

# Pittsfield Village Sustainability and Water Management

## Proposed Pittsfield Village Sustainability Statement

- **Problem Statement:** Our Earth is in a climate emergency with widespread and increasingly obvious impacts. The City of Ann Arbor has declared a climate emergency and adopted an [A2Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan](#) with the goal of reaching carbon neutrality by the year 2030. We expect there to be broader County, State, and Federal action as well, inclusive of rebate or funding opportunities coming out of the Federal Infrastructure bill. Pittsfield Village has a chance to influence and lead sustainability efforts in the broader community, and also to benefit from these broader investments.
- **Pittsfield Village Sustainability Goals:**
  - a. To identify and pursue projects, funding opportunities, collaborations, and other investments to help further the goals of A2Zero
  - b. To support and partner on changing regulations
  - c. To improve Pittsfield Village resilience and infrastructure
  - d. To support the health and safety of our community
  - e. To ensure that environmental sustainability is strongly considered as part of decisions made by our Association
- **Execution/Legwork plan:** TBD.

## Proposed Pittsfield Village Water Management Program

*Water Management is a subset of the broader area of Sustainability. Pittsfield Village already has multiple areas of engagement that we can consider part of the broader area of water management.*

- **Problem Statement:** Water management is important for the sustainability of our planet. Further, in daily life, water-related foundation issues are a huge cost to Pittsfield Village, and flooding has increasingly impacted our buildings and our residents' quality of life. Both of these directly intersect with the challenge of good and sustainable water management.

The City of Ann Arbor has identified that Pittsfield Village was at the center of the [June 2021 storm event](#). They are putting significant time and money into a multi-year project around this and have put together recommendations for how both Pittsfield Village Association and residents can partner to improve water management.

- **Goals:**
  - a. To work with City, County, and residents to advocate for Pittsfield Village
  - b. To identify practical measures that the Pittsfield Village Association and residents can take to improve water management, inclusive of gutters, grading, landscaping and land management, and other efforts.
- **Current efforts:**
  - Current rain garden analysis
    - **Objective:** Understand outcomes including benefits and drawbacks of implementations of current rain gardens
    - **Status:** In progress
      - Owned by Jess, in collaboration with Landscape Committee
    - **Deliverables:** lessons learned and guidelines for future rain gardens
  - More trees
    - **Objective:** Understand current tree placement across the entirety of Pittsfield Village and identify opportunities to add more trees to our landscape
    - **Status:** In progress, needs champion
      - Tree survey started by a couple residents interested in sustainability and trees (one is on the Landscape Committee)
    - **Deliverables:** Pittsfield Village tree survey; proposals for new trees.
    - **Question:** Is there a way to leverage the work discussed at the sustainability meeting?
      - Current state is always the place to start! If there are already residents working on a tree survey with the goal of identifying where we can put in more trees, hoping they can own and Landscape and Board can officially sanction.
    - **Requests:** I'd recommend a Board champion, a Landscape Committee member, and a staff liaison. There is already a Landscape Committee member involved.
- **Proposed efforts:**
  - 1. Future rain gardens
    - **Objective:** Identify future rain garden opportunities across the entire Pittsfield Village landscape
    - **Status:** Needs planning
      - Jess can champion and do legwork on this as an extension of current collaboration with the Landscape Committee, and agreement with the Board to use the free County services to identify rain garden opportunities.
    - **Deliverables:**
      - Pittsfield Village map annotated with areas where rain gardens are suggested to be installed.

- Recommendations for where rain garden installations might fit with foundation remediation work and sump pump installations
  - **Requests:** Can we identify 1-2 people willing to do legwork with me on this, in addition to both a Landscape Committee member and staff liaison?
2. Water Management and Foundations project
- **Objective:** Per the Basic Foundation program the Board put in place, where we have buildings of definite or potential foundation concern, we need to "Evaluate whether other investments to keep water away from building are warranted/helpful."
    - I believe there is an intersection with rain gardens here, and that it is also a broader water management question
    - This also includes grading, gutters, evaluating large trees near buildings, and investigating plantings around buildings that may help with water.
  - **Status:** Needs planning, needs owner
    - Legwork is needed, and I don't have the bandwidth
    - We need a champion and volunteers to do this and bring proposals to the Board
  - **Deliverables:** Documentation of evaluation of other investments to keep water away from buildings
  - **Requests:** Can we identify a Board owner and 1-2 people willing to do legwork on this, in addition to both a Landscape Committee member and staff liaison?
3. Less Turf Grass (proposed by Joy)
- **Objective:** Reduce amount of turf grass used in Pittsfield Village
  - **Status:** Needs discussion
  - **Deliverables:** TBD
  - **Questions:**
    - Do meadows go here?
    - Other proposals/ideas?