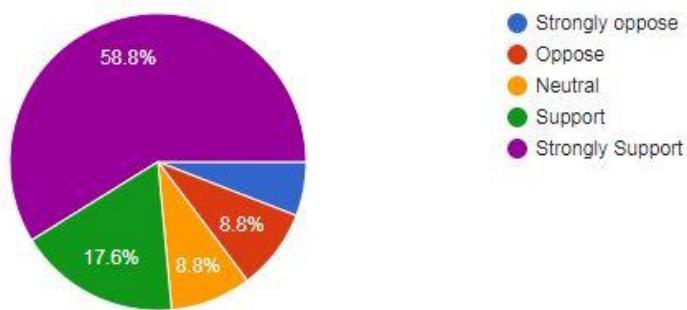


Results of Online Survey about Draft Strategies for the Comprehensive Plan to Incorporate Biodiversity Strategies

34 Responses – Survey was Open from November 2018 through 1/24/19

4a: Implement an Action Plan for Biodiversity that includes protection of significant areas of biological importance in the County.

34 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4a?

7 responses

Maintenance and protection of the natural resources of Albemarle County is critical to ensure its protection for decades and centuries. It is too easy to think short term and favor destruction of natural resources for development and not take a stewardship role in protecting the land for perpetuity.

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

develop incentives for higher stewardship performance when no development. add requirements to any construction to improve standards

What areas of the county are of biological importance? Does this mean the county wants to prohibit farmers/land owners from selling their land to developers if they want?

W

E

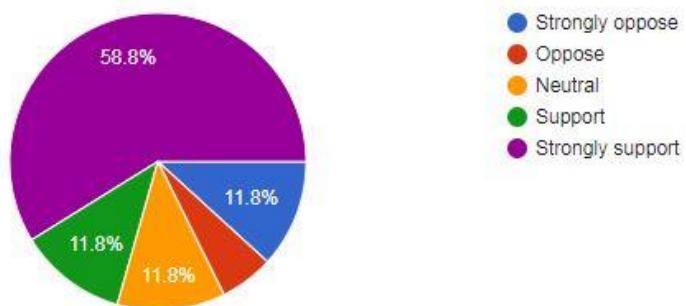
Have too many restrictive rules-no more needed

I have read the documents provided. I am shocked - to say the least - that not a single provision or proposal is made to support remediation or restorations of areas devastated, overgrown, or threatened by non-native species. I have been fighting invasive species of plants FOR YEARS at my home and it is a losing battle because neighbors are not doing, and County is not doing. Shocked! to say the least that provisions and proposals and plans have nothing! to say or to do about this. Also I have reviewed all the maps. The important biodiversity, habitats, and 'habitat connectivity' - as the maps emphasize! - along the entire James River border of the County is ignored! Again, profoundly shocking!

Please do not make it ANY harder to develop in the designated development areas!

4b: Use existing tools (e.g., conservation easements), develop strategies, and implement new conservation programs to protect lands in the three conservation focus areas, other conservation targets (e.g., examples of the five key ecosystems described below, large forest blocks or other intact, important habitat), and lands that can serve as habitat corridors or connections among important habitat areas.

34 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4b?

7 responses

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

Be more specific about the actual need of an easement in any particular situation/location

may need new tools too

Emphasize denser building for new construction

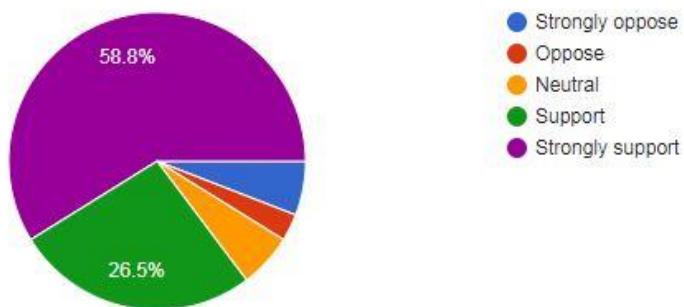
The historical 'conservation easement' program has OBVIOUSLY been applied in a biased manner to substantially benefit LARGE land owners. This is an UNFAIR, UNJUST, INEQUITABLE, and UNTRUSTWORTHY system unless profoundly scrutinized and modified by public forums and comments. 4B is untenable without broad public scrutiny of conservation easements (ACE) system and other 'tools' - as 4b contemplates. The current CE system - by simply looking at the map - shows that the ACE largely benefits large land holders, thereby decreasing their fair, just, and equitable contributions to the public good by reducing their taxes. Can the County avoid the claim that this is racially and class biased? No County cannot. At a time when more taxes are needed - for public education, public safety, economic development, affordable housing, infrastructure, etc - the current ACE system is adverse to the stated purpose "of a lasting benefit to the public through the protection of open space, scenic beauty, wildlife habitats, air and water quality."

