

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE



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INTRODUCTION

The Village Board prioritized the Village Operational Sustainability Plan as a High Priority Agenda item during the 2021-2022 Village Board Strategic Planning Process. The Village Operational Sustainability Plan included a summary of current government operations for sustainability processes and activities. It also reviewed the Village's past achievements and current sustainability initiatives. Then during the 2022 - 2023 Strategic Planning Process the Village Board prioritized the Village Government Sustainability Plan action. This resulted in the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee and the creation of this document - Sustainability Plan: Implementation Guide. The task was to outline sustainability goals for a five year period, 2023-2028.

The Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee was formed during the summer of 2022 to assist in creating the Implementation Guide and to provide input on the Village's sustainability efforts. Members of Village boards and commissions were initially asked if they were interested in participating. The goal was to have representation, at least one member and not more than two, from each board and commission as these individuals have background knowledge of Village operations that would be beneficial for discussion and planning. In addition, several residents with professional experience related to sustainability were asked to participate. This resulted in an Ad Hoc Committee of 12 members.

The Committee met regularly throughout the fall into February 2023 to create components of the Implementation Guide. Committee members were first asked to review the draft Village Operational Sustainability Plan and provide feedback. Then the members brainstormed and prioritized goals for the Implementation Guide followed by identifying its value to the community and the environment, opportunities and challenges. In addition, Ad Hoc Committee, members recommended actions for each goal.

The intent is to update the actions, revisit and prioritize goals prior to the end of the five year term. The Implementation Guide will also be supplemented with annual tracking of Village actions and projects supporting the outlined goals.

AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS



^{*}Tom Zander - Economic Development Commissioner: Participated in the first two meetings.

GUIDE COMPONENTS

Each Ad Hoc Committee member shared up to five **GOALS** for consideration. The **GOALS** were reviewed by the Committee and prioritized, and are the focus of the Implementation Guide. In some cases, goals were combined with similar goals prior to prioritizing.

The **OBJECTIVES** refine the goals by outlining the sought after sustainability improvements or targets. The **OBJECTIVES** may be used as milestones to evaluate progress towards reaching the goal.

To demonstrate the intended impact of the sustainability goals, Village Staff and Ad Hoc Committee members provided the **Value to the Community** and **Value to the Environment** for each goal.

In addition, staff and committee members identified **Opportunities** and **Challenges** associated with each goal. This context is valuable in understanding how the Village may use its strengths to achieve the goal or what hurdles, unique to the Village or not, that need to be considered in plotting a path forward.

ACTIONS are tasks that are intented to complete the objective(s) and accomplish the goal(s). Some goals that were shared by members in the initial stages of planning were carried over into **ACTIONS** for similar prioritized goals.

In the instances where Village staff is currently working towards the prioritized goals, those actions are listed under **MANAGEMENT IN PROGRESS**.

ACTIONS ON THE HORIZON are **ACTIONS** provided by the Ad Hoc Committee and staff that are not planned for the near term.

The remaining proposed, not prioritized, goals are listed under **GOALS ON THE HORIZON** at the end of this Guide for reference and future consideration.



OVERVIEW

GOAL 1

PROMOTE THE USE OF ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES FOR LANDSCAPES THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

GOAL 2

HELP REDUCE SOLID WASTE TONNAGE GENERATED BY ALL USERS

GOAL 3

CONSTRUCT NEW SHARED-USE PATHS AND SIDEWALKS TO CREATE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WALKING AND BIKING

GOAL 4

USE ENERGY FOR BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES EFFICIENTLY

GOAL 5

MAINTAIN LANDSCAPES WITH AN AESTHETICALLY PLEASING NEIGHBORHOOD APPEAL, IN A SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE MANNER, WHICH MINIMIZES THE USE OF PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

GOAL 6

FORMALIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE ILLINOIS FINANCE AUTHORITY'S C-PACE PROGRAM THAT WILL ALLOW COMMERCIAL AND CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO FINANCE INVESTMENT IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, WATER CONSERVATION, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND RESILIENT DESIGN OF NEW AND EXISTING BUILDINGS

GOAL 7

ENCOURAGE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE VILLAGE'S COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM

Promote the use of environment friendly alternatives for landscapes throughout the community

OBJECTIVES:

Increase the use of sustainable and/or native plants resilient to the urban environment in landscaping at Village-owned properties unless such use is not appropriate.



