



## VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 – 7:00 PM  
Village Hall – Via Remote Meeting, 400 Park Ave.,  
River Forest, IL

Physical attendance at this public meeting is limited to 20 individuals, with Committee members and staff having priority over members of the public. Public comments will be shared with the Committee. You may submit your public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: John Anderson at [janderson@vrf.us](mailto:janderson@vrf.us). You may listen to the meeting by participating in a telephone conference call as follows, dial-in number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 898 7365 7862. If you would like to participate over the phone, please email [janderson@vrf.us](mailto:janderson@vrf.us) by 4:00 PM on July 21, 2020.

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Welcome Cary McLean
5. Commissioner Reports
6. RFSC 2020 Plan (updated June 2020) with focus on Proposed Program Responsibilities
7. RFSC Meeting Calendar
8. RFSC Memberships
9. New RFSC Google Site for File Sharing Owned by the Village
10. Tribute to Julie Moller Almost Done!
11. Community Aggregation Update
12. River Forest Tree Trails
13. Discussion: Best Use of \$30k RFSC Budget Sourced from Aggregation
14. Schedule Next Meeting – September X, 2020
15. Adjournment



# **VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST**

## **SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday May 12, 2020 – 7:00 PM

Sustainability Commission meeting 5-12-20

Roll Call: Julie Moller, Eric Simon, Beth Cheng, Andrew Basney, Lisa Gillis, Susan Charrette, Ellie Raidt

Adoption of Meeting Minutes

Aggregation Update and Next Steps

Mollie Vanderlaan from Satori Energy provided information on the green aggregation program and spoke about the renewable energy credits that are purchased. Ann Debortoli from MC2 spoke about the fact that many municipalities went back to Comed due to costs. MC2 will become the supplier to the accounts that are the lowest cost to serve. MC2 serves many communities right now in the area. Comed rate match includes the purchase of electricity adjustment. The residents on MC2 pays exactly what Comed customers. The annual contributions that are sent to municipalities are sent each year based on the percentage allocations. Funds are sent a few months after the beginning of the rollout.

Beth Cheng: Does the Village choose the percentage of accounts that are on this program?

Ann: No, we make the choice of accounts on the program based on the list provided by Comed. We are only going to serve the accounts that MC2 chooses. Residents will get a letter to know about the program and will be able to opt-out if they'd like. People will also be able to opt-in if they'd like as well.

Beth Cheng: Where do you get the funds to provide the Civic contribution?

Ann: Lowest cost to serve vs. the highest cost to serve is analyzed and a determination is made. There is a difference in cost in certain accounts that allow MC2 to provide a Civic contribution.

Susan: If you slice out the 40% for the Village to go to MC2, what keeps Comed from raising the rates on all other accounts overall?

Ann: These are a small amount of accounts and it is not making a change to rates so far.

Mollie: Comed rates are set each year and won't change based on a given year.

Andy: Have you identified the number of accounts?

Ann: It was around 40% to 45% of accounts. It's based on the lowest cost of the supply, not the distribution charges. Energy and capacity are big components to the overall cost. Margins and other costs are calculated and that is how you come up with a rate.

Susan: What is the profile of the typical account to serve?

Ann: All accounts are different, but some reasons could be that power isn't used during peak hours for whatever reason and that could make it a lower cost account to serve.

Julie: When you are buying 100% RECs, what are you buying

Ann: RECs are being bought in the name of the Village

Julie: Does FEJA have anything to do with this?

Ann: That has more to do with community solar than this program.

Julie: You had said that you'd try to get the RECs from Illinois, but is that more difficult?

Ann: It's getting more difficult to get them from Illinois, but they come from Illinois.

Beth: What does the Village do with the RECs? and the Civic contribution.

Ann: Villages are making different choices based their funding needs or whether they would like more of a Civic contribution. They can use the money for environmental initiatives etc. It is up to the Village what it wants to do with the funds.

Mollie: What is the % of RECs that would still consider you a green power community?

Ann: Between 10 and 25%

Andy: What is the timeline for this?

Ann: September would be the earliest it could start

Julie: MC2 is the leader for this type of program

Eric: I want to see the math on this, and so I think it would be better if the money went back to the residents as opposed to the government.

Julie: If we have to pay for our recycling, maybe this is something that offsets that cost?

Susan: Shouldn't our discussion involve the most impact this has environmentally?

Julie: This is a great opportunity

Andy: Should we survey the residents on how to use the funds?

Julie: I say we go with a 2 year term for this program

Beth: Can we show that going for the higher percentage of RECs helps us offset our carbon footprint?

Julie: Yes

Shannon: Half of our carbon footprint is in electricity right now.

Susan: Often when we don't do something it is because of cost. We can use this to install solar at municipal buildings for example it may make sense.

Lisa: This is something that could be used for initiatives that are specifically for sustainability items/programs.

Motion: to recommend to the Village Board that the Village approve a green aggregation contract with MC2 for a 24 month time period and 100% RECs and that the Civic. Motion passed 7 to 0

Response to keeping chickens

Julie: Any questions on the fact that we aren't moving forward at this time?

Susan: It would be clear and easy to move forward and I don't think it would take a year. Procedurally I don't think we should move forward in the manner we did.

Julie: We are attempting to do the research necessary and that is where it gets complicated. We are just giving information to the Village Board and are trying to get the priorities set for the topics we are currently undertaking.

Susan: I just wanted to state that it was something that I have heard from residents that is important to them.

Parkway for Pollinators/Green Block Parties

Julie: PlanItGreen is fine with us using the grant funds for parkway for pollinator gardens to be used outside of the green block party system.

Lisa: This program is now going to be done outside the green block party program. They will be done two per day and not three per day anymore. This will now be open to any resident, not just an area without a host home. We will amp up the educational components of the program. We maintain a strong green block party since our outreach is important at these events.

Beth: I think it seems highly feasible to do a tree identification program for a green block party program. There is a list of the variety of trees and a kit could be provided, etc. I will work with Ellie on this program.

Health Lawn/Healthy Family

Lisa: This is an ongoing project and I have updated the portion of the website that references the program. The library seminar will be in the program for next year, we won't be able to do it this year.



## Review Areas of Responsibilities

Julie: Be on the lookout for your areas on the website that they are up to date. Double check the items that you need to keep an eye on. Julie and Lisa reviewed everyone's areas of responsibilities to make sure they were clear on their assignments.

Ellie: Needs the individual emails for the Village trustees to send an idea for opt-out composting.

Eric: There was an issue with a historic home wanting solar panels and there was an issue with the home keeping a status as a historic home. This will need to get cleared up with the Historic Preservation Commission. Another community uses the material of the roof (if it's historic material) to determine whether if it is appropriate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*

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John Anderson, Secretary

*Signature Line*

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Julie Moller, Chairman  
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----



# VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday June 9, 2020 – 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - a. 7:09pm 6/9/2020
  - b. Lisa Gillis
  - c. Eric Simon
  - d. Beth
  - e. Andrew - no
  - f. Susan
  - g. Shannon - no
  - h. Lauren Behan
  - i. Ellie Raidt
2. Public Comment
  - a. None
3. Commissioner Reports
  - a. Lisa Gillis
    - i. Working to operationalize projects. Updated green block party pollinator content, website content.
    - ii. Calendar of action items
    - iii. Facebook and Instagram posts -
    - iv. Pollinator to Parkway Program is live - planting in August/September
    - v. Green Block Parties are on hold - until government permits
    - vi. Meetings with Julie to transition
    - vii. It's our future (composting program) - upcoming meeting
    - viii. Tribute to Julie Moller
  - b. Eric Simon
    - i. May 20 - resident had a historic structure they wanted to install solar panels on, coordinating with historic commission to determine impact to status. Agreed to a quicker review process - within 7 days. Residents have the potential to lose their COA (certificate of appropriateness) if they install solar panels, especially if proposed on the street side of the home. Coordination will continue with the historic commission.
  - c. Susan
    - i. May 18 - planet green meeting.
    - ii. Lunch and Learn - reducing carbon emissions at home.
    - iii. Oak Park - first community solar pilot program through MC2.
    - iv. OP Framer's Market opened on 5/30/2020

- v. OP Park District - \$588k grant to add and renovate a center.
    - vi. Beyond the Bin
  - d. Beth
    - i. River Forest Tree Trails
    - ii. GHG inventory - quantify the benefit of the RF trees
      - 1. River Forest - 56% canopy cover
  - e. Ellie
    - i. River Forest Tree Trails
    - ii. Composting - emails have been sent to President Aducci and Trustee Brennan.  
Discussion of opt in program.
- 4. Tribute to Julie Moller
  - a. Signage
- 5. Community Aggregation
  - a. Board approved the contract with MC2 - analyze the Comed accounts and take a percentage and move them over to green energy accounts. Residents can opt out or opt in. The Village gets a civic contribution - about \$30k.
    - i. Next step - letters will be sent in July by MC2.
    - ii. Village will approve the mailer and update the website.
    - iii. Request to review draft letter - John will send to the Commission, targeting the end of the week. Comments to be sent to Beth to consolidate.
    - iv. Request metrics from MC2.
    - v. More discussion to come on what to do with the money.
- 6. River Forest Trails
  - a. Discussion of motivation - rewards
  - b. Partnership with the library?
  - c. Partner with the arboretum - maybe kick-off with a speaker?
  - d. Discussion on whether to do a survey.
  - e. Is there a budget available?
- 7. Achieving our 2020 goals
  - a. Email address - Lauren Behan to manage
    - i. Need to confirm communication policy.
  - b. Editorial calendar
  - c. eNews - Lisa Gillis to manage
  - d. Request for volunteers for vacant slots
- 8. Schedule Next Meeting - July 14th, 2020
  - a. Agenda item request - \$30k discussion.
- 9. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*

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John Anderson, Secretary

*Signature Line*

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Lisa Gillis, Chairman  
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----

**Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission**  
**2020 Plan**

Updated June 2020

The Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission (RFSC) is comprised of the following members for the 2020 calendar year. John Anderson, River Forest Director of Public Works, supports us.

| Sustainability Commission Members |                      |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Name                              | Role                 | Term Expires                                     |
| Lisa Gillis                       | Chair                | 4/30/21  |
| Lauren Behan                      | Commissioner         | 4/30/21  |
| Susan Charrette                   | Commissioner         | 4/30/21  |
| Beth Cheng                        | Commissioner         | 4/30/23  |
| Cary McLean                       | Commissioner         | 4/30/23  |
| Shannon Roberts                   | Commissioner         | 4/30/23  |
| Eric Simon                        | Commissioner         | 4/30/21  |
| Eleanor (Ellie) Raidt             | Student Commissioner | N/A  |
| John Anderson                     | Administrator        | Village of River Forest<br>Director Public Works |

All members of the RFSC have key areas of responsibility and primary organizations across the community to connect with as well as co-ownership of projects. Ideally, co-ownership on a project-by-project basis is ideally shared with an employee of the Village of River Forest Government as well as a resident of the Village of River Forest who wants to get involved in our mission.

We see the 2020 calendar year as a year of transition and a culmination of the grass roots work implemented for the last eight years. Now is the time for a formal transition into the everyday functions of the Village as a whole. Toward this end, we have spent much time documenting what we do and how we do it.

What follows is a document comprised of five sections:

1. Mission and Goals
2. Contact Matrix
3. Passion Matrix
4. Project Summaries
5. Impact

We thank you for your time in reading this document and providing input such that it truly reflects the ideals and aspirations of the Village of River Forest.

Thank you.

**Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission****RFSC Mission and 2020 Goals**

February 2020

The **Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission's** purpose is to enhance the quality of life of its residents through the study and promotion of **sustainable** practices that conserve natural resources and protect the environment. The following matrix lists strategies to enable the Village, residents and institutions to protect the environment by reducing the level of greenhouse gas emissions we are producing and that are the source of Climate Change.

| Focus           | Strategies  | Outreach, Education & Activation |                             |            |                             |                                     |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                 |   | Residents                        | Institutions                | Businesses | Places of Worship           | Government                          |
| Energy          | Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy         | Renewables                       | Renewables                  | Renewables | Renewables                  | Renewables                          |
| Transportation  | Expand green transportation & mobility options            |                                  |                             |            |                             | <b><i>Public Transportation</i></b> |
|                 |   |                                  |                             |            |                             | <b><i>Walkability</i></b>           |
|                 |   |                                  |                             |            |                             | <b><i>Biking</i></b>                |
|                 |   |                                  |                             |            |                             | <b><i>Parking</i></b>               |
| Water           | Protect water sources as well as reduce water consumption |                                  |                             |            |                             | Permeable Surfaces                  |
|                 |   | Rainwater Reclamation            | Rainwater Reclamation       |            | Rainwater Reclamation       | Rainwater Reclamation               |
| Waste           | Reduce waste & increase waste diversion                   | Composting                       | Composting                  | Composting | Composting                  | Composting                          |
|                 |   | Recycling                        | Recycling                   | Recycling  | Recycling                   | Recycling                           |
|                 |   | Reducing                         | Reducing                    | Reducing   |                             |                                     |
|                 |   | Education                        | Education                   | Education  | Education                   |                                     |
| Green Ecosystem | Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems        | Gardens                          | Gardens                     | Gardens    | Gardens                     | Gardens                             |
|                 |   | Integrated Pest Mgmt. (IPM)      | Integrated Pest Mgmt. (IPM) |            | Integrated Pest Mgmt. (IPM) | Integrated Pest Mgmt. (IPM)         |
|                 |   | Trees                            | Trees                       |            | Trees                       | Trees                               |
| Impact          | Measure our success                                       | Assess, Track and Report         |                             |            |                             |                                     |

**Key:**

Type = RFSC 2020 Initiative

***Type = Project of the Village of River Forest***

## Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

### Contact Matrix

June 2020

The RFSC works with many organizations in River Forest and the surrounding communities. To ensure that we optimize these connections and minimize confusion that might result from too many connection points, we have assigned each commissioner the responsibility to cultivate meaningful, mutually beneficial working relationships with these organizations as summarized in the table below. It is expected that someone from the RFSC connect with each contact at least once per year. These liaison functions do not replace individual project working relationships; rather, their focus is on issue / opportunity identification and activation.

| Organization  | Contact (Email)   | Lauren Behan | Susan Charrette | Beth Cheng | Lisa Gillis | Cary McLean | Ellie Raidt | Shannon Roberts | Eric Simon |
|---|---|--------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| Concordia University                                    |   |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| D90 -- Green4Good Parent Group                          | Anthony Cozzi District 90 rep. (cozzia@district90.org)<br>Alexis Murphy (alexis_murphy@hotmail.com)   |              |                 | X          |             |             |             |                 |            |
| D90 -- Lincoln Green4 Good Kids Faculty Lead            | Lori Suzuki (suzukil@district90.org)<br>Pamela Moriarty (moriartyp@district90.org) -- Staff<br>Renee Sichelau (reneesichelau@gmail.com) -- Parent |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| D90 -- Roosevelt Eco-Warriors Faculty Lead              | Anna Daly (dalya@district90.org) -- Staff<br>Laura Maychruk (lmaychruk@comcast.net) -- Parent   |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| D90 -- Willard Green Team Faculty Lead                  | Val Smart (smartv@district90.org) -- Staff<br>Lisa Carolan (lcarolan1014@gmail.com) -- Parent   |              |                 | X          |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Dominican University                                    | Ellen McManus (emcmanus@dom.edu)<br>Monica Halloran (mhallora@dom.edu)<br>Mary Sadofsky (msadofsky@dom.edu)                                       |              |                 |            | x           |             |             |                 |            |
| Grace Lutheran  | Laura Merwin (lamerwin86@gmail.com)   |              | X               |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Green America   | Jes Walton (JWalton@greenamerica.org)   |              |                 |            | X           |             |             |                 |            |
| Green Interfaith Network                                | Jim Babcock (jlbabck@sbcglobal.net)   |              | X               |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Houseal Lavigne Associates                              | John Houseal, FAICP (JHouseal@hlplanning.com)<br>(312) 372-1008 x101  |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc. (www.kloainc.com) | Eric D. Russell<br>(847) 518-9990 office (847) 997-9886 cell<br>(erussell@kloainc.com)  |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Little Bits Workshop                                    | Liita Forsyth (liita@thelittlebitsworkshops.com)  |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Mayor's Caucus Environmental Committee                  | Edith Makra (emakra@mayorscaucus.org)   |              |                 |            | X           |             |             |                 |            |
| Midwest Grows Green                                     | Ryan Anderson (randerson@ipminstitute.org)  |              |                 |            | X           |             |             |                 |            |
| Morton Arboretum (for Tree Tours)                       | Emily Okallau (eokallau@mortonarb.org)  |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Morton Arboretum (for ArbNet)                           | Sue Paist (arbnet@mortonarb.org)  |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| NREL (Nat'l Renewable Energy Lab)                       |   |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 | X          |
| One Earth Film Festival and Green Community Connections | Ana Garcia-Doyle (ana@oneearthfilmfest.org)   |              |                 |            | X           |             |             |                 |            |



|                                       |  |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| OPRF High School                      |  |  |   |  |   |  | X |  |  |
| PlantItGreen                          | Gary Cuneen (gary@sevendgenerationsahead.org)  |  | X |  |   |  |   |  |  |
| River Forest Library                  | Sue Quinn (squinn@rflib.org)   |  | X |  |   |  |   |  |  |
| Roy Strom                             | George Strom (gstrom@roystrom.com)   |  |   |  | X |  |   |  |  |
| St. Luke’s                            |  |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |
| St. Vincent’s                         |  |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |
| Sugarbeet Schoolhouse                 | Cheryl Munoz (Cheryl@sugarbeetschoolhouse.org)   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |
| The Deep Roots Project                | David Murphy (djmurphy1967@gmail.com)  |  |   |  | X |  |   |  |  |
| Trinity High School                   | Susan Bedell (sbedell@trinityhs.org)   |  |   |  | X |  |   |  |  |
| Trailside/Forest Preserve             | Irene Flebbe (Irene.flebbe@cookcountyil.gov)<br>Susan Dombro (Susan.Dombro@cookcountyil.gov)   |  | X |  |   |  | X |  |  |
| Village of River Forest Public Works  | Mark Janopoulos ( <a href="mailto:mjanop@vrf.us">mjanop@vrf.us</a> )<br>John Anderson ( <a href="mailto:janderson@vrf.us">janderson@vrf.us</a> ) |  |   |  | X |  |   |  |  |
| Village of River Forest Park District | Mike Sletten (msletten@rfparks.com)  |  |   |  | X |  |   |  |  |
| West Suburban Temple Har Zion         | Cindy Klein Banai (also Associate Chancellor for Sustainability at UIC)  |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |  |

## **Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission**

### **Passion Matrix**

February 2020

The members of the RFSC come from diverse backgrounds in terms of personal, academic and professional lives. We all have varied areas of expertise, interests and personal networks. To ensure that we are consistently bringing forth passion and appropriate knowledge to each initiative and action, we have summarized our knowledge in the chart below.

We envision using this matrix to ensure that we are tapping into the right people for the right things with an eye toward excellence in leadership, from project planning through execution and optimization as well as speaking opportunities.

|                     | Lauren Behan | Susan Charrette | Beth Cheng | Lisa Gillis | Cary McLean | Ellie Raidt | Shannon Roberts | Eric Simon |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| Bees                |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Biking              |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Chickens            |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Edible Gardens      |              | X               |            | X           |             |             |                 |            |
| Measurement         |              |                 | X          |             |             |             | X               |            |
| Native Gardens      |              | X               |            | X           |             |             |                 |            |
| Renewable Power     |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 | X          |
| Research            |              |                 | X          |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Single Use Plastics |              |                 |            | X           |             |             |                 |            |
| Trees               |              |                 |            |             |             | X           |                 |            |
| Waste – Composting  |              | X               |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Waste – Recycling   |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |
| Water               |              |                 |            |             |             |             |                 |            |

# Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

## Project Summaries

June 2020

| Focus           | Strategy  | Project Type           | Project                                  | Current Member  |
|-----------------|---|------------------------|--|---|
| Energy          | Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy         | Renewables             | Rooftop Solar                            | Eric Simon  |
|                 |   |                        | Community Choice Aggregation             |   |
|                 |   |                        | Community Solar                          |   |
|                 |   |                        | SolSmart Certification                   |   |
| Transportation  | Expand green transportation & mobility options            | Public Transportation  | <b>Public Transportation Plan</b>        | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
|                 |   | Walkability            | <b>VRF Walkability Plan</b>              | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
|                 |   | Biking                 | The Bicycle Plan for the VRF             | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
|                 |   |                        | VRF Biking Certification                 | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
|                 |   | Parking                | <b>Parking Plan</b>                      | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
| Water           | Protect water sources as well as reduce water consumption | Permeable Surfaces     | <b>Green Alleys</b>                      | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
|                 |   |                        | <b>Green Parking Lots &amp; Walkways</b> | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
|                 |   | Rainwater Reclamation  | Rain Barrel Sales through MWRD           |   |
| Waste           | Reduce waste & increase waste diversion                   | Composting             | Residential Curbside                     | Lauren Behan*   |
|                 |   |                        | Institutional Curbside                   |   |
|                 |   |                        | Pumpkin Smash                            |   |
|                 |   | Reducing               | Single Use Plastics                      |   |
|                 |   | Recycling / Re-Using   | Residential Curbside & Special Pick-up   | Lauren Behan*   |
|                 |   |                        | Onsite Commercial                        |   |
|                 |   |                        | <b>Holiday Lights Collection</b>         | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
|                 |   |                        | Recycling Extravaganza                   |   |
|                 |   |                        | Beyond the Bin                           | Lisa Gillis, Susan Charrette                            |
|                 |   |                        | <b>C&amp;D Construction Materials</b>    | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
|                 |   | Education              | <b>SIO Stations</b>                      | VRF (Lisa Gillis)                                       |
|                 |   |                        | Zero Waste Stations                      |   |
|                 |   |                        | Green Block Parties                      |   |
|                 |   |                        | Village of River Forest Green Directory  | Susan Charrette   |
|                 |   |                        | RFSC Participation @ Community Events    | Tabling Instructions – Lisa Gillis Participation -- All |
| Green Ecosystem | Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems        | Gardens                | Parkways for Pollinators (P4P)           | David Murphy -- Deep Roots Project Susan Charrette      |
|                 |   |                        | Inspirational Edible Gardens             | David Murphy -- Deep Roots Project Susan Charrette      |
|                 |   |                        | Native Gardens                           | Mary Masella – Volunteer Resident Susan Charrette       |
|                 |   |                        | Community Gardens                        | Mary Masella – Volunteer Resident Susan Charrette       |
|                 |   | Integrated Pest Mgmt.  | Healthy Lawn / Healthy Family            |   |
|                 |   |                        | Midwest Grows Green                      |   |
|                 |   | Trees                  | <b>Tree &lt;Location&gt; Map</b>         | VRF (Susan Charette)                                    |
|                 |   |                        | Annual Tree Tour                         | Susan Charrette   |
|                 |   |                        | ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation           | Susan Charrette   |
|                 |   |                        | River Forest Tree Trails                 | Ellie Raidt, Beth Cheng                                 |
| Impact          | Measure our success                                       | Assess, Track & Report | Program KPIs                             | Beth Cheng, Lisa Gillis                                 |
|                 |   |                        | RFSC Mission KPIs                        | Beth Cheng, Shannon Roberts                             |

\* Lauren Behan to define plan for Waste diversion through Roy Strom (Composting, Recycling / Re-Using) and share with the RFSC for adoption

### Key

Type = RFSC 2020 Initiative

Type = Project of the Village of River Forest

## **Action Matrix Goals 8.24,25,27,28,29,30,38**

### **Renewables -- Rooftop Solar**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Owner(s):    | Eric Simon, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works  |
| Objective:   | Decrease carbon emissions by replacing fossil fuel sources with renewable energy sources and honor the PlanItGreen Letter of Intent in pursuing 100% renewable energy and the Chicago Agreement on Climate and Community (Appendix B&C)   |
| Strategy:    | Increase the use of solar on residential, public and commercial rooftops in River Forest through the dissemination of information and education. Use rooftop solar, where applicable, as one of the tools towards building a renewable energy portfolio for Village residents, institutions and commercial properties.  |
| Tactics:     | Reduce complexity of and obstacles for obtaining solar installations through expanded informational resources. Attend relevant meetings and stay abreast of grant opportunities for solar installation. Create system to share information with residents and businesses in meaningful way.   |
| Status:      | Achieved Bronze certification of the SolSmart Program and are tracking existing solar installations.  |
| Impact:      | TBD   |
| 2020 Action: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Create vrf.us Solar webpage to include useful tools and resources to simplify the process required to understand and move forward with solar projects.</li><li>▪ Apply for Silver certification of the SolSmart Program (<a href="https://www.solsmart.org">https://www.solsmart.org</a>). (SolSmart is a national designation program recognizing cities, counties, and regional organizations that foster the development of mature local solar markets; it is funded by U.S. Department of Energy)</li><li>▪ Continue to collect information on the latest opportunities for local renewable options and attend meetings regarding renewable energy, including, but not limited to the Mayor's Metropolitan Caucus and PlanItGreen meetings.</li><li>▪ Continue to track solar installations in the Village.</li><li>▪ Work with Development Commission on incentives for developers to use renewable energy</li></ul> |

## **ENERGY**

### **Renewables – Community Choice Aggregation**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Owner(s):    | Eric Simon, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works   |
| Objective:   | Decrease carbon emissions by replacing fossil fuel sources with renewable energy sources and honor the PlanItGreen Letter of Intent in pursuing 100% renewable energy and the Chicago Agreement on Climate and Community (Appendix B&C)  |
| Strategy:    | Replace current energy contract with Commonwealth Edison using “brown” energy with a contract that uses a renewable energy source. Use aggregation as a “bridge” until community solar rooftop or other local renewable sources can be put into place. CCA is just one source and one tool towards building a renewable energy portfolio for Village residents, institutions and commercial businesses |
| Tactics:     | Find an energy partner that can provide aggregation that meets current ComEd rate and switch residential energy to an opt-out renewable energy plan.   |
| Status:      | Community Choice Aggregation approved by the Village Board of Trustees   |
| Impact:      | Would help achieve renewable energy goals.   |
| 2020 Action: | Village to implement the program working with M2C  |

Resources: <https://solstice.us/solstice-blog/community-choice-aggregation/>

## **ENERGY**

### **Renewables – Community Solar**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Owner(s):    | Eric Simon, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works  |
| Objective:   | Decrease carbon emissions by replacing fossil fuel sources with renewable energy sources and honor the PlanItGreen Letter of Intent in pursuing 100% renewable energy and the Chicago Agreement on Climate and Community (Appendix B&C)   |
| Strategy:    | Stay current on Community Solar opportunities through PlanITGreen, Mayor's Caucus and Illinois Environmental Council and share with local institutions and residents.   |
| Tactics:     | Create a system for informing interested institutions, future developments and residents on opportunities as they arise.  |
| Status:      | Nothing to report.  |
| Impact:      | TBD   |
| 2020 Action: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide explanation on Village website about Community Solar and how it fits into the renewable energy resources that are being offered.</li><li>• Attend relevant meetings and/or notify institutions to attend meetings that may offer information/opportunities to participate in Community Solar programs</li><li>• Assess what RF institutions may be interested in Community Solar and monitor their progress</li><li>• Work with Development Commission on incentives for developers to use renewable energy</li></ul> |

#### **Notes:**

Community Solar is a solar energy collection array that delivers electricity to a distribution system -- ComEd for the Village of River Forest (VRF) and allocates output to subscribers to the program. This is advantageous to customers who don't have the space and/or ability to host a solar array.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Action Matrix Goals 4:08.09; 5:06, 07,10; 6:06; 7:20,21; 8:09,10, 11

#### Biking – The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest – Plan Creation

Owner(s): Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Expand green transportation & mobility options.

