

FarWest Neighbors News

Summer 2008

**You're invited to
FarWest Neighbors
happenings!**

BOARD meets on the first Monday of the month at Westmoreland Village Recreation Room.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP meetings and events are held quarterly.

Please CONTACT any board member for more details or email FarWestHood@gmail.com.



What's inside & outside:

Words from the Board

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Intersection Mural Painting

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Land Use

Infill Compatibility Standards Update
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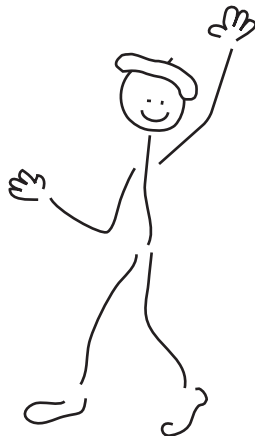
Youth

West Eugene Teen Court

B-side

Who we are box, contact info
Jeff Thomas' Top 7

¡Hola Amigos!



Thank you neighbors for reactivating the Neighborhood Association!

We would like to extend our appreciation to board members Carol McBrian & August "Bob" Stemmer who helped in this reactivation effort.

Throughout the year, we've been meeting neighbors, discovering the wealth of interests and talents in the neighborhood, exploring the neighborhood, and puzzling out the best way to get in touch with you all. In our role as bridge between neighbors and the City, we are learning the rules & discovering special opportunities of all kinds.

Please consider volunteering with the neighborhood association. We are looking for some willing neighbors to join the FarWest Neighbors board. Anyone who lives, works, or owns property in the neighborhood is eligible to serve on the board. Countless opportunities await and are as varied as your particular interests.

Eugene and its individual neighborhoods are on the cusp of major change. It's an exciting time, and your contributions shape what the neighborhood and City becomes.

Many Thanks!

Heidi, Carlis, & Clarence

BOARD ELECTIONS

& board nominations

Thursday, July 24th 7-9 pm

Westmoreland Village

Recreation Room

2065 W 16th Way

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Sat., July 19th at Block Party

This is the official newsletter of the FarWest Neighbors. Newsletters are published and mailed courtesy of the City of Eugene. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents and businesses of the neighborhood. Space is available for letters to the editor and editorial comments from neighbors. All signed letters will be published as space permits. Editorials express the author's views, not the position of the Neighborhood Association, the city's elected officials, or City staff.

Summer Events

Summertime Community Art by Alison McNair

The West Eugene Community Mural Project began on the corner of West 11th and City View last year with a Cultural Art Grant from the City of Eugene and matching contributions from Knecht's Auto Parts and West Eugene Animal Hospital.

The employees of the Animal Hospital wanted to look out their lunch room window at a beautiful mural, rather than the constant array of graffiti facing them each day on the rear wall of Knecht's Auto Parts. Business neighbors and their children painted images reflecting the chosen themes of animals and wheels with local artist Alison McNair.

This summer with the help of a City of Eugene Neighborhood Grant, the West Eugene Mural Project will be completed and dedicated to the City.

Several groups of volunteers will participate over the course of the summer. Far West Neighbors are invited to paint on **Monday and Friday afternoons from 2-4:00 pm**. Volunteers are encouraged to leave a message for artist Alison McNair by phone or email the night before volunteering. She can be reached at 541-684-0472 or mcnairart@msn.com

Signature Bike Events by Shane Rhodes

GEARs, Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and the City of Eugene are putting together a great community bike ride that will tie in neighborhoods and parks around town, music, bar-b-que, ice cream, and blackberry pie! It's called the **Blackberry Jamboree!** The Jamboree will take place on **August 2nd from 9am to 3:30 pm**. It will start and end at the EWEB Plaza and will incorporate a northern loop and a southern loop around the city. We hope to get many neighborhood groups involved to host music, handout treats, and show off their neighborhood colors! There will be a raffle at the end, along with blackberry pie. The ride will only cost \$5 per family and includes food!

GEARs has also been working on the second annual "Lighten Up" bike lights parade to coincide with the Eugene Celebration and its usual recreation rides.

