Sustainability & Stewardship

Introduction and Overview

The 2012 National Citizen Survey found 81%of Orland Park residents rated the quality of the local natural environment as "excellent" or "good". The survey also found above average appreciation for clean air and water quality, storm water management, and waste reduction. The survey concluded that treatment of the environment affects these factors and, generally, how habitable and inviting a place is.

Orland Park's environmental initiatives have preserved and conserved our natural heritage in open lands, saved money and amplified profit margins by conserving water and energy resources, and improved accessibility to residents and businesses alike. Orland Park promotes responsible development that is environmentally friendly, economically marketable and profitable and socially equitable. In 2007, Orland Park reused and converted an old warehouse building into the country's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certified police headquarters. This type of leadership inspired private buildings like American Technical Publishers in 2009 to achieve LEED Gold status.

In 2009, the Village Board adopted the community's first green plan, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Municipal Action Plan (ECOMAP). With 17 tasks and over 100 deliverables, ECOMAP intends to reduce the municipal carbon-footprint and begin the long road toward becoming less environmentally and energy wasteful. To implement the plan, the Village established Smart Living Orland Park. These efforts reflect the community's leadership in, commitment to, and desire for a quality environment that is functional and strategic.

In order to be more sustainable, we must be greener in the things we do, smarter at what we do, and better than what we did before. Ultimately, making a livable community begins with communicating the idea that we are custodians of our places with the responsibility to manage our shared and valuable environmental and economic assets for future generations. This chapter includes recommendations to achieve that balance while recognizing that sustainability is not a goal that is achieved within a certain number of years, but rather a way to act towards a responsible future.

Farmer's Market, Orland Park

Farmer's Market, Orland Park

Ultimately, making a livable community begins with communicating the idea that we are custodians of our places with the responsibility to manage our shared and valuable environmental and economic assets for future generations.

Evergreen View Detention Facility, Orland Park

2030 Vision

Orland Park will be a sustainable, healthy place with efficient and functional infrastructure that is balanced with nature and community.

Key Concept

A common understanding of 'sustainable development' is to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability also includes the balance of and coordination between the 'Three E's' of environment, economy and equity, as well as development that minimizes negative impact on the environment and other systems. Both of these are key concepts of this chapter.
(Brundtland Commission)

Sustainability and Stewardship Principles

1. Promote responsible development for local ecology, economy and equity.
2. Foster symbiosis between human and natural systems.
3. Improve community health and vitality.
4. Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently.
5. Reduce dependence on fossil fuels, chemical and other synthetic/ unnatural substances.

(APA)

The Smart Living Program

1. Adds economic value to the natural ecology.
2. Enables local prosperity.
3. Makes the benefits of sustainability accessible to everyone.
4. Manages and improves shared and valuable environmental and economic assets.

Earth Day 2012, Orland Park

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Sustainability & Stewardship Components

DIY Sustainability

The Orland Park Residential Rewards Program encourages quick and easy retrofits for saving money and a better environment.

The Residential Rewards Program makes sustainable opportunities and choices available to all people. RRP combines the benefits achieved through a greater awareness of environmentally friendly practices—like clean air, water and soil—with recreational opportunities that are connected with nature, improving the performance and health of households. Creating healthy and livable communities begins with respecting the diverse backgrounds of our residents and enabling them to meet their needs sustainably. Smart Living's RRP encourages investment in the community's economy and health, and provides access to knowledge and skills for households.

Sustainability and stewardship themes and ideas are sprinkled throughout each chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. They can be found in discussions and recommendations for alternative transportation design, for example, to open lands conservation. The below components focus on the core sustainability effort and are summarized to provide only a broad overview of the multifaceted elements that contribute to Sustainability & Stewardship in Orland Park.

Smart Living Orland Park

Smart Living Orland Park is a program that connects residents and businesses with the Village to promote sustainable green practices and to save resources like water and energy. The goal of the program is to reduce operational costs/ living expenses, improve efficiency and conserve resources. The program is divided into five branches: Smart Living, Smart Business, Smart Neighborhood, Smart Village and Smart Codes.

