



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance
 - B. Future Work Plan Items
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
 - Community Compost Cooperative - Faribault
 - Wyland Mayor's Challenge Results
5. Adjournment



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Teresa DeMars, Cynthia Diessner, Dick Huston, Lee Nordmeyer, Roger Steinkamp, Absent from the meeting were Martha Brown and Chair Sonny Wasilowski. Also in attendance was Recording Secretary, Kari Casper and Staff Liaison, Mathias Hughey.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Roger Steinkamp, seconded by Teresa DeMars to Approve the meeting minutes as presented.. The motion passed on a 5/0 vote..

3. Items for Discussion

A. Draft Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance

The commission tabled the draft tree preservation ordinance in order to have more time to consider it. The key points for consideration: **Heritage trees** have a 0% removal threshold (no freebies) and will be replaced at 1.5" for each 1" removed. **Significant trees** have a 25% removal threshold (25% of existing trees can be removed without replacement) and will be replaced at 1.25" for each 1" removed. The ordinance only applies to new development, or significant industrial/commercial expansion. Motion by Teresa DeMars, seconded by Roger Steinkamp to Approve tabling the matter to the next meeting. The motion passed on a 5/0 vote.

B. Tabling at Heritage Preservation Days

Hughey prepared a doodle for this event to table on the Saturday. To date, no one has responded. He will resent the doodle link. The key points they would like to convey would be the pollinators and Teresa Demars has a lot of information on the Emerald Ash Borer with props to bring to the table. Delia said that even though this is her last meeting with the ENV, she would like to volunteer for the event and may ask additional youth to assist.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

Energy Action Plan Public Meeting

Hughey stated that the next meeting for the Energy Action Plan is set for May 25th at Buckham West from 6 to 8 and invited everyone to attend.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Roger Steinkamp, seconded by Lee Nordmeyer to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.. The motion passed on a 5/0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kari Casper
Administrative Assistant



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: June 26, 2023
SUBJECT: Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance

Background:

At the May 22 Environmental Commission meeting, commission members tabled discussion on the draft Tree Replacement and Preservation Ordinance in order to have more time to review. At the April 24 commission meeting they had selected preferred alternatives for variations of the Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance. The variations were based on model ordinances selected from other Minnesota communities, and were intended to provide a breadth of alternatives and models for protecting mature trees within the city.

Based on the feedback from the commissioners, the attached draft ordinance has been created for review.

Some points of clarification include if and how prairie plantings or restoration could be effectively substituted for tree replacement, how replacement trees would count towards the landscape requirements, and what the exact replacement ratio should be.

Recommendation:

Review the attached draft ordinance, discuss, and offer any suggestions, concerns, comments, or additional considerations. This draft will serve as a baseline proposal for engagement with other local stakeholders.

Approve the draft ordinance as an initial proposal for engagement with other stakeholders.

Attachments:

1. Draft Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance

SECTION XXX. TREE PRESERVATION

XXX.01. Findings and Purposes.

- Subd. 1. The Council recognizes that preservation and replanting of trees is important on new development sites in order to maintain a healthy and desirable community. The Council also recognizes that a certain amount of tree loss is an inevitable consequence of the urban development process. The Council finds that these tree preservation regulations help to establish a balance between an individual's rights to develop his or her property, and the needs of the community to protect all aspects of the natural environment and to provide housing, services, and employment opportunities within the City.
- Subd. 2. The purposes of these tree preservation regulations include, but are not limited to, 1) prevention of soil erosion and sedimentation, 2) improved air quality, 3) reduced noise pollution, 4) energy conservation through natural insulation and shading, 5) control of the urban heat island effect, 6) increased property values, 7) protection of privacy by maintaining and establishing buffers between conflicting land uses, and 8) providing habitat for wildlife.

XXX.02. Definitions.

"Coniferous Tree" means a woody plant bearing seeds and cones oftentimes, but not always, retaining foliage throughout the year.

"Construction Area" means any area in which movement of earth, alteration in topography, soil compaction, disruption of vegetation, change in soil chemistry, or any other change in the natural character of the land occurs as a result of site preparation, grading, building construction or any other construction activity.

