

Resolution on Increasing the Implementation of Sustainable Practices in the Built Environment

Whereas, compared to conventional practices, sustainable practices have the ability to increase viable wildlife habitat, increase groundwater infiltration, decrease erosion, decrease water pollution and positively influence people's quality of life;

Whereas, the general public is losing touch with the natural environment as a result of conventional practices that: harm the natural environment, eliminate viable habitat by displacing native ecosystems, and contribute to water runoff, water pollution, and soil erosion;

Whereas, conventional building practices have contributed to the reduction of wildlife biodiversity in the built environment by creating habitat fragmentation and loss;

Whereas, humans have an innate affinity to the natural world that is being compromised by the built environment;

Whereas, sustainable practices promote pervious surfaces that decrease water runoff, increase groundwater infiltration, and decrease soil erosion;

Whereas, sustainable practices, including planting of appropriate native plants will attract wildlife by offering covering and possible nest sites, as well as sources of food;

Whereas, current landscape practices utilize excessive fertilizer that runs off and contaminates local bodies of water and contribute to eutrophication, which negatively affects fisheries and impacts wild food sources;

Whereas, the increase in wildlife and wildland habitat in built spaces has the ability to improve public health by offering a place where humans can connect with the natural environment;

Whereas, groundwater depletion causes the drying up of wells, lowering of water table, and increased pumping cost;

Whereas, conventional landscaping requires more maintenance and expense, such as lawn equipment, fertilizer application, regular trimming, mowing, and sprinkler irrigation, which consumes 50 gallons per day in an average US household, contributing to 30-60% of municipal fresh water use;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids on April 21st and 22nd collaborate with the Wisconsin Department of

Administration, the Wisconsin Builders' Association, municipal governments, public and private universities, and local school districts, including the WI Green Schools Network, to promote:

- a. Conserving and preserving existing native landscapes in building spaces and future building development sites.
- b. Replacing existing conventional landscaping practices, specifically by planting native plant species such as prairie grasses and flowers, in spaces currently occupied by turf and lawns.
- c. Using green spaces in the built environment to restore the human-nature relationships in urban areas.

Submitted by the Conservation Leadership Corps

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