FarWest Neighbors and NextStep Recycling Partner to Protect Our Environment!

by Lorraine Kerwood

On July 19, 2008, FarWest Neighbors join NextStep Recycling to help residents of the FarWest and surrounding neighborhoods easily and properly dispose of household electronics, stereos, VCRs, televisions, DVD players, handheld games, cell phones, and computers, including computer hardware, monitors, cables, calculators, printers, and batteries. If it plugs in or runs on batteries, NextStep will take it!

WHAT: One-day electronics recycling roundup

WHEN: Saturday, July 19, 2008

TIME: 10 AM – 2 PM

WHERE: 22nd & Garfield

RECYCLING FEES:

All items are free with the following exceptions:

\$15.00 charge per computer monitor. (\$7.50 discount for age 55 and over)

\$5.00 charge per LCD monitor

\$1.00 per diagonal screen inch charge for TV's.

\$40.00 and up for console TV's.

\$5.00 per UPS battery backup unit (uninterruptible power supply)

NextStep Recycling will accept cash or checks.

FarWest neighbors and surrounding area residents are urged to take advantage of this great opportunity to properly recycle their old computers and other obsolete electronics. Items with reuse potential will be tested and cleaned (data erased from hard drives) before being donated. NextStep volunteers and staff will recycle damaged and obsolete equipment.

NextStep is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to protecting our environment and providing technology, job, and social skills training to our community members. NextStep staff and volunteers have refurbished for reuse over 13,500 computers and recycled for reuse over 3000 tons of electronics waste. NextStep is the National Recycling Coalition recipient of the Tom McClure Award for Outstanding Community and Environmental Leadership, 2007.

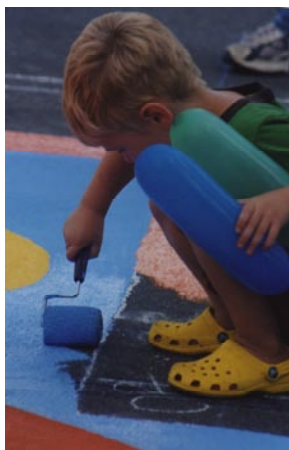
Questions? Call 541.686.2366 ext 118 or come by 2101 W. 10th, Tues through Sat, from 10 AM – 6 PM.

The Mandala Needs Repainting by Jeff Thomas

The Far West Neighborhood has many great communities, full of colorful people, with varieties of talents and skills. We let our colors fly last summer by painting a giant mandala in the middle of the intersection of 22nd and Garfield St.

It was an amazing event, the intersection had to be closed off for the day and dozens of neighbors took to the streets, shook hands, ate food, played music and collectively painted the mandala. Why a Mandala? Well, Wikipedia describes a mandala as a term for "any plan, chart or geometric pattern that represents the cosmos metaphysically or symbolically, a microcosm of the universe from the human perspective." So it is a diagram of the cosmos. Perhaps having a mandala in our community means that we know where we are, and perhaps who we are thereby.

But Mandalas are not the only neighborhood projects that get created. There are several wall murals around Eugene that were put together by the neighbors in that area. There are also several eco-villages, some cob benches, and yard art assembled by the neighbors. It is a beautiful thing to cruise around Eugene and see all this evidence of social life in our communities.



Neighborhood projects such as these serve many purposes. Few would argue the importance of beautifying our environments, so that is obvious. But there are corollary effects that may seem less obvious and are also very important. For instance, painting the mandala in the intersection serves to slow down traffic a little, because that intersection has become a place. It is no longer just a space that you simply go through to get from A to B. It has its own identity and character, and for some reason this slows drivers down a little. It also serves as a meeting point for people out walking or riding bikes. More people travel through so more people have the chance of running into their friends and neighbors there. The maintenance of the mural also gives us something to focus on as a community, an excuse to



get together, chat, and catch up as we work together re-painting the faded paint from last year. Just like a mural, a community needs attention to remain beautiful, otherwise it would eventually disappear, slowly fading away from the rain and the skid marks.

It was a neighborhood effort that day, but a lot had to happen in the months leading up to it. It all starts when a bunch of neighbors have a great idea, they talk to each other about it and work up a plan, they talk to the city and get all the right permissions, permits and insurance. Then they have to raise the money to buy the paint, pay for the insurance, permit fees, and food.

