



# 2015 Strategic Plan Update

As of June 27, 2019

This report delineates progress on the objectives of the 2015 Strategic Plan. For more information, please contact Assistant City Administrator, Cristina White at [cwhite@warrenville.il.us](mailto:cwhite@warrenville.il.us). The date at the end of each *Proposed Action Step* denotes the anticipated start dates for that action item.

## GOAL #3: Open Space and Environment

OBJECTIVE:	Seek opportunities (i.e. via developments and grants) to showcase, access, and promote these components as desirable community assets, through pedestrian and bicyclist amenities and sustainability practices. (#1 priority)
ACTION STEPS TAKEN:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The City obtained CN/AIB community greening grant for enhanced landscaping in Leone Schmidt Heritage Park (2015)</li> <li>b. The City obtained a grant to complete the Route 56 Streetscape project (2018)</li> <li>c. The City adopted a new brand, logo, and tag line that showcase Warrenville as a natural community and natural choice. (2018)</li> <li>d. The City obtained grants to complete the Mack Road Path and Illinois Prairie Path (IPP) Trailhead projects. (2017-2018)</li> </ul>
PROPOSED ACTION STEPS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Apply for OSLAD Grant for Trailhead Project (2019)</li> <li>b. Complete design and construction of Trailhead Project (2020)</li> <li>c. Complete design and construction of the Mack Road Path and IPP Trailhead projects. (2019/20)</li> </ul>
STATUS:	This is an ongoing objective.
OBJECTIVE:	Develop public spaces and open space amenities with partners such as the Warrenville Park District, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, and the Conservation Foundation within Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District #3 in accordance with the TIF #3 Plan and the 2007 Subarea Plan (#2 priority).
ACTION STEPS TAKEN:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Completed the Illinois Prairie Path brush removal, clean-up, and landscaping between Rockwell and the West Branch.</li> <li>b. The City is currently working with several entities, including the Park District, DuPage County, DuPage Forest Preserve District, and the Illinois Prairie Path Not-for-Profit Corporation on completion of the Trailhead Project. (2018/2019)</li> <li>c. The City acquired the five-acre Tortoriello properties at the northwest corner of Route 59 and the Illinois Prairie Path (2016).</li> </ul>
PROPOSED ACTION STEPS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Coordinate Alden Foundation's donation of approximately 1.3 acres of open space at the northwest corner of Route 56 and the DuPage River bridge to the Forest Preserve District (2019/20)</li> <li>b. Continue efforts to acquire, clean-up and redevelop former Citgo Property with private development and a new public park (2019/22)</li> </ul>
STATUS:	This is an ongoing objective.



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OBJECTIVE:	Evaluate the flood protection efforts implemented by DuPage County along the West Branch of the DuPage River to ensure that flooding has been reduced for residents and businesses along the River. (#3 priority)
ACTION STEPS TAKEN:	a. The City has monitored the properties along the river and even during multiple heavy rains, staff has not observed the same level of flooding that occurred prior to the improvements.
PROPOSED ACTION STEPS:	
STATUS:	This is an ongoing objective.
OBJECTIVE:	Encourage environmentally responsible development that effectively controls the volume and improve the quality of stormwater runoff, thereby addressing neighborhood drainage issues, and that considers other impacts to the environment such as light and noise pollution, or effects on the landscaping. (#4 priority)
ACTION STEPS TAKEN:	a. The City evaluated and approved multiple private development projects (Stafford Place, Everton, Lexington Trace, and Riverview West that incorporate extensive stormwater best management practices, native plantings, and wetland and floodplain enhancements into their design (2018/2019)
PROPOSED ACTION STEPS:	
STATUS:	This is an ongoing objective.
OBJECTIVE:	Follow the tenets and commitments in The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, adopted by the City Council on January 17, 2012 and the ongoing commitment to maintain the City's Tree City USA status. (#5 priority)
ACTION STEPS TAKEN:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Developed and adopted the Climate Action Plan with the leadership of the Environmental Advisory Commission (2015/2016)</li> <li>b. The City has maintained its Tree City USA designation</li> <li>c. Revised City codes to encourage private residential solar power installations</li> <li>d. City Council passed motion directing priority processing of applications for projects that include solar energy components (2018)</li> <li>e. Joined SolSmart, an organization providing guidance and assistance with local governmental code revisions to encourage solar power development and achieved SolSmart Bronze designation (2018/19)</li> <li>f. Additional items were documented in a memo by Public Works Management Analyst Miller in 2018, attached as <b>Exhibit A</b>.</li> <li>g. Included funding in the FY 2020 budget for a tree inventory.</li> </ul>
PROPOSED ACTION STEPS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Working on developing a solar power project at well number nine.</li> <li>b. Joined the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Community Solar collaborative procurement program to bring benefits of community solar to public facilities.</li> </ul>
STATUS:	This is an ongoing objective.

## City of Warrenville Climate Action Initiatives

Over more than a decade, the City has completed many “green” projects, which fall under the goals of the City’s 2016 Climate Action Plan. They include:

### **A. Building Inspection Vehicle Retrofit**

**Description/Accomplishment:** In 2014, the Community Development Department retrofitted a staff vehicle from unleaded gasoline to compressed natural gas (CNG). CNG produces 20-30 percent less greenhouse gases than gasoline or diesel vehicles.

### **B. LED Street Lights**

**Description/Accomplishment:** The City began upgrading street lighting to LED in 2007. In the past, the City received grant funding to help offset the cost of the upgrades. According to the City’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) inventory of city-owned street lights, approximately 347 (41% of the total inventory) street lights are equipped with LED lights. The City has approximately 491 light fixtures that need upgrading to LED. Currently, when a City street light becomes inoperable, it is upgraded to an LED fixture. Also, new street lights, installed by the City, are equipped with LED fixtures. As future grant funding becomes available, the City will determine if additional street light can be upgraded to LED fixtures. Also, during 2015, ComEd completed a significant number upgrades of its street lights to LED.

### **C. Energy Audits of City Buildings**

**Description/Accomplishment:** Energy audits were conducted for the City Hall, Police Station, and Public Works Building by the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) in conjunction with City staff. The audits measure current energy usage in each building, identify possible energy reduction measures and provide rough cost estimates to implement the reduction measures. According to the audit results, all three of the City’s buildings were more energy efficient than other municipal buildings of comparable design. The majority of the audit recommendations, for all three buildings, involved continued lighting upgrades, among other things.

### **D. Energy Efficient Appliances and Equipment**

**Description/Accomplishment:** As a policy, the City prioritizes purchase of items bearing the *Energy Star* Certification, which indicates that equipment reduces greenhouse gas emissions through efficient energy usage (<https://www.energystar.gov/products/how-product-earns-energy-star-label>). Recent purchases have included energy efficient copiers and technology, among other items. The City has also moved away from purchasing equipment powered by two-stroke, gasoline engines, including snow throwers and weed trimmers. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “A typical string-trimmer is powered by a two-stroke gasoline engine that has a hydrocarbon (HC) emission rate approximately six times that of the typical four-stroke mower engine.” (<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=P100GDP7.TXT>).

**Description/Accomplishment:** The Public Works Department also installed solar-powered lighting for specific signage, when applicable. Some examples include the City entrance signs (north and south Illinois Route 59), the Batavia Road and Williams Road pedestrian crossing signs, and the various school speed limit signs around the community. Also, the Warrenville Police Department purchased solar-powered speed trailers, equipped with solar panels to help supplement its energy usage.

## City of Warrenville Climate Action Initiatives

### **E. Water Reduction**

**Description/Accomplishment:** The City has continued to reduce water usage across the entire organization. Public Works staff have installed low-flow plumbing fixtures and faucet sensors in restrooms in Public Works, City Hall, and the Police Station. The City has also installed a water bottle filling station, at the Public Works Building, to help reduce water usage and waste from discarded plastic bottles.

### **F. Municipal Electrical Aggregation Program**

**Description/Accomplishment:** In August 2012, the City implemented an electrical aggregation program. The program allowed the City to buy electricity from suppliers other than ComEd on behalf residents and small businesses by soliciting competitive bids from suppliers on behalf of the entire community. The City receives 100% renewable energy, from a supplier, for the entire community. All Warrenville residents and small business are automatically enrolled, unless they opt-out.

### **G. Utilization of Natural Plantings**

**Description/Accomplishment:** The City has promoted the use of natural plantings (plant species), along with rain gardens and bioswales, to help improve water quality, reduce runoff, beautify the community, and help local wildlife. The City's Climate Action Plan promotes the planting of native trees, prairie plants, and grasses to promote biodiversity.

### **H. Green Infrastructure**

**Description/Accomplishment:** In 2007, the City installed permeable pavers along a one mile section of Warrenville Road, between Butterfield and Batavia Roads in order to direct rainfall away from storm sewer systems and back into the natural ecosystem. Unfortunately, the Warrenville Road permeable paver system has not functioned as originally presented due to the compaction of the underlying supporting layers beneath the pavers along Warrenville Road, causing drainage and ponding issues. The project also included permeable paver parking along Warrenville Road. Utilizing permeable pavers, for parking, has been an effective utilization of the permeable paver system for the City. In summer 2018, the City completed the conversion of parking along Warren Avenue, in proximity of the Police Station, from asphalt to permeable paver parking.

### **I. Building Code Updates**

**Description/Accomplishment:** In 2017, the City of Warrenville adopted the 2015 International Building Codes published by the International Code Council (ICC), which includes updated provisions for renewable energy, including solar photo voltaic (SPV) and solar thermal systems (STS). The adopted codes streamline and encourage the adoption of alternative energy usage. SPV and STS systems reduce overall energy consumption. The 2015 codes also includes the Energy Conservation Code with Illinois amendments.

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### **J. Tree Planting**

**Description/Accomplishment:** The City maintains a Parkway Tree Program, which gives residents the opportunity to purchase a parkway tree as part of its commitment to reforestation in Warrenville. Also, ash trees in the City's right of way, which are damaged by the Emerald Ash Borer, are replaced, free of charge, for residents.

### **K. City Advisory Commissions and Certifications**

**Description/Accomplishment:** in 2006, the City Council established two advisory commissions to address issues related to climate change; the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC). The EAC promotes programs and initiatives geared towards enhancing environmental awareness within the city, among other things. The BPAC encourages bicycle commuting and walking in lieu of motorized transportation, among other things. Both organizations hold various events throughout the year that reflect the City's commitment to green initiatives.

EAC holds an Arbor Day event in late April, at which free tree saplings are given away to encourage tree planting around the community. BPAC promotes a bike and walk to school event, at local schools, in April and October.

The City of Warrenville is designated as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation and has held that designation for the past 30 years. The certification provides recognition of the City's efforts in promoting a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program.

The City is designated a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) by the League of American Bicyclists. The BFC certification provides a roadmap to promote and improve bicycling issues in the community.

### **L. Interior and Exterior LED Lighting in City Buildings**

**Description/Accomplishment:** The City has prioritized retrofitting high-wattage lighting to energy efficient LED lighting. Interior lighting projects completed to date include the upgrades of the vehicle storage and salt shed areas at the Public Works Building, the records office and the sergeant/detective areas at the Police Station, Warrenville City Museum, and the Gallery Conference Room at City Hall. Additional exterior lighting projects to reduce energy usage include upgrades at Cerny Park, Veterans Memorial, Bob Walters Commons, City Gazebo, Warrenville City Museum, Public Works Building, and City Hall

**Description/Accomplishment:** The City received grant funding in 2010 to retrofit approximately 144 florescent lights to T-8 lights at the Public Works Building and Community Development Department at City Hall. T-8 lights use approximately 35% less energy than standard fluorescent lights. The same grant funding also paid for the upgrading of 39 high-bay light fixtures in the Public Works garage area to more efficient fluorescent fixtures.

### **M. Salt Reduction Measures**

**Description/Accomplishment:** The Public Works Department works to reduce the amount of salt used during inclement weather events. Currently, only minimal salting occurs on roads during inclement weather events; with city crews primarily responding after the conclusion of the weather

## **City of Warrenville Climate Action Initiatives**

event. Also, the Public Works Department utilizes a mix of beet juice and salt brine, to pre-wet the road salt, which helps reduce the volume of salt required during a weather event.

### **N. High Efficiency Building and HVAC Equipment**

**Description/Accomplishment:** Programmable thermostats were installed in the City Hall, Police Station, and Public Works Buildings. The thermostats allow the City to reduce energy usage during non-work hours. Some purchases have included high-efficiency water heaters at Cerny Park, City Hall, the Public Works Building, and Police Station.

Building material upgrades include the installation of energy-efficient insulation at Cerny Park and the Police Station, and a cool (white membrane) roof at the Police Station. According to the US Department of Energy, “A cool roof is one that has been designed to reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than a standard roof.” (<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-efficient-home-design/cool-roofs>).

### **O. Occupancy Sensors**

**Description/Accomplishment:** Occupancy sensors have been installed in City Hall, Police Station, and Public Works building. The sensors save electricity by turning off lighting in unoccupied areas of the building. In 2010, grant funding was received for the installation of the sensors in the Public Works Building and Community Development Department (City Hall).

### **P. Waste Reduction**

**Description/Accomplishment:** The City attempts to reduce waste and recycle as much as possible. Comprehensive residential solid waste, recycling, and yard waste pickup is provided by Waste Management under the City’s franchise agreement.

### **Q. Prescription Drug Recycling Drop Box**

**Description/Accomplishment:** In 2017, the Police Station installed a prescription drug recycling box in the lobby. The box was provided by a grant from the DuPage Foundation and residents may place unwanted medications in the drop box during regular lobby hours.

### **R. Public Recycling Events**

**Description/Accomplishment:** The Police Department holds a yearly shredding event every May. In 2018, electronics recycling was added as an additional service. The event gives residents the opportunity to recycle items such as computers, modems, routers and office equipment, among other things.

### **S. Private Solar Permit and Development Prioritization**

**Description/Accomplishment:** In 2018, the City Council endorsed the prioritized review and processing of development applications that include solar installations. The policy statement is as follows, “In support of the goals of its 2015 Strategic Plan and 2016 Climate Action Plan, the City Council hereby directs the Community Development Department staff to allocate their time and direct their efforts in a manner whereby they prioritize the review and processing of those building permits and development applications that are most likely to result in the construction of solar installations in the City of Warrenville.”

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### **T. Discontinuation of Citywide Mosquito Abatement Program**

**Description/Accomplishment:** The City ceased a mosquito abatement program in 2000, following an advisory referendum on raising property taxes to pay for the spraying. City also was responding to some residential concerns about the potential health risks posed by the chemicals that are used during the spraying process. Further, the effectiveness of spraying pesticides is very limited since Warrenville is surrounded by very large open spaces, including several forest preserves and Fermilab.

### **U. Herbicide Application Reduction**

**Description/Accomplishment:** In 2003, the City decided to stop using herbicide (weed killers) on City-owned properties. An exception is made when specific applications are needed to kill invasive weeds prior to the installation of new natural plants, rain gardens, or other natural features. The reduction in herbicide usage creates cleaner air, reduces water pollution and benefits wildlife. It also creates child safe parks and public grounds for the community to enjoy.

## **Future Projects:**

### **A. Electronic Plan Review Software**

**Description/Accomplishment:** During fiscal year 2019, the Community Development Department will be pursuing the purchase of an Electronic Plan Review (EPR) software package. The purchase of the software package will greatly reduce the amount of paper utilized by part of the Community Development Department.

### **B. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Program**

**Description/Accomplishment:** Beginning in fiscal year 2019, the City will undertake the implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) program. Many processes will become entirely electronic, greatly decreasing the amount of printing, paper, and storage space required by City staff.

### **C. Public Works Exterior Building and Parking LED Lighting**

**Description/Accomplishment:** Beginning in fiscal year 2019, and as the fixtures become deficient, the conversion of additional exterior and parking lot lighting will be converted to LED.