Smart Living

Smart Living, the residential component, shares its name with the overall program because it is the main focus that primarily connects residents with the Village's ongoing promotion of green initiatives. A few highlights of the Smart Living program include:

- → Programs coordinated by the Recreation and Parks Department like T.O.S.S , battery recycling, education efforts and more.
- → Residential Rewards Program (RRP) a feature incentive program of Smart Living that scores participants on a number of prescribed green actions taken in a home.
- → Utility incentives work together with RRP to maximize assistance for residents.
- → ComEd's Smart Ideas for Your Home and NICOR Gas incentives offer utility customers rebates for participation in energy efficiency programs.

Smart Living Green Tent, Orland Park

Local Plantings, Orland Park

*In order to make Orland Park a sustainable, healthy place with efficient and functional infrastructure that is balanced with nature and community, we must become **greener** in the things we do, **smarter** at what we do and how we do it, and **better** than before.*

Farmer's Market, Orland Park

Smart Business

Similar to the residential program, Smart Business is an incentive based program that has primarily focused on energy efficiency and energy use reduction for businesses and includes the following:

- Promotion of the sale/ purchase of energy efficient materials or equipment and changing lighting in businesses to energy efficient CFL or LED lights.
- Energy efficiency as economic development with incentive programs.
  - ComEd's Smart Ideas for Your Business offers 30% rebates for energy efficient building retrofits, lighting, HVAC, refrigeration, data centers etc.
  - Orland Park's Smart Energy Fund (SEF) combined utility incentives with Federal money like the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant to maximize ROI in energy efficiency projects for businesses.
  - SEF leveraged nearly 3 times the amount of private money for every public dollar spent despite it being a 50% cost share program.

Smart Neighborhood

The Smart Neighborhood program is a planning/development component of Smart Living Orland Park and is characterized by the following:

- A goal to construct a certified green neighborhood or subdivision in Orland Park.
- An emphasis on the performance of the green neighborhood rather than the rating system that certifies it green.
- The program has adopted various strategies not necessarily related to USGBC's LEED system and is open to other certification programs like the NAHB's National Green Building Standard.

Smart Village

Through Smart Village, the municipal component, Orland Park local government leads by example with its own green initiatives and unique management techniques. Activities of Smart Village include:

- Maintaining the country's first LEED Gold Police Headquarters.
- Use of new building technologies and practices to enhance the quality of life for visitors and employees of public buildings.
- Reduction in the quantity of paper used in government activities by publishing on the internet (i.e. paperless agendas etc.) and paper waste through recycling.
- Improved building management operations for air quality and temperatures.
- Retrofitted energy efficient systems like HVAC, boilers and lighting systems in Village buildings.
- Increased use of native landscaping and worked toward a greater awareness for water efficiency and conservation
- Recycling programs for unique products like holiday lights, batteries, crayons and more.

Smart Codes

To accomplish many of the green initiatives outlined in the other Smart Living Orland Park branches, codes must be updated to enable the planning and implementation of green technologies and methods that conserve resources and dynamically approach sustainability and stewardship. Key features of Smart Codes include:

- Renewable energy codes to enable wind, solar, geothermal and biomass energy conversion systems; electric vehicle charging stations.
- Storm-water management techniques and other green infrastructure systems like green roofs, rain gardens and barrels, storm water cisterns, bio-swales, native vegetation, porous pavers and pavements, and street edge alternatives.
- Water conservation strategies and programs (local and state sponsored).
- Amending existing codes with green or smart standards for subdivision regulations, zoning provisions, etc.

The Three "E's": Ecology, Economy, Equity

One way to understand sustainability and develop a stewardship plan for implementation is to address the three widely recognized elements: ecology, economy and equity (also known as "the triple bottom line").

Ecology

Ecology describes the relationship we and other living organisms have with our natural environments. Although much of Orland Park has developed in a traditional suburban manner, efforts have been taken to protect, preserve and enhance natural areas reflective of the local heritage including wetlands, prairie grasslands, and savannah forests. Besides supporting regional biodiversity, these ecosystems provide valuable services to our community that include flood control, soil stabilization, and water quality maintenance to name a few. *(Ecotrust, 2013)* To protect these resources, the Village works with developers and land owners using management techniques and preservation strategies. The below policies highlight current efforts as related to ecology:

- Storm water best management practices and techniques that retain hydrology for existing natural systems and emphasize groundwater recharge;
- Conservation development practices and techniques that respect existing topography;
- Conservation easements for grasslands, tree stands and other significant natural features;
- Acquisition of over 300 acres of land to be preserved as open space within the Village;
- Programs like the Tree Mitigation Bank, which is a fee-in-lieu funding source dedicated to urban forestry; and
- Habitat and biodiversity enhancement techniques like controlled burns, wetland and prairie detention facilities, reduced mowing, invasive species removal and other environmental preservation strategies.

