



# State of the Village 2025



*At the Heart  
of Community*



# State of the Village Annual Report 2025

## Mayor Tom Poynton's Message

# Another Successful Year of Rising to the Challenges and Making Lake Zurich Better...Together.

### **My friends and neighbors,**

I have never been prouder to live in Lake Zurich. There are wars waging in too many parts of the world and worsening natural disasters like wildfires and hurricanes are upending the lives of fellow Americans. I am thankful to live in a peaceful, friendly, vibrant community in the Midwest. I hope you are too. Lake Zurich really is part of the suburban ideal.

### **We are still pointing Lake Zurich in the right direction!**

Families are continuing to move to our welcoming village for our excellent quality of life. We welcomed over 300 new households into the village in 2024. We are proud of our family-friendly atmosphere, top-rated schools and library, and vibrant local

businesses. Lake Zurich has a blend of suburban charm and natural beauty, with 32-well maintained parks, two beaches, 20 playgrounds, trails and a focus on preserving its natural open spaces.

By carefully using the limited resources available to local government and embracing long-term planning, Lake Zurich continues to enjoy a stable financial position with a top-rated AAA bond rating (the highest achievable). This strong position our community finds itself in is primarily due to the Village's prudent management of finances and a huge reduction in debt over the last decade. Since 2013, Lake Zurich's long-term bonded debt decreased more than 49%, from \$34 million to less than \$17.4 million in debt. We are still pointing Lake Zurich in the right direction!

## Table of Contents

**2-3 Message from the Mayor    4 Village Trustees/Department Directors**

**5 Fiscal Sustainability    6-7 Economic Development    8-9 Infrastructure Investment**

**10 Service Sustainability    11-12 Civic Engagement    13 Public Safety**

**14 Green Initiatives    15 Priorities for 2024 and Beyond!**

## Mayor Tom Poynton's Message (cont.)

### Lake Zurich continues to think long-term.

- The Village spent dozens of hours in 2024 engaging with residents at special events, workshops, and focus groups to create a new vision for the future. This community engagement will result in a plan for the next 10-20 years with the creation of a new Lake Zurich Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will guide our development, growth, and land use for the foreseeable future.
- With the Lake Michigan public water supply transition officially underway (an important step that will benefit generations to come), the Village needed to find a way to intelligently finance what will be the most expensive infrastructure project in Lake Zurich's history. The Village Board unanimously approved an increase of 0.5% for the local sales tax, which will generate about \$2.5 million each year to fund project-related expenses. Revenue from this half-penny sales tax increase will cover one-third of the total cost. This allows the Village to reduce the reliance on future water rate increases by one-third.
- Since 2022, Lake Zurich has been actively involved in the planning for the new County-wide consolidated emergency dispatch center, a new joint-agency facility recently constructed in Libertyville by the County. With this transition, Lake Zurich is going to see reduced operational costs when compared to continuing to operate an independent dispatch center. The new joint-dispatch center is called LakeComm and is expected to go live by the end of 2025.

### Lake Zurich continues to prioritize local infrastructure investment.

- In 2024, Lake Zurich undertook an extensive \$5.6 million capital improvement project that replaced thousands of feet of aged water mains in the Cedar Creek neighborhood and along Routes 22 and Rand Road. The Village also resurfaced the entirety of Golfview Road.
- The Buffalo Creek streambank located south of Bristol Trails Park has experienced severe erosion over the years,

so we fixed it in 2024 with a combination of protective measures and ecological restoration. The Village spent over \$600,000 on this environmentally green infrastructure project to reinforce the banks and use native plant species to enhance local biodiversity.

- Constructed in 2003, our lakeside Promenade boardwalk serves as a cherished centerpiece of the community. This past year, the Village invested over \$585,000 to transform the Promenade with updated brick pavers, enhanced hardscape features, customized village emblems, and a modern irrigation system to support the new native landscaping.
- We also invested over \$1 million in 2024 to keep walking paths and parking lots safe. Last year saw over 14,000 square yards of pavement rehab and stormwater drainage improvements to several municipal parking lots, walking paths, and sport courts at Staples, Sonoma, and Paulus Parks.

