

2025 EARTH MONTH EDITION



A Message from Mayor DiMaria

This Earth Month, we are highlighting the Village's strides toward a more sustainable Morton Grove and renewing our commitment to a greener future. Please join me in taking this year's pledge to conserve water through the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. Take the pledge at mywaterpledge.com.

This past year, we hosted our fourth Sustainability Expo, continued our Electronic Waste Recycling Event and Pumpkin Smash, brought compost service to Village facilities, and adopted a tree ordinance to help preserve trees on private property. I am proud to report that the Village requested and was awarded \$25,000 for street tree planting from the Chicago Region Tree Initiative.

Reconstruction of the Metra Station will be completed this summer, a major investment in public transit. We will soon begin work with the Regional Transportation Authority on the Dempster Street Corridor Plan to provide a cohesive vision that leverages transit and trail assets, expands retail development, and identifies housing opportunities. The planning work will be complemented by an update to the Village's Comprehensive Plan, a long-term, strategic guide for Morton Grove's development and sustainability.

Through Village initiatives that educate residents and businesses, protect our environment, and conserve resources, and through the efforts of the Environment and Natural Resources Commission, we are working together to achieve a healthy and greener future for all.

As I bid farewell as Mayor in May 2025, I want to express my immense gratitude to our Village Board, board and commission members, staff, and especially you, our residents and businesses, for your support and collaboration. I am so proud of everything we have achieved together and wish the very best to your next Mayor. I know you will be in good hands.

Your Mayor, Dan DiMaria



**PLEDGE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
YOUR UTILITY BILLS PAID FOR
ONE YEAR, UP TO \$3,000**

PLUS OTHER GREAT PRIZES!

Take the
**2025 Mayor's Challenge
for Water Conservation**

April 1-30

mywaterpledge.com

**Spread the word on easy ways to save
water and help Morton Grove win!**

TAKE THE PLEDGE TODAY!



Summer Adopt-A-Planter Program

Register for the Community Relations Commission's 2025 Summer Adopt-A-Planter Program. Adopt one of the planters located along Dempster Street, Waukegan Road, or the Civic Center. Planters will not be available at the Metra Station this season due to construction. Registration ends May 15. Plant pick-up will occur on May 31 at Village Hall (6101 Capulina). Sign up at mortongroveil.org.

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Village Introduces Adopt-A-Block Program

The Village's Environment and Natural Resources Commission (ENRC) is proud to introduce the new Adopt-A-Block Program. Through the Adopt-A-Block Program, residents, business owners, schools, and local organizations are encouraged to adopt a block (or more) to help keep their neighborhood clean and litter-free.

The Program provides a free five-gallon bucket, plastic bags, disposable rubber gloves, litter tongs, and information on performing safe and successful clean-up events with your neighbors, family, and

friends. Each block is limited to one Block Captain and initial clean-up kit, which includes enough cleaning materials for five people. More clean-up materials are available by request. Block Captains will be asked to provide regular reports of their clean-up activities to the Village.

If you are interested in joining the Adopt-A-Block Program as a Block Captain, please visit mortongroveil.org/adopt-a-block or call 847-663-3061. Adopt-A-Block sign-up forms and kits are available at Village Hall (6101 Capulina Avenue).



Electronics Recycling & Document Destruction Event

Saturday, May 10, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Morton Grove Public Works | 7840 Nagle Avenue

Residents of Morton Grove and other Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) communities may participate in this free electronics and document destruction event. IDs will be checked for proof of residency. Visit SWANCC's website at www.swancc.org or call 847-724-9205 for details, including other drop-off locations and dates. SWANCC provides a variety of drop-off locations to help residents recycle sensitive documents, electronics, and other items throughout the year.

- Remove electronics from plastic packaging and boxes.
- Before document destruction, remove metal clips, plastic sleeves, folders, and binders (small staples acceptable).
- Place recyclable items in your car trunk prior to arrival.
- Drive up, open trunk with items, and remain in your vehicle as your items are removed from your car.

Electronics Recycling: Limit of seven (7) items per household. No electronics can be accepted from municipalities, schools, businesses, or institutions.

Document Destruction: Limit of six (6) paper bags or small boxes per household. No documents can be accepted from municipalities, schools, businesses, or institutions.

Acceptable Items: Cable receivers, cell phones, computer monitors, computers, fax machines, keyboards, mice, MP3 players, printers, televisions, satellite receivers, scanners, video game consoles, video recorders/players, and zip drives.

Do not bring: Dehumidifiers, humidifiers, AC units, vacuums, refrigerators, large home appliances, paper in plastic bags, photos, slides, or any non-paper item. Do not include magazines, greeting cards, or newspapers, as they can be recycled curbside.

