



Village of Downers Grove

Environmental Concerns Commission – Agenda

Table 1 - Detailed information on this Board or Commission meeting.

Meeting Location	Civic Center – Room 120: CD Conference Room
Meeting Address	850 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL 60515
Meeting Date	October 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Call to Order.

Roll Call.

Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes.

- Draft Minutes from August 24, 2026

New Business.

- A. Update on Private Tree Regulations

Old Business.

Next Meeting.

- November 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Adjournment.



Village of Downers Grove

Environmental Concerns Commission – Minutes

Table 1 - Detailed information on this Board or Commission meeting.

Meeting Location	Civic Center – Training Room (Council Chamber East)
Meeting Address	850 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL 60515
Meeting Date	August 24, 2026 at 06:00 PM

Call to Order.

Chair Pelloso called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked for a roll call

Roll Call.

Table 2 - Roll Call of Commissioners Present and Absent

Commissioner	Present	Absent
G. Baldassari	x	
P. Bolton	x	
L. Dantoft		x
L. Donnelly	x	
K. Lerner	x	
B. Johnson	x	
L. Pelloso	x	
Also present: Jason Michnick, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Village of Downers Grove.		

Chair Pelloso declared a quorum present.

Public Comments.

S. Ruffolo asked whether the commission would have the opportunity to provide input into the discussion Village Council is having about private tree preservation. He stated that at least one Village Council member asked for the commission's input during their initial discussion on August 11, 2026.

Approval of Minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2026 meeting was made by L. Donnelly. Seconded by R. Johnson. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Business.

A. Promoting Native Landscaping

Staff shared a brief presentation that highlighted the stated goals and objectives in Guiding DG Sustainability related to landscaping practices on public and private property. Staff also identified specific parts of the Village's Municipal Code that impact landscaping practices, such as:

- Restrictions: sight lines
- Protections: parkway trees
- Prohibitions: invasive plants
- Permissions: encroachment permit
- Standards: new landscaping size
- Requirements: parking lot landscaping
- Maintenance Obligations: mowing parkway
- Incentives: stormwater credits

The commission asked how any potential ordinance related to private tree regulations would fit into the strategies to promote native landscaping. Staff stated that an initial presentation only covered how other communities regulate trees and the details of any ordinance had not been determined yet. The commission asked

several questions about how other communities regulate trees, including requirements for new trees or a fee-in-lieu when removing trees during construction. Replacement and fees are a common strategy included in private tree regulations.

Staff also informed the commission that the Planning and Zoning Commission had previously discussed and recommended modifications to the Zoning Ordinance that would include requirements for native landscaping on new developments or redevelopment projects. The scope of those requirements may change based on input from Village Council when final adoption is taking place, including whether requirements would extend to residential properties.

The commission also acknowledged that promoting native landscaping needs to focus on building awareness to existing properties, since regulations would only be triggered at the time of development. The commission recommended that staff find or create educational materials. The Village could also support bulk buy programs for plants and native trees that residents could take advantage of for their yards. The Village may also want to have designated signage for residents that maintain meadow-like or prairie-like yards that are “messier” than traditional turf grass yards. This would help educate neighbors and limit complaints about code compliance. The Commission could also consider creating some kind of award or recognition program for residents that have exceptional native landscaping.

Old Business.

There was no old business.

Next Meeting.

- September 28, 2026

Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn by L. Donnelly. Seconded by G. Baldassari. The motion to adjourn was carried on a voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.