Proposed AlexRenew Two-Year Rate Increases

RiverRenew will construct a deep underground tunnel system to prevent sewage mixed with rainwater from entering our waterways in Alexandria. To pay for this significant investment in the health of our community’s waterways and ongoing wastewater operations and maintenance at our wastewater treatment plant, AlexRenew has proposed rate increases for the next two fiscal years starting on July 1, 2019, and July 1, 2020, respectively. Please visit alexrenew.com/know-your-rates to learn more.

AlexRenew will host an open house on Sunday, April 28 from 3 – 5 p.m. to provide an opportunity to ask questions and learn about the need for more investment in the health of our waterways through increased rates. The open house will be held in the lobby of the AlexRenew Environmental Center, 1800 Limerick Street.

Unveiling New Tunnel Names

RiverRenew is excited to reveal the selected names for two major components of the tunnel system: Waterfront Tunnel and Hooffs Run Tunnel! These names were selected to effectively communicate the geographic location of each component of the tunnel system, while highlighting the waterbodies that the RiverRenew program is focused on restoring. Learn more about the names and selection process here.

Community Listening Sessions – Spring 2019

RiverRenew continues to work through the Environmental Assessment process with the National Park Service. Following its completion, the RiverRenew team will share findings from the Environmental Assessment at the next series of Community Listening Sessions, anticipated in late April to early May.

These listening sessions will be scheduled and announced as soon as the Environmental Assessment is released. Please continue to check our Community Listening Sessions portal for event details and keep an eye out for email updates.

RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group

RiverRenew held the first two meetings with the RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group in February and March. Highlights of the first meeting included an introduction to the members’ roles as RiverRenew ambassadors, an explanation of the Environmental Assessment process, and an in-depth look at soil layers in Alexandria (see “Did You Know?” below). The second meeting focused on RiverRenew’s ongoing soil sampling and environmental studies, mitigation of community impacts, and proposed AlexRenew sewer rate adjustments. Click here to learn more about the RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group and download meeting materials.
Recent and Upcoming Events

- **March 26: RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting**
  RiverRenew held its second meeting with the RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group. Meeting materials are available [here](#).

- **April 1: Soil Sampling in Jones Point Park**
  RiverRenew will be collecting soil samples in Jones Point Park over the next several weeks. [Learn more](#).

- **April 8: Soil Sampling in the Potomac River**
  RiverRenew will be collecting soils samples in the Potomac River riverbed over the next several weeks. [Learn more](#).

- **April 24: City Council – AlexRenew Board Project Review Workgroup Meeting**
  5:00 p.m. – City Hall, Room 2410 (301 King Street)

- **April 27: Alexandria Earth Day**
  10:00 a.m. – Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park (1005 Mt. Vernon Avenue)

- **April 28: AlexRenew Open House**
  3:00 p.m. – AlexRenew Environmental Center (1800 Limerick Street)
  AlexRenew will host an open house to provide an opportunity to learn about the need for more investment in the health of our waterways through increased rates. [Click here](#) for more information.

- **May 1: RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting**
  7:00 p.m. – AlexRenew Environmental Center, Room 600 (1800 Limerick Street)

- **Spring 2019: Community Listening Sessions**
  Dates and locations TBD. Please continue to visit our [Community Listening Sessions portal](#) for event details.

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Getting to Know:

**Caitlin Feehan, P.E., LEED AP – RiverRenew Program Manager**

Caitlin Feehan has become familiar to the Alexandria community since joining the RiverRenew team in March 2018. As Program Manager, Caitlin leads the day-to-day management of planning, permitting and community outreach for RiverRenew. She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Northwestern University and a Master's in Environmental Management from Yale University.

Caitlin puts a face to the RiverRenew program in Alexandria, frequently presenting at community meetings, conducting media interviews, facilitating the RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings and more.

After work, you may catch Caitlin at a yoga class in Old Town or Del Ray, or putting another stamp in her passport. She’s an avid traveler. Her most recent adventure took her to Australia and Fiji!
Did You Know?

There are several soil layers beneath your feet in Old Town! RiverRenew is conducting soil sampling activities, called borings, to test these soil layers and better understand the conditions below ground.

Layers:

- **Fill** has been used within the last 300 years to help shape Alexandria as we know it today, especially along the waterways. The composition and thickness of this layer varies depending on the history of human activity throughout the City. The Fill may contain soils with varying amounts of clay, silt, sand, gravel, cobbles, and boulders mixed with organic and man-made debris such as concrete, brick fragments, newspaper and wood.

- **Alluvium and Terrace** layers consist of soils deposited within the Potomac River Valley by rivers and tributary streams during the Quaternary Period, over 11,700 years ago. The Alluvium layer soils are typically loose as a result of being eroded, reshaped by water and redeposited. They consist of clay, silt, sand, and gravel, with varying amounts of organic material and wood fragments. The Terrace layer consists primarily of dense sedimentary deposits of sands and gravel, and may contain cobbles and boulders.

- The **Potomac Group** includes the Upper Potomac Clay layer and Potomac Sand layer. These soil layers were deposited during the Cretaceous Period – over 66 million years ago! The Potomac Group is very dense because it was once compressed by thick overlying soils that have since eroded away. The Upper Potomac Clay layer is a very stiff clay that can contain layers of sand. Underneath you’ll find the lower Potomac Sand layer, which is comprised of dense sands of varying particle sizes and distributions.

The Waterfront Tunnel will be constructed within the Potomac Clay layer using a state-of-the-art tunnel boring machine, or TBM. The density of the Potomac Clay layer makes it ideal for tunnel construction. Its stiff, clay texture allows the TBM to move through the soil with minimal impacts to the soil layers and ground surface above.

[Click here](#) to see how a TBM works!
Illustration of the soil layers in Alexandria. RiverRenew’s TBM will construct the Waterfront Tunnel in the Potomac Clay layer.