



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Glenview Park District



JUNE 4, 2025

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Purpose of the Sustainability Plan	3
Approach to Sustainability	3
Plan Development Process	4
Structure of Plan	5
Yearly Updates	5
I. LAND MANAGEMENT	6
Introduction	6
a. Focus Area: Preservation and Restoration	6
b. Focus Area: Sustainable Practices	7
c. Focus Area: Wildlife	8
II. ASSET MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION	9
Introduction	9
a. Focus Area: Energy Efficient Buildings and Operations	9
b. Focus Area: Water Efficiency	9
c. Focus Area: Fleet	10
d. Focus Area: Sustainable Technology	10
e. Focus Area: Design Standards and Certifications	11
III. OPERATIONS	12
Introduction	12
a. Focus Area: Staff	12
b. Focus Area: Sustainable Operational Policy	13
c. Focus Area: Waste and Materials Management	14
d. Focus Area: Funding	15
IV. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS	15
Introduction	15
a. Focus Area: Education	16
b. Focus Area: Programs and Events	16
c. Focus Area: Community Partnerships	17

PROGRESS REPORT	18
Appendix I:.....	22
Glenview Park District Policy and Procedure Manual	22
Appendix II:.....	24
IPRA Scorecard and Focus Areas Association.....	24

Executive Summary

Purpose of the Sustainability Plan

The Glenview Park District is one of the largest, most unique and inviting park districts in Illinois. It includes over 847 acres including 50 owned and leased properties: 12 major facilities, 26 parks, 13 fieldhouses, and over 20 miles of walking trails. At the Glenview Park District, we manage and preserve our community's most precious lands that possess both natural and cultural significance.

The development of the Environmental Sustainability Plan is in response to the publication of the Glenview Park District 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. For more information on the Strategic Plan: <https://glenviewparks.org/2023-strategic-plan/>. The Strategic Plan calls for the development and implementation of a comprehensive Environmental Stewardship Plan to guide Park District efforts to align all existing plans related to environmental stewardship. (Comprehensive Master Plan, Urban Forestry Plan, The Grove Master Plan, Wagner Farm Master Plan). This strategy will include and address holistic initiatives related to resource acquisition and management, sustainable operations, and sustainable building practices. It is recognized that this Environmental Sustainability Plan is not to replace these existing referenced plans, nor is it to simply combine them, but rather provide an overlay of initiatives and activities that can enhance these plans and the entire Park District as a whole.

The plan is intentionally high level and directional by nature. It provides a common framework to guide all Park District divisions and remains flexible enough for staff to envision ideas, take ownership, and execute specific actions. It is anticipated that this plan be updated in future years with additional analysis that can be used for setting specific goals, as well as forums for community input. Consider it for conversations with the community and aligned organizations. Future iterations of the plan will also have the potential to coordinate and align with the Village of Glenview, and associated school district plans as they are developed.

When applicable and aligned with the Park District's current initiatives, certain actions will prioritize measuring their associated impacts as a preliminary step, followed by implementing strategies to manage and monitor progress. This approach is particularly relevant for actions affecting Scope 1 emissions (direct emissions from on-site fuel use) and Scope 2 emissions (indirect emissions from purchased utilities).

Approach to Sustainability

The Park District will be a community leader in sustainability and committed to environmental conservation and historical stewardship through developing, maintaining and preserving land, facilities and programming. For information on the Park District's Guiding Principles: <https://glenviewparks.org/about/our-guiding-principles/>.

To date, the Park District has implemented an Environmental Policy beginning in 2008, and later updated it in 2018. The policy is comprehensive in nature and establishes 10 Environmental Guiding Principles for the Park District to follow:

- i. Do No Harm
- ii. Precautionary Principle
- iii. Design with Nature and Culture
- iv. Use a Decision-Making Hierarchy of Preservation, Conservation, and Regeneration
- v. Provide Regenerative Systems as Intergenerational Equity
- vi. Support a Living Process
- vii. Use a Systems Thinking Approach
- viii. Use a Collaborative and Ethical Approach
- ix. Maintain Integrity in Leadership and Research
- x. Reduction and Handling of Waste

[Link to The Environmental Policy: <https://glenviewparks.org/environment/>]

The Environmental Policy is also included as an appendix to this Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Our Mission: Through exceptional experiences, the Glenview Park District strives to build a sense of community, enhance people's lives and contribute to the enrichment of the individual, family and the community.

Our Vision: A community in which everyone enjoys happiness, health and an appreciation for the environment on a daily basis.

Plan Development Process

The plan development process involved benchmarking, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement. Beginning in the Spring of 2024, the plan followed a process including three stages: (1) Discovery, (2) Prioritization, and (3) Strategy & Planning. Peer research was conducted on organizations representing local and national sustainability leadership to benchmark activities and identify best practices. Staff engaged in multiple ideation sessions to uncover opportunities and challenges, and prioritize ideas into this framework. From there, consideration was given to the technical feasibility, relative impact, readiness, and cost of implementation.

In addition, the IPRA Scorecard used by the Glenview Park District to report current status of specified activities and performance areas has been leveraged to round out the plan. The IPRA Scorecard has been mapped to each relative focus area and can be found in the Appendix.

Structure of Plan

The plan is based on four key categories, in which multiple focus areas reside:

- I. Land Management
- II. Asset Management and Resource Conservation
- III. Operations
- IV. Community Engagement & Partnerships

For each category, an introduction defines the intent, explains the importance at a high level, and identifies supporting policies and reference documents that may be cross-referenced and strengthened through the development of this plan. Each of the focus areas contains actions, that when pursued, will support the Park District's pursuit of sustainability across each of the categories. Some of the 'actions' are specific in nature, while others are framed as 'goals.'

The final part of this plan is a progress report that lists each of the actions, an organizational lead for each, timeframe to be completed, and current status.

Yearly Updates

The progress report, found at the end of this sustainability plan, provides an overview of the Glenview Park District's achievements, challenges, and next steps in advancing its sustainability goals. This report is a key component of the District's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in achieving its environmental goals.

The progress report will detail how well the Park District is performing against the objectives and actions outlined in the plan. It will include an assessment of measurable outcomes, as well as qualitative updates on the implementation of key initiatives. The report will also describe the progress made over the past year, highlight any challenges encountered, and outline lessons learned.

In addition, the progress report will serve as a benchmark for identifying and prioritizing next steps. By evaluating what has been accomplished and where further efforts are needed, the Environmental Team will refine strategies and set clear, actionable targets for the upcoming year. This iterative process ensures that the Glenview Park District remains proactive in addressing environmental challenges and continues to make meaningful contributions to sustainability.

I. LAND MANAGEMENT

Introduction

Definition:

Managing the development, conservation, and utilization of land in a way that addresses climate change and prioritizes the health and resilience of flora, fauna, and the surrounding community.

Importance, benefits and impacts (to the PD, community, etc.):

Biodiversity, habitat preservation, resource conservation, improved land / air / water quality, public well-being / community development, resilient lands.

Supporting policies/reference documents:

Environmental policy, IPM policy, ASP INPC Naval Air Station Prairie 5-year Management Plan 2024, tree inventories, Urban Forest Management Plan, The Grove INPC Kennicott's Grove 5-year Management Plan 2024, Wagner Farm Master Plan, Grove Master Plan, Village of Glenview Plan for Nature 2023

a. Focus Area: Preservation and Restoration

1. Action: Preservation and expansion of native areas and open space – Maintain the health and quality of native areas and encourage the acquisition of additional native areas. Supporting actions include:

- a. Consider climate change impacts on flora and fauna.
- b. Protect soils during and after construction.
- c. Controlling invasive species such as Buckthorn, Phragmites, and Purple loosestrife to promote native diversity and habitat. Evaluate potential pests, pathogens, and invasive species that may emerge due to climate change.
- d. Stormwater best management practices, vegetative swales, and bank stabilization
- e. Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use in parks (drought and disease resistant native species, expand no-mow areas, reduce number of applications, IPM)
- f. Increase no-mow and natural conversion areas. Examples include no-mow buffer of native vegetation on water bodies to reduce erosion, non-point source pollution, and deter Canada Geese.
- g. Landscape to conserve energy (windbreaks/buffers, shade trees along Southern-facing buildings and around paved areas, drought tolerant native species)
- h. Incorporate native plantings into landscape at parks buildings and facilities.
- i. Provision of infrastructure including boardwalks, trails, fishing piers, etc. to enable community members to recreate in natural areas
- j. Provide nature education and interpretive program to engage community members
- k. Seek to acquire natural resource areas (e.g., remnant prairies, wetlands, ponds/lakes, woodlands), or convert appropriate areas into natural areas. Identify opportunities for acquisition, protection and preserving open space and natural areas.

Many of these practices are also meaningful and cost-effective ways to naturally sequester carbon and reduce the net carbon impact of the Park District.

2. Action: Tree replacement program and plantings – Trees offer a wide range of benefits including beautifying the parks, improving air quality, absorbing rainwater, reducing erosion, and providing habitat for wildlife.

- a. Continue to assess the quality of existing trees through the GIS Tree Inventory updates to promote a healthy ecosystem. Remove any hazard trees identified in the Inventory. Maintain a healthy balance in species diversity to help protect against diseases and pests.
- b. Incorporate trees into the landscape around all Park District parks and facilities to shade paved areas to reduce heat island effect and the southern-face of buildings to conserve energy. Seek shade opportunities in parks to enhance park user comfort.

[Link to Tree Inventory/ Forest Management Plan: <https://glenviewparks.org/environment/>]

b. Focus Area: Sustainable Practices

1. Action: IPM / Chemical management – Proper pest and chemical management reduces the need for pesticide and other toxic chemical applications, which saves money and protects human health and well-being. A comprehensive IPM policy is in place and includes strategies such as:

- a. Reducing the use of pesticides/insecticides within Park District facilities by continuing to utilize a robust IPM program.
- b. Utilizing drought and disease resistant native plant species and establishing no-mow areas to reduce the demand for fertilizers and pesticides.
- c. Use best practices to establish healthy turf including core aerifying, fertilizing, compost topdressing, overseeding. Continue to monitor the market for new technologies and new green products.
- d. Ensuring proper use, storage, record keeping, and disposal of hazardous materials, referencing SDS (Safety Data Sheet) and other manufacturer labels.
- e. Installing herbicide mixing pods with waste catches
- f. Bio/natural applications – Similar to IPM, bio-applications are another means of lowering chemical / pesticide usage while also maintaining soil health. (e.g., low impact snowmelt products like beet juice or calcium magnesium acetate).

[Link to the IPM Policy: <J:\Environmental\Environmental policies>]

2. Action: Prescribed burns – Continue the use of prescribed burns to encourage new growth by carefully removing old and unhealthy vegetation and consequently benefiting the quality of surrounding soils, water, and habitats.

3. Action: Regenerative farming at Wagner Farm – Regenerative agriculture improves the resilience of the land by supporting biodiversity and soil health. High quality soil yields nutrient-dense crops, benefiting animals and community alike. Improved soil quality also has a greater capacity to manage rainwater and sequester carbon, thereby helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Current practices at Wagner Farm promote regenerative farming including:

- a. Crop diversity
- b. Livestock integration
- c. Rotational grazing, when possible
- d. No/Low-till farming to minimize soil disturbance
- e. No, or limited, use of pesticides through the District IPM program
- f. Maintaining living roots, such as a cover crop, to protect soil
- g. Farmers Market with local growers, reducing long-distance shipping, and providing the community with fresh produce.

c. Focus Area: Wildlife

1. Action: Butterfly and pollinator plantings – Pollinator plantings provide sufficient food sources for pollinators (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, etc.), many of which are threatened and experiencing population decline. They also provide opportunities for community education and engagement.

