



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on April 20, 2022
- B. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on May 18, 2022

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Welcome new member Jeff Luxford
- B. Lindy Crawford, City Manager
- C. Dane Huinker, Wildlife Forever – Prairie City USA

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Environmental Resources Expo
- B. Draft presentation to Council
- C. Draft 2022 Work Plan

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

- A. Downtown area trees
- B. Staff updates
 - RWMWD grant for Lakewood Hills Raingarden
 - VLAWMO grant for Rotary Park planting
- C. Commission member updates
- D. Do-outs
- E. July agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: June 9, 2022
Subject: Action Items for June 15, 2022 EAC Meeting

Agenda Item 5A. Environmental Resources Expo

The draft 2022 Expo exhibitor list is included in the packet for review.

Action: Review exhibitor list and discuss next steps for exhibitor invitations and EAC exhibits.

Agenda Item 5B. Draft Presentation to Council

The draft presentation from Chair Schroeher will be presented at the meeting.

Action: Review the draft presentation and revise as needed.

Agenda item 5C. Draft 2022 Work Plan

The draft 2022 work plan is included in the packet.

Action: Review problem statements, possible results lists, and steps to achieve the results for each goal in the work plan list. Consider a motion to approve the draft 2022 work plan.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, April 20, 2022
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Member Sheryl Bolstad called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Schroeber (Chair), Rick Johnston

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Greene**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 3:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of April 16, 2022

The commission members reviewed the March 16, 2022 meeting minutes and had the following changes: Add John Anderson, Conservation Minnesota to item 1, Visitors Presentations. Change the month in the header from February to March.

It was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2022 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 3:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Draft presentation to Council

Commission members reviewed each slide of the draft presentation to Council and made revisions. Taillon stated that she will add current photos to the presentation slides and move the presentation to the new City template. Commission members asked that the draft presentation to council be added to the May agenda. The changes to the presentation will be shown to Chair Schroeber at the May meeting and finalized.

B. Draft 2022 Work Plan

Commission members tabled the 2022 work plan discussion until the May meeting.

C. Environmental Resources Expo

The Commission members reviewed the 2021 Expo exhibitors. Member Greenleaf stated that the old editions of Northern Gardener magazines were not popular last year so she chose not to give them away in 2022. Member Greenleaf will invite Ramsey County Master Gardeners, Member Bolstad will invite Tamarack Nature Center, Member Greene will invite the electric vehicle owners and the Scouts to help with setup and takedown, and Taillon will invite Pollinator Friendly Alliance, NE Metro Climate Action, VLAWMO, and the U of M Turfgrass Research Group. Taillon will email the invite language and exhibitor contact information to the commission members.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- German delegation to White Bear Lake, May 4-5
Taillon noted that the German Delegation will be in Minnesota the week of May 1st. The City will host the German delegation from Ludenscheid on May 4th and 5th.
- RWMWD grant for Lakewood Hills Raingarden
For the sake of time, Taillon stated that she will provide an update on the RWMWD grant at the May meeting.
- VLAWMO grant for Rotary Park planting
For the sake of time, Taillon stated that she will provide an update on the VLAWMO grant at the May meeting.
- SWPPP presentation to Council, April 26th
Taillon mentioned that she will be presenting on the City's 2021 SWPPP activities at the City Council meeting on April 26th. Environmental Advisory Commission Members are invited to attend.

B. Commission member updates

- Recycling container observations
Member Bolstad stated that she is frustrated about not seeing recycling containers at Ramsey County Beach and City parks. She will provide a more detailed update at the may meeting.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for April 16, 2022 include:

- Taillon to add photos to presentation and move the presentation to the new template
- Taillon to email Expo spreadsheet and invite language to commission members
- Commission members and Taillon to email invites to Expo vendors

D. May agenda

Include City Manager and Prairie City USA under visitors; draft presentation, 2022 work plan and Expo spreadsheet under old business; RWMWD grant for Lakewood Hills Raingarden and VLAWMO grant for Rotary Park planting under staff updates, and recycling container observations under commission member updates.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Greenleaf** to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Motion carried, 3:0

DRAFT



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Gary Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeher (Chair), Rick Johnston

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Johnston**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 3:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of April 20, 2022

The commission members discussed waiting to approve of the April meeting minutes until the June meeting, when all members from the April meeting plan to be in attendance.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Draft presentation to Council

The commission members discussed the changes that were made to each slide at the April meeting. Taillon will email the latest PowerPoint to Chair Schroeher and a pdf to the other members. Chair Schroeher will fill in missing details on some of the slides and present the revised presentation at the June meeting. The commission members expressed interest in inviting the Parks Foreman to a future meeting to discuss pollinator initiatives in the parks. Taillon will extend an invite to the Parks Foreman.

