



CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA

April 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Mendota Heights City Hall, 1101 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Call to Order**
- 3. Discussion**
 - a. Recycling and Sustainability Update
 - b. Preliminary 2027 Budget Recommendations
 - c. Shoreland Management Ordinance Draft
 - d. Paperless Meetings Discussion
- 4. Committee Reports**
- 5. Adjourn**

Next Meeting

May 13th, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

Information is available in alternative formats or with the use of auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities upon request by calling city hall at 651-452-1850 or by emailing cityhall@mendotaheightsmn.gov.



Natural Resources Work Session Memo

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2026
TO: The Natural Resources Commission
FROM: Krista Spreiter, Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: Recycling and Sustainability Update

ACTION REQUEST:

Information only.

BACKGROUND:

Courtney Selstad, the Recycling and Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Mendota Heights will give an update on the city's recycling program, sustainability efforts within the city, and the GreenSteps program.

Currently, the city is at Step 3 in the GreenSteps program. The Minnesota GreenStep Cities & Tribal Nations program is a voluntary recognition program with five steps, or levels of recognition. The program provides assistance and recognition to help communities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. This free continuous improvement program, managed by a public-private partnership, is based on a menu of 29 optional best practices. Each best practice can be implemented, as decided by elected officials, staff and community members, by completing one or more actions at a 1, 2, or 3-star level, from a list of over 180 actions. These voluntary actions are tailored to Minnesota, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage civic innovation.

There are five areas in which the 29 best practices are categorized:

- Buildings and Lighting
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Environmental Management
- Resilient Economic and Community Development

ATTACHMENTS:

None



Natural Resources Work Session Memo

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2026
TO: The Natural Resources Commission
FROM: Krista Spreiter, Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: Preliminary 2027 Budget Recommendations

ACTION REQUEST:

Discussion only.

BACKGROUND:

Staff and the Commission will review the existing 2026 Natural Resources budget. The Commission should consider what items from the existing budget should remain, as well as items that should be adjusted or eliminated. Staff and the Commission will also review the goals and priorities set forth in the Natural Resources Management Plan, and the Commission's current work plan. The Commission may then discuss recommendations to bring to the City Council for the 2027 calendar year. Recommendations may consist of funding for goals, priorities, tasks, programs, or projects that the Commission would like the City Council to incorporate into the City Budget for 2027. Available resources, timeline, feasibility, and value of each identified item should be considered. Recommendations brought forth should reflect the City's goals, needs, priorities, and funding mechanisms.

ATTACHMENTS:


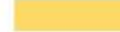
1. 2026 BUDGET
2. PRIORITY PROJECTS_Budget_5 YR Phasing_NRMP

	DESCRIPTION	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET
	VALLEY PARK POLLINATOR CORRIDOR (XCEL)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
	VALLEY PARK FOREST ENHANCEMENT - SOUTH-CENTRAL	\$11,183.00	\$2,580.00
	VALLEY PARK - E FOREST ENHANCEMENT	\$12,252.00	\$1,220.00
	ROGERS LAKE SAVANNA/FOREST AND SHORELINE ENHACEMENT	\$34,518.00	\$18,040.00
	COPPERFIELD PONDS ISTHMUS ENHANCEMENT		\$25,870.00
	FRIENDLY MARSH TURF-TO-PRAIRIE		\$4,400.00
	NATURAL RESOURCE MAINTENANCE	\$37,670.00	\$40,500.00
	OHEYAWAHE/PILOT KNOB RESTORATION	\$15,600.00	\$16,000.00
	TREE SALE	\$10,000.00	\$10,250.00
	TREE CANOPY PROGRAM	\$27,000.00	\$27,600.00
	TREE REMOVAL	\$100,000.00	\$110,000.00
	TREE PLANTING	\$10,000.00	\$10,250.00
	TREE CARE (PRUNING, WATERING, DISEASE PREVENTION, ETC.)	\$52,000.00	\$53,300.00
	CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIANCY PLAN (GRANT MATCH)		\$5,000.00
	LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE DEVELOPMENT (CONSULTANT)		\$7,000.00
	TOTALS	\$325,223.00	\$347,010.00