2 Utilize green infrastructure, including rain gardens, to assist with controlling water when feasible.



3 Create a communication campaign centered around limiting the use of fertilizer and pesticides for lawn care, storm water benefits of native plants, water conservation and composing



/ALUE TO:

The Community

- 1. Provides new habitats for animals and insects increasing biodiversity
- 2. Pollinators are critical for growing crops
- 3. Provides more opportunities for the community to learn about ecosystems
- 4. May improve health and well-being by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of synthetic chemicals
- 5. Some wildlife species help control mosquitoes and other nuisance insects
- 6. Green spaces improve an individual's health by creating more opportunities to connect with nature

The Environment

- 1. Supports biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem
- 2. Reduces water consumption
- Native landscapes reduce the need for lawn equipment and fertilizers; reducing new carbon emissions
- 4. Reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides



Opportunities

- Provides new habitats for animals and insects increasing biodiversity
- 2. Pollinators are critical for growing crops
- Provides more opportunities for the community to learn about ecosystems
- 4. May improve health and well-being by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of synthetic chemicals
- 5. Some wildlife species help control mosquitoes and other nuisance insects
- 6. Green spaces improve an individual's health by creating more opportunities to connect with nature



- Differing aesthetic preferences for lawns and yards
- 2. Increasing potential for tall grass and weeds code enforcement complaints
- In their first season, native plants require more attention and care, mostly in watering to become established
- Native landscaped areas require maintenance and weeding
- 5. Potential sight triangle obstructions at intersections and driveways
- 6. Possible impact on home values with traditional turf and landscaping receiving a higher value than a yard mostly converted to native grasses and flowers
- Creates opportunities for nuisance wildlife since tall grasses and plants may provide food and cover (i.e. mice, raccoons, coyotes, ticks, etc.)
- 8. Some native plants are aggressive spreaders and go beyond designated planting areas

Actions

- 1. Continue participation with the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Monarch Waystation Program (Village has 5 butterfly gardens) and the Illinois Monarch Project
- 2. Install signage by planting beds to identify plant types and explain why these plants are beneficial to the environment
- Host informational tables at Village and community events (i.e. Midwest Grows Green / Garden Club)
- 4. Find ways to publicize materials supporting alternatives for grass lawns and limiting the use of fertilizer and pesticides for lawn care
- 5. Increase public awareness of natural lawn care techniques and alternatives to traditional turf grass
- Host informational presentations/seminars lead by industry experts (Chip Osborne Healthy Lawn Presentation)
- 7. Have a native plant seeds giveaway, possibly in conjunction with community group
- 8. Connect residents to resources for better lawn care and plant health (i.e. Lurvey's Garden Center)
- 9. Continue to look for actions and learn from neighboring communities and organizations (i.e. Skokie / Evanston / Chicago Park District)
- 10. Create a Sustainability Guide to provide to new residents and realtors (i.e. native plants, natural lawn care, drainage, link to related resources)

Action on the Horizon

A Pollinator Garden at Central Rd and Mount Prospect Road

Management in Progress

- 1. Klehm's Island Landscape: New landscape design for the center island including perennial planting beds, trees, hardscape, irrigation, and a new raised annual flower bed
- 2. New Sustainable Landscaping Projects:
 - Along Rand Road from Schoenbeck Rd north to about 2440 E Rand Road
 - Corner of Euclid Ave and Elmhurst Rd, adjacent from Old Orchard Country Club golf course



Help reduce solid waste tonnage generated by all users

OBJECTIVES:

- Set recycling targets for single family residences
 - 2 Continue to track single-family diversion rates
 - Increase recycling and decrease amount of contamination in recycling pickups
 - Share information on how people can reduce the amount of waste they create
 - Promote reusing materials instead of disposing as waste or recycling



/ALUE TO

The Community

- 1. Promotes a circular economy
- 2. Opportunity to learn how to make more environmentally friendly purchases
- 3. Supports the local economy

The Environment

- Reduces use of non-renewable resources
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution associated with the manufacturing, shipping, and recycling of goods
- Less toxic chemicals contaminating soils or water sources



Opportunities

- Illinois legislators introducing an Extended Producer Responsibility bill for product packaging and paper products
- Village of Mount Prospect launching Styrofoam recycling
- 3. Resale shops, garage sales, flea markets and customer to customer (C2C) marketplaces
- 4. Increasing popularity of upcycling within society
- 5. Illinois EPA Grant funding opportunity to support county solid waste planning

- 1. Wishcycling and contaminated recyclables
- 2. A demand for recycled materials
- Multiple layers of product packaging generating additional waste
- 4. Products designed for planned obsolescence and disposable products
- 5. Growth of the throw-away economy society

Actions

- Share information to help the community reduce solid waste at the source
- 2. Increase awareness on issues with wishcycling
- Create a Village "Recycle Coach" Podcast share lessons learned from recycling audits, recycling tips and information
- 4. Ask restaurants to reduce single use plastic (provide upon request only). Collaborate with the Mount Prospect Downtown Merchants Association to achieve this action. Create a recognition or award for these businesses.



Management in Progress



- Conduct multi-family recycling audits in 2023
- Continue with single family audits that were implemented in 2022
- Launch Stryofoam recycling, addresses the biggest contaminant in the recycling stream
- Continue production of the Village's Recycling Newsletter
- Share SWANCC's Reusability Guide with the community
- 6. Update recycling "How to" decals and distribute; outcome of the 2022 recycling audit

Construct New Shared-Use Paths and Sidewalks to Create Greater opportunities for Walking and Biking

OBJECTIVES:



- 1 Increase bike path infrastructure, sidewalks, bridges, and the pedestrian network within Mount Prospect
- 2 Support public transit access and commuter ridership
- Reduce last mile barriers for public transportation
- 4 Support active transportation
- Reduce vehicle congestion and pollution

The Community

- Increases physical activity and creates potential for improved health and mental wellbeing outcomes
- 2. Supports higher ridership and enables continued investment in public transit
- 3. Advances social equity and quality of life
- Improves air quality by reducing vehicle trips and congestion
- 5. Create a more walkable and beautiful Village

The Environment

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution
- 2. Reduces pollutant stormwater runoffs from roadways and parking lots
- Potential to preserve or provide greenspace (i.e. smaller parking lots & narrower roads)
- Reduces paved heat island and increase greener streetscapes with landscaping

Opportunities

- 1. Increasing awareness and more individuals choosing active transportation
- 2. Participating in the Chicago metropolitan area plan to improve bike route networks and implement complete street policies throughout the village
- 3. Reducing last mile barriers for public transportation
- 4. Monitoring electric bike and scooter trends for providing alternate modes of transportation and connectivity to public transit
- 5. Community events and groups that promote biking (i.e. Family Bike Ride event hosted by the Special Events Commission; Mount Prospect Bike Club)

- 1. Convenience of traveling by a vehicle
- 2. Gaps in bike and public transportation networks to connect to regional areas
- 3. Inclement or hot weather
- 4. Safety concerns from cyclists sharing roads with distracted drivers
- 5. Available funding for bike or shared use path design, engineering and construction
- 6. Competing individual and jurisdictional priorities that limit support for shared bike lanes on roads

Actions

- 1. Continue to support Northwest Municipal Conference Bike & Pedestrian Committee efforts to better connect bike paths throughout suburban communities
- Explore the feasibility of a shared shuttle bus program connecting business areas to various stops in the community (i.e. Schaumburg's Woodfield Trolley)
- 3. Identify the first and last mile gaps for Mount Prospect's public transit routes

