



**Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission
Notice of Regular Meeting
December 11, 2019**

The Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission will convene on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 in the **Council Room at the Village Hall, 510 Green Bay, Winnetka, Illinois**, 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 November 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes | Presenter Dowding |
| 4) New Business/Old Business Updates | |
| a. Review of GRC2 Primary Goals for 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update | Presenter Dowding |
| b. RainReady Update | Presenter Kunkle |
| 5) Communications | |
| a. Review November Communications Items | Presenter Mendoza |
| b. Discussion of December Communication Items | Presenter Mendoza |
| 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 – Megan Pierce, 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
November 13, 2019**

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois, Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order: Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.; Voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Liz Kunkle, Chris Foley, Mike Nielsen, David Varca and Barry Sylvester. Voting Members absent: Rosann Park-Jones. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Ex-officio Members present: none. Village Council Representative absent: Anne Wedner. Student Representative absent: Marcus Buccellato. Staff Representatives present: Brendon Mendoza, Public Works Analyst. Public present: None.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members.

2) Public Comment: None.

3) Review and Summary of Minutes:

a) Approval of the October 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the October 9, 2019 minutes, which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Commissioner Foley. Chairperson Dowding mentioned to modify the agenda to "Review and Approval of Minutes" for future meetings.

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

a) Review of GRC2 Primary Goals for 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update:

Commissioner Foley stated the Plan commissioner met on October 23, 2019, and spent a majority of the meeting conducting OMA training. There is no update at this time.

The Commission discussed ideas for the Village's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The Commission reviewed the GRC2 Framework Recommendation List.

Chairperson Dowding proposed three (3) items to be added to the GRC2 Framework list for Water Conservation, Sustain "Lakeshore-Village" Brand, and Increasing Sustainable Mobility (please see attached). Chairperson Dowding asked if any Commissioner could

draft a water quality goal related to measures of no beach closures and beaches pollution. Chairperson Foley stated he will attempt to develop a draft.

Commissioner Foley mentioned two (2) ideas for the GRC2 Framework Recommendation List. One is to add the long-term planning of the power plant following the expiration of the IMEA contract. The second idea is to address the long term viability and options regarding utilization of the existing regional landfills for Village refuse.

Commissioner Varca stated a focus should be sustainability and thought of two (2) related items to consider. One is to explore use of landfill and the second is consideration of the Village's aging sewer system and water system. Commissioner Varca stated he will develop a draft document and bring it to the next EFC meeting.

Commissioner Kunkle stated she attended a meeting yesterday where the City of Evanston presented their "Climate Action and Resilience Plan/Business Engagement" and presented it in context of climate action plan (please see attached). Commissioner Kunkle mentioned how part of the plan was modeled around the GRC2 framework goals, and were high-level. Kunkle mentioned this document can be useful for framing recommendations.

Commissioner Kunkle also mentioned a good reference for the Commission when discussing the Comprehensive Plan Recommendations is the document titled "Chapter II: Vision, Goals, and Objectives" as found in the agenda packet.

b) RainReady Update:

Commissioner Kunkle stated that the RainReady staff will be attending the December 11, 2019 EFC Meeting to provide a presentation.

5) Communications:

a) Review October Communications Items:

The group reviewed the past October Communication items and agreed that they were satisfactory.

b) Discussion of November Communications Items:

The Commission reviewed the November Communication items. Commissioner Kunkle mentioned an article she drafted regarding use of natural light during winter for use in the November Communications. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the

November Communications Items, which was moved by Commissioner Nielson and seconded by Commissioner Foley.

6) Commission/Staff Reports:

Staff Representative Mendoza mentioned that the Village's annual pumpkin collected approximately 670 pumpkins and were sent to be composted. Commissioner Kunkle stated that a good idea may be to add a dumpster for collection of pumpkins in a Park District Park, this would allow additional options for residents to compost pumpkins if they are not able to attend the Village's one day annual pumpkin composting event.

Commissioner Kunkle mentioned that the Village of Glencoe has a Sustainability Task Force, and they are very active.

Commissioner Kunkle also mentioned that the Park District and New Trier Township High School District 203 will be funding a study for solar feasibility.

7) Student Representation Update: None.

8) Open Forum: None.

9) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Nielson and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. The motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Proposed Consensus Recommendation from the GRC2 Framework

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

DS: Council directs Staff to undertake

EFC: Council directs EFC to undertake

Climate: undertake efforts to reduce GHGs, develop resiliency to climate change impacts, and engage the Village community in climate change mitigation and adaptation

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

Energy: adopt policies that promote energy efficiency, reduced energy usage and renewables, and engage the Village community in clean energy practices

1. Audit, benchmark, and track 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)**
2. 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)**
3. 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)**

Land: encourage strategic development that incorporates sustainability principles, conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems, and ensure accessibility to and use of parks and other outdoor space

1. Redevelop underutilized or contaminated properties **(PO)**
2. Prioritize redevelopment and infrastructure projects, and public-private partnerships, that support public transit-oriented locations and uses **(PO, DS)**
3. 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)**
4. Continue to maximize the amount of public spaces and parks accessible to residents **(PO)**
5. Where practical, replace turf with sustainable landscaping alternatives **(DS)**
6. 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)**
7. Enact and enforce land-use policies that preserve open space **(PO, DS)**

Leadership: collaborate to achieve a more sustainable Village and region

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

Mobility: support diverse, safe, and efficient transportation that uses resources wisely

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

Municipal Operations: set the example by demonstrating sustainable values and practices, operate a safe and efficient fleet, and collect and manage data to advance sustainability

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

Sustainable Communities: cultivate community values and principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable, and that promote a sustainable identity for the Village

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

Waste & Recycling: support policies and actions that contribute to sustainable material management and increased recycling

1. Adopt a Pay-As-You-Throw program (PO)
2. Make public events Zero Waste (DS)
3. 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)

Water: use and distribute water efficiently and sustainably, protect and improve water quality, and optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater

1. 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)
2. 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)

3. Support regional and state initiatives to protect water supplies and support stewardship of Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River (EFC)
4. Comprehensively and sustainably manage water infrastructure (DS)
5. Collaborate to enhance wetlands for improved ecosystem services (DS)
6. Adopt codes that enable rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses (PO)
7. Review and adopt codes to eliminate barriers to green infrastructure BMPs including cisterns, green roofs, bioswales, and permeable paving (PO, DS)

Water Conservation

Goal:

Reduce Winnetka's consumption of water by 10%

Reason:

Winnetka may be required to share water to the collar counties within the next two or three decades. The demand for water in the collar counties, who already in 2020 have begun to run out of water, will require use of Lake Michigan water, which is limited by international treaty with Canada. Thus sending water to collar counties will result in less water for those already drawing LM water.

WEFC Water summary

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 stricter storm water regulations.

GRC2 Water Goals

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve and 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

Increasing Sustainable Mobility

Goal

Develop safe, east-west bikeway(s) to connect to downtown areas, GB trail, rail stations and educational institutions

Reason:

Increasing pedestrian oriented transportation will enhance Winnetka's ability to address greater restrictions of the use of automobile transport. It will also allow for a more healthy, walkable/bikeable village oriented life style.

WEFC Mobility Summary

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.

GRC2 Mobility Goals

- Support safe and effective active transportation
- Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices

Sustain “Lakeshore-Village” brand

Goal

Stabilize bluffs and beaches and increase enjoyment of Lake Michigan

Reason:

Planned bluff and beach stabilization by the Winnetka Park District and riparian residents (and the not unexpected legal entanglements) present an opportunity for a village-wide sustainable solution. Costs of stabilization can be reduced through coordination of efforts by Village, Park District and riparian residents. It may be possible to justify additional Village funding in addition to that from the Park District by increasing enjoyment of Lake Michigan between Village and Park access points.

WEFC Land Summary

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.

GRC2 Land Goals

- Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles
- Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems
- Support networks of accessible well-used and enjoyable parks
- Sustain a robust urban forest 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

Sustain “Lakeshore-Village” brand

Goal

Reduce beach closures because of pollution to zero

At one time Winnetka was listed as having the most polluted beaches in the nation by counts of closures. After efforts by the “Village” to uncover cross connections between sanitary and storm sewers, beach closures have been reduced but not to zero. Given that all storm water east of Green Bay Rd flows to Lake Michigan, the source of our drinking water, such beach closures potentially have more serious consequences than preventing swimming. This issue is also a poster child for the need for greater integration of the operations of the Park and Village boards. Parks takes the hit for beach closures, the Village is responsible for outfalls to the lake, and Winnetka’s brand is besmirched.

