

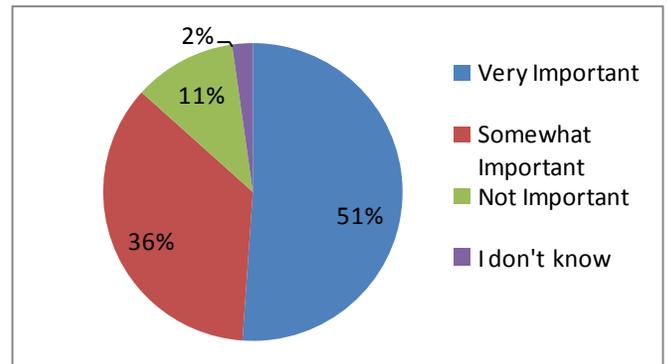
Sustainable Landscaping - lawns, gardens, trees, lawn care companies and equipment

Multiple Choice Responses

Question #1: How important do you believe it is for the Town to address each of the following issues?

Multiple Choice #4: **Encouraging sustainable landscape practices.** These could include using a reel mower, planting native plants, decreased use of pesticides or fertilizers on lawns, or reducing non-native invasive plants (kudzu, English ivy, etc.)

135 respondents



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Open-Text Responses

Question #2: **In your opinion, what is the most important issue that the Town should address in order to improve the environment and long-term livability of this community?**

1. also getting rid of lawn pesticides.
2. Sustainable landscape practices.
3. Fewer chemically treated lawns.
4. Encouraging sustainable landscapes.
5. sustainable landscape and water practices,.
6. Curbing the use of lawn companies' use of power equipment, which causes both air and noise pollution.
7. Prohibiting pesticides and lawn chemicals.
8. The racket from leaf blowers and trimmers and construction, particularly on weekends.
9. Sustainable landscape and public green space
10. The encouragement of sustainable lawn care practices.
Reason: Water restrictions, Run-off, Lawnmowers give off more pollution than cars, mosquito breeding.
11. sustainable landscaping practices.
12. Less pesticides and herbicides on lawns.
13. better mix of trees - not just tall canopy, improve the yards and treefronts - some houses have really lousy looking unkempt yards,
14. Sustainable landscape practices! Many residents spend a fortune on chemicals and gas-powered lawn equipment to make our lawns gorgeous, to the detriment of our environment.
15. Sustainable landscape and public green space
16. stop planting so many trees particularly right under the power lines. The tree project is way out of bounds
17. I must say I have not followed in details the plans for the trees in the town. But the current number of tall trees that may fall seems high given the number of violent storms that seems to be coming our way.
Eliminate the Urban Forest nonsense so that the tree canopy can maintain and regenerate itself naturally over time, without loss of lives and property in severe weather.
18. more trees
19. the trees in the ROW are increasingly unattractive after PEPCO has pruned them away from the lines. the Town should earmark budget to prune them further so that the overall shape is close to natural instead of the flat top or uneven shape left by PEPCO.
20. Tree canopy.
21. Maintain the tree canopy
22. Maintain ... tree planting.
23. I'm sorry that protecting the tree canopy was not on this list. Assuming that our tree ordinance is working effectively is a mistake. There should be more commitment to keeping trees, and more knowledge of trees on the Tree Board. The Town should pay for second opinions when there is any question regarding the health of a tree. Too many healthy old trees have come down of late.
24. Continued focus on maintaining our tree canopy and watershed management.
25. Protect the tree canopy.
26. I believe that the most important issue that the town faces to improve the environment is the maintenance and support for our tree canopy. I support the current ordinance and believe that residents should be more informed on the value of and importance of trees to our environment.

27. I think the single biggest environmental issue facing the world (and therefore us) is climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. Having the town pursue the Maryland Sustainability Certification is a great idea. On a more local level our efforts to preserve/expand open space and maintain the tree canopy are important.
28. Maintain the tree canopy
29. Conservation of canopy trees.
30. better mix of trees - not just tall canopy, improve the yards and treefronts - some houses have really lousy looking unkempt yards, more community events to foster a close community like house tours, dessert and discussions

Question #3: Being realistic, what do you think are the three most important things the Town might do to help you and your family reduce your negative impacts on the environment?

1. Promoting 'green' landscaping contractors.
2. Education on lawn management (planting native, natural lawn and garden maintenance, wildlife habitats, etc)
3. Subsidize landscaping improvements on private property which is visible from the street or a danger to the community
4. control pesticide runoff and noise from commercial lawn services..
5. encourage sustainable landscape practices
6. the value of native plants in the landscape,
7. teach pesticide free lawn maintenance, etc.
8. provide a list of greener but effective, readily available cleaning, gardening, and pest control products
9. Research environmentally-friendly vendors (i.e. landscapers) and provide a reference list to town residents.
10. landscape management assistance
11. Some kind of new campaign to stop the use of all pesticides, fertilizers,
12. provide advice and possibly shared tools on natural landscaping
13. Guidance for sustainable landscaping practices
14. Installing eco-lawn (or similar, e.g. Pearl's Premium) is a relatively simple and inexpensive way of reducing water use and pollution from gas-powered mowers.
15. Consider the noise pollution of leaf blowers.
16. With regard to gardening practices, I would like the Town to adhere to 'encouraging' some of the practices, but not go beyond and infringe on individual preferences on what they would like plant, how they would manage the pests, and so on.
17. Tree stewardship.
18. Allow residents to use their own judgment in maintaining trees on their property, so that those who want solar power can have it if they so choose.
19. Allow for removal of trees that interfere with Solar Panels. Stop planting large trees under wires.
20. Plant more trees by offering trees to residents for their yards
21. Continue to plant public and private canopy trees;
22. Finally, although I am not a tree expert, i'm told by friends who are developers that the trees planted by the town are relatively cheap (frequent choices of developers for landscaping) and are more vulnerable to toppling over - perhaps stronger new trees also could be considered if such trees exist.
23. Continue tree programs
24. continue to sponsor programs and talks on sustainability and trees and the benefits of composting and recycling.

