

Environmental Commission

April 27, 2020 – 6:30 pm

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

This meeting will be held via Cisco Webex in accordance with the local emergency declaration made by the City under Minn. Stat. § 12.37. The public may monitor this meeting by calling 1-415-655-0001 and entering the meeting code 803 278 120. For technical assistance, please contact support staff at 763-593-8007 or webexsupport@goldenvalleymn.gov. If you incur costs to call into the meeting, you may submit the costs to the City for reimbursement consideration. Additional information about for monitoring electronic meetings is available on the City website.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of February 24, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes (5 min)**
5. **Old Business**
 - A. Partners in Energy update (5 min)
 - B. 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Plan (10 min)
(Action requested)
 - C. Update on Solid Waste Licensing (5 min)
 - D. Curbside Organics Collection (40 min)
6. **New Business**
 - A. GreenStep Cities Step 4 & 5 - New Stormwater Assessment Tool (10 min)
(Action requested)
 - B. Program/Project Updates (10 min)
 - C. Council Updates (5 min)
 - D. Other Business (5 min)
7. **Adjournment**



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Environmental Commission

February 24, 2020 – 6:30 pm

Council Conference Room
Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Road

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Seys at 6:30

2. Roll Call

Commissioners present: Tracy Anderson, Tonia Galonska, Dawn Hill, Susan Phelps, Joseph Ramlet, Scott Seys, Jim Stremel and Debra Yahle

Commissioners absent: None

Council Members present: Larry Fonnest

Staff present: Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor;
Drew Chirpich, Environmental Specialist;
Emma Pierson, MN GreenCorps Member;

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Golonska to approve the agenda of February 24, 2020 and the motion carried.

4. Approval of January 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Golonska to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020 as submitted and the motion carried.

5. Old Business

A. Partners in Energy update

Eric Eckman gave an update on the Partners in Energy Program:

- The City was formally accepted into the Partners in Energy Program in February.
- Our planning team is being assembled internally and will be meeting with Xcel Energy in early April for the kick-off.
- We're also reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding we have for the plan development phase, which will be about 8 months, and will be signed by the City Manager.
- The Energy Action Team will be assembled with community members and staff for the plan development phase. We will have an Energy Action Plan at the end of this phase.
- The Implementation Phase will begin right after the Planning Phase and will be 18 months long.



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B. Metro Blooms Workshop

Drew Chirpich gave an update on the Metro Blooms Workshop:

- In the past the EC has sponsored a workshop fostering sustainability practices.
- The next in the Metro Blooms series is Creating Your Resilient Yard Workshop.
 - It is a base cost of \$1,500.00 paid by the City and \$15 per person paid by the attendees. When attendees pay a fee it tends to be a better turnout than if it's free.
 - We can try to incorporate Golden Valley specific items up front to the workshop agenda but the workshop has a set curriculum with set speakers.
 - Workshop talks about pollinators and creating habitats for pollinators.
 - We will still have money left over in the Commissions budget to do other things in the future, possibly holding a student essay competition with prizes, or create an annual environmental citizen award.
- The workshop is just a one-time class and would be held in the spring.
- **MOTION** by Commissioner Stremel, seconded by Commissioner Golanska to approve the Metro Blooms Workshop and the motion carried.

C. 2020 Work Plan

Eric Eckman gave an update on the Draft 2020 Work Plan:

- This list will be refined and brought back next month with the 2019 Accomplishments in the more comprehensive draft Annual Work Plan document. This will be approved by the Commission in April and will be presented to the Council in May by Chair Seys.
- Based on feedback and discussion at the meeting, the revised draft work plan follows:

Draft 2020 Work Plan:

Proposed work plan priorities are based on the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, GreenStep Cities Program, and the City's participation in Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Community Collaboration Program.

- Curbside Organics Collection - continue to explore options and make a recommendation; assist in developing and implementing a new program.
- Xcel Energy's Partners In Energy Program - help develop and implement the City's Energy Action Plan including:
 - Advance building performance
 - Private building energy benchmarking
- GreenStep Cities Step 5 - continue working on actions and metrics to address climate-related impacts, improve the environment, and reduce energy consumption and costs.

- If awarded a MN GreenCorps Member in 2020-2021, work to complete GreenStep Cities actions related to Climate and Energy Action.
- Utilize the Commission's \$3,500 budget to:
 - Fund a joint project, speaker, or event with the Human Rights Commission
 - Host an educational workshop on sustainable yards and pollinator habitat (approximately \$1,500 for Metro Blooms Workshop #3 in a series of 3)
 - Administer a student essay competition
- Climate Justice and Environmental Justice - partner with Human Rights Commission on joint project, event, or speaker. May require joint meeting. Ties in well with City's Resilience and Sustainability Plan. Potential ideas for collaboration:
 - Speaker on climate justice and environmental justice focusing on climate adaptation and resilience, or promoting community gardens and local food production.
 - Project in an area of the City with inequities of green space - pair a community event with planting trees in that area.
- Assist the City in hosting a zero-waste community event in 2020.
- Natural Resources Management Plan - continue to assist in implementation.
 - Explore the potential to revise City code to allow the temporary use of goats for vegetation management on public and private properties.
 - Provide update on Emerald Ash Borer Management.
 - Support habitat restoration in the Pennsylvania Woods Nature Area in 2020-21 with DNR Grant funds.
- Downtown Redevelopment Study – engage in environmental aspects of study and plan
- Pollinators - complete actions listed in the City's Pollinator Protection resolution
 - Inventory and reduce the use of chemicals on City properties
 - Develop more plots and habitat
- Review City code with respect to wood burning and update as needed to protect and maintain local air quality.
- Reducing single use plastics and containers

The Commission also considered *Development of a Climate Action Plan (separate from GreenStep Cities and PIE Energy Action Plan)* but removed the item due to the increased level of effort and involvement with the Energy Action Plan in 2020. The Commission plans to discuss this item again in 2021.