B. Draft 2022 Work Plan

The commission members discussed next steps towards finalizing the 2022 work plan. It was decided that all commission members should finish adding information for their

assigned draft work plan goal in the Google Document for discussion at the June meeting. The information needed for the goal(s) assigned to each member includes a problem statement, list possible results, and defining steps to achieve the goal.

C. Environmental Resources Expo

The commission members reviewed the latest Expo exhibitor spreadsheet. Taillon stated that NE Metro Climate Action will be in attendance, and is waiting to hear back from Pollinator Friendly Alliance and VLAWMO. She mentioned that Ramsey County is interested in exhibiting at the Expo to gather input on the future Otter Lake Road project. The members questioned the environmental benefit, and Taillon clarified that the County requested to be next to VLAWMO so they can help promote the VLAWMO cost share grant for residents who live along Otter Lake Road. The members are okay with inviting the County as long as there is an environmental theme and an interactive display. The commission members will continue to invite their respective exhibitors. Chair Schroeher offered to bring the recycling display again this year for the EAC table. The commission members discussed how they want to give away the native plant seed packets, and they will continue the discussion at the June meeting. Taillon stated that she will buy additional canopy tents and email the updated Expo spreadsheet to all commission members after the meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- RWMWD grant for Lakewood Hills Raingarden

Taillon stated that she will provide an update on the RWMWD grant at the June meeting.

- VLAWMO grant for Rotary Park planting

Taillon stated that she will provide an update on the VLAWMO grant at the June meeting.

B. Commission member updates

Chair Schroeher stated that he worked with the Ramsey County solid waste group along with other volunteer recycling ambassadors to conduct a food waste audit. The purpose of the audit was to determine the amount of contamination and uneaten food contained in several of the County's food scrap dumpsters from Summit Hill and Highland Park. They found approximately 6.5% by weight of uneaten food and 0.8% by weight of contamination, such as plastic bags and other non-compostable items.

Chair Schroeher noted that the City of Redwing hosted Earth Week this spring, which included activities, programs, and challenges throughout the week.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for May 18, 2022 include:

- Taillon to invite Parks Foreman to future meeting
- Taillon to email revised presentation to Chair Schroeher and pdf to other members
- Taillon to email Expo spreadsheet to members
- Taillon to purchase tents for Expo
- Chair Schroeher to add text to the presentation slides
- Commission members to enter work plan information into Google document
- Chair Schroeher to bring recycling display to Expo
- Members to invite exhibitors to Expo

D. June agenda

Include City Manager and Prairie City USA under visitors; draft presentation, 2022 work plan and Expo spreadsheet under old business; RWMWD grant for Lakewood Hills Raingarden and VLAWMO grant for Rotary Park planting under staff updates.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Johnston** to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Motion carried, 3:0

Prairie City USA[®]

Welcome Guide

Building stronger communities through integrated prairie habitat, conservation best practices and civic leadership.[™]



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introduction


Prairie City USA®: Returning to Our Roots

For thousands of years, prairie was the dominant landscape throughout the heartland of the United States from Mexico to Canada. These prairies—167 million acres (roughly the size of Texas)—were comprised of unique communities of plants and animals, including wildlife big and small: the American Bison, prairie dogs, more than 25 species of waterfowl, and many other birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. The level of diversity found in these prairies was comparable to that found in the Amazon jungle.



In just over 150 years, however, these vast lands have been converted for agriculture production, livestock grazing, and development, losing over 99% of the original prairie. Modern prairie habitat loss is more often due to fragmentation, invasive species, mismanagement, and a lack of understanding. The effects of this dramatic landscape shift continue to be at the epicenter of many of our nation's top conservation problems. Endangered species, erosion, flooding, toxic algae and dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico all can be attributed in part to loss of prairie.

Prairie City USA is a municipal certification and organizing program designed to complement existing community conservation activities that integrate prairie and pollinator best practices. Prairie City USA communities work to enhance and restore commercial, residential, and industrial green spaces into native prairie and pollinator habitat achieving benefits in three core areas:

1
FINANCIAL SAVINGS
2
• ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION
3
• CIVIC ENGAGEMENT


Prairie plants have deep, massive roots that efficiently use water. Some roots can be three times longer than the plant above them!

