

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND **Sustainability & Natural Resources** *NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING*
Committee

Monday, December 8, 2025

6:00 PM

McFarland Municipal Center
5915 Milwaukee St, McFarland
Community Room

AGENDA

The public may attend in-person or remotely through the Zoom webinar or telephone options listed below. *Please Note: Virtual attendance is offered as a convenience, but technical difficulties beyond the Village's control may prevent or limit its availability at any meeting. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting in person to assure full access to the proceedings.*

PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO JOIN THE ZOOM WEBINAR:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86843249644>

Or by Telephone: +1 (312) 626-6799

Webinar ID: 868 4324 9644

Press *9 to raise/lower hand. Press *6 to mute/unmute.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.
2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.
 - a. This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee for items that are not on the agenda. Please remember this is a hybrid meeting conducted in person and through the Zoom online meeting platform. Meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee about items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Zoom attendees should type their name and address in the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform at this time. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the Committee should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to sustainability@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.

Members of the public may also speak during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form or in the Question and Answer feature on Zoom.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Sustainability & Natural Resources meeting.
4. BUSINESS.
 - a. Presentation of forestry operations for 2025
 - b. Update regarding Grand View Conservancy tree removals
 - c. Discussion on RecycleWise with Lori Whitman.
5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.
 - a. Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format should contact the McFarland Municipal Center at (608)838-3153, 5915 Milwaukee Street, McFarland, Wisconsin, or village.clerk@mcfarland.wi.us by 2:00 p.m. at least 5 business days prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request. If the meeting or request is less than 5 business days from the meeting, requests for accommodations may still be made and reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate each request.

Minutes
Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee Meeting
November 10, 2025

Committee Members Present: Miguel Pena, Alisa Leamy, Lori Whitman, Kaci Coconate, Michael Allen

Committee Members Absent: Christine Mania

Staff Present: Andrew Bremer, Community and Economic Development Director; Lee Igl, Public Works Director; Kong Thao, Associate Planner; Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent; Phil McDade, Utility Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Miguel Pena called the joint meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

No public appearances.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025 Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting.

Motion by Pena, second by Allen, to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025, Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

4. BUSINESS

a. Discussion on Net Energy Measurement and Verification Audit of the Public Safety Center.

Bremer discussed with the committee the energy audit of the village's Public Safety Building. The building is more energy efficient than most comparable buildings, using 86 percent less energy than a similar-sized building built without energy efficiencies. But energy use during night-time hours is more than originally forecast. Village energy consultants HGA will continue to investigate ways to reduce energy usage at the building, particularly at night when building usage is more limited than during daytime hours.

b. Discussion on seed library.

Committee members discussed approaching civic groups that might be interested in developing a seed library, similar to community Little Library stands, that could potentially be placed at the village Community Garden on Anthony Street.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a. Monday, December 8, 2025 at 6 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Pena motioned to adjourn; Allen seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.



McFarland
SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: Monday, December 8, 2025

SECTION: Business

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

CONTACT: Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation of forestry operations for 2025

PREVIOUS ACTION:

None

ISSUE SUMMARY:

The following provides a summary of forestry operations for 2025 and a high-level overview for 2026.

Actions completed in 2025

- Contracted tree removals completed - 5.
- Street and park stumps ground - 20.
- Street and park trees trimmed (Zones 4 and 2) — over 350 (1 contracted).
- Street and park trees planted (Zones 3, 4, 5) — 97 trees planted.
- 2024 Replacements — 5 replacements from 2024 tree planting.
- Rosewood Fields Development - Phase 2-40 trees planted
- No street park trees water this year as there were good soil moisture conditions
- Arbor Day Celebration with a tree giveaway and planting education/demonstration.
- Saw logs donated to McFarland School District - 2
- Tree City USA status — 15 years with 4 years of growth award
- Treatment of Holiday tree.

Actions to be completed in 2025

- Complete application for Tree City USA.
- Trimming and removal of selected cottonwoods at McDaniel Park.

2026 Outlook

- Arbor Day Celebration — tentatively set for Friday, April 24, 2026, at the Lewis Park shelter.
- Continue treatment of Holiday tree and deadwood pruning
- Street and park tree trimming — Zone 1 and selected parks



- Street and park tree planting — Zone 1 and 2, select replacements, and parks.
- Second round of trimming of cottonwood trees at McDaniel Park.
- Rosewood Fields development street tree planting — Phase 3 and 4

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

The 2025 budget provided \$30,000 for tree planting.

VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:

[2024 Urban Forestry Management Plan](#)

ORDINANCE REFERENCE:

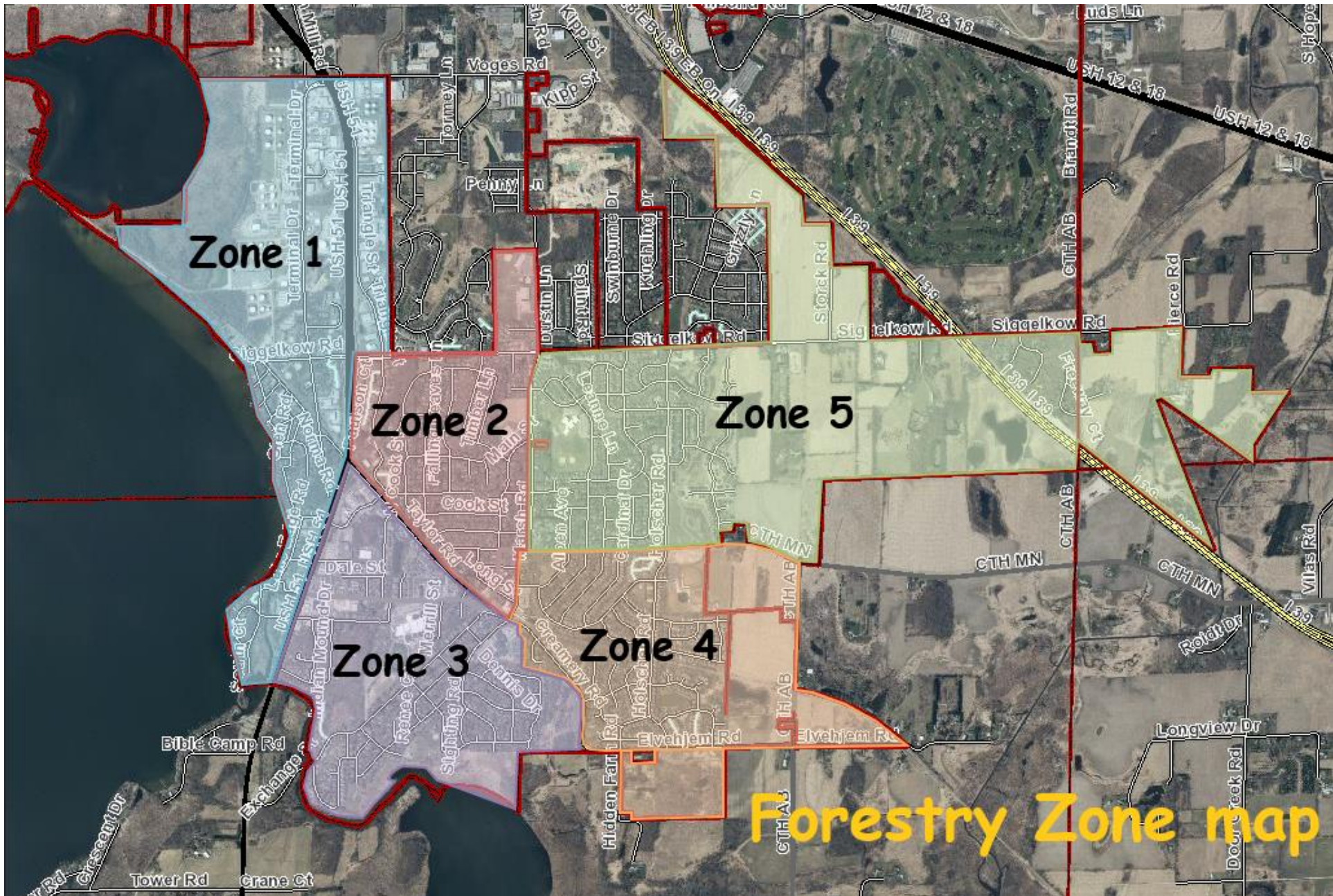
Chapter 59 Article II Trees and Shrubs

BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

This item is discussion only.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Forestry Zones




McFarland
SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: Monday, December 8, 2025

SECTION: Business

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

CONTACT: Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent

AGENDA ITEM: Update regarding Grand View Conservancy tree removals

PREVIOUS ACTION:

None.

