



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

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TOPIC

Pollution in Cameron Run Park

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The people affected by pollution in Alexandria is people with health issues and the wildlife animals and the aquatic life in Cameron Run Park. This affects them because people have less safe and clean recreational spaces. This matters in Alexandria because students live nearby,many families visit the park, and polluted public spaces create health concerns while damaging one of the city’s shared natural resources. Cameron Run park is also part of a large urban watershed,meaning pollution here spreads downstream and affects larger water systems beyond the park.

BASELINE DATA & GOAL

Studies show about 57% of water samples in Cameron Run Park tested an unhealthful range of bacteria contamination meaning unsafe levels were found in the water,

Reduce the percentage of unsafe water samples in Cameron Run Park from 57% to 27% or lower by improving water quality,reducing litter,and limiting pollution runoff into parks water system

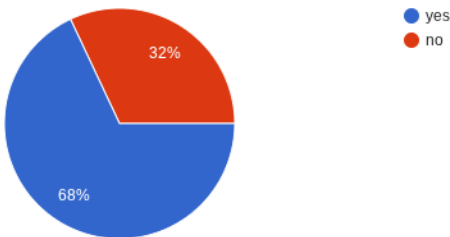
CYCP GOAL & STRATEGIC AREA

Safe and Healthy Environment for youth
By targeting pollution sources,you directly improve safely,recreation,and the ecosystem. Pollution trash,storm water runoff,bacteria is the main reason water quality is poor in Cameron Run Park

WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?

This will, most likely, come from the Titan Changemakers Data.
Discuss how ACPS/ACHS is currently doing in regard to your issue.

Have you seen litter or trash in Cameron Run Park ?
25 responses



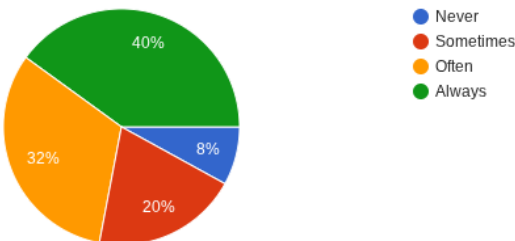
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LITTER OBSERVATIONS

This graph shows the percentage of has people seen trash in Cameron Park it indicates 68% have seen trash and 32% have not seen trash this matters because it proves that pollution is a visible and common problem if most people see trash this means the park isn't kept clean and unsanitary.

the strategies that have already been tried is trash cans have been placed around Cameron Run park, community clean up events have been organized,and awareness campaigns encourage visitors not to litter. These strategies are only partially working because 68% of people surveyed said they seen litter and trash in the park. This shows trash is still a visible problem.

Do you believe most pollution in the park comes from visitors?
25 responses

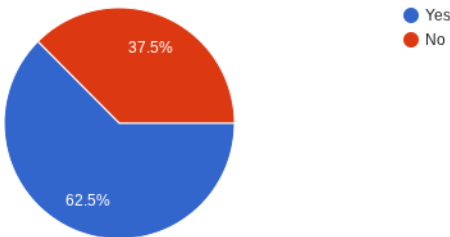


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VISITORS

This date shows that 40% of people believe pollution comes from visitors and 32% says often and 8% say that visitors don't bring pollution. This matters because it helps identify the main causes of the problem if visitors are responsible the solutions should focus on changing behavior and awareness of pollution. The strategies that have been tried is the city and local organizations have used signs,educational programs and public awareness campaigns to encourage visitors to keep the park clean. These strategies are not fully working because many people still believe visitors are major source of pollution. This survey shows about 40% believe pollution comes from visitors, meaning the park needs improvement

Have you ever seen polluted water in or near Cameron Run Park?
24 responses



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POLLUTED WATER

This data shows 62% of people say they have seen polluted water and 37% have not seen polluted water. this matters because it shows that pollution is the problem that pollutes the water. The strategies that have already been tried is water quality testing,storm water run off programs,and environmental clean up efforts have been used to reduce bacteria and pollution in the water near Cameron Run Park. These strategies are not fully working because 62.5% of people stated they have seen polluted water in or near the park. This suggests pollution and runoff are still affecting water quality

