

2021 Sustainability Report

Principle 1: Purchase and use of environmentally safe and sensitive products

Theme: Paper Purchasing and Reduction in Use

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2021 UPDATE	BENEFITS																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We replace paper with electronic communication whenever practical; including bidding documents, registration confirmations, P-cards, accreditation documents, staff manuals, board packets, etc. We print double-sided pages when possible. We use 30% recycled content office paper. Since 2019, IT is providing Smart Field Forms for staff documents, including employment forms, vehicle inspection forms, etc. that can be completed electronically, saving approximately 1,000 sheets of paper in a typical year. BoardDocs creates electronic agendas, minutes and supporting documents for board and committee meetings, and also includes copies of District policies, saving an estimated 81,780 sheets of paper annually, resulting in a cost savings of \$568. The majority of employee paperwork is completed electronically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even though facilities reopened more fully and most programs resumed in 2021, the District still saved an additional 55,000 sheets of office paper in 2021 compared to 2020. 2021 was the first full year of producing a digital-only Program Guide. Discontinuing the printing and mailing of the Program Guide saves approximately 13.2 million sheets of paper and \$230,000 annually. <div data-bbox="525 467 1480 1136"> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of Sheets of Office Paper Used</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Number of Sheets of Office Paper Used (Estimated from Chart)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of Sheets</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>~350,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>~400,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>~780,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>~800,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>~720,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>~820,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>~1,150,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Year	Number of Sheets	2021	~350,000	2020	~400,000	2019	~780,000	2018	~800,000	2017	~720,000	2016	~820,000	2008	~1,150,000	<p>Comparing 2021 paper use to 2019 paper use, we saved:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.01 short tons of wood 48.3 million BTUs of energy 32,000 lbs. carbon dioxide 44,800 gallons of water <p>By not printing the Program Guide for 4 quarters in 2021, we saved:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 184 short tons of wood 1,480 million BTUs of energy 981,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide 1,370,000 gallons of water <p>*Calculations made by the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator</p>
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Principle 1: Purchase and use of environmentally safe and sensitive products (cont'd)

Theme: Use of Green Cleaning Supplies and Services throughout the District

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks staff uses a bulk cleaner dispensing system by Metro with lidded, 5-gallon buckets. Cleaners are pre-measured and diluted with water. • Staff uses green cleaners in all facilities and parks, including golf courses, Centennial Beach, Knoch Knolls Nature Center, Fort Hill Activity Center and Knoch Park Central Maintenance Facility. • Custodial is using a 5-filter system for vacuums, resulting in cleaner air. • Custodial's eco-flex carpet extractor uses less water and chemical when cleaning carpets. • Custodial's eco-flex auto-scrubber strips floors with water and small amounts of low VOC cleaners. • All cleaning machines use cold water only, and peroxide-based cleaners. • All floor finishes have a 0.95% or less VOC. • Restroom paper products are made of 100% recycled content. • Custodial uses recycled plastic trash can liners. • Fleet uses a solvent-free cleaner to clean vehicle parts. • All paper products and hand soaps ordered by Custodial are green certified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green products are safer for employees using them. • Green products are safe for volunteers to use, including volunteers with special needs. • Containers are refillable, reducing waste. • Green products do not pollute soil, air, or water.

Principle 2: Effective Use and Protection of Air, Water, Soil, and Wildlife

Theme: Use Pervious Materials for Construction of Hardscape When Practical

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District maintains approximately 118,033 SF of pervious pavement. • The District considers installing pervious pavement in areas where maintenance is practical. • The District seeks grants to assist with initial cost and/or maintenance of pervious pavers. Each of the 6 pervious pavement projects completed between 2009 and 2016 was funded, in part, by grants. • Parks Department manages sweeping of pervious pavement at Winding Creek Park, Seager Park, Weigand Riverfront Park, Knoch Knolls Nature Center, Sportsman's Park and Fort Hill Activity Center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50-year lifecycle cost of pervious pavement is projected to be 25% less than asphalt. • Improves water quality of the DuPage River and other streams by reducing runoff and filtering water on site. • Pollutants removed include nitrogen, phosphorus, lead, zinc, and total suspended solids.

