



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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 August 17, 2022

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Draft presentation to Council
- B. Draft 2023 Work Plan

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Volunteer recognition dinner presentation

7. DISCUSSION

- A. Downtown tree replacement
- B. Staff updates
 - Rotary Nature Preserve phase 1 planting
 - WBL raingarden tour September 22nd
- C. Commission member updates
- D. Do-outs
- E. October agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: September 15, 2022
Subject: Action Items for September 21, 2022 EAC Meeting

Agenda Item 5A. Draft Presentation to Council

The draft presentation will be presented at the meeting. There will be an opportunity to present at a joint work session with the EAC and City Council, which has been tentatively scheduled for February.

Action: Continue to review the draft presentation and revise as needed.

Agenda item 5B. Draft 2022 Work Plan

Link to the 2022 goals spreadsheet: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iU-tkIBjAveacZzdM1M-aJwiPDMkkEQGxEn6njzrnMM/edit?usp=sharing>

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

Action: Review and revise the 2022 goals spreadsheet, as needed. Use GreenStep Cities Best practices for work plan ideas.

Agenda Item 6A. Volunteer recognition dinner presentation

The volunteer recognition dinner is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, October 4th. As part of the event, the staff liaison for each commission gives a short presentation introducing the commission members, summarizing the activities of the previous year, and summarizing upcoming projects. The presentation from the previous volunteer recognition dinner in 2019 is included in your packet. The dinner was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic.

Action: Review the 2019 presentation that is provided in your packet and brainstorm ideas to include in the 2022 presentation.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 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 6:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Frye, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Jeff Luxford, Gary Schroeher (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sheryl Bolstad

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

Motion carried 6:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on June 15, 2022
The commission members reviewed the June 15, 2022 meeting minutes and had the following change: Item 4C., fourth sentence, change 'Danes' to 'Dane'.

It was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Luxford**, to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2022 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 6:0.

B. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on July 20, 2022

The commission members reviewed the July 20, 2022 meeting minutes and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Luxford**, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 6:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

Chris Frye introduced himself as a new commission member. He has lived in the City of White Bear Lake for three years, and is originally from Oregon. He is interested in becoming more involved in the community and feels that his background in public service will be a good fit for his role on the commission.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Environmental Resources Expo Recap

Chair Schroeher gave a summary of the Environmental Resources Expo for the new members. The commission members recapped the 2022 event and the exhibitors were happy about the way things went. There were many visitors to the Expo. Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) had a line of people that wanted to play their spin the wheel game. Chair Schroeher stated that both RWMWD and Ramsey County Recycling Ambassadors expressed interest in exhibiting at the 2023 Expo.

There were a couple of issues noted by the commission members. Member Greene mentioned that none of the EV owners showed up, so next year he plans to connect with each EV owner individually, instead of just one representative. Member Greenleaf noted that one of the exhibitors did not have a chair, and that next year we should bring a couple of extra chairs in case someone forgets or doesn't have their own chair.

Chair Schroeher asked Taillon and the other members to send thank you notes to the exhibitors. Member Johnston suggested that the commission start planning for the Expo earlier next year.

Member Greenleaf stated that she will bring tokens to give to the new members. These tokens are handed out to people that the commission members see doing something positive for the environment. She mentioned to the commission members to tell her when they hand out a token so she can keep track.

Member Johnston discussed the results of the survey that was conducted during the Expo. There were 33 surveys filled out by White Bear Lake residents, 13 by non-residents. An additional seven were filled out, but not as intended. All of the survey numerical rankings were entered into an Excel table. Member Johnston was hoping for more discussion or written feedback, but understood that people may not want to take the extra time during Marketfest to provide written comments. He didn't see any one topic that really jumped out at him. Member Greenleaf stated that she didn't want to turn non-residents away, so the White Bear Lake resident results were summarized separately than the non-resident results. Taillon noted that she heard a few people having trouble ranking the topics because many of them were equally important. Member Greenleaf added that some people didn't know what buckthorn is, so they ranked it lower. If there is another survey next year, maybe buckthorn should be

changed to the more general 'invasive species' instead.