Maintaining and managing a natural environment that compliments the built environment benefits both current and future generations, positively affecting health and security. Local ecosystems have both direct impacts to the immediate environment and indirect impacts at the regional, national, and even international scale.

Lake Sedgewick Cleanup, Orland Park

Centennial Wetland Signage, Orland Park

Lake Sedgewick Cleanup, Orland Park

Sheffield Square Construction, Orland Park

Student Government Day 2012, Orland Park

Green Fair 2012, Orland Park

Economy

Economy describes the way we manage our resources as a community. Orland Park has placed a special emphasis on water and energy, important resources that influence the economy and ecosystem and result in significant costs to the community and the environment. Programs like the Smart Energy Fund and Residential Exterior Insulation and Re-siding Fund, administered through Orland Park Smart Business, decreased energy demand while increasing return on investment. The Village also promotes WaterSense rated systems to increase water conservation.

Smart Business has lowered energy demand during peak operating hours and reduced program participants' carbon footprints. Programs like SEF and REIRS are examples of smart incentives that address local economic handicaps and environmental concerns and assist small businesses and residents become economically viable and efficient. Engaging the community with such programs:

- → Maintains the health of the environment and the community;
- → Encourages greater capital investment for economic stability; and
- → Reduces risks and liabilities associated with infrastructure maintenance and environmental degradation.

Equity

At the municipal level, equity translates into equal access to knowledge, skills and programs that benefit the community. Goals and actions related to equity can be found in many other chapters of this plan including Economic Development, Open Space, Parks & Recreation, and Community & Culture. Orland Park has made strides in being a community focused on equity as highlighted in the following activities:

- → Smart Living Orland Park improves awareness of and access to alternative "greener" products and practices.
- → The Citizens Information Center on the Village's website and the creation of a Public Information Office are efforts to increase the availability of information to Orland Park residents. In fact, Orland Park was the first community in Illinois to achieve a 100% score on the Illinois Policy Institutes 10 point transparency checklist.
- → Orland Park has successfully administered a number of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) that have resulted in infrastructure improvements like street resurfacing and park development in areas with low incomes.
- → The rental housing registration program provides protection and security to both renters and landlords and results in safe housing options.

"The Water Story"

The Great Lakes are the largest surface freshwater system on Earth. Lake Michigan provides water for Orland Park and nearly 80% of the Chicago metropolitan region. International laws between the United States and Canada regulate the amount of water cities and regions can divert from the Great Lakes. Those laws, however, do not apply to Lake Michigan, which has the largest metropolitan region on the Great Lakes and is entirely within the United States. Lake Michigan diversion is regulated by a US Supreme Court mandate in Wisconsin v. Illinois. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources administers the Supreme Court's mandate and issues permits to communities where Lake Michigan water is the most economical water source for its customers. Those communities are limited in the amount of water that can be drawn from the Lake, but regional growth and increasing demand have placed a strain on the water supply. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Water 2050 Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply/Demand Plan (2010) estimates that without effective resource management, water demand could increase as much as 64% by 2050, outstripping current supply and capacity and exceeding the Supreme Court's limit on water diversion—both of which are costly scenarios.

In addition to increased demand, water that historically recharged lakes and aquifers has, over time, been diverted into an efficient storm and sanitary system designed to move water away as quickly as possible. This type of infrastructure, exemplified in the reversal of the Chicago/Illinois River, has disrupted natural watersheds. Recent policy changes have begun to emphasize best management stormwater techniques that provide for appropriate drainage while restoring and recharging the local water supply.

