

1. Agenda Packet

Documents:

[2020.11.23 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION PACKET.PDF](#)



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

*Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 provides that a meeting of a public body may be conducted via telephone or other electronic means if meeting in a public location is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or declared emergency. Due to the declared health pandemic, this meeting of the Environmental Commission will be held through electronic means, rather than in-person.*

*You may participate in this meeting by joining the following videoconference or by calling the following telephone number at the scheduled date and time of the meeting:*

1. *Via Videoconference:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85013550552?pwd=SXo1ZFhDOTJLVzY3UjZzNXBaNzhLdz09> **Meeting ID:** 850 1355 0552 **Passcode:** 662453

*(Note: Your computer should have a camera and a microphone. However, if you do not have a microphone and camera, you can still view the meeting on your computer and participate in the conversation via a telephone.*

2. **Via Telephone:** 1-312-626-6799 **Meeting ID:** 850 1355 055 **Passcode:** 662453

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
2. Approve October 26, 2020 Minutes
3. Develop Draft Environmental Commission Work Plan for 2021
  - A. Overview of Faribault's GreenStep Cities Work (that may help inform the work plan) – David Wanberg (No Report)
  - B. Develop Draft Work Plan – Chair Steinkamp and Vice-Chair Behrens (see attached)
4. Routine Business
  - A. Announcements and Updates
    - Recruitment of Environmental Commission Members
    - Announcements and Updates from Commissioners
  - B. Identify Agenda Items for December 28 Meeting
5. Adjourn

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*Please contact the Department of Community and Economic Development at 507-334-0100 if you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting.*



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

*Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 provides that a meeting of a public body may be conducted via telephone or other electronic means if meeting in a public location is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or declared emergency. Due to the declared health pandemic, this meeting of the Environmental Commission held this meeting through electronic means, rather than in-person.*

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call.

Chair, Roger Steinkamp called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Present: Commissioner Ackman, Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Boevers, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold and Chair Steinkamp.

2. Approve September 28, 2020 Minutes.

A motion was made by Behrens and seconded by Ackman to approve the September 28, 2020 meeting minutes as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Commissioner Ackman, Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Boevers, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold and Chair Steinkamp.

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

3. Identify the Intent and Goals of the Environmental Commission

A. Overview of Environmental Commission Resources – David Wanberg

- B. Guest Speaker: Resilient Cities and Communities - Sean Gosiewski, Program Director (no report) – was not able to attend.
- C. Identify the Intent and Goals of the Environmental Commission – Chair Steinkamp (no report).

Chair Steinkamp presented a Power Point and came up with these suggestions as proposed by the members:

- Make a list of recommendations to the council
- Review some the larger picture things and give recommendations to do things better(energy action, MS4, etc. Long range vision)
- Work on policy issues with the city
- Have city reduce chemical use by ½ and get more pollinator plants – have the city come up with plan
- Sustainability and resilience of the community – education, participation of community – community gardens, pollinators, reduction of chemicals, etc.
- Green step support, identify and recruit local groups to work with the city, coordinating efforts with city.
- Water quality and how take care of it. rain garden example, crocket creek?... / get volunteers to help out. Inventory of areas that need work and enlist people.
- Set up project fund through permit to applicators in Faribault that apply chemicals.
- Education activities/ cleanup and find sponsors – need someone to coordinate this
- Contact list of organizations that are potential participants for input to map out a 1 year period. Use the media to get word out.
- Involve schools and young people. Non-voting members on the commission from school
- STEM school
- Scouts / 4H / FFA

It was decided to form a subcommittee consisting of Commissioner Ackman, Commissioner Behrens and Commissioner Nesvold along with David Wanberg keeping in mind the open meeting laws that need to be adhered to.

Chair Steinkamp requested a motion on this and Commissioner Huston moved first to be seconded by Commissioner Ackman.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Commissioner Ackman, Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Boevers, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold and Chair Steinkamp.

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 7/0 vote.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

- Expiration of Terms – Both Boevers and Ackman have commissions expiring on 1/31/2021. If either would like to re-apply, they were reminded to do so soon.
- Announcements and Updates from Commissioners – none.

