



**AGENDA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**  
**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 16, 2023

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. 2023 Work Plan - park visit reports  
B. Budget (EAC shirts)

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Board and Commissions Recognition Banquet presentation  
B. Joint work session presentation  
C. 2024 Draft Work Plan

**7. DISCUSSION**

- A. Staff updates  
- NE Metro Climate Action September Program  
- Oak knoll pond spent lime pilot project  
- Urban and Community Forestry Grants  
- Volunteer list  
B. Commission member updates  
- Downtown Mobility and Parking Study Steering Committee  
- County Road E & Bellaire Ave  
C. Do-outs

**8. ADJOURNMENT**



**City of White Bear Lake**  
Engineering Department

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Environmental Advisory Commission  
**From:** Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist  
**Date:** September 14, 2023  
**Subject:** Action Items for September 20, 2023 EAC Meeting

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**Agenda item 5A. 2023 Work Plan - park visit reports**

The final 2023 work plan is included in the September packet. This spring, the Parks Commission expressed interest in partnering with the EAC to identify locations for pollinator plantings/restoration. Each Park Commission member was assigned two or three parks to inspection in the summer months. The EAC was invited to attend these inspections for the purpose of locating potential pollinator project locations and identifying areas of invasive species. Numerous park visits have now been completed.

*Action:* Providing a brief update on all park visits that have been completed, and brainstorm ideas on how best to summarize the results. A hard copy map of each park will be provided at the meeting to circle areas for potential restoration and/or invasive species removal.

**Agenda item 5B. Budget (EAC shirts)**

The EAC budget is attached that summarizes the remaining budget for 2023. The EAC expressed interest in ordering embroidered polo shirts similar to the Parks Commission. An apparel catalog will be available at the meeting.

*Action:* Choose a shirt design and color from the apparel catalog. Review the budget to determine if shirts can be purchased in 2023.

**Agenda item 6A. Board and Commissions Recognition Banquet slide show**

The Board and Commissions Recognition Banquet is scheduled for the evening of November 1<sup>st</sup>. As in past banquets, each board and commission will present its accomplishments over the past year. The 2022 presentation is included in the September packet for reference.

*Action:* Brainstorm ideas to include in the annual presentation.

**Agenda item 6B. Joint work session presentation**

The joint workshop with City Council and the commissions will be held in January (date to be determined). Last year, each commission presented on past activities and future priorities. The EAC created a PowerPoint presentation which summarized EAC activities. A pdf of this presentation is included in the September packet for reference.

*Action:* Brainstorm ideas to include in the joint work session presentation.

**Agenda item 6C. 2024 Draft Work Plan**

The draft 2024 work plan is included in the September packet.

*Action:* Review the draft 2024 work plan and begin discussing priority goals for 2024.

## Environmental Advisory Commission 2023 Work Plan

Month	Recurrent Agenda Items	Activities/Events /Speakers
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• Priority goal(s) planning</li> </ul>	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring newsletter articles</li> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> <li>• National Mayor’s Water Challenge</li> <li>• Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting</li> </ul>	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>	Environmental Resource Expo, July 27
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall newsletter articles</li> <li>• 2024 Work Plan</li> </ul>	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Work Plan</li> <li>• Volunteer Recognition Dinner slide show ideas</li> </ul>	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Work Plan</li> <li>• Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Joint workshop planning</li> </ul>	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Work Plan</li> <li>• Joint workshop planning</li> </ul>	Volunteer recognition dinner
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve 2024 Work Plan</li> <li>• Joint workshop planning</li> </ul>	Holiday Treats

### High Priority Goals for 2023

- ‘Reduce recycling contamination’ education grant availability
- Pollinator plantings
- Solar on buildings
- Buckthorn removal

### Ongoing initiatives

- Recycling containers: waiting for County
- Downtown Revitalization Project
  - EV chargers
  - Boulevard trees
- Zero Waste Events
- Promote electric lawn equipment

## **Joint work session notes – Jan 2023**

### ***Mayor comments:***

- Water conservation a priority
- Not interested in a local single use bag ban/charge
- Helpful to create a plan assigning priorities and costs to pollinator/native plantings in collaboration with Parks Commission

### ***Councilmember Walsh comments:***

- He was at a National Night out near Dillion Ditch and was wondering if we could look into pollinator plantings at that location.
- What about pollinator plantings at Bossard Park on the sloped areas.

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

## **Climate Smart Municipalities topics for Steering Committee**

- 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
- Other stormwater topics

## **EAC 2023 Budget**

Budget for 2023	\$500.00
Expenditures:	
Electric lawn equipment banner	\$135.00
Native seed packets	\$201.60
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>	<b>\$163.40</b>



# **Environmental Advisory Commission**

# Environmental Advisory Commission

## Members:

Gary Schroeher (Chair)

*Term: 2011-2023*

Rick Johnston (Vice Chair)

*Term: 2018-2024*

Sheryl Bolstad

*Term: 2011-2025*

Chris Frye

*Term: 2022-2025*

Christopher Greene

*Term: 2017-2023*

Bonnie Greenleaf

*Term: 1992-2024*

Jeff Luxford

*Term: 2022-2025*

## Role:

- **Education:** Seek input from and encourage WBL residents to adopt sustainable practices through surveys, education, and program & event sponsorship.
- **Projects:** Complete environmental projects, accomplished through yearly work planning and prioritization.
- **Policies:** Advise City Council on policies related to the environment.





