



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022



Director's Statement

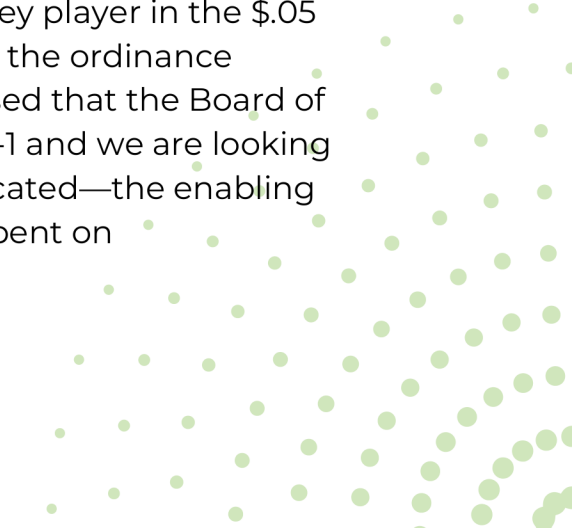
Hello friends!

We made it through another year of unprecedented weirdness because of a worldwide pandemic! I suppose the good (bad!) news is that no matter what is going on in the world or in politics, there will always be work for Clean Fairfax so let me tell you about what we have been up to!

The big job for Clean Fairfax over the course of the last 12+ months was leading the Litter Task Force for Fairfax County at the behest of the Environmental Committee of the Board of Supervisors. Partnering with staff members of Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the small staff of Clean Fairfax made this work a priority for over 9 months, pulling together a representative body of county staff, non profit leaders, and others who work on issues around litter, code enforcement, law enforcement, and environmental advocacy.

Despite the many hurdles of COVID, and the trials of large county bureaucracy, we were able to create a concise set of very attainable recommendations, considerations and opportunities to the Board of Supervisors for ways the county and community can combat litter before it ever hits the ground. While our presentation was met with lukewarm interest, we hope, even 10 months later, that at some point there will be the interest in implementing the few fixes to our systems that will help Fairfax be cleaner, greener, and more sustainable. You can find the Task Force report on our website.

In addition to the Task Force work, Clean Fairfax was a key player in the \$.05 plastic bag fee legislation the year before and in getting the ordinance passed in Fairfax starting January 1, 2022. We were pleased that the Board of Supervisors overwhelmingly supported the ordinance 9-1 and we are looking forward to seeing where the collected funds will be allocated—the enabling legislation requires that the money collected must be spent on environmental programs and projects.





Clean Fairfax continues its mutually beneficial partnership of the past 6 years with the Stormwater Management team through Clean Streams—a stream monitoring and reporting program that helps the County comply with its MS4 Permit. The conditions observed through this work at both the official monitoring sites and the supplemental monitoring sites over the years helped form the basis for our understanding of where litter comes from, and where it goes, which we used when creating the recommendations for the Litter Task Force Final Report.

The very foundation of Clean Fairfax's being will always be our commitment to and support of community cleanups by residents, schools and businesses. Fairfax residents are proud of their neighborhoods and work hard to keep them clean, in spite of the many challenges we face in our suburban to urban communities. This year we supported over 205 cleanups, picking up approximately 90 tons of trash, with over 2095 volunteers, putting in over 5500 hours, at a value of over \$164,696.00. This doesn't even count all the many "Friends of" groups cleaning up Fairfax County Parks and playing fields. We also support our colleagues at Operation Stream Shield who clean up areas that do not have dedicated community resources. Suffice it to say that investing in litter prevention and cleanup is a good investment for Fairfax County.

While Clean Fairfax no longer organizes and funds the County's SpringFest event to celebrate Earth Day, we do continue to support Earth Month by creating an online calendar of "Earth Friendly" events and tasks which was made available to educators and community members, sponsored the Mt Vernon Environmental Expo, and hosted the 2nd annual Earth Daze event in Herndon which saw attendance grow from 600 the first year to over 1200 this year.

Clean Fairfax applied for over \$125,000 worth of grant funds from 3 different funders (Mosaic, Dominion Energy and Walton Family Foundation) as well as the annual non-competitive "Litter Grant" from DEQ.

Thank you for your continued support of our small but mighty organization and read on to see what we are continuing to work on and what we have planned to launch in the next year.



JENNIFER COLE
Executive Director





About Clean Fairfax

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.

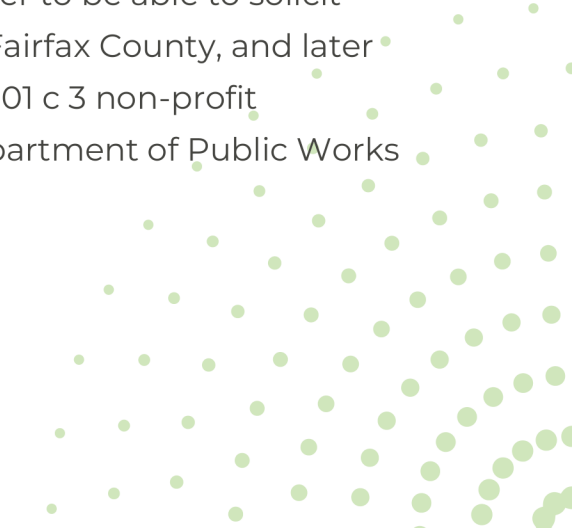
Vision

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 supervisors' 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.



Leadership

Clean Fairfax continues the important work with The MS4 Team on Outreach and Education, as well as an active member of The Fairfax Environmental Educators' Team and is always available to be an advisor to students and scouts working on environmental projects and service hours in middle and high schools as well at the University level.

For the past five years, Clean Fairfax has co-authored white papers on plastic pollution, and recycling, for inclusion in the "Our Common Agenda" Briefing Book which is compiled by Virginia Conservation Network and distributed to all of the Commonwealth's legislative members.

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 and in 2021 was appointed to the Governor's Plastic Waste Prevention Advisory Committee for a term of four years.

The organization is a member of Volunteer Fairfax, Leadership Fairfax, Virginia Conservation Network, The Virginia Coastal Alliance, The Plastic Pollution Prevention Advisory Network, and other local environmental advocacy groups.

Clean Fairfax has two full time employees and three part time employees and interns.

Year in a Snapshot



70+ workshops
& meetings



200+ cleanups
& 2,095+
volunteers



Over 5,500
volunteer hours
worth over
\$165,000 (in value)



Picking up
over 90
tons of trash



9 Streams
monitored
quarterly



Over 2,200
attendees at
Earth Day
events



259,000+ Facebook
Impressions
31,000 Twitter
Impressions

2022 and Beyond

Clean Fairfax plans to work on the state-wide level with our environmental partners on advocating for more policies around plastic pollution (what we find most of in our work) including supporting well written and smart legislation around expanded polystyrene use, extended producer responsibility for plastic packaging, and for a potential bottle bill.

We will also continue to advocate closer to home for the reduction of plastic bags at Farmers Markets.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, Clean Fairfax staff plan to speak at several conferences in the upcoming year, focusing on plastic pollution in water bodies.

Two new programs will launch this year—

The Broadershed Alliance, a network of regional businesses that use natural resources (such as water) to create a product (such as beer, or wine or cider or spirits) sharing their good environmental practices with other businesses trying to up their environmental game, and Business is Picking Up, a business association for companies wishing to create meaningful employee engagement events around the environment that have more lasting effect than just a photo-op cleanup of an already clean park.



Please visit our website www.cleanfairfax.org for more information about the work we do!

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CleanFairfaxCouncil



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