



Our Vision

Red Wing thrives as a vibrant, creative river town that values its natural environment, welcomes all people, and unlocks opportunity for everyone.

Our Mission

We strive to create a sustainable, healthy, accessible, resilient, and equitable community where every person feels at home.

Meeting Announcement and Agenda Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting City Council Chambers, 315 West 4th Street, Red Wing, MN & Virtually Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 5:30 PM

This meeting will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers and virtually via Webex at the same time. Members of the public can join this meeting either in person at City Hall or virtually. [Join the meeting via Webex here](#). To join via telephone, please dial (415) 655-0001. Enter access code 2553 829 4052 and password 2026 when prompted.

1. Call to Order

2. Red Wing Sustainability Vision & Mission Statement

A sustainable community meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

3. Roll Call

4. Swearing in the Oath of Office

4.A. Kirsten Wert (partial term, expires December 2026)

4.B. Hugh Brown (second term, expires December 2026)

5. Presentation of the Jay McCleary Sustainability Award

6. Approval of Agenda

7. Election of Officers

8. Approval of Minutes

8.A. Motion to Approve November 25, 2025 Minutes.

9. Public Comment

We now invite anyone to share their thoughts on a topic that is not on the agenda. We welcome all opinions and ideas. We appreciate you stating your name at the lectern, and please remember that personal attacks may be ruled out of order. You will have up to three minutes to comment, and we appreciate your time in coming tonight.

10. Communication Items

10.A. Finance Report

10.B. City Council Liaison Report

11. Motions & General Business

11.A. Greenstep Pollinator Workshop

- There is a speaker request from this organization. Discuss coordination of this request.

12. Announcements

12.A. Next Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

12.B. Discuss rescheduling of the May meeting date

13. Adjournment

Accommodations for signing interpreter, Braille, large print, etc. can be made. Call City Hall at 385.3600 seven days prior to the need. Hearing assistance devices are available during meetings.

**Red Wing Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
November 25, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Hugh Brown, Commissioners Mark Berman, Maddie Brown, Dan Evanson, and Shawn Carney

Members Absent: Commissioner Shawn Carney (excused absence)

Others Present: Brandy Howe, Staff Liaison

1. Call to Order

Chair Hugh Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Brown led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Red Wing Sustainability Vision & Mission Statement

Chair Brown read the Sustainability Commission Vision & Mission Statement.

4. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Chair Brown and Commissioners Berman, Evanson, and M. Brown were present.

Commissioner Carney and Council Liaison Kim Beise previously indicated they would be absent.

5. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Brown requested that an item related to Commission recruitment be added to the agenda. Chair Brown confirmed that it could be added as Item 11.

Commissioner Berman stated that he would like clarification on something that was written in the City Beat. Chair Brown suggested that be Item 12.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berman, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the agenda as amended. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

6. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to Approve Minutes.

- 1. May 29, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. June 24, 2025, Workshop Meeting Minutes.**
- 3. July 17, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes.**
- 4. August 26, 2025, Workshop Meeting Minutes.**
- 5. September 25, 2025, Workshop Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Berman recalled that there was a motion at a previous meeting to strike the Pledge of Allegiance from the meeting agenda. Staff Liaison Howe confirmed that action did take place, and staff are working with the agenda system to remove that item from future agendas.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berman, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the minutes as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

7. Public Comment

Chair Brown reviewed the public comment procedure.

No one wished to address the Commission.

8. Communication Items

A. Finance Report.

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the Sustainability Commission Finance Report.

B. City Council Liaison Report.

No report.

9. Motions & General Business

A. Motion to Approve Letter of Support for Organics Drop Site.

Commissioner Evanson provided background information on the proposed letter of support for an organics drop-off site and recommended approval.

Commissioner Berman shared input that the subcommittee heard related to the request, the desire for a successful location to be chosen for the site, whether the box should be locked or unlocked, and promotion/marketing. Commissioner Evanson recognized the cost estimate, noting that final costs are yet to be determined, but believed that the Commission could support 50 percent of that cost.

Commissioner Brown noted that the Finance Report shows the remaining balance for the year and stated that she would be comfortable using most, or all, of the remaining balance in support of this item. Chair Brown was unsure whether the expense would come from the 2025 or 2026 budget.

Ms. Howe stated that perhaps she could work with the Finance Department to determine if this allocation could be transferred to the use prior to the end of the year to ensure the funding would be provided and that it would not conflict with or impact the 2026 budget for the Commission.

