

SECTION 6
DOCUMENTATION

Grant Application



**GOVERNOR RYAN'S GREEN COMMUNITIES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM
GRANT PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM**

COVER SHEET

Name of Applicant (local governments, public institutions and non-government organizations):

VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN

Contact: Margaret Sabo

Title: Homer Glen Village Trustee

Address 12115 W. 159th St.

City: Lockport State: IL Zip Code: 60441

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

E-mail: msabo@homerglen.org

FEIN Number: 36-4438506

Partnering Organizations:

1. Conservation Foundation
2. Homer Township
3. Long-Run Creek Watershed Planning Committee
4. U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS)

1.a. Community Description

In 2001, the Village of Homer Glen was established with more than 66 of voters' approval. The newly incorporated village encompasses about 20 square miles, making it the third largest municipality in Will County, Illinois' largest-growing county. With 22,269 residents, it is the largest village ever to incorporate in Illinois. Village Board members are dedicated town officials working to ensure the most beneficial and appropriate Comprehensive Land Use Plan that includes controlled development and preserves open space to reflect Homer Glen's values and character. Homer Glen may be a new village, but we are an established community with a unique identity and strong sense of pride. The Village was chosen to become a member of Chicago Wilderness, a partnership of 143 organizations whose purpose is to preserve biodiversity, and was featured in the 2001 summer issue of their magazine. The environmental impact of current and future growth is a key priority. Homer Glen is a fast-growing area, which has seen unprecedented growth with a 530 increase in population from 1970 to the year 2000. Projections forecast a more than 50 increase in population over the next 20 years. Around 4,000 acres of property are in agricultural use and owned by developers, investors, and farmers. In combination with unincorporated Homer Township, property with development potential is approximately 8,000 acres in the greater Homer Glen community.

Large in both land size and population, our environmental setting is one of Homer Glen's most important distinguishing features. The Village has abundant native plants and wildlife, acres of undeveloped land, acres of dedicated public open space, green ways, wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, ecological diversity, scenic beauty, farms, tan animals and horses. According to the State of Illinois Hydrologic map. Homer Glen includes Big Run, Fraction Run, Fiddymont Creek, and Long Run which are major tributaries located in the DesPlaines River Basin (07120004-070-09) and Spring Creek in the Hickory Creek Watershed (07120004-090-13). The Village surrounds some 1,050 acres of Will County Forest Preserve property, including Messenger Woods. Homer Township has purchased approximately 200 acres for their Open Space Program. More than 50 acres are within our Village boundaries. A variety of lot sizes exist from small lots to parcels of many acres. Homer Township owns eight parks which total more than 57 acres. Over 290 businesses are located throughout the Village, with commercial property predominantly being developed along specific business corridors. As a new Village, we have the unique opportunity to use the visioning process to create a holistic plan for a green community.

1.b. Current Environmental Concerns and Issues Being Addressed

Homer Glen is planning to create a Vision for the next 20 to 30 years. As Illinois' newest municipality, we need to identify our challenges, trends, assets, and develop appropriate strategies and action plans for addressing environmental issues. As stewards of our existing natural resources, it is vital that we preserve our rural environment, character, and way of life, while integrating managed growth and protecting our environmental resources. We are addressing the following:

COMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT Development pressure was the priority issue which led the incorporation effort. A major issue is the potential impact of the extension of Interstate 355 to Interstate 80. IDOT has estimated that the Strategic Regional Arterial (SRA) to be built through Homer Township will be complete in the year 2008. The cumulative effect of the I-355 extension and the SRA create several challenges including impacts to wetlands, watersheds, wildlife corridors, and open spaces, as well as the introduction of noise, traffic congestion, air, salt, and other environmental toxins. By Village resolution, a task force has been created to study the impact of I-355. The sweeping scope and pace of coming development are changing the face of the community. A 2001 community workshop, conducted by the American Planning Association, provided a needed first step in planning for the future of Homer Glen. Further strategic and coordinated development needs to continue. A Conservation Design Subdivision Task Force has also been established and will address environmentally friendly planning. Comprehensive integration of stormwater management, native landscape systems, ecological restoration, and strategies to manage and sustain positive environmental growth are present concerns. We are planning strategies and ordinances that will promote a variety of incentives to property owners to save agricultural lands and open

space while simultaneously protecting our woodlands, prairies, streams, wildlife corridors, air, and water supplies.

OPEN SPACE In 1999, Homer Township residents approved a referendum to purchase land for open space. This led to the creation of an Open Space Program to preserve and protect the semi-rural character of the area. Approximately 200 acres of land have been acquired for the Open Space Program. The Village has established a successful partnership with Homer Township as a grant co-applicant involving a 10-acre wetland parcel, called Homer Glen Marsh on Long Run Creek, for enhancement, stewardship, education, and preservation. It combines and complements the adjacent open space/enhanced wetland area being developed.

PROTECTION and RESTORATION OF NATURAL AREAS We have a variety of unique natural threatened areas: woodlands, savannas, prairies, wetlands, natural habitats, and stream corridors that we plan to identify, protect, enhance, or restore as growth continues. The Parks and Environment Committee has attended seminars on environmental issues pertaining to land conservation, county and regional land resource management, and natural site planning techniques; is reviewing ordinances for future implementation regarding environmental protection; and is researching alternative funding mechanisms for preserving open space. A Village ordinance is being developed to support the Township Wildflower and Prairie Plant Monitoring Program for the establishment of a prairie. New policies and ordinances will address these important issues.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION Opportunities for community education will continue to be a priority. In addition to a community quarterly newsletter, Homer Glen has used the services of Long Run Creek Watershed Aiming Committee, Will/South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District, NIPC, and USDA/NRCS for providing educational outreach programs and resource assistance to the Village and community. We are also exploring educational outreach activities with School District 92, which is planning an outdoor education center.

QUALITY WATER RESOURCES Protection of water quality is a critical concern of the Village for two principal reasons: our residents are dependent on clean groundwater for their drinking water supply and we sit the headwaters of several sensitive streams that are dependent on clean runoff and baseflows. The Village already is pursuing principles for the sustainable management of water. We recognize, in particular, the connection between sustainable stormwater and wastewater practices, a safe water supply, and flood prevention. Our goal is to manage all forms of water as a resource and not a waste product. To that end, we already have been investigating communities and development projects that use innovative site design techniques and Best Management Practices that emphasize natural filtering of stormwater and wastewater, minimize impervious land surfaces, and the protection and restoration of wetlands and stream corridors. Finally, we also are aware of the coming Federal mandate to develop an application for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater Regulations.

PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS With our growing population, we need to establish more parks and recreation areas. The Village's Parks and Environment Committee is presently exploring methods for acquiring land to provide greenways, gathering places, recreation areas, and parks. The committee is investigating local, county, and regional plans for bike paths, pedestrian ways, and equestrian trails to provide alternate transportation links within the community as well as connecting to other towns. Homer Township has begun the aiming for a multi-purpose path in the northeast section of the Village.

1.c. Long-term Grant Protect Benefits for Homer Glen

The Visioning Process will lay the framework for several long-term environmental actions and civic infrastructure benefits that include:

1. Development of the first ever Homer Glen Comprehensive Land Use Plan through the year 2030
2. Ongoing development of new/updated zoning and subdivision ordinances that identify sustainable future land use and development patterns.

3. Development of ordinances for biodiversity conservation for such issues as watershed protection, stormwater and flood plain management, erosion control, and wetland protection.
4. Development of an open space and greenways protection plan that will be achieved via Forest Preserve, land acquisitions, developer contributions, conservation easements, and other creative preservation and restoration strategies.
5. Development of creative, effective public education strategies and tools that will broaden awareness and ensure support and participation of property owners, businesses, and students in long-term environmental protection and restoration efforts, with the additional benefit of increased grassroots involvement.
6. Creation of a transportation corridor plan and trail system and beautification program.
7. Prioritizing of key community issues through unproved communication and collaboration among diverse stakeholder groups and community members.
8. Enhancement of the civic infrastructure already begun in Homer Glen.

Additional community benefits directly related to the visioning process include:

- ✓ Provides a vital working document to be used by the Village.
- ✓ Protects and preserves the ecological health of the community.
- ✓ Creates benchmarks that can be used to evaluate, measure, and ensure success.
- ✓ Promotes environmental quality standards to incorporate in the development review process.
- ✓ Identifies assets and direction to support sensible community growth.
- ✓ Improves civic involvement and the community's united vision, identity, and pride
- ✓ Reinforces the necessary community stewardship from citizens and local organizations as we strive to maintain our valuable rural open space, farmlands, wetlands, and natural places.

2. Applicant Background

The applicant is the newly incorporated Village of Homer Glen, which was established with more than 66 of voter approval on April 3, 2001. The semi-rural community chose to take control over the area's growth with this first step, but the essence of the Village was established long before that. The new community encompasses about 20 square miles, making it the third largest municipality in Illinois' largest-growing county. The Village started as a grass roots effort by members of the community that wanted to preserve and protect their quality of life, including the natural beauty and natural resources of the area commonly referred to as "Homer." The Village taxpayer identification number is 36-4438506, and our legal status is Municipal Corporation. More than 200 residents have already completed Community Involvement forms indicating their willingness to contribute time and experience. In its short history, Homer Glen has already identified itself as a civically driven entity.

3. Project Personnel

Liaison - Margaret Sabo - Village Trustee; Parks and Environment Committee Chair; Margaret has a long history of involvement in the Homer Township Community, residing in Homer Township for the past 13 years. She has been a member of the Will County Historical Society since 1971, past President and Chairman of the Board; member of the Preserve Homer Committee; member of the Campaign for Open Space; Homer Township Open Space Land Acquisition Committee; member of the Campaign Committee for the Incorporation of Homer Glen; and a key participant in the Wild Flower & Prairie Plant Monitoring Program in Homer Township. Margaret has a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University and is a former elementary and junior high school teacher.

Glenn Spachman - Homer Glen Village Manager; 25 years experience as a Village Manager; will be involved with the Homer Glen Green Vision 2030 program administration.

John Sawyers — Homer Glen Finance Director; 18 years of financial management experience; will administer and oversee financial aspects of the grant program.

Patti Maska — Homer Glen Office Manager; 25 years of experience; responsibilities include providing clerical and administrative support program activities such as general communications by phone and mail, coordination of meetings, locations, and other logistical tasks throughout the process. Patti is also the Homer Glen System Administrator for Information Technology.

Laurel Ward — Homer Glen Trustee and Community and Civic Involvement Committee Chair; with a Masters Degree in Management and Organizational Behavior, Laurel will serve as a citizen speaker and committee/task force representative who will advise and undertake work as necessary to facilitate the process.

Sue Steilen - Parks and Environment Committee Member; citizen representative with seven years experience as a Conference and Meeting Planner who will provide administrative support.

Other Key Personnel

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC)

John Paige would serve as our Project Manager, along with Dennis Dreher, and NIPC Executive Director Ron Thomas. MPC provides a wide range of public involvement expertise and services starting with brainstorming to help in deciding on the best public involvement strategy and tools to fit a specific planning process. The type of public involvement/outreach tools for which NIPC has expertise include pre-planning and leading workshops, surveys, newsletters, seminars, values identification, visioning, project development meetings, advisory committees, formal public hearings, large and small group discussion meetings, and media relations. NIPC has worked with a variety of audiences including government, non-governmental organizations, public interest groups, business groups, educators, and citizens interested in particular subjects.

NIPC provides facilitation using professional facilitators in combination with professional resource staff who are trained and experienced in specific subject areas (e.g., natural resource protection) resulting in guidance on best planning practices and policies. In addition, NIPC has expertise in the use of several computer software programs that can aid a planning/visioning process. One of these is called iNDEX; a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based tool that measures communities and plans with performance indicators. Its applications include growth management, land use, transportation planning, economic development, and environment protection, which are all areas we will be addressing. Their qualifications (attached to their letter of commitment) match our needs perfectly and their role would be to serve as our facilitator.

4. Partnering Organizations The following will help lead the project and provide expert assistance.

Conservation Foundation One of the Foundation's strengths is education and outreach on environmental issues, especially open space and watershed protection. With their expertise they have committed to assist during the visioning process, environmental corridor planning in association with roads, watershed planning and stewardship, and during the implementation stage.

Homer Township Covering 36 square miles the Township is interested in developing and expanding community civic partnerships such as this one which continue our efforts to build a vital and strong community infrastructure. They will also help us to identify relationships and the leadership potential within the community to aid in meeting the coming challenges. Contributions include: access to its monthly newsletter, website and meeting facilities; participation in environmental education, public awareness, and volunteer activities. They have committed to providing data on open space parcels, parks, and other known natural resources within the township, and will assist, identify and participate in Best Management Practices for storm water management.

Long Run Creek Watershed Planning Committee (LRCWPC) Educating the community through outreach is one way the LRCWPC will assist in the visioning process. Support to protect and enhance open spaces, addressing natural watershed areas, stormwater management, and groundwater spaces, addressing natural watershed areas, stormwater management, and groundwater quality will be other key support goals. In addition they will assist with identification and protection strategies for recharge areas, all combined to preserve environmental quality and quality of life in the watershed and the Village.

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS)

NRCS can provide facilitation and serve as technical advisors, provide education and outreach for BMP's for water quality, stormwater, stream banks, channels, and for open space considerations, and provide levels of conservation planning assistance for environmentally sensitive areas and agriculture land.