D. Curbside Organics Collection Options - Pros-Cons

Emma Pierson gave an update on the Curbside Organics Collection Options:

- Organized "All-In, Everyone Pays" Program (cart)
 - How is it billed? It depends on the contract but most cities bill through the city, similar to what Golden Valley does with the recycling program now.
 - Option to subsidize fee to residents with SCORE funds or general funds.

- Question about St. Louis Park having 3 staff members – Staff does not believe that the fees paid by residents fully covers their salaries.
- Organized “Opt-In” Program (cart)
 - The portion of cost the City covers could come from SCORE Funding.
 - No cities at this moment cover any costs of the All-In, Everyone Pays Option but it could be explored.
 - Edina added \$0.50 onto the base fee to help pay for a full-time position to administer their program. Staff has not estimated the time, cost, or additional fee to do the same in Golden Valley.
 - Add a note to the ‘Cons’ that part of the added City cost could be covered by an added fee to residents.
 - Fridley sends requests directly to the hauler and the hauler sets them up and does the billing so it doesn’t require as much city staff time. Golden Valley could do it this way depending on how a contract is written.
 - Compared to Golden Valley, Robbinsdale is smaller in number of residents and geographically. Fridley is slightly larger in population but similar geographically.
- License Requirement (Cart)
 - The cost appears to be dependent on density and participation.
 - Since Golden Valley is more spread out we would likely have a higher cost per household.
- License Requirement (Durable Bag Program, Co-Collected with Trash)
 - Only Randy’s is currently licensed in Golden Valley for this option.
 - No cities currently have this as a *license requirement*. Some smaller, more compact communities who already have organized trash hauling, like Wayzata and Osseo, have this as an option. All residents are charged for the service, but they must opt-in to receive the bags. In other communities, residents must opt-in to pay and receive bags.

6. New Business

A. Organics Recycling – Summary of Hauler Engagement

Emma provided a summary of the meetings with haulers

- i. All haulers would be interested in offering an organics recycling program. They reported City contracts are more efficient and cost effective.
- ii. Most haulers already provide a service in other communities.
- iii. All haulers stated the pricing would vary depending on the hauler and community. Cost factors include density, participation, and location.
- iv. Increased density or more participation would help lower the cost to residents.
- v. All haulers do have the capacity to offer curbside organics.
- vi. Many will use separate carts for both license requirement or contract to reduce the risk of contamination.

- vii. Haulers that do a co-collect with trash (durable bag program) would provide a cart for those who do not have trash service with them.
- viii. Making compost available to residents or a coupon system – Some haulers already have an established coupon system for 1 free bag of compost but all other haulers reported having the ability to back haul compost to the City. This would require a separate contract with the composting vendor.
 - 1. Extra costs to have it hauled back to the city?
 - 2. Logistics for setting this up? Drop it at a park and people come pick it up.
- ix. Can haulers provide services with compressed natural gas (CNG) or lower emission vehicles? Many said they already operate with CNG trucks. All diesel trucks that need to be replaced are replaced with CNG trucks.
- x. Any issues haulers see for their business with implementing curbside organics? Some said an issue could arise with an open hauling trash system. Other concerns included disposal site capacity and days allowed in the city for pick up.
- xi. All haulers are able to comply with Hennepin County educational requirements.
- xii. All haulers will work with the City, County, and disposal sites to develop materials specific to the City of Golden Valley for specific contamination issues specific to Golden Valley. All haulers have a local/regional service hub to handle increased customer service calls.

Eckman provided an update on next steps.

- 1. Next we'll engage with residents.
- 2. Another article will go out in the March/April edition of the CityNews.
- 3. There is a new City Organics webpage that will have a citizen survey linked on the page.
- 4. We're also having an Open House on April 9 at Brookview, 5:00-7:30 with City and County staff members. The survey will be available there as well.

The Commission was asked to think about any questions they may have for the March meeting. They need to be prepared to make a recommendation in March or April and bring it to Council in May along with other information presented by staff.

B. Program/Project Updates

- i. On file.

C. Council Updates

- i. A meeting is set up with 3 of the County Commissioners to talk about energy and resilience in the western suburbs. Council member Fonnest wondered if the commission members and staff could put this on their calendar to represent Golden Valley. Meeting is Wednesday, March 18 from 9:00-11:00 at the Hennepin County Government Center. Agenda items include sharing energy priorities between the suburbs and the County, County initiatives on climate mitigation and

resilience, and talk about possible partnerships on initiatives for lower carbon emissions from buildings, energy supply, transportation, and land use.

D. Other Business

i. None

7. Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Yahle, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm and the motion carried.

UNAPPROVED



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

Date: April 23, 2020
To: Environmental Commission
From: Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor
Subject: Xcel Energy's Partners In Energy community collaboration program

The City was formally accepted into the Partners In Energy program in February. The project kickoff meeting took place in April. Staff will provide a brief update on the schedule and next steps in the energy action plan.



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

Date: April 23, 2020
To: Environmental Commission
From: Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor
Subject: 2020 Draft Work Plan

As stated in its bylaws, the Commission is required to develop an annual work plan for review and approval by City Council. The draft work plan for 2020 is based on the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, GreenStep Cities Program, the City's legislative priorities, and the City's participation in Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy community collaboration program.

<http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/comprehensiveplanupdate/>
<https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>
https://www.xcelenergy.com/working_with_us/municipalities/partners_in_energy

Below is a schedule for development of the work plan.

January	Reviewed 2019 work plan and brought forth new ideas for 2020
February	Reviewed and prioritized 2020 draft work plan
March	Meeting cancelled
April	Review <i>Draft 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Plan</i> document (Commission must approve work plan for Council consideration)
May	Chair Seys presents work plan to Council at its May 12 Council/Manager meeting

After discussion staff requests the Commission to consider making a motion to approve the City's *Draft 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Plan* and forward it to the City Council for consideration.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
***DRAFT* 2019 ANNUAL REPORT AND**
2020 WORK PLAN

[need updated photos]

2019 Environmental Commission

Commissioners

Scott Seys, Chair (2021)

Debra Yahle, Vice-Chair (2022)

Tracy Anderson (2020)

Tonia Galonska (2022)

Dawn Hill (2021)

Susan Phelps (2020)

Jim Stremel (2020)

Joseph Ramlet, Student (2020)

Note: Terms run May 1-April 30

Council Liaison

Larry Fonnest

City Staff

Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor

Purpose and Mission

The Environmental Commission has been established to advise and make recommendations to the City Council in matters relating to and affecting the environment.