Increase funding for the ACE program.

This is fine so long as these new tools/strategies/programs do not make it ANY harder to develop in the designated development areas! And these programs MUST be voluntary and not regulatory.

4c: Protect and conserve natural resources on County-owned land to enhance biodiversity.

34 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4c?

6 responses

how will you measure "Success?"

Biodiversity protection and recreational use are not mutually exclusive. We can and must accomplish both if we hope to connect people to nature.

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

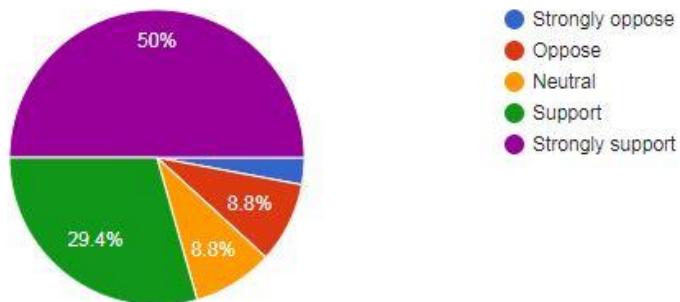
as county has done in any other categories, showing the good example will encourage others to follow

BUT reflecting on earlier point the plan says and does NOTHING about remediation/restoration of County land that is compromised by non-native species. County's poor stewardship impacts neighbors who are themselves trying to combat non-native invasive species but County is not wholeheartedly doing so.

Restrict the use of pesticides. Use them only in emergency situations.

4d: Preserve existing vegetation in areas shown as Parks and Green Systems on Development Area Master Plans.

34 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4d?

6 responses

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

This is particularly relevant for development of the new Biscuit Run Park plan.

improve vegetation where it is substandard for conservation, avoid use of chemical controls wherever possible

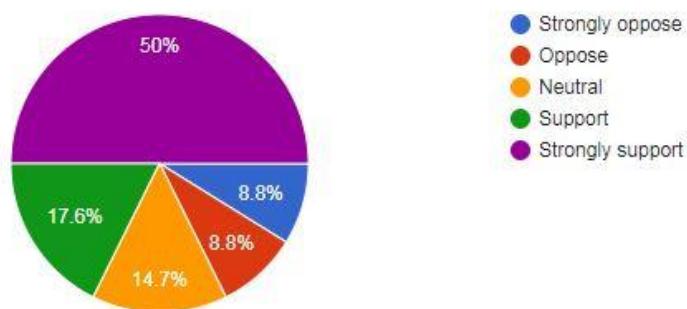
I support this concept, generally. If the existing vegetation in an area shown as Parks and Green Systems is low-quality or full of invasives, it would be better to manage it to promote biodiversity rather than to "preserve" it. Perhaps it would be better to change the first word in this strategy to "Conserve" rather than "Preserve".

BUT the plan says and does NOTHING about the unique biodiversity, habitat and 'habitat connectivity' along the James River border of the County!

Do not make it any harder to develop sports fields and other desparately needed recreational spaces. We need more ACTIVE and USABLE green space, not just vegetation. With 95% of the County designated for Rural Areas, do not restrict use of these areas any more than they already are.

4e: Revise criteria for ACE (Acquisition of Conservation Easement Program) and ACEA (Albemarle Conservation Easement Authority, formerly the Public Recreational Facilities Authority) easement applications to more accurately identify biodiversity resources and conservation needs.

34 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4e?

6 responses

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

Be more critical of actual need.

There are numerous public recreation areas for multiple use (boating, biking, swimming) but few for quiet, passive use (hiking, birdwatching). I strongly support increased acreage for passive use, preserving the ecosystems required for supporting animal & birdlife diversity. Active use areas become so inhabited by people that is discourages animals & birds.

