

# SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE RESILIENCY PLAN

*PROGRESS REPORT 2018–2021*





# Table of Contents

A. Letter from the President	2
B. Noted Accomplishments (2018–2021)	3
C. Executive Summary	4
D. The Challenge, Vision & Goals	4
E. Advancing Carbon Sequestration	5
F. Total GHG Emission Reductions from 2016 Baseline	6
G. Progress to Goals Update (2018–2021)	8
H. Key Issues & Lessons Learned	14
I. Green Sustainability Committee Leadership Team	15
J. Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners	15

## A. LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Cook County Resident,

The Forest Preserves of Cook County has worked hard to implement its Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan over the past four years. The actions taken by Forest Preserves staff, partners from Cook County government, the University of Illinois: Prairie Research Institute, other external partners and advocates, and community stakeholders have helped the Forest Preserves reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and protect our nearly 70,000 acres of natural public lands.

The challenge of a changing climate necessitates bold leadership and clear action from governments, organizations and individuals. The Forest Preserves is committed to transitioning away from fossil fuel use by accelerating solutions that enhance public health, improve building efficiency and promote renewable energy.

The Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Progress Report provides an overview of the Forest Preserves' implementation efforts to date, highlighting areas of progress and areas where more action needs to be taken to ensure we are on a path to reach our ambitious goal of being a carbon neutral organization by 2050.









To all who are working to create a sustainable future in Cook County, I offer sincere thanks. By celebrating and protecting our natural resources, we are investing in the resiliency of our County.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Toni Preckwinkle'.

**Toni Preckwinkle**

*President, Forest Preserves of Cook County*

## B. NOTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

 <p><b>Restored 4,362 Acres of Land</b> to the highest quality of ecological health</p>	<p><b>Offset 100% of Electricity &amp; Natural Gas</b> Use with the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)</p>	<p><b>Reduced Transportation Related Carbon into the Atmosphere by 4.82 %</b> from 2016 to 2020 through:</p> <p><b>Reduced Gasoline Usage by 13%</b></p> <p><b>Reduced Diesel Fuel Usage by 32%</b></p>
 <p><b>Sequestered 1,544,887 Metric Tons of Carbon</b> from the atmosphere annually</p>	 <p><b>Installed Rooftop Solar Panels</b> at Sagawau Nature Center</p>	 <p><b>Hosted Over 600 Sustainability &amp; Conservation Focused Public Events</b></p>
 <p><b>Acquired 56 Acres of Public Space</b> that will be preserved for future generations <small>Photo by Chad Reno.</small></p>	<p><b>Expanded Green Infrastructure Program:</b> Removed Asphalt; Installed Porous Pavers; Removed Buildings to Convert Land to Open Space</p>	<p><b>Expanded Recycling Program</b> that distributed more than 200 new recycling cans around the Forest Preserves</p>
 <p><b>Supported More Than 139,993 Volunteers Hours</b> that make the Preserves more resilient and adaptable</p>	 <p><b>Designated the Palos Preserves as the Largest Urban Night Sky Place in the World by International Dark Sky Association</b></p>	 <p><b>Raised More Than \$13 Million in Grants</b> to advance sustainability and resiliency related projects in the Forest Preserves</p>

## C. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The land, water and wildlife that the Forest Preserves protects are feeling the pressures of climate change. Climate change is increasing the frequency of heavy rains that lead to flooding, intensifying heat waves and decreasing the quality of the air we breathe. Climate change also threatens the existence of more than a hundred of our native plant and wildlife species, further reducing the resilience and vibrancy of our ecosystems. For the Forest Preserves to fulfill its mission, we must take big and bold steps to reduce the causes and impacts of a changing climate that threatens the safety, wellbeing and quality of life of all living beings.

In 2018, the Forest Preserves developed a Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan in collaboration with the **Technical Assistance Program of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC)**, a division

of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The plan hinges on an overall goal to reduce Forest Preserves greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and establishes a roadmap for Forest Preserves lands to be resilient in a changing climate. The next year, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted a **Net Zero Resolution** that revises the Forest Preserves' emissions reduction goal to net zero by 2050, reduces facility GHG emissions by 45% and requires the Forest Preserves to be 100% reliant on renewable energy for its building portfolio by 2030.

This report covers the progress to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase carbon sequestration by the Forest Preserves since the passage of the Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan in 2018.

## D. THE CHALLENGE, VISION & GOALS

### The Challenge:

The Forest Preserves recognizes that addressing the climate crises is two-fold: First, the Forest Preserves must implement strategies that lessen or eliminate its contributions to climate change; Second, the Forest Preserves must embrace adaptive land management methods so that the land in its care continues to thrive.

### The Vision:

The Forest Preserves will be a leader in best practices related to sustainability and climate resiliency. The Forest Preserves will advance carbon sequestration initiatives and use sustainable and low impact practices in its operations. The Forest Preserves will challenge itself to consistently perform all its functions in the most environmentally responsible ways.

### The Goals:

- 1) Carbon Reduction of 45% by 2030
- 2) 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030
- 3) Climate Resilient and Adaptable Lands by 2045
- 4) Carbon Neutrality by 2050



## E. ADVANCING CARBON SEQUESTRATION



Photo by Laura Anchor

Carbon dioxide is the most commonly produced greenhouse gas. Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is one method of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with the goal of reducing global climate change.

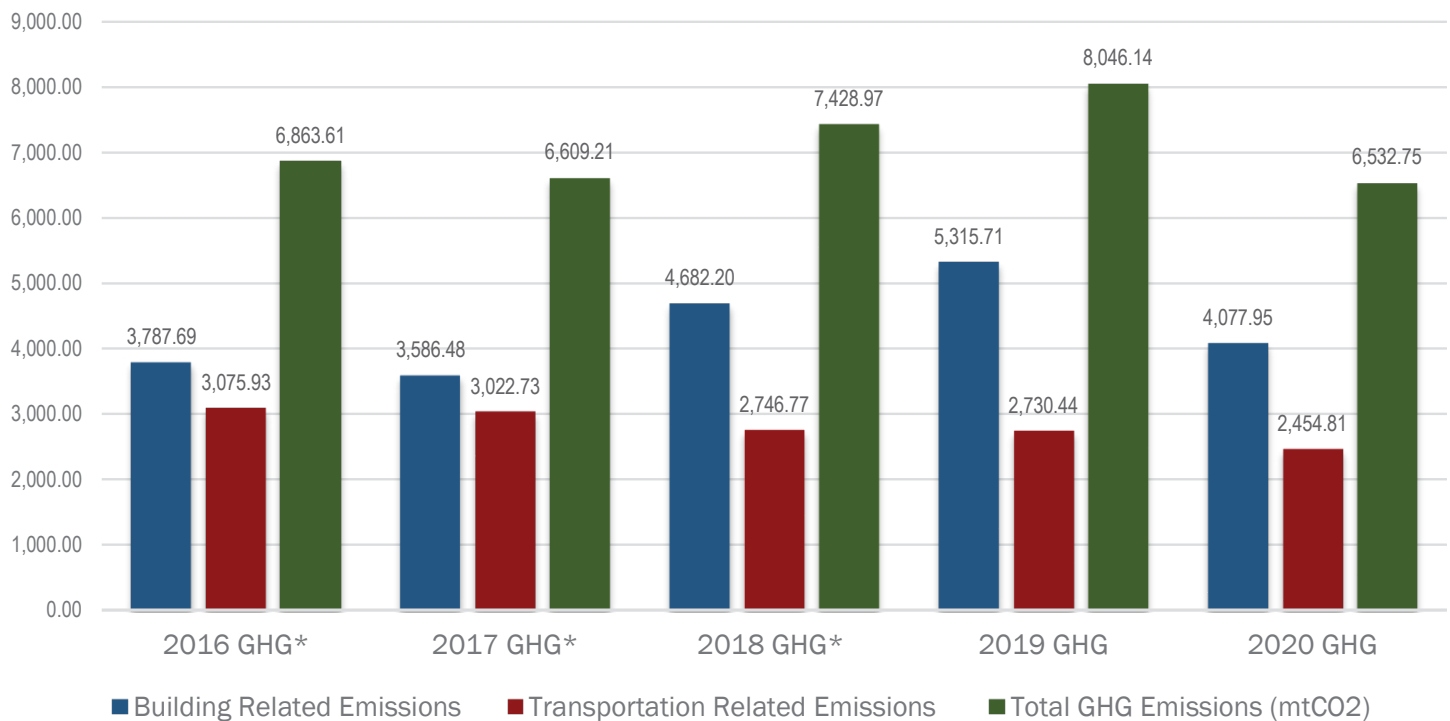
The forests, prairies and other natural habitats within the Forest Preserves absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide and store it in the form of biomass. The long-term CO<sub>2</sub> sink dynamics of forests change through time as trees grow, die and decay. The Forest Preserves' ecological restoration activities include establishing more rare and important native plants and trees and expanding their habitat, so that they can flourish to help absorb more CO<sub>2</sub>. Restored areas are better for water quality,

too, and more inviting for visitors. Forest Preserve trees and plants also influence air temperatures, and consequently alter carbon emissions from numerous urban sources.

A study conducted by the **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning** that calculated the value of green infrastructure of the region found that “with nearly 70,000 acres of land, the Forest Preserves’ **ecosystems** absorb 1,544,887 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.” This fact, along with the Preserves’ commitments to increase GHG absorption capacity through **land acquisition** and **restoration** efforts, while also reducing GHG emissions from operations, positions the Forest Preserves to play a significant role in mitigating climate change in the region.

## F. TOTAL GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS FROM 2016 BASELINE

Total GHG Emissions by Portfolio



### Emissions Reporting Improvement:

The apparent increase in electricity and natural gas numbers in 2018 and 2019 is attributable to a comprehensive energy meter and account reconciliation clean-up initiative by the Forest Preserves in 2019, which included an audit of past utility bills, a thorough review and comparison of financial records and billing statements and establishing a centralized repository for old and new utility accounts. The results showed that usage measures that had been previously reported did not include several high-energy-using meter accounts into the 2016- 2018 GHG Emissions Portfolio, including a meter at the Central Maintenance garage where

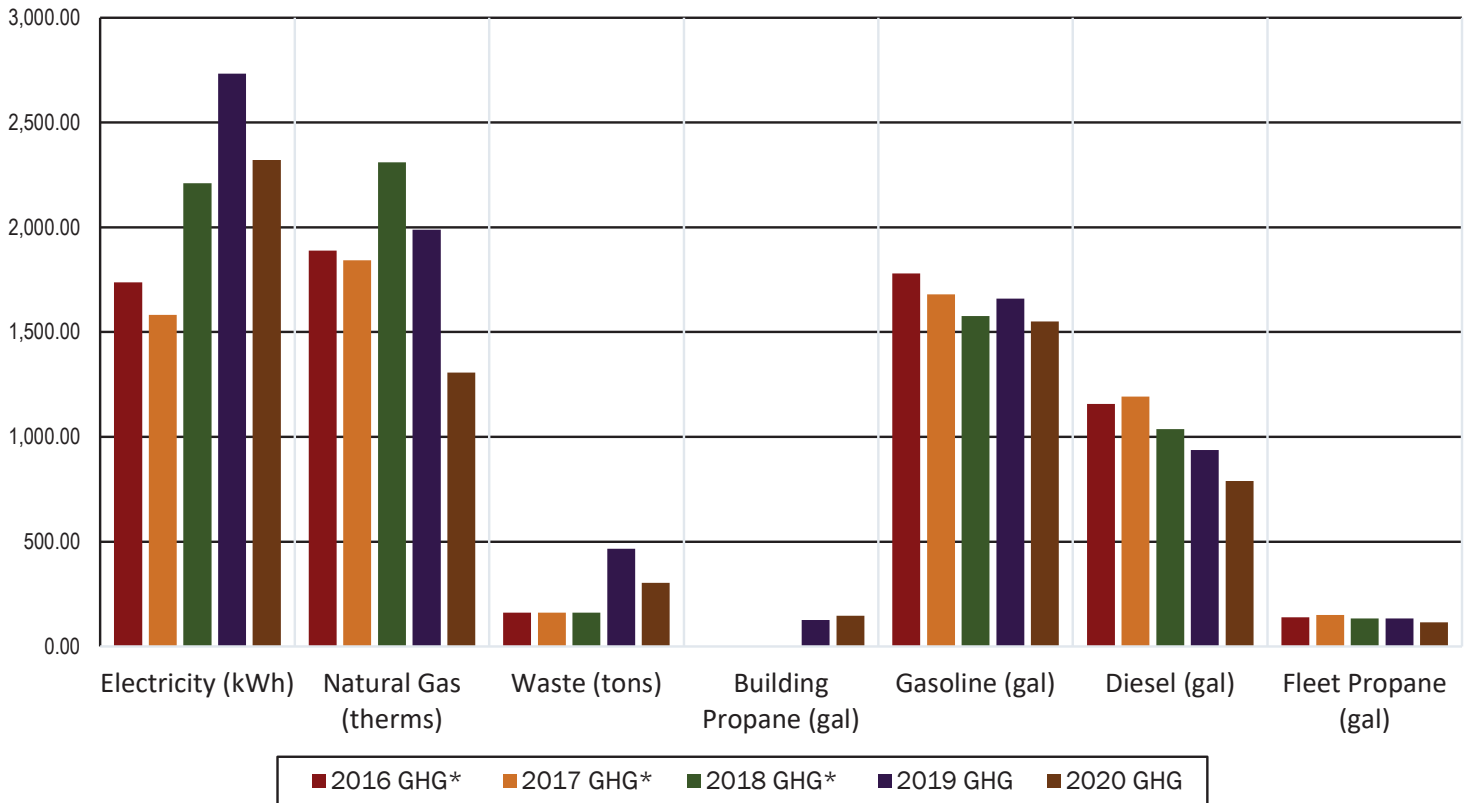
Forest Preserves vehicles and equipment is stored and repaired. These more thorough measurements are a more accurate baseline for Forest Preserves' emissions, and do not reflect increased emissions.

### COVID-19 Impact:

The Forest Preserves continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with most of its public lands and trails staying open and providing people with much needed access to nature and safe outdoor recreation activities. People made nearly 100 million visits to the preserves in 2020—a dramatic increase from 2019's 62 million annual visits.



Total GHG Emissions By Energy Type



*\*Partial data calculations prior to comprehensive account and meter reconciliation initiative in 2019.*

COVID-19 triggered changes big and small so that the Preserves could continue to serve Cook County residents, and taken together, these led to significant reductions to its GHG emissions portfolio in 2020. Telecommuting was embraced, allowing and energy use at administrative offices to be greatly reduced, in addition to employees reducing their own carbon footprint without a daily commute. Following public health guidelines, the Forest Preserves closed its three aquatic centers in 2020 and 2021; the aquatic centers are some of the highest energy using buildings in the Forest Preserves' building portfolio. The re-opening of the aquatic centers in 2022 will most likely increase the Forest Preserves energy consumption rate between 12% and 15%.

### Financial Challenges:

The 2018 Sustainability & Climate Change Resiliency Plan warns that a shortfall in the Forest Preserves' financial and staffing resources will hinder its capacity to achieve its short-term and long-term goals. The Forest Preserves will continue to think creatively and strategically to make the most impact it can, given its constraints.

## G. PROGRESS TO GOALS UPDATE (2018–2021)

The Forest Preserves has spent the past four years embedding sustainability into its daily operations, implementing best practices, and planning for the future. The 2018-2021 accomplishments, on-going activities

and projects in-development will directly contribute to achieving the Forest Preserves GHG Emissions reductions goals.

PRIORITY AREA: CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY					
FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS	ACCOMPLISHED/ COMPLETED	ON-GOING	IN-DEVELOPMENT	NOT STARTED
Carbon Sequestration & Ecological Health	4,362 acres of new land restored to the highest level of ecological health.	X			
	476 new trees planted (31 different species).	X			
	56 acres of new public open space acquired.	X			
	Support for 5,678 ecological stewardship workday events.	X			
	Certified 140 residential, school and workplace gardens through the <b>*Conservation@Home Program</b> .	X			
	Continuing management of 15,000 acres of land previously restored.		X		
	Restoring 30,000 acres of land to the highest level of ecological health.		X		
	Expanding volunteer restoration related programming annually.		X		
	Supporting 764 stewardship workday group visits from 2018-2021.		X		
	Expanding hydrology restoration projects.		X		
	Acquiring 21,000 acres of land for open space and to protect nature.			X	
	New enforcement strategies that protect natural habitats, etc.			X	
	Establish <b>Native Seed Policy</b> Outreach and Advocacy Plan.				X
	Develop a Seed Nursery Plan with the <b>Chicago Botanical Garden</b> .				X
Climate Adaptation & Resiliency	Sites were awarded “ <b>IL Nature Preserve</b> ” designation status: <b>Harms Woods</b> and <b>Wampum Lake</b> ; <b>Elizabeth Conkey Woods</b> ; and, <b>Somme Prairie Grove</b> .	X			
	<b>Bergman Slough</b> designated an Illinois Land and Water Reserve	X			
	Support the <b>Chicago Wilderness</b> "Climate Action Plan" Committee.		X		
	Support the <b>Chicago Wilderness</b> “Land Acquisition” Committee.		X		
	Prioritize climate mitigation and adaptation in District-wide programs.			X	
	Adopt the Chicago Wilderness <b>"Climate Action Plan"</b> .				X
	Establish a Climate Resiliency & Adaptation Progress Report.				X
	Have an active voice in the <b>IL 30 by 30 Task Force</b> .				X

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS	ACCOMPLISHED/ COMPLETED	ON-GOING	IN-DEVELOPMENT	NOT STARTED
Climate Preparedness	Drafted “Climate Risk for FPCC Plants and Plant Communities Assessment” Proposal. The Forest Preserves is actively seeking funding for this project.	X			
	Document the negative impacts Climate Change is having on the Forest Preserves, annually. This includes impacts on nature, programming, permitted activities, building and site closures, finances, etc.				X
PRIORITY AREA: ENERGY					
Maintain: Best Practices, Tracking & Reporting	Secured \$110K by auditing and reconciling energy billing.	X			
	Completed 19 facility energy audits.	X			
	Secured Energy Data Management Contract with <b>Ameresco</b> .	X			
	Secured Energy & Sustainability Consultant with <b>360 Energy Group &amp; SEDAC</b> .	X			
	Facilitate energy audits, and identify efficiency opportunities, at strategically important FPCC facilities.		X		
	Develop a GHG Baseline Protocol & Procedures Document.				X
Reduce: Internal Energy Usage	Upgraded external light fixtures at General Headquarters.	X			
	Conducted Maintenance Headquarters Phase 1-Energy Assessment Implementation Project.	X			
	Palos Preserves designated the largest “ <b>Urban Night Sky Place</b> ” in the world by the International Dark Sky Association.	X			
	Develop an Indoor & Outdoor Sustainable Lighting Efficiency Transition Plan.			X	
	Produce Building Energy Reporting Analysis for Building Managers.			X	
	Require that all eligible buildings achieve ENERGY STAR recognition by 2030.				X
Renew: 100% Clean Energy Commitment	Installed rooftop solar systems at <b>Swallow Cliff Pavilion, Rolling Knolls Visitor Center, and Sagawau Environmental Learning Center</b> .	X			
	Entered a 5-year agreement to purchase wind RECs from <b>Constellation Energy</b> to offset all electricity & electricity equivalents for natural gas.	X			
	<b>Clean Energy Framework</b> adopted by the Board of Commissioners.	X			
	Implementation of the <b>Clean Energy Framework</b> . Comprehensive actions that get the Forest Preserves to 100% clean energy by 2030.			X	

## G. PROGRESS GOALS UPDATE-ENERGY AREA: *continued*

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS	ACCOMPLISHED/ COMPLETED	ON-GOING	IN-DEVELOPMENT	NOT STARTED
Support: Green Infrastructure Integration	Reduced Parking Lot Footprint at: <b>Dam #4</b> Wood (installed porous pavers); <b>Beaubien Woods Boat Launch</b> Parking Lot; <b>Northwestern Woods</b> Parking Lot; Campground Rd. Woods Parking Lot; <b>Potawatomi Woods</b> Parking; and, <b>Schuth's Grove</b> Parking Lot ( <i>installed porous pavers</i> ). Converted the entire <b>Thatcher Woods</b> Overflow Parking Lot from asphalt to gravel.	X			
	Removed two dams; Assessed 6 additional Dams	X			
	Member of the <b>Storm Store Technical Advisory Group</b> .	X			
	Establish a Green Building & Sustainable Site Standards Protocol & Plan.			X	
	Reduce water consumption annually.				X
	Establish a water usage plan to improve water infrastructure and quality.				X
	Investigate efficiency upgrades and green water treatment at pools.				X
PRIORITY AREA: INTERNAL OPERATIONS					
Financial: Grants, Investments, Purchasing	The Forest Preserves received 49 grant awards, totaling over \$6 million, for Sustainability & Resiliency related projects.	X			
	Partner organizations received 64 grant awards, totaling over \$7million, for Sustainability & Resiliency related projects that benefit for the Forest Preserves.	X			
	Research and pursue funding opportunities that advance the <b>Sustainability &amp; Climate Resiliency Master Plan</b> objectives.		X		
	Establish Green Purchasing Policy & Modify Existing Purchasing Ordinance.				X
Internal Policies & Practices	Adopted green policies and practices, including the: " <b>Dark Sky Friendly Policy</b> "; " <b>Tree Protection and Preservation Specifications</b> " Manual; " <b>Telecommuting Policy</b> "; and, amended the <b>FPCC Electronic Communications &amp; Technology Usage Policy</b> to include "green printing" standards.	X			
	Installed bird friendly window treatment at <b>Rolling Knolls</b> and Police Headquarters and <b>Sagawau Environmental Learning Center</b> and Farmhouse.	X			



FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS	ACCOMPLISHED/ COMPLETED	ON-GOING	IN-DEVELOPMENT	NOT STARTED
Internal Policies & Practice	The Permits, Rentals & Concessions Dept. established sustainability related standards for all its Request for Proposals (RFP's) and other Agreements.	X			
	Implement a Salt Alternatives Policy & Operational Plan.	X			
	Partner with the IL-EPA on monitoring harmful algal blooms (HABs), which are triggered by warmer temps and may increase with climate change.	X			
	Establish a Green Cleaning & Purchasing Policy.			X	
	Produce study to determine the efficacy of management practices at addressing the effects of a changing climate.				X
	Update Sustainability Standards & Targets in Performance Management Metrics.				X
	Establish a Space Heater Policy & Reduction Plan.				X
Sustainable Research & Development	Worked with <b>University of Illinois at Chicago:</b> Dept. of Public Administration Class on the development of "A Reasonable Path to A Greener Fleet for the Forest Preserves" Report.	X			
	Worked with <b>Northwestern University's</b> Segal Design Institute on the following reports: (1) <u>bird-friendly picnic shelter design</u> ; (2) <u>increasing recycling outcomes</u> ; and, (3) <u>repurposing Aquatic Centers</u> .	X			
	Partner with academic and research institutions, to improve and increase consistent green practices, initiatives, and/or leverage resources.	X			
PRIORITY AREA: LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT					
Awareness & Visibility	<u>Installed/Promoted:</u> Green Permeable Pavement Interpretive Signage; Habitat Interpretive Signage; Invasive Species Interpretive Signage; Solar Panel Educational Signage; and a <b>Dark Sky &amp; Reducing Light Pollution</b> webpage.	X			
	Included sustainability related posts in twelve <b>Forest Way E-Newsletters</b> .	X			
	Establish and update Sustainability related guides, informational materials, permit information, and related webpages.		X		
	Host sustainability related workshops and trainings at various locations.		X		
	Establish a timeline and strategy to educate permit holders and the public about reducing single-use plastics and polystyrene.			X	
	Publish annual report.			X	
	Hosted 602 Sustainability and Conservation Focused Events.	X			

## G. PROGRESS GOALS UPDATE-LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT: *continued*

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS	ACCOMPLISHED/ COMPLETED	ON-GOING	IN-DEVELOPMENT	NOT STARTED
Community Engagement	Provided “Make Your Gathering Green” Guides to Permit Holders.	X			
	Shared sustainability/conservation techniques with Board of Commissioners.	X			
	Created a listing of e-waste drop-off locations to assist the public.	X			
	Hosted new Lunch & Learns On-Line Workshops in 2021 for the General Public, Partners, Volunteers and Permit Holders.	X			
	Enhance and increase sustainability messaging and programming in Conservation and Experiential Programming activities where appropriate.		X		
	Establish annual community energy clinics.		X		
	Establish a sustainability speaker series, brown bags, training workshops.		X		
	Work to ensure that users understand how their behavior in nature impacts wildlife/ecosystems.			X	
Employee Engagement	Launched the Green Office Challenge in 2019. Over 70% of staff participated.	X			
	Hosted 19 employee sustainability related in-person lunch and learn events.	X			
	Included sustainability topics into six different Internal Employee Newsletters.	X			
	Conducted annual conservation training for Law Enforcement Officers.	X			
	Started a quarterly employee book club on sustainability issues.		X		
	Expand employee-led sustainability projects through a Green Office Challenge		X		
	Integrate sustainability information and best practices into employee on-boarding and training sessions.				X
	Incorporate sustainable practices expectations into future job descriptions				X
PRIORITY AREA: TRANSPORTATION					
Community Strategies	Install EV Charging Stations at previously identified locations when feasible.			X	
Operational Strategies	Increased “No Mow Area” Designations by 50%. 360 Acres of “No Mow” acres as of 2021.	X			
	Retired 25 gasoline/diesel vehicles. Purchased 8 new Hybrid Electric Vehicles.	X			

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS	ACCOMPLISHED/ COMPLETED	ON-GOING	IN-DEVELOPMENT	NOT STARTED
Operational Strategies	Committed 15 new vehicles for purchase. These new electric, hybrid electric and hybrid propane driven vehicles align with the Preserves sustainability goals, upgrading 12% of our fleet of vehicles to cleaner fuel sources.	X			
	Establish a Green Fleet Transition & Purchasing Plan.			X	
	Establish a Fuel Reduction Plan & Tracking Database.				X
	Promote low-carbon transportation options, multimodal work commuting, and EV adoption within our District vehicle fleet and among District employees.)				X
	Establish a Vehicle Idling Reduction & Enforcement Plan				X
PRIORITY AREA: ZERO WASTE					
Waste & Reduction Strategies	Annually, collect over 60 tons of waste from users and illegal “fly dumping” violators.	X			
	Increase employee participation in zero waste efforts.		X		
	Establish a Fly Dumping Reduction & Enforcement Plan & Tracking Database.			X	
	Establish a Waste Minimization, Composting, Reuse & Recycling Policy & Plan.				X
Recycling Strategies	200 new blue recycling cans distributed around district. Diverted 2.6% of materials away from the landfill	X			
	Secured a ReCORK recycling box to recycling cork products at FPCC General Headquarters and TREX plastic film/bag recycling boxes at multiple locations, including at General Headquarters, all six nature centers, volunteer resources center, downtown office, and police station.	X			
	Expand recycling program annually.			X	
	Increase waste diversion rates to 20%				X
Material Reuse Strategies	Promote the Tool Doctor Program, which repairs damaged tools to extend their lifecycle.	X			
	Re-use yard signs, corner signs, and yard stakes.	X			
	Invasive/dead wood is used for the five (5) <b>campgrounds</b> , nature play areas, animal exhibits, and other special events.	X			
Composting Strategies	Little Red School House Nature center composts its food waste.	X			
	Initiated the usage of straw for composting purposes: turf, repairs, installation, plantings, and special events.	X			
	Increase composting opportunities for employees at key sites in 2022-2023.			X	
	Educate & reduce contamination in compost and recycling streams.				X

## H. KEY ISSUES & LESSONS LEARNED

ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
<b>Resources/Funding</b>	<p>Strategies identified in the Sustainability &amp; Climate Resiliency Plan will be implemented largely by the respective Green Sustainability Committee Working Groups. The Forest Preserves has limited capacity to fully implement this Plan without additional resources and support. Many of the Plan's strategies require funding that currently does not fit in the traditional budgeting cycle of the Forest Preserves. Thus, implementation for each individual strategy for a given year will be set by the Green Sustainability Committee, as approved by the General Superintendent. In 2022, Forest Preserves staff will work closely with Cook County, the Forest Preserve Foundation, Commissioners and other partners to identify and procure needed resources to help more fully advance this Plan.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>Additional funding is necessary but not sufficient to advance the Sustainability &amp; Climate Resiliency Plan and create institutional change at the level needed to address climate change. Staff capacity is an issue. Staff are at capacity with existing workload and initiatives and struggle to find the time to pursue and implement new ideas, or to embrace new goals and priorities. Some possible solutions to address this include conducting a desk audit (<i>last completed before 2011</i>) to ensure that employees have the tools and support needed to effectively do their job, and to assess if there may be opportunities for other employee not in the Green Sustainability Committee to take on additional responsibilities. In 2022, Forest Preserve staff will work closely with the Department of Human Resources on this issue.</p>
<b>Integration &amp; Prioritization</b>	<p>The Green Sustainability Committee has worked hard to integrate sustainable related principles, expectations, and considerations within each of the Forest Preserves eleven departments. However, there is still room for growth embedding and prioritizing sustainability considerations within various plans, budget requests, and operations. For the Forest Preserves to fulfill its sustainability vision, every Department must commit itself to the principles outlined in the Sustainability &amp; Climate Resiliency Plan. In 2022, each Dept. Head will identify 5 actions their department is taking to directly advance the Sustainability &amp; Climate Resiliency Plan.</p>
<b>Racial Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion (REDI)</b>	<p>The Forest Preserves strives to ensure racial equity, diversity, and inclusion (REDI) in all its operations. Embedding a REDI lens in the Green Sustainability Committee work is imperative to the long-term success of this Plan. In 2022, the Green Sustainability Committee will work with REDI committee to ensure that the Green Sustainability Committee aligns with the Districts   REDI vision and goals.</p>
<b>External Support &amp; External Accountability</b>	<p>To achieve the ambitious Sustainability &amp; Climate Resiliency Plan goals, the Forest Preserves requires the active support and collaboration of elected officials, governmental entities, partner organizations, corporations, and Cook County residents and visitors. For example, the Forest Preserves encourages elected officials to challenge staff to explain how proposals and plans might positively or negatively impact the Forest Preserves sustainability and climate resiliency related goals. Staff have worked hard to cultivate relationships with various stakeholders that have the capacity to advance this Plan, but this outreach effort must be more comprehensive, strategic and urgent. In 2022, Forest Preserves staff will work harder to engage these vital and various stakeholders.</p>



# I. GREEN SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP TEAM

## FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

**Arnold Randall**, *General Superintendent*

**Eileen Figel**, *Deputy General Superintendent*

## GREEN SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP TEAM

### *Chair:*

**Anthony D. Tindall**, *Policy & Sustainability Manager*

### WORKING GROUP CHAIRS:

#### *Climate & Environmental Sustainability:*

**Rebecca Collings**, *Senior Resource Ecologist*

#### *Energy:*

**Tom Rohner**, *Director of Facilities & Fleet Maintenance*

#### *Internal Operations:*

**Lydia Uhlir**, *Project Analyst*

#### *Learning & Engagement:*

**Heather Anderson**, *Graphic Designer*

#### *Transportation:*

**Tom Rohner**, *Director of Facilities & Fleet*

#### *Zero Waste:*

**Elizabeth Millan**, *Director of Landscape Maintenance*

### FOCUS AREA VICE-CHAIRS:

#### *Buildings & Green Infrastructure Integration:*

**James Haviat**, *Chief Building Architect*

#### *Climate Advancement:*

**Cathy Geraghty**, *Director of External/Strategic Initiatives*

#### *Community Engagement:*

**Katie Moriarty**, *Program Specialist*

#### *Dark Sky Initiative:*

**Mary Bush**, *Volunteer Resources Specialist*

#### *Data & Reporting:*

**Kathy Wurster**, *Finance Manager*

#### *Grants/Development:*

**Michelle Uting**, *Grants Administrator*

#### *Green Purchasing:*

**Tom Conlon**, *Purchasing Agent*

#### *Special Projects & Green Office Challenge:*

**Charmaine John**, *Sustainability Fellow*

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS: ISTC-PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE CONSULTANTS:

### *Project Leader:*

**April Janssen Mahajan**, *Sustainability Specialist*

### *Project Member:*

**Joy Scrogum**, *Assistant Scientist, Sustainability*

### *Project Member:*

**Savannah Feher**, *Sustainability Technician*

### EXTERNAL ADVISORS:

**Deborah Stone**, *Cook County Chief Sustainability Officer*

**Jamie Meyers**, *Cook County Energy Manager*

**Sarah Edwards**, *Cook County Environment & Sustainability Program Manager*

**Deborah Kutska**, *Cook County Environment & Sustainability Initiatives Program Manager*

**Kate Buczek**, *Cook County Energy Analyst*

**Ken Walczak**, *Senior Manager of Far Horizons, Adler Planetarium*

# J. FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## FOREST PRESERVE OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Toni Preckwinkle**, *President*

**Brandon Johnson**, *1st District*

**Dennis Deer**, *2nd District*

**Bill Lowry**, *3rd District*

**Stanley Moore**, *4th District*

**Deborah Sims**, *5th District*

**Donna Miller**, *6th District*

**Alma E. Anaya**, *7th District*

**Luis Arroyo, Jr.**, *8th District*

**Peter N. Silvestri**, *9th District*

**Bridget Gainer**, *10th District*

**John P. Daley**, *11th District*

**Bridget Degnen**, *12th District*

**Larry Suffredin**, *13th District*

**Scott R. Britton**, *14th District*

**Kevin B. Morrison**, *15th District*

**Frank J. Aguilar**, *16th District*

**Sean M. Morrison**, *17th District*

Forest Preserves of Cook County  
536 N. Harlem Avenue, River Forest, IL 60305