Principle 2: Effective Use and Protection of Air, Water, Soil, and Wildlife (cont'd)

Theme: Conserve Water in Operations

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2021 UPDATE	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use water from retention ponds and quarries for irrigation. • Synthetic turf fields at Nike Sports Complex, Knoch Park, and Commissioners Park reduce the need for irrigation. • Golf continues to reduce water usage by adjusting the spray patterns of sprinklers. • Rain sensors at Frontier Sports Complex, Commissioners Park and Fort Hill Activity Center prevent the irrigation system from watering when the soil already is moist enough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New, more efficient irrigation sprinkler heads were installed at Naperbrook Golf Course as part of the fall construction. • Springbrook Golf Course began using soil moisture sensors to determine when irrigation is needed. • The 900-gallon cistern at Knoch Knolls Nature Center harvested 93,619 gallons of rainwater, providing 78% of the water needed for the restrooms and irrigation of the living wall, saving approximately \$1,300 in water costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuse of rain water saves money, local potable water supply, and slows runoff from the site, leading to improved water quality of local streams.

Theme: Protect Wildlife

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Police hand out river wildlife cards on the Riverwalk to encourage visitors to refrain from feeding ducks and other waterfowl • Central Parks staff maintains two hives of honeybees at the back of the organic area of the Ron Ory Community Garden Plots. • Central Parks discontinued use of the chemical, Merit, for grub control and uses Acelepyrn instead, which is safer for pollinators. • The District maintains 5 monarch way stations at Knoch Knolls Nature Center, Nike Sports Complex, Country Lakes Park, Seager Park, and the Ron Ory Community Garden Plots. All are certified through Monarch Watch. A monarch way station includes 10 or more milkweed plants and 4 or more nectar plants in an area that is at least 100 SF. • A pollinator garden has been added to the Riverwalk on the east side of Rotary Hill. Milkweed plants are being allowed to grow naturally in other places along the Riverwalk as well. • Both golf courses have incorporated native areas with milkweed and other pollinator plants (approx. 2.5 acres at Springbrook and 6.5 acres at Naperbrook). The native areas receive minimal herbicide treatments, and no insecticide treatments. No pesticides are applied during egg laying periods. Annual mowing and other practices help minimize invasive weeds; milkweed seeds are sown to increase the number of plants. • Golf is using bacteria based aquatic products to reduce organic matter in ponds, which will help limit algae growth and thereby improve oxygen levels and the overall water quality in the ponds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honeybees are essential to many of the fruits and vegetables that we enjoy. Providing a safe place for several hives will benefit the garden plots and will help bring back the honeybee population. • Allowing ducks to feed naturally leads to better health for the ducks, prevents crowding and aggression among the ducks, and helps keep the river clean. • Milkweed plants provide habitat for monarch butterflies, both for laying eggs and for feeding the caterpillars. Other native, flowering plants provide nectar for adult monarchs.

Principle 2: Effective Use and Protection of Air, Water, Soil, and Wildlife (cont'd)

Theme: Improve and Maintain the District's Natural Areas

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2021 UPDATE	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parks Department actively maintains existing natural areas and works with the Planning Department to restore additional natural areas. Community volunteers assist with park maintenance projects when possible. The District manages approximately 300 acres of natural area, including prairie, woodland, shoreline and "low mow" areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural area management practices in 2021 by the Parks Department included 57 acres of controlled burning, 46 acres of invasive removal and 81 acres of low mowing. 101 trees were planted Districtwide. The Planning Department completed the second phase of a shoreline restoration project at Clow Creek Greenway, adding 2 acres of native plants along the shoreline. Phase 1 of the Brook Crossings pond dredging and shoreline restoration project added .6 acres of native plants. The soil that was dredged from the pond was transferred to Frontier Sports Complex to create a berm that was planted with 2.4 acres of native plants. The Planning Department completed the third year of Park Meadow projects to convert turf grass to meadow in strategic areas in selected parks. The meadow areas were planted with native wildflowers and low prairie grasses. The areas selected for conversion include stormwater detention sites and other areas that are frequently wet due to the topography of the site. In 2021, park meadows were created at Springbrook Parkway, Arrowhead Park and Redfield Commons Park, replacing a total of 1.8 acres of turf with meadow. In 2021, 453 volunteers contributed 3,084 hours to help Naperville Park District with park maintenance and environmental projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits of restoring shorelines include less maintenance for staff, improvement in the water quality of rivers and streams, smaller Canadian geese population, and improvement in native riparian animal & insect habitat. Benefits of increased low-mow areas include improving habitat for pollinators, enhancing stormwater absorption and filtering by native plants, reducing air pollution caused by mowing, reducing the amount of fuel used for mowing and reduction in labor and related costs. Pond aerators eliminate the need for chemical applications, reducing pollution.

