

Randolph Township's Environmental Guidebook:

*A Working Document Offering Projects
for Consideration with Corresponding Action Plans*

Public Outreach Session
September 26, 2023



agenda

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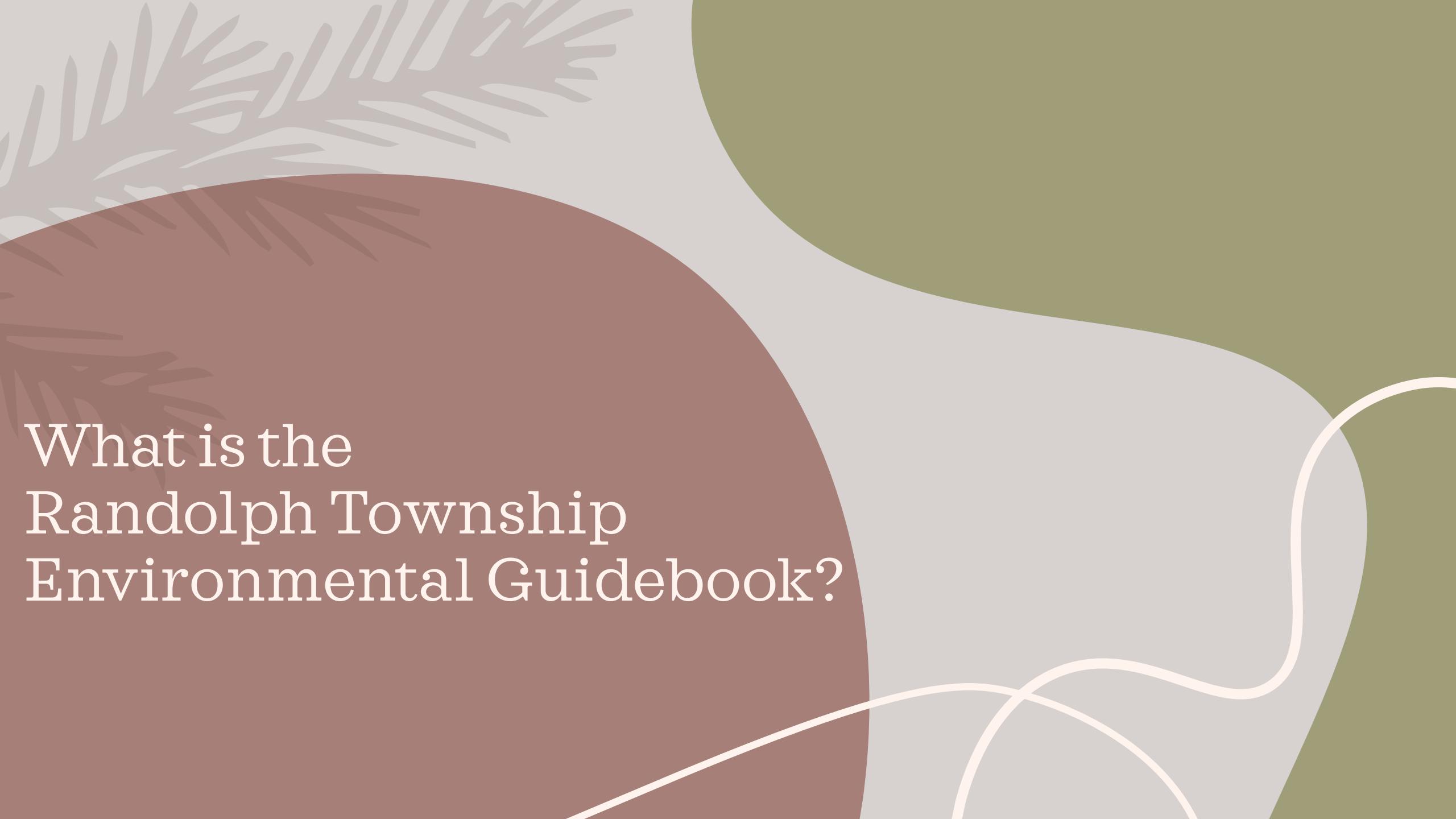
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Introduction of the Project Team

