



Openspace

OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Creating opportunity

The Village of Machesney Park works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to purchase homes in the floodplain through a voluntary program to reduce future flood damage to flood-prone areas.

Once the land has been purchased by the Village, FEMA requires that these properties “must be forever dedicated and maintained as open space.” The Village wants to see these lands eventually used to accommodate community needs, such as a passive park in the Shore Drive floodplain area.

Managing acquired property

Some of the properties purchased by the Village are adjacent to each other and form large land tracts, and others are scattered between existing homes. The locations of the vacant lots provide an opportunity for neighbors, community groups or others to use the property for open space uses. By entering into an agreement with the Village, residents can provide a high standard of maintenance and beautification of the neighborhood.

It is that spirit of community and commitment to neighborhoods that the Village is supporting by creating a formal Open Space program for Village-owned property in the floodplain.

Open Space Program

Agreement Types

An **Adopt-a-Lot** agreement allows neighbors to enter a property for the purpose of mowing and keeping the lot free of debris. No insurance is required and no fees are involved.

A **Landscape Maintenance** agreement permits neighbors or community groups to plant trees, low-density vegetation, or gardens on the lot. No insurance is required and no fees are involved.

Who is eligible? Any residents, or community organizations interested in caring for vacant land are eligible. Preference will be given to adjacent landowners and Machesney Park residents.

Why should I take part? The Open Space program gives you the opportunity to control and use Village-owned vacant lots near your home to beautify and green your neighborhood and increase safety and property values without the burden of taxes or other financial obligations that come with ownership.

Where are the lots? Vacant lots owned by the Village are located primarily along the Rock River and adjacent streets, and concentrated in the Shore Drive neighborhood. A map and listing of properties is available at Village Hall and on our website.

How can I participate? Simply fill out an application and return it to the Machesney Park Village Hall at 300 Machesney Rd., Machesney Park, IL 61115. If you have questions, contact us at 815-877-5432.



For more information, please contact Village of Machesney Park at 815-877-5432.
Visit www.machesney-park.il.us

Adopt-a-Lot Agreement

Introduction	The Adopt-A-Lot Agreement allows the adjoining property owner non-exclusive right and privilege to enter and use Village of Machesney Park property for the purpose of maintaining the property.
Used When	The requestor, normally the adjoining landowner, wishes to maintain the property. The maintainer shall not use the property for any purpose whatsoever other than mowing and maintaining the property free of trash, refuse, garbage, litter, waste, and junk of any type whatsoever. The maintainer must mow the grass on the property with sufficient frequency to prevent grass from attaining a height in excess of six (6) inches.
Agreement Duration	Established for a one-year term which may be renewed annually upon successful compliance to the agreement as determined by the Village. Termination, with or without cause, requires 10 days written notice from either party.
Fee	No fee. The maintainer provides a service to the Village by maintaining the property.
Insurance Requirement	<p>No insurance required.</p> <p>The maintainer is required to sign and deliver to the Village of Machesney Park, an executed RELEASE OF LIABILITY form before they go on or about the property.</p> <p>No other person shall participate in maintaining the property without signing the Release Form and delivering same to the Village.</p>

Landscape Maintenance Agreement

Introduction	The Landscape Maintenance Agreement allows adjoining property owners or other community groups non-exclusive use of Village of Machesney Park property.
Used When	The requestor, normally the adjoining landowner, wishes to use and maintain the area. The maintainer may use this area to plant shrubs, trees, plants, and other low density vegetation. No structures or other uses are allowed. The maintainer must mow the grass on the property with sufficient frequency to prevent grass from attaining a height in excess of six (6) inches.
Agreement Duration	Established for a one-year term which renews each year upon successful compliance to the agreement as determined by the Village. Termination, with or without cause, requires 10 days written notice.
Fee	No fee. The maintainer provides a service to the Village by maintaining the property.
Insurance Requirement	<p>No insurance required.</p> <p>The maintainer is required to sign and deliver to the Village of Machesney Park, an executed RELEASE OF LIABILITY form before they go on or about the property.</p> <p>No other person shall participate in maintaining the property without signing the Release Form and delivering same to the Village.</p>