

Cumulative Information from Sustainability Online Survey and Community Engagement Forums

Theme 1: Stormwater Management & Water Use

1. **Implement Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).** Encourage development of bioswales and rain gardens on public and private land. Educate the community about the value of downspout disconnection.
2. **Consider feasibility of establishing a stormwater fee to fund improvements in stormwater management.** Green infrastructure (trees, native plants, bioswales, rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs) protects our aging sewer system by keeping stormwater out of the system.
3. **Increase the tiered water rate** to reflect the true value of water and to encourage conservation. Consider enacting conservation water pricing.
4. **Add more detailed information on water bills.** Find ways to track water usage and include this information on bills. Create a benchmark system to compare residential usage with neighbors.
5. **Increase potable water BMPs city-wide and in homes.** Where functional, install low-flow fixtures, including toilets, washing machines, dishwashers, and shower heads, in City facilities and encourage their use in commercial and residential construction. Cut back on water use by following water conservation practices, such as watering your lawn in the early morning/late evening and less frequently, taking shorter showers, and using rain barrels, etc.
6. **Develop water pollution educational materials.** Create a public awareness campaign on the dangers associated with pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, salt, and pharmaceuticals.
7. **Reduce deicing salt usage in snow removal programs.** Educate staff on deicing salt alternatives, recommend less salt use with alternatives.
8. **Create a discounted rain barrel program.**
9. **Install green infrastructure** in community areas to promote their use and to improve water management. Consider growing green roofs on commercial and municipal buildings. Coordinate with the Garden Club and Engineering Dept. to fund/install rain gardens at community parks.
10. **Enact a Water Use Conservation Ordinance.** Determine feasibility with current City codes. Recommend rules based off of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP's) Model Water Use Conservation Ordinance.
11. **Simplify the lawn watering requirements and enforce the rules by issuing citations or fines** (e.g., odd number addresses on odd number days instead of T/Th/S).
12. **Construct larger rain water conservation methods** such as cisterns, not rain barrels (at the City level).
13. **Permeable/Imperiable Surfaces**
14. **Build an outdoor landscape non-potable water system** which, if installed in ravines, would run water in separate lines directly up to spigots from Lake Michigan. Each backyard on these lines would have a faucet clearly labeled "Non-potable, outdoor landscape use only, do not drink" for watering lawns and other plantings. If used on the east side of town, any excess water would flow back into the lake as run-off.

Theme 2: Ecosystem Vitality & Ravine Conservation

1. **Utilize sustainable landscaping practices for municipal properties.** Create a Pesticide Protocol to encourage sustainable practices such as organic fertilizers, compost tea, 3-inch mow height, proper signage, and proper watering schedules. Eliminate pesticide use in parks managed by Lake Forest Parks and Rec Dept., with exceptions for removal of poison ivy and buckthorn. Continue pursuing a three-year sustainable turf pilot project at Everett Elementary School.
2. **Conserve existing natural areas and restore available turf areas** to provide habitat, promote biodiversity, decrease flooding, and control erosion. As applicable, transition unused turf grass areas to native and non-invasive adapted plantings. Support pilot native plant garden at LFHS. Offer educational programs and materials on proper landscape management. Protect and restore riparian, wetland, and shoreline buffers. Consider certification such as Sustainable SITES or National Audubon Society for key parks and open spaces. Connect open spaces through greenways. Increase tree canopy and diversity.
3. **Partner with local organizations to preserve natural habitat.** Leverage resources in Lake Forest to more efficiently manage natural areas.
4. **Encourage local food production and consumption.** Expand the farmer's market. Encourage development of a community garden and/or school garden with a curriculum program. Encourage other forms of urban agriculture, such as vertical gardening.
5. **Recommend a Noise Pollution Public Nuisance Ordinance** to City Council, modeled off of Lake Bluff's. Decrease noise from leaf blowers by restricting use of leaf blowers to only electric blowers or racks (specifically, ban back-pack mounted, hand-held, or wheel-mounted). Restrict hours of operation to not include 5pm to 8am, except for specific spring and fall dates. Restrict number of leaf blowers to one at a time.
6. **Recommend a Light Pollution Zoning Regulation** to the Planning Department. Restrict lighting on residential, municipal, and commercial buildings to approved, shielded, and properly mounted pieces to reduce light pollution and glare while attractively illuminating the downtown area.
7. **Engage residents in ravine conservation efforts.** The City previously conducted a ravine health study and ravine conservation awareness campaign. The City should continue on this path, restoring more ravines and encouraging residents to help preserve ravines and bluffs. Continue ravine health awareness outreach with, for example, window clings. Consider establishing a local Ravine Day.
8. **Develop Ravine Protection/Steep Slope Ordinance.** Create a draft ordinance, designed to create rules that will cut back on residential, commercial, and municipal actions that harm the functionality of ravines and bluffs.
9. **Encourage asphalt-based pavement sealants and eliminate use of coal tar-based pavement sealants,** like Winnetka just did.
10. **Build a butterfly garden** in the park on the corner of Deerpath and Green Bay Roads.
11. **Communicate with all yard care companies** that apply for a license to work in Lake Forest about following legal label requirements when applying herbicides.

