



## The Greenest Region Corps

The [Greenest Region Corps](#) is a partnership between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and AmeriCorps that aims to pair talented young professionals with municipalities and partner agencies. During a year of service, these individuals help build capacity for sustainability-related projects and initiatives at their respective host sites.

GRCorps Members work individually at their host sites under the supervision of local staff personnel. The nature of the position allows members to become fully immersed in the challenges and opportunities of a single community. However, the strength of the Corps is its capacity to function as a team. Members participate in weekly team meetings, which create opportunities to identify common goals and best practices across the region and share resources, knowledge, and expertise. Most importantly, these meetings -- and the structure of the Corps in general -- encourage members to collaborate and support each other across community boundaries, leveraging their collective strengths and experience for greater impact.

## Examples of Corps Member Projects and Accomplishments

Municipal Plan Development - *Members collaborate and communicate across departments to identify goals and develop plans to reach future objectives. See examples of these products below:*

- [Village of Round Lake Beach Sustainability Plan](#)
- [Village of Round Lake Beach Wetland Management Plan](#)
- [Village of Round Lake Beach Wetland Plan Overview](#)
- [Village Round Lake Beach Natural Areas Management Plan](#)
- [Village of Hoffman Estates Sustainability Plan](#)
- [City of Waukegan Sustainability Plan Framework](#)

Grant Applications – *In 2019-2020, Members secured over \$200,000 in grant funding for their communities.*

- Metropolitan Mayors Caucus -- [Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation Grant](#) - \$135,000 awarded
- [SWALCO USDA Grant Application](#) - \$90,000 awarded
- City of Waukegan – [ComEd Green Region Grant](#) - \$3,150 awarded

*Note: Members also applied for grants from the IEPA and AARP in late 2020. We have not yet heard back from these organizations.*

Best Practice Checklists – *Last year, one GRCorps Member helped develop an 'EV Readiness Checklist', which identified best practices for municipalities to consider in preparing for an increase in electric vehicles. To create the checklist, the member facilitated 17 listening sessions with municipal leaders and experts across the region.*

- [EV Readiness Checklist](#)



Community Engagement and Events- *Members partner with school districts, city staff, and consultants to develop programs and help plan both virtual and in-person events to engage with community members, students, and local businesses.*

- [City of Evanston Sustainable Business Recognition Program](#)
- [City of Evanston Experience Climate Change Project](#)
- [City of Evanston Earth Week Programming](#)
- [City of Highland Park Restaurant Composting Initiative](#)
- [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Earth Day Flyer and Webinar](#)

Policy Research and Recommendations – *Members research local policy initiatives and present them to City Councils and Village Boards for approval. Members also draft municipal resolutions for Board and Council approval.*

- [City of Highland Park Backyard Chicken Keeping Recommendations](#)
- [City of Highland Park Backyard Chicken Keeping Presentation for City Council](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Sustainability Plan Resolution](#)
- [City of Waukegan Mayors Monarch Pledge Resolution](#)
- [City of Waukegan Earth Week Resolution](#)
- [City of Waukegan National Pollinator Week Resolution](#)

Survey Development – *Members design and administer surveys to gauge community interest on different initiatives. Surveys and summaries of survey findings in two different communities are linked below.*

- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Survey Outreach](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Survey Results](#)
- [City of Waukegan Sustainability Survey](#)
- [City of Waukegan Survey Results](#)

Asset and Story Mapping – *Members creatively utilize GIS to map community assets or tell a story about their communities. Check out the maps below.*

- [Cook County Solid Waste Story Map](#)
- [SWALCO Food Composting Site GIS Map](#)
- [City of Highland Park Sustainability Map](#)

Data Analysis and Inventories – *Members collect and analyze data for a variety of uses, including cost-benefit analyses, greenhouse gas inventories, and climate risk analyses.*

- [Village of Park Forest Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report](#)
- [Village of Park Forest Greenhouse Gas Emissions Summary](#)
- [Village of Park Forest Climate Risk Analysis](#)
- [City of Evanston EV Charging Infrastructure Data Briefing](#)
- [SWALCO Cart Tag Technical Summary Report](#)



Communications Materials – Members create a variety of communications materials, including press releases, informational brochures and flyers, website design, and social media posts. Some examples are linked below.

- [City of Evanston Green Infrastructure Brochure](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Guide to Aging in Place](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Environmental Initiatives Brochure](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Pollinator Garden Flyer](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Native Plant Tour Brochure](#)
- [City of Waukegan ComEd Press Release](#)
- [City of Waukegan CEJA Press Release](#)
- [City of Waukegan Pollinator Bingo Cards](#)
- [Cook County Earth Month Blog Post](#)
- [Village of Park Forest Sustainability Programs Flyer](#)
- [Village of Park Forest Sustainability Milestones Poster](#)
- [Village of Park Forest REC Poster](#)
- [Village of Round Lake Beach Wetlands & You Booklet](#)
- [Village of Round Lake Beach Wetland Informational Flyer](#)
- [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus COVID-19 Resources Webpage Design](#)
- [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Climate Adaptation Webpage Post](#)
- [SWALCO COVID-19 Informational Flyers](#)