



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023	6:00 PM
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1. Call to Order
 - A. Oath of Office
 - B. Annual Meeting and Officer Elections
2. Approval of the Minutes of January 23, 2023 Environmental Commission
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. No-Mow May
 - B. Tree Preservation Ordinance - Work Plan
 - C. Landscaping Ordinance - Work Plan
 - D. Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
 - i 2023 Environment Commissions Conference
 - ii Energy Action Plan Update - Participation Request
5. Adjournment



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Director of Community and Economic Development
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Oath of Office

Background:

New and reappointed members will need to take the Oath of Office.

Recommendation:

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Annual Meeting and Officer Elections

Background:

The Environmental Commission must elect a chair and vice chair to serve for the next year.

The Chair's responsibilities are:

1. Preside over the meetings. (Call the meeting to order, introduce items for discussion, entertain motions, call votes, etc.)
2. Ensure meeting protocols are followed. Maintain meeting decorum and order.
3. Encourage the participation of all commissioners.
4. Coordinate with City Staff as needed on issues such as upcoming agendas, attendance of commissioners, and other issues affecting the Commission.

The Vice Chair's responsibilities are:

1. Fulfill the responsibilities of the chair if the chair is unable to do so.

Recommendation:

Nominate and elect by simple majority voice vote one commissioner to serve as chair.

Nominate and elect by simple majority voice vote one commissioner to serve as vice chair.

Attachments:



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Chair Huston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Delia Denis, Nesvold, Brown, Wasilowski, Isaac Yetzer and Chair Huston.

Absent: Lee Nordmeyer and Roger Steinkamp

Staff: Mathias Hughey and Kari Casper.

Chair Huston requested a Roll Call. Present were Brown, Wasilowski, Nesvold and Chair Huston.

Chair Huston then requested Introductions where everyone gave a short introduction of themselves.

2. Approve September 26, 2022 Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nesvold and seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the September 26, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

3. Items for Discussion

A. 2023 Work Plan

Chair Huston asked each member to give their thoughts and began with Brown. Brown mentioned that she felt that they weren't able to engage any actionable items and stated that she would like to see movement in "Development" by way of ordinance changes, make buildings more sustainable and maybe discuss working on Climate Change issues in the city. Nesvold was next and she would like to see the city have more impact on issues; more communication. She too would like to see ordinance changes, in particular the tree ordinance – one down, then one up. Wasilowski then mentioned that he agrees with the previously stated suggestions and would also like to see actionable goals reached. Our Youth on Board, Delia Denis, then was asked for input. She stated that she felt that educating the people would be important and letting them know that even the small things can matter. Chair Huston mentioned that he will be consulting/speaking at the Faribault Futures class to help let the people know through Rotary. Denis mentioned that if someone could find statistics on what other towns were

doing and let the people know to get them engaged. Wasilowski stated that it seems as though we tend to focus more on homeowners rather than businesses where we might be able to see more of an impact.

After some discussion, Chair Huston requested that we focus on two main areas which were the Landscape Ordinance and the Tree Ordinance. He also requested that we keep discussion to a minimum at this meeting and discuss at the next meeting wherein our new and more of our existing members will be present.

A motion was made by Nesvold, seconded by Brown to focus on two main areas which were the Landscape Ordinance and the Tree Ordinance as the start to 2023 Work Plan. Further items could be added once those goals had been accomplished.

Motion carried on a 4/0 vote.

4. Adjournment

Chair Huston asked for a motion to adjourn, Wasilowski brought the motion, seconded by Brown at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried on a 4/0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 23, 2023

by: _____
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: No-Mow May

Background:

The Xerxes Society and others have been promoting a pro-pollinator initiative known as "No-mow May." The simple strategy is to encourage residents to avoid mowing their lawns for the month of May. The belief is that during this period, certain flowering plants, including dandelions, violets, and clovers, will be able to bloom in the absence of regular mowing. These plants provide additional sources of nectar for pollinators during a time of year when such food sources are relatively scarce.

The research regarding the efficacy of No-mow May is inconclusive. Some studies suggest a positive impact on pollinators, while others point toward limited or no improvement and suggest that dedicated planting of high-quality native flora is a better approach.

No-mow May also presents some logistical challenges. Depending on the growing season, lawns could exceed allowed heights by the end of May. Also, scofflaws or other bad actors could use the cover of No-mow May to avoid compliance with local ordinances, potentially resulting in costly enforcement actions by the City. Additionally, once the lawn has grown for an extended period, the process for returning it to an appropriate height in a healthy condition is mowing several times over a period of a couple of weeks, gradually decreasing the height of the mower each time.

Some cities have chosen not to participate in No-mow May, while others have employed different strategies of engaging with residents around the initiative.

The Environmental Commission discussed the topic last year, and no action was taken due to a limited time-frame. The subject has been brought up again with a request for the Environmental Commission to weigh in.

Options for the City include:

No action.

The City would take no position on the initiative of No-mow May. Residents would participate at their own expense and risk, lawns that fall afoul of the tall grass and weed ordinance would be subject to the usual enforcement provisions of that ordinance.

Endorsement.

The City would endorse participation in No-mow May.

