

City Council Goal Setting Session Agenda

**Tuesday, October 29, 2019 - 6:30 p.m.
Police Department Training Room**

Goal Setting Summary Memo

- 1 City Council Survey Review**
- 2 Community Events**
- 3 Resident Communications**
- 4 Economic Development Incentive Funding**
- 5 Environmental Activities**
- 6 Beautification Projects**

CITY OF DARIEN

MEMO

TO: Mayor Marchese, City Council, City Clerk, and City Treasurer

FROM: Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator

DATE: October 17, 2019

SUBJECT: Goal Setting Agenda– Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 6:30 p.m. PD Training Room

The agenda topics for the goal setting session scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 2019, are listed below. Please note, an * indicates that back up material is included.

1 City Council Survey Review*

The staff conducted a survey of the elected officials and the results are included in the packet. The Council will have an opportunity to discuss the results and provide any additional feedback regarding their comments.

2 Community Events

The economic incentive agreement between the City and Carriage Greens allows the City to utilize the course grounds for community events. Festivals and events will give us the opportunity to continue to build a sense of community, foster pride within the community, and engage Darien residents.

Staff is seeking input and direction from the Council regarding interest and ideas for community events. The more common community events focus around food/drink, music, hobbies (car shows, dog palooza day), family events (movie nights, heritage celebrations, Police National Night Out), and seasonal events (fall fest, winter fest).

Specific discussion topics are:

- Types of events
- Number of events
- Goals for events
- Budget amount for events
- Potential partnerships with other local organizations
- Responsibility for planning, promoting, coordinating, etc, events which can be a significant amount of work

3 Resident Communications*

The City's primary source of communications include Direct Connect, Facebook, cable channel, website, twitter, and Neighbors of Darien magazine. Several of the Council members requested resident communications as a goal setting topic. The comments focused around enhancing our current communication efforts, updating our web site, and regular meeting with the other local taxing districts.

4 Economic Development Incentive Funding and Economic Development Committee (EDC) Projects

Treasurer Coren asked that the Council discuss the funding options for future economic incentives including how to replenish the amount the city already committed of the \$500,000 and what happens if those funds become fully depleted. This discussion will give staff direction as we begin to prepare for next year's budget. Additionally, Mayor Marchese wanted to update the Council on the projects the EDC is working on as well as reviewing the Committee's responsibilities.

5 Environmental Activities*

The City has engaged in many *sustainable community* programs in recent history. This topic will allow the Council to provide direction on any additional environmental policies and environmental health issues. Sustainability projects accomplished by the City include:

- Electronics Recycling Event (April 2018, October 2019)
- Rain Barrel (currently on display at City Hall since June 2018)
- Christmas Lights – recycling (last 4 years)
- Prescription Drug Drop Box (recent – July 2019)
- Sol Smart, bronze to silver
- Idling (revised ordinance March 2019)
- Sterigenics issue
- Monarch butterfly (Plainfield Road)
- Goodworx – Promoting their food
- Streetlights – LED (2016)
- City Hall/PD/Public Works – LED re-fixturing
- Environmentally friendly deicing applications in winter – more effective snow removal
- Road program – resurfacing using recyclables in the material
- Water plant – efficient pumping operations
- Stream bank inspections
- Building Codes (energy efficiency, water conservation, etc)
- Zoning Code Restrictions (Tier 2 chemicals)
- Water Leak Detection Program
- Mulch Program
- Public/Private Tree Planting Program
- Promote programs – ComEd Free Home Energy Assessments

Additionally, Alderman Chlystek identified environmental policies from Naperville and Downers Grove as good policies and those are also included in the packet.

6 Beautification Projects*

The City has completed a number of beautification projects including roadway landscape plantings, theme lighting, banners and welcome to Darien signs. Staff is seeking feedback to determine if the Council is interested in continuing to plan and budget for beautification projects. Included in the packet are the pages from Darien's Comprehensive Plan that discuss community corridor enhancement.

List of Requested Topics

COREN

How to Move Forward With Capital Improvement Fund – Emergency Reserve/Economic Incentive of \$500,000

- a. Does it get restored as Carriage Green's revenue pays back
- b. Where do new Economic Incentive Funds come if \$500,000 is exhausted?

GUSTAFSON

1. To increase the beauty and appeal of planted street medians and streetscapes within the City of Darien.
2. Promote and support Neighborhood Watch programs throughout the City of Darien.
3. Enhance the current communications strategy to get information out to its residents.

KENNY

1. Concrete Curb Cuts (Several sidewalks throughout the city end and should have a continuous route to parks and schools)
2. One Additional Police Officer per shift. I receive communication from residents that our officers aren't visible and with cannabis now legal in Illinois this may be a good time to discuss additional personnel.
3. Choose DuPage. Now that we have a new economic development committee I would like to see collaborative efforts with Choose DuPage

SULLIVAN

1. Growth of our community in terms of attracting new residents & businesses
2. Communication. Exploring alternatives and new ideas to reaching community members more frequently. Or even better use of current tools.
3. Establish a community connections group that meets quarterly or semi-annually with schools, park district, library, chamber, rotary, key non-profits etc. to discuss collaboration and support of our city.

CHLYSTEK

1. A city environmental policy to help reduce our carbon footprint and environmental impact. I will bring in a Copy of Naperville and Downer Grove policies. They have a good ones, and Downers have managed to reduce operating costs as well)
2. City compost pick up. I received this request from quite a few residents.
3. Review of bike markings between Cass and Clarendon hills on 79 street. Lots of bikers this summer, and reviewing if a painted bike lane might be if value.
4. Updated website. Residents concerns that ours seem dated.
5. Semi routing through town. This year I have received lots of complaints about semis illegally parked, and going wrong ways. I'll pass along some of the concerns later next week. On my side I will plan on calling Bolingbrook to understand how they address it. From what I hear they have introduced higher fines, and also tickets on trailers staying overnight to pay increased wear and tear on roads. I need to do more research on this one.

2019 Alderman Goal Setting Survey Results

1 Resident Communication

	Schauer	Vaughan	Kenny	Chlystek	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren
Direct Connect (DC)	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	A
Website	B	C	B	C	C	B	B	A
Neighbors Magazine	B	C	A	A	B	B	C	C
Cable Station	C	B	B	A	C	B	C	n/a
Staff Customer Service	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

Schauer – we need text messages info to send out. If someone says we already have it, I don't. We need more instant communication.

Vaughan – we should have more active & engaging social media presence (Facebook, Twitter)

Kenny – DC not only emails the notice but a history of connections is listed on the website. Website has a lot of great info just not very flashy. Neighbors Magazine has come a long way – an excellent resource. Staff deserves higher than an A

Chlystek – Adding some pizzazz to the website like other cities websites <https://www.naperville.il.us/>

Sullivan – all communication tools need updating and modernizing. Magazine needs to include pages for all schools and more organizations. DC should be condensed with hyperlinks – too long. Website needs a total redo – refresh – update. Very dated.

Gustafson – goal for 2020 should be to increase the level of communication to residents

Belczak – although Neighbor's Magazine is popular, everything is outdated by the time it reaches constituents; DC continues to be the most effective form of communication

2 Municipal Services

	Schauer	Vaughan	Kenny	Chlystek	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren
Street Repair	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A
Storm Water Management	A	B	B	B	A	A	A	A
Street Cleaning	B	A	B	A	B	A	A	A
Parkway Tree Care	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	A
Snow Removal	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Brush Pick Up	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	A
Sidewalk Maintenance	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A
Multi-Year Planning of Municipal Capital Projects	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	B
Property Maintenance Enforcement	B	B	B	A	B	A	A	C
Monthly Economic Development Report	A	B	B	A	B	No grade	A	C
Monthly Property Maintenance Report	B	A	B	A	B	A	A	C

Schauer – we suffered some growing pains in snow removal this past year with some new hires. We will get that back to an “A”. I will always give property enforcement/maintenance a “B” because it’s an inherit system where both sides (notifiers and owners) feel like they are either being the bad guy or they are being targeted. The one thing I would recommend is that we have an automatic 2nd person come to people’s houses on major issues to help give suggestions on how to fix those issues. On monthly economic development report, I would give Steve an A+! The two things that I would recommend: 1) for multi-year planning, we, as a city, need to poll the aldermen and find out what each alderman believes is the best. Example, do businesses come first or is it the environment or what direction we need to go? I feel that everything we are doing now we have to adhere to the environment. If we do our job correctly, the environment will be taken care of. This is why I gave that a B. Finally, I want Dan Gombac to be in charge of municipal services for another 20 years (we know this won’t happen). I want Dan to take an active role in eventually finding his replacement. If Dan says he wants to be at Darien another 20 years (or even 30 years), then disregard this. Bottom line is I want Dan to name his replacement if he ever decides to retire because I don’t think we could fill his shoes without his input.

Kenny – street repair – reactive and quick. Parkway tree care – excellent job saving many trees from EAB. Sidewalk Mtce – not sure how this could be better without spending a great deal of money. MED Reports – good, basic info. Storm Water Mgmt – I have areas in my ward that flood with heavy rains. Snow Removal – best around. Planning of Capital Projects – lot of projects within budget. Property Mtce Report –good information. Street Cleaning is good just not often enough for higher grade. Brush pick up - again, not a lot of pick-ups in the year for higher grade. Property Mtce Enforcement – a good balance of neighborly and proactive enforcement.

Chlystek – if budget allows, a few more trees can be planted. On Farmingdale, a few trees I believe didn’t get mulched by contractor. With large rain events happening more often, looking at options to address the occasional storm drain overflowing might warrant consideration. Some trees appear to be dead on 75th but I believe they are county right-of-way

Sullivan – brush pick up should be every summer month. Would like executive summary of monthly property maintenance report. Need a better understanding of multi-year plan for streets.

Belczak – can’t say anything bad regarding Municipal Services

3 Administration and Finance

	Schauer	Vaughan	Kenny	Chlystek	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren
City Audit Process	A	A	A	A	A	No grade	A	A
Monthly Financial Reports	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	A
City Budget Process	A	A	A	A	A	No grade	A	B
City Financial Management	A	A	A	A	A	No grade	A	A

Schauer – we have tremendous checks/balances when it comes to city finances and we need to continue this. Believe me when I say that I was extremely happy when Mary replaced me as Chairman Admin/Finance. I say this not to justify that I am no longer the chairman (everyone knows I have no ego), but because I believe that chairmanship SHOULD change every 2-4 years so that a second set of eyes can take a look at the numbers in the city. The more transparent we can be when it comes to finances, the less we will get negative feedback from the residents. Nor would we ever get someone accusing us of impropriety.

