

Comprehensive Plan Update
Online Submitted Comments

Military Presence

They are our economic source. Comply with requests to stop building around NAS Oceana, so our jets can stay.

We need them here - let's be more inclusive.

Cooperate with our military to preserve the mutual good neighbor policies. The tourists would enjoy some F-18 flyovers along the oceanfront.

I love jet noise!

They are our economic source. Comply with requests to stop building around NAS Oceana, so our jets can stay.

Love it

The military has been and I hope will continue to be a vital part of our city.

The Military has been good for us, however, we need to plan the closing of Oceana and work toward the goal of redevelopment for the site in the next 20 years.

Keep them happy

Fine and proud of that.

Do whatever is required by law to keep NAS Oceana here. Also, do whatever "makes sense" to encourage the US Navy to stay here forever!

Keep Oceana

Really work with what is sensible for short, mid and long term rather than react to crisis

Thank the Lord for them!

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Land Use

We will be fine if the jets relocate. Virginia Beach has underestimated its value. We have lived all over the country and we chose to live here once our kids were grown.

Stop all the developing each inch of the Beach. It's very claustrophobic- feeling. Shore Dr. is messy. Independence Blvd. is messy.

Having bars and nightclubs near one's residence is an essential part of quality residential life, and these uses should be permitted in B-1 & B-1A districts.

Don't make it too restrictive

Fairfax County puts our city to shame for the way it has developed and preserved its committees within the county.

We have a poor land use plan. Planning Commission has failed to plan. The use techniques from other areas of the country, that fails to contemplate our needs.

Leave open green spaces. Virginia Beach over builds. Cuts down too many trees.

We need to continue to see the City as a whole made up of parts that relate to each other. Let's use the flood plane overlays, other strategic overlays to good effect

Less hotels and more affordable single family housing

I think isolating neighborhoods from commercial and business was a big mistake! I like the small village concept for neighborhoods.

No - North Virginia Beach – North End “Special Overlay District”

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Public Facilities

Locate the dredge spoil transfer station at the south end of the Western Branch of the Lynnhaven River where most of the dredging is needed.

Love the Amphitheater and the Sportsplex as well as the new Town Center.

Nice

I think we have many excellent public sports facilities throughout the city. Parks and Recreation has many excellent programs.

Capital improvement budgets are out of control. Replacing 30 year old schools because proper maintained has not been completed should be a crime.

I think the city has done a terrific job with school design but I do believe we need more schools.

Older schools need a thorough cleaning. Go in and really Landscape and give outdoor areas for study. (i.e. benches)

More parking lots or garages at the oceanfront that are either free or low costs for residents of Virginia Beach.

Rethink multiuse for our schools and appropriate public buildings. Consider energy efficient everywhere feasible when retrofitting or new.

I would like to see better utilization of school buildings.

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Economic Vitality

We know the off-season creates a money vacuum. The local colleges could be woven in more closely with the town center and resort area in the off season to offer classes, entertainment, lectures etc.

Stop marketing the Beach to just families. We don't have a persona to market. Why would a business come here? We are not a hip city. Not techno-savvy. No identity.

Independent, locally-owned businesses as opposed to national/international chain retail & restaurants are essential for our economic vitality - and make life nice.

Encourage new businesses to relocate here. Help existing businesses to thrive by keeping taxes low and helping them to comply with regulations.

Doing well! I love all the new restaurants and shopping that has come into the city in the last few years.

Streamline permit approvals to make Virginia Beach an attractive location for business. Improve public transportation!!!

Great

Too many resources go to the resort and the Town Center which should never have been allowed to be where it has been built. They missed the point of Reston Town Center.

Once again, this is a private sector issue not a government issue.

Keep the military in Virginia Beach and I believe the area will remain prosperous. Make the area more palatable for big business to set up here. Keep taxes down.

You should take care of your local citizens before the tourists.

Is limited by lack of adequate transportation infrastructure.

Commuter rail is key to the future. I-264 & I-64 are maxed out. We need rail between Norfolk and Virginia Beach and the Navy Base to ease growing gridlock . . . this is the future.

