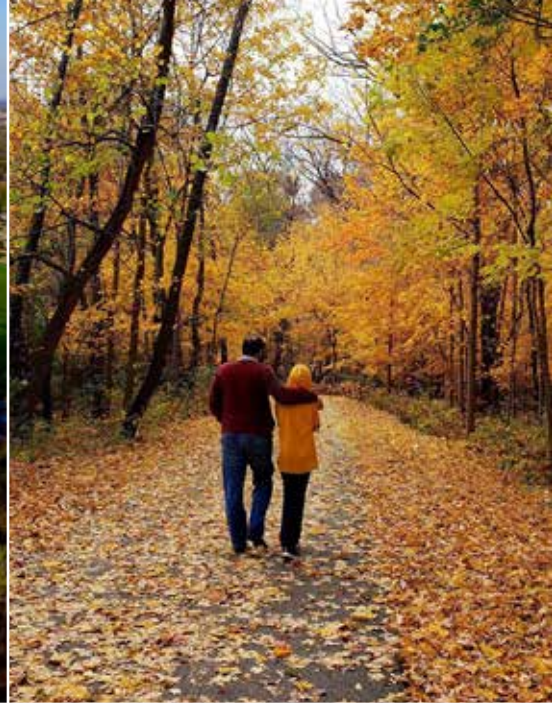


2020 - 2030



MORTON GROVE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

ADOPTED JANUARY 25, 2021



SUSTAINABLE
MORTON GROVE

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PREPARED BY
THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE

ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANUARY 25, 2021
RESOLUTION 21-07

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
I. CLIMATE	9
II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	10
III. ENERGY	11
IV. LAND	12
V. MOBILITY	13
VI. MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS	14
VII. WASTE	15
VIII. WATER & STORMWATER	16

INTRODUCTION

Morton Grove is blessed with rich and plentiful natural resources. Twenty percent of our Village land is part of the Cook County Forest Preserve system which bisects our Village with a lush canopy of greenery, improves our air and water quality, and improves the health of our residents. Lake Michigan is less than 11 miles from our border and provides an abundant source of high-quality water for residents and businesses. Each of us have an obligation to respect, protect and preserve these assets so they not only continue to meet our needs, but will be equally available for future generations.

Since its inception, the Village of Morton Grove has been and continues to be active in environmental protection activities both through local initiatives and participation in regional efforts to promote cleaner air, energy conservation, land preservation, sustainability, waste reduction and water conservation. In recent years the Chicago Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (the “Caucus”) has spearheaded region-wide coordination between the area’s municipalities on sustainability. In 2007 the Caucus developed the Greenest Region Compact (“GRC”) which was updated in 2016 (“GRC2”) to guide municipal efforts toward creating a more sustainable region. The GRC presents consensus goals for environmental stewardship so local municipalities are coordinated and can make positive impacts on a much larger scale. The Village endorsed the GRC in 2020 thereby underscoring the Village’s commitment to coordinate its efforts toward sustainability in the Chicago region.

This Sustainability Plan is intended to guide the Village’s efforts from 2020 to 2030. It has been prepared with guidance from the Caucus based on the principles of the GRC2, and with input from the Village’s Environment and Natural Resource Commission.



Cook County Forest Preserve North Branch Trail bikers, courtesy of resident photo submission

The plan sets forth the Village’s goals and priority strategies which are summarized in the following chapters:

- I. Climate**
- II. Economic Development**
- III. Energy**
- IV. Land**
- V. Mobility**
- VI. Municipal Operations**
- VII. Waste**
- VIII. Water**

Each chapter contains a listing of Initial Village Efforts (1980-2019) and Future Village Initiatives (2020-2030). Many of the action items envisioned and included in the GRC2 have been previously completed by the Village. The list of future Village Initiatives represents, for an organization of the Village’s size, and limited staff an ambitious set of actions designed to encourage a more sustainable community both locally and as part of the Chicago region.