Theme: Improve and Evaluate Use of Chemical Applications for Landscape Maintenance and Hard Surfaces

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2021 Update	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf and Parks are using best management practices in applying fertilizers and herbicides, including soil testing to limit elements only to what are needed for the soil. Parks and Golf staff continue to reduce the amount of salt applied in deicing; uses magnesium chloride in all sensitive areas and for walkways. Central Parks uses microbes to improve turf quality while decreasing the use of synthetic fertilizer and plant protectant chemicals. Golf continued the use of naturally occurring microbes to reduce thatch in turf, helping to naturally reduce pests and disease problems. Golf has increased its use of organic fertilizers (chicken manure/milorganite), reducing the used of synthetic fertilizers by 50% in the rough and by 33% in fairways. Central Parks top dresses fields with 10 tons of compost, mostly composed of leaves, twigs and landscape waste, reducing fertilizer use, to relieve compaction and feed the soil bacteria that provide nutrients to the turf. The Riverwalk team applies leaf compost on perennial beds in place of mulch, which helps to add nutrients to the soil, reduce the need for fertilizer and relieve compaction. Ft. Hill Activity Center has heated walkways to the entrance to reduce need for salt in winter. South Parks is using "Power Melt Green" to melt ice; it is calcium magnesium acetate based and labeled one of the most environmentally friendly ice melt formulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks completed the fourth year of the Sustainable Parks initiative, in which 8 parks and more than 65 playground areas were maintained only with natural products. Conventional broadleaf weed control and Roundup were replaced with natural products when needed and organic fertilizer was used. Golf increased the use of organic fertilizer, applying it on the roughs and experimenting with 50% organic fertilizer on one fairway at each course. Golf used more than 12 tons of organic blend fertilizers in 2021 at both courses. Central Parks used 50% chicken manure in its bulk fertilizer for most parks. South Parks used soil amendments in lieu of chemical fertilizer at 95th St. Plaza. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits of best management practices in landscape maintenance include improved water quality in streams and ponds, healthier turf, improved soil, protection of pollinators, and reduced cost. Benefits for reducing use of salt include reduced replacement costs for salt damaged landscaping trees and shrubs; protection of water quality, plant, and animal life in sensitive wetland areas; and reduced costs from more efficient application of deicers, minimizing waste. (From IPRA's <i>Environmental Toolkit</i>)

Principle 3: Effective Use of Energy Resources

Theme: Energy Conservation - Vehicles and Equipment

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2021 UPDATE	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using bio-based fuel and fluids, including B20 Dieselelex Gold fuel during the warm season, EcoTerra hydraulic fluid, fully synthetic engine oil, and canola based lubricant. Continue to purchase or convert vehicles for alternative fuel, including hybrid, electric and propane. Continue to test efficiency and economy of new fuels, fluids and types of vehicles. We reuse oil from Centennial Grill and Springbrook and Naperbrook clubhouses to fuel the vegetable oil tractor. We recycle excess oil via a vender. The fleet now has a propane fueling station and 14 road vehicles that run on propane and gasoline fuel, 3 propane forklifts and 7 propane zero-turn mowers. Naperville Park District has been designated as an Illinois Green Fleet since 2011. In addition to conserving energy and reducing the use of fossil fuels, Fleet also looks to reduce carbon emissions by transitioning to electric vehicles and equipment when possible. An EV charging station at Knoch Park charges 2 vehicles and is available for public use and staff use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021, the Fleet Department purchased its second zero emission, electric zero-turn mower. Fleet purchased a hybrid police vehicle to replace a gas powered one. In addition, an older hybrid vehicle was replaced with a plug-in hybrid, which runs mostly on electricity with gasoline used only as a backup. Golf purchased 2 hybrid greens mowers in 2021. South Parks purchased new electric tools, including a pole saw, string trimmers, a chain saw and a power washer. North Parks purchased a lithium battery chain saw and an electric pole saw. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric vehicles produce no emissions. Hybrids are expected to provide twice the gas mileage of the vehicles they replaced. Synthetic oil improves fuel economy and uses less oil. Propane is cleaner and costs less than gasoline. Use of vegetable oil is carbon neutral.

