

Falcon Heights Environment Commission
October 12th, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Agenda

- 1) Approval of Minutes from September 14th, 2015 Meeting
- 2) Presentation – Sustainable Communities Class
- 3) Discussion – Falcon Heights Resiliency Project
- 4) Topic – Tech Dump
- 5) Open Topics – Brainstorming ideas for the Fall

Next Meeting: Monday, November 9th, 2015

If you have a disability and need accommodation in order to attend this meeting, please notify City Hall 48 hours in advance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 651-792-7600. We will be happy to help.

**City of Falcon Heights
Environmental Commission Minutes
September 14th, 2015**

PRESENT: Commissioners Hartman, Olson, Holmes, Montgomery, Staff Liaison Moretto, Council Liaison Mercer-Taylor

ABSENT: Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Chair Holmes.

The minutes of the August 10, 2015 meeting of the Environmental Commission were approved.

Discussion – Climate Change Adaptation Project

It was discussed that this should be a City-Wide project with full city support. The Commission's role would be best served as leading from an organizational standpoint.

Working with St. Anthony and Lauderdale would be a reasonable strategy as we have shared services.

We should identify stakeholders in the process and their involvement in an adaptation project (UMN, State Fair, Gibbs)

Next steps is to see how the Mayor and Administration would like to processed and what kind of involvement they would like to contribute.

Better understand how this would contribute to the Comp Plan.

Read and/or attend Abby Finis' report on Falcon Heights Resiliency to see if there might be overlap.

Open Topics

Discussion of Evasive Species – More education on the topic would be great for the citizens
Pollinators – There is interest for these kinds of gardens from the Commission. Further analysis would be required.

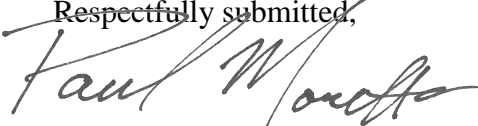
Zero Waste – Strive for Zero would be great. Check to see how Gopher events are low waste. Would be great to have materials here at City Hall. Start with institutions like City Hall and Falcon Heights Elementary.
Begin next summer.

Community Forum:

No community forum was held.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Moretto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some overlapping letters.

Paul Moretto – Staff Liaison

Planning for Resilience



October 7, 2015
Growing Sustainable Communities
Dubuque, Iowa



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Sustainable Communities

Transforming the world through local action

1. Grow Solar Partnership
2. GreenStep Cities
3. Metro Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT)
4. Sustainability and Resiliency Planning & Technical Assistance

