



AGENDA OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025, 5:00 PM
In person at City Hall, Room 310.
Virtual attendance also available via Zoom.

A. Zoom Meeting Information.

1. Join Zoom Meeting Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82236285137?pwd=bzBScDVVRysrQlpSZEZpK2FMSnd4Zz09>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 822 3628 5137

Passcode: 769016

If you wish to speak at this public meeting or leave a comment, please fill out the online [Comment Form](#) prior to the meeting. More detailed [Zoom Instructions](#) can be found online.

B. Roll Call.

1. Chair- Christa Kananen; Vice Chair- Ned Dorff; Alder Joey Prestley; Julia Noordyk; Jenny Brinker; Amy Kox; Mark Walter; Daniela Beall; Staff person- Kaurie Mihm

C. Approval of the Agenda.

1. Approval of the agenda for the Thursday, June 19, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

D. Approval of Minutes.

1. Approval of the minutes from the May 21, 2025 meeting.

E. Regular Business.

1. For consideration with possible action to recommend the Resolution Opposing the Repeal of Clean Energy Funding Programs in House Concurrent Resolution 14.
2. Discussion and possible action to draft a Rights of Nature resolution.

F. Informational.

1. Youth Engagement Work Group
2. Climate Resilience Work Group Report
3. Resiliency Coordinator Updates
4. Next Meeting: July 16, 2025

G. Adjournment.

1. Adjournment for the Thursday, June 19, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

- 1) THIS MEETING IS RECORDED: THE VIDEO OF THIS MEETING AND MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.greenbaywi.gov
- 2) ACCESSIBILITY: Any person wishing to attend who requires special accommodation because of a disability, should contact the City Safety Manager at 920-448-3125 at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting time so that arrangements can be made.
- 3) QUORUM: Please take notice that a majority or quorum of the Common Council will attend this Sustainability Commission meeting and will constitute a meeting of the Common Council for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.
- 4) REPRESENTATION: The party requesting the communication, or their representative, should be present at this meeting.



Report to the
Sustainability Commission
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

June 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # D.I

Approval of the minutes from the May 21, 2025 meeting.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Sustainability Commission meeting minutes 05 21 2025



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025, 5:00 PM
In person at City Hall, Room 310.
Virtual attendance also available via Zoom.

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

- I. Join Zoom Meeting Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82236285137?pwd=bzBScDVVRysrQlpSZEZpK2FMSnd4Zz09>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 822 3628 5137

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B. ROLL CALL.

- I. Chair- Christa Kananen; Vice Chair- Ned Dorff; Alder Joey Prestley; Julia Noordyk; Jenny Brinker; Amy Kox; Mark Walter; Daniela Beall; Staff person- Kaurie Mihm

Present: Kaurie Mihm, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall

Excused: Amy Kox, Julia Noordyk

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

- I. Approval of the Sustainability Commission meeting agenda for May 21, 2025.

Moved by Jenny Brinker, seconded by Christa Kananen to approve the agenda.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Kaurie Mihm, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, No-None, Abstain-None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- I. Approval of minutes from March 19, 2025.

Moved by Mark Walter, seconded by Ald. Joey Prestley to approve the minutes.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Kaurie Mihm, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, No-None, Abstain-None.

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

- I. Overview of City Sustainability & Resiliency Initiatives

Moved by Mark Walter, seconded by Christa Kananen to receive and place on file the Sustainability & Resiliency memo.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Kaurie Mihm, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, No-None, Abstain-None.

F. INFORMATIONAL.

- I. Work Group Reports

- a. Healthy Habitat for All Work Group

Moved by Kaurie Mihm, seconded by Jenny Brinker to receive and place on file the report of the Healthy Habitat for All Work Group.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Kaurie Mihm, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, No-None, Abstain-None.

- b. Clean Energy Work Group

Moved by Christa Kananen, seconded by Ald. Joey Prestley to receive and place on file the report of the Clean Energy Work Group.

Motion .

Yes-Kaurie Mihm, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, No-None, Abstain-None.

2. Next Sustainability Commission meeting: **Thursday, June 19, 5:00pm.**

3. Staff report/updates

Moved by Jenny Brinker, seconded by Mark Walter to receive and place on file the staff report.

Motion .

Yes-Kaurie Mihm, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, No-None, Abstain-None.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Mark Walter, seconded by Christa Kananen to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Kaurie Mihm, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, No-None, Abstain-None.



Report to the Sustainability Commission of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

June 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # E.1

For consideration with possible action to recommend the Resolution Opposing the Repeal of Clean Energy Funding Programs in House Concurrent Resolution 14 to Common Council or a standing committee.

BACKGROUND

On May 4, 2021, the Green Bay Common Council adopted a resolution committing the City to achieve 100% clean energy and carbon neutrality by 2050. Since then, the City has made tangible progress toward this goal, including the adoption of the Clean Energy Green Bay implementation plan in 2023. The plan outlines a clear strategy for reducing emissions, cutting energy costs, and improving public health, with a strong reliance on federal clean energy funding and tax credit programs.

These federal programs—established and expanded through recent legislation such as the Inflation Reduction Act—have played a transformative role in enabling cities like Green Bay to invest in cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades, solar installations, fleet electrification, and community resilience initiatives. These incentives lower the upfront cost of projects that reduce long-term energy expenses for both the City and local households.

House Concurrent Resolution 14, introduced in 2025, proposes the repeal of many of these critical federal clean energy programs and tax incentives. If passed, the resolution would eliminate or weaken programs that directly benefit Green Bay's public buildings, low-income households, small businesses, and clean energy workforce. For example, funding used for cutting energy waste in City facilities, solar installations on City facilities, and potential community solar programs would be in jeopardy. This could lead to increased utility costs, reduced project feasibility, and slowed momentum toward local climate goals.

Recent analyses underscore the stakes: According to the Rhodium Group, repeal of these programs could increase annual household energy costs in the U.S. by up to \$290 by 2035. In Wisconsin, projections from Energy Innovation show that the state could lose more than 6,400 clean energy jobs and over \$1.16 billion in GDP if federal clean energy investments are rolled back. This would particularly impact growth in the construction, skilled trades, and advanced manufacturing sectors—fields vital to Green Bay's workforce and economy.

Given this context, the Sustainability Commission is being asked to review and recommend adoption of a resolution that affirms the City of Green Bay's opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 14 and supports continued federal investment in clean energy. The resolution urges Wisconsin's congressional delegation to reject efforts to repeal clean energy tax credits and instead support policies that advance energy affordability, job creation, and climate resilience for Green Bay.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Sustainability Commission vote in support of the resolution and forward a

recommendation to the Green Bay Common Council for its consideration and adoption.

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Resolution Opposing Repeal of Clean Energy Funding June 2025
2. Draft Resolution Clean Energy_support docs

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REPEAL OF CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING
PROGRAMS IN HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 14**

June 19, 2025

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2021, the City of Green Bay passed a resolution establishing a goal of 100% clean energy and carbon neutrality by 2050, and subsequently adopted the Clean Energy Green Bay plan in 2023 to guide implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Energy Green Bay plan relies heavily on leveraging federal clean energy tax credits and funding programs to upgrade city facilities, reduce operating costs, and make clean energy accessible for residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, if approved, the repeal of clean energy and energy efficiency related tax credits would directly threaten Green Bay’s ability to implement high-impact, cost-saving projects, including public building retrofits, LED streetlight upgrades, and community solar; and

WHEREAS, in Green Bay and across Northeast Wisconsin, homeowners, businesses, houses of worship, and non-profit organizations, and public institutions rely on federal tax credits to install solar panels, improve energy efficiency, and adopt electric vehicle projects that help stabilize energy prices, reduce utility bills, improve air quality, and keep dollars in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, analysis shows that repealing federal clean energy tax credits and funding could increase annual household energy costs by as much as \$290 by 2035 [1. Rhodium Group, May 2025], while Wisconsin as a whole could lose over 6,400 clean energy-related jobs and \$1.16 billion in GDP [2. Energy Innovation Policy and Technology LLC, March 2025]—affecting job creation in construction, skilled trades, and advanced manufacturing sectors critical to Green Bay’s economy; and

WHEREAS, preserving federal support for clean energy is not only a climate solution but a strategy for economic resilience, workforce development, and long-term public savings for the City of Green Bay and its taxpayers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Green Bay opposes the repeal of clean energy tax credits and federal funding programs proposed in House Concurrent Resolution 14 and urges Wisconsin’s congressional delegation to reject these provisions and instead support the continuation and expansion of investments that enable energy affordability, economic opportunity, and environmental leadership for Green Bay residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the offices of Wisconsin’s United States Senators and Representatives.

Approved _____

Eric Genrich, Mayor

REPEALING FEDERAL ENERGY TAX CREDITS AND FUNDING WILL HARM WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY

Federal energy tax credits and funding programs are supercharging America's economy. As of January, these grant programs and tax credits have generated [\\$600 billion in new private investment](#) and created more than [406,000 new jobs](#). Prior [modeling by Energy Innovation](#) showed that just a few key federal tax credits could increase national GDP up to \$200 billion and create up to 1.3 million jobs by 2030.

Since Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022, roughly \$933 million [in clean energy](#) and transportation investments and more than 2,500 new jobs have been announced in Wisconsin, alongside \$2.07 billion in announced investments from federal grants and loans. 61 [new clean energy and transportation facilities](#) have begun development, and 45 have begun manufacturing American-made products.

But Trump administration proposals to repeal federal policies could significantly harm this economic growth. In just two months, administration actions, including freezing funding for IRA programs, [have cost America](#) nearly 42,000 announced jobs and stopped more than 60 announced clean energy projects representing more than \$57 billion in investment.

Energy Innovation used our free and open-source [Energy Policy Simulator](#) to analyze potential impacts on state-level economic growth, jobs,¹ public health, and greenhouse gas emissions in Wisconsin from repealing these existing policies.

The modeling finds repealing federal funding and tax credits reduces Wisconsin's GDP by \$1 billion in 2030 and \$1.16 billion in 2035, compared to maintaining current policies. Reducing new clean energy projects would increase Wisconsin's air pollution by nearly 4 million metric tons (MMT) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2035—equivalent to the annual air pollution from 1 coal-fired power plant.

