



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 11, 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, August 11, 2026.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2026
4. Commissioner Updates
5. Bird City Illinois and Migratory Birds
 - a. Focal Species Monitoring Update and Wild Things Conference 2027
 - b. Bird City Illinois Resolution
6. Green Building Guide: Electrification
7. West Cook Wild Ones Wildlife Corridors
8. Electronics Drop Off: PCs For People
9. Communications and Staff Reports
 - a. Quarterly Waste Report
 - b. Village Project Updates
 - c. Communications
10. Schedule Next Meeting – September 8, 2026
11. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, July 14, 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, Beckman, Schaidler, 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

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Schaidler, to approve the meeting minutes from June 9, 2026.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Schaidler spoke with the Park District and shared information on new work being undertaken by a Park District contractor to maintain prairie grass and wetland and to prevent weeds and invasive plants on and around the Keystone Park sledding hill and retention pond. He indicated the Park District doesn't have any current plans for pollinator gardens, but he stated the Park District is currently seeking feedback for their new 3-year plan. Commissioner Schaidler and Co-Chair Charrette both suggested encouraging residents to completed the Park District survey. The Commission discussed and shared their thoughts and agreed that the Commission's role would be to share and promote the survey. The Commission further discussed continuing to build a relationship between the Commission and the Park District and finding opportunities for collaboration, particularly with regard to native and pollinator planting.

Commissioner Schaidler inquired about having a native plant installation in front of Village Hall. Mr. Jansen provided an informal update regarding the Heritage Square project at Park and Lake and indicated that the northwest corner would be filled with native and perennial plants. Commissioner Schaidler inquired about, and Mr. Jansen provided a more general

update regarding the square. Commissioner Schaider inquired about use of the aggregation program funds to expand native planting at this location.

Co-Chair Charrette promoted Chicago Climate Week and the upcoming events that will be happening. Co-Chair Charrette also raised an issue she encountered regarding tree cover impact on homeowners insurance and indicated she wanted to raise awareness of the issue given the tree coverage of most homes in the Village. Commissioner Kadlec indicated that Commissioner Avalos, who was unable to attend the meeting, had suggested discussing the Madison St. Development from a Sustainability perspective, noting that the topic had been raised by a resident at the last public hearing. Mr. Jansen explained the specific approval process for planned developments and that any conditions for approval would be made by the Development Review Board. Mr. Jansen indicated that additional opportunity for public comment on the project would be when the Board considers the project. Co-Chair Lennon did note that the project aligned with what the UIC graduate students had provided with their climate plans for the Village, specifically having multifamily residential facility near public transit.

5. BIRD CITY ILLINOIS AND MIGRATORY BIRDS

Commissioner Hoyt stated that the previous week was the final week of nighthawk monitor and that he is beginning to compile and review the data. Commissioner Hoyt indicated he will try to have a review to share with the Commission for the next meeting, indicating that some volunteers had produced high-quality observations and information on nighthawks locally. Commissioner Hoyt stated that he intended to discuss the data with the Commission in August and decide what to do with it. Commissioner Beckman volunteered to review and provide analysis for the data. The Commission discussed the future of the project. Commissioner Hoyt noted that he had discussed keeping a gravel corner of the rooftop at Roosevelt Middle School where nesting nighthawks had been observed. Commissioner Hoyt discussed other potential rooftop locations that could be observed in the future and institutions who are interested in the project. Commissioner Hoyt stated the long-term goal is to inform the public and develop information on rooftops that can be used by nighthawks. Commissioner Hoyt stated there will be a meeting for all the volunteers and indicated some had indicated they'd like to participate in monitoring next year as well. Co-Chair Charrette suggested sharing the final information with Oak Park as well, since some of the observations occurred in Oak Park as well. The Commission discussed where and how to present the findings of the project, particularly if it offers insight in how to preserve the habitats nighthawks need. The Commission discussed how this project has raised awareness and can continue to raise awareness through communications, future actions, and potential policy changes.

Following the Bird City discussion, Co-Chair Charrette observed many milkweed plantings observed throughout the Village and inquired about a way to quantify it. Commissioner Kadlec explained the crowdsourcing effort done at Triton College using the iNaturalist app, where students counted the milkweed plants throughout campus. Co-Chair Charrette suggested doing a similar project in the Village and potentially engaging the Go Green and student groups. Co-Chair Charrette indicated it could then be mapped and repeated in future

years to see if there is any growth or expansion in milkweed planting; such a project could be incorporated into the Mayors Monarch Pledge.

Commissioner Beckman indicated he needed to depart.

