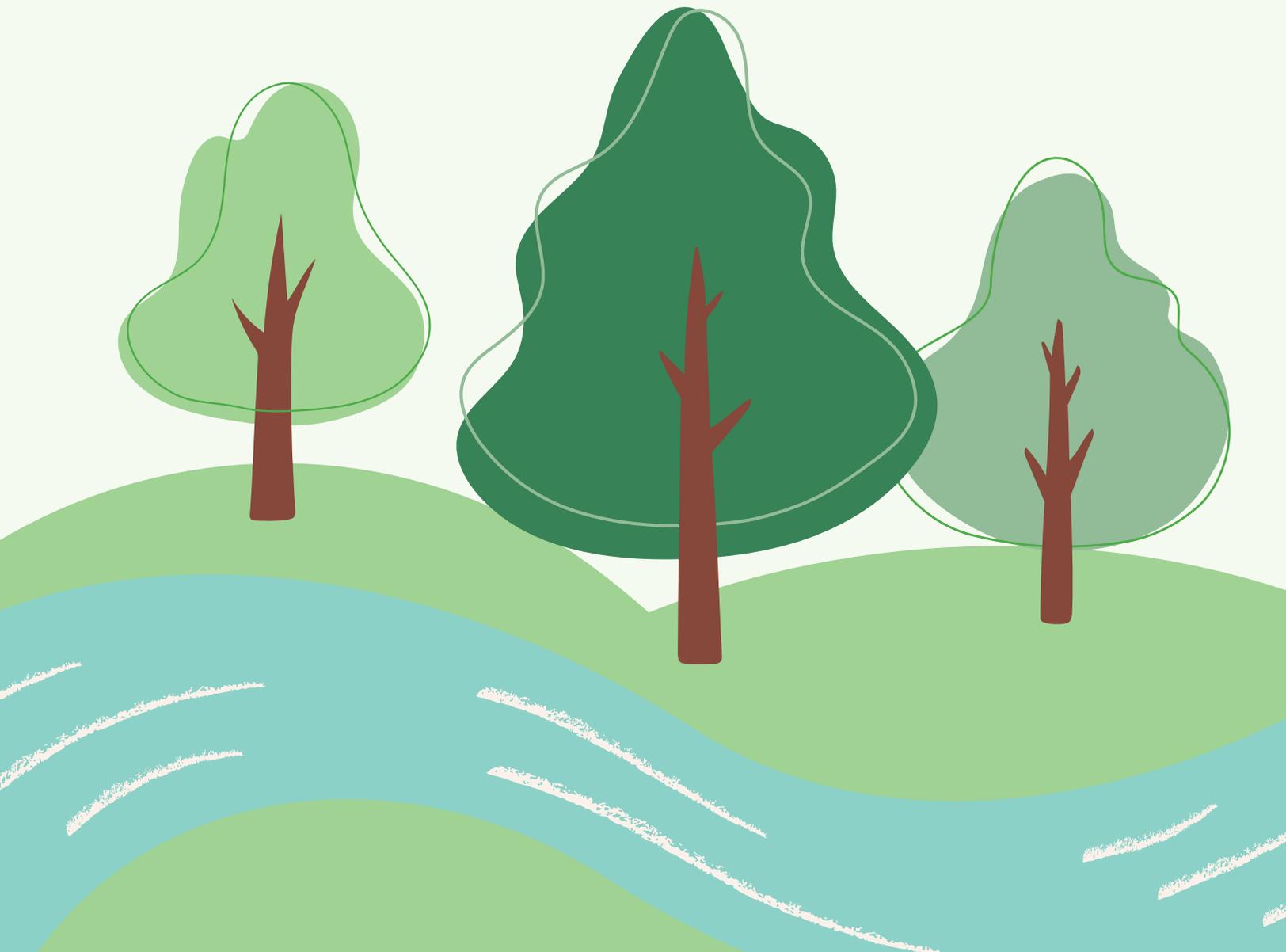


# Sustainability Plan



# Table of Contents

Vision .....	3
Introduction .....	3
Sustainability Definition .....	3
Guiding Principles .....	4
Plan Structure & Overview .....	6
Goal Areas.....	8
Transportation .....	8
Community Development .....	11
Planning & Policy.....	14
Municipal Operations .....	17
Economic Development .....	20
Arts and Culture .....	22



# Vision

The City of Brentwood will be a livable, safe and healthy community that promotes the responsible use and conservation of energy and natural resources and benefits the social and economic well-being of the community for the sake of current and future generations.

