

## **GOAL 6 Stewardship**

**The Park District will manage its land and facilities in a manner that contributes to public pride and quality of life in Arlington Heights. It values ecological preservation, environmental sustainability, and incorporates these values when making decisions over how land and facilities will be maintained and managed. Over the next five years, the Park District will focus on: planning and preventive maintenance; ensuring public safety at parks and facilities; and expanding green management practices.**

### **A. Continue to promote and educate the public on environmental and conservation issues.**

1. Include information in e-newsletters and e-blasts pertaining to Park District energy efficiency and environmental conservation efforts.

### **B. Protect and actively manage our natural resources.**

1. Work to reduce energy consumption through server virtualization and other Energy Star hardware devices.
2. Investigate the feasibility and economics of installing waterless technology washroom fixtures at a pilot site, such as Melas, to determine the appropriateness and functionality of available systems, for consideration of expanding to other district facilities. Produce a report detailing the findings.
3. Develop list of potential no mow areas, low mow areas, high maintenance landscaping reduction and low maintenance landscaping areas. Establish a 3-year plan to complete.
4. Investigate the feasibility and economics of implementing green initiatives relating to building cleaning products and equipment, and consumable patron and staff products. Produce a staff report investigating the following areas, and present draft purchasing and training guidelines or policies that the district can implement.
5. Research available alternative fuel technologies for implementation into district fleet operations. Conduct a cost benefit analysis and environmental impact evaluation of possible scenarios, and costs associated with implementation. Prepare a report highlighting the findings.
6. In the development and planning of new park improvement projects, develop a list of guidelines/checklist to aid in 'green' and sustainable decision making considerations.
7. Write a report to identify types and critical areas that must be treated in naturalized spots on both golf courses.
8. Evaluate and install LED lighting at Arlington Lakes parking lot after a cost benefit analysis review.
9. Investigate the feasibility and economics of incorporating appropriately scaled solar collection panels to supplement hot water production at district facilities. Produce a report detailing the findings.
10. Develop energy guidelines for Pioneer Park for part-time staff to keep utility costs to a minimum.
11. Write report on introduction of wild flower areas to control invasive species.
12. Review and submit written report on green roof technology when redoing Arlington Lakes Clubhouse and Service center.
13. Explore wind energy sources at Nickol Knoll Park site.

## **B. Protect and actively manage our natural resources.**

14. Investigate the feasibility and economics of installing insulated covers at the outdoor pool facilities, to reduce heating requirements due to evaporation and convection during the operating season. Produce a report detailing the findings.
15. Establish park district design standards for new construction and renovation to include as many LEEDS principals as possible to reduce operational costs and provide a cost effective and sustainable facility.
16. Develop a comprehensive and enforceable engine idling policy designed to reduce fuel costs.
17. Create for review an environmental management policy/procedure/practice that encompasses conservation, stewardship and sustainability.
18. Complete a report to review if current management practices at the Centennial Nature Habitat are effective.
19. Develop a plan to enhance the appearance of the Museum Complex by improving signage and adding informational and interactive kiosks around the Museum's buildings and grounds; plan to include types of signage and kiosks along with costs of each.
20. Expand our program of splitting perennials and grasses from golf site to other areas.
21. Re-evaluate through written report alternative fuel vehicles for carts and maintenance equipment.
22. Research and implement energy efficiencies across the District.

## **C. Develop standards for planning and construction of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities.**

1. Upon completion of Frontier Master Plan begin master planning process for next 3 community center parks.
2. Prepare a report that identifies athletic fields which are in high demand and develop a set of specifications and management techniques to provide quality playing fields.
3. Develop Internal Guidelines for Playground Safety Audits in making improvements to the playgrounds to ensure public safety.
4. Update existing park asset report to include a recent improvements and new construction to assist in development of future replacement schedules.
5. Formalize and upgrade for review current tree management plan in conjunction with current or new software.
6. Establish for review a set of minimum standards for athletic fields which includes hard court surfaces.
7. Develop a construction standards manual for commonly improved assets, i.e., tennis courts, pathways, parking lots, bench pads etc.
8. Establish for review a statement of purpose for parks department that will identify a minimum set of standards for park development.
9. In a report, determine if the need exists for additional playground equipment for both older and younger age groups.
10. Complete an in-house Master Plan of Lake Arlington to determine feasibility of increasing pathway widths to improve user safety.
11. Design new landscaping plan for clubhouse perimeters improvements.
12. Written report on alternative surfaces for brick pavers at Nickol Knoll.