



AGENDA OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026, 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/82469507408?pwd=M8rQe7INAaLLamTejzSdgsDX2uq3NC.I>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 824 6950 7408

Passcode: 287060

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

B. Roll Call.

- I. Members: Chair- Christa Kananen, Vice Chair- Ned Dorff, Alder Joey Prestley, Julia Noordyk, Jenny Brinker, Daniela Beall, Jeanette Knill, Marissa Michalkiewicz, Staff person- Maria Otto

C. Approval of the Agenda.

- I. Approval of the agenda for the Thursday, April 16, 2026, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

D. Approval of Minutes.

- I. Approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2026 meeting.

E. Announcements.

F. Regular Business.

- I. Add language to municipal code Sec.28-3 allowing harvesting of fruit and nuts from trees and

shrubs on City-owned park property and to designate rules for food forest zones.

G. Informational.

1. Work Group Reports
2. Resiliency Coordinator Report
3. Next Meeting: **May 20, 2026**

H. Adjournment.

1. Adjournment of the Thursday, April 16, 2026, 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

April 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM # D.1

Approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2026 meeting.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Sustainability Minutes 03 18 2026



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026, 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/82469507408?pwd=M8rQe71NAaLamTejzSdgsDX2uq3NC.1>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 824 6950 7408

Passcode: 287060

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B. ROLL CALL.

- I. Members: Chair- Christa Kananen, Vice Chair- Ned Dorff, Alder Joey Prestley, Julia Noordyk, Jenny Brinker, Daniela Beall, Jeanette Knill, Marissa Michalkiewicz, Staff person- Maria Otto

Present: Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Maria Otto, Jeanette Knill, Marissa Michalkiewicz

Arrived after Roll Call: Daniela Beall

Excused: Julia Noordyk

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

1. Approval of the agenda for the Wednesday, March 18, 2026, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Moved by Ned Dorff, seconded by Ald. Joey Prestley to approve the agenda.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Maria Otto, Jeanette Knill, Marissa Michalkiewicz, No-None, Abstain-None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. Approval of the minutes from the February 18, 2026 meeting.

Moved by Ned Dorff, seconded by Jenny Brinker to approve the minutes.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Maria Otto, Jeanette Knill, Marissa Michalkiewicz, No-None, Abstain-None.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. A new community group, the *Community Waters Coalition*, will be hosting a Community Input and Education Event on Thursday, April 9, 2026 from 5-8 PM, with an optional conservation tour of some project sites from 3-5 PM. This event offers an opportunity to connect with partners across the Greater Green Bay Fox/Wolf Watershed, explore conservation efforts, and share community priorities for a healthier watershed. The free, registration-required event includes an optional project tour, lightning talks, and a community discussion at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary.
Register at: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/5abff2505f404d1f8d721e9fa044febd>
2. Applications for the [2026 UW-Green Bay High School Freshwater Summer Scholars Program](#) are open. If you know of a high school student that would like to gain experience in freshwater research and/or outreach, please encourage them to apply. The program is not full time and accepted students can participate alongside their other summer commitments. Application deadline: April 13.
3. Environmental Restoration Intern: This is paid, part-time summer internship opportunity for students (undergrad and grad) to consider with the Van der Brohe Arboretum. See attachment for position summary and required qualifications.

F. PRESENTATIONS

1. Energize Green Bay Campaign Wrap-Up, presented by Alex Galt, Clean Energy Connector

G. REGULAR BUSINESS.- NONE

H. INFORMATIONAL.

1. Work Group Reports

Moved by Ald. Joey Prestley, seconded by Jeanette Knill to receive and place on file the workgroup reports.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Maria Otto, Jeanette Knill, Marissa Michalkiewicz, No-None, Abstain-None.

2. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2026.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

1. Adjournment of the Wednesday, March 18, 2026, meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Moved by Ned Dorff, seconded by Christa Kananen to adjourn.

Motion Passed.

Yes-Ned Dorff, Christa Kananen, Jenny Brinker, Joey Prestley, Daniela Beall, Maria Otto, Jeanette Knill, Marissa Michalkiewicz, No-None, Abstain-None.



Report to the Sustainability Commission of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM # F.1

Add language to municipal code Sec.28-3 allowing harvesting of fruit and nuts from trees and shrubs on City-owned park property and designate rules for food forest zones.

BACKGROUND

Green Bay currently only allows harvesting of wild rice and harvesting with direct permission of park staff. Brown County and Madison have ordinances that can provide guidance on this. See proposed amendments below.

Sec. 28-3. Protection of parks and greenways.

(a) General prohibitions. No person shall play ball games, golf, archery, or paintball, or use any device which propels a projectile by the force of a compressed gas or a motorized toy in public parks and greenways, except in and upon areas designed for such purposes.

(b) Damage to or removal of plants. No person shall pluck or cause damage to any flowers, plants, fungi, shrubs, or trees growing in a park or greenway. No person shall remove any plant, or parts of a plant, ~~including fruit and seeds~~, without permission of park staff. **for permitted harvesting- see below)**

Amended language & Definitions added Definitions:

"Harvesting" or "gathering" means the hand-picking of fruits, nuts and other plant parts in small quantities for personal consumption or resale.

Allowed Activities: Hand-harvesting of fruits and nuts is permitted across publicly accessible city parks and greenways. Harvesting of stems, leaves, and edible flowers is permitted only at designated food forest zones (eg., Seymour Park Food Forest.) Removal of any plant on the DNR invasive plants list (NR 40) is permissible on city park and greenway land.

Prohibitions: Using ladders, mechanical devices, or tools that cause damage to trees, plants, and soil is prohibited. Harvesting of non-threatened species.