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2019 Accomplishments

GreenStep Cities

- Completed Step 4 of the GreenStep Cities Program, including metrics and measures in the following topic areas:
 - buildings and lighting
 - renewable energy
 - land use
 - transportation and fleet
 - surface water
 - green buildings

A link to the summary of the Golden Valley's GreenStep Cities progress is located at https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/cityInfo.cfm?ctu_code=2394924



*Council Member Gillian Rosenquist accepted Golden Valley's GreenStep Cities Step 4 designation in June.
(Photo by GreenStep Cities)*

Energy Use

- Researched and recommended participation in Xcel Energy's Partners In Energy community collaboration program.

Pollinators

- Approved and recommended to Council the adoption of a resolution endorsing pollinator protection and promoting pollinator habitat.
- Created a prioritization matrix of potential pollinator plots and habitat sites to develop in the community in the next several years.

Solid Waste And Recycling

- Provided input and feedback on the city's solid waste hauling discussion.
- Worked with MN GreenCorps Member to complete GreenStep Cities actions related to waste reduction, recycling, and composting/organics management.

Natural Resources Management

- Hosted an educational workshop on sustainable yards and soils.

- Supported the Bassett Creek Nature Area Habitat Restoration Project made possible by a grant from the MnDNR.
- Provided guidance and received updates on the City's work to resolve encroachments in the Bassett Creek Nature Area.

Sustainability And Resilience

- Researched and made recommendations on zoning code revisions to remove barriers to local food production.
- Continued support of the City's flood reduction and mitigation efforts through its projects, programs, and participation in the FEMA Community Rating System which provides discounts on flood insurance in exchange for the City's high level of floodplain management actions. The City moved up from Class 7 to Class 6 in 2019.

2020 Proposed Work Plan

Proposed work plan priorities for 2020 are based on goals in the Resilience & Sustainability, Water Resources, and Parks & Natural Resources chapters of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the GreenStep Cities Program, and the City's participation in Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Community Collaboration Program.

- Curbside Organics Collection - continue to explore options and provide information/recommendation to City Council; assist in developing and implementing a new organics program.
- Xcel Energy's Partners In Energy Program - help guide and participate in the development and implementation of the City's Energy Action Plan including:
 - Advance building performance (supporting City's efforts to update building codes or standards that advance energy performance in buildings)
 - Energy benchmarking in private buildings
- GreenStep Cities Step 5 - continue working on actions and metrics to address climate-related impacts, improve the environment, and reduce energy consumption and costs.
 - If awarded a MN GreenCorps Member in 2020-2021, work to complete GreenStep Cities actions related to Climate and Energy Action.
- Utilize the Commission's \$3,500 budget to:
 - Fund a joint project, speaker, or event with the Human Rights Commission
 - Host an educational workshop on sustainable yards and pollinator habitat (approximately \$1,500 for Metro Blooms Workshop #3 in a series of 3)
 - Administer a student essay competition
- Climate Justice and Environmental Justice - partner with Human Rights Commission on joint project, event, or speaker. May require joint meeting. Ties in well with City's Resilience and Sustainability Plan. Potential ideas for collaboration:
 - Speaker on climate justice and environmental justice focusing on climate adaptation and resilience, or promoting community gardens and local food production.
 - Project in an area of the City with inequities of green space and amenities - pair a community event with planting trees and vegetation in that area.
- Assist the City in hosting a zero-waste community event in 2020.
- Natural Resources Management Plan - continue to assist in implementation.
 - Explore the potential to revise City code to allow the temporary use of goats for vegetation management on public and private properties.
 - Provide update on Emerald Ash Borer Management.
 - Support habitat restoration in the Pennsylvania Woods Nature Area in 2020-21 with DNR Grant funds.
- Downtown Redevelopment Study – engage in environmental aspects of study and plan
- Pollinators - complete actions listed in the City's Pollinator Protection resolution
 - Inventory and reduce the use of chemicals on City properties
 - Develop more plots and habitat in the community
- Review City code with respect to wood burning and update as needed to protect and maintain local air quality.
- Reducing single use plastics and containers.



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

Date: April 23, 2020
To: Environmental Commission
From: Drew Chirpich, Environmental Specialist
Subject: Waste Hauler Licensing Update

The City adopted new Waste Hauler Licensing requirements in November 2019. Staff will provide a brief update on the licenses issued in 2020 following this code change.



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

Date: April 23, 2020

To: Environmental Commission

From: Emma Pierson, GreenCorps Member
Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor

Subject: Organics Recycling Collection

Staff will provide a summary of the Commission's work on organics recycling to date, as well as new information on the Organics Community Survey and Virtual Open House, both of which are accessible on the City's organics recycling webpage at <https://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside/organics.php>.

The March Commission meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 policies. To help us pick up where the Commission left off with its study of organics recycling options, staff is attaching the Pro-Con Matrix which was updated and approved by the Commission at its February 2020 meeting. The February meeting minutes are also a helpful resource and are included in the April agenda packet.

Commission members should come to the meeting prepared to discuss their thoughts about organics recycling options, which option might be preferred and why. Members should also come with a list of any remaining questions they might have that need to be answered before the study, and possibly a recommendation, is forwarded to City Council for consideration. Following is a schedule of next steps:

- April 2020 Commission reviews information to date, discusses options and preferences.
- May 2020 Commission concludes its study of organics recycling options. Forwards information to City Council.
- June 2020 Staff presents information from Environmental Commission, citizen survey, virtual open house, and stakeholder meetings to City Council.
- Summer 2020 City Council provides direction to staff.

