

Village of Algonquin

Environmental Action Plan - 2010



Engage

Conserve

Optimize



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The Village of Algonquin prides itself on being a leader in its use of sustainable practices. For years the Village and its citizens have worked hard to have nature preserves, recycling, energy efficiency, protected natural areas, and abundant park space while still providing the services and amenities of a growing metropolitan community. That stated, the Village of Algonquin is pleased to present the concept of **ECO-ALGONQUIN! ECO-ALGONQUIN** is not the latest fad, trend, or buzzword; it's standard operating procedure. Whether it is developing expansive parks and trails, being recognized as a Tree City USA, converting grass detention ponds into naturalized areas, or even using vegetable oil for fueling our fleet; these are hardly new initiatives but things the Village has been doing for years.

ECO-ALGONQUIN is designed to bring together these wonderful programs and ideas to **ENGAGE**, **CONSERVE**, and **OPTIMIZE** our resources to work toward building a more sustainable Algonquin.

Our actions of the past confirm our vision of the future: **Build a Sustainable Algonquin.** The road map to this future vision starts with three distinct approaches to sustainability:

ENGAGE - To become a sustainable community, a collaborative effort is imperative. ECO-ALGONQUIN strives to **ENGAGE** the public and organizations in the community to become actively involved in initiatives that work toward a sustainable Algonquin.

CONSERVE - Our resources, upon which we depend, are finite. To achieve sustainability, we must **CONSERVE** and protect the Village's ecological and natural resources.

OPTIMIZE - The reason why Algonquin is a leader in sustainable practices today is that our citizens, elected officials, and staff understand that environmentally responsible practices can be more effective and efficient than the status quo. The Village must continue to **OPTIMIZE** its operations by utilizing resources efficiently and effectively.

The Village hopes that this document helps you understand Algonquin's Environmental Action Plan and how you can do your part in achieving a sustainable Algonquin. Please visit www.algonquin.org/eco for further details and specifics of the Village's environmental initiatives.



Engage Conserve Optimize

In the fall of 2008, the Village of Algonquin formed a committee of staff members dedicated to improving and coordinating our environmental initiatives to collaboratively work towards a common goal.

ECO (Engage, Conserve, Optimize) Algonquin is comprised of the following individuals that have been designated as liaisons for their respective departments. ECO-Algonquin is not a standalone department but a group of committed individuals that will ensure implementation of prioritized initiatives Village wide. This collaborative method allows for many approaches but with one common vision.

Michael Kumbera, *Management Assistant - General Services Administration*

Steve Kuzynowski, *Deputy Chief - Police*

Vince Olsen, *Internal Services Superintendent - Public Works*

Katie Parkhurst, *Senior Planner - Community Development*

Karen Swigart, *Principal Secretary - Police*

Michelle Weber, *Principal Assistant - General Services Administration*

Michele Zimmerman, *Assistant Public Works Director - Public Works*

Natural Leader

1990s:

- Began Volume-Based Recycling in the Village
- Police Department Began Patrols Using Bicycles
- Introduced Water Conservation Regulations to the Village
- Adopted Tree Preservation Code in Village
- Became a Tree City USA

2000s:

2001: Adopted the Woods Creek Watershed Protection Plan

2001: Joined Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP)

2002: Conservation Community Program Launched (*First Conservation Community Day held at Woods Creek Trail*)

2004: Began Water Conservation Education

2005: Began Vegetable Oil Fuel Program

2005: Completed a Comprehensive Natural Areas Inventory

2006: Achieved Silver Level Status through the Clean Air Counts Program

2006: Received Grant and Distributed 10,000 64-Gallon Recycling Carts to All Village Households

2006: Began to Transition Police Cruiser Vehicles From V8 to More Fuel-Efficient V6 Engines

2006: Began Hybrid Vehicle Program for Municipal Vehicles

2007: Village Became Member of McHenry County Groundwater Protection Task Force

2007: Village Became a Member of the Sierra Club's Cool Cities

2007: Signed on to the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement

2007: Developed Natural Areas Stewardship Program

2008: Adopted Natural Areas Protection Ordinance

2009: Became Member of the Chicago Wilderness Alliance

2010: Adopted Conservation Design Ordinance


Algonquin's Approach:

To work toward our vision of a sustainable Algonquin, the Village will focus its efforts on the resources that are most visible in our everyday life: Air, Land, and Water.

With respect to each of these areas, ECO-Algonquin has developed several strategies that will Engage, Conserve, and Optimize our resources while the community works toward sustainability. To the right are ongoing initiatives and programs of the Village that will guide us as we work towards our vision.

Air,

We use it every day but never see it. The air we breathe daily is one of our most valuable resources. As the metropolitan region continues to grow, we are becoming more aware of the impacts of climate change, air pollution, and overall air quality.



Land,

When traveling around Algonquin, it is not hard to find a nature preserve or natural protected area. For years the Village has guided growth to allow for the preservation of these valued areas.

& Water

The Village of Algonquin prides itself on being the Gem of the Fox River Valley. Surface and groundwater, like our many other resources, is finite. It must take a collective effort to conserve and protect our Gem!

Affiliations

The following provides an overview of the environmental programs in which the Village actively participates. These programs contain tasks and activities which the Village continuously performs on a day-to-day basis.