Results of the WBL Resident survey (33 total), where 1 is most important and 6 is least important:

Topic	Average Rank	Number of 1s	Number of 2s	Number of 3s	Number of 4s	Number of 5s	Number of 6s
Plastic Use Reduction	2.8	7	9	7	5	4	1
Energy Eff./Alt.	3.2	9	3	6	6	6	3
Water Conservation	3.2	6	4	8	10	4	1
Pollinators	3.4	7	5	6	5	4	6
Waste Mgmt.	3.5	4	7	4	7	7	4
Buckthorn/Trees	4.9	1	4	2	0	8	18

WBL Residents expressed a slightly greater importance to plastics use reduction with buckthorn removal/increased tree plantings with the least importance. The other four were grouped in the middle.

Results of the non-resident survey (13 total), where 1 is most important and 6 is least important:

Topic	Average Rank	Number of 1s	Number of 2s	Number of 3s	Number of 4s	Number of 5s	Number of 6s
Water Conservation	2.1	6	3	2	1	1	0
Pollinators	2.9	2	4	3	1	3	0
Plastic Use Reduction	3.3	3	1	2	4	2	1
Energy Eff./Alt.	3.6	1	2	4	3	0	3
Waste Mgmt.	4.2	0	3	2	1	4	3
Buckthorn/Trees	4.9	1	0	0	3	3	6

The 13 non-resident surveys were received from eight communities; Woodbury, Hugo, Grant, Minneapolis, Lino Lakes, Oakdale, WB Township and Vadnais Heights. The top four topics were the same in both groups, but order differently.

Written Comments were received from only two respondents as follows:

Commenter 1:

Keeping pond habitats healthy!

Commenter 2:

1. Listed in the order to reduce our reliance on carbon emitting pollutants. (this appears to refer to ranking on front of the survey, which was as follows: 1. Energy Efficiency; 2. Increased Tree Planting; 3. Waste Management/Recycling; 4. Water Conservation; 5. Plastic Use Reduction; 6. Pollinator-friendly Activities.)
2. Trees --- If there can be increased plantings in larger areas beyond the small-scale decorative trees, that is ideal.
3. Waste management & reduction. Pick-ups for recycling in public – increase if needed.
4. Continue water conservation discussion, visibility & implementation.
5. Always reduce plastic – BAGS for one!
6. Pollinator things. The county and state do this a lot so use city resources for 1, 2, 3.

Member Greenleaf suggested adding the results of this survey to the Council presentation.

B. Draft Work Plan

Chair Schroeder provided a background on the draft work plan for the new commission members. The work plan includes a list of possible priority projects to work on in the coming year. Each commission member chose their top three priorities from the list. To further refine the priorities, each commission member chose at least two of the priorities and answered the following questions:

- Why is this worthy of our effort?
- What would we like to see as an outcome?
- What steps could we take to reach the outcome?

Taillon will send the spreadsheet and Google document link to member Luxford and member Frye for them rank each priority in the list and help fill in answers to the questions within the Google document.

Chair Schroeder mentioned the high contamination levels in the curbside recycling in 2021. Taillon stated that the contamination levels in the curbside recycling went down this year, from 13.03% in 2021 to 12.04% in 2022; however, this is still higher than 2020, at 9.56%. Member Frye mentioned that it would be interesting to see what other community's reports show for contamination levels. Taillon responded that the City's recycling processor, Eureka Recycling, mentioned that the contamination percentages increased for many communities during the pandemic.

Member Frye noted that there is no sticker on his recycling container to show what can and can't be included in the recycling. Taillon stated that she will see what she can do about getting stickers on the recycling carts.

