

1. **Trees** are Nature’s simplest carbon sequestration device, but they are sacrificed every day in favor of asphalt. Even when done in the name of other worthy goals, tree loss is real and cumulative and results in compounding the impacts of climate change. The Comprehensive Plan commits the city to protecting its trees. What will you do to reverse the trend of tree cover loss?

Comprehensive Plan Outcome

NE1.4 <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/12382/636867034235100000> pg 107

I oppose the removal of trees in favor of single family homes or low-density commercial development under any circumstances. If trees are to be removed, the development must be of significant density in order to justify the tree loss, since tree removal for a high density development may prevent tree loss of greater magnitude in areas farther out from Washington where land is cheaper, and larger, lower density homes can be built within the same price range, leading to greater tree loss given a certain market demand.

2. **Invasive Plants** are rapidly overtaking our woods. They crowd out native species and make access a struggle for both citizens and wildlife yet the City does not have a plan or staff in place to address this growing problem. What is your strategy for ensuring we have staffing, public outreach, and professional removal to stem the tide of invasive plants?

Comprehensive Plan Outcome NE1.4

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/12382/636867034235100000> pg 107

We need to ensure the Office of Sustainability is adequately funded to support the staffing and outreach required to stem the tide of invasive plants.

3. **Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) and floodplains** help to protect our streams and reduce the impacts of flooding on built areas. Yet in recent years Council has approved projects that encroach upon and even destroy these protected areas. How will you use your leadership position in the City of Fairfax to maintain and enlarge these buffers that protect the headwaters of the Accotink and Pohick Creeks and reduce flooding impacts?

Comprehensive Plan Outcome NE1.1

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/12382/636867034235100000> pg 106

I oppose projects that place impervious surface in RPAs and floodplain areas without an effort to protect the waterway from runoff or a very significant contribution to ADU stock beyond the

minimum requirement. If the enlargement of an RPA or floodplain area is supported by a certified environmental professional with specific justification, I would support that enlargement.

4. Urban Runoff is eroding our streams. Under the TMDL plan for Accotink Creek, the City has a program of stream restoration projects to stabilize stream banks and manage flow. However, the source of urban runoff is the water from our roads, driveways, walkways and roofs, which gets collected into our stormwater pipes and from there piped directly into the streams. What will you do to reduce runoff throughout our city?

*See: <https://www.accotink.org/2017/Vol II Final SED TMDL.pdf>

Comprehensive Plan Outcome NE1.1

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/12382/636867034235100000> pg 107

I will support lower parking requirements, greater building height, and stormwater management requirements in order to reduce the amount of runoff relative to the amount of building space for newer developments, as well as incentives for improvements to existing buildings and developments.

5. The stormwater utility is a new funding mechanism approved by City Council for meeting the state and federal requirements to reduce the impacts of storm water on our streams and ultimately on the Chesapeake Bay. The stormwater utility charges a user fee pegged to the amount of impervious area on each lot, much the way our water meter is used to charge us for the amount of potable water we use. As presented to Council by staff and our financial advisor, Davenport Public Finance, the stormwater utility provides the City with an innovative mechanism to leverage money to fund its stormwater management program in a fiscally responsible manner. Unfortunately, many residents mistakenly believe that the stormwater fee is a tax being imposed on them and see it as an additional financial burden. How will you communicate to citizens the overall fiscal impact of the stormwater utility and how do you envision it being best used to serve the community's needs?

I have been spreading the word about the benefits of the stormwater utility and misleading nature of the opposition rhetoric through my campaign, and I believe the city should engage in more targeted digital outreach to dispel concerns. There will always be stream restoration projects in need of the funding provided by the stormwater utility revenue.

6. Road salt contaminates our streams, aquifers and drinking water. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has recently developed a Northern Virginia

road salt management strategy to reduce salt runoff and an Accotink TMDL for salt. How will you reduce the use of road salt in the City?

Link to DEQ Salt Management Stakeholder Advisory Committee:

[https://www.accotink.org/2021/SaMS Toolkit Summary final.pdf](https://www.accotink.org/2021/SaMS_Toolkit_Summary_final.pdf)

I will support the recommendations of environmental professionals in adopting best practices to reduce the environmental impact of road salt.

7. Light pollution impacts wildlife by disrupting mating, migration and feeding patterns of many species of birds and insects. It also takes away citizens' joy of viewing the heavens and the displays of fireflies. While the City has taken some initial steps, such as using dark sky compliant fixtures in some locations, very few people are aware of the environmental costs of lighting up the night. How can you use your leadership position to ensure the City reduces its contribution to light pollution (such as 'Dark Sky' lighting, removing lights, and insect-friendly wavelengths*)?

Comprehensive Plan Outcome NE2.2

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/12382/636867034235100000> pg 108

* More about Dark Sky Lighting here: <https://www.savingourstars.org/#milkyway>

More about insects and light wavelengths here: <https://www.selux.com/int/en/extended/insect-friendly-lighting>

I support the use of methods to redirect lighting toward the ground rather than the sky, as well as outreach initiatives to educate citizens on the impact of unnecessary decorative or mood lighting outdoors.

8. Plastic trash that litters our roads and trails is washed into our streams with every rainfall. How will you use your leadership position to help the City eliminate single-use plastics at City facilities and functions? What other solutions will you propose to address this community-wide problem?

Comprehensive Plan Outcome SI1.3

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/12382/636867034235100000> pg 111

Since the council collectively is in charge of city staff, I will present the idea of banning the use of single use plastics within city government activities unless no adequate alternatives exist and all single use plastics will be recycled. We also need to engage in outreach to inform residents of the alternatives and practices available to them that they might not be aware of, and perhaps even institute some kind of incentive for reducing use of single use plastics.

9. Natural Landscaping, involves foregoing fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides that are detrimental to soil health, wildlife, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay,

using native plants, and reducing lawn areas. Many practices will need to change to transition to natural landscaping methods. What strategies will you use to transition the City's land management policies to natural landscaping? How will you encourage private landowners to do the same?

Outcome NE1.4.3; NE2.2

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/12382/636867034235100000> pgs 107-108

I support requiring city staff to use only natural landscaping techniques, as well as public education programs and incentives to encourage residents to do the same.

10. How will you use your leadership position to provide effective funding and expertise for the new Urban Forestry Program and environmental responsibilities of the City in general?

I support prioritizing funding for environmental initiatives in Fairfax City. In order to keep taxes low for low and middle income homeowners, significant increases in funding will likely require a progressive real estate tax structure.