



# 2025 Guide to Green Sustainability Plan Update

*February 2026*





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# Introduction

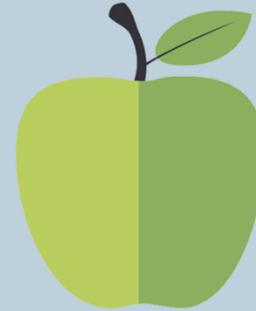
The Park District's Guide to Green Sustainability Plan was approved by the board on April 8, 2024. This now annual update is intended to serve as a valuable resource for the Park Board, staff, and community, offering insights into the progress of plan objectives.

# Guide to Green Layout



## District Operations

Internal District practices



## Education Initiatives

Raising environmental awareness and education



## Energy and Emissions

Emissions reductions and enhancing efficiency



## Land Management

Preservation of natural environment

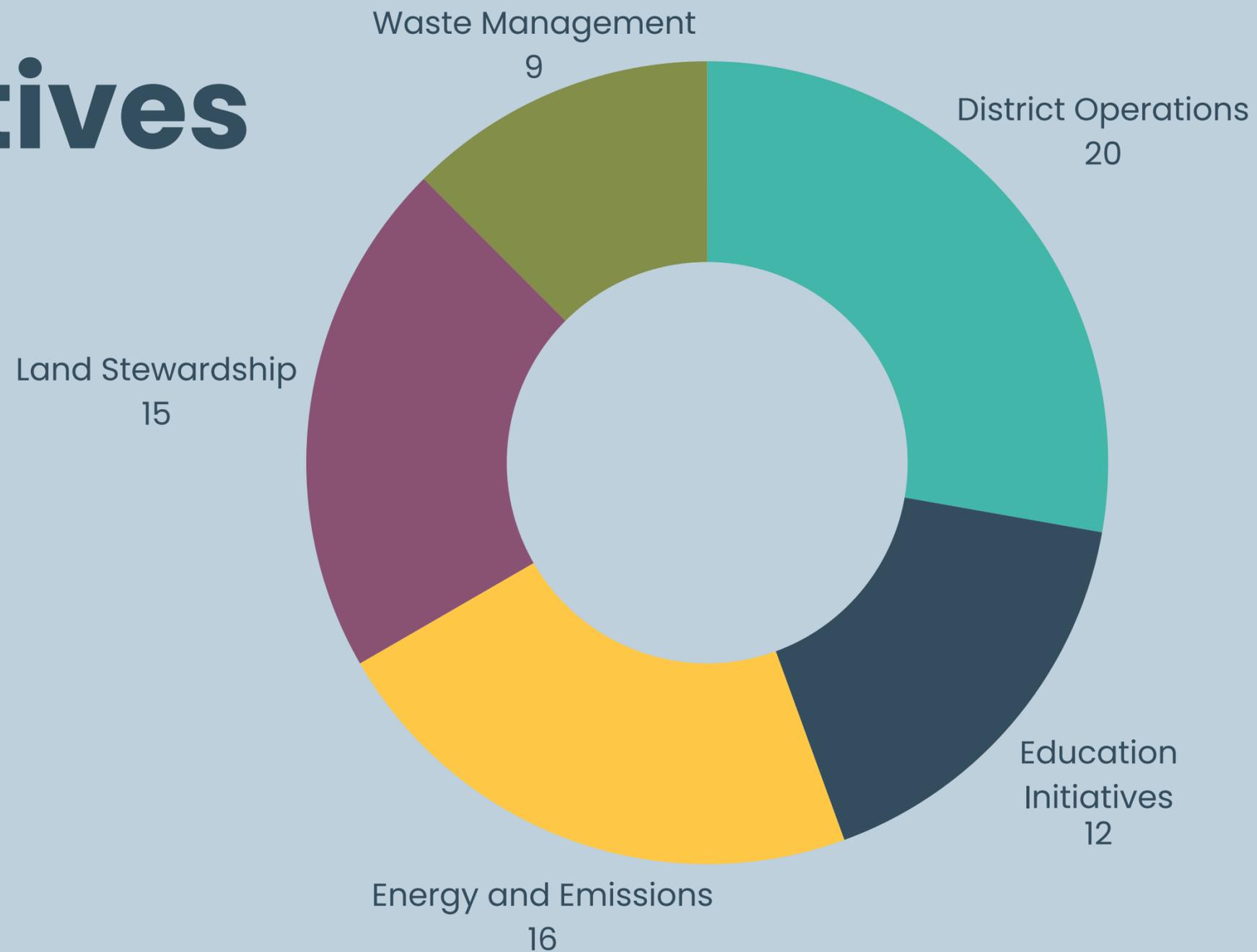


## Waste Management

Waste generation and disposal

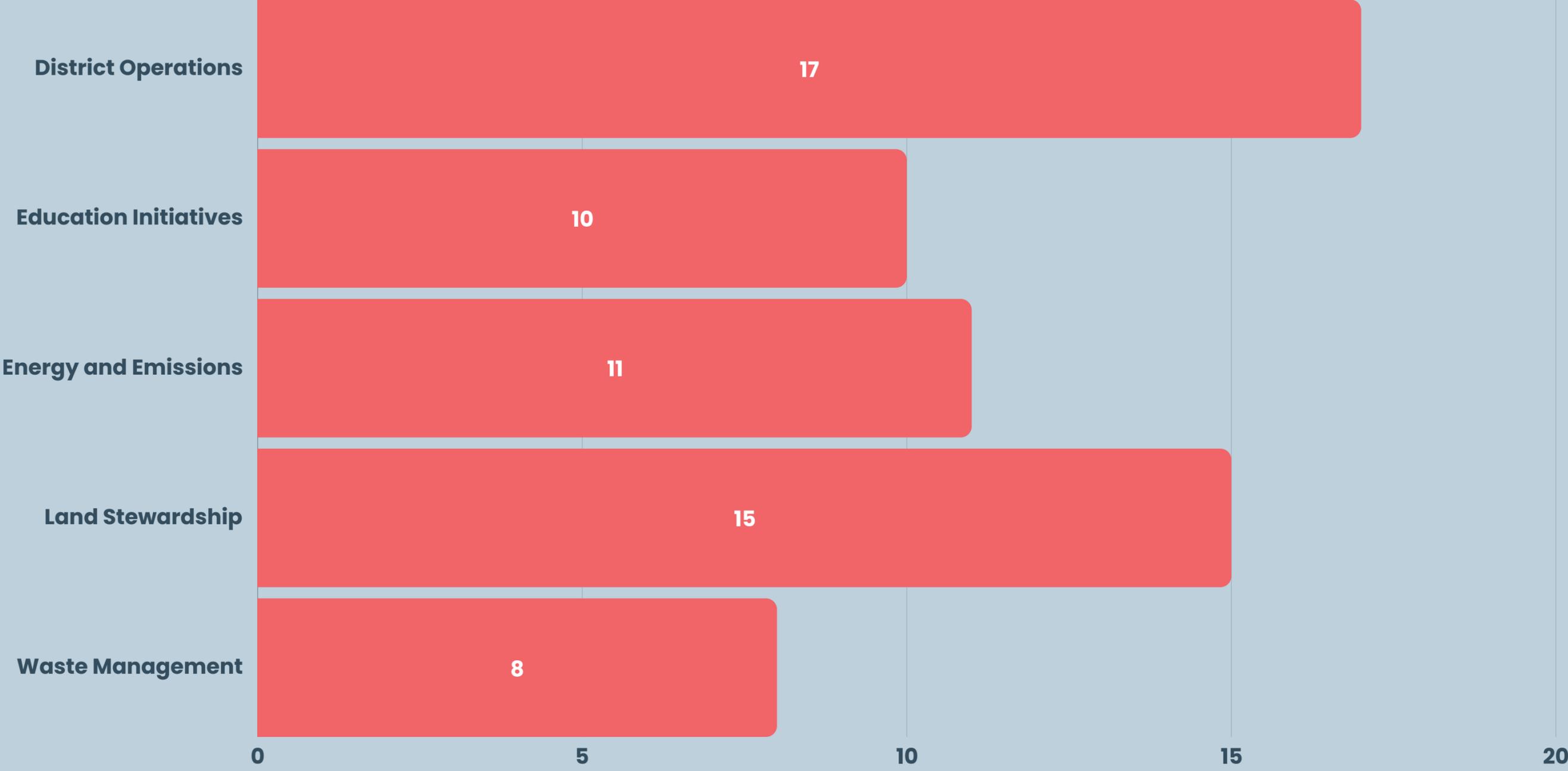
# Total Objectives

**72**  
TOTAL



# Active Initiatives

**61**  
TOTAL

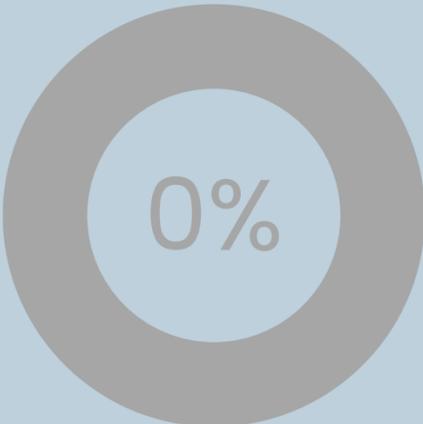




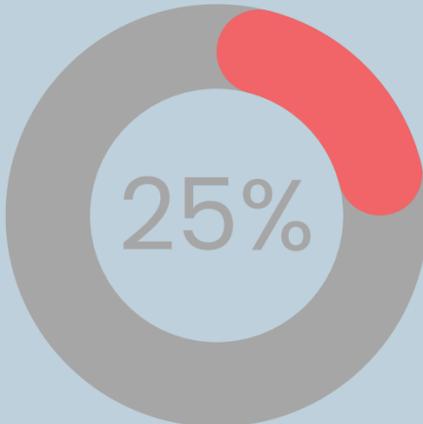
# Summary

# Summary Key

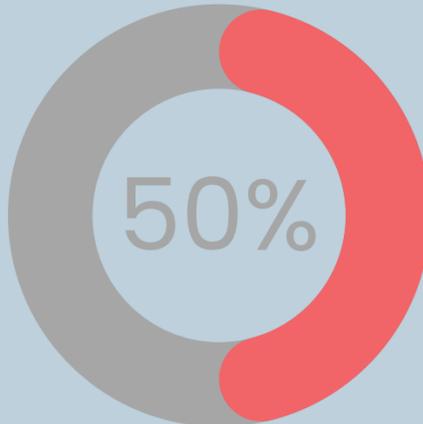
Continuing objectives are ongoing objectives that are implemented annually. Delayed objectives have not been started due to unforeseen circumstances.