Commissioner Evanson recommended a contribution of \$1,500. Commissioner Brown supported that contribution.

Commissioner Berman recognized that the request may not go before the Council before the end of the year and had questions related to the 2025 or 2026 funding and budget impacts. Commissioner Brown recognized that there is limited information tonight related to the Commission funds, but believed that the most important thing is to show support for the request. She stated that she would support the request even if it came from the 2026 budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berman, seconded by Commissioner Evanson to approve the Letter of Support for Organics Drop Site with a maximum contribution of \$1,500. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

B. Motion to Approve 2026 Meeting Calendar.

Commissioner Berman suggested a later start time. Chair Brown stated that he could support a 6 p.m. start time.

Commissioner Brown commented that she would support keeping the 5:30 p.m. start time. Commissioner Evanson stated that while he could support an earlier start time, he would be fine keeping the current start time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Evanson, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the 2026 meeting calendar as presented. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

C. Subcommittee Reports.

Commissioner Brown provided an overview of the Organics Subcommittee report. Commissioner Evanson provided additional information on the discussion that occurred related to potential drop site locations and possible partnerships with the high school.

Commissioner Berman suggested that this item be added to a future workshop agenda. He provided an overview of the Pollinator Report and suggested that also be added to the next workshop agenda.

Commissioner Brown provided an update on the tree planting that had occurred, noting that volunteers had been watering the trees weekly and would continue to do so until a hard frost occurred.

Commissioner Berman shared information on the American Chestnuts that he identified. He stated that he would welcome assistance with planting. Chair Brown suggested that be added to a future workshop agenda.

10. Announcements

A. Topics for Future Agendas.

Future agenda topics were discussed.

B. Next Meeting Date: December 23, 2025.

11. Recruitment Discussion

Commissioner Brown recognized that there are open positions on the Commission and asked if that is being marketed by the City. Ms. Howe provided an update on membership, noting that as of January, there will be three open seats on the Commission. Commissioner Brown suggested that Commission members reach out to people they believe may be interested in serving.

Commissioner Evanson stated that he would be interested in progress on a student member joining the Commission.

Commissioner Berman stated that the sustainability award has not been given out for the year. Ms. Howe commented that she had originally planned that for October, but is now thinking January. She suggested that the Commission go to the school rather than the school coming to the Commission, but recognized that would not be recorded.

Commissioner Evanson stated that it would still be nice to have some type of record of the recognition. Ms. Howe stated that she would try to plan that for the January meeting.

12. City Beat Discussion

Commissioner Berman provided clarification on the membership numbers that were provided within City Beat and the actual membership numbers.

13. Adjournment

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.



Sustainability Commission Finance Report
GL: 101-41330-53925

As of January 21, 2026

2026 Approved Budget **\$2,500.00**

2026 Expenses

Total Expenses \$0.00

Remaining Balance **\$2,500.00**

*Note: Funds will no longer be carried over from year to year.

SECTION 7.10. URBAN LANDSCAPE REGULATIONS.

Subd. 1. For the purposes of this Section, the following listed specific words and terms are defined as follows:

- (1) Compost: A mixture of decomposing vegetable or plant refuse that is free from obnoxious odors.
- (2) Garden: A plot of land used for cultivation of flowers, vegetables, fruit, herbs, ornamental shrubs or trees used for recreation and display.
- (3) Lawn Sprinkler: A device with perforations through which water issues into the air from a hose or underground pipe to irrigate a lawn.
- (4) **Managed Natural Landscape:** means a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of native or nonnative grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs, or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadow vegetation, and ornamental plants. Managed natural landscapes does not include turf-grass lawns left unattended for the purpose of returning to a natural state. Managed natural landscapes may include plants and grasses that are in excess of eight inches in height and have gone to seed, but may not include any noxious weeds..
- (5) Prairie: An open treeless plant community consisting of a diverse mix of sun-loving flowers, grass and sedge species.
- (6) **Rain Garden:** means a native plant garden that is designed not only to aesthetically improve properties, but also to reduce the amount of stormwater and accompanying pollutants from entering streams, lakes, and rivers; and.
- (7) Savanna: A transitional plant community comprised of scattered mature trees with an understory of prairie vegetation.
- (8) **Turf-Grass Lawn:** means a lawn composed mostly of grasses commonly used in regularly cut lawns or play areas, including but not limited to bluegrass, fescue, and ryegrass blends, intended to be maintained at a height of no more than eight inches..
- (9) Noxious Weeds: The plant species of weeds as determined by Minnesota Statute, section 18.78 under the following headings: "State Prohibited

Noxious Weed List,” “Restricted Noxious Weeds,” and “Secondary Noxious Weeds.”