WEFC Water summary

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GRC2 Water Goals

- Use and distribute water efficiently
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- 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

2019 EFC Communications Plan

EFC Communication Process for Monthly Postings

1. EFC and Staff work together to draft and finalized monthly topics and supporting text.
2. Topics and supporting text are discussed and approved by the EFC at monthly meetings.
3. Topics and supporting text are sent to Village Manager's Office each month to be published in the appropriate communication channel (Weekly email newsletter, Winnetka Report, etc).

January

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- EFC Green Awards Application Reminder
- Reduce - Consider how to reduce energy use and costs in your home and business
- Reduce - Switch from incandescent bulbs to LED bulbs (and put incandescent into garbage/landfill and recycle LED bulbs in the lobby of the Winnetka Public Works)

February

EFC Green Awards Application Deadline – February 28

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Reduce – Think before you buy
- Reduce - Think before you pack

March

Spring Winnetka Report Submission Deadline – March 19

Winnetka Report Articles:

- Coal Tar Sealant Reminder
- Paper Shredding Event
- Electronics Recycling Program Resuming
- Clean-Up Week

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Electronics Recycling Program Resuming
- Reduce - Use your car less
- Reduce - No Idling
- Composting - Backyard

April

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Compost available at Village Yards
- Paper Shredding Event
- Phosphorus Ordinance
- Earth Day – April 22nd, 2019 and Arbor Day – April 27th, 2019

May

Summer Winnetka Report Submission Deadline – May 11 (Include Recycling Guidelines Insert?)

Winnetka Report Articles:

- Green Award Recipients

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- EFC BMP Guide – Summary & link to document
- Recycling - Break down all boxes
- Recycling - Leave lids on plastic containers

June

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Coal Tar Sealant Reminder
- Ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers from June 1 through Oct. 1.
- Recycling - Make sure all containers are free of liquid and food residue
- Recycling - Plastic bags & film
- Forestry - Remove buckthorn and other invasive species

July

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Shredding Event
- Recycling - Plastic silverware
- Recycling – Styrofoam
- Forestry - Look into landscaping solutions as stormwater solutions

August

Fall Winnetka Report Submission Deadline – August 23

Winnetka Report Articles:

- Pumpkin Composting Event
- Curbside Leaf Collection

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Recycling - Paper napkins, towels, and tissues

September

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Recycling - #3 plastics
- Recycling - Pizza boxes
- Recycling - Lids from glass bottles

October

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Pumpkin Composting Event
- Recycling – Leaf Collection

November

Winter Winnetka Report Submission Deadline – November 20

Winnetka Report Articles:

- Holiday Lights Recycling

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- America Recycles Day (11/15)
- Composting - Leaf collection
- Battery Recycling
- Plastic bag, film and wrap recycling
- Recycling – Textiles
- Use of Natural Light During Winter

December

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Christmas Tree Pick-Up
- EFC Green Awards Application Reminder
- Holiday Lights Recycling
- Commercial District Business Lighting
- Continued Use of Natural Light During Winter

November 2019 EFC Communications Content

1. **Holiday Lights Recycling**

Fall Winnetka Report & E-Winnetka Newsletter

As the holiday season approaches, a reminder that residents may bring holiday lights and other wires to the Public Works Yards for recycling year round. Drop off times are during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:00 am through 5:00 pm. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568.

2. **America Recycles Day is November 15, 2019**

E-Winnetka Newsletter

This year, America Recycles Day is Friday, November 15, 2019. America Recycles Day is a nationally-recognized day that is dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States by promoting environmental citizenship and taking action to increase and improve recycling. For more information and to learn about taking the pledge, please visit <https://americarecyclesday.org/>.

3. **Fall Leaf Collection**

E-Winnetka Newsletter

The Village's annual curbside leaf collection program will run from Monday, October 14 until Monday, November 25. 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, Illinois 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.

4. **Battery Recycling**

E-Winnetka Newsletter

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.

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.

5. Plastic Bag, Film and Wrap Recycling

E-Winnetka Newsletter

A reminder that plastic bags, film, and wrap are not included in the Village's curbside recycling program offered by Lakeshore Recycling Systems. Plastic film – also known as plastic film packaging – is soft, flexible polyethylene (PE) packaging such as grocery, food, zip-top, and dry cleaning bags. It is also the clear plastic that comes wrapped around many paper products. Bags and film wrap are considered “contamination” at facilities where recyclables are processed, because they get tangled in the equipment. 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

6. Environmental and Forestry Commission Recycling Tip: Textile Recycling

E-Winnetka Newsletter

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.

7. Environmental and Forestry Commission Tip: Use of Natural Light During Winter

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Many of us crave more sunlight during winter's doldrums. Here are some ideas to let more light into a home and make the most of what meager sunshine is available during a midwest winter.

Try cleaning or power-washing your windows to remove summer pollen and other buildup, which allows much more light to come in. Make sure your window coverings aren't sabotaging your efforts to capture more of the sun's rays. If you have drapes, hang them high to the ceiling and wide enough that they only cover the window trim, and not the actual window itself. Use the same outside-mount approach with Roman shades, installing them high enough so that the bottom of the shade, when raised, covers the trim but not much of the actual window, which tricks the eye into thinking the window is taller than it actually is.

Clearing obstructions works on both sides of the glass. Trimming shrubs or low branches outside south-facing windows can immediately let more precious winter sunbeams into your home. But you can also plant and prune with a longer-term plan in mind. The trees that surround your house should not only play their part in the landscape, but in the environmental conditions of your house. For instance, on the south side of your house in the midwest, views notwithstanding, you should have deciduous trees that provide shade in the summer and when they lose their leaves allow light and warmth in the winter.

December 2019 EFC Communications Content

1. Christmas Tree Pick-Up

E-blast Newsletter

Christmas trees will be picked up from the curbside for shredding, chipping, and composting beginning January 2nd through January 18th, 2019. After January 17th, a \$2.25 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. If you have questions about the program, please call 847-716-3568.

2. EFC Green Awards Application Reminder

E-blast Newsletter

The Village of Winnetka's Environmental and Forestry Commission invites nominations for the third-annual Green Awards Program. The purpose of the program is to recognize properties and households within Winnetka that demonstrate exceptional commitment to sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices. Residents, businesses and other organizations are encouraged to nominate their house, property, building or project that has been completed within the past five years. The award categories include: Green Building, Recycling/Waste Reduction, Land, Air, Water/Stormwater, Energy, and Innovation/Other.

If you believe your recent project has helped make Winnetka a more environmentally-friendly or sustainable community, the Commission asks that you consider applying. Applications are available through the Public Works Department at 1390 Willow Road, or by clicking here (<http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/government/boards-and-commissions/environmental-and-forestry-commission/>). The application deadline is February 28, 2019. Category winners will be announced on Earth Day (April 22, 2020). If you have any questions about the program, contact Brendon Mendoza at 847-716-3525 or bmendoza@winnetka.org.

3. Holiday Lights Recycling

E-blast Newsletter

As you decorate for the holidays, you may discover that some old lights and extension cords don't work. Recycle them with the Village's year-round light recycling program! All types of holiday lights and cords are accepted for recycling at the Public Works Yards, 1390 Willow Road,

weekdays from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, wreathes, or other non-recyclable items. If you have questions about the program, please call 847-716-3568.

4. Commercial District Business Lighting

E-blast Newsletter

Chamber of Commerce

Economic Development Newsletter

Many businesses in Winnetka keep their interior lighting on throughout the night for safety and crime prevention purposes. Although this may provide more security, it also uses excess electricity. The use of LED or other energy efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and lower electric bills. Businesses are encouraged to use LED lighting in their stores to reduce their electricity use.

5. Use of Natural Light During Winter – Proposed

E-blast Newsletter

The way your home is oriented should inform your decisions about where to install new windows or skylights — perhaps the most obvious way to harvest more natural light. How is the house positioned in terms of north, south, east, west is the place to start, because anything done with windows or skylights is going to be impacted by that. Adding glass on the south side of a home, where the sun spends most of its daytime arc, will generally provide the most brightness for your buck.

Consider experimenting with your home's layout as it relates to the sun. If your living room feels trapped in perpetual twilight, but a seldom-used, south-facing dining room is drenched in sun, try swapping their functions.

2020 Plan and its Relevance to the Forestry & Environmental Commission

Environment vs Sustainability

As an action plan, the 2020 Comprehensive Plan assumes that various initiatives when accomplished will result in a healthful and life-promoting environment for Winnetka. While it seems the "F" in WEFC is well-represented, the "E" with regard to "sustainable" initiatives is virtually absent. This presents numerous opportunities for the WEFC to either recommend the refinement of the existing initiatives to include proven, scientifically-based "sustainable" practices, or to recommend the introduction of such "sustainable" practices where appropriate. In addition, where policy is totally absent (as seems to be the case with "clean air") articulate such policy and recommend its adoption by the Village Council. Below are examples of where impacts can be made most readily. However, a thorough reading of both the 2020 Plan and the Village Codes should be part of the exercise going forward.

2020 Plan: <http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/pdf/documents/Winnetka%202020.pdf>

Winnetka Village Codes: <http://www.amlegal.com/library/il/winnetka.shtml>

Issues to consider:

- In Section 3.2.1, the 2020 Plan includes the Forestry Commission as one of the "land use decision-making bodies."

Opportunity: to recommend the amendment of the 2020 Plan to redefine the Forestry Commission as the WEFC and define its scope and responsibilities.

- Both the 2020 Plan and the Village Code articulate environmental issues. (Relevant sections from the 2020 Plan below.)

Opportunity: to review both of these documents for the most immediate impact ("low-hanging fruit").

- Chapter IV of the 2020 Plan offers numerous recommendations that fall below that of an "ordinance."

Opportunity: to use these recommendations as the basis of our Winnetka-centric content for the website.

- Defin Village*
- The 2020 Plan is organized into 5 basic categories of interest.

Opportunity: to recommend the addition of a 6th category to address Winnetka's environmental profile; or to address each of these sections with issues of and recommendations for specific environmental/sustainable activities/actions.

- The 2020 Plan makes no specific recommendations regarding air quality.

*Opportunity: to recommend to the Village Council the development an air quality policy for Winnetka based on a review of other communities' efforts either within the 2020 Plan or as an addendum to the Village Code. [For review:
<http://www.wilmette.com/departments/greeninitiatives/cleanaircounts.aspx>]*

Land use Decision-making Bodies (from 2020 Plan)

3.2.1 Village Of Winnetka

The land use decision-making bodies for the Village are:

- **Village Council.** The Village Council first met in 1869. Land use decisions in Winnetka are made by the six elected members of the Village Council, the elected Village President and various appointed commissions. The underlying control comes from the Zoning Ordinance, enacted by the Village Council in 1922. Because substantial development had occurred prior to that date, all non-conformities were "grandfathered" and recognized as legal nonconforming uses as long as structures are maintained in their existing form. Commissions that carry out land use policy are appointed by the Council; their decisions can be appealed to the Council.

- **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).** The ZBA was formed in 1922. The Zoning Ordinance allows property owners to seek relief from the regulations if they can demonstrate "particular hardship or practical difficulty" associated with building on their land. The 7-member Zoning Board of Appeals reviews all variation requests. Variation requests that are less than a 20% variation from the zoning requirement can be decided by the ZBA. Larger variation requests are decided by the Village Council after the ZBA makes its recommendation. All floor area ratio variations go to the Village Council.

- **Plan Commission.** The first Plan Commission was appointed in 1917. This 13-member body is responsible for writing and interpreting the Village's Comprehensive Plan, which provides the vision for the Village's physical layout and how the community's land resources are to be used. Requests for subdivision, re-zoning and special use permits must be reviewed by the Plan Commission to determine whether the proposals are compatible with the Comprehensive Plan. The recommendations of the Plan Commission are advisory to the Village Council.

• **Landmark Preservation Commission.** This seven-member body carries out the duties outlined in the Landmark Preservation Ordinance, which was adopted in 1991. The ordinance contains criteria for evaluating landmark eligibility, reviewing exterior alterations to designated landmarks and outlines commission responsibilities such as public education. The Commission's recommendations are advisory to the Village Council. Village Background and Existing Conditions 3 - 3

• **Design Review Board (DRB).** Formed in 1967 as the Architecture and Environment Board/Sign Board of Appeals, the Board's name was changed in 1981. This 7-person board reviews plans for new construction and renovation of commercial, multiple-family and institutional buildings in order to encourage design excellence and to maintain the character of the Village. Proposals that meet the criteria described in the ordinance are issued a certificate of appropriateness. Members of the DRB also serve on the Sign Board of Appeals, which evaluates whether proposed commercial or public signs meet Village ordinance criteria.

• **Forestry Commission.** This 7-member board, first appointed in 1992, reviews applications for removal of trees that are greater than ten inches in diameter and develops the strategy for Village reforestation, assuring adequate species diversity.

• **Building Review Committee.** Formed in 1989, this 3-member committee reviews demolition permits for buildings or houses. The Committee can delay the issuance of a demolition permit for up to 90 days if it determines that the property has historical or architectural significance and that additional time may allow for exploration of alternatives to demolition.

Relevant Sections

CHAPTER II: VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Village Character and Appearance:

- Preserve and enhance those public assets, public lands, natural resources and architecturally significant structures that create the attractive appearance and peaceful, single-family residential character of the Village.

Residential Areas:

- Preserve a high-quality residential community.
- Encourage a range of housing types and sizes to meet the needs of residents of all ages.

Local Government:

- Plan for and provide appropriate government facilities and services that will accommodate the needs of the Village.
- Encourage a high degree of citizen concern for and participation in local government.

Educational and Community Institutions:

- Support educational excellence and the enrichment of Winnetka's religious and cultural environment.

Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Environment:

- Preserve or expand the quantity, quality and distribution of open space and recreational opportunities.
- Protect the Village's natural features and environmental resources.

Transportation:

- Provide for safe pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular movement consistent with the scale and peaceful character of the Village.

2.3 VILLAGE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE

Goal:

Preserve and enhance those public assets, public lands, natural resources and architecturally significant structures that create the attractive appearance and peaceful, single-family residential character of the Village.

Objectives:

1. Ensure that commercial, institutional and residential development is appropriate to the character of and minimizes the adverse impact on its surrounding neighborhood.
2. Place overhead utility lines underground along major streets: Willow, Sheridan, Green Bay, Hibbard, Winnetka/Hill, Elm and Tower by 2010. Place other utilitylines underground, beginning with parks and open spaces, after the major streets are completed.
3. Recognize the critical role of the Village's historic architecture in defining Winnetka's unique character in public, institutional, commercial and residential areas and encourage its preservation.
4. Require the screening and buffering of off-street parking lots while considering the safety of pedestrians and motorists.
5. Continue to implement and supplement the Village's tree planting program on all public rights-of-way. Encourage tree planting on private property.
6. Encourage landscaping of public and private properties that complements and enhances the mature character of existing plantings and provides a buffer as an alternative to walls and fences.
7. Encourage organizations, schools, religious institutions, businesses and citizens in their efforts to beautify the Village.
8. Strictly enforce the Village's sign regulations and minimize the number of regulatory signs.
9. Encourage and cooperate with METRA to improve the appearance and function of the three train stations in the Village and to improve the appearance of the railroad right-of-way.
10. Encourage and cooperate with PACE to improve the appearance, safety and function of bus stop shelters.
11. Reduce and control light pollution, preserving property rights for natural light and controlling the use and location of artificial lighting.
12. Reduce and control noise pollution.
13. Use high quality design and materials when constructing public improvements. Enhance the beauty of the improvements with appropriate decorative details, artwork or sculpture.

2.7 PARKS, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Goal:

Preserve or expand the quantity, quality and distribution of open space and recreational opportunities. Protect our natural features and environmental resources.

Objectives

1. Increase the amount of property that is designated as public or private open space to preserve the [natural] character of the community.
2. Provide, where possible, open space (public, semi-public or private) between low density and higher-density land uses.
3. Preserve and enhance natural features such as ravines, woodlands, bluffs, beaches and the Lake Michigan shoreline.
4. Preserve significant trees and encourage new tree planting on public and private properties to the greatest extent possible.
5. Support the development of recreational facilities to meet the needs of residents of all ages.
6. Engage in a public process that balances institutional goals and minimizes any adverse impact to the character of the adjacent residential neighborhood.
7. Encourage the Cook County Forest Preserve District to improve the natural appearance of the public right-of-way and the property adjacent to Willow Road, Forest Way and Tower Road, west of Forest Way.
8. Foster greater cooperation among all institutions--private and public--in the joint use of their recreational facilities.
9. Encourage the preservation of open space inside and outside the Village.

- 2.9 Growth Map.

CHAPTER III: VILLAGE BACKGROUND AND EXISTING CONDITIONS:

3.5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Winnetkans have a high regard for the natural beauty of their community. Its location along the lake, its quantity of green space and the predominance of mature trees attract people to the Village. Early Village plans advised maintaining the "rural nature" of the community, but the implementation of one-sixth acre zoning lots in most of the Village in the 1920's created a semi-urban character. Nevertheless, maintaining the natural features of the Village for the enjoyment of future generations remains a high priority.

3.5.1 Lake Michigan Bluff and Ravines

The Lake Michigan bluffs and the ravines leading to the lake are important features of the Village, providing pleasant wooded areas and affording beautiful views of the lake. Bluffs and ravines are fragile ecological resources that must be properly managed. Building too close to the edge of a bluff or ravine can weaken it, possibly leading to collapse and affecting neighboring properties. Failure to maintain proper plantings on the slope can lead to erosion. Lake Michigan bluffs, if not properly protected from waves and high water, can be severely eroded by the lake. The bluff line is shown on Map 3, *Public, Semi-Public and Open Space*.

3.5.3 Trees

Trees have always been a focus of passion and attention in the Village. During early settlement, the area was covered with a dense growth of trees, mostly oaks, which were cut down to build houses and supply

firewood. In the 1850's Charles Peck, often referred to as the Village's founder, planted so many trees around his house at Maple and Elm Streets that the property became known as an arboretum. The Village's charter, granted in 1869, has a special section requiring the planting of shade trees along the streets and the ability to punish the unauthorized cutting of shade trees. Dutch elm disease has wiped out many beautiful trees on the parkways and on private property; the Village works actively to protect the remaining inventory of elms. The survey that accompanied the updating of this Plan identified trees as the most popular feature of the Village. Winnetka residents continue to feel strongly that the Village's trees and the natural look they provide should be preserved. Aerial photos document the density of the tree cover.

As the yards in the R-5 and R-4 districts are relatively small, each tree on a property makes a difference to the character of the neighborhood, providing shade and softening the line of house facades. Parkway trees along the street have a similar impact.

Street tree planting program: The perception of abundant green space is enhanced by the Village's program to plant trees on public property. The program evolved from a cost-sharing partnership with residents interested in parkway trees into a systematic plan with 250 or more trees planted annually.

Goals of the program include:

- filling all tree voids along the parkways over time,
- maintaining a master tree list,
- selecting those species most tolerant of the unnatural urban environment, including trees that can tolerate salt and are compatible with utility wires where needed,
- spacing trees to minimize root zone competition,
- minimizing vulnerability of street trees to disease or insect infestation by limiting any species to no more than 10% of the total inventory and
- planting more trees than are removed annually.

Tree protection ordinance: The Village requires approval for removal of all trees over 10 inches in diameter and replacement is required for any healthy tree taken down. Specific regulations govern protection of trees on construction sites, which are monitored by the Village Forester.

From 3.7.3:

Impermeable surfaces: In an effort to reduce potential overland runoff and limit the volume of the initial rush of storm water, the Winnetka Zoning ordinance contains maximum lot coverage provisions that apply to buildings, roofed areas and other impermeable surfaces. In addition, the Village Code places strict requirements upon drainage and control of surface water runoff generated by development, including retention areas for lots in the flood plain.

CHAPTER IV: ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The Plan provides the basis for managing change while preserving and enhancing the traditional character of the Village over the next 20 years. The Village has been nearly fully developed for the last 50 years. Its roads, physical infrastructure and institutions have limited expansion capacity, thus any redevelopment

must not significantly increase existing land use intensities. Since its streets were constructed when the automobile was a much less dominant part of society, the streets and the quantity of pavement do not overwhelm the environment. This Chapter discusses issues, provides direction and recommendations that apply primarily to the Village's residential neighborhoods and locations outside the Green Bay Corridor...

