



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24,
ROOM 2025

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Monday, November 24, 2025 Agenda
3. Approval of the Monday, October 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes
4. Items for Discussion
 - A. MN DNR ReLeaf Grant Update
 - B. Interim Ordinance Discussion
 - C. Outreach Opportunities
5. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
6. Adjournment



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE
ROOM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025

6:00 PM

Call to Order

The Environmental Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Teresa DeMars at 6:02 PM. Commissioners in attendance include Teresa DeMars, Ann Poe, Kevin Theis, and Yvette Marthaler. Commissioners absent include Richard Huston, and Lee Nordmeyer. Also in attendance include David Wanberg – Economic and Development Director, and Adam King – Environmental and Water Resource Coordinator. Each commissioner and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of the Monday, October 27, 2025, Agenda

Motion by Marthaler, seconded by Poe to amend the agenda to include the addition of the Monday, December 22, 2025 meeting discussion and carried unanimously.

Motion by Theis, seconded by Poe to approve the agenda as amended and carried unanimously.

Approval of the Monday, September 22, 2025, Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

King presented the Monday, September 22, 2025 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes. The Commissioners discussed the minutes.

Motion by Poe, seconded by Theis to approve the Monday, September 22, 2025 Environmental Commission Meeting minutes as presented and carried unanimously.

Items for Discussion / Action

Tree Grant Updates

King provided an update to the commissioners on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ReLeaf Grant, including that the City Council approved authorization to apply for the grant and accept the grant if received. King informed the commissioners that River Bend Nature Center has approached him to partner on the education and outreach portion of the grant. The commissioners discussed the grant opportunity.

Moratorium Discussion

King presented information on what other entities have done for their moratoriums, including an example resolution from Kootenai County, Idaho. King also presented Minnesota State Statute 462.355 that provides entities in Minnesota the ability to adopt an interim ordinance that may regulate, restrict, or prohibit any use, development or subdivision within the jurisdiction or a portion thereof for a period not to exceed one year from the date it is effective. Wanberg provided an update of the current pending litigation against the city, and informed the commission that the city's attorneys have informed them that it would be best to avoid a moratorium until the litigation is settled. The commissioners discussed the moratorium and wanting to accept public comments.

Motion by Theis, seconded by DeMars to table the discussion until the January 2026 meeting. The commissioners discussed the motion. Aye – Theis; Nay – DeMars, Poe, Marthaler. The motion failed.

Outreach Opportunities

King provided an update on the Faribault Fall Festival, reporting that he was joined by Commissioner Nordmeyer and Excel Energy staff in the booth, and they were able to give away many lightbulbs. Nine sign-ups for energy squad visits were received. The next outreach opportunity will be the Faribault Winter Fest Christmas Market to be held on Saturday, December 06, 2025 at the Faribault American Legion. Commissioners Theis and DeMars indicated they could attend and staff a booth on Saturday, December 06, 2025. King stated that he would sign the Environmental Commission up for a booth if there is one available, and partner with Excel Energy, hand out lightbulbs, get sign-ups for Energy Squad visits, and hand out information recruiting for the Environmental Commission.

Discussion of the Monday, December 22, 2025 Meeting

Three commissioners have reported that they will not be available for the Monday, December 22, 2025 meeting. With three commissioners absent, there would not be a quorum. The Commissioners discussed the meeting and decided to cancel the meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Commissioner Reports and Updates

The commissioners provided reports and updates to projects they are working on. Ann Poe reported planting a new tree with Partners for Pollinators, Teresa DeMars reported that the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board is partnering with the University of Minnesota Extension on "Healthy Soils: Why Organic Matter Matters" a virtual learning series, Kevin Theis did not provide a report, and Yvette Marthaler did not provide a report.

Adjournment

Motion by Poe, seconded by Marthaler, to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
	11/24/2025	Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: November 24, 2025
SUBJECT: MN DNR ReLeaf Grant Update

Background:

Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator, has completed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ReLeaf Community Forestry Grant application and has submitted the application package to the MN DNR. The grant includes partnering with River Bend Nature Center on community education and outreach, and a gravel bed nursery. It's estimated that 100 trees and stumps from low-income residential lots will be removed, and 200 new trees will be planted in their place. The total budget for the grant is \$484,000.

