



## **CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS**

### **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

February 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM  
Mendota Heights City Hall  
Council Chambers

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Adopt Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. Approve meeting minutes from the December 10th, 2025 Natural Resources Commission Meeting.
  - b. Approve meeting Minutes from the January 14th, 2026 Natural Resources Commission Work Session.
- 5. Citizen Comment Period (for items not on the agenda)**
- 6. New Business**
  - a. New Commissioner Introduction
  - b. 2026 Officer Elections
  - c. Committee Assignments
  - d. Earth and Arbor Week Update
- 7. Old Business**
  - a. Geothermal Planning Grant Update
- 8. Staff Announcements**
- 9. Commission Comments**
- 10. Committee Reports**
- 11. Adjourn**



**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
MENDOTA HEIGHTS CITY HALL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Mendota Heights Natural Resources Commission was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Mendota Heights City Hall, 1101 Victoria Curve.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Knosalla called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Natural Resources Coordinator Spreiter called the roll. Present: Chair Knosalla, Vice Chair Stein, Commissioners Daul, Husbands, McCaslin, Sheets, and Thuening. Student Commissioners Alia Alizadeh and Annie Bisanz.

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff present: Natural Resources Coordinator Krista Spreiter.

**3. Adopt Agenda**

*Motion to approve the agenda by Commissioner Sheets, second by Commissioner Stein.  
Motion passed 7-0.*

**4. Student Commissioner Introductions.**

Coordinator Spreiter introduced the two new Student Commissioners and asked them to briefly introduce themselves. Alia Alizadeh stated she is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and she really cares about our natural resources. Annie Bisanz is in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and she enjoys volunteering, wanting to get involved in her city.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**a. Approve meeting minutes from the September 10, 2025, Natural Resources Commission Meeting.**

*Motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented by Commissioner McCaslin, second by  
Commissioner Daul.  
Motion passed 7-0.*

**b. Approve meeting minutes from the October 8, 2025, Natural Resources Commission Work Session Meeting.**

*Motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented by Commissioner McCaslin, second by  
Commissioner Daul.  
Motion passed 7-0.*

**C. Approve meeting minutes from the November 13, 2025, Natural Resources Commission Work Session Meeting.**

*Motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented by Commissioner McCaslin, second by Commissioner Daul.  
Motion passed 7-0.*

**d. Approve meeting minutes from the June 11, 2025, Natural Resources Commission Meeting.**

*Motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented by Commissioner McCaslin, second by Commissioner Daul.  
Motion passed 7-0.*

**6. Citizen Comment Period (for items not on the agenda) - NONE.**

No one appeared to address the Commission.

**7. New Business.**

**1. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) 2025 Annual Report.**

Natural Resources Coordinator Spreiter reviewed the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, which is a federally mandated program established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and regulated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to implement and maintain pollution prevention practices for stormwater discharges by permittees. Stormwater discharges associated with the MS4s are regulated by the NPDES permitting program. The MPCA issued a new General MS4 permit in 2020, and the City's application was accepted, and coverage was issued under the 2020 MS4 permit by the MPCA on October 8, 2021.

Mendota Heights is required to develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) that incorporates Best Management Practices (MBPs) that reduce pollutant discharges. The City's SWPPP was developed in 2003, updated in 2013, and again in 2023, in accordance with the new requirements set forth in the 2020 MS4 General Permit. In 2006, the City adopted the Local Surface Water Management Plan (LSWMP) that outlined how the requirements of our SWPPP are to be met and established requirements for land disturbing activities. The plan was then updated in 2018 and adopted by the City Council.

There are six required components in each SWPPP, termed Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) under the NPDES program:

1. Public Education and Outreach.
2. Public Participation.
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination.
4. Construction Site Runoff and Control.
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control.
6. Pollution Prevention and Municipal "Good Housekeeping".

Ms. Spreiter displayed photographs and gave detailed descriptions of what actions were taken for each of the six components.

Each year, the City performs several tasks and implements multiple initiatives to accomplish and fulfill the requirements of each MCM. The presentation highlights these accomplishments throughout 21025. The

public is encouraged to comment on the City's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program at any time. The full report can be found on the City's website or requested in person at City Hall.

