



**Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission  
Notice of Regular Meeting  
February 12, 2020**

The Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission will convene on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 in the **Council Room at the Village Hall, 510 Green Bay, Winnetka, Illinois**, at 7:00 p.m.

**Agenda**

*Call to Order*

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>1) Introduction &amp; Chair's Remarks</b>                               | Presenter Dowding |
| <b>2) Public Comment</b>   |                   |
| <b>3) Review and Approval of Minutes</b>                                   |                   |
| a. Approval of the January 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes                 | Presenter Dowding |
| <b>4) Communications</b>   |                   |
| a. Approval of February & March Communication Items                        | Presenter Mendoza |
| b. Discussion of April Communication Items                                 | Presenter Mendoza |
| <b>5) Committee/Staff Reports</b>  |                   |
| a. EFC Green Award Nomination(s)   | Presenter Mendoza |
| <b>6) New Business/Old Business Updates</b>                                |                   |
| a. Village of Winnetka Comprehensive Plan Discussion with the Lakota Group | Presenter Dowding |
| b. Village Recycling Guidelines Communication                              | Presenter Kunkle  |
| <b>7) Open Forum</b>   |                   |
| <b>8) Adjournment</b>  |                   |

---

Posted Time and Date

**NOTICE**

All agenda materials are available at [villageofwinnetka.org](http://villageofwinnetka.org) (*Government > Council Information > Agenda Packets & Minutes*); *the Reference Desk at the Winnetka Library; or in the Manager's Office at Village Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).*

The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator, at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, 847-716-3543; T.D.D. 847-501-6041.

**WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 8, 2020**

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois, Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:**

Acting Chairperson Varca called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.; Voting Members present: Liz Kunkle, David Varca, Chris Foley, Barry Sylvester, Rosann Park-Jones. Voting Members absent: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, and Mike Nielsen. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Ex-officio Members present: None. Village Council Representative present: Jack Coladarci. Student Representative present: Marcus Buccellato. Staff Representative present: Brendon Mendoza, Public Works Analyst. Public present: None.

**1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:**

Commissioner Varca assumed the role of Acting Chairperson for the January 8, 2020 EFC Meeting as Chairperson Dowding was not in attendance. Acting Chairperson Varca called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members and the public. Acting Chairperson Varca welcomed Village Council Representative Coladarci to the Commission.

**2) Public Comment: NONE.**

**3) Review and Approval of Minutes:**

a) Approval of the December 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to approve the December 11, 2019 minutes, which was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Sylvester.

**4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:**

a) Review of GRC2 Primary Goals for 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update:

The Commission provided a summary of the Village's GRC2 Plan, and the Commission's current draft recommendation list for the Village's new 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the new Village Council Representative Coladarci. Commissioner Kunkle briefly referenced the Evanston Sustainability Plan, Climate Action and Resilience Plan ("CARP") as a model.

Trustee Coladarci stated that context is helpful when recommendations are presented as it provides a better understanding.

The discussion for the short-term GRC objectives and long-term goals are included below under Agenda Item b).

b) Review of Documents for Comprehensive Plan to Share with the Lakota Group at the February 12, 2020 EFC Meeting

▪ Short Term GRC Objectives

The Commission reviewed and discussed the “Proposed Consensus Recommendation from the GRC2 Framework” document.

▪ Long Term Goals

The Commission reviewed and discussed the following draft goals documents that are recommended for inclusion in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan;

- Reduce Winnetka’s Consumption of Water by 10%
- Develop Safe East-West Bikeway(s) to connect to Downtown Areas, GB Trail, Rail Stations, and Educational Institutions
- Stabilize Bluffs and Beaches, and Increase Enjoyment of Lake Michigan
- Reduce to Zero Beach Closures From Pollutions
- Minimize or Eliminate Beach Closures Due to Bacteria and Other Contaminants
- Begin Planning for Extension or Transition Regarding Winnetka’s Local Electric Power Plant
- Consider Impacts of the Limited Remaining Lifespan of our SWANCC Waste Landfills
- Develop Landfill into Property That Can Be Utilized by the Village
- Manage Water Infrastructure to Ensure Water Quality and Efficiency
- Include WEFC Representation on other Village Commissions as well as Enabling Additional Environmental and/or Forestry Related Ordinances to Fall Under WEFC’s Review

Commissioner Kunkle explained the history of a Park District Representative, as Trustee Coladarci asked how communications take place between EFC and the Park District.

Commissioner Park-Jones asked about goals regarding lead water lines, Acting Chairperson Varca asked Commissioner Park-Jones to draft a write-up for this subject.

Acting Chairperson Varca asked Commissioner Kunkle to draft a goal regarding refuse and recycling.

- Example of Single Sustainability Chapter

This was discussed as part of above Agenda Item b).

- c) Additional Thoughts for Meeting with the Lakota Group at the February 12, 2020 EFC Meeting

The Commission mentioned that it may be useful to have an example of past Comprehensive Plans that the Lakota Group has completed. Staff Representative Mendoza stated he will ask for copies.

## 5) Communications:

- a) Discussion of January Communication Items:

Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to approve the January Communications Items which was moved by Commissioner Park-Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle.

- b) Review of February Communications Items:

The Commission reviewed the February Communications. Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to approve the February Communications Items, which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones. After approval, Acting Chairperson Varca asked to place the February Communication Items on the February EFC Agenda for approval along with the next set of communication items, in order to put the approval of communication items on track.

Commissioner Kunkle mentioned to have articles included in the communications at specific times of the year that they would be most useful. Commissioner Kunkle also mentioned to have articles ready to be used in the Village's communications outlets in the event there is a need for an extra article.

The Commission mentioned to adjust the process of reviewing and approval of communication items for future EFC Agendas. For example, the February Agenda will be as such; Discuss April Communications Items and Review March Communications Items for approval. Staff Representative Mendoza stated he will make this change.

## 6) Commission/Staff Reports: None.

7) **Student Representation Update: None.**

8) **Open Forum:**

Commissioner Kunkle discussed the EFC's Green Award and reminded the Commission to spread the word that the Green Award Application is now available and nominations can be made.

Commissioner Kunkle discussed the Village's battery recycling program. Commissioner Kunkle mentioned that the Village no longer collects batteries, and would like to find a way to have the Village collect batteries again. Commissioner Kunkle stated she will follow-up with SWANCC regarding battery recycling and potential opportunities.

Commissioner Kunkle stated that she was curious about the Village's holiday lighting program and opportunities to be sustainable with the holiday lighting strands. Commissioner Kunkle mentioned that the Village of Northfield has started to use reusable decorations/lights such as hanging decorations.

Commissioner Kunkle mentioned that she received the recent Winnetka Winter Report and thought a good idea would be to include a separate standalone insert of the Village's Recycling Guide for a future Winnetka Report.

Commissioner Kunkle and Acting Chairperson Varca discussed that an idea could be to place a sticker with recycling information on the Village's recycling containers to inform residents of what can go in the containers. The group discussed another opportunity may be to place a poster on the posting boards throughout the Village (Such as the one at Green Bay and Tower Road for example) of the Village's Recycling Guide.

9) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Park-Jones and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. The motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

## February 2020 EFC Communications Content

### 1. EFC Green Awards Application Reminder

*E-blast Newsletter*

The Village of Winnetka's Environmental and Forestry Commission invites nominations for the third-annual Green Awards Program. The purpose of the program is to recognize properties and households within Winnetka that demonstrate exceptional commitment to sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices. Residents, businesses and other organizations are encouraged to nominate their house, property, building or project that has been completed within the past five years. The award categories include: Green Building, Recycling/Waste Reduction, Land, Air, Water/Stormwater, Energy, and Innovation/Other.

If you believe your recent project has helped make Winnetka a more environmentally-friendly or sustainable community, the Commission asks that you consider applying. Applications are available through the Public Works Department at 1390 Willow Road, or by clicking here (<http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/government/boards-and-commissions/environmental-and-forestry-commission/>). The application deadline is February 28, 2020. Category winners will be announced on Earth Day (April 22, 2020). If you have any questions about the program, contact Brendon Mendoza at 847-716-3568 or [bmendoza@winnetka.org](mailto:bmendoza@winnetka.org).

### 2. Environmental and Forestry Commission Green Tip: Think Before You Buy

*Weekly E-Newsletter*

Our normal shopping habits may be adversely impacting our environment, and we may not even know it. You can make a big change by being environmentally conscious when shopping. For instance, we can implement the following waste reduction principles while shopping:

- Prepare a shopping list before buying so as to avoid purchasing more than needed.
- Family-sized product has less packaging and costs less.
- Buy products with minimal packaging that can reduce wasting resources.
- Reuse the packaging materials, such as plastic bag, paper bag, plastic box, paper, ribbon, etc.
- When buying, remember to bring your own shopping bag.
- Only buy items that are actually needed.

### 3. Environmental and Forestry Commission Green Tip: Think Before You Pack

*Weekly E-Newsletter*

Travel, as much fun it is, can also make your eco footprint on this world a few sizes larger than it would be if you just stayed at home. There are a lot of small changes you can make to become a greener traveler. Below are a few tips to keep in mind when travel to help you leave a smaller footprint:

- Pack what you will actually need
- Take reusable items
- Invest in quality
- Use chemical-free toiletries
- Bring a reusable water bottle

## March 2020 EFC Communications Content

### 1. Coal Tar Sealant Reminder

#### *Spring Winnetka Report*

In August of 2014, the Village of Winnetka implemented a ban on the use of coal tar-based sealing agents on all public and private driveways, parking lots and other roadway surfaces with Village limits. Coal tar is a waste material generated during coal processing that contains high levels of chemical compounds shown to be harmful to aquatic life and pose a potential risk to humans. This initiative was studied by the Village's Environmental and Forestry Commission as an effort to benefit water quality. As required by this ban, all contractors and multi-family property owners must obtain a Pavement Sealant Applicators License through the Public Works Department. Property owners of single family lots applying sealant themselves do not need a Pavement Sealant Applicators License.

As an alternative to coal tar-based sealants, the Village recommends using asphalt-based sealants (sold in most home improvement stores), replacing asphalt with concrete driveways, or leaving driveways unsealed. For more information, please call the Public Works Department at (847) 716-3568.

### 2. Paper Shredding Event

#### *Spring Winnetka Report*

Winnetka's Document Destruction Event will be held **DATE & TIME TBD** at the Public Works Yards at 1390 Willow Road. The goal of the program is to assist residents with recycling out-dated or sensitive documents. As a continuing program, the Solid Agency of Northern Cook Country (SWANCC) is providing a one-day document destruction event for residentially-generated paper, such as medical forms, bank statement, personal files, retired tax forms, etc. Paper clips and staples do not need to be removed, but please remove binders.

There is no cost to participate, but residents must live in one of SWANCC's member communities and ID's will be checked for proof of residency. Residents will be limited to six file-size boxes or paper shopping bags per vehicle. Please do not bring documents in plastic bags. As residents drive up in their vehicles, workers will unload the paper documents into large carts. When full, the carts of paper are emptied into the truck's cross-shredding machine. Alternative paper shredding events can be found on SWANCC's website at: <https://www.swancc.org/programs/document-destruction-events>

### **3. Electronics Recycling Program Resuming**

*Spring Winnetka Report & Weekly E-Newsletter*

The Village's electronics recycling event has been postponed throughout the winter months. The current program takes place at the Winnetka Public Works facility every Thursday from 1-3 pm. The program will resume in April (**DATE TBD**). The Village will continue its other recycling programs year-round which include recycling of items such as Styrofoam, CFL bulbs, batteries, handheld electronics, holiday lights and gym shoes. Please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568 with any questions.

### **4. Clean Up Week**

*Weekly E-Newsletter*

Winnetka's Annual Spring Clean-up is scheduled for the last week in April each year. The goal of the yearly spring rubbish collection is to reduce fire hazards in the home. The Village's Recycling provider, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, will remove from the parkway anything that two men can reasonably lift into a truck. Electronics, yard waste, dirt, stone, logs, construction materials/debris, batteries, paint, and other liquids will not be picked up. To minimize litter problems, the rubbish should be placed on residential parkways no earlier than the evening before the scheduled pickup, before 7:00 A.M. the day of the pickup. There will be no call-backs if the material is not on the parkway by the scheduled time.

This is an excellent opportunity to clean out your attic, basement, and garage - especially of combustible materials - thereby making a significant contribution to community fire safety. Residents are encouraged to recycle items such as cardboard boxes, Styrofoam and plastic bags before putting them out for Clean-Up week. If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department at (847) 716-3568.

### **5. Environmental and Forestry Commission Green Tip: Use Your Car Less**

*E-blast Newsletter*

Regular vehicle use results in more greenhouse gas emissions and increased traffic congestion. Benefits of using your car less include: save money on fuel and running costs, save on wear and tear of your vehicle as well as maintenance costs and improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Alternatives to using your car include: walk or bicycle, use public transportation, avoid peak hour traffic, work from home, car pool or car share, or combine your trips.

## **6. Environmental and Forestry Commission Green Tip: Reduce Vehicle Idling**

*E-blast Newsletter*

Idling reduction is a simple way to use less fuel and to reduce pollution and greenhouse gasses. An idling car uses about 0.3 gallons of fuel per hour while an idling truck can use up to a gallon of fuel per hour. It is also important to know that idling uses more fuel than does restarting your car. Though it may be tempting to let your vehicle idle during winter months, it is more environmentally-friendly to turn your car off if it will be sitting for more than a few minutes.

## **7. Backyard Composting**

*Weekly E-Newsletter*

Composting in your backyard is a simple way you can dispose of food waste in an environmentally-friendly manner. Backyard composting can provide many benefits such as a reduction in landfill waste, improved soil quality and greenhouse gas reduction. Some items that can be composted include: fruits and vegetable, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, grass clippings, yard trimmings and leaves. Composting kits can be bought at many local hardware stores or on the internet.

# 2020 EFC Communications Plan

## EFC Communication Process for Monthly Postings

1. EFC and Staff work together to draft and finalized monthly topics and supporting text.
2. Topics and supporting text are discussed and approved by the EFC at monthly meetings.
3. Topics and supporting text are sent to Village Manager's Office each month to be published in the appropriate communication channel (Weekly email newsletter, Winnetka Report, etc).

