



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

March 08, 2022

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- [1.](#) Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of February 8, 2022.

New Business

- [2.](#) Metro F Line (BRT) Status Update
- [3.](#) Smart Salting Legislation Update

Old Business

- [4.](#) 44th Avenue Bridge Improvements
- [5.](#) Energy Action Plan Updates
- [6.](#) Grant Updates
- [7.](#) 2022 Outreach Events

Other Items

- [8.](#) 2022 APWA Exceptional Performance Award: Sustainability Nomination

Adjournment



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of February 8, 2022.

Background

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of February 8, 2022.

Recommendation

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of February 8, 2022.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes- February 8, 2022.

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center, 7071 University Ave Ne

MINUTES

February 8, 2022

Item 1.

Location: City of Fridley Civic Campus, Fireside Room

Call to Order

Chair Dritz called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Justin Foell, Nick Olberding, Heidi Ferris, Mark Hansen, Aaron Klemz, Amy Dritz

Absent: Sam Stoxen

Staff: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Olberding made a motion to adopt the agenda and Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion to adopt the agenda as amended.

MOTION PASSED Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Workin noted that the minutes were dated January 11, 2021 and should be amended to January 11, 2022.

Commissioner Foell made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Olberding seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended.

MOTION PASSED Unanimously

New Business

1) BRT Update

Ms. Workin provided an update on the F Line and shared the proposed stop locations. Commissioners provided comments to be shared with Metro Transit.

2) 44th Ave Bridge Improvements

Ms. Workin requested feedback on the need for sidewalk/bicycle improvements on the 44th Ave bridge.

Commissioners stated that the current conditions were unsafe and should be improved. Recommendations were made regarding needed improvements to be shared with Anoka County. Ms. Workin and Chair Dritz will work on a letter of support to bring to the March meeting.

Old Business

1) Energy Action Plan Updates

Ms. Workin shared activities completed as part of the Energy Action Plan.

2) 2022 Outreach Events

Ms. Workin shared completed and scheduled outreach events.

3) Grant updates

Ms. Workin provided grant status updates.

Other

1) Informal Status Reports

- a. Commissioners discussed potential speakers on Aquatic Invasive Species and Native Mussels.

Adjournment

Commissioner Hansen moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Olberding seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Metro F Line (BRT) Status Update

Background

The purpose of this item is to provide Commissioners updates on the Metro F Line which is the BRT Route scheduled to replace Route 10 in 2025-2026. Information on the outreach process which selected Route 10 as the F Line can be found at MetroTransit.Org/NetworkNext.

Recommendation

Commissioners should review and discuss modifications needed to Route 10 stop alignments

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Smart Salting Legislation Update

Background

A smart salting bill (HF2908/SF768) has been reintroduced in the Minnesota Legislature. One challenge to decreasing salt use by commercial applicators is the potential for lawsuits from slip and fall injuries. This legislation creates a voluntary smart salting certification program for commercial applicators wherein those who are certified, and those who hire them, would be protected from certain kinds of liability as long as they followed best practices. Commissioner Klemz will provide an update on this bill.

Recommendation

- For informational purposes

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

44th Avenue Bridge Improvements

Background

In 2019-2020, the EQEC assisted in the development of the 2nd edition of the Active Transportation Plan. This plan identified pedestrian/bicycle improvements to the 44th Avenue bridge between East River Road and Main Street over the BNSF railyard as a high priority. At the February 8, 2022 commissioners discussed suggestions for the project.

Recommendation

Approve the letter of support for the 44th Avenue bridge project

Attachments and Other Resources

- Draft letter of support

Vision Statement

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February 28, 2022

Dear Mr. MacPherson,

On behalf of the City of Fridley's Environmental Quality and Energy Commission (EQEC), I am writing to express our support for the improvement of biking and walking facilities on the 44th Avenue Bridge. The Fridley EQEC is tasked with advising the City on environmental policy and was an instrumental voice in the development of the City's Active Transportation Plan. This plan lists the 44th Avenue bridge as a high priority segment for improvement. The current bridge conditions are unsafe and a barrier for active transportation. Improving the trail conditions on the bridge would provide an important connection between the Mississippi River Trail and the Main Street Trail and serve as an important link to jobs, regional parks, and other destinations.

