



**CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD**  
City Hall - Chambers (2nd Floor) | 160 6th Ave E. | Hendersonville NC 28792  
Thursday, July 20, 2023 – 3:00 PM



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## AGENDA

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Call To Order- Kelly Phale, Chairperson

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Agenda

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Welcome New Members! - *Kelly Pahle, Chairperson*
- B. FY 2024 Chair and Vice Chair Vote - *Kelly Pahle, Chair*
- C. Caregivers of Mother Earth and Brooklyn Community Garden Update, *Elle Travis and Jane Grossman*

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Meeting Minutes; Environmental Sustainability Board; June 15, 2023

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Public Comment 10 minutes

**6. STAFF LIAISON UPDATE**

- A. Sustainability Strategic Plan Public Input Meeting Update
- B. Approval of Amended Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings and new sub-committee dates/times
- C. E.S.B.'s role with Bee City

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Mayor's Monarch Pledge, Marcia Shaffer, *Board member*
- B. Subpod - *Virginia Tegel, Member*
- C. Tree Ordinance Update - *Virginia Tegel, Member*
- D. Parks and Greenways Master Plan Update - *Virginia Tegel, Member*

E. Fountain Works Retreat Summary - *Kelly Pahle, Chair*

**8. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE**

A. City Council Update - *Lyndsey Simpson, CouncilWoman*

**9. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

*The City of Hendersonville is committed to providing accessible facilities, programs and services for all people in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you need assistance or an accommodation for this meeting please contact the City Clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting at 697-3005.*



**CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD**  
 Operations Center - Assembly Room | 305 Williams St. | Hendersonville NC  
 28792



Thursday, June 15, 2023 – 3:00 PM

## AGENDA

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Call To Order- *Kelly Phale, Chairperson*  
 Ann called to order at 3:03pm. Geri and Kelly are not present.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Approval of Agenda  
 Update to agenda: chair nominations announcement.  
 Marsha moved to accept agenda changes. Grady seconded.

### 3. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Recognition of board members, Geri Conley, Beth Stang, and Will Garvey

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marsha motioned to approve all agenda changes. Grady seconded.

- A. Meeting Minutes; Environmental Sustainability Board Retreat; May 18, 2023
- B. Meeting Minutes; Environmental Sustainability Board; April 20, 2023

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Public Comment 10 minutes  
 No public comments.

### 6. STAFF LIAISON UPDATE

- A. Sustainability Program Update  
 Public input meeting; need representatives for energy, transportation, and waste management.  
 Virginia suggested we have a small party with completion of the sustainability plan.  
 Caitlyn is emailing out more information.

The Board also was in support of the current layout for the sustainability plan

A. Bee City, Pollinator Gardens on Private Property Initiative

Marsha and Ann would like to wait until new board members are present and until the Board receives back FountainWorks retreat summary to show what the Board would like to focus on. / Ann is interested in status of pesticide use / Virginia said we can have a partnership with the Tree Board, and don't have to be the only one owning it. / Councilwoman Simpson said Bee City involvement could give the Board access to additional funds to do the projects we already wanting to.

1. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Lyndsey Simpson, Council Woman

Public input meeting July 17th. / Pollinator proclamation / New board members ; Ann suggested we approach board applicants that didn't get approved to be on Hendo Earth Fest sub-committee.

2. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. ESB Retreat with Fountainworks – *Kelly Pahle, Chair*

Mary Ellen voiced that the overall discussion was the most helpful.

B. Mayor's Monarch Pledge - *Kelly Pahle, Chair*

Board would like to wait until the July Board meeting to see if any of the new members would like to work on the pledge requirements.

C. Pollinator Plant Partnership - *Kelly Pahle, Chair* (Originally proposed by Will Garvey, Member)

Nothing new is needed to act on. We are just waiting for approval from Blue Ridge Community College.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Main St. America Blog - *Ann Twiggs, Board Member*

Ann had blog post reviewed by the City's Communications staff and should be published soon.