## January

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- EFC Green Awards Application Reminder
- Reduce - Consider how to reduce energy use and costs in your home and business
- Reduce - Switch from incandescent bulbs to LED bulbs (and put incandescent into garbage/landfill and recycle LED bulbs in the lobby of the Winnetka Public Works)

## February

**Spring Winnetka Report Submission Deadline – February 17**

**EFC Green Awards Application Deadline – February 28**

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Reduce – Think before you buy
- Reduce - Think before you pack

## March

Winnetka Report Articles:

- Coal Tar Sealant Reminder
- Paper Shredding Event
- Electronics Recycling Program Resuming
- Clean-Up Week

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Electronics Recycling Program Resuming
- Reduce - Use your car less
- Reduce - No Idling
- Composting - Backyard

## April

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Compost available at Village Yards
- Paper Shredding Event
- Phosphorus Ordinance
- Earth Day – April 22, 2020 and Arbor Day – April 24, 2020

- Clean-Up Week

## **May**

### **Summer Winnetka Report Submission Deadline – May 15**

Winnetka Report Articles:

- Green Award Recipients

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- EFC BMP Guide – Summary & link to document
- Recycling - Break down all boxes
- Recycling - Leave lids on plastic containers

## **June**

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Coal Tar Sealant Reminder
- Ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers from June 1 through Oct. 1.
- Recycling - Make sure all containers are free of liquid and food residue
- Recycling - Plastic bags & film
- Forestry - Remove buckthorn and other invasive species

## **July**

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Shredding Event
- Recycling - Plastic silverware
- Recycling – Styrofoam
- Forestry - Look into landscaping solutions as stormwater solutions

## **August**

### **Fall Winnetka Report Submission Deadline – August 14**

Winnetka Report Articles:

- Pumpkin Composting Event
- Curbside Leaf Collection

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Recycling - Paper napkins, towels, and tissues

## **September**

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Recycling - #3 plastics
- Recycling - Pizza boxes
- Recycling - Lids from glass bottles

## **October**

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Pumpkin Composting Event
- Recycling – Leaf Collection

## **November**

### **Winter Winnetka Report Submission Deadline – November 13**

Winnetka Report Articles:

- Holiday Lights Recycling

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- America Recycles Day (11/15)
- Composting - Leaf collection
- Battery Recycling
- Plastic bag, film and wrap recycling
- Recycling – Textiles
- Use of natural light during winter

## **December**

Weekly E-Newsletter:

- Christmas Tree Pick-Up
- EFC Green Awards Application Reminder
- Holiday Lights Recycling
- Commercial District Business Lighting
- Use of natural light during winter



## WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION



Chuck Dowding, *Chairperson*  
Barry Sylvester  
Rosann Park-Jones  
David Varca  
Chris Foley  
Elizabeth Kunkle  
Mike Nielsen  
Anne Wedner

### GREEN AWARD NOMINATION

Green Awards were developed by the Village's Environmental and Forestry Commission to recognize properties and households within Winnetka that demonstrate exceptional commitment to sustainable and environmentally friendly practices within the Village of Winnetka.

*Please complete the following information to nominate a property within Winnetka for a Green Award:*

Property Address: 1390 Willow Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

Owner: Jim Stier, Village Forester

Owner's Phone and E-mail: 847-716-3535

1. **Award Category** (check one):

- Climate:** Projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, maintain clean and healthful air, and develop resiliency to climate change impacts.
- Economic Development:** Project that promote innovation and cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs and businesses.
- Energy:** Projects that reduce energy output such as increasing efficiency or utilizing renewable energy.
- Land:** Projects that conserve, utilize or restore existing land such as native landscape planting.
- Leadership:** Projects that work collaboratively towards a sustainable region or advocate for policies that align with sustainable practices.

- Mobility:** Projects that support safe and effective transportation, support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely, integrates sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulation, or promote public and sustainable transportation choices.
- Municipal Operations:** Projects that lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices, integrate sustainability into all municipal operations, operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet, collect and manage data to advance sustainability.
- Sustainable Communities:** Projects that promote cultural vibrancy in the community; foster a culture of health, safety and wellness; increase access to sustainably grown local food; promote a sustainable identity for the community; or cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability.
- Water/Stormwater:** Projects that filter stormwater runoff or store stormwater on property such bioswales, rain gardens or rain barrels.
- Waste & Recycling:** Projects that substantially reduce waste or use of recycled material. Such projects may include use of a composter, reusing recycled materials or diverting waste from landfills.
- Innovation/Other:** All other projects that do not fit into an above category.

2. **Property Type** (check one):

- Private
- Commercial
- Public

3. **Brief Description of the Project and Benefits** (use extra pages if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

See attached  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Approximate Date of Project Completion:** Ongoing

5. **Name, Address, Phone Number and Email of Nominator:** Chris Foley, [REDACTED]  
 \_\_\_\_\_



6. Photos Enclosed

7. Signature of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Signature of Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact Brendon Mendoza with any questions at (847) 716-3550 or [bmendoza@winnetka.org](mailto:bmendoza@winnetka.org)

Please send this form with photos attached and other documentation to:

Brendon Mendoza  
Public Works Analyst  
1390 Willow Road  
Winnetka, IL 60093

**Guidelines:**

- You can nominate your own property or as many projects as you like, as long as you get the owner's signature.
- The project must have been completed within the past 5 years.
- Commercial, public or private properties are eligible.
- All applications are reviewed and awarded by members of the Environmental and Forestry Commission.
- Deadline for application is February 28, 2020. Awards are announced at the Village Council meeting closest to April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day).

**Award Criteria:**

Applications will be evaluated by the Village of Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission based on how well the projects or initiatives meet the following criteria:

- Positive Impact - The project must have a meaningful and demonstrable impact in Winnetka by helping protect the environment or enhance the quality of life for residents.
- Embraces Innovation/Creativity - The project should reflect a new concept, technology, or practice in Winnetka and should employ new ideas in the industry.
- Overcomes Challenges - The project should explain what challenges were overcome.
- Transferable - The project should be able to be replicated by others in similar situations.
- Demonstrates Initiative - The project should reflect how the individual or group took action to move sustainability forward in their position or community.

As a representative of the Village's Environmental and Forestry Commission, I am nominating Jim Stier for a Green Award. As a community, we have benefitted from Jim's tireless efforts to ensure one of our most prized assets - our trees - are preserved and maintained to the highest possible standards. As a Commission, we have benefitted from Jim's expertise in addressing issues around tree removal, reforestation, and the improving the quality of life in the Village. Of particular note is Jim's own personal investment of time and effort in inspecting trees requested for removal, and overseeing removal of damaged or diseased trees and subsequent replanting. Our Commission, and our community, owes Jim a tremendous debt of gratitude for his many years of service.



**VILLAGE OF WINNETKA  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Chuck Dowding, *Chairperson*  
Barry Sylvester  
Rosann Park-Jones  
David Varca  
Chris Foley  
Elizabeth Kunkle  
Jack Coladarci  
Marcus Buccellato

**GREEN AWARD NOMINATION**

Green Awards were developed by the Village's Environmental and Forestry Commission to recognize properties, households, and businesses that demonstrate exceptional commitment to sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices within the Village of Winnetka.

