



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Phone: (608) 437-6884 Fax: (608) 437-3190

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call
- 2) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of July 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Recommendation: Pollinator and Garden Ordinance
 - c. Sol Smart Progress Update
 - d. SNR Column Review and Approval: Food Security
 - e. Update: Good Morning Mount Horeb Presentation by Jennifer Gottwald
 - f. Discussion: Dane County Bike Trail Grants
- 3) Meeting adjournment.

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call

Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Member present: White, Grabe, Saltes, Butosov and Fendrick. Absent: Beheler, Gottwald and Gauger. Also present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of June 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Butosov, second by Saltes. Motion carried.
 - b. Discussion: Wisconsin Travel Green Program

White provided a background on the program through the department of tourism. The committee thought it was a good opportunity to help educate businesses on the benefits of sustainability. White and Owen will meet with LaCasse-Ford from the Chamber of Commerce and a representative of the travel green program.
 - c. Planning for Solar 101 Event and Article

White informed the committee that his appearance at the Children's Community School was delayed and he reviewed the overview of the program they requested him submit. He plans to attend their next meeting in September, with the event, if approved, likely occurring in October. Grabe reported that she has finished her article on her solar panels and electric vehicle and would like a second set of eyes to review. Administrator Owen stated he would review prior to submittal. Motion by Butosov to approve the article, second by Fendrick. Motion carried.
 - d. Solsmart Update

White reported that staff met with him to review the solsmart checklist and is working on addressing the questions needed to achieve certification. We will meet again in mid-August.
 - e. Dane County Rain Barrel Program

White was approached by a resident about creating a discounted rain barrel program for the Village. The committee felt a rainbarrel program

was worth researching further and that it was important to include information on proper installation and maintenance.

3) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Butosov to adjourn, second by Grabe. Motion carried at 7:39 p.m.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

August 22, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 2.b

Recommendation: Pollinator and Garden Ordinance

BACKGROUND

The Village Attorney reviewed the proposed ordinances allowing pollinator gardens and better defining other types of gardens and is recommending combining the two ordinances. Kerry Beheler, Jack Saltes and Administrator Owen met to review the proposed combined ordinance and feel it meets the original intent of the ordinances and are satisfied with the proposal. If recommended for approval by this committee, it will go to the Public Works Committee for review and then the Village Board for consideration. The ordinance will go to the Public Works committee for review because Public Services Director Jeff Gorman will be responsible for enforcement as the weed commissioner.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. 3Y59464-DRAFT Pollinator Ordinance Amendment - Mount Horeb

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
ORDINANCE 2023-04

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 10.03 PUBLIC NUISANCES:
WEEDS AND GRASS

- (1) It is the purpose of Chapter 10.03 to prohibit the uncontrolled growth of vegetation and to control noxious weeds, while permitting the planting and maintenance of planned natural landscaping using native plants to enhance pollinator habitat.
- (2) Subject to Section (3) below:
 - (a) Weeds and grass on unimproved lands shall be kept cut to a height not to exceed 18 inches and six inches on areas within 20 feet of the street curb and within 10 feet of undeveloped lots immediately adjacent to developed lots.
 - (b) Lawns on improved lots shall be maintained to a height not to exceed six inches. Weeds and grasses allowed to grow in excess of the height limitations shall be deemed "noxious weeds" under § 66.0407, Wis. Stats., and the Village may cause all such weeds to be cut and removed and the cost charged to the property owner. A property owner shall have five days from the date of notice or postmark to comply with the regulations on weeds and grasses.
 - (c) Lands located in the A-1 Agricultural District or CO-1 Conservancy District, woods, and lawns with special areas identified as "prairie grasses" are exempt from these provisions. Berms installed for the purpose of erosion control as shown on an approved storm water management plan shall be exempt from this requirement, as well as berms adjacent to undeveloped lots.
 - (d) Berms installed for the purpose of erosion control as shown on an approved storm water management plan shall be exempt from this requirement, as well as berms adjacent to undeveloped lots
- (3) Gardens identified as natural landscaping native plant pollinator areas pursuant to the terms of this Section (3) shall be exempt from Section (2).
 - (a) Definitions.
 1. Planned natural landscaping means a planned, intentional, and maintained planting area which may include, without limitation, trees, shrubs, and native plants, or vegetation associated with a rain garden.