B. Chair and Vice Chair nominations next month

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

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# Key Takeaways from Community Input Meetings

<b>Energy</b>	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards for energy efficiency in new construction/remodeling of City buildings</li> <li>LEED certified buildings</li> <li>Invest in solar energy projects</li> <li>Dark sky compliant street lighting</li> <li>Citywide inventory for energy audit</li> <li>Public outreach</li> </ul> <p>Key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased renewable energy</li> <li>policy improvements for standard building efficiency measures</li> </ul> <p>Top 3 actions:</p> <p>47% - Implement recommendations from energy audits of municipal buildings</p> <p>28% - Invest in solar energy projects</p> <p>19% - Sustainable building policy</p>
<b>Waste Management</b>	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More trash cans on Oklawaha Greenway</li> <li>Public education outreach on recycling &amp; impacts of plastic waste</li> <li>Plastic waste reduction</li> <li>Community composting program (ex. at community garden)</li> <li>Compost pick up service</li> <li>Increase tree canopy</li> <li>trash clean up days quarterly</li> </ul> <p>Key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste reduction outreach &amp; education</li> <li>Plastic reduction through education and policy work</li> </ul> <p>Top 3 actions:</p> <p>30% - increase recycling rate</p> <p>18% - policy on waste reduction for new construction</p> <p>18% - policy on waste reduction for staff and City events</p>
<b>Land Management</b>	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate tree canopy and pollinator habitat on Ecusta Trail</li> <li>Land restoration; Invasive species removal</li> <li>Parklets with tree shade, benches, &amp; pollinator habitat</li> <li>Fitness amenities at parks</li> <li>County coordination</li> </ul> <p>Key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing biodiversity for greenspaces</li> <li>"Pocket parks"</li> <li>Increased tree canopy</li> </ul> <p>Top 3 actions:</p> <p>42% - Increase tree canopy</p> <p>34% - Increase low maintenance landscaping (less water, pesticides, &amp; maintenance)</p> <p>26% - Invasive species removal</p>
<b>Water</b>	<p>Other Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced buffer zones &amp; managed runoff</li> <li>Water recycling for buildings; ex. greywater</li> <li>Low flow devices at WTP &amp; WWTP</li> <li>Bioswales</li> </ul> <p>Key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permeable pavement in construction</li> <li>Increased efforts to keep storm drains clear</li> </ul> <p>Top 3 actions:</p> <p>57% - Protect &amp; enhance water quality</p> <p>17% - water efficiency policy</p> <p>17% - Outreach/education</p>

## Transportation

- EV chargers on Ecusta Trail
- Policy for vehicle aquisition
  - Right size requirement
  - Efficiency emission reduction
- Micromobility, ex. Bike/scooter share downtown
- Invest in electric & low emission vehicles
- Incentivize City staff to walk between City Hall and City Ops.
- Implement bike and pedestrian plans already completed
- ADA compliant walk spaces

### Key themes:

- City shuttle service downtown / increased public transport
- Alternative fuels for City fleet & equipment
- Walkable & bikable City
  - increased safety
  - Increased sidewalks & paths

### Top 3 actions:

30% - increased walkability infrastructure  
 27% - Increased bikeability infrastructure  
 16% - conversion of City vehicles to electric

## Community Opportunities

- Educational workshops for sustainable practices for residents
- Increased promotion of City rain barrel program
- Homeowner energy support
- Incentive program for residents and businesses to preserve trees
- Requirements for businesses to recycle

### Key themes:

- Free parking for electric vehicles to incentivize purchasing
- Electric vehicle infrastructure for multi-unit density

## How will we fund the plan?

74% - funded through a hybrid of grants & city funds

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday at 3:00 p.m. at the City Hall - Chambers (2nd Floor) 160 6th Ave E. Hendersonville NC 28792

- August 17<sup>th</sup>
- September 21<sup>st</sup>
- October 19<sup>th</sup>
- November 16<sup>th</sup>
- December 21<sup>st</sup>

Hendo Earth Fest Subcommittee – past meeting were held Fridays at 10:30 am in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room inside City Hall.



ESB Projects and Admin Calendar FY 2024											
July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024
Budget											
Review budget allocation and confirm projects for the year						Confirm budget request for next year				Budget spending stops	
	Hendo Earth Fest										
	Sub-committee starts meeting and gathering members	Contact vendors	Confirm vendors				Start promotions?		Hendo Earth Fest / Earth Day		
						Sustainability Hero Award					
						Planning	Call for nominations	Review applications	2024 hero awarded		
							Mayor's Monarch Pledge				
							Confirm coming year's pledges chosen out of the three requirement categories.	Submit pledge			




A circular wreath of various botanical illustrations surrounds the central text. The wreath includes green ferns, a red maple leaf, a yellow flower, a green leaf, a red leaf, a purple flower, and a green leaf.

