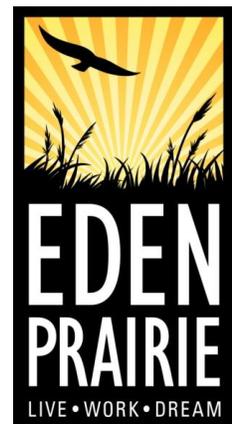




Citizen Advisory Conservation Commission

2014 Annual Report & 2015 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.

2014 Commission Members

Commission members who served in 2014 included:

<i>Commission Member</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Term Expires/Expired</i>
Laura Jester, Vice Chair	4/2007	3/31/2016
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	4/2011	3/31/2014
Anthony Pini	4/2011	3/31/2014 (resigned)
Stacy Bettison	4/2012	3/31/2015 (resigned)
Lori Tritz	4/2014	3/31/2017
Margaret Powell	4/2014	3/31/2017

<i>Student Representative</i>	<i>School Year</i>	<i>Term</i>
Alyssa Minder	2013/2014	Fall 2013/Spring 2014
Sonja McPherson	2013/2014	Fall 2013/Spring 2014
Olivia Urbanski	2013/2014	Fall 2013/Spring 2014
Ashray Manipalli	2014/2015	Fall 2014/Spring 2015
Sophia Modeas	2014/2015	Fall 2014/Spring 2015
Anthony Polyakov	2014/2015	Fall 2014/Spring 2015

2014 Accomplishments

GreenStep Cities Program

- Helped the City achieve "Step 3" in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program. Eden Prairie achieved this milestone by completing 17 of 28 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.

- Reviewed the community recycling report for 2013 and the City's recycling program.
- Reviewed the results of the Annual City Wide Clean Up event.

Energy Conservation

- Encouraged City participation in the Earth Hour Challenge sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund.
- Received an update on the 20-40-15 program.

Community Outreach

- Assisted in development of the first ever Eden Prairie Ecopalooza event which featured a city wide green crawl, solar boat regatta, eco-related vendors and exhibits.
- 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.
- Staffed an education booth at the City Wide Open House in October. Presented information on recycling, illicit discharge, and city environmental rebate information.
- 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.
- Received an update on the City Wellhead Protection Plan.
- Received an update on the Local Water Management Plan and provided recommendations for the next plan update.
- 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 on electricity, gas and water consumption for residences and businesses within the City.
- Commission members attended Streambanks and Stormwater Workshop (Bus)
- Commission members attended the "Workshop on the Water" event and learned about shoreline best practices and streambanks

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 and text messaging service.

Other

- Provided recommendations on the sustainable features for the Eden Gardens development including solar features, pervious surface, low mow grasses and non-neonicotinoid vegetation.

- Commission members attended various workshops and information sessions related to the Southwest Light Rail Transit Green Line Extension project.
- Commission members represented the City on the Southwest Light Rail Transit Community Advisory Committee (SWLRT-CAC).
- Received an update on landscape amendments to city owned properties including well houses, a fire station and park property.

2015 Goals and Work Plan

1st Quarter

- Invite the Lower Minnesota Watershed District to a Commission meeting.
- Provide recommendations on Stormwater and Erosion Control code amendments.
- Provide recommendations on water conservation landscaping projects.
- GreenStep Cities
 - Continue to provide recommendations on completing action items.
- Arbor Day and Green Fair
 - Provide recommendations to City Staff on event content.
- Energy Conservation
 - Continue to promote use of green roofs, solar shingles, solar panels, and wind energy.
- Staff the 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.

2nd Quarter

- Invite the Nine Mile Watershed District to a Conservation Commission meeting. Request a tour of the new district offices and learning center.
- Invite Metro Blooms to learn about rain gardens and stormwater management.
- Local Water Management Plan
 - Continue to provide feedback to City Staff
- GreenStep Cities
 - Continue to provide recommendations on completing action items.
- Arbor Day and Green Fair
 - Continue to promote the event.
 - Staff the event.
- 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.

3rd Quarter

- Invite the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District to a Conservation Commission meeting. Request a tour of the new district offices.
- Provide recommendations on successor program to the current 20-40-15 program.
- Receive an update from Hennepin County and a presentation from solid waste management haulers in Eden Prairie on organics, composting, yard, household waste and recycling.
 - Provide recommendations on organics collection requirements to City Staff.
- Continue to work on requirements of the GreenStep Cities Program.

- Local Water Management Plan (surface water plan)
 - Hold public meeting
- Water Quality and Water Conservation:
 - Strengthen best management practices and measures for permeable pavers, cement, and asphalt for sidewalks and driveways.
 - Strengthen best management practices and measures for rainwater barrels, rainwater gardens, and green roofs.
 - Receive an update on water rate structure.
 - Brainstorm on ways to expand use of Water Plant Education Center
- Assist with communications efforts

4th Quarter

- Student Representatives
 - Continue to keep the Commission up-to-date on environmental and suitability issues.
- Assist with communications efforts.
- Continue implementing 1st-3rd quarter goals.
- Begin drafting 2016 commission work plan.

Other Activity Ideas:

- Provide recommendations on successor program to the current 20-40-15 program.
- Update on Regional Indicators Initiative—Discuss implementation strategies including communications efforts, education, and next steps.
- Comprehensive Plan-Receive report from staff regarding expectations for commission input on draft plan.
- Continue to implement and monitor the impacts of the Green Mid-Market Neighborhood (Eden Gardens).
 - Monitor and compare water usage of no/low mow lawns in the Eden Gardens project to traditional homes.
 - Monitor and compare utility usage in the Eden Gardens project to traditional homes.
- Provide recommendations on an Active Living Streets Policy.
- Receive an update on the City's water conservation programs and performance including landscape amendments to city owned properties.
- Provide recommendations on city studies related to recycling, water quality, water conservation, environment and sustainability.
- 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 updates on future Lake Monitoring Reports.
- Continue exploring environmental education opportunities.
- Explore collaboration or joint workshop opportunities with other City Commissions.

Presentations and Tour Ideas:

- Fresh Water Society invite/presentation
- Eden Gardens Development
- Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropy—LEED Platinum Building
- GE Eco Experience Center
- Presentation by Best Buy on wind generator.
- Indoor and outdoor air quality presentation from local experts

2015 Event Calendar

January	Review annual report and work plan City Council/Commissions workshop—5:00pm--Tuesday, January 20 st
February	
March	Staff the Chamber of Commerce Home, Landscape & Garden Expo—Saturday, March 21st
April	
May	Staff the Arbor Day and Green Fair
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	Complete 2015 Annual Report and develop 2016 Work Plan