

# GWCA

## 2nd Quarter 2025 Community Meeting

Date and Time: Jun 19, 2025 6:00 PM

Location:  Warner Garden Park

### Highlights

- **Environmental Highlights:** Featured guest speakers Olivia Reda (Alliance of the Great Lakes) on microplastics and Kevin Serena (EXO Building Solutions) on green roofs, alongside updates on our very own local pollinator sites.
  - **Council Elections:** Confirmed Council candidates Bruce, Colin, and Janice for 18-month terms and issued a call for neighbors interested in serving as Block Reps.
  - **Upcoming Events:** Save the date for the 43rd Annual Garden Walk on Sunday, July 27 (1–5 PM); a volunteer planning meeting will be held June 24 at 6:30 PM.
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### Notes

#### 1. Welcome & Business

- **Introductions:** the meeting opened by welcoming neighbors to the annual Summer Solstice Potluck and Environmental Program.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Recent meeting minutes were reviewed and acknowledged.
- **Election Results:** Council terms are 18 months. Neighbors who were current members as of May 29 and June 19 were eligible to vote. (Interested residents are still encouraged to inquire about serving on the Council or as a Block Rep).

## 2. Community & Neighborhood Updates

- **43rd Annual Garden Walk:** \* **Date:** Sunday, July 27, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM.
  - **Details:** Maps will be available at Warner Park & Gardens.
  - **Call for Help:** Linda and Chad are looking for volunteers to "learn the ropes" and help lead the event. A planning committee meeting will be held June 24 at 6:30 PM at Warner Park.
- **Infrastructure & Maintenance:**
  - **Berteau Bioswales:** These are critical for managing stormwater flooding.
  - **Traffic Circles:** A reminder that the City/Ward expects GWCA and neighbors to be responsible for cleaning the bioswales and traffic circles.
  - **Appreciation:** Special thanks to Ben, Linda, Colin, Kim (at Swan Cleaners), Brad, and Ben for their ongoing maintenance work. More volunteers are needed to keep these areas clean.

## 3. Environmental Program: ECO Committee 2025

- **Plastics & The Great Lakes:** Olivia Reda from the Alliance of the Great Lakes presented on the impact of plastics, microbeads, and microplastics on our physical health and the environment. She highlighted specific actions neighbors can take to reduce plastic footprints.
- **Green Roofs & Construction:** Kevin Serena (CDT, LEED, GA) from EXO Building Solutions (representing American Hygrotech) discussed green roof technology and waterproofing. He explained how these systems benefit urban environments by reducing heat and managing water.

## 4. Sustainability Projects & Earth Week Success

- **Pollinator Pathways:** GWCA has successfully installed 14 Native Plant Pollinator & Stormwater Absorption sites. Every 100 sq. ft. of these sites absorbs over 2,000 gallons of stormwater annually.
- **LVHS/JROTC Project:** \* In April, GWCA donated plants and shrubs for two new sites on the Lake View High School campus.
  - The JROTC exceeded goals in planting these sites and will begin working on the Irving Park and Ashland entrances this fall.
- **Earth Week 55 Recap:** Celebration of Cycling: A successful event featuring a bike decoration station, obstacle course, bike swap/donation, and a parade (led by Colin, Chad, and Nick).
  - **Kids Pollinator Site:** Ben and Linda updated the group on the progress of the dedicated kids' site at Warner Park.

## 5. Fundraising & Membership

- **LVHS Campus Greening:** GWCA is looking to raise funds for the 2025/2026 school year to continue providing plants and materials for the LVHS pollinator and stormwater sites.
- **General Fundraising:** Brad noted ongoing efforts to secure funding for general neighborhood beautification and environmental initiatives.
- **Membership:** Neighbors were encouraged to join or renew memberships and were reminded that donations can be designated for specific projects (like the LVHS initiative) or general funds.

## 6. Upcoming Calendar

- **Yoga in the Park:** Saturdays, July 12 and September 6 (9:45 AM – 10:45 AM) at Warner Park & Gardens. Free for residents.
- **Garden Walk Committee Meeting:** June 24, 6:30 PM.
- **43rd Annual Garden Walk:** July 27, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM.
- **Future Meetings:** The council will share the full Q3/Q4 calendar in the upcoming e-blast.

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For more information or to volunteer, please visit [gracelandwest.org](https://www.gracelandwest.org).