



Our Conservation Wish List!

Best Practices for County Planning

What is the Comp Plan?

- A long-term guide that expresses the values and aspirations of a community.
- The broadest public policy document a community can create for its future physical development.
- A tool to prepare for and manage change.
- A guide for decision-makers.
- The plan is not a legally binding document, but it can serve as a foundation for budgeting decisions, zoning ordinances, land development regulations, and more.
- Includes:
 - Vision statement about the future condition of the County
 - Goals and desired outcomes for each of the plan topics
 - Input of citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders
 - Actions to achieve the goals
 - Objectives to measure progress on goals

Our Goal

Submit public comment from Henrico Conservation Action Network to Henrico County regarding conservation best practices as part of the 2045 Comprehensive Planning process.

Tonight's goals:

Get your reactions to and thoughts on the response development process and prioritization so far.

Encourage your thought process for individual comments.

HCAN August 2022 Meeting



HCAN August 2022 Meeting

Bumper Sticker	Dots	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Preserve farming	5	ag	greenspace	
community composting		ag	waste	
more eco friendly land management & less fert, pest.	3	ag	natives	
support farmers		ag		
food forests		ag		
support farmers and farmland		ag		
sustainable local food sources		ag		
end food insecurity by efficient use of resources	2	ag		
plant based eating education	3	ag	education	
community gardens in food deserts		ag		
establish a green belt (food security)	1	ag	planning	
community gardens in schools	5	ag	education	
smart yards, food yards		ag	greenspace	natives
community composting opportunities	4	ag	planning	waste
improve application of wastewater sludge		ag	waste	water
decrease co2 and methane emissions	1	air	climate	
improved air quality		air		
air quality control		air		
adopt a local climate action plan	8	climate	energy	planning
adaptation & resiliency to sea level rise		climate	water	
establish local office of sustainability		climate	planning	
education of youth to environment	4	education		
increase community preparedness and communication		education	climate	
university involvement in conservation		education	climate	
increase outdoor education		education	greenspace	wildlife
environmental ed and better use of chemicals	1	education	ag	water

Category Sums	
ag	23
air	1
climate	8
education	7
energy	21
greenspace	61
history	6
natives	6
planning	48
transportation	16
waste	13
water	28
wildlife	9
COMBO	
climate/energy	29
green/natives	67

Full meeting results found here: <https://www.conservehenrico.org/what-we-do.html>

The Wish List

HCAN offers this checklist of conservation priorities, for use across Henrico County, to inform the decision-making of planners, developers, landowners, residents, and elected officials during a period of rapid growth and conversion of land uses. We believe that wide application of these conservation practices will help Henrico become known as an exceptional place to live and do business, both now and well into the future. We all desire to be part of a locality that stewards its historic landscape and that commits to sustainable and equitable growth and development. Henrico County and Economic Development Authority requests for proposals (RFPs), contracts, and agreements should consider these factors. Developers at all levels should be encouraged to follow these standards. These ideas were put forward at a community meeting held by HCAN in August, 2022.

The Wish List

Desired Conservation Standards: (Blue = Protection Green = Smart Growth)

- Employ redevelopment and brownfield strategies over greenfield development.
- Protect existing ecological cores.
- Provide for 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 occur and what should not be developed.
- Always consider multimodal transit.
- Employ best practices in architectural and neighborhood design (See Route 5 Corridor Study, etc.)
- Build for people to connect with community, incorporating walkability and access to nature.

The Wish List

Desired Conservation Standards, continued:

- **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 turf and non-native species.**
- **Minimize the need for stormwater runoff; no net site runoff.**
- **Reuse greywater on site.**
- **Consider invasive species management (of both plants and animals)**
- **Understand and mitigate wildlife impacts (including bird strikes)**
- **Consider noise abatement.**
- **Include low impact outdoor lighting.**

HCAN Climate Action Committee

- Working to encourage Henrico County to adopt a Climate Action Plan
 - Held meetings with individual Supervisors this past winter
 - Climate Action Planning Panel discussion last month
 - Next steps:
 - Petition for presentation to BoS in August
 - SMART goal development in progress (next slide)

HCAN Climate Action Committee

- Hire and fully fund a Department of Sustainability for Henrico County
- Develop and fund a plan to protect Henricoans from climate impacts like flooding, extreme storms. This will include a countywide climate vulnerability assessment and more funding for emergency management.
- Commit to shifting Henrico County government operations to 100% renewable energy by 2027, including County-owned buildings, streetlights and traffic signals, leased facilities, and wastewater treatment facility.
- Reducing vehicle miles travelled:
 - Increase county support for public transportation, walking, and safe biking
 - Increasing county support for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
 - All new county fleet vehicles should be electric.
 - Increase funding for Complete Streets, regional connectivity w/ Fall Line, more funding to pilot routes w/ GRTC.
 - Pilot studies for mass transit at currently underserved or unserved areas.
 - Fix-it-first policies for county infrastructure as a countywide ordinance, as applies to road projects.
- Support weatherization/energy efficiency for existing homes and businesses throughout the county, and require green building policies for all new construction. Join the C-PACE financing program, support weatherization for affordable housing and public housing in Henrico.
- Decrease the waste Henricoans send to landfills. Continue to expand and support recycling programs, and implement a plastic bag tax.
- Increase commitment to tree canopy, green spaces, biodiversity. Fully staffed and funded forestry masterplan, provide more funding for tree maintenance and planting, Implement zoning changes that curb removal of existing trees and require a certain degree of planting within developed properties.

Allied Orgs

PARTNERSHIP *for*
SMARTER GROWTH



**AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST** ★ ★ ★

Collaboration informs our response

Other Localities

RVAgreen 2050

RVAgreen 2050 is the City of Richmond's equity-centered climate action and resilience planning initiative to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and help the community adapt to Richmond's climate impacts of extreme heat, precipitation, and flooding.

Loudoun County

Read [Loudoun Wildlife's Comprehensive Plan position statement](#) and Loudoun Preservation and Conservation Coalition's new comprehensive plan review committee's [comprehensive plan summary and points](#).

Current Comp Plan

Chapter 8: Natural Resources

<https://henrico.us/pdfs/planning/2026plan/chap8.pdf>

Environmental considerations are important in Henrico County land use decisions. The county firmly believes that population growth and economic development do not need to degrade environmental quality. Additionally, economic prosperity does not automatically diminish with development practices incorporating accountability for preservation of natural resources. The county understands continued economic development can be enhanced and supported by its rich natural resources.

HCAN's formal comment should serve to expand and enhance with specific desired standards.



Interactive mapping

Meeting in a Box

Email signup

henriconext.us

Next Steps

- Comp Plan Committee work
 - Need champion for specific areas of focus
 - Analyze current plan and areas of opportunity
- Study and respond to land use and transportation maps when available
 - Where to develop, where to protect
- Continued coordination with Climate Action Committee
- Continued coordination with allied organizations
- Possible in-person meeting
- Follow up survey to HCAN members - respond to draft

Thank you!

Feedback at any time:

info@conservehenrico.org