Lake Michigan water is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain our life, development and the environment. The conservation and efficient use of this precious resource merits a stewardship strategy that engages all water uses and users, including residents, businesses, utilities and policy-makers at all levels of government. (Orland Park Resolutino 1306)

Lake Michigan

Orland Park Police

In August of 2012, the Orland Park Police Department participated in the National Night Out Against Crime program for the fifteenth year, hosting a seniors citizen luncheon and seminar on crime prevention in the afternoon. The evening event at the civic center again drew hundreds of residents who participated in numerous events emphasizing crime prevention. There were also many activities and events for children and parents. On January 13, 2013, the department received the National Award from the National Town Watch Association for our "Night Out" activities.
(VOP, 2012)

Canine Unit, Orland Park.

Community Livability, Health & Vitality

In addition to the Smart Living program and other environmentally oriented policies of the Village, Orland Park is host to a number of programs and events that promote community health and vitality. A sampling of these programs include:

Life Safety

While also protecting the safety of visitors and residents, the Orland Park Police Department and Orland Park Fire Protection District, among other entities, coordinate a number of efforts to improve community health including:

- Hosting a prescription drug take-back day (national initiative from the DEA to reduce prescription drugs in homes and also reduce them from the water supply).
- Educational programming on drug use and addiction through the DARE program and the development of educational videos.
- Administration of the crime-free housing initiative.
- Coordinating the National Night Out Against Crime Program.
- Engaging the community in safety training via the Citizens Police & Fire Academies.

Wellness

Orland Park, Orland Township and other agencies coordinate a number of events as related to general health and wellness including:

- Orland Township monthly wellness screenings and seasonal flu shots.
- Access to health services like cholesterol testing, diabetes monitoring, podiatry screenings, physicals and more.
- Annual Sportsplex health fair.
- Workshops and support groups for all demographics and needs.
- A wide variety of fitness programs for all ages and abilities offered throughout numerous Village facilities.
- The Orland Park Recreation and Parks Department hosts a number of special events to promote healthy lifestyles such as the health fair, indoor duathlon, turkey trot and more.

Local Food

The Village promotes the consumption of local and sustainable food in the following ways:

- The purchase and programming of Boley Farm and Stellwagen Farm to be used for local farming purposes.
- The administration of a weekly farmers market from June to October that highlights locally procured foods.
- The implementation of community gardens in Discovery Park.
- The economic development efforts to maintain a variety of grocery stores within the Village, including those that provide local and organic items.

Turkey Trot 2012, Orland Park

GO TO 2040

Livability Matters

The cumulative choices of 284 municipalities and seven counties contribute to quality of life and economic prosperity across our region. With local autonomy over land use comes the responsibility to consider how those decisions shape a community's livability, including how they affect neighboring communities and the region as a whole. As a region, we need to implement policies and investments that make livability the highest priority. In addition to their quality-of-life benefits, livability and compact growth make good economic sense for our region and its residents as well. Developing our existing communities and improving their livability is more cost-effective and resource-efficient than rapidly developing in areas that don't have adequate infrastructure. Some of the tangible benefits of livable communities are:

- *Lower household costs for residents*
- *Reduced costs to taxpayers*
- *More parks and open space*
- *Increased energy efficiency*
- *More options for transportation*
- *Increased water efficiency*
- *Improved health*
- *Increased availability of local food*

(CMAP, 2010a)

