

**Environmental Committee Meeting Agenda  
City of Prairie Village  
Prairie Village City Hall, Multipurpose Room  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
5:30 PM**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of the Agenda**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. Minutes
    - i. February 25, 2026 Environmental Committee meeting minutes
- IV. Presentations**
  - A. Update on 2024 Building Code Adoption Process
- V. Old Business**
  - A. 75th Anniversary Parade
  - B. VillageFest
  - C. 2026 Mayor's Monarch Pledge
- VI. New Business**
- VII. Announcements**
  - A. Upcoming meetings and events
- VIII. Adjourn**

**If any individual requires special accommodations – for example, qualified interpreter, large print, reader, hearing assistance – in order to attend the meeting, please notify the City Clerk at 913-385-4616, no later than 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.**

**The Prairie Village Environmental Committee Meeting met at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, in the Prairie Village City Hall Multipurpose Room. The recording secretary was Tamara McMahon.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:26 pm

Members in attendance: Jim Sellers (Chair) Magna Born, Mae Ellen Terrebonne, Melinda Lewis, Tamara McMahon, Jeff Roberts, Piper Reimer, Penny Mahon, Garry Polley, Drew Richardson, Johanna Comes, Rick Wohlfarth and Travis Carson. City Administrator Wes Jordan was also in attendance and filled in as staff liaison.

Tonight was Mae Ellen, Garry, and Drew's first meeting with the committee. The group went around and introduced themselves.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Rick made a motion to approve the agenda. Magda seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **Approval of the January 2026 Minutes**

Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes. Rick seconded the motion.

The word ReUseFul is misspelled and should be corrected to ReUseFull. All committee members are in favor of approval with the spelling correction.

### **Presentation**

Wes Jordan provided an overview of Environmental Committee key accomplishments. While not a comprehensive list, it is a snapshot of the impressive accomplishments generated by this committee.

### **Environmental Committee Noteworthy Accomplishments**

1. EV charging stations
  - a. Added 3 EV charging stations for a total of 6 chargers
  - b. Wassmer Park will get two more stations
  - c. Instrumental in getting 2 charging stations at Corinth and PV Mall
2. Purchased efficient hybrid vehicles for official city use
  - a. PD has 12 Ford Explorers, 1 Honda CRV, and 1 Toyota Rav 4
  - b. PW has 5 hybrid pickup truck, 1 electric truck, 1 electric car
  - c. Codes has 2 hybrid pickup trucks, 1 electric car
3. Efficient buildings
  - a. Achieved LEED platinum rating for the public works building

- b. Installed geothermal heating and cooling system for city hall and police department
  - c. New City Hall will be LEED certified
- 4. Waste reduction
  - a. Introduced a composting pilot program currently scheduled for expansion
  - b. Consistently utilizes Ripple Glass recycling containers at one of the highest levels in Johnson County
  - c. Conducts citywide annual mattress pick-up and recycling program
- 5. Citizen education
  - a. Regularly participates in civic events including VillageFest, native plant sales, etc.
- 6. Climate action guides
  - a. Worked with consultant to develop the municipal climate action plan
  - b. Worked with consultant to develop the climate action guide
- 7. Other
  - a. Committed to the Cities Race to Zero
  - b. Supports the wind/clean energy pledge
  - c. Supports the Mayor's Monarch program
  - d. Conducted multiple greenhouse gas/energy audits

## **Old Business**

**Solid waste contract history and update (Wes)** Wes provided a history of solid waste in Prairie Village starting with Deffenbaugh. Wes noted that service quality suffered when Deffenbaugh was sold to Waste Management. Prairie Village has the second largest contract in county, which can pose challenges. The current contract with Republic is coming to an end and options are being reviewed. Options include the potential for annual contract extension for a maximum of 5 years or going out to bid for a new contract. The current contract expires December 31, 2026.

The Environmental Committee conducted an informal survey of its members to determine top priorities related to solid waste diversion. Composting, glass recycling, and multiple bin sizes are the top three responses from Environmental Committee members. Wes noted that the city does not have the required staff capacity to customize taxes based on bin size per house. There was discussion around rules or recommendations to businesses within Prairie Village regarding recycling and composting.

Rick made a motion to request City Council investigate options and costs for glass recycling. Piper seconded the motion. 11 were in favor, 1 abstained.

**Sleepyhead beds update (Wes)** – Wes reported that 460 mattresses have been diverted from the landfill to date in Prairie Village. Sleepyhead will pick up and recycle mattresses at the 2026 large item pick-up with the help of recycling partner Bridging the Gap.