12. **Educate residents and reduce/limit the pesticide use** in landscapes on east side of town where runoff flows through ravines and into Lake Michigan.
13. **Encourage residents to use more native plantings**, and get rid of their lawns. Fewer lawns would decrease toxic rainfall runoff and there would be less noisy polluting lawnmowers. Ensure City Code allows plants 10-inches or taller. *Encourage people to leave undergrowth in wooded areas of our parks to provide shelter/protection for small animals and birds. Some concern that we are stripping away this natural growth that provides a haven for these creatures.
14. **Educate citizens on which ravines can be accessed** and which cannot, which are privately owned, why a fence was built down to the ravine on Bluffs Edge.
15. **Require homeowners to remove invasive buckthorn** which is crowding out the native oaks and understory.
16. **Clean up waste in the ravines**

Theme 3: Waste Management

1. **Consider the feasibility of a residential pilot composting program.** Explore the viability of a residential food-scrap collection program. Educate residents about composting. Create a free bin pilot program.
2. **Encourage composting at home and initiate composting in City buildings and schools.** Provide bins and instruction for Municipal Services, the Park District, and schools. Monitor the success of the City and school program in the first year.
3. **Increase the recycling rate.** Relabel all “waste” to “landfill.” Establish an ordinance requiring recycling bins wherever there is a trash receptacle. Analyze recycling data and make a target percentage of waste diversion for the City, preferably to exceed the 2011 municipal average recycling rate of 37%. *Put recycling bins for newspaper and plastic/cans at train stations and on town streets. Design and implement better incentives to get businesses to recycle.
4. **Expand community recycling efforts.** Increase awareness of the reasons to recycle on the City website before big events (graduations, 4th of July, Lake Forest Days, golf tournaments, tree lighting ceremony). Ensure recycling bins are present and not too full before big events. Increase recycling at Lake Forest High School Friday Night Lights: encourage local environmental groups to partner with schools and create an awareness campaign.
5. **Expand the City’s waste collection program.** Host a household hazardous waste (HHW) and e-waste collection event the first Tuesday of each month. Establish a scrap metal recycling service. Continue to advertise prescription drug disposal program with Lake Forest Police. *Provide recycling services for #6-PS plastic, #5 garden pots, batteries, electronics/hazardous waste.
6. **Decrease the use of Styrofoam/polystyrene in the City.** Educate residents and businesses on the negative environmental effects of polystyrene. Create a campaign pledge for local businesses to sign, phasing out the use of polystyrene or instituting a surcharge. *Ban the use of Styrofoam in the City.
7. **Decrease the use of plastic bags in the City.** Create a campaign pledge for local businesses to sign, phasing out the use of plastic bags. *Ban the use of plastic bags in the City.

