



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

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**SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Consent Agenda
  - a. Consideration of September 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - b. Green Team Report
  - c. Adopt a Municipality Report
- 4) Agenda Items
  - a. Discussion with Nic Veech on Styrofoam Recycling Collection Point
  - b. Approval of Mount Horeb Recreation Complex Proclamation
  - c. Sustainability Plan Update
  - d. Bird City Designation
  - e. Bike Friendly City Update
  - f. Recap of Slipstream Public Engagement Meeting and Final Report
- 5) Future Agenda Items
- 6) Meeting adjournment.

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### **SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

#### **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

- 1) Call to order  
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: White, Beheler, Roethle, and Saltes. Absent: Best and Grabe. Also Present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Public Comments  
None
- 3) Consent Agenda  
Motion by Beheler to recommend approval, seconded by Roethle. Motion carried.
  - a. Consideration of August 26, 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - b. Green Team Update
  - c. Adopt a Municipality Reports
- 4) Agenda Items
  - a. Green Team Report  
No discussion.
  - b. Bike City Designation  
Roethle reported that Administrator Owen completed his sections. Roethle has created and distributed a survey. He will continue the survey and provide a summary for next month's meeting. From the initial responses there is an interest in assisting with the application process. Administrator Owen will connect Roethle with the Chamber of Commerce to assist with the application.
  - c. Proclamation Requesting Consideration of Sustainability Features including Planting Native Plants at new Park at Lukken Farm  
Chair White read the proclamation. The committee had the following revisions: Changing Whereas to one word; the in the fourth paragraph, change greater than 50% to no less than 50%, and clarify the plants should be native to Southern Wisconsin; the fifth paragraph, change

encourages to recommends and planning to planting and unused to designated open; the seventh paragraph, add if feasible after where appropriate; add BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the plan design and native plant choices be reviewed by the SNR Committee. Administrator Owen will make the changes for consideration at the next committee meeting.

d. Discussion on 2026 Budget Request

White reported that the recommended budget was \$1,500. Administrator Owen reported that he felt the Sustainability Council Membership wouldn't be a good use of our limited budget and noticed some of our partners, Sustain Dane and Slipstream, are already members. The Committee agreed. Beheler mentioned the possibility of budgeting for restoring lawns disturbed by street and utility projects with native seeds rather than typical grass seeds or sod. White felt that was a utility or street budget item. Administrator Owen will discuss with the Village Engineer.

e. Update on Sustainability Plan

Saltes will reach out at the end of the month for an update from the Nelson institute, if their is no interest he will persue a partnership with UniverCity.

f. Update on Slipstream Public Engagement Forum

White reported on the September 30th Event. Administrator Owen noted Slipstream is looking for volunteers to man display boards. White and Roethle volunteered. Administrator Owen noted he will be putting together a quorum notice so all SNR members can attend without issues.

5) Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include: Aproval of the Lukken Park Proclamation, Native seeds for Nesheim project, Lake Street Stormwater and General Storm water Presentation, Sustainability Plan Update, Bird City Report, Bike Friendly City Update, Recap of Slipstream Engagement Meeting and Final Report, Budget Update, Green Team Report.

6) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Saltes to adjourn, seconded by Roethle. Motion carried. 7:51 p.m.



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

October 28, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 3.b

Green Team Report

### BACKGROUND

[Green Team Notes](#)

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

None



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

October 28, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.b

Approval of Mount Horeb Receration Complex Proclamation

### BACKGROUND

The attached proclamation includes revisions discussed at last month's meeting. I have also changed the name of the proclamation to address a rebranding of the project to the Mount Horeb Recreation Complex, until a new name is formally given to the park.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Mount Horeb Recreation Complex Sustainability Proclamation

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**A PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS AT  
MOUNT HOREB RECREATION COMPLEX**

WHEREAS, the Village of Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee (SNR) has embraced a mission which addresses the following;

To collaborate with our Village residents to create and expand sustainability practices which are inclusive, safe, and resilient, and improve quality of life for current and future generations who call Mount Horeb home; to advocate and promote sustainable Village policies and practices, and seek innovative solutions while recognizing the interdependence of environmental quality, economic resiliency and growth, and social equity, and;

WHEREAS, the Village of Mount Horeb has Purchased the Lukken Farm and developed a concept plan for the development of a new park, and;

WHEREAS, the SNR Committee has reviewed the Concept Plan and has the following recommendations to include sustainable practices and protect the unique natural resources of Mount Horeb;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Village of Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee recommends that no less than 50% of the plantings at the Mount Horeb Recreation Complex be plants, shrubs and trees that are native to Southern Wisconsin; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, the SNR Committee recommends the planting of prairie areas in designated open areas instead of grass that requires traditional mowing and maintenance, and;

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the SNR Committee recommends the inclusion of bioretention basins to help control stormwater in the parking lots, and;

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the SNR Committee recommends pervious pavements where appropriate, if feasible, and other environmentally designed features, and;

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the plan design and native plant choices be reviewed by the SNR Committee.

