APPROVED

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
Council Chambers, Urbana City Building
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Commissioners Present: James Corbin, Tomas Delgado, Stacy Gloss, Andrew Stumpf, Morgan White, Grace Wilken

Commissioners Absent: Jessica Lehmkuhl, Maddy Garbacz

Staff Present: Scott Tess

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum
Stacy Gloss called the meeting to order, a roll was called and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
Grace Wilken motioned to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2021 meeting. Morgan White seconded the motion. Grace Wilken made a note to remove a section that was from previous minutes. Andrew Stumpf also noted that a word was missing from the Public Input section of the minutes. James Corbin, Tomas Delgado, Stacy Gloss, Andrew Stumpf, Morgan White, and Grace Wilken voted yes to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed.

Public Input
There was no public input

Presentations
Kara Dudek, Park Planner and Savannah Donovan, Environmental Public Program Coordinator from the Urbana Park District came on to share the Urbana Park District's CARES Plan, which stands for Climate Action, Resilience, Education and Sustainability. A discussion ensued. (See attached slides). This is in the Public Input phase, and the public is encouraged to fill out the survey until March 9th at: https://www.urbanaparks.org/be-green-help-inform-the-urbana-park-district-cares-climate-action-resilience-education--sustainability-plan/

Traci Barkley, Director of the Sola Gratia Farm and Emily McKown, Executive Director of Channing-Murray Foundation came on to share about the Solidarity Gardens Initiative, which is a collaborative project to produce more fresh, local food for those who need and want it in our community and how it came to be. A discussion with the speakers and Commission members ensued. (See attached flyer). More information is available at: www.Solidarity-Gardens-CU.org.

Staff Report
Community Solar
Nexamp has begun land-clearing activities at the closed landfill. Staff continue to support subscription recruitment activities.

Geothermal
Geothermal Urbana-Champaign has secured seven contracts for installation totaling 28 tons of capacity and has 25 proposals out for review by property owners. There are seven remaining Geo Power Hours listed at geothermalUC.org.

Green House Gas Inventory
Staff is collecting annual data to create a calendar year 2020 municipal greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Public Engagement
Staff spoke to the University of Illinois classes CEE 438 - Science and Environmental Policy and NRES285 - iCAP Ambassadors about City sustainability work.

Ucycle
Cities and the County will host a Spring Residential Electronics Collection Event over two days: Friday, May 21, 2021 AND Saturday, May 22, 2021. Pre-registration is required to participate; online registration will open on April 12. Residents can sign up for a 15-minute time slot to drop off their used electronic items for recycling, free of charge. Timeslots will be filled for Saturday first with Friday timeslots used for overflow capacity. To register, visit the collection website beginning April 12. If you need assistance with registering, please email recycling@champaignil.gov on April 12. As part of your registration, you will select one of the 15-minute time slots to bring your items.

Announcements
- Geothermal Power Hours posted at geothermaluc.org
- Household Hazardous Waste collection event Saturday, April 10, 2021 – Location TBA, Registration TBA– general public will be notified once contracts/logistics approved
- Residential Electronics Collection Event – Scheduled for Saturday, May 21 and 22, 2021

Next Sustainability Advisory Commission Meeting
April 6 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at the Urbana City Building or by Zoom depending on circumstances.

Unfinished Business
JEDI goals and activities
Chair Stacy Gloss entertained a motion to continue this discussion on the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion goals in the May 2021 meeting. Morgan White moved to continue the motion. She asked that half an hour be devoted to the JEDI goals discussion. Tomas Delgado seconded the motion.

Announcements
The Sustainability Advisory Commission has an immediate opening for Commission Member. Interested parties may download the application form at:
https://www.urbanaillinois.us/boards/sustainability-advisory-commission.

The next Sustainability Advisory Commission meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2021.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.
This meeting was recorded.

Urbana Park District CARES Plan

2021-26

DRAFT for Public Input

CARES= Climate Action, Resilience, Education and Sustainability

Three Planning Pillars, or overarching themes:

Communicating Climate Action underscores the Urbana Park District's commitment to serve as a community leader and role model for climate action—through internal practices, public outreach & programs, and collaborative partnerships.

Protecting & Strengthening Our Natural Environment reinforces the Urbana Park District's responsibility to care for the health of humans, plants, animals, ecosystems & the climate—by reducing our carbon footprint, stewarding natural areas, and improving air & water quality.

Conserving Resources highlights the Urbana Park District's dedication to the sustainability of natural resources—through conserving energy & water, using clean energy, reducing waste, and increasing recycling & reuse.

All of the following ideas are in draft form, and we welcome changes, additions, and deletions.

- What topics don't make sense?
- Is anything missing?
- Are the goals or objectives too specific, or focus too much on any one topic?
- Are the goals feasible in the next 5 years?

Each of the three pillars contains a series of broad goals. Later on, these goals are broken down into objectives and detailed performance measures to help UPD work towards achieving them.

Communicating Climate Action:

Goal 1: Communicate the importance of climate action through internal practices.

Goal 2: Provide outreach and programming opportunities to best communicate climate action to diverse audiences.