Repealing Existing Federal Policies Would Increase Energy Bills and Reduce Job Growth in Wisconsin

Current federal policies, such as clean energy tax credits, grants, loans, and standards accelerate clean energy project deployment and electric vehicle sales in Wisconsin. But repealing these policies would force Wisconsin households to pay higher electricity bills because less low-cost clean energy is being built, while fewer EVs on the road would force consumers to spend more on gasoline. Repealing existing federal clean energy tax credits

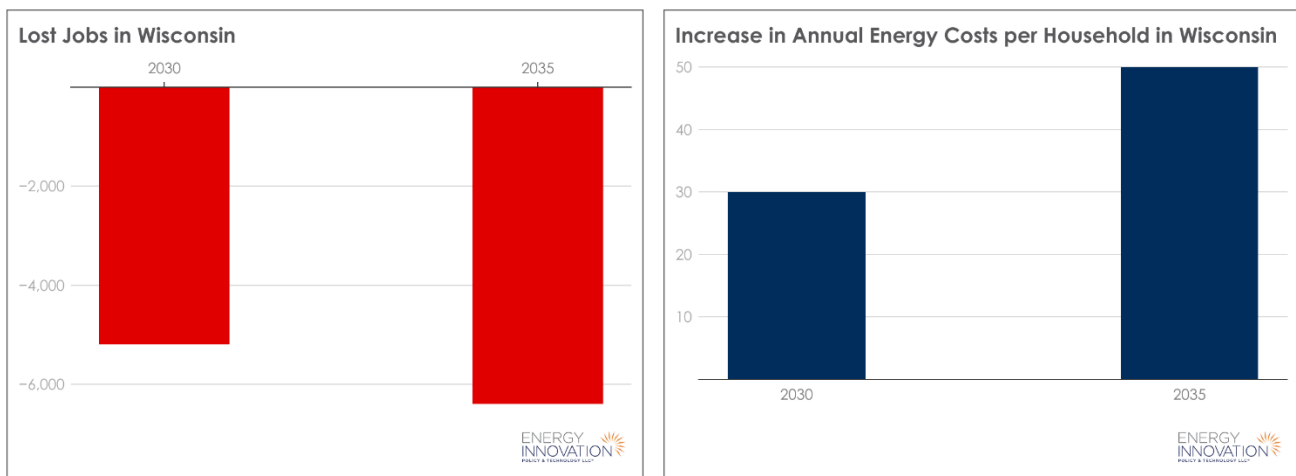
¹ A job year defined as one year of work for one person, for instance a new construction job that lasts five years is equal to five job-years. This is a more accurate measure than "job" because one job may last for five months or five years.

and funding programs would increase average annual household energy costs in Wisconsin (including electricity and fuel expenses) by nearly \$30 per year in 2030 and more than \$50 per year in 2035.

Across all Wisconsin households, this increases cumulative household energy costs by more than \$348 million through 2035, assuming a 7 percent discount rate.

Repealing these programs would also cost Wisconsin new jobs. Industries like manufacturing and construction will be forced to scale back if federally supported investments are halted and demand for clean energy technology evaporates. Lower investment and higher energy bills due to repealing these federal programs and tax incentives will cost nearly 5,200 Wisconsin jobs in 2030 and more than 6,400 jobs in 2035, compared to current policies.

These economic results are consistent with [analysis](#) from financial services company Moody's, which analyzed President Trump's campaign policy platform in August 2024 and found that it would increase inflation and weaken economic growth, threatening a recession as soon as mid-2025.



Methodology

The “Current Policies” scenario includes policies from the IRA, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and CHIPS and Science Act, as well as finalized rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—oil and gas methane standards; tailpipe CO₂ standards for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles; and power plant CO₂ standards. The “Current Policies” scenario also includes major existing state climate policies including clean electricity standards, Advanced Clean Cars I and II, Advanced Clean Trucks, clean electricity standards, zero-emission vehicle incentives, and carbon pricing schemes. State-level “Current Policies” scenarios include downscaled impacts of federal rules and standards as well as key state-specific climate and clean energy policies.

The “Repeal” Scenario removes existing IRA clean energy tax credits and funding programs from individual state models. For more information on how we modeled this scenario, see documentation on state-level modeling methodology [on Energy Innovation's website](#).

Ways and Means Brings the Hammer Down on Energy Credits

May 13, 2025

Ben King (bking@rhg.com), Hannah Kolus (hkolus@rhg.com), Michael Gaffney (mgaffney@rhg.com), Anna van Brummen (avanbrummen@rhg.com), John Larsen (jwlarsen@rhg.com)

The House Ways and Means Committee issued its proposed language for inclusion in Congress's massive budget reconciliation package. It's the opening attempt to reduce spending in order to partially cover the cost of nearly \$5 trillion in proposed extensions and expansions of the tax cuts initially passed in 2017. While we are still analyzing the package, our preliminary analysis shows that the impact of the proposal is likely to be similar to the impact of a full repeal of the energy tax credits initially extended and expanded in 2022. This will raise energy costs for American households by as much as 7% in 2035, stifle energy technology innovation, increase pollution, and could put a meaningful portion of half a trillion dollars of new manufacturing, industrial, and clean electricity investments across the country at risk.

The opening salvo in the budget reconciliation debate

After the House and Senate agreed to a [budget framework](#) last month, work commenced on sorting out how exactly to meet the budget targets established in that bill. House Ways and Means released its [contribution](#), which per the resolution cannot add more than \$4.5 trillion to the deficit over the next ten years. The Joint Committee on Taxation, the scorekeepers of the federal fiscal impacts of policy, [reckons](#) the Committee's efforts to extend components of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and add new tax cuts, including modified tax rates, no tax on tips or Social Security benefits, changes to deductions and the alternative minimum tax exemption, as well as extending and increasing the state and local tax deduction cap, would increase the deficit by \$5.6 trillion. This means Ways and Means needs to find at least \$1.1 trillion in savings to meet the budget target. As a result, the Committee has, among other things, chosen to cut most energy-related tax credits way back to make up the difference.

Last year, House Speaker Mike Johnson [argued](#) that his members should use "a scalpel and not a sledgehammer" to make changes to energy-related tax credits. In recent months, he's [walked that back](#) to "somewhere between a scalpel and a sledgehammer." In fact, as a starting point, Ways and Means committee chair Jason Smith (R-MO) and other

bill drafters have come down firmly on the sledgehammer end of the spectrum, targeting cuts to a host of provisions, including many that have attracted [Republican support](#) in recent weeks and months and historically have enjoyed bipartisan backing.

Major changes in the Ways and Means proposal that will affect energy include:

- Termination of a number of tax credits at the end of 2025, including credits for clean vehicles (with a limited exception for some vehicles in 2026), commercial clean vehicles, previously owned clean vehicles, alternative fuel refueling properties, energy efficiency and clean energy improvements for homes, and clean hydrogen
- Statutory phase-out of the clean electricity production and investment tax credits beginning in 2029 through 2031 on a placed-in-service basis—a shift from the current commence construction deadlines. *De facto* sunset of the credits as early as 2026 (one year after passage of the bill) with imposition of highly restrictive and administratively complex (and potentially unworkable) limits on sourcing of components, subcomponents, and critical materials used at a facility, or 2027 with the phase-out of the ability for clean energy developers to transfer or sell the tax credits they generate to other entities.
- Sunset of the advanced manufacturing production credit after 2031, except for wind components, which sunset after 2027; application of similarly strict sourcing requirements aligned with those proposed for the clean electricity credits; and removal of transferability
- Repeal of transferability, which reduces options for monetizing the credits, and implementation of foreign sourcing limits for a host of other credits
- Phase-out of the zero-emitting nuclear credit beginning in 2029 through 2031; extension of clean fuels credit through 2031 with changes to what fuels could potentially qualify

Beyond the specific policy changes, the proposal will also require a hollowed-out federal bureaucracy to propose and finalize extremely complicated and unprecedented implementation rules before investors and developers will have the certainty they need to make investment decisions. It took the first Trump administration nearly three years to finalize regulations for implementing the 45Q tax credits for carbon capture, rules which pale in comparison to the complexity of what will be required to implement key portions of the Ways and Means proposal.

Impacts of the provisions

Since Ways and Means just released a draft of the bill yesterday, we have yet to fully model the proposal in its current form. [In December](#), we modeled a potential legislative pathway that fully repealed all major energy components of the Inflation Reduction Act beginning on January 1, 2025. For some credits like clean vehicles and residential clean energy, the Ways and Means proposal offers just one more year of credits compared to our repeal scenario. For the technology-neutral clean electricity tax credits, the Ways and Means proposal's harshest restrictions on material from foreign entities of concern (FEOC) are likely to begin in 2026—so two more years of credit would be available compared to

our repeal scenario. Because of the high degree of consistency with the Ways and Means proposal and our previous modeling, our prior work provides useful insights into the expected direction and magnitude of impact of these policy changes. As discussed above, the administrative complexity of implementing these rules also likely puts significant downward pressure on near-term investments, further aligning our previous modeling with this proposal. We plan to refine our modeling after the Ways and Means mark-up to reflect where the committee lands.

We compare modeling outcomes with and without these changes to quantify the impact of the proposal—in both cases holding constant a [“rollback” regulatory environment](#) as a baseline where all major Biden-era environmental regulations are removed. The Trump administration and Congress have taken numerous actions to follow through on these rollbacks, the latest of which is the House Energy and Commerce [reconciliation bill](#) attempt to repeal EPA tailpipe regulations for light, medium and heavy duty vehicles. Such legislative moves are unprecedented and likely to face scrutiny from the Senate parliamentarian, though Senate Republicans could make another unprecedented move and opt to ignore her ruling.

Whatever comes of these congressional machinations, we expect the rules we identified in our December rollback scenario to be removed from current law in the near future, so we consider the impacts of efforts to change tax policy compared to a baseline where the regulations are rolled back. We report a “baseline” policy case reflecting regulatory changes made by the Trump administration and Congress and then a “repeal” policy case that estimates the incremental impact of revision and removal of energy-related provisions of the IRA beginning in 2025.

As we detail in our December note, rolling back regulations alone will meaningfully impact the energy system, increasing energy bills for consumers and businesses, reducing clean energy deployment, and increasing greenhouse gas emissions. In this note, we focus only on the impacts of changes akin to those proposed by Ways and Means legislation. As part of budget reconciliation, several committees have proposed policy changes that will impact the energy system, including the House Energy and Commerce’s proposed rescission of funding for a number of grant programs established as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, new fees on EVs proposed by the Transportation and Infrastructure committee, and the Natural Resource committee’s proposed changes to energy production public lands. We will assess the aggregate impact of the entire reconciliation bill as the complete legislation takes shape.

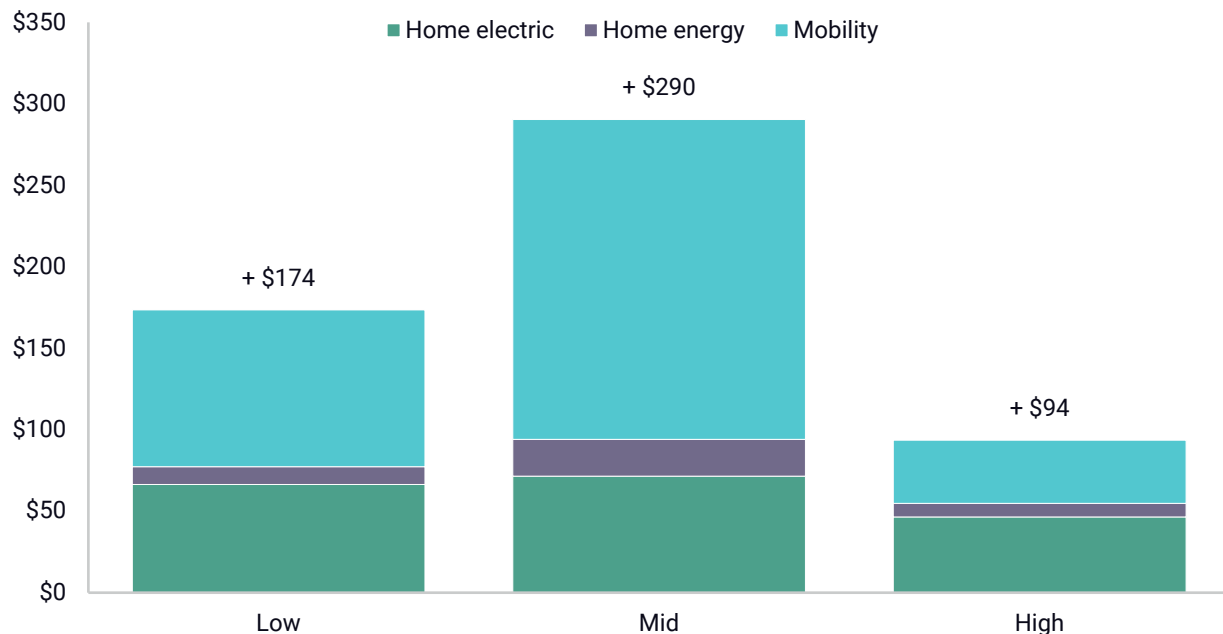
As in the past, to understand the range of potential impacts, we use the same three main emissions scenarios reported in [Taking Stock 2024](#): a low-emissions scenario that pairs cheap clean energy technologies with more expensive future fossil fuel prices and slightly slower GDP growth; a high-emissions scenario that pairs more expensive clean technologies with cheap fossil fuels and as-anticipated GDP growth; and a mid-emissions scenario that cuts the difference between the two. To model these policy pathways and emissions scenarios, we use RHG-NEMS, our version of the National Energy Modeling System developed by the US Energy Information Administration.