- (10) Woodland: A tree community covered by a tree canopy of at least 50% with an understory of shade-tolerant plants.
- (11) Low Maintenance: Perennial rye, creeping red, chewings and hard fescues, clover and small wildflowers (wild ginger, blue violets and others similar). Also cover crops like oats or buckwheat. All require sun.
- (12) Native grasses: Big and little bluestem, Indian grass, side oats grama and others similar. These also require mostly sun.
- (13) Meadow Vegetation: means grasses and flowering broad-leaf plants that are native to, or adapted to, the state of Minnesota, and that are commonly found in meadow and prairie plant communities, not including noxious weeds.
- (14) Ornamental Plants: means grasses, perennials, annuals, and groundcovers purposely planted for aesthetic reasons.
- (15) Steep Slopes: are slopes with a gradient greater than 15 degrees (or approximately 27 percent), measured from the horizontal.

Subd. 2. City to Control Tree Planting (Standards). The City shall have control and supervision of planting shrubs and trees upon, or overhanging, all the streets or other public property. The City may establish and enforce uniform standards relating to the kinds and types of trees to be planted and the placement thereof. Such standards shall be kept on file in the office of the Public Works Director and may be revised from time to time by action of the Council upon the recommendation of the Public Works Director.

Subd. 3. Permit Required. It is a misdemeanor for any person to plant, spray, trim or remove trees or other plants which are upon City property, including right-of-way, without first procuring from the City a right-of-way permit in writing to do so. Permits required by this subdivision shall be issued in accordance with Chapter 14.

Subd. 4. Duty of property owners to cut grass and noxious weeds and maintain shrubs. **These rules incorporate Minnesota Statute 412.925 which governs managed natural landscapes.**

- A. Duty of City to Enforce: It is the duty of Director of Public Works, through his/her designee to inspect, document, control and enforce the maintenance and appearance of all property within the City as it relates to grass, noxious weeds, trees and shrubs. This person should be trained in the basics of sustainable urban landscaping and should utilize all resources associated with sustainable landscape practices as available at both the state and local levels.
- B. Duty of Owners to **Maintain Turf-Grass Lawn** shall be set at no higher than **8 inches** for residential and commercial nonexempt parcels to discourage grasses and noxious weeds from going to seed and proliferating in unwanted areas. **Turf Grass Lawns must be free of all noxious weeds over the height of 8 inches OR that have gone or are about to go to seed.** If any owner or occupant fails to assume the responsibility of this Section and, after notice given by the Public Works Director, has not within **fourteen** days of such notice complied, the City may cause such work to be done, and the expenses thus incurred shall be a lien upon the property. Noncompliance after the initial citing shall be cause for immediate action without notice to bring property into compliance. The City Clerk shall certify to the Goodhue County Auditor a statement of the amount of the cost incurred by the City. Such amount together with interest, and the initial Citation penalty shall be entered as a special assessment against such lot or parcel of land and be collected in the same manner as real estate taxes.
- C. **Duty of Owners to Maintain Managed Natural Landscapes: It is the duty of the property owner to maintain Managed Natural Landscapes to ensure that these spaces are free of noxious weeds and adhere to the following conditions.**
 - a. **A buffer of a minimum of 5ft between adjacent properties be maintained at all times.**
 - b. **Managed natural landscapes may not encroach into pedestrian pathways or roadways, in order to ensure safe and unhindered travel.**
 - c. **Must be registered annually with the City of Red Wing through the City of Red Wings Natural Landscape Permit.**

D. **Duty of Owner to Maintain Trees and Shrubs:** It is the duty of the property owner to maintain any tree or shrub that extends from their property into the right-of-way that may hinder in any way the safe travel either pedestrian or vehicle traffic. If any owner or occupant fails to assume the responsibility of this Section and, after notice given by the Public Works Director, has not within fourteen days of such notice complied, the City may cause such work to be done, and the expenses thus incurred shall be a lien upon the property. Noncompliance after the initial citing shall be cause for immediate action without notice to bring property into compliance. The City Clerk shall certify to the Goodhue County Auditor a statement of the amount of the cost incurred by the City. Such amount together with interest, and the initial Citation penalty shall be entered as a special assessment against such lot or parcel of land and be collected in the same manner as real estate taxes.