2. Action: Bird / Animal shelters – As urbanization progresses, animal shelters become increasingly vital to the safety and well-being of native species. This is accomplished through plantings and native areas restoration. Providing animals with dry, safe places to seek refuge and raise their young supports their growth and vitality.

3. Action: Deer management – Control deer population in accordance with associated plans is key to keeping populations in check in support of healthy land management. Continue to evaluate deer management plans to ensure they are adequate in addressing the annual variability in the population.

II. ASSET MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Introduction

Definition:

Park District assets include buildings, fleet vehicles and other capital. When considering utilities and fuel, these assets are assumed to represent a disproportional carbon impact within the Park District and an opportunity for resource conservation.

Importance, benefits and impacts (to the PD, community, etc.):

Pollution reduction benefiting staff, park users, and the community, cost saving operations, cost effective upgrades through capital planning, reduced environmental impact.

Supporting policies/reference documents:

Environmental policy, coal tar policy, Wagner Farm Master Plan, Grove Master Plan

a. Focus Area: Energy Efficient Buildings and Operations

1. Action: Track energy usage – Evaluate whether facilities and/or major energy uses are separately metered. Tracking energy use for each facility and major energy systems will help identify which facilities are the most energy intensive and should be prioritized for energy audits. Tracking energy use will also enable the Park District to calculate and manage associated greenhouse gas emissions:

- a. Scope 1 - Emissions directly generated by purchased fuels such as including natural gas for buildings and fleet fuels
 - b. Scope 2 - Indirect emissions from utilities and distributed electricity consumption
- * Scope 3 emissions represent other indirect emissions throughout the Park District such as purchasing, waste management, water/sewer, etc. and are unrelated to energy consumption. Quantifying Scope 3 emissions will be considered as a future activity in collaboration with the Village of Glenview and other partners.*

2. Action: Energy audits for all buildings – Buildings need regular maintenance and tune-ups to maintain optimal performance. Building energy audits can be part of the process and help identify opportunities for efficiency. Energy reduction goals will be set over time and will be informed by total energy use, planned capital projects, and the potential for efficiency.

b. Focus Area: Water Efficiency

1. Action: Track water usage – Evaluate whether facilities and/or major water uses are separately metered. Tracking water use for buildings and operations will help identify uses that may be reduced through planning and/or conservation measures. Water reduction goals will be set over time and will be informed by total water use, how water is being used, and the potential to implement conservation measures. Tracking water use will also enable the Park District to calculate and manage associated Scope 3 emissions.

2. Action: Water collection / reuse opportunities - Water reuse opportunities are most prevalent for irrigation needs. Harvested rainwater collected in detention ponds can be used for irrigation, such as at Community Park West and Flick Park, and has an added benefit of reducing stormwater run-off. Rainwater collected in cisterns can be used for small scale water needs.

c. Focus Area: Fleet

1. Action: Regularly maintain equipment – Keeping equipment tuned up and in good working order can extend the life of the equipment, optimize equipment efficiency, and reduce associated emissions. Continue and/or expand current equipment maintenance programs and manage the disposal of associated vehicle fluids and engine parts.

2. Action: Electric machinery / fleet / mowers – Replacing combustion-based vehicles and equipment at the end of their service life with electric, battery powered models will reduce emissions that contribute to air pollution, thereby improving the immediate work environment for staff and park users. One limitation is the lack of an electric pickup truck that has enough power for a snow plow for snow removal. As technology improves, more options may become available. As vehicles come up for replacement, evaluate the potential for converting to electric, plug-in electric, and hybrid models. Continue efforts to acquire battery powered landscape and maintenance equipment. Continue to outfit landscape trailers with solar panels, and a power station, to charge landscape equipment.

d. Focus Area: Sustainable Technology

1. Action: Electric vehicle charging stations – Identify opportunities to install electric vehicle charging stations at Park District facilities to support the transition to fleet electrification, as well as public park locations to encourage public use where feasible. Strategic placement of charging infrastructure will enable the adoption of EVs, reduce direct emissions from fleet fuel use, and support community sustainability efforts. Progress can be measured through the number of charging stations installed and utilization rates over time.

2. Action: Bird safe buildings – Bird safe buildings are imperative in support of the Park District's mission. Many strategies exist for both new and existing building retrofits including bird films for windows. Manage interior lighting, especially during migration season. The Park District aims to look for new opportunities for bird safe building construction as part of the Sustainable Design and Construction Standard.

3. Action: LEDs – Light emitting diodes (LEDs) are very efficient at producing light, last for an extended time, and are now both cost effective and commonplace in the industry. With the exception of specialty lighting, all light replacements and upgrades should be LED. The Park District has been converting conventional bulbs to LED for several years, with significant energy savings.

4. Action: Dark sky compliant fixtures – Dark sky compliant fixtures minimize light pollution that disrupts migrating birds, local fauna, and the community. Light timers and programmed shut-offs are a related strategy that can achieve the desired result. This strategy is typically embedded within design & construction guidelines but because of the extensive outdoor lighting that is required for Park District Operations, it is worth calling out. The Park District should develop a Dark Sky Policy to guide future light fixture purchases and retrofits as part of the Sustainable Design and Construction Standard.

5. Action: Geothermal – Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) systems can significantly reduce associated building energy consumption. By storing heat in the ground during the summer, these systems can extract the heat for building use in the winter. GSHP systems should be evaluated for new construction and major renovation projects, or for buildings that already have existing heat pumps.

