



CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS

CITY HALL - EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, 300 W. 13 MILE RD.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 12, 2023 AT 10:00 AM**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

1. Excuse Absences (if applicable)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [2.](#) Draft Minutes from 10/13/22

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

REPORTS

3. Financial Update - Escrow Account
4. Seed Library - General Update
5. Plant Sale - General Update

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. Nuisance Tree Ordinance Discussion
- [7.](#) ECC Workplan

NEW BUSINESS

- [8.](#) Bloom Project Mini-Grant Program
9. Tree City - Arbor Day Planning

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation through electronic means in this meeting should contact the City Clerk at (248) 583-0826 or by email: clerks@madison-heights.org at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

A Regular Meeting of the Environmental Citizens Committee was held on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building at 300 West Thirteen Mile Road, Madison Heights, Michigan.

Present: Chairman Salley and Members: Ms. Bartleman, Ms. N. Fox, Mr. Klepacki, Ms. Porter, and Councilor Rohrbach

Absent: Mr. Theodoroff

Also Present: Public Works Supervisor Ballantine, City Manager Marsh and Deputy City Clerk Boucher

22-10. Additions to the Agenda.

Motion by Ms. N. Fox, seconded by Councilor Rohrbach, to add Seed Library and Plant Sales to Reports on today's agenda.

Yeas: Bartleman, N. Fox, Klepacki, Porter, Rohrbach, and Salley

Nays: None

Absent: Theodoroff

Motion Carried.

22-11. Minutes.

Motion by Councilor Rohrbach, seconded by Ms. N. Fox, to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2022 as printed.

Yeas: Bartleman, N. Fox, Klepacki, Porter, Rohrbach, and Salley

Nays: None

Absent: Theodoroff

Motion Carried.

22-12. Meeting Open to the Public.

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

22-13. Financial Update.

Public Works Supervisor Ballantine informed everyone that the Environmental Citizens Committee (ECC) has a current account balance of \$11,696.93.

22-14. Seed Library

Ms. N. Fox updated that she received seed donations from Home Depot this past summer and the seed library is restocked each one and a half weeks.

22-15. Plant Sale

Ms. N. Fox updated that the plant sales brought in a profit of \$2,400 in May and \$1,900 in August.

22-16. Nuisance Tree Ordinance Discussion.

The members discussed the dangerous and disease ordinance, Tree USA qualifications and code enforcement.

22-17. Rake with the Mayor.

City Manager announced that the Rake with the Mayor is scheduled for November 5th, Mayor Grafstein is asking for more volunteers, and she is working with the local Boy Scout troops.

22-18. ECC Workplan.

The members discussed education & awareness, energy & sustainability with EGLE, renewable energy with DTE, natural environment & Ecosystem, compost & recycling with SOCWA, community outreach with Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union, and pollinator protection & community garden with local schools.

Public Works Supervisor Ballantine updated that the tree grant wait list is for 150-200 trees and the community forestry grant of \$10,000 planted 40 trees.

City Manager Marsh will continue to apply for available grants to help financially support the workplan, city staff will draft the RFP(s), and board members will be included in the interview process(es). She plans to utilize survey monkey to get input from the community.

Ms. Bartleman, Mr. Klepacki and Councilor Rohrbach volunteered as members of a subcommittee for the workplan. They plan to meet after the November 8th State General Election.

22-19. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Chairman Salley adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 10 a.m. and location is TBD.