B. Identify Agenda Items for November 23 Meeting

- Climate adaptation plan review
- Overview of Greenstep Cities Program
- Draft Work Plan

5. Adjournment (majority vote by roll call)

A motion was made by Ackman and seconded by Huston to adjourn.

Aye: Commissioner Ackman, Commissioner Behrens, Commissioner Boevers, Commissioner Diessner, Commissioner Huston, Commissioner Nesvold and Chair Steinkamp.

Nay: None

Motion carried on a 7/0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 28, 2020

By: \_\_\_\_\_

# Work Plan 2021

Faribault Environmental Commission

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## **Faribault Environmental Commission**

Roger Steinkamp (chair)

Dan Behrens (vice chair)

Chuck Ackman

Tom Boevers

Cynthia Diessner

Emily Nesvold

Richard Huston

Administration staff

David Wanberg (City Planner)

Kari Casper (Administrative Asst)

## **Adopted by the Environmental Commission**

date

## **Approved by the Faribault City Council**

date

# **Table of Contents**

Acronyms/definitions .....	2
Executive summary (Intro).....	3
Purpose .....	4
Vision of the Community .....	4
Environmental Reviews .....	4
Plans.....	4
Climate Adaptation Plan .....	4
Natural Resources Plan .....	6
Pollinator Plan.....	6
Faribault Energy Action Plan.....	7
Comprehensive Plan 2040 Update .....	8
GreenStep Cities .....	9
Other plans? .....	10
Recommendations on Environment Related Ordinances.....	10
Natural landscaping .....	10
Tree preservation.....	10
Electric vehicle charging stations.....	10
Complete streets .....	10
Refinements to the wetland ordinance .....	10
Public Awareness and Understanding of Environmental Issues.....	10
Fund for Environment Commission Grants .....	10
Coordinate Earth Day and/or Similar Events .....	11
Annual State Conference of Environmental Commissions .....	11
Demonstration Projects and Community Service .....	11
Website and Facebook page maintenance .....	12
Annex A Values of the Community .....	13
Annex B - Ordinance 2020-3 .....	15
Annex C – Resolution, Pollinator-Friendly Policies .....	17
Annex D – GreenStep 29 Best Practices .....	19
Annex E – Community Environmental Project Grant Fund.....	22

## ***Acronyms/definitions***

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CAP	Climate Adaptation Plan
EAW	Environmental Assessment Worksheet
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEC	Faribault Environmental Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizaton
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TBD	To Be Determined



*Executive summary (Intro)*

## ***Purpose***

The purpose of the environmental commission is to advise the city council on environmental issues and opportunities affecting the city while respecting the city's economic and social environments.

## ***Vision of the Community***

The adopted vision of the community provides an overarching guide to all actions of the Environmental Commission and all other boards and commissions in the city. The adopted vision of the community is as follows:

*Faribault is one of America's best small communities. A place where all people find opportunities to succeed, grow, and prosper. We celebrate our unique strengths in education, business, industry, medical, nature, recreation, leisure, and the arts – and we are proud of our historic downtown and iconic institutions. As a community we embrace the future and plan for positive change through our commitment to innovation and excellence, making Faribault an outstanding place to live, work, grow, invest, and visit.*

The Environmental Commission should consider its actions considering the stated [values of the community](#), found in [Annex A](#).

The purpose, organization, and duties of the Environmental Commission are spelled out in [Ordinance 2020-3](#) found in [Annex B](#).

In establishing the Environmental Commission, the City Council emphasized the following:

- 1. Advisory.** The Environmental Commission should be strictly an advisory commission with no inherent power to adopt ordinances or establish new programs or policies on its own. The City Council shall be the final authority on environmental issues affecting the City.
- 2. Balance the Relationship between Environmental, Economic, and Social Considerations.** The City Council emphasized that the Environmental Commission should consider the economic and social impacts related to environmental policies and practices.

## ***Environmental Reviews***

The FEC will review and comment on EAW or EIS as directed by the City Council.

### ***Need a list of projects***

## ***Plans***

The following plans have a significant environmental component. The Commission will review each plan and forward observations and recommendations to the City Council.

