

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #4

Sustainability

9.26.2016



5:30 p.m. Work to Date (Public Participation)

5:40 p.m. Updated Comp Plan Schedule

5:50 p.m. Draft Sustainability Goals (and Sustainability Tour Map)

6:00 p.m. Draft Sustainability Policies

1. What are we missing
2. Implications of translating to action items
3. Redundancy – should not redo work of existing studies or documents
4. Appropriateness for comprehensive plan

7:00 p.m. Adjourn

Sustainability Goals (DRAFT)

1. Grow a robust urban tree canopy*
2. Reduce chemical use citywide*
3. Support the growth of urban agriculture*
4. Promote and reward the development of sustainable landscapes*
5. Set a leading-edge community energy reduction goal*
6. Improve the safety and connectivity of the City's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
7. Support the production of alternative energy and reductions in fossil fuel dependence
8. Achieve measureable improvements in water quality
9. Continue to implement effective and innovative stormwater management practices within the City

*Indicates Goal was developed during ADVANCE PLANBuilder workshop or derived from that goal language

11 Advance Workshop Goals summarized by staff

- 1) Create a Comprehensive Transit Plan encompassing sustainability and alternative transportation within comp plan
 - a. Stinson & Mackenzie Terrace as strong Multi-transit Corridor
 - b. Bike/Walk/Ped plan focusing on safety & access
 - c. SAV as a sustainable transportation hub
 - d. Complete streets
- 2) Grow robust urban tree canopy
- 3) Reduce chemical use on public grounds & within city limits and educate community as to why
- 4) Grow urban agriculture
- 5) Invest in continued infrastructure to support stormwater run-off
- 6) Promote and reward native and sustainable landscapes
- 7) Integrate sustainability into existing ordinances (audit)
- 8) Set a leading-edge community energy reduction goal
- 9) Focus on performance now that measurement is established and position city to be a GreenStep leader by achieving level 5 ASAP
- 10) Implement No-Idle Zones in public gathering spaces
- 11) Fix-it clinics for residents to bring appliances

*Highlights added by staff to indicate goals with a high level of applicability to land use planning and comprehensive planning

GOALS developed at ADVANCE PLANBuilder workshop (6-30-16)

Transportation and Location:

- **GOAL:** Create a Comprehensive Transit Plan encompassing sustainability and alternative transportation within comp plan
 - Strategies:
 - Take a holistic view of transportation that includes an inventory analysis and engages a variety of stakeholders
 - Transit route audit
 - Leverage SAV proximity to lobby for connectivity to St. Paul and Minneapolis public transit
 - Propose pilot city status for enhanced transit options and exploration
 - Highlight existing infrastructure and cultural uses
 - **GOALS** to be explored and set within Comprehensive Transit Plan:
 - Position Stinson Blvd and McKenzie Terrace as Strong Multi-Transit Corridor
 - Next steps to explore:
 - Identify stakeholders
 - Develop shared vision throughout stakeholders
 - Connect assets throughout stakeholders
 - Bike, Walk, Pedestrian Plan that focuses on safety and access
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Apply for funding to explore and pursue pedestrian transit goals
 - Lower speed limits
 - Introduce roundabouts
 - Clear signage
 - Better lanes
 - Gap analysis of bike/walk gaps – particularly to schools
 - Connect McKenzie Terrace Corridor to Grand Rounds and Diagonal Trail
 - Better pedestrian routes to Silverwood Park and Nature Center
 - Position Saint Anthony Village as a sustainable transportation hub
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Use proximity to increase public transit routes
 - Use proximity to increase visibility and use of: Smart Cars, Car to Go, and Nice Ride

Transportation and Location Resources:

- Complete streets concept

Sustainable Sites and Water:

- **GOAL:** Grow robust urban tree canopy
 - Note: SAV is a tree city.
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Complete a tree inventory
 - Create a phased plan for planting and care of trees
 - Identify the right tree for the right area
 - Create an Emerald Ash Borer Inventory to ensure areas aren't just clear cut

- **GOAL:** Reduce chemical use on public grounds & within city limits and education community as to why
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Create expectations and agreement among stakeholders: public works, school district, parks and rec
 - Pass policy around reduced/no chemical use
 - Regulate residential chemicals through city ordinances and educate public as to why the regulation and what alternative options are

- **GOAL:** Grow Urban Agriculture
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Promote and educate on edible landscapes
 - Continue Kristen's work on pollinator pathways and pockets
 - Organize plant sharing
 - Create, promote, and educate on natural landscapes and environments within parks
 - Create an incentive program for private businesses to participate in urban agriculture and/or invite community to support plots on their land

- **GOAL:** Invest in continued infrastructure to support stormwater run-off
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Educate public on what's been done and why to gain buy-in
 - Research real-time automation controllers

