

# Sustainability Report 2023



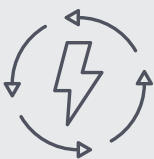
## Supporting the Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2)



CLIMATE



ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENERGY



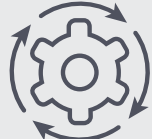
LAND



LEADERSHIP



MOBILITY



MUNICIPAL  
OPERATIONS



SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITIES



WASTE AND  
RECYCLING



LEADERSHIP



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DATE: November 30, 2023

TO: Dane Bragg, Village Manager

FROM: Brett Robinson, Administrative Services Director

RE: Sustainability Report

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For Buffalo Grove, sustainability involves a clean and healthy environment, maintaining existing infrastructure, and planning for the future in a fashion that can support and sustain a high quality of life for everyone, living working or visiting the Village of Buffalo Grove.

On March 20, 2017 the Village adopted Resolution 2017-12 a resolution supporting the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2). After discussion it was decided that the existing Environmental Plan was outdated and the GRC2 provided a framework for developing a Sustainability Plan.

In September of 2023 the stated goals of the Sustainability Plan were largely complete. Staff recommends the Plan in its current form be converted to a Sustainability Report and a new Sustainability Plan be drafted that is both broad in scope and agile in design to take advantage of sustainable or environmentally friendly projects that present themselves.

Because becoming a truly sustainable community involves more than just Village operations, this report recognizes the efforts of our entire community.

## Key to understanding this document

### GRC2 Framework Structure

The details of the Framework are organized around the 10 categories. The 10 categories are:

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Climate              | 6. Mobility                |
| 2. Economic Development | 7. Municipal Operations    |
| 3. Energy               | 8. Sustainable Communities |
| 4. Land                 | 9. Waste & Recycling       |
| 5. Leadership           | 10. Water                  |

Each category has a number of goals or objectives and each of the goals or objectives has a number of strategies to used achive those goals.

The format in this document follows the below theme.

### GRC2 - CATEGORY

### Sustainability Goal or Objective

### Strategy used to Achieve Goal

Statement of how the Village of Buffalo Grove is achieving this objective.

Link to documentation confirming above statement.



## CLIMATE

### CLIMATE

#### Maintain Clean and Healthful Air

##### Regulate Burning of Landscape Waste

The Village does not allow the burning of landscape waste per [Section 8.20.100](#).

##### Reduce Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emissions for Municipal Operations by Using Low VOC Cleaners, Paints, and Paving Practices

The Village requires seal coating to be environmentally safe and eco-friendly. The Village has banned coal tar from use as it is a perceived carcinogen and is an environmental hazard. Additionally, painting in municipal buildings is done using low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emission paints.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Establish policies to meet Illinois Dept of Public Health Indoor Air quality standards

The Village added Chapter 9.32 to the Village of Buffalo Grove Municipal Code regulating smoking and indoor air quality.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Engage the Community in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

##### Inform the Community about Air Quality Index

The Village provides a link to IQAir, which provides air quality data. Staff will review the possibility of procuring an air quality monitor to contribute to this dataset.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Promote Innovation and a Competitive Workforce

##### Encourage Green Innovation Among Residents and Local Businesses

Review and streamline permit processes to reflect the emergence of green innovation processes as well as products (i.e. solar panels) for residents and local businesses as part of the Unified Development Ordinance.

#### Cultivate Local and Sustainable Development, Jobs, and Businesses

##### Promote Local Goods and Services

Implementing the Buffalo Grove Economic Development Strategic Plan, which includes the goal to “Maintain, strengthen, and grow Buffalo Grove’s businesses and employment.”

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Create and Promote a Community Brand Featuring Natural Resources or Cultural Characteristics of Community

Public Works Staff developed a story map landing page for all the Village’s Open Natural Spaces. This map has been shared via social media as well has been the feature article in its bi-monthly newsletter.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Promote Tourism Featuring Natural and Cultural Assets of the Community

The adopted Prairie View Metra Station Area Plan looks to create a neighborhood center for both residents and visitors by drawing upon the area’s cultural history. This includes looking to retain key historic buildings, utilizing the area’s historical architecture for future development, and dedicating space to showcasing the area’s cultural history.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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### Promote the Economic Prosperity of the Community

The Village continues to successfully implement the Economic Development Strategic Plan, including but not limited to Corridor plans, enhanced building permit forms, and enhancing the housing stock.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## ENERGY

### ENERGY

#### Use Energy for Building and Facilities Efficiently

##### Conduct Energy Audits of Municipal Facilities

The Village partnered with the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) through the University of Illinois to review energy usage at Village water and sanitary pumping stations. SEDAC reviewed the Village's facilities and equipment to create an energy assessment report. Coordination began April 2022, and the report's executive summary is enclosed.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Implement Energy Efficiency Measures That Have a Short-Term Payback (I.E. Lighting, Occupancy Sensors)

The Village has already converted T-12 fixtures to the newest T-5 bulbs for energy savings and motion sensors have been installed in office areas to cut down on wasted electricity. The Village continues to look for opportunities to specify and install energy efficient systems.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Collaborate With Utilities and Other Agencies to Upgrade Streetlight Equipment and Integrate Smart Technologies

