



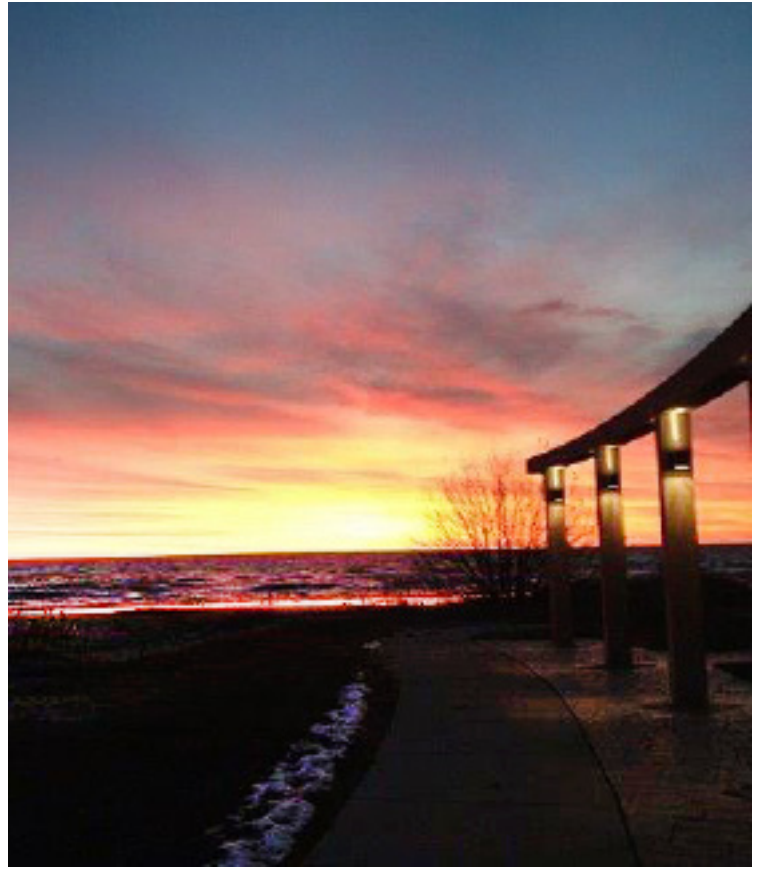
GREEN TIER
Legacy Communities

Green Tier Legacy Communities *City of Sheboygan* 2021 Annual Sustainability Report



INTRODUCTION

In 2021, coordination of Sheboygan's sustainability efforts occurred through quarterly green team meetings of those city departments implementing strategies to be more sustainable in their operations. Additional conversations have occurred with our key partners including Alliant Energy/Edgewater Generating Station and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. City staff have been working very closely with Alliant Energy and their consultant on planning related to the upcoming shutdown of the coal-fired Edgewater Generation Station.



TRANSPORTATION

Shoreline Metro

Due to the nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Shoreline Metro had to make some adjustments to ensure the safety of riders. All Shoreline Metro buses required riders to wear masks, riders were encouraged only to make essential trips to reduce the amount of unnecessary contact, during peak hours of the day, and finally, supplemental buses and shuttles were utilized to accommodate the capacity limit of 15 riders per bus.



Bird Scooters

In April of 2021 the Common Council adopted an ordinance which would allow electric scooters to be used on the City streets. In May, Bird Rides Inc. deployed 50 rentable electric scooters into the City and by the end of the summer 100 scooters were available. The scooters can be rented through an app and then left at the rider's destination for other users to use.

In Bird's first summer in Sheboygan there were 523 active commuters who took 30,418 rides overall for a total of 55,941 miles traveled. These scooters have proven to be popular in their first season here and are a more environmentally friendly alternative to traditional modes of transportation.



Bike Lanes and Paths

Notable projects for 2021 included reestablishing 18 miles of bike lane lines throughout the City of Sheboygan, the second phase of this project will be completed in 2022, which will include enhancing the "shared roadway" markings. Another notable project included fabricating and installing bike path signs alongside a newly established bike path through Kiwanis Park. The Division also worked with Sheboygan and Fond du Lac Counties Planning Departments on extending the Old Plank Trail signs on the newly developed trail system along State Hwy 23's expansion project.