Organized 'All-in, Everyone Pays' Program (Cart)

Pro	Commission Priority	Guiding Documents	Con	Commission Priority	Guiding Documents
Increases Participation i.e. SLP	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Larger participation with citywide contract MSWPP 2016-2036 (pg 32) - Organized collection results in higher participation	Additional bin on property	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 6) - Address barriers to cart storage
Lower cost w/ City wide contract	High		Additional city staff, cost of city staff (could be supplemented by program fees)	Medium	
Option for bin tagging w/education	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Comprehensive outreach plan	Resident must pay regardless of participation		HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Larger participation with citywide contract
City can manage education w/ help from Hennepin County	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Comprehensive outreach plan	Resident must provide bags		
Can reduce trash bin size and save money as waste is diverted from trash	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg 32) - Cases show households can offset organics collection costs by reducing trash bin sizes			
Higher density collection routes	Low	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg30) - Higher density routes needed for affordable service			
Everyone pays same fee		HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Larger participation with citywide availability MSWPP 2016-2036 (pg 32) - Organized collection results in higher participation			
Resident can use certified compostable bags or paper grocery bags					
Consistent color bins throughout city					
No negotiation required for residents					

Cities that do this:

St Louis Park, Minneapolis, Edina (May), Richfield (RFP in 2019)

Cost ranges:

\$2.96- \$5.50/month per household

Organized 'Opt-in' Program (Cart)					
Pro	Commission Priority	Guiding Documents	Con	Commission Priority	Guiding Documents
Optional - no payment if choosing not to participate	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg32) - Communities with subscribe and pay systems have lower participation HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Larger participation with citywide contract	Less participation possible	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg32) - Communities with subscribe and pay systems have lower participation HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Larger participation with citywide contract
Option for bin tagging w/education	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Comprehensive outreach plan	Additional bin to property	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 6) - Address barriers to cart storage
Can reduce trash bin size and save money as waste is diverted from trash	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg 32) - Cases show households can offset organics collection costs by reducing trash bin sizes	Higher cost possible w/ lower participation	High	
Resident can use certified compostable bags or paper grocery bags			Resident must provide bags		
			Additional city staff, cost of city staff (could be supplemented by program fees)		
Cities that do this:					
Robbinsdale, Fridley					
Cost ranges:					
\$6-\$11/month per household (In Fridley, the City funds a portion of the cost)					

License Requirement (Cart)					
Pro	Commission Priority	Guiding Documents	Con	Commission Priority	Guiding Documents
Optional - no payment if choosing not to participate	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg32) - Communities with subscribe and pay systems have lower participation HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Larger participation with citywide contract	Less participation possible	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg32) - Communities with subscribe and pay systems have lower participation HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Larger participation with citywide contract
Option for bin tagging w/ education	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Comprehensive outreach plan	No regulation or consistency of costs between haulers	High	
Hauler is responsible for education	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Comprehensive outreach plan	Additional bin to property	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 6) - Address barriers to cart storage
Can reduce trash bin size and save money as waste is diverted from trash	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg 32) - Cases show households can offset organics collection costs by reducing trash bin sizes	Unknown amount of added trucks to each street	High	
Less city staff time than organized system	Medium		City has less input on education provided	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Comprehensive outreach plan
Resident can use certified compostable bags or paper grocery bags					
Cities that do this:					
N/A					
Cost ranges:					
Haulers estimated about \$15-20/month per household					

License Requirement (Durable Bag Program, Co-collect)					
Pro	Commission Priority	Guiding Documents	Con	Commission Priority	Guiding Documents
No additional bin on property	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 6)- Address barriers to cart storage	Less participation possible	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg32)- Communities with subscribe and pay systems have lower participation HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Larger participation with citywide contract
Optional - no payment if choosing not to participate	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg32)- Communities with subscribe and pay systems have lower participation HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15) - Larger participation with citywide contract	Bin is not organics specific, limited/no opportunity for bin tagging/education	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15)- Comprehensive outreach plan
Hauler is responsible for education	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15)- Comprehensive outreach plan	Takes up room in trash bin; would not decrease trash bin size	High	MSWPP 2016-2036 (Pg 32)- Cases show households can offset organics collection costs by reducing trash bin sizes
No additional trucks on streets	High		City has less input on education provided	High	HC SWMMP 2018- 2023 (Pg 15)- Comprehensive outreach plan
Less city staff time than organized system	Medium		Restricted bag size		
Durable bags included in program fee (limited amount)			Mandated unorganized durable bag hauling could provide capacity overload for facilities that accept and sort bags		
Cities that do this:					
No cities have this program as a license requirement					
Cost ranges:					
\$5.83/month (\$69.95/year) per household					



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

Date: April 23, 2020
To: Environmental Commission
From: Drew Chirpich
Subject: GreenStep Cities- Stormwater Assessment Tool Update

As part of its participation in the GreenStep Cities program and at the request of the MPCA, staff has filled out the new Stormwater Assessment Tool to help evaluate how the City manages its Stormwater and natural resources. Staff will provide a summary of the new Stormwater Assessment which is required for continued recognition as a Step 4 City and for future advancement to Step 5.

After discussion staff requests the Commission to consider making a motion to approve the City's Stormwater Assessment.



Municipal Stormwater Management Assessment

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in answering 45 questions that assess the degree to which your city is taking both simple and innovative actions to improve stormwater management, improve water quality, and adapt to climate changes in Minnesota. Questions in this Snap Surveys tool cover broad green infrastructure areas that are generally not covered by government regulatory programs. After completing this questionnaire, a score between 1 and 100 percent will be reported. A second score, based on your answers to 23 questions related to resilience to climate change, will also be reported.

Taking this assessment and receiving a score can be used in several ways:

- (1) To quickly learn about a wide range of stormwater management options, via the questions and associated informational links to the MPCA's Stormwater Manual site
- (2) To see Minnesota Cities' collective stormwater management efforts
- (3) To gather a baseline measure of actions, and to compare that to a subsequent year (which could be 2 or 3 years later) when you retake the assessment
- (4) To report your score, and subsequent improvement, to community members and to your city council
- (5) To claim credit for the GreenStep best practice # 17, under BP action 17.2
- (6) To claim credit for GreenStep Metric # 9, which is required for recognition at Step 4 and Step 5 in the GreenStep Cities program. Metric # 9 has two data elements, which are calculated for you after you complete this Assessment: the **Stormwater Assessment Score** based on all 45 questions, and the **Climate Adaptation Stormwater Score**, based on 23 questions.

