

CHAPTER 9: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Maintaining a healthy and biological diverse ecosystem is critical to the Village's vitality. In addition to being a part of the Village's natural heritage, healthy ecosystems provide benefits by absorbing and filtering stormwater, filtering air pollutants, storing carbon, and providing aesthetic and recreational value. In pursuit of a high quality environment for the Barrington area, it is essential that sustainable development practices and citizen involvement in conservation be encouraged.

While environmental sustainability should be a consideration of all land use and development assessment, particular focus should be given to sustainability along the Flint Creek corridor, in the vicinity of Cuba Marsh north and east of the Village, in the vicinity of Baker's Lake, and in other areas of low elevation where impacts on natural resources as a result of development could be magnified.

The following objectives regarding ecological issues should be utilized in association with the development or redevelopment of land within or surrounding the Village of Barrington:

1. Continue to utilize the Village Stormwater Management Study produced by Hey and Associates on April 28, 2010, which identified areas of concern and inadequate downstream capacity, when considering land use and development regulations.
2. Review stormwater standards for new developments in accordance with the latest Watershed Development Ordinance regulations and recommend additional development restrictions where applicable to limit impacts to natural resources.
3. Encourage new development to limit impervious surfaces when feasible, especially in areas which already experience drainage problems.

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Open space is a cherished characteristic of the Barrington area. As a matter of principle, open spaces should form an interconnected natural system woven throughout the Village and adjacent areas (*see Map 2: Wetlands and Floodplains*), with highest priorities being placed on natural resource features rather than merely on recreational potentials. For that reason, wetlands, watercourses, wooded areas and wildlife habitats should be given primary consideration. For planning purposes, the potential open space system of the entire Barrington area should be divided into primary, secondary and tertiary environmental corridors. The primary environmental corridor would be that which is related to the Fox River, such as Spring Creek and Flint Creek. Subsequent corridors would generally follow the smaller tributaries of such creeks.

In keeping with this approach, preservation is recommended for the major open spaces listed, as follows, in order of priority:

1. **Baker's Lake** is a critical natural resource. This lake is home to many indigenous plant and animal species. In particular, it is the home of the great blue heron. A primary objective for this lake is to complete a link in the open space system around the eastern and southern boundaries of the Village.
2. **Cuba Marsh** is also extremely important to the Village of Barrington and to the Barrington area as a whole. It is located along Cuba Road northeast of the Village, partly in unincorporated Lake County and partly in the Village of Deer Park. It is the most important ecological micro-system within the influence of the Village, north of the county line. Cuba Marsh, together with Baker's Lake, Makray Memorial Golf Club and Deer Park Forest Preserve, form a complete environmental corridor around the eastern half of the Village.



3. **The Flint Creek Corridor** provides similar, though less extensive opportunities to create an open space around the western side of the Village. Nevertheless, a coordinated effort initiated by the Village in cooperation with the Village of Barrington Hills, the Village of Lake Barrington, and the Barrington Area Council of Governments can achieve major benefits. Steps should be taken to protect the watercourse and its shorelines as it passes along the western Village boundaries from Hawthorne Lake.
4. **Makray Memorial Golf Club**, although owned privately, provides a link to the environmental corridor surrounding the eastern half of the Village. This area should be maintained as open space and should be protected from potential redevelopment beyond existing recreational purposes.
5. Wetlands as defined by **Map 2: Wetlands and Floodplains** but not falling within the previous corridors are also worthy of preservation. These wetlands can be preserved in much the same way as the small lake and park area currently located in Fairhaven Estates, or as part of a public open space acquisition program.
6. Consideration by our neighboring jurisdictions should be given to preserving the countryside and open space characteristics of the Village when approached from the north and south on Route 59 and Barrington Road, as well as from the east and west along Main Street (Lake-Cook Road).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. All new development and redevelopment projects in the Village should be environmentally conscious