Liability: The municipality is not responsible for any adverse health effects resulting from consumption.

Link to Supporting Resources: ,

https://library.municode.com/wi/madison/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COORMAWIVOICHI--10_CH8PUPR_8.33E

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/wnrmag/2021/Spring/Forage#:~:text=You%20can%20find%20wild%20edibles,nuts%20from%20trees>

<https://www.browncountywi.gov/community/parks-department/general-information/park-rules-ordinances/>

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to Parks staff to work with the Sustainability Commission on drafting amendments to Sec. 8-3 regarding harvesting of fruit and nuts on City-owned park property.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None



Report to the
Sustainability Commission
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM # G.1

Work Group Reports

BACKGROUND

Clean Energy Work Group Update: The Green Bay Sustainable Business Accelerator, led by the Sustainable Business Council and hosted by the Greater Green Bay Chamber, kicked off on Friday, April 10. There is still some capacity for a couple more companies to join before the next session on April 24, after which companies will not be added to the cohort. The cohort will meet every other Friday in April - June, install selected Nature Based Solutions (NBS) July - September, and recognize participant achievements in October 2026. Contact Christa Kananen at christa@sustainablebusinesscouncil.org for more information.

Healthy Habitat for All Work Group Update: The group met and discussed the pollinator corridor, Neighbors for Nature, and food forest updates.

RECOMMENDATION

To receive and place on file.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

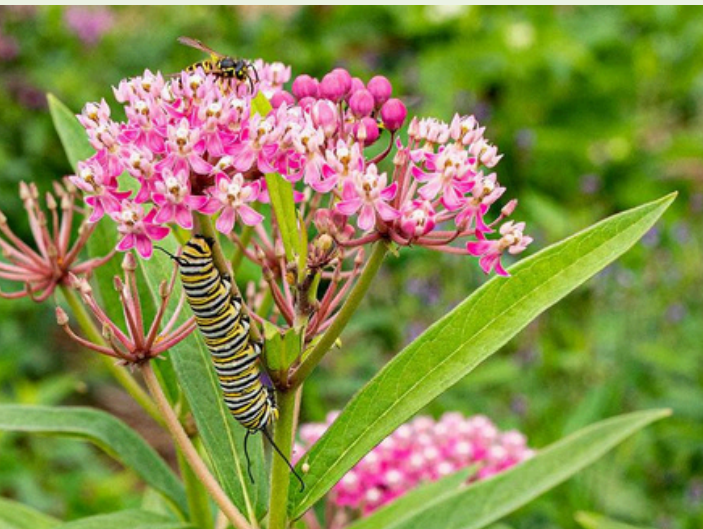
ATTACHMENTS

- I. NeighborforNature_brochure

ABOUT US

Neighbors for Nature is a program operated by the Green Bay Conservation Corps and the Green Bay Sustainability Commission to promote the installation of natural habitats in your backyard.

In 2026, Neighbors for Nature will give away **300 free plant kits** for Green Bay residents. Each kit has 15 native plants, an educational packet, and a yard sign.



All Green Bay residents are eligible to register for their chance to win a free plant kit. Winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22nd.



NEIGHBORS FOR NATURE

SPECIAL THANKS



Stone Silo Prairie Nursery

Green Bay Botanical Garden

Green Bay Sustainability Commission

For more information, contact Maria Otto at maria.otto@greenbaywi.gov or 920.448.3386



NEIGHBORS FOR NATURE



Expanding natural habitat for the benefit of all



WHY IT MATTERS

Native plants help feed pollinators like butterflies and bees, which are essential to our food production and ecosystems. Native plants also increase water filtration and quality, reduce standing water pools, and improve air quality. By planting these essential habitats, you are being a neighbor for nature!



FREE NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Green Bay residents are eligible to enter to win a FREE native plant kit.

Funding and support provided by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Cellcom Green Gifts, and the Green Bay Sustainability Commission. Native plants are grown locally by the Green Bay Conservation Corps, Green Bay Botanical Garden, and Stone Silo Prairie Gardens.

WHAT'S IN A KIT:

- 15 native plants - 3 plants per species
- Education Packet including planting designs, how-to guides, maintenance plans, and additional resources for native plant gardening
- Metal yard sign

HOW CAN YOU ENTER TO WIN

- You must register on the City of Green Bay's website for a chance to win.
- Registration form will be open from March 23rd, 2026, through April 19th, 2026.
- Winners will be notified on April 22nd, 2026 - Earth Day!
- Winners MUST pick up their kit at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Plant pick up dates:
 - May 15th, 2026: 10 AM to 2 PM
 - May 22nd, 2026: 3 PM to 6 PM
 - May 23rd, 2026: 9 AM to 2 PM

Sign up for your chance to win here.



YOUR CHOICES MATTER. LET'S PROTECT WHAT WE LOVE.



Report to the
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MEETING DATE

April 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM # G.2

Resiliency Coordinator Report

BACKGROUND

- Van Beaver Park Constructed Wetland: Draft 90% engineering and design plans currently in review by staff.
- East River Emilie Park Constructed Wetland: Draft final engineering and design plans and permitting are underway. Two more grant proposals submitted- NRDAR and NFWF. Construction is expected to begin in 2027.
- Connect the Bay planning and engineering project will continue in 2026 with funding from NFWF.
- Annual Green Tier Legacy Community report completed.
- Planned Natural Landscapes presentation was made to the NEW Master Gardeners at their spring meeting on April 11.
- Clean energy / vehicle electrification presentation was made to Leadership Green Bay on April 14.

RECOMMENDATION

To receive and place on file.

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None