

FISHERS ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The Fishers Environmental Working Group (EWG) is a group of governmental department representatives and non-governmental stakeholder representatives all working together to help the City of Fishers be more prepared for the impacts of climate change. These departments include the Mayor's Office, Fishers Parks, Engineering, Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Hamilton Southeastern Schools, and more. While warmer temperatures, increased extreme heat events, and increased rainfall will become more and more prevalent issues, mitigation is necessary, and the City of Fishers wants to be at the forefront of climate action (IN CCIA Report).



Action Items with this symbol throughout Fishers 2040 are noted as contributing Action Items to the City's ongoing Environmental Working Group.

Formed in 2021, this collaborative group strives to shape a vision for what the City of Fishers can and should do to support environmental sustainability and resiliency. Meeting quarterly, this group assesses internal and external operations of the city to see how Fishers as a municipality can be more sustainable. The EWG focuses on the sustainable actions listed in the Fishers 2040 Comprehensive Plan including Land Use, Housing & Neighborhoods, Transportation, and Parks. This is all to promote clean energy and electric vehicles, preserve flood capacity, improve biodiversity, and supply additional methods of waste management to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and play our city's part in mitigating climate change.

While warmer temperatures, increased extreme heat events, and increased rainfall will become more and more prevalent issues, **mitigation is necessary**, and the **City of Fishers wants to be at the forefront of climate action.**



The new DPW trailer that houses the two battery-powered lawn mowers, Spring 2022.

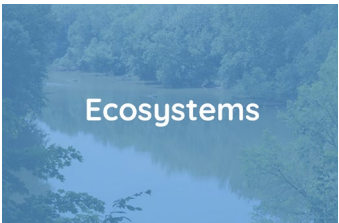
The Fishers Environmental Working is broken into four subgroups that encompasses the various governmental departments and non governmental stakeholders which are:

- Ecosystems
- Urban + Community Development
- Recreation + Trails and
- Rural + Resource Lands



The structure of the Fishers Environmental Working Group includes four subgroups.

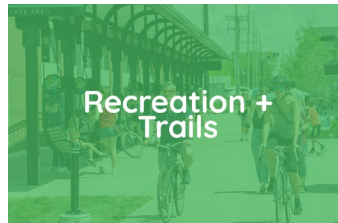
Structure and objectives are from the Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS) Green Futures Research and Design Lave of the University of Washington. More info can be found at openspacepugetsound.org.



Maintain and restore resilience to ecosystems and habitats at multiple scales in the face of a changing climate. Integrate human activities more closely with natural processes; support active resource-based economies; contribute to the identity and health of the region.



Serve an economic function by attracting investment decisions, businesses and people, and support community development efforts as a consideration in all new construction and development. Development should be designed for optimum use and multi-functionality and should protect and enhance ecosystems and wildlife patterns.









Create accessible opportunities for recreation and support better mobility by linking parks, open spaces, and community destinations. Conserve energy, reduce green house gas emissions, and maintains biodiversity through habitat conservation and restoration.



Maintain a diverse and resilient landscape of rural and resource lands owned and operated by those that live in or are connected to the city. This landscape provides the food, resources, and ecosystem services we need and preserves our legacy for future generations.






Action Status

-  Underway (started, but not yet complete)
-  Future (not started)
-  Future, then maintenance (yet to be started, would become maintenance)
-  Complete
-  New (Future actions added during the 5-year update in 2021)
-  Maintenance (currently occurring on a repeating basis, to be maintained)















Strategic Actions

Future Land Use

	Status	Notes	Lead by	Supported by
 PK-3.3.6. Update the UDO to include standards for protection of lands designated on the open space overlay in the future land use map.			Ecosystems	
 LU-3.2.4. Study land uses along waterway and other natural resources for environmental protection		New city park along the White River	Ecosystems	
 LU-3.4.1. Identify potential changes to land use policies that would improve environmental sustainability and public health.		Solar Panels permitted per UDO, EV Charging Stations required for Multi-Family Developments.	Rural + Resources Lands	











Strategic Actions

Housing & Neighborhoods

	Status	Notes	Lead by	Supported by
 HN-5.1.5. Develop a set of best practices the City should pursue to conserve and protect Fishers' natural systems.			Ecosystems	
 HN-5.1.6. Monitor emerging trends in energy technologies to assess whether new products or practices could help to optimize resource management in Fishers.		Drive Clean Indiana Green Fleet Analysis	All subgroups	
 HN-5.1.3. Revise the UDO to encourage the use of low impact development (LID) practices in the design, construction and maintenance of residential neighborhoods, redevelopment sites and in mixed use areas.		LID is also mentioned in Transportation	Ecosystems	
 HN-2.1.4. Provide an option to lower the overall percentage of open space required in a specific development if it is activated with multiple elements such as public art, recreational amenities, environmental best practices and facilities which promote social interaction for all ages and abilities.		UDO Section 6.15.2. Public Art 25% Open Space Reduction option	Recreations + Trails	
 HN-3.1.2. Revise the standards in the UDO to ensure the use of quality building materials and construction practices.			Ecosystem	
 HN-5.1.8. Revise the UDO to promote green building practices to maximize energy efficiency, waste reduction, pollution prevention and occupant health.			Ecosystems	











