



Welcome to our Newsletter!

[AEC Web Site](#)

May 31, 2013

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

The Annapolis Environmental Commission's (AEC) meetings are open to the public. We hope you'll join our upcoming discussion about environmental issues facing our city on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. AEC meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Farewell to Dr. Christopher Patrick

Dr. Christopher Patrick, a scientist with impressive environmental credentials, recently resigned from the Annapolis Environmental Commission under pressure related to findings that he and others reported to the city and community via the [AEC newsletter](#). Both Dr. Patrick and a colleague, a world-renowned senior scientist, were assisting the city by examining the wetlands, soils, and hydrology at the Crystal Spring site, and were admonished for doing so. As a result, neither scientist will be able to perform additional reviews, nor be able to present their findings to the city's Planning & Zoning Department or Planning Commission. The resignation of Dr. Patrick, as well as the loss of both scientists' expertise, means the City has lost a longtime resource of scientific data, and is a blow against free speech and the application of science to decision making. We would like to thank Dr. Patrick for his work on the Commission. His knowledge and service will be greatly missed.

Greenscape Wrap up

The AEC would like to thank and congratulate Marisa Wittlinger with Annapolis Recreation and Parks, DNEP, and the hundreds of volunteers who made this year's Greenscape a stunning success! Every year for the past 20 years, the Greenscape City and community partnership beautifies, cleans, and plants in public spaces throughout the City. This year, over 50 trees, 1300 perennials, 100 scrubs, and hundreds of annuals, vegetables, and herbs were planted. To become involved please contact Marisa Wittlinger at mdwittlinger@annapolis.gov.

Update on the Proposed Development at Crystal Spring

There has been an appeal filed that contests the Forest Stand Delineation as submitted by the developer and approved by the city. The AEC has produced its [own map of the Crystal Spring](#) property that outlines where we believe the highest priority forest, wetlands, and environmentally sensitive areas exist.

The developer has yet to file a development application with the city to begin the Planning and Zoning review process, however, the preliminary Forest Conservation

Plan was filed on May 28, 2013 with DNEP and is [posted on their website](#).

In recent promotional meetings with the public, the Crystal Spring developers indicated that the senior assisted living portion of the development, if and when it is approved by the city, would likely not be built until years after the retail, commercial and office space was completed.

Other Projects Currently Under Forest Conservation Act Compliance Review

Hayes Annexation Property, aka Reserve at Annapolis Station - 7.65 acres located of Old Soloman's Island Road. This multi-family development is mostly flat, treeless, and recently farmed. The Forest Stand Delineation was approved on May 6, 2013

Thomas Wood - 1.44 acres for residential use located on Forest Drive. The property is forested and immediately adjacent to an apartment complex. The FSD was approved on December 27, 2012 and is awaiting site design with Forest Conservation Plan.

Mills Parole Elementary - School expansion with a request for a variance to remove a tree greater than 30' in diameter, granted by DNEP. The property is flat and, except at the perimeter, mostly treeless. The FSD was approved on December 20, 2012 and the FCP was approved March 1, 2013.

Primrose Hill - 2 acres for residential use development off Milkshake Lane. The FSD was approved on March 19, 2013. The approval of the FSD was appealed and will be heard by the Building Board of Appeals.

1740 Forest Drive (Heritage Baptist Church). Stormwater management for Forest Drive expansion by Anne Arundel County. May 7, 2013 request for variance to submit simplified FSD instead of full FSD.

Residents can view documentation and keep track of all these projects on [DNEP's website](#).

Sustainable Annapolis Annual Report Released

Annapolis Mayor Joshua J. Cohen recently released the Sustainable Annapolis 2012 Annual Report, emphasizing more than \$400,000 in energy efficiency cost savings. The report, overseen by the Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs (DNEP), serves as a guide to assess the City's environmental and sustainability achievements over the past few years. It also identifies targets and strategies for future progress towards sustainability.

"We are attempting to make sustainability a standard in the City, while making Annapolis' sustainable measures a model for others to follow," Mayor Cohen said. "We dramatically increased the energy efficiency at our water plant, implemented significant improvements at City Hall, created a bicycle master plan, installed geothermal wells at the market house, and increased recycling by more than 20% by implementing a new solid waste program in the City."

The largest reduction in energy use came from the energy efficiency retrofits at the water plant and at City Hall, which contributed a total annual cost savings of \$466,898.

To read the whole report, visit the [Sustainable Annapolis website](#).

Why do we need a "rain tax?"

The following is an excerpt taken from the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation's web blog](#).

Stormwater fees are the price we all must pay for cleaner water, healthier ecosystems and better lives.

Stormwater is the only source of pollution to local waterways that is growing. There has been much talk lately of stormwater fees as a "rain tax." While catchy, the moniker really doesn't tell the story.