ADA Sidewalk Improvements

The Department of Public Works concrete crews have been placing more yards of concrete due to the installation of American's with Disabilities Act accessible ramps. The crews work with the Engineering Division to learn how to use laser levels and set the proper grade for the accessible ramps. Crew members have also attended seminars to learn about the specific grades and requirements of the ADA Act. In 2021, streets crews installed the ADA-compliant ramps on our paving projects: South 12th Street, Superior Avenue, Park Avenue.

Alliant Energy Solar Farm

Alliant Energy and the City of Sheboygan reached an agreement to install a 1-megawatt (MW) solar facility in the Sheboygan Business Center on land leased from the City of Sheboygan with 3,042 ground mounted solar panels having been installed. The solar facility will add clean energy to the grid and help power the community for decades. Renewable energy is expected to attract new businesses to the area, especially companies looking to achieve their environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) goals. This unique partnership provides Alliant Energy and the City of Sheboygan an opportunity to create a clean energy future. The solar facility is expected to be operational by the end of 2021. In addition to the creation of the solar farm, Alliant Energy will be retiring their coal powered Edgewater plant by the end of 2022, one of the two last remaining coal plants in Wisconsin.



Sol-Smart Bronze Designation

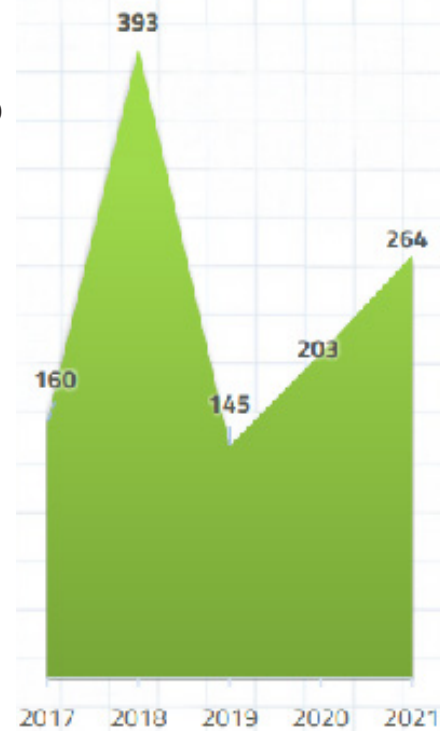
SolSmart is a designation program developed by The Solar Foundation (TSF) to assist and recognize communities that act to cut red tape and improve local solar market conditions by making it faster, easier and, more affordable to go solar in their jurisdiction. 2021 marks the third year Sheboygan has held this designation.



Conversion to LED Lights

The Facilities and Traffic Division of the Department of Public Works updated and installed 44 new LED Lumec light poles on 8th Street from Center Avenue to Virginia Avenue to include the side streets. Along with updating the light poles, all underground wiring and overcurrent protection were replaced. Once completed, the project will convert 264 Sternberg light poles to energy efficient Lumec light poles with an annual energy savings of \$7,195. The division also retro-fit 190 Phillips Gardco Street light fixtures to energy efficient LED's which results in an annual energy savings of \$8,090.

LED Street Lighting Conversion



Anti-icing Prior to Snow Events

The Department of Public Works has started to use brine to treat the roadways. The use of brine (anti-icing) is applied up to three days prior to a snow event which prevents the snow and ice from forming a bond with the road surface. By using brine our salt usage was cut by 42% which reduces the amount of salt that bounced and scattered into the curb lines. In the 2020-2021 season the city saw 16 snow events for a total of 39 inches of snow using 2,276 tons of salt.

Replacing Sanitary Manholes

During the 2021 construction season, the DPW replaced 62 sanitary maintenance holes. The division uses precast concrete maintenance holes as replacements. They are often replacing cream city brick maintenances holes built by hand in the late 1800s. Using precast structures makes for faster and easier repairs, limiting the amount of time our employees are working in an excavation. Precast structures also limit the amount of infiltration from ground and surface water.