# Environmental Advisory Commission

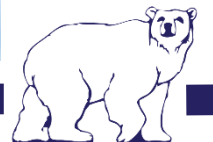
## Adopt-a-Drain Program



Metro Watershed Partners  
[adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org)



Education: Adopt-a-Storm Drain Program



# Environmental Advisory Commission

## Spotlight on Sustainability



### Benefits

- Zero emissions
- Quieter
- Less maintenance

Spring is officially here and as residents begin to swap snow blowers for lawn mowers, some may want to consider switching from gas to electric-powered equipment. There is an array of electric tools available to the amateur landscaper, including leaf blowers, weed whips, and tree trimmers. In particular, recent advances in battery technology have made electric lawn mowers and snow blowers increasingly popular and readily available products. White Bear Lake resident, Gary Schroeder, who owns both, described some of the benefits to investing in electric equipment.

- The EAC supports utilizing battery operated outdoor equipment, such as lawn mowers, snow blowers, string trimmers and leaf blowers.
- Promoted in city newsletter and at the EAC's annual Environmental Resources Expo.
- City received a grant from the MPCA to purchase a battery powered pole saw, string trimmer, handheld blower and chainsaw.

Education: Electric Lawn Equipment



# Environmental Advisory Commission



## 2022 Exhibitors:

- Autonomous bus
- Pollinator Friendly Alliance
- NE Metro Climate Action
- Ramsey County Master Gardeners
- Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador Program
- Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
- Sierra Club Zero Waste Task Force
- Tamarack Nature Center
- Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
- White Bear Lake Conservation District
- WBL Environmental Advisory Commission
- Xcel Energy

Education: Environmental Resources Expo – July 28th



# Environmental Advisory Commission



## Survey Results (33 surveys - WBL residents only)

Topic	Average Rank
Plastic Use Reduction	2.8
Energy Eff./Alt.	3.2
Water Conservation	3.2
Pollinators	3.4
Waste Mgmt.	3.5
Buckthorn/Trees	4.9