Kenny – Audit – walk through City hall during summer when the auditors are present and then see the Afinished report a definite A. Monthly Financials – categories aren’t always clear. Budget Process – going through the budget line for line and taking ample time to discuss – great! City Financial Mgmt – plenty of eyes on what is happening.

Chlystek – seems to be working fine

Sullivan – I am new but thus far have been very pleased with reports, explanations and open communications.

Belczak – I’d like to see summaries of the monthly report reflecting good and bad trends regarding income and expenses; so we’d get a snapshot of whether we are staying on budget and bringing in the expected revenues.

Coren – would like to see more discussion on maintenance items in the budget

4 Police Services

	Schauer	Vaughan	Kenny	Chlystek	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren
Responding to Emergency Calls	A	A	B	A	A	No grade	A	A
Promoting Police Community Engagement	B	A	A	B	B	No grade	A	A
Proactive Crime Prevention	A	A	C	A	B	No grade	A	A
Traffic Enforcement	A	A	B	A	A	No grade	A	A
Police Staffing Level	?	A	B	A	A	No grade	A	A
Information Provided to the Public	B	A	A	A	B	No grade	A	B

Schauer – we will never do enough for community engagement. No matter what we do as a city, someone will have an issue with the police. The one thing we need to continue to do, is back our police. I question whether every alderman believes this 100% as I do, but that is my personal view. Again, I would recommend text messages to everyone for instant communication. This again should be our #1 priority for technology. Finally, when it comes to police staffing level, going forward, especially when it comes to this marijuana dispensary, we need to provide possible ancillary costs. If we need to hire 2 uniform police officers that will cost us \$280,000 a year, plus pension, to cover a new marijuana dispensary, then why are we approving this? We need to communicate this better to residents.

Kenny – Responding to calls – this is tough to gauge due to a third party receiving the actual calls. Traffic Enforcement – if we were to excel here would lacking somewhere else. I like the balance. Community Engagement – cop on the roof, night out. Police Staffing – would always like to see more staffing to cover vacations, sickness, FMLA etc. Crime Prevention – last thing I remember is the Lock It campaign

Chlystek – when asked, the police department always engages in the community. Good effort. I am only giving a B because I think we can find a few other ways to engage. Residents for some reason seem hesitant to call 911 at times. I am not sure if just scared or feel they don’t want to bother the police. I believe working on eliminating that concern/feeling would help. Engagement in more events might help.

Sullivan – I think our police department is doing an excellent job. Would love to see cameras installed in/out of certain neighborhoods. Hold seminar for neighborhood watch. Be more proactive with community watch program.

Gustafson – I have not had enough exposure to these areas to rate or comment on

Belczak – No complaints regarding police

5 Miscellaneous Items

	Schauer	Vaughan	Kenny	Chlystek	Sullivan	Gustafson	Belczak	Coren
Staff Responsiveness to your Questions	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Agenda Memos and Back Up Material Distributed for Council and Committee Meetings	A	A	A	C	A	A	B	A
Economic Development Program	?	B	N	A	B	B	B	C

Schauer – the jury is still out on the EDP. I think it was needed for Carriage Greens but if it gets to the point where everything is a handout for businesses, it will be a nightmare.

Kenny – Economic Development – too new to grade. Side note: rewrite the ordinance to include non-Darien residents for COY

Chlystek – For the Carriage Greens vote, I was taken back a bit how residents brought more information forward that council didn't know. For example, gaming revenue that wasn't in the packet, but a resident was able to provide. This would have been beneficial. As an example, if they received a \$100K in gaming, and if they anticipate that the improvements would bring 20% more people, then one could assume Carriage Green would potentially have \$20K more in revenue to pay off the loan. This would have been beneficial information in the decision-making process for members.

Sullivan – Need to educate community on what EDC means and how it benefits our city.

Belczak – Replenish economic incentive/emergency funds back to \$500K ASAP

Coren – Economic Development is very new and too focused on financial incentives which have almost been exhausted just as the revamped committee has just been established

Top Priorities

Schauer -

- 1) finding top notch replacements for our people (hoping Bryon, Dan and Greg never retire, LOL) but in case they do, that we have the right people to take over
- 2) business developments, WITHOUT necessarily having a committee to recommend money
- 3) need to establish the direction of the city, we need to speak in “one voice” (all of us as elected officials) what we want. If we can't do that, then we need to communicate that to the residents on a regular basis

Vaughan –

- 1) improve community engagement and awareness through social media and also creating a text alert campaign. Text alerts is the way to go to really engage and reach more residents. I believe this will increase resident participation in surveys and broaden awareness about activities in the community
- 2) improve safety for residents along Clarendon Hills Road between 67th Street and Plainfield Road, particularly (i) intersection of 67th Street and Clarendon Hills Road where accidents and near accidents occur too frequently and (ii) install sidewalks on the east side of Clarendon Hills Road (there is no safe way to cross Clarendon Hills Road that entire strip between 67th and Plainfield)

3) focus on environmental health and outdoor access. Especially after learning that our residents have been exposed to harmful toxins in our air for 30+ years, I think Darien could become a leader in focusing on environmental issues. For example, banning/reducing the use of dangerous pesticides in our public spaces, parks and playgrounds. Darien also has beautiful and unique outdoor spaces. We should do more to highlight Waterfall Glen, including making it more accessible to families with parking and sidewalks.

Kenny -

- 1) annexation
- 2) reduction of elementary school districts
- 3) homeowner incentives for home improvement and curb appeal

Chlystek -

- 1) Bring in new residents of course. Very open for suggestions.
- 2) Marking the City. We already have made a good start with the video. Also, promoting our lower taxes as well and city services. I believe we are a good value for residents.
- 3) Incorporating an environmental policy – which I believe we have started
- 4) We have many water main leaks. I'm not sure if there is a way to address it long term proactively? (For example, 4 water breaks at the end of my blocks)

Sullivan -

- 1) growth and sustainability of our community (residents – businesses)
- 2) safety of residents especially with cannabis law
- 3) connecting all areas in community and having either quarterly or bi-annual meeting

Gustafson –

- 1) maintain and promote business in Darien
- 2) Promote marijuana sales and related taxes
- 3) increase resident involvement

Belczak -

- 1) maintaining low business vacancies
- 2) exploring new 21st century businesses
- 3) grow economic development

Coren –

- 1) police/safety
- 2) streets, sidewalks and infrastructure (sewer, water)
- 3) snow management

Suggestions to improve city services

Schauer –

- 1) text messages to residents on what is going on in the city
- 2) better feedback program for possible resident complaints
- 3) need to revisit how we do snow removal – again, too many new hires.

Vaughan – communication media/text alerts

Kenny -

- 1) Ask the residents what they want to see
- 2) Neighborhood watch programs for both police and municipal services. Help identify issues
- 3) Collaboration with other government agencies for different resources

Chlystek – potentially a 4th branch pick up service if budget allows

Sullivan – 1) communication updates: new website
2) engage a community services coordinator for events
3) promote more about cost sharing with residents for projects

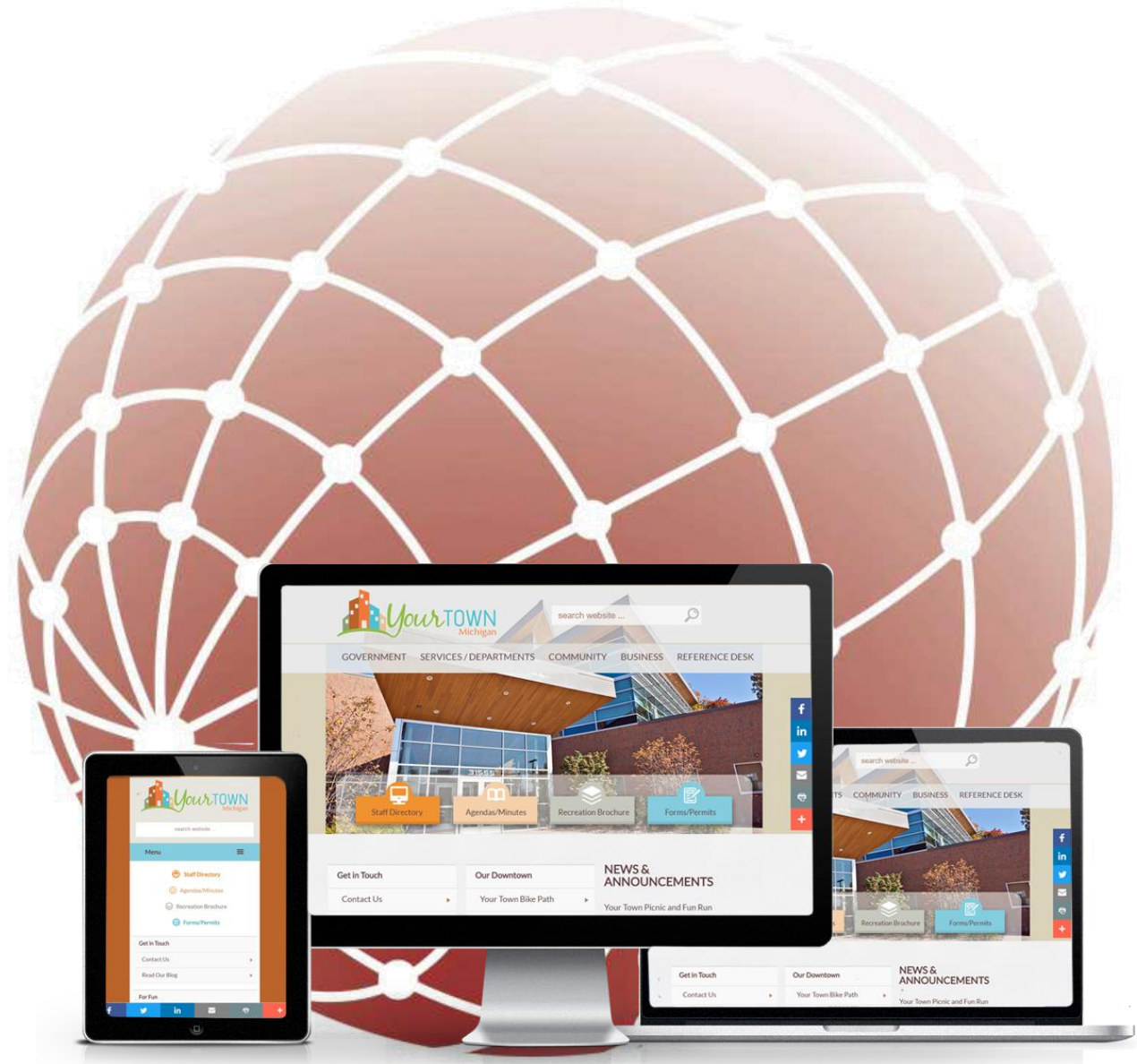
Gustafson – 1) increase the involvement of citizens
2) promote neighborhood watch programs throughout the city
3) beautification of roadsides

Belczak - 1) target new capital improvements after ditch program completes
2) add additional street lights

Coren – We do a great job now. I think we need to communicate what these services are with the public.

