

Grant for Caring for Our Watersheds - Ms. Haisfield Period 1

Part I: Introduction

Water Pollution especially in our watersheds. Water pollution is a big problem in Alexandria right now and we are trying to help the environment by lessening the amount of pollution in our watersheds. We need your help to assist us in this process to get more tourism and happy people in alexandria. People are throwing trash in rivers that float. We would like to help our community and restore its natural beauty.

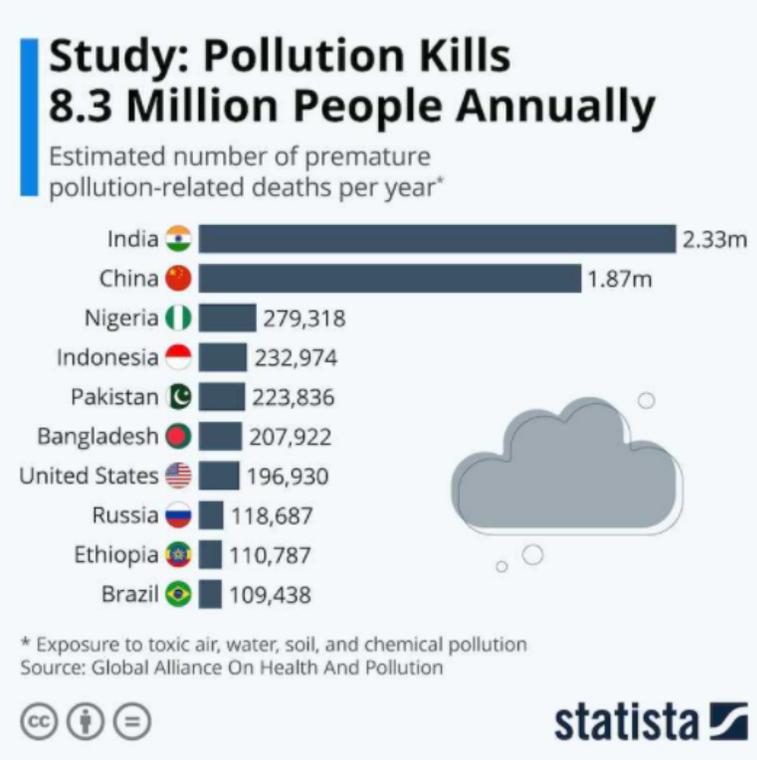
Alexandria is a city in Virginia, outside of Washington D.C. It is very beautiful and the air is fresh. Everyone in Alexandria is kind and loving. There are lots of things to do, like biking, shopping, visiting historical museums and houses, and running around at the parks. We are a short drive away from every attraction near DC, and very close to places like Baltimore, Great Falls, and Richmond. Along with Alexandria's beauty, it has amazing education for both grade school and college. Another thing we love about Alexandria is Old Town. Old Town is very calm, and has so many places to go and have fun. Some of the prettiest parts in Alexandria are by the waterfront, which is unfortunately polluted and we are trying to fix that, if we fix the pollution we can enjoy one of our favorite places again.

A watershed is an area of land that separates bodies of water flowing into different bodies of water. Our watershed is the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Living in an urban city, there is a lot of litter, sludge, and chemicals being dumped into our water, polluting the watershed. Also, many tourists visit Old Town, which is close to the water, and put their trash in the river. Many people depend on water sources, and pollution can harm them.

