



## **Recommendations for Submitting Ideas for the Community Enhancement Program**

Thank you for your interest in the Community Enhancement Program. The purpose of the program is to utilize funds collected from video gaming fees and use it to enhance the appearance and well-being of the community. The guidelines for this program were officially established by the Village Board of Trustees in February of 2015. Residents can go online [here](#) and anonymously submit their Community Enhancement idea. Then, the Parks Commission will vote on a handful of projects to recommend to the Board of Trustees. Finally, the Board of Trustees will vote to approve the ideas. Here's the official set of guidelines adopted by the Board of Trustees:

1. The submitted idea must enhance community reputation, image, or level of engagement.
2. The submitted idea must have the potential of increasing local property values.
3. The submitted idea must have the potential of increasing visitor traffic and experience.
4. The Village must lack funds to undertake the submitted idea in the General Fund budget.
5. The project must be either a small scale-scale construction project (under \$150,000) or a small-scale ongoing program (under \$3000).

To make the submission process easier, the Parks Commission would like to provide recommendations on projects that will be more likely to receive their approval. Previously, the Parks Commission and the Board of Trustees approved a \$15,000 parkway tree replacement project. This would qualify as a "small-scale construction project." The project replaced a lot of ash trees that were devastated by the emerald ash borer – an invasive insect that's killed off nearly 2000 parkway trees since first discovered by Village staff in 2011.

Small-scale construction projects like this are more likely to receive approval from the Parks Commission because they can be completed quickly and meet all of the funding guidelines.

An example of a small-scale ongoing program would be the Holiday Decorating contest that took place in the winter of 2014. The contest encouraged residents to decorate their homes and celebrate the holiday season. Contest winners were given awards by the Village President at an official Board of Trustees meeting.

Pictures and more info on the ideas mentioned above can be found on the Village website. To access the page, go to [www.vil.carpentersville.il.us](http://www.vil.carpentersville.il.us). Under the "Community" menu option click "Community Enhancement Program."