Goal 3: Provide leadership and public information to advocate for environmental sustainability and climate action.

Goal 4: Communicate environmental topics, and opportunities for climate action, through art, sculpture, and interpretation.

Goal 5: Collaborate with partners to reach new audiences, and expand climate change impacts in the community.

Protecting & Strengthening Our Natural Environment

Goal 1: Reduce the district's carbon footprint.

Goal 2: Improve outdoor air quality.

Goal 3: Steward biodiversity through responsible care and expansion of natural areas.

Goal 4: Enhance aquatic and public health through water quality improvements.

Conserving Resources

Goal 1: Reduce consumption of energy and water.

Goal 2: Utilize cleaner energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Goal 3: Reduce waste generated through UPD programs, facilities, and processes.

Goal 4: Increase recycling and reuse to divert waste from landfills.

Communicating Climate Action underscores the Urbana Park District's commitment to serve as a community leader and role model for climate action—through internal practices, public outreach & programs, and collaborative partnerships.

Goal 1: Communicate the importance of climate action through internal practices.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Develop a district-wide green purchasing program for office supplies, cleaning products, and other routine purchasing.	1. Research existing green purchasing programs, resources and reuse opportunities.	Create and share document with Administrative Staff and Green Team in FY 22.	Administration, Green Team
	2. Lead purchasing staff will bid or quote green products and alternatives to single-use plastics.	Create new quotes and bid sheets for greener alternatives in FY 22.	Administration, Green Team
B. Expand UPD staff's understanding of climate change; provide tools for action, and cultivate an environmentally-responsible staff culture.	1. Create materials for new part-time and full-time staff during onboarding.	Develop two short training videos and additional digital resources.	Green Team
	2. Discuss how to implement environmentally- responsible practices in the workplace during all-staff meetings.	Present to all staff, part-time and full-time, at least once each year.	Green Team
		Deliver short presentations (about five minutes long) during at least four departmental staff meetings each year.	Green Team
	3. Encourage employees to "go green" at home as well.	Offer optional staff development presentations at least once per year (including at District natural areas).	Green Team

Goal 2: Provide outreach and programming opportunities to best communicate climate action to diverse audiences.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Increase kids' knowledge and experience with reducing waste during district **summer camps**.	1. Teach kids how to compost food scraps from meals during summer camp; utilize reminders and prompts such as signs.	Campers will produce usable compost each summer and decide how to use it.	Camp Coordinators
	2. Encourage recycling and waste-free lunches.	Offer incentives (such as prizes or special honors) for campers and staff to recycle during camp.	Camp Coordinators, Marketing
		Provide information for adults and children (along with the summer camp manual) about how to pack waste-free or low-waste lunches.	Camp Coordinators, Marketing
B. Provide relevant climate change education and related events for local **school children**.	1. Offer climate change education during SPLASH and other afterschool programs.	Integrate climate change lessons, activities and resources into already-existing afterschool programs, at least five each year.	Program Coordinators
	2. Offer climate change educational programming and resources for K-12 students through standards-based (Next Generation Science Standards) curriculum.	Infuse climate change curriculum in at least two existing standards-based environmental education programs. Offer "take-home" resources for participants when appropriate.	Environmental Education Coordinator
		Offer a free 30-minute "introduction to climate change" program and discussion for local educators.	Environmental Education Coordinator
C. Integrate the district's "You Belong Here" initiatives by finding ways to connect with historically **underserved audiences**.	1. Improve local conditions while increasing awareness of climate change (and how to mitigate it) in historically underserved neighborhoods and parks.	Collaborate with community members from underrepresented neighborhoods to organize nearby park landscape improvements (such as tree- or native plantings) in FY 22.	Outreach & Wellness, Planning & Operations
		In collaboration with the Urbana Parks Foundation establish a "UPD Tree Fund" to provide trees in underrepresented parks, and host annual tree planting events.	Administration, Green Team, Outreach & Wellness
	2. Spread the word about CU Solidarity Gardens resources.	Utilize Urvana, website, social media, and other PR opportunities to promote CU Solidarity Gardens at least ten times in FY 22.	Environmental, Outreach & Wellness, Marketing

	3. Create a walking tour for Spanish speakers at the Perkins Road Park Site.	Offer in Spanish at least one recorded hike and one in-person hike by FY 23.	Environmental, Outreach & Wellness, Marketing
D. Increase **youth and teen** understanding of climate change concepts (such as how local ecosystems mitigate the negative impacts of climate change) and their involvement in local climate action.	1. Offer programs and service-learning opportunities for youth and teen participants.	Facilitate at least two climate action programs for this audience each year.	Program Coordinators
E. Engage **adults and age-friendly** (50 and better) audiences.	1. Increase public knowledge about "green" cooking (using low-waste, locally-sourced, and organic ingredients).	Host one cooking class in FY 23 (virtual or in-person) that demonstrates how to cook a meal.	Community Programs
	2. Increase public knowledge about conserving resources at home to save money.	Host at least one program about homemade/ eco-friendly alternatives to common household products by FY 23.	Program Coordinators
	3. Collaborate with local health professionals to increase community awareness about the ties between environmental health and human health.	Offer at least one related public program, service, or resource each year.	Environmental, Outreach & Wellness, Marketing
F. Engage with the community during **free public events**.	1. Have Green Team or Environmental Department staff offer activities or resources at Play Days in the Park.	Present at three or more Play Days in the Park by the end of Summer 2022.	Environmental, Green Team