ISSUE SUMMARY:

For 2025, dedicated funding was provided for conservancy management work. Grand View Conservancy has a history of storm-related issues. Boxelder trees (*Acer negundo*) are the dominant tree species growing in the conservancy. Although these trees are native, they're highly susceptible to storm damage due to weak wood and poor structure. The western property line of the southern unit of Grand View has many of the trees overhanging the backyards of adjacent homes. The trees that present the greatest concern of failure have been selected for removal. Removal of trees is one of the first management activities listed in the conservancy management plan for Grand View.

Adjacent homeowners were mailed a letter in November describing the work that was going to take place. A few adjacent homeowners have also permitted us to access the area from their property to complete the work.

A contractor will be performing the work to bring the selected trees down. Due to the number of trees that present a concern and available funding, the material will remain in the conservancy for the time being. As conditions permit, village staff will removed material.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

The 2025 budget provided \$20,000 of funding for conservancy management.

VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:

[2023 Conservancy Management Plan](#)

ORDINANCE REFERENCE:

None.

BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for discussion only.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Grand View Conservancy Map

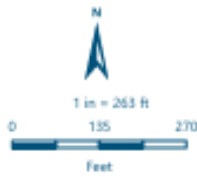


2. Grand View Conservancy Images
3. Grand View Conservancy - Management Guideline Table



Cartographer: schwaartz | POC: MP | Path: R:\page\env\proj\00338_Village_of_McDonald\JRM\PP01_01108_Village_of_McDonald_JRM\Mapag | Layout: Figure 5 - Existing Plant Communities (Portrait)

Figure 5b
Existing Plant Communities
Grand View Conservancy



Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.

Spatial Reference
NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane Wisconsin South FIPS 4803 Ft US
Date Exported: 6/1/2023
Project Number: 106768









Table 50. Grand View Conservancy Opinion of Probable Costs

Community Type	Activity	Win Yr-1	Spr Yr-2	Sum Yr-2	Fall Yr-2	Win Yr-2	Spr Yr-3	Sum Yr-3	Fall Yr-3	Win Yr-3	Spr Yr-4	Sum Yr-4	Fall Yr-4	Win Yr-4	
Southern Mesic Forest	GMU-3A (4.31 acres)														
	Woody invasive forestry mowing, stump treatments	\$10,775													
	Tree girdling/removal	\$43,100													
	Spot-herbicide treatments - herb stratum		\$2,200	\$2,200			\$2,400	\$2,400			\$2,650	\$2,650			
	Prescribed burning				\$5,000										
	Native seed installation				\$1,750										
	Native tree and shrub installation						\$107,750								
	Maintenance mowing						\$900	\$900			\$1,000	\$1,000			
	Long-term management													\$8,750	
	GMU-3B (2.89 acres)														
	Woody invasive hand removal, stump treatments	\$14,500													
	Tree girdling/removal	\$28,900													
	Spot-herbicide treatments - herb stratum		\$1,500	\$1,500			\$1,650	\$1,650			\$1,800	\$1,800			
	Prescribed burning				\$3,500										
Native seed installation				\$7,250											
Native tree and shrub installation						\$72,250									
Maintenance mowing						\$600	\$600			\$650	\$650				
Long-term management														\$6,000	
Southern Hardwood Swamp	GMU-1A-HS, GMU-1B (4.76 acres)														
	Woody invasive hand removal, stump treatments	\$23,800													
	Tree girdling/removal	\$5,000													
	Spot-herbicide treatments - herb stratum		\$2,400	\$2,400			\$2,650	\$2,650			\$3,000	\$3,000			
	Native tree and shrub installation						\$47,600								
	Native seed installation								\$11,900						
Long-term management													\$10,000		
Emergent Marsh	GMU-1A-EM, GMU-1B (7.55 acres)														
	Broadcast-spray herb stratum		\$2,000												
	Spot-herbicide treatments - herb stratum			\$4,000			\$4,400	\$4,400			\$4,850	\$4,850			
	Prescribed burning				\$5,000										
	Native seed installation				\$18,875										
	Native plant installation						\$30,200								
Long-term management													\$16,000		
Pond Shoreline	GMU-1B (0.68 acres)														
	Native plant installation						\$10,200								
	Spot-herbicide treatments - herb stratum						\$700	\$700			\$770	\$770			
	Long-term management													\$2,500	
Wet Prairie	GMU-1A-WM (3.86 acres)														
	Woody invasive hand removal, stump treatments	\$19,300													
	Broadcast-spray reed canary grass		\$1,000	\$1,000											
	Prescribed burning				\$3,500										
	Native seed installation				\$4,725										
	Maintenance mowing						\$800	\$800			\$900	\$900			
	Spot-herbicide treatments - herb stratum						\$1,950	\$1,950			\$2,200	\$2,200			
Long-term management													\$7,500		



