

GREENEST REGION COMPACT (GRC)

Log of Objectives Achieved since last update to the Village Board

October 2022 – December 2023

~ OCTOBER 2022 ~

- Lakeview Beautification Project - Concluding late Summer 2022, Public Works staff planted 40 trees and 60 shrubs along Lakeview Parkway to provide additional screening along the Lake Harvey fence line. In addition, staff has removed invasive vegetation in the area. Costs for the project totaled \$17,000, which included trees, shrubs, topsoil and mulch, (Land – Urban Forestry - Plant trees to sustain and renew the urban forest).
- VH Communications shared content regarding SWALCO’s Free Fall Compost Giveaway at The Park District’s Trucks, Trunks & Treats Event, and (Sustainable Communities – Educate the community about sustainability utilizing existing municipal communication outlets).
- VH Communications shared community education content from SWALCO titled Green Halloween Tips. This content included information regarding Pumpkin Composting, reducing Halloween-related waste, purchasing eco-friendly content, etc.; (Sustainable Communities – Educate the community about sustainability utilizing existing municipal communication outlets).
- Public Works planted 72 new trees during October; 62 trees throughout the Village and 10 trees planted at the Municipal Golf Course (Land – Urban Forestry - Plant trees to sustain and renew the urban forest).
- Public Works collected and recycled 80 tires from the municipal fleet and disposed of these tires through a SWALCO / Illinois Environmental Protection Agency event collection event for local units of government, (Waste & Recycling - Promote and practice waste reduction and recycling in municipal operations).
- SWALCO Board of Directors Meeting – October 20, 2022. Topics include expansion of clothing and textile programs. 85% of these materials end up in landfills. Efforts to redirect and recycle these materials include placing additional collection bins throughout the community. In addition to bins on Village properties, the Depke Center will have a collection bin and St. Mary’s will have a collection bin. Vernon Hills has 10 collection bins and leads the County in sites, (Waste & Recycling – Divert Waste from landfills – Collaborate to provide recycling service for items not suitable for curbside pickup – e.g. clothing and shoes).
- On October 24, 2022, Village staff participated in conference hosted by Vernon Township regarding opportunities for evaluating and pursuing renewable energy (Sustainable Communities – Participate in regional and national sustainability networks)
- On October 28, 2022, Village Manager Timony presented the Village Board findings from the Vernon Township Energy Resiliency Commission feasibility study for the Village of Vernon Hills. Unfortunately, detailed information on grant funding opportunities is unclear and many of the taxing bodies have not committed to any specific projects, thus potential savings from

combined efforts is not immediately realized. In the short-term (1-3 years), the Village's easiest opportunity to pursue energy resiliency initiatives is to explore EV charging stations at Village facilities (primarily the Village Hall) and the use of EV fleets by the Community Development Department for day-to-day inspections, (Sustainable Communities – Participate in regional and national sustainability networks).

~ **NOVEMBER 2022** ~

- On November 10, 2022, Village Manager Timony assembled the Communications Team to discuss official communications and to ensure community values and character are accurately reflected; that messaging is professional, and access to services for the community is improved. Website content to be assessed and refined, to be more user-friendly (Sustainable Communities – Cultivate and preserve a welcoming and inclusive community character).
- Content shared on Village communications platforms regarding America Recycles Day – November 15, 2022. This content is for educational purposes and shared information on the progress of having improved the national recycling rate from 7% in 1960 to the current rate of 32%, and impressed the need for further improvement. This content also illustrated the value recycling provides to the protection of the environment (Sustainable Communities – Encourage the community to participate in sustainability initiatives).
- Vernon Hills Public Works to obtained specialized storage cabinets for use when “fly dumping” of chemical waste occurs – November 18, 2022. These cabinets will be acquired from SWALCO, former Lincolnshire Riverwood’s HCW collection site (Waste & Recycling – Discourage Fly Dumping).
- Village staff initiated conversation with Waste Management regarding collection options for household chemical waste after learning the local collection point at Lincolnshire Riverwood Fire Department was being closed. A centralized HCW site will be scheduled by SWALCO periodically; however, this option requires residents often having to travel a distance and is time-consuming. One option includes adding a service for pick-up of HCW that would provide residents with a ‘personalized’ service alternative. This subject to be further explored when reviewing waste provider options, (Waste and Recycling – Engage with solid waste agencies to manage waste sustainably).
- On November 15, 2022 the Village Board recognized Hindu Heritage Month and the community efforts of the Sewa Diwali 2022 Food Drive with a Proclamation, (Sustainable Communities – Foster an understanding of diverse cultures and traditions).
- On November 21, 2022 Village staff, Trustee Takaoka, along with community groups met to discuss policy and ordinances governing single-use plastics in the commercial corridor. It has been noted other Chicagoland communities have enacted a “ban” or “tax” on specific items such as plastic bags to encourage person to bring re-usable bags. This subject and its impacts to be further studied, (Waste & Recycling – Policy – Discourage use of products resulting in unmanageable waste).

~ DECEMBER 2022 ~

- During the December 13, 2022 Board Meeting, a resident requested the Village support amending a residential pod development agreement to allow solar roof panels on homes previously designated for cedar roof materials. The Village Board supported this request and will simplify the permitting process for solar panels to be installed within the Royal Birkdale pod, (Energy – Advance Renewable Energy – Support the adoption of renewable energy technologies in the community).
- Staff has made contact representatives from each of the Village’s ‘big box’ grocers to determine if single-use plastics are used at point of sale and if they have a sustainability plan that includes moving away from single-use plastics. The Village has sent formal correspondence to Walmart, Target, and Mariano’s, inviting them to participate in discussions on reducing reliance on single-use plastics at point of sale (Leadership – Seek collaboration with the business sector to support sustainability – product stewardship).
- Village staff obtained information from SWALCO of a pending House Bill that would create a statewide carry out bag fee. This bill is identified as HB4615 and sponsored by Representative Jonathan Carroll from Northbrook. Staff has contacted the Village’s downstate legal representatives and requested more information on this bill. A brief was prepared and sent to the Village Board. Staff continues to liaison with legal representatives while monitoring the status of this bill, (Leadership - Advocate for State policies that support municipal advances in sustainability).
- VH Communications shared programming content on cable access regarding holiday sustainability. This campaign was prepared by Waste Management and titled Reduce, Reuse, and Rejoice and provides information on the environmental impacts of food waste and packaging waste generated during the holidays along with tips to reduce impacts on landfill through recycling, composting, and donation, (Sustainable Communities – Educate the community about sustainability utilizing existing municipal communication outlets).

~ JANUARY 2023 ~

- Communications Team placed content on all platforms regarding available services for holiday tree removal by Waste Management and/or the Village, (Waste & Recycling – Educate the Community on available composting practices).
- Public Works to provide Holiday Tree removal for residents (Waste & Recycling – Provide curbside recycling for residents).
- SWALCO 2023 1st Quarter Meeting, January 12, 2023. Standing Legislative Policies reviewed, 2023 Legislative Policy Top Priorities approved by the membership. Top Priorities include Extended Producer Responsibility for the packaging and paper products used daily by consumers and Carpet Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility, (Leadership – Partner with NGO to advanced sustainability in the community and regionally).
- On January 17, the Village Board approved Ordinance 2023-10 authorizing a two-year contract extension with Bluestem Ecological Services to perform native stewardship services for the

2023-24 seasons. This contract provides for native stewardship to control invasive plant material around ponds and open green spaces (Land – Conserve, Restore, and Enhance Natural Features and Ecosystems – Manage public landscapes to optimize ecosystems and support biodiversity).

- Village staff visited major grocers in Vernon Hills to determine if there was interest in collaborative sustainability planning concerning single-use plastics. Certified letters also sent detailing resident concerns and opportunities, (Leadership – Seek Collaboration with the business sector to support municipal sustainability).
- LED Street light replacement Program - During the Fall of 2022 and Winter of 2023, Public Works staff converted 43 street light poles within the Corporate Woods Industrial Park and Sugar Creek subdivision to LED's - project costs: \$55,000. The department anticipates converting 25 additional street light poles within the Thorne Grove subdivision, along with an additional 50 poles in other locations yet to be determined. The additional 75 conversions will be completed prior to spring 2024, (Energy – Implement energy efficiency measures – lighting).

~ FEBRUARY 2023 ~

- Village secured funding and easements to private properties in the area of RT 60 and Lakeview to begin lane widening projects and intersection improvements at Lakeview and Hawthorn Parkway. This initiative is estimated to cost approximately 4 million dollars is supported by grants and will greatly relieve congestion in this area, (Mobility – Transportation Infrastructure – Maintain efficient traffic flow within and around the community).
- Police Department to assess opportunity to introduce hybrid vehicles into the fleet, (Municipal Operations – Plan to migrate vehicles to alternative fuel vehicles).
- Community Development to continue to utilize vehicles from other departments that are being rotated out of service until hybrid or EV can be introduced into the fleet, (Municipal Operations - Extend useful life of physical assets).
- Village staff continues to work with Morrill and Fiedler to monitor, evaluate, and have input on State legislation regarding single-use plastics. On February 16, 2023, staff was advised Rep. Carroll's HB-5615 died with the 102 General Assembly ending on January 10. Senator Edly-Allen introduced SB-2211, which as written would prohibit grocery stores from providing single-use plastic bags and single-use paper bags. Staff to continue to monitor, (Leadership – Advocate for state policies that support municipal sustainability).
- Des Plaines River Watershed Work Group continues to sample. The Village of Vernon Hills is a member and supports monitoring the water quality of the river and watershed. The sampling supports understanding of current conditions and assists with solutions, (Water – Water Quality – Collaborate with regional initiatives to protect lakes and rivers). Note – Due to this testing occurring periodically, this objective is being moved to re-occurring list of achievements.

- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - February 21, 2023 – Briefing on Chicago Region Carbon Program, a region-wide program for tree planting and forest preservation projects. The goal of this program is to improve the health and canopy of the urban forest in the Chicago region through increased tree planting and preservation. Information on tips and successful projects shared, (Leadership – Engage with non-governmental organizations and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).
- Promotion of 211 on Village Communications platforms. (Sustainable Communities – Ensure essential human service programs are available).

~ **MARCH 2023** ~

- SWALCO communities (to include the Village of Vernon Hills) submitted witness slips for hearings within the Energy & Environmental Committee to support the legislative agenda of the municipal membership, which include Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging – SB1555/HB2827; Extended Producer Responsibility for Paint – SB147/HB2153; and Extended Producer Responsibility for Carpet SB1984. Each of these items costs individuals and communities significant resources to recover and safely dispose. Proposed legislation would require producers to provide resources to SWALCO to support proper disposal or in the case of paint, require support for handling of excess product and waste, (Leadership – Advocate for State policies that support investment in municipal advances in sustainability).
- Communications Team – Planning Meeting. Members were advised of significant dates in April to include Earth Day and Arbor Day, and to prepare content with Public Works staff to educate the community on sustainability projects and initiatives, (Sustainable Communities – Education – Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using municipal communications outlets).
- Staff worked with the Village Diversity & Inclusion consultant to develop a communications plan to recognize the newly designated Federal Holiday – Juneteenth. The plan presented to the Board will include Juneteenth banners to be displayed during June and an educational component to be shared on Village communications platforms, (Sustainable Communities – Foster an understanding of diverse cultures and traditions).
- Onboarding of new Public Works Director / Village Engineer – March 7, 2023. Chris Venatta joins the Village after serving the City of Evanston. This position will play a critical role in the next chapter of the Village’s commitment to sustainability and the Greenest Region Compact, (Municipal Operations - Dedicate staff to direct sustainability initiatives).
- Village staff has created a draft of the sustainability plan and goals for 2023-24. Plan to be shared with the Village Board during April, (Municipal Operations – formalize sustainability goals and objectives).

~ **APRIL 2023** ~

- Programming and education on the purpose of Earth Day, Arbor Day, and collective efforts that contribute to sustainability shared on Village communications platforms, (Sustainable

Communities – Education – Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using municipal communications outlets).

- Village of VH & Waste Management sponsored an Earth Day event for Village Seniors and provided native plants that are beneficial to good a health and the environment (4/18/23). WM discussed sustainability initiatives, (Municipal Operations – Host environmentally focused events).
- Harvey Lake Boardwalk - During the winter of 2023, Public Works staff constructed an elevated boardwalk along Harvey Lake to allow accessibility for Staff and equipment to maintain the native shoreline area; as well as provide an amenity for residents. The boardwalk was completed on February 24, 2023; whereas, ramping (stone and soil) to the boardwalk will be completed in spring 2023, (Land – Parks & Open Space – Enhance parks, open space and recreational opportunities, create accessibility for all residents).
- Meeting with Com-Ed representatives on April 10, 2023. This meeting included ‘meet and greet’ with new representatives from Com-Ed Kimberly Hobson and new Public Works Director Chris Venatta to discuss implementation of EV charging stations into the Village infrastructure (Energy – Support Adoption of Renewable Energy systems at municipal facilities).
- Planning meeting with Public Works Fleet Crew Leader Scott Churchill to discuss planned implementation of EV into the fleet. Budgeting and planning will take 12-18 months, so PW is being asked to identify vehicles within the Village fleet that are scheduled for being ‘taken out of service,’ and sent to auction, but are in satisfactory condition and can be re-assigned to Community Development Department to replace vehicles at end of life. By utilizing existing vehicles, Community Development can plan to introduce EV in the coming years (Sustainable Operations – Extend the useful life of physical assets).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting – SolSmart Program, Renewable Energy Siting, and Environmental, Social and Governance Planning – April 18, 2023. (Leadership – Participate with NGOs to advance sustainability).
- Sustainability Plan and webpage introduced to the Village Board - April 18, 2023. (Sustainable Operations –Municipal Operations – Use the GRC framework to create a sustainability plan).
- Village of Vernon Hills celebrated Tree City Status – Over 30 years! (Land – Earn Tree City Status).
 - Components include the requirement to spend at least \$2.08 cents per capita on forestry (the Village spends approximately double this amount), and have a forestry department (Land – Sustain and renew urban forest).
- Village of Vernon Hills - Arbor Day Event, April 24 – May 3, 2023 (Municipal Operations – Special Event Management).
 - Opportunity to purchase from a wide variety of Oak trees and shrubs to help restore and renew the Village’s urban forest.

- On April 26, 2023, Com-Ed conducted a simulated emergency exercise training for municipalities and stakeholders, called “Operation Power Play
- On April 27 & 28, 2023, Vernon Hills Public Works collected 333 pounds of shoes through the 2023 Reuse-A-Shoe Round-Up, contributing to SWALCO communities collecting over 5,000 pounds of materials. Collected items are diverted to landfills and items are re-used and/or recycled. (Waste & Recycling – Waste Reductions – Promote and participate in waste reduction initiatives).

~ **MAY 2023** ~

- As part of the development of Belle Tire, the tenant of this parcel will assume maintenance responsibilities for the retention pond. Pond will be drawn down during construction (Land – Conserve; restore and enhance natural features and eco-systems).
- Town Center Land Acquisition - The Village has received ownership of an unsold parcel in the Town Center TIF District. The Village Board gave authorization for the Village to take possession of this land from the developer and private ownership group to create a green space for area residents and visitors. Public Works removed the temporary parking surface and seeded the area. PW continues to make improvements to this newly acquired parcel, (Land – Work with developers to integrate and develop open space reserves in developments).
- Lakeview Parkway Widening Project - The Lakeview Parkway Widening Project will be a significant construction project supported by grants that will have 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, (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).
- Programming and education on SWALCO-sponsored Spring Compost Giveaway at Century Park, Sunday May 7, 2023. Information and promotion on Village communications platforms, (Sustainable Communities – Education – Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using municipal communications outlets).
- Spring maintenance and plantings at public spaces and streetscapes, (Land – Maintain beautiful landscapes and streetscapes to enhance gateways and important public spaces).
- SWALCO Household Chemical Waste Collection Event – Saturday, May 20, 2023. Event will be conducted in Mundelein (Waste – Provide access to recycling infrastructure and services at public places).

- International Compost Awareness Week runs from May 7-13, 2023. SWALCO has asked municipalities to help promote programming and educational content. VH Communications shared content on cable access demonstrating the benefits of organics collection and composting, (Sustainable Communities – Educate the community about sustainability utilizing existing municipal communication outlets).
- During spring 2023, Village Communications shared information on all platforms regarding threat of severe weather, information on warning sirens, and promotion of the Village’s emergency notification system (Sustainable Communities – Health & Safety – Create a community that is resilient and well prepared for disaster).
- Promotion of 211. In addition to content being shared on Village Communications platforms, 211 Icon and information tab created on homepage of the Village website for easy access (Sustainable Communities -Connect community members to existing services that support health and wellness / ensure high quality essential human service programs are available).
- SWALCO communities (to include the Village of Vernon Hills) submitted witness slips to support the legislative agenda of the municipal membership, which include Extended Producer Responsibility for Carpet – now identified as SB 837, being sponsored by Senator Morrison. Proposed legislation would require producers to provide resources to SWALCO to support proper disposal and require support for handling of excess product and waste, (Leadership – Advocate for State policies that support investment in municipal advances in sustainability). **Witness skip submitted on May 10, 2023.**
- On May 10, 2023, Village Staff held a meeting with Com Ed representatives to discuss Annual Usage Reports, Load Sharing, and implementation of EV charging stations on municipal property for fleet use, (Municipal Operations – Collaborate with agencies to develop alternative fuel infrastructure).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - May 16, 2023 – 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).
- Waste Management – Director of Operations Chris Alm advised the Village on May 5, 2023 that three new compressed natural gas truck and three CNG trucks that are less than two years old have been assigned to the Village of Vernon Hills. Three additional CNG trucks have been ordered and will be assigned. Transitioning from diesel to CNG was a topic discussed during previous meetings, (Municipal Operations – Fleet – Migrate fleet to alternative fuel vehicles).

~ JUNE 2023 ~

- Event Season - with numerous regional and national athletic events scheduled at the VHAC; the VA Veterans Fishing Derby at NCT; the many community festivals and parades (hosted in conjunction with the Park District), VHPW has taken steps to coordinate with event partners to ensure separate waste and recycling containers are set up at multiple locations for each event,

(Sustainable Communities - Utilize strategic partnerships with other community organizations to promote sustainability).

- SWALCO 2023 2nd Quarter Meeting, June 15, 2023. Update on status of legislation in Springfield in relation to SWALCO sustainability goals. Discussion of municipal waste contracts since the acquisition of Advanced by WM. Currently, there are three vendors bidding on contracts. Conversations on municipalities entering into an agreement to have each community's recycled material sent to one MRF with the objective of SWALCO receiving revenue from this commodity. (Leadership – Partner with NGO to advanced sustainability in the community and regionally).
- Discussion with SWALCO Executive Director Walter Willis regarding “bottle bill” legislation. Per the request of Go Green; Village staff shared the position that “bottle bill” legislation” has supporters and their statistics show that recycling rates increase due to more than just property owners being able to participate in recycling programs. This legislation has equity and inclusion components that traditional curbside recycling programs may lack. Information on stats forwarded. SWALCO provided information on the position from stakeholders such as IRMA, who are opposed, and without stakeholder support legislation advancing cannot be successful, (Leadership – Advocacy for policies at the State level that advance sustainability).
- Event Planning – Merleanne Rample – SWALCO has requested the Village consider supporting a material recovery event in Vernon Hills during late summer. Concepts included a “Shred Event,” in which persons could bring paper products to a collection point. VHPW supports this concept and has identified staff and space at Metra for this event to be conducted during late summer, (Sustainable Communities – Host Environmentally Focused Events).
- Event Planning – SWALCO has contacted the Village to discuss coordination of a summer event. Suggested concept is a Compost Bin and Rain Barrel event. Due to the amount and size of product, a large venue, such as the Public Works facility, is needed. Timeframe being discussed is late August (Sustainable Communities – Host Environmentally Focused Events).
- Electric Aggregation – On June 21, 2023 members of Go Green Vernon Hills requested the Village consider an electric aggregation program for Vernon Hills. The program cited is from a vendor in which supply originates from local wind, solar and hydro-electric facilities and is provided to the Village at a pre-determined rate. Village staff to further research this option, with a second meeting planned for fall 2023, (Energy – Support procurement of renewable energy through community choice aggregation).

~ **JULY 2023** ~

- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting - July 17, 2023 – Seminar on enabling active transportation to familiarize with resources to support active transportation infrastructure (Leadership – Engage with governmental, non-governmental organizations, and municipal associations to align with actions from the GRC).
- Town Center Park Plan – Village Public Works Director and Village Engineer Chris Venatta presented a conceptual design for a proposed park at Town Center. This venue would be on the

site of a former pad intended for a small commercial space. The proposal includes seating area, hardscaped services, wild flower and tall grass beds, and informational signage (Land – Parks & Open Space – Maximize the amount of public spaces and parks accessible to residents).

- A resident has requested through Trustee Takaoka for the Village to create a formal Committee to engage with persons seeking to advance and implement green initiatives. Mayor Byrne has been briefed. A date in October has been set for two Board members (Trustee Takaoka and Trustee Schenk) to attend a meeting with this resident to better understand expectation and the initiatives (Municipal Operations – Consideration of Interdisciplinary team to coordinate internal sustainability initiatives).

~ AUGUST 2023 ~

- Ordinance 2023-075 allows the Village to adopt by reference the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance, (Water – Develop water infrastructure asset management plan and sustain the system).
- Ordinance 2023-088 awards a contract to Apex Landscaping to create the Vernon Hills Town Center Park and create additional green space within the community, (Land – Prioritize the acquisition, dedication, and management of land to create green ways and spaces).
- A resident requested the Village partner with the Illinois Solar Energy Association to promote use of solar energy and the Solar Tour day on September 30, 2023. Village staff began conversation with representatives of ISEA and members of Go Green on how the Village could use Village Communications platforms to promote the Solar Tour Day and use of solar energy. Members of Go Green are tasked with identifying the Vernon Hills households who desire to participate, (Energy – Education & Outreach – Collaborate to educate the community about clean energy options).
- Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus Environmental Committee Meeting – This topic of discussion covered the topic of converting the municipality from receiving “free” electricity to direct payment from ComEd. The theory of this discussion is municipalities are reluctant to invest in purchasing or investing in renewable energy when electricity is provided at no charge. One challenge identified is the value of the electricity (and potential payment) may be minimal compared to the costs of investing in renewable infrastructure – August 15, 2023. (Municipal Operations – Sustainable Operations – Assess and Manage Municipal Assets).
- Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale – August 26, 2023. This event is in partnership with SWALCO and provides area residents an opportunity to purchase rain barrels and compost bins at Vernon Hills Public Works (Land – Education, Outreach & Engagement – Engage the community in programs and special events).

~ SEPTEMBER 2023 ~

- Go Green Vernon Hills – Lincolnshire, the Illinois Solar Energy Association, and the Village of Vernon Hills partnered to promote the Illinois Solar Tour, which will be Saturday, September 30, 2023. This is an opportunity for a resident with solar panel energy to provide a demonstration to neighbors and others interested in learning more about this green energy source, (Energy – Education & Outreach – Collaborate to educate the community about clean energy options).
- Household Chemical Waste Collection Event, September 23, 2023 – SWALCO members to include the Village of VH are promoting the Fall HCW collection event in Lake Forest, (Waste & Recycling – Collaborate to support proper disposal of household hazardous waste).
- Meeting with legal counsel (representing the Village’s interests downstate), to receive an update on proposed state legislation regarding single-use plastic bags, September 11, 2023. VM Timony, PW Director Venatta, and AVM Petrillo met with Morrill and Fiedler who shared they expect SB-2221 (Edly-Allen) to be re-introduced in the spring session. This bill as written would be a state-wide prohibition on the use of plastic bags by retail, restaurants, and grocery stores. If this bill advances, the Village Board will be briefed. The Village could take a position to include a Resolution of Support, (Leadership – Advocate for State policies that support investment in municipal advances in sustainability).

~ OCTOBER 2023 ~

- Shredding and Seeds event – October 7, 2023. Residents of Vernon Hills will be able to go to the Metra Station and have documents shred / recycled. Each participant will receive a packet of wild flower seeds SWALCO, Vernon Hills – Lincolnshire Go Green and the Village of VH are partnering to conduct this event, (Waste and Recycling – Engage with solid waste agencies to manage waste sustainably).
- For 2023, Public Work reported replacing 61 trees in spring, and replacing 57 trees during the fall. In addition, 14 new trees will be planted in Riviera Estates for a total of 132 trees to be planted in 2023, (Land- Plant trees to sustain and renew urban forests).
- Village Engineers & Community Development have requested Centennial identify their pedestrian / bike plan for the H20 Project, to ensure connectivity within this redevelopment and with the other areas within the Village (Create a bicycle and pedestrian plan to improve connectivity in the community and beyond).
- Pumpkin Smash – The Village, Hawthorn, and SCARCE partnered to divert pumpkin waste from landfills. This collection event will be on November 4 (after Halloween), with the Village helping to promote diversion of pumpkins from landfills. SCARCE is a SWALCO endorsed coordinator for this event, (Waste & Recycling - Engage Community in recycling education and events).

~ NOVEMBER 2023 ~

- Implementation of Laserfische - This system allows the Village Clerk's Office to transition from paper filing to electronic filing of documents, (Waste & Recycling – Reduce the use of paper in municipal offices).
- Lakeview Parkway Road Widening Project – This initiative increased the number of turn lanes at the intersection of Lakeview and Hawthorn Parkway and will relieve congestion, (Mobility – Maintain Efficient Traffic within the Community). Landscaping and green infrastructure to improve aesthetics will begin during spring 2024.

~ NOTES ~

The following items are listed as Greenest Region Goals & Objectives for all communities and have been achieved by the Village 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 100 new trees at White Deer Run, (Land – Plant trees to sustain and renew the urban forest) ;
- Village Mission Statement has added language of “welcoming” and “inclusive” – recommendation from Diversity & Inclusion Initiative; (Sustainable Communities – Cultivate and preserve a welcoming and inclusive community character) ;
- 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).