# Introduction

The City of Brentwood is committed to being a resilient and sustainable community, with a quality of life and strength of economy that meet the desires of all who live, work and play within its boundaries. As part of this commitment, the city has undertaken numerous sustainability initiatives, including the formation of a Sustainability Commission.

The Sustainability Commission, formed in 2020, was the start of establishing sustainability principles as the norm in the city planning, policies and procedures. The Commission's purpose is to foster policies that will create energy conservation, environmental improvement and sustainability of resources, creating a city that will be seen as a leader in energy efficiency and renewable energy that also supports the city's economic vitality.

The City of Brentwood Sustainability Plan contains guiding vision, measurable objectives and a plan of action intended to help the city practically implement ideas for operating more efficiently and sustainably.

# Sustainability Definition

The City of Brentwood defines sustainability as meeting the current environmental social and economic needs of our community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability represents a desire to pass on to our children and grandchildren a world that is as good as, if not better than, the one we inherited.

The city's definition of sustainability embraces the needs, concerns and well-being of all community members, and also relies on community members to share ownership and responsibility to work towards the same goals. Sustainability goals cannot be reached by the Sustainability Commission alone but will be embedded in the work of all committees and departments.



# Guiding Principles

The City of Brentwood Sustainability Plan is founded on the following Guiding Principles that provide the basis from which effective and sustainable decisions can be made.

## 1. Sustainability Shall Guide City Policy

The City of Brentwood is committed to meeting its existing needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The long-term impacts of policy choices will be considered to ensure a sustainable legacy.

## 2. Protection, Preservation and Restoration of the Natural Environment

The City of Brentwood is committed to protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment. Decisions will be guided by a goal to maximize environmental benefits and reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts. The City will lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to make a similar commitment to the environment.

## 3. Act Locally, Think Globally, Lead Boldly

The City of Brentwood strives to make a difference in the world by being mindful of our impact on the greater global community, while minimizing our overall “footprint” and maximizing our positive impact. In order to be a global-minded local leader in sustainability, the City will:

- Remain on the forefront of sustainable initiatives, setting the bar for the region.
- Promote the responsible use and conservation of energy and natural resources to benefit the social and economic well-being of the community, for the sake of current and future generations.
- Use sustainable practices in our physical infrastructure and landscape.
- Partner with local, regional and global stakeholders in advancing sustainability efforts.
- Encourage our community to consistently operate with an awareness of the social, economic, environmental and health-related impacts of our actions or inactions on the local and global community and future generations.

## **4. Learn and Adapt**

Information and research on many sustainability issues are evolving quickly, emergencies can occur and funding opportunities can always shift. The City of Brentwood strives to be nimble, and to learn and adapt based on new information, real world experiences and technology shifts.

## **5. Environmental Quality, Economic Health and Social Equity are Mutually Dependent**

Sustainability requires that our collective decisions as a city allow our economy and community members to thrive without destroying the natural environment. A healthy environment is integral to the City's long-term economic and societal interests. In achieving a healthy environment, we must ensure that inequitable burdens are not placed on any one geographical or socioeconomic sector of the population, and the benefits of a sustainable community are accessible to all members of the community.

