

**NOTICE OF PARKS & KEEP SPI BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

9:00 AM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR
4601 PADRE BOULEVARD, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS

1.Call to Order

2.Pledge of Allegiance

3.Public Comments and Announcements

This is an opportunity for citizens to speak to Committee relating to agenda or non-agenda items. Speakers are required to address Committee at the podium and give their name before addressing their concerns. [Note: State law will not permit the Parks & Keep SPI Beautiful Committee to discuss debate or consider items that are not on the agenda. Citizen Comments may be referred to City Staff or may be placed on the agenda of a future Parks & Keep SPI Beautiful Committee meeting]

4.Regular Agenda

- 4.1. Approval of the October 20, 2021 regular meeting minutes. (Huffman)
- 4.2. Update and discussion regarding City Parks Maintenance. (Wilson)
- 4.3. Update and discussion on Phase II of John L. Tompkins Park. (Huffman)
- 4.4. Update and discussion regarding the 2021 Christmas Parade/Events. (Huffman)
- 4.5. Discussion and possible action to take the initiative on the criteria for "Bird City Texas". (Gonzalez)

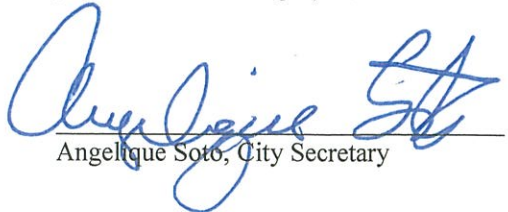
5.Adjourn

NOTE:

One or more members of the City of South Padre Island City Council may attend this meeting; if so, this statement satisfies the requirements of the OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

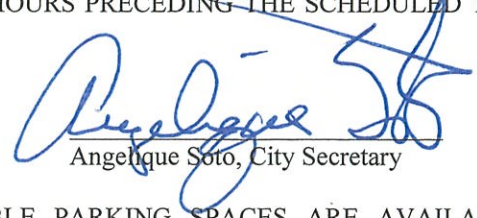
DATED NOVEMBER 10, 2021




Angelique Soto, City Secretary

Agenda: NOVEMBER 17, 2021

I, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE PARKS & KEEP SPI BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF SAID NOTICE AND THAT I POSTED A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF SAID NOTICE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT CITY HALL/MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON **NOVEMBER 10, 2021**, AT/OR BEFORE 5:00 PM AND REMAINED SO POSTED CONTINUOUSLY FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRECEDING THE SCHEDULED TIME OF SAID MEETING.



Angelique Soto, City Secretary

THIS FACILITY IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE, AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES ARE AVAILABLE. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS OR INTERPRETIVE SERVICES MUST BE MADE 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THIS MEETING. PLEASE CONTACT BUILDING OFFICIAL, GEORGE MARTINEZ AT (956)761-8103.



**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
PARKS & KEEP SPI BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2021

NAME & TITLE: Debbie Huffman

DEPARTMENT: Planning/Parks & Rec. Department

ITEM

Approval of the October 20, 2021 regular meeting minutes. (Huffman)

ITEM BACKGROUND

N/A

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

N/A

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: No

Approved by Legal: No

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS:

**MINUTES
CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
PARKS & KEEP SPI BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

1. Call to order.

The Parks & Keep SPI Beautiful Committee Members of the City of South Padre Island, Texas held a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at the Municipal Complex Building, 2nd Floor, 4601 Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island, Texas. Chairman Javier Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present: Committee Members Travis Kayser, Evelyn Alpert, and Steve Rambo. Committee Members Jeff Hoxtell, Julie Berman, and Thomas Bainter were absent.

City staff members present were Parks and Recreation Manager Debbie Huffman, Public Works Park Maintenance Lead Emmanuel Zuniga, and Environmental Health Director Victor Baldovinos. Also present is City Council Member Ken Medders.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments and Announcements

Public comments and announcements were given at this time.

4. Regular Agenda

4.1. Approval of September 16, 2021, special meeting minutes.

Committee Member Rambo made a motion, seconded by Committee Member Kayser, to approve the special meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

4.2. Presentation on Gulf Guardians “ Plastic Free Padre”.

Aarin Hartwell from Gulf Guardians gave a presentation on “Plastic Free Padre”.

4.3. Update and discussion regarding City Parks Maintenance.

Public Works Park Maintenance Lead Emmanuel Zuniga gave an update regarding the City Parks.

4.4. Update and discussion on Phase II of John L Tompkins Parks.

Parks and Recreation Manager Debbie Huffman gave an update on Phase II of John L. Tompkins Park.