Letters of Support

The visioning process has support from a broad mix of local officials, civic organizations, community groups, and other parties. Appropriate letters of commitment and support, defining their unique contributions and desire to participate, are enclosed. These partners, which are listed alphabetically below, provide project assistance for technical help, facilitation, education and outreach assistance, conservation planning, provision of data, dissemination of information, leadership, goal prioritization, data and statistics, resource preservation planning, knowledge sharing, and other types of valuable expertise.

In addition, we have also discussed the Homer Glen Green Vision 2030 with, and received support from, Senator William Mahar, Senator Christine Radogno, Representative Brent Hassert, and Representative Renee Kosel (letters attached).

1. Chicago Wilderness
2. Forest Preserve District of Will County
3. Homer Glen Community A Civic Involvement Committee
4. Homer Glen Land Use Representative
5. Homer Glen Mayor
6. Homer Glen Parks and Environment Committee
7. Homer Glen Plan Commission
8. Homer Glen Zoning Commission
9. Homer School District 33-C
10. Homer Township Chamber of Commerce
11. Homer Township Highway Department
12. Homer Township Public Library District
13. Openlands Project
14. Representative Brent Hassert
15. Representative Renee Kosel
16. Senator William Mahar
17. Senator Christine Radogno
18. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
19. Will County School District 92
20. Will County School District 92 Foundation for Educational Excellence
21. Will County Land Use Department
22. Will/South Cook Soil & Water Conservation Service

5. Budget Detail We have developed the initial budget with the assistance of NIPC officials and by examining project costs. We have received a cash match from Senator William Mahar for 10 of the project cost (\$12,500). In addition the Village has an in-kind contribution for personnel support services. We have listed projections of in-kind contributions for the commitment and support services noted by our other four partners. These estimates for in-kind services were discussed and verified with each partner

Note: This application has been printed on recycled content paper.

APPENDIX B
GOVERNOR'S GREEN COMMUNITIES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM .
BUDGET FORMAT

EXPENSE	GRANT	MATCH (Optional)	Source of Match (Required, if match provided)
DIRECT LABOR - Salaries & wages (breakdown by individual position)			Name of funding source
Project Manager	\$ 6,216.		
Administrative Staff	\$ 2,278		
Homer Glen Staff and Liaison		\$ 10,000	<i>Village in-kind services</i>
Resource Planners/Engineers	\$ 7,770		
Fringe Benefits (i.e., social security, employer paid retirement and health benefits)	\$ 10,505		
	\$ 3,8750		
Facilitator & Other Professional fees Consultants (25 hours @ 100/hr)		\$ 2,500	<i>Conservation Foundation in-kind services</i>
Lead facilitator (36 hours@\$200/hr)	\$ 7,200		
Table Facilitators (145 hours @50/hr)	\$ 7,250		
Direct Labor Subtotal	\$ 58,200	\$ 12,500	
OTHER DIRECT COSTS			
Photography	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,500 *	
Travel mileage	\$ 3,650		
Subcontracts	\$ 20,000	\$ 4,000	<i>Long Run Creek Watershed Planning Committee in-kind services</i>
Printing & copying	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500 *	
Final Report	\$ 9,500		
Supplies/materials (necessary for the project only)	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,500 *	
Meeting Expenses	\$ 2,100	\$ 4,000 *	
Research	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,000	<i>NRCS in-kind services</i>
Public involvement and outreach activities	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	<i>Homer Township in-kind services (split)</i>
Mailings/Announcements	\$ 1,550	\$ 2,000	<i>Homer Township in-kind services (split)</i>

Software	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000 *	
Advertisements/Web outreach	\$ 10,000		
			<i>Member Initiative Fund, see letter from Senator Mahar, to be used in 5 areas identified by an asterisk (*) in the match column (total contribution is \$12,500)</i>
Other Direct Costs Subtotal	\$ 66,800	\$ 23,500	
Total Expenses (Direct labor & other direct costs)	\$ 125,000	\$ 36,000	
Grant Request	\$ 125,000		

Facilitator Detailed Work Program

The following is a copy of the scope of work to be accomplished by Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission as the facilitator for the Green Communities Grant process.

HOMER GLEN GREEN VISIONING DETAILED WORK PROGRAM

(February 3, 2003)

Work Plan Objectives

1. Develop a green vision plan, depicting natural resource and environmental protection opportunities, using a community based participatory process;
2. Utilize creative approaches, such as visual preferencing, to identify “real world” alternatives to conventional development, land use, and environmental management within the community.
3. Identify steps and guidelines for achieving the future vision.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee includes ten (10) regular member and three (3) Ex Officio members. They are:

- Village Trustee, Margaret Sabo
- Village Trustee, Community and Civic Involvement, Laurel Ward
- Homer Glen Parks and Environment Committee, Sue Steilen
- Homer Township Trustee, Pam Meyers
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (US Dept of Ag) Bob Jankowski
- Long Run Creek Watershed, Marcia De Vivo
- Conservation Foundation, Dan Lobbes
- Homer Glen Green Vision Grant Coordinator, Dave Pronesky
- Chamber of Commerce, Sheree Kozel-La Ha
- Asst. Volunteer coordinator, Nancy Herberg
- Village Manager, Glenn Spachman (Ex Officio)
- Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, Project Manager, John Paige, AICP (Ex Officio) and Dennis Dreher, Principal Water Resources Engineer (Ex Officio)

Steering Committee meetings will be held throughout the process. There will be at least one steering meeting associated with each of the Tasks identified below. This scope of work is not meant to cover all details nor be firm and binding. Rather, it is presented to guide the green vision planning process and allow adjustments to be made to the work program as the visioning process proceeds.

Tasks

1. Finalize the DETAILED WORK PROGRAM

- Identify sub-consultants to be used. Provide the DETAILED WORK PROGRAM to the IEPA along with documentation of the qualifications of the Community Visioning Facilitator (bio's of the two primary facilitators are attached) that will be provided by Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.
- A contract will be drafted and executed with the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission which will provide project management, facilitation and planning services for this project.
- A first quarter progress report will be prepared and submitted to the IEPA by October 31, 2002.
- Project management software will be procured for use by the Village.

Completion within the project's 2nd quarter

Target Date: November 29, 2002

2. Develop a Public Relations, Public Information, and Stakeholder Involvement Program –

- Staff will work with the Steering Committee to develop a detailed work program which will outline tasks and schedules for public relations and information and stakeholder involvement activities, including productions of newsletters, web content, media contacts, and contacts with community groups such as homeowners associations. The intent is to both inform the broader community about the visioning process and to identify and involve a committed group of stakeholders.
- The intent for the stakeholders is to identify a body of individuals (perhaps 50 to 80) from all sectors, including residents, business people, land owners, interests groups, and elected and appointed officials.
- The stakeholders will be asked to commit to participating throughout the visioning process to create and support the vision, goals, strategies, and action steps.

Completion within the project's 2nd quarter

Target Date: November 30, 2002

3. Inventories –

- Working in cooperation with the Village's comprehensive plan consultant Trkla, Pettigrew, Allen, and Payne (TPAP), inventories will be compiled for baseline and forecast data.
- Inventory development will emphasize baseline environmental and natural resources information and trends.
- The inventory also will include socio-economic information, and other related features such as transportation and other infrastructure, maps, photos and other visuals, and other inventories necessary for the visioning process.
- The historical survey of the Township will be acquired and mapped. Mapped features will be incorporated into an ArcInfo GIS database.
- Within budget constraints, "perspective view" air photography will be obtained. Relevant planning documents will be collected.
- Maps and data summaries will be prepared as necessary and will be provided to the Steering Committee.

- Where possible, materials prepared by the Village's comprehensive plan consultant will be used.
- NIPC staff will work with Homer Glen staff to explore the option of the Village acquiring a continuing GIS capability.
- Among the options to consider will be the purchase of GIS software for installation on the Village's computer system, (e.g., ArcView 3.2 @ \$1,500 per licensed software), or the contracting of services from an existing GIS provider such as NIPC, Will County, or the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- While the completion date states January 30, 2003, this activity will continue throughout the project as additional inventories and data sources are found.

Completion within the project's 3rd quarter

Target Date: February 28, 2003

4. Kickoff Event –

- Hold a kickoff event to promote understanding of project.
 - This will be a joint presentation to the Village board, related commissions, and the public, announced by a press release and other means such as newsletters and flyers. It would most likely be held at 7 p.m. prior to a village board meeting and include a 25 minute presentation followed by 25 period for questions.
 - It would be accompanied by a handout which gives an overview of the green vision process and a discussion of the role of the stakeholders in creating a vision, goals, strategies, and recommended actions.
 - This would also be an opportunity to begin to sign up individuals who want to participate in the process (to put their names on a mailing list.)
 - This Kickoff Event should be attended by the media, who will be contacted before hand to encourage their interest and reporting of this project.
 - The innovative nature, aggressive green visioning and green implementation, and the highly participatory process, should be of keen interest to the media.

Completion within the project's 3rd quarter

Target Date: January 21, 2003

5. Organize and Hold the 1st visioning session.

- An evening town meeting format.
- Proposed agenda:
 - Define "vision" and provide overview of the green visioning process
 - Description and assessment of existing environmental conditions and trends. Include for context a review of previous planning exercises including the APA workshop, the Community Survey, and the TPAP Comprehensive Plan process. (Note: Results will not be presented.)
 - Description of Homer Glen's current growth scenario – (based on NIPC demographic forecasts and current village ordinances)
 - In an interactive workshop setting, identify and prioritize the key environmental issues in the community. While previous processes have begun this issue identification, the current process will consider all relevant environmental issues including, but not limited to, clean air, clean water and aquatic communities, waste reduction, efficient resource use, open space and recreation, natural areas,

environmental education, and compatible land use and development strategies. Stakeholders will be asked to identify and prioritize those issues of most importance to Homer Glen and these issues will serve as the initial framework for the remainder of the visioning process.

- Working from the prioritized issues, utilize a facilitate discussion process to develop an initial prioritized list of goals fleshed out by corresponding objectives, as appropriate. These goals and objectives will form the basis for development of a preliminary vision statement.
- Preview the application of scenario building and impact assessment software (e.g., "Paint the Town") in anticipation of the second workshop.
- Discuss next steps

*Completion within the project's 3rd quarter
Target Date: February 24, 2003*

6. Hold steering committee meeting and detailed planning sessions

- Very soon after the first visioning session, staff, consultants, the steering committee, and (if appropriate) a sub-committee(s) of stakeholders will meet to brainstorm translation of the first session into a planning product prepare for the 2nd visioning session.
- Products will then be prepared.

*Completion within the project's 3rd quarter
Target Date: March 2003*

7. Communicate to the Public and Report to the Village Board

- Report a summary and key findings from the 1st visioning session the community (e.g., via newsletter and press briefings) and to the Village Board (written and oral).

*Completion within the project's 3rd quarter
Target Date: March 2003*

8. Organize and Hold the 2nd visioning session.

- Prepare necessary background materials from 1st visioning session.
- An all day (Saturday) town meeting with large attendance from the community and area residents.
- Agenda:
 - Report from 1st visioning session
 - Facilitated discussion of issues (analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats, or SWOT). Summaries of other activities might shorten this agenda item, including work already completed by the Village's comprehensive plan consultants, the American Planning Association charette, and the community survey.
 - Based on the preceding analysis, review the preliminary vision, goal, and objective statements from the first workshop. Identify and incorporate revisions and additions to these statements based on this informed analysis.
 - Present assessment of potential impacts of green land use, development, and infrastructure management with respect to the priority issues and goals identified at the first workshop and refined above.
 - Utilize a workshop format, including presentations and facilitated discussion, to review alternative green strategies and techniques (in contrast to conventional), with respect to the priority issues and goals. Some examples of green al-

ternatives may include green stormwater infrastructure, green transportation corridors and transportation design, green residential and commercial development techniques, and natural landscaping. The actual list of potential alternatives and techniques will be determined based on the goals and objectives identified by the stakeholders.

- Conduct visual preference survey of selected green strategies and techniques.
- Generate and discuss scenarios of future growth for the Village
- Using “Paint-the-Town” or a similar tool, elicit initial preferences regarding green vision plan and green development prototypes
- Discuss next steps

Completion within the project’s 4th quarter

Target Date: April 26, 2003

9. Hold steering committee meeting and detailed planning sessions

- Very soon after the 2nd visioning session, staff, consultants, the steering committee, and (if appropriate) a sub-committee(s) of stakeholders will meet to brainstorm translation of the 2nd session into a planning product and prepare for the 3rd visioning session.
- Products will then be prepared.
- The planning product will be a draft green vision plan and draft prototype developments.