Strategy: Make it easier and safer for residents and guests to use a bicycle as a means of transport.

Tactics:

- **Bicycle Plan Funding.** The Bicycle Plan was funded by a grant from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways. The Village of River Forest would like to acknowledge the leadership of Cook County Board Commissioner Pete Silvestri (9th District) for his support in securing the grant.
- **Overview of the Plan**
  - The bicycle system in the Village of River Forest is in the initial stages of development. This bicycle plan provides a framework for the design and implementation of a comprehensive network of bicycle facilities that connects with the Village's major destinations, including its Village Center, schools, parks, transit stations, civic facilities, houses of worship, and commercial centers, and the nearby forest preserves, regional trails, and bicycle facilities in adjoining communities.
  - The plan responds to the comments received from the online resident bicycling survey, which indicated that a high percentage of residents are already bicycling in the Village. The recommended bicycle facilities in this plan are intended to provide a greater level of comfort for these riders and create a heightened level of awareness that bicyclists are sharing the road with motorists all without removing street parking that is so valued by local businesses and residents.
  - The bicycle plan also identifies policies and programs to support, encourage and promote increased bicycle use in the Village, particularly for short utilitarian trips. The bicycle facility projects, policies and programs have been prioritized into a three-phase implementation program (near-term, mid-term, long-term) based on necessary advanced planning efforts, cost, funding sources, and need for approval by other agencies. Lastly, sources of funding assistance and design guidance have been provided for reference.
- **Implementation Phasing.** Implementation of the recommended bicycle facilities, policies and programs will likely occur over differing time periods based on planning efforts, cost, funding sources, and need for approval by other agencies. In recognition of this, the recommendations have been prioritized into three phases: near-term, mid-term and long-term, which may assist Village staff in budgeting, programming and coordination efforts. One of the first tasks in implementing these recommendations would be the assignment of each to a responsible Village Commission, Task Force, Department or staff position.
- **Near-Term Phase.** These corridors are currently comfortable for bicycling but can be enhanced into the bicycle network with low-cost signage and way finding guidance. The near-term projects consist of all signed posted routes, which are on local streets controlled by the Village. A small degree of advanced planning is required prior to implementation, generally involving the determination of sign type and placement locations, sign messaging and fabrication, plan preparation, and

bidding/contracting. Many of the bicycle-friendly policies and programs can also be adopted or implemented in the near-term phase. Timelines are generally less than 2 years.

- **Mid-Term Phase.** These corridors consist of the marked shared lane and bicycle lane projects that are on streets controlled by the Village. These projects require a higher degree of planning prior to implementation and more moderate construction budgets for the additional costs associated with pavement markings, pavement marking removals or seal-coating, and potential supplemental measures (ex. curb extensions). As such, the Village may elect to pursue grant funding to defray a portion of the costs. Timelines generally range from 2-5 years.
- **Long-Term Phase.** These corridors consist of the marked shared lane, bicycle lane and side path projects that are on streets controlled by IDOT and may also have impacts to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and private landowners. These projects require a high degree of planning prior to implementation, higher construction budgets, and coordination/approval by other agencies. There may be needs for utility relocations, sidewalk replacement, and landscape/streetscape modifications. The Village may elect to pursue grant funding to defray a portion of the costs for these projects as well. Timelines can exceed 5 years.
- **Policies and Programs:**
  - Policies
    - Complete Streets Policy
    - Safe Routes to School Policy
    - Bicycle Parking Policy
  - Educational Programs
    - Bicycle Safety Materials
    - Bicycle Educators/Ambassadors
    - Bikes on Public Transit
    - Operation Chill
    - Basics of Bicycle Repair
  - Encouragement Programs
    - Bicycle System Map
    - Community Bike Rides
    - Bicycling Tab on Village Website
    - Bicycle Parking at Community Events
    - Bike Friendly Businesses
    - Bike to Work Challenges
    - University Programs
  - Enforcement Programs
    - Police Department Bike Patrol
    - Bicycle Registration
    - Monitoring Crash Data

Status: The plan for The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest is complete and has been approved by the VRF Board of Trustees.

Impact: TBD

2020 Action: Be an advocate for the plan when appropriate. Continue meetings with KLOA and Bicycle Task Force as needed.



## TRANSPORTATION

### **Biking – The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest Near-Term**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Owner(s):    | Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works   |
| Objective:   | Expand green transportation and mobility options.   |
| Strategy:    | Make it easier and safer for residents and guests to use a bicycle as a means of transport.   |
| Tactics:     | Implementation of the recommended bicycle facilities, policies and programs will likely occur over differing time periods based on planning efforts, cost, funding sources, and need for approval by other agencies. In recognition of this, the recommendations have been prioritized into three phases: near-term, mid-term and long-term, which may assist Village staff in budgeting, programming and coordination efforts. One of the first tasks in implementing these recommendations would be the assignment of each to a responsible Village Commission, Task Force, Department or staff position. |
| Status:      | The plan for The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest (VRF) is complete and has been approved by the VRF Board of Trustees.<br>Bike Fix It Station Installed near train station, thanks to Wheel and Sprocket of Oak Park.  |
| Impact:      | TBD   |
| 2020 Action: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Move forward with implementation of the Bicycle plan for all non-IDOT streets within the Village. This would exclude North Avenue, Harlem Avenue, Lake Street, and Madison Street as well as all of Thatcher Avenue this year due to any potential conflicts with the Des Plaines River Trail, which may be placed here in the future. The budget number from KLOA who is doing this next phase of the implementation plan is \$238,380 for all striping and signage installations. This has been approved and adopted into the budget.</li></ul>                   |

## TRANSPORTATION

### **Biking – The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest Policy and Program Implementation**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Owner(s):    | Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works   |
| Objective:   | Expand green transportation and mobility options.   |
| Strategy:    | Make it easier and safer for residents and guests to use a bicycle as a means of transport.   |
| Tactics:     | Policy and Program Implementation Phasing – see plan in Appendix A  |
| Status:      | The plan for The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest (VRF) is complete and has been approved by the VRF Board of Trustees.   |
| Impact:      | TBD   |
| 2020 Action: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review plan and identify partners that can assist with programming. For example: contact schools and assess what bicycle safety is being taught if anything.</li><li>• Work with police department to ensure bike helmet safety.</li><li>• Develop relationship with Traffic and Safety Commission to develop programs and policies.</li><li>• Organize an inauguration of the Bike Fix It Station.</li><li>• Table at One Earth Film Festival transportation events.</li><li>• Continue work with the Bicycle Task Force</li><li>• Consider having a bike fix-it class during Summer in the Park events.</li></ul> |

## TRANSPORTATION

### **Biking – Village of River Forest Certification**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Owner(s):    | Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works  |
| Objective:   | Expand green transportation & mobility options.  |
| Strategy:    | Achieve official designation for the Village of River Forest (VRF) as a “Bicycle Friendly Community” (BFC) by the League of American Bicyclists. The award program has six tiers (Honorable Mention, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond) based on an assessment of the community’s efforts with respect to engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation and planning.   |
| Tactics:     | Actions to be pursued towards achieving a BFC designation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adopting this Bicycle Plan</li><li>• Naming a Bicycle Coordinator</li><li>• Formalizing the Village’s Bicycle Task Force into a Bicycle Advisory Committee</li><li>• Adopting a Complete Streets policy</li><li>• Adopting a bicycle parking ordinance</li><li>• Installing the bicycle facilities in this plan, particularly the bicycle lane and side path projects on the higher speed roadways</li><li>• Implementing at least two of the Education programs, especially those in the schools</li><li>• Organize Bike to Work events and other Encouragement programs</li><li>• Implementing at least one of the Enforcement programs</li></ul> |
| Status:      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bicycle Plan is approved.</li><li>• In FY2019, a fix-it bike repair station was installed in November 2019 by the entrance to the River Forest Depot Metra Station.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The Chris Kegel Foundation in partnership with Wheel &amp; Sprocket donated the station itself and maintenance to the Village.</li><li>○ John Anderson and I worked with Eric Krzystofiak, General Manager of the store, Wheel and Sprocket, in Oak Park.</li><li>○ The cement slab for the station was installed by Public Works.</li></ul></li></ul>  |
| Impact:      | TBD  |
| 2020 Action: | Continue plan implementation   |

## **WATER**

### **Action Matrix Goals 4:12, 5:11**

#### **Permeable Surfaces – Green Alleys**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Owner(s):    | Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works  |
| Objective:   | Continue to replace alleyways with permeable pavers to reduce help reduce area flooding.   |
| Strategy:    | Continue to Identify alleyways for repaving where permeable surfaces can be used to reduce flooding and allow water to infiltrate into the soil.   |
| Tactics:     | Continue to apply for State funding and place work request in fiscal plans.  |
| Status:      | Right now twelve of the 29 River Forest alleyways have permeable pavers. When funding permits alleys scheduled for resurfacing will receive priority and be reworked with permeable pavers. A schedule for alleys with permeable pavers will also be maintained. |
| Impact:      | TBD  |
| 2020 Action: | Schedule work for one permeable alley<br>Coordinate design engineering for an additional three alleyways<br>Apply for funding for the following year.  |

## **WATER**

### **Permeable Surfaces – Parking Lots & Walkways**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Owner(s):    | Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson Village of River Forest Director of Public Works   |
| Objective:   | Protect water sources and help reduce flooding.  |
| Strategy:    | Create more permeable surfaces so that water is allowed to permeate the soil rather than run off into storm sewer during regular and heavy rainfall events.  |
| Tactics:     | Replace impermeable surfaces with permeable ones.  |
| Status:      | In 2016 Commuter parking lot at Thatcher commuter lot was repaved with permeable pavers and saves approximately 81,000 gallons of storm water from entering sewers annually helping decrease flooding and pollutant run-off. |
| Impact:      | TBD  |
| 2020 Action: | Work with Public works to identify any surfaces that are ready for resurfacing.<br>If projects are ready, assess whether they can be permeable pavers, if so, submit cost for 2021 budget.                                   |

## **WATER**

### **Water Consumption – Rain Barrel Purchase through Metropolitan Water Reclamation District**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Owner(s):    | TBD, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>Jonathan Pape, Village of River Forest Assistant to the Village Administrator   |
| Objective:   | Protect water sources as well as reduce water consumption.  |
| Strategy:    | Provide education to residents on water consumption and capturing rainwater.  |
| Tactics:     | Let residents know they can purchase rain barrels from the Water Reclamation District at a reduced cost.  |
| Status:      | The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District offers rain barrels to all Cook County residents at the cost of \$45.78. This includes flexible connecting elbow to attach rain barrel to your downspout. |
| Impact:      | TBD   |
| 2020 Action: | Ensure information on the website is up to date.<br>Post information on the website of the benefits of rain barrels and the proper installation.  |

## WASTE

### Action Plan Matrix Goal #8:26,34, 35

#### Composting – Residential Curbside

Owner(s): Lauren Behan, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission \*  
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Offer progressive, future forward curbside composting services to Village of River Forest residents as part of standard garbage collection program

Tactics: Assist with promoting, monitoring and community education of the standard curbside composting program maintained by the VRF through its contract with waste hauler, Roy Strom and offered to all VRF residents as part of the standard garbage collection program at incremental cost

- Ensure that the program remains amongst the best in the country
- Educate Village of River Forest residents about proper composting through the maintenance and distribution of composting tips and tricks on the VRF Website working in partnership with Roy Strom

Status:

- Program was launched in May 2015. It was the second curbside compost program in the state of Illinois behind Oak Park at that time.
- Current program in place is opt-In with those residents who want to participate paying for the service; at YE 2019, there were 300 out of 2,576 VRF Single Family Homes and Multi-Family Buildings of 3 or less units participating in the program

#### River Forest Municipal Composting – Residential pounds of organic waste – Last Five Years

|   | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 (*) | 2018 (*) | 2019 (*) |
|---|------|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Single Family Home                            | 242  | 304  | 821      | 2162     | 2229     |
| Multi-Unit Residential Buildings of 3 or Less |      |      |          |          |          |

(\*) Note: Pounds of Waste include leaves that are picked up by the VRF in the fall and composted

Impact: TBD

#### 2020 Action:

- Explore the feasibility of moving from an Opt-In to Opt-Out approach for program participation
- Explore options to reduce the cost of the program including residential sharing of one bin for pick-up
- Share finished compost at no cost to all residents once per year (April)

\* Lauren Behan to define plan for Waste diversion through Roy Strom (Composting, Recycling / Re-Using) and share with the RFSC for adoption

## WASTE

### **Composting – Institutional Curbside**

Owner(s): Lauren Behan, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission \*  
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Increase the amount of institutions participating in the curbside-composting program offered by Roy Strom and Company.

Tactics:

- Inform institutions about the composting program by showcasing current participants such as Trinity High School or the Library; let them know about the program and how it helps with waste diversion
- Continue to inform institutions, especially private schools and their congregations, of the benefits of composting
  - Connect them with organizations such as Seven Generations and the RFSC that can help them set up a program
  - Work with Roy Strom to meet with high organic use organizations such as restaurants and private schools

Status:

- Currently all District 90 schools -- Lincoln, Willard, Roosevelt Middle School, River Forest Community Center, River Forest Tennis Club, River Forest Library, VRF Park District, Trinity High School, River Forest Chocolates and Good Earth are composting via the curbside composting program offered by the VRF through its waste hauler, Roy Strom Company.
- In addition, Concordia and Dominican University compost their kitchens only via this method.

Impact: TBD

2020 Action: Begin by contacting private schools to assess interest in composting, with priority focus on Grace Lutheran, St. Luke's, and St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Elementary.

\* Lauren Behan to define plan for Waste diversion through Roy Strom (Composting, Recycling / Re-Using) and share with the RFSC for adoption



## WASTE

### Composting – Pumpkin Smash

Owner(s): Lauren Behan, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission \*  
Anna Daly, Roosevelt Middle School, Eco-Warriors Faculty Lead  
Jonathan Pape, Village of River Forest Assistant to the Village Administrator

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Educate the residents on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so

- Specifically, share information about the VRF Residential Composting Program
- Keep pumpkins out of the street after Halloween

Tactics: Support the Roosevelt Middle School Eco-Warriors with the execution of the *Pumpkin Smash* each year following Halloween to turn old pumpkins into compost rather than leave them in the street with the leaves as follows:

- Eco-Warriors Faculty Lead works with Roy Strom to secure the dumpster and report back on total pounds composted
- Paper to ensure that the event is promoted on the VRF website and social feeds
- RFSC provides advice / guidance and acts as escalation for issues and opportunities

Impact: Waste Diversion Statistics River Forest Pumpkin Smash  
Composted Waste – Since Program Inception

|                              | 2018      | 2019      |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of Pumpkins Composted | 486       | 512       |
| Pounds of Pumpkin Composted  | 4820 lbs. | 4860 lbs. |

Status: The Pumpkin Smash is in its 2nd year

2020 Action: Continue to support the Pumpkin Smash as indicated above with D90 resources liaising directly with Roy Strom to secure the dumpster and with VRF to promote the event on the VRF website and social feeds

\* Lauren Behan to define plan for Waste diversion through Roy Strom (Composting, Recycling / Re-Using) and share with the RFSC for adoption

## **WASTE**

### **Single-Use Plastic**

Owner(s): TBD, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
TBD, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Reduce waste and consumption of single use plastics.

Strategy: Reduce the amount single use plastics being used at retailers, restaurants and events across the Village of River Forest.

Tactics:

- Educate residents on the harm single use plastic has on the environment.
- Inform residents of alternatives to single use plastics.
- Work with business to reduce single use plastics.
- Work with students who have expressed concern to Village on single use plastic use.

Status:

- Resident Education: RFSC has made several presentations about micro-plastics across River Forest in 2019
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science Class at Roosevelt Middle School, 2019 and 2020
  - RF Library Coffee Monday
  - PlanItGreen Institutional Leaders Breakfast
  - Triton College Science Lecture Series (2)
  - Dominican University Caritas Veritas (2)
  - Dominican University King Scholar Teen Conference
- Retailer Outreach: met with local retailers at VRF Village Hall on July 9, 2019.
- Village Hall is no longer offering drinks in single use plastics
- Retailers are showing interest in changing and working with the RFSC, especially Jewel, Walgreens, Fresh Thyme and La Parillita restaurant
- Several students have approached the VRF and asked them to enforce a bag tax and eliminate straws

Impact: TBD

2020 Action:

- Work with the biggest users of plastic bags (Jewel, Walgreens) to offer a credit for those who bring their own bags.
- Continue to educate residents through presentations and student outreach
- Work with students at high school and middle school to reach residents

Note: The Village is unable to place a tax on plastic bags because the non-home rule status. There is no legal authority for an Illinois non-home rule municipality to adopt a plastic bag tax. In order for a non-home rule municipality, like the Village, to adopt a tax, there must be specific statutory language allowing the Village to do so. There is no State law that allows the Village to tax plastic bags. There have been efforts at the State level to tax and regulate plastic bags, but none have passed (see e.g. SB 1240). Several Illinois home rule municipalities have adopted plastic bag taxes, including Oak Park, Evanston, Woodstock and Edwardsville.

If the Village were a home rule municipality, it could pursue a plastic bag tax. To become a home rule municipality, the Village needs either 25,000 population or for a referendum allowing for home rule to pass.

There is no legal mechanism for a “targeted” referendum to allow the Village to specifically tax or ban plastic bags, but a successful referendum to become a home rule municipality would allow the Village to tax or ban them

## **WASTE**

### **Recycling – Residential Curbside & Special Pick-Up**

Owner(s): Lauren Behan, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission \*  
John Anderson, Village of River Director of Public Works

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Offer progressive, future forward curbside recycling products and services to Village of River Forest residents as part of standard VRF garbage collection program.

Tactics:

- Oversee the standard curbside recycling program maintained by the VRF through its contract with Waste Hauler Roy Strom and offered to all VRF residents as part of the standard garbage collection program
  - Ensure that the program remains amongst the best in the country with advances in residential recycling incorporated into the program in a timely manner
  - Educate VRF residents about proper recycling through the maintenance and distribution of recycling tips and tricks on the Village of River Forest Website working in partnership with Roy Strom (<https://www.vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/departments/4/recyclable-materials-list.pdf>)
- Push for expanded Special Pick-Up Services to cover hard to recycle items like electronics, latex paint, etc.

Status:

- There are currently 2,576 Single Family Homes and Multi-Family Buildings of 3 or less units are serviced by the River Forest waste contract with Roy Strom
- This VRF curbside recycling program remains one of the best in the country with much opportunity to improve Special Pick-up Services; the challenge with expansion is cost  
River Forest is unique in that carts are not rolled out to curb for pick up but left at the top of the drive to be emptied by waste hauler.

Impact: TBD

2020 Action:

- Work with Roy Strom to improve education on proper curbside recycling.
- Provide opportunities for pick up or drop off for items not collected in the recycling bin.
- Make sure website information up to date and accurate.
- Continue to serve on the Illinois Recycling Task Force to obtain current information.
- Keep abreast of current bills that effect waste collection.

\* Lauren Behan to define plan for Waste diversion through Roy Strom (Composting, Recycling / Re-Using) and share with the RFSC for adoption

## WASTE

### Recycling – Onsite Commercial

Owner(s): Lauren Behan, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission \*  
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Educate, encourage and enforce recycling amongst commercial properties and multi-unit buildings of 3 or more units across the Village of River Forest.

Tactics:

- Ensure that the management of multi-unit buildings offer recycling services to residents and report the diversion.
- Encourage commercial properties to offer proper recycling per their individual waste contract.
- Collect data on waste haulers for multi-unit buildings and ensure that they are following the ordinance for reporting .
- For commercial properties offer education materials and support for recycling on their premises.

Status:

- There is no ordinance to date that requires commercial properties to recycle.
- Multi-unit residential buildings of 3 or more are required to offer waste, recycling and yard waste pick up.
  - Currently there is no oversight to make sure that Commercial Properties are recycling their waste and it is unclear whether the Multi-Unit Residential Buildings are reporting waste statistics to the VRF as is required in Village Ordinances and Codifications 6:3-4 Private Waste Disposal.

Impact: TBD

2020 Action:

- Contact all VRF Multi-Unit Residential Buildings to ensure that each individual waste contract and pick-up includes recycling and reporting.
- Educate and offer support to VRF Commercial Properties to ensure a consistent and unified message to all VRF residents and businesses.
- Improve measurement and reporting.

\* Lauren Behan to define plan for Waste diversion through Roy Strom (Composting, Recycling / Re-Using) and share with the RFSC for adoption

## **WASTE**

### **Recycling\_– Holiday Lights Collection**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Owner(s):    | Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commissioner<br>John Anderson, Village of Forest Director of Public Works  |
| Objective:   | Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.   |
| Strategy:    | Educate the residents of the Village of River Forest on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so  |
| Tactics:     | Support the VRF with execution of Holidays Lights Collection each year from December 1 through January 15 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VRF Public Works to liaise with Elgin Recycling to secure the dumpster and report back on total pounds collected</li><li>• VRF Public Works to ensure that the event is promoted on the VRF website and social feeds</li><li>• RFSC provides oversight and acts as escalation for issues and opportunities</li></ul> |
| Impact:      | Service relied upon by residents. Average collection per season is about 500 pounds of lights kept from landfill.  |
| Status:      | Holiday Lights Collection is in its 7 <sup>th</sup> year   |
| 2020 Action: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue collection of holiday lights.</li><li>• Make sure signage is out and sight clearly marked on Hawthorne Avenue behind Village Hall.</li><li>• Advertise with local retailers, schools, and announce on Village website and newsletter.</li></ul>   |

## **WASTE**

### **Recycling\_– Recycling Extravaganza**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Owner(s):    | TBD, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson , Village of River Forest Director of Public Works   |
| Objective:   | Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.   |
| Strategy:    | Educate the residents of the Village of River Forest on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so.   |
| Tactics:     | Execute the one-of-a-kind, tremendously successful River Forest Recycling Extravaganza to encourage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-use through donations to local charities (e.g., old bikes and bike helmets to Working Bikes, school supplies to Scarce, pet supplies to Animal Care League, clothing / household goods to Epilepsy Foundation)</li><li>• Recycling of electronics, scrap metal, batteries.</li><li>• Proper disposal of items that cannot be re-used or recycled (e.g., old florescent lights batteries and medications)</li></ul>   |
| Status:      | <p>The River Forest Recycling Extravaganza celebrated in its 7th year in 2019.</p> <p>During 2012-2016 the event was organized by Julie Moller as part of the Green4Good Committee at District 90. After five years the program stopped due to lack of a market for electronics recycling and liability for the Green4Good committee. After a year, the event returned and was organized again by Ms. Moller under the Sustainability Commission. While the program is successful the amount of consumer electronics is beyond the capacity of a one-day event and beyond the volunteer capabilities to process the amount of materials. (Appendix E charts the materials collected each year)</p> |
| Impact:      | Huge education opportunity for recycling and reuse for residents. See appendix E for impact of items diverted from landfill.   |
| 2020 Action: | <p>Put the program and pause and re-evaluate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work to transition oversight and execution of the annual River Forest Recycling Extravaganza from RFSC to some combination of Roy Strom and the VRF Public Works and make available to RF residents only.</li><li>• Consider a special pick up program with Roy Strom that would eliminate the need of the event and allow residents to recycle/repurpose non recycling bin items at their convenience through a at your door pick up.</li></ul>  |

## WASTE

### Education – Sort It Out (SIO) Stations

Owner(s): Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
Joan Espana, Village of River Forest Clerk

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Educate the residents of the Village of River Forest on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so.

Tactics: Oversee the Sort-It-Out Station (SIO Station) Program implemented by the VRF; this program makes SIO Stations available to VRF residents upon request to encourage waste sorting best practices at private events

- Ensure ongoing relevancy and efficacy of the SIO Stations online information and digital / paper application forms (<https://www.vrf.us/guides/guide/7#zerowaste>)
- Track use of SIO Stations in support of Block Parties and resident special events
- Ensure that signage in support of "build your own" SIO Stations is up to date and available online via the Village of River Forest website in the event that SIO Stations are not available upon request
- Recommend changes to the program as necessary

Status:

- The Village of River Forest now has five (5) SIO Stations available for loan via online application
- With these five (5) SIO Stations, the Village of River Forest is able to fulfill most resident requests

Impact: TBD

2020 Action:

- Request that the Village of River Forest purchase three (3) more **SIO Stations** to ensure that we can meet demand for the SIO Stations loan program 100% of the time
  - This brings the total number of **SIO Stations** owned by the VRF and available for the loan program to eight (8)
- Update the SIO Station instructions on the VRF website including the container labels for "make your own" SIO Stations
- Post copy of sorting labels on the website for residents to print if they choose

## WASTE

### Education – Zero Waste Stations

Owner(s): TBD, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
John Anderson, Village of Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Educate the residents of the Village of River Forest (VRF) on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so.