INSTRUCTIONS

For your convenience, you may find the PDF version of this questionnaire [here](#).

NOTE: As you progress through the assessment, the questionnaire saves your progress automatically as long as you stay in the same session. If you wish to end your session and return to the questionnaire at a later time, you **must** click the SAVE button before closing the browser window. Doing so will generate a unique link, which you can then use to continue the assessment at a later time or share it with others in your city who may better answer certain questions.

Do not lose this unique link as GreenStep Cities staff cannot retrieve it for you, and you will lose your progress!

In order to accurately score your assessment, the questionnaire requires you to answer all questions, and as such, you may select "I don't know/not specified" for most questions. Please note that selecting this option will assign a score of 0, but you may return to earlier questions and amend their answers as needed.

Upon completion of the assessment, you will receive your scores and be asked to submit these results under one or both of the GreenStep best practice action 17.2 and the GreenStep Step 4/5 metrics 9.1 and 9.2. Anonymous responses from all cities may be shared with MPCA staff, but NOT associated with your city name, in order for staff to provide better stormwater assistance to cities. Your honesty in answering these questions is important, and your privacy will be respected. The goal of this assessment is city self-directed improvement complementary to improvements pursued under city programs and under various government regulatory programs.

The assessment will be active until May 1, 2020, and a new web link will be sent out to all GreenStep cities, and to other interested cities, on July 1, 2020 for the next assessment year, which ends on May 1, 2021.

Should you have any questions or comments about this assessment or individual questions in it, feel free to use the GreenStep Cities [contact page](#). The GreenStep Cities and MPCA program staff value your feedback and will use it to improve the assessment questions (and points per question) each year.

SECTION ONE - Planning & Preservation

Water Friendly Development Patterns

- Q1 Does your community comprehensive plan allow [sprawl-limiting strategies](#)?
- (variable) Yes
 - (0 points) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q1a Please select all that apply:
- (1 point) Mixed-use development by right
 - (1 pt) Compact development outside of the downtown zoning district (greater than 3 residential units/acre)
 - (1 pt) Transfer of development rights
 - (1 pt) Other applicable
- Q2 Does your community have any incentives specifically targeted to ['brownfield' development and redevelopment sites](#)?
- (variable) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q2a Please select all that apply:
- (1 pt) Density bonus
 - (1 pt) Funding for remediation
 - (1 pt) Streamlined permitting
 - (1 pt) Reduced impact fees
 - (1 pt) Tax increment financing
- Q3 In your stormwater ordinance, is there a definition of [green infrastructure or low-impact development \(LID\)](#) -- better management of stormwater while aiming to achieve other environmental, public health, social, and economic benefits? (Select one)
- (1 pt) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q4 Does your community have a [climate adaptation plan](#) in place to address potential impacts of climate change on community water resource management? (Select one)
- (1 pt) Yes, we have our own plan
 - (1 pt) Yes, we follow a regional plan for another agency
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Natural Resource Preservation & Management

- Q5 Does your community comprehensive plan include an inventory of high quality natural resource areas and are land-use decisions guided by the [natural resource inventory](#) in order to protect these areas from development? (Select one)
- (4 pts) Yes, a Natural Resource Inventory or Natural Resource Assessment is incorporated into the subdivision or development process
 - (1 pt) Yes, inventoried
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q6 Does your community allow [filling for development within the floodplain](#) and if so, are restrictions imposed that include excluding storage of hazardous materials and requiring compensatory flood storage to offset fill? (Select one)
- (3 pts) No fill within FEMA and locally defined floodplain allowed
 - (2 pts) No fill within FEMA floodplain allowed
 - (1 pt) Fill allowed with the above restrictions
 - (-1 pt) Fill allowed without restrictions
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
 - (N/A) Not applicable in my community

- Q7 Does your community protect high quality or sensitive [wetlands](#) through a resource management plan or wetland management plan?
(Select one)
- (2 pts) Yes, plan exceeds state Wetland Conservation Act standards
 - (1 pt) Yes, plan meets state standards
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
 - (N/A) Not applicable in my community
- Q8 Do your [buffer standards](#) for lakes, streams, constructed ponds, and wetlands include any floodplain, steep slope, vegetation or resource quality considerations?
- (variable) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
 - (N/A) Not applicable in my community
- Q8a Please select all the buffer standards that apply:
- (1 pt) Additional buffer width to encompass 100-year floodplain
 - (1 pt) Additional buffer width in areas with slopes 9% or greater
 - (1 pt) Buffer language clearly specifies vegetated cover requirements
 - (1 pt) Expanded stream buffer requirements for sensitive resources, such as high-quality wetlands, trout streams and/or Outstanding Resource Water Bodies (ORVWs)
- Q9 Does your community have land use protections and/or development restrictions that preserve [slopes 18% or greater](#) in a stable, undisturbed vegetated state?
(Select one)
- (2 pts) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
 - (N/A) Not applicable in my community
- Q10 Does your community encourage the establishment and sustainability of [urban forests](#) through the following strategies?
(Select all that apply)
- Insect & disease control, including ash preservation
 - Increased care during tree establishment
 - Increased indigenous diversity of tree species
 - Tree protection and replacement ordinance
 - Street reconstruction (including road diet lane conversions) that increases width of boulevard tree right-of-way
 - Standards that address soil compaction during and after development/redevelopment of private land, and of public land like street boulevards
 - Stable funding for shade tree program, goals for increasing canopy coverage, or Tree City USA
- The urban forest strategies above score as follows:
- (8 pts) At least 5 of the above strategies including soil compaction standards
 - (5 pts) At least 4 of the above strategies including tree program/goals/Tree City
 - (3 pts) At least 4 of the above strategies
 - (2 pts) At least 3 of the above strategies
 - (1 pt) At least 2 of the above strategies
 - (0 pts) One or none of the above strategies