Grow Solar

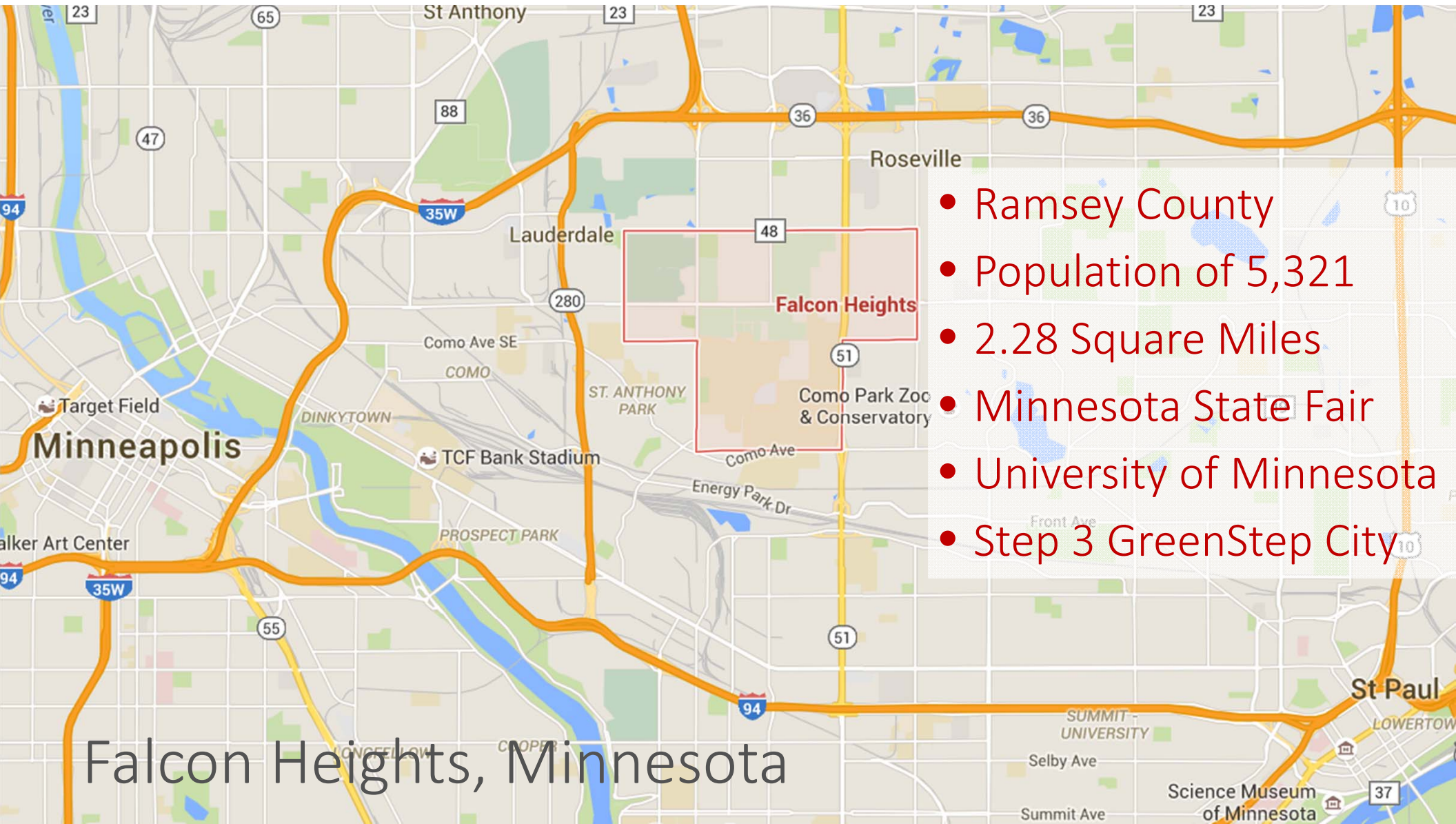


Minnesota
GreenStep Cities



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- Ramsey County
- Population of 5,321
- 2.28 Square Miles
- Minnesota State Fair
- University of Minnesota
- Step 3 GreenStep City

Falcon Heights, Minnesota

Project Scope

1. Identify vulnerabilities in city services and operations
2. Determine capacity of different functions to absorb disruption and adapt to new circumstances (i.e., resiliency)
3. Incorporate recommendations into comprehensive plan to enhance resilience in city operations