**Climate Action KC meeting review (Rick)** Rick provided an update on the Climate Action KC meeting and highlighted efforts discussed by other cities. Next meeting is in April. Rick will send Ashley a document with these highlights.

**Tomahawk Stem night update (Tamara)** Tamara will have a beekeeping display at the Tomahawk Elementary STEAM night on Thursday, 3/26. Piper is working with public works to transport the monarch butterfly prop for the event.

**Update on school sustainability grants (Melinda)** The grant application closes 3/31. Melinda is communicating with schools regarding the grants.

**75th anniversary parade -May 2** Parade route is from City Hall to Corinth. Volunteers to coordinate committee parade participation include Drew (lead), Jeff and Johanna. They will provide an update on options at the March meeting.

#### **New Business**

**2026 Mayor's monarch pledge (Piper and Johanna)** – Jim sent the motion to the mayor. Discussion will be added to the next meeting. Ashley sent the 2026 Mayors Monarch pledge via email today. Please review it prior to the next meeting.

**Recycling Extravaganza** April 11, 9 a.m - 2 p.m. Volunteers include Tamara (lead), Jeff, Crystal, Mae Ellen, and Jim

**Deep Roots plant sale** May 9. Piper and Johanna are working together on this event. Piper will work with public works on logistics.

**VillageFest** July 4 – Pushed to March agenda. Plan for higher attendance due to World Cup. Rick will contact JD regarding composting at the Village Fest and obtain pricing information from vendors.

**Other** All committee members need to sign the code of conduct if they have not already done so.

**Announcements** Next Meeting March 25, 2026 – Agenda items will include 75<sup>th</sup> parade, VillageFest and the Mayor's Monarch Pledge

#### **Adjourn**

Rick made a motion to adjourn. Penny seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.



## Old Business: 75th Anniversary Parade

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### Recommendation

Staff recommends the Environmental Committee determine whether they will participate in the 75th Anniversary Parade, and if so, in what capacity.

### Background

The City of Prairie Village will host a community parade at 10 a.m. May 2 to celebrate its 75th anniversary. The theme of the parade is "Prairie Village Through the Decades."

Neighborhood groups, civic clubs, schools, churches, local businesses and other organizations are encouraged to participate. Options include floats, decorated vehicles, classic cars, performance groups and walking groups. Each entry is encouraged to select a decade to celebrate from the 1950s to today.

Anyone who would like to participate in the parade is encouraged to register by April 1. Parade registration and other information can be found online at [pvkansas.com/75](http://pvkansas.com/75).

### Fiscal Note

Limited funds are available in the Environmental Committee's promotions budget. Other funds may be available through cost savings in other EC budget line items.

### Attachments

None

### Prepared By

Ashley Freburg, Public Information Officer  
March 19, 2026



## Old Business: VillageFest

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### Recommendation

Staff recommends the Environmental Committee determine whether they will participate in VillageFest 2026, and if so, in what capacity.

### Background

For several years, the Prairie Village Environmental Committee has maintained a robust presence at VillageFest. The Committee's pavilion at the event included a children's craft, a seed ball making station, a beekeeper, a monarch lifecycle display, a monarch butterfly photo prop, a sample Monarch way station, information on various Environmental Committee initiatives, and shared space with the Johnson County Master Naturalists.

If the Environmental Committee does intend to participate in the 75th Anniversary Parade, the Committee may decide to scale-back VillageFest activities, like the children's craft. However, a decision on this topic should be made soon so that other organizations may be tapped to lead any efforts the Environmental Committee chooses to abandon.

Additionally, the Committee has expressed some interest in coordinating composting at city events. If the Committee chooses to pursue composting at VillageFest, plans need to be made soon for these initiatives.

### Fiscal Note

The 2026 Environmental Committee budget includes \$500 for supplies and an additional \$3000 for waste diversion efforts at city events.

### Attachments

None

### Prepared By

Ashley Freburg, Public Information Officer  
March 19, 2026



## Old Business: 2026 Mayor's Monarch Pledge

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### Recommendation

The Mayor's Monarch Pledge subcommittee recommends approval of actions outlined as part of the 2026 Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

### Background

For the sixth year in a row, Mayor Mikkelson has joined a long and growing list of mayors nationally who have committed to taking steps in the cities they represent to protect and support the iconic Monarch butterfly and, in the process, protect many other pollinator species critical to the health and longevity of our local, regional and national ecosystems. Since the inception of the program in 2015, over 600 mayors and heads of local and tribal governments have signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, committing to creating monarch and pollinator habitats and educating residents about monarch conservation.