Goal 3: Provide leadership and public information to advocate for environmental sustainability and climate action.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Report and promote annual CARES Plan accomplishments to increase public awareness about climate action.	1. Seek out new avenues for public information and contact.	Staff a booth at community events, at least one new location outside of the district each year.	Program staff, Green Team, UPDAC
	2. Highlight seasonal actions that have been initiated or completed and provide infographics to inform the public on progress made by the UPD.	Publish progress updates on the district website and Program Guide at least twice each year.	Green Team, Marketing

Goal 4: Communicate environmental topics, and opportunities for climate action, through art, sculpture, and interpretation.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Promote youth artistic creativity in addressing climate change.	1. During Arts Camp, create a collaborative art piece to be displayed at the Phillips Recreation Center.	Public display of at least one piece of art related to climate change.	Community Programs & Arts Camp Staff
		Host an in-person or virtual reception.	
	2. Nature Day Camp participants will create a temporary exhibit about how to offset or mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.	Public display of at least three exhibits at the Anita Purves Nature Center and promotion on social media.	Environmental Programs & Nature Camp Staff
B. Use art and sculpture as a means to communicate environmental concerns and climate action.	1. Work with local artists to display temporary art exhibits that raise awareness of environmental issues (such as plastic waste).	At least one new piece displayed in an Urbana park each year.	Arts & Culture Matrix Team, Green Team, Planning & Operations
		Create a short video about each piece.	Marketing
	2. Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Wandell Sculpture Garden while integrating themes of natural areas and climate change.	In FY 2022-2023 organize a community special event.	Community Programs, Environmental, Planning & Operations

C. Utilize interpretive exhibits as a way to convey information about climate change.	1. Highlight the values and benefits of urban woodlands, wetlands, and prairie restoration through interpretive panels or exhibits in parks and natural areas.	Incorporate climate change-related content into 50% or more of new interpretive exhibits.	Environmental, Planning & Operations

Goal 5: Collaborate with partners to reach new audiences, and expand climate change impacts in the community.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Collaborate with Champaign County Climate Coalition (C4) to expand climate action community-wide.	1. Attend C4 meetings on a regular basis and participate in C4 collaborative opportunities.	UPD staff attend at least 75% of C4 meetings.	Environmental, Green Team
	2. Work with C4 to identify "best practices" for improving local environmental conditions.	Creation of a "best-practices" document or guidelines by FY 23.	
B. Attract involvement from University of Illinois students, faculty and staff.	1. Organize a booth for Quad Day on the UIUC campus to increase awareness and attract volunteers.	Annual presence of UPD booth at Quad Day starting in FY 23.	UPDAC, Green Team, Environmental
C. Work with other local environmental groups as a resource and to help facilitate programs and events.	1. Build and maintain ties with community groups such as the Youth Climate Justice Forum, Faith in Place, City of Urbana Sustainability & Resilience (including U-Cycle staff), and the Urbana Sustainability Advisory Committee.	Invite members of such groups to attend relevant district planning meetings, at least three times each year.	All Staff

Protecting & Strengthening Our Natural Environment reinforces the Urbana Park District's responsibility to care for the health of humans, plants, animals, ecosystems & the climate—by reducing our carbon footprint, stewarding natural areas, and improving air & water quality.

Goal 1: Reduce the district's carbon footprint.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Reduce and offset UPD's overall carbon emissions.	1. Plant trees to improve carbon sequestration, improve air quality, and reduce urban heat island effect.	More trees planted with equitable distribution/benefits through every Urbana park.	Grounds
	2. Implement no idling best practices for district vehicles.	Educate staff on best practices at least once per year at staff trainings.	Green Team
		Increase and activate no idling settings in fleet as available.	Operations, Project
B. Reduce vehicle trips and total miles traveled.	1. Increase active transportation opportunities such as biking and walking.	Expand trail networks total miles by 15%.	Recreation, Administration
		Budget for and expand bike racks by at least 5 per year.	
		Create a program to offer incentives for active transportation to programs, events, and work.	
	2. Decrease in the amount of materials brought to Landscape Recycling Center (LRC), and the cost to dispose of natural materials.	Reuse volume of chip material brought to LRC.	Grounds Maintenance
		Use of chip in natural areas locations where soil amending is needed, e.g. fill areas, trails, or habitat.	
	3. Evaluate and create efficient vehicular routes, deliveries.	Evaluate and map routine district vehicle routes to reduce mileage, for example: trash collection, pavilion/restroom cleaning, mowing.	Operations
		Develop process for bulk ordering supplies for reduced pickup/deliveries.	District- wide

