

**AGENDA
CITY OF MAPLEWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

7:00 p.m.

**Council Chambers - Maplewood City Hall
1830 County Road B East**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes: December 19, 2016
5. New Business
 - a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - b. Local Energy Planning
 - c. 2017 Goal Setting
6. Unfinished Business
 - a. Urban Agriculture Zoning Review
7. Visitor Presentations
8. Commission Presentations
9. Staff Presentations
 - a. January 31, 2017, Republic Service Landfill and Recycling Center Tour
 - b. Nature Center Programs
10. Adjourn

**MINUTES
CITY OF MAPLEWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

7:00 p.m., Monday, December 19, 2016
Council Chambers, City Hall
1830 County Road B East

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Environmental and Natural Resources Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Miller.

2. ROLL CALL

Keith Buttleman, Commissioner	Present
Mary Henderson, Commissioner	Present
Mollie Miller, Chair	Present
Ann Palzer, Commissioner	Absent
Ted Redmond, Commissioner	Present
Ryan Ries, Commissioner	Present
Tom Sinn, Vice Chair	Present

Staff Present

Shann Finwall, Environmental Planner

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Miller requested an update on the Trash/Recycling Contract Review. Environmental Planner Finwall stated she would provide a brief update during Staff Presentations as 9.c. (Trash/Recycling Contract Review).

Commissioner Redmond moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Seconded by Commissioner Buttleman. Ayes – All

The motion passed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Ries moved to approve the November 21, 2016, Environmental and Natural Resources Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

Seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Ayes – All

The motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution of Appreciation for Environmental and Natural Resources Commissioner Ginny Yingling.

- i. Environmental Planner Finwall read the resolution of appreciation for ENR Commissioner Ginny Yingling.

Commissioner Buttleman moved to approve the resolution of appreciation for Ginny Yingling for her years of service on the ENR Commission.

Seconded by Commissioner Ries.

Ayes – All

The motion passed.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Urban Agriculture Zoning Review

- i. Environmental Planner Finwall reviewed the updates on the Urban Agriculture Zoning Review.

The Commission proposed the following changes:

- Poultry – The keeping of poultry should be allowed in all zoning districts with a poultry permit. The City should not require CUPs for this use at schools, churches, or institutions as proposed.
- Goats –
 - Check with goat keepers to see how much space is required per goat. If the City's regulations don't allow enough goats in one area for vegetative management it will defeat the purpose. Goats will be spread out too far and will begin to eat noninvasive plants.
 - Change the neighborhood consent to a majority consent, the same as the poultry permits.
- Beekeeping – Put all beekeeping best practice items under on section.
- Community gardens – Community gardens should be allowed with a simple permit or license, not a CUP.

Commissioner Ries moved to approve the animal agriculture ordinance amendments with changes as noted during the meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Henderson.

Ayes – All

The motion passed.

7. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS

None present.

8. COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

None.

9. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Reschedule January and February ENR Commission Meetings due to National Holidays (proposed dates: Wednesday, January 25 and Wednesday, February 22, 2017.**

Environmental Planner Finwall stated she would send a follow up email to check with Commissioners on available dates. The rescheduled dates will be announced soon.

- b. **Nature Center Programs**

Commissioners presented the upcoming Nature Center Programs. For more information contact the Maplewood Nature Center at (651) 249-2170.

c. Trash/Recycling Contract Review

Environmental Planner Finwall updated the Commission on the Trash/Recycling contract review. The City attorney and management are reviewing the contracts for the possibility of extensions. Staff will continue to keep the Commission up to date on the status.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental and Natural Resources Commission
FROM: Shann Finwall, AICP, Environmental Planner
DATE: January 20, 2017 for the January 25 ENR Commission Meeting
SUBJECT: Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR) Commission ordinance requires that the Commission elect a chair and vice-chair to run the meetings each year. In 2016 the ENR Commission elected Commissioner Miller to be the chair and Commissioner Sinn to be the vice-chair. During the January 25 ENR Commission meeting the Commission should appoint a chair and vice-chair for 2017, and vote on those appointees.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental and Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Shann Finwall, Environmental Planner

DATE: January 19, 2017 for the January 20 Environmental Commission Meeting

SUBJECT: Local Energy Planning

Introduction

The Metropolitan Council is tasked with ensuring the orderly and economic development in the seven-county metropolitan area. The [Metropolitan Land Planning Act \(§473\)](#) outlines the Council's role in regional policy and planning and requires the Council to adopt a regional development plan every ten years. [Thrive MSP 2040](#) is the vision for our region through 2040 and establishes the comprehensive development guide. The Council is also responsible for reviewing local comprehensive plans and providing technical assistance to communities as they work through their local comprehensive planning process.