The Village continues to work with ComEd to find ways to reduce consumption of energy through streetlight upgrades. All ComEd rental lights and all residential streetlights have been converted to LED technologies.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Utilize Performance Contracts to Finance Large Energy Efficiency Projects

The Village has used performance contracting in the past to fund large energy efficiency projects such as the water meter and street light replacement projects. New projects are evaluated during procurement for eligibility for engaging an Energy Services Company (ESCO). Likely projects include lighting, solar, water, and heating and air conditioning projects.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## ENERGY

### Reduce Energy Consumption

#### Power Down Equipment When Possible

The Village has a power plan for all computer equipment that forces equipment into a sleep mode if not used for a period of time. Larger equipment such as copiers power down when not in use and use motion sensors to active when staff approach the machine.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

### Enact Policies that Support Clean Energy

#### Adopt Current Illinois Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and Report Compliance

The 2018 Illinois Energy Conservation Code has been adopted and is being enforced by the Village of Buffalo Grove.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement](#)

### Engage the Community in Clean Energy Practices

#### Promote the Use of ENERGY STAR Certified Appliances and Equipment

The Village leads by example, bids and or requests for proposals for technology equipment include specifications requiring EnergyStar or equivalent certification.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## LAND

### LAND

#### Encourage Strategic Development that Upholds Sustainability Principles

##### Reduce Sprawl by Promoting Infill Development to Reduce Adverse Impacts on Natural Resources and Infrastructure Demands

The adopted Prairie View Metra Station Area Plan looks to create infill development in a pocket of this subregion that is surrounded by more dense development. The plan ultimately looks to reduce adverse impacts on natural resources and infrastructure demands by reducing sprawl. Public Works Engineering Department reviews development plans to assure natural resources are protected and that infrastructure demands are met by following watershed development ordinances. These ordinances benefit older naturalized areas and protect new naturalized areas, as well as ensure infrastructure is properly sized.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Prioritize Redevelopment Projects and Infrastructure Investment for Transit-Served Locations

The Village prioritized the Prairie View Metra Station Area, one of the transit-served locations in the Village, by funding an in-depth study, analysis, and plan for the area to prioritize its future investment.

##### Encourage Conservation Design to Protect Natural Resources

The Village Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, and staff worked closely with developers in designing and building the Link Crossing residential development, a 50-acre conservation subdivision. The plan looked to cluster homes on smaller lots to create larger concentrations of open space and protect natural resources.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Evaluate Proposed Developments for Groundwater Levels and Water Quality.

The Village enforces the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's Watershed Management Ordinance and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's Watershed Management Ordinance which both enforce erosion control to ensure water quality and protection of groundwater in their respective counties. See attached Village Ordinance.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)





## LAND

### Conserve Restore and Enhance Natural Features and Ecosystems

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#### Guide Future Development to Conserve Natural Topography, Views, Drainage Patterns, Existing Vegetation, and Historic or Cultural Assets

The adopted Prairie View Metra Station Area Plan looks to guide development that is sensitive to the natural resources and incorporates green infrastructure. In addition, the plan focuses on integrating the area's historic and cultural assets by preserving historic buildings, recommending future development to feature the area's historical architecture, and dedicating space to showcase the area's cultural history.

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#### Monitor and Control Invasive Species in Natural Areas and Throughout the Community

The Buffalo Grove Public Works Forestry Section routinely inspects Village owned and maintained property, including open spaces, for any invasive or diseased species. The Buffalo Creek Nature Preserve management plan and adopted urban forestry plan are used as a framework for all inspection and maintenance activities. Maintenance plans are reviewed and revised as needed to remain current with best management practices and industry standards.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

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#### Manage Public and Private Landscapes to Optimize Ecosystem Services and Support Biodiversity

The Public Works Department is committed to the diversification of its urban forest, with no one more than 30% of one family, 20% of one genus, and 10% of one species represented inside Village limits. The Public Works Department is also committed to maximizing natural areas in order to create a more vibrant ecosystem inside the Village.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

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#### Protect and Restore Soil Integrity

Landscape management is completed by the Public Works Department, Operations Division, Forestry & Grounds Section. A maintenance schedule is prepared each year for the needs of the Village owned properties based on the Landscape Management Plan. All decisions related to maintenance of the facilities and properties of the Village lies with the Deputy Director of Public Works, Superintendent of Operations and the Forestry & Grounds Manager. The "Landscape Management Plan" outlines the landscape plan for the Village of Buffalo Grove. The maintenance schedule directs the Forestry & Grounds Section as to what will be completed each year. The Deputy Director of Public Works and the Superintendent of Operations directs the Forestry & Grounds Manager as to any special needs.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## LAND

### Support Networks of Accessible, Well-Used and Enjoyable Parks

#### Develop a Park and Open Space Master Plan

The Village works with the Park District to foster healthy community relationships through the over 700 acres of open space, which is utilized for recreation, sports, and festivals such as the BG Days as well as the Farmers Market.

Buffalo Grove enjoys economic stability and offers its residents a plethora of green space, parkland, trails, golf courses and more. Parks and open spaces are one of the most visible elements of the District and can instill a strong sense of pride in the residents of the community. The Park District published a master plan in 2017.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Maximize the Amount of Public Spaces and Parks Accessible to Residents

The Village adopted The Lake Cook Corridor Plan which focuses on maximizing accessible public open spaces with plans showing future central plazas, parks, golf course and/or open spaces which could be used as sensory parks, farmer's markets, and waterscapes.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## LAND

### Sustain a Robust Urban Forest Canopy

#### Develop and Implement a Management Plan to Assure a Long-Term Vitality of the Urban Forest

In 2022 the Village of Buffalo Grove Public Works Department updated the approved Urban Forestry Plan. This plan provides in detail the mission, goals, service objectives and work methods utilized to manage and maintain a professional quality municipal urban forest. The plan is reviewed as needed and adjustments are made in accordance with BMP's for arboricultural excellence. The plan includes a diverse selection of approved tree species to limit the spread of disease throughout the community and reduce the financial loss impact if that occurs. Trees are replaced/replanted in accordance with the plan to diversify the species on every street and in all portions of the community following any removal.

Vital to this Plan was the completion of the Village's tree inventory and assessment. Staff systematically reassessed all Village right of way trees inventoried as assets in the Cartegraph asset management software. Size, species, condition and work performed are all recorded for each individual tree to track the long-term health and status of the Village's urban tree canopy.

The Urban Forestry Plan guides maintenance cycles including tree trimming, inspection and assessment. The typical cycle is a 5-year inspection and trimming cycle for all Village-maintained trees. This follows industry standards for BMP's maintaining a healthy municipal urban forest.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Plant Trees to Sustain and Renew the Urban Forest

As the Village budget allows, any Village owned and maintained tree that is removed for any reason is replaced within 12 – 16 months, depending on seasonal availability of various species.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Diversify the Urban Forest for Long Term Resilience

The Village of Buffalo Grove Public Works Department has a detailed list of tree species identified as approved for healthy urban forest diversification. Tree species quantities and neighborhood saturation are considered when selecting from this approved list for replacement.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Earn Recognition for Urban Forest Stewardship as a Tree City USA

The Village of Buffalo Grove Public Works Department has been recognized and awarded as a Tree City USA community every year since 1988.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## LAND

### Harvest and Utilize High Value Wood Products from Trees that Must be Removed

In the past, the Village has utilized wood in the form of wood chips for residents and logs for local timber sawyers and millers during the removal of the Emerald Ash trees due to the problems with the Emerald Ash Borers. However, the wood chips were problematic and created compliance concerns with the Village's NPDES permit. Further, the volume of wood the Forestry section could provide is cost prohibitive.

The Public Works Department reutilizes harvested wood products as rustic amendments in parks and native areas. Mulch products, branches, and large-diameter trunk pieces are reutilized for paths, border decorations, or seating.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

### Sustain Beautiful Landscapes that Provide Ecosystem Services

#### Manage Traditional, Cultivated Landscapes Sustainably

Through the Village's Comprehensive Plan, the Village focuses on continuing to regulate the use of property with land use management strategies that focus on preserving green space, encouraging attractive and durable landscape plans, avoiding flood and drainage hazards, and maintaining high-quality water supplies and sewer services.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Increase the Quality and Amount of Sustainable Landscaping in the Community

The Village's Forestry Department has embarked on special projects throughout town to increase the quality and amount of sustainable landscaping within the community. In 2023, Forestry started work to restore the wood wetland including clearing of undesired and dead woody underbrush replacing the landscape with native and desired woodland and wetland species. Areas of grass in front of the Public Service Center and Police Station have been converted into aesthetically pleasing shaped areas of native plantings requiring minimal maintenance. More information and examples can be found on the Village's Forestry website at the link below.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Maintain Beautiful Landscapes and Streetscapes to Enhance Gateways, Business Districts and Important Public Spaces

On main thoroughfares in town that have medians, the Village plants trees and other native flora to not only beautify the area but make the roadway more sustainable by treating stormwater runoff.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## LAND

### Achieve Greater Livability Through Sustainable Land Use and Housing Policies

#### Enact and Enforce Land Use Policies That Protect Valuable Natural Assets and Support Resiliency

The Village adopted The Lake Cook Corridor Plan which focuses on balancing natural assets and infill redevelopment. The plan looks to encourage mixed-use development so to minimize trip generation and create a higher degree of livability. By protecting the natural assets such as the floodplain, the plan looks to support resiliency.