Stormwater Management Funding & Incentives

- Q11 Does your community have any of the following stable, ongoing, yearly stormwater management [funding](#) mechanisms?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Stormwater Utility User Fee
 - (3 pts) Other
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q12 Does your community provide [incentives](#) (e.g. a reduced stormwater utility fee for sites that reduce their impervious surface) for retrofitting stormwater best management practices in previously developed sites?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Yes for commercial, industrial, institutional and residential
 - (2 pts) Yes for only commercial, institutional and industrial
 - (1 pt) Yes for only residential
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

- Q13 Has your community adopted a stable funding mechanism for [land acquisition](#) of high quality natural resource and/or riparian buffer areas?
(Select one)
- (5 pts) Yes, land is placed in a trust
 - (1 pt) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

SECTION TWO - Stormwater Management Standards, Policies & Practices

Impervious Cover Management

- Q14 For public, residential access and sub-collector streets (with fewer than 500 average daily trips) what is the [minimum roadway pavement width](#) allowed in your community?
(Select one)
- (4 pts) 24 feet or less
 - (2 pts) 25-26 feet
 - (1 pts) 27-28 feet
 - (-1 pt) Greater than 28 feet
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q15 Does your community allow [proof-of-parking or shared driveways](#) to minimize impervious surface?
(Select one)
- (1 pt) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q16 Does your community have any of the following [off-street parking lot/ramp regulations](#) (for example, number of required parking spaces per 1000 sq. ft. or per seat) in its zoning/development code?
(Select one)
- (8 pts) Parking space maximums exist and there are no parking space minimums city-wide
 - (6 pts) Parking space maximums exist city-wide and there are no parking space minimums in select zoning districts/for select development types
 - (4 pts) Parking space maximums and parking space minimums exist in select zoning districts/for select development types
 - (2 pts) City has parking space minimums city-wide, or in select zoning districts/for select development types, AND gives a parking stall reduction credit for installed bicycle parking
 - (1 pt) City only has parking space minimums city-wide, or in select zoning districts/for select development types
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q17 What are your standard [parking space dimensions](#)?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Stalls 8.5' x 18' with 22' maximum aisle and driveway widths
 - (2 pts) Stall width 9 feet or less
 - (1 pt) Stall width 9.1 to 9.9 feet
 - (0 pts) Stall width greater than 9.9 feet or dimensions not regulated
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q18 Does your community encourage curb-cuts, ribbon curb, roundabouts, or right of way swales for infiltration and conveyance of stormwater runoff [in lieu of curb-and-gutter](#) along residential roadways?
(Select one)
- (5 pts) Yes, allowed and encouraged
 - (2 pts) Yes, allowed
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q19 For new residential lots, does your community require or encourage impervious surfaces like roofs and driveways to [drain to vegetated areas](#)?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Required
 - (1 pt) Encouraged
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

- Q20 Does your community require or encourage [parking area landscaping](#) with vegetated practices (e.g. bioretention, curb-cuts, ribbon curb, tree trenches, or swales) for stormwater volume and/or water quality management?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Required
 - (1 pt) Encouraged
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q21 Does your community allow & encourage [pervious/permeable surfaces](#) on residential/commercial area sidewalks and parking lots?
- (variable) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q21a Please select all that apply:
- (1 pt) Yes on residential/commercial sidewalks
 - (1 pt) Yes on residential/commercial parking lots
- Q22 How does your community address [native vegetation and turf alternatives](#) on residential and commercial sites?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) We incentivize native plantings, including turf replacement
 - (2 pts) We promote native plantings, including turf replacement
 - (1 pts) We allow native plantings, including turf replacement
 - (0 pts) Not addressed
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q23 Does your community encourage [green roof installations](#) as part of its building permit process?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Yes, green roofs (with or without a cistern) are incentivized by financial and/or regulatory measures
 - (2 pts) Yes, green roofs are encouraged and allowed by-right if they meet certain engineering standards
 - (1 pt) Yes, green roofs are allowed and information about green roofs is made available to developers
 - (0 pts) No mention/encouragement of green roofs
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Stormwater Management Policies

- Q24 For new development, does the permitting agency apply community stormwater management [standards to all new impervious surfaces](#), or is a minimum threshold (de minimis) included?
(Select one)
- (10 pts) Standards apply to all new impervious surfaces
 - (8 pts) Standards apply to 10,000 sq. ft. or more of new impervious surface
 - (4 pts) Standards apply to .5 acres or more of new impervious surface
 - (1 pt) Standards apply to 1 acre or more of new impervious surface
 - (1 pt) Standards apply to any net increase of impervious surface in a development project
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q25 For new development, does the permitting authority apply community stormwater standards requiring rate control based on the difference between a [baseline-condition](#) and post-development runoff condition?
(Select one)
- (5 pts) Yes, our baseline condition is Pre-European settlement
 - (3 pts) Yes, our baseline condition approximates woods/prairie grass in good condition
 - (2 pts) Yes, our baseline is pre-development (existing) conditions and it is consistent with MIDS
 - (1 pt) Yes, our baseline is pre-development (existing) conditions
 - (1 pt) Yes, our baseline is consistent with MIDS
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q26 Does your community require best management practices (BMPs) for all new development that will result in at least 90% reduction in [total-suspended-solids](#) (TSS) and/or at least 60% reduction in [total phosphorous](#) (TP)?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Yes, my community follows MIDS or a more stringent/protective standard
 - (2 pts) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

