

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

2019-2020* Annual Report

Membership 2019-2020

Chairs: Alice Lippert (Jan-Oct)/ Judy Fraser (Nov-Current)

Vice Chairs: Mark Chandler (Jan-Oct)/ Alice Lippert (Nov-Current)

Members: Bruce Knight, Susan Crate, Timothy Killian, Michael Lee, Fiona Davies, Marian Carroll

School Board Representative: Toby Sorensen

Student Liaison: Katie Lau (2018-19)/ Nina Ravel (2019-20)

Native Plant Garden at Fairfax High School

The Environmental Sustainability Committee is comprised of nine members. Judy Fraser was elected ESC Chair in October 2019. Prior to that, Alice Lippert was the Acting Chair of the Committee from January-October 2019. Mark Chandler and Alice Lippert each served as Vice Chairs in 2019. Stefanie Kupka, the City's Sustainability Coordinator, is the ESC's staff liaison and provides policy and administrative support to the committee. The Committee also includes a student liaison from Fairfax High School, Nina Ravel and a school board representative, Toby Sorensen.

In December 2019, the ESC met with the City Council to highlight their work in 2019 and discuss the work plan for 2020.



*This report covers the time period from January 2019 to June 2020. Subsequent reports will be published on a fiscal year basis.

ESC Focus Areas, Partnerships and Key Activities

Outreach

Fall Festival
Arbor Day

Our Schools and Students

Invasive Plant Project by Katie Lau
Arbor Day at Lanier Middle School

Networking

Earth Sangha
Friends of Accotink Creek

Organization and Structure

Tree Board
Subcommittees
Fall Retreat

Items brought to City Council

Development Reviews
Urban Forester position
Legislative Package items
Dec 3 Work Session

Knowledge Building

Power Purchase Agreements
Green Building and Resnet

Constitutional White Oak Tree –over 230 years old

2019 marked the ESC's tenth year as an advisory committee to the City Council. Its tenth year was eventful, with several long standing members stepping down, new members added to the ranks, and two different chairpersons at the helm in the course of the year.

In addition to these changes, the ESC decided to retire its subcommittee model of organization. Begun in 2018, the subcommittees addressed three priority subjects: trees, energy, and waste. At the 2019 fall retreat, ESC members concluded that the use of subcommittees exceeded its capacity. Going forward the members agreed to also consider options for increasing capacity, including adding members, amending its charter, and deepening partnerships.



2020 Work Plan

PROTECTING, RESTORING, AND TREASURING NATURAL LANDSCAPES

- George T Snyder Trail input
- Natural Landscaping Guidelines
- Staff training
- Native plantings
- Tree Advisory Board

ONGOING WORK

- Development reviews
- Citizen concerns
- Recycling program review
- Small Area Plan review
- Legislative package

ENERGY CONSERVATION

- Outreach and communication
- LEED training

GROWING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND NET- WORKS

- DEQ
- Dominion Energy
- The Nature Conservancy
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Committee member training opportunities

TACKLING INVASIVE PLANTS

- Pilot Program
- Walks into the weeds
- Finding the funding

Invasive plants at Historic Blenheim overtaking the woodland area

The mission of the ESC is to provide advice and council on matters of the environment and sustainability to the Mayor and City Council. The ESC is staffed by the City's Sustainability Coordinator who provides committee support and guidance on various city programs and activities.

These programs and activities involve items that continue to be and will likely always be recurring on the yearly work plan such as support of school environmental programs at all the City schools, tree management and invasive species concerns, reviewing and commenting on land use and development proposals, and taking advantage of any outreach and education opportunities to interact with City residents.



2019-2020 Key Meetings and Outreach Activities

February 2019

*Daniels Run Invasive-
Management Project*



March 2019

*Green Buildings Presentation,
Rob McRaney, Viridiant*

April 2019

*Arbor Day
Earth Day
Spring Clean-up Day*



May/June 2019

*Solarize Nova
Tour de Solar
Bike to Work Day*



September 2019

ESC Retreat

October 2019

*ESC Retreat Recap
Fairfax City Fall Festival*

December 2020

City Council Work Session

January – June 2020

*Chesapeake Bay Preservation
Act Overview (Daniel Moore,
Environmental Planner, Virginia
Department of Environmental
Quality)*



George Snyder Trail Discussion (Cathy Salgado, Director of Parks and Recreation)

Small Area Plans (Paul Nabti, City of Fairfax and Nandor Mitrocsak, Cunningham and Quill Architects)