

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

### **Section 5.9**

#### **Grand Finale Presentation to the Public At Large – May 21, 2004**

The Green Vision for the Homer Glen Community was unveiled at the Grand Finale in May. Attendees viewed a video presentation that represented the two years of work. Table Displays showcased current and planned activities relating to the Goals and Objectives. The more than 250 attendees were encouraged to participate in the implementation process.

## Agenda

### VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN GREEN COMMUNITIES GRAND FINALE

May 21, 2004 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

- 6:00 pm Call to order – Trustee Margaret Sabo  
Pledge of Allegiance
- 6:02 pm Introductions  
Green Grant Demonstration Grant Steering Committee  
Village dignitaries  
NIPC representatives  
IEPA representative  
Elected officials
- 6:07 **Welcome by Village of Homer Glen**  
*Trustee Marcia DeVivo representing the Village of Homer Glen on behalf of Mayor and Board of Trustees*
- 6:09 **The Conservation Foundation is an organization that has been responsible for saving thousands of acres of land.**  
*Dan Lobbes, Director of Land Protection, Conservation Foundation*
- 6:14 **Selecting a facilitator was one of the requirements of the grant. The Village chose the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.**  
*Ron Thomas, Executive Director of NIPC*
- 6:19 **The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency selected Homer Glen to receive the grant funding of \$110,000.**  
*Kevin Greene, Director of Pollution Control, IEPA;  
Recognition of the Village of Homer Glen's participation in the Green Vision Demonstration Program*  
  
*Accepting IEPA Plaque – Trustee Mary Niemiec*
- 6:30 “Village of Homer Glen Green Vision” presentation by  
Kerry Leigh, Director of Environment and Natural Resources, NIPC
- 7:00 Sue Steilen – Homer Glen Community & Nature In Harmony Award  
Recognition for contributions to the environment

Laurel Ward – Green Vision Steering Committee member  
“Where Do We Go From Here?”

Laurel Ward -- launching of Community & Nature Center  
Not for Profit organization

7:15 Drawing for Gift Certificate \$100 from Touch of Green

Door Prizes:

- 8x10 Native Photography by Ruth Smith, Homer Glen
- Photographer of the year at the Morton Arboretum
- Note cards by Ruth Smith
- Bird house
- Gifts for attending the Grand Finale –
- Plants from M & D Farms, Homer Glen

7: 30 Display tables

Invitation to Dine – The special buffet has been provided by Nonie’s Restaurant

7:30 Closing Remarks – Trustee Margaret Sabo

## **Listing of Table Displays for Grand Finale**

Community Image and Character

Community and Nature Center

- Not for Profit organization

Environment Committee

- Community and Nature in Harmony Awards
- Wildflower Monitoring

Open Space

- Homer Township Open Space Land Stewardship Committee

Parks and Recreation

Natural Resources, Habitat and Wildlife

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

The Conservation Foundation

Transportation

- Roads Task Force
- Trails Task Force

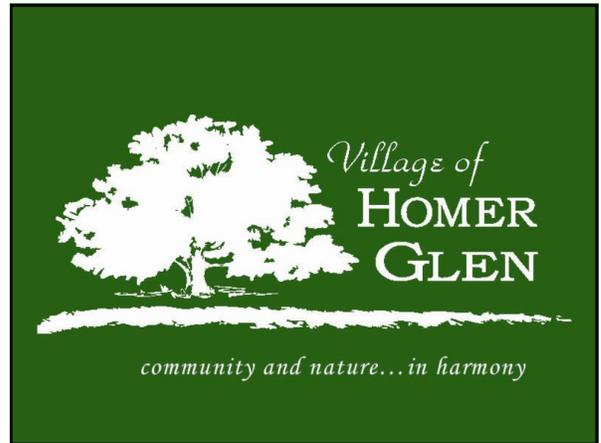
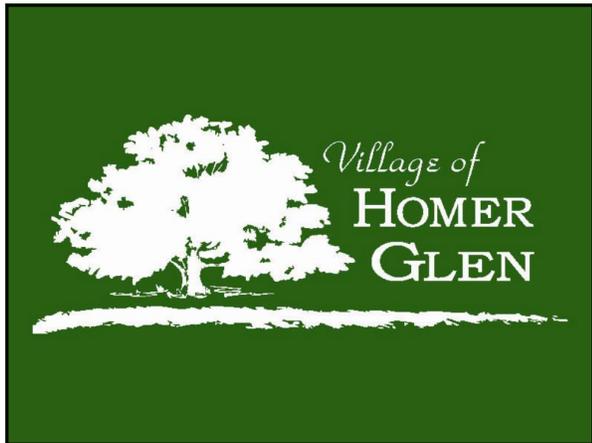
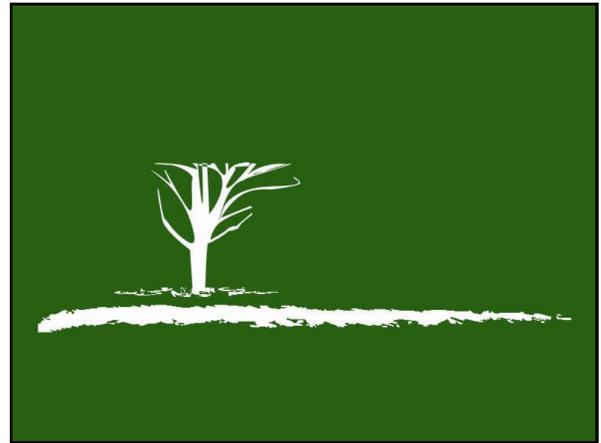
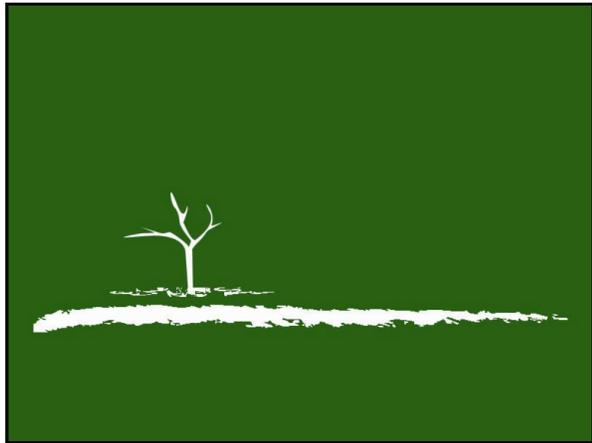
Water Resources