## ***Climate Adaptation Plan***

### ***Background***

A team of consultants from paleBLUeDot and Alliance for Sustainability conducts stakeholder that develop a new Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) for Faribault by

- Reviewing climate challenges
- Defining challenges / opportunities in meeting climate goals
- Establishing a set of climate adaptation action strategies
- Prioritizing strategies

Climate action plans are comprehensive roadmaps that outline the specific Strategies and Actions that a city will implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related climatic impacts.

**Mitigation** – reducing climate change – involves reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

**Adaptation** – developing ways to protect people and places by reducing their vulnerability to climate impacts.

This Faribault plan is to address Adaptation only due to funding guidance.

Mitigation can be developed in a second planning effort.

## **Activities**

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### *Stakeholder working group meetings*

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A series of meetings were held with stakeholders over the summer and fall of 2020. The final meeting occurred December 10, 2020.

### *Consultants Produce Climate Adaptation Report*

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The consultants will produce their report in January – February.

### *Environmental Commission Reviews CAP report*

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## **Products**

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Comments and/or recommendations on CAP report

## **Responsibilities**

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### *Environmental Commission*

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### *Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

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## **Funding**

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Awarded a grant through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to support climate adaptation planning for approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the planning costs

Balance of planning costs are covered by paleBLUeDot and Alliance for Sustainability

## ***Natural Resources Plan***

### ***Background***

The report is a summary of the National Resources Inventory completed for the city of Faribault. The City Council authorized the inventory based on the interest and concern that its residents have for natural resources, parks, and open spaces in the community. The Inventory and Management Plan will guide the City to protect and enhance the health and value of these resources for current and future residents.

The City may use the information included in this plan in several ways.

- Identify and map significant natural resources
- Assist in developing the city's comprehensive plan and land use plan
- Provide resource information for development of the City's "Surface Water Management Plan
- Identify needs for ordinances or policies to protect and enhance natural resources
- Assist the City in working with developers to protect and enhance resources as development occurs
- Identify strategies for management of resources on City-owned lands
- Identify Significant resources that re priorities for acquisition and protection
- Assist the City in working with Rice County and other landowners (such as the Shattuck School and state schools and prison) on natural resources issues

### ***Activities***

Environmental Commission members could review the Plan.

If the City Council is interested in updating this plan at some future date, the Environmental Commission would likely lead this effort.

### ***Products***

TBD

### ***Responsibilities***

*Environmental Commission*

*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

### ***Funding***

TBD

## ***Pollinator Plan***

### ***Background***

Several years ago, the City Council adopted a policy to promote pollinators in the City. Potentially, the Environmental Commission could guide the development of a Plan to Promote Pollinators.

The resolution can be found in [Annex C](#).

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### **Activities**

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### **Products**

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### **Responsibilities**

*Environmental Commission*

*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

GROWS group  
SWCD

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### **Funding**

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## **Faribault Energy Action Plan**

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### **Background**

The energy Action Plan supports the values and strategic priorities outlined in Faribault’s Vision 2040 by proposing cost-effective strategies to conserve energy and resource clean energy.

The Environmental Commission could help guide further implementation of the Plan.

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### **Activities**

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### **Products**

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### **Responsibilities**

*Environmental Commission*

*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

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### **Funding**

## ***Comprehensive Plan 2040 Update***

### ***Background***

The City Council will adopted the Comprehensive Plan Update in 2020. The Environmental Commission can help guide the implementation of the environmental component of the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Vision for Faribault**

Through the Comprehensive Plan, the City seeks to protect, support and enhance the many facets of "place" that is Faribault.

### **Sense of Place**

Faribault is a place unlike any other. Faribault builds on a proud and rich heritage. Faribault exists in a beautiful natural setting defined by river, lakes, woods, hills and farmland. Faribault sits poised on the edge of the Twin Cities- ready to seize the best of this opportunity.

### **Complete Place**

Faribault seeks to be a complete place. Homes, jobs, goods, services, entertainment, culture, education, churches, health care and a variety of other elements all form the mosaic of community. While it is not realistic to expect that everything will be available in Faribault, we will keep looking for ways to grow and improve.

### **Place to call home**

Faribault embodies the qualities of "home town". Faribault builds on a foundation of strong neighborhoods. Faribault neighborhoods foster pride in property and concern about neighbors. People of all ages, incomes, and heritages make Faribault their home. This diversity requires a variety of housing types offering opportunity at all incomes.

