

CITY OF OAK RIDGE



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD

POST OFFICE BOX 1 • OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831-0001

May 31, 2005

The Honorable Mayor
and Members of City Council
City of Oak Ridge
P.O. Box 1
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0350

Re: **Environmental Quality Advisory Board
(EQAB) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2004
and Work Plan for Period Through End of
Fiscal Year 2006**

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

The Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) is pleased to submit (for your information) its annual report for the past fiscal year and (for your review and approval) its proposed work plan for the current and upcoming fiscal year. The members of EQAB trust that you continue to find that EQAB is meeting its mission in serving the City by addressing the community's environmental issues on behalf of the citizens of Oak Ridge.

Should you have questions regarding the Annual Report, the Work Plan, or other matters related to EQAB's activities, please feel free to contact me at (865) 574-7396 (daytime) or 483-3068 (home).

Sincerely,
For the Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen D. Smith".

Ellen D. Smith
Chairperson

Enclosure: EQAB Annual Report for July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004
EQAB Proposed Work Plan for Period Ending June 2006

cc: Jim O'Connor, City Manager
Amy Fitzgerald, Gov't and Public Affairs Coordinator

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2004
July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004**

1. GENERAL SUMMARY

This report summarizes the principal activities of the City of Oak Ridge's Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) during fiscal year 2004 covering the period beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004. EQAB met every month except July during fiscal year 2004. Meetings were generally held on the first Thursday of each month. Other meetings were scheduled as needed for committee meetings or to address particular issues of importance.

1.1 MEMBERSHIP

Members of EQAB during this past fiscal year (2003-2004) included the following individuals:

Ellen Smith, Chairperson
Chuck Agle, Planning Commission Representative
Charlie Burger, Vice-Chairperson (through April 2004)
Shelaine Curd-Hetrick
Laurel Ensign-Simmons (Starting June 2004)
Jimmy Groton
Ken Haerer (through October 2003)
John Huotari
Tyler Johnson
Mike Maston
Aaron Peacock (starting December 2003)
Al Skyberg
Sara Sams Oak Ridge High School Representative (through May 2004)
Ann Huston Oak Ridge High School Representative (term to expire June 2005)

Amy Fitzgerald continued to serve as the liaison between City Staff and EQAB.

1.2 HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

In May 2004 Sara Sams completed her term and left the board when she graduated from Oak Ridge High School. In May 2004 City Council elected Laurel Ensign-Simmons, a junior, to serve a two-year term ending June 2006. Ann Huston, a senior, serving the second year of a two-year term that ends in June 2005.

Throughout the year, Ms. Huston and Ms. Ensign-Simmons continued working successfully on environmental efforts that involved high school students and other members of the community. The students encouraged and organized student participation in community activities to recognize America Recycles Day in November 2004, including setting up a library display and conducting public awareness activities at the local Staples store. Other EQAB members also helped with America Recycles Day activities at Staples.

2. EQAB'S COMMITTEES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

2.1 EQAB COMMITTEES

Four standing committees previously established by EQAB remained active during this reporting period. These committees met periodically during the year, as needed to discuss important issues or consolidate document review responses. The committees and the chairperson for each:

Regulatory Oversight, Chair: Ellen Smith
Resource Conservation and Management, Chair: Vacant
Urban Design, Chair: Tyler Johnson
Greenways and Open Space, Chair: Jimmy Groton

2.1.1 Regulatory Oversight Committee

The Regulatory Oversight Committee continued to provide timely input to City Council, City Staff, DOE, EPA, TDEC, and other agencies about issues related to environmental contamination in the community, as well as other initiatives that could affect environmental quality, both in the government and private sectors.

2.1.2 Resource Conservation And Management

The Resource Conservation and Management Committee continued its efforts to monitor activities in the community that could impact land, water, and energy resources. The committee promoted several specific measures to encourage the reuse of valuable resources, to prevent unnecessary generation of wastes, to stimulate recycling, and to encourage litter reduction in the City. For the third year the committee supported America Recycles Day (held November 2003), a community educational event promoting use of items made from recycled materials. High school student volunteers and EQAB members participated in the event by staffing an information site at the local Staples store.

