

A Message from Mayor Witko



This Earth Month, we celebrate the progress Morton Grove has made toward a more sustainable community and reaffirm our commitment to protecting the environment for future generations. Please join me in taking the 2026 pledge to conserve water through the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation by visiting mywaterpledge.com.

Over the past year, the Village has continued to build on its sustainability efforts. We hosted our fifth annual Sustainability Expo, held our Electronic Waste Recycling Event and Pumpkin Smash, and strengthened our tree preservation ordinance. In 2025, the Village was awarded \$25,000 through the Chicago Region Tree Initiative to plant 450 street trees. The first 225 trees have been planted, and the remaining 225 trees will be planted in the coming months. ComEd is funding an additional 25 tree plantings in 2026.

The Village is also making important investments that support long-term efficiency and connectivity. We are wrapping up construction of the new Morton Grove Metra Station, enhancing transit access for residents and visitors. In the months ahead, the Village will complete the Dempster Street Corridor Plan, which will provide a cohesive vision for transit-oriented development, retail opportunities, and housing along this key corridor. This work will be complemented by an update to the Comprehensive Plan, providing a long-term framework for thoughtful land use and growth.

Through Village programs that educate, protect resources, and promote conservation, and through the efforts of the Environment and Natural Resources Commission, we continue working toward a healthier, greener Morton Grove. I encourage everyone to take part in Earth Month by making small changes that can have a big impact. Together, we can continue building a strong and sustainable future for Morton Grove.

Your Mayor,

**PLEDGE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
YOUR UTILITY BILLS PAID FOR
ONE YEAR, UP TO \$3,000**

PLUS OTHER GREAT PRIZES!

Take the
**2026 Mayor's Challenge
for Water Conservation**

April 1-30

mywaterpledge.com

**Spread the word on easy ways to save
water and help Morton Grove win!**

TAKE THE PLEDGE TODAY!



Summer Adopt-A-Planter Program

Register for the Community Relations Commission's 2026 Summer Adopt-A-Planter Program. Adopt one of the planters located along Dempster Street, Waukegan Road, or the Civic Center. The deadline to register and pick your planter is **Friday, May 22**. Plant pick-up will occur on **Saturday, June 6**, at Village Hall (6101 Capulina Avenue). Sign up at mortongroveil.org.



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Village Partners with EcoShip to Accept Packaging Materials

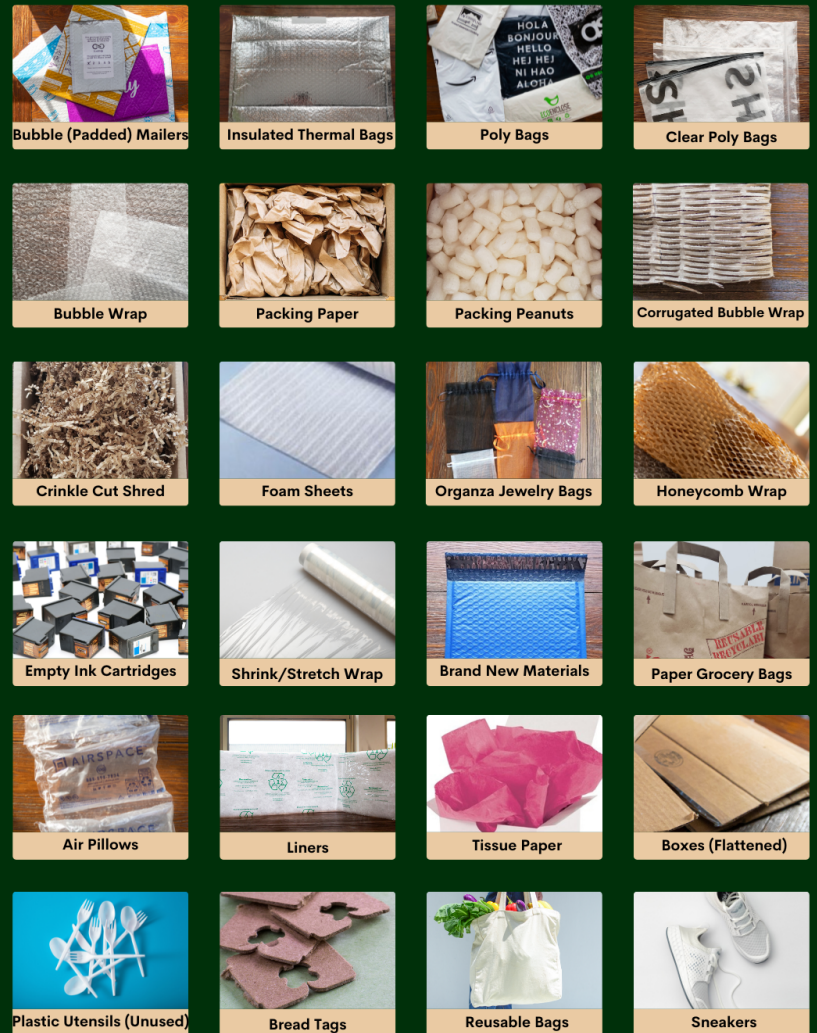
The Village has partnered with the Chicago-based non-profit organization, EcoShip, to accept gently used packaging materials from Village residents at Village Hall (6101 Capulina Avenue) this Earth Month. EcoShip is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that collects shipping materials from Chicagoland communities and distributes them to businesses and individuals for reuse.