The story begins when those raindrops hit parking lots, roads, and other paved surfaces. As they flow downhill, they pick up pollution—oil and grease from automobiles, fertilizer from our yards, and dog waste that wasn't picked up. That pollution flows into storm drains, then into local streams and creeks, then into local rivers.

Let's take a look at one of those rivers, the Magothy River in Anne Arundel County. Since the late 1980s, the Magothy, South, Severn and West rivers have been officially listed as impaired for nitrogen, phosphorus, and bacteria. That's still the case today. Those impairments have harmed the resources that live in those waterways, as well as increasing human health risks to the point that the health department warns against swimming for 48 hours after a heavy rain. Poor stormwater management also contributes to flooding that can cost millions of dollars in property damage.

In 2010, a comprehensive study by the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works found that 94 percent of the phosphorus pollution, 37 percent of the nitrogen pollution and virtually all of the sediment and bacteria pollution in the Magothy River were the result of stormwater.

Investing in better stormwater management will not only benefit the health of local waterways, it will improve the quality of life, and support jobs and local economies. In February, the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center studied the economic impact and found that for every \$100 million invested in stormwater in Anne Arundel County, there will be \$220.2 million in benefit to the local economy, and it would support almost 800 jobs.

Tell Us What You Think!

Do you have any questions or suggestions for the Commission? Email us at annapolisenvcom@gmail.com or contact us on [Facebook](#).

Certified Environmental Stewards

Have your business certified by the City of Annapolis to be an Environmental Steward and show your customers and employees that the environment is important to you. Check out these [businesses](#) that are already doing their part. Please contact Jeanna Beard at [410-263-7946](tel:410-263-7946) or jbeard@annapolis.gov for more information.

Clean Streets Mean Clean Streams On-Demand Webcast

Improve your street cleaning and stormwater quality program by joining internationally renowned sweeping expert, Roger Sutherland, as he explores the science behind the relationship between an effective street sweeping program and its ability to significantly reduce pollutants found in stormwater. For more

information visit <http://www.foresteruniversity.net/webinar-clean-streets-clean-streams.html>.

AEC Annual Report

The AEC's annual report is now available. You can view it [here](#).

Events Calendar

Wash to Save the Bay, June 1

Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Carwash Association. This event speaks to the important role professional carwashing plays in keeping soaps, road salts, and other chemicals out of our waterways. The water used by MCA members is captured, treated on-site, and often re-used in the wash process. The amount of water used to wash a car is far less than that consumed in driveway washing, where the discharge goes right into the storm water system. Professional carwashes can help Save the Bay. A portion of all sales on June 1 will be donated to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

For more information and to find participating carwashes please visit <http://www.mcacarwash.org/>

*Clean Water Concert Series, June 1 * Great Music and Laughs!*

The Clean Water Concert Series promotes awareness about restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay through the science-based, multi-state [Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint](#).

Farmers' Market Concert with Susan Werner
Harrison Street Public Parking Lot
Easton, MD
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Susan Werner Evening Concert
Avalon Theater
40 E. Dover Street
Easton, MD
8:00 p.m. (Doors open 7:30 p.m.)

4th Annual Choose Clean Water Conference, June 4-5

Join regional leaders from local watershed organizations, environmental and conservation organizations and others to discuss strategies necessary to restore the hundreds of streams and rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. Registration includes two days of programming, lunches, breakfast, reception, awards dinner at the National Aquarium and field trips. Please see the [Choose Clean Water Coalition's site](#) for more information.

Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards, June 11

The Maryland Green Registry will be teaming up with Green Drinks Annapolis for an evening of fun, food and networking **June 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** at The Westin Annapolis. Enjoy Maryland Wines in celebration of Maryland Wine Week and recognize the 2013 Leadership Award winners. Register at <http://marylandgreenregistry2013.eventbrite.com/#>

City Council - Environmental Matters Committee, June 20

The next meeting of the Environmental Matters Committee is June 20th at 4:30 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers. All are welcome to attend. You can look for the agenda for this and other city council meetings on the [City's website](#).

Did you know that Sustainable Annapolis is on Facebook?

Follow [this link](#).

New! The AEC is on [Facebook!](#)

Suggestions or Comments? Email us at annapolisenvcom@gmail.com

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

June 5, 2013 7:00 p.m.

145 Gorman Street, 3rd floor conference room

The AEC is an independent board consisting of nine City residents who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Aldermen to be concerned with the protection and improvement of the natural health and welfare of the environment.

The views portrayed by the AEC are not necessarily shared by the City of Annapolis, staff or elected officials.

www.annapolis.gov/environment
Email: environment@annapolis.gov