- a. Evaluate opportunities for utilizing sustainable building and development practices. Green building technology, water conservation techniques, and land use strategies such as those required by LEED certified projects, should be encouraged. Zoning, building, and engineering standards should be reviewed regularly to ensure that Village regulations encourage and promote appropriate sustainable development techniques.
- b. Limited sites throughout the Village have been subjected to activities associated with the potential for site contamination. Each development site should be evaluated for historic contamination and releases. Where contamination is identified, a mitigation plan should be provided by the property owner to ensure the safety of residents, the groundwater system, and the storm and sanitary systems throughout the Village.
- c. Open spaces should be encouraged as a part of new development proposals. Open space areas should be maintained as natural elements or recreational areas, as practical. Any existing natural resources should be maintained and improved or enhanced wherever possible or practical. Maintenance shall incorporate best environmental sustainability practices.
- d. Electric charging stations should be considered for all new developments. Zoning regulations for electric charging stations and related parking considerations should be evaluated and incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance.
- e. Consideration should be given to traffic reduction, congestion mitigation and multimodal transportation options. These considerations are key to the air quality and environmental sustainability of the Village and should be taken into consideration for all new developments and redevelopments. See **Chapter 8 Transportation** and the 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan.

2. Encourage increased, diversified and native tree plantings throughout the Village

- a. Continue ongoing evaluation of appropriate tree species to enhance species diversity Village-wide.

The Village has earned the prestigious Tree City USA designation for 34 consecutive years

- b. Educate the community on appropriate native planting and the Public Works Department approved tree species list. Encourage residents to select trees species from this list for use individual residential properties and on the benefits of a mature tree canopy including sound mitigation and air quality benefits.
- c. Evaluate tree planting requirements in the Zoning Ordinance and Development Regulations for new developments and redevelopments to ensure alignment with items 1 & 2.
- d. Prioritize the annual Village tree planting program.

3. Encourage the use of renewable energy sources throughout the Village including both retrofitting existing residential, commercial and institutional developments as well as the incorporation of renewable energy solutions into new development and redevelopment projects.

- a. Encourage the consideration of geothermal solutions for new developments in the Village.
- b. Provide education to residents on funding opportunities, tax credits, etc. for private renewable energy solutions for their homes.
- c. Explore opportunities for grant funding for renewable energy options for Village owned facilities.
- d. Continue to review evolving renewable energy options with consideration for community character, safety and zoning and building regulations.



4. Innovative stormwater management and water sustainability solutions should be considered throughout the Village including both retrofitting and enhancing existing developments as well as incorporation of these improvements for all new development and redevelopment projects

- a. The Village should encourage sustainable turf management practices among its residents and businesses.
- b. The Village of Barrington is committed to preserving and enhancing wetlands as they relate to development activity. The Village should continue to proactively address wetlands preservation and enhancement through continued adoption and enforcement of the Watershed Development Ordinance.
- c. Flint Creek is an important natural resource throughout the Village. While it functions as the Village's primary stormwater drainage way, it also serves as a wildlife habitat, and should be improved or enhanced wherever possible or practical. Special attention should be paid to stream bank stabilization and the restoration of native species and habitat when the opportunities are available.
- d. Prioritize natural creek restoration and alignment along Flint Creek as part of the Route 14 underpass project.
- e. Continue funding for annual Neighborhood Drainage Program to encourage neighbors to partner on innovative solutions to solve localized issues.
- f. Consider Village funding opportunities on an annual basis for localized stormwater management planning or improvements to address small-scale issues throughout the Village.

5. Prioritize sustainability of the Village's water supply and enhanced water quality

- a. The Village water wells, which supply the Village's drinking water, are vital resources to the Village of Barrington. The Village should act to preserve the health and welfare of the drinking water supply and should actively seek creative solutions to ensure adequate water resources and enhanced water quality for generations to follow.
- b. Evaluate opportunities to improve the Village's water quality and educate residents on the benefits of the Village's current shallow aquifer water supply compared to deep aquifers or surface water source options such as Lake Michigan.

6. Coordinate resources and efforts of local environmentally focused organizations including coordination of efforts relating to the Greenest Region Compact

- a. The Environmental Advisory Committee should work to coordinate efforts with local environmental organizations and groups and consider joint events such as a bi-annual summit of these groups where current missions, projects and initiatives can be shared and coordinated.

7. Education! Enhance community educational campaigns on a variety of important topics including but not limited to:

- a. Proper recycling, composting and disposal of hazardous and/or toxic materials.
- b. The options for and benefits of renewable energy.
- c. Innovative and alternative residential stormwater management practices.
- d. Sustainable turf management practices.
- e. Groundwater quality, protection and sustainability.