It was amazing to see the mural project come together. As simple as it seems, an immense amount of organizing had to happen to make the project succeed, and if it weren't for a few visionary neighbors who took the lead on the project, it never could have happened. The painting becomes an expression of that commitment we neighbors have to each other, that we all come together and help each other out, in times of crisis, and in times of beauty. We should be so impressed, and feel so at home, because we know that we live among people who would put so much of their precious time into a beautiful project that benefits us all.

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This summer on July 19th there is a Neighborhood Block Party & Mural Painting.

Now that this mural has been created, it is imperative that we maintain it, which also takes a lot of volunteer effort. The founders of this project are still able to help out, but cannot do it on their own, nor should they. They need **volunteers to help** with organizing the project before it happens, and they need people the day of the event for setup and teardown. Please contact heidi.beierle@gmail.com to see how you can help. You will have a blast and definitely meet some really nice people.

Green Features

Gudu-kut Wetlands: A Bright Jewel in Far West by Jennifer Rowan

At the start of my morning commute when I turn my bike east on 14th toward City View, I can't help but imagine a view quite different from the one I so appreciate every day. Ten years ago, neighbors on McKinley Street (at the west edge of Far West Neighborhood Association) learned that the Portland owner of the nearly nine-acre property between City View, the Amazon Creek and Westmoreland Student Housing had filed for fill permits to drain the natural wetland and build a 130-unit apartment complex. This parcel represented the last sizable, contiguous wetland remaining in urban west Eugene.

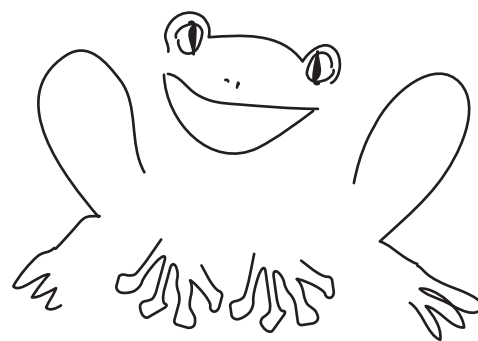
Those of us who live in the "flats" have no views of Fern Ridge of the Coburg Hills. We were accustomed to living with the traffic noise and unlovely industrial/commercial corridors of west 11th, and our views included Jiffy Lube, Jiggles, and a plethora of fast food stops and parking lots. On the other hand, the wetland on City View attracted flocks of migrating waterfowl that in spring and fall filled our early mornings with the call of geese in flight. In late February, the croaking of treefrogs seeking mates made a glorious din that penetrated our winter walls!

Exchange this for more apartments and traffic? Incensed neighbors talked to other neighbors, gradually widening the circle by visiting every house in the McKinley-Wilson enclave. Out of these conversations began a long process of grass roots activism among people who had never before engaged in environmental advocacy. The Westmoreland Wetlands Advocacy Group was formed with \$2,000 of seed money donated by a single neighbor; an eleventh-hour grant writing marathon resulted in a successful \$5,000 grant from the McKenzie River Gathering, enabling WWAG to pay for legal advice, postage, fliers and other expenses.

Of course, the process was impossibly difficult and

prolonged, fraught with interpersonal stress and frustration for many of the participants whose commitment to the wetlands project competed with full time jobs and families. Although over a hundred neighbors participated during different times in the process, two of the founding members of WWAG, John Henry and Ginger Gietzen, provided continuity from start to finish, eliciting support and guidance from members of Citizens for Public Accountability (CPA) and intervention by the staff in the offices of Senator Ron Wyden and Congressman Peter DeFazio.

