



STAR COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM CERTIFICATION RESULTS

The Village of Park Forest, IL

Certified 3-STAR Community

April 2015



THE STAR COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

The STAR Community Rating System® (STAR) is the nation’s first comprehensive framework and certification program for evaluating local sustainability, encompassing economic, environmental, and social performance measures.

Sustainability means different things to different people, so STAR provides a clear, data-driven approach to assessing communities’ sustainability efforts. The STAR framework helps communities assess their efforts in key areas and define sustainability for themselves.

The rating system is maintained by STAR Communities, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC that works to advance a national framework to evaluate and certify sustainable communities in North America.

STAR was developed for local governments by local governments. Nearly 200 volunteers representing 50 cities and counties, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, national associations, universities, utilities and private corporations contributed thousands of hours and diverse expertise to the development of the STAR

Community Rating System. Serving on steering, technical and ad hoc committees, these experts led the development of the framework, credits, methodologies for measurement and requirements for achieving and maintaining a STAR Community Rating.

To promote continuous improvement towards sustainability, STAR Communities has developed a certification program based off of the measures in the rating system. To apply for a STAR Community Rating, the town, city or county government must be the primary applicant. Staff and/or representatives of the community fill out an online application by providing data on a variety of community sustainability indicators and coordinating data collection from both governmental agencies and community partners.

Communities choose the measures that they would like to report on and are not required to submit on all measures. This allows local governments to report on the objectives that are most important and relevant to their communities.

Once the community submits the completed application forms, STAR Communities’ verification teams reviews and verifies all measures for accuracy and then assigns a rating based upon a total cumulative score of points. A STAR Community Rating lasts for 3 years after the certification date.

Goal Area	Purpose and Intent
Built Environment	Achieve livability, choice, and access for all where people live, work, and play
Climate & Energy	Reduce climate impacts through adaptation and mitigation efforts and increase resource efficiency
Education, Arts & Community	Empower vibrant, educated, connected, and diverse communities
Economy & Jobs	Create equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs
Equity & Empowerment	Ensure equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity for all citizens
Health & Safety	Strengthen communities to be healthy, resilient and safe places for residents and businesses
Natural Systems	Protect and restore the natural resource base upon which life depends

Table 1: The Rating System is divided into 7 thematic sustainability goal areas.

PARK FOREST'S STAR JOURNEY

The Village of Park Forest started on the path to certification as one of the 20 communities in the Spring 2014 Leadership STAR Community Program. The Leadership STAR Community Program is a one-year all-inclusive package that provides extensive staff support and services to a cohort of communities as they work through the STAR Community Rating System measuring local sustainability and pursuing certification.

The Spring 2014 cohort was the inaugural class of the Leadership Program, which is based off of the successful STAR Community Pilot Program. The 20 Leadership Communities met in Ft. Lauderdale, FL in January 2014 to receive an orientation and intensive training on the Rating System's measures, project management, communicating results, and certification. Over the course of 2014, Park Forest received support such as regularly held webinars and check-in calls with a dedicated STAR coordinator.

Since October 2012, 66 cities and counties have participated in the Leadership Program. As of June 2015, 35 have achieved STAR certification with another 10 to certify this year.



Spring 2014 Communities at the orientation in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.



Mayor John A. Ostenburg and city staff member pose with Park Forest's commemorative plaque at a city council meeting on June 2, 2015.

In April 2015, the Village of Park Forest, IL was awarded the Certified 3-STAR Community Rating for national sustainability leadership. The community received 261.9 points out of the available 720 points. Park Forest is the second community in Illinois to achieve certification under the STAR Community Rating System.

Park Forest's sustainability efforts in recent years have been aided by the support of local technical assistance from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and by grants from The Chicago Community Trust that have funded the work of a sustainability coordinator who has spearheaded many of Park Forest's advancements in sustainable practices.

The 3-STAR Community Rating adds to a growing list of accolades Park Forest has received for sustainable leadership since beginning a push in 2012 to become the most sustainable community in Illinois. Park Forest has also been named the winner of the Governor's Sustainability Award (2014), the winner of the Illinois American Planning Association's Best Sustainably Plan Award (2013), and the winner of the Congress for New Urbanism Illinois Charter Award for Best Town Plan (2013).

PARK FOREST ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

Communities pursuing STAR certification accumulate points for their achievements across seven goal areas that are used to determine their rating. There are three STAR certification levels: 3-STAR Community (200-399 points), 4-STAR Community (400-599 points), and 5-STAR (600+ points).

Park Forest received a score of 261.9, which qualifies them as a **Certified 3-STAR Community**, recognized for national leadership in sustainability.

The Village scored highest in the areas of Built Environment and Health & Safety, earning 60% and 50% of the available points respectively. Climate & Energy and Equity & Empowerment received the lowest scores, at 26% and 19% respectively. The community also received 20% of the available points for Innovation & Process.



Table 2: Number of points achieved by goal area.

Goal Area	Points Achieved	Points Available	Point Missed	Percentage Achieved
Built Environment	59.6	100	40.4	60%
Climate & Energy	25.8	100	74.2	26%
Economy & Jobs	34.7	100	65.3	35%
Education, Arts & Community	24.8	70	45.2	35%
Equity & Empowerment	19.3	100	80.7	19%
Health & Safety	49.8	100	50.2	50%
Natural Systems	37.9	100	62.1	38%
Innovation & Process	10	50	40.0	20%
Totals	261.9	720	458.1	36%

Table 3: Summary of Park Forest’s scores by goal area.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The seven Objectives in the Built Environment Goal Area evaluate community development patterns, livability, and design characteristics, with emphasis on access and choice for all residents regardless of income.

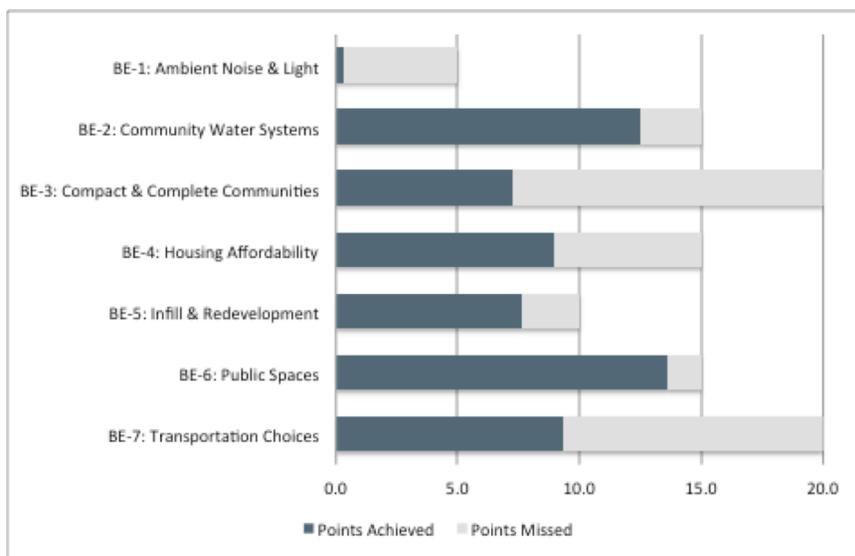


Table 4: Points achieved and missed in Built Environment.

Park Forest scored highest in the Built Environment. High scores in BE-2: Community Water Systems, BE-5: Infill & Redevelopment, and BE-6: Public Spaces contributed to this result, making up over half (33.8) on the goal area's 59.61 points. There is an opportunity for the Village to make improvements in the objectives of BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities and BE-7: Transportation Choices.

BE-1: Ambient Noise & Light was the lowest scoring Objective in Built Environment. To improve, Park Forest could look into actions such as adopting a community light policy, ordinance, or regulations and establishing programs that eliminate existing sources of light pollution coming from municipally-owned entities.

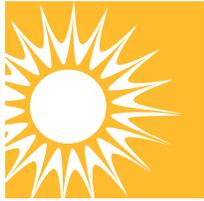
Park Forest scored well in **BE-2: Community Water Systems** by achieving Drinking Water Quality and Safe Stormwater Management Outcomes and completing high-point actions such as infrastructure upgrades and wetlands restoration projects.

While Park Forest did receive points in **BE-3: Compact & Complete Communities** for several of the actions supporting compact, mixed-use development, the Village lost points due to the fact the Uniform Development Code has not been officially approved as a policy or code. The Village should perform the spatial analysis required for the Outcomes to gain a deeper understanding of compact and complete centers.

