

# Sustainability Plan Survey

## Project Engagement

VIEWS

**954**

PARTICIPANTS

**136**

RESPONSES

**1,013**

COMMENTS

**228**

What two things in Virginia Beach do you want to make sure are preserved for future generations?

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Beach and low cost of living

6/3/2022

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Clean water, dry land

5/31/2022

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Any and all historic buildings

5/30/2022

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Greenspace ! Stop destroying the trees and fields for these horrible cookie cutter multifamily homes !!! The Beach-bring it back to a quaint family friendly destination.

5/28/2022

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Open spaces, i.e., parks and playgrounds that are family friendly.

5/28/2022

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1. Free public access to the beach from many, many locations along Atlantic Avenue, with nearby low cost beach parking for VB residents.
2. Natural places like 1st Landing State Park, Back Bay NWR, Lake Lawson woods, and blueways (kayak paddling routes)

5/27/2022

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Natural Beauty, Diverse attractions/festivals

5/27/2022

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Natural landscaping at beaches and parks, inclusivity throughout city council positions

5/25/2022

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Trees and parks

5/25/2022

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History of original inhabitants and settlers.

5/25/2022

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The rural southern part of the city, agriculturally productive (with other parts of the city becoming denser. The water (ocean front, lakes, rivers) preserved and accessible to large numbers of people (not just a few property owners).

5/25/2022

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Beachfront

Extensive natural areas for migrating and resident birds, fish, reptiles

5/24/2022

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Parks/open/natural areas. Recreation Centers.

5/24/2022

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The health of our beaches and aquatic life. Access to recreational activities through Parks and Rec and Libraries.

5/24/2022

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The beaches (ocean and bay) and the parks/wildlife refuges

5/24/2022

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Affordable homes and educational opportunities that is affordable.

5/24/2022

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The Boardwalk and beaches, the Veteran's Memorial (across from the Convention Center), the Memorials for the Police, Seals, and Military on the Boardwalk, the Neptune Statue, Seashore State Park & 64th Street.

5/23/2022

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Historic buildings/houses and the natural parks/areas

5/23/2022

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Beaches, state park

5/23/2022

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The suburban low density housing/population character of Virginia Beach

5/23/2022

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Make sure to keep STR to the tourist part of VB, not north end.

5/23/2022

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Clean beaches and clean parks

5/22/2022

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1.The Beach/ Bay Front areas including First Landing Park.

2.

5/20/2022

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Preserve green space and support for the African American Cultural Center. Please begin sincere efforts to recognize the contributions of people of color in the city of Virginia Beach.

5/20/2022

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The rural part of VB needs to be protected from expansion of housing projects.  
our shores and water ways.

5/20/2022

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The beach and open spaces - the parks and the farm lands down past Pungo.

5/20/2022

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More Charging stations for electric Cars chargers must be integrated to all shopping areas and more places.

5/20/2022

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Tree line. Green space

5/19/2022

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The natural flora, fauna, trees and just Nature. It is essential for the future. The ocean as well as its creatures.

5/19/2022

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Outdoor spaces and wild plant/animal life

5/19/2022

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The city's remaining historic structures and sites.  
Maintain the rural and agricultural identity of southern Virginia Beach.

5/19/2022

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Agricultural sections  
First Landing State Park

5/19/2022

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Open spaces at the oceanfront and seashore state park

5/19/2022

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The beautiful beaches and green spaces

5/19/2022

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Safety at oceanfront, clean beaches

5/18/2022

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Mt Trashmore and First Landing. Essentially all of the green space that's available.

5/18/2022

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LOWER TAXES

5/18/2022

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Green open space. A more local friendly oceanfront

5/18/2022

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Ask the voters what "services" they would like the city to provide. There is probably a lot of wasted taxpayer dollars going to "services" that are not needed or wanted. Also need to define "economic, environmental and social sustainability". Probably not what most people think it is.

5/18/2022

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Open space and no building near sand dunes to protect the beaches

5/18/2022

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water quality and trees

5/18/2022

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Land; large natural parks with space - that is NOT the oceanfront. City needs more trees and greenery

5/17/2022

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Our waterways (the Chesapeake Bay, Chicks Beach, Inlet Area, the Narrows) and First Landing State Park.

5/17/2022

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historical landmarks of a diverse nature, beaches

5/17/2022

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Clean water, open space

5/17/2022

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The beach needs to be preserved for future generations.

