

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

AGENDA

Monday, June 9, 2025
6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL: Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) ____ Georgiana May ____
 John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) ____ VACANT
 Adam Keester ____ VACANT
 Sophie Nagel ____

 Staff Liaison Lynch ____
 Council Liaison Mielke ____
 GreenCorps Member Siebert ____

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 12, 2025

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. CamerAn Bailey – Urban Agriculture Coordinator, Ramsey County
2. Community Park Landscaping
3. Garden Tours

F. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Staff Liaison Report
2. Council Liaison Report

G. ADJOURN

Next regular meeting date: July 14, 2025

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, May 12, 2025
6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair)	☒	
John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair)	☒	Sophie Nagel ☒
Pedro De Filippo Vannucci	☒	VACANT
Adam Keester	☒	VACANT

Staff Liaison Lynch ☒
Council Liaison Mielke ☒
GreenCorps Member Siebert ☒

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed by consent.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 14, 2025

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the April 14, 2025 minutes. Motion passed by consent.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Sustainability Fair Update – Olivia Siebert

GreenCorps Member Siebert gave an overview on the outcome of the Sustainability Fair that was held on April 26, 2025. Ultimately it was a huge success. There were several takeaways regarding larger signage, a volunteer meeting prior to the event, and snack availability. Siebert has created a document outlining her process for planning the event and the different organizations she contacted, who responded/attended, who dropped out at the last minute, and the vendors that were used for paper shredding, textile recycling, and e-waste recycling for Staff and Commissioners to utilize for the event next year.

2. Energy Action Plan Update

Staff Liaison Lynch gave an update on the progress GreenCorps Member Siebert has made on the implementation of the Energy Action Plan since the beginning of her service

term. Outreach to residents, renters, and landlord has been completed but should be considered an ongoing task. She asked for Commissioners to look through the implementation plan and, should they feel strongly about any task/goal, to consider taking that on. She explained this would need to be continued by Commissioners and Staff with GreenCorps Member Siebert's service term coming to an end in August.

3. Tree Update – Olivia Siebert

GreenCorps Member Siebert performed a demonstration of the resident tree map she has created for the website. This is intended as a way for residents to map their front and back yard trees (outside of the boulevard), share a picture, and possibly a story about the trees. She stated the goal is to have the map live on the website by the Spring Together event this weekend, May 17, 2025. It will be shared with residents there and a QR code will be handed out to encourage residents to look at the map and hopefully fill it out.

4. GreenCorps Projects Discussion

GreenCorps Member Siebert explained to Commissioners about the current status of the program. AmeriCorps funding has been cut so she is no longer an AmeriCorps member, but the State of Minnesota will provide funding for the GreenCorps program through the end of June at least, and hopefully through the end of the term in August, pending the state budget. With the cut in funding, the education funding she would receive from the program has been prorated for the time served under AmeriCorps and health insurance will end at the end of May.

As her term begins to wrap up in August, she and Staff Liaison Lynch have requested small project ideas from Commissioners for her to complete before then. Council Liaison Mielke suggested a pollinator lawns and garden tour for residents around the end of June. Chair Mercer-Taylor also discussed the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District and their tire program, and another Commissioner mentioned the Cap Region Watershed District's rain garden program.

F. Information and Announcements

1. Staff Liaison Report – None.
2. Council Liaison Report – None.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: June 9, 2025



ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	June 9, 2025
Agenda Item	E-1
Attachment	See below.
Submitted By	Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator

Item	Urban Agriculture, CamerAn Bailey
Description	CamerAn Bailey is here to discuss the following: 1. Share the county's strategic priority and plan for advancing food security & urban ag ("Food Security Strategic Plan") 2. Share the core policy directives to develop urban ag in the county. 3. Share resources the County currently has available, and share the work plan for the year (see attached flyer for brief overview) 4. Learn what the commission is interested in, what's most relevant and pressing for the city, and what we can work toward together.
Budget Impact	None.
Attachment(s)	- Urban Agriculture Digital Flyer - Food Security Strategic Plan Handout
Action(s) Requested	Staff requests the Commission discuss the pressing matters in food security throughout the City and potential ways to partner with the County.

Want to grow your community garden or urban farm?

There are resources for that!



UrbanAgriculture@ramseycounty.us



RAMSEY COUNTY

LET'S HELP YOU GROW!