"Critical Root Zone" means the area around a tree measured from the trunk of the tree with a radius that is equal to 1.5 feet for each one inch of DBH of the tree. For example, if a tree's DBH is ten inches, then its critical root zone radius is 15 feet (10 x 1.5 = 15).

"Deciduous Tree" means a woody plant which has a defined crown, and which loses leaves annually.

"Diameter of Tree at Breast Height" or "DBH" means the diameter of a tree as measured 4½ feet 54 inches above the ground. Trees that branch near or below 4½ feet from the ground will be measured at the narrowest point below 4½ feet. Trunks that originate from the ground shall be considered separate trees. The City Forester shall have the final determination in the DBH calculation if there is a question of how it is to be measured.

"Hardwood Deciduous Tree" means a Deciduous Tree recognized as hardwoods by the City Forester, including ironwood, catalpa, oak, maple (hard), walnut, ash, hickory, birch, black cherry, hackberry, locust and basswood.

"Healthy Tree" means the average or better condition and vitality for the area as determined by the City Forester.

"Heritage Tree" means a Healthy Softwood Deciduous Tree that is 30 inches or greater in DBH, a Healthy Hardwood Deciduous Tree that is 25 inches or greater in DBH, or a Healthy Coniferous Tree that is 25 inches or greater in DBH.

"Landscape Architect" means a person licensed by the State of Minnesota as a landscape architect.

"Native Habitat Substitution Plan" means the native habitat substitution plan established and described in this Chapter.

"Nursery Stock Dealer" or "Nursery Stock Grower" means a person licensed by the State of Minnesota as a nursery stock dealer or a nursery stock grower.

"Public Infrastructure" means the construction or maintenance of:

1. Collector or arterial roads as defined by the City Transportation Plan;
2. Public recreational trails;
3. Stormwater infrastructure;
4. Installation or maintenance of trunk utility infrastructure as described in the Comprehensive Sewer or Water Plans; or
5. Any essential service or public improvement.

"Removal" or "Tree Removal" means:

1. Manual, mechanical, chemical, or abiotic or biotic (fire, water, insects or inoculation) methods which results in the physical removal of a tree;
2. Grading impact, compaction, or other damage up to 40 percent of a tree's Critical Root Zone;
3. Excessive pruning that severely impacts the long term survivability of the tree; or
4. Any other impact to a tree that comprises the long term health or structural stability of a tree.

"Significant Tree" means a Healthy Deciduous Hardwood Tree that is six inches or greater in DBH, a Healthy Softwood Deciduous Tree that is 12 inches or greater in DBH, or a Healthy Coniferous Tree that is 12 feet or greater in height or 12 inches or greater in DBH.

"Site Plan" means the site plan established and described in this Chapter.

"Softwood Deciduous Tree" means a Deciduous Tree recognized as softwoods by the City Forester, including cottonwood, poplar/aspen, box elder, willow, silver maple and elm.

"Tree Preservation Plan" means the tree preservation plan established and described in this Chapter.

XXX.03. Scope.

The regulations contained in this section shall apply to all properties involving 1) a preliminary plat application or 2) a lot division application resulting in the creation of one or more new development parcels, or 3) projects subject to Design Review, or 4) construction of single-family homes on undeveloped lots, or 5) expansion of industrial or commercial uses of greater than 10% of the existing square footage of impervious surface. The City does, however, strongly encourage preservation of healthy trees on all properties within the City.

(Ord. 2009-08, 5/12/2009)

XXX.05. Removal Threshold.

Subd. 1. **Significant Trees:** Significant Tree Removal by Developers. Although the City encourages preservation of the maximum amount of trees possible, the City recognizes that a certain amount of Significant Trees removal is sometimes necessary during development. Accordingly, 25 percent of the existing DBH inches of Significant Trees can be removed pursuant to a Tree Preservation Plan without obligation of replacement.

Any tree removal beyond 25 percent will require replacement in accordance with the standards of Section 936.08.

