

**GREEN TIER LEGACY COMMUNITIES
2017 ANNUAL REPORT**



CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON – WISCONSIN

AUGUST 2018



Legacy Communities - a Green Tier Charter
Positioning Wisconsin Communities for the future

Port Washington, Wisconsin has been a Wisconsin Green Tier Legacy Community since 2013. Situated on the shores of Lake Michigan, “Port” provides over three miles of public access to its lakefront, including two public beaches, a harbor walk, a publicly accessible breakwater, and the relatively recent redevelopment of a former coal dock into a new lakefront park and bird sanctuary. With one of the most active charter fishing fleets on Lake Michigan and related tourism a foundation for the success of its downtown Main Street, Port has and is defined by the natural wonder that is Lake Michigan, making it only natural that on-going environmental stewardship is the foundation of long term success, both economically and socially, for the City of Port Washington.

Mission Statement

Port Washington’s Environmental Planning Committee's mission is to advance policies that will foster environmental, economic, and social sustainability by identifying and promoting the most efficient and responsible stewardship of our resources. The Committee aims to nurture a culture of sustainability in which a balanced approach to best management practices along with smart growth and education engages and leads our city towards an environmentally enhanced future.

2017 Sustainable Actions

The following represents notable actions accomplished in the City of Port Washington in 2017 related to sustainability and environmental improvement of the built environment or through programmatic means.

Land Use

1. Matthaueus Farms Final Plat. The City of Port Washington approved the final Matthaueus Farms subdivision plan thereby allowing construction to commence on the 32-lot single-family, “eco-friendly” subdivision consisting of small, clustered lots with homes built from recycled or sustainable materials with multiple energy saving and consumption features as standard built-ins. In addition, each home has been constructed as “solar-ready” for any home-owner wanting to install solar panels. New homes will be between 25 and 100 percent more efficient than homes built to Wisconsin’s Uniform Dwelling Code.

Matthaueus Farms was approved due to the built-in flexibility of the City’s zoning code and approval process that allows for developments not otherwise meeting zoning district site and building standards.



Matthaueus Farms Subdivision



Typical homes Matthaueus Farms

2. Coal Dock Park Improvements. Coal Dock Park is Port Washington's newest and largest lakefront park, claimed from We Energies owned property when its Port Washington plant converted to natural gas and freed up 10-acres of lakefront land previously used for coal storage. 2017 improvements included the near completion of railings along the water's edge pedestrian walk, safely opening up scenic lakefront land for pedestrians of all ages and physical abilities.



Coal Dock Park water's edge railing (City of Port Washington)

3. Prairie's Edge. The City of Port Washington approved the site plan for the Prairie's Edge subdivision, a 60+ acre mixed-use development located partially on reclaimed We Energies bluff land overlooking Lake Michigan. The approval will allow for more than a half mile of public pedestrian access along Port Washington's south bluff for the first time in nearly a century. In addition, the mixed-use development itself will consist of apartment, townhome, and small format cottage homes along with smaller scale office and commercial space surrounded by natural plantings, community gardens, naturalized storm water features and connections to public bike paths.



Rendering of recently approved Prairie's Edge development. (Kubala Washatko Architects)

Transportation

1. Road Diets. Five local streets in Port Washington underwent a road diet in 2017. Specifically, the curb to curb widths were reduced on the following streets:
 - Harrison Street: 27' to 24'
 - Montgomery Street: 35' to 29'
 - Walters Street: 35' to 32'
 - Dodge Street: 30' to 29'
 - Pierre Street: 35' to 28'
2. Tree Planting. During 2017, Port Washington Forestry planted 617 trees in City right-of-ways and parks spaces. It is also important to note that the City of Port Washington routinely spaces its street trees closer than what is typically prescribed by auto-centric traffic engineers, thereby achieving a greater tree coverage area and a more pastoral appearance and feel along its public right-of-ways.



Close set tree spacing (City of Port Washington)

3. A pedestrian and bike way-finding system was installed in Port Washington. The signage features attractive signs indicating the direction and distance to frequented destinations in Port Washington such as shops, restaurants, lakefront amenities and the Ozaukee County Inter-urban trail.



Wayfinding at Port Washington marina.

(City of Port Washington)

Healthy Community Planning

The following community projects and / or activities were either planned or occurred in 2017:

Birchwood Hills Nature Preserve Planning. In 2017, planning by an all-volunteer committee continued in earnest for the creation of a new nature preserve in Port Washington. In 1998 the City acquired a 23-acre property but sat dormant and unattended. The land contains wetlands, woodlands, uplands, ponds and streams. Plans and restoration steps developed in 2017 will include removal of invasive species and the planting of native grasses, pollinating flowers, and trees. In addition, installation of a walking bridge, trailhead signage, and bike rack, will mark the entrance to the nature preserve.



Entrance marker to nature preserve. (City of Port Washington)

Community Garden and Handbook Development. An S.O.P. manual was created for users of the Port Washington community garden, Hales Trails Community Garden. The community garden is a City-owned property operated under the direction of the Ozaukee Master Gardeners, which is affiliated with the UW system. One intention of the manual is to provide direction and guidance to potential new gardeners in order to expand interest and participation with local gardening.