Local governments must update their [comprehensive plans](#) every ten years. The plans reflect regional policies at the same time as identifying important local goals and objectives. Minnesota Statute requires six plan elements to be included in local comprehensive plans: Land Use, Transportation, Water Resources (Wastewater, Surface Water, Water Supply), Park & Trails, Housing, and Plan Implementation. Other plan elements are identified as issues of regional importance and are reflective of Thrive MSP 2040's policies including resilience and economic competitiveness.



Comprehensive Plan Elements

Comprehensive plan updates must be complete by December 31, 2018. Maplewood will formally kick off our comprehensive planning process in early 2017. Throughout 2017 and 2018 the Environmental and Natural Resources Commission will review various chapters of the City's comprehensive plan and help create environmental goals for the City. During the January 25 Environmental and Natural Resources Commission meeting the Commission will begin their review of local energy planning.

Discussion

Resilience

The Resilience Chapter of the comprehensive plan should integrate strategies that will create a more resilient community in the face of a changing climate. It will allow the City to plan for increasing extreme weather events, stress on public facilities, higher costs of service, and planning for economic strength and diversity. Resiliency also considers reducing greenhouse

gas emissions so that the extent of climate change does not exceed the capacity to adapt and become resilient.

- Infrastructure and environment – examples include planning for increased precipitation, reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions through multi-modal transportation and urban forests.
- Energy infrastructure and resources – examples include reducing emissions through energy efficiency, energy conservation, and increased use of renewables.
- Healthy communities – examples include fostering a healthier community through encouraging better food choices and opportunities.
- Economy and society – examples include planning for regular engagement with residents and businesses, and measuring progress toward goals to help create a strong network during and after critical weather, environmental events, or economic crises.

Local Energy Planning

[Minnesota's Next Generation Energy Act of 2007](#) calls for cutting the state's greenhouse gas emissions to 15 percent below 2005 base levels by 2015, 30 percent by 2025, and 80 percent by 2050. Despite reduction efforts, Minnesota missed the 2015 goal and will miss the 2025 goal without additional work. To support and augment statewide efforts, Minnesota needs its cities, townships, and counties to take targeted action to reduce emissions within their community and drive change at the local and state level.

Maplewood's Energy Planning

Maplewood has adopted energy policies since at least 2008 with the adoption of the [Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement](#). Under the agreement cities commit to reducing pollution and emissions within City operations and the community. A full list of energy policies and best practices implemented by the City is included on Attachment 1.

Local Government Project for Energy Planning

Maplewood is one of five Minnesota cities participating in the [Local Government Project for Energy Planning](#) (LoGoPEP). The project is designed to engage local governments in committing to actionable strategies for energy and greenhouse gas emission reductions. It will provide the City with planning tools to help prioritize impactful strategies, including a wedge computer tool which will enable the City to quantify carbon mitigation strategies. The project will also assist the City with understanding carbon mitigation implementation pathways, outline a plan for action, and measure progress toward our goals.

LoGoPEP is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The team includes energy planning specialists from LHB, Great Plains Institute, and the University of Minnesota's Energy Transition Lab and Center for Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy.

As part of the City's participation in LoGoPEP, Brian Ross and Diana McKeown of the Great Plains Institute will be present during the January 25 ENR Commission meeting to give a presentation on regional energy planning, LoGoPEP tools for energy and greenhouse gas reduction planning, and assist the Commission with initial local energy planning.

Recommendation

Review information in this report and information presented during the Commission meeting. Offer comment and feedback on local energy planning.

Attachment

1. Maplewood Energy Policies and Best Practices

Maplewood Energy Policies and Best Practices

2008

- Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement
- Green Team Created (Serves as Steering Committee for Energy and Sustainability Policies and Initiatives)
- Sustainable Maplewood Capstone Project

2009

- State Energy Code Adopted (Previous State Energy Code Dated Back to 1999)

2009

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act)
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy

2010

- Energy Sweep – Partnership with Xcel Energy
- GreenStep Cities Participation
- Sustainable Operations (Fleet, Trash Hauling, Snow Plowing, Turf Management, Building Maintenance)

2011

- Living Streets Demonstration Project (Bartelmy/Meyer)
- Renewable Energy Ordinance
- Nature Center Solar Panels (8 Microinverters - Cooperatively Developed by the MN DNR Solar Grant Program through the Clean Water, Land, Legacy Amendment)
- Organized Trash Hauling

2012

- Living Streets Policy
- City Hall and Community Center Solar Panels (96,528 annual kWh - Made Possible by the US Department of Energy and the MN Department of Commerce through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)