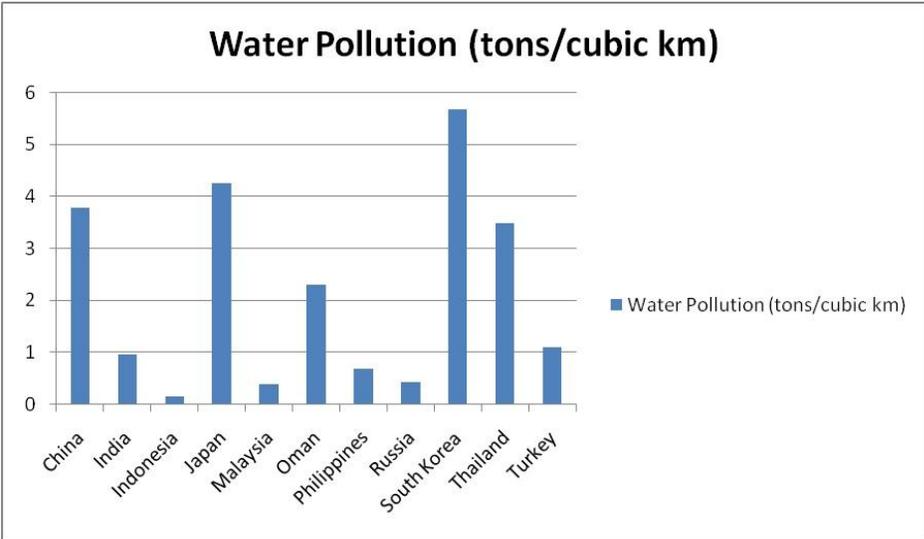
Part II: Issue

Alexandria is full of streams and rivers. Many of these are polluted, which makes the water unsafe for people and animals. One example is the Potomac River. Every year, 11 million tons of sewage is dumped into the Potomac. Another example was when I went to Chinquapin Park, the water in the stream was milky white. These problems need to be fixed for the safety of humans and animals alike.

If the pollution issue gets increasingly worse, it could lessen the already small amount of freshwater that we have access to. And many animals would no longer be able to find clean water, and we might not even be able to find clean water. This could greatly affect the health of the community, including humans, plants, and animals.



(China and India are the two most populated countries)



Part III: Solution

Our solution is that we will organize a cleanup of the Potomac river. We will get the help of volunteers, and pick up trash on the shore. The trash will be placed in trash bags and thrown away. We are also going to make a website where you can donate money to help us raise money to get the needed supplies for our trash pickup, where you can donate money to help raise awareness about the trash in the Potomac river and even volunteer to be a part of the trash pickup.

The chosen project could greatly benefit and impact the environment and those who live in it for many years. If we manage to reduce the amount of pollution in our watershed that would mean cleaner water for everything that lives here. It could have an even bigger impact if we are able to get others in our community to volunteer to help us clean up the water pollution. Then, if we are able to, we can establish an annual clean up or fundraiser for the potomac river and/or our watershed.

This will also benefit our environment by helping to stop pollution and by making the potomac river a place where people would want to go to have fun and see beautiful sights. If we start trash pickups, and get volunteers, then many others may be inspired to do the same and if we keep picking up trash then it could become long term.

We will need to put up signs, get gloves, get trash bags, and maybe even get little grabbers to be able to reach farther.

Project budget:

	Cost	Links
Trash Bags(2x)	\$16.99	Trash Bags
Gloves (Two sets)	\$22.58	Gloves
Paper (signs)	\$25.78	Walmart Printer Paper
Printer ink (4x)	\$24.99 (1x)	https://www.bestbuy.com/site/epson-410xl-high-yield-ink-cartridge-black/6198400.p?skuld=6198400&ref=NS&loc=101
Little grabbers	\$12.99 (1)	Little Grabbers

The items will be given to volunteers to be placed at intervals along the places of pollution included in our watershed. The increased amount of trash bags and trash cans along the chosen location might push people to throw their trash into the bags and cans instead of littering and/or adding to the already high amount of pollution. This

will also help the environment because the more that the pollution rates decrease, the cleaner the water in our community will be. Signs will be printed, with the budget allowing

This cleanup campaign will benefit our community and make the waters safer for people and animals. It will also benefit the Chesapeake Bay. The Potomac runs into the Chesapeake and if there is less trash in the Potomac, there will be less trash in the Chesapeake. The trash in the Potomac can make people sick and it prevents animals from drinking from it or getting near it. According to the Sea Turtle Conservancy, trash in the ocean kills approximately 1 million marine animals a year. When we cut the amount of trash we dump into the ocean, we can save animal lives. Having a cleaner river will also positively affect Alexandria, because it will make our city more beautiful.

Part VI: Works Cited

“Watershed | Chesapeake Bay Program.” *CBP*,
www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/watershed. Accessed 18 Mar. 2022.

Stream Restoration. (2019). City of Alexandria, VA.
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/stormwater-management/stream-restoration>

Part VII: Visuals



The potomac river pollution

Photo taken by Mike Grinnall



Water Pollution at 4-mile run