Senior Week, Orland Park

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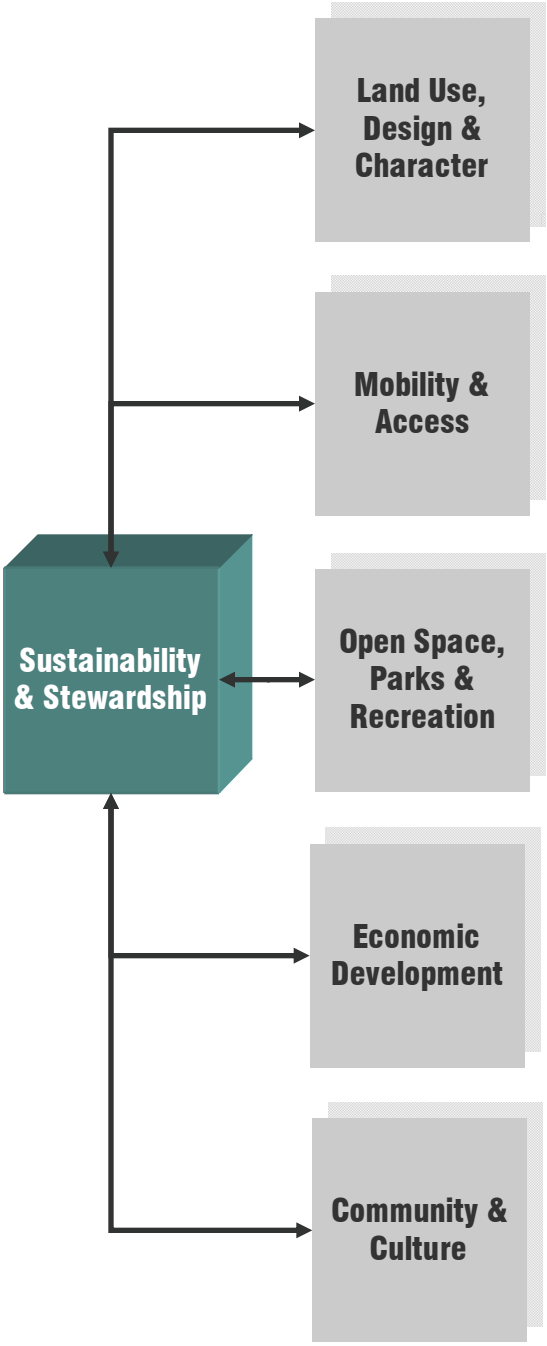

Recommendations

This chapter intends to provide guidance to act towards a more responsible and sustainable future. The following recommendations address the three "E's" of sustainability—ecology, economy and equity. It is important to remember that recommendations of the sustainability chapter interplay and integrate with all other chapters in the Comprehensive Plan. The Goals and Objectives listed below were developed as a response to the needs and issues of Sustainability & Stewardship in the Village.

Needs and Issues

1. Although Orland Park has taken a proactive approach to environmental issues, a dependence on non-renewable resources and materials like fossil fuels, chemicals and other synthetic substances dominates day-to-day life.
2. Many current regulations and market forces conflict with and prohibit environmentally progressive development.
3. As a way of thinking, sustainability is not a driving force in making decisions in the community.
4. Land, water and fossil fuels are finite resources to natural systems and the community.
5. Green infrastructure and a greener local economy require long-term capital planning and investment.
6. Despite a number of progressive efforts, food consumed by the community is imported from faraway places, requiring fossil fuels, fertilizers, plastics, chemical preservatives and other synthetics.
7. Continued efforts to improve community wellness and vitality will have positive health benefits for all residents in the future.
8. Education and outreach using community assets are part and parcel of sustainability and stewardship.
9. Federal and state mandates demand greener actions for development.

LEED ND

LEED ND, by the US Green Building Council, integrates the principles of smart growth, urbanism and green building into the first national system for neighborhood design. LEED ND can be for whole neighborhoods, portions of neighborhoods or multiple neighborhoods--there is no minimum or maximum size for a LEED ND project. Thoughtful neighborhood planning can limit the need for automobiles and their greenhouse gas emissions. Mixed-use development and pedestrian-friendly streets encourage walking, bicycling and public transportation. Green buildings and infrastructure also lessen negative consequences for water resources, air quality and natural resource consumption. The character of a neighborhood, including its streets, homes, workplaces, shops and public spaces, affects quality of life. Green developments respect historic resources and the existing community fabric. They preserve open space and encourage access to parks. LEED ND was developed in collaboration with the Congress for the New Urbanism and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

(USGBC, 2013)

GOAL 1.0 ECOLOGY

Protect the natural environment with responsible development that manages ecological resources and preserves benefits for future generations.

Objective 1.1

New development and redevelopment in Orland Park will be environmentally sensitive with efficient, high quality connected infrastructure and appropriately located land uses that benefit the natural environment and diversify the local economy.

Action Items

- → Adopt an integrated green infrastructure code that is incorporated into the Land Development Code.
- → Consider development incentives to achieve maximum environmental benefits via land development.
- → Pursue the completion of one green subdivision by 2030.
- → Preserve sensitive areas using ecological land-use strategies that optimize the size and impact of development.
- → Use the resources of Smart Living to develop a comprehensive green development policy for all development.
- → Use recognized green building and development standards, like USGBC LEED, to develop a locally tailored rating system to measure performance and evaluate development.
- → Utilize traditional ecological and cultural knowledge of land and water to manage resources efficiently (e.g. landscape, transportation, utilities, agriculture etc.).
- → Lead by example by targeting Village facilities for green building methods and retrofits.
- → Establish and maintain a local Green Infrastructure Fund to support Village green infrastructure capital improvements.
- → Encourage the inclusion of more green amenities in buildings and sites, like naturally lit common areas, open space patios, water filtering fountains, rooftop gardens, green parking lots etc.