Help keep packaging materials out of the landfill by dropping them off in the lobby of Village Hall from **March 30 to May 4, 2026**. All packaging will be reused by local businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals. Gently used sneakers will also be accepted. Please note:

- Because materials will be reused (not recycled), materials must be clean, tape-free, and not torn.
- Items that are dirty, torn, or covered in tape, shredded documents, and styrofoam will not be accepted.
- Please do not remove address labels. You may use a marker to black out personal information.

The Village may decline certain items and reserves the right to conclude the packaging collection campaign early based on volume collected.

Items Accepted March 30 - May 4 >>>



Electronics Recycling & Document Destruction Event

Saturday, May 9, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Morton Grove Public Works | 7840 Nagle Avenue

Residents of Morton Grove and other Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) communities may participate in this free electronics and document destruction event. IDs will be checked for proof of residency. Visit SWANCC's website at swancc.org or call **847-724-9205** for details, including other drop-off locations and dates. SWANCC provides a variety of drop-off locations to help residents recycle sensitive documents, electronics, and other items throughout the year.

- Remove electronics from plastic packaging and boxes.
- Before document destruction, remove metal clips, plastic sleeves, folders, and binders (small staples acceptable).
- Place recyclable items in your car trunk prior to arrival.
- Drive up, open your trunk with items, and remain in your vehicle as your items are removed from your car.

Electronics Recycling: Limit of seven (7) items per household. No electronics can be accepted from governments, schools, businesses, or institutions.

Document Destruction: Limit of six (6) paper bags or small boxes per household. No documents can be accepted from governments, schools, businesses, or institutions.

Acceptable Items: Cable receivers, cell phones, computer monitors, computers, fax machines, keyboards, mice, MP3 players, printers, televisions, satellite receivers, scanners, video game consoles, video recorders/players, and zip drives.

Do not bring: Dehumidifiers, humidifiers, AC units, vacuums, refrigerators, large home appliances, paper in plastic bags, photos, slides, or any non-paper item. Do not include magazines, greeting cards, or newspapers, as they can be recycled curbside.



Residents Now Accepted!

2026 Greener Morton Grove Awards

Starting in 2026, the Greener Morton Grove Award program will accept resident applicants too! Residents, businesses, organizations, groups, and multi-family residential facilities in Morton Grove that have implemented environmentally sustainable practices in landscaping, stormwater management, waste and recycling, water and energy conservation, public education, and transportation are encouraged to apply or be nominated. Winners will be announced at the **September 19, 2026**, Sustainability Expo. Apply by **July 20, 2026**, at mortongroveil.org.