Subd 2. **Heritage Trees:** Heritage Trees are valued and special trees for the City of Faribault due to their size and age. All possible measures must be taken to preserve Heritage Trees. Heritage Tree removal may occur only when there is not a practical alternative. There shall be a zero percent removal threshold of Heritage Trees, meaning every DBH inch of Heritage Tree removed requires full replacement in accordance with the standards within Section 936.08, in addition to any other requirements hereunder.

XXX.07. Reforestation/Restitution Requirement.

If a development exceeds the allowable removal or disturbance threshold specified in Section XXX.05 above, the subdivider shall either reforest appropriate areas within the site (or outside the site if appropriate locations within the site are not available) or pay restitution, or provide a combination thereof, as directed by the City. For each one (1.0) tree inch that is removed or disturbed beyond the threshold, the subdivider shall replant 1.25 inches of new trees or provide the City with \$125.00 in restitution.

XXX.09. Trees Exempt from Replacement Requirements.

Subd 1. The following types of trees shall not be included as part of the tally of tree removals for purposes of calculating replacement in accordance with the standards within Section 936.08:

1. Dead, Diseased, Dying, or Hazard Trees as determined by the City Forester; or
2. Trees that are transplanted from the site to another appropriate location within the City as approved by the City Forester; or
3. Trees that were planted as part of a commercial business such as a tree farm or nursery; or
4. Trees that are structurally unstable and pose a risk to people or permanent structures, as deemed by a certified arborist with a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification and the City Forester.

Subd 2. **Public Infrastructure:** The City Council may waive the tree replacement requirements of this Section for Public Infrastructure projects if the City Council makes a finding that the tree replacement requirements hereof would create an undue financial or other burden on the project, and the public benefits of the Public Infrastructure project outweigh the benefits of the required tree replacement hereof.

XXX.11. Tree Survey/Preservation Plan.

A tree survey and tree preservation plan shall be submitted with all preliminary plat applications, and with all lot division applications involving the creation of one or more new development parcels. The tree survey and tree preservation plan shall be prepared and signed by a registered surveyor or forester not less than two years prior to submission of a complete application for preliminary plat approval, and shall provide the following information:

- A. Location, diameter, and species of all significant trees on the site.
- B. Identification of which significant trees are 1) to be protected, preserved, or undisturbed, 2) to be removed or disturbed, and 3) exempt from the calculation (under Section XXX.09).
- C. Areas proposed to be designated as natural preserves where all natural vegetation, including significant trees, will be protected and preserved (refer to Section 811 of the City Code—Natural Preserves—for information requirements).
- D. Proposed disturbance zones, as identified by cross-hatching or gray-colored shading on the plan.

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- E. Location and dimensions of building pads, construction zone for each lot, and proposed street layout and grading contours of the site.
 - F. Proposed locations and details of tree protection fencing to be installed for all trees to be preserved.
 - G. Calculation of removed or disturbed significant tree inches on the site (excluding exempt tree inches) divided by the total significant tree inches on the site (excluding exempt tree inches).

(Ord. 2006-05, 2/07/2006)

XXX.13. Reforestation/Restitution Plan.

Subd. 1. If the amount of significant tree inches to be removed or disturbed exceeds the specified threshold, the subdivider shall provide a reforestation plan, or a calculation of restitution, or a combination thereof.

Subd. 2. A reforestation plan shall be prepared and signed by a registered landscape architect or forester and shall comply with the following criteria:

- A. The plan shall indicate the location and diameter or height of all trees to be planted.
- B. No more than one-quarter of the trees to be planted may be from any one species, unless recommended by the City Forester.
- C. Plantings shall be of similar vegetation as found on the site, with a preference for plantings designated as native to the site.
- D. The minimum planting size for deciduous trees shall be 2.5 inches in diameter, and the minimum planting size for coniferous trees shall be six feet in height, except that up to 15 percent of the required tree inches may be of ornamental species of a lesser size, provided the required number of replacement inches is maintained.
- E. Installation of trees shall follow the City's standard tree planting details as provided in the City's Engineering Guidelines.
- F. Trees to be planted shall be from certified nursery stock as defined and controlled by Minnesota Statutes, Sections 18.44 through 18.61, the Plant Pest Act.

