

Town of Leesburg
Environmental Advisory Commission

About the EAC

EAC
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The EAC consists of seven Leesburg town residents, a Town Council liaison, and a planning commission representative. In order to protect the environmental interests of the Town, we depend on the entire community's help. The EAC raises awareness and involvement in protecting natural resources by bringing people together at "green bag" lunches, rain barrel workshops, streamside plantings, and other events. We invite you to join us as in stewardship of the Town's natural resources.

See us on the Web!
www.Leesburgisgreen.org

"Promoting and protecting the environmental interests of Leesburg."

Your Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC)



Discover native springtime wildflowers in local woodlands ("Trout Lily" & "Squirrel Corn")



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Leesburg EAC 2014 Annual Report

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Have an Idea? Share it with the EAC

The EAC meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in Town Hall. Members of the public are always welcome.

Have an idea or concern related to streams, stormwater, wildlife, plants, air quality, or other environmental issue? Please e-mail, call, and/or attend one of our meetings to share your idea or concern. We are here to help.

Some of our accomplishments over the past few years include:

- Helping the Town develop a pesticide notification

program for spraying along Town Branch.

- Obtaining grant money and organizing volunteers to plant trees and shrubs along streams and stormwater management ponds.
- Providing environmental education workshops and materials on lawn care maintenance, environmentally sensitive land development, energy management, and native landscaping.
- Developing Town Plan policies to protect our

waterways.

- Sponsored rain barrel workshops for Town residents resulting in over 200 new rain barrels to help with water conservation and stormwater management.
- Provision of over 1,500 reusable grocery bags to Town citizens to reduce the demand for plastic.
- Recognition of many Town citizens and businesses through the Tolbert Environmental Achievement awards program.

What you can do for Leesburg's environment:

- Recycle
- Use native landscaping
- Limit use of lawn fertilizer
- Plant a tree
- Buy fresh, local produce & meat
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of properly

Greetings from EAC Chairman Joe Sanchez

On behalf of the Environmental Advisory Commission, I am pleased to provide this annual report that showcases local efforts to protect Leesburg's natural resources. Our efforts this year have focused on increasing local recycling rates, energy efficiency at Town facil-

ities to save natural resources and reduce electricity bills, and actions we can take to further restore our local streams through watershed planning, environmentally sensitive land development and conservation. We encourage all residents to treasure and protect natural

resources in the Town (visit our website for ideas how). Thanks to all your efforts as well as to the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy who have partnered with us on environmental projects.



Winners of 2014 Tolbert Environmental Achievement Award

Cub Scout Pack 982

Commissioners (left to right): Joe Sanchez, (chairman), Dave Butler, Mary Haberl, Lyndsay Chamblin, Neely Lan, Charles Greenough, Mike Childers, Spencer Morgenthau (Linda Shotton not pictured)



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Volunteers weed, mulch, and maintain streamside buffer

Stream Protection

In April this year volunteers met on site to do maintenance of a stream buffer planting that the EAC was principle in establishing six years ago. Most of the original saplings planted have thrived and are well on their way to becoming mature trees.

Note the beauty of the light purple blooms of the redbud tree and the rust red

flowering of the red maple tree in the photo to the left.

The buffer plantings are located adjacent to Town Branch and Tuscarora Creek just south of Catoclin Circle near the Village Lanes Bowling Center in Leesburg.

Streamside buffers help manage rainwater runoff absorbing and filtering stormwater to remove pollutants. The buffers take advantage of the natural

filtering capability of soil, as well as help recharge groundwater.

Buffers also reduce the need for capital projects related to drainage improvement, flood control, infrastructure repair, and streambed stabilization.



Rain barrels store roof water for garden watering later

Rain Barrel Program Continues

Together with Loudoun Soil and Water, the EAC co-sponsors rain barrel workshops in the spring of each year. Citizens have the option to buy a pre-made barrel or build their own at a workshop. In 2014, Leesburg residents made their own or purchased 16

rain barrels. From year to year the colors of the barrels may change but all can be spray painted to match your home's exterior. Once again last year Town Council offered Leesburg residents a \$20 discount on the cost of purchasing a rain barrel through this program.

Rain barrels are a great way to promote water conservation and reduce storm water runoff following storms.

Look for more rain barrel workshops in Town in 2015. Materials, instructions, and assistance are all provided for one low cost.



The EAC & citizens connect at the Commission's Festival booth

Flower & Garden Festival

The EAC hosted a booth at Leesburg's Flower and Garden Festival in April 2014. Committee members talked with citizens about native landscaping, rain barrels, recycling, and other environmental topics of interest. Many visitors to the booth

were pleased to hear about the rain barrel workshops in Town ; Others appreciated learning about the wide variety of items that can be recycled. The EAC distributed over 300 reusable grocery bags with the slogan "Leesburg is Green" during

the event.

Look for the EAC booth during the Flower and Garden Festival every year. The booth is usually near the old post office on East Market Street.

Storm Drain Marking

In May, Commissioners from the EAC marked storm drains in their neighborhoods. The markers remind us that anything we put in a storm drain goes directly into our streams.

These markers are important because all of our local streams drain to the Potomac River, a regional treasure and the source of Leesburg's drinking water.

Through your care in the proper disposal of pet waste, automobile fluids, lawn fertilizer, pesticides, and other trash you too help keep our streams clean and safe for our children, pets, and wildlife.

Want to help further? Volunteer to help mark storm drains in the Town. Scouting groups, ecology clubs, neighborhood associations,

and individuals are all welcome.

Contact Leesburg's Department of Public works at 703.771.2790 or by email at <http://www.leesburgva.gov/government/departments/public-works>

for more information or to register. All materials are provided free.



Sample Marker

EAC Works to Increase Residential Recycling

In late 2013 the EAC began work on a survey of Town residents to help identify any measures the Town could take to help with home based recycling. The goal is to raise curbside recycling rates to 50% or more. Recent improvements

in curbside recycling include the Town offering a free second recycling bin to Leesburg residents. Interested parties should stop by Town Hall to pick up a bin.

As a reminder, if you bag your recyclables that you put out on the curb for pick-up make sure the bags are see-through otherwise they may be picked up as trash.



Curbside Recycling

2014 Tolbert Environmental Achievement Award Winners

The family of Rob and Amy Wyks and scout pack 982 are recipients of the 2014 Tolbert Environmental Achievement Award for their sustained effort over the years leading clean-ups for the Keep Leesburg Beautiful campaign. The award program recognizes

students, community groups, businesses, and individuals that conduct or participate in activities that benefit the Town's environment. Every year the Wyks have organized scout pack participation making sure individuals are registered, understand safety precau-

tions, and have the bags and gloves to complete their litter pick up along Leesburg's roads. In total hundreds of hours have been donated in this community pride effort to help ensure Leesburg looks its best. The Town is thankful for the community service efforts of all the scouting groups that participate.

(see Cub Scout Pack 982 photo on Page 4).