The survey data shows that pollution in Cameron Run Park still needs improvement and stronger solutions. In the litter graph 68% of people said they have seen trash or litter in the park showing that pollution is still very noticeable to visitors. The visitors pollution graph also shows that many people believe visitors contribute to the problem with 40% saying pollution often comes from park visitors. In addition the polluted water in or near the park. These results prove that current clean up efforts and awareness programs are not fully solving the issue. More action is needed to reduce litter,improve water quality,and keep the park cleaner and safer for the community.

WHAT DOES THIS DATA SHOW?

WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED?

Efforts to address pollution in Alexandria Cameron Run Park and its surroundings watershed have focused on sediment removal ,storm water management,and improving water quality. They have a planned sediment removal which is estimated to 1.3 million to remove sediments affecting Cameron Run Park.

WHO CAN HELP?

Alexandria Department of recreation,parks,and cultural activities

City of Alexandria Government

They can help solve the problem by providing cleaner parks and ensuring the Cameron Run Park are safe and healthy for the community.



WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

The actions that have been taken are to encourage people to pick up after themselves and to treat the outdoors how they treat their homes and to keep the parks clean. These actions are working well by regular clean ups of visible trash affecting the wildlife and nature.

IS IT ACTUALLY HELPING?

No I don't think people are better off because with the data shown from the graphs it shows that there is pollution and it's affecting the city and the wildlife with all the trash and chemicals the environment is facing. The problem is that the same nothing has changed every time I go to Cameron Run Park I see litter near the parks and in the water.

WHAT SHOULD CHANGE? (YOUR SOLUTION)

The idea that would help with pollution in Cameron Run Park is according to my data given by students from my survey is to add more signs to alert people and to add more available trash cans so that there is less trash. clean up after yourself if you know you will be enjoying a lunch out to throw away trash and to not leave it there this prevents pollution. Enforcing stricter laws against littering and increase the fine so people can actually throw away the trash. pollution affects animals health and survival harms their habitat .

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Less pollution and protect the wildlife and their homes

people with health conditions and wildlife their homes will be clean and not worry about being extinct

CITATIONS

1)Dr.Elise Herman.(2024).The Importance of a Healthy Environment. Kittitas Valley Healthcare.<https://www.kvhealthcare.org/2024/03/the-importance-of-a-healthy-environment/>

2)Pollution Solutions.(2015).what would happen if pollution doesn't stop.Pollution solutions.<https://www.pollutionsolutions-online.com/news/air-clean-up/16/breaking-news/what-would-happen-if-pollution-doesn't-stop/34329>

3)Ruchira nigam.(2025).The Role of Youth in Combating Environmental Pollution.adding value and beauty to life.<https://www.prithviinnovations.org/post/the-role-of-youth-in-combating-environmental-pollution#:~:text=Youth%20across%20communities%20take%20active,alongside%20increasing%20community%20engagement%20efforts>

4)City Of Alexandria.(2025).Total Maximum Daily Loads. City of Alexandria.<https://www.alexandriava.gov/stormwater-management/total-maximum-daily-loads-tmdls>

5)City of Alexandria.(2025).Cameron Run Sediment Removal Project.City of Alexandria.<https://www.alexandriava.gov/flood-action/person/cameron-run-sediment-removal-project>

6)City of Alexandria Master plan.(2001).water quality management supplement.Fecal Coliform Trends in Cameron Run.<https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/tes/info/alexandria=water=quality=master=plan.pdf>

LEARN MORE

- 1)Cameron Run Sediment Removal project removing sediment
- 2)Total maximum daily loads pollution diet for a body of a body of water to remove pollution