



AGENDA

President and Board of Trustees

Village of Arlington Heights

Committee-of-the-Whole

Board Room

33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005

February 13, 2023

7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 8 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Arlington Heights Regarding Street Performers
- B. Environmental Commission Survey Results

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Any member of the public wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to do so. If the item is on the Agenda, that opportunity will be while that Agenda item is being discussed. Any member of the public wishing to speak on an item not on the Agenda will be given the opportunity during the Other Business portion of the meeting. Please limit comments to three minutes.

Persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as an American Sign Language interpreter or written materials in accessible formats, should contact Erin Mercado, at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005, emercado@vah.com or (847)368-5793.



Committee-of-the-Whole
2/13/2023

Item: Discussion of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 8 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Arlington Heights Regarding Street Performers

Department: Village Manager's Office

Discussion of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 8 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Arlington Heights Regarding Street Performers

The success of Downtown Arlington Heights in general and Arlington Alfresco in particular has brought about both benefits and challenges. One of the items that falls into both categories is the addition of street musicians (buskers) who perform along the sidewalks and Alfresco walkways. Generally speaking, these performers add to the ambiance and celebratory atmosphere of the entertainment district. However, there have been some issues with some performers who utilize sound amplification, choose locations that restrict movement, or otherwise negatively impact the experience of visitors and residents. Based on these concerns, Staff reviewed options from a legal, logistical, and administrative standpoint, and tried to develop a set of rules that provides basic standards without creating unnecessary bureaucracy.

Staff has worked with Village Attorney Passman to draft the proposed Busking Ordinance for your feedback. It includes the following requirements:

- Buskers will not require any type of permit or license
- Buskers may perform on public rights-of-way or parks requesting donations, or for free between 9am and 9pm
- Buskers may not obstruct safe passage along any street or sidewalk or ingress/egress between sidewalks and buildings
- Buskers may not erect tents/structures
- Buskers may not utilize any sound amplification at *any time* if they are within the area bounded by Arlington Heights Road, Chestnut, the Union Pacific Railroad, and Sigwalt. Note that this would allow demonstrators and/or buskers to use megaphones/amplifier north of the railroad tracks where many demonstrations currently occur, but would forbid any use of amplification (busking or demonstrators) in Harmony Park or anywhere else within the bounded area- with the exception of Village-sponsored events, including businesses using their own spaces as permitted by the Village.

Recommendation: Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend

approval of the attached Busking Ordinance an upcoming Village Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Ordinance Amending Chapter 8

Type

Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8
OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
REGARDING STREET PERFORMERS

WHEREAS, the Village of Arlington Heights is a home rule municipal corporation in accordance with Article VII, Section 6(a) of the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970; and

WHEREAS, the Village has the authority to adopt ordinances and to promulgate rules and regulations that pertain to its government and affairs; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 8 of the Municipal Code of Arlington Heights, Illinois, 1995, as amended ("*Village Code*"), the Village sets forth rules and regulations to prevent and abate offenses relating to public peace and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees desire to amend Chapter 8 of the Village Code to add regulations relating to street performers; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees have determined that it will serve and be in the best interests of the Village and its residents to amend Chapter 8 of the Village Code pursuant to this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The facts and statements contained in the preamble to this Ordinance are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. STREET PERFORMERS. Article V, titled "Other Offenses Relating to Public Peace and Welfare," of Chapter 8, titled "Public Safety, Morals and Welfare," of the Village Code is hereby amended to add a new Section 8-527, which new Section reads as follows:

"Sec. 8-527 Street Performers.

- a. Definition. For purposes of this Section 8-527, a "street performer" is defined as any person actively providing a public performance or public entertainment within a public right-of-way or public park, whether or not performing in exchange for requested donations.**
- b. Hours of Performance. No street performer may perform or provide entertainment within a public right-of-way or public park before 9:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. on any day.**
- c. Location. No street performer may obstruct safe vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian passage along any street or sidewalk, or ingress and egress between a public right-of-way and any building.**
- d. Structures. Street performers may not use or erect tents or other structures in connection with street performance.**
- e. Sound Amplification. Except as part of a special event sponsored or approved by the Village, no street performer may: (1) amplify sound at any time within**

the area bounded by Arlington Heights Road to the east, Sigwalt Street to the south, Chestnut Avenue to the west, and the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way to the north; or (2) plug any electrical device into any Village-owned outlet, generator, or other source of electrical current.

f. Compliance with Village Orders. Street performers may not perform to the extent that their performance constitutes a threat to public health, safety, or welfare, as determined and directed by authorized officers of the Village Police Department.”

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Ordinance or part thereof is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance are to remain in full force and effect, and are to be interpreted, applied, and enforced so as to achieve, as near as may be, the purpose and intent of this Ordinance to the greatest extent permitted by applicable law.

SECTION 4. PUBLICATION. The Village Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form pursuant to the Statutes of the State of Illinois

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance will be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in the manner provided by law.

AYES:

NAYS:

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS ____ day of _____, 2022.

Village President

ATTEST:

Village Clerk

Additions are bold and double-underlined; deletions are struck through.



Committee-of-the-Whole
2/13/2023

Item: Environmental Commission Survey Results

Department: Village Manager's Office

Environmental Commission Survey Results

The Arlington Heights Environmental Commission conducted an online survey of residents from April to September of 2022. There were 603 respondents. Representatives of the Commission will be presenting their findings at the February 13th Committee of the Whole meeting and to discuss recommendations they have for the Village going forward.

Recommendation: Discuss Environmental Commission Survey results at the February 13th Committee of the Whole.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
2022 Survey Results Summary	Report

2022 Environmental Survey Results Summary for the Village Board

The Village of Arlington Heights Environmental Commission is pleased to present to the Board of Trustees and the Mayor this summary of a survey of residents conducted in 2022 regarding their views on environmental topics and Village environmental programs.

The Village of Arlington Heights (VAH) Environmental Commission has used this data to formulate several suggestions for the Board to consider.

Executive Summary

The VAH Environmental Commission conducted an online survey of residents from April 4 – Sept 12, 2022. There were 603 respondents. Key findings:

- Residents value the current VAH environmental programs that are currently in place and prefer to see those programs expand.
- Residents believe that strong environmental programs have reputational value to the Village.
- Residents would support the creation of new VAH environmental programs, such as a Green Procurement policy, full conversion to an alternative fuel fleet, and a plan to protect the environment and address climate change.
- Residents are concerned about a range of environmental issues for which the Village has room to improve.
- Curbside Composting and Tree City USA programs are the top current programs that residents would like to be expanded.

Based on survey results, the VAH Environmental Commission suggests that the Village Board make the following recommendations.

To the VAH Environmental Commission:

- 1) Benchmark surrounding villages to assess their policies and programs on single-use plastics, access to renewable energy, protection of open spaces, and other environmental issues. Make recommendations to the Village Board based on findings.
- 2) Work with the Village Staff to improve communication to residents about the Curbside Composting program.

To Village Staff:

In consideration of the existing commitment to the Greenest Region Compact 2 **AND** the strong support of enhanced Environmental Programs by residents, the Environmental Commission encourages the Board to:

- 1) Direct Village of Arlington Heights staff to develop and publish a Sustainability Plan for the Village of Arlington Heights in alignment with the 49 goals of the Greenest Region Compact
- 2) Stipulate that the VAH Sustainability Plan should prioritize setting goals which best address the concerns of residents as expressed in the 2022 Environmental Commission Survey, including:

- 1) Establish a Green Procurement Policy for the Village that outlines criteria to be used for the various commodities purchased by the Village, establishes metrics for measuring the baseline level of “green purchasing,” and creates goals to increase green purchasing over time.
- 2) Establish a plan to convert the Village’s entire fleet of vehicles to alternative fuels, including milestones and a timeline for reaching them.
- 3) Establish a Village Policy of Environmental Protection, which includes the protection of our climate.
- 4) Establish a plan to reduce the Village’s Climate Impact in a way that is consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). This plan should be verified by a third-party, with published goals and progress to those goals reported to the Village Board regularly.
- 5) Increase the number of residents participating in landfill diversion by composting, including thru the [Curbside Composting program](#), by decreasing costs to residents and improving communication.
- 6) Increase transparency regarding the Tree City USA program by publishing information about the Village’s participation on the [VAH website](#), such as: metrics regarding tree survival rates, annual costs of the program, etc.
- 7) To enable successful implementation of the above recommendations to the Village Staff, we strongly urge the Board to direct the Village Manager to procure the necessary resources with expertise in Municipal Environmental and Sustainability Management.

Background

In early 2022, the VAH Environmental Commission authored a revised Mission Statement in order to focus and align our efforts with all Village stakeholders. The VAH Environmental Commission’s mission statement is now:

The Environmental Commission’s mission is to advocate for sound environmental policies and foster environmental awareness and involvement in our community.

In support of this, we will cooperate, advise, educate, and promote mutual dialogue among village officials, residents and businesses of Arlington Heights.

In light of this new focus, the VAH Environmental Commission set out to conduct a survey of residents to gather input on their views regarding various environmental issues facing our community. We developed a survey of seven questions that covered environmental issues/concerns for which the Village has current programs, as well as those on which the Village is not currently active. The VAH Environmental Commission received valuable assistance from the VAH Communications and Outreach Coordinator, who provided access to the SurveyMonkey online survey tool, assisted with distribution, and collated the survey results for us.

Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted from April 4 – September 12, 2022 using the SurveyMonkey online tool. Respondents accessed the survey utilizing a QR code or direct URL to the online portal. The survey was advertised in a variety of venues, including Social Media, Community bulletin boards, VAH newsletter, VAH website, the Daily Herald, and the AH Farmer’s Market. We received 603 responses.

Survey questions and responses are summarized in the [“Survey Questions and Responses”](#) section at the end of this report.

Survey Conclusions

From this survey, the VAH Environmental Commission has drawn the following conclusions:

Q1 - The majority of residents surveyed (73%) believe the VAH is doing at least some good things for the environment, with 27.9% believing the Village is doing a “very good” or “great” job. However, 45.1% of residents surveyed felt that in spite of the good things the Village is doing currently, “a lot more” needs to be done, and 12.2% of residents felt that Village does “very little.” The VAH Environmental Commission sees this as a clear indication that the residents value the current programs in place and prefer to see those programs expand.

Q2 – 81.3% of residents agree or strongly agree that having strong environmental programs makes Arlington Heights an attractive place to live. The VAH Environmental Commission sees this as an indication that residents believe that strong environmental programs have reputational value to the Village.

Q3, Q4 and Q5 – For all three of these questions, on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), survey respondents scored these issues as a “4” in importance. Each of these three questions addresses the creation of a policy or program which is not currently in place, leading the VAH Environmental Commission to the conclusion that residents support their creation.

Q6 – Responses to this question showed that residents are relatively split in their opinions over which environmental issues are most important in the Village today. Overuse of single-use plastic items, access to renewable energy, and protection of open/green space were all scored about the same. This indicates to the VAH Environmental Commission that residents are concerned about a wide variety of environmental issues in which the Village has room to improve.

Q7 – The final question on the survey asked residents to indicate which current Village programs should be expanded. Residents were not limited to only one choice. As a result, we see that the majority of respondents felt the Curbside Composting program should be expanded, with a slightly smaller number indicating it is important to expand the Tree City USA program.

Q8 –As an open response field, respondents were asked to share one specific environmental issue or problem in VAH that they would like the Environmental Commission to address. Responses ranged widely and no conclusions are possible but they provide additional information regarding what is on the minds of residents. Broad themes included recycling, single-use plastics, and renewable energy/electric vehicles. Responses are provided in Appendix A.

Greenest Region Compact

The [Greenest Region Compact](#) (GRC) is an initiative of the [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus](#), of which Arlington Heights is a member. The foundation of the GRC is 49 high-level sustainability goals for municipalities that have been reached by consensus. These goals are aligned with important local, regional, national and global goals, and are also broadly supported by municipal members of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and allied organizations. The GRC provides a framework to accelerate

community progress towards sustainability in the region. The current version of the Compact is the Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2).

In April, 2016, the Village of Arlington Heights passed the following resolution:

“That the Village of Arlington Heights endorses the Greenest Region Compact 2 proposed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and agrees to work to achieve them, both in their own communities and in collaboration throughout the region.”

The VAH Environmental Commission benchmarked fourteen GRC communities in our region with regard to implementation of the GRC2 goals. Eight of the fourteen communities have published Sustainability Plans in alignment with the GRC2, and two other communities have such plans under development. Four communities have no published information regarding Sustainability Plans; Arlington Heights falls into this category.

Table 1 Benchmark of Arlington Heights and 14 GRC Communities

Peer Communities with Published Sustainability Plan Aligned with GRC Goals	Peer Communities with no Published Sustainability Plan
Buffalo Grove	Arlington Heights
Deer Park	Barrington
Evanston	Palatine
Hoffman Estates	Rolling Meadows
Mount Prospect	Wheeling
Northbrook	Des Plaines*
Naperville	Elk Grove Village*
Oak Park	

*Sustainability Plans are currently under development

VAH Environmental Commission Recommendations

Based on these conclusions, the VAH Environmental Commission has the following recommendations we believe the Village Board should make.

Recommendations to Village Staff:

In consideration of the existing commitment to the Greenest Region Compact 2 **AND** the strong support of enhanced Environmental Programs by residents, the Environmental Commission encourages the Board to:

- 1) Direct Village of Arlington Heights staff to develop and publish a Sustainability Plan for the Village of Arlington Heights in alignment with the 49 goals of the Greenest Region Compact 2

2) Stipulate that the VAH Sustainability Plan should prioritize setting goals which best address the concerns of residents as expressed in the 2022 Environmental Commission Survey, including:

- 1) Establish a Green Procurement Policy for the Village that outlines criteria to be used for the various commodities purchased by the Village, establishes metrics for measuring the baseline level of “green purchasing,” and creates goals to increase green purchasing over time.
- 2) Establish a plan to convert the Village’s entire fleet of vehicles to alternative fuels, including milestones and a timeline for reaching them.
- 3) Establish a Village Policy of Environmental Protection, which includes the protection of our climate.
- 4) Establish a plan to reduce the Village’s Climate Impact in a way that is consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). This plan should be verified by a third-party, with published goals and progress to those goals reported to the Village Board regularly.
- 5) Increase the number of residents participating in landfill diversion by composting, including thru the [Curbside Composting program](#), by decreasing costs to residents and improving communication.
- 6) Increase transparency regarding the Tree City USA program by publishing information about the Village’s participation on the [VAH website](#), such as: metrics regarding tree survival rates, annual costs of the program, etc.
- 7) To enable successful implementation of the above recommendations to the Village Staff, we strongly urge the Board to direct the Village Manager to procure the necessary resources with expertise in Municipal Environmental and Sustainability Management.

Recommendations to the VAH Environmental Commission:

- 1) Benchmark surrounding villages to assess their policies and programs on single-use plastics, access to renewable energy, protection of open spaces, and other environmental issues. Make recommendations to the Village Board based on findings.
- 2) Work with the Village Staff to improve communication to residents about the Curbside Composting program.

The VAH Environmental Commission is on the agenda of the February 13, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting and at that time we will request a response from the Village Board regarding the implementation of these recommendations, indicating actions to be taken by both Village Staff and the Environmental Commission.

Survey Questions and Responses

Q1: Pick the statement that best matches your opinion:

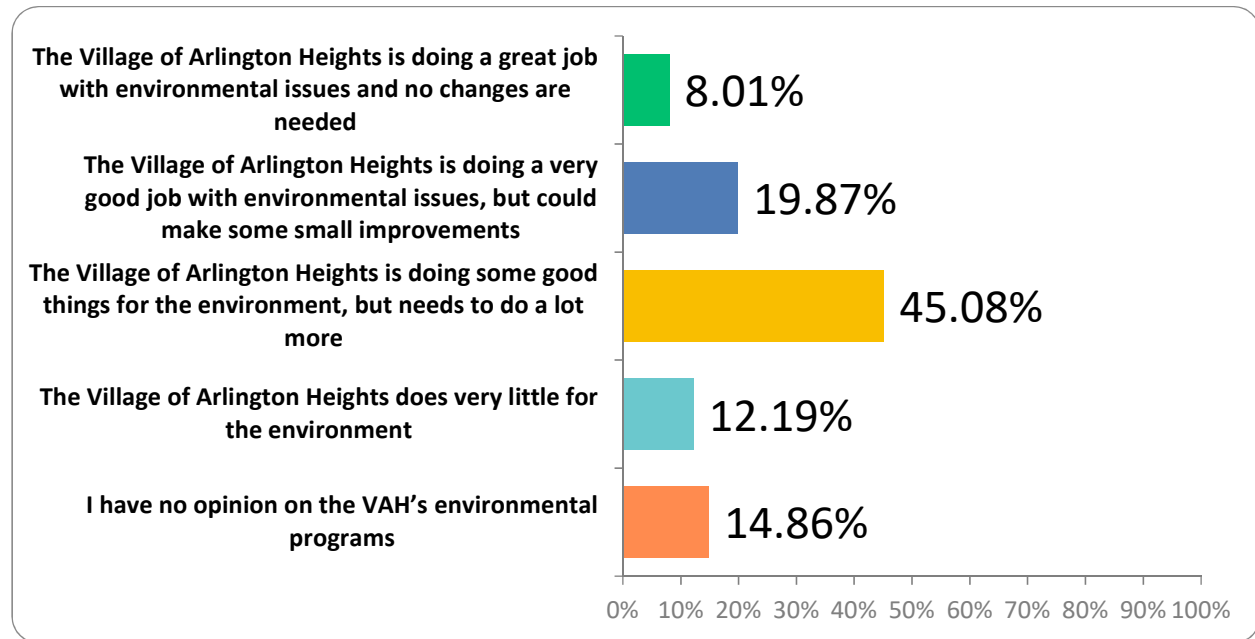


Figure 1. Responses to Question 1 (n = 599)

Q2: Having strong environmental programs makes Arlington Heights a more attractive place to live.

