



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

October 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Winnetka Village Hall Council Chambers - 510
Green Bay Road

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction & Chair's Remarks**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Approval of the September 21, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes
- 4. New Business / Old Business Updates**
 - a. Accountability: Leaf-blower Ordinance
 - b. Working Projects: Energy future discussion
 - c. Sustainable Materials Management
 - Composting Program Update
 - LRS Attendance at November 9, 2022 Meeting
- 5. Communications**
 - a. Approval of November Communication Items
 - b. Discussion of December Communication Items
 - c. Discussion of Additional Proposed Communications Content
- 6. Committee/Staff Reports**
- 7. Open Forum**
- 8. Adjournment**

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
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 21, 2022

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, September 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.; Voting Members present: Commissioners Charles Dowding, David Varca, Rosann Park-Jones, Ted Wynnynchenko, Liz Kunkle, and Patrick Hanley. Voting Members absent: none. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative absent: Andrew Cripe. Student Representatives Present: Scarlett Harper and Marcus Buccellato. Staff Liaison present: Diana Puga, Public Works Analyst. Public present: none.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members. Staff Representative Puga took roll call for attendance. Chairperson Dowding announced his retirement as Chairperson of the EFC and introduced Commissioner Patrick Hanley as the incoming EFC Chairperson.

2) Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes:

a) Approval of the August Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Wynnynchenko made a motion to approve the August 10, 2022, minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kunkle.

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

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

a) Sustainable Materials Management

Commissioner Kunkle requested an update on how the residential composting programs being hosted at different schools have been going. Staff liaison Puga advised the programs were being well received and doing well, with Hubbard Woods school experiencing overflow. Further advised Village staff was working with Hubbard Woods to address and mitigate the overflow.

Commissioner Kunkle shared that several residents, herself included, had not received any notice or postcard providing composting information to residents. Staff Liaison Puga advised that Village staff was not aware of this and would follow up with Communications Manager Josie Clark.

The Commissioners requested **an informational item** regarding the residential composting program be included in the e-newsletter as space in the newsletter allows.

Commissioner Kunkle also inquired about reporting for totals collected at the composting sites; Staff liaison Puga advised she would confirm with Assistant Public Works Director Erik Jensen.

b) Scope of EFC Activities

The Commissioners discussed implementing accountability markers to track progress as they work on projects, appointing a point of contact for each project, implementing a project calendar for better project planning and management. The Commissioners also discussed reviewing minutes prior to the meeting for efficiency.

5) **Communications:**

a) Approval of the October Communication Items

The Commissioners reviewed the October Communication Items which included Pumpkin Composting and Leaf Collection, including potentially advocating for the elimination of the leaf collection program as a subsidized service and encouraging/educating residents on composting leaves. In the interim, the Commissioners will consider including an **informational item on mulching** leaves as an alternative to collection. **There being no further discussion, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion which was moved by Commissioner Hanley and seconded by Commissioner Wynnychenko.**

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

b) Discussion of the November Communication Items

The Commissioners reviewed the November Communication Items which included Holiday Lights Recycling, America Recycles Day, Battery Recycling, Plastic Bag, Film, and Wrap Recycling, Textile Recycling, and the Use of Natural Light During Winter. The Commissioners discussed including polysterene recycling reminders, the use of natural versus artificial light, composting around the holidays, and advertising Commission meetings and special guest speakers in the weekly e-newsletter.

6) **Commission/Staff Reports:**

The Commissioners discussed the Go Green Winnetka Solar Tour, a tour of homes with solar panels in Winnetka from 10 am - 2 pm on Sat. Sept. 24. This Tour is a subset of the statewide solar tour hosted by the Illinois Solar Energy Association on the same day.

7) **Open Forum:**

No reports.

8) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Wynnichenko and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



THE VILLAGE OF
Winnetka

LEAF BLOWER STUDY SESSION



LEAF BLOWER STUDY SESSION

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- Regional working group established January 2022.
- Purpose: to prepare a report on leaf blower regulations and possible impacts of those regulations for the consideration of each community.
- Basis for the study: concerns about noise and environmental impact.
- Participating communities include Deerfield, Glencoe, Glenview, Kenilworth, Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Lincolnshire, Northbrook, Wilmette, and Winnetka.
- Members of the group include: staff, elected officials, appointed officials, and landscape professionals.



- Subcommittees were established to study the following topics:
 - Existing regulations of other area municipalities and best practices.
 - Impact of gasoline powered leaf blowers.
 - Alternative equipment.



Next Steps

- **October 31, 2022:** Draft report to be provided to each city/village manager.
- **November 15, 2022:** Deadline for comments and questions from the Village managers.
- **December 15, 2022:** Final report submitted to city/village managers.
- Village managers will work with their respective corporate authorities to present the information in this report to their communities.



November 2022 EFC Communications Content

1. **Holiday Lights Recycling**

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, 7:30 am through 4:00 pm. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568.

2. **America Recycles Day is November 15, 2022**

E-Winnetka Newsletter

This year, America Recycles Day is Tuesday, November 15, 2022. 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. **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.

4. 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

5. Environmental and Forestry Commission 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.

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

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 2022 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 **TBD through TBD**. After TBD, a 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 **TBD**. Category winners will be announced on Earth Day (**April 22, 2022**). If you have any questions about the program, contact **TBD**.

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 7:30 AM – 4:00 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

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.