Completion within the project’s 4th quarter

Target Date: May 2003

10. Communicate to the Public and report to a joint meeting of the Village Board and the Plan Commission

- Report a summary and key findings from the 2nd visioning session to the community (e.g., via newsletter and press briefings) and to joint meeting of the Village Board and the Plan Commission.
- This would include both a written report and a presentation, with the session, including a question and answer period, lasting approximately one hour.
- This is a key juncture in the process that will allow the Village Board and the Plan Commission to view the green vision plan and prototype ideas being drafted through the public participation process.
- While these officials will have been participating in the stakeholder process, this meeting will provide an opportunity for them to offer suggestions on the remaining workshop process (vs. the “content” which is controlled by the stakeholders) to optimize the utility of recommended goals, strategies and actions in eventually influencing the village’s official plans, ordinances, and programs

Completion within the project’s 4th quarter

Target Date: May 2003

11. Organize and Hold the 3rd visioning session.

- Prepare necessary background materials from 2nd visioning session.
- An evening town meeting format
- Agenda:
 - Report from 2nd visioning session

- Present a draft vision plan with detailed maps (depicting precise natural resource areas, open spaces, and greenways to be protected), explanatory text, and green prototype drawings and text. This may be done using previously referenced scenario building software, such as “Paint the Town.”
- Facilitated discussion to reach consensus on a future vision, goals, objectives, and strategies.
- Facilitated discussion on how to implement the consensus vision, particularly the identified strategies.
- Discuss next steps

*Completion within the project’s 5th quarter
Target Date: July 14, 2003*

12. Hold steering committee meeting and detailed planning sessions.

- Very soon after the 3rd visioning session, staff, consultants, the steering committee, and (if appropriate) a sub-committee(s) of stakeholders will meet to brainstorm translation of the 3rd visioning session into planning products.
- The planning product will be penultimate recommendations regarding the green vision plan and the prototype developments for consideration by the Homer Glen Village board.
- At this juncture, the process will delve into the details of recommendations regarding the green vision plan (natural resource areas, open spaces, and greenways), recommended changes to zoning, subdivision, stormwater codes, and natural resource preservation policies, programs and guidelines.
- This task will need to be conducted closely with village staff, consultants, and village commissions on the specifics.

*Completion within the project’s 6th quarter
Target Date: October 2003*

13. Prepare Vision Plan for Presentation to the Village Board, Stakeholders, and other Interested Individuals

- Products will be completed and presented to the Village Board for its consideration. This should be a highly publicized event in the form of a public celebration that unveils the vision plan and implementation strategy.
- All involved in the process should be invited including stakeholders, community residents, press, commissions, neighboring towns and the steering committee.

*Completion within the project’s 6th quarter
Target Date: October 2003*

Stakeholders

The following listing was developed from the sign-in sheets from the kickoff meeting, each of the three visioning sessions, the Conservation Design Workshop, the Conservation Design Field Tour, and the Finale. Thank You to All Participants in the Green Vision Process.

Christina Anderson	Michael Costa	Kevin Gleewe
Brian Andrews	Bill Crowley	Ray Golomb
James Armstrong	Barb Cryer	Jim Gow
Bernie Argao	Stephen Dalton	Doug Harris
Myrna Argao	Judy Danalewich	Beryl Hartman
Janice C. Balice	Rich Danalewich	Tom Hartman
Rose Balich	Jeanette Daubavas	Charles McGhee Hassrick
Steve Balich	Billy Davis	Debbie Hay
Catherine Baranko	Marcia De Vivo	Chere Hayes
John Barry	Mike De Vivo	Doris Hehl
Lang Beiswanger	Steve Dignan	Robert Hehl
Abnash Bhatti	Jenny Disabato	Nancy Herberg
Daljeet Bhatti	Bob Doherty	Helen Hennessey
Jim Bilotta	Dennis Dreher	Bud Herman
Barb Boze	Len Drenc	Lynne Herman
Anello Bragalone	Dave Drown	Lori Heringa
Betty Bragalone	Penny Drown	Bay-yu Hilgart
Pat Brunner	Stuart Dykstra	Mike Hilgart
Ralph Brunner	Adeline Eiskamp	Pat Hilton
Donna Buck	Charles Englund	Irene Hogstrom
Sam Buck	Frank J. Enright	Leo Howaden
Austin Buckley	Ceil G. Enright	Marion Hoyda
Ellen Buckley	Bill Eyring	James Hughes
Quinn Buckley	Wayne Fairbrother	Judy Hughes
T.J. Buckley	Doug Farr	Robert Hughes
Tom Buckley	John Fay	Charmaine Ingram
Bob Bufka	Richard Feifar	Adam James
JoAnne Bufka	Chris Finnegan	Kim James
Chris Burke	Mike Finnegan	Julis Janisch
Cathe Byers	Marty Fitzgerald	Paula Janssen
Cole Campbell	Shirley Fitzgerald	Tom Jay
John Carlson	Charles Fletcher	Calvin Johnson
Laverne Carlson	Jim Ford	Connie Johnson
Nancy Carlson	Aaron Fundich	Dwight Johnson
Jean Cavanaugh	John Gallagher	Jill Johnson
Kyle Cavanaugh	Dawn Garr	Pam Johnson
Maggie Cavanaugh	Garrett Family	Phil Jones
Connie Cesario	Leslie Gaul	Terri Jones
Tony Cesario	John Gedwill	John Kalata
Debbie Cosgrove	Julie Gedwill	Virginia Kalata

Henry Kall
Lucy Kall
Mary Beth Kamba
Georgene Karlow
William Karn
Jim Kleinwachter
Jeff Kline
Florence Knapik
Sarah Koepke
Kathleen Konicki
Al Korzonas
Sylvia Krepton
Pat Krasnodebski
Bernie Kucharski
Katie Kuropas
Glenn Larson
Sharon Larson
Sheri Law
Lisewski
Dan Lobbes
John Lobick
Ken Lomasney
Tom Lorang
Fr. Thomas Loya
Dana Ludwig
Jim Ludwig
Pat Ludwig
Dale Lundy
Don Lundy
Christine Luttrell
Dick Macknick
La Verne Macknick
Diane Maenza
Richard Maier
Bob Main
Jack Martin
Joe Maska
Patti Maska
Joan Mastej
Stan Mastej
Don Matthews
Pat Matthews
James McAndrew
Neeloo McAndrew
Deb McCarthy

John McCarthy
Larry McClellan
Joan McGowan
Mr. Merda
Mrs. Merda
Marion Meyers
Pam Meyers
Pallab Midya
Don Mitchell
Helen Mitidiero
Eileen Milkovich
Greg Milkovich
Bob Moses
Karen Mraz
Paul Muehlnickel
Shannon Muehlnickel
Jeanne Muelner
Bob Mustari
Cathy Mustari
Christy Nahser
Bob Najewski
Diane Najewski
Mary Niemiec
Lin Norling
Debra Norvil
Joyce O'Neil
Jeni Ozark
John Paige
Andy Panelli
Dana Parry
Ashok Patel
Russ Petrizzo
Chuck Phillips
Angela Plebanek
Paul Plebanek
Dorothy Polaski
Ksenia Rudensink
Margaret Sabo
Nick Von Cile Schuit
Cloyd Selby
Pat Selby
Brian Smith
Noreen Smyth
Eileen Sobczak
Jim Sobczak

John Sobczak
Glenn Spachman
Kurt Spooner
Scott Steele
Dan Steilen
Sue Steilen
Herb Stephens
Mrs. Herb Stephens
Brian Stevens
Clyde Stevens
Julie Stoklosa
Dalia Stropus
Sue Strzyz
Ron Svara
Jeff Swano
John W. Szela
Susan Szela
Chi M Tang
Jan Taylor
John Taylor
Marty Thomas
Ron Thomas
Barbara Tishuk
Brian Tishuk
Eva Marie Topper
Peter Tsong
Joanna Tsong
Charles Ungaro
Racquel Ungaro
Rudy Visser
Dale Vogelsanger
Kim Vogelsanger
Bill Ward
Laurel Ward
Richard Weeks
Eveyn Walano
Beverly Weisner
Anthony Weisner
Cy Wochok
Robert Wojcik
Diane Wolinski
Janice Wood
Mike Wood
Mark Yunker
Glen Zaloudek
Millie Zaloudek

Public Relations

The immediate benefit of the Green Communities Demonstration Program is the fact that our entire community is talking about the opportunity for the green vision as a valuable tool for sustainability to guide the future development in the Village of Homer Glen.

We have also seen a shift in the thinking of developers and local officials in supporting more environmentally sensitive plans for positive results in the decision making and implementation process.

- Press release to the Illinois EPA

The Steering Committee developed a Public Relations Program designed to educate the community about the Green Vision process and to promote participation by stakeholders. The PR program included a Media Relations Plan and a Community Awareness Plan.

The media campaign was successful with numerous articles appearing in local papers. The newspaper coverage helped educate the community about the Visioning Process. Both the quantity and quality of newspaper articles can be attributed to a good working relationship between the Village and local reporters. Additionally, the preparation of a Media Kit, distributed to local reporters prior to the kickoff, was well received. It provided accurate background information reporters could use in their articles.

The Community Awareness Plan included direct distribution of information by the Village. The mailing of invitations to visioning events was the most effective method of gaining stakeholder participation (as reported by participants). Efforts to include articles in various community publications provided stakeholders with information about importance of the Visioning Process. These articles helped prime potential stakeholders making them more receptive to accepting invitations to participate. Articles appeared in a Chicago Wilderness Publication, and in the following newsletters of Homer Township, Homer Township Chamber of Commerce, Homer Township Library, Village of Homer Glen, The Conservation Foundation, Will/South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District, and in a special mailing by Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Information about the Visioning Process was also included in the Village newsletter and website. These information outlets kept community members who were unable to participate informed about the proceedings and outcomes.

Green Grant Public Relations Program

Media Contact

- Identify Media Contacts (*completed by November 30*)
- Prepare Media Kit (*completed by December 10*)
- Project Background– objectives & scope
- List of partners, supporters, steering cmte members
- Key Personnel Resumes
- Key Event Information
- Presentation Folder
- Distribute Media Kits (*completed by December 15*)
- Develop Press Release Schedule (*completed by December 15*)
- Identify Topics
- Create Distribution Timeline
- Prepare and Distribute Press Releases (*completed as scheduled*)

Community Awareness

Prepare mailing list database (*completed by December 15*)

- Letter of support authors
- Volunteer list (community involvement and parks & environment)
- Committee members
- Neighborhood contacts
- Elected officials
- Additional community organization contacts (potential stakeholders)
- Key individuals (potential stakeholders)

Prepare and distribute invitations to key events (*completed 2 weeks prior to event*)

Prepared articles for Village Newsletter (*completed 4 weeks prior to publication*)

- January publication
- April publication
- July publication
- October publication

Prepare and Distribute Flyers/Posters (*completed 2 weeks prior to events*)

- Flyers to District 92 and District 33c
- Flyers at library
- Flyers to neighborhood contacts
- Posters at key community locations

Provide invitations and updates on Homer Glen website

- Invitations prior to events in January, February, April, July, and October (*completed 2 weeks prior to events*)
- Updates with photos to follow up events in January, February, April, July and October (*completed 1 week after events*)

Prepare and distribute articles for community organization newsletters (*completed per production schedule of each publication*)

- Homer Township Communicator
- Homer Township Chamber of Commerce Newsletter
- Homer Township Library Newsletter
- Church bulletins
- School newsletters
- Chicago Wilderness Magazine
- Conservation Foundation newsletter

Distribute IEPA Quarterly Progress Reports to Key Individuals/Organizations

- Elected Officials
- Selected Letter of Support Authors
- Chicago Wilderness

Green Communities Grant information sheet used for public relations

GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT INFORMATION SHEET

In April 2000 Illinois Governor George Ryan signed an Executive Order, which established the Green Communities Demonstration Program. The purpose of the program is to facilitate and support community based environmental protection strategies that bring together diverse interests, address environmental issues in a collaborative manner, and encourage interaction among all levels of government agencies.

Governor Ryan directed the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), in cooperation with the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center, and the Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Commerce, and Community Affairs to enter into partnership agreements with communities in the State. These communities will undertake an environmental visioning process that builds their capacity to protect the environment while enhancing community well being.

Key steps of the community environmental visioning process include:

- Establishing a long term environmental vision for the community;
- Identifying the community's environmental assets and challenges;
- Identify forces and trends that could impact the community's environment;
- Develop strategies for accomplishing the environmental vision; and
- Identify benchmarks or indicators of success to gauge how well the community is working toward its desired environmental future.

In an effort to participate in Illinois' Green Communities Demonstration Program, a grant application was prepared and submitted by the Village of Homer Glen to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in early 2002. Although submitted by the Village of Homer Glen, success in preparing the grant submittal could not have been achieved without the assistance and support of numerous local organizations.

The Village of Homer Glen is pleased to announce that in May of 2002 the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Director signed its Green Communities Demonstration grant agreement and allocated \$110,000 funding for the cost of the environmental visioning process. The Village has two years from the date of the signing to fulfill the requirements of the grant agreement.

Some of the **requirements** of the Green Communities Grant and associated **actions** which have been taken or will be taken by the Village to satisfy those requirements are:

Requirement:

The Village must demonstrate that the visioning process has support from a broad mix of local officials, civic organizations, community groups and other parties with appropriate letters of commitment and support.

