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The City of Vadnais Heights
800 East County Road E
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Memorandum:

TO: Mayor Krachmer and City Council Members

FROM: Kaylin Clement, Assistant City Administrator

DATE: July 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Green Team Update – First Event, August 3 5:00 pm

Background

The Gold Leaf Pilot Program is nine-months, running from December 2022 to September 2023. Participants of the pilot Gold Leaf program will be recognized as they achieve 'gold leaves' for completing selected initiatives.

Earlier this year, the City Council decided to pursue the following two initiatives as part of Vadnais Heights' involvement in the program:

- Combined Green Team
- Community Restoration

The Green Team recruitment began in early June, following the assignment of a University of Minnesota student placement to assist with efforts as part of their graduate studies. Six people have signed up for the Green Team thus far, and the first event is set for August 3 at 5:00 pm at City Hall. The promotional language is below:

Join us for the Green Team's introductory event – **Raingarden/Native Planting Maintenance** on Thursday, August 3, 5:00 pm at Vadnais Heights City Hall (800 E. County Road E).

City Hall is the site of one of Vadnais Height's most established raingarden, and like any landscaping feature – it requires routine maintenance to not only look good, but also serve its purpose of effectively treating stormwater.

At this event, VLAWMO (Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization) staff will provide Green Teamers hands-on training focusing on:

- Watersheds, wetlands, lakes, stormwater, and how these relate to City infrastructure
- Assessing the status of a raingarden
- Plant identification and seasonal maintenance checklists
- Light volunteer maintenance of native planting areas

We're always looking for more opportunities to add native plantings and raingardens to the City, and with your help, we can keep those we currently have flourishing and functioning for years to come!

The hope is to cross promote with VLAWMO's Adopt a Raingarden program, while also gaining insight on other projects the Green Team would like to accomplish before the completion of the Gold Leaf program (which wraps up in September).

Green Team members wanting to learn more following the event at City Hall are encouraged to then head over to Westfield Park where the new bioswale stormwater feature will be introduced by VLAWMO staff, and the Minnesota Master Gardeners will be offering tips on pollinators and native plants, from 6:30-8:00 pm.