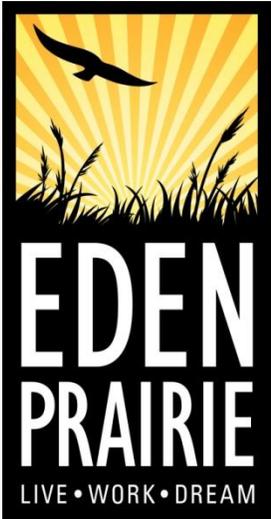




Citizen Advisory Conservation Commission

2012 Annual Report & 2013 Goals and Work Plan



Conservation Commission regular meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

The City Staff Liaison to the Conservation Commission is Regina Rojas.

Charter

Citizen Advisory Conservation Commission. The Citizen Advisory Conservation Commission ("CACC") shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and staff about policies and practices that promote the sustainable development and conservation of Eden Prairie's air, water, and land resources; reduction of residential and commercial solid waste; and the more efficient use of energy in the economic activities of both the public and private sectors, which may include the following.

1. The Commission shall have the following roles and responsibilities:

- a. Review, examination and evaluation of the City's operating policies and practices with the goal of improving performance in this area through the recommendation of Best Management Practices. The CACC shall recommend the inclusion of appropriate environmental conservation and protection measures into the planning process. Where environmental policy mandates of the state and local agencies require the City's response, the CACC may serve as the body to examine alternatives and make recommendations to the City Council.
- b. Provide recommendations as to oversight and accountability for municipal and private initiatives in the area of environmental policies that impact Eden Prairie's energy and natural resources. The Commission shall serve as the liaison and monitoring body for community events and activities that are relevant to the Commission's purpose.
- c. Educate the community, including Eden Prairie schools and community groups, about the impact of advances in environmental science, engineering, product development and policies to produce a better informed citizenry about environmental conservation.

2. In pursuance of the above stated roles and responsibilities the Commission shall perform the following work tasks:

- a. Recommend best practices for energy conservation for Eden Prairie's citizens, businesses, institutions and City government, including the 20/40/15 initiative.
- b. Encourage energy efficiency through appropriate building code improvements.
- c. Recommend opportunities to increase the City's use of alternative energy.
- d. Recommend ways to develop a comprehensive recycling, reuse and municipal solid waste (MSW) reduction program.
- e. Recommend ways to improve water quality in Eden Prairie.
- f. Promote tree planting, native landscapes and infiltration of water runoff with rain gardens and other techniques to maintain healthy urban native landscapes and reduce water consumption.
- g. Recommend ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality in Eden Prairie.
- h. Recommend ways to integrate natural resource initiatives and programs into other areas of Eden Prairie government, including other commissions and groups, to better promote natural resource management and conservation.
- i. Educate the public, professional associations, organizations, businesses and industries about improving the community's environment, both natural and man-made.

2012 Commission Members

There were nine members and six student representatives who served during 2012. Commission members who served in 2012 included:

<i>Commission Member</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Term Expires/Expired</i>
Laura Jester, Chair	4/2007	3/31/2013
Ray Daniels	4/2006	3/31/2012
Sue Brown	4/2009	3/31/2015
Ravi Jaiwal	4/2009	3/31/2012 (<i>resigned</i>)
Greg Olson, Vice Chair	4/2009	3/31/2013
Prashant Shrikhande	4/2010	3/31/2013
Anthony Pini	4/2011	3/31/2014
Kurt Lawton	4/2011	3/31/2014
Stacy Bettison	4/2012	3/31/2015

<i>Student Representative</i>	<i>School Year</i>	<i>Term</i>
McKenna Campbell-Potter	2011/2012	Fall & Spring
Rebecca Ebert	2011/2012	Fall & Spring
Kelly Hallowell	2011/2012	Fall & Spring
Yasmin Atef-Vahid	2012	Spring
Sara Schmit	2012	Fall
Katie Stoltz	2012/2013	Fall & Spring
Siddeswari Thunuguntla	2012/2013	Fall & Spring

2012 Accomplishments

GreenStep Cities Program

- Achieved the 2nd Step in the program by implementing eight required best practices.

Recycling and Solid Waste Management

The City's recycling program continues to provide education to help residents and businesses recycle, reduce waste, prevent pollution, manage yard waste and conserve resources.