City of Darien, Illinois

Proposal for Website Development Services
October 3, 2019



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DESIGN CONCEPT 5



Dear Maria –

I've been reviewing your website and I think there are a number of things we can do that will really refresh your website's look, enhance your visitors' experience and make information easier to find.

- Refresh Website Design (Templated Design) -The last page is a flat image of a design idea of how we can rearrange your homepage to make it more horizontal. You'll notice that it also makes it look more contemporary and takes advantage of the vertical space on today's wider monitors. The image in the middle is just a pretty picture that was the correct size that worked for the design, we will replace it with an image that is more meaningful to your community. It can be a static image, or we can use multiple images and create a slideshow, like what you have on your current website. Because we have more space for Upcoming Events and News and Announcements, you won't see the scroll bars.
 - An additional improvement a design refresh offers is that the content area of your interior pages will be wider, too. Taking advantage of the horizontal space means less scrolling for your visitors. Your website will remain responsive, so it will continue to display optimally on smaller screen sizes.
- New Modules
 - Emergency Notification Banner – This allows you to place a notification at the top of every page in your website. Communities use it to advertise road closures, cancellations, where to seek shelter from the heat/cold, etc.
 - Image Gallery – you can see an example here, <https://novilibrary.org/Youth/Youth-Photo-Gallery.aspx>. It's easy to use, just upload the images and they appear on the page and are responsive.
 - Employee Directory – a database of your employees is in your website. You can see here, <https://www.cascadetwp.org/Services-Departments/Assessing.aspx> information about the assessor and this same information is displayed here, <https://www.cascadetwp.org/Reference-Desk/Directory.aspx>. It makes it easy to update departments, city council, etc.
 - Business – Directory - you can see it here, <https://www.farmgov.com/Community/Business-Directory.aspx>. This is maintained by the city of Farmington. It can be customized to also include images, descriptions, etc. I also thought you could use the Business Directory module to show your Available Commercial Space. Because the categories are created for you, we can label them as Commercial, Industrial, Retail, etc.
- Refresh Navigation/Content – a review of Darien's website analytics indicates that you have web pages that haven't been updated in over a year and provides search terms that are used most frequently to find information on your website. This would be an ideal time to review that data with you and make any changes to your navigation that would make information easier to find.
- ADA Compliance - review all of your content for ADA Compliance and make any adjustments so that your website is accessible to all.



- Bids and Proposals Overview Page - We had discussed changing how your Bids and Proposals Overview page displayed information. (To make any modifications to that page will take a maximum of 1 hour at our regular hourly maintenance rate of \$55/hour if not included in this proposal).
- 2 Hours Monthly Support - Our regular rate is \$55/hour, but you can get two hours for \$75 and you can use that for whatever you want. Training, forms, content updates can all be used.
- 25 GB Storage - your current site's total storage is 15.7GB (most of which are PDFs 9.6 GB)

We value our long-term relationship with the City of Darien. To show our appreciation, we have attached a valued customer discount to this project's pricing. Therefore, the pricing for the items listed above is \$3,900 with a monthly hosting fee of \$295/month.

You also may be interested in our Facility Reservation and Event / Class Registration modules. I didn't see that you currently have a need for these, but if the Fire Department wants to offer CPR classes, for example, they can register through your website and if there is a charge for the class there will be a monthly credit card processing fee. If there is no charge associated with the event or class, then it's just the flat \$500 fee to set up the module. Setting up individual events is something I can train you or someone in Darien to handle.

I'll give you a call next week to follow up. If you need additional information or have any questions, please feel free to reach out any time.

Best Regards,

Laura Hoffman

Laura Hoffman

Municipal Web Services

darienupdate@muniweb.com

Direct: 248.639.4445



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Upcoming Events

- Board of Fire and Police Commissioners Tue, Oct 1, 2019 5:00pm
- Planning and Zoning Commission Wed, Oct 2, 2019 7:00pm
- Administrative / Finance Committee Mon, Oct 7, 2019 6:00pm
- Pre-Council Work Session Mon, Oct 7, 2019 7:00pm
- MORE ...

News & Announcements

- Sterigenics - Update
- Heart of Darien Award
- Refuse Sticker Price Increase - April 1, 2019
- Sterigenics Update on Air Quality
- Ordinance - Vehicle Idling
- MORE ...



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N



Photograph by John Sather



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VISION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Overview

Environmental awareness has always been at the forefront for the City of Naperville. Over the years, the city has undertaken a number of initiatives and programs that have had a positive impact on both the community and the environment. The timeline on page 3 illustrates a few examples of the city’s long-term commitment to environmental sustainability. These efforts and numerous others have helped the Mayor and City Council to endorse a Strategic Plan Initiative to define the city’s vision for environmental sustainability, address areas in need of improvement, and establish measurements for determining progress. The results of this initiative are incorporated into the Environmental Sustainability Plan, which will help serve as a long-range planning tool for the city.

Purpose

The purpose of this Environmental Sustainability Plan is to establish a long-term vision for environmental sustainability in Naperville and to serve as a guide for the city’s actions related to environmental leadership and initiatives over the next ten years.

Plan Framework

Within each category, three policy priorities have been developed, for which goal options are identified. A work plan will be established for regular review and adoption by the City Council. The framework of the plan is organized into five main categories including Leadership & Education, Resources & Energy, Transportation and Mobility, Waste Management and Recycling and Sustainable Development and Infrastructure.

Factors for Development of ESP



PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Specific actions have contributed to the development of the Plan, including the following:

Environmental Inventory

As an initial step towards developing a Plan for Environmental Sustainability, the City Council requested that an inventory of existing policies and practices be created. This document was received by the City Council in October 2007.

- City of Naperville Environmental Inventory (Appendix)

Environmental Vision

As part of the city's Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Strategic Plan Initiatives, the Naperville City Council included a goal to develop an overall vision for environmental sustainability in the City of Naperville. An open house was conducted in September 2008 to solicit public input on new programs and initiatives that could be incorporated into an environmental work plan for the future.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

The Naperville City Council commissioned a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for Naperville, which is one of the first in the Midwest and one of the few in the nation. The initial inventory was prepared based on data for calendar year 2005. This report was presented to the City Council on June 2, 2009. The Council directed the staff to consider the recommendations for implementation and the creation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan Goal.

- Greenhouse Gas Inventory - 2005 Data (Appendix)

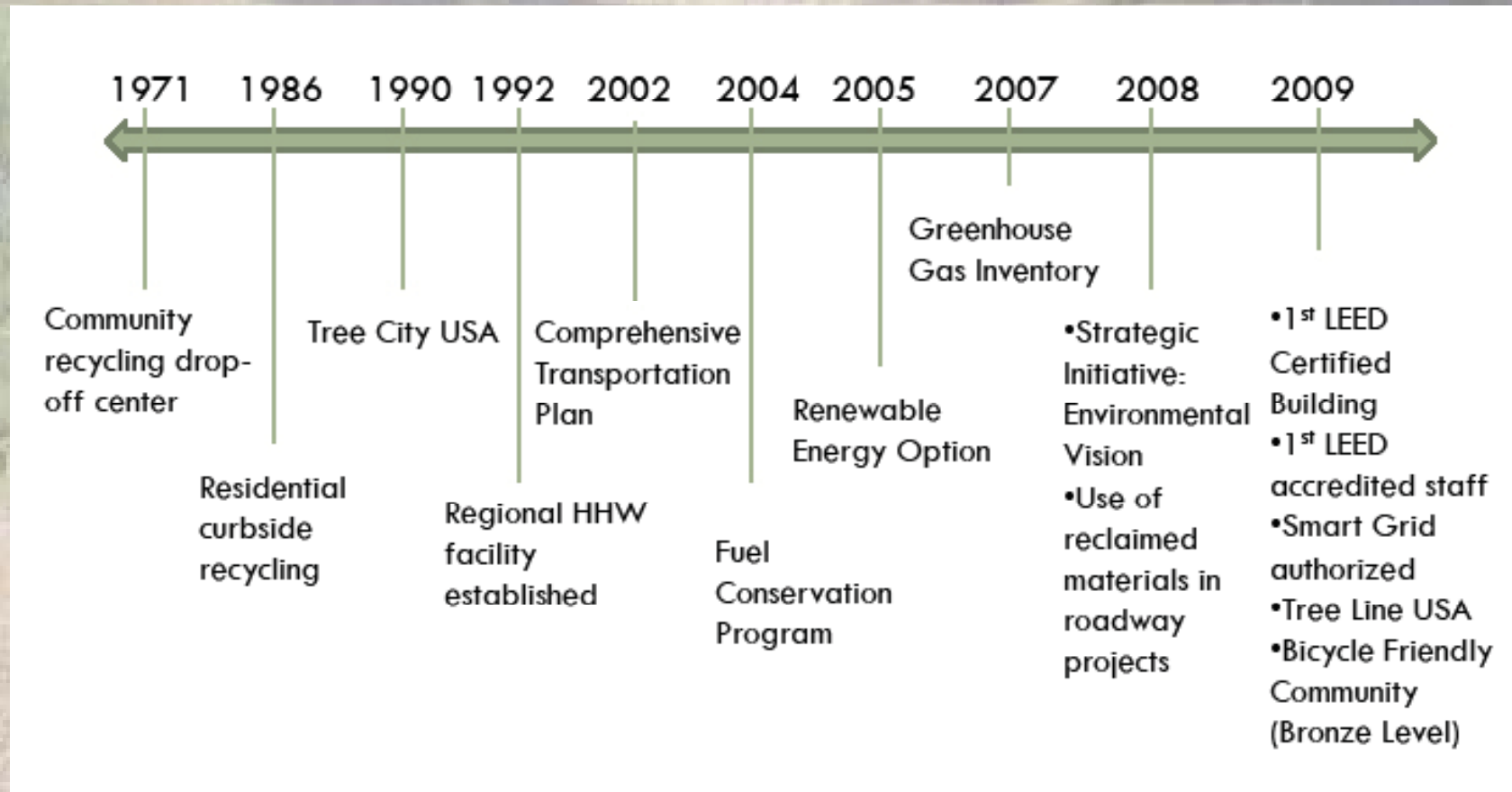
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009. Naperville received \$1,392,200 in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program for projects that met the criteria, including reductions in fossil fuel emissions; total energy used and improved energy efficiencies in transportation or building. A number of projects were initiated within the City of Naperville as a result of this funding, including the Home Energy Savings Program and the Greener Business Program.