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

The GRC2 includes a list of broad sustainability goals for the entire region. Communities can help the region become more sustainable by achieving the broad regional goals. The GRC2 allows and encourages each community to adopt its own list of sustainability initiatives that fit its local needs and capabilities. The following list includes those goals that will be the focus of the Village's efforts in the next decade.

CLIMATE

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Maintain clean and healthful air
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts
- Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Cultivate local and sustainable economic development, jobs, and businesses
- Promote innovation
- Attract, retain, recognize and support businesses that practice and promote sustainability
- Engage the community in understanding and supporting local businesses

ENERGY

- Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently
- Advance renewable energy
- Reduce energy consumption
- Enact policies that support clean energy
- Engage the community in clean energy practices

LAND

- Encourage strategic development that promotes pragmatic sustainability principles
- Support networks of accessible, well-used, and enjoyable parks and open space.
- Sustain a robust urban forest canopy
- Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use
- Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community
- Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems
- Support infrastructure and streetscape friendly urban foliage
- Encourage the use of native plantings and application of sustainable landscaping practices
- Reduce to the extent practical the use of chemicals and pesticides

MOBILITY

- Encourage safe and effective active transportation
- Foster a safe, efficient, and well-connected multi-modal transportation network
- Enhance walkability through future development and infrastructure projects
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

- Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices
- Integrate sustainability into municipal operations
- Operate a safe, clean, and efficient fleet
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability
- Track progress of municipal sustainability initiatives

WASTE

- Support sustainable material management
- Recycle materials across all sectors
- Divert waste from landfills
- Enact policies that cause sustainable material management
- Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling

WATER

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS CONTINUED

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- Promote a diverse cultural vibrancy in the community
- Foster a culture of health, safety, and wellness
- Increase access to sustainably grown local food
- Promote a sustainable identity for the community
- Assure local policies and codes support sustainability
- Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability through public engagement and education

LEADERSHIP

- Advocate for policies that align with and advance the Greenest Region Compact 2
- Work collaboratively with surrounding communities and regional agencies towards a sustainable region
- Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

The GRC2 includes certain priority strategies for creating a more sustainable region which have been the subject of past Village efforts and/or are included as goals for the next decade. In general, the strategies are:

WATER STRATEGIES

- Reduce water usage through public education
- Enact water conservation regulations
- Promote rainwater harvesting
- Enforce water plumbing fixtures requirements
- Continue water metering and water use monitoring
- Promote low water landscaping and native plantings
- Encourage use of stormwater best management practices

AIR STRATEGIES

- Reduce vehicle emission within the municipal fleet
- Purchase Green Energy and/or Renewable Energy Certificates
- Increase awareness and encourage use of public transit
- Promote the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at public and private facilities

ENERGY STRATEGIES

- Switch to LED fixtures for traffic signals
- Encourage the use of energy efficient light bulbs

LAND STRATEGIES

- Maintain status as a Tree City
- Work to environmentally restore and develop contaminated property
- Preserve public open spaces
- Adopt a municipal tree planting ordinance

WASTE STRATEGIES

- Evaluate the development of a construction/ demolition (C&D) recycling ordinance
- Establish a residential paint recycling program
- Encourage food scrap recycling and composting
- Promote the curb-side recycling programs with enhanced public education
- Continue and enhance E-waste recycling programs
- Initiate education programs to promote recycling and waste reduction

I. CLIMATE

The Village recognizes that the changing climate has the potential to significantly affect the environment and the economy. By acting now to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to improve air quality, the Village can mitigate the severity of these impacts, and has a positive public health impact.

The Village's climate related efforts and initiatives include reducing vehicle emissions from Village operations, providing systems that provide alternatives to the auto, enacting targeted air quality standards based on local conditions, planting trees and other vegetation and enacting reasonable development standards designed to protect the environment.