C. Work towards achieving UPD carbon neutrality by 2030.	1. Calculate carbon footprint using available parameters annually.	Annual benchmarking of carbon emissions.	Green Team
	2. Identify UPD sources of the greatest emissions and offsets, and develop subsequent goals and objectives accordingly.	Facility specific targets to reduce carbon emissions (heating/cooling/lighting)	Green Team
		Park specific targets to sequester carbon (trees/natural areas)	Green Team

Goal 2: Improve outdoor air quality.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Reduce UPD contributions to fine particulate matter--PM 2.4 and PM 10.	1. Improve and maintain dust free paving.	Pave and convert any non-compliant dust contributing hardscapes to be compliant by 2023.	Operations, Planning
	2. Increase frequency of street sweeping in district lots and roadways.	Partner with City of Urbana and/or contracted sweeping services to develop a schedule for district paved areas.	Operations
B. Reduce black carbon, nitrogen oxide, toxin, and greenhouse gas contributions of the district.	1. Research available technologies and maintenance protocols to reduce UPD air pollution contributions.	Implement at least three new approaches to reduce air pollution contributions.	Green Team, Operations, Planning

Goal 3: Steward biodiversity through responsible care and expansion of natural areas.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Increase the amount of quality naturalized areas at UPD.	1. Create a network of insect/wildlife corridors through naturalized areas in each park, pollinator pockets, no mow zones, invasive species removal, and increased biodiversity.	Increase this network by 5000 square feet over next five years.	Natural Areas, Grounds Maintenance
		Inventory and install naturalized areas in all parks that do not currently have any native landscaping.	
B. Increase the overall number of trees in UPD inventory.	1. Account for tree removals (storm damage, safety, construction) by replanting at a minimum 1:1.	Compare the district-wide number of plantings to the number of removals each year, ensuring more have been planted than removed.	Grounds Maintenance
	2. Replant with emphasis on species that support native insects and wildlife.	Create planting list of trees that provide higher wildlife value.	
C. Maintain UPD Parks and Natural Areas in environmentally sustainable ways.	1. Annually evaluate maintenance methods to uncover possible efficiencies in time and resources.	Annual review meeting each winter with Ops staff to review innovation in equipment and methods.	Operations
	2. Implement best practices in herbicide use and alternative management approaches including use of mechanical controls, limiting use of herbicide, evaluating organic herbicides, and allowing for weeds where suitable.	Train all Grounds and Natural Areas Staff (including part-time) on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and alternative weed management approaches.	Grounds Maintenance, Natural Areas
D. Develop sustainable, in-house native, local ecotype, rare plant propagation program.	1. Design passive greenhouse (with water collection system) for Hickory Street Storage Site.	Preliminary design and cost estimate by end of 2022.	Grounds Maintenance, Natural Areas, Facilities Maintenance, Planning
	2. Seek partners or grants for funding Research appropriate grants/ foundations.	Identify potential partners and funding sources by end of 2024.	
	3. Install operational greenhouse and water collection system.	Installation complete and plant production beginning by end of 2026.	
E. Enhance community-wide biodiversity.	1. Connect public with sources for and information about native plants.	Develop a “beginner native plant guide” to be shared with the community.	Marketing, Natural Areas

		Create series of four videos on natural areas stewardship & seasonal natural history.	
		Offer one workshop per year on native landscaping and pollinator gardens.	Natural Areas, Environmental
		Promote local native plant fundraisers (such as Grand Prairie Friends and East Central Illinois Master Naturalists) by sharing information on website and social media.	Marketing, Natural Areas
	2. Expand invasive species removal and planting of natives in UPD parks and natural areas.	Add at least two new sites to be actively stewarded as natural areas under a higher level of care. For example: Chief Shemauger, Judge Webber, Binkerd Grove)	Natural Areas
	3. Enhance existing wildlife corridors under UPD ownership.	Begin invasive species removals and native plantings along 500 linear feet of wildlife corridors such as the Saline Branch which flows through multiple park district sites.	Natural Areas
	4. Promote stewardship of missing links to create regionally functional corridors.	Map existing corridors and note gaps in quality biodiversity.	Natural Areas, Planning
		Collaborate with adjacent landowners to enhance corridor biodiversity.	

Goal 4: Enhance aquatic and public health through water quality improvements.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Increase the success and environmental impact of green infrastructure practices (rain gardens/ bioswales, permeable pavement, engineered wetlands).	1. Increase the amount of bioswales/ raingardens in the district by identifying a location that has overland flow and create a planting plan to help water infiltration.	Convert at least two mowed areas with existing overland flow into bioswales or raingardens.	Grounds Maintenance, Natural Areas, Planning
	2. Go beyond just installing green infrastructure to ensure proper maintenance and functioning.	Incorporate maintenance checklists for natural areas management plans and associated green infrastructure practices in UPD system.	
B. Improve quality of water runoff during winter months.	1. Learn about more efficient salt deicing techniques to reduce the effect of salt on waterways and aquatic life.	Provide Land Conservation Saltsmart training to staff and invite area agencies to join by winter of 2022-23.	Operations, Planning
	2. Evaluate and pilot alternative deicing products (for example, corn based products) and techniques.	Trial use of alternative deicing products and ongoing use of any that are suitable.	Operations
C. Identify locations of point source impacts on UPD parks, natural areas, and waterways.	1. Partner with City to identify all storm sewers in parks, including sources and outlets.	Completed and updated GIS storm system inventory.	Planning

Conserving Resources highlights the Urbana Park District's dedication to the sustainability of natural resources—through conserving energy & water, using clean energy, reducing waste, and increasing recycling & reuse.