C. Draft presentation to Council

For the sake of time, the commission members decided to postpone discussion of the

draft presentation until the September meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fall newsletter ideas

Taillon stated that the fall newsletter articles are due by the end of August. She asked the commission members for ideas on newsletter article topics. The commission members brainstormed ideas and would like to see articles that focus on recycling contamination, the City's fall cleanup day, and smart salting.

Members discussed Trash to Treasure Day the weekend before the spring cleanup and wondered if a second event could be added the weekend before the fall cleanup. Taillon stated that the City partners with White Bear Township so she will need ask them about the idea.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

Taillon noted that the City Council is considering a joint work session with the City's commissions, which is tentatively scheduled for February. Each commission would have a half hour to meet with City Council at an evening work session and talk about current and upcoming projects. Taillon will let the commission members know when a date has been set. Chair Schroeher asked if he should present at the joint work session instead of at a regularly scheduled Council meeting this fall. Taillon will ask the City Manager and get back to him.

B. Commission member updates

Chair Schroeher stated that he joined Nick from VLAWMO at Lakeaires Elementary School for a filming of an Adopt-a-Drain educational video.

Chair Schroeher noted that he and Taillon met a group from Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District to give them a tour of the City's prairie restoration on Buerkle Road.

Chair Schroeher mentioned that the Ramsey County curbside organics program will be implemented in 2023.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for August 20, 2022 include:

- All to send thank you notes to Expo exhibitors
- Member Greenleaf to bring token to members Frye and Luxford
- Taillon to email the Work Plan goals spreadsheet and Google Docs work plan worksheet link to members Frye and Luxford
- Taillon to look into recycling cart stickers
- Taillon to include recycling contamination, City's fall cleanup day, and smart salting articles in the fall newsletter.

- Taillon to ask about starting a fall Trash to Treasure day
- Taillon to ask the City Manager about separate presentation vs workshop presentation

D. September agenda

The commission members asked Taillon to include the draft work plan and presentation to Council on the September agenda.

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 8:35 p.m.

Motion carried, 6:0

DRAFT

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 	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals • National Mayor's Water Challenge • Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting 	
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 	Prairie City USA
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Environmental Resource Expo, July 28
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall newsletter articles • 2023 Work Plan 	
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 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan 	
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

Environmental Advisory Commission

Members:

Gary Schroeher (Chair)

Term: 2011-2020

Sheryl Bolstad

Term: 2011-2022

Pam Enz

Term: 2019-2022

Christopher Greene

Term: 2017-2020

Bonnie Greenleaf

Term: 1992-2021

Rick Johnston

Term: 2018-2021

Robert Winkler

Term: 2018-2021

Role:

Protect and enhance the environment of the City by:

- Advising City Council on policies related to the environment
- Sponsoring environmental projects
- Promoting environmental awareness through educational programs and events

Environmental Advisory Commission

Highlights of 2019 Achievements



Environmental commission members from metro area cities came together to share ideas, resources, and lessons learned.