2013

- Regional Indicators Initiative
- Green Building Code

2014

- City Leadership Group on Commercial Energy Competitiveness
- Environmental Assistance Grant for the Green Building Code Incentive Program
- Great Plains Institute Grant for the Green Building Code Incentive Program
- Minnesota GreenCorps - Energy Focus
- Energy Education Programming

2015

- Partners in Energy – *Energize Maplewood!* Energy Action Plan

2016

- Local Government Project for Energy Planning (LoGoPEP)
- SolSmart Program Participation (National Recognition and Technical Assistance to Reducing Barriers to Solar Energy Growth)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental and Natural Resources Commission
FROM: Shann Finwall, AICP, Environmental Planner
DATE: 2017 Goal Setting
SUBJECT: January 19, 2017 for the January 25 ENR Commission Meeting

Introduction

The Environmental and Natural Resources Commission (ENR) should review the 2016 goals and consider amending or setting new goals for 2017.

Discussion**Update on 2016 Goals**

The ENR Commission's 2016 goals and status of those goals are as follows:

1. Goal: Urban Agriculture – Review the City's ordinances and recommend amendments that will remove barriers and promote urban agriculture, while ensuring no negative impacts to surrounding properties.

Status: In 2015 the ENR Commission formed an urban agriculture subcommittee made up of three members: Commissioners Edmundson, Miller, Yingling. The subcommittee hosted an urban agriculture tour in 2015 and 2016, and completed an urban agriculture study with recommendations for reducing barriers to urban agriculture uses in City ordinances. In 2016 the full Commission reviewed the urban agriculture study and began drafting ordinance amendments based on those recommendations. To date, the Commission has completed the review and recommendation of animal agriculture uses. In 2017, the Commission should finalize their urban agriculture review with recommendations for crop agriculture (community gardens, etc.) and direct to consumer sales (farm stands, etc.).

2. Goal: Environmental Education – Identify key environmental messages to be shared during events and public service announcements throughout the year such as energy awareness, increased recycling, or urban agriculture.

Status: In 2016 the ENR Commission formed an environmental education subcommittee made up of three members: Commissioners Buttleman, Henderson, Miller. The subcommittee planned the educational focus for the Waterfest booth and attended the event. In 2017, the Commission should continue this goal by coordinating efforts with the Maplewood Green Team and Communications department for the creation of public service announcements to be aired on the City's new cable access channel and other outreach opportunities.

3. Goal: *Energize Maplewood!* Energy Action Plan – Support the implementation of the energy actions outlined in the *Energize Maplewood!* Energy Action Plan.

Status: In 2016 the Commission and City staff implemented the remaining energy actions outlined in the plan including: a) energy education and outreach to churches (*Energize Your Congregation!* Energy Challenge); and b) energy outreach to businesses (Building Tune Up Program and Benchmark Your Business). The remaining implementation items will be complete by June 2017 to include *Energize Your Congregation!* energy party celebration, completion of energy efficiency improvements for the Building Tune Up Program participants, program analysis, and final program publication. In 2017 the Commission should continue to support the remaining energy actions.

4. Goal: Trash and Recycling - The City's residential trash and recycling contracts end on December 31, 2017 (with the possibility of extensions). The Commission formed a solid waste subcommittee to include Commissioners Yingling, Palzer, and Sinn. The subcommittee met once to review the City's trash and recycling collection contracts and drafted a report for the full Commission that outlined issues the Commission should review in preparation of contract reviews. The full Commission reviewed the report and offered comment and feedback on the contracts.

Status: Staff has begun negotiations for the extension of both contracts and will update the Commission in the coming months.

2017 Action Items

In addition to any unfinished goals listed above, following is a list of items which may need review by the Commission in 2017:

1. Comprehensive Plan: Comprehensive plan updates must be complete by December 31, 2018. Throughout 2017 and 2018 the Environmental and Natural Resources Commission will review various chapters of the City's comprehensive plan and help create environmental goals for the City.
2. Mississippi River Critical Area Ordinance: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published new rules for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area on December 27, 2016. The DNR is coordinating with the Metropolitan Council to implement the new rules over the next few years through locally adopted plans and ordinances. The City will need to update our Mississippi Critical Area ordinance to meet the new rules.
2. Renewable Energy Ordinance: The City is participating in the SolSmart program, a national recognition program to spotlight solar friendly communities. As part of our participation in the program, the City's renewable energy ordinance was reviewed by a team of energy experts. The energy experts offered feedback on ordinance amendments to reduce barriers to solar access. In 2017, the Commission should review the renewable energy ordinance amendment recommendations.