Objective 1.2

Orland Park will reduce the dependence on non-renewable resources and materials such as fossil fuels, chemicals and other synthetic and unnatural substances.

Action Items

- → Encourage and provide access to reduce fossil fuel activities like public transit and renewable energy.
- → Increase the purchase of renewable energy credits via continued municipal electrical aggregation.
- → Develop a new energy master plan following the 2009 ECOMAP plan that guides the community to reduce fossil fuel consumption.
- → Support private and public infrastructure upgrades that meet local energy demand using renewable sources (wind, solar, hydro, biomass/fuel, geothermal, fuel cells etc.).
- → Encourage the reduction and reuse of construction waste on development and construction projects.

- Promote the reduction of chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers on Village property.
- Educate residents and businesses about and encourage reduced use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and other synthetic substances that negative environmental impacts.
- Use the Smart Village program to advance high efficiency and high performance building system retrofits for existing Village facilities to achieve facility-wide Energy Star status and certification.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide and fertilizer use in one Village park per year until 25% of the park system is 'naturally' maintained.

Objective 1.3

Orland Park will be a regional leader in the water conservation effort.

Action Items

- Create a combined water resources code that addresses potable water use, storm water and sanitary water systems, and watershed restoration that is synced with a green infrastructure code.
- Establish a water initiative to manage water use efficiently across all water use sectors and to educate the community about the importance of water conservation.
- Seek opportunities to manage water supply infrastructure efficiently and reinvest in and maintain existing systems.
- Collaborate with users, managers and policy-makers at all levels when making water development and conservation decisions.
- Explore the feasibility of water recycling systems for the reuse of waste or gray water in existing buildings and new construction.
- Support green infrastructure efforts that reduce the use of potable water for non-potable purposes.
- Participate in regional water planning and conservation efforts.

Sheffield Square Silt Fence, Orland Park

Energy Saving Retrofits

In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) awarded $520,000 in federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding to the Village of Orland Park. Orland Park's EECBG money was divided into three main categories: the Residential Exterior Insulation and Re-Siding (REIRS) program for old neighborhoods, the Smart Energy Fund (SEF) for businesses, and the Energy Efficiency for Governmental Buildings (EEGB) program for public sector facilities. The REIRS and SEF programs successfully targeted residential and commercial energy users to lower operational costs, increase financial savings and improve and conserve energy use. The EEGB program targeted public buildings and facilities to improve and conserve energy use.

Using about half of the EECBG award, the Village leveraged federal dollars to purchase new energy efficient rooftop mechanical equipment for the Franklin E. Loebe Recreation Center and the William R. Vogel Civic Center. The new equipment replaced the original 20 year old systems. The savings in local dollars offset the costs for purchasing new energy efficient equipment and systems in other buildings such as the Frederick T. Owens Village Hall and the Recreation Administration Building, which in 2011 was converted from an old police station into the main offices for the Village's Recreation & Parks Department. The Village also supplemented EECBG dollars and savings with state grants from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to replace aged boilers, lighting and other building systems.

Gray Water

Graywater is playing an expanding role in water conservation efforts. The Illinois Plumbing Code (IPC) defines gray water as "waste water, such as dishwater, or other water not containing fecal matter or urine." Gray water systems are separate but parallel pipe systems in a building or house that divert waste water that is normally directed down drains to special reservoirs. These systems are often marked purple or another color to differentiate between traditional drain systems and the gray water "reuse" system. The waste water includes dishwashing, cloth washing, bath and sink water that is stored in reservoirs and used later mainly as a supplement for toilet flushing—why flush potable water that we pay for down with the waste?

Gray water systems are usually not connected to any irrigation systems since waste water will usually contain other unsanitary fluids, soaps and chemical cleaning agents that can pollute the earth. Reused water for irrigation systems typically comes from collected storm water (e.g. rain barrels, cisterns etc.). The State of Illinois is preparing the 2012 IPC in which gray water systems are standardized for general public deployment with proper onsite filtration and overflow regulations.

