



Community of Long Lake

2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Adjacent and Affected Jurisdiction Review and Comment Form

Adjacent or Affected Jurisdiction Name: MN DNR

Please check the appropriate box:

- We have reviewed the proposed Plan Update, do not have any comments, and are therefore waiving further review.

We have reviewed the proposed Plan Update and offer the following comments (attach additional sheets if necessary)

The mission of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. With these things in mind, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Long Lake's draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan. We support the city's commitment to "encourage sustainable environmental practices in all projects" and manage your "lake to improve water quality, preserve natural habitats and maintain a healthy lakeshore."

The following comments outline other ways to further these goals:

Native Species. We recommend discussing the Natural Resources description in the plan (p.6) of some areas that are very close to Long Lake, in particular two significant natural resource area : the native plant communities within the Wood Rill and Woldsfeld Woods Scientific and Natural Areas. To benefit local natural areas, such as these unique resources, your plan could include policies that encourage private and public developments to be planted with native flowers, grasses, shrubs and tree species. Residential homeowners could also be encouraged to increase the diversity of native plants in their yards. Species such as monarchs rely on these plants, and it does not take many plants to attract butterflies, other beneficial pollinators as well as migrating and resident birds. Adding more native plants into landscaping, not only enhances the health and diversity of pollinators and wildlife populations, these plants can also help filter and store storm water, a strategy that will further other goals in your plan. For more information consult DNR's [pollinator page](#). Plant lists and suggestions for native plants can be incorporated into:

- Proposed landscape guidelines to improve the aesthetics in for commercial and industrial areas, including the Village Design guidelines.
- Street tree planting plans
- City gateway feature
- Along ponds and waterways.
- Small nature play areas in children's parks
- Along the edges of ballfield complexes.
- Lakeshores

The Rusty Patch Bumble Bee is one species that would benefit from these measures. The DNR's Natural Heritage Information database has a record of Rusty Patch Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*) near your community. We encourage you to consult U.S. Fish and Wildlife's website for information on this federally-listed endangered species. <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/>.

Community Forestry. The loss of tree canopy due to threats such as emerald ash borer and oak wilt has negative impacts on the county's health and environment, and a planned community forest can provide numerous community benefits. The first step to achieving a resilient community forest is conducting a tree inventory. The second step is developing a community forestry management plan that includes strategies for managing trees, especially ash, and encouraging a diverse tree canopy on private and public lands. It would be worth mentioning if Long Lake has developed a forestry management plan, along with plans for implementation, as part of a strategy to meet environmental goals and policies.

Development / Transportation Policies to Protect Wildlife. Consider adding policies that take wildlife into consideration as transportation and redevelopment projects occur. To enhance the health and diversity of wildlife populations, encourage private and public developments to retain or restore natural areas planted with native species. One larger area is better than several small "islands" or patches; and connectivity of habitat is important. Animals such as frogs and turtles need to travel between wetlands and uplands throughout their life cycle. Consult [DNR's Best Practices for protection of species](#) and [Roadways and Turtles Flyer](#) for self-mitigating measures to incorporate into design and construction plans.

Examples of more specific measures include:

- Preventing entrapment and death of small animals especially reptiles and amphibians, by specifying biodegradable erosion control netting ('bio-netting' or 'natural netting' types (category 3N or 4N)), and specifically not allow plastic mesh netting. (p. 25)
- Providing wider culverts or other passageways under paths, driveways and roads while still considering impacts to the floodplain.
- Including a passage bench under bridge water crossings. (p. 17) because typical bridge riprap can be a barrier to animal movement along streambanks.
- Curb and stormwater inlet designs that don't inadvertently direct small mammals and reptiles into the storm sewer. (p. 24). Installing "surmountable curbs" (Type D or S curbs) allows animals (e.g., turtles) to climb over and exit roadways. Traditional curbs/gutters tend to trap animals on the roadway. Another option is to install/create curb breaks every, say, 100 feet (especially important near wetlands).
- Using smart salting practices to reduce impacts to downstream aquatic species.
- Fencing could be installed near wetlands to help keep turtles off the road (fences that have a j-hook at each end are more effective than those that don't).

Reviewer: Martha Vickery, regional coordinator, Lands and Minerals Division

Date: 12/19/18

Signature of Reviewer: _____