*Please complete the following information to nominate a property within Winnetka for a Green Award:*

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Phone and E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Award Category** (check all that apply):

- Climate:** Projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, maintain clean and healthful air, and develop resiliency to climate change impacts.
- Economic Development:** Project that promote innovation and cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs and businesses.
- Energy:** Projects that reduce energy output such as increasing efficiency or utilizing renewable energy.
- Land:** Projects that conserve, utilize or restore existing land (e.g., native plants).
- Leadership:** Projects that work collaboratively towards a sustainable region or advocate for policies that align with sustainable practices.



- Mobility:** Projects that support safe, effective, and efficient transportation that uses resources wisely, integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulation, or promote public and sustainable transportation choices.
- Municipal Operations:** Projects that lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices, integrate sustainability into all municipal operations, operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet, collect and manage data to advance sustainability.
- Sustainable Communities:** Projects that promote cultural vibrancy in the community; foster a culture of health, safety and wellness; increase access to sustainably grown local food; promote a sustainable identity for the community; or cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability.
- Water/Stormwater:** Projects that filter stormwater runoff or store stormwater on property such as bioswales, rain gardens or rain barrels.
- Waste & Recycling:** Projects that substantially reduce waste or use of recycled material. Such projects may include use of a composter, reusing recycled materials or diverting waste from landfills.
- Innovation/Other:** All other projects that do not fit into an above category.

2. **Property Type** (check one):

- Private
- Commercial
- Public

3. **Brief Description of the Project and Benefits** (use extra pages if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. **Approximate Date of Project Completion:** \_\_\_\_\_



5. **Name, Address, Phone Number and Email of Nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Photos Enclosed**

7. **Signature of Nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_

8. **Signature of Property Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form with photos attached and other documentation, or direct questions, to:

Brendon Mendoza, Public Works Analyst  
1390 Willow Road, Winnetka, IL 60093  
(847) 716-3550 or [bmendoza@winnetka.org](mailto:bmendoza@winnetka.org)

**Guidelines:**

- You can nominate your own property or as many projects as you like, as long as you get the owner's signature.
- The project must have been completed within the past 5 years.
- Commercial, public, or private properties are eligible.
- All applications are reviewed and awarded by members of the Environmental and Forestry Commission.
- Deadline for application is February 28, 2020. Awards are announced at the Village Council meeting closest to April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day).

**Award Criteria:**

Applications will be evaluated by the Village of Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission based on how well the projects or initiatives meet the following criteria:

- Positive Impact - The project must have a meaningful and demonstrable impact in Winnetka by helping protect the environment or enhance the quality of life for residents.
- Embraces Innovation/Creativity - The project should reflect a new concept, technology, or practice in Winnetka and should employ new ideas in the industry.
- Overcomes Challenges - The project should explain what challenges were overcome.
- Transferable - The project should be able to be replicated by others in similar situations.
- Demonstrates Initiative - The project should reflect how the individual or group took action to move sustainability forward in their position or community.



---

# MEMORANDUM VILLAGE OF WINNETKA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**TO:** ENVIRONMENTAL & FORESTRY COMMISSION  
**FROM:** DAVID SCHOON, DIRECTOR  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 6, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DISCUSSION

---

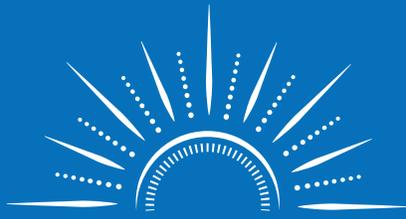
At the February 12, 2020, Environmental & Forestry Commission meeting, the comprehensive plan consultant team, headed by The Lakota Group, will hold a discussion session with the Commission regarding sustainability issues in the community. Staff has shared the material that is contained in your agenda packet with the consultant team. The consultant looks forward to hearing your thoughts regarding sustainability and may have some additional questions to ask of you.

Attached is a flyer providing an overview of the comprehensive plan process. If you have more questions regarding the comprehensive plan and the process of developing the plan, please visit the project website at [www.winnetkafutures.org](http://www.winnetkafutures.org).

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Comprehensive Plan Project Overview





# Winnetka Futures 2040 PLAN

## ABOUT THE PLAN .....

The Village of Winnetka is engaged in the creation of the Winnetka Futures 2040 Plan. The Plan will explore how Winnetka can better understand and address changing times, such as a radically changed retail environment; transportation mobility innovations; an aging population; evolving housing preferences; changing work and commuting habits; and an increased focus on environmental issues and sustainability. As a plural, “Winnetka Futures” communicates the many alternative possibilities available to Winnetka by the year 2040 and will inform high-level conversations about the future of the Village. How can we envision a future that meets the goals and aspirations of Winnetkans, regardless of their stage of life? That is what The Winnetka Futures 2040 Plan seeks to discover.

## GET INVOLVED .....

Public input in the planning process is critical, as a successful plan must reflect the unique values and aspirations of the Winnetka community. On behalf of the Village, The Lakota Group will hear from community members through several public open houses, pop-up events, and online surveys. Additionally, the team will engage residents and business owners in thoughtful conversations about the future of the Village. Stakeholder interviews and focus groups will be held in February 2020, and the first Community Open House is planned for March 2020. To stay up to date on project updates and upcoming events, sign up to receive emails via the project website—[www.WinnetkaFutures.org](http://www.WinnetkaFutures.org). Any thoughts or ideas for The Winnetka Futures 2040 Plan can be sent to the planning team via the contact section of the website.

## TIMELINE .....

PHASE 1:



### ANALYZE

NOVEMBER 2019 - JUNE 2020

The first phase establishes a dynamic community planning process and creates an information base to understand the existing conditions in Winnetka.

PHASE 2:



### VISIONING

JUNE - OCTOBER 2020

During this phase, the vision and goals of the plan are outlined, and concepts and recommendations for future land use and development are crafted.

PHASE 3:



### PLAN MAKING

OCTOBER 2020 - APRIL 2021

In this phase, The Winnetka Futures 2040 Plan will be drafted, refined and adopted with feedback from Village staff, residents, Plan Commission, and the Village Council.

VISIT [WWW.WINNETKAFUTURES.ORG](http://WWW.WINNETKAFUTURES.ORG) TO LEARN MORE

THE  
LAKOTA  
GROUP.



# Materials in Support of a Sustainable Thrust in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan

## Introduction and Short History of Sustainability and Climate Considerations in Winnetka

Writing of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will involve more consideration of sustainable action than in the 2020 plan written in 1999. Interest in and realization of the negative consequences and local impact of unsustainable linear economics and climate change is increasing. Writing of the 2040 Plan offers an opportunity to develop long term strategies for Winnetkans to adapt to and mitigate local and global effects of unsustainable practices.

Winnetka had the foresight to create a municipal code or ordinance-based Environmental and Forestry Commission (EFC) in the late 2000's. Subsequent maturation of the EFC has led to development of a framework for discussion of sustainable action. Many other municipalities are just now looking to develop environmental commissions. Relative to other Winnetka Village commissions the EFC is predominantly an educational and advisory commission. Resident interaction with the EFC is required by ordinance only if one wishes to remove a tree on Village parkway property. Its current ordinance is found in Chapter 3.04 in the Village Code.