6. GREEN BUILDING GUIDE

Mr. Jansen shared the draft webpage for the Green Building Guide for Electrification. Mr. Janse indicated that Commissioner Beckman had already provided some edits. Mr. Jansen indicated further edits to the heat pump and induction stove guides already on the Village website. Mr. Jansen shared the survey results sent out to HVAC and Mechanical contractors regarding heat pump installation, indicating few responded but did provide helpful information. Mr. Jansen outlined the permitting information and the benefits of switching to electrical appliances. Mr. Jansen summarized the draft graphics developed by the Department's intern to serve as a handout one-pager and a social media post graphic. Mr. Jansen solicited feedback on the graphics and webpage prior to going live with them and beginning to promote the guide in the newsletter and on social media. Co-Chair Lennon provided some feedback regarding the layout of the graphics on the one-page document and offered some suggested edits. Mr. Jansen indicated he would incorporate all the suggested edits and the ones previously emailed to him by Commissioner Beckman. Mr. Jansen raised the idea of continuing the Green Building Guides to include future guides for Weatherization and for Green Building Materials. Mr. Jansen stated that specific input and research would be needed for sustainable building materials. Co-Chair Lennon suggested including green roofing materials and adding sustainable building practices as part of the guide.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen introduced the quarterly electric vehicle report, which shows the Level 2 charger at Village Hall being the most used charger but noted the increase in overall charging is tied to the increase usage of the Franklin Ave. fast chargers. Commissioner Schaidler had general questions on charging capabilities, the revenue generated, the funding used for installation of the chargers, and the charging fees for users.

Mr. Jansen outlined the updated solar energy report and the ComEd infographic, which included community solar enrollment and net metered solar installations. The ComEd data indicated more residents had enrolled in Community Solar programs beyond the Village program. There was a discrepancy in ComEd net metering solar data when compared to the Village permitting data on solar installations. Mr. Jansen indicated that the rebate and energy efficiency information provided by ComEd would be promoted on social media to highlight utilization and encourage more participation. The Commission discussed local solar projects and the discrepancy.

Mr. Jansen finally shared the infographic highlighting the Village's conversion to biodiesel for diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment in the Village fleet. Mr. Jansen provided brief general updates for the Public Works Garage solar installation project, the Village Hall permeable paver parking lot project, and the Heritage Square project.

Student Commissioner Stierwalt indicated he would be interested in helping find a new Student Commission as he will be graduating at the end of the forthcoming school year and

wanted to begin the search. Co-Chair Lennon suggested a newsletter article with Student Commissioner Stierwalt sharing his experience to encourage other students to apply.

Co-Chair Charrette suggested members being thinking about other taxing bodies and local institutions that each member could serve as a liaison with in order to build relationships and create further community partnerships.

10. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 11, 2026

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, August 11, 2026

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Schaider made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hoyt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Avalos and Beckman

Motion Passes.

Seth Jansen, Secretary

Common Nighthawk 2026: Oak Park and River Forest

One-page summary for the Sustainability Commission | August 2026 | Rough draft

The finding

Volunteers ran roughly 100 evenings of after-sunset monitoring across about 20 sites in Oak Park, River Forest, and adjacent Chicago. The headline result is a confirmed Common Nighthawk nest on the gravel roof at Roosevelt Middle School: a newly hatched chick on the roof, then a fledgling in the shrubs below. Just as important, the records let us separate where the birds are breeding from where they are only feeding, a distinction that local surveys of this bird rarely draw.

Where they are breeding

- **Gravel roofs.** Territorial booming dives centered on flat gravel roofs: the confirmed nest at Roosevelt, the Jewel-Osco store, and two dormitories at Concordia. Common Nighthawks have long nested on urban gravel roofs.
- **A natural-area refuge.** At Thatcher Woods the birds dive and boom over the grassland itself, the way they nested before gravel roofs existed, and they kept at it even with people and music in the parking lot. The preserve is functioning as refugia.

The threat: gravel roofs are disappearing

Gravel roofs are steadily being replaced with smooth membrane, which removes the nesting surface. Trinity High School's large gravel roof was replaced this summer; birds were seen over it but no longer diving. And even where gravel remains, it is often only a shrinking remnant of a mostly-new roof, as at Roosevelt.

Where they are only feeding

Open parks and ballfields draw foraging birds at dusk with no breeding display. Taylor Park held the steadiest pair of the season, and Longfellow Park and other spots saw flyover or feeding activity. Several eBird-flagged locations came back null, which tells us birds were reported there historically but were most likely not breeding, exactly the feeding-versus-breeding line this survey can now draw.

What the Commission can do

- Keep or add gravel or ballast pads on flat institutional roofs.
- Schedule reroofing outside the May to August nesting window.
- Protect and manage grassy and grassy-edge areas in the forest preserves (a message for the Forest Preserve District).
- Keep the volunteer monitoring going, with a single standard protocol for 2027.