Action:

The Village is fortunate to have knowledgeable and experienced partnering organizations in this grant including The Conservation Foundation, Homer Township, the Long-Run Creek Watershed Planning Committee, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Additionally, the Village has letters of support and/or implementation assistance from:

- Chicago Wilderness
- The Forest Preserve District of Will County
- The Homer Glen Community & Civic Involvement Committee
- The Homer Glen Land Use Representative
- The Homer Glen Parks and Environment Committee
- The Homer Glen Plan Commission
- The Homer Glen Zoning Commission
- Homer Community Consolidated School District 33-C
- Homer Township
- The Homer Township Chamber of Commerce
- The Homer Township Highway Department
- The Homer Township Public Library
- Long Run Creek Watershed Planning Committee
- Mayor Russ Petrizzo
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission
- The Openlands Project
- Representative Brent Hassert
- Representative Renee Kosel
- Senator William Mahar
- Senator Christine Radogno
- The Conservation Foundation
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Will County School District 92
- Will County School District 92 Foundation for Educational Excellence
- The Will County Land Use Department
- The Will/South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District

Requirement:

Form a steering committee to serve as a core planning group.

Action:

The steering committee has been formed. It includes ten (10) regular members and three (3) Ex Officio (non-voting) members. They are:

- Homer Glen Village Trustee, Parks & Environment, Margaret Sabo
- Homer Glen Village Trustee, Community and Civic Involvement, Laurel Ward
- Homer Township Trustee, Pam Meyers
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (U.S.D.A.) Bob Jankowski
- Long Run Creek Watershed, Marcia De Vivo
- The Conservation Foundation, Dan Lobbes
- Homer Glen Green Vision Grant Coordinator, Dave Pronesky
- Homer Township Chamber of Commerce, Sheree Kozel-La Ha
- Homer Glen Asst. Volunteer coordinator, Nancy Herberg
- Homer Glen Parks and Environment Committee, Sue Steilen
- Homer Glen Village Manager, Glenn Spachman (Ex Officio)
- Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, Project Manager, John Paige, AICP (Ex Officio), and
- Dennis Dreher, Principal Water Resources Engineer, NIPC (Ex Officio)

This committee will provide all necessary records keeping and fulfill all necessary reporting required by the IEPA.

Requirement:

Select and hire a neutral outside facilitator who possesses skills and experience in designing an effective community visioning process, keeping individuals in the community involved in the process, and facilitating large meetings of diverse stakeholders.

Action:

The steering committee is in the process of finalizing its selection of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission as the professional facilitator. Upon approval by IEPA of NIPC's qualifications, a contract will be executed for NIPC's professional services.

Requirement:

Develop an environmental vision plan that reflects the desired state of the environment that the community hopes to attain 20-30 years in the future.

Action:

Among the objectives the steering committee is proposing for the environmental visioning process are:

- Develop for Village approval a green environmental vision plan depicting precise natural resource areas, open spaces, and greenways to be protected;
- Present for Village approval alternative "green" residential and commercial development prototypes as a basis for future Village development.
- Enforcement of this type of "green" development would be through codes, ordinances, and the processes followed by the Village in reviewing plans brought forth by developers. The creation of such codes and ordinances is beyond the scope of this grant. However, the steering committee proposes to identify codes and ordinances

which need to be created or updated. Additionally, the steering committee will research codes and ordinances existing in other municipalities which relate to “green” developments and make recommendations to the Village Board concerning the content of Homer Glen’s related ordinances.

- Identify steps and guidelines for achieving the environmental vision which was established by the community and endorsed by the Village Board.

Requirement:

Insure the views of the entire community are considered in the process of developing the Village’s environmental vision.

Action:

The steering committee is developing a public relations plan designed to inform all area residents about the environmental vision planning process. Information will include schedules and agenda of meetings and include the emphasis that the views of the residents and businesses are absolutely essential for the success of this visioning process.

Information will be disseminated using the Homer Glen and Homer Township websites (www.homerglen.org and www.homertownship.com), the periodic newsletters of Homer Township, the Homer Township Chamber of Commerce, the Homer Township Library and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Additionally, local media, mailings and fliers will be used as appropriate.

Requirement:

Develop a work plan for fulfilling the visioning process’ objectives.

Action:

At the heart of the visioning process will be several public meetings. The following are the tentative plans for these meetings.

- 1- A kickoff event is scheduled for 7:00pm, Tuesday, January 21st 2003. Location to be determined.

This kickoff event will promote understanding of the project. This will be a joint presentation to the Village board and related commissions, with public invited, announced by press release and other means such as newsletters, websites, and flyers. It will be held prior to a Village Board meeting and include a 25 minute presentation followed by 25 minute period for questions. It would be accompanied by a handout, which gives an overview of the green vision process and a description of the anticipated products.

- 2- The first visioning session will be an evening town meeting format held in February 2003 at a time and location to be determined.

The proposed agenda for this meeting is:

- Present an overview of the green visioning process;
- Provide a description of existing Village conditions;
- Provide a review of previous planning exercises, including the APA workshop and the TPAP Comprehensive Plan process;
- Provide a description of Homer Glen’s current growth scenario;
- Present a workshop including presentations and facilitated discussion on green environmental visions and techniques (in contrast to conventional), including

- conservation design techniques, green infrastructure, green transportation corridors and transportation design, green residential and commercial development techniques, land acquisition strategies, trail systems, natural landscaping, biodiversity protection and enhancement, and water supply issues;
- Confirm the vision and set the green vision objectives through facilitated discussion and use of scenario building and impact assessment software
 - Discuss next steps
- 3- The second visioning session will be an all day Saturday town meeting held in April 2003 at a time and place to be determined.
- The proposed agenda for this meeting is:
 - Report from 1st visioning session
 - Facilitated discussion of issues (analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). Present assessment of potential impacts of green development prototypes
 - Visual preference survey
 - Generate and discuss scenarios of future growth for the Village
 - Using “Paint-the-Town” or a similar tool, elicit initial preferences regarding green vision plan and green development prototypes

News articles

The following are newspaper articles which document the progress of Homer Glen’s Green Communities Grant.

CW NEWS

Homer Glen Awarded IEPA Grant to Develop Land Use Plan

Congratulations to Homer Glen! The Village of Homer Glen in Will County has been named one of 16 recipients of the first "Green Communities" demonstration grants from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Homer Glen plans to use the \$110,000 grant to develop its first comprehensive land use plan (the Village was incorporated just over a year ago), to develop and update ordinances to protect watersheds, manage stormwater runoff and control erosion, and enhance sustainable future land use and development patterns.

The Village also intends to develop effective public education strategies and tools that will broaden awareness and ensure support and participation of property owners, businesses, and students in long-term environmental protection and restoration efforts, with the additional benefit of increased grassroots involvement.

For more information about the Green Communities program, see www.epa.state.il.us/green-illinois/green-communities/index.html.

Midewin Releases Prairie Plan

The USDA Forest Service has released the *Prairie Plan* to guide restoration and development of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie over at least the next decade. Begun in 1998, the *Prairie Plan* incorporates the scientific analysis of many local and state experts, as well as public comments generated by numerous workshops, tours, presentation, and meetings.

"After fully considering the alternatives, the environmental impacts, and the review comments, I believe this plan strikes the best balance of short-term habitat needs for sensitive plant and animal species, with long-term sustainability of the ecosystem for future generations," said Acting Regional Forester Don Meyer, who made the final decision on the plan. The *Prairie Plan* also has goals to provide high quality outdoor recreation opportunities that are compatible with the Prairie's ecological goals."

Several hundred copies of the *Prairie Plan* and the final environmental impact statement have been distributed to individuals and organizations, as well as many local libraries. The documents are also available for viewing on Midewin's web site at www.fs.fed.us/mntp/. Copies are available in either book or CD-ROM format by calling Midewin at 815-423-6370.

Natural Landscaping Initiative Continues to Flower

The Metropolitan Natural Landscaping initiative of Chicago Wilderness continues to flower with two events this coming June. On Tuesday, June 4, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) is hosting a symposium on natural landscaping for local governments. The symposium will be an all-day event held at Argonne National Laboratory. The purpose of this symposium is to inform local governments on the opportunities for utilizing natural landscaping. The three main themes are encouraging natural landscaping in developments, installing natural landscaping on public properties, and preserving and restoring public land. Speakers include experts in the field of natural landscaping, in addition to case studies presented by public employees themselves. In the afternoon, we will tour some of the natural landscaping installations at Argonne. The fee for the symposium is \$35 to cover the cost of the lunch and materials. For more information, contact Irene Hogstrom, NIPC, at 312-454-0401, ext. 406.

"GROW NATIVE! Gardening with Native Plants for Healthy Communities" is a natural landscaping festival oriented toward families, kids, city and suburban residents, and property owners and managers. It will be held on Saturday, June 22 at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The festival will provide information and advice on the use of native plants to reduce landscaping costs, improve air and water quality, support enhanced biodiversity and bring nature closer to people in the communities and neighborhoods.

The festival will feature nationally-known speakers on natural landscaping. There will be tours of the Natur Museum's newly installed green roof, the restored Alfred Caldwell Lily Pond and Lincoln Park's North Pond, and native plantings on the Nature Museum grounds. Exhibits will be sponsored by natural landscaping experts and environmental organizations. Experienced providers of native plants will have plants for sale at the festival. There will be a special agenda of activities and projects for kids and families.

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is located at Fullerton and Cannon Drive in Chicago's Lincoln Park. The hours of the festival are 9am to 2pm. Admission to the festival is included in the admission to the museum. For additional information call 773-755-5124.



George H. Ryan

- Agency Links
- Air
- Land
- Water
- Offices & Projects
- About the IEPA
- Hot Topics
- Rules & Regulations
- Forms & Publications
- Citizen Involvement
- Vehicle Testing
- Kids & Education
- Green Illinois
- Contact IEPA
- Search IEPA

[News Releases - 2002](#)

News Releases

- 2001
- 2000
- 1999
- 1998
- 1997
- 1996

Governor Ryan Announces Green Communities Grant Awards

For Immediate Release
May 7, 2002

Contact: Dennis McMurray
217-785-1871
TDD: 217-782-9143

State Links
Search Illinois

Go

Springfield, Ill. -- Governor George H. Ryan today announced Green Communities Demonstration Program grants totaling \$1,262, 987 to 16 local governments and community groups to develop a vision, long-term goals and action plan for improving local environmental conditions.

"Many communities across the state are facing an increasing number of environmental challenges, ranging from protecting natural resources and farmland, to reducing air pollution from growing traffic congestion, to safeguarding water resources from pollutants in storm water runoff. The Green Communities Demonstration Program was created to provide an effective tool to help communities plan for a sustainable future," said Governor Ryan.

"This program encourages an inclusive, local approach with state government as a partner," said Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director Renee Cipriano. "The grants will provide communities with the opportunity to seek more creative ways to work together by engaging their citizens and interest groups in a planning process that emphasizes a holistic approach to dealing with local environmental issues."

"Environmental issues that will be addressed by the local groups include clean air and water; energy efficiency; waste reduction; natural areas protection and restoration; green space development; renewable energy and clean fleets; and environmental education," Director Cipriano added.

Identification of energy conservation and waste reduction

opportunities should also lead to cost savings for local governments, Director Cipriano said.

The communities receiving the grants will also be eligible for technical assistance and priority consideration for state funds to help them implement their environmental action plans.

Population size and geographical criteria were included in the selection process used by Illinois EPA to ensure broad representation in the Green Communities program by a cross-section of local governments and organizations across the state. (See list below).

Green Communities is the local component of Governor Ryan's Green Illinois Initiative, which also includes the Green Government Program that encourages environmentally-sustainable practices by state agencies. Governor Ryan issued an executive order last winter that requires state agencies under the Governor to purchase energy efficient office equipment, recycled content carpeting and low-emission paints. This program will save natural resources, reduce pollution and create a healthier workplace environment.

In April, Governor Ryan issued a "Green Power" executive order committing the state to purchasing at least 5 percent of its electricity from renewable "green" power sources such as wind, organic waste and solar power, by the year 2010.

A complete listing of the Green Communities grant awards in each category follows:

Inner City Neighborhood in a Municipality with Population Over 100,000:

City of Chicago Planning Department (Stockyard District in Chicago)--\$110,000
Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (Little Village neighborhood in Chicago) -- \$110,000.

Community with Total Population of 20,000 to 125,000:

Village of Homer Glen--\$110,000.
City of Chicago Heights and Village of South Chicago Heights (combined)---\$91,800.
City of Decatur--\$35,000. Village of Oswego--\$31,000.

Community with Total Population of 20,000 or less:

Village of Monee (partnering with Villages of Peotone and University Park, and Governors State) --\$110,000.
Village of Chebanse ---\$110,000.

Village of Robbins---\$110,000.
Village of Sleepy Hollow---\$68,000.
City of DuQuoin---\$67,000. Warren County---\$12,177.

Other Specific Geographic Area:

Southern Five Regional Planning District and Development Commission (focus area: counties of Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Union) --- \$108,525.
Western Illinois Regional Council (focus area: counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox and McDonough)--- \$74,800.
Winnebago County (focus area: Rock River Valley) -- \$72,944.
St. Clair County---\$41,740.

Environmental grants given in Southland

Several Southland communities on Tuesday were awarded state grants to improve local environmental conditions.

Homer Glen received \$110,000; Chicago Heights and South Chicago Heights received a combined \$91,800; Monee received \$110,000; and Robbins also received \$110,000.

A total of 16 communities statewide received the grants and are also eligible for technical

assistance to help implement their environmental action plans.

The environmental issues that will be addressed by the communities include clean air and water; energy efficiency; waste reduction; natural habitat protection and restoration; green space development; renewable energy; and environmental education.