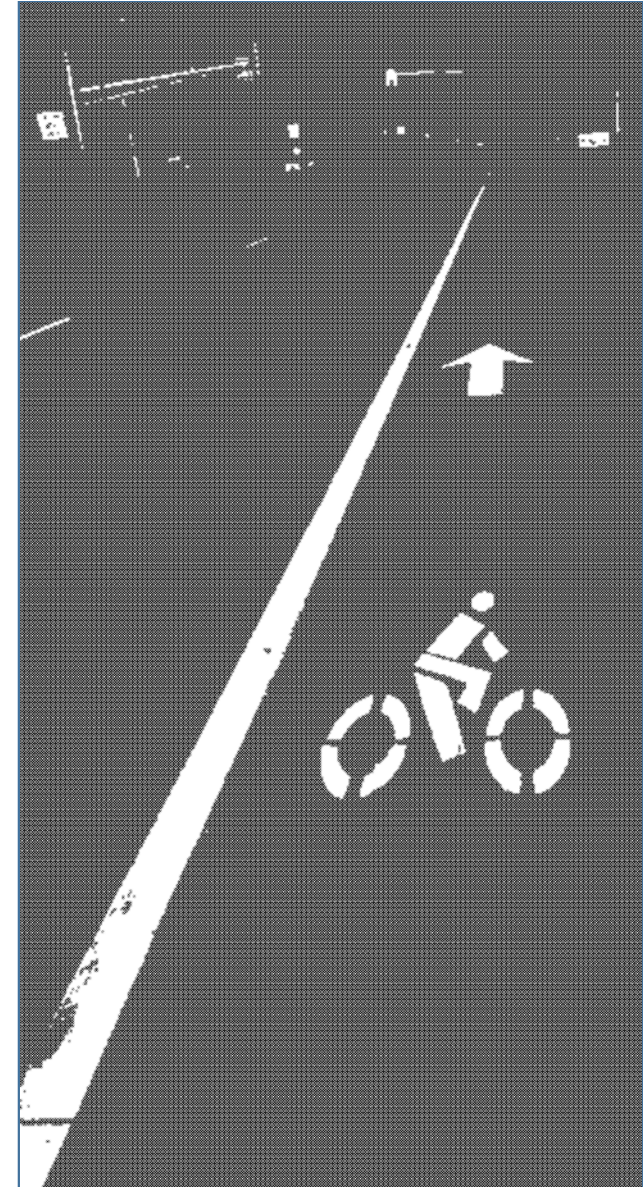
Project Process

Background

Vulnerability
Analysis

Stakeholder
Engagement

Recommendations



Why?

Climate Risks

Prolonged
Heatwaves

Prolonged
Cold Spells

Diminished Air
Quality

More Extreme
Weather
Events

Increased
Ecological
Changes

Falcon Heights Resilience

Rain Gardens

Shared
Services

Solar Energy

Porous Pavers

Green Space

Community
Gardens

Bike
Infrastructure

CERT

Responsible
Budget

GreenStep
Cities

Energy
Efficiency

Tree Planting

Pollinator
Habitat

Walking
Routes

Complete
Streets

Housing
Density

Resilience Framework

The capacity for a system to survive, adapt, and flourish in the face of turbulent change.

Leadership &
Strategy

Healthy
Communities

Infrastructure
&
Environment

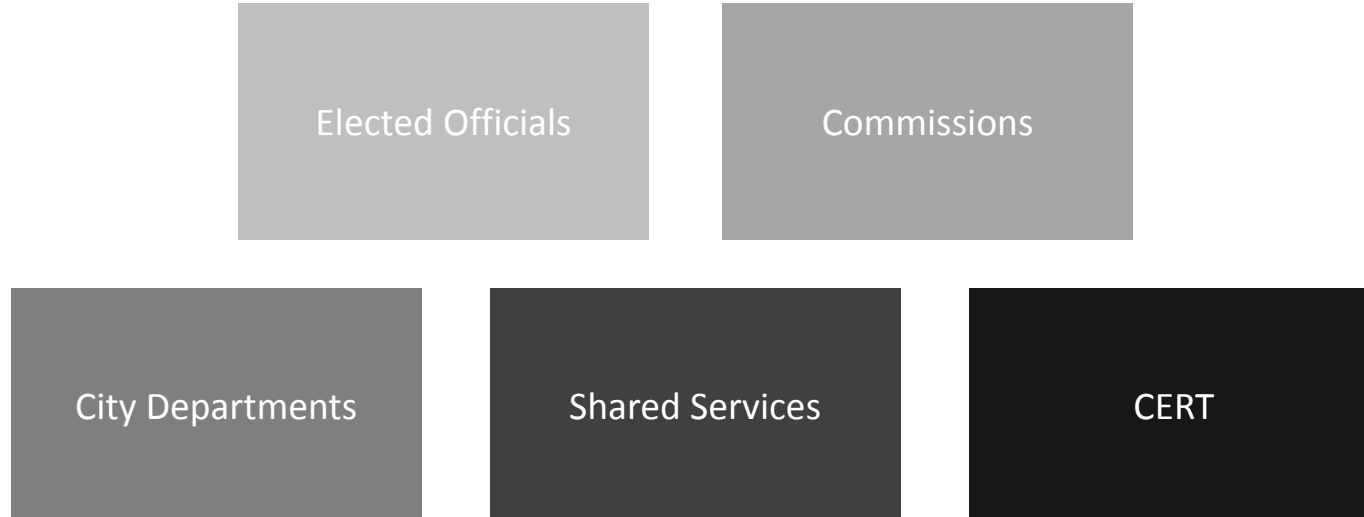
Economy &
Society

Leadership & Strategy

Leadership and Strategy

Strong leadership to guide an integrated planning process.