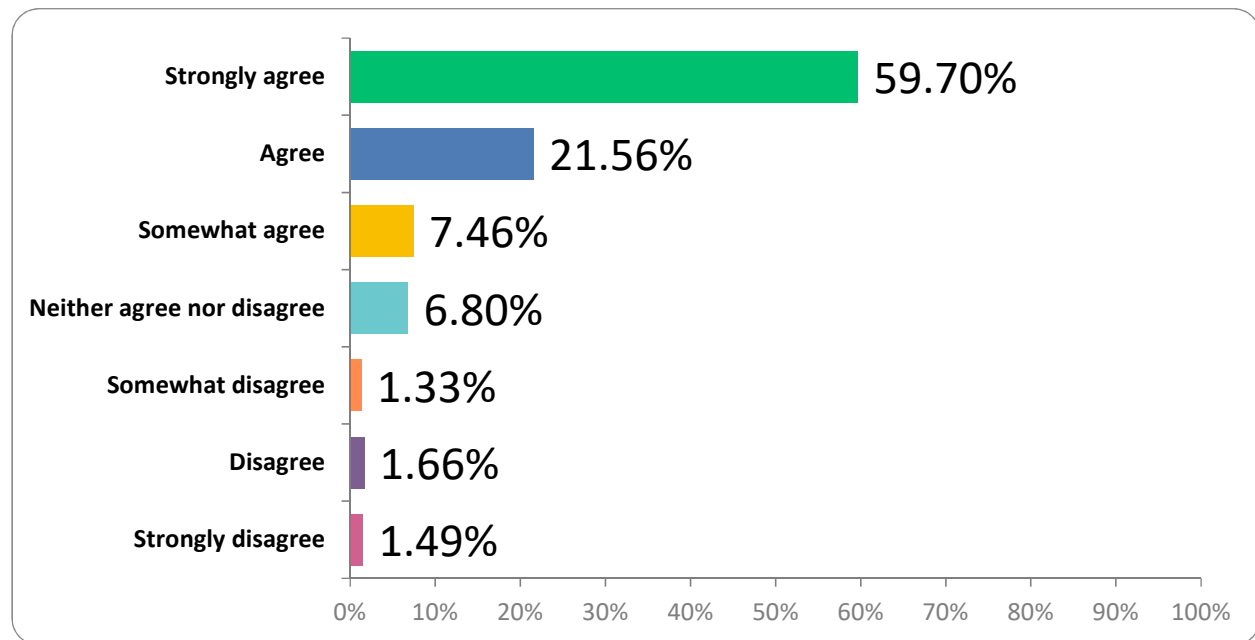


Figure 2. Responses to Question 2 (n = 603)

For the next 3 questions, respondents were asked to rank importance of the listed issues on a scale from 1 - 5, with 1 being the least and 5 being the most important.

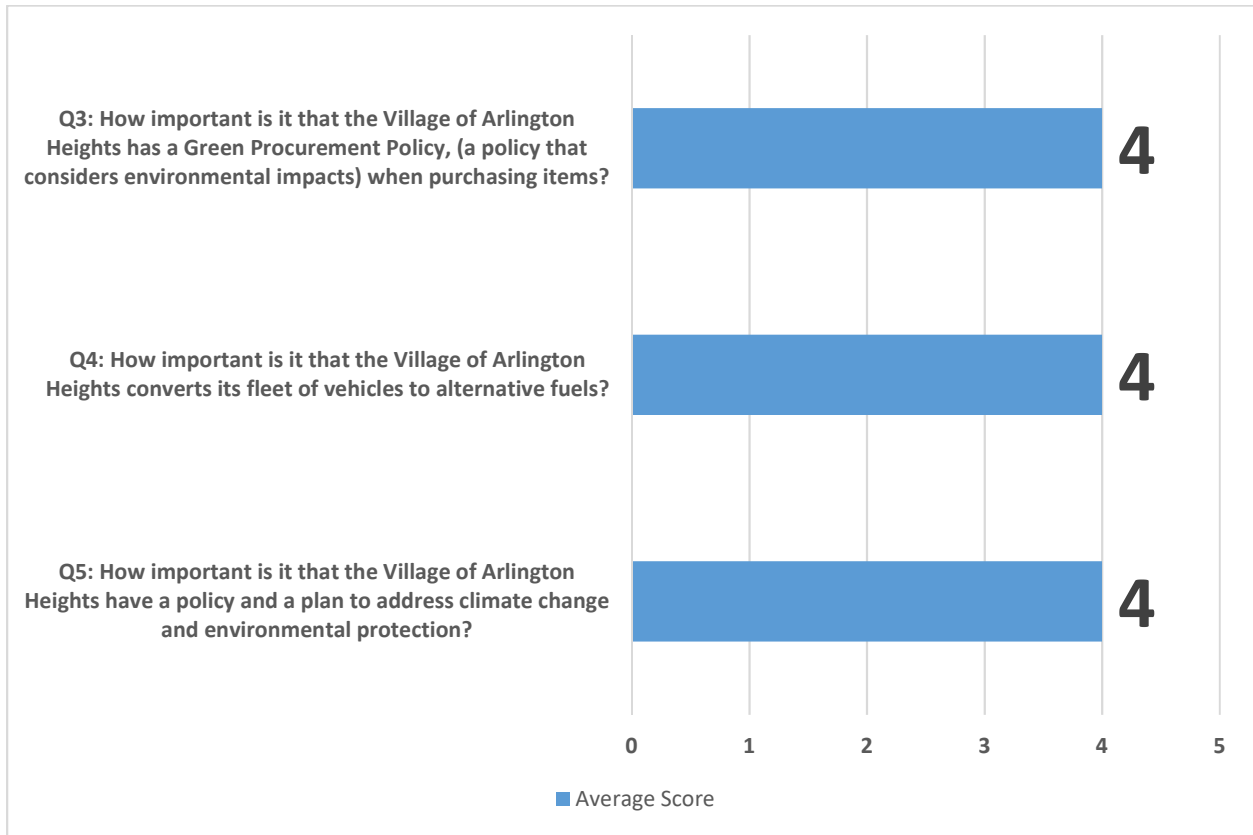


Figure 3. Responses to Questions 3 (n = 602), 4 (n = 600) and 5 (n = 602)

Q6: What is the most important environmental issue facing the Village of Arlington Heights?

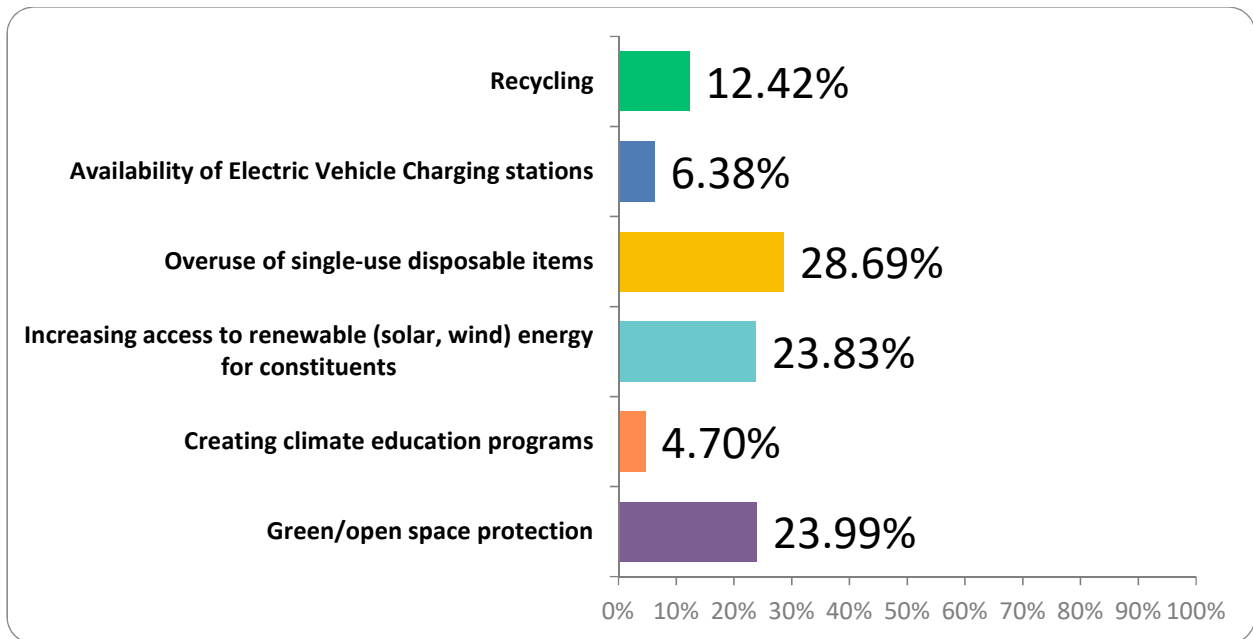


Figure 4. Responses to Question 6 (n = 596)

Q7: Select which, if any, programs that could/should be expanded?