In **BE-4: Housing Affordability**, Park Forest got points for several actions as well as for meeting the Affordable Housing Preservation Outcome. The Village could create more new affordable housing options to meet Outcome 2, and require, incentivize, or subsidize creation of affordable housing in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development.

Park Forest was able to demonstrate high levels of proximity and access in **BE-6: Public Spaces**. 90% of Park Forest residents live within a half-mile walk distance of a park or public space and 100% of residents live within 3 miles of an off-road trail.

In **BE-7: Transportation Choices**, Park Forest received credit for 6 actions, including for increasing the mileage of sidewalks and bike lanes and passing a complete streets policy. However the Village did not achieve any of the Outcomes and could consider tracking and improving transportation mode split, affordability, and safety.



CLIMATE & ENERGY

The 7 Objectives in STAR's Climate & Energy Goal Area aim to reduce climate impacts and increase resource efficiency in order to create safer and healthier communities.

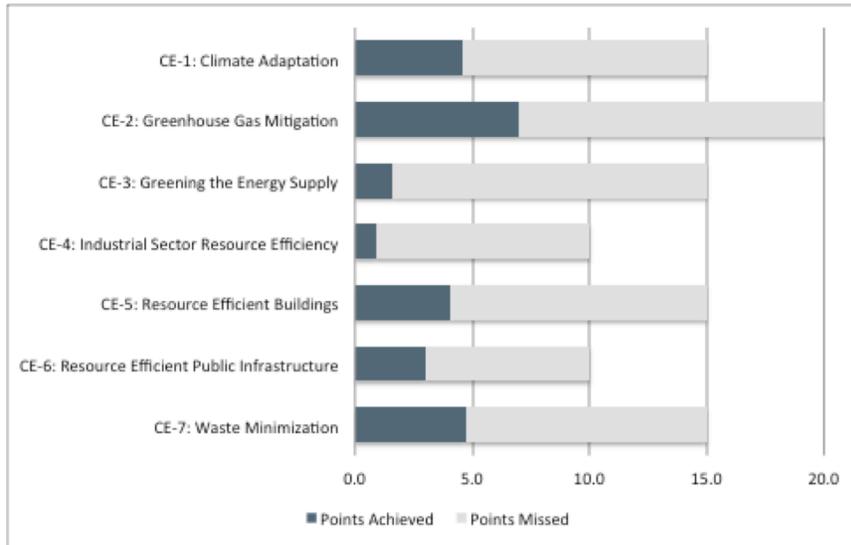


Table 5: Points achieved and missed in Climate & Energy.

Climate & Energy was one of Park Forest's lowest scoring goal areas, receiving only 26% of the available points, and thus represents an opportunity for improvement. There are several actions that would contribute to improvements in multiple Objectives. For example, adopting a climate action plan would count for credit under CE-1: Climate Adaptation and CE-2: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation. Likewise, programs that improve energy and water efficiency may apply to CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply, CE-4: Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency, and CE-5: Resource Efficient Buildings.

In **CE-1: Climate Adaptation**, Park Forest received credit for creating programs and services that address climate change threats and improving facilities to be better prepared. The Village could consider performing a vulnerability assessment to assess potential climate change threats, and creating an education and outreach campaign to educate citizens and businesses on threats.

Park Forest received points for adopting energy efficiency regulations, upgrading facilities to reduce waste, and moving the community towards alternative modes of transportation in **CE-2: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation**. The community should consider tracking GHG emissions to achieve the outcome.

CE-3: Greening the Energy Supply looks at both electrical energy supply and green vehicles. Park Forest should consider a comprehensive programmatic and policy shift towards alternative fuels and renewable energy sources. A good place to start is establishing partnerships with critical energy providers and adopting renewable energy or alternative fuel targets for locally owned facilities and vehicles.

Park Forest is making progress in **CE-5: Resource Efficient Buildings** by upgrading building codes, training inspectors to enforce water and energy efficiency standards, and renovating 7 buildings, such as the Village Hall, Freedom Hall, Police Station, Fire Station, Tennis and Health Club, and Library to improve efficiency. The Village could consider more programs educate and assist homeowners and businesses in pursuing efficiency measures.

In **CE-7: Waste Minimization**, Park Forest is working with residents and businesses to recycle and reduce their waste footprint. The community provides services for e-waste, clothing, and textile recycling. Park Forest could consider developing a waste management plan and participating in a regional coalition that addressed waste management targets.



ECONOMY & JOBS

The 6 Objectives of STAR's Economy & Jobs Goal Area work together to promote equitably shared prosperity and access to quality jobs.



Table 6: Points achieved and missed in Economy & Jobs.

Over the past few years, Park Forest has worked with the business community locally and with regional partners to support and improve local businesses and grow the local economy. This can be seen by strong performance in EJ-1: Business Retention & Development, EJ-2: Green Market Development, and EJ-5: Targeted Industry Development. However, the Village could do more to support citizens and residents through the actions in EJ-4 Quality Jobs & Living Wages and EJ-6 Workforce Development.

In **EJ-1: Business Retention and Development**, Park Forest achieved points for actions that engage and provide services for the local business community. The Village also won a Small Business Association Growth Accelerator award to create the SouthWorks MakerLab business incubator.

Actions such as the installation of electric vehicle charging stations and a green business promotion program developed in partnership with the Illinois Green Business Association contributed to success in **EJ-2: Green Market Development**. The Calumet Green Manufacturing Partnership is a rare example of a Chicago and Cook County inter-College collaboration; it has developed strong relationships among five regional Colleges. Going forward, Park Forest could consider adopting a green purchasing policy for renewable energy and also for the procurement of safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible products.

In **EJ-3: Local Economy**, Park Forest demonstrated an increase in the total funds deposited in locally owned financial institutions. The Village also supported promotional campaigns to bank locally, buy locally, and buy from small and independent businesses and retailers, such as the Midsummer Madness event.

Park Forest did not earn many points in **EJ-4 Quality Jobs & Living wages**. To improve this score, the Village could consider enacting a living wage policy for local government positions and contractors, and should promote family-friendly workplace policies and benefits such as paid sick days, family leave, flexible scheduling, job sharing, and easily accessible childcare, both within the local government and also in the broader community through training programs and education for the employers.

In **EJ-5: Targeted Industry Development**, Park Forest achieved points for all 8 actions in the targeted industries of Manufacturing, Retail, and Food & Accommodation.



EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY

The 5 Objectives of STAR's Education, Arts & Community Goal Area promote an educated, cohesive, and socially connected community.

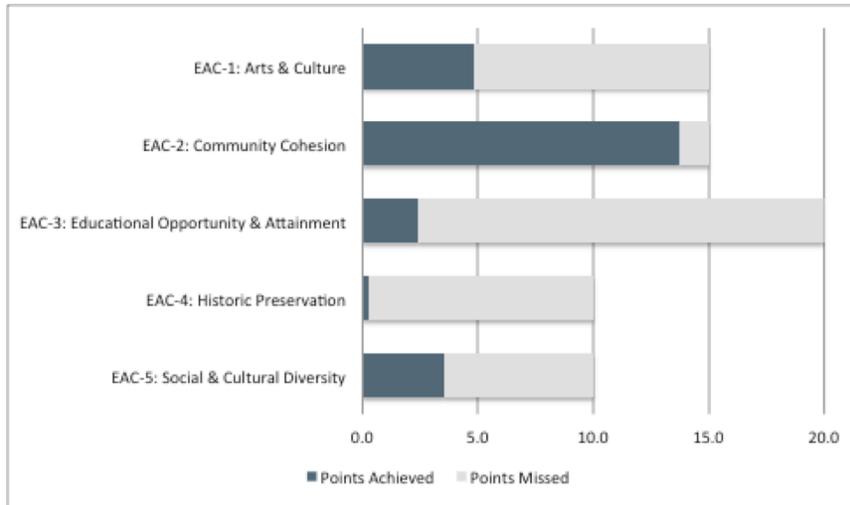


Table 7: Points achieved and missed in Education, Arts & Community.

Park Forest scored highly in EAC-2: Community Cohesion, providing adequate venues for community interaction, community building activities and events, and the sharing of information about community issues and services. However, there is much room for improvement in this goal area, especially in EAC-3: Educational Opportunity & Attainment and EAC-4: Historic Preservation. Since many of these Objectives fall outside the jurisdiction of the local government, the Village will need to strengthen relationships with community partners and local nonprofits and the school board to demonstrate future progress.