- Q27 Are post-construction sediment and nutrient loading requirements [customized to downstream water resources](#), such as critical habitat, impaired waters, Outstanding Resource Water Bodies (ORVWs)?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q28 Are there post-construction [runoff volume requirements](#) for downstream river erosion protection?
(Select one)
- (6 pts) Yes, no runoff volume increase for the 10-yr, 24-hr event
 - (4 pts) Yes, no runoff volume increase for the 5-yr, 24-hr event
 - (2 pts) Yes, no runoff volume increase for the 2-yr, 24-hr event
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
 - (N/A) Not applicable in my community
- Q29 [For non-MS4s only] Has your community adopted an [erosion and sediment control ordinance](#) that align with MS4 permit requirements?
(Select one)
- (10 pts) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
 - (N/A) **MS4 - not applicable in my community**
- Q30 Do your community stormwater management standards specify [pretreatment sizing standards](#) for stormwater prior to discharge into all permanent structural best management practices (BMPs)?
(Select one)
- (2 pts) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q31 Do your community stormwater management standards apply to all [redevelopment](#), which includes reconstruction of linear projects?
(Select one)
- (9 pts) Yes, we apply MIDS or a more stringent/protective standard to all redevelopment
 - (7 pts) Yes, standards apply to all redevelopment
 - (4 pts) Yes, standards apply only to redevelopment projects with a net increase in impervious surface
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q32 Does your community encourage or require [water conservation strategies](#)?
- (variable) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q32a Please select all water conservation strategies that apply:
- (5 pts) Stormwater water reuse incentives
 - (3 pts) Stormwater water reuse standards
 - (2 pts) Encourage or require irrigation systems to be retrofitted with Smart irrigation systems that track weather patterns and mitigate unnecessary watering
 - (1 pt) Use of low-water vegetation
 - (1 pt) Water Conservation Rate Structure that exceeds DNR minimum requirements
 - (1 pt) Other water conservation strategies
- Please describe:
- sanitary sewer inflow and infiltration ordinance to prevent clear water from entering sewers
- Q33 Does your community require & enforce [maintenance agreements](#) for privately maintained stormwater facilities?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

SECTION THREE - Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Education & Community Programs

Q34 Does your community participate in stormwater pollution prevention [education & outreach programs](#)?

- (variable) Yes
- (0 pts) No
- (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q34a Please select all programs that apply:

- (1 pt) Metro Blooms educational workshops or Blue Thumb program participation (within last 3 years)
- (1 pt) The NEMO Program (within last 3 years)
- (1 pt) The Clean Water Minnesota Media Campaign (annually)
- (1 pt) Other similar programs

Please describe:

storm sewer stenciling, adopt-a-pond, newsletter articles, and webpage stories

Q35 Does your community have [residential and business education efforts](#)?

- (variable) Yes
- (0 pts) No
- (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q35a Please select all that apply:

- (2 pts) Educational stormwater pollution prevention workshops for residents
- (2 pts) Education and outreach program for local businesses
- (2 pts) A storm drain stenciling program
- (2 pts) Sponsorship of community education events and/or clean ups
- (2 pts) Adopt-a-Storm Drain program
- (2 pts) Stormwater BMP demonstration sites with educational signage
- (1 pt) Regular utility bill inserts with stormwater educational messages
- (1 pt) A city newsletter or social media effort that regularly includes a variety of stormwater pollution prevention messages at least 4- 6 times each year
- (1 pt) A city website with that regularly includes a variety of stormwater pollution prevention messages at least 4- 6 times each year

Q36 Does your community promote and/or provide [financial assistance](#) for the implementation of stormwater pollution prevention & treatment practices and projects for residents or local businesses?

(Select one)

- (3 pts) Yes, promotion & financial assistance
- (1 pt) Yes, promotion only
- (0 pts) No
- (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q37 Does your community provide [certification and training](#) opportunities to municipal staff on a regular basis?

- (variable) Yes
- (0 pts) No
- (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Q37a Which of the following certification and training opportunities are available?

(Select all that apply)

- (1 pt) MIDS training (e.g. MIDS calculator, ordinance and BMP trainings)
- (1 pt) Erosion & sediment control certification
- (1 pt) Illicit Discharge detection & elimination training
- (1 pt) NEMO "Stormwater U"

Inspection & Enforcement

Q38 [For non-MS4s only] Is your community's (public and any private) [stormwater system mapped](#)?

(Select one)

- (1 pt) Yes
- (0 pts) No
- (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- (N/A) **MS4 - not applicable in my community**

- Q39 [For non-MS4s only] Does your community have an [inspection & maintenance schedule](#) for stormwater management practices - including catch basin sumps & stormwater ponds?
(Select one)
- (2 pts) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
 - (N/A) **MS4 - not applicable in my community**

Source Control

- Q40 Does your community provide [certification and training](#) opportunities to municipal staff on a regular basis?
- (variable) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q40a Which of the following certification and training opportunities are available?
(Select all that apply)
- (2 pts) MPCA Smart Salting Level 2 Training
 - (1 pt) MPCA Smart Salting Level 1 Training
 - (1 pt) Other Smart Salting Training
 - (1 pt) Fertilizer & Pesticide use minimization training for staff and/or for institutional, parks, residential or commercial property managers
- Q41 Which of the following [salt management strategies](#) does your community use?
(Select one)
- (3 pts) Salt Savings Assessment tool (SSAt) to track BMPs related to chloride use
 - (3 pts) 5-year BMP implementation plan to improve salt or chloride management practices
 - (2 pts) Salt or Chloride Management Plan
 - (1 pt) Salt use tracking
 - (0 pts) None
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q42 Does your community [street sweeping program](#) include sweeping more than twice per year and/or utilizing vacuum sweeping technology?
- (variable) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q42a Please select all that apply:
- (2 pts) Sweep four or more times per year
 - (1 pt) Sweep two or three times per year
 - (1 pt) Utilize vacuum sweeping technology
- Q43 Does your community [prioritize street sweeping](#) in areas where water flows directly into lakes, streams, wetlands and Wellhead Protection Areas?
(Select one)
- (2 pts) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q44 Does your community [prioritize inspections of permitted businesses](#) storing/using hazardous and/or toxic chemicals that are in areas where water flows directly into lakes, streams and wetlands, and to Wellhead Protection Areas?
(Select one)
- (2 pts) Yes
 - (0 pts) No
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified
- Q45 What type of [residential yard waste collection](#) program does your community have?
(Select one)
- (5 pts) Curbside pick-up available to all residents by default
 - (3 pts) Elective pick-up available
 - (2 pts) Collection site at which residents drop off yard waste
 - (0 pts) None
 - (0 pts) I don't know / not specified

Scores

Stormwater Assessment

Raw Total: **99**

Maximum Possible Stormwater Assessment Total (this value will change if you selected N/A on a number of questions):
181

Stormwater Assessment Score: **55%**

Climate Adaptation

Climate Adaptation Raw Total: **45**

Maximum Possible Climate Adaptation Total (this value will change if you selected N/A on a number of questions):
84

Climate Adaptation Score: **54%**

Please go to the next page to finalize and submit your assessment.