4.3 LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Village should retain the spirit the 1921 Plan of Winnetka. The Village intends to enhance its high quality single-family residence community by maintaining its traditional residential density patterns, retaining the current borders of multiple-family and commercial zoning districts, lowering permitted density in multiple-family districts, limiting the scale of new development and renovations, preserving existing mature trees and requiring appropriate new landscaping.

[Note: Various land use recommendations are articulated starting on Page 60 of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. While too numerous and diffuse to mention here, they are worth a review in formulating a policy for the inclusion of environmental impact language overall. The following is included as an example.]

Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances regulating bulk and density:

The Village has made comprehensive changes to the residential portions of its Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to reflect the community's desire for up-to-date, well maintained housing that blends with the historic scale and character of the neighborhood. However, Winnetka's efforts to control overbuilding in a fully developed community require a new generation of zoning regulation that is just emerging. The full array and impact of regulations designed to retain the character of older communities has not yet fully evolved.

- Ensure that the zoning and subdivision regulations fulfill the goals and objectives outlined in Chapter Two.
- Monitor the impact of the zoning and subdivision regulations to ensure they control overbuilding without causing unintended architectural design or causing improvements in existing Winnetka housing stock to be uneconomical.
- Assess the impact of the new ordinances on encouraging renovation or rehabilitation over new construction.
- Keep abreast of zoning innovations in similar communities across the country.

4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

4.5.1 Lake Michigan Bluffs and Ravines

Erosion: Maintaining the integrity of bluffs and ravines is important for individual property owners and for the stability of neighboring properties.

- Review the zoning code periodically to ensure that state-of-the-art bluff and ravine management standards are being met.

• View sheds
• Sunlight access

Subdivision: Many riparian and ravine lots in Winnetka appear to have sufficient acreage for subdivision. However, many lots do not have adequate tableland for building, particularly considering the need for bluff stability. This reduces the possibilities for subdivision.

- Review standards for subdivision to ensure that adequate consideration is given to bluff and ravine stability.

4.5.3 Trees

Nurturing the mature tree canopy and planting trees are crucial to maintaining the Village's natural setting, particularly as a large portion of the trees on public property reach maturity.

- Support the efforts of the Village's Forestry Commission and the Village Forester.
- Strengthen the Tree Enhancement and Preservation Ordinance that regulates the planting, protection and removal of trees on public and private property.
- Support the parkway tree planting program.

4.6 TRANSPORTATION

Increase in regional traffic: The traditional traffic patterns and volumes in Winnetka have changed in recent years, particularly as regional traffic seeking to avoid back-ups on the Edens Expressway (Interstate 94) cuts through the Village. The cut-through traffic uses Tower, Hibbard and Willow Roads to get to Green Bay Road or Sheridan Road. This has a serious impact because, other than Green Bay Road, all of Winnetka's primary roadways are residential streets designed to carry local, not regional, traffic. East-bound Tower Road and Green Bay Road in Hubbard Woods experience significant back-ups during evening rush hour.

- Work with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Northwest Municipal Conference, the Cook County Department of Transportation and other regional groups to alleviate congestion on regional highways.
- Work with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Village of Northfield to provide a traffic signal at the intersection of Willow Road and Forest Way.
- Assess the impact of proposed changes in regional routes outside Winnetka as to the likelihood of additional traffic being funneled into the Village's residential primary roadways.
- Study traffic calming techniques.

Increase in local traffic: Winnetka's character is partly defined by convenient pedestrian access to most parts of the Village. To maintain this quality of life, alternatives to automobile use for short trips should be encouraged.

- Encourage schools to work with students and families to reduce auto use.
- * • Complete a pedestrian and bicycle network to ensure safe and convenient access throughout the Village.
- Encourage residents to take advantage of the "walk-to" businesses and services the community offers.
- Encourage the Park and School Districts to make their facilities safe and accessible for children and adults on bike or foot.

Truck traffic: Truck noise and pollution disturb the quiet ambience of residential and commercial neighborhoods.

- Review the truck routing system and take appropriate steps to reduce truck traffic in residential neighborhoods.
- Investigate ways of preventing regional truck traffic from travelling through Winnetka.