2. Native plants include grasses (including prairie grasses), sedges (solid, triangular-stemmed plants resembling grasses), forbs (flowering broadleaf plants), groundcovers, vines, shrubs, and trees that are native to or naturalized to the State of Wisconsin. Refer to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources information for native plant specifics: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/nativeplants.html> Native plants shall not include noxious weeds or noxious grasses as defined by the State of Wisconsin statutes (§ 66.0407 or §§ 23.235, Wis. Stats.).

(b) Types of plantings:

1. Plantings may include forbs, grasses, edible plants, shrubs, or trees.
2. Plantings may be designed as rain gardens with plantings and grading specifically designed to receive and infiltrate rainwater or clear water flows.
3. Plantings shall be deliberately selected and arranged as part of a coherent overall plan. Overgrowth of conventional turf grasses or weeds, or any other unmanaged vegetation growth, shall not constitute a planned natural landscaping area.
4. No species identified on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Regulated Invasive Plants list, Chapter NR 40, whether designated as Prohibited or Restricted, shall be permitted. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/RegulatedSpecies>

(c) Registration of natural landscaping native plant pollinator habitat areas with the Village of Mount Horeb is encouraged. A sign designating the area as a planned natural landscaping native plant pollinator area is encouraged.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

August 22, 2023

PREPARED BY**AGENDA ITEM # 2.c**

Sol Smart Progress Update

BACKGROUND**RECOMMENDATION****ATTACHMENTS**

None

Sustainability Notes from the Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

As we gather and share the bounty of the harvest season, enjoy this guest column about growing and maintaining sustainable resilient local food systems written by two UW-Madison PhD students.

Growing Our Future Food System by Catie DeMets and Jules Reynolds

For many of us, our thoughts about food mostly revolve around the question, “What’s for dinner?” Then we think about where we’ll shop, what we’ll buy, and how we’ll prepare it. But the term “food systems” gives us a way of thinking about food as part of a larger web of interconnected people, processes, and policies that shape food’s journey from the farm to our bellies.

Here in Mt Horeb, we are privileged to have a robust regional food system, from our rich agricultural soils and abundant farmland to the many area farms growing an array of local veggies, fruits, and other products. We have myriad local markets and restaurants, from the farmers market and a locally owned grocery store to our many outstanding local food businesses. Most importantly, we have a strong foundation of community support for local food and agriculture.

But these assets are not guaranteed in the long run. Many parts of our food system are currently under threat. Extreme weather caused by climate change threatens agricultural production. Harmful agricultural chemicals threaten the health of farm laborers, pollinators and wildlife, and water quality in our communities. Farmers facing retirement have little choice but to sell their land at prices only developers or non-operating landowners can afford, leaving young farmers with few or no options for accessing farmland and causing rapid farmland loss in the area. Many community members don’t have access to adequate food – let alone healthy and local food. Farms and local food businesses are operating on the thinnest of margins, many at a loss and at great personal costs.

These threats are current realities for many in our food system. But with collaborative planning and community-driven action, our realities can change. This spring, a group of over twenty community food system and sustainability leaders in the region gathered at Brix Cider for a preliminary conversation about the future of the area’s food system. This discussion revealed several important challenges, including the threat of development pressure to local farmland, the many barriers for local farm and food businesses hoping to get their start in the Mt Horeb area, and the lack of a comprehensive plan to address food systems issues into the future.

This gathering also shed light on the many ways we can work together to build a strong and sustainable food system into the future. As food *consumers*, we can participate individually by shopping at the farmers market, buying local products, and supporting local food businesses.

But as food *citizens*, we have the power to make positive change in the larger food system. We can advocate for creating a local or even regional food system plan, as many communities around the US have done. We can create a local food policy council to create policies that protect farmland and promote local and regional production, processing, and distribution. We can vote in local, state, and national elections for candidates who support sustainable agricultural and food policies.