- Randolph Township was awarded a \$30,000.00 grant from the New Jersey Highlands Council in November 2022 to develop a planning document that “supports environmental and economic sustainability”.
- The Township hired Pinto Consulting, LLC to complete this Plan, including research, drafting the narrative, interviewing municipal staff and volunteers, mapping, and providing recommendations for feasible projects and plans that advance sustainability and resiliency in Randolph Township.
- The Consultant Team assembled by Pinto Consulting, LLC consists of:
 - Frank Pinto, President – Pinto Consulting, LLC
 - Tara Kenyon, AICP/PP – Primary Author; Principal – Kenyon Planning, LLC
 - Bob Canace, President – Conserving Advising Services, Inc.
- The Environmental and Landmarks Committee provided valuable guidance during the entire process.



Photo: Trail Entrance in Randolph Township



What is the
Randolph Township
Environmental Guidebook?

Purpose of the RTEG

- The RTEG is designed to be a living document, used to guide Township Staff, Municipal Boards/Commissions/Committees, volunteers, residents and business owners in the implementation of projects and plans that advance sustainable practices, conserves natural resources, and improves environmental quality and resiliency
- The RTEG will serve as an inventory of potential projects at a variety of scales and how they can be accomplished
- The RTEG demonstrates the commitment of the Township in protecting the environment and community health for many years to come



Photo: Citizen Steward Cleaning Storm Drain through the National Adopt-A-Drain Program



“Through strategic planning, environmental stewardship, a strict focus on sustainability, and public education, Randolph Township will become a sustainable, resilient community for its current and future residents, as well as a partner for other municipalities across New Jersey”

Vision of the RTEG

Goals of the RTEG



Methodology for developing the RTEG

- The Consultant Team created template for the RTEG and presented it to the Environmental and Landmarks Committee
- The Consultant Team drafted the background, prepared mapping, and performed interviews with key municipal staff and volunteers
- Review of the Township's Master Plan, completed projects, interview results, and feedback from the E&L Comm. recommendations for projects were developed and presented as the first draft of the RTEG.
- The E&L Comm. and municipal staff provided feedback and incorporated into the final draft of the RTEG.



Photo: Crosswalk Improvements at Intersection of Dover Chester Road and Calais Road

Structure of the RTEG

Executive Summary

- Brief overview of the RTEG

Introduction, Vision and Goals, and Methodology

- Background information about Randolph Township
- Vision and Goals
- How was the RTEG developed?

Environmental Assets and Constraints with Action Plans

- Described in 11 Action Categories
- Specific projects to protect natural resources and improve environmental quality, including the steps to implement, anticipated funding needs, and resources

Next Steps

- Recommendations for advancing the vision and goals of the RTEG

Appendices and Mapping

Citations

Action Categories in RTEG

- Action Categories describe natural conditions and land uses that affect the environment and public health, and advance sustainability and resiliency
- 11 Action Categories are discussed in the RTEG, laid out as separate chapters
- Each Action Category contains recommendations for projects and plans specific to that chapter

1. Air Quality	2. Climate
3. Community Engagement	4. Energy
5. Food	6. Housing and Economic Development
7. Natural Resources Management	8. Open Space
9. Transportation	10. Waste Management
11. Water	

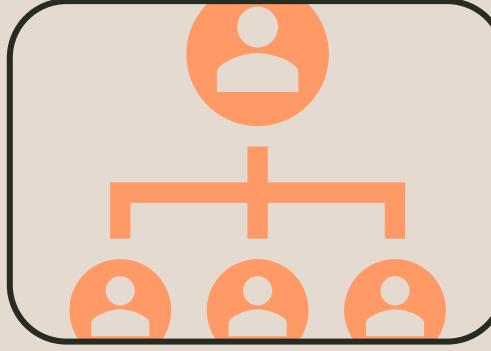
Structure of Each Recommended Project



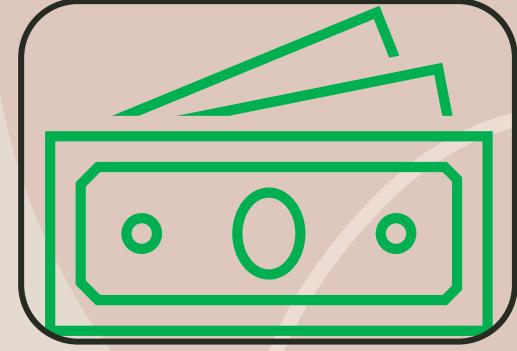
Purpose



Implementation
Steps



Approvals
Needed



Funding Resources
Available



Resources



Citations

Projects Master List

- Excel Workbook containing each of the 49 recommended projects in its own worksheet
- Allows for a simple and efficient review of available projects, steps for implementation, approvals needed, funding needs and grant sources, and allows for annual budgeting projections
- Worksheets can be easily shared with volunteers looking for projects to implement at a variety of scales



Photo: Stakeholders Meeting for Morris County's All Hazards Mitigation Plan

Projects Master List



Pinto Consulting, LLC.

ACTION 1: AIR QUALITY

Project 1A: Assess Readiness for Air Quality Alerts
Act as a conduit for this data by publishing local alerts about air quality conditions and forecasts.

Project 1B: Adopt an Anti-idling Resolution
To reduce avoidable air pollution.

ACTION 2: CLIMATE

Project 2A: Municipal Climate Awareness Plan
To establish a goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through measurable actions and timeframes.

Project 2B: Morris County OEM 2025 Update of Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan
To ensure hazards are mitigated in Randolph to the greatest extent possible.

ACTION 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Project 3A: Create a Randolph Environmental Action Team
To implement this plan. Can be a standalone committee or sub-committee of Env. and Landmarks Comm comprised of Volunteers and Staff.

Project 3B: Municipal Communications Strategy
To provide a framework for educating and engaging the community.

ACTION 4: ENERGY GENERATION AND CONSERVATION

Project 4A: Perform Energy Audits on Municipal Facilities
To conserve energy, increase efficiency and reduce costs. Will serve as a model for residents and businesses to follow.

Project 4B: Prioritize and Implement Recommendations from Energy Audit
To increase efficiency to reduce costs.

Project 4C: Investigate Feasibility of Solar Panels on Municipal Facilities
To reduce energy costs and encouraging residents to consider solar for their property.

Project 4D: Promote NJBPU's Residential and Commercial Clean Energy Programs
Education of public in clean energy programs they can take advantage of.

ACTION 5: FOOD

Project 5A: Develop "Buy Fresh Buy Local" Program
Reduce "food miles" traveled, increase reliance on locally produced foods.

Project 5B: Promote the "Jersey Fresh Program" for Local Farmers and Consumers
To retain and enhance the local agricultural industry.

Project 5C: Reduce Food Waste
To reduce food waste and create compost.

Project 5D: Expand the Community Garden
To increase the number of residents who can take advantage of the service.

ACTION 6: HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Project 6A: Review Rutgers University's Water Resources Program's Green Infrastructure Action Plan and Recommend Projects
To participate in a regional effort geared toward reducing storm water runoff volumes and pollutant loads at the watershed level.

Project 6B: Review and Make Recommendations (where feasible) that Municipal Ordinances Allow Green Infrastructure and Green Design
To ensure green design best management practices and green infrastructure strategies are permitted.



Recommended Projects

Project 2A: Municipal Climate Awareness Plan

Purpose

- Reduce GHG
- Provide recommendations to combat climate change at the local level

Implementation Strategies

- Gather data about GHG at the State and local levels = baseline
- After review of data, identify projects that will reduce GHG
 - Improve public transportation
 - Promote energy audits
 - Establish a target for tree plantings over time
- Identify simple and affordable projects that residents can implement to reduce GHG

Approvals Needed

- If adopted as part of the Randolph Township Master Plan, conformance with the Municipal Land Use Law is required

Funding Resources Available

- Planning Grants – New Jersey Highlands Council
- Small Grants Program – Sustainable Jersey

Resources

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Department of Energy
- New Jersey Office of Clean Energy
- *Municipal Climate Resilience Planning Guide* – New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy
- *Woodbridge Township's Sustainable Community Plan and Climate Action Plan*
- *Municipal Climate Awareness Plan Project Template* – Sustainable Jersey

Project 7A.1: Become a “Tree City USA”



Purpose

- To plant and maintain trees throughout the Township to filter air, provide habitat, reduce ambient temperatures, and more

Implementation Strategies

- Maintain a municipal “tree board”
- Adopt a Municipal Trees Ordinance
- Spend at least \$2.00 per capita in municipal funds on urban forestry
 - Wages
 - Trees
 - Supplies for planting
- Celebrate Arbor Day
- Apply to the Arbor Day Foundation for recognition as “Tree City USA”