The grant application, budget, and 3-year establishment plan are attached.

The MN DNR will sort and rank the applications, and will notice grant awards by February 06, 2025, with grant contracts executed by May 29, 2025.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

1. attachment-B-3year-tree-establishment-plan - City of Faribault 2025
2. 2025-releaf-application - City of Faribault
3. 2025-budget-sheet - City of Faribault



Year and Season of Planting:

Phone:

Email:

Size (caliper for deciduous, height for conifers):

Type of Stock to be Planted (Bare root, etc.):

Describe how the activities below will be completed.

1. Tree Establishment Personnel

- a. Describe who is responsible for maintaining new trees to ensure establishment.
- b. Volunteers, homeowners, or inexperienced staff that will provide maintenance should receive basic training and literature on proper maintenance techniques. Is training needed and how will you do it?
- c. How will you inspect tree maintenance work periodically to make sure it is being done correctly?

2. Tree Watering Process

Describe in detail how trees will be watered, the time period and frequency of watering. Trees should be watered weekly for the first 3 to 5 years when the ground is thawed unless it has rained 1 inch in a week.

3. Mulching Trees

Will you mulch your trees and if so, how will you maintain mulch?

4. Staking and Tying Trees

Explain if staking is necessary due to mowing, vandalism, or wind conditions, and describe plans for inspection and removal.

5. Checking Tree Health

The grantee will check trees every 6 – 12 months to identify and address problems. Describe inspection process and follow-up.

6. Tree Protection

Young trees in busy urban areas may be easily damaged by human activity, animals, and equipment. Describe how planted trees will be protected.

7. Pruning

Newly planted trees should need little pruning, if they were properly cared for in the nursery. In the first year after planting, remove only dead or broken branches. In later years, weakly attached limbs can be removed, and corrective pruning can be done if needed. Describe your pruning maintenance cycle.

8. Tree Warranty

Tree planting should include a warranty from the nursery for replacement (due to poor condition or mortality). The grantee should be prepared to fully replace all trees that are in poor condition or die prior to inspection at the end of the project grant agreement, unless loss was due to natural disaster. Describe your tree warranty or how trees will be replaced.

ReLeaf Community Forestry Grants

2025 Application



Please refer to the Request for Applications (RFA) when completing this application.

Submit this form, along with required attachments, to ucf.dnr@state.mn.us by October 28, 2025.

Name of Organization	
Project Coordinator	
Project Coordinator Title	
Address (as found in SWIFT)	
City, State, Zip	
County	
Project Coordinator Email	
Project Coordinator Phone Number	
Grant Amount Requested	
Authorized Signer(s) Name(s) & Email(s) <i>Individual(s) from your organization with signing authority for contracts in the event of grant award.</i>	

If tree removal is incorporated into this project, please list estimated percentages of how wood waste is managed: (no score, taken into account throughout proposal)

- ___ Not Applicable/No Trees Removed
- ___ Durable Wood Products (ex. Timber, lumber, building materials, furniture, decorative wood products)
- ___ Soil Amendments (ex. Biochar, compost, mulch)
- ___ BioEnergy (ex. Combined heat & power, thermal energy, pelletizing, biogas, advanced biofuels)
- ___ Disposal (ex. Open burning, land disposal, landfilling)

Total % of wood waste being utilized___/100

PROJECT PRIORITY

What percent of your project is dedicated to the Priority Areas? (3 points)

Please provide a percentage between 0-100% that reflects the proportion of eligible activities directed at Priority Areas.

_____ %

Please describe how you arrived at this percentage. (3 points)

In your response, explain which eligible activities occur in Priority Areas, how you calculated their share of the project, and describe any assumptions or data used (e.g., maps, population estimates, tree inventories, staff hours, financial allocations, etc.).

PROJECT APPLICATION

Project Overview and Need (30 points; 2600-character limit) Provide a summary of the project, why this funding is needed, what project work will not happen without these grant funds and expected outcomes. Include a description of project locations (citywide project, boulevards, specific parks, etc.). A high-scoring application will demonstrate a readiness to take on a project of the proposed scope and size, showcase significant need, and will prioritize the preservation and maintenance/increase of canopy cover.

