

May 14, 2026, City Council Informal Meeting Agenda



5:30 PM

Apple Valley Municipal Center
7100 147th Street West, Apple Valley

1. Council Discussion Items (10 min.)
2. Natural Resources Division Update (25 min.)
3. Police Department Use of Force Program Update (20 min.)
4. 2050 Comprehensive Plan RFP Update (15 min.)
5. Adjourn



ITEM:
MEETING DATE:
SECTION:

2.
May 14, 2026
Informal Agenda

Description: Natural Resources Division Update (25 min.)	
Staff Contact: Samantha Berger, Natural Resources Coordinator	Department / Division: Public Works/Natural Resources

Action Requested:

N/A

Summary:

Natural Resources Staff will provide a presentation update on Deer Management, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management and tree replacement, and the Alimagnet Natural Resources Management Plan project. There will be an opportunity for the Council to ask questions.

Background:

Deer Management

In 2026, the Natural Resources division worked with the Police department to complete deer management in Alimagnet Park. Consistent with our permit from the Minnesota Natural Resources Department (DNR), ten deer were harvested from the park. A total of 332 pounds of venison was produced and packaged into 1.25-pound portions of ground venison. All venison from this year's deer management effort was donated to 360 Communities, a local food shelf serving the Apple Valley area. Moving forward, the City will utilize aerial deer surveys to help determine if additional deer management is warranted in the coming year. Additional factors considered in this determination include vehicle-deer collision data provided by the Apple Valley Police Department and public comments.

Emerald Ash Borer Management

Emerald Ash Borer has been active in the City since 2015. Beginning in 2024, Council allocated \$1.2 million to help remove and replace ash trees impacted by EAB. To date, approximately 3,000 ash trees have been removed on City right of way (ROW) and parkland. Residents who had an ash tree removed from the ROW were offered a free tree replacement to place in their front yard. In addition, the City has utilized funds to create a new gravel bed nursery to help re-establish the canopy in City parks. Strategies this year will include targeting private properties to remove their infested ash trees and continuing efforts to re-establish the canopy.

Alimagnet Natural Resources Management Plan

The City adopted its first-ever Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) for Alimagnet Park in 2024. In 2025, the City received a \$262,009 grant from the DNR Conservation Partners Legacy fund to complete a 20.5 acre restoration in the park. Work began in early 2026, with Landbridge Ecological Services completing the work. The heavy equipment removals have wrapped up, and next steps will include a final forestry mow, seeding, and follow-up herbicide treatments to help manage woody invasives, such as buckthorn. Staff will provide a brief update on the project and the next steps towards implementing the NRMP for the 80-acre park.

Budget Impact:

N/A

Attachments:

1. Presentation



Apple Valley Natural Resource Management Update

May 14th Council Informal Meeting

Samantha Berger, Natural Resources Coordinator

Taylor Stockert, City Forester

Brian Hartman, Water Resources Specialist



Natural Resources Management Update



Agenda

- Introduce Staff – Lauren Nelson, new Natural Resources Tech
- Provide Update:
 - Emerald Ash Borer Strategy
 - Deer Management
 - Alimagnet Park Natural Resources Management
 - Grants and GreenStep Cities



