

This fact sheet outlines the policies Gavin Buckley will pursue as Mayor to address the three most pressing environmental issues facing Annapolis:

- Climate Change
- Water Quality
- Preserving Green Spaces

Climate Change

Why it matters

Rising sea levels are a direct threat to our City. Annapolis has seen nuisance flooding increase by more than 920% since 1960 – **the highest increase of any US city**. Between 2007 – 2013, Annapolis had an average of 39 nuisance flooding days each year and this number, as well as the degree of flooding, is expected to rise significantly over coming decades.¹ We cannot ignore the urgency or the increasingly severe impacts of climate change and rising sea levels. Flooding threatens our City infrastructure, real estate and, above all, the safety and well-being of residents. Policies that both mitigate the impacts of climate change and address it's underlying causes are required.

What Gavin will do

- Commit to the Paris Climate Accord, which establishes the standards all cities and nations must meet to limit the worst impacts of global climate change.
- Review the City's storm and flood plans and preparedness to ensure we are emergency ready.
- Ensure the current process to design appropriate pumping stations and barriers at City Dock is fit for purpose and, if so, fully funded.
- Develop broader flood mitigation zones and natural barriers between the city and water, to protect all parts of the City where flooding is a direct threat to infrastructure and safety.
- Seek innovative solutions – for example, launching an international design competition – to help our city adapt to rising sea levels and implement appropriate measures to address climate change.
- Advocate for our City to the County, the State, and the Federal Government to ensure funding and other support that will guarantee our immediate safety and long-term viability.
- Identify and vigorously pursue all alternative sources of funding to ensure we have the resources to implement flood mitigation solutions.
- Seek input from a wider range of sources – especially researchers, scientists and other experts – to inform City decision making and ensure addressing climate change, and adapting to its impacts, are strong and clear priorities under our Comprehensive Plan.
- Bring together all sectors of our City – residents, community groups, education providers and business – to generate local initiatives that support Annapolis in moving toward a healthier and more sustainable future.
- Encourage energy efficiency partnering with existing federal, state, and county programs to promote conversion to energy efficient appliances, including the biannual state sales tax holiday for energy efficient appliances.

1. Data is taken from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration report: *Nuisance flooding: an increasing problem as coastal sea levels rise*
http://www.noaa.gov/stories2014/20140728_nuisanceflooding.html

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- Establish a volunteer commission of citizen advocates on green energy to publish seasonal recommendations on methods to improve household energy efficiency and/or partner with the public and private entities already running similar programs.
- Prioritize clean energy production in the development process and Comprehensive Plan, including additional solar farms and other renewable energy generators such as wind turbines.
- Address traffic congestion by creating pedestrian, bike, and trolley paths that connect West Annapolis to Eastport, and on to Forest Drive and Parole.
- Work with the County to ensure sufficient bus coverage and promote use of the public transit system through better signage, maps and by leveraging technology.
- Prioritize public transport and environmentally friendly transit options in the Comprehensive Plan to ensure that development cannot outpace efficient, green transit services.
- Introduce two new trolley services: The 'East-West Flyer' to connect the Navy Stadium to the base of the Eastport Bridge, and the 'Crosstown Flyer' to connect Gate 3 of the Naval Academy to Maryland Avenue, St. John's College, West Street and Main Street.

Gavin's Commitment on Climate

“As Mayor, I will not only implement practical measures to address the impacts of climate on our City, I will also strive to make Annapolis a leader in combatting the causes of climate change through renewable energy, preservation and extension of green spaces, alternative modes of transportation, and greater energy efficiency.”

Water Quality

Why it matters

Annapolis is deeply connected to water. Our location on the Chesapeake Bay is at the heart of our city's founding and the Bay and its tributaries remain an important part of our city economy, environment and local culture. This means that clean and healthy water for drinking and recreational use are not only public health and environmental imperatives, but economic and moral ones. Sadly, the health of our waterways is under significant threat. Local rivers and creeks all suffer impaired water quality due to excess nutrients, high levels of suspended solids, and the presence of fecal coliform bacteria – an indicator of sewage contamination.² Better management of stormwater and boat sewage discharge are two vital steps in addressing these problems and ensuring the viability and safety of our waterways and the recreational, economic and community life of our City.