There are many, often free, resources available to help start or expand community gardens and urban farms in Ramsey County including:

- ✔ Free compost, mulch and soil
- ✔ Free technical help, education and volunteer support.
- ✔ Grant funding opportunities and land access resources.
- ✔ Excess produce donation sites.



Find these resources and sign up for our
Urban Agriculture e-newsletter:

ramseycounty.us/UrbanAg



Food Security Strategic Plan

2024 – 2025

Urban Agriculture Coordinator

CamerAn J. Bailey,
Office of Deputy County Manager,
Health and Wellness Service Team
CAMERAN.BAILEY@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US
651-358-8336

Food Security Goal: To build a more resilient food system for all residents, especially those who are most vulnerable to food insecurity, such as our racially and ethnically diverse communities.

Urban Ag Goal: To facilitate easy access and use of resources for emerging, existing, and future urban growers to improve public health and wellness.

RAMSEY COUNTY FOOD SECURITY KEY PRIORITIES OVERVIEW:

PRIORITY 1: Supporting the Food Safety Net System

PRIORITY 2: Increasing Access to Public Benefits

PRIORITY 3: Building Urban Agriculture

PRIORITY 4: Expanding Food Availability and Affordability



3.1 PROMOTE URBAN AGRICULTURE LAND USE IN URBAN PLANNING

3.2 IMPROVE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO URBAN AGRICULTURE LAND

3.3 INCREASE WEALTH CREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Priority Implementation Actions for 2024

1. **Engagement.** Map the ecosystem of resources & needs for Urban Ag within, and outside, Ramsey County by engaging with community-based organizations & leaders, government, industry, and institutions.
2. **Land Access.** Identify long-term, internal opportunities for agriculture land.
3. **Policy & Planning.** Provide “Urban Ag & Food Security” technical assistance to government partners in support of the 2050 Comprehensive Plan Regional Policy Plan.
4. **Convening.** Inaugural “Urban Ag Summit” event and launch Urban Ag Steering Committee
5. **Structure.** Create a “local food economy” framework with community, institutions, and industry
6. **Communications.** Update and manage the “Urban Ag & Community Gardens” webpage and relevant datasets

Book time with me at [this link](#)