E. **Undeveloped Residential Lots and Outlots:** Open lots and outlots in residential areas. Where any undeveloped residential lot or outlot abuts an improved public street or highway, this lot or outlot shall be maintained to provide a 5-foot buffer zone measured from the street pavement or curb along the entire frontage of the lot or outlot. The buffer-zone grass shall be subject to the maximum length of 8 inches and free of noxious weeds as designated in Section B of this section. Where any undeveloped lot or outlot abuts a property with a home or business, this lot shall also be maintained to provide a 5-foot buffer zone from both the adjoining private property as well as the street right-of-way. The buffer-zone grass shall be subject to the maximum length of 8 inches and free of noxious weeds as designated in Section B of this subdivision. The remainder of the lot shall be mowed twice annually, once between June 1 and June 15; and once between September 1 and September 15. These lots shall be seeded with low-maintenance, low-water grasses or native grasses to minimize maintenance and discourage growth of invasive species. At such time two-thirds of all lots within the plat are developed, the remaining lots must be maintained to the same standard as in Section B of this subdivision.

E. **F. Undeveloped Commercial Lots and Outlots:** Open lots and outlots in commercial areas. Where any undeveloped commercial lot or outlot abuts an improved public street or highway, this lot or outlot shall be maintained to provide a 5-foot buffer zone measured from the street pavement or curb along the entire frontage of the lot or outlot. The buffer-zone grass shall be subject to the maximum length of 8 inches and free of noxious weed as

designated in Section B of this section. Where any undeveloped lot or outlot abuts a property with a business, this lot shall also be maintained to provide a 5-foot buffer zone from both the adjoining private property as well as the street right-of-way. The buffer-zone grass shall be subject to the maximum length of 8 inches and free of noxious weed as designated in Section B of this subdivision.

G. Watering: Watering of traditional residential lawns by lawn sprinkler (see definition) between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and also between 9:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. is discouraged in order to conserve water and prevent turf disease. Exceptions may be made for newly sodded/seeded lawns. In addition, the City retains the right to restrict public water usage as deemed necessary.

H. Exempted Parcels/Areas: Within the corporate limits of the City, certain areas may be exempted from maintenance regulations with the exclusion of noxious weed removal as set forth in Sections B, C, and D above provided their existence does not present potential safety hazards or violate other sections of this code. These areas include:

- Designated floodplains or wetlands
- Permitted or naturally occurring Prairies, Savannas, or Woodlands
- Managed Natural Landscape and Garden areas within traditional lawns
- Rain Gardens
- Golf Courses
- Public Schools
- Parks and Playing Fields
- Cemeteries
- Slopes greater than 15 degrees that do not encroach into pedestrian pathways or roadways. Slopes that abut pedestrian pathways or roadways must be maintained with a minimum 3-foot setback from the back of curb or sidewalk, and no vegetation may encroach into the sidewalk or roadway.
- Outlots that do not abut an improved public street or other ROW
- Agricultural Zoned Property

I. Permitting of Managed Natural Landscapes: Any owner of a lot or parcel desiring to develop a Managed Natural Landscapes) may do so provided such plantings meet the requirements of the definitions in this ordinance and of Subd. 4C. Such parcels shall be subject to investigation and compliance by the Director of Public Works whose findings shall be valid for the calendar year. At the start of each year a new investigation can occur at

the request of the Citizens. These parcels must be registered annually with the City of Red Wing through the City of Red Wings Natural Landscape Permit.

Subd. 5. City May Order Work Done. Director of Public Works may, in cases of failure to comply with this section, perform such work, keeping an accurate account of the cost thereof for each lot, piece or parcel of land.

Subd. 6. Dumping: Placement of plant material, clippings, animal waste and other debris on these parcels shall be governed by Chapter 10 of the City Code.

Subd. 7. Establishment of Fee. The City shall set a fee for each out-of-compliance parcel by Ordinance, and said fee shall cover administrative costs in addition to any costs incurred in the cleanup and maintenance work that the City completes or causes to be completed.

Source: Ordinance No. 2, Fourth Series
Effective Date: 04-16-2011