July 12, 2011

Dear Rockville City Council:

At our July 7 meeting, one topic of discussion was the proposal for one or more rain gardens near Lions Park by Pleasant Lake, and possibly one near City Hall.

We wish to support your further consideration of these projects. We support these rain gardens for several reasons, including:

1) Properly designed rain gardens are proven to reduce the amount of surface water runoff, and to improve the quality of what does run off. Rain gardens increase the percent of water that infiltrates into the soil, becoming part of the groundwater system that ultimately supports our rivers and lakes, especially in dry times.
2) The proposed rain gardens are in areas visible to the public, thus having good potential for public education – and hopefully inspiration to private landowners to copy what they see on city property.
3) The rain gardens will be more interesting and scenic than grass. Also, they should require less maintenance than lawn grass. But not zero maintenance. Hopefully, some neighbors will become interested in "adopting" these small and scenic areas, and pulling the inevitable weeds that will appear. Our experience with Eagle Park is that we have had good volunteer help, especially from park neighbors. We would be glad to volunteer to help with the initial planting.
4) Finally, an often overlooked benefit is that patches of native flowering plants can help support local populations of native pollinators. This is becoming more important as European honey bee colonies suffer from various poorly understood problems.

Respectfully yours,

JL Peck

John Peck, Secretary, Nature Parks and Trails Advisory Group

Sauk River Watershed District

7/5/2011

Sauk River Watershed District
524 4th Street South
Sauk Centre MN 56378

City of Rockville
Re: Lion's Park
229 Broadway Street East
Rockville, MN

Dear Landowner,

Enclosed is a summary of the site visit and recommendations conducted by the SRWD regarding your project. The next step is to obtain approval from City Council to pursue a cost estimate and design plan from a qualified landscaping contractor. Once obtained, the City will need to submit a design plan and cost estimate for approval.

If your project is eligible and approved, a **Financial Assistance Agreement** and **Operation and Maintenance Agreement** will be drafted for your project and sent to you for signature. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact our office (320-352-2231).

The Sauk River Watershed District would like to thank you for your efforts in improving the water quality of the Sauk River and the lakes and streams within the Sauk River Watershed District.

City of Rockville—Lion's Park
Site Visit—7-1-11
Site Summary and Recommendations
Reviewed by : Tara Ostendorf, Environmental Project Technician
Sauk River Watershed District

Landowner Concerns and Expectations:

The City of Rockville would like to use their public space to install rain gardens to capture and treat stormwater runoff before it reaches Pleasant Lake. The City would like to see at least three rain gardens installed on the property.

In order to keep cost down for the City, a contractor/landscaper could be hired to do the excavating/dirt work and volunteers could be used to provide in-kind match to the project. The City could also elect to have the contractor install the project completely and pay the 25% of the total project cost.

Photo Summary of Site Visit

Photo 1:

Aerial photo of Lion's Park with potential Rain garden sites outlined. City would need to decide exactly where the rain gardens should be placed.

Restoration Recommendations:

Photo 1:

This is one area that could potentially be turned into a rain garden. If a raingarden is placed here, it will need to be determined what surface or area is the water going to be coming from. It might be better to try to place the garden in the drainage area between the trail and the road, as this is already meant to capture and transport water.

Restoration Recommendations:

Photo 1:

This is one area that could potentially be turned into a rain garden. If a raingarden is placed here, it will need to be determined what surface or area is the water going to be coming from. It might be better to try to place the garden in the drainage area between the trail and the road, as this is already meant to capture and transport water.

Restoration Recommendations: Erosion Control Practices

Photo 1:

This area has the best potential for a rain garden planting. It is a shallow swale area already which captures runoff from the road and parking lot. This area is already providing some transport/storage for water and would be easily modified into a rain garden. It would be up to the City to determine how large of an area for the garden to encompass.

