

## **Judy Fiske**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman**

Thanks to Citizens' Greener Evanston for the opportunity to respond to your survey. Because it frequently asks for yes-no replies to questions about complex issues, I think it makes more sense for me to delineate some of the many ways I've already worked actively to promote the city's environmental well-being over the past decades, including my three terms as 1st Ward alderman.

I was one of leaders in the city's adoption of both CARP and the Environmental Justice Resolution, and, as alderman, I will continue to make sure they are properly implemented. While the City Council oversees municipal operations, we can also encourage businesses to do the same when applying for a building permit, with the caveat that, as we require compliance, we work to identify federal, state and local programs to help offset costs that may discourage participation.

The lakefront is indisputably the city's most precious natural resource. In addition to being an active participant in the development of the Lakefront Master Plan, I continue to work diligently to assure that we maintain it, preserve it, protect it, find ways to stabilize it against the ravages of erosion and climate change, and staunchly defend against efforts to commercialize it. I have listed lakefront preservation as my top priority in campaign literature for the past three election cycles.

I support raising the minimum requirements and encourage builders to strive for LEED Platinum. In a referral to our Economic Development Department (and in response to the pandemic and future health threats), I have asked staff to develop a plan to prioritize and attract development of green office buildings to our downtown that will appeal to companies looking for a healthy working environment for their employees. This has a two-fold benefit: providing healthy workspaces in well-designed buildings close to rapid transit with a workforce that will patronize and support downtown businesses, and providing a higher level of property tax revenue from buildings designated as commercial rather than residential. The increased revenue will support other green initiatives throughout the city.

I have worked harder than anyone on the City Council to preserve Evanston's trees and other natural habitats. I have sought revisions to Evanston's tree-preservation ordinance to protect heritage trees throughout the city, including the ancient oaks in my ward on the Kendall College site, and I successfully partnered with Natural Habitat Evanston and Citizens' Greener Evanston to raise private funding to vaccinate all our elms under threat from budget cuts. Thank you for that! I have worked closely with public works and other city staff to make sure that streetlights and windows in office buildings respect dark-sky standards and are bird-friendly, and I support switching over to LED.

I have championed the installation of many miles of bike lanes in the 1st Ward and elsewhere in the city, successfully extending the original plan to route over 5,000 bicycle trips daily to and from the Northwestern campus.

And finally, I have been environmentally conscious since childhood, and that has continued as a family value in our home every day. Our measures include recycling and composting; natural habitat and wildlife restoration, preservation and protection; organic gardening; hand lawn mowing and, even cloth diapers...and more. It's what we do -- and how we live.

During my three terms on the City Council, with your help, Evanston has earned several prestigious "green" awards. I'm proud to have contributed to the efforts that have allowed us to achieve this recognition, but we've only just begun. Working together, we can make Evanston a healthier place for life on our fragile planet, and I am glad about the small part I have been able to play in that.