Commissioner Husbands referred to MCM 3 and asked how that works. She stated that a neighbor years ago dumped used oil down the storm sewer and asked how that should have been reported. She asked how reporting is done when the act is done. Ms. Spreiter stated that hopefully it will be reported soon enough so it can be followed, and mitigation can be done before it hits the surface water. Some legal action may be taken. Whoever witnesses such actions should report them to the City.

Commissioner Sheets asked who the reports would go to, and Ms. Spreiter stated it could be reported to her or the Minnesota Duty Officer.

Commissioner Thuening stated it is very important for everyone to help protect the water going into the storm sewer. She asked how many stormwater ponds are in Mendota Heights, and Ms. Spreiter stated that there are close to 200. Commissioner Thuening asked if there is a health ranking of the Mendota Heights stormwater system. Ms. Spreiter stated there is a ranking specifically, but the staff has a good idea of where improvements can be made. More information about the City's stormwater system can be found on the City's website.

Commissioner Daul asked if the rainwater cutouts could be done anywhere. Ms. Spreiter stated that the program through the City can only be done with road improvement projects.

Commissioner Stein mentioned a project the Student Commissioners may be familiar with when Friendly Hills Middle School was doing its parking lot and the infiltration basin to the north.

Commissioner Husbands asked if, when the stormwater ponds are inspected, what the quality of the water is. Ms. Spreiter stated we are doing ok with the resources we have. We are committed to doing as much maintenance as can be done in the budget each year. The one at Cherry Hill was way under capacity. Commissioner Husbands asked for an example of the post-construction, and Ms. Spreiter stated the rain garden program and stricter requirements for new construction projects.

Commissioner Sheets commented on MCM 2, and she encouraged residents to volunteer and sign up.

**b. 2026 Natural Resources Commission Meeting Dates and Format.**

Ms. Spreiter reviewed the proposed 2026 Natural Resources Commission dates and meeting format. The Commission will meet at 6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. The Commission will continue to hold regular meetings as well as Work Sessions held between some regular meetings, unless the Commission decides otherwise. Ms. Spreiter reviewed the proposed dates.

Chair Knosalla stated she likes the format of work sessions between regular meetings. Budget recommendations from the Commissions are due by July. Chair Knosalla suggested the June and July meetings be work sessions and the September 9 and August 13 swap. She suggested changing the November 12 meeting to a work session.

Commissioner Thuening agreed that the August work session meeting could be the on-site visits. It would be helpful to have the November meeting be a work session to review the work plan.

*Motion to accept the 2026 Natural Resources Commission Meeting Dates as revised by Commissioner Daul, second by Commissioner Stein.*

Commissioner Thuening reminded residents that they are welcome to attend any meetings.

**C. 2025 Oak Awards.**

Ms. Spreiter reviewed the Oak Awards program that was created in 2023 to celebrate leadership, education/outreach, and project efforts that advance natural resources within the City.

The Oak Awards program is now accepting applications for the following 2025 awards:

- **Acord award** – recognizes exemplary youth leadership in the advancement of our city’s natural resources. For example, a youth-led native planting project or education event. Eligible youth include individuals or groups aged 18 years and younger, or current students in 12th grade or below.
- **Leaf award** – recognizes significant contributions of an individual, family, company, or organization that has demonstrated substantial leadership for the stewardship of our city’s natural resources. For example, a community native planting effort or coordinating a neighborhood-wide 'Adopt a Drain' effort.
- **Canopy award** – recognizes lifetime achievement of an individual, family, company, or organization that has demonstrated extraordinary leadership for the stewardship of our city’s natural resources. For example, an individual who has initiated several or successive natural resource stewardship efforts or an organization that leads by example and has worked overtime to cultivate natural resource stewardship in the community.

Any individual, family, company, or organization that has contributed to the advancement of natural resources within Mendota Heights is eligible. Nominees need not reside within Mendota Heights. Self-nominations or nominations of others are both accepted. Nominees are evaluated based on the quality of the nomination, demonstration of impact, and inclusion of collaboration or community-building efforts.

Nominations are accepted until January 31, 2026. Nominations can be submitted electronically, by mail, or by dropping the nomination off at City Hall.