Tactics:

- Work with the VRF Public Works and VRF Park District to ensure that Zero Waste Stations are set-up and staffed at all large-scale VRF events, complete with compostable bags and signage
- Identify the large-scale VRF events (e.g., Food Truck Rally, Memorial Day Parade Celebration in Keystone Park, Concerts in the Park, etc.)
- Solicit volunteers from across the VRF to staff the Zero Waste Stations
- Create a one-page training document to ensure “one voice” across volunteers as they dialogue with event attendees to evangelize how to sort their waste properly

Status: Zero Waste Stations are now present at most large-scale VRF events such as Party in the Park, LemonAID Stand, Touch a Truck and Food Truck Rally and Des Plaines River Clean UP. There is however, room for improvement:

- Signage – there is very little
- Volunteers – there are few because they are recruited on an event-by-event basis
- Measurement – it is not consistent

Food Truck Rally, Party in the Park, Makin Traks, Memorial Day Parade,  
Work with Library and Park District

Impact: TBD

2020 Action: Elevate and expand the Zero Waste Station Program as follows:

- Create a calendar of large-scale VRF events where the Zero Waste Stations should be present
- Identify and train a cadre of VRF resident volunteers to ensure the effective and efficient execution of the program at each and every large-scale VRF event; as they say, many hands make light work
  - Consider a partnership with the Oak Park River Forest “It’s Out Future” student organization or a similar student organization at Dominican University or Concordia University focused on sustainability
- Consistently measure impact through creation of a results log maintained by the VRF Public Works that keeps track of pounds of waste:
  - Composted
  - Recycled
  - Put in landfill



## **WASTE**

### **Education -- Beyond the Bin**

Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Reduce waste & increase waste diversion

Strategy: To reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill by diverting to recyclers and repurposing

Tactic: Inform people where they can take items, which cannot be recycled through the Village of River Forest's (VRF) curbside recycling program.

Status:

- "Beyond the Bin: Recycling Opportunities in Oak Park and River Forest" document was first published by the Village of Oak Park
  - River Forest and Oak Park collaborated on two updated versions of this document in 2013 and June 2016
  - It is available online via the Village of River Forest website:  
<https://www.vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/departments/4/beyond-the-bin-recycling-resource-guide.pdf>
  - The resource in Oak Park with whom we collaborated has retired
- This document is an easy to use reference guide about how to recycle items not accepted in the VRF's curbside collection program.
- This document includes a comprehensive list of common items and materials that are recyclable and the local and regional businesses that will accept these items from residents for either recycling or reuse.

Impact: TBD

2020 Action:

- Update and expand the "Beyond the Bin: Recycling Opportunities in Oak Park and River Forest" document now on the Village's website to create a standalone document owned exclusively by the VRF, separate and distinct from Oak Park
  - Quicker and easier to maintain
  - Have increased flexibility to update format and include items of particular interest VRF residents; for example:
    - While Resale Shops and Thrift Stores are included in the current document list by type of item to be recycled, it would also be helpful to add a new section that highlights Resale Shops and Thrift Stores in the community with a description of items that can be donated to each one
- Increase awareness and access to this guide amongst VRF residents
  - Include in standard River Forest Sustainability Commission Tabling Materials
  - Feature regularly in VRF resident communications via email and Facebook (e.g., Spring Cleaning message)

## EDUCATION

### **River Forest Green Directory**

Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Reduce waste & increase waste diversion

Strategy: Increase communication and collaboration amongst all those working on green objectives across the Village of River Forest in order to accelerate and expand impact

Tactics: Create a directory containing contact information for all the different sustainability initiatives across the Village of River Forest and the surrounding communities

Status: This document does not yet exist.

Impact: TBD

#### 2020 Action:

- Identify all of the green initiatives currently ongoing across the Village of River Forest and the surrounding communities
- Obtain the names and contact information of the leaders of these initiatives
- Create a directory of this information in order to connect RFSC, Village of River Forest, District 90, Green4Good, the private schools and colleges, Interfaith Green Network, businesses, etc.
- Develop a plan to facilitate communication amongst all those included in the directory

## EDUCATION

### River Forest Sustainability Participation at Community Events

Owner(s): Tabling Instructions: Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
Attending Events, ALL, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Educate residents and greater community of Sustainability Programs and create community partnerships

Strategy: Educate Village of River Forest residents as well as residents in the surrounding communities about the River Forest Sustainability Commission (RFSC) point of view on sustainability, its sustainability agenda and its programs as well as its key partnerships

Tactics:

- Participate in sustainability meetings and events across the Chicagoland area as much as possible
  - Ideally, in a speaking role
  - At the very least, being present to distribute news and information in a formal setting
- Ensure “one voice” in the sharing of information about the RFSC point of view on sustainability, its sustainability agenda and its programs as well as key partnerships through the development of standard presentations and formal “tabling instructions”

Impact: TBD

Status:

- RFSC has been participating in a variety of community events over a number of years including but not limited to:

| Organization                | Event   | 2016<br>(Partial List) | 2017<br>(Partial List) | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|------|------|
| Dominican University        | Caritas Veritas Symposium                       |                        |                        | X    | X    |
|                             | Farm to Table Sustainability Program            |                        |                        | X    | X    |
|                             | Honey Extraction Workshop                       |                        |                        | X    |      |
| One Earth Film Festival     | Annual Film Festival Movie Screenings           | X                      | X                      | X    | X    |
|                             | Young Filmmakers Contest Winner Screening       | X                      | X                      | X    | X    |
|                             | Beye PTO Green Team Film Screening              |                        |                        |      | X    |
| Lemonaid Stand              |   |                        | X                      | X    | X    |
| Midwest Grows Green         | Chicago Grows Green Week Celebration Fundraiser |                        |                        |      | X    |
| Green Community Connections | Forum on Sustainability                         |                        | X                      |      |      |
| District 90                 | Sustainability Tour                             |                        | X                      | X    | X    |
| PlantGreen                  | Institutional Leaders Forum                     | X                      | X                      | X    | X    |
| Park District               | Party in the Park                               | X                      | X                      |      |      |
| River Forest Library        | Des Plaines River Clean Up                      |                        |                        | X    |      |
|                             | Touch a Truck                                   |                        |                        | X    |      |
|                             | Green Energy Forum                              |                        |                        |      | X    |
|                             | Coffee Monday                                   |                        |                        |      |      |

- In 2019, we crafted a formal RFSC Tabling Materials List and Instruction Documentation to ensure that there is consistency in RFSC presence regardless of the person representing the RFSC

Impact: RFSC members are valued participants in many events focused on sustainability across the Chicagoland area

2020 Action:

- Develop an annual calendar of community events that the RFSC will participate in and assign a RFSC well before the event
- Update all RFSC Tabling Materials
- Create a library of formal presentation materials on key topics so that they are readily available for use by any member of the RFSC

## EDUCATION

### **Green Block Parties**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Owner(s):  | TBD, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>Joan Espana, Village of River Forest Clerk  |
| Objective: | Increase awareness and educate residents on sustainability programs in Village.   |
| Strategy:  | Offer a fun interactive program for all ages that highlights sustainability and is easily presented during a block party.   |
| Tactics:   | Continue to offer new, or enhance existing, programming for each block party season. Work closely with Village staff to update information on website in April and communicate program. Provide oversight during season to ensure program running smoothly. |
| Status:    | The Green Block Party is in its 8 <sup>th</sup> year.   |

The Green Block Party was the idea of former Sustainability Commissioner Sue Crothers, while she served on the Park District Foundation. The first Green Block party was introduced in 2012 as an education piece for waste reduction. With a grant from the OPRF Community Foundation the Park District Foundation created a "Green Block Party Kit" which was delivered by Public Works to the block party. It included street barriers with green logo, compost caddy, banners, and information on how to go "green" and reduce waste. Each year since the GBP program has been enhanced with programming and presentations. For example, in 2013 each block received a free compost Earth Machine and caddy to raffle off after a presentation on compost and waste diversion and This program included employing an intern from Dominican University for three years.

The Green Block Party includes fun education tools such as local honey tastings, a blender bike that uses your own power to mix up a healthy drink. Through the GBP we have collaborated with Dominican University, Midwest Grows Green, Sugarbeet Schoolhouse, Roy Strom and Company, Deep Roots, Wild Ones, local beekeepers and gardeners.

**2012, 2013** → Theme was backyard composting/waste diversion-offered free backyard composter to one attendee (Funding through OPRF Community Foundation)

**2014** → Rain barrel giveaway and native plants

**2015** → Curbside Composting offered free year of curbside composting subscription to one attendee, support from Roy Strom and Company.

**2016, 2017** → Healthy, Lawn Healthy Family Campaign along with compost education. Introduced the Sort It Stations Loan program through a grant from Keep Illinois Beautiful. Further funding provided by commission and local grant.

**2018, 2019** → Parkway for Pollinators program along with information on the HLHF campaign. Funding Grant from PlanItGreen and ComEd Openlands.

**2020** → River Forest Tree Trails program introduced.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Impact: | Block Parties are a large part of the River Forest Community. Every season there are approximately 30-35 block parties and 75% are usually green. Through programming and interaction at the block parties we have increased awareness on pollinators, native plants, pesticides and waste diversion mainly composting. Each year we reach 1500+ residents at block parties. |
|---------|--|

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2020 Action: | Create and test drive River Forest Tree Trails |
|--------------|--|

## ECOSYSTEMS

### Action Plan Goals 4:07,14; 8:23,25,26, 33; 9:16

#### Gardens -- Parkways for Pollinators (P4P) -- Village of River Forest Parkways for Pollinators Program

Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
David Murphy, The Deep Roots Project

Objective(s): Sequester carbon and enhance support for eco-systems with a focus on pollinators. Provide habitat for Monarch butterflies per the Mayors Monarch Pledge. Educate residents on the benefit of native plantings and importance of pollinators.

Strategy: Increase the square footage of native plantings throughout the Village of River Forest (VRF) to support pollinators and mitigate flooding through the use of native plants.

#### Tactics:

- Plant sun and shade gardens composed exclusively of native species on village-owned parkways to attract native pollinators and butterflies
- Encourage residents to participate by offering these gardens at no cost as an activity for children and adults as part of a Green Block Party
- Offer gardens to schools throughout the village at no cost as an activity for Green Groups (e.g., Green4Good, Trinity HS Horticulture Club, etc.)
- The Deep Roots Project performs the garden prep, planting, spring clean-up and mulching; resident garden host to water, weed and maintain the garden
- Work with the VRF staff to add / modify / remove the request for a P4P garden on the Block Party Request Form and provide instruction in the Block Party Permit Approval and Instruction Email to residents
- Create and maintain informational material on the VRF website
- Input the gardens on the Green America Climate Victory Garden map as well as on the VRF native garden map

Status: The program is funded through grants from The Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation, PlanItGreen and the ComEd Openlands Program for three years from 2018 through 2020.

Impact: 2,200 square feet of new native plantings have been added throughout River Forest. In addition, over 1800 residents at block parties have been exposed to the highly visible gardens which serve to educate all residents about native plants and their benefits.

| Year | Funding Source (Amount)                            | # of Gardens Planted | # of Gardens Maintained | Square Feet Planted | Total Square Feet | Annual Budget |
|------|--|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 2018 | OPRF Community Foundation (\$6,500)                | 15                   | 0                       | 600                 | 600               | \$6,500       |
| 2019 | PlanItGreen (\$7,500)<br>VRF (\$350)               | 20                   | 15                      | 800                 | 1400              | \$7,850       |
| 2020 | PlanItGreen (\$5,000)<br>ComEd Openlands (\$5,000) | 20                   | 35                      | 800                 | 2200              | \$10,000      |

#### 2020 Action:

- Submit Annual Program Reports
  - To PlanItGreen in 2019 -- COMPLETE
  - To PlanItGreen and ComEd Openlands in 2020
- Increase the FY2020 budget to cover increased costs – COMPLETE
  - Mulching almost twice as many gardens (35 in 2020 vs. 15 in 2019 vs. 0 in 2018)

- Adding a second garden examination once the plants are in bloom to ensure garden quality with action take at additional cost
  - In 2019, we “spruced up” three shade gardens planted in 2018 at an incremental cost of \$500; these gardens had been damaged due to lack of water and deer
- Evolve program execution to make it easier for The Deep Roots Project to deliver -- COMPLETE
  - Explore new methods for garden preparation to reduce labor as well as the amount of turf being composted
  - Limit the planting season to August and September
    - Over 75% of block parties requesting P4P Gardens in 2019 took place during this time period.
  - Limit the number of gardens that are planted in any one day during the planting season to no more than two (2).
  - Offer gardens to residents outside of Block Parties through an online application available via the Village of River Forest website.
- Expand the program by offering sun and shade gardens to Institutions and Places of Worship in 2020
- Define the vision and source of funding for the program after the 2020 season to cover ongoing maintenance and new plantings

## ECOSYSTEMS

### Gardens – Inspirational Edible Garden Program

Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
David Murphy, The Deep Roots Project

Objective: Sequester carbon; enhance support for eco-systems and health education on growing your own food.

Strategy: Encourage the growing of edible gardens across the Village of River Forest (VRF) on private property.

Tactics:

- Pilot a partnership with The Deep Roots Project to offer institutions six (6) Edible Gardens throughout the village with two years of maintenance at no cost via a \$6,000 grant received from Green America with the following conditions:
  - Gardens must be in view of the public
  - At least 25% of the produce grown in the garden must be donated to a local food pantry during the two year period of support
- Educate Village of River Forest residents about the positive benefits of growing edible gardens
  - Grow food that can be eaten by the grower and/or be given away to food pantries for distribution to under-privileged people who do not have access to and/or cannot afford to purchase freshly grown produce
  - Exercise through planting, mulching, weeding and harvesting

Status:

- Five (5) of the six (6) Inspiration Edible Garden Project Gardens have been installed and planted by The Deep Roots Project in partnership with the garden owner during the pilot program; current locations are:

| Garden Number | Garden Owner   | Location              |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1             | Little Bits  | 411 Park Ave, RF      |
| 2             | Trinity High School  | 7574 Division St, RF  |
| 3             | West Suburban Temple Har Zion Synagogue                            | 1040 N Harlem Ave, RF |
| 4             | Trailside Museum of Natural History                                | 738 Thatcher Ave, RF  |
| 5             | Private Residence -- Handicapped Children's Garden -- Karyn Kurrie | 7613 Vine Street, RF  |
| 6             | TBD  | TBD                   |

Impact: To date, the Inspiration Edible Gardens sourced from the VRF have donated over 150 pounds of fresh produce to local food pantries and other organizations supplying fresh food to those in need

2020 Action:

- Find another Institution to install and maintain the sixth and final Inspiration Edible Garden available through the pilot program; it was given to Dominican University in 2018, but this institution is having trouble determining placement
  - Consider Places of Worship to ensure year-round care for the garden, prioritizing those with schools
- Consider the purchase of additional Inspiration Edible Gardens for installation and planting from The Deep Roots Project at \$1,000 per garden
- Ensure that the produce grown in the gardens is donated to a Food Bank per the program vision
- Encourage Village of River Forest residents to add their privately maintained Edible Gardens that qualify to the Victory Climate Garden Map @ <https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens/commitment-grow-climate-victory-garden>



## ECOSYSTEMS

### Gardens – Natives

- Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
Mary Massella, Village of River Forest Resident (former Sustainability Commissioner)  
Mark Janopoulos, Village of River Forest Public Works Department
- Objective: Sequester carbon and enhance support for eco-systems.
- Strategy: Encourage the growing of native plants across the Village of River Forest (VRF) on public land in place of turf and flowerbeds comprised of annual flowers and greenery
- Tactics: Work with Village of River Forest Public Works to design gardens that use native plants on VRF property
- Status: The RFSC has much success in the replacement of turf and annual gardens with native plantings with the following native plantings installed to date:

| Garden Name  | Garden Size<br>(Square Feet) | Garden Location          |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Forest and Iowa Triangle Wildflower Garden         | 3,000                        | Forest & Iowa            |
| Franklin and Hawthorne NW Native Garden            | 235                          | Franklin & Hawthorne     |
| Keystone Sled Hill Wildflower Garden               | 7,250                        | Keystone & Hawthorne     |
| Keystone Tennis Court Wildflower Garden            | 600                          | 500 Forest Avenue        |
| Memorial Parkway Butterfly Garden 1                | 100                          | Lake & Monroe NW         |
| Memorial Parkway Butterfly Garden 2                | 100                          | Lake & Jackson NE        |
| Memorial Parkway Butterfly Garden 3                | 100                          | Lake & Jackson NW        |
| Memorial Parkway Butterfly Garden 4                | 100                          | Lake & Lathrop NE        |
| Priory Park Wildflower Garden                      | 4,000                        | Berkshire & William      |
| Rain Garden @ NE Corner of Chicago and Forest      | 603                          | Chicago & Forest NE      |
| Rain Garden @ NE Corner of Chicago and Jackson     | 513                          | Chicago & Jackson NE     |
| Rain Garden @ NE Corner of Chicago and Keystone    | 468                          | Chicago & Keystone NE    |
| Rain Garden @ NW Corner of Chicago and Forest      | 792                          | Chicago & Forest NW      |
| Rain Garden @ NW Corner of Chicago and Jackson     | 513                          | Chicago & Jackson NW     |
| Rain Garden @ NW Corner of Chicago and Keystone    | 477                          | Chicago & Keystone NW    |
| Rain Garden @ SE Corner of Chicago and Bonnie Brae | 513                          | Chicago & Bonnie Brae SE |
| Rain Garden @ SE Corner of Chicago and Forest      | 774                          | Chicago & Forest SE      |
| Rain Garden @ SE Corner of Chicago and Jackson     | 504                          | Chicago & Jackson SE     |
| Rain Garden @ SE Corner of Chicago and Keystone    | 513                          | Chicago & Keystone SE    |
| Rain Garden @ SW Corner of Chicago and Bonnie Brae | 513                          | Chicago & Bonnie Brae SW |
| Rain Garden @ SW Corner of Chicago and Forest      | 738                          | Chicago & Forest SW      |
| Rain Garden @ SW Corner of Chicago and Jackson     | 513                          | Chicago & Jackson SW     |
| Rain Garden @ SW Corner of Chicago and Keystone    | 513                          | Chicago & Keystone SW    |
| River Forest Butterfly Garden                      | 320                          | Hawthorne & Central      |
| River Forest Depot Wildflower Garden               | 400                          | 407 Thatcher Avenue      |
| Washington Square Wildflower Garden                | 800                          | 7901 Washington Blvd     |
| TOTAL  | 24,952                       |                          |

Impact: VRF has almost 25,000 square feet of native plantings on public land. All of these gardens have been input to the Victory Climate Garden Map @ <https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens/commitment-grow-climate-victory-garden>

2020 Action:

- Continue to work with RF Park District to monitor and increase native plantings
- Continue to work with Village of River Forest Public Works to design gardens that use native plants on VRF property
  - Create a master plan for the village to add native plants along each side of the train tracks, along Central and Hawthorne
  - Redesign the native plantings at the Waller Gates at Auvergne and Lake which were damaged by a car accident and subsequent repair work
- Input new native gardens installed on VRF lands and add District 90's native gardens that qualify to the Victory Climate Garden Map @ <https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens/commitment-grow-climate-victory-garden>

## ECOSYSTEMS

### Gardens – Community

- Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
Mary Massella, Village of River Forest Resident (former Sustainability Commissioner)  
Mike Sletten, Village of River Forest Park District
- Objective: Sequester carbon, enhance support for eco-systems and create a community project.
- Strategy: Partner with the VRF Park District and VRF Public Works to provide organic gardening opportunities and create a sense of community for residents who do not have their own green space
- Tactics:
- The VRF Park District and VRF Public Works jointly maintain a Community Herb Garden at the corner of Keystone and Augusta
  - The VRF Park District also offers 22 garden plots, a flower garden and herb garden next to the Pumping Station at Jackson Avenue and Berkshire Street for rent at \$25.00 per season plus a \$50.00 deposit
    - The VRF Park District handles all administrative aspects of the program including advertising and registration
    - Previous year gardeners have first option to renew the following season; there is no limit on the number of times you can renew
    - At registration, gardeners sign an agreement to maintain the garden in accordance with rules and regulations established by the RFSC, VRF Park District and VRF Public Works, including not using chemicals and keeping the plot watered, tidy and clean
    - The RFSC hosts two to three community gatherings per season to ensure success of gardens; the social aspect has been shown to be essential for success of community gardens
      - Time and weather permitting, the gatherings include one to plan how to grow an organic garden with an expert speaker; a community planting session; and a barbeque to enjoy fruits of the harvest
    - RFSC also provides a garden manager who is the point of contact for garden management including addressing any issues that may arise in a timely manner (e.g., over- watering, destructive animals, etc.)
    - The garden manager, RFSC, VRF Park District and VRF Public Works collectively monitor the gardens; as issues are identified, they are shared and an action plan defined to resolve the issue
    - VRF Public Works maintains the water supply to the garden site
  - All Community Gardens have been input to the Victory Climate Garden Map @ <https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens/commitment-grow-climate-victory-garden>
- Impact:
- Almost 1,200 square feet of community gardens that are edible now exist across the VRF, including:
    - 880 square feet of community organic garden plots -- 22 gardens plots @ 40 square feet per plot
    - 56.52 square feet of community resident gardener planted beds – one for flowers and another for herbs -- @ 28.26 square feet per bed
    - 246 square foot Community Herb Garden planted and maintained by the VRF Park District.
  - Each resident gardener harvested enough organic produce from their rented garden plot(s) to supply plentiful fresh vegetables and herbs for their own tables, with one gardener donating 100

pounds of produce to Ascension Community Garden who in turn donated to St. Martin's Food Pantry in the Austin neighborhood.

- The Community Gardens promote good nutrition, physical activity, support of the local ecosystem, and social interaction with residents with similar interests.

2020 Action:

- Continue offering and supporting 22 community garden plots for rent to VRF residents at the Pumping Station, commencing with a meeting with previous year gardeners to discuss improvements to the program for the upcoming year.
- Explore the possibility of another location to expand community gardening opportunities with VRF Park District and VRF Public Works.

## ECOSYSTEMS

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM) -- Healthy Lawns / Healthy Family (HL/HF)

Owner(s): TBD, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
Joan Espana, Village of River Forest Clerk

Objective: Promote best practices for lawn care and landscaping at the residential level to reduce use and impact of lawn care products on human health and the environment.

Strategy: Encourage residents to stop using chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers when caring for their lawns and gardens

Tactics:

- Incorporate the HL/HF program into the Green Block Party: explain the HL/HF program, distribute instructions on natural lawn care, ask residents to take the HL/HF pledge, give all residents who take the pledge a lawn sign
- Work with the Village of River Forest staff to create and maintain an online application for the HL/HF program
- Distribute HL / HF lawn signs to all residents who take the online HL/HF pledge
- Keep the HL/HF program participant list up to date (e.g., remove individuals who no longer adhere to the tenets of the pledge, who have moved away from River Forest)
  - Distribute an email each spring to all participants in the HL/HF program to confirm their ongoing participation in the program and to remind them to put out their lawn sign

Status: The HL/HF program was started in 2015 and is now in its fifth year

Impact: 2019 HL/HF program participation is summarized below.  
All residents were informed of the program in 2015 when 3,200 brochures with pledge forms were put in resident water bills during the first year.

| Category   | Count as of<br>June 16 | Count as of<br>July 9 | Count as of<br>September 1 |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| # of Unique Residential Households that Pledged from 2015-2018                             | 137                    | 137                   | 137                        |
| # of 2019 Online Pledges   | 0                      | 3                     | 6                          |
| # of 2019 Block Party Pledges  | 0                      | 0                     | 0                          |
| Total # of Original Pledges  | 137                    | 140                   | 143                        |
| # of RF Institutions in Program (Schools & Parks)  | 13                     | 13                    | 13                         |
| # of Households Who Pledged but Have Subsequently Moved Out of Town                        | 3                      | 3                     | 4                          |
| # of Households that Pledged in 2015-2018 & Reconfirmed Their Ongoing Participation        | 32                     | 52                    | 66                         |
| # of Households that Pledged in 2015-2018 & Informed RFSC that They No Longer Adhere to    | 0                      | 7                     | 7                          |
| # of Households with No / Bad Email  | 23                     | 24                    | 23                         |
| # of Households that Pledged in 2015-2018 Who Have Not Replied to the Reconfirmation Email | 79                     | 51                    | 37                         |

2020 Action:

- Remove the HL/HF program from the Green Block Party as most block party participants have already heard the presentation
- Continue the HL/HF online program application process as it yields the most qualified program participants – they seek out the program online and complete the online form
- Evangelize integrated pest management amongst Village of River Forest residents through seminars on Natural Lawn Care targeted toward young parents at the Village of River Forest Library
- Continue to monitor permitting process for lawn care providers

## ECOSYSTEMS

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – Midwest Grows Green

Owner(s): TBD, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
Mark Janopoulos, Village of River Forest Public Works Department  
Mike Sletten, Village of River Forest Park District

Objective: Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems

Strategy: Join forces with Midwest Grows Green in advocating for eco-friendly lawns and gardens across the Village of River Forest (VRF)

Tactics:

- Build relationship with Ryan Anderson (as well as his substitute while Ryan Anderson is on a leave of absence), our key contact at Midwest Grows Green (randerson@ipminstitute.org)
- Attend Midwest Grows Green webinars, have a presence at their events and support their activities
- Work with both the VRF Park District and the VRF Forest Public Works to continue / expand their adoption of integrated pest management best practices in the maintenance of all green space under their respective purviews including all D90 grounds and the River Forest Public Library.
- Work to get other institutions to implement integrated pest management best practices in the care of their lawns and other green space.

Status: The VRF Park District and VRF Forest Public Works have been applying integrated pest management best practices to the maintenance of green space under their respective purviews since April 2016. Dominican University is also using integrated pest management best practices.

Impact: As of September 2019, over 32.6 acres of green space across the VRF are maintained using integrated pest management best practices with occasional spot treatment of stubborn weeds and damaging insects (e.g., grubs).