### **Place to do business**

Faribault attracts, sustains, and grows quality businesses. Successful businesses provide jobs for Faribault residents. Seeking jobs at all wage levels promotes improves the quality of life. Faribault supports businesses with well-designed and functional commercial districts and industrial parks, available and affordable public utilities, a quality work force, and an excellent transportation system. A strong downtown forms the cornerstone of the business community.

### **Place to play**

Parks reflect the soul of the community. Parks bring us out of our homes to meet, gather and play. Faribault knows the value of play. Through a variety of excellent recreational facilities, we learn important life skills, gather with our friends and build community identity. Trails allow us to move around the community by foot, bike and skate. Nature center and open spaces embrace the beautiful natural setting of Faribault.

### **Place to learn**

Education and Faribault are inseparable. Schools are focal points of community activities. The quality and diversity of the education system attract and keep people. Opportunities for lifelong learning are important elements of community growth. Job training keeps Faribault vital in a constantly changing world.

## A welcoming place

Faribault welcomes the future with open arms. The welcoming spirit of Faribault appears through support of people and services to meet a growing range of needs. Opportunities for community involvement keep people informed and invested in Faribault. The sense of welcoming extends into the physical elements of community. Gateways, corridors and signage invite you in and help you find your way.

### **Activities**

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### **Products**

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### **Responsibilities**

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*Environmental Commission*

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*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

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### **Funding**

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## **GreenStep Cities**

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### **Activities**

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Review and promote implementation of GreenStep Cities actions. Cities that implement a minimum number of best practices organized into these five topical areas will be recognized as Step Two and Step Three GreenStep Cities. The 29 best practices can be found in [Annex D](#).

### **Products**

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### **Responsibilities**

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*Environmental Commission*

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*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

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### **Funding**

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***Other plans?***

***Recommendations on Environment Related Ordinances***

***Natural landscaping***

***Tree preservation***

***Electric vehicle charging stations***

***Complete streets***

***Refinements to the wetland ordinance***

***Public Awareness and Understanding of Environmental Issues***

***Fund for Environment Commission Grants***

Proposal to create a fund to enable the commission to provide grants to community members to initiate and complete projects related to the Environment. Draft of initial proposal is found in [Annex E](#)

***Activities***

***Products***

***Responsibilities***

*Environmental Commission*

*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*



## ***Funding***

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### ***Coordinate Earth Day and/or Similar Events.***

Work with others to organize Earth Day or similar events. Northfield organized a large Earth Day with multiple activities. Organize and promote pollinator and Blue Thumb events.

#### ***Activities***

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#### ***Products***

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#### ***Responsibilities***

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*Environmental Commission*

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*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

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### ***Annual State Conference of Environmental Commissions.***

This is a “free” event that brings people together from across the state to discuss how communities can address environmental issues and opportunities.

#### ***Activities***

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#### ***Products***

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#### ***Responsibilities***

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*Environmental Commission*

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*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

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### ***Demonstration Projects and Community Service***

**Projects.** Work with others to identify and organize demonstration projects like the rain garden at the Faribault Fire Station. This work may also involve awards and recognition ceremonies.

**Activities**

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**Products**

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**Responsibilities**

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*Environmental Commission*

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*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

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**Website and Facebook page maintenance**

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Identify links to resources, etc.

**Activities**

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**Products**

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**Responsibilities**

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*Environmental Commission*

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*Collaborating agencies, NGOs and private individuals*

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## ***Annex A Values of the Community***

The Environmental Commission should consider its actions in light of the stated values of the community, which are as follows:

### ***Sense of Community***

*We value a strong sense of community and belonging. We believe in being a friendly, respectful, safe, inclusive, and welcoming community that celebrates strong connections among all people.*

Faribault will be a community that residents from a wide range of backgrounds, ages and cultures call home. We will strive to provide a friendly, respectful, and inclusive environment that creates a strong sense of unity and togetherness. People will come to Faribault and stay in Faribault.

### ***Sense of Place***

*We value and respect our historic character, iconic institutions, rich traditions, and natural amenities that give Faribault its unique sense of place.*

Faribault will be a community known for its unique and iconic surroundings. In 25 years, we will have continued to cultivate our rich history through preservation of our distinctive buildings, our downtown, our institutions, and cultural traditions. We will also enhance our unique natural amenities to attract and retain our distinctiveness.