- Storm Water Task Force
- Long Run Creek Watershed Committee

Developments:

- Amberfield by Steve Dignan
- Erin Hills by Mike Fiinnegan
- Stonebridge by Tom Hahn and Greg Chetnik

# Grand Finale Presentation



Green Vision Plan

## Homer Glen Green Vision Plan



**Green Communities Program Grant**  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Technical assistance provided by...



northeastern illinois planning commission



Green Vision Plan

*So what's so green about  
Homer Glen...*



*Its wide open spaces...*



*Its farms...*



*... the beautiful pastures*



*... the wonderful woodlands*



*... its ponds and wetlands*



*... the beautiful wildflowers*

Green Vision Plan



... its critters

Green Vision Plan

But, things are changing...

...quickly.



Green Vision Plan

So how will Homer Glen protect its amenities...

*It starts with a Green Vision!*

Green Vision Plan

What is a Green Vision?

A Green Vision:

- Represents a community's shared values and inspires the imagination
- Promotes conservation of a community's natural resources by providing a well-planned strategy



Green Vision Plan

The Green Vision Plan Includes:

- A Green Vision statement
- Goals and objectives
- Maps of critical natural areas as identified by the community
- Development prototypes for town center and conservation designed neighborhoods
- Recommended actions to achieve the goals
- Benchmarks



Green Vision Plan

Homer Glen Green Vision

An attractive, distinctive, and environmentally sustainable community that protects its valuable water resources, natural landscapes, wildlife habitats, open spaces, and agricultural settings essential to the well-being and quality of life of Homer Glen residents.



Green Vision Plan

## Stakeholders

A broad base of community members are the stakeholders who believe their quality of life depends directly on integrating development sensitively with the natural environment of Homer Glen





Green Vision Plan

## Unique Participatory Process

- Steering Committee: created to provide leadership for planning
- Green Vision Plan created by residents
- Three public meetings held from January to July of 2003




Green Vision Plan

## Forming the Steering Committee

- Residents wrote and submitted the Green Communities Program Grant proposal to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
- IEPA awarded the Village of Homer Glen a grant
- The Steering Committee was created
- The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission's technical assistance, facilitation skills, and project management services were secured to guide this unique participatory process
- The Homer Glen Green Vision Project began!




Green Vision Plan

## Role of the Steering Committee

- Create the project plan and timeline
- Schedule public input meetings
- Propose goals, objectives and recommendations
- Communicate project progress to residents
- Publish and distribute the proposed Green Vision Plan Summary
- Host public celebration of Green Vision Plan




Green Vision Plan

## NIPC's Facilitator Role

- Guide Steering Committee
- Provide technical assistance
- Facilitate **three** community-wide workshops held in 2003 from January to July
- Organize field trips to Green Vision developments
- Create and publish the complete Green Vision Plan report
- Present the Village's Green Vision Plan at the May celebration