# Renewed ESB Bee City Involvement

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# Requirements

- Establish a standing Bee City USA committee to advocate for pollinators. **Can be existing board**
  - Create and enhance pollinator habitat on public and private land by increasing the abundance of native plants and providing nest sites. Native Plant List and Plant Supplier List. **Both lists are on Bee City page on City's website. Cannot be worded as a promotion. Tree Board currently involved but work could have greater impact with more efforts. ESB could have an initiative tied to increased habitat on private land. \*next page**
  - Reduce the use of pesticides. **Tree Board handles.**
  - Incorporate pollinator-conscious practices into city policies and plans. **Tree Board working on.**
  - Host pollinator awareness events. **Can be Hendo Earth Fest and Garden Jubilee.**
  - Publicly acknowledge Bee City USA affiliation with signs and an online presence. **Caitlyn takes care of.**
  - Pay an initial application fee and annual renewal fee. **Caitlyn takes care of.**
  - Annually apply for renewal and report on the previous year's activities. **Caitlyn takes care of.**
- 

\*\*Just because things were done one way in the past doesn't mean that is how it has to be moving forward.

# Pollinator Gardens on Private Property Initiative



## Benefits:

- Solves issue of who maintains – the owner would maintain and would likely have better success since pollinator habitat would be on their own personal property
- Quantifiable impact and a way for ESB to interact with City residents and businesses in an easy way while contributing to Bee City program.

## How this would work:

1. ESB designates one or two pollinator garden application deadline(s).
2. ESB & Caitlyn put together online form residents/business owners fill out showing why they would benefit from a pollinator garden, commitment to maintain garden, maximum planting area, etc
3. ESB votes on award recipients
4. ESB consults with winner on what plants would be viable for garden location & put together purchasing list (with plants coming from Bee City Native Plant List). We could have a template email that is sent out for the owner to fill out.
5. ESB meeting with owner to help plant mini garden and provides a brochure on who ESB is and tips for maintaining their garden
6. If desired, ESB could keep a list of award recipients and ESB can reach out 1/year on how the progress is going but this wouldn't be a requirement.



## Mayors' Monarch Pledge

### Hendersonville's Update & Action Items for 2023

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVENING

✓ Issue a Proclamation.

The city proclamation was made by Mayor Volk in April.

*In process.* Engage with gardening leaders and partners.

The city is currently helping to revitalize 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Community Garden with Caregivers of Mother Earth, The Community Foundation, Bee City USA and Tree City.

#### SYSTEMS CHANGE

*In process.* Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Sustainability Plan.

#### PROGRAM AND DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

✓ Plant a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at a location.

A monarch and pollinator-friendly garden was planted on Four Seasons Hwy. (at Aldi access lane) by Tree City board members.

*In process.* Facilitate or support milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

The city is currently working with Blue Ridge Community College on a "plant partnership" to raise milkweed plants, with a portion to be for the city's use.



### 2023 REMAINING ACTION ITEM

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat – 7th Ave. Community Garden