The Commissioners were asked to speak with residents about the awards.

**8. Old Business.**

**1. 2026 Work Plan**

Ms. Spreiter reviewed the draft of the 2026 Work Plan for the Natural Resources Commission. The Commission uses an annual work plan to accomplish its goals, as well as aid in accountability, resource allocation, and proceed through commission priorities. A work plan may consist of goals, priorities, tasks, programs, or projects that the Commission would like to implement. Resources, monetary cost, timeline, and benefits of each identified item should be considered. She noted there were a few changes throughout the work plan.

*Motion to approve the draft of the 2026 Work Plan by Commissioner Daul, second by Commissioner McCaslin.*

Commissioner Stein asked about Goal 2 and asked if that is being pushed more toward the first quarter. Ms. Spreiter stated the majority is planned for Quarter 1 and 2; however, it will be a yearlong effort.

Commissioner Thuening thanked Ms. Spreiter for capturing the discussion and creating a very clear work plan. She welcomed the Student Commissioners and looks forward to their participation. Commissioner Thuening referred to Goal 4, item 2, changing the word “explore” to “initiate”.

*Motion to approve the amended draft of the 2026 Work Plan by Commissioner Stein, second by Commissioner Daul.  
Motion passed 7-0.*

## **2. 2025 Natural Resources Year in Review**

Ms. Spreiter reviewed a presentation on the Natural Resources accomplishments in 2025. She provided numbers for the accomplishments. Some highlights given in the presentation include:

- Stormwater Management.
- The Wetland Health Evaluation Program.
- The Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program.
- Emerson Road Improvements Curb-Cut Raingardens.
- Tree Canopy Program.
- Mendota Heights Annual Tree Sale.
- Partners in Energy
- Friendly Hills Children’s Pollinator Garden.

Photographs of the various projects were shown.

Commissioner Husbands stated Krista did a good job. She thought that once the Commission talked about renaming the Tree Canopy Program, to another name. She thinks the program would be more robust if the name were changed.

Chair Knosalla stated that it was discussed to reach out on social media with information on the Program. The cost is \$185 to get a tree planted.

Commissioner Stein stated it is important to let people know the full service of the Tree Canopy Program.

Commissioner Sheets stated she was surprised by how fast the trees went during the Tree Sale. She asked if the species could be modified.

Chair Knosalla asked if some “southern species” could be included.

(The camera did not move off the Partners in Energy slide). There was a conversation but I don’t know who was speaking.

Commissioner Thuening noted it is important to bring in other species to keep the canopy robust in the drier and hotter seasons.

Chair Knosalla stated overall, it is amazing to see all the work that has been done this year.

Commissioner Sheets noted all the work done at Valley Park.

## **9. Staff Announcements.**

Ms. Spreiter noted City Offices will be closed December 24-26, 2025. Holiday Light Recycling is being done at City Hall.

## **10. Committee Reports**

**Ordinance and Policy Development** – Commissioner Stein stated the Committee met last week, and the primary subject to be discussed is public waters and the DNR ordinance.

**Education and Outreach** – No report.

**Urban Forestry and Restoration** – Commissioner Husbands stated they had a meeting about planting by the pond in Mendota Heights Center Village. Trees were planted in the Park. Still thinking of planting when the trail gets updated.

**Strategic Planning** – No report.

**Sustainability** – Commissioner Stein stated that some directed outreach to the businesses in the City will be done.

## **11. Commission Comments**

### **a. 2025 Reflections**

Commissioners were invited to provide comments and reflections on resources-related content in 2025.

Chair Knosalla stated that Partners in Energy and the success achieved are worth mentioning. A home energy squad visit is a good opportunity for residents.

Commissioner Stein stated Valley Park was an exceptional project. In his neighborhood, he sees more electric equipment being used for lawns. He sees more electric vehicles. He is inspired when students do special projects like tree planting.

Commissioner Daul stated she was very impressed during the Valley Park tour. The Committee working on the Shoreland Ordinance did very important work. She has a rain garden on a slope, and she expanded it.

Commissioner Husbands stated that having the Tree Ordinance passed was great. She feels protected that older trees do not get cut down to make room for a new home. The Landscape Ordinance will work hand in hand with the Tree Ordinance.

Commissioner Thuening stated she agrees it is important to protect our natural resources. She is inspired to see the collaboration and for the City to prioritize natural resources. Valley Park is a great natural resource. The Oak Awards are an exciting program.

Commissioner McCaslin said a lot is being done, including seeing all the trees planted.

Commissioner Stein thanked the Staff for the amount of work done behind the scenes.

## **12. Adjourn.**

*Motion to adjourn the meeting by Daul, second by McCaslin.  
Motion passed 7-0.*

*Chair Knosalla adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.*





## **CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS**

### **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**6:00 PM**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

**1101 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Knosalla called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance: Chair Knosalla, Vice Chair Stein, Student Commissioners Bisanz and Alizadeh, Commissioners Husbands, Daul and Sheets. Absent: Commissioners McCaslin and Thuening.

Staff in attendance: Natural Resources Manager Krista Spreiter.

#### **3. Discussion**

##### **a. 2025 Oak Awards**

Manager Spreiter gave an overview of the Oak Awards recognition program. The Oak Awards program was created in 2023 by the Mendota Heights Natural Resources Commission to celebrate leadership, education/outreach, and project efforts that advance natural resources within the City. It includes three categories:

- **Acorn award** – recognizes exemplary youth leadership in the advancement of our city's natural resources. For example, a youth-led native planting project or

education event. Eligible youth include individuals or groups 18 years of age and younger, or a current student in 12th grade or under.

- **Leaf award** – recognizes significant contributions of an individual, family, company or organization that has demonstrated substantial leadership for the stewardship of our city’s natural resources. For example, a community native planting effort or coordination of a neighborhood-wide Adopt-a-Drain effort.
- **Canopy award** – recognizes lifetime achievement of an individual, family, company or organization that has demonstrated extraordinary leadership for the stewardship of our city’s natural resources. For example, an individual who has initiated several or successive natural resource stewardship efforts or an organization that leads by example and has worked overtime to cultivate natural resource stewardship in the community.

**Nominations are accepted until January 31st, 2026.** Manager Spreiter noted that there have not been any nominations received. The Commission discussed ways to promote the program and encourage the public to submit nominations, as well as possible nominees.

b. **Sustainable Mendota Heights Update**

Manager Spreiter gave an overview of the *Sustainable Mendota Heights* efforts and goals. The program includes three focus areas:

**Energy:** Efforts to source energy from renewables and reduce usage.

**Waste:** Practices like recycling, composting, and reducing waste when we can.

**Nature:** Preservation and enhancement of the City's natural resources.

As part of these efforts, the city is also launching a sustainable business recognition program. Businesses will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that align with the three focus areas to become a sustainable Mendota Heights business. Once recognized, the business will be added to a list of sustainable businesses on the city’s website and will receive a window cling.

As part of the program, the city will also be hosting three business breakfasts, featuring speakers that provide information to businesses that align with the three focus areas. A light breakfast will be provided for participants. Business Breakfasts will be held at City Hall from 8a-9a on the following dates: February 10<sup>th</sup> (Energy), March 12<sup>th</sup> (Nature), and April 14<sup>th</sup> (Waste).

The Commission discussed additional topics and speakers for the March 12<sup>th</sup> breakfast, that focuses on nature. A suggestion was made to incorporate stormwater/surface water education and programs, including how to reduce de-icing salt in winter maintenance. A suggestion was also made to include the topic of groundwater conservation.

**c. Shoreland Management Ordinance Update**

Manager Spreiter gave an update on the ordinance development process and the current draft of the Shoreland Management ordinance. A meeting was held on January 13<sup>th</sup> with the MN Department of Natural Resources, and included Goal 1 Committee members, as well as Community Development Manager Madden and the city attorney. Manager Spreiter and Vice Chair Stein gave an overview of the meeting and provided takeaways from the conversation, including:

- Regarding non-public water tributaries, it was the DNR's opinion that it may be more appropriate to address non-PW tributaries in a separate ordinance if requiring buffers only to avoid confusion.
- Only tributaries with drainage areas of 2 sq mi or greater are considered public waters. Manager Spreiter will look into the drainage area of Valley Creek, as this Creek may meet the standard.
- It was communicated that water levels continue to rise above the established OHW for Augusta, with the possible installation of a controlled outlet unknown. The DNR had indicated that they are looking into adjusting the OHW.
- In regards to flexibility for re-development, it was suggested that an exchange for allowing variances, restoration and buffer establishment could be required.
- Setbacks are seen as more important than lot standards such as building height. DNR is open to approving an ordinance without building height standards.

**d. Town Square Talk Recap**

The Natural Resources Commission received an invitation for two commission members to be guests on the Town Square Talk show *Town Square Talk*. Town Square Talk airs once a month, featuring leaders from nonprofits, the arts and community-based initiatives.

Chair Knosalla and Commissioner Thuening were guests on Town Square Talk in December, and spoke regarding several Natural Resources Commission topics including:

- Partners in Energy

- Oaks Awards Program
- Earth and Arbor Day Celebration
- The Mendota Heights Annual Tree Sale and Tree Canopy Program
- Urban Forestry Ordinance
- Valley Park Restoration and Collaboration
- Ways Residents can get Involved and Take Action (Adopt-a-Drain Program, Partners in Energy Programs, Curb-cut Raingarden Program, etc.)
- Upcoming Programs and Events

Chair Knosalla gave an overview of the experience and information shared.

The Town Square Talk episode is now available on Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/1148682912?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>. It is also posted to Facebook, Instagram, and Podcast platforms, and playing on Ch. 799.

#### Staff Announcements:

Manager Spreiter gave an update on the Geothermal Grant and Feasibility Study. A kick-off meeting was held today with the consultant, HGA.

Manager Spreiter communicated that this is Commissioner Husband's last meeting. Her term has ended, and she chose not to request re-appointment. Staff and commissioners expressed their gratitude to Commissioner Husbands for her service on the commission. A new commissioner has been appointed and will join the commission for its February meeting. Manager Spreiter also reminded the commission that officer elections will occur at the February meeting. Chair Knosalla shared that she will be stepping away as Chair.

Chair Knosalla adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Natural Resources Commission**

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**Meeting Date:** February 11, 2026

**Agenda Item:** New Commissioner Introduction

**Item Type:** Presentation

**Department:** Natural Resources

**Contact:** Krista Spreiter, Natural  
Resources Manager

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**Action Request:**

Introductions should be made between Commissioner Weier and the other commissioners.

**Background:**

A new commissioner, Charlie Weier, was appointed to the Natural Resources Commission by the City Council. Commissioner Weier has been a Mendota Heights resident since 2016 and has a background in law. Commissioner Weier is asked to introduce himself, and commissioners should in turn introduce themselves to Commissioner Weier.

**Fiscal and Resource Impact:**

None.

**Attachments:**

None.



## Natural Resources Commission

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**Meeting Date:** February 11, 2026

**Agenda Item:** 2026 Officer Elections

**Item Type:** Action Item

**Department:** Natural Resources

**Contact:** Krista Spreiter, Natural Resources Manager

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### Action Request:

#### Background:

The Natural Resources Commission's by-laws set the election of the roles of chair and vice chair at the annual meeting of the commission, which takes place in February of each year.

If a commissioner is interested in the position of either chair or vice chair, they are welcome to express their interest to the group as a whole during discussion of this item. Commissioners can also suggest or nominate other commissioners for each position. Motions should be made before discussion commences for both positions. The Chair and the Vice Chair elections will be separate items. The election of a chair will be the first order of business.

After a chair has been selected, the new chair will take over the meeting proceedings. The Chair will then ask the commission for nominations for Vice Chair. Following nominations, the Chair will then call the vote for the Vice Chair.

#### Requested Action

*Motion to approve the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ to be Chair of the Natural Resources Commission.*

*Motion to approve the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ to be Vice Chair of the Natural Resources Commission.*

#### **Fiscal and Resource Impact:**

None.

#### **Attachments:**

None.



## Natural Resources Commission

**Meeting Date:** February 11, 2026

**Agenda Item:** Committee Assignments

**Item Type:** Action Item

**Department:** Natural Resources

**Contact:** Krista Spreiter, Natural Resources Manager

### Action Request:

The Commission is asked to discuss and determine committee assignments.

### Background:

The Commission establishes committees for each goal as a way to focus on and accomplish the initiatives associated with each goal of the work plan. Committees are limited to three voting members in order to comply with open-meeting law. A committee may have four or more members if one or more of the members is a student commissioner. Current committee members for each goal are as follows:

Goal 1, Ordinance and Policy: Commissioners Knosalla, McCaslin, and Stein

Goal 2, Education and Outreach: Commissioners Daul, Sheets, Thuening, and Student Commissioners Alizadeh and Bisanz

Goal 3, Urban Forestry and Restoration: Commissioners Daul and McCaslin

Goal 4, Strategic Planning: Commissioners Sheets and Thuening

Goal 5, Sustainability: Commissioners Knosalla and Stein

Commissioners should confirm or suggest changes to committees and express interest in committee(s) they would like to serve on, as well as come to a consensus on committee assignments.

### Fiscal and Resource Impact:

None.

### Attachments:

1. 2026 Work Plan

Natural Resources Commission Work Plan 2026		Timeline			
Goal	Initiative	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Goal 1: Ordinance and Policy Development	Complete draft of Shoreland Ordinance for recommendation of approval by City Council	X	X		
Goal 1: Ordinance and Policy Development	Develop a Landscape Standards Ordinance for recommendation of approval by City Council	X	X	X	X
Goal 2: Education and Outreach	Create a community engagement strategy	X	X		
Goal 2: Education and Outreach	Increase social media outreach	X	X	X	X
Goal 2: Education and Outreach	Develop educational topics and event schedule for Earth and Arbor Day Celebration	X	X		
Goal 2: Education and Outreach	Host site tour of natural resources site - Invite members of City Council and other Commissions			X	X
Goal 2: Education and Outreach	Create a Natural Resources and volunteer event calendar	X	X		
Goal 3: Urban Forestry and Restoration	Complete a turf-to-native vegetation conversion project within Friendly Hills Park			X	X
Goal 3: Urban Forestry and Restoration	Host a native restoration event			X	X
Goal 3: Urban Forestry and Restoration	Support implementation of EAB Bonding Grant		X	X	
Goal 4: Strategic Planning	Identify and explore funding sources for Natural Resources	X	X	X	X
Goal 4: Strategic Planning	Initiate development of a Natural Resources Management Plan for Valley Park	X	X	X	X
Goal 5: Sustainability	Implement Partners in Energy (PiE) Action Plan	X	X	X	X
Goal 5: Sustainability	Support implementation of sustainability and PiE business outreach efforts	X	X	X	X
Goal 5: Sustainability	Support implementation of the Public Works Facility Geothermal Planning Grant	X	X	X	X





## Natural Resources Commission

**Meeting Date:** February 11, 2026

**Agenda Item:** Earth and Arbor Week Update

**Item Type:** Presentation

**Department:** Natural Resources

**Contact:** Krista Spreiter, Natural Resources Manager

### Action Request:

None. Information Only.

### Background:

The 2026 Mendota Heights Earth and Arbor Day Celebration will be held Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the celebration is to gain awareness and educate the community on natural resources issues and topics, as well as to encourage participation and connection with residents, businesses, and other community groups in Mendota Heights. The following events and programs are included in the week-long celebration:

### Events Include:

- **Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: Kick-Off to Lily, Find the Frog.** Lily will be hiding in a Mendota Heights Park and can be seen from a trail or manicured public space. No need to go off-trail! Complete rules will be posted on social media and the city's website. Participants can email their photo and riddle answer until 8:00 A.M. Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> or send the city a Facebook message. Participants who find Lily will be entered to win an Earth Week basket. The drawing is on Monday.
- **Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>: Yoga in the Park.** Free to anyone 18+ years of age. Yoga will be led by an instructor from Green Lotus Yoga in Market Square Park from 5:00-6:00 P.M. The event is free, however registration is required. Participants should bring their own mat.
- **Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Free Book Buggie and Movie Night.** The Free Book Buggie will be parked at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 P.M. offering free books for kids of all ages. The movie WALL-E will be shown in the City Hall Council Chambers starting at 6:30 P.M.
- **Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>: Raptor and Eagle Show.** The University of MN Raptor Center will be giving a live raptor presentation, including a Bald Eagle. The show will begin at 1 P.M. at Mendakota Park. Participants should bring their own chair.

