

Natural Resource Advisory Group
10.22.2025 Minutes
3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

- A. Approve Minutes from September 17, 2025 meeting.
- B. Review CPL grant projects:
 - 1. Stoney Point phase 1
 - 2. Stoney Point phase 2
 - 3. Blufflands
 - 4. Pine Creek Stream Restoration
- C. Review 2026 MnDOT Landscape Partnership Project.
- D. Discussion regarding the combination of the Natural Resource Advisory Group and the GreenStep Committee into one City group/organization/committee.
- E. Review 2025 ReLeaf Grant.
- F. Tree Steward Training – May 2, 2026
- G. Update on Eagles Bluff Park Prairie signs.
- H. Review 2026 proposed prairie establishment projects. This includes Larch Avenue wellhouse, South 2nd Street old wellhouse, and City outlot past La Crescent Smoke Shop.
- I. Additional discussion items.
- J. Set date for next meeting.
- K. Adjournment

Natural Resource Advisory Group
9.17.2025 Minutes
3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

Present: Ruth Nissen, Betsy Knowles, Marge Loch-Wouters, Jason Ludwigson, Randy Urich

Guest: Gene Grant

- I. Approval of minutes from 5_6_2025. June 18 meeting there was no quorum.
- II. Old Business
 - A. Stoney Point Forestry Habitat Restoration Project Updates. Most of the work is completed. Discussed whether the project will be completed with a second spraying or additional mowing. The tree planting in fall of 2026 will include a mix of seedlings from the DNR, bare root trees and potted trees.
 - B. Tree Ordinance Update. The new tree ordinance was signed at the Aug 11 City Council meeting. Aspects of the ordinance were discussed.
 - C. Trail Maintenance Guidelines - weed whipping of trails was completed by city employees in June and July
 - D. CPL Blufflands Invasives Grant Application update. This grant (for hand cutting of invasive species) was awarded and the RFP is out.
 - E. CPL Grant Application Update. This grant for Phase II of the forestry mowing was awarded and the RFP is out.
 - F. Frank J. Kistler Memorial Park Pollinator Plantings. Weeding and maintenance has continued over the summer with the help of a community volunteer. The gardens were in the Parade of Gardens in August. Next year we would like to remove more of the landscape fabric.
 - G. Dry bluff prairie signs in Eagle Bluff. The Community Foundation has funded two signs for the two dry bluff prairies on Eagle Bluff
 - H. Residents establishing prairie. A permit has been created but is not yet adopted into the city fee schedule. A one time fee will be charged and a sign designating the area as a prairie site will be provided.
 - I. Park sign design update. Four of the new signs have been installed.
 - J. Other Updates

- Garlic Mustard was pulled on April 26 and May 12
- Boulevard tree plantings were completed
- New sign for Stoney Point was ordered
- New prairie sites (including by dog park) were seeded
- Living snow fence was planted in Old Hickory.

III. New Business

- A. Changes to expedited CPL grant program. The program change increases the expedited amount substantially.
- B. Update on Pine Creek stream restoration project. Progress continues with tree cutting and toe wood.
- C. 2025 MnDNR reLeaf Grants and Community forestry grants. These are now open and the plan is to apply for both.
- D. Students from Luxemburg tour report. Ruth and Betsy joined Larry Kirch, Economic Development Director, and Teresa O'Donnell - Ebner, City Council member, to tour several of the city's environmental sustainability projects.
- E. Trail extension from South 7th St to Stoney Point Road. Discussed planned use and future management, which includes seeding the trail to grass.

IV. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 22 3:15 pm, City Hall Conference Room

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Knowles