Approvals Needed

- Township Planning Board for amendments to Municipal Trees Ordinance
- Township Council

Funding Resources Available

- Arbor Day Foundation
- National Wildlife Federation

Resources

- Arbor Day Foundation
- New Jersey Shade Tree Federation

Project 7B.1: Establish Native Grass Areas and Rain Gardens

Purpose

- To conserve and create habitat for pollinators and birds. Many of the native plants recommended also serve as elements in mitigating stormwater runoff

Implementation Strategies

- Identify appropriate sites
- Decide on native plants
 - Is stormwater runoff mitigation needed?
 - Is the area visible to the public?
 - What are on the onsite conditions (soil, shade, etc.)?
- Plant native grasses and plants
- Establish a maintenance schedule
- Install informative signage

Approvals Needed

- Township Council for use of municipal lands and/or open space

Funding Resources Available

- Gardens for Wildlife National Wildlife Federation (grants for plants)
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, community groups can provide assistance

Resources

- National Wildlife Federation
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station's Water Resource Program

Project 7B.4: Become a “Bee City USA”

Purpose

- To conserve habitat for pollinators, especially bees and to educate the public about the importance of pollinators

Implementation Strategies

- Form a Committee
- Designate a department sponsor
- Identify projects to conserve and enhance pollinator habitat, and document in a resolution for Township Council
 - Reduce pesticide use
 - Plant native plants
 - Public education
- Submit an application for recognition as a “Bee City USA”

Approvals Needed

- Township Planning Board for amendments to relevant Municipal Ordinances
- Township Council

Funding Resources Available

- \$300.00 application fee required
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, community groups can provide assistance

Resources

- Bee City USA
 - Webinars
 - Project Ideas
 - Application assistance

Projects 11B.1 and 11B.2: Host Rain Barrel and Rain Garden Workshops

Purpose

- To educate the public about how rain gardens and rain barrels are designed, constructed, and installed, and how they serve as green infrastructure

Implementation Strategies

- Decide upon the format of the workshops
- Contact professionals for support
 - Rutgers Cooperative Extension
 - New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors
- Investigate funding sources for materials
- Advertise and register participants
- Purchase supplies needed

Approvals Needed

- Township Council

Funding Resources Available

- Certain food producers may be able to provide 55-gallon drums
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, community groups can provide assistance

Resources

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors
- New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
- New Jersey Water Savers
- Sustainable Jersey



Rain Garden at Randolph Middle School



Rain Barrel Workshop at NJDEP



Opportunities for Volunteerism and Community Engagement

Volunteerism

- Volunteers looking for project ideas can use the RTEG, including the Projects Master List, to easily understand the implementation steps, anticipated funding, approvals needed, resources available
- The RTEG provides volunteers with a user-friendly guide to complete the recommended projects and document success
- Volunteers often looking for projects include:
 - Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
 - National Honors Society
 - Master Gardeners
 - Graduate Students
 - Employees seeking to fulfill Corporate and Social Responsibility pledges
 - Non-profit entities with funding in place for specific charges



Photo: Master Gardeners of Morris County

Community Engagement

- The RTEG is an excellent resource for educating the public about why these projects are important and what they will accomplish over time
- The RTEG will serve as a catalyst for engaging the community and create citizen stewards
- The RTEG has a focus on prioritizing simple and affordable projects – residents and business owners can implement recommended projects at a variety of scales
- Increased community engagement will lead to duplication of projects, creating a more sustainable and resilient Randolph Township

Photo: Community Garden at Veterans Community Park



Next Steps

Next Steps

- The Environmental and Landmarks Committee will present the RTEG to the Township Council on October 5th
- The RTEG will be made available to the public for use as a “living document” – volunteerism and community engagement begins right away!
- The Environmental and Landmarks Committee will review the RTEG annually to:
 - Document completed projects
 - Add new projects
 - Document **measures of success over time**
 - Reduction in GHG
 - Number of newly planted trees
 - Number of wildlife shelters installed
 - Ordinances amended/adopted
 - Pounds of trash removed during stream cleanups
 - Plans completed
 - Partnerships created
 - Much more!



Photo: Heistein Park



Questions?