In **EAC-1: Arts & Culture**, Park Forest showed financial support for the arts through the Park Forest Art Fair and the Tall Grass Arts Association. The partnership between the local government and the Arts Association demonstrates that the arts are important to the overall quality of life for the community.

Park Forest received 13.7 of the 15 points available in **EAC-2: Community Cohesion** by demonstrating that 88% of residents live within one mile of a community venue with free events and programming. The Village provides opportunities for residents to meet with elected officials and staff and holds regular neighborhood meetings throughout the year, which have facilitated the adoption of ordinances like crime-free housing, parental responsibility, and a noise ordinance.

While Park Forest received credit for supporting after-school programming, tutoring and mentoring opportunities, and summer camp for youth, the Village could look to improve their scores in **EAC-3: Educational Opportunity & Attainment**. Education is a key factor in ensuring local sustainability, as well as the future success and opportunities afforded to children.

Similarly, there is room for improvement in **EAC-4: Historic Preservation**, which was one of the lowest scoring Objectives in the assessment. Park Forest could start by developing an inventory of designated and eligible historic structures and sites in the community, and could then look to adopt a historic preservation ordinance and plan.

Park Forest promotes **EAC-5: Social & Cultural Diversity** through actions such as equity and diversity training for local government staff and through programming around events like Black History Month. The Village could consider adopting a diversity policy for local boards and associations, which could assist in achieving the Outcomes in the future.



EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

The 6 Objectives in STAR's Equity & Empowerment Goal Area promote equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity for all residents.

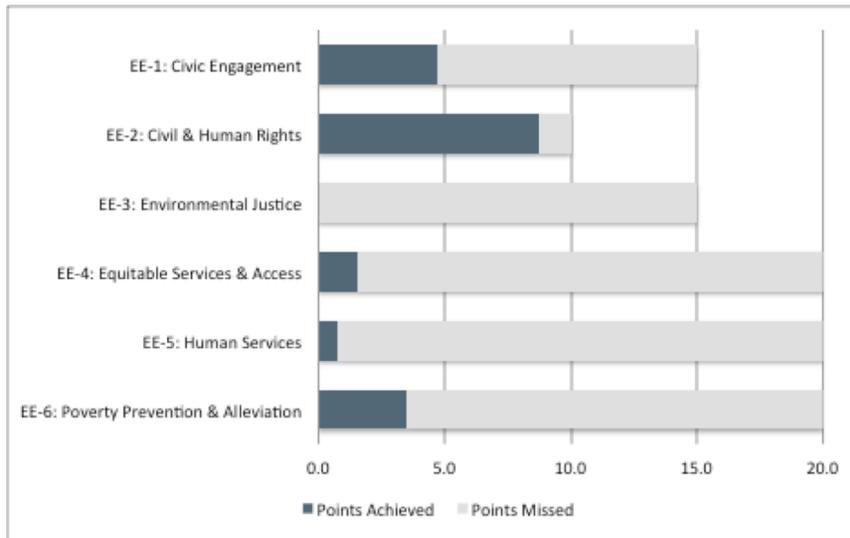


Table 8: Points achieved and missed in Equity & Empowerment.

The Equity & Empowerment goal area was Park Forest's lowest scoring goal area, which is not uncommon amongst certified communities. Park Forest was able to demonstrate progress in the two process-oriented objectives of EE-1: Civic Engagement and EE-2: Civil & Human Rights, which demonstrates that many of the necessary legal protections are in place. The community should consider delving more deeply into EE-4: Equitable Services & Access and EE-5: Human Services, to analyze whether the benefits of sustainability are being extended to all residents and to find ideas for new programs, plans, and partnerships to further progress.

Park Forest achieved actions in **EE-1: Civic Engagement** such as providing regular opportunities to meet with local government staff and elected officials, developing a volunteer program to help residents get involved with the local government, and providing support to civic and nonprofit groups. These actions support the Outcomes of voting, volunteerism, and sense of empowerment, which the community could consider tracking in the future.

In **EE-2: Civil & Human Rights**, Park Forest was able to achieve 8.7 of the 10 available points by meeting the Outcome and demonstrating that all civil and human rights complaints in the past 3 years have been investigated and violations redressed in a timely manner. The Village also has a Commission on Human Relations, a Fair Housing Commission, and a Mediation Task Force, which ensure access equity, and inclusion.

Park Forest did not receive any points in **EE-3: Environmental Justice**. The Village should investigate whether there are polluted and/or toxic environments that cause disproportionate health hazards to low-income residents and persons of color. If so, they should consider reviewing best practices in the Technical Guide.

The spatial analysis in **EE-4: Equitable Services & Access** is valuable for understanding the distribution of services and access in the community. While Park Forest was able to achieve a few of the actions, the Village should consider undertaking the analysis for the Outcome.

Park Forest only applied for credit for one action under **EE-5: Human Services**. Park Forest should consider conducting a community needs assessment to identify priority service needs and resources in the community. Many of the actions depend upon nonprofit service providers, so the Village could consider using the needs assessment to strengthen and support these partnerships.



HEALTH & SAFETY

The 7 Objectives in STAR's Health & Safety Goal Area recognize that the development of healthy, safe, and resilient communities requires proactive efforts to prevent disease, injury, and premature death by fortifying protective factors and reducing risk factors that undermine healthy outcomes.

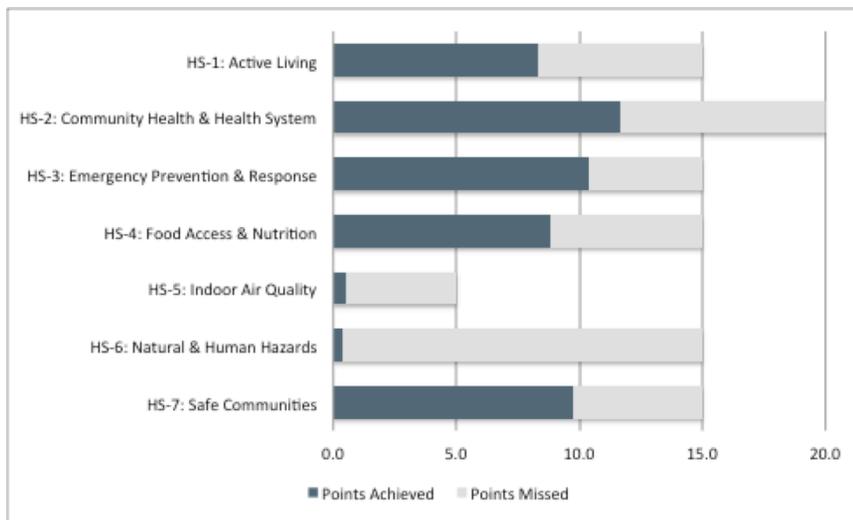


Table 9: Points achieved and missed in Health & Safety.

Park Forest achieved 50% of the points in Health & Safety, making it the second highest scoring goal area in the assessment. The Village achieved over half the points in HS-1: Active Living, HS-2: Community Health & Health Systems, HS-3 Emergency Prevention & Response, HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition, and HS-7: Safe Communities. However, the Village scored almost no points in HS-5: Indoor Air Quality and HS-6: Natural & Human Hazards.

Park Forest received credit in **HS-1: Active Living** for a complete streets policy, upgrades to the Aqua Center, and improved bicycle amenities such as bike racks on buses and in key community locations such as parks, the Village Hall and the Village Green.

In **HS-2: Community Health & Health Systems**, Park Forest received credit in Outcome 4 by demonstrating that the local public health department is accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board in 2014. They can build on strong progress by considering adopting a health-in-all policy for local decision-making.

The local fire department has received a Class 4 ISO rating for superior fire protection under **HS-3: Emergency Prevention & Response**. The fire department also coordinates the Park Forest Response Plan, which provides for the safety and security of the citizens in all manners of community-wide emergencies.

In **HS-4: Food Access & Nutrition**, Park Forest demonstrated an increase in the ability of low-income families to access low-cost, healthful food, as well as a decrease in the percentage of residents living in a food desert. The opening of the County Squire grocery store and a long-term commitment to community gardening and farmers markets contributed to success in the Outcomes.

Park Forest received credit in **HS-5: Indoor Air Quality** for passing an indoor smoking ban in 2007. The Village could consider building on this by prohibit smoking in multi-family buildings community-wide or in buildings controlled by the local housing authority.