When first adopted the EFC included a voting liaison from the Planning Commission and a non-voting member from the Winnetka Park District (WPD) Board appointed by the WPD board. Sometime in the early 2010's the ordinance was rewritten to eliminate the Planning Commission and WPD liaisons. Given that the WPD is the largest land holder (other than the Village), absence of this liaison inhibits coordination of activities such as pesticide application, beach pollution, storm water control, etc.

## Documents for Consideration for Inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan

Winnetka's sustainability plan is a combination of the EFC's foundational mission, operational process and context, which overlays the more specific, goal oriented Greenest Regions Compact (GRC2). Presented on the Village web site are both the EFC foundational documents in an electronic, hyper linked form and the GRC2 as a multi tab excel spread sheet. An example of the hyper linking is WEFC=>Strategy, Process, Context => Process. <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/government/boards-and-commissions/environmental-and-forestry-commission/>. Review of the EFC foundational documents will be enhanced by visiting all links and printing the content for comparative study.

As described in the presentation made to the Village Council during its adoption, GRC2 is a municipal pledge (made by Winnetka and 125 other municipalities and 3 counties in NE Illinois) that articulates high-level goals for communities and a future sustainable region. <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/assets/1/7/adv-GRC2-presentation-pp-20190416.pdf>. The multi tabbed GRC2 excel document is best understood by reading the first tab "Directions" It describes the organization of 300 some strategies for achieving the 49 consensus goals organized into 10 categories (each with its own tab). <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/government/boards-and-commissions/environmental-and-forestry-commission/greenest-region-compact/>

EFC's recommendations for actions/strategies/goals to be considered for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan can be subdivided into two classes: short term (1 to 3 years) and longer term (1 to 2 decades). Short term goals are contained in the accompanying 2 page PDF entitled "Proposed

Consensus Recommendation from the GRC2 Framework”. Recommendations were subdivided into Council 1) proposes ordinance, 2) directs staff to undertake, and 3) directs EFC to undertake.

Longer term goals are listed below and accompany this document as another word document entitled Long Term Goals. Each is accompanied by a reason, WEFC summary of GRC2 Category under which this goal falls, and the specific GRC2 goals associated with this recommendation. Open the “Land” tab of the GRC2 spread sheet to see the **L1c** GRC2 strategy relation to the WEFC “Develop Landfill...” goal and the depth and detail of GRC2.

- Reduce Winnetka’s Consumption of Water by 10%
- Develop Safe East-West Bikeway(s) to connect to Downtown Areas, GB Trail, Rail Stations, and Educational Institutions
- Stabilize Bluffs and Beaches, and Increase Enjoyment of Lake Michigan
- Reduce to Zero Beach Closures from Pollution
- Minimize or Eliminate Beach Closures Due to Bacteria and Other Contaminants
- Begin Planning for Extension or Transition Regarding Winnetka’s Local Electric Power Plant
- Consider Impacts of the Limited Remaining Lifespan of our SWANCC Waste Landfills
- Develop Landfill into Property That Can Be Utilized by the Village
- Manage Water Infrastructure to Ensure Water Quality and Efficiency
- Include WEFC Representation on other Village Commissions as well as Enabling Additional Environmental and/or Forestry Related Ordinances to Fall Under WEFC’s Review
- Replace lead service lines over time, minimizing exposure to lead in drinking water

### **Possible Thematic Organization of Sustainability Considerations in the Comprehensive Plan**

Evanston has organized its sustainability actions around a central theme: Climate change as described in its Climate Action and Resilience Plan. A tabular summary of the Evanston plan is presented below. <https://www.cityofevanston.org/home/showdocument?id=45170>

Focus Areas	Goals
Building Efficiency	Reduce building energy consumption by 35% by 2035 (from 2005 levels).
Renewable Energy	Achieve 100% renewable electricity supply for all Evanston accounts by 2030.
Zero Waste	Increase the community waste diversion rate to 50% by 2025, 75% by 2035 and Zero Waste by 2050 (from 2017 levels).
Transportation and Mobility	Reduce vehicle miles traveled; increase trips made by walking, bicycling and transit.
	Increase use of electric vehicles; decrease carbon emissions from vehicles and equipment.
Urban Canopy and Green Space	Preserve and restore Evanston's urban canopy, natural areas, native vegetation and green space to maintain and increase carbon sequestration, improve stormwater runoff detention, improve air quality, energy efficiency and livability and reduce adverse urban impacts on humans and key species such as birds and pollinators.
Outreach, Education and Behavior Change	Educate, motivate and empower Evanston residents, institutions and businesses to take meaningful action to fight climate change and improve community resilience.

## **Water Conservation**

### **Goal:**

### **Reduce Winnetka's consumption of water by 10%**

#### Reason:

Winnetka may be required to share water to the collar counties within the next two or three decades. The demand for water in the collar counties, who already in 2020 have begun to run out of water, will require use of Lake Michigan water, which is limited by international treaty with Canada. Thus sending water to collar counties will result in less water for those already drawing LM water.

#### WEFC Water summary

The overall objective is to reduce pollution of the water in and near to Winnetka. One of the most valuable resources to Winnetka is Lake Michigan, which we drink and in which we recreate. Water shed by Winnetka as waste or storm water runoff will become increasingly scrutinized and regulated to reduce pollution and increase sustainability of the region. Given the increasing need for clean drinking water, it is important to reduce consumption and reduce pollution of the storm water. Winnetka benefits from separate sanitary and storm water sewer systems which reduces the complexity of pollution reduction. While the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District both treats the sanitary waste and regulates encroachment of the flood plain to control flooding, Winnetka may enforce stricter storm water regulations.

#### GRC2 Water Goals

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve and water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship

## **Increasing Sustainable Mobility**

### **Goal**

### **Develop safe, east-west bikeway(s) to connect to downtown areas, GB trail, rail stations and educational institutions**

#### Reason:

Increasing pedestrian oriented transportation will enhance Winnetka's ability to address greater restrictions of the use of automobile transport. It will also allow for a more healthy, walkable/bikeable village oriented life style.

#### WEFC Mobility Summary

The Village supports safe and effective transportation through a diverse and efficient transportation network. The Village offers various public transportation methods including three train stations, intersecting bus routes and an interstate highway less than one mile west of the Village. The Village also features a segment of the bike-friendly Green Bay Trail and supports bicycle use throughout the Village. The Village maintains its own roadways and regularly collaborates with IDOT and Cook County.

#### GRC2 Mobility Goals

- Support safe and effective active transportation
- Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices

## **Sustain “Lakeshore-Village” brand**

### **Goal**

#### **Stabilize bluffs and beaches and increase enjoyment of Lake Michigan**

##### Reason:

Planned bluff and beach stabilization by the Winnetka Park District and riparian residents (and the not unexpected legal entanglements) present an opportunity for a village-wide sustainable solution. Costs of stabilization can be reduced through coordination of efforts by Village, Park District and riparian residents. It may be possible to justify additional Village funding in addition to that from the Park District by increasing enjoyment of Lake Michigan between Village and Park access points.

