

# Environmental Commission

July 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 141 267 1740. For technical assistance, please contact support staff at 763-593-8007 or [webexsupport@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto: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 June 22, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes (5 min)
5. Old Business
  - A. Partners In Energy Update (5 min)
  - B. Curbside Organics Collection Update (5 min)
  - C. Environmental Justice Collaboration (20 min)  
**(Action Requested)**
  - D. Downtown Study (20 min)  
**(Action Requested)**
6. New Business
  - A. Farewell to Emma Pierson, MN GreenCorps member (5 min)
  - B. Pollinators – Chemical Application Practices and Procedures (10 min)
  - C. Program/Project Updates (5 min)
  - D. Council Updates (5 min)
  - E. Other Business (5 min)
7. Adjournment



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# Environmental Commission

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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 133 664 8518. For technical assistance, please contact support staff at 763-593-8007 or [webexsupport@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto: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

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

### 2. Roll Call

Commissioners present: Scott Seys, Debra Yahle, Tonia Galonska, Dawn Hill, Jim Stremmel, Wendy Weirich, Shannon Hansen

Commissioners absent: None

Council Members present: None

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

### 3. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION** by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Yahle to approve the agenda of June 22, 2020 and the motion carried.

### 4. Approval of May 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

**MOTION** by Commissioner Galonska, seconded by Commissioner Weirich to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020 as submitted and the motion carried.

### 5. Old Business

#### A. Update on Commission Bylaws

- i. At its last meeting City Council approved the changes to the bylaws proposed by the Commission in 2019. The Commission reviewed its bylaws in 2020 and had no changes. The Commission is set to review its bylaws again in 2023.



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**B. Partners in Energy Update (PIE)**

- i. 2-year Cooperative Program with Xcel Energy.
- ii. City is working on developing an Energy Action Plan.
  1. 6 months of planning.
  2. 18 months of implementation.
- iii. Currently in the recruitment phase of a 12-14 member team. Recruitment has begun.
  1. It is an open process.
  2. The fillable form application is ready to go.
  3. Council Member Larry Fonnest will oversee/chair the selection committee along with some staff members.
  4. The recommendation for the planning action team members will be forwarded to the council for approval hopefully by the second council meeting in July.
  5. Webpage will be live soon – The landing page will have a description of what the members duties and responsibilities will be, what PIE is, and the application.
  6. Communications will be posting a news feed on the website, as well as Facebook and Twitter posts.
- iv. There will be 3-5 workshops between July and December to create the Energy Action Plan.

**C. Curbside Organics Collection Update**

- i. Commission's recommendation and report went before the Council/Manager Meeting on June 9. Council acknowledged the Commission's good work and directed staff to carry out the recommendation to implement an All-In Everyone Pays city contract for curbside organics collection.
- ii. Next will be to iron out the details of a city contract and request for proposal (RFP).
- iii. Next steps:
  1. Letting the community know about the program. Continue to provide information and education about what's going to happen.
  2. Promote the program.
  3. Staff will look at the more technical details:
    - a. Continue to work with haulers, Hennepin County, and other cities around Golden Valley.
    - b. Will use contracts and RFP's from other cities as a guide for our contract.
    - c. Will look into costs to run program and how to run it.
    - d. Will talk about it again in a couple of months at an EC meeting when there is more information to share then bring it to another Council/Manager meeting before issuing the RFP.

4. We're looking to issue the RFP late this year and award the contract by early next year.
5. In 2021 we'll work with the Communications staff and Hennepin County to promote the program to make sure people know how to participate and what they can recycle.
6. Still shooting for January 1, 2022.
7. This will go before the Council at one or more televised meetings to award the contract, approve the budget, and change the ordinance as needed.

## 6. New Business

### A. Environmental Justice Collaboration

- i. Proposed collaboration between the EC Commission and the Human Rights Commission to look at equity and environmental and climate justice in Golden Valley.
- ii. Possible joint commission meeting in future.
- iii. Three-Prong Approach:
  1. Educational Seminar with a focus on climate change and climate equity.
    - a. In person seminar may not be possible due to the pandemic.
    - b. Would be open to the general public in Golden Valley.
  2. Technical/mapping analysis to identify areas of the City that may have inequities in green space and green amenities, trees and vegetation, access to parks and trails.
  3. Community Service event that may or may not be paired with 1 & 2 above.
    - a. Is there an area or property in the City where we can partner and plant trees, rain garden, or community garden?
    - b. How would that work with the COVID-19 pandemic?
    - c. Other commissioner ideas included:
      - i. Local food and pollinator gardens with edible plant options.
      - ii. Transportation – ped, bike, transit, etc.
- iv. Staff reviewed statistics and mapping from the US Census and local sources:
  - a. Majority of homes were built between 1951 and 1970.
  - b. Staff reviewed average home value by census block to view the wide range of values.
  - c. Staff reviewed percent renter-occupied households by census block.
  - d. Demographic make-up in City: White 85% (compared with 79% in MN), Black 8%, Asian 5%, Latinx 2%, Indigenous 1 %.
  - e. There are 10 NOAH (Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing) properties in Golden Valley.
  - f. Staff reviewed percent age 65 and older by census block group.
  - g. Impervious surface area - staff reviewed maps of percent impervious cover by census block. There are several areas that are

- over 50% impervious surface coverage, many with multi-family housing present.
- h. The City has about 40% overall tree canopy coverage (30%-40% is considered good and the City's goal is to maintain over 40%):
    - i. Studies show a person's quality of life, physical health, and mental health are better with more trees and natural vegetation.
    - ii. There are several pockets in the City where there is inadequate tree cover (under 40%).
    - iii. Public trees have been inventoried within public Rights of Way, parks, Brookview golf course, city campuses, and many nature areas and open spaces.
  - v. Golden Valley is hiring an Equity Manager to work on diversity and inclusion, and address inequities in the organization and the larger community.
  - vi. Where do we have vulnerable populations that are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change?
  - vii. Where can we invest in the community that has been historically lacking and that would benefit traditionally underrepresented groups?

More information and maps, including a mashup of all layers above, will be shown to the commission in July to see if there are areas of the City to target for partnership and investment in green amenities.

#### B. Downtown Study

- i. June 9 – Council gave direction to staff at the council manager meeting to go forward with phase 3. Phase 1 & 2 studies are completed.
- ii. Focuses of Phase 2 – Live, Work, Play.
  - 1. Walkable, bikeable. A lot of new trails, sidewalks and connections to transit.
  - 2. Highlight Bassett Creek corridor better.
- iii. Phase 3 will focus more on design guidelines and small area plans. Areas (or quadrants) are divided by the Winnetka Ave and Golden Valley Rd intersection.
  - 1. Will work first on the NE Quadrant (City Hall/Library) and SW Quadrant areas.
    - a. NE Quadrant: Possibly move the Public Works buildings elsewhere in the community. Move City Hall, Police and Fire closer to where the library is located in a consolidated campus near the creek, and build a mix of residential, commercial, retail and office space with more green space and ped connections.
    - b. SW Quadrant: Staff showed the concept plans for this area from the phase 2 study.
  - 2. The Commission brainstormed ideas for environmental considerations and discussed potential design guidelines to forward to the City's planning

consultant for the phase 3 study. The list of ideas will be refined for review and approval at the commission's July meeting.