Leave the Leaves!

You may think of fallen leaves as lawn litter that should be removed. If so - it's time for some new thinking! Fallen leaves enhance wildlife habitat by providing food, shelter, and nesting material, form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds, and fertilize the soil as they break down. Leaving the leaves has a positive effect on human and environmental health by supporting biodiversity, improving soil health and water quality, and reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

Consider Leaving the Leaves -- and the Leaf Blowers -- Behind!

Removing leaves often involves intensive yard equipment, such as gas-powered leaf blowers, as well as trucks to haul away leaves. Gas-powered leaf blowers emit exceedingly high levels of pollutants, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, are linked to a number of serious diseases, and can cause hearing loss. Gas-powered leaf blowers are allowed in the Village after Oct. 1, but consider raking or leaving your leaves instead of blowing them away. Leaving the leaves reduces your eco-footprint, saves money, and equitably improves our collective health and air quality.

What to Do With Leaves Instead of Blow Them Away?

There are so many options!

- Create compost! Combine equal parts fallen leaves ("brown material") with food waste and grass clippings ("green material") and mix well for nutrient-rich compost to use next spring.
- Create a natural lawn mulch by cutting leaves into small pieces, so they fall into the grass canopy instead of resting upon it, and allows for faster decomposition and nutrient absorption.
- Use as mulch and winter ground cover for gardens and around shrubs and trees. Pile shredded leaves on top of an annual garden or around perennial plants and shrubs, which helps insulate and protect plants from winter freeze damage. Till the leaves into garden beds in the spring.
- Build a brush shelter using leaves, branches, sticks and stems for overwintering native wildlife.

Want to Start Backyard Composting?

Composting is nature's way of recycling food and other organic waste – and composting what you can in your yard uses the fewest resources to convert that waste into a healthy soil amendment called compost. Everything that was once alive may be composted. The magic that is compost rests on two main ingredients: carbon-rich material and nitrogen-rich material. The carbon camp is often referred to as "browns," because it includes things like dried leaves, dried grass clippings, cardboard, and straw. Nitrogen-rich "greens" include fresh leaves, fresh grass clippings, and food waste. You generally want two to four times as much brown or carbon-rich material as you have green or nitrogen-rich material.

Start small and be patient. A covered bin or tumbler works best to help keep animals out and temperatures up. Select a dry, shady, or partly shady spot for your bin. For every measure of food waste material (nitrogen/green) you put in your bin, add double or more that measure of landscape material (carbon/brown). It can be hard to find this much carbon material in your yard. Consider using peat moss as your carbon/brown material, which is readily available at local retailers and very inexpensive.

Want to Start Using One of Winnetka's Compost Services?

Did you know the Village of Winnetka is facilitating more options for residents (and businesses!) to reduce their food waste and compost that food waste instead of sending it to landfill?

Collective Resource Compost and WasteNot Compost offer container-swap services (5-gallon buckets or 32-gallon carts) to residents for a fee, while Lakeshore Recycling Services offers free drop-off sites to residents at locations throughout the Village. Winnetka businesses and institutions may also utilize cart-based services offered by all three vendors for a fee.

ALL food waste may be collected through commercial composting, resulting in much greater waste diversion than on-site or backyard composting. Food waste (meat, dairy, bones), food-contaminated 100% paper and cardboard (greasy pizza boxes!), compostable take-out containers, and other organic materials are collected and hauled to a composting facility. There it is mixed with landscape waste, which allows the waste to decompose aerobically and properly, and the resulting finished compost is sold commercially.

To start, choose a container to collect your food waste indoors. The most common options are a 1-gallon ceramic bin, a 1.3-gallon stainless steel bin, and a 1.75-gallon plastic bin. Then choose where you want to keep your container, for example, on or under a counter. Finally, choose your service – container swap provider that comes to your house or the more “DIY” version where you take your scraps to a drop off site in the Village. You have choices!

A Smashed Pumpkin Is Better Than a Rotted One

You may know watermelons are mostly water (it's in the name!). Did you also know pumpkins are mostly water (it's why they are so heavy!)? And did you know that when it comes to pumpkin production, Illinois “smashes” the competition? Leading in acreage and yield, Illinois produced 564 million pounds of ornamental (for decorating) and processing (for eating) pumpkins in 2020 – as much as the other top 5 most productive states (CA, IN, MI, TX, and VA) combined.

Before composting or smashing any pumpkins, please note - only the pumpkins themselves may be composted. Do not use or be sure to remove any non-biodegradable decorating materials such as plastic, metal, stickers, candles, etc. Once you're ready to dispose of your pumpkins in Winnetka, you have lots of options! Find one or more that are a good fit for you and your family.

- Anytime: find an out-of-the-way spot in your yard. A sunny spot speeds the process but is not required. Put one pumpkin in the sun and one in the shade and compare notes! Place your pumpkin in the spot, smash it a bit, cover it with an equal or greater amount of leaves, and let nature do its work.
- Anytime: use the regular container swap services offered by Collective Resource Compost and WasteNot Compost or one of the drop-off sites throughout the Village offered by Lakeshore Recycling Systems.
- After Halloween: Winnetka's annual Pumpkin Collection event, now called a “Smash” (although residents will not actually smash their pumpkins) will take place from 9 am to 1 pm on Wed., Nov. 2 at the Public Works building at 1390 Willow Rd.