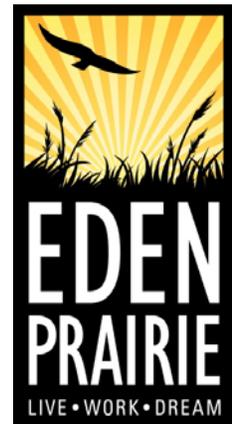




Citizen Advisory Conservation Commission

2015 Annual Report & 2016 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 Tania Mahtani.

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.

2015 Commission Members

Commission members who served in 2015 included:

<i>Commission Member</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Term Expires/Expired</i>
Laura Jester, Vice Chair	4/2007	3/31/2016
Greg Olson, Chair	4/2009	3/31/2016
Prashant Shrikhande	4/2010	3/31/2016
Lori Tritz	4/2014	3/31/2017
Margaret Powell	4/2014	3/31/2017 (resigned)
Gena Gerard	4/2015	3/31/2018
Amanda Anderson	4/2015	3/31/2018

<i>Student Representative</i>	<i>School Year</i>	<i>Term</i>
Ashray Manipalli	2014/2015	Fall 2014/Spring 2015
Sophia Modeas	2014/2015	Fall 2014/Spring 2015
Anthony Polyakov	2014/2015	Fall 2014/Spring 2015
Emily Corpuz	2015/2016	Fall 2015/Spring 2016
Rachel Buckland	2015/2016	Fall 2015/Spring 2016
Jenna Horner	2015/2016	Fall 2015/Spring 2016

2015 Accomplishments

- Provided recommendations to City Staff on the successor program to the City's 20-40-15 program.
- Created an educational water use graphic for display at future commission booths, and other venues such as the City Website and Water Education Center.
- Helped the City achieve "Step 4" in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program. The City was selected as one of four Step 4 Pilot Cities. Eden Prairie achieved this milestone by reporting metrics in the required categories.
- Staffed an education booth at the Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo in March. Provided attendees with education on stormwater runoff and the benefits of water conservation and recycling.
- Staffed an education booth at the City Arbor Day/Green Fair in May. Provided attendees with education on stormwater runoff and the benefits of water conservation and recycling.
- Provided recommendations to the City on public engagement regarding landscape improvements to city owned properties including well houses, a fire station and park property.
- Provided recommendations regarding the Local Water Management Plan update.
- Provided recommendations on the 2017 Education Plan for stormwater as well as recycling and water conservation education.

Commission Engagement

- Explored 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.
- Encouraged residents to sign up for the Wyland Foundation Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation.
- Encouraged City participation in the Earth Hour Challenge sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund.
- Received an update on organics recycling from Hennepin County.
- Received an update from the Girl Scout Troup 17155 on their efforts on monarch butterflies.
- Received an update from Metro Blooms on their gardening and landscape programs.
- Received a tour of the new Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Office and an update on watershed district programs.
- Received an update from the Lower Minnesota Watershed District on projects/initiatives base on their capital improvement plan.
- A commission member participated on the Spirit of Eden Prairie Awards review panel.
- Commission members attended various workshops and information sessions related to the Southwest Light Rail Transit Green Line Extension project.
- Commission members attended the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials Workshop on the Water.
- Commission members attended the Riley-Purgatory- Bluff Creek Watershed District Open House and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Open House.

2016 Goals and Work Plan

1st Quarter

- Review final Local Water Management Plan and evaluate relevant City Ordinance revision requirements.
- Provide recommendations on content for summer Living Green newsletter.
- Provide recommendations on spring workshop content.
- Finalization of 2016 work plan.
- Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo
 - Prepare for commission booth content.
 - Staff a booth at the event.
- Arbor Day and Green Fair
 - Provide recommendations to City Staff on event content.
- Have a joint meeting with the City's Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission to discuss topics including the Green Step Cities Program, Eden Prairie Green Team, the 20-40-15 Successor Program, Deer Management, Recycling and Organics Efforts, Water Conservation, Turf Management Strategies, Buckthorn Removal, Educational Outreach Materials, the Outdoor Center Master Plan, and Pesticide Usage/Neonicotinoids.
- Implementation of the 20-40-15 Successor Program
- Continue development of Educational Outreach materials.
- Develop a communication plan for 2016 (including Living Green Page on the City website, Facebook page, and Life in the Prairie publication).

2nd Quarter

- Arbor Day and Green Fair
 - Prepare for commission booth content.
 - Continue to promote the event to the public.
 - Staff the event.
- Receive a tour of the Water Treatment Plant and Environmental Learning Center and brainstorm ways to expand use of the Center.
- Invite the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District to a Conservation Commission meeting or request a tour of the new district offices.
- Implementation of the 20-40-15 Successor Program.
- Continue development of Educational Outreach materials.

3rd Quarter

- Receive a water resources update (geese management, lake management, clean up, lake monitoring results, etc)
- Citywide Open House
 - Prepare for commission booth content.
- Implementation of the 20-40-15 Successor Program.
- Continue development of Educational Outreach materials.

4th Quarter

- Citywide Open House.
 - Prepare for commission booth content.
 - Staff the event.
- Continue implementing 1st-3rd quarter goals.
- Provide recommendations on the 2017 Education Plan for stormwater as well as recycling and water conservation education.

- Draft 2016 Annual Report and 2017 Work Plan.
- Implementation of the 20-40-15 Successor Program.
- Continue Development of Educational Outreach materials.