This endorsement would require consideration of the following:

1. Enforcement of the tall grass and noxious weed ordinance. Specifically, when would enforcement occur after May? How would No-mow participants be distinguished from non-participants?
2. Neighbor complaints. Complaints drive the enforcement process in Faribault. How should these complaints be appropriately and efficiently addressed for those participating in No-mow May vs. those not participating?
3. Education for participating residents and businesses. What topics would be included and how best to reach residents?
4. The presence of noxious weeds. In the absence of regular mowing, some noxious weeds may be better able to establish and spread. Officers responsible for enforcement are not trained in plant identification.
5. Funding. The design and production of educational and promotional materials, yard signs, and staff time would require funding.

Such endorsement could require a review or change to existing ordinances, the creation of promotional materials including social media content, yard signs, pamphlets, etc., and the creation and management of a registration system for people who wish to participate.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator recommends that the Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance be modified to include the possibility of programmatic exemptions as determined by the City Council. The Community Development Coordinator also recommends that the City take no official action on No-mow May at this time.

Explanation:

The height of grass growth over the course of the month of May is not likely to exceed the limits established by the Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance, making the need for official action limited. Such a modification to the Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance creates the possibility of the City Council implementing a No-mow May program at a future date, or of implementing other, similar programs. Additionally, with the benefit to pollinators poorly researched, the time and efforts of City staff and of the Environmental Commission would be better spent promoting higher-impact programs or practices.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Tree Preservation Ordinance - Work Plan

Background:

At its January 2023 meeting, the Environmental Commission identified drafting a tree preservation ordinance as a priority for its 2023 work plan. To draft an ordinance will require research into best practices, the policies of comparable local jurisdictions, and the incorporation of viewpoints from a diverse group of stakeholders including residents, developers, tree care professionals, and others. To be adopted by City Council, the proposed ordinance should clearly serve to enhance the city, achieve stated environmental goals, and be sensitive to economic considerations. It will require a thoughtful and deliberate process.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator recommends adopting a work plan for the development of a tree preservation ordinance that includes identifying appropriate reference materials, stakeholders and engagement strategies, and a timeline for accomplishing research, engagement, work sessions, and draft language.

Attachments:

1. Chapter_26__TREES
2. Tree Preservation Work Plan

Chapter 26 TREES¹

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 26-1. Planting shade and ornamental trees in street rights-of-way.

- (a) When planting shade and ornamental trees within the rights-of-way of the streets of the city, such trees shall be set a distance of ten (10) feet from the paved portion of the street in which they are placed.
- (b) It shall be the duty of the owner (if a resident within the city) or occupant of any lot or ground, adjacent to which any tree may be planted contrary to the provisions of this section, to remove such tree upon not less than five (5) days' written notice.
- (c) This section shall not apply to a tree set to replace another which has died and which was one of a row already planted.

(Code 1971, § 26-26)

Sec. 26-2. Duty of owners of abutting property to trim trees over sidewalks.

Owners of lots abutting upon the streets of the city shall keep all trees growing upon their respective lots, whose branches extend over the sidewalk of any such street, trimmed so as to leave at all times a clear passageway on such sidewalk seven (7) feet high.

(Code 1971, § 26-17)

Sec. 26-3. Trees in rights-of-way of streets generally.

It shall be unlawful for any landowner in the city to allow to remain, upon the portion of the half of any public street in the city adjacent to and immediately abutting on any land owned by him, any tree whose trunk or branches shall be within the lines of any public sidewalk or nearer the center of the street than a line between the sidewalk and curblines three (3) feet distant from the curbline; except that it shall be lawful for the trunk or branches of any tree whose base is wholly outside of the lines of any such sidewalk to extend over any portion of such sidewalk, but at a height of not less than seven (7) feet above such sidewalk.

(Code 1971, § 26-18)

Secs. 26-4—26-15. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. DUTCH ELM DISEASE CONTROL²

¹Cross reference(s)—Removing, injuring, trimming trees and shrubbery by those authorized to move structures, § 7-38; parks and recreation, Ch. 18; streets, sidewalks and public grounds, Ch. 25.

State law reference(s)—Power of city council in statutory city to provide for, and by ordinance regulate, the setting out and protection of trees, M.S. § 412.221, subd. 8; treble damages for intentional trespass to trees, M.S. § 561.04.

Sec. 26-16. Findings; intent.

The council has determined that the health of the elm trees within the municipal limits is threatened by a fatal disease known as Dutch elm disease. It has further determined that the loss of elm trees growing upon public and private property would substantially depreciate the value of property within the city and impair the safety, good order, general welfare and convenience of the public. It is declared to be the intention of the council to control and prevent the spread of this disease, and this article is enacted for that purpose.

(Code 1971, § 26-25)

Sec. 26-17. Plant pest control program; intention to conduct; purpose.

- (a) It is the intention of the council to conduct a program of plant pest control pursuant to the authority granted by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.022.
- (b) This program is directed specifically at the control and elimination of Dutch elm disease fungus and elm bark beetles and is undertaken at the recommendation of the state commissioner of agriculture.

(Code 1971, § 26-26)

Sec. 26-18. Definition.

Whenever the words "city forester" or "forester" are used in this article, they shall refer to the street and park superintendent of the city or his designated representative.

(Code 1971, § 26-27)

Cross reference(s)—Rules of construction and definitions generally, § 1-41 et seq.

Sec. 26-19. Nuisances declared.

