

CHAPTER 9

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental quality and the protection of natural resources are essential to maintaining the distinct ecological systems of the community and long-term health of its residents. 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. Moreover, to maintain a high quality environment for the Barrington area, sustainable development practices should be incorporated into local regulations. The Village should also encourage eco-friendly living practices among its residents. The following objectives provide overall direction for maintaining environmental sustainability in Barrington.

1. Special consideration should be given to all developments to ensure that air quality elements are incorporated into development plans. According to the U.S. EPA, the Chicagoland area is a non-attaining air quality region. Therefore, measures for reducing traffic congestion are important for all new development. To reduce traffic congestion, the following measures are especially recommended:
 - i. New developments or redevelopments with a high concentration of residents and/or employees should be sited near existing mass transit facilities or should provide access to mass transit facilities.
 - ii. Improvements should be made to the existing bicycle and pedestrian network to encourage active transportation throughout the community. The network should provide linkages between neighborhoods, to major open space areas and parks, to the Village Center and Metra station, to schools, and to the Barrington Area Library.
2. The Village should 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 and applied when possible. Local zoning, building, and engineering standards should be audited regularly to ensure that Village regulations offer opportunities for appropriate sustainable development techniques.
3. Limited sites throughout the Village have been subjected to activities that resulted in the contamination of soil and possibly ground water. Each development site should be evaluated for historic contamination and releases. 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.
4. The Village water wells, which include the supply of 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 for generations to follow.
5. Open spaces should be encouraged when associated with development proposals. Open space areas should be maintained as natural elements or can be associated with recreational activities, where practical. Any natural resources should be improved or enhanced wherever possible or practical.
6. The Village should encourage sustainable turf management practices among its residents and businesses.

7. 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.
8. The Village of Barrington is committed to preserving and enhancing wetlands as they relate to development activity. The Village's Stormwater Management Regulations of the Village Code address wetlands preservation and enhancement. All development and redevelopment activity should adhere to these regulations.