

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 won't support granting exceptions to developers that allow them to destroy more trees than our ordinances permit. I would not vote to grant exceptions to developers for plans that bury streams. I think we need to do a better job of caring for the large trees that are currently in the city (e.g. the tree we lost at Ratcliffe).

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

I think we should work with organizations that have expertise in this area to train city staff on identifying invasive plants and efficient methods to remove them. I think it makes sense to have a storm water utility credit for volunteer work removing invasives.

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 do not agree with giving developers exceptions to encroach upon and/or destroy RPAs. I worked to raise awareness about the Mathy park proposals and worked to convince council and residents that RPAs need to be protected and preserved. I think it's important to understand the best

arguments to convince various people - some people are concerned about having to buy flood insurance and it helps to explain how RPAs can reduce flooding and reduce the need for expensive insurance. Some people are concerned about traffic and parking, some are concerned about crowding. As an attorney, I have practiced and used this skill of shaping arguments based on my audience and that is one way I would use my leadership position to preserve these important buffers.

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

We need to preserve the green/permeable spaces in our city and look for opportunities to return paved spaces to green. We should be telling developers to use permeable paving options. We could have used some of the ARPA funds to install permeable surfaces instead of impermeable. We should not be adding more pavement when it's unnecessary (e.g. paved bike trails in the woods).

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 think part of the problem is the way this was approached and handled. There are issues with the ordinance as written (which I raised with council/mayor) - the ordinance allows the director of the program to change the definition of impermeable and it removed the clause that allows residents to appeal any disputes in court. I think the credit system should have been written with the

ordinance and that would have helped alleviate some resident concerns. The reality is that we were all paying tax money for the stormwater system already. There was an allocation from the general fund to maintain the stormwater system. Many people are probably paying less money towards the stormwater system now. Shifting our tax money from the general fund to a utility program gave the city more flexibility to borrow money to improve our stormwater system. There should have been better leadership, better messaging and a better written ordinance and credit system and I think we would have seen less misunderstandings and fewer objections. I think the department should already have a list of problem locations in the city and should be working with residents to identify where stormwater systems need to be updated. I think residents should be allowed to have gravel driveways and the stormwater utility should be looking for ways to increase permeable spaces in the city. Residents should receive credits for maintaining large/old trees - we shouldn't incentivize replacing large trees with saplings.

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

I have seen a reduction in the use of road/sidewalk salt over the past 2 years. I would further advocate for continuing to reduce its use. I think the city should explore following the DEQ road salt management strategy. I think we want to help business owners understand that it is harmful and help them to reduce the use on sidewalks and parking lots as well.

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 think we should continue to explore places where we can use dark sky compliant lighting. And maybe this is a good project to partner with an environmental group at GMU (or at Fairfax HS) - the students can gain experience in creating a campaign to spread awareness and the city benefits from knowledge about the harmful effects.

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

I would advocate for eliminating single-use plastics at city facilities/functions when it is possible. I will say - I have read that the shift to handing out way too many cloth bags is not environmental either. This could be another great opportunity for a student group or non-profit. I think reminders on social media, magnets that could be placed on front doors, and other methods to educate could be used to help people remember to bring a bag from home. We could use compostable items at city functions and then have collection bins that will be brought back to the city compost center.

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

Luckily there are many great resources online:

<https://www.nontoxiccommunities.com/resources.html> I would definitely support the city's land management to transition to natural landscaping methods. We don't use any fertilizer or pesticides at home. I would encourage homeowners to do the same with education on social media and around the city about the dangers to children and pets from pesticides and fertilizers. This is another area where it's helpful to speak to differing priorities - not everyone is overly concerned about pesticides washing into streams - but understanding that a pet dog could get seizures or a child will have an increased risk of cancer may help convince homeowners to make the change. And it really isn't that difficult.

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 will make sure my priorities are known and will advocate for listening to the environmental experts in our city.