

INTRODUCTION

On March 10, 2012, The Sustainability Working Group hosted a Sustainability Forum at the Glencoe Park District's Takiff Center aimed at identifying "Green" goals for Glencoe. The Village Manager formed the Sustainability Working Group in June 2011 to assist staff, the Plan Commission, and Village Board in advancing sustainability initiatives in the community.

The purposes of the Sustainability Forum were to: foster a Village-wide conversation about sustainability; identify residents with an interest in sustainable initiatives; and provide a summary of the forum's conversations under the "Sustainability" tab of the Glencoe Village website. More than thirty residents attended, rotating among five small groups focused on the topics of: Renewable Energy; Green Building Design and Construction; Transportation and Land Use; Solid Waste Management; and Open Space. A moderator from each small group listened and noted attendee suggestions and comments. A summary of the sustainability priorities identified at the Forum are summarized below and will be delivered to Village's Plan Commission and Board of Trustees.

The Sustainability Forum was held in the context of a year where many projects and issues in the Village related to natural resources and planning were being considered or were underway, including:

- A citizen group started a community vegetable garden on Village land near the Metra tracks at Sheldon Park.
- A citizen group, Friends of the Green Bay Trail, removed invasive species and installed native plants along Glencoe's bike trail south of Harbor Ave, with the approval and assistance of Village staff.
- An interest in "Green" home building became apparent with many homeowners opting to incorporate energy efficient and environmentally friendly features into their homes. One such home was awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Certification.
- The Glencoe League of Women Voters completed a regional study of solid waste management with the recommendation that the Village strive for zero waste going to landfills.
- The Village Board appointed a task force of residents to examine policy regarding the use of Village-owned street-ends that link the Village to Lake Michigan.
- The Village approved a referendum on March 20th, 2012 authorizing an "opt-out" electricity aggregation program for residents and small businesses. Under this program, residents will have the opportunity to support renewable energy resources through a Green Power Program that purchases renewable energy certificates.
- Storm water mitigation projects have been considered to address the aftermath of unusually heavy rainfall in July and August of 2011.

SUMMARY OF THE FIVE DISCUSSIONS

Renewable Energy Generation with Incentives for Use

(Moderated by Village Trustee Larry Levin)

- Windmill towers at Tower Road tower, golf course, railroad right-of-way and possibly on the water storage tank on Route 41.
- Mini wind turbines for residential use (potential risk of injury?)
- Wave action
- Solar panels
- Passive solar design and skylights
- Fuel cells
- Geothermal heating and cooling

Energy Ideas (Energy Conservation)

- Energy conservation classes at Glencoe schools
- Energy saving tips offered to residents by village
- Village to adopt sustainable residential/commercial building codes
- Electric carts to collect garbage on smaller residential streets
- Village to subscribe to 100% renewable energy sources
- Encourage green roofs
- Provide electric vehicle charging stations
- Village to offer energy
- Biodiesel fuel for village vehicles
- Collect dog feces and food waste for methane/fertilizer production
- Explore cogeneration for production of electricity and heat

Green Design and Construction

(Moderated by Plan Commission member/Sustainability Working Group chairman Walter Eckenhoff)

- Publicity and tours of model sustainable homes
 - Slotnick Home
- Village promotion of concept
- Aesthetics should not get in the way of the message
- Saving energy equals saving money
- Village incentives for green construction
 - Fast track permit process
 - Reduced fees
 - Financial grants
- It is not about size
- Education of:
 - Owners
 - Builders

- Architects/Builders must be LEED certified
- Strict energy codes
 - Model code needed
- Material selection
- Energy audits
 - Available through the website: <http://www.myhomeeq.com/>
- Energy efficient HVAC
- Responsible use of energy and daylight
- Lifestyle component
 - How do you use your home & energy?
- Historic homes are restricted from using energy saving methods
 - Window replacement
- Recycle/Re-use building materials & components
- Incentives for rehabilitating existing homes
- Spring Clean Up should allow for items to be re-used
 - Hold a Village Garage Sale one week before
- Need for design review:
 - Yes or No?
 - Mixed?
- Waive permit fees for LEED construction
- Cost/Benefit analysis
- Issues related to FAR (Floor to Area Ratio-the ratio of a building's total floor area to the size of the parcel of land upon which it is built)
- Energy calculations – accurate?
- Honest environmental impact analysis
- Gradual implementation
- Improve Public Relations, awareness building for sustainability
- Educate about issues
- Leverage Village staff
- Afraid of Change

Other comments

- Need for Pervious / Permeable Paving
- Pilot Project Needed
 - Deconstruction of a home
 - Other
- Flooding (Sewer Back Up)

Transportation and Land Use

(Moderated by Sustainability Working Group member Dudley Onderdonk)

Land Use

- Reserve Downtown parking spaces for hybrid vehicles

- Revisit / Restart Downtown Planning effort
- Review need for small “Pocket Parks” especially along Green Bay Road
- Find better ways to use open space in the community
- Explore establishing a temporary downtown pedestrian mall to support events & shopping
- Explore Transit Oriented Development (TOD / mixed use development) in Downtown Glencoe
- Allow 3-4 story mixed use commercial / residential buildings Downtown

Transportation

- The wide Green Bay Road median near the Takiff Center creates bike/car conflicts
- Explore the use of School Busses for additional Village transportation Needs
- Investigate establishing a local Village shuttle
- Encourage the use of mass transit (bus and rail)
- Improve directional and traffic signage for bicycle and pedestrian safety
- Provide designated bike lanes where feasible
- Investigate providing a weekend beach shuttle to manage parking at Glencoe beach
- Encourage and accommodate alternate vehicles
- Encourage walking to school
- Improve bicycle use and directional signs (similar to Wilmette & Northbrook)
- Provide incentives for energy efficient vehicles, bikes and walking
- Provide electric vehicle charging stations
- Promote expansion of existing mass transit
- Encourage bike rental downtown and at the Train station (Such as B-cycle)
- Expand use of the Chicago Botanic Gardens Shuttle Bus
- Provide bike racks downtown and at public buildings
- Contract with the Active Transportation Alliance to create a bike / pedestrian plan
- Allow golf carts to be used for local transportation
- Establish a local electric shuttle bus
- Establish child-safe walking and biking routes to school, parks and other destinations
- Reduce vehicle engine idling in pick-up zones at schools
- Improve facilities and connectivity for walking and biking throughout the Village
- Provide more safe crossings over/under Green Bay Road & RR tracks to improve safety
- Encourage a walking and biking culture
- Pursue Federal / State Government funding for transportation improvements

Solid Waste Management

(Moderated by Sustainability Working Group member Laurie Morse)

- Too much waste from plastic water bottles in a town with award-winning drinking water**
- Glencoe needs more and better public drinking fountains, especially on the popular ball playing fields (baseball, basketball, soccer, football, tennis courts).

- Current fountains are not designed to accommodate refillable water bottles. Need to retrofit older fountains with new fixtures with tall spouts that bottles can fit under.
- Existing fountains with low spouts not only do not accommodate refillable bottles – they have an “ick” factor. Much mention of how dogs drink from the existing fountains. Suggestion that new retrofits not have mouth dispenser – design for container refill.

--Glencoe does not have an Ordinance requiring deconstruction or recycling of debris that results from construction, remodeling or demolition. Most construction and demolition debris in Illinois ends up in a landfill.

- Amend municipal code with ordinances that give priority to deconstruction, rather than demolition. Create ordinance that requires recycling of a high proportion of construction debris.
- Require compliance as part of the building permit process
- Monitor compliance
- Provide information on costs/benefits of deconstruction
 - In public forums, on the Village Web site, in materials given to construction contractors
 - To permit applicants
- Publicize construction reuse stores so people are aware of where to donate building material, and where reusable materials can be purchased.

--Glencoe’s garbage cans are bigger than its recycling cans

- Glencoe’s recycling containers are not large enough.
- There are no recycling containers in the Glencoe downtown area.
- Glencoe doesn’t require a recycling plan for special events like fun runs, July 4th celebrations, etc.
- Residents attending the Sustainability Conversation would like to encourage more materials recovery in Glencoe.

--Lots of good, serviceable items are put on the curb during Spring Clean-up curbside collection.

- Many out of town scavengers retrieve items, but large volumes still go to the landfill.
- Electronic items, which are banned from the landfill, also end up on the curb.
- Organize a village-wide garage sale the weekend prior to Spring Clean-up.
- Coordinate with an electronics collection event in town.
- Publicize permanent electronics collection boxes in Village Hall and in Winnetka.
- Seek a non-profit group to organize
- Residents with serviceable items who don’t want to hold their own garage sale could donate (and have a free pick up) to a central community sale in the downtown area (staffed by the non-profit organizing group).

