

SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

Ron Moore

From: Wendell, Corrin <Corrin.Wendell@metc.state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2017 4:07 PM
To: Wendell, Corrin
Subject: PlanIt Events - Metropolitan Council

Hello and Happy Friday!

Check out some of the new resources and upcoming **PlanIt** events for this month!

- **REGISTER** for the webinar [Integrating Economic Development Strategies into Everyday Planning](#) on Thursday, **July 13th** from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM. Economic development is a valuable component in setting the course for how your community will grow and thrive. Learn about a variety of economic development policies and tools that can be integrated into your community's comprehensive plan including identification of opportunity sites for development and redevelopment, workforce housing plans, the development of a high performing zoning code, business retention and expansion programs, and many others. This webinar will explore the connections among these tools and the value of creatively integrating these strategies into everyday planning practice that will ultimately benefit your community's economic growth and prosperity. **1 CM Credit.**
- **REGISTER** for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) [Planning for the Environment – Resiliency as Racial Equity](#) workshop on Thursday, **July 27th** from **12:30 PM to 4:30 PM** at US Bank Center, 101 East 5th Street (16th Floor Minnesota Room), St. Paul, MN. **(PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE)**. Environmental resiliency is having the capacity to respond, adapt, and thrive under changing conditions. Resiliency includes planning for more severe weather and prolonged heatwaves, for improved health of your residents, and planning for economic strength and diversity. Achieving resiliency requires a plan of action and resources to mitigate the impacts on infrastructure (e.g. – increasing drainage capacity to accommodate increased heavy rain events). It also requires a plan of action to address the societal and economic challenges. Communities of color have traditionally been marginalized - race plays a key role in determining your quality of health, environmental safety, income, and well-being. They frequently bear a disproportionate share of the burden of environmental degradation and are more vulnerable to climate change impact. This session will strengthen your community's ability to prepare and respond to climate impacts for all residents using examples that show how using racial equity tools reduces the impact of climate change and increases opportunity for greater community health. **3.5 CM credits.**
- **REGISTER** for the [Mississippi River Planning in Your Comprehensive Plan](#) workshop presented by the MnDNR. This workshop will be held on Wednesday, **August 2nd**, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the League of Minnesota Cities, St. Croix Room, 145 University Avenue W. in Saint Paul. The Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) is a land corridor along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities metro area that contains many significant resources including scenic views, land and water recreational opportunities, and animal habitat. The MRCCA is also home to a full range of neighborhoods, parks, and river-related commerce, industry and transportation. Protecting these resources while planning for growth and economic development requires careful planning by the **21 cities, four townships, and five counties** in the MRCCA. New state rules adopted in January 2017 lay out the planning framework for communities in the MRCCA. At this workshop, participants will learn about MRCCA plan requirements and how they support new MRCCA ordinance requirements. Participants will also learn how to complete the MRCCA plan chapter of their comprehensive plan update with a special focus on identifying and mapping significant existing vegetation, scenic views and restoration opportunities. **2.5 CM credits.** (See updated resources below.)
- **REGISTER** for the [Community Engagement: Critical Conversations for Authentic Connections](#) workshop on Friday, **August 18th** from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM at the Columbia Heights Public Library, 3939 Central Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN. Community engagement practitioners agree that there are no shortcuts to making real connections with stakeholders; it's a long-term endeavor. In this workshop, participants will review actual scenarios that occurred between planners and residents, and have the opportunity to dialogue about engagement challenges. Engagement specialists will also be available to lend clarity to the process. **2 CM Credits**
 - ✓ Jack Becker, Community Services Director, Forecast Public Art
 - ✓ Caty Royce, Executive Director, Frogtown Neighborhood Association

- ✓ Kate Khaled, Managing Director, Imagine/Deliver
- ✓ Avi Viswanathan, Program Director, NEXUS Community Engagement Institute (CEI)
- Newly published online tutorials are now available on these topics:
 - ✓ [How and Why to Use Mixed-Use Categories](#)
 - ✓ [Tracking Land Guided for Affordable Housing](#)
- PlanIt Podcast: [Episode 5: Water Resource Management and Watersheds – Jen Kader](#). There are many ways to think about water and how it interacts with other elements of your comprehensive plan. In this episode, we hear from Jen Kader from Freshwater Society, about different ways to address water in the plan, working with watershed districts and watershed management organizations, and resources to help you along the way
- Read a short article on [Historic Preservation Planning: What It Is and Why It's Important for Comprehensive Plans](#) written by Leslie Coburn, AICP, of the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. See previously published [articles](#) as well.
- **UPDATED** Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area (MRCCA) Requirements: The MRCCA requirements were recently updated and adopted in January 2017 by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Communities within this corridor must include a MRCCA plan in their comprehensive plans for the plans to be considered complete. These updated rules are now available in the [Local Planning Handbook](#). Along with the MRCCA update, we are providing some of the required maps and updated checklists through [Community Pages](#). These resources will be available mid-July 2017. If you have questions, please contact your [Sector Rep](#).
- **UPDATED:** If you are looking forward to the end of 2017 and want to see what workshops, webinars, and resources are planned through the end of the year, download the [2017 PlanIt Brochure](#). Also, many resources from previously held events are posted on the [PlanIt](#) page.
- **COMING SOON!** Updated Checklists will be available soon in the **Local Planning Handbook** on your Community Page. Look for them to be published in late-July. Some of the changes include the addition of MRCCA checklist items, updated Solar Protection and Development requirements, and clarification of Wastewater Plan requirements. Contact your [Sector Rep](#) if you have any questions.
- We send out a news blast every month to let you know about new resources and upcoming events. Contact angela.torres@metc.state.mn.us to make sure you are on the distribution list. [Subscribe](#) for PlanIt program updates by going to the **PlanIt** page of the Local Planning Handbook.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Have a great day!
Corrin



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GreenStep City Best Practices **Land Use**

Natural Resource Conservation Design

◀ no. 10 ▶



Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems and valued community assets.

OPTIONAL FOR CATEGORY A, B AND C CITIES

All **Category A, B and C cities** that choose to implement this best practice are recognized upon completion of at least one action.



Best Practice Actions [See action tools, guidance, city reports]

1. [Conduct a Natural Resource Inventory or Assessment \(NRI or NRA\)](#); incorporate protection of priority natural systems or resources through the subdivision or development process.
2. [For cities outside or on the fringe of metropolitan areas, conduct a build-out analysis, fiscal impact study, or adopt an urban growth boundary](#) and a consistent capital improvement plan that provides long-term protection of natural resources and natural systems, and agricultural practices outside the boundary.
3. [For cities within metropolitan areas, incorporate woodland best management practices](#) addressing protection of wooded areas into zoning or development review.
4. [Adopt a conservation design policy](#) and use a conservation design tool in negotiating development agreements in cities with undeveloped natural resource areas.
5. [Develop/fund a conservation easement program](#), such as a purchase of development rights program, in collaboration with a land trust.
6. [Conserve natural resources by adopting or amending city codes and ordinances to support sustainable sites, including roadsides, and environmentally protective land use development.](#)

SUMMARY

The primary goal of conservation design is to conserve natural or economic resources or community character through low-impact development techniques, coupling development and restoration efforts. Rural conservation design protects agricultural practices, working forests, or open space for rural community character. Transitional conservation design creates a permanent urban-to-rural transition (transect) that maintains rural character and buffers rural economic uses from urban development. Natural resource conservation design protects or restores valuable natural systems - habitat and local biodiversity - viewsheds, and a community's natural resource heritage where these resources are in potential conflict with development. Conservation design actions retain or expand ecologically healthy woodlands, wetlands and open lands that infiltrate rainwater and sequester carbon. These actions also aim to lower development costs, decrease maintenance costs, preserve more usable natural areas, and protect surface and ground water when compared to the traditional models of development.