6. Action: Renewable energy – The Park District should continue to procure Green-e Certified Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for 100% of electricity and evaluate the purchase of Green-e Carbon Offsets to offset natural gas and fuel usage.

The Park District is engaged in a Community Solar agreement through which the Park District is able to purchase renewable energy and claim the environmental benefit of a local photovoltaic installation that is built and managed by a third party. This community solar model can realize utility savings and supports the growth of local renewable energy infrastructure

On site renewable energy sources, such as solar photovoltaics, solar hot water, and wind, may all be evaluated for deployment within the Park District.

7. Action: Increase the number of installed water bottle fillers – Water filling stations are necessary to realize a reduction in plastic water bottle consumption. These filling stations can save thousands of plastic bottles a year and support environmentally conscious communities. A majority of the parks and facilities have water filling stations, but the Park District should identify those that don't currently have them and then plan for future installations.

8. Action: Tennis ball recharger & longer lasting balls –The Glenview Tennis Club currently has a tennis ball recharger machine to revive balls that have lost their bounce. They also purchase longer lasting 'Triniti' balls which reduces the impact of spent balls being thrown into landfill. For tennis balls that are no longer chargeable, the club has ball collection containers for recycling which further reduces waste.

e. Focus Area: Design Standards and Certifications

1. Action: Sustainable design & construction standards – Adopting standards and guidelines that address both the design and construction practices for new construction and renovation projects is a low-cost measure to ensure Park District facilities minimize impact on the environment, and promote the health and wellness of occupants. The Park District should look to create a Sustainable Design & Construction Standards guide.

2. Action: Green building, site, and operations certifications – Consider the pursuit of certifications to promote best practices in the built environment. Examples include programs such as LEED that can be applied to new buildings and major renovations, as well as the operation of existing buildings (LEED EBOM/ARC). Other certifications such as SITES and Parksmart can be used to evaluate and certify open space and parking lots. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses provides a framework and resources certify golf courses.

- LEED - <https://www.usgbc.org/leed>
- LEED EBOM/ARC - <https://www.usgbc.org/leed/rating-systems/existing-buildings>
- <https://arc.gbci.org/>
- SITES - <https://www.sustainablesites.org/>
- Parksmart - <https://parksmart.gbci.org/>
- Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses - <https://www.auduboninternational.org/acsp-for-golf>

3. Action: No coal tar – In 2017, the Park District adopted a Coal Tar Policy restricting the use of coal tar sealers on asphalt in Park District controlled properties. Alternative pavements, including sealers and other technologies should be continuously explored to adopt best in class approaches to paved areas.

[Link to the Coal Tar Policy: <https://glenviewparks.org/environment/>]

III. OPERATIONS

Introduction

Definition:

The practices and protocols that work to maintain and continuously improve the Park District from an operational perspective – primarily through administrative activities and purchasing decisions that support resource conservation and pollution reduction. Operations are policy and activities that the Park District has direct control over and are therefore some of the low hanging fruit for sustainable impact.

Importance, benefits and impacts (to the PD, community, etc.):

More efficient operations, less waste, great exposure and Park District “cultural awareness”, resource conservation, pollution reduction.

Supporting policies/reference documents:

Environmental policy, Anti-idling Policy, Wagner Farm Master Plan, Grove Master Plan

a. Focus Area: Staff

1. Action: Ensure employee safety and well-being – With such diverse operations within the Park District, employee well-being is largely depending on the buildings and conditions within which they work. Personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilation should always be

provided when employees need to engage in activities such as the handling of chemicals, exposure to exhaust, cleaning products, welding, etc. that may adversely affect their health. Provide employees adjustable ergonomic work environments and to the greatest extent possible, the ability to control lighting and thermal comfort.

2. Action: Environmental team – Since 2008, the environmental team has continued to identify and implement sustainable best practices throughout the Park District. Continue to evaluate team composition and consider some rotating members to provide additional exposure to sustainability amongst the staff.

3. Action: Staff sustainability trainings and onboarding – On-going staff training in key sustainability topics (e.g., natural resource management best practices, endangered species, green cleaning, energy efficiency, resource conservation- lights, recycling, thermostat settings) and educating on environmental safety (e.g., handling hazardous waste) with the goal of empowering staff to champion sustainability within their roles. The Park District staff will develop an Environmental slide show for new hires to view during the onboarding process.

b. Focus Area: Sustainable Operational Policy

1. Action: Catering practices / standards – Offer guidance to staff, and the public, on catering events on Park District property to help mitigate waste from packaging and excess food. These guidelines will encourage the use of reusable or compostable packaging, locally sourced food, and mindful ordering to minimize food waste. Educational resources and recommendations can be provided to both staff and the public to promote sustainable event practices. Progress can be tracked by assessing waste reduction and increased adoption of these standards over time.

2. Action: Anti-idling – As has become standard practice for many organizations, the Park District has had an Anti-idling Policy in place since 2012. Associated signage is displayed to remind people to turn their cars off while waiting or making a delivery to the Park District. The Anti-idling policy minimizes emissions, improves air quality, and can help save money through conserved fuel. If near a building, anti-idling is particularly important and should be restricted near doors, windows and air intakes.

[Link to the Anti-idling Policy: <https://glenviewparks.org/environment/>]

3. Action: Ozone Action days – On Ozone Action days; it's best to limit outdoor activities and strenuous work. Reducing emissions from gasoline-powered vehicles helps to improve air quality. To the greatest extent possible, limit the use, and refueling, of Park District vehicles and equipment during Ozone Action days, or when the Air Quality Index reaches unhealthy levels.