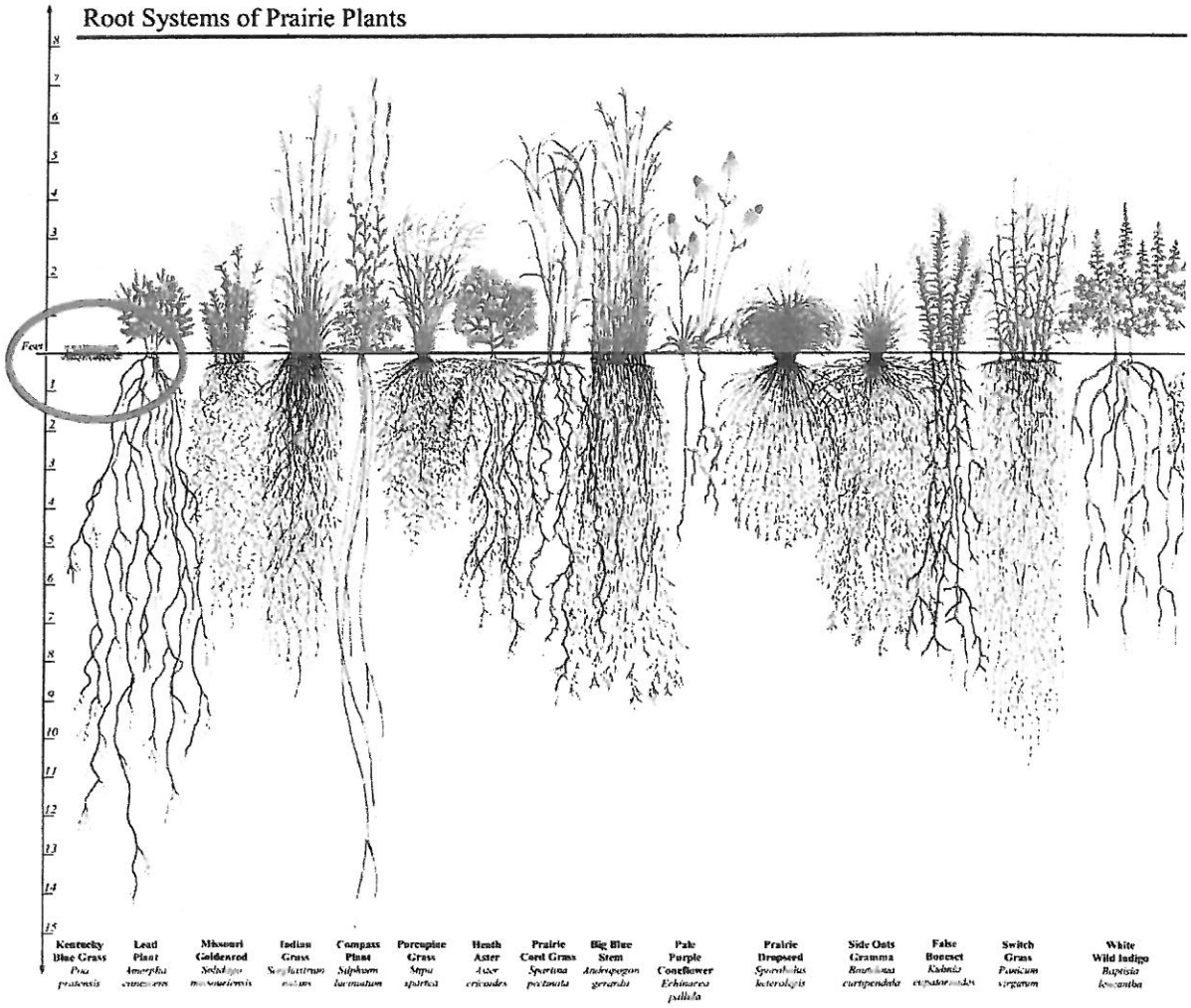
Some considerations are cost and maintenance. The larger the area, the more cost and labor for maintenance.

Restoration Recommendations:

The SRWD recommends that buffer areas be established with native vegetation along the entire shoreline of the property. Buffer zones use native grasses and wildflowers to maintain a natural shoreline. These natural areas reduce maintenance, provide habitat for wildlife, and reduce erosion from wind and waves.

Native grasses have extensive root systems that hold back fine particles of soil. Woody vegetation, such as dogwoods or willow species, provide strength to the bank against heavy wind and wave action. Red –osier dogwood is a flowering shrub which provides winter color, as the stems are bright red. Native plants generally do not need fertilizer and are tolerant of the weather, soil and water conditions.

Native plants have deep root systems that will grow as much as four times the depth of the lawn grass and other non-native plants. Native plants also do well in the Minnesota climate changes (droughts, floods and winter). If more natives are planted it would reduce yard work once established due to their ability to flourish with the changing weather and soil type. Natives plants also attract a variety of wildlife, such as butterflies and birds.



LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES

Cities May Take Over Electrical and Plumbing Inspections During State Shutdown

A city can pass an ordinance authorizing inspections of electrical installations and plumbing within its jurisdiction.
(Published Jul 8, 2011)

Across the state, construction projects are being delayed by a lack of state-provided electrical inspectors and plumbing plan approvals and inspections. Fortunately, cities can do something about this.

Electrical inspections
Under state law, any new electrical installation in virtually any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair must be inspected for compliance with accepted standards of construction for safety to life and property. While it's usually the state that performs these inspections, the state isn't doing any electrical inspections during shutdown. However, a city can pass an ordinance authorizing inspections of electrical installations within its jurisdiction.

Once the city conveys the adopted ordinance to the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), the city can allow inspections to be performed within the city by individuals licensed by the state as master or journeyman electricians. The city cannot require any electrician it uses to pay a licensing or registration fee to the city, but the ordinance may require that any "individual, partnership, corporation, or other business association doing electrical work" keep on file with the city a copy of his or her valid electrician's license.

Inspections must be performed by individuals insulated from conflicts. The statutes require the person doing the electrical inspections for a city not to engage in or be employed in the sale, installing, altering, or repairing of electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment for light, heat, power, and other purposes, and the person cannot have a financial interest in any concern engaged in such business.

Once the ordinance authorizing electrical inspections is passed, cities may be looking for an immediate source of electrical inspectors. One idea is to call cities that have already passed such an ordinance and contract for electrical inspection services. Again, both cities must have passed an ordinance authorizing inspections in their respective jurisdictions.