Table 24. Five-Year Phasing of Mendota Heights Priority Projects

**Mendota Heights Natural Resources Management Plan
Prioritization, Phasing & Opinions of Probable Cost**

Scenario: All in-progress ("Other") restoration projects maintained; initiate all NRMP Priority Projects in first 5 yrs; 2% annual inflation

 = Initial Restoration & Short-Term Management
 = Long-Term Management (avg. \$300/ac/yr)
 (avg. long-term management costs typically decrease after ~3 years)

Prioritized Projects	Natural Area Investments (ac)	Initial Resto & Short-Term Mgmt Costs	Year					Total Cost
			2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Other Restoration Projects								
Valley Park Pollinator Corridor (Xcel)	8.3	\$ 32,751	\$ 20,044	\$ 13,630	\$ 2,639	\$ 2,692	\$ 2,746	\$ 41,750
Valley Park Forest Enhancement - North (CPL, CCIM & Xcel)	14.3	\$ 51,552		\$ 32,181	\$ 21,883	\$ 4,650	\$ 4,743	\$ 63,457
Valley Park Forest Enhancement - South-Central (GRG)	7.8	\$ 27,900		\$ 17,416	\$ 11,843	\$ 2,517	\$ 2,567	\$ 34,343
NRMP Priority Projects								
Valley Park - NW Forest Enhancement	8.0	\$ 64,053	\$ 39,200	\$ 19,992	\$ 6,797	\$ 2,599	\$ 2,651	\$ 71,241
Valley Park - E Forest Enhancement	3.7	\$ 24,922	\$ 15,252	\$ 7,779	\$ 2,645	\$ 1,190	\$ 1,213	\$ 28,078
Valley Park - S Oak/Aspen Knoll Enhancement	1.5	\$ 11,087	\$ 6,785	\$ 3,460	\$ 1,177	\$ 497	\$ 507	\$ 12,425
Rogers Lake - W Savanna/Forest & N Shoreline Enhancement	7.9	\$ 54,211			\$ 34,518	\$ 17,604	\$ 23,941	\$ 76,063
Copperfield Ponds - Isthmus Enhancement	5.3	\$ 39,640				\$ 25,240	\$ 17,506	\$ 42,746
Wentworth Park - Forest Enh., Aquatic Buffer & Turf-to-Prairie	2.2	\$ 15,458				\$ 9,843	\$ 6,827	\$ 16,669
Hagstrom King Park - Oak Woodland Enhancement	0.6	\$ 6,029				\$ 3,839	\$ 2,662	\$ 6,501
Friendly Marsh - Turf-to-Prairie	1.3	\$ 6,732				\$ 4,286	\$ 2,973	\$ 7,260
Totals	60.8	\$ 334,335	\$ 81,282	\$ 94,458	\$ 81,501	\$ 74,955	\$ 68,337	\$ 400,534



Natural Resources Work Session Memo

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2026
TO: The Natural Resources Commission
FROM: Krista Spreiter, Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: Shoreland Management Ordinance Draft

ACTION REQUEST:

Discussion only.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission should continue to discuss the draft of the Shoreland Management Ordinance for recommendation of approval by City Council. The Shoreland Management Ordinance, if adopted, would be included in Title 15. Environmental Standards, of the Mendota Heights City Code. A shoreland ordinance would help to protect natural water bodies within the city that are not already protected under current city code. The Goal 1 Committee along with the Commission as a whole discussed the draft at the March work session resulting in edits, additions, and comments provided on the recommended example ordinance created by the DNR. Updates include:

- The general opinion of the Commission was to not include lot size requirements and instead focus on standards such as increasing buffer areas.
- The general opinion of the Commission was to not include structure height requirements and instead focus on other standards.
- The Commission agreed to reference or follow terminology used in the existing Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area (MRCCA) requirements regarding intensive vegetation clearing.
- In regards to vegetation clearing, the general consensus of the commission was to adopt stricter standards than those included in the model ordinance (up to 50 feet or 1/3 of shoreline; whichever is less); but allow for flexibility for up to the model ordinance standard in exchange for creating a larger buffer area. The Commission also agreed to allow removal of invasive species with the approval of a native restoration plan.
- The general consensus of the commission is to explore implementation flexibility standards, allowing up to 35% impervious in exchange for 1:1 buffer creation.
- A general consensus was reached to include Valley Creek in a future tributary buffer ordinance as with other creeks/tributaries within the city.

