



Sustainability Plan

“Sustainable is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources, and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance.”

Overview

The Environmental Sustainability Plan is a dynamic document intended to ensure the District can continue to meet its current and ongoing environmental, social and economic needs without compromising the future for succeeding generations. The rationale for developing this plan includes consideration of environmental issues as sustainability is a concept that ensures a higher quality of life for current and future generations.

As a public institution, the District has an ethical and social obligation to safeguard a critical public resource – the natural environment. The District also has a duty to establish physical environments and organizational practices that are conducive to the health and well-being of its citizens.

Park Districts are growing increasingly aware of the need to provide services and maintain their facilities more sustainably for the well-being of their community and the environment. The first step was to adopt a sustainability plan or policy that would be administered by the “Green Team”.

The team would need to determine what sustainable initiatives are achievable for the Lombard Park District and would be responsible for implementing sustainable concepts and principals where feasible within the organization and assisting the Leadership Team and the Park Board of Commissioners in identifying environmental initiatives.

In addition, the Lombard Park District has utilized the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Environmental Report Card which establishes a standard that park districts can comply with for the IPRA’s Distinguished Park and Recreation accreditation. The IPRA report card outlines environmental initiatives or green practices and can help identify areas for further assessment that impacts the park district, such as energy efficiency improvements.

Environmental Mission Statement

Environmental issues play an increasingly significant role in the overall quality of life for all citizens. The Park District places a high value on environmental and open space preservation and strives to be a role model and support and partner with others to develop and implement programs that demonstrate and teach the value and vitality of sound environmental policies, practices and procedures.

In support of this environmental statement, the Park District is committed to decisions and activities which demonstrate environmental and open space preservation in the following ways:

1. Recycle materials and reduce wastes.
2. Use renewable resources and conserve non-renewable resources.
3. Practice safe handling and disposal of hazardous and other waste materials.
4. Promote and provide opportunities for public to recycle materials.
5. Restrict or eliminate the use of harmful pesticides.
6. Purchase products for use in facility and park operations which minimize negative environmental impacts, taking into consideration the effects of product production, use, storage and disposal.
7. Protect, restore and enhance natural communities, such as grasslands, woodlands and wetlands and promote the reclamation, acquisition, preservation and management of other open space areas and river corridors.
8. Actively seek and implement ways to conserve energy resources and investigate methods of applying alternative energy technologies.
9. Actively seek and implement ways to conserve and protect water and soil, enhance air quality, limit the production and release of damaging pollutants and protect wildlife.
10. Provide education and interpretation opportunities for commissioners, staff and the public which increase appreciation for the natural world and promote environmentally conscious lifestyles, emphasizing selective consumption and low-impact resource use.



Sustainable Focus Areas

The following is a list of sustainable practices, which use low impact design strategies that has been implemented throughout the park district.

Materials & Recycling

Materials come from natural resources that have been extracted, manufactured, or processed for human use.

ACTION & STRATEGIES -

- Expand recycling opportunities in the parks with a priority to shelter and picnic areas, as well as active sports fields. This includes a commitment from the maintenance department to manage removals in a timely manner.
- Incorporate sustainable/green purchasing language into vendor contracts and specifications. (Future Goal)
- Park District operations have moved toward electronic document storage, which will reduce its contribution of paper waste. Also, board meeting packets are now transmitted electronically, saving thousands of sheets of paper as well as transportation-related costs.
- Ordering processes for office supplies and paper encourage the use of environmentally preferred products. Quarterly brochures are also printed on recycled paper.
- Review material management: including the complete lifecycle of materials from



manufacturing to purchasing to disposal. This includes selecting products that can be recycled or reused rather than disposed of in a landfill.

- Tree trimmings recycled as mulch.
- Purchase locally or regionally produced materials and plants. Use a set of guidelines such as EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) or GreenSeal.org.
- Hosting recycling events for the community, such as holiday lights, hazardous waste, electronics, drug prescriptions, batteries, light bulbs/ballasts, etc.
- Use vegetation to minimize effects on microclimate and on human and wildlife habitat.
- Use low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) furnishings and paints and low toxicity cleaning products.
- Created and adopted "Green Cleaning" policies in facilities.

Transportation

To significantly reduce the amount of pollution, gas emissions, and reduce fuel consumption generated each day.

ACTION & STRATEGIES -

- Opportunities for improving alternative options, including transit, biking and walking. With convenient public transit options such as Metra and Pace, and lower impact options (biking and walking), the Village of Lombard has dedicated time and funds to provide convenient alternative transportation options. Throughout the District, there are 11 parks with walking, biking, or multiuse trails.
- Review and add bike rack locations at all park district sites.
- Update fleet and equipment to include alternative fuel and/or hybrid vehicles.
- Reduce vehicle idle time and establish efficient schedules.
- The District performs regular maintenance on all motorized vehicles and equipment.



Natural Resources

Natural resources include fresh water, forests, air and other elements critical for human life and well-being. The preservation of these resources for future generations is a critical piece of the sustainability challenge.



ACTION & STRATEGIES -

- Reduce imperviousness through the use of permeable pavements.
 - Identify areas in parks to replace mowed turf with native plantings and develop long range plans to phase in plantings. These “No Mow areas to preserve wildlife habitats and native vegetation are located at Sunset Knoll, Broadview Slough and Westmore Woods.
- Maintain natural drainage courses, and mimic natural systems for stormwater quality control.
 - Provide native or adaptive vegetation or other ecologically appropriate features such as rock gardens, water bodies or other natural landscapes.
 - Reduce use of storm pipe for stormwater management. Stormwater Management Policy established in 1992.

- Avoid development and disturbance near streams & wetlands and on sites with high risk of flooding.
- Use rain gardens, constructed wetlands, and green roofs, to capture and slowly infiltrate water into the soil or groundwater.
- Over the past five years, the District planted an estimated 457 trees to keep up with removals precipitated by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation.
- Increase diversity of tree species to reduce the impact of infestations.
- 50% of restrooms and locker rooms have water saving devices (low flow showers and toilets, and motion activated faucets).
- 100% of restrooms and locker rooms have hand dryers in lieu of paper towels.
- 100% of new or replacement lighting are energy efficient.



Energy

Energy conservation is reducing energy consumption through using less of an energy service.

ACTION & STRATEGIES -

- Purchase Energy Star rated appliances.
- Review the park district's current air filters and convert to MERV 8 rating or better to improve indoor air quality for patrons/staff and extend the useful life of HVAC systems.
- If new buildings are proposed, they should be sited with an east-west axis, where practicable, to optimize passive solar design and include the use of broad roof overhangs to block midday summer sun.



- Review current heating and cooling systems for energy efficiency.
- Implement a staff policy to turn off printers, computers, and scanners at night and on weekends.
- Explore solar energy or other renewable energy options both for heating water and providing electricity.
- Continue to explore grants and alternative funding to support energy efficiency improvements.

Education & Community Development

In addition to being a leader in sustainability, the Lombard Park District offers programs focused on environmental education and lifestyle choices. Community development refers to strategies that achieve sustainable development through land use, urban design and green building.

ACTION & STRATEGIES –

- Increase public awareness of natural preserved areas with interpretive signs, brochure, meetings and website.
- Community garden plots produce often yields to Lombard's local food pantry.
- Water conservation.
- Adopt-A-Park Program.
- Greening your home.
- Native plant material.
- Composting.
- Co-operative planning with Lombard Garden Club.
- Youth Recycling Curriculum - The Park District is always evaluating ways to incorporate environmental education into programs.
- Holiday Lights Recycling Program - Residents can recycle holiday string lights and extension cords at Lilacia Park on select days.
- To achieve the maximum facility performance, staff is trained in sustainable disciplines to ensure maximum performance.
- Smoking is prohibited in all Park District Buildings and vehicles following the No Smoking Procedures.