Other 2016 Work Plan Items (Timeline not yet assigned):

- Provide recommendations on potential policy to protect bees and pollinators.
- Provide recommendations on the Sustainability chapter of the City's Comprehensive Guide Plan.
- Provide recommendations on the Sustainability section of the City's Design Standards.
- Provide recommendations on potential update to City's Native Plant Ordinance.
- Explore collaboration or joint workshop opportunities with other City Commissions (including Planning Commission).
- Continue to monitor proposed light rail as it relates to environmental impacts.

Potential 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
- Composting Facility tour
- Hennepin Energy Recovery Center or update from County representative
- Hennepin County Energy and Environment Department - grants/resources available to residents and businesses
- Tour of school/other site for tour of Hennepin County grant implementation
- Green Chemistry presentation from experts

2015 Event Calendar

January	Review annual report and work plan City Council/Commissions workshop—5:00pm--Tuesday, January 19th
February	
March	Staff the Chamber of Commerce Home, Landscape & Garden Expo
April	
May	Staff the Arbor Day and Green Fair
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	Staff the Citywide Open House
November	
December	Complete 2016 Annual Report and develop 2017 Work Plan

Appendix- Progress of 2015 Work Plan Goals

2015 Goals and Work Plan

1st Quarter

- Invite the Lower Minnesota Watershed District to a Commission meeting. **Completed**
- Provide recommendations on Stormwater and Erosion Control code amendments. **MPCA requirements completed – watershed district comments ongoing**
- Provide recommendations on water conservation landscaping projects. **Completed- ongoing**
- GreenStep Cities **Completed - ongoing**
 - Continue to provide recommendations on completing action items.
- Arbor Day and Green Fair **Completed - ongoing**
 - Provide recommendations to City Staff on event content.
- Energy Conservation **Ongoing - will be discussed as part of City Design Standards**
 - Continue to promote use of green roofs, solar shingles, solar panels, and wind energy.
- Staff the Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo **Completed- ongoing**
- Student Representatives **Ongoing**
 - Continue to keep the Commission up-to-date on environmental and suitability issues.
- Assist with communications efforts. **Ongoing**

2nd Quarter

- Invite the Nine Mile Watershed District to a Conservation Commission meeting. Request a tour of the new district offices and learning center. **Completed**
- Invite Metro Blooms to learn about rain gardens and stormwater management. **Completed**
- Local Water Management Plan **Completed- ongoing**
 - Continue to provide feedback to City Staff
- GreenStep Cities **Completed- ongoing**
 - Continue to provide recommendations on completing action items.
- Arbor Day and Green Fair **Completed- ongoing**
 - Continue to promote the event.
 - Staff the event.
- Recycling in Parks **Ongoing- will be discussed at March Conservation Commission/Parks and Natural Resources Commission Joint Meeting**
 - 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 **Ongoing**
 - Continue to keep the Commission up-to-date on environmental and suitability issues.
- Assist with communications efforts. **Ongoing**

3rd Quarter

- Invite the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District to a Conservation Commission meeting. Request a tour of the new district offices. **Not Completed- planned for 2016**
- Provide recommendations on successor program to the current 20-40-15 program. **Completed- ongoing**
- 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. **Completed- follow up possible through 20-40-15 Successor Program efforts**
 - Provide recommendations on organics collection requirements to City Staff.
- Continue to work on requirements of the GreenStep Cities Program. **Completed- ongoing**
- Local Water Management Plan (surface water plan) **Completed- ongoing**

- Hold public meeting **Completed as City Council workshop**
- Water Quality and Water Conservation: **Ongoing**
 - 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 **Ongoing**

4th Quarter

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

Other Activity Ideas:

- Provide recommendations on successor program to the current 20-40-15 program. **Completed-ongoing**
- Update on Regional Indicators Initiative—Discuss implementation strategies including communications efforts, education, and next steps. **Ongoing**
- Comprehensive Plan-Receive report from staff regarding expectations for commission input on draft plan. **Not yet completed- planned for 2016**
- Continue to implement and monitor the impacts of the Green Mid-Market Neighborhood (Eden Gardens). **Not yet completed- planned for 2016**
 - 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. **Not Completed- project was grant-based and timeframe to complete task did not correspond to commission schedule.**
- Receive an update on the City's water conservation programs and performance including landscape amendments to city owned properties. **Completed- ongoing**
- Provide recommendations on city studies related to recycling, water quality, water conservation, environment and sustainability. **Ongoing**
- Continue to monitor new development, redevelopment, and proposed light rail as they relate to environmental impacts. **Ongoing**
- Continue communications efforts-website, newsletter, brochures, and educational material. **Ongoing**
- Research disposable bag use throughout the city and develop goals and strategies to encourage reduction of usage by businesses and residents. **Not completed**
- Staff a booth at the City Wide Open House (every other year). **Ongoing**
- Receive updates on future Lake Monitoring Reports. **Ongoing**
- Continue exploring environmental education opportunities. **Ongoing**
- Explore collaboration or joint workshop opportunities with other City Commissions. **Ongoing**

Presentations and Tour Ideas:

- Fresh Water Society invite/presentation **Not completed- planned for future years**
- Eden Gardens Development **Not completed- planned for future years**
- Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropy—LEED Platinum Building **Not completed- planned for future years**
- GE Eco Experience Center **Not completed- planned for future years**
- Presentation by Best Buy on wind generator. **Not completed- planned for future years**

- Indoor and outdoor air quality presentation from local experts **Not completed- planned for future years**