2020 Action:

- Expand the partnership with Midwest Grows Green in order to:
  - Showcase the fact that the VRF is one of only a handful of communities in the Chicagoland area using integrated pest management practices to manage public lands; see this link: <http://midwestgrowsgreen.org/midwest-grows-green-4-year-review/>
  - Secure funding for expanded IPM through Midwest Grows Green partnerships with Patagonia and Stonyfield Organics
- Work with Institutions, Businesses and Places of Worship to adopt integrated pest management best practices in the maintenance of all green space under their purview; FY2020 priorities are as follows:

| Practicing IPM | Organization Type | Organization Name                           | Organization Address | Organization Key Contact(s)                   |
|----------------|-------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Yes            | Government        | Village of River Forest (VRF)               | 400 Park Ave, RF     | Mark Janopoulos<br>VRF Public Works Dept      |
| Yes            | Government        | Village of River Forest (VRF) Park District | 401 Thatcher Ave, RF | Mike Sletten<br>VRF Park District             |
| Yes            | Institution       | River Forest District 90                    | 7776 Lake St, RF     | Edward J. Condon, PH.D.<br>Superintendent D90 |
| Yes            | Institution       | River Forest Library                        | 735 Lathrop Ave, RF  | Sue Quinn, Director                           |
| No             | Institution       | Concordia University                        | 7400 Augusta St, RF  |   |
| Yes            | Institution       | Dominican University                        | 7900 Division St, RF |   |

|     |                  |   |                       |               |
|-----|------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| TBD | Institution      | Grace Lutheran School                         | 7300 Division St, RF  |               |
| TBD | Institution      | St. Luke's Parish School                      | 519 Ashland Ave, RF   |               |
| TBD | Institution      | St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Elementary School | 1515 Lathrop Ave, RF  |               |
| TBD | Institution      | Trinity High School                           | 7574 Division St, RF  |               |
| TBD | Other            | Little Bits                                   | 411 Park Ave, RF      | Liita Forsyth |
| TBD | Other            | Sugar Beet Schoolhouse                        | 349 Ashland Ave, RF   | Cheryl Munoz  |
| TBD | Place of Worship | Chicago Center of Self-Realization Fellowship | 946 N Harlem Ave, RF  |               |
| TBD | Place of Worship | Christ Church Episcopal Church                | 515 Franklin Ave, RF  |               |
| TBD | Place of Worship | First Presbyterian Church of River Forest     | 7551 Quick Ave, RF    |               |
| TBD | Place of Worship | Grace Lutheran Church                         | 7300 Division St, RF  |               |
| TBD | Place of Worship | River Forest United Methodist Church          | 7970 W. Lake St, RF   |               |
| TBD | Place of Worship | St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church              | 7600 W Lake St, RF    |               |
| TBD | Place of Worship | St. Vincent Ferrer Church                     | 1530 Jackson Ave, RF  |               |
| TBD | Place of Worship | West Suburban Temple Har Zion Synagogue       | 1040 N Harlem Ave, RF |               |

## ECOSYSTEMS

### Trees – Tree Location Map

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Owner(s):    | Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works  |
| Objective:   | Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems.  |
| Strategy:    | Safeguard the many trees that comprise the tree canopy of the Village of River Forest (VRF), making it a truly spectacular place to live.  |
| Tactics:     | <p>Create and maintain a <b>Tree &lt;Location&gt; Map</b> for the VRF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ VRF Forestry Division maintains over 8,000 trees (and over 90 species) in Village rights-of-way or the area commonly known as "the parkway." The Village inspects, monitors, trims, removes, plants, and inoculates parkway trees (only Ash) throughout the Village, throughout the year.</li><li>○ As part of its community involvement and education initiative, the Village Forestry Division has completed a tree species location mapping across the Village. As part of the tree location map, tree information that is provided for each tree planted along the Village parkway includes common name, diameter, height, spread and inventory/planting date.</li></ul> |
| Status:      | <p>The <b>Tree &lt;Location&gt; Map</b> has been created and is now accessible to the public via the Village of River Forest website</p> <p>(<a href="https://www.gisconsortium.org/WebApps/CommunityPortalWebMaps/VRF/TreeMap/index.html">https://www.gisconsortium.org/WebApps/CommunityPortalWebMaps/VRF/TreeMap/index.html</a>)</p>  |
| Impact:      | TBD  |
| 2020 Action: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publicize the availability of the Village tree location map</li><li>• Consider signage/app mapping technologies throughout the Village's park system</li><li>• Consider signage to highlight significant trees across the Village of River Forest (e.g. the oldest tree, the rarest tree, etc.)</li></ul>  |



## **ECOSYSTEMS**

### **Trees – Annual Tree Tour**

Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
TBD, Mortem Arboretum

Objective: Sequester carbon; enhance support for eco-systems and education residents.

Strategy: Safeguard the many trees that comprise the tree canopy of the Village of River Forest (VRF), making it a truly spectacular place to live.

Tactics:

- Educate residents about trees by taking them on an Annual Tree Tour
  - Teach VRF residents why they are an important part of our eco-system and how to care for them to ensure their long-term viability.
  - This knowledge enables participants to take a more active role in managing River Forest's landscape starting with their own backyard.
  - Understanding what makes a tree healthy is a first step in this direction.
- Invite Village of River Forest residents and visitors on a 1 to 2-mile walking tour across the Village.
- While on the tour, participants learn about trees; specifically, how to identify trees, how they are managed, why they are so important, and why they need our help.
- The tour also helps with residential tree selection and considerations for maintaining tree diversity in our Village neighborhoods.

Status: The Annual Tree Tour is offered on an annual basis. Emily Okallau, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum, leads the tour. See event details here: [https://vrf.us/events/event/1578?fbclid=IwAR03\\_4dS\\_hnq79L-pDFaW20k95Twp1qhOu9lx8mb1ytOfgqJz-GAmz4XAr8](https://vrf.us/events/event/1578?fbclid=IwAR03_4dS_hnq79L-pDFaW20k95Twp1qhOu9lx8mb1ytOfgqJz-GAmz4XAr8)

Impact: TBD

2020 Action:

- Implement the annual Tree Tour in May 2020
- Consider a bike tour option

## ECOSYSTEMS

### Trees – ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation

Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems.

Strategy: Safeguard the many trees that comprise the tree canopy of the Village of River Forest (VRF), making it a truly spectacular place to live.

Tactics: Secure a third-party endorsement of the Village of River Forest's robust commitment to its tree canopy – the **ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation**. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is designed to:

- Recognize standard of excellence in tree-focused communities;
- Foster professionalism in maintaining landscapes that are devoted to trees (i.e. arboreta);
- Enable conservation, collections, and scientific collaborations; and
- Advance the planning, study and conservation of trees.

Status: Approved for level one.

|                                    | LEVEL I | LEVEL II | LEVEL III | LEVEL IV |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Arboretum plan                     | ■       | ■        | ■         | ■        |
| Organizational or governance group | ■       | ■        | ■         | ■        |
| Labeled tree and woody plant taxa  |         |          |           |          |
| 25+                                | ■       |          |           |          |
| 100+                               |         | ■        |           |          |
| 500+                               |         |          | ■         | ■        |
| Staff or volunteer support         |         |          |           |          |
| Volunteer or paid                  | ■       |          |           |          |
| Paid management                    |         | ■        | ■         | ■        |
| Curator                            |         |          | ■         | ■        |
| Scientific or conservation staff   |         |          |           | ■        |

|   | LEVEL I | LEVEL II | LEVEL III | LEVEL IV |
|---|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Public dimension                                    |         |          |           |          |
| Public access and at least one event per year       | ■       | ■        | ■         | ■        |
| Enhanced public and educational programs            |         | ■        | ■         | ■        |
| Substantial educational programming                 |         |          | ■         | ■        |
| Collections policy                                  |         | ■        | ■         | ■        |
| Collaboration with other arboreta                   |         |          | ■         | ■        |
| Collections data sharing with networked collections |         |          | ■         | ■        |
| Agenda for tree science, planting, and conservation |         |          | ■         | ■        |
| Collections conservation                            |         |          |           | ■        |
| Conservation role in Global Trees Campaign          |         |          |           | ■        |

- For comparison purposes, the Village of Oak Park Arboretum is a Level II Accredited Arboretum; we expect that the Village of River Forest could achieve this same level of accreditation.
- Note that the program provides members with open-access resources and would also provide the Village with access to an international network of tree-focused professionals (i.e., ask tree-related questions of fellow community members).

Impact: TBD

2020 Action:

- Apply Level II accreditation in 2021
- Collaborate with community members as the opportunity arises to advance the VRF current arboretum (e.g., tree canopy)

## **ECOSYSTEMS**

### **Trees – River Forest Tree Trails**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Owner(s):    | Ellie Raidt, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission<br>Beth Cheng, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission           |
| Objective:   | Sequester carbon; enhance support for eco-systems and education residents.  |
| Strategy:    | Safeguard the many trees that comprise the tree canopy of the Village of River Forest (VRF), making it a truly spectacular place to live. |
| Tactics:     | TBD   |
| Impact:      | TBD   |
| 2020 Action: | TBD   |

## ASSESS, TRACK And REPORT

Owner(s): Shannon Roberts, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission  
Beth Cheng, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Measure the success of Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission.

Strategy: Implement a set of standard key performance indicators (KPIs) for all RFSC programs to track progress against our overarching goal of reducing the level of greenhouse gas emissions that all VRF residents, institutions, businesses, places of worship and governmental bodies producing with those KPIs aligned with those commonly used at the global, federal and state levels

Tactics:

- Define KPIs for greenhouse emissions tied to each of the RFSC strategies:
  - Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy
  - Expand green transportation & mobility options
  - Protect water sources as well as reduce water consumption
  - Reduce waste & increase waste diversion
  - Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems
- Determine measurable goals that ladder up to these KPIs for each of project by strategy working with the project owners
- Ensure that the project owners measure their programs on a consistent basis
- Gather all project measures
- Calculate each KPI on an annual basis as part of annual planning

Status: Conducted an initial baseline measurement River Forest's greenhouse gas inventory using the ICLEI US Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting Greenhouse Gases.

### Impact

#### **River Forest Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

| Sources                          | 2018 MT CO <sub>2</sub> e |                   |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
|                                  | Generated                 | Diverted          |
| Natural Gas - Residential        | 62,863.89                 |                   |
| Electricity                      | 49,683.85                 |                   |
| Passenger vehicle use - gasoline | 8,375.84                  |                   |
| Freight train                    |                           |                   |
| Waste - MSW                      | 955.84                    |                   |
| Water and wastewater energy use  |                           |                   |
| Waste - Recyclables              |                           | (2,189.35)        |
| Waste - Compost                  |                           | (349.72)          |
| Forests Lands                    |                           |                   |
| <b>Inventory</b>                 | <b>121,879.42</b>         | <b>(2,539.07)</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>119,340.35</b>         |                   |

## Village of River Forest GHG Inventory



- Natural Gas - Residential
- Electricity
- Passenger vehicle use - gasoline
- Freight train
- Waste - MSW
- Water and wastewater energy use
- Waste - Recyclables
- Waste - Compost
- Forests Lands

### 2020 Action:

Define KPIs for three of the six RFSC core strategies and work with the project owners to define measurable goals that ladder up to the KPIs

- Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy
- Reduce waste & increase waste diversion
- Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems

Continue to refine and update the greenhouse gas inventory. Identify initiative impacts on inventory to continue to track year over year change.

#### 1. 2019 data needs

- Natural gas
- Electricity
- VMT per household
- Water use

#### 2. Other opportunities to further refine

- Is natural gas the only fuel combusted in RF? Any diesel or other?
- Is there a regional travel model for RF?
- Did we want to include emissions from freight trains through RF?
- Is it possible to source water numbers from Stickney water treatment from the village if not available publicly?
- What is the acreage of forest in RF? Or should we use web modeling?