Phommady A. Boucher
Deputy City Clerk

City of Madison Heights

Calendar Year 2023 Board and Commission Work Plan

Board and Commission: Environmental Citizens Committee (ECC)

1. Sustainability and Energy Plan (Grant dependent applying November/December 2022)
 - a. Support staff in EGLE grant application for consulting services to create a sustainability master plan. Note: *If the grant has a match City Council would need to consider funding this match under the strategic planning goal of sustainability.*
 - a. EGLE has a Community Energy Management grant that opens in late October that would assist in paying \$15,000 toward a sustainability “master plan.” The city has been added to the grant notification list, and the contact is CrawfordJ15@michigan.gov at 517-231-1051
 1. Hire a consultant to work with staff and the ECC to create a Sustainability and Energy plan for the city, including:
 - a. Project selection and implementation
 - b. Evaluation of programs included by the ECC to prioritize
2. Natural Environment and Ecosystems
 - a. Tree inventory to calculate the percentage of the tree canopy to increase a % per year until we reach 40%. *(Currently ongoing will continue throughout 2023)*
 - a. Continue to pursue tree grants actively
 - b. Continue with Tree City designations
 - c. Continue to support DPS and City serving as the “tree board” as dictated by ordinance and identifying planting opportunities. Request through the budget process funding to continue or expand the resident tree planting incentive program.
 - d. Review current Tree Ordinance annually for needed changes recommendations (January 2023)
 - b. Research Pros and Cons of implementing a No-Mow program (January 2024)
3. Pollinator Protection
 - a. Encourage native plants and pesticide-free pollinator habitats
 1. Establish a grant program to support schools and community organizations in the city that want to plant or expand their pollinator/food gardens offering guidance and/or mini-grant program as funds.
 - a. Research grants outside ECC funding such as Kids Gardening Grant Opportunities - KidsGardening
 - b. Develop a grant program to be administered by the ECC with consideration for adding trees.
 - b. Seed Library
 1. Continue to support and promote the Seed library throughout the year.

4. Resident and Business Education and Awareness

- a. Conduct a Stakeholder sustainability survey (December 2022)
- b. Research and connect with existing organizations to conduct resident seminars or education programs and pieces quarterly over a two-year program – Live Green Series. Residents that attend all classes could be recognized in some way (example - Madison Heights Sustainability Stars with a garden sign or something) examples of types of programs:
 - a. Recycling and Composting (yr 1)
 - b. Renewable Energy (yr 1 session 2)
 - c. Green Transportation Options (yr 1 session 3)
 - d. Preventing Food Waste (yr 1 session 4)
 - e. Buying Local (yr 2 session 1)
 - f. Gardening for nature (yr 2 session 2)
 - g. Invasive species (yr 2 session 3)
 - h. Alternative energy – Solar accessibility (yr 2 session 4)

Ideally, these programs would continue yearly so a resident could join in at any time.

- c. Create a Green Leaders program – this program would recognize environmental stewardship. To qualify, applicants would demonstrate activities in four categories and, depending on points awarded, receive a gold, silver, or bronze MH ECC Green Leaders sticker. The sticker could be displayed prominently on the window of businesses and can also be used in marketing materials. In addition, companies would be recognized during the City's State of the City also.

City of Madison Heights
Calendar Year 2023 Board and Commission Work Plan

Board and Commission: Environmental Citizens Committee (ECC)

Item		Responsibly	Prior to 2023	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Develop a long-term Sustainability Plan	Apply for EGLE Community Energy Management grant for \$15,000 for sustainability master plan.	Staff	X												
	If grant is awarded hire a consultant	Staff/ECC					X								
	Review suggested plan for prioritization recommendations, selection and implementation	Staff/ECC											X		
Resident and Business Education and Awareness	Conduct a stakeholder sustainability survey	Staff/ECC	X												
	Develop a "Green Leaders" program with recognition/awards	Staff/ECC		X											
	Promote the "Green Leaders" program with educational offerings	ECC			X	X									
	Develop quarterly resident/business seminars and education programs and host programs	ECC				X			X			X			X
Gardening	Develop a grant program for community and public gardens	ECC			X										
	Continue to maintain Seed Library and work with library staff during public building closure	ECC		X											
	Continue with plant sales	ECC					X				X				

Color Legend		
Completed by Target Date		
In progress		
Not in progress		

The City of Madison Heights Environmental Citizens Committee Bloom Project Mini-Grant Program Application

Deadline: April 2, 2023

Review Period: April 3-16, 2023

Award Announcement: April 24, 2023

The City of Madison Heights Michigan established the Environmental Citizens Committee (ECC), in part, to educate the public and encourage citizen participation in programs and projects to improve the environment. Building on that goal, the Bloom Project, a subcommittee of the ECC, designed this mini-grant program to educate and encourage citizen participation in planting and maintaining native gardens. This mini-grant program aims to:

- Increase awareness of the many benefits of native plants in our community
- Provide how-to resources for establishing native plants at your home, school, or organization
- Provide funding to support establishing or growing native gardens

What's a native plant?