— Jennifer Martikean

Homer Glen awarded \$110,000 grant

Money to help promote environmental efforts

By Laura Irvine
THE STAR

The state has taken notice of the environmental efforts of the young Homer Glen and will provide money to help.

Trustee Margaret Sabo announced last week the village was awarded a \$110,000 grant from Gov. George Ryan's Green Communities Demonstration Program. Homer Glen was one of 16 communities in the state to get such money.

Homer Township is working with the village on environmental issues and was considered a partner in applying for the grant. Homer Township Public Library director Sherree Kozal-LaHa wrote the application for the grant.

Sabo, who leads the village's

parke and environment committee, said the grant money will "provide residents the opportunity to have a sustainable environment for years to come."

"Growth is coming to this area. We have to plan well so that we can still retain the valuable reasons for wanting to live here," she said. "This grant will help us provide the mechanism so that what we cherish can remain for future generations."

The grant's purpose is to help communities plan environmental visioning and to facilitate and support community-based environmental protection strategies and address issues "in a holistic and collaborative manner," Sabo said.

Village officials identified a number of environmental

issues they want to work on, including quality water, protecting and restoring natural areas, working on parks and recreation areas, environmental education and compatible development strategies.

A long-term strategy had to be identified in the grant, because "this is a visioning process for 20 to 30 years," Sabo said.

Many people and organizations supported Homer Glen when it applied for the grant, Sabo said.

Cited were the Long Run Creek Watershed, National Resource Conservation Service, Chicago Wilderness, Forest Preserve District of Will County, Homer Glen's committees and officials, the Homer Township Chamber of Commerce, the Homer Township Highway Department, the Homer Township Public

Library District, the Open Lands project, state Rep. Brent Hassert, R-Romeoville, state Rep. Renee Koel, R-New Lenox, state Rep. William Mahar, R-Orland Park, state Sen. Christine Ragozino, R-LaGrange, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Will County School District 92, the Will County School District 92 Foundation for Educational Excellence, Homer Community Consolidated 33-C, the Will County land use department and the Will/South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District.

"Mother Nature has no boundaries," Sabo said. "The environment does not stop at any border."

■
Laura Irvine may be reached at (708) 833-8816 or via e-mail at irvine@starnewspaper.com

For its efforts, Homer Glen to get

By Laura Irvine
Special to the Daily Southtown

The state has taken notice of the environmental efforts of Homer Glen and will provide money to help.

Trustee Margaret Sabo announced the village was awarded a \$110,000 grant from the Green Communities Demonstration Program. Homer Glen was one of 16 communities in the state

to get such money.

Homer Township is working with the village on environmental issues and was considered a partner in applying for the grant. Homer Township Public Library director Sheree Kozel-LaHa wrote the grant application.

Sabo, who leads the village's parks and environment committee, said the grant money will "provide residents the opportunity to have a sustainable

environment for years to come."

"Growth is coming to this area. We have to plan well so that we can still retain the valuable reasons for wanting to live here," she said. "This grant will help us provide the mechanism so that what we cherish can remain for future generations."

The grant's purpose is to help communities plan environmental visions and to facilitate and support communi-

state environmental grant

ty-based environmental protection strategies and address issues "in a holistic and collaborative manner," Sabo said.

Village officials identified a number of environmental issues they want to work on, including water quality, protecting and restoring natural areas, working on parks and recreation areas, environmental education and compatible development strategies.

A long-term strategy had to be identified in the grant, because "this is a visioning process for 20 to 30 years," Sabo said.

Many people and organizations supported Homer Glen when it applied for the grant, Sabo said.

"Mother Nature has no boundaries," Sabo said.

"The environment does not stop at our borders."

State tells villages to save some green

These days, many communities are deeply involved in saving some green. We have all heard the stories of rising taxes, hiring freezes and cuts in services. But two of the communities in our area are trying to save a little of the *other* green stuff – open space. This year the villages of Homer Glen and Oswego were chosen to receive state Green Communities Demonstration Program grants to undertake a visioning process that will build their capacity to protect the environment while enhancing community well being. Former Governor Ryan established the program in 2000 to facilitate and support community-based environmental protection.

Key steps of the green community process include:

- Establishing a long term environmental vision for the community;
- Identifying the community's environmental assets and challenges;
- Identifying forces and trends that could impact the community's environment;
- Developing strategies for accomplishing the environmental vision; and
- Identifying benchmarks or indicators of success to gauge how well the community is working toward its desired environmental future.

The Conservation Foundation has made a commitment to partner with each community as they develop their own visions, strategies and tools to preserve important natural areas and integrate growth and development. The Foundation assisted in the grant process and members of the staff participate in the Green Communities Steering Committees for both Homer Glen and Oswego. The Green Communities program is unique in that it involves many agencies of state government working with the grant recipient community as well, including the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Commerce, and Community Affairs.

In terms of open space, it takes *more* than a village to save some green!

HOMER GLEN

Residents can help paint future 'green'

By **Laura Irvine**
THE STAR

Homer Glen has developed a strong volunteer base since incorporating nearly two years ago, and officials are now asking for more help to plan the village's environmental future.

Officials from the village, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, hosted a kickoff meeting for the Green Communities Demonstration Program Tuesday.

Nearly 100 residents attended the meeting. The environmental program is being funded by a \$110,000 grant awarded by the state.

One requirement for the grant is that residents, business owners, community groups and others participate in an environmental visioning process, which will plan for 20 to 30 years into the future.

Janet Hawes-Davis from the IEPA said it is important for residents to get involved in the process and find out what people want for the village.

"It's really supposed to be a

broadbased community vision," she said.

Ron Thomas, executive director for NIPC, also stressed the importance of community involvement.

Thomas said he and his colleagues can bring facts and ideas to future meetings, but "a vision is something you need to own."

"If you don't imagine it, don't dream it, it's not going to happen," he said.

Dennis Dreher, principal water resources engineer with NIPC, highlighted some of the village's environmental assets, like open space, farms and ponds and wetlands. He also explained the visioning process, which is expected to take 10 months.

Dreher said while development in the village is not the enemy, "we need to protect the amenities."

During three future workshop meetings, stakeholders, or anyone who is interested in the future of the village, will identify and prioritize key environmental issues facing the village.

See **GREEN** Page 4

Green

Continued from Page 1

“Ultimately you will decide what those issues are,” he said. “Every participant has an equal voice.”

Goals of the visioning process, which were approved by the village’s parks and environment committee, include:

- Proposing the means for the protection and improvement of the environment including the quality of land, air and water.
- Develop and recommend strategies to preserve, protect and encourage wildlife and their natural habitats.
- Propose methods of defining, acquiring and preserving open space.

- Recognize, recommend and propose a variety of recreational / educational activities and programs for residents in coordination and collaboration with existing organizations.
- Recommend policies and practices to protect and maintain our agricultural heritage in a viable rural community.
- Identify and recommend programs to preserve historic sites.
- Establish a liaison with the plan commission and zoning commission to adopt guidelines and ordinances for subdivision, residential and commercial development that are

consistent with the goals of the Parks and Environment Committee and the village’s mission statement and core values.

- Develop beautification vision and processes for public space.
- Explore and pursue alternative methods of funding parks and environment goals.

Additional sessions for the Green Communities programs are scheduled for February, April and July.

Laura Irvine may be reached at (708) 802-8816 or via e-mail at lirvine@starnewspape

Sun article dated 01-29-03

*A new light
on your community*

50 cents • Volume 6, Number 22

The Sun

Wednesday
January 29, 2003

HOMER GLEN
LOCKPORT • LEMONT



Sally Washburn / Staff photographer

The open spaces and abundant plant and animal life to be found in Homer Glen form the driving force behind the Green Communities Demonstration Program, which just began in the village. The project will involve a broad spectrum of community contributors formulating a long-term environmental vision for the municipality over the next several months.

Green town

Homer Glen planning initiative focuses on natural resources

By Susan Frick Carlman
STAFF WRITER

In most places, municipal planning entails designating distinct areas where people will live and where they will do business. Often it involves identifying land that should be preserved for recreational use or open space. Usually it includes a little crystal ball work, as planners try to project how the community will be populated a few years down the road.

In Homer Glen, the process calls for some concerted environmental strategizing as well. The young village spreads over more than 22 square miles of land, about two-thirds of it still open.

Armed with a \$110,000 state grant received last spring, officials have begun an effort to draw as much input as possible into the formulation of an environmental vision of what the village will be 20 to 30 years from now. The new Green Communities Demonstration Program aims to preserve and protect the environmental amenities – among them farmland, open fields, pastures, woodlands, savannas, ponds and wetlands – that make Homer Glen different from its neighboring communities, all of which are more fully developed and most of which are considerably smaller in area.

Participants will meet three times in the coming months to conduct environmental workshops designed to glean their ideas about saving the village's natural features. Local facilitators of the program want residents – the more of the, the better – to begin thinking about how they want the village to respond to the increasingly tighter grip of development in the coming years.

"I want to point out right up front that development is not the enemy,"

said Dennis Dreher, principal water resources engineer for the Northeastern Planning Commission, which helped kicked off the undertaking at Cross of Glory Church on Jan. 21. "But it presents a challenge in protecting and preserving some of these assets."

A recurring theme in last week's launching of the project was that creation of an environmental plan is a task that needs broad-based participation.

"It's not just the town trustees and the planners making the plans. It is actually your vision," said Janet Hawes-Davis, environmental education coordinator for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The three workshops will involve participants in determining and prioritizing the most important environmental issues facing the village, beginning with a look at matters already named in past community surveys and workshops. Among those issues are open space and trails, clean air and water, rural character and natural-area protections. The interactive sessions will include small-group breakout sessions, and input will be collected using electronic keypads that can tally the group's opinions instantly.

The village is now working on formulating its first comprehensive plan, and the environmental vision will be coupled with that and will "help to flesh it out," Dreher said.

Hawes Davis said envisioning offers residents a chance to "plan for a sustainable future" as they work to preserve many of the expanses of undeveloped land that today cover most of the village.

The potential for development to leave its mark on the land in an unappealing way is not lost on village officials. Most of the village board

FYI

The workshops are scheduled for 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Feb 24, 9a.m. to 2 p.m. April 26 and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. July 14 at Homer Junior High School, 15711 S. Bell Road, Homer Glen. Participants are asked to make every effort to attend all three sessions. For more information about the project or to register as a participant, call (815) 838-8940, (708) 301-2604 or (708) 301-0632.

worked for approval of the incorporation referendum question that created the municipality in April 2001. Much of the overwhelmingly successful campaign was based on supporters' assertion that only local government would be able to exercise the level of control needed to keep high-density development at bay.

Now is the time to assert that control, using a comprehensive constituency, village officials say. Ron Thomas, executive director for the regional planning board, agrees.

"The village belongs to the community .. It's something you need to own," he said. "There are no accidents. If you don't dream it and you don't plan it, it's not going to happen."

Contact staff writer Susan Frick Carlman at scarlman@scn1.com or (815) 439-7528.

Environmental program continues

By **Tammy Matthews**
THE STAR

The third "vision screening" of the Green Grant will be conducted Monday at Homer Junior High School, 15711 Bell Road, Homer Glen, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Anyone is invited to attend who wants to be part of Homer Glen's new vision, village manager Glenn Spachman said.

At the meeting, groups of participants will go through exercises and conversation to identify what needs to be done with the environment in the village, including adding parks, pathways and maintaining water resources, Spachman said.

Monday's agenda includes discussions on water resources, wildlife, open space, agriculture preservation, com-

munity image, trails and the town center green vision. Recommended strategies and actions also will be presented.

The environmental program is being funded by a \$110,000 grant awarded by the state.

One requirement for the grant is that residents, business owners, community groups and others participate in an environmental visioning process to plan for the next 20 to 30 years. The vision screenings are being conducted to fulfill this requirement.

More information on the Green Grant can be found at www.homerglen.org.

■
Tammy Matthews may be reached at (708) 802-8821 or via e-mail at tmattews@starn newspapers.com

HOMER GLEN

Speakers promote conservation

By Laura Irvine
THE STAR

Designing communities that promote conservation is both environmentally sound and economically viable, experts told Homer Glen residents Tuesday.

During a conservation design workshop, experts on stormwater quality, landscape architecture and planning and environmental economy explained the benefits of designing communities to accommodate the natural environment to roughly 70 attendees.

The workshop was conducted as part of an ongoing Green Communities Demonstration Grant the village was awarded in May 2002.

David Yocca, director of landscape architecture and planning for the Conservation Design Forum, said principles of conservation design include designing for human and ecological benefit, incorporating and preserving existing natural features, designing for multiple benefits and other issues.

Yocca commended Homer

Glen residents for being conscious of the benefits the community has.

"It inspires me ... that the community is taking charge and making a positive difference in their community," he said.

Yocca presented several projects Conservation Design Forum has worked on in watersheds, communities and on individual sites.

One concept of conservation design is clustering homes together to allow for contiguous open space.

Yocca said on one parcel, the Blackberry Creek Watershed In Kane County, the same ambiance was achieved as would be on a conventional parcel, but a large area was maintained and put into conservation easement.

Another development, Mill Creek in Batavia, is a 1,500-acre development where the developer set aside 45 percent of the land for open space. The open land consists of parks, golf courses and natural landscape.

