

VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS

GREENEST REGION COMPACT (GRC)

LOG OF OBJECTIVES COMPLETED

November 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024



~ NOVEMBER 2023 ~

- Community Development is supporting Kohl's and Lowe's through their permit application for commercial rooftop solar panel installation, (Energy – Advance Renewable Energy – Support the adoption of renewable energy technologies in the community).
- Lakeview Parkway Widening Project - End of season work 2023. The Lakeview Parkway Widening Project includes significant improvements in several areas to include multiple categories within the Greenest Region Compact:
 - Congestion and traffic will be reduced by adding additional lanes in each direction, to include dedicated turn lanes, (Mobility – Maintain efficient traffic flow within and around the community).
 - Dedicated bicycle and pedestrian paths will be created on both sides of Lakeview to include 1,800 feet of rebuilt bike paths and 400 feet of new sidewalk, (Mobility – Coordinate with transportation authorities – IDOT, to maximize vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic).
 - LED Lighting will be installed and be more efficient, (Energy – Implement energy efficiency measures – lighting).
 - Planting of 80 new trees, (Land – Maintain beautiful streetscapes to enhance gateways, business districts and important public spaces).
- Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - November 14, 2023 – Briefing by representatives from Argonne National Laboratory on Community Research on Climate and Urban Science. Presentation to community stakeholders included topics of co-designing the science questions, metrics, and community engagement activities for making informed decisions on mitigation and adaptation of climate change at the street, neighborhood and regional levels. (Leadership – Engage with non-governmental organizations and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).
- Waste Management Operations Manager Chris Alm has advised that all trucks servicing Vernon Hills, to include seasonal trucks used for yard waste and organics collection are now fueled by compressed natural gas. This conversion process started last year for the Vernon Hills route and is now complete. CNG trucks produce 20% less emissions than diesel, (Municipal Operations – Fleet – migrate fleet to alternative fuel vehicles).

~ DECEMBER 2023 ~

- Implementation of Clothing and Textile Collection Boxes inside Hawthorn – With newly developed residential units opening on the H20 site, stakeholders have worked to ensure opportunities for recycling are available. Clothing and textile recycling containers have been placed inside the mall by SWALCO for easy access to new residents, (Waste & Recycling –

Divert Waste from Landfills – Collaborate to provide recycling services for items not suitable for curbside pick-up (e.g. clothing).

- Controlled burn on Village properties – Vernon Hills Public Works staff conducted controlled burn on December 15, (Land – Conserve, Restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems – Manage public and private landscapes to optimize ecosystems and support biodiversity).
- December 21 - Staff from the Manager’s Office met with members of the community to discuss current trends in sustainability, electric aggregation, and prioritization & goal setting (development of a formal Sustainability Plan). Staff has shared intent to place a line item in the FY 25/26 budget for a Sustainability Consultant to develop a formal Village Sustainability Plan.
- The Village shared information with the community on Holiday Tree pick up options that include Waste Management and Public Works. The Public Works option allows for residents to leave their trees curbside on selected dates in January, at which time crews will pick up the trees and create mulch available free of charge for the community, (Waste & Recycling – Waste Diversion – Collaborate to provide recycling services / divert waste from landfills).
- Promotion of ReferralGPS (confidential resource to quickly connect people to a variety of mental health resources) and promotion of 211 during December and January, (Sustainable Communities – Connect residents to existing services that support health and wellness).

~ JANUARY 2024 ~

- Staff provided an update on the Greenest Region Compact, 2023 achievements. Staff placed the concept of electric aggregation on the Committee of the Whole Meeting -- presented by members of Go Green Vernon Hills – Lincolnshire (Energy – Collaborate to educate the community on clean energy options).
- Sustainability Planning 2024 – Capital Improvement Program Budget.

