

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 will remain vigilant for those opportunities that will allow us to preserve tree cover as well as areas where we can replace and hopefully increase tree cover throughout the City. It is also essential to have a better inventory of our city’s trees, both public and private, especially those that are threatened or endangered

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’ve taken steps through the Environmental Sustainability Committee and other actions to address the invasive species infestation that is occurring throughout the City. However, we will need to increase funding and staffing in order to better address this. We also need to engage the community in other ways to help educate and inform residents and property owners of the need to deal with the 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

There is no question that we must place a priority on protecting and preserving the RPA's and other sensitive environmental resources that directly impact our streams and other areas. I will do my utmost to protect these areas, recognizing that there are often conflicts between development.

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

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The City must use a systematic approach that addresses all sources of urban runoff and wherever possible eliminate or reduce this. I would continue to support initiatives in this area and encourage the creation of metrics to assess how we are doing and what we can do to improve.

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 a strong supporter of the creation of the City's Stormwater Utility and would resist any attempt to eliminate it. We need to be informing our residents, businesses and nonprofits of why this was created and the equitable manner in which property owners are assessed. The creation of this utility is considered a "best practice" by many governmental organizations. We must continue our efforts at citizen outreach and to impress upon our citizens why it is important for our community and for future generations.

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

Our Public Works Department has the lead on the use of road salt and I will support initiatives that reduce the impact of salt on our roads and the environmental degradation that is caused.

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>

Through our capital budgeting I will work with my colleagues to help reduce light pollution wherever possible. We must also use our city tools and information to educate and inform out City residents.

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 S11.3

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

I strongly support the enactment of our bag "tax" and the use of these funds to help educate and inform the public about the impact that this creates on the environment and our streams. I will support initiatives designed to decrease the use of plastics at City facilities and events.

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 the use of natural landscaping wherever possible and will work with my colleagues and City staff to further this both through city projects but in partnership with other groups and organizations throughout the community to encourage property owners to do the same. We should consider incentivizing certain practices that will result in changes to private property owners. We should charge our Environmental Sustainability Committee to study this issue and provide recommendations to City Council and the residents of the City.

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?

The issues of environmental sustainability and preserving critical open space, including forests, is one that should be a priority for the City and for the various Boards and Committees that serve us. We need to look at other communities and prepare a list of best practices that could be considered by the City. Obviously, we need to make a larger commitment of funding and resources in future years, but we also need to be active in engaging partnerships that can further our goals for sustainability