2025 Crayon Recycling Program

Every year, 75,000 pounds of crayons are thrown away in the U.S. To help redirect crayons from landfills, the Village is offering its annual Crayon Recycling Program. The Village will collect crayons and send them to SCARCE for recycling. Prepare the crayons for recycling by removing their paper wrappers prior to drop-off at one of the locations listed to the right. Markers are no longer accepted. For more information, visit scarce.org/super-crayons.



Crayon Drop-Off

April 1 - June 30

Morton Grove Village Hall
6101 Capulina Avenue

Morton Grove Public Library
6140 Lincoln Avenue



Community Garage Sale

Friday, June 6 - Sunday, June 8

Buying second-hand is one of the most sustainable choices you can make. Join us for Morton Grove's annual Community Garage Sale running Friday, June 6, through Sunday, June 8. Find local treasures around Morton Grove and clear out a few of your own. Buying and selling items second-hand is a great way to keep products out of landfills and save money! Register at mortongroveil.org/garage-sale.



2025 Greener Morton Grove Awards

The Greener Morton Grove Award program recognizes businesses, organizations, groups, and multi-family residential facilities in Morton Grove that have implemented environmentally sustainable practices in the categories of waste reduction and recycling, water and energy conservation, public education and awareness, and transportation. This year's winners will be announced at the April 22, 2025, Village Board meeting.

MWRD Offers Discounted Rain Barrels

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is offering discounted rain barrels to Cook County residents while supplies last. Rain barrels capture rainwater from downspouts and store it for later use. Storing rainwater helps prevent basement backups, street flooding, and sewer overflows by keeping it out of the sewer system. Captured water can be used to water your garden and wash your car. Discounted rain barrels are currently priced at \$21.50 per barrel and \$10.75 for residents aged 65 and older. Delivery is included. A limit of two per household applies. Learn more and order a rain barrel at mwrld.org/community-action/rain-barrels.



DON'T TRASH IT, SMASH IT!

— MORTON GROVE —

PUMPKIN SMASH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

— 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. —

NORTH END OF HARRER PARK

Composting Made Easy

From March 15 through December 15 of each year, residents can participate in food waste composting by subscribing to Groot's Landscape Waste/Food Scrap Cart Subscription Program. The 95-gallon container costs \$178.50 per season and the 65-gallon container costs \$156.20 per season. Any bag or bundle placed outside of the cart will require an affixed prepaid sticker. Food scraps can only be placed in the container provided by Groot. Acceptable food scraps include fruits, vegetables, bread, grains, pasta, cereal, non-liquid dairy, eggshells, coffee grounds (no filters), and tea leaves (no teabags).

The Village also offers a year-round compost collection service to residents and businesses through WasteNot Compost. Participating residents will be given an airtight five-gallon receptacle with the option to select weekly or bi-weekly service pick-up. Bi-weekly service (every other week) costs \$18 per month and weekly service costs \$25 per month. Each pick-up includes replacing the used receptacle with a sanitized receptacle.

WasteNot accepts a wide variety of compostables, including all food waste, 100% paper products, certified compostable products, and more. There are no long-term commitments or cancellation fees. To sign up for service, visit wastenotcompost.com/mortongrove. You may also contact WasteNot by calling 847-813-7216 or emailing hq@wastenotcompost.com.



OUR URBAN CANOPY

Village Awarded \$25,000 Grant for Tree Planting

The Village was recently awarded \$25,000 in grant funding from the Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Tree Initiative through its Community Forestry Grant Program. The Village's grant award will support an increase in street tree planting in 2025 and 2026, and is being matched by a \$25,000 commitment in Village funding.

In 2025, the grant will support the planting of 225 trees in addition to the 160 trees that were already planned as part of the Village's annual tree planting program. In total, 385 trees will be planted in 2025, with an equivalent number planned for 2026. The enhanced planting effort will help restore losses sustained in previous years due to the Emerald Ash Borer and other tree infestations and diseases.



Green TIP

Planting new trees is just the first step to expanding the urban canopy. Young trees require consistent care, including watering, mulching, and pest protection, to ensure healthy growth and maturity. While the Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining trees in public rights of way, residents are encouraged to "adopt" trees growing in parkways adjacent to their homes. Giving trees all the support we can will lead to a stronger and healthier canopy with greater benefits for everyone. For more information on tree care, visit mortongroveil.org/trees.

Street Tree Questions

Do you have a question or concern about the condition or status of a tree in the public right of way? Contact the Department of Public Works at 847-470-5235 or publicworks@mortongroveil.org.

Village Board Adopts Tree Ordinance

The Village continuously strives to better preserve and protect the urban forest as critical public infrastructure. On December 10, 2024, the Village Board of Trustees adopted Ordinance 24-28 amending the Municipal Code to modify regulations relating to tree preservation and protection. The Ordinance was designed to establish a Tree Planting Fund to support the urban canopy, clarify tree removal procedures, enhance landscaping and tree protection requirements, prohibit invasive species, enhance species diversity, and regulate the removal of select trees on select private properties.

How does the Tree Ordinance affect my single-family or two-family residential property?

If you are performing construction, reconstruction, or expansion in floor area fronting on a street, not including detached accessory structures (e.g. garage, shed): You will need to submit with your Building Permit Application a landscape plan that includes foundation plantings and a tree preservation plan that includes the planting or preservation of one tree per front and street side yard unless inadequate space is available.

If your property measures equal to or greater than 21,780 sq. ft. (0.5 acres) and you are removing a tree greater than twelve inches (12") in diameter: You will need to obtain a Tree Removal Permit prior to tree removal. A replacement tree or fee-in-lieu will be required unless exempted by a qualifying condition.

Village staff are available to answer your questions about the Tree Ordinance and how it may affect your property and project. Please contact the Department of Community and Economic Development at 847-663-3062 or commdev@mortongroveil.org.

Morton Grove 2025 Tree Walk

Saturday, September 13 | 11:00 a.m.

Morton Grove Civic Center | 6140 Dempster St.

This year, we're moving the annual Tree Walk to the Sustainability Expo! Join us for an educational tree walk starting at the Civic Center and following a one-mile accessible route. The first 25 participants to sign up or arrive will receive a giveaway. RSVP at administration@mortongroveil.org or 847-663-3061. An RSVP is not required to attend.



SUSTAINABILITY EXPO

Sustainability Expo Becomes Annual Tradition

The Village's annual Sustainability Expo has quickly become a community favorite. In 2024, its fourth year, the Expo welcomed hundreds of residents and visitors to learn about sustainability.

This free and family-friendly Village event features local businesses and organizations that are providing greener services, ideas, and opportunities to Morton Grove residents and businesses. The Recycling Fest at the Expo offers a one-stop drop-off for various recyclable and reusable items. At the 2024 Expo, residents were able to drop off electronics, gently used clothing and household items, car tires, car batteries and oil, books, baby items, sports gear, and more.

With food, live music, kids' activities, and giveaways, this event has become an annual favorite for Morton Grove residents of all ages.



FREE ADMISSION

MORTON GROVE
SUSTAINABILITY
EXPO
& RECYCLING FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

MORTON GROVE CIVIC CENTER
6140 DEMPSTER STREET

Join us at the 5th annual Morton Grove Sustainability Expo & Recycling Fest. Explore innovative solutions and celebrate our commitment to a greener future!

Sponsor the 2025 Sustainability Expo

Be a sponsor for the 2025 Morton Grove Sustainability Expo & Recycling Fest! Your generous contribution will directly support the logistics and resources needed to make this event a success. Promotional opportunities will be provided for sponsors. For more information, please email us at enrc@mortongroveil.org or visit mortongroveil.org/ENRCexpo. Donations can be made online by credit card.

RECYCLING FEST @ THE EXPO

This is a one-stop drop-off recycling event collecting various recyclable and reusable items. Visit mortongroveil.org/ENRCexpo for a list of accepted items closer to the event.

Seeking 2025 Exhibitors!

Learn more and request to be an exhibitor:

mortongroveil.org/ENRCexpo
847-663-3061

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

KNOW WHAT TO THROW

QUIZ

True or False?

Answers:

- FALSE.** White and clear plastic containers are recyclable, but if the plastic is black it cannot be detected by sorting technology. They go to the wrong stream or are passed through as residue that goes to the landfill. Put black plastic in the garbage or avoid its use.
- FALSE.** Organic material contaminates recyclables. Contaminated material goes to the landfill instead of being recycled to make new materials. Remember, materials must be empty and clean.
- FALSE.** When plastic pots and trays are collected, they become smashed and broken before making it to a recycling facility and are not able to be detected by sorting equipment. Try to reuse these, return them to the nursery, or put them in the garbage.
- FALSE.** Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and fluorescent light tubes contain mercury and cannot be thrown away in the trash. Drop fluorescent light bulbs off at Village Hall (6101 Capulina) or use SWANCC's Reuse and Recycle Directory at swancc.org to find other drop-off locations.
- FALSE.** Single-use plates, cutlery, straws, colored cups, and other single-use plastics are one of the top contaminants seen in curbside recycling bins. Put your single-use plastic items in the garbage or say no to unnecessary single-use items.

