

AGENDA
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2026 7:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL CENTER 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 December 9, 2025 Natural Resources Commission meeting.**
- 4. New Business.**
 - A. Arbor Day 2026.**
 - B. Holiday Lights Collection Recap.**
- 5. Old Business.**
- 6. Committee Reports.**
 - A. Education and Outreach – Book donations to District 303 elementary schools.**
 - B. Engagement.**
 - C. Advisory.**
 - D. Ad-Hoc.**
- 7. Communications.**
 - A. Motion to accept and place on file Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for January 2026.**
- 8. Public Comment.**
- 9. Additional Items from Commissioners and City Staff.**
- 10. Adjourn.**

Next meeting Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

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).

ARBOR DAY SCHOOL/TREE SUMMARY

2025 – Anderson Elementary School / PawPaw Tree
2024 – Davis Primary School / Heritage River Birch
2023 – Compass Academy / London Planetree
2022 – Wredling Middle School / Redpointe Maple
2021 – St. Charles East High School / Bald Cypress
2020 – no tree planting due to pandemic
2019 – Munhall Elementary School / American Hop Hornbeam
2018 – Wild Rose Elementary School / Tulip Tree
2017 – Davis Primary School
2016 – Fox Ridge School / Zelkova Serrata Musashino
2015 – Munhall Elementary School / celebration no tree planting
2014 – Munhall Elementary School / celebration no tree planting / Persian Ironwood tree of the year
2013 – Richmond Intermediate School / celebration no tree planting / White Oak tree of the year
2012 – no school noted / Accolade Elm tree of the year
2011 – no school noted / Golden Raintree tree of the year
2010 – no school noted / Eastern Redbud
2009 – Chinkapin Oak
2008 – Black Tupelo

ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING LOCATIONS

Anderson Elementary School - 2025
Compass Academy – 2023
Davis Primary School – 2017, 2024
Fox Ridge School – 2016
Munhall Elementary School – 2014, 2015, 2019
Richmond Elementary School – 2013
St Charles East High School – 2021
Wild Rose Elementary School – 2018
Wredling Middle School – 2022
Bell Graham Elementary School – none / Ferson Creek Elementary School – none
St Charles North High School – none / Thompson Middle School – none

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
JANUARY 13, 2026**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2. Roll Call.

Commissioners Present: Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Steve Leffler, Jeff Mengler, Loren Nagy, Meagan Provencher, Nick Smith.

Commissioners Absent: Joey Cannizzaro, Tom Galante, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto.

Student Members Present: Josie Baird, Thais Salinas.

City Liaison Present: Ed Bessner.

Visitor(s): Brian Pohrte, Michael Nelson.

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 December 9, 2025 Natural Resources Commission [NRC or Commission] meeting. Motion by Comm. Haggas, second by Comm. Mengler to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:01 p.m.

4. New Business.

A. **Arbor Day** – Chair. Nagy reported he met with St. Charles Park District staff, and the NRC and the St. Charles Park District will host a joint Arbor Day/Earth Day/Touch A Tree Truck event at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center. The event will be held on Saturday, April 25th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chair. Nagy recommended presenting the Arbor Day Stewardship Award at the time the Arbor Day Proclamation is read by the Mayor during the April City Council meeting [in the past, the Stewardship Award had been presented during the annual Arbor Day event]; the Commissioners concurred. Recommendations for the recipient of the award will be discussed at the February NRC meeting. Chair. Nagy proposed former NRC Comm. Kathy Brens as a possibility.

The Commissioners reviewed a summary of past Arbor Day tree planting locations. A copy of the summary is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Thompson Middle School was selected as the 2026 location, with Richmond Intermediate School as an alternate. Arbor Day 2026 is on Friday, April 24th.

5. Old Business.

None.

6. Committee Reports.

A. Education and Outreach – Comm. Provencher noted this is the last week for collecting holiday lights for recycling. Lights will be picked up from Public Works by Elgin Recycling on January 20th.