- **GOAL:** Promote and reward native and sustainable landscapes
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Series of education for residents
 - Awards for residents excelling in native or edible landscapes
 - Carve out native landscapes in public areas
 - Series of intergovernmental education to explain and create buy-in (to reduce chances of native areas being mowed over and promote proper maintenance)

- **GOAL:** Integrate sustainability into existing ordinances
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Ordinance audit

- Research sustainable addendums to similar city ordinances across the country

Sustainable Sites and Water Resources:

- Urban Meadows
- Edible Landscapes Workshop

Energy and Atmosphere:

- **GOAL:** Set a leading-edge community energy reduction goal
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Analyze energy use data to identify attainable goal within specific timeline
 - Announce and publicize goal
 - Educate residents on how to reach the goal
 - Examine current code and identify ways St. Anthony Village can and should go above and beyond, recognizing the influence local government can have in moving the state forward
 - Pass joint powers agreement for PACE
 - Assess community buildings for solar panels
 - Further incentivize solar and utility design assisted programs
 - Host series of education around solar readiness and energy options

- **GOAL:** Focus on performance now that measurement is established and position city to be a GreenStep leader by achieving level 5 ASAP
 - Next steps to explore:
 - Find ways to publicize B3 data to show SAV is leading by example

- **GOAL:** Implement No-Idle Zones in public gathering spaces
 - Next Steps to explore:
 - Signage at schools, community centers, churches, parks
 - Educate residents
 - Explore enforcement measures of ordinance

- **GOAL:** Host Fix-it Clinics for Residents to bring the appliances

Energy and Atmosphere Resources:

- City of Maplewood Land Use code
- Partners in Energy, Xcel
- CERTs
- Great Plain Institute

This plan was drafted from notes taken during discussion at the June 30th workshop.

***Appendix C, Discussion Notes from June 30th

What we heard during public engagement...	Policy/Action	Possible Implications
Improve bikeway connections and infrastructure	Focus on achieving connectivity and safety of the existing bikeway and trail system by selecting key locations for the addition of on-road, protected, and off-road bicycle trails, as shown on the transportation map.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected bikeways = expensive Off-road trails usually require ROW
Improve decaying or nonexistent pedestrian infrastructure	Dedicate key pedestrian infrastructure gaps as identified on the map as priority projects in the CIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased maintenance requirements Uncertain funding source
Increase tree plantings	<p>Create incentives and programming to increase tree plantings on private lots and in public right of way.</p> <p>Develop a street tree strategy that capitalizes on street reconstruction as an opportunity to budget for and achieve urban canopy/tree planting goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is tree <i>preservation</i> important also Tree maintenance expenses and question of maintenance responsibility
Allow for alternative/renewable energy (solar, wind)	<p>Encourage installation of renewable energy generation capacity by simplifying existing city ordinance</p> <p>Create an expedited permit process for residents and businesses to install solar energy systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is expedited permit practical Should commercial CUP requirement be removed What about other forms besides solar?
Compost and organics collection	Consider at a later time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost and lack of interest
Reduce usage of pesticides and herbicides	Engage public works in working toward phased citywide reduction of chemical landscaping treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing sustainable practice with aesthetic expectations
Urban agriculture (apiculture, chickens)	<p>Adopt more permissive ordinance language regarding urban agriculture practices.</p> <p>Streamline permitting process for chicken & bee keeping by requiring only administrative approval.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gauge potential for resident/neighbor concerns
Decrease water use	Conserve drinking/groundwater resources by strengthening a watering ordinance, water-wise landscaping ordinance/guidance, or guidance on rainwater harvesting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Improve stormwater management and water reclamation	Encourage the inclusion of minimal-impact design standards by including stormwater management standards into site plan review process on sites of all size.	•
Cleaner water (Silver Lake)	Adopt and report on measurable, publicly announced surface water improvement targets for water bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative metrics not meaningful to public • Consider other measures that are more qualitative and easy to visualize (swimmable, water clarity...)
Promote rain gardens, native plantings	Adopt and implement guidelines or design standards/incentives for rain gardens and other infiltration practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design standards alone may not be effective
More community gardens	Facilitate creation of community gardens: defining them and addressing them as an allowed use in particular zoning districts in City Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are/aren't community gardens appropriate
Parks become "natural playgrounds"	Collaborate with the Parks Commission to create park/city land management standards/practices that maximize native landscaping and low-maintenance management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this really decrease costs (less maintenance) • Public expectation for parks may include features that are not natural (impervious, grass, etc)
Continue with GreenStep Cities leadership (step 5)	Continue to engage with GreenStep city goals as guidelines for Step 5 become available	•

