



**Village of Buffalo  
Grove  
Environmental Plan**

**~ 2014 ~**

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Regional Leadership & Partners .....	2
A.    Clean Air Counts (CAC).....	2
B.    Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago (GRCMC).....	2
C.    Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC).....	2
D.    Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team (BG EAT). .....	2
Water Conservation and Quality.....	3
A.    WaterSense program.....	3
B.    Stream water sampling and analysis. ....	3
C.    Buffalo Creek Clean Water Partnership.....	3
D.    Development of a watershed-based plan .....	3
Waste Recycling .....	4
A.    Holiday lights recycling program.....	4
B.    Residential recycling program. ....	4
C.    Recycling at Village Hall. ....	4
D.    Electronics Recycling & Document Destruction Event.....	5
E.    Bagster Bag.....	5
Energy Efficiency .....	6
A.    Efficient Lighting .....	6
B.    Performance Contracting.....	6
Planning and Development.....	6
A.    Review zoning and development regulations relating to “green Infrastructure planning”.....	6
B.    Bicycle system.....	6
C.    Pedestrian and Bicycle Accident History Analysis. ....	7
Emerald Ash Borer and Reforestation .....	7
A.    Ash Tree Removal.....	7
B.    Parkway Tree Planting.....	7
Outreach and Education .....	8
A.    Environmental Fair.....	8
B.    Earth Hour Promotion. ....	8
C.    Promotion of Pace bus services .....	8
D.    Promote utilizing alternate modes of transportation to work to Village employees. ....	8

## Introduction

For the past decade, the necessity to take active stewardship on environmental issues has been paramount. Buffalo Grove has responded by establishing an Environmental Committee, developing and implementing a number of environmentally-friendly policies and programs which have benefited the community, coordinating with local, regional and state partners on environmental initiatives. The Village's 2014 Environmental Plan includes a detailed overview of on-going and proposed initiatives for calendar year 2014.

## Regional Leadership & Partners

A. **CLEAN AIR COUNTS (CAC)**. CAC is a northeastern Illinois plan striving to improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions of pollutants from motor vehicles and other sources.. This effort involved working with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, City of Chicago, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Illinois EPA. In April 2011, the Village of Buffalo Grove was honored with a Platinum level designation - the highest designation by Clean Air Counts. Clean Air Communities designation is intended to reward communities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving air quality in the Chicago metropolitan region.

*Goal – Strive to maintain Platinum Level Designation.*

B. **GREENEST REGION COMPACT OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO (GRCCM)** The Village of Buffalo Grove continues to make a commitment to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago. The GRCCM establishes environmental goals within our community through implementing a set number of strategies, including three priority strategies identified by the Caucus' Environmental Committee. The three priorities relate to promoting residential water conservation practices, enacting electronic waste (e-waste) recycling programs, and participating in the Northern Illinois Energy Projects Residential Lighting Program.

C. **SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF NORTHERN COOK COUNTY (SWANCC)**. The Village is a member of the SWANCC which is an organization that provides programs, resources, presentations and workshops to educate about solid waste technologies and the benefits of waste reductions practices. [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org).

D. **BUFFALO GROVE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM (BG EAT)**. BG EAT is a group of community volunteers sponsored by the Buffalo Grove Park District. The Environmental Action Team of Buffalo Grove strives to raise awareness, improve the community's natural environment and encourage sustainability practices for present and future generations. The Village coordinates with BG EAT on a myriad of initiatives as set forth within this Environmental Plan.

## Water Conservation and Quality

- A. **WATERSENSE PROGRAM.** In March, 2011 the Village joined the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Program. WaterSense seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products and services. <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense>. Buffalo Grove will use the electronic newsletter and web site to promote "We're for Water" throughout the year.

*Goals:*

- *Web site promotion* *ongoing*
- *Village newsletter* *March/April*
- *Electronic newsletter* *March, May, July*

- B. **STREAM WATER SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS.** Manage a program to conduct stream water sampling. The purpose of the program is to identify if there are specific pollutants in the water stream such as fecal coliform, phosphorous and chlorides, and possibly the sources of pollution; to determine trends; and to screen for impairment. Finding excessive levels of one or more chemical constituents can serve as an early warning "screen" of potential pollution problems.

*Goals:*

- *Report from 2013 sampling* *March*
- *2014 sampling* *October*

- C. **BUFFALO CREEK CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP.** Support the Buffalo Creek Clean Water Partnership organization. The group was established in 2012. The goal is to improve flood control, reduce erosion, improve water quality and enhance ecosystems throughout the watershed.

*Goals:*

- *Analysis of sampling results* *February*
- *Presentation* *March- April*
- *Habitat restoration* *ongoing*

- D. **DEVELOPMENT OF A WATERSHED-BASED PLAN.** Support the BG EAT's initiative for the Buffalo Creek Clean Water Partnership noted above and support the development of a watershed-based plan which will enable land owning agencies, such as the Village and Park District, to successfully compete for green infrastructure and 319 (Clean Water Act) grants.



D. **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING & DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION EVENT.** The event is tentatively planned for Fall 2014. The Village will coordinate with Hamilton Partners for use of the parking lot at 151 Hastings in Buffalo Grove where the event is anticipated to be held. The Village partners with a volunteer member of our business community, Block & Company, for this event which is provided in conjunction with SWANCC, and the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team. Last years event resulted in 11,623 lbs. of used electronics being able to be recycled and 10,360 lbs. of personal documents being safely shredded and recycled.

*Goals:*

- *Secure site* *March*
- *Prepare marketing plan* *May*
- *Review site logistics* *June*
- *Event management* *September*

E. **BAGSTER BAG.** The Village of Buffalo Grove sells the Waste Management Bagster Bags to residents. The Bagster is a high strength polypropylene bag that can hold up to 3 cubic yards of material and up to 3,300 pounds of waste material. The Bagster is an energy saving idea for people who have a waste disposal need that is larger than a regular trash pickup but smaller than a dumpster rental. The Bagster helps to reduce transportation emissions and fuel consumption. In addition, it helps to initiate "onsite source separation" and enables the hauler to recycle appropriate materials that have been discarded. The Bagsters are available for sale at Village Hall for \$25.00.

*Goals:*

- *Sign at B&Z counter* *January*
- *BGTV* *ongoing*
- *Village newsletter* *March/April*
- *Electronic newsletter* *March, October*

## Energy Efficiency

- A. **EFFICIENT LIGHTING** The Village will complete an upgrade of lighting at the Arboretum Golf Course Club House, switching from incandescent and halogen lights to LED lighting early in 2014. A 90% reduction in electric consumption for lighting is expected based upon the retrofits installed in the clubhouse. A planned upgrade of parking lot lighting at the Metra Train Station is planned for early spring 2014 and again a significant savings is expected in the electric costs related to lighting the parking lots.
- B. **PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING** Performance contracting is a process whereby energy efficient improvements to facilities can be made and the funding for those projects is created by the savings in energy costs the improvements create. The Village began the process of seeking Performance Contractors to review and develop energy efficiency projects in June of 2013. In 2014 staff will complete the review of proposals and will request an award a contract.

*Goals:*

- *Receive and review Proposals* *Dec-Jan*
- *Negotiate Contract* *Feb-April*
- *Award Contract and begin projects* *June*

## Planning and Development

- A. **REVIEW ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS RELATING TO “GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING”.** Consider planning, development, stormwater management, wetland management and other initiatives to foster environmental sustainability.

*Goals:*

- *Review zoning and development regulations and prepare report and recommendation* *July*

- B. **BICYCLE SYSTEM.** Village Staff reviewed the first draft of the Buffalo Grove Bike Plan in January and provided comments to the League of Illinois Bicyclists. In February a public review meeting will be conducted with the Ad Hoc Bicycle Committee and participants of the May 2013 public input workshop. The League of Illinois Bicyclists will present the draft plan to the Village Board at the March Committee of the Whole meeting with formal approval of the plan occurring at a subsequent Village Board meeting.

*Goals:*

- *Bike plan review* *February*
- *Plan presentation* *March*
- *Plan approval* *March - April*

C. PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ACCIDENT HISTORY ANALYSIS. Continue to conduct a three year analysis of accidents which have occurred within the Village. The information would be used as one method of analysis of improvements that may be considered to enhance bicycle paths, pedestrian sidewalks, and other bike and pedestrian system accommodation enhancements in Buffalo Grove.

*Goals:*

- *Coordinate with the Police Department to provide information on police calls and reports as referenced herein.* July
- *Review information with the Village's Bicycle Path System Committee.* August
- *Prepare report and recommendation based on the findings.* September

## **Emerald Ash Borer and Reforestation**

A. ASH TREE REMOVAL The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infected many ash trees throughout the entire Midwest region. The infestation was initially discovered in the Village in 2009 and staff has been monitoring the situation since that date. Many, if not most of the 7,000 ash trees found in the parkways have, or will become infested, resulting in their decline and creating a dangerous condition that necessitates the removal of the affected trees.

*Goals:*

- *Remove dead and dying Ash trees* ongoing

B. PARKWAY TREE PLANTING The Village has selected 15 different species of trees to replace the recently removed Ash trees in your neighborhood over the next two planting seasons. All species and locations of replacement trees will be selected by the Village to ensure proper diversity of our urban forest moving forward. This diversity of our urban forest will help prevent situations like the EAB infestation in the future.

*Goals:*

- *Plant 800 new parkway trees* May
- *Plant 1200 new parkway trees* November

## Outreach and Education

- A. ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR. Assist the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team with the coordination of the third annual Buffalo Grove Green Fair. The Fair will be held at Rylko Park on Sunday June 22, 2014 from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm adjunct to the Farmers Market. The BGEAT Team will be collecting a myriad items for recycling and reuse.

*Goals:*

- *Promotion*

*June*

- B. EARTH HOUR PROMOTION. On Saturday March 29, 2014 at 8:30 PM Lights around the globe are encouraged to be turned off for Earth Hour; individuals were also encouraged to commit to actions that go beyond the hour. Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when 2.2 million individuals and more than 2,000 businesses turned their lights off for one hour to take a stand against climate change. With almost 5 million supporters and a global network in over 100 countries/territories, Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest and most respected movements. Earth Hour is organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the Earth's natural environment and build a future where people live in harmony with nature.

*Goals:*

- *Promotion & public education*

*February/March*

- C. PROMOTION OF PACE BUS SERVICES. Pace is the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority. The Village will promote this commuter program through web links on the Village's web site.

[http://www.pacebus.com/sub/bus\\_system/buffalo\\_grove\\_tc\\_map.asp](http://www.pacebus.com/sub/bus_system/buffalo_grove_tc_map.asp)

*Goal:*

- *Web site Promotion*

*Ongoing*

- D. PROMOTE UTILIZING ALTERNATE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK TO VILLAGE EMPLOYEES. Encourage the public and Village employees to bicycle and utilize public transportation for travel to work during Bike to Work Week June 13-20, 2014. Register the Village for the annual Active Transportation Alliance Bike Commuter Challenge at [www.bikecommuterchallenge.org](http://www.bikecommuterchallenge.org).

*Goals:*

- *Promotion & public education, Bike to Work Week*
- *Participation & promotion, Bike Commuter Challenge for Village employees.*

*May*

*June*

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Village Officials:

President Jeffrey S. Braiman  
Trustee Jeff Berman  
Trustee Steve Trilling  
Trustee Beverly Sussman  
Trustee Mike Terson  
Trustee Andy Stein  
Trustee Les Ottenheimer  
Village Clerk Janet Sirabian  
Village Manager Dane Bragg

Village of Buffalo Grove Environmental Committee:

Trustee Steve Trilling, Board of Trustees Liaison  
Brett Robinson, Purchasing Manager  
Michael Reynolds, Director of Public Works  
Wendy Durkin, Battalion Chief, Fire Department  
Mike Skibbe, Deputy Director of Public Works  
Robert Pfeil, Village Planner  
Brian Sheehan, Deputy Building Comm./Operations  
Nidhi Vaid Associate Planner

*A desire for the future to be as  
good as you want it to be.*