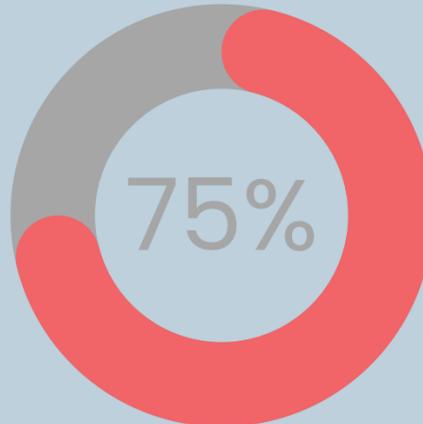
Not Started



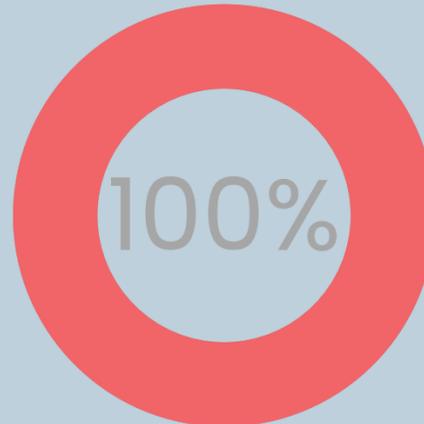
Initiated



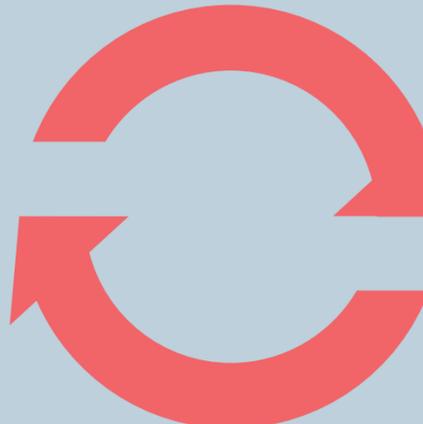
In Progress



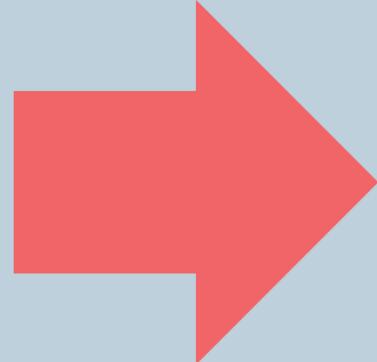
Nearly Complete



Complete



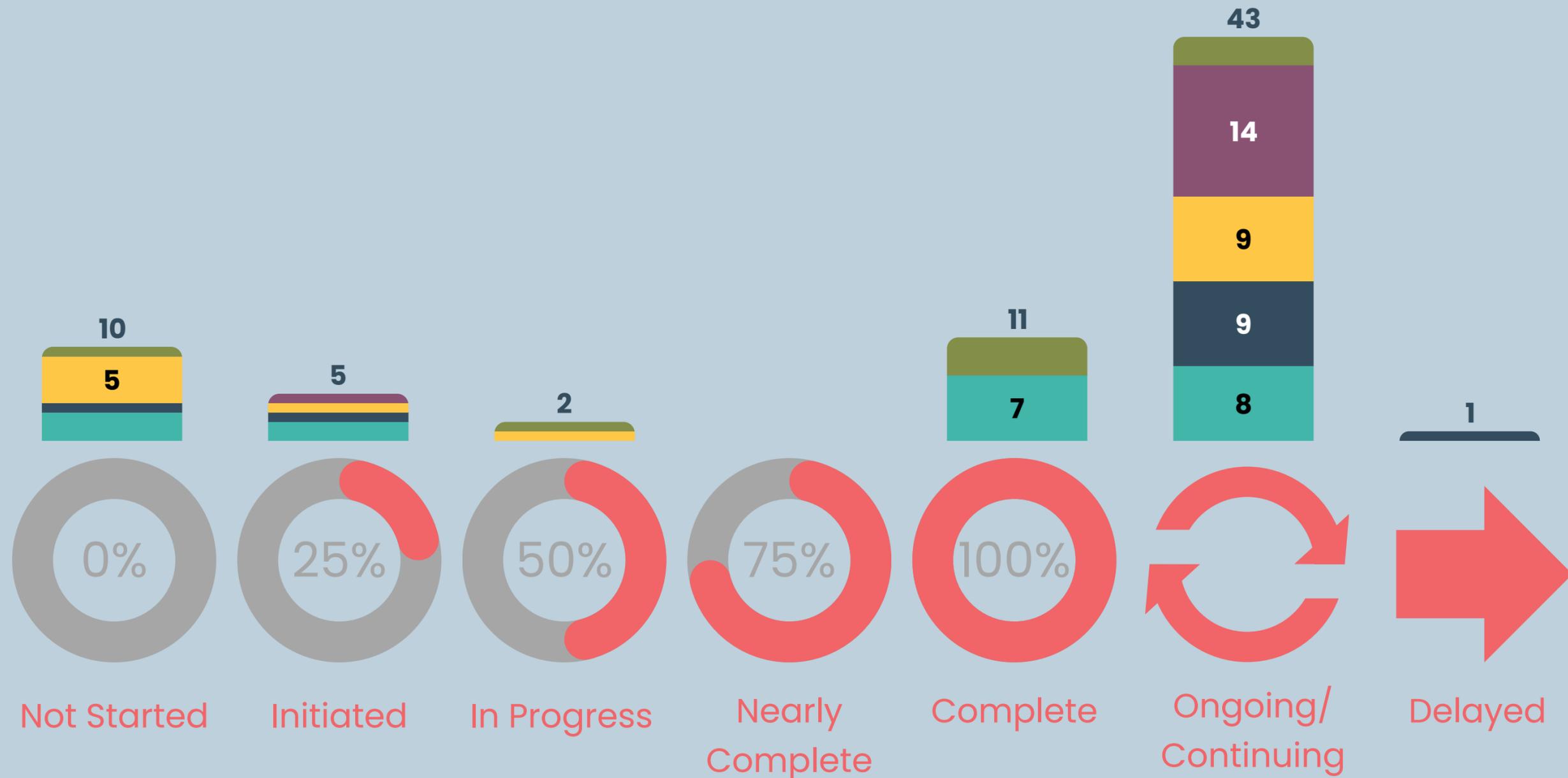
Ongoing/  
Continuing



Delayed



# Overall Progress





# Guide to Green Implementation Progress



# District Operations

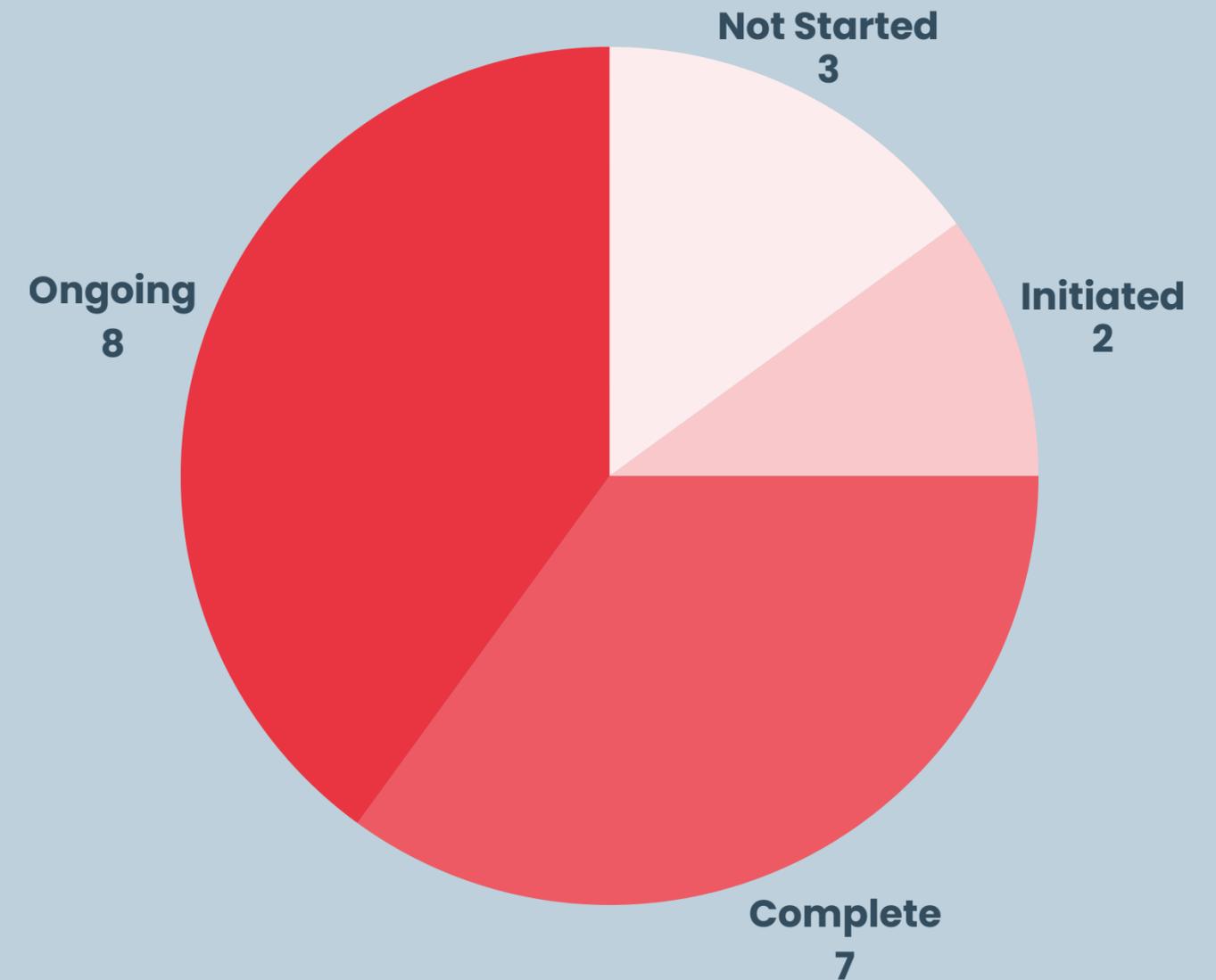
## Internal District Practices

### Subcategories

- Employee Participation
  - 11 objectives
- Green Purchasing
  - 5 objectives
- Supplies and Resources
  - 4 objectives

### Progress by Status

- Not Started
- Initiated
- Complete
- Ongoing





## Sustainability Hub



### Internal Sustainability Committee

### Staff Sustainability Hub



### ISAWWA Water Trailer



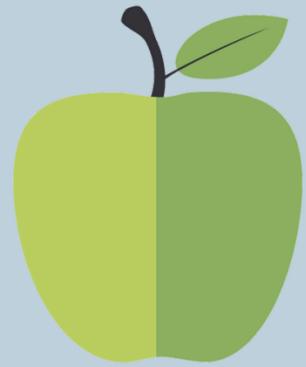
### Staff Professional Development

#### Sustainability Considerations

- Green Option Consideration** - Prioritize the purchase of low-emission, biodegradable, and low-toxicity products. This approach supports the District's broader goal of reducing its environmental impact and promoting eco-friendly practices. For all purchases exceeding \$3,000, staff are required to actively consider green alternatives, ensuring that the District remains proactive in researching and adopting sustainable options as they become available.
- Bulk Buy** - Staff are encouraged to consolidate orders and purchase goods in bulk whenever feasible. This not only maximizes cost efficiency but also reduces the environmental footprint associated with transportation and excess packaging. By planning ahead and combining orders, departments can ensure better use of resources, minimize delays caused by multiple deliveries, and potentially benefit from supplier discounts.
- Polystyrene Purchasing Ban** - The District will actively limit the use of polystyrene within its facilities and events. All staff is advised to avoid the procurement of polystyrene products. The District acknowledges that some deliveries may arrive with polystyrene as an unintended packing material.