7. *coming soon*: Be recognized as a **Bird City Minnesota** (previous (Action deleted on 01/11/2016))

BENEFITS

- Maintaining or restoring native vegetation and protecting natural systems sequesters carbon and limits the release of stored carbon.
- Well-managed open lands and rural development, whether fields, forests, agriculture lands, parks or wetlands, help sustain the community in a variety of ways, including:
 - Reduced volume of stormwater runoff, surface water pollutants and sediment
 - Enhanced groundwater recharge
 - Reduced erosion
 - Improved air quality
 - Additional wildlife habitat and recreational space
 - Preservation of rural community character and viewsheds
- Improved retention of housing values over time for properties near open space and functioning natural systems.
- Linking housing to green space results in increased bicycle and pedestrian travel, helping meet active living goals and encouraging non-motorized modes of travel.
- See a case study of [Fairview Office Park in Baxter, MN.](#)

[MAJOR BENEFIT]

Ecosystem health



GREENSTEP ADVISOR

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CONNECTION TO STATE POLICY

- This best practice is consistent with the goals of the MN DNR's [shoreland management rules](#) being updated, which encourage shoreland conservation that reflects the latest stormwater management practices, values open space, buffers and provides standards for shoreland conservation subdivisions.
- The MN [Solar Sanctuaries Act](#) of 2016 establishes voluntary native vegetation and habitat management practices in the footprint of solar installations.



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GreenStep City Best Practices **Environmental Management**

Stormwater Management

◀ no. 17 ▶



Minimize the volume of and pollutants in stormwater runoff by maximizing green infrastructure.



Best Practice Actions [\[See action tools, guidance, city reports\]](#)

1. Adopt and use Minnesota's **Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS)**.
2. Complete the **Blue Star City** stormwater management assessment and be recognized for implementing the actions therein.
3. Adopt by **ordinance** one or more of the following stormwater infiltration/management strategies:
 - a. A narrower streets provision that permits construction of 22- or 24-foot roads for public, residential access and subcollector streets (with fewer than 500 average daily trips).
 - b. For sites less than one acre, retain the water quality volume of 1.1 inches of runoff from all impervious surfaces for new and fully-redeveloped construction sites.
 - c. For non-MS4 permittees, adopt an illicit discharge prohibition rule or ordinance and an erosion and sediment control ordinance.
4. Create a **stormwater utility** that uses variable fees to incentivize enhanced stormwater management, minimize the volume of and pollutants in runoff, and educate property owners.
5. Adopt and implement **guidelines or design standards/incentives** for at least one of the following stormwater infiltration/reuse practices:
 - a. Rain gardens/infiltration practices.

STEP 3 RECOGNITION MINIMUM FOR CATEGORY A CITIES

Category A cities are recognized upon completion of at least one action.

Category B and C cities that choose to implement this best practice are recognized upon completion of at least one action.

SUMMARY

Increased stormwater runoff and associated water pollution are often a result of land use changes and urbanization, which negatively impact water quality. This, in turn, compromises clean drinking water and fishable, swimmable waters that support plants, animals and our local quality of life. Using a low-impact development, green stormwater infrastructure approach, pollutant loading from stormwater sources is minimized, water is managed on-site and infiltrated as much as possible in such a way as to mimic predevelopment hydrology, and water quality benefits are recognized in the receiving waters. Cost savings are typically realized through this approach that treats rainwater as a resource and a quality of life enhancement of urban life, not as a problem to be dealt with in a linear 'send it down the river as fast as possible' manner that fails to use it as replenishment for local groundwater in the local water cycle.

- b. Rainwater harvesting practices.
- c. Green alleys or green parking lots.
- d. Pervious/permeable pavement or pavers.
- e. Green roofs / green walls.
- f. Tree trenches / tree boxes.

6. (Action deleted on 08/03/2015)