1. Black plastic containers can be placed in my recycling cart.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False
2. It's OK if my recyclable has some food residue on it.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False
3. It's fine to put plant pots and trays in my recycling cart.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False
4. I should throw light bulbs containing mercury in the trash.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False
5. I should put single-use plastics in my recycling cart.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False

How to Handle Yard Waste

Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, branches, brush, shrubbery clippings, and garden waste. Yard waste does not include dirt, rocks, or gravel. In Illinois, landscape waste has been banned from landfills since 1990. Do not place landscape waste in garbage or recycling containers, and do not place it in plastic bags.

How to Dispose of Landscape Waste?

- Mulch grass clippings, leaves, and wood chips.
- Participate in Groot's landscape yard waste program.
- Compost yard waste at home. Use a prefabricated bin or construct one with wire mesh to prevent rodent burrowing.

Recycling in Morton Grove

Groot is under contract with the Village to provide recycling, landscape waste, and standard refuse services to residents. Residents to the east of the North Branch of the Chicago River are serviced on Tuesdays and residents to the west are serviced on Wednesdays. Solid waste must be ready for collection no later than 6:00 a.m. See below for 2025 collection scheduling changes for Groot's observed holidays. Call Groot at 847-734-6400 or visit groot.com/waste-management-chicago/village-of-morton-grove for more information or to request a special service.

Holiday Observed	2025 Holiday Date	Regular Pick-Up	Holiday Pick-Up
Memorial Day	MON 5/26	TUE	WED 5/28
		WED	THU 5/29
4th of July	FRI 7/4	TUE	TUE 7/1
		WED	WED 7/2
Labor Day	MON 9/1	TUE	WED 9/3
		WED	THU 9/4
Christmas Day	THU 12/25	TUE	TUE 12/23
		WED	WED 12/24



Green TIP

To protect pollinators, delay spring garden bed cleanup until temperatures consistently reach 50°F or higher, as many pollinators overwinter in dead plant material.

Can you help sort these items into the correct waste bins?



cantaloupe



bananas



water bottle



K-Cups



black plastic



paper bag



coffee grounds



candy wrapper



diaper



egg shells



juice box



styrofoam



shredded paper



aerosol can



paper mail



pasta



steel can



bread



COMPOST



RECYCLE



LANDFILL

Stop by Village Hall for a free Earth Month Activity Book!



ANSWERS: cantaloupe - compost; bananas - compost; water bottle - recycle; K-Cups - landfill; black plastic - landfill; paper bag - recycle; coffee grounds - compost; candy wrapper - landfill; diaper - landfill; egg shells - compost; juice box without straw - recycle; styrofoam - landfill; shredded paper - landfill; aerosol can (empty and depressurized) - recycle; paper mail - recycle; pasta - compost; steel can - recycle; bread - compost

The Exchange

www.mortongroveil.org

Village Hall Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Village Phone Numbers

Police, Fire or Medical Emergency
9-1-1

Fire Administration
847-470-5226

Police Administration
847-470-5200

Public Works
847-470-5235

Senior Services
847-663-3070

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Village Hall (Switchboard)
847-965-4100

Village Administrator
847-470-5220

Building & Inspectional Services
847-470-5214

**Community & Economic
Development**
847-663-3063

Village Officials

President Daniel P. DiMaria

Village Clerk Eileen Scanlon Harford

Trustees

Saba Khan | Rita Minx | Ashur Shiba
John Thill | Connie Travis | Janine Witko

Village Administrator
Charles L. Meyer

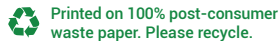
Village Attorney
Teresa Hoffman Liston



Morton Grove Exchange
The Village of Morton Grove
6101 Capulina Avenue
Morton Grove, IL 60053-2985

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 22
Morton Grove IL
60053

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER
MORTON GROVE, IL 60053



Summer Seasonal Employment

The Department of Public Works is accepting applications for the position of Summer Seasonal Employee. This is a seasonal, part-time position without benefits. The position pays \$15.00 to \$18.00 per hour and work hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, high school graduates, and able to work outdoors in varying weather conditions. Applicants must hold a valid Illinois driver's license with a clean driving record and must pass a background investigation, medical exam, and drug screening. For questions, call 847-470-5235. To apply, visit mortongroveil.org/government/employment-opportunities.



Green TIP

ComEd customers can reduce energy usage with a free energy assessment that includes free and discounted products for your home. Residents can schedule an assessment by calling 855-433-2700 or visiting eesavings.com. 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.

Water Sprinkler Reminder

The Village restricts lawn sprinkling from May 15 to September 15. Sprinkling is allowed daily only during the following hours:

5:00 - 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Restrictions apply to all residential, commercial and industrial properties, but do not apply to hand-held sprinkling hoses.