Actions on the Horizon

Construct shared use paths, lighting and associated wayfinding signs along corridors that meet the goals of the Village Bike Plan

Pilot a protected bike lane - Kensington Business Center

Management in Progress

- Construction of shared use paths, lighting and associated wayfinding signs along corridors that meet the goals of the Village Bike Plan (Kensington Road at railroad tracks -- Phase I & II Engineering --\$35,000 & Wolf Road -- Phase II Engineering -- \$260,000)
- 2. Central Road Pedestrian Crossing Improvements at Cathy Lane (Construction Engineering \$71,000, Construction -\$710,000)
- 3. New Sidewalk Program (installs news sidewalks to fill in gaps in the sidewalk infrastructure)
 - Rand Road from Camp McDonald Road to the existing sidewalk (north side)
 - Wolf Road from Euclid Avenue to the Prospect Heights Train Station (east side)
 - Busse Road from Imperial Court to I-90 (east side)
 - Oakton Street from I-90 to Lexington Drive (north side)
 - Oakton Street from I-90 to the Village limits (south side)
- 4. Launch an Arterial Bike Network Study in 2023
- 5. Continue to explore the Meadows Melas Bridge project
- 6. Construct pedestrian crossing at Busse Ave and Main St
- Construct the Rand Road shared use path that will connect with Des Plaines



Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently

OBJECTIVES:

- Establish metrics to evaluate energy use as a community
- Increase energy efficiency of municipal buildings
- Review the Village Code to improve resource efficiency and adopt clean energy
- Engage the community in clean energy practices



VALUE TO:

The Community

- Reduce natural gas and electric bills with a possibility of long-term net savings
- 2. Increase property value by improving energy efficiency of buildings
- 3. Improves resiliency of building stock
- 4. Meet growing energy demand and create jobs
- 5. Diversify energy sources and improve resiliency of energy generation systems

The Environment

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution through improved energy efficiency
- 2. Diversify energy sources to lessen the environmental impact of energy generation

Opportunities

- Funding opportunities from the Inflation Reduction Act
- 2. Increasing electric and natural gas prices, supply shortages, and related economic factors
- 3. Implementing higher energy efficiency codes
- 4. Development of building performance standards and stretch codes

- Individuals and businesses having the financial resources available to make energy efficiency improvements
- Higher energy efficiency standards affecting return on investment for home builders/ developers
- 3. Long-term (20 years) return on investment
- 4. Lower electric and natural gas prices on average
- 5. Municipal franchise agreements with ComEd and Nicor

Actions

- 1. Conduct an energy audit of municipal government buildings
- 2. Adopt the 2022 Illinois Energy Conservation Code
- Greater promotion of the Village's Community Solar Program through an additional postcard mailing informing residents of the program combined with a social media campaign
- 4. Offer presentations/webinars hosted by industry experts in electric vehicles, energy sources, community solar, etc., and create portal on the Village's website for people to access these presentations/webinars on-demand (May apply to all seven goals)
- 5. Establish a brand/logo for the Village's sustainability efforts (Applies to all seven goals)
- 6. Improve communications with the community regarding the Village's sustainability efforts and link the community to resources to help individuals sustainability efforts (Applies to all seven goals)
- 7. Add a Green Tips section to the Village Newsletter (Applies to all seven goals)
- 8. Share rebate information from the Inflation Reduction Act & Clean Energy Jobs Act



Maintain landscapes with an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood appeal, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner, which minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides

OBJECTIVES:

- 1
- Use integrated pest management strategies for municipal buildings and landscapes to reduce impact from pesticides
- 2)
- Educate residents on the dangers of home pesticide use to human health, pollinators and insects; share information on natural alternatives
- 3

Reduce the use of coal tar pavement sealants through the community

The Community

 Helps to reduce potential for exposure to chemicals and their associated health concerns

The Environment

- Reduces harm to non-targeted plants and insects
- 2. Reduces water pollution of waterways and groundwater
- 3. Supports biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem

Opportunities

- Provide information about Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- 2. The Village of Mount Prospect does not use coal tar sealant

Challenges

- Appearance and maintenance standards of public property and rights-of-way versus the appearance of native plants and landscaping `(i.e. increased code enforcement complaints, negative feedback to public works)
- 2. Increases cost of landscaping maintenance (i.e. weeding by hand, increased frequency)
- 3. Pesticides are required to control various native and invasive pests like the emerald ash borer
- 4. Influx of invasive species and changes in weather patterns may also increase landscaping and pest control costs (i.e. Common Buckthorn)
- 5. Decreasing insect populations will affect ecosystem health and possibly food supplies



Actions

- 1. Connect residents to information on natural alternatives for pesticides and herbicides
- 2. Continue to look for actions and learn from neighboring communities and organizations
- 3. Create a Sustainability Guide to provide to new residents and realtors (i.e. native plants, natural lawn care, drainage, link to related resources)
- 4. Increase public awareness on dangers from coal tar sealants to human health
- 5. Install signage in planting beds to identify different plant types and explain why these plants are beneficial to the environment

FORMALIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE ILLINOIS FINANCE AUTHORITY'S C-PACE PROGRAM THAT WILL ALLOW COMMERCIAL AND CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO FINANCE INVESTMENT IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, WATER CONSERVATION, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND RESILIENT DESIGN OF NEW AND EXISTING BUILDINGS.

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide commercial and certain residential properties a financing opportunity to make investments in electric vehicle charging, energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy and resilient design of new and existing buildings
- Reduce carbon emissions, energy use, and water consumption
- 3 Upgrade or repurpose existing buildings to retain or attract businesses



The Community

- Reduces energy and water use; opportunities to pass savings on to tenants
- 2. Reduces the building owners' cost of capital to fund building improvements
- 3. New business opportunities for technical, trades, lending and equipment sales
- 4. Generates investment and reinvestment within the community
- 5. 100% voluntary: no property owner is obligated to take any action

The Environment

- Reduces carbon emissions, energy use, and water consumption
- 2. Improves energy efficiency and expands installation of clean energy technologies
- Contributes to developing high performing buildings
- 4. Creates a more resilient building stock

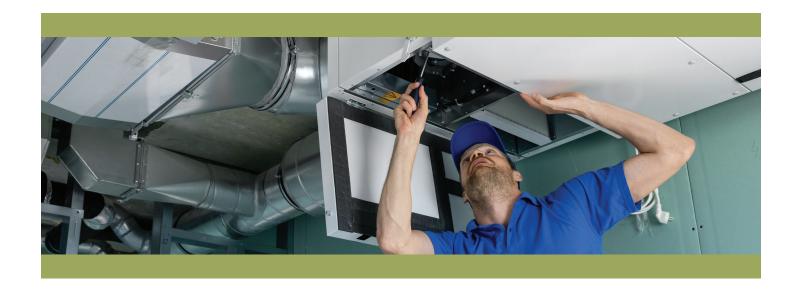
Opportunities

- 1. Provides a loan for specific improvements at a lower interest rate than a traditional construction loan without financial or administrative risk to the village
- 2. Loan repayment risk is eliminated if the property is sold Loan remains with property and uses the property tax bill as a means to ensure repayment
- 3. More resilient commercial and industrial buildings
- 4. Addresses challenges of Goal 4: Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently
- 5. Increases property value by improving energy efficiency of buildings
- 6. Support business development and retention
- 7. Provides beneficial sustainable funding at no cost to residents or the municipality

- 1. Program created by the Illinois Legislature (Property Assessed Clean Energy Act 50 ILCS 50/1) and subject to any future legislative changes
- 2. Familiarizing developers and property owners with the opportunity
- 3. Requires interested property owners to execute additional agreements under the statewide IFA PACE Program
- 4. Loan remains with property and uses the property tax bill as a means to ensure repayment