DATED this 23rd day of September, 2025.

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Tim White, Sustainability and Natural Resources Chair



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

October 28, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.d

Bird City Designation

### BACKGROUND

SNR Committee Member Kerry Behler has provided the information in your packets regarding the Bird City designation.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Behler suggestions for Mt H as a Bird City

**To: Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee**

**From: Kerry Beheler**

**Date: 23 October 2025**

**RE: Bird City Network information and application requirements for Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee to consider.**

**A. Main webpage: Overall information: <https://birdcity.org/>**

**Making our communities healthy for birds ...and people.** Bird City Wisconsin, the first Bird City program, provides highly visible public recognition to municipalities that understand that healthy communities are the sum of many parts, including birds. We support our communities in their efforts to protect and manage green space, educate their citizens, build and erect nesting structures, landscape with native plants, reduce threats to birds such as collisions and outdoor cats, and generally make urban areas both friendlier for birds and places where people want to live and work.

**B. To earn Bird City designation, communities fulfill a specific number of actions across 4 categories (below). The specifics of their achievements can be viewed on [each community's webpage](#). In general, we ask community teams to focus on the following types of actions:**

## **1. HABITAT**

- 1.1. Promote best management of community habitat
- 1.2. Create and protect habitat
- 1.3. Promote native plants
- 1.4. Control invasive plants
- 1.5. Provide nesting habitat
- 1.6. Support local species
- 1.7. Ensure clean water in natural waterways

## **2. THREATS TO BIRDS**

- 2.1. Address disturbance by harmful species
- 2.2. Address collisions with glass
- 2.3. Address light pollution
- 2.4. Address direct human-related threats
- 2.5. Address the threat of pesticides and other toxins

## **3. EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT**

- 3.1. [Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day \(WMBD\)](#) - see [About: Bird City Network](#) for theme and links
- 3.2. Increase awareness of birds and their habitats
- 3.3. Educate and engage all ages
- 3.4. Ensure access to nature
- 3.5. Involve the community in conservation and stewardship
- 3.6. Promote scientific research and monitoring
- 3.7. Mobilize support / funding for community bird conservation

## **4. SUSTAINABILITY**

- 4.1. Educate residents about climate impacts and renewable energy
- 4.2. Reduce energy use and carbon emissions
- 4.3. Promote sustainable infrastructure and practices

**C. Specific information from the Bird City webpage:** Within this framework, each [Bird City Program](#) curates a **customized action list that communities work from to apply for designation**. These custom action lists are found on each program's Apply/Renew page and serve as a valuable educational tool in their own right. Through the action list, community leaders can determine the types of actions that are needed, think about what is already being done locally, and chart a course for bird-friendly action over time that fits with broader community conservation goals.

Requirements: Achieve a total of at least 9 points, meeting all of the following conditions:

a) A minimum of nine actions

b) At least four actions in Habitat, including at least one of the following taken by the municipality itself:

- Tree City USA status (1.1.4)
- Completion of Wisconsin DNR's Wisconsin Community Tree Management Institute (1.1.6)
- Native species in public or large-scale private landscaping (1.3.3)
- Native species in annual street tree and non-street tree budgets (1.3.4)
- A moratorium on trimming and mowing (1.5.1)
- Another action taken by your municipality

c) At least three actions from Education & Engagement, including the following:

- World Migratory Bird Day (3.1.1) Welcome Back Bird Day: part of the annual requirement for the Bird City designation (publicly celebrating bird migration).  
Date: Wednesday, May 21st (always the third Wednesday of May)  
Location: Wherever you deem safe, and advantageous to your health and personal recreational objectives. People will be actively birding area locales. Bird for as long as you like (between the hours of whenever AM and whenever PM), with whatever company you deem appropriate.

d) At least one action in every category

**D. What Mount Horeb can do/what we are already doing: Need 9 points to submit an application. Need Suggestions from the SNR for the application.**

1. Habitat Actions: a. Tree City USA status (1.1.4). We have Tree City designation. From our Village webpage "Mount Horeb: Mt H Public Services Department is responsible for managing and maintaining Mount Horeb's urban forest, including over 4,000 street trees and hundreds of park trees. The Village has shown its commitment to forestry management by earning a "Tree City USA" status every year since 1997.