After nearly three years and with little money left of the original grant and donations, WWAG and the McKinley Street neighbors were ecstatic in November 2000 to hear the news: the City of Eugene had entered into an agreement to purchase 6.4 acres of the wetland property from the Portland-based Bingham Construction and to preserve and restore the wetlands as a natural area. In January 2002, the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) assembled a nine-member citizen steering committee that included four McKinley Street neighbors who reviewed the site assessment report and management goals. The group selected a new name for the site: Gudu-kut



Natural Area. Gudu-kut is taken from the Kalapuyan language and, appropriately, means "tree frog". Although Ginger Gietzen moved back to her hometown of Buffalo, New York two years ago, each February when we hear the treefrogs begin their raucous chorus, we phone Ginger to let her know that the frogs are singing and all is well on the wetlands.

In the next newsletter: a followup on Gudu-kut with a look at native species, restoration projects since the wetland was preserved, and possibilities for future projects.



Sustainability Committee Update

by Linda Kelley

I attended my first meeting as Sustainability representative for our Neighborhood association June 10th at Growers Market. This was the second meeting of the committee who met for the first time May 19th. The committee was formed with a charge of creating a forum for ideas and recommendations for sustainable practices on a neighborhood level and acting as a communication channel between NLC, neighborhood associations and community groups to promote those practices.

Representatives from 7 neighborhood associations spent time brainstorming ideas that we hope will raise some excitement on the neighborhood level.

Ideas included simple and fun plant swaps and harvest sharing block parties; bike tours that showcase gardens and other sustainable ideas happening in the neighborhood, to bigger projects like Neighborhood Gleaning and gardening support programs.

We shared ideas on how to reach out and involve more neighbors in sustainability issues and ideas. Each of us will bring the full list of the ideas we generated back to our next Neighborhood meetings for discussion. Hopefully we can pick one or more ideas we'd like to make happen in the next few months! The Sustainability Committee plans to reach out and encourage other neighborhood associations to join us in the future, but for now we are excited with the wealth of energy, thoughtfulness and experience that is in the group.

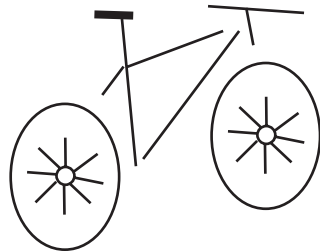


Human-Powered by Shane Rhodes

In the last year, the City of Eugene completed the Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategic Plan, and a lot of action is afoot in the three main areas of that plan.

Share the Road Campaign

A lot of great ideas for a traffic safety awareness campaign have been shared. The working group includes members from the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA), the Greater Eugene Area Riders (GEARs), AAA of Oregon and Idaho, and the City of Eugene. All have been working to address the attitudes that contribute to unsafe behaviors we see on our streets everyday. The intention is to engage a broader coalition of roadway users that will create and deliver a campaign theme to focus on creating empathy. We may differ in how and why we travel, but we agree on our desire to reach our destination comfortably and safely. This effort will focus on fostering positive behavior and is scheduled to commence this summer.



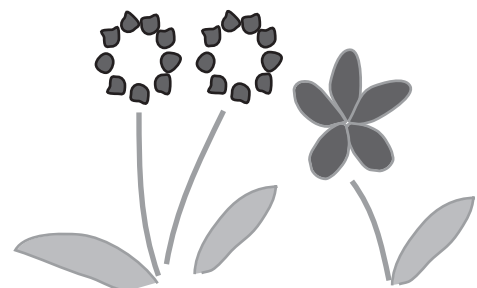
Education

The City of Eugene and GEARs are working together to teach Bicycle

Education through the summer. We offer Kids and Commuter classes and the more in-depth Street Skills I & II, which when put together will give you a Road One Certification from the League of American Bicyclists.

Some folks might not feel safe riding on the streets, and these classes can help them become more confident and comfortable. These classes are even great for those who consider themselves 'advanced' riders. I first took this class after being a 'serious' transportation cyclists for more than 10 years, and I learned a few things. Most important, I learned how to talk to other people about how and why I ride the way I do.

A complete schedule and registration is on the GEARs website (www.eugenegears.org).