Theme: Renewable Energy Use

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2021 UPDATE	BENEFITS																				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rooftop solar panels provide renewable energy at Knoch Knolls Nature Center, Nike Sports Complex, and Fort Hill Activity Center. Parks operates 2 solar-powered pond aerators at Hobson West Ponds. Fleet installed a solar panel to power a diesel pump and also used solar power for a trailer lift. Solar panels are considered for buildings when grants or rebates are available. 	<p style="text-align: center;">2021 Solar Output at Nike Sports Complex, Knoch Knolls Nature Center and Ft. Hill Activity Center</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="541 1057 1556 1289"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="541 1057 957 1125">Facility</th> <th data-bbox="957 1057 1142 1125">kWh Generated by PVs (Est.)</th> <th data-bbox="1142 1057 1327 1125">Est. Cost Savings</th> <th data-bbox="1327 1057 1556 1125">CO2 Avoided</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="541 1125 957 1170">Nike Sports Complex</td> <td data-bbox="957 1125 1142 1170">11,444</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1125 1327 1170">\$1,259</td> <td data-bbox="1327 1125 1556 1170">8.1 metric tons</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="541 1170 957 1216">Knoch Knolls Nature Center</td> <td data-bbox="957 1170 1142 1216">21,580</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1170 1327 1216">\$2,374</td> <td data-bbox="1327 1170 1556 1216">15.3 metric tons</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="541 1216 957 1261">Ft. Hill Activity Center</td> <td data-bbox="957 1216 1142 1261">38,580</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1216 1327 1261">\$4,244</td> <td data-bbox="1327 1216 1556 1261">27.3 metric tons</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="541 1261 957 1289" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL</td> <td data-bbox="957 1261 1142 1289">71,604</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1261 1327 1289">\$7,876</td> <td data-bbox="1327 1261 1556 1289">50.7 metric tons</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District purchased a solar powered mobile security camera system in 2021. 	Facility	kWh Generated by PVs (Est.)	Est. Cost Savings	CO2 Avoided	Nike Sports Complex	11,444	\$1,259	8.1 metric tons	Knoch Knolls Nature Center	21,580	\$2,374	15.3 metric tons	Ft. Hill Activity Center	38,580	\$4,244	27.3 metric tons	TOTAL	71,604	\$7,876	50.7 metric tons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar panels produce clean, renewable energy. Annual cost savings throughout lifecycle. Educational value for the community.
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Principle 3: Effective Use of Energy Resources (cont'd)

Theme: Energy Conservation – Indoor and Outdoor Facilities

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2021 UPDATE							BENEFITS																																																									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District conducts an ongoing energy audit, tracking electric and gas bills. Trades is upgrading to LED lights whenever budget allows. Energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems are installed in new buildings. Athletic fields use energy-efficient lighting that can be controlled remotely to accommodate schedule changes. All sports lighting is now integrated into the Control Link system. Drop-in tennis and basketball court lighting is now on push button controls, for more energy savings. 	Energy and Cost Savings for Control Link System							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing energy use realizes cost savings and reduction in pollution, water consumption & use of fossil fuels. 																																																									
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Principle 4: Reduction and Handling of Waste