Subd. 3. Replacement trees shown on a reforestation plan may count toward the trees required by the City's landscaping regulations.

Subd. 4. Restitution shall be paid to the City in cash prior to the City's release of the signed final plat Mylars for recording, or prior to approval of a minor subdivision. Any restitution paid shall be placed in the Community Planting Fund and shall be used for reforestation projects in the City.

(Ord. 2010-02, 2/23/2010)

XXX.15. Native Habitat Substitution.

Historically, portions of the Faribault area were comprised of wetland, prairie, wet prairie, and oak savannah biomes. These biomes have fewer or no trees present, but serve vital ecological functions. Faithful restoration or recreation of these habitats may constitute a suitable alternative to tree-replacement for all or part of the tree replacement requirements. A request for Native Habitat Substitution Plan must be reviewed and approved by the City Council. The basis for approving a Native Habitat Substitution Plan will be whether the applicant can demonstrate comparable environmental and social benefit. Native Habitat Substitution Plans must include the following:

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- Scale site plan with north arrow and scale noted identifying areas of proposed habitat
 - Identified native biome (ex. Prairie, oak savannah, etc.)
 - A table accounting trees removed, and typical replacement requirements
 - Table identifying plant species, including common name, scientific name, size at installation, and quantity
 - o If a seed mix is used, the seed mix specifications must be included.
 - Identified location of any trees, shrubs, etc.
 - A maintenance agreement to be recorded with the property
 - Installation specifications including soil preparation and amendments

XXX.15. Staff Review.

The tree preservation plan and any related reforestation plan or calculation of restitution shall be reviewed and evaluated by the City Forester. The City Forester may make recommendations for adjustment of locations of structures, roadways, utilities, and for replanting and other elements that may be necessary to enhance tree preservation and reforestation efforts.

XXX.17. Landscape Ordinance Requirements.

Nothing in this ordinance exempts a person from the requirements established by any other city ordinance. In cases where this ordinance conflicts with another, the more stringent requirement applies.

Landscaping requirements:

Native species of deciduous trees planted to satisfy the requirements of this ordinance may be counted towards the deciduous tree requirements of the landscape ordinance. Other requirements of the landscape ordinance, including for evergreen trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, or screening will still apply.

XXX.17. City Action.

A tree preservation plan and reforestation plan, including the designation of any natural preserves, shall be considered for approval or denial by the Council as part of the review of a preliminary plat.

(Ord. 2011-06, 2/22/2011)

XXX.19. Amendments.

A tree preservation plan and reforestation plan may be amended after it has been approved. The Zoning Administrator shall have authority to approve amendments, except that a change resulting in removal of more than ten percent of the significant tree inches that were shown as preserved on a Council approved tree preservation plan shall require further review by the Council. As part of any amendment to a tree preservation plan, the required reforestation and/or restitution shall be increased or reduced as appropriate. Requests for amendments shall be submitted prior to removal of any trees shown as preserved on an approved plan. Amendment of a Natural Preserve shall be governed by Section 811 of the City Code.

XXX.21. Financial Guarantee.

Following approval of the tree preservation plan, but prior to issuance of a grading permit or building permit if no grading permit is required, the subdivider shall provide a financial guarantee, as follows:

Subd. 1. A cash escrow or letter of credit to guarantee the tree preservation plan, and the reforestation plan if applicable. The guarantee shall be part of the development contract for projects including public improvements, or shall be part of a site improvement performance agreement (SIPA) if no public improvements are proposed.

Subd. 2. The amount of the financial guarantee shall be calculated as follows: 25 percent of the total significant tree inches shown as preserved that are located within 15 feet of a disturbance zone multiplied by \$125.00 per inch, plus 100 percent of the total tree inches required by the reforestation plan, if applicable, multiplied by \$125.00 per inch. The minimum financial guarantee shall be \$1,000.00. The amount of the financial guarantee shall be maintained at the calculated level until such time as 1) all trees on the site (preserved trees and new reforestation trees) have survived a winter season, which is defined as the period 31 October through 30 April for the purpose of this section, and 2) the City has inspected the site and authorized a reduction or release.