## **6. Community Awareness, Responsibility, Participation and Education are Key Elements of a Sustainable Community**

The City will be a leader in the creation of educational opportunities to support community awareness, responsibility and participation by all community members. This engagement will encourage community members to:

- Be aware of their impacts on the environmental, economic and social health of Brentwood
- Take responsibility for reducing or eliminating those impacts
- Take an active role in community efforts to address sustainability concerns
- Be engaged in the process to formulate sustainable decisions

## **7. The City is Committed to Procurement Decisions which Minimize Negative Environmental and Social Impacts**

In an ideal world, we could tackle all sustainability issues at once. The City will be strategic and set priorities based on available financial and human resources. The procurement of products and services by the City results in environmental, social and economic impacts. The City will develop and abide by an environmentally and socially responsible procurement policy that emphasizes long-term values and will become a model for other public and private organizations. Each policy should to the best of its ability meet the guiding principles established in this document.



## Plan Structure & Overview

The City of Brentwood's Sustainability Plan is meant to provide guidance for current and future decision makers, City employees and residents. The goal areas and associated objectives outlined in the plan are not meant to be prescriptive, but rather an attempt to lay out a series of priorities and directions that will help Brentwood to become more sustainable. The Sustainability Plan contains six goals, each of which contain a brief definition created by the Sustainability Commission. Each goal contains a number of objectives and has a non-exclusive list of actions associated with it. Key timeframes, funding sources, identified implementation leaders and partners are also listed.

The timeline for implementation of Brentwood's initiatives and proposed projects will vary. Ideas should be prioritized based on ease of implementation, availability of existing resources, funding commitments and impacts or urgency. Some actions and strategies are very specific and ambitious, while others are more broadly described. The Sustainability Commission and City staff will work to create metrics where needed and to fine-tune strategies and actions as needs and technologies change. All of the stated goals and objectives require some level of action and follow up if the City of Brentwood is to provide stewardship of its resources for current and future generations.

The Sustainability Plan is a living document that should be modified as new practices and technologies are developed or as dictated by significant regional, national or global events that threaten to impact the City. As a dynamic document; experience, testing and emerging technologies will be incorporated as the City achieves goals and sets new initiatives.



The Brentwood Park Pavilion is equipped with solar panels to offset energy usage.

The plan seeks to build community resilience in the face of challenges such as oil dependency, modern energy developments, climate change and economic crises. It is designed to engage the community to create a way of life that can withstand the rapidly shifting global systems. Such challenges to global systems are likely to require reassessment of views and modifications to responses. There are many ways in which the achievement of sustainable goals can have a positive impact on local and regional economies. Achieving these goals will not only conserve resources and reduce Brentwood's greenhouse gas emissions, but also enhance economic vitality and lead to a more sustainable city.

The Sustainability Commission will conduct a high-level review of this document annually, or as needed, to make budgetary recommendations to the City for the upcoming fiscal year. These recommendations will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Aldermen during the budget process. The Sustainability Commission will add new objectives, while documenting completed objectives in the Plan Appendix.

The Sustainability Commission will be charged to complete a comprehensive review of the City's Sustainability Plan every five years.



Brentwood Park, looking down over the lake, amphitheater and future site of the overlook.



Photo by CHUTERSNAP on Unsplash

## Transportation

Multi-modal transportation is a key to improving sustainability. Mobility choices affect every aspect of sustainability in the region. A robust, heavily-used alternative transportation system can dramatically increase economic vitality, health and quality of life.

Transportation is one of the largest contributors to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Supporting the growth of alternative transportation choices, such as public transportation (MetroBus, MetroLink), bicycles, carpooling and electric cars, will significantly decrease emissions while improving air quality and the health of the region.

### Goals:

- Promote a sustainable transportation system
- Facilitate a reduced dependency on personal vehicles in favor of more sustainable modes of travel
- Reduce the City's carbon footprint through fleet and transportation infrastructure improvements

## **Goal 1: Promote a sustainable transportation system**

The City of Brentwood needs to be at the forefront of promoting a sustainable transportation system. Sustainable transportation refers to any means of transportation that has low impact on the environment.