GOAL 2.0 ECONOMY

Improve the economic performance of homes and businesses through education and context sensitive regulations, incentives and programs.

Objective 2.1

Orland Park homes will utilize green technologies and construction methods that reduce energy, fossil fuel use and contribute to healthy families.

Action Items

- → Provide residential programs that address the cost of water and energy resources, waste handling, in-home healthcare, and home performance and energy improvements.
- → Encourage the use of and educate about alternative and traditional household cleaning agents that are environmentally friendly and economically sustainable.
- → Develop a single family lot retrofit and infill guide to demonstrate appropriate green infrastructure application.
- → Foster educational relationships between homeowners and financial institutions to publicize programs like location efficient mortgages, and energy efficient loans.
- → Continue cooperative working relationships with local utilities to deliver utility incentives and programs to Orland Park households.

Objective 2.2

Commercial buildings in Orland Park will construct environmentally friendly building retrofits and upgrades that reduce standard business operating costs for energy and water.

Action Items

- → Maintain the Smart Energy Fund for local businesses to reduce operating costs and achieve greater energy independence.
- → Consider a new incentive program for the Village's water utility to assist commercial and mixed use buildings conserve water and use it efficiently through building retrofits and upgrades.
- → Work with area Chambers of Commerce to develop a Sustainable Business Network that improves regional demand/supply relationships for businesses.
- → Continue cooperative working relationships with local utilities to deliver utility incentives and programs to Orland Park businesses.

Objective 2.3

Orland Park will educate and participate in broad and regional sustainability initiatives.

Action Items

- → Implement regional energy and water planning initiatives such as the Water 2050 Plan and the GO TO 2040 Plan.
- → Participate in the Chicago Climate Exchange and encourage local investment in carbon emissions credits as a means toward mitigating the environmental cost of transportation systems used for commerce.
- → Establish a "Made in America" policy that prioritizes local, then regional, then national vendors and emphasizes eco-certified services and commodities.
- → Adopt a municipal green procurement policy that requires certification of sustainable practices with appropriate products or services (e.g. Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council etc.).

- Partner with schools, libraries, institutions and universities to promote universal access to knowledge, particularly as related to environmental issues.

GOAL 3.0 EQUITY

Orland Park will provide a high quality of life and a healthy and livable community for all demographics.

Objective 3.1

Orland Park residents and visitors will have easy access to and knowledge of local, sustainable food sources and practices.

Action Items

- Improve access to healthier food and expand opportunities to produce locally grown food, including community gardens, urban agriculture and commercial grocery stores.
- Promote regional food systems and emphasize broad access to affordable and healthy food resources.
- Promote healthy food access, opportunities and options in all neighborhood retail centers.
- Create a Village agricultural program using the Stellwagen and Boley farms as organic practice community farms.
- Create an infrastructure to support direct sale food growers.
- Distribute and promote educational material about local and sustainable food practices.
- Support the expansion of community gardens.

Objective 3.2

A culture of wellness and healthy lifestyles will be familiar to residents and visitors of Orland Park.

Action Items

- Encourage the implementation of wellness plans for workplaces, schools and other institutions.
- Integrate wellness efforts into Village programs and activities.
- Develop a public health master plan for the community that may address the following:
    - Consider incentive programs for retailers to offer healthy items.
    - Build public-private partnerships with healthcare institutions and organizations to integrate public health planning into land use planning and programming.
    - Frame capital improvement and infrastructure projects through the lens of public health.
    - Promote Health Impact Assessments as a tool to objectively evaluate the potential health effects of a project or policy.
    - Utilize the local medical community to create community health indicators, monitor these and provide feedback on them and treatment opportunities.
- Use Smart Living Orland Park to link public health policies and land use management systems with resource preservation, zoning, transportation and land use planning.
- Consider allowing limited temporary uses on vacant lots that facilitate public health on vacant lots (such as community gardens, public art displays, and public fields to promote free play).

GO TO 2040

Local Food

There is growing concern about the environmental impacts, safety, and quality of our food. Also gaining widespread attention are the disparities of access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable foods and the health implications of "food deserts" (areas without nearby retail outlets that have fresh, nutritious, and affordable food). How residents and institutions in our region get their food may seem like an issue best left up to individual lifestyle choices and private business decisions. However, food systems are already highly influenced by public policies related to land use, transportation, and many other issues addressed in the GO TO 2040 plan.