Adequate Schools with in class learning

5/17/2022

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Space and less buildings... Brock Center is a prime example of what is needed in VB, and it doesn't mean one has to go out to Pungo to enjoy open space.

5/17/2022

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Land -less building, more wildlife

Parks

5/17/2022

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public beach access, First Landing State Park

5/17/2022

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Beach and green space

5/17/2022

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Safety in living here.

The beach and the beauty of Pungo.

5/17/2022

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single family homes, volunteer EMS system

5/17/2022

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Family friendly vacation attractions as well as maintaining natural and historical landmarks.

5/16/2022

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Mature trees and open spaces.

5/16/2022

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Natural green spaces and forest areas

Clean beaches

5/16/2022

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The open spaces and city parks.

5/16/2022

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Public access to water/shorelines for water sports or activities. State parks and beaches.

5/16/2022

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Beach access and improved school quality

5/16/2022

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The beach and our parks.

5/16/2022

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Beach and natural areas...woods and forests

5/15/2022

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Public Safety funding and compensation. Flood prevention

5/15/2022

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Affordability and small town, neighborhood feel.

5/15/2022

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More natural green areas and modern natural play areas for kids.

5/15/2022

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The beach and nature reserve areas

5/15/2022

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Green Space and farmland

5/15/2022

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Green open spaces, Libraries/Rec Centers

5/15/2022

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1. The Beach
2. Wildlife Refuge & Parks

5/15/2022

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Environment

The Bay

5/15/2022

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- The beach/Chesapeake Bay
- The wild life

5/15/2022

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Green space. Vacant lots/land on the oceanfront and waterways.

5/14/2022

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1. Green spaces and parks. Maintain the city as a healthy community with outdoor entertainment and activities for all.
2. Educational opportunities for all. Children and adults, ongoing learning and growth opportunities.

5/14/2022

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Shoreline/wetlands (stop coastal development). Wildlife.

5/14/2022

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Green Space and Cultural Events

5/14/2022

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All the parks, especially Rudee inlet loop trail. We love parking at 4th street lot by the bridge and walking the path by the inlet, watching the wildlife, boats, and people fishing, then onto the beach to watch the surfers.

5/14/2022

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1. Natural areas/parks
2. The beach

5/14/2022

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Coastal zone—NOT polluted with a wall of buildings.

5/14/2022

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Historical communities  
Transparent leadership

5/14/2022

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Green ways and open space

5/14/2022

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Affordable safe

5/14/2022

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Forested areas, public access to the water

5/14/2022

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Open areas for water runoff. Keep Light Rail out of VB.

5/14/2022

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Parks and green spaces

5/14/2022

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pleasure house point , first landing state park

5/14/2022

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Trees & wetlands

5/14/2022

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I grew up here. This used to be a conservative town with traditional values. We were taught to respect one another and were raised with a good work ethic. Now it seems that VB is going totally liberal. Look at the school superintendent. Two things: bring back respect and stop the giveaways.

5/14/2022

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Pleasure House Point

5/13/2022

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Greenspace/ Parks and the beach

5/13/2022

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Parks and beach front

5/13/2022

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Nothing. It will all be under water anyway.

5/13/2022

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Access to affordable housing and transportation

5/13/2022

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Pungo farmland  
Wetlands

5/13/2022

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Open space/parks

5/13/2022

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Dunes and beach

5/13/2022

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What's left of the farmland and fields and the public space at rudee inlet

5/13/2022

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Parks/green space, Pungo farm area

5/13/2022

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Green spaces and public access to waterfront areas

5/13/2022

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Green spaces such as lake Lawson, keeping the water safe enough to swim in

5/13/2022

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The beach, to keep it clean and safe. The small shops along Atlantic Avenue to maintain their look as they are now.

5/13/2022

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The environment which is rapidly being decimated by developers; the tree canopy is being reduced at an alarming rate. It is vital that we preserve trees. Get litter out of waterways. Pollution is burying us.

5/13/2022

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Natural resource protection and a healthy environment.

5/13/2022

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Trees and fields/parks. We need a building ordinance where the required ratio of tree replacement is increased to 150%.

5/13/2022

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green spaces for the public and natural areas for wildlife

5/13/2022

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Forests and anywhere the water goes.

5/13/2022

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Green space in Pungo and around the city.

5/13/2022

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Abortion and Democracy

5/13/2022

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Historic homes and buildings, wildlife and their habitats

5/13/2022

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The shoreline - no more high rises on the Bay. Only use native plants. The city needs to be looking to the future and the impact of climate change.