The following projects have been approved by the Village Board for staff to pursue:

- LED conversion program for Village streets, (Energy - Upgrade Streetlight Equipment).
- Plan to implement EV charging stations on Village property, (Mobility – Collaborate to provide alternative fuel infrastructure at public sites).
- Implementation of the Master Plan for restoration of Harvey Lake, (Land – Manage public areas landscapes to optimize ecosystems and support biodiversity).
- Development of the Village’s Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan, (Mobility – Create a bicycle and pedestrian plan to improve connectivity in the community).
- Bicycle Way Finding (Mobility – Collaborate to maximize bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular transit and rail connectivity mobility).
- Pedestrian Safety and ADA Improvements, (Mobility – Identify gaps in pedestrian and bicycle networks and barriers to active modes of travel).

- The Village is committing \$250,000 to match a DCEO Grant for the Lake Charles / Seavey Ditch Stream Restoration Project, (Conserve key natural assets).
- The Village has committed \$120,000 to develop a Master Plan for the Harvey Lake space, (Land – Enhance Parks and open space – master plan).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - January 16, 2024 – Funding and EPA support for climate action and clean energy project. Briefing on development and implementation of plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution to mitigate the impacts of climate change, (Leadership – Engage with governmental, non-governmental organizations, and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).

~ FEBRUARY 2024 ~

- On February 6, 2024, the Village Board approved Ordinance 2024-011, which provides regulations for development pertaining to specific trees that are approved for planting, (Land – Enact an ordinance that requires ample sustainable tree and landscape planning for new development and redevelopment).
- On February 6, 2024, the Village Board approved Ordinance 2024-009 authorizing social services during FY 24/25. (Sustainable Communities – Ensure high quality human services & programs are available and utilized).
- Planning has started for the 2024 Holiday Tree, Menorah, and Kinara Lighting Event. The Village and Park District are collaborating to host this event, which will be relocated to a more central and visible area (Sustainable Communities – Cultivate and preserve a welcoming and inclusive community).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - February 20, 2024 – Introduction to the Inflation Reduction Act and information on funding for clean energy and sustainability projects, (Leadership – Participate with regional, State, and Federal initiative to plan and achieve sustainability).
- Staff met with consultants regarding municipal electrical aggregation. Representatives from NIMEC and Illinois Aggregation Consultants provided information on renewable energy programs and costs. Information to be reviewed with a “watch” on market prices for June 2024. This is when the “non-Summer rate” for electricity purchase will be known. Board to be updated during summer 2024. (Energy – Facilitate the adoption of renewable energy).

~ MARCH 2024 ~

- During the Capital Improvement budget planning and presentation process, several initiatives related to sustainability were introduced to include alternative fuel vehicles, EV charging stations, pedestrian “walkability” plan, bike plan, wayfinding, etc.; (Municipal Operations – Integrate Sustainability into Capital Planning).
- At the March 5, 2024 Board Meeting Police Chief announces the first hybrid vehicle has been introduced into the patrol fleet. Feedback from officers is very positive (Municipal Operations - Migrate fleet to alternate fuel vehicles).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - March 19, 2024 – Briefing on air quality issues in our region, how monitoring is conducted, and what action can be taken at the community level to reduce air pollution and protect the health of residents, (Leadership – Engage with non-governmental organizations and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).
- SWALCO communities (to include the Village of Vernon Hills) were requested by Executive Director Walter Willis to submit witness slips for hearings within the Energy & Environmental Committee to support the legislative agenda of the municipal membership Items include:
- HB5348 – Battery Stewardship Act. SWALCO helped prepare this legislation and it was passed out of the Senate Energy Committee. This legislation is similar to Extended Producer Responsibility, but in this case, battery suppliers and retailers would be required to provide for collection of portable batteries. Village is a proponent of this legislation. HB4205 which is a beverage deposit bill that SWALCO has historically opposed due to the fiscal impact to our existing recycling programs and the over \$170 million per year of unredeemed deposits that will go directly to the proponents of this bill. SWALCO requests municipalities oppose. Mayor Byrne briefed on 3/18. Village submitted witness slip and is an opponent of this legislation. (Leadership – Advocate for State policies that support investment in municipal advances in sustainability).
- Programming and education on subscription service for organics collection shared on Village Communications platforms. Intent is to educate and promote sustainability initiatives that individuals can do that reduce waste going into landfills, (Sustainable Communities – Education – Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using municipal communications outlets).