4.5. Update and discussion regarding the 2021 Christmas Parade/Events.

Parks and Recreation Manager Debbie Huffman gave an update on the 2021 Christmas Events that will be on the SPI City Council agenda at 5:30 pm on October 20, 2021.

4.6. Discussion and possible action to take the initiative on the criteria for “Bird City Texas”.

Chairman Gonzalez presented the information on the Bird City Texas criteria. Committee Member Rambo made a motion, seconded by Committee Member Alpert to take the next steps to move forward with the Bird City Texas initiative items to recommend to the City Council.

5. Adjourn.

There being no further business Chairman Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Chairman Javier Gonzalez

Debbie Huffman, Parks Manager

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
PARKS & KEEP SPI BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2021

NAME & TITLE: Debbie Huffman

DEPARTMENT: Planning/Parks & Rec. Department

ITEM

Update and discussion regarding City Parks Maintenance. (Wilson)

ITEM BACKGROUND

On going maintenance update of all city parks

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Park Maintenance 09-572-0433

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

Chapter III. Policy 2.1.2: The City's beaches, beach access points, parks, playgrounds, waterfront promenades, boat ramps, shaded areas, restrooms, and other recreation amenities shall be placed and maintained in an appropriate manner and conveniently accessible for residents and visitors.

Strategy 2.1.2.2: Sustainable maintenance plan for parks and beaches shall be developed, and scheduled for cleanliness and adequate facilities operations.

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: No

Approved by Legal: No

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS:

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
PARKS & KEEP SPI BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2021

NAME & TITLE: Debbie Huffman

DEPARTMENT: Planning/Parks & Rec. Department

ITEM

Update and discussion on Phase II of John L. Tompkins Park. (Huffman)

ITEM BACKGROUND

Update on the progress of Phase II of John L Tompkins park.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

\$ 500,000 grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

Objective 2.2: The City should provide parks to meet the needs and desires of residents

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: No

Approved by Legal: No

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS:

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
PARKS & KEEP SPI BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2021

NAME & TITLE: Debbie Huffman

DEPARTMENT: Planning/Parks & Rec. Department

ITEM

Update and discussion regarding the 2021 Christmas Parade/Events. (Huffman)

ITEM BACKGROUND

The Parade is an annual Christmas event and is scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2021 with a backup date of Friday, December 10, 2021 in case of inclement weather. The event starts at Mars Lane and ends at Kingfish Street. This year a route will be southbound in the east lanes only due to the medians. The Christmas tree Lighting will be Wednesday, December 1, 2021 in front of City Hall prior to the City Council Meeting.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

\$5,000.00 Budget line item 09-572-9185 for all Christmas events (Tree Lighting and Parade)

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

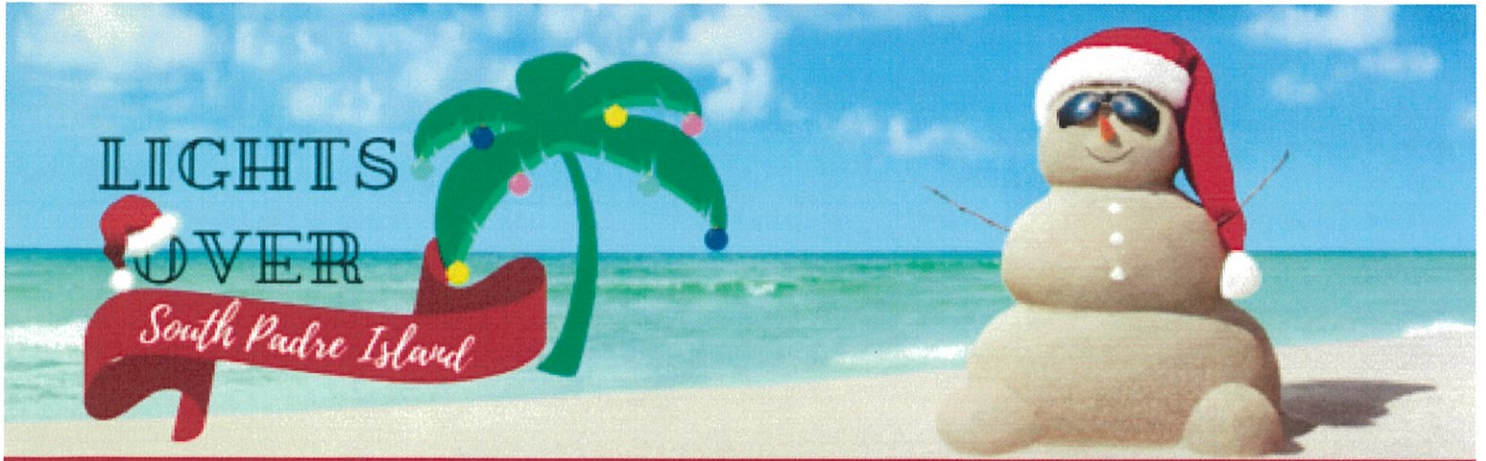
Chapter VI. Economic Development. Policy 1.1.3: The City should continue to showcase the arts and promote live music on South Padre Island. Strategy 1.1.3.3: The City should support concurrent events and festivals to expand joint-promotional opportunities and co-promote festivals with other Laguna Madre area communities, to increase traffic, and raise the profile of all Laguna Madre communities.