Effective management and thoughtful strategies to address climate-related vulnerabilities by enhancing resilience across city operations and services.



Leadership and Strategy

Strengths

- Leadership from council and mayor
- Staff already implements best practices
- Shared services help reduce costs and maximize resources
- Existing networks (CERT)
- Participation in GreenStep Cities
- Comprehensive plan includes resilience best practices

Vulnerabilities

- Limited communication with residents
- Waning support for CERTs (or similar group)
- Leadership changes – resilience is not an explicit goal in comprehensive plan

Opportunities

- Explicit integration of resilience policies and strategies in city policy documents
- Codify support for CERT (or similar group)
- Work with other government entities to enhance resilience in shared services

Economy & Society

Economy and Society

Resilient communities maintain robust economic systems and strong social networks, to prepare for and rebound from abrupt or severe changes.

- Provide stability for their residents in terms of economic and social prosperity, and in the services delivered by the city.
- Maintain a diverse local economy while strategically using city resources to limit impact of economic volatility, regional recession, or changing politics.

Climate Impacts:

- Extreme heat
- Extreme cold
- Severe weather
- Diminished air quality
- Ecological changes

Economy and Society

Strengths

- Strong city budget
- Shared services help keep expenditures low
- Managed great recession

Vulnerabilities

- Fluctuation in Local Government Aid funds
- Increased costs of maintenance of infrastructure (e.g. more frequent road repair, urban forest, street sweeping)
- Economic recession

Opportunities

- Strategic budget planning
- Lower cost alternatives for city services:
 - Use of renewable energy
 - Energy efficiency
 - Natural systems that require lower capital costs
 - Fewer hard surfaces

Healthy
Communities

Healthy Communities

Fostering healthy communities through better food choices, complete streets, and strengthen the health of a population and reduce the impact of climate related events that are especially detrimental to vulnerable residents.

- Meet the basic needs of people, especially in times of crisis
- Support the livelihood of residents with physical and social networks
- Enable a healthy community through active living

Climate Impacts:

- Extreme heat
- Extreme cold
- Severe weather
- Diminished air quality
- Ecological changes

Healthy Communities

Strengths

- Multiple parks that offer recreation opportunities for residents that encourage healthy and active lifestyles, reducing the number of people with illnesses that can be impacted by changes in the climate.
- The city promotes alternative transportation modes including biking, which supports active living (bike lanes).
- The City has a policy for active living in its Comprehensive Plan:
 - **General Land Use Policies: #5.** On transit routes, where appropriate, allow the redevelopment of multi-family and commercial properties for mixed use or higher density housing, incorporating best practices for conserving green space and promoting active living.
- Geographically small and relatively dense, allowing emergency responders and others to more easily reach out and assist residents in need during dangerous events like extreme heat, poor air quality days , or destructive storms

Healthy Communities



Vulnerabilities

Vulnerable populations include:

- The elderly
- Physically disabled residents
- Low-income residents, particularly those with limited or no access to air conditioning
- Those with illnesses that depend on medical equipment (power outages)
- People who are sensitive to air quality or extreme heat (respiratory illnesses, allergies, etc.)
- Residents whose first language is something other than English may not understand alerts that are sent out in one language and therefore may be at risk.