Market Virginia Beach as a green destination.
Require LEED for city & school bldg projects (new/refurbished)
Implement new storm water management practices.

Combine the idea of keeping successful local businesses sustainable (Meg's , The Heritage, Gem Taylors, etc) rather than giving economic incentives to chains found everywhere

Affordable workforce housing contributes to the economic vitality of a community.

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Parks and Open Space

More bike paths.

Trashmore is the only park/open space in Virginia Beach that I can name, unless privately-owned rural land counts.

Need more. Especially ones with athletic fields(soccer, football, baseball, field hockey, lacrosse)

Find green space opportunities in developed areas when they arise. Beautify the city. Create neighborhood parks where possible.

Nice

And where is the Open Space between Red Mill Commons and the Town Center? We should have bike trails and trees everywhere to link neighborhoods.

We waste a lot of money on Parks and Open Space. City government should not be in the land business. Parks are also a poor expenditure for the City. Recreation centers are a waste.

I absolutely love Virginia Beach for its parks and open spaces

Keep all of them.

Good, keep them.

Keep and maintain all existing parks.

Need more parks...bike paths

Fully implement Green Ribbon recommendations.

Acquire open space in strategic locations to protect water in all 5 watersheds, including the Lynnhaven River watershed.

Don't move too quickly to sell or lease or build on valuable open space. The joy of pocket parks, visual nooks and crannies as well as the sheer pleasure of being quiet

Park and Recreation fees are too expensive for many families

As our population grows, we will need to preserve more open space and our farmland. In order to preserve these lands, we may need higher density residential and shopping

We need more open space at the Bayfront!

Kids don't have place to play in Virginia Beach, they need land set aside that they can reach safely from home. Centralized sports facilities benefit too few.

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Cultural and Historical Preservation

Not sure. The culture is military, apparently and it shouldn't be, at least not at the oceanfront. The culture needs to be more like downtown Charlottesville or some sort of southern hospitality in the air, replace current chaos.

So far, so good.

I wasn't aware that Virginia Beach had any real culture or history worth preserving.

Work on the Pungo/ Courthouse areas to make them more attractive of shops, restaurants, etc. Almost like mini town centers.

Okay

We have a rich history. How many Councilmen/women know our history? We could be a rival to Williamsburg. Norfolk and Portsmouth have grown their programs.

Government should leave this to the private sector.

I believe historic preservation is important

Keep up the good work. Both are important now and to future children.

We've lost so much. Conserve and market what we have in old buildings, sites. Incorporate them into an atmosphere of a Resort community like no other. Don't replicate Disney!

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Natural Environment

Too much litter and other pollution clog the creeks and rivers in Virginia Beach. I don't know if the plan is the appropriate way to fix that, but... it needs fixing.

We are a "water" community. Every effort should be made to maintain our waterways and promote an environment beneficial for fish, crabs, oysters, etc. and those who enjoy.

We have a beautiful city. Love First Landing Park and Back Bay areas. The resort area is pretty as well.

Nice

Our natural environment should be protected at all costs; we can't easily recreate it once it is destroyed.

Again the beauty of the area is a draw for people. Keep the beaches healthy and the natural environment safe.

Needs much more work here. All the parks are very popular. Need bike paths all over city.

Commuter rail will provide alternative transportation options and reduce use of fossil fuel for cars, etc., preserving our clean air quality.

Improve water quality as a major goal for all waterways.
Continue support of oyster restoration; Lynnhaven River/Owls Creek
Establish fertilizer guidelines for private properties.

We've got it all, but we pave it over or tend toward putting things in areas which are already wonderful. Such as the beach. Use it for appropriate events, not big trucks, et al

Plant more trees to help reduce pollution

Preserve the Lynnhaven River. Preserve First Landing Park, a real treasure in this city.

All in all we do a pretty good job. I'd like to see better protection of the Lynnhaven, better access to the Bayfront and reduction in auto use.

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Community Design

Don't see it much. We do not need any more tributes to the military (or to former residents) at the oceanfront. Looks hodgepodge to me right now. Looks like groups "buy" bits and pieces for their own promotion. Ignore the rest. Not my thing.