Green Scene

Homer Glen group putting together development philosophies that protect village's wild side

By Susan Frick Carlman

STAFF WRITER

The making of a town is nothing to be entered into lightly. That's particularly true, many people agree, when the landscape providing the raw materials for the new community is as rich and diverse in natural attributes as the wide open spaces of Homer Glen.

Increasing development demands are headed for the village; nobody doubts that. So this is the time to make decisions about how those requests will be addressed. A wide collection of participants are involved in helping formulate the policies that will be used.

"Homer Glen has a real opportunity to shape their future right now. There's plenty of open space left, and it has a lot of natural features remaining," said Dan Lobbes, director of land protection for the Conservation Foundation, based in Naperville, and one of those who has been participating in the Homer Glen Green Communities Demonstration Program.

Launched officially last January with help from a \$110,000 state grant, the program is an effort to enlist the input of residents and community groups in formulating an environmentally based vision for the young municipality's future. Volunteer participants met for three extended brainstorming meetings, called visioning sessions, earlier this year. Members of the group now are focusing their efforts on sharing some of the ideas that came out of those sessions, and some of the ways those visions can be realized.

One main school of thought being studied for incorporation into the municipality's planning template is conservation design. Now being tapped by those involved in the visioning program, the concept is founded in large part on the idea that development should be done according to the dictates of the land, and in a way that leaves as much of it alone as is realistically possible.

"It essentially focuses on development approaches that preserve existing natural features — water, land, soil, even wildlife habitat," said Dennis Dreher, principal water resources engineer with the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission, which has been working with the village on the Green Communities program.

BY THE NUMBERS

3 Community workshops conducted earlier this year with the aim of formulating a vision for development in Homer Glen that respects and preserves its natural features.

\$110,000 Amount of the grant the village received to fund the Homer Glen Green Communities Demonstration Program.

90 percent Estimated portion of the state's wetlands

Sun newspaper article dated 12-10-03

While developers in most communities already must meet regulatory mechanisms that serve to minimize the impact of development on functions such as stormwater drainage, conservation design goes substantially farther, taking into account environmentally valuable features such as woodlands and slopes, and placing especially high importance on the natural flow of water.

Homer Glen resident Dave Pronesky, a member of the Green Communities Demonstration Program Steering Committee, said the philosophy pays particularly close attention to the natural state of affairs.

"Instead of taking 40 acres and grading it flat and then putting in roads and lots, you take the land and let it tell you how to use it," he said.

Water works

A pivotal element, Pronesky said, is the management of stormwater, and Dreher concurs with that.

"Certainly a basic concept of conservation design is seeing water as a resource, rather than a waste product," Dreher said.

Properly administered, conservation design not only leads to development that minimizes the excess water after a storm, it also uses the available water efficiently and to the benefit of the land around it.

Homer Glen's water resources are especially valuable, and the residents working on the long-term vision are taking them into particularly careful consideration. Wetland areas, stream quarters and floodplains are routinely carved out from property regarded as suitable for building, as is the case in many other communities. But the regions in the village marked by hydric soil — which identifies places that are thought to be former wetlands — also are likely to be singled out in planning processes, because they often take on water and retain it during rainy periods.

Similarly, the areas thought to have once been high-quality tallgrass prairie may be targeted for rehabilitation efforts as part of the environmental piece of the village's long-term plans. Natural landscaping, including the restoration of indigenous plants and the weeding out of invasive species, is another aspect of environmental design. Bringing back native plants usually is a preferable approach to introducing newcomers, such as the grass that covers most lawns.

"Turf grass is sort of the default suburban landscaping. It's everywhere," Dreher said, adding that its drawbacks include the usual accompaniments of chemical fertilizers and its tendency to squander soil and water.

He noted that 90 percent of the state's wetlands have vanished, and 99.9 percent of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem has disappeared since settlers arrived in Illinois.

"We're bringing some of it back," Dreher said. "If we can do that on our private properties and in our parks and some of our other areas, it not only brings back the native plants, it also restores much of the wildlife that is attracted by that vegetation."

Living with nature

In planning terms, conservation design also entails the principle of clustered development. The idea is that if residences are built relatively close together, large areas of open space can be created, essentially giving homeowners very big, connected back yards.

The approach enables developers to save money on such things as landscaping and preconstruction improvements, including water and sewer service, by creating smaller lots. The flip side is that more land must be donated for preservation as open space.

that have been destroyed by the development that has come with human settlement. Homer Glen has fairly extensive wetland areas and additional places thought to be former wetlands.

99.9 percent
Estimated portion of Illinois' tallgrass prairie ecosystem that has disappeared since human settlement began. Part of the Green Communities program is focusing on the value of natural landscaping, which would bring back native plants.

1/21/2004

Sun newspaper article dated 12-10-03

"The developer still has to give something up in order to get smaller lot sizes," said Margaret Sabo, one of the organizers of the Green Communities program in the village.

A group of residents and board and commission members took a bus trip last month to several sites that illustrate good conservation design in practice. Participants visited the Bolingbrook and Naperville Tellabs locations, to see how those places were designed with an ecologically wise configuration for stormwater management, the Tanglewood and Mill Creek clustered-home developments in the northwest suburbs, and the DuPage County Forest Preserve District headquarters in Wheaton.

More than three dozen people took the tour, including members of the Village Board and Plan Commission and others who take part in decisions involving development in the village.

Sabo said the sites visited were a bit different from Homer Glen, but that doesn't necessarily pose a problem.

"A lot of people seemed to feel that those lots were small for our standards," she said. "They seemed to want larger front and side yards."

But conservation design can be done readily within the parameters of Homer Glen's standards, she said.

Indeed, the approach is appealing for Homer Glen in large part because it lends itself to adaptation to suit the community's distinct attributes. With developers poised daily on the village threshold, it is seen as especially important to find ways to bring neighborhoods, businesses and natural areas together harmoniously.

Dreher noted that Homer Glen's features — among them the large inventory of undeveloped land, its strong agricultural heritage and an assortment of environmental riches that aren't found in most neighboring areas — have triggered a particular emphasis in the village on approaching development proposals with a green-tinted magnifying glass.

Learning process

Organizers of the green-leaning template for development of the village agree it's important for the community to understand what is at stake.

Educational efforts so far have included a kickoff for the program last January, which featured presentations by regional planning specialists and representatives from environmental agencies; stormwater management and conservation design workshops hosted by the committee; and the recent bus trip. Other events also are in the planning stages as the group's work nears an end. Under the terms of the grant, a final report must be presented by the end of June.

John Paige, director of planning services for the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission, told the steering committee earlier this fall that nearly all of the elements needed for a good plan already are in place.

"But they're pretty sophisticated plans. ... I think that the fact that there's still a little money left that enables us to conduct these educational sessions is an excellent opportunity," Paige said.

One challenge that lies ahead probably will be the misconceptions that already have crept up.

"I think there's been some lack of understanding about what conservation design is," said Sabo, who stressed that the idea is to save natural resources, and not simply to clear the way for developers to build on smaller pieces of property.

Another common incorrect assumption about the philosophy is that taking extra steps to protect natural resources in advance of the bulldozer introduces unfair hurdles for developers. Not so, the experts say.

"Conservation design is a way to still maximize a developer's investment while protecting resources," Lobbes said. "It doesn't have to be either/or. You can do both."

Sun newspaper article dated 12-10-03

It is a unified stance, he said, that will be key to incorporating the approach into the local planning mindset.

"Everybody has to be brought to the same place. It can't happen without developer support. It can't happen without ordinances and protections," he said, adding that optimum effectiveness will be assured if conservation design becomes a permanent part of the village code.

Contact staff writer Susan Frick Carlman at (815) 439-7528 or scarlman@scn1.com.

12/10/03



Homer Glen Lemont • Lockport

BRINGING LOCAL NEWS HOME

WebFlex M.B.A.  Benedictine University



Pick your hometown
and click on GO

Alsip 



Green vision committee to outline objectives

Sunday, April 4, 2004

By Michael Hirtzer

The Star

News

■ Beyond Page 1

At Home

Business

Dimensions

First Look

Obituaries

Opinion

Sports

.....

About Us

Classifieds

E-mail

Search

Subscribe

Homer Glen's Green Vision Plan likely will come one step closer to adoption this week.

The Green Communities Demonstration Program Steering Committee will present to the village board on Tuesday an outline of the committee's goals and objectives, Trustee Margaret Sabo said.

The village board then will have the opportunity to make recommendations to the plan, which aims to preserve the environment through conversation design and architecture, Sabo said.

"We are seeking feedback from the plan commission, the zoning commission and the village board," Sabo said last week.

Once the vision plan is adopted, it will be used alongside the comprehensive plan, which also has yet to be adopted, to help plan the village.

"This whole plan is for 20 or 30 years," Sabo said. "It will be a great benefit for the village board when (development) proposals are presented.

"(The village board) will look at the natural resources that a property has to offer and find ways to develop the property to

Star article dated 04-04-2004

the benefit of the community."

The vision includes, for example, ways to properly manage stormwater and cluster homes to maximize the amount of open space.

In 2002, the village won a \$200,000 grant from the state's Green Communities Program, which was initiated by former Gov. George Ryan.

Over the past year and a half, the committee conducted several "visioning" sessions to formulate the document that will help the officials plan the village "from the ground up," Sabo said.

"If we wipe out our natural resources, we are asking for problems," Sabo said.

The group will make its presentation immediately following the village board meeting, which starts at 7:30 p.m. at village hall, 13031 W. 143rd St. It is open to the public.

● *Michael Hirtzer may be reached at (708) 802-8808 or via e-mail at mhirtzer@starnewspapers.com*

Related Advertising Links
Dr Seuss Books Compare 60 bookstores before you buy! Any New, used. Coupons too. www.campusi.com
Dr. Seuss Book Club Get a Free backpack and 8 books for just \$3.99! affiliate scholastic.com
Ads by Google

[Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Dimensions](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Opinions](#) | [First Look](#)
[About Us](#) | [Staff Email](#) | [Subscription Information](#) | [Home Page](#)

[Back to top](#)

HOMER GLEN

Think green, Village urges Conservation plan lays out wish list

By Steve Schmadeke
Staff writer

Homer Glen has put together an ambitious environmental plan that calls for conserving hundreds of acres of open space, preserving a handful of working farms and encouraging residents to plant deep-rooted prairie grass and wildflowers in their lawns.

The "green vision plan" is the culmination of nearly two years of work funded by a \$110,000 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. It was presented Tuesday night by members of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, which assisted in the plan's development.

Mayor Russ Petrizzo said he hopes it will make Homer Glen synonymous with open space and lots of greenery.

"If we can set the example for the rest of the communities in the area — "Oh, Homer Glen, they have the beautiful landscaping and plantings" — I would love to be known for that," he said.

"I think we have become the leaders in this direction." Said Trustee Margaret Sabo, chairwoman of the village's environment committee.

As a starting point, the plan calls for Homer Glen to use global positioning satellites to create a database of environmentally sensitive areas. Leaders said the village has applied for a \$15,000 grant from Chicago Wilderness to pay for it.

The community also wants to encourage "natural landscaping." This calls for planting mostly native prairie grasses and wetland plants to reduce water runoff.

Petrizzo said a large percentage of the villagers flooding woes stem from homeowners' improper landscaping.

Within five years, the town wants to have three miles of trails and at least 20 new acres of open space. Homer Glen also should adopt enhanced environmental codes and take steps to protect farmland, according to the draft plan.

By year 10, the plan calls for securing .500 more acres of open space and five working farms. It's an optimistic goal, village officials said, and it's doubtful the money will be there to pay for it.

Sabo said other options existed. Open space could be preserved using legal agreements known as conservation easements. Farms could be retained as living history farms.

The village also hopes within 10 years to acquire land for a new town center and to begin building it. One developer in the area said the new environmental plan shouldn't present any significant problems since the village is telling builders up front what it expects.

In fact, village officials say several developers are already conforming with the environmental plan's conservation design standards.

Mike Finnegan is president of Homer Glen-based Finnegan Construction. His family owns a development company called Erin Hills Inc.

Late last year, he approached the village to approve preliminary plans for the final phase of his family's subdivision off of Parker Road between 143rd and 131st streets.

Village leaders were pleased when he agreed to reduce the number of homes to 29 on 15.5 acres and to donate another 14.5 acres to Homer Glen.

"Conservation design is typically more expensive," Finnegan said. "(But) it is easier to recoup costs in a more expensive project."

The homes will be priced starting in the \$500,000 range, he said.

Sandwiched into the environmental plan are many references to preserving Homer Glen's "character".

Village leaders say they want to keep a bit of the community's vanishing country flavor and avoid becoming a patchwork of strip malls.

"Since we're a new village — let's protect what we have," Petrizzo said. "When you're driving through (the village), you know you're driving through Homer (Glen)."

Steve Schmadeke may be reached at sschmadeke@dailysouthtown.com or (708)633-5966.

HOMER GLEN

Church plans to go 'green'

Annunciation redesign to restore wetlands

By Michael Hirtzer
THE STAR

Last week at the Homer Glen Village Board meeting, the Rev. Thomas J. Loya proposed a sweeping redesign of his church, Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish.

The design employs many of the conservation techniques recommended in the village's Green Vision Plan, which was presented in draft form last week.

Loya proposed repaving the church parking lot with permeable paving, a concrete alternative that allows water to absorb into the ground rather than running off.

