



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

You may submit your written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: sjansen@vrf.us
You may listen to the meeting by participating in a Zoom conference call as follows: dial-in number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 816 4491 8569 or by clicking [here](#). If you would like to speak during public comment, please email sjansen@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for April 8, 2025
4. Commissioner Updates
5. Continued Village Solar Efforts
 - a. Switch Together Chicagoland Solar Program
 - b. Community Solar Program
6. Mayors Monarch Pledge
 - a. Pollinator Week Proclamation
 - b. Draft Pollinator Resource Webpage
7. River Forest Sustainability Scorecard Discussion
8. Communications
9. Staff Updates and Other Business
 - a. CN/AIB Grant Event – June 23, 2025
 - b. Quarterly Waste Report
 - c. EV Charging Station Installation Project
10. Schedule Next Meeting – June 10, 2025
11. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Veazie, Hayley, Mezzatesta, Kadlec, Avalos, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt.

Absent: None

Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mezzatesta to approve the meeting minutes from March 11, 2025 with corrections identified by Commissioner Mezzatesta.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Veazie, Hayley, Mezzatesta, Kadlec, and Avalos.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

None.

5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY MEMBER RECOGNITION DISCUSSION

Commissioner Kadlec introduced the draft community recognition form for individuals to nominate someone from the Village for recognition in a newsletter. Commissioner Kadlec solicited feedback from the Commission for the formatting of the form. Co-Chair Lennon suggested making sure the nominated resident's address is in there. The Commission discussed formatting of both the Village Recognition form and the Sustainability Scorecard drafts put together by Commissioner Kadlec.

Commissioner Kadlec stated he felt the scorecard is a way for residents to self-assess their sustainability actions. He indicated the tiers of the scorecard are ranked by difficulty to implement as opposed to how effective the action is, with tier 1 actions being easy to do and tier 3 being more difficult to do. Commissioner Kadlec stated he plans to include resource links for each action so that residents could learn more about specific actions. Commissioner Kadlec solicited suggestions for action items from the Commission. The Commission discussed the tier and rating system and potential actions.

For the community recognition nomination form, Co-Chair Charrette suggested opening up for businesses or organizations. Commissioner Kadlec stated that the first form would be for residents but a similar nomination form for businesses and organizations.

Commissioner Hayley suggested putting the scorecard on the Village website and stated it would be beneficial to direct residents to it when she gets questions. Commissioner Kadlec also asked for input to avoid repeated items on the scorecard. Commissioner Veazie suggested plugging in information and programs that the Commissioner has already highlighted and supported. Co-Chair Lennon suggested the action items be bucketed by topic; Co-Chair Lennon also suggested a simple list rather than a tiered approach. The Commission discussed potential ways to format the scorecard. Commission Avalos stated that too long of a list may overwhelm some who would feel they'd need to do all these items. Commissioner Mezzatesta sought clarification that the scorecard would be purely self assessment. Commissioner Hayley expressed support for having the data collected to better understand resident use of the checklist and for residents to view their own results. The Commission discussed potential online format of the scorecard survey and a potential certificate or score result provided to residents.

The Commission discussed a potential student/youth-focused version of the survey. The commission discussed what questions to ask and how to disseminate a youth-focused survey. The Commission discussed ways a future scorecard could even be focused toward the elementary school district schools and students.

Mr. Jansen sought clarification on the format and final edits for the nomination form and when that should run in the weekly newsletter. For the scorecard, Commissioner Kadlec indicated he would incorporate the feedback from the Commission and bring back further edits at next month's meeting. Mr. Jansen indicated the nomination form would run in a weekly newsletter and that future forms could be done for businesses and institutions. Commissioner Hayley offered to help with links to resources in the scorecard and inquired about sources for the links and whether to use Village or external information.

6. COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Mr. Jansen outlined the results of the Community Survey that had been conducted by the Commission. Commissioner Mezzatesta noted the comments in the survey and the need to address general skepticism of the effectiveness of various programs, such as recycling. Co-Chair Lennon suggested having an event with LRS to highlight the effectiveness of education

programs. The Commission discussed some of the communications that have been previously done and what could be done through the newsletter and social media to better educate residents. Commissioner Veazie also noted that several comments in the survey expressed skepticism of capacity for the electric grid. The Commission generally discussed some of the comments left in the survey. Student Commissioner Stierwalt also suggested highlighting the benefits of electrification vs gas-powered vehicles and equipment.

Commissioner Kadlec suggested addressing inquiries from residents regarding energy efficiency and energy assessments. Mr. Jansen noted that was one of the recommendations from the UIC Climate Plan, specifically with regards to home weatherization information and resources. Commissioner Avalos suggested a way to partner with the Oak Park Climate Action Network to have an energy efficiency and clean energy open house. Commissioner Mezzatesta suggested newsletter articles weatherstripping and similar actions that residents could be low hanging fruit for residents to do. The Commission discussed resources available relating to energy efficiency and where they may be found.

Commissioner Mezzatesta indicated she'd identify potential items for weekly newsletters to address misconceptions and highlight simple actions residents can undertake.

Co-Chair Lennon inquired about EV charging and ways to highlight how Level 1 chargers can be effective for the driving needs of most residents. Mr. Jansen outlined the permitting process for Level 1 and Level 2 charging and how they differ. The Commission discussed EV Charging infrastructure.

7. STAFF UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jansen provided an update on the EV Charging Station installation project and where the design process is and how many chargers will go in at each location. Mr. Jansen indicated that as the project gets closer to installation, the Commission would need to discuss the rate the Village will charge for use of the charging stations.

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined the quarterly electric vehicle report. Co-Chair Charrette noted the year-over-year growth in ownership of electric and hybrid vehicles. The Commission discussed the total number of electric vehicles in relation to the total number of vehicles registered in the Village and total number of households in the Village. Mr. Jansen also highlighted the increased number of charging session and users, citing the effectiveness of the fee implemented last year to prevent vehicles fully charged vehicles from blocking access to the charger.

Mr. Jansen stated that the new compost drop-off centers are up and running at the Public Works Garage and Pumping Station and will be promoted in the May monthly newsletter as part of International Compost Awareness Week the first week of May.

Mr. Jansen noted that the EcoShip Earth Month collection program is already off to a big success with lots of materials already being collected in the dropbox in the Village Hall lobby. Co-Chair Charrette noted the early confusion about what is and is not accepted and wanted

to clarify that the special collection event is accepting a larger amount of items than the permanent EcoShip drop off locations.

Mr. Jansen indicated he had begun onboard the Village into Recycle Coach, a free online tool to help residents better understand what can be recycled and will have a widget embedded onto the Village website where residents can also see the special collection dates.

Mr. Jansen has stated that MC2 will be doing a round of post cards to encourage residents to sign up for the Village's Community Solar program. This would be at no cost to the Village, and the hope is to boost enrollment in the program, which has been relatively stagnant. Co-Chair Lennon suggested that information also be posted on the Village website when the postcards go out.

Mr. Jansen shared that the Village is participating in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors Monarch Pledge and indicated the Commission would have a couple of items to consider at next month's meeting to meet some of goals the Village committed to as part of the pledge: a native planting guide webpage and a National Pollinator Week proclamation. Mr. Jansen also stated that clean up of the Chicago Ave. bioswales would also serve as a demonstration provision for the Village's pledge to the program. Commissioner Kadlec also suggested highlighting the Monarch Waystation program.

Commissioner Kadlec also quickly plugged events going on at Triton College as part of Earth Month and the One Earth Film Festival.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – MAY 13, 2025

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Avalos, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Veazie, Hayley, Mezzatesta, Kadlec, and Avalos.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Seth Jansen, Secretary



Village of River Forest
Public Works and Engineering

400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Tel: 708-366-8500

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 13, 2025

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst

Subj: Switch Together Solar Program

At the request of the Village President, the Sustainability Commission has been asked to discuss potential participation in the Switch Together solar group buy program. Switch Together is a solar group buying initiative. It's a collaboration between the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), Citizens Utility Board of Illinois (CUB) and iChoosr (a group purchasing company that provides the software platform and marketing for the program). The program involves a rigorous installer vetting and selection process, a "reverse auction" in which the installers arrive at a below-market price for high-quality solar panels, and an education process in which consumers can learn about the program and decide if pursuing solar is right for them. Cities and counties have become promotional partners of this program for many reasons, but consumer protection is chief among them. The Switch Together program vets installers to ensure they are responsible and reputable local companies based in northeast Illinois.

Switch Together asks that communities serving as promotional partners help us get the word out about the program. Switch Together would use the Village's logo usage on some promotional materials and asks for the Village to mention the program on the Village Website. Many municipal and county partners help promote the program via social media, newsletters, email lists, public postings, etc. Partnering with the Switch Together program is no-cost and can take minimal staff time depending on the municipality's capacity.

Recommendation: Motion to recommend the Village become a promotional partner for the Switch Together Chicagoland solar program.



PROCLAMATION

POLLINATOR WEEK June 16-June 22, 2025

- WHEREAS,** River Forest is home to many native wildlife and pollinator species such as birds, bees, and insects which keep our environment healthy and biodiverse; and
- WHEREAS,** the Village of River Forest recognizes that human health ultimately depends on well-functioning ecosystems and that biodiverse regions can better support food production, healthy soil and air quality and can foster healthy connections between humans and wildlife ; and
- WHEREAS,** the Village of River Forest is working to build a healthy, sustainable and wildlife-friendly community that brings the many benefits of nature to all corners of our community, including increasing native planting on public property; and
- WHEREAS,** Pollinators play an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Local plant species, wildlife, and urban agriculture all depend on pollination from bees, butterflies, and other insects; and
- WHEREAS,** In urban communities, pollinators play a crucial role in maintaining sustainable urban agriculture and local community gardens; and
- WHEREAS,** Pollinator species are in decline due to habitat loss and the use of pesticides, causing species like the monarch butterfly to decline significantly in the past 25 years; and
- WHEREAS,** National Pollinator Week is a national initiative that offers opportunities to individuals and communities to help restore native habitat, support local pollinator species; and
- WHEREAS,** the Village of River Forest will continue to support local, state and national efforts that protect, restore, and conserve habitat for pollinators, as well as foster a greater connection between residents and wildlife; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CATHERINE ADDUCI, President of the Village of River Forest, do hereby proclaim June 16, 2025, through June 22, 2025, as Pollinator Week in the Village of River Forest, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Earth Day, and encourages all residents, businesses, and organizations to participate in activities that promote environmental awareness and action.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this 9th day of June, 2025.

Catherine M. Adduci,
Village President



[Sustainable Living](#) » [Create a Green Ecosystem](#)

Mayors Monarch Pledge



The Village is committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. The Village is joining hundreds of other communities across the country to take action to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic species whose eastern populations have

[Sustainability Homepage](#)

[Green Dates and Deadlines](#)

[Reduce Your Carbon Footprint](#)

[Waste Less](#)

Create a Green Ecosystem

- [Guide to Trees](#)

[Conserve and Manage Water](#)

[River Forest and Regional Goals](#)

declined by 90% and western populations by 99% in recent years. Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, U.S. cities, municipalities, and other communities are committing to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educate residents about how you can make a difference at home and in the community.

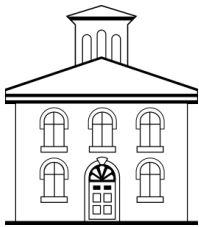
Residents can make a difference as well. By planting native milkweed and nectar plants in your own gardens, you can create a native habitat for pollinators like the monarch butterfly. Monarch caterpillars are picky eaters. They can only eat one thing: milkweed. Milkweed is what we call their “host plant”, meaning that the caterpillar depends on it as a food source and cannot survive without it.

Fortunately, there are a number of resources available to help create native pollinator gardens.

- Locally, West Cook Wild Ones offers [Monarch Garden Planting Tips](#).
- The National Wildlife Federation has a [Native Plant Finder](#), which will help you identify the native host plants that support the highest numbers of butterflies and moths for your zip code.
- The NWF also has guides for [How to Design a Wildlife Garden](#), [How to Provide Water for Monarch Gardens](#), as well as general information on the benefits of [Native Plants](#).
- The Xerces Society also has comprehensive, region-specific guides through their [Pollinator Conservation Resource Center](#) and their [Monarch Nectar Plant Guides](#).

- The Natural Resources Conservation Service also has a list of [Resources to Help Pollinators](#).

Around River Forest



River
Forest
School
District 90



OPRF High
School
District 200



River
Forest Park
District



River
Forest
Public
Library



River
Forest
Township



River
Forest
Community
Calendar

📍 400 Park Avenue River Forest, IL 60305

📞 708-366-8500

708-366-3702 (fax)

🕒 Mon–Fri 8:00am–4:30pm

**Connect with River
Forest**

River Forest Sustainability Awards: Bronze, Silver, Gold

Tier 1 (<u>1</u> pt each)	Tier 2 (<u>2</u> pts each)	Tier 3 (<u>3</u> pts each)
<u>Shop local for everyday goods (ex: farmers market)</u>	<u>Avoid fast-fashion clothing</u>	<u>Almost never use single-use plastic items</u>
<u>Composting at home</u>	<u>No pesticide use on property</u>	<u>Native Garden on property</u>
<u>Use public transportation occasionally</u>	<u>Use public transportation frequently</u>	<u>Drive an Electric Vehicle</u>
<u>Travel by walking or biking occasionally</u>	<u>Travel by walking or biking to destinations frequently</u>	<u>Geothermal system</u>
<u>Participate in “leave the leaves”</u>	<u>Use a rain barrel</u>	<u>Solar panels</u>
Participated in at least 1 green community event/Green Date (full list available at: <u>Sustainable Living — Village of River Forest</u>)	<u>Participate in recycling hard-to-recycle items (styrofoam, clothes, electronics)</u>	<u>Electric heat pump water heater</u>
<u>Use reusable shopping bags</u>	<u>Use eco-friendly cleaning products</u>	<u>Home Energy assessment</u>
<u>Donate clothes instead of throwing them away</u>	<u>LED light fixtures in your home</u>	Participate in B.Y.O (bringing your own tupperware, silverware, and mugs when eating out) <u>About - BYO Containers</u>
<u>Use rechargeable batteries</u>	<u>Grow fresh fruits and vegetables in an at home garden</u>	<u>Electric induction stove</u>
<u>Reusable water bottle</u>	<u>Use reusable cloths instead of paper towels</u>	<u>Smart home system</u>

Total: 60 points

Bronze: 0-20

Silver: 20-40

Gold: 40-60

2025 Metrics for Communities



Communities are required to provide the following prior to evaluation:

- Community Profile organized to follow the criteria and metrics. For repeat communities, call out what is new and/or implemented due to advisors' recommendations.
- Evaluation Tour Itinerary with start and finish times for each day
- Community Map with community boundaries and the tour route
- Communities are responsible for addressing the metrics in the Community Profile, Evaluation Tour Itinerary, and during the Evaluation Tour.

The areas to be scored:

Advisors will review Community Profiles, Community Maps, and Evaluation Tour Itineraries to confirm the appropriateness of the areas to be evaluated and contact communities prior to the tour so adjustments can be made.

- All areas (municipal, commercial, and residential) within the boundaries of the entrant's community/municipality (except as noted below) are scored and a representative portion of all areas must be included.
- Property to be scored, whether public or private, must be subject to the codes and regulations of the entrant's community/municipality.
- When a property does not meet these requirements, but the community's volunteers significantly impact the property with labor and/or funding, then advisors may include in their scoring the property not subject to the codes and regulations of the entrant community.
- A community may request recommendations for areas toured but not scored.

Metrics are noted with unique codes based on the criteria. Ratings include:

N/A (Not Applicable): Communities should strive to implement all metrics; however, advisors will use N/A when a metric is not scorable in a community. N/A metric is not included in the point totals and does not affect percentages. Examples when N/A may apply in a metric: commercial/business areas do not exist; state or county statutes prevent implementation of a metric.

Not Started (0 points): programs or procedures are not in place.

In Progress (1-2 points): programs or procedures are developed, and a plan of action is implemented.

In Place (3-5 points): programs or procedures are utilized and beneficial.

Surpassing (6-8 points): programs or procedures are exceptional, utilized, and beneficial throughout the community.

Other:

- The Evaluation Report's scoring, general observations, and general and criteria recommendations are based upon the community's efforts including its levels of participation in, or implementation of the metrics in each of the criteria.
- Future projects and programs are not scored.
- The scoring for the seven evaluation criteria is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community's location. Make sure the advisors are made aware of any challenges that were faced during the year.

COMMUNITY VITALITY: Policies, programs, activities, and facilities that lead to a vibrant community and promote a sense of health and well-being. Includes, but not limited to, senior and community centers, libraries, museums, arts/cultural organizations, mentoring programs, schools, faith-based organizations, parks, playgrounds, dog parks, sports fields, water activities, trails, golf courses, and other active and passive recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. An economic development plan is in place and implemented. It includes the direction for short- and long-term economic growth, and programs to improve the economy. It is regularly evaluated, measured, and/or reevaluated.					
2. Communication of ordinances and policies pertaining to Community Vitality are easily accessible. Topics include, but are not limited to, culture, education, government, recreation, and technology. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					
3. Master plan exists for current and/or future public green space. Growth, enhancements, and/or protection of undeveloped areas are included. It is reviewed and routinely updated.					
4. Public parks and/or green spaces are available. Properties may include pocket, school, neighborhood, city, county, state, and national parks and green spaces. Parks and green spaces meet the needs of the community and are clean, maintained, welcoming, and utilized.					
5. Active and/or passive recreation opportunities are available and meet the needs of the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, water sports, golf, baseball, pickleball, skiing, soccer, hiking, nature trails, bird watching, picnic areas, and fishing. Year-round programs are available.					
6. Seating is available near walking, exercise, playground areas, and/or public transportation stops. The seating and area are clean and accessible.					
7. Shade is provided for participants and/or spectators at cultural and sporting events. Structures include, but are not limited to, shade sails, dugouts, pergolas, arbors, and trees. Structures are maintained and inspected for safety.					
8. Community gathering space is available. The space is accessible and used throughout the year for all ages and abilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, community center, senior center, YMCA, faith-based gathering places, libraries, and town hall.					

9. Age- and ability-appropriate play areas are accessible. Equipment is ADA-compliant and/or inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.					
10. Active outdoor community events are offered throughout the year. Examples include, but are not limited to, Bike-to-Work Day, Walk to School Day, and 5K events.					
11. Community celebrations and/or cultural performances meet the needs of the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, festivals, art, dance, theatre, music, and cinema.					
12. Secure food programs are available. Examples include, but are not limited to, hunger relief efforts, food pantries, garden plots, rooftop gardens, community gardens, farmers markets, and Community Supported Agriculture.					
13. Alternative transportation programs are available. Transportation is available in all areas of the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, bicycle/scooter rental, car/van pools, public transportation, and/or ride sharing to all areas of the city.					
14. Safety policies, programs, and/or services are in place. Examples include, but are not limited to, police, fire, emergency medical services, community health, crime prevention, homeland security, gang prevention, traffic, homelessness, civil and human rights. Information is easily accessible and communicated.					
15. Youth-focused programs are in place for multiple ages and/or abilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, sports, gardening, clubs, and lectures					
16. Non-municipal volunteer boards are active and/or comprised of representatives from business and residents. Examples include, but are not limited to, In Bloom committee, Rotary, Veterans, Chamber of Commerce, Scouting, HOAs, and faith-based organizations.					
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
1. Community Vitality	128		0		0.00%

FLORAL IMPACT: Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of floral displays and seasonal accents for beautification, including but not limited to annuals, perennials, bulbs, tropical plants, flowering topiaries, colorful foliage, and cultivated and native plants for season-round interest for displays in containers, hanging baskets, window boxes, raised planters, trellises, and in-ground plantings.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Plant combinations are carefully selected for location and environmental conditions. The combinations create visual interest, provide dramatic effects, and appear coordinated. Routine maintenance is evident.					
2. In-ground flower displays are designed with mature plant heights, color, and texture in mind. Plants are healthy, robust, and floriferous. Routine maintenance is evident.					
3. Containers and/or hanging baskets are in use, scaled to their surroundings, and have suitable plants. Plantings are robust, floriferous, and provide a dramatic effect. Routine maintenance is evident.					
4. Floral displays are located throughout the community. Displays are well maintained and attractive. Examples include, but are not limited to, flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, topiaries, and/or mosaics are located throughout the community.					
5. Regular pruning, deadheading, weeding, removal, and/or replacement of dead plants is conducted on public properties.					
6. Demonstration/display gardens are available. Plants are labeled. The garden is promoted to the public. Garden is available for events to residents and businesses.					
7. Efficient water-wise strategies are in use. Examples include, but are not limited to, drought-resistant plants, use of gray water, and timing of irrigation. Strategies are easily accessible and communicated. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					
8. Appropriate fertilization (chemical and/or non-chemical) procedures for municipal, parks, and/or school properties are implemented. The procedures produce effective results. Educational information about fertilization is communicated. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					

9. Training programs for proper floral displays care and maintenance are offered to seasonal staff and/or volunteers. Training is conducted by Master Gardeners, County Extension, local garden centers, state agencies, and/or contractors.					
10. Efforts are in place to educate and raise public awareness of the importance of flowers in the landscape. Educational information about the selection and care of flowers for beautification is available and communicated to the public. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					
11. Recognition programs are in place monthly, quarterly, and/or annually for attractive displays created by businesses and/or residents.					
12. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments in the community's floral displays. Routine opportunities present themselves to residents and/or businesses to get involved.					
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
2. Floral Impact	96		0		0.00%

LANDSCAPED AREAS: Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of the managed landscape. This includes hardscape features, cultivated and native trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, vines, succulents, edibles, evergreen topiaries, turf, groundcovers, and pollinator-friendly plant material.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Action plan developed and implemented for proper maintenance, pruning, removal, and/or replacement of dead and overgrown plants. Best practices are utilized.					
2. Plan developed each season for procurement, scheduling, planting, and/or maintenance of flowers and/or landscapes.					
3. Landscape ordinances and/or policies are in place. City landscape ordinance requires specifications for landscaping and maintenance for new and improved residential, commercial, and public development. Ordinances and/or policies are easily accessible.					
4. Landscaping is found throughout the community including public areas, parks, gateways, and/or key buildings. Landscape displays are selected for location, environmental conditions, and/or impact. Attractive designs are utilized and well maintained. Landscapes serve as focal areas in the community.					
5. Landscape displays enhance community entryways. The use of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, signage, hardscapes, and/or lighting create a welcome display. The displays are attractive and/or well maintained.					
6. Residential landscapes provide streetscape appeal and reflect community value in landscaping. They are neat, attractive, and well maintained.					
7. Effective use of naturalization, xeriscaping, rain gardens, and/or suitable plant varieties to enhance such features as traffic calming, bank stabilization, and water management. Displays are well maintained.					
8. Lawn and turf areas display health and vigor. Procedures and practices, such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and/or permaculture, are used to manage lawn and turf areas, including mowing, edging, watering, and/or weeding.					
9. Procedures in place to monitor and/or manage diseases and/or pests in the landscape. Pertinent information is available and/or communicated to the public. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					

10. Qualified landscape personnel and/or experienced contractors are available to design, install, source, and/or maintain public landscape floral and landscape sites. Additional support provided by growers, garden centers, County Extension, and/or city departments are utilized to create and implement municipal floral and landscape displays.					
11. Training programs for proper landscape display care and maintenance are available for seasonal staff and/or volunteers. Examples include, but are not limited to, Master Gardeners, County Extension, local garden centers, state agencies, and contractors.					
12. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community in the landscape displays. Volunteers from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in the design, planting, and/or care of floral and landscape displays.					
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
3. Landscaped Areas	96		0		0.00%

URBAN FORESTRY: Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of trees on public and private lands.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. The municipal plan addresses the role urban forest initiatives play in the green infrastructure of the community. Policy is enacted and enforced that includes performance requirements to meet the minimum crown canopy and/or succession planting.					
2. Efforts are in place to educate and raise the public awareness of the importance of urban forestry. Examples include, but are not limited to, the use of print, videos, websites, apps, and social media.					
3. Municipal ordinance enacted and enforced for tree planting and/or preservation. Ordinance addresses the handling and removal of damaged, dying, or dead trees. Ordinance includes public property, private property, and new construction projects. Communication of ordinances and policies are easily accessible.					
4. Tree board and/or department is available, active, and/or interact with the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, tree planting events, addressing safety concerns, education, and making recommendations to municipality.					
5. Certified municipal personnel, trained arborist, urban forester, and/or Department of Natural Resources (DNR) entity actively manages the urban forest. Businesses and residents are updated routinely on urban forestry matters. Information delivered via city website, paper, and social media.					
6. Trees are healthy and contribute to public health and wellness. Procedures are in place for the appropriate selection, diversity of tree species, proper spacing, planting depth, and/or monitoring and managing diseases and pests. Pertinent information is available and/or communicated to the public.					
7. Policies are implemented for the protection of historic trees located on public and private properties. Tree programs exist that spotlight and honor historic trees. Trees are labeled and/or indexed. Historic trees are highlighted in a brochure and/or tree walk.					
8. Programs in place to increase, support, promote, and/or protect trees. Examples include, but are not limited to, civic native tree nursery, repurposing fallen trees, managing destructive pests, and urban orchards.					

9. Trees are identified in public sites such as arboretums, parks, and/or cemeteries. Examples include, but are not limited to, identification labels, descriptive signage, QR codes, kiosks, maps, apps, and brochures.					
10. Policies are implemented, and education is available for the safe participation by volunteers and staff in planting trees on public properties. Ongoing urban forest tree care training and educational information and/or seminars available for residents and/or businesses.					
11. Effective communication of recommended trees is available to the public. Topics include "Right Tree in the Right Place," mulching, placement, spacing, and/or maintenance. Examples of communication include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, library, City Hall, and social media.					
12. The municipality is a member of urban forestry organizations, participates in programs, and/or earns designations and awards. Examples include but are not limited to Tree City USA, Arbor Day Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and regional or state agencies.					
13. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's urban forestry. Volunteers from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in the design, planting, and/or care of the urban forest.					
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
4. Urban Forestry	104		0		0.00%

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES: Environmental and sustainable leadership, policies, plans, and programs for water, resource conservation; pollution control; trash, recycling, and reuse; climate change issues, green Infrastructure, and alternative energy resources.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Comprehensive plan to identify, protect, restore, and/or maintain natural areas. Examples include, but are not limited to, removal of invasives, no-mow areas planted with native grasses and wildflowers, and succession tree plantings.					
2. A municipal environmental plan is accessible and reviewed annually. The plan promotes water conservation, alternative energy use, food security and sustainability, carbon reduction, and/or responsible land management.					
3. Environmental board and/or Green Team are available, active, and/or interact with the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, sustainability initiatives, events, education, and making recommendations to the municipality.					
4. Public awareness strategies regarding environmental issues are implemented and effective, such as the 3 Rs (reduce/recycle/reuse), Earth Day events, pollution prevention, "leave no trace," landfill reduction, and community clean-up days. Municipal employees and/or volunteers receive training on environmental initiatives and participate in events.					
5. Communication of environmental plan and ordinances is easily accessible. Topics include sustainability, water quality, recycling, composting, reducing pesticide use, and light pollution. Examples of communication avenues include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, city hall, library, and social media.					
6. Programs to educate, encourage, and/or expand the understanding of the role and importance of pollinators and ecological habitats are available for all ages. Programs are held routinely.					
7. Green infrastructure policies and/or techniques are used throughout the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, naturalization, xeriscaping, rain gardens, suitable plant varieties to enhance such features as traffic calming, bank stabilization, stormwater run-off, and water management.					

8. Green infrastructure and natural asset inventory mapping are implemented. The inventory is regularly updated and includes climate, vegetation, soils, topography, wetlands, air, and/or water quality.					
9. Home and business energy audits are available and promoted. Incentives are available and communicated for items such as solar energy, water conservation, home appliance replacement, weatherization.					
10. Water conservation measures are used throughout the community. Examples include, but are not limited to, water-saving shower heads, full loads for dishwashers and washing machines, sink and toilet leaks, and lawn irrigation. Methods of water conservation are shared with the community through lectures, print, city website, library, City Hall, and/or social media.					
11. Management strategies implemented for the effective reuse/repurpose of buildings, structures, and/or land. The municipality has a reuse plan in place.					
12. Collection is available for trash, recyclables, compostables, and food waste. Events and/or sites are offered for drop-off of hazardous, household, electronics, shredding and/or difficult-to-recycle items. Sites are available for year-round recycling.					
13. Recycling and trash containers are available in public areas. Containers to address both recyclables and trash present themselves together. Labeling is consistent. Routine trash and recycle pickup are scheduled. Additional containers are available during special events. Events promote zero waste.					
14. Reuse opportunities are offered. Clothing, books, household goods, resale shops, tool lending, durable medical equipment, and/or equipment repair initiatives are available for donations and/or purchase.					
15. The municipality uses energy-efficient vehicles in its fleet for police, fire, public transit, and/or city employees. Options may include electric, fuel cell electric, plug in electric hybrid, compressed natural gas, and/or hybrid electric vehicles.					
16. Electric vehicle charging stations are located throughout the community. Charging stations are available to city, residential, and/or visitor vehicles. 240-volt home charging outlet installation incentive is available and promoted.					
17. Mulch from renewable and/or sustainable sources is appropriately used by the municipality. Mulch is available for residential use.					