#### Collaborate with State and Federal Partners to Prepare for and Respond to Invasive Pest Threats

The Village of Buffalo Grove Urban Forestry Plan addresses disease and insect control providing employees and contractors with criteria to assist with identification and proper treatment of the pest or disease. The Performance Standards and Safe Performance Guides provides the employees with guidance to administer chemical applications in a safe and professional manner acceptable to the trade. The Urban Forestry Plan addresses disease and insect control. Random inspections are performed during trimming activities to identify pests and select a control measure. The Performance Standards and Safe Performance Guides provide the employee direction to apply the desired control safely. All employees are licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture for pesticide applications.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## LAND

### Cultivate a Conservation Ethic in the Community

#### Engage the Community in Programs and Special Events to Celebrate Nature, Such as Arbor Day and Earth Day

Each year, the Forestry Department creates a video that highlights the Village's support for Arbor Day which gets promoted through the Communications Committee. These videos may be found under the Village's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

#### Engage Community Volunteers in Land Stewardship Activities on Public and Shared Landscapes

The Village closely works with an independent consultant/resident of Buffalo Grove who focuses on land stewardship and restorations on public and shared landscapes within the Villages natural areas and a remnant prairie in the Village limits. This person engages the Board and the public and gets volunteers to maintain and protect these areas.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Educate City Staff about Forest, Wetlands and Prairie Best Management Practices

The Board and the Village Manager were addressed by the Forestry Manager in 2021 discussing the transition from Forestry to Natural Areas as a best management practice for the Village. The Board was also addressed by an independent consultant/resident of Buffalo Grove regarding what the Village may do for forest and prairie best management practices.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Encourage Beautiful, Sustainable Landscaping on Private Property

As part of the entitlement process, new developments are required to submit a landscaping plan for review by the Village to ensure that landscaping enhances the aesthetic, provides screening (if necessary), and is sustainable.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## LEADERSHIP

### LEADERSHIP

#### Enlist Support for GRC2 Goals through Regional, State and National Leadership

##### Seek Recognition for Community Sustainability Achievements

The Village was designated an EPA Green Power Partner Community for its electric aggregation program, has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, and has been recognized by National Wildlife Federation for supporting the Mayors Monarch Pledge.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Work Collaboratively Towards a Sustainable Region

##### Partner with Non-Governmental Organization to Advance Sustainability in the Community and Regionally

The Village of Buffalo Grove frequently partners with the Buffalo Grove Park District and the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team (BGEAT) on projects. BGEAT is involved in the review of this Sustainability Plan.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## MOBILITY

### MOBILITY

#### Support Safe and Effective Active Transportation

##### Identify Gaps in Pedestrian and the Bicycle Networks and Barriers to Active Modes of Travel

In 2022, the Village contracted with a consultant to identify gaps and assess condition within the Village's pedestrian and bicycle networks. This study encompassed all paths in town and served to identify barriers to active modes of travel and plan for improvements. Recommendations for improving connectivity and maintenance activities will be reviewed and implemented with each year's annual program.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Create a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to Improve Connectivity in the Community and Beyond

In 2019 the Village kicked off a Comprehensive Plan that looks to establish a vision for the community's future. The scope of work, which was amended in 2020, includes future plans for bicycle and pedestrian paths. Such plans will build off the Village's 2014 Bicycle Plan. An assessment of bicycle and pedestrian paths throughout the community was contracted for in 2022 and completed in 2023.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Collaborate with Regional Partners to Connect On-And Off-Road Bicycle Facilities with Existing and Planned Regional Trail Networks

The Village of Buffalo Grove collaborates with surrounding communities, Buffalo Park District and the Northwest Municipal Conference to recommend and collaborate on existing and planned bikeways. Buffalo Grove has held workshops, created our own bike plan and participated in the Northwest Municipal Conference Bike Plan. An assessment of bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the community was contracted for in 2022 and completed in 2023.

##### Provide Bicycle Parking at Municipal Facilities, Business Districts and Transit Stations and in Neighborhoods

Bicycle parking is currently available at all Village Municipal buildings. An assessment of bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the community was completed in 2023.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)





## MOBILITY

### Maintain a Diverse, Safe and Efficient Transportation Network

#### Maintain Streets and Sidewalks for Efficiency and Safety without Harming Natural Resources

The Village's Snow and Ice Management Plan discusses industry best practice standards for salt level application, with the Village ensuring that the salt is pre-wet to minimize bouncing of the salt beyond the street. When it's weather permissive, the Village will conduct street sweeping to clean up any salt residual. Snow equipment is calibrated beyond what is considered best management practices to ensure staff can concisely distribute salt at the recommended levels.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Maintain Efficient Traffic Flow Within and Around the Community

The Village partners with State and County Transportation Departments to improve regional roads as necessary. This reduces traffic backups on regional, arterial and collector roads which in turn reduces cut through traffic on Village roads.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Incorporate Sustainable Roadways into Capital Improvement Planning, Proactively Plan for Major Transportation Infrastructure Improvements

The Village is embarking on a program where we model current Village owned and maintained roadways through pavement scanning, condition rating, and proper application of rehabilitation techniques to extend a roadway's life cycle. The Village is working towards utilizing its asset management software Overall Condition Index and Scenario Builder functions to ensure the most sustainable and cost-effective maintenance of our roadways.

#### Collaborate to Provide Alternative Fuel Infrastructure at Public Sites

The Village installed electric vehicle charging stations at the Arboretum Golf Course. As funding allows other sites will be reviewed for possible improvements.

#### Incorporate Trees and Other Green Infrastructure Elements Into Roadway Design and Maintenance for Functionality and Aesthetics

On all main arterial streets throughout Buffalo Grove, the Village has incorporated landscaped medians with native plantings and trees to beautify the Village roadways, reduce the amount of maintenance, and help clean stormwater runoff before it reaches waterways. These roads include Buffalo Grove Road, Weiland Road, and Lake Cook Road.



