

## Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

### 02.26.2026 Agenda

3:15 p.m. City Hall Conference Room

#### Present:

- I. Approval of Minutes from 01-14-2026
- II. Old Business
  - A. Combined committee planning in 2026. The Green Step Committee and Natural Resources Advisory Group are now combined into the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee. Confirmed current membership and discussed the possible need to adjust meeting times.
  - B. La Crescent Tree Steward Training May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026. There is no cost to participate and individuals can sign-up at [MNTS X1001 MN Tree Steward Training | University of Minnesota](#)
  - C. 2026 MnDOT Landscape Partnership Project. Location(s) are still under consideration. Screening for Truss Specialists property and prairie addition slope across from Du be Kind. The project could provide up to \$8000 for plants/trees.
  - D. 2026 proposed prairie establishment projects. Proposed areas are a steep section of S 2nd street, the city out lot south of Apple City Smoke Shop, Larch Ave Well House area, and Stoney Point Road.
  - E. Trail in Vetsch Park on north end. A portion of single-track trail on the north end of Vetsch was rerouted by the city off of private property in 2025. There have been attempts by trail users to return the route to the previous trail. The rerouted trail needs to be revisited to foster use of only public property.
  - F. Project and grant updates
    1. Solar on Public Buildings Grant. This was awarded and solar installed on the pool building in August 2025. Production to date information, project sign proposal, and consideration of a battery system to store excess energy.
    2. Solar on Public Buildings Grant. Solar will be installed on Wieser Park Pavilion. It will be the first Net Zero La Crescent City building. Sign to be installed when completed.
    3. Solar on Public Buildings Grant. Solar to be installed on Stoney Point

Wellhouse. Working with Clearway Solar to amend community solar subscription allocations.

4. Outdoor Recreation Grant. This grant provides funds at Wieser Park to construct a walking path and poured-in-place playground equipment, pickleball courts, and a zip line. Existing equipment will be replaced in 2026. Concrete work out for bids.
5. EV chargers installed February 2026 on South 1st St. across from the Fire Department. Commissioning and painting need to be completed.
6. Carbon Reduction Program. Funds will purchase a police cruiser and fleet vehicle, 2027-2029 funds for LED Lighting, 2029-2030 funds for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at Redwood Street East and South 11<sup>th</sup> mid-block crossing
7. Eagles Bluff Park Prairie Dry Bluff Prairie Signs. Viewed completed signs.
8. Shared bike station. Drift Cycle, Inc partnering with the city and Bike Shop will establish a shared bike station near the bike/ped bridge. There is an opportunity for advertising sponsors.

#### G. CPL Grant Projects

1. Stoney Point Phase I. The initial area will be sprayed one more time in Spring 2026, and then trees planted in Fall 2026. The fall planting will use potted trees, and seedlings will be planted in spring 2027. Need to redesign trail(s) in this area.
2. Stoney Point Phase II. This is for the area south of and below Stoney Point Road toward 7th St. Approximately 7 acres will be mowed. Neighbors have been notified. Project work ongoing. Apply for CPL funds for Stoney Phase Forest Habitat Restoration Phase III Spring 2026. Discuss plans for areas that have been cleared in Phase II. Less funding for re-forestry with this grant funding.
3. Blufflands CPL grant. This is the grant for cutting and treating invasive species. Accepted bid from Meyer Timber Services. Will be council action item in March.
4. Pine Creek Stream Restoration. The walk-through was completed. Tree planting will occur here in the spring.

H. La Crescent Sustainability and Resilience Plan Team. A public outreach meeting was held January 13 and draft action plans were presented. The planning team has two more meetings over the next two months. Survey results.

#### III. New Business

- A. Bluebird houses – Conservation Crew Travis Lehrke – to install on city property
- B. Active Transportation Action Plan Update/Review. The draft is posted on the city website. Open to public comments/feedback.

C. Additional discussion items- future needs

1. Water bars on a heavily eroded trail in Vetsch. This is on the public works list.
2. Spring weeding of the boulevard islands by the highway. This could be a volunteer activity.
3. Thinning and pruning of existing orchard in Vetsch Park. Vision for this area is discussed. This includes preserving the existing trees and replacing dead trees.
4. Discussed selectively opening areas around small oak trees. This project needs a field trip to look at areas being considered.
5. Spring clean up Kistler Park and Veterans Park native plantings
6. Winter work day cut and treat Black Locust Red Appl trail entrance Eagles Bluff Park

D. MN Green steps water challenge. Review community outreach actions, regulatory actions, infrastructure actions @ [Impact 26: Water Challenge!](#) One idea is to do a mailing of a postcard about storm drain adoption.

E. 2023 and 2025 ReLeaf Grants/Applications. 2025 ReLeaf Grants/Application was not selected for funding. The state had \$7,248,200 to award, and received \$23,427,299.31 in requested funds. Arbor Day planting will occur April 25 and 25 #25 potted 1 ¾" Swamp White Oaks, 7 #15 potted Chinquapin Oaks and 20 6' bareroot Lindens will be planted at the Pine Creek stream restoration site.

F. 2026 City Tree Plantings and Boulevard Tree Program – see spreadsheet. The city will have 89 boulevard trees for this program including 19 Chinquapin Oak. Posting of Blvd. Tree Application will open the first week of March.

H. An ecological monitoring site has been established by the MN DNR to monitor long term vegetation changes in the flood plain on Shore Acres.

I. Organics recycling grants MPCA and collaboration with Houston County to establish a program.

J. 2025 Adopt-A-Drain Report – funding postcard mailer approved by WinLac – co branded – urban stormwater funds

K. Blazing Star Award application – project to apply?

L. Eden Prairie Sustainability in Action Series

M. Fruit Acres, Inc. option agreement to purchase 40 acres. Discuss new name for North End Park. Propose to connect new park name with apples/orchard. Ideas Orchard Park, Orchard View Park, Apple Capital Park, etc.

N. Annual Spring Thaw Keep Off Trail Signs – When to Put Up

O. MN GreenCorps Member Application for 2026-27

P. Other items of business

IV. Next meeting: TBD