Become a Certified Prairie City USA[®] Community

Nearly every community across America can become a certified Prairie City USA. A commitment to implementing on-the-ground conservation practices and developing a Prairie City management plan for your community are first steps in becoming and maintaining program certification.



**In the U.S., prairies once
covered over 167 million acres.
Over 99% has been lost.**

why

Why your Town Should Become a Prairie City USA

1 FINANCIAL SAVINGS

The financial benefits of becoming a Prairie City USA are many and include:



- ✓ Reduced maintenance and mowing cost for grass landscapes. Save up to \$400/acre/year.



- ✓ Reduced use and exposure to chemicals such as fertilizer, and weed control



- ✓ Reduced watering costs

Converting traditionally mowed spaces into native plantings can significantly reduce many associated municipal maintenance and labor costs. Less mowing reduces fuel and equipment costs. Staff hours and labor savings can be converted to more productive community projects. Once established, native plantings can become self-sustaining and provide an excellent seed source for community expansion and distribution.

Converting mowed lawn to prairie can save communities up to \$400/acre/year.



2 ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION

Prairie and pollinator habitats provide tremendous environmental benefits by enhancing wildlife habitat and improving ecological function.



Climate Change

Prairie plantings have capacity to capture large quantities of carbon and are a helpful tool to showcase municipal leadership and local actions for change;



Improved Water Quality

- Prairie grasses and plants develop deep roots that help clean and store water;
- Reduces algae blooms/nutrient loading;
- Reduces storm water impacts;



Erosion Control

- Reduces topsoil loss;
- Improves water infiltration;



Wildlife

- Pollinators are critical for crops, food production and biodiversity. Native prairie plantings provide needed habitat for countless species including birds, small mammals, insects, reptiles, and amphibians;
- Many small sites provide connected wildlife travel lanes;



Chemicals

- Reduces pesticide and fertilizer use and expense.

Prairies can capture much more carbon below ground than a forests can above ground.

3 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Prairie plantings enrich communities and provide opportunities for citizens to teach and learn, engage, appreciate, and explore nature in all seasons. Prairie City USA plantings consist of highly diverse mixes of grasses and flowers that bloom throughout the growing season. Stems and seed heads provide a uniquely interesting landscape even during winter.

Additional benefits include:

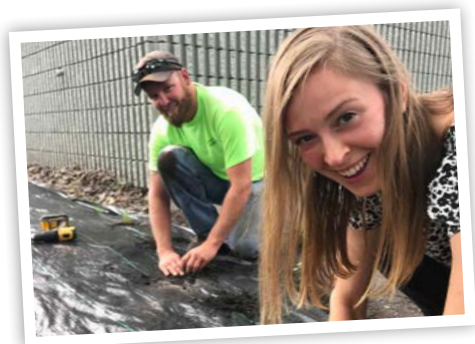
✓ **Community Engagement**

- Individuals can volunteer to assist with planting new and maintaining sites, strengthening community networks and pride;
- Groups and individuals such as service clubs, garden clubs, birding clubs, Boy Scouts, 4H, FFA, and youth groups can work with Prairie City leaders take on a site restoration themselves, including components such as fundraising, site design, implementation, and long-term maintenance to create a planting for which they can be recognized;
- These plantings are outdoor classrooms for teaching and learning about a range of environmental topics, such as pollinators, food webs, plant identification, and climate change, raising individual and the community's understanding and awareness of the natural world.



✓ **Sponsorships**

Prairie City plantings can be sponsored by individuals, local businesses or civic groups



✓ **Community Appeal**

- Promote your plantings to attract visitors to discover your unique green spaces;
- Retain residents and attract new residents by creating interesting outdoor public areas while becoming more ecologically and financially sustainable;
- Compliment local sustainability plans;
- Enhance mundane public areas;
- Encourage residents to get outside and explore these landscapes, promoting good health and creating opportunities for neighborhood interactions.

how

Steps to Become a Certified Prairie City USA

Prairie City USA is an asset to the community. A diverse and inclusive audience of stakeholders is vital for successful implementation, growth and sustainability. Identifying local partners and talking with community leaders is critical to ensure planting authorizations and meeting Prairie City USA standards for certification.