Metro Wide Environmental Commission Workshop – April 13

Environmental Advisory Commission

Metro Watershed Partners
adopt-a-drain.org



ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN



Adopt a Storm Drain Program

Environmental Advisory Commission



Environmental Resource Expo – July 26



Rush Line



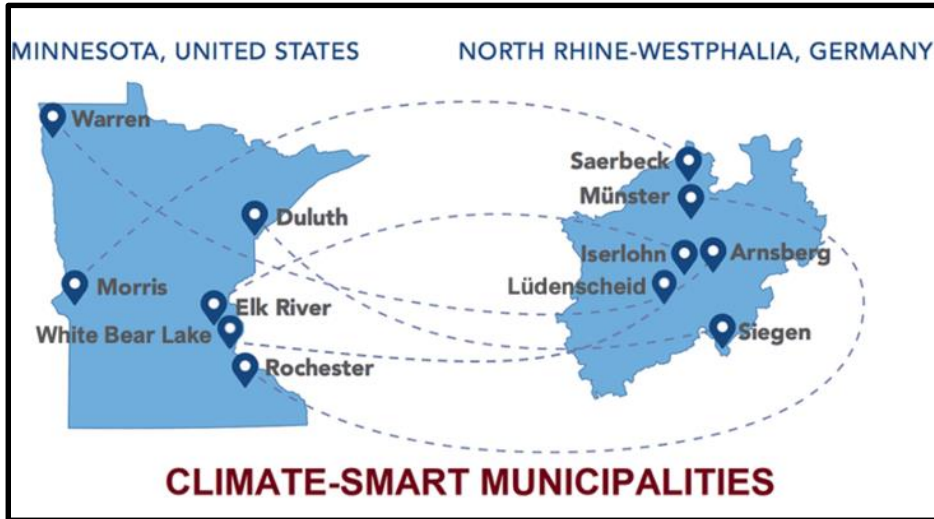
Electric Vehicle

2019 Exhibitors:

- Adopt a Drain
- Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)
- Chevy Bolt
- Citizens Climate Lobby
- EAC/Ramsey County
- Footprint Earth Foundation
- Mn350
- Pollinator Friendly Alliance
- Rainbow Tree Care
- Ramsey County Master Gardeners
- Rush Line BRT
- Tamarack Nature Center
- U of M Turf Science
- VLAWMO
- WBL Seed Library
- Zero Waste Task Force

Environmental Advisory Commission

Climate Smart Municipalities



Goal of partnership: pair together municipalities to accelerate progress toward a cleaner and more efficient energy footprint.

Steering Committee

- Environmental Advisory Commission
- Parks Commission
- Local businesses
- WBL Area School District
- Century College
- Children's Performing Arts
- Economic Development Corporation
- WB Area Chamber of Commerce

'Climate Smart' Steering Committee



Focus on community-wide energy initiatives

- Where do we want to be in 2030, 2040, ...?
- Create goals and a long-range plan

