

Natural Resources Advisory Group
12.04.2024 Agenda
3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

Present:

I Welcome to Cindy Wright- new member of NRAG

II. Approval of Minutes from 10/16/2024

III. Old Business

A. Review of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant project -update

1. Public outreach Stoney Point forestry mowing project -Houston
County News after Applefest -status

B. All trails discussion -Review Trail Maintenance Guidelines and planning
for next year

C. SHIP grant park entrance signs status (should this be on the agenda
every time?)

E. Prairie Restoration signage (next to pedestrian bridge?)

F Tree Ordinance status

G. CPL Grant Forestry Mowing Update

H. Other

III. New Business

IV. Next Meeting

Natural Resource Advisory Group
10.16.2024 Minutes
3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

Present: Mary Gegen, Betsy Knowles, Marge Loch-Wouters, Jason Ludwigson, Bill Waller

Guest: Erik Thomsen (Ku-Le Region Forestry)

I. Minutes from 8/28/2024 - Approved

II. Old Business

- A. Review of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant (Forest Habitat Restoration) and update with Erik Thomsen. Discussed all aspects of the project and timing for the work. Work is likely to begin early to mid-November, and mulching will take about a week. Boundaries need to be marked with orange or pink tape, with double marks on corners. Likewise all trees to save should be flagged and a guideline of species to preserve should be provided to Erik. Discussed need for closing entry when targeted application of herbicide is done in the spring and summer.
- B. Trail Maintenance Guidelines and planning for next year. Discussion of the draft is planned for the next meeting.
- C. Dog park Status. The dog park is in use. There is still landscaping to complete in the spring, and a dedication will be planned.
- D. SHIP grant park entrance signs. No update.
- E. Prairie Restoration signs and seeding. Prairie seeding is close to completion. There will be a showy mix next to the pedestrian bridge. We should consider if signage is adequate. Mary has been collecting seed to supplement the purchased seed.
- F. Tree Ordinance. This is nearing completion.

III. New Business

- A. Introduction of Green Corp member. Mary Gegen will work with the City on storm water and forestry projects through August 2025. In her first month Mary has been working on prairie seeding, signage, and tree steward work. In addition, she has developed a detailed boulevard tree species spreadsheet using information from the Minnesota Local Road Research

Board, and developed a spreadsheet for the Tree Stewards to use to better log pruning activity.

- B. Boulevard Tree Care flier. Mary has designed a door hanger with tree care information for residents that receive a boulevard tree.
- C. Possible future projects for CPL Expedited Funding. Though additional funding is available, the City is currently managing enough projects that future applications may wait.
- D. Other. Identified erosion issues in Stoney and Vetsch that might be appropriate to address through an Eagle Scout project.

IV. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 3:15 pm

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Knowles

Trail Maintenance Guidelines - La Crescent Woodland Parks

10/14/24 Draft

Defining Trail Maintenance: "Trail Maintenance" includes the following activities:

1. Clearing fallen trees off trails
2. Maintaining trail width (addressing encroachment) and improving sight lines
3. Mitigating erosion
4. Controlling Invasive species
5. Maintaining overlooks and goat/dry prairies
6. Developing and maintaining signage

Responsibility, Process, Timeline and Guidelines by Task

1) Clearing fallen trees off trails:

City maintenance crew.

Process: Anyone can report a downed tree/dangerously leaning tree impacting trail use in bluffland parks directly to city administrator Bill Waller (preferably with GPS location or map). Call 507 895-4668 or email him at bwaller@cityoflacscent-mn.gov to report blocked trails.

Timeline: Work is on-going, however a walk-through to identify hazardous trees is recommended in July.

2) Maintaining trail width and improving sight lines:

City led volunteers, NRAG

Process: Needs are identified by NRAG members based on bi-weekly evaluation of conditions from March - November, as well as citizen concerns. NRAG will guide maintenance in a way that preserves the resource for all users, and in accordance with the Parks Plan. Trail work will be done by crews of volunteers under the supervision of city staff. All volunteers must have a waiver on file with the City, completed annually.

Timeline: Weed-whipping and trimming to address encroachment is ideally completed mid July. A fall evaluation of persistent brush is completed before the snow flies.

Guidelines: The trail tread path is 18 inches, but weed whipping can clear vegetation for up to approximately 2 feet on either side of the tread path. This also guides the width for trimming overhanging brush. A height clearance of approximately 9 feet should be maintained.

3) Mitigating erosion:

City led volunteers, NRAG

Process: Needs are identified by NRAG members

Timeline: As needed

4) Controlling Invasive Species:

City led volunteers, NRAG

Process: Needs are identified by NRAG members and City

Timeline: Garlic mustard removal occurs in April and early May. Buckthorn removal occurs in November - February

5) Maintaining overlooks and goat prairies

City led volunteers, NRAG

Process: Projects are identified by NRAG which are reflective of the Group's Council approved work plan.

6) Developing and maintaining signage

City and NRAG