

Key

This draft version shows the edits made to the text of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.

Underline = New text (Sample)

Strikethrough = Deleted text (~~Sample~~)

Double strikethrough = Text moved to different section (~~Sample~~)

Double underline = Text moved from different section (Sample)

Urban Environmental Sustainability Chapter

Vision

Charlottesville will be a “Green City,” with clean and healthy air and water, sustainable neighborhoods, ample open space and natural areas that balance increased development and density in residential and economic centers, and walkable, bikeable, and transit supportive land use patterns that encourage healthy lifestyles.

Urban Landscape & Habitat Enhancement

~~**Goal 1: Value the Rivanna River as a major asset in the life of our city and region and restore it to a healthy condition within our ecosystem in order to improve habitat, watershed health and water quality.**~~

~~1.1: Develop a Rivanna River Corridor Plan in conjunction with Albemarle County and other watershed localities.*~~

~~1.2: Continue collaboration and cooperation with Rivanna Watershed stakeholders, including Albemarle County, University of Virginia, residents, businesses, developers and community groups focusing on watershed and stormwater management.~~

~~1.3: Participate in and partner with the Rivanna River Basin Commission, or appropriate organizations and community groups, on planning, assessment, education and outreach efforts related to the Rivanna River, its corridor and watershed.~~

~~1.4: Ensure that planning for future land and recreational uses along the Rivanna River adequately protects water quality.~~

Urban Landscape & Habitat Enhancement

~~**Goal 2: Promote practices throughout the city that contribute to a robust urban forest.**~~

~~2.1: Implement and update the Urban Forest Management Plan to protect quality of air, water and lands, manage stormwater, provide shading and absorb CO2.~~

~~2.2: Expand and protect the overall tree canopy of the City and increase the canopy of neighborhoods in an effort to achieve American Forest canopy recommendations (urban: 25%, suburban: 50% and center business zones: 15%).~~

~~2.3: Develop methods, including financial incentives, to support retaining and increasing healthy tree canopy on private lands.~~

Urban Landscape & Habitat Enhancement

~~**Goal 13: Protect, increase, and provide an interconnected system of green space and buffers that support habitat for wildlife, improve water quality, and deliver valuable ecosystem services. Pursue a healthy ecosystem, including a robust urban forest, that delivers valuable ecosystem services.**~~

~~3.1: Evaluate the development of a wildlife management policy and plan.~~

~~1.1: Use green infrastructure to improve stormwater management, flood mitigation, air quality, habitat, and aesthetics.~~

~~3.2: Provide an interconnected system of green space and buffers along streams to improve water quality and wildlife and bird habitat.~~

~~3.3: Provide additional habitat corridors and implement natural habitat improvements.~~

~~1.23-5: Improve stream and vegetated buffer conditions to increase wildlife and aquatic habitat, groundwater recharge and stream base flow, decrease stream temperature, provide a food source for aquatic organisms, improve water quality by decreasing sedimentation, and improve environmental aesthetics.~~

~~1.33-4: Promote and participate in programs to establish conservation or open space easements of forested stream-side lands to ensure permanent protection.~~

~~3.6: Reduce loss of open waterways and habitats by daylighting piped streams when possible and discouraging additional underground piping of city streams.~~

~~1.42-1: Continue to implement and update the Urban Forest Management Plan to protect quality of air, water and lands, manage stormwater, provide shading and absorb CO2 with an emphasis on addressing invasive species, diversity, and distribution.~~

~~1.5: Continue to monitor and track changes in urban tree canopy cover to inform planning and management.~~

~~1.6: Include trees, as practicable, in all city priority streetscape plans (e.g., framework streets, safe routes to school, Strategic Investment Areas).~~

~~1.7: Use the 2017 Green Infrastructure Possible Planting Areas analysis as a guide to tree planting efforts.~~

~~1.83-7: Increase~~ Continue public stewardship of City lands and associated habitats through showcase conservation and improvement projects and education.

~~1.93-8: Plant and promote use of regionally-adapted, native, and drought tolerant plants with reference to the regionally specific native plants database, including as part of turf-to-forest conversions and pollinator gardens.*~~

Water Resources Protection

~~**Goal 24: Improve public and private stormwater infrastructure while protecting and restoring stream ecosystems. Protect, enhance, and restore the integrity of the City's water resources.**~~

~~2.14-1: Continue to implement the Stormwater Utility Ordinance and the Water Resources Protection Program (WRPP) to meet a range of water resources goals and challenges; including regulatory compliance, stormwater conveyance infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation, drainage issues system improvements, strategic planning and federal and state-mandated water quality protections required as part of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water quality stewardship.~~

~~4.2: Develop a system of credits that reduce the amount of the stormwater utility fee for any property owner who installs and/or maintains facilities, techniques or programs that measurably reduce stormwater flow or pollutant loadings, as well as an incentives program to promote smaller scale practices that improve a property's management of stormwater.~~

~~2.2: Implement the Water Resources Master Plan capital improvement programs (CIPs) to make drainage and water quality improvements and comply with federal and state-mandated pollutant reductions required as part of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).~~