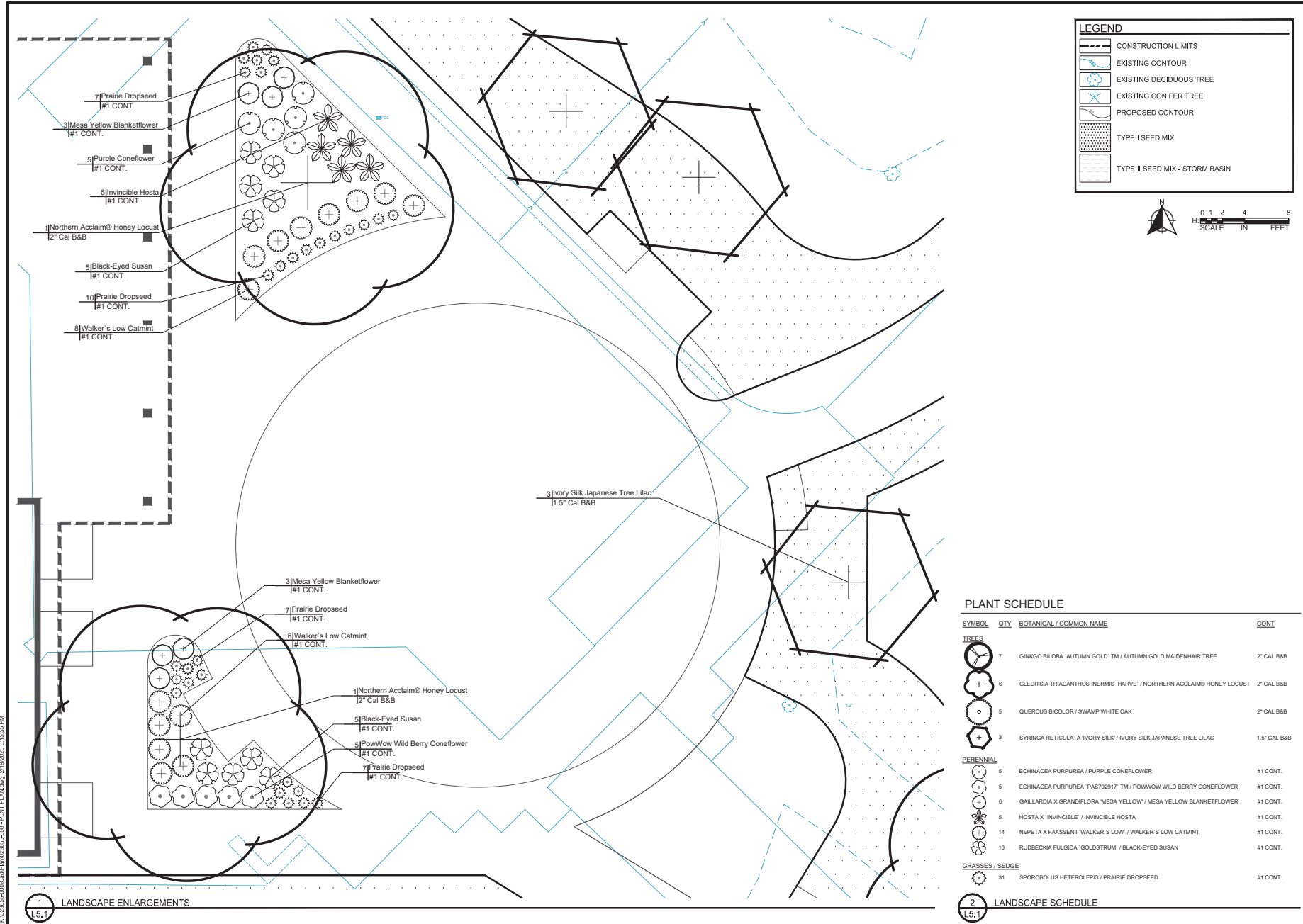


ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	June 9, 2025
Agenda Item	E-2
Attachment	See below.
Submitted By	Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator

Item	Community Park Landscaping
Description	As the plans for the remodel of Community Park moves forward, it is time for the Environment Commission to look at the landscaping plans proposed and provide feedback on the suitability of the plants chosen.
Budget Impact	None.
Attachment(s)	- Community Park Landscaping Plans - Overview and Analysis of Community Park Plants – Olivia Siebert, GreenCorps Member
Action(s) Requested	Staff requests Environment Commission review the plans and provide commentary on the suitability of the plants chosen.

K:\023655-000\CD\PLANS\023655-000-PLANT PLAN.dwg 2/19/2025 5:15:55 PM



SCALE: AS SHOWN
DESIGN BY: KMP
PLAN BY: KMP
CHECK BY: RAS

ELECTRICAL:
emanuelson-podas
consulting engineers

REVISIONS	
NO.	DESCRIPTION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION, AND SCHEDULE WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

ROBERT A. SUIPKA
LIC. NO. 44337
DATE:

LANDSCAPE ENLARGEMENTS

FALCON HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY PARK
CITY OF FALCON
HEIGHTS, MN

CLIENT PROJECT NO.
XXXXXX

WSB PROJECT NO.
023655-000

SHEET
L5.1

REVISIONS

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION, AND SCHEDULE WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

DATE: L.C. NO.

PLANTING DETAILS

FALCON HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY PARK

CITY OF FALCON
HEIGHTS, MN

CLIENT PROJECT NO.
XXXXXX

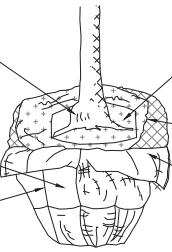
WSB PROJECT NO.
023655-000

SHEET
L6.3

EACH TREE MUST BE PLANTED WITH THE FIRST MAIN LATERAL ROOT AT FINISH GRADE. TREES WITH THE FIRST MAIN LATERAL ROOT NOT VISIBLE WILL BE REJECTED.

VERTICAL SLITS SHOULD BE CUT IN REMAINING NON-SYNTHETIC BURLAP

TOP 1/4 OF WIRE BASKET MUST BE CUTOFF AND REMOVED COMPLETELY - DO NOT BEND IT BACK.



REMOVE EXCESS SOIL / ROOTS FROM THE TOP OF SOILBALL TO EXPOSE THE FIRST MAIN LATERAL ROOT. PRUNE ALL ENCIRCLING ROOTS.

REMOVE ALL TWINE AROUND THE STEM.

ALL SYNTHETIC BURLAP MUST BE REMOVED, TOP 1/4 OF NON-SYNTHETIC BURLAP MUST BE CUT OFF AND REMOVED COMPLETELY, NOT FOLDED DOWN.