**C. Pollinators**

- i. Inventory of Chemicals – staff presented a list of chemicals used on city properties, which may be posted on the City's pollinator webpage for informational purposes. A list of the City's best practices and procedures for applying chemicals will be presented and discussed at the July meeting.
- ii. Developing New Plots and Habitats – staff discussed ideas for including edible plants in the pollinator plots being developed throughout the City. The commission was supportive of the idea.

**D. Program/Project Updates**

- i. Question on Narrow Lots and what exactly this means:
  1. Single-family residential properties in Golden Valley come in a variety of shapes and sizes. A vast majority of residential lots were created under regulations that require at least 80 feet of width and at least 10,000 square feet of area per lot. However, pockets of the city were planned (platted) before those rules were in place, resulting in blocks of properties that are only 60, 50, or even 40 feet wide and that may be as small as 5,000 square feet.
  2. Recent development pressures on these narrower lots concerned some neighbors and prompted the City Council to take action. The City is studying potential issues regarding narrow lots so the Council can consider whether to make zoning code changes by spring 2020.

**E. Council Updates**

- i. None

**F. Other Business**

- i. No update on a new student member.

**7. Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Yahle, seconded by Commissioner Stremmel to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm and the motion carried.

**ATTEST:**

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Carrie Nelson, Administrative Assistant

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Scott Seys, Chair



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

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**Date:** July 23, 2020  
**To:** Environmental Commission  
**From:** Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor  
**Subject:** Environmental Justice Collaboration

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The Environmental Commission's 2020 work plan includes working collaboratively with the Human Rights Commission to address the issue of environmental justice and more specifically climate justice in our community. More information about our existing disparities and climate vulnerabilities can be found at:

[The Minnesota Equity Blueprint](#)

Golden Valley Rising TIDES 2020 Annual Report (attached in the June agenda packet)

[Hennepin County Climate Action Plan](#)

[City's Resilience and Sustainability Plan](#)

The 2020 work plan includes the following actions:

- **Community Outreach:** Use a portion of the Commission's \$3,500 budget to:
  - fund a joint project, speaker, or event with the Human Rights Commission (HRC)
- **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 include:
  - hosting a speaker on climate justice and environmental justice focusing on climate adaptation and resilience or promoting community gardens and local food production
  - sponsoring a project in an area of the City with inequities of green space and amenities, or pairing a community event with planting trees and vegetation in that area

At the June commission meeting, Chair Seys provided an update on his conversations with HRC Chair Chris Mitchell, and staff shared data and maps to highlight the existing disparities and climate vulnerabilities and provide visual aid in the discussion. Maps from the June meeting are attached to this memo and links below provide additional context.

[Mapping Prejudice](#) (U of MN layer showing racial covenants and deed restrictions by parcel)

[Emergency Expense Risk Index](#) (This layer shows the risk that households within an area would not be able to afford a \$400 emergency expense. This is EERI 2017 data shown by census block group.)

[Senior Well-Being](#) (Percent of Population that is 65 Years and Over by census tract 2014-2018)

[Limited Ability to Speak English](#) (2011-2015 data by census tract. Type zip code into search box)

Here is the high-level plan that Chair Seys and the HRC subcommittee have recommended so far (this is still evolving and details still need to be worked out):

#### Three-pronged approach

1. Community Education and Outreach - speaker on climate justice on or near September 11 National Day of Service. The HRC is taking the lead and the EC will help plan, sponsor/host, and contribute resources.
2. Mapping and Data Analysis – understand and visualize disparities and inequities with respect to green amenities and environmental resources, and show where partnership, investment, and service events could occur. The EC is taking the lead with input from HRC.
3. Community Service Event – Plant trees and other vegetation, install rain garden, community garden, pollinator habitat/food plot. This could occur in 2020, but due to limitations surrounding COVID, and to allow time to build relationships and partnerships, this may occur in spring 2021. The HRC is taking the lead and the EC will help plan, sponsor/host, and contribute resources.

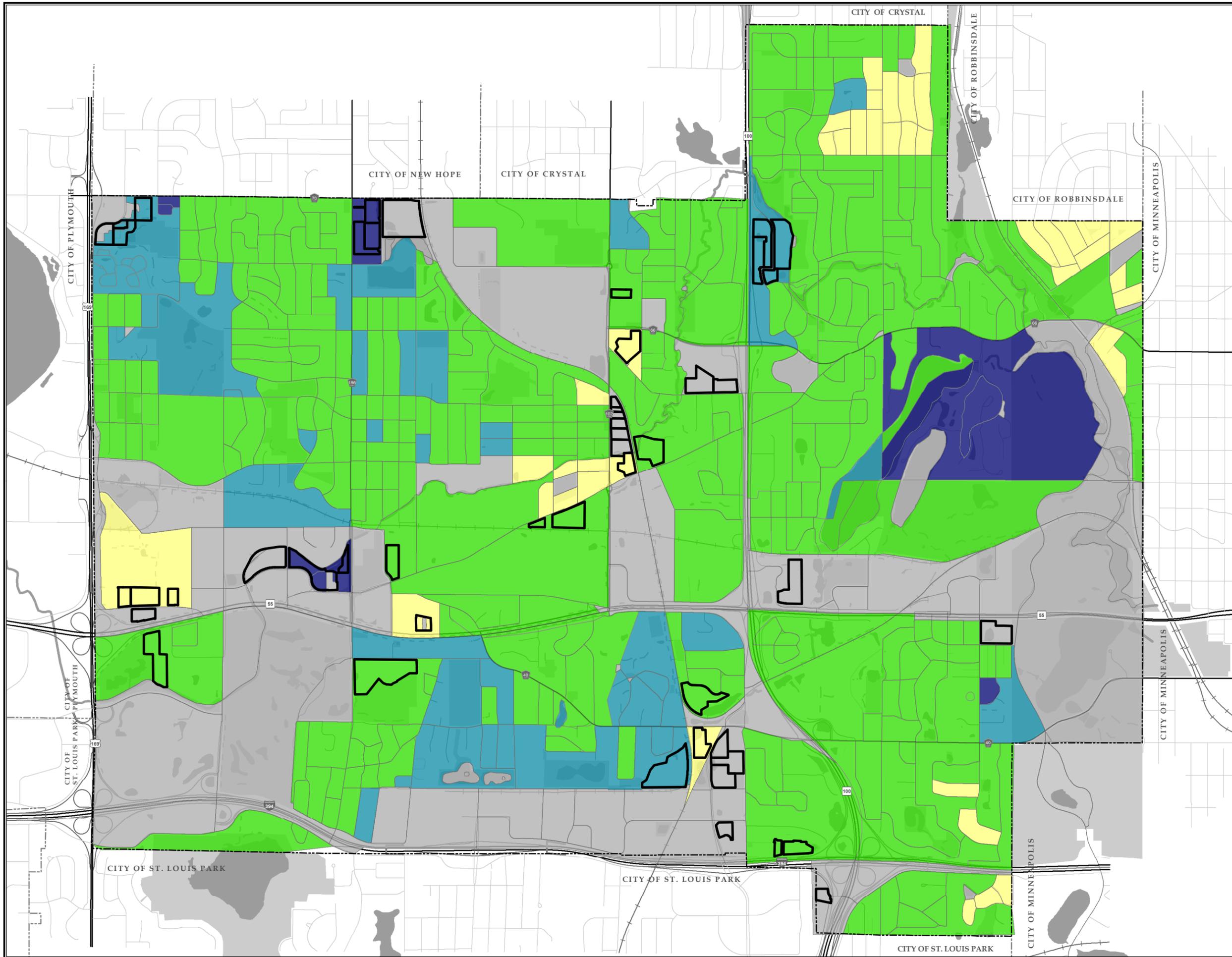
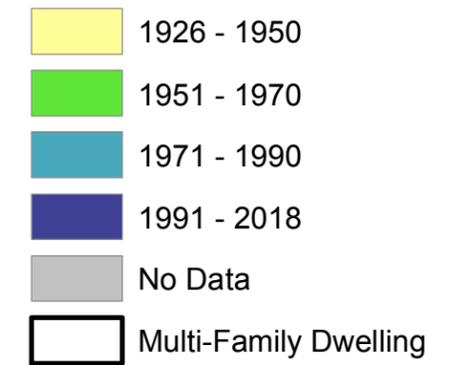
In order to continue the collaboration with the HRC in an efficient manner, it was suggested that the Environmental Commission do like the HRC and form a small subcommittee of 2-3 members tasked with communicating and coordinating directly with HRC's subcommittee members between meetings and up through the events in order to execute the plan above. Chair Seys will be asking for volunteers to assist him with this effort at the July meeting. Following brief discussion, it is requested the Commission approve the forming of a subcommittee to work on the environmental justice collaboration with the HRC.