Sincerely,

Amy Dritz, Chair

Fridley Environmental Quality and Energy Commission



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 8 8, 2022

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy (EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Energy Action Plan Updates

Background

At the November 9 meeting, the EQEC recommended adoption of Phase 2 of the Energy Action Plan. The following activities were completed this past month:

- Insulation article in March newsletter
- Launched outreach on insulation rebate
- Updating properties in B3
- Began providing LED light bulbs in Fire Department Safety visit kits and information on electricity/safety to seniors
- March cable show on insulation rebates
- HRA Open House- distributed 32 lighting kits

The following activities are projected in the next month:

- Work with CEE on mailer about insulation rebates
- Finish uploading all City properties into B3 benchmarking system
- Finish uploading Updating GIS records of City lights
- Write May newsletter on outdoor energy savings (solar lights, electric equipment)
- Hiring summer intern for multi-family properties

Recommendation

Commissioners should review and discuss if there are other activities that should be considered.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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AGENDA REPORT

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Title

Grant Updates

Background

The purpose of this item is to provide Commissioners updates on sustainability grants held by the City.

Grants in the Pre-Application Stage

- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 3
- RCWD grant for raingardens in 2022 Street Project Area
- Met Council Regional Solicitation Grant for 44th Avenue Bridge w/ Anoka County

Grants Under Review

- Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (ACD grant in partnership with Coon Rapids, and Lino Lakes)
- Met Council Climate Mitigation grant for feasibility study of 73rd Ave
- BWSR HELP grant for native plant restoration on Commons Park hillside
- SHIP grant for Civic Campus orchard

Active Grants

- Recycling grant (ongoing)
- CCWD grant for Craig Park improvements
- BWSR/RCWD grant for Moore Lake IESF project
- DNR grant for mitigating impacts of EAB
- RCWD grant for 6 raingardens in Rice Creek Terrace neighborhood
- RCWD grant for road diet on University Ave Service Rd
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant
- LRIP grant for 53rd Avenue Trail Project
- RS grant for 7th St Trail Project
- CCWD grant for hydrodynamic separator in 2022 Street Project Area
- RCWD grant for sumps in Farr Lake neighborhood
- University Avenue Lighting Project
- SHIP grant for bike fleet (SNC/Recreation)

Vision Statement

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Grants Closed (1/1/2021+)

- SHIP grant for wayfinding kiosk

Recommendation

Commissioners should review and discuss if there are other activities that should be considered.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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Title

2022 Outreach Events

Background

Outreach at community events is an important strategy to build environmental awareness and increase engagement. Events that have been completed since the last meeting as well as upcoming outreach events are listed below.

Completed events (2/8-3/8)

- Front Door Grant Open House (2/9)
 - Home Energy Squad
 - Insulation Grant

Confirmed events and topics

- Recycling Drop-offs (5 in 2022)
- Earth Week + Environmental Fun Fair (April 29- May 7)
 - Bike Fix It Clinic
 - Exhibitors
- Household Hazardous Waste Event (4/30)
 - Recycling
- 49rs Day (June 17)
 - EV Showcase
- Book Swap (July 19 before Civic Campus concert)

Potential Events

- Garage Sale
 - Reuse options
- Night to Unite
 - Green Block Parties
- Community wide clean up (TBD)
- Pumpkin Night in the Park
 - Energy
- Coats from Cops

Vision Statement

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- Light bulbs give away

Recommendation

Commissioners should discuss if there are other community events that are a priority, what topics should be highlighted, and if there is an interest in commissioner involvement.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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Title

2022 APWA Exceptional Performance Award: Sustainability Nomination

Background

The City of Fridley is being considered for the American Public Works' Association-MN's submittal for the national APWA's 2022 Exceptional Practices: Sustainability Award. A copy of the City's submittal is attached

Recommendation

For informational purposes

Attachments and Other Resources

- 2022 APWA Exceptional Performance Award: Sustainability Nomination packet

Vision Statement

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2022 APWA EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARD: SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF FRIDLEY, MN
NOMINATION SUBMITTAL





The City of Fridley, Minnesota is an inner-ring Twin Cities Metropolitan Area community with a population of approximately 29,500 residents. The City prides itself on being a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for its residents and businesses. Sustainability is a core value of the City and is interwoven into all of its operations with support from the City Council, staff, and citizen environmental commission. Within the past few years, the City of Fridley has advanced numerous sustainability initiatives including adopting an Energy Action Plan and a Living Streets policy, passing a Pollinator Friendly resolution, and increasing support for environmental outreach programs. As a result of these efforts, Fridley advanced from a Step 1 to Step 3 GreenStep City between 2017-2020 within the MN GreenStep Cities program, a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) This submittal outlines the City's recent advances in sustainability practices in the following focus areas: water resources, natural resources, active transportation, energy, solid waste management, and community involvement.

Community Character

Located on the Mississippi River, Fridley is defined by its proximity to water. Native Americans long lived and traveled along the shores of the river and Rice Creek, which were then settled in the early 1800s by Europeans attracted to the area's rich natural resources. Fridley later became the site of an important ferry crossing and trading outpost. While the river in Fridley is no longer used for transportation, it remains an important recreational and scenic destination. Additionally, the raw water intakes for Minneapolis' and St. Paul's drinking water are located along the river in Fridley. These intakes collectively serve nearly 1,000,00,000 people in the metro area with drinking water.

The City is also characterized by its parks and open space. The City owns 38 parks comprising over 295 acres of parkland, and 95% of Fridley residents are within a 10 minute walk to a park. Besides water and parks, the other key factor in Fridley's physical development has been access to transportation. The city is crossed by multiple highways, an interstate, commuter rail, and the BNSF rail line. While these routes make Fridley a transportation powerhouse, the physical impact of these features leads to many neighborhood planning challenges. While the city was planned and developed during an auto-centric time in the 1960s, the City is now adding multiple miles of trails, improving pedestrian crossings, and is implementing an approved ADA Transition Plan to improve transportation options by foot, bike, and transit.

Fridley is proud to provide its residents a high quality of life. In a community-wide survey conducted in 2021, 97% of residents rated their quality of life as "excellent" or "good", a nine percent increase from a similar survey conducted in 2014.

Economy and Redevelopment

Fridley enjoys a thriving business community with particularly strong employment in manufacturing, research, and design. There are 7,600 more jobs in Fridley than residents in the workforce and more than 35% of jobs in Fridley are in the manufacturing sector. The business dynamic in Fridley is shaped by large employers such as Medtronic, BAE Systems, Minco, and Cummins which attract complementary business to the community. Northern Stacks, a project recently completed in partnership with the City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), transformed a 100+ acre brownfield site into a state of the art industrial campus providing more than 3,000 jobs, a brewery, and an event center.



Northern Stacks under construction

The City has also seen significant investment in new construction of multi-family properties with more than 750 new units being constructed in the past five years. Many projects are supported by the Fridley HRA which has the authority to provide funding, establish tax increment financing districts, and purchase property to facilitate redevelopment. Additionally, the HRA reinvests millions of dollars in the city annually through residential programs such as the "Front Door Grant" for homes beautification projects, various loan programs, and free remodeling consultation in partnership with the Center for Energy and Environment. The percent change in Fridley's taxable property market value increased from 2.30% in 2016 to 7.64% in 2020, and the City was honored with the Minnesota Real Estate Journal's 2021 City of the Year Award.

Financial Stability

Moody's assigned the City of Fridley an AA2 bond rating in 2020. The City prepares a Performance Measurement Report using criteria developed by the Minnesota Legislature's Council on Local Results and Innovation on an annual basis. The City's Capital Investment Fund allows the City to self-fund projects to save on the costs of paying interest.



Fridley is defined by numerous water resources including the Mississippi River, Rice Creek, Springbrook Creek, and East and West Moore Lake. Additionally, the groundwater located beneath the city serves as its drinking water source. In 2018, the City adopted a Local Water Plan outlining the City's commitment to protecting and enhancing these water resources. In addition to the routine operations and maintenance activities required by the City's MS4 permit, Fridley goes above and beyond to integrate water resource protection into its capital investment projects. The City frequently partners with jurisdictional watershed organizations and the conservation district to achieve shared goals. Examples of water quality projects that were recently installed in conjunction with planned street projects include:

- 2017 Street Project- Road diet including bump-out bioswales and the diversion of more than 40 acres of untreated stormwater runoff from the Mississippi River to an underground infiltration system in partnership with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO)
- 69th Avenue Project (2020)- Road diet including a reduction of impervious surface by more than 30% and installation of a new trail and bioswale stormwater treatment in partnership with the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD)
- 2020 Street Project- Redesign of an elbow corner to remove 4,620 square feet of impervious surface and installation of a hydrodynamic device which removes 25,000 pounds of TSS annually in partnership with the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD)
- 2021 Street Project- Construction of six rain gardens to be completed in 2022 in partnership with the RCWD
- 2022 Street Project- Road diet to remove 0.26 acres of impervious surface and install a new trail in partnership with the RCWD



Before and after 69th Avenue road diet



Where possible, the City incorporates water quality improvement into other types of large scale capital investment projects including the construction of its new Civic Campus in 2018 and the redesign of Craig Park in 2021.

The City's new Civic Campus, was designed around a large open water feature with three ponds and an iron enhanced sand and biochar filter connected by a pumping system. This pond system is hydraulically connected to Rice Creek and restores a historic finger that had previously been filled. In addition to treating all of the stormwater runoff from the campus, this



View of Fridley City Hall from Civic Campus Pond

feature was designed to fulfill the stormwater requirements for much of the adjacent new residential development. This provides decreased maintenance and allowed for increased design flexibility. The ponds are circumnavigated by a trail loop, making it a recreational amenity in addition to a water quality feature.

The City also demonstrated innovation in sustainability in the reconstruction of Craig Park in 2021. The park previously experienced flooding that prohibited movement through the park and negatively impacted adjacent properties. During years of heavy rainfall, standing water led to cattail growth in the baseball outfield. The City, with support from the CCWD, redesigned the park to install a series of basins and swales to direct flooding away from active play areas and property, daylight a storm sewer to provide water quality treatment, and improve the park experience.



Aerial view of Craig Park project during construction

Additionally, the City has also partnered with watershed districts and the Anoka Conservation District on to stabilize erosion along Oak Glen Creek, Stonybrook Creek, and Springbrook Creek and is currently analyzing solution to flooding within Norton Creek.

Chloride Reduction

Starting with a grant from the MWMO in 2018, the City has begun retrofitting its plow trucks with pre-wet equipment and AVL Technology. To date, five of its seven regularly used plow trucks have been upgraded. Additionally, the Public Works department uses an anti-ice trailer to prevent the accumulation of ice and thereby reduce the amount of chlorides needed for winter maintenance. All plow operators attend smart salting trainings on chloride management.



Fridley plow fleet

Estimated chloride reduction from these activities is up to 40% annually. Additionally, the City has partnered with watershed organizations and the MPCA to host smart salt trainings for contractors and educational displays at the Springbrook Nature Center.

Groundwater Conservation

The Fridley Water Division operates eleven primary water supply wells and three water treatment plants in order to supply the city with safe drinking water. Fridley has taken proactive steps to conserve its groundwater supply in order to ensure its sustainability into the future including:

- Employing increasing block rate structure in its utility billing to incentivize water conservation
- Constructing a reclaim basin which recycles an average of 25 million gallons of water annually as part of an expansion of its Locke Park Water Treatment Plant (2020)
- Partnering with the Metropolitan Council to provide rebates of \$150-\$250 to switch to water efficient appliances and irrigation systems. More than 150 devices were upgraded resulting in 547,000 gallons of water saved annually (2019-2021)
- Partnering with the Minnesota Department of Health to provide financial assistance to seal unused wells.
- Lining approximately 10,000 lineal feet of sanitary sewer pipe through a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services grant to reduce inflow/infiltration into the groundwater supply (2019)



Construction of Locke WTP backwash reclaim basin



With an extensive park system and a robust urban forest, Fridley's natural resources figure profoundly into the city's quality of life. The Fridley Public Works Department takes a progressive approach to ensure the sustainability of its natural resources, with a particular focus on the management of trees and pollinator habitats.

