

## Park Ridge City Council Candidate Responses

**Briefly describe any environmental accomplishments or projects with which you have been involved, either professionally or personally.**

Julianna Lopez de Philbrook, Candidate, 2nd Ward:

*I have long been passionate about the climate and protecting mother earth, and have attended countless earth day rallies and protest marches against fossil fuel companies. In 2014, I helped organize the Chicago branch of the Global Climate Convergence, an international week of action that took place from April 22 to May 1. The events that took place over 10 days, from Earth Day to May Day, were designed to highlight the intersectionality of economic inequality and the climate crisis. Dubbed as "10 Days to Change Course", we hosted marches and rallies, speakers and speak outs, leafleting and tabling events, and so much more.*

*Personally, I have been living an environmentally conscious lifestyle for most of my adult life which has led me to adopting a plant based diet and using reusable products instead of single use plastic, like straws, bags, etc. Additionally, I make all my own home cleaning products, and my family's lotions, face washes, etc in an effort to further limit my environmental impact.*

Fred Sanchez, Candidate, 2nd Ward:

*Personally, we have obtained rain barrels from the Water Reclamation District and use them to catch rain water so we can use what we catch to water our flowers and plants. We do not use any pesticides, insecticides, or spray weed killer on our lawn. We attempt to grow some of our own food during the summer (but often the wildlife seems to enjoy it as much as we do).*

*As a current School Board Member of the Park Ridge-Niles Consolidated School District #64, we made the decision to compost at every school building at the inception of the new food service in the Fall of 2017. To date, Lakeshore Recycling Systems does not charge the District to pick-up the compost. There are containers to compost food scraps, the food trays, napkins, and a bucket to recycle milk. Go Green played an important role in the implementation of this program.*

*We also made the decision to go green with regards to our district wide lawn care in the summer of 2017. At that time, we made the decision to not use commercially dangerous pesticides and herbicides, and we expanded the use of organic fertilizers in order to provide uniform treatment of the roughly 44 acres currently maintained by the district. Again, Go Green played an important role in bringing this issue to the board. More recently we have made the decision to not apply biosolids to our properties. We've also stepped back from the use of organic fertilizers for the time being, and, in effect, have*

*decided to allow our grass be. We will encourage the development of fuller lawns with aeration and scheduled mowing.*

**The Park Ridge Sustainability Task Force recently presented their Sustainability Plan to City Council.**

**A. Do you support the creation of a Sustainability Commission to assist in the execution of the Sustainability Plan?**

**B. What aspect of the Plan do you think should be prioritized?**

*Julianna Lopez de Philbrook, Candidate, 2nd Ward:*

*Yes, 100%. The Sustainability Plan is vitally important to our community and the future generations of Park Ridge residents. It would make the enacting of this plan profoundly easier if we were to appoint a separate commission to spearhead that process. Of course, having a supportive city council to support and facilitate is also necessary.*

*It's difficult to pick a single aspect to be prioritized, but since asked, I would say the 2nd focus of the plan, Energy. I feel this is a part that could provide some immediate financial benefits to the city budgets as well as allow for a lot of education and outreach into the community. This outreach could be used to grow support for further implementation of the whole plan by giving people a tangible example of how being more environmentally friendly immediately affects your surroundings and your community's economics.*

*Fred Sanchez, Candidate, 2nd Ward:*

*Overall, I support the framework of the plan as presented by the Sustainability Task Force, and I could get behind the creation of a commission to help implement aspects of that plan depending on what the scope of the commission's charge would be and what the ultimate objectives of the plan were adopted by the council.*

*I continue to hear from residents of my ward that flooding concerns remain one of the most important issues for them in this election. I agree with the Task Force's identification of stormwater management to be a critical category in their plan, and I support a bigger commitment by the City "to a stormwater management program to reduce the amount of water that ends up flooding homes and businesses, including gray and green infrastructure investments, reasonable revenue generation programs to pay for the infrastructure, and education of the public on water retention best practices." The residents in my ward would insist on this being the top priority.*

**According to the US EPA, in 2015 50 million tons of compostable materials were incinerated or landfilled. Over the last 5 years, the number of US communities**

**offering composting programs has grown by 65%. We are in our 5th year of an 8 year hauling and recycling contract with Groot. Would you be in favor of adding an organics collection for composting into the contract as well as educating residents about its benefits?**

*Julianna Lopez de Philbrook, Candidate, 2nd Ward:*

*Yes I would. We should be doing all we can as a municipality to increase the ways our city can decrease it's production of waste. I support adding an organics collection and educating people as to why it's important. Also, I feel we could add more regular educational messaging on recycling in general, such as what can and can't be included, and how best to place recyclable materials in the containers. Lastly, I am in favor of expanding the types of materials that can be recycled through the facilities that Groot has or by exploring other city contracts with local recycling companies.*

*Fred Sanchez, Candidate, 2nd Ward:*

*Yes, I would be in favor of adding organics collection, though how that would be funded would need to be discussed by council. I already know many residents in my ward who compost on their own, and even my family more informally sets aside scraps we know will be beneficial to our plants and flowers. As I mentioned above, we are already doing in our school, and I think rolling this out to the entire community would serve to show our children that reducing waste all over is important. It would have long lasting benefits.*