



## NATIVE PLANTS, BIOSWALES & GARDENS

All **18** parks and **19** facilities have native plantings as part of their landscape. This practice reduces labor costs as well as improves food sources for insects and birds. The community has seen an increase in monarch butterflies based on a community-wide effort to increase milk weed and other pollinator plantings.

Bioswales across the District help prevent the flow of pollutants into freshwater ecosystems and provide a natural way to manage storm water in an urban setting. Over **250** plant species that support pollinators can be found in our bioswales located at the Oak Park Conservatory, Barrie Park, and Community Recreation Center.

The All-Abilities Garden at Cheney Mansion grows copious amounts of vegetables every summer. The Park District donates over **500** pounds of fresh produce from the garden to the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry each year.

## EV CHARGING STATIONS

Eight dedicated parking spots with EV Charging stations allow CRC visitors to charge electric vehicles while visiting the Center.

## COMPOSTING

Members of the Park District's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee volunteer at seasonal community events to oversee recycling and composting stations. Each summer, nearly **2,000** gallons of recyclable and compostable waste are diverted from landfills with their efforts.

## CARRY IN/ CARRY OUT

We ask for the community's help and cooperation in being a good park steward and keeping our parks clean through our Carry In/Carry Out program. Park patrons are asked to carry out all waste and recyclables they bring into the park.

## **+** FOR MORE INFO

 [pdop.org/environment](http://pdop.org/environment)

 [parkdistofoakpark](https://www.instagram.com/parkdistofoakpark)

 [parkdistrictofoakpark](https://www.facebook.com/parkdistrictofoakpark)



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To learn more!

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# SUSTAINABILITY

*in our parks*



**PARK DISTRICT**  
of OAK PARK



**S**ustainability is engraved throughout the Park District of Oak Park. We integrated sustainability into our Comprehensive Master Plan, committed to Sustainability as a Core Value, identified key initiatives in our Strategic Plan, and our Sustainability Plan charts a course for future environmental stewardship. Through various initiatives, we've reduced our environmental footprint, with ongoing efforts to further mitigate resource depletion. Our holistic sustainability strategy includes waste reduction, energy efficiency, green energy production, education, water conservation/reuse, native habitats, green procurement policies, and more.

## Annual Savings through Sustainability Efforts

Interior LED Replacement: \$13,650

Exterior LED Replacement: \$67,042

Solar Panel Systems: \$173,250

Water: \$94,479

**TOTAL: \$348,421**



## WATER

Five cisterns installed across various Park District locations re-purpose water, collecting water for irrigation and toilet flushing. These systems conserve around **1,250,000** gallons of water and save **\$94,479** annually. Cisterns are situated at Field Park, Longfellow Park, Oak Park Conservatory, and the Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center.

## SOLAR PANELS

Ten Park District facilities housing over **1,200** solar panels currently generate over **700KW** of green energy annually. This energy generation is equal to **127** homes or **780** acres of U.S. Forests in one year for an annual cost savings of **\$173,250**.

## LED LIGHTING

LED lighting is present in all Park District parks and facilities, with funding sources from ComEd grants covering nearly **50%** of the total cost for an annual savings of **\$80,692**.

**Interior Lighting:** Converted **38,754** watts to **16,780** watts, which is a **43%** reduction in energy usage and an annual savings of **\$13,650** in energy costs.

**Exterior Lighting:** Converted park walk lights and exterior court and field lights reducing energy consumption by **587KW** per year and saving **\$67,042** annually.

## GEOTHERMAL

Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center, Carroll Center, Pleasant Home, and Cheney Mansion are powered by geothermal energy, an environmentally-friendly system that provides highly efficient heating and cooling.

## SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES

### Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center

Platinum LEED Certification, Geothermal system, solar panel system, rainwater harvesting cistern, rain gardens, green roof, high efficiency building envelope.

### Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex

Gold LEED Certification, Solar panel system, high efficiency HVAC system, native landscaping, reuse of existing, original roof structure.

### Carroll Center

Passive House Design/Certification, Source Zero Energy Certification, Geothermal system, super insulation, solar panel system, electrical load monitoring, rain garden.

### Community Recreation Center

All-Electric, high efficient VRF/heat pump HVAC system, Solar array and Battery backup system, high efficient building envelope, rain garden, permeable pavers, electric load monitoring, daylighting and occupancy lighting & outlets.

