

## **SECTION 5**

### **PROJECT HISTORY**

#### **Village of Homer Glen Green Visioning**

##### **Section 5.1**

##### **Kick-off Session - January 21, 2003**

The Kick-off event was an inaugural session introducing the green vision process to the community. The event included a presentation outlining the significance of a green vision. A green vision will build upon the Village's mission statement and provide a contextual framework for the Village's new comprehensive plan. A green vision can enhance the comprehensive plan by placing special emphasis on the importance of natural resources for the community's quality of life. Representing a community's shared values and inspiring the imagination, a green vision promotes conservation of a community's natural resources by providing a basis for action for conservation. It was explained that the Green Vision would include a green vision statement, a series of goals and objectives, maps of critical natural areas as identified by the community, development prototypes, and recommended actions to achieve the goals. A PowerPoint presentation included photos of significant rural and natural areas and addressed the question "What's So Green About Homer Glen?" NIPC representatives explained how the visioning process would work. The residents and other stakeholders were given dates for visioning events and encouraged to participate in the visioning process.

**Invitation:**



*The Village of Homer Glen  
cordially invites you to attend the:*

**Green Communities Demonstration Program  
Inaugural Event**

Tuesday, January 21, 2003

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

To be held at Cross of Glory Church  
163<sup>rd</sup> Street & Cedar Road

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The Village of Homer Glen is privileged to be one of sixteen communities in the State of Illinois selected as a recipient in the Green Communities Demonstration Program. The grant, which is administered by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, is to undertake an innovative visioning process to build our capacity to protect the environment and enhance our community well being.

As an integral part of our community, the Village would be honored by your presence at its inauguration of this program. The event will be followed by the Village Board meeting beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Kindly reply by January 16<sup>th</sup> to Patti Maska at (708) 301-0632  
or email [pmaska@homerglen.org](mailto:pmaska@homerglen.org)

You are also invited to participate in three Community Visioning sessions to be held at the Homer Junior High School on February 24, 2003 (6:30 – 9:30 p.m.), April 26, 2003 (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.), and on July 14, 2003 (6:30 – 9:30 p.m.). Please provide your name and contact information by phone or at the inaugural event in order that adequate space may be reserved.

## Kick Off Inaugural Invitation:



14331 S. Golden Oak Drive  
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

Phone (708) 301-0632  
Fax (708) 301-8407

Dear Resident:

The Village of Homer Glen is privileged to be one of sixteen communities in the State of Illinois selected as a recipient in the Green Communities Demonstration Grant Program. Grant implementation will consider environmental issues such as: clean air, quality water, the protection and restoration of natural areas, environmental education, and compatible development strategies. Items of special interest to the farming community will be discussed, such as: Problems or issues farmers have when development impacts farming operations; Why farmers may want to continue farming in Homer Township; and what the Village can do to promote, assist, or protect farming operations.

**We would appreciate you considering taking an active role as a grant program participant in determining the Village's vision of its environmental future.** The only things asked of the participants are to attend the three visioning sessions, provide their opinions concerning environmental issues which may effect the Village over the next 30 years or so, and enjoy the food and refreshments.

**The first of the three visioning sessions will be held at the Homer Junior High School at 157<sup>th</sup> and Bell Road on Monday February 24, 2003 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** The other two visioning sessions will also be held at the Homer Junior High School on April 2, 2003 (9:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.) and July 14, 2003 (6:30 – 9:30 p.m.)

This first visioning session will concentrate on what the landowners, residents, and business owners believe to be the environmental issues that may negatively (or positively) affect the quality of life in the Village of Homer Glen in the next few decades. The two subsequent meetings will provide you the opportunity to learn how other municipalities have addressed similar environmental issues, to express your valued opinion concerning solutions to environmental issues raised at the first session, and to develop action plans you would recommend the Village Board take in the interest of an environmentally healthy future for Homer Glen.

Additional information concerning the grant can be seen at our web site [www.hornerglen.org/green\\_grant.htm](http://www.hornerglen.org/green_grant.htm)

You may also call our Village Office at 708-301-0632 for further assistance.