4. **Vehicle Purchasing Considerations** - When evaluating the purchase of a new hybrid or electric vehicles to reduce environmental impacts and operating costs. The District understands that due to

### Updated Purchasing Policy



# Education Initiatives

Raising environmental awareness and education

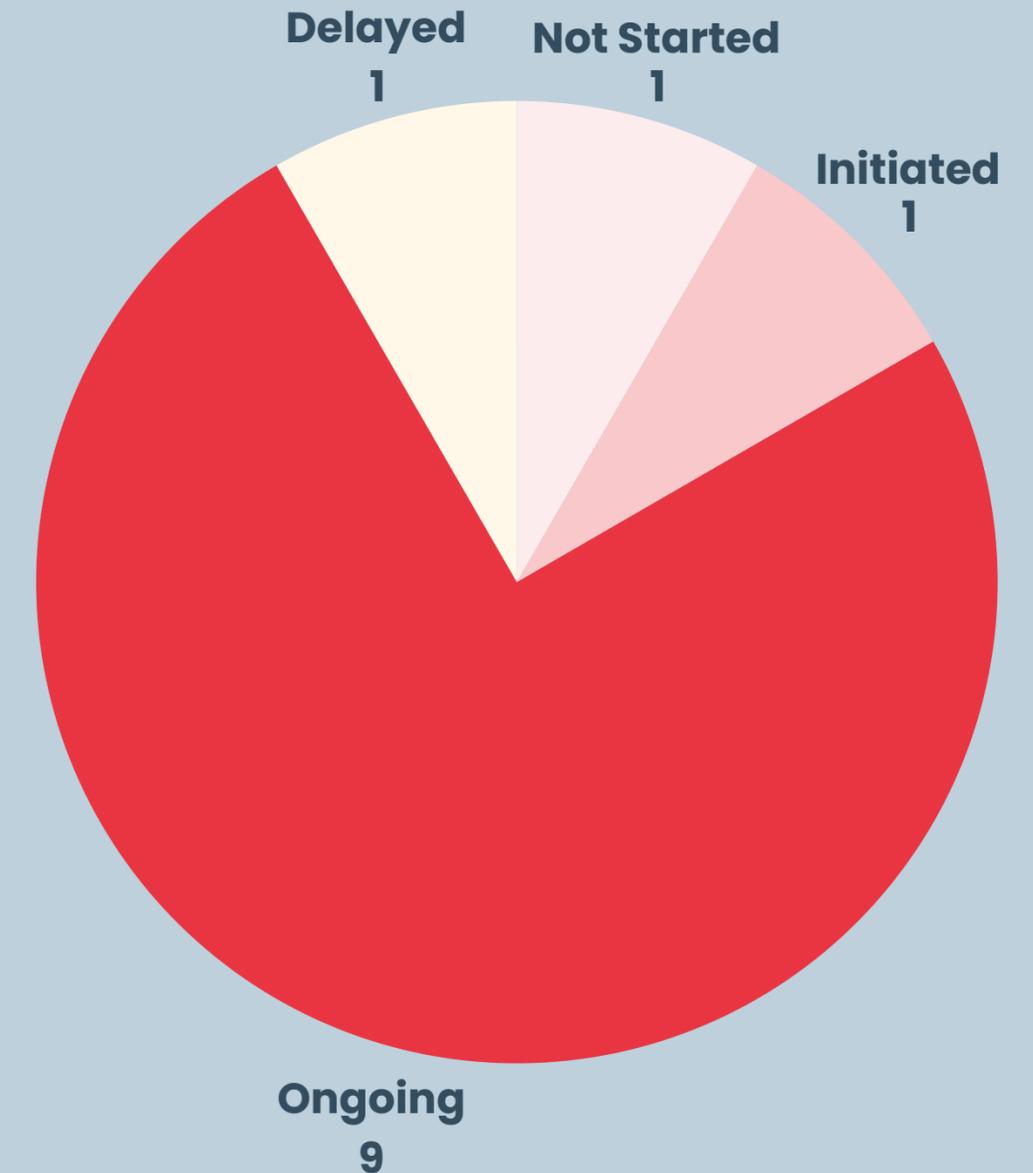
## Subcategories

- Signage
  - 3 objectives
- Programming
  - 6 objectives
- Visibility
  - 3 objectives

## Progress by Status

● Not Started    ● Initiated

● Ongoing    ● Delayed



# Sustainability Update

Enriching and preserving our community's resource for present and future generations in Wilmette

You may have noticed something new shining atop the Community Recreation Center (CRC), our brand-new solar panels! And yes, they're officially up and running just in time for... winter?

That might sound a little counterintuitive, but don't worry, solar panels still perform well in cold weather. In fact, cooler temperatures can actually improve solar panel efficiency, since excess heat can reduce electricity

Sunlight penetrates light snowfall to reach the panels, while fresh snow on the ground reflects extra sunlight onto them, potentially providing a small production boost. The panels' dark, reflective glass absorbs heat, helping snow melt and slide off more quickly, while their angled installation will help prevent light snow buildup.

Best of all, every bit of winter sunshine contributes to lowering energy costs and reducing the environmental impact.

Patrons are also invited to take part in upcoming sustainability-focused events this spring. Be sure to check [wilmettepark.org](http://wilmettepark.org) for additional event information!

- 4/18 - Earth Day at Kirkwood Center
- 4/24 - Arbor Day Seed Giveaway
- Native Planting Workshop to be announced in e

See an up close look here!