Loya also proposed returning the wetlands to their native state, which he said would alleviate much of the flooding prob-

lems near the church, 14610 S. Will-Cook Road, and the nearby subdivision, Lancaster South.

He said the retrofit design was inspired by the Green Communities Visioning Process, which included a number of sessions conducted over the past year and a half that were attended by village officials, developers and other stakeholders.

"The theme (of the redesign) is treating water as a gift not as a problem," Loya said.

The presentation was an early sign that the Green Vision Plan is no longer a concept but a reality.

Trustee Margaret Sabo, who is also the chairwoman of the village's environment committee,

See **GREEN**, Page 4

Green

Continued from Page 1

said the church proposal is a sign of the future.

"(The vision plan) already has a small ripple effect in the community," she said at the village board meeting.

The project was funded by a \$110,000 grant the village won in May 2002 from the Green Communities Demonstration Program, which was initiated by former Gov. George Ryan.

Since then, the program's steering committee has conducted several "visioning" sessions, which were used to begin drafting a plan calling for the restoration and protection of the village's natural resources.

Last week, members of the steering committee and officials from the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission presented the plan in draft form.

The plan calls for the conservation of hundreds of acres of farmland and open space and

encourages residents to plant native grasses and shrubbery.

The 40-page plan also includes benchmarks for the next 10 years.

The challenge now is implementing the plan.

Steering committee member Laurel Ward, who is a former village trustee, said, "It won't go anywhere unless the village board decides to endorse the plan."

The village board, the planning and zoning commissions presently are looking over the plan. It could be approved by the village board in the next few weeks.

The plan then will be used alongside the yet-to-be-adopted comprehensive plan to aid in the planning of the village.

Sabo said a copy of the plan also will be given to developers and individual property owners.

NIPC executive director Ronald L. Thomas said the plan is likely to be used as a model to other communities.

A handful of developers already have taken it upon themselves to implement part of the plan.

Designers working on the Amberfield Homes development near 151st Street and Parker Road reworked their stormwater management plan, adding grassy swales in accordance with the Green Vision Plan.

Designers from the recently approved Stonebridge Woods development near 159th Street and Parker Road are working with the Conservation Design Forum to help design their stormwater management system, Sabo said.

The Conservation Design Forum, an Elmhurst-based firm that advocates environmentally

friendly landscape architecture, also is working on the Byzantine Catholic Parish.

"The people who represent the church have benefited and been inspired by the direction of the plan," Sabo said, "and came up with their own idea. It was very heartwarming."

Thomas, the executive director of NIPC, said the project is just beginning. "This is a road map. Now you have to take the trip."

Michael Hirtzer may be reached at (708) 802-8808 or via e-mail at mbirtzer@starnewspapers.com



Marketplace

- Autos
- Classified Ads
- New Homes
- Real Estate
- ChicagoJobs.com

Local News

- Today's Headlines
- Yesterday
- Past Week

Community News

- City Guide
- Obituaries
- Police Blotter

News In Depth

- Crime in Illinois
- Election/Politics
- News Focus
- School Report Cards
- War in Iraq
- War on Terrorism

National/World News

- Associated Press
- Chicagoland News
- Illinois News
- Today in History

Weather

Business

- Local Headlines
- National Headlines
- Wall Street Update

Entertainment

- Books
- Chicago Dateline
- Dining
- Just for Fun
- G-Rated Reviews
- Hollywood Update
- Movies
- Music
- Television
- Travel
- Video Games
- More Entertainment...

Features

- Food
- Health
- Home & Garden
- Religion
- Special Sections
- Technology

- WebStreetCafe.com
- More Features...

Opinions

- Columnists
- John Whiteside
- Common Sense

'Green Vision Plan' unveiled

Homer Glen: Draws up details for conservation grant

By **Melissa Budner**
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD NEWS

HOMER GLEN — It may be a little easier being green now that the village has a new "Green Vision Plan."

A draft of the plan was presented recently to the village board. The plan was created in response to the growing community and is made possible by a grant given to only 16 communities in Illinois.

The Green Communities Demonstration program is designed to help communities identify environmental challenges and plan for the future. During the past 13 months, residents and village leaders came up with a statement of philosophy for its conservation programs:

"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."

"We think of this as a roadmap," said Ronald Thomas, executive director of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. "Now, you have to take the trip."

Laurel Ward, who has been on the steering committee since the beginning, said the plan is one way to mitigate issues that Homer Glen is seeing now, including flooding.

Kerry Leigh, director of environment and natural resources for NIPC, said that it was apparent from the first workshop in February 2003, that the preservation of the rural character of Homer Glen is "very near and dear to the hearts of all who participated."

The next step will be to take written comments from the board as well as public comments and incorporate them into the draft. Homer Glen's mayor is asking more residents to attend village meetings.

"I think there's a tremendous amount of community support, but it won't go anywhere without the board's approval," Ward said.

She noted that the Rev. Thomas Loya of Annunciation Byzantine Catholic parish on Will-Cook Road, along with Jay Womack of Conservation Design Forum, are in the process of turning those words to a reality.

FRIDAY
APRIL 16, 2004

Email Story Print

Search term



•VOTE: If it was affordable, would you have your favorite pet cloned?

SPECIAL SECTIONS



Downtown Voices



Trooper Talk

FEATURED ADVERTISERS

TODAY'S STORIES

- Aurora man wins Lotto's \$3.5 million drawing
- Baseball/softball program grows
- Bin Laden 'truce'? Countries say no
- Briefs Digest
- Channahon hones process for budget
- Character becomes local focus
- County fights for transit role
- Homer Glen budget up for review
- Mascot protesters occupy building
- Mokena to expand police station, village hall

E-The People
Letters to the Editor
Open Line
Quick Poll
Your Officials
More Opinions...

Sports

Local Sports
Pro / College Sports
Sports Update

Site Tools

About Our Paper
About Our Site
Advertiser Index
Privacy Policy
Search
Terms of Use

Loya decided that his property would be an excellent location to show that water can be used as a gift rather than a problem. The master plan for the church grounds as well as surrounding property include water gardens, permeable pavement in place of the existing asphalt, turf grass will be replaced with prairie, meditative grottos along winding paths, boardwalks in place of concrete, and a living green roof.

All of these tools can provide a natural habitat where people and animals can enjoy reduction in pollutants as well as water management where "every drop of water is accounted for," Womack said.

The next step for this plan is to decide who will own and maintain the area if the residents, the county and the village all agree on the master plan. The question is out there because the area known as detention lot B of the Lancaster South subdivision is owned by Will County.

Mayor Russ Petrizzo also commended the developer of Amberfield townhomes with changing its already approved plan to a more conservation friendly design.

The village will host a public celebration of the Green Vision Plan at 6 p.m. May 21 at Cross of Glory Church. Make a reservation by calling (708) 301-0632 or e-mail: greenvision@homerglen.org.

04/11/04

Sun newspaper article dated 05-26-04

*A new light
on your community*

2003 Illinois Press Association
Better Newspapers winner

The Sun

Wednesday
May 26, 2004

50 cents • Volume 7, Number 4

HOMER GLEN
LOCKPORT • LEMONT



Nolan Wells / Staff photographer

A plan to help protect open space in Homer Glen was unveiled last week.

green
—and—
GROWING

Section 6, Page 48
Documentation

By Janet Lundquist
STAFF WRITER

About 20 years from now, the village of Homer Glen will still have a countryside character, a system of trails and parks and an abundance of preserved open space, according to a new Green Vision plan for the community.

After about a year and a half of work, the plan, Green Vision for the Homer Glen Community, was presented to the public last week. It includes goals the visioning committee would like to see the village accomplish in the next 20 to 30 years.

In January 2002, Homer Glen was chosen as one of 16 communities to receive a \$110,000 grant through the Green Communities Program of

Homer Glen hopes to keep balance between open space, development

the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The program was designed to help communities in assessing their natural resources and establishing long-term goals for environmental preservation.

"(The grant program) gives people a chance to dream a little bit and think a little more creatively about what they'd like to have happen in their community," said Kevin Greene, manager of the IEPA Office of Pollution Prevention. "The purpose was to allow local officials and

residents to step back from their day-to-day activities and develop a big picture of what they want their community to become."

The timing of the grant program was perfect, having been announced right around the time Homer Glen incorporated as a village, said Laurel Ward, a member of the village's Green Grant Steering Committee.

"It seemed like a wonderful opportunity for us to look at Homer Glen from a planning standpoint

and at the environmental issues we would be facing," Ward said. "It was consistent with Homer Glen's mission, and a lot of what we were hearing from residents is the need to protect open space."

The Green Vision for Homer Glen includes a central and distinct town center that includes a park, recreation center, municipal building and cultural center that is accessible by foot or bicycle; finding ways to preserve the agricultural use of the village's land as well as its rural character; encouraging natural landscaping; and guidelines for new development that include preserved natural areas.

See Green, Page 10

HO The Sun / Wednesday, May 26, 2004

Green

From Page 1

The plan also includes goals to preserve existing open space, including wetland and stream protection and developing a park and recreation system.

"(Homer Glen's committee) really did a great job, we're real pleased," Greene said. "We wanted to help them identify things that the state can do to help them implement their plan. We want to work with them over the next several years."

Throughout the process, committee members sought and included input from area residents, community groups and developers, Ward said. The committee also held a conservation design

workshop and took a bus tour of area sites that demonstrate good conservation design.

"We've included developers in this process to establish goals and objectives we feel are realistic," Ward said. "Educating developers about what Homer Glen hopes to achieve and how is part of our campaign."

Officials from the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission also attended the unveiling of the plan last week. The event, held at Cross of Glory Church on May 21, included a buffet dinner and a prize drawing.

Some residents who received a letter laying out the objectives of the Green Vision Plan have provided positive feedback, yet wondered how the village planned to accomplish everything on the list, Ward said.

"Probably the hardest part will be enacting the vision," Ward said. "But that's what the Green Communities program is about, establishing the vision and goals. The next step is enacting them."

Greene said the agency realizes that all of the communities' goals will not be accomplished in the short-term. But the agency plans to continue to help communities through the process of reaching their Green Vision goals and implementing their plans.

"It'll take time and there will be bumps in the road," Greene said. "But I think communities will prioritize, try to do some of these things in a couple years, then have five and 10-year goals."

More information about Homer Glen's Green Vision plan is available at www.homerglen.com.

100 ACRE CENTRAL PARK!



click here!

Beacon News Courier News Herald News Naperville Sun News Sun Sun Publications



Marketplace

- Autos
- Classified Ads
- New Homes
- Real Estate
- ChicagoJobs.com

Community News

- Local Headlines
- Milestones
- National/World News
- News In Depth
- Business
- Weather

Opinions

- Columnists
- E-The People
- Letters to the Editor
- Quick Poll
- More Opinions...

Out & About

- Arts
- Books
- Calendar
- Chicago Dateline
- Dining
- Hollywood Update
- Home & Family
- Just for Fun
- Movies
- Music
- Television
- Travel
- Video Games
- Videos
- Web Watch

Heart & Home

- Local Features
- Columnists
- Food
- Health
- Home & Garden
- Religion
- Specials
- Technology
- WebStreetCafe.com

Sports

- Local Sports
- Pro / College Sports
- Columnists
- Specials
- Sports Update

Site Tools

Green and growing

Homer Glen hopes to keep balance between open space, development

By Janet Lundquist
STAFF WRITER

About 20 years from now, the village of Homer Glen will still have a countryside character, a system of trails and parks and an abundance of preserved open space, according to a new Green Vision plan for the community.

After about a year and a half of work, the plan, Green Vision for the Homer Glen Community, was presented to the public last week. It includes goals the visioning committee would like to see the village accomplish in the next 20 to 30 years.

In January 2002, Homer Glen was chosen as one of 16 communities to receive a \$110,000 grant through the Green Communities Program of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The program was designed to help communities in assessing their natural resources and establishing long-term goals for environmental preservation.

"(The grant program) gives people a chance to dream a little bit and think a little more creatively about what they'd like to have happen in their community," said Kevin Greene, manager of the IEPA Office of Pollution Prevention. "The purpose was to allow local officials and residents to step back from their day-to-day activities and develop a big picture of what they want their community to become."

The timing of the grant program was perfect, having been announced right around the time Homer Glen incorporated as a village, said Laurel Ward, a member of the village's Green Grant Steering Committee.

"It seemed like a wonderful opportunity for us to look at Homer Glen from a planning standpoint and at the environmental issues we would be facing," Ward said. "It was consistent with Homer Glen's mission, and a lot of what we were hearing from residents is the need to protect open space."

The Green Vision for Homer Glen includes a central and distinct town center that includes a park, recreation center, municipal building and cultural center that is accessible by foot or bicycle; finding ways to preserve the agricultural use of the village's land as well as its rural character; encouraging natural landscaping; and guidelines for new

THURSDAY
JUNE 3, 2004

My News

Email Story Print

Search term

Quick Poll

•VOTE: How high will gas prices per gallon have to go before you change your driving habits?

SPECIAL SECTIONS



Progress 2004



Flood of 2004

FEATURED ADVERTISERS



SUN PUBLICATIONS

More Sun Publications you can read online:

- Batavia Sun
- Bolingbrook Sun
- Downers Grove Sun
- Fox Valley Sun
- Geneva Sun
- Glen Ellyn Sun
- Homer Sun
- Lincoln-Way Sun
- Lisle Sun
- Naperville Sun
- Plainfield Sun
- St. Charles Sun
- Wheaton Sun

GET DAILY HEADLINES

• Sign up to receive your local newspaper's top headlines each day via e-mail. It only takes a minute, and it's free!

development that include preserved natural areas.

