

# Environmental Stewardship Committee

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OCTOBER 17, 2017

# Vision

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Our vision is to:

- Secure a clean and safe environment for Plymouth Township residents
- Align economic, social, and environmental investments and benefits
- Inspire us to strive toward a sustainable community

*The need to act to make cities greener is acknowledged on the global stage. Goal 11 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is to “make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.*

# Proposal

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Create a Green City Action Plan to develop a more sustainable Plymouth Township.

Work with the Township Board of Trustees, residents, businesses, and other organizations to set measurable and attainable targets to meet plan goals and foster a culture of sustainability within our community.

# Green City Overview

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## Step 1: Assess Baseline

Provide reference scenario; inform policy and strategic decision-making.

## Step 2: Create Action Plan

Define priorities and action steps including time periods and targets.

## Step 3: Implement Action Plan

Implement concrete tasks; allocating budget, time and staff; and monitoring progress toward targets.

## Step 4: Analyze Progress Toward Goals

Analyze successes and failures of plan implementation to inform ongoing political decisions and inform stakeholders and the public on performance.

# Baseline

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Identify Plymouth Township environmental sustainability challenges and opportunities, considering:

- Budget priorities
- Partnership opportunities (City of Plymouth?)
- Community survey
- Alignment with other initiatives

# Green City Action Plan

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- Define goals and objectives to achieve community sustainability
- Identify strategies for achieving objectives
- Establish measurable targets and timelines
- Prioritize activities based on baseline assessment

# Potential Topics

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## Green buildings

- encourage energy efficiency

## Green transportation

- take steps to reduce driving, such as improving pedestrian walkways and bike paths

## Clean water

- increase water quality and reduce water consumption per capita

# Potential Topics

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## Waste reduction

- increase recycling

## Urban nature

- Ensure accessible parks and green/open space
- Increase the number of trees and maintain tree canopy
- Protect critical habitats from unsustainable development

# Green City Action Plan Example

## GREEN CITY ACTION PLAN URBAN DESIGN

### ACTION 9

Create environmentally beneficial jobs in slums and/or low-income neighborhoods.

The Maintenance Assistance Services to Homeowners (MASH) Program provides housing rehabilitation and related services in needy areas of Northwest Pasadena. The MASH Program, in addition to mitigating blight, also serves as a job training mechanism for up to 70 low-income and at-risk individuals. The Water & Power Department works with MASH to install water and energy conserving fixtures in low-income neighborhoods. As the electronic waste and food compost pilot programs develop, MASH employees will be involved and assist with the logistics of the programs.

In order to foster environmental stewardship through the education of area youth, Pasadena partners with community organizations to develop outdoor environmental education and vocational model programs at the City's local parks and open spaces.

The City will pursue forward thinking opportunities to promote and create "green collar" jobs.

## URBAN NATURE

### ACTION 10

Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space within 1/2 kilometer of all residents by 2015.

The City of Pasadena is amending the Recreation and Parks Master Plan and Green Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan to include the goal of providing an accessible public park or recreational open space exists within 1/2 mile of every resident.

Core Green Space principles include:

- All Pasadena neighborhoods shall have access to park, open spaces and recreation facilities that serve their unique needs
- All Pasadena residents shall live within reasonable walking distance of a park, open space, or recreation facility
- Pasadena will be a City that actively creates new green spaces by promoting creative partnerships with the Pasadena Unified School District and other agencies and private institutions to provide access to and development of non-traditional parks, cultural and recreational opportunities

## GREEN CITY ACTION PLAN URBAN NATURE

### ACTION 11

Conduct an inventory of existing canopy coverage in the City; and, then establish a goal to plant and maintain canopy coverage in not less than 50% of all available sidewalk planting sites.

The City of Pasadena is conducting a tree canopy coverage survey which will provide information on the benefits provided by City trees and be used as a baseline to monitor the tree canopy coverage. The City will maintain the 62,000 public trees that grace the landscape with the goal of having no more than 5% vacancy in dedicated street planting areas at any given time.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Every year, deforestation constitutes 20-25% of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions
- Trees help reduce stormwater runoff, erosion, add oxygen, provide shade, and increase property values



#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Pasadena has 23 parks
- 341 acres of parkland
- 62,000 public trees

### ACTION 12

Protect critical habitat corridors and other key habitat characteristics from unsustainable development.

Pasadena values the beautiful Arroyo Seco and Easton Canyon park lands, and protection of the native animals who live in these habitats. Pasadena is proactively seeking funding for habitat restoration projects, which are planned in the Arroyo Seco Master Plans.

The City recently finished a study on the Arroyo Seco Watershed, in which measures where outlined that will restore the watershed. Implementation of the recommendations is actively being pursued.

# Potential Strategies

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## ▪ Education

- Keep community informed of environmental issues
- Website, newsletter, social media, “green fair” ideas and suggestions for a greener community by including articles in every township newsletter, creating an environmental page on the township website and provide a booth for representation at community events

## ▪ Influence

- Environmental Stewardship Committee participates in board meetings and conducts outreach to community organizations to increase recycling, greenspace, tree management/planting, urban gardens, centralized composting

## ▪ Alliances

- City of Plymouth, schools and local environmental organizations

# Proposed Next Steps

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- Environmental Stewardship Committee assesses baseline and identifies township priorities to inform action plan development
- Environmental Stewardship Committee prepares Green City Action Plan with stakeholder input
- Board reviews plan and approves priorities