### 2024 ACTION ITEM(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

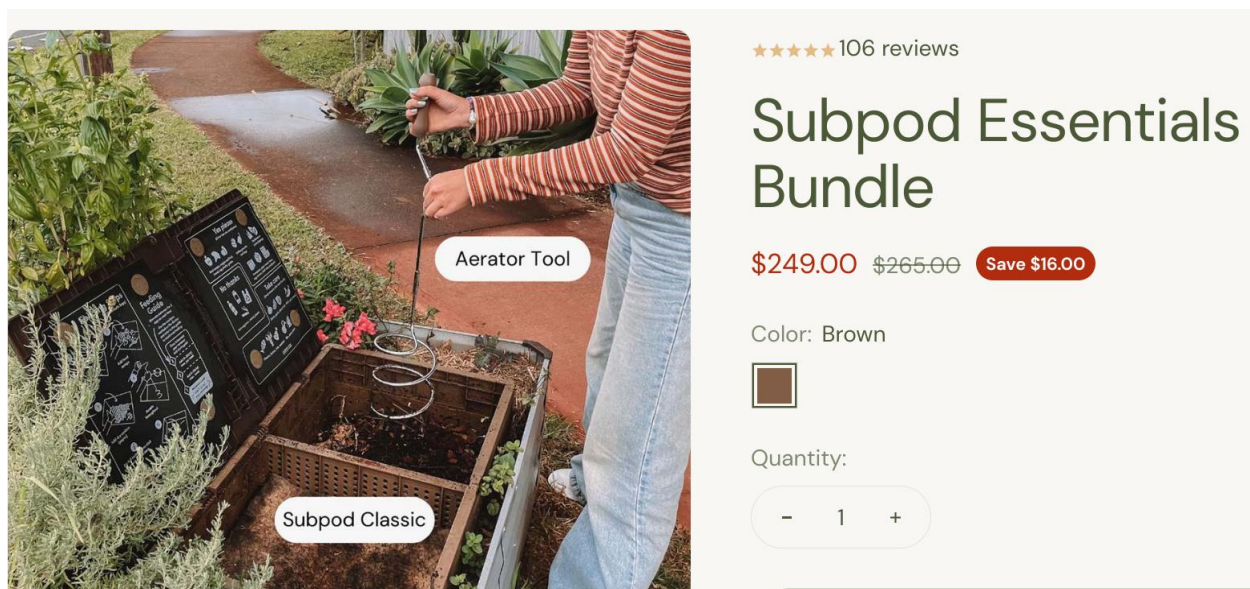
- Launch an invasive species removal program – 7th Ave. Community Garden
- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats and increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Direct city property managers to consider the use of native milkweed and nectar plants at city properties where possible.

## Subpod Proposal

Submitted by Virginia Tegel - ESB member  
7/20/23

Install unit in raised bed at City Operations Center near main public entrance  
Goal: to raise awareness of composting methods and increase use by city employees and the public

Why Subpod? This unit is more appealing than an open structure or other bin which may require more maintenance.



## Subpod Essentials Bundle - Subpod Compost

[https://subpod.com/?gclid=CjwKCAjwwb6lBhBJEiwAbuVUSux4XS7PWAnLQdHLUJeoB1DeBsJD7n1\\_Q8GkmLW64LQR0muA\\_2pjmxCvvAQAvD\\_BwE](https://subpod.com/?gclid=CjwKCAjwwb6lBhBJEiwAbuVUSux4XS7PWAnLQdHLUJeoB1DeBsJD7n1_Q8GkmLW64LQR0muA_2pjmxCvvAQAvD_BwE)

Composting can't get any easier with the Subpod, this one of a kind in-ground compost bin! Ditch the bulky bins, large piles, and pesky tumblers for good. The Subpod makes it easy and convenient to break down your organic waste and food scraps and turn them into nutrient-rich composting soil that helps plants thrive.

Worms and microbes work together inside the bin to compost your food waste lightening fast and 100% odorless!

- Smell-free and pest-proof



- Composts up to 34lbs of food waste a week
- Suitable for households of 1-6 people
- Dual compost chambers
- Low maintenance (about 5 minutes a week)
- Food-grade stainless steel aerator included
- 2 worm blankets included

The holes around the Subpod's base allow for compost worms to travel into the surrounding garden soil, spreading nutrients and promoting plant growth.

One Subpod can compost the food waste from a family of 4 every week!

Typical compost bins and piles are bulky, difficult to use, smelly, and tough to keep pests out of. Make the switch to a Subpod for fast and easy compost!

\*worms are not included in this bundle.

Please note: Your aerator will ship separately in August. An Aerator is not required for the first month while worms settle in and your waste is low. In the meantime, a small garden hand spade, trowel, or gloves will be able to effectively turn the compost. Here is a handy video to assist you in the meantime: <https://youtu.be/KDYH41YOeck>

The Essentials Bundle includes: 1 Subpod & 1 Aerator



The included aerator keeps your system perfectly maintained by adding air to the soil. Air is needed in soil and compost to keep good bacteria alive.

Size: Length 29.5in x Width 17.7in x Height 16.9in

How Subpod works:

Subpod works like a small factory. Your compost worms (not included with purchase) and neighboring microbes take food scraps and carbon items (like paper, leaves and other browns) and turn it into nutrient-rich composting soil that can be used to naturally fertilize your garden, houseplants, or yard!



The Subpod is an underground system, which makes it completely unique compared to others! By being underground, it creates a natural environment for the composting worms and other insects and microbes. Having access to the soil around them means they can feed and breed as rapidly as they'd like. Soil is an insulator, and in hot weather, compost worms will instinctively escape into soil to cool down. During winter, the pod will keep your worms warm and active (as long as the soil doesn't freeze). Every time your worms leave the Subpod, their movement naturally aerates your garden soil and increases its nutrient content.

Fifteen people representing city departments, county parks and recreation and community members attended along with three Design Workshop employees who are leading the plan development.

The city is leaning toward plans for passive use vs. organized sports which will be provided by the county. Goals related to ESB interests include protecting the tree canopy and environmental stewardship of the park space. I mentioned native plantings and inventory as well as invasive species management. Concern from staff continues related to ongoing care of any pollinator gardens.

The next meeting of the group will be in September. Design Workshop intends to gather community input via survey and public input sessions at various events, Council Conversations, etc. The full process to develop the will take approximately one year.



## City of Hendersonville Environmental Sustainability Board Next Steps

Kelly, Lyndsey, and Caitlyn,

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the ESB. We are excited by the work the ESB is doing in and for your community and are sure the region and state will feel the impacts of your work.

This memo includes a brief summary of the June 14<sup>th</sup> follow-up session, including an updated list of commitments and detail on the prioritization exercise the ESB completed. Additionally, we have outlined some potential next steps for ESB to consider.

### June 14<sup>th</sup> Summary

Enclosed is an updated Vision Themes document for the ESB to consider. Though these may not be finalized, we hope that these capture the future you aspire to create for Hendersonville and the impacts you hope to have.

Below is an updated list of the Outreach and Events commitments, which the ESB had started during the May 18<sup>th</sup> session.

- Engage and develop volunteers
- Earth Fest
- Sustainability Hero Award
- Farmers Market – Pollinator Month
- Increase pollinator habitat on private land through Bee City program
- ESB Promo Materials
- Update ESB website
- Support Mountain True initiatives

Based on group feedback, the ESB seemed to have the capacity to take on these projects, and further prioritization was needed for the other topic areas. The results of this prioritization can be found below.

### Energy

Energy Resolution	2 votes
Review energy usage and progress	2 votes
Explore role in City Building Standards	2 votes
Bringing about expanded clean energy policy in the city	2 votes

### Waste Management

Review sustainability plan survey responses on recycling  
Promote city and county compost partnership

### **Land Management**

Advising the city on parks, greenways, and greenspaces 3 votes  
 I-26 entrance to Hendersonville  
 Give weight to tree canopy initiative  
 Edible food forest  
 Food production on city lands (encourage community gardens)

### **Water**

Give a high five to water!  
 Monitor, influence, and broadcast quality of water

### **Transportation**

Transportation resolution 3 votes  
 Pedestrian plan

### **Next Steps**

As you consider next steps for the ESB, we recommend confirming with the group which commitments you will collectively work towards, and then begin forming action plans for those commitments.

Though it may sound complicated, action plans are just a way to say who is responsible for what, by when. The ESB should discuss what specific factors should be included in its action plan. At a minimum, we suggest including individuals responsible, action steps, and an overall timeline. For reference, Fountainworks frequently uses “game plans” which lay out additional key factors to consider such as:

- What are our overall goals?
- Who is involved?
- What resources are needed?
- What are our near- mid- and long-term steps?
- Are there any challenges we should anticipate?

The ESB may also consider establishing/formalizing some of its meeting norms. Though the group is largely cohesive, setting clear expectations for communication among the group can help make meetings as efficient and effective as possible.

Thank you all again for partnering with us in this work. If we can answer any questions or provide additional support, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best,  
 The Fountainworks Team



## City of Hendersonville Environmental Sustainability Board Vision Themes

### Overview:

- The purpose of this document is to take the visioning done by the City of Hendersonville’s Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) and continue to collaboratively build out what an ideal future for the ESB looks like
- The initial vision themes generated at the ESB session have been sorted into two categories: “Our Ideal Future State” and “Our Constructive Impacts”

### Working ESB Vision Themes:

<b>Our Ideal Future State</b>	<b>Our Constructive Impacts</b>
<i>We work to provide residents with a sustainable quality of life</i>	<i>We empower the City to be a champion for sustainability</i>
<i>We make sustainability relevant and relatable for those in our community</i>	<i>We lead the region and state in environmental sustainability</i>
<i>We foster innovation and creativity across our work to make a greater impact</i>	<i>We create and foster collaborative community partnerships</i>
<i>We champion use of clean energy and sustainable practices in the City</i>	<i>Hendersonville and its residents are a solution towards sustainability</i>