The following are public nuisances whenever they may be found within the city:

- (1) Any living or standing elm tree or part thereof infected to any degree with the Dutch elm fungus *Ceratocystis Ulmi* (Buisman Moreau) or which harbors any of the elm bark beetles *Scolytus Multistriatus* (Eichh.) or *Hylurgopinus Rufipes* (Marsh).
- (2) Any dead elm tree, or part thereof, including limbs, branches, stumps, firewood or other elm material from which the bark has not been removed and burned or sprayed with an effective elm bark beetle insecticide.

(Code 1971, § 26-29)

Cross reference(s)—Nuisances generally, Ch. 16.

State law reference(s)—Definition of the term "nuisance," M.S. § 561.01; public nuisances, M.S. § 609.74; power of city to regulate, prevent and to abate nuisances, M.S. §§ 145.22, 145.23, 429.021, subd. 1(8); power of city

²Cross reference(s)—Assessment of costs relative to abatement of unsound or insect-infected trees, § 16-12(b).

council in statutory city to define nuisances and provide for their prevention or abatement, M.S. § 412.221, subd. 23.

Sec. 26-20. Unlawful to permit nuisance; abatement required.

- (a) It is unlawful for any person to permit any public nuisance as defined in section 26-19 of this article to remain on any premises owned or controlled by him within the city.
- (b) Such nuisances described in subsection (a) of this section shall be abated in the manner prescribed by this article.

(Code 1971, § 26-30)

Sec. 26-21. Abatement; notice to abate; abatement by city; right of entry; billing of owner; etc.

- (a) Any property owner who shall fail to abate any violation of this article within twenty (20) days after receiving written notice from the city to abate such violation shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor.
- (b) Upon failure of any property owner to abate any violation of this section within the time limitation as prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, the city may abate such violation; provided, however, upon request of the property owner, such tree shall not be removed until a positive diagnosis of the disease has been made.
- (c) Upon abatement by the city, the city shall submit a bill to the property owner for the actual cost of such abatement, including additional accounting expenses, if any, incurred by the city.
- (d) For the purpose of abating violations of this article, city employees or contractors employed by the city may enter into and upon any private property for the purpose of accomplishing such abatement.
- (e) Any property owner desiring the city to remove any tree, notwithstanding an order to remove the same, may petition the city council to make said removal in accordance with the special assessment procedure in state law.

(Code 1971, § 26-32)

Sec. 26-22. Procedures for abating nuisances by forester generally.

- (a) In abating the nuisances defined in section 26-19 of this article, the forester shall cause the infected tree or wood to be sprayed, removed, burned or otherwise effectively treated so as to destroy and prevent, as fully as possible, the spread of Dutch elm disease fungus and elm bark beetles.
- (b) Such abatement procedures described in subsection (a) of this section shall be carried out in accordance with current technical and expert opinions and plans as may be designated by the state commissioner of agriculture.

(Code 1971, § 26-31)

Sec. 26-23. Forester's duty to make inspections, investigations.

- (a) The forester shall inspect all premises and places within the city as often as practicable to determine whether any condition described in section 26-19 of this article exists thereon.

(b) The forester shall investigate all reported incidents of infestation by Dutch elm fungus or elm bark beetles.

(Code 1971, § 26-33)

Sec. 26-24. Forester to send samples of suspected infestation for analysis; etc.

The forester may, upon finding in the city any conditions indicating Dutch elm infestation, immediately send appropriate specimens or samples to the state commissioner of agriculture for analysis, or take such steps for diagnosis as may be recommended by the commissioner.

(Code 1971, § 26-35)

Sec. 26-25. Forester to keep record and to report to city administrator on all abatements.

A record of the costs of all abatements done under this article for which assessments are to be made, stating and certifying the description of the land, lots, parcels involved and the amount chargeable to each shall be kept by the forester and reported to the city administrator.

(Code 1971, § 26-37)

Sec. 26-26. Annual listing, charging for unpaid abatement costs.

Annually, the city administrator shall list the total unpaid charges for each abatement authorized in section 26-21 of this article against each separate lot or parcel to which they are attributable under this article. The council may then spread the charges or any portion thereof against the property involved as a special assessment under state statutes for a period not to exceed five (5) years.

(Code 1971, § 26-39)

State law reference(s)—Abatement expenses incurred by city pursuant to article alien on property which may be collected as a special assessment, M.S. §§ 18.022, subd. 6, 429.101.

Tree Preservation Ordinance Work Plan

Committee vs. Whole Commission vs. City Staff

Goal

What are we trying to achieve? What is the problem we're trying to address?

Assigned:

Deadline:

Reference Materials

Where are we at? What is working and what isn't?

Assigned:

Deadline:

Basis in 2040 Plan

Basis in Climate Adaptation Plan

Best Practices

Model and/or Comparable Ordinances

Key Stakeholders

Let's work together to develop a shared awareness and understanding of what we want to accomplish.

Assigned:

Deadline:

City Council, local developers, residents...

Engagement Plan

How will we reach stakeholders and work with them to develop a shared vision?

Assigned:

Deadline:

How to engage and gather feedback from identified stakeholders

Draft Ordinance

What is required to achieve our vision?

