



City of Battle Creek  
**Sustainable BC Committee**  
Zoom Meeting  
Monday, August 25, 2025 1:30pm – 2:30pm

**The purpose** of this Committee is to increase the City's efforts to incorporate environmentally responsible, cost effective policy in the planning, administration and economic development of its built infrastructure and natural resources. The Committee may make recommendations to the City Commission for their consideration and will be available as a resource on sustainability policy.

The committee is grateful for the land upon which we live, and recognizes the Potawatomi Nation as the original inhabitants. The committee seeks to partner when possible with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHB) Tribe in stewardship of the land and its natural resources.

## AGENDA

- **Call to Order**
- **Introductions Committee Members & Guests**
- **Approval of Minutes:** June 23, 2025 Completed in July 28, 2025 meeting on Sus. Goals (Moved by PJH and supported by BGibert)
- **Presenter: Austin Steele: Planting fruit trees in local neighborhood parks.**
  - Notes: From their research they found it require 100-200 hours of manpower/year. Similar successes with this were in Moab, Utah; Billings, Montana; Bloomington, Indiana; Port Huron, Michigan.
- **Reports by City Staff & Commissioners**
  - **Environmental Programs updates:**
    - 2025 Sustainability Goals...
    - Photo Contest: 47 Adult submissions. 9 Youth.
      - New method for voting! In the past I only got about 20 voters, this year through the Jot Form, I got 78 voters!!
        - Results are in! See slideshow..
    - DPW Open House: Success event though the last hour it rained.
      - Seen over 100 participants. See slideshow.
    - Kellogg Bird Program (FREE): September 11 from 6-7pm
    - Tree Plantings:
      - September 13 from 9am-noon with MUCC
        - Register at [bcwater.org](http://bcwater.org)
    - Arboretum Tree Program (Free with some excellent giveaways!!)
      - September 13 from 10am-noon
    - 2025 Calhoun County HHW and Electronic Events:
      - Sept 15: HHW 2:30-5:30pm @Marshall Fairgrounds
      - Oct 13: HHW 2:30-5:30pm @ Bailey Park
      - Scrap Tire Grant AWARDED!! County Scrap Tire Dates are still to be determined...
    - Sept. 24: Scrap Tire for City of Battle Creek residents only at DPW 4-6pm
    - Lawson Printers won the quote for our 2026 Clean Water Calendar: Yay Lawson
      - Designing in the works, Secure event dates
      - Plan to have these in hand before Thanksgiving
    - Krazy for the Kazoo, October 4, 2025 from 8:30am-11am
      - Meeting at Willard Beach in the morning for donuts and coffee
  - **Environmental Grants: Awarded/Pending/Pursuing**

- **Awarded:** Forest to MI Faucets – tree grant through Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, 93 trees along Kalamazoo River at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
  - 1<sup>st</sup> phase of planting 68 trees: June 11 & 12
    - Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Black Gum, Musclewood, Tulip Poplar
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> phase in August: 25 Planting Pawpaw Trees! SUCCESS!!
- **Awarded:** Michigan DNR, Urban and Community Forestry Grant w/Leila Arboretum
- **Pending:** Michigan EGLE, Source Water Protection Grant
- **Not Awarded:** Composting Consortium, Food Composting Grant

#### Planning Department Updates:

- **City Commission Updates:** Should we have a commissioner on the Board?
- **Sustainability Plan Notes:** Updates needed following GHS Inventory results. Hope to discuss with new Commission in later 2025. **October 21 @ 5 pm**
- **Field Trips, Trainings, Etc.:**
- **Other Business:**
- **Public Comments**
- **Member Comments/Announcements:**
  - **Next Meeting:** 2025: February 24, April 28, June 23, Aug. 25, Oct. 27, Dec. 22 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of Month.
- **Adjournment:**

#### Member List:

- Andy Helmboldt (Community Volunteer)
- Patty Hoch-Melluish (DPW City of Battle Creek)
- Bessie Ploeg (DPW City of Battle Creek)
- Bob Gilbert (Community Volunteer)
- Keona Ackley (Community Volunteer)
- Mark Behnke (Mayor City of Battle Creek)
- Kris Martin (BC Unlimited)
- Chris Bacik (Community Volunteer)
- Mike Wyszynski (Community Volunteer)
- Michael Hall (Community Volunteer)
- Mark Stephens (Community Volunteer)
- Danielle (Dee) Chauvin (Community Volunteer)
- Roger Bosse (Community Volunteer) Member of Lions Club

#### Guests Listed:

- Kurt Tribbett (DPW City of Battle Creek)

- Darcy Schmitt (Planning City of Battle Creek)
- Ryan Reincke (Calhoun Conservation District)
- Jake Smith (Commissioner)
- Paige Katsarsky-Smith (Commissioner)
- Austin Steele (Presenter)