Companion files: Nighthawk 2026 Master Dataset (spreadsheet) and Nighthawk 2026 Roof Map. Full detail and caveats are in the data-review memo.



Village of River Forest
Public Works and Engineering

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 11, 2026
To: Sustainability Commission
From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works
Subj: Bird City Illinois Resolution Draft

The final remaining action items for Bird City Illinois designation is adoption of a Bird City Illinois Resolution. This resolution must be adopted every 3 years, upon application and renewal of a community's Bird City Illinois designation.

Attached is a draft Village Resolution. Also attached is the standard template language provided for a Bird City resolution and the resolutions adopted by the Town of Normal and City of Evanston. Both communities incorporated language to reflect specific actions undertaken by the communities in their Bird City efforts. The draft resolution includes all of the standard template resolution language plus additional language outlining each action the Village and the Commission took to achieve the Bird City Illinois Designation. Commission input is sought with regards to the language of the the resolution.

Once edits and additions to the proclamation are agreed upon by the Commission, a formal recommendation vote will be taken, and the resolution will go to the Board for adoption. Once the resolution has been formally adopted by the Board, the compiled documentation of Bird City Illinois efforts taken by the Commission and the Village will be submitted as an application for official designation.

Attachment:

- Draft Bird City Illinois Resolution
- Bird City Resolution Template Language
- Town of Normal Bird City Resolution
- City of Evanston Bird City Resolution



RESOLUTION NO. 26-__

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST BECOMING CERTIFIED BY THE BIRD CITY ILLINOIS PROGRAM

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

WHEREAS, many citizens recognize and value birds that are residents and those that pass through during their migration seasons; and

WHEREAS, birds play an important ecological role in our community, controlling insect pests and contributing to pollination and seed dispersal; and

WHEREAS, birds and their habitats are declining throughout Illinois and North America, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter habitat; and

WHEREAS, public education, awareness, and concern are crucial components of 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 healthy bird populations; and

WHEREAS, birds contribute to an increase to the economy by attracting tourists and generating revenue; and

WHEREAS, climate change is the number one threat to birds and local leaders should adopt environmentally sound policies and practices that protect birds and their habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 is important legislation that we need to continue to uphold in our local communities to ensure the protection of migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, the Village's Comprehensive Plan declares that "[e]nvironmental sustainability is a multi-faceted principle that aims to reduce negative impacts on the environment and preserve natural resources to ensure quality of life for future generations. Often sought through dedicated initiatives, sustainability informs every component of a municipality by emphasizing that we are conscious of how we affect the world around us;" and

WHEREAS, Bird City Illinois is an initiative to build relationships with local municipalities and citizens of the community for a call to action to protect and conserve birds; and

WHEREAS, the Village, the Sustainability Commission, and Village residents are active in working to preserve habitat and reduce threats to birds; and

WHEREAS, the Village is committed to improving wildlife habitat, by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, creating public native plant gardens, and being a Tree City USA member since 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Village and Sustainability Commission are committed to addressing light pollution's threat to birds, by adopting a Lights Out proclamation during peak migratory bird seasons and by creating a broader informational campaign through the Village newsletters and social media to raise awareness of light pollution's impact on migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, the Village adopted a proclamation celebrating World Migratory Bird Day, and the Sustainability Commission held three events, in partnership with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and the River Forest Library, celebrating World Migratory Bird Day; and

WHEREAS, the Village and Sustainability Commission continue to promote sustainable infrastructure and practices and reduce energy use and carbon emissions, including municipal community solar, curbside composting, and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission and resident volunteers established a focal species monitoring program by monitoring and documenting common nighthawk nesting locations and activities during the summer months of 2026.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of River Forest President, by adoption of this resolution, hereby shows its support of the Bird City Illinois Initiative and endorses the application to become a certified Bird City Illinois community.

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.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

Catherine Adduci, Village President

APPROVED by me this __ day of __ 2026.

Rosa Castellano, Village Clerk

Bird City Resolution

- **Whereas**, birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that share our communities, *and*
- **Whereas**, many citizens recognize and value birds that are residents and those that pass through during their migration seasons, *and*
- **Whereas**, birds play an important ecological role in our community, controlling insect pests and contributing to pollination and seed dispersal, *and*
- **Whereas**, birds and their habitats are declining throughout Illinois and North America, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter habitat, *and*
- **Whereas**, public education, awareness, and concern are crucial components of 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 healthy bird populations, *and*
- **Whereas**, birds contribute to an increase to the economy by attracting tourists and generating revenue, *and*
- **Whereas**, climate change is the number one threat to birds and local leaders should adopt environmentally sound policies and practices that protect birds and their habitat, *and*
- **Whereas**, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 is important legislation that we need to continue to uphold in our local communities to ensure the protection of migratory birds, *and*
- **Whereas**, Bird City Illinois is an initiative to build relationships with local municipalities and citizens of the community for a call to action to protect and conserve birds.

Town Council Action Report

May 19, 2025

Resolution in Support of the Town of Normal Becoming Certified by the Bird City Illinois Program

Prepared By: Mercy Davison, Director of Planning and Zoning

Reviewed By: Pamela S. Reece, City Manager
Jason Querciagrossa, Corporation Counsel
Doug Damery, Director of Parks and Recreation

Staff Recommendation: Approval

Attachments: Proposed Resolution; Bird City Illinois Application

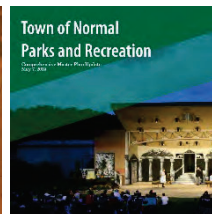
Community Impact

Designation as a Bird City Illinois participant will reinforce the Town's commitment to many sustainability goals that will benefit the Town, its residents, and its visitors. Key outcomes include the preservation and expansion of passive natural spaces and increased opportunities for the enjoyment of native wildlife throughout the community.

Budget Impact

N/A

Strategic Alignment



Background

Passed in 2024, the Town's Vision 2050/Sustainability Plan includes seven main goals for the Town to work toward (Res. No. 6295). A staff committee representing 11 departments has been working since February 2025 to determine what actions the Town could take to make progress toward these goals. Pursuit of the Bird City Illinois designation would touch upon several goals.

The Bird City Illinois program is run by the Audubon Council of Illinois under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. The goal of the program is "to encourage all communities in Illinois to implement sound bird-conservation practices by offering public recognition to those that succeed in enhancing the environment for birds and educating the public about the relationship between birds and people and how that contributes to a healthy community." In order to be certified as Bird City Illinois, a community must meet the following criteria:

1. Pass a resolution in support of the Bird City designation with a renewing resolution every three years
2. Sign a proclamation annually to recognize "World Migratory Bird Day," an international celebration during spring and fall migration seasons
3. Hold a public event to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day annually
4. Meet at least three actions from the Habitat category
5. Meet at least three additional actions for any of the categories (Habitat, Threats to Birds, Education/Engagement, and Sustainability)

Town staff believe that with the approval of this resolution, the signing of a proclamation, and the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day on May 24, the Town's existing sustainability and bird-friendly activities qualify for Bird City Illinois designation. Examples follow:

Habitat Category

1. Participation in the Mayor's Monarch Challenge since 2021, which has involved the conversion of turf grass to native, pollinator-friendly plantings, among other activities
2. Creation of a bird-friendly water feature adjacent to the Connie Link Amphitheatre, which includes extensive native plantings and a fully accessible path connecting to the trail
3. Certification as a Tree City USA community since 1999
4. Restoration of creek banks throughout the parks and elsewhere, including the planting of native vegetation and ongoing prescribed burn maintenance

Education and Engagement

1. Partnership with the Grand Prairie Bird Alliance on bird walks at Town parks, including Hidden Creek and Maxwell
2. Publication of bird-related information and photography via the Town's social media channels
3. Provision of accessible birdwatching locations, including the new water feature and Hidden Creek
4. Coordination of a birdwatching "lunch and learn" for Town employees

Sustainability

1. Energy audits of Town-owned buildings with an aim toward greater energy efficiency
2. Purchase of some amount of renewable energy for municipal operations
3. Commitment to green transportation, including the Constitution Trail system, on-street bicycle accommodations, and the Town's Bike Friendly Community certification since 2014
4. Construction of two municipal buildings with LEED certification (Children's Discovery Museum and Uptown Station)

The Town's application also benefits from other bird-related activities conducted by the Grand Prairie Bird Alliance, including the Spring Bird Count and the Christmas Bird Count, the latter of which has been conducted for almost 50 years.

More can be found in the attached Bird City Illinois application.

Discussion

Designation as a Bird City Illinois community by the Audubon Council of Illinois will help the Town address four of the seven goals within the Vision 2050/Sustainability Plan:

1. Increase reliability, convenience, safety, and appeal of non-car transportation in Normal
2. Promote biodiversity by preserving and expanding natural habitats and planting more trees in a wider variety of species
3. Expand green infrastructure to protect sources of clean drinking water and improve stormwater and wastewater management
4. Increase energy efficiency and adoption of renewable energy technologies

The designation will also align with the sustainability goals with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, the transportation alternatives supported by the Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the conservation and habitat goals of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, and the Town's ongoing commitment to the Tree City USA program.

For these reasons, Town staff recommends the Town Council adopt the resolution in support of the Town becoming certified by the Bird City Illinois program. The application would then be submitted in late May.

Keywords: Bird City Illinois; Sustainability

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWN OF NORMAL BECOMING CERTIFIED BY THE
BIRD CITY ILLINOIS PROGRAM

- WHEREAS, Bird are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that share our community.
- WHEREAS, Many citizens recognize and value birds that are residents and those that pass through during their migration season.
- WHEREAS, Birds play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance, contributing to pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal.
- WHEREAS, Birds and their habitats are declining throughout Illinois and North America, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter habitats.
- WHEREAS, Public education, awareness, and concern are crucial components of bird conservation.
- WHEREAS, Citizens enthusiastic about birds, informed about the threats they face, and empowered to help address those threats can directly contribute to maintaining healthy bird populations.
- WHEREAS, Birdwatching and related activities contribute to local economies through ecotourism.
- WHEREAS, The Town's Vision 2050/Sustainability Plan identifies the need to promote environmental stewardship, biodiversity, native habitat restoration, tree planting, and bird habitat resilience, and the Town recognizes the importance of protecting and enhancing bird habitats.
- WHEREAS, The Bird City Illinois program provides a framework for communities to promote bird conservation through habitat creation, education, and sustainability initiatives.
- WHEREAS, Participation in the Bird City Illinois program aligns with the Town's commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement.
- WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Normal to apply to become a certified Bird City Illinois community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE TOWN OF NORMAL, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1. The Town of Normal supports and endorses the application to become a certified Bird City Illinois community.

SECTION 2. The City Manager or her designee is directed to take all actions reasonably necessary to support the Town's certification as a Bird City Illinois community.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

APPROVED:

President of the Board of Trustees
Town of Normal, Illinois

ATTEST:

Town Clerk
(seal)



Memorandum

To: Members of the Human Services Committee
From: Ike Ogbo, Health & Human Services Director
Subject: Resolution 11-R-23, Registering the City of Evanston's Support of the
Bird City Initiative.

Date: February 6, 2023

Recommended Action:

Councilmember Revelle's referral of Resolution 11-R-23, Registering the City of Evanston's Support of the Bird City Illinois Initiative, is recommended to be passed by the Human Services Committee and forwarded to City Council for adoption.

CARP:

Education & Outreach

Committee Action:

For Action

Summary:

The passage of Resolution 11-R-23 by the Human Services Committee and its adoption by the City Council will demonstrate the City's support for the Audubon Council of Illinois Bird City Illinois initiative and an annual Proclamation of World Migratory Bird Day in Evanston. The mission of the Audubon Council of Illinois, as a coalition of Illinois chapters of the National Audubon Society, is to cooperate with cities in promoting sound environmental legislation emphasizing the natural conservation of resources and sponsoring environmental educational initiatives and activities that aid in these efforts.

The City's participation through an application process for recognition as a Bird City acknowledges Evanston's active and ongoing commitment to the protection and conservation of bird populations and their habitats. The recognition would acknowledge and celebrate steps that the City and community members have taken and are willing to take to protect and expand support for birds, including the recent approval of the Bird-Friendly Building Design Ordinance and the ongoing work of volunteers to maintain and enhance the Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary.

Many Evanston groups, such as the Citizens' Greener Evanston, Natural Habitat Evanston, Evanston North Shore Bird Club, Bird-Friendly Evanston, Edible Evanston, and Canal Shores golf course, plus other community groups and members recognize and value birds and are working to create and restore their habitats and reduce threats to birds. Evanston community members and groups devote many volunteer hours to maintaining healthy bird populations at the Clark Street Beach Bird, Sanctuary, Perkins Woods, and along the North Shore Channel at Harbert Park, Ladd Arboretum and Canal Shores Golf Course, and at the Civic Center.

The vision of the community groups and members regarding these efforts, which align with Audubon's mission, include but are not limited to the following:

- Protect existing bird habitats such as Perkins Woods which volunteers currently manage with the Cook County Forest Preserve.
- Planning for the future by adding additional bird habitats, such as the proposal to reinvigorate the Jens Jensen Gardens.
- Supporting the establishment of natural lawns and native landscaping by promoting the reduction of conventional lawns with native plantings, mowing less, and transitioning to native landscaping.
- Managing Canal Shores golf course to benefit birds.
- Adopting an ordinance that requires new buildings to be built following bird-safe design, construction, and operation guidelines. City Council approved the Bird-Friendly Building Design Ordinance in 2022.
- Educating residents about strategies to control invasive species, practice integrated pest management, mitigate climate change, and support natural habitats and initiatives to promote pollinator health.