Park Forest demonstrated that low levels of violent crime in **HS-7: Safe Communities**. The local police department is partnering with the Crisis Center of South Suburbia to intervene with domestic violence cases that have occurred with Park Forest, and also runs a Police Athletic & Activity Center (PAAC) program for the youth of Park Forest.



NATURAL SYSTEMS

The 6 Objectives in the Natural Systems Goal Area help communities protect and restore the places that provide resources to support life. The Goal Area takes an ecosystem services approach and recognizes the wide range of benefits natural systems provide, such as food, water, and natural regulating processes affecting climate and floods.

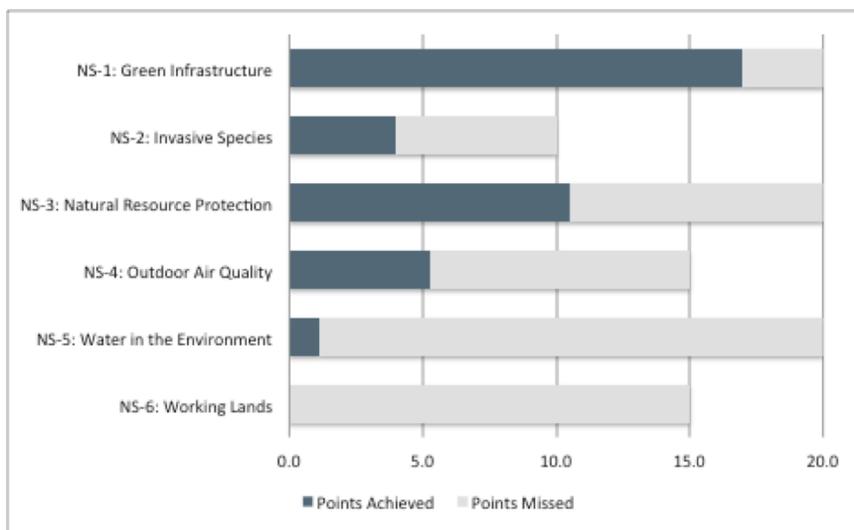


Table 10: Points achieved and missed in Natural Systems.

Natural Systems was the third highest scoring goal in Park Forest's STAR assessment. The Village scored particular well in NS-1: Green Infrastructure and NS-3: Natural Resource Protection, due to recent impressive wetlands restoration projects. There is an opportunity for improvement in NS-5: Water in the Environment, and also in NS-6: Working Lands.

Park Forest achieved both of the Outcomes in **NS-1: Green Infrastructure**, demonstrating that 57% of the jurisdiction's land area has protected vegetated surfaces that provide localized cooling effects, water management through wetlands and permeable surfaces, and/or recreation through parks. Additionally, these projects are distributed throughout the community. 95% of Park Forest's population lives within a ½ mile walk distance from a green infrastructure feature.

The Village is also making progress in **NS-2: Invasive Species**. In 2013 the Village began a targeted and intensive Three Year Ecosystem Enhancement Plan to regain control of invasive and exotic species such as cattail and reed canary grass in the Central Park Wetlands.

In **NS-3: Natural Resources Protection**, Park Forest received credit for recent restoration efforts such as the Central Park Wetlands, a 50-acre wetland in the center of the Village. Other projects of note include the Rail Fan Park prairie establishment, the Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve, and the Old Plank Road Trail, a 22-mile Rails-to-Trails project that passes through prairie, wood and wetland habitat.

Park Forest's location in the Chicago metro area may make achieving the Outcome of attainment status for all criteria air pollutants in **NS-4: Outdoor Air Quality** difficult. However, provisions such as advanced parking strategies in the Unified Development Code, once passed, will help the Village to make further progress in air quality initiatives.

Park Forest received almost none of the points available in **NS-5: Water in the Environment**. They received points for the Thorn Creek Watershed Plan, and should consider some of the projects associated with both Thorn Creek and the Central Park Wetlands for future credit in this Objective.



INNOVATION & PROCESS

The Innovation & Process category is an avenue for discovering emerging and leading edge practices that communities are implementing to improve sustainability outcomes.

IP-1: BEST PRACTICES & PROCESSES

Park Forest received 5 of the 10 points available for IP-1.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Park Forest has a long-standing commitment to the “three E’s” of sustainability – environment, economy, and equity. As a planned community built in the 1950s and 60s, Park Forest was designed as an early model for smart growth, with land use patterns that facilitate walkability to community assets.

In 2011, Park Forest worked with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to develop the ***Growing Green: Park Forest Sustainability Plan***, which was unanimously adopted as an element of the Village’s comprehensive plan in May 2012. It was developed with the input of over 450 residents, and has the strong support of the Village’s governing body and management team.

The plan guides the Board of Trustees’ strategic priorities for the coming year:

1. Generate Economic and Business sustainability for the Village
2. Create a flexible infrastructure capital plan
3. Develop a renewed, contemporary youth program.
4. Improved Code Compliance
5. Fiscal and Service sustainability based on triple bottom line
6. Sustain the Village’s role as a catalyst for innovative change in the region.

IP-4: REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Park Forest received all 5 points available for IP-4.

ECONOMY & JOBS

EJ-6: Workforce Readiness

Park Forest received credit for the opening of the SouthWorks MakerLab in spring 2015. At the outset, the equipment in the Park Forest MakerLab will include a 3D printer, a laser cutter, an electronics lab, several computers and design software, and machine shop equipment. The goal of the MakerLab is to enable users to create prototypes of new products that can then be marketed for larger production and sale.

This is part of a regional collaboration of makers spaces intended to improve the Chicago Southland’s manufacturing capabilities, train a best-in-class workforce, and create opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship in the making of things. The collaboration seeks to leverage the manufacturing and transportation clusters that already part of the Southland and to prepare for the infrastructure improvements like the Illiana Expressway and South Suburban Airport that will have transformative impact on the region.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

BE-5: Infill & Development

The South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority and its companion organization, the Cook County Land Bank and Development Authority are the first land banks in the State of Illinois. The Land Bank was formally created in September 2012 in response to the severe impacts that foreclosures have had on residential, commercial, and industrial properties in the South Suburbs. The Land Bank has the authority to purchase, hold, maintain and sell properties within any of the member communities. Land banking is an essential piece of infill and redevelopment for communities that have had difficulty with abandoned properties and foreclosed homes.

NEXT STEPS

Certification isn't the end of Park Forest's STAR Journey. The results of the assessment should provide insight to the current state of sustainability and ideas for improvement and next steps.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

In order to improve your score, STAR Communities recommends that the local government perform either a gaps analysis or a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis. Some tips for how to start:

1. Look at the objectives with lower scores.
2. Ascertain why points were missed. Some possibilities:
 - a. The data wasn't available.
 - b. The data was available, but had not been tracked for long enough to demonstrate a trend line.
 - c. The data was available, but did not meet the STAR trend line or threshold requirement.
 - d. The outcome wasn't a community priority for reporting.
 - e. Didn't have GIS analysis capability or another required skillset to complete the analysis.
 - f. Couldn't find the correct data holder.
3. Prioritize measures for future tracking based upon existing community plans and needs assessments.
4. Identify opportunities for future actions, such as new policies or programs.
5. Develop a plan and timeline for the new actions and measures.
6. Develop community working groups or committees to assist in implementation, or task a green team or other existing sustainability group with aiding in implementation.
7. Consider embedding STAR metrics into annual reports, plans, and local government decision-making processes.

BENEFITS OF STAR CERTIFICATION

Communities join STAR for mainly reasons and report a variety of benefits from STAR Certification. These can help to communicate the value of STAR Certification and provide ideas for how to use Park Forest's STAR rating going forward.

Communities who achieve certification under the STAR Community Rating System are:

- Aligning local plans and priorities with a national sustainability framework
- Strengthening local metrics
- Demonstrating a commitment to data-driven performance management
- Increasing transparency and accountability through public-facing reporting
- Gaining competitive advantage and attract funding
- Catalyzing action in implementing solutions and best practices for sustainability
- Communicating resilience and risk management to municipal bond agencies
- Integrating health and equity into existing sustainability or environmental efforts
- Strengthening civic, university, and governmental partnerships throughout the community
- Building and branding a culture of local sustainability
- Improving sustainability communication and education
- Identifying gaps and prioritize future investment
- Celebrating local progress and achieve national recognition

APPENDIX A:

THE STAR COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

The STAR Community Rating System® (STAR) is the nation’s first comprehensive framework and certification program for evaluating local sustainability, encompassing economic, environmental, and social performance measures. Sustainability means different things to different people, so STAR provides a clear, data-driven approach to assessing communities’ sustainability efforts. The STAR framework helps communities assess their efforts in key areas and define sustainability for themselves.

Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Economy & Jobs	Education, Arts & Community	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems
Ambient Noise & Light	Climate Adaptation	Business Retention & Development	Arts & Culture	Civic Engagement	Active Living	Green Infrastructure
Community Water Systems	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Green Market Development	Community Cohesion	Civil & Human Rights	Community Health & Health System	Invasive Species
Compact & Complete Communities	Greening the Energy Supply	Local Economy	Educational Opportunity & Attainment	Environmental Justice	Emergency Prevention & Response	Natural Resource Protection
Housing Affordability	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	Historic Preservation	Equitable Services & Access	Food Access & Nutrition	Outdoor Air Quality
Infill & Redevelopment	Resource Efficient Buildings	Targeted Industry Development	Social & Cultural Diversity	Human Services	Indoor Air Quality	Water in the Environment
Public Spaces	Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure	Workforce Readiness		Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	Natural & Human Hazards	Working Lands
Transportation Choices	Waste Minimization				Safe Communities	

Table 11: STAR Community Rating System Framework

APPENDIX B: THE STAR VERIFICATION PROCESS

The primary applicant for a STAR Community Rating is a local government - a town, city or county government. Participating local governments fill out the online application by providing data on a variety of community sustainability indicators and coordinating data collection from outside agencies and community partners.

Communities choose the measures that they would like to report on and are not required to submit on all measures. This allows local governments to report on the objectives that are most important and relevant to their communities.

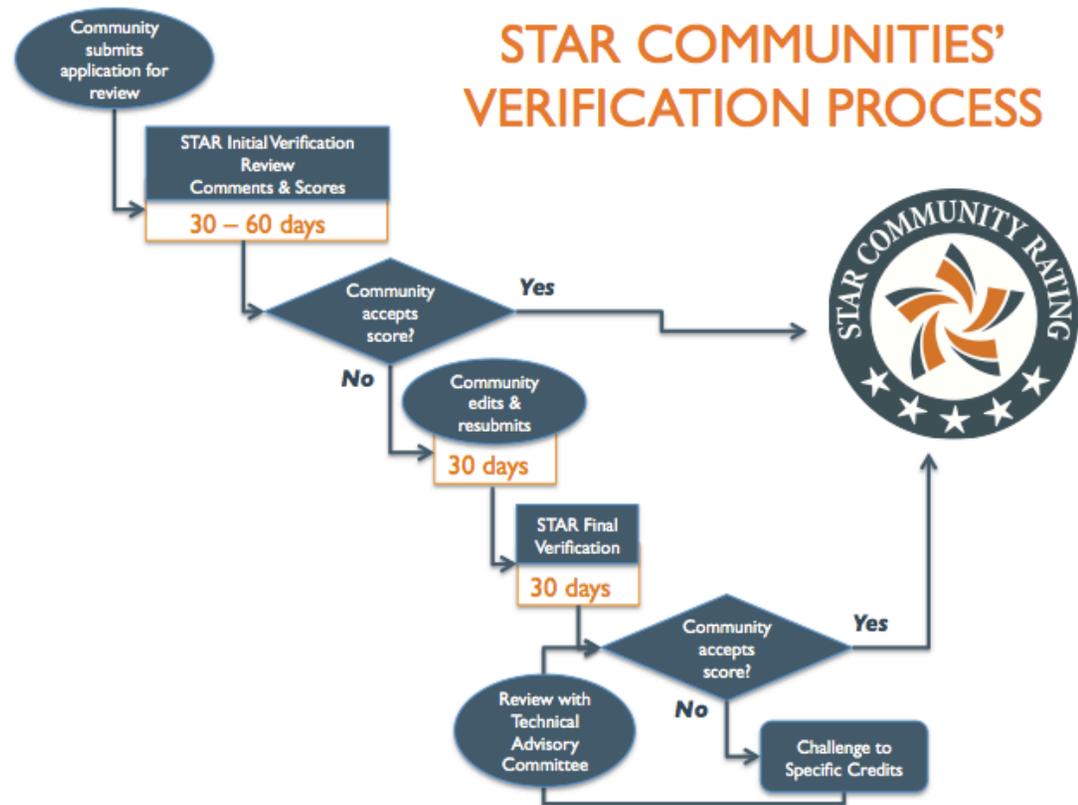
Once a community submits a completed application, STAR Communities' Technical Team reviews and verifies data for accuracy, and then assigns a rating based upon the total cumulative score of points achieved out of a maximum of 720. A STAR Community Rating lasts for 3 years after the certification date.

Table 12: STAR Communities Verification Process.

CERTIFICATION LEVELS

Points required for the certification levels are as follows:

- 3-STAR Community - 200-399 points
 - Recognized for sustainability leadership
- 4-STAR Community - 400-599 points
 - Recognized for national excellence
- 5-STAR Community - 600+ points
 - Recognized as top tier achiever in national sustainability



APPENDIX D:

FINAL STAR SCORE RESULTS

Objective	Evaluation Measure	Evaluation Measure Details	STAR Final Grading
BE-1	Action 1	Adopt a community noise policy, ordinance, or regulations as needed based upon a local assessment	Approved
BE-2	Outcome 1	Drinking Water Quality: Part 1: Demonstrate that the community is not in violation of EPA's 5% standard for coliform bacteria in water pipes --AND-- Part 2: Option A: Demonstrate that the water supplied to residents is not in violation of EPA standards for turbidity and water pathogens --OR-- Option B: Decrease the amount of all regulated contaminants over time	Accepted
BE-2	Outcome 2	Secure Water Supply: Part 1: Demonstrate that height of the water table for subsurface aquifers has been stable or rising --AND-- Part 2: Demonstrate that the height of water for surface waters is within the range to meet expected demand for the next 5 years or is rising	Denied
BE-2	Outcome 3	Safe Wastewater Management: Part 1: Demonstrate that all publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) are in compliance with EPA effluent permits --AND-- Part 2: Demonstrate that existing industrial dischargers are in compliance with EPA permits	Denied
BE-2	Outcome 4	Safe Stormwater Management: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit(s) have been obtained prior to discharging stormwater	Approved
BE-2	Action 3	Collaborate with a regional water management group that includes other jurisdictions that share the same water sources	Approved
BE-2	Action 4	Establish water quality monitoring and public reporting systems	Approved
BE-2	Action 5	Shift towards a full cost pricing system to ensure that users are paying for the true cost of water	Approved
BE-2	Action 8	Manage and upgrade infrastructure to reduce leaks in the system, eliminate contaminants, and achieve other local conservation goals	Approved
BE-2	Action 9	Implement at least 3 innovative water infrastructure and facility programs	Approved
BE-2	Action 10	Upgrade and improve stormwater and wastewater treatment facilities to meet current and foreseeable needs	Approved
BE-2	Action 11	Engage in restoration projects for critical water bodies that provide usable water for the jurisdiction or stormwater management assistance	Approved
BE-3	Action 1	Demonstrate that the comprehensive plan supports compact, mixed-use development	Approved
BE-3	Action 2	Identify areas appropriate for compact, mixed-use development on the community's official future land use map	Approved
BE-3	Action 3	Adopt regulatory strategies that permit or incentivize increased residential and employment densities and diverse uses in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development	Denied