### ***Opportunity***

*We value the opportunities that all people have for growth and enrichment in our community, including opportunities for high-quality education, decent jobs, good housing, quality healthcare, and access to nature, leisure, and the arts.*

In 25 years, Faribault will have a diversified economy that provides residents with expanded opportunities to work and to meet their personal, educational, recreational, and cultural needs. A mix of industrial, commercial, and retail redevelopment will provide the tax base needed to support high quality services and amenities.

### ***Innovation***

*We value and encourage creativity, flexibility, and openness to new ideas and positive change in all sectors of our community, including business, industry, education, and government.*

Faribault will be known for its creativity, thought, and leadership in business, education, and government. We will foster a culture where new ideas can flourish, and will regularly demonstrate our innovative spirit through advances in our educational sector, unique new businesses, and our cutting-edge government service.

### ***Excellence***

*We value excellence and strive for it in everything we do. We believe if it is worth doing, it is worth doing to the best of our ability.*

Faribault will be a community known for its commitment to excellence. We will demonstrate in all sectors of our community the attention to detail and quality necessary to achieve great outcomes and a highly livable and thriving community. To review the complete Community 2040 document, visit the following:

<http://www.ci.faribault.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/1553/Community-Vision-2040?bidId=>



## **Annex B - Ordinance 2020-3 Environmental Commission**

### **Purpose, Organization, and Duties of the Environmental Commission**

On February 25, 2020, the City Council approved **Ordinance 2020-3**, which established the Environmental Commission as well as the purpose, organization, and duties of the Environmental Commission. Chapter 9 of the Faribault City Code of Ordinances reads as follows:

#### *Environmental Commission*

*Sec. 9-1. – **Established.** There is hereby established an environmental commission of the city.*

*Sec. 9-2. – **Purpose.** The purpose of the environmental commission is to advise the city council on environmental issues and opportunities affecting the city while respecting the city's economic and social environments.*

#### *Sec. 9-3 – **Organization.***

- a) **Appointment and residency.** The environmental commission shall consist of seven (7) voting members, all of whom the city council shall appoint by resolution. At least five (5) members shall be residents of the City of Faribault. Up to two (2) members may be residents of a bordering township.*
- b) **Terms of office.** All members of the environmental commission shall have terms of three (3) years expiring on January 31, except, of those members appointed in 2020, two (2) shall have an initial appointment of one (1) year, two (2) shall have an initial appointment of two (2) years, and three (3) shall have an initial appointment of three (3) years.*
- c) **Oath of office.** Every appointed member of the environmental commission shall, before entering upon the discharge of his or her duties, take an oath that he or she will faithfully discharge the duties of the office.*
- d) **Chair and vice chair.** The environmental commission shall elect a chair and vice chair among its appointed members for a term of one (1) year.*
- e) **Removal.** The city council may remove any member of the environmental commission by a majority vote of the city council.*
- f) **Vacancies.** Any vacancy on the environmental commission during a term of office shall be filled by the city council for the unexpired portion of the term.*
- g) **Compensation.** The members of the environmental commission shall serve without compensation.*

#### *Sec. 9-4 – **Meetings.***

- a) **Schedule.** The environmental commission shall meet at such intervals as its business may reasonably require.*
- b) **Quorum.** Four (4) members of the environmental commission shall constitute a quorum.*
- c) **Record of proceedings.** The environmental commission shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings, which shall be a public record.*

#### *Sec. 9-5 – **Advisory duties.***

*The environmental commission shall create, for city council review, an annual work plan outlining planned projects and tasks for the year. **General duties of the environmental commission** include the following:*

- a) **Environmental review.** Review and provide recommendations on projects that involve an environmental assessment worksheet or an environmental impact statement.*
- b) **Creation of plans.** In consultation with the city council, participate in the development of city plans that have a significant environmental component, such as a natural resource protection plan, an energy plan, or a climate action plan. Make recommendations to the city council on the adoption and updating of said plans.*

- c) ***Other duties** as directed by the city council. Advise the city council on other environmental matters as directed by the city council. Such other duties may include making recommendations on environmental ordinances and promoting public awareness and understanding of environmental matters affecting the city.*

In establishing the Environmental Commission, the City Council emphasized the following:

**3. Advisory.**

The **Environmental Commission should be strictly and advisory commission** with no inherent power to adopt ordinances or establish new programs or policies on its own. The City Council shall be the final authority on environmental issues affecting the City.