Environmental Sustainability Survey

An environmental sustainability survey was developed in fall 2009, which requested that participants evaluate and rank different environmental policies the city may incorporate into a plan for environmental sustainability. The information collected from the survey was used to identify priorities and specific actions, which have been incorporated into this plan document.

Timeline of Sustainability Efforts





1.0 LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION





1.1 OVERVIEW

The City of Naperville Strategic Plan includes Environmental Stewardship as a value reflected in the Naperville community. When it comes to the more efficient and effective use of our natural resources, the City of Naperville not only encourages residents and businesses to respect and protect the environment, but the city is an active participant in doing the same.

The Environmental Sustainability Plan evolved from existing green city practices and a response from resident demand for the City of Naperville to take a leadership role among government bodies. By embracing the role as a municipal leader in environmental sustainability, the City of Naperville becomes more marketable to businesses and residents. These efforts will advance the City of Naperville into the 21st Century economy and protect the environment for future citizens.

The City of Naperville is committed to being a municipal leader and an example for achieving a future of environmental sustainability through sound fiscal means. As a leader, the City of Naperville will educate and empower the public toward making a positive difference for the environment.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

A review of Naperville’s current practices in 2010 revealed that the City already has many practices in place to support environmental sustainability.

- Educational program hosted in November 2007
- Environmental initiatives web site created (www.naperville.il.us/envirosustain.aspx)
- Renewable energy program for Naperville utility customers
- Public involvement in development of a Vision for Environmental Sustainability
- CDBG weatherization programs
- Greener Business Revolving Loan Fund and Grant Program
- Home Energy Savings Program

NAPERVILLE GREEN FACT



In 2010, the Naperville Renewable Energy Program was ranked fifth in the nation by the Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the category “Percentage of Customer Participation.”



1.2 POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Leadership by Example

The City of Naperville understands the important role government plays in advancing innovation. The city believes that government should follow its own expectations of the private sector in order to achieve the best results. Therefore, the City of Naperville is committed to being a role model for our residents and businesses in environmental sustainability.

2. Community Education Initiatives

It can be difficult for the public to follow environmental best practices at home or in business without a thorough understanding of the benefits, costs, and proper way of doing so. The City of Naperville realizes that government can help educate the community through clear and targeted communication in how to improve their impact on the environment.

3. Incentives for Green Activities

When financially and logistically prudent, the City of Naperville supports encouraging the public to participate in green activities. Incentives can be financial, process related, or educational in nature.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Become a greener consumer. Green options are everywhere, from pencils to vehicles. Choose environmentally sustainable products and support green business as an environmental leader.
- Sign up and contribute to the City of Naperville Renewable Energy Program.
- Tell a Friend! Share your environmental tips with your friends and family to help keep the “green” momentum going.



The EnviroLink Committee is comprised of city employees and community members who recognize the importance of making the right choices to protect and sustain the environment in every aspect of daily life, both at home and at work. The committee practices continuous quality improvement techniques to introduce new ways for employees and residents to reduce, reuse and recycle on a daily basis.

SPOTLIGHT on Leadership and Education

1. Home Energy Savings Program

Thanks to funding from the Department of Energy, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the city of Naperville has created the Home Energy Savings Program (HESP). Through the program, the City is able to offer a minimum of 350 free home energy evaluations by a certified energy technician. The home energy evaluation identifies improvements to make the home more energy efficient. Additionally, the first 350 participants are eligible for a 50 percent reimbursement for energy improvements, up to a maximum of \$1,500.



A City of Naperville Certified Energy Technician conducts a home energy evaluation, each technician completed numerous hours of training prior to being certified to conduct evaluations.

2. Department of Public Works

The City of Naperville Multi-Purpose Public Works Service Center (pictured right) received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification in 2009. LEED certification was achieved through the implementation of green building techniques including low-flow water features to conserve water and the installation of numerous skylights to welcome natural light. The construction process incorporated the use of recycled materials from the site, and the building's landscaping also features native plants to help control storm water run-off.
















Work progresses on the fleet maintenance area of the new Public Works Service Center.



Mayor George A. Pradel takes a picture in the Multi-Purpose Public Works Service Center, the first municipal LEED certified building in Naperville.



1.3 LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION GOALS

	Leadership & Education Goals	P1: Leadership by Example	P2: Community Education Initiatives	P3: Incentives for Green Activities	Plan Objectives
1	Formalize an ongoing environmental education strategy.				
2	Continue to seek opportunities for environmental programming with NCTV and other public entities.				
3	Continue to update the GHG inventory bi-annually.				
4	Continue to promote the Apogee Home Energy Suite Program for community use.				
5	Seek opportunities to effectively use federal, state and private funding for programs that benefit efficiency, sustainability and best management practices.				
6	Seek opportunities to partner with other agencies in support of environmental goals.				
7	Implement Smart Grid marketing and public relations strategy.				
8	Formalize an organizational structure for implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Plan.				
9	Prepare Green Procurement guidelines which will establish procedures for economically effective and environmentally responsible expenditures.				
10	Pursue opportunities to incentivize green activities in city-funded efforts and grants.				
11	Establish a program for recognition of business and residential community members who implement and employ "green" practices.				
12	Evaluate the current Home Energy Savings Program.				
13	Investigate the need to hire an Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.				

On-Going
 Short
 Medium
 Long

1.0 LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION





2.0 RESOURCES & ENERGY





2.1 OVERVIEW

Resources and energy represent a critical intersection between the City of Naperville as consumer and the City of Naperville as provider of resources and energy.

Like all businesses, the city consumes natural resources and energy. As a consumer the city strives to be a good citizen and a positive role model by seeking new ways to conserve resources in a fiscally responsible manner. Those resources include not only energy in its various forms (electricity and natural gas to mention a few) but also the consumption of fuel, oil, water and forestry products as well as all direct and indirect impacts through consumption. Most of these activities result in the triple benefit of (1) reducing our impact on the natural environment, (2) reducing costs to the taxpayer/ratepayer communities and (3) providing useful demonstrations of the possible.

As a provider of energy the city recognizes its enhanced responsibility as a market leader and its continuing obligation to facilitate informed decision making by consumers. As a provider of water, the city recognizes the finite availability of water and the need to support fiscally responsible conservation efforts.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

A review of Naperville's current practices in 2010 revealed that the city already has many practices in place to support environmental sustainability.

- Renewable Energy Program
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Department fuel reduction goals
- Purchase of refurbished materials and recycled products, when feasible
- Replacement of aged pumping facilities with more efficient technologies
- Fleet Services vehicle downsize program
- Street light upgrade and replacement program
- Traffic signal LED energy savings program
- MIP roadway programs - reduction in use of new product and reuse of existing programs
- Construction project coordination
- Lighting standards review and upgrades
- Consolidated traffic control practices
- International Energy Conservation Code
- Water conservation ordinance
- Water distribution monitoring systems



2.2 POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Energy Conservation

Energy conservation efforts are primarily focused on reducing reliance on fossil fuels in the generation of electricity and providing for the least impactful use of these fuels.

2. Water Conservation and Quality

Water conservation efforts are primarily focused on the effective and efficient use and conservation of water resources. Water quality efforts are primarily focused on the environmental impact of the community's use of water through waste water treatment efforts and stormwater best management practices.

3. Resource Conservation

Resource conservation efforts encompass other impacts on the environment through consumption; these include reducing our impact on forests through responsible use of fossil fuel, paper, lumber, furniture and other forestry products and our efforts are primarily focused on our behavior as a consumer and community leader.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Conduct a home energy evaluation. There are many on-line tools to help you identify areas for energy improvements in your home. The city's Home Energy Suite can help you identify areas for improvement (www.naperville.il.us/hec.aspx).
- Turn off equipment and computers when not in use.
- Check out the DuPage Water Commission's web site and explore opportunities to reduce water consumption (www.dpwc.org).
- Visit the Conservation Foundation's web site and discover ways to reduce the impact of water consumption (www.theconservationfoundation.org).
- Use programmable thermostats. Adjust the temperature up in the summer and down in the winter during hours when no one is home.

NAPERVILLE GREEN FACTS

LED Traffic Signals

In 2005 the City of Naperville initiated a program to replace existing traffic signal lamps with energy efficient LED lamps. There were 5,032 total lamps replaced. This replacement program helped to reduce the traffic signal energy demand from 648kW to 61 kW.

SPOTLIGHT on Resources & Energy

1. Energy Star

As a means to increase awareness regarding energy conservation, internally and externally, the City of Naperville has partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star program, since April 2009. Naperville's partnership with Energy Star allows the city, and its electric utility to be on the forefront of new technologies, methods, and regulations relating to all aspects of energy conservation.



2. Fire Station #10

Fire Station #10 (pictured below) has opened with LED lighting and geothermal heating and air conditioning. This facility is a model of efficiency because it significantly reduces the city's need for electricity for lighting and needs for natural gas to provide heating. Fire Station #10 is a model of effectiveness because it accomplishes reduced environmental impact with a three year pay back for additional costs associated with construction and ongoing cost savings for the life of the building.











City of Naperville Fire Station #10: The city received two grants to fund the environmentally friendly features of the station.



Mayor A. George Pradel and the Naperville City Council hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the city's 10th fire station.



2.3 RESOURCES & ENERGY GOALS

	Resources & Energy Goals	P1: Energy Conservation	P2: Water Conservation & Quality	P3: Resource Conservation	Plan Objectives
14	Implement Smart Grid Initiative.				
15	Be a leader in the use of alternative fuel technology in our vehicle fleet.				
16	Continue water leak detection programs.				
17	Continue participation in the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup to address water quality.				
18	Investigate alternative energy technology in support of economic development (e.g. Green Fuels Depot).				
19	Evaluate Renewable Energy contract.				
20	Evaluate anti-idling policies.				
21	Investigate methods to more efficiently use natural resources in operating city facilities.				

On-Going	
Short	
Medium	
Long	





3.0 TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY





3.1 OVERVIEW

A sustainable transportation system is accessible, affordable, operates efficiently, and offers a variety of easily navigable transportation modes which supports a vibrant and successful community. A sustainable transportation system also provides a basic access need to individuals and communities.

Whether traveling by vehicle, mass transit, bike or on foot, an effective transportation system has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize consumption of non-renewable resources and result in a more efficient use of the land. The City of Naperville recognizes the benefits of a multi-modal approach to its resident’s health and the environment, and makes significant investments to it’s transportation system each year.

