



# Clean Fairfax Annual Report

2017—2018



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# Scholarship

Clean Fairfax has had a long history of supporting Environmental Education. For over 20 years, our Johnnie Forte, Jr. Mini Grants to schools for special projects funded the efforts of thousands of students and teachers in the Fairfax County School System as they worked on environmental issues specific to their school, from retrofitting drinking fountains to be water bottle filling stations, to providing compost tumblers for school gardens, to purchasing the infrastructure for combating food waste and weekend hunger, and more.

Now, we are launching a new initiative—The Clean Fairfax Environmental Scholarship—two yearly cash prizes awarded to two Fairfax County graduating high school students who are embarking on an education or training in the environmental field.

Clean Fairfax will be actively soliciting donations and sponsorships for this program in the coming days. More information on the program and applications for students interested in this scholarship will be available on the Clean Fairfax website after the first of the year.



Litter Free Virginia is new program spearheaded by Clean Fairfax to highlight specific environmental issues facing Northern Virginia and serve as a clearing house of information and fact sheets for organizations working on these issues. This upcoming Commonwealth legislative session we are focusing on plastic bag laws and legislation:

Single-use plastic bags are everywhere. Unfortunately, that especially includes Virginia's lands and waterways! An average Virginian is estimated to use roughly 320 plastic bags each year. With a population of 8.47 million people, that's 3 billion bags annually consumed within the state. The use of plastics, which has exponentially increased in recent decades, poses a significant threat to Virginia's environment and economy.

For more information about this new initiative and to get involved, visit [www.LitterFreeVA.org](http://www.LitterFreeVA.org)

## Save the Date! SPRINGfest

Fairfax County's official Earth Day and Arbor Day event takes place April 27, 2019. Stay tuned for details, including sponsorship opportunities.

Looking ahead to 2020, we'll be planning to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and Clean Fairfax's 35th year!

## Present

Clean Fairfax maintains an office within Government Center thanks to the generosity of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. The Board of Clean Fairfax acts as the organization's fiduciary agent.

In addition to the Annual Report, Clean Fairfax submits yearly reports to Stormwater Management to assist with their public outreach requirements of the MS4 Stormwater Application, to the Planning Department to be included in the annual EQAC report, to DPWES for inclusion into the annual Trash Free Potomac report and to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Clean Fairfax is a member of The Trash Team, made up of county agencies and organizations working on litter issues, The MS4 Tactical Team on Outreach and Education as well as advisor to students working on environmental projects at the middle and high school level as well as college level.

The Executive Director is the past president of the Virginia Council on Litter Prevention and Recycling, and past Vice President of Awards for the Community Appearance Alliance. The organization is a member of Keep Virginia Beautiful, Volunteer Fairfax, Leadership Fairfax, the Virginia Recycling Association, Northern Virginia Beekeepers Association, Fairfax Advocates for Better Biking and other local environmental advocacy groups.

Clean Fairfax has two full time employees and one work study GMU student during the school year.

## Mission

The mission of Clean Fairfax is to encourage environmental stewardship and urban sustainability in Fairfax County, Virginia through education, programming, and community involvement. Clean Fairfax seeks to reduce littering and to encourage recycling, reusing, reclaiming and reducing consumption, promote community action by supporting clean-ups and adopt-a-spots and serve as a clearing house for environmental information in Fairfax County.

## Vision

To be Fairfax County's non-profit leader in environmental and sustainability education, advocacy and action by creating relationships with schools, businesses, municipalities and other organizations.

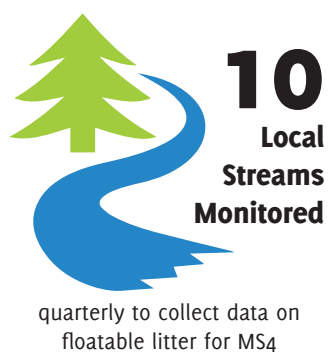
## History

The Litter Control Task Force was appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1978 and charged with preparing a program for utilization of the Commonwealth litter grant funds and with preparation of recommendations to the board on a county-litter reduction program Membership to the Task Force included one representative from each supervisorial district, representative from the League of Women Voters, one from the Chamber of Commerce, and one from the Federation of Citizens Association.

In 1985 the Task Force separated from the County in order to be able to solicit funding from the private sector. Incorporated as Clean Fairfax County, and later Clean Fairfax Council, Inc., (Clean Fairfax) operates as a 501 c 3 non-profit organization, in partnership with the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.



**Tons of Trash  
Collected**



quarterly to collect data on  
floatable litter for MS4



\$344,880 value of  
volunteers (based on DEQ's  
definition of 1 hr = \$22.03)

## Outreach

### Educational Programs and Presentations

- Outreach to schools included a presentation to the Roosevelt Institute at George Mason University, a presentation to Liberty's Promise group at West Potomac, a cleanup with YMSL Oakton/Vienna, a cleanup with students from Mt. Vernon, a presentation to a Boy Scout troop at Cardinal Forest, a workshop with a Daisy Scout troop at Oakton Library, tabling at Falls Church High School Family Math Fair, speaking with teachers at North Springfield ES and more
- Conducted adult programming that included a workshop for Reston Library librarians, several presentations for Cub Run's PVT group, a discussion with the Plastic Free Challenge Task Force, tabling at the Earth Day Expo at Northrop Grumman, tabling at Gum Springs Community Center, tabling at Sully District Office's Community Day and more
- Advocated for clean water at the 2018 Chesapeake Bay Lobby Day on Capitol Hill

## Outreach

### Static and Electronic

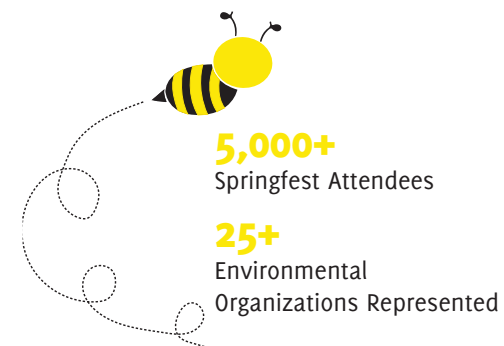
- Constant (daily) rotating information on Facebook page, twitter feed, and website
- Links on DPWES and other County Websites connecting to Clean Fairfax
- Articles in Fairfax Connection on SpringFest Fairfax
- Interviewed as SME in Bay Journal article about litter problems in Virginia
- Whitepaper on litter prevention accepted by Virginia Conservation Network

## Beyond Outreach

- Awarded the 2018 Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Award
- Planning and producing SpringFest Fairfax, the County's official Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration at Sully Historic Site
- Providing internship opportunities and mentoring for college students interested in Environmental careers
- Creating clean-up and volunteer opportunities for schools, churches, small businesses throughout the county
- Participating in policy discussions at both local and state level to improve litter prevention
- Maintaining and creating the Clean Fairfax files and organizational materials and reports as required by DEQ, IRS and The County
- Assisting the Clean Fairfax board with management of organization's goals and mission
- Continuing to serve as needed on County panels, task forces and committees

## Future Projects/Programs

- Creating Business is Picking Up campaign to activate area businesses to be better environmental citizens
- Organize regional environmental groups into a coalition (LitterFreeVA)
- Establish Clean Fairfax Environmental Education Scholarship
- Plan Earth Day 2020 (50th Anniversary of Earth Day)



**25+**  
Environmental  
Organizations Represented



**Professional workshops  
attended and/or presented at**  
(2017 AFF Trash Summit, Food Tank Summit, Virginia Recycling Association, Longwood University Stormwater Litter Workshop, EPA Region 3 Trash Free Waters Summit)