

Green Ribbon Committee and Clean Waters Task Force



OVERVIEW AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



HRPDC Joint Environmental Committee Briefing
January 5, 2012

History

- Green Ribbon Committee Report November 2007
- Implementation Committee appointed December 2007
- Reappointment of Implementation Committee – Two -Year Term (July 2009 - June 2011)
- New Green Ribbon Committee to be appointed in Spring 2012 with focus on TMDL implementation oversight



Overview



Since its inception, this Committee has continued to work to produce ideas, incentives, and programs that will help keep our City a leader in green initiatives, with primary focus on water quality



Accomplishments



Environmental Stewardship Awards



Residential Green Incentives



- Residential Stewardship Award for citizens who would like to retrofit residential property with earth-friendly ideas
- 2012 will be third year of award program



Green Volunteers



Go Green!
VIRGINIA BEACH



Energy Efficient Buildings Ordinance



- Ordinance approved May 2010
- Modeled from similar tax rate reduction ordinances
- Application Form and Process
- Education for owners



Landscape and Buffer Management Guidelines



- New Landscape Guide presented with VB Green Structure Worksheet

- Simplified tree list, unacceptable plant list, specifications in revision

- Revised Landscape Guide (Integrated Site Design Guidelines) completion Spring 2012



Site Stabilization Ordinance



- **Site Stabilization Ordinance Approved June 8, 2010**



Permeable Paving and Bicycle Parking



Parking Ordinance Amendments



Accomplishments through July 2010



- ✓ LEED Certification for City Buildings
- ✓ Vegetative Buffer Guidelines – City Policy
- ✓ DSC Notice – Bio-Retention in Park Lots
- ✓ Prohibition of Feeding of Wildlife Ordinance
- ✓ Improved Stormwater Management for City Redevelopment and Capital projects
- ✓ Buffer Restoration Requirements for Conditional Zoning, Variances, and Easements – City Policy
- ✓ Watershed Goals (TMDL Guidelines)
- ✓ Comprehensive Stormwater Project Planning
- ✓ Residential Street Width Reduction – Ordinance Approved July 2009
- ✓ Wind Energy Ordinance approved August 2009
- ✓ Site Stabilization Ordinance approved June 8, 2010
- ✓ Reduce size of Cul de sacs Ordinance approved November 2009
- ✓ Study completed for Mill Dam Creek, first Comprehensive Stormwater Plan project, design began February 2010
- ✓ Energy Efficient Buildings Tax Incentive approved May 11, 2010
- ✓ Stewardship Award Program guidelines completed and advertised in October 2009, first awards presentation @ Earth Day 2010, second awards presentation @ City Council fall 2011
- ✓ Parking Ordinance Amendments – Approved by Planning Commission June 2010 - Council Action August 2010
- ✓ Landscape/Site Guidelines Revised – Porous Paving, Bicycle Parking Planning Commission June 2010 – to Council July 2010

Clean Waters Task Force



- Outgrowth of group originally created in 2004 to coordinate and address water quality issues in the Lynnhaven River watershed
- Original group formed to improve communication between the City organization and Lynnhaven River 2007, and to allow LR 2007 to be better informed on what the City was doing so it could “get the word out” to the Community
- Expanded in 2006 with goal of having a City-wide focus for all watersheds and water quality issues and to communicate between the City organization and all Community watershed organizations

Who are City participants?



- Agriculture
- City Manager's Office – Deputy City Manager
- City Manager's Office – Media and Communications Group
- Fire
- Museums – Virginia Aquarium
- Parks & Recreation - Clean Community Commission
- Parks & Recreation - Planning, Design & Development Division
- Parks & Recreation - Landscape Management Division
- Planning – Environment & Sustainability Office
- Police
- Public Utilities
- Public Works - Water Resources Division
- Virginia Dare Soil & Water Conservation District

Who are Community participants?



- Back Bay Restoration Foundation
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Elizabeth River Project
- Lynnhaven River NOW
- North Landing Riverkeepers
- Rudee Inlet Foundation

How does the Task Force operate?