XXX.23. Inspection and Enforcement of Tree Preservation Plan.

Subd. 1. Prior to removal of any trees and prior to issuance of a grading permit, or prior to commencement of any grading operations if no grading permit is required, or prior to issuance of a building permit if no grading operations are required, all sites shall be staked and fenced for tree preservation pursuant to the approved tree preservation plan. A copy of the approved tree preservation plan shall be submitted with an application for a grading permit, or with an application for a building permit if no grading permit is required. Such tree preservation plan shall also indicate any reforestation trees to be planted on the site. Upon staking of the site and installation of the tree protection fencing, but prior to issuance of any permits or commencement of any grading operations, the subdivider shall contact the City Forester to schedule an inspection of the staking and fence installation on the site. No permits shall be issued, nor shall any grading operations commence, without first receiving authorization by the City Forester. Tree protection fencing shall remain in place until after the certificate of occupancy is issued for the building on the site.

Subd. 2. Upon completion of the preliminary site grading operations, but prior to any further issuance of permits upon the site, the subdivider shall contact the City Forester to schedule a second inspection of the site to verify the preservation of trees, as shown on the approved tree preservation plan. No additional permits shall be issued within the plat until a fine of \$150.00 per inch is paid for the disturbance of all significant tree inches that have not been protected, but were shown as protected on the approved tree preservation plan. Any such fines collected shall be placed in the Community Planting Fund and shall be used for reforestation projects in the City.

Subd. 3. Prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy for an individual lot (if within a subdivision), the subdivider (or builder if different from the subdivider) shall contact the City Forester to schedule a final tree preservation inspection to verify the preservation of trees and the planting of any reforestation trees, as shown on the approved tree preservation plan. This required inspection shall be made at least five working days before the certificate of occupancy is requested. Prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy, a fine of \$150.00 per inch shall be paid for the disturbance of all significant tree inches that have not been protected, but were shown as protected on the approved tree preservation plan. Any such fines collected shall be placed in the Community Planting Fund and shall be used for reforestation projects in the City.

(Ord. 2003-15, 6/10/2003; Ord. 2011-29, 10/25/2011; Ord. 2014-13, 1/25/2014)



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: June 26, 2023
SUBJECT: Future Work Plan Items

Background:

In preparation for developing a future work plan, the Environmental Commission should begin compiling a list of potential projects, or recommendations. Initial research is important to establish the potential value and feasibility of different projects or actions. The GreenStep Cities program is an excellent source of potential projects see <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/> for more info. Important considerations for future actions include costs, staff time, process & level of stakeholder engagement, potential opposition and partnerships, intended outcomes, and overall impact or effectiveness of the actions.

Effective assessment of proposed items can free up staff time to focus on implementation, and empower commissioners to identify projects they have a personal interest in. Attached is a draft of a potential project proposal form that commissioners could fill out for consideration as a future work-plan item. The Community Development Coordinator has also filled out an example for an adopt-a-drain program.

Filling out these forms could provide a coherent and consistent method for entering items for discussion, keeping the commission action-oriented, and making progress on the environmental aims of the commission. Any process could be written into the commission's bylaws or adopted informally.

The Community Development Coordinator requests commissioners review the attached forms and bring any suggestions, comments, questions, or points of discussion to the commission meeting. The discussion should focus on whether this is a functional way for commissioners to bring forward potential projects. Some points for consideration - how often should potential work items be discussed? how to select or prioritize projects? and what role commissioners should play in implementing actions? should citizens be able to submit projects for consideration? etc.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator recommends adopting a formalized process for proposing work items and accepting them on a rolling basis.

Attachments:

1. Work Plan Item Proposal - Adopt-a-drain
2. Work Plan Item Proposal

Potential Work Plan Item

Title: Adopt-a-drain

GreenStep Action: Yes/No, Best practice # 17.3,

Type: Advocacy/Awareness & Education/Operational/Regulatory/Other

Area of Impact: Environment/Energy/Social/Economic/Health/Food/Transportation

Summary: Provide a brief summary of the topic and actions.

