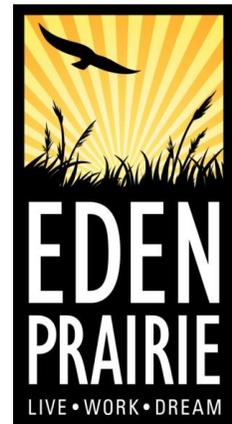




# Citizen Advisory Conservation Commission

## 2013 Annual Report & 2014 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.

### **2013 Commission Members**

There were seven members and five student representatives who served during 2013. Commission members who served in 2013 included:

<b><i>Commission Member</i></b>	<b><i>Appointed</i></b>	<b><i>Term Expires/Expired</i></b>
Laura Jester	4/2007	3/31/2015
Sue Brown	4/2009	3/31/2015 (resigned)
Greg Olson, Chair	4/2009	3/31/2016
Prashant Shrikhande	4/2010	3/31/2016
Kurt Lawton, Vice Chair	4/2011	3/31/2014
Anthony Pini	4/2011	3/31/2014 (resigned)
Stacy Bettison	4/2012	3/31/2015

<b><i>Student Representative</i></b>	<b><i>School Year</i></b>	<b><i>Term</i></b>
Katie Stoltz	2012/2013	Spring 2013
Siddeswari Thunuguntla	2012/2013	Spring 2013
Alyssa Minder	2013/2014	Fall 2013/Spring 2014
Sonja McPherson	2013/2014	Fall 2013/Spring 2014
Olivia Urbanski	2013/2014	Fall 2013/Spring 2014

## **2013 Accomplishments**

### **GreenStep Cities Program**

- Continued to monitor the MPCA GreenStep Cities Program and are currently working with staff on best practices to achieve "Step 3" recognition.

### **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.

- Continued to work with staff and encouraged development of parks and recreation recycling program which resulted in the purchase of new recycling containers, completion of a grant application and monitoring of recycling waste collected.
- Reviewed the community recycling report for 2012 and the City's recycling program.
- Reviewed the results of the Annual City Wide Clean Up event.

### **Energy Conservation**

- Continued to monitor Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Legislation and encouraged adoption of a PACE program by the City. These efforts lead to the City Council approving a joint powers agreement with the St. Paul Port Authority.
- Encouraged City participation in the Earth Hour Challenge sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund.

### **Community Outreach**

- Staffed an education booth at the Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo in March. Provided attendees with education on stormwater runoff, the benefits of water conservation and recycling.
- Began formulating ideas and established criteria for the 2014 Ecopalooza "Green Crawl" participant selection.
- Student Representatives kept the Commission up-to-date on environmental and suitability issues at Eden Prairie High School including recycling efforts and the Tree Huggers Club activities.

### **Water Quality, Water Quantity and Air Quality**

- Encouraged residents to sign up for the Wyland Foundation Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. The Challenge resulted in a pledged 7,008,850 gallons of water saved by residents of Eden Prairie.
- Received a stormwater management and water conservation update from city staff.
- Received an update on the Water Rebate Programs.
- Received an update on the Local Water Management Plan and provided recommendations for the next plan update.
- 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.
- Received an update on the Utility Rate Structure and provided feedback to city staff.
- Attended Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District's Evening with the Watershed.

### **Commission Development**

- Received a presentation on the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Regional Indicators Initiative.

### **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.
- Encouraged residents to receive City of Eden Prairie information including the Living Green page via email subscription.
- Worked with City Staff and the local media to promote Earth Hour.

### **Other**

- Commission members represented the City on the Southwest Light Rail Transit Community Advisory Committee (SWLRT-CAC).
- Commission members attended various workshops and information sessions related to the Southwest Light Rail Transit Green Line Extension project.

## **2014 Goals and Work Plan**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

- GreenStep Cities
  - Continue to input data on the MPCA website.
  - Work with the MPCA to confirm compliance with the required steps to achieve Step 3
  - Provide recommendations on completing next steps.
- Ecopalooza
  - Review applications and select stop locations.
- Encourage formation of the city "Green Team" volunteer group
- 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.
- Local Water Management Plan
  - Continue to provide feedback to City Staff.
- Green Neighborhood (Eden Gardens)
  - Continue to provide feedback to City Staff.
- Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo
- Student Representatives
  - Continue to keep the Commission up-to-date on environmental and suitability issues.
- Assist with communications efforts.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

- GreenStep Cities
  - Continue to input data on the MPCA website.
  - Work with the MPCA to confirm compliance with the required steps to achieve Step 3.
- Encourage participation in city "Green Team" volunteer group
- Ecopalooza
  - Continue to promote the event.
  - Staff the event.
- Receive an update on the Urban Land Institute Regional Indicators Initiative.
- Recycling in Parks
  - Continue to work with the Parks and Recreation Department on enhancing recycling program.
  - Volunteer and work with "Green Team" volunteers to provide recycling or a zero waste oversight during a city sponsored event.
- Student Representatives
  - Continue to keep the Commission up-to-date on environmental and suitability issues.

- Assist with communications efforts.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter**

- Encourage participation in city "Green Team" volunteer group
- Continue to work on requirements of the GreenStep Cities Program.
- Work with City Staff to strengthen Water Quality and Water Conservation best management practices and measures for the following:
  - Permeable pavers, cement, and asphalt for sidewalks and driveways.
  - Rainwater barrels, rainwater gardens, and green roofs.
- Assist with communications efforts

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**

- Encourage participation in city "Green Team" volunteer group
- Student Representatives
  - Continue to keep the Commission up-to-date on environmental and suitability issues.
- Assist with communications efforts.
- Continue implementing 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> quarter goals.
- Begin drafting 2015 commission work plan.

### **Other Activity Ideas:**

- Provide recommendations on city studies related to recycling, water quality, water conservation, environment and sustainability.
- Provide recommendations on the proposed Hennepin County Bike Plan.
- 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
- 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:**

- Ecopalooza
- 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.

**2014 Event Calendar**

January	Review annual report and work plan City Council/Commissions workshop—Tuesday, January 21 <sup>st</sup>
February	
March	Staff the Chamber of Commerce Home, Landscape & Garden Expo—Saturday, March 15 <sup>th</sup>
April	
May	Staff the Ecopalooza event—Saturday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	Veterans Day--Meeting Cancelled
December	Complete 2014 Annual Report and develop 2015 Work Plan