



CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD
City Operations Center Second Floor Conference Room | 305 Williams St,
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Tuesday, December 02, 2025 – 4:30 PM



AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of November 2025 Minutes

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

5. **BUSINESS**

A. Status of FY26 board budget

B. Vote on FY27 Budget - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*

C. Review Tree Board Letter - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*

D. Sustainability Topic Presentation - *Emily Davidson, Chair*

Board members please sign up to present at the next meeting:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g4Bc0uAoAAtaW-](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g4Bc0uAoAAtaW-X2t5tRNs4G6k2TDTCcxgKvXZJFrRc/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.5t4j9lrjg6t8)

[X2t5tRNs4G6k2TDTCcxgKvXZJFrRc/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.5t4j9lrjg6t8](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g4Bc0uAoAAtaW-X2t5tRNs4G6k2TDTCcxgKvXZJFrRc/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.5t4j9lrjg6t8)

E. Build Hendersonville Discussion - *Virginia Tegel, Member*

<https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/news/new-participatory-budget-program-build-hendersonville>

6. **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
 Osceola Lake Inn | 159 Osceola Road Hendersonville, NC 28739
 Monday, November 10, 2025 – 5:30 PM



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Alicia Stump, Emily Davidson, Jill Carter, Fiona McColley, and Virginia Tegel

Absent: Omar Zafra, Kyla Christensen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Emily motioned to approve first followed by Alicia.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Retreat

Jill motioned first followed by Emily to move December ESB meeting to December 2nd at 4:30pm

Hendo Earth Fest subcommittee meeting moved to December 22nd and will be a virtual meeting

New member recruitment

Members took flyers to pass out and post at businesses

Virginia is contacting Ecusta Market on tabling at their business for new member recruitment

2026 Priorities & Projects – see attachment to minutes

ADJOURNMENT

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2026 Priorities

GOAL

- **Outreach Events**
 - Every other week Farmers Market presence with volunteer support
 - Ideally 1 ESB member & 2 volunteers
 - Host twice/year giveaway events
 - Lead GreenDrinks talk
- **Educating Public on Sustainability**
 - ESB inclusion in City newsletter every month – Emily volunteered to spearhead
- **Continuing Hendo Green Partnership**
 - Jill volunteered to spearhead
- **Continuing Making City Council Recommendations**
- **Further Investigate program where community members submit projects they would like to see implemented which ESB would select and fund**

NEXT STEPS

- Create shared calendar of dates
- Refine re-occurring volunteers & assign ESB member to schedule
- Schedule event and cost need
- Caitlyn will coordinate talk
- Emily updating board at each monthly meeting
- Members & Caitlyn emailing Jill latest information
- Members should be thinking of any requests related to the upcoming Transportation Bond
- Iron out parameters and program cost

Waste Reduction & Sustainability Demonstration Station

Purchase	Description
\$32.55	metal cable ties for solar panel & can be used for HEF banners
\$49.09	Amazon - shelf for solar panel battery
\$31.42	Natural weed killer
\$24.95	Adhesive for signs
\$64.03	pop-up table
\$39.00	Dog repellent
\$115.63	Supplies for ESB annual retreat
	TOTAL
	Remaining
	\$1,643.33

Monarch Pledge/land management related activities

Purchase	Description
\$200	Symbolic Monarch Migration classroom sponsorships
\$579.59	Pollinator learning library installed at Brooklyn Community Garden
\$20.00	Symbolic Monarch Migration fee for farmers market butterflies
\$160.00	Symbolic Monarch Migration classroom sponsorships
	Remaining
	\$90.41

Business Green Partnership Program

Purchase	Description
\$91.99	Staples - Posters
\$23.47	Cardstock for brochures
	Remaining
	\$3,908.01

Hendo EarthFest	
Purchase	Description
	Remaining
	\$7,000.00

Sustainability Hero Award	
Purchase	Description
	Remaining
	\$200.00

Bee City Annual fee	
Purchase	Description
	Remaining
	\$200.00

Remaining Total Funds
\$13,041.75

Waste Reduction & Sustainability Demonstration Station	
Amount	Description
\$400.00	Miscellaneous
\$300.00	Solar battery replacement
\$80	Antitheft bike lock for battery