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Strategy

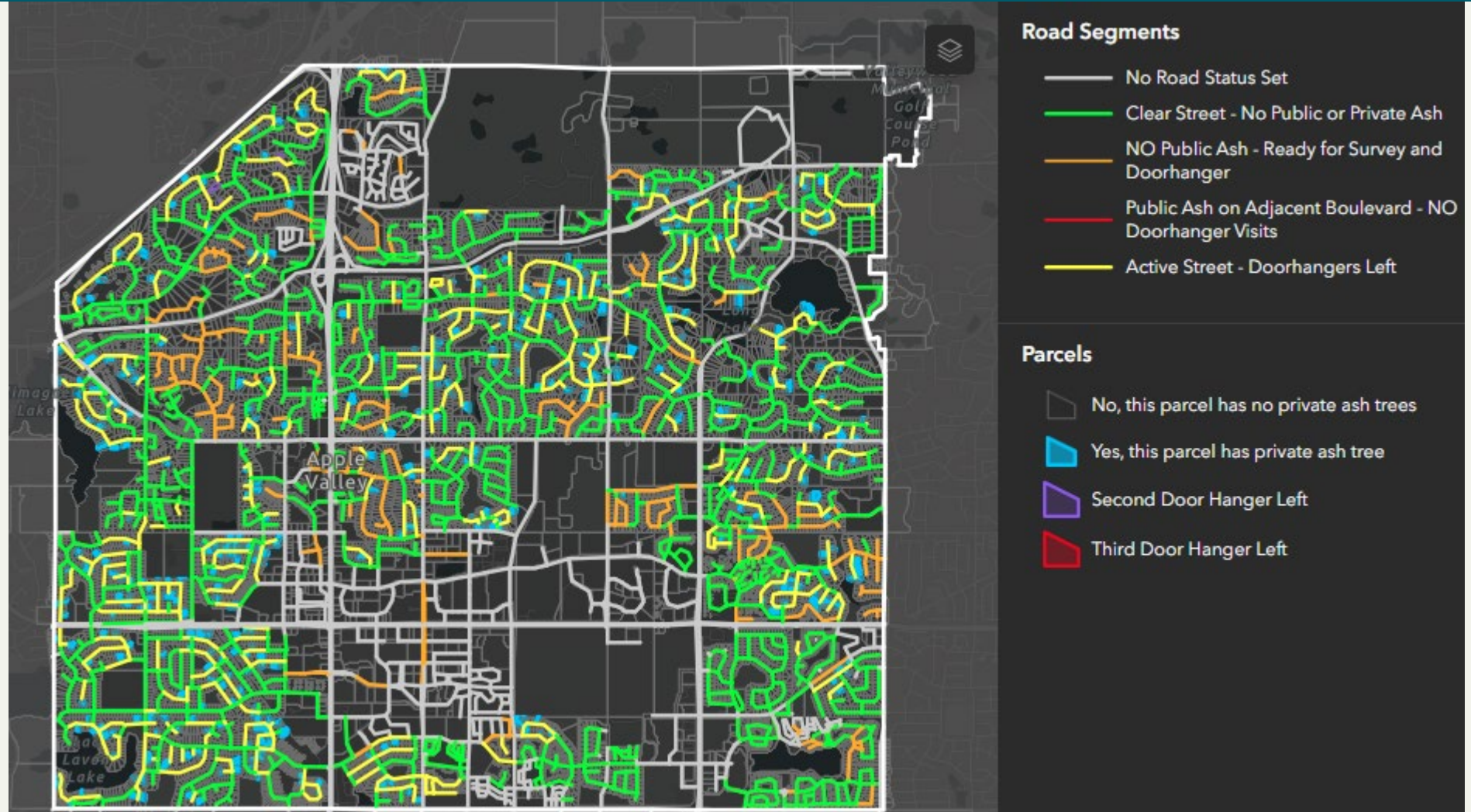
- Residential removals will increase as declining ash trees become hazardous or structurally compromised
- City staff continue to provide:
 - Resident education and outreach
 - Guidance on ash tree identification and replacement options
- Replanting efforts continue on public property
- Tree replacement efforts emphasize:
 - Species diversity and climate resiliency
 - Long-term urban forest health
 - Point of Focus in Upcoming Citywide NRMP
 - 13% canopy decrease from 2010 to 2020
- Some limited City removals still to occur in unmaintained, hard to access areas



Dead Ash Trees in Longridge Park

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Strategy

Approximately 500 Parcels with Private Ash Trees since last count in 2024



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Budget



Allocated Capital Budget

Total	\$ 1,200,000
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Item	Amount
Starting 2026 Budget	\$230,600
Tree Removal (estimated)	\$40,000
Gravel Bed Expansion	\$3,500
Gravel Bed Trees	\$6,100
Cobblestone Area Replacement Trees	\$19,000
Public EAB Treatment	\$6,500
Remaining Estimate for Tree Replanting Strategies	\$155,500



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Numbers

- Gravel Bed **160 trees** planted/planned on public property
- Replacement of **519 trees** on private property since 2018
- Removal of approximately **3,000 Public Ash trees** since 2016
- Continue reduced residential rates for EAB treatments (Birch Tree Care)
- Pursue removal of private ash trees by residences, particularly those adjacent to City ROW or parks



Deer Management Update

June 2025 - Council Passed 1st Ever Deer Mgt. Plan

- **Management Goals:**
 - Reduce deer-vehicle collisions
 - Limit vegetation and landscape damage
 - Protect native plant communities from over-browse
 - Continue education and population monitoring
- **Population Monitoring Includes:**
 - Winter Aerial Surveys
 - Deer-Vehicle Collision Tracking
 - Citizen Complaints and Observations
- **Management Activities:**
 - Conducted in coordination with AV Police Dept., a wildlife contractor, and permitting thru MN DNR
 - Venison harvested from deer is donated to local food shelves



Tree with Buck Rub Damage

2026 Deer Management

- Early 2026 Police Sharpshooters Conduct First Ever Harvest
- **2026 Management**
 - 10 Deer (Max. requested)
 - 3 Nights
 - 332 lbs of venison donated
- Successful 1st year, confident we can increase numbers

Item	Costs
Deer Removal, Field Dressing	\$1,730
Venison Processing (\$170 per deer)	\$1,700
Deer Mgt. Signs (one time cost)	\$280
Deer Baiting	\$150
Aerial Survey (Dakota County)*	\$545
Total	\$4,405

*Dakota County charged for aerial survey this year; they are in talks with Three Rivers parks on possible joint efforts.

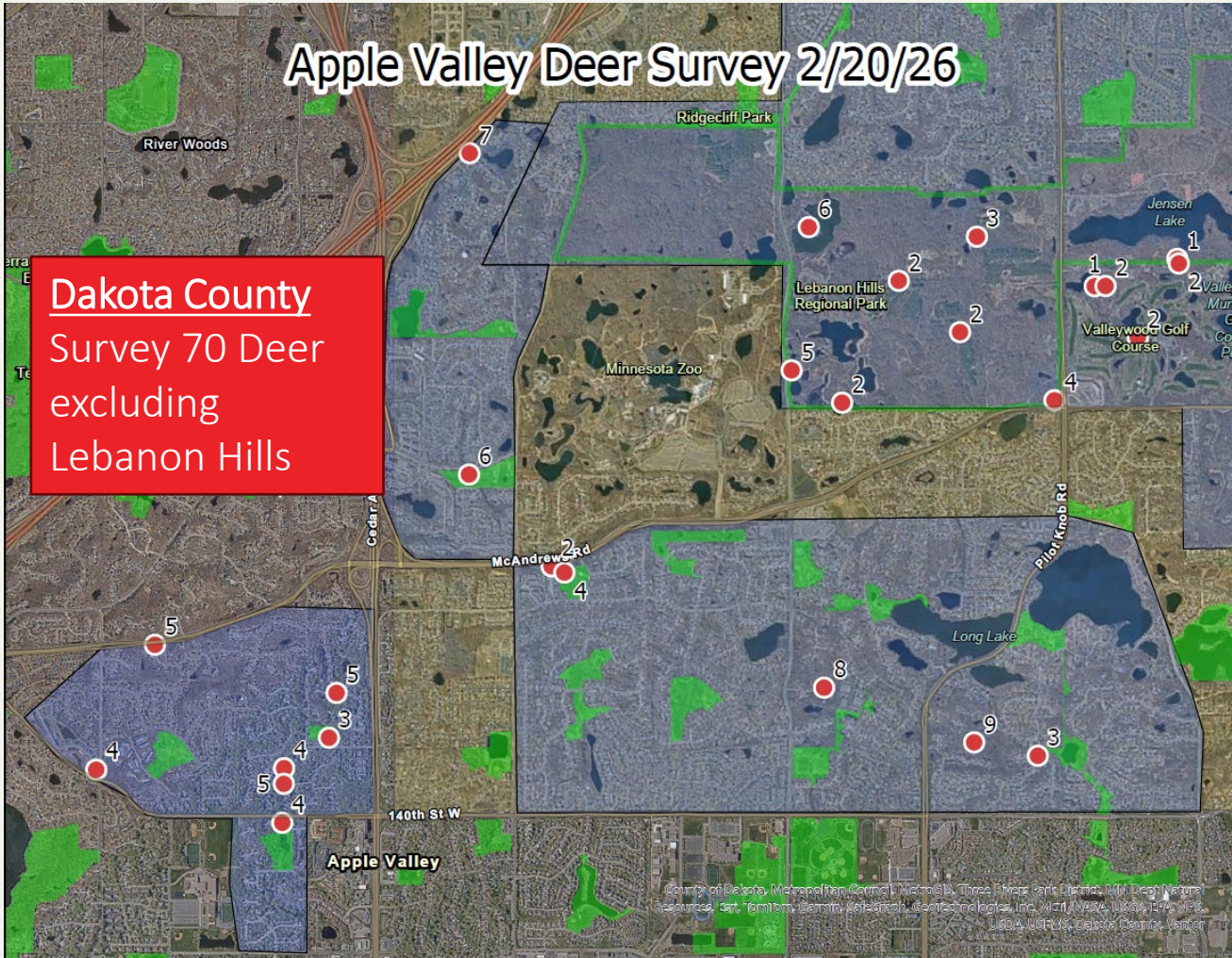


2026 Deer Management Surveys

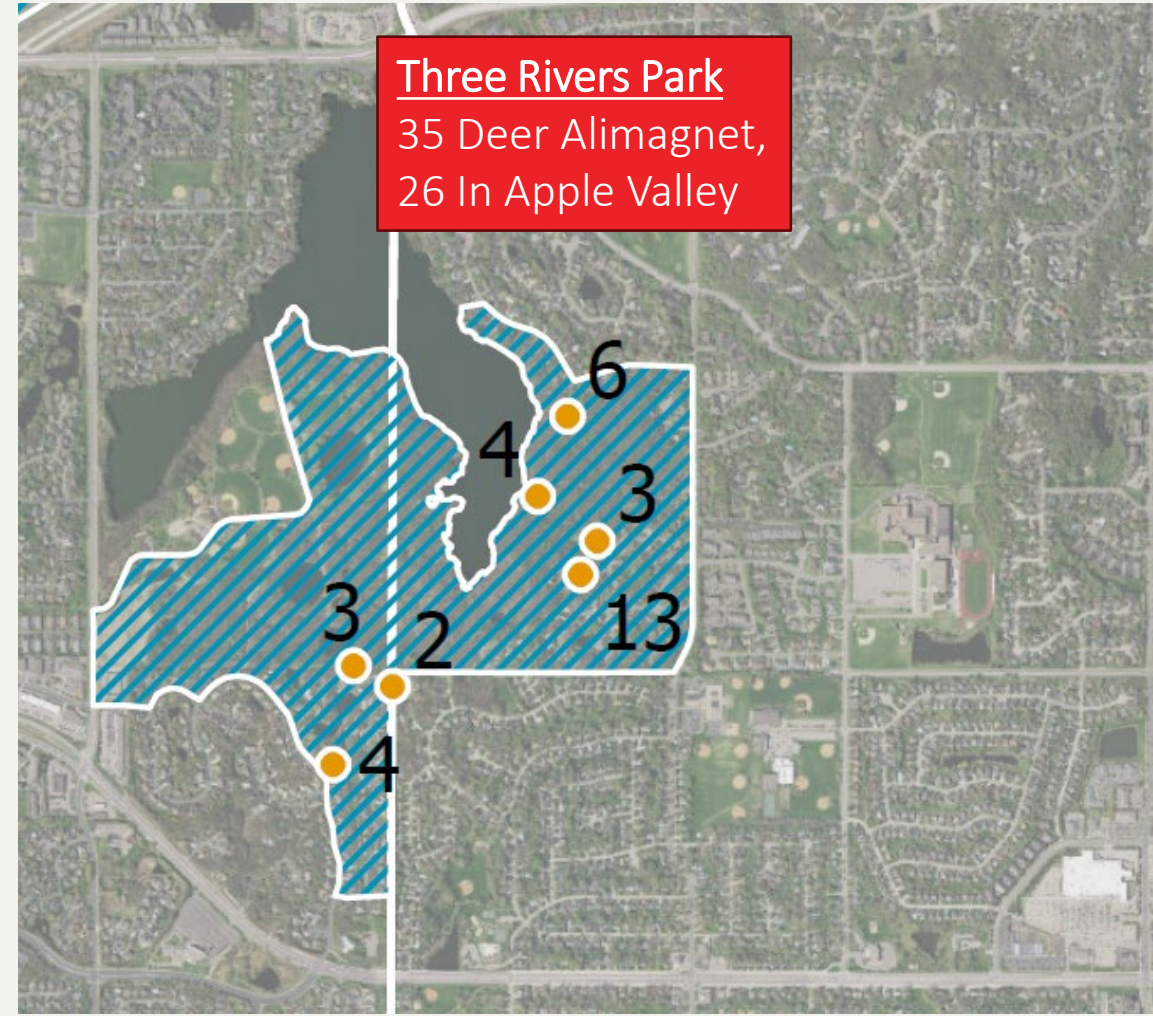


Apple Valley Deer Survey 2/20/26

Dakota County
Survey 70 Deer
excluding
Lebanon Hills



Three Rivers Park
35 Deer Alimagnet,
26 In Apple Valley



2025-6 Deer Management Surveys



Year	2025	2026
Dakota County Deer Count (Excluding LHRP)	41	70
Three Rivers Park (Alimagnet Park) Deer Count	25	26
Total Deer Count in Apple Valley North Half	66	96
Subtract Dakota County/Three Rivers Park Overlap Counts in Alimagnet Park	7*	7*
Subtract Apple Valley Carrying Capacity	33*	33*
Total Deer Harvest	26	56

* Best Estimates, not exact science

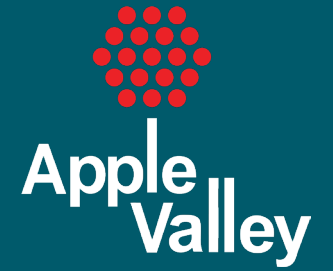


2026 Wildlife Management

- **Resident Inquiries on Deer, Turkey Feeding**
 - Continue to report deer feeding to MN DNR Conservation Officer
 - Ability to fine residents
 - Pursue a targeted educational mailer on turkey, deer feeding
 - Continue education efforts



Alimagnet Natural Resource Management Plan



- 2024: Adoption of Alimagnet Natural Resources Management Plan, Citywide plan would follow suit
 - Provides framework for managing the 80+ acre park
 - City is actively restoring 20.5-acre section of park with **\$262,009** in **DNR grant** funding
(see example photos below)

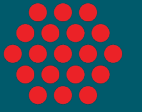


BEFORE



AFTER





Apple
Valley

Alimagnet Park – 2026 Restoration Project Update

- Project design and bidding process was conducted in October and November, contractor selected in December
- Removal of buckthorn, other woody invasives, thinning of aggressive trees to restore oak woodland