A joint meeting with the two commissions may also be scheduled in the future as we continue to work together on this collaborative project.

Regarding the mapping and data analysis, staff has continued to look for new sources of social, economic, and environmental information and merge these data within maps to show where Golden Valley has existing inequities in green amenities and environmental resources and where future partnerships, investments, and service events could be proposed. At the July meeting, staff will show the results of its latest analysis.

## Census Block Statistics

### Average Year Built

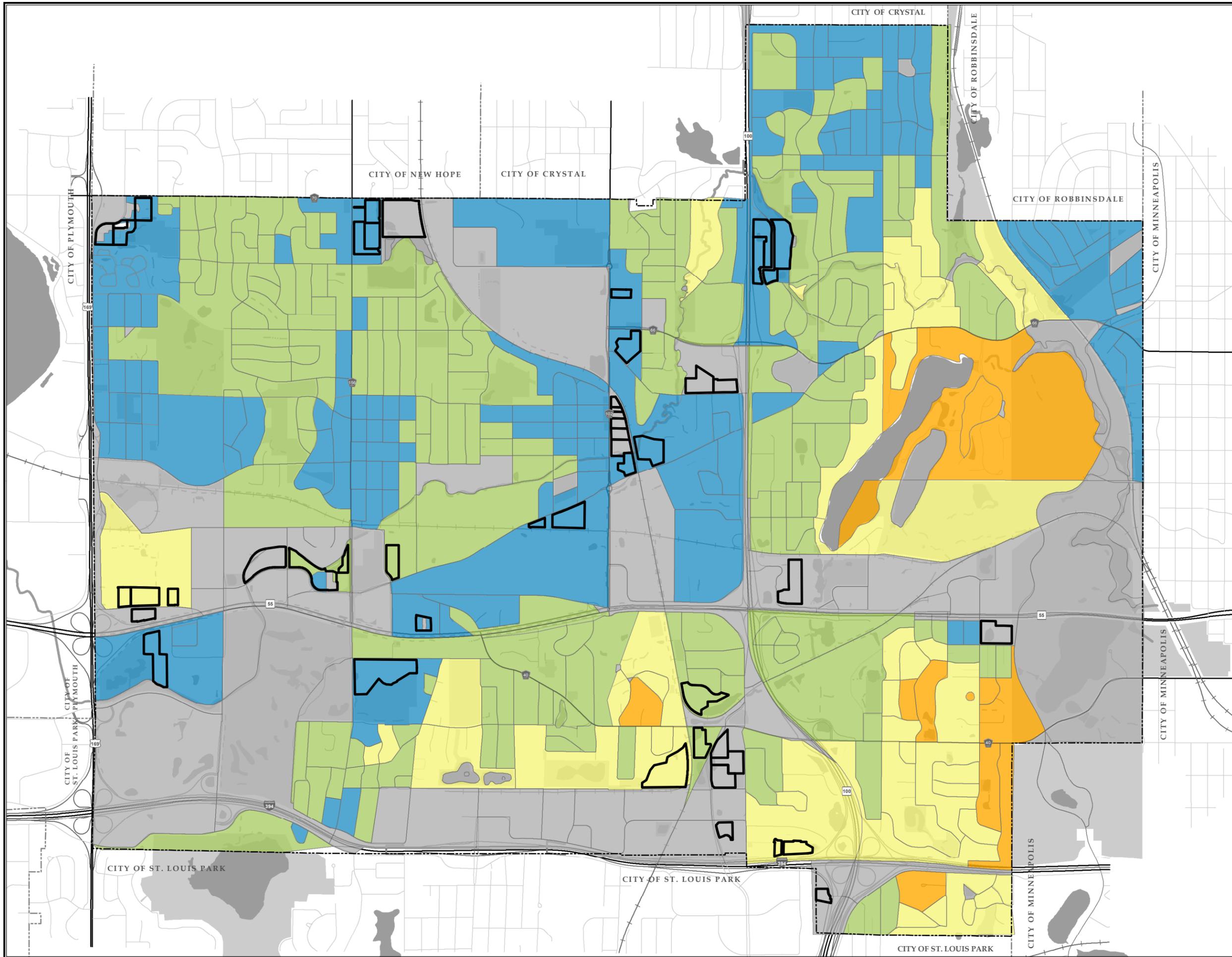
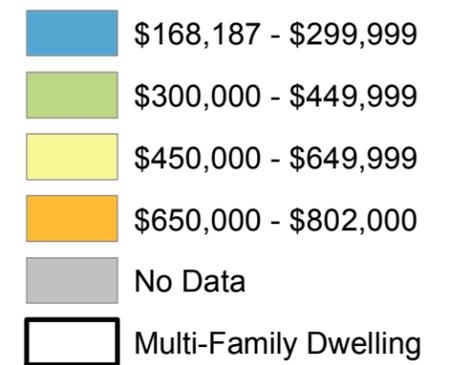


Print Date: 6/17/2020  
 Sources:  
 -Hennepin County Surveyors Office for Property Lines (2020).  
 -City of Golden Valley for all other layers.