- Monthly meetings facilitated by ESO since 2004 with expanding participation
- Participation of City and Community representatives
- Full support and regular participation by City Manager's Office

Primary & Secondary Watersheds

Primary Watersheds Approximate Acreage & Percent of City

- Chesapeake Bay 61,300 32.2%
- Southern Rivers 132,400 67.4%
- Rudee Inlet / Owl's Creek 2,800 1.4%
- **Total Area 196,500 100%**

Secondary Watersheds Approximate Acreage & Percent of City

- Lynnhaven River 43,000 21.9%
- Little Creek 8,200 4.1%
- Elizabeth River 9,400 4.8%
- Small Coastal 700 0.4%
- Rudee Inlet /Owl's Creek 2,800 1.4%
- North Landing River 64,000 32.6%
- Northwest River 2,100 1.1%
- Back Bay 66,300 33.7%
- **Total Area 196,500 100%**

What have been its benefits?



- City organization works more closely on water quality matters
- Better information exchange and shared support on projects between City departments and Community organizations
- Direct support and assistance more commonplace
- Enhance ability of City departments to function as a team
- Implementation efforts more integrated and better understood

What are the challenges?



- Federal and State water quality mandates continue to increase (Total Maximum Daily Loads, stormwater, drinking water, etc.)
- Funding assistance from Federal and State governments continues to decrease
- City more directly called to meet the challenge
- More educated and environmentally conscious Community expects better response and action to issues, demanding better water quality
- Economic development and economic vitality more closely linked to environmental performance

So what can the CWTF Do?



- CWTF serves as a resource pool to help develop TMDL implementation plans
- Actions recommended in TMDL implementation plans are implemented and monitored by CWTF members
- Actions recommended by GRC are implemented and monitored by CWTF members
- CWTF Community members are major focus of public outreach and education
- CWTF City members are major focus of project management and implementation

Policy Accomplishments



- **Green Ribbon Committee Implementation Efforts to Date**
- **No Discharge Zone for Lynnhaven Watershed**
- **Outdoors Plan Update**
- **VML Certified Green Community Designation**

Stormwater Accomplishments



- **Oceana Gardens West Extended Detention Ponds**
- **Solar Lake Aerators at Kings Grant Lake and Reedtown / Wishart Lake**
- **Bacterial Source Tracking**
- **Nanney Creek Water Quality Modeling**

Sanitary Sewer Accomplishments



- **Sanitary Sewer Service for Lynnhaven Watershed**
- **Pump Station Upgrades**
- **Strategic Leak Detection Program**
- **Sanitary Sewer Overflow Program**

Restoration Accomplishments



- **Oyster Heritage Program**
- **Live Oak Tree Fund**
- **Riparian Buffer Projects on City Property**
- **Riparian Buffer Program for Private Encroachments on City Property**

Partnerships Accomplishments



- Scoop the Poop Program
- Athey Island Oyster Reef Project
- Boater Education and Pump Out Program
- Annual Back Bay Forum

Current Initiatives



CITYWIDE

Water Quality Initiatives Database

Chesapeake Bay TMDL Implementation Strategy for WIP II

BACK BAY WATERSHED

Nanney Creek Coliform Bacteria Evaluation

ELIZABETH RIVER WATERSHED

Chesapeake Bay Gateway Water Trail

LITTLE CREEK WATERSHED

Open Space Acquisitions

LYNNHAVEN RIVER WATERSHED

Little Neck Point Sewer Extension

NORTH LANDING RIVER WATERSHED

Mounted Patrol Manure Management Demo Project

NORTHWEST WATERSHED

Land Acquisition by The Nature Conservancy

RUDEE INLET / OWLS CREEK WATERSHED

Marine Sanitation Needs Assessment

Short Term Goals



- **BACK BAY WATERSHED**
 - Develop Septic Tank Assistance Program
 - Undertake Habitat Restoration Projects
- **ELIZABETH RIVER WATERSHED**
 - Set Timeline for Corps Wetlands Restoration Project
 - Initiate Work on TMDL Implementation Plan
- **LITTLE CREEK WATERSHED**
 - Assist in Formation of Community Watershed Organization
- **LYNNHAVEN RIVER WATERSHED**
 - Implement Corps Studies Restoration Actions
 - Continue Sanctuary Oyster Reef Projects
 - Undertake Stormwater Retrofit Projects
 - Mill Dam Creek Bacterial Source Identification Project
- **NORTH LANDING RIVER WATERSHED**
 - Pursue Open Space and Greenway Efforts
- **RUDEE INLET / OWL'S CREEK WATERSHED**
 - Work on Establishment of No Discharge Zone



Comments/Questions