This year, as part of the Prairie Village commitment to work toward these goals, the Environmental Committee would like to begin by acknowledging the Public Works leadership and staff for all of the tremendous hours of often overlooked work they perform year round to maintain and care for the city public spaces, particularly the parks, to the very high standards Prairie Village residents and visitors expect and rely on. This is an effort that requires continuous investment including extensive long-term planning and almost constant hands-on care during our long growing season. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions and vision of past and current members of the Parks and Recreation Committee for all their investments in the success of the remarkable system of parks we have in Prairie Village.

The Environmental Committee would also like to specifically highlight and acknowledge the foresight and investments utilized to establish and maintain Bennett Park, 5100 W. 77th Street, as a pesticide-free park. Bennett Park is an excellent example of the successful introduction of sustainable land management practices into urban parkland.

In support of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge commitment and continuance of the city's decades-long investments in pursuit of improving sustainability the Environmental Committee is requesting that the city commit to implementing these next steps in 2026:

- Develop a Monarch Waystation in Bennett Park, potentially utilizing a local partner such as Johnson County Extension Master Naturalists to assist with planning, implementation and maintenance. At a minimum this would be a 200-300 sf area holding 25-40 native plants
- Register the Waystation with Monarch Watch
- Install a hedgerow of native shrubs in Bennett Park that would provide substantial additional food and shelter for birds and insects
- Install/Maintain educational signage for both the Waystation and the native

hedge

- Improve the signage indicating Bennett Park as a pesticide-free park
- Identify the next park to become managed and designated as pesticide free and develop a plan to begin that process.
  - The Environmental Committee proposes that Wassmer Park, 4805 W. 67th Street, be strongly considered for the following reasons:
    - It has high visibility to not only residents, but also the many people who pass through Prairie Village on Roe Avenue each day, which increases the exposure and therefore educational opportunities this offers.
    - This park is already home to a Johnson County Master Gardeners display garden, which is also a certified Monarch Waystation, so has a reputation for being a place where people can come to learn about gardening, plants and the importance of creating/maintaining pollinator habitats.
    - The many young visitors to the very popular playground and large play area in the park would benefit from the absence of pesticides.
- Meet with JCPRD to request consideration of more native planting areas in Meadowbrook Park, called out in the original Meadowbrook Park Master Plan (particularly in the far southeast corner of the park).

Implementation of these initiatives would fulfill the following Mayors' Monarch Pledge action items:

- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed/native nectar plant planting programs.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent community location.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat beyond monarch demonstration gardens.

The Environmental Committee recognizes that the implementation of these initiatives would require resource investments in the form of planning, funding and physical labor, but view these as practical and reasonable investments that would yield valuable, long-term returns by having created another opportunity for community engagement, increased community knowledge and significant enhancements to the health of our community ecosystem as well as providing an example that residents could reproduce/reference in their own yards for generations to come.

If this proposal were to receive support from the Environmental Committee, next steps would include collaborative planning with invested parties including representatives from the Environmental Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and Public Works Department, with possible inclusion of community resources such as Johnson County Extension Master Naturalists and Johnson County Masters Gardeners.

The following websites provide additional information and resources regarding the benefits, community value and process for developing a municipal native plant

garden(s) from local/regional organizations, details of the National Wildlife Foundation Mayors' Monarch Pledge program, as well as examples of successful municipal native plant/pollinator garden programs:

<https://grownative.org/learn/natives-for-communities/municipalities-toolkit/>

<https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/programs/lawn-garden/healthy-yards-and-native-gardens/native-gardens/>

<https://www.jocogov.org/department/public-works/stormwater-management/contain-the-rain>

<https://deeprootskc.org/native-plants/>

<https://plantnativeks.weebly.com/about>

<https://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/>

<https://mayorsmonarchportal.nwf.org/>

<https://shop.monarchwatch.org/product/Monarch-Waystation-Sign/125618>

<https://moprairie.org/about/our-partners/>

### **Fiscal Note**

The financial impact of these requests has not been studied. A funding source has not been determined.

### **Attachments**

None

### **Prepared By**

Ashley Freburg, Public Information Officer  
March 19, 2026

## **Upcoming events**

- 75th Anniversary 5K run/walk - March 28, 8 a.m.
- Overland Park Recycling Extravaganza - Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd.
- Large Item Pickup - Saturdays, April 11 - May 2
- 75th Anniversary parade and party at Corinth Square - May 2, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Native Plant Sale, City Hall parking lot – May 9
- VillageFest - July 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## **2026 Committee Meeting Dates**

- Environmental Committee meeting - April 22, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - May 27, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - June 24, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - August 26, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - September 23, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - October 28, 5:30 p.m.
- Environmental Committee meeting - December 9, 5:30 p.m.