BENEFITS



- Developed by the MPCA and its public and private research partners in 2014, the [Minimal Impact Design Standards](#) (MIDS) calculator computes reductions for storm water volume, total phosphorus and total suspended solids of green infrastructure practices. Related design specifications for green infrastructure practices - such as bioretention (rain gardens), trees, green roofs, infiltration basins and stormwater reuse - are contained in the new [Minnesota Stormwater Manual](#). Assuming the practices are designed, constructed and maintained as specified, a city's pollutant reductions using the MIDS calculator count toward the city meeting its required reductions under any existing Total Maximum Daily (pollutant) Load (TMDL) to local bodies of water.
- Low-impact development was simulated for an existing development in Lakeville, MN and several [financial and environmental benefits](#) were calculated. [Enhancing Sustainable Communities With Green Infrastructure](#) (U.S. EPA: 2014) provides the rationale and detailed guidance to help communities better manage stormwater while achieving other environmental, public health, social, and economic benefits.
- [Stormwater BMP Performance Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis](#) (Capitol Region Watershed District: 2011).
- The [National Green Values Calculator](#) (Center for Neighborhood Technology: 2009) is a tool for quickly comparing the performance, costs, and benefits of green infrastructure to conventional stormwater practices. Estimates include annual and life cycle benefits of reduced air pollutants, carbon dioxide sequestration, compensatory value of trees, groundwater replenishment, reduced energy use, and reduced water treatment benefits.
- [The Value of Green Infrastructure: A Guide to Recognizing Its Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits](#) (Center for Neighborhood Technology & American Rivers: 2011) provides a framework to help communities measure and value in dollars the stormwater, air quality, energy, and other benefits that green stormwater infrastructure provides communities. See also [Banking on Green: A Look at How Green Infrastructure Can Save Municipalities Money and Provide Economic Benefits Community-wide](#) (American Rivers, American Society of Landscape Architects: 2012).



GREENSTEP ADVISOR

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<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/enhancing-stormwater-management-minnesota>

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CONNECTION TO STATE POLICY

- 2009 state legislation chartered the development of [Minimal Impact Design Standards](#) (MIDS) based on a low impact development (LID) approach to storm water management that mimics a site's natural hydrology as the landscape is developed. MIDS is a set of regulatory tools, modeling methods, ordinance templates, and development credits to promote the implementation of effective techniques that minimize the volume of and pollutants in rainwater runoff. 
- New state plumbing code rules taking effect in January 2016 provide for reuse of treated rainwater within buildings for toilet flushing, vehicle washing, industrial processes, water features, cooling tower makeup and similar uses.
- A ban on the use and sale in Minnesota of coal tar sealants - for parking lots, driveways, trails, school yards and the like - went into effect January 1, 2014.

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GreenStep City Best Practices **Environmental Management**

Parks and Trails

◀ no. 18 ▶



Support active lifestyles and property values by enhancing the city's green infrastructure.



Best Practice Actions [See action tools, guidance, city reports]

1. **Make improvements** within your city's system of parks, offroad trails and open spaces.
2. Plan and budget for a network of parks, green spaces, water features and trails for areas where **new development** is planned.
3. Achieve minimum levels of city green space and maximize the **percent within a ten-minute walk** of community members.
4. Adopt **low-impact design standards** in parks and trails that infiltrate or retain all 2 inch, 24-hour stormwater events on site.
5. Create **park/city land management standards/practices** that maximize at least one of the following:
 - a. Low maintenance turf management; native landscaping; organic or integrated pest management; pollinator/monarch-safe policies.
 - b. Recycling/compostables collection.
 - c. Sources of nonpotable water, or surface/rain water, for irrigation.
6. **Certify at least one golf course** in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

OPTIONAL FOR CATEGORY A, B AND C CITIES

Category C cities that choose to implement this best practice are recognized upon completion of at least one action.

Category B cities that choose to implement this best practice are recognized upon completion of at least two actions.

Category A cities that choose to implement this best practice are recognized upon completion of at least three actions.

SUMMARY

Along with city trees, city parks and trails soften our daily life spent in buildings, satisfying an innate affinity for the natural world. These green and open spaces can be a defining feature of a city, providing civic gathering spaces, venues for exercise and cost-free recreation, and connections to open space beyond city limits. City parks and trails provide many important ecosystem services, including the purification of air, reduction in the urban heat island effect, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration. Parks and trails are also economic development tools, increasing property values in their vicinity. For example, \$14 million of 2008 tax revenue of ten GreenStep cities in Hennepin County is attributable to homes located within a half-mile of green space.

7. Document that the **operation and maintenance, or construction / remodeling**, of at least one park building used an asset management tool or a green building framework.
8. Develop a program to **involve community members** in hands-on land restoration and stewardship projects.