4. Action: Green purchasing guidance – Adhering to purchasing guidelines for new products or services that allow the Park District to prioritize sustainable options (e.g., EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program, Green Seal, Green Label). Standardize guidance criteria District-wide to select products/services with: minimal packaging, recycled content, ENERGY STAR rated appliances, Low VOC furnishings, and low toxicity cleaning products), renewable resource content, setting a minimum of post-consumer recycled content, sourcing local products/services, soy-based printing ink.

- Preferable Purchasing Program - <https://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/about-environmentally-preferable-purchasing-program>

5. Action: Vendor sustainability – Create a policy for vendor sustainability. Give preference to vendors that have sustainability policies and/or are working to minimize the impact of their own internal operations and contracted work. Share this framework with them and offer guidance to inspire actions within their organizations. Consider using sustainability as a formal selection criterion when awarding contracts.

6. Action: Green cleaning – Using environmentally-preferred and healthy cleaning products to optimize the well-being of people and the planet alike. (Ex: low toxicity, fragrance free, Green Seal, LEED-compliant, minimizing petroleum-based cleaners). These are frequently incorporated into green purchasing guidelines and the Park District aims to update those guidelines with new technological developments in green cleaning products.

7. Action: Reduce usage of problematic materials and plastics (straws, balloons, Styrofoam, etc.) – Removing these items from the waste stream mitigates plastic waste and pollution, particularly as it pertains to litter, impacts on beautification, local wildlife and water resources. There may need to be some flexibility depending on the specific Facility. Since the Park District has such diverse programming, a material that is needed at one facility for a program, may not be acceptable at another facility. For example, balloons are banned at The Grove due to the impact to wildlife, but they are used at Park Center for events. Straws may be offered upon request at a pool concessions due to user needs. Boxed water is offered at The Grove instead of plastic bottles.

8. Action: Reduce paper usage – Establish initiatives to reduce paper usage across Park District operations by transitioning to digital workflows (e.g. PDFs), promoting double-sided printing, and encouraging the use of electronic communication and document storage. These efforts will lower costs, reduce waste, and help mitigate deforestation, while also enhancing operational efficiency

c. Focus Area: Waste and Materials Management

1. Action: Waste audit Conduct a waste audit of key facilities and operations generating the most waste. The audit will provide insight into the types of materials that may be diverted through this initiative. Waste reduction goals will be set over time and will be informed by a deeper understanding of the Park District's waste profile as established by a waste audit.

- Instruction on Conducting Waste Assessments - <https://www.epa.gov/smm/instructions-conducting-waste-assessments>

2. Action: Improve recycling programs – Support the education needs and provide the infrastructure for proper recycling. Current efforts include contractual services with a District-wide recycling hauler that sorts the collected materials. Also providing recycling bins in the parks and facilities, recycling trainings/policies/signage, requiring concessionaires to minimize use of disposable products and offer recycling, and recycling guidance per manufacturer labels. See Community Engagement & Partnerships – Action: Recycling education and engagement.

3. Action: Composting program – Support the educational needs and provide the infrastructure for proper composting for Park District operations in appropriate areas such as at Park Services, The Grove, the Golf Courses, and Wagner Farm.

4. Action: “Goal: Zero Waste” campaign – Rooted in the idea of “pack it in, pack it out,” where park users are encouraged to take all the items they bring into the park, back out with them. Continue this community-based campaign to reduce waste throughout Park District operations. Engagement and education of community members is critical for them to make decisions that promote waste reduction and responsible recycling.

d. Focus Area: Funding

1. Action: Pursue sustainability-focused grants – Applying for grants to fund environmental initiatives and land acquisitions (e.g., grants to promote and provide clean energy, natural resource management best practices, environmental programming, interpretive initiatives like signage and brochures)

2. Action: Allocate funds for green initiatives and explore internal grants– Dedicating capital and operations funding towards sustainability efforts and the achievement of environmental goals (natural areas, parks programs, energy systems, etc.). Consider establishing an “Internal Grant” program for staff to get a sustainable idea implemented.

IV. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

Definition:

Sustainability education through programming, social media platforms, and the Park District website. Partnering with community groups can magnify the Park District's impact around encouraging sustainable-thinking and behaviors within the community to reduce individual climate and environmental impacts and promote the benefits of the Park District.

Importance, benefits and impacts (to the PD, community, etc.):

Improved community satisfaction, reduced environmental impacts, building trust between the community and the Park District.

Supporting policies/reference documents:

Environmental policy, Wagner Farm Master Plan, Grove Master Plan

a. Focus Area: Education

1. Action: Educate Park District users on relevant sustainability topics – Education is an important vehicle to align Park District sustainability goals and expectations with facility rentals, special event permits, program participants/facility users and program instructors. Educational programming can include social media campaigns, QR codes, workshops and other modes of engagement. Additionally, engaging the community on sustainability topics (e.g., native plants, gardening, staying active, zero waste opportunities for the home, starting a home compost, etc.) not only promotes sustainability within the community, but it also establishes the Park District as a leader in environmental stewardship and as a resource for sustainability topics within the community.

2. Action: Recycling education and engagement – Education on the local recycling program removes any barriers for residents to begin to recycle, or to recycle properly, at home. Consider providing resources on the website for residents to learn about how to manage waste and where to recycle. Examples include:

- ABT: Wood pallets, cardboard, plastic industrial wrap, white Styrofoam, small electronics (appliances and large electronics for a fee) - <https://www.abt.com/help/green-initiatives>
- Home Depot /Lowe's– Rechargeable tool batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs (through Call2Recycle.org)
- Best Buy – All electronics (see restrictions)
- Grocery Stores – Plastic bags and films
- Nike Outlet Stores – Any brand of old shoes

3. Action: Coordinate with local environmental organizations – Collaborating with local agencies and organizations on their environmental efforts encourages knowledge-sharing and creates positive partnerships, ultimately benefitting all parties. The Park District has partnered with community organizations on environmental sustainability education and events.