- Long process, but project is off to a great start!
- Future – pursue additional areas and seek grant dollars – 60 acres remain



Alimagnet Park – 2026 Restoration Project Update



- **February** – Contractor began heavy removals of buckthorn and aggressive trees
- **March** – Removals continued, conditions deteriorated rapidly
- **April** – Ground still too soft for equipment
- **May** – Operators back piling remaining logs, conducting “finish forestry mow,” seeding 4 acres
- Heavy restoration activities to continue throughout the next calendar year



In Pursuit of Grant \$\$\$



Grant	Project	Funding Requested	Status	Timing
Dakota County Aquatic Invasive Species Management	Aquatic Plant Surveys and Treatment for Cobblestone, Long, and Farquar Lakes	Up to \$7,500	Selected, Grant Agreement on May/June Council	Projects must be complete by Fall 2026
DNR ReLeaf Community Forestry Grant	Citywide All- Lands Management Plan	\$90,000	Selected, Grant Agreement on May/June Council	Projects must be complete by June 30, 2027
DNR Local Trail Connections Program	Founders Lane Trailhead – Pond Trail Connection	\$200,000	Submitted March 31	Projects must be complete by June 30, 2028
DNR Expedited Conservation Project Grant Cycle	Lac Lavon Shoreline Restoration	Up to \$75,000	Submitted May 11	Projects must be complete by June 30, 2029
Watershed Based Implementation Fund (WBIF)	Long and Farquar Lakes – Alum Treatment Feasibility Study	\$40,000-\$60,000	Project pitch mid-July 2026	Projects must be complete by December 31, 2029

GreenStep Cities – Step 5 for 2025!



ID	ITEM	METRIC	2024 VALUE	2025 VALUE
1.1	Energy usage - kBTU per square foot, per year:	kBTU/ft2-year	88.57	86.25
1.4	Street lights owned by the city & utility	% LEDs	55.28%	56.27%
2.1	Number of city/tribal government-owned green certified buildings	# buildings	3	4
3.4	Average miles per gallon for diesel fleet	Miles per gallon	2.36	3.51
5.1	Number of public electric vehicle charging station ports	# ports	15	17
7.6	New affordable housing units added as a percent of all new housing units	%	0.10%	2.50%
8.6	Net number of new trees planted	# trees	161	306
11.5a	Ratio of Inflow and Infiltration volume to total volume entering the wastewater collection system	I&I:total volume	.75	.5



Apple
Valley

Questions?



ITEM:
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May 14, 2026
Informal Agenda

Description: Police Department Use of Force Program Update (20 min.)	
Staff Contact: Nick Francis, Police Chief	Department / Division: Police

Action Requested:

N/A

Summary:

Professional Standards Lieutenant Sean Zauhar will provide an update regarding the Department's use of force program. This will include agency specific data on use of force incidents, training, and after action reviews.

Background:

The Department has made significant investments in training and wellness initiatives focused on jiu-jitsu. Lieutenant Zauhar has collected and analyzed data demonstrating that these efforts are producing meaningful benefits for both the Department and the community.

Budget Impact:

N/A

Attachments:

1. Presentation

Apple Valley Police Department's

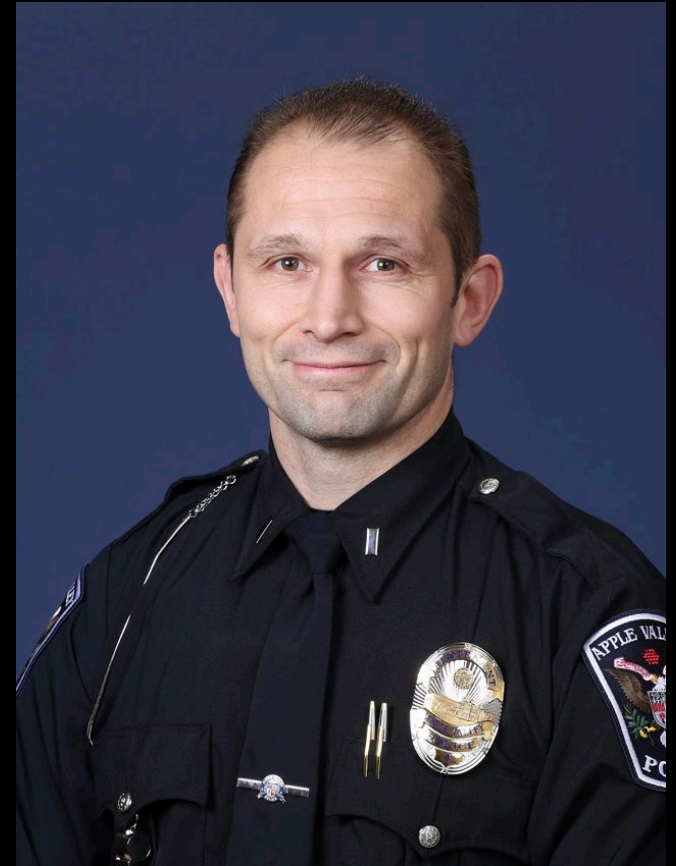
Response to Resistance & Aggression Program

*Minimizing harm, Reducing injuries, &
Enhancing Professionalism*

2026 City Council Presentation

LT Sean Zauhar

- Police Lieutenant
- 25 years LE experience
- Use of Force Expert/Trainer
- PhD in Criminal Justice



SPPD's Successful Response to Resistance & Aggression (RRA) Program

Used ***Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Techniques*** modified for law enforcement

Focused on ***empty-hand techniques*** with ***low propensity for injury***

Did not rely on pain compliance, used ***leverage-based control techniques***

Smaller officers could use effectively against larger subjects

Significant focus on team tactics to increase effectiveness while minimizing risk of injury

From 2014-2020 The Changes We Saw in St. Paul

2014 Traditional Training Model

2020 New RRA Model

Results 5 years Post Training Implementation

36% Reduction in UOF (681 to 439)



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graph TD; A[36% Reduction in UOF (681 to 439)] --> B[55% Reduction Subject Injuries (133 to 61)]; B --> C[40% Reduction Officer Injuries (56 to 34)]; C --> D[Civil Ligation Down from $2.3 million to $5K];
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55% Reduction Subject Injuries (133 to 61)

40% Reduction Officer Injuries (56 to 34)

Civil Ligation Down from \$2.3 million to \$5K

Lowered
Force
Severity


86% Reduction in Strikes
(192 to 7)

62% Reduction in OC Spray
(121 to 47)

74% Reduction in Taser Use
(57 to 15)



Transferring Evidence- Based Practices



So, can we achieve similar successful outcomes in Apple Valley, as we observed in the St. Paul after implementing similar jiu-jitsu-based use of force training?