View a list of local inspectors from the DLI website (pdf) *(Link to: http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/eli_rptMunicipalInspectorsByCounty.pdf)*

League staff did hear some rumblings from the state, questioning whether cities may indeed pass such an ordinance authorizing electrical inspections in their jurisdiction. However, the League has learned through communications with the governor's office, that the DLI commissioner believes cities do indeed have the authority. Some cities have already decided to pass an ordinance, including Edina and Minneapolis. If your city would like to pass such an ordinance, the League has a sample ordinance.

View Sample Ordinance: Temporary Authority for City Electrical Inspections (doc) *(Link to:*

http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/electricalordinance.doc)

Plumbing plan approvals and inspections
Cities can also pass a local ordinance to perform plumbing plan approvals and inspections. Any city having a system of waterworks or sewerage, regardless of population, may adopt a local ordinance that provides for plumbing permits, approval of plans and specifications, and inspections of plumbing.

The local ordinance must conform to the state plumbing code. It must not prohibit state-licensed plumbers from engaging in or working at the business of plumbing (except in a city with a pre-1933 ordinance required the licensing of plumbers). A city ordinance must not require a plumber to post an additional bond since the state already requires that.

A performance bond may be required. The city may not require plumbers to have public liability insurance as a prerequisite for working on plumbing in the city. City ordinances must not require a license for persons performing building sewer or water service installation who have completed pipe laying training as prescribed by the state. A local inspector, given authority by local ordinance to issue plumbing permits and approve plumbing plans must report persistent or willful violation of the ordinance or any incompetence of a licensed plumber to the state. If your city would like to pass such an ordinance, the League has a sample ordinance.

View Sample Ordinance: Temporary Authority for City Plumbing Plan Approvals and Inspections (doc) *(Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/plumbingordinance.doc)*

Given that no one can predict the duration of the state government shutdown, cities have the option to pass local ordinances temporarily filling in for the lack of state electrical and plumbing services, and moving local construction projects along.

Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin *(Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)*

Your LMC Resource

Contact Tom Grundhoefer
General Counsel
(651) 281-1266 or (800) 925-1122
tgrundho@lmc.org *(Link to: mailto:tgrundho@lmc.org)*

Contact Jeanette Behr
Staff Attorney
(651) 281-1228 or (800) 925-1122
jbehr@lmc.org *(Link to: mailto:jbehr@lmc.org)*

Contact Edward Cadman
Staff Attorney
(651) 281-1229 or (800) 925-1122
ecadman@lmc.org *(Link to: mailto:ecadman@lmc.org)*

Before adopting any ordinance, including this one, a city should review it with its attorney to adapt it to the city's specific circumstances. Because provisions in these ordinances pertain to state statutes and rules, the city attorney should review any modifications to ensure they conform to current law.

ORDINANCE #**

CITY OF **
**** COUNTY STATE
OF MINNESOTA**

AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER ** OF THE CITY CODE OF ****, MINNESOTA.**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER ** BY ADDING THE MINNESOTA ELECTRICAL ACT TO **** OF THE CITY CODE**

The City of **** ordains:

SECTION 1: <u>AMENDMENT</u>

Chapter **** of the **** City Code is hereby amended with Ordinance #**** by adding The Minnesota Electrical Act to **** of the City Code which shall read as follows:

Section 1. **Authority to inspect**. The City of **** hereby provides for the inspection of all electrical installations, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.36. subd. 6.

Section 2. **Adopted by reference.** The Minnesota Electrical Act, as adopted by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 326B, Sections 326B.31 to 326B.399. The Minnesota Electrical Act is hereby incorporated into this ordinance as if fully set out herein. The Minnesota State Building Code incorporates by reference the National Electrical Code pursuant to Minn. R. 1315.0020. All such codes incorporated herein by reference constitute the electrical code of the City of ****.

Section 3. **Compliance**. All electrical installations shall comply with the requirements of the electrical code of the City of **** and this ordinance.

Section 4. **Permits and fees.** The issuance of permits and the collection of fees shall be as authorized in Minnesota Statutes 326B.37. Any inspection or handling fees will be payable to the City of ****.

Section 5. **Notice and appeal.** All notices of violations and orders issued under this ordinance shall be in conformance with Minn. Stat. § 326B.36, subd. 4.

Section 6. **Violations and penalties.** A violation of the Minnesota Electrical Act is a misdemeanor. (M.S. 326B.082, subd. 16).

Section 7. **Sunset**. This ordinance shall be revoked without further action of the city council once the Department of Labor and Industry is funded for the 2011 fiscal year by legislative enactment of a state budget.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this amendment is to establish an electrical inspections program in the City of **** that is administered and enforced by the City.

SECTION 3: SUMMARY

The following official summary of Ordinance #**** has been approved by the City Council of the City of **** as clearly informing the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance.

It is the intent and effect of Ordinance #**** to establish an electrical inspections program in the City of **** that is administered and enforced by the City, as permitted in Minn. Stat. § 326B.36, subd. 6.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

Adopted by the City Council or **** the **** day of ****, 2011.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk