

Rockville Environment Commission

JANUARY 2024 TO JULY 2025 REPORT TO ROCKVILLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

September 2025

Will McClain, Chair

About the Commission

Nine Members

Three Subcommittees:

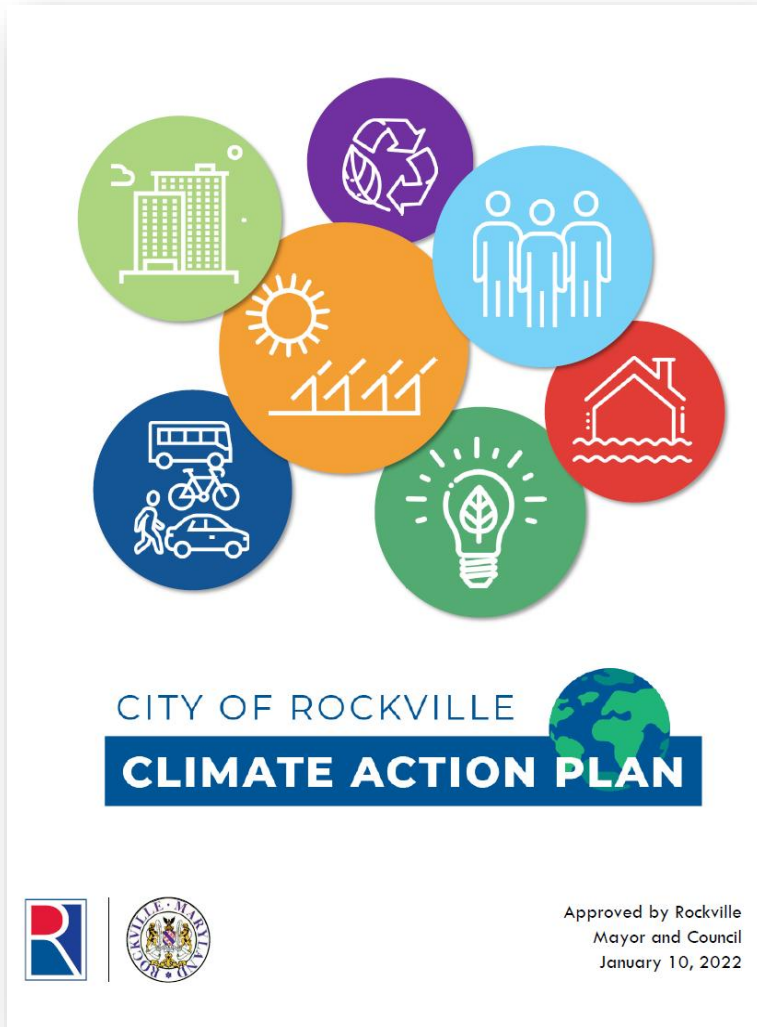
- ❖ Energy Committee
- ❖ Climate Action Committee
- ❖ Watersheds Committee



About the Commission

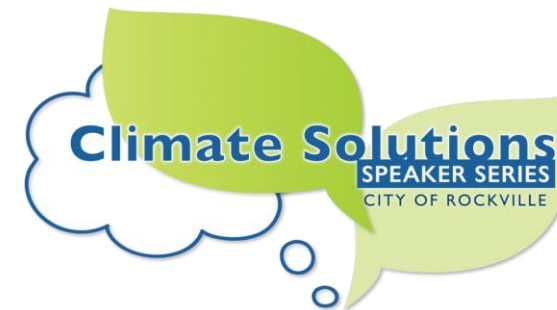
The Environment Commission was established in 2002 to:

- a. Respond to Mayor and Council requests on environmental topics and recommend environmental policies
- b. Develop/assist a “sustainable community framework”
 - Now *Climate Action Plan*
- c. Conduct education and outreach; Support volunteer events
- d. Recommend Environmental Excellence Awards
- e. Provide feedback on City’s environmental programs and website materials
- f. Prepare annual report



Climate Action Plan

- ❖ Adopted in 2022
- ❖ Support Climate Action Plan in City Budget
- ❖ Provide feedback on webpages, annual reports, metrics
- ❖ Support public outreach and implementation





Public Outreach

- ❖ Solar Switch Together/Co-op Farmer's Market outreach
- ❖ Participating in and Co-hosting Climate Solutions Talks: Electrify your Home and Solar 101
- ❖ Also promoted Committee work, electric vehicles, energy incentives, recycling, composting, flood rebates, RainScapes and more!