We hope you can find the time in your schedule to join your neighbors at the three visioning sessions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russ Petrizzo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Russ Petrizzo, Mayor

## Agenda:

# AGENDA

**January 21, 2003 7:00pm**

Kickoff Event

## **GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM**

Village of Homer Glen (708)301-0632

**Cross of Glory Church 163rd Street and Ceder Road**

### **Pledge Of Allegiance to the Flag**

### **Welcome**

### **Green Communities Grant Demonstration Program**

Definition of process

Introduction of the Steering Committee

Community Stakeholders

### **Introduction**

Janet Hawes-Davis, Environmental Education Coordinator

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

### **Project Overview**

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC)

### **Questions, Answers, Discussion**

### **Closing Remarks**

*You are invited to future Environmental Visioning Sessions  
To be held at the Homer Junior High School.*

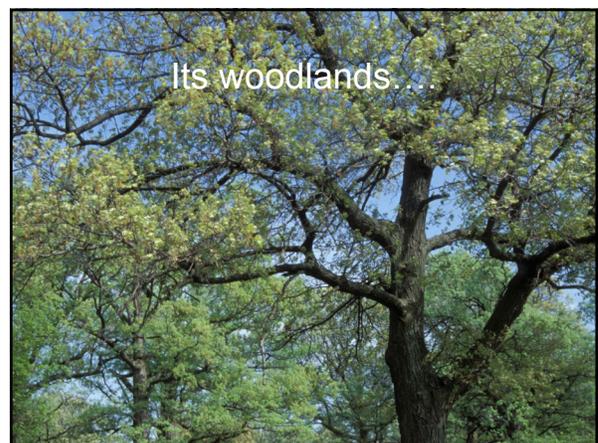
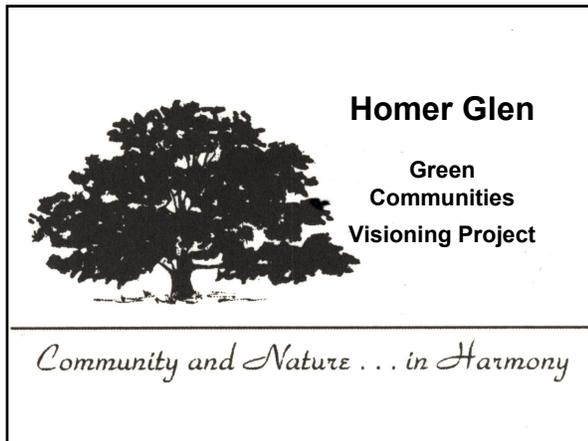
**February 24 6:30-9:30 p.m.**

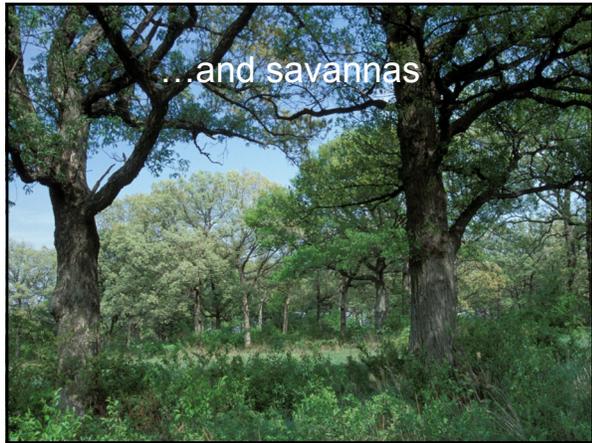
**April 26 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**July 14 6:30-9:30 p.m.**

**Presentation:**

The following is a 33 slide presentation given by our grant facilitator, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission which gives an overview of the steps we would follow in the process of fulfilling the grant requirements.





So how will Homer Glen protect its amenities?

It starts with a green vision.