NOTES:

- ROOTS OF ALL BALLED AND BURLAPPED STOCK SHALL FILL THE SOIL BALL, BE FREE OF KINKS, CIRCLING AND GIRDLING, AND THE UPPERMOST ROOTS SHALL NOT BE MORE THAN FOUR INCHES BELOW THE TOP OF THE SOIL BALL. TRANSPORT ROOTS SHALL BE SYMMETRICAL AROUND THE TRUNK / STEM OF THE PLANTS. SOIL BALLS MUST BE CENTERED OR NO MORE THAN 10% OFF CENTER.
- WHEN MOVING PLANTS, LIFT FROM BENEATH THE ROOT BALL, DO NOT LIFT BY THE TRUNK AND DO NOT BREAK OR LOOSEN THE ROOT BALL.
- BACKFILL PLANTING PIT WITH ORIGINAL SOIL HALFWAY TO THE TOP OF THE ROOT BALL, BREAK UP CLODS OF SOIL, DO NOT USE PEAT AS PART OF BACKFILL. IN CLAY SOILS, REMOVE ALL ROCKS AND DEBRIS FROM BACKFILL AND THEN WATER PLANT AND BACKFILLED AREA TO SETTLE PLANTS AND FILL VOIDS.
- REMOVE ALL WIRE BASKETS FROM THE TOP 1/2 OF THE ROOT BALL AND CONTINUE BACKFILLING REMAINING PLANTING PIT WITH ORIGINAL SOIL.
- WATER THOROUGHLY A SECOND TIME TO SETTLE PLANTS AND FILL VOIDS WITHIN TWO HOURS OF PLANTING. PLACE SPECIFIED MULCH WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE SECOND WATERING. PROVIDE SUPPORT IF NECESSARY.
- STAKING OF TREES SHALL BE THE CONTRACTOR'S OPTION, THE CONTRACT IS RESPONSIBLE TO INSURING THAT ALL PLANTINGS ARE INSTALLED PLUMB AND REMAIN PLUMB THROUGHOUT THE WARRANTY PERIOD OF 1 YEAR AFTER SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION, WHICHEVER IS GREATER.
- IF STAKING IS INSTALLED, ALL COMPONENTS SHALL BE REMOVED BY THE CONTRACTOR AT THE END OF THE WARRANTY PERIOD.

FABRIC GUYING STRAP WITH HOSE CHAFING GUARD

RUBBER / NYLON STRAPPING TIGHTENED ONLY ENOUGH TO PREVENT SLIPPAGE, FLAG FOR VISIBILITY.

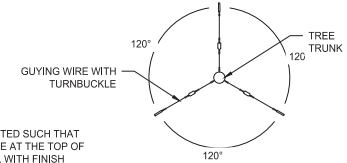
PRIOR TO MULCHING, LIGHTLY TAMP SOIL AROUND THE ROOTBALL. DO NOT OVER COMPACT. AFTER BACKFILLING, POUR WATER AROUND ROOTBALL TO SETTLE THE SOIL.

AMENDED PLANTING SOIL. SEE SPECIFICATIONS FOR DETAILS

METAL STAKES DRIVEN BELOW FINISH GRADE.

DIAMETER OF HOLE SHALL BE TRIPLE THE DIAMETER OF THE ROOTBALL, THE SIDES SHOULD SLOPE GRADUALLY.

TREE MUST MEET OR EXCEED ANSI Z60.1 (AMERICAN STANDARD FOR NURSERY STOCK), ONE DOMINANT LEADER MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGH THE WARRANTY PERIOD.



GUY WIRE - PLAN

NOTES:

- SEE BALLED AND BURLAPPED PLANTING STOCK DETAIL FOR FURTHER NOTES.

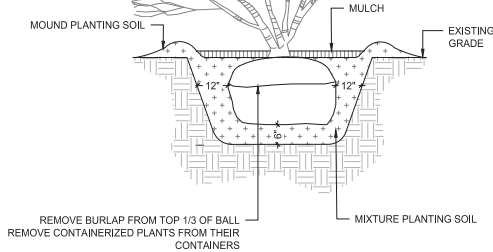
1 TREE PLANTING - BALLED & BURLAPPED STOCK

L6.3

2 DECIDUOUS TREE PLANTING

L6.3

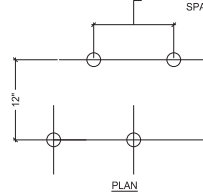
THIN BRANCHES AND FOLIAGE (NOT ALL END TIPS) BY 1/3 RETAINING NORMAL PLANT SHAPE. THINNING NOT REQUIRED ON EVERGREENS.