Community Garage Sale

**Friday, June 12 -
Sunday, June 14, 2026**

Buying second-hand is one of the most sustainable choices you can make. Join us for Morton Grove's annual Community Garage Sale running Friday, June 12, through Sunday, June 14, 2026. Find local treasures and clear out a few of your own. Buying and selling items second-hand is a great way to keep products out of landfills! Register at mortongroveil.org/garage-sale. Questions? Call **847-663-3007**.

Your Compost Options

From March 15 through December 15 of each year, residents can participate in food waste composting by subscribing to Groot's Landscape Waste/Food Scrap Cart Subscription Program. In 2026, the 95-gallon container costs \$183.86 per season and the 65-gallon container costs \$160.89 per season. Any bag or bundle placed outside of the cart will require an affixed prepaid sticker. Food scraps can only be placed in the container provided by Groot. Acceptable food scraps include fruits, vegetables, bread, grains, pasta, cereal, non-liquid dairy, eggshells, coffee grounds (no filters), and tea leaves (no teabags).

The Village also offers a year-round compost collection service to residents and businesses through WasteNot Compost. Participating residents will be given an airtight five-gallon receptacle with the option to select weekly or bi-weekly service pick-up. Bi-weekly service (every other week) costs \$18 per month and weekly service costs \$25 per month. Each pick-up includes replacing the used receptacle with a sanitized receptacle.

WasteNot accepts a wide variety of compostables, including all food waste, 100% paper products, certified compostable products, and more. There are no long-term commitments or cancellation fees. To sign up for service, visit wastenotcompost.com/mortongrove. You may also contact WasteNot by calling **847-813-7216** or emailing hq@wastenotcompost.com.



**Solid Waste Agency of
Northern Cook County**
— est. 1988 —

Intro to SWANCC

Morton Grove is a community member of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), an intergovernmental agency that facilitates the delivery of effective and environmentally sound collection, transfer, processing, disposal, and reuse of municipal waste. SWANCC's website at swancc.org provides a variety of helpful information on waste and recycling, including:

- **What Goes Where:** A guide on how and where to recycle or dispose of specific items and materials.
- **Recycle Coach:** An online tool and app that helps users discover "What Goes Where" and provides collection schedules and useful information.
- **One-Day Events:** A schedule of all SWANCC collection events, which are open to Morton Grove residents.



DON'T TRASH IT, SMASH IT!

— MORTON GROVE —

PUMPKIN SMASH
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

— 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. —

NORTH END OF HARRER PARK

OUR URBAN CANOPY

Village Enhances 2026 Tree Plantings with Grant Funds

The Village is gearing up to plant the remaining 225 trees funded by a \$25,000 matching grant awarded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and USDA Forest Service, administered through the Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI). These trees will be planted on public property throughout 2026, completing the Village's two-year program to plant 450 additional trees under the grant.

Building on this momentum, the Village will also plant an additional 25 trees in 2026, generously awarded by ComEd and facilitated through the Arbor Day Foundation. These trees will further enhance Morton Grove's urban canopy, providing environmental, aesthetic, and community benefits for years to come. Residents can expect to see new trees planted throughout Village streets in the coming months.

Selecting & Planting Trees

A Guide From the Morton Arboretum

Planting a tree is a quick project that provides long-lasting benefits for your property and the environment. How a tree is selected and planted can greatly influence its future health and growth. Guidance from the Morton Arboretum can help residents get started the right way.

Before planting, choose a site on your property with enough space for the tree's mature height and spread, and consider nearby buildings, utilities, sunlight, and soil conditions. Spring and fall are generally the best times to plant, when cooler temperatures help roots establish.