Goal 1: Reduce consumption of energy and water.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Reduce electricity consumption.	1. Educate staff on how to save electricity by doing simple things such as turning off lights, monitors, etc.	Reduce total kW hours used by 2% per year from 2021 baseline.	Green Team
	2. Catalog all light fixtures in the district for future efficiency upgrades.	Create a comprehensive list of fixtures on a facility by facility basis.	Operations
	3. Create a plan for replacing all lighting with LED bulbs or fixtures. This includes trading fluorescent tubes for LED fixtures and transitioning to LED pole lighting where solar not possible due to shading.	Create a phased and plan and budget for upgrading all lighting in district, ensuring use of available Ameren incentive programs.	Operations, Planning
	4. Install variable frequency drives (VFDs) on equipment to reduce energy use.	Install at least 3 VFD either through retrofit or equipment replacement.	Aquatics Maintenance, Operations, Planning
	5. Assess feasibility of photo-luminescent (glowing) exit signs which do not use electricity.	Install three exit signs on trial basis to determine usability district-wide.	Operations
B. Reduce potable water used for watering landscaping or fields.	1. Implement rainwater harvesting to reduce water consumption and improve efficiency of landscape/tree watering operations.	Install at least one rainwater cistern collection device in next five years.	Planning & Operations
	2. More perennials than annuals to reduce water usage.		Grounds

C. Target water conservation at both pools.	1. Underground leak detecting.	Once per year, employ in house pressure and dye testing to identify water leaks. (Using UPD Aquatics staff or a leak detection company.	Aquatics Maintenance
	2. Address issue of showers being left on by patrons after use.	Implement a process for staff to catch these issues earlier; for example, hourly staff checks for running.	Aquatics
		Long term, swap fixtures for water conserving or timed models.	Aquatics, Operations
	3. Keep pulse on industry and implementing water saving practices.	Aquatics and Aquatics Maintenance staff will attend at least one training or conference per year.	Aquatics
	4. Adjust features at the Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center which have historically low usage or maintenance concerns.	Reduce the timing on exterior water feature at CLPFAC so it runs for a shorter duration (3 minutes) once button is activated.	Aquatics Maintenance
		Consider replacing sand play amenity with another activity for young children, due to maintenance concerns.	Operations, Planning

Goal 2: Utilize cleaner energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Use more renewable energy sources.	1. Expand the use of solar arrays for generating clean energy on-site.	Grow the size of UPD's solar array(s) from 6 kW to 50 kW.	Planning & Operations
	2. Determine possible locations for implementing solar light fixtures.	Implement solar lighting in at least two sites.	Facilities Maintenance, Planning
B. Prepare district facilities for electric vehicle charging.	1. Research requirements to support electric vehicles, both for district fleet and public visitors.	Contact at least three fleet managers at other districts, regional dealerships, or manufacturers to develop list of requirements for charging electric vehicles.	Planning & Operations
		Draft specifications by end of 2022.	Planning & Operations
	2. Create a plan to finance electric charging requirements and infrastructure.	Develop preliminary cost estimate and include in Capital Improvement Projects list.	Planning & Operations, Administration

		Seek options for grant funding including Ameren, Clean Energy Foundation, SEDAC, etc.	Planning & Operations
	3. Installation of charging stations.	Install charging stations at one facility by 2026.	Planning, Operations
C. Initiate transition towards electric powered vehicles and equipment.	1. Research electric and hybrid vehicle options.	On each vehicle replacement bid, request an alternate of electric or hybrid option.	Planning, Operations
		As part of vehicle replacement schedule, replace at least two vehicles with electric or hybrid models.	Planning, Operations
	2. Research and test electric equipment (chainsaws, string trimmers, mowers, etc.) for future purchase.	Transition at least 10 pieces of gas-powered grounds and natural areas equipment to electric-powered.	Operations
D. Employ energy conserving building practices in all new construction and substantial upgrades.	1. Explore technologies such as high efficiency HVAC systems, high R-value insulation, LED and motion sensor lighting, solar panels, geothermal heating, etc.	Planning staff will ensure energy conserving equipment is discussed at the initial stages of any construction project, and at least one technology is implemented.	Planning, Operations

Goal 3: Reduce waste generated through UPD programs, facilities, and processes.