EQAB also supported the City's participation in the semiannual Hazardous Materials Pickup events.

2.1.3 Urban Design Committee

The Urban Design Committee reviewed and commented on a revised Landscaping Ordinance in a joint effort with the Planning Commission and city staff. Primary input from EQAB was a listing of trees and shrubs native to the region along with a listing of invasive species that should not be used in the area.

Environmental Quality Awards were presented for 2003 at the November 17, 2003 Oak Ridge City Council meeting. Awards were presented in five categories:

- **Residential Renewal:** Community Development Department for their leadership in recommending the establishment of the Oak Ridge Housing Design Program, and skill in facilitating the program's implementation.

- **Adaptive Reuse:** Martha Knight, Gerry Chapman and Harold Smith for their attractive building remodel for the Ridley American V-Twin motorcycle shop, a new business at 110 Oak Ridge Turnpike.
- **Architectural Design:** Ray Evans for the restoration of two original flat top dwelling places at 139 and 141 Northwestern Avenue. These houses are standouts in the Woodland area, preserving both scale and continuity with the neighborhood.
- **Community Involvement:** BWXT Y-12's executive management, the volunteer project team, and the many volunteers who in the spirit of neighborliness turned out to organize and work together on tasks for the betterment of Oak Ridge and neighboring communities on June 21, 2003.
- **Neighborhood Improvement:** James K. Davis and Dr. Ronald L. Winningham for their perceptive restoration of house type 24 at 171 North Purdue Avenue. House type 24 is listed as a duplex dwelling, which has been effectively converted to a single-family dwelling.

2.1.4 Greenbelts and Open Space Committee

The Greenbelts and Open Space Committee continued to promote the preservation of open space, the protection of significant natural features, and the effective stewardship of greenbelts throughout the City.

2.1.5 EQAB Karst Committee (Ad Hoc)

In fiscal year 2003 EQAB continued to monitor environmental aspects of karst remediation in the Mona Lane area. EQAB members sponsored a public meeting to discuss the restoration of the Mona Lane site at the Linden School on May 20, 2004.

2.2 OTHER COMMITTEES

Several EQAB members represented EQAB and the City through active participation on several boards, advisory groups, or local institutions engaged in activities of interest to EQAB. These external organizations included the following:

Oak Ridge Regional Planning Commission: EQAB representative is Chuck Agle

Local Oversight Committee (LOC): EQAB's representative is Ellen Smith. Al Skyberg served as alternate.

Greenways Oak Ridge: EQAB representative was Charlie Burger.

Anderson County Regional Solid Waste Management Board: John Huotari represented EQAB.

Community Reuse Organization for East Tennessee: Jimmy Groton served as representative (in effect representing both EQAB and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning).

DOE Stewardship Working Group: EQAB's representatives are Tyler Johnson and Ellen Smith.

Scarboro Community: Tyler Johnson and Ellen Smith continue tracking this group's activities for EQAB.

Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee: EQAB's representative was Ed Frome. Mr. Frome resigned from the Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee due to concerns that the committee's overall direction would not lead to a meaningful discussion or resolution of the issues.

3. PRESENTATIONS TO EQAB

The following is a list of presentations made by outside groups to EQAB during the past year (July 2003 through June 2004).

Presentations to EQAB FY 2004

Presentation	Presenter(s)	Date
Oak Ridge High School Renovation	Tim Myrick, UT-Battelle	October 2, 2003
Update on DOE's Environmental Management Waste Management Facility	John Japp, DOE Joe Williams, Bechtel Jacobs David Whitehead, Bechtel Jacobs Dennis Hill, Bechtel Jacobs	February 5, 2004
Informal Meeting with Oak Ridge City Manager		April 1, 2004
Stormwater Management	Brian Jenks, Anderson County Stormwater Coordinator	May 6, 2004
Accelerated Cleanup Status and Plans	Bechtel Jacobs staff	June 3, 2004

4. TECHNICAL REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY EQAB

In all EQAB reviewed more than 81 communication items during fiscal year 2004.