Project Timeline (20 points; 3200-character limit) Describe the approximate project schedule showing intermediate steps and milestones for activities described in this application or required by the RFA. A high-scoring timeline will provide specific dates for all components of the project, be realistic, easy to comprehend, and will follow EAB best management practices.

Project Budget Explanation (10 points; 2600-character limit) Provide additional remarks to clarify the budget request. Provide an explanation of how you are funding portions of your project that are not eligible with grant dollars. A successful budget will provide specific dollar amounts for anticipated use, be financially realistic, and cost effective. Budget attachment will be correctly calculated. Projects that plant more trees than they remove will score higher.

Community Engagement and Impact (15 points; 2600-character limit) A high-ranking proposal will show planning and collaboration that clearly serves and includes residents within the Priority Area, and populations that define the Priority Area (low-income residents, persons with disabilities, less than high school education, limited English speaking, and low life expectancy). A high-scoring proposal will describe actionable items for these communities, how these communities will be engaged through the project, and how their input will be incorporated throughout the project.

Communication (10 points; 2600-character limit) Describe the methods you will use to conduct outreach to residents about this grant project. A high-scoring communication strategy will use multiple formats that have the potential to reach the public and will incorporate EAB-related messaging.

Key Personnel (15 points; 2600-character limit) List all certifications and degrees for staff or contractors involved in the project. Describe the duties internal staff will conduct, and any work that will be contracted out, or the partnerships you will leverage to complete tasks. Include key personnel and their experience with similar tasks. If you expect to contract work out, describe requirements you will have for contractors. A high-scoring application will have key personnel corresponding to each component of the project and will showcase that they have the expertise to conduct the work proposed.

PAST GRANT PERFORMANCE

This section will be weighted and scored separately from the project portion of your application. If your organization has been awarded a grant from the DNR Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program, or you are unsure if your organization has been awarded an a grant, please reach out to ucf.dnr@state.mn.us to obtain your past Grant Closeout form, so that you may address it here in this section. There is no penalty for first-time applicants. If you have not had a grant with DNR UCF program and or the DNR UCF program does not have a Grant Closeout form on file, you may leave this section blank.

Past Grant Performance (5 points; 2600-character limit) If you have received funding from the DNR Urban and Community Forestry program in the past, please describe your past performance. Include the outcomes achieved, any challenges you experienced, and how you addressed them. If applicable, explain any missed deliverables, budget issues, or delays, and describe what you have learned or changed in response. If applicable, describe how you plan to continue demonstrating strong grant management practices. This response will be evaluated as part of your overall past performance score and will be conducted in relation to your last grant closeout, as conducted by your grant administrator.

2025 Community Tree Planting Grants
Attachment A. Budget Form

Directions: Complete this form in detail. Common eligible expenses are listed below; add rows as necessary. Be specific about expenses, making sure requested funds are eligible for reimbursement. A successful budget will be detailed, financially realistic, and cost effective. No match is required. This form has formulas; double check that totals are accurate. Direct questions about the budget form to the DNR Urban and Community Forestry Team at ucf.dnr@state.mn.us.

Organization Name:		City of Faribault		
Project Coordinator:		Adam King		
<u>Expense</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Hourly Rate/ Cost per Item</u>	<u>Number Hours or Items</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>
1. Contractor costs (ex. labor, services, supplies, and equipment)	Licensed and insured contractor to remove dead and dying trees and stumps	\$2,000.00	100	200,000.00
2. Trees	Trees purchased following grant requirements (no noxious weeds / invasive terrestrial plants, no containerized trees larger than #20, Balled and Burlapped larger than 2.5" caliper, or bareroot larger than 2" caliper). Price includes installed tree by a MNDOT Certified Landscape Specialist with mulch and 2-year guarantee.	\$850.00	200	170,000.00
3. Planting supplies (ex. water bags, grow tubes, bark protection, compost, etc.)	Tree Planting Supplies - Tree Tubes	\$5.00	200	1,000.00
	Tree Planting Supplies - Watering Bags	\$20.00	200	4,000.00
4. Site preparation	Included in the cost of the tree			
5. Equipment purchases less than \$5,000 (no one tool can have a unit cost of \$5,000 or more even if that cost is split across grant and match funds)				
6. Staff or Consultant time	Staff Time - contracting / coordinating between landowners and contractors / bidding process / grant reporting	\$70.00	100	7,000.00
	Contract with River Bend Nature Center for multilingual education and outreach activities including tree-care education, home visites and community workshops	\$55.00	1455	80,000.00
7. Other: please describe	Education / Outreach - Mailings (printed materials, postage, digital campaigns)	\$2.33	3000	7,000.00
	Gravel Bed / Community Nursery			15,000.00
Totals				\$ 484,000.00