Energy prices and costs rise for households and businesses

An often-stated goal of these changes is to bring costs down for American households. We find that repealing the energy tax credits has the opposite effect, increasing household

energy costs by \$95-290 in 2035—a 2-7% increase in costs that year (Figure 1). Repealing tax credits effectively acts as a energy tax increase. Higher spending on mobility energy, including motor gasoline, diesel, and electricity for charging electric vehicles, make up 41-68% of that increase. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, with fewer electric vehicles on the road (discussed further below), consumers will buy more liquid fuels, especially motor gasoline. Relatedly, this increase in demand for gasoline drives up prices at the pump by 1-5% (Figure 2), increasing costs for all drivers. Domestic crude oil production increases very modestly (less than 1%), while crude oil imports increase more meaningfully (5-11%). Electricity bills make up 25-50% of the increase, with households paying \$46-72 more each year to power their homes.

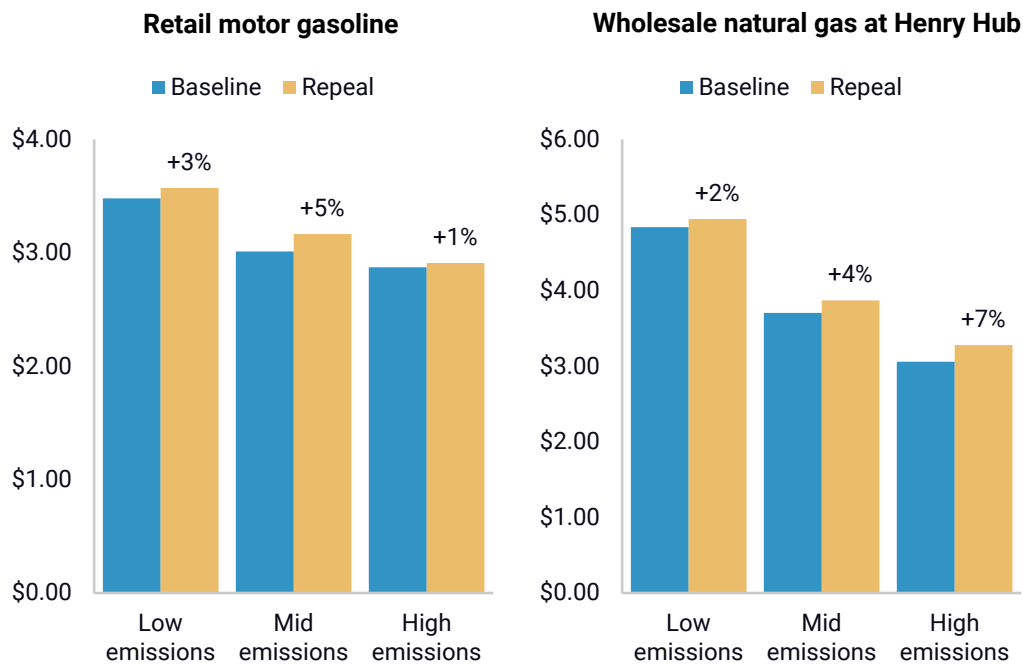
FIGURE 1
Change in national average annual household energy expenditure in 2035, repeal compared to baseline
 2022 USD



Source: Rhodium Group

Increasing demand for natural gas, particularly driven by more gas demand for power generation, increases wholesale natural gas prices by 2-7% in 2035, despite 6-8% higher gas production (Figure 2). That leads to higher retail prices for all consumers across the economy.

FIGURE 2
Fossil fuel prices in 2035
 2022 USD per MMBtu

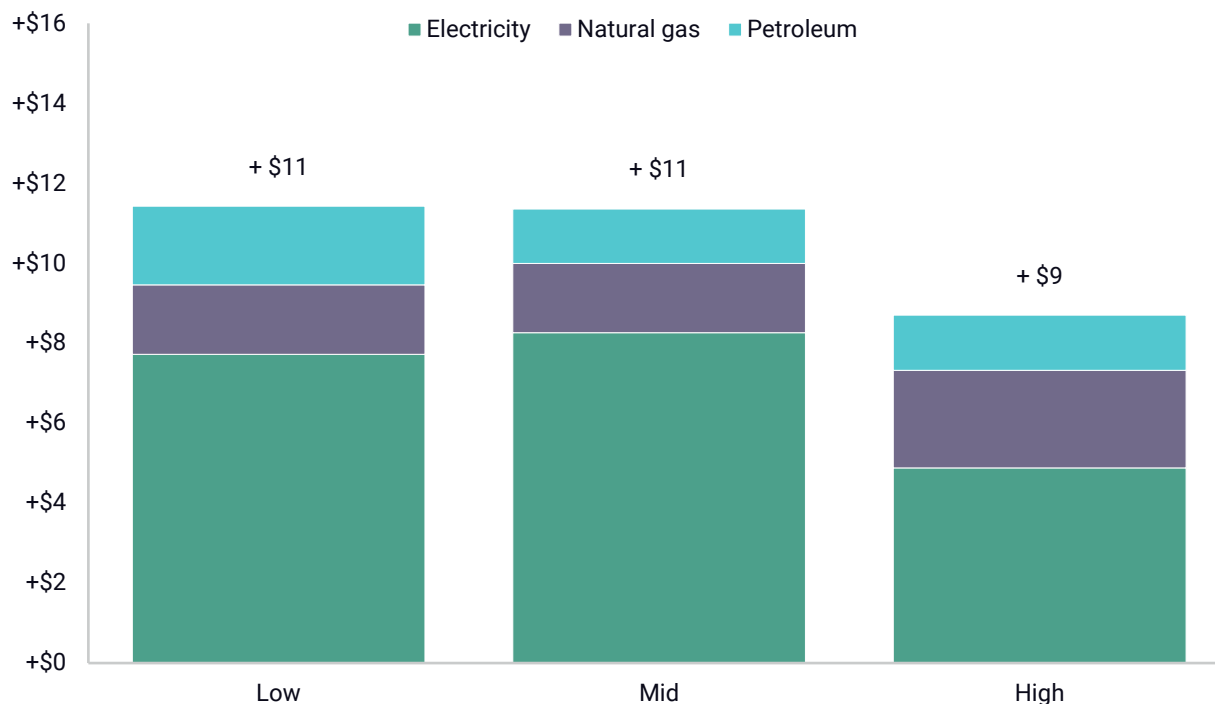


Source: Rhodium Group

Despite the administration’s stated desire to bolster domestic manufacturing, we find that repealing tax credits places extra burden on industrial producers through higher fuel costs. These higher costs drive up industrial expenditures by \$9-11 billion in 2035 (Figure 3). Electricity bills comprise 56-73% of this increase—a consequence of industrial electricity rates rising by 7-12% in 2035. Natural gas expenditures increase by \$2 billion on average due to higher wholesale prices. At a time when trade policy turbulence is driving uncertainty around inflation, consumer confidence and the continued economic growth increasing energy costs could add to the turbulence.

FIGURE 3

Change in total industrial energy expenditures in 2035, repeal compared to baseline 2022 billion USD



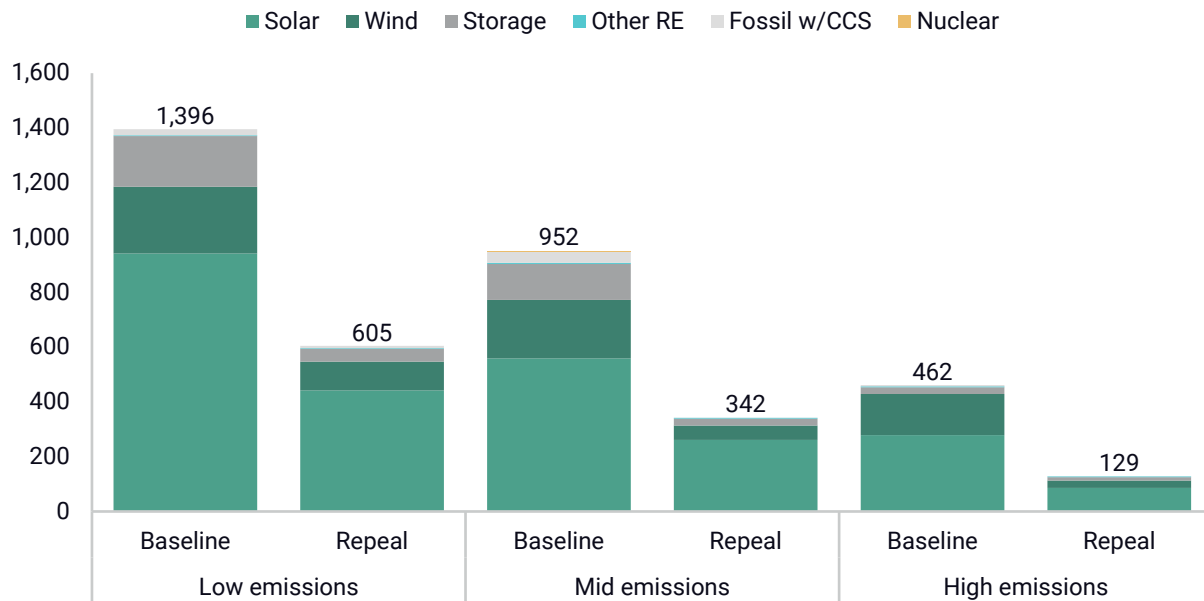
Source: Rhodium Group

Stalled progress on clean energy deployment

An outright repeal of the energy tax credits similar to the Ways and Means proposal reduces the amount of new clean capacity installed on the grid from 2025 through 2035 by 57-72% (Figure 4). The lion's share of the decline in capacity comes from lower growth of renewables and storage, and there is no meaningful uptick in non-renewable clean capacity. A part of this decline is made up for by modestly less coal capacity retiring by 2035, though the coal fleet still shrinks by at least half from today's levels, and no new coal plants are built. Gas capacity expands by as much as 9% in 2035, and both new and existing gas plants run more, compared to the baseline.