NOTES:

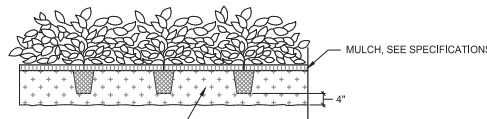
- PLANT SHRUBS IN LOCATIONS PER PLAN AND APPROVED BY LAE.

RECOMMENDED SPACING

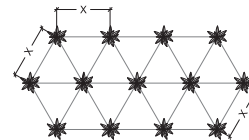


PLAN

PERENNIAL OR GROUND COVER (TYPICAL)



SECTION



NOTE:

- X = PLANT SPACING. REFER TO PLANT SCHEDULE FOR SPACING REQUIREMENTS.

3 SHRUB PLANTING

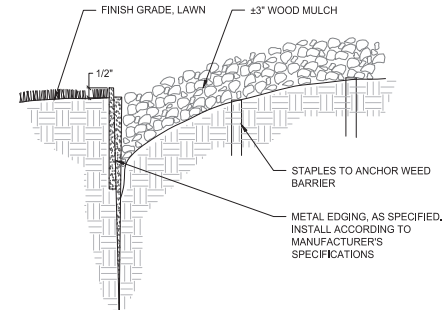
L6.3

4 PERENNIAL PLANTING AND SPACING

L6.3

4 METAL EDGING

L6.2



Trees

Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold'

Non-native but well adapted to Minnesota, attractive urban tree.

From [GINKGO - GINKGO BILOBA | The UFOR Nursery & Lab:](#)

Where it grows:

Prefers moist, well-drained soils. It is tolerant of dry sights with occasional droughts, alkaline and clay soils. This tree is very tolerant of road salts and the urban landscape.

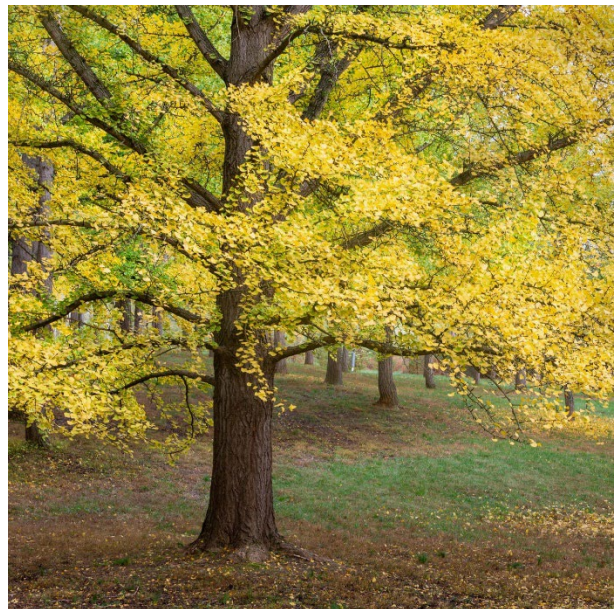
How it's used:

The ginkgo makes for an excellent shade tree in your yard or parks. It is also suitable to use in the boulevard due to its resistance to road salts and urban pollution. Ginkgos require very little pruning once established.

Autumn Gold ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba* 'Autumn Gold'): non-fruiting male with uniform conical habit becoming broader with age. Outstanding yellow color in autumn.

Problems:

No serious insect or disease problems. Usually slow-growing, especially in its early years. Female trees produce messy seeds.



Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis 'Harve' (Northern Acclaim)

Fruitless, thornless cultivar with good cold hardiness for Minnesota's climate.

From [Northern Acclaim.pdf:](#)

Description: A medium to large spreading upright pyramidal tree selection of thornless honey locust with greater winter hardiness than the standard available cultivars in the nursery trade. Introduced by North Dakota State University, Northern Acclaim® is seedless and maintains attractive bright green foliage during the summer months changing to golden-yellow in the fall.



Fruit: This cultivar is seedless (fruitless); it does not produce the pods associated with female honey locust plants. **Light Preference:** Full sun exposure. **Soil Preference:** Well drained soils, pH adaptable and tolerant of higher pH soils. Has shown good drought tolerance.