## Census Block Statistics

### Average Home Value

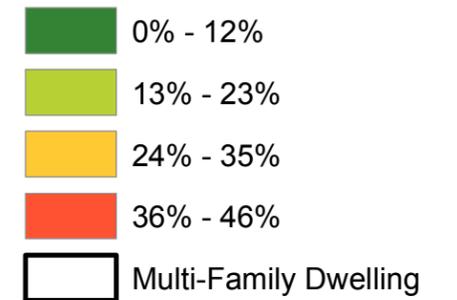


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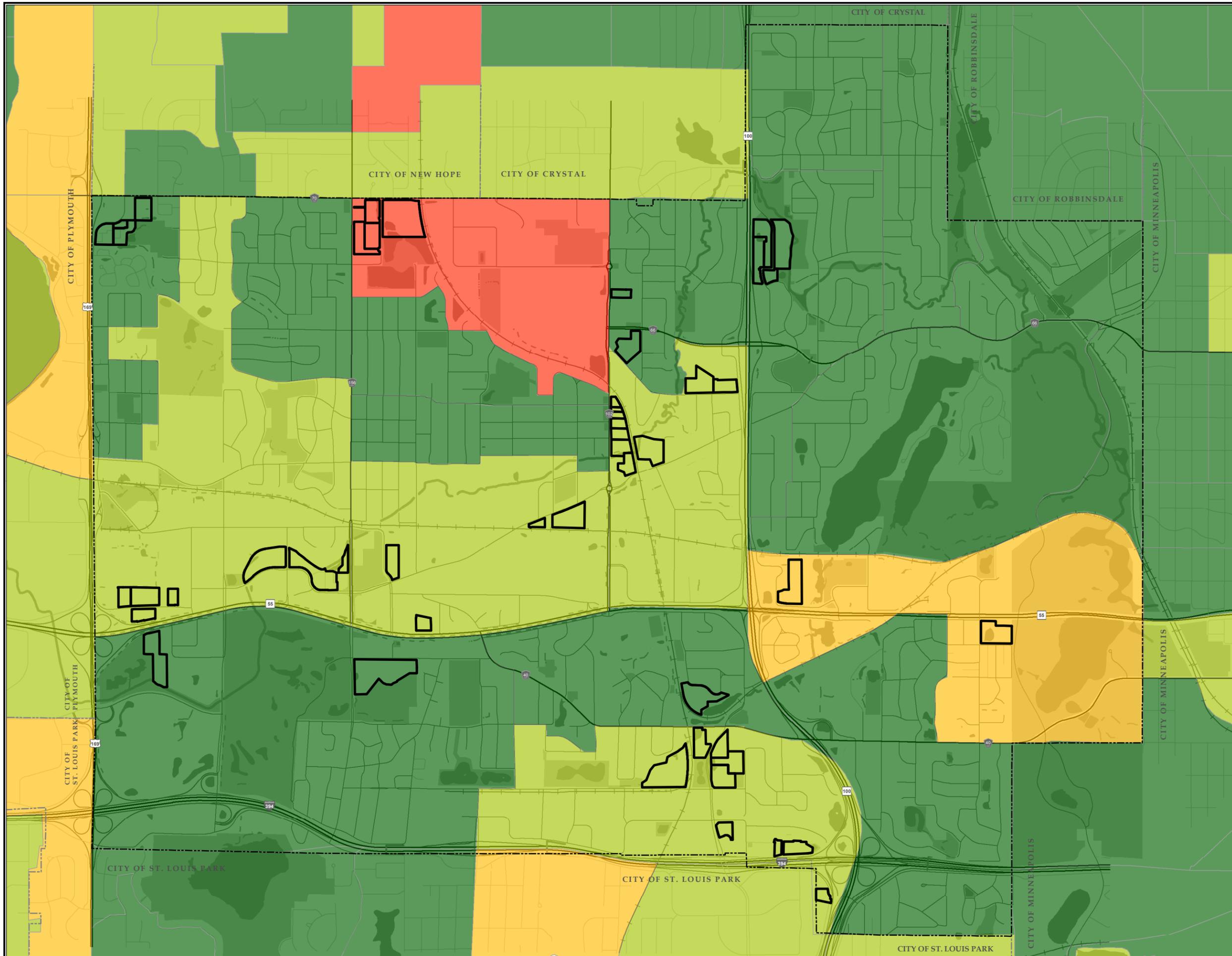


# Census Block Group Statistics

## Renter Occupied

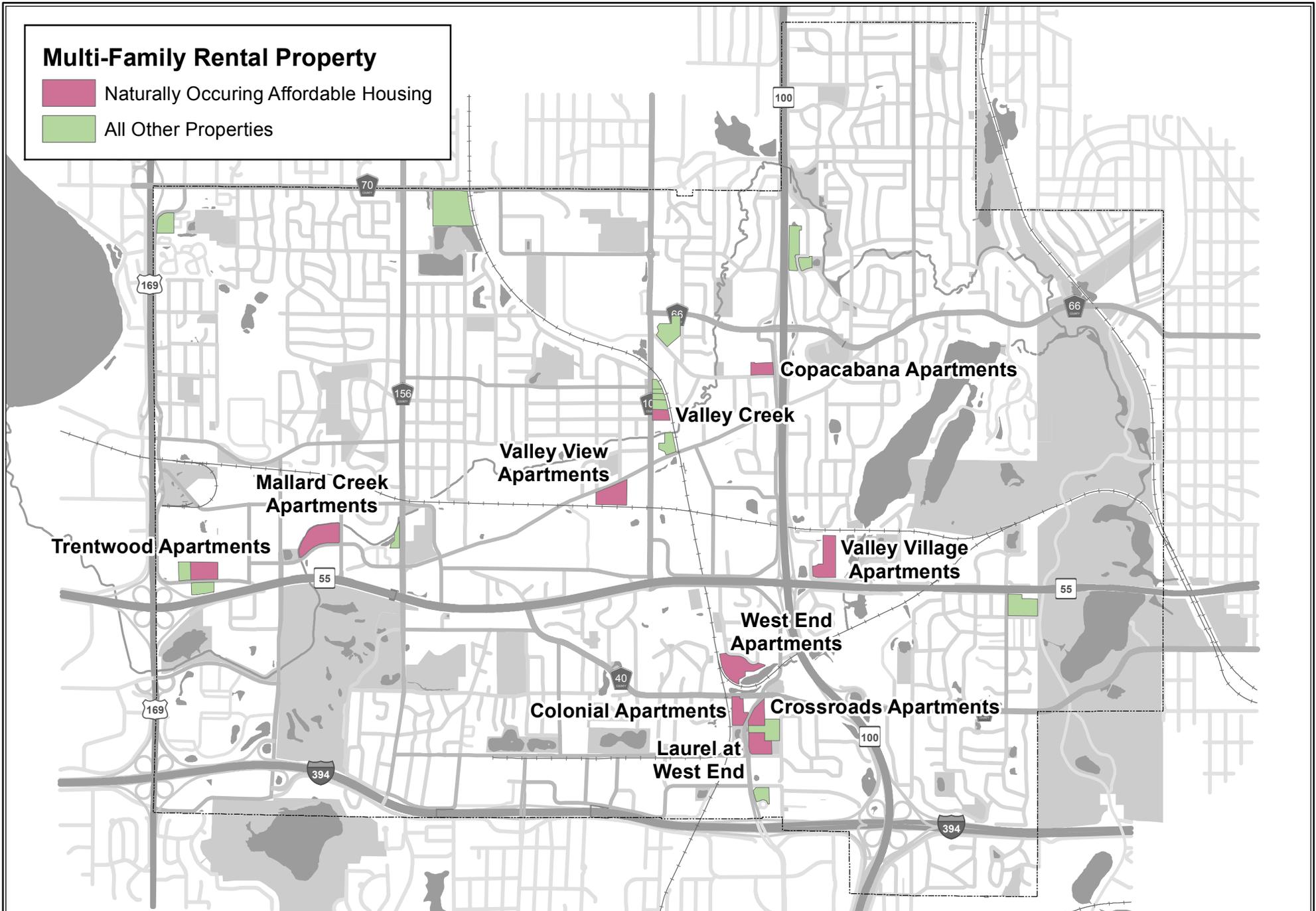


Data is from the 2000 Census.