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BE-3	Action 3	Adopt regulatory strategies that permit or incentivize increased residential and employment densities and diverse uses in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development	Denied
BE-3	Action 4	Require walkability standards for new development that include sidewalks on both sides of roadways, street trees, ADA accessible crosswalks, roadways designed for maximum travel speeds of 25 mph, and maximum block lengths in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development	Denied
BE-3	Action 5	Require build-to lines for commercial and residential structures in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development	Denied
BE-3	Action 6	Adopt performance-based parking pricing, establish parking maximums, or eliminate parking minimums in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development, AND incorporate at least 2 other advanced parking strategies	Denied
BE-3	Action 8	Establish a design review board, neighborhood commission, or similar appointed citizen body that provides comments on proposed development projects	Approved
BE-3	Action 9	Implement programs to preserve and maintain existing subsidized and unsubsidized affordable housing in transit-served areas, compact and mixed-use areas, and areas with rapidly-rising housing costs	Approved
BE-3	Action 10	Increase the percentage of households with access to transit	Approved
BE-4	Outcome 3	Affordable Housing Preservation: Demonstrate no loss of subsidized affordable housing units due to expiring subsidies in the past 3 years	Approved
BE-4	Action 1	Develop a comprehensive housing strategy	Approved
BE-4	Action 4	Use regulatory and design strategies to encourage compatible infill and redevelopment with a mix of housing types in neighborhoods close to employment centers, commercial areas, and where transit or transportation alternatives exist	Denied
BE-4	Action 6	Collaborate with other jurisdictions to address affordable housing and location efficiency needs in the region	Approved
BE-4	Action 7	Partner with nonprofit or faith-based organization(s) to provide, education, counseling, and financial assistance to homebuyers or renters, particularly minorities	Approved
BE-4	Action 8	Implement programs to preserve and maintain existing subsidized and unsubsidized affordable housing in transit-served areas, compact and mixed-use areas, and areas with rapidly-rising housing costs	Approved
BE-5	Outcome 1	Infill Development: Option A: Increase the percentage of new development in locally-designated infill and redevelopment areas --OR-- Option B: Increase the percentage of new development located on infill, previously developed, brownfield, and greyfield sites	Approved
BE-5	Outcome 2	Existing Infrastructure: Demonstrate that at least 75% of new housing units in the past 3 years utilized existing water and sewer mains and did not require extending or widening public roadways	Approved
BE-5	Action 1	Develop an inventory of infill, previously developed, brownfield, or greyfield sites of greatest priority and potential for development or redevelopment	Approved

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BE-5	Action 5	Collaborate with state and federal authorities to advance brownfields cleanup	Denied
BE-5	Action 7	Support temporary, creative neighborhood uses for vacant properties and greyfields	Approved
BE-5	Action 8	Provide financial incentives to encourage infill and redevelopment	Approved
BE-5	Action 9	Perform proactive zoning enforcement and vacant lot cleanup or maintenance to improve the attractiveness of a redevelopment or blighted area and to deter crime	Approved
BE-6	Outcome 1	Acreage: Provide ample parkland based on population density as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High: 6.8 acres per 1,000 residents • Intermediate-High: 7.3 acres per 1,000 residents • Intermediate-Low: 13.5 acres per 1,000 residents • Low: 20.3 acres per 1,000 residents 	Accepted
BE-6	Outcome 2	Proximity: Demonstrate that housing units in the community are located within a ½-mile walk distance of a public space or park based on population density as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High or Intermediate-High: 85% • Intermediate-Low or Low: 70% 	Approved
BE-6	Outcome 3	Connectivity: Demonstrate that 90% of households are located within 3 miles of an off-road trail	Approved
BE-6	Outcome 4	Use and Satisfaction: Option A: Demonstrate that 66% or more of surveyed residents visit a park at least once a year --OR-- Option B: Demonstrate that 66% or more of surveyed residents respond favorably regarding the quality of the community's public space and park system	Denied
BE-6	Action 1	Adopt a parks and/or open space plan that promotes a community-wide network of public spaces that provide recreational, transportation, and environmental benefits	Approved
BE-6	Action 3	Adopt regulatory strategies or development incentives to create, maintain, and connect parks and public spaces	Approved
BE-6	Action 4	Adopt design guidelines for new public spaces and improvements to existing facilities to strengthen environmental benefits and provide visitor amenities	Accepted
BE-6	Action 5	Participate in a local or regional alliance working to improve and expand the community-based or regional park system	Approved
BE-6	Action 6	Create an advisory board to regularly receive feedback from residents and regarding planning, decision-making, and other issues affecting the quality and availability of parks and public spaces	Approved
BE-6	Action 8	Provide assistance for low-income users to access and use parks and public spaces through subsidy, scholarships, and discounts	Approved
BE-6	Action 9	Host programs and events in parks and public spaces that bring the community together and encourage physical activity	Approved
BE-6	Action 10	Consistently invest sufficient capital and operational funding to create and maintain parks and public spaces	Approved
BE-7	Action 1	Adopt a bicycle and pedestrian master plan and/or non-motorized safety plan that prioritizes future projects to improve access to non-motorized transportation and increase safety	Approved

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BE-7	Action 2	Adopt a complete streets policy that addresses all users, applies to all projects with limited exceptions, and includes specific next steps for implementation	Approved
BE-7	Action 5	Implement at least 2 types of focused enforcement programs to ensure pedestrian, bicycle, and motorist safety	Denied
BE-7	Action 6	Increase the percentage of households with access to transit	Approved
BE-7	Action 7	Increase the mileage of sidewalks, particularly on arterial or collector roads that connect people with destinations	Accepted
BE-7	Action 8	Increase the mileage of striped or buffered bicycle lanes, cycle-tracks, parallel off-street paths and/or other dedicated facilities	Approved
BE-7	Action 10	Construct or retrofit transportation infrastructure to meet standards in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	Approved
CE-1	Preliminary Step 1	Identify core areas of local climate change adaptation concerns that fit into at least 3 of the 4 general groupings: Built Environment, Economic Environment, Natural Environment, and/or Social Environment.	Approved
CE-1	Action 6	Create or enhance programs and services that specifically help address climate change threats	Approved
CE-1	Action 8	Improve facilities throughout the community to be better prepared for climate change threats	Approved
CE-2	Action 5	Modify local government operations and facilities in order to reduce GHG emissions and serve as a leader in the community	Denied
CE-2	Action 6	Adopt energy efficiency regulations for buildings within the jurisdiction	Approved
CE-2	Action 8	Implement specific programs and services or create facility upgrades that transition the community towards the use of alternatives modes of transportation and low-emissions vehicles	Approved
CE-2	Action 9	Implement specific programs and services or create facility upgrades that reduce waste in the community	Approved
CE-3	Action 3	Remove zoning, height, and other regulatory restrictions on the development of small- and medium-scale renewable energy installations and alternative fueling systems	Denied
CE-3	Action 10	Install electrical vehicle charging stations	Approved
CE-4	Action 3	Adopt regulations to require greenhouse gas intensity and water intensity reductions	Approved
CE-5	Action 2	Adopt or upgrade building codes to ensure that new and renovated buildings are more water and energy efficient	Approved
CE-5	Action 7	Train inspectors to enforce water and energy efficiency standards in adopted building codes	Approved
CE-5	Action 10	Renovate local government buildings to improve energy and water use efficiency	Approved
CE-6	Preliminary Step 1	(1) Select public infrastructure which comprises 50% of the jurisdiction's infrastructure-based GHG emissions; (2) Select public infrastructure which comprises 50% of the jurisdiction's infrastructure-based water consumption.	Approved
CE-6	Action 4	Partner with state or regional entities that own or operate infrastructure within the jurisdiction to develop strategies to reduce energy and water usage	Approved

Objective	Evaluation Measure	Evaluation Measure Details	STAR Final Grading
CE-6	Action 5	Engage public infrastructure systems managers in participating directly in or partner with voluntary GHG reporting programs	Accepted
CE-6	Action 6	Develop training programs for infrastructure operators on energy and water efficiency techniques	Approved
CE-6	Action 7	Make specific upgrades to infrastructure systems that will increase energy and water efficiency	Approved
CE-7	Action 3	Create a public education campaign or a focused outreach effort to inform residents and businesses of their roles in achieving waste reduction targets	Approved
CE-7	Action 6	Provide services to enable residents and businesses to recycle and reduce their waste footprint	Approved
CE-7	Action 7	Collaboratively create and run at least 2 targeted recycling programs at key locations throughout the community	Approved
CE-7	Action 8	Operate at least 2 specific waste management programs for critical waste stream types found in the community, such as: organic waste, hazardous waste, electronic waste, and construction / demolition waste	Approved
EA-1	Action 1	Adopt a strategic plan to protect, enhance, and expand the community's arts and cultural resources and strengthen creative industries	Approved
EA-1	Action 4	Collaborate with private, non-profit, or regional organizations to increase access to and participation in the arts	Approved
EA-1	Action 5	Track participation and attendance at major community arts and cultural events, performances, festivals, and programs	Approved
EA-1	Action 6	Provide financial or logistical support to local arts, festivals, performances, or cultural tourism	Approved
EA-1	Action 7	Hire local artists to create artwork, sculptures, or perform in public spaces	Approved
EA-1	Action 11	Protect and maintain local public artworks and cultural resources for future generations	Approved
EA-2	Outcome 1	Community Venues: Demonstrate that least 75% of residents live within 1 mile of a community venue that is open to the public and offers free services and/or events for residents	Accepted
EA-2	Action 2	Adopt zoning and development regulations that support or incentivize farmers markets, community gardens, and urban agriculture	Approved
EA-2	Action 4	Partner with neighborhood associations, community organizations, and local service providers to identify and address neighborhood-specific needs	Accepted
EA-2	Action 5	Support neighborhood advisory councils to encourage dialogue on community issues and build the social capital of neighborhoods	Accepted
EA-2	Action 6	Establish a department with staff assigned to work as liaisons with specific neighborhoods	Denied
EA-2	Action 7	Provide direct funding and management of at least 2 types of community and neighborhood venues	Approved
EA-2	Action 8	Provide capacity-building programs to enable community leaders and groups to self-organize, resolve issues, and cultivate leadership	Accepted
EA-2	Action 9	Provide programs that support the development of positive, strong youth leaders, particularly in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods	Approved
EA-2	Action 10	Provide financial or logistical support for publicly-accessible neighborhood events, activities, and programming, particularly in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods	Approved