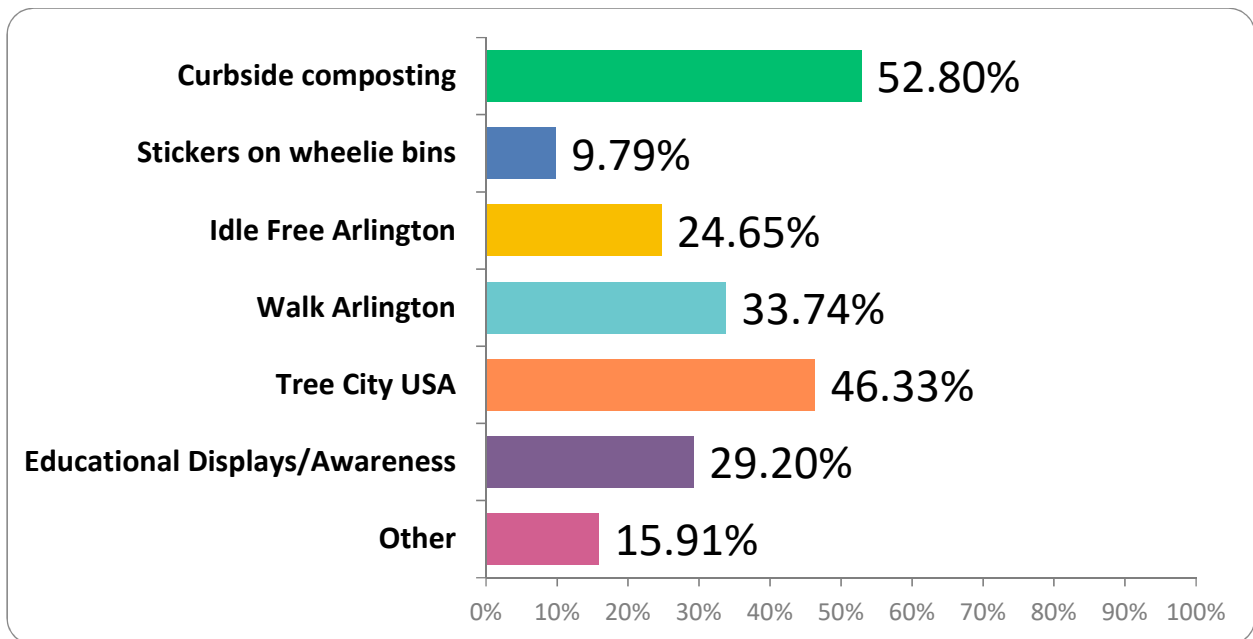


Figure 5. Responses to Question 7 (n = 572)

Appendix A

Responses to Question 8: "Please share one specific environmental issue or problem in Arlington Heights you would like the Environmental Commission to address"

(402 responses)

Please share one specific environmental issue or problem in Arlington Heights you would like the Environmental Commission to address.
Light & sound pollution
How to cut down on single use disposable items
Protecting green space for people and the planet.
I have concerns over the bears moving
As a parent of young kids it troubles me that Round Up used on the mulch and parks. I think the best thing we can do for the safety of our kids is to stop this dangerous practice, maybe convert playground grounds to rubber? This is the biggest concern I've had since moving to AH 2 years ago. It would be amazing if parks all were pesticide/fertilizer free for the safety of our children.
TV's at the curb for garbage pickup.
I am not willing to mandate alternative fuel. I don't want blackouts or brownouts like california
Separate rain water drain sewers from waste sewers. So when it rains more than an inch we don't get all our neighbors excrement floating in our basement. That would be a great thing to get right.
Lack of painted bike lanes.
Energy & light pollution
Water waste, use of single use plastics, styrofoam useage at restaurants and limited recycling in the CBDistrict.
Please start ticketing those that don't recycle properly, including those living in condos!
Keeping the village litter free including cleaning streets more often.
Single use plastics
Center to bring hard to recycle items in to be recycled
Arlington Heights is a disposable society that caters to wasteful lifestyles. A plastics ban should be enforced within AH on all consumable goods.
All non emergent used vehicles should be electric. GM will not even be manufacturing gasoline engine autos after 203. Yard waste bags are terrible. Costs too much with stickers and when they get wet from sitting around waiting for pick up day the bottom falls out either in my drive or on the street. Maybe color code wheelies depicting a fee or plan. Perhaps each bin can have a bar or QR code that the truck scans and can be charged to a VAH account like my water/ sewer.
AH seems hostile to EV. They should help multi unit buildings get chargers. They should help private charger vendors set up public charging stations.
I would love the opportunity to convert unused grass covered lots into community garden space with shareable composting facilities. I think this would help build and strengthen community, support the environment, and minimize household waste.
Less lights on at night, more native plant species.
1. tree planting - stop non-native, trash-shedding, decorative trees (Ginkgo, crabapple) & invest in long-term, native hardwood trees (disease resistant elms, Kentucky Coffee, Linden) WORK WITH THE HOMEOWNERS!!!! 2. Get control of the Com Ed sub-contractor tree butchers!!! They are worse than the pests & the weather combined!!
Nonsmoking apartment buildings

Recycling and compost in downtown AH would be great! The current compost service has too many restrictions and rules. Not family friendly!
Educate our citizens on saving our planet for our children. Reduce single use plastic, recycle (and educate on how to do this properly). Do everything and anything we can for our environment!
Better dedicated bike trails
There are not enough public transportation services to get you around Arlington Heights or get you to the downtown area.
Need more accommodations for biking and walking throughout the entire Village.
Educational information on recycling. So many residents recycle incorrectly!
Trees should not be growing directly below power lines.
Find a way to encourage the preservation and expansion of nuclear energy in IL, which will help all communities have clean power without putting electric grid reliability at risk. Through resolution(s), PPA or other means.
Encouraging the Chicago Bears to relocate to Arlington Heights will have profound environmental issues for our community, including carbon emissions from traffic through our neighborhood roads, which are not built to handle the amount of cars (mostly gasoline-powered vehicles) that the Bears games will generate. It will place tremendous strain on our infrastructure, including police resources on game days. The stadium will generate excess garbage, as well as materials to recycle and compost.
Please institute mandatory recycling of glass containers for business. Restaurants and pubs go through massive amounts of glass bottles that should not be mixed in with the regular garbage, which is currently the case for the establishment I live next to.
The need to replace trees that have been removed. Most replacement I have seen has been with small ornamental trees.
Noise pollution. There are many residential areas in Arlington Hts on busy streets. The village does nothing to reduce speeding or improve safety. The village does nothing to beautify the busy roads or fix the streets. The village needs to work with Cook County to do these things for environmental reasons and to improve the health and safety of village residents.
Renewable energy and energy conservation in village buildings
plant more trees and or flowers. side note... the lights on the trees in the downtown are lovely. Can lights be placed in trees elsewhere? Other parks? Other blvds? I am a 25 yr resident.
Safe, protected bike routes and bike parking throughout the community so residents of all ages and abilities can safely travel through Arlington Heights using a zero-emission travel mode.
Plastic bags at checkout
Doing a great job!
Enforcing composting for all residents, restaurants, and businesses.
MORE GARBAGE CANS ON STREET CORNERS OF MAJOR THOROUGHFARES LIKE PARK STREET. IN SCARSDALE SO PEOPLE CAN DEPOSIT THEIR DOG WASTE. I WALK MY DOG AND THERE IS NO GARBAGE CAN. PUT ONE IN AN ISLAND AND MAKE IT A HALF-SIZE CAN SO PEOPLE KNOW IT IS FOR SMALL WASTE LIKE DOG BAGS.
Raking leaves to the curb
I don't know if this is possible on a city level but I would love to see the abolishment of Styrofoam containers from restaurants. I know it's cost efficient for them but it is so horrible for the environment.
Let us rake our leaves into the streets in the fall like everyone else does. It's a waste of time and money to put leaves in bags!
Availability of charging stations for EV Incentives for reducing use of single use plastics
Cutting down on single use plastic bags.

Recycling bins in downtown areas Add EV charging in public areas such as the library
I think that increasing green energy to lower the electric bill and save the environment would be great!
Instead of Idle Free maybe become more bike friendly and get people out of their cars all together. We have zero protected bike lanes and very few dedicated bike paths. Painting an outline of a cyclist in the middle of the road does not make VAH bike friendly. You need to do better! Converting your fleet to alt fuel is minimal compared to the impact of getting people on bikes instead of driving. And get rid of those stupid idle free signs!
The ability to recycle a wider range of materials, including styrofoam and plastic grocery bags
Lack of separate and clearly marked recycle and garbage bins in the parks.
Improve infrastructure and physical plant to deal with pressures created by climate change.
Composting, recycling and easy access to solar power should be a priority along with forcing businesses to limit single use plastics. Make consumers have to ask for them to get them if needed. Fine solicitors for sticking junk mail in your door and stop local businesses from sending out unsolicited junk mail to local residents (it's infuriating in the age of technology that we're in). Good job planting trees though. Our household cares ALOT about these things as I'm sure many others Do.
The city should get all power from a wind farm. The city should require a Bear's stadium and development be LEED certified and events have reduced trash by composting, recycling. We need them to be an active neighbor and leader in fighting climate change.
Noise control. Many loud cars and fireworks
The flooding on Arlington Hts Rd just north of Hintz going south. That right lane floods after every rainfall and people swerve to the center lane. Too much concrete? Or just insufficient drainage on Arlington Heights Rd???
More information: Help AH residents access more information regarding renewable energy programs that we can access, such as solar power, wind power energy. It would be nice to learn how to use these, implementing them on either a personal level (how can I install solar panels?) or as a community (can our village hall use wind energy?). As climate change worsens, it would be helpful to know about climate emergency plans (severe weather, flooding). Information access can help our citizens feel that these are attainable and practical implementations.
Use of plastic silverware when ordering from local restaurants like Chicago has
Safioissies are much more important then this green nonsense. It's more important to keep the police department fully funded and well trained. It's more important to stop the rampant speeding that takes place throughout our neighborhoods with radar signs, speed bumps, culdesacs to prevent cut throughs.
Residential drainage issues
Make it easier to bike places within Arlington Heights (protected bike lanes, signage etc) Reduce parking requirements on development so less of our space is dominated by cars and encourage mass transit, biking and walking etc. Allow more high density housing - high density housing is better for the environment in addition to helping with the skyrocketing cost of housing. Allow people to grow their own food (chicken coops and bee hives) so long as their immediate neighbors are on board.
Compost option that isn't extremely expensive
Plant more trees. Prune more often, Educate people about volcano mulching, watering trees.
noise and air pollution from landscape services
We need drastic action to encourage both individual AND CORPORATE responsibility for environmental issues. Specific issues around water protection, natural lands and plastics use - and how we culturally and through policy encourage dramatic incentives for a bio-focused and forward thinking community.
I commute daily to work via bike, from AH to Mt. Prospect and can tell you the experience does not feel safe and inviting. This summer my family has also been riding bikes around town more frequently, to pools, parks, and downtown, and I can say, AH is not very bike friendly. Bike lanes, bike racks, clear signage, etc, would encourage