Objective	Strategy	Performance Measure	Responsible Staff Groups
A. Reduce waste at UPD programs and events of more than 50 people.	1. Increase use of recyclable or compostable material.	Create a list of at least ten potential products or diversion strategies to choose from based on event.	Green Team
	2. Provide opportunities for public to recycle or compost materials at events.	Employ volunteers to stand by trash receptacles to assist in sorting and educate on recycling or composting at two events per year.	Operations, Recreation
	3. Adjust general philosophy of “swag” offerings to include some natural materials or items which can be used up.	Identify at least three new “swag” items that fall into these parameters, such as prairie seeds, saplings, reusable or edible items by summer of 2022.	Operations, Recreation, Marketing
B. Compost food waste created by staff and visitors at UPD facilities.	1. Create a pilot program for composting at a staff level.	Creation and implementation of district-wide composting process through education, infrastructure (compost bins), and process (ex: designating Green Team member from each facility to drop off compost).	Green Team, Grounds, Facilities Maintenance

	2. Work with staff at summer food program (CUPHD) to allow composting of food waste.	Develop guideline or process for which spoiled foods can be composted, while still allowing CUPHD to gather required documentation on lunches.	Green Team
C. Reduce paper usage district-wide.	1. Teach employees how to save documents, files, budgets, notes and other paperwork electronically (USB sticks, shared files, G Drive).	In year one, reduce paper purchasing budget by 5%. In five years, reduce paper purchasing budget by 25%.	Green Team, Office Managers
	2. Train and transition majority of staff to a paperless time system (ex: Humanity, Microsoft Excel).	100% of full and part time staff will use a paperless timesheet system by 2026.	Administration, Technology Team
	3. Work to reduce the amount of paper generated through marketing or customer service initiatives.	Identify one new process for reducing paper used on Marketing materials while continuing to make connections with the community. For example: QR code or email list at events for flyers.	Marketing
		Receipts at Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center have been identified as a significant amount of paper waste and litter. Assess opportunity for emailed receipts or a signature confirmation.	Administration, Aquatics
D. Reduce the use of single use plastics district- wide.	1. Work to purchase less single use plastics at UPD.	Employ the reusable “picnic kits” at UPD All Staff meetings.	Green Team
		Identify at least two vendors who use large amounts of plastic in packaging and work on an alternate solution.	Green Team
	2. Encourage the use of products that have a longer life and are made of more durable materials.	Gift all staff with reusable silverware kits.	Green Team

Goal 4: Increase recycling and reuse to divert waste from landfills.			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Performance Measure**	**Responsible Staff Groups**
A. Increase recycling bins district-wide.	1. Identify locations, and budget for installation of additional recycling bins.	Inventory recycling bins in facilities and parks, and identify opportunities for new bins.	Facilities Maintenance
		Installation of identified bins by 2023.	
B. Reduce UPD use plastic. This objective still under development.	1. Identify and quantify what products UPD commonly relies on.		
	2. Provide and promote more opportunities for the public to refill reusable water bottles.	Actively promote the use of, and provide reusable water bottles, at five public events each year.	
		Install two water bottle fillers in district facilities or parks.	
		Provide coolers for refilling water bottles at all events located in a place without a drinking fountain.	
C. Eliminate all Styrofoam waste generated by staff.	1. Recycle all Styrofoam that comes into the district.	Create a Styrofoam recycling area at Planning and Operations.	Green Team, Facilities Maintenance
	2. Reduce Styrofoam generated in purchasing of materials.	Create a reference document for future purchasing based on experience with Styrofoam packaging.	Operations, Office Managers

Vision, Values & Commitment

It is the mission of the Urbana Park District to:

- Improve the quality of life of its citizens through a responsive, efficient, and creative park and recreation system;
- Pursue excellence in a variety of programs, parks and special facilities that contribute to the attractiveness of neighborhoods, conservation of the environment and overall health of the community.

Vision: Together, as a park district working for and with our community, we can create a more positive future for everyone by choosing clean energy, using resources efficiently, and preparing for climate risks.

We are compelled to act because carbon pollution is warming our planet. It is impacting communities across America and the world through increasing droughts, floods, wildfires, extreme weather and more. Human activity contributes to these threats, and humans can solve this challenge.

All citizens have the right to a healthy and viable environment. We have a moral obligation to take action today on climate change and build a sustainable future for children in our community and worldwide.

Values: Together, we can create solutions rooted in shared values that effectively address climate risks. The CARES plan is essential to demonstrating these values each day and long into the future:

- We value human **health**, **wellness**, and individual **quality of life**.
- We value **parks and natural areas**, as they provide benefits that support health and wellness.
- We value **biodiversity**--having a wide variety of living organisms and natural habitats.
- We value **equitable improvement** of neighborhoods, urban nature and the environment.
- We value **resiliency and flexibility** to change along with the times.
- We value community-wide **education, engagement and equitable opportunities** for individuals and groups.
- We value individuals, partnerships, and the ability to achieve more by **working together**.
- We value **taking action** and providing opportunities for others to take action.
- We value **creativity, efficiency and fiscal responsibility**.
- We value being a **community leader** by modeling best practices of environmentally-responsible behaviors.
- We value a healthy **economic and environmental present and future** of Urbana and all of its diverse citizens.