STEPS TO PRAIRIE CITY USA

- 1 Meet with community leaders to discuss benefits;
- 2 Form a local Prairie City USA advisory committee;
- 3 Ensure/change city ordinances to allow for prairie plantings;
- 4 Commit to a Prairie City USA implementation/management Level;
- 5 Adopt a city resolution to join Prairie City USA.



Prairie City USA Levels

Becoming a Prairie City USA will help guide your community to establishing successful prairie and pollinator plantings. Our team of habitat and restoration specialists will help provide a customized management plan based on your community goals and capacity for implementing on-the-ground projects. Management plans are site specific and detail the restoration steps and the critical long-term management techniques. Participation also provides access to signage and numerous resources to help engage the community. Contact Wildlife Forever to select a level that fits your capacity to become a Certified Prairie City USA.



“Prairie City USA has helped our community create more functioning wildlife habitat, cleaner water, and a more attractive place to live and work, all while saving taxpayer dollars.” Mayor Ben Schierer, Fergus Falls, MN

CHOOSE YOUR STARTING LEVEL

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meet with community Leaders to discuss benefits ✓ Form a local advisory committee (team) ✓ Add or amend city ordinances as needed to allow for prairie ✓ Adopt a city resolution to join Prairie City USA® 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Write and adopt a Prairie City USA® Management Plan ✓ Receive training or continuing education ✓ Maintain all existing restoration sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Restore at least 10% of city-owned mowed acres to prairie ✓ Maintain all existing restoration sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Restore at least 15% of city-owned mowed acres to prairie ✓ Maintain all existing restoration sites ✓ Host annual Prairie City USA® community event/fundraiser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Restore at least 25% of city-owned mowed acres to prairie ✓ “Best Yard Award” given annually to private citizen whose property has showcased prairie restoration ✓ Maintain all existing restoration sites

restoration guide



✓ SITE SELECTION

The local advisory team will create a prioritized list of potential sites to be planted. Prairie plants thrive in sunshine, so avoid sites that are shaded much of the day. Sites can be of any size. There are native plants that thrive in all types of site conditions (wet/dry, gravel/sand/clay, full/partial sun, etc.) so do not overlook sites that might otherwise be considered 'challenging' to maintain as mowed lawn. Site selection criteria might also consider economic impact (how much money will be saved), 'habitat corridors' that connect sites together for wildlife benefits, water capture/filtration, and level of visibility to the public.

✓ SITE PREPARATION

Thorough site preparation that is tailored for each specific site is critical to the long-term success of your plantings. Depending on what type of vegetation is currently growing on the site, preparation might include herbicides, sod removal, physical barriers, tilling, or mowing. The local advisory team will work with local experts to make site-by-site decisions.

✓ PLANT SPECIES SELECTION

Plant selection is about what species will grow at a site and determine the desired 'look' of the site when it is mature. The goal should be to create plantings that look like what grew there historically. As such, prairie plantings should be diverse, with an appropriate ratio of flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees, and include only species that are native to the area. Prairie City USA requires that all native plant seeds and plants be acquired from stock that has originated within 100 miles of the project whenever possible. In many locales, native plant suppliers and natural resources professionals can help create a list of appropriate native species for your site.

✓ PLANTING

How you plant will depend on site conditions, size of the site, if you are planting plugs or seeds, how much time and labor your staff and volunteers can commit to, and what type of equipment is available. If you are using seed, you may be able to plant using a tractor-pulled seeder drill. On smaller sites, you can spread the seed by hand. If you are planting plugs or larger plants, they will have to be planted individually by hand. Plan to install your seeds and plants in the spring or fall if possible to avoid hot, dry weather that will make it difficult for them to thrive. Winter seeding works in some areas.

✓ MAINTENANCE

The phrase "the first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap" is a good way to remember that native plantings take time to get established. Most native plants put down roots before growing much above ground so in the first year or two, it might not seem like they are thriving. Maintenance in the first year primarily involves watering if necessary, keeping grazers like geese away, and controlling invasive weeds. By the second year, the site should not need watering; weed control is the primary maintenance task. By the third year, the site should be growing well and filling in, which helps it outcompete invading weeds. On-going maintenance involves monitoring for and controlling aggressive weeds and periodic prescribed burns or high-set mowing to remove native plant duff.





conservation communities



A Division of Wildlife Forever



PrairieCityUSA.org
Wildlife Forever

5350 Hwy 61 N Ste 7
St. Paul, MN 55110

Phone: 763-253-0222

Email: Info@WildlifeForever.org

Prairie City USA: a Community Status Symbol for the Future of Conservation

Selecting the appropriate level will ensure a successful community program for many years. Signage including additional promotional items will be made available for communities with an approved management plan. Communities are encouraged to work with their local Chamber of Commerce and business leaders to support and promote their Certified Prairie City USA status.