Assigned:

Deadline:

Breakdown:

1. Goal/intent of ordinance:
2. Objectives/metrics:
3. Suggested elements (best practices, model ordinances):
4. Feedback from stakeholders/work sessions:
5. Final suggested elements:
6. Draft text:

Timeline

1. Goal/objectives stated
2. Research compiled
3. Stakeholders identified
4. Engagement conducted
5. Draft ordinance
6. Council work session
7. Final draft ordinance
8. Council vote



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Landscaping Ordinance - Work Plan

Background:

At its January 2023 meeting, the Environmental Commission identified updating the City's landscaping ordinance as a priority for its 2023 work plan. To update the ordinance will require research into best practices, the policies of comparable local jurisdictions, and the incorporation of viewpoints from a diverse group of stakeholders including residents, developers, landscapers, and others. Creating an ordinance that will enhance the city, achieve stated environmental goals, and be sensitive to economic considerations will require a thoughtful and deliberate process.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator recommends that the Environmental Commission establish a workplan that includes a timeline, identifies stakeholders, methods of stakeholder input, goals or methods for establishing goals, and considers how the success of the ordinance might be assessed in the future.

Attachments:

1. ARTICLE_3.___LANDSCAPING_AND_SCREENING
2. Landscaping Work Plan

ARTICLE 3. LANDSCAPING AND SCREENING

Sec. 4-90. Purpose.

Landscaping and screening requirements are established to transition between uncomplimentary land uses, to screen unsightly views, to reduce noise, glare, and stormwater runoff, and to generally enhance the quality and appearance of development within the city.

(Ord. No. 99-20, § 1, 11-23-99; Ord. No. 2010-09, § 1, 6-8-10)

Sec. 4-100. Landscape plan required.

- (A) *In general.* A landscape plan shall be required in support of a site plan or building permit for all new construction, remodeling, or expansion of commercial, industrial, or multi-family residential uses.
- (B) *Review.* The City Planner shall review all landscape plans for compliance with the landscaping and screening requirements outlined within this chapter. For the purposes of this section, all calculations regarding the number of required plantings shall be rounded to the nearest whole number, unless indicated otherwise.
- (C) *Plan contents.* All landscape plans submitted for approval shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:
 - (1) North point and scale.
 - (2) The boundary lines of the property with accurate dimensions.
 - (3) The location of all driveways, parking areas, sidewalks, structures, utilities, or other features, existing or proposed, affecting the landscaping and screening of the site.
 - (4) The location, size, and identification of all existing trees, shrubs, and other vegetation intended for use in meeting the planting requirements of this chapter.
 - (5) The location, common name, size, and quantity of all proposed landscape materials.
 - (6) Proposed seeding or sodding plans for all disturbed areas, including the type of ground cover and method of application.
 - (7) The location and height of any proposed earth berms, fences, or other measures used to satisfy screening requirements of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 99-20, § 1, 11-23-99; Ord. No. 2010-09, § 1, 6-8-10)

Sec. 4-110. Landscape design requirements.

Landscape design shall serve to provide visually interesting open space, to reduce the potential negative impact of development on adjacent land uses, and to facilitate the preservation and reestablishment of plants native to the region. The following items are required in developing a landscape plan for submittal to the city:

- (1) The overall composition and location of landscaped areas should complement the scale of the development and its surroundings.

- (2) Plant materials should be selected and arranged to prevent blocking or obscuring of required site lighting during all stages of plant growth.
- (3) Plantings at intersections or driveway entrances shall be arranged to allow a permanently clear, safe sight distance.
- (4) Trees or shrubs shall not be planted under existing or proposed utility lines when their ultimate height may interfere with the lowest lines.
- (5) Trees and shrubs shall not be placed over underground drainage and shall maintain adequate distance from storm sewers, sanitary sewers, and water lines to prevent roots from entering such facilities.
- (6) Landscaped areas should be of adequate size to promote proper plant growth and to protect plantings from pedestrian traffic, vehicle traffic, and other types of concentrated activity.
- (7) Landscaped areas and plantings should be located in a manner to prevent spread onto adjacent properties or right-of-way, and to allow adequate room for proper maintenance.
- (8) A variety of tree and shrub species should be utilized to provide visual, four-season interest. Not more than fifty (50) percent of the required number of trees or shrubs may be comprised of any one (1) species.
- (9) Final slopes greater than a 3:1 ratio will not be permitted without special approval or treatment, such as special seed mixtures or reforestation, terracing, or retaining walls.

(Ord. No. 99-20, § 1, 11-23-99)

Sec. 4-120. Landscaping requirements, single and two-family residential uses.

A minimum of two (2) trees shall be required per single or two-family residential lot. The trees shall be placed in the front yard area at least ten (10) feet from the curb line. On corner lots and cul-de-sac lots, one of the trees may be placed in the side yard area. All remaining lot area not used for structures, parking area, or driveway shall be landscaped with turf grass, native grasses, ground cover, or other perennial flowering plants, vines, shrubs, or trees.

(Ord. No. 99-20, § 1, 11-23-99)

Sec. 4-125. Landscaping requirements, industrial districts.

- (A) *[Base number of landscape plantings.]* The base number of landscape plantings required on industrially zoned properties shall be determined by the percent of impervious surface on the property as shown in the following table. For the purposes of this section, all calculations regarding the number of required plantings shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Percent Impervious Surface	Base Plantings Required
0 — 19%	3 plantings/Acre
20 — 39%	4 plantings/Acre
40 — 59%	5 plantings/Acre
60 — 79%	6 plantings/Acre
80 — 100%	7 plantings/Acre

- (B) *Shrub plantings.* No more than ⅓ of the total required plantings shall be shrubs. Perennials and annuals shall not qualify as shrubs.