Organizational Differences

St. Paul PD vs Apple Valley PD

620 Sworn vs. 62 Sworn

300,000 CFS vs. 40,000 CFS

State of the Art Training Center vs. Limited Training Space

Full-Time Training Unit vs. Part-Time Adjunct Instructors

16-Week Academy vs. 2-Week Orientation

AVPD's Implementation Strategy

- Advanced instructor development



- Phased rollout (2023–2025)



- Policy alignment



- Continuous program evaluation

Advanced Instructor Development

All instructors ***attended 40-hour RRA instructor course*** taught by former SPPD trainer

To quickly build institutional knowledge each in-service & recruit training sessions had more instructors than necessary

Required instructors to ***attend in-house jiu-jitsu training monthly***

Provided ***quarterly instructor development*** training sessions

Attended ***additional external RRA courses*** provided by former SPPD trainers (*STORM Training Group*)

Phased Rollout

Created new 4-Week Academy with 40-hours of RRA training for new hires

Modified from SPPD's 120-hour academy program



Divided RRA core curriculum into 4 x 4-hour training sessions per year

Provided on-going 4-hour quarterly RRA in-service training sessions for entire DEPT



Policy Alignment

Waited 18 months to modify policy post training implementation

Trained first to meet future policy changes

Increased reporting requirements

Restricted force options more likely to cause injury for higher levels of resistance only

Purchased ***new use of force tracking*** software

Added new jiu-jitsu-based control techniques to UOF reporting

Continuous Program Evaluation

3 Stage Review Process for Every UOF Incident

Patrol Supervisor

Use of Force SGT

Training LT

Identify Both Individual & Dept
Training Needs

Develop & Implement Future Training
Plans

Maintained & Improved Competency
Thru Quarterly Training

Highlighted Officers Who Used RRA
Tactics Successfully in the Field

EVALUATING
IMPACT OF THE
RRA TRAINING

155 UOF incidents between 2022-2025

All incidents captured on body-worn camera video

Collected information on 72 data points per incident

Examine whether RRA tactics were being used in the field

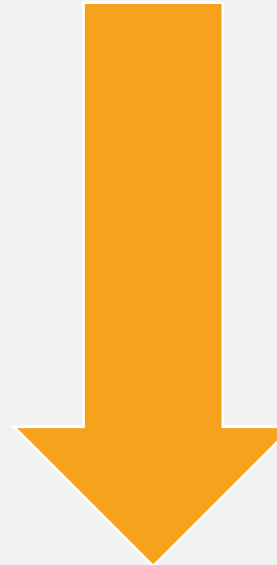
Assess officer and suspect injuries during UOF incidents

FINDINGS

Officers are using
new techniques in
the field



Leverage-Based
Control &
De-Escalation
Increased



Use of Pain
Compliance &
Less-Lethal Tools
Decreased

Visual Evidence on Body-Worn Camera Videos

3 Years
Later

- Subject injuries ↓ **50%**
(From 8 to 4)

- Officer injuries ↓ **83.4%**
(From 6 to 1)

- ***Significant injuries were eliminated*** to both subjects (2 to 0) & officers (4 to 0)

Verbal De-Escalation Attempts Increased

*24% before
Incidents*

*95% during
incidents*

*103 % after
incidents*

Minimized Compression & Force Beyond Control

Compression to head, neck, & back ↓ **93.2%**
(From 38 to 3 incidents)

Force after control was achieved ↓ **97.1%**
(From 76 to 3 incidents)

Recovery position within 10 secs of achieving control in **90% of cases (↑ 65%)**

(From *10 out of 41* to *39 out of 43 incidents*)

Overall Impact

Safer outcomes for
officers & community
members

Improved officer
professionalism

Reduced liability
exposure for agency &
city

To Further Enhance Our Program, We Also Provide Optional Jiu-Jitsu Training

Onsite Weekly Jiu Jitsu Class

- Occurs every Thursday

Partnership with Local Jiu Jitsu Academy – Rio Jitsu

- Allows each officer to attend up to 2 times per week

Monthly Women's Jiu Jitsu Seminars

- Occurs once a month

Questions
or
Comments?





ITEM:
MEETING DATE:
SECTION:

4.
May 14, 2026
Informal Agenda

Description: 2050 Comprehensive Plan RFP Update (15 min.)	
Staff Contact: Terri Dill, City Planner	Department / Division: Community Development

Action Requested:

N/A

Summary:

On February 26, 2026, the City Council approved the Request for Proposals for planning consultants to assist with the 2050 Comprehensive Plan update and authorized staff to solicit planning services for this project. Staff was also directed to provide a brief update on the proposals at the May 11, 2026, Informal City Council meeting.