Chicago Wilderness Alliance

A regional effort that allows the Village to pursue a more collaborative effort in its current environmental initiatives in the areas of green infrastructure, community involvement, natural area restoration, and climate change. The alliance will help the Village develop workable and sustainable relationships with organizations that have a similar passion for the environment and natural preservation of our area while reaching both local and regional biodiversity goals.

More Info: www.chicagowilderness.org

Clean Air Counts

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus announced in fall 2006 that the Village of Algonquin has been recognized as a Clean Air Counts (CAC) community. CAC is an innovative, voluntary approach to reducing smog-causing emissions in the Chicago metro region to achieve compliance with standards of the federal Clean Air Act and to improve air quality in our community. The Village has achieved silver status participation in the Clean Air Counts Community Campaign for its dedication to improving air quality. Joining CAC means individuals and/or organizations are making a commitment to undertake voluntary efforts to reduce smog in the Chicago region. CAC adopters assess opportunities to reduce emissions and conserve energy in areas related to transportation, energy, operations and maintenance, and development. Adopters also agree to simple, annual reporting about their efforts so that the campaign can quantify members' efforts.

More Info: www.cleanaircounts.org

Cool Cities

The Cool Cities Program emphasizes solutions to minimize our community's impact on global warming. The Village Board signed the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in December 2007. This demonstrates the Village's commitment to reduce global warming CO₂ pollution in the Village by 80% by 2050, the first step in the Cool Cities Program. The second step in the program is to conduct a global warming emissions inventory. Funding is provided in the current budget to complete this process. Step 3 is to create a plan to outline means of reducing

emissions while lowering energy costs for municipal operations. The final step is to implement the plan and monitor progress. Our efforts will focus on cleaner vehicles, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

More Info: www.coolcities.us

Earth Hour

Earth Hour is World Wildlife Fund's global initiative where individuals, businesses, and governments turn off their lights for one hour to show their support for action on climate change. Earth Hour is a symbolic event designed to engage people from all walks of life in the climate change discussion to send a message to take meaningful action on climate change.

More Info: www.earthhourus.org

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is a citizen organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the environment. The group provides the community with educational programs and volunteer action on pollution prevention, sustainable land use, and energy and natural resource conservation. Additionally, the Defenders promote policies to protect drinking water supplies, conserve open space, reduce waste, and native landscaping for stream protection.

More Info: www.mcdef.org

Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

The Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP) is a diverse group made up of landowners, businesses, non-profit organizations, agencies, and governments within the Fox River Watershed region. Their vision for the Fox River watershed in Illinois is to balance all the uses and demands on our natural resources while preserving and enhancing a healthy environment.

More Info: www.foxriverecosystem.org

Greenest Region Compact

The Village Board passed a resolution in the fall of 2007 to join the Greenest Region Compact. This compact is an initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to voluntarily improve the region's air, water, and land; reduce greenhouse gases; minimize waste; and reduce energy consumption. The Compact challenges local governments to take action to modify their own operations and practices and to provide the tools and resources to enable residents to adapt their actions as well. By joining in this effort, the Village agrees to implement specific envi-

ronmentally friendly strategies as called for in the Compact.

More Info: www.mayorscaucus.org

Illinois Green Fleets

The Illinois Green Fleets Program is a voluntary program where businesses, government units, and other organizations in Illinois gain recognition for having clean, green, domestic, renewable fuel vehicles in their fleet. It is a program to recognize the Village's progressive efforts in using environmentally friendly vehicles and fuels to improve air quality while reducing fuel use.

More Info: www.illinoisgreenfleets.org

International Council for Local Government Initiatives

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability is a membership association of local governments committed to advancing climate protection and sustainable development. ICLEI has grown to include nearly 1,000 cities in the world, more than 500 of which are in the United States. ICLEI USA's mission is to build, serve, and drive a movement of local governments to advance deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and achieve tangible improvements in local sustainability.

More Info: www.iclei.org

Land Conservancy of McHenry Co.

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County is a non-profit organization recognized by the IRS and the State of Illinois as an organization qualified to hold conservation easements to preserve scenic, natural, and agricultural resources in McHenry County. Since 1991, the Land Conservancy has helped protect over 1,800 acres of McHenry County's prairies, wetlands, and woodlands by working with private landowners, communities, and developers. It is intended that these acquired sites will be protected on behalf of the community, in perpetuity.

More Info: www.conservemc.org

McHenry County Groundwater Protection Program Task Force

The McHenry County Groundwater Protection Program Task Force is charged with developing a comprehensive Groundwater Protection Program for McHenry County and fostering implementation by all stakeholders, including local municipalities. The Village of Algonquin has designated a staff member to work with McHenry County staff, McHenry County Board, and other government or-