Assisting Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan Development (CAP Actions C-11, C-12, C-13, M-06, M-07)



- ❖ Promoted EV Pledge and the Montgomery County EV Cooperative Purchase discounts (Ongoing)
- ❖ Reviewed and provided comments on draft EV Readiness Plan
- ❖ EV Readiness Plan adopted March 2025!

Promoting Switch Together Solar Cooperative Purchase Program

2024 Solar Co-op

Results:

A record 682
registrants with
Rockville addresses!

Fall 2025 Co-op open
through October 29.





Environmental Excellence Awards

2024

❖ Terry Pinkston

❖ Jyoti Bisby

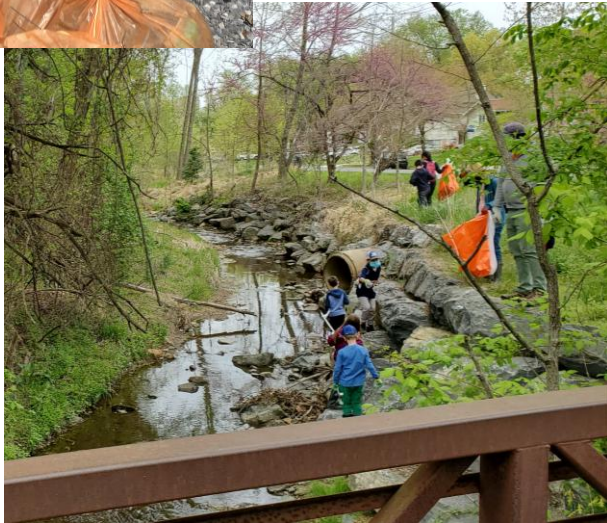
❖ Westmore Condo Association

2025

❖ Ingleside at King Farm

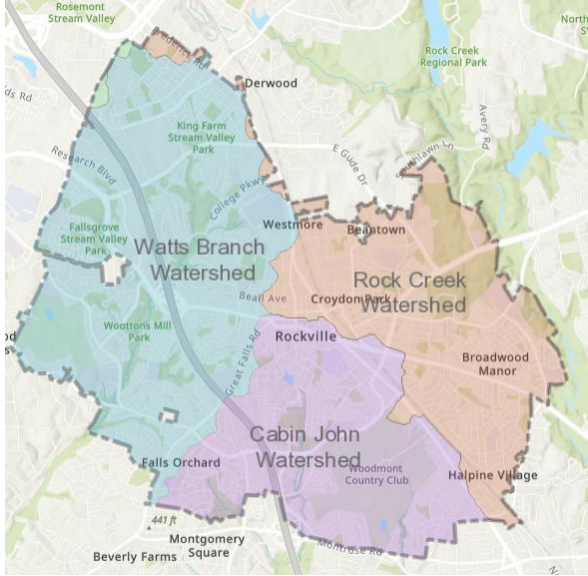
❖ Diane Samen





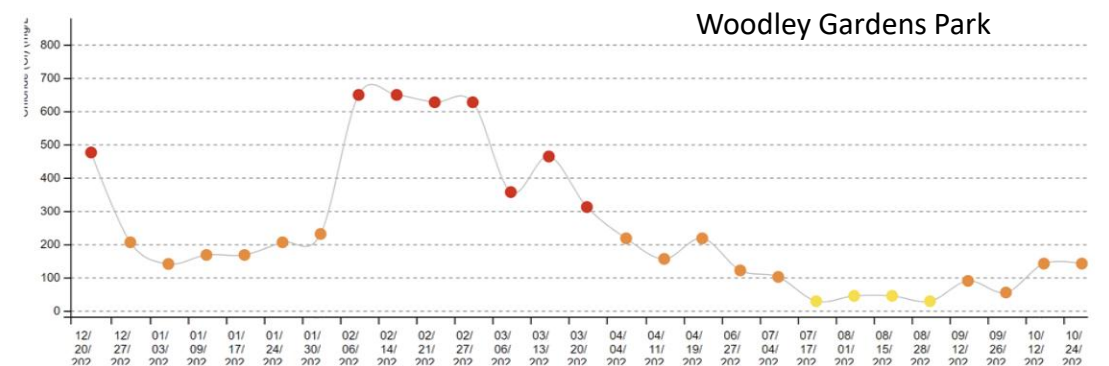
Watershed Stewardship

- ❖ Adopted Maryvale stream
- ❖ 2025: 1 cleanup, 25 bags of trash;
 - ❖ 2 cleanups planned this fall (9/21, 10-12pm, Dogwood park & 10/12, 10-12pm, Maryvale)
- ❖ 2024: 4 cleanups, 41 bags of trash
- ❖ Included Watershed Education Displays
- ❖ Engaged with local community (Rock Creek Conservancy, Friends of Cabin John)
- ❖ Ongoing salt testing program