Understanding that capacity and funding for implementation of the Prairie City USA management plan may vary during the plan duration, this model is adaptable to the degree implementation is feasible. Communities can increase or decrease their level of commitment. However, participating communities are required to maintain a minimum certification Level One status.

Contact us today to get started!

Environmental Resource Expo - Exhibitor and Volunteer Master List

July 28, 2022 5:00pm to 9:30pm

EAC contact	Organization	Need table & canopy?	2019 attendance	2021 status	2022 status	Contact Name/Organization
?	Lawns to Legumes?					
?	Met Council Environmental Services?		no			Ali Elhassan/Brian Davis
Rick	White Bear Lake Seed Library	no - share with Master Gardeners	yes	no		Pam Larson Fink
	Metro Transit	NA	yes	no		Douglas Cook, Outreach Coordinator
	Rainbow Tree Care	yes	yes	yes		Jeff Hafner
Chris	Tesla Dealership			no		
	Tesla owner/Electric Vehicle Group Contact			yes - 3 vehicles		Jeff Riegle
	Electric Lawn Equipment Demo	save a space next to the EAC tent	NA		yes	Steven Hong (new contact as of 2021) Gary, Chris and Sheryl to bring electric lawn equipment for display. EAC to create fact sheet about gas powered lawn
	Scouts - Troup 494	no - volunteer group		sign up available		
Bonnie	Ramsey County Master Gardeners	yes	yes	yes		Darren Lochner
Sheryl	Tamarack Nature Center	yes	yes	yes	yes	Melanie Harding
Gary	Conservation Minnesota		no	no		John Anderson
	Ramsey Recycling Ambassador				yes - prize wheel	Mariah
	Adopt a Drain	yes	yes			Jenni
	Ramsey County - curbside composting			no		Mariah Quick
	RWMWD			new invite for 2021	yes	
	Pollinator Friendly Alliance	yes	yes	yes	yes	Laurie Schneider

	EV owner - WBL resident	no	yes	did noy contact		Daniel and Kay Giossi
	NE Metro Climate Action		yes	yes - has a tent. Email map to katewinsor@com	yes	Judy Lissick
	MN350			emailed 07.19.21		Gabe Epstein
	Citizens Climate Lobby	yes	yes	no		Rachel Cain
	Zero Waste Task Force - Sierra Club	yes	yes	yes		Lori Olinger
	VLAWMO	no	yes	yes - has a tent	looking for staff	Nick Voss
	Ramsey County - Otter Lake Road Project				NEW - next to VLAWMO	
Connie	Race to Reduce + H2O for Life		no	invite sent 052421		Patty Hall
	WBL City, EAC, Ramsey County Envir Health	yes - shared table	yes	yes - need 2 spaces, 2 tables, 1 tent	yes	Connie Taillon
	AV vehicle			table and 2 chairs, no tent	yes	
	Xcel - sponsor of Expo				yes	
	Xcel					Michael Wilhelmi, Community Relations Manager, NE Metro
	Footprint Earth Foundation		yes	invite sent 052421		James Stelter
	Wilderness in the City		interested for 2020	invite sent 071921		Holly Jenkins
	Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)	yes	yes	invite sent 052421		Terry Chaney
	University of Minnesota Turfgrass Research Group			new invite for 2021?		

2022 Proposed Goals	Bob	Bonnie	Chris	Rick	Sheryl	Gary	TOTAL
plastic bag ordinance		x					1
Zero waste events			x	x			2
pollinator plantings		x	x			x	3
Downtown recycling	x			x	x		2
reduce recycling contamination workshop	x	x		x	x	x	4
no mow May	x		x				1
Prairie city initiative							0
pollinator garden tour /promotion							0
electric lawn equipment			x	x		x	3
solar on buildings		x		x	x		3
restaurant composting							0
drinking water quality	x						0
microplastics awareness							0
city plastic recycling with Merrick	x			x			1
rebates for water efficient appliance		x		x	x		3
water conservation promotion						x	1
buckthorn removal event with RWMWD			x			x	2
Develop Zero Waste Plan							0
promote residential energy audits							0
Create Sustainable community goals							0
Earth day event							0
Increase green space tree plantings					x		1