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EA-3	Action 1	Engage local education authorities, teachers, families, and young people to advance collaborative decision-making and a community-driven framework for improving education	Denied
EA-3	Action 6	Program or support after-school activities, tutoring, extended day- and/or summer programs for students who need additional academic assistance	Approved
EA-4	Action 5	Collaborate with local non-profit or for-profit entities to support local events, recognition programs, and tourism efforts that celebrate and leverage the economic value of local historic resources	Approved
EA-5	Outcome 2	Social and Cultural Events: Demonstrate that public events celebrating social and cultural diversity are held in the community	Denied
EA-5	Action 4	Promote events and programs that recognize and celebrate social and cultural diversity in the community	Approved
EA-5	Action 5	Provide equity and diversity training for local government staff	Approved
EA-5	Action 8	Provide programs that support the development of positive, strong youth leaders, particularly in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods	Approved
EA-5	Action 9	Provide financial or logistical support to programs, activities, or events that celebrate and deepen understanding and respect for the community's diversity	Approved
EE-1	Action 6	Establish regular, ongoing opportunities for elected officials and/or senior government staff to meet with residents to answer questions and listen to concerns	Accepted
EE-1	Action 7	Create a volunteer program for residents to assist the local government with special events, services, and operations	Approved
EE-1	Action 8	Provide support and resources to local community groups to help them achieve their missions	Approved
EE-2	Outcome 1	Resolution of Complaints: Demonstrate that all civil and human rights complaints in the past 3 years have been investigated and violations redressed in a timely manner	Accepted
EE-2	Action 1	Adopt specific policies or amend the jurisdiction's charter to specifically protect the civil and human rights of all community residents	Approved
EE-2	Action 4	Establish an independent civil and/or human rights commission to ensure access, equity, and inclusion	Approved
EE-2	Action 5	Provide training for police officers focused on non-discrimination and conflict prevention	Approved
EE-2	Action 6	Operationalize the local government's civil and human rights policies in programs, services, and operations	Approved
EE-4	Action 3	Promote events and programs that recognize and celebrate social and cultural diversity in the community	Accepted
EE-4	Action 6	Provide equity and diversity training for local government staff	Approved
EE-5	Preliminary Step 1	Identify 3 priority populations based on table. Select up to five priority human services from the table for which the local government or non-profit service providers are assisting persons in the priority populations. Descriptive document required.	Approved
EE-5	Action 4	Develop public education campaigns to inform residents about available service programs to help meet basic needs	Accepted
EE-6	Action 2	Create a team of local government staff to work collaboratively and coordinate with non-governmental organizations to provide high-quality services and reduce poverty	Approved
EE-6	Action 4	Establish or support programs that reduce the costs of basic needs for low-income households, such as utilities, transportation, healthful fresh food, basic medical care, and school supplies	Approved

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EJ-1	Action 2	Formally engage with the business community on a regular basis to improve conditions and address specific needs	Accepted
EJ-1	Action 3	Appoint an advisory body to provide recommendations and represent the business community in local decision-making	Approved
EJ-1	Action 4	Engage in regional coordination with other governmental, public, private, and non-governmental entities to attract and retain businesses in the region	Approved
EJ-1	Action 5	Utilize tax incentives to retain or expand businesses, including property tax abatement, local sales tax rebates, and/or tax increment financing (TIF)	Approved
EJ-1	Action 8	Provide direct services and trainings tailored to the needs of the business community	Approved
EJ-1	Action 9	Provide focused support, resources, and services to young entrepreneurial companies through business incubators	Approved
EJ-2	Action 2	Adopt policies and regulations that increase overall market demand for green buildings and associated materials, renewable energy products and infrastructure, and recyclable products	Accepted
EJ-2	Action 4	Create a green purchase policy to ensure that the local government's transportation and non-transportation energy supplies increasingly come from renewable and alternative sources	Denied
EJ-2	Action 5	Partner with other local governments, community groups, and private entities in the region to articulate an overarching sustainable economic development strategy and work collaboratively to increase demand for green products and services	Approved
EJ-2	Action 6	Create educational materials to define the larger vision of economic sustainability as one that proactively fosters green businesses, green jobs, and green practices	Approved
EJ-2	Action 8	Create programs to help businesses transition to new green practices	Accepted
EJ-2	Action 9	Implement a green business promotion program	Approved
EJ-2	Action 10	Install electrical vehicle charging stations	Approved
EJ-3	Outcome 2	Local Bank Deposits: Increase the total funds deposited in locally-owned and operated banks over time	Accepted
EJ-3	Action 1	Conduct an assessment of local economic conditions, including economic leakage and targeted sectors for future investment	Approved
EJ-3	Action 4	Create or support promotional campaigns to bank locally, buy locally, or buy from small and independent businesses and retailers	Approved
EJ-4	Action 2	Enact family-friendly workplace policies for all local government employees that include at least 2 of the following benefits: paid sick days, family leave, flexible scheduling, job sharing, and easily available childcare	Approved
EJ-4	Action 7	Maintain collective bargaining relationships with public employee labor organizations that represent local government workers	Approved
EJ-5	Preliminary Step 1	Locally define at least 3 targeted industry sectors for evaluation	Approved
EJ-5	Action 1	Conduct a local economic analysis or participate in the development of a regional analysis of existing industry sectors to understand current needs and opportunities	Approved

Objective	Evaluation Measure	Evaluation Measure Details	STAR Final Grading
EJ-5	Action 2	Invest in market studies and research to support the continued growth and expansion of targeted industry sectors	Approved
EJ-5	Action 3	Coordinate or support local and regional associations or formal networks of related businesses in the targeted industry sectors	Approved
EJ-5	Action 4	Coordinate with universities, community colleges, the local Workforce Investment Board, private firms and other community stakeholders to align research, workforce development, and resources to support targeted industry sectors	Approved
EJ-5	Action 5	Educate residents about the economic impact of targeted industry sectors in the community	Approved
EJ-5	Action 6	Use tax incentives to attract, retain, or expand businesses in targeted industry sectors	Approved
EJ-5	Action 7	Provide direct financial assistance, such as local bonds, grants, or loans, to attract, retain, or expand businesses in targeted industry sectors	Approved
EJ-5	Action 8	Provide capacity building services and support for professionals in emerging and existing targeted industry sectors	Approved
EJ-6	Action 2	Align local economic development policy strategies with workforce development programs	Approved
EJ-6	Action 6	Create data sharing agreements between local governments and private sector employers to maximize the availability and use of data in economic and workforce development planning	Approved
HS-1	Action 1	Include a chapter, section, or plan element focused on active living or active transportation in the comprehensive plan or transportation plan	Approved
HS-1	Action 2	Require or incentivize bicycle and pedestrian amenities in new major development projects in high-density, mixed-use areas or near transit stations	Approved
HS-1	Action 8	Host or partner with community groups to support at least 2 programs that encourage active living for adults and kids	Approved
HS-1	Action 9	Implement a local program that systematically improves bicycle and pedestrian amenities community-wide	Approved
HS-1	Action 10	Provide at least 3 types of active recreation facilities that are available for community use, by population size	Approved
HS-1	Action 11	Enable joint use of school-based recreation facilities during non-school hours	Approved
HS-2	Outcome 4	Quality of Local Health System: Option A: Demonstrate that at least one hospital in the county is recognized as a top performer by the Joint Commission --OR-- Option B: Demonstrate that the local public health department is accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) --OR-- Option C: Demonstrate that least 30% of public health clinicians are board certified in their specialty areas and ancillary staff holds professional certification in their respective fields	Overridden
HS-2	Action 1	Conduct a comprehensive community health assessment, which includes data collection and analysis of public health conditions, trends, and problems affecting the community	Approved