18. Educational programs for all ages are available and promote environmental initiatives such as rain barrels, backyard habitats, rain gardens, solitary bee hotels, xeriscaping, chemical reduction, water conservation, and green business practices.					
19. Youth organizations such as Scouts, Green Teams, schools, and 4H encourage involvement in environmental initiatives. Participants are recognized for their efforts and/or achievements. Efforts are communicated to the public through social media, newsletters, city website, and other methods.					
20. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's environmental initiatives. Volunteers from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in events, programs, boards, and promotions.					
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
5. Environmental Initiatives	160		0		0.00%

CELEBRATING HERITAGE: Recognition, designation, protection, commemoration, and celebration of historical, cultural, natural, agricultural, and industrial resources.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Historic Preservation, Historic Society, and/or Architectural Review Board are available, active, and/or interact with the community. Activities/responsibilities include, but are not limited to, review proposals for construction and rehabilitation, promote historic preservation incentives, submit recommendations to National Register, and designate local historic landmarks.					
2. Historic Preservation ordinances are enacted and enforced. Ordinances effectively provide commercial and/or residential designation, guidance, and/or protection. Ordinances, policies, and restoration resources are available, easily accessible, and communicated.					
3. Historic districts, neighborhoods, structures, landmarks and/or objects are identified and/or labeled. Designation by such organizations as the Department of Archives and History and/or National Register are in place and/or in progress.					
4. Cemeteries and monuments are in place and well maintained. Historical plaques are used and well maintained. Examples of plaque locations include, but are not limited to, buildings, sites, residences, districts, historical events and people, and battle sites.					
5. Historical museums and/or interpretive displays are available and maintained. Events and educational opportunities are held for all age groups to utilize historic assets.					
6. Archives, artifacts, community records, and/or oral histories are collected, safely stored, preserved, and/or catalogued.					
7. Volunteers and/or staff are trained to maintain historical sites, archives, records, collections, artifacts, structures, and/or landscapes. Historic educators are trained to effectively communicate a community's history.					
8. Historic preservation incentives are available and promoted. Incentives may include but are not limited to tax credits, waived permit fees, eased setbacks, and/or rebates.					

9. Programs are in place for the purchase, installation, and/or long-term maintenance of memorial features. Examples include, but are not limited to, memorial benches, trees, brick pathways, and lamp posts.					
10. Natural and agricultural areas are identified and protected. Designation by such organizations as The Nature Conservancy, the National Park Service, Department of Natural Resources are in place and/or in progress.					
11. Parades, festivals, events, and/or programs are held to commemorate the community's heritage, culture, and/or diversity. Participants represent all segments of the community.					
12. Programs and/or events are available to bring history to life. Examples include, but are not limited to, theater dramas, reenactments, and historic characters at public events.					
13. Community heritage and/or cultural diversity are supported and promoted to all ages. Educational opportunities such as websites, publications, tours, interpretive signage, mobile apps, and/or programs.					
14. Youth of all ages and abilities participate in historical programs. Examples include, but are not limited to, lectures, tours, events, reenactments, research, and reader's theater. Participants are recognized for their efforts and/or achievements.					
15. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's heritage preservation efforts. Volunteer representatives from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in events, programs, boards, and promotions.					
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
6. Celebrating Heritage	120		0		0.00%

OVERALL IMPRESSION: Adequate and effective amenities are provided and in good condition. The community is welcoming, attractive, and leaves a positive impression.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Not Started (N/S) 0	In Progress 1-2	In Place 3-5	Surpasses 6-8
1. Signage ordinances are enacted and enforced. Ordinances address temporary stake signs, billboards, and/or permanent signs. Enforcement helps to reduce visual clutter and/or helps to enhance the community's identity.					
2. Ordinances are enacted and enforced to address issues such as overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, unscreened dumpsters, public nuisances, unregulated garage sales, building facades, and/or empty storefronts windows. Ordinances are routinely reviewed and updated as needed.					
3. Code enforcement/compliance officer is available. Violations are detected, investigated, and/or resolved. Code enforcement includes, but is not limited to, public health, safety, consumer protection, building standards, and land use.					
4. Communication of ordinances is easily accessible. Examples of communication include, but are not limited to, lectures, print, city website, library, City Hall, social media, and calendar of events.					
5. First impressions are positive in residential, business, and/or municipal areas. Properties, buildings, structures, grounds, decks, patios, and yards are neat and in order. Examples include, but are not limited to, lack of vandalism, graffiti, broken windows, peeling or faded paint, and rust. Programs exist and are effective to minimize graffiti, litter, and nuisance areas.					
6. Community infrastructure is in good condition. Examples include, but are not limited to, roadways, road shoulders, curbs, corner pads, medians, sidewalks, railroad crossings, sewers, transformers, and/or utility poles.					
7. Community amenities are in good condition. Examples include, but are not limited to, signs, site furnishings, public restrooms, water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, safe parking, proper lighting, crosswalks/pavement markings, containers, planters, and/or cigarette receptacles.					
8. Community is accessible to people of all abilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, public buildings, parking, sidewalks, public transportation, playgrounds, parks, sports fields, and trails.					

9. Wayfinding signage is visible, attractive, and in appropriate locations throughout the community. Signage adequately lists directional information and/or areas of interest.					
10. Public art is located throughout the community. Features such as banners, murals, and/or statues are used, attractive, and effective.					
11. Year-round seasonal decorations are used in key areas. The decorations are well maintained and attractive. Examples include, but are not limited to, lighting, ornamental displays, wreaths, planters, luminaries, and displays in government buildings, residential homes, and storefronts.					
12. Pet waste policies are posted and/or enforced. Pet clean-up stations are available throughout the community. Stations are monitored and stocked.					
13. Volunteers participate in community improvement initiatives. Examples include, but are not limited to, Habitat for Humanity, home repair programs, disaster relief, and clean-up days.					
14. Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's overall impression. Volunteers from businesses, residents, schools, and/or organizations participate in events, programs, boards, and promotions.					
Totals:	Possible Points		Actual Points		Percent
7. Overall Impression	112		0		0.00%

EVALUATION TOUR PREPARATION AND ACTIONS: Community's readiness prior to and the action during the Evaluation Tour including an Informative Community Profile, preparedness prior to Advisors' arrival, and effective content during the Evaluation Tour. Succession plans are evident.	Not Applicable (N/A)	Unmet (U/M) 0	Met 1
1. Community contact was available for pre-visit meeting for introductions and discussion of preparations.			
2. Community Profile was provided to Advisors at least two weeks prior to the first official tour date.			
3. Community Profile includes contacts with emails and positions.			
4. Community Profile from a returning community includes what is new and implemented from previous Advisors' recommendations (scored as Not Applicable for a new community).			
5. Community Profile includes a map with tour boundaries and a daily itinerary.			
6. Evaluation Tour provided a representative cross-section of the community.			
7. Advisors met with elected/appointed municipal leaders and staff.			
8. Advisors met with the business and non-profit community.			
9. Advisors met with volunteers.			
10. Advisors met with the media (print, radio, tv, social media) and/or have been given media contact information.			
11. Advisors were asked to give a presentation.			
12. A tour wrap-up session was conducted with a community representative.			
13. Enough time was allotted for Advisors to work on the Evaluation Report in a quiet place with adequate Wi-Fi.			
14. Succession plans are evident, and next year's chair is present and participating in the tour.			
15. CN grant project(s) are reviewed (scored as Not Applicable for a community not receiving a CN grant).			
Totals:	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percent
8. Evaluation Tour Preparation and Actions	15	0	0.00%

DISCLAIMERS:

1. Communities are responsible for addressing the metrics in the Community Profile, Evaluation Tour Itinerary, and during the Evaluation Tour. Please note that the metric calculations contained herein are final, and each community is encouraged to focus on any changes during the following year's entry in the America in Bloom Level 3 program.
2. All information is given to the best of America in Bloom's knowledge and is believed to be accurate. Your conditions of use and application of recommendations and/or suggested products are beyond our control. There is no warranty expressed or implied regarding the accuracy of any given data or statements. America in Bloom specifically disclaims any responsibility or liability relating to the use of the recommendations and/or suggested products and shall under no circumstances whatsoever, be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages which may arise from such use.
3. Reference herein to any specific commercial products, processes, or service by trade named trademark manufacturer or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation or favoring by America in Bloom. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.



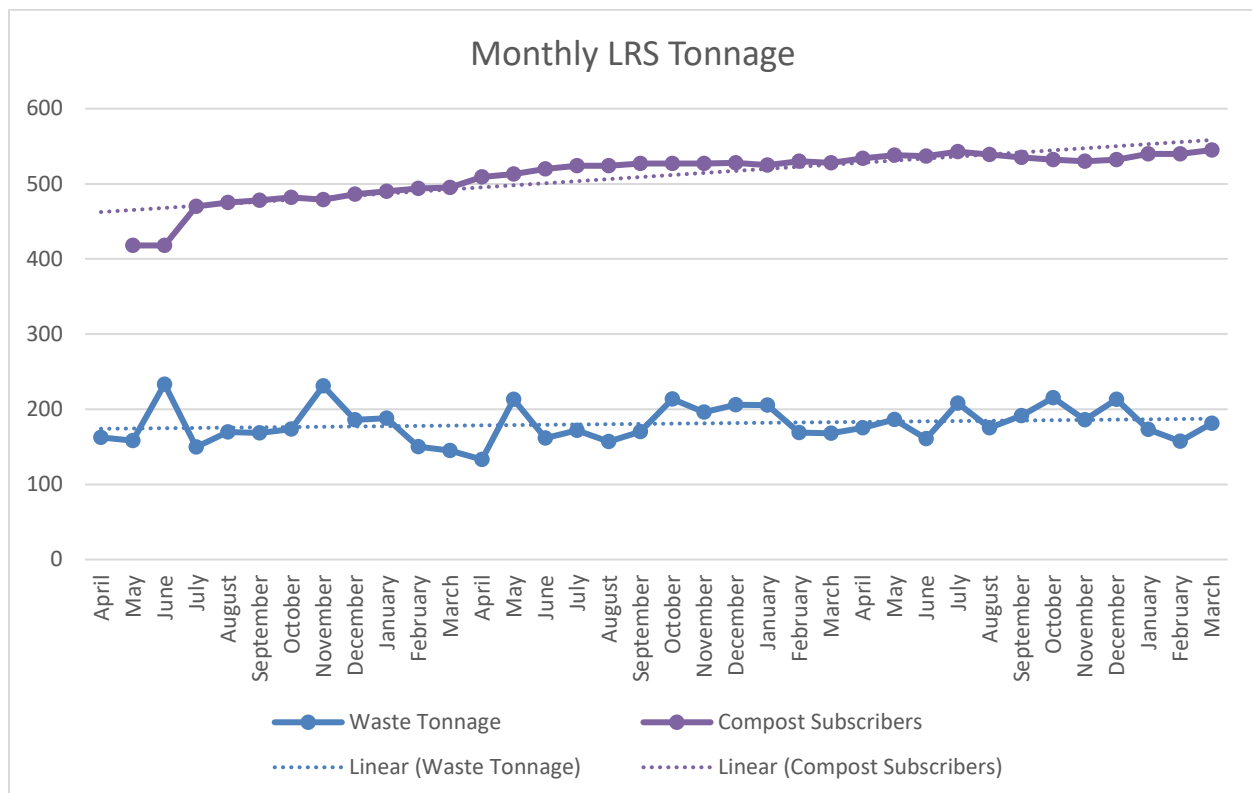
Village of River Forest Public Works and Engineering