5/13/2022

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Green spaces and walkable neighborhoods

5/13/2022

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Racism and the willingness of the police to gun down random black people.

5/13/2022

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The farming/green space in Pungo. The city must stop approving more developments across what used to be "the green line"

5/13/2022

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LAND with no development

5/13/2022

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Dunes and wetlands

5/13/2022

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The beauty of Pungo and access for all to the oceanfront.

5/13/2022

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TREES STOP OVERBUILDING ON WETLANDS

5/13/2022

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**What is the main thing you think will help make Virginia Beach a livable and attractive place to live, work, and play in the future?**

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Need for more affordable housing

6/3/2022

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Quality of life

5/31/2022

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Fir police to enforce the Laws that are in place at the oceanfront and not just give warnings!

5/30/2022

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Keep crime down. Plant more trees - keep and create open, green places.

5/30/2022

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Beautiful safe beach area , less ugly buildings by Dragus etc, including the nasty strip malls with Jimmy Johns and mattress stores. Use Alexandria VA or Newton MA as an example. VB is pretty ugly, unsafe and uninviting-and too expensive as far as rent.

5/28/2022

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Careful planning that does not crowd or encroach upon historic communities.

5/28/2022

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Creation of the Virginia Beach Trail

5/27/2022

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More well designed compact development with multi-modal transportation

5/27/2022

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Needs more diversity amount leadership throughout all city departments and boards

5/25/2022

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Lower the taxes, elimination of the car tax and reduce size of government

5/25/2022

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Fewer guns.

5/25/2022

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Welcome all types of people to LIVE in the city, not just work there and then drive home somewhere else.

5/25/2022

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Better/more public transportation.

5/24/2022

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Improved transportation: More bike paths and walkable trails to necessary locations like grocery stores, and work locations as opposed to scenic routes, Community bikes/scooters, easier access to bus stops, routes, and times.

5/24/2022

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Create and maintain a safe and positive environment for residents and visitors.

5/24/2022

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Do not cut down all of our trees. Maintain areas for our children to visit and play. Inclusive opportunities for all of our citizens in housing, employment and education.

5/24/2022

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Solve the crime problems. They are getting out of control. Offer competitive salaries. Lower taxes (people do not want to move to a place that makes minimum pay and high taxes).

5/23/2022

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Mass transit/Public transportation (alleviate traffic & connect communities)

5/23/2022

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Good variety of businesses and great roadways

5/23/2022

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Low density single family home development. Not becoming another Northern Virginia community.. doing right not getting to yes on high density development.

5/23/2022

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Take it back to family friendly. Thongs and pot are not family friendly.

5/23/2022

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Affordable housing

5/22/2022

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Keeping it a safe place to live and raise a family or visit for a vacation. You need a good mix of various restaurants, places to shop, items of interest (museums/aquariums), sports and entertainment.

5/20/2022

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Improve the transportation infrastructure for more inclusive access to the beach. City leaders please consider movement of citizens in timely manner. Constant traffic jams are not good for a city that promotes itself as a family friendly tourism area in the mid Atlantic region.

5/20/2022

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We need to step up the reuse and recycling of waste and by products of city entities.

5/20/2022

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Good paying jobs in a variety of fields and affordable housing.

5/20/2022

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Our city is already perfect to livable! One thing we could fixed is absolutely roads after a rain storm. Water is going to be act like lake on the roads. They are very good and cheap on Construction. You can hire online by post. Or ask a consultant such as this company [www.erglobalgroup.com](http://www.erglobalgroup.com)

5/20/2022

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More green space

5/19/2022

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Cultivating a positive and forward thinking atmosphere

5/19/2022

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Outdoor spaces, parks, walkways, sidewalks.

5/19/2022

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Proactive enforcement of zoning and property maintenance codes throughout the city's residential neighborhoods.

5/19/2022

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Forward thinking

5/19/2022

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Lower the property taxes and fix the roads

5/19/2022

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Better control of development. Traffic is getting to be terrible everywhere.

5/19/2022

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Salary matching the cost of living and housing, large corporations to create more jobs, quality health care providers in the area

5/18/2022

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Beautifying the ocean front. Parts of the boardwalk are rough. It would really entice more people to come visit if it was nicer.

