

All board members/commissioners will participate in this meeting at St. Louis Park City Hall, Community Room, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Members of the public may attend and watch the meeting in person.

Agenda

1. Call to order
 - a. Roll call
 - b. Introduction of guests (3 min. each)
2. Approval of minutes (February 4, 2026)
3. Business (6:40 p.m.)
 - a. Presentations
 - i. Hennepin County staff presentation on Minnetonka Blvd. West project
 - b. New business
 - i. Discuss canceling April monthly meeting or rescheduling to April 7
 - c. Unfinished business
 - i. Commenting on draft amendments to parking regulations
 - ii. 2026 ESC workplan adoption
4. Staff updates (7:45 p.m.)
 - a. Progress reports
5. Work plan update
6. Sustainability issues
 - a. Group share-out
 - b. Kudos
7. Items to discuss at a future meeting
8. Upcoming/proposed events
9. Adjournment

Future meeting and event dates:

- April ESC monthly meeting: TBD
- Minnehaha Creek spring clean-up events: April 25 from 9 a.m. – noon at Municipal Service Center and Knollwood (two sites)
- Arbor Day celebration: Thursday, May 14 from 5 – 8 p.m. at Carpenter Park
- Walk the Park with the ESC: July 11 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. at Louisiana Oaks Park

If you need special accommodations or have questions about the meeting, please call Emily Ziring at 952.924.2191 or the administration department at 952.924.2505.

Date: March 4, 2026

To: Planning Commission

Attn: Gary Morrison, Zoning Administrator

From: Environment and Sustainability Commission (ESC)

Subject: Zoning Code Update Phase 2 and Parking Reductions

Strategic Priority: Environmental Stewardship

The Environment and Sustainability commission recommends approving the draft zoning code amendments that reduce minimum parking requirements across zoning districts and eliminates parking requirements in the Walker-Lake Historical District.

The proposed amendments are designed to use the existing parking supply in dense commercial areas (e.g., Walker-Lake, Excelsior & Grand) to promote efficient use of shared-parking while balancing supply and demand and meeting the needs of existing retail, commercial, and residential uses. As demonstrated through parking reductions in the Walker-Lake Historical District, reducing parking minimums and creating shared access to street and off-street parking in walkable, dense commercial areas allows existing businesses to continue to serve their customers while also removing the requirements for new parking facilities. As future redevelopment occurs in existing and future commercial nodes, reduced parking minimums will limit the amount of land used for parking, which in turn can be used for greenspaces, natural areas, or other landscaping.

This action is a positive step forward for St. Louis Park, who can continue to lead for other first ring suburban cities where existing transit access and development patterns do not support eliminating parking. Further reductions can be achieved through the 2050 Comprehensive Plan process, where the city will update its land use plan and implementation actions.

2026 work plan | *Environment and Sustainability Commission*

1	Initiative name: Prepare for Climate Action Plan update		
	Initiative type: ☒ Staff support (review project, policy or program and provide feedback) ☐ Independent research project ☐ Gather community feedback ☐ Lead community event	Initiative origin: ☐ Third party-initiated ☒ Staff-initiated ☒ Commission-initiated ☐ Council-initiated Legally required (e.g. response to Legislative changes or Judicial decisions)? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Commissioner lead(s) name(s): Shaina Ashare, Ryan Griffin, Marisa Bayer If joint commission initiative, list other board or commission: Planning Commission Is this an established work group? (if applicable) ☒ Yes ☐ No but recommend new work group
	Initiative description: Discuss what, when and how the 2018 Climate Action Plan should be updated, and how to integrate the update into the comprehensive plan. - Review plan and highlight sections or initiatives to keep, remove and add in prep for update. - Recommend a timeline for updating the CAP. - Recommend a structure for updating the CAP: amend current CAP or rewrite? - Consider a community engagement plan.		
	Strategic Priority: ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ N/A		
	Deliverable: ☐ Research report ☐ Summary of community input ☒ Other ☐ N/A		
	Target completion date: Q4		
	<i>This section to be completed by staff:</i>		
	Council request (if applicable): ☐ Review and comment or reply ☐ Review and decide ☒ Informational only – no response needed		
	Budget required: None beyond staff capacity		
	Staff support required: Continuation of 2025 work plan item.		
Liaison comments: Supportive of this initiative and help from the work group as needed.			

2	Initiative name: TBD – awaiting council direction		
	Initiative type: ☒ Staff support (review project, policy or program and provide feedback) ☐ Independent research project ☐ Gather community feedback ☐ Lead community event	Initiative origin: ☐ Third party-initiated ☐ Staff-initiated ☐ Commission-initiated ☒ Council-initiated Legally required (e.g. response to Legislative changes or Judicial decisions)? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Commissioner lead(s) name(s): If joint commission initiative, list other board or commission: Is this an established work group? (if applicable) ☐ Yes—Events (reestablish) ☐ No
	Initiative description: This work plan item is reserved for city council to direct the commission to provide feedback to council on a project or policy, potentially related to transportation or mobility.		
	Strategic Priority: ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ N/A		
	Deliverable: ☐ Research report ☐ Summary of community input ☐ Other ☐ N/A		
	Target completion date:		
	<i>This section to be completed by staff:</i>		
	Council request (if applicable): ☐ Review and comment or reply ☐ Review and decide ☐ Informational only – no response needed		
	Budget required:		
	Staff support required:		
Liaison comments:			

