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CGE NEWS

July 2021

CGE is Seeking a Treasurer!

Do you have some background in budgeting or accounting and a passion for the environment and social justice? If so, this part-time volunteer role may be for you. Or it may be right for someone you know, so please feel free to share the link. [See full details about the position.](#)

City Hosting “Evanston Recycles” Event July 10

At this free annual “drive up, drop off” event you can recycle and donate a variety of items and securely shred documents. This year, due to COVID-19, the City will only be collecting electronic waste, documents for shredding, and medication.

[Get more details here.](#)

When: Saturday, July 10, 9:00 a.m. – noon.

Where: ETHS – the drop-off line usually extends down Church Street, so we recommend joining it via McCormick Ave. at Church.



Evanston Re-certified as a National Wildlife Federation Habitat

Habitat by the [National Wildlife Federation \(NWF\)](#) for the second year in a row. The citation recognizes Evanston for taking “*exceptional action to preserve, enhance, restore and connect wildlife habitat while also communicating the importance of habitat stewardship to the public.*” Communities achieve certification by conducting community outreach and education and by certifying individual private and public properties as wildlife habitats. The City had many accomplishments over the past year that them to achieve recertification, with the help of Natural Habitat Evanston, which:

- Worked with the City to secure additional funding and volunteers through the [Channel Habitat Fund](#) to expand and enhance restoration areas at the Ladd Arboretum and Harbert-Payne Woods.
- Created the [Fund for Evanston Trees](#) to help the City protect its elms, and contributed 31 American elms to replace public trees.
- Helped host the City’s annual OAKtober event in the fall of 2020 where 34 volunteers came out to plant eight native trees at King Arts school, adding to the four native trees that were planted in the spring of 2020.
- Planted 11 native trees at ETHS with funding from Trees Forever.



The Cook County Bike Plan Needs You!

Yes, Evanston has a bike plan. But Evanston doesn’t exist in a vacuum, and, in fact, Cook County has never had a plan! All that may be changing with a county-wide bike plan that’s in the works - and they need your help. This is a great opportunity to focus on connectivity within the county (from, to, and through Evanston) and on finding the best ways to make biking less stressful and safer as a healthy way to get around. Most bicycle facilities in the region have been built with the input of our most confident and capable cyclists but fall short in providing the safety and comfort that would appeal to a broader cross section of county residents.

[Follow this website](#) for project updates and to share your input. And, just as

“This area has really been abused and neglected” - Environmental Justice and Evanston’s 9th Ward

Over the years, ninth Ward residents have been subject to heavy air pollution, truck traffic, litter, toxic fumes, and, as happened in 2014, an explosion due to densely packed hazardous materials. [A recent in-depth article](#) in the Evanston Roundtable explores at length the many issues affecting this part of our community and what may help address them.



Thanks to work done by [Environmental Justice Evanston](#), the City now has ample documentation on the many issues affecting the ninth ward, many of them due to businesses not following City guidelines. As a result, the City has started to address the issues and to attempt stronger enforcement.

Stay Up-to-Date with What Water Means to Evanston

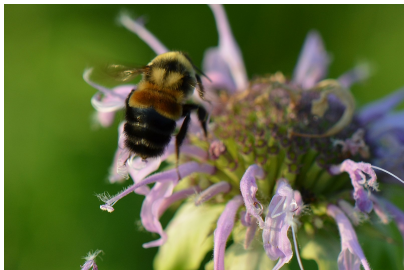
We Are Water is an ongoing collaborative study between [CGE’s Watershed Collective](#) and Northwestern’s Center For Water Research that explores our relationship with and concerns about water. You can keep current with the project by checking out [their page on the CGE website](#). The collaboration, which will result in a report, will explore a number of topics, including:

- Beach/lakefront access
- Green infrastructure (CARP, rain garden monitoring, flooding)
- Water issues among the housing insecure in Evanston
- Perceptions and behaviors around drinking water in Evanston
- Access to and satisfaction with information about water in Evanston



Endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Gets Attention from Fox News

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, [The Evanston Host Plant Initiative \(EHPI\)](#) is collaborating with community members to help conserve the endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, whose population has declined over 87% in the last twenty years. The issue received much-deserved attention recently when project leader Libby Shafer was interviewed on Fox News and spoke eloquently about the importance of the initiative. [Check out the interview here.](#)



Sustain Evanston Program Closes July 11

[Sustain Evanston](#) incentivizes businesses to voluntarily reduce their environmental impact and create a healthier community. However, there's not much time left to participate - the recognition period runs through July 11. Recognized businesses receive \$350, a program window decal, and a communications toolkit to spread the word on the business's new sustainable measures. So *now's the time*: if you work at or own a sustainably-minded business, or know of one that would like to be more sustainable, visit the [Sustain Evanston website](#) for details or contact sustainability@cityofevanston.org. Which businesses have already been recognized and what sustainable actions have they implemented? [Find out here.](#)

Environmental Justice Playbook Aims to Help Residents Resolve Issues

Achieving environmental justice means that every resident experiences the same degree of access to environmental assets, protection from environmental hazards and health risks, and that they can play an effective role in making

Justice Evanston has created a step-by-step playbook to help Evanston residents or business owners resolve an EJ issue that either:

1. Unfairly denies them or their community access to one or more environmental assets (examples: parks, trees, and bike lanes)
2. Unfairly burdens them or their community with one or more environmental hazards or health risks (examples: air pollution, noise, odors and rodents)

Please email the EJE team for a link to the Playbook at ej@greenerevanston.org

Edible Evanston's Food Forest Profiled in the Roundtable

What's now known as the Food Forest began in 2013 as an orchard tended by Northwestern students. Since then, it passed through a number of other groups until 2016, when Edible Evanston began its conversion to a diverse, high-yield food forest. In a recent article entitled [“Food Forest Yields Edibles and Environmental Insights,”](#) Edible Evanston co-leader Tim Sonder takes readers on an entertaining and deeply insightful tour of the Food Forest and explains its conversion from an orchard into a diverse, high-yield food forest.

Want to visit or volunteer at the Food Forest?

Tours are conducted every 4th Sunday of the month at noon. Learn about permaculture, layers, guilds, diversity, and how to grow more food using perennials and filling every niche. To sign up, contact foodforest@edibleevanston.org

In addition, Food Forest volunteer day is on July 4th, noon to 2:00 p.m., as well as on the usual Thursday evenings, 5-7pm, and Saturday July 17th, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Get activity schedules and details [here](#).



In this newsletter issue and others, you may have seen references to the [Evanston Roundtable](#). CGE wants to acknowledge the contribution that Roundtable editor Mary Gavin has made to Evanston and to our sustainability community over the years. Mary is stepping away from her role at the Roundtable and we thank her for all she's done!

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