## Multi-Family Rental Property

-  Naturally Occuring Affordable Housing
-  All Other Properties



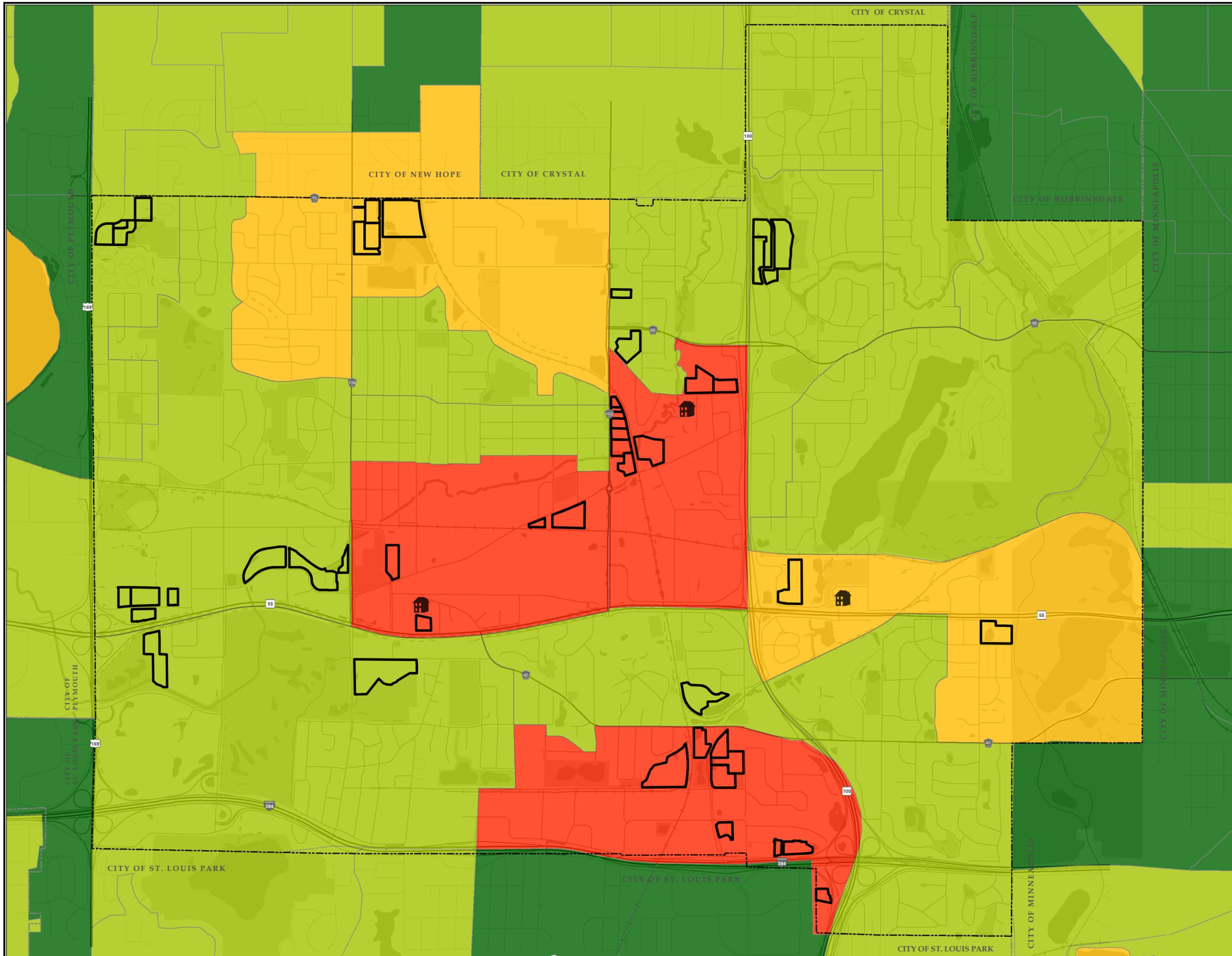
# Census Block Group Statistics

## Aged 65 & Older

- 4% - 10%
- 11% - 20%
- 21% - 30%
- 31% - 40%

- Nursing Home / Long Term Care Facility
- Multi-Family Dwelling

Data is from the 2010 Census.

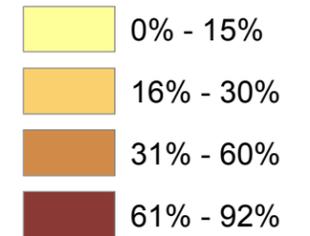


Print Date: 6/17/2020  
 Sources:  
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 -City of Golden Valley for all other layers.