Our previous modeling is best suited to estimate the impact of policy change on commercially available technologies, but there are important impacts beyond commercial technologies as well. The near full repeal of energy tax credits in the Ways and Means language have an outsized effect on innovative emerging clean technologies like enhanced geothermal, advanced nuclear, long duration storage, and fusion. Developers of these technologies are counting on the long-term availability of the tax credits in current law to support initial projects that are unlikely to be placed in service before 2028. The FEOC constraints on clean electric credits and manufacturing tax credits will make it harder to develop and scale supply chains to accelerate technology deployment and drive down costs. The Ways and Means proposal will stifle innovation at a time when the US needs all the power it can get to meet surging electric demand.

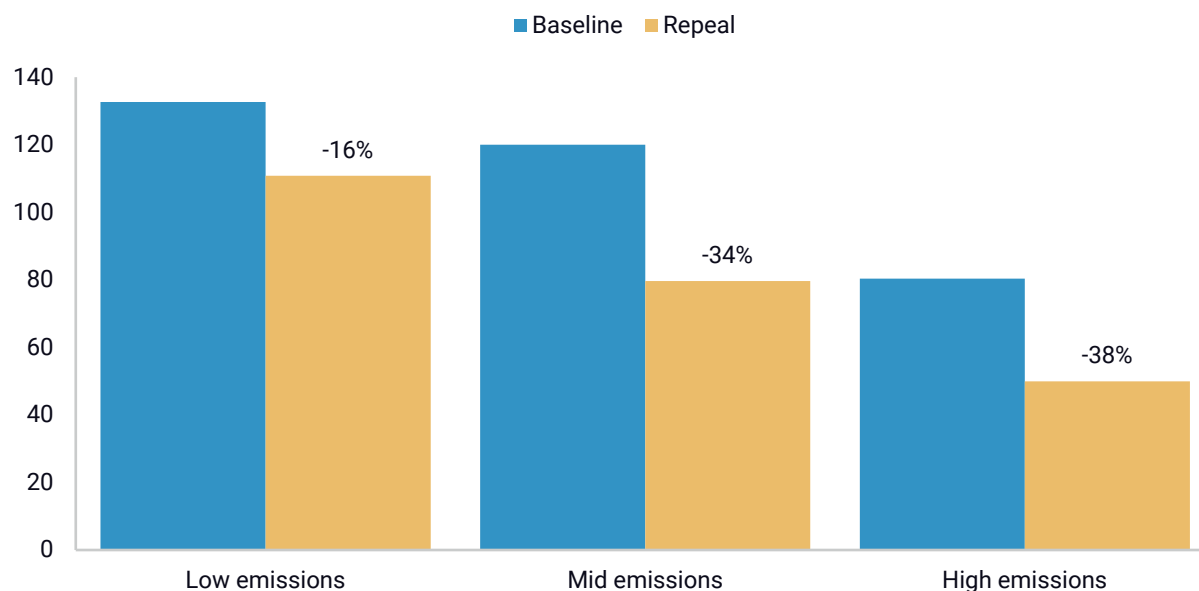
FIGURE 4
Cumulative new clean additions to the grid, 2025-2035
 GW



Source: Rhodium Group

In our baseline, electric vehicle sales already slow meaningfully from removal of EPA tailpipe regulations and the revocation of waivers that prevent California from pursuing more stringent standards. Repealing the clean vehicle tax credits reduces EV sales by another 16-38% in 2035 compared to baseline (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5
Number of light-duty electric vehicles on the road in 2035
 Million vehicles, % change from baseline



Source: Rhodium Group

Manufacturing growth threatened

Taking a major step back on domestic deployment of clean energy technologies will likely impact the future of announced manufacturing facilities that produce these technologies. As reported in the Clean Investment Monitor's [Q1 2025 update](#), six manufacturing facilities totaling nearly \$7 billion in investments were cancelled last quarter. In [The State of US Clean Energy Supply Chains in 2025](#) released last month, the Clean Investment Monitor found that domestic manufacturing of key clean technology components including solar modules, battery modules and cells, and zero-emitting vehicles are scaling up above current levels of demand for these technologies and toward deployment levels we see in our modeling of current policy through 2035.

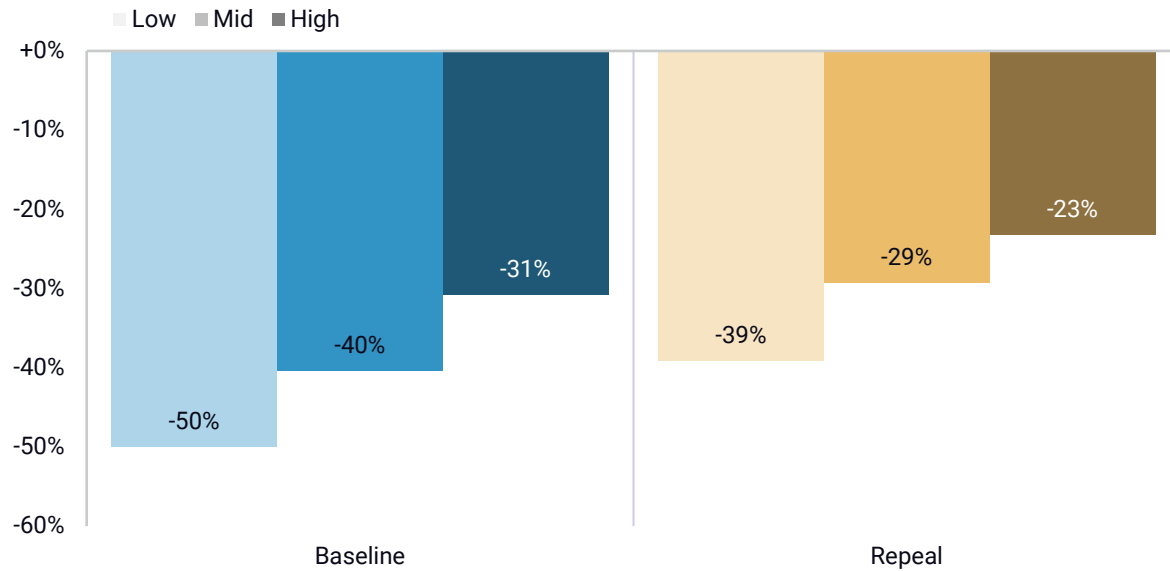
Between investments in these manufacturing facilities as well as investment dollars flowing from installing clean electricity and industrial facilities, \$321 billion was invested from mid-2022 through the first quarter of 2025—but a total of [\\$522 billion](#) in investment remained outstanding as of Q1. Steep reductions in clean energy technology deployment plus the proposed material sourcing constraints on clean manufacturing tax credit eligibility could put a meaningful amount of that \$522 billion in outstanding investment at risk.

Meaningfully higher greenhouse gas emissions levels

The net result of proposed tax policy changes on the energy system leads to a meaningful reduction in the pace of decarbonization. Repealing the energy tax credits increases emissions by 500-730 million metric tons in 2035 relative to the baseline and more than a gigaton compared to Taking Stock 2024. In the high emissions scenario, repeal leads to emissions that are only 23% lower than 2005 levels in 2035 (Figure 6), or just 4 percentage

points lower than [annual emissions in 2024](#)—effectively no progress on decarbonization. In the low emissions scenario, emissions are 39% lower than 2005 levels.

FIGURE 6
Change in US greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels in 2035
 Percent change



Source: Rhodium Group

What’s next?

The House Ways and Means Committee is considering this proposal today. Whatever moves out of that committee is one step closer to the House floor and a vote of the full House, and we’ll be tracking the bill as it evolves throughout the process. The latest Joint Committee on Taxation revenue effects estimate of the full suite of policy changes in the current Ways and Means proposal is still nearly \$800 billion below its spending target, so there’s certainly room for the proposal to evolve in response to ongoing member conversations.

Meanwhile, the Senate Finance Committee (the equivalent tax-writing committee on the Senate side) has a meaningfully different deficit reduction target to achieve and a different set of stakeholders’ interests to balance. How the two chambers will get to passage individually and then in agreement with each other remains a very open question.

ABOUT RHODIUM GROUP

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This nonpartisan, independent research was conducted with support from Blue Horizons Foundation. The results presented reflect the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the supporting organization. The authors would like to thank Maggie Young, Jaspreet Sohal, Hannah Hess, Charlotte McClintock, and the rest of the Clean Investment Monitor team for their review and contributions.

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Report to the Sustainability Commission of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

June 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # E.2

Discussion and possible action by the Sustainability Commission to draft a Rights of Nature resolution.

BACKGROUND

The "Rights of Nature" movement frames natural ecosystems and features such as rivers, wetlands, forests, and other living communities as legal persons that hold the right to exist, flourish, and be defended in a court of law.^[1] While most environmental regulations treat nature as property to be managed for human benefit, this movement asks governments to shift the paradigm and recognize nature itself as a legal entity with inherent rights. Although writing Rights of Nature into policy is relatively new, the concept itself is not. Indigenous cultures have embraced this worldview for generations. Now, several Wisconsin jurisdictions are beginning to follow suit. Key milestones include:

- **Milwaukee County (Oct. 2023)** – Became the first Wisconsin jurisdiction to approve a non-binding Rights of Nature resolution, affirming that the Menomonee, Milwaukee, and the Fox River, as well as Lake Michigan have the right to be "healthy, robust, and resilient."^[1] County leaders called the measure a "first step in awareness."^[2]
- **Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (2020)** – Declared the Menominee River a rights-bearing entity, including the right to clean water, natural flow, and freedom from harmful activities.^[3]
- **Ho-Chunk Nation (2015; amended 2018)** – Became the first U.S. tribe to embed Rights of Nature principles in its constitution.^[4]
- **Statewide advocacy** – Coalitions such as Rights of Nature Wisconsin, Menikanaehkem, JOSHUA, and the faith-based network WISDOM have encouraged additional counties, municipalities, and eventually the state legislature to pass "Rights of Nature"-centered legislation.^[6]

These actions reflect a growing recognition that protecting Wisconsin's environment requires more than limiting damage; it requires affirming its inherent rights.

^[1] Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, *A Resolution Supporting the "Rights of Nature" Movement across Waterways and Bodies of Water in Milwaukee County*, File No. 23-785, adopted September 21, 2023 (signed September 25, 2023), <https://ecojurisprudence.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/COUNTY-BOARD-RESOLUTION.pdf>.

^[2] Evan Casey, "Milwaukee County Is First in Wisconsin to Pass 'Rights of Nature' Resolution," *Wisconsin Public Radio*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.wpr.org/environment/milwaukee-county-first-wisconsin-pass-rights-nature-resolution>.

^[3] Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Tribal Legislature, *Recognition of the Rights of the Menominee River*, Resolution No. 19-52 (adopted January 16, 2020), *Eco-Jurisprudence Monitor*, https://ecojurisprudence.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/US_Menominee_Menominee-

[River_193.pdf](#).