Urban Forestry

The City of Fridley's Public Works Department oversees numerous forestry activities in order to preserve and enhance its urban forest. As a result of these efforts, Fridley has been named a TreeCity USA by the Arbor Day Foundation the past five years in a row. In addition to routine tree maintenance, the City has undertaken the following urban forestry activities in recent years:

- Completed an inventory of all City-managed park and right-of-way trees
- Developed an Emerald Ash Borer Implementation Plan
- Contracted to chemically treat all high quality City-managed ash trees on a two-to-three year cycle to protect against emerald ash borer
- Coordinated with a local contractor to provide reduced cost residential ash treatment
- Begun removing poor quality City-managed ash trees and replanting with more resilient species at a minimum of 1:1.2 ratio
- Coordinated numerous volunteer tree plantings

Pollinator Habitat Enhancement

In 2018, the Fridley City Council adopted a resolution to be a "Pollinator Friendly" city. As part of this resolution, the City committed to installing more pollinator habitat in under-utilized park areas as well as to encourage residential pollinator plantings. Since that time the City has:

- Installed multiple pollinator patches in City parks
- Converted more than 0.4 acres of under-utilized field to native plants as part of the Craig Park Project (2021)
- Planted a multi-acre prairie at the new Civic Campus
- Partnered with Anoka Conservation District on a Lawns to Legumes grant resulting in more than 10 new residential pollinator patches (2021)
- Partnered with MnDOT to install native plantings, trees, and vegetative fencing within the medians and shoulders of a trunk highway as a cost-saving alternative to a traditional fencing project
- Installed an active demonstration honeybee hive on the roof of Public Works building



Prairie planting at Civic Campus



In 2020, the Fridley City Council adopted the second edition of the City's Active Transportation Plan. This plan establishes a vision that *"Fridley residents and visitors of all ages, abilities, and socio-economic status will feel safe and comfortable using the city's active transportation infrastructure to walk, bike, and roll for transportation and outdoor recreation."* This plan guides the City's prioritization of sidewalks and trails. The plan is supplemented by approved Safe Routes to Schools Plans for all schools within the Fridley Public School District. The City regularly partners with MnDOT, Anoka County, and Fridley Public Schools on the construction of sidewalk and trails. Recently completed efforts toward sustainability through active transportation include:

- Main Street Bridge- A new pedestrian bridge was placed over I-694 providing a crucial connection between north and south Fridley (2017)
- Civic Campus Trail- A system of trails through the new Civic Campus and along University Avenue was constructed to provide improved regional trail and transit access (2018-2020)
- West Moore Lake Trail- A grade-separated trail was constructed to provide improved access to Fridley Middle School and Fridley High School (2019)
- 61st Avenue improvements- Traffic calming and crossing improvements between Fridley Middle School and Fridley High School were constructed (2019)
- Craig Park Project- A trail loop was installed to improve access to the Mississippi River Trail (2021)



Installation of Main Street Bridge



Before and after construction of 7th Street Trail



Funded projects being planned for construction include:

- University Avenue Trail- A road diet to provide improved trail facilities in an area of high vehicle and pedestrian conflict (2022)
- 7th Street Trail- A road diet converting a parking lane to a new grade-separated trail providing improved access to the Fridley Community Center, nearby schools, and parks (2022)
- 53rd Avenue Trail- A road diet converting a parking lane to a new grade-separated trail planned in conjunction with the City of Columbia Heights to improve transit access (2023)
- F-Line Bus Rapid Transit- the City is partnering with Metro Transit to replace an existing local bus route with a Bus Rapid Transit Line (2025-2026)

The City also advances Active Transportation through outreach methods including:

- Printing and distributing trail maps in English and Spanish
- A bike fleet administered by the Recreation Division
- Participating in BikeMN's 2021 Bikeable Community Workshops
- Hosting annual helmet clinics to provide low cost helmets and information on bike skills
- Partnership between the Public Safety Department and the Fridley and Columbia Heights Rotary Club on an annual free bikes giveaway.