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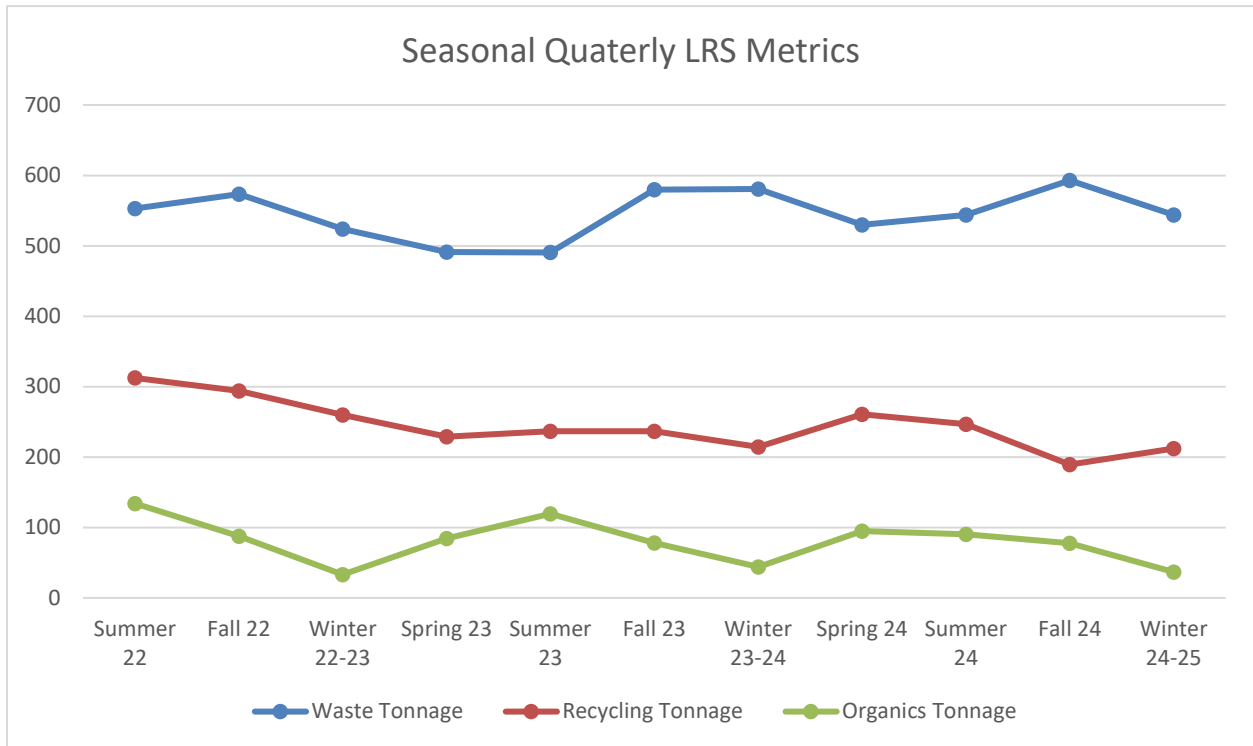
MEMORANDUM

Date: May 13, 2025
To: Sustainability Commission
From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst
Subj: Quarterly Waste Tonnage Report

Following discussion at the May 2024 meeting, the Commission has decided to receive quarterly reports on the LRS Tonnage Metrics. The Commission felt it was most prudent to highlight two specific metrics moving forward within the quarterly reports: the number of compost subscribers and the waste tonnage. Reduction in waste tonnage is the driving metric at reducing landfill tonnage whether it be through diversion or reduced consumption. A goal of the Commission is to expand composting generally to help prevent organic waste from being landfilled. Currently only 4 households are participating in the compost sharing program, indicating further need to promote the program. The below chart illustrates the waste tonnage and compost subscribers, with linear trend lines.



In previously quarterly memos found, analysis of seasonal months produced seasonally correlated fluctuation between waste and organics. The chart below illustrates the seasonal quarterly data for waste, recycling, and organics. This focused on full seasonal quarters since the beginning of the LRS contract (Summer 2022 through fall 2024).



Attachment: LRS Monthly Report, March 2025

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST



Collection Period	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD TOTAL	AVG/MTH
Active Customers	2732	2731	2735										8198.00	4099
Compost Subscribers	540	540	545										1625.00	812.5
Recycling Tons	73.09	51.70	61.49										186.28	93.14
Recycling lbs	146180	103400	122980										372560	186280
2025 Recy lbs/Cust	53.51	37.86	44.97										91.37	45.685
Organics Tons	9.96	8.11	10.00										28.07	14.035
Organics lbs	19920	16,220.00	20,000.00										56140.00	28070
2025 Organics lbs/Cust	7.29	5.94	7.31										20.54	6.62
2025 Recycle & Organics Diversion %	32.39%	27.56%	28.28%										88.22%	44.11%
Trash Tons	173.35	157.24	181.33										330.59	165.295
Trash lbs	346700	314480	362660										661180	330590
2025 Trash lbs/Cust	126.90	115.15	132.60										242.06	121.03
Total Tons	256.40	217.05	252.82										473.45	236.725
Total lbs	512800	434,100	505,640										946,900	473450
2025 Total lbs/Cust	187.70	158.95	184.88										346.65	173.325
2025 White Goods Count	0	1	0										1	0.5
2025 Stickers Sold	0	0	1,500										1,500	750
2025 E-WASTE Event Tons	0	0	1.5										1.5	0.5
2025 E-Waste Participation	0	0	23										23	7.6666667
2025 HHW Event Tons	0	0	0										0	0

Yard Waste Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153)
Recycling Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153), LRS HEARTLAND RECYCLING (6201 W. Canal Bank Road - Forest View, IL 60402)
RECYCLING PURCHASED BY	RESOURCED TO VARIOUS DOMESTIC BUYERS
Trash Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153)