INITIAL VILLAGE EFFORTS

1980 – 2019

- Required planting of thousands of trees by developers
- Inventory of Village right-of-way trees
- 50/50 tree planting program
- No idling policy – Village vehicles
- Public Works clean fleet
- Use of biodiesel
- Waste hauler natural gas vehicles requirement by service contract
- Ash tree preservation program
- Adoption of local air quality standard
- Enactment of landscape waste burning ban
- Tree City designation (23 years)
- Clean Air Counts recognition for contributions to reducing ozone in the Chicago region



Morton Grove trees in fall, courtesy of resident photo submission

FUTURE VILLAGE INITIATIVES

2020-2030

- Continue tree preservation program for rights of way work and development entitlement process
- Continue to enhance tree species diversity and promote site appropriate plantings
- Evaluate a tree preservation program
- Continue 50/50 tree planting program
- Fund additional tree planting (right-of-way): 1,000 trees by 2030
- Optimize tree planting to protect existing trees for maximum carbon storage/sequestration
- Investigate new local air quality standards options
- Increase purchase of fuel efficient and alternative power vehicles for Village operations
- Investigate development of electric car charging stations (with private sector)
- Consider developer requirement for alternative fuel facilities in new non- residential projects

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development provides service and shopping opportunities, jobs, increased wages, and creates additional tax bases and revenue sources that control the property tax burden on residents. Without jobs, a community cannot be sustainable.

Our local businesses are essential partners with the Village to limit Morton Grove's environmental footprint. Reducing energy at the commercial and industrial levels supports sustainability. Broad strategies can include "greening" of existing businesses, reasonable development codes to promote sustainability, and attracting new businesses that focus on green technology, products, services and operations.

INITIAL VILLAGE EFFORTS

1980 – 2019

- Creation of Economic Development Commission
- Adoption of economic development plans:
 - + *Plan for Success*
 - + *Plan for Continued Success*
 - + *Taking on Challenges and Succeeding: A Plan for a Growing Economy*
- Approval of numerous non-residential projects throughout community
- Attraction of hundreds of businesses creating thousands of jobs
- Incentive arrangements for building rehabilitation and restoration
- Use of non-tax incremental taxing district economic incentives for new tax base/jobs
- French and Farmers Market support

FUTURE VILLAGE INITIATIVES

2020-2030

- Encourage affordable LEED criteria and best practices for non-residential projects
- Encourage expansion of business recycling
- Encourage expansion of food scraping in restaurants
- Work with Oakton Community College to match workforce training with needs of businesses
- Encourage businesses to use green energy
- Promote sustainable development techniques for new business projects
- Encourage use and sale of local foods where practical
- Continue support for local Farmers/French market
- Support a local community garden if demand warrants
- Recognize public and private green building accomplishments and successes publicly
- Foster construction and demolition recycling



Morton Grove Farmer's Market produce, courtesy of resident photo submission

III. ENERGY

Reducing energy consumption by increasing energy efficiency in commercial, institutional and residential buildings and encouraging the use of renewable sources of energy will help reduce energy waste whether it is fossil fuels or renewables. The implementation of strategies that promulgate energy efficiencies supports the Village's larger goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

INITIAL VILLAGE EFFORTS

1980 – 2019

- Retrofit to LED lighting (exterior Village Hall lights)
- Village Hall interior lighting transition to LED underway
- Village owned-street light transition to LED underway
- Initiated energy audit in municipal facilities
- Adoption of International Energy Conservation Code for new development