5. OTHER ISSUES

5.1 ATTENDANCE

EQAB met every month except July during fiscal year 2004. Attendance at EQAB's regularly scheduled monthly meetings averaged 72%.

5.2 DOE REPRESENTATIVE

As in previous years, DOE Oak Ridge Operations sent a designated representative to most EQAB meetings. The DOE representative during fiscal year 2004 was Mark Belvin. Mr. Belvin regularly attended the monthly EQAB meetings and provided an important avenue of communication between DOE and EQAB.

**City of Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board
Proposed Work Plan for Period Ending June 2006**

1. Monitor, support and encourage activities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State of Tennessee, the Department of Energy, and other federal government agencies in resolving existing contamination problems and environmental safety concerns in the community. Make recommendations to City Council concerning appropriate City policy on matters related to long-term stewardship for legacy contamination.
2. Provide representation to advisory groups involved in resolving contamination problems and environmental safety concerns in the community. This includes the Oak Ridge Reservation Local Oversight Committee.
3. Support public awareness of and compliance with City ordinances designed to promote a high quality environment in the City.
4. Continue the Environmental Quality Award Program to recognize important contributions to the City's environment. A particular objective of the award program is to recognize development projects that are sensitive to preservation of the natural environment or enhance environmental quality in the built environment.
5. Encourage environmental awareness and participation among Oak Ridge youth and within the schools.
6. Encourage maintenance and expansion of parks, greenways, and other open space throughout the City. Evaluate and make recommendations concerning expansion, continued preservation, and effective stewardship of greenbelts.
7. Review environmental and regulatory issues associated with land owned by the City, or to be purchased, annexed, or otherwise transferred by the City, and provide advice to City Council, staff, or other boards and commissions.
8. Study and support measures that improve the environmental quality of all neighborhoods in Oak Ridge.
9. Evaluate and make recommendations on alternatives for encouraging and enhancing the preservation of Oak Ridge's historic resources.
10. Encourage recycling, waste reduction, and reuse of recycled materials through public information activities, recommendations on maintaining and enhancing the citywide recycling program, and related measures.
11. Cooperate with the Chamber of Commerce and other groups in beautification activities and continued support of the Adopt-A-Street Program and other litter reduction measures in the City.
12. Fulfill EQAB's role as the City Tree Board. Promote and encourage the care, planting and preservation of trees, shrubs, and urban forest within the community.
13. Work with the City Council, Planning Commission, City staff, and other appropriate agencies on environmental aspects of community development, including zoning, stormwater management, and grading standards. Evaluate and recommend improvements to city processes to enhance orderly community development and avoid adverse environmental, aesthetic, and public safety impacts from unsound development practices.

14. Review environmental assessments, proposals for licenses and permits, and other environmental information for proposed facilities and expansion or modification of existing facilities that could have an impact on environmental quality in Oak Ridge. Communicate the findings of such reviews to City Council and staff, or to the other boards or commissions that requested EQAB assistance, as appropriate to the matter. Communicate findings to external entities, such as state and federal regulatory bodies, when directed by City Council.
15. Perform environmental reviews of industries as requested by City Council or City Manager.
16. Advise City Council on environmental matters brought to the attention of the Board by citizens.
17. Support the decision-making process on issues of environmental concern by reviewing relevant consultant reports submitted to the city.
18. Promote public understanding of environmental matters and Oak Ridge environmental conditions by sponsoring educational workshops, producing and distributing informational materials, and encouraging similar public education efforts undertaken by other groups.
19. Perform other related work as requested by the City Council or City Manager.