



Newsletter from the Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board **SUSTAINABLE AURORA**

Winter 2025

As the holiday season illuminates Aurora, the Mayor's Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board sends warm wishes for a joyful and restorative winter!

This time of year, encourages us to reflect on the progress we've made toward a greener, more resilient city and to look forward with renewed hope to the goals ahead.



Expanding Prosperity, Deepening Community and Caring for our part of the Natural World.

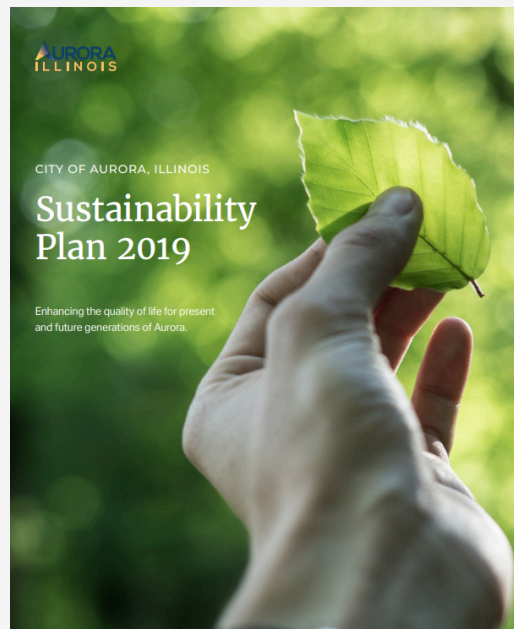
VISION FOR A GREEN FUTURE

Mayor John Laesch has championed an expanded vision to accelerate Aurora's transition into a modern, climate-resilient city. Mayor Laesch's goals emphasize leading in making people's homes energy efficient, moving to renewable energy sources, and creating a Department of Sustainability to connect residents with state and federal incentives. This focus sets a clear path for achieving transformative progress in 2026 and beyond.



BLACKHAWKS GO GREEN!

West Aurora School District 129 celebrated in November their launch to adding 27 new zero-emission electric school buses to its fleet and 28 charging stations! You may notice electric buses are quieter and can be easily identified by a green bird logo with a small power cord design. This marks a major step toward a cleaner, quieter future and contributes to Aurora's Sustainability goal of reaching 50% renewable energy by 2030.



2019 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

According to the Aurora 2019 Sustainability Plan, "Sustainability is the ability to meet our needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs."

The Aurora 2019 Sustainability Plan serves as our long-term framework for enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of Aurorans.

The plan's vision is for Aurora to be a tolerant, inclusive, culturally diverse city that continually renews itself, focusing on resilient communities and the use of renewable, local resources. The plan focuses on six key areas to guide our sustainable practices: Community Development and Land Use, Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Management, Waste Minimization, Reuse and/or Recycling, Water Quality and Conservation, and Education and Engagement.

The Mayor's Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6PM in the 5th floor of City Hall, 44 E Downer Place. All are welcome to attend!



KANE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE RESTORATION WORKDAYS

Help your local landscapes thrive! Volunteer Restoration Workdays are wonderful individual and family experiences for all-ages. No registration is required. Please make sure to dress for the weather. We recommend wearing boots or heavy duty shoes and bringing your own water bottle, gardening/work gloves and safety/sunglasses. Arrive 5-10 minutes prior to 9am, workday is from **9am-12pm**. If you have any questions, please call the Volunteer Coordinator at (630)762-2741.

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 12/6 | Aurora West FP |
| 12/9, 12/23, 1/13 & 1/27 | Lake Run FP |
| 12/13, 12/27, 1/10 & 1/24 | Oakhurst FP |
| 12/17 & 1/21 | Barnes FP |
| 12/20 & 1/17 | Culver FP |

UPCOMING EVENTS

**12/6 & 12/7,
12/13 & 12/14,
12/20 & 12/21,
12/27 & 12/28
9am-2pm**

“Household Hazardous Waste Collection”
Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 156 Fort Hill Drive, Naperville, IL 60540
Open to ALL Illinois Residents, bring your cooking oil, aerosol cans, asbestos material, automotive fluids, batteries, fire extinguishers, flammables, fluorescent bulbs, household cleaners, pool chemicals, peanut oil, propane tanks, vape pens & carts, and thermostats.

**12/6 &
1/3/2026
9am-12pm**

“Electronics & More” Pop-Up
Ace Hardware, 994 N. Lake Street
All items, other than televisions/monitors, can be recycled for FREE! Clothing, shoes, textiles and accessories must be clean and dry.

2026

**1/10
10am-11am**

“Eagles Along the Fox River”
Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve, 35W003 RT 31, South Elgin
Learn about the fascinating history of Bald Eagles along the Fox River valley and hike along the river in search of eagles. Register for free: www.kaneforest.com/register or call (630) 444-3190.