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HS-2	Action 2	Develop a community health improvement plan to strengthen the delivery of health services and improve community health	Approved
HS-2	Action 4	Collaboratively engage the public in the assessment of community health problems and developing strategies to improve the delivery of health services	Approved
HS-2	Action 6	Provide information and education to the public regarding health issues and available local programs and services that support prevention and wellness	Approved
HS-2	Action 8	Use a performance management system to monitor and improve health services and programs that promote positive health outcomes and expand access to health care	Approved
HS-3	Outcome 1	Superior Fire Protection: Achieve a Class 4 ISO rating or better	Approved
HS-3	Outcome 3	National Incident Management System: Demonstrate that the community is in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS)	Approved
HS-3	Action 3	Participate in interstate, statewide, regional, or inter-jurisdictional mutual aid response systems	Approved
HS-3	Action 5	Adopt local emergency operations plans and standard operating procedures for emergency response that address environmental damage mitigation, cleanup, and restoration; and include procedures for evacuating low-income, disabled, and other persons likely to need assistance	Approved
HS-3	Action 6	Participate in training drills that involve the public and emergency management personnel from multiple departments and/or multiple jurisdictions	Accepted
HS-4	Outcome 2	Food Security and Assistance: Demonstrate an increase over the past 3 years in the ability of low-income families to access low-cost, healthful food	Approved
HS-4	Outcome 3	Access to Healthful Food: Option A: Demonstrate an increase over the past 3 years in the percentage of residents within a walkable 1/4-mile of a healthful retail food outlet --OR-- Option B: Demonstrate a decrease over the past 3 years in the percentage of residents living in a urban or rural food desert	Approved
HS-4	Action 2	Adopt zoning and development regulations that allow farmers markets, community gardens, and urban agriculture	Approved
HS-4	Action 7	Develop public outreach materials, classes, or workshops for residents to learn about food, nutrition, and gardening OR develop public outreach materials to promote food assistance programs	Approved
HS-4	Action 9	Purchase and sell healthful food at facilities owned, leased, and operated by the local government	Approved
HS-4	Action 11	Provide incentives for healthful retail food outlets to locate in underserved areas or for mobile vendors that only sell fresh food	Approved
HS-5	Action 1	Prohibit smoking in all enclosed public places, including restaurants, bars, and workplaces	Approved
HS-5	Action 2	Prohibit smoking in multi-family buildings community-wide OR residential buildings controlled by the local housing authority OR affirm by local ordinance the right for landlords to legally establish smoke-free rental units	Denied
HS-5	Action 5	Reduce or eliminate toxic pesticide use in locally owned or managed buildings through the use of integrated pest management (IPM) techniques	Approved
HS-6	Action 3	Increase community awareness of natural hazards through education and outreach materials	Approved

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HS-7	Outcome 1	Violent Crime Rate: Option A: Demonstrate that the average violent crime rate for the past 3 years is below the following thresholds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.5 homicides per 100,000 residents • 70 incidents of rape or attempted rape per 100,000 residents • 462.7 aggravated assaults per 100,000 residents --OR-- <p>Option B: Achieve targets for a percentage decrease in violent crime identified in a locally-adopted safe communities strategic plan</p>	Accepted
HS-7	Action 3	Educate the public and the media about the plan, its implementation, and successful programs and strategies	Denied
HS-7	Action 7	Implement violence prevention programs and strategies to address community-identified risk and protective factors	Approved
HS-7	Action 9	Develop violence intervention programs and strategies to support at-risk families and youth and to prevent the escalation of violence	Approved
IP-1	Action 1	Best Practices & Processes: (1) Comprehensive Planning	Approved
IP-1	Action 3	Best Practices & Processes: (3) Codes & Ordinances	Denied
IP-4	Action 1	Regional Priority & Collaboration: identify up to two issues of paramount importance to their region and show evidence of collaborative action with neighboring jurisdictions, businesses, and/or non-governmental entities to address these issues.	Approved
IP-4	Action 2	Regional Priority & Collaboration: identify up to two issues of paramount importance to their region and show evidence of collaborative action with neighboring jurisdictions, businesses, and/or non-governmental entities to address these issues.	Approved
NS-1	Outcome 1	Designated Green Infrastructure: Option A: Demonstrate that 35% of the jurisdiction's land area has protected vegetated surfaces performing a minimum of 2 of the following functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localized cooling through tree canopy cover, green roofs, or green walls • Water management through wetlands, stream buffers, and permeable surfaces • Recreation through parks and/or greenways --OR-- <p>Option B: Demonstrate a 2-5% increase in land area with protected vegetated surfaces over time</p>	Accepted
NS-1	Outcome 2	Green Infrastructure Distribution: Demonstrate that 85% of the population lives within a 1/2-mile walk distance from green infrastructure features that are performing a minimum of 2 of the following functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localized cooling through tree canopy cover, green roofs or green walls • Water management through wetlands, stream buffers, and permeable surfaces • Recreation through parks and/or greenways 	Approved
NS-1	Action 2	Adopt local design criteria and associated codes that require proactive green infrastructure practices for new developments	Denied
NS-1	Action 4	Partner with key community groups and other stakeholders to ensure that green infrastructure practices are used in appropriate settings	Approved
NS-1	Action 6	Establish a green infrastructure monitoring program and regularly report on status of desired outcomes	Approved

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NS-1	Action 8	Upgrade public spaces and public buildings based upon locally-adopted or recognized best practices in green infrastructure. Where possible, create demonstration projects to enhance public support	Accepted
NS-1	Action 9	Provide for ongoing maintenance of green infrastructure at level required to maintain evapotranspiring functions	Approved
NS-2	Preliminary Step 1	Choose one or both of the following: (1) Species-led approach: Identify species that are of greatest threat and rank them based on their potential impact or threat level. (2) Site-led approach: Identify local priority natural systems areas and then identify species that are a threat to those locations and their critical entry points.	Approved
NS-2	Outcome 1	Invasive Species Prevention: Show that no new invasive species have established themselves in the last 5 years in priority natural systems areas and critical entry points	Approved
NS-2	Outcome 3	Invasive Species Eradication: Option A: Eradicate existing invasive species from priority natural systems areas and critical entry points --OR-- Option B: Demonstrate progress towards targets identified in the community's local integrated pest management plan	Denied
NS-2	Action 8	Ensure that all local government-owned buildings use native plants or non-invasive species in landscaping	Approved
NS-3	Outcome 2	Wetlands, Streams and Shoreline Buffers: Achieve no-net-loss of these critical resources	Approved
NS-3	Action 1	Develop a plan to protect and restore natural resources through land conservation, corridor connectivity, and restoration of biological integrity and function	Approved
NS-3	Action 2	Adopt land use regulations that establish appropriate wetland, stream, and shoreline buffer widths and adjacent land uses	Denied
NS-3	Action 3	Create an advisory board with scientific experts and other local stakeholders to inform land conservation and restoration activities	Approved
NS-3	Action 4	Partner with adjacent jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, and local or regional non-profit organizations to advance land conservation and restoration efforts	Approved
NS-3	Action 5	Sponsor educational and outreach activities to increase ecological literacy and knowledge about natural resource protection	Approved
NS-3	Action 8	Restore, maintain, and monitor conserved natural lands to increase natural resource resilience, adaptability, and biological integrity	Approved
NS-4	Action 1	Adopt regulatory strategies that permit or incentivize increased residential and employment densities and diverse uses in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development	Denied
NS-4	Action 2	Adopt performance -based parking pricing, establish parking maximums, or eliminate parking minimums in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development, AND incorporate at least 2 other advanced parking strategies.	Denied
NS-4	Action 8	Improve traffic signal timing or upgrade intersections to relieve congestion	Approved
NS-4	Action 9	Increase the mileage of sidewalks and dedicated bicycle infrastructure that connect people with destinations	Approved
NS-4	Action 10	Create or enhance programs aimed at increasing tree canopy through active planting or direct tree protections	Approved
NS-5	Action 1	Adopt a watershed management plan that integrates natural water bodies with human water use and addresses inputs and outputs of the water systems	Approved