Ornamental Attributes: The pyramidal to upright spreading growth form combined with the thornless and seedless attributes and greater cold hardiness make Northern Acclaim® a valuable addition to the tree selections list for use in the central and northern US and southern Canada where adapted. **Landscape Attributes:** Northern Acclaim® is an urban tolerant, turf friendly and drought tolerant selection. Minimum leaf litter, making autumn cleanup unnecessary. Uses for this cultivar are in landscape, boulevard, and parks plantings where an attractive hardy ornamental tree is desired. Resistant to canker disease.



Quercus bicolor

Native oak tree, good in wet areas.

From [BICOLOR OAK - QUERCUS BICOLOR | The UFOR Nursery & Lab](#)

Bicolor oak is a medium height tree but could reach heights of 65' at maturity. It has a rounded top and an open crown. Known for having an attractive bark that is thick, and deeply irregularly divided by fissures into broad ridges. The bark is a grayish-brown on the trunk while the bark on the twigs is ragged and often peeling.

Bicolor oak has a simple leaf growing in an alternate pattern and are 5" to 6" in length. They are often crowded toward the ends of twigs in clusters. They are broad at the middle (pear-shaped) and wedge-shaped at their base. Often wavy and indented along their margins and a dark glossy green above with a grayish and fuzzy color on the underside. The leaves have brown fall color. The nut or acorn has a length of about 1". This acorn is enclosed for about one-third of its length in a thick, narrow cup or cap. Often found growing in pairs on slender dark brown stalks that are 2" to 4" long.



Where it grows:

Easily grown in an average or medium to wet acidic soils, tolerant of alkaline conditions. The bicolor oak is tolerant to dry sites that experience occasional drought. Moderately tolerant of road salts. Best suited for full sun.

How it's used:

Best suited as a shade tree specimen, grown in a yard or park. Good trees for wetter or low sites. Can be messy due to its acorn production. Can also be difficult to transplant and establish.

Ecosystem services:

The acorns of the oak are used as a food source by small and game mammals. Used by songbirds and migrant birds as well.

Where it is native to:

Native to the eastern United States. Common in river bottoms in the extreme southeastern corner of Minnesota. In natural areas bicolor oak rarely grows as far north as St. Paul. It has been used as a park and boulevard tree in the Twin Cities Metro. In Minnesota, the wild bicolor oak is a special concern species due to the destruction of its natural habitat in the flood plain of the Lower Mississippi.



Problems:

Generally, a durable and long-lived tree, but can be susceptible to a large number of potential diseases and insect pests. Common problems are anthracnose, canker, leaf spot, rust, blight, galls, caterpillars, borers, leaf miners, oak lace bug, and oak mite. Susceptible to chlorosis (yellowing of the leaves while the veins remain green) when soils are not properly acidic.

***Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk'**

Attractive tree lilac, native to Japan, suited to an urban landscape, flowers in spring.

From [JAPANESE TREE LILAC - SYRINGA RETICULATA | The UFOR Nursery & Lab](#):

The Japanese tree lilac grows to heights of 30' tall and 20' wide with an oval-rounded crown. Reddish-brown peeling bark, similar to cherry bark, is attractive on younger branches. The bark gradually turns gray with age. Leaves are simple and grow in opposite pairs on the stems. They are ovate in shape with a rounded base. The leaves are dark green in the summer with little color change in the fall. Its best ornamental feature is its showy, fragrant, creamy white flowers which bloom in upright panicles to 12" long in late spring to early summer (later than most other lilac species). Flowers give way to loose clusters of brown capsules that persist into winter.

Where it grows:

Prefers moist, well-drained soils. The tree lilac will tolerate dry sites, alkaline soils, and road salts. This makes it well suited as an urban landscape tree.

How it's used:

Widely used in the urban landscape around Minnesota in parks, boulevards, and residential lawns. Often planted under powerlines or other trees because of their short stature.

Ecosystem services:

Its many flowers will attract pollinators such as butterflies and hummingbirds, along with other insect pollinators.

Where it is native to:

Native to Japan, but well adapted to Minnesota.

Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata* ssp. *reticulata* 'Ivory Silk'): More compact (20 to 25 feet high); flowers profusely and begins to flower at an early age

Problems:

Good resistance to powdery mildew, scale, and borers. Bacterial blight and leaf spots are possible.



Plants

[Echinacea purpurea](#)

Technically not native but common prairie species with beautiful color.