Lower number = higher importance

Education: Environmental Resources Expo – July 28th



# Environmental Advisory Commission



## 2022 Waste Audit

Results for 1, 4-yard dumpster

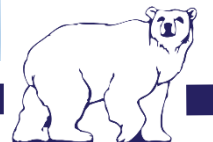
Week of May 9th

- 1580 Pounds
- ~90% full

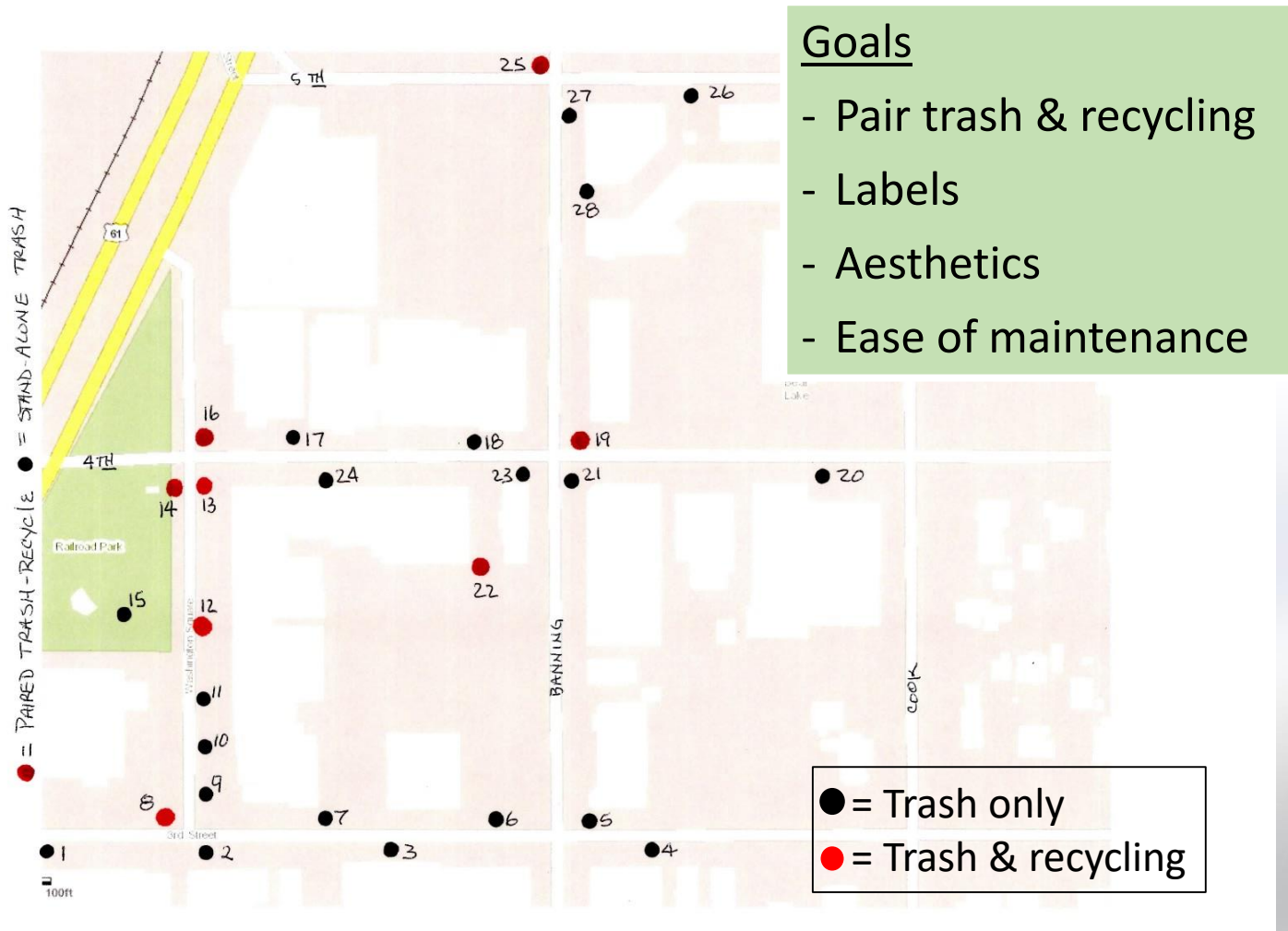
Week of May 23rd

- 1360 Pounds
- ~70% full

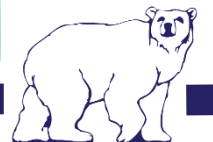
Projects: Food Scraps Recycling



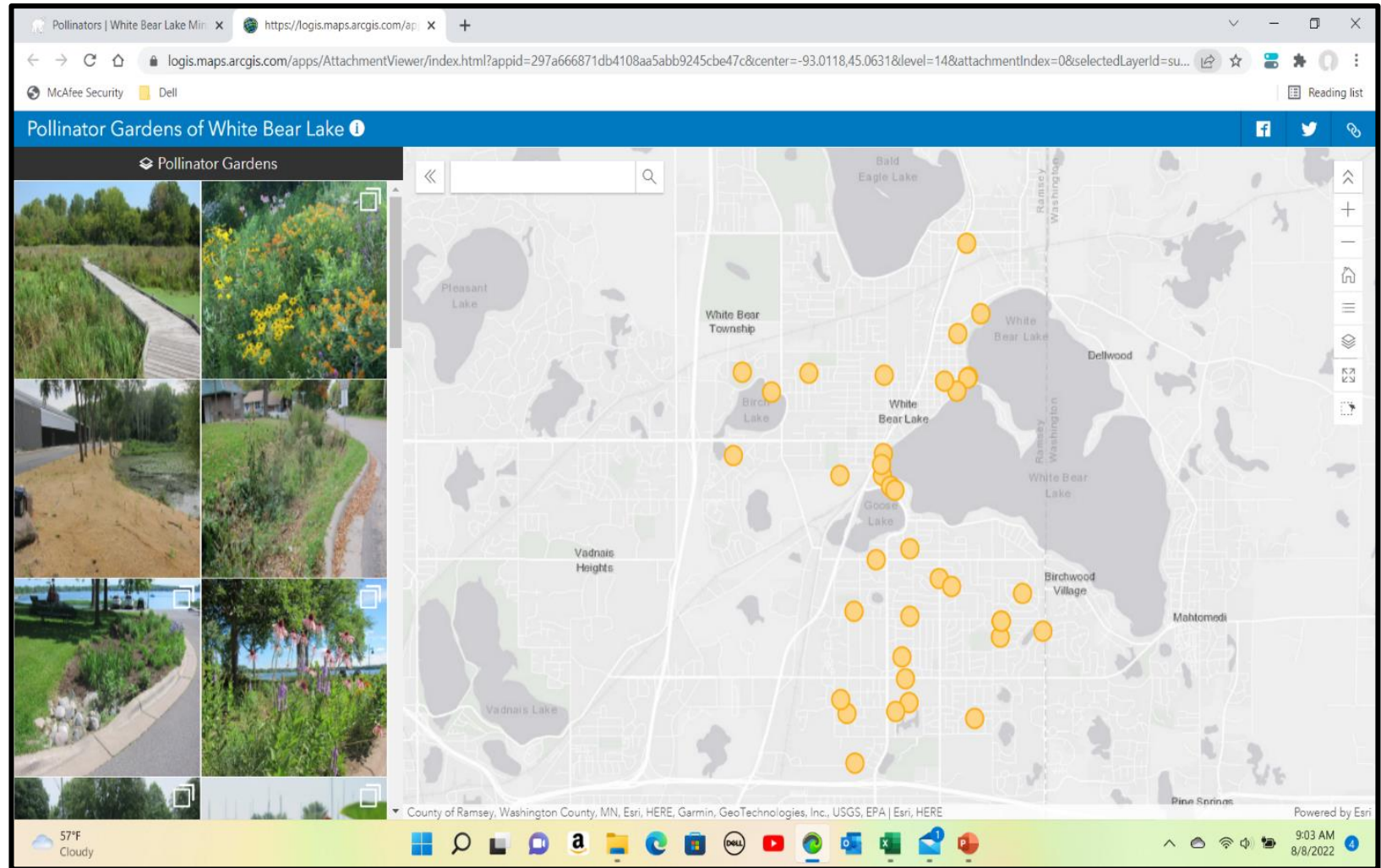
# Environmental Advisory Commission



Projects: Downtown Area Recycling



# Environmental Advisory Commission



[whitebearlake.org/ee/page/pollinators](http://whitebearlake.org/ee/page/pollinators)