b. Completion of Wisconsin DNR's Wisconsin Community Tree Management Institute (1.1.6). Does Mt H have this? To qualify for Tree City USA, municipalities must have a Tree Board,

adopt a Community Tree Ordinance, have a Community Forestry Program, and have an Arbor Day Celebration. <https://www.mounthorebwi.info/192/Urban-Forestry#:~:text=The%20Mount%20Horeb%20Public%20Services,have%20an%20Arbor%20Day%20Celebration.>”

c. Native species in public or large-scale private landscaping (1.3.3), Native species in annual street tree and non-street tree budgets (1.3.4). Does the SNR Lukken property recommendation proclamation satisfy this?

d. A moratorium on trimming and mowing (1.5.1), Another action taken by your municipality. Mt H native landscaping pollinator ordinance.

2. Education & Engagement: 3 actions are required: a. World Migratory Bird Day (3.1.1) **Welcome Back Bird Day: part of the annual requirement for the Bird City designation (publicly celebrating bird migration).**

Date: Wednesday, May 21st (always the third Wednesday of May)

b. An officially enacted resolution (3.7.1). We can do this.

c. Increase awareness of birds and their habitats (3.2), Educate and engage all ages (3.3), Involve the community in conservation and stewardship (3.5), Promote scientific research and monitoring (3.6): Mount Horeb Christmas Bird Count will accomplish these actions.

We can have educational postings on Village website, Chamber, Green Team, Mt Horeb Mail. etc. Is that enough?

**3. SUSTAINABILITY Actions:** 4.1. Educate residents about climate impacts and renewable energy, 4.2. Reduce energy use and carbon emissions, 4.3. Promote sustainable infrastructure and practices. We are doing this already with SNR.

**4. Green Team help with suggestions for the application? le what actions will we be able to achieve?**

**Section 2 THREATS TO BIRDS** 2.1. Address disturbance by harmful species, 2.2. Address collisions with glass, 2.3. Address light pollution, 2.4. Address direct human-related threats, 2.5. Address the threat of pesticides and other toxins.

**E. Similar Community Activities as an example for Mount Horeb to follow: Darlington**

<https://birdcity.org/wisconsin/darlington>



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

### MEETING DATE

October 28, 2025

### PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

### AGENDA ITEM # 4.e

Bike Friendly City Update

### BACKGROUND

SNR Member Scott Roethle will provide an update on the Bike Friendly City designation. Included in the packet is Scott's draft of the Bike Friendly City article for the Mount Horeb Mail for discussion at the meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Mount Horeb - Bicycle Friendly Future

## Help Shape Mount Horeb's Bicycle-Friendly Future

The **Sustainability and Natural Resources (SNR) Committee** is excited to announce that we're preparing an application with the **League of American Bicyclists** to see if Mount Horeb qualifies as a *Bicycle Friendly Community*. But before we submit it, **we want to hear from you!**

The League of American Bicyclists describes its mission as building safer roads, stronger communities, and a more bicycle-friendly America for everyone. Their *Bicycle Friendly Community* program helps communities like ours assess where we stand today — and offers a clear roadmap for how to make bicycling safer, easier, and more enjoyable for all.

Our application will be evaluated on village planning, infrastructure, education, and community culture. While Mount Horeb already has great assets like the **Military Ridge State Trail** and the excitement of **Ironman cyclists** passing through each September, we know there's more we can do to make biking a regular, safe option for residents — whether you're commuting to school, visiting local businesses, or just out for a ride.

Some early ideas include:

- Creating **designated bike routes** through town
- Adding **more bike racks** and **clearer signage**
- Improving **road markings** for shared safety
- Offering **bike safety education** for kids and adults

Nearby communities like Verona (bronze), Fitchburg (silver), and Madison (platinum) have all earned Bicycle Friendly designations — and now it's Mount Horeb's turn to see how we can join them in building a more sustainable, bikeable future.

**We need your input!** Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and ideas through our short community survey. Your feedback will help us identify what's working well and where we can improve — together.

You can also make your voice heard during the monthly SNR committee meetings held at 7:00 PM the 4th Tuesday of every month at the municipal building.

Let's make Mount Horeb a place where biking feels safe, welcoming, and truly part of who we are.



Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q7ZB93D>



## AGENDA ITEM REPORT

**MEETING DATE**

October 28, 2025

**PREPARED BY****AGENDA ITEM # 4.f**

Recap of Slipstream Public Engagement Meeting and Final Report

**BACKGROUND****RECOMMENDATION****ATTACHMENTS**

None