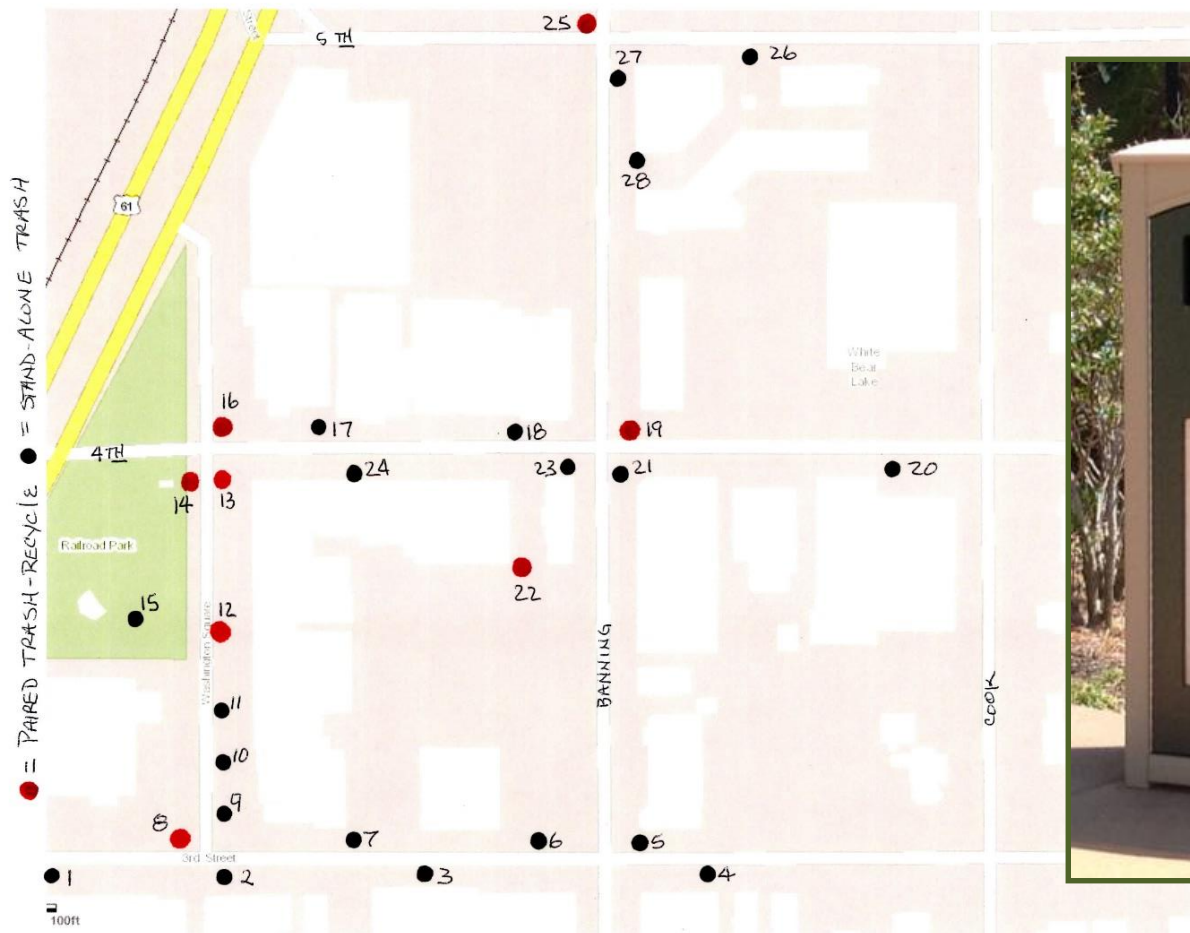


EV Charging stations



'Climate Smart' Steering Committee

Environmental Advisory Commission



Downtown Area Recycling

Environmental Advisory Commission



Organics Dumpster Enclosure

Environmental Advisory Commission

Coming up...

- Work Plan for 2020
- Student commission member
- Joint meeting with Parks Commission



Buerkle Road Prairie Planting

Raingarden Palooza!

**Taking care of
clean water gardens
together.**



A 3-part series on how to take care of raingardens and tackle weeds.

Work, learn, and meet fellow garden enthusiasts.

Each event is an entry for prizes!

A partnership between:



June 9: Lake Josephine

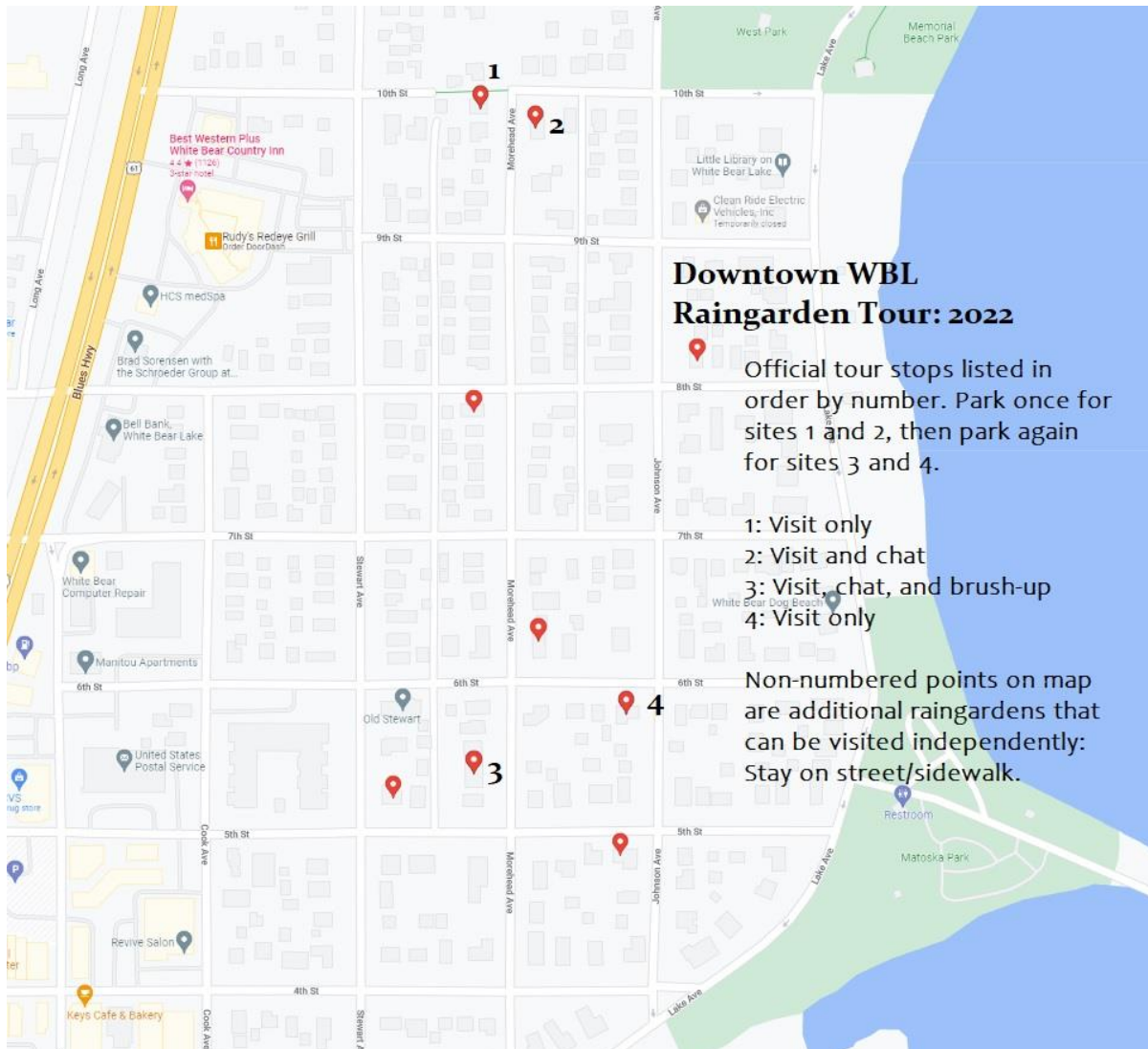
July 21: Lakeaires Elementary

Sept 22: Downtown White Bear Lake

Snacks included all days

Details on locations, times, and RSVP:

vlawmo.org/events



Downtown WBL Raingarden Tour: 2022

Official tour stops listed in order by number. Park once for sites 1 and 2, then park again for sites 3 and 4.

- 1: Visit only
- 2: Visit and chat
- 3: Visit, chat, and brush-up
- 4: Visit only

Non-numbered points on map are additional raingardens that can be visited independently: Stay on street/sidewalk.

Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

- Send thank you notes to Expo exhibitors
- Bonnie to bring token to members Frye and Luxford
- Enter work plan information into Google work plan document (problem statement, list possible results, and define steps to achieve the results for each goal assigned to each member in the work plan list)
- Review GreenStep Cities best practices and tailor 2022/2023 work plan items with this program
- Sheryl to email downtown area tree map to the commission members
- 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

- ~~- Email the Work Plan goals spreadsheet and Google Docs work plan worksheet link to members Chris F and Jeff.~~
- Send thank you notes to Expo exhibitors
- Ask the City Manager about separate presentation vs workshop presentation
- Look into recycling cart stickers
- Ask about starting a fall Trash to Treasure day
- Order XL EAC tee shirts
- Research where to properly dispose of concrete wash water
- Invite Parks Foreman to future meeting
- 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)