5/18/2022

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LOWER TAXES AND GET TID OF ALL THOSE RIDICULOUS FEES

5/18/2022

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Better pay for teachers, police, etc combined with accountability and action to correct the wrongs

5/18/2022

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Enforcement of noise laws, especially vehicles with unlawful and loud exhaust systems. Easy fix, when a vehicle is inspected and found to have an aftermarket exhaust louder than the law permits, the vehicle will fail inspection. Crackdown vehicles playing super loud electronically amplified noise.

5/18/2022

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Government that listens to the people

5/18/2022

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environmental concerns like water quality, native plants /pollinators, environmental education, city coms like Chesapeake Bay Preservation zoning & other zoning ENFORCING THE LAW & the Chesapeake Bay Pres Com not already making up its mind before neighbors show up to share their relevant concerns

5/18/2022

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Improved Infrastructure

5/17/2022

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Competitive salaries/livable wages that increase with the increasing cost of living. Diverse festivals that draw a national/international crowd as opposed to those that draw a primarily local/regional crowd.

5/17/2022

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Better planning - meaning smarter development, LIGHT RAIL, no strip malls, encourage small independent businesses, no chains/big box stores, ATTRACTIVE landscaping & parks, stop allowing developers to throw up the cheap, cookie-cutter neighborhoods. WE HAVE NO CHARACTER! Please be more thoughtful.

5/17/2022

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Reducing crimes and bring in more jobs.

5/17/2022

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Keep Restate Taxes down.

5/17/2022

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We are building too much, we are looking too cityish. Need more free play.

5/17/2022

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Light rail and improved transit options

5/17/2022

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An end to white supremacy and the smashing of the patriarchy.

5/17/2022

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Keeping Virginia Beach a safe place to live. Paying our police more.

5/17/2022

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return of large Events to entertain the residents and visitors. Not just a 2 hr concert

5/17/2022

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Diversity in all areas as well as job opportunities for those to continue to live in the VA beach area year round not just during warmer weather months. Continuing growth opportunities for diverse multicultural eating out experiences is always a huge asset to residents as well as visitors.

5/16/2022

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The entire community working toward a common goal instead of the infighting around distribution of resources.

5/16/2022

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Off road bikeways and multiuse pathways throughout the city for commuting and recreation

5/16/2022

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Maybe encourage small, local businesses and (non-chain) restaurants along our namesake Boulevard. Perhaps less storage units, drugstore chains and car lots along VB Blvd - - keep those on the side streets that are less traveled on a daily basis.

5/16/2022

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More accessibility to recycling. Compost recycling, collection and actual composting in the city would be so beneficial!

5/16/2022

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Keeping taxes low for residents while focusing on community safety

5/16/2022

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Sense of community, new leadership with a better attitude towards open mindedness on city council and schools board.

5/16/2022

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Stop building and revitalize what we have already. More of a focus on protected natural areas.

5/15/2022

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A safe city with a well compensated workforce and well maintained infrastructure.

5/15/2022

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Lower taxes

5/15/2022

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Add more trees to parking lots.

Create more modern play areas with things like slides built into hills. Check out Verona NJ's park and playground.

Everything on the main roads feel so barren. Add more nature. Edible landscaping would be amazing.

5/15/2022

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Safety and security

5/15/2022

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More diverse events year round

5/15/2022

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More Bike Lanes for entire city commuting.

5/15/2022

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-start building green

-stricter building codes to deter flooding and runoff, incentives for companies to get rid of concrete and put pervious parking lots and greener areas

5/15/2022

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More sustainable initiatives

5/15/2022

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-Giving businesses more initiative to go green and environmentally sustainable

5/15/2022

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Low crime. Clean up the oceanfront - drop all wires underground - north to south and all blocks east and west back to the interstate/Birdneck. Safe and well lit walking/biking paths. Have shop owners at the strip modernize facades. We are a tourist town - own it.

5/14/2022

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Ensure a livable wage for those who work and hope to live here. It's not about wooing businesses for the businesses benefit it's about what that business can provide to our citizens for employment, growth, and value to the community.

5/14/2022

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Bike friendliness and positive steps toward mitigating the impact of climate change.

5/14/2022

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More diverse cultural events at times other than the summer

5/14/2022

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Maintain parks and public spaces, limit building heights, and provide bike lanes on main roads.

5/14/2022

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Keeping the city clean and roads well maintained.

5/14/2022

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Get the developers out of City Government. Establish REAL advisory committees, who actually know something about the environment and not just pander to their employers who placed them on these regulatory boards. What kind of mafia govt appoints developers to an environmental regulatory committee?