Truly Lake Zurich represents a small slice of the suburban ideal in the American Midwest. We have no shortage of community events that gather family and friends. With our events from Rock the Block, Independence Day celebrations, Alpine Fest, the Water Lantern Festival, Jack O' Lantern World, and Miracle on Main Street, Lake Zurich families always have something coming up to look forward to.

As the Mayor of Lake Zurich since 2013, your Village Trustees and I remain committed to financial sustainability and modernizing infrastructure. We take seriously our responsibility to be stewards of your hard-earned tax dollars and we hope you are seeing Lake Zurich get better each year because of it.

We have accomplished a great deal together and there is always more to do in a community with over 6,000 families and more than 20,000 people. We should all be proud of the Lake Zurich we are building together.

#### Stay Safe -Stay Healthy

Sincerely,  
Mayor Tom Poynton



# Village Trustees. Department Directors.

## Mission

The mission of the Village of Lake Zurich is to provide our residents and businesses with exceptional quality municipal services. We will achieve this through strategic planning, fiscal responsibility, and transparent, accessible, and responsive municipal leadership and staff. This will result in continually improving quality of life and return on investment for all stakeholders in the community.

## Vision

Lake Zurich – The PREMIER community in Lake County offering a high quality of life, thriving economic opportunity, exceptional services, and fiscally responsible local government.

## Guiding Principles

- Trust & Integrity
- Teamwork
- High Performance, Quality Services
- Caring and Respectful Leadership
- Transparency and Accountability
- Dedicated Professionals



**MAYOR**  
TOM POYNTON



**VILLAGE CLERK**  
KATHLEEN JOHNSON



**TRUSTEE**  
MARC SPACOME



**TRUSTEE**  
JAKE MARX



**TRUSTEE**  
WILLIAM RILEY



**TRUSTEE**  
MARY-BETH EUKER



**TRUSTEE**  
GREG WEIDER



**TRUSTEE**  
ROGER SUGRUE



**VILLAGE MANAGER**  
RAY KELLER



**ASSISTANT VILLAGE  
MANAGER**  
MICHAEL DUEBNER



**FINANCE DIRECTOR**  
AMY SPARKOWSKI



**POLICE CHIEF**  
STEVE HUSAK



**FIRE CHIEF**  
DAVID PILGARD



**MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES DIRECTOR**  
KYLE KORDELL



**PARKS & RECREATION  
DIRECTOR**  
BONNIE CAPUTO



**HUMAN RESOURCES  
DIRECTOR**  
DOUG GIBSON



**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
SAROSH SAHER



**PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR**  
MIKE BROWN

# Fiscal Sustainability.

Lake Zurich maintains a long-term perspective when managing public finances. While maintaining a balanced budget each year and diligently using revenues, the Village continues to maintain its top-notch status AAA bond rating while investing in aging underground infrastructure and public safety pensions.

**Village Reserves.** The Village's official fund balance policy is to maintain a minimum of 25% for the General Fund, with a target of 40%. This reserve is maintained for use in emergency situations. The 2024 projected year-end General Fund Reserve is 36%. This significant accomplishment allows for top bond ratings and low interest rates for tax payers.

**Village Debt.** Lake Zurich continues to reduce its debt to strengthen financial sustainability. In 2013, the Village carried \$34 million in long-term bonded debt. This debt has decreased \$1.9 million in 2023 to a total of \$174 million... a 49% reduction in just one decade!

**Local Sales Tax Increase to Fund Lake Michigan Water.** With the Lake Michigan public water supply transition officially underway, the Village Board unanimously approved an increase of 0.5% for the local Non-Home Rule Sales Tax to help fund the most expensive infrastructure project in Lake Zurich history. The new sales tax rate will generate an additional \$2.5 million annually, to be used to fund Lake Michigan project-related expenses. Revenue from this tax will cover one-third of the project's costs, reducing the reliance on future water rate increases for utility customers to fund the project.

Approximately 40% of retail purchases in Lake Zurich are made by non-residents, meaning people who don't live in Lake Zurich will contribute approximately 15% of the cost to bring Lake Michigan water into the Village.

**Selling Village-owned properties.** In 2024, the Village sold property on the northeast corner of Main Street and Old Rand Road, returning this important corner to the tax rolls for the first time since 2006. True North Properties has since been progressing on its \$1.5 million of enhancements, including exterior facade improvements and updates to the interior. The Village also sold 32 and 36 Mionske last year, enabling the construction of two new homes on those parcels.

**Pension Obligations.** The Village continues to fund public safety pension obligations to meet the 100% funding goal by 2040. The most recent actuarial valuations for 2023 show the Police Pension Fund is 58% funded and the Fire Pension Fund is 72% funded.

**Stable Outlook.** Lake Zurich has maintained its AAA stable outlook bond rating status from Standard & Poor's, which it has held since 2013, based on the following factors:

- Very strong local economy, with a projected per capita buying income at more than double the national average
- Very strong budgetary flexibility
- Strong overall budgetary performance
- Strong debt and contingency liabilities profile

*What's happening with...*

*... the Lake Michigan Water Project*

40% of retail sales are by non Lake Zurich residents which means they contribute approximately

15% to our project cost!

# Economic Development.

Lake Zurich is the primary economic generator for southwest Lake County with a booming Rand Road corridor and thriving industrial park. The Village aims to expand the community's economic base, with a focus on the Main Street District, to further establish and grow Lake Zurich as a regional business destination.



**Welcoming New Families.** Lake Zurich welcomed over 300 new households into town in 2024, with the largest influx in July 2024.

**Welcoming New Business.** Lake Zurich economic development efforts continue to attract private sector investment. New businesses in 2024 include: Lago by Fabio Viviani, El Vado Mexican Restaurant, Lolo's Bowls, Mari's Restaurant, Duck Donuts, Polka Dot Restaurant, American Acrylics, Gravitea Boba Tea Café, Autism Planet, Nirvana Dispensary, Body Life Lux, Tru-Seal Elastormers, Sugaring NYC, Optimize Fitness, Lake Liquors, and Sampoora Foods.





## Planning for the Future, Lake Zurich's New Comprehensive Plan.

The comprehensive plan is a long-term guide for our development, growth, and land use for the next 10-20 years. The Village spent dozens of hours in 2024 engaging with residents at special events, workshops, and focus groups to create a new vision for the future. This community visioning generated an aspirational but reality-based action plan for Village officials to rely on as we carefully plan future community design, accessibility, and partnerships.

## Smalley Steel Ring Expansion.

In 2024, the Village formalized an economic development partnership with Smalley on Oakwood Road, granting the company future financial assistance to support a multi-phased, multi-year expansion effort that will not be completed until 2040. Smalley Steel Ring has been operating in Lake Zurich for over 20 years and is a global supplier of wave springs, retaining rings, and section rings that are used in precision manufacturing for multiple industry segments.

Smalley intends to expand its operations in Lake Zurich with an added 200,000 square feet of new building space, including 86,000 square feet of office, 100,000 square feet of warehouse, and 13,420 square feet of manufacturing/production space. This development will cost at least \$51 million.

## Residential Community Approved on South Old Rand Road

In September 2024, the Village approved a development at 670 South Old Rand Road with developers at OSK Capital Partners. This plan was originally submitted to the Village in 2022 for construction of 50 townhouses within 12 buildings but was denied due to concerns about too high of density and wetlands disturbance. After much public engagement and listening, a revised plan of 18 single-family homes and 18 townhomes was approved.

## Student Transition Center Opens.

The community welcomed the renovation and opening of the Lake Zurich District 95 Student Transition Center in 2024. This impressive student center on Old Rand Road is designed to support transition into adulthood through programs that enhance employment and independent living skills, including vocational classrooms, a kitchen for hands-on learning, and life skills labs.