City Council Strategic Priorities

The City Council adopted [Maplewood Strategic Plan for 2017 through 2019](#). The plan serves as the community's roadmap and is used to prioritize initiatives, resources, goals, and department operations and projects. The strategic plan is a big-picture document directing efforts and resources toward a clearly defined vision. The Commission should review the strategic priorities outlined in the plan prior to creating goals for 2017:

1. **Financial Stability:** Maintain a positive financial position by balancing revenues and expenditures for operations, debt management, and capital investments. Provide quality city services at a level that reflects community values and that are supported by available resources.
2. **Coordinated Communication:** Create a long-term vision that reflects our community identity and effectively communicates a consistent, broad-based message and brand through a variety of mediums.
3. **Effective Governance:** Creating a culture that is built on trust, conveys clearly identified goals and expectations, and is focused on the City's long-range mission and vision. The City values progressive initiatives to enhance quality of life, create community inclusiveness, and is committed to being on the forefront of best practices. Organizational focus on being industry leaders in areas such as environmental, policing, EMS and staff development.
4. **Targeted Redevelopment:** Guide residential development by leveraging resources to expand the tax base but also create housing options that meets the diversity of the community. Promote commercial development through the green building code and innovation that supports business growth.
5. **Operational Effectiveness:** Valuing organizational efficiencies which are based on performance measurement and accountability.

Nature Center Goals

The Maplewood Nature Center sets annual goals. The ENR Commission and the Nature Center partner in many environmental initiatives. Therefore, the Commission should refer to the Nature Center's 2017 goals listed below prior to setting Commission goals.

1. Complete major building repairs & maintenance including duct work, siding, roof, storage.
2. Improve presentation set-up in amphitheater with mounted projector.
3. Conduct pollinator programming at Fish Creek including school programs and adult bee monitoring.
4. Develop master plan and phase-in schedule for Edgerton Community garden infrastructure.
5. Complete clean-out of old documents and photos.

Natural Resources Projects

Ginny Gaynor, Natural Resources Coordinator, submitted the following list of neighborhood preserves and open space 2017 goals and major projects for the Commission's review:

1. Fish Creek – add benches and kiosk, mowing/spot treatment of prairie.
2. Gladstone Savanna – additional landscaping, text for interpretive trail, install playground.
3. Prairie Farm – conduct restoration project.
4. Priory Preserve – install entry-overlook bench area, boardwalk, additional restoration work.
5. Jim's Prairie – conduct prescribed burns and work on buffer enhancements.
6. Joy Park – install water-related interpretive signage.
7. 2040 Comp Plan – begin work on natural resources chapter.
8. Invasive plants – develop better system for managing invasives throughout the City.

Events

Following is a list of events in 2017 which will help coordinate the ENR Commission calendars and assist in this year's goal setting:

Calendar Year – 2017

January

- 25 (Wednesday): ENR Meeting
- 21 (Saturday): Legislator's Town Hall Meeting
- 30 (Tuesday): Republic Services Landfill and Recycling Facility Tour

February

- 23 (Thursday): ENR Meeting
- 24 (Friday): Maplewood 60th Anniversary Celebration
- 17 to March 9: Registration for 2017 Community Garden Plots at Edgerton

March

- 25 (Saturday): Earth Hour
- 20 (Monday): ENR Meeting

April

- 1 (Saturday): Kid City Laugh-In
- 17 (Monday): ENR Meeting
- 22 (Saturday): Earth Day
- 22 (Saturday): Spring Clean Up
- 22 (Saturday): All Park Clean Up

May

- 6 (Saturday): Arbor Day – Trees for the Bees
- 15 (Monday): ENR Meeting

June

- 3 (Saturday): Waterfest
- 19 (Monday): ENR Meeting
- 21 (Wednesday): Fish Creek Grand Opening

June (Cont.)

- TBD: Turtle Picnic – Emily (Totally Turtles)
- TBD: Parks WOW Event #1
- TBD: Bumblebee Survey at Fish Creek

July

- 4 (Tuesday): Fourth of July Event
- 17 (Monday): ENR Meeting
- 12 to 16 (Wed. – Sun.): Ramsey Co. Fair
- TBD: Parks WOW Event #2

August

- 1 (Tuesday): National Night Out
- 21 (Monday): ENR Meeting
- TBD: Parks WOW Event #3

September

- 18 (Monday): ENR Meeting
- TBD: Bee Identification Training

October

- 16 (Monday): ENR Meeting
- TBD: Outstanding Owls (Halloween)
- Throughout October: Fall Clean Up Campaign

November

- 7 (Tuesday): Elections
- 15 (Tuesday): America Recycles Day
- 20 (Monday): ENR Meeting