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- (C) *Evergreen plantings.* A minimum of ⅓ of the required plantings shall be evergreen.
- (D) *Planting locations.* A minimum of fifty (50) percent of the required base plantings shall be located within the required front building setback area. If the property has more than one (1) street frontage, the plantings required within this section shall be evenly divided between the street frontages.
- (E) *Landscape transitions.* Landscape transitions are established to lessen the impact of industrial uses on certain less intense land uses, zoning districts, and Interstate 35. Such transitions are required as follows:
- (1) A fifty (50) percent increase in the base number of plantings is required for properties abutting Interstate 35. Such plantings shall be planted within the building or parking setback area adjacent to Interstate 35.
 - (2) A fifty (50) percent increase in the base number of plantings is required if the property is adjacent to a Public Park, Trail, or Open Space. Such plantings shall be planted in the setback area immediately adjacent to the Public Park, Trail, or Open Space. If a trail is located adjacent to or within the public right-of-way it is exempt from this provision.
 - (3) A fifty (50) percent in the base number of plantings is required if the property is adjacent to a residential use or zoning district. Such plantings shall be planted in the setback area adjacent to the residential use or zoning district.
 - (4) A maximum increase of seventy-five (75) percent increase in the base number of plantings shall be required on any one (1) property. In cases where two (2) or more of the above criteria are met, the plantings shall be evenly distributed and planted in the building setback area along the property line for which the increased plantings are required.
- (F) *Interior landscaping of parking lots.* In all parking areas that contain more than fifty (50) parking spaces, a landscaped island of not less than one hundred (100) square feet shall be provided for each twenty-five (25) parking spaces or fraction thereof, and shall contain one (1) tree which provides shade or is capable of providing shade upon maturity, as illustrated in Figure 4-4. The remainder of the landscaped area shall be covered with turf grass, native grasses, or other perennial flowering plants, vines, shrubs, trees, or landscape rock a minimum of one and one-half (1½) inch in size.
- (G) *Lawn coverage.* All areas, excluding those within the public right-of-way, which are disturbed by grading and not built upon, paved, retained as natural area, or covered with other landscaping materials shall be seeded or sodded to provide complete coverage. Disturbed areas located within the public right-of-way shall be sodded. Disturbed areas located within the public right-of-way unmaintained ditch areas may be seeded, subject to approval by the City Engineer.
- (H) *Screening.* When screening is required, as stated in other sections of this chapter, the following standards shall apply:
- (1) The screening shall be a minimum of six (6) feet in height.
 - (2) The screening shall have a minimum of ninety (90) percent opacity.
 - (3) If landscaping is used for the screening, the plantings shall be evergreen and a minimum of six (6) in height when planted. A ninety (90) percent opacity level shall be obtained within two (2) years.
 - (4) Screening shall be required when the area is visible from one (1) of the following areas:
 - a. A residential zoning district or use.
 - b. A public park, trail, or open space.
 - c. Interstate 35, a State Highway, or County Highway.

(Ord. No. 2008-09, § 1, 5-13-08; Ord. No. 2010-09, § 1, 6-8-10)

Sec. 4-130. Landscaping requirements, all other uses.

- (A) The base number of landscape plantings required for all other uses shall be determined by the percent of impervious surface on the property as shown in the following table. For the purposes of this section, all calculations regarding the number of required plantings shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Percent Impervious Surface	Base Plantings Required
0 — 19%	5 plantings/Acre
20 — 39%	7 plantings/Acre
40 — 59%	8 plantings/Acre
60 — 79%	10 plantings/Acre
80 — 100%	12 plantings/Acre

- (B) *Shrub plantings.* No more than one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the total required plantings shall be shrubs. Perennials and annuals shall not qualify as shrubs.
- (C) *Evergreen plantings.* A minimum of one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the required plantings shall be evergreen.
- (D) *Planting locations.* A minimum of fifty (50) percent of the required base plantings shall be located within the required front building setback area. If the property has more than one (1) street frontage, the plantings required within this section shall be evenly divided between the street frontages.
- (E) *Landscape transitions.* Landscape transitions are established to lessen the impact of more intense land uses on certain less intense land uses. Such transitions are required as follows:
- (1) A fifty (50) percent increase in the base number of plantings is required if the property is adjacent to a public park, trail, or open space. Such plantings shall be planted in the setback area immediately adjacent to the public park, trail, or open space. If a trail is located immediately adjacent to or within the public right-of-way, it is exempt from this provision.
 - (2) A seventy-five (75) percent increase in the base number of plantings is required if a commercial property is adjacent to an elementary school. Such plantings shall be planted in the setback area adjacent to the elementary school.
 - (3) A seventy-five (75) percent increase in the base number of plantings is required if the high density residential use is adjacent to a medium density residential use or a medium density residential use is adjacent to a high density residential use. Such plantings shall be planted in the setback area adjacent to the neighboring use.
 - (4) A seventy-five (75) percent increase in the base number of plantings is required if the medium density residential use is adjacent to a single- or two-family residential use or if a single- or two-family residential use is adjacent to a medium density residential use. Such plantings shall be planted in the setback area adjacent to the neighboring use.
 - (5) A one hundred (100) percent increase in the base number of plantings is required if a high density residential use is adjacent to a single- or two-family use or if the single- or two-family is adjacent to a high density residential use. Such plantings shall be planted in the setback area adjacent to the neighboring use.
 - (6) A one hundred (100) percent increase in the base number of plantings is required if the commercial property is adjacent to a residential use or zoning district. Such plantings shall be planted in the setback area adjacent to the residential use or zoning district.