## Census Block Statistics

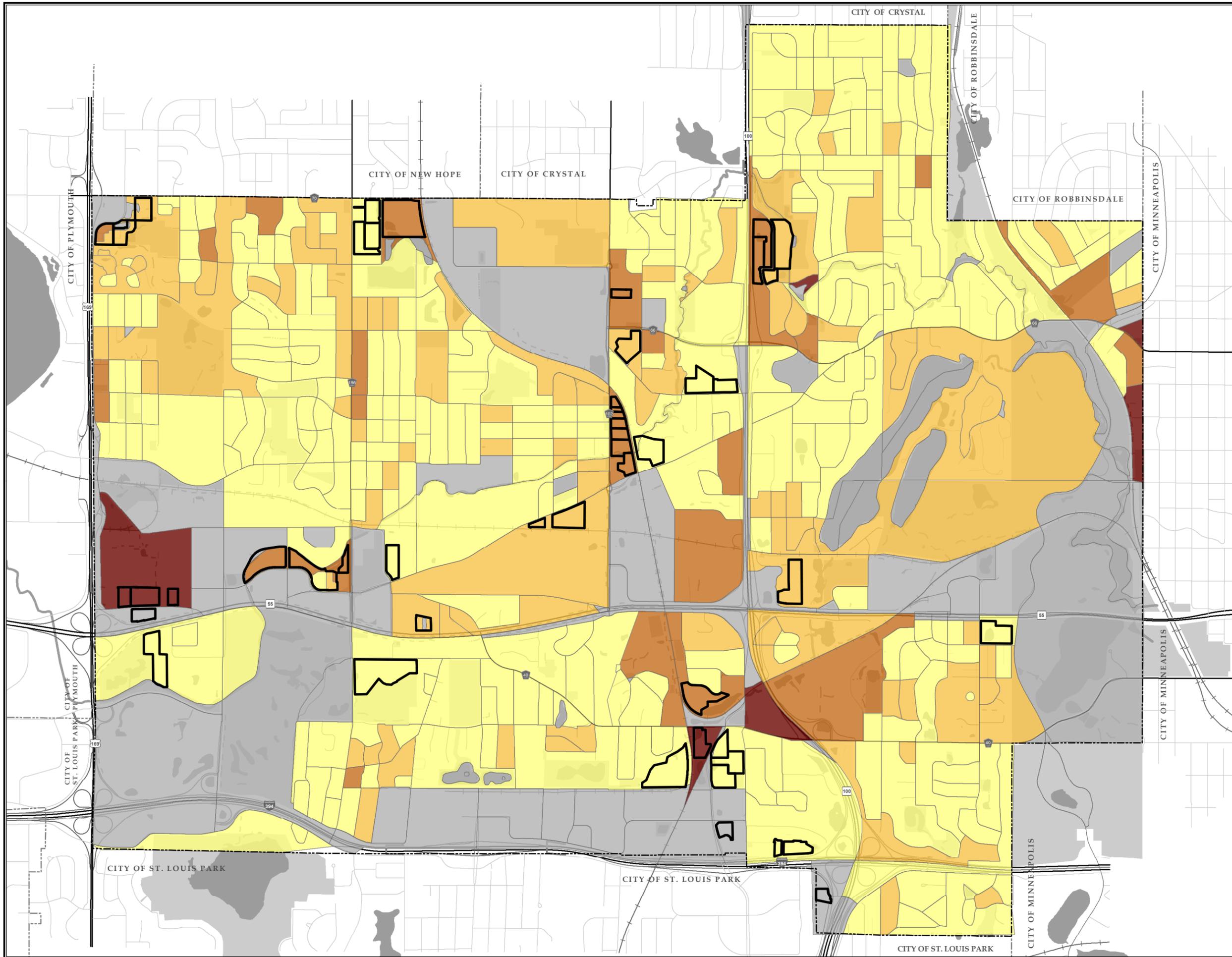
### Non-White Population



Grey square: No Data

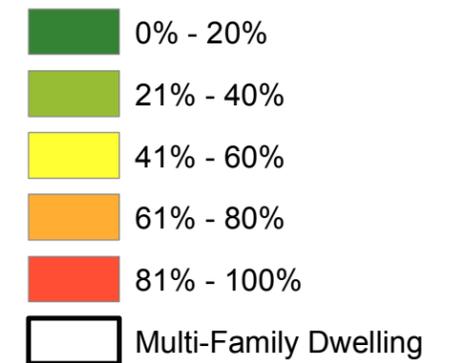
Black outline: Multi-Family Dwelling

Data is from the 2010 Census.

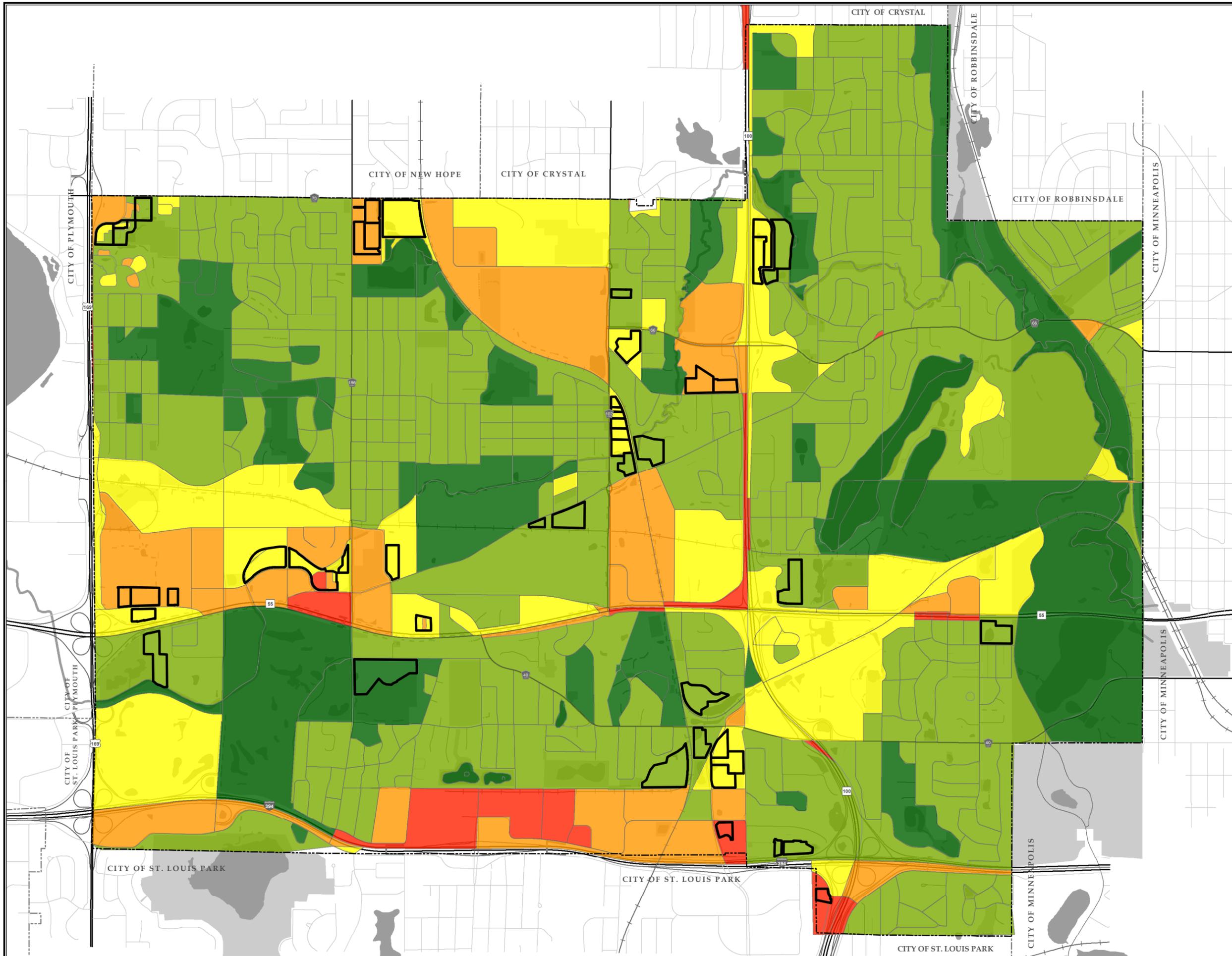


## Census Block Statistics

### Percent Impervious



Impervious percent is based on the University of Minnesota's Digital Conservancy for Land Cover (2016).



## Census Block Statistics

### Tree Canopy

0% - 20%

21% - 40%

41% - 60%

61% - 80%

Tree Canopy

Multi-Family Dwelling

Inventoried Public Tree

Tree Canopy percent is based on the University of Minnesota's Digital Conservancy for Land Cover (2016).