Commitment: Together, we will lead by example on a path to a positive future and share our plans, goals and progress across our organization and community. We will make commitments to:

- **Engage** - We will build awareness and support for climate solutions by inspiring and empowering our organizations and communities with actionable information, powerful engagement tools and best practice resources.
- **Impact -** We will maximize energy efficiency, use more clean, renewable energy, eliminate polluting fossil fuels and take other actions that help restore a healthy atmosphere.
- **Advocate -** We will build awareness and support for climate solutions by advocating within our organizations, communities, and government to make commitments and set goals bolstered by actionable information, powerful engagement tools and best practice resources.

Glossary of Key Terms & Acronyms

Biodiversity - The variety and variability of life on Earth. Biodiversity is typically a measure of variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level. Biodiversity boosts ecosystem productivity where each species, no matter how small, all have an important role to play.

Carbon Dioxide - The primary greenhouse gas and driver of climate change. It is an integral part of life cycles on earth, produced through animal respiration (including human respiration) and absorbed by plants to fuel their growth, to name just two ways. Human activities are drastically altering the carbon cycle in many ways. Two of the most impactful are: one, by burning fossil fuels and adding more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere; and two, by affecting the ability of natural sinks (like forests) to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

CARES - Climate Action, Resilience, Education & Sustainability

Climate Action - Stepped-up efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts, including: climate-related hazards in all countries; integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning; and improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity with respect to climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

Climate Change - Global or regional changes in average temperature and rainfall--particularly apparent from the 1950s onwards--because of increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels like oil and coal. Other human activities, like agriculture and deforestation, also contribute to the excess of greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

Decarbonizing - The reduction of carbon. Precisely meant is the conversion to an economic system that sustainably reduces and compensates the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2). The long-term goal is to create a CO_2-free global economy.

Emissions – Refers to greenhouse gases released into the air that are produced by numerous activities, including burning fossil fuels, industrial agriculture, and melting permafrost, to name a few. These gases cause heat to be trapped in the atmosphere, slowly increasing the Earth's temperature over time.

Fossil Fuels - Sources of non-renewable energy, formed from the remains of living organisms that were buried millions of years ago. Burning fossil fuels like coal and oil to produce energy is where the majority of greenhouse gases originate. As the world has developed and demand for energy has grown, we've burned more fossil fuels, causing more greenhouse gases to be trapped in the atmosphere and air temperatures to rise.

Global Warming vs. Climate - Many people use these two terms interchangeably, but we think it's important to acknowledge their differences. Global warming is an increase in the Earth's average surface temperature from human-made greenhouse gas emissions.

On the other hand, climate change refers to the long-term changes in the Earth's climate, or a region on Earth, and includes more than just the average surface temperature. For example, variations in the amount of snow, sea levels, and sea ice can all be consequences of climate change.

Greenhouse Gas - A chemical compound found in the Earth's atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, and other human-made gases. These gases allow much of the solar radiation to enter the atmosphere, where the energy strikes the Earth and warms the surface. Some of this energy is reflected back towards space as infrared radiation. A portion of this outgoing radiation bounces off the greenhouse gases, trapping the radiation in the atmosphere in the form of heat. The more greenhouse gas molecules there are in the atmosphere, the more heat is trapped, and the warmer it will become.

Methane – A chemical compound that's the main component of natural gas, a common fossil fuel source. Just like carbon dioxide, methane is a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere. Methane accounts for about 10 percent of all US greenhouse gas emissions (using 2013 figures), second only to carbon dioxide.

Many people don't understand the negative effects of methane as an alternative to other fossil fuels. While methane doesn't stay in the atmosphere as long as carbon dioxide, it absorbs 84 times more heat, making it very harmful to the climate.

Mitigation - refers to an action that will reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions, such as planting trees in order to absorb more CO2. It can also include developing and deploying new technologies, using renewable energies like wind and solar, or making older equipment more energy efficient.

Stay tuned for more climate science coming up in future blog posts. In the meantime, sign up for our email activist list and we'll keep you up to date on what's happening and how you can get involved in the movement for climate solutions.

Renewable Energy - Energy that comes from naturally replenished resources, such as sunlight, wind, waves, and geothermal heat. By the end of 2014, renewables were estimated to make up almost 28% of the world's power generating capacity, enough to supply almost 23% of global electricity. Because renewables don't produce the greenhouse gases driving climate change, shifting away from fossil fuels to renewables to power our lives will put us on the path to a safe, sustainable planet for future generations.

Resilience - The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. Improving climate resilience involves assessing how climate change will create or alter climate-related risks, and taking steps to better cope with these risks.

Sustainability - Meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. In addition to natural resources, we also need social and economic resources.

Weather vs. Climate - It's all about timing when it comes to differentiating weather and climate. Weather refers to atmospheric conditions in the short term, including changes in temperature, humidity, precipitation, cloudiness, brightness, wind, and visibility.

While the weather is always changing, especially over the short term, climate is the average of weather patterns over a longer period of time (usually 30 or more years). So the next time you hear someone question climate change by saying, "You know it's freezing outside, right?", you can gladly explain the difference between weather and climate.