Healthy Communities



Opportunities

- Identify public buildings with air conditioning that can be used by residents who don't have it
- Continue to expand network of non-motorized transit, developing walking and bicycling paths
- Develop robust communication systems to alert residents of dangers
- Consider opportunities to encourage the reduction of emissions through education, incentives, events, land use planning

Infrastructure
&
Environment

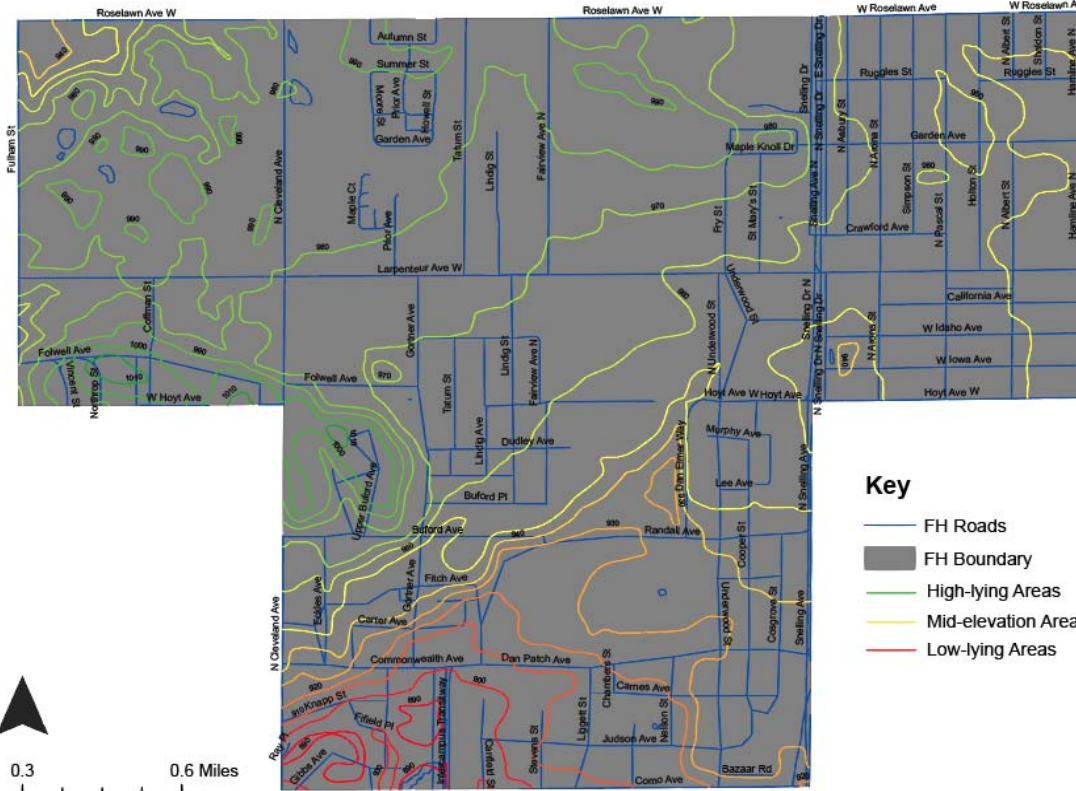
Environment and Infrastructure

Increased precipitation, more intense heatwaves, longer cold spells, and more extreme weather events, will stress existing systems and test the limitations of city infrastructure.



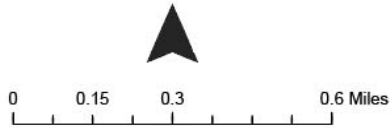
Env

Falcon Heights Contour Map (10')



- Impacts:
- xtreme heat
 - xtreme cold
 - evere weather --- Heavy
 - ain
 - iminished air quality
 - cological changes

- Key**
- FH Roads
 - FH Boundary
 - High-lying Areas
 - Mid-elevation Areas
 - Low-lying Areas



Coordination with Capitol Region Watershed District

Storm Water

Environment and Infrastructure

Strengths

- The Met Council has a goal of reducing its fossil-fuel energy 50% by 2020 below a 2006 baseline
- Near-perfect compliance with federal and state clean water discharge standards
- City instituted a procedure to minimize inflow and infiltration
- The sewer lines are currently being updated

