



**Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission
Notice of Regular Virtual Meeting
July 14, 2021**

The Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission will convene on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 in the Village Council Chambers, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

Call to Order

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks | Presenter Dowding |
| 2) Public Comment | |
| 3) Review and Approval of Minutes | |
| a. Approval of the June 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes | Presenter Dowding |
| 4) New Business/Old Business Updates | |
| a. Mayor's Monarch Pledge | Presenter Dowding |
| b. Sustainability Chapter for 2040 Comprehensive Plan Review | Presenter Dowding |
| c. Sustainable Materials Management | Presenter Kunkle |
| i. Polystyrene – Styrofoam | |
| d. Revised Recycling Communications Review | Presenter Kunkle |
| 5) Communications | |
| a. Approval of August Communication Items | Presenter Puga |
| b. Discussion of September Communication Items | Presenter Puga |
| 6) Committee/Staff Reports | |
| 7) Open Forum | |
| 8) Adjournment | |

Posted Time and Date

NOTICE

All agenda materials are available at villageofwinnetka.org (**Government > Council Information > Agenda Packets & Minutes**); **the Reference Desk at the Winnetka Library; or in the Manager's Office at Village Hall (2nd floor)**. The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator, at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, 847-716-3543; T.D.D. 847-501-6041.

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
June 9, 2021

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held virtually via Zoom, Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.; Voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Commissioners David Varca, Ted Wynnychenko, Rosann Park-Jones, and Liz Kunkle. Voting Members absent: Commissioners Chris Foley and Barry Sylvester. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative absent: Jack Coladarsi. Student Representatives present: Scarlett Harper and Marcus Buccellato. Staff Representatives present: Diana Puga, Public Works Analyst. Public present: Two members of the public were present.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members and the public. Staff Representative Puga took roll call for attendance.

Oral Declaration Regarding In-Person Meetings

Chairman Dowding stated pursuant to recently adopted amendments to the Illinois Open Meetings Act included in Public Act 101-0640, public bodies may, in certain circumstances, hold entirely virtual public meetings without a quorum physically present in any one location. On March 17, 2020, President Rintz issued a Declaration of Emergency pursuant to the authority granted by the Village Code, the Illinois Municipal Code, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act to address the health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 29, 2020, Governor Pritzker issued a Disaster Proclamation that declared in-person attendance at public meetings of more than ten people at the regular public meeting location to be infeasible, in accordance the Open Meetings Act, as amended by Public Act. 101-0640. On June 16, 2020, Village President Rintz executed a written determination that given the on-going emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings of the Village's Village Council are not practical or prudent at this time and until further notice. In accordance with the Governor's Disaster Proclamation and the Village President's Declaration of Emergency and Determination regarding meetings of the Village Council, I, as Chair of the Environmental & Forestry Commission hereby determine that in-person meetings of the Environmental & Forestry Commission are not practical or prudent at this time and until further notice.

2) Public Comment:

Two members of the public were present. Neither member of the public provided commentary. No public comments were submitted via email.

3) **Review and Approval of Minutes:**

a) **Approval of the May 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the May 12, 2021 minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Varca.

AYES: VARCA, PARK-JONES, KUNKLE, DOWDING

ABSENT: FOLEY, SYLVESTER

NAYS: NONE

4) **New Business, Old Business/Updates:**

a) **Mayor's Monarch Pledge**

Chairperson Dowding provided a status update regarding the action items the Village has decided to undertake under the Mayor's Monarch Pledge:

1. Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat
2. Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location
3. Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan, or other city plans - Pending

The first action item has been completed and the third action item is still currently in progress.

Eagle Scout Troop 18 candidate, Michael Essig, has taken on action item 2, the planting and coordination to maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden in order to become an Eagle Scout. He has been working with Chairperson Dowding to coordinate the project and presented a PowerPoint outlining his plans for the project. He outlined four components of the garden: garden design and aesthetic, sustainability, information/education, and surroundings. The garden design and aesthetic consist of a garden with a natural design, Illinois native perennial plants, and to become a home for the butterflies. Sustainability consists of coordination amongst various groups to ensure the garden remains beautiful, memorandums of understanding, and a monthly maintenance schedule. Information/education consists of a link to a website using a QR code and the importance of the garden. Surroundings consist of a garden that blends with its surroundings and keeping natural grass. He also provided a sketch of the pollinator garden including placements of the native plants for the EFC to review. He concluded with a schedule outlining when the plans will be finalized and shared with the Village for approval and the planting of the garden.

Commissioner Wynnynchenko inquired which Village staff would be reviewing and/or approving the proposed pollinator garden plans. Chairperson Dowding shared he received an email from the Village Forester Andrew Lueck that the permit application should be directed to James Bernahl. Staff Liaison Puga stated she would communicate with Andrew to confirm who will be reviewing and/or approving the permit and plans.

Commissioner Wynnynchenko provided feedback regarding the semantics and verbiage of the presentation and the importance of the first two years of garden maintenance while the plants become established.

Commissioner Kunkle asked Commissioner Wynnynchenko if in his experience a consistent commitment of a few hours a month at a time, in the first few years, is reasonable time allocated to maintain the garden. Commissioner Wynnynchenko believes that it is and stated a variety of factors play a role in the ability of plants to become established, such as soil moisture. The commission also advised him that some plants will grow or take over more quickly than others, Michael stated that his sustainability plan should assist in mitigating over-growth.

Commissioner Kunkle asked Michael if he will be planning to use finished compost to prepare the soil or help with the plants. Michael responded that Chairperson Dowding had suggested he consider its use. Commissioner Kunkle also suggested it be something he consider and offered to discuss sources with him, she also informed him that our Public Works facility has a compost bin.

Commissioner Varca asked if Staff Liaison Puga can assist or be involved that the project continues to move along. Chairperson Dowding reviewed the proposed schedule by Michael which indicates that by the next EFC meeting, the project should be well underway and at the planting stage. He did suggest that the EFC use the meeting as an oversight internally. Staff Liaison Puga offered to speak with Village Forester, Andrew Lueck, and re-connect with Chairperson Dowding once there was clarity as to who should be receiving the application and plans and moving forward from there.

Chairperson Dowding drafted a statement of support that endorses the project. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the statement, Commissioner Varca moved the motion and Commissioner Park-Jones seconded the motion. Chairperson Dowding asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Kunkle suggested acronyms be spelled out and suggested other grammatical edits. Wording of the endorsement is as follows

The Environmental and Forestry Commission (EFC) endorses Michael Essig's Boy Scout Eagle project, Sustainable Pollinator Garden (SPG) on Village Right of Way

(ROW) between the Green Bay Trail (GBT) and the Elm St. RR station to fulfill the Village's commitment in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. It enhances the both the Village ROW as well as the GBT and provides education through its strategic visibility and community involvement.

Members of the EFC agree to weed and maintain the SPG for two of the months during the growing season between planting in 2021 and cutting back in 2022.

AYES: VARCA, PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE

ABSENT: FOLEY, SYLVESTER

NAYS: NONE

b) Pyrethroid Pesticide Legislation: Executive Summary

The EFC agreed to table the Executive Summary discussion to the next meeting.

c) Sustainability Chapter for 2040 Comprehensive Plan Review

Commissioner Kunkle suggested the discussion be tabled to the next meeting to allow the Commissioners to review the plan in its entirety and to provide Morgan with feedback. The plan is meant to be a document the EFC adopts and a tool the Lakota group can use when the Comprehensive Plan discussions begin.

The Commissioners had a discussion regarding deliverables they were to receive for the meeting. Some Commissioners received all deliverables and were successfully able to provide feedback, while others did not receive all deliverables. The commissioners requested the documents be shared again prior to the next meeting.

Chairperson Dowding shared there are four steps in the process: (1) to become knowledgeable about the details of the plan, (2) to add or amend the plan to be used by Lakota Group during focus group meetings, (3) for the EFC to continue to present the plan as a possible way to organize the 2040 Comprehensive Plan (4) engage Community Development in the process.

Student Representative Harper inquired how some of the items within the plan will be measured and/or enforced. Commissioner Dowding responded by asking Commissioner Kunkle to speak on the leaf blower ban to provide some context. Commissioner Kunkle shared that to enforce the ban, Chief of Police identified various landscaping companies working within Winnetka, drafted a pledge asking each landscape company to abide by the Village's policy, and prepared a cover letter with context. Over 25 companies have signed the pledge and were included in the Village's e-newsletter.

d) Sustainable Materials Management

i) Battery Recycling

Commissioner Kunkle shared that battery recycling continues to be a topic of conversation within Go Green Winnetka. Commissioner Kunkle shared the history of battery recycling in Winnetka, leading to the decision to end the battery recycling program due to a lack of a market to recycle. Staff Liaison Puga followed up by providing context and history on battery recycling and confirmed the reason it ended was due to the lack of market and availability of vendors who recycled batteries. She also provided information on additional resources shared with residents who inquire about battery recycling.

Student Representative Buccellato is considering creating a newsletter for his surrounding neighborhood with recyclable information.

Commissioner suggested creating a blurb for the communications items. Staff Liaison Puga offered to forward any information regarding battery recycling to create a consolidate guide. Student Representative Buccellato asked to be involved.

ii) Styrofoam Recycling

Commissioner Kunkle clarified that styrofoam should be referred to as polystyrene, styrofoam being one brand of polystyrene. She shared the changes to the Village's styrofoam recycling program and provided some context to the changes. Staff Liaison followed up by sharing context to the program changes, including the overflow of Styrofoam, lack of space to store high volumes, and the need for more frequent collections from Dart.

5) Communications:

a) Approval of July Communication Items

The Commission reviewed the July Communication Items which the Paper Shredding Event, Hosting a Zero-Waste Event, Recycling Tips for Plastic Silverware, Styrofoam, and Stormwater-Friendly Landscaping. Commissioner Kunkle requested the verbiage in Recycling Tips for Plastic Silverware be changed from "caterer" to "vendor" and the verbiage in Recycling Tips for Styrofoam be changed from "Styrofoam" to "Polystyrene". She suggested to table the Recycling Tip for Plastic Silverware for revision. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the June Communications Items which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Chairperson Kunkle.

AYES: VARCA, PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE

ABSENT: FOLEY, SYLVESTER

NAYS: NONE

b) Discussion of August Communications Items

The Commission reviewed the upcoming August Communication items including Recycling Tips for Paper Napkins, Towels, and Tissues, Pumpkin Composting Event, and Curbside Leaf Collection. Commissioner Kunkle shared that she has been in communication with an organization called S.C.A.R.C.E that hosts a “Pumpkin Smash” and would potentially like to change the language for the Pumpkin Composting Event. Commissioner Kunkle suggested that the August Communication Items be more back-to-school oriented and should potentially include communication regarding the leaf blower ban. Chairperson Dowding also suggested speaking with Andrew to include something regarding the current drought period being experienced in the Northern Illinois area, shared that his trees are starting to lose leaves and is concerned about the loss of trees in Winnetka. Student Representative Harper suggested a communication item regarding donations of old clothing to organizations such as Goodwill and offered to write a draft. Commissioner Kunkle asked if it was possible for Staff Liaison Puga to forward all recycling communication items so she can revise and reorganize them for consideration at future EFC meetings.

6) Commission/Staff Reports: None.

7) Open Forum: None.

8) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

AYES:	VARCA, PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE
ABSENT:	FOLEY, SYLVESTER
NAYS:	NONE

From:
To: [Andrew Lueck](#)
Subject: Welcome to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program!
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 9:47:18 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Andrew Lueck,

Thank you to Village Manager Robert Bahan for taking the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge! You are joining a growing network of leaders across North America to save the monarch butterfly and other important pollinators. Over the next year, you will embark on completing actions to support monarch and pollinator conservation in your community. Our team at the National Wildlife Federation is here to help!

There are many resources available online to support your efforts, including our guide: "Monarch Conservation in America's Cities: A Guide for Municipal Leaders." You can access this report and other resources by logging in and visiting our [Resource Center](#) in the online portal. To help you navigate the Mayors' Monarch Pledge online portal and platform, please refer to our [online platform how-to manual](#). The manual guides users on how to update your profile to show your work, add team members, report on your progress, and much more! Please also consider joining our [Facebook group](#) to talk with other signatories in our program and share your community's progress. Lastly, you can visit our Resource Center to download a [template press release](#) for you to customize and share with media to announce your pledge.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to our team at mayorsmonarchpledge@nwf.org. Thanks for all you are doing to help save the monarch!

Thank you,
The National Wildlife Federation Mayors' Monarch Pledge Team

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Reporting

* Action Item Reporting

Required Section 1 of 2

Please use this form to track progress throughout the year and report on the actions your community committed to and completed. You will be asked to attach photos, documents, and provide other relevant information to report on your community's progress. Please keep answers detailed and concise.

If you wish to make changes to the action items you have committed, please [click here](#).

** Answers to the following questions are required.*

Get Started

* Your Action Item Selections (3)

Required Section 2 of 2

Action 1:

Issue a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.

Get Started

Action 12:

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Get Started

Action 27:

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Get Started

BACK

CONTINUE



WINNETKA SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This draft Sustainability Plan consists of this Introduction, ten Sustainability Focus Areas, and two Appendices. The ten Focus Areas are Climate, Economic Development, Energy, Land, Leadership, Mobility, Municipal Operations, Sustainable Communities, Waste, and Water.

The ten Focus Areas come from the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' (MMC) Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2). The GRC2 rests on 49 high-level "consensus" goals that are aligned with other local, regional, national, and global goals and that are broadly supported by MMC members and allied organizations. The GRC2 Framework is a companion document that provides suggested objectives, strategies, and tools to help communities achieve the GRC2 consensus goals. The GRC2 Framework is built on the sustainability plans and other guiding documents of more than 30 Illinois municipalities. The Winnetka Village Council adopted the GRC2 in March 2018.

Water is one of the ten Focus Areas included in the GRC2. The EFC opted to divide Water into two Focus Areas for purposes of this Sustainability Plan, one for Lake Michigan water and one for Stormwater, to highlight the unique roles Water plays in Winnetka.

Each Focus Area includes introductory language, a "Previous Village Efforts" section, and a "Proposed Future Initiatives" section, and "2040 Proposed Village Goals".. The introductory language in each Focus Area was previously adopted by the EFC and is currently included on the EFC page of the Village website. "Previous Village Efforts" are those efforts and initiatives the EFC had previously identified as "Completed" or "In Progress" as part of its analysis of the GRC2 Framework from March 2018 through April 2019. "Proposed Future Initiatives" were also previously identified by the EFC as possible shorter-term (3 - 5 years) priorities for the Village to pursue, as identified in the Proposed Consensus Recommendation document adopted at the January 2019 meeting. Each Proposed Future Initiative includes a red parenthetical that reflects the type of action needed to pursue the initiative, e.g. , PO: Council proposes ordinance or other Council-level action; DS: Council directs Staff to undertake; EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake. The 2040 Proposed Village Goals were prepared for the February 2020 introductory 2040 Comprehensive Plan meeting with Lakota.

There are two Appendices, A and B. Appendix A includes documentation of strategies and/or goals that the EFC previously identified as achieved or achievable in the next 3 - 5 year timeframe. Appendix B includes the current and original versions of the introductory language for each Focus Area and helps "track changes" in this introductory language.

SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS AREAS

- GRC2 consensus goals for each focus area

CLIMATE

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Maintain clean and healthful air
- Develop resistance to climate change impacts
- Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Cultivate local and sustainable economic development, jobs, and businesses
- Attract, retain, reorganize, and support businesses that practice and promote sustainability
- Engage the community in understanding and supporting local businesses

ENERGY

- Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices
- Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations
- Operate a safe, clean, and efficient fleet
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability

LAND

- Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles
- Reduce sprawl by promoting infill development to reduce adverse impacts on natural resources and infrastructure demands
- Sustain a robust urban rainforest canopy
- Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services
- Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies
- Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community

MOBILITY

- Support safe and efficient active transportation
- Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network
 - policies, programs, and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

- Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices
- Support or create an interdisciplinary team to coordinate sustainability efforts
- Formalize sustainability goals and plans
- Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability

WASTE

- Support sustainable material management
- Recycle materials across all sectors
- Divert waste from landfills
- Enact policies that cause sustainable material management
- Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling

WATER

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship

SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS AREAS

- GRC2 consensus goals for each focus area

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- Partner with other taxing bodies and organizations
- Decrease carbon emissions from vehicles and equipment
- Increase Village-wide use of electric vehicles

LEADERSHIP

- Village Council should lead proactively, not reflect reactively
- Enact ordinances and policies
- Educate, motivate, and empower Winnetka's residents, institutions, and businesses to take meaningful action to improve resilience and adapt to and mitigate climate change



Previous Village Efforts

- Regulate burning of landscape waste by banning the burning of leaves
- Reducing the use of high-emitting small engines, such as gas leaf blowers
- Preparing pre-disaster hazard mitigation plan
- Reducing volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions by banning products containing coal tar for pavement sealant.
- Assessed infrastructure and public safety threats from extreme weather events through Stormwater Master Plan

The overall Village climate objective is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in and near Winnetka. Given the increasing need for clean air, reducing greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere is vital. Winnetka is dedicated to reducing GHG emissions, and the Village holds an Illinois Green Fleets Community by supporting environmentally-friendly vehicles and fuels to improve air quality. The Village also enforces a gas-powered leaf blower ban during the summer to reduce community emissions.

Proposed Future Initiatives

- Measure initiatives from Village operations to develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for those operations, followed by monitoring to validate success or propose further efforts to reduce GHG emissions (DS)
- Engage the Village community in climate change mitigation and adaption by educating the public about climate change, its effects, and opportunities for the community to meaningfully respond (EFC)

Legend

PO: Council proposes ordinance, or other Council-level action
DS: Council directs Staff to undertake
EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Winnetka is divided into three main commercial districts: Central Business District, Hubbard Woods, and Indian Hill. The Village employs a full-time Economic Development Coordinator that serves as a facilitator between the Village and businesses. Our local businesses are the cornerstone of the community and central to limiting Winnetka's environmental footprint. The Village promotes local goods and regularly supports and advertises Shop Local and Small Business Saturday initiatives. Additionally, the Green Awards program recognizes businesses that practice and promote sustainability while attracting and attaining similar organizations and individuals.

Previous Village Efforts

- Connecting local businesses with education training and jobs related to sustainability
- Encouraging green innovation among residents and local businesses through the Green Awards
- Recognizing and supporting local businesses who practice and promote sustainability through press releases
- Promoting tourism featuring natural and cultural assets of the community as Members of the Chicago North Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Legend

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Previous Village Efforts

- LED lighting upgrades to Village-owned buildings to improve energy efficiency
- Procuring some renewable energy for public facilities from the IMEA power plant
- Enrollment in SolSmart, a national program to make it faster, easier, and more affordable to implement solar energy technology
- Promoting the use of ENERGY STAR certified appliances and equipment
- Publicly recognizing institutional and private buildings that achieve specific energy efficiency targets through the Green Awards

Winnetka's principal energy objective is to reduce energy consumption and advance the use of renewable energy sources. In Winnetka, village-owned buildings regularly undergo LED lighting upgrades and are equipped with motion sensors for lighting. The Village is also an active member of the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) and utilizes available funding through IMEA's Energy Efficiency Upgrade rebate program. To promote community energy sustainability, Winnetka offers a rebate program to residents to install NEST thermostats.

Proposed Future Initiatives

- Audit, benchmark, and trade energy usage in Village facilities, and promote energy audits and retro-commissioning studies of residential and commercial entities, and other governmental units, in the Village (DS)
- Where feasible and economic, adopt energy efficiency measures, procure from or install
- Renewable energy resources for Village facilities, and develop renewable energy resources on underutilized Village properties (i.e. brownfields, rooftops, etc.) (PO, DS)
- Support the adoption of renewable energy technologies, particularly those that expand
- economic development opportunities in the Village or access to alternative energy options for
- residents (i.e., community solar) (DS, EFC)

Legend

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2040 Proposed Village Goals

- Develop landfill into properties that can be used by the village
- Stabilize bluffs and beaches and increase enjoyment of Lake Michigan



LAND



Previous Village Efforts

- Working with Winnetka Park District to protect greenfields and open spaces in the community
- Evaluating proposed developments on groundwater levels and water quality with the community Flood Plain information
- Creating the Green-Bay trail to prioritize the acquisition and management of lands to create connected greenways.
- Enhancing parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities accessible to all residents.
- Collaborating with park and forest district
- Fostering healthy community relationships through the use of open space
- Planting tree's to renew urban forest and diversify for long-term resilience
- Enacting a tree preservation ordinance to protect trees on private property
- Engaging the community in programs and events to celebrate nature, such as Arbor and Earth Day
- Engage residents through natural resources and conservation

This category pertains to the preservation of the land-use patterns and natural environment that provide the Village-like ambiance of Winnetka. Land use patterns are defined by the transitions between types and densities of occupation controlled by zoning. However, the natural environment has defined some form of ecologically balanced, publically accessible open space, green and blue, which will provide the foundation for sustainable activity. These built and natural considerations overlap with Economic Development, Sustainable Communities, and Water.

Proposed Future Initiatives

- Redevelop underutilized or contaminated properties (PO)
- Prioritize redevelopment and infrastructure projects, and public-private partnerships, that support public transit-oriented locations and uses (PO, DS)
- Adopt guidelines for future development that encourage management and conservation of natural resources, existing topography, views, drainage patterns, existing ecosystems (including vegetation and biodiversity), and historic or cultural assets (PO, DS)
- Continue to maximize the amount of public spaces and parks accessible to residents (PO)
- Where practical, replace turf with sustainable landscaping alternatives (DS)
- Enact and enforce land use policies that protect valuable natural assets, support resiliency, and increase the quality and amount of sustainable landscaping in the community (PO, DS)
- Enact and enforce land-use policies that preserve open space (PO, DS)

2040 Proposed Village Goals

- Enable additional environmental and/or forestry related ordinances to fall under WEFC's purview



LEADERSHIP

This category pertains to the support of the GRC2 through regional, state, and national collaboration. The Village encourages and supports environmentally friendly practices when possible and partners with various groups to support the health and sustainability of the community. Winnetka is an active member of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, Northwest Municipal Conference, and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The Village also works in partnership with the Winnetka Park District through various efforts.



Previous Village Efforts

- Engaging with academia and non-governmental organizations to support the GRC2
- Engaging with the state and national municipal association to align actions with GRC2
- Report local and regional environmental data to advance national and international collaborative efforts
- Sharing information about municipal leadership in sustainability broadly within and outside the community.
- Creating the EFC Green Awards to encourage and report sustainability behaviors for residents and local businesses.

Proposed Future Initiatives

- Partner with federal, regional, state, local governments, and other entities to undertake initiatives that promote energy efficiency and sustainability (EFC)

Legend

- PO: Council proposes ordinance, or other Council-level action
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- EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake

2040 Proposed Village Goals

- Reduce vehicle miles traveled; increase trips made by walking, bicycling and transit
- Develop safe, east-west bikeway(s) to connect to downtown areas, GB trail, rail stations, and educational institutions



MOBILITY

Winnetka supports safe and effective transportation through a diverse and efficient transportation network. The Village offers various public transportation methods, including three train stations, intersecting bus routes, and an interstate highway less than one mile west of the Village. The Village also features a bike-friendly Green Bay Trail segment and supports bicycle use throughout the Village. The Village maintains its roadways and regularly collaborates with IDOT and Cook County to ensure reliable transportation for the community.



Previous Village Efforts

- Implementing a diverse and efficient transportation network which include:
 - three train stations
 - intersecting bus routes
- Bike-friendly Green-Bay Trail and supports bike use throughout the village
- Maintaining roadways and regularly collaborating with IDOT and Cook County
- Synchronizing traffic signals at Green Bay & Elm to reduce and Hibbard & Willow vehicle idling
- Incorporating trees and other green infrastructure into roadway design and maintenance for functionality and aesthetics
- Encouraging municipal employees to use alternate modes of transportation to commute to work
- Encouraging active transport and community building in open streets events
- The addition of two e-charging stations in West Elm

Proposed Future Initiatives

- Review existing bicycle and pedestrian plans, then propose recommendations for implementation by the Village (EFC)
- Incorporate sustainable roadways into capital improvement planning, and proactively plan for major transportation infrastructure improvements (DS)
- Collaborate to provide alternative fuel infrastructure at public sites, and to support a network of alternate fueling infrastructure elsewhere (DS, EFC)

Legend

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- EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake

2040 Proposed Village Goals

- Include WEFC representation on other Village Commissions
- Enable additional environmental and/or forestry related ordinances to fall under WEFC's purview



MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Winnetka's municipal services are divided into Village, Schools, Park, and Library boards and functions. The Village board provides life safety, transportation, water, and waste infrastructure. Winnetka also provides electrical power to the Village through the Illinois Municipal Energy Agency. A Village lifestyle is provided through a high-performing municipal operation governed by a Village Manager and elected Trustees. Sustainable lifestyles are encouraged through ordinance, pricing, education, and expenditure of Village funds to facilitate stewardship and conservation. The Village has a standing Environmental and Forestry Commission with a dedicated staff liaison. The Village operates a safe, clean and efficient fleet through its in-house fleet services division and has in place an anti-idling policy for Village-owned vehicles.



Previous Village Efforts

- Creating the Environmental and Forestry Commission to coordinate internal sustainability efforts
- Educating and dedicating staff to direct sustainability initiatives
- Adopting the Greenest Region Compact 2 to begin to formalize sustainability goals and plans
- Extending the useful life of physical assets through in-house fleet services
- Operating a safe, clean, and efficient municipal operations, such as fleets, roads, waterways, and other services.
- Becoming a certified IEPA Illinois Green Fleet
- Tracking, analyzing, and managing data to advance sustainability

Proposed Future Initiatives

- Ensure municipal finance practices and purchasing policies are consistent with sustainability and re-invest cost savings into sustainability initiatives (PO, DS)
- Evaluate opportunities to migrate fleet to alternate fuel vehicles (DS)
- Track, analyze, and manage data to advance sustainability (DS)

Legend

PO: Council proposes ordinance, or other Council-level action
DS: Council directs Staff to undertake
EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



The Village supports a sustainable food culture and local farmers through its farmers market. The Village is committed to preserving and maintaining its historic assets through its Landmark Preservation Commission while supporting culture and art through its annual Music Festival. The Winnetka Community House and the Winnetka Park District promote health and wellness through their various youth programs. The Village also promotes beauty and livability in community design through its Design Review Board and strict permitting process. Go Green Winnetka engages residents in sustainability initiatives through an environmentally-focused citizen advisory group.

Previous Village Efforts

- Preserving and maintaining natural assets through the Landmark Preservation Commission
- Promoting beauty and liveability in community design, stewardship, and partnerships
- Preparing the community for potential disasters with FEMA training and the stormwater master plan
- Educating the community about sustainability initiatives using EFC communication items and the Winnetka report.
- Utilizing strategic partnerships with other community organizations to promote sustainability
- Engaging residents in sustainability initiatives such as Go Green Winnetka & Forestry Commission citizen advisory groups
- Hosting environmentally focused events, such as Electronics Recycling, Paper Shredding event, Pumpkin Composting event, exc.

Proposed Future Initiatives

- Cultivate and preserve a welcoming and inclusive community character (PO, DS, EFC)
- Promote third party certification for sustainable private facilities (EFC)
- Establish or strengthen an inter- and intra-entity Green Team (EFC)

Legend

PO: Council proposes ordinance, or other Council-level action
DS: Council directs Staff to undertake
EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake

2040 Proposed Village Goals

- Consider impacts of the limited remaining lifespan of our SWANCC waste landfills



WASTE

Community sustainability must include reduction, reuse and recycling of materials. So far, the Village has focused principally on recycling through its contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems and partnership with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. While recycling refers to all materials, it is helpful to differentiate recycling processes for solid waste and water. Reduction of solid waste within Winnetka is facilitated through a separate collection of recycled materials from solid waste, and separation and collection of food waste is becoming of increasing interest. Recycling is encouraged through ordinance, pricing, education, and expenditure of Village funds. The Village operates its own in-house refuse collection services, in which operations are regularly assessed.



Previous Village Efforts

- Curbside recycling for residence
- Access to recycling infrastructure and services in public place
- Establishing recycling program to properly dispose of
 - electronic waste
 - hazardous waste
- Enacting biofuel reuse in the community through
 - compost at PW yards
 - Christmas tree recycling
- Collaboration with SWANCC to manage solid waste sustainably
- Adopting a Pay-As-You-Throw program (PO)

Proposed Future Initiatives

- Adopt a Pay-As-You-Throw program (PO)
- Make public events Zero Waste (DS)
- Support and incentivize expansion of existing services to include food scrap composting, commercial & multi-family recycling, and discouraging the use of unrecyclable products (e.g., plastic bags) (DS, EFC)

Legend

- PO: Council proposes ordinance, or other Council-level action
- DS: Council directs Staff to undertake
- EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake

2040 Proposed Village Goals

- Continue to manage water infrastructure to ensure water quality and efficiency
- Minimize or eliminate beach closures due to bacteria and other contaminants
- Replace lead service lines over time, minimizing exposure to lead in drinking water



WATER

LAKE MICHIGAN AND
DRINKING WATER



The overall objective is to reduce pollution of the water in and near Winnetka. One of the most valuable resources to Winnetka is Lake Michigan, which we drink and recreate. Watershed by Winnetka as waste or stormwater runoff will become increasingly scrutinized and regulated to reduce pollution and increase the sustainability of the region. Given the increasing need for clean drinking water, it is important to reduce consumption and reduce storm water pollution. While the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District treats sanitary waste and regulates encroachment of the flood plain to control flooding, Winnetka may enforce more strict stormwater regulations.

Previous Village Efforts

- Provide water audits to customers
- Avoid the use of coal tar sealants on municipal property
- Salt-education for plow drivers to reduce chloride contamination from road salting
- Control water loss by annual IEPA reporting using AWWA protocols
- Repair and replace inefficient water supply infrastructure with continuous upgrades
- Encourage property owners to disconnect downspouts from sewers and direct flow to landscaping
- Participate in watershed planning and stewardship
- Enact Summer Hours Sprinkler Hours ordinance to encourage water conservation.

Proposed Village Initiatives

- Reduce community water consumption by implementing water efficiency measures in Village operations and encouraging residents and businesses to identify and mitigate water losses (DS, EFC)
- Protect surface and groundwater from runoff and contamination, support post-development runoff reduction and mitigation, and encourage residents and businesses to address flood risks on their property (DS)
- Support regional and state initiatives to protect water supplies and support stewardship of Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River (EFC)
- Collaborate to enhance wetlands for improved ecosystem services (DS)
- Adopt codes that enable rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses (PO)

Legend

PO: Council proposes ordinance, or other Council-level action
DS: Council directs Staff to undertake
EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake

2040 Proposed Village Goals

- Reduce community water consumption by 10%
- Reduce to zero beach closures from pollution



WATER

STORM AND WASTEWATER

Effective, sustainable stormwater management is a major goal of Village leadership. Flooding is not a new problem in Winnetka, as is naturally a lowland marsh environment: various initiatives to hold or redirect stormwater when major storms occur have been implemented in the Village since the 1930s. Today, the Village is undertaking a large-scale initiative that will result in a major change in the way stormwater is handled.



Previous Village Efforts

- Provide water audits to customers
- Avoid the use of coal tar sealants on all municipal properties
- Salt-education for plow drivers to reduce chloride contamination from road salting
- Control water loss by annual IEPA reporting using AWWA protocols
- Repair and replace inefficient water supply infrastructure with continuous upgrades
- Participation in the community rating system for flood mitigation and planning
- Community access to flood insurance through participation in the National Flood Insurance Program
- Encouraging property owners to disconnect downspouts from sewers and direct flow to landscaping
- Participate in watershed planning and stewardship
- Enacted Summer Hours Sprinkler Hours ordinance to encourage water conservation.

Proposed Village Initiatives

- Comprehensively and sustainably manage water infrastructure (DS)
- Review and adopt codes to eliminate barriers to green infrastructure Best Management Processes, including cisterns, green roofs, bioswales, and permeable paving (PO, DS)

Legend

PO: Council proposes ordinance, or other Council-level action

DS: Council directs Staff to undertake

EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake

APPENDIX A i: CLIMATE

Prohibition of Open-Burning.

The open-burning of waste prohibited under Village Code 8.16.090 which stipulates that open burning is prohibited anywhere in the Village unless burning is contained within outdoor grills, barbeques, small recreational fires or fireplaces.

- For more information on this ordinance, see Village Code 8.16.090

Gas-powered engine restrictions

The use of any gasoline-powered leaf blower is prohibited between the months of June through September. Outside of that timeframe, use is prohibited before 8:00am and after 7:00pm on Mondays through Fridays and before 9:00am and 6:00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

- For more information on this ordinance, see Village Code 9.16.020

Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan

- For more information on this plan, see
 - <https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/mitigation/pages/planning.aspx>

Coal-Tar Ban

- For more information on this ordinance, see Village Code 5.74.020

Stormwater Master Plan

- For more information on the Stormwater Master Plan, see
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/294/Stormwater-Management>

APPENDIX A ii: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Connected local businesses with education training and jobs related to sustainability

- For more information on the Go Green Winnetka, see
 - <https://gogreenwinnetkanorthfield.wordpress.com>
 - <http://www.igence.org>

Green Awards

The Village of Winnetka's Environmental and Forestry Commission recognizes residents and households that demonstrate commitment to sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices.

- For more information on the Green Awards or to nominate a household, see:
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/244/Green-Awards>

Green Business Program

The Hoffman Estates Green Business Program is designed to assist local businesses achieve their energy and environmental goals, recognize businesses for their sustainability efforts, and educating the community about opportunities for improving economic sustainability.

- For more information on the Hoffman Estates Business Program, see
 - <https://www.hoffmanestates.org/business/green-strategies-for-business/green-business-program>

Green Business Program

The Hoffman Estates Green Business Program is designed to assist local businesses achieve their energy and environmental goals, recognize businesses for their sustainability efforts, and educating the community about opportunities for improving economic sustainability.

- For more information on the Hoffman Estates Business Program, see
 - <https://www.hoffmanestates.org/business/green-strategies-for-business/green-business-program>

APPENDIX A iii: ENERGY

IMEA Energy Efficiency Upgrade Rebate Program

To support energy audits and commissioning studies of residential, commercial, and institutional facilities, Winnetka participates in the IMEA Energy Efficiency Upgrade Rebate Program.

putts money towards efficiency upgrades

- For more information on the IMEA Energy Efficiency Upgrade Rebate Program, see:
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/244/Green-Awards>

LED Light Upgrades

The Village has issued LED lighting upgrades to Village-Owned buildings to increase energy efficiency.

- For more information on the LED lighting upgrades, see:
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/244/Green-Awards>
- For more information on the energy efficiency and sustainability of LED light bulbs, see:
 - <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/save-electricity-and-fuel/lighting-choices-save-you-money/led-lighting>

Services for Local Businesses

Winnetka offers various services to promote local, small businesses, such as Small Business Saturday events, joint-business advertising, social media promotion, e-development newsletters, and more.

- For more information on Winnetka's small business services, see
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/268/Existing-Business-Services>

APPENDIX A iv: LAND

Green Bay Trail

Winnetka has prioritized the acquisition, dedication, and management of lands to create connected greenways through the Green Bay Trail. The GBT is a 9.38 acre asphalt path that runs 2.24 miles through Winnetka from Kenilworth to Glencoe, paralleling the Metra commuter line.

- For more information on the Green Bay Trail, see:
 - <https://www.winpark.org/parks/map/green-bay-trail/>

Lakefront Master Plan

The Winnetka Park District partnered with her Lakota Group to produce the Lakefront Master Plan to help plan the communities parks and open spaces. The document contains plans for modest and ambitious projects that improve the quality of lakefront recreation and environmental amenities available to park and beach users as well as improve the overall quality of the Illinois Lake Michigan coastline for future generations.

- For more information on the Lakefront Master Plan, see
 - <https://www.winpark.org/wp-content/uploads/WLFMP-ExecSummary-DRAFT.pdf>

Bikeway Systems Master Plan

The Winnetka Park District Board of Commissioners has approved a bikeway master plan to optimize sustainable transportation and linkages between parks and open spaces for the community.

- For more information on the Bikeway System Master Plan, see:
 - <https://www.winpark.org/about-us/projects/bikeway/>

Green Bay Trail

The Winnetka Park District Board of Commissioners has approved a bikeway master plan to optimize sustainable transportation and linkages between parks and open spaces for the community.

- For more information on the Bikeway System Master Plan, see:
 - <https://www.winpark.org/about-us/projects/bikeway/>

Village Forester

The Village Forester is responsible for overseeing reforestations, tree preservation, and tree maintenance. They maintain the health of trees on public right of ways through regular trimming activities, inspection of trees, and removal of dead, diseased, or hazardous parkway trees. as well as other maintenance tasks.

- For more information on the Village Forester, see:
 - <https://www.winpark.org/about-us/projects/bikeway/>

Tree City USA

The Tree City USA program was founded in 1976 and is a nationwide movement that provides the necessary framework for communities to manage and expand their trees in public spaces. In this program, Winnetka residents are able to apply for various tree species to be planted in a designated space.

- For more information on the Tree City USA program, see
 - <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/bulletins/documents/000-full.pdf>
- For the Parkway Tree Planting Request Form, see
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/DocumentCenter/View/523/Parkway-Tree-Request-Form-PDF>

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

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- For more information on the Arbor Day Tree Giveaway
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/263?html=true>

APPENDIX A v: LEADERSHIP

APPENDIX A vi: MOBILITY

Bikeway System Master Plan

The Winnetka Park District Board of Commissioners has approved a bikeway master plan to optimize sustainable transportation and linkages between parks and open spaces for the community.

- For more information on the Bikeway System Master Plan, see:
 - <https://www.winpark.org/about-us/projects/bikeway/>

Green Bay & Elm Traffic Signal Synchronization

-]
- For more information on the Bi
 - <https://www.winpark.org/about-us/projects/bikeway/>

APPENDIX A vii: MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Environmental and Forestry Commission

The EFC's mission is to facilitate environmental and forestry stewardship, resource conservation and sustainability on a personal, local and regional level, to raise public awareness of environmental issues and best practices, and to bring about changes in public policy, where appropriate, through a collaborative, measurable, science-based process.

- For more information on the Environmental and Forestry Commission, see:
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/243/Environmental-Forestry-Commission>

Greenest Region 2 Compact

The Greenest Region Compact (GRC) promotes sustainability in communities around the Chicago region with an emphasis on building strong and vibrant communities. The Compact addresses ten areas: climate, economic development, energy, land, leadership, mobility, municipal operations, sustainable communities, water, and waste and recycling. The GRC guides the more than 70 participating municipalities towards sustainable goals and actions and encourages communities to work together to create a sustainable region.

- For more information on the Greenest Region 2 Compact, see:
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/262/Sustainability-Through-the-Greenest-Regi>

In-House Fleet Services

- For more information on the In-House Fleet Services, see:
 -

IEPA Illinois Green Fleet

Winnetka holds a certified IEPA Illinois Green Fleet. The program gives businesses, government units, and other organizations recognition for their efforts to reduce polluting emissions from motor vehicles through the use of environmentally-friendly alternative fuels. The program assigns points to a fleet based on the percentage of the fleet using alternative fuels, refueling arrangements, actual fuel usage, the future commitment to clean, alternative fuels and the presence of any incentives for employees

- For more information on the IEPA Green Fleet, see:
 - <http://www.smt.org/greenfleet>

APPENDIX A viii: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Design Review Board

The Design Review Board (DRB) consists of seven Winnetka residents appointed by the Village President with the advice and consent of the Village Trustees, with one member designated to serve as chairperson. Members of the DRB serve for terms of five years, which are staggered to assure the Board's continuity. The DRB also serves as the Sign Board of Appeals. Although residency is the only defined qualification for serving on the DRB, members of the DRB are generally appointed on the basis of expertise and/or involvement in the fields of architecture, landscape design, real estate and commerce.

- For more information on the Design Review Board, see
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/242/Design-Review-Board>

Landmark Preservation Commission

The LPC consists of seven Winnetka residents appointed by the Village President with the advice and consent of the Village Trustees. The Village President also designates one member of the Committee to serve as chairperson. Members of the Landmark Preservation Commission serve for terms of three years, which are staggered to assure the Board's continuity..

- For more information on the LPC, see:
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/270/Landmark-Preservation-Commission>

Go Green Winnetka

Go Green Winnetka's mission is to raise environmental awareness, inspire people to take individual and collective action, and create more sustainable, just, and climate resilient communities.

- For more information on the Go Green Winnetka, see:
 - <https://gogreenwinnetkanorthfield.wordpress.com>

APPENDIX A ix: WASTE

Recycling Service

Winnetka provides curbside residential and commercial recycling programs.

- For more information on Winnetka's recycling program, see
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/206/Recycling-Collection>

WCC Annual Rummage Sale

- For more information on Winnetka's recycling program, see
 - <https://www.winnetkacongregationalchurch.org/why-we-care/wcc-rummage/>

Spring Clean-Up Week

The annual Spring Cleanup Program is a free service to residents provided by the Public Works Department. The program provides residents an excellent opportunity to clean out attics, basements, garages, etc. of unwanted items and materials. Crews collect almost anything that two men can reasonably lift from the parkway into a truck.

- For more information on Spring Clean-Up Week, see:
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/213/Spring-Clean-Up-Week>

Recycling Guide

Winnetka has a comprehensive Recycling Guide to educate residents on the recycling practices of the community.

- For more information on Recycling Guide, see:
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/DocumentCenter/View/504/Village-of-Winnetka-Recycling-Guide-PDF>

Electronics Recycling Program

Through SWANCC, Winnetka residents are able to recycle electronic devices.

- For more information on Electronics Recycling Program, see:
 - <https://www.swancc.org/calendar?calid=9&id=394&view=event>

Holiday Tree Pickup

Christmas trees are picked up from the curbside for shredding, chipping, and composting during the first three weeks of January following the holiday season. After the third week, a \$2.25 pink refuse sticker will be required to ensure pickup. Please remove everything from trees, including plastic bags or wraps, ornaments, tinsel, wires, and the stand, as these will clog and damage the shredder.

- For more information on Holiday Tree Pickup, see:
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/215/Holiday-Tree-Pickup>

Electronics Recycling Program

Through SWANCC, Winnetka residents are able to recycle electronic devices.

- For more information on Electronics Recycling Program, see:
 - <https://www.swancc.org/calendar?calid=9&id=394&view=event>

APPENDIX A x: WATER

Coal Tar Ban

As of August, 2014, the use of coal tar-based sealing agents are prohibited on all public lands

- For more information regarding the application and reasoning behind the Winnetka Coal Tar Ban see
 - <https://villageofwinnetka.org/DocumentCenter/View/710/Coal-Tar-Ban-Information-Guide-PDF>
- For more information on Coal-Tar from the EPA, see
 - <https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/coaltar.pdf>

Salting Information

- For more information regarding environmentally safe salting practices and alternatives, including salt brining techniques, see
 - <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2284/Winter-Maintenance-Best-Practices>

Flood Prevention

- For more information on flood information and recourses for residents, see
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/222/Flood-Plain-Information>

Recycling Service

Winnetka provides recycling services to community residents for electronics, styrafoam. batteries, paint, household chemical waste, cork, mattresses, and more.

- For more information on Winnetka's recycling program, see
 - <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/206/Recycling-Collection>

APPENDIX B: Paragraph Changes

CLIMATE

he overall Village climate objective is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in and near Winnetka. Given the increasing need for clean air, reducing greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere is vital. Winnetka is dedicated to reducing GHG emissions, and the Village holds an Illinois Green Fleets Community by supporting environmentally-friendly vehicles and fuels to improve air quality. The Village also enforces a gas-powered leaf blower ban during the summer to reduce community emissions.

original

The overall objective is to reduce air pollution in and near Winnetka. Given the increasing need for clean air, it is importance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. The Village enforces a no-idling policy for Village-owned trucks and equipment as well as employs strategic placement of no idling signage in commuter areas. The Village holds status as an Illinois Green Fleets Community through having and supporting environmentally friendly vehicles and fuels to improve air quality. The Village also enforces a gas-powered leaf blower ban during the summer. Details of goals and activities are found on the GRC2 Climate and Energy Goals pages.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Winnetka is divided into three main commercial districts: Central Business District, Hubbard Woods, and Indian Hill. The Village employs a full-time Economic Development Coordinator that serves as a facilitator between the Village and businesses. Our local businesses are the cornerstone of the community and central to limiting Winnetka’s environmental footprint. The Village promotes local goods and regularly supports and advertises Shop Local and Small Business Saturday initiatives. Additionally, the Green Awards program recognizes businesses that practice and promote sustainability while attracting and attaining similar organizations and individuals.

original

The Village is divided into three main commercial districts: Central Business District, Hubbard Woods and Indian Hill. The Village employs a full-time Economic Development Coordinator that serves as a facilitator between the Village and businesses. The Village promotes local goods and regularly supports and advertises Shop Local and Small Business Saturday initiatives. The Green Awards program recognizes businesses that practice and promote sustainability while working to attract and attain similar businesses.

ENERGY

Winnetka's principal energy objective is to reduce energy consumption and advance the use of renewable energy sources. In Winnetka, village-owned buildings regularly undergo LED lighting upgrades and are equipped with motion sensors for lighting. The Village is also an active member of the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) and utilizes available funding through IMEA's Energy Efficiency Upgrade rebate program. To promote community energy sustainability, Winnetka offers a rebate program to residents to install NEST thermostats.

Original

The overall objective is to reduce energy consumption and advance the use of renewable energy sources in Winnetka. Village-owned buildings are regularly undergo LED lighting upgrades and are equipped with motion sensors for lighting. The Village is an active member of the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) and utilizes available funding through IMEA's Energy Efficiency Upgrade rebate program. The Village offers a rebate program to residents for the installation of NEST thermostats. The Village also recognizes residents and businesses in the community that show an exceptional commitment to sustainability practices through its annual Green Awards program. Details of goals and activities are found on the GRC2 Climate and Energy Goals pages

LAND

his category pertains to the preservation of the land-use patterns and natural environment that provide the Village-like ambiance of Winnetka. Land use patterns are defined by the transitions between types and densities of occupation controlled by zoning. However, the natural environment has defined some form of ecologically balanced, publically accessible open space, green and blue, which will provide the foundation for sustainable activity. These built and natural considerations overlap with Economic Development, Sustainable Communities, and Water.

Original

This category pertains to the preservation of the land use patterns and natural environment that provide the Village-like ambiance of Winnetka. Land use patterns are defined by the transitions between types and densities of occupation which are controlled by zoning. However the natural environment is defined some form of ecologically balanced, publically accessible open space, green and blue, will provide the foundation for sustainable activity. These built and natural considerations overlap with Economic Development, Sustainable Communities, and Water.

LEADERSHIP

This category pertains to the support of the GRC2 through regional, state, and national collaboration. The Village encourages and supports environmentally friendly practices when possible and partners with various groups to support the health and sustainability of the community. Winnetka is an active member of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, Northwest Municipal Conference, and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The Village also works in partnership with the Winnetka Park District through various efforts.

Original

This category pertains to the support of the GRC2 through regional, state and national collaboration. The Village is an active member of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, Northwest Municipal Conference and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The Village also works in partnership with the Winnetka Park District through various efforts. The Village encourages and supports environmentally friendly practices when possible.

MOBILITY

Winnetka supports safe and effective transportation through a diverse and efficient transportation network. The Village offers various public transportation methods, including three train stations, intersecting bus routes, and an interstate highway less than one mile west of the Village. The Village also features a bike-friendly Green Bay Trail segment and supports bicycle use throughout the Village. The Village maintains its roadways and regularly collaborates with IDOT and Cook County to ensure reliable transportation for the community.

Original

The Village supports safe and effective transportation through a diverse and efficient transportation network. The Village offers various public transportation methods including three train stations, intersecting bus routes and an interstate highway less than one mile west of the Village. The Village also features a segment of the bike-friendly Green Bay Trail and supports bicycle use throughout the Village. The Village maintains its own roadways and regularly collaborates with IDOT and Cook County.

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Winnetka's municipal services are divided into Village, Schools, Park, and Library boards and functions. The Village board provides life safety, transportation, water, and waste infrastructure. Winnetka also provides electrical power to the Village through the Illinois Municipal Energy Agency. A Village lifestyle is provided through a high-performing municipal operation governed by a Village Manager and elected Trustees. Sustainable lifestyles are encouraged through ordinance, pricing, education, and expenditure of Village funds to facilitate stewardship and conservation. The Village has a standing Environmental and Forestry Commission with a dedicated staff liaison. The Village operates a safe, clean and efficient fleet through its in-house fleet services division and has in place an anti-idling policy for Village-owned vehicles.

Original

Village municipal services are divided into Village, Schools, Park, and Library boards and functions. The Village board provides life safety, transportation, water, and waste infrastructure. Winnetka also provides electrical power to the Village through the Illinois Municipal Energy Agency. A Village life-style is provided through a high performing municipal operation governed by a Village Manager and elected Trustees. Sustainable life styles are encouraged through ordinance, pricing, education, and expenditure of Village funds to facilitate stewardship and conservation. The Village has a standing Environmental and Forestry Commission with a dedicated staff liaison. The Village operates a safe, clean and efficient fleet through its in-house fleet services division and has in place an anti-idling policy for Village-owned vehicles.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The Village supports a sustainable food culture and local farmers through its farmers market. The Village is committed to preserving and maintaining its historic assets through its Landmark Preservation Commission while supporting culture and art through its annual Music Festival. The Winnetka Community House and the Winnetka Park District promote health and wellness through their various youth programs. The Village also promotes beauty and livability in community design through its Design Review Board and strict permitting process. Go Green Winnetka engages residents in sustainability initiatives through an environmentally-focused citizen advisory group.

Original

The Village supports a sustainable food culture through its local farmers market. The Village is committed to preserving and maintaining its historic assets through its Landmark Preservation Commission, while supporting culture and art through its annual Music Festival. The Winnetka Community House and the Winnetka Park District promote health and wellness through their various youth programs. The Village also promotes beauty and livability in community design through its Design Review Board and strict permitting process. Go Green Winnetka engages residents in sustainability initiatives through an environmentally-focused citizen advisory group.

WASTE

Community sustainability must include reduction, reuse and recycling of materials. So far, the Village has focused principally on recycling through its contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems and partnership with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. While recycling refers to all materials, it is helpful to differentiate recycling processes for solid waste and water. Reduction of solid waste within Winnetka is facilitated through a separate collection of recycled materials from solid waste, and separation and collection of food waste is becoming of increasing interest. Recycling is encouraged through ordinance, pricing, education, and expenditure of Village funds. The Village operates its own in-house refuse collection services, in which operations are regularly assessed.

Original

Sustainable activity must include reduction, reuse and recycling of materials. So far the Village has focused principally on recycling through its contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems and its partnership with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. While recycling refers to all materials, it is helpful to separate solid waste from water. Water recycling is controlled by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District through its treatment of waste water and regulation of water that may returned to Lake Michigan or the North Branch of the Chicago River. Reduction of solid waste within Winnetka is facilitated through separate collection of recycled materials from solid waste. Separation and collection of food waste is becoming of increasing interest. Recycling is encouraged through ordinance, pricing, education, and expenditure of Village funds. The Village operates its own in-house refuse collection services, in which operations are regularly assessed. The Village also hosts a weekly electronics recycling drop-off program for residents and offers special recycling programs for materials such as Styrofoam, and CFL bulbs.

WATER - Natural water

The overall objective is to reduce pollution of the water in and near to Winnetka. One of the most valuable resources to Winnetka is Lake Michigan, which we drink and in which we recreate. Water shed by Winnetka as waste or storm water runoff will become increasingly scrutinized and regulated to reduce pollution and increase sustainability of the region. Given the increasing need for clean drinking water, it is important to reduce consumption and reduce pollution of the storm water. While the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District both treats the sanitary waste and regulates encroachment of the flood plain to control flooding, Winnetka may enforce more strict storm water regulations.

original

The overall objective is to reduce pollution of the water in and near to Winnetka. One of the most valuable resources to Winnetka is Lake Michigan, which we drink and in which we recreate. Water shed by Winnetka as waste or storm water runoff will become increasingly scrutinized and regulated to reduce pollution and increase sustainability of the region. Given the increasing need for clean drinking water, it is important to reduce consumption and reduce pollution of the storm water. Winnetka benefits from separate sanitary and storm water sewer systems which reduces the complexity of pollution reduction. While the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District both treats the sanitary waste and regulates encroachment of the flood plain to control flooding, Winnetka may enforce more strict storm water regulations.

WATER - Stormwater

Effective, sustainable stormwater management is a major goal of Village leadership. Flooding is not a new problem in Winnetka, as is naturally a lowland marsh environment: various initiatives to hold or redirect stormwater when major storms occur have been implemented in the Village since the 1930s. Today, the Village is undertaking a large-scale initiative that will result in a major change in the way stormwater is handled.

original

Effective, sustainable stormwater management is a major goal of Village leadership. Flooding is not a new problem in Winnetka, as is naturally a lowland marsh environment: various initiatives to hold or redirect stormwater when major storms occur have been implemented in the Village since the 1930s. Today, the Village is undertaking a large-scale initiative that will result in a major change in the way stormwater is handled.

What to do with Paper Napkins, Towels, and Tissues

Used paper-based goods such as paper napkins, towels, and tissues are not recyclable. These items have already been recycled numerous times and are at the end of their life cycle. Also, these types of paper may have food or other organic waste on them, which would contaminate other recyclable items. These used paper goods may be composted in your backyard and through one of Winnetka's container swap compost haulers (Collective Resource Compost and WasteNot Compost) **[insert links to hauler websites]**. In fact, these used paper goods **should** be composted, as they are exactly the kind of carbon-rich material that food waste, which is nitrogen-rich, needs to decompose properly. And these used paper goods, like food waste, release methane when they are added to landfills where they cannot decompose properly. Please try to compost your used paper goods rather than landfill or recycle them.

What to do with Plastic Utensils

Don't buy them!! Americans use **40 billion** plastic utensils every year. Fifty percent of the plastic used in the US is used once and discarded. We discard more than 30 million tons of plastic annually, and only 8 percent gets recycled. The rest piles up in landfills, is incinerated, or becomes litter. Plastic utensils are not recyclable or compostable (and allegedly compostable utensils may not break down as easily as advertised). Best to avoid single-use plastic utensils altogether. Use reusable utensils at home and say "No thanks" to plastic utensils when ordering to go – our local restaurants will thank you too!

What to do with Polystyrene (aka Styrofoam®)

Winnetka recycles both block-style and clean food service polystyrene foam (sometimes referred to as "Styrofoam®") through a partnership between the Winnetka Public Works Department, the Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission, and Dart Container Corporation. Winnetka citizens collect their polystyrene and drop it off at the Public Works building. The Public Works Department stores it until Dart collects the material and transports it to their recycling facility in North Aurora. There, contaminants are removed, the polystyrene is compacted in special machines called densifiers, and then it is delivered to companies that use it to make new products, such as picture frames. Winnetka's polystyrene recycling program started as a 2-week option around the holidays in 2012, expanded to a standing year-round collection in the Public Works Building lobby in 2013, and shifted to a once-a-week drop off option on Mondays from 1 - 3pm in May 2021. **[link to recycling guide]**

Recycling is Worth the Effort – Do Not Give Up or Get Discouraged!

Yes, recycling is still worth the effort; we just have to get better at "Recycling Right!" We have to recycle as much as we can of the recyclable materials, and let the other stuff go – no aspirational or "wish" cycling. Follow state and local recycling guidance. Do not put non-recyclable items in the recycling container, clean or otherwise, as that just gives the facilities more sorting to do and the materials inevitably and unavoidably end up in the landfill anyway. Or worse, they slip through and end up as a "contaminate" in the recyclable plastics lowering the quality of the material in the bale. This makes it harder to market and is a major detriment to the recycling industry as a whole. Do not let perfection be the enemy of good. You can do it, and your actions do make a difference! **[add links to Winnetka's**

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

YES!



METAL

Steel & Aluminum Containers and Foil



PAPER

Cardboard (flattened),
Office Paper, Newspaper, Magazines

Clean & Empty

Replace lids & caps

**Put material in loose
- Not in bags**



GLASS

Containers: Bottles & Jars Only



PLASTIC

Containers: Bottles, Tubs, Jugs,
and Jars Only



CARTONS

NO!



**No Plastic Bags
No Plastic Wrap**
(return clean to retailer)



No Big Items (Electronics, Wood,
Propane Tanks, Scrap Metal or Styrofoam –
see countyofkane.org/recycling for other recycling options)



No Tangles (Hangers, Hoses,
Wire, Cords, Ropes or Chains)



No Clothing
Textiles or Shoes (donate)



**No Food, Liquid, Diapers,
Batteries or Needles**



No Shredded Paper
(see countyofkane.org/recycling for other recycling options)



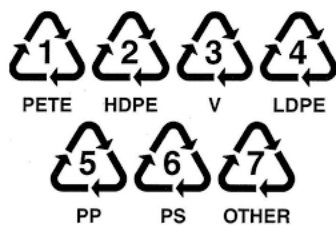
Recycling Tip – Make sure all containers are free of liquid and food residue

When recycling used food containers, it is important to remove leftover food waste and liquids. Containers or cardboard that have excessive food waste on them may contaminate other recyclable materials they are mixed in with. When recyclables are heavily contaminated with food waste, they become less desirable for resale. Empty all liquids and remove as much food waste as you can before putting your hard plastic, aluminum, and glass containers in your recycling bin. Many paper-based food containers may be compostable through one of Winnetka's container swap compost haulers (Collective Resource Compost and WasteNot Compost) [\[insert links to hauler websites\]](#).

Recycling Tip – Hard Plastics

Confused about whether and how to recycle hard plastics? You are not alone! The system is complicated but there actually are some rules that help simplify things. Here are five rules to remember about recycling hard plastics:

1. Forget the number inside the chasing arrow symbol! It only tells you the resin type and does not mean the item is recyclable through our local program or in our local markets.
2. Only recycle CONTAINERS — remember **Bottles, Jars, Jugs, and Tubs** — in all residential and commercial recycling bins, totes, and dumpsters in Winnetka.
3. If it is not one of the above shapes, then it is not recyclable in Winnetka. All else goes in the trash. Try to rethink your purchases to avoid excess plastic packaging and single-use plastics.
4. Rinse lightly, only if needed.
5. Put the lids back on the empty containers to recycle together.



Recycling Tip – Plastic bags and film

Plastic bags, wraps, and film can be recycled into new materials – they simply require a different collection system and processing equipment than many curbside recycling programs provide. DO NOT put plastic bags/wraps/film in your bin as the Village's recycling provider, Lakeshore Recycling Services, does not accept these items.

Plastic bags may be brought to grocery stores for recycling. Plastic bags are made out of "film", or thin flexible sheets of plastic. The majority of plastic films are made from polyethylene (PE) resin and are readily recyclable if the material is clean and dry. Plastic wrap and film packaging are generally #2 and #4 plastic, both of which are recyclable. Most plastic bags are recycled into composite lumber, but can actually become a wide variety of products.

Clean and dry plastic bags, film, wrap can be recycled at many grocery and retail stores. Be sure to completely empty the bags, film, and wrap of all food and liquid waste before taking them to your nearest participating store. A list of plastics that may be recycled at most stores is below:

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Case overwrap (e.g. water, soda and juice bottles)
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Ziplock/reclosable bags
- Produce bags
- Bubble wrap
- Salt bags
- Cereal bags



Recycling Tip -- Batteries

About Alkaline Batteries:

According to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, single-use, non-rechargeable alkaline batteries AAA, AA, C, D 6v & 9v are classified as "non-hazardous" and may be safely disposed of with normal household waste. Winnetka's waste transfer station stopped accepting batteries for recycling a

few years ago and Winnetka does not have another way to recycle batteries at this time. Alkaline batteries may be accepted for recycling at some retail outlets like Best Buy. Call retail stores to confirm.

About Rechargeable Batteries:

Rechargeable batteries Nickel Cadmium (NiCd), Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH), Lithium, Zinc-Air, Silver-oxide, and Small Sealed Lead Acid contain mercury and other heavy metals and should be recycled. There are many retail stores (Ace Hardware, Best Buy, IKEA, Lowe's, Staples, Target, etc.) that accept rechargeable batteries. Call retail stores to confirm acceptable batteries. To avoid the risk of cross-contact of battery terminals, which can cause a spark and create a fire, place a piece of tape over each terminal or contact point.

About Lead Acid Batteries:

Lead acid batteries (automotive, marine, and sump pump) are prohibited by Illinois state law from being disposed of in the trash. Gas stations, auto parts stores, and other retail stores provide outlets for disposing of these batteries.

Why do the contact points of rechargeable batteries need to be taped?

The contact points of each rechargeable battery should be covered with masking tape before being taken to a drop-off location. It is important that the end points on batteries do not touch each other during collection or transportation because contact can cause a spark and ignite a fire.

For a list of retailers who recycle rechargeable and lead acid batteries visit SWANCC's [Battery Recycling](#) web page.

Recycling Tip -- Textile Recycling

Before getting rid of your old clothes, consider recycling or donating them to a textile recycling organization in the area. Check with your local community organizations, church, shelter, hospital, schools or libraries for available programs. Some of these organizations that offer textile recycling programs include: Christ Church of Winnetka, Winnetka Thrift Shop, Amvets, Goodwill Industries, Avenues to Independence, Winnetka Congregational Church, Salvation Army, Chicago Textile Recycling and USAgain.

The Hidden Benefits of Trees

You may know that Winnetka is committed to preserving the natural beauty of trees and has been designated a Tree City USA community since 1991. But, like most of us, you may not be fully aware of the benefits trees provide. In addition to reducing heat by providing shade and evaporating water, trees filter out air pollution, absorb stormwater and reduce runoff, store carbon, nurture wildlife, and even improve people's physical and mental health. Carefully positioned trees can reduce a home's energy costs by 25%, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. The best way to care for trees on your property and the Village parkways is to water them when "dry conditions" (2 or more weeks of no precipitation during the growing season). An equally important way to care for trees throughout our Village is to think of them as infrastructure, and a financially-viable investment that can provide a large economic return, rather than an amenity. Viewing trees this way will help our Village preserve and protect them as the important natural assets they are.

The Importance of Planting and Maintaining Trees

Individual property owners can play a major role in protecting the tree canopy, climate, and natural habitat in Winnetka. Commit to planting and maintaining trees in your yard and on your parkway. The Village of Winnetka plants 2 1/2-inch-trunk-diameter trees on parkways at no cost to residents. Also offered is a "share the cost" arrangement for planting larger trees on parkways. For tree species descriptions and availability, call 847-716-3289 or email Village Forester [Andrew Lueck](#). If you're planting your own trees, it's important to choose the species carefully. Large shade trees offer more cooling and carbon storage than small ornamentals. The Village Forester can advise on tree species for a specific site and maintains a list of [Recommended Tree Species](#) for Winnetka.

The Mighty Oak Tree

The Oak tree has a long history in the Chicago area. Before Chicago was established and developed as a city, oak trees were by far the most common type of tree in the area. There are twenty species of oak tree that are native to Illinois, including the white oak, swamp oak, shingle oak, and Chinkapin oak. In 1907, school children voted to make "native oak" the official state tree of Illinois and in 1973, the White Oak became the official state tree. Oak trees are a great bet for Winnetka and on our list of [Recommended Tree Species](#). They offer shade, water retention, and carbon storage. They also feed more than 900 species of caterpillars, which in turn feed birds and other pollinators whose populations have declined. If you have an oak tree on your property, or want to plant or learn how to care for one, call 847-716-3289 or email Village Forester [Andrew Lueck](#).

August 2021 EFC Communications Content

1. Recycling Tip – Paper Napkins, Towels, and Tissue Recycling

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Used paper-based goods such as paper napkins, towels and tissues should not be placed into your recycling bin. These types of items have potentially already been recycled numerous times and are at the end of their life cycle. Also, these types of paper are normally contaminated with food waste and are not recyclable. Items containing food waste can contaminate other recyclable items and should be composted or landfilled instead.

2. Pumpkin Composting Event

Winnetka Report

In a continuing effort to expand environmental initiatives, the Village of Winnetka is hosting a one-day pumpkin collection. Residents are encouraged to bring in pumpkins for the Village to properly dispose of, limiting the amount brought to landfills. The Public Work Department will provide a designated drop off location at the Municipal Yards Facility at 1390 Willow Road from ***DATE/TIME TBD***. Please remove any solid waste (candles, bags, etc.). Collection of garbage, food scraps or other landscape waste will not be accepted. Please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568 with any questions.

3. Curbside Leaf Collection

Winnetka Report

The Village's annual curbside leaf collection program will run from October to November, ***DATES/TIME TBD***. Under this program, residents may rake their leaves to the parkway just inside the edge of the curb for collection by the Village. Leaves collected are then hauled to Antioch, IL for composting which the Village then receives back in early spring for residents to use as compost material. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568.

September 2021 EFC Communications Content

1. Environmental and Forestry Commission Recycling Tip During COVID-19

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Recycled materials serve as feedstocks necessary to produce essential supplies including those especially needed during this time such as paper towels, sanitizing wipes, toilet paper, and packaging for a wide range of products including boxes for shipping. Many businesses that would normally generate large amounts of recyclables have limited operations now. Therefore, household recycling is vital to the continued supply of raw materials for U.S. manufacturing sectors.

Now is a great time to focus on waste prevention where possible, and when recycling, keep the materials as clean and dry as possible. Follow the guidelines of your local recycling hauler and only put items in your recycling bin that they accept. If your community is not processing recycling due to the materials recovery facility being closed or another reason, consider dropping materials off at a recycling center, while following Center for Disease Control, state and local public health guidelines. Thank your recycling collectors, haulers, and sorters—they are providing a vital service during this time!

Reducing food waste has been ranked as the #3 solution (on a list of the Top 100) to reduce greenhouse emissions and actually reverse climate change. Composting food waste is #60 on that list. So, working to reduce food waste to begin with, divert all food waste from landfill, and composting what is left, collectively has a significant impact on one's personal carbon footprint.

To avoid wasting food at home, follow these tips:

- Take what you will eat and eat what you take at meal and snack times.
- Plan a menu and make a list so you buy what you need and do not purchase more food than you can eat before it spoils.
- Check what food you already have before you go grocery shopping.
- Get creative and make meals with what you already have.
- Label leftovers with the date when you store them in the fridge so you can keep track of how old they are.

2. Environmental and Forestry Commission Recycling Tip: Tips and Reminders During and After COVID-19

E-Winnetka Newsletter

- Keep plastic bags, masks, wipes, and latex gloves out of the recycling bin.
- If someone in your home has COVID-19, treat your recyclables as trash.
- Do not put your recyclables in plastic bags.
- Clean and shake dry recyclables to ensure products get recycled.
- Break down cardboard boxes and put them in the recycling bin whenever possible.
- Put recycling and trash in the appropriate bins, not next to them. Leaving materials next to bins increases risks to sanitation workers and can attract pests.
- If you are fall cleaning, consider setting aside things (batteries, paints, weed killer, plastic bags, clothing, other donations, etc.) to donate, recycle, or dispose of later when it's safe to bring them to a drop off location or collection event. Follow local guidelines.
- Return grass clippings back onto your lawn instead of bagging them.