**1/28
9am-2pm**

“23rd Annual Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Seminar”
Elgin Community College, Seigle Auditorium Building E, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin
Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District will focus their annual workshop on Green Infrastructure. Tickets are \$50 and includes complimentary lunch and all-you-can-drink coffee.

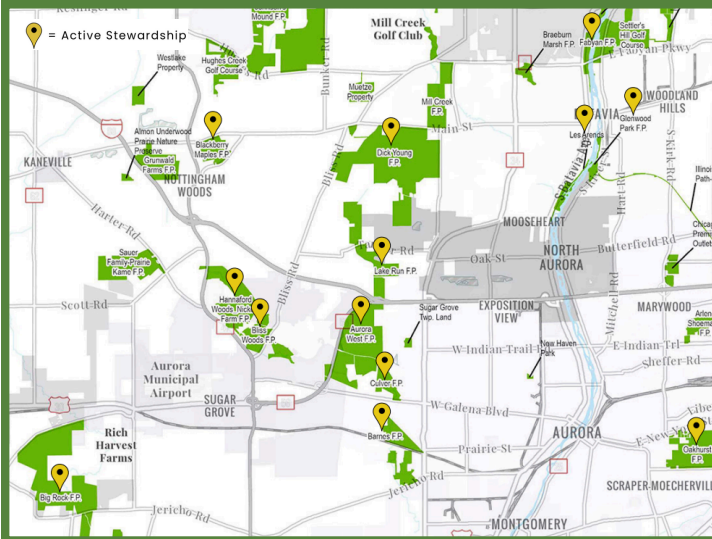


CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION DATES

Tree curbside collection first two weeks of January

HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING

North Aurora Village Hall
Lights collected until January 17



THE BEST TIME TO PLANT A TREE WAS YESTERDAY, & THE SECOND-BEST TIME IS TODAY!

The impending removal of the approximately 60-year-old, 67-foot pine tree at the GAR Memorial Hall in downtown Aurora, due to its declining health, offers a crucial moment to reflect on sustainability and the vital role of urban trees. This tree, a silent neighbor and living archive, provided invaluable benefits: it sequestered carbon to improve air quality, mitigated stormwater runoff and erosion, offered cooling shade against the heat island effect, and created habitats for our downtown birds. Its removal, though necessary for the health and safety of the community, reminds us that even long-standing protectors are vulnerable to threats like climate change, pests and urbanization. The focus now shifts to regeneration and resilience.



By mindfully removing the tree and repurposing its wood (visit Foreign Exchange Brewing to taste the limited edition, “Aurora Beer”), the community upholds a sustainable commitment. More importantly, planting a new tree—the second-best time being today—ensures that the cycle of ecological benefit continues. This transition is a tangible lesson, especially for children, highlighting that a thriving community is grounded in mutual support, much like the underground networks of trees that share nutrients. The new evergreen tree from Phillips Park will continue the legacy of the tall pine tree, serving as a metaphor for resilience, interconnectedness and the wisdom that trees share across generations. Investing in our urban canopy is investing in the long-term health and vitality of the city.

“AURORA BEER”
Limited Edition
Available on draft and in cans.



BE SALT SMART THIS WINTER



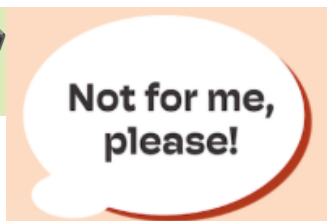
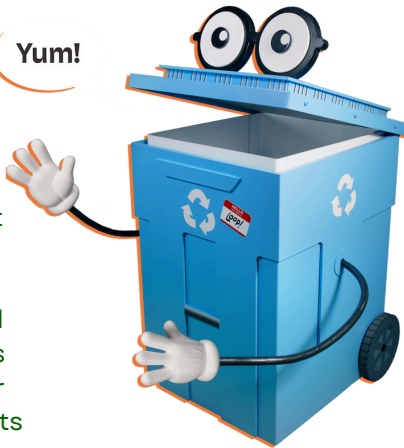
As cold and snowy weather arrives, remember that applying excess salt to driveways and sidewalks weakens pavement, harms plants and soil, degrades our Fox River, wetlands and groundwater, and damages vehicles and buildings. Choosing pet-friendly salt for ice protects your pets and is less harmful for the environment.



- 1. Shovel First:** Clear all snow from driveways and sidewalks before it turns to ice.
- 2. Size Up:** More salt does not mean more melting! A 12oz coffee mug of salt should be enough for 500SF (about 10 sidewalk squares).
- 3. Spread:** Distribute salt evenly, not in clumps.
- 4. Switch:** Rock salt stops working if the temperature is below 15 degrees. When temperatures drop that low, switch to a deicer formulated for colder temperatures.

