



**The City That Soars!**

## REQUEST FOR PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION

<b>Meeting Date</b>	July 24, 2012
<b>Agenda Item</b>	Workshop
<b>Title</b>	Ordinance amending the Falcon Heights code to regulate natural landscaping.
<b>Submitted By</b>	Deborah Jones, Staff Liaison

<b>Description</b>	The Falcon Heights Environment Commission recommends adoption of an ordinance allowing and regulating varied landscaping styles in Falcon Heights, including prairie gardens, meadow gardens and rain gardens.
<b>Background</b>	<p>On the basis of the Environment Commission's recommendations, the city attorney created a draft ordinance based on one from the City of Minnetonka. This was submitted to the City Council on May 9. The proposed ordinance provides a significant addition to Chapter 54 Vegetation and removes parts of the nuisance and blight ordinance in Chapter 22 that would now be covered by the new sections in Chapter 54.</p> <p>The City Council had concerns about neighborhood impacts from the proposed ordinance as written and decided to refer the matter to the Planning Commission for study and recommendation, with special attention to potential impacts on neighborhood character and implications for the comprehensive plan.</p> <p>In workshop on June 26 following the Commission's formal meeting, the Planning Commission received an orientation on this topic and began discussion. This workshop is a continuation of that discussion.</p>
<b>Budget Impact</b>	Unknown
<b>Attachments</b>	<p>None.</p> <p>Staff requests that Commissioners review the material provided in their May packet and bring that reference material to the meeting. Please notify staff if new copies are needed.</p>
<b>Action(s) Requested</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss planning and zoning aspects of the proposed ordinance, especially possible neighborhood impacts and implications for the comprehensive plan</li> <li>• Provide feedback and recommendations to the City Council</li> </ul>