December

- 18 (Monday): ENR Meeting
- TBD: Volunteer Potluck
- TBD: Mini-Fest Winter Wisdom (for all cultures)

Recommendations

During the goal-setting session, the Environmental and Natural Resources Commission should:

1. Review the status of the 2016 goals and determine if any of these goals should be carried over to 2016;
2. Determine if the Commission should set new goals for 2017; and
3. Discuss implementation strategies for the goals.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental and Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Shann Finwall, AICP, Environmental Planner

DATE: January 20, 2017 for the January 25 ENR Commission Meeting

SUBJECT: Urban Agriculture – Zoning Review

Introduction

The Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR) Commission has been reviewing the City's ordinances and making recommendations to remove barriers and promote urban agriculture uses. There are four aspects of the Commission's review including:

- Animal agriculture (keeping of poultry, etc.)
- Crop agriculture (community gardens, etc.)
- Direct to consumer sales (farm stands, etc.)
- City Programming (composting classes, etc.)

During the January meeting the ENR Commission should continue their review of crop agriculture.

Background

2015: The urban agriculture subcommittee reviewed the City's existing zoning code to determine where urban agriculture uses are permitted, or could be interpreted to be permitted, and where there are barriers to the use (Attachment 1). Based on this information, the ENR Commission is reviewing and making recommendations on amendments to existing ordinances that will remove these barriers.

December 19, 2016: The ENR Commission recommended approval of amendments to ordinances pertaining to animal agriculture including:

- Keeping of poultry
 - Allowing other poultry in addition to chicken (i.e., quail and pheasants)
 - Increasing the number of poultry from 10 hens to a maximum of 30 poultry with a permit, depending on size of lot.
 - Changing the neighborhood consent requirements from 100 percent to a majority consent for approval of a poultry permit.
 - Allowing the keeping of poultry on property that is not zoned single family residential with a permit.
- Beekeeping
 - Allow beekeeping in any zoning district as a permitted use.
 - Hive placement requirements
 - Best practice requirements
- Aquaculture and aquaponics
 - Amend the M-1 and M-2 Zoning Districts to allow for these uses.

- Temporary keeping of goats and sheep for vegetative management
 - Allow the temporary keeping of goats and sheep (up to 60 days) for vegetative management with a permit.
 - Require a majority neighborhood consent for the temporary keeping of goats and sheep.
 - Allow up to 75 goats or sheep, depending on size of lot.

Discussion

Crop Agriculture

During the December meeting the Commission began their review of crop agriculture including 1) community gardens; 2) front yard gardening; 3) private gardening on vacant lots; 4) market gardens; 5) urban farms; and 6) season extenders. In particular, the Commission discussed allowing community gardens in any zoning district with a conditional use permit. After discussing the barriers to obtaining a conditional use permit including cost of the permit and time commitment for review the Commission recommended that community gardens be allowed with a simple permit or license in any zoning district, rather than a conditional use permit.

The [Community Garden Policy Reference Guide](#) created by the Public Health Law Center in 2012 is a valuable resource to creating policies for community gardens (Attachment/Link 2). The guide outlines land use issues that should be reviewed with the approval of a community garden including:

- Zoning Districts
- Parking
- Setbacks
- Fences
- Permanent Structures
- Signage
- Water
- Equipment
- Sale/Use of Garden Products
- Garden Design and Landscaping
- Gardener Rules
- Lease Agreement
- Equipment
- Soil Conditions
- Raised Beds
- Pest Control

Allowing community gardens with a conditional use permit would give the City the opportunity to review the land use issues on a case by case basis. Conditions could then be required on each community garden to address the issues. Allowing community gardens as a permitted use with a permit, however, will require that the City create standards that will address all issues for any type of community garden.

As a starting point for community garden standards in Maplewood, staff is including the City of St. Paul's Urban Agriculture ordinance for review. The [St. Paul Urban Agriculture ordinance](#) allows for the principal use of land in any zoning district for production of food or horticultural

crops to be harvested, sold, or donated (Attachment 3). A [site plan review](#) is required with a small fee (Attachment 4). City staff reviews the site plan to ensure it meets the standards outlined in the code. The Commission should review the St. Paul Urban Agriculture ordinance and offer comment and feedback on how similar standards and review process could be implemented in Maplewood.

Recommendation

Review the community garden information and offer comment and feedback.

Attachments and Links

1. Urban Agriculture Zoning Review Study
2. [Community Garden Policy Reference Guide](#) (Public Health Law Center 2012)
3. St. Paul Urban Agriculture Ordinance
4. St. Paul Urban Agriculture Site Plan Review Application

City of Maplewood Urban Agriculture – Zoning Review Update June 16, 2016

The Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR) Commission's 2016 goal is to review the City's ordinances and make recommendations that will remove barriers and promote urban agriculture uses. There are four aspects of the Commission's review including:

- Animal agriculture (keeping of chickens, etc.)
- Crop agriculture (community gardens, etc.)
- Direct to consumer sales (farm stands, etc.)
- City Programming (composting classes, etc.)