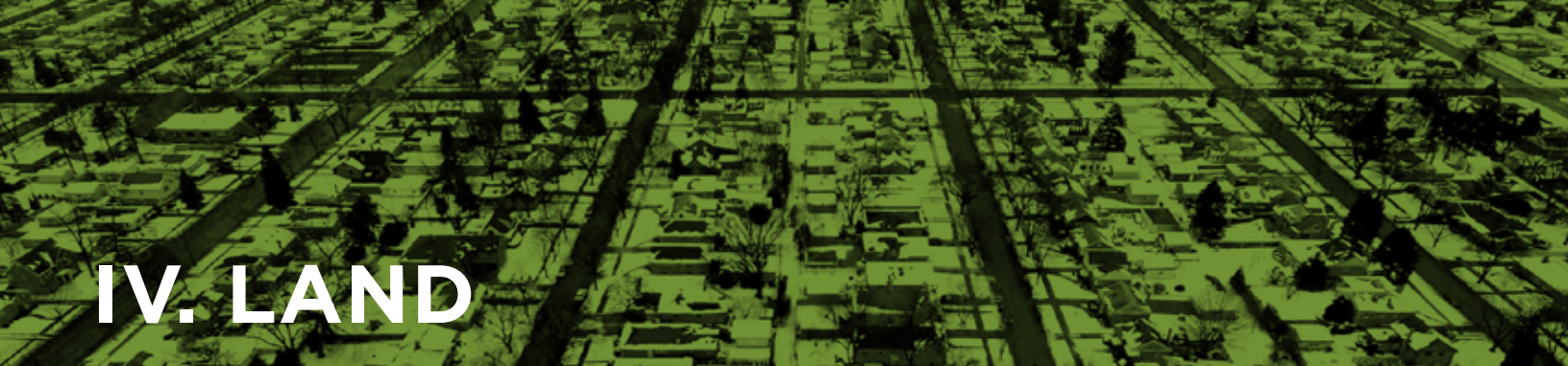


Morton Grove Village Hall at 6101 Capulina Avenue

FUTURE VILLAGE INITIATIVES

2020-2030

- Implement energy use recommendations to reduce Village facility energy use.
- Budget and plan for the following energy efficiency steps:
 - + *Install energy conservation components in Village facilities where practical*
 - + *Complete LED interior lighting transitions in Village facilities*
 - + *Retrofit Village controlled traffic signals to LED*
 - + *Benchmark and track energy use in Village facilities pursuant to energy audit*
- Work with ComEd toward the conversion of neighborhood street lighting to LED
- Partner with utility companies to promote energy efficiency programs
- Promote energy audits for residents and businesses
- Encourage use of green energy for residents and businesses
- Promote local, regional, and statewide energy efficiency resources and programs



IV. LAND

Community development and zoning create the fabric that makes communities distinct. Each community has unique character, historic buildings and diverse neighborhoods that require thoughtful planning and a unified vision to ensure long-lasting community character. Broad strategies for community development and zoning center around developing clear and consistent sustainable development criteria. Local codes and educating practitioners about sustainability standards will foster unified sustainable development and the preservation of sufficient open spaces and important natural features.

INITIAL VILLAGE EFFORTS

1980 – 2019

- Adoption of stormwater management plan
- Effectively manage sanitary sewer systems with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)
- Enforcement of soil erosion and sediment control regulations for construction sites
- Adoption of transit orientated development plan
- Adoption of a right-of-way tree preservation ordinance
- Adoption of architectural review process
- Approval of transit orientated developments near train station
- Contaminated site clean-up/reuse projects:
 - + *Lexington Walk*
 - + *Moretti's*
- Maintain right-of-way tree inventory/implement tree maintenance program
- Required planting of hundreds of trees in new developments
- Adoption of landscape requirements for new developments
- 50/50 tree planting reimbursement program

- Provided landscape/streetscape to enhance gateways, road medians and other public spaces
- Provided education to the community on the value of trees, native and sustainable landscaping

FUTURE VILLAGE INITIATIVES

2020-2030

- Support transit-oriented development when appropriate in the context of existing land uses
- Conserve key natural assets through cooperative agreements
- Continue enforcement of soil erosion and sediment control regulations for construction sites
- Continue urban tree canopy maintenance programs in public rights-of-way
- Increase the amount of sustainable landscaping in the community
 - + *Support the Conservation@Home program to encourage sustainable landscaping*
 - + *Review development regulations to increase use of sustainable landscaping techniques*
- Maintain landscape/streetscape to enhance gateways, road medians and other public spaces
- Encourage mixed use developments where appropriate
- Review development codes to foster conservation design best management practices (bioswales/permeable pavements/rain gardens/native landscaping within finished landscape areas)
- Continue to educate the community on the value of trees, native and sustainable landscaping
- Encourage elimination of exotic species (including, but not limited to buckthorn) through public/private partnerships and educational endeavors
- Reduce to the extent practical the use of chemicals and pesticides

V. MOBILITY

Transportation remains a large contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation analysts across the country concur that the three key strategy areas for reducing transportation-related emissions include: (1) reducing vehicle miles traveled; (2) developing and using low-emission alternative fuels; and (3) developing and using alternative vehicles that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Some key strategies for combating transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions include promoting transit-oriented development where appropriate, making walking and biking easier, promoting car sharing, and increasing the efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles.

INITIAL VILLAGE EFFORTS

1980 – 2019

- Worked with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, to create trail linkages
- Advocacy of road enhancements on state and county roads with Village financial contributions
- Expansion of commuter rail capacity on the Metra Milwaukee District North Line Morton Grove Station
- Installation of bicycle parking facilities at Metra Station and other public locations
- Participation in Northwest Municipal Conference Multimodal Plan to create regional comprehensive bicycle network, improve sidewalks near major roadways and transit stops, and develop regional bicycle and pedestrian access and connections to CTA, Metra, and Pace facilities.



Riders boarding Pace Pulse bus, courtesy of Pace

FUTURE VILLAGE INITIATIVES

2020-2030

- Review development codes regarding alternate fuel infrastructure, and sustainable practices for road designs in new developments
- Review existing pedestrian/trail systems to identify key needed linkages and budget funds to complete needed projects
- Where feasible encourage for clean fleets by government and businesses
- Review PACE Bus routes in Village and advocate for shelters and other facilities to encourage use of PACE services
- Continue participation in Northwest Municipal Conference Multimodal Plan refinement

VI. MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Residents of Morton Grove are proud of our municipal services. Due to budgetary constraints operations are conducted in obsolete and inadequate facilities. Within the next ten years the Village must address alternative facilities for most functions especially administration and police operations. The Village can in the future lead by example by ensuring that Village its operations and facilities support a more sustainable community. Facilities should be evaluated based on environmental benefit and taxpayer cost.

INITIAL VILLAGE EFFORTS

1980 – 2019

- Use of biodiesel for the Village fleet
- Lighting in Village facilities have been retrofitted to energy efficient fixtures and bulbs
- Village owned street lighting retrofitting
- Village Hall recycling program
- Consolidation with other governments to provide services:
 - + MWRD sewage treatment
 - + Glenview 911 call tacking & police dispatching
 - + Glenview food service inspection
 - + Regional Emergency Dispatch Center (RED Center) – fire dispatch
 - + Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission (Joint Action Water Supply Agency)
 - + Solid Waste Agency Northern Cook County (SWANCC) – solid waste transfer station – Joint Action Agency
 - + Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) – administrative support
 - + Northern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA) – Joint Training Facility

FUTURE VILLAGE INITIATIVES

2020-2030

- Install energy conservation components in Village facilities
- Continue to increase proportion of energy-efficient municipal fleet vehicles
- Leverage federal/state/private grants and resources to advance sustainability initiatives
- Continue intergovernmental cooperatives for the efficient delivery of Village services
- Consider sustainability when evaluating replacement or modification of Village facilities
- Develop and implement a green purchasing policy
- Pump replacements (water reservoir) with energy efficient models



Seven-million-gallon water reservoir under construction in Morton Grove, courtesy of the Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission

VII. WASTE

Morton Grove was an early member of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and an active supporter of SWANCC waste reduction programs. In Morton Grove residential single-family recycling has led the way to achieving a high level of landfill diversion rates. The Village's other recent recycling and waste reduction initiatives will encourage lower waste volumes.