More fountains.

We need more skyscrapers. A city without a proper skyline just doesn't look right.

Love crepe myrtle trees!

Require green space in new developments.

It looks great, you're doing well.

Our city is ugly, roads are ugly. We could be a beautiful place but the council has to recognize the potential of areas other than the Ocean front and Town Center.

The Planning Commission and City Council have instituted a Zoning Ordinance that is unfair to the property owners. Government tries to control the market with its Zoning Ordinance and has failed to provide a stable level playing field for all citizens.

I like to see communities designed around shopping areas and schools within communities

The city develops to fast without much thought into it-more is not better. Who allowed the multicolored condominiums in Sandbridge at Little Island? No one likes it. One word - obnoxious!

Avoid overdevelopment, which worsens traffic/evacuation.

Look at bikes lanes on Virginia Beach Blvd or other major throughways.

We need to adopt the Resort Area Strategic Plan so those of us who live and work here can get behind a Vision for the entire City.

Design and designate communities for housing the people who serve the community.

Increased density can be attractive when coupled with proper design standards and appropriate building materials.

No more strip malls and huge parking lots.

I favor protection of existing neighborhoods, more pedestrian friendly village type areas, and integrated transportation systems that allow for walking, biking, bus service, etc.

No - North Virginia Beach – North End “Special Overlay District”

This is an illegal approach to aesthetic based zoning, and a back-door approach to revisit R5 proposals that do not benefit the majority of North End property owners.

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Housing and Neighborhood Preservation

The neighborhoods are allowing an eclectic culture to thrive. Don't mess with them.

We need more zoning of R-5D, R-5S, A-24, and A-36 districts. Also, a denser district than A-36, so we can have apartments like Norfolk's Hague Towers, should be created.

Code enforcement is necessary to keep our neighborhoods from getting shabby and affecting property values.

Green Run and many areas like it need some standards and massive maintenance enforced. It is an eyesore and brings down the city. City curb trees need help too.

With the lack of developable land we have to encourage higher density housing. Need affordable units for the work force that are desirable and distinguishable and integrated.

Okay so far.

Respect the very elderly residence in the Nimmo area that cannot walk to visit their family members due to the high speed and density of traffic in the Mt. Zion area.

Each community should have a historical story known to the residents that should make them proud to be a part of a long heritage. Our historical homes should be protected.

We want to follow the failed Norfolk model [sic]. We should let free enterprise work. At most we should give some credits to business but get out of the business of others.

Keep the neighborhoods safe by not running major thru ways through neighborhoods.

Plant more trees/landscaped areas. Encourage cleanup of neighborhoods. This will help install more pride in communities, perhaps less crime.

Enforce "no parking on lawns" rules in blighted neighborhoods.

Less new construction

Work with schools on implementation of environmental education programs. Establish pedestrian friendly neighborhood & commercial areas; expand bike paths.

Continue to engage the owners and (yes, even renters) in the work of making this our City use school and other programs to design gardens, help maintain older stock

Utilize more programs such as have a HUD had to promote having Police and teachers buy homes in existing neighborhoods [sic].

There continues to be a need for affordable workforce housing. Increased density is one tool that can be used to ensure that affordable housing units are built.

Preservation of our older, wooded neighborhoods.

I think we'll face more issues concerning aging neighborhoods in the next 20 years. Cars have really changed the way our neighborhoods look.

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Rural Area

What rural area?

Again, some growth is fine as long as the roads are totally widened and improved with sidewalks along side.

Preserve and ensure a percentage of green space while allowing and facilitating affordable residential growth. Encourage new public transit routes as new areas emerge.

N/A [sic]

This area should be carefully guarded from development and property owners rewarded for sustaining the farming and rural areas.

We spend a lot of money to preserve our rural area. The market will determine what is developed in rural areas and government should get out of the process.

One of the draws to Virginia Beach is that it has something for everyone. There is city, beach and rural. We have a great mix here.

Keep it. Please leave downtown Pungo alone. Don't change it. Who needs more when less is so much better?

Encourage "boutique" crops, don't build where there's no infrastructure, and keep traffic low where farm equipment has to function.