What Gavin will do

- Introduce a staged realignment of the city's storm-water fee – 80% of which currently goes towards the general budget and staffing – to ensure the funds are used for their intended purpose: managing and reducing polluted runoff and retrofitting the city's aging storm-water drains to capture pollutants at the level needed to protect waterways.
- Create more green space to act as a natural buffers and filters between parking lots, roads, sidewalks and local waterways.
- Build storm water management zones and provisions into the City's Comprehensive Planning process.
- Enforce existing laws that require developers with appropriate resources to meet above minimum stormwater management protocols if a local stream is degraded (as all currently are).
- Enforce existing 'no untreated boat discharge' laws in our creeks through signage, public awareness and improved policing.
- Establish Annapolis as a 'No Discharge Zone' under US Environmental Protection Agency

² Severn River Commission: *Environmental Threats*
<http://www.aacounty.org/boards-and-commissions/severn-river-commission/environmental-threats/>

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regulations to prevent discharge of both *treated* and *untreated* boat waste in keeping with recommendations of the Severn River Commission.

- Replicate the successful tire disposal program and eliminate the boat waste pump out fee of \$5, which is regarded as a deterrent to discharge compliance.³
- Ensure the city's sewage waste management infrastructure and procedures are informed by best practice and adequate for both current and future demands.
- Engage local conservation groups, non-profits, advocacy organizations, schools and residents to implement practical water quality initiatives such as developing more wetland buffer zones, revegetating creeks, and reducing incidental waste.
- Encourage our connection to water and awareness of water quality management, and the part we can all play in it, by engaging and consulting all sectors of our community on water quality issues
- Promote education and awareness among all residents of the important contributions they can make to water quality by managing personal, household and pet waste.

Gavin's Commitment on Water Quality

“ I am committed to improved water quality through better management of storm water runoff, creating and enforcing no-discharge zones, and reducing the prevalence of impervious surfaces along our waterways. Working from the principle that when we are engaged more, we care more, I will seek to extend and deepen our connection to the water through public awareness and education programs and increased water access for all residents, regardless of income. ”

Preserving Green Spaces

Why it matters

Green spaces – parks, forests, and environmental corridors – provide more than enhanced quality of life and recreational opportunities; they are vital to a healthy environment and the quality of our air and water. Maintaining green space is essential to preserving plant and animal habitat, providing buffers and filters for our waterways, and to combatting the impacts of green house gases and climate change.

What Gavin will do:

- Prioritize the preservation, enhancement and extension of green spaces throughout the City.
- Create green spaces and waterside green buffer zones beginning with City Dock, currently a parking lot and access zone filled with impervious asphalt, brick, and concrete surfaces that collect runoff from Main Street and dump pollutants directly into Spa Creek.
- Review the city dock master plan and ensure its environmental initiatives are implemented.
- Engage and consult with the local environmental groups including the Annapolis Conservancy, one of the few public urban land trusts in the country and a strong advocate for preserving open space.
- Develop green corridors that provide filtration and buffers for storm water, avenues for sustainable transit options such as walking and cycling, and connect residents to the natural environment and to one another.
- Utilize Project Open Space funds to connect the B&A Trail to the Navy Stadium, the Historic District, Quiet Waters Park, and beyond.
- Enhance vegetation and extend the cycle way on the Poplar Trail to promote pedestrian and bicycle use.

³ Capital Gazette: *Officials exploring establishing Annapolis as a No Discharge Zone*
<http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/annapolis/ph-ac-cn-annapolis-bay-discharge-0427-20160426-story.html>

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- Integrate trees and forests into the cityscape by including appropriate provisions in the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Preserve and enforce the 'No Net Loss' provision in the development process to ensure the city maintains current forest and vegetation levels.
- Work with all sectors of the community to identify, create, enhance and protect green spaces and corridors.
Engage residents in the early stages of development projects to ensure critical feedback is received on possible environmental impact

Gavin's commitment

“ I am committed to strengthening our connection to the natural environment and to protecting and expanding green spaces to ensure our City's growth and development is balanced with the need for a healthy environment and climate. I will seek to establish more green space buffers between developments and between the City and it's waterways, and I will connect parks, nature trails and green transit routes so residents all across town can more easily access local waterways and travel more readily, cheaply and sustainably. ”

More information on Gavin's environmental policies can be found at:
www.gavin2017.com