Projects: Pollinator Pathways Map



# Environmental Advisory Commission

## COMPOST



▲ All Food Scraps



▲ Used Compostable  
Cups & Utensils



▲ Used Napkins,  
Paper Towels &  
Wooden Stir Sticks



▲ Used  
Compostable  
Plates



- EAC presented a draft zero waste policy to City Council for their consideration.
- In February 2021 City Council passed a resolution to adopt the Zero Waste Events Policy (Section 1.10 of the City's Policy Manual).
- Purpose: reduce waste at city held events.

Materials used must be reusable, recyclable, or compostable

Policies: Zero Waste Events







## **Environmental Advisory Commission**

Mayor, City Council Members. I'm Gary Schroeher, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you some of the activities our Commission has been involved in and are currently working on.

## Environmental Advisory Commission

### Members:

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*Term: 2011-2023*

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### Role:

- Advise City Council on policies related to the environment.
- Complete environmental projects, accomplished through yearly work planning and prioritization.
- Seek input from and encourage WBL residents to adopt sustainable practices through surveys, education, and program & event sponsorship.



We are a 7-person advisory commission appointed by the Mayor. Here is a list of our current members. Our role is to advise the City Council and educate the public. We seek knowledgeable guest speakers and conduct research so our recommendations are based on scientific evidence.

## Environmental Advisory Commission



Minnesota  
GreenStep Cities

### ➤ GreenStep Cities

The City of White Bear Lake joined the GreenStep Cities Program in 2011.(Resolution 10941) The program is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals.



### ➤ City of WBL Comprehensive Plan

The EAC is in full support of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan approved by the city council on June 8, 2021 and its natural resources and sustainability vision.



The EAC is committed to environmental initiatives as outlined in the GreenStep Cities program and the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The following EAC slides illustrate several examples of our initiatives to support the environment in White Bear Lake

# Environmental Advisory Commission



## 2022 Exhibitors:

- Autonomous bus
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- Sierra Club Zero Waste Task Force
- Tamarack Nature Center
- Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
- White Bear Lake Conservation District
- WBL Environmental Advisory Commission
- Xcel Energy

Current Initiatives: Annual Environmental Resources Expo



For over 10 years we have been holding an environmental resource expo during the last Thursday of Marketfest. We selectively chose organizations to join us that have interactive displays such as VLAWMO, Tamarack Nature Center, Electric vehicle club, Pollinator Friendly Alliance, Ramsey County recycling ambassadors and Master Gardeners

## Environmental Advisory Commission

In April 2016, City Council passed a Pollinator Friendly Resolution to help protect pollinators.



Current Initiatives: Pollinator Pathways



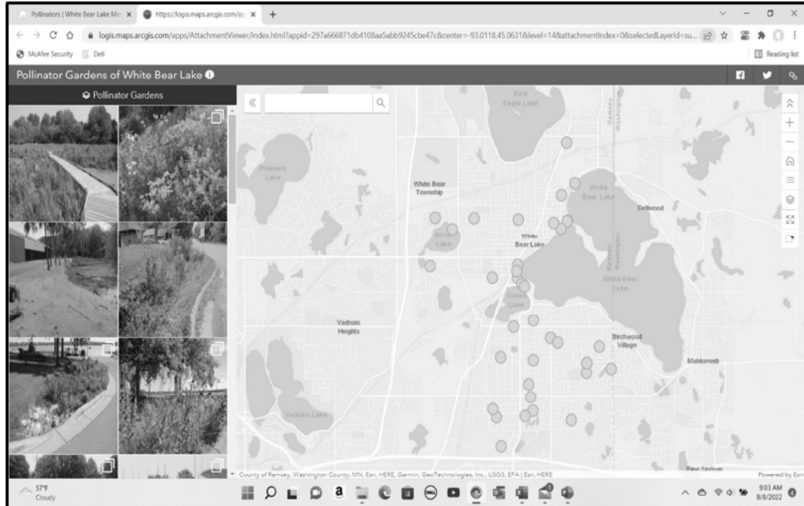
The EAC shares in the concern over the decline in pollinators. Pollinators are important to maintain the ecosystem and pollinate the plants that humans and animals eat. Our first step to combat pollinator loss occurred in 2016 when the EAC recommended to the City Council to pass a Pollinator Friendly Resolution. Now the EAC is working towards increasing pollinator friendly natural habitat in the city.

# Environmental Advisory Commission



- 36 gardens  
- City & private

[whitebearlake.org/ee/page/pollinators](http://whitebearlake.org/ee/page/pollinators)



Current Initiatives: Pollinator Pathways



An important first step in developing pollinator pathway corridors is to identify the type and location of existing public and private pollinator friendly gardens in the city. The White Bear Lake interactive pollinator map found on the city's web page shows the location of pollinator plants on public and private property. The EAC encourages residents and businesses with existing pollinator friendly gardens to submit information about their garden for inclusion in the pollinator map. Look for an article on pollinator pathways in the WBL community magazine this spring.