A tremendous resource! Let's protect.

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Resort Area

Clean it up!! It's messy, cluttered and intimidating to some. The ambience attracts the level of behavior people complain about.

Policies that cater to the Resort Area - in other words, to tourists - risk making Virginia Beach into the epitome of "great place to visit, wouldn't want to live there."

Promote more tourism and conventioners. It keeps our taxes down and provides resources to make our other needs affordable.

Great improvements have been made there to the whole boardwalk area. It has really been cleaned up and it is a nice family place to visit. Love the concerts and festivals.

Splendid

It is unfriendly to residents, has a honky tonk look on Atlantic Ave. and is an embarrassment to our city. We used to love to meet friends there, now we avoid it.

Much money has been and continues to be wasted on improvements at the Oceanfront. If business wants to improve the Ocean Front they will, not government.

The improvements along the resort area in the last 10 years have been terrific. I think we should keep up the improvements

Stop construction of tall buildings.

Is difficult to reach and this causes people to go elsewhere.

We need to have more available parking, especially during the tourist season, for actual residents of Virginia Beach. We need affordable parking at the oceanfront for residents.

Continue to work on sustainability, local participation, and safety through combinations of multiuse, residential. Work on residential parking, don't build an Atlantic Ave barrier of hotel

Clean it up, not very family orientated any more. Too much bad behavior and bad language. No one I know goes any more.

Enough already! Let's focus on something else.

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Transportation/ Transit

I do not want to see our local taxes wasted on a rail system that no one would use. Instead get more buses on the road.

Build the train!! Invest in public transportation.

Multi-modal transportation that has flexibility and gives people multiple acceptable options on how to get from Point A to Point B is essential for a successful city.

I am personally opposed to "light rail" because of the cost/returns ratio. But, if it has to be built, it must be elevated to prevent impacting road traffic.

Bike/run/walk paths need to link every large neighborhood to shopping/schools. Independence Blvd and I-264 is a mess.

Decrease automobile dependence. Build light rail from Norfolk to the Oceanfront. Improve bus service throughout the city; look for creative alternatives to the HRT system.

I do not want to see our local taxes wasted on a rail system that no one would use. Instead, get more buses on the road.

Seems great

The transportation infrastructure cannot support the increased population. Finish Nimmo Parkway to alleviate some of the traffic on Princess Anne Rd.

Our roads are congested yet in most areas, buses are convenient only for those who can walk long distances.

One of the basic services that should be provided by City government is transportation. Our City continues to fail to provide necessary road and repairs.

Bike paths are the future.

Needs improvement, elimination of choke points, see above

We need to extend The Tide from Norfolk all the way to the Oceanfront. I support this 100%!!!

Keep working on light rail, all sorts of alternative ways to get to our destinations.

More bus routes and paths for walking or biking to work.

Need for alternatives to the automobile and road building.

We need better biking and pedestrian facilities (better connections), light rail, and bus service.

Virginia Beach has significant support for recreational cycling, but not the roads to support it. As an economic and lifestyle issue, improve the roads by requiring riding space.

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Other Topics

Redistrict certain neighborhoods for certain schools.

Virginia Beach is very rigid, conservative, and behind the times for young people to have much interest in moving or remaining here. Lighten up! Young people are our future.

The city should not participate in "economic development takings". Only 100% public facilities like roads or schools should ever be permitted on eminent-domain land.

People who work in Virginia Beach need to be able to live in Virginia Beach!

Keep the property taxes in check. Also, I don't want to live in a sanctuary city for illegal aliens. Move 'em out and on!

Redistrict certain neighborhoods for certain schools.

Baby boomers are aging and moving away. Our communities are not elderly friendly or convenient.

Our politicians need to care more about the city than personal agendas.

Keep up the recycling.

Focus more on residents vs. tourists!!! We pay our taxes, but are unable to enjoy the benefits of the oceanfront due to lack of or high cost of available parking!!!

Increase passive recreation facilities (walking & hiking paths, bike paths, nature trails, etc.)
Recognize importance of sustainability to attract new residents, clean industry, etc.

Mixed income communities create vibrant neighborhoods.
