

# Sustainability Commission 2023 Work Plan

**Commissioners:** Bryan Beltran, Adam Burnside, Santwana Dasgupta, Matt Dobratz, Craig Heinen, Amanda Kueper, Logan Theirn

## Focus areas:

- Host events for the community
- Share educational resources with the community
- Protect, restore, and further enrich Richfield's lands and natural resources
- Offer policy recommendations to Council and staff

## Top project ideas:

### **Staff Led:**

- Participate in and support staff on the Climate Action Plan prioritization process
- Support staff and advise Council on development of Richfield's tree canopy protection/replacement policy

### **Jointly Led:**

- Bring Youth Commissioners onto the Commission

### **Commissioner Led:**

- Complete the Richfield Residential Sustainability Digital Guide
- Research action steps to reduce plastic trash and microplastics in Richfield's land and water
- Create a Sustainability Recognition Program
- Increase homeowner awareness of Emerald Ash Borer and help empower homeowners to take preventative action
- Research No Mow May, pollinator education, and Japanese beetle grub education for re-planting areas without turf grass
- Plan and install a planting project with alternative vegetation that benefits wildlife and/or residents (Examples: Install pollinator plantings along the noise wall by Highway 62; identify areas for a community "food forest" project)

## "Bike Rack" – Ideas to consider later

- Encourage ongoing community cleanup - Trashwalking!
- Create a volunteer pool of "sustainability ambassadors" from the community
- Organize/participate in 2023 invasive plant removal events at WLNC
- Develop guidelines to promote decreasing urban heat island effect
- Host a community tour of resident gardens (a la Parade of Homes/remodel tour)
- Educate homeowners about adding MN native plants to home gardens
- Identify opportunities in city for urban forest expansion (inventory, GIS project?)
- Advise Council and staff on implementation of a sustainability-oriented policy/ordinance review
- Host Commission-sponsored tree planting events

## Other ongoing items for 2023 that will involve Commission advice/support

- Ongoing solid waste education (organics recycling, organized waste, etc.)
- Wrap up Partners in Energy plan implementation
- Implement community garden rollout in 2023
- League of Women Voters Eco-Fair – April 15, 2023
- Support for planning related to a new WLNC building
- City tree sale – April/May 2023
- Community Earth Day Celebration – April 23, 2023
- Provide education at Richfield Farmers Market