- Worked with staff and encouraged development of parks and recreation recycling program which resulted in the purchase of new recycling containers and completion of a grant application.
- Reviewed the community recycling report for 2011 and the City's recycling program.
- Reviewed the results of the Annual City Wide Clean Up event.
- Encouraged use of reusable grocery bags.



Energy Conservation

- Received an update on the City's 20-40-15 Program from Fleet Services and Facilities Management staff.
- Continued to follow Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Legislation. Commission member Olson educated City Staff on PACE and presented information to the Chamber of Commerce Government Committee to gauge interest in a PACE program.
- Received a presentation from Xcel Energy on "Empowering Your Community".
- Offered support of the continuation of the Xcel Solar rebate program to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Community Outreach

Conservation Commission members attended and staffed the following events throughout the year:

- Staffed an education booth at the Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo in March. Provided a list of speakers and exhibitors on topics such as energy conservation, native plant landscaping and stormwater management. Provided education on stormwater runoff and information on recycling.
- Staffed an education booth at the City Wide Open House and provided information on Xcel energy programs, reuse and recycling. The Commission had community members sign up for City "Living Green" email updates. The Commission also worked with the Girl Scouts and water treatment plant staff to educate residents on water use.

Water Quality, Water Quantity and Air Quality

- Toured the City Water Plant and Education Center.
- Encouraged residents to sign up for the Wyland Foundation Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. The Challenge resulted in a pledged 24,259,411.00 gallons of water saved by residents of Eden Prairie.
- Received a stormwater management update from city staff.
- Received an update on the Secchi disc readings for five area lakes measuring water quality.
- Received an update on the Water Rebate Program.
- Received an update on the SWPPP and MS4 permit processes.

- Researched alternative water conservation utility rate structures in local cities and cities across the nation. The Commission developed recommendations to City Public Works Department for consideration. Based on the recommendations the city adopted a resolution to eliminate the four unit (4,000 gallon) minimum water usage charge utility customers. The four unit minimum usage charge was established a number of years ago, but has recently become a disincentive to those customers wishing to conserve as much water as possible. The four unit minimum charge will be removed starting in January 2013.
- Attended Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District’s Evening with the Watershed.
- Received an update on the DNR Water Craft Inspection Program.
- Received an update on the coal tar ordinance.

Commission Development

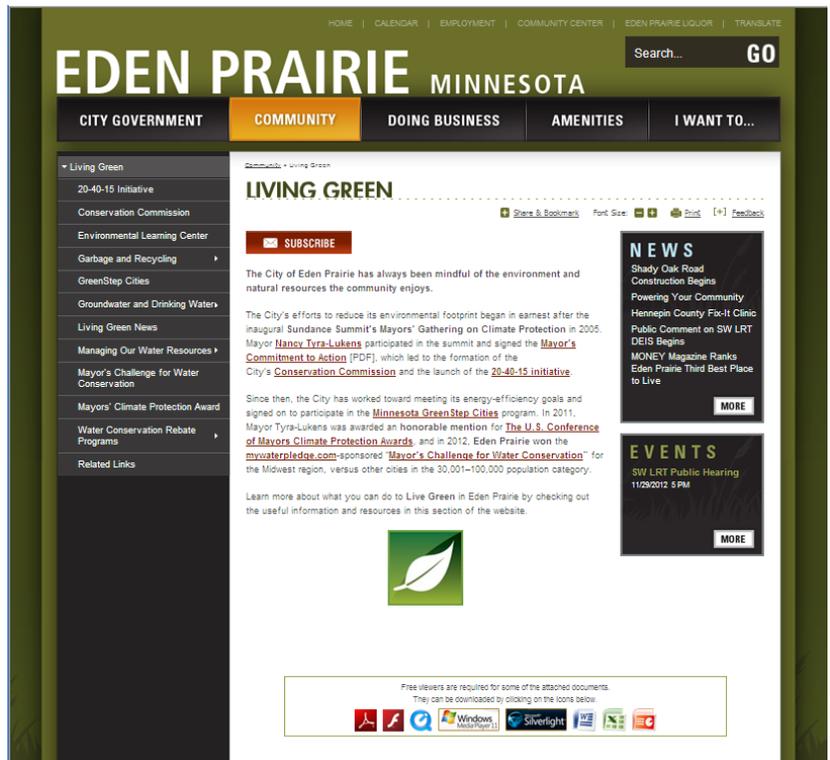
- Commission members attended an Urban Land Institute (ULI) Workshop—Rooftops and Rivers: Saving Money, Getting Green.
- Staff and Commission members attended the *Energy Savings/Retrofitting Programs for Minnesota Cities, Counties and Businesses Forum and Webinar* in January.
- Participated in a Joint Tour with the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission in July.
- Commission members attended the Edina Go Green Event
- Commission member Shrikhande completed the Hennepin County Master Recycler program and presented information to the Commission.