##### WEFC Land Summary

This category pertains to the preservation of the land use patterns and natural environment that provide the Village-like ambiance of Winnetka. Land use patterns are defined by the transitions between types and densities of occupation which are controlled by zoning. However the natural environment is defined some form of ecologically balanced, publically accessible open space, green and blue, will provide the foundation for sustainable activity. These built and natural considerations overlap with Economic Development, Sustainable Communities, and Water.

##### GRC2 Land Goals

- Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles
- Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems
- Support networks of accessible well-used and enjoyable parks
- Sustain a robust urban forest canopy
- Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services
- Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies
- Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community

## **Sustain “Lakeshore-Village” brand**

### **Goal**

#### **Reduce to zero beach closures because of pollution**

At one time Winnetka was listed as having the most polluted beaches in the nation by counts of closures. After efforts by the “Village” to uncover cross connections between sanitary and storm sewers, beach closures have been reduced but not to zero. Given that all storm water east of Green Bay Rd flows to Lake Michigan, the source of our drinking water, such beach closures potentially have more serious consequences than preventing swimming. This issue is also a poster child for the need for greater integration of the operations of the Park and Village boards. Parks takes the hit for beach closures, the Village is responsible for outfalls to the lake, and Winnetka’s brand is besmirched.

##### WEFC Water summary

The overall objective is to reduce pollution of the water in and near to Winnetka. One of the most valuable resources to Winnetka is Lake Michigan, which we drink and in which we recreate. Water shed by Winnetka as waste or storm water runoff will become increasingly scrutinized and regulated to reduce pollution and increase sustainability of the region. Given the increasing need for clean drinking water, it is important to reduce consumption and reduce pollution of the storm water. Winnetka benefits from separate sanitary and storm water sewer systems which reduces the complexity of pollution reduction. While the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District both treats the sanitary waste and regulates encroachment of the flood plain to control flooding, Winnetka may enforce stricter storm water regulations.

##### GRC2 Water Goals

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve and water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources, Engage the community in water stewardship

## Goal

### Minimize or eliminate beach closures due to bacteria and other contaminants

#### Reason:

Winnetka beaches routinely land at or near the top of the Natural Resources Defense Council's most-contaminated list of Illinois beaches, posting dozens of closure days every year. One likely cause for heightened bacteria levels is likely the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) lock system in Wilmette Harbor, opened during major rainstorms to release sewer overflow into Lake Michigan. But another is leaks and cross-contamination between the Village's separated storm and sanitary sewers. While Winnetka has little control over MWRD, the 2040 Plan should encourage the Village to increase efforts to investigate possible cross connections that allow domestic sewage to enter the storm sewers that outfall into Lake Michigan, as well as consider new storm water outlets and improvements near beaches to filter sediments and solid materials, as well as bacteria.

More sophisticated water testing and analysis should also be encouraged. Most towns north of Chicago, including Winnetka, monitor their beaches along Lake Michigan for E. coli and other harmful bacteria. That monitoring ranges from traditional water measurements (with results received up to 24 hours later, or longer) to real time monitoring to predictive modeling. Depending on the results, swim advisories and bans are issued if the bacteria levels exceed acceptable levels. Beaches in Winnetka are monitored every day during the summer swimming season using traditional sampling. Instead of Winnetka relying on the 24-hour bacteria sampling test, use of a predictive method to provide relatively accurate and up-to-date E. coli estimates would help better identify sources of contamination and help keep clean beaches open.

#### WEFC Water Summary

The overall objective is to reduce pollution of the water in and near to Winnetka. One of the most valuable resources to Winnetka is Lake Michigan, which we drink and in which we recreate. Water shed by Winnetka as waste or storm water runoff will become increasingly scrutinized and regulated to reduce pollution and increase sustainability of the region. Given the increasing need for clean drinking water, it is important to reduce consumption and reduce pollution of the storm water. Winnetka benefits from separate sanitary and storm water sewer systems which reduces the complexity of pollution reduction. While the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District both treats the sanitary waste and regulates encroachment of the flood plain to control flooding, Winnetka may enforce more strict storm water regulations.

#### GRC2 Water Goals

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve and water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship

## **Goal**

### **Begin planning for extension or transition regarding Winnetka's local electric power plant**

#### Reason:

Unique among many municipalities, Winnetka generates its own electric power plant. To complement this capability, since 1991 Winnetka's power and energy requirements continue to be ensured pursuant to contracts between the Village and the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA). On the Village's behalf, IMEA acquires power and energy by: generating it at an IMEA-owned plant; purchasing it from other entities; and utilizing the capabilities of the Village's electric plant or of other members' plants. This blend of resources is designed to ensure an economical cost of wholesale power. Therefore, by contract, the output capacity of the Village's electric plant is dedicated to IMEA. Upon request by IMEA, the Village will generate electricity that is used by IMEA to meet electrical demand or offset the cost of higher priced wholesale power from another source. In return for IMEA's right to use our plant's capacity, the Village receives a credit on its wholesale power bill.

Winnetka's current IMEA contract extends through 2035. Even though the Village buys all its electricity from IMEA, it is contractually obligated to own and operate the electric plant through 2035 or secure comparable replacement power. [note: this is an assumption that needs to be verified]. By 2035, and likely well before then, plans will need to be in place to continue or discontinue operation of the electric power plant, a timeline that falls well within the window of our developing 2040 Plan. These decisions are not to be undertaken lightly – the benefits and costs that must be analyzed and weighed in coming to a decision about the future of the electric power plant are material to the Village. It is in the best interests of the Village, and its residential and business electric customers, to begin planning now for an eventual extension or transition regarding Winnetka's local electric power plant. Such a process will necessitate Village leadership, Staff, and the public coming together to carefully and comprehensively consider issues including, but not limited to, available alternatives for sourcing energy, economics and rate impacts, environmental considerations, the potential for alternative site uses, and of course the effects on the quality of life in the Village.

#### WEFC Municipal Operations Summary

Village municipal services are divided into Village, Schools, Park, and Library boards and functions. The Village board provides life safety, transportation, water, and waste infrastructure. Winnetka also provides electrical power to the Village through the Illinois Municipal Energy Agency. A Village lifestyle is provided through a high performing municipal operation governed by a Village Manager and elected Trustees. Sustainable life styles are encouraged through ordinance, pricing, education, and expenditure of Village funds to facilitate stewardship and conservation. The Village has a standing Environmental and Forestry Commission with a dedicated staff liaison. The Village operates a safe, clean and efficient fleet through its in-house fleet services division and has in place an anti-idling policy for Village-owned vehicles.

#### GRC2 Municipal Operations Goals

- Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices
- Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations
- Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability

## Goal

### Consider impacts of the limited remaining lifespan of our SWANCC waste landfills

#### Reason:

The Village provides refuse collection services which includes weekly back-door residential garbage collection, weekly commercial refuse collection, twice-a-week residential yard waste collection, and special refuse collections. Collected refuse is transferred for disposal under a contractual arrangement with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). SWANCC, in turn, utilizes privately owned regional landfills for disposal capacity.