more folks to ride, reduce road congestion, and help reduce CO2. It's also a really wonderful experience to ride bikes around town safely.
List all recycling items on line. People see them and still throw out items that could be recycled
Lead by example on a hydrocarbon free infrastructure
Putting more trash and recycling cans in the downtown area and in all parks
Planting very messy trees in the parkways.
Solar Panel Credit, easy composting, don't sell styrofoam product or charge a tax on such products.
Wasteful spending by the village, school & park district on their buildings.
Reduce styrofoam to go boxes at restaurants & replace plastic bags w/other alternative for groceries
Village property should be converted to high efficiency heating and cooling. Less hardscape in the village and more green space and enforced permeable paving.
Less plastic (i.e. grocery store bags, water bottles)
Investment in solar, solar covered parking lots, rooftop gardens, utilizing space for growing public gardens and greenery. More sustainable energy sources!
Big issue moving forward is electric charging stations for EVs. People can charge at home but for more people to buy into EVs charging away from home has to be easier. EVs for fleet vehicles would be interesting too, since it eliminates some basic maintenance as well as the fuel/emission aspect.
Condition of the roads pavement and traffic noise on Euclid.
I love working to change our habits at home to help the environment, finding local programs, planting native plants, etc. if I'm doing that and don't know if Arlington Heights has any programs (besides compost and recycling thru Groot) to help our environment then We need more programs that are actively pushed and better knowledge spread about them and how to use them and how they are impacting our community for the better.
Commitment to bio-retention in the form of more public rain gardens (not the swale w/ drain basin in Mariano's parking lot or area retention ponds LOL)
Honestly, everything is important regarding environmental issues. So if our village can do anything to become more green, let's do it regardless of which issue I prefer we focus on. Any little bit helps.
Walkability of AH
Recycling bins throughout the city!
Educating people on CORRECT recycling. Most people do "wish cycling", throwing everything in the recycling bin that they think should be recycled. Or anything that has a number on it. Just because it has a number doesn't mean it is recyclable.
The amount of single use plastic used at events.
Public Recycling downtown (currently only garbage cans) , composting downtown, and ban of single use plastics at downtown Arlington (could expand to rest of city but good for starts.)
Encouraging native plant landscaping to save water, provide habitat, and cut down on lawn care equipment gasoline pollution and emissions.
Perfectly fine trees being replaced by new ones that die after 2-3 years. Ruining neighborhoods.
Charging station and updating the village's vehicles to alternative fuel vehicles would be amazing.
Fossil fuel use. While charging stations would be good for EV, there are a lot of cars. Better coordination of stop lights for better traffic flow, along with in town public transportation would help.
The use of plastic in the alfresco. Those barricades should be permanent concrete structures. It makes the alfresco look nicer and eliminates some car traffic in the town
More bee, butterfly friendly plantings in larger area of parks and open spaces.

We need compost bins a bunch of people use the paper bags for yard waste and they're a waste they break plus it would be better than cutting down a bunch of trees for yard waste bags it would help a lot plus when fall comes too we can put all the leaves in the bin and the street sweep won't have to deal with people putting leaves in the street and go around them since they don't know
Spending money on virtue signalling for so-called "environmental" projects is crazy. Every time I pass that scale model windmill by the school on AH Road I want to scream. What the hell is that little goofy thing supposed to prove?
Make the city more walkable and bike friendly. Bridges over train tracks for pedestrians. This is a huge ask but somehow having light rail from downtown to shopping on rand. I wish there was more public transit to specific higher traffic places.
Natural lawn care
Giving people simple, realistic ways to make changes that will help the environment.
Renewable energy
Even greater commitment to plantings: more trees planted; incentives for homeowners to convert grass lawns to other alternatives and provide models for these in the community; more median trees/plants included when doing street improvements/restructuring, etc.
Put resources into soft led lights as opposed to the harsh light polluting current led. Quit wasting money on Equity programs in search of problems and stirring up Controversy
Composting- smaller options for a small family
Littering
Lawn care waste stickers (tax). Why have additional tax on something that will biodegrade. Seems like backward thinking. Require stickers on trash that just goes into land fill. Improve or create composting program
Encouraging solar energy (eg panels) for both residences and businesses.
Arlington could Be the least bike friendly municipality in the area. Lack of dedicated bike lanes on major thoroughfares forces many to just drive instead of bike e-bike and e scooter lanes.
You should have a bus that connects the downtown metra station to the I-90 Pace bus on Arlington Height Road. Arlington Heights Road MUST have Sidewalks Shoveled in the Wintertime. People walk in the street to get the bus on Golf Road and/or Algonquin and could get hit. I know 1 person wore a safety vest and was terrified to walk to the bus because NOBODY CARED about SAFETY. When you make businesses shovel like you do in the downtown area more people would take public transportation and we would produce less carbon
I would love to see more promotion of composting, more frequent recycling of electronics. A huge push to get residents to ride bikes, and education on plastic free alternatives
Emphasis on low carbon construction, enforcing idling requirements, and storm water management
Create a plan for zero-waste and carbon neutrality, in addition to a commitment for 100% renewable energy.
Food waste is a huge problem as is food insecurity - it's everywhere even in neighborhoods you wouldn't expect. I used to live near a church that had a little free pantry. I think a simple initiative like this could serve a dual purpose to reduce food waste and food insecurity.
More information about solar and wind options and the village using these options or other renewable energy sources when feasible
Recycling education
Promote green spaces
Charging stations for electric vehicles. I believe people will be buying more in the future and the village can be part of the solution
Less grass more native pollinator gardens
Charging stations near highway entries

Organized plan for EV AND Electric bike charging. Integrate with Park District, Metra, Religious organizations, Commercial and multifamily etc
drinking water free from PFAS (forever chemicals) and microplastics
I would like them to address how to cut down on single-use plastic and provide alternatives or encourage people to bring their own reusable cups to coffee shops around town, as an example.
Community organics waste disposal (biomass or composting)
Encourage more paper, metal, empty pill bottle recycling.
Continue to add trees
Compost
The amount of idling at school pickup is notable and fixable
Storm water - big residential houses are replacing smaller house with no consideration to storm water run off.
Creating more walkable spaces! Arlington al Fresco is already a great idea, and the creation of more car-free spaces is both aesthetically enjoyable and practical in terms of vehicle emissions.
Composting
Reduce emissions of village vehicles and landscaping equipment
Recycling
I believe villages need to offer incentive programs for landscapers to move from single stroke engines (blowers and mowers) to green options.
Reduce use of plastic grocery bags
One stroke enginesâ€”offering landscapers an incentive to go green
Enhance infrastructure for alternative energy sources, and work with surrounding communities to enhance public transportation options
The lack of total transparency in terms of our recycling programs
Overuse of plastics and waste (littering)
We need to start transitioning for EV's. I'm sure our budgets for vehicles gas consumption are astronomical at this time. We dont have to jump "all-in" at once but at least start moving in that direction.
Mount Prospect has a an unlimited organic collections program https://www.mountprospect.org/Home/Components/News/News/6076/1042?arch=1 AH could be doing more!
Need more and better care of parkside trees.
There is SO much more you can do...establish recycling at all village festivals, park concerts, etc. Put a recycle bin next to every village trash can. Require compostable restaurant take out containers, eliminating Styrofoam and plastic straws. Put solar panels on Village buildings. Plant more trees in the parks. Make more bike lanes on city streets.
Legitimate recycling of plastics. Are we really recycling or is it being dumped elsewhere? I'd like to know.
Please stop mosquito spraying. It not only kills mosquitos but harms and kills other beneficial pollinators such as native bees and butterflies. Discourage residents and stop using harmful chemicals on lawns and park areas. These chemicals cause harm and potentially cancer in children and pets.
Need a true and designated bike path.
let's be realistic about plastic recycling. It's coming out that very little plastic is recycled. It's an enormous issue and basically a lie. What can we do to increase the likelihood of our plastics not ending up in the ocean.
Recycling: Educational initiatives that promote awareness of what can be recycled (including that recycling cannot go in plastic bags), where/how the products are recycled, ensure that all multi-home buildings and restaurants/businesses also comply with recycling guidelines. Incentivize individuals and businesses to comply with these guidelines and even better, incentivize them to reduce single-use disposable items.