Native plants are the plant species that are naturally found in your area. Plants introduced from other regions of the United States or other parts of the world are called exotics. Native plants have evolved in your region over the course of hundreds of thousands of years. These plants thrive in the local soils, rainfall levels, weather, and climate conditions. Every region has different native plant communities.

Why are native plants important?

Native plants support local ecosystems better than introduced species, primarily by supporting food webs far better than non-natives. From perennial wildflowers to berrying shrubs to canopy trees, native plants are beautiful and functional choices for any landscape. Many are just as ornamental as common exotics. They are unique to your geographic region! When you plant natives, you reconnect your yard or garden to the natural world around you. When many of us plant natives in a particular area, we help to create wildlife corridors that are necessary to sustain groups of plants and animals in our highly altered modern landscapes. Plus, native trees and flower beds typically require less fertilizer and water than lawns, saving you time and money!

Wildlife evolved alongside the native plants in your region and use those natives as food, shelter, and a place to raise their young. As a result, nearly every living creature on the planet relies on native plants for survival. They are the foundation of local food webs, giving butterflies, birds, and other wildlife what they need to survive.¹

Are you ready to apply for the mini-grant?

If you are hoping to plant a native garden at your home, school, or organization in Madison Heights and need additional resources to get started, this might be the right opportunity for you.

Requirements

¹ [About - Native Plants Finder \(nwf.org\)](https://www.nwf.org/About-Native-Plants-Finder)

- Garden is located in Madison Heights
- If applicant is not the owner of the property, must have written permission from the property owner
- Plan to establish garden in the 2023 growing season
- All plants or seeds purchased must be native plants. Unfortunately, true native plants are not readily available at local stores, and it can be hard to sort out what is look-alike or cultivar.. If you need a list of trusted places to purchase, we can provide that to you.
- Complete the full application by the deadline

Award Information

The number of awards will vary depending on the amount of funding available, the number and types of applications received, and award amounts. Home/residence awards will not exceed \$400. School and organization awards will not exceed \$3,000. There is not a minimum award requirement. There is a limited amount of funding and not all applicants will receive funding.

If you have any questions, please contact the Bloom Project at thebloomprojectmh@gmail.com

Application Questions

1. Full Name
2. Phone Number
3. Email Address
4. At what type of site is your garden location?
 - a. Home/residence
 - b. School
 - c. Organization
5. What is the name of the school or organization? (if applicable)
6. Where is your garden located? Please include the full address and picture of area to be converted to a Native Garden.
7. Why are you interested in applying for this mini-grant?
8. What plants are you hoping to plant and why? Please note if you don't know yet and if you need some support in this area. All plants or seeds purchased must be native plants. Unfortunately, true native plants are not readily available at local stores, and it can be hard to sort out what is look-alike or cultivar. If you need a list of trusted places to purchase, we can provide that to you.
9. What is your plan for establishing and maintaining the garden? Please include an estimated timeline for each step.
10. Who will be helping with your garden?
11. What resources do you have available for your garden?
12. What information or resources do you still need?
13. Please attach an estimated budget for your garden plan here.
14. If the applicant is not the owner of the property where the garden will be planted, please attach written permission from the property owner here.
15. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Email Confirmation of Application Received:

Thank you for your interest in enhancing the local ecosystem in Madison Heights! The committee will review your application at the designated time and will follow-up with award announcements once the decisions are made. If you have any questions, please contact the Bloom Project at thebloomprojectmh@gmail.com.