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: November 24, 2025
SUBJECT: Interim Ordinance Discussion

Background:

King has put together a draft Interim Ordinance recommendation resolution for review. The draft resolution covers the Environmental Commission's concerns of drinking water source, water usage, electricity use, noise, air pollution / greenhouse gas emissions.

Recommendation:

Review the draft Interim Ordinance recommendation resolution. Bring forward any changes or additions to incorporate into the resolution.

Attachments:

1. ENV Resolution ENV2025-04 Interim Ordinance on Data Centers - DRAFT

CITY OF FARIBAULT ENVIRONMENTAL COMISSION

RESOLUTION #ENV2025-04

RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT AN INTERIM ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA CENTERS

WHEREAS, there has recently been interest from at least one developer for the placement, construction and operation of a data center within the City of Faribault, with additional data centers assumed to follow; and

WHEREAS, the City of Faribault uses the Prairie Du Chien and Jordan Aquifers as its drinking water source for its almost 25,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Faribault is limited to 7,350 Gallons Per Minute by its Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Water Appropriations Permit, with its Water Treatment Plant designed to operate at 7.7 Million Gallons Per Day and able to operate at 10 Million Gallons Per Day for short periods of time; and

WHEREAS, data center operations can:

- Draw between 250,000 and five million gallons of water per day; and
- Generate approximately the same amount of non-domestic wastewater as it draws; and
- Draw up to and over 100 megawatts of electricity per year; and
- Employ up to 1,600 people during construction and up to 200 people during operations; and

WHEREAS, buildings housing data centers are often at least 1,000,000 square feet in size, or approximately the size of 17 football fields, with some being much larger; and

WHEREAS, exterior noise at data centers generated by their equipment, cooling systems and fans, diesel generators can result in some people experiencing headaches, stress and sleep disturbances leading to anxiety, cognitive impairments, cardiovascular risks, and in extreme cases, tinnitus and hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, emissions caused electricity generated primarily from fossil fuels and diesel generators release significant amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, energy demand for data centers can range from 100 megawatts to over 500 megawatts putting strain on the energy grid and increasing energy costs for citizens; and

WHEREAS, concerns have also been raised in communities with data centers regarding their air, stormwater, noise pollution, and expected lifespans of only 15-20 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Faribault Environmental Commission hereby finds that the typical demands and cumulative potential effects of multiple data centers with respect to water resources, air quality, noise, electricity, constitute a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the its citizens, such that an interim ordinance prohibiting the permitting, building and associated development applications of new data centers as defined herein;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FARIBAULT, that the Environmental Commission recommends the City of Faribault City Council adopts an interim ordinance prohibiting the development of new datacenters for one year to allow time for staff to research, develop, and incorporate design standards for datacenters regarding noise, greenhouse gas emissions, and water and energy efficiency,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FARIBAULT, that this recommendation shall be effective immediately upon its passage and without publication according to the Faribault City Charter.

Date Adopted:

Faribault Environmental Commission

Teresa DeMars, Chair

ATTEST:

**Adam King, Environmental and Water
Resources Coordinator**



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: November 24, 2025
SUBJECT: Outreach Opportunities

Background:

The next outreach opportunity is the Faribault Winter Fest. The Environmental Commission is partnering with Xcel Energy – Partners in Energy and the Home Energy Squad on a booth at Faribault’s Winter Festival Christmas Market on Saturday, December 06, 2025 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. We will be able to give away lightbulbs, energy saving information, and take signups for home energy squad visits.

Upcoming events in Faribault that could be outreach opportunities.

- Faribault Heritage Days (June 11 – 13th 2026?)
- Rice County Fair (July 22 – 26th 2026)

Recommendation:

Attachments: