



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 – 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, February 10, 2026.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2026
4. Commissioner Updates
5. Commission Projects
 - a. Bird City Illinois and Migratory Birds
 - i. World Migratory Bird Day Proclamation
 - ii. Lights Out Proclamation
 - iii. World Migratory Bird Day Public Event Discussion
 - b. Native Plants – 2026 Grant Opportunities
6. Communications and Staff Reports
 - a. Quarterly Waste Report
 - b. Village Project Updates
 - c. Communications
7. Schedule Next Meeting – March 10, 2026
8. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 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 7:00 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt, Marti, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt (arriving at 7:02)

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Marti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to approve the meeting minutes from December 9, 2025, with the typo correction identified by Co-Chair Charrette.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt, and Marti

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Kadlec noted clean-up events at the Cook County Forest Preserve over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, specifically noting the cleanup occurring at Evans Field in River Grove. Commissioner Kadlec also recapped the PlanIt Green Leadership Forum that occurred in December, specifically noting the breakout group discussion on the importance of promoting energy efficiency for those who are not yet engaged in the issue.

Co-Charrette recapped her meeting with the Sustainability Coordinator with the Forest Preserve of Cook County and the Director of the Trailside Museum about ongoing sustainability efforts with the Forest Preserve and ways the Village coordinate and collaborate with the Forest Preserve on sustainability efforts.

5. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Commissioner Marti shared the updated project plan and timeline for Bird City Illinois designation efforts. Commissioner Marti also shared the calendar he had created but noted it needs to be further refined and cleaned up so it is more readable. Commissioners Hoyt and Marti discussed creating a master list of action items to effectively track what has been

completed, what is being undertaken, and what still needs to be done. Co-Chair Charrette noted several other items the Village has likely already achieved. Commissioner Hoyt further noted the native plant garden at Roosevelt Middle School should also be included as an action promoting native plants. Co-Chair Lennon and Commissioner Marti discussed project timetable further, making sure the dates in which the Commission needs to undertake a specific action and when an item needs go before the Village Board are both clear. The Commission continued to discuss ways in which to organize the timetable of action items for the project.

Commissioner Hoyt indicated he has been rethinking the nighthawk conservation action item. Commissioner Hoyt indicated he would still like to raise awareness on the importance of rooftop habitats for the nighthawk but plans to shift focus to a nighthawk population monitoring project instead. The population monitoring project would align with the Bird City citizen science action item. Commissioner Hoyt approached the OPRF Sustainability Club and will be meeting with them in February; he also met with the Sustainability Club at Roosevelt Middle School that showed interest in the project. Over the course of the season, volunteer citizen scientists would try to monitor the nighthawk population in the area. The Commission would seek guidance from the Chicago Bird Alliance on standard protocol for observing and collecting data, and the collected data would then be shared with larger Chicago region population monitoring projects. Commissioner Hoyt also noted that the Roosevelt Middle School Sustainability Club raised issues of addressing bird collisions with glass, noting the desire to track, and hopefully reduce, bird collisions with the Middle School gym windows and share information with what students and their parents can do at home to reduce window collisions. The Commission discussed what can be done to reduce bird collisions and ways to partner with the School District to help reduce collisions at public buildings. Commissioner Kadlec inquired about the timeframe for the nighthawk monitoring and mentioned potential collaboration with Triton College on the project. The Commission discussed developing an announcement or kick-off of the Bird City efforts to raise community awareness

Commissioner Hoyt introduced the application shared by the Town of Normal for their recent Bird City Designation. Commissioner Marti noted that it was helpful to see the completed document as a guide for what needs to be done to achieve designation. Commissioner Hoyt noted the application shows that Normal's efforts heavily incorporated community participation. The Commission discussed partners in the community and broader region, including the Chicago Bird Alliance, Cook County Forest Preserve, and potentially the school district and library. Mr. Jansen noted the benefit of seeing an example of a community event. The Commission discussed potential partners for the event and agreed to discuss it in further detail at next month's meeting. The Commission also discussed potential timing and dates for the event.

Mr. Jansen noted that proclamations will be ready for next meeting for Migratory Bird Day and the Lights Out effort. Mr. Jansen also stated the next meeting the Commission would discuss the public event and the outreach strategy regarding the Lights Out effort.

Mr. Jansen outlined the information he had shared with the Commission with regards to available grants for Native Plants and the plans regarding the Village-owned lots located across from Village Hall. Mr. Jansen also indicated Public Works staff will be meeting with Commissioner Hoyt later in the week to further discuss potential options for the sites. Mr. Jansen indicated the smaller grant through the Missouri Prairie Foundation, which is limited to acquiring plants and seeds, would be limited to the Native Planting sites along Hawthorne and Central; Mr. Jansen noted the larger grant, through ComEd and Openlands, can be up to \$10,000 and could be utilized for a planting project that is larger in scope. Commissioner Hoyt and Mr. Jansen discussed coordinating directly to complete the Missouri Prairie Foundation grant prior to the submission deadline the next week.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen outlined the quarterly EV charging report, specifically highlighting growth in electric and hybrid vehicles within River Forest. With Regards to charging station usage, Mr. Jansen noted that the number of unique drivers has remained relatively constant while the number of charging sessions has gone down and the amount of energy used has gone up. This indicates that, previously, users had been charging for the two free hours before unplugging and charging a more frequent number of times to make use of the two free hours. The lower number of sessions but higher amount of energy used indicates that people are charging for longer periods of time but charging until their vehicle is more fully charged. Mr. Jansen noted this is further reflected in the session charging length histogram. The Commission discussed this change in charging behavior among users. The Commission discussed total usage time and charger availability as a metric which could be used to monitor overall usage.

Mr. Jansen provided a status update on the EV Charging Station installation project, outlining the next steps and when the charging stations are expected to be online. Co-Chair Lennon inquired about maintenance of the charging stations going forward. Mr. Jansen briefly provided status updates on the Public Works Garage Rooftop Solar Panel installation project, and the Village Hall Parking Lot Permeable Paver project. The Commission discussed if there were any stormwater issues following the recent storm, which Mr. Jansen reported was minimal. Co-Chair Lennon noted that alley flooding has completely disappeared in his alley since installation of the permeable pavers.

Mr. Jansen stated that the newsletter process was changing and there would no longer be a monthly newsletter, with additional weekly newsletters on the first Friday of each month set to replace it. This change will result in less advanced planning and shorter timeframes for when articles are needed prior to publication. Commissioner Hoyt stated he would draft a newsletter article on Bird City Illinois for a coming weekly newsletter.

Co-Chair Charrette inquired about a waste study done by the Village of Oak Park; Mr. Jansen indicated that was an independent study contracted and undertaken by the Village of Oak Park which included physical monitoring of waste, recycling, and compost materials collected throughout the community.

7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 10, 2026

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt, and Marti

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

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: February 10, 2026
To: Sustainability Commission
From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works
Subj: Bird City Illinois Memo

The Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission has begun work to pursue Bird City Illinois designation. Bird City Illinois is a community recognition program which serves as a guide to promote conservation practices which enhance the environment for birds and educate the public about the relationship between birds and people and how that contributes to a healthy community. The Sustainability Commission's community survey conducted last winter indicated the topic with the highest interest among responding residents was Local Wildlife & Biodiversity. This indicates support from the community in seeking this designation. Bird City Illinois designation will serve as guide to promote local bird conservation and bring further public awareness to the issue.

Bird City Illinois list requires at least nine actions from their designation action list be completed to achieve designation. The draft proclamations for the Commission's consideration would address two such action items.

Adoption of a proclamation recognizing World Migratory Bird Day is a required action, which all communities seeking designation must achieve. World Migratory Bird Day is officially celebrated the second Saturday of May. Later this spring, the Commission will host a World Migratory Bird Day event, which is another required action for designation.

In addressing threats to birds, Bird City Illinois lists several actions which may be undertaken to address light pollution. Adoption of a proclamation supporting Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration would help achieve two of these actions: "Provide information about the impact of light pollution and how residents and businesses can reduce artificial light at night" and "Document your community's strategy to reduce light pollution and encourage broad participation, particularly during migratory seasons." Adoption of this proclamation will raise awareness to how light pollution impacts bird migration. Through communication in the Village newsletters, social media, and Village website, the Sustainability Commission will promote the proclamation and share information and resources to encourage residents, businesses, and institutions to reduce outdoor artificial light during the spring and fall migratory seasons.

Recommendations:

- Motion to Recommend the Village Board approve a Proclamation recognizing May 9, 2026 as World Migratory Bird Day in the Village of River Forest
- Motion to Recommend the Village Board approve a Proclamation supporting Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration in the Village of River Forest

Attachments:

- World Migratory Bird Day Proclamation
- Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration Proclamation



PROCLAMATION WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY May 9, 2026

WHEREAS, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that share our communities; and

WHEREAS, many citizens recognize and welcome migratory songbirds as symbolic harbingers of spring; and

WHEREAS, these migrant species also play an important economic role in our community, controlling insect pests and generating millions in recreational dollars statewide; and

WHEREAS, migratory birds and their habitats are declining throughout the Americas, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter home; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and concern are crucial components of migratory bird conservation; and

WHEREAS, citizens enthusiastic about birds, informed about the threats they face, and empowered to help address those threats can directly contribute to maintaining health bird populations; and

WHEREAS, since 1993 World Migratory Bird Day (formerly International Migratory Bird Day) has become a primary vehicle for focusing public attention on the nearly 350 species that travel between nesting habitats in our communities and throughout North America and their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southern U.S; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of people will observe WMBD, gathering in town squares, community centers, schools, parks, nature centers, and wildlife refuges to learn about birds, take action to conserve them, and simply to have fun; and

WHEREAS, while World Migratory Bird Day officially is held each year on the second Saturday in May, its observance is not limited to a single day, and planners are encouraged to schedule activities on the dates best suited to the presence of both migrants and celebrants; and

WHEREAS, World Migratory Bird Day is not only a day to foster appreciation for wild birds and to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation, but also a call to action.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CATHERINE ADDUCI, President of the Village of River Forest, do hereby proclaim May 9, 2026 as World Migratory Bird Day in the Village of River Forest, and I encourages all residents, businesses, and organizations to celebrate this observance and to support efforts to protect and conserve migratory birds and their habitats in our community and the world at large.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this _ day of __, 2026.

Catherine M. Adduci,
Village President



**PROCLAMATION
LIGHTS OUT DURING PEAK BIRD
MIGRATION
MARCH 15-JUNE 15 AND AUGUST
15-NOVEMBER 15, 2026**

WHEREAS, each spring and fall, approximately 8 million birds representing more than 250 species migrate through the greater Chicago region on their way to their summer or winter homes; and

WHEREAS, artificial light pollution disorients migratory birds, increasing the risks of exhaustion, predation, and collisions with buildings and other structures; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, Chicago's tall buildings in the Loop have participated in the National Audubon Society's Lights Out program—the first of its kind in the nation—saving an estimated 10,000 birds each year and serving as a national model for bird-friendly practice; and

WHEREAS, residents are encouraged to turn off unnecessary lights and close drapes and blinds after 11:00 p.m. during the migration seasons to help ensure safe passage for these birds; and

WHEREAS, reducing light pollution year-round, by turning off unnecessary lights, shielding outdoor fixtures, and directing light only where it is needed, protects migratory birds and improves community safety by reducing glare, conserves energy, and lower maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, the Village of River Forest continues its efforts to reduce light pollution at Village facilities and providing informational resources for residents, businesses, and institutions, contributing to both environmental sustainability and public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CATHERINE ADDUCI, President of the Village of River Forest, do hereby proclaim Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration in the Village of River Forest, and encourage all residents, businesses, and institutions to join in protecting migratory birds during these critical seasons.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this _ day of __, 2026.

Catherine M. Adduci,
Village President



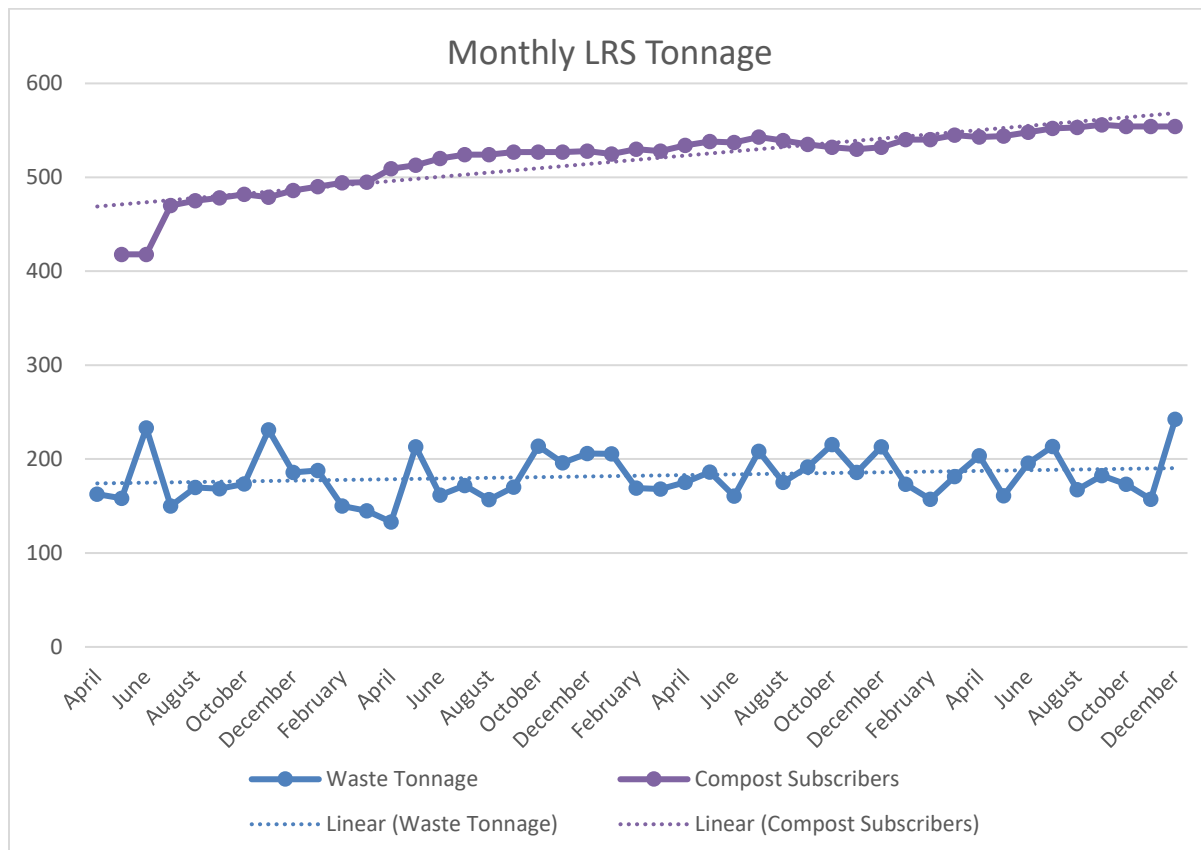
Village of River Forest Public Works and Engineering

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

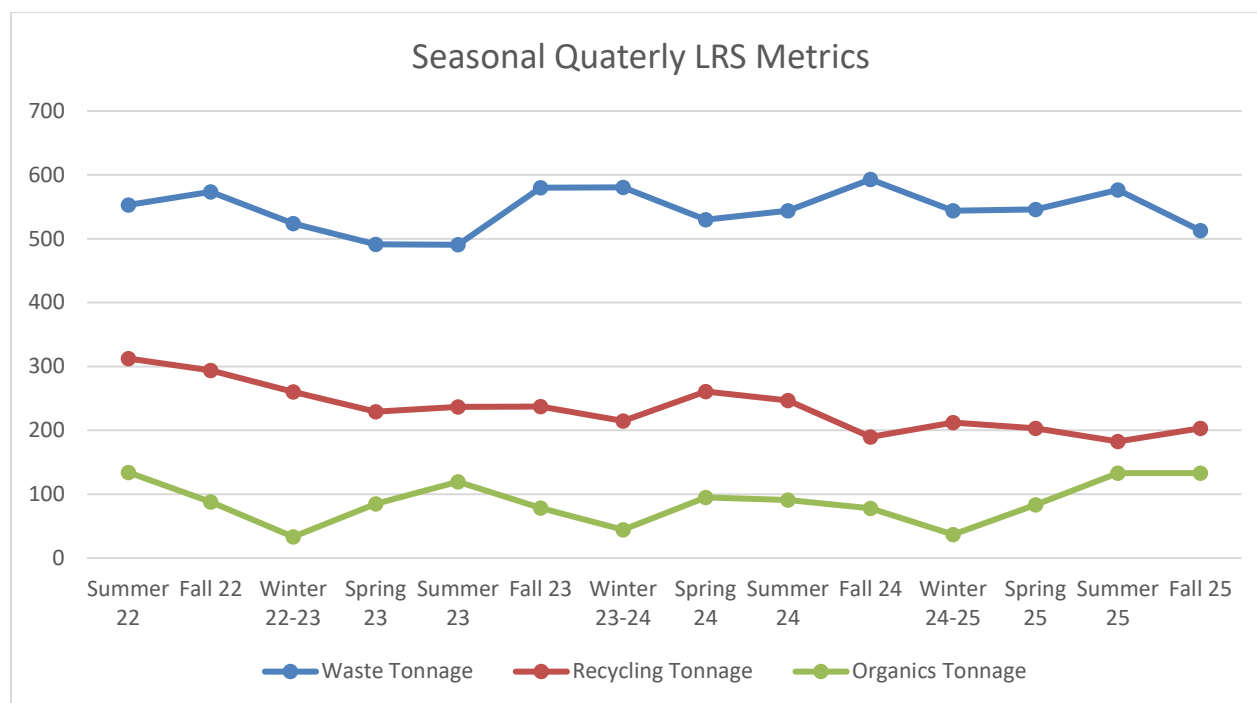
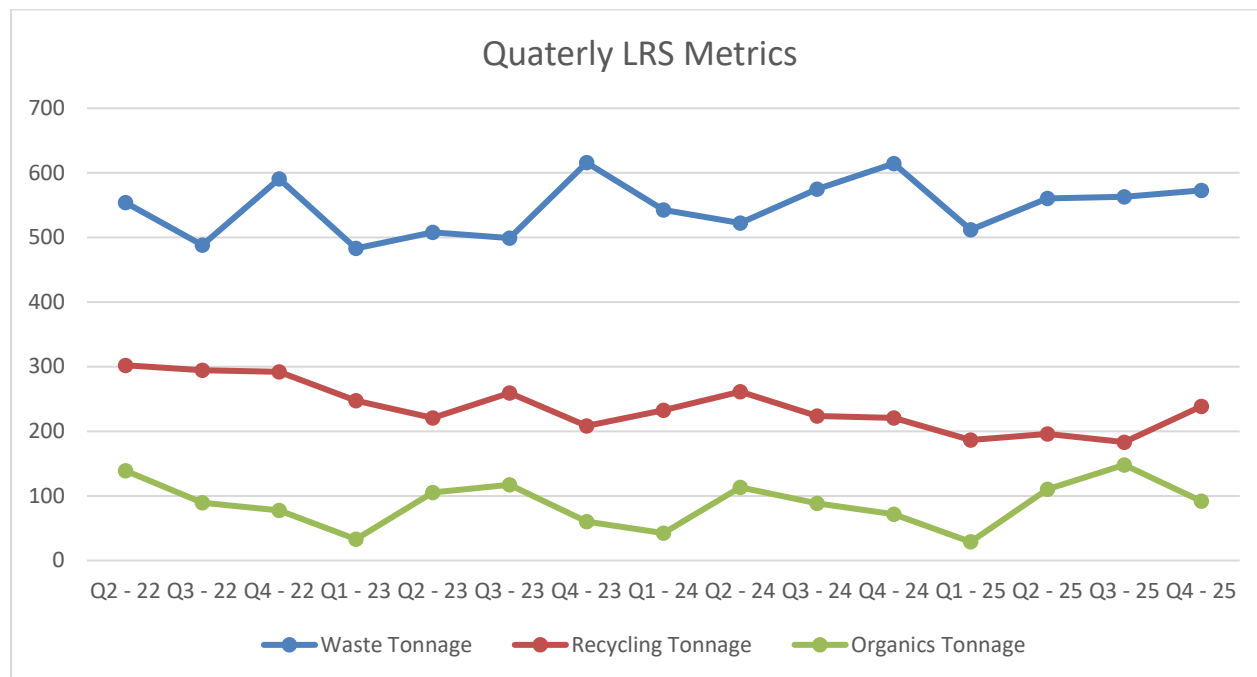
MEMORANDUM

Date: February 10, 2026
To: Sustainability Commission
From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works
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 8 households are participating in the compost sharing program. The chart below 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. This correlation is almost zero when incorporating the most recent data. The data did find weak negative correlations between recycling tonnage and waste tonnage for both calendar quarters and seasonal quarters; indicating a decrease in waste produced when more materials are recycled. The charts below illustrate the quarterly and seasonal quarterly data for waste, recycling, and organics. This focused on full quarters and seasonal quarters since the beginning of the LRS contract.



Attachment: LRS Monthly Report, December 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	2738	2738	2739	2738	2739	2737	2734	2733	2734	32828.00	2735.81
Compost Subscribers	540	540	545	543	544	548	552	553	556	554	554	554	6,583.00	549
Recycling Tons	73.09	51.70	61.49	70.44	71.25	54.36	65.06	63.07	55.13	75.62	71.37	90.66	803.24	66.94
Recycling lbs	146180	103400	122980	103400	122980	140880	142500	108720	130120	126140	110260	151240	1508800	125733.33
2025 Recy lbs/Cust	53.51	37.86	44.97	37.86	44.97	37.76	44.92	51.43	52.05	39.69	47.54	46.14	538.69	44.78
Organics Tons	9.96	8.11	10.00	31.01	42.17	36.95	44.59	33.53	37.37	23.40	57.48	10.93	345.50	28.79
Organics lbs	19920	16220	20000	62020	84340	73900	89180	67060	74740	46800	114960	21860	691000	57583
2025 Organics lbs/Cust	7.29	5.94	7.31	5.94	7.31	22.65	30.80	26.98	32.57	24.48	27.31	17.12	215.71	18.05
2025 Recycle & Organics Diversion %	32.39%	27.56%	28.28%	27.56%	28.28%	46.74%	44.86%	29.95%	39.94%	33.65%	28.64%	37.51%	405.35%	33.44%
Trash Tons	173.35	157.24	181.33	203.44	161.11	195.76	213.28	167.38	182.31	173.27	157.12	242.36	2,207.95	184
Trash lbs	346700	314480	362660	314480	362660	406880	322220	391520	426560	334760	364620	346540	4294080	357840
2025 Trash lbs/Cust	126.90	115.15	132.60	115.15	132.60	114.86	132.45	148.55	117.68	142.94	155.85	122.44	1,435.75	130.43
Total Tons	256.40	217.05	252.82	217.05	252.82	304.89	274.53	287.07	322.93	263.98	274.81	272.29	2,924.35	265.85
Total lbs	512800	434100	505640	434100	505640	479900	569980	621660	553900	567300	631420	507700	6324140	528767
2025 Total lbs/Cust	187.70	158.95	184.88	158.95	184.88	158.55	184.67	175.21	208.17	226.97	202.37	207.50	2,031.31	184.66
2025 White Goods Count	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0.333
2025 Stickers Sold	0	0	1,500	6,000	3,000	2,500	2,000	1,500	1,500	2,000	1,500	0	21,500	1,792
2025 E-WASTE Event Tons	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	1.47	0	0	0	2.97	0.247
2025 E-Waste Participation	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	59	4.91
2025 HHW Event Tons	0	0	0	0	0	0.479	0	0	0	0.2945	0	0	0.7735	0.0644

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)