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: No

Approved by Legal: No

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS:



City of South Padre Island

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Let's kick off the Holiday season together!

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

5:00 pm

SPI City Hall

For more information, contact Parks & Recreation Manager
Debbie Huffman at dhuffman@myspi.org or (956) 761-8168



CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

32ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021

RAIN DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

**6:00 PM MARS TO KINGFISH ON PADRE BLVD.
EASTSIDE OF THE MEDIANS**

JOIN US FOR THIS FUN FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY EVENT
AND WATCH AS BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED FLOATS PASS BY
ON PADRE BOULEVARD.



**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
PARKS & KEEP SPI BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2021

NAME & TITLE: Debbie Huffman

DEPARTMENT: Planning/Parks & Rec. Department

ITEM

Discussion and possible action to take the initiative on the criteria for "Bird City Texas". (Gonzalez)

ITEM BACKGROUND

N/A

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

N/A

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: No

Approved by Legal: No

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS:



Bird City Texas Criteria

Bird City Texas recognizes 2 levels of commitment to improving native bird populations and their habitats: Basic certification and High Flyer status. High Flyer certification is a second tier recognition, and includes all the requirements of Basic Certification “plus” fulfilling the requirements of High Flyer.

Required Actions for All Communities:

Your community must complete all of the following requirements:

- R1. Community forms/maintains a collaborative body that supports the application development and management of their Bird City enrollment[†]
- R2. Community creates one resolution (proclamations are not accepted) that recognizes World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) on a reoccurring basis. Community holds an event each year to celebrate WMBD[†]
- R3. Create and maintain a demonstration bird-friendly native landscape on at least one highly visible community property^{**†}
- R4. Include noticeable information on municipal tourism and/or Chamber of Commerce website about local birding sites, lists of native birds, tips for landscaping for birds, local educational resources, birding events, bird-related citizen science projects, and bird clubs
- R5. Promote the American Bird Conservancy’s *Cats Indoors* program through education/ outreach to residents
- R6. Provide businesses and residents with education/outreach and/or a communications campaign about dark sky lighting solutions
- R7. Provide businesses and residents with education/outreach and/or a communications campaign about reducing bird collisions with buildings
- R8. Promote the use of native plants in landscaping through community website, newsletters, public events, and through use of the National Audubon Society’s *Plants for Birds* program^{**}
- R9. Provide and promote information on the importance of controlling invasive species (both plant and animal)



Bird City Texas Basic Certification Options:

Category 1: Community Engagement

Your community must meet at least 5 criteria from this category:

- 1a. Initiate community participation in at least one community science program annually: Audubon Climate Watch, Christmas Bird Count, D-Bird, Globe at Night, Great Backyard Bird Count, Hummingbirds at Home, Invaders of Texas, Swifts Night Out, Texas Nature Trackers**
- 1b. Engage community and partners in long-term (greater than 5 years) local bird monitoring programs that incorporate eBird and/or iNaturalist
- 1c. Implement an annual communications campaign about issues and actions related to Bird City Texas, creating Bird Friendly Communities, and the criteria that the community adopts
- 1d. Create and install demonstration displays in public areas that educate the public about the benefits of dark sky compliant lighting, window modifications that improve glass visibility and reduce glass reflectivity†
- 1e. Install bird watching amenities in public parks, such as bird blinds, observation decks, interpretive signs, binocular loan out programs, and birding/trail guides†
- 1f. Host at least one native plant sale with high emphasis on native plants (at least 75% native plants available)**
- 1g. Host 3 community volunteer planting events per year featuring native plants on public properties, community centers, libraries, or other sites where the plantings would be labeled and visible to the public**
- 1h. Engage the public park system and/or local museums to offer environmental education opportunities for the public that support the objectives of the Bird City program
- 1i. Public park system has interpretive/educational signage in natural areas that are open to the public that prioritizes bird identification and native bird ecology in their message
- 1j. Include a recurring (at minimum quarterly) native bird education themed section in a community newsletter, social media platform (i.e., Facebook, NextDoor, etc.)
- 1k. Conduct a speaker or workshop series (minimum 3 events per year) with topics focusing on issues relating to birds, wildlife, habitat, environmental stewardship, etc.
- 1l. Sponsor an annual bird festival that promotes community stewardship and appreciation of native birds and their habitats
- 1m. Work with traditionally underserved communities to increase engagement with parks, ecological education, and birding resources
- 1n. Educate the public about the responsibilities and best practices of providing food and water for birds and discern the benefits of natural food sources from supplemental feeding