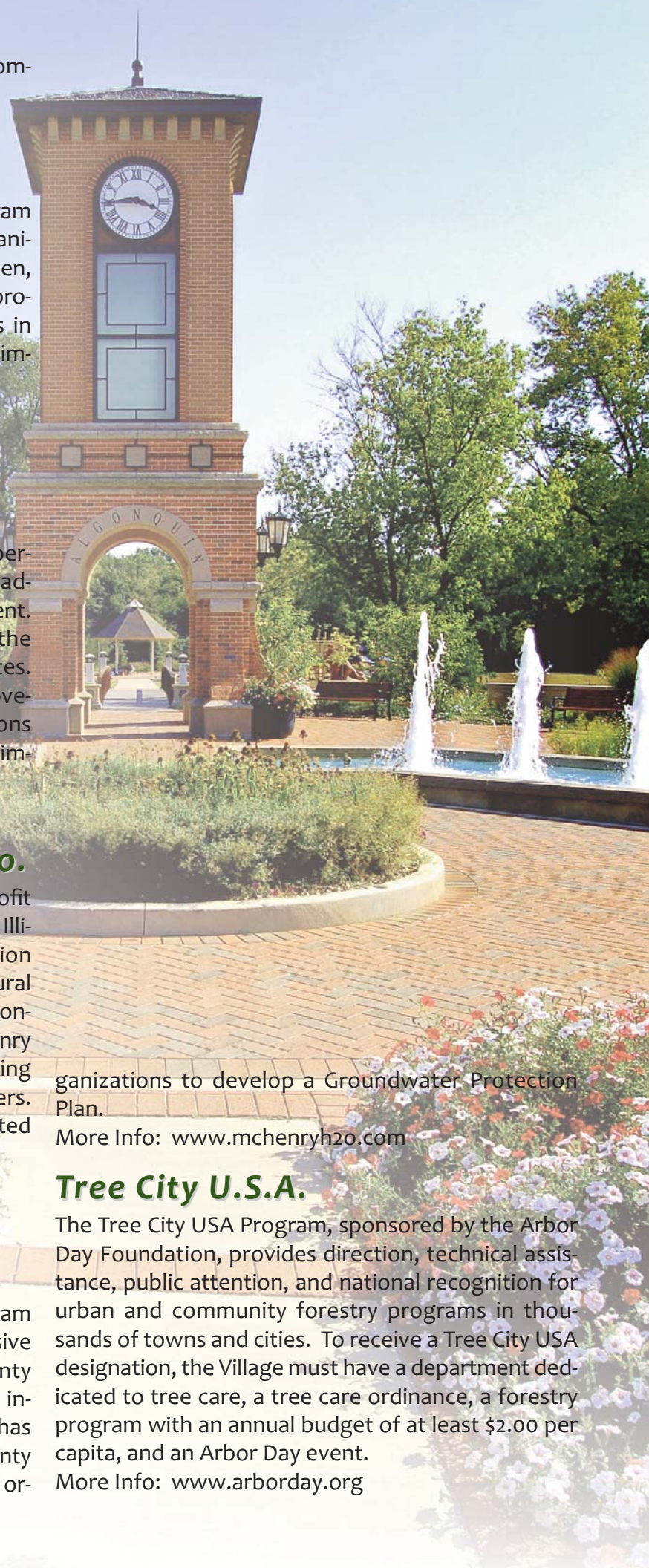
ganizations to develop a Groundwater Protection Plan.

More Info: www.mchenryh2o.com

Tree City U.S.A.

The Tree City USA Program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities. To receive a Tree City USA designation, the Village must have a department dedicated to tree care, a tree care ordinance, a forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2.00 per capita, and an Arbor Day event.

More Info: www.arborday.org



Priorities: 2010-2011

To become a sustainable Algonquin, the Village will focus on the following tasks in the short term to strategically reach our long-term sustainable objectives. Grants and other sources of external funding should always be considered while implementing the Village's priority tasks. The tasks below are prioritized objectives for the current fiscal year, based upon available funding:

Bicycle Friendly Community

A designation provided by the League of American Bicyclists will further develop the Village's existing network of trails and bicycle lanes to ENGAGE residents to utilize a more sustainable mode of transportation.

Carbon Emissions Inventory

A detailed assessment of the Village's carbon footprint, both internal operations and external in the community, will provide a baseline for the Village to OPTIMIZE its resources in a more efficient, effective, and environmentally-friendly manner.

Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling

A community in which larger refuse-producing properties are encouraged and assisted to develop and maintain recycling rates that rival single-family residential properties has a significant impact on sustainability and helps CONSERVE valuable resources necessary to collect and dispose of refuse.

Composting Education

Yard trimmings and food residuals together constitute 26 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream. That's a lot of waste to send to landfills when it could become useful and environmentally beneficial compost instead! The Village will focus on educational efforts to ENGAGE residents in composting practices.

E-Waste Recycling Event

A community event which helps ENGAGE residents to properly dispose of their unused or unwanted electronics communicates the adverse impacts of hazardous toxins found in these items.

Environmental Education

An educational campaign to ENGAGE both the public and employees to recycle and reduce use of harmful environmental products such as phosphorous and coal tar.

Facilities Energy Audit

An effort to OPTIMIZE the performance of Village facilities, staff will perform energy and thermal imaging audits to identify inefficient practices to reduce energy consumption.

Gold Leaf Award Program

The Village's approach to a sustainable Algonquin requires collaboration with residents to meet Village-wide objectives. The "Gold Leaf Award" helps ENGAGE residents by recognizing their sustainable accomplishments.

Phosphorus Fertilizer Education

A public education campaign on the adverse impacts of phosphorus will help CONSERVE our waterways from being polluted with this harmful chemical.

Rain Barrel Sale

Rain barrels help reduce stress on our local stormwater conveyance system, which helps keep pollutants out of our surface and ground water. Additionally, residents may OPTIMIZE their resources by having a water source at no cost.