# Infrastructure Investment

With much of Lake Zurich built in the 1960's – 1980's, there are miles of aging underground infrastructure that are 50+ years old. The Village aims to fund its 20-year Community Investment Plan, incorporating green initiatives and transitioning to a Lake Michigan water source.



**Joint Action Water Agency Approves Lake Zurich.** In March 2024, Mayor Poynton and Village officials attended the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency Board of Directors meeting, where Lake Zurich was unanimously approved for admission into the agency. This water transition has been talked about for decades and finally the community willpower and financial mechanisms are in place to make it a reality. Lake Michigan water is expected to be flowing to Lake Zurich by the end of 2028.

**Lake Michigan Detailed Route Study.** As the Village continues its transition to Lake Michigan water, a detailed route study is needed for project engineering. A preferred route study is underway to identify various corridors as potential routes to connect to the CLCJAWA system in Vernon Hills.

**Buffalo Creek Streambank Stabilization.** The Buffalo Creek streambank, located south of Bristol Trails Park, has experienced severe erosion over the years with timber retaining walls collapsing. So, the Village invested \$518,000 on this environmental green infrastructure project that will reinforce about 1,400 feet of streambank with protective armoring and gabion retaining walls, flood storage, and plant restoration using species that are native to northern Illinois.

**Cedar Creek and Golfview Road See Investment.** The Village completed a huge \$5.6 million infrastructure improvement program in 2024 that included the replacement of 1,500 feet of water main on the south side of Route 22, the replacement of 3,500 feet of water main and resurfacing of several streets in the Cedar Creek neighborhood, the replacement of 1,900 feet of water main on the south side of Route 12, and the resurfacing of the entirety of Golfview Road.

**Lakeside Promenade.** Originally built in 2003, the Lake Zurich Promenade is a special focal point of the community, providing a scenic and recreational space. \$586,000 was invested in this site in 2024, which will see the Promenade reimagined with new brick pavers and hardscape features, customized emblems, and a new water irrigation system with native landscaping.

**Paulus Park Sign Upgrade.** In early 2024, the new Paulus Park media board was installed, replacing the old monopole

sign that required hours of staff time to change messages manually. The new message board is programmed remotely through a secure connection and is capable of high-contrast graphics.

**2024 Concrete Investments.** The Village invested \$127,000 last year to address deteriorating sidewalk and curbs in an ongoing effort to improve municipal infrastructure, focusing on Wicklow Village and the industrial park. Sidewalk repairs are an integral part of the Village's commitment to providing safe pedestrian routes, while curb and gutter repairs help maintain the flow of stormwater and prevent pavement deterioration in roadways.

**Keeping Walking Paths and Parking Lots Safe.** The Village invested over \$1 million in 2024 for pavement rehab to municipal parking lots, walking paths, and sport courts at Staples, Sonoma, and Paulus parks. Curb and stormwater drainage improvements were also included in these infrastructure improvements. In total, over 14,000 square yards of pavement was improved.



# Service Sustainability.

For years, Lake Zurich has embraced innovation in how we provide core municipal services the public depends on. We are committed to being a sustainable municipality that is adaptable and responsive in delivering the high-quality services the people of Lake Zurich expect.

**Improvements for Americans with Disabilities.** As Lake Zurich prepares for its first year collecting the full 4% "Special Recreation Association" property levy to allow more funding for people with special needs, the Village also spent a few weeks in 2024 gathering public feedback on this topic. 232 residents responded to a Village poll asking about priorities for ADA park improvements in the next five years, including which parks should be funded and which type of equipment should be purchased. The new 4% SRA tax levy is expected to generate over \$200,000 annually that can be invested in eligible accessibility improvements.

**Creating an ADA Transition Plan.** The Village has also been busy creating an official ADA Transition Plan. Working with consultants at the WT Group, Village Hall has spent much of summer 2024 conducting access audits at all 32 village parks, most municipal facilities, and along the highest priority sidewalks (*20 miles of sidewalk out of a total 98 miles*). In August, staff held a digital workshop session with residents to review these access audits and obtain further feedback on how improvements should be ranked.



**Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Progress.** In 2022, Lake Zurich entered into an agreement for and contributed \$50,000 toward establishing a consolidated 911 dispatch center to serve Lake County. Since that time, the Village has actively participated in the planning process for this new consolidated center, anchored by a new facility being built in Libertyville by Lake County. With this transition, Lake Zurich is projected to save \$500,000 over a six-year period, when compared to continuing to operate an independent dispatch operation.

LakeComm, the new dispatch center, is expected to go live by the end of 2025 and is intended to improve emergency response times by centralizing multiple agencies across the County. There are currently 25 agencies that have committed to be LakeComm members.

**Paulus Park Improvements** In 2024, the Village Board approved a plan for Paulus Park enhancements that include shoreline restoration with an overlook, renovation of the water splash pad, a new gathering space with game tables, the addition of a bandshell on the stage, more baggo courts, and site landscaping. The Village received \$600,000 in State grant funds to support this project, which will total approximately \$3.3 million at completion.

**LZ Joins GIS Consortium.** The Village formally joined the GIS Consortium, a partnership of dozens of local governments in the Chicago-metro area that provide shared staffing support and resource management for geographic information systems. This initiative is primarily driven by Lake Zurich's investments in water and sewer infrastructure as we strive to move beyond paper atlases of our assets. Joining the GIS consortium will ultimately enable better service delivery and infrastructure record keeping.

**Modernizing 'Traffic Court' Adjudication.** The Village adopted new regulations in 2024 to allow for expanded options and local authority for non-home rule communities like Lake Zurich with the ability to have a more cost-effective method to pursue local ordinance violations. Adopting Division 2.1 of the Illinois Municipal Code now allows the Village Hearing Officer to issue final enforceable orders in the same method as a judgement entered by a court.

# Civic Engagement.

Village leadership strives to meet you where you are.

By attending neighborhood block parties, large special events, regular Coffee with the Mayor sit-downs, and public safety personnel having a community-oriented mindset, Lake Zurich officials are leaning forward to hear from you.



**Arbor Day Engagement.** Over 200 people showed up for Arbor Day 2024 to participate in a variety of activities at Paulus Park. Dozens of volunteers showed up to help residents load free compost, clean up litter in several parks, and plant a tree with the Tree Commission. The native plant sale, compost giveaway, and paper shredding were big hits with the community.

**Local Government Academy.** Lake Zurich took another important transparency and engagement step in 2024 by launching its first Local Government Academy. More than just a police academy course, this four-night series covered a variety of local government topics, such as organizational structure, TIF districts, how we budget for infrastructure improvements, and how local government functions on a fundamental level. The Village of Lake Zurich believes engaged residents with positive attitudes is how a community arrives at better outcomes.



*Continued on page 12.*

# Civic Engagement (cont.)

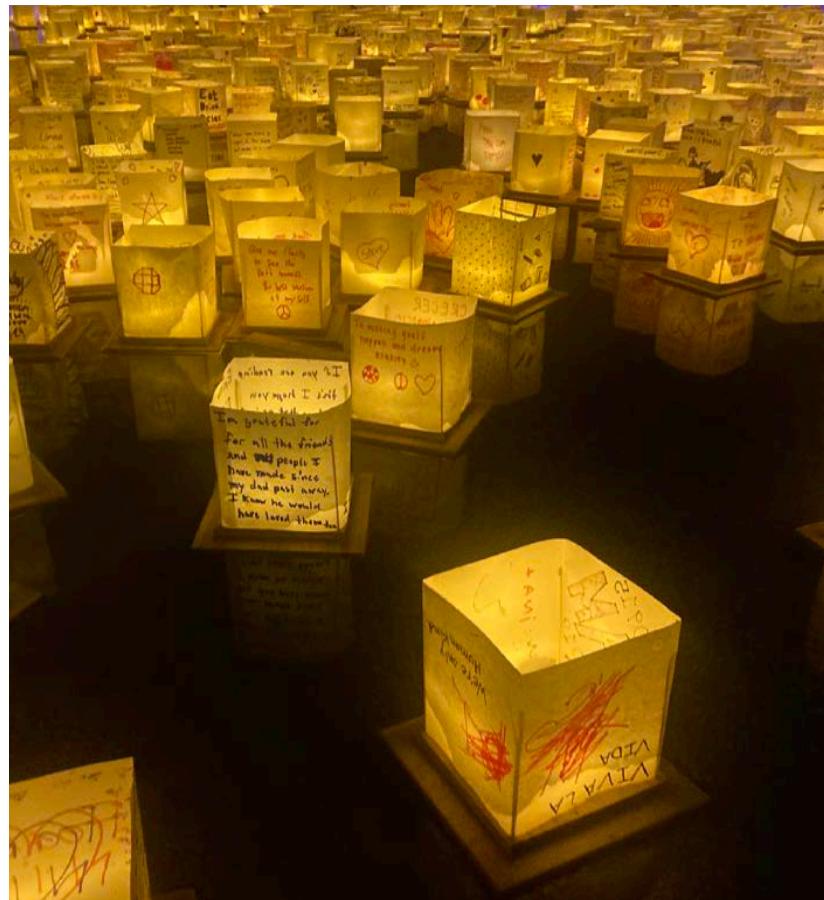
**First Water Lantern Festival.** The first year Water Lantern Festival was held at Paulus Park on May 18, 2024 and brought out over 2,000 people. Friends and family gathered to release lanterns onto the water, creating a beautiful and serene atmosphere where people decorated lanterns with personal messages, hopes, dreams, and memories. Once released onto the lake, the lanterns created a mesmerizing sight as they lit up the water.

**Delta-8 THC and Kratom Banned.** The Village took a bold move in 2024 implementing a ban on retailers in Lake Zurich from selling any products that contain Delta-8 THC and Kratom. Due to concerns over retailers selling such products without any governmental oversight or safety controls, in August the Village Board unanimously approved a layered approach through the end of 2024 with a total ban starting on January 1, 2025.

**Development Courtesy Reviews.** Lake Zurich values transparency and resident feedback, which is especially helpful when new developments are pitched. The Village Board conducts “courtesy reviews” before formal development applications are submitted, giving all involved parties a preview of and initial reactions to the proposed project. These courtesy reviews are broadcast live online and recorded for future viewing. These provide residents and Trustees an opportunity to highlight areas of concern and make recommendations that result in superior and more refined final development products.

In 2024, the Village conducted courtesy reviews for the proposed Meadow Wood East 15-lot subdivision, two development proposals for Block A on Main Street, a cannabis dispensary at 909 South Rand Road, and the renovations concepts for the northeast corner of Main Street and Old Rand Road.

**Lake Michigan Water Supply Outreach.** Village officials spent dozens of hours in 2024 meeting with small groups of interested neighbors at homeowner associations and the Ela Senior Center to discuss Lake Zurich's ongoing transition to Lake Michigan water. A village-wide community meeting at Ela Library was also held in September 2024, where dozens of residents showed up to learn about the water supply transition, project cost, financing, and the implementation timeline.



**Nittenau Visitors Tour Lake Zurich.** In 2024, the Village welcomed 10 visitors from our Sister City of Nittenau, Germany. Our German friends toured a major manufacturer in the industrial park, the police station, Ela Library, and the water treatment facility at the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency. The group also spent time in Chicago and Milwaukee. At Lake Zurich's 2024 Rock the Block event, the group was welcomed with a brief ceremony on the band stage.



# Public Safety.

Lake Zurich consistently reports crime statistics that are below the national, state, and county averages across all categories. Village crime rates are 43% lower than the national average and violent crimes in Lake Zurich are 85% lower than the national average. Said another way, Lake Zurich is safer than 77% of the cities in the United States.

