

## HCAN Green Development Standards ( Discussion draft 8/2/23)

**HCAN offers the following *Green Development Standards, a checklist of conservation priorities, to inform decision-making in Henrico County on the part of planners, developers, landowners, residents and elected officials during a period of rapid growth, conversion of land uses, and conservation opportunity.***

***We believe wide application of such practices will help Henrico become an exceptional place to live and do business, now and well into the future.***

***We desire to reside in a locality that proudly stewards its beautiful historic landscape and that holds economic and residential growth to a standard that is ecologically and environmentally sustainable, equitable, and responsible.***

***We ask that Henrico County and its Economic Development Authority routinely consider these factors and incorporate them into their requests for proposals ( RFPs), contracts and agreements, employing best practices wherever possible.***

***We ask that Planning work with developers at all levels, encouraging them to study and incorporate green standards into their projects.***

***We now recommend and submit these development standards, shaped in community meetings during 2022 and 2023, for inclusion in the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.***

### HCAN Green Development Standards:

- \* Employ redevelopment and brownfield strategies over greenfield development.
- \* Protect existing ecological cores.
- \*Mitigate loss of greenfields by active contribution to preservation of equivalent conservation land elsewhere in county, preferably nearby, though perpetual conservation easements.
- \* Provide for retention of a critical mass of deciduous and mature forests.
- \* Provide for interconnected, non-fragmented wildlife corridors ( including for pollinators, reptiles and amphibians, birds.)
- \*Protect prime agricultural soils.
- \*Plan and provide for continued and new agricultural uses.
- \*Identify, respect and and celebrate archaeological and historical sites.
- \*Follow standards for smart growth - where development should concur and what should not be developed.
- \* Always consider multimodal transit, not only automobiles. Consider availability of public transit, along with safe bicycle and pedestrian travel.
- \* Employ best practices in architectural and neighborhood design ( See Route 5 Corridor Study etc) and engage affected communities in the process.
- \*Build for people : facilitate development of public spaces that build a sense of community; incorporate walkability and access to nature.
- \* Employ energy- and water- efficient building and operational standards.
- \* Employ solar and alternative energy uses, including on-site solar arrays.

- \* Use permeable paving.
- \*Consider creative use of impervious surfaces, especially rooftops.
- \* Incorporate native plantings.
- \* Minimize the use of lawns, turf and non-native species.
- \*Minimize the need for stormwater runoff; no net site runoff.
- \*Minimize the use of and responsibly apply any necessary fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides.
- \*Reuse greywater on site.
- \*Design and operate facilities to minimize waste and carbon footprints
- \*Support and participate in a closed food loop, which facilitates and accounts for local food production ( farmers markets, on-site gardening, poultry production ) as well as appropriate reuse and disposal of food waste ( community composting.)
- \* Consider invasive species management ( of both plants and animals.)
- \* Understand and mitigate wildlife impacts ( including bird strikes) and the value of biodiversity.
- \* Consider noise abatement.
- \*Include low impact outdoor lighting.

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