



# City of Elgin

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Mayor  
*Ed Schock*

March 9, 2010

Council Members  
*Richard Dunne*  
*Robert Gilliam*  
*David Kaptain*  
*John Frigge*  
*John Steffen*  
*Michael Warren*

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Sean R. Stegall, City Manager

From: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORK GROUP

City Manager  
*Sean R. Stegall*

Subject: Sustainable City Master Plan Semi-Annual Report

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Mayor and Members of the City Council with information regarding the Elgin Sustainable City Master Plan, and the progress made by the Green Infrastructure Work Group.

## **Group Membership**

The following individuals are members of the Green Infrastructure Work Group.

ACTIVE: Laurie Faith Gibson-Aiello; April Anderson; Brian Borkowicz; Betsy Couture; Patricia Hill; Jeff Kerber – Chair; Mel Manner; Phyllis Mentink; and, Blake Snedaker.

Dan Fox – Advisory Board Liaison      ON ROSTER: Mary Alice Masonick.

## **Goals**

The following is a recap of the long and short term goals that were presented by the team members. They are in order of presentation and in no way indicate any priority ranking. A number of articles were given to each team member as background information.

### SHORT TERM GOALS

1. Develop a tree preservation plan based upon a tree inventory and urban management standards. This will provide quantifiable/measurable ecological services that demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits of these services.
2. Bring back/celebrate Arbor day (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in April). Everyone plant ONE appropriate tree or shrub on their property with the caveat that it be the “right plant in the right spot”.
3. Provide lighting, maintenance and structural improvements to parks and bike path to insure safety and security.
4. Utilize garden and nature clubs to maintain specific areas (like the adopt a highway program).

### LONG TERM GOALS

1. Plan and direct underground utility placement or improve above ground placement to promote safety and aesthetics.
2. Maintain green areas next to the river by not permitting development within a determined footage area. Maintain riverfront open space. Connect people with parks and natural areas. Be concerned about both sides of the river.
3. concerns about river degradation and storm water runoff. Protect water quality.

## **Relevant Discussion Items**

### **Mission Statement:**

To protect and restore natural resources, open space and other public areas by minimizing negative environmental impacts, utilizing appropriate materials in structures and landscapes and advocating comprehensive planning for a “sustainable” community.

### **Vision Statement**

1. Implement the results of the tree inventory to document the beneficial impact of street trees and landscapes on the carbon footprint.
2. Encourage the City to create a citizen friendly map/guide identifying parks, open space, bike trails and public use areas.
3. Create (and pass) an enforceable landscape ordinance for all new CIVIC plantings to ensure health and longevity and emphasizing the benefits of native plants.
4. Encourage a partnership between the Elgin Parks and Recreation, neighborhood associations and other organizations to connect families with nature.
5. Protect water quality.
6. Recommend hiring a “ Sustainability Coordinator” and grant writer to seek funding sources.
7. Designate green infrastructure within the City of Elgin as a public utility or asset in the budget process.

## **Group Focus for the Upcoming Quarter**

In addition to those items listed above, we intend to:

1. Continue to provide information and plans to the Outreach and Communication work group in an effort to educate the public about “sustainability.”
2. Continue to be creative in substance and process as we work towards a more sustainable community.
3. Meet with elected and appointed city leaders to support their commitment to a sustainable city and ensure that the ultimate “plan” is viable and implemented – not just a document to sit on a shelf.
4. Work to develop a tree preservation plan