4. Action: Engage community volunteers – Community volunteers are able to support the Park District in a variety of ways including service projects, land stewardship, 4-H, and environmental education programs.

b. Focus Area: Programs and Events

1. Action: Community waste reduction and education events – Coordinating with community groups to hold waste reduction drive and other specific waste diversion programs will inspire an environmental ethic and minimize community landfill waste. Explore opportunities for the re-use of one-time sports uniforms/jerseys and other activity outfits. Recent successful programs include shoe recycling at the tennis club, sports equipment swap, costume swap, and Christmas tree collection for chipping into mulch for use in landscape beds.

c. Focus Area: Community Partnerships

1. Action: Partner with key community organizations – Partnerships frequently magnify the impact any one organization can have. The Park District has collaborated with the Village of Glenview for many years on environmental projects including natural areas stewardship and stormwater management. Engage key community groups to explore ways to partner around sustainability initiatives from sharing policy ideas, collaborating on events, cross marketing, etc. Key groups to engage include:

- a. Village of Glenview
- b. Local School Districts
- c. Community Organizations
- d. Research Collaborations with Universities, Museums, Zoos, and Federal/State Agencies

PROGRESS REPORT

I. LAND MANAGEMENT			
Focus Area	Action	Timeframe Short-term: <1 yr, Medium-term: 2-4 yrs, Long-term: >4 yrs Ongoing	Progress Not Started Yet In Progress Ongoing Complete
a. Preservation and Restoration	1. Preservation and expansion of native areas and open space	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Continue to follow The Grove and Air Station Prairie Management Plans. The Grove plans to convert 2 acres of turf near the Kennicott House to native plantings (2025). Ongoing removal of invasive species including Buckthorn and Phragmites.</i>		
	2. Tree replacement program and plantings	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Continue to plant between 250-300 trees annually. Plant seedlings in the CPW in-house nursery for future transplanting into the parks.</i>		
b. Sustainable Practices	1. IPM / Chemical management	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Continue IPM practices according to Federal, and Illinois Department of Agriculture regulations.</i>		
	2. Prescribed burns	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: The Grove 2022: 6 acres; 2023: 9.5 acres; 2024: 16.5 acres; 2025 to date: 24 acres Air Station Prairie 2022: Did not burn; 2023: 16.5 acres; 2024: 8 acres; 2025 to date: 12 acres</i>		
	3. Regenerative farming at Wagner Farm	Ongoing	Ongoing
c. Wildlife	<i>Notes: Continue to incorporate regenerative farming at Wagner Farm. IPM Examples: Use of predator flies and fly zappers to control Stable Flies</i>		
	1. Butterfly and pollinator plantings	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Native pollinator friendly plantings at Community Park West, The Grove, The Golf Courses, and Gallery Park</i>		
	2. Bird / Animal shelters	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: The Grove keeps some dead trees for habitat.</i>		
	3. Deer management	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: The Grove has historically worked with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on permits to remove deer when necessary</i>		

II. ASSET MANAGEMENT & RESOURCE CONSERVATION			
Focus Area	Action	Timeframe Short-term: <1 yr, Medium-term: 2-4 yrs, Long-term: >4 yrs Ongoing	Progress Not Started Yet In Progress Ongoing Complete
a. Energy Efficient Buildings and Operations	1. Track energy usage	Short-term	Not Started Yet
	<i>Notes: None currently tracked Goal: All by the end of 2025.</i>		
	2. Energy audits for all buildings	Short-term	Not Started Yet
b. Water Efficiency	<i>Notes: Periodically, facility Energy Audits have been done through ComEd and have led to efficiencies in the building's HVAC automation systems. Goal: Priority buildings will be identified by the end of 2025, priority buildings to be audited/RCx in 2026.</i>		
	1. Track water usage	Short-term	Not Started Yet
	<i>Goal: Identify and collect 2025 water data for all facilities/operations as a baseline starting point.</i>		

	2. Water collection / reuse opportunities	Short-term	Not Started Yet
	<i>Notes: Irrigation systems at Community Park West and Flick Park reuse water from the detention basins. Goal: Evaluate other opportunities.</i>		
c. Fleet	1. Regularly maintain equipment	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Program for regular vehicle and equipment maintenance is in place at Park Services, Wagner Farm, The Grove, and the Golf Courses. Vehicle fluids are picked up and disposed of by a contracted service.</i>		
	2. EV machinery / fleet / mowers	Ongoing	In Progress
	<i>Notes: The Park District is working on a Fleet Study that identifies EV options for the Trades worker vehicles. Currently have 1 electric ride-on mower and 1 electric Ford E-Transit van. The plan is to order another Ford E-Transit and 2 smaller vans for the tradesworkers in the next year. Staff outfitted two landscape trailers with solar panels and a power station to charge landscape equipment.</i>		
d. Sustainable Technology	1. EV Charging Stations	Short-term	Not Started Yet
	<i>Notes: Currently, there are no public EV stations in the parks. The Park District is working with the state on a grant to install EV Charging Stations at 3 locations: Park Center, Gallery Park, and Community Park West.</i>		
	2. Bird safe buildings	Medium-term	Not Started Yet
	<i>Notes: There have been informal efforts through the use of window decals. Goal: Integrate into the GPD Sustainable Design & Construction Standards (2025/26). Track and celebrate installations.</i>		
	3. LEDs	Short-term	In Progress
	<i>Notes: Ongoing conversions from standard bulbs to LED lighting. Goal: Integrate into the GPD Sustainable Design & Construction Standards (2025/26). Track progress.</i>		
	4. Dark sky compliant fixtures	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Timers are currently being used to turn off park lights at a set hour. Goal: Integrate a Dark Sky policy into the GPD Sustainable Design & Construction Standards (2025/26). Track installations.</i>		
	5. Geothermal	Long-term	Not Started Yet
	<i>Notes: Existing installations at the Tyner Center and Park Services West are conserving energy. Goal: Integrate into the GPD Sustainable Design & Construction Standards (2025/26). Track installations and associated data. Tell story about efficiency and savings.</i>		
	6. Renewable energy	Short-term	In Progress
	<i>Notes: Currently 100% of Park District electricity is generated by Wind Energy RECs and a Community Solar project. Goal: Integrate renewable energy opportunities into the GPD Sustainable Design & Construction Standards (2025/26).</i>		
	7. Increase the number of installed water bottle fillers	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: A majority of the parks and facilities have water filling stations. The Park District should identify those that don't currently have them, and then plan for future installations</i>		
	8. Tennis ball recharger & longer lasting balls	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Glenview Tennis Club continues to use a ball pressurizer, and Triniti balls which last 3x longer, resulting in lower costs.. Also have containers on site to collect balls for recycling.</i>		
e. Design standards and practices	1. Sustainable design & construction standards	Short-term	Not Started Yet
	<i>Goal: Create Sustainable Design & Construction Standards (2025-26).</i>		
	2. Green building, site, and operations certifications	Long-term	In Progress
	<i>Notes: The Tyner Center is currently being evaluated for LEED Zero Certification Goal: Evaluate options in 2025. Implement when it is practical.</i>		