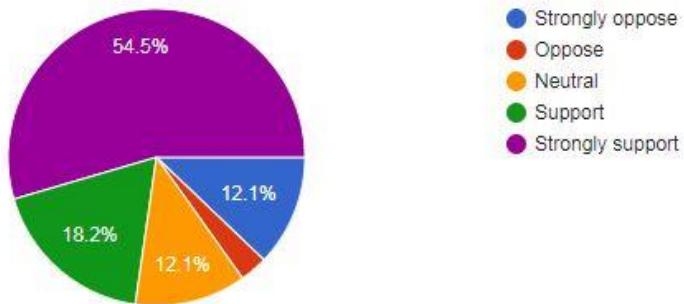
And MUCH MORE must be modified about ACE. See my earlier comments.

Increase funding.

It seems very helpful to have more rigorous criteria for evaluating applications.

4f: Take steps to conserve and protect high priority Important Sites in the County.

33 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4f?

7 responses

Who is going to decide what is "important"? "Important" to whom?

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

What are 'high priority important sites in the county'??

What are the high priority Important sites?

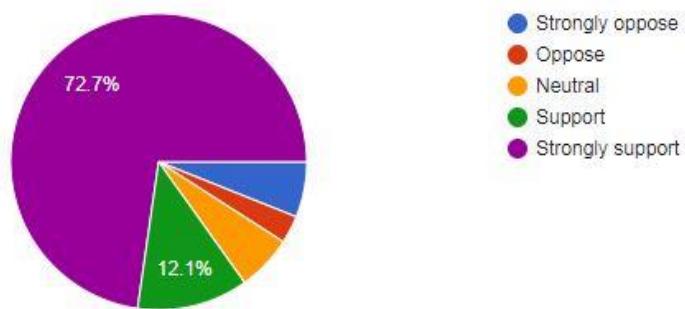
Who decides what is important ? If it's developers and the current status of quo, this will likely be used to benefit the wealthy and white wealthy.

We see the map of the 'important' sites designated such by a County Natural Heritage Committee. Why are the historically Black and poor rural communities ignored with NO 'important sites'? The mission - so the website reports - of the Committee is "to maintain and restore the County's native biological diversity and provide a healthy environment for the citizens of Albemarle County." The Committee appears to REJECT the second phrase as UN-important or beneath their notice: 'health environment for the citizens of the County'. Why then are poor rural and historically Black communities - who have historically interacted with the natural environment for centuries in these areas of the County! - CENTURIES! - been ignored and demarcated without 'importance'? Again class and racial bias are infused throughout the 'tools' and 'references' of the plan. This must be overcome just as County Schools are studying the infusion of class and racial bias in naming of schools: Natural Heritage Committee must understand and explain any infusion of bias in their work. GET ON IT, ALREADY!

If possible, the county should purchase some of these sites.

4g: Encourage the use of locally native plants in landscaping to protect and provide habitat for native biodiversity, to save water, and to connect landowners to the local ecosystem.

33 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4g?

6 responses

In addition to encouraging the use of native plants, I support educating the community in the destructive impact of various non-native flora, which can become invasive and impossible to eradicate.

This is nonsense explain how you are going to regulatorily "connect landowners to the local ecosystem."

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

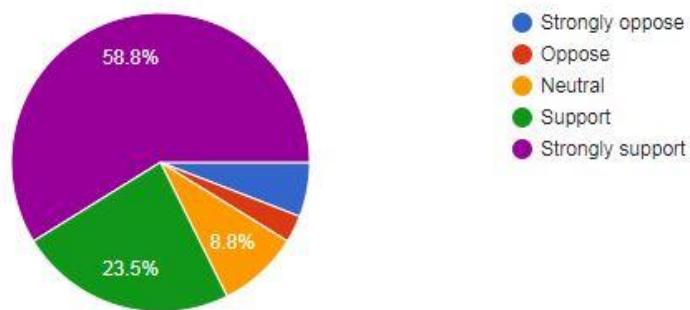
This section would benefit from a mention of the habitat creation, stormwater retention, and urban heat island reduction of green roofs (with a particular reference to native vegetation on green roofs) in the urban areas.