Community bike ride



Bike Helmet and Safety Clinic





In 2018, the City of Fridley entered into Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program, a partnership effort to help Cities develop and implement community energy plans. The City worked with a coalition of residents, businesses, and institutions to develop an energy plan that set a goal of reducing community energy use 20% by 2030. Since the adoption of this plan by the City Council, the City has significantly increased its outreach and programming around energy conservation and renewable energy. Achievements around energy since the Plan's adoption include:

- Over 1,300 additional participants in energy conservation programming
- Over 270 new subscribers to renewable energy programming, including 64 during the City's Wind Up! Challenge in 2021
- Over 20% participation by eligible properties in the Multi-Family Building Efficiency Program following targeted outreach by City staff
- Participation in more than 50 free assessment programs by businesses following targeted outreach
- Distribution of energy efficient lighting kits to all residents at a manufactured housing community
- Distribution of energy efficiency lighting kits and energy assistance information at annual Coats from Cops event
- Hosted two energy breakfasts for the business community
- Permitted the city's first solar carport project
- Provided 50% buy-down of residential Home Energy Squad's energy assessments through the Fridley HRA
- Began new insulation rebate program for residential properties through the Fridley HRA



Energy Breakfast for Fridley Business Community

Energy Efficient Buildings

In addition to the City's outreach work around energy, Fridley has also prioritized smart energy practices within its own facilities. The Springbrook Nature Center building, which opened in 2016, is heated with renewable geothermal energy. During the planning for the new Civic Campus buildings,

the City participated in Xcel Energy's Energy Design Assistance (EDA) Program to go above and beyond on energy efficiency requirements. The resulting design provides an estimated annual savings of \$98,000 in energy costs and resulted in \$87,000 in EDA incentives. A portion of this money was able to be allocated toward art and other amenities that could not be purchased through the buildings' main funding sources. Additional amenities at the Civic Campus include the use of solar lights at the Civic Campus playground which saves on energy and conduit costs as well as a Level 2 electric vehicle charger funded through a Volkswagen Settlement Fund grant from the MPCA.



Solar light in the background of Civic Campus Playground

Energy Efficient Fleet

The City's Fleet Services Department has taken multiple steps to increase the efficiency of its fleet. The department partnered with Xcel Energy in 2018 on a telematics study evaluating idling time, cost saving opportunities for fleet electrification, and fleet right-sizing. The City added the first electric vehicle to its fleet in 2021 and is planning to add additional electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles each year. The City tracks and reports annual miles per gallon for fleet vehicles to all employees with information on how to increase fuel efficiency. The Parks division has also electrified a portion of its landscaping equipment, starting with the replacement of two cycle chainsaws and string trimmers with electric models using funding from the MPCA in 2021.



Fridley Public Works staff with City's Chevy Bolt and Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charger



The City of Fridley began curbside recycling long before there were mandates to do so and to this day Fridley residents are enthusiastic and frequent recyclers. In 2018, Fridley became the first Twin Cities Metropolitan Area community with an open hauling garbage program to begin offering an organized, separated organics program. Participants in this program divert more than 500 pounds of food waste from the landfill annually. In addition to the curbside recycling programs, Fridley offers the following waste reduction activities:

- Five to six recycling drop-off and paper shredding events annually to provide low cost opportunities to recycle bulky waste
- Fix-It Clinics in partnership with Anoka County Recycles to provide reuse opportunities
- Parks recycling at neighborhood and community parks
- Post-Halloween pumpkin recycling which collects more than two tons of pumpkins annually
- Winter holiday lights recycling which collects more than 400 pounds of holiday lights annually
- Free compostable plateware and bags for neighborhood block captains to be used during Night to Unite to encourage low-waste events
- Compostable plateware and bags for purchase during park shelter rentals
- Free rental of recycling and organics containers



Volunteers repairing items at 2019 Fix-It Clinic Event



The City's advancement of sustainability is empowered and supported by the actions that residents take on their own property. To that end, the City ensures that its City Code facilitates best practices including allowing landscaping with native plants and gardens, encouraging local food production by permitting the raising of chickens and bees, and allowing attached solar by right. Fridley also undertakes extensive environmental education efforts to promote sustainability in the community through its citywide communication channels, targeted outreach, and programming.