Along with replacing sanitary manholes, crews replaced catch basins and storm water manholes. Replacing the entire manhole with a precast concrete one is more effective methods over the long term because they allow little opportunity for groundwater infiltration.

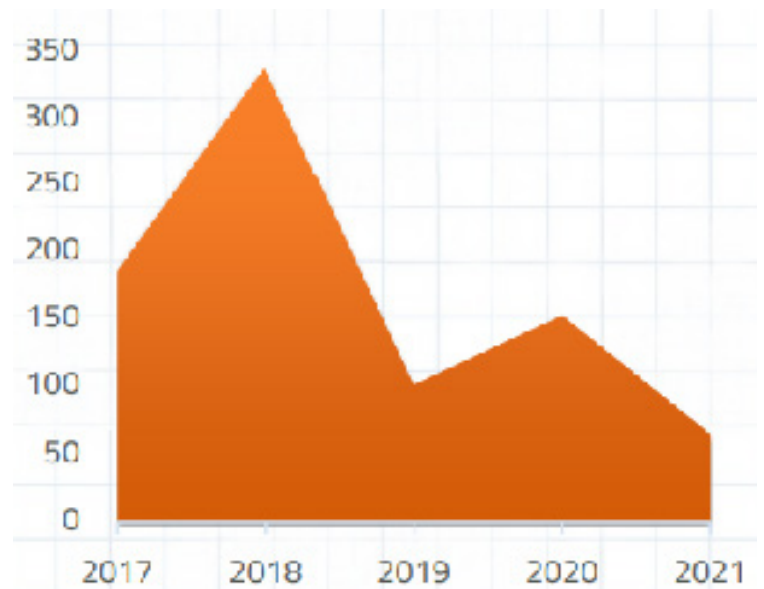


Street Sweeping and Sanitation

Due to water quality concerns, the State of Wisconsin now requires the City to permit its storm sewer system through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The permit requires “best management practices” (BMP) to ensure water quality. Two major BMP are street sweeping and catch basin cleaning. In 2000, the Streets Division started to systematically clean catch basins. Prior to this period, the Division cleaned basins only on a complaint basis. The first year experienced a large amount of tonnage collected due to the infrequent cleaning in the past. In 2021, the Department of Public Works removed over 65 tons of debris from the catch basins.

The Department of Public Works also dispatches four street sweepers to comply with the WDNR’s storm water permit requirements. During early spring, the DPW will dispatch all four sweepers for heavy sweeping. After, the City has been completely swept one time; two sweepers are kept on through the rest of the year as weather permits. In 2021, the Department swept over 7,330 miles of curb line and removed 715 tons of debris from the City streets.

Catch Basin Debris Removed (Tons)



WASTE

Recycling and Composting

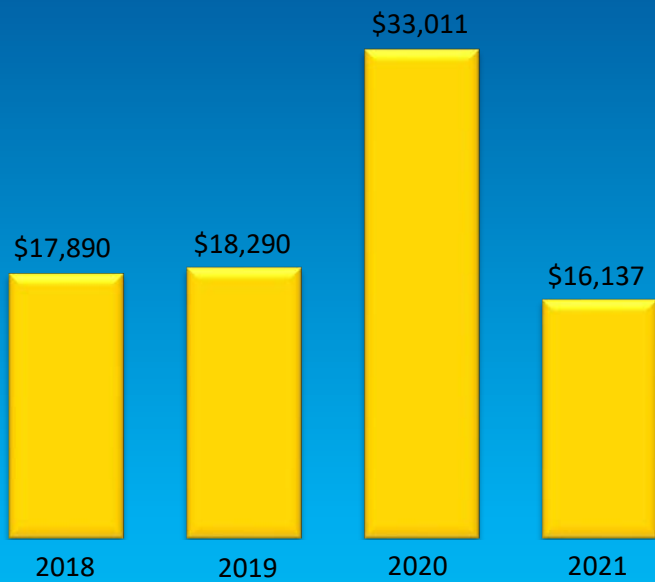
This year, the city collected 3,425 tons of recycling at the curb. 265 tons of scrap metal and 11,170 gallons of oil were also recycled. Additionally, 1,252 tons of leaves and 2,676 tons of yard waste were collected and sent to a vendor for composting. The city spent \$16,137 on branch grinding to create mulch for residents and city use.

Residential Recycling Center

The Residential Recycling Center is a drop-off site that provides residents with a place to dispose scrap metal, yard waste, waste oil, and many other items not picked-up with curbside collection or banned from landfills. Currently, there is no charge for this service. The following is a summary of the utilization of the drop-off site.

DPW RECYCLING CENTER STATISTICS

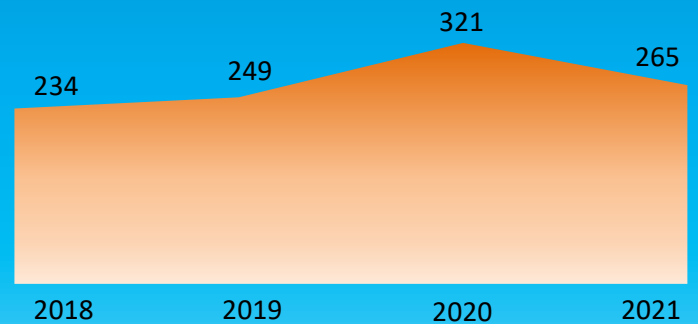
Annual Cost to Grind Branches



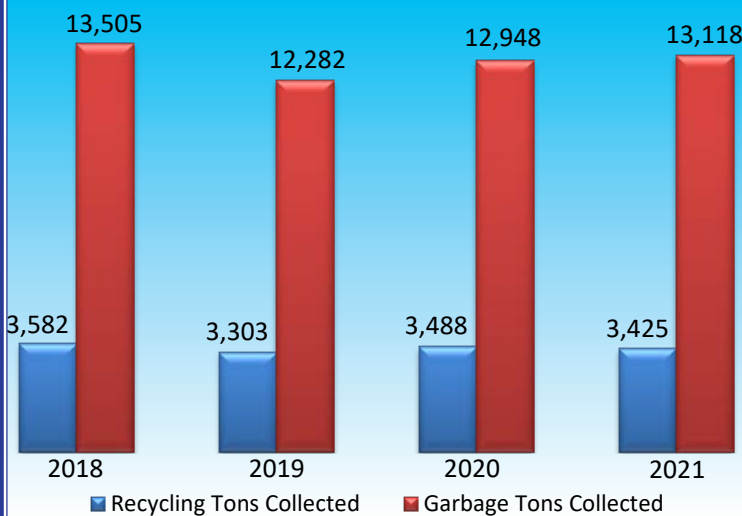
Annual Cost to Grind Branches



Scrap Metal Collected (Tons)



Refuse/Recycling Curbside Collection



Used Motor Oil Collected (Gallons)



LAND USE

Bluff Restoration

The Parks Division continues to work with Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, and several other partners to hire Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WisCorps) to remove and chemically treat a variety of invasive species. Stantec, an environmental engineering consultant, is instrumental in working with WisCorps along the North Point Bluff. WisCorps were able to work two weeks on the bluff again in 2021. Part of the Bluff Restoration Project will be the continued invasive removals and planting of a variety of native grass seed, trees, and shrubs for erosion control.



Green Infrastructure Funding Academy

American Rivers/Corona Environmental Consultants and Water Now Alliance is a group that provides training and consulting to smaller cities in hopes of creating the best opportunities for “incentivizing, funding and financing green infrastructure.” From January to June 2021, Sheboygan engaged in networks and provided materials relevant to green infrastructure development. By the end of 2021, Sheboygan was provided analysis, recommendations and case studies to begin establishing an incentive program, TIF program options, ordinances and mandates, financial accounting of relevant state and local policy, debt-financing options, and more all surrounding Sheboygan’s future of green infrastructure.

Remove the Degradation of Benthos BUI from the Sheboygan River Area of Concern

The “Degradation of Benthos” Beneficial Use Impairment is now officially removed from the Sheboygan River Area of Concern (AOC). The target to remove this BUI included three parts: 1) known contamination sources have been identified and control measures have been implemented, 2) all remediation actions for contaminated sediment have been completed and are monitored according to their approved plan, and 3) that the site is evaluated as statistically similar to a reference site with similar habitat and minimal sediment contamination. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced that they agree the BUI removal goal has been achieved. EPA’s concurrence recognizes the improving environmental conditions here. This accomplishment is another step toward delisting the AOC.



Tree City USA & Tree City of the World

The Tree City USA program provides direction, technical assistance, public attention and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities. The Arbor Day Foundation recently published their Tree City USA Summary for 2020 and Sheboygan is proud to continue to be the longest running active Tree City USA community in Wisconsin – we’ve got 43 years! In 2021, Sheboygan also celebrated its first year being designated a “Tree City of the World”, the only city in Wisconsin with this designation.

LAND USE

ROOTS Grant

In 2021, the Sheboygan Rotary Club through its Restoration Of Our Trees Sheboygan (ROOTS) initiative in cooperation with the City and County of Sheboygan and the Alliant Energy Foundation's Million Trees Program, kicked off a collaborative reforestation project to plant the first 100 trees in nine of the City's most widely used recreational parks. During the kickoff, the Alliant Energy Foundation announced the Million Tree Program grant of \$70,000 to ROOTS in support of its collaborative public-private sector reforestation efforts in Sheboygan and other municipal areas in the County served by the utility.

The collaborative funding by the Alliant Energy Foundation's multi-state Million Trees Program and the County Stewardship Program directly supports the Sheboygan Rotary Club ROOTS initiative started in 2018 to combat the devastation of public forests throughout the County caused by the Emerald Ash Borer.



Pollinator Habitat

The City of Sheboygan developed habitat for bees, birds, butterflies, and other pollinators in their communities thanks to American Transmission Co.'s Pollinator Habitat Program. Greenspace on Kohler Memorial Drive was transformed into a beautiful pollinator friendly habitat. Perennial plants create waves of color for people entering the city to enjoy throughout the growing season and serve as an important food source for native pollinators.



ROOTS Receives "Project Partnership" Award

Restoration Of Our Trees Sheboygan (ROOTS) is a collaborative effort between the Sheboygan Rotary Club and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, created to address emerald ash borer's (EAB) threat to Sheboygan County's rich forestry resources. ROOTS has been awarded the Project Partnership Award in Urban Forestry from The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council, which recognizes outstanding projects utilizing partnerships to benefit our urban forests. In 2021, ROOTS formed a new grant program for local governments in Sheboygan County to help them manage ash trees beyond putting new trees in the ground and focusing on planning and public awareness. This project has demonstrated that collaboration brings enormous advantages for both the urban forest and its people.