Category 2: Habitat Enhancement and Protection

Your community must meet at least 8 criteria from this category:

- 2a. Develop and implement a bird-centric wildlife or habitat management plan for all lands owned or managed by the community**
- 2b. Acquire, through purchase or easement, long-term habitat for birds, wildlife, and native plant communities representative of the local ecosystem (wildscapes and demonstration gardens will not qualify)** †
- 2c. On existing protected properties, actively manage or improve existing habitat for birds, wildlife, and native plant communities representative of the local ecosystem**
- 2d. Create and conserve corridors and connectivity between habitat areas to promote movement and migration of birds, wildlife, and native plant communities†
- 2e. Incentivize residents, businesses, and community group participation in local habitat enhancement/restoration programs**
- 2f. Implement wetland habitat restorations or installations to mitigate flooding rather than stream channelization**†
- 2g. Where public safety allows, implement a policy and training that ensures dead trees are left standing in parks/natural areas to provide foraging and nesting habitat
- 2h. Develop and adopt a community approved list of only native tree and shrub species recommended for use by all new developments (business and sub-division developers) †
- 2i. Reduce municipal water use for landscaping by implementing permanent once/week landscape watering with irrigation system/sprinkler schedules citywide and/or native landscape incentive programs
- 2j. Implement an active invasive plant species removal program on public lands
- 2k. Under the guidance of a Wildlife Management Plan, community actively uses prescribed fire that benefits birds and native ecosystems
- 2l. Create overlays and other zoning and land use restrictions so that nature preserves are buffered against negative impacts of development†
- 2m. Enact and enforce more stringent city ordinances protecting existing bird habitat
- 2n. Implement seasonal management practices (such as mowing, pruning) that protect nesting birds,
- 2o. Manage natural areas in public parks to encourage the growth of native plants that provide important wildlife habitat including managed “No Mow” areas for native grasses and plants
- 2p. Sponsor at least 5 habitat restoration projects of at least 1 acre in size in the community to improve bird habitat over the 3 year period**
- 2q. Manage a municipal or public golf course for the benefit of native birds
- 2r. Community conducts an inventory of city lands (using iNaturalist or comparable platform) to document plant and animal species present and assesses habitat quality
- 2s. Review all properties slated for municipal development to avoid impacting quality bird habitat where possible, including adjusting siting of buildings to avoid habitat



Category 3: Creating Safer Spaces for Birds

Your community must meet at least 4 criteria from this category:

- 3a. Educate building owners/architecture community about Bird-Friendly Buildings best design practices and the conservation value of reducing collisions
- 3b. Provide best design guidelines about reducing bird collisions and impacts to businesses applying for new building permits
- 3c. Participate in National Lights Out Program during spring and fall migration periods
- 3d. Conduct a sustained educational campaign focused on the impacts of pesticides and herbicides on bird populations and include practical information on proven Integrated Pest Management options
- 3e. Implement Integrated Pest Management strategies to minimize use of pesticides and herbicides on city-managed property
- 3f. At least one municipal or major public building receives LEED certification that includes the Credit for Bird Collision Deterrence (during review period)†
- 3g. Provide alternative transportation throughout the community (e.g. hike and bike trails, rideshare programs, bike lanes)†
- 3h. Reduce light pollution by using dark-skies compliant shielded lighting throughout community and does not install or use blue wavelength lights (4000 Kelvin) in all outdoor publicly owned fixtures with a target of approximately 2700 Kelvin†
- 3i. Prohibit feeding of ducks on community-managed properties to decrease domestic disease transfer to migrating waterfowl
- 3j. Community stormwater management plan implements actions from the National Menu of Best Management Practices for Stormwater
- 3k. Active program to remove invasive or harmful animal species, including harmful or invasive bird species, deer, and/or wild pigs
- 3l. Actively prohibits the formation, maintenance, or support of outdoor cat colonies inside or adjacent to parks/natural areas. Removal of cat colonies within or adjacent to parks/natural areas will also suffice
- 3m. Monitor and limit the release of native wildlife and prohibit the release of domestic animals within parks/natural areas to prevent unhealthy over-concentration of native species or introduction of non-native species that would be destructive to birds



