

A Guide to the Loudoun County Environmental Indicators Project, 1998-2003

Loudoun County Environmental Indicators Project 1998-2003
1998-2003

A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library M 032
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History

Processed by: Teckla H. Cox

Title Statement

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Collection: M 032

Author: Teckla H. Cox, Stephanie Adams Hunter

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

M 032

Language

English

Creator

Institute for Urban Development Research, George Washington University

Extent

.33 cu ft, 12 oversized items

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

Acquisition Information

Dorn C. McGrath, Jr., George Washington University; Joan Rokus, Leesburg, VA

Processing Information

Processed by Teckla H. Cox, 9 Feb 2007; updated by Stephanie Adams Hunter, 19 Jun 2007.

Preferred Citation

Loudoun County Environmental Indicators Project (M 032), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

2006.0159; 2007.0093

Alternative Form Available

Copies of the newsletters are available online at the Loudoun County Environmental Indicators Project website <http://www.gwu.edu/~leip/>

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

None

Bibliography

Loudoun County Environmental Indicators Project (M 032), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Other Finding Aid

None

Historical Information

Loudoun County Environmental Indicators Project (LEIP) was initiated 1 Oct 1998. Conducted by George Washington University, the five year project was intended to make scientific analysis available to Loudoun County's elected officials and residents to help in making decisions about public policy relating to land use. It later expanded to provide environmental information to the general public.

The project received an initial grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment, with additional funding from individuals, foundations, corporations and institutions. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors also provided substantial financial support, and the project utilized the county's Geographic Information System (GIS). The project was directed by George Washington University, with Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. as principal investigator. A steering committee consisting of local citizens, local government representatives including Eleanor Towe of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and B. J. Webb, Mayor of the Town of Leesburg provided additional oversight. Business people, representatives of foundations and institutions, and developers were also represented on the committee.

During the first year of the project, efforts focused on selecting sites to monitor, with 17 locations finally chosen. Drought conditions and rapid growth spurred interest in determining the effects of development on the environment. Among concerns were air and water quality, deforestation, and the potential for urban heat island effect from the increase in paved surfaces. Presentations and meetings were held to validate the decisions, and a newsletter and website were created to present information to the public.

In the 2000 annual report, LEIP identified a number of environmental changes: loss of forest, decline of

agriculture, loss of wetlands and riparian land, and an increase in urban heat island effect. Air quality also showed an increase in pollution. The project also identified an environmental success story, an artificial wetlands created near Dulles Greenway to replace an existing one displaced by construction. Indicators showed that the wetlands helped reduce the amount of pollution in water collected there.

By 2001 LEIP had experienced a change in direction, as members were asked by the community for guidance about dealing with the county's rapid development. The forums changed to include displays and use a charette process to involve the public in discussions. At the conclusion of the project, it was hoped that LEIP's activities could be used as a model by other communities interested in assessing environmental changes.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of annual reports, newsletters, and public presentation materials. Annual reports include text and maps demonstrating the baseline and analytical work done during the report's year. Presentations were originally mounted on foam core board; they have been removed and placed in file folders, with oversized items rolled for storage.

Three large framed photographs are hung in the lower level hallway of the library: Dulles Town Center, 23 Oct 2000; Dulles Town Center, Southern Exposure, 23 Oct 2002; and Potomac Crossing Subdivision, 23 Oct 2000.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1: Annual Report, 1999

Folder 2: Annual Report, 2000

Folder 3: Annual Report, 2001

Folder 4: Annual Report, 2002

Folder 5: Greater Washington Immigrant Population 1990-1998, n.d.

Folder 6: Western Bypass, 1998

Folder 7: "Indicators of Change," 1999

Folder 8: "What is Geography," 2001

Folder 9: "Loudoun County, Virginia Indicators of Change," 1998-2003

Container OMB 007

Folder 1: "Citizen's Guide to Water Conservation & Lawncare," Spring 2002; Immigration map, 1990-1998, ca. 2002

Container Rolled Storage

USGS map (combination of parts of Seneca and Sterling quads, 1994)

USGS map (combination of parts of Arcola, 1981; Sterling, Leesburg, and Seneca quads, 1994)

Map of proposed Western Bypass Corridor Study dated March 1997

1967 Loudoun County Highway Map

Remote Sensing of the Urban Heat Island Effect - generalized poster

Poster of "Urban Heat Island" showing current (1999) research by NASA and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

Introductory poster "Welcome to Changing Development Standards Practices in Loudoun County and the United States"

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