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

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**Date:** July 23, 2020  
**To:** Environmental Commission  
**From:** Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor  
**Subject:** Downtown Redevelopment Study – Environmental Considerations

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At its June 9 Council/Manager meeting, City Council directed staff to begin working on Phase 3 of the Downtown Study which will include the development of design guidelines and small areas plans for certain catalyst quadrants of the study area. Design guidelines will be developed for all four quadrants relating to sites, buildings, streets and walk/bikeways. Implementation strategies will be researched and identified. Click here to review the [June 9 meeting materials](#) and the [Phase 2 Study reports and concept plans](#).

In its 2020 Work Plan, the Environmental Commission included the following action:

- **Downtown Redevelopment Study:** Engage in environmental aspects of the study and plan

Consistent with the work plan, the Commission would like to engage early in the community input process by providing Council and staff with a prioritized list of environmental site design guidelines, and/or environmental goals and considerations for Phase 3 of the study. These may be based on the City's [Resilience and Sustainability Plan](#) or other factors.

Below is a list of environmental considerations the Commission generated at its June meeting and would like to forward to the City's planning staff and the consultant for this study.

- Require higher energy efficiency standards and renewable energy generation or its infrastructure in each building in the downtown area.
- Strive for buildings that are net zero energy, and zero waste.
- Support microgrids that provide efficiency, security, and back-up power (added by staff from Resilience and Sustainability Plan).
- Include electric vehicle charging stations and/or infrastructure at all development sites.
- Require bike facilities at all buildings.

- Plan, design, and maintain infrastructure to accommodate emerging vehicle technology, most notably, connected and automated vehicles (added by staff from Resilience and Sustainability Plan).
- Mimic Hopkins downtown with storefronts and green amenities along the street and parking behind buildings.
- Require the vast majority of parking spaces be contained within stacked/decked parking ramps instead of land extensive at-grade parking lots.
- Design buildings (with architectural angles, etc.) and windows in a way that minimizes the number of bird strikes.
- Create more outdoor meeting/gathering spaces, especially near Bassett Creek.
- Reduce impervious surface area where possible, and use lighter colored pavements and building materials to mitigate urban heat island effect (added by staff from Resilience and Sustainability Plan)
- Green spaces should be designed and maintained in an environmentally sustainable way to discourage weed growth and reduce inputs such as fertilizers, herbicides, and other chemical application. Encourage native plantings over manicured landscapes.
- Credits or amenity points for implementing above-ground (green) versus below-ground (gray) stormwater infrastructure.
- Encourage developers to retain stormwater runoff onsite and to reuse it whenever feasible (added by staff from Resilience and Sustainability Plan)
- Design trails, walks and gathering spaces to reduce the need for salt and chemicals in winter (subsurface heating and melting systems, solar access to hard surfaces, place trees and tall structures on north side, etc.).

Attached are PUD Amenity Options from the City's Planned Unit Development zoning code. The Commission may want to consider adding some variation of these to their list as well.

Commissioners should come to the July 27 meeting prepared to discuss and refine the list and make a recommendation to approve and forward it to the City's planning staff and consultant for consideration and inclusion in the Phase 3 Downtown Redevelopment Study.

PUD Amenity Options		
Points	Amenity	Standards
5	Green roof	Installation of an extensive, intensive, or semi-intensive, modular or integrated green roof system that covers a minimum of 50 percent of the total roof area proposed for the development.
5	Affordable housing units	<p>Provide affordable housing units beyond the minimum amount required in the City's Mixed-Income Housing Policy (and comply with all other provisions in the Policy). Three options of affordability include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An additional 10 percent of units within development are rented or sold at 30 percent of Area Median Income or less.</li> <li>• An additional 20 percent of units within development are rented or sold at 50 percent of Area Median Income or less.</li> <li>• An additional 30 percent of units within development are rented or sold at 80 percent of Area Median Income or less.</li> </ul>
4	Public open space	Contiguous ground level outdoor open space that is provided beyond the amount of open space required in the underlying zoning district requirements. The space shall preserve the natural landscape while providing the opportunity for members of the public to interact with the natural habitat using walkways, benches, or other mechanisms.
4	Utilization of a renewable energy source	Use of a photovoltaic or wind electrical system, solar thermal system and/or a geothermal heating and cooling system for at least 50 percent of the annual energy demand in new and existing buildings. The applicant must demonstrate that the quantity of energy generated by the renewable energy system meets the required percentage through a whole building energy simulation. Renewable energy sources shall be in accordance with the underlying zoning district and any other applicable requirements of the City Code.
4	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification	The proposed development shall achieve LEED Platinum certification approved by a LEED accredited professional (LEED-AP) by a date determined in the development agreement. During the PUD approval process, the developer must submit a LEED checklist and documentation to the City that shows the project will comply with LEED Platinum requirements.

PUD Amenity Options		
Points	Amenity	Standards
3	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification	The proposed development shall achieve LEED Gold certification approved by a LEED accredited professional (LEED-AP) by a date determined in the development agreement. During the PUD approval process, the developer must submit a LEED checklist and documentation to the City that shows the project will comply with LEED Gold requirements.
3	Community garden	Permanent and viable growing space and/or facilities such as a greenhouse or a garden, which provides fencing, watering systems, soil, secured storage spaces for tools, solar access, and pedestrian access as applicable. The facility shall be designed to be architecturally compatible with the development to minimize the visibility of mechanical equipment.
3	Public recreation area	An active, safe, and secure outdoor recreation area open and visible to the public that includes equipment or natural features suitable for recreational use.
3	Public plaza	Plazas shall be open to the public during daylight hours and provide opportunities for the public to interact with the space using outdoor furniture, art, or other mechanisms.
3	Public art	The art shall be maintained in good order for the life of the principal structure. The art shall be located where it is highly visible to the public. If located indoors, such space shall be clearly visible and easily accessible from adjacent sidewalks or streets.
3	Creation or preservation of significant/historic architecture	Creation, preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration of designed historic landmarks or significant architectural features as a part of the development.
2	Enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities	Eligible facilities may include a combination of the following: heated transit shelter, bicycle repair tools, rest area, wayfinding signs, sheltered walkway, woonerf, and other amenities that increase the convenience and encourage the use of public walkways and bikeways beyond what is otherwise required in the underlying zoning district.
2	Innovative stormwater management	The design must provide capacity for infiltrating stormwater beyond what is required by the City and watershed district and the design must serve as a visual amenity to the property and be reflective of innovative techniques.
1	Water feature usable to public	A water feature, including, but not limited to, a reflecting pond, a children's play feature, or a fountain shall be located where it is highly visible and useable by the public.

PUD Amenity Options		
Points	Amenity	Standards
1	Shared bicycle and vehicle facilities	Accommodation for shared vehicles or shared bicycles on site. The shared service provider must be committed in writing to the use of the space in order to be eligible.
1	Enhanced landscaping	A landscaping plan prepared by a licensed landscape architect that provides exceptional design with a variety of pollinators and native trees, shrubs, and plant types that provide seasonal interest and that exceed minimum City standards.
1	Electric car charging station	An electric vehicle charging station accessible to residents, employees, and/or the public providing connections at the rate of five percent of the required parking spaces.