Getting rid of plastic grocery bags in our stores.
The use of scented wood (hickory, Oak, etc.) in fireplaces and fire pits presents a health concern for sensitive persons with asthma or other respiratory ailments. Restrict burning of firewood to clean, natural scented cord wood.
Raising awareness of the importance of how individuals can make an impact on climate/environmental issues. I think too many residents don't think it matters that much.
Light pollution
We need curbside composting I see people throw away yard waste in garbage bags and it goes to the landfill! And the paper bags should go and let everyone use yard waste bins they're made for the task.
Stronger advocacy and support for native landscaping practices and natural rain water management
Education materials for residents not on paper flyers!! Rather programs that are shared at parades, board meetings and in public forums. More programs encouraging renewable energy for VAH and constituents. Rain barrels,
I would like to see guidance for homeowners who wish to convert their lawns (or parts of them) to native plantings to benefit pollinators and other wildlife. Simply letting your lawn go to dandelions is not the answer, in my opinion, but providing support and information for those who wish to make the change in an attractive and mindful way would be very much appreciated.
Fire pits are polluting our air and affecting the health of everyone, especially children.
I really feel we would benefit from the creation of a tree commission and some additional tree protections like the north shore suburbs have in place. This would help protect our heritage trees - right now there is a lot of new construction where homeowners tear down an old home and build a new larger home, and in the process they take down all existing trees on the lot and often don't replace them. We need some sort of regulation ensuring that for each tree removed a certain number are replanted, etc. Or that if there's a large healthy tree homeowners can't remove it without reason. Having a mature tree canopy does so much to add to home values and neighborhood experience - there's a reason that Wilmette, Glencoe, Highland Park etc are so attractive for new residents. Here's a link to the regulation that Wilmette just put in place: https://www.wilmette.com/download/One-Page-Tree-Pres.-summary-Final-Approved-Ordinance.pdf
Replacing invasive parkway trees such as Bradford Pear with less invasive/native options. Creating pollinator gardens in green/open space with educational signs.
Ban Styrofoam
I see a clear preference given for commercial and residential development over preservation of green spaces and trees.
More green space.
dedicated bike infrastructure, first class bike infrastructure centered around downtown AH would incentivize more residents to bike instead of drive downtown, more bike parking, secured bike parking in the garage
Sustainable Land Use
Leverage solar to reduce the dependence on the electrical grid for key infrastructure such as public water and sewer.
Require that the multitude of lawn-cutting services phase out gasoline operated mowers and blowers, along with setting & enforcing noise pollution controls on their blowers.
Nothing. We are already doing enough and these types of programs and education are not a space ah should be in. It's not your lane.
Maintaining open spaces
I think Arlington Heights has done a great job on the environment
Retail establishments charge for plastic take away bags

I would love to see regular community events focused on environmental issues - clean ups, tree planting, recycling, etc.
Doing great
Increasing weather event intensity and its impact on stormwater drainage in the Village. All new developments need to be future thinking and consider climate change when it comes to stormwater management. Related, we should revisit zoning district maps to encourage medium and high density development in the interest of preserving open spaces.
Renewable energy for village facilities or carbon neutral
We see very little solar panels in AH. Would love to see more incentive/help from the village.
Recycling plastic bags and batteries and disposal of expired chemicals, oil, gas, etc.
Too many parents pick up their children from school in cars that they often leave running for 15+ minutes while they wait.
Overuse of plastics in restaurant takeout bags even when we request no plastic ware (we're taking it home to eat!) we get so much plastic since it's the default protocol.
Please hire contractors who are educated in arboriculture best practices for planting trees. Write into your contracts with anyone planting trees that they must be planted and mulched to correct International/Illinois Society of Arboriculture correct standards. Village funds are being wasted as trees are being planted incorrectly and dying early. They are being planted too deep in the ground with the burlap, rope and metal baskets on them from the nursery. Then they are mulched and/or mounded with soil up around where the root flare should be exposed. Planting trees is great, but if they're set up to fail, there's really no point. https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/tree-plant-care/how-to-plant-trees/#more-helpful-tips https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/tree-plant-care/plant-care-resources/mulching-trees-and-shrubs/#applying-mulch Training videos from the International Society of Arboriculture: https://www.isa-arbor.com/Online-Learning/Podcasts/Podcast/39/Best-Practices
Preserving natural space within the village
With regard to carrying out, picking up and delivering food, all restaurants should assume utensils are not needed unless they are specifically requested. Most places give them to everybody automatically and most people don't need them and they go right in the garbage. It's the biggest waste. It would save restaurants money, too! Make it a citywide thing and everyone is educated about this new approach and going forward one-use utensils will not be given out unless requested.
Supporting all low carbon energy not just renewables.
The village should explicate endorse the preservation and expansion of nuclear energy in our state, look for ways to purchase nuclear energy via PPAs, and avoid PPAs for renewables.
Trash everywhere
Trash everywhere but not in trash cans.
Renewable energy in all forms, village vehicles, solar lighting and electric car charging stations in garages.
I would love to see free yard waste pickup. The bags and stickers are so expensive--it can be a deterrent to gardening.
We should have year round compost collection bins
No longer allow plastic bags at grocery stores, restaurants. Recyclable take-out boxes at restaurants.
Composting bins
With the changes in how we need or utilize retail spaces, how about exploring VAH acquiring some vacant lots/areas and converting the eye sores into rentable community garden space, similar to the AHPD ones we lost to drainage plans.

Curbside composting and discouraging the use of single-use plastics are the top 2 things our village can do. I'd really like to see VAH ask for more information from Groot on what becomes of the mixed recyclables. And if it is the case that most of disposed of and not recycled, find out why and what needs to be done to change that. Is it community education? Should we start separating?
Solar panels on government buildings, a community garden space, convert fleet of vehicles to electric, encourage restaurants to ban the use of styrofoam
Free bins for composting/yard waste Planting native plants
I would love it if the village tested our drinking water regularly, gave us incentives to use environmentally friendly practices and preserved as much open space as possible.
Increase the number of trash cans in the parks in the winter months. Parks get used year round not just in the summer.
I would like to see the Village plant trees in a way that will lead to their long-term success (remove plastic ropes, don't plan too deep, etc.) and educate homeowners on how to properly mulch and care for the trees once they are planted.
Replace more trees
EV parking spots (for next 4 years) to drive the adaption for EV.
Why do we not have our landscape waste made into mulch and available free to its residents?
Increased encouragement/awareness/incentives to use native plants and decrease use of lawn chemicals. Native plants have long roots to pull down carbon and we really need to deal with the decrease in yard sizes with new houses and how that impacts our drainage system. Native plants can soak up more water and should be a top consideration for new construction areas and be part of all detention pond plans. There are lots of efforts around native plants, becoming a bee city, supporting No Mow May and more. The amazing usage of the diseased ash trees in the police building and the beginning of natives on NW Hwy are great. Palatine's park district has tons of native plants at their outdoor pools and it's beautiful. Thank you for doing this survey and for continued efforts !
Mt. Prospect uses orange bags to recycle clothing, pillows, and fabrics. Arlington Heights should have the same program! I strongly recommend it!
Recycling education, end plastic bag use
water quality --especially lead in water supply/pipes
Better education and awareness issues re all climate issues affecting us, followed up with action by the Village. Making sure all businesses are following environmental codes/laws.
Eliminate plastic bags, composting more, more green spaces, run off from large homes built on small lots. Watch the film Kiss the Ground and have discussion on tilling park district garden plots.
Soil health is the biggest issuing facing the planet. In Arlington Heights we could make an impact on soil health in two key ways. First we should work to reduce food waste with a robust composting program for restaurants and homes. Second, we should plant more trees and native plants in the village.
Look into a program to initiate the instillation and use of electric vehicle charging stations both for public use in commercial areas, in residential condo buildings, and for resident houses.
Add electric vehicle chargers to attract EV owners downtown and other areas of the Village. Incentivizing the installation at hotels and other traveler destinations is another important strategy.
Hundreds of thousands of square feet of empty storefronts, businesses and parking lots throughout Arlington Heights and too much waste by businesses and restaurants.
Open spaces for all ages to enjoy nature are highly encouraged. Would love to see bike paths similar to Rolling Meadows or Palatine.

First, AH does an AWESOME job with maintaining parkway trees and replanting after loss. I would love to see more initiatives to convert some green grass (mowed) areas into native habitats which support more birds, insects, and wildlife. Introducing prairie grasses, native perennial flowers, and native trees would help break up mowed green space (I'm thinking about a section in South West corner of Pioneer Park for instance). This would reduce the area where gas-powered mowers would have to maintain (carbon reduction and price saving), help spread community awareness, and an opportunity for education to think about conservation at the local level. Thank you and keep up the good work!

Fabrics recycling

Ban of single use plastic bags and promote use of reusable produce and grocery bags.

protected bike lanes

Develop programs to encourage adoption of solar and electric vehicles.

Teach residents how to correctly recycle items (clean items, replace plastic bottle caps before recycling, flatten cardboard boxes, and take the time to recycle tin cans, plastic food containers, and jars). Learn what to recycle and what to trash. Recently saw a giant stuffed animal in a recycling bin!

Single stroke engines. A policy that bans these devices and encourages alternative power sources should be enacted.

Banning of gas powered leaf blowers and phasing out of gas powered lawn mowers. Washington, DC has banned gas powered blowers.

one an only thing: educate more about battery recycle. let us live normal life and make sure good people stay here .

styrofoam recycling

I'd like the village to make it easier to recycle many items-batteries, prescription drugs, hazardous waste, etc. I'd also like the village to be proactive and work with other municipalities and elected officials to address bigger issues like plastic single use containers.

The stretch of Rand Rd that borders Rolling Green Country club looks like a trash dump. It's a tangle of weeds that trash gets caught in, and it's a total eyesore. Right across the street, where Prospect Hts begins, the side of the road is clean and the landscaping is impeccable. This is not a good reflection on Arlington Heights. There should be a coordination between whoever owns that stretch of road to pick up the trash and maintain it.