## MISC

- Owner(s): Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
- Objective: Explore other ideas and continue to enhance the existing plan
- Strategy: This document should continue to be updated and used by the SC. In the future it could be used to develop a full sustainability comprehensive plan in addition to serving as a history for future commissioners, other commissions, staff and the Village Board members.
- Tactics: All commissioner members should acknowledge their responsibilities and update information as necessary. This includes updating your information on website and promoting your project where necessary (newsletter, Village Facebook, schools etc.)
- Status: Plan presented on February 24 to the Village Board of Trustees.
- 2020 Action: For record keeping we would like to explore and expand on the following ideas:
- Identify how to implement the use of volunteers on the commission
  - Explore electric charging stations and electric fleet
  - Support policy preemption regarding pesticide use
  - Develop ways to work with other commissions
  - Consider the application of commercial design guidelines for all developments in the Villages
  - Continue engaging students and incorporate requests when possible
  - Continue Student Commissioner and refine responsibilities

## Appendices

- A. The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest  
([https://www.vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/guides/bicycle\\_plan\\_report\\_final\\_7-31-19.pdf](https://www.vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/guides/bicycle_plan_report_final_7-31-19.pdf))
- B. Chicago Agreement on Climate and Community (<https://www.chicommunityclimate.org/the-chicago-agreement>)
- C. PlanItGreen 100% Renewable Energy Pledge
- D. Monarch Pledge (<https://www.nwf.org/MayorsMonarchPledge/About>)
- E. Recycling Extravaganza Chart

# **RFSC Calendar for FY21**

As of June 16, 2020

## **May 2020**

Pollinator Garden Maintenance by Deep Roots  
Make sure Block Party information is updated and on website  
12 Commission Meeting  
19 PlanItGreen Meeting  
25 Green News submission

## **June 2020**

Create renewable energy information and place on Sustainability page of website  
9 Commission Meeting  
16 PlanItGreen Meeting  
25 Green News submission

## **July 2020**

14 Commission Meeting  
21 PlanItGreen Meeting  
25 Green News submission

## **August 2020**

11 Commission Meeting  
18 PlanItGreen Meeting  
25 Green News submission

## **September 2020**

8 Commission Meeting  
15 PlanItGreen Meeting  
Request Holiday light pick up  
25 Green News submission

## **October 2020**

13 Commission Meeting  
Pumpkin Smash contact Roosevelt Middle School Eco Club  
20 PlanItGreen Meeting  
25 Green News submission  
Email HLHF participants to put away signs and keep until spring

## **November 2020**

First Saturday is the Pumpkin Smash with Roosevelt Middle School  
Follow up on Community Garden clean up  
10 Commission Meeting  
17 PlanItGreen Meeting  
Email compost subscribers that pick up is every other Tuesday  
25 Green News submission

## **December 2020**

1 Holiday lights drop off begins  
8 Commission Meeting  
15 PlanItGreen Meeting  
Parkway for Pollinator report o PlanItGreen  
25 Green News submission

## **January 2021**



15 Last Holiday lights pick up  
Present 2021 Goals to Village Board and Recap 2020  
25 Green News submission

#### February 2021

Develop new program for Green Block Parties  
Request compost drop off for Earth Day weekend at Park District  
Begin planning earth day  
Begin Planning tree Tour  
Contact Mary Masella regarding and Park District regarding Community Gardens  
Date for water turn on etc.  
25 Green News submission

#### March 2021

Contact Park District about Des Plaines River Clean Up (cross promotion ideas)  
Contact Park District to confirm using Parking lot for finished compost pick up  
Begin Block Party planning  
Send email that there will be compost pick up  
25 Green News submission

#### April 2021

Email HLHF participants  
Confirm have supplies for Sort It Out stations and signage current  
April Midwest Grows Green Talk at RF Library  
Compost Pick up changes to every Tuesday  
22 Earth Day Event  
25 Green News submission

#### May 2021

Waste contract expires with Strom  
Final Pollinator Garden Maintenance by Deep Roots  
Promote Electronics Recycling pick up program through Strom  
1 2021 deadline for Openlands grantee report  
25 Green News submission

# River Forest Tree Trails On My Block

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/Block: \_\_\_\_\_

## What You'll Need:

- String or measuring tape
- Sidewalk Chalk
- A phone or laptop for the tree map OR a

## Instructions:

- Grab all your materials and go online to the River Forest Tree Map [www.vrf.us/treemap](http://www.vrf.us/treemap), you can use this map to find out the species of trees.
- Once you are ready to begin, look on the back of this sheet for some fun fill in the blank questions.
- After each question write what you found out about each tree on the sidewalk in front of it with chalk.



Find the Species on Your Block!  
[www.vrf.us/treemap](http://www.vrf.us/treemap)

## Some Questions:

- Use your string or measuring tape to find the skinniest tree on your block. According to the tree map, what kind of tree is this? How thin is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use your string or measuring tape to find the thickest tree on your block. According to the tree map, what kind of tree is this? How thick is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use your string or measuring tape to find the shortest tree on your block. According to the tree map, what kind of tree is this? How tall is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use your eyes to find the prettiest tree on your block. According to the tree map, what kind of tree is it? Why do you think it's the prettiest?  
\_\_\_\_\_

A species of tree,  
The Giant Sequoia  
is thought to be the  
largest organism  
in the world!

The oldest tree in the  
world is 5,066  
years old!

Trees produce the  
oxygen that we breathe  
every day!

Trees work as houses  
for trillions of animals  
and bugs around the  
world, some of our  
houses are made of  
trees too!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Block: \_\_\_\_\_

# River Forest Tree Trails: On My Block

## What You'll Need:

- String or measuring tape
- Sidewalk Chalk
- A phone or laptop for the tree map OR a chart for identifying trees

## Instructions:

- Grab all your materials and go online to the River Forest Tree Map [www.vrf.us/treemap](http://www.vrf.us/treemap), you can use this map to find out the species of trees.
- Once you are ready to begin, look on the back of this sheet for some fun fill in the blank questions.
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Find the Species on Your Block!  
[www.vrf.us/treemap](http://www.vrf.us/treemap)

## Some Questions:

- Use your string or measuring tape to find the skinniest tree on your block. According to the tree map, what kind of tree is this? How thin is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use your string or measuring tape to find the thickest tree on your block. According to the tree map, what kind of tree is this? How thick is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use your string or measuring tape to find the shortest tree on your block. According to the tree map, what kind of tree is this? How tall is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Use your eyes to find the prettiest tree on your block. According to the tree map, what kind of tree is it? Why do you think it's the prettiest?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A species of tree, The Giant Sequoia is thought to be the largest organism in the world!**

**The oldest tree in the world is 5,066 years old!**

**Trees produce the oxygen that we breathe every day!**

**Trees work as houses for trillions of animals and bugs around the world, some of our houses are made of trees too!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Block: \_\_\_\_\_

# River Forest Tree Trails: On My Block

## What You'll Need:

- String or measuring tape
- Sidewalk Chalk
- A phone or laptop for the tree map OR a chart for identifying trees

## Instructions:

- Grab all your materials and go online to the River Forest Tree Map [www.vrf.us/treemap](http://www.vrf.us/treemap), you can use this map to find out the species of trees.
- Once you are ready to begin, look on the back of this sheet for some fun fill in the blank questions.
- After each question write what you found out about each tree on the sidewalk in front of it with chalk.

## Some Questions:

- Find skinniest tree on your block.  
According to the tree map, what kind of tree is this? How thin is it?  

---

---
- Hug the thickest tree on your block.  
According to the tree map, what kind of tree is this? How thick is it?  

---

---
- Stand next to the shortest tree on your block. According to the tree map, what kind of tree is this? How tall is it?  

---

---
- Look for the prettiest tree on your block.  
What kind of tree is it? Why do you think it's the prettiest?  

---

---

A species of tree,  
The Giant Sequoia  
is thought to be the  
largest organism  
in the world!

The oldest tree in the  
world is 5,066  
years old!

Trees produce the  
oxygen that we breathe  
every day!

Trees work as houses  
for trillions of animals  
and bugs around the  
world, some of our  
houses are made of  
trees too!



Summary of Ideas for Expanded RFSC Budget  
(as of July 11, 2020)

Objective:

Determine how best to allocate the \$30k RFSC Budget sourced from Community Aggregation

Approach:

Look to our overarching goal of reducing GHGs to prioritize spend.

| Sources                          | MT CO2e           |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                  | Generated         | Diverted          |
| Natural Gas - Residential        | 62,863.89         |                   |
| Electricity                      | 49,683.85         |                   |
| Passenger vehicle use - gasoline | 8,375.84          |                   |
| Freight train                    |                   |                   |
| Waste - MSW                      | 955.84            |                   |
| Water and wastewater energy use  |                   |                   |
| Waste - Recyclables              |                   | (2,189.35)        |
| Waste - Compost                  |                   | (349.72)          |
| Forests Lands                    |                   |                   |
| <b>Inventory</b>                 | <b>121,879.42</b> | <b>(2,539.07)</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                     |                   | <b>119,340.35</b> |

Priorities:

Further reduce use of brown energy

- Complete any energy saving projects the Village hasn't done - although they've been pretty good with this and seem to be well funded.
- Grant to local institutions to help defray cost of energy audit OR defray cost of the projects (lighting projects as the primary example - a church might want to change all their lighting to much more energy efficient but the cost, even with ComEd grants and rebates, might still be too high)
- Eliminate permit fees for home solar installations
- Partner with Park District to put solar on some of their buildings - we can pay part of the cap-ex cost with some of the funds. Perhaps a match.
- Install LED lighting on all indoor lights at Village Hall, Police, Fire, and Public Works and motion activated ones where appropriate
- Install LED lighting for all outdoor lights at Village properties and for street lights, where appropriate
- Install energy-saving programmable thermostats at Village Hall (if they don't already have them)
- Longer term - look into installing solar panels at Village Hall

With our offsetting electricity through Community Aggregation, our next biggest GHG source is natural gas.

- Increase use of solar or other electricity (now renewables) to reduce village natural gas use.
- Are there major generators or other sources the village might have we might want to consider?

Our next biggest source is passenger gasoline usage:

- Electric Car Charging Stations



And lastly, composting.

- Subsidize lower cost or offer free composting
- My main idea is around using the funds to subsidize composting so we can make it opt-out.

Other Ideas:

- RFSC Village Event -- “Meatless Mondays” – to curb greenhouse gases tied to cattle
- Fund incentives to completion of the River Forest Tree Trails (e.g., entry into a raffle for one year of composting paid for by the village)
- Fund one more year of the Pollinators for Parkways Program @ approximately \$15k
- Work with the RF Park District to install bottle-fill drinking fountains at Keystone Park
- There is a lot we could do around education... grants for sustainability programs to district teachers is an example. We'd all love to see more and more meaningful sustainability content at our schools, and this could provide some funding for supplies etc.
- Annual scholarship for RF student who is going to major in sustainability or related major.
- Grant for RF student doing an unpaid internship in sustainability - this is a big reason why students don't go into sustainability because the internships are unpaid, and they can't afford that. I have experience with this as we set a similar thing up at our alma mater.
- Eliminate beekeeping permit fee - it's only \$25 but the principal pissed off some of our local beekeepers and they've stopped.
- Another idea might be to do more permeable paving in alleys

Shannon Roberts

Hi Lisa,

I have been thinking about this one... and thought I would revisit GHGs to determine if we could use that as a way to prioritize spend. With offsetting electricity, our next biggest GHG source is natural gas. One idea would be to think of ways to use potentially solar or other electricity (now renewables) to reduce village natural gas use. Are there major generators or other sources the village might have we might want to consider?

Our next biggest source is passenger gasoline usage and therefore i recommend using the funds for charging stations.

And lastly, I would love to see the funds go towards subsidizing composting.

Heres the table again for reference.... thanks Lisa!

| Sources                          | MT CO2e           |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                  | Generated         | Diverted          |
| Natural Gas - Residential        | 62,863.89         |                   |
| Electricity                      | 49,683.85         |                   |
| Passenger vehicle use - gasoline | 8,375.84          |                   |
| Freight train                    |                   |                   |
| Waste - MSW                      | 955.84            |                   |
| Water and wastewater energy use  |                   |                   |
| Waste - Recyclables              |                   | (2,189.35)        |
| Waste - Compost                  |                   | (349.72)          |
| Forests Lands                    |                   |                   |
| <b>Inventory</b>                 | <b>121,879.42</b> | <b>(2,539.07)</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                     |                   | <b>119,340.35</b> |

Susan Charrette

Hi Lisa,

Here are my suggestions:

1. Install LED lighting on all indoor lights at Village Hall, Police, Fire, and Public Works and motion activated ones where appropriate
2. Install LED lighting for all outdoor lights at Village properties and street lights where appropriate
3. Install energy-saving programmable thermostats at Village Hall (if they don't already have them)
4. Work with the RF Park District to install bottle-fill drinking fountains at Keystone Park
5. longer term - look into installing solar panels at Village Hall

Looking forward to hearing other suggestions!

-Susan

Beth Cheng

Lisa, I thought I answered this...but can't find in my sent email.

My main idea is around using the funds to subsidize composting so we can make it opt-out. The key will be communicating to residents what the funds are making possible, and also that it is potentially time limited. I can't remember how many years the aggregation contract is for but we could renew it after on a continuing basis. Also I haven't tried to calculate how far \$30K would go towards lowering individual households costs for composting -- John is that something you can calculate before we meet?

Another idea might be to do more permeable paving in alleys -- mine really needs it! But I don't know how far \$30K a year would go towards that.

Beth

Eric Simon

Here is just a short list with no regard to whether some of these are possible. I think we really need to find things that are the most impactful and provide the best value:

- Subsidize lower cost or offer free composting
- Eliminate permit fees for home solar installations
- Partner with Park District to put solar on some of their buildings - we can pay part of the capx cost with some of the funds. Perhaps a match.
- There is a lot we could do around education... grants for sustainability programs to district teachers is an example. We'd all love to see more and more meaningful sustainability content at our schools and this could provide some funding for supplies etc.
- Annual scholarship for RF student who is going to major in sustainability or related major.
- Grant for RF student doing an unpaid internship in sustainability - this is a big reason why students don't go into sustainability because the internships are unpaid and they can't afford that. I have experience with this as we set a similar thing up at our alma mater.
- Eliminate beekeeping permit fee - it's only \$25 but the principal pissed off some of our local beekeepers and they've stopped.
- Complete any energy saving projects the Village hasn't done - although they've been pretty good with this and seem to be well funded.
- Grant to local institutions to help defray cost of energy audit OR defray cost of the projects (lighting projects as the primary example - a church might want to change all their lighting to much more energy efficient but the cost, even with ComEd grants and rebates, might still be too high)

I'm sure I'll think of more :)

Eric