NOTE: for other ideas, review the GreenStep Cities 'best practices' list at <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/b>

Environmental Advisory Commission 2022 Work Plan - DRAFT

Month	Recurrent Agenda Items	Activities/Events /Speakers
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • Priority goal(s) planning 	Vadnais Heights Park, Recreation, and Trails Commission
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring newsletter articles - adopt a drain & spotlight on sustainability • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Prairie City USA
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals • National Mayor's Water Challenge • Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting 	<p style="color: red;">Street Project discussion</p> <p style="color: red;">SWMP discussion</p>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Environmental Resource Expo, July XX
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No official meeting this month 	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan • Volunteer Recognition Dinner slide show ideas • Prepare for joint meeting with Parks Commission 	R&E Center Tour (when?)
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan • Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair • Prepare for joint meeting with Parks Commission 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meeting with Parks Commission 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve 2023 Work Plan 	Holiday Treats

High Priority Goals for 2022

- Presentation to City Council (introductions, past accomplishments, upcoming initiatives)

High Priority Goals from 2021

- Plastic bag ordinance
- Zero waste events
- Pollinator plantings
- DT area recycling
- Reducing contamination in recycling (scrap metal, batteries, plastic bags) – staff request

Other Goals

- No Mow May
- Solar on buildings
- IDDE lawn clippings and trash
- Partnering with Xcel Energy on special projects
- Salt management education
- Expo exhibit upgrades: tent weights, banner, battery powered lawn equipment display
- Promote high quality of drinking water (reduce bottled water use)
- Enforcement of water ordinance and illicit discharge ordinance (grass clippings)– door hangers, etc
- EAC duties/goals
- Restaurant composting
- Pollinator garden tours/promotion/map of gardens
- Shoreview water smart app
- Microplastics
- Drinking water quality
- Enforcement of water ordinance and illicit discharge ordinance (grass clippings)– door hangers, etc

Review GreenStep Cities website: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>

Climate Smart Municipalities topics

- Community solar and solar panels on City buildings
- Charge for plastic bags
- Single use plastics
- Climate change resolution
- Partner with Xcel Energy for Projects
- Air quality-lawn equipment (City and private).
- Energy focus, specifically renewables

Ramsey County Solid Waste Master Plan topics

- Curbside collection of bulky items for recycling
- Inclusion of small businesses in City recycling service
- Textile recycling (curbside, special collection, or drop-off) – required by 2019

MS4 Permit topics

- Salt management education
- Dog waste

Current initiatives

LED lighting in City Hall, Public Safety, and Public Works

EV chargers in DT parking lots

Fleet vehicle analysis

Climate Action Steering Committee

Sports Center Upgrades and solar

City facility energy Audit - Trane

Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

- ~~— Gary to invite Prairie City to the June commission meeting~~
- Gary to add text to presentation slides
- Email invites to Expo vendors
- Enter work plan information into Google document for June meeting (problem statement, list possible results, and define steps to achieve the results for each goal assigned to each member in the work plan list)
- Gary to bring recycling display to Expo
- Rick to schedule a meeting with Connie to review unfinished GreenStep Cities Best Practices
- Review GreenStep Cities list for 2022 work plan ideas
- Gary offered to lead the 'reduce recycling contamination' work plan item
- Gary to organize a potential buckthorn removal event with RWMWD and YMCA at the YMCA and Lakewood Hills Park
- Gary to contact Jake from Specialized Technologies to speak at a future EAC meeting

Staff

- ~~— Taillon to email revised presentation to Chair Schroeder and pdf to other members~~
- ~~— Taillon to email Expo spreadsheet to members~~
- ~~— Taillon to purchase tents for Expo~~
- Taillon to invite Parks Foreman to future meeting
- Email invites to Expo vendors
- ~~— Add photos to presentation and move the presentation to the new template~~
- ~~— Email Expo spreadsheet and invite language to commission members~~
- ~~— Add updated photos to the presentation when finalized~~
- Research where to properly dispose of concrete wash water
- Request grant application from Ramsey County for DT recycling containers
- Update from the MPCA on the status of testing at County E and Bellaire
- Email air quality sensor info to Public Works
- Schedule tour of Newport facility at a date TBD – add to 2022 work plan
- Purchase compostable products for City events
- Add water use tracking app to CSM action items
- Show the WBAHS winning video at a future meeting
- Add AIS ID information to the website and update adopt a drain page
- Watershed district map (large scale with aerial photo)