

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH
AGENDA
Special City Council
Medicine Lake Room
3400 Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, MN
April 8, 2025, 5:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. TOPICS

2.1 Yard waste site management

2.2 Set future study sessions
1. Calendar

3. ADJOURNMENT

To: Dave Callister, City Manager

Prepared by: Jennifer Tomlinson, Parks and Recreation Director

Reviewed by: Maria Solano, Deputy City Manager

Item: **Yard waste site management**

1. Action Requested:

Review alternative options for the City of Plymouth Yard Waste Site

2. Background:

The Yard Waste Site provides a service to the residents of Plymouth, Medicine Lake, Wayzata, and Long Lake, offering a designated location for the environmentally responsible disposal of yard waste. The site has been in operation for over 40 years.

- **Location & Access:** The Yard Waste Site is open to residents of Plymouth, Medicine Lake, Wayzata, and Long Lake, with proof of residence required for access. Commercial haulers and landscapers are prohibited from using the site.
- **Operating Schedule:** The site is open from the first Wednesday in April through the last Sunday in November, weather permitting.
- **Size & History:** The site spans approximately two acres and has been in operation for over four decades. Originally, it was created to assist residents with the disposal of leaves and grass clippings, but its role has expanded over the years.

In the 1990s, in response to a state ban on the burning of diseased tree debris, the site began accepting trees and brush, expanding the types of yard waste that could be disposed of. Starting in 2001, grass clippings were no longer accepted at the site due to the availability of environmentally friendly alternatives (e.g., backyard composting, contractor pickup, mulching mowers) and the creation of noxious odors from composting clippings at the site.

The Yard Waste Site continues to accept various types of yard waste, including leaves,

tree debris, and brush, but grass clippings are no longer allowed. The increased population of the city has resulted in growing quantities of yard waste, putting additional strain on the site capacity.

Challenges:

- **Site Constraints:** The physical size of the site (two acres) has remained the same over the years, despite the increase in yard waste volume. This has led to more frequent processing (screening, grinding, and hauling).
- **Emerald Ash Borer Infestation:** The ongoing infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer has contributed to an increase in the amount of tree debris that needs to be processed at the site.
- **Cost Increases:** The cost of grinding and hauling has significantly increased. Disposal costs were nonexistent in 2014, but have risen to \$319,014 in 2024.

Given the ongoing challenges faced by the Yard Waste Site, particularly the physical constraints of the site, the increasing costs of operation, and the impact of Emerald Ash Borer infestation, staff have begun reviewing alternative options. Options moving forward could include:

1. No change resulting in increased costs of hauling material
2. Close the site and let residents find alternative solutions on their own
3. Contract with Maple Grove Yard Waste Site, privately operated by Lynde & McLeod, Inc.
4. Partner with an outside operator to take over operations and relocate the site

3. Budget Impact:

Find alternative solutions to lessen the financial impact on the annual budget. In 2024, the overall cost to operate the site was \$371,782, with \$319,014 of that being contractor's fees.

4. Attachments:

To: Dave Callister, City Manager

Prepared by: Jodi Gallup, City Clerk

Reviewed by: Maria Solano, Deputy City Manager

Item: **Set future study sessions**

1. Action Requested:

Schedule study sessions and/or add topics as desired. The calendar for the next three months is attached to assist with scheduling.

2. Background:

Pending study session topics (at least three council members have approved the following study items on the list):

- Future local sales tax capital projects.
- Special Assessment Policy on May 27 at 5:00 p.m.

Staff requests for meeting topics and/or changes:

- Land Use Training on June 10 at 6:00 p.m.
- Metropolitan Council Housing Study update and clarity on Nexus Study

3. Budget Impact:

Not applicable.

4. Attachments:

1. Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 5:00 PM SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING Yard waste site management Medicine Lake Room 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	9 7:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING Medicine Lake Room	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	17	18	19
20	21	22 5:00 PM SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING Housing Trust Fund/ Select HRA interview candidates Medicine Lake Room 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	23	24 7:00 PM HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING Council Chambers	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	8	9	10
11	12	13 5:00 PM SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING Educational information and tour of pond next to Post Office/ Interview HRA candidates Medicine Lake Room 7:00 PM REGULAR COUCL MEETING Council Chambers	14 7:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING Medicine Lake Room	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	22 7:00 PM HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING Council Chambers	23	24
25	26 MEMORIAL DAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED	27 7:00 PM REGULAR COUCL MEETING Council Chambers	28 10:00 AM DESTINATION MARKETING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Mooney Lake Room	29	30	31

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	5	6	7
8	9 7:00 PM SPECIAL CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING Medicine Lake Room	10 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	11 7:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING Council Chambers	12 6:00 PM PARK & REC ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	13	14
15	16	17	18 7:00 PM PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Council Chambers	19 JUNETEENTH CITY OFFICES CLOSED	20	21
22	23	24 7:00 PM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Council Chambers	25	26 7:00 PM HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING Council Chambers	27	28
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