B. Engagement – None.

C. Advisory – None.

D. Ad-Hoc – Comm. Smith reported on the re-introduction of the NRC's single-use plastic bag fee initiative. Comm. Smith noted the City of Batavia implemented a \$0.10 per plastic bag fee in 2023 with the intent to reduce plastic waste, however, during 2023/2024 approximately 3.2 million plastic bags were purchased in Batavia. The Commissioners discussed the following considerations regarding the plastic bag fee initiative:

- If an ordinance was passed in St. Charles, the portion of the fees retained by the City could be used for environmental initiatives.
- Paper bags have a higher environmental impact during production versus plastic bags; plastic bags have a higher environmental impact during disposal/recycling.
- The State of Illinois may impose a single-use plastic bag fee and would collect the fees instead of St. Charles, unless the City passes an ordinance prior to the State of Illinois enacting plastic bag fee legislation.
- A possible escalating fee scale could be implemented to change shoppers' habits; the fee per bag could eventually be high enough to discourage shoppers from purchasing plastic bags altogether.
- The importance of a cultural shift in shoppers' habits was noted.
- In Seattle, Washington there are no plastic bags available to purchase from retailers and shoppers bring their own reusable bags.

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

Motion to approve and place on file the Public Services Division tree activity reports for December 2025. Motion by Comm. Smith, second by Comm. Haggas to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:02 p.m.

8. Additional Items.

A. Commissioners – Chair. Nagy congratulated the Student Member(s) on their recent induction to the National Honor Society.

Comm. Smith noted input from City Council would be helpful to guide the NRC's initiatives.

B. City Staff – None.

C. Visitor(s) – Mr. Nelson expressed his support of the NRC's single-use plastic bag fee initiative.

Mr. Pohrte suggested implementing an incentive-based program rather than a fee for using plastic bags. For example, if shoppers were to use a St. Charles re-usable bag, they could save money on their purchases at certain retailers in the City. Mr. Pohrte noted plastic bottles, not plastic bags, are the primary source of waste in the Fox River.

9. **Adjournment.** – Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Mengler, second by Comm. Haggas to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:17 p.m.

ARBOR DAY SCHOOL/TREE SUMMARY

2025 – Anderson Elementary School / PawPaw Tree
2024 – Davis Primary School / Heritage River Birch
2023 – Compass Academy / London Planetree
2022 – Wredling Middle School / Redpointe Maple
2021 – St. Charles East High School / Bald Cypress
2020 – no tree planting due to pandemic
2019 – Munhall Elementary School / American Hop Hornbeam
2018 – Wild Rose Elementary School / Tulip Tree
2017 – Davis Primary School
2016 – Fox Ridge School / Zelkova Serrata Musashino
2015 – Munhall Elementary School / celebration no tree planting
2014 – Munhall Elementary School / celebration no tree planting / Persian Ironwood tree of the year
2013 – Richmond Intermediate School / celebration no tree planting / White Oak tree of the year
2012 – no school noted / Accolade Elm tree of the year
2011 – no school noted / Golden Raintree tree of the year
2010 – no school noted / Eastern Redbud
2009 – Chinkapin Oak
2008 – Black Tupelo

ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING LOCATIONS

Anderson Elementary School - 2025
Compass Academy – 2023
Davis Primary School – 2017, 2024
Fox Ridge School – 2016
Munhall Elementary School – 2014, 2015, 2019
Richmond Elementary School – 2013
St Charles East High School – 2021
Wild Rose Elementary School – 2018
Wredling Middle School – 2022
Bell Graham Elementary School – none / Ferson Creek Elementary School – none
St Charles North High School – none / Thompson Middle School – none

**CITY OF ST CHARLES - PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION
TREE MAINTENANCE REPORT**

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

TREE REPORT TOTALS JANUARY 2026
TRIMMING - 619
REMOVALS - 2
EMERGENCY REMOVALS - 0

TREE REMOVAL DATA

WORK	QUAD	SPECIES	DBH	NOTES
In-House Removal	SW	Apple Common	4	condition
In-House Removal	NE	Kentucky Coffeetree	7	vehicle damage