BENEFITS



- A 2006 economic study conducted by Embrace Open Space quantifies the [open space premium](#) for homes adjacent to or near open space (parks and natural areas) in Hennepin County.
- Studies have demonstrated that access to parks and trails increases physical activity - the research findings suggest locating playing areas, parks and trails within a 1/4 mile of residential areas - and that direct contact with vegetation or nature leads to [increased mental health and psychological development](#).
- After the publication of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* in 2005, author Richard Louv and others co-founded the [Children & Nature Network](#) to disseminate results from peer-reviewed scientific literature and innovative ideas, evidence-based resources and tools, all in service of creating a future in which all children play, learn and grow with, and benefit from, nature in their everyday lives.
- [The Center for City Park Excellence](#) of The Trust for Public Land researches best practices in park management, what makes city parks successful, and how parks provide economic, ecological, and social value to their users. See also the [City Parks Alliance](#) for case studies of excellent parks, and for infographics on the value of urban parks in the economic, public health, environmental, community, and educational dimensions.

[MAJOR BENEFIT]

Community quality



And finally, trails can serve important transportation functions, connecting recreational destinations, job centers, retail centers, schools, neighborhoods and points beyond the city.



GREENSTEP ADVISOR

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<https://www.tpl.org/our-work/minnesota>

CONNECTION TO STATE POLICY

State law enables cities to require private developers to dedicate up to 10% of a development parcel to parkland (or make an equivalent monetary contribution): MN Statute (2007) 462.358.



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GreenStep City Best Practices **Environmental Management**

Septic Systems

◀ no. 21 ▶



Implement an environmentally sound management program for decentralized wastewater treatment systems.



Best Practice Actions [\[See action tools, guidance, city reports\]](#)

1. [Report to landowners suspected noncompliant or failing septic systems as part of an educational, informational and financial assistance and outreach program designed to trigger voluntary landowner action to improve septic systems.](#)
2. [Use a community process to address failing septic systems.](#)
3. [Clarify/establish one or more responsible management entities for the proper design, siting, installation, operation, monitoring and maintenance of septic systems.](#)
4. [Adopt a subsurface sewage treatment system ordinance based on the Association of Minnesota Counties' model ordinance.](#)
5. [Create a program to finance septic system upgrades.](#)
6. [Work with homeowners and businesses in environmentally sensitive areas and areas where standard septic systems are not the least-cost option to promote innovative waste water systems, including central sewer extensions.](#)
7. [Arrange for assistance to commercial, retail and industrial businesses with water use reduction, pollution prevention and pretreatment prior to discharge to septic.](#)

OPTIONAL FOR CATEGORY A, B AND C CITIES

All Category A, B and C cities that choose to implement this best practice are recognized upon completion of at least one action.

SUMMARY

Throughout Minnesota, failing septic systems in smaller towns and rural areas have relatively direct connections to surface and ground waters. These connections can cause detrimental impacts on the environment and can create an imminent threat to public health and safety. Standard septic systems with drainfields can also hinder cost-effective tax-base growth in small towns by preventing denser development. Cities can help structure assistance to septic owners, allowing them to implement best practices around septic systems and to access financial programs for upgrades.



GREENSTEP ADVISOR

Staff from University Extension's Onsite Sewage Treatment Program: 800/322-8642, septic@umn.edu, <http://septic.umn.edu/wastewater-issues>

CONNECTION TO STATE POLICY

BENEFITS

- Data from a well-managed set of 1545 septic systems in the Otter Tail Water Management District, formed in 1984, shows very little impact on groundwater and improved water quality in the lakes. Total system failure rates have been less than 2%.
- Benefits of well-managed septic systems include:
 - Protection of public health and local water and groundwater resources.
 - Lower costs to taxpayers by keeping water potable for human consumption rather than treating contaminated water.
 - Longer system life, improved system performance and increased reliability.
 - Reduced costs for repairs, maintenance and replacement.
 - Improved property values.
 - A barrier to resale of property removed.

[MAJOR BENEFIT]**Community health**

Minnesota Rules chapters 7080 - 7083 (linked to from the MPCA septic web site)



provide the framework for regulation of onsite wastewater treatment. Counties are in the process of updating their ordinances to meet this rule, which was passed in 2008. Cities that choose to regulate onsite wastewater treatment must be as stringent as their county's ordinance.

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