

**CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
TUESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2025 7:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL CENTER ROOMS DEN A AND B, 2 EAST MAIN STREET**

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.**
 - 2. Roll Call.**
 - 3. Minutes – Review and Approval.**
 - A. Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the September 9, 2025 Natural Resources Commission meeting.
 - 4. New Business.**
 - A. Pumpkin Smash
 - 5. Old Business.**
 - A. Park District Collaboration
 - 6. Committee Reports.**
 - A. **Education and Outreach** – Holiday lights collection volunteers, schedule.
 - B. **Engagement**
 - C. **Advisory**
 - D. **Ad-Hoc**
 - 7. Communications.**
 - A. Motion to accept and place on file Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for September 2025.
 - 8. Public Comment.**
 - 9. Additional Items from Commissioners and City Staff.**
 - 10. Adjourn.**
- Next meeting Tuesday, November 11, 2025.**

ADA Compliance

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, Jennifer McMahon, at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. The ADA Coordinator can be reached in-person at 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, via telephone at (630) 377-4446 or 800-526-0844 (TTY), or via e-mail at jmcMahon@stcharlesil.gov. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notices of this meeting were posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq. (Open Meetings Act).

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m. by Chair. Nagy.

2. Roll Call.

Commissioners Present: Joey Cannizzaro, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Steve Leffler, Jeff Mengler, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy, Meagan Provencher.

Commissioners Absent: Lee Haggas, Pam Otto, Nick Smith.

Student Members Present: Josie Baird, Megan Doughty, Thais Salinas.

City Liaison Present: Ed Bessner.

Visitor(s): Rod Allen, Brian Pohrte.

City Staff Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

3. Minutes Review and Approval.

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the August 12, 2025 Natural Resources Commission [NRC or Commission] meeting. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Leffler to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:01 p.m.

4. New Business.

A. Fox River Clean-Up – Chair. Nagy noted It's Our Fox River Day clean-up will be held on September 20th. Area captains and volunteers are needed for this event.

B. Senate Bill SB1531 Polystyrene Ban – Chair. Nagy reported on pending legislation initiated in the Illinois Senate that would ban the use of polystyrene in Illinois restaurants. The bill permits the manufacture of polystyrene in the state of Illinois, allowing polystyrene products to be shipped to locations outside of Illinois. Chair. Nagy reported he had been contacted by one of the City's aldermen who requested that the NRC consider writing a letter to the State of Illinois in support of the bill. Motion to draft a letter in support of Senate Bill SB1531, striking the allowance for the manufacture of polystyrene in Illinois. Motion by Comm. Mengler, second by Comm. Leffler to draft and submit a letter in support of Illinois Senate Bill SB1531. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:08 p.m.

C. Diversity for Riverwalk Prairie – Comm. Leffler noted there are currently about twelve different species of plants located in the City's areas of the riverwalk, and recommended planting additional species for more diversity. Comm. Provencher explained that if a prairie community is too diverse, the plants will out-compete each other, and although the plants may be native, they may not be right for a

particular prairie community. Comm. Provencher suggested editing and replanting the prairie areas. City staff will discuss this suggestion with its native stewardship consultant.

D. Southeast River Area Improvements – Comm. Myers noted the Fox River Corridor Foundation is addressing this area.

E. Tree and Plant Identification – Chair. Nagy and City staff noted this item is a signage maintenance issue.

F. Southwest River Area Additional Tree Plantings – This issue will be discussed with City staff at Public Works.

G. Tree Inspections East Side of Whole Foods – Parkway trees at this location will be monitored by Public Works forestry staff.

H. New Construction and Tree Planting River 504 – Comm. Leffler suggested that additional trees be included as part of the design of the River 504 project. Comm. Leffler additionally inquired as to whether the NRC could be involved in reviewing landscape plans for projects such as this going forward. Comm. Provencher stated she has been involved in the landscape design for this project and explained there isn't enough square footage in front of the buildings on 1st Street for trees to be planted. The design includes at least fifteen trees on the property.

I. Noise Pollution – Comm. Leffler noted an ongoing issue with vehicle noise in the City's downtown area and explained there are microphone and camera systems available that monitor decibel levels and read license plates, then tickets can be issued to vehicle owners for noise violations. Alderman Bessner noted the City's new chief of police is aware of the noise and other issues in the City's downtown area including the parking deck.

5. Old Business.

A. Park District Collaboration – Comm. Goudreau reported the NRC's pumpkin smash and holiday lights recycling events will be promoted by the St. Charles Park District on their website and social media. Chair. Nagy requested a list of items for collaboration between the NRC and the Park District so a six-month plan could be developed and events can be published in the Park District's seasonal program guide.

B. Dam Task Force Letter – Chair. Nagy circulated a letter submitted by members of the NRC to Mayor Hull regarding the members' position regarding the Fox River dam. Chair. Nagy also reviewed a response he received from the City Administrator. The City Administrator's office plans to meet with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources prior to

further discussions with City Council regarding the status of the dam. A copy of the NRC's letter is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

6. Committee Reports.

- A. Education and Outreach** – Comm. Provencher reported the St. Charles East High School Birding Club will promote and co-host fall bird walks with the NRC, and possibly participate in winter bird counts. Dates will be confirmed.

Comm. Myers reported the theme of the NRC's scarecrow at this year's Scarecrow Weekend will be "shared spaces," which is the World Migratory Bird Day 2025 theme. The display will also publicize St. Charles' Bird City community designation and promote the NRC's upcoming bird walks. Comm. Myers noted there are currently about 5,000,000 birds migrating through Kane County as monitored by weather radar.

B. Engagement – None.

C. Advisory – None.

D. Ad-Hoc – None.

7. Communications. – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports.

Motion to approve and place on file the Public Services Division tree activity reports for August 2025. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Galante to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:59 p.m.

8. Additional Items.

A. Commissioners – None.

B. City Staff – None.

C. Visitor(s) – Mr. Pohrte commented on a City podcast that recently aired regarding the re-development of former Charlestown Mall. The mall space is difficult to re-develop because roof counts in St. Charles are low, meaning there is too much open and green space. Mr. Pohrte noted the City's green and open spaces are strengths that should be promoted and protected. Chair. Nagy noted household income might be more a meaningful measure than housing density.

9. Adjournment. – Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Mengler to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:04 p.m.

EMERGENCY REMOVALS - 0

[illegible]

WORK	QUAD	SPECIES	DBH	NOTES

CITY OF ST CHARLES - PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

TREE MAINTENANCE REPORT

SUMMARY FY 2025/2026	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	TOTAL
Trimming	116	191	206	142	61								716
Removals	26	8	77	31	19								161
Emergency Removals	0	0	0	0	0								0
Plantings	145	0	0	0	0								145
COMMENTS													