Vulnerabilities

- Inflow and infiltration, causing basement backups and taking up capacity in sewers and wastewater treatment plants
- Susceptibility factors include: age, condition, pipe material, construction, soils, water table elevation

Opportunities

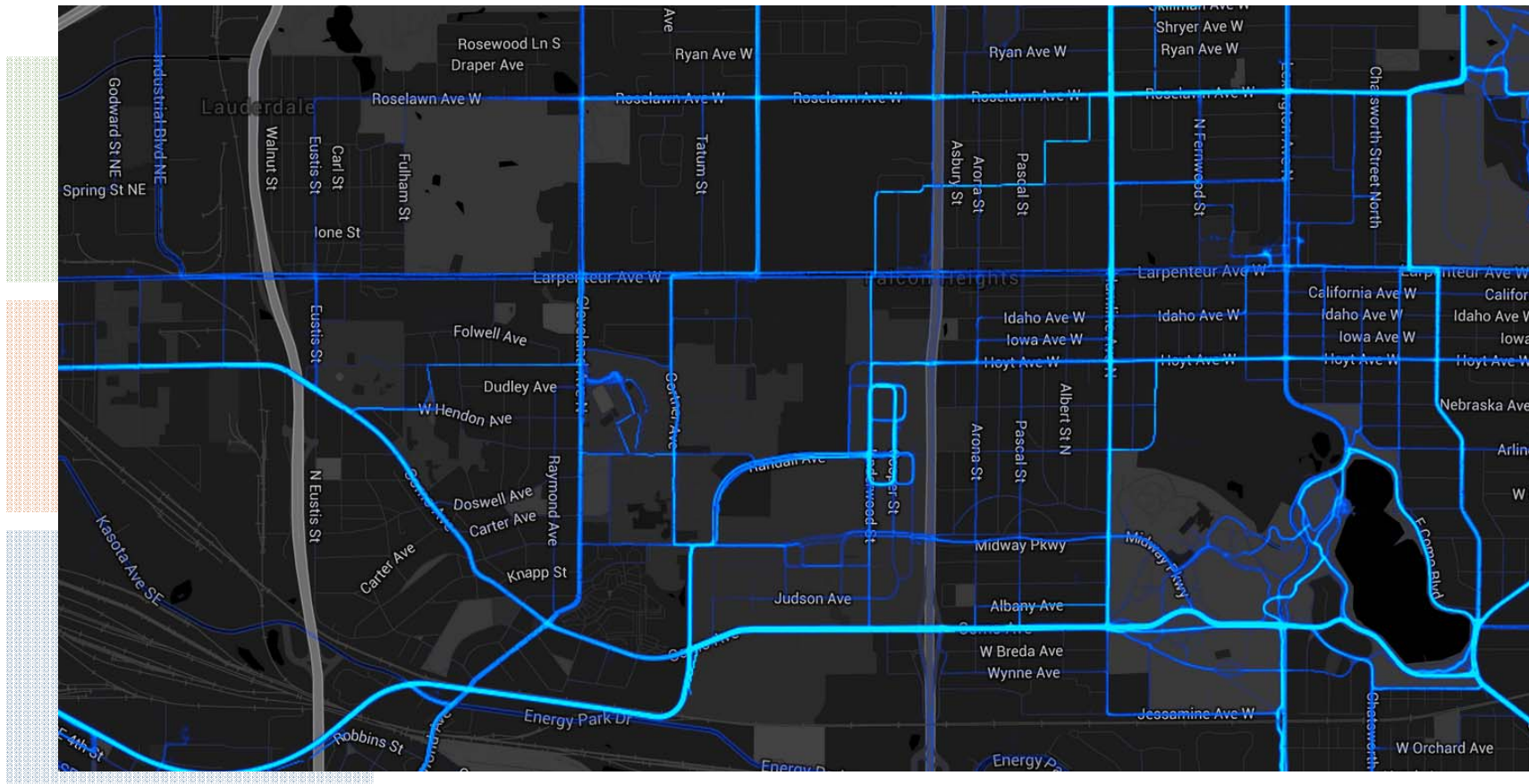
- Determine energy consumption of lift stations, identify opportunities to offset energy use.
- Continue to monitor city sanitary sewer pipes for open joints, broken or cracked pipe
- Mitigate stormwater runoff

