

Workplan “idea seeds”

Environmental Citizens Committee

1. Sustainability and Energy Plan

- a. Hire a consultant to work with staff and the ECC to create a sustainability and Energy plan for the city, including
 - i. Project selection and implementation
 - ii. Funding opportunities
 1. EGLE has a Community Energy Management grant that opens in late October that would assist in paying \$15,000 toward a sustainability “master plan.” The city has been added to the grant notification list, and the contact is CrawfordJ15@michigan.gov at 517-231-1051
 - iii. Evaluation of programs included by the ECC to prioritize

2. Natural Environment and Ecosystems

- a. Eliminate discretionary use of synthetic pesticides in parks by 2028
- b. Tree inventory to calculate the percentage of the tree canopy to increase a % per year until we reach 40%. *Need to know where we are to start.*
 - i. Continue to pursue tree grants actively
 - ii. Continue with Tree City designations
 - iii. Request through the budget process funding to continue or expand the resident tree planting incentive program.
- c. No-Mow
 - i. Develop a policy to be followed for areas to be considered and time period to allow no mow
 - ii. Identify public land that can participate in no mow
 - iii. Education and promotion
 1. *We need to include the cons also, such as rats. Be prepared for adverse reactions and educate on the front end.*
- d. Pollinator Protection
 - i. Encourage native plants and pesticide-free pollinator habitats
 - ii. Invite Rochester Pollinators to speak to ECC with a field trip to Rochester park to see recent gardens

3. Resident and Business Education and Awareness

- a. Conduct a Stakeholder sustainability survey
- b. Research and connect with existing organizations to conduct resident seminars or education programs and pieces quarterly over a two-year program – Live Green Series. Residents that attend all classes could be recognized in some way (example - Madison Heights Sustainability Stars with a garden sign or something)
 - i. Recycling and Composting (yr 1)
 - ii. Renewable Energy (yr 1 session 2)
 - iii. Green Transportation Options (yr 1 session 3)

- iv. Preventing Food Waste (yr 1 session 4)
- v. Buying Local (yr 2 session 1)
- vi. Gardening for nature (yr 2 session 2)
- vii. Invasive species (yr 2 session 3)
- viii. Alternative energy – Solar accessibility (yr 2 session 4)

Ideally, these programs would continue yearly so a resident could join in at any time.

- c. Create a Green Leaders program – this program would recognize environmental stewardship. To qualify, applicants would demonstrate activities in four categories and, depending on points awarded, receive a gold, silver, or bronze MH ECC Green Leaders sticker. The sticker could be displayed prominently on the window of businesses and can also be used in marketing materials. In addition, companies would be recognized during the City's State of the City also.