**4. Balance the Relationship between Environmental, Economic, and Social Considerations.**

The City Council emphasized that the Environmental Commission should consider the economic and social impacts related to environmental policies and practices.

**Annex C – Resolution, Pollinator-Friendly Policies**

*State of Minnesota County of Rice*

**CITY OF FARIBAULT**

**RESOLUTION 2017-262**

**APPROVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN  
VEGETATION ON CITY PROPERTY IN A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE MANNER  
THAT CONSIDERS THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE, PLANTS, AND POLLINATORS**

**WHEREAS**, major industries in the City of Faribault are dependent on Minnesota's agricultural economy and contribute to the success of Minnesota's agricultural economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Faribault values its parks and open spaces, which contribute to Faribault's quality of life and to Faribault's tourism economy; and

**WHEREAS**, pollinators (including, but not limited to, bees and butterflies) are critical to the health of the plants that support our agricultural and tourism economies; and

**WHEREAS**, pollinators have been in decline in Minnesota and across the country due to a variety of pressures including habitat loss, pesticides, diseases, and parasites; and

**WHEREAS**, a Special Registration Review conducted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture found sufficient scientific evidence that neonicotinoid pesticides present toxicity concerns for honey bees, native bees, and other pollinating insects; and

**WHEREAS**, the pollinator decline could threaten our nation's, state's, and local agricultural economy and the health of our environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota's Governor signed Executive Order 16-07, Directing Steps to Reverse Pollinator Decline and Restore Pollinator Health in Minnesota; and

Resolution 2017-262

**WHEREAS**, roughly 30 Minnesota cities have recently adopted resolutions that endorse policies and practices to reverse pollinator decline and restore pollinator health in their cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Faribault wishes to acknowledge and strengthen its current policies and practices as they relate to the health of pollinators, which in turn relate to the health of our economy and people,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The City of Faribault shall continue its efforts to provide and maintain vegetation on City property in a fiscally responsible manner that considers the health of people, plants, and pollinators.
2. The City of Faribault shall continue to provide pertinent City Staff with current integrated pest management training. Where the City deems it necessary to use pesticides, the City will direct its staff and contractors to use pesticides in a manner that minimizes potential adverse impacts on people and pollinators.
3. Where practicable on City property, the City and its contractors shall refrain from, or limit, the use of systemic pesticides, such as neonicotinoids, that may negatively affect pollinators.
4. The City of Faribault shall undertake its best efforts to purchase and plant vegetation on City property favorable to pollinators. In particular, the City shall strive to purchase native plants grown in the region that have not been genetically engineered to have herbicides or pesticides in their DNA.
5. Where practicable and desirable, the City should strive to convert actively managed non-native or degraded landscaped areas to native habitats that include pollinator-friendly plants. Continue to provide pollinator-friendly areas (like those at the Fire Station and the Library) in the city that can help educate the public about pollinator-friendly practices.
6. The City shall continue to make available to City residents and property owners information on the importance and benefits of creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitats.
7. Where appropriate and practicable, incorporate pollinator-friendly plants into the landscapes of City property. Also, where appropriate and practicable, encourage private property owners and others to incorporate pollinator-friendly plants into their landscapes.

Date Adopted: December 12, 2017  
Faribault City Council



# The GreenStep 29 best practices

Cities that implement a minimum number of best practices organized into these five topical areas will be recognized as Step Two and Step Three GreenStep Cities.

Cities should claim credit for best practices already implemented. Adding best practices over time will garner additional recognition.

For each best practice, and depending on city category (A, B or C), a city needs to complete one or more actions from a list associated with the best practice.

## **Buildings and Lighting**

### 1. [Efficient Existing Public Buildings](#)

Benchmark energy and water usage, identify savings opportunities in consultation with state programs, utilities and others to implement cost-effective energy and sustainability improvements.