Citizen Science – Salt Monitoring

- ❖ The Environment Commission sponsors the Watershed Committee's initiative to conduct salt monitoring in Rockville streams
- ❖ Monitoring 9 locations in the three watersheds in Rockville: Rock Creek, Watts Branch, Cabin John
- ❖ Conducted in partnership with local watershed groups and Izaak Walton League of America





Citizen Science – Methane Detection Pilot Project

- ❖ In 2024 the Environment Commission began piloting use of a methane detector to measure methane or “natural gas” infrastructure leaks at gas caps in sidewalks
- ❖ Researched protocols and provided materials
- ❖ Washington Gas is notified of any detectable leaks over a certain threshold
- ❖ Held 7 events with 21 total participants who tested about 160 caps
- ❖ Results are included on a dashboard

Accomplishments - Rockville Policy



Mayor Ashton at Sustainable Maryland Awards
recognition at Maryland Municipal League Conference

1. Supported **EV Readiness Plan** development and adoption*
2. Supported **Sustainable Maryland Re-Certification (2024)**
3. Reviewed/commented/supported updates to:
 - **Energy conservation, renewable energy, EV charger requirements and electrification in the Building Code** (Chapter 5)
 - **Zoning Ordinance** (Chapter 25)
 - **Town Center Master Plan**
4. Discussed development of **Sustainable Procurement Policy**
5. Reviewed **Climate Action Plan Annual Reports** and dashboards recommend metrics for measuring success*
6. Recommended support for Maryland **environmental legislation***
7. Supported environmental items in **City Budget***



State Advocacy

Recommended Mayor and Council provide written testimony to support:

❖ 2024

- ❖ Brighter Tomorrow Act
- ❖ Invasive Plant Species
- ❖ Highway Salt Application

❖ 2025

- ❖ Transportation and Climate Alignment Act
- ❖ Abundant Affordable Clean Energy Act
- ❖ WMATA funding

DRAFT FY2026-2027 WORK PLAN - Outreach

- **Home-based Energy Incentives**
 - Pepco Home Performance with Energy Star
 - Electrify MC
 - State IRA rebates (starting soon)
 - EV and EV charger incentives
 - Promote Affordable Solar with **Switch Together**
- **Stream clean-ups and salt monitoring**
- Potentially revamp **Environmental Excellence Awards***
- Review and comment on **new Rockville Website**
- **Earth Day** Proclamation*
- Fugitive **Methane Leak Detection**
- Working to support Human Services Advisory Commission in their efforts to connect **landlords to HVAC equipment upgrade resources**
- Outreach to the **Recreation and Parks Advisory Board**

*Potential Mayor and Council agenda items

DRAFT FY2026-2027 WORK PLAN - Plans & Policies

Plans

- Ongoing **Climate Action Plan** implementation support
- **Flood Resiliency Master Plan** development*
- Support **EV Readiness Plan implementation** including curbside charging guidance
- Explore feasibility to consider solar access in the **Street Tree Master Plan**
- Support **Green Space Management Plan** development*

Policies and Procedures

- Environmental Items in **City Budget***
- Contribute to **Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion** in Rockville environmental protection
- Maryland **2026 environmental legislation** advocacy*
- Support development of **Sustainable Procurement Policy**
- Research/support efforts to reduce **single-use plastic bottles**

Codes

- **Zoning Ordinance** (Chapter 25)*
- Chapter 10 - **City Floodplain Ordinance** Updates (M-13)*
- Consider opting in to the County's **Bring Your Own Bag law***

*Potential Mayor and Council agenda items

Rockville Environment Commission



Current Commission Members

Will McClain (Current Chair)

Cindy McCabe

Deborah Landau

Sasha Mushegian

Clark Reed

Pavitra Srinivasan

Summer White

1 Vacancy

Former Commissioners serving 2024 - 2025

Sue Koester, Ted Stauderman, Bijal Patel, Hande Apaydin

Mayor and Council Liaison: Hon. Adam Van Grack

Staff Liaison: Amanda Campbell

Staff Supervisor: Erica Shingara

For more information/to apply: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/98/Boards-Commissions>