	3. No coal tar	Ongoing	Complete
	Notes: Continue to follow existing policy		

III. OPERATIONS			
Focus Area	Action	Timeframe Short-term: <1 yr, Medium-term: 2-4 yrs, Long-term: >4 yrs Ongoing	Progress Not Started Yet In Progress Ongoing Complete
a. Staff	1. Ensure employee safety and well-being	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Notes: The Park District has Teams dedicated to Safety, Wellness, and the Environment. Goal: Continue to identify best practices in each area.		
	2. Environmental team	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Notes: Team members contributed to the Sustainability Plan development from the perspective of their facility and job position. Goal: Continue to identify best environmental practices		
	3. Staff sustainability trainings and onboarding	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Notes: On-going staff training on environmental sustainability and safety topics. Goal: Develop an Environmental slide show for new hires to view during the onboarding process (2025-26)		
b. Sustainable Operational Policy	1. Catering practices / standards	Short-term	Not Started Yet
	Goal: Develop standards for catering best sustainable practices (2025-26)		
	2. Anti-idling	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Notes: Current policy from 2012 should be reviewed for any updated information.		
	3. Ozone action days	Short-term	Not Started Yet
	Goal: Whenever possible, on Ozone Action Days, minimize strenuous work outside. Also, limit the use and refueling of Park District vehicles and equipment.		
	4. Green purchasing guidance	Short-term	In Progress
	Goal: Standardize purchasing guidance District-wide to prioritize sustainable options.		
	5. Vendor Sustainability	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Goal: Create a policy for vendor sustainability. (2025)		
	6. Green cleaning	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Goal: Create a Green Cleaning policy (2025)		
c. Waste and Materials Management	7. Reduce usage of problematic materials and plastics	Short-term	In Progress
	Notes: Facility specific measures to decrease these materials		
	8. Reduce paper usage	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Notes: The current Tyler Accounting System has eliminated a significant amount of paper. Direct deposit payroll and vendor payments eliminates checks and envelopes.		
	1. Waste audit	Short-term	Not Started Yet
	Goal: Explore opportunities to conduct a waste audit.		
	2. Improve recycling programs	Short-term	In Progress
	Notes: Currently contract with a District-wide recycling hauler that sorts the collected materials. Also, IT staff worked with a service to recycle electronics in 2025. Goal: Educate Park District staff on recycling options. Use the waste audit to update and optimize.		
	3. Composting program	Short-term	In Progress
	Notes: Informally done as part of operations at Park Services, The Grove, Wagner Farm. Goal: Potential 2025 collaboration with Greener Glenview on composting pilot program by providing a drop-off site.		

	4. "Goal: Zero Waste" campaign	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Continue encouraging park users to reduce waste through signage and social media posts</i>		
d. Funding	1. Pursue sustainability-focused grants	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Most recent grant applied for and received was for The Grove Discovery Room through the IDNR Capital Museum Grant. Smaller grants are received for seeds and plants.</i>		
	2. Allocate funds for green initiatives and explore internal grants	Medium-term	Not Started Yet
	<i>Notes: Consider establishing an Internal Grant program for staff to get a sustainable idea implemented.</i>		

IV. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT			
Focus Area	Action	Timeframe Short-term: <1 yr, Medium-term: 2-4 yrs, Long-term: >4 yrs Ongoing	Progress Not Started Yet In Progress Ongoing Complete
a. Education	1. Educate Park District users on relevant sustainability topics	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Ongoing Environmental Education at The Grove and the Tyner Center with school trips, camps, recreation programs, and scouts. Additional outreach through the website, email blasts, and flyers. Collaboration with the Glenview Treekeepers on tree information signage at Gallery Park and Greener Glenview on the SportsSwap.</i>		
	2. Recycling education and engagement	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Goal: Develop resources of local recycling opportunities to post on the website.</i>		
	3. Coordinate with local environmental organizations	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Examples from the past year include collaborations with Greener Glenview, and the Glenview TreeKeepers.</i>		
	4. Engage community volunteers	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Examples from the past year include Scout service projects, Northbranch Restoration, and corporate volunteers.</i>		
b. Programs and Events	5. Community waste reduction and education events	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: Successful sports equipment and costume swaps. Christmas tree collection for chipping into mulch.</i>		
c. Community Partnerships	6. Partner with key community organizations	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<i>Notes: VOG Sustainability Award in partnership with Greener Glenview. Coordination with the Village of Glenview on natural areas stewardship at several sites. Research collaborations: Illinois Natural History Survey wildlife study of Turtles, Bats, and Kirtland Snakes on properties along the Tollway including The Grove, Community Park West, and Indian Ridge Park.</i>		

Appendix I:

Glenview Park District Policy and Procedure Manual

Section 10 – Environmental

Environmental Policy	10.01
-----------------------------	--------------

Adopted by Glenview Park Board of Commissioners, August 28, 2008 and revised and renumbered on September 20, 2018.