[4] Ho-Chunk Nation, *Proposed Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation: Article X, Section 2 “Rights of Nature”* (approved by General Council, September 17, 2018), PDF, Eco-Jurisprudence Monitor, https://ecojurisprudence.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/US_Ho-Chunk_Ho-Chunk-Nation-Resolution-Rights-of-Nature_157.pdf.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the Sustainability Commission to draft a Rights of Nature resolution for the Common Council’s consideration. This resolution could be modeled on Milwaukee County’s 2023 resolution and tailored to Green Bay’s unique natural assets. Key elements for inclusion in the resolution text and for the drafting process:

1. **Recognition of local ecosystems** – Affirm that the Bay of Green Bay, the Fox and East Rivers, and associated wetlands possess the right to clean water, habitat integrity, and restoration.
2. **Rights-based standards** – Borrow wording from the Menominee River declaration—e.g., the right to “abundant, pure, clean, unpolluted water” and freedom from activities that infringe upon these rights.^[7]
3. **Collaborative drafting** – Engage Tribal Nations and community partners to ensure the resolution reflects Indigenous knowledge and local values.
4. **Referral to staff** – Once a draft resolution is prepared, direct city staff to evaluate legal pathways, potential enforcement mechanisms, and alignment with existing environmental regulations, and to report back with implementation options.

Adopting such a resolution would further position Green Bay as a leader in environmental justice, complement ongoing conservation and sustainability initiatives, and honor the region’s Indigenous heritage.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Rights of Nature_support docs

Sustainability Commission Agenda Item

Agenda Item Title:

Consideration with possible action on drafting a “Rights of Nature” resolution.

Category:

Information (item to be discussed and next steps discussed)

1. Background Information:

The “Rights of Nature” movement frames natural ecosystems and features such as rivers, wetlands, forests, and other living communities as legal persons that hold the right to exist, flourish, and be defended in a court of law.¹ While most environmental regulations treat nature as property to be managed for human benefit, this movement asks governments to shift the paradigm and recognize nature itself as a legal entity with inherent rights. Although writing Rights of Nature into policy is relatively new, the concept itself is not. Indigenous cultures have embraced this worldview for generations. Now, several Wisconsin jurisdictions are beginning to follow suit. Key milestones include:

- **Milwaukee County (Oct. 2023)** – Became the first Wisconsin jurisdiction to approve a non-binding Rights of Nature resolution, affirming that the Menomonee, Milwaukee, and the Fox River, as well as Lake Michigan have the right to be “healthy, robust, and resilient.”² County leaders called the measure a “first step in awareness.”³
- **Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (2020)** – Declared the Menominee River a rights-bearing entity, including the right to clean water, natural flow, and freedom from harmful activities.⁴
- **Ho-Chunk Nation (2015; amended 2018)** – Became the first U.S. tribe to embed Rights of Nature principles in its constitution.⁵
- **Statewide advocacy** – Coalitions such as Rights of Nature Wisconsin, Menikanaehkem, JOSHUA, and the faith-based network WISDOM have encouraged additional counties,

¹ Tiffany Challe, “The Rights of Nature — Can an Ecosystem Bear Legal Rights?,” *State of the Planet* (blog), Columbia Climate School, April 22, 2021, <https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2021/04/22/rights-of-nature-lawsuits>.

² Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, *A Resolution Supporting the “Rights of Nature” Movement across Waterways and Bodies of Water in Milwaukee County*, File No. 23-785, adopted September 21, 2023 (signed September 25, 2023), <https://ecojurisprudence.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/COUNTY-BOARD-RESOLUTION.pdf>.

³ Evan Casey, “Milwaukee County Is First in Wisconsin to Pass ‘Rights of Nature’ Resolution,” *Wisconsin Public Radio*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.wpr.org/environment/milwaukee-county-first-wisconsin-pass-rights-nature-resolution>.

⁴ Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Tribal Legislature, *Recognition of the Rights of the Menominee River*, Resolution No. 19-52 (adopted January 16, 2020), Eco-Jurisprudence Monitor, https://ecojurisprudence.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/US_Menominee_Menominee-River_193.pdf.

⁵ Ho-Chunk Nation, *Proposed Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation: Article X, Section 2 “Rights of Nature”* (approved by General Council, September 17, 2018), PDF, Eco-Jurisprudence Monitor, https://ecojurisprudence.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/US_Ho-Chunk_Ho-Chunk-Nation-Resolution-Rights-of-Nature_157.pdf.

municipalities, and eventually the state legislature to pass “Rights of Nature”-centered legislation.⁶

These actions reflect a growing recognition that protecting Wisconsin’s environment requires more than limiting damage; it requires affirming its inherent rights.

2. Recommendation

I recommend the Sustainability Commission draft a *Rights of Nature* resolution for the Common Council’s consideration. This resolution could be modeled on Milwaukee County’s 2023 resolution and tailored to Green Bay’s unique natural assets. Key elements for inclusion in resolution text and for the drafting process:

1. **Recognition of local ecosystems** – Affirm that the Bay of Green Bay, the Fox and East Rivers, and associated wetlands possess the right to clean water, habitat integrity, and restoration.
2. **Rights-based standards** – Borrow wording from the Menominee River declaration—e.g., the right to “abundant, pure, clean, unpolluted water” and freedom from activities that infringe upon these rights.⁷
3. **Collaborative drafting** – Engage Tribal Nations and community partners to ensure the resolution reflects Indigenous knowledge and local values.
4. **Referral to staff** – Once a draft resolution is prepared, direct city staff to evaluate legal pathways, potential enforcement mechanisms, and alignment with existing environmental regulations, and to report back with implementation options.

Adopting such a resolution would further position Green Bay as a leader in environmental justice, complement ongoing conservation and sustainability initiatives, and honor the region’s Indigenous heritage.

3. Fiscal Impact:

None.

4. Attachments or Supporting Documents:

Attached:

- a. Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, *A Resolution Supporting the “Rights of Nature” Movement across Waterways and Bodies of Water in Milwaukee County*, File No. 23-785
- b. Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Tribal Legislature, *Recognition of the Rights of the Menominee River*, Resolution No. 19-52

⁶ David Liners and Robert Karski, “What Are the Rights of Nature?” *JONAH Justice*, December 15, 2023, <https://jonahjustice.org/2023/12/what-are-the-rights-of-nature/>.

⁷ Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, *Recognition of the Rights of the Menominee River*

c. Ho-Chunk Nation, *Proposed Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation: Article X, Section 2 "Rights of Nature"*



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE

Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHMENT OF RIGHTS OF NATURE WORKGROUP

RESOLUTION 12-18-18 F

- WHEREAS,** on November 1, 1994, the United States Secretary of Interior approved a new Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2 (a) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation grants the Legislature to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(b) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to establish Executive Departments, and to delegate legislative powers to the Executive branch to be administered by such Departments, in accordance with the law; any Department established by the Legislature shall be administered by the Executive; the Legislature reserves the power to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated power; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(d) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to authorize expenditures by law and appropriate funds to the various Departments in an annual budget; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(i) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to negotiate and enter into treaties, compacts, contracts, and agreements with other governments, organizations, or individuals; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(l) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact laws to manage, lease, permit, or otherwise deal with the Nation's lands, interests in lands or other assets; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(o) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact laws to regulate and zone any lands within the jurisdiction of the Ho-Chunk Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(r) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to protect and foster Ho-Chunk religious freedom, culture, language, and traditions; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(s) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to promote public health, education, charity, and such other services as may contribute to the social advancement of the members of the Ho-Chunk Nation; and

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- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(x) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact any other laws, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes necessary to exercise its legislative powers delegated by the General Council pursuant to Article III including but not limited to the foregoing list of powers; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation *Legislative Organization Act*, 2 HCC § 11, (“LOA”) provides in Section 9 that an internal Work Group or Task Force may be established in order to assist the Legislature by providing information necessary to carry out Legislative law-making and oversight functions; and
- WHEREAS,** the Nation’s *Open Meetings Act*, 2 HCC § 2, contemplates that a Work Group or Task Force will be used as a temporary, short-term ad hoc body established by a governmental entity for a focused effort on a specific issue; and
- WHEREAS,** the LOA does not restrict Legislator(s) participation in a Ho-Chunk government task force(s) as an ex officio member when appointed by the Legislature; and
- WHEREAS,** the General Council adopted Resolution 09-19-15-09 “Resolution to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution and Provide for Rights of Nature”; and
- WHEREAS,** the Legislature responded to General Council Resolution 09-19-15-09 by adopting Resolution 10-20-15P which approved filing General Council Resolution 09-19-15-09 with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and to request that a Secretarial Election be held to amend the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** a Special Election was held on April 5th, 2018 to amend the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** the April 5th, 2018 Special Election to amend the Constitution did not pass as 30% of the eligible voters did not participate in the election; and
- WHEREAS,** the General Council adopted Resolution 9-17-2016-05 “Special Election to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution for the Rights of Nature”; and
- WHEREAS,** the Legislature responded to General Council Resolution 9-17-2016-05 by adopting Resolution 10-18-16G which referred General Council Resolution 09-17-2016-05 to the Election Board to hold an election to amend the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** a Special Election was held on June 8th, 2018 to amend the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** the June 8th, 2018 Special Election to amend the Constitution did not pass as 30% of the eligible voters did not participate in the election; and
- WHEREAS,** the General Council adopted Resolution 09-15-18C “Proposed Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation” which sought to add the Rights of Nature to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature responded to General Council Resolution 09-15-18C by adopting Resolution 10-30-18T which included a statement that the Legislature intended to form a Rights of Nature Workgroup to move forward with the concerns and protections expressed in the General Council Resolution with respect to amending the Constitution to include the Rights of Nature; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature deems it necessary and appropriate to form a Workgroup consisting of employees, staff and officials from the Executive Branch, including but not limited to the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health, and Department of Heritage Preservation, in order to pursue options for implementing the Rights of Nature within the Nation including but not limited to a Ho-Chunk Nation Constitutional amendment and/or a Ho-Chunk Nation Code; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature, pursuant to its constitutional authority, hereby authorizes the establishment of the Rights of Nature Workgroup consisting of these members: any interested Legislators; assigned Legislative Staff; Executive Branch staff, including but not limited to the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health, and Department of Heritage Preservation, as determined by the President; and any other staff, employees, or community members invited by the Legislative Sponsor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rights of Nature Workgroup shall report on their activity and progress to the full Legislature on a bi-monthly basis or upon request; and

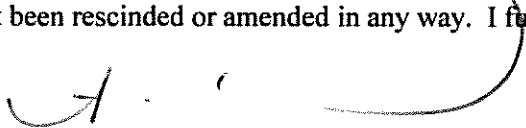
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rights of Nature Workgroup, said minutes being available for members of the workgroup within 5 business days of each meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rights of Nature Workgroup created herein shall not be considered a Public Body under the HCN Open Meetings Act and shall be not be required to adhere to Quorum requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rights of Nature Workgroup is authorized to begin meeting after adoption of this resolution.

CERTIFICATION

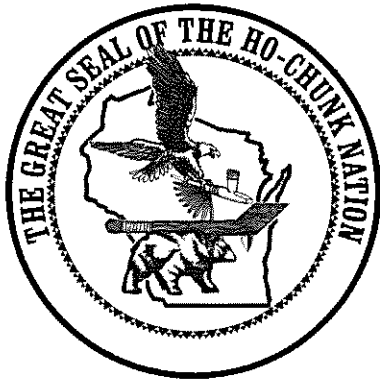
I, the undersigned, as Tribal Secretary for the Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certify that the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of **13 members**, of whom **11** constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held on the **18th day of December, 2018**, that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of **11 members, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining**, pursuant to the authority of Article V, Section 2(a) through (x) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.