"Local" food—which is grown, processed, packaged, and distributed on land in or adjacent to our seven counties—can contribute to a sense of community and regional identity. Farming practices, food distribution, and waste disposal should all be sustainable, meeting our present needs without compromising the future. Local production of and equitable access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable food can benefit our economy, environment, public health, equity, and overall quality of life. From commercial farms to community co-ops and even backyard gardens, emphasizing local food production and access can help to preserve farmland in traditionally agricultural communities or to revitalize neighborhoods by bringing agriculture to vacant, unused parcels in urban settings where it is usually absent.

(CMAP, 2010a)

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Keystone Projects

The following sample projects have incorporated recommendations and principles identified in the Sustainability & Stewardship chapter. They are included for reference to provide local context to the Comprehensive Plan.

Water Conservation Project

Village Hall Irrigation, Orland Park

Project Description

In 2010, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) awarded Orland Park a Local Technical Assistance Grant in order to draft and implement a local water conservation strategy based on the recommendations of the CMAP Model Water Use Conservation Ordinance, the Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply/Demand Plan (Water 2050) and GO TO 2040. The Village and CMAP established a stakeholder working group in 2011 that included members of the public, the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Smart Living Task Force to analyze local data, gather and share information through an extensive public outreach campaign, and draft the water conservation strategy report. The report, completed in 2012, identifies the highest water users in the community by sector and by account and tailors indoor and outdoor water use efficiency and conservation recommendations for each category. The report provides recommended code changes for new construction, addresses existing buildings through retrofit programs and efficiency incentives, and outlines a strategic relaxation for outdoor watering restrictions and schedules to improve water use efficiency and conserve potable water resources. To implement the findings of the Water Conservation Program strategy report, Orland Park is working with a consortium of neighboring communities to build a regional consensus on the importance and necessity for water conservation and to enable each community to formally adopt and implement their own water plan following the guidance of the regional Water 2050 plan.

Goals in Action

- → Orland Park will be a regional leader in the water conservation effort.
- → Amend the appropriate Codes to include a combined water resources code that addresses potable water use, storm water and sanitary water systems in one chapter that is synced with a green infrastructure code.
- → Establish a water initiative to manage water use efficiently across all water use sectors and to educate the community about the importance of water conservation.
- → Support the creation of and participation in a consortium of water stakeholders to coordinate and guide regional and sub-regional water use planning, policy and supply management.

Orland Park Police Department

Project Description

In April of 2004, the Village Board decided to build a new Orland Park Police Department. Rather than a conventional facility, the Mayor and Board of Trustees chose to construct a building focused on sustainable methods and improved environmental quality. The site chosen for the new building was an old one-story warehouse building with huge concrete wall planks lining the exterior. The renovated building and site earned a LEED Gold Rating by the USGBC and became the first police building with such a rating in the United States.

Goals in Action

- → Commercial buildings in Orland Park will construct environmentally friendly building retrofits and upgrades that reduce standard business operating costs for energy and water.
- → Orland Park will participate in broad and regional sustainability initiatives.
- → Orland Park will be regional leader in the water conservation effort.
- → Use recognized green building and development standards, like USGBC LEED, to develop a locally tailored rating system to measure performance and evaluate development.

Orland Park Police Department, Orland Park

Discovery Park Gardens

Project Description

In 2010, the Smart Living Task Force proposed the first community garden pilot project in Discovery Park with the approval of the Village Board of Trustees. The project included the creation of 21 garden plots with a water tap extension and was completed for less than $2,000. Community garden plots are rented annually for $30 to residents and $45 to non-residents. The plots provide a sunny location to grow vegetables and plants for those who may not have the ability to do so where they live. The pilot project is now in its third year and has been considered a success with the option to repeat at other local parks around the Village.

Goals in Action

- → Orland Park residents and visitors will have easy access to and knowledge of local, sustainable food sources and practices.
- → Orland Park will participate in broad and regional sustainability initiatives.
- → Orland Park will provide a healthy and livable community for all demographics.

Discovery Park Community Garden, Orland Park

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