Items for discussion include:

- The topic was brought to the Goal 1 committee to propose to the DNR some way to measure a setback for Lake Augusta that is more practical for the city to implement. If a practical way to measure can be identified, is there a need to increase the setbacks any further than the model ordinance?
- The Goal 1 committee is asking for feedback and discussion around the 10.5 Density Determination section.

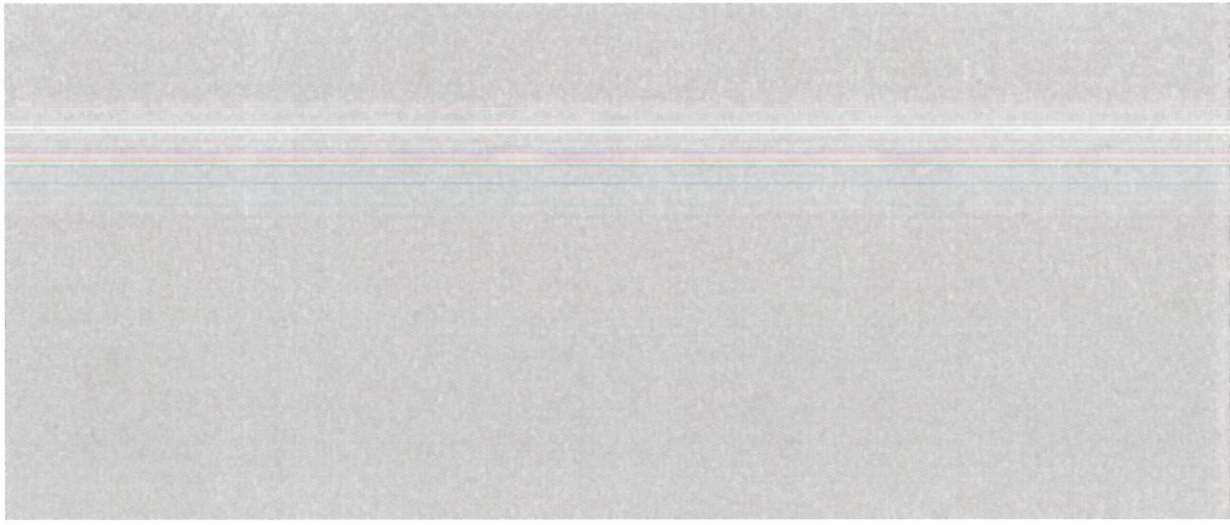
ATTACHMENTS:

1. Section 10.5 Density Determination

Ordinance Language	Commentary in Public Version of Model												
<p>10.4 Application for a PUD. The applicant for a PUD must submit the following documents prior to final action on the application request:</p> <p>10.41 Site plan and/or plat showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Locations of property boundaries; B. Surface water features; C. Existing and proposed structures and other facilities; D. Land alterations; E. Sewage treatment and water supply systems (where public systems will not be provided); F. Topographic contours at ten-foot intervals or less; and G. Identification of buildings and portions of the project that are residential, commercial, or a combination of the two (if project combines commercial and residential elements). <p>10.42 A property owner's association agreement (for residential PUD's) with mandatory membership, and consistent with Section 10.6 of this ordinance.</p> <p>10.43 Deed restrictions, covenants, permanent easements or other instruments that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Address future vegetative and topographic alterations, construction of additional buildings, beaching of waterfront, and construction of commercial buildings in residential PUDs; and B. Ensure the long-term preservation and maintenance of open space in accordance with the criteria and analysis specified in Section 10.6 of this ordinance. <p>10.44 A master plan/site plan describing the project and showing floor plans for all commercial structures.</p> <p>10.45 Additional documents necessary to explain how the PUD will be designed and will function.</p> <p>10.5 Density Determination. Proposed new or expansions to existing planned unit developments must be evaluated using the following procedures:</p> <p>10.51 Step 1. Identify Density Analysis Tiers. Divide the project parcel into tiers by drawing one or more lines parallel to the ordinary high water level at the following intervals, proceeding landward:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1161 982 1299 1417"> <thead> <tr> <th>Waterbody Classification</th> <th>No Sewer (ft)</th> <th>Sewer (ft)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Development Lakes – 1st tier</td> <td>200</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Development Lakes – all other tiers</td> <td>267</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recreational Development Lakes</td> <td>267</td> <td>267</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Waterbody Classification	No Sewer (ft)	Sewer (ft)	General Development Lakes – 1st tier	200	200	General Development Lakes – all other tiers	267	200	Recreational Development Lakes	267	267	<p>10.5. Determining and evaluating proposed project density may be complex depending on the project. Please review the Residential PUD Guidance Document for determining density and/or contact your Area Hydrologist for assistance.</p> <p>10.52. Optional. Road rights-of-way or easements are not developable and should thus not be included in area considered suitable for development on which allowable density is calculated.</p> <p>10.53.A. For LGUs that have specified a minimum lot area for river lots, the process for determining base density for lakes and rivers will be the same – tier area divided by lot area. Note that tier width is the same thing as the river frontage along a given parcel.</p>
Waterbody Classification	No Sewer (ft)	Sewer (ft)											
General Development Lakes – 1st tier	200	200											
General Development Lakes – all other tiers	267	200											
Recreational Development Lakes	267	267											

Commented [WS37]: Recommend discussing this one with DNR. If setback, buffer, impervious, and other requirements are met, what does it matter what type of housing it is?

37Revised 4/28/2022



Ordinance Language		Commentary in Public Version of Model	
Natural Environment Lakes	400	320	
All Rivers	300	300	
<p>10.52 <u>Step 2. Calculate Suitable Area for Development.</u> Calculate the suitable area within each tier by excluding all road rights-of way or easements, wetlands, bluffs, or land below the ordinary high water level of public waters.</p> <p>10.53 <u>Step 3. Determine Base Density:</u></p> <p>A. For residential PUDs, divide the suitable area within each tier by the minimum single residential lot area for lakes to determine the allowable number of dwelling units, or base density, for each tier. For rivers, if a minimum lot area is not specified, divide the tier width or river frontage by the minimum single residential lot width.</p> <p>B. For commercial PUDs:</p> <p>(1) Determine the average area for each dwelling unit or dwelling site within each tier. Include both existing and proposed dwelling units and sites in the calculation.</p> <p>(a) For dwelling units, determine the average inside living floor area of dwelling units in each tier. Do not include decks, patios, garages, or porches and basements, unless they are habitable space.</p> <p>(b) For dwelling sites (campgrounds), determine the area of each dwelling site as follows: For manufactured homes, use the area of the manufactured home, if known, otherwise use 1,000 sf. For recreational vehicles, campers or tents, use 400 sf.</p> <p>(2) Select the appropriate floor area/dwelling site area ratio from the following table for the floor area or dwelling site area determined in Section 10.53 B. 1.</p>			

38Revised 4/28/2022

Ordinance Language	Commentary in Public Version of Model			
	General Development Lakes w/ Sewer - all tiers	General Development Lakes w/ no sewer - 1 st tier	General Development Lakes other tiers	Natural Environment Lakes Remote Rivers
Inside Living Floor Area or Dwelling Site Area (sf)				
≤ 200	.040		.020	.010
300	.048		.024	.012
400	.056		.028	.014
500	.065		.032	.016
600	.072		.038	.019
700	.082		.042	.021
800	.091		.046	.023
900	.099		.050	.025
1,000	.108		.054	.027
1,100	.116		.058	.029
1,200	.125		.064	.032
1,300	.133		.068	.034
1,400	.142		.072	.036
≥ 1,500	.150		.075	.038

10.54. This provision allows very high densities leading to overcrowding of surface waters and increases the risk to phosphorus sensitive lakes and sensitive shoreline areas. Even without this density bonus provision, the Shoreland PUD allows for significantly greater density over standard lot and block subdivisions due to design flexibility of not requiring a minimum lot size. Local governments concerned about overuse of surface waters, degradation of water quality, compatibility with adjacent development, and overall community character should omit or reduce this density bonus provision.

(3) Multiply the suitable area within each tier determined in Section 10.52 by the floor area or dwelling site area ratio to yield the total floor area or dwelling site area for each tier to be used for dwelling units or dwelling sites.

(4) Divide the total floor area or dwelling site area for each tier calculated in Section 10.53 B. 3 by the average inside living floor area for dwelling units or dwelling site area determined in 10.53 B.1. This yields the allowable number of dwelling units or dwelling sites, or base density, for each tier.

C. Allowable densities may be transferred from any tier to any other tier further from the waterbody, but must not be transferred to any tier closer to the waterbody.

39 Revised 4/28/2022

Ordinance Language

- D. All PUDs with densities at or below the base density must meet the design standards in Section 10.6
- 10.54 Step 4. Determine if the Site can Accommodate Increased Density:
- A. The following increases to the dwelling unit or dwelling site base densities determined in Section 10.53 are allowed if the design criteria in Section 10.6 of this ordinance are satisfied as well as the standards in Section 10.54, item B:

Shoreland Tier	Maximum density increase within each tier (percent)
1 st	50
2 nd	100
3 rd	200
4 th	200
5 th	200

- B. Structure setbacks from the ordinary high water level:

- (1) Are increased to at least 50 percent greater than the minimum setback; or
- (2) The impact on the waterbody is reduced an equivalent amount through vegetative management, topography, or additional acceptable means and the setback is at least 25 percent greater than the minimum setback.

10.6 Design Criteria. All PUDs must meet the following design criteria.

- 10.61 General Design Standards.
- A. All residential planned unit developments must contain at least five dwelling units or sites.
 - B. On-site water supply and sewage treatment systems must be centralized and meet the standards in Section 6.5 of this ordinance. Sewage treatment systems must meet the setback standards of Section 6.41, item A of this ordinance.
 - C. Dwelling units or dwelling sites must be clustered into one or more groups and located on suitable areas of the development.
 - D. Dwelling units or dwelling sites must be designed and located to meet the dimensional standards in Sections 6.41, 6.42, and 6.43:
 - E. Shore recreation facilities:

Commentary in Public Version of Model

10.61.D MR 6120-3800 Subp. 5.B.3.(b) states that dwelling units must be designed to meet/exceed the dimensional standards for OHWL setback, elevation, height.

10.62. Open space provides significant ecological, recreational, and economic benefits. Local governments may want to add additional specifications for its design and maintenance. This could include specifying the amount and type of native vegetation, its long-term maintenance, and connectivity to adjacent natural areas. Other options include limiting the amount of open space that may be used for high intensity recreational areas (trails, playgrounds, etc.), stormwater and sewage treatment, etc.



Natural Resources Work Session Memo

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2026
TO: The Natural Resources Commission
FROM: Krista Spreiter, Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: Paperless Meetings Discussion

ACTION REQUEST:

Discussion only.

BACKGROUND:

At the Goal 5: Sustainability Committee meeting, the topic of paperless meetings was brought to the committee for discussion. The committee then proposed to bring the subject to the Commission as a whole. The topic was originally brought to the Natural Resources Commission at its inception. At that time, the Commission chose to have printed copies of the packet and other materials available for each member at the meeting, instead of using personal electronic devices. All other city commissions as well as City Council also receive printed copies of meeting packets. Some commissions have them available for individual commissioners at the meeting, while other commissions and City Council have meeting packets delivered to them.

Printing of Natural Resources Commission meeting packets generally uses 100–200 sheets of paper per meeting, resulting in roughly 1,800 sheets per year, as well as the ink used in printing. The Commission could choose to make packet printing optional for each commission member, or go completely paperless. If members forgo paper packets, commissioners could bring a personal electronic device to display electronic copies of the packet. Meeting packets could also be displayed on screen in both the City Council Chambers and the large conference room.

ATTACHMENTS:

None