From [Echinacea purpurea \(Eastern Purple Coneflower\): Minnesota Wildflowers](#) & [Minnesota Seasons - eastern purple coneflower](#)

A native of eastern moist to mesic prairie, Eastern Purple Coneflower is the species typically found in the nursery trade and many colored variants are becoming more common. It can make for thick showy stands in the garden but is subject to aster yellows, a phytoplasma spread by leafhoppers that affects a large number of herbaceous species and causes stunting and yellowing of the foliage and blasting of the flower heads. Affected plants should be pulled and can be left in the garden as they pose no risk to healthy plants after uprooting. Eastern Purple Coneflower is not native to Minnesota, but is common in roadside plantings, both urban and rural, as well as increasingly a garden escapee.



Echinacea purpurea 'PowWow Wild Berry'

Coneflower variety with pink-purple flowers.

From [Echinacea purpurea 'Pas702917' POWWOW WILD BERRY - Plant Finder](#):

POWWOW WILD BERRY is a purple coneflower that features large, deep rose-purple flowers in a floriferous bloom from late spring to late summer, sometimes with additional sporadic bloom until frost. It typically grows in an upright clump to 2-3' tall and to 1-1.5' wide on sturdy, well-branched stems that do not need staking. Each flower (to 3-4" diameter) features downward-arching, overlapping, deep rose-purple rays which encircle a large orange-brown center cone. Narrow-ovate leaves (to 6" long) are medium green. POWWOW WILD BERRY is a 2010 All-America Selection (AAS) winner.



Gaillardia x grandiflora 'Mesa Yellow'

G. aristata is a North American native to Minnesota, crossed with *G. pulchella* (native to northern Mexico and southern US). They are crossed to create blanket flower.

From [Gaillardia Mesa Yellow F1 | All-America Selections](#) & [Gaillardia x grandiflora - Plant Finder](#):

A short-lived perennial, easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Prefers moist, organically rich soils that drain well but tolerates some dry soils. Performs poorly in unamended, heavy clay soils. Many hybrid cultivars may be grown from seed. For those that can, sow seed directly in the garden after last frost date or start seed indoors 4-6 weeks earlier. Set seedlings out after last frost date. Space plants 12-18" apart depending on size. Deadheading spent flowers is not necessary but will tidy the planting and may encourage additional bloom. If flowering declines in summer, consider cutting back plants to encourage a fall bloom. Seed strains will self-seed in optimum growing conditions if flowers are not deadheaded.



The first F1 gaillardia from seed delivers a more uniform plant with more flowers than other varieties. This vigorous drought, wind, and rain resistant plant won't get loose and floppy. Attractive neatly mounded plants reach 16 to 18 inches tall and spread 20 to 22 inches in full sun. Bright yellow 3-inch daisy-like flowers won't fade.

First year flowering perennial (to zone 5) blooms in spring 120 days from sowing seed.

Mesa Yellow is also the recipient of the [Fleuroselect Gold Medal award](#) for performance in European trials.

Hosta x invincible

Glossy green hosta variety.

From: [Hostas | UMN Extension](#) & [PlantFiles Pictures: Hosta 'Invincible' \(<i>Hosta</i>\) by jody](#)

Hostas are a popular ornamental herbaceous perennial in the United States and are in the asparagus family (Asparagaceae). They are native to



China, Japan, Korea, and Far East Russia, and comprise 22 species and over 2000 cultivars.

Hostas can survive in deep shade and can be planted in large masses for reliable color and texture in the garden. They are adaptable to many sites, and are generally easy to grow even for inexperienced gardeners.

Nepeta x faasseni 'Walker's Low'

Nonnative catmint, attractive purple flowers, favorite of pollinators.

From [Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low' \(Catmint, Faassen's Catnip, Walker's Low, Walker's Low Catmint\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox](#), [Nepeta racemosa 'Walker's Low' - Plant Finder](#) & [Nepeta xfaassenii 'Walker's Low' – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)

Walker's Low catmint is an herbaceous perennial in the Lamiaceae (mint) family. It originated in west Asia and is a hybrid plant, the result of a cross between *Nepeta racemosa* and *Nepeta nepetella*. It was first cultivated by Faassen Nurseries in the Netherlands and named for a garden called Walker's Low.

Walker's Low catmint thrives in full sun and dry, even rocky, soil. If planted in the south, it may do better with some afternoon shade and may be bothered by humidity. In ideal conditions, it may grow as high as 2 feet with a spread of 18 to 36 inches. This plant can be divided in the spring and will not take over a garden bed, unlike most plants in the mint family.