Bottom of Question #1: Feel free to provide comments on the topics above or suggestions for additional environmental issues you feel the town might address”

1. education regarding pesticide use would be top priority, I would love for this town to a leader in this area! The Ladybug initiative was on the right track.
2. Encourage residents to refrain from having lawn crews manacure every blade of grass or errant leaf every Friday afternoon as they violate noise ordinances with three simultaneously running leaf blowers.
3. Ban the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers and yard trimmers. Enforce regulations against noise and dust from construction sites. Ban the use of lawn fertilizers and pesticides. Later start hours for construction and lawn maintenance on the weekends.
4. While i would be happy with a leaf blower ban, i dont think the town will go there, so I would like to see the town educate/encourage minimizing the use of these leaf blowers. Let folks know that the noise, in my opinion, really makes Chevy chase an unpleasant place to spend a beautiful weekend day. Get people to ask themselves whether blowing every (how about any?) blade of grass off their walkways is really that important; is your walkway really marred by a few leaves or grass clippings?
5. Another comment: is there anything more we can do to reduce the epidemic of leaf blowers and revert to rakes? Even for landscape companies, is it really more efficient for workers to use blowers rather than rakes, except on very large properties?
6. I think the Town should have open space that invites people to gather and helps the community coalesce. The playground was such a place when my children were younger. A dog park would be a good option. There is alot more than can be done to reduce household waste and increase recycling options. Reducing the incorrect and over-use of pesticides and fertilizer should be a priority.
7. Noise/Leafblowers
8. Consider the noise pollution of leaf blowers.
9. ...No harm in encouraging the use of native plants and fertilizer reduction in the Town newsletter and on its website, however. That shouldn't cost anything...
10. Consider the noise pollution of leaf blowers.
11. Later start hours for construction and lawn maintenance on the weekends.
12. encourage people to care for their trees by proving a guideline for the frequency of pruning for types and sizes of trees. i think there should be some reasonable fee paid to a consulting arborist to receive recommendations on what action is required to keep the tree healthy and safe.
13. Making sure the town trees are maintained in a way that will preserve them but allow for removal of unhealthy ones that pose a risk of falling during storms and other similar events.
14. Tree maintenance, most especially large trees on private lots that areuncared for..
15. Still feels like trees are cut down too often for mansionization. We cannot replace these 50+ year old trees overnight. The canopy is dwindling and fewer trees appears to increase the vulnerability of the remaining trees to storm damage.
16. maintenance of healthy tree canopy -- better systems for identifying trees that need to come down and fast replacement set up carbon balance program where we invest in carbon abatement elsewhere to compensate for carbon emissions here envirnoment education.... films, speakers, kids programs recycled art contest

Bottom of Question #4: Feel free to tell us other actions you have taken to reduce your environmental impact.

1. Another comment: is there anything more we can do to reduce the epidemic of leaf blowers and revert to rakes? Even for landscape companies, is it really more efficient for workers to use blowers rather than rakes, except on very large properties?
2. We don't use a lawn service! reduced our grass, enriched the soil to maximize rain absorption
3. No lawn fertilizer, as little water use as possible.
4. We planted shade trees on the west side of the house to block the afternoon sun in the summer. We have 4 large water barrels to catch rain water and use it for our plantings when needed.

5. Native plants, regraded lawn/lot to reduce run-off, ALL organic practices,
6. composting leaves. Biological pest control. (green lacewings, nematodes)
7. compost no pesticides on lot
8. Organic gardening.
9. No fertilizer use, no pesticides.
10. No fertilizer. Keep trees and protect them.
11. planted drought tolerant plants in the yard and slow growing grass that needs very little mowing
12. I am an avid gardener and don't use pesticides in my yard/garden.
13. We don't use herbicides and use only organic pesticides. The primary source of nutrients for our garden is (purchased) compost and manure. We are faithful recyclers.
14. Planted more natives in garden, reduced lawn area.
15. Native landscaping, eco-lawn, rain garden
16. Encourage residents to refrain from having lawn crews manure every blade of grass or errant leaf every Friday afternoon as they violate noise ordinances with three simultaneously running leaf blowers.
17. Ban the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers and yard trimmers. Enforce regulations against noise and dust from construction sites. Ban the use of emergency electricity generators. Enforce regulations against free-roaming cats--they kill a lot of birds. Ban outdoor car washing--the run-off goes to the storm sewers and eventually, the Bay. Ban the use of lawn fertilizers and pesticides.
18. Later start hours for construction and lawn maintenance on the weekends.practice.
19. Reducing the incorrect and over-use of pesticides and fertilizer should be a priority.
20. Use car much less for local errands and instead walk or bike. Planted more natives in garden, reduced lawn area. Other items on Climate Action List - this could be recirculated from time to time, or reminders given to review it.

Final Question: Please briefly describe any issues you would be interested in discussing further.

1. Having the Town supply clean biodegradable mulch to those who want to use mulch. It is ridiculous for us all to be paying a fortune for individual bags of mulch whether sold by landscape companies or acquired individually. There should be a common site where mulch could be bagged by the homeowner who would pay a small fee.
2. NOISE--from old gas lawnmowers of residents, landscape crews using hi powered gas leaf blowers (3 at a time). Would like to see the shift from 2x week of trash pick up to 1x week of trash and 1x of organic waste.
3. Improving CO2 emissions by improving tree cover
4. Improving CO2 emissions by improving tree cover
5. We planted shade trees on the west side of the house to block the afternoon sun in the summer.