These many efforts and more will be recognized and celebrated by Evanston receiving Bird City Illinois certification.

Attachments:

[Resolution 11-R-23 Resolution City's Support for Bird City Illinois Initiative](#)

11-R-23

A RESOLUTION

**Registering the City of Evanston's Support
Of the Bird City Illinois Initiative**

WHEREAS, Evanston is a globally significant stopover for migratory birds and research shows that millions of migratory birds pass through Evanston in spring and fall; and

WHEREAS, bird populations are declining by 5% each year and maintaining and augmenting bird habitat is of increasing importance; and

WHEREAS, many residents of Evanston find cheer and beauty in birds; and

WHEREAS, many Evanston community groups recognize and value birds and are working to create and restore their habitat and reduce threats, including: Citizens' Greener Evanston, Natural Habitat Evanston, Evanston North Shore Bird Club, Bird-Friendly Evanston, Canal Shores Golf Course, and Edible Evanston; and

WHEREAS, Evanston volunteers enthusiastic about birds and informed about the threats they face are empowered to maintain healthy bird populations at Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary, Perkins Woods and along the North Shore Channel at Harbert Park, Ladd Arboretum and Canal Shores Golf Course, and at the Civic Center; and

WHEREAS, Evanston has recently adopted an ordinance to require bird-safe buildings in new planned developments; and

WHEREAS, Evanston's Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) recognizes the importance of our city for bird conservation; and

WHEREAS, climate change is the number one threat to birds and Evanston has adopted environmentally sound practices such as a Green Building ordinance, bike trails and public transportation; and

WHEREAS, Evanston is committed to improving pollinator habitat, by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, and becoming a National Wildlife Federation-certified Community Wildlife Habitat and has been a Tree City USA member for many years; and

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

WHEREAS, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 is important legislation that we need to continue to uphold in our local communities to ensure the protection of migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, Bird City Illinois is an initiative to build relationships with local municipalities and residents of the community for a call to action to protect and conserve birds; and

WHEREAS, Evanston community members are active in working to preserve habitat and reduce threats to birds and a Bird City Illinois certification will recognize all of these strengths.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:**

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein and made a part hereof.
2. The City of Evanston, by adoption of this Resolution, hereby shows its support of the Bird City Illinois Initiative.
3. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid, said invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Resolution.
4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

Daniel Biss, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to form:

Stephanie Mendoza, City Clerk

Nicholas E. Cummings, Corporation
Counsel

Adopted: _____, 2023



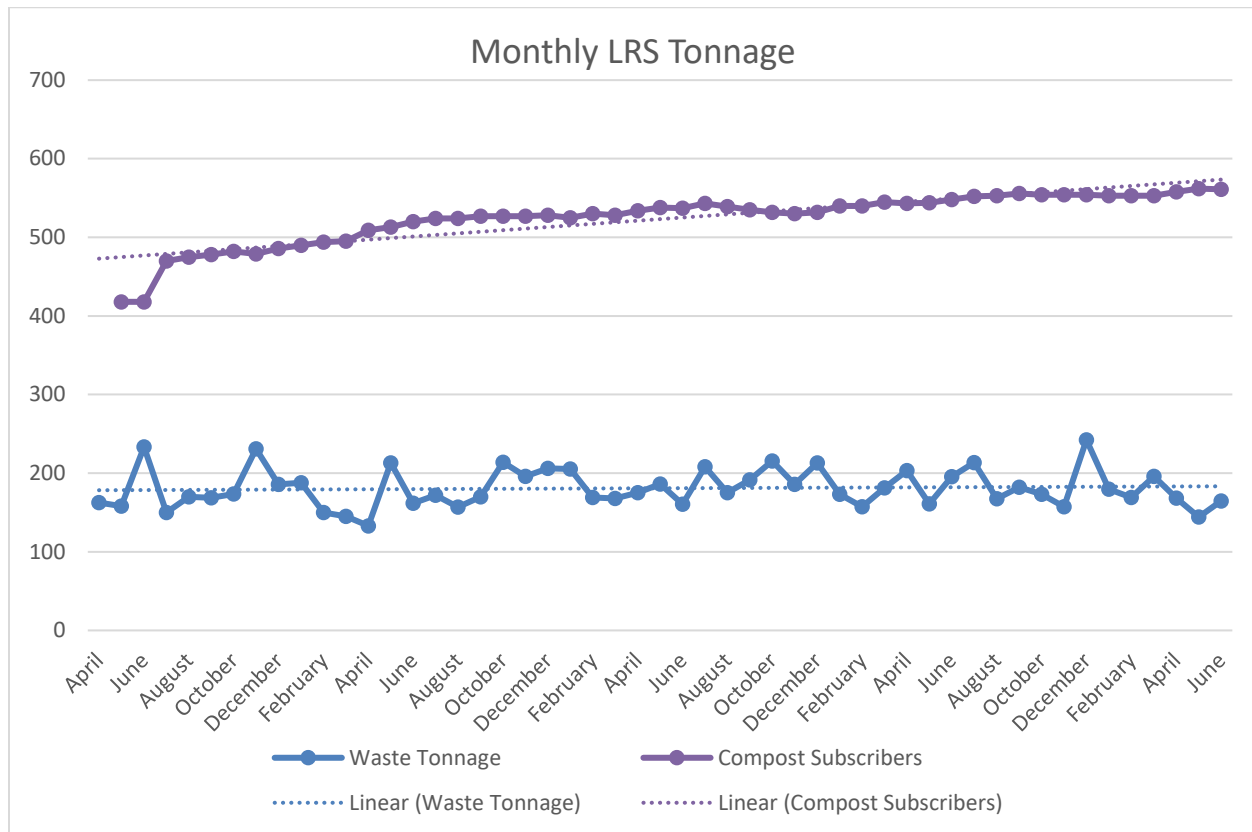
Village of River Forest Public Works and Engineering