2009-2010 Results



Bicycle Rack Art Program - COMPLETE

Contest added eight (8) artistic bicycle racks that can accommodate up to 24 bicycles to the Village's bicycle network. The contest won the Model Program, Policy, and Procedure (MP3) Award from the McHenry County Council of Governments for its innovative approach to citizen engagement and contribution to the health and welfare of the community.




Conservation Design - COMPLETE

Ordinance adopted March 2, 2010 and will help guide the future growth of Algonquin.



E-Waste Recycling Event - COMPLETE

Held an e-Waste Recycling Event for Village residents in 2009 and 2010. The August 2009 event attracted over 400 vehicles and collected 37,150 pounds of e-waste for recycling. The Village plans to hold this event again in 2010 and 2011.



LED Traffic Signal Conversion - COMPLETE

All Village-controlled intersections feature light-emitting diode (LED) technology.




Bicycle Friendly Community - IN PROGRESS

Launched public education and outreach campaign "Bike Algonquin" that promotes bicycling and the Village's bicycling network. A bicycle subcommittee was created to begin work on a Bicycle Master Plan.



Carbon Emissions Inventory - IN PROGRESS

Ongoing project that continuously inventories and tracks energy use from Village facilities and equipment. Inventory will be completed and mitigation strategies will be developed to decrease carbon emissions as a result of Village operations.



Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling - IN PROGRESS

A community in which larger refuse-producing properties are encouraged and assisted to develop and maintain recycling rates that rival single-family residential properties has a significant impact on sustainability and helps CONSERVE valuable resources necessary to collect and dispose of refuse.



Honorary ECO Program - IN PROGRESS

Was renamed "Gold Leaf Award" and has been released to public. Promotional efforts will continue.



Phosphorus Fertilizer Education - IN PROGRESS

Work continues on developing educational materials regarding environmental impacts of the use of fertilizers that contain phosphorus.



Transit Education - IN PROGRESS

Developed materials regarding public transit. Future efforts will include further promotion of bicycling as a mode of transportation.



Rain Barrel Art and Sale Program - NOT COMPLETED

Project deferred in lieu of Bicycle Rack Art Program and duplication efforts with overlapping jurisdictions.



Strategies

The following are both existing and future strategies the Village will employ as it works towards creating a sustainable Algonquin. These initiatives represent a strategic approach to addressing our air, land, and water quality.

50/50 Tree Program

Description: This program is designed for residents who may have an available planting site in their parkway where a tree has never been planted or has previously failed. The program allows residents the opportunity to purchase trees at half of the Village's wholesale cost. The program provides purchase, pick-up, and installation of a new tree. The tree is then considered a permanent part of the infrastructure and is qualified to be replaced at no cost should it fail in the future.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village 50%, Resident 50%

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Steve Ludwig

Alternate Fuel Program

Description: Fleet Maintenance is currently using at least B20 Bio diesel, weather permitting, and supplementing fuel supplies with thousands of gallons of locally gathered waste vegetable oil (WVO). Superintendent of Internal Services Vincent Olsen has been the leader in implementing programs such as using WVO to fuel municipal lawn mowers and vehicles. He collects WVO from local restaurants and converts it into filtered grease which can be used to fuel vehicles. The WVO is free, so not only is the Village using a recycled and clean fuel, it is also saving money.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: Local businesses, school districts

Contact: Vince Olsen

Anti-Idling Policy

Description: The Village has a strict idle policy for all municipal vehicles. This policy reduces vehicle emissions as well as saves fuel and cost. This policy is available upon request. In sum, it prohibits idling at temperatures of 59 degrees and above and during breaks and lunch periods and prohibits idling of unattended vehicles. Please see policy for specific idling limitations for municipal vehicles.

Primary Department: Village Wide

Funding: None

Potential Partners: Overlapping governments and special districts who could implement similar policies.

Contact: Vince Olsen

Arbor Day Event

Description: Arbor Day is celebrated each April with over 350 of the Village's third graders. The children are given a thirty-minute presentation by Village Staff on the history of Arbor Day, the importance of trees in everyday life, and allowed a subsequent interactive question-and-answer session. The children also read poems and receive a packet from the Village which includes: a Village Arbor Day litterbag, various pamphlets full of games and tree care information, tree related stickers, and Arbor Day pencils purchased from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: School Districts 158 and 300

Contact: Steve Ludwig

Bicycle Friendly Community

Description: The Bicycle Friendly Communities Campaign is an awards program that recognizes municipalities that actively support bicycling. A Bicycle Friendly Community provides safe accommodation for cycling and encourages its residents to bike for transportation and recreation. This will build off of existing assets of the Village and provide a sustainable alternate transportation mode while improving the livability of the Village. Requirements call for public education and enforcement of bicycling as well as infrastructure planning to include bicycling as a transportation option.

Primary Department: General Service Administration

Funding: Bikes Belong Coalition Grants, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Potential Partners: League of American Bicyclists, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, McHenry County Bicycle Club, Kane County DOT, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Illinois DOT, School Districts 158 & 300 (Safe Routes to Schools).

Contact: Michael Kumbera

Bicycle Rack Art Program

Description: Incorporate functional bicycle racks into the Village's Public Art Program. This task will promote the use of bicycles in the Village by providing aesthetically pleasing bicycle racks near trails and businesses.

