



Sustainability Plan



“A City within a Park”





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About the Sustainability Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Westerville Parks and Recreation Department is committed to enhancing and protecting the quality of life and economic vibrancy of the region. It is in the best interest of our residents, business community and natural environment to take practical steps to protect the air and water, to preserve natural resources, to increase green space, reduce the consumption of raw materials and increase recycling.

Why Plan?

Sustainability planning allows for the development of goals that foster environmental, community and financial sustainability. It also encourages and uses change and development to create environmental and social benefits.

Sustainability planning is an opportunity for the City to:

1. Identify community and environmental values
2. Engage the community about sustainability
3. Blend and integrate isolated City and community projects and initiatives
4. Define a path for the future

Process

The City of Westerville is continuously planning, implementing, and improving to capture both practical knowledge and ideas of employees and residents. Planning is a process not only of setting goals, developing strategies and outlining tasks, but also integrating existing plans and ongoing work into a future direction.

The Sustainability Plan was developed through the following process:

- **Existing Plan Review.** The City analyzed existing plans and publications for strengths and weaknesses.
- **Setting Preliminary Goals and Targets.** City staff through community engagement verified the vision and set preliminary goals and targets.



- **Plan Development.** Goals were refined and assigned targets based on municipal best practices and existing City targets.
- **Action Planning.** Verified the preliminary goals and targets, identified actions, partnerships and methods to move towards meeting the targets and reaching the set goals.

1.1 VISION

The City has adopted a phrase to embody its commitment to parks, the environment and our tradition of preservation, sustainability and responsible stewardship. "A City Within a Park" is not only a slogan; it's a collection of community-focused priorities to keep Westerville beautiful and thriving for generations to come.

1.2 VALUES

INNOVATION

We place a high value on improving our community by looking for new solutions and embracing innovative ways to deliver services and encourage economic development. We demonstrate dynamic leadership in meeting the needs of residents and businesses with innovative services.

STEWARDSHIP

We embrace our roles as stewards of the community's natural resources. We are committed to rigorous policies and procedures to assure that the public is well served.

EXCELLENCE

We strive to continue to be a leading municipality; attentive and responsive to the needs and concerns of our community and those we serve. We commit to consistent and professional delivery of the highest quality municipal services.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We accept responsibility for the actions we take on behalf of our residents and businesses. We set measurable performance goals in alignment with the strategic goals of the City.

INTEGRITY AND TRUST

We demonstrate trustworthiness to the public and to each other. We do what we say, honor our commitments, respect each other and conduct our business in an open, transparent fashion.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

We seek input from the residents and businesses we serve to improve services. We value our volunteers and partnerships as key assets to our success.



GOALS AND STRATEGIES

The Westerville Parks and Recreation Sustainability Plan is comprised of 7 goals that describe what the community desires to achieve long term.

The strategies were developed by City staff, using public and stakeholder ideas and best practices. The goals are described in the following pages. Each section contains:

- Why the goal is important
- Key Recommendations
- Tactics

Goal

GREENHOUSE GAS AND ENERGY REDUCTION

Increase renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) production, and increase operational cost savings.

WHY THE GOAL IS IMPORTANT

Vehicles are a major source of air pollution. Westerville is committed to the reduction of GHGs. Decreasing non-renewable energy use and increasing renewable energy production lowers community risks associated with fossil fuel dependence and lowers operating costs.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt Green Fleet Policy which includes:
- Anti-idling directives
- Purchase of higher performing vehicles
- Use of alternative power sources
- Retrofitting existing vehicles
- Utilize smaller more energy efficient vehicles

TACTIC

The Westerville Parks and Recreation Department will focus on reductions from the significant emissions sources including: transportation, buildings, and water and sewer infrastructure.



Goal

BUILDING GREEN FACILITIES AND REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Reduce environmental impacts of City-owned buildings and infrastructure.

WHY THE GOAL IS IMPORTANT

Buildings account for one-third of the energy and two-thirds of the electricity consumed in this country. Improve the performance of buildings and infrastructure in Westerville to reduce energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, operating costs, and environmental risks.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create high performing buildings that are more energy efficient, conserve water, and use environmentally friendly products
- Conduct energy audits of existing buildings

TACTIC

Continuously improve City-owned buildings and support national standards for new buildings and for infrastructure, that maximize efficient use of existing natural and physical assets.



Goal

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS

Promote clean air, water, and soil; healthy habitat; and a sense of Natural areas.

WHY THE GOAL IS IMPORTANT

Natural resources are important to both the environment and the citizens because they provide important recreational opportunities, wildlife habitats, reduce runoff and improve air and water quality.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Inventory degraded green spaces and develop rehabilitation plans
- Protect natural resources such as trees
- Protect our rivers through storm water controls
- Create more green neighborhood infrastructure, such as bio-swales and rain gardens

TACTIC

Build on past practices, enhance management planning, and increase airshed and watershed protection.



Goal **REDUCING WASTE**

Maximize resource recovery through reduction, reuse, recycling while minimizing waste generation.

WHY THE GOAL IS IMPORTANT

Reducing the waste that is going to our landfill is of vital economic interest to every jurisdiction and taxpayer in Central Ohio. It is estimated that 66% of the waste going to the landfill consists of recyclable materials, and we need to reduce that waste stream to prolong the life of our landfill.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish recycling programs through city parks and facilities
- Support the adoption of an ordinance requiring that demolition projects recycle at least 25% of the material generated
- Reduce waste by reducing unnecessary packaging
- Increase amount of compost produced and used at City sites
- Educate and encourage residents and businesses on waste diversion practices

TACTIC

Build on successful implementation of recycling programs, and work with key partners including SWACO (Solid Waster Authority of Central Ohio) to address systemic issues beyond the City's influence.

Goal **STRONG COMMUNITY AND LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS**

The way our communities grow can have a significant impact on the environment.

WHY THE GOAL IS IMPORTANT

A vibrant uptown and community encourages active transportation, local businesses, civic pride, and tourism. Livable neighborhoods attract residents and businesses.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Examine codes and policies for land use to determine how to create walkable, bikeable communities and complete streets
- Improve non-motorized linkages throughout the community
- Create green spaces and improve traffic calming Uptown

TACTIC

Using the strength of the City's Comprehensive Plan, engage in community dialogue about livability, and what types of infill and redevelopment are appropriate, then apply this to planning and development regulations.



Goal

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Efficient movement of people via transit, cycling, walking, and multi- and single-occupant vehicles.

WHY THE GOAL IS IMPORTANT

Shifting to transit and active transportation improves physical health and community connectivity. It also reduces greenhouse gases, City infrastructure costs, and household transportation costs.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address known gaps in recreational trails network
- Explore ways to improve and promote alternative transportation in Central Ohio

TACTIC

Implement WPROS (Westerville Parks and Recreation Open Space) Plan in regards to Recreational Pathways

Goal

EDUCATE AND ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY

Our responsibility is not only for our own operations, but to lead by example to encourage greater environmental stewardship by residents and local businesses.

WHY THE GOAL IS IMPORTANT

Engaging and educating the community fosters a greater sense of community and pride; and leads to better and more strongly supported civic decisions.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reach out to stakeholders and residents to teach the value and practice sustainable living
- Create periodic reports to our community about our efforts

TACTIC

The City will continue to focus on its investment of educational pieces through social media, the City website, and the Community Recreation Guide with an emphasis on both parks and recreation and city initiatives.

Sustainability Plan

Implementation

The Westerville Parks and Recreation Department's Sustainability Plan sets broad direction for the whole community, but also identifies strategies for the City to move towards its goals and targets. The plan is long-term however, it is significant in the City's sustainability efforts and implementation is critical.

Initial Priorities

The City will focus on both its external partners and its internal systems and core service of delivery for the plan to be effective. Implementation must involve a coordinated and collaborative effort between both stakeholders and the community.

The city will continue to build strong internal systems to improve core service delivery and support sustainability. Improvements will follow the development standard guidelines set forth in the WPROS Master Plan Appendix 2. The Department will also continue to build on the foundation for effective external collaboration.

Conclusion

Westerville is committed to and takes seriously the responsibility to protect the land, sites and facilities entrusted to us by the residents and business partners in our community and becoming a sustainable community. All residents play a role in moving towards the goals and targets set forth in this plan. The City has a special responsibility in helping us make choices towards sustainability.