Review of Existing Codes

The urban agriculture subcommittee reviewed the City's existing zoning code to determine where urban agriculture uses are permitted, or could be interpreted to be permitted, and where there are barriers to the use. For animal agriculture uses the following ordinances apply:

Residential

- *Farm District* ([Sections 44-71 and 44-72](#)): It is estimated there are 200 residential lots that are zoned Farm District. The Farm District zoning is a remnant district from the City's agricultural era. As large lots were subdivided into smaller lot residential developments, Farm zoned land had been rezoned to Single Family Residential District (R-1). Livestock raising and handling are allowed in the Farm District with a conditional use permit. Livestock is defined as "horses, cattle, mules, asses, goats, sheep, swine, buffalo, llamas, ostriches, reptiles, genetic hybrids of the foregoing, and other living animals usually kept for agriculture husbandry, or the production of edible or salable byproducts."
- *Single and Double Dwelling Residential Districts Including R-1, R-1(R), R-E, R-1S, R-2* (Sections [44-101](#), [44-117](#), [44-152](#), [44-192](#), [44-241](#)):
 - Permitted Uses
 - Single family homes and accessory uses.
 - Bees - Keeping of Certain Animals (Section [10-32](#)): No person shall keep, maintain, or harbor within the city any animal kept in such numbers or in such a way as to constitute a likelihood of harm to the public, which constitutes a public nuisance. Definition of animal includes "insect." Interpretation – bees are allowed as long as they don't become a nuisance.
 - Prohibited Uses
 - Raising or handling of livestock and poultry (except chickens as outlined in [Article IX](#)).
 - *Home Occupations* ([Division 2](#)) with a permit approved by the City Council if any of the following circumstances would occur more than 30 days each year.

- Employment of a nonresident.
- Customers or customers' vehicles on the premises.

Home Occupations must not:

- Have more than one vehicle associated with the home occupation which is classified as a light commercial vehicle.
- Not generate traffic in greater volumes than would normally be expected in a residential neighborhood.
- Have more than one non-resident employee working on the premises.
- Have vehicles associated with the home occupation parked on the street.

Section [44-101](#) includes permitted uses in residential zoning districts and specifies that commercial plant nurseries and greenhouses on a property with a dwelling are allowed with a home occupation license. Interpretation - aquaculture and aquaponics could be allowed with a home occupation.

- Uses Allowed with a Permit
 - *Chickens* ([Article IX](#)): Keeping of up to ten hens with a permit approved by City staff is allowed in residential districts (except R-1S). Maplewood's chicken ordinance was adopted in 2011 and allows the keeping of up to ten hens on residential property with a permit. A property owner applying for a permit must have consent from 100 percent of their adjacent property owners for the City to issue the permit. The fee for a chicken permit is \$75 for the first year, and \$50 thereafter.

Commercial

- *Light Manufacturing District:*
 - Permitted uses in Section [44-636](#) allows manufacturing, assembly or processing of food products, except meat, poultry or fish. Interpretation – assembly or processing of meat, poultry, or fish is prohibited, which would exclude aquaculture or aquaponics, which refers to fish farming and closed loop systems that create a relationship between plants and food.
- *Heavy Manufacturing District:*
 - Permitted uses in Section [44-676](#) allow manufacturing, assembly or processing of food products, except meat, poultry or fish. Interpretation – assembly or processing of meat, poultry, or fish is prohibited, which would exclude aquaculture or aquaponics, which refers to fish farming and closed loop systems that create a relationship between plants and food.
- *Conditional Use Permits* ([Article V](#)): The City Council may issue conditional use permits for the following uses in any zoning district where they are not specifically prohibited: “Public and private utilities, public service, or public building uses.” Interpretation – public service or public building uses could include animal agriculture by a public entity in some zoning districts with a conditional use permit.

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Popular In This Section

Urban Agriculture

Overview

Sec. 65.771

The principal use of land for production of food or horticultural crops to be harvested, sold, or donated. To establish an Agricultural use on vacant property, you must submit an [application for a Site Plan Review \(/DocumentCenter/View/71614\)](#). There is a \$31 filing fee for all applications. All applicants are required to provide a soil test with their application. Applicants can have soil lead tests done for \$17 through the University of Minnesota. Visit this [link for more information on how to submit soil samples \(http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/how-to-submit-samples/\)](#).