## MOBILITY

### Support Efficient Transportation That Uses Resources Wisely

#### Strategically Manage Parking Policies and Priorities to Advance Sustainability

The Village Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, and staff worked closely with developers in designing and building the Link Crossing residential development, a 50-acre subdivision. The plan accommodates parking via alleys and guest lots but prioritizes the pedestrian through pedestrian-oriented housing and street design.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Create Safe Routes to School

The Village of Buffalo Grove looks to limit and remove obstacles which might discourage non-motorized travel along school routes. These include reviewing sidewalk and multi-use path gaps (as in the case of the 2021 Ivy Hall Park sidewalk installation), improving apparent safety concerns (as in the Arlington Heights Road pedestrian crossing relocation at Buffalo Grove High School), or working with the schools to supply adult crossing guards at seven locations. These projects and programs are in line with the national Safe Routes to School initiatives. Infrastructure improvements generally occur as funding opportunities align with Village-identified goals.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## MOBILITY

### Promote Public and Sustainable Transportation Choices

#### Collaborate to Maintain and Enhance Transit Facilities

The Village works with transit agencies such as Metra and Pace Bus to enhance and maintain the local transit facilities. In 2023, the Village permitted Pace/Metra installation of vehicle charging facilities at their station in Buffalo Grove. See attached budget document highlighting the improvement work at the Buffalo Grove Metra/Pace Bus Station.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Collaborate to Expand Regional Transit Capacity and Improve Service

The Village is engaged in a project with other communities along the North Central Service Line to collaboratively explore potential partnerships and innovative funding strategies to improve the NCS service. The study is funded by a grant through the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Expand Local Transit Connections to Meet Identified Needs

The Village works with local groups to expand local transit connections and created an ad hoc bicycle and pedestrian committee staffed by local community members and created a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the Village. An assessment of bicycle and pedestrian facilities as they relate to transit throughout the community was contracted for in 2022 and completed in 2023.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Collaborate to Provide Multi-Modal Transportation Options to Resolve the First and Last Mile Barrier

The Village works closely with Lake County Partners (the economic development entity of Lake County) and the businesses in the industrial corridor to collaborate on first and last mile connections with the Buffalo Grove Metra Train Station (NCS line) and other neighboring train stations. For example, over the past few years, Buffalo Grove, Lake County Partners, and Flex have worked through work-shift analyses and shuttles options to help utilize transit options and close the “last mile gap.”

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Encourage Residents and Visitors to Walk and Bike

On “bike to work day” the Village encourages bicycling to work, errands or other destinations. Staff work with local school districts to observe national bike to school day in early May. The Village promotes Buffalo Grove as a bicycle friendly community.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## MOBILITY

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### Educate the Community on the Negative Impacts of Car Idling

The Village website contains information and a link to educational materials regarding the negative impacts of car idling. Additionally, the Village promotes being idle-free ahead of the cold months through our social media outlets.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

### Encourage Active Transportation and Community Building in an Open Streets Event

The Bike Rodeo is a community event for children ages 5-12 to test their bike skills. The Police Department oversees an obstacle course which includes stopping maneuvers, slalom courses, and more! Prizes are awarded, along with a bike giveaway and goodie bags for children who participate. This event also encourages residents to use active transportation and biking.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

### MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

#### Lead by Demonstrating Sustainable Values and Practices

##### Formalize Sustainability Goals and Plans

The Village's Sustainability Committee consisting of members from various departments of the organization meets regularly throughout the year with a focus on ensuring the Village is reporting the goals and objectives outlined in the Village's Sustainability Plan

#### Integrate Sustainability into all Municipal Operations

##### Adopt an Environmental Purchasing Policy

This Village originally adopted an environmentally preferable purchasing policy as part of the revised Procurement Policy on December 4, 2017 (Resolution 2017-34).

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Extend Useful Life of Physical Assets

Inspection of all assets will be conducted on a regular basis in order to identify needed repairs and evaluate the condition of the building and its components. A form documenting the inspection and findings should be completed and filed. Some deficiencies may need to be programmed into a capital improvement plan (CIP) based on the cost of repairs or replacement control. The inspection report can serve as a work order system to track repairs.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

### Operate a Safe, Clean and Efficient Fleet

#### Operate a Safe, Clean and Efficient Fleet

The Village of Buffalo Grove Fleet Services section maintains detailed records for all municipal vehicles and equipment and tracks all costs associated with each. Preventative maintenance schedules have been adopted and are completed consistent with the best practices for fleet maintenance and industry standards. Detailed tracking of all costs provides current and historical data to evaluate the performance, condition and life expectancy of vehicles and equipment and provides benchmarks for scheduling replacements.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Conduct Baseline Fleet Analysis

The Village of Buffalo Grove Public Works Department is currently working to procure software which will allow staff to conduct a baseline fleet analysis. We anticipate the software will be purchased in 2023 allowing for a proper analysis to be completed by the end of 2024.



## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

#### Promote Cultural Vibrancy in the Community

##### Formalize Support for Culture and the Arts

The Village of Buffalo Grove budgets funds annually to support a symphonic band. The Buffalo Grove Symphonic Band is an integral part of Buffalo Grove's extensive promotion of the arts, along with other non-instrumental music groups, drama productions, and arts events that occur regularly throughout the year. In its 16-year history, it has grown into one of the premiere community bands in northern Illinois.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Foster a Culture of Health, Safety and Wellness

##### Create a Community that is Resilient and Well-Prepared for Disaster

The Village maintains and annually updates a number of plans that seek to maximize the number of saved lives in the event of a disaster, minimize injuries, protect property, preserve the functioning of government, and maintain, support, and allow for the resumption of economic activities. While many of these plans are confidential due to the sensitive nature of the information contained within the documents, these plans are regularly updated and maintained to reflect changing circumstances. The Village also operates a Community Emergency Response Team that trains volunteers to aid in the case of an emergency.

The police department has an established Critical Incident Plan, which is reviewed and updated annually. Police personnel actively train with the plan and incorporate the Incident Command System in the training. Review of the plan includes threat assessments involving public notification and safety awareness, mutual aid, responses to imminent danger, public sheltering, containment of incidents and police training needs. The Critical Incident Plan is a confidential document for police personnel use only.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

### Increase Access to Sustainably Grown Local Food

#### Incorporate Local and Healthy Options into Public Food-Service Procurement and Events

The Village of Buffalo Grove has a Farmers Market Committee, which hosts a Farmers Market on Sundays from Mid-June to Mid-October. The Farmers Market includes vendors that provide a variety of food goods many of which are both locally sourced and provide healthy options.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

### Sustain Community Principles That Are Welcoming, Inclusive and Equitable

#### Promote Diversity of Housing Stock Accessible to Diverse Residents

The Village promotes a diversity of housing stock in the Prairie View Metra Station Area Plan. This plan includes multi-modal accessible neighborhoods with multi-family, townhomes, as well as single-family detached units. The Village approved the Prairie View Metra Station Area Plan as a component and update to the Comprehensive Plan in April 2019. In addition, the Village has continued to work on the

[Prairie View Metra Station Area Plan.](#)

#### Distribute Public Services and Resources Equitably in the Community

The Village of Buffalo Grove is a member of the International City Managers Association. One this organization's ideals is "Advocate equitable regulation and service delivery, recognizing that needs and expectations for public services may vary throughout the community." As a member the village strives to be mindful and deliberate in the equitable distribution of resources in the community.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)





## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

### Cultivate Community Values Based on Principles of Sustainability

Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using existing municipal communication outlets

The village highlighted its [open space story map landing page](#) as the featured article in its July/August Village Newsletter. This page details many of the Public Works Department's sustainability initiatives.

Use Community Festivals, Lectures, Workshops and Other Events To Share Information About Sustainability & Distribute Sustainability Information and Resources Provided By Other Allied Organizations and Government Agencies

The Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team (EAT) hosts an annual Green Fair which is located adjacent to the Framers Market event. The EAT educates Farmers Market shoppers about home energy savings, water conservation, native plants, recycling, and solar energy through demonstrations, activities, and crafts.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

Engage Residents in Sustainability Initiatives through an Environmentally-Focused Citizen Advisory Group

The Environmental Action Team of Buffalo Grove strives to raise awareness, improve our community's natural environment, and encourage sustainability practices for present and future generations.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

Host Environmentally Focused Event(s)

The Village's Farmers Market Committee hosts a Farmers Market on Sundays from Mid-June to Mid-October with a focus of bringing locally grown products to the community.

The Environmental Action Team (EAT) consists of a group of volunteers from the community who host an annual Green Fair in which attendees learn about water conservation, native plants, home energy savings, recycling, and solar energy through demonstrations and workshops.

The Village hosts Electronics Recycling and Document Destruction Events that allow residents to recycle electronics and computers as well as destroy any sensitive documents such as bank statements, tax forms, and medical records.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

Encourage Residents and Businesses to Contribute Their Time and Resources to Sustain the Community

The Village developed the Community Events Committee to gather a pool of community volunteers to serve in varying capacities related to special events. Volunteers are called upon to help with the planning, visioning and execution of events in Buffalo Grove. Those interested in volunteering can complete an application online [here](#).



## WASTE & RECYCLING

### WASTE & RECYCLING

#### Support Sustainable Material Management

##### Promote and Practice Waste Reduction & Recycling in Municipal Operations

The Village of Buffalo Grove provides recycling receptacles for all offices and common spaces. Recycling materials are sorted and disposed of by contractual cleaning staff. The Village organizes and collects seasonal holiday lights through an annual recycling program. Public Works sorts and recycles steel and other types of metal.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Support Exchange of Goods and Services Among Residents (i.e. Rummage Sale, Sporting Goods Swap)

The Village maintains friendly policies for Rummage or Garage Sales. Residents are not required to get a permit for a garage sale and sales are allowed for up to three consecutive days. Garage Sales are allowed from 9:00 am to sunset each day.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Recycle Materials Across All Sectors