And as *community members*, we can get involved with food systems by knowing and supporting our farmers and local food organizations like Brix Cider, which stepped in to provide emergency local food distribution during the pandemic, or the Mount Horeb Farmers Market, which supplies fresh, seasonal food every Thursday evening to our community. We can participate in opportunities to grow food in our community through the Driftless Seed Project and the Mt Horeb Community Garden. We can engage with regional organizations like Renewing the Countryside and Groundswell Conservancy, which are finding creative solutions to pair retiring farmers with young farmers to support farmland transition to the next generation and protect farmland in perpetuity.

These many solutions are only the beginning of what is possible. By working together and finding ways to engage with our community's abundant opportunities, we have the power to steward a healthy and sustainable food system for the Mt Horeb area into the future. The next time you ask yourself, "What's for dinner?" don't forget to ask, "And what can I do to support our food system?"

Please contact Catie at catie@rtcinfo.org with questions on Renewing the Countryside about farmland access or transition. Please contact Jules at jreynolds7@wisc.edu with questions about Brix Cider's food systems work in Mt Horeb and the surrounding area.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

August 22, 2023

PREPARED BY**AGENDA ITEM # 2.e**

Update: Good Morning Mount Horeb Presentation by Jennifer Gottwald

BACKGROUND**RECOMMENDATION****ATTACHMENTS**

None



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

August 22, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 2.f

Discussion: Dane County Bike Trail Grants

BACKGROUND

SNR member Kerry Beheler found a potential grant opportunity to create linkages between Village Parks and the bike trail system. The deadline for applications is tight, but we wanted to get this in front of the Committee to start the discussion about a potential application.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023-PARCRide-GrantGuidelines-062623

Dane County PARC & Ride Grant Program

The PARC & Ride Grant Program provides matching funds to develop new regional bicycle playgrounds or regional bicycle/pedestrian trails that are identified in the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan or Bike Dane Initiative. The 2023 Dane County Budget includes up to \$500,000 for eligible projects.



Who may apply?

To apply to the PARC & Ride Program, an organization should be one of the following:

- Towns, villages, or cities in Dane County
- 501(3)(c) non-profit organization
- Other governmental units in Dane County (school districts, universities, MPOs, tribal governments)

The organization must be authorized to submit a grant application by resolution. The project must also be approved through a resolution by the municipality that the project falls within that allows Dane County to exercise its municipal park powers.

What projects are eligible?

Grants will be awarded for eligible capital projects that include the following:

- Development of regional bicycle playgrounds that provide a unique experience and serve multiple population centers. A bicycle playground is designed with features to offer a variety of fun obstacles that safely build cycling confidence for kids.
- Development of trail linkages identified in the current adopted Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan or Bike Dane Initiative.
- Development of supporting facilities that are part of a new trail or bicycle playground construction project (i.e. parking areas, kiosk, and wayfinding signage).

Eligible projects must be far along in the planning process evidenced by the following requirements to be considered for funding:

- Project is located on public lands, easements, or leased property that guarantee public access.
- All land holdings necessary for construction and public access are secured. Projects that still have land acquisition needs are not eligible. Trail easements on private land should provide a public trail corridor width of 50 feet or greater. This will allow for maximum flexibility for future maintenance or improvements while also minimizing conflicts with adjacent land uses. Exceptions may be made to the trail easement width under special circumstances.

- Preliminary plans are complete and demonstrate the following:
 - ✓ Scope of project is feasible from a permitting, engineering and budget standpoint.
 - ✓ Bicycle wayfinding signage will be implemented as part of trail project and follows the guidelines outlined in the Dane County Bicycle Wayfinding Manual.
 - ✓ Trail development will meet the Dane County Parks regional trail standards for crushed limestone trails, paved trails, boardwalk, and bridges.
 - ✓ Trail project has a public start and end point and has taken into consideration necessary developments for public access/parking areas and safety facilities along the trail or for accessing or exiting the trail.

What projects are not eligible?

Grants will not be awarded for the following projects:

- Brochures or printed materials
- Projects on private lands (unless an easement or lease exists that guarantees public access)
- Purchase of equipment or hand tools
- Single plans or studies
- Are for private use or benefit
- Acquisition of land or easements
- Maintain, repair or minimally upgrade an existing bike trail facility
- Other projects may be deemed ineligible upon review

How much funding is available?