# Environmental Advisory Commission

## COMPOST



Materials used must be reusable, recyclable, or compostable

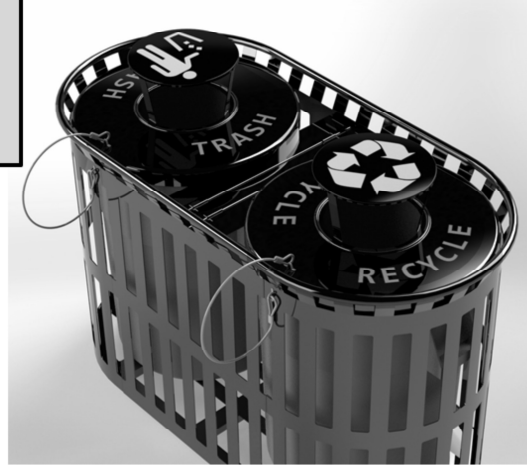
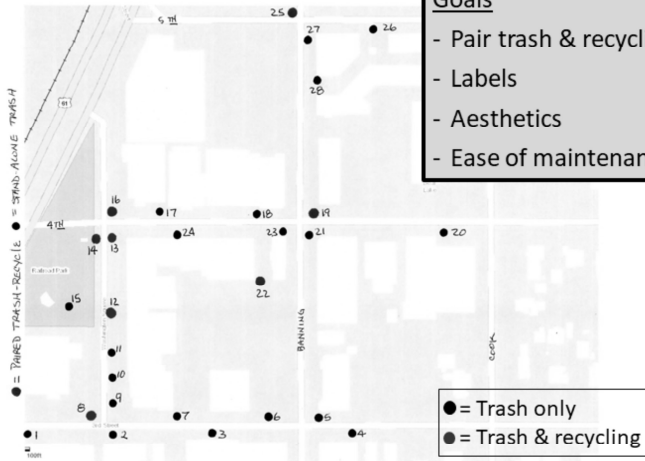
Current initiatives: Zero Waste Events



- EAC presented a draft zero waste policy to City Council for their consideration.
- In February 2021 City Council passed a resolution to adopt the Zero Waste Events Policy (Section 1.10 of the City's Policy Manual).
- Purpose: reduce waste at city held events.

In February 2021 the city council passed a zero waste resolution at the recommendation of the EAC. We support using either washable or compostable plates, cups and utensils at all city held events and encourage all organizations in WBL to support zero waste events.

# Environmental Advisory Commission



Current Initiatives: Downtown Area Recycling



After we received a letter from a concerned resident about the lack of recycling containers downtown the Commission spearheaded an initiative to improve the downtown recycling. All the trash and recycle bins in the downtown area were mapped out. Research has shown that successful recycling requires clear labeling and pairing recycling and trash bins. We are working with the County to obtain funding to acquire new bins like the ones shown in the photo.



# Environmental Advisory Commission

## Spotlight on Sustainability



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- The EAC supports utilizing battery operated outdoor equipment, such as lawn mowers, snow blowers, string trimmers and leaf blowers.
- Promoted in city newsletter and at the EAC's annual Environmental Resources Expo.
- City received a grant from the MPCA to purchase a battery powered pole saw, string trimmer, handheld blower and chainsaw.

## Current Initiatives: Electric Lawn Equipment



The EAC supports utilizing electrical outdoor equipment, such as lawn mowers, snow blowers, weed whips and leaf blowers. It has promoted this at the Environmental Expo and in city newsletter.

Hour for hour gasoline powered lawn mowers produce 11 times as much pollution as a new car. In 2020, the City's Public Works department received a grant to replace a gas powered pole saw, string trimmer, handheld blower, and chain saw with electric versions. All my lawn equipment is electrical, even my snow blower as you can see in this photo.

# Environmental Advisory Commission

## Adopt-a-Drain Program



Metro Watershed Partners  
[adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org)



EAC Program Support: Adopt-a-Storm Drain



The EAC also supports the following ongoing initiatives. One of the programs we support is the metro watershed partners **adopt a drain program** where residents sign up to maintain a drain in their neighborhood and keep litter and organic materials from the downstream lakes and wetlands. Our commission members have adopted drains near their homes. There are still others available for adoption on the watershed website! At our 2022 Expo the White Bear Lake Conservation District was encouraging citizens to sign up to Adopt a Storm Drain.

## Environmental Advisory Commission



### 2022 Waste Audit

Results for 1, 4-yard dumpster

Week of May 9th

- 1580 Pounds
- ~90% full

Week of May 23rd

- 1360 Pounds
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EAC Program Support: Food Scraps Recycling



At the urging of the EAC Ramsey County partnered with the city to construct a food scrap drop off site in 2021. Since twenty percent of our trash is food waste there's a better option to manage this waste. The food scraps collected at this site and others in Ramsey County will become finished compost at an industrial compost facility. The finished compost is used in gardens, landscaping and construction projects. You'll soon have a new way to recycle food scraps from home! Ramsey and Washington counties are working together to bring a curb side food scraps pick up service to all residents, with rollout beginning sometime in late 2023 or early 2024.