~~2.34-3: Assess infrastructure and prioritize solutions for the Repair, upgrade and improvement of enhance, and maintain the City's stormwater management and conveyance infrastructure, utilizing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) when advisable where practicable. Establish an ongoing program for inspections, operation and maintenance.*~~

~~2.4: Develop a strategy to improve maintenance of City owned structural stormwater management facilities.~~

~~2.5: Implement stormwater conveyance infrastructure improvements in a manner that minimizes, as practicable, the impacts on receiving water resources.~~

~~2.6: Explore watershed scale compliance strategies to meet project and site specific stormwater management regulatory requirements.~~

~~2.7: Discouraging additional underground piping of city streams.~~

~~2.8: Encourage property owners to implement water resources stewardship practices through incentives, stormwater utility fee credits, and other programs.~~

~~4.4: Identify and track stormwater hazards such as flooding and drainage problems that may threaten people and property and identify or establish funding to remedy or prevent safety hazards.*~~

~~4.5: Reduce and/or eliminate stormwater runoff impacts from sites that lack adequate stormwater treatment by incentivizing reductions in overall imperviousness (i.e., effective imperviousness) and encouraging retrofits on developed properties to address stormwater management.*~~

~~4.6: Examine feasibility of sustainable municipal storm water management facilities such as rain gardens to facilitate higher floor-to-area ratios (FAR) on urban lots, particularly in or adjacent to target zones such as entrance corridors.*~~

~~4.7: Update the subdivision ordinance and standards and design manual to allow for greater design flexibility that encourages tree protection and pervious surfaces.*~~

~~2.94.8: Provide technical assistance and educational outreach regarding water quality and land management practices resources stewardship for homeowners and businesses private property owners.~~

~~4.9: Identify for remediation, areas along the Rivanna River, Moore's Creek, Meadow Creek and their tributaries that have particularly serious streambank erosion.~~

~~2.10 Goal 1: Value the Rivanna River as a major asset in the life of our city and region and restore it to a healthy condition within our ecosystem in order to improve habitat, watershed health and water quality, and recreation.~~

~~2.111.1: Develop a Rivanna River Corridor Plan in conjunction with Albemarle County and other watershed localities.*~~

In Jan 2017, the joint City/ County Planning Commissions recommended proceeding with Phase I of the plan development (develop an MOU establishing a permanent advisory committee to offer guidance for the future use of the river and surrounding land).

Consider moving this item to another section of the Comp Plan (Land Use, Goal 3?)

~~2.121.2: Continue collaboration and cooperation with Rivanna Watershed stakeholders, including Albemarle County, University of Virginia, residents, businesses, developers and community groups focusing on watershed and stormwater management, including education and outreach efforts.~~

~~2.131.4: Ensure that planning for future land and recreational uses along the Rivanna River adequately protects water quality.~~

~~2.15 Continue public acquisition of natural areas along waterways to enable management strategies that protect water and habitat quality.~~

Sustainable Development

Goal 35: Encourage high performance, green building standards and practices and the use of the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED certification program, Earthcraft, Energy Star, or other similar systems.

3.1: As appropriate, create policy and financial incentives to encourage increased building and site performance.

Resource Efficiency

Goal 46: Promote effective and innovative energy and fuel management in both City and community buildings and operations.

46.1: Reduce energy demand and increase energy efficiency community-wide by an average of 30% by 2050 (using a baseline year of 2000); support and collaborate with local energy efficiency partners and stakeholders.

46.2: Pursue and promote cleaner sources of electrical energy (e.g., renewable energy strategies).

46.3: Reduce vehicle-related emissions through increased fuel efficiency, reduced vehicle miles traveled, fleet downsizing, anti-idling efforts and use of alternative fuels (e.g., compressed natural gas, biodiesel, or electric vehicle technology).

46.4: Track greenhouse gas emissions in City operations and the community and strategically explore and implement initiatives to achieve emissions reductions.

Water Conservation

Goal 57: Promote and implement citywide water efficiency and conservation and implement water efficiency and conservation strategies in City buildings and operations.*

5.1: Continue evaluating water use in city buildings and other operations to identify conservation opportunities.

5.2: Maintain an extensive community focused outreach campaign through education and incentive programs to maintain or further decrease average consumption.

5.3. Explore opportunities with community partners to accomplish water efficiency.

Waste Reduction

Goal 8: Promote and implement strategies to reduce waste generation and increase recycling, composting, and waste diversion to decrease environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions.*

Materials Recovery and Waste Management

Goal 6: Promote and implement strategies for sustainable materials management to decrease environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions.

6.1: Continue to explore opportunities to expand public and private recycling, composting, source reduction, other waste stream diversion, and other waste management innovations.

6.2: Maintain lines of communication with neighborhood and business associations, major employers and representatives of high density housing districts so that solid waste management services are adaptably delivered to promote economic development, enhanced walkability, public health and safety, and compliance with all federal and local requirements.