A sustainable transportation system not only has local benefits, but also affects the region and access to regional destinations. Overall, contributing to, creating, enhancing and maintaining an interconnected system enhances livability for Naperville residents and supports the economic viability that makes Naperville a major employment center and a destination for shopping, dining and entertainment.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

REGIONAL

- Access to Amtrak, Metra & PACE
- Free Rides for Seniors
- PACE Rideshare Service/Vanpool
- Park-n-Ride Facilities
- Ride DuPage Paratransit Service
- Transit Feeder Bus Services

LOCAL

- Commuter Connection E-Newsletter
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Downtown Parking Guide
- Expansion of bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and mobility with development
- Fuel Conservation Program
- Hybrid Vehicle Fleet
- Installation of Landscape Medians
- Sidewalk Gap Installations
- Special Event Shuttles
- Traffic Signal Interconnect Programs

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN

- Pilot Accessible Pedestrian Signal
- Bicycle Friendly Community
- Bicycle Implementation Plan
- Bicycle Parking at Metra Stations, Downtown and in Community Parks
- Bicycle Parking Ordinance
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education (biking map & guide)
- Celebration of Bike Month
- Promotion of Bike to Metra
- Commuter Bicycle Lockers
- Safe Routes to School
- Route 59 Pedestrian Bridge



3.2 POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Regional Multi-Modal Transportation Network

Regional transportation includes the interconnectivity of local and regional systems for the purposes of providing maximum accessibility. A regional transportation system can encompass public transportation, local roadways, state highways and pedestrian and bike systems which all work together to provide accessibility to local and regional destinations. Coordination between government agencies and public education are essential components to providing Naperville residents with access to regional transportation and communicating the benefits that a regional transportation system provides.

2. Local Multi-Modal Transportation Network

Efficient transportation plays an important role in creating a desirable community and can have positive impacts on the environment. Over the years, Naperville has experienced tremendous population growth resulting in a mature community that will continue to evaluate opportunities for improving existing local transportation networks and raising public awareness on local transportation options available based on the implementation plan. To maintain and improve transportation mobility in the future, Naperville has approved a Comprehensive Transportation Plan that includes an implementation plan for the purposes of ensuring a comprehensive look at the city's existing and future transportation network.

3. Enhance Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility

Over the years, Naperville has recognized the importance of providing its residents accessibility and mobility through bicycle and by walking. Alternative modes of travel, such as biking and walking, create an attractive atmosphere for Naperville residents and promotes the city as a destination for people around the region. Continued coordination of efforts to maintain and improve the city's bicycle and pedestrian network contributes to fewer vehicle trips, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and provides a healthy recreational alternative for travel.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Combine trips and carpool to reduce air pollution.
- When feasible, replace vehicle trips with walking or biking,
- Try transit! Plan a trip using the bus and/or train (<http://www.naperville.il.us/transit.aspx>).

SPOTLIGHT ON: Transportation and Mobility

1. Parking Guidance Systems

In the spring of 2010, the City of Naperville will install two Parking Guidance Systems in downtown monitoring the number of vehicles entering and exiting parking structures. Information about the number of available parking spaces will be posted at the entrance of each deck, as well as on the city's web site to help visitors identify parking availability in advance of their trip to Downtown Naperville. The Parking Guidance Systems will also help to increase utilization of the parking decks and reduce unnecessary circulation and vehicle emissions within the downtown.

2. Park-n-Ride Facilities

The purpose of a park-n-ride is to increase and maximize access to local Metra stations by providing public transit services between the park-n-ride and the Metra stations. Furthermore, park-n-ride facilities have allowed commuters to take advantage of other means of transportation including walking, biking and carpooling which reduce the length of individual trips to commuter stations each day. Parking at all park-n-ride locations is free and the bus service, provided by PACE, to the station is direct, without stops during peak morning and evening commuter hours. Combined, all three park-n-ride facilities allow 231 individuals on average to take advantage of transit from Naperville to Chicago each day.



3. Naperville Named Bicycle Friendly Community

In 2009, the City of Naperville was awarded a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community designation by the League of American Bicyclists.









The Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Program rewards communities that actively encourage people to ride their bikes for transportation and recreation. In addition to having bicycle routes, BFCs also actively support bicycling through safety programs, education, law enforcement and community events. The BFC designation not only recognizes achievements by the City of Naperville but also provides important feedback for future bicycle projects.

BIKING IN NAPERVILLE

- 2 miles of on-street bicycle lanes
- 28 miles of bicycle routes
- 222 bicycle parking spaces at Naperville Metra stations
- 9 miles, which is the length of the completed DuPage River Trail



3.3 TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY GOALS

Transportation & Mobility Goals		P1: Regional Multi-modal Transportation Network	P2: Local Multi-modal Transportation Network	P3: Enhance Bicycle & Pedestrian Mobility	Plan Objectives
22	Continue to coordinate with regional transportation agencies to maximize bicycle, pedestrian, vehicular, transit and rail connectivity and mobility.				
23	Promote alternate modes of transportation (i.e., transit, bicycle and pedestrian).				
24	Continue to expand park-n-ride facilities.				
25	Continue multi-modal transportation (i.e., vehicular, transit, bicycle and pedestrian activity) and "complete streets" when designing and improving the transportation network.				
26	Continue to identify roadway enhancements and opportunities to provide transportation demand management (TDM) options for key local destinations (trip reduction measures, carpooling).				
27	Support an update to the city's Bicycle Implementation Plan.				
28	Investigate technology and innovative programs to maximize use of the existing transportation network (e.g. Zipcar, bus trackers).				
29	Investigate funding for a local transit system with the recommendations from the Naperville Circulator Study.				

On-Going
 Short
 Medium
 Long





4.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING





4.1 OVERVIEW

Waste management and recycling programs provide consumers a variety of options to dispose of their waste, while benefiting the environment in a number of ways.

Naperville began its curb side recycling program in 1986, making it the first community in Illinois to offer this service to its residents. The program has grown and improved from a biweekly service that required a large amount of sorting to a weekly service that requires virtually no preparation work at all.

While waste collection services have become streamlined, additional efforts can be made towards educating consumers about making better decisions to result in waste reduction and maximize recycling options. Similarly, there is room for improvement in the commercial sector in the area of recycling.

The City of Naperville also participates in recycling initiatives from office paper to waste oil from vehicle maintenance in Fleet Services.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Residential curb side recycling program
- Local recycling drop-off center
- Regional household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off center
- Paper reduction through electronic communication and document management
- Annual office supply swap meet
- Recycle surplus computers
- Service contracts – collection of products used by internal operations
- In-house anti-freeze recycler
- Sale of damaged transformers for scrap value
- Promote recycling drives hosted by other agencies
- Promote alternative recycling services (electronics, paint, Christmas tree lights, etc.)
- Reuse and Recycling Extravaganza (electronics, books, bikes, scrap metal, etc.)
- Leaf collection program/agricultural fertilizer
- Naper Settlement reuse & preservation of original materials
- Recycling asphalt and concrete in construction projects

NAPERVILLE GREEN FACTS



Bridges Newsletter

The city's newsletter Bridges will be produced quarterly, instead of bimonthly. This change is possible with a multitude of electronic media opportunities such as the city's web site, social media networks and e-news subscriptions. By adjusting the city's newsletter from a bimonthly to a quarterly production, the city will save 4,410 pounds (2 and a quarter tons) of paper or 126,000 sheets of paper per year.



4.2 POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Focus on Waste Reduction

As the first “R” in Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; efforts towards waste reduction can make a substantial impact on the environment by conserving resources. Reducing overall waste results in less consumption up front, and also reduces the need to process refuse or recycle.

2. Improve Residential Recycling

With a residential household recycling service in place, educational efforts can be increased to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the recycling program and increase awareness for other recycling opportunities not currently available with the program (e.g. packing peanuts, grocery bags, electronics, etc.).

3. Improve Options for Commercial Consolidated Waste & Recycling

Commercial consolidated waste contracts can help businesses by potentially lowering contract rates. These programs also benefit the environment by reducing the number of vehicle trips required by waste haulers.

While some companies may be interested in participating in a recycling program, there currently are not many cost feasible options available in the marketplace. With increased market demand and forged partnerships, commercial recycling programs may become more of a reality.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Go “Paperless”. Many companies are offering an electronic option for bills and newsletters. Change your preferences to receive only electronic communications to reduce paper.
- Reuse, Reuse, Reuse! From chic reusable shopping bags to old-fashioned coffee mugs, choose to reuse to conserve resources and minimize waste generated.
- Have a family recycling challenge. Review the types of materials that can be placed in your curb side recycling bin (http://naperville.il.us/dynamic_content.aspx?id=97) and challenge your family to become better recyclers. Recycling will become more fun and you’ll be surprised how much you weren’t recycling before.

RECYCLE!

Municipal Battery Collection

The City of Naperville has been collecting alkaline, lithium, ni-cad, sealed lead acid and nickel metal hydrate batteries used for city business. Since August 2009, over 95 pounds of batteries have been brought to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility for recycling.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Waste Management & Recycling

Recycling and waste management is a core service the city takes very seriously. The city has been a leader in recycling initiatives and is host to the regional household hazardous waste drop-off center.

1. Regional Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Center

The City of Naperville is host to a regional household hazardous waste (HHW) facility (www.naperville.il.us/hhw.aspx), in partnership with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the City of Aurora, Kane County and Will County. This strategic facility allows residents to safely dispose of their household hazardous wastes such as automotive fluids, fertilizers and prescription medications. Proper disposal prevents pollution that could endanger human health and the environment. The Illinois EPA estimates that the average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of household hazardous waste in their homes and garages. Naperville is proud to be host of this important collection facility, which provides area residents a responsible disposal choice for these harmful products.

2. Local Recycling Drop-Off Center

In 1971, the city established a recycling drop-off center for residents and businesses, well before curb side residential recycling programs were developed in the 1980's. This service is free and provides an important service to those without curb side recycling, including area businesses. The drop-off center also accepts scrap metal for residents and businesses interested in recycling metals that are not accepted in their regular services (www.naperville.il.us/recyclecenter.aspx).











3. Reuse and Recycling Extravaganza

The city partners in hosting the Reuse and Recycling Extravaganza, which is a one-day recycling event to help divert items from the waste stream. In 2009, the following items were collected:

- 103,069 pounds of electronics to be converted to metals, plastic and glass for re-use.
- Over 10,130 pounds of books were collected during the event. 5,135 pounds of books were taken by participants of the event, leaving 4,995 pounds of material recycled. In addition, over 125 pounds of cardboard was recycled at the event.
- More than eight tons of scrap metal was collected.
- SCARCE collected more than 86 ink jet cartridges.
- Alcatel-Lucent collected more than 100 cell phones
- The Naperville VFW collected 100 flags during the event.
- The Naperville Noon Lions Club collected 300 pairs of glasses, 10 pounds of keys, and 15 pairs of hearing aids.
- More than 97 bikes were collected by Blackstone Bicycle Works.