Purpose: To establish guidelines under which the Glenview Park District will operate in order to sustain and protect the environment.

Background: The Glenview Park District is committed to providing its services in a manner that meets the needs of the community while sustaining and protecting the environment. This will be accomplished through:

- Pollution prevention
- Energy and water conservation
- Resource sustainability
- Use of environmentally safe and sensitive products
- Open space preservation and planning
- Protection and wise use of air, water, soil and wildlife
- Natural area enhancement
- Invasive species management
- Partnerships with other agencies
- Community outreach and educational programming
- Complying with or exceeding environmental regulations
- Environmental education and interpretation opportunities

To achieve these goals, the Glenview Park District has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) that promotes environmental awareness to both employees and residents and aids in the continuous improvement of environmental performance.

This policy will apply to all Glenview Park District employees, volunteers, contractors, and vendors.

Environmental Guiding Principles

Do No Harm

Make no changes that will degrade the surrounding environment. Promote projects that occur where there has been previous disturbance or development that presents an opportunity to regenerate ecosystem services through sustainable design.

Precautionary Principle

Be cautious in making decisions that could create risk to human and environmental health. Some actions can cause irreversible damage. Examine a full range of alternatives—including no action—and be open to input from all affected parties.

Design with Nature and Culture

Create and implement designs that are responsive to economic, environmental, and cultural conditions with respect to the local, regional, and global context.

Use a Decision-Making Hierarchy of Preservation, Conservation, and Regeneration

Maximize and mimic the benefits of ecosystem services by preserving existing environmental features, conserving resources in a sustainable manner, and regenerating lost or damaged ecosystem services.

Provide Regenerative Systems as Intergenerational Equity

Provide future generations with a sustainable environment supported by regenerative systems and endowed with regenerative resources.

Support a Living Process

Continuously re-evaluate assumptions and values and adapt to demographic and environmental change.

Use a Systems Thinking Approach

Understand and value the relationships in an ecosystem and use an approach that reflects and sustains ecosystem services; re-establish the integral and essential relationship between natural processes and human activity.

Use a Collaborative and Ethical Approach

Encourage direct and open communication among employees, patrons, contractors and vendors to link long-term sustainability with ethical responsibility.

Maintain Integrity in Leadership and Research

Implement transparent and participatory leadership, develop research with technical rigor, and communicate new findings in a clear, consistent, and timely manner.

Reduction and Handling of Waste

Strive to increase recycling, and reduce the amount of waste generated within the District. Tracking the amount of waste our organization generates provides the key foundation for a successful waste reduction program, an opportunity to improve our organization's sustainability, prevent greenhouse gas emissions and reduce costs.

Adapted from: The Sustainable Sites Initiative, 2007 "Preliminary Report on the Standards and Guidelines." J:\Manuals\Policy Manual\Section 10-Environmental\DRAFT 10.01 Environmental Policy.doc

Appendix II:

IPRA Scorecard and Focus Areas Association

Category	Focus Area	Action	IPRA Scorecard Reference
Land Management	Preservation and Restoration	Preservation and expansion of native areas	PK.4, PK.7, PK.8, PK.9, PK.10, PO.1, PO.2, PO.3, PO.5, PR.1
		Tree replacement program and plantings	PK.9, PK.10
	Sustainable Practices	IPM / Chemical management	FM.23, FL.3, PK.7, PK.13
		Bio/natural applications	PK.5
Asset Management and Resource Conservation	Energy Efficient Buildings and Operations	Track energy usage	AF.8
		Energy audits for all buildings	FM. 10, FM.11, FM.12, FM.13, FM.14, FM.15, FM.16, FM.17
	Water Efficiency	Track water usage	AF.8, FM.8
	Fleet	Regularly maintain equipment	FL.1, FL.2
		Electric machinery / fleet / mowers	FL. 8
	Sustainable Technology	LEDs	FM.11
		Geothermal	FM.24
		Renewable Energy	FM.24
	Design Standards and Certifications	No coal tar	PK.6
Operations	Staff	Ensure employee safety and well-being	FL.5
		Staff sustainability trainings and onboarding	FM.25, FL.4, PK.14, PR.9
	Sustainable Operational Policy	Anti-idling	FL.6, PK.11
		Ozone action days	FL.9
		Staff sustainability trainings and onboarding	FM.25, FL.4, PK.14, PR.9
		Vendor Sustainability	AF.7
		Green cleaning	AF.4, FM.18, FM.19
		Reduce paper usage	FM.5, FM.6
	Waste and Materials Management	Waste audit	AF.8, FM.9, FM.22
		Improve recycling programs	FM.1, FM.2, FM.3, FM.4, FM.22, PR.7
		Create/Expand composting program	FM.4, PR.7
	Funding	Pursue sustainability-focused grants	AF.3, FL.7, PK.3, PO.4, PR.10
		Allocate funds for green initiatives and explore internal grants ("revolving funds")	AF.1, AF.2, FL.7, PK.2
	Education	Educate Park District users and the public	PR.1, PR.2, PR.3, PR.4, PR.5, PR.11

Community Engagement and Partnerships		on relevant sustainability topics	
		Coordinate with local environmental organizations	AF.9, PR.8