Land Use



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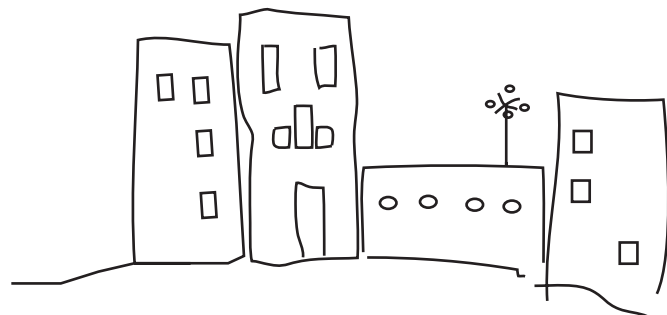


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Report on Infill Compatibility Standards Task Team by Mark Siemens

The City of Eugene has formed an Infill Compatibility Standards Task Team, and it has been meeting regularly since November of 2007. The Infill Compatibility Standards Task Team (ICSTT) is a group nominated by neighborhoods and approved & appointed by the Eugene Planning Commission to develop recommendations for standards that will encourage good infill and increased density within the Urban Growth Boundary. The goal is to have submitted those recommendations to the Planning Commission by about October of 2008. There will be reviews by the Planning Commission, the public, the City Council, and then more public input including Hearings with adoption of new standards by about June of 2009.

Mark Siemens is the Farwest representative to the Task Team and Carlis Nixon is the Alternate. Both are actively involved also on subcommittees where the primary work is happening since their formation in March 2008. In addition to the Task Team membership, Mark sits on subcommittees having to do with infill issues for single family dwelling neighborhoods, and on the subcommittee having to do with the design and methodology of the gathering of information and how to use that data, the Methodology and Mapping subcommittee. Carlis is serving on the Impacts and Characteristics subcommittee as well as the Outreach (public involvement) subcommittee. Interested people can stay informed about meetings and progress by visiting: <http://www.eugene-or.gov/infill>.



Moving Forward Together by Rob Zako

What are the changing trends in housing, economic development and transportation -- and what do these mean for the future of Lane County?

A dozen experts from around the country offered their answers at the recent Lane County Moving Forward Together "smart growth" conference.

Former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening presented demographic shifts caused by Baby Boomers approaching retirement. The number of households without children is increasing. He argues that the nation already has all the traditional single-family detached housing it needs. Demand for other kinds of housing will increase over the coming decades.

Economist Joe Cortright shared the results of a recent study, "Driven to the Brink: How the gas price spike popped the housing bubble," showing that home values have fallen most in areas with the longest commutes. People are looking to live closer to where they work to save money on gasoline.

Developer Robert "Skip" Rotticci offered three principles for development: connectivity, diversity, and sustainability. Connections between where people live, work, shop, learn and play - and between each other - enhances community. Diversity in housing types, jobs, shops, transportation, and kinds of residents provides choices and a strong community.

Reid Ewing, author of *Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change*, underscored reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Dennis Donald and John Huyler, who are facilitating the West Eugene Collaborative, talked about when collaboration is a good decision-making process -- and when it isn't.

For more information about the conference, including videos of the speakers and slide presentations, and to join the online discussion, visit www.moving-forwardtogether.net.

West 11th Redevelopment Project

by Nora Cronin

1880 W. 11th Ave

Sponsored by: St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc. (SVDP) was excited to attend the recent neighborhood association's meeting and present plans to redevelop our property at the corner of 11th and Hayes. We have owned and operated a successful SVDP Thrift Store on this property for over 50 years but the existing store is clearly dated and in need of redevelopment.

After several design iterations, SVDP staff and design team have developed an appropriate and attractive design for the site. The new four-story mixed use building will provide 35 units of affordable housing (all one bedroom units) and ground floor retail space, to house SVDP's first stand-alone bookstore. Project amenities include an on-site community room, laundry room, and outdoor terrace. The projected rents will range from \$385 to \$410.