4.3 WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING GOALS

Waste Management & Recycling Goals		P1: Focus on Waste Reduction	P2: Improve Residential Recycling	P3: Improve Options for Commercial Consolidated Waste & Recycling	Plan Objectives
30	Continue to use electronic media resources to reduce the amount of paper used by the City of Naperville.				
31	Identify opportunities to increase residential recycling participation.				
32	Continue to promote household hazardous waste program.				
33	Educate consumers on how to make better purchases in order to reduce waste.				
34	Support commercial consolidated waste partnerships, where feasible.				
35	Work with other agencies to develop cost effective options for waste hauling and recycling.				
36	Develop a policy for recycling at special events.				
37	Investigate the feasibility of developing a composting program.				
38	Determine the feasibility of developing a commercial recycling program.				
39	Develop a construction waste program or guidelines.				

On-Going	
Short	
Medium	
Long	





5.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE





5.1 OVERVIEW

Sustainable development encourages economic growth and development while conserving resources in the long-term interest of the individual, community and ecosystem. The notion of sustainable development, and by extension the natural and built infrastructure that supports that development, is rooted in harmony among the environment and its resources; society; and the economy. Key elements of sustainable development include:

- Concentrate development and mix land uses;
- Protect land and ecosystems;
- Use natural resources wisely;

Given the interrelated nature of environmental, economic and social interests, sustainability must be woven through all levels of the government and economy. The City of Naperville possesses the opportunity to implement policies and practices that further the interests of future generations by encouraging wise use of resources while maintaining the economic vitality of the community.

Sustainable development practices provide a means to foster environmental awareness, reduce the environmental impact of city and resident activities, and exhibit leadership. Many of the most sustainable choices are also fiscally responsible. This helps to explain why Naperville is already “ahead of the curve” in many of its current practices and policies, especially those related to public infrastructure.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

A review of Naperville’s current practices in 2010 revealed that the city already has many practices in place to support environmental sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE SITES:

- New LEED-certified Public Works and Fire Station 10 buildings
- Erosion and sedimentation control required for construction projects
- Required stormwater best management practices
- Shared use of under utilized parking facilities for commuter park-n-rides
- Tree preservation requirements and landscaping standards established through the Landscaping Ordinance
- Guidelines for sustainability in Building Design Guidelines and Historic Building Resource Manual
- Naperville Park Land Dedication Ordinance
- Outdoor common area requirements and incentives for best practices in Planned Unit Developments
- Vehicular cross-access and connectivity for commercial sites

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Sanitary sewer lining program
- Storm sewer maintenance program
- Flood and stormwater improvements
- Annual parkway tree planting
- Annual residential tree sale program
- Arterial landscape median installation



5.2 POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Reduce Barriers to Sustainable Development

Sustainable development includes new construction of “green” buildings; implementation of best management practices to reduce stormwater runoff; improve water quality or conserve energy; and reuse or adaptation of existing facilities to serve future needs. The city can reduce barriers to sustainable development by providing education and technical support where appropriate and identifying obstacles to implementing sustainable practices that are embedded in its policies or regulations.

2. Encourage Sustainable Sites

The sustainability of sites is inclusive of the physical arrangement of buildings and structures, conservation of natural features such as open space and trees; conveyance of stormwater and other runoff; energy efficiency, and relationship to surrounding uses and facilities. Natural landscape choices that require less water and

maintenance can result in resource and monetary savings. Sustainable sites should provide economic and environmental efficiencies for the developer, user and community, as measured through reduced consumption of resources. The city can encourage sustainable sites through property owner education, and appropriate regulatory actions.

3. Sustainable Infrastructure

Sustainable infrastructure practices focus on long-term durability and resource conservation by encouraging advance planning and modeling; long-term economic analysis (e.g., life-cycle analysis); material selection for quality and energy conservation; and maintenance. Efficient connectivity of people and sites to infrastructure is another key component of sustainable infrastructure.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Plant a tree! Trees help shade your home to reduce air conditioning costs, remove carbon dioxide from the air and produce oxygen.
- Use native landscaping to provide habitat and reduce water runoff.



Natural landscaping on the Lucent Technologies property in Naperville. Photo Credit: NIPC, Natural Landscaping for Public Officials: a Source Book, 1997

SPOTLIGHT ON: Integrating Sustainable Development Principles through Planning

1. Park Land Dedication Ordinance

The park land dedication ordinance (Section 7-3-5 of the Municipal Code) was adopted in 1972 to dedicate land for park and recreation purposes as a condition of subdivision plat approval to serve the immediate and future needs of residents. Since its inception, the ordinance has resulted in the dedication of 1,048 acres for public open space, which includes active recreational fields and passive natural areas. Open spaces provide places for community gatherings and wildlife habitat. The Naperville Park District has utilized land and donations through the Park Land Dedication Ordinance to maintain a park space to maintain a ratio of 17 acres per 1,000 residents.

2. Landscaping Standards

The City of Naperville has established standards for parkway tree, site perimeter and parking lot landscaping, as well as foundation plantings. Site landscaping not only helps to beautify the community and define its character, but it also provides environmental benefits such as filtration of air pollutants, alleviation of the “urban heat island effect” through increased shade canopy, and reduced stormwater runoff. Appropriate placement of shade trees can provide sun and wind shelter to improve seasonal energy efficiency. Tree preservation standards are incorporated into the Landscape Ordinance (Section 5-10 of the Municipal Code) to encourage conservation of existing, quality tree specimens on commercial sites and in the community’s right-of-way.

3. Bicycle Parking

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan, approved in 2002, recommended development of bicycle parking requirements as a means to support the Bicycle Plan and facilitate bicycling as a viable transportation alternative. The Bicycle Parking Ordinance, passed in 2004, sets a minimum threshold of bicycle parking for commercial and institutional sites and provides guidance for placement, design and installation of bicycle facilities. In 2009, the city completed installation of new bicycle shelters at the Naperville and Route 59 Metra Stations to provide additional capacity for commuters.

4. Shared Use of Off-Street Parking

Parking is one of the largest uses of land in suburban areas, and often one of the most under utilized. In light of increasing demand for land resources, shared parking presents an opportunity to facilitate efficient use of parking facilities to accommodate multiple tenants. Benefits of shared parking include reduced development and maintenance costs, improved pedestrian access between sites, and reduced impervious surface for each land use. Naperville’s Municipal Code allows shared parking facilities for non-residential uses on abutting and nearby properties. Further, shared parking is encouraged through site development and redevelopment plans, and facilitated by cross-access and continuous pedestrian facilities to connect adjacent non-residential sites.



5.3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Sustainable Development & Infrastructure Goals	P1:	P2:	P3:	Plan Objectives
	Reduce Barriers to Sustainable Development	Encourage Sustainable Sites	Sustainable Infrastructure	
40 Explore opportunities to encourage site and subdivision design that retains or restores key natural features.				
41 Support residential tree planting, maintenance and preservation strategies.				
42 Identify existing Code impediments to implementation of best practices for building, energy or site improvements.				
43 Offer technical support to residents and developers related to best management practices, sustainable building and sites, and energy efficiency in new construction and retrofits.				
44 Provide neighborhood and property owner education about detention pond maintenance and best management practices.				
45 Provide community education about the benefits and maintenance of native and natural landscaping.				
46 Evaluate alternate paving materials (e.g., concrete, permeable pavers) to reduce water runoff, improve runoff quality, and reduce the "urban heat island" effect.				
47 Evaluate current technology and performance standards to reduce light pollution				
48 Investigate ways to incentivize green development and retrofit projects.				
49 Evaluate opportunities to incorporate sustainable materials and practices into city engineering and infrastructure projects.				

On-Going
 Short
 Medium
 Long



6.0 WORK PLAN



6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY WORK PLAN

The attached draft work plan document has been developed in conjunction with the Environmental Sustainability Plan.

COLUMN HEADER LEGEND

- ¹ **RANGE** On-Going: Practices or Programs requiring on-going participation
 Short: 0-1 year - Council directive for FY 11
 Medium: 1-5 years - Requires further evaluation prior to implementation
 Long: 5+ years - Concept is supported, no action at this time
- ² **LINKED TO EXTERNAL FUNDING** Project, or components associated with an external funding source
- ³ **SUPPORTING CATEGORIES** Cross-references related Environmental Sustainability Plan categories
 1- Leadership & Education
 2- Resources & Energy
 3- Transportation & Mobility
 4- Waste Management & Recycling
 5- Sustainable Development & Infrastructure
- ⁴ **SUPPORTS GHGI REC's** Cross-references recommendations from Green House Gas Emissions Inventory, presented to the City Council on June, 2, 2009

	PLAN CATEGORY	WORK PLAN RECOMMENDATION	STATUS	RANGE ¹	CITY FUNDING SOURCE	LINKED TO EXTERNAL FUNDING ²	SUPPORTING CATEGORIES ³	SUPPORTS GHGI REC's ⁴
1	Leadership & Education	Formalize an ongoing environmental education strategy.	Existing	On-Going	Staff		ALL	2B, 6B
2	Leadership & Education	Continue to seek opportunities for environmental programming with NCTV and other public entities.	Existing	On-Going	Staff	X	ALL	2B, 6B
3	Leadership & Education	Continue to update the GHG inventory bi-annually.	Previously Approved	On-Going	Operating Budget		ALL	YES
4	Leadership & Education	Continue to promote the Apogee Home Energy Suite Program for community use.	Previously Approved	On-Going	Operating Budget		2	1B
5	Leadership & Education	Seek opportunities to effectively use federal, state and private funding for programs that benefit efficiency, sustainability and best management practices.	New	On-Going	Staff		ALL	5B
6	Leadership & Education	Seek opportunities to partner with other agencies in support of environmental goals.	New	On-Going	Staff		ALL	
7	Leadership & Education	Implement Smart Grid marketing and public relations strategy.	Previously Approved	Short	CIP	X	2, 5	
8	Leadership & Education	Formalize an organizational structure for implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Plan.	New	Short	Staff		ALL	
9	Leadership & Education	Prepare Green Procurement guidelines which will establish procedures for economically effective and environmentally responsible expenditures.	New	Short	Staff		ALL	7A
10	Leadership & Education	Pursue opportunities to incentivize green activities in city-funded efforts and grants.	New	Medium	Staff		ALL	5B
11	Leadership & Education	Establish a program for recognition of business and residential community members who implement and employ "green" practices.	New	Medium	Staff		ALL	
12	Leadership & Education	Evaluate the current Home Energy Savings Program.	New	Medium	Operating Budget	X	2	1B
13	Leadership & Education	Investigate the need to hire an Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.	New	Long	Operating Budget		ALL	4A
14	Resources & Energy	Implement Smart Grid Initiative.	Previously Approved	On-Going	CIP	X	1, 5	8A
15	Resources & Energy	Be a leader in the use of alternative fuel technology in our vehicle fleet.	Previously Approved	On-Going	Operating Budget		1, 3	
16	Resources & Energy	Continue water leak detection programs.	Previously Approved	On-Going	Operating Budget		1, 5	