Select a healthy tree with a strong trunk and well-formed branches, and plant it at the correct depth with the root flare at ground level. Water regularly and apply mulch to help reduce transplant stress. Continued watering and basic maintenance during the first few seasons will help your tree thrive.

For the Morton Arboretum's full "Selecting and Planting Trees" guide, visit mortonarb.org/selecting-and-planting-trees.

Street Tree Questions

Do you have a question or concern about the condition or status of a tree in the public right of way? Contact the Department of Public Works at **847-470-5235** or publicworks@mortongroveil.org.

Morton Grove 2026 Tree Walk

Saturday, September 19 | 10:15 a.m.

Morton Grove Civic Center | 6140 Dempster St.

Join us for an educational tree walk starting at the Civic Center and following a one-mile accessible as part of the 2026 Sustainability Expo!

The first 25 participants to sign up or arrive will receive a giveaway. RSVP at administration@mortongroveil.org or **847-663-3007**. An RSVP is not required to attend.



Caring For Trees on Public Property

Trees planted along Village parkways and other public rights-of-way play an important role in keeping our community green, healthy, and beautiful. While the Village maintains these trees, residents can help them thrive with a little extra care, especially during their first few years after planting.

Young trees benefit from regular watering, particularly during hot or dry periods. Residents can help by slowly watering the base of the tree once a week when rainfall is limited. Do not pile mulch or soil against the trunk, as this can damage the tree over time. Keeping the area around the tree clear of weeds, debris, and lawn equipment also helps protect the trunk and roots.

Please do not prune, remove, or attach items such as signs, lights, or ropes to trees located in the public right-of-way. These actions can harm the tree and may interfere with tree maintenance.

If you notice a damaged or unhealthy tree, contact the Village's Department of Public Works at **847-470-5235** or publicworks@mortongroveil.org so forestry staff can assess the situation. By working together to care for these trees, residents help ensure a healthier urban canopy and a greener community.

SUSTAINABILITY EXPO

Sustainability Expo Returns in 2026

The Village's Sustainability Expo has become a beloved annual tradition, bringing residents together to learn practical ways to live greener while strengthening our community. The sixth Sustainability Expo in 2026 will once again welcome residents, businesses, and organizations for a day focused on sustainability, conservation, and environmental stewardship on **Saturday, September 19, 2026**, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Morton Grove Civic Center at 6140 Dempster Street.

This free, family-friendly event showcases local businesses and organizations that offer environmentally friendly products, services, and ideas that help Morton Grove residents and businesses reduce their environmental impact. A highlight of the event is the Recycling Fest, which provides a convenient one-stop drop-off for a wide range of recyclable and reusable items. In past years, residents have been able to recycle or donate electronics, gently used clothing and household items, books, baby items, sports equipment, and more, helping keep usable materials out of landfills.

The Expo also features food, live music, children's activities, giveaways, and an educational tree walk, making it a fun and informational event for residents of all ages. Join us in 2026 to celebrate sustainability and discover new ways to make Morton Grove an even greener community. To learn more about this year's event, or become an event exhibitor or sponsor, visit mortongroveil.org/ENRCexpo. Questions? Call 847-663-3061.



2025 Sustainability Expo

FREE ADMISSION

MORTON GROVE
**SUSTAINABILITY
EXPO**
& RECYCLING FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

MORTON GROVE CIVIC CENTER
6140 DEMPSTER STREET

Join us at the 6th annual Morton Grove Sustainability Expo & Recycling Fest. Explore innovative solutions and celebrate our commitment to a greener future!

**Recycling Fest
@ THE EXPO**

This is a one-stop drop-off recycling event collecting various recyclable and reusable items. Visit mortongroveil.org/ENRCexpo for a list of accepted items closer to the event.

**We Need 2026
Exhibitors & Sponsors**

Learn more and request to be an exhibitor or sponsor:

mortongroveil.org/ENRCexpo

847-663-3061

enrc@mortongroveil.org

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

KNOW WHAT TO THROW ? QUIZ True or False?