“Feed the Cart”

Meet Loop! He’s a friendly little cart with a **BIG** appetite for your recyclables. As a recycling cart, Loop knows just how great recycling is for the environment and the economy. Cardboard boxes, plastic bottles or jugs, metal cans or glass jars...the benefits only make recyclables that much tastier. The best part is that each time you feed the cart his favorite treats, you help reduce pollution and save water, trees and energy! That means a little treat for Loop is a **BIG** win for Chicagoland! Visit the website to see what you can **FEED THE CART!**



This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement 84079901 to Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

REBATE PROGRAMS

Electric Vehicle Rebate Program

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has announced a new round of funding for electric vehicles. The Illinois Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate program is now open to Illinois residents to receive a **\$2,000-\$4,000** discount on their new or used EV purchased within 180 days of applying. Check out the Illinois EPA’s website to see if you qualify to apply ahead of the January 31, 2026 deadline. [Illinois EPA EV Rebate Program](#)

Kane County Residential Toilet Rebate Program

Did you know that toilets are one of the main sources of water used in a home, with an average family of four using 881 gallons of water per week just by flushing the toilet? Replacing a 3.5 gallon toilet with a WaterSense-labeled model can save a household

12,000 gallons of water each year! Funding is limited and is being offered to all Kane County households whose homes were built before 2006. [Conserve Water for Kane Toilet Rebate App](#)

ComEd Energy Efficiency Program

Reduce your home energy bill while reducing consumption. Qualifying ComEd customers have opportunities to reduce energy usage with a **FREE** energy assessment that includes free products for your home*. Customers can go [online](#) or call 1-855-433-2700 to sign up for a free assessment. Customers that schedule an in-home assessment will also be evaluated for additional, free weatherization improvements. Please have your ComEd and natural gas utility account numbers (if applicable) available when you call.

*Eligibility restrictions may apply. Products may be limited based on quantity caps, home needs, or availability. Installed products may vary.

“SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY GIFTING SEASON”

Minimize your environmental impact and support local businesses when you gift this holiday season. Every dollar spent locally, saves a gift from being shipped across the country, saving emissions and supporting the backbone of our City. The holidays generate significant waste, rethink packaging by limiting plastic and using reusable, recyclable, or compostable gift wrap options. The most sustainable gift is one that creates a lasting memory without creating clutter or adding to the landfills, consider gifting an “experience” over “things”.

Shop Local! Spend Responsibly!

Local businesses are offering great deals and holiday services to make your gift, the most unique!

TERRACYCLE



TERRACYCLE

401 South Highland Ave
(866) 480-4510
Monday-Friday
10AM-5PM

TerraCycle Commercial™ is proud to call Aurora home—and we’re celebrating in a big way. After restoring the historic Henry Pratt Building, our new space now serves as TerraCycle’s largest operations hub in North America. This is where your hard-to-recycle items get a second life! From batteries, plastic packaging and coffee pods to electronics and beauty products, Aurora residents and businesses can now recycle more than ever before.

We’re excited to partner with this community to help Eliminate the Idea of Waste®. Ready to get started? Visit tcrwusa.com and use code **AuroraRecycles for 20% off** your first recycling solution.

Here’s to a cleaner, greener Aurora—together!



THE CORNUCOPIA SHOP

63 S Broadway
(630) 907-7620

Tuesday-Friday 9AM-6PM
Saturday 9am-9pm
Sunday 11AM-5PM



Stop by to indulge in gourmet treats and specialty teas, build your own custom gift basket, or visit the monthly rotating art down “Artist’s Alley” inside The Cornucopia Shop! Creative and festive high-quality ornaments available for the perfect unique gift!

RENEW SALON + SPA

160 S River St, Suite 106
(630) 554-5462

Monday-Friday 9AM-6PM
Saturday 9AM-2PM
Call for availability



Come in after the holiday rush and take advantage of our Cyber Saturday sales on products and gift cards. It's good time to stock up, breathe, and reset after the chaos.



And because it's our Week of Giving... Book any appointment this week & you'll receive a complimentary \$25 gift card to use at your next visit.

OFFBEAT VINTAGE COLLETION



112 E Galena BLVD
(630)506-8393
Wednesday-Sunday 11AM-6PM

If you need new clothes for your winter wardrobe, visit your local thrift store and see what treasures you can find!

Thrifting, or buying and selling used goods, provides a viable and impactful alternative to the unsustainable practices of fast fashion. Synthetic materials found in our clothes can take hundreds of years to decompose in landfills.

Save money, update your style, and be socially responsible! Dispose of unwanted clothing by donating to a thrift store or shelter instead of throwing items away.



QR code and List prepared and distributed by Offbeat Thrift & Vintage, LLC.