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2021 UPDATE	BENEFITS										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct periodic waste audits. • The District specifies mixed-source recycling for its waste hauler contract, recycling approximately 35% of its total waste annually, with 25% comprised of recycled materials and 10% comprised of yard waste. • NPD asks contractors to recycle construction waste. • Staff continues recycling and reusing materials whenever possible. • Parks staff chips trees and uses mulch for trails, etc. • The District hosts community recycling opportunities when practical. • Tennis balls are recycled at Knoch Park Tennis Courts in a bin provided by high school students. • Fleet uses Pig Mats to absorb oil and then recycle it. • Central Parks uses 100% recycled paint for striping ball fields. • The District is looking into ways to reduce single-use plastic products such as drinking straws, plastic cups and utensils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Parks collected 250 leftover Christmas trees from local businesses to create valuable mulch. Central also collected 100 tons of manure from local horse farms for use by gardeners in the Ron Ory Community Garden Plots. • At the Garden Plots, 22,416 lbs. of pumpkins were dropped off and composted into the soil in the 5th annual Pumpkin Smash. This is another record breaking quantity. • The District collected used, nonworking holiday lights at Fort Hill Activity Center, Alfred Rubin Riverwalk Community Center and the golf shops and staff dropped off the lights at the City of Naperville’s recycling center, which accepts holiday lights. Approximately 1,500 lbs. of lights were recycled. <p style="text-align: center;">Other Materials Recycled/Reused in 2021</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="674 625 1579 761"> <thead> <tr> <th>Engine Oil (gal.)</th> <th>Pallets</th> <th>Tires</th> <th>Metal</th> <th>Electronic Equipment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>450 gallons of used engine oil and 120 lbs. of oil filters</td> <td>94</td> <td>34</td> <td>26,500 lbs.</td> <td>915 lbs.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Engine Oil (gal.)	Pallets	Tires	Metal	Electronic Equipment	450 gallons of used engine oil and 120 lbs. of oil filters	94	34	26,500 lbs.	915 lbs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials are kept out of the landfill. • Reuse and recycling generates cost savings and rebates. • Composting pumpkins returns water and nutrients to the soil. • Using recycled paint from EarthPaint helps divert paint containers from the landfill.
Engine Oil (gal.)	Pallets	Tires	Metal	Electronic Equipment								
450 gallons of used engine oil and 120 lbs. of oil filters	94	34	26,500 lbs.	915 lbs.								

Principle 5: Environmental Education and Interpretation

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2021 UPDATE	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District maintains a page on its website with information about our environmental initiatives. • Interpretive signs (35 to date) are installed where appropriate to educate park visitors about our natural areas. • “Conservation at Home” signs showcase restoration and demonstration projects at the Ron Ory Community Garden Plots, Winding Creek Park, Frontier Sports Complex and Knoch Knolls Nature Center. • We promote a rain barrel sale with The Conservation Foundation as a part of Earth Week Naperville. • A volunteer training video is now available at www.napervilleparks.org. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits to Knoch Knolls Nature Center continued to be reduced due to COVID-19 mitigations. During a typical year, more than 25,000 people visit the Center. In 2021, drop-in visits totaled 5,835. • Visitors continued to access our mobile tour app in 2021, including an audio-described tour of Knoch Knolls Park near the Nature Center and an Earth Day Every Day tour (300 page views, 179 unique visitors), and a Nature Scavenger Hunt (819 page views, 399 unique visitors). • In-person nature programs in 2021 included Creepy Critters Month (545 attended), Nature Birthday Parties (36 participants), Nature summer camps (92 participants), Hikes with a Naturalist (191 participants), Scout programs (152 scouts), and Nature Playtime (36 participants). • Nature Discovery Kits were purchased by 51 families. • The Earth Day Fair was held outdoors in June with attendance of approximately 400. • Volunteer Manager Lynnette Hoole coordinated with other organizations to promote Earth Week Naperville in 2021, including volunteer projects in the parks and forest preserves and other opportunities to participate in green initiatives, for example, purchasing and planting trees, a compost bin or a rain barrel. • In 2021, 453 volunteers contributed 3,084 hours to help Naperville Park District with park maintenance and environmental projects. • The Ron Ory Community Garden Plots were able to open and 99.4% of the plots were rented. • The Farmers Market averaged 12 vendors per market and attracted 10,213 visitors over the season. • The Park District continued a marketing campaign with The Conservation Foundation to promote picking up of pet waste to protect the environment. The District also promoted the Take a Hike Challenge in collaboration with Edward-Elmhurst Health. • The Park District received the IAPD “Best Green Practices Award” for its overall environmental stewardship and the “Jane Foulser Monarch Habitat Award” for the addition of 7 acres of pollinator habitat in 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPD is known as a leader in promoting green practices. • Education and communication leads to growth in sustainable practices within NPD and in the community.