

Title of the Policy Proposal: Improved Climate Resilience (Extreme Heat and Flood Mitigation) and Increased Budget for Related Local Initiatives

Subject Area of the Proposal: Climate Resilience

For State or Federal Consideration: State

Budgetary or Authorizing: (Does the Proposal Seek Funding or Legal Authorities?) Budgetary and Authorizing

Short Description of the Proposal: Continue to support extreme heat, flood resilience, stormwater, and urban-canopy measures during Virginia's 2027 legislative session. Building on 2026 progress, Alexandria should (1) prioritize state funding for local flood and stormwater infrastructure and (2) support bills that expand upon the progress made in 2026 on extreme heat, flood resilience, stormwater, and urban canopy measures.

Has this Proposal been Introduced as Legislation in a Previous Session? Yes. The 2026 General Assembly advanced several issues directly relevant to this proposal. HB 549/SB 589 expanded local tree-canopy authority. HB 1092/SB 288 enacted a statewide framework requiring workplace heat-illness prevention standards.

If So, Please Provide Applicable Bill Numbers and Years it Was Introduced:

- HB 549 / SB 589 (2026): This legislation expands local tree-planting and tree canopy replacement authority statewide.
- HB 1092 / SB 288 (2026): The legislation requires the Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board to adopt standards protecting workers from heat illness in indoor and outdoor work.
- Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF): Last year's budget allocated \$43,494,528 in FY2027 for SLAF. water-quality requirements.

Recommended 2027 Priorities:

1. Fund local flood and stormwater infrastructure programs, including Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF), Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF), and Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP). *One note: historically, CFPF was funded through RGGI. Now that Virginia has rejoined RGGI, the City should advocate to increase funding for the CFPF.*
2. Support legislation focused on extreme heat, flood resilience, stormwater, and urban canopy measures.

Relevant Background (e.g. -- what's the policy problem or status quo that this policy would fix or improve?): Flooding and extreme heat create environmental and fiscal risks for Virginia communities.

Has Your Commission's/Board's Liaison from the City Attorney's Office Determined Whether There's a Need for the Authority or Code Change You're Requesting (for example, does the City already have the authority to take that action without seeking a legal change)? No, we have not sought advice from the City Attorney's Office. We do not anticipate a need for authority/code change with this request, as there was already a constitutional amendment back in 2018 regarding flood abatement and resilience, and there was a legislative change in 2021 to allow municipalities to provide grant funding for flood mitigation efforts.

Related Federal or State Statutes (is there any precedent anywhere else -- another state or on the federal level -- that you're aware of?):

- Code of Virginia §§ 15.2-961 and 15.2-961.1, tree conservation and replacement authority
- Code of Virginia § 40.1-44.2, workplace heat illness prevention standards
- Code of Virginia § 62.1-44.15:29.1, Stormwater Local Assistance Fund
- Code of Virginia §§ 10.1-603.24 and 10.1-603.25, Community Flood Preparedness Fund framework
- Code of Virginia § 10.1-658, state interest in resilience and flood control

Any Relevant Research or Analysis:

- Virginia Conservation Network, Building Resilience and Strengthening Recovery

- Virginia Conservation Network, Ensuring Long-Term Flood Resilience

Any Relevant Cost Estimates or Cost Savings Estimates: These proposals will increase the budget.

Pros and Cons of the Proposal:

- Pros: Protects people, property, infrastructure, and waterways and gives Alexandria flexibility to support specific 2027 bills and budget amendments.
- Cons / considerations: Resilience projects require state and local resources. Additionally, several 2026 initiatives (like the tree canopy bill) have work groups still underway.

Possible Supporting Organizations (stakeholder allies):

- Alexandria Beautification Commission
- Alexandria Park & Rec Commission
- VA League of Conservation Voters
- Virginia Conservation Network

Possible Opposing Organizations (stakeholder opponents): Positions will depend on the specific legislation.