes to the bond process that there will be absolutely no reduction in the amount of money coming to FCPA.**

Changing to a 6-year bond cycle without adequately increasing the amount of money in each bond cycle will result in a devastating loss of money needed to execute critical updates to the fee-based amenities that currently provide the primary source of funding for FCPA.

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**3) We support the recommendation for two additional staff positions supporting the Urban Forestry Management Division.**

Further, EQAC encourages the Board to consider additional increases in future.

**FUNDING OF THE COMMUNITY-WIDE ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CECAP)**

We appreciate the County's commitment to the goals and actions laid out in the CECAP plan. The support needed for implementation of that plan does not appear to match the budgetary commitments. **We urge to the County to reexamine and commit additional fund to undertake this County priority.**