SWANCC member communities rely on a number of facilities to manage their waste. The majority of waste collected within SWANCC member communities is delivered to transfer stations prior to being hauled to more distant regional landfills for disposal. Waste from Winnetka, via the Glenview Transfer Station, is currently hauled to the Winnebago Landfill in Rockford, IL for disposal.[note: need to confirm] A number of additional landfills in northern Illinois, as well as southern Wisconsin, northwestern Indiana, and southwestern Michigan are unavailable to receive waste because of limited remaining capacity (in some cases combined with restrictions on their service areas, primarily accepting special wastes (not municipal wastes), or not being economically accessible due to an increase in state-imposed fees).

Consequently, in addition to promoting continuing conservation, recycling, and composting programs for the Village that reduce landfill disposal quantities at the source, the 2040 Plan should propose a set of goals that produce a framework for addressing the eventual inevitable limitations on available disposal facilities for Winnetka and the other regional municipalities served by SWANCC. As this is a regional issue, the Plan should recommend that the Village work cooperatively with SWANCC and other regional planning agencies and area counties where appropriate to evaluate and implement solid waste management programs and services.

#### WEFC Waste and Recycling Goals

Sustainable activity must include reduction, reuse and recycling of materials. So far the Village has focused principally on recycling through its contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems and its partnership with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. While recycling refers to all materials, it is helpful to separate solid waste from water. Water recycling is controlled by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District through its treatment of waste water and regulation of water that may returned to Lake Michigan or the North Branch of the Chicago River. Reduction of solid waste within Winnetka is facilitated through separate collection of recycled materials from solid waste. Separation and collection of food waste is becoming of increasing interest. Recycling is encouraged through ordinance, pricing, education, and expenditure of Village funds. The Village operates its own in-house refuse collection services, in which operations are regularly assessed. The Village also hosts a weekly electronics recycling drop-off program for residents and offers special recycling programs for materials such as Styrofoam, CFL bulbs and batteries.

#### GRC2 Waste and Recycling Goals

- Support sustainable material management
- Recycle materials across all sectors
- Divert waste from landfills
- Enact policies that cause sustainable material management
- Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling

## **Develop Underutilized Land**

### **Goal:**

**Develop landfill into property that can be utilized by the Village.**

### **Reason:**

The landfill represents space that can be utilized by the Village for other purposes. The property might be able to be used in its current form as a solar or wind farm or the site would have to be completely remediated for other uses.

### **WEFC Land Summary:**

This category pertains to the preservation of the land use patterns and natural environment that provide the Village-like ambiance of Winnetka. Land use patterns are defined by the transitions between types and densities of occupation which are controlled by zoning. However, the natural environment is defined by some form of ecologically balanced, publically accessible open space, green and blue, will provide the foundation for sustainable activity. These built and natural considerations overlap with Economic Development, Sustainable Communities, and Water.

### **Specific GRC2 Land Goals:**

Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles

Reduce sprawl by promoting infill development to reduce adverse impacts on natural resources and infrastructure demands (L1)

**Redevelop underutilized or contaminated properties (L1c)**

## **Manage Water Infrastructure**

### **Goal:**

**Manage water infrastructure to ensure water quality and efficiency.**

### **Reason:**

The Village is in the process of modernizing storm sewer lines. A long term, comprehensive plan has been created to continue to maintain the sewer system. At some point, the sewer system is going to have to be replaced to ensure water quality and efficiency.

### **WEFC Water Summary:**

The overall objective to reduce pollution of the water in and near to Winnetka. One of the most valuable resources to Winnetka is Lake Michigan, which we drink an in which we recreate. Water shed by Winnetka as waste or storm water runoff will become increasingly scrutinized and regulated to reduce pollution and increase sustainability of the region. Given the increasing need for clean drinking water, it is important to reduce consumption and reduce pollution of the storm water. Winnetka benefits from separate sanitary and storm water sewer systems, which reduces the complexity of pollution reduction. While the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District both treats the sanitary waste and regulates encroachment of the flood plain to control flooding, Winnetka may enforce more strict storm water regulations.

### **Specific GRC2 Water Goals:**

Manage water system assets sustainably

**Operate an efficient water utility that delivers clean, healthful, water. (W 15)**

**Comprehensively and sustainably manage water infrastructure. (W 16)**

## Goal

**Include WEFC representation on other Village commissions as well as enabling additional environmental and/or forestry related ordinances to fall under WEFC's review.**

### Reason:

The various Village commissions encounter environmental and/or forestry topics, directly or indirectly, on a regular basis. As a result, it is appropriate to have representation from the WEFC to assist the respective commissions with these topics. In addition, the WEFC can be a greater resource to the Village Council by reviewing environmental and/or forestry related issues relating to ordinances.

### WEFC Municipal Operations Summary

Village municipal services are divided into Village, Schools, Park, and Library boards functions. The Village board provides life safety, transportation, water, and waste infrastructure. Winnetka also provides electrical power to the Village through the Illinois Municipal Energy Agency. A Village lifestyle is provided through a high performing municipal operation governed by a Village Manager and elected Trustees. Sustainable life styles are encouraged through ordinance, pricing, education, and expenditure of Village funds to facilitate stewardship and conservation. The Village has a standing Environmental and Forestry Commission with a dedicated staff liaison. The Village operates a safe, clean and efficient fleet through its in-house fleet services division and has in place an anti-idling policy for Village-owned vehicles.

### GRC2 Municipal Operations

Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices (Village specific goal under GRC2)

**Support or create an interdisciplinary team (or a Sustainability Coordinator) to coordinate internal sustainability efforts (MO 1)**

**Formalize sustainability goals and plans (MO 6)**

Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations (Village specific goal under GRC2)

Collect and manage data to advance sustainability (Village specific goal under GRC2)

Formalize sustainability goals and plans

## Replacement of Lead Service Lines

**Goal: Replace lead service lines over time, minimizing exposure to lead in drinking water**

### Reason:

Winnetka was founded as a village in 1869. High-quality drinking water is provided to Winnetka residents which exceeds both State and Federal standards. As stated on the Village's website, lead does not come from the treatment plant and water mains but from lead service lines that run between the water main in the street and individual homes, and from plumbing inside homes. As an older Village, there are still Winnetka homes that utilize lead water service lines. Currently the Village doesn't replace lead water service lines because the service lines are on private property and are considered the responsibility of the customer.

The Village of Winnetka monitors the drinking water in the distribution system for lead. The standard for lead in tap water is set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) at 15 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ) or parts per million (ppm) in at least 90% of the samples taken. This standard is from the US EPA's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) designed to protect public health and reduce exposure to lead and copper in drinking water. Test results from sampling Winnetka tap water in 2014 are well below the action level (see the Winnetka Water Plant 2018 Annual Consumer Report which included the 2014 results). The Village of Winnetka did not have any sampled sites that exceeded 15 ppm lead action level. The lead 90<sup>th</sup> percentile was reported as 5.9 ppb. The US EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for lead is 0 ppb.

According to the Village's website, since 1994 the Village has been taking steps to prevent lead corrosion from occurring. The Water Plant treats the water with a corrosion control treatment that is safe for human health and helps to build a protective coating around pipes.