Amount	Description
\$400.00	Miscellaneous
\$300.00	Solar battery replacement
\$80	Antitheft bike lock for battery

Monarch Pledge/land management related activities	
Purchase	Description
\$200	Symbolic Monarch Migration classroom sponsorships
\$20.00	Symbolic Monarch Migration fee for farmers market butterflies

Purchase	Description
\$200	Symbolic Monarch Migration classroom sponsorships
\$20.00	Symbolic Monarch Migration fee for farmers market butterflies

Business Green Partnership Program	
Purchase	Description
\$100.00	New member gifts
\$200.00	Miscellaneous

Purchase	Description
\$100.00	New member gifts
\$200.00	Miscellaneous

Hendo EarthFest	
Purchase	Description
\$7,000	All event expences

Purchase	Description
\$7,000	All event expences

Sustainability Hero Award	
Purchase	Description
\$300	Wood trophy

Purchase	Description
\$300	Wood trophy

Bee City Annual fee	
Purchase	Description
\$200	

Purchase	Description
\$200	

Proposed budget total

\$8,800.00

To: Hendersonville's Mayor and City Council

From: Tree Board, Environmental Sustainability Board, Conserving Carolina, and Caregivers of Mother Earth

Re: Protecting Hendersonville's natural character while advancing ecological sustainability

Hendersonville is experiencing rapid population growth with increasing development pressures on our communities, urban forests and other types of native plant landscapes. Our tree-centric and integrated natural plant community character is rapidly disappearing.

Urban forests are taking the brunt of expanding housing and commercial cityscapes. Along with their scenic appeal, trees provide shade, soak up rainfall, absorb carbon dioxide, and create a more pleasing environment for residents and visitors alike.

Several planning documents with extensive public input, including GenH Plan, Parks and Greenspace Plan and Sustainability Strategic Plan have shown majority support for protecting, enhancing, and including nature, natural greenspace, and conservation priorities into all aspects of city and suburban life.

Positive changes can be continued with an awareness to favor ecological function, utilizing native plants and trees, over landscapes designed for traditional aesthetics such as turf grass and non-native plants. Cost neutral changes with long-term positive savings requires a paradigm shift, prioritizing integration of more natural landscapes into our city plans for development. With sustainable actions we can minimize the impact of reducing our tree canopy.

With figures taken from a Tree Canopy Assessment (Oct. 2022) and a review of development site plans, Hendersonville has gone from losing an average of 18 acres of trees each year (2014 to 2022) to now losing an average of 61 acres of trees per year (2023 and 2024). Among the lowest of North Carolina cities, Hendersonville's tree canopy was at 35% in 2022 and we have lost, at least, another 122 acres of trees since then. This does not take into account the probable loss of thousands of trees to Helene. This trend is especially troubling as more trees are removed from the landscape.

Hendersonville's Tree Board (TB) and the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB), along with our partners, Conserving Carolina and Caregivers of Mother Earth believe we need to implement additional steps to manage our urban tree and natural resource integrated landscapes. We want to advance ecologically sound planning and management practices,

educational programs, land conservation programs, and allocate more funding for these important initiatives. We propose the following:

- The Development of an Urban Forest Management Plan
- Implementation of City's Park and Greenspace Plan, prioritizing
 - Purchasing additional park lands and reimagining existing park lands for passive recreation uses (before all woodland areas disappear).
 - Convert at least 30% of turf grass in City parks to native grassland and/or pollinator meadows, and other passive recreation uses.
 - Establish a 50% minimum tree canopy coverage resolution signed by City Council
- Consider additional funds for contracted educational professional promoting integrating natural resources into City life
- Expand City Staff Dedicated to Natural Resource Management, including
 - Hiring staff trained in natural resource management (Certified Arborist, Wildlife Biologist, Urban Forester, etc.

The above list is ambitious. Natural landscapes must be integrated into all areas where we live, recreate, work, play, and pray. We hope you will agree to recognize these goals and the value added to our Hendersonville community, and consider delegating the appropriate staff, funding, and resources to accomplish these goals.

Thank you for your consideration,

(Signatures)