This is a volunteer program. Residents, organizations, businesses, etc. sign up to “adopt” a storm drain by committing to keep a stormwater drain clear of leaves and debris. This action is simple, quick, protects water quality, and reduces localized flooding.

The city of Saint Cloud partners with the www.adopt-a-drain.org organization, based out of Saint Paul, MN, which provides the opportunity for residents to adopt a drain, and track their cleaning/clearing activity. They also provide education information, resources, and outreach tools. There is likely a monetary cost associated with this program in addition to city staff time. Conversely, some cities like Northfield, have implemented city-managed programs, see <https://www.northfieldmn.gov/1408/Adopt-A-Catch-Basin-Program> for more info. Additional research would be required to determine the relative cost and effectiveness of these alternatives.

Saint Cloud pairs their program with adopt-a-rain-garden, adopt-a-pond, and drain stenciling programs.

Resources: (what do we need to be successful)

An effective program would require a coordinated education and information campaign, the implementation of a signup and tracking system, and regular promotion of the program. Staff time is currently limited, and this effort would require some coordination between departments including public works, engineering, and community development.

Who will be doing the work? (include partners and the role they might play)

Residents, businesses, organizations would do the work of maintaining storm drains

City staff would do the work of researching, promoting, and developing a program. Would include GIS mapping work, website updates, and social media and other forms of awareness raising.

Goal: (list anticipated benefits and measurable outcomes)

A year-over-year increase in participation in the program measured by the number of drains adopted.

Water quality improvements would be more difficult to measure, but could see a reduction in phosphorous, nitrogen, and total suspended solids.

Impacted parties:

Residents/organizations/businesses/others would benefit from improved water quality, cleaner & neater looking streets



Potential Work Plan Item

Title:

GreenStep Action: Yes/No, Best practice #

Type: Advocacy/Awareness & Education/Operational/Regulatory/Other

Area of Impact: Environment/Energy/Social/Economic/Health/Food/Transportation

Summary: Provide a brief summary of the topic and actions.

Resources: (what do we need to be successful)

Who will be doing the work?

Goal: (list anticipated benefits and measurable outcomes)

Impacted parties:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: June 26, 2023
SUBJECT: Community Compost Cooperative - Faribault

Background:

Curbside Compost Cooperative is a group of passionate people dedicated to finding local solutions to environmental and social issues. Their mission is to reduce waste filling up the Rice County landfill and lower local greenhouse gas emissions, while creating quality local jobs and providing an excellent service for their customers. They have been collecting compost since 2017 and are looking to expand their service to Faribault. They are currently accepting pre-registrations for customers in Faribault, and once they have enough customers signed up they will begin collection.

Interested residents can learn more and sign up at <https://www.curbsidecompostmn.coop/faribault-compost-collection/>.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator generally recommends composting of organic matter as positive alternative to landfilling. There are multiple ways that an individual, household, or organization can compost organic waste including hiring a private hauler. This service may be a good solution for some households, and the Community Development Coordinator recommends exploring this option further if it interests you.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: June 26, 2023
SUBJECT: Wyland Mayor's Challenge Results

Background:

During the month of April, the City participated in the Wyland Mayor's Challenge for water conservation. Participation in this awareness campaign was recommended to the City Council by the Environmental Commission. Throughout April, the city staff sent out information on the program to local partners including SWCD, Clean River Partners, River Bend Nature Center, schools, and others, encouraging them to participate and/or asking for their assistance in promoting the program. City staff and our Green Corps member also promoted participation in-person, through posters, email, and with weekly posts on social media. Most of this effort was incorporated into other staff activities, or leveraged materials supplied to participating cities.

Faribault's final ranking of similar-sized cities is unknown. The winning city in our category was Laguna Beach, California, a repeat-winner of the Mayor's Challenge. City-specific metrics were available for the following:

- Water-Gallons Saved 413,906
- Plastic Bottle Use Reduction 865
- Hazardous Waste Reduction 24 pounds
- Landfill Reduction 5,095 pounds
- Carbon Dioxide Savings 1,416,008 pounds
- Kilowatt-Hours Savings 26,476
- Consumer Cost Savings \$5,095

These numbers are based on the number and type of actions Faribault residents committed to take via the online pledge.

The commission should discuss whether they felt the program was a

success, if participation next year is recommended, and suggestions for increasing awareness of and participation in the program.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Coordinator recommends participation in the program in 2024. Several years of participation would provide insight into the effectiveness of different engagement strategies, and a positive trend in participation rates could be leveraged to further encourage participation. Additionally, with more time to prepare, partners may be better able to incorporate the program into their curriculum or communications.

Attachments:

1. Final NMC 2023 winners News Release



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2023

CONTACT:
Jonathan Abramson
(619) 807-6349 jonathan@bluetonemarketing.com

Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation: Winning Cities Unveiled, Taking Action for a Sustainable Future

Hundreds of cities join forces in annual campaign to combat water scarcity and pollution, making 425,000 individual commitments for a greener tomorrow

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. — Amidst the pressing challenges of climate change, population growth, and escalating water pollution, mayors from over 40 states in the United States rallied their residents to reassess their water consumption habits as part of the [2023 Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation](#), April 1-30. With water quality and shortages emerging as critical national concerns, participants from countless cities responded fervently, pledging to undertake hundreds of thousands of actions to conserve over 1.8 billion gallons of water in the coming year.

Cities with the highest percentage of resident pledges during the campaign included perennial small city leader Laguna Beach, California, as well as North Port, Florida, Gainesville, Florida, Tucson, Arizona, and the two-time winner, Houston, Texas. In total, residents from across the nation made an astonishing 425,000 individual commitments to modify their behaviors, ranging from fixing home leaks to minimizing harmful runoff into local waterways.

Presented by the Wyland Foundation, with support from the U.S. EPA, National League of Cities, The Toro Company, and Zenni Remakes, the nationwide campaign acts as a catalyst, providing inspiration, education, and motivation for people of all ages to take decisive actions toward cleaner waters and a healthier environment. In addition to online pledges, the campaign equips residents with tools to engage in tree plantings, storm drain stenciling projects, and neighborhood cleanups, effectively reducing pollution that might otherwise contaminate local water channels.

Participating residents from the winning cities will now be automatically entered to win thousands of dollars in prizes focused on water conservation and eco-friendly initiatives, including \$3,000 towards their home utility payments, water-saving fixtures, and a wide array of other valuable rewards. One school from each winning city will be awarded 100 pairs of Zenni Remakes™ eyeglasses, specially designed to reduce eye damage caused by prolonged exposure to blue light. Each pair is crafted from recycled plastics equivalent to three discarded single-use plastic water bottles.

In addition to reductions in water waste, participants in all 50 states pledged to diminish their usage of single-use plastic water bottles by an impressive 4.1 million, effectively preventing 113,000 pounds of hazardous waste from infiltrating watersheds. By making conscious choices in their daily lives, residents also pledged to reduce landfill waste by a staggering 49 million pounds. The cumulative impact of these commitments promises potential savings of 6.6 billion pounds of carbon dioxide, 123 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, and \$23 million in consumer cost savings. Residents are encouraged after the Mayor's Water Challenge to follow through and measure the full impact of their commitments at the foundation's volunteer-based web application, [MyVolunteer Water Project](#)

About the Wyland Foundation

Founded in 1993 by environmental artist Wyland (best known for his series of 100 monumental marine life murals), the Wyland Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world's ocean, waterways,



The Wyland Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
30265 TOMAS, RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CALIFORNIA 92688
PHONE 949.643.7070 FAX 949.643.7099
www.wylandfoundation.org



WYLAND FOUNDATION

Water is life

and marine life. The foundation encourages environmental awareness through community events, education programs, and public art projects. www.wylandfoundation.org

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The Wyland Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
30265 TOMAS, RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CALIFORNIA 92688
PHONE 949.643.7070 FAX 949.643.7099
www.wylandfoundation.org