The EFC recommends that the Village of Winnetka replace lead service lines as part of planned upcoming roadwork projects, so this proactive action can be taken to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water for the remaining lead-containing service lines. Removing lead service lines can be paid for using a number of funding sources. The US EPA has compiled Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) challenges and best practices (See "Strategies to Achieve Full Lead Service Line Replacement, October 2019, US EPA 810-R-19-003).

#### GRC2 Water Goals

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve the water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship

**Leadership**: collaborate to achieve a more sustainable Village and region

1. Partner with federal, regional, state, other local governments, and other entities to undertake initiatives that promote energy efficiency and sustainability (EFC)

**Mobility**: support diverse, safe, and efficient transportation that uses resources wisely

1. Review existing bicycle and pedestrian plans, then propose recommendations for implementation by the Village (EFC)
2. Incorporate sustainable roadways into capital improvement planning, and proactively plan for major transportation infrastructure improvements (DS)
3. Collaborate to provide alternative fuel infrastructure at public sites, and to support a network of alternate fueling infrastructure elsewhere (DS, EFC)

**Municipal Operations**: set the example by demonstrating sustainable values and practices, operate a safe and efficient fleet, and collect and manage data to advance sustainability

1. Ensure municipal finance practices and purchasing policies are consistent with sustainability and re-invest cost savings into sustainability initiatives (PO, DS)
2. Evaluate opportunities to migrate fleet to alternate fuel vehicles (DS)
3. Track, analyze, and manage data to advance sustainability (DS)

**Sustainable Communities**: cultivate community values and principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable, and that promote a sustainable identity for the Village

1. Cultivate and preserve a welcoming and inclusive community character (PO, DS, EFC)
2. Promote third party certification for sustainable private facilities (EFC)
3. Establish or strengthen an inter- and intra-entity Green Team (EFC)

**Waste & Recycling**: support policies and actions that contribute to sustainable material management and increased recycling

1. Adopt a Pay-As-You-Throw program (PO)
2. Make public events Zero Waste (DS)
3. Support and incentivize expansion of existing services to include food scrap composting, commercial & multi-family recycling, and discouraging the use of unrecyclable products (e.g., plastic bags) (DS, EFC)

**Water**: use and distribute water efficiently and sustainably, protect and improve water quality, and optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater

1. Reduce community water consumption by implementing water efficiency measures in Village operations and encouraging residents and businesses to identify and mitigate water losses (DS, EFC)
2. Protect surface and groundwater from runoff and contamination, support post-development runoff reduction and mitigation, and encourage residents and businesses to address flood risks on their property (DS)

## Proposed Consensus Recommendation from the GRC2 Framework

**PO:** Council proposes ordinance, or other Council-level action

**DS:** Council directs Staff to undertake

**EFC:** Council directs EFC to undertake

**Climate:** undertake efforts to reduce GHGs, develop resiliency to climate change impacts, and engage the Village community in climate change mitigation and adaptation

1. Measure emissions from Village operations to develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction target for those operations, followed by monitoring to validate success or propose further efforts to reduce GHGs **(DS)**
2. Engage the Village community in climate change mitigation and adaptation by educating the public about climate change, its effects, and opportunities for the community to meaningfully respond **(EFC)**

**Energy:** adopt policies that promote energy efficiency, reduced energy usage and renewables, and engage the Village community in clean energy practices

1. Audit, benchmark, and track energy usage in Village facilities, and promote energy audits and retro-commissioning studies of residential and commercial entities, and other governmental units, in the Village **(DS)**
2. Where feasible and economic, adopt energy efficiency measures, procure from or install renewable energy resources for Village facilities, and develop renewable energy resources on underutilized Village properties (i.e. brownfields, rooftops, etc.) **(PO, DS)**
3. Support the adoption of renewable energy technologies, particularly those that expand economic development opportunities in the Village or access to alternative energy options for residents (i.e., community solar) **(DS, EFC)**

**Land:** encourage strategic development that incorporates sustainability principles, conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems, and ensure accessibility to and use of parks and other outdoor space

1. Redevelop underutilized or contaminated properties **(PO)**
2. Prioritize redevelopment and infrastructure projects, and public-private partnerships, that support public transit-oriented locations and uses **(PO, DS)**
3. Adopt guidelines for future development that encourage management and conservation of natural resources, existing topography, views, drainage patterns, existing ecosystems (including vegetation and biodiversity), and historic or cultural assets **(PO, DS)**
4. Continue to maximize the amount of public spaces and parks accessible to residents **(PO)**
5. Where practical, replace turf with sustainable landscaping alternatives **(DS)**
6. Enact and enforce land use policies that protect valuable natural assets, support resiliency, and increase the quality and amount of sustainable landscaping in the community **(PO, DS)**
7. Enact and enforce land-use policies that preserve open space **(PO, DS)**

3. Support regional and state initiatives to protect water supplies and support stewardship of Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River (EFC)
4. Comprehensively and sustainably manage water infrastructure (DS)
5. Collaborate to enhance wetlands for improved ecosystem services (DS)
6. Adopt codes that enable rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses (PO)
7. Review and adopt codes to eliminate barriers to green infrastructure BMPs including cisterns, green roofs, bioswales, and permeable paving (PO, DS)

## EFC Achievable 2 – 5-Year Goals (Distillation Doc) and Moon Shot 20-Year Goals (Comp Plan)

- Substance - GRC2 Consensus Goals
  - Climate
    - Understand and improve Winnetka's Climate Resilience
    - Carbon Neutral by XXXX date
  - Economic Development
    - Create business recognition/certification program (e.g., Sustain Evanston)
  - Energy
    - Reduce building energy consumption by XX% by XXXX date
    - Achieve XX% renewable electricity supply for all Winnetka accounts by XXXX date
    - Power Plant
  - Land
    - Preserve and restore Winnetka's urban canopy, natural areas, native vegetation, and green space to maintain and increase carbon sequestration, improve stormwater runoff detention, improve air quality, energy efficiency, and livability, and reduce adverse urban impacts on all species (e.g., humans, skunks, coyotes, birds, pollinators)
  - Leadership
    - Village Council should lead proactively, not reflect reactively
    - Enact ordinances and policies
    - Educate, motivate, and empower Winnetka residents, institutions, and businesses to take meaningful action to improve resilience and adapt to and mitigate climate change
  - Mobility
    - Decrease miles traveled by vehicle and increase miles traveled by walking, bicycling, and public transit
    - Connect and complete bicycle and pedestrian networks
  - Municipal Operations
    - Electrify the municipal fleet
    - Adopt a Zero Waste goal internally and for the Village
  - Sustainable Communities
    - Partner with other taxing bodies and organizations
    - Decrease carbon emissions from vehicles and equipment
    - Increase Village-wide use of electric vehicles
  - Waste & Recycling
    - Increase community waste diversion rate to XX% by XXXX date and to Zero Waste by XXXX date
  - Water
    - Lake Michigan; conservation; stormwater; runoff; Skokie Lagoons
- Procedure - Commission
  - Expand ordinance authority beyond forestry
  - Change name from Environmental and Forestry Commission
    - ⇒ **Climate Commission**
    - Progression from 'Environmental' to 'Sustainable' to 'Climate'