Background:

On February 27, 2026, the request for proposal (RFP) was advertised with the League of MN Cities, Minnesota American Planning Association, and City of Apple Valley websites. The City received nine proposals from the following planning consulting firms:

- Bolton and Menk
- Confluence
- Houseal Lavinge
- Redevelopment Resources & Studio GWA
- SRF
- Swanson Haskamp
- TC2
- WGI
- WSB

Eight proposals came in at just below \$150,000, and one proposal was just over \$155,000. Planning staff reviewed the proposals for completeness. A six-member committee from the planning, engineering, and natural resources divisions then individually scored the proposals. Scoring criteria included:

- Completeness of submittal and adherence to RFP requirements

- Design, graphics, writing & overall visual appearance of submittal
- Qualifications and experience of project team members
- Adequacy of team size & workload capacity
- Public engagement approach and tools
- Proposed work product and deliverables
- Cost proposal

Four of the nine consultants have been invited to interview. Following the interviews, the review committee will discuss and provide a recommendation on the final planning consultant. The interviews are scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th. Staff will be able to provide more background and information verbally on the recommended planning consultant at the May 14th informal meeting. An agreement for planning consultant services will be presented to the City Council for consideration at the June 11, 2026, meeting, which aligns with the Public Works schedule.

Public Works staff are currently evaluating scope and fee proposals from consultants within the approved consultant pool for the following sections of the comprehensive plan:

- Water Resources — surface water, sanitary sewer, and water distribution, are likely to be updated by the two consultants who previously completed the work for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan:
 - BARR Engineering for surface water updates
 - AE2S for sanitary sewer and water distribution
- Transportation
 - Staff is working on an RFP for consultant scope and fee and evaluation of the transportation section of the comprehensive plan update project.
 - The transportation consultant will be selected at the same time as the overall planning consultant for the 2050 Comprehensive Plan, with both agreements proposed for award at the June 11, 2026, meeting.

Budget Impact:

N/A

Attachments:

1. Presentation



2050 Comprehensive Plan Update

Informal City Council Meeting
May 14, 2026

Request for Proposal Scope of Services

- Ensure compliance with Met Council requirements
- Land Use, Housing, Parks and Trails, Climate, and Natural Systems chapters
- Coordinate engineering consultant work for the Transportation, Wastewater, Water Supply, and Surface Water chapters
- Facilitate and consolidate all consultant work into a single final document



Scope of Services

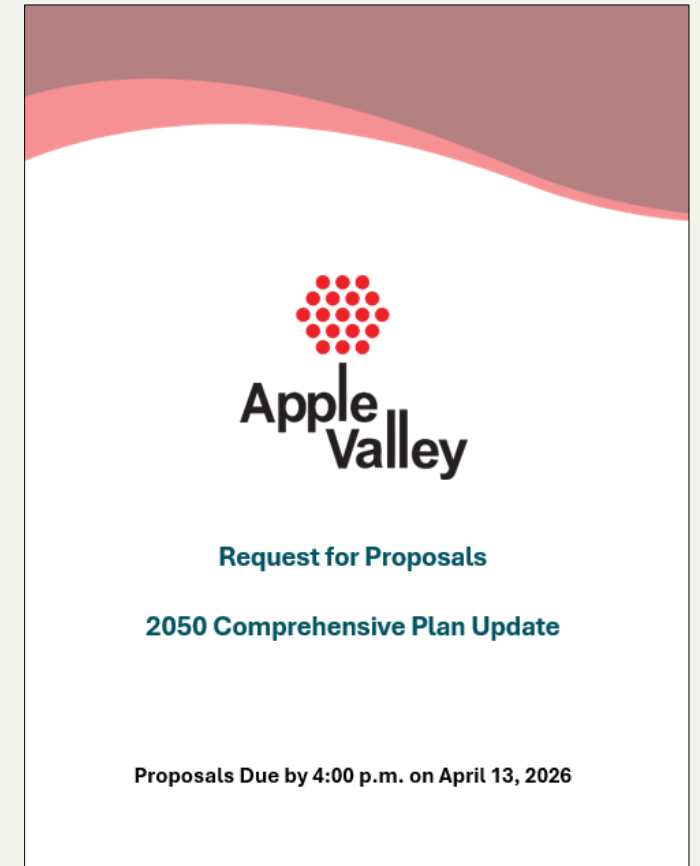
- Community engagement plan:
 - Community education component
 - City Council and commission meetings
 - Website content and social media
 - Online engagement tools and surveys
 - Community events and pop-ups
- Special Planning Focus Areas:
 - Mixed Business Campus update
 - Aging housing strategies
 - Commercial redevelopment initiatives
 - Economic development opportunities



Request for Proposals Process



- RFP approved by City Council on February 26, 2026
- Posted February 27, 2026
- Submittal deadline April 13, 2026
- League of MN Cities, Minnesota American Planning Association, and City of Apple Valley websites