The plan also includes goals to preserve existing open space, including wetland and stream protection and developing a park and recreation system.

"(Homer Glen's committee) really did a great job, we're real pleased," Greene said. "We wanted to help them identify things that the state can do to help them implement their plan. We want to work with them over the next several years."

Throughout the process, committee members sought and included input from area residents, community groups and developers, Ward said. The committee also held a conservation design workshop and took a bus tour of area sites that demonstrate good conservation design.

"We've included developers in this process to establish goals and objectives we feel are realistic," Ward said. "Educating developers about what Homer Glen hopes to achieve and how is part of our campaign."

Officials from the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission also attended the unveiling of the plan last week. The event, held at Cross of Glory Church on May 21, included a buffet dinner and a prize drawing.

Some residents who received a letter laying out the objectives of the Green Vision Plan have provided positive feedback, yet wondered how the village planned to accomplish everything on the list, Ward said.

"Probably the hardest part will be enacting the vision," Ward said. "But that's what the Green Communities program is about, establishing the vision and goals. The next step is enacting them."

Greene said the agency realizes that all of the communities' goals will not be accomplished in the short-term. But the agency plans to continue to help communities through the process of reaching their Green Vision goals and implementing their plans.

"It'll take time and there will be bumps in the road," Greene said. "But I think communities will prioritize, try to do some of these things in a couple years, then have five and 10-year goals."

More information about Homer Glen's Green Vision plan is available at www.homerglen.com.

Contact staff writer Janet Lundquist at jlundquist@scn1.com or (815) 439-7557.

05/26/04

CONTACT US

At the newspaper:

- Contact one of our editorial staff members
- Send a letter to the editor for publication
- Send a news release
- Subscribe to the paper
- Place a classified ad
- Contact the customer service department
- Get information about advertising in the paper

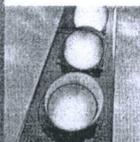
At the Web site:

- Ask questions and get answers about the site
- Provide a tip about breaking news
- Subscribe to our free daily headlines e-mail
- Get information about advertising on the site

SUMMER 2004

forward

a publication of
northeastern illinois planning commission



NIPC 2004 - THE NEW ERA OF REGIONAL PLANNING

Partnerships Promote Planning

Ronald L. Thomas, AICP, Executive Director, NIPC

Partnerships are the foundation upon which NIPC has built solid relationships and influential programs since 1957. While focused locally, our reputation for innovative planning, forecasting, environment and natural resources best practices has led to productive partnerships throughout the tri-state region and across the country.

This week, NIPC is proud to showcase its partnership with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) as the host for the organization's 38th annual conference. Our partnerships with councils of governments have created this opportunity to lead workshops and tours which demonstrate our region's commitment to participatory planning that extends beyond municipal boundaries.

NIPC believes that planning can make a significant difference when it is a professional partnership. Just a few examples demonstrate this well.

Common Ground. This month *Common Ground* will wrap-up its innovative Paint the Region workshops. At each meeting, the planning input of local communities has been gathered at tables of partners working with interactive mapping tools as they help build the regional framework plan for 2040.

Village of Homer Glen. In May, the Village of Homer Glen celebrated the completion of the new community's Green Vision Plan. Determined to grow their new town with a green vision, village officials and dedicated citizens partnered with NIPC for 18 months to prepare a plan that has already influenced one developer to redesign a new housing project using conservation design principles, and a local church to help improve stormwater management on its property by using natural landscaping techniques.

Illinois-Indiana SeaGrant Program. Earlier this month, representatives from the SeaGrant Program met at NIPC to review completed work, address challenges and set short as well as long term goals. The commitment to establish a web-based information clearinghouse, research funding opportunities, and plan the 2005 water supply conference was strongly supported by everyone attending; all agreeing to do their part to promote this significant program.

It is truly rewarding to see the successful implementation and growth of these partnership programs in northeastern Illinois. It is also a tremendous honor to be awarded accolades by our partners and peers for our work.

NIPC Welcomes NARC to Chicago

The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission welcomes the National Association of Regional Councils to Chicago for the 38th Annual Conference and Exhibition from June 26-29.

During the four-day conference, tours and workshops will focus on the conference theme "Regions at Their Best". NARC members will hear the latest updates on transportation, homeland security, new air quality standards, and green infrastructure programs in the Chicago region.

NIPC looks forward to hosting this event and showcasing the region's outstanding planning programs and world renowned cultural attractions.

Full Circle Training Underway

Seven organizations in the Chicago region are ready to begin collecting and mapping their neighborhood data as the Full Circle program gets underway.



Representatives from the participating community groups met recently at NIPC to learn how to use handheld computers and other internet tools to gather and compile their neighborhood's built assets.

Greg Sanders, Internet Services manager, led the groups through a series of exercises to help participants become familiar with the tools and techniques. "There is so much energy in the room when the Full Circle teams meet," said Sanders. "It's exciting to partner with organizations so dedicated to the communities they serve."



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Michael K. Smith
President
- Rita R. Athas
Vice President
- Rae Rupp Stich
Secretary
- Alan L. Bennett
Treasurer
- Edward W. Paesel
Vice President for Planning
- Mark Ruby
Vice President for Water Resources
- Ed H. Smith
Member At-Large
- Wallace D. VanBuren
Member At-Large
- Jerry Butler
Past Commission President
- Charlie A. Thurston
Past Commission President
- Ronald L. Thomas, AICP
Executive Director

COMMISSIONERS

- Appointed by the Governor of Illinois**
- Joseph Ligas
- Raymond P. Marchiori
- Edward W. Paesel
- Charlie A. Thurston
- Appointment Pending

- Appointed by the Mayor of Chicago**
- Miguel A. d'Escoto
Commissioner, Department of Transportation
- Rita R. Athas
Director of Regional Programs
- John A. Pope
Assistant Commissioner

- Ed H. Smith
Alderman, 28th Ward
- Mary Ann Smith
Alderman, 48th Ward

Elected by the Assembly of Mayors

- *Thomas G. Adams
Mayor, Village of Green Oaks
- Alan L. Bennett
Trustee, Village of Elmwood Park
- *Kevin M. Brusek
President, Village of Richmond
- Al Larson
President, Village of Schaumburg
- Mark Ruby
Village of North Aurora
- Michael K. Smith
President, Village of New Lenox
- Rae Rupp Stich
President, Village of Villa Park
- *Edward J. Zabrocki
Mayor, Village of Tinley Park

Appointed by the County Board Chair

- Jerry Butler
Member, Cook County Board
- Elizabeth Garman
Member, Cook County Board
- Joan P. Murphy
Member, Cook County Board
- James D. Healy
Member, DuPage County Board
- Don Wolfe
Member, Kane County Board
- *Anne Bassi
Member, Lake County Board
- Ann Gilman
Member, McHenry County Board
- James Bilotta
Member, Will County Board

Appointed by the Regional Transportation Authority

- *Fred T. L. Norris

Appointed by the Chicago Transit Authority

- Appointment Pending

Appointed by Metra

- *Carole R. Doris

Appointed by the Board of Pace

- Richard Kwasheski

Appointed by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

- Patricia Young

Appointed by the Illinois Association of Park Districts

- Judy Beck

Appointed by the Chicago Park District

- Gerald Sullivan

Appointed by Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies

- Wallace D. VanBuren

*Commissioners appointed in 2003-2004



State Links ..

IGNN: Environment Press Release

IGNN Links

- News
- Illinois Facts
- Living
- Working
- Visiting
- Learning
- Business
- Public Safety
- Technology
- Government
- Help
- Home

Search Illinois

Go

[Search Tips]



This Page Is



The Environment News section provides access to all State of Illinois press releases that have been published about conservation and the environment, addressing topics ranging from preservation strategies, to prevention and restoration issues.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 19, 2004

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

EIGHT ILLINOIS "GREEN COMMUNITIES" COMPLETE ENVIRONMENTAL VISIONING PLANS
DuQuoin, Sleepy Hollow, Chicago Heights/South Chicago Heights, Chebanse, Macon County, St. Clair County, Monee/Peotone/University Park/Governor's State University and Homer Glen are first to share plans with citizens

SPRINGFIELD, IL. --- Eight communities awarded pilot "Green Communities" grants from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in 2002 have completed their environmental visioning process and shared their plans at "community celebrations," Illinois EPA Director Renee Cipriano announced today.

"I commend all of these communities for the thoughtful and inclusive process they used to come up with realistic and creative goals to improve the environment and quality of life in their communities," Director Cipriano said.

A total of 16 pilot "Green Communities" were chosen in the spring of 2002 and awarded state grants ranging from \$12,177 to \$110,000 to help pay for costs related to the visioning process. Half of the communities have now completed the planning and unveiling/celebration phases.

"The diversity in these first eight completed plans is particularly impressive, whether it is DuQuoin's recycling, energy audit and industrial development standards or Macon County's plan to work with local businesses to replace older vehicles, or Homer Glen's historic preservation and open space plans," Director Cipriano added.



- State/All
- Governor's Office
- Lt. Governor's Office
- Agriculture
- Budget/Fiscal
- Business
- Children/Families
- Culture
- Economic Development
- Environment
- Health/Human Services
- History
- Infrastructure
- Safety/Security
- Technology
- Tourism/Recreation
- Transportation
- Workforce/Jobs
- Education
- Subscription Profile
- Search the News
- Privacy Statement

"The Green Communities grant helped us create a more sustainable vision of what Decatur/Macon County can become over the next 15-20 years. We hope to implement some of our visions with the cooperation of community organizations," said Norm Jensen, Community Environmental Council Vision 2022/Macon County.

"The immediate benefit of the Green Communities Demonstration Program is that our entire community is talking about the opportunity for a green vision as a valuable tool for sustainability to guide the future development in the Village of Homer Glenn," stated that community's planning group.

More plans are expected to be shared with their communities during celebrations in the next few months.

The plans completed include:

Du Quoin

- 1 year: offer a free recycling collection service to citizens through a roll-off located in town (just received state grant); host an area-wide household hazardous waste collection (held 4/24/04)
- Adopt construction, environmental, and landscape standards for industrial development
- Conduct a city-wide municipal energy audit
- Establish a city board or community development corporation to support, implement, and monitor the environmental plan.

Sleepy Hollow

- Make improvements to local parks, including stream restoration/remeander, wetland and meadow restoration and trails
- 1 year: conduct tree survey/natural resource inventory; research energy efficiency improvements in Village facilities; look into green products, purchases, practices; research model ordinance language for conservation design zoning ordinance revisions
- 3-5 years: develop alternative leaf and yard waste management programs for leaf
- burning alternatives

Homer Glen

- Create a centralized town center with parks, recreation, cultural center accessible by walking or multi-use trail

<http://www.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=18&RecNum=3...> 7/19/2004

- Maintain and enhance the village's rural atmosphere by preserving sites and buildings with local historic and cultural interest, implementing farmland and open space preservation requirements
- Within 1 year: Using global positioning satellites to create a database of environmentally sensitive areas (applied for grant)
- Within 5 years: Establish demonstration projects for innovative storm water management; adopt environmental codes and ordinances; develop trails
- Within 10 years: protect additional acres of open space; safeguard five active farming sites

Villages of Monee, Peotone, and University Park & Governors State University

Villages and University are working to adopt an intergovernmental agreement which will create an Oversight Committee charged with implementation of the plan, which includes the following:

- Recommends that local government should work together to form a Groundwater Guardian Community
- Identify, protect and develop prairie areas; encourage the use of native prairie vegetation in industrial, commercial and government landscaping
- Identify, protect and restore forested areas; encourage developers to protect and buffer woodlands
- Encourage villages and county to revise ordinances to make green development the preferred development model

Macon County

- Promote the adoption of comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances that guide land use for the well being of residents without harming the environment
- Work with local governments and businesses to replace older vehicles with clean burning ones to protect the air quality in Macon County

St. Clair County

The St. Clair County Health Department, with assistance from other project partners, will work with individual communities to develop more comprehensive action items and address how various actions can be implemented.

- Promote and support the redevelopment of older/core communities; renovate existing buildings for business and residential use; redevelop Brownfields and support historic preservation
- Expand community recycling programs; reduce litter through community clean-ups
- Support equity in education and opportunity; increase recreational opportunities for all ages and groups

Chicago Heights/South Chicago Heights

- Encourage economic development that will lead to sound, environmentally sustainable projects and enhance community life.
- Educate the community about air quality issues, including local, vehicle and industrial emissions and how individual behavior can impact air quality

Chebance

- Implement a leaf recycling program
- Identify several areas in the village to protect as open space
- Improve the village's infrastructure (currently in the process of final design and construction of a village-wide sanitary sewer system)
- Develop guidelines to promote more sustainable growth

###

Homer Glen Newsletters

The following list includes the Village's newsletters, which are mailed to the residents on a quarterly basis. Information on the progress of this project was noted in these publications.

Spring 2003 Newsletter
Winter 2003 Newsletter
March 2004 Newsletter
July 2004 Newsletter
Dreams in Green