8. **Undertake public education to reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling.** Create a community guide to increase awareness of recycling opportunities. Include recycling guidelines inside the lid of all recycling bins provided by the City. Clarify which materials can be recycled or composted.
9. **Adopt a municipal environmentally preferable purchasing policy (EPP).** Agree on standards to determine if products being purchased by the City have reduced environmental impact because of the way they are made, transported, stored, packaged, used, and disposed of.
10. **Consider adoption of residential or commercial Pay-As-You-Throw service.** Research the success of these programs in other cities. Create a twelve month trial period with local businesses to test feasibility.
11. **Utilize deconstruction techniques for City facilities.** Consider utilizing deconstruction and reuse rather than demolition whenever possible for City facilities to serve as an example for property owners in the community.
12. ***Find ways to get residents to waste less.** Fewer single use plastic bags. Too much of a “disposable culture” in Lake Forest. Create behavioral change campaigns and hold people accountable. More people would recycle more if information was periodically mailed to remind them. Collect and post data on multi-family and commercial waste. Encourage waste haulers to provide regular reports indicating the volume of waste disposed and recycled by facility. Consider establishing volume-based pricing or pay-as-you-throw service.
13. ***Increase efforts to control/clean up litter.**
14. ***Move all refuse collection to curbside,** in similar containers to the recycle ones, and pickup once a week is sufficient.

Theme 4: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

1. **Streamline solar panel permitting process.** Encourage residents to adapt homes for solar energy to heat pools. Provide instructions for residents on how to begin an inquiry and become a candidate for solar. *Reduce or eliminate permitting fees for solar installations.*
2. **Pursue a model renewable energy system on a municipal site.** Analyze the cost and feasibility of solar panels to power the lights and heating of the park building at Townline Park. Display education materials at the facility for school fieldtrips and patrons of the park to read. **Consider solar roadways or wind turbines on the lake/by the public service building.*
3. **Investigate providing energy from renewable sources** at the City level. Consider purchasing 25-50% renewable energy.
4. **Increase the sustainable development and green building methods throughout the community.** Create a Sustainable Development Incentive Program to incentivize property owners and builders to construct buildings in an environmentally-friendly manner (for example, LEED with permit fee rebates, expedited permitting and review, City recognition). Establish the rules to provide a real estate transfer tax decrease for homes that are energy efficient. Provide regular reviews of City codes to remain current with green building technologies and initiatives. **Add LEED building standards into our local ordinances.*Encourage more LEED certified buildings in town.*

5. **Consider an Environmentally Preferable Procurement policy/code.** (Also for Waste Reduction). Consider a lifecycle cost analysis of equipment, appliances or tools to be purchased, taking into account energy use and cost per year.
6. **Improve the efficiency of building stock through an intensive retrofit program and energy efficiency campaign,** including system upgrades, retrofits, and behavioral change. On the website, advertise Energy Impact Illinois, a program offering low-cost home energy assessments and generous instant rebates to cover the cost of weatherization improvements. Create a community energy challenge and a prize for the most improved building. Increase awareness of ComEd's smart thermostat discount program. Recommend residents link their ComEd account to the CUB Energy Saver, a program that tracks progress and issues reward points for energy savings that can be used for discounts at local and national retailers. Collaborate with the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) to receive free energy audits for government-owned facilities. Support Lake Forest High School switching to Dyson hand dryers and encourage in other schools. Implement more controlled lighting and LED street light projects to cut back on energy usage. Provide a Kill-a-Watt tool for residents to borrow at Lake Forest Library and for students to borrow at LFHS. Recommend that residents and students shift usage habits or replace inefficient devices based on findings. Implement free energy audits annually for residential homeowners. Provide general recommendations as to how homeowners can reduce their energy use. Seek funding to purchase energy audit equipment and finance labor costs through permit fees for renovation projects. *Provide helpful energy audit information to residents with trustworthy auditors who would also be able to implement remedies recommended.*Ask all doctors/dentists, offices, medical clinics, grocery stores, etc. to turn off all those TVs that no one is watching and that add to noise pollution.
7. **Secure commitments from major employers in the City to reduce their energy usage** by __% per year through 2020. Enforce lighting, building, and fleet efficiencies for the City. Recommend upgrades and efficiency measures for other major institutions.
8. **Expand awareness of the benefits and ease of owning an electric vehicle,** including the cost savings, ease of charging and locations of charging stations, model availability and cost. Launch a campaign to encourage large local employers to offer workplace charging. Consider reduced city sticker fees for electric vehicles.
9. **Incentivize businesses and residents to purchase solar panels**

