

Sustainable Foraging Task Force



August 20, 2025, meeting

Welcome and purpose

- Purpose of Task Force
- Introductions: facilitators and staff

Agenda

- Welcome, purpose, agenda
- Introductions
- Election of chair and vice chair
- Legislation and Open Meeting Law
- Administrative topics
- Task Force and member responsibilities
- Background information
- Next steps
- Adjourn

Introductions

- Name
- Role or perspective you bring
30-second version

Election of chair and vice chair

- Nominations
 - Per statute, must be a legislator
- Roll call vote
- Remarks from the chair

Enabling legislation (p. 1 of 2)

The Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force was established in 2025 to:

1. gather and review data and information, including traditional ecological knowledge, on the impact of foraging on species resilience, ecosystem health, and other aspects of Minnesota's diverse biomes;
2. review existing regulations governing foraging activities on state lands;
3. develop recommendations for science-based, including traditional ecological knowledge, foraging guidelines for state lands that balance public access and foraging opportunities with conservation needs;
4. develop recommendations for increasing public understanding of sustainable foraging practices that include safety and ecological considerations;
5. solicit public input, when appropriate;
6. and develop recommendations for reduced-priced foraging permits.

Enabling legislation (p. 2 of 2)

- Report due February 28, 2026
 - Submitted to the DNR Commissioner and the relevant legislative committees
 - Recommendations must be “specific and actionable”
 - The report must detail the proposals for changes or additions to statutes or rules to effectuate the task force’s recommendations
- Task Force expires on March 15, 2026

Open Meeting Law (p. 1 of 2)

- The OML requires meetings of governmental bodies to generally be open to the public
- A meeting is open if: proper notice is given in advance of the meeting, the public can attend and observe the meeting, and if relevant meeting documents are available
- OML applies when at least a quorum of the task force is gathered – in person, by telephone, or by interactive technology – and discusses any topic related to official business, whether or not action is taken or considered

Open Meeting Law (p. 2 of 2)

- The law does not apply to smaller groups discussing official business when the group size is less than a quorum
- Avoid discussing official group activities via email, one-way communication between chair/staff and members is permissible
- Open meetings do not require public comment

Administrative topics

- Meetings
- Community input
- Operating agreements

Meetings

- Format
 - Fully onsite
 - Fully online
 - Hybrid
- Frequency, duration, potential days/times
 - Recommendation
 - Every 3 weeks
 - 2 hours
 - Same day/time or alternate between two days/times

Community input

- Goal: balance public input with TF members working collaboratively in meetings
- Invite community members to sign up to speak during each meeting *if relevant to meeting topic*
 - 2-minute limit per speaker; additional input can be shared in writing
 - Number of speakers may be limited
 - Public listening sessions
 - Time limits may be longer
 - Multiple fully online sessions plus 1 or 2 in-person sessions
 - Varying times of day to accommodate range of schedules
 - Detailed notes will be taken for TF members who are unable to attend
 - Written input always welcome (please email Nick Nero, nick.nero@lcc.mn.gov)

Task Force operating agreements

- **State your name before speaking (every time)**
- If online, cameras on whenever possible
- Come to meetings prepared. Review agenda and materials in advance.
- Take space, make space
- Say your name before speaking
- Refrain from side conversations
- Show respect to members and presenters
- Be open-minded and curious about others' opinions, viewpoints, and lived experiences
- Focus on the issue, not the people
- Assume good intent but acknowledge harm

Task Force and member responsibilities

- Task Force
 - End result is a report to the legislature, suggesting to legislators what to consider
 - Focus on what is within the authority of the MN State legislature, or could be recommended to DNR
 - Excludes anything under jurisdiction of federal law, counties or municipalities, etc.
- Member responsibilities
 - Be informed by the website
 - Review materials that will help you formulate ideas and respond to others' suggestions

Background information

- DNR presentation
- Q&A
- Fact sheets

Next steps

- Poll about meeting times
- Email to arrange time for interview (optional but encouraged)
- Review DNR fact sheets
- Stay tuned for more information

Thank you