Communication Efforts

- Continued to explore ways the commission could inform residents on conservation related efforts through to *Life in the Prairie*, City News, Facebook, and the city website.
- Reviewed and suggested changes for website redesign.
- Encouraged residents to receive City of Eden Prairie information including the Living Green page via email subscription.
- Created two new posters to display at education booths.
- Provided ideas for the *Environmental Times* newsletter.

Other

- Commission members were appointed by the City Council to serve on the Southwest Light Rail Transit Community Advisory Committee (SWLRT-CAC.) CAC members participated in a meeting with city staff. The meeting provided background on light rail transit including studies, DEIS comments and review of the project timeline.
- Commission members attended and provided input at the Global Green/Golden Triangle LEED-ND workshop.



2013 Goals and Work Plan

1st Quarter

- GreenStep Cities
 - Continue to input data on the MPCA website.
 - Work with the MPCA to confirm compliance with the required steps.
 - Provide recommendations on completing next steps.
 - Begin formulating ideas for the community engagement best practice (**Energy/Green Crawl**)
- Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo
- Assist with communications efforts.

2nd Quarter

- Energy Conservation
 - Review the 20-40-15 program and receive an update from city staff.
 - Promote use of green roofs, solar shingles, solar panels, and wind energy.
- GreenStep Cities
 - Continue to input data on the MPCA website.
 - Work with the MPCA to confirm compliance with the required steps.
- Assist with communications efforts.

3rd Quarter

- Recycling in Parks
 - Continue to work with the Parks and Recreation Department on enhancing recycling program.
 - Volunteer and work with Parks and Recreation staff to provide recycling or a zero waste oversight during a city sponsored event.
- Water Quality and Water Conservation
 - Promote use of permeable pavers, cement, and asphalt for sidewalks and driveways.
 - Promote use of rainwater barrels, rainwater gardens, and green roofs.
 - Work with city staff to provide recommendations on rainwater gardens in City right of way.
- Continue to work on requirements of the GreenStep Cities Program.
- Assist with communications efforts

4th Quarter

- Receive an update on the Urban Land Institute Regional Indicators Initiative.
- Assist with communications efforts.
- Continue implementing 1st-3rd quarter goals.
- Begin drafting 2014 commission work plan.

Other Activities:

- Provide recommendations on city studies related to recycling, water quality, water conservation, environment and sustainability.
- Provide recommendations on the proposed City Master Bike Plan.
- Continue to monitor State Legislation and other city adopted programs related to Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE).
- Continue to monitor new development, redevelopment, and proposed light rail as they relate to environmental impacts.
- Continue communications efforts-Website, newsletter, brochures, and educational material.
- Research disposable bag use throughout the city and develop goals and strategies to encourage reduction of usage by businesses and residents.
- Staff a booth at the City Wide Open House (every other year).
- Receive an annual report on City’s 20-40-15 program from city staff.
- Participate in a joint workshop with the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission.
- Participate in a joint workshop with the Planning Commission.
- Participate in a joint workshop with the City Council (every other year).
- Receive Lake Monitoring Report by Blue Water Science. Recommendations from Commission on lake sampling.
- Receive update on parks boundary surveying.
- Educate residents on shoreland setback requirements.
- Receive an update on the City’s water conservation program and performance.
- Review proposed Local Water Management Plan and comment prior to submittal to the Watershed District.
- Review Wildlife Management Practices by the City.
- Continue exploring environmental education opportunities.

Presentations and Tour Ideas:

- Energy Crawl/Green Crawl Event
- GE Eco Experience Center
- Joint workshop or presentation to the Planning Commission
- Presentation by Best Buy on wind generator.
- Presentation from City’s solid waste management companies on residential composting including yard and household waste.
- Indoor and outdoor air quality presentation from local experts
- Tour City Hill Fellowship “green” house.

2013 Event Calendar

January	Review annual report and work plan
February	Commission 2013 work plan presented to Council
March	Staff the Chamber of Commerce Home, Landscape & Garden Expo—Saturday, March 16 th
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	Joint Workshop with City Council
October	
November	
December	Begin development of 2013 Annual Report and 2014 Work Plan