Proposals Received



Bolton & Menk

Confluence

Houseal Lavigne

Redevelopment Resources/Studio GWA

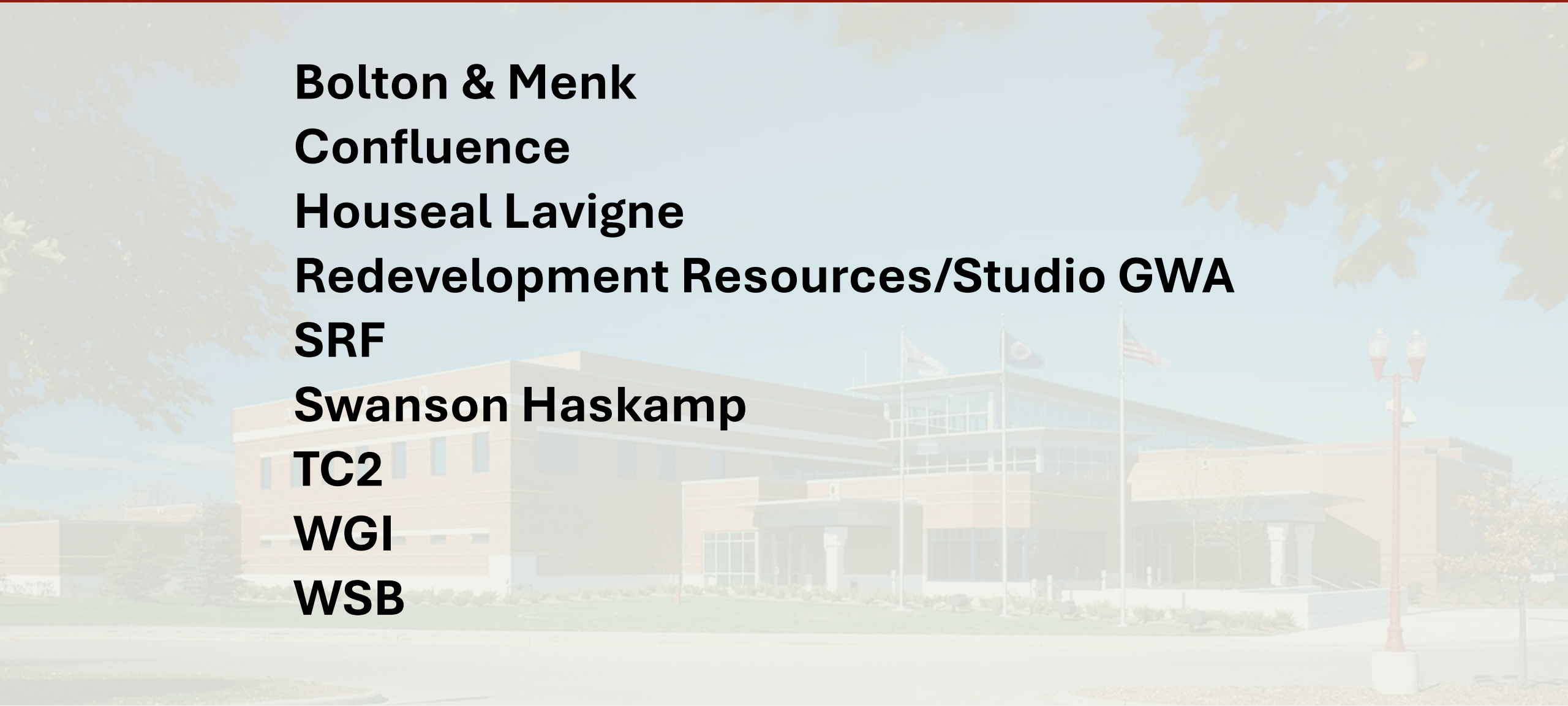
SRF

Swanson Haskamp

TC2

WGI

WSB



Interviews

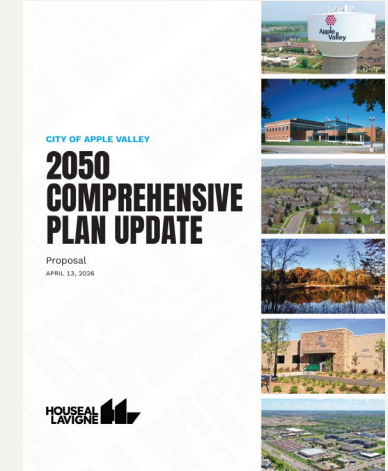
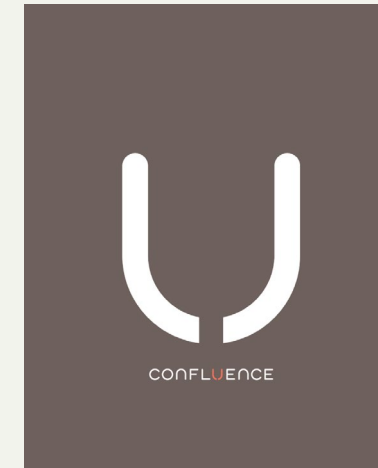
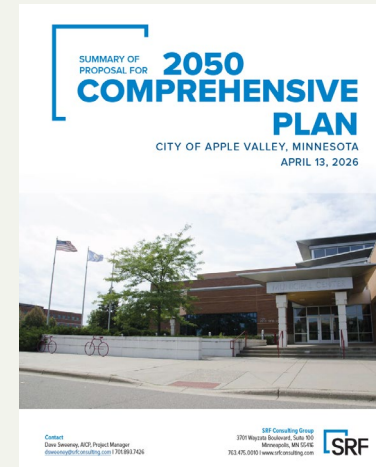


TC2

SRF

Confluence

Houseal Lavigne



- **10-Minute Presentation Recent Comprehensive Plan Project**
- **Key Project Team Members**
- **Overview Proposed Work Plan**
- **Questions and Discussion**

Next Steps



- Finalize agreement with planning consultant
- June 11, 2026, City Council
- Develop final work plan and schedule
- Kick-off July 2026