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

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**Date:** July 23, 2020  
**To:** Environmental Commission  
**From:** Emma Pierson, MN GreenCorps Member  
**Subject:** Pollinators - Maintenance Practices and Procedures for Chemical Application

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The Environmental Commission 2020 Work Plan includes the following action:

- **Pollinators:** Complete actions listed in the City's Pollinator Protection Resolution, such as:
  - Completing an inventory of chemicals and continuing to reduce and target the application of chemicals on City properties

The first step of this action was to inventory the chemicals currently being used in maintenance operations on City owned and managed properties. This step was completed at the June 2020 Commission meeting.

The next step is to document and review the City's maintenance practices and procedures with respect to the application of chemicals. Staff gathered information from Park Maintenance, Street Maintenance, and Golf Maintenance staff.

Staff overseeing chemical application are trained and certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and all products are applied according to state and federal law and label recommendations. Phosphorus-free fertilizer and herbicides on high-use turf areas are applied on a limited, as-needed basis. The City also utilizes weather forecasting, instrumentation, and technology to more efficiently and effectively target and apply products.

**Park Maintenance:**

The Park Maintenance Division utilizes phosphorus-free fertilizer and herbicides on an as needed basis only. There is no regular schedule for chemical application in the parks. Park staff continually assess the athletic fields, general park areas and other public spaces (city hall campus, etc.) to determine needs.

**Following are areas managed with phosphorus-free fertilizer and herbicides as needed:**

- Athletic Fields – Fertilize as needed. No need for herbicides because of irrigation and vigorous turf growth.
- Ballfield Infields and Fence Lines – Spot treat with herbicide as needed. Started spot treating with growth regulator in 2020 under fence lines, etc. due to lack of resources to line trim parks (COVID-related measure). We do not currently have Hennepin County Sentencing to Service crews who would regularly complete this work.
- Campus and Fire Stations – Fertilize as needed. Very limited use of herbicide. Used a granular “weed and feed” in 2020 because these areas have not been treated for several years and in some areas weed density exceeded 50% cover. Some landscaped areas (rock and wood mulch areas) are hand pulled or spot treated for weeds as needed)
- Streetscapes – City staff try to utilize Hennepin County STS as much as possible to hand pull or line trim weeds within the streetscape planters throughout the community. However, the areas to manage have grown over the years and this task has become overwhelming. Staff is working towards trying to contract out the management of these vast areas. This work will include a variety of integrated plant management tools.
- General Park Areas – Other than Brookview Park, no general park areas are targeted for fertilizer or herbicides use unless the area was:
  - o Recently restored do to some type of improvement
  - o Weed density is significant enough to eliminate turf and begin to become an erosion issue.
- Brookview Park – Due to the significant rental and event use of Brookview Park, some areas are targeted for fertilization and herbicide use on an as needed basis only. The entire park is irrigated and this helps limit the need for herbicide. A granular broad leaf “weed and feed” was utilized in 2020 in a few areas that have not been treated in several years. These areas were primarily high traffic areas (tennis camp traffic, etc) that have significant impacts to turf survival.
- Buckthorn Control – The City has a buckthorn management program for public property. The program utilizes Hennepin County Sentencing to Service (STS) crews and volunteers to complete. City staff and STS trained/certified supervisors are provided herbicides designated for stump treatment only.

**Street Maintenance**

Street Maintenance uses a staff member that is a licensed applicator to apply herbicide to weeds growing in sidewalks, along sound walls, and on the center medians. This task is performed once a year, generally in May and follow all weather-related guidance while applying.

## **Brookview Maintenance**

- Brookview Community Center – Hand pull or spot treat for weeds around the building. Granular fertilizer is used for the perennial flowers and shrubs usually in spring.
- Brookview Golf Course –
  - The Greens are sprayed every 14 days or depending on disease pressure with a liquid fertilizer and fungicides throughout the season.
  - The Tee Boxes are sprayed based on disease pressure with a fungicide. Granular fertilizer application occurs in spring and fall.
  - The Fairways are sprayed based on disease pressure with a fungicide. Granular fertilizer application occurs in spring and fall.
  - The Rough areas and the remaining property are spot sprayed with an herbicide based on weed pressure. Application occurs in the spring and fall.

Following discussion, the Commission is being asked to receive and file this list of practices and procedures.

## PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES – July 2020

### **GREENCORPS**

**Member for 2020-2021 service term** – The City has been informed that they have been selected to host a GreenCorps member for the upcoming 2020-2021 service term. The member will be in the Air Pollution Reduction track and will work on many of the City's sustainability and energy reduction goals.

**Market in the Valley-** This year City staff and our current serving GreenCorps member, will help to make the event more sustainable by providing the opportunity to recycle organics at the market, and eventually will try to move towards making Market in the Valley a zero-waste event.

### **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. The contract has been awarded to Landbridge Ecological, and the project is expected to commence this fall.

### **WATER RESOURCES**

**DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Projects** - The DeCola Ponds B and C Project is about 95% complete. The excavation and utility work is complete, the trails have been paved, and the City's native vegetation contractor has installed all trees, shrubs, plant plugs, and seeding except for the bare-root tree planting scheduled for late summer.

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 underway and includes 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. It is still unclear whether a bonding bill will move forward.

Look for another community engagement opportunity in August to review the concept plans developed for the Wildwood Park/SEA School area based on valuable input provided to date.

### **PLANNING AND ZONING AND DEVELOPMENTS**

June 18, 2020

#### **Planning Commission**

**Narrow Lots**—A Zoning Text Amendment to modify regulations for homes built on narrow lots (those 65 feet in width and less). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 8 and discussed eight different changes to the Zoning Chapter focusing on narrow lots. 53 comments were submitted as part of the public record via an on-line form; three callers provided input during the hearing. The Commission continued the hearing to June 22 in order to give staff additional time to address questions related to shading and dormers. The City Council approved the proposed changes at the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

## City Council

**Tobacco Sales Restrictions**—A Zoning Text Amendment to restrict the sale of tobacco products based on nearby uses was approved on June 16 (5-0). Following recent City 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 new regulations add locational restrictions around schools, parks, and other youth-oriented centers.

**1421 Rhode Island Ave N**—An appeal of a variance denial around a driveway and curb cut was heard by the City Council on June 16. The Council voted (5-0) to uphold the BZA decision and require the second driveway be removed.

**4725 Olson Memorial Highway**—An appeal of a variance denial around adding two accessible spaces at the end of the frontage road cul-de-sac was heard by the City Council on June 16. After discussing options with staff, the Council voted (5-0) to approve the variance with three conditions that addressed concerns regarding snow removal, visibility, and construction.

## Other Updates

**Temporary Outdoor Service Areas**—In order to meeting the Governor’s orders allowing outdoor dining, staff worked to develop a process for reviewing and approving applications from local restaurants in order to allow them to conduct business outdoors. The City is offering temporary waivers to various zoning requirements including setbacks and parking counts. All liquor licenses requirements, building codes, and fire codes must still be met. Five restaurants, in addition to Brookview’s Three One Six Bar + Grill, have opened.

**Downtown Study, Phase III**—At the June 9 Council/Manager meeting, the City Council gave the go ahead to move forward with Phase III of the Downtown Study. HKGi will resume its work in July and will further refine designs for three catalyst sites in addition to producing design guidelines for the downtown area. A small area plan for the downtown will be ready for adoption as part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan at the conclusion of the process.