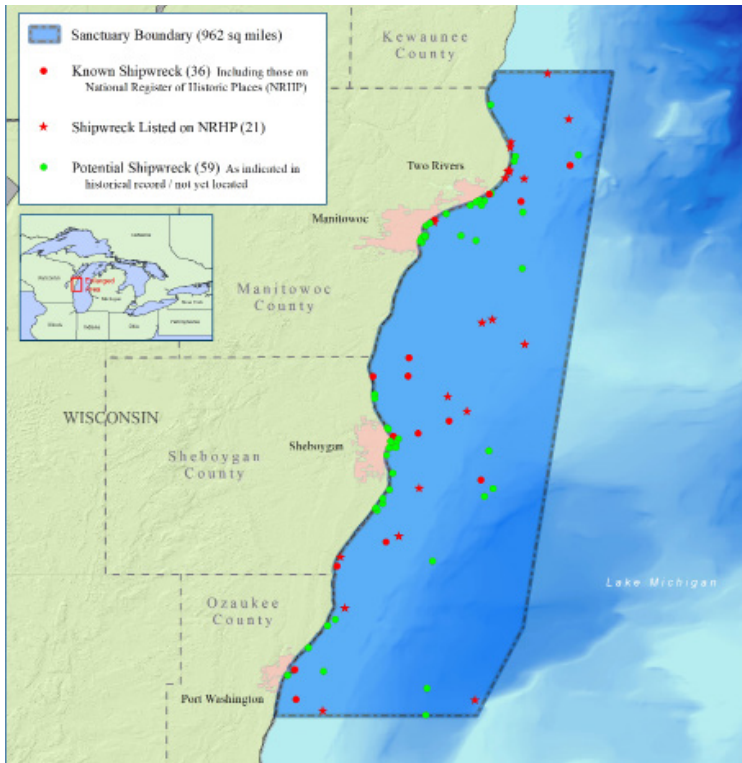


ROOTS
RESTORATION OF OUR TREES SHEBOYGAN

LAND USE

New National Marine Sanctuary

The 962-square mile area of Lake Michigan, named Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary, was designated in June 2021 by NOAA with widespread support from a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals at local, state, regional, and national levels. The sanctuary will protect and celebrate the region's maritime cultural heritage while creating unique research, educational, recreational, and tourism opportunities.



Forestry

In 2021, the forestry division planted 467 trees, re-treated 749 ash trees, removed 384 ash trees, and removed 289 other dead, dying, or hazardous trees. Through the financial assistance of the Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund, along with Restoration Of Our Trees (ROOTS) and Alliant Energy, the Department of Public Works was able to construct a Tree Gravel Bed which will assist in planting healthier bare root trees, at a lower cost, along city streets and in city parks. Use of the Tree Gravel Bed will allow for at least 600 trees to be planted every year.

Wisconsin's Department of Administration Awards Sheboygan with \$50,000 Grant

The State of Wisconsin's Department of Administration presented a \$50,000 grant supporting \$25,000 toward "Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Coastal Resources Planning" and \$25,000 toward a "Shoreline Restoration Plan". This is part of an overall grant program awarding \$1.4 million to Wisconsin's coastal communities. The City of Sheboygan's Department of Public Works will participate along with Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to use the grant monies to establish design and repair guidelines that will repair and prevent erosion along the Lake Michigan waterfront. This plan will guide future shoreline restoration efforts and provide resiliency in an environmentally sustainable way with improving public access.



COMMUNITY

Maywood Environmental Park

Ellwood H. May Environmental Park, or more commonly referred to as, “Maywood,” is Sheboygan’s largest park with 135-acres of unique property that has been converted back into a natural state including six unique habitats; Prairie, Pine Forest, Mixed Hardwood Forest (Maple Forest), Ponds, Wetlands and the Pigeon River. The property also has an arboretum, a butterfly and humming bird garden, and a fantastic Ecology Center.

Maywood’s primary focus is environmental education and stewardship. Programs offer educational and outdoor experiences designed to connect people of all ages to the natural world. In 2018, Maywood worked with the Sheboygan Area School District and Camp Y-Koda to offer a preschool program. The program has grown and now offers morning and afternoon sessions that offer a hands-on nature-based learning experience. The nature school was able to earn a recycled plastic bench by engaging the community and collecting plastic bags that may otherwise end up in landfills. Several other programs are also offered gear to people of all ages. OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Scholars) connects the community to nature with seasonal hikes and hands-on activities. Yoga programs are also offered to allow for the community to practice yoga in a nature setting.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is still effecting many businesses and organizations throughout Sheboygan, Maywood has seen an increase in visitors.



Mead Seed Library & Plant Exchange

Mead Seed Library is a collection of open-pollinated and heirloom seeds that can be borrowed to plant and grow at home. The seed collection depends on donations. Residents can use free, locally donated seeds from the library to grow their own vegetables and flowers. Then, participants can let some go to seed and return some of the next generation seeds for others to borrow.

Along with the seed library, Mead Public Library also offers a plant exchange where residents can swap plants with your neighbors. You can leave a plant cutting, take a plant cutting, or both!