- Limit transportation-related emissions and waste that cause air, water and soil pollution
- Promote the transition to low- and zero-emission vehicles
- Improve public safety

Short-Term Actions:

1. Create a City-wide transportation evaluation plan (survey) that establishes methodology and standards for tracking important transportation data

Medium-Term Actions:

1. Adopt a community-wide anti-idling ordinance
2. Establish and signpost - No-Idling Zones

Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Connect businesses with emission reduction programs such as St. Louis Green Business Challenge, EPG Climate Leaders Program
2. Expand EV Charging stations within the City

## **Goal 2: Facilitate a reduced dependency on personal vehicles in favor of more sustainable modes of travel**

While the national average of vehicles miles traveled (VMT) has reduced in recent years, traffic emissions continue to affect the environment and public health. Reducing VMT's has the potential to improve air quality and shift travel to other transportation options.

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Encourage walking, cycling or taking transit, which increases physical activity and reduces the risk of chronic disease

Short-Term Actions:

1. Engage public agencies to enhance transit experience
2. Research and implement incentives to encourage public transportation (e.g., EcoPass)

Medium-Term Actions:

1. Implement the recommendations contained within the Bikeable Walkable Communities Plan
2. Implement the recommendations contained within the City's Trail Plan as shown in the Brentwood Parks System Master Plan
3. Improve accessibility to transit locations

## **Goal 3: Reduce the City’s carbon footprint through fleet and transportation infrastructure improvements**

As environmental stewards, the City of Brentwood will focus on reducing the City’s carbon footprint. The City’s actions will help mitigate the effects of global climate change, improve public health and maintain biodiversity. Cutting carbon emissions will help ensure cleaner air, water and soil for the future.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Adopt an anti-idling policy for city vehicles
2. Install telematics on all city vehicles to ensure their efficient and sustainable use
3. Develop transportation electrification plan for City fleet

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Transition current city-owned fleet to electric vehicles per the City’s Fleet Replacement Program (cars/trucks, street sweeper, trash truck)

### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Implement transportation-related sustainable infrastructure improvements



Photo by Michael Fousert on Unsplash



## Community Development, Engagement & Education

All Community members, including individual citizens, community-based groups, businesses, schools and other institutions should be aware of their impacts on the environmental, economic and social health of Brentwood and must take an active part in community efforts to address sustainability concerns. The City will therefore be a leader in the creation and sponsorship of educational opportunities to support community awareness, responsibility and participation in sustainability efforts through the cooperation with local schools, colleges and other organizations.

### Goals:

- Raise sustainability awareness within the City of Brentwood
- Support and collaborate with schools, community-based groups, businesses and other institutions in their sustainability efforts and initiatives
- Ensure all youth have access to environmental stewardship programs and information

## **Goal 1: Raise sustainability awareness within the City of Brentwood**

The City of Brentwood will create an informed citizenry that is committed to the stewardship of resources, respect for the environment and the health and well-being of the broader community. Through educational efforts, community members of all ages will understand the basic principles of sustainability and use them to guide their decisions and actions.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Expand educational resources regarding recycling
2. Perform a sustainability educational campaign
3. Create a robust sustainability page on the City of Brentwood's website
4. Develop and implement a sustainability scorecard for the City of Brentwood

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Survey residents about their knowledge of energy efficiency habits and programs
2. Develop a sustainability communications plan
3. Explore social media and other information technologies to deliver sustainability information and create a social media marketing campaign
4. Create a "toolkit" that can be used to develop sustainability awareness in neighborhood associations, businesses and other groups

### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Continue to hold community events and festivals at public parks to support quality of life and to attract visitors to Brentwood
2. Include regular sustainability tips on City of Brentwood communications such as Facebook, Instagram and newsletters
3. Participate in and promote regional sustainability education and projects

## **Goal 2: Support and collaborate with schools, community-based groups, businesses and other institutions in their sustainability efforts and initiatives**

The City of Brentwood will lead the collaboration effort to promote sustainability throughout the region by sharing ideas, experiences and lessons learned from past and planned sustainability efforts and develop coordinated efforts with shared benefits.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Establish a communication network between businesses, schools, local governments and organizations
2. Support a regional Sustainability Consortium with local organizations to share ideas and best practices

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Partner with local organizations, such as Forest ReLeaf and Davey Tree, to conduct

- tree planting campaigns
- 2. Collaborate with schools, community-based groups, businesses and other institutions on efforts to improve sustainability awareness and action
- 3. Develop a list of sustainable projects that can be utilized for organizational community hours

Long-Term/On-going Actions:

- 1. Undertake co-ventures with area businesses, schools and municipalities whenever possible

### **Goal 3: Ensure all youth have access to environmental stewardship programs and information**

As the need for greater sustainability becomes more apparent globally, so does the importance of educating children on the importance of sustainability. Through hands-on experiences and relevant education, children can explore and learn about their local contexts and environmental issues. They can develop the creativity and critical thinking skills necessary to make informed decisions for change, improving the quality of their lives and those of future generations.

Practicing sustainability empowers children to construct knowledge, explore values and develop an appreciation of the environment and its relationship to their worlds. This lays the foundations for an environmentally responsible adulthood.

Short-Term Actions:

- 1. Create a family “toolkit” that can be used to develop sustainability awareness
- 2. Support the Brentwood School District in their sustainability efforts and education

Medium-Term Actions:

- 1. Promote City-wide health challenges to encourage family wellness
- 2. Develop a list of sustainable projects that can be utilized for youth community hours

Long-Term/On-going Actions:

- 1. Encourage City-wide walking and biking within neighborhoods and throughout the region
- 2. Work with school district to provide safe pedestrian routes to schools for all students
- 3. Offer ongoing environmental opportunities for children and families
- 4. Support Brentwood School District sustainability training/education for staff



## Planning & Policy

City leadership is imperative for city-wide adoption of sustainability strategies by businesses, institutions and residents. The City determines the policies and codes that businesses and residents must follow, which have direct and indirect impacts on emission reduction.

The places where we live, work, learn and play that are sustainable, safe and healthy inspire a sense of well-being. Through land use and development plans, policies and recommendations, the City of Brentwood will promote and support sustainability.

### **Goals:**

- Support sustainable infrastructure and buildings
- Develop and integrate strategies for reducing emissions and increasing sustainable practices within City operations and decision making
- Serve as the coordinating entity for sustainability actions within the community
- Ensure all youth have access to environmental stewardship programs and information

## **Goal 1: Support sustainable infrastructure and buildings**

Through policy revision, the City will promote and support the sustainability within the community. All decisions, now and in the future, will be made with sustainability in mind.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Review energy efficiency code to ensure alignment with the current International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
2. Revise the Brentwood zoning ordinance in support of high quality, sustainable development

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Adopt energy efficient building requirements
2. Adopt electric vehicle policy
3. Investigate high performance building permit incentive programs or other approaches (e.g. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program) based on the degree of measurable sustainability in a project

### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Encourage public agencies and private developers to implement “best management practices” (BMPs)
2. Encourage public agencies and private developers to use green building techniques and certifications (e.g. Leadership and Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), net-zero building)
3. Work closely with developers to ensure the construction of sustainable buildings when facilities are renovated
4. Maintain energy efficiency code current with IECC updates



## **Goal 2: Develop and integrate strategies for reducing emissions and increasing sustainable practices within City operations and decision making**

It is imperative that the City creates the processes and policies that are necessary to become more sustainable.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Enroll the City of Brentwood as a Missouri Clean Energy District
2. Create an ordinance committing the City to record, report and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target
2. Institute a green living program for Brentwood residents

### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Perform a full update of the greenhouse gas inventory every five years
2. Investigate and implement a roundabout with pedestrian-friendly crosswalk at the East intersection of Strassner Dr. and Hanley Industrial Ct.