Strategic Actions

Transportation

	Status	Notes	Lead by	Supported by
 TR-8.1.4. Evaluate the City's design standards to ensure infrastructure built by new development will have a long life span.				Recreations + Trails
 TR-9.5.1. Adopt low-impact development (LID) standards in the UDO.				Ecosystems
 TR-9.6.1. Create best practices for EV Charging for multi-family and commercial developments.				Urban + Community Development
 TR-9.6.2. Update UDO to require EV Charging at commercial developments over a certain threshold and define minimum requirements for a EV charging facility.				Urban + Community Development
 TR-9.6.3. Be a resource for existing multi-family and destination commercial developments (Fishers District, TopGolf, etc.) by facilitating and connecting national EV networkers to existing developments.		Drive Clean Indiana Membership		Urban + Community Development

Strategic Actions

Parks

	Status	Notes	Lead by	Supported by
 PK-7.2.1. Plant areas of indigenous plantings in some areas of the parks to reduce costs over time and to increase the natural areas in the park system.		Covered 2-acres of turf grass to native plantings at Cumberland Park. 200 native fruit and nut trees and shrubs planted at the AgriPark. Native plantings installed along Nickel Plate Trail.		Rural + Resource Lands
 PK-7.2.2. Proactively integrate environmentally sustainable best practices and products throughout the parks system such as recycling bins, solar lighting, composting, the use of rain barrels, and educational signage.		Rain Barrel & Composting programs at the AgriPark & the Fishers Recycling Events		Rural + resource Lands
 PK-6.2.1. Partner with the Central Indiana Land Trust to lease natural areas to offer public trails and interpretive education.				Recreation + Trails
 PK-3.1.2. Develop a park to showcase LID and sustainable design to encourage the community to embrace sustainable practices.		Geist Waterfront Park, park along the White River		Rural + Resource Lands
 PK-6.2.5. Partner with neighborhood organizations and homeowner associations to identify, digitize and track the privately owned and maintained parks within neighborhoods.				Rural + Resource Lands

Maintenance Actions and Ongoing Policies Housing and Neighborhoods

Status Notes Lead by Supported by



HN-3.1.4. Conduct outreach with residents and Home Owners Associations to inform and encourage maintenance of detention ponds, trails and both green and gray infrastructure.



Neighborhood Vibrancy Grant & Stormwater Grant

Rural + Resource Lands

Maintenance Actions and Ongoing Policies Transportation

Status Notes Lead by Supported by



TR-9.5.4. Be a resource for the local development community to inform on new standards and receive input.



Urban + Community

Maintenance Actions and Ongoing Policies Parks

Status Notes Lead by Supported by



PK-3.2.1. Train staff on best practices for the installation and maintenance of sustainable products and practices to optimize their effectiveness and longevity.



All subgroups



PK-3.2.2. Monitor the use of sustainable products and practices to assess their effectiveness and refine best practices.



Composting at Agripark, smart water meters to reduce water usage, electric mowers

All subgroups



PK-3.2.3. Incorporate and maintain native plantings and no mow areas into the parks, as appropriate.



DPW identified 23 acres of HSE Schools property to mow less frequently.

Recreations + Trails



PK-3.2.4. Support opportunities for citizen involvement in environmental sustainability, such as providing more opportunities for recycling at city events and around the community.



Keep Fishers Beautiful, Rain Barrel and Composting Programs

Rural + Resource Lands



PK-3.3.4. Preserve mature trees and the city's tree canopy through policy requirements, incentives and other innovative measures.



Agripark Tree Nursery, Neighborhood Vibrancy Grant

Ecosystems



PK-3.3.5. Inventory, monitor and track health of the city's trees and endangered species.



DPW maintains a tree inventory as part of its accreditation status

Ecosystems



PK-7.2.3. Assess the success of these products and practices to ensure they are achieving the desired outcomes.



All subgroups



PK-7.2.4. Pursue grant funding for sustainable products and programs.



2022 IDEM Community Recycling Grant received for Agripark composting program and composting tumblers

All subgroups