Standards and Conditions for all Agricultural Uses

- [Building Information & Applications \(/departments/safety-inspections/construction-inspections/building/building-information-applications\)](#)
- [Building Trade \(/departments/safety-inspections/licenses/building-trade\)](#)
- [Permits \(/departments/safety-inspections/permits\)](#)
- [Zoning \(/departments/safety-inspections/zoning\)](#)
- [Vacant Buildings List \(/departments/safety-inspections/vacant-buildings/vacant-buildings-list\)](#)
- [Becoming a TISH Evaluator \(/departments/safety-inspections/becoming-tish-evaluator\)](#)

(a) Approval of a site plan showing the location of all growing plots, sheds, structures, and fencing, with contact information for the site manager. A soil lead test showing that lead levels are less than one hundred (100) parts per million shall be submitted to the zoning administrator with the site plan or raised planting beds with soil barriers and clean, imported soil will be required. Building permit required for structures 200 square feet or larger and all fences

Accessory Dwelling Units
(/departments/safety-inspections/accessory-dwelling-units)

(b) In residential, traditional neighborhood, and business districts, an agriculture use having an area greater than one (1) acre requires a conditional use permit.

(c) The use shall be subject to the Minimum Property Maintenance Standards (Chapter 34) and Noise Regulations (Chapter 293) of the City of Saint Paul.

(d) Keeping of any animals other than bees is prohibited. The keeping of bees requires a Keeping of Animal Permit.

(e) The use shall be conducted in a manner that controls odor, dust, erosion, lighting, and noise and is in compliance with city standards so as not to create a nuisance. This requirement may be enforced through the provisions in Chapter 45 for nuisance abatement.

(f) Any tools, equipment, and material shall be stored and concealed within an enclosed, secured structure.

(g) When an agriculture use has been discontinued, the property shall be restored with grass or planted ground cover to control erosion, dust, and mud. All structures accessory to the agriculture use shall be removed. This requirement may be enforced through the provisions in Chapter 45 for nuisance abatement.

Standards and conditions in residential and traditional neighborhood districts for an agriculture use with an area of less than one (1) acre:

- On-site sales shall be limited only to products grown on the site. Sales shall be limited to no more than three (3) sales in any calendar year and may take place only between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.
- Sales shall be held on property occupied either by seller's dwelling unit or on property owned, rented, leased, or otherwise lawfully occupied by a charitable, institutional, or political organization.
- Sales shall not take place on the public sidewalk or boulevard.

- Gardening equipment shall be limited to that which is commonly used for household gardening.
- Accessory buildings shall not exceed an area greater than ten (10) percent of the parcel or one thousand (1000) square feet, whichever is greater.
- Temporary structures, not exceeding one hundred eighty (180) days per year, such as hoop houses, cold frames, and similar structures located above gardening plots and being used to extend the growing season are permitted.
- A building permit is required for any temporary structure covering an area greater than two hundred (200) square feet.
- One identification sign is permitted, not to exceed six (6) square feet.

Composting

Sec. 345.08 Residential Composting

Composting (the controlled microbial degradation of organic waste to yield a humus like product) by residents on their own property is permitted provided the following regulations are complied with:

- **Container:** Composting shall be conducted within an enclosed container (s) not to exceed a total of one hundred (100) cubic feet in volume for city lots less than ten thousand (10,000 square feet) and one hundred fifty (150) cubic feet for lots greater than ten thousand (10,000) square feet, and five (5) feet high. The container(s) shall be of durable material such as wood, block or sturdy metal fencing material.
- **Container location:** The compost container(s) shall be located at least five (5) feet from lot lines and be placed no closer than twenty (20) feet to any habitable building, other than the resident's own home, nor less than two (2) feet away from the alley if any all exists.
- **Materials allowed:** Only organic yard materials, including grass clippings, leaves, faded flowers, weeds, sawdust, wood ash and plant trimmings, lake plants, straw; kitchen scraps such as fruit and vegetable peels and trimming, and other raw, non-greasy food wastes; and commercially available compost materials, may be placed in the compost container(s).
- **Materials not allowed:** None of the following materials shall be placed in the compost container(s): meat, bones, fat, oils, dairy products and other greasy kitchen wastes, whole branches or logs, plastics, synthetic fibers, human or pet wastes or heavily diseased plants.
- **Odors:** Compost shall be properly managed to minimize odor generation and promote effective decomposition of the material.

Other Applicable Code Requirements

Sec. 34.08. Exterior property areas.