Springbrook Nature Center

Springbrook Nature Center (SNC), a jewel of Fridley's park system, is a 127-acre natural area with three miles of hiking trails and a staffed interpretive center. Center staff provide educational programming for all ages including nature camps, on and off-site school programs, and special events to 150,000+ visitors annually.



Environmental Events

Springbrook Nature Center is also the host site for the City's Environmental Fun Fair held annually in conjunction with the Anoka County 4-H. This environmental celebration brings together dozens of community partners and hundreds of guests to share and learn about the environment. Throughout the year, the City also hosts a variety of smaller educational events around sustainability. Recent topics have included: winter biking, a tour of an industrial compost facility, community bike rides, planting with bee lawns, and more.



SNC Interpretative Center and programming

Volunteerism

Fridley has multiple opportunities for volunteering around sustainability including:

- A seven-member Environmental Quality and Energy Commission that meet monthly to advise staff and council on environmental policy and programming.
- An Adopt-a-Park program to provide stewardship of City parks with 30 parks adopted
- Participation in the Adopt-a-Drain program in which residents have volunteered to "adopt" over 150 storm drains to keep them clear of debris
- Ongoing opportunities to assist with tree planting, bird banding, citizen science, and more

Project Outreach

Fridley is committed to incorporating resident feedback during project design as well as ensuring that community members are informed throughout the construction process. Within the past few years, the City has expanded its strategies for project outreach in order to remove barriers to participation, increase engagement, and strive for equity. The City also quickly pivoted outreach strategies due to COVID-19 to ensure that all residents had an opportunity to provide feedback in a manner they felt was comfortable. Examples of recent project engagement include:

- 7th Street Trail: In-person Friday evening open house with activities for children; opportunity to submit comments electronically. Feedback resulted in additional project section being incorporated into the project (2017)
- 53rd Avenue Trail- In-person Saturday open house with activities for children; opportunity to submit comments electronically. Feedback resulted in the expansion of a project (2019)
- Mississippi Street Roadway Modification Study- Online opportunity to submit comments through Social Pinpoint; project fliers at bus stops, plasma donation center, and apartment building; series of two in-person meetings (2019-early 2020)
- TH 47 and 65 Workshops: The City hosted a series of workshops with free childcare and language translation services and accepted feedback electronically (2019). The City then incorporated that feedback into an ongoing PEL study with MnDOT with additional outreach including at bus stops and gathering places, online multi-lingual surveys and websites, and virtual open houses (2021)
- Craig Park- Virtual presentation with an opportunity to provide comments online combined with an outdoor event on-site. Resident feedback was used to determine park amenities and trail configuration (2021)
- Active construction: During active construction, communication is sent by e-mail, mail, and door hangers to ensure that all residents receive information (ongoing)



Outreach activities

Project Spotlight: Fridley Civic Campus

The Fridley Civic Campus, which opened for business in 2018, includes a City Hall and Public Safety building, a Public Works building, a fueling center, a public plaza, an open water feature, a playground, and a system of trails. The project was awarded APWA-MN's 2020 Project of the Year. The Civic Campus includes a number of sustainability measures mentioned throughout this submittal and summarized below:



- An water quality best management practice comprised of a series of ponds and a bio-char and iron enhanced sand filter
- A brine mixer allowing for the use of pre-wet and anti-icing during winter maintenance activities
- Design for energy efficiency resulting in an estimated \$98,000 in savings annually compared to baseline
- Bird safe glass within the Council Chambers
- A publicly-available electric vehicle charger
- Indoor storage of fleet vehicles to prolong vehicle life
- Solar and LED lighting
- Large scale prairie planting
- A working demonstration honeybee hive
- A series of trails providing improved access to parks and a regional trail
- Organics recycling
- A community orchard (planned for construction in 2022)