## **Goal 3: Serve as the coordinating entity for sustainability actions within the community**

The City will take the lead in implementing climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. The municipal level is where climate change impacts are noticeable, appropriate solutions are most impactful and climate policy choices play out.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Adopt “Sustainability” into the City’s mission statement
2. Develop a Green Dining Alliance Policy
3. Sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Institute a community light bulb replacement program
2. Develop a native plant policy for the City and recommendations for the community

### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Work toward promoting a strong town center along Brentwood Blvd. and ensure key community service facilities such as City Hall, the Community Center, Library and Post Office remain within the town center
2. Include sustainability metrics in the City’s Annual Report



## Municipal Operations

In order to create a livable, safe and healthy community that promotes the responsible use and conservation of energy and natural resources, processes and policies need to be integrated into City operations across all departments.

New strategies need to be applied to policy and development opportunities. By analyzing data and metrics, the City will align key areas of value to support specific initiatives.

### **Goals:**

- Develop and integrate sustainable strategies into City operations and decision making
- Reduce emissions and energy consumption by systematically upgrading existing buildings, equipment and infrastructure
- Support and enhance the City's greenscape, including its existing park system, right-of-ways, trails and urban tree canopy

## **Goal 1: Develop and integrate sustainable strategies into City operations and decision-making**

The City has numerous strengths upon which to build, and assets that can be leveraged to advance sustainability within City operations. A commitment to lowering the City's natural resource consumption, reducing environmental impacts and improving air and water quality will create a healthier environment for the Brentwood community now and into the future.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target
2. Develop and implement a green purchasing policy
3. Enroll Brentwood as a Missouri Clean Energy District

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Create a dashboard for sustainability metrics standardization and compilation
2. Develop and implement a recognition program for green business practices

### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Demonstrate an effort toward sustainability on all public projects
2. Install EV charging stations at multiple (at least five) City properties

## **Goal 2: Reduce emissions and energy consumption by systematically upgrading existing buildings, equipment and infrastructure**

The City will become more sustainable by reducing overall energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions across its owned assets. The choices the City makes today toward more responsible building and development will have a dramatic impact far into the future.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Perform an energy audit of all municipal facilities
2. Create an implementation plan to fund projects recommended by the energy audit

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Encourage the addition of energy saving construction techniques and materials into city facilities
2. Increase the use of renewable energy sources (solar / wind) at all municipal buildings where practical

### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Purchase electric vehicles as municipal fleet vehicles are due to be replaced
2. Create a target for new municipal facilities to meet zero net energy standards by 2030

### **Goal 3: Support and enhance the City’s greenscape, including its existing park system, right-of-ways, trails, and urban tree canopy**

The City has green space that continues to offer numerous benefits and amenities to City residents and businesses. These public spaces will be beautifully landscaped, available for passive and active recreation and possess other amenities that make them lively and safe. In addition, the City’s Urban Forest will consist of mature blossoming and shade trees.

#### Short-Term Actions:

1. Ensure all residents have access to parks, recreation facilities and open spaces
2. Include “best management practices”, green building techniques (e.g. pervious pavement) and the use of native plantings
3. Incorporate pollinator-friendly plants (e.g. milkweed) throughout the City

#### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Incorporate rain gardens with native plants into streetscaping throughout the City
2. Ensure that newly constructed trails and sidewalks enhance the connectivity between the residential neighborhoods and community facilities
3. Develop a minimum tree cover requirement as part of the permitting process for all new development and substantial renovation

#### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Ensure high-quality parks and recreational facilities exist in the City to attract visitors to the area to enhance economic vitality and support local businesses
2. Improve the City’s urban tree canopy by planting a tree in every viable location within the right-of-ways by 2030
3. Enhance sidewalks with textured surfaces, such as bricks or colored pavers, to help brand sustainable living within the City and making it more pedestrian friendly



The trails at Memorial Park



Charging Stations located at the Brentwood Recreation Center



## Economic Development

In recent years, the City of Brentwood has taken significant steps toward improving the City through an emphasis on environmental and economic responsibility. Brentwood Bound's ambitious plan to provide a comprehensive solution to overcome flooding and public safety challenges presented by Deer Creek, and to improve the Manchester Road corridor, will be completed soon. The City must continue to develop an environment that supports these efforts, while continuing to build on its tremendous assets.