Primary Department: Community Development

Funding: Village Public Art Program, Grants

Potential Partners: Local businesses

Contact: Katie Parkhurst

Building Materials Program

Description: Prioritization of goods purchased for the

purpose of lighting, general building materials, and cleaning products for municipal buildings. This program includes energy-efficient lighting and low VOC cleaning products.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

Potential Partners: Village contractors

Contact: Vince Olsen

Carbon Emissions Inventory

Description: The Village's CO₂ inventory is broken into two modules (Community Analysis and Government Analysis) which document fuel use, electricity use, and waste production. Community Analysis is a jurisdictional-wide inventory, while the Government Analysis focuses exclusively on the government's internal operations. Although certain departments will be required to provide applicable data to the inventory, most of the data should come from utility and refuse companies who provide service within the Village.

Primary Department: General Services Administration

Funding: None

Potential Partners: Sierra Club, ICLEI, ComEd, Nicor, Waste Management.

Contact: Michael Kumbera

Commercial/Multi-Family Recycling

Description: In addition to residential recycling, Algonquin is also focusing on commercial recycling. In October 2006, the Algonquin Village Board passed an ordinance that encourages all businesses and manufacturers in Algonquin to adopt a recycling program. The Village is currently putting together a Recycling Toolkit to assist businesses in their recycling efforts. The Village is currently pursuing grant funding to implement additional commercial recycling programs.

Primary Department: General Services Administration

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: Waste Management and other recycling/refuse haulers.

Contact: Michelle Weber

Composting Education

Description: Yard trimmings and food residuals together constitute 26 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream. That's a lot of waste to send to landfills when it could become useful and environmentally beneficial compost instead! The Village will focus on educational efforts to encourage composting by residents.

Primary Department: General Services Administration

Funding: N/A

Potential Partners: Waste Management

Contact: Michelle Weber

Strategies

Conservation Community Day

Description: An annual community event which occurs in June that is free to the public. Individuals and groups can learn about how to conserve resources and preserve our natural environment. Visitors will also meet representatives from local environmental organizations.

Primary Department: Community Development

Funding: Village, Participating organizations

Potential Partners: Local environmental groups

Contact: Katie Parkhurst

Conservation Design

Description: The Village Board adopted a Conservation Design Ordinance in March 2010. The ordinance encourages or requires developments to use best management practices to further protect the natural resources of the site and adjacent areas. The goal is to redefine the way a project moves from a concept plan to construction by putting the natural features at the forefront.

Primary Department: Community Development

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Katie Parkhurst

E-Waste Recycling Event

Description: An E-Waste Recycling Event will aid Village residents in disposing of their obsolete electronics in an environmentally responsible manner. Old electronics contain hazardous amounts of toxic heavy metals including lead, cadmium, and mercury. When these products reach the end of their useful lives or become obsolete, some are considered hazardous waste. In general, hazardous waste may not be discarded in the regular trash. Instead, it must be sent to a facility that has a permit for treatment (including recycling), storage, or disposal. There is an immediate demand for this service with the recent conversion from analog to digital television broadcasting. Additionally, existing programs available to residents are jurisdictionally fragmented, and it would be beneficial for the Village to coordinate an event for all Village residents.

Primary Department: General Services Administration

Funding: Village funding or partnership with one of the following agencies. Illinois DCEO also has various grants available in this program area.

Potential Partners: Algonquin Township, Kane County, Office Max – Consumer Electronics Recycling Program, Vintage Tech Recyclers, Environmental Defenders of

McHenry County.

Contact: Michelle Weber

Effluent Reuse

Description: With increasing pressure on potable water systems, alternative or additional water sources needed to be found to address a growing scarcity of water. Additional groundwater sources are not always available and can be costly to access. The reuse of treated effluent, derived from wastewater, is a stable source that contains valuable nutrients for plant applications and also serves as a plentiful water source for sewer flushing or street sweeping. The economic, environmental, and social benefits are enormous, even suggesting future groundwater regeneration.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Andy Warmus

Environmental Education

Description: A multi-faceted approach for educational opportunities for internal Village operations, general public, and targeted audiences. Internal operations educational efforts will focus on recycling efforts. General public education will include phosphorous and coal tar information and other information relating to ECO efforts and programs. Targeted audience education will be working with Westfield Community School for their Earth Week celebration.

Primary Department: Community Development & Police

Funding: None

Potential Partners: Retailers, Westfield Community School

Contact: Katie Parkhurst and Karen Swigart

Erosion Control Enforcement

Description: As part of the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance and NPDES Phase 2, the Village ensures proper soil erosion and sediment control on all construction sites. Construction and development plans undergo a review for compliance with federal standards, and sites are inspected, at a minimum, once per month and after a one-inch rainfall.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Michele Zimmerman

Facilities Energy Audit

Description: The importance of operating Village facilities in the most efficient manner possible has consider-

able impact on the environment and operating costs. The Village is systematically performing energy audits and thermal imaging analyses on its facilities to reduce overall energy usage.

Primary Department: Public Works and General Services Administration

Funding: Village, SEDAC

Potential Partners: Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC)

Contact: Vince Olsen and Michael Kumbera

Fats, Oils, Grease (FOG) Program

Description: Public education effort designed to inform citizens of the impacts of putting FOG down their drains and alternatives available.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Cathy White

Gold Leaf Award

Description: The purpose of this outreach program is to engage and encourage residents to be active in the Village's environmental efforts. It is an opportunity to recognize those families, organizations, classrooms, schools, and businesses that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to our local and global resources – water, land, and air – through involvement and participation in various environmental initiatives. Individuals or groups will apply to the ECO Committee to receive the Gold Leaf Award to highlight their environmental activity.

Primary Department: Community Development

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Katie Parkhurst

Groundwater Protection Program

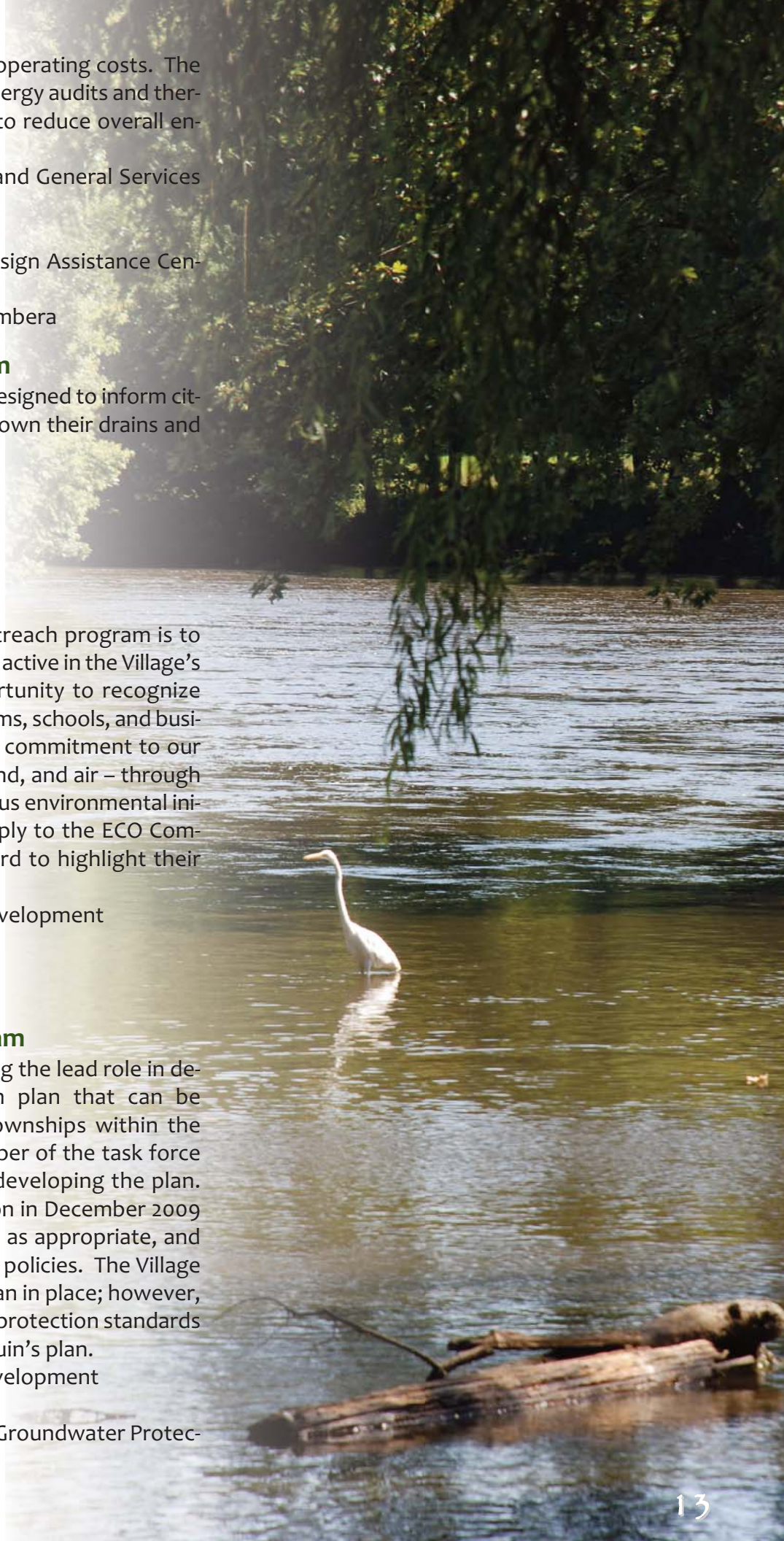
Description: McHenry County is taking the lead role in developing a groundwater protection plan that can be adopted by all municipalities and townships within the County. The Village has been a member of the task force since inception and instrumental in developing the plan. The Village Board adopted a resolution in December 2009 to review and implement the policies as appropriate, and staff is currently working through the policies. The Village has an existing water conservation plan in place; however, the County's plan will provide further protection standards that can be incorporated into Algonquin's plan.

Primary Department: Community Development

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: McHenry County Groundwater Protection Program Task Force

Contact: Katie Parkhurst





Growth Management Planning

Description: Planning growth in a responsible strategic manner ensures the preservation of natural and environmentally sensitive areas. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is a tool that the Village can use to proactively address growth in the area.

Primary Department: Community Development

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Contact: Russ Farnum

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection

Description: This is a new strategy that the Village will research and evaluate in the future. This will include the exploration of prescription medication collection and paper shredding events.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village, Grants

Potential Partners: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Contact: *New Program Under Consideration*

LED Traffic Signal Conversion

Description: By using light-emitting diodes (LED) technology, municipalities have a way to reduce energy consumption and conserve fossil fuels by replacing old incandescent light bulbs with LEDs in traffic signals. LEDs are much more energy efficient than their incandescent counterparts for several reasons. LEDs produce uniform light dispersion, and light output is dispersed evenly over the lens which makes them brighter than incandescent lamps. LEDs are very energy efficient, producing up to 90% light output with very little heat, while incandescent bulbs use up to 90% of their energy generating heat. In addition to providing energy savings, LEDs last longer. The typical LED will last from five to ten years, while an incandescent bulb will need to be replaced annually. LEDs also focus light better, making the traffic signal easier to see for oncoming traffic.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Potential Partners: Illinois DOT

Contact: Michele Zimmerman

Natural Areas Stewardship Program

Description: In 2007, the Village started a natural areas stewardship program in order to involve residents in the protection and preservation of our natural areas.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: N/A

Potential Partners: Residents

Contact: Michele Zimmerman

Naturalized Detention Basin Program

Description: Starting in 2003, the Village began retrofitting all of its turf grass stormwater detention basins into naturalized basins. We have completed four, with a ten-year plan to convert the remaining six into natural areas.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: N/A

Contact: Michele Zimmerman

Nature-Focused Recreation Programming

Description: The Recreation Division includes programming which heightens awareness of the natural environment. Activities such as hiking, bird watching, and others are offered to Village residents.

Primary Department: General Services Administration

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: Environmental Groups

Contact: Sarah Stefan

No Can Plan

Description: In an effort to promote ecological awareness by reducing waste and promoting recycling, the Village is unveiling its “No Can Plan” Program. The program asks, via posted signs at park parcels and ongoing education, for individuals to have a “No Can Plan.” Some Village parks will no longer have trash receptacles, so users will be responsible for removing their own refuse.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: N/A

Contact: Steve Ludwig

Paperless Office

Description: The Village has recently implemented an on-line document management software which allows us to manage the creation and maintenance of frequently used Village policies, directives, and other documents in a digital, paperless environment. This process reduces paper waste, increases on-the-job productivity hours, and improves the Village’s internal customer service. In addition, the Village has streamlined its recruitment process by utilizing technology to drastically reduce our paper products and postage costs. This new process is not only environmentally friendly but also provides a quicker more efficient service to Village job applicants. This same process also applies to our various internal and external communications as well.

Primary Department: General Services Administration

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: N/A

Contact: Todd Walker

Park and Trail System Development

Description: Development and expansion of the Village’s park and trail system contribute to high quality of life factors and provide means for alternative forms of transportation.

Primary Department: Community Development & Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: Park and conservation districts

Contact: Katie Parkhurst and Michele Zimmerman

Phosphorus Fertilizer Education

Description: The Village will help educate the public on the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilization applications. Runoff of this chemical can adversely impact Village waterways. A public and business education campaign will help reduce the use of this chemical in the Village.

Primary Department: Public Works & Community Development

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: N/A

Contact: Cathy White & Katie Parkhurst

Rain Barrel Sale

Description: Rain barrels are on-site rainwater collection systems. Rainwater can be collected as a valuable resource for lawn and garden watering, as well as possibly retained to reduce storm water conveyance systems and storm water management costs. Holding an event in the Village could lead to increased use of rain barrels resulting in reduced conveyance to the storm water system and increased compliance with water conservation regulations.

Primary Department: Community Development

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: Land Conservancy of McHenry County, Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation

Contact: Katie Parkhurst

Rain Garden Workshop

Description: This is a new strategy that the Village will research and evaluate in the future.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: Land Conservancy of McHenry County, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

Strategies

Contact: *New Program Under Consideration*

Regenerative Air Street Sweeper

Description: The Village uses a full-sized regenerative air sweeper for cleaning Village roadways. This sweeper removes dirt, dust, and debris from the sweeping surface and projects it into the Regenerative Air stream for effective cleaning. This method is very efficient in removing debris from the roadway while the Regenerative Air system preserves local air and water quality by filtering the debris instead of stirring it up as the sweeper moves along the roadway.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Vince Olsen

Residential CFL Bulb Distribution

Description: In partnership with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, the Residential Lighting Program of the Northern Illinois Energy Project (NIEP) was developed to increase the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), as well as to raise awareness that these light bulbs use less energy and help cut utility costs for Illinois residents. The NIEP program is working with retail and manufacturer partners to provide discounted bulbs, while supplies last, in local neighborhood stores and with participating municipalities to increase access to these energy- and cost-saving products.

Primary Department: General Services Administration

Funding: None

Potential Partners: Northern Illinois Energy Project, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

Contact: Michael Kumbera

Streambank Naturalization Program

Description: The Village is in the process of converting all of our streambanks to naturalized cross sections with native buffer zones. Village staff has completed four areas thus far.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: N/A

Contact: Michele Zimmerman

Transit Education

Description: This program will provide public education on local transit options around Algonquin. This may in-

clude information on the Village web site and in publications on using services provided by Pace and Metra in surrounding areas. This program also can provide information for carpooling and bicycling in the Village.

