



Climate Action, Resilience, Education and Sustainability Plan

Lookback 2022

Welcome to the first annual CARES Plan Lookback! In this document, we are reflecting on our achievements from this past CARES year (April 2021 - April 2022). It is very important to reflect on our achievements and progress so that we are better equipped and able to address the items still to come, as well as to ensure that we are keeping the Urbana Parks community optimally informed as to our progress and the roles that everyone plays when it comes to Climate Action, Resilience, Education, and Sustainability!

Urbana Park District CARES Plan

Climate Action, Resilience, Education and Sustainability

Acceptance date: April 13, 2021

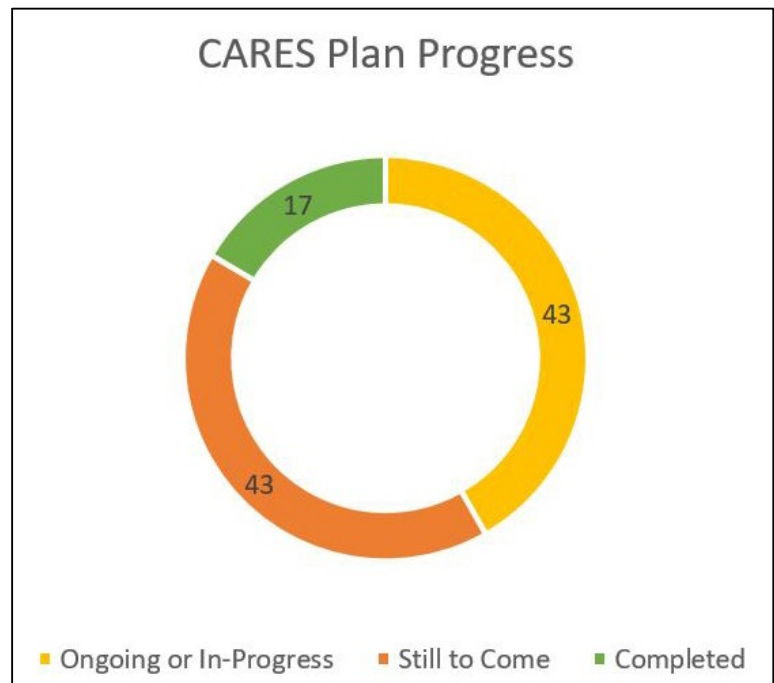


Lookback Introduction

Our pillars are as follows:

Communicating Climate Action, Protecting & Strengthening Our Natural Environment, and Conserving Resources. A specific breakdown of progress can be found at the table at the end of this document. Above is a pie chart which depicts which action items have been Completed, are currently Ongoing or In-Progress, and those which are Still to Come. As shown in the pie chart, 17 action items have been completed, 43 are currently Ongoing or In-Progress, and 43 are still to come. 49% of our action items are either Completed or Ongoing/In-Progress! That's almost halfway!

On the subsequent page, we can see key examples of Completed and Ongoing/In-Progress action items.



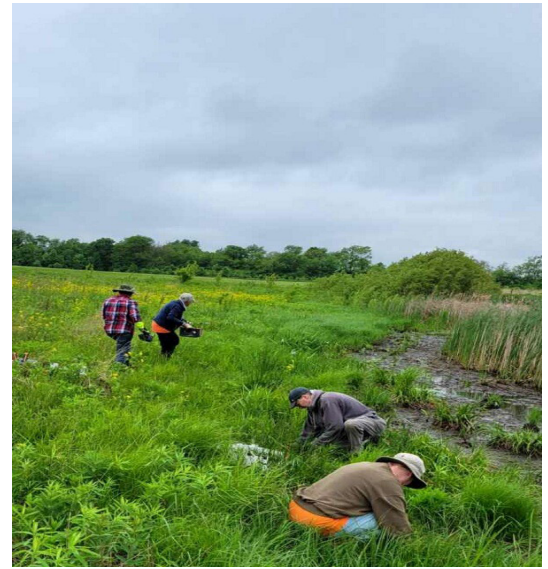
We hope you enjoy this glimpse into what is being achieved by the Urbana Park District through the CARES Plan, and encourage you to contact Savannah Donovan, Environmental Programs Manager (sydonovan@urbanaparks.org) if you have any questions or comments!



Climate Action Education at King Park

CARES Plan Pillars and Descriptions

The action items of the CARES Plan are separated into three categories, or 'pillars,' entitled: "Communicating Climate Action, Protecting & Strengthening Our Natural Environment, and Conserving Resources. Below are key examples of practices utilized and undertaken by the Urbana Park District and its community which coincide with each pillar. These items effectively demonstrate the significant extent to which we are implementing our CARES Plan, and our commitment to Climate Action, Resilience, Education, and Sustainability through all our activities and endeavors.



Master Naturalists at work in Weaver Park Wetland

Communicating Climate Action



- Participation in monthly meetings and initiatives of the Champaign County Climate Coalition
- Hosting opportunities for teen stewardship and service learning
- Partnering with Solidarity Gardens CU to grow food for community members in need
- Collaboration with neighborhood champions to remove barriers to green practices
- Partnership with Champaign County Medical Society to create signs describing the benefits of parks on personal, community, and planetary health
- Offering public resources and education on composting, recycling, and waste-free meals

Protecting & Strengthening Our Natural Environment






- Planting butterfly-friendly shrubs and trees at King Park
- Reducing the use of glyphosate (herbicide) through increased trimming
- Sharing prairie plant seeds and information about planting for wildlife
- Enhancing wildlife corridors along the Saline Creek at Crystal Lake Park and the McCullough Creek at Meadowbrook Park
- Planting more trees to fill in empty spaces in the tree canopy
- Prioritizing pollinator-friendly plants in parks and natural areas

Conserving Resources



- Transitioning to electric equipment including chainsaws, trimmers & blowers
- Transporting Styrofoam waste to Dart for recycling
- Reducing paper-use and printing through new electronic procedures
- Planning for new solar panels, rainwater collection, solar-powered lighting, and energy-saving fixtures during the construction of new district facilities
- Coordinating limited-time collections of difficult-to-recycle items such as CDs and CFL bulbs
- Utilizing reusable cups, plates, and cloth napkins at staff gatherings

Breakdown of CARES Plan Goals and Action Item Achievements

CARES Plan Pillars	Goal	# of Completed Performance Measures	# of Ongoing/In-Progress Performance Measures	# of Performance Measures Still to Come
 Communicating Climate Action	Communicate the importance of climate action through internal practices.	-	3	3
	Provide outreach and programming opportunities to best communicate climate action to diverse audiences	4	7	2
	Provide leadership and public information to advocate for environmental sustainability and climate action.	-	2	-
	Communicate environmental topics, and opportunities for climate action, through art, sculpture, and interpretation.	1	3	2
	Collaborate with partners to reach new audiences, and expand climate change impacts in the community.	2	1	-
 Protecting & Strengthening Our Natural Environment	Reduce the district's carbon footprint.	3	6	3
	Improve outdoor air quality.	-	1	2
	Steward biodiversity through responsible care and expansion of natural areas.	3	4	9
	Enhance aquatic and public health through water quality improvements.	-	2	3
 Conserving Resources	Reduce consumption of energy and water.	-	2	8
	Utilize cleaner energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.	1	5	5
	Reduce waste generated through UPD programs, facilities, and processes.	2	4	1
	Increase recycling and reuse to divert waste from landfills.	1	3	5