Sustainability Updates in Explore More



Annual Earth Day Celebration



Bi-Annual Native Planting Workshop



## RECYCLING GUIDELINES

**YES!** Please recycle these *clean and empty* goods, with lids & caps in place—loose, not bagged.

Metal	Paper	Glass	Plastic	Cartons

Recycling Signage



Arbor Day Partnership with the Village/NWF



# Energy & Emissions

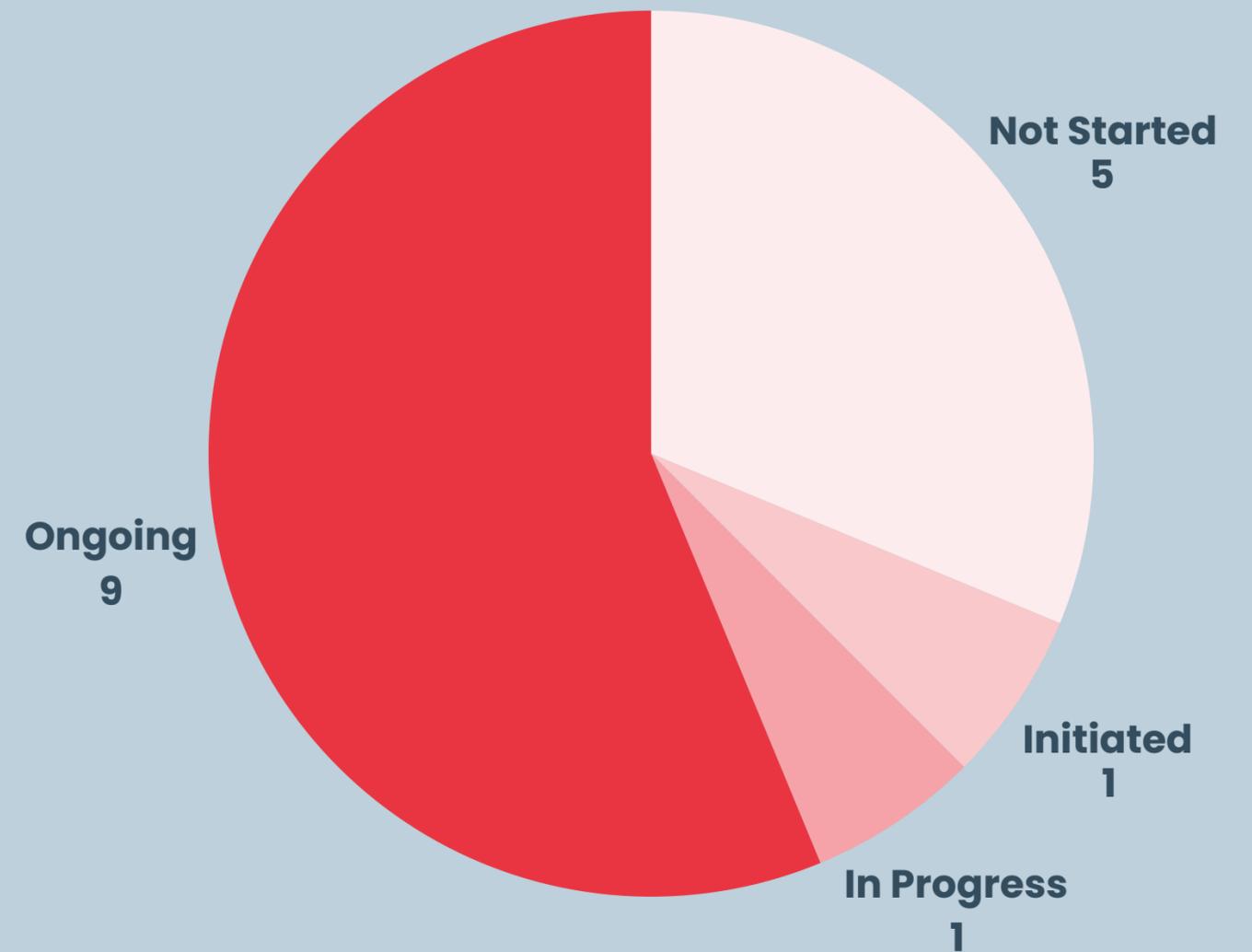
Emissions reductions and enhancing efficiency

## Subcategories

- Evaluation
  - 3 objectives
- Efficiency
  - 5 objectives
- Clean Energy
  - 3 objectives
- Emissions Reductions
  - 5 objectives

## Progress by Status

- Not Started
- Initiated
- In Progress
- Ongoing



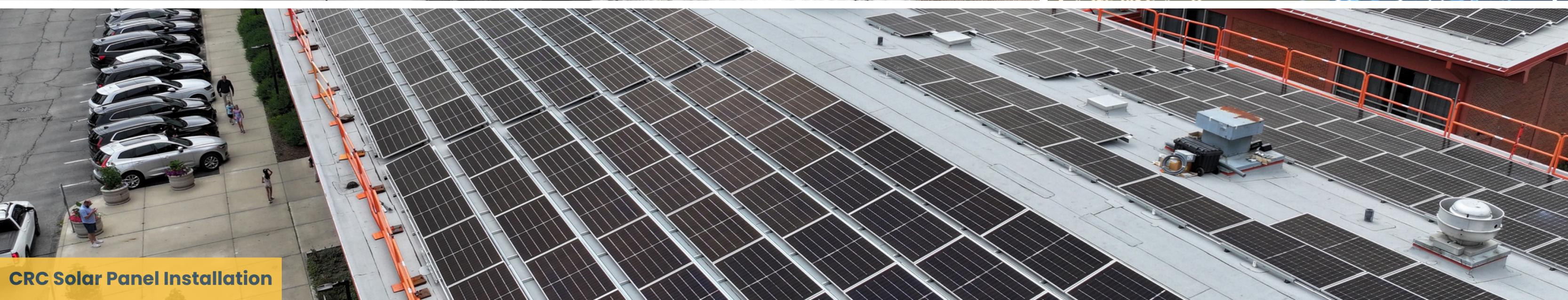


Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

**Wilmette Park District  
EV Charging  
Station Survey**

*Using the station?* Please provide feedback to help improve our services and plan future enhancements.