Restricting the use of plastic bags in AH businesses.

chemical waste pick-up Free woodchip or mulch

using more renewable energy sources and making it known how residents can take small steps to reducing our negative impact on the environment(ban single use plastic bags, incentivize using glass or reusable bottles instead of single use plastic)

After a Sunrun pitch, it seems to me that the lack of net metering, limiting generation to the level of consumption, is why I see very few solar panels in AH. Homeowners take risk letting them use our roofs, while Sunrun and Comed make the money.

Public transit. Downtown Arlington Heights is becoming a public transit desert. Metra is too infrequent to be used for casual transit. No frequent bus service, and no bike share programs. Downtown people are forced to use their cars if they need to go anywhere outside of the small downtown area.

feral cat population reduction

Enforcement of Idle-free Arlington

Reduce the use of cars

I would like to see Arlington Heights switch from chemical to organic fertilizers/lawn care. Chemical fertilizers and insecticides are toxic to humans and our waterways.

Rain gardens/plantings and addressing overdevelopment for water management to decrease run off/flooding.

garbage
AH should support decreased fuel consumption via increased safe bike lanes and support for solar energy.
Littering - ticketed and enforced
Any environmental changes need to be cost effective and actually making things better long term. EV, though with benefits, actually are putting is in jeopardy in 10-15 years to dispose of all the used batteries. It is difficult to find a place to dispose of lithium batteries used at home, what will we be doing when those in autos need to be replaced. AH would be better leading the nation in disposal of home products in a safe manner. It is SO difficult to dispose of CFL, batteries, drugs today and we are causing greater harm to our environment with that.
disposal of toxic items like paint
Flooding
For those that wish to ride bikes places to help reduce emissions and get some exercise, it isn't practical. Very few areas have bike racks to lock up bikes and the roads aren't bike friendly.
The disposal of toxic products (paint etc.) electronics, is not done on a regular basis or close to Arlington Heights. Had to drive to Naperville to dispose stuff. Collection needs to be here to set an example that Arlington Heights is serious about environmental concerns.
Please plant more trees!
Every decision made by village should consider environmental impact.
Creating more bikeways that are not just streets. Every other town around us has dedicated bike paths that connect parks and other community features.
Educating people with step by step recommendations on how they could positively impact climate change. Top 20 list of things you can do besides recycling.
We need Trees along route 53 for noise and air pollution.
More Recycling days /events, shared information about the safety of our water sources and treatments . What is CDC testing for - when - and how? How can we test the safety of our tap water at home?
More bike paths, more green spaces
Arlington Heights should commit to moving to 100% renewable energy (Ready for 100 program).
Groot garbage and recycling trucks to be zero emissions.
Recycle containers next to waste containers- all extra curricular activities and entertainment venues
Traffic
Recycling. We should be recycling a more diverse group of products.
Emissions + Noise coming from landscaping equipment. Specifically high powered blowers!!!!
Continue encouraging more native plantings for village landscapes
School pickup lines are full of cars idling despite the signs
Charging stations
Recycling bins next to garage can, especially at sport fields. Too many plastic bottles are being thrown out.
Fabric recycling
setting benchmarks for where we are in key areas relative to priorities and how we are doing against them each year.
It's sad to see the carelessness when it comes to single use plastic and recycling. Park district programs, schools, ets . Do not use environmental friendly options and I never see recycling receptacles. Also can we all please compost?! We should have a third bin for food waste. Let's do our part to save our earth.

This is not a specific environmental issue, but one of transparency. The Village webpage is loaded with information. The information about the Environmental Commission is lost. Who knew this Commission existed?? Are there no other ways to be environment friendly, than to have the Village Newsletter online only? Strategically placed posters? A display window at the Library, the Senior Center, Schools, Park District, NWCH wellness Center? What about specifically tagging the leadership Boards of various community organizations...like the Garden Club, Rotary, Lions, Churches. It's difficult for people to be involved if they are uninformed.

Overuse of packaging

Road side trash

That our stately older trees are gone

Education of residents to be more aware of environmental issues and what individuals can do

Coffee cups that are not recyclable

Stop spraying our parks and lands with pesticides.

Share information regarding renewable energy with residents

empty lots filled with trash

More green space

Electric Vehicle Charging stations

Convert village vehicles to environmentally friendly fuels when existing vehicles are replaced at end of life.

Greater use of solar/wind energy on village property. Solar panels on the roof of village hall, for example, would also set a very strong example.

more trees

Too many people put plastic bags in their recycling bin, I am not sure what Groot does with them, but the residents should learn they can not do that.

Push fed x amazon and upc to have electric vehicles.

Truck traffic parking and environmental issues caused by these trucks idling on our streets.

Keep streets clean from debris including particles that are easily blown in the wind

I have no idea what most of the items in question 7 even are so the village must not be doing a very good job of promoting them. Composting should be free, there should not be a cost associated with it.

Really all the options in 6 above are of high importance.

Expanding recycling for multifamily units.

Better education around recycling - what can be put in the recycling bin & what can't (walk thru my neighborhood & you'll see that people have no clue) & reducing use of single-use materials. Also work with businesses to educate them.

More trees are needed around lake Arlington

Over use of single disposal item. For example Chicago has banned restaurants from putting plastic knives & forks in take out bags.

The constant horrible droning of leaf blowers, giant lawn mowers and loud motorcycles and race cars is enough to make me go mad!

Help with environmental disposal issues (Paint, batteries, oil, etc.

Don't give climate change advocates a voice. Do what is best for the village. Don't be run over by left wing nut jobs. Stay in real world.

New street lights should be shielded to avoid glare to the side and put light down on the street, not up in the sky.

Convert village fleet to electric vehicles and use less carbon-based fuel in all energy uses such as heating

Net Zero Stadium for Arlington Park Bears

I live in an area of Arlington Heights that has many new construction homes. I have a real concern with the change in elevations. My yard is constantly underwater when we receive even an moderate rain. New construction has only exacerbated the problem. I have invited the village out twice. The first time they showed up and said the existing drain was not on their survey, so not their problem. I have sent videos, photos and letters. I have 19 inches of standing water in my back yard. The village says the water is away from my foundation so there is not a problem. Despite the drowning hazard, mosquito nursery, duck inviting pond that attracts coyotes.
Ability to recycle fabrics and broken appliances. Recycle styrofoam. Education residents on places to call to discard usable furnitures and objects rather than placing at curb. Cheap ways to recycle kitchen scraps all year 'round. (During warm weather I compost in Kobashi bin.)
plant more trees. water more trees. prune trees more often. get rid of buckthorn on public property. Make people aware of the benefits for trees. Make people aware of the danger of buckthorn and other invasive species. Make sure all trees are planted properly.
Eliminate plastic bags at retailers. Eliminate single use plastic containers at restaurants & retailers.
The combined sewer system. The current village plan is to spend huge amounts of \$ outside the combined sewer system to upgrade infrastructure and has told residents in the CSS to spend their own \$ to upgrade the same. When there are basement back ups, those of us who live in the CSS get sewage, while those outside get clean water back up. This is a public health hazard which the village has ignored to date and they have chosen to spend their money outside the CSS in areas that were minimally impacted by the flood in 2011. I also have huge concerns about the amount of water that will be displaced if the Chicago Bears build a new stadium at Arlington Park. Without major upgrades to the existing area around AP, flooding and basement back ups will only get worse and more frequent.
Promoting residential and commercial conversion to solar energy
Please ban single use plastic bags in AH.
I would like to see our tax dollars used in the most budget friendly way. I would like to see more options presented to residents for solar power or other ways to reduce our electricity and gas bills.
Car lines idling at elementary and middle schools lining up every day 30 minutes before pickup
The traffic situation in and around downtown AH is getting dangerous for pedestrians! I was almost hit walking from Library and 2 blocks South. I enjoy being able to walk in AH but crossing NW Hwy AH Rd or even Euclid at times can be bad. Can't get a green light to walk. HUGE concerns IF the Bears stadium comes here. I want to remain living here but the traffic would really greatly impact my health and well being.
Clothing recycling
Please improve walkability and mass transit in the Village.
Leaves collection. Like neighboring cities, we should have curbside leaves collection without bags and stickers. Both bags and stickers add to pollution and there is no reason for this. My guess is all our trustees have lawn services and don't care where the leaves are dumped.
Small one: paperless auto payment for water/utilities bill. No mailing should be necessary with auto payment.
A plan to 'address climate change and environmental protection' needs to be developed in collaboration with other municipalities in Cook County.
Single use plastic bags, etc. Ban them. It may be unpopular, but then again do is death by plastic. Educate people. And "idel free" is a joke unless it is enforced.
Banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/15/opinion/climate-change-gas-leaf-blowers.html
Arlington AI Fresco brings a large crowd to the downtown area. Nice days bring a larger crowd to the area. The area looks completely trashed after a few hours which deters me, as a resident to pride over the event. It makes