~ APRIL 2024 ~

- During the April 16, 2024 Village Board Meeting, an update was provided on the 2024 Sustainability Planning objectives. After Board approval and funding of several specific

projects, the Sustainability Planning Guide was updated and personnel have their 2024 projects, (Municipal Operations – Dedicate staff to direct sustainability initiatives).

- Communications Team shared significant dates in April to include Earth Day and Arbor Day, and prepared content relating to Public Works contributions toward sustainability projects and initiatives, (Sustainable Communities – Education – Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using municipal communications outlets).
- Public Works Forestry staff met with the Vernon Hills Seniors Organization and presented information on the benefits to the community on removal of invasive vegetation and benefits of native plants. Each member of the Senior Organization was provided with plants for their home or to plant in community gardens or other open spaces. (Municipal Operations – Host environmentally focused events).
- Public Works staff and members of the Vernon Hills Seniors Organization planted three trees at the Village Hall in recognition of Arbor Day. Waste Management donated these trees to the Village. Also in recognition of Arbor Day PW will plant additional trees at locations throughout the Village (Land – Plant trees to sustain and renew the urban forest).
- Programming and education on subscription service for organics collection shared on Village Communications platforms. Intent is to educate and promote sustainability initiatives that individuals can do that reduce waste going into landfills, (Sustainable Communities – Education – Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using municipal communications outlets).
- The Village of Vernon Hills earned Tree City status for the 32nd year in a row. (Land – Earn Tree City Status).
 - Components include the requirement to spend at least \$2.08 cents per capita on forestry and maintain a Forestry Department (the Village spends approximately double this amount).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - April 16, 2024 – Information was shared from numerous presenters on the issue of extreme heat its impacts on our communities, and efforts to address. (Leadership – Participate with regional, State, and Federal initiative to plan and achieve sustainability).
- Village staff to include Directors of CD and PW attended a Lake County Partners Municipal Advisory Meeting on trends in sustainable development and healthy buildings. This event was conducted on April 25, 2024. Presenters included Megan Zack, Chief Sustainability Officer, Wright & Company and John Mlade, Sustainability & Healthy Environments, Wight & Company, (Municipal Operations – Educate staff on sustainability practices).

- On April 22, Vernon Hills Public Works celebrated Earth Day and Arbor Day with the Vernon Hills Park District at an event held in Century Park. As part of the observance, a Chinkapin oak tree in the park with the help of the Girl Scouts, (Land – Collaborate with Park Districts).
- On April 25, members from Vernon Hills Public Works Forestry Department gave an Arbor Day presentation to the 4th grade classes at Townline Elementary school. Topics discussed include the importance of trees and the history of Arbor Day, (Sustainable Communities – Collaborate to incorporate sustainability into school curricula).

~ MAY 2024 ~

- Village update on sustainability initiatives provided to representative from Go Green Vernon Hills Lincolnshire, May 10, 2024.
- On May 11, the Village and Vernon Hills Public Works observed Arbor Day with Boy Scout Troop 273 at the Metra station where nine (9) Rhododendrons were planted, (Land – Optimize Tree Planting).
- At the request of SWALCO, the Village Communications Team shared information on an upcoming Household Chemical Waste collection event scheduled for May 18, (Sustainable Communities – Education – Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using municipal communications outlets).
- In support of International Compost Awareness Week, the Village Communications Team shared information on an upcoming event scheduled for Saturday, May 11 at the Vernon Hills Park District. (Sustainable Communities – Education – Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using municipal communications outlets).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - May 21, 2024 – Organizing and Institutionalizing – A National Perspective and Local Lessons, (Leadership – Engage with governmental, non-governmental organizations, and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).

~ JUNE 2024 ~

- Research and engagement with SWALCO Executive Director Walter Willis on year around compost collection by LRS. Walter advised communities such as Deerfield and Highland Park have entered into contracts with LRS for municipal waste hauling with LRS, and one of the services offered includes year around collection of organics. It should be noted:
 - All residents pay for the costs of this service through their monthly rates

- There is an “opt in” option
 - An additional cart is required for each household. This would require each household to have three carts if they participate in organics collection.
- This subject to be further explored when reviewing waste provider options, (Waste & Recycling – Divert Waste from landfills).
 - On-site composting at Village community events - At the request of a resident, the Village was asked to research composting options at Village community events. Village staff initiated conversation one vendor that was referred to staff by SWALCO (Waste Not). The Park District has advised they will participate in an initial meeting to learn about the program and costs. Meeting date set for summer 2024. (Waste and Recycling – Engage with solid waste agencies to manage waste sustainably).
 - Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - June 18, 2024 – Environmental Justice Thriving Communities – Technical Assistance Centers. Briefing and overview of environmental justice programs (Leadership and Engage with governmental, non-governmental organizations, and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).

~ JULY 2024 ~

- Lake County is seeking an IGA with the Village of Vernon Hills for a maintenance agreement for a bike path that will be constructed on Butterfield Road, from Gregg’s Parkway north to Golf Road in Libertyville. This path will connect communities to the north of Vernon Hills to the existing bike and pedestrian path system that interconnects with residential and commercial areas within the municipality, (Mobility – Collaborate to maximize bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular transit and rail connectivity mobility).
- Village staff met with the CEO of WasteNot (Liam Donnelly) who has a company that provides organics collection and compost services for municipalities and community events. With multiple community events scheduled, staff is seeking ways to divert food waste from landfills. WasteNot is a private vendor who will provide a diversion alternative at a cost to the Village. This item to be evaluated for consideration in future events, (Engage with Solid Waste Agencies to manage waste sustainably).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - July 16, 2024 – Briefing on Energy Star (Certification) and facility efficiency. Objectives for building to be more efficient, use less energy, consume less water, etc. (Leadership – Engage with non-governmental organizations and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).

- Vernon Hills Days – Community Event – The event committee has transitioned from selling beer in plastic containers to aluminum cans. The aluminum cans will be recycled by Village staff through our waste vendor – Waste Management, (Work to make events “Zero Waste”).
- Organics Collection – Village staff participated in a presentation with a non-government business (not affiliated with the municipal contract for waste) that is offering to provide organics collection (all year) for residents of the Village. Currently, Waste Management handles organics collection through the “ride-along program” under the municipal contract in which services are provided approximately nine (9) months per year. Staff will need to engage with SWALCO and the Village’s current waste hauler to determine if WM has an objection of another vendor entering the market to remove organics, (Engage with Solid Waste agencies to manage waste sustainably).

~ AUGUST 2024 ~

- Go Green Vernon Hills – Lincolnshire Event “We Are All Plastic People Now.” Village staff attended an event regarding the subject of plastic pollution and steps to reducing / eliminating plastic from the waste stream, (Leadership – Participate with non-government organizations to advance sustainability in the community and regionally).
- The Village was awarded two grants for the implementation of EV charging stations on municipal property. One grant is from the Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus and the second grant is from ComEd. The charging stations will be set up to allow charging of municipal fleet vehicles as well as public use, (Mobility – Collaborate to provide alternative fuel infrastructure at public sites).
- Sustainability Planning – on August 19, 2024, Village staff met with members of Go Green to provide an update on 2024 projects and objectives and discuss suggested initiatives.
- VH Communications briefed on the passing of Pubic Act 103-0524, which permits consumer-owned containers to be used in effort to reduce waste in Illinois. Go Green has created a campaign to educate Vernon Hills’ establishments of the new law. The Manager’s Office has authorized Village Communications to be used to create awareness and promote the program. Lynn Brandl to work directly with Go Green, in effort to produce content and make available for public access, (Sustainable Communities – Educate the community about sustainability utilizing existing municipal communication outlets).
- On August 23, 2024, SWALCO recognized the Village of Vernon Hills for waste diversion initiatives. Vernon Hills Public Works has containers to collect textiles, and hosted a seasonal collection program called “Reuse-A-Shoe” to collect shoes, separately. Because of these efforts and with support from the Vernon Hills Park District, our community ranks #3 in total volume of clothing and textile collection in Lake County. During 2023, over 37,000 pounds of clothing

and textiles were collected in Vernon Hills and diverted from landfills. These efforts contribute significantly to extending the life of the two landfills operating in Lake County (Countryside and Zion). This recognition exemplifies the efforts of our Public Works Department in helping to contribute to sustainability initiatives and objectives identified in the Greenest Region Compact, (Waste and Recycling – Engage with solid waste agencies to manage waste sustainably).

~ SEPTEMBER 2024 ~

- SWALCO, in partnership with the Illinois EPA has procured a digital education and communication platform for waste and recycling called Recycle Coach. SWALCO has asked all communities to have this.
- Program on their website. On September 25, members of the Communications Team will be meeting in Libertyville to learn about the program and prepare to place this content on the Village website, (Waste and Recycling – Engage with solid waste agencies to manage waste sustainably).
- On September 16, SWALCO Executive Director Walter Willis met with Village staff to present a concept for all municipalities to have their waste haulers transport recyclables to a specific MRF. The suggested benefit is the recyclables have value and the value should be a shared revenue between the hauler and SWALCO. An Ad hoc committee has been created and the Village will participate and review the proposal, (Waste and Recycling – Engage with solid waste agencies to manage waste sustainably).
- SWALCO is planning to conduct a mobile Household Chemical Waste collection event in Vernon Hills on October 19. Village staff will begin working with SWALCO to help conduct this event, (Waste and Recycling – Engage with solid waste agencies to manage waste sustainably).
- Village staff received rate information from SWALCO for waste contracts covering Lake County communities. Staff has contacted Waste Management and requested they prepare an offer for consideration of an extension to the existing contract. Staff will also work with stakeholders to prepare a survey to measure customer satisfaction, desires services and cost considerations.
- Community Development Director Andrew Jennings participated in the Advanced Building Energy Efficiency Polices Task Force meeting on Monday, September 16. The meeting was conducted to give planners an opportunity to understand Stretch Codes and learn how these building codes differ from Illinois Energy Code. Director Jennings indicated he would conduct an analysis on the differences and how the new codes differ from the current code and potential impacts on stakeholders.

- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - Developing a Regional Strategy for Net-Zero GHG Emissions – (Developing a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan). Update on development of Primary Climate Action Plan and CMAP’s Comprehensive Climate Action Plan that will cover 13 counties, 358 municipalities, and 9.5 million people. Goal is to have net zero carbon emissions by 2050. (Engage with non-governmental organizations and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).
- EV Readiness Designation – On September 24, 2024, the Village of Vernon Hills formally committed to the Greenest Region Compact – EV Ready Communities Cohort. The goal of this program is to enhance transportation electrification in the region by integrating sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations, (Mobility – Collaborate to provide alternative fuel infrastructure at public sites).

~ OCTOBER 2024 ~

- Village Communications will be used to promote use of native landscaping courses sponsored by Wild Ones. Wild Ones is collaborating with several organization to include the Lake County Forest Preserves to help protect and restore biodiversity in urban areas. Wild Ones is a non-profit environmental educational and advocacy corporation, (Engage community volunteers in land stewardship activities).
- Promotion of SWALCO Shred Event at Vernon Hills Metra – scheduled for Vernon Hills Metra on Saturday, October 19. Vernon Hills Public Works to support this event. Information will be shared on all Village Communications platforms, (Provide Access to recycling services at Public Spaces).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - October 15, 2024 – Sustainability Successes and Challenges – Roundtable. Opportunities for members to share sustainability planning, opportunities, successes, and challenges with implementation. (Leadership and Engage with governmental, non-governmental organizations, and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).
- Promotion of leaf collection and End of Yard Waste Seasonal Pick up by Waste Management - VH Communications placed information on all platforms advising residents of methods to dispose of leafs. Opportunities include traditional disposal methods as well as mulching and composting methods that are ideal for the environment. (Sustainable Communities – Educate the community about sustainability utilizing existing municipal communication outlets

~ NOVEMBER 2024 ~

- Village communications shared information regarding the Vernon Hills Park District pumpkin composting event, scheduled for November 8th at the Park's District's Maintenance Facility, (Waste & Recycling – Waste Reduction – Promote and participate in waste reduction initiatives).
- The Village is participating in the third Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus "EV Readiness Program" cohort. The EV Readiness program prepares communities to meet the growing demand for EVs and EV charging infrastructure. Cohort members receive free technical assistance and training in a variety of critical areas. The Village intends to apply for EV Ready Bronze designation by demonstrating compliance with requirements in areas such as permitting procedures for EV charging infrastructure, addressing zoning code barriers to EV infrastructure, community engagement, technical training, and safety training. Representatives of the Community Development Department and Public Works Department will participate in bi-weekly training sessions offered by the Caucus from November 2024 through the spring of 2025. Code updates necessary to achieve the EV Ready Bronze certification are anticipated to be complete by May 2025, (Municipal Operations – Create an interdisciplinary team to coordinate internal sustainability efforts).
- Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - November 19, 2024 – Briefing on “The Challenge of Increasing the Recycling Rate, What Communities Can Do.” While recycling programs in the Chicago area are well established and residents embrace recycling as a daily sustainability action, diversion rates in the Chicagoland region are stalled at 30-35%. While on par with the national average of 32.1% (reported by the EPA in 2018), this rate does not meet either the EPA's National Recycling Goal of 50% by 2030 or the Metro counties' individual diversion goals described in Solid Waste Management Plans. The Caucus (which Vernon Hills is a member) is partnering with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), DuPage, Kane, Will, and McHenry Counties on the Chicago Metro Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Campaign to increase the collection of recyclable materials and decrease contamination of the recycling stream in our region. Discussed in this conference are the challenges of increasing the collection of recyclable materials and decreasing contamination of the recycling stream, what residents can recycle curbside and why, what materials are more marketable, and what the limitations are to curbside recycling. Also discussed, are best practices for municipal policies and hauling contracts that can improve community-recycling rates. (Leadership – Engage with non-governmental organizations and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).

~ DECEMBER 2024 ~

- SWALCO MRF Project – The Village is participating in researching and reviewing a SWALCO led and administered joint recycling program for member communities. The concept of this

program is to directly haulers to divert recyclables to a specific recycling facility for processing. Objectives are to secure more favorable rates, greater transparency in determining the value of recyclables and create a revenue stream for SWALCO and member communities that would provide funding for additional sustainability programs. This is an ongoing project that will continue into 2025, (Municipal Operations – Dedicate staff to direct sustainability initiatives).

- Implementation of Organics Collection at Municipal Events – Village staff has received a request from a member of the community to consider organics collection at community events. The one Village-sponsored event that has food and provides an opportunity for organics collection is Vernon Hills Days. Staff has met with PW, WM, and the VH Days Committee to begin discussing how this could be implemented for patrons and vendors. This objective will be pursued in 2025, (Municipal Operations – Manage Events Sustainably).
- Municipal Waste Contract – The contract for waste services for the Village’s residential franchise agreement expires 12/1/25. The Village had begun working with SWALCO to begin assessing the market and rates. Staff has obtained the contracts from our neighboring communities as well as recently agreed upon contracts from Villages within Lake County. Staff has received input from Go Green as to desired enhancements to the municipal contract, shared this with the Village’s current vendor and requested a quote for the term of 2026-2030. Once this information is received, this data will be shared with the Village Board, (Municipal Operations – Collect and Organize Data).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - December 17, 2024 – Solar in Illinois Program Status and New Ideas, Stakeholders and energy providers to include ComEd shared information on solar programs in Illinois, (Leadership and Engage with governmental, non-governmental organizations, and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).

~ NOTES ~

The following items are listed as Greenest Region Goals & Objectives and are projects that are ongoing and/or are tended to each year:

- Provide curbside recycling, (Waste and Recycling).
- Collaborate to provide recycling services for items not suitable for curbside recycling include Re-Use a Shoe, Holiday Tree Pick up, Household Chemical Waste collection days, (Waste and Recycling).
- Provide Electronic Waste Collection Point, (Waste and Recycling).
- Support proper disposal of medical waste, (Waste and Recycling).
- Support pharmaceutical waste collection, (Waste and Recycling).
- Share the delivery of public services with other local governments. Village achievements include consolidated dispatch, fleet maintenance performed by PW for CFD, and snow

plow operations between VHPD and Vernon Township, partnership with the Park District for VHAC and major summer events to include Vernon Hills Days and RibFest, (Municipal Operations – Consolidation).

- Planting of new trees throughout the Village (Land – Plant trees to sustain and renew the urban forest).
- Vernon Hills Emergency Communications – VHPD / CFPD; (Municipal Operations – Consolidate and/or share the delivery of public services with other local governments).
- Vernon Hills Public Works Fleet Maintenance – support for CFPD; (Municipal Operations – Consolidate and/or share the delivery of public services with other local governments).
- Utilization of Vernon Hills Public Works for fuel by area public sector entities; (Municipal Operations – Consolidate and/or share the delivery of public services with other local governments).
- Energy efficiency measures - e.g. occupancy sensors; (Energy – Implement energy efficiency measures that have a short-term payback).
- Regulate burning of landscape waste. Prohibition of open burning via Ordinance 9-12; (Climate – Maintain Clean and healthy air).
- Prioritize the acquisition, dedication and management of lands to create connected greenways – Conversion of Nike site to Vernon Hills Athletic Complex, (Land Conserve, Restore, and enhance natural features).
- Conserve key natural assets – Protection of conservancy areas @ Port Clinton Road and RT 83, (Land – Land Preservation – Conserve, Restore, and enhance natural features).
- Maintain beautiful landscapes and streetscapes to enhance gateways, business districts and important public spaces – Conducted Village-wide, (Land – Landscapes – Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services).
- Create a bicycle and pedestrian plan to improve connectivity in the community and beyond, (Mobility – Support safe and active transportation – see Comprehensive Plan – Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan).
- Provide bicycle parking at municipal facilities such as transit stations, (Mobility - Support safe and active transportation – installation of bicycle rack at Metra).
- Landscaping and tree planting on roadway infrastructure and islands, (Mobility – Incorporate trees and green infrastructure elements into roadway design).
- Silo preservation at Aspen Point, (Sustainable Communities - Preserve and maintain the community’s historic assets).
- Cuneo Mansion / Estates Agreement Sustainable Communities - Preserve and maintain the community’s historic assets).
- Village Community Development Department, Centennial Real Estate, and planners dedicated to creating a ‘walkable-community’ in the redevelopment of H20. This includes Phase I (former Sears parcel), and Phase II (former Carson Pirie Scott parcel), (Land – Encourage development of compact and complete residential neighborhoods).