**Laying the Groundwork for a New Fire Station.** Fire Station #1 was built in 1980 for a volunteer fire service when Lake Zurich's population was about 6,500. The Village has grown significantly since then with 20,000 residents and this station no longer serves the community's needs. Always planning for the future, Lake Zurich has entered into a new partnership with FGM Architects and consultants at Advanced Selections to plan for a future Fire Station #1 headquarters. By mid-2025, the Village should have a solid plan for a future station location, architectural site diagramming, and an approximate building size.

**Paramedics Teaching CPR to Lake Zurich.** In February, the Fire Department hosted a community American Heart Association CPR training event. A Lake Zurich resident and cardiac arrest survivor was the brain child of this community event, which was attended by about 130 people.

**40 Partners Go Live with Shared 911 Tech.** In 2024, Lake Zurich successfully transitioned to the County-wide computer aided dispatch, records management system, e-Crash and e-Citation systems managed by the Lake County Sheriff's office. This tech consolidation enhances public safety throughout the County as first responders are now on a single system while saving taxpayer funds through the elimination of individually owned and operated technology solutions.

**Police Body Cams Go Live.** Over the summer of 2024, Lake Zurich police officers began utilizing body-worn cameras to aid in capturing audio and video recordings of daily police interactions. In conjunction with the new camera system, new in-car cameras were also installed. The use of body-worn cameras is required by all Illinois police departments by January 1, 2025.

**Lake Zurich Police Awarded CALEA Accreditation.** In 2024, the LZPD was awarded reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), which is considered the "Gold Standard" for public safety organizations and recognized internationally. Policies, procedures, personnel, equipment and facilities, along with four years' worth of proofs of compliance were meticulously inspected by an out-of-state CALEA assessor, who reviewed over 180 standards in order to verify compliance with the gold standard benchmarks that CALEA upholds.

**Lake Zurich is 77% safer**  
than other cities in the United States!

**Firefighters Visit St. Francis School.** One of dozens of community outreach events conducted by the Fire Department in 2024, in October Lake Zurich firefighter-paramedics enjoyed teaching the kiddos about fire safety and showing them how we gear up for emergency situations.

**High School Public Safety Drills.** In June 2024, a joint-training session was held between School District 95 and the Lake Zurich police and fire departments, focusing on an integrated response to a hostile event at the LZ High School. Several other outside agencies also participated in the drill, including Lake County MEG unit members, Good Shepherd Hospital, Wauconda, Countryside, Barrington-Countryside, Long Grove, and Glenview Fire Departments.



# Green Initiatives.

Local governments have an important role to play in reducing carbon emissions and ensuring future generations inherit a sustainable ecosystem and livable environment. Some small things Lake Zurich is doing to help the planet include:

**Green Business Program.** The Village launched a new Lake Zurich initiative in 2024 designed to promote and recognize environmentally-sustainable businesses in the community. The Green Business Program is designed to empower environmentally friendly practices, reduce the carbon footprint of businesses of all sizes, and contribute to a more sustainable future. We know business plays a crucial role in shaping a sustainable future and can make a meaningful impact.

**Keeping Natural Open Space Areas Healthy.** With the completion of the Emerald Ash Borer parkway tree replacements in 2023, the Village reallocated that annual tree funding of \$100,000 to the enhancement and restoration of natural open space areas. In 2024 this included community investment in 17 different areas, including Oak Ridge Marsh Nature Park, Breezewald Park, Kildeer Creek, and Whispering Creek. Work included the removal of invasive species, prescribed burns to stimulate the growth of native plants, native seeding, ecological mowing and regular stewardship maintenance visits.

**100% Green Power Extended.** In 2024 Lake Zurich extended its 100% Green Power municipal aggregation program with mc2. This program is supported by 100% renewable energy, mostly from wind farms, solar farms, and hydroelectric plants in the Midwest. Lake Zurich earned official designation by the U.S. EPA as a Green Power community in 2024, generating over 50 million renewable energy credits in the first year of this program.

**First EV Vehicles Join the Fleet.** Added to the fleet in 2024 was a new Ford Lightning electric pickup truck that will be used by the Public Works Director for daily duties and a new Ford E-Transit van that will be used for facility maintenance. Without the need for oil changes and other non-EV maintenance requirements, the Village is expecting operational savings and monitoring for potential future vehicle replacements.