Answers:

- FALSE.** Under Illinois Law, household (including AA) and medium-format batteries are prohibited from being tossed in the garbage and must be properly recycled. See the “New Battery Disposal Law” article below for more information.
- FALSE.** Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and fluorescent light tubes contain mercury and cannot be thrown away in the trash. Drop fluorescent light bulbs off at Village Hall (6101 Capulina Avenue) or visit swancc.org/what_goes_where to find other drop-off locations.
- FALSE.** Medications and used sharps in approved containers are accepted at no charge at the Morton Grove Civic Center at 6140 Dempster Street during business hours. Find other convenient locations at swancc.org/what_goes_where. Questions? Call 847-663-3070.
- FALSE.** Boxes must be flattened and placed in the recycling cart. Flattening boxes saves space, prevents jams, and ensures proper recycling.
- FALSE.** White and clear plastic containers are recyclable, but if the plastic is black it cannot be detected by sorting technology. Black plastics can go to the wrong stream or are passed through as residue that goes to the landfill. Put black plastic in the garbage or avoid its use.

1. I can just throw my AA batteries in the garbage when they die.	☐ True ☐ False
2. I should put my CFL and florescent bulbs in the trash.	☐ True ☐ False
3. Old medications and used sharps are difficult to dispose of in Morton Grove.	☐ True ☐ False
4. I can stack my used boxes next to the recycling cart.	☐ True ☐ False
5. I should recycle my black plastic carry-out food container.	☐ True ☐ False

What To Do With Yard Waste

Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, branches, brush, shrubbery clippings, and garden waste. Yard waste does not include dirt, rocks, or gravel. In Illinois, landscape waste has been banned from landfills since 1990. Do not place landscape waste in garbage or recycling containers, and do not place it in plastic bags.

How to Dispose of Landscape Waste?

- ✓ Mulch grass clippings, leaves, and wood chips.
- ✓ Participate in Groot’s landscape yard waste program.
- ✓ Compost yard waste at home. Use a prefabricated bin or construct one with wire mesh to prevent rodent burrowing.

The Village’s Fall Leaf Pick-Up Program typically starts in October and ends in December. Please note the following:

- The program is for leaf pick-up only, not yard waste. All other landscape materials, including grass clippings, bushes, tree branches, and flowers, will not be picked up.
- Place leaves in the street by the curb and away from parked cars the day before your scheduled street sweeping day.
- A map of street sweeping and leaf pick-up service is available at mortongroveil.org/maps.

New Battery Disposal Law

Beginning January 1, 2026, Illinois law mandates that all household, portable, and medium-format batteries must be recycled, making it illegal to throw them in household trash or curbside recycling bins. The law also requires battery manufacturers to fund battery collection, with no cost to the consumer. The law covers most portable, single-use (e.g., AA, AAA, 9V), and rechargeable batteries (lithium-ion) found in items like remote controls, power tools, toys, laptops, and drones.

Per State law, battery producers must participate in a stewardship program that provides consumers with free collection and recycling of batteries. The Battery Network is currently the State-approved program allowing consumers to recycle household and medium-format batteries through a network of drop-off locations. You can find the nearest location at:

batterynetwork.org/state-recycling-laws/illinois

Be sure to contact the location before taking your batteries to confirm acceptance and any limitations. The new State law was enacted to prevent fires caused by battery waste and reduce environmental contamination.

Reduce, Reuse, Recreate

Kids' Repurposed Projects Ideas Courtesy of SWANCC

REPURPOSED PROJECTS

IDEAS:

Repurposed crafts allow children to make unique creations with materials found around the house or with items that are usually thrown away. Reusing conserves resources, which is good for our environment and might save money too. Make something new from old!