3	Initiative name: TBD – awaiting council direction		
	Initiative type: ☐ Staff support (review project, policy or program and provide feedback) ☒ Independent research project ☐ Gather community feedback ☐ Lead community event	Initiative origin: ☐ Third party-initiated ☐ Staff-initiated ☐ Commission-initiated ☒ Council-initiated Legally required (e.g. response to Legislative changes or Judicial decisions)? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Commissioner lead(s) name(s): If joint commission initiative, list other board or commission: Is this an established work group? (if applicable) ☐ Yes ☐ No
	Initiative description: This work plan item is reserved for city council to direct the commission to research a topic, potentially related to planning, zoning or transportation policy, and draft a report to council.		
	Strategic Priority: ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ N/A		
	Deliverable: ☐ Research report ☐ Summary of community input ☐ Other ☒ N/A		
	Target completion date:		
	<i>This section to be completed by staff:</i>		
	Council request (if applicable): ☐ Review and comment or reply ☐ Review and decide ☐ Informational only – no response needed		
	Budget required: TBD		
	Staff support required:		
Liaison comments:			

4	Initiative name: Sustainability-focused “Walk the Park” event		
	Initiative type: ☐ Staff support (review project, policy or program and provide feedback) ☐ Independent research project ☐ Gather community feedback ☒ Lead community event	Initiative origin: ☐ Third party-initiated ☐ Staff-initiated ☒ Commission-initiated ☐ Council-initiated Legally required (e.g. response to Legislative changes or Judicial decisions)? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Commissioner lead(s) name(s): If joint commission initiative, list other board or commission: Is this an established work group? (if applicable) ☒ Yes – Events work group ☐ No
	Initiative description: Lead one “Walk the Park” event in collaboration with the city recreation division, focusing on litter pick-up, pollinator parks, or some other aspect of sustainability during the walk. Commission will provide input to recreation staff on event plan and communications. Event will take place on July 11, 2026 in Louisiana Oaks and Oak Hill parks.		
	Strategic Priority: ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ N/A		
	Deliverable: ☐ Research report ☐ Summary of community input ☐ Other ☒ N/A		
	Target completion date: Q3 2026		
	<i>This section to be completed by staff:</i>		
	Council request (if applicable): ☐ Review and comment or reply ☐ Review and decide ☐ Informational only – no response needed		
	Budget required: TBD		
	Staff support required: Staff support will be minimal as this is an existing event.		
Liaison comments: Staff appreciates support received from Parks & Recreation colleagues in desire making this happen.			

5	Initiative name: TBD – Youth volunteering opportunity		
	Initiative type: ☒ Staff support (review project, policy or program and provide feedback) ☐ Independent research project ☐ Gather community feedback ☒ Lead community event	Initiative origin: ☐ Third party-initiated ☐ Staff-initiated ☒ Commission-initiated ☐ Council-initiated Legally required (e.g. response to Legislative changes or Judicial decisions)? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Commissioner lead(s) name(s): Avery Kuehl, Avital Krebs If joint commission initiative, list other board or commission: Is this an established work group? (if applicable) ☐ Yes ☐ No
	Initiative description: Two youth commissioners will collaborate on a volunteer event (possibly involving item 6) and will work to engage peers. Possibility of National Honor Society-qualifying volunteer hours earned (or similar).		
	Strategic Priority: ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ N/A		
	Deliverable: ☐ Research report ☐ Summary of community input ☒ Other ☐ N/A		
	Target completion date:		
	<i>This section to be completed by staff:</i>		
	Council request (if applicable): ☐ Review and comment or reply ☐ Review and decide ☐ Informational only – no response needed		
	Budget required: None beyond planned		
	Staff support required:		
Liaison comments:			

6	Initiative name: Assist with food forest maintenance		
	Initiative type: ☒ Staff support (review project, policy or program and provide feedback) ☐ Independent research project ☐ Gather community feedback ☒ Lead community event	Initiative origin: ☐ Third party-initiated ☒ Staff-initiated ☒ Commission-initiated ☐ Council-initiated Legally required (e.g. response to Legislative changes or Judicial decisions)? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Commissioner lead(s) name(s): If joint commission initiative, list other board or commission: Is this an established work group? (if applicable) ☐ Yes ☐ No
	Initiative description: Natural Resources staff planted a “food forest” at Ainsworth Park in 2024. The forest includes plum, apricot, pear, apple, and cherry trees. Commission would assist with maintenance of the food forest, potentially connecting this with youth volunteering.		
	Strategic Priority: ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ N/A		
	Deliverable: ☐ Research report ☐ Summary of community input ☒ Other ☐ N/A		
	Target completion date: Q3		
	<i>This section to be completed by staff:</i>		
	Council request (if applicable): ☐ Review and comment or reply ☐ Review and decide ☒ Informational only – no response needed		
	Budget required: TBD		
	Staff support required:		
Liaison comments:			

Initiative Origin Definitions

- Third party-initiated – Project initiated by applicant or external agency (statutory boards)
- Staff-initiated – Project initiated by staff liaison or other city staff
- Commission-initiated – Project initiated by the board or commission
- Council-initiated – Project tasked to a board or commission by the city council

Strategic Priorities

1. St. Louis Park is committed to being a leader in racial equity and inclusion in order to create a more just and inclusive community for all.
2. St. Louis Park is committed to continue to lead in environmental stewardship.
3. St. Louis Park is committed to providing a broad range of housing and neighborhood oriented development.
4. St. Louis Park is committed to providing a variety of options for people to make their way around the city comfortably, safely and reliably.
5. St. Louis Park is committed to creating opportunities to build social capital through community engagement

Modifications

- Work plans may be modified, to add or delete items, in one of three ways:
- Work plans can be modified by mutual agreement during a joint work session.
- If immediate approval is important, the board or commission can work with their staff liaison to present a modified work plan for city council approval at a council meeting.
- The city council can direct a change to the work plan at their discretion.

Future ideas

Initiatives that are being considered by the board or commission but not proposed in the annual work plan. Council approval is needed if the board or commission decides they would like to amend a work plan.

Initiative	Comments