**Lake Zurich's Arboretum Receives Recognition.** The unique and woodsy Kuechmann Arboretum open space in Lake Zurich received re-accreditation in 2024 from ArbNet, a global network of tree-focused professionals that recognize excellence in tree-focused gardens worldwide. Kuechmann Arboretum is a 34-year old park on North Old Rand Road that includes dozens of trees that are over 100 years old. Kuechmann has 36 trees that are over 150 years old and 54 trees that are over 100 years old (*the oldest of which is about 280 years old!*).

**Curbside E-Waste Event.** Lake Zurich's curbside e-waste collection event with LRS occurred in July 2024. A total of 11 pallets full of old electronics were collected. That's over 3,000 pounds of electronics that will be disassembled and kept out of landfills.

**Suburban Forest Canopy.** The Village spent \$25,000 in 2024 to enhance the suburban forest canopy with 46 new trees planted throughout the Village. These are split with roughly half planted in spring and half planted in fall.

**Reducing Phosphate Runoff.** The Village adds anti-icing additives such as beet juice and brine to all snow plows to reduce road salt usage and phosphate deposits that runoff into surface water. This can reduce the total quantity of salt used during a winter storm by up to a factor of four.

**Clothing and Textile Recycling.** Lake Zurich offers clothing and textile recycling, which redirects gently used items from landfills towards reuse in developing countries around the world.

**Styrofoam Recycling Milestone.** Lake Zurich offers styrofoam recycling with the American Legion thanks to amazing resident volunteers. The program reached a milestone in late summer 2024; 40 semi-trucks full of foam collected since starting in 2021. Foam is recycled into consumer products in the Chicago suburbs.



# Priorities for 2025 and Beyond!



**Long-Term Capital Planning.** Lake Zurich will continue to set aside funds and build capital reserves to sustainably fund infrastructure investment with the goal of avoiding the burden of expensive, large-scale repairs.



**Main Street Beautification.** Initiate the Main Street streetscape project, a big step that will change the look and feel of Main Street for decades, with a new landscaped median, more on-street parking spaces, enhanced brick pedestrian crosswalks, warm ambient lights strung overhead to add a cozy welcoming vibe, and redesigned wider sidewalks with more room for gathering spaces and new public street furniture.



**Complete 911 Dispatch Consolidation.** Finish the multi-agency partnership to officially transfer emergency dispatch operations to LakeComm, which is expected to go live by the end of 2025.



## Lake Michigan Water Transition.

Progress through the Lake Michigan water transition project, with a focus in 2025 on completing the detailed route study, engineering and design specs, permits, and preparing bid documents with the first bids expected to be ready at the end of 2025.



## Replacing Fire Station #1.

Lake Zurich has a partnership with FGM Architects and consultants at Advanced Selections to plan for a future Fire Station #1 headquarters. In 2025, the Village will complete its plan for a future station location, architectural site diagramming, and an approximate building size.



**Parks Master Plan.** Update the Village's parks master plan for our most important open spaces, ensuring that residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities have the opportunity to participate in shaping the future of our green spaces.



**Paulus Park Phase 2.** Finish Paulus Park enhancements backed by OSLAD grant funds for the new splash pad, ADA access to Paulus beach, a new bandshell stage, shoreline restorations, and ADA-accessible baggo courts.



## National Community Survey.

Complete Lake Zurich's 6th National Community Survey to solicit community feedback on priorities and services. The Village has been participating in this survey every-other year since 2015, providing valuable trendlines on evolving community expectations.



**Encourage Owners of Infill Properties** to develop their properties including the former Kmart property, the Cummings property, and the Regal Cinema property.



**Curbside Composting.** Educate residents and homeowner associations on Lake Zurich's weekly curbside composting to encourage more housing units to comingle food scraps with yard waste, which comprise some 25% of all landfill waste. We send four times more food to landfills than yard waste.



Replacing  
Fire Station #1.  
(see above center)



# VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH ILLINOIS