Primary Department: General Services Administration

Funding: None

Potential Partners: Pace and Metra

Contact: Michael Kumbera

Tree Preservation Program

Description: The Village of Algonquin has a strong tree preservation code which encourages the preservation and protection of trees and requires the replacement of trees that are removed during development. Trees and their preservation, maintenance, and care are a focus for the Village of Algonquin, specifically for the Parks and Forestry Division of the Public Works Department which employs several Certified Arborists. Algonquin was the first community in McHenry County to have a comprehensive tree preservation ordinance.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Steve Ludwig

Vehicle Replacement Program

Description: This program allows us to reassign / eliminate underutilized vehicles, replace older, less efficient vehicles, specifically gas-burning V8, with more efficient V6, diesel, or 4-cylinder engines. We have, to date, replaced 12 hot-seat police V8 engines with more fuel efficient V6 models; we have also replaced three Superintendent gas engine vehicles with three hybrid vehicles. In our entire fleet of 93 vehicles, we have eliminated all but one V8 gasoline burning engine. The Village will continue to focus on alternative fuel and fuel efficient vehicles.

Primary Department: Public Works


Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Vince Olsen

Volume-Based Residential Recycling Program

Description: In August 2005, the Village of Algonquin launched a new recycling cart program. The Village, in conjunction with Waste Management, provided each single-family and townhome residence in the Village with a 64-gallon recycling cart, which replaced small 18-gallon bins. Promoting recycling has always been a priority for the Village, and this program was designed to increase the amount of recyclables diverted from landfills.



This partnership among the Village of Algonquin, Waste Management, and, most importantly, the residents of Algonquin has resulted in an average increase of over 12% of materials diverted from our area landfills. The Village of Algonquin also encourages its residents and businesses to reduce the amount of garbage that they generate, reuse materials when possible, and recycle as much as possible. In addition, they are encouraged to buy recycled products when available to ensure that a market for recyclables exists. These simple steps, done both at home and at businesses, can make a big difference in our world if we all work together.

Primary Department: General Services Administration

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: Waste Management

Contact: Michelle Weber

Water Conservation Program

Description: The Village of Algonquin has an extensive Water Conservation Program. The plan includes a number of components including: public outreach efforts, contests and incentives, modification of certain Village operations, the creation of seasonal water rates, and enforcement measures. The Village enacted outside water restrictions in the 1990s to encourage residents to think about the amount of water used/wasted, especially in the summer months. The Village does a large education program at the beginning of each summer. This education effort includes working with local media to publicize ways to conserve water. Village staff makes short presentations to all area grade schools each May on the importance of water, where it comes from, and how to conserve it. A contest is held each year to actively engage residents and businesses in the importance of water conservation. The Village web site has a wealth of information regarding water conservation (www.algonquin.org). Also, pamphlets are mailed each year to all residents explaining water regulations and ways to conserve water.

Primary Department: Community Development and Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: School Districts 158 and 300

Contact: Katie Parkhurst and Andy Warmus

Wellhead Protection Regulations

Description: The Wellhead Protection Program established rules and regulations for protecting precious groundwater resources and works to protect aquifers against potential contaminants. This program works to assure a water supply which is both adequate in volume and safe for public use for present and future generations. Application of these rules and regulations helps protect those aquifers

Strategies

that have the potential for public water supply and applies to all properties located within the Village.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Andy Warmus

Wetland and Sensitive Area Protection

Description: The Village provides protection for various wetlands and sensitive areas throughout the community. The benefits of these areas in the Village include flood protection, air and water pollution control, erosion control, promotion of biodiversity, and biological productivity. They also replenish our groundwater supply.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Michele Zimmerman

Wetland Enhancement Program

Description: Enhancing Village wetlands creates an environment where natural wetlands are restored and helps filtrate water on the surface before it recharges our groundwater supply.

Primary Department: Public Works

Funding: Village

Potential Partners: None

Contact: Michele Zimmerman

Wind/Alternate Energy

Description: This is a new strategy that the Village will research and evaluate in the future.

Primary Department: Community Development

Funding: None

Potential Partners: None

Contact: *New Program Under Consideration*

2009 - 2010 Statistics

- ❑ Prescribed burned 40 acres of prairie and wetlands.
- ❑ Naturalized 1,400 feet of streambank.
- ❑ Enhanced 7 acres of natural area.
- ❑ Collected and recycled 37,150 pounds of e-waste.
- ❑ Added 24 bicycle parking spaces through the Bicycle Rack Art Contest.
- ❑ Diverted 45% of waste from landfills through the residential recycling program.



Awards

The following are some of the awards the Village has received in recognition of various environmental efforts. These awards reiterate the Village's commitment to a sustainable Algonquin.

Tree City USA (1996 - Present)

Viable Tree Management Program and Implementation

Illinois Tomorrow Award (2001)

Woods Creek Watershed Protection Plan

Land Conservancy of McHenry County - Living with Trees Award (2005)

Village's Tree Preservation Program

McHenry County Recycling Award (2005)

Village Residential Recycling Cart Program

McHenry County Defenders Theta Award (2007)

Village's Overall Commitment to the Environment

**Environmental Protection Agency & Chicago Wilderness
Conservation and Native Landscaping Award (2007)**

Arquilla Naturalized Detention

**Environmental Protection Agency & Chicago Wilderness
Conservation and Native Landscaping Award (2008)**

Lake Drive South Naturalized Detention

**McHenry County Council of Governments
Model Program, Policy, or Procedure Award (2010)**

Bicycle Rack Art Contest

Created: May 28, 2009
Updated: September 22, 2009
October 20, 2010



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For specific questions relating to the plan, please contact either Michael Kumbera, Management Assistant, or Katie Parkhurst, Senior Planner, at 847-658-2700.