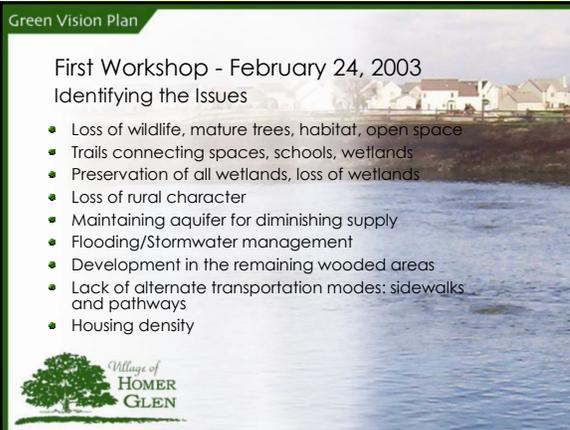



Green Vision Plan

## First Workshop - February 24, 2003

### Identifying the Issues

- Loss of wildlife, mature trees, habitat, open space
- Trails connecting spaces, schools, wetlands
- Preservation of all wetlands, loss of wetlands
- Loss of rural character
- Maintaining aquifer for diminishing supply
- Flooding/Stormwater management
- Development in the remaining wooded areas
- Lack of alternate transportation modes: sidewalks and pathways
- Housing density




Green Vision Plan

## Second Workshop - April 26, 2003

Development of Goals and Objectives



Reaching consensus at each table using keypad polling




Green Vision Plan

## Second Workshop - April 26, 2003

Goal statements grouped into six categories

- Community Image and Character
- Natural Resources, Habitat and Wildlife
- Open Space
- Parks and Recreation
- Transportation
- Water Resources




Green Vision Plan

## Community Image and Character

Maintenance and enhancement of an attractive and distinctive community that builds upon and preserves Homer Glen's countryside character, unique natural resources and abundance of open space





Green Vision Plan

## Natural Resources, Habitat and Wildlife

Preservation, protection and enhancement of the existing and potential natural resources and wildlife habitat that are enjoyed by village residents




Green Vision Plan

## Open Space

Protection and enhancement of the extensive open space areas that are essential to the overall image and character of Homer Glen





Green Vision Plan

## Parks and Recreation

A parks and recreation system that promotes healthy lifestyles by offering active and passive recreational opportunities for residents, employees, and visitors, and enhances the overall image and character of the community




Green Vision Plan

### Transportation

A coordinated, sustainable system of roadways, pedestrian facilities, recreational pathways and public transportation services that provides for the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians and enhances the countryside character and environmental amenities of the Village.



Village of HOMER GLEN

Green Vision Plan

### Water Resources

Plentiful, high quality surface and groundwater resources that protect the quality of life for residents and all ecosystems, especially wetlands, by reducing the impacts on these systems



Village of HOMER GLEN

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### Third Workshop - July 14, 2003




Village of HOMER GLEN

Homer Glen Green Vision: Habitat and Water Features Map

Green Vision Plan

### Third Workshop - July 14, 2003




Village of HOMER GLEN

Homer Glen Green Vision: Open Spaces Map

Green Vision Plan

### Third Workshop - July 14, 2003




Village of HOMER GLEN

Homer Glen Green Vision: Proposed Transportation Routes Map

Green Vision Plan

### Third Workshop July 14, 2003

- Table 1: Habitat and Water Features
- Table 2: Community Image and Open Space



Village of HOMER GLEN



Green Vision Plan

### Benchmarks – Within Five Years (Part 2)

- Establish environmental accounting practices (life-cycle analysis for large capital projects)
- Adopt Strategic Transportation Improvement Plan (including alternative transportation options)
- Adopt environmental codes and ordinances
- Implement stormwater (watershed) protection measures
- Incorporate native plants into landscape designs



Green Vision Plan

### Benchmarks – Within Ten to Twenty Years

- Approve at least 50% of new development as conservation design
- Develop additional five miles of trail system
- Connect local trails to regional trail system
- Protect 500 additional acres of open space
- Acquire land for Town Center and begin construction
- Safeguard five active farming sites
- Acquire Recreational Park land and facilitate its active use
- Link environmental corridors and wildlife habitats forming an Emerald Necklace



Green Vision Plan

### Next Steps - I

- Create Implementation Plans
- Establish Oversight Responsibility – transfer to Environment Committee
- Develop Education and Awareness Program
  - Residents
  - Developers
  - Businesses
  - Teachers/Students (special projects)
  - Elected Officials



Green Vision Plan

### Next Steps - II

- Vision Promotion & Sharing:
  - *Nature Knows No Boundaries*
- Develop ideas for sharing Visioning Process, Ideas, Implementation Strategies with others
  - *Neighboring municipalities*
  - *Chicago Wilderness*
  - *Reference Library*
- Review Efficacy and make recommended changes to Implementation Plans



Green Vision Plan

### How to Get Involved

- Volunteer!
- Visit the web site for updates
  - <http://www.homerglen.org/volunteer.htm>



Green Vision Plan



Community and Nature...in Harmony