

Ryan Field Sustainability Plan

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Executive Summary

Oak View Group, on behalf of Northwestern University and Ryan Field Foundation LLC, respectfully submits this revised Sustainability Plan for Ryan Field in support of the City of Evanston's Climate Action and Resilience Plan, the Memorandum of Understanding between Northwestern University and the City of Evanston, the applicable Special Use Ordinance, and relevant City sustainability ordinances and requirements.

This plan is intended to provide a clear operational framework for minimizing environmental impacts, supporting transparent coordination with the City and community, and advancing measurable sustainability outcomes across stadium operations for years to come. Through this plan, Ryan Field will operate as a neighborhood-compatible and environmentally responsible, facility.

In alignment with the MOU, this Sustainability Plan describes Northwestern's intentions with respect to activities related to environmental sustainability in connection with the operation of Ryan Field. Additionally, per the Ryan Field Special Use Ordinance, this plan is structured into two sections – Construction & Operations. The "Construction" section outlines decisions and assessments made in the design & construction of Ryan Field related to sustainability focus areas listed in the SUO and the City of Evanston. The "Operations" section outlines how sustainability will be embedded into how Ryan Field will be operated.

These sections are structured in alignment with the specific requests required by the Special Use Ordinance & MOU. See Appendix 1 for the Sustainability Plan requirements in the SUO & MOU.

Governance, Roles & Accountability

Ryan Field sustainability implementation will require coordination between Northwestern University, Ryan Field Foundation LLC, Oak View Group (OVG), Levy, contractors, vendors, and relevant City and community stakeholders. Northwestern University and Ryan Field Foundation LLC retain overall responsibility for applicable City requirements, ordinance commitments, and project-level sustainability obligations. OVG will support implementation through its venue operations contract.

Construction

This section outlines how sustainability was addressed and related feasibility assessments which were conducted during the design & construction of Ryan Field.

Low-Carbon Concrete and Steel

3,733 tons of low-carbon steel and approximately 20,433 cubic yards of low-carbon concrete + pre-cast were utilized in constructing Ryan Field.

Embodied Carbon Calculation

The total embodied carbon is 43,912,966 kgCO₂e and 641 kgCO₂e/sqm.

On-site Material Reuse and Recovery

Equipment and limited materials from the previous stadium were recovered for reuse by Northwestern.

Greywater Digester for Food Prep in Concession Areas

A greywater digester system was investigated, but not deemed feasible due to the following conditions:

1. The system is intended to be loaded with food every day. The bacteria that produce the enzymes used for the digesting process will die after 10 to 14 days if they are not given food to digest. The system will need to be recommissioned if the building is dark (i.e. no event days) longer than 10 to 14 days. There will likely be periods between events which will extend past the 14 day limitation.
2. The system uses a large amount of water, approximately 3500 gallons per day.
3. The system does not typically produce odors when used properly, but if it is not maintained, then a strong odor may be present

LEED Building Certification and Green Buildings Ordinance Alignment

See Appendix 2 for Ryan Field's LEED checklist, including target certification level, credits pursued, and credits not pursued. At the time of submitting this Sustainability Plan, the design review has just completed, and the certification is mid-review stream with USGBC.

Bird Friendly Ordinance Compliance

See Appendix 3 for Perkins & Will's assessment of Ryan Field design compliance with the City of Evanston's Bird Friendly Ordinance.

Stormwater Management

Ryan Field will have 8.52 ac-ft of detention and 1.29 ac-ft of volume control storage. The detention system fills in a large storm and will drain at a controlled release rate. The volume control systems include permeable pavers and synthetic turf which allow water to infiltrate. Due to the high ground water levels on this site, all volume control systems include an underdrain system and piped outfall. There is a monitoring system at the downstream end of the detention system which can provide an alert in the event that water overtops the overflow weir but does not measure the amount of water being captured.

See Appendix 4 for a map outlining the permeable surfaces included in Ryan Field's design, as well as details for monthly inspections of the stormwater management system.

Additionally, see Appendix 4 for documentation of Ryan Field's compliance with the City of Evanston's Floodplain Regulation and Watershed Management Ordinance, including as it relates to the Chancellor Street Storm Sewer.

Landscaping & Greenspace

The landscape design & greenspace at Ryan Field will support stormwater management, biodiversity, neighborhood compatibility, localized heat reduction, and air quality.

Native plant species – Approximately 50% of the total proposed plant species are native or nativar (cultivar of a native species), with 51 total species and 27 being native/nativar.

The overall planting approach for Ryan Field balances function and aesthetics along with hardiness, adaptability, toughness, low maintenance requirements, and multi-seasonal interest.

- 16 different species of shade trees; 11 are native / nativar
- 2 different species of ornamental trees; 2 are native / nativar
- 3 different species of evergreen shrubs; 1 is native / nativar
- 16 different species of deciduous shrubs; 11 are native / nativar
- 13 different species of perennials; 2 are native / nativar
- 1 species of vine; non-native

Square footage of shaded area – Ryan Field will have a total of 119,461 square feet