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Romeoville Creates New Conservation and Sustainability Committee ***Increases Conservation Areas in Comprehensive Plan***

At tonight's Village Board Meeting, a new committee was established to focus on conservation and sustainability. The nine-member committee will be appointed and charged with the responsibility of providing assistance and guidance to the Village in promoting conservation, environmental stewardship, and sustainability for the benefit of current and future generations of residents.

The new committee replaces the previous Green Team initiative that the Village originally created in 2008. This new effort will build upon many of the endeavors already ongoing in the community like the volunteer program for the clean-up and restoration at O'Hare Woods in partnership with the Conservation Foundation. The Village has already launched programs to promote rain barrel usage and water conservation, recycling, solar panel installation at homes and businesses, and a successful community garden program, among others.

Building upon those efforts, the committee will help generate ideas and recommendations on the development and implementation of conservation measures and sustainable practices. They will also engage in education, outreach, and the development of community initiatives within the village to encourage residents and the business community to adopt and implement conservation measures and sustainable practices. The committee will develop a Sustainability Challenge for village businesses, not for profits, and community groups. The voluntary program will evaluate current practices and suggest the implementation of new conservation and sustainability practices. Annual recognition of participants' successful efforts will follow.

"We are excited to establish this new committee to build upon the many ongoing efforts the Village has already begun," said Mayor Noak. "We hope that through even greater participation from our residents and businesses, we can make a positive impact now and for future generations."

In addition, the Village Board passed an update to the Village's Comprehensive Plan that added an additional 375 acres of conservation area to the east side of the village. This is in addition to the 358.25 acres of existing park and conservation space the Village controls and the hundreds of other acres of open space under various other jurisdictions.

Anyone interested in any of these programs can find more information by visiting the Village of Romeoville's website at romeoville.org.

