

Environmental Committee

July 25, 2022

7:00 p.m. – City Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Introduction
4. New/Business/Old Business
5. Committee Items
 - a. Presentation – Native Landscaping – Heather Data, Airy Prairie
Advocating for the creation of sustainable Chicagoland landscapes
with plants that are indigenous or native to the Midwestern US area
 - b. LRS – Refuse/Recycling and Electronic Collection
6. Next Meeting
7. Adjournment

City of Darien

TO: Environmental Committee Members

FROM: Lisa Klemm, Liaison Environmental Committee

DATE: July 21, 2022

RE: Native Landscaping – Airy Prairie Enterprises

Heather Data of Airy Prairie Enterprises will give a presentation on native landscaping. Attached is general information from Airy Prairie's website.

AIRY PRAIRIE ENTERPRISES

SUSTAINABLE NATIVE CHICAGOLAND LANDSCAPES

Welcome to the ANTI-LANDSCAPE! At Airy Prairie Enterprises we advocate and create sustainable Chicagoland landscapes with plants that are indigenous or native to the Midwestern United States area. These are landscapes that:

- Are Unique, Stylish, and Colorful
- Take less time and effort to maintain than traditional landscapes
- Need NO toxic fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides
- Attract butterflies, pollinators, and wildlife for humans to watch and enjoy
- Affordable for everyone with DIY options and price breakdown

Airy Prairie sales and services include:

- Native Plants delivery to your home or business
- Full-Color Digital Landscape Designs
- Installation
- Maintenance
- Butterfly Garden Kits
- Organic Veggie Gardens

WHY GO NATIVE?

What was lost?

Before the age of strip malls, parking lots, and neighborhoods, the area where we now live was a savanna, where the prairie meets the trees. Illinois had a diversity of prairie flowers, tall grasses, shrub thickets, and 40% was forest. Some of the richest soil in the world are found right here in Illinois because of the vegetation that once covered the region. When people settled the area, they were eager to turn over the prairie for farmland, and much of the native woodlands were removed for lumber and development. People built homes with a common themed-landscape, easy maintenance shrubs, and a well-manicured lawn. Little by little an entire ecosystem was lost and replaced with agricultural crops and monotonous rolls of sod. Less than 1% of untouched prairie remains in the state of Illinois. Only 15% of the state is still forested. Today, our attitudes are changing as we value conserving and restoring natural areas for our recreation and enjoyment. Still at home, in our landscapes, we are planting many non-native or exotic plants that have come from other areas across the

globe. To keep these plants alive, we use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that harm the environment.

Who needs natural habitats?

Some of the native fauna of our region are dependent on the plant life that was once abundant here. The monarch butterfly can only lay its eggs on the milkweed plant because the caterpillars only feed on milkweed. Overall monarchs have declined by more than 80% over the past two decades because of loss of habitat, and use of pesticides.

Pollinators of all types are on the decline and we need them to pollinate not only native plants but also the plants needed for agricultural crops ensuring we have food. Birds and mammals everywhere are disappearing at an alarming rate. Scientists estimate that worldwide the number of wild animals on Earth has halved in the past 40 years according to a 2014 study. Even more alarming is the fact that the clean water, food, and air that animals need to survive is also essential for humans to survive! Our unhealthy land use practices have contributed to the decline of these species and the same practices are making our lands uninhabitable to humans.

What can I do?

Most humans are simply unaware that their landscape choices and maintenance practices have destroyed the native Illinois ecosystem. The information of knowing which plants to use is hard to come by, and most books on the subject of creating your home landscape still focus on non-native plants. When you are shopping for plants to bring home, it is hard to come by the information on which plants to choose that will have the best environmental impact. When visiting a forest preserve we admire the beauty we find in the natural landscape, but few know the names of the plants. What can we do to help? The solution lies primarily with the attitudes of humans and their relationship with nature. Learn about these special relationships that creatures have with plants. In your home landscape, the biggest step you can do to bring back wildlife and conserve our resources is to choose to plant native. There are numerous benefits to choosing native plants. Pollinators and birds rely on native plants for survival. Native plants are colorful and attractive if planted in an orderly way. Native plants improve drainage, help with erosion control, and improve soil quality over time. They need very little care once established because they are acclimated to our environment. This means you do not have to use fertilizers and chemicals to keep them alive, and once established you should not need to supplement water with irrigation. Because they are meant to be here, there is an overall better chance they will survive. This means planting native will save you money!

City of Darien

TO: Environmental Committee Members

FROM: Lisa Klemm, Liaison Environmental Committee

DATE: July 20, 2022

RE: Electronic Waste Event - LRS Update

The May electronic recycling event was well received by the residents of Darien. LRS collected over 1,100 items, equating to 10.33 tons. Details of the items collected are below. As expected, televisions and computers/monitors accounted for about 50% of items collected.

ITEMS COLLECTED	TOTAL # OF ITEMS COLLECTED
CELL PHONES	119
TV	246
DIGITAL CONVERTER BOXES	8
PORTABLE DIGITAL ASSISTANT PDA	14
MP3	14
VCR'S	39
COMPUTER CABLE	119
COMPUTERS	148
COMPUTER MONITORS	77
KEYBOARDS	71
COMPUTER MOUSE	33
FAX MACHINES	17
PRINTERS	85
SCANNERS	10
ZIP DRIVERS	0
DVD PLAYER	29
VIDEO GAME CONSOLES	3
OTHER	71
TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS	1,103

Additionally, LRS provided the residential tracking for the first quarter of service.



COLLECTION STATISTICS

	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	YTD total
Total number of homes	7565	7565	7430	
Total number of enrolled in Senior Program	1960	1969	2122	
Total number of Yard Waste containers	569	575	584	
Waste Tons	458.83	520.60	544.76	1524.19
Recycling Tons	176.08	185.62	191.80	553.5
Organics Tons	62.40	182.33	164.34	409.07
Total Tons	697.31	888.55	900.90	2486.76
Waste cubic yards	9,176.60	10,412.00	10,895.20	30483.8
Organics Cubic yards	249.60	729.32	657.36	1636.28
E-waste Tons	NA	10.33	NA	
E-waste Processing Facility	E-WORKS- ELK GROVE VILLAGE			
Recyclables & Organics Diversion % 2022	34%	41%	40%	

WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY	HEARTLAND 6201 Canal Bank Rd, Forest View, IL 60402
RECYCLING PROCESSING FACILITY	HEARTLAND 6201 Canal Bank Rd, Forest View, IL 60402
YARD WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY	HEARTLAND 6201 Canal Bank Rd, Forest View, IL 60402