5/14/2022

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Investment and support for the city departments that provide services to Virginia Beach residents and visitors.

5/14/2022

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Affordable

5/14/2022

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lower taxes

5/14/2022

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Building the VB trail on Norfolk southern right of way from Newtown Rd to the Oceanfront, including a pedestrian bridge connecting Mt Trashmore to Town Center

5/14/2022

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Who are you kidding. Kids don't want to work. They all want to be youtube stars.

5/14/2022

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More green spaces, bigger walking/bike paths (purpose built) for cross town travel.

5/14/2022

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public transportation

5/14/2022

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Trees

5/14/2022

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Government that respects the citizens tax dollars and doesn't play favorites - to developers or other special interest groups.

5/14/2022

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Available open spaces, infrastructure maintenance and flood mitigation

5/13/2022

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An upgraded Oceanfront that can be enjoyed year round and affordable housing

5/13/2022

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Better public transportation

5/13/2022

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Higher minimum wage; lower taxes; no more car tax.

5/13/2022

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Better public transportation.

5/13/2022

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Stop allowing developers to pave over wetlands and to develop Pungo farmland. We are going to be underwater before you know it with the continuing bad development decisions.

5/13/2022

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City infrastructure and technology that supports growth

5/13/2022

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upkeep of boardwalk with more shade options.

5/13/2022

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Better roads

5/13/2022

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Affordable housing, clean waterways, family activities, good jobs, low crime, low taxes

5/13/2022

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Stop all the developers. Rehab existing structures

5/13/2022

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Better public transportation

5/13/2022

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Cut down on the crime that has been of late and try and keep trouble makers out of the area.

5/13/2022

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More access to actual water at oceanfront and bay beaches for those with disabilities- and closer parking for that same reason

5/13/2022

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A city government that has its priorities right. Development is destroying this city. City council is owned by developers and is selling out the city. There will be nothing left to enjoy. Remember the "green line?"

5/13/2022

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Make every decision on how it will affect future generations. The City is incapable of seeing how what they do today affects the City five, ten, twenty, fifty years down the road.

5/13/2022

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Trees. Safe parks, safe bike paths w trees between roads and paths for safety. Please develop a stricter building regulation to increase tree ratio replacement requirements to 150%. Keep adding more trees, especially to lower end areas (Bayside Green Run) where a tree could block a stray bullet.

5/13/2022

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preserving it's natural areas and limiting housing and traffic development

5/13/2022

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Reducing our carbon footprint so we have a future

5/13/2022

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Improved public transportation. Like light rail would be fantastic.

5/13/2022

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Abortion rights

5/13/2022

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Lower taxes- especially real estate and personal property. Fruit trees and more native plants in city maintained landscape

5/13/2022

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Make bike friendly and environmentally friendly.

5/13/2022

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Walkable neighborhoods with restaurants, shopping, parks, and activities nearby

5/13/2022

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Raising cost of living enough to keep out undesirables.

5/13/2022

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We need to work on all areas of the city, not just Town Center, Hilltop, and the Oceanfront

5/13/2022

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Safety..

5/13/2022

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Access to waterways and natural areas - beaches, parks and pocket parks, kayak and boat launches etc

5/13/2022

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Lower taxes.

Hold new construction contractors accountable to ensure proper flooding control of their developments

5/13/2022

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STOPPING OVERBUILDING ON WETLANDS

5/13/2022

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In a recent survey, we asked participants to provide one word to describe the city they want to live in. Below are the top responses. Which three of the following words do you hope people use 10 years from now to describe Virginia Beach? (Choose only three).

47%	Safe	58 ✓
38%	Environmentally conscious	47 ✓
31%	Affordable	38 ✓
25%	Diverse	31 ✓
23%	Beautiful	28 ✓
20%	Community minded	25 ✓
13%	Progressive	16 ✓
13%	Healthy	16 ✓
13%	Green	16 ✓
10%	Secure	12 ✓
9%	Welcoming	11 ✓
9%	Educated	11 ✓
9%	Innovative	11 ✓
7%	Entertaining	9 ✓
6%	Fun	8 ✓

4%

Accessible

5 ✓

3%

Connected

4 ✓

124 Respondents

In recent community focus groups, we asked participants to tell us one thing they feel will make Virginia Beach a sustainable and attractive place to live, work, and play in the future. The following is a list of the top responses.

Pretend you have \$100 to spend on the list. How would you spend it?