INITIAL VILLAGE EFFORTS

1980 – 2019

- Established recycling and proper disposal programs for:
 - + *Electronics*
 - + *Eyeglasses*
 - + *Pharmaceuticals & Sharps*
 - + *Batteries*
 - + *Decorative light strings*
 - + *Paper Shredding*
 - + *Christmas Trees*
- Curbside (large cart) residential recycling
- Curbside landscape waste collection with disposal at a regional composting location
- Implemented residential food scrap and landscaping program
- Sustainable whitegoods disposal program
- Multi-family residential recycling program
- Early member of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), to reduce the volume and toxicity of solid waste



Curbside garbage and recycling pick-up, courtesy of Groot

FUTURE VILLAGE INITIATIVES

2020-2030

- Explore opportunities for continued intergovernmental cooperation on solid waste issues
- Implement and promote residential food scrap year-round pick-up program
- Work with local restaurants and schools to establish food scrap programs
- Evaluate business recycling
- Increase public education initiatives to increase recycling and reduce waste volumes
- Support proper disposal of household chemical wastes/pharmaceutical waste
- Implement construction and demolition recycling
- Promote clothing and textile recycling

VIII. WATER & STORMWATER

WATER

Morton Grove residents enjoy an abundant supply of Lake Michigan water. For many Chicago metro area residents being situated next to Lake Michigan has created a sense of security about our water supply and a lack of urgency around the need to use water wisely. Even with this abundant supply of water it is the responsibility of all communities to conserve this natural resource. Much of Morton Grove's water infrastructure is over 60 years old and subject to leaks with wastes this valuable resource and impacts the cost customers pay for water. In 2017 the Village partnered with the Village of Niles to begin purchasing water from the City of Evanston at a cost significantly less than Chicago providing opportunities to replace and improve water infrastructure.

INITIAL VILLAGE EFFORTS

1980 – 2019

- Adoption of Lake Michigan water use restrictions including limitations on outside water use/inside water conservation fixtures
- Reduce water loss due to system leakage through a watermain replacement program
- Water meter replacement program to accurately track water use/automated reading system for all customers
- Water system regular leak detection process/repair identified leaks
- Per capita water use reduced by 30%
- Adopted building code amendment requiring "Water Sense" water fixtures

FUTURE VILLAGE INITIATIVES

2020-2030

- Collaborate in regional water planning initiatives and to protect Lake Michigan
- Repair water system infrastructure to reduce water loss
- Provide water conservation public education
- Review development/building codes regarding water conservation
- Encourage private lead water service conversions
- Encourage reduction in use of chemicals and pesticides in landscaping



Chicago River North Branch in Morton Grove, courtesy of resident photo submission

STORMWATER

Reducing flooding conditions in existing areas through sound long range planning and investments is sound public policy. Further, an appropriate and practical regulatory regime can ensure that flooding risks are reduced and water quality improved. The Village has developed

INITIAL VILLAGE EFFORTS

1980 – 2019

- Develop stormwater plans to reduce flooding in flood prone areas
- Utilize stormwater plan when approving downstream new developments to create stormwater detention and facilities to accommodate flows from older areas
- Construction of storm sewer improvements to reduce structural flooding and carry water from flood prone areas to newly created detention facilities
- Participation in National Flood Insurance program including flood plain building regulations
- Adoption of developer stormwater control requirements
- Supported MWRD rain barrel program
- Host community of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago construction shaft for the Mainstream Tunnel System - Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) Project



Chicago River North Branch kayakers in Morton Grove, courtesy of resident photo submission

FUTURE VILLAGE INITIATIVES

2020-2030

- Encourage residents to disconnect foundation tiles and require downspouts to be disconnected from sewers or build detention.
- Review codes to foster tangible benefits of green infrastructure including cisterns, green roofs, bioswales, permeable paving
- Continue watershed planning
- Conservation@Home collaboration with Conserve Cook County



SUSTAINABLE
MORTON GROVE