The 2023 Dane County Budget includes up to \$500,000 for eligible projects. The standard grant amount may be up to 50% of the project costs. Grants may be awarded for less than the amount requested by the applicant. All grants must be matched with financial contributions.

Eligible Expenses and Match

Eligible expenses for projects include construction materials and contracted services for design, engineering and construction. Acceptable match includes sponsor financial contributions, state or federal grants, private donations, or other cash contributions. In-kind services will not be accepted as match, such as donated labor (i.e. salary and fringe benefits), materials or supplies.

Application Deadline

Grant applications are due **September 15th, 2023**. Staff will review and recommend projects for funding to be considered for approval by the Dane County Parks Commission and Dane County Board of Supervisors.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated with special consideration given to the factors below:

- Provides a new linkage to a Dane County Parks property, other bikeway routes or paths, or to a neighborhood or community
- Located along a river or lakeshore
- Anticipated bicycle use
- Located near a low income neighborhood or housing area
- Provides additional amenities such as benches, observation decks, accessible fishing pier, bike repair station, kiosk, shade structure, etc.
- Complements development activities in the surrounding area
- Identified in multiple plans such as a local comprehensive plan and Dane County Bicycle Transportation Plan
- Involves and fosters multiple partnerships
- Budget and secured financial resources
- Clarity of project
- Completeness of application
- In the event that the grant program is oversubscribed, recipients of PARC & Ride Grants from the 2021-2022 grant cycle will be ranked lower than applicants who have not recently received funding.

Grant Payments and Requirements

Grants will be paid on a reimbursement basis. Grant payments for design and engineering expenses may be dispersed for up to 50% of the County's share with the remaining 50% dispersed after the project is fully constructed and completed as proposed.

Grants will expire in 4 years and may not be extended or adjusted if the project timeline or budget changes. Grant recipients must submit final project plans and specifications to Dane County for review and approval prior to project commencement. Dane County's contribution to the project must be recognized on any signage, press coverage or by other means as appropriate. At a minimum, a sign must be posted at the project site that includes the Dane County Parks logo and the following text: "Funded in part by the Dane County PARC & Ride Bicycle Grant Program." All trail projects funded by the program will be required to incorporate bicycle way-finding signage that follows the guidelines in the [Dane County Bicycle Wayfinding Manual](#). These requirements and others as appropriate will be outlined in a grant contract between the grant recipient and the County.

Project Delivery

Grant applicants must provide a project delivery plan that outlines who will be performing project management activities such as construction management and oversight duties. Grant applicants who do not have a project manager or in-house design/engineering staff must retain a professional consultant with a minimum of 5 years applicable experience to perform design/engineering/project management services. Dane County Parks staff will not provide these services.

Project Maintenance

Projects funded through the program must be open to the public and maintained for public use in perpetuity. Grant applicants must provide a maintenance plan that outlines how the project will be maintained, who will maintain it, and what financial resources are available for maintaining the project. Grant recipients will be responsible for operating and maintaining the project, unless a

separate agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding assigns those responsibilities to another party.

Application Instructions

1. Contact Jeff Prey at Dane County Parks to schedule a meeting to discuss your project and determine its eligibility.
2. If it's determined that your project is eligible, submit the following by **September 15th, 2023**:
 - PARC & Ride Grant Application Form
 - PARC & Ride Grant Narrative Form
 - PARC & Ride Grant Budget Form
 - Context map that shows the project location. If a trail project, the map should also show its connection to the regional trail system as shown in the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan.
 - Site plan. Design & engineering plans and specifications should also be submitted if they are complete.
 - Authorizing resolutions

Submissions by email are preferred. If attachments exceed 10 MB, please contact Jeff for other submittal options.

Questions?

Contact Jeff Prey, Park Property Planner

Phone: (608) 575-0321

Email: prey.jeff@countyofdane.com

Dane County Parks Division

Land & Water Resources Department

5201 Fen Oak Drive, Rm. 208

Madison, WI 53718