## **Environmental Advisory Commission**

Moving forward the EAC supports the following environmental initiatives and encourages the city council to support them.



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# 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

EAC Program Support: 'Climate Smart' Steering Committee



The Climate smart partnership with Germany is an important step towards a cleaner and more efficient energy footprint. We're pleased with the City's partnering with a City in Germany and thank the City Council members who made the trip to experience their environmental actions first hand. One aspect of the partnership was the formation of a climate smart steering committee of which Rick Johnston and myself are members along with the listed members on this slide. Unfortunately the Covid pandemic put this on hold...we would like to see the steering committee resume.

## Environmental Advisory Commission

Goal: Increase solar on residential, commercial, and City buildings in WBL

Why: Energy savings and reduction in green house gases.

How: Lead by example with solar installation on public buildings.



Initiatives Under Consideration: Solar



Our energy provider Xcel has a goal for delivering 100% carbon free electricity by 2050. We encourage the city to lead by example by installing solar power on public building where feasible.

## Prioritize Tree Planting and Maintenance in Downtown WBL

- Maximize number of trees (replace dead trees & create new tree sites)
- Provide Root structural support using Silva Cells or CU-Structural Soil

### WHY prioritize trees?

- Greenstep Cities Goal: Environmental Mgmt Category, Maximize tree planting along your main downtown streets
- Good for business. Surveys show people shop longer and spend on average 12% more with large trees present (Wolf, KL)
- Trees clean and reduce stormwater runoff
- Trees reduce heating and cooling costs
- Provide beauty



The EAC encourages the city to maximize tree plantings in downtown WBL, which is good for business. Presently there are many vacant locations lacking trees. Surveys show people shop longer and spend on average 12% more with large trees present. The upper right photo also shows it's worthwhile to provide sufficient space for trees/roots. Trees on the left, planted in "jails", are smaller compared to the ones on the right with ample soil volume.

The bottom photo shows a tree on 4<sup>th</sup> St in front of Good Things. Maintenance is important for existing trees.

## Silva Cells VS CU-Structural Soil

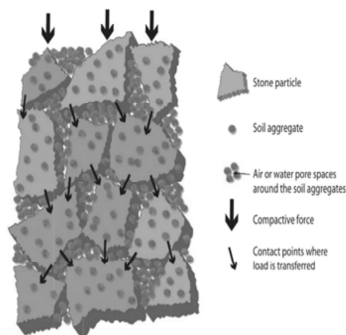
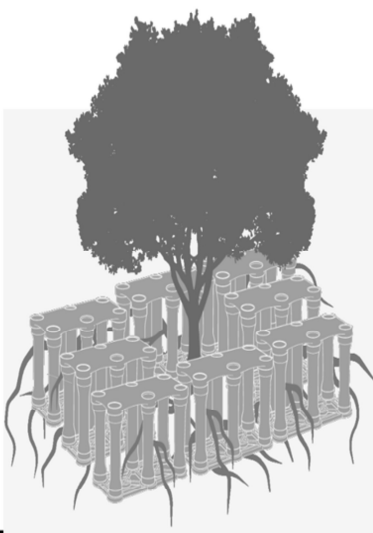


Figure 7. Conceptual diagram of structural soil including stone-on-stone compaction and soil in interstitial spaces.  
Figure by Sarah Dickinson, adapted from Nina Bassuk.

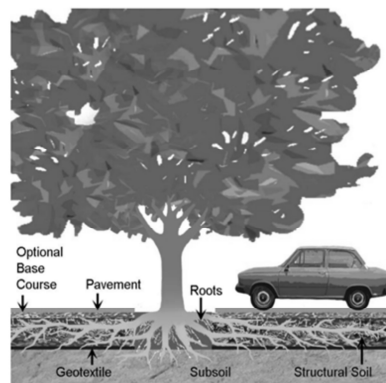


Figure 2. This system both serves as a parking lot and as a stormwater management facility. In addition to this double use of space, the structural soils also provide vastly greater soil volumes for tree root growth than traditional parking lot construction.  
Note: Gravel base course is optional, since the structural soil is designed to be as strong as a base.  
Figure by Sarah Dickinson.

The EAC understands that the city is looking at redeveloping downtown WBL. We encourage the city to plant more trees when this occurs. There are several systems for trees to grow successfully in sidewalk/parking lot areas. Sliva cells are highly effective but costly. While Cornell University's Structural Soil is not as quite effective but still achieves good results at 1/3 the cost. Figure on right shows that tree roots can grow even below pavement if provided with Structural Soil



## MN Company in Elk River and their MN projects



## Completed CU-Structural Soil® Projects

### Streetscapes throughout

Minnesota  
 Alexandria, Broadway Ave.  
 Anoka, Main St.  
 Bloomington, Lindau Lane  
 Brainerd  
 Duluth  
 Eden Prairie, West 70 St.  
 Edina  
 New Hope, 49th & Zealand Ave.  
 Northfield  
 Oaseo  
 Richfield  
 Rochester  
 Rockford  
 Sioux Falls  
 St. Louis Park  
 St. Michael  
 St. Peter, Broadway Ave.  
 Wayzata  
 White Bear Lake