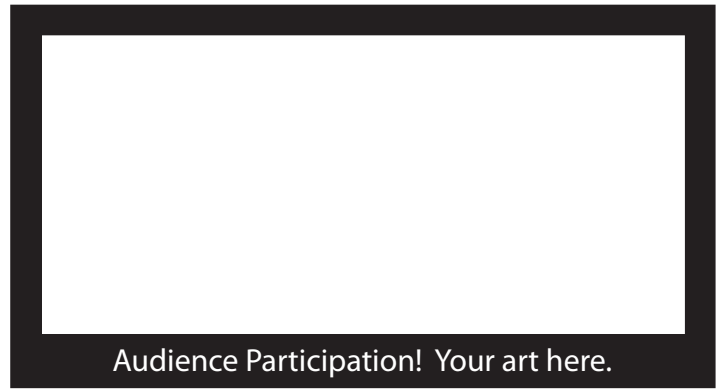
This project has already been awarded local affordable housing funding from the City of Eugene. We are seeking additional funding from Oregon Housing and Community Services this July. If the project is funded, construction would start in the summer of 2009.

Please contact Kristen Karle, Housing Development Director, for more info (687-5820).

Youth

West Eugene Teen Court by Bruce Steinmetz

West Eugene area youths are working to help their peers and improve the community by volunteering in the West Eugene Teen Court. In this City of Eugene Recreation program, teens age 12 -17 conduct court hearings for first-time offenders who are admitting guilt to non-violent misdemeanors and violations. The Lane County Department of Youth

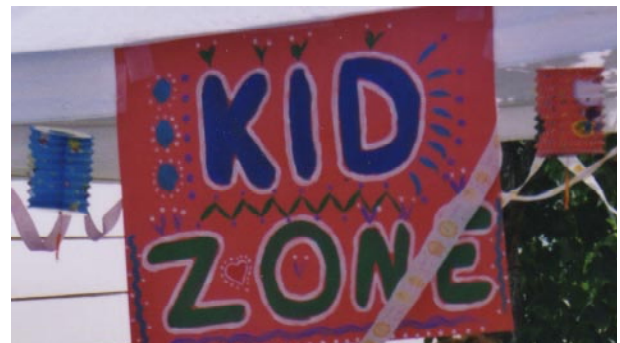


Services authorizes the Teen Court as a voluntary diversion program for the offending youths. Youths who complete their peer-determined sentences earn a recommendation to clear the event from their juvenile record.

West Eugene Teen Court members must live or go to school in the Churchill High attendance area. Volunteers complete a training to learn about restorative justice principles and appropriate guidelines for sentencing. Many use this courtroom experience for school-required community service hours as well as for job and college references.

Teen Court member Emma Siemens, a Far West neighborhood resident, was chosen by United Way and the *Register-Guard* as the Youth and Children's Services Volunteer of the Month in August of last year. Emma serves on the court as a Defendant Advisor, Case Presenter, Court Clerk and Juror. Another youth volunteer, Nicole Perkins, was honored in April as the Youth Volunteer of the Year.

If you have a teen who is interested in becoming part of the West Eugene Teen Court, contact program supervisor Bruce Steinmetz at 682-6376 or bruce.h.steinmetz@ci.eugene.or.us. Training for new peer court members is **Thursday, July 24, 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.** at Petersen Barn Community Center, 870 Berntzen Rd.





FARWEST NEIGHBORS
 c/o Neighborhood Services
 99 West 10th Avenue
 Eugene, OR 97401-3015

Visit Neighborhoods on the web at www.eugene-or.gov
FarWestHood@gmail.com



Jeff Thomas' Top Seven Reasons to Paint a mural in the intersection:

1. To calm traffic by making it a place.
2. To build community and get to know each other.
3. To create a plaza where people can regularly cross paths.
4. To provide an anchor for ongoing tradition year after year.
5. To symbolically represent the neighborhood's location within the cosmos.
6. To provide a target for vandals who need community more than they realize.
7. To send a message to any aliens watching to please spare this neighborhood.

FarWest Neighbors Board of Directors

Carlis Nixon , Secretary	345.0983
Clarence Townsend , Treasurer	342.2898
Heidi Beierle , Publicity Director	514.4409
Chair, vacant	
2nd Chair, vacant	

FarWestHood@gmail.com

FarWest Neighbors Committee Representatives

Heidi Beierle, Neighborhood Leaders Council (NLC)
Peter Bungum, LTD, West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE)
Mark Siemens, Infill Compatibility Standards (ICS)
Carlis Nixon, ICS Alternate
Linda Kelley, NLC Sustainability Committee

