



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

<b>AGENDA SECTION</b>	CONSENT AGENDA
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	MAY 25, 2026

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>Consideration of Resolution 2026-031, Authorizing the Green Corps Host Site Agreement for Program Year 2026-2027</b>		
<i>Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager</i>			
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Community Development	<b>BY/DATE:</b>	Mitchell Forney / May 13, 2026
<b>CORE CITY STRATEGIES:</b>			
_Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_High Quality Public Spaces		_Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
_Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		_Inclusive and Connected Community	

**BACKGROUND**

In 2025, the Community Development Department brought forward the concept of hosting a Minnesota GreenCorps member to assist the City in advancing sustainability and climate-related initiatives. In the fall of 2025, the City successfully brought on a GreenCorps member who has worked closely with the Community Development Department, Engineering Department, and Public Works Department to implement climate action and sustainability goals established by the City Council and Sustainability Commission. The position has proven to be a valuable resource across departments and has significantly expanded the City’s capacity to advance sustainability initiatives and strategic environmental goals.

The Minnesota GreenCorps program is an AmeriCorps initiative dedicated to preserving and protecting Minnesota’s environment while training the next generation of environmental professionals. Each year, the program places members with host organizations throughout the state to assist communities in building resilience to climate change and advancing sustainability initiatives. Members serve full-time for approximately 11 months, from mid-September through mid-August, and focus on one or more of the following program areas:

- Community readiness and outreach
- Energy conservation and green transportation
- Stormwater and forestry
- Waste reduction and recycling

Through these focus areas, members support projects such as climate action planning, sustainability outreach, waste reduction initiatives, GreenStep Cities implementation, community education, and environmental stewardship activities.

In April, Community Development staff completed the application process and participated in interviews with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). In May, the City of Columbia Heights was notified that it had once again been selected as a host site for a Minnesota GreenCorps member for the 2026–2027 program year.

The Community Development Department will continue to serve as the host department for the position and will coordinate with the Sustainability Commission and other City departments to implement sustainability initiatives and community engagement activities. The member’s work will be guided by priorities established by the City Council, the City’s Energy Action Plan, GreenStep Cities goals, the Sustainable Purchasing Policy, and ongoing Sustainability Commission initiatives.

The cost to the City for participation in the program is limited to the required \$600 educational stipend and reimbursement for approved City-related travel expenses. Funding for these costs is already included within the Community Development Department budget. In addition, the Department already has the necessary workspace, equipment, and operational infrastructure in place to support the position for the upcoming program year.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend approval of Resolution 2026-031 authorizing the Green Corps Host Site Agreement for Program Year 2026-2027

<b>RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):</b>
MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-031, there being ample copies available to the public.
MOTION: Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-031, a resolution authorizing the execution of a host site agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for participation in the Minnesota GreenCorps program in program year 2026-2027.

#### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Resolution 2026-031
2. Draft Host Site Agreement