Theme 5: Air Quality

1. **Commit to reducing pollution and land development impacts from single occupancy vehicle use.** Analyze Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) and set a VMT reduction goal. Provide preferred parking for carpools and fuel-efficient vehicles at Park District facilities. Use newsletters and social media to recognize businesses that provide shuttles, guaranteed ride home programs, and other transportation options. Provide suggestions on alternative transportation methods. Participate in and support the Commuter Challenges program, a business challenge to get staff to bike to work. *Encourage parents to have their children take the bus.

2. **Increase the cycling rate.** Educate the community on bike safety and usage, in web articles, social media, community workshops, and driver education classes. Advertise and incorporate in the City's Master Bike Plan into development projects.
3. **Maintain a diverse, safe, and high quality transportation network.** Identify links between open space and other activity centers. Provide signage for pedestrians and bike routes. Encourage multi-agency initiatives to link regional bike and pedestrian paths. Provide adequate bike storage at facilities, parks, downtown, and where practical. Identify relevant bus, train, and bike routes on the City website. Incorporate IDOT Complete Streets Initiatives into projects.
4. **Adopt an Anti-Idling policy.** Partner with parks, schools, and other organizations to provide mobile anti-idling signage. Support the Lake Forest High School anti-idling program already underway. Publish articles in newsletters and the website urging drivers to cut idling engines to reduce harmful pollutants at school pickup locations, city facilities, and train stations. *Prohibit idling by buses and cars at schools. Turn off garbage trucks when parked at the recycling/compost center. *Educate people to turn off their cars when they wait for the freight train or go into a store, wait in front of a school, etc.
5. **Commit to greening the City fleet.** Change several or all small vehicles to hybrid or electric vehicles (EV) by 2020. Install diesel oxidation catalysts on vehicles to reduce harmful emissions from diesel fuels, including particulate matter, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides. Search for funding to upgrade the fleet via the federal Clean Air Counts Program. *Use electric golf carts at the beach for cleanup rather than the smelly exhaust gas carts used now
6. **Reduce emissions from garbage collection and lawn mowing.** *Turn off garbage trucks while the smaller carts do the pickups. *Decrease garbage collection to once/week to help decrease pollution from the garbage trucks. *Replace gas-guzzling City lawnmowers with propane. *Outlaw gas powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers. *Eliminate gasoline-powered leaf-blowers after spring and fall clean-up periods.
7. **Promote system innovations aimed at making alternatives to private automobiles more attractive.** Analyze ways to make alternatives (walking, cycling, transit, car-sharing) more competitive with private automobiles with regards to cost, convenience, and safety. Support active transportation (walking and biking) to access facilities and services by making parking less available. Work on public transportation (Pace Bus) to and from the cities of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, Highwood, Waukegan, etc. Offer more little buses for transportation around town for seniors, disabled, students, etc.
8. **Educate residents and businesses on the value of reduced air emissions.**
9. **Make streets safer from the perspective of pedestrians and bikers over current auto-centric streets. Make Everett Road more bicycle friendly.**