**VILLAGE OF
McFarland
SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: Monday, December 8, 2025

SECTION: Business

DEPARTMENT: Community Development

CONTACT: Kong Thao, Associate Planner

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on RecycleWisc with Lori Whitman.

PREVIOUS ACTION:

ISSUE SUMMARY:

Lori Whitman started the RecycleWisc Styrofoam collection program in October 2024. This is a self-led, free Styrofoam pick-up and recycling service for residents and small businesses within the Village of McFarland. Lori schedules personal pick-ups with residents then drops off the materials at [Reynolds Urethane Recycling, Inc.](#), the only location in the Madison area with the appropriate facilities that can process Styrofoam. Below are some achievements by Lori between October 10, 2024 and December 4, 2025:

- 208 pickups in the Village
- 49 deliveries to Reynolds Urethane Recycling, Inc.
- The cumulative quantity (5,500 cubic feet) is equal to approximately 86% of a 53-foot semi-trailer.
- 2 collection bin locations: McFarland Lutheran Church and McFarland United Church of Christ.
- 40+ residents dropped off Styrofoam during the Community Service Day, April 26, 2025.
- Nominee for [Sustain Dane's Live Forward Award](#) at the annual [Sustain Dane Summit on November 7, 2025](#). This award recognizes "change-makers and inclusive leaders who are locally promoting thriving sustainability, community healing, and resiliency. The nominee's work impacts one or more areas of holistic sustainability: a healthy environment, equity & social well-being, and a just economy."
- Lori attended Mount Horeb's Sustainability Committee meeting to answer questions related to starting a similar program.
- RecycleWisc was highlighted in the January 2025 Chamber of Commerce Newsletter.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:

[Sustainability Plan, 2021](#)

The Solid Waste section of this plan discusses lowering the amount of waste that goes into the landfill, which contributes to the Village's overall carbon footprint. A Solid Waste Indicator



states the following: *Total Solid Waste Generated Including Recycling (tons/yr) Baseline - 3,849.76%; Goal - Decrease by 10% by 2030.*

ORDINANCE REFERENCE:

BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for discussion only.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Styrofoam flyer Oct 2025 (1)

McFarland FREE Styrofoam Pickup Service

*To schedule a pickup,
email Lori at RecycleWisc@gmail.com*



- **Styrofoam CANNOT be put into your Village recycling bin.**
- **Styrofoam should not be put into your Village trash bin.**
(It takes 500 years to decompose in landfills.)

Pickup information

- To schedule a free pickup, email Lori at RecycleWisc@gmail.com.
Provide your first name and address. We will schedule a pickup date and time based on mutual availability.
- Driveway or parking lot pickup only.
- Styrofoam pickup service is available to residents & small businesses in the Village of McFarland.

What I can take

- **Styrofoam packaging** that protects items during shipping.
- **Clean food containers** - egg cartons, carry out containers, styrofoam cups, etc.
Remove all food and labels!
- Only **packing peanuts that float** can be recycled. Those that disintegrate in water cannot be recycled. Test them before giving them to me.
- **All items must be completely clean and dry!** No food, tape, labels, etc.

Where does it go?

The Styrofoam goes to Reynolds Urethane Recycling, Inc. for specialized processing.

Styrofoam takes over 500 years to decompose in landfills.

25%-35% of all landfill waste is from styrofoam products.

Over 5 billion pounds of styrofoam ends up in our landfills and waterways each year.

<https://healthepianet.com/100-ways-to-heal-the-planet/styrofoam>

★ **THANK YOU to Reynolds Urethane Recycling, Inc. for its** ★
financial support of the RecycleWisc Styrofoam collection program!
(RecycleWisc is an independently-provided service.)