##### Provide Recycling for Residents

The Village's waste hauler contract allows for curbside recycling. In 2019, the Village amended its contract with the waste hauler to include the new At Your Door Service (AYD). This service allows residents to schedule a convenient pick-up for hazardous and difficult-to-recycle materials, such as electronics, televisions, paint, and chemicals.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Provide Access to Recycling Infrastructure and Services at Public Places

Buffalo Grove is one of the 23 member communities that are served by SWANCC (Solid waste Agency of Northern Cook County), a nonprofit intergovernmental agency that provides periodic recycling events to its member communities. The recycling collection events are held in public places at various member communities throughout the year. Buffalo Grove residents can participate in any SWANCC event.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## WASTE & RECYCLING

### Divert Waste from Landfills

Collaborate to Provide Recycling Service for Items Not Suitable for Curbside Pickup  
e.g. Clothing, Batteries, Christmas Trees and Lights

Effective May 1, 2019, the Village's contract renewal with Waste Management included a new service-At Your Door Service (AYD). The new AYD Program allows residents to schedule a convenient pick-up for hazardous and difficult-to-recycle materials, such as televisions, electronics, chemicals, and paint.

The Village is a member community of The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). SWANCC provides member residents with a variety of waste reduction and recycling services, resource materials and programs. These include collections for items not suitable for curbside pickup due to toxicity or recoverability.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

### Enact Policies That Cause Sustainable Material Management

Engage With Solid Waste Agencies to Manage Waste Sustainably

Buffalo Grove is one of the 23 member communities that are served by SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County), a nonprofit intergovernmental agency that provides solid waste management services, programs, and resource materials member communities. This includes recycling collection events, which are held at various member communities throughout the year.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

### Engage the Community in Waste Reduction and Recycling

Educate the Community to Reduce Waste by Consuming Less and Reusing

The Village participates in the Waste Management At Your Door Program which is designed to educate and assist residents with the proper disposal of potentially harmful items.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

Discourage Fly Dumping and Littering

This practice is banned in section 8.20.100 of the Buffalo Grove Municipal Code.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## WASTE & RECYCLING

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### Engage Community Volunteers in Recycling Education and Events

The Village engages the Environmental Action Team (EAT) to assist with the Document Destruction and Electronics Recycling events. EAT is a group of Buffalo Grove volunteers with a mission to improve the community's natural environment, encourage sustainability, and raise awareness.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement](#)



## WATER

### WATER

#### Use and Distribute Water Efficiently

##### Reduce Community Water Consumption per Capita

The Village of Buffalo Grove maintains a water conservation program annually between the months of May through September to limit daily consumption. Residents are limited to “odd/even” watering days based on their street address for all landscaping surrounding the home. The Water Section has installed twelve (12) flow meters throughout the system that provides five (5) zones of monitoring to catch and correct any service leaks as quickly as possible. Flow is monitored and alarms are raised when flow in one of the zones is outside normal flow rates.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

##### Become a US EPA WaterSense Partner

In March 2011 the Village of Buffalo Grove became a US EPA WaterSense Partner. The Village recently updated its [code](#) to require WaterSense products on all new installed plumbing fixtures. The WaterSense Program is promoted throughout the year in the Village’s newsletter.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Protect and Improve Water Quality

##### Protect Surface and Groundwater from Runoff and Contamination

As noted in the "2022 Village of Buffalo Grove Consumer Confidence Report for Water Quality", our source water is delivered to us via the Northwest Water Commission from the City of Evanston. The City of Evanston provides the initial treatment of the surface water supply. The finished product is pumped to the Northwest Water Commission where water quality is monitored, and additional chlorine is injected if required. The final product is pumped to the Village of Buffalo Grove where chlorine levels are monitored at the water pumping stations.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## WATER

### Manage Water System Assets Sustainably

#### Operate an Efficient Water Utility That Delivers Clean, Healthful, Water

The Village of Buffalo Grove water system is equipped with chlorine monitoring equipment which continuously monitors the chlorine residual. The water system is also protected by an automated system that will activate the deep wells in the event of a low reservoir level. These systems are monitored daily by water department personnel.

#### Comprehensively and Sustainably Manage Water Infrastructure

Public Works evaluates all available records related to water main break history in the water distribution system and observes the water main condition at the time the breaks were repaired. Additionally, the evaluation methodology includes the observations of exposed water main during construction projects including water main cores that provide staff with a sample of the interior pipe structure of the distribution system. This information is reviewed when creating budget requests for the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan which help identify priority locations for future water main replacement projects. Additionally, the water fund pro forma is used by the Village Board in determining future water rates to fund the Village's water and sewer system.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Invest Water Revenues into Sustaining Water Infrastructure

The Village has developed the Infrastructure Modernization Project plan to anticipate future demand for potable water, system development needs, source protection needs, and community growth to determine future investment in capital improvements.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

### Optimize the Use of Natural and Built Systems to Manage Stormwater

#### Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program Allowing Residents to Access Flood Insurance

The Village participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and has participated in the program's Community Rating System (CRS) since October, 2021. Participation in the CRS rewards policies and programs the Village utilizes to reduce flood damage, strengthen and support insurance aspects of the NFIP, and encourage comprehensive approach to floodplain management. The current 7 rating lowers the flood insurance premiums in the Village of Buffalo Grove up to 15%