### 2. [Efficient Existing Private Buildings](#)

Provide incentives for energy, water and sustainability improvements in existing residential, not-for-profit and commercial buildings/building sites.

### 3. [New Green Buildings](#)

Construct new buildings to meet or qualify under a green building framework.

### 4. [Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals](#)

Improve the efficiency and quality of street lighting, traffic signals and outdoor public lighting.

### 5. [Building Redevelopment](#)

Create economic and regulatory incentives for redevelopment and repurposing of existing buildings.

## **Land Use**

### 6. [Comprehensive, Climate and Energy Plans](#)

Build public support and legal validity to long-term infrastructural and regulatory strategy.

### 7. [Resilient City Growth](#)

Increase financial and environmental sustainability by enabling and encouraging walkable housing and retail land use.

### 8. [Mixed Uses](#)

Develop efficient land patterns that generate community health and wealth.

### 9. [Efficient Highway- and Auto-Oriented Development](#)

Adopt commercial development and design standards for auto-oriented development corridors and clusters.

### 10. [Design for Natural Resource Conservation](#)

Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems and valued community assets.

## **Transportation**

### 11. [Living Streets](#)

Create a network of green complete streets that improves city quality of life, public health, and adds value to surrounding properties.

### 12. [Mobility Options](#)

Increase active transportation and alternatives to single-occupancy car travel.

### 13. [Efficient City Fleets](#)

Implement a city fleet investment, operations and maintenance plan.

### 14. [Demand-Side Travel Planning](#)

Implement Travel Demand Management and Transit-Oriented Design in service of a more walkable city.

## **Environmental Management**

### 15. [Sustainable Purchasing](#)

Adopt environmentally preferable purchasing policies and practices to improve health and environmental outcomes.

### 16. [Community Forests and Soils](#)

Add city tree and plant cover that conserves topsoils and increases community health, wealth, quality of life.

### 17. [Stormwater Management](#)

Minimize the volume of and pollutants in rainwater runoff by maximizing green infrastructure.

### 18. [Parks and Trails](#)

Increase active lifestyles and property values by enhancing the city's green infrastructure.

### 19. [Surface Water](#)

Improve local water bodies to sustain their long-term ecological function and community benefits.

### 20. [Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems](#)

Assess and improve city drinking water and wastewater systems and related facilities.

### 21. [Septic Systems](#)

Implement an environmentally sound management program for decentralized wastewater treatment systems.

### 22. [Sustainable Consumption and Waste](#)

Increase waste prevention, reuse and recycling, moving to a lower-consumption, more cyclical, biological approach to materials management.

### 23. [Local Air Quality](#)

Prevent generation of local air contaminants so as to improve community health.

## **Resilient Economic and Community Development**

#### 24. [Benchmarks and Community Engagement](#)

Adopt outcome measures for GreenStep and other city sustainability efforts, and engage community members in ongoing education, dialogue, and campaigns.

#### 25. [Green Business Development](#)

Expand a greener, more resilient business sector.

#### 26. [Renewable Energy](#)

Remove barriers to and encourage installation of renewable energy generation capacity.

#### 27. [Local Food](#)

Strengthen local food and fiber production and access.

#### 28. [Business Synergies and EcoDistricts](#)

Network/cluster businesses and design neighborhoods and developments to achieve better energy, social, economic and environmental outcomes in service of a more circular and equitable economy.

#### 29. [Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience](#)

Plan and prepare for extreme weather, adapt to changing climatic conditions, and foster stronger community connectedness and social and economic vitality.

## ***Annex E – Community Environmental Project Grant Fund***

### **Proposal: Version 1 to be continued...**

To create a fund for the Environment Commission, which would enable us to provide grants to community members to initiate and complete projects related to the environment

### **Objective: To create a “greener” Faribault**

In this case, by “greener” is meant improvements to the physical and social environment, including air, water, land, and community unity.

This is not limited to planting trees and habitat, but could also include solar and wind power and other environmental–friendly projects.

### **Funding could be generated from one or more of these potential sources:**

#### **1 Money could be requested from the City Budget**

**2 Matching funds from the City of Faribault.** For example: a reduction in chemical usage for spraying by the city for city properties would result in cost savings that could be redirected in part to fund this commission. This is not an attempt to cause the city more expense and would be a break-even situation for the city.