Andrea Estebo, Tribal Secretary

12.18.2018

Date



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE
Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 9-15-2018-C
AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION REGARDING PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE HO-CHUNK NATION

RESOLUTION 10-30-18 T

- WHEREAS,** on November 1, 1994, the United States Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS,** in Article IV, Section 2 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, the General Council delegated and authorized the Legislature to make laws and appropriate funds in accordance with Article V of the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 1(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution ("Constitution") vests Legislative powers in the Legislature; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution ("Constitution") grants the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature ("Legislature") the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(d) of the Constitution gives the Legislature the power to authorize expenditures by law and appropriate funds to the various Departments in an annual budget; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(h) of the Constitution empowers the Legislature to enact all laws prohibiting and regulating conduct, and imposing penalties upon all persons within the jurisdiction of the Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(w) of the Constitution authorizes the Legislature to enact laws to regulate hunting, fishing, trapping, recreation and all other related activities on lands within the Nation's jurisdiction; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(x) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact any other laws, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes necessary to exercise its Legislative powers delegated by the General Council pursuant to Article III including but not limited to the foregoing list of powers; and

- WHEREAS,** the Nation’s General Council met on September 15, 2018 at its Annual Meeting and adopted **Resolution 9-15-2018-C**, entitled “**Proposed Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation**”; and
- WHEREAS,** General Council Resolution 9-15-2018-C sought to amend Article X of the Nation’s Constitution to establish “Rights of Nature.”; and
- WHEREAS,** General Council Resolution 9-15-2018-C includes all of the language intended for the Rights of Nature amendment to Article X of the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Constitution states that “[t]he General Council retains the power to set policy for the Nation. This policy shall be resolutions proposed and approved at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings, by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council. This policy shall be made into laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions and statutes by the Legislative Branch of the Ho-Chunk Nation within forty-five (45) days after a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings.”; and
- WHEREAS,** according to the Nation’s Trial Court in *Coalition for Fair Government II v. Chloris Lowe, Jr., et al.*, CV 96-22 (HCN Tr. Ct., Jul. 23, 1996) at 11, the General Council is bound to follow the Constitution of the Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** also in *Coalition for Fair Government II v. Chloris Lowe, Jr., et al.*, CV 96-22 (HCN Tr. Ct., Jul. 23, 1996) at 13, the Trial Court of the Nation emphasized that properly conducted and Constitutional actions of the General Council are binding, but action which violates the Constitution would be unlawful and not “binding”; and
- WHEREAS,** the Attorney General of the Nation rendered an opinion, analyzing the 2018 General Council Resolutions, by memo dated October 4, 2018 and
- WHEREAS,** in the opinion memo of the Attorney General, it is noted that General Council Resolution 9-15-2018-C inaccurately states the General Council itself may amend the Constitution, which is not a correct statement of the criteria under the Nation’s Constitution for amending the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** the Attorney General’s opinion memo highlights the proper criteria under Article XIII, Section 2 of the Nation’s Constitution for amending the Constitution, which states: “It shall be the duty of the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board to call and hold an election on any proposed amendment to this Constitution at the request of two thirds (2/3) of the entire Legislature, at the request of the General Council, or upon presentation of a petition signed by thirty (30) percent of the eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation.”; and
- WHEREAS,** as noted by the Attorney General, General Council Resolution 9-15-2018-C does not request a Secretarial Election to amend the Nation’s Constitution, but instead affirmatively states that it is amending the Constitution by adding Section 2 to Article X of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, General Council Resolution 9-15-2018-C is drafted differently than the two previous General Council Resolutions that sought to amend the Constitution by including Rights of Nature, in that General Council Resolution 9-19-2015-09 and General Council Resolution 9-17-2016-05 both requested a Secretarial Election be conducted to amend the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, as noted by the Attorney General, both previous requests by the General Council to amend the Constitution to address the Rights of Nature were defeated in a Secretarial Election, due to low voter turnout;

WHEREAS, according to Article IV, Section 3(c) of the Constitution, the General Council retains the power to propose amendments to the Constitution, in accordance with Article XIII of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General's October 4, 2018 opinion memo indicated that the Nation's Election Board had to determine whether the language in General Council Resolution 9-15-2018-C was adequate to request a Secretarial Election; and


WHEREAS, based on updated information, the Election Board has decided that the General Council Resolution 9-15-2018-C is not a proper request for a Secretarial Election and, thus, the Election Board will not proceed with an election to potentially amend the Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature, pursuant to its Constitutional authority, and in satisfaction of the Constitution, hereby acknowledges General Council Resolution 9-15-2018-C, but shall not refer it to the Nation's Election Board to hold an election to amend the Constitution pursuant to Article XIII, Section 2 of the Constitution, since General Council Resolution 9-15-2018-C does not follow the criteria of the Constitution for such action;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature does, however, intend to establish a Legislative Workgroup to consider ways in which to move forward with the concerns and protections expressed in the Rights of Nature amendment.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Tribal Secretary of Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certifies that the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of **13 members** of whom **9** constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held that on the **30th day of October, 2018**, that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of **9 members, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining**, pursuant to the Article V, Section 2(a) and (x) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that the foregoing resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.



Andrea Estebo, Tribal Secretary

10.30.2018
Date

Proposed Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation

WHEREAS, we the people of the Ho-Chunk Nation recognize that we live at a time of unprecedented species extinction, ecosystem collapse, and global warming;

WHEREAS, we recognize that environmental laws which regulate the use and exploitation of nature are incapable of protecting Mother Earth;

WHEREAS, in the tradition of our Nation's relationship with Mother Earth, from which we came and upon which we depend, we recognize that to protect nature, we must secure the highest protections for her through the recognition of rights in the Nation's highest law, our Constitution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution, we the people of the Ho-Chunk Nation, through a vote of the General Council, may amend the Constitution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we the people of the Ho-Chunk Nation exercise our inherent and inalienable right of sovereignty and self-governance, and hereby amend the Constitution with the addition of Article X, Section 2:

Article X, Section 2: Rights of Nature

(a) Rights of Nature. Ecosystems, natural communities, and species within the Ho-Chunk Nation territory possess inherent, fundamental, and inalienable rights to naturally exist, flourish, regenerate, and evolve. This includes, but is not limited to, rights to maintain, recover, and preserve their life cycles, structures, and functions; rights to a healthy climate system free from human-caused global warming emissions; and rights to the defense, protection, and enforcement of their rights.

(b) Prohibitions. It shall be unlawful within the Ho-Chunk Nation territory for any business entity or government to engage in activities that would violate, or infringe upon, the rights recognized and secured by this Section, including but not limited to, damage or destruction of flora or fauna possessing traditional medicinal significance to the Ho-Chunk Nation or its members, fossil fuel extraction, frac sand mining, and the introduction or use of genetically engineered organisms.

(c) Implementation and Enforcement. To implement and enforce the provisions of this Section:

- (a) The Legislature and government shall take all necessary actions to protect, implement, defend, and enforce the provisions of this Section;
- (b) Ecosystems, natural communities, and species within the Ho-Chunk Nation territory may enforce or defend the provisions of this Section through an action brought in any proper administrative body or court, in the name of the ecosystem, natural community, or species as the real party in interest;

(c) The Ho-Chunk Nation and any tribal member may enforce or defend the provisions of this Section in any proper administrative body or court; and

(d) Any business entity or government that violates the provisions of this Section shall be liable for any damages to an ecosystem, natural community, or species caused by the violation. Damages shall be measured by the cost of restoring the ecosystem, natural community, or species to its state before the injury, and shall be paid to the Ho-Chunk Nation to be used exclusively for the full and complete restoration and recovery of the ecosystem, natural community, or species.



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE

Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 9/17/2016-05 AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION REGARDING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

RESOLUTION 10-18-16G

- WHEREAS**, on November 1, 1994, the United States Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe; and
- WHEREAS**, the Ho-Chunk Nation (“Nation”) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS**, Article V, Section 2(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution (“Constitution”) grants the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature (“Legislature”) the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS**, Article V, Section 2(f) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to set the salaries, terms and conditions of employment for all governmental personnel; and
- WHEREAS**, Article V, Section 2(x) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact any other laws, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes necessary to exercise its Legislative powers delegated by the General Council pursuant to Article III including but not limited to the foregoing list of powers; and
- WHEREAS**, the Nation’s General Council met on September 17, 2016 at its Annual Meeting and adopted Resolution 9/17/2016-05 entitled “Special Election to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution for the Rights of Nature”; and
- WHEREAS**, General Council Resolution 9/17/2016-05 specifically proposes a Special Election to amend Article X, Section 2 of the Bill of Rights within the Nation’s Constitution that will recognize the Rights of Nature and allow ecosystems and natural communities to enforce their rights through action brought in the Nation’s Court system; and

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WHEREAS, General Council Resolution 9/17/2016-05 also proposes amending language prohibiting any corporation or government within Ho-Chunk Territory from engaging in activities that would violate the rights of nature including, but not limited to, damage or destruction of flora possessing traditional medicinal significance to the Nation or its members, fossil fuel extraction, frac sand mining, and the introduction of genetically engineered organisms; and

WHEREAS, General Council Resolution 9/17/2016-05 includes all of the proposed language intended for the Rights of Nature amendment to Article X, Section 2 of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Constitution states that “[t]he General Council retains the power to set policy for the Nation. This policy shall be resolutions proposed and approved at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings, by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council. This policy shall be made into laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions and statutes by the Legislative Branch of the Ho-Chunk Nation within forty-five (45) days after a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings.”; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds it appropriate to refer General Council Resolution 9-17-2016-05 to the Nation’s Election Board, since the process for amending the Nation’s Constitution is set forth in Article XIII and requires the Election Board to call and hold an election on a proposed constitutional amendment at the request of the General Council;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature, pursuant to its Constitutional authority, and in satisfaction of Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Constitution, hereby acknowledges General Council Resolution 9/17/2016-05, and refers it to the Nation’s Election Board to call and hold an election to amend the Constitution pursuant to Article XIII, Section 2 of the Constitution.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Tribal Secretary of Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certifies that the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of 13 members of whom 10 constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held that on the 18th day of October, 2016, that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 9 members, 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining, pursuant to the Article V, Section 2(a) and (x) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that the foregoing resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.

Kathleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit
Kathleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit, Tribal Secretary

10.18.16
Date



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE

Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 9/19/2015-09 AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION REGARDING THE RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND PROVIDE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

RESOLUTION 10-20-15P

- WHEREAS,** on November 1, 1994, the United States Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution ("Constitution") grants the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature ("Legislature") the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(f) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to set the salaries, terms and conditions of employment for all governmental personnel; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(x) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact any other laws, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes necessary to exercise its Legislative powers delegated by the General Council pursuant to Article III including but not limited to the foregoing list of powers; and
- WHEREAS,** the Nation's General Council met on September 19, 2015 at its Annual Meeting and adopted Resolution 9/19/2015-09 entitled "A Resolution to Amend the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution and Provide for the Rights of Nature"; and
- WHEREAS,** General Council Resolution 9/19/2015-09 seeks to amend the Nation's Constitution by adding a provision to the Bill of Rights in Article X thereof, bestowing constitutional rights to nature in order to grant a higher legal right that might be protected by the Nation; and

Executive Offices

W9814 Airport Road P.O. Box 667 Black River Falls, WI 54615
(715) 284-9343 Fax (715) 284-3172 (800) 294-9343

WHEREAS, under Article XIII, the Constitution of the Nation may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Nation voting at an election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Constitution states that “[t]he General Council retains the power to set policy for the Nation. This policy shall be resolutions proposed and approved at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings, by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council. This policy shall be made into laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions and statutes by the Legislative Branch of the Ho-Chunk Nation within forty-five (45) days after a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings.”; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of the Nation issued an opinion dated October 5, 2015 on all resolutions adopted by the General Council on September 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Attorney General, Resolution 9/19/2015-09 shows that the General Council wishes to add “constitutional rights to protect the rights of nature and add a provision” under the Bill of Rights of the Nation’s Constitution, through a Secretarial Election to amend the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General also noted the current language from the Nation’s Constitution regarding the process by which an amendment may be made; and

WHEREAS, the attorney for the GCA issued a draft opinion dated October 1, 2015 on the resolutions adopted by the General Council on September 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the GCA’s attorney, Resolution 9/19/2015-09 will require a Secretarial Election before enactment, which is within the retained power of the General Council; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that General Council Resolution 9/19/2015-09 specifically requests a Secretarial Election, and proposes specific language for amendment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature, pursuant to its Constitutional authority, and in satisfaction of Article IV, Section 3(a) of the Constitution, hereby acknowledges General Council Resolution 9/19/2015-09, and takes the following action:

1. Approves General Council Resolution 9/19/2015-09 to be filed with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, as a request of the Nation for a Secretarial Election to be held to amend the Constitution, pursuant to the terms of the request made, but without comment on any General Council Power of Attorney; and

2. Requires that as General Council Resolution 9/19/2015-09 is processed with the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Legislature be notified and updated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and General Council Agency, so that it may participate in the selection of a Secretarial Election Board.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Tribal Secretary of Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certifies that the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of 13 members of whom 7 constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held that on the 20th day of October, 2015, that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 7 members, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, pursuant to the Article V, Section 2(a) and (x) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that the foregoing resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.

Kathleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit
Kathleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit, Tribal Secretary

10.20.15
Date



**MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN
RESOLUTION NO. 19-52**

**RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE
MENOMINEE RIVER**

WHEREAS, we, the Menominee people, are indigenous to what is now known as the State of Wisconsin, our place of origin was at the mouth of the Menominee River where the five clans of the Menominee were created and include the Awāēhsaeh (Bear), Kenēw (Eagle), Mahwāēw (Wolf), Mōs (Moose), and Otāēqciāh (Crane), and we continue to live on our ancestral land that was granted by Māēc-Awāētōk (Great Spirit); and

WHEREAS, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (the "Tribe") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe as provided by the Menominee Restoration Act, Act Dec. 22, 1973, Pub. L. No. 93-197, 87 Stat. 770, which appears generally as 25 U.S.C. §§ 903 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe, acting through its duly elected governing body, the Menominee Tribal Legislature (the "Legislature"), has powers to make and enforce laws, negotiate with Federal, State and Local governments and otherwise exercise its powers consistent with the limitations imposed by its Constitution and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, at one time, the Tribe occupied a land base estimated at 10 million acres including lands now known as Wisconsin and Upper Michigan; and

WHEREAS, through a series of seven treaties entered into with the United States, the Tribe witnessed its land base erode to little more than 235,000 acres comprising its present day Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe's sacred place of origin exists within the 1836 treaty territory, at the mouth of the Menominee River, a mere 60 miles East of its present Reservation; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Tribe's undeniable ties and long occupation of the Menominee River area, there are numerous Menominee sacred sites and burial mounds along the Menominee River; and

WHEREAS, the location of the Menominee River is historically and culturally significant to the Menominee people due to the existence of cultural properties by way of raised agricultural fields, funerary objects, multiple mounds, burial sites, and villages which constitute a cultural landscape of historic significance; and

WHEREAS, it is the Tribe's position that any disturbance or unanticipated discoveries stemming from such sites necessitates that all activity shall cease, the area be secured and protected, the Menominee Tribal Historic Preservation Officer be contacted, and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin's concurrence be obtained; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe is committed to responsible stewardship to protect the Tribe's cultural resources, water, environment, wildlife, and animals that occupy lands within the Tribe's historical range; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe understands and recognizes that water is essential to life, and that the Menominee River is, in fact, the very origin of life for the Menominee people; and

WHEREAS, the Menominee River also provides life to Michigan and Wisconsin residents and all natural wildlife within the Great Lakes ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the Menominee River faces significant threats from climate change; pollution; the proposed open-pit mine known as the "Back Forty Project" which is poised to cause harmful impacts to water, humans, wildlife, animals, environment, and cultural properties as demonstrated with other mines of similar nature; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe recognizes that we live at a time of unprecedented species extinction, ecosystem collapse, and global warming; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe recognizes that environmental laws which regulate the use and exploitation of nature are incapable of protecting the Menominee River and Mother Earth; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe recognizes to protect the Menominee River, it must secure the highest protections for the river through the recognition of the river's inherent and legal rights;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by this Tribal Resolution, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin declares:

1. The Menominee River possesses inherent and legal rights including the right to naturally exist, flourish, regenerate, and evolve; the right to restoration, recovery, and preservation; the right to abundant, pure, clean, unpolluted water; the right to natural groundwater recharge and surface water recharge; the right to a healthy natural environment and natural biodiversity; the right to natural water flow; the right to carry out its natural ecosystem functions; and the right to be free of activities or practices, as well as obstructions, that interfere with or infringe upon these rights; and
2. The Tribe is dedicated to recognizing and protecting the inherent and legal rights of the Menominee River and assisting our neighboring Tribes, as well as other governments, to recognize and protect the legal rights of the Menominee River.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officers of the Menominee Tribal Legislature hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a meeting held on January 16, 2020 with a quorum present by a vote of 7 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 absent.

The undersigned further certify that the foregoing resolution has not been amended or rescinded in any way.



**DOUGLAS COX, TRIBAL CHAIRMAN
MENOMINEE TRIBAL LEGISLATURE**

DATE: January 16, 2020



**PERSHING FRECHETTE, TRIBAL SECRETARY
MENOMINEE TRIBAL LEGISLATURE**



Report to the
Sustainability Commission
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

June 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # F.1

Youth Engagement Work Group

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Report to the
Sustainability Commission
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

June 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # F.2

Climate Resilience Work Group Report

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Climate Resilience workgroup report_noordyk_06-19-25

Watershed Stewardship Center, Cleveland Metro Parks



Restored wetland



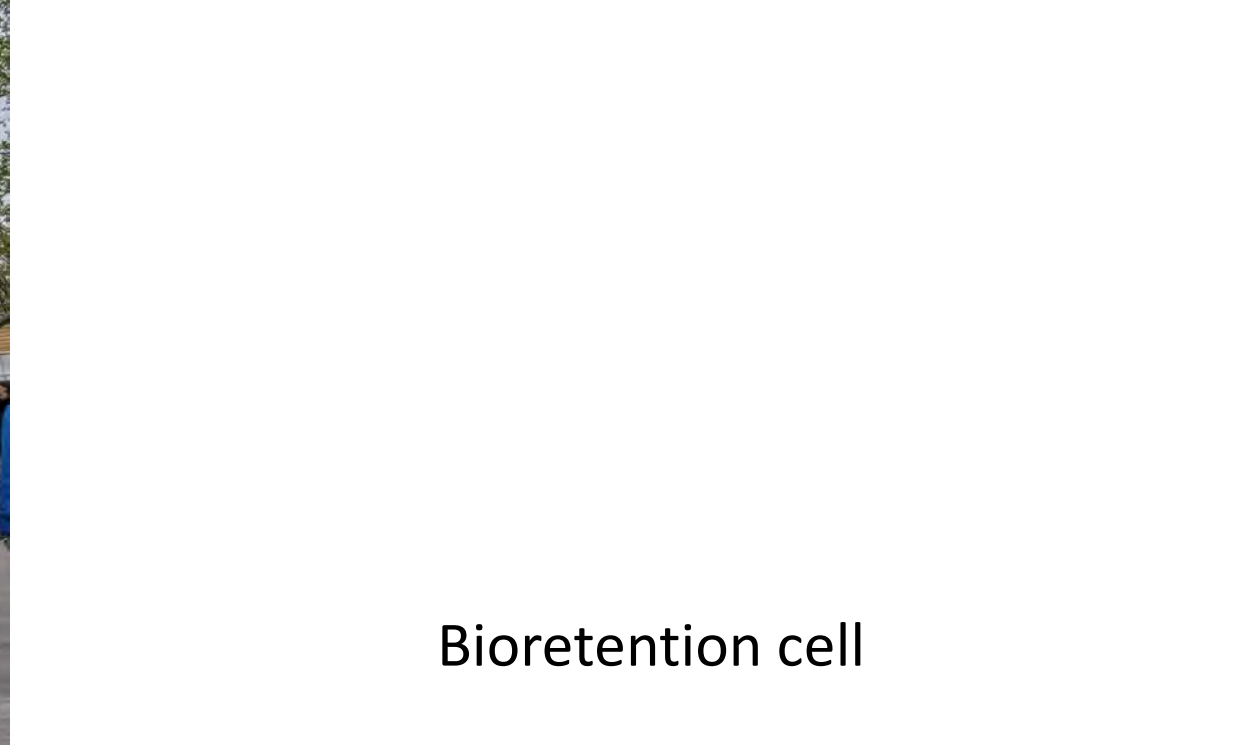
3-D watershed map



Bioswale step pools with weir headwalls



Rain garden



Bioretention cell





Rain barrel to rain garden



Porous asphalt



Downspout to rain garden

GSI + Art + History
(Cleveland)



Creek bank stabilization and floodplain reconnection (Cleveland)



Creek bank stabilization and floodplain reconnection (Cleveland)



Soil burrito

Cleveland Natural History Museum

Permeable pavers





Bioretention

Strip mall side street &
parking stalls (Cleveland)



Permeable pavers

Vision to Reality Stormwater Park (NOLA)