	PLAN CATEGORY	WORK PLAN RECOMMENDATION	STATUS	RANGE ¹	CITY FUNDING SOURCE	LINKED TO EXTERNAL FUNDING ²	SUPPORTING CATEGORIES ³	SUPPORTS GHGI REC's ⁴
17	Resources & Energy	Continue participation in the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup to address water quality.	Previously Approved	On-Going	Operating Budget		1, 5	
18	Resources & Energy	Investigate alternative energy technology in support of economic development (e.g. Green Fuels Depot).	New	On-Going	Staff	X	1, 5	
19	Resources & Energy	Evaluate Renewable Energy contract.	Existing	Short	Staff		1, 5	
20	Resources & Energy	Evaluate anti-idling policies.	New	Short	Staff		1, 3	
21	Resources & Energy	Investigate methods to more efficiently use natural resources in operating city facilities.	New	Medium	Staff		1, 5	1A, 5A, 6A, 9A
22	Transportation & Mobility	Continue to coordinate with regional transportation agencies to maximize bicycle, pedestrian, vehicular, transit and rail connectivity and mobility.	Existing	On-Going	Staff		1, 2, 5	9B
23	Transportation & Mobility	Promote alternate modes of transportation (i.e., transit, bicycle and pedestrian).	Existing	On-Going	Staff		1, 2, 5	9B
24	Transportation & Mobility	Continue to expand park-n-ride facilities.	Existing	On-Going	Operating Budget	X	1	9B
25	Transportation & Mobility	Continue multi-modal transportation (i.e., vehicular, transit, bicycle and pedestrian activity) and "complete streets" when designing and improving the transportation network.	Existing	On-Going	CIP		1, 2, 5	9B
26	Transportation & Mobility	Continue to identify roadway enhancements and opportunities to provide transportation demand management (TDM) options for key local destinations (trip reduction measures, carpooling).	Previously Approved	On-Going	Staff, Op. Budget or CIP		1, 2, 5	9B
27	Transportation & Mobility	Support an update to the city's Bicycle Implementation Plan.	Existing	Medium	Staff		1, 2, 5	9B
28	Transportation & Mobility	Investigate technology and innovative programs to maximize use of the existing transportation network (e.g. Zipcar, bus trackers).	New	Medium	Operating Budget		1	9B
29	Transportation & Mobility	Investigate funding for a local transit system with the recommendations from the Naperville Circulator Study.	Previously Approved	Long	Operating Budget		1, 2, 5	9B
30	Waste Management & Recycling	Continue to use electronic media resources to reduce the amount of paper used by the City of Naperville.	Existing	On-Going	Staff		2	

PLAN CATEGORY	WORK PLAN RECOMMENDATION	STATUS	RANGE ¹	CITY FUNDING SOURCE	LINKED TO EXTERNAL FUNDING ²	SUPPORTING CATEGORIES ³	SUPPORTS GHGI REC'S ⁴
31	Waste Management & Recycling Identify opportunities to increase residential recycling participation.	Existing	On-Going	Staff		1	
32	Waste Management & Recycling Continue to promote household hazardous waste program.	Existing	On-Going	Staff	X	1, 5	
33	Waste Management & Recycling Educate consumers on how to make better purchases in order to reduce waste.	New	Medium	Staff		1, 2	
34	Waste Management & Recycling Support commercial consolidated waste partnerships, where feasible.	New	Medium	Staff		1, 2	8B
35	Waste Management & Recycling Work with other agencies to develop cost effective options for waste hauling and recycling.	New	Medium	Staff		1	10A, 3B, 8B
36	Waste Management & Recycling Develop a policy for recycling at special events.	New	Medium	Staff		1	3B
37	Waste Management & Recycling Investigate the feasibility of developing a composting program.	New	Long	Staff		1	
38	Waste Management & Recycling Determine the feasibility of developing a commercial recycling program.	New	Long	Staff		1	3B
39	Waste Management & Recycling Develop a construction waste program or guidelines.	New	Long	Staff		1	10A
40	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure Explore opportunities to encourage site and subdivision design that retains or restores key natural features.	Existing	On-Going	Staff		1, 2	
41	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure Support residential tree planting, maintenance and preservation strategies.	Existing	On-Going	Staff		1, 2	
42	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure Identify existing Code impediments to implementation of best practices for building, energy or site improvements.	New	Medium	Staff		1, 2	7B


	PLAN CATEGORY	WORK PLAN RECOMMENDATION	STATUS	RANGE ¹	CITY FUNDING SOURCE	LINKED TO EXTERNAL FUNDING ²	SUPPORTING CATEGORIES ³	SUPPORTS GHGI REC'S ⁴
43	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure	Offer technical support to residents and developers related to best management practices, sustainable building and sites, and energy efficiency in new construction and retrofits.	New	Medium	Staff		ALL	7B
44	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure	Provide neighborhood and property owner education about detention pond maintenance and best management practices.	New	Medium	Staff		1, 2	
45	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure	Provide community education about the benefits and maintenance of native and natural landscaping.	New	Medium	Staff		1, 2	
46	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure	Evaluate alternate paving materials (e.g., concrete, permeable pavers) to reduce water runoff, improve runoff quality, and reduce the "urban heat island" effect.	New	Medium	Staff		1, 2	
47	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure	Evaluate current technology and performance standards to reduce light pollution.	New	Long	Staff		1, 2	2A, 2B, 6A, 7B
48	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure	Investigate ways to incentivize green development and retrofit projects.	New	Long	Staff or Op. Budget		1, 2	5B, 7B
49	Sustainable Development & Infrastructure	Evaluate opportunities to incorporate sustainable materials and practices into city engineering and infrastructure projects.	New	Long	Staff		1, 2,4	



Village of Downers Grove
2010 Sustainability Best Practices
and 2011 Action Plan



www.downers.us



The Village's Strategic Plan for 2008-2013 established being "green" mindful in Village operations as a high priority. In response to this Strategic Plan objective, Village Staff, with input from the Environmental Concerns Commission, developed the Sustainability Best Practices Report for 2009.

The Village of Downers Grove continues to make sustainability a priority with a 2011-2018 goal to be a Steward of Financial and Environmental Sustainability, and therefore has created the 2010 Sustainability Best Practices Report.

The following pages describe the Village's achievements in 2010 in the area of environmental sustainability as well as projects that the Village intends to pursue in 2011. **In 2010**, the Village continued to focus sustainability efforts on the following categories:

- Transportation
- Energy
- Waste Diversion
- Urban Forest
- Land Use and Development
- Water
- Community Outreach

The efforts of Village staff and the Environmental Concerns Commission in the past year have produced significant achievements, including:

- Installing energy efficient lighting in the Village-owned parking deck, resulting in a 30% reduction in electricity costs.

- Planning and execution of an award-winning rain barrel event that sold 544 recycling rain barrels to Downers Grove residents.
- Receipt of a grant that will allow the Village to upgrade its compressed natural gas fueling facility.



The Village's achievements in sustainability were due in part to partnerships with local organizations such as SCARCE and The Conservation Foundation, as well as a result of grants from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy. The Village will continue to seek partnerships and grant opportunities to help offset the costs of sustainability projects.

For 2011, the Village has identified projects in the categories of:

- Transportation
- Energy
- Waste Diversion
- Water
- Community Outreach

The projects were identified by Village staff and with the assistance of the Environmental Concerns Commission. The projects within each category are described in greater detail within this report.



TRANSPORTATION

In 2010, the Village's sustainability efforts in the area of transportation resulted in significant improvements in the Village's fleet budget and a reduction in the amount of diesel fuel consumed for the provision of village services.

Achievements

- The Village implemented an anti-idling policy to eliminate unnecessary idling of all vehicles in the village fleet.
- In March of 2010, the Village installed interior warming devices in 14 front-line snow removal vehicles, thanks to a grant from the Illinois EPA. The devices operate off the vehicle's battery to circulate warm air in the cab without idling, therefore saving fuel and emissions.
- During the 2009-2010 winter season, the Village reduced its salt usage by 20% over the previous year by pre-treating streets with an organic anti-icing compound.
- The Village began inflating all vehicle tires with nitrogen, which increased fuel efficiency and extended police vehicle tire life from 10,000 miles to 21,000 miles.
- The Village increased the percentage of alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet from 62% in 2009 to 76%. The Village fleet includes:
 - 30 vehicles that use E-85
 - 78 that use biodiesel
 - 2 hybrid vehicles
 - 16 compressed natural gas vehicles

Thanks to a combination of the projects listed above, the Village decreased its diesel consumption by 33,000 gallons as compared to 2007, which is equivalent to a savings of \$85,000.



2011 projects

- As vehicles are replaced according to maintenance schedules and budget, the Village will continue to acquire alternative fuel vehicles.
- The Village will work with DuPage County in the design phase of a bike path that will extend along 31st Street from Highland Avenue to Meyers Road, projected to be constructed in 2014. Each project in the Village's bikeway plan is partially funded by a grant from the State's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program.
- The Village entered into a grant agreement with the Gas Technology Institute to upgrade its compressed natural gas fueling facility. Fuel storage capacity will double, supporting a greater number of natural gas powered vehicles, as well as larger vehicles such as snow plow trucks. A new high capacity dispenser is also part of the project and will double the number of vehicles that can be fueled at any given time.



ENERGY

In 2010, the Village was able to leverage federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, commonly known as the Stimulus Plan) to upgrade conventional lighting fixtures to energy efficient fixtures in Village facilities and to retrofit Village facilities with solar furnaces and insulation.

Achievements

- Using in-house manpower, the Village replaced existing fluorescent lighting (T-12 to T-8) and 65w flood lights to compact 13w fluorescent lighting in the Village Hall, Fire Station #3 and the Main Street Station. This project provides more effective, efficient and greener lighting. Staff anticipates an approximately 100,000 kilowatt hour reduction per year.
- Staff replaced nine 150 watt incandescent bulbs in the Village Council Chambers with 14 watt LED lamps. The LED lights last longer than conventional lighting, reduce energy consumption by up to 75% and are fully recyclable.
- The Village replaced metal halide lighting in the parking deck with induction lighting, achieving actual energy savings of 30% in the first year.
- The Village replaced 50% of holiday lighting in the Downtown Business District with LED lights.

2011 Projects

- In accordance with the Environmental Concerns Commissions recommendation, Village staff will research the US Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Communities program in order to provide a comprehensive report to the Village Council.