One area where the City of Brentwood can improve its performance on environmental, economic and social goals is through efforts to enhance sustainable economic development.

### **Goals:**

- Maintain a diverse and robust tax base, while fostering initiatives that promote sustainable economic development
- Invest in a progressive, sustainable future

## **Goal 1: Maintain a diverse and robust tax base, while fostering initiatives that promote sustainable economic development**

A sustainable economy provides the monetary resources necessary to support the community. This includes providing a tax base sufficient to enable community services and provide capital for further development and enhancement. It is important that future development is done in a thoughtful and sustainable manner. The City will set the groundwork for economic growth while preserving and enhancing the quality of the community and environment for future generations.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Support small and local businesses as a key part of the City's economy

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Collaborate regionally on economic issues
2. Encourage sustainable business practices

### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Encourage mixed-use development in town center that stimulates activity and fosters a sense of community enabling residents to work, shop and recreate within walking distance of their homes
2. Nurture a diverse, stable, local economy that supports the basic needs of the community

## **Goal 2: Invest in a progressive, sustainable future**

A key to a successful, sustainable future is adapting to change. Innovation in government, commercial and residential initiatives will position the City of Brentwood to be progressive and resilient.

### Short-Term Actions:

1. Study quality of life factors in highly successful cities and determine how those can be applied or enhanced in Brentwood
2. Market City assets to attract visitors

### Medium-Term Actions:

1. Market and encourage living within the City of Brentwood for young adults and families
2. Promote a mix of land uses and housing options throughout the community to support economic sustainability

### Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Create partnerships with other municipalities to pool resources and/or share fiscal responsibilities (for example, purchase electric transportation, invest in a recycling center, host joint events)



## Arts & Culture

Arts and culture play a vital role in maintaining a high quality of life and shall be an integral part of creating sustainable solutions for achieving City goals. The City of Brentwood is committed to retaining and nurturing the arts community and its resources, as well as ensuring the long-term sustainability of arts and culture within the City of Brentwood and the greater St. Louis region.

The City of Brentwood defines sustainable art as the creative practice of making artwork using reusable or recycled materials, as well as, artwork that addresses environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, or waste reduction.

### **Goals:**

- Integrate art and culture into the City of Brentwood's ongoing activities and planning efforts
- Encourage public art and culture that builds City identity

## **Goal 1: Integrate art and culture into the City of Brentwood's ongoing activities and planning efforts**

The City of Brentwood will identify best practices in sustainable art and design and incorporate such standards and sustainable practices into public art projects.

Short-Term Actions:

1. Expand arts and cultural events as well as outdoor programs

Medium-Term Actions:

1. Include sustainable art in City infrastructure projects and major commercial developments

Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Promote increased participation in arts and culture within the community by providing greater access to diverse programs for all ages
2. Host an annual arts and culture event that draws participation from across the St. Louis region
3. Engage the community for input on art selection

## **Goal 2: Encourage public art and culture that builds City identity, with priority to curate from local artisans and creators**

Art can significantly improve the appearance of infrastructure and public spaces throughout the City. The City shall encourage innovative public art that enhances spaces and beautifies neighborhoods. Through public art, the City will engage residents to express their cultural traditions.

Short-Term Actions:

1. Develop a long-range design plan to incorporate public art into City spaces and development projects

Medium-Term Actions:

1. Use distinctive public art, landscapes and streetscapes to build City identity

Long-Term/On-going Actions:

1. Encourage collaborations that build places and destinations through art both within the City and the St. Louis region