

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to attend **GREEN Sunday at Cheney Mansion: Community Open House** on Sunday, Apr 19 from 1-4pm -

Mark your calendars for the **20th Annual Herb & Plant Sale at the Conservatory** on Saturday May 2 from 8am-3pm

You don't want to miss **Cheney Mansion's Spring Plant Sale** on Sunday, May 17 from 10am-3pm

ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

This brochure is printed on recycled paper made of 30% post-consumer waste. The Park District of Oak Park works with its printers to reduce its effects on the environment.

DID YOU KNOW?

Recent Sustainability Efforts at your Park District

- The Greening Task Force developed a comprehensive environmental policy focusing on tree management, sustainability/green initiatives, and biodiversity throughout the park system.
- The Park District implemented a new online job application system, Applitrak, to eliminate paper applications. It can be accessed by visiting www.oakparkparks.com and clicking on "Jobs."
- The Park District purchased two alternative fuel vehicles.
- Bio-diverse areas in the parks were included during the development of park site plans.
- The Park Board adopted a revised procurement policy which addresses the purchase of environmentally preferable products and services.
- For last year's Earth Day, two groups of preschoolers from Andersen Center visited Cheney Mansion's gardens to learn about composting.
- Pleasant Home Foundation was host and partner to the Village of Oak Park's Green Tuesday program with a "Green Old House" lecture in 2008 at Pleasant Home.
- Henrietta Yardley, Oak Park Conservatory Manager, attended the National Recreation and Parks Association Environmental Summit in Portland, Oregon.
- Recycling was implemented at the Annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races in October, and in various Park District facilities throughout the year.
- Canvas tote bags, made of recycled materials, were distributed to all Park District staff to encourage the use of reusable bags when shopping.
- The Park District purchased staff shirts made from bamboo, a rapidly renewable material.
- At the 2008 Cheney Mansion Annual Plant Sale, Charlie Ruedebusch (Cheney Mansion Gardener) and his helpers sold hand-raised, pesticide-free plants from Cheney Mansion's gardens, including perennials, annuals, vines, basil, peppers, and a wide variety of heirloom tomatoes. See page 68 for information on this year's sale.



FOR OUR PARKS. FOR OUR PLANET.

Green Initiatives - The Park District's New Environmental Policy

In the management of the park system, the Park District of Oak Park strives to set a high standard of leadership and competency in the promotion of sound environmental practices and lifestyles. With the development of the Park District's first comprehensive environmental policy in 2008, specific guidelines and goals, and practices and procedures have been established to secure the Park District's contribution to a healthier environment.

A few of the initiatives outlined in the environmental policy include:

- Encourage diversity of life within each park's ecosystem and diversity of ecosystems within the Park District, with an emphasis on promoting native species
- Strive for the introduction and maintenance of naturalized areas within the parks for their many benefits to all forms of life
- Establish a park stewardship program to monitor and maintain biodiverse areas
- Initiate a tree stewardship program to monitor newly planted trees, provide timely watering and scout for insect and disease problems
- Maintain a 5-year cyclic tree pruning program
- Utilize the current tree inventory completed in 2005 to manage trees and update the inventory every 5 years
- Expand the Memorial Tree program
- Provide environmental education and interpretation to gain community support for conservation issues, help protect natural resources and open space and promote community environmental responsibility
- Purchase environmentally safe and eco-friendly products
- Actively seek and implement ways to conserve energy resources
- Work with other community agencies and organizations to develop and enhance a strong environmental ethic

These are just a few of the initiatives outlined in the environmental policy which the Park District, with the help of the Greening Advisory Committee, hopes to accomplish. Please visit www.oakparkparks.com and select "News & Info" to learn more and view the complete Environmental Policy.