

Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

04.22.2026 Agenda

3:15 p.m. Wieser Park Pavilion

Present:

- I. Approval of Minutes from 02-26-2026
- II. Old Business
 - A. New Members for Committee – thank you to Randy for his service
 - B. La Crescent Tree Steward Training May 2nd 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 and south hwy 16. The project could provide up to \$8000 for plants/trees.
 - D. 2026 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. Sign has been ordered.
 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.

Construction starting soon.

5. EV chargers installed February 2026 on South 1st St. across from the Fire Department. Painting to be completed this week. Ribbon cutting May 11th @ 4 p.m.
6. Eagles Bluff Park Prairie Dry Bluff Prairie Signs. Install needs to be planned.
7. Shared bike station. Drift Cycle, Inc partnering with the city and Bike Shop. Shared bike station is up and running near the bike/ped bridge. There is an opportunity for advertising sponsors. Ribbon cutting May 11th @ 4 p.m.
10. 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 open – **not many applications have been received. Opportunities to promote?**

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. Draft actions included for committee review/feedback.

III. New Business

- A. Garlic Mustard Pulling Volunteer Dates
- B. Community Arboretum and Food Forest – Possible Locations
- C. Arbor Day Tree Planting April 23rd 2026 @ Pine Creek Stream Restoration – weather permitting
- D. Summer workers for trail trimming
- E. Additional discussion items- future needs

1. Water bars on a heavily eroded trail in Vetsch. This is on the public works list.
2. Late spring weeding of the boulevard islands by the highway. This could be a volunteer activity.
3. Order and replant apple trees in orchard in Vetsch Park. Fruit Tree Foundation Grant Application submitted.
4. Discussed selectively opening areas around small oak trees in Vetsch Park (work is paused until Nov. 2026). This project needs a field trip to look at areas being considered.
5. Kistler Park remove weed fabric.
6. Work day cut and treat Black Locust Red Apple trail entrance Eagles Bluff Park - **late summer to early autumn (mid-July to December).**

E. DNR Tree Report and Rapid Assessment Community Tree Report Viewer

F. UMN Institute on the Environment Summer Internship Mariah Port– 10-week internship June- August

G. Bird City USA – host World Migratory Bird Day Event Annually

H. Other items

IV. Next meeting: TBD