### Metro Area Projects

Central Corridor Light-rail  
 Apple Valley, Minnesota Zoo  
 Bloomington, Pan American  
 Burnsville, Nicollet Commons  
 Eagan Central Maintenance  
 Eagan, Minnesota Vikings Training Camp  
 Maple Grove Band Shell  
 Maple Grove, Central Park  
 Great Lawn  
 Maple Grove, Boston Scientific  
 Minnetonka, Opus  
 Minnetonka, United Health  
 Richfield 66th/County 53  
 Wayzata, Bay Center

### Outstate Areas

Duluth, University of MN  
 Eau Claire, University of WI  
 Fargo, ND, Water Main  
 Fargo, ND, Block 9  
 Forest Lake, City Center  
 Hastings, Riverfront Renaissance  
 Lino Lakes, Elementary School  
 Mankato State University  
 Minot, SD, Downtown Infrastructure  
 MNDOT, Hwy 169  
 Ramsey, Town Center  
 Rochester, Radisson Indigo Hotel  
 Sioux Falls, SD, Water Main

### Minneapolis Streetscapes

Chicago Avenue  
 Lake Street  
 Lowry Avenue  
 Minnehaha Avenue  
 Nicollet Avenue  
 Washington Avenue

### Minneapolis other Properties

Burgundy Place Apartments  
 City of Mpls., Paving Dept.  
 Hennepin County Gov't Center  
 The Interchange  
 Loring Park Condos  
 Mpls. Technical College  
 Minnesota Vikings Stadium  
 MSP Building  
 Nicollet Mall  
 Radisson Red Hotel  
 Skyscape Towers  
 Stonebridge Lofts  
 Target Field  
 Velo Flats  
 Xcel Plaza  
 Wells Fargo Towers  
 Westin Gallery

### St. Paul Projects

Adams Spanish Immersion School  
 CHS Field – Lower Grounds  
 Ford Parkway  
 Higher Ground  
 Minnesota Senate  
 Minnesota State Capitol  
 Mississippi Flats Condos  
 Phalen & Payne Avenues  
 Printers Row  
 Prior Avenue  
 Rice Park  
 Robert Street & Hwy 51  
 Snelling Avenue  
 Southview Blvd  
 State of MN, Dept of Human Services  
 The Penfield Condos  
 University of Minnesota Projects  
 Biomedical Building  
 Children's Hospital  
 Hanson Hall  
 Minneapolis, Church Street  
 Minneapolis, Harvard Street SE  
 Pleasant Street  
 TCF Stadium



P.O. Box 332, 11555 205th Ave. NW  
 Elk River, MN 55330  
 www.plaistedcompanies.com  
 Tel 763.441.1100 • Fax 763.441.7782  
 November 2018

THE SOIL EXPERTS.

Here is a photo of the Boat Works with trees planted using CU-Structural Soil. It shows trees don't need a large surface area if surrounded by pervious pavement and roots given proper environment such as CU-Structural Soil

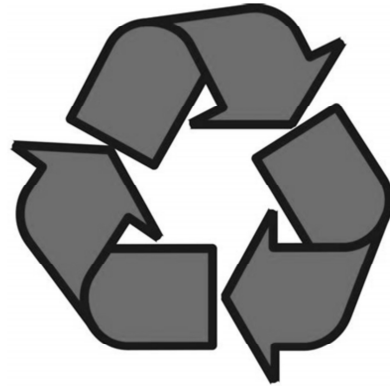
## Environmental Advisory Commission

Goal: Reduce “wish cycling” and single use bags

Why: Prevent potential fines for excess waste material in the recycling stream. Eliminate waste caused by single use plastic bags

How:

- Education
- Support for state-wide bill to charge for paper and plastic bags



Initiatives Under Consideration: Recycling education workshops and Reducing single use bags



Waste material in our recycling stream (wish cycling) is close to exceeding our limit of 13% and has potential fines from Eureka. During the Resource Expo we had a display board illustrating acceptable vs non recycling materials. We are exploring other ways to further educate the public on this issue. For example as a Ramsey county recycling ambassador I recently gave a recycling presentation to my church.

Every year Minnesotans throw away 87,000 tons of plastic bags while less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled. Plastic bags can be recycled at local grocery stores but not in the recycling bin. Plastic bags caught in the machinery at Eureka's recycling facility cause several hour shutdowns every day. The Commission is exploring ways to encourage residents to use reusable bags whenever possible. One scenario would be a “Bring your own Bag” ordinance at the state level. We also ask what is the city doing to recycle its plastic waste?

## Environmental Advisory Commission

Goal: Water conservation

Why: Saves money, preserves our aquifers and reduces wastewater.



Initiatives Under Consideration: Education



Water conservation is important to preserving our most precious local resource ....White Bear Lake. Encouraging the city and residents to purchase water conserving appliances, installing rain barrels, reducing lawn watering by installing rain sensors and planting draught tolerant plants. I'm sure you all agree that seeing irrigation systems watering lawns during rain events is very frustrating.

## Environmental Advisory Commission

Goal: Additional Pollinator plantings on city property

Why: Pollinators like butterflies and bees need these plantings for food and habitat.