Submission Confirmation

You have reached the conclusion of the GreenStep Cities Municipal Stormwater Management Assessment. You received the following scores:

Stormwater Assessment Score: **55%**

Climate Adaptation Score: **54%**

Please use these scores when completing the GreenStep Cities Steps 4 & 5 Metrics Reporting Tool. The Stormwater Assessment Score and Climate Adaptation Score are metrics 9.1 and 9.2, respectively.

Before clicking the SUBMIT button below, please print or save a copy of this assessment using the PRINT button.

Click SUBMIT to finalize the assessment and send your results to the MPCA GreenStep Cities team.

Thank you!

PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES – April 2020

GREENCORPS

City Hall Organics Recycling – Since implementing the organics recycling program at City Hall in November, 1,060 pounds of organic waste has been diverted from landfills.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Pennsylvania Woods DNR Habitat Grant – The City recently received confirmation that it was selected to receive a habitat grant for areas of the Pennsylvania Woods Nature Area that are outside of the DeCola Ponds B and C Flood Mitigation project boundaries. The project will involve the removal of buckthorn and other invasive species and the planting and establishment of native vegetation. A request for quotes will be sent out in the coming months to select a contractor to complete the work outlined in the project.

MetroBlooms Workshop- With the assistance and funding from the Environmental Commission, the City sponsored a Resilient Yards workshop put on by MetroBlooms on Thursday, April 2nd. The workshop was originally planned to be hosted in-person at Brookview Community Center, but was moved to an interactive webinar format due to COVID-19. Early reports from the program staff and attendees indicate that the online format went well, and survey results show that attendees found the workshop valuable in this new format.

Recycling and Solid Waste updates- Staff will give an update of recent changes to recycling and solid waste programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WATER RESOURCES

DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Projects - The DeCola Ponds B and C project is about 85% complete. The excavation and utility work should finish up in April, with trail construction in May, and the City's native vegetation contractor seeding and planting trees, shrubs, and grasses in May, June, and September 2020.

The City and Bassett Creek Watershed are beginning to plan and study the next flood mitigation project areas. The Wildwood Park/SEA School area has been identified as having potential for flood storage to benefit properties around DeCola Ponds D, E, and F. A planning level study to understand opportunities and challenges and develop concepts is programmed for this spring and will include engagement with the community, the school, and nearby stakeholders. The Isaacson Park/Industrial Area is also being looked at for potential future flood storage. The DNR is supportive of the projects in Golden Valley and has requested flood damage reduction funding in the 2020 state bonding bill this legislative session. Look for more information and an invitation to a (virtual) open house in the coming months.

2020 Pond Maintenance Project - As part of its ongoing commitment to protect and improve surface water quality in Golden Valley, the City has developed a long-term program for inspecting, prioritizing, and maintaining its stormwater treatment ponds. The City uses modeling software to assess and prioritize which ponds to field inspect each year. Field inspection includes assessing the condition of stormwater pipes and structures, recording the extent of erosion and sediment deposition, and surveying pond depths using a small boat and survey equipment.

Based on preliminary modeling, four ponds were identified for field inspection in 2020 (see map below). On April 20, the City's engineering consultant WSB & Associates, began performing the inspections. Depending on the results of the field inspections, pond modeling, and benefit-cost analysis, up to two ponds will be selected for maintenance in 2020.



PLANNING AND ZONING AND DEVELOPMENTS

Apr 22, 2020

7345 Country Club Drive (Schuller’s Tavern)—Re-guiding the property from Low Density Residential to Commercial – Retail/Service and rezoning the property from Single-Family Residential (R-1) to Commercial. The applicant would like to add an outdoor patio, but because this is a non-conforming use it cannot expand without completing three key steps: re-guide/rezone, receive a Conditional Use Permit for a restaurant/bar use, and obtain variances from the Board of Zoning Appeals to bring the building into conformance. The same request was made in 2012 (recommended for denial by the Planning Commission and no action taken by the City Council). Scheduled for a public hearing on May 11.

Narrow Lots—In early March, the Planning Commission continued its study of narrow lots in Golden Valley and possible ways to mitigate impacts of development on neighboring properties. The study of these lots was temporarily put on hold but is expected to continue at the regular meeting on May 11 with a review of draft code language. An informal public hearing on this topic is then expected in late May with formal consideration by the City Council in mid-June.

Tobacco Sales Restrictions—A Zoning Text Amendment to restrict the sale of tobacco products based on nearby uses was discussed in January, February, and March. Following recent City Council action to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco, to raise the age of sales to 21, and to cap the number of City tobacco licenses, the Planning Commission began looking at additional locational restrictions around schools, parks, and other youth-oriented centers. A public hearing on new restrictions still remains to be scheduled.

City Council

1421 Rhode Island Ave N—A Minor Subdivision to divide one lot into two. The existing home would remain but a new lot would be created on which a new home would be constructed. This property is the result of a consolidation of three narrower lots in 2008. The Planning Commission recommended approval (7-0) on April 12. Scheduled for the May 5 City Council meeting.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Housing Strategic Plan—At its meeting on April 21, the HRA adopted a five-year Housing Strategic Plan to guide efforts to preserve affordable housing and expand protections for tenants, adopted a Fair Housing Policy, and signaled their intent to Hennepin County to establish an HRA levy. An actual decision on whether or not to commit to a levy would not be made until later in 2020.