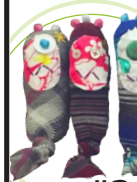
- 1** Make a **wind chime** using old keys and string. Add other items that create musical sounds.
- 2** Use cardboard tubes and tape to make a **marble run**.
- 3** Design a one-of-a-kind **puppet** from old socks, buttons, yarn, incomplete game pieces, etc.
- 4** Construct a **piggy bank** by cutting a slit in the plastic lid of an oatmeal container.
- 5** Create **jewelry** by using pop tops and bottle caps. Glue or tie to ribbon or pins.
- 6** Fill old socks or mittens with dried beans or rice to make **bean bags** to toss.
- 7** Mold **new crayons** from broken crayons by melting and remolding them.
- 8** Make a **cloth napkin** by reusing old cloth or a bandana. Decorate with permanent markers.
- 9** Use an old balloon to make a **drum** by cutting and stretching it over the top of a tin can.
- 10** Cut pieces of cardboard to make a **bookmark or picture frame**. Decorate.
- 11** Make a **rain stick** from a paper towel or wrapping paper roll using unpopped popcorn or dried beans for the inside. Secure ends and shake.
- 12** Reuse an old shower curtain as a **drop cloth**.
- 13** Collect carpet samples to make a **personal floor seat** for a reading corner.
- 14** Transform **worn-out t-shirts** into cleaning rags, smocks for painting or reusable napkins.
- 15** Create **sun prints** using odd pieces of used construction paper. Put objects on the paper, leave in the sun for a day and remove objects.
- 16** Cover baby food jars with colored tissue paper (use glue) to make **tea light candles**.
- 17** Freeze water in a plastic bottle to make an **ice pack** for your lunch box or to enhance a cooler of iced beverages.
- 18** Use scraps of material to **make a pillow or small blanket**. Use lots of colors and textures.
- 19** Save old birthday and holiday cards to redesign **new cards** and **name tags**. Add photos, stickers and other decorations.
- 20** Reuse foam food trays to **mix paint or sort craft project items**.



#15



#11



#3



#7



#5



#18



#1

The Exchange

www.mortongroveil.org

Village Hall Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Morton Grove Exchange
The Village of Morton Grove
6101 Capulina Avenue
Morton Grove, IL 60053-2985

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS US
POSTAGE PAID
MORTON GROVE
PERMIT 22

Village Phone Numbers

Police, Fire, or Medical Emergency
9-1-1

Fire Administration
847-470-5226

Police Administration
847-470-5200

Public Works
847-470-5235

Senior Services
847-663-3070

Civic Center Rentals
847-663-3071

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Village Hall (Switchboard)
847-965-4100

Village Administrator
847-470-5220

Building & Inspectional Services
847-470-5214

**Community & Economic
Development**
847-663-3063

Village Officials

President Janine Witko

Village Clerk Eileen Scanlon Harford

Trustees

Saba Khan | Rita Minx | Ashur Shiba
John Thill | Connie Travis | Keith White

Village Administrator

Charles L. Meyer

Village Attorney

Teresa Hoffman Liston

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER
MORTON GROVE, IL 60053



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waste paper. Please recycle.



Adopt-A-Block Program

The Morton Grove Adopt-A-Block Program empowers residents, businesses, and organizations to help beautify their community starting with their own block. The Village provides free tools and resources, and you and your neighbors commit to keeping your block free of litter. Become a Block Captain and help contribute to a cleaner and greener Morton Grove. Learn more at mortongroveil.org/adopt-a-block.



PARTNERS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Energy
Efficiency



Energy
Efficiency
Program

ComEd customers can reduce energy usage with a free energy assessment that includes free and discounted products for your home. Residents can schedule an assessment by calling **855-433-2700** or visiting eesavings.com. Customers that schedule an in-home assessment will also be evaluated for additional, free weatherization improvements. Please have your electric and natural gas utility account numbers available when you call.

Water Sprinkler Reminder

The Village restricts lawn sprinkling from May 15 to September 15. Sprinkling is allowed daily only during the following hours:

5:00 - 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Restrictions apply to all residential, commercial and industrial properties, but do not apply to hand-held sprinkling hoses.