Climate Impacts:

- Extreme heat
- Extreme cold
- **Severe weather – Heavy rain**
- Diminished air quality
- Ecological changes

Sewer

Environment and Infrastructure



ts:
s heat
s cold
weather
ned air quality
al changes

Streets

Environment and Infrastructure

Strengths

- Xcel Energy provides reliable energy
- Generation is getting cleaner
- Solar energy ordinance
- Solar panels on City Hall

Vulnerabilities

- Storms can knock out power (critical facilities)
- High consumption during extreme heat can cause a power outage
- Infrastructure is aging and inefficient

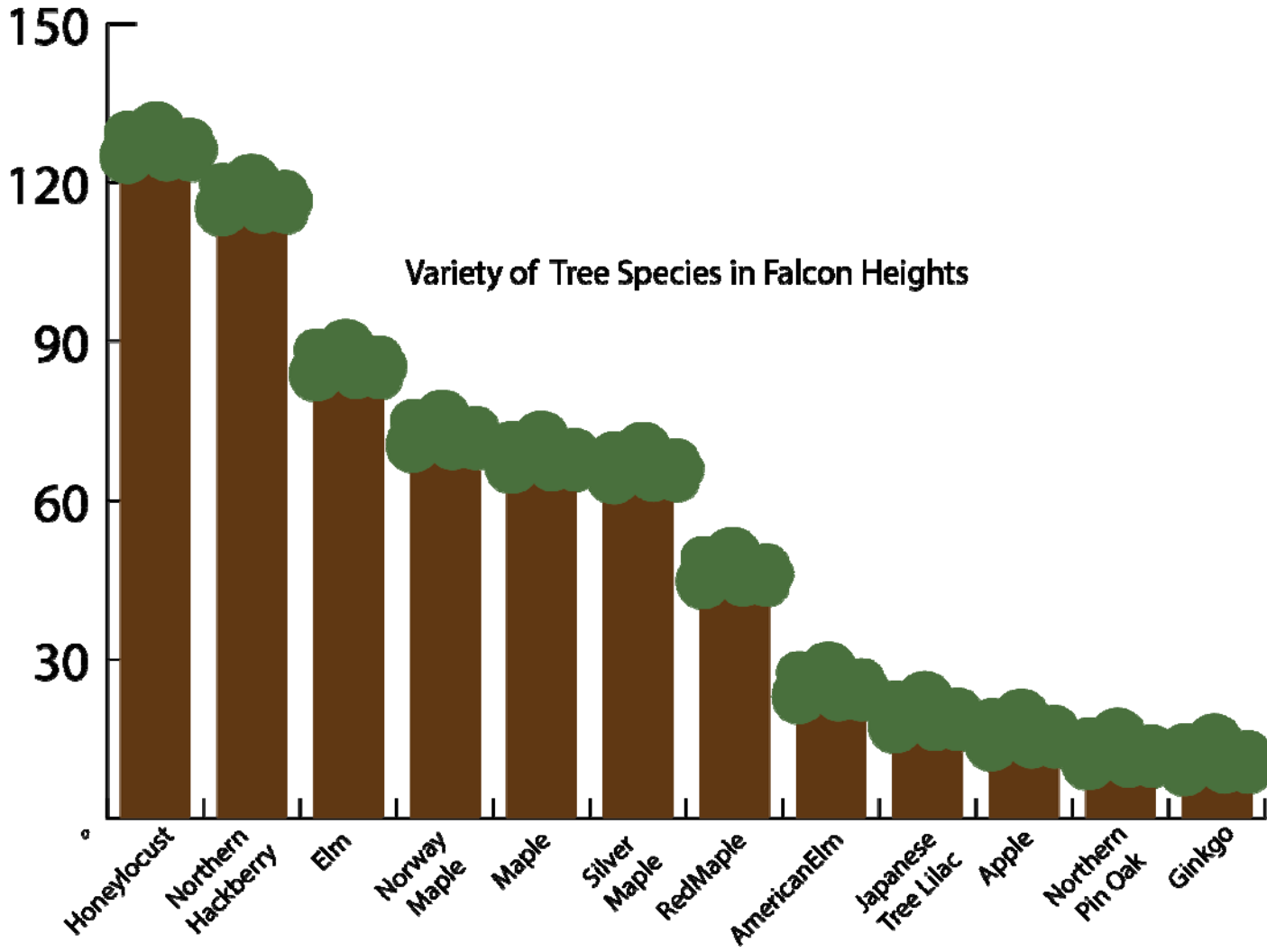
Opportunities

- Solar resource analysis
- Resilient grid – back-up power supply, renewable integration, demand management, energy efficiency, advanced grid infrastructure
- Resident education

Climate Impacts:

- Extreme heat
- Extreme cold
- Severe weather
- Diminished air quality
- Ecological changes

Utilities



Climate Impacts:

- Extreme heat
- Extreme cold
- Severe weather
- Diminished air quality
- Ecological changes

Trees

Comprehensive Planning

Existing Conditions

Desired Conditions

Strategies



Comprehensive Planning



Existing Conditions

LM: Inventory and describe existing standards, codes, guidelines, and tools that can be modified to enhance resilience.

ES: Assess diversity of local economic base and its ability to withstand volatility.

HC: Identify vulnerable populations within the city that may be disproportionately impacted by various extreme events.

EI: Assess limitations of and opportunities to transform infrastructure, buildings, and natural systems to be able to resume functionality after extreme events.

Comprehensive Planning



Desired Conditions

LM: Set a goal to establish Falcon Heights as a leader in resilience planning.

ES: Maintain a healthy reserve budget to respond to and pay for unexpected events (e.g. franchise agreement).

HC: Reduce vehicle miles traveled and become a more walkable and bikeable community.

EI: Increase diversity of tree species and maximize tree canopy coverage over hard surfaces.