BUT, also have a strong plan to assist property owners to remove non-native invasive and dangerous species. Preferring small land owners and lower-income land owners who cannot otherwise do that work.

Perhaps refine to "locally grown native plants," which would link to a possible supply chain improvement and economic development stimulus for local nurseries raising these plants.

4h: Collaborate with resource management agencies, partners, and landowners to manage non-native invasive species to reduce their impacts and limit their spread.

34 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4h?

5 responses

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

do not use chemical controls, no spray herbicide or pesticides. worse than the weeds and bugs

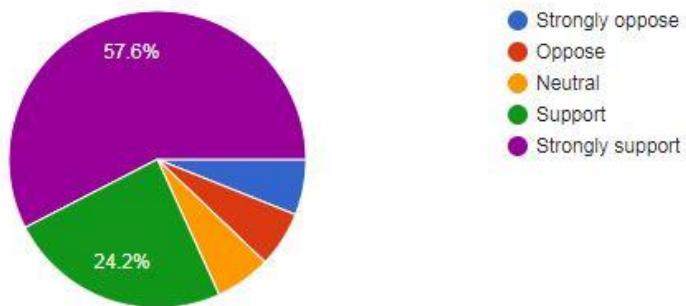
I hope that this strategy will apply to county-owned lands as well as encouraging practices on private lands.

BUT no merely 'collaborate'. That must be explained. The proper term might be 'Coordinate and support'.

I do not support the wide use of synthetic chemical pesticides to exterminate invasive species.

4i: Include aquatic and riparian habitat enhancement with strategies for water quality when developing the comprehensive water resources plan.

33 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4i?

4 responses

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

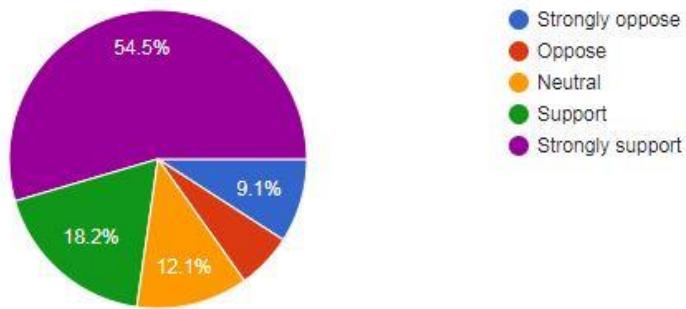
After every rainfall, our waterways run brown with silt. This runoff is unhealthy for both terrestrial and aquatic life forms—topsoil needs to remain in place to do its job in the ecosystem.

YES, so why is the James River border of the County obviously given such poor consideration? That must be explained directly! If Albemarle doesn't want to work with neighbor counties, or the Rail Road, then say so. Or say whatever the reason would be. BUT SAY IT directly.

Do not implement these strategies in the designated development areas.

4j: Increase the community's awareness of the importance of biodiversity to encourage protection of biological resources.

33 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4j?

4 responses

This is another feel good initiative. Money is better spent elsewhere.

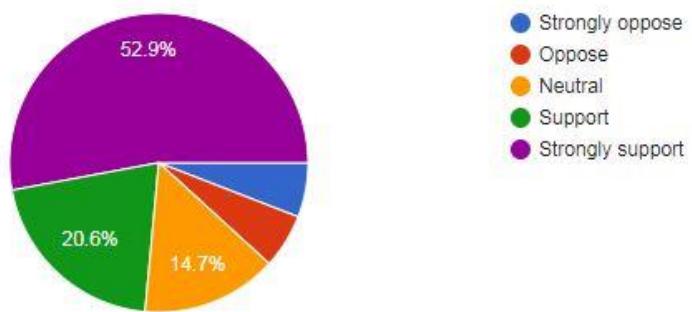
This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

Offer more specific information than I have seen.

our survival depends on it

4k: Continue to collaborate with federal, State, and regional partners, who have geographic information on biological resources, to help build a biodiversity inventory.

34 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4k?