Livability Plan

Planning and Development Division staff have been highly involved in advancing Sheboygan’s livability and age friendly goals through their participation and leadership in the Sheboygan For All Task Force. This group, headed by the Director of Senior Services, completed a plan to advance livability work within city departments, as well as in the community. In 2019 the plan was accepted by AARP, advancing Sheboygan as an AARP Age Friendly Livability Community.

COMMUNITY

All Abilities Purple Octopus Playground

Above and Beyond Children’s Museum is working to install a fully ADA-accessible public outdoor playground called the Purple Octopus Playground in their outdoor green space. Downtown Sheboygan does not currently have a public outdoor play space that is specifically ADA-accessible. The playground is being designed with ADA-accessible components including a wheelchair transfer platform in the head of the octopus and ground-level accessible equipment and swing set. It’s part of an outdoor exhibit that children of all backgrounds and abilities will have the opportunity to interact with.



Beach Cleanups

Through a partnership with Alliance for the Great Lakes, and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, many of Sheboygan’s community organizations participate in organized beach clean-ups. The COVID-19 pandemic limited the size and frequency of these cleanups in 2020, but in 2021 these efforts resumed to a larger scale and continue to bring community members together around a shared passion for keeping Sheboygan’s greatest asset clean and healthy. In 2021, six beach cleanups were held on two days, one in the spring and one in the fall, cleaning up four of Sheboygan’s parks on the lake front.

Ongoing Wellness Committee & Initiatives

In 2016 the City of Sheboygan established an employee-based wellness committee. This committee meets on a regular basis and is tasked with creating a working environment that creates and supports a healthy lifestyle, and wellness for all employees. The wellness committee maintains the Healthy Citizen of Sheboygan (COS) Facebook page.



The City has implemented a new wellness program for 2021 called Go365 through Humana. This program allows employees to earn rewards for completing different healthy activities. These activities can range from workouts, preventive exams, challenges, and many more. This is a great way to help people be accountable for their own health and wellness and work towards their personalized goals.



SUSTAINABILITY GUIDEBOOK

In 2019, the Department of City Development created a Sustainability Guidebook to be used by the community to increase sustainability projects, making more sustainable lives accessible to everyone.

The strategies and projects in the Guidebook cover a wide gamut, from quick and easy projects that can be completed in a few hours to larger, more complex ones. Every strategy can be scaled up or down to meet the needs of an individual, a large organization, or any size in between. Organizations of all sizes and people of all ages, abilities, and means can make sustainability a reality.

This guidebook is a practical guide to sustainable strategies and projects that can be used by community groups, neighborhood association, non-profits, or even individuals looking for inspiration and information. This guide leads users through each project from explanation to completion and ongoing maintenance. The Guidebook is divided into eight sections, and each section includes detailed how-to instructions, and local resources.

The Guidebook sections include:

Community Gardens

A community garden is a parcel of land in an urban or suburban setting where members of the community can rent individual plots of land to grow their own food.

Waste Stream Management

Waste stream management begins with monitoring where different types of waste currently go and how they might be diverted to somewhere less harmful and more useful—for example, from a landfill to a recycling plant. Monitoring also includes monitoring how much waste is produced and determining how waste can be reduced.



Local Food and Growing Food

Choosing to eat local food is a sustainable choice because it drastically reduces the energy needed for transportation. Buying local food also supports your local economy. Finally, eating locally can be healthier.

Native Landscaping and Stormwater Plantings

Native species need less maintenance than species from a very different climate and will be well-adapted to endure local weather conditions. One large benefit of planting native species is the reduced maintenance cost and time. Native plants require much less fertilizer, which has less negative downstream effects on water quality.

Water Protection and Conservation

Water protection and conservation projects include projects that typically use less water and that do not harm the water system. These types of projects can be done both inside and outside.

Energy Saving

Performance will remain the same—or even increase—and power bills will go down, so the only differences you will notice are positive ones. Energy efficiency projects include energy efficient lighting, programmable or smart thermostat, insulating water heaters and hot water pipes and sealing air leaks.