- Village staff will insulate ten Village-owned well houses and install solar air heating panels in six of those well houses. The project will improve energy efficiency by reducing the amount of gas and electricity used in heating the buildings.
- Village staff will investigate other grant opportunities that would allow the Village to purchase solar thermal panels to provide hot water at municipal buildings.
- The Village will implement a program to acquire motor oil for its existing clean burning waste oil furnace, which will reduce heating costs for the Fleet Services building by reusing oil for heat.
- Reduce street light electricity as possible.
- Install energy efficient LED street lighting Concord Square subdivision.
- Replace Fire Station 5 parking lot lighting with energy efficient LED lighting.
- Replace parking deck alley lighting and marking sign with LED efficient fixtures.
- Investigate other opportunities for wind, solar and geo-thermal energy use.

WASTE DIVERSION

In 2010, the Village's waste diversion efforts strengthened existing partnerships with SCARCE and DuPage County, and provided new opportunities for partnerships with Creative Recycling, Inc. and Elgin Recycling.

Achievements

- In 2010, the Village held its third annual Recycling Extravaganza. Among the items collected were 20,000 pounds of paper, 600 pairs of eye glasses, 109,000 pounds of electronics, 159 American flags and 128 fire extinguishers.
- Improved recycling practices within village facilities were initiated by providing recycling containers in offices and cubicles, and by providing co-mingled recycling containers for products other than paper. Staff also partnered with Batteries Plus to provide a container for battery recycling for employees.
- The Village signed a new five-year contract with Republic Services for residential solid waste removal and recycling. The new contract continues to provide unlimited curbside recycling for residents and also provides a recycling cart for residents who participate in the garbage cart program. The contract also reduces the number of garbage Amnesty Days from one per year to one over the term of the contract.
- The Village partnered with Elgin Recycling, Inc. to provide holiday light recycling for residents and businesses. The program, which will continue through the first 45 days of 2011, collected 875 pounds of holiday lights in 2010.



2011 Projects

- In 2011, the Village intends to host the Recycling Extravaganza.
- The Village will collaborate with the DuPage County Office of Planning and Economic Development to explore ways to encourage businesses within the Village to increase recycling, with the goal of reducing commercial waste by 10%.
- In 2011, the Village will continue to provide the opportunity for residents and businesses to recycle used holiday lights.



WATER

In 2010, the Village's rain barrel event provided an opportunity for residents to participate in water conservation efforts in their own homes and business.

Achievements

- The Village partnered with The Conservation Foundation to provide a bulk rate discount to residents for the purchase of recycled rain barrels. As a result of the promotion, the Village sold 544 rain barrels, which were distributed to residents on May 8, 2010.

2011 Projects

- The Village will create a pilot project for its Green Streets/Sustainable Stormwater Program, which is intended to reduce localized residential stormwater nuisances by promoting and partially funding rain gardens on private properties through a cost-share program.
- The Village has budgeted for an improved Leak Detection Program which involves employing a technical service company to provide highly accurate, state-of-the-art acoustic equipment to find sub-surface water system leaks. Using this equipment and personnel trained in this field, the smallest of leaks and other sources of water loss are detected, located and repaired. Historically, one-half of the water system is surveyed under this program each year. Beginning in 2011, the Village's entire water system will be surveyed annually.
- The Village will assist the Chamber of Commerce, the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation and the Downtown Management Association to plan the 2011 rain barrel event, which will benefit local businesses and not-for-profit organizations.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2010, the Village used existing resources to reach out to community members with information regarding opportunities to be more 'green.'

Achievements

- The 2010 holiday lights recycling program, Recycling Extravaganza and the Rain Barrel event were all examples of successful community outreach.
- The Village published an article in the February Hometown Times newsletter describing its efforts at sustainability for 2010.

2011 Projects

- The Village will seek to leverage community resources, such as corporations, not-for-profits or universities, as partners in environmental stewardship.
- The Village will promote the recycling cart program, which is a new component of the residential solid waste hauler contract, to encourage recycling.
- The Village will increase sustainability-related content on the Village website and in publications such as E-News, Village Corner and Hometown Times.



URBAN FOREST AND LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2010, In 2010, the Village combined community beautification projects and infrastructure improvements while creating a sustainable stormwater system.

Achievements

- The Village planted approximately 400 parkway trees.
- Through a partnership with the Downers Grove Park District, the Village preserved open space at Washington Park while improving stormwater capacity.
- The Comprehensive Plan Ad Hoc Committee completed the draft Comprehensive Plan, which, pending approval by the Plan Commission and Village Council, will include plans for urban forests.

2011 Projects

- The adoption of the Comprehensive Plan is listed on the Village's 2011 High Priority Action Items.

Comprehensive Plan Update City of Darien

November 2002

Prepared by:

Planning Resources Inc.
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Chapter VI, Corridor Enhancement

Community Corridor Enhancement

Darien's arterial streets offer an opportunity to help tie together land use and development throughout the community. A beautification and enhancement program along these arterial streets is recommended that takes advantage of, and builds upon, existing conditions. For example, newer commercial developments along 75th Street include landscape berming that helps screen off-street parking and provides quality landscaping along this heavily traveled street. Plainfield Road already has mature stands of trees that contribute toward its residential character.

Recommendations that follow for arterial streets focus on ways to continue this treatment, as well as identify other ways to enhance the primary roadways through Darien. Proposals for other streets, however, take into consideration the function of the roadway, as well as its established character. Therefore, recommendations for enhancement and beautification differ.

75th Street — This is a major commercial corridor that includes the intersection of 75th Street and Cass Avenue, which has been called out as a key development area (see text for Key Development Area #1). The following is proposed for the enhancement of this key roadway:

- Add sidewalks where none exist to provide a continuous pedestrian walk;
- Clean drainage swales;
- Relocate overhead utilities underground as part of the proposed widening of this arterial street;

- Introduce banners, pavers and gateway signage to identify the intersection of Cass Avenue and 75th Street as a marketplace and center of commerce;
- Install decorative lighting along that portion of 75th Street that passes through Darien;
- Follow recommendations for enhancing the intersection of 75th Street and Cass Avenue that are proposed for Key Development Area #1;
- Add landscaped berms in front of off-street parking to soften views of paved areas; and
- Enhance the landscaping in the existing median, by adding additional trees, shrubs, and beds of ornamental grasses, perennials and annuals. Increase the intensity of plantings (shrubs, grasses, perennials and annuals) at signalized intersections.

Lemont Road — This north/south roadway provides direct access to I-55. The mix of residential and commercial uses, and the lack of a landscaped median, provides a character that substantially differs from 75th Street. The following is recommended:

- Provide a continuous system of sidewalks;
- Add trees in the right-of-way to provide a continuous parkway treatment;
- Develop a comprehensive program that results in the relocation of overhead utilities underground;
- Enhance entrances to residential subdivisions through landscape plantings and signage; and

- Develop standards for fencing (height, material, and color) that can be implemented when wood fences used to screen rear yards of residential properties require replacement, so that a uniform appearance can be created. Where possible move the location of screen fences toward the residential dwelling so that landscaping can be installed along that side of the fence that is visible to the public.

Illinois Route 83 — Illinois Route 83 serves as Darien's eastern boundary, and separates Darien from Willowbrook. The continuation of implementing guidelines for signs and landscaping along this arterial that have been created cooperatively between Darien and Willowbrook will help upgrade and coordinate the appearance of this state route.

Additionally, the following is recommended:

- Install street trees, where possible, to achieve a spacing of one tree for each 40 lineal feet;
- Add landscaping and berming, where possible, to screen existing parking lots and service areas from public view;
- Work with Willowbrook to coordinate a comprehensive relocation of overhead utilities underground;
- Increase landscaping in existing medians; and
- Install supplemental trees and shrubs, where possible, to screen residential properties that abut this arterial street.

Cass Avenue — Cass Avenue is a north/south arterial street in the City and includes a mix of residential and non-residential land uses, although the dominant

land use south of 75th Street is non-residential. Unlike 75th Street, this arterial street does not have a median that can be enhanced to provide some unity in the appearance of the street. Recommendations for this arterial street include the following:

- Enhance landscape screening of residential properties that abut Cass Avenue;
- Install street trees in existing parkways to provide a continuous spacing of trees at 40-foot intervals that will ultimately create a tree canopy along this arterial street;
- Follow recommendations for enhancing the intersection of Cass Avenue and 75th Street that are proposed in Key Development Area #1;
- Construct sidewalks, where required, to provide continuity for those pedestrians traveling to Lace School, churches and businesses along this street;
- Supplement landscaping in front of existing parking lots to screen parking and enhance the appearance of this street;
- Develop and implement a comprehensive program for relocating existing overhead utilities underground; and
- Design and install a landscape treatment for the interchange of Cass Avenue with I-55 to improve its appearance and identify this area as a major gateway into Darien.

Plainfield Road — This arterial street is primarily residential in character. Also, many sections of this roadway already are heavily landscaped. Those businesses that exist, or are planned, are residential in both scale and appearance. Both the City Hall and Police Station and the new elementary school are

located along Plainfield Road, and are destinations for area residents.

Recommendations for this arterial street include:

- Adding street trees, where possible, to achieve a constant tree canopy;
- Supplementing landscaping next to residences with additional plantings to enhance screening of dwellings and fences;
- Adding sections of sidewalks, where possible, to provide a continuous pedestrian walkway;
- Creating and implementing a comprehensive program that results in the relocation of existing overhead utilities underground;
- Enhancing the appearance of ponds and natural areas by installing native grasses and wildflowers;
- Enhancing entrances to residential subdivisions by adding plantings that include perennials, ornamental grasses and annuals; and
- Improving the undeveloped corner at Plainfield and Manning Roads by creating a “park-like” setting with benches and landscaping and buffering for existing utilities.

Community Gateways

The Planning Advisory Committee has identified areas that warrant design treatment, since they serve as a primary gateway (or entrance) into the community from surrounding areas. The installation of signs,

lighting, and landscaping will build identity for Darien, as well as announce to motorists that they have entered into this community.

Primary gateways are those major intersections that serve as entrances into the City, and are shown on Figure 3. These include:

- 75th Street and Lemont Road;
- 75th Street and Illinois Route 83;
- Cass Avenue and 67th Street;
- I-55 and Lemont Road; and
- I-55 and Cass Avenue.

These areas can be improved with a primary monument sign and landscaping to create a major focal point for those entering Darien at these locations.

Secondary gateways are those minor intersections that serve as entrances into the City. These areas can be improved with identification signs and landscape treatments. Secondary gateways are shown on Figure 3 and include:

- 83rd Street and Woodward Avenue;
- 87th Street and Ailsworth Drive; and
- Plainfield Road and Illinois Route 83.

Although these locations do not bring motorists into the community from I-55, they do serve as entry points into Darien. The addition of entry signage, landscaping and lighting will further enhance these entrances into Darien, thereby promoting community identity.