my home, which is downtown, look dirty. Ultimately with all the trash it doesn't make Arlington Heights look green or appear they care about being green.
I found this survey difficult to take because I don't know what Arlington Heights is already doing or what is the most pressing issue for our particular community. Anything we can do to replace plastic would be good. How effective is our recycling? Where does the plastic go? Is it actually recycled or just collected?
Climate Change
Can we please BAN the use of plastic bags?
The Village NEEDS a climate action plan ASAP. I would also like to see the Village work with the Bears to make sure the new stadium is developed, built, and operated in an environmentally friendly way. The Environmental Commission should be very aggressive on this. We do not have time to waste on any of these issues.
curbside composting
Need a Climate Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions to meet environmental goals.
Increasing natural green spaces without use of harmful pesticides.
use of energy efficient building materials and(I know it is 2 not 1:) increase safety for people who bike(at same time encourage cycling)
I would like to see our village ban single use plastic bags at stores and strongly support a program to promote reusable produce and grocery bags, mugs, cups, and take away food containers. I would also like to see restaurants in AH using a Commercial Composting Service such as Collective Resource, located in Evanston and serving our area.
Please expand the fall leaf collection. Please procure a vehicle to pick up leaves directly from the curb without bags. Please also continue planting parkway trees.
Carbon footprint
Increasing access to renewable energy
Don't know
Spend more money on trees. Plant more. Plant better. Prune more often. Water new trees. Educate the public about trees. Get rid of buckthorn on public right of way. Care about trees.
Encourage native plantings, and removal of invasive buckthorn, etc. Also, Hasbrook Park retention pond area, which is controlled by the village, NOT the park district, needs serious attention and modification.
Curbside composting/ yard waste bins
Focus on other matters than creating environmental issues/problems
Arlington Heights could be a much bike friendlier place. It is very unsafe to ride bikes on any main roads as there is no space or right away for bikes. And if when bikes are used, it is not easy to find a convenient and safe place to lock up a bicycle.
More windmills like one at Thomas Junior High
Business recycling Solar
We would like to see the village be more actively involved in recycling programs such as electronics, fabric, paint and motor oil/batteries/hazardous waste. Very few, if any, options are available for homeowners here. Also, local incentives should be provided for businesses, developers and landlords to install more EV charging stations.
Ideling vilkage vehicles
Taking enviro impact into new developments
Need for additional green spaces instead of always building on and paving over open spaces. More community garden area available for residents

Turning green space into retention ponds to offset new developments, adding new developments without LEED certification or any environmental thought into new developments.
Increase bike path availability”not just bike paths where you ride your bike in the street” that's not safer for anyone.
We have doubts that Groot actually recycles their recycling pickups.
Keeping our streets and neighborhoods clear of litter, which since Covid is most certainly on the increase.
Expanded recycling and composting options
Not a problem, but perhaps expanding your informational outreach to AH citizens to explain current and future initiatives would be useful. Thanks.
Need to publicize different projects city is involved with - what is being done already - and what needs to be done in the future.
Buying bags for lawn refuse and then also having to buy stickers to put on the bags is too expensive. We already pay a lot for garbage pick up. Adding bags and then stickers is overly excessive.
Using certain pesticides/chemicals on lawns
Increase recycling (including fabrics, electronics, etc) and composting options and limit use of single use packaging and plastic bags etc. throughout the village including grocery stores and restaurant.
Less asphalt parking lots, more use of native plants and more sustainable options for whole community.
educational displays/awareness
SWALCO has set up textile recycling bins in Lake County. I would like to see similar bins set up in Arlington Heights. It's unbelievable what goes into landfill.
Fossil fuels
single use plastic
Education of elected and appointed officials.
Air quality - wood burning fireplaces and outdoor fire burning cannot walk some days in some neighborhoods due to particulates that lasts for hours. Water quality & sustainability - people placing fertilizers and pesticides on lawns and not embracing backyard habitat. Noise pollution - gas powered blowers.
Allow backyard chickens to help people reduce carbon footprint driving to buy eggs
I consider Mayor Hayes to be an environmental issue. His chauvinism, lack of respect for women, and his 1950s mentality render him not only useless, but dangerous.
Less paper mailings from government entities
Can you please focus more on switching to LED lighting for the entirety of the village and add more of that lighting in areas that can visible to people? i.e. change street lighting or what might be on any property owned by the village. But include additional electronic signs or lighting that conveys a message of Environmentalism since they are so attention grabbing.
Littering around our parks and streets.
better recycling / composting services
No changes needed
Composting
A solar farm (like the one on University Dr) or more windmills (like the one at Thomas Middle School) to help neighborhoods switch over to power when it goes out or to cut the cost of utility bills.
I live in the Hasbrook area. As small homes are replaced with large homes, nothing is being done to protect homes in this area from drainage/flooding issues. As we lose green space, drainage/flooding become a much bigger issue.
Banning plastic single use containers/bags.

leaf pick up at curb instead of bagging
Help get Solar panels onto as many homes, buildings, and structures as possible in the city - private residences/buildings included!
I'm worried about how a large football stadium project for the Bears will impact our community - traffic, noise, waste disposal, etc. I hope the VAH will impose strict environmental standards on such a project.
Make recycling of goods better. I see so many people putting non-recyclable goods in their groot containers. Also, make it clearer and easier to know what is and is not recyclable!
Plant more trees along rail road tracks on Sigwalt / Davis. Tall / thin trees that do not overgrown onto railway property are available.
Better recycling options. Mt prospect offers much more. Also, a better system for landscape waste/leaf collection
Find alternative to driving a car to and from the commuter station. Maybe find a way to incorporate electric scooters into the transportation mix.
How much of the recycling is actually recycled? If not much, pinpoint only those things that can be recycled and push that message.
I walk a lot in my neighborhood and on garbage/recycling pickup days I notice countless homes that stuff their recycling bins with plastic bags, and other unacceptable materials. There is a definite lack of commitment and education on recycling. SWANCC does its part by having programs at the library but it's like preaching to the choir. I think there needs to be a bigger commitment by the VAH to this issue.
Groot free 5 bag pick up in April should be in May so that beneficial insects don't get thrown out
Use of plastic AND paper bags in grocery stores. Encourage use of reusable cloth bags
noise pollution: aircraft, both helicopter and commercial jets along with landscaper gas powered commercial mowers and blowers and road noise from I-90. We live north of Heritage Park and receive a constant barrage of muffler and tire noise.
CO2 and other emission costs, specifically those caused by single occupancy cars - shift residents to e bikes and walking
Flooding. Allowing huge homes to be built on small lots and then allowing swimming pools on those lots. There's no place for the water to go except into our yard. Our sump pumps are working overtime so that million dollar homes can have swimming pools? There are community pools that these people can use instead. We don't understand how this is allowed.
There has been a big increase in noise pollution in the Heritage Park neighborhood since they widened I-90 and increased the speed limit to 70mph.
More and more trees are being cut down in the neighborhoods. Continue to replant. Add ev charging stations, especially downtown and change fleet over to electric.
Reduction in traffic - it disturbs nature, quality of life and is bad for the environment
Late night noise pollution - Rt. 53 /Wilke Rd. Landscaper use of noisy polluting gas engines
I would like to see the village develop a Climate Action Plan identifying specific policies and programs that would be implemented to move the Village to net zero energy use.
How about the inflation issue
Minimize/discourage use of single use disposable items and increase recycling options, including food scraps/green materials for composting
Leaf collection in the fall like surrounding suburbs. Rake into curb and purchase equipment to mulch /sweep up and eliminate brown bags for leaves
Educating residents on proper recycling. Most homes have plastic bags in their recycling carts!

Do more with education. Also bring more renewal energy choices. More solar panels. Small wind turbines at businesses and village facilities. It is clear that we need provide accurate and truthful education about climate change for the youth. This environment is their legacy!
Making Arlington Heights more bicycle friendly.
Noise pollution, slow the traffic that races down roads like Euclid and Arlington Heights Roads Light pollution, it is an issue for bird migration
Use of plastics.
stop using pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer in parks/city spaces--they are bad for humans and animals and drinking water
Reduce city's dependence on fossil and nuclear fuels and transition to 100% solar and wind.
Expand recycling knowledge, too many bins contain non recyclable items like plastic bags. Also expand recycling opportunities to textiles, paint , chemicals
Get rid of plastic grocery bags. All municipal building should have solar panels installed when built(if new) or when roof is replaced.
It's shocking that there are no EV charging stations in downtown. I live in Dunton Tower and simply cannot purchase an EV because there is nowhere convenient for me to charge it. Being forced to buy gas vehicles is not environmentally. I know you are asking for just one issue, but I also think adding a proper Pace Bus service through downtown ending at a CTA station and/or Ohare would help reduce CO2 emissions as people opt for public transit.
Dealing with climate change - specifically rain events, since our village is prone to flooding already. These events are more and more frequent and will continue to get worse.
Plastic bag use
Resident outreach on proper rules for backyard fires (i.e. dry wood, not leaves or yard wastes). Multiple neighbors routinely burn yard waste, particularly in the early spring during initial clean-up. This agitates asthma sufferers in my family resulting in shutting windows and forcing my children to come inside on nice days. This is multiple year problem with multiple neighbors. Consider programs to offset the cost of proper disposal of excess yard waste during wet spring season.
Wasting money and carbon pollution on mowing purposeless grass such as under the high tension wires and along the Metra ROW.
Drainage issues that result in standing water
More outreach to residents and schools
repeat the rain barrel program; more bike racks
Green energy options, solar/wind subsidy
One of the best things about Arlington is how historically bike-friendly the village is. New residents don't always know these things -- it should be promoted as a local institution.
Please stop using herbicides and insecticides on public land. Stop having grassy lawns and consider native plants to attract pollinators. Educate residents of the importance of pollinators. Also look into what Evanston is doing! Why doesn't Arlington Hts do this? https://greenerevanston.org/
Education to the public and businesses about the importance of green initiatives and how easy it is to have a doable action plan for these issues daily
Climate change, sustainability 3Es (environment, economy, equity)
easily available EV charging stations