EV Charging Station Survey



CRC Solar Panel Installation



# Land Stewardship

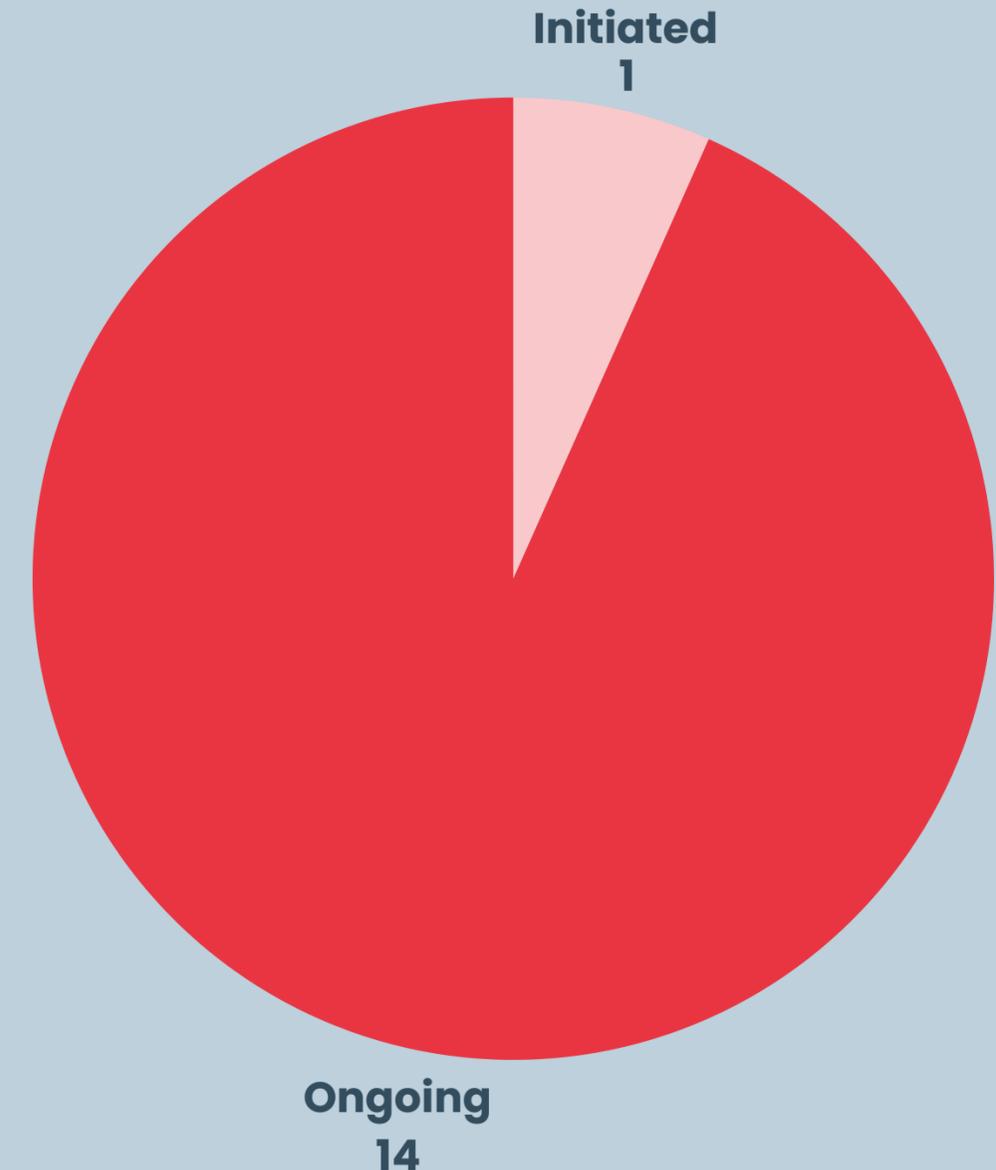
Preservation of natural environment

## Subcategories

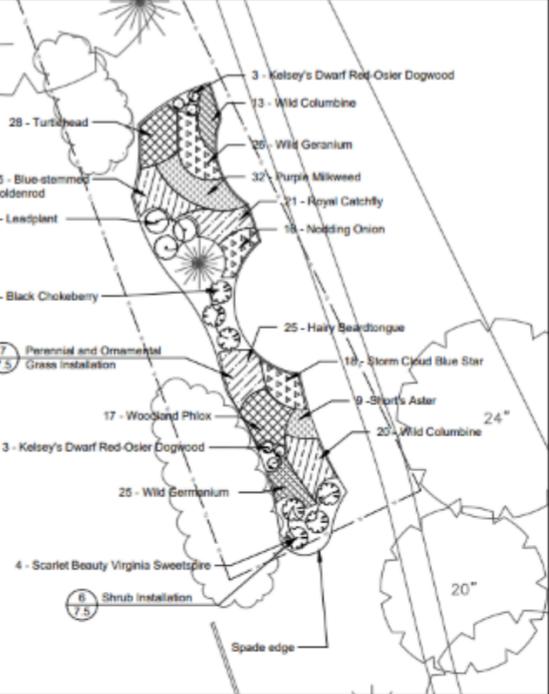
- Sustainable Land Management
  - 12 objectives
- Community Engagement
  - 3 objectives

