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Community Services & Economic Development
636-537-6721

M E M O

DATE: February 4, 2011

TO: Michael Herring, City Administrator

COPY: Mike Geisel, Director of Planning, Public Works & Parks

FROM: Libbey Malberg-Tucker *Libbey*
Assistant City Administrator for
Community Services & Economic Development

RE: Native Landscape Challenge

At their last meeting, The Citizens Committee for the Environment hosted guests from a group called St. Louis Wild Ones, which is the local chapter of the national organization. Essentially, they promote the establishment of native plants around homes, schools and businesses, using ecological practices. They made a request to bring the 2011 Native Landscape Challenge to Chesterfield.

For the past five years, in partnership with Shaw Nature Reserve and the Mo. Dept. of Conservation, they have sponsored a \$1,000 Native Landscape Challenge in various communities in the area. Residents who would like a front-yard makeover using native plants would apply to Wild Ones directly or through our web site for this process. Applicants describe their landscape dilemma, why they wish to use native plants, their gardening experience, drainage issues and how the space will be used. A committee comprised of members of each of the organizations reviews the applications to choose the winner, and I have suggested that Mindy Mohrman, City Arborist/Urban Forester, participate on the committee as well to make sure the plants are in conformance with our noxious weed ordinance.

I have discussed this contest with Mr. Geisel and Chief Johnson and they don't have any issues with proceeding with the contest. The only thing they ask the City to help with is in the promotion of the contest. At your suggestion, I would like to ask for the approval from the Planning & Public Works Committee on this contest, due to their involvement with creating the noxious weed ordinance.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I've attached some photos from the planting days of the previous contest winners.

JJH
2/6/11