Actions

- Village Board approves an ordinance for Mount Prospect to participate in the C-PACE Program
- 2. Increase awareness of the C-PACE program
- 3. Present C-PACE projects for Village Board approval
- 4. Create a recognition or an award for C-PACE projects in Mount Prospect and web page providing environmental impact information for each approved project



Encourage installation of solar panels and participation in the Village's community Solar Program

OBJECTIVES:

Increase participation in solar energy among residential and commercial properties



2 Create a communication campaign that provides information and resources about solar panels and the Village's community solar program

3 Install solar panels on Village properties



Engage the community in clean energy practices

/ALUE TO

The Community

- 1. Reduces air pollution
- 2. Owning and installing solar panels provides a potential for a return on investment
- Community solar allows for equal access to environmental benefits of solar energy with an opportunity for cost savings
- 4. Increases property values for the homes with solar panels installed
- 5. Diversifies energy production for a more resilient electric grid

The Environment

- 1. Assist the region's shift to renewable energy
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants from power plants such as sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter

Opportunities

- Mount Prospect is solar ready Solsmart Gold Designated Community
- 2. Federal and State tax incentives support installing solar panels
- 3. There is a lot of expressed interest for solar energy and installing solar panels
- 4. Future advancements in solar panel technology (i.e. printable solar panels)

- Existing electric grid may not be adequate to support larger solar panel installations
- 2. Available funding, materials and labor for electric grid improvements
- 3. The notion of cutting down mature trees to maximize solar energy generation
- 4. Not every roof configuration is ideal for maximum solar power generation
- 5. Environmental impacts from manufacturing solar panels
- 6. End of life recycling of solar panels and safe disposal of toxic materials

Actions

- 1. Promote the Village's Community Solar Program for increased participation
- 2. Understand climate change on a local level and what it means for Mount Prospect (i.e. increase rainfall, droughts, temperature extremes, etc.)
- 3. Communicate how climate change will impact the community (i.e. increased energy demand for AC with climate change).
- 4. Create a map of Mount Prospect showing where solar panels are installed
- 5. Create a decision tree resource for residents evaluating if installing solar energy is right for them

Management in Progress

1. Increase solar panel adoption within the community (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.)

Action on the Horizon

Install solar panels on Village properties or equivalent (i.e. participation in community solar)



GOALS ON THE HORIZON

Goals on the Horizon are that goals were provided by Ad Hoc Committee members but did not receive majority of votes to be prioritized by the group. They are listed in the guide to show all of the member provided goals and reference for future planning initiatives. Progress may still be made towards these goals even though they are not prioritized through direction of the Village Board through the Strategic Planning process.

- Create an informational campaign on storm water management projects and how systems will operate when rain events exceed storm water system capacity. Frames expectations and gives resources for residents to prepare for significant rain events (i.e. 500 year storm)
- Increase electric vehicle use in the Village fleet
- Benchmark the Village of Mount Prospect with other municipalities in the region to develop best practices for sustainability
- Update community plans, zoning and design standards to increase housing and community resilience to the impacts of climate change, including flooding, heat island, and extreme weather particularly for populations most vulnerable every 5 years
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts, specifically, a resiliency plan to protect assets, public health, and provide essential services through natural and man-made disasters
- Create a traffic task force with representatives of school administration and parents from each of the primary schools located within Mount Prospect to develop standardized, school-specific procedures to reduce congestion and idling, such as staggered release of students depending on transportation mode
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, specifically "Measure and monitor GHG emissions"
- Promote sustainable businesses who are Green America
- Preserve and seek opportunities for more green space (pocket parks); reduce amount of impermeable pavement and blacktop
- Increase public transit access and commuter ridership
- Develop and launch an "Understanding Mount Prospect's Natural Drainage Hydrology" education program, including making topographic/hydrological maps available on the village web site
- Every sustainability measure must go through a cost/benefit analysis to justify the feasibility to taxpayers



2023 - 2028

VILLAGE OF MOUNT PROSPECT SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

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