-- Residential and large facility (schools, restaurants, coffee shops, grocery store) food scraps and organics are not composted (except for West School), and go to the landfill.

- If recovered and composted, they could be used on farms and in gardens.

- Create a regional infrastructure for commercial food scraps and organics composting.
- Encourage back yard composting and vermiculture in Glencoe.
- Recommend compost bins that are a success at West School (solar cones).
- Ask the Glencoe Park District to run a class or one-time presentation on worm composting (vermiculture).
- Ask SWANCC to have a spring compost pick-up day at the Glenview Transfer Station, as SWALCO does in Libertyville, so people can close the loop between the food they eat and their back yard gardens.
- Organics are the heaviest and therefore most expensive part of the Glencoe waste stream, which is billed by the ton. Removing organics from the landfill stream would save the Village money.
- Compost is good for dirt, and good dirt is central to sustainable food supply
- Composting organics is an important step toward zero landfill

Open Space

(Moderated by Park Board member/Sustainability Working Group member Andre Lerman)

-- The village should do something about the bluffs at the top of the street end beaches, similar to the mini park at the end of Park and Hazel Avenues.

--Each Park should have its own identity and purpose. The Park District should articulate a mission statement for each park.

- There should be a visual identity component, including use of ornamental grasses, walking paths, botanic mission (i.e. type of tree or plant theme -- magnolias, day lilies, etc.) including use of native plants
- Some parks should have a teaching element, with small signs next to selected botanic or other features.
- There could be a sculpture park
- There could be a “wildlife park”
- Community Garden
- There should be an adopt-a-park program, with an active donor component
- Need to distinguish between open space purpose and active use purpose.
- There should be a pathway to a feature in the park.

--The Park Dist should schedule regular Park Tours, or an annual day in the spring for tours.

- The Park District should coordinate neighborhood block parties in local parks
- The Park District should work with District 35 and/or the Boy Scouts to adopt a park for a day.

--The playground redesign process needs to be more transparent and involve the relevant community, either neighborhood, demographic, or other interest group.

- More community input
- Natural or organic feature
- Integrate design with the neighborhood

--The Park District and Village should jointly plan for greenways on both sides of Green Bay Road, and in other locations like Watts Park.

- Also consider use of ravine bridges as part of greenway program

--There should be an integrated Park District and Village Plan for the Green Bay Trail and an integrated greenways plan.

- A bridge over Hazel Ave?
- Connect the GB Trail with the trail along Highway 41.
- Green Bay Trail bike signage on Old Green Bay Rd.
- Other bike routes for safe routes to schools.
- Winding paths in parks along train route.

--There should be joint planning with the Park District, Village and District 35 to plan “safe routes to school”.

--There needs to be an integrated open space planning process between the Park District and the Village.

---There needs to be a plan for increased winter appeal for Parks and Open Spaces

- Golf Course winter use could include Nordic ski track. Open the clubhouse on selected weekends.
- Need a strategy for the “Little House”

--Should have a coordinated effort between the Village and Park District to approach the Forest Preserve District to consider use of Turnbull Woods as a Dog Park.

--The Park District has a program to eradicate Buckthorn. Why not the Village?

- Need to educate the community on the importance of this.
- Need to then replace the green buffer between the Parks and private homes
- Can the Park District have some sort of cost sharing to plant replacement trees where parks are adjacent to private homes, similar to the Village parkway tree program?

--Village should revisit its open space plan

- Inventory all open space including right-of-way, street end beaches, overlooks
- Integrate with Park District inventory of open space parks.
- Use of land swaps an option?
- What are the options for a possible future sale of the Hoover Estate?
- Are there other, better uses for Forest Preserve land? Can the Village get the Forest Preserve District to swap the tract at Green Bay and Westley? Is there some joint open space planning with the Botanic Garden?
- What is the cell tower policy?

--Is there a plan to address the water runoff issues related to drain water in the ravines?

- Is there an ordinance to protect the lake and the ravines by limiting construction and machinery on bluff and ravine slope faces?

Further comments regarding the above discussions are welcome. Please address your thoughts to: GlencoeGreenForum@comcast.net