DATE: September 28, 2009

REQUEST FOR PARKS, RECREATION & ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES ACTION

File Number: **2009-0448**

Orig. Department: **Recreation Department**

File Name: **Recreation Department Green Initiatives**

BACKGROUND:

We kicked off our green initiatives with Earth Day in April, 2009.

We followed up with Orland Hour beginning in June where throughout our municipal facilities we shut off all non essential lighting between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Prairie Godmothers were added to our line-up of programming offered at the Cultural Center. They provide environmental education through workshops such as: water conservation ideas; rain barrel program; composting program; and rain gardens.

Our Green Tent was rolled out at the Farmers Market and has been a weekly presence at this community event. At the Green Tent residents can pickup information and learn about various ways of going green.

On July 3 we introduced our Green Tent challenge where we provide 13 easy steps to a greener life. Residents who show a receipt or picture of what they've done to go green can receive an Orland Park Smart Living bag along with the next steps in joining the residential rewards program.

Beginning in fall of 2009 our High School Recreation Committee will be coached in green practices so they can visit Orland Park businesses to educate them on what they can do to save money and help the environment at the same time.

Coming up in spring of 2010 one lucky home owners association will be selected to participate in the Green and Gorgeous Beautification program. The Prairie Godmothers will work with the HOA to transition their landscape into a sustainable green and gorgeous garden.

BUDGET IMPACT:

REQUESTED ACTION: