

Summary of 2021 Sustainability Initiatives

City of Bloomington





Water Conservation



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Utilities Superintendent Scott Anderson presented to the Sustainability Commission on 9/15



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Outreach regarding summer watering restrictions due to drought

Policies



Programs



- Implemented Commercial Irrigation Program

Letters/Resolutions





Surface Water Quality

- Addressing water quantity & flood risk
- Water quality protection and restoration



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Provided data for strategic planning process
- Surface water monitoring program, including deployment of automated monitoring equipment
- Piloted mechanical removal of duckweed from surface water bodies
- Initiated framework for updating Penn Lake Management Plan
- Development of Cattail Management Plan for Bush Lake

Ecological Land Ste
Enhance natural resources



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Adopt-a-drain promotions
- Briefing articles: Keep storm drains free of ice and snow, prevent spring flooding around your home, Pet waste, Meadow Lawns, Phosphorus free fertilizer, Ecosystem enhancement project update, Carp in Normandale Lake, Keep goldfish out of water bodies, Algae, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Adopt-a-drain
- Let's talk Bloomington page regarding surface water quality
- Let's Talk Bloomington page on Oxboro Lake Project
- Rainwater garden inlet structure maintenance
- Bloomington Today Videos: How Residents can help turtles, Surface water sampling, Meadow Lawns, Goldfish, Carp harvest at Normandale, Bush Lake Cattail Management initiative, No Aquarium dumping/goldfish, Street sweeping

Policies



- Stormwater Pond Aeration Ordinance Update

Programs



- RBWMO Youth Education program for 2021 Bloomington Summer School Session – Watershed Curriculum
- Annual Bush Lake Buffer Maintenance with 9 mile creek WD
- Ecosystem enhancement project
- Construction projects:
 - 2020-902 completed winter 2021, pond maintenance
 - 2021-901 Storm sewer maintenance project
 - 2021-101 PMP storm sewer infrastructure renewal and improvements
 - 2021-902 Oxboro Lake Maintenance project
- Street sweeping 2 full city sweeps annually

Letters/Resolutions



- \$30,000 WBIF grant from BWSR for the RBWMO Youth Education Program
- \$10,000 grant from Nine Mile Creek WD for Ecosystem Enhancement project
- Awarded the Public Good Award from the Bush Lake Chapter Izaak Walton League



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- MN GreenCorps member completed the first stages of a community based social marketing research project on City staff commuting habits
 - All-staff survey
 - Focus groups
 - Data from Engineering and Human Resources
- Explored electric vehicle car sharing opportunities
- Researched greenhouse gas emissions data sources to begin the process of setting quantitative climate-related transportation goals
- Provided data for strategic planning data handbook

Ecological Land Stev
Enhance natural resources



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Completed two community listening sessions on transportation through Harvard SPARK service project

Policies



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Programs/Projects



(Empty content area for Programs/Projects)

Letters/Resolutions



- Letter in support of clean vehicle emissions standards



Solid Waste

Reducing waste volumes delivered to landfills/Incinerators



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Organics training for City staff



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Tabled at farmers markets to promote organics recycling
- Developed organics photo booth for community events
- Engaged with community members to collect feedback on Bulky Item Management Program development
- Engaged with community members to collect feedback on Curbside Organics Program

Policies



Programs



- Developed the Bulky Item Management Program
- Planned for curbside organics recycling implementation in 2022

Letters/Resolutions





Energy (Natural Gas & Electricity)

Working towards 75% reduction in energy-related GHG emissions by 2035



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Collected and analyzed residential energy burden data for Bloomington
- Collected and analyzed 1-4 unit residential insulation data to inform energy goal progress and strategy development
- Started process to set greenhouse gas reduction goal for City facilities
- Researched renewable energy options for City facilities
- Benchmarked energy and water use in City facilities



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Worked with community partners to promote residential energy programs
 - Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County
 - Sustainable Resources Center
 - VEAP
 - Department of Commerce
 - Xcel Energy- Partners in Energy
 - CenterPoint Energy
 - MN Department of Health
- Completed a community listening session and resident interviews to inform residential air sealing and insulation pilot

Policies



- Passed Large Building Benchmarking Ordinance
- Passed Time of Sale Energy Disclosure Ordinance

Programs/Projects



- Participation in Energy Design Assistance Program for Fire Station 4
- Participation in Community Codes Support Program
- Prepared for Large Building Benchmarking Program implementation in 2022
- Prepared for Time of Sale Energy Disclosure Program implementation in 2022

Letters/Resolutions



- Provided feedback on Xcel Energy's Integrated Resource Plan



Ecological Land Stewardship

Enhancing natural resources



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Reviewed natural resources and sustainability sections of Parks System Master Plan



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Provided educational materials on jumping worms at Creekside plant sale
- Held community Buckthorn Bust in October
- Held community Garlic Mustard Pull in April
- Hosted Earth Day Celebration
- Hosted two community tree planting events
- Sustainability Commission held four nature walks with Councilmembers
- Provided support to the Earth Corps Club at Jefferson High School with Unity Garden

Policies



- Developed a Parks System Master Plan
- Natural resource prioritization on City-owned park land
- Updated City Code to better reflect sustainable landscaping best practices
- Started process to develop criteria for making decisions about the use of resources and selection of natural resources projects on City-owned park land

Programs



- Planted ~375 trees in 2021
- Park maintenance staff time spent on natural resources in parks was \$223,510.00

Letters/Resolutions





Multiple Areas of Sustainability



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Developed sustainability-related educational materials for onboarding
- Annual sustainability planning/budgeting
- Prioritization of capital improvement projects using sustainability lens
- Provided sustainability data for strategic planning process
- Completed MN GreenStep Cities Step 4 annual reporting
- Achieved MN GreenStep Cities Step 5 for the first year
- Used ACEEE's Clean Energy Scoring Tool to track progress on energy and transportation policies and programs
- Quarterly strategic priority reporting to Council
- Researched options to update single family code standards with sustainability lens
- Researched sustainable building and site design ordinances and policies



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

- Sustainability Collaboration
 - National
 - State
 - County
 - Local
- Held bi-annual check-ins with department heads
- Developed sustainability content for City website
- Sent sustainability e-subscribe newsletters
- Highlighted sustainability leaders in the community through Earth Action Hero articles in the Bloomington Briefing
- Provided sustainability updates in One Weekly communications

Policies



- Sustainability items in legislative agenda
- Health in all Policies Committee

Programs



- Bloomington Stewards program development

Letters/Resolutions



- The Sustainability Commission recommended that City Council sign a climate emergency resolution



- Data Gathering
- Research
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Training

- Racial Equity Coordinator and Sustainability Coordinator provided required City-staff training about environmental disparities in Bloomington
- Sustainability Coordinator attended monthly environmental justice learning sessions
- Started to identify areas of environmental concern due to climate change



- Community Engagement
- Relationship Building

Policies



- Completed racial equity impact assessments for Time of Sale Energy Disclosure and Large Building Benchmarking

Programs



Letters/Resolutions