Comprehensive Planning



Strategies

LM: Develop processes for city departments to incorporate resilience actions into everyday actions.

ES: Align budget goals with resilience goals.

HC: Develop assistance and outreach programs to support vulnerable populations within the community.

EI: Create a resilience checklist that ensures all city projects consider resilience before they begin.

Thank you!

It is impossible to know when a community's moment of truth will come, but procrastination clearly isn't a viable option.

-James Schwab, AICP

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www.betterenergy.org



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*Some items
require a fee.
(see below)

FREE*

Tri-City Electronics Recycling Collection Events

Partnership of: Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, & St. Anthony Village

2 convenient locations! (see below)

Saturday, October 17: 9am-1pm

FREE Items to Bring:

Game Consoles
Cellphones and PDAs
Cords, Cables and Mice
Flat Panel Monitor and TVs (LCD/LED)
Switches, Routers and Hubs
CPUs, Memory and Disk Drives
Laptops and Desktop Computers
Satellite, Cable and TiVo Receivers
Peripheral Cards and Hardware

Items NOT to Bring

Humidifiers
Microwaves
Dishwashers
Water Heaters
Space Heaters
Washers and Dryers
Refrigerators/Freezers



And more: if it has a battery or cord, we will likely take it!

Items with a recycling fee:

TVs and Monitors (\$15 on CRTs <25")
TVs and Monitors (\$35 on CRTs >26")
Console TVs (\$45)
Rear Projection TVs (\$45)
Enviro Fee (\$10 on damaged TVs/monitors)
Large printers or copiers (\$45)

Cash or Check only (made out to Tech Dump)

Questions?

TechDump.org/Tri-City for more info

Call Tech Dump at 763-432-3117



Data storing devices are sanitized of personal information & data.

Tax deductible receipt available for all donations.

Falcon Heights:

Falcon Heights City Hall

2077 Larpenteur Ave W, Falcon Heights, MN

St. Anthony Village:

St. Anthony Village City Hall

3301 Silver Lake Road, St. Anthony, MN