



# City of Highland

GREEN CITIES INITIATIVE

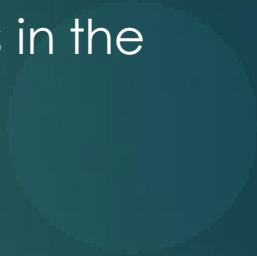
## Accomplishments:

- Upgraded parking lot lights at the Korte Recreation Center, Rinderer & Glik Parks to LED lighting
- Extended and started an arterial route of Highland's "Sursee Trail"
- Provided access for the public to access free wood chips
- Cancelled approximately 3 dozen free catalogs that have no affiliation with specific departments
- Local Scout Troops have adopted parks for quarterly trash pick-up
- Utilized social media to update poor air quality days and to promote "green practices"
- Expanded plastic bottle recycling to all departments
- Posted "no idling" zone in front of the Korte Recreation Center
- Re-vegetated an area with natives and pollinator plants



## Accomplishments Continued:

- Installed approximately 100 LED street lights as test/effort to minimize maintenance cost and energy efficiency improvement
- Instituted annual program of energy efficiency rebates for select projects in the community
- Engagement with school district on their lighting projects
- Continued recycling of cardboard in major departments
- Initiated practice of recycling electronic equipment in city offices



# Upgrades



# What is Working?

- ▶ People are using the multi-use trails – giving people more opportunity to walk in variety of areas
- ▶ We need to market ourselves more – bombard people with information early and often.
- ▶ Brighter lights = happy guests
- ▶ Demonstrating to those people that are “green” that we are knowledgeable in being good stewards of the environment
- ▶ Saving \$\$\$ - 15% decrease in utilities bill comparing Feb. – May 2015 to the same months in 2016

# More Effort Is Needed

- ▶ EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION!!! Can only happen by keeping the message constant and providing the resources to let people recycle.
- ▶ Forming New Habits – Teach at a younger age.
- ▶ Networking
- ▶ Starts with each of us by setting the example
- ▶ Searching for alternative funding – be less reliant on government

# 2017

- ▶ Education will continue
- ▶ Continue to utilize alternative funding: Received a sustainability grant from Madison County
- ▶ Increase the number of recycling canisters at special events
- ▶ Girl Scout butterfly garden
- ▶ Utilizing High School sports teams to assist in honeysuckle removal
- ▶ Complete the first arterial route of the city's master trail plan/Sursee Trail System
- ▶ Contemplating the idea of reclaiming composted wood chips to sell