Climate Change Concepts

Greenhouse Gas Effect

Human influences have led to rampant release of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases over the past century. The Earth's climate depends on the functioning of a 'natural greenhouse effect'. This effect is a result of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, also known as greenhouse gases, like water vapor, carbon dioxide, ozone, methane and nitrous oxide. These gases absorb heat bouncing off of the Earth's surface and then redirect much of that energy back towards the Earth's surface. Without this natural greenhouse effect, the average surface temperature of the Earth would be 60F colder. However, human activities, primarily the excessive burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) have been releasing additional heat-trapping gases, intensifying the natural greenhouse effect and changing the Earth's climate.

Image caption: The "greenhouse gas effect" can be more accurately compared to the discomfort of a "heat-trapping blanket". Source: Climate Interpreter

Global Warming Potential of Heat-Trapping Gases
Depending on how well a gas absorbs energy and how long it stays in the atmosphere, certain greenhouse gases are more effective at warming the Earth than others. The Global Warming Potential (GWP) for a gas is a measure of the total energy that a gas absorbs over a particular period of time (usually 100 years) compared to carbon dioxide. For example, methane is 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide is 300 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

Other Human Influences
In addition to global-scale climate effects of heat-trapping gases, human activities also produce regional and local effects. Some of these activities partially offset the warming caused by greenhouse gases while others increase warming. Activities that offset warming include land surface changes such as planting trees, the replacement of native habitats, and...

Carbon Sinks / Carbon Sequestration
This section still under development

Local and National Impacts
Climate change is a global concern with local impacts. Intro that links to UPD relevance. Why do we need a climate plan?

Impacts in the Midwest

- During the summer, public health and the quality of life, especially in cities, are likely to be negatively affected by increasing heat waves, reduced air quality, and an increase in insect and waterborne diseases. In winter, warming will have mixed impacts.
- A significant reduction in Great Lakes water levels projected under a higher emissions scenario may lead to impacts on shipping infrastructure, beaches and ecosystems.
- A likely increase in precipitation in the winter and spring months, heavier downpours and greater evaporation in summer may lead to more frequent periods of both droughts and floods, as well as water deficits.
- A longer growing season will create the potential for increased crop yields. However, increases in heat waves, floods, droughts, insects and weeds will present major challenges to the management of crops, livestock, and forests.
- Native species will face increasing threats from rapidly changing climate conditions, pests, diseases, loss of habitat and invasive species moving from warmer regions.
- Vector-borne illnesses

Source:

Projected increase in annual average temperatures by mid-century (2041-2070) as compared to the 1971-2000 period (Figure 1) tell only part of the climate change story. Maps also show annual projected increases in the number of days over 95°F (Figure 2) and an increase in cooling degree days, defined as the number of degrees that a day's average temperature is above 65°F (Figure 3), which

generally leads to an increase in energy use for air conditioning. Projections are from global climate models that assume emissions of heat-trapping gases continue to rise. (Figure source: NOAA NCDC / CICS-NC).

Global and National Impacts

- Impacts are vast, vary by location, and some people are more impacted than others
- U.S. average temperature has risen by more than 2F over the past 50 years and is projected to rise more in the future.
- Precipitation has increased by an average of 5% over the past 50 years. Projections indicate that northern areas will become wetter, and southern areas, and particularly the west will become drier. The amount of rain falling in the heaviest downpours has increased approximately 20% on average in the past century and this trend is very likely to continue.
- Many types of extreme weather events, such as heat waves and regional droughts have become more frequent and intense during the past 40 to 50 years.
- The destructive energy of Atlantic hurricanes has increased in recent decades, and is likely to increase in this century. In the eastern Pacific, the strongest hurricanes have become stronger since the 1980s, even while the total number of storms has decreased.
- Sea level has risen along most of the U.S. coast over the last 50 years, and will rise more in the future.
- Cold-season storm tracks are shifting northward and the strongest storms are likely to become stronger and more frequent.
- Arctic sea ice is declining rapidly and this is very likely to continue.

Solidarity Gardens

A collaborative project of Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office, Sola Gratia Farm, Channing Murray Foundation, Urbana Park District, the Urbana Free Library, and other partners

www.Solidarity-Gardens-CU.org

#NeighborsFeedingNeighbors

Solidarity Gardens is a project to produce more fresh, local food for those who need and want it in our community.

We support volunteer gardeners to grow and donate produce that we get out to the community through free markets, deliveries, and our partners.

How to donate

We have coolers set up to accept produce donations from home gardens at these locations (May-Nov):

Sola Gratia Farm, 2200 Philo Road
Channing Murray Foundation, 1209 W Oregon Street

Thank you for helping feed your community!

How to volunteer

We maintain community garden plots at Meadowbrook Park, Victory Park, and Douglass Park. Volunteers help us plant, water, weed, harvest, and transport produce. We could use your help!

Visit solidarity-gardens-cu.org/volunteer for more information!

Need fresh food?

Our produce is available free of charge at:

Free Friday Market at Cornerstone Fellowship, 1101 East Colorado Ave, Friday 1-3pm (June-Oct)
Mobile Market (visit carle.org/services/carle-mobile-health-clinic for info)
Through Channing Murray Bucket Brigade and Canasta Básica

solidarity-gardens-cu.org

Contact: info@solidarity-gardens-cu.org