

**TO:** Environmental Committee  
**FROM:** Assistant Parks & Rec Director  
**DATE:** September 2, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Discussion on Zoning Code Updates

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City of West St. Paul

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Environmental Committee has been review the landscape plans of submitted developments, and making recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council, for many years. The Environmental Committee has also been instrumental in advancing in the GreenStep Cities Program. Many times these two actions cross paths as the Committee tries to make recommendations that will help advance the GreenStep Cities program.

The Planning Commission has recently discussed making updates to portions of the code. There are some specific updates that relate directly to the reviews the Environmental Committee does. The Planning Commission would like to get feedback from the Environmental Committee on the following sections of the code:

- Pollinator, naturalist, native plantings ordinance
  - improvement or addition to existing site plan requirements
- Energy code and green building requirements
  - Green Step Cities recommendations
  - incorporate things like LED lighting, dark sky ordinance, etc.

Earlier this year, Michael Orange, a WSP resident, former City planner and GreenStep Cities Advocate, submitted a Model Landscape Ordinance (attached). This document could be helpful for our discussion on code updates.

Additionally, staff has been looking into adding a tree replacement dedication ordinance. Essentially if a developer couldn't meet the tree minimum in the zoning ordinance, they would be required to pay a dedication fee to be used for future tree plantings by the City. Many Cities have already developed similar ordinances (attached)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Committee discuss changes and updates to the West St Paul Zoning Ordinance.

Attachments: Model Landscape Ordinance; Tree Dedication Ordinance Examples