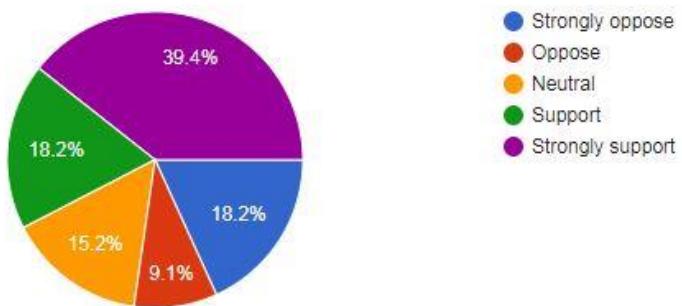
2 responses

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop.

Beware of other government interaction. Use extreme caution as we all know that government causes as many problems as it helps.

4I: Retain a position for a County staff member with expertise in conservation biology.

33 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4I?

5 responses

Missed this in the County Charter. Is there anything that says you can do this? And why don't you get what you already have running properly instead of hiring even more staff? More bureaucrats is not the answer.

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop. You are clearly looking for ways to waste taxpayers hard earned money. STOP!

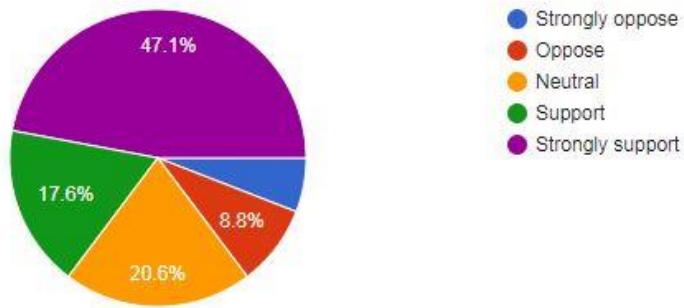
Depends on politics and ability to be truly neutral. If stores like Lowe's are pushing roundup and this person won't stand up to corporate interests, then efforts are grossly undermined.

If a new staff will be focusing on large landowners primarily NO! If spending equitable time in poor rural communities, with small landowners, etc Yes!

Not appropriate for Comp. Plan. This would be a separate HR decision.

4m: Develop indicators and monitor data that reflect the state of biodiversity in the County. Regularly repeat the land use/land-cover data-gathering process (as begun in 2009) for the purpose of monitoring landscape changes.

34 responses



Do you have any comments or questions regarding proposed strategy 4m?

4 responses:

This is unnecessary and costly. Stop. You are clearly looking for ways to waste taxpayers hard earned money. STOP!

confirm the information about streams in our gis. many are missing so comm devel cannot do their job to protect with buffers.

We would agree but if the County's UNFAIR, UNJUST, INEQUITABLE and UNTRUSTWORTHY ACE program is an indicator we don't have high prospects for SCIENTIFICALLY UNBIASED data collections or monitoring!

minimize government oversight and negative impact to property owners

Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding these proposed strategies for the Comprehensive Plan?

10 responses

DEFEND Mother Earth! WE ONLY HAVE ONE!!!

There is no need for this. Clearly you have a strategy to grow government even larger which is a waste of money. Stop.

Green (vegetated) roofs provide a mechanism for providing habitat continuity for birds and insects in the developed areas where large areas of pavement disrupt habitat connections. Please consider the creation of a specific section in this report to address specific conditions of the developed areas, in which such strategies as green roofs and rain gardens can play a role in protecting biodiversity that is different than in the rural areas.

bring back the ground water monitoring wells. have partners staff the readings.

NO MORE RULES

An informed public is to be supported, but bigger gov't is not the answer!

It is great to see Albemarle taking Biodiversity seriously in the Comp Plan strategies!

OVERALL the Comp Plan IGNORES the guidance in the Virginia Code:

§ 15.2-2223. Comprehensive plan to be prepared and adopted; scope and purpose. "The comprehensive plan shall be made with the purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the territory which will, in accordance with present and probable future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the inhabitants, including the elderly and persons with disabilities." So why does the County's Comp Plan ignore ALL OF THIS: "best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the inhabitants, including the elderly and persons with disabilities." ? How can we trust the Comp Plan process that ignores a key GUIDANCE in the Code for what the Plan would cover?

Make the plan simple enough for most to understand. Redo plan for consumption by common citizens.

Do not make it any harder to develop or redevelop in the designated development areas!!