**3 Require paid permits for every lawn that is professionally treated with lawn chemicals,** thus simultaneously assisting water, pets, and children. How this could be done: Permits would be provided for property owner by chemical-applying company.

Prior to the start of the application season, a representative of each application company would come to City Hall, tell an estimated number of applications they project for the season, and pick up a booklet of permits for that quantity.

These permits would be picked up at city hall prior to application.

These permits will be given initially to the company at no charge, with the full amount payable by the company to city hall and with credit being given for any unused permits that are returned.

Applicators will make payments to the city at the end of each month, or more often if convenient.

If an applicator runs out of permits, they will come to city hall to request an additional number of permits.

Applicators will be required to put up signs on lawns when they have been treated. This is also a warning for pets and children.

Permits would be attached to this signage with the date and address written on the permit.

Permits are only good for the one current application.

The homeowner will pay the cost of this permit, not the applicator, who will add the price of the permit onto the homeowner’s bill.

Permits would have a \$5.00 value each.

For each yard treatment with a cost less than \$100, one permit of \$5.00 would be required.

For treatment with a cost between \$100 and \$200, two permits would be required, and so on.

Thus, those people using more chemicals would be paying more, commensurate with their usage.

Yards treated by professional applicators using organic means do not need permits.

**QUESTION.** Do application companies have to be registered with the city or county – chemical application license?

How many licensers are there?

What is the average cost of application?

How many times per year?  
This will help us determine the cost per permit.

#### **4 Community flower and vegetable gardening space.**

This is primarily directed to residents who live in apartment buildings, rather than to homeowners with yards. We would also encourage apartment complexes to provide space, if available, for a similar effort for their residents.

##### **How this might be implemented:**

The City would make available space not currently used throughout the city  
Prior to the growing season, the city would rototill the total space and install some type of string fencing marking the different 10'x 10' areas within each total garden space.

Fence companies could be enlisted to install a fence around the total perimeter to keep out deer. The sponsoring company would have signage recognizing their contribution.

Residents would be offered the option to "rent" a 10'x 10' space for the summer season for \$25.00  
Gardening would be done without the use of herbicides and pesticides (organic).  
A meeting or brochure could be written to help "renters" to understand how to do this.  
Renters provide their own plants and supplies/equipment, e.g. tomato cages.  
No illegal plants e.g. marijuana

At the end of the season, the resident is responsible for clearing the growth and placing it into a compost pile on the site. The following season, this compost will be spread over the entire area and rototilled into the soil.

**QUESTION** water provided or bring your own.

#### **5 Other revenue producing ideas...**

## **Potential uses of the funds generated**

### **1 Grants awarded to residents or organizations for those projects related to criteria below**

We want to encourage everyone who is attempting to do anything for the preservation and the benefit of the environment

We would like to encourage all projects, but we understand that we will be limited by funds available, and able to fund only a more limited number of projects.

If grant requests are greater than funds available, the commission would prioritize the projects to be funded based on --- **TO BE DETERMINED.**

A project may be denied for grant funding at a given time but can be re-submitted with additional details or when additional funds become available.

##### **Grant Funding would be awarded based on:**

Projects would be environmentally enhancing requests brought to the commission for consideration and would be judged on various criteria including:

1. Impact and benefit to the environment
2. Amount of community involvement
3. How well the project is planned and presented
4. Timeliness
5. Cost
6. Purchase materials from a local store, rather than online or out-of-town
7. And other criteria...

**Examples of Projects might include a** plant giveaway with emphasis on native plants and pollinators or Habitat-restoration projects.

**2 Create matching funds to support city efforts**, e.g. if the city is award grant funding for solar panels for government buildings and needs matching funds

**3 Cover the costs of an Earth Day Celebration** or other activity fair, such as a booth at the Rice County Fair

**4 Environmental education speakers/displays for city-wide events and for the schools**

**5 Work with Xcel energy** on energy saving items give-away (e.g. LED light bulbs)

**6 MORE...**

NOTE: Funds should be spent at local businesses if possible.

**WHAT OTHER QUESTIONS AND RESEARCH DO WE NEED TO DO?**

1 Ask Dave if a permit is required for lawn chemical application. Get list of companies from DAVE --

2 How do community gardens work in other communities?