Bioretention
Storage capacity
= 22,000 gallons



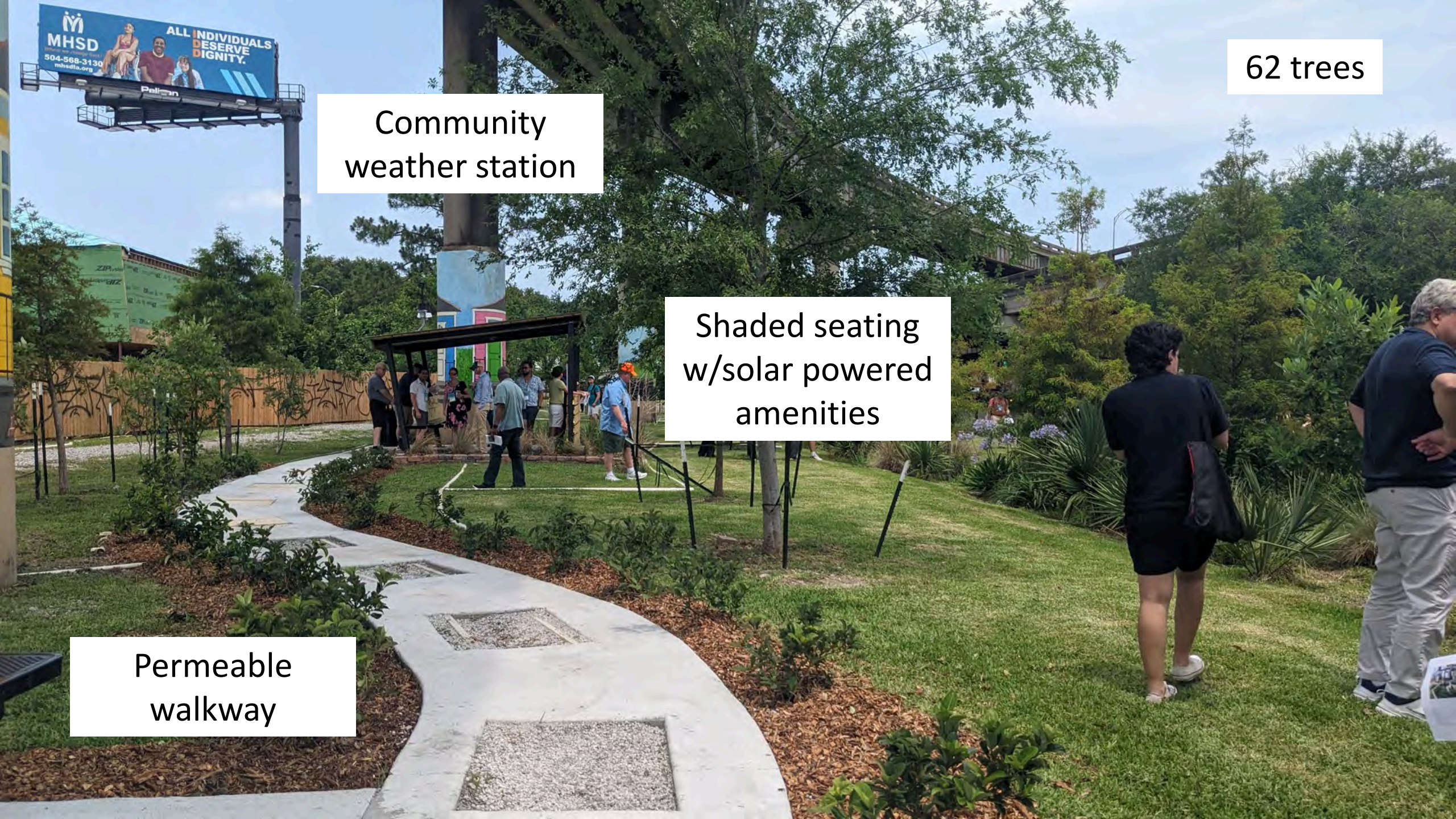


62 trees

Community weather station

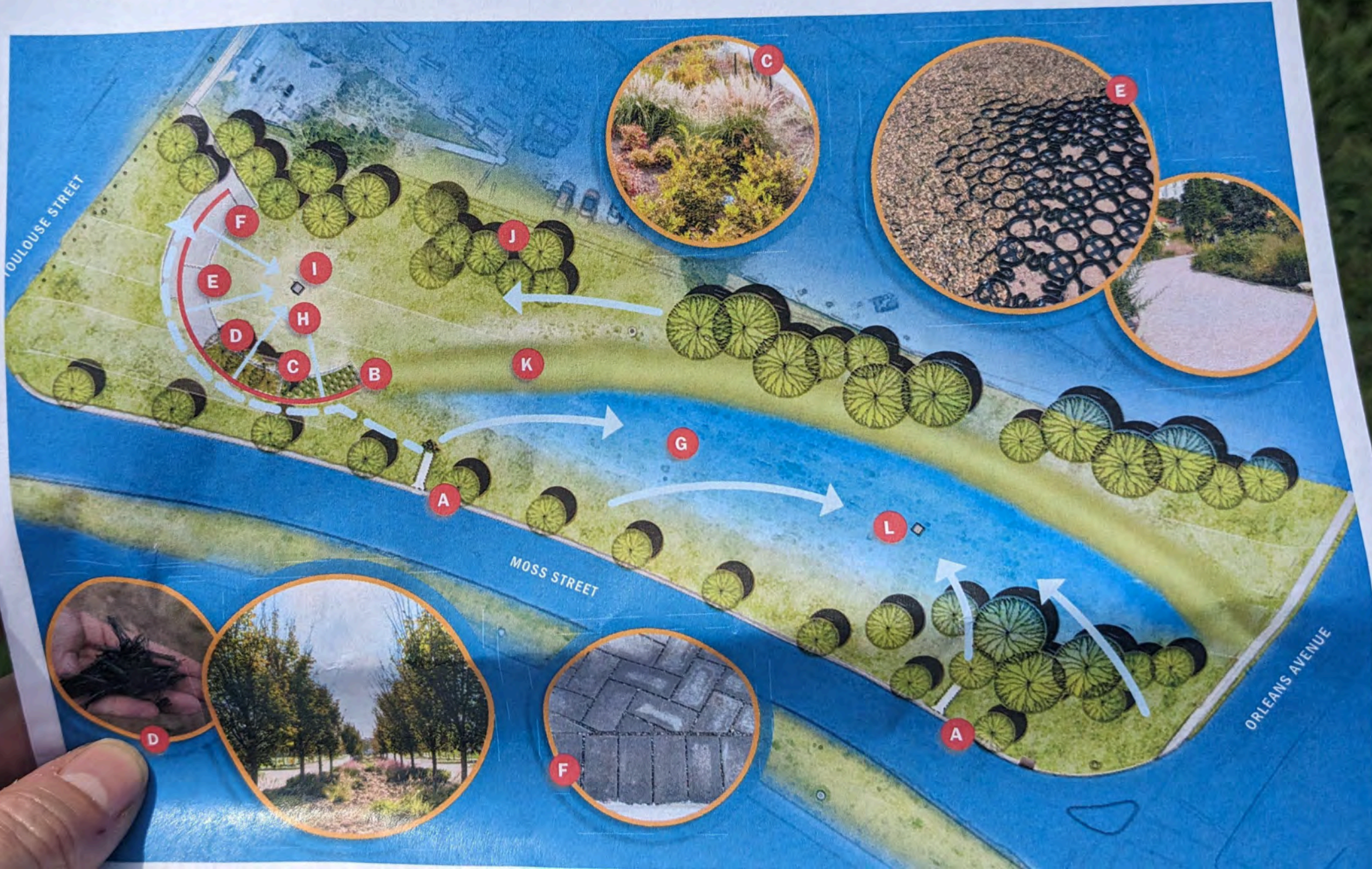
Shaded seating w/solar powered amenities

Permeable walkway





BAYOU ST. JOHN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



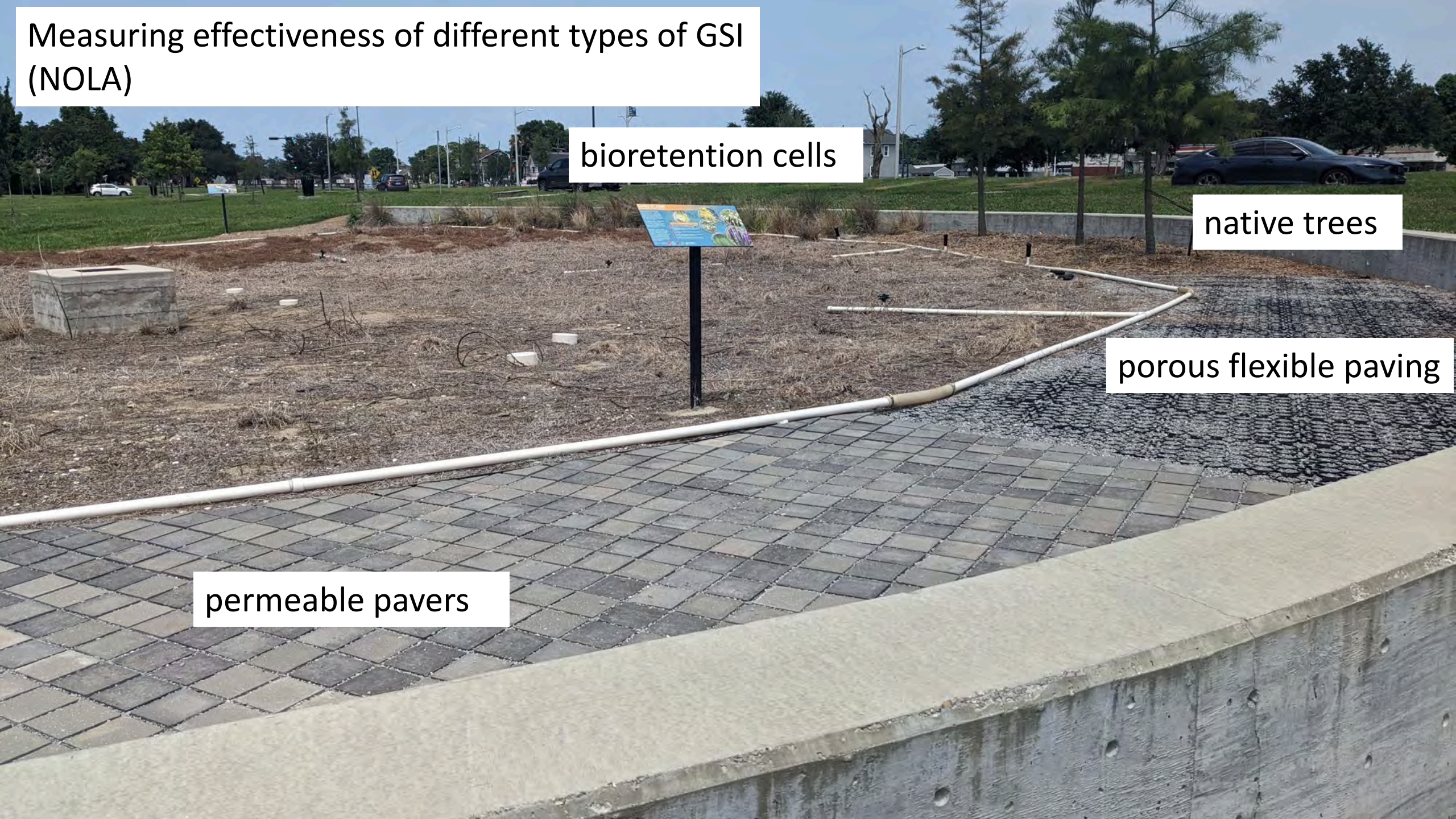
Measuring effectiveness of different types of GSI (NOLA)

bioretention cells

native trees

porous flexible paving

permeable pavers





Detention basin
Storage capacity = 7,460 cubic feet

berm

Gary infrastructure: underground collection system to increase capacity of neighborhood drainage system



Green infrastructure: porous
asphalt



Green infrastructure: rain garden bump out



Green infrastructure: rain garden bump out





Report to the
Sustainability Commission
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

June 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # F.3

Resiliency Coordinator Updates

BACKGROUND

- **Connect the Bay** public open house is scheduled for Saturday, August 16 10 AM- 2PM; Meet and check-in at Parking Lot F. Details will be posted on [Connect the Bay](#) project web page, and on the City website.
- The Fund for Lake Michigan will be awarding \$150,000 for the implementation of the East River Emilie Park wetland resiliency project. Total secured funding for the project is now up to \$530,000. Grant applications to the WDNR Stewardship Grant Program and NOAA are pending.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None