Initiatives Under Consideration: Pollinator/Native Plantings



Some activities we are currently evaluating are listed on this and the following slide. As I discussed earlier creating pollinator friendly habitats are important. We suggest that the city evaluate areas of our city parks and properties that could be potentially converted to prairie or native flower plantings reducing the cost of mowing and increasing pollinator habitat.

## Environmental Advisory Commission

Goal: Removal of invasive plants

Why: Out compete native species creating monocultures, creating unhealthy ecosystems.



Initiatives Under Consideration: Invasive species management



Many of our parks and open spaces (for example Lakewood Hills) are infested with invasive species such as buckthorn, which out compete the native plants we need for a stable healthy ecosystem. We encourage the city to take aggressive action in removing invasive species... for example by partnering with local watershed districts or holding volunteer invasive plant removal events.

## Environmental Advisory Commission

Goal: Increase tree plantings on city and residential properties

Why: Trees sequester carbon, provide shade and beautify neighborhoods



Initiatives Under Consideration: Tree plantings



Increased tree plantings are important to sequestering carbon and providing shade to keep urban areas cooler. As we lose trees to age and invasive species, we encourage the city and its residents to increase tree plantings.

## Environmental Advisory Commission

- Is there a process for the EAC to request that Council support specific environmental legislation.

Questions to Council



We have a question.... is there a process for the EAC to request that Council support specific environmental legislation.

For example Conservation Minnesota came to the EAC and asked for our support regarding an environmental public policy they were advocating at the state legislature. At the time we were not sure of the procedure and wanted to discuss with you first.

## Environmental Advisory Commission

- Are there any environmental issues that the city council would like the EAC to work on?

Questions to Council



So that's a brief summary of our activities. Do you have any questions for me or the other commission members here tonight? Are there any environmental issues that the city council would like us to work on? We welcome your feedback. Thank you



## Environmental Advisory Commission 2024 Work Plan - DRAFT

Month	Recurrent Agenda Items	Activities/Events /Speakers
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• Priority goal(s) planning</li> </ul>	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring newsletter articles</li> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> <li>• National Mayor's Water Challenge</li> <li>• Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting</li> </ul>	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>	Schedule tour of R&E facility at a date TBD
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• Fall newsletter articles</li> </ul>	Environmental Resource Expo, July 31?
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Work Plan</li> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo Recap</li> </ul>	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Work Plan</li> <li>• Volunteer Recognition Dinner slide show ideas</li> </ul>	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Work Plan</li> <li>• Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Joint workshop planning</li> </ul>	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Work Plan</li> <li>• Joint workshop planning</li> </ul>	Volunteer recognition dinner
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve 2024 Work Plan</li> <li>• Joint workshop planning</li> </ul>	Holiday Treats

### High Priority Goals for 2023

- 'Reduce recycling contamination' education grant availability
- Pollinator plantings
- Solar on buildings
- Buckthorn removal

### Ongoing initiatives

- Recycling containers: waiting for County
- Downtown Revitalization Project
  - EV chargers
  - Boulevard trees
- Zero Waste Events
- Promote electric lawn equipment

## **Joint work session notes – Jan 2023**

### ***Mayor comments:***

- Water conservation a priority
- Not interested in a local single use bag ban/charge
- Helpful to create a plan assigning priorities and costs to pollinator/native plantings in collaboration with Parks Commission

### ***Councilmember Walsh comments:***

- He was at a National Night out near Dillion Ditch and was wondering if we could look into pollinator plantings at that location.
- What about pollinator plantings at Bossard Park on the sloped areas.

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

## **Climate Smart Municipalities topics for Steering Committee**

- 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
- Other stormwater topics

SEPTEMBER

27

# How Our Changing Climate is Impacting Extreme Weather



Featuring Dr. Mark Seeley



**A Live Zoom Event**

**Please preregister at: <https://bit.ly/NEMCA0927>**

**Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 7:00 PM**

Dr. Mark W. Seeley retired in 2018 after nearly 40 years in his role as Extension Climatologist and Meteorologist at the University of Minnesota. Since then he has continued to provide presentations to communities throughout Minnesota and beyond on climate change and its effects on our natural resources and societal infrastructure.

**Cohosted By:**

- Northeast Metro Climate Action
- Resilient Roseville
- Northwest Metro Climate Action
- VoteClimate

## Current Do-Outs

### Commission Members

- Gary to invite Metro Blooms to a future meeting
- After visiting the parks, create a report that includes photos, a description of the park, what you saw, and areas that may be good candidates for invasive species removal and/or restoration. Circle these locations on the parks maps that Connie will provide.
- Share park visit reports at the September meeting
- 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 2024 work plan items with this program
- Add GSC numbers to Google doc.
- 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.
- Rick to follow-up with the MPCA re: County E and Bellaire. Report at a future meeting

### Staff

- Set up a joint meeting with the Parks Commission for ~~November~~ or early next year.
- Inquire about paying for EAC shirts in two installments
- Forward Community Forestry Grant information to the Public Works Director
- Add volunteer request and recycling contamination article in newsletter
- Bring apparel catalog to September meeting
- Research if the City has a policy regarding recycling in public spaces
- Look into recycling cart stickers
- Ask about starting a fall Trash to Treasure day
- Email air quality sensor info to Public Works
- Schedule tour of R&E facility at a date TBD
- Add AIS ID information to the website