Bird City Texas High Flyer Certification

Bird City Texas anticipates that in the years ahead its communities will want to strengthen their commitment to bird conservation. These additional criteria demonstrate that higher level of commitment. To earn a High Flyer designation, a community will need to document that it still meets Bird City's basic qualifications and meets the additional requirements outlined below.

Required Action for all High Flyer Communities

All communities must meet all the following criteria to be eligible for High Flyer status:

- HF R1. Prohibit Trap, Neuter and Release programs for feral or free roaming cats. Does not actively subsidize or condone outdoor cat colonies, and prohibits the formation, feeding, and support of outdoor cat colonies
- HF R2. Create and/or maintain a demonstration bird-friendly native landscape on at least two highly visible community properties that would be visited by socioeconomically diverse groups in your community**

Bird City Texas High Flyer Certification Options

Category HF1: Community Engagement Certification Options

Your community must meet at least 1 criterion from this category.

- HF1a. Local school district(s) uses native Texas ecosystem/conservation programs in curriculum for all K-12 students in either science, social studies, or language arts
- HF1b. Sponsor a community planning charrette that brings in major municipal, industry, and community partners to improve bird conservation within the community that results in a draft/preliminary community conservation plan
- HF1c. Enact an annual series of highly-visible community planting events that engage a dedicated corps of volunteers to restore native habitat on city-owned properties**

Category HF2: Habitat Enhancement and Protection Certification Options

Your community must meet at least 3 criteria from this category.

- HF2a. Community requires the use of native plants for landscaping in all new landscapes in publicly owned or managed spaces, buildings, and properties**
- HF2b. Designate a new nature park primarily managed for the benefit of native plants, wildlife, and ecosystems[†]
- HF2c. Community has enacted a \$2 per capita dedicated fund for habitat conservation, enhancement, or restoration**
- HF2d. Manage all recreational areas (including sports areas) in public park system to include at least 5% contiguous area designated as natural habitat



- HF2e. Community designates, manages, and maintains at minimum 2% of parks as preserves where resource protection is prioritized over human use and enforce policies such as: no pets allowed, noise management, limited number of visitors, pedestrian use only, and closing to allow for land management practices
- HF2f. Community has at least 1 golf course within its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) certified as an Audubon Certified Cooperative Sanctuary
- HF2g. Community has created and implements a Smart Growth development plan to protect and manage watersheds, open space, and habitat areas
- HF2h. Community has conducted overview of all community parks and natural areas within the community, owned by all entities, to develop a greenbelt/corridor master plan using creation of more natural areas and trails to connect all green space throughout the community. Include land acquisition plans and detailed timeline for implementation.

Category HF3: Creating Safer Spaces for Birds Certification Options

Your community must meet at least 2 criteria from this category.

- HF3a. Enact and enforce a city-wide ordinance requiring domestic cats to be kept indoors or in an enclosure
- HF3b. Construction ordinance requires that new public buildings seek LEED certification (silver or higher) that includes meeting the requirement for the LEED Credit for Bird Collision Deterrence
- HF3c. Design or retrofit public buildings to reduce bird collisions using Bird Friendly Buildings guidelines by American Bird Conservancy and Audubon
- HF3d. Participate in Bird-Friendly Buildings: Lights Out program in all city-owned buildings
- HF3e. Community actively and intensively traps brown-headed cowbirds on several community-owned lands
- HF3f. Implement adaptive feral hog population control plan that encompasses several community-owned lands
- HF3g. Community prohibits distribution of single-use plastic through regulatory action (straws, shopping bags, balloons, etc) and provides clean-up containers for microfilaments, when applicable

** Evaluative metrics are required for all future commitments. Communities should identify their own metrics that can help evaluate the success of each activity. Criteria marked with ** are special reporting categories. For these activities, evaluative metrics must include one or more of the following: number of acres affected, number of people engaged, number of native plants sold, and/or put in/taken out of the ground (when appropriate).

† Criteria will be given even if accomplished, or first implemented, before the application year. Credit for this criteria is only applied to the application year, not future certification years.