- All exterior property areas shall be maintained free from any accumulation of garbage, mixed municipal solid waste, animal feces or refuse.
- Ground cover. Every residential premises shall be maintained in a condition to control erosion, dust and mud by suitable landscaping with grass, trees, shrubs or other planted ground cover, or by suitable paving or by other means as shall be approved by the enforcement officer.
- In residential zoning districts, impervious surfaces, excluding the principal building, accessory structures, patios and swimming pools shall not exceed one thousand five hundred (1,500) square feet unless site or terrain conditions make this impractical. For the purposes of this section, an impervious surface includes driveways, sidewalks and surface parking areas.
- Insect and rodent infestations. It shall be the responsibility of the owner to control and/or eliminate any infestation of insects, rodents or other pests in all exterior areas and accessory structures on the premises.

Sec. 45.03. Nuisance.

- Grass and weeds. Grass which has grown upon any property to a height of eight (8) or more inches or weeds.
- Insects, rodents and pest harborage. Conditions which are conducive to the presence, harborage or breeding of insects, rodents or other pests.
- Bees or pigeons kept with written permission from and maintained in accordance with the regulations of the division of public health are exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Rank plant growth.
- Overgrown, uncontrolled vegetation, shrubs, trees, vines that are conducive to the accumulation of refuse, debris or the harborage of vermin.

Other permits that may be required

- [Keeping of Animals \(Bees \(/departments/safety-inspections/animal-control-information/keeping-animals-permit\)\)](#)
- [Sign Permits \(/departments/safety-inspections/permits/sign\)](#)
- [Building Permits \(/departments/safety-inspections/construction-inspections/building\)](#)
- [Fence Permits \(/departments/safety-inspections/construction-inspections/building/fence-permit-inspections\)](#)



APPLICATION FOR SITE PLAN REVIEW

Urban Agriculture

Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI)

375 Jackson Street

Suite 220

Saint Paul MN 55101-1806

(651) 266-9008

STAFF USE ONLY

GT File # _____

City agent _____

Include: A) a site plan showing the location of all growing plots, structures, and fencing.
B) A soil lead test showing that lead levels are less than 100 parts per million or you must have raised planting beds with soil barriers and clean, imported soil.

APPLICANT (Main contact person for project)

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PROPERTY OWNER (If different than the applicant)

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PROJECT

Project name / description: _____

Project address / Location: _____

Farmers Market-Number of vendors: _____

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

*There is a filing fee of \$30 for review of a site plan.

This form and other information about site plan review are available at www.stpaul.gov/dsi. Click on Zoning in the column on the left side of the page and then click on Farmers Market/Urban Ag site plan review.

Note:

Urban Agriculture

Definition: “Principal use of land for production of food or horticultural crops to be harvested, sold, or donated.” (Zoning Code Sec.65.771)

-If your site plan shows an area greater than 1 acre, the [keeping of bees](#) or a temporary structure covering an area greater than 120 square feet, you will be responsible for obtaining the correct permits from the City of Saint Paul.

-Applicants can have soil lead tests done for \$17 through the University of Minnesota. Visit <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/how-to-submit-samples/> for more information.

-Applicants using compost, refer to our [compost regulations page](#).

-All applicants are subject to obeying exterior property areas regulations found in the property maintenance code Sec. 34.08 and the nuisance ordinance Sec. 45.03.

Sec. 34.08. Exterior property areas.

- (1) *Sanitation.* All exterior property areas shall be maintained free from any accumulation of garbage, mixed municipal solid waste, animal feces or refuse.
- (3) *Ground cover.* Every residential premises shall be maintained in a condition to control erosion, dust and mud by suitable landscaping with grass, trees, shrubs or other planted ground cover, or by suitable paving or by other means as shall be approved by the enforcement officer. In residential zoning districts, impervious surfaces, excluding the principal building, accessory structures, patios and swimming pools shall not exceed one thousand five hundred (1,500) square feet unless site or terrain conditions make this impractical. For the purposes of this section, an impervious surface includes driveways, sidewalks and surface parking areas.
- (4) *Insect and rodent infestations.* It shall be the responsibility of the owner to control and/or eliminate any infestation of insects, rodents or other pests in all exterior areas and accessory structures on the premises.

Sec. 45.03. Nuisance.

Nuisances include:

- (7) *Grass and weeds.* Grass which has grown upon any property to a height of eight (8) or more inches or weeds.
- (10) *Insects, rodents and pest harborage.* Conditions which are conducive to the presence, harborage or breeding of insects, rodents or other pests. Bees or pigeons kept with written permission from and maintained in accordance with the regulations of the division of public health are exempt from the provisions of this chapter.
- (16) *Rank plant growth.* Overgrown, uncontrolled vegetation, shrubs, trees, vines that are conducive to the accumulation of refuse, debris or the harborage of vermin.