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

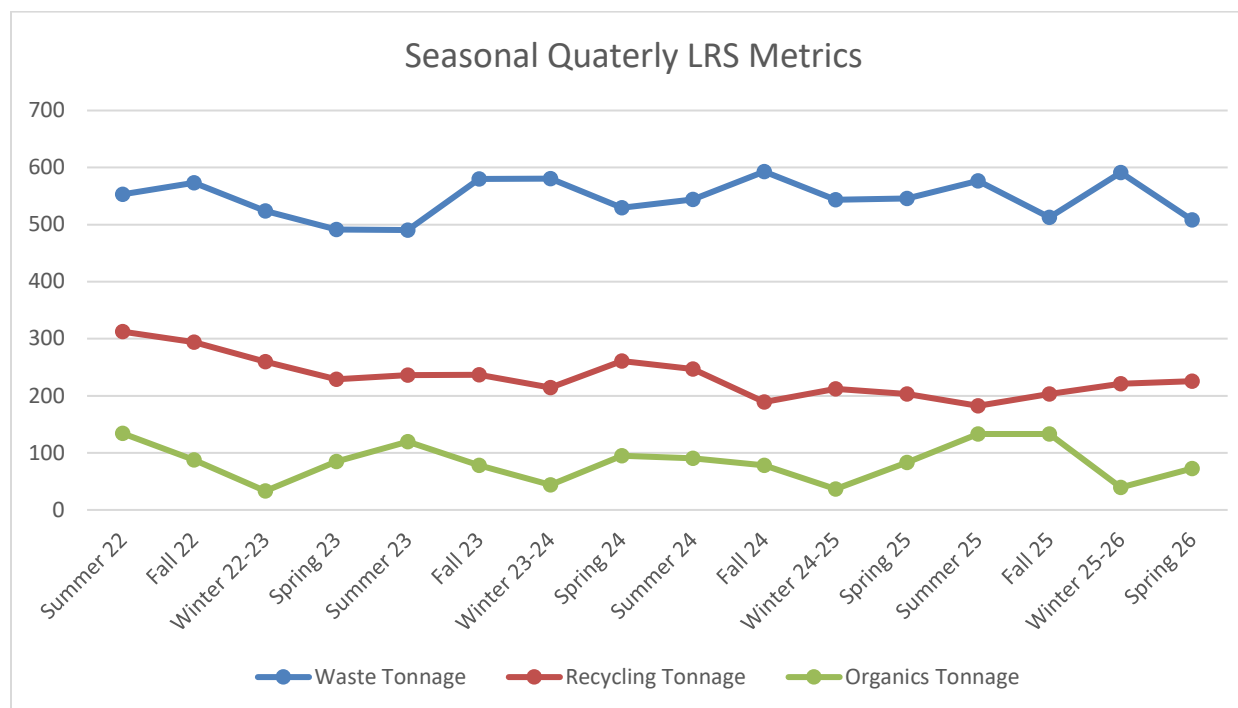
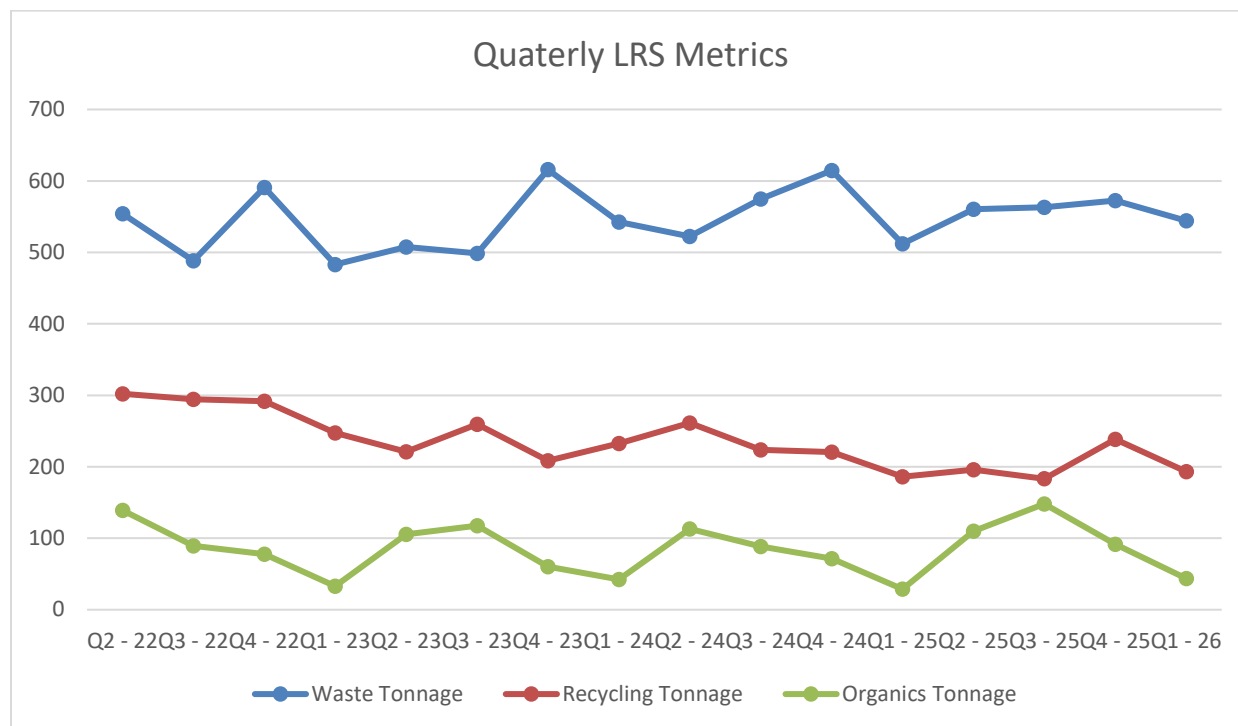
MEMORANDUM

