



Sustainability, even at a small-scale or local level, can have large impacts as it strengthens communities for years into the future. Romeoville has taken initiatives to develop a sustainable and environmentally-friendly village. Enhancing Romeoville's sustainability efforts can draw people to the Village and get the community involved in making their home a better place. By preparing this plan now, the Village can be at the forefront of promoting sustainability, choosing environmentally-friendly development, and encouraging community involvement in a greener Romeoville.

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

Romeoville has many nearby environmental areas that are regionally attractive and connect the Village to other Illinois communities. Many offer scenic views, recreation experiences, or preservation efforts of various ecological features. Some of these areas are the Des Plaines River, Isle a la Cache, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and I&M Canal. The canal offers 61.5 miles of trail with scenic views of the canal, multiple state parks and historic sites to visit, and connections to other trails. Trail users can enjoy activities such as running, fishing, and boating along the canal. Romeoville is well positioned to use this trail and other environmental features as a major hubs and connections to the region.



VILLAGE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

The Village of Romeoville has many green and sustainable groups, programs, and services. The groups within the Village work to provide green and sustainable options for its residents. The Village also offers sustainable services and information on its website about sustainability opportunities for residents in their everyday lives.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

The Beautification Commission within the Village of Romeoville has 10 members. It focuses on finding solutions for properties that are not meeting minimum standards by providing incentives. This beautification process aims to improve the appearance of Romeoville. The Commission's major project pertaining to the sustainability and green qualities of Romeoville is Clean Up Week. The week in May includes a poster contest for children in which they draw ways they want to make Romeoville cleaner to promote community pride. Spring Cleaning is also encouraged during this time. The Village offers unlimited large-item pickup as well as chipper service.

GREEN TEAM

The Village's Green Team focuses on establishing environmental goals, promoting educational campaigns, conserving natural resources, alleviating global warming effects, and promoting sustainability to a variety of groups, schools, businesses, and residents. The Green Team provides information on Village programs including: electronic recycling, garbage collection, yard waste, and the Hazardous Waste Program. It also offers information about improving water quality, minimizing waste, prescription drug collection, and reducing energy, pollution, building, and transportation consumption. According to the website, the Team recommends "practical solutions to ensure a prosperous community that will sustain healthy lives for our citizens and a healthier earth." The Team assists with plans, offers programs, and provides information on green ways to live.

EXISTING PROJECTS

Romeoville has various projects throughout the Village with sustainable features. Village Hall's parking lot contains a rain garden while naturalized stormwater basins can be found around the community. Robert C. Hill Elementary School has put bioswales into its campus and Bennett and Brosseau Roofing's building has a green roof. The Village has the opportunity to continue these types of projects themselves, as well as encourage existing and future development to incorporate them.

PLANS & PROGRAMS

The Village provides plans and programs that address storm sewer, stormwater management, open space acquisition, flood risk management, and water quality.

STORM SEWER PROGRAM

This program educates the public about cleaner water activities that help to prevent polluting stormwater. It also gives information on how to report illegal discharges.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015-2016

The Stormwater Management Plan for 2015 to 2016 continues the required activities outlined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) ILR40 permit. It includes many aspects such as public education and outreach, public participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, and pollution prevention. Like other programs and information offered by the Village, the Stormwater Management Plan aims to provide residents with green strategies information through the website.

OPEN SPACE & PARK ACQUISITION PLAN

The Green Team supports Romeoville's Open Space and Park Acquisition Plan as it "sets forth the goals and rationale for the acquisition of properties for open space and recreational purposes" and committed the Board to meet National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards. It aims to add open space and parks to Romeoville.

DUPAGE RIVER FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Chicago District) has been working with the DuPage County Stormwater Management Planning Committee and Will County to address flooding along the river and its major tributaries by studying both structural and non-structural alternatives. The report is scheduled to be completed in July 2018.

2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The report includes information regarding Romeoville's water quality for 2015. It addresses where the water comes from, what it contains, and its comparison to regulatory agencies' standards.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER SUSTAINABILITY

As many of Romeoville's sustainability strategies have focused around community education and engagement, the Village has the opportunity to expand this idea. Opportunities include:

- ❑ More sustainability events and contests that teach residents about Romeoville's sustainability and allow them to offer fresh ideas on the future they want to see.
- ❑ Further outreach through social media, electronic newsletters, and posters that celebrate sustainable or green achievements by the Village and its Beautification Commission and Green Team.
- ❑ A guide on environmental and recreational places and things to do in Romeoville.

Romeoville also has the opportunity to expand its green and sustainable practices. The Village could look into these opportunities for future Village development:

- ❑ Additional and better-connected bike paths by updating the 2009 Bike Trail Master Plan
- ❑ Encourage green design in redevelopment projects where possible. The following are green design opportunities for the Village to continue or begin implementing:
 - Bioswales
 - Raingardens
 - Native landscaping
 - Recycled construction materials
 - Permeable paving
 - Green roofs
 - Alternative energy
- ❑ Promote LEED building standards for new projects
- ❑ Promote Smart Growth Principals for new development:
 - Transit-oriented development
 - Compact building design by review zoning bulk and height standards
 - Encourage mixed uses
 - Encourage a variety of housing options
 - Increase walkability
 - Provide a variety of transportation options
- ❑ Village demonstration projects including green and sustainable practices, like the existing parking lot rain garden