- (7) The base number of plantings shall be adjusted by the number of stories in the building according to the table below. A story is defined as provided in Section 1-120.

One Story	0% Increase
Two Story	25% Increase
Three Story	50% Increase
Four + Story	100% Increase

- (8) A maximum increase of one hundred fifty (150) percent in the base number of plantings shall be required on any one (1) property. In cases where two (2) or more of the above criteria are met, the plantings shall be evenly distributed and planted in the building setback area along the property line for which the increased plantings are required.
- (F) *Rain garden and bio-retention cell discount.* A discount in the total number of landscape plantings required may be allowed for properly installed and maintained rain gardens and bio-retention cells due to their ability to enhance the landscaped environment. A properly installed rain garden or bio-retention cell provides numerous plantings that are not considered trees or shrubs but add to the landscaped environment. A discount is being provided based on the square footage of the rain garden or bio-retention cell as stated below:

0 — 5000 total square feet	10% discount
5,001 — 10,000 total square feet	20% discount
10,001 + total square feet	30% discount

- (G) *Interior landscaping of parking lots.* In all parking areas that contain more than fifty (50) parking spaces, a landscaped island of not less than one-hundred (100) square feet shall be provided for each twenty-five (25) parking spaces or fraction thereof, and shall contain one (1) tree which provides shade or is capable of providing shade upon maturity, as illustrated in Figure 4-4. The remainder of the landscaped area shall be covered with turf grass, native grasses, or other perennial flowering plants, vines, shrubs, trees, or landscape rock a minimum of one and one-half (1½) inch in size.

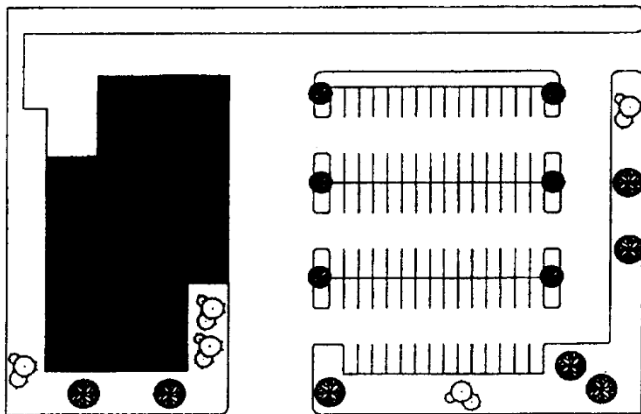


Figure 4-4

- (H) *Lawn coverage.* All areas, excluding those within the public right-of-way, which are disturbed by grading and not built upon, paved, retained as natural area, or covered with other landscaping materials shall be seeded or sodded to provide complete coverage. Disturbed areas located within the public right-of-way shall be

sodded. Disturbed areas located within the public right of way unmaintained ditch areas may be seeded, subject to approval by the City Engineer.

- (I) *Screening.* When screening is required, as stated in other sections of this chapter, the following standards shall apply:
- (1) The screening shall be a minimum of six (6) feet in height.
 - (2) The screening shall have a minimum of ninety (90) percent opacity.
 - (3) If landscaping is used for the screening, the plantings shall be evergreen and a minimum of six (6) [feet] in height when planted. A ninety (90) percent opacity level shall be obtained within two (2) years.
 - (4) Screening shall be required when the area is visible from one (1) of the following areas:
 - a. A residential zoning district or use.
 - b. A public park, trail, or open space.
 - c. Interstate 35, a State Highway, or County Highway.

(Ord. No. 99-20, § 1, 11-23-99; Ord. No. 2008-09, § 1, 5-13-08; Ord. No. 2010-09, § 1, 6-8-10)

Sec. 4-140. Reserved.

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2010-09, § 1, adopted June 8, 2010, repealed § 4-140 in its entirety. The former § 4-140 pertained to landscaped buffer areas and derived from Ord. No. 99-20, § 1, adopted Nov. 23, 1999; Ord. No. 2008-09, § 1, adopted May 13, 2008.

Sec. 4-150. Landscaping materials.

- (A) *In general.* All plant materials must meet the standards set by the American Association of Nurserymen and be of a variety that is indigenous to the hardiness zone in which Faribault is located.
- (B) *Minimum plant size.* All plant materials shall meet the minimum size standards identified in Table 4-3. For the purposes of determining tree trunk size, the diameter shall be measured six (6) inches above ground level.

Table 4-3. Minimum plant size for landscape materials.

Plant Type	Minimum Plant Size
Trees	
Evergreen	4—5 feet in height
Deciduous	1—1½ inches in diameter
Deciduous ornamental	1 inch in diameter
Shrubs	
Evergreen	18" in height
Deciduous	18" in height

- (C) *Existing plant material.* Existing, healthy plant material may be utilized to satisfy landscaping requirements, provided it meets the minimum plant size specified in Table 4-3.

(Ord. No. 99-20, § 1, 11-23-99; Ord. No. 2010-09, § 1, 6-8-10)

Sec. 4-160. Installation and maintenance of required landscaping.