Date: August 11, 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.



As with previous analysis, the correlations between waste and recycling and waste and organics remained inconsistent at the monthly, quarterly, and seasonal levels, with no clear correlation in either direction. 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.



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST



Collection Period	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD TOTAL	AVG/MTH
Active Customers	2733	2733	2735	2735	2734	2735							16405.00	2734
Compost Subscribers	553	553	553	558	562	561							3,340.00	557
Recycling Tons	80.85	49.35	63.12	75.99	86.54	69.93							425.78	70.96
Recycling lbs	161700	98700	126240	151980	173080	139860							851560	141726.66
2026 Recy lbs/Cust	59.17	36.11	46.16	55.57	63.31	51.14							311.45	51.91
Organics Tons	20.43	8.09	15.21	33.67	23.81	23.57							124.78	20.8
Organics lbs	40860	16180	30420	67340	47620	47140							249560	41593
2026 Organics lbs/Cust	14.95	5.92	11.12	24.62	17.42	17.24							91.27	15.21
2026 Recycle & Organics Diversion %	36.05%	25.37%	28.57%	39.47%	43.34%	36.20%							209.00%	34.83%
Trash Tons	179.68	168.99	195.81	168.19	144.28	164.77							1,021.72	170.29
Trash lbs	359360	337980	391620	336380	288560	329540							2043440	340573
2026 Trash lbs/Cust	131.49	123.67	143.19	122.99	105.54	120.49							747.37	125.56
Total Tons	280.96	226.43	274.14	277.85	254.63	258.27							1,572.28	262.05
Total lbs	561920	452860	548280	555700	509260	516540							3144560	524093
2026 Total lbs/Cust	205.61	165.70	200.47	203.18	186.27	188.86							1,150.09	191.68
2026 White Goods Count	0	1	0	0	0	1							2	0.33
2026 Stickers Sold	1,500	0	2,000	4,500	2,000	3,500							13,500	2,250
2026 E-WASTE Event Tons	0	0	1.28	0	0	0							1.28	0.256
2026 E-Waste Participation	35	0	35	0	0	0							70	11.66
2026 HHW Event Tons	0	0	0	0	0	0.0845							0.0845	0.014

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)