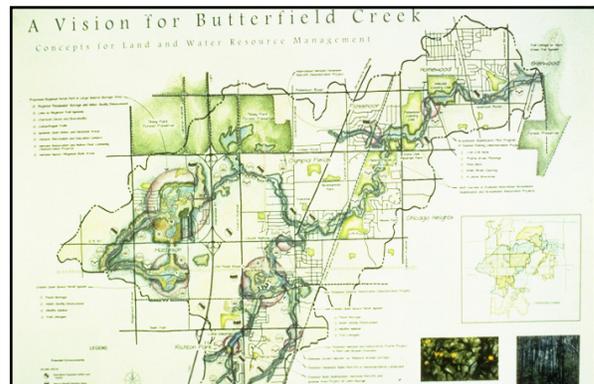


## What is a Vision?

- Conveys a vivid image, a picture.
- Captures the imagination.
- Promotes *concepts*
- Leads to *actions*.
- Represents community-wide, shared values.
  
- Some examples follow.

Homer Glen's Mission Statement includes this broad Vision:

- Preserve, protect, and enhance our community's quality of life...
- Maintain open space, preserve our unique rural character, and safeguard our natural resources...
- Cultivate a balance of family, agriculture, business, environment, and cultural diversity...



Watershed plans include landscape visions.



## Overview of the Green Vision Process for Homer Glen

- Invite "stakeholders"
- Engage stakeholders in a series of three interactive workshops
- Develop products, such as:
  - a vision statement
  - a plan
  - maps, development prototypes, and ordinance recommendations.

## Who are the stakeholders?

- Anyone who has a serious interest in the future of the Village.
  - Residents, landowners, business people, homeowners associations, village trustees, planning and zoning commissions, interest groups...
  - Every participant has an equal voice.
- Ideally, stakeholders should commit to attend all three workshops.

## What happens at the workshops?

- Identify and prioritize the key environmental issues facing Homer Glen.
- We will start with some of the issues previously identified in community surveys and workshops, such as:
  - Open space and trails
  - Clean air and water
  - Rural character
  - Natural area protection

- Will also consider other related issues, such as:
  - Efficient resource use
  - Waste reduction
  - Compatible development strategies
  - Environmental education
- YOU will decide on the relevant issues and what's most important to Homer Glen.



## How do we get your input?

- Lots of interaction
- Voting with instant feedback
- Facilitated, small group discussions
  
- And remember, everyone has an equal voice.



## What else happens at the workshops?

- Discussions of the environmental Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
  
- Discuss and vote on alternative green development strategies





### What else happens at the workshops?

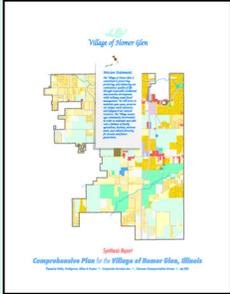
- Discuss land use and open space approaches
- Recommend a future GREEN “landscape” for the Village



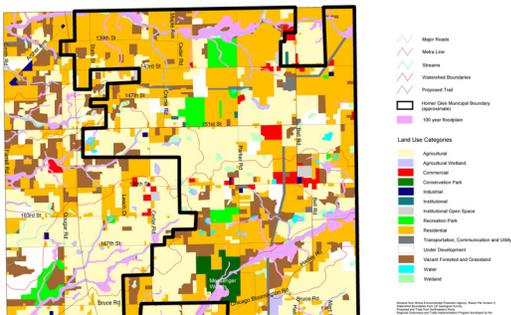
### How does this relate to the Village’s new comprehensive plan?

The comp plan is a starting point, you can help to flesh it out

- Provide details
- Leading to action strategies



#### Homer Township: Land Use and Natural Resources



**Resource maps can guide the way.**



## What else happens at the workshops?

- Identify strategies and approaches that will make the vision a reality.
- This may include:
  - New development ordinances
  - An open space strategy
  - Education programs
  - Cooperation with neighboring towns...



## What's next?

- Please sign up to be a stakeholder!
- Visioning session dates are:
  - February 24 (6:30-9:30)
  - April 26 (9:00-2:00)
  - July 14 (6:30-9:30)



Questions?

*Community and Nature . . . in Harmony*