

greenspace
ALLIANCE
A PROGRAM OF  Green Umbrella

Policy Resources

Examples of ordinances and laws:

Developing, updating, and implementing ordinances and laws specific to greenspace and environmental protection is imperative in addressing the challenges posed by climate change, economic changes, and community health. The examples listed below showcase best practices for community develop and the policies that U.S. communities are developing to achieve them.

- [Sustainable Development Code](#): Offers best practices for community development, including examples of ordinances and laws that have been passed by communities.
 - Begin here, at [Chapter 1: Environmental Health and Natural Resources](#)
 - You can explore any chapter, but for examples of greenspace legislation, I recommend looking at [Chapter 1.7 Urban Forestry and Vegetation](#) and [Chapter 1.3 Sensitive Lands and Wildlife Habitat](#)
 - I also recommend looking at [Chapter 3: Land Use and Community Character](#)
 - This chapter does not directly focus on greenspace, but a lot of the policies are “greenspace adjacent” or could assist in protecting greenspace – especially in urban centers
 - Highly recommend looking through all chapters and their subsections as there is a wealth of information and examples!
- [Indiana University, Policy Resources](#)
 - Listed on Indiana University’s site, this is an [example](#) of legislation passed by youth in Eugene to embed climate recovery initiatives within City ordinances.

Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs):

These boards give City Councils advice on matters related to environmental quality and promote environmental protection standards and policies to the public. Below are some examples of (EABs), including how they’re structured and who makes up the board.

- [Dayton, Ohio](#) (Population 138,000)
 - [Example](#) of their meeting minutes//what they are discussing
- [Avon Lake, Ohio](#) (Population 25,000)
- [Bloomington, Indiana](#) (Population 79,000)

Long-Term Plans, Implementation, and Other Resources

Incorporating environmental protection into long-term plans is a fundamental pillar in ensuring that greenspaces within your community are preserved.

- [Climate Action Plans \(CAPs\)](#): Evidence-based roadmaps that can simultaneously reduce greenhouse gases and strengthen local-level resilience while also providing an array of community co-benefits. This resource provides examples of these plans and the nature-based solutions that have been implemented nation-wide.
 - Plan examples:
 - [Climate Action Plan \(Goshen, Indiana\)](#) (Population 34,500)

- [City of Des Moines Climate Action and Adaptation Plan](#) (Population 214,000)
 - [Delta Institute](#): Organization that collaborates with communities to solve complex environmental challenges throughout the Midwest. They have completed a number of environmental plans for Midwestern communities.
 - Resources to reference/learn more:
 - [Building Resilient Infrastructure for Healthier, Safer Cities - National League of Cities \(nlc.org\)](#)
 - [Urban nature-based climate solutions accelerator](#)
 - [Nature-based solutions funding database](#)
- **Comprehensive Plans:** One of the most important decision-making tools. Often prepared by local government and adopted by local residents to guide the development of their communities for the next decade(s). The document shows the the communities' current conditions, including population, land use, transportation, economic development, utility, housing, environment, parks, and recreation, in addition to reflecting the future visions and the approach of local residents and leaders for future management of their community.
 - Visit the American Planning Association website and check out their [Green Space Improvements Promote Destination Connectivity](#) resource. It provides a guide of the steps that should be taken when developing a comprehensive plan, including: community visioning and goal setting, plan making, regulations and incentives, development work, public investments, and potential partnerships.
 - [Oxford, Ohio Comprehensive Plan](#) (Population 23,000)
 - [Duluth, Minnesota Comprehensive Plan](#) (Population 87,000)
- **Midwest Climate Collaborative:** Dedicated to facilitating the development of a coherent Midwestern response to the climate crisis through acceleration of climate action, knowledge generation, and leader development led by organizations throughout the Midwest.
 - Visit their [Climate Resource Network \(CRN\)](#) and find examples of plans, research articles, initiatives, toolkits, reports, maps, etc., of climate work being done throughout the Midwest.
 - [Lansing, Michigan Climate Action Plan](#) (Population 113,000)
 - [Evanston, Illinois Climate Action and Resillience Plan](#) (Population 78,000)
 - [Brentwood, Missouri Climate Action Plan](#) (Population 8,000)

Design, Assess, Implement, and Monitor Nature-Based Climate Actions

Nature-based climate solutions simultaneously improve the social, economic, and environmental resilience of local communities. The resources below provide city-scale actions that operationalize climate action and provide resources for practitioners and the communities they serve.

- **[Center for Regenerative Solutions \(CRS\)](#):** Provides toolkits that communities can use to design, assess, implement, and monitor nature-based climate actions

- The [Managing Urban Landscapes for Climate Action](#) page features instructions and downloadable “*Strategy Development Guides for Communities and Local Governments to Manage Urban Landscapes and Organic Resources to Achieve Climate Action and Community Resilience Objectives*”
 - “The Guide” is a growing compendium of resources for City Planners who want to learn how to manage their urban lands for Climate Action
 - Goals of the guide:
 - Support cities in developing effective climate action strategies by creating an urban landscape management opportunity assessment that addresses mitigation, adaptation & resilience, and equity
 - Focus:
 - Identifying and aligning city departments to work towards shared community resilience objectives and climate action goals through the equitable management of urban landscapes and organic resources
 - What this guide does:
 - These resources will enable users to go through the process of creating an urban landscape-based climate action opportunity assessment for their city using a combination of their city’s planning documents, stakeholder engagement, and external analysis tools

Capital Improvement Plans + Financing

Capital Improvement Plans help to bridge the gap between the planning process and the budget process. Helping community leaders to make good planning choices for the future based on their specific goals and resources. Determining how to finance projects, especially those related to greenspace protection and implementation, is important in ensuring that the vision and desire for environmental conservation initiatives are not only held, but enacted upon.

- **Capital Improvement Plans:**
 - [Covington, Kentucky Cpatial Improvement Plan](#) (Population 41,000)
 - [Galena, Illinois Capital Improvement Plan](#) (Population 3,300)
 - Page 20, Parks and Recreation
 - Resource for capital [planning and budgeting](#) from open.gov
 - Have worked with a number of Midwest communities – including Madison, Indiana and Gary, Indiana
- **Financing**
 - [Conservation Financing](#)
 - Includes case study from Wayne National Forest in SE Ohio for a trail system – showing how greenspace protection and recreation are complementary and how to blend funding opportunities