- **Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>: City-wide Clean-up.** Residents can pick up free clean-up supplies at City Hall from 7:00-11:30 A.M. and at the Par 3 Clubhouse from 1:00-4:00 P.M.
- **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>: Kids Garage Sale.** Gently used kids clothes available for sale at the Veterans Memorial Center in Inver Grove Heights from 10 A.M.-Noon.

**Fiscal and Resource Impact:**

Total cost to the city for the week's programs is \$1,000.00.

**Attachments:**

None.



## Natural Resources Commission

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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	February 11, 2026		
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Geothermal Planning Grant Update		
<b>Item Type:</b>	Presentation		
<b>Department:</b>	Natural Resources	<b>Contact:</b>	Krista Spreiter, Natural Resources Manager

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### Action Request:

None. Information Only.

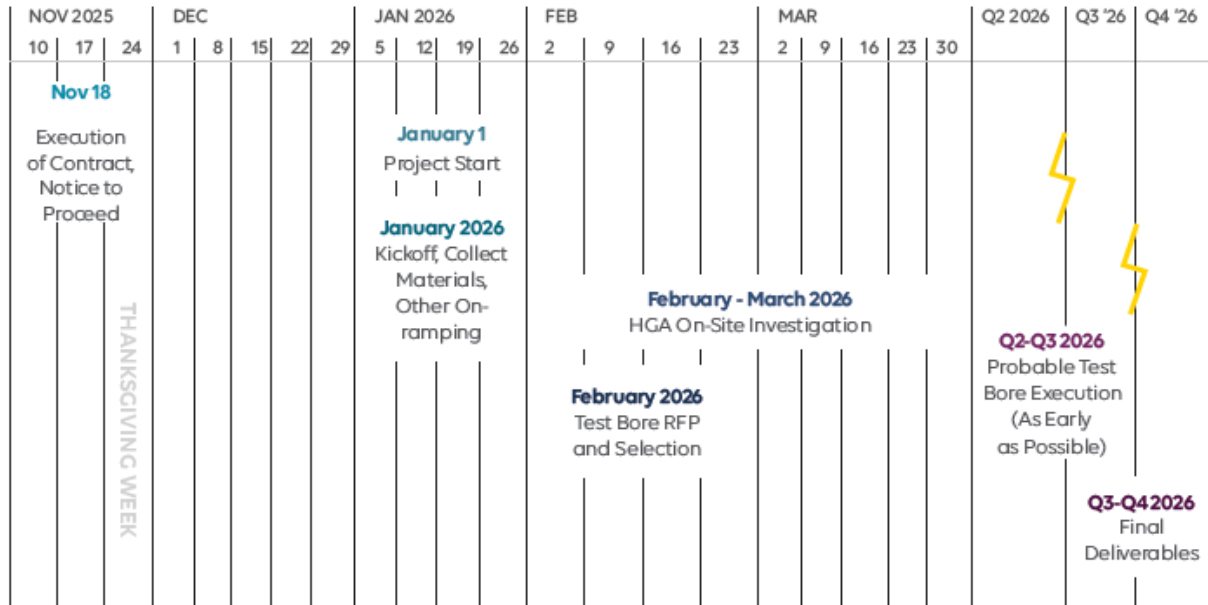
### Background:

The City was awarded a Geothermal Planning Grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce for the Public Works Facility Geothermal Planning project. The intent of the grant program is to provide financial assistance to local government units to examine the technical and economic feasibility for installation of geothermal energy systems.

The initiative was part of the Sustainability Committee's goal of achieving sustainable and renewable energy sources for the city. The project also fits well with the city's recently adopted Energy Action Plan as part of its partnership with Xcel Energy through the Partners in Energy program.

A Request for Proposals was sent to multiple consultants with experience in installing and planning for geothermal projects such as this one. Of four proposals received, the city chose HGA consultants to lead the project. A kick-off meeting was held with HGA and city staff in January. Next steps include hiring a contractor to perform test bore drilling on the site. The timeline for the project is shown below.

## TIMELINE



### Fiscal and Resource Impact:

None. The grant award does not require a cash match.

**Attachments:**

None.