Notes from SAV Steering Committee Mtg, 9-26-2016

- GreenStep designation
 - Step 4, only a few cities have this
 - Step 5 is benchmarking
- History behind 2012 sustainability plan and no adoption?
 - Some possible sticking points with plan
 - Many plan items already adopted or incorporated
- **Setting benchmarks, targets & goals – do we want to?**
 - What do “we” have control over
 - Citywide goals vs. city facilities only
 - Could do both
 - **Some SC members expressed support for metrics**
 - **“would rather miss goals than not set goals”**
 - More info needed to set goals
 - May be more motivating if there are actual numbers
 - What are the risks if we do set numeric goals?
 - There are tools out there/being developed to help set better, more specific and achievable goals (LoGoPEP)
 - **If we set a numeric goal it would then be reinforced with policy (“here are the policies to support that”)**
 - **On the other hand, if the goals aren’t realistic, might lead to “why are we doing this if we’re not even close?”**
 - “We do have the data”.
 - **It’s also about stewardship.** City leads from top down, is a leader, and is ready when the inevitable comes.
 - How do we set numeric goals?
 - **With help; staff will reach out to contacts to see what available tools we have**
 - LoGoPEP, when it is ready
 - Reach out to contacts at UMN (Anu Ramaswami)
 - Connections at GPI
- Format of sustainability in document
 - GOALS throughout
 - **Sustainability chapter but also call out “sustainable” goals in other chapters**
 - Indicate those policies somehow, and then summarize all sustainable goals in one table/format some place in the document (implementation?)
- **Breanne goes through draft goals lift and draft policies one by one**
 - “Support the growth of urban ag”
 - Chicken discussion & Urban Ag oriented policy
 - Some have a more favorable view of chickens and “urban ag” in general than others
 - Objections have to do with nuisances related to keeping of animals

- Councilmembers describe that chicken ordinance is pretty narrow, could even be potentially streamlined to avoid all permits having to come before council
 - **General consensus/agreement to move toward a softer definition away from agriculture, toward policy commitments to edible landscapes, pollinator habitat, community garden spaces**
- Grow a robust urban tree canopy
 - Trees versus sun, would having one goal of increased solar be at odds with maintaining tree stock?
 - The policies that have been put forward are more related to incentives for planting more trees than they are geared towards keeping trees from being cut down
 - **Most recall strong support for street trees, not as strong for tree preservation**
 - Many sustainable policies **require increased administration, maintenance, monitoring** – concerns about increasing staff hours and costs
 - Are we providing goals and guidelines, or incentives and regulation?
 - One SC member expressed a lack of interest in mandating, unless “reasonable”
- Bike/Ped, Connectivity & Safety
 - Provides multiple benefits, equity as well as emissions
 - Safe intersections (looking at roundabout at 29th)
 - Roundabouts discussion: do they impede pedestrian safety?
 - Some are poorly designed
 - Walkable, or ease congestion?
- Solar
 - Top six consumers in the city get their energy from solar (they are solar subscribers)
 - Solar ordinance recently rewritten
 - **Are there are additional things that can be done to encourage (or not discourage commercial solar)?**
 - Can we go beyond solar to include green roofs, native/pollinator
 - Financial incentives, making it easier
 - Is there economic viability in it?
 - Price of solar infrastructure has come down considerably
- Water (quantity and quality)
 - Odd/Even sprinkling
 - Splash pads – don’t be specific about in comp plan
 - Re-use?
 - Flood protection, prevention/mitigation
- Do we include compost in comp plan?
 - Not a built environment issue...more of a services issue
 - Collection program

- Encourage personal composting (it's allowed unless creating a nuisance)
- This may fall under the more general strategy of providing examples of what residents can do to be more sustainable in their actions (not necessarily land use related but can be included in comp plan chapter)
- Should we include stuff about natural playgrounds?
 - Be more general and say that **public sites** should incorporate native plantings, natural features wherever possible

Meeting Summary

At this comprehensive plan Steering Committee meeting, the topic of discussion was the sustainability chapter. Staff brought draft goals and policies for discussion. Major topics of conversation included whether the city should set specific numeric targets for emissions reduction, the city's definition and level of permissive attitude towards urban agriculture, and the tradeoffs between increasing sustainable infrastructure and the staff hours and costs associated with maintenance and/or enforcement. The committee also discussed how sustainability relates to the purview of the comprehensive plan. Some actions are more "land use" oriented than others but that there is still a place for all manner of sustainability actions in the plan in order to promote a culture of sustainability. Overall the steering committee wants to promote resource stewardship at the City level and be seen as leaders in the realm of sustainability. The goals and policies refined through the committee's discussion will help to codify and memorialize this sentiment in the comprehensive plan.