



PRESS RELEASE

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Village of Lindenhurst Awarded Environmental Grant from ComEd, Openlands to Support Local Open-Space Project: Hastings Lake Butterfly Path

Village has received \$9,000 in funding through the annual ComEd Green Region Program

Lindenhurst, Illinois – ComEd and Openlands announced that the Village of Lindenhurst is one of 26 public agencies from northern Illinois to receive an environmental grant from the organizations through the annual ComEd Green Region Program. The Village of Lindenhurst has received \$9,000 for the project, which will enable public access to Lake County Forest Preserve District's Hastings Lake preserves via a connective trail on Hazelwood Drive. This pathway bordered by native plants, will not only enhance the community; but by extending the forest preserve's green corridor, will benefit pollinators, birds and wildlife.

“Receiving the ComEd and Openlands grant will help Lindenhurst continue to place the finishing touches on the connection trail project to Hastings Lake Forest Preserve. We’re looking forward to seeing the positive impact that the ComEd Green Region Program grant has on our local environment,” said Mayor Dominic Marturano.

The Village of Lindenhurst is committed to using ecological landscape principles to create attractive native plant combinations, which in turn creates greater biodiversity and enriches wildlife habitat. Through programs such as this Hastings Lake Butterfly Path, the Village hopes to leave a lasting impression among residents to take part in creating a more sustainable future.

Construction of the Hastings Lake Butterfly Path is scheduled to get underway fall of 2019. Due to the varied availability of the native plants, landscaping will be completed by fall 2020. The pathway itself, however, will be open to the public once it is safe to do so.

Since the inception of the Green Region Program in 2013, ComEd has awarded more than \$1.3 million to municipalities across northern Illinois to help fund their open-space projects. ComEd provides the funding, and Openlands, one of the oldest metropolitan conservation organizations in the nation, administers the grants to local communities.

“Together with our partners at Openlands, we are proud to support organizations that are making meaningful differences to restore and enhance natural habitats and biodiversity,” said Melissa Washington, Vice President of Governmental and External Affairs at ComEd. “It’s the perfect balance of meeting our future energy needs and powering a brighter and more sustainable future for our customers and the communities we serve.”

Due to a recent decline in pollinators throughout northern Illinois, and strong interest in pollinator conservation, the 2019 Green Region projects again focus on advancing and protecting the region’s essential pollinator species. Earlier this year, grant applications were submitted by public agencies from across communities that ComEd serves, which were then reviewed by an advisory committee composed of county government officials and members of the region's conservation community.

“The ComEd Green Region Program is an important commitment to sustainability across northern Illinois and a commitment to providing residents with access to natural open spaces,” said Jerry Adelman, President and CEO of Openlands. “Over the last seven years, we’ve seen how the Green Region Program has helped communities enhance many parks and trails for learning, enjoyment, and supporting wildlife; and the support from ComEd has been vital. We extend our gratitude to ComEd, and we want to thank the many partners who have implemented these projects across the region.”

Additional information on the ComEd Green Region Program can be found at [Openlands.org/GreenRegion](https://openlands.org/GreenRegion).

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ComEd is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), a Fortune 100 energy company with approximately 10 million electricity and natural gas customers – the largest number of customers in the U.S. ComEd powers the lives of more than 4 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state’s population. For more information visit [ComEd.com](https://www.comed.com) and connect with the company on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

Founded in 1963, Openlands is one of the nation’s oldest and most successful metropolitan conservation organizations, having helped secure, protect, and provide public access to more than 55,000 acres of land for parks, forest preserves, wildlife refuges, land and water greenway corridors, and urban gardens. For more information, please visit openlands.org.