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## WATER

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### Encourage Residents and Businesses to Reduce Flood Risks on their Property

We educate our residents at our annual PW Open House and we provide educational information on our Village website. Residents are encouraged to retrofit old sewer services to bring them up to modern plumbing code with overhead sewer services. The Village has a sump pump connection program to attach sump pumps to existing Village storm sewers.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

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### Collaborate with Regional and State Agencies to Sustainably Manage Stormwater

The Village webpage has direct links to the Lake County Stormwater Commission, Buffalo Creek Clean Water Partnership, and Des Plaines Watershed Partnership, of which the Village is an active member and all three agencies are subsets under the IEPA. These agencies are concerned with water quality issues, having a heavy focus on stormwater management especially through improvements to local watersheds. The Village has also partnered with the Buffalo Grove Park District in supporting an Environmental Action Team that actively works to improve the local environment through education and participation with the public.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

## Enact Policies to Protect Water Resources

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### Conduct a Water Rate Study to Determine Sustainable Rate Structure

On November 18th, 2019, the Village Board approved recommended water & sewer rate and fixed facility fees increases based on the recently completed water/sewer rate study. Fee increases as well as bonding are components to the overall long-term infrastructure replacement plan funding strategy. Staff will present and execute details of the replacement plan over the next five years.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## WATER

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### Adopt Full-Cost Pricing Policies for Water Service

In 2012, the Village developed a 20-year Water and Sewer Fund pro-forma to evaluate the water and sewer system's infrastructure needs. This document is updated annually to reflect pricing policies for the Village's water service.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

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### Enact Codes that Protect Surface and Groundwater from Runoff and Contamination

The Village of Buffalo Grove Village Code Title 16 requires developers to reduce erosion and contamination by following the Lake County Stormwater Management Ordinance. The Village is also in charge of renewing its General NPDES Permit with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency which specifies measures taken to comply with water pollution control requirements. In addition, any new construction in Buffalo Grove requires that soil erosion and sediment control to protect water resources from runoff. Lastly, the Village requires seal coating to be environmentally safe and eco-friendly. The Village has banned coal tar from use as it is a perceived carcinogen and is an environmental hazard.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

## Practice Stewardship of Water Resources

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### Sustain Supply of High-Quality Public Water

The Village is required to submit an annual water audit form (LMO-2). The LMO-2 form details the amount of water used, sold and lost in the past water year (October - September). Adhering to the LMO-2 preserves the high-quality value of the water and prevents unnecessary water loss. Zoned water system monitoring detects increases in flow rates and alerts water staff to investigate potential loss in the system. Early detection and mitigation of leaks minimizes loss and helps sustain adequate supply for all residents.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)





## WATER

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### Ensure Drinking and Wastewater Systems are Operating Efficiently

The level and frequency of maintenance provided for the various elements of the water distribution system is preplanned, so the overall system is properly and adequately managed. Maintenance practices include installation, testing, and preventive maintenance for water meters, fire hydrants, valves, pump stations, PRVs, and pipes, as well as a program for leak detection and elimination.

All sanitary lift stations are checked weekly, and the sanitary sewer system is televised and cleaned throughout the year.

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### Participate in Watershed Planning and Stewardship Efforts

The Village of Buffalo Grove Public Works Department is an active member of both the Des Plaines River Watershed Plan Committee and the Lower Des Plaines River Watershed Planning Council. The Department is committed to the participation in watershed planning in the area as a whole and inside the Village limits.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

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### Implement Municipal Recommendations from Watershed Plan

Code: 13.12.115 - Adoption of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Watershed Management Ordinance and the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's Watershed Development Ordinance by reference.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

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### Allow Public Access and Encourage Stewardship of Community Waterways

The Village works with local watershed agencies such as the Buffalo Creek Clean Watershed Partnership and adopted their watershed plan for helping to protect Buffalo Creek. See attached document that shows part of the Watershed Plan adopted by the Village.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

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### Contribute Local Data on Water Supply, Quality and Operations to Support State and Regional Stewardship

The Village annually samples various creeks at eight locations in town and provides the data to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)



## WATER

### Engage the Community in Water Stewardship

#### Educate and Support the Community to Conserve Water

The Village observes sprinkling restrictions between the dates of May 15 – September 15 annually with “odd-even” address rotation for any/all outside watering. This Village ordinance is available to all residents on the Village website. The Village also offer water conservation “hints” on the website that point to possible leak locations within the home.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Educate the Community on the Value of Clean and Safe Drinking Water

Water provided to the residents has the potential to contain various contaminants if delivered untreated. Every year, the Village provides a Consumer Confidence Report which outlines contamination levels in the water, if applicable, under the guidance of the IEPA.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)

#### Educate and Support the Community in Preparing for and Managing Floods

The Village of Buffalo Grove has entered into the national flood insurance program. The NFIP program educates and provides flood insurance to property owners at a reduced rate. The NFIP works with communities to adopt and enforce flood plain management regulations to help mitigate the effects of flooding.

[Link to documentation confirming above statement.](#)