## Progress by Status

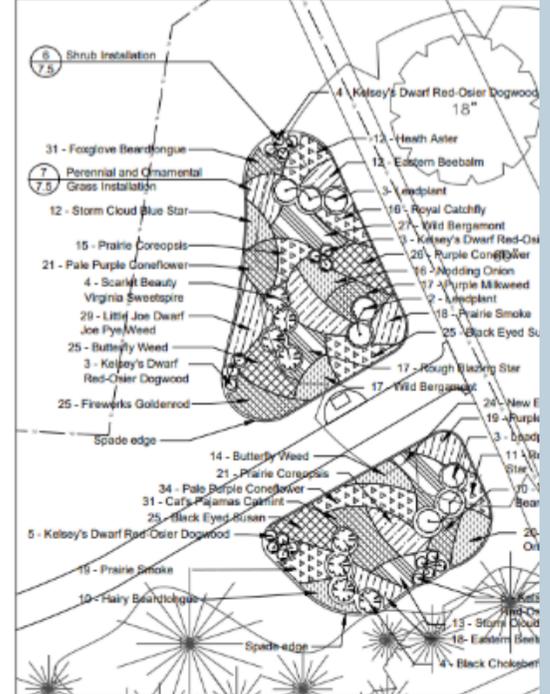
● Initiated ● Ongoing



Pollinator Gardens - South Enlargement



Pollinator Gardens - North Enlargement



Screening Enlargement



Native Habitat Expansion Plans



Nature Play Spaces



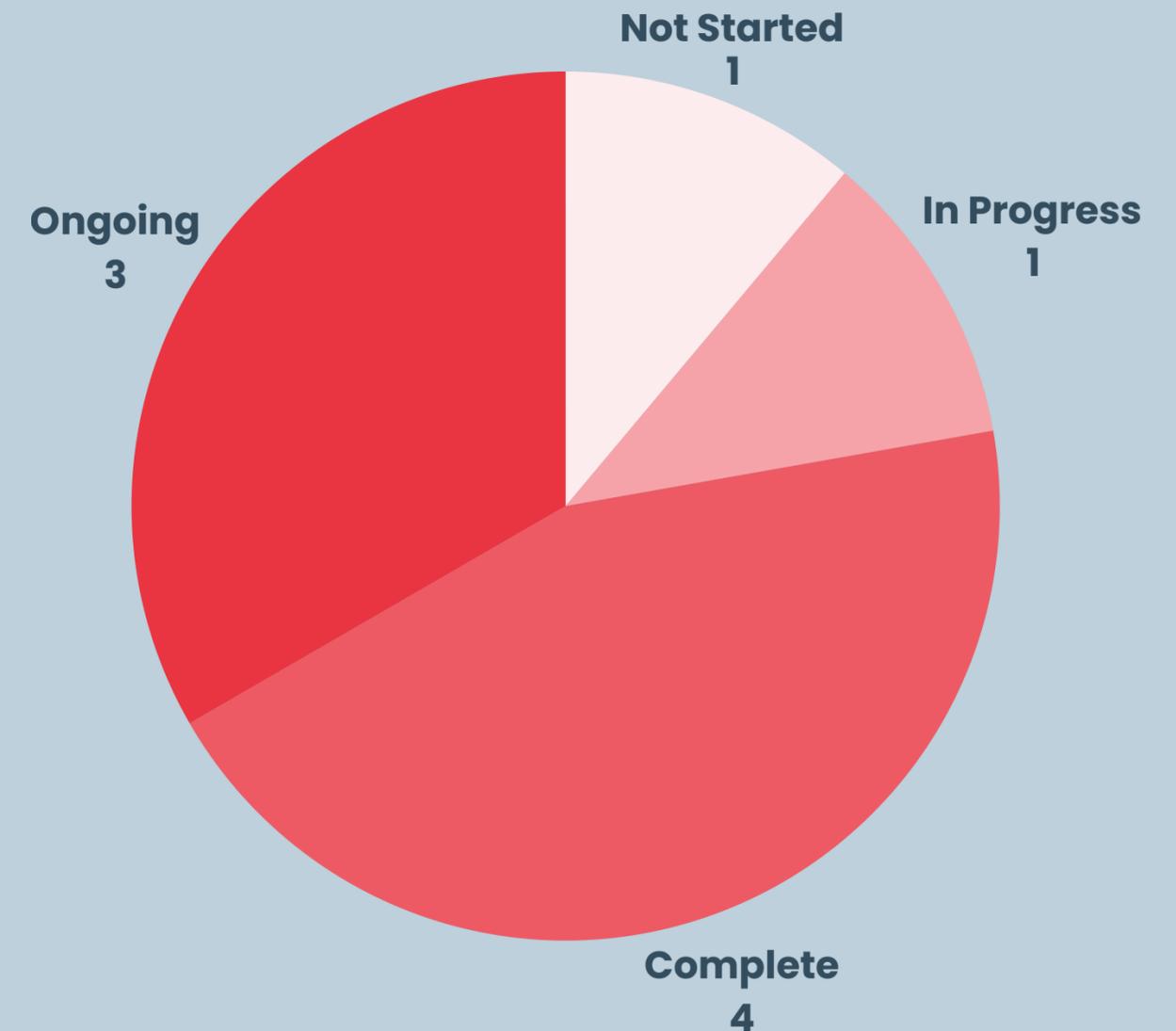
Rain Garden Expansions



Community Gardens

## Progress by Status

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Complete
- Ongoing



# Waste Management

Waste generation and disposal



## Subcategories

- Reduction
  - 4 objectives
- Sustainable Disposal
  - 5 objectives



Block Party Composting



Compost Drop-Off Stations

**Wilmette Park District**  
**Compost**  
 Drop-Off Survey

*Using the station?* Please provide feedback to help improve our services and plan future enhancements.




**COMPOST**

Compost Drop-Off Station Survey