- (A) *In general.* All landscaping materials depicted on plans approved by the city shall be considered as required elements of the project.
- (B) *Installation requirements.* All landscape material and required screening shall be installed prior to issuance of a final certificate of occupancy. A temporary certificate of occupancy may be issued without the installation, provided a financial security shall be submitted, in an amount established by the City Council, to ensure the remaining improvements are completed. The remaining improvements shall be installed when weather conditions are favorable.
- (C) *Maintenance and care.* The landowner shall be responsible for the continued maintenance of landscape materials to remain in compliance with all requirements of this chapter. Plant material that exhibits evidence of insect pests, disease, or damage shall be appropriately treated and dead plants promptly removed and replaced within the next planting season.
- (D) *Inspection.* All landscaping shall be subject to periodic inspection by the City Planner. Landscaping that is not installed, maintained, or replaced as needed to comply with the approved landscape plan shall be considered in violation of the terms of the site plan or building permit. The landowner shall receive notice of such violation in accordance with code enforcement requirements as specified in Section 2-620.

(Ord. No. 99-20, § 1, 11-23-99; Ord. No. 2008-09, § 1, 5-13-08; Ord. No. 2010-09, § 1, 6-8-10)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2010-09, § 1, adopted June 8, 2010, changed the title of § 4-160 from "Installation and maintenance of required landscaping and buffering methods" to "Installation and maintenance of required landscaping".

Sec. 4-170. Substitutions or reductions of required landscaping.

The City Planner may approve the substitution or reduction of planting requirements where one (1) or more of the following conditions are shown to exist:

- (1) The proposal will allow site development that is more consistent with the historic nature of the area.
- (2) Existing plant materials, walls, fences, or the topography of the site and its surroundings make the required landscaping less necessary.
- (3) The required landscaping would hinder truck access and service necessary to the operation of the use or create a hazard by obstructing a motorist's view of traffic.
- (4) The required landscaping would reduce necessary surveillance of the site for security purposes.

(Ord. No. 99-20, § 1, 11-23-99; Ord. No. 2010-09, § 1, 6-8-10)

Landscaping Ordinance Work Plan

Committee vs. Whole Commission vs. City Staff

Goal

What are we trying to achieve? What is the problem we're trying to address?

Assigned:

Deadline:

Reference Materials

Where are we at? What is working and what isn't?

Assigned:

Deadline:

Basis in 2040 Plan

Basis in Climate Adaptation Plan

Best Practices

Model and/or Comparable Ordinances

Key Stakeholders - Identify

Let's work together to develop a shared awareness and understanding of what we want to accomplish.

Assigned:

Deadline:

City Council, local developers, residents, local landscapers, business owners...

Engagement Plan

How will we reach stakeholders and work with them to develop a shared vision?

Assigned:

Deadline:

How to engage and gather feedback from identified stakeholders

Draft Ordinance

What is required to achieve our vision?

Assigned:

Deadline:

Breakdown:

1. Goal/intent of ordinance:
2. Objectives/metrics:
3. Suggested elements (best practices, model ordinances)
4. Feedback from stakeholders/work sessions:
5. Final suggested elements:
6. Draft text:

Timeline

1. Goal/objectives stated
2. Research compiled
3. Stakeholders identified
4. Engagement conducted
5. Draft ordinance
6. Council work session
7. Final draft ordinance
8. Council vote



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathais Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation

Background:

The mayor has been invited to participate in the Wyland National Mayor's challenge for water conservation 2023 Challenge! This challenge will take place April 1-30 2023.

The Challenge presented by the Wyland Foundation brings people and communities together both virtually and physically for a fun and educational competition to see which cities can be the most "water wise" and thousands of dollars in eco-friendly prizes. The Challenge reminds residents and educates children that simple individual actions can add up to huge changes in protecting our environment.

Resident Participation

Residents can participate in two ways; making online conservation pledges www.mywaterpledge.com; and with hands-on projects or actions at www.wylandfoundation.org/mywaterproject that can be done in their own backyard or neighborhood. The hands-on projects can be done as an individual, with family members, or as a virtual group activity inviting friends, neighbors, co-workers to do the same activity in their own backyard or neighborhood. A [student edition](#) of the Challenge offers teacher activities and curriculum as well as additional prizes for the classroom and school.

City Participation

Cities participate by simply signing up at <https://wylandfoundation.org/programs/mayors/>. Mayors or the appropriate sustainability, water, or city official can sign your city up to participate and we then provide a digital toolkit with digital assets to communicate the program to your city residents. Once signed up you will join mayors from prominent cities such as Houston, Dallas, San Diego, Denver, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and many more who have led their cities in the National Mayor's Challenge.

City Landing Page

Participating residents go to mywaterpledge.com, select their city to begin, and are taken to their city's landing page. This landing page provides mayors or appropriate city officials an open platform to provide a statement of support for conservation, the Mayor's Challenge, and what your city is doing or what programs you provide. You can provide a written statement and or a video statement in YouTube format.

You can sign your city up for the Challenge as soon as today and then take as much time as needed to draft your statement of support and or video. You can also use the statement of support provided at the sign up [page](#). Once signed up we provide you with access to your landing page to upload/make changes/manage your statement of support and or video. Additionally you can email statements/videos to mayorchallenge@wylandfoundation.org. All videos must be in the form of a YouTube link.

<https://mailchi.mp/wylandfoundation.org/april-1st-national-mayors-water-challenge-begins-248183>

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator recommends participating in the Wyland National Mayors Challenge for Water Conservation by signing a letter of support and promoting participation in the program to residents.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: 2023 Environment Commissions Conference

Background:

Hi All,

I hope you are all surviving Snowmageddon. I was just writing to ask you to save the date for the 2023 Environment Commissions Conference. This year's conference will be held at the Ridgedale Library (12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka MN 55305) in the Robert H. Rohlf room (the same location as last year).

WHO: All city environment commission members and people interested in starting a similar commission in their own community

WHERE: The Robert H. Rohlf Room at Ridgedale Public Library 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka MN 55305

WHEN: Saturday, May 20th, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

A registration form with more information will be coming shortly, for now just save the date!

In addition, feel free to forward this email to anyone you think might be interested.

And finally feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thanks and I'll talk to you soon!

-John Anderson

John Anderson

Local Government Program Manager

CONSERVATION MINNESOTA

| main **612.767.2444**

1101 West River Parkway, Suite 250
Minneapolis, MN 55415

conservationminnesota.org

Recommendation:

This is simply a save-the-date announcement.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Energy Action Plan Update - Participation Request

Background:

In 2017 the City teamed up with Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program to develop an energy action plan for the city. Faribault was one of the first cities in the state to participate in the program. Now Partners in Energy is looking to revisit the plan, identify progress that's been made, areas for continued growth, and new opportunities. This will involve putting together an Energy Action Core Team. The composition of the team is yet to be determined, but Mayor Kevin Voracek has indicated he will serve. The current plan is to host 4 planning sessions, the first and last with the Core Team, a second in-person community-wide event, and a third virtual or mixed, community-wide event.

There will also be on-going virtual engagement through surveys and other means.

We anticipate members of the Core Team will attend 2-4 sessions between February and August. Meetings could range from 1-3 hours, depending on the type of work session and the level of engagement/discussion.

Dates and times are as follows:

Core Team Meeting - 1

Wednesday, March 8

2-4 pm

Zoom

General Community Meeting - 1

Thursday, April 13

6-8 pm (2 hours)

Zoom

General Community Meeting - 2

Thursday, May 25

6-8 pm (2 hours)

Location TBD

Core Team Meeting - 2

Wednesday, May 14

2-4 pm

Zoom

Recommendation:

We are seeking members of the Environmental Commission to serve on the Core Team and be present at all 4 meetings to help guide the discussion.

Attachments:

1. PiE-MN-Faribault Planning Process (002)

FARIBAULT PLANNING PROCESS OUTLINE

OPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR PLANNING

CONSIDERATIONS IN PLANNING

- **Data:** Renewed baseline data will be provided to ensure new goals and targets can be measured.
- **Focus areas:** Broad focus areas to help planning conversations be nimble to what the community's needs are.
- **GHG goal:** Can set some parameters at the 1st work session to get feedback on in workshops. Focus on climate change and healthy homes. EV strategies will not contribute to GHG goals.
- **Energy Equity:** Keep equity as a lens in all workshops and call out clearly in the plan.
- **In-person workshop:** Consider accessible space (Library?), kid friendly atmosphere or daycare, incentives to participation, food, and translation.
- **Community-wide workshops:** Have trusted messengers do community invitations, and welcome activity.
- **Core team planning:** Consider letting community drive a new vision, develop the questions to the community that will create the vision, strategies, and goals/targets, stakeholder mapping will help with invitations to workshops, surveys, and one-on-one interviews. (Core team: City staff, PiE team, Others?)

PLANNING WORKSHOPS AND OUTREACH

Outreach in conjunction with in-person workshops

- Community input boards – Engaging the general community in passer-by and gathering spaces
- Community survey – Paper and online survey's deployed with wide reach or directed spaces
- U of MN class engagement – Process Presentation and Creative Strategy Brainstorm
- One-on-one interviews – Engage key stakeholders directly



BROAD FOCUS AREAS WITH STAKEHOLDER AUDIENCES:

Focus Areas

Energy Efficiency

Renewable Energy

Electric Vehicles

Stakeholders/Audiences

- Businesses
- Residents (Renters, Homeowners)
- Students
- Multi-family buildings
- Higher Education
- Municipal buildings
- Manufactured home parks
- Others?

PARTNERS IN ENERGY SUPPORT

4 Workshops

- Workshop 1 – Core Team
 - City Staff, council members, commission members
 - Community leaders
 - Xcel Energy
- Workshop 2-3
 - Community-wide event in-person
 - Community-wide event virtual
- Workshop 4 – Core Team

Community Outreach Tools

- Guiding questions
- Community input boards
- Survey
- One-on-one interview guide
- Data collection tool

PARTNERS IN ENERGY LEAD PLANNING



CITY LEAD OUTREACH THROUGHOUT PLANNING TIMELINE

- **Community input boards** – Engaging the general community in passer-by and gathering spaces
 - **Community survey** – Paper and online survey's deployed with wide reach or directed spaces
 - **Small stakeholder group engagement** – bring together smaller stakeholder groups as called out in stakeholder mapping as needed.
 - **One-on-one interviews** – Engage key stakeholders directly
-
- Partners in Energy will provide tools for outreach and data collection
 - City will provide outreach data collected to Partners in Energy to incorporate into plan.

OUTCOMES