'Walker's Low' has aromatic, gray-green to silvery foliage and produces profuse soft lavender-blue flowers over a long period from early summer through fall. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to the flowers.



Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'

Black eyed susan variety.

From [Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii 'Goldsturm' - Plant Finder](#) & [Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii 'Goldsturm' \(Black-Eyed Susan 'Goldsturm', Coneflower 'Goldsturm', Goldsturm Black-Eyed Susan\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox](#)

Rudbeckia fulgida is a herbaceous perennial native to the eastern United States which occurs in both dry and moist soils in open woods, glades and thickets. An upright, rhizomatous, clump-forming, free-blooming coneflower which typically grows to 3' tall, often forming colonies in the wild. Features daisy-like flowers (to 2.5" across) with yellow rays and brownish-purple center disks. Prolific bloom production over a long mid-summer to fall bloom period. Oblong to lanceolate, medium green foliage. Good cut flower. The flowers are attractive to butterflies and other insect pollinators. Birds eat the seeds.



Var. *sullivantii*, commonly called Sullivant's coneflower, is native to swamps, shorelines, fens and sedge meadows from New York to West Virginia west to Michigan, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas.

Sporobolus heterolepis

Prairie dropseed is a fine ornamental prairie grass native to Minnesota.

From [Sporobolus heterolepis \(Prairie Dropseed\): Minnesota Wildflowers](#) & [Sporobolus heterolepis - Plant Finder](#)

Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates wide range of soils, including heavy clays. Prefers dry, rocky soils. Good drought tolerance. Slow-growing and slow to establish. May be grown from seed but does not freely self-seed in the garden.

Sporobolus heterolepis, called prairie dropseed, is a clump-forming, warm season, perennial grass which typically occurs in prairies, glades, open ground and along railroads in parts of the central and western United States and southern Canada. Fine-textured, hair-like, medium green leaves (to 20" long and 1/16" wide) typically form an arching foliage mound to 15" tall and 18" wide. Foliage turns golden with orange hues in fall, fading to light bronze in winter. Open, branching flower panicles appear on slender stems which rise well above the foliage clump in late summer to 30-36" tall. Flowers have pink and brown coloration but are perhaps most noted for their unique and noticeable (some may say pungent) scent that has variously been described as resembling a combination of coriander, popcorn, honey, sunflower seeds, and melted wax. Tiny rounded mature seeds drop to the ground from their hulls in autumn giving rise to the descriptive common name.

Prairie Dropseed is found throughout Minnesota's prairie regions and is widely adapted to soils ranging from dry and sandy and rock outcrops to low, wet mesic habitats. It is long-lived, forming large, readily recognizable low mounds of fine, dense, hair-like leaves, though it doesn't necessarily stand out in mixed vegetation. Its open spreading panicles are so airy, you can walk right by them and hardly notice. However, in late summer to early fall when many native grasses are turning reddish brown, its golden color is highly visible. All these characteristics make it highly ornamental and it's become quite popular in more formal residential landscapes. Prairie Dropseed is also one of the most fragrant grasses, from small glands at the base of branches.





ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	June 9, 2025
Agenda Item	E-3
Attachment	N/A
Submitted By	Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator

Item	Garden Tours
Description	Commissioner Keester and Council Liaison Mielke have proposed a garden tour event, scheduled for Saturday, July 19 from 9-noon. This is the same date as the Lawns to Legumes Garden tours. They would like to feature pollinator lawns, pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and vegetable gardens, and invite the hosts to share what they have learned. Staff will be working to include articles in the newsletter to recruit lawn and garden tour hosts, create social media posts to recruit lawn and garden tour hosts, create articles and social media posts to promote the lawn and garden tour, create a map of lawns and gardens on the tour, and potentially create signs for hosts to place in their yards. Staff would like Commissioners to assist with promoting the event at the July 17 Ice Cream Social which will take place from 5-7 PM, with location TBD (either Community Park or City Hall). Current three hosts have signed up: Ron and Ingrid Eggert (Simpson), John Robertson-Smith (Roselawn), and Commissioner Keester (Albert).
Budget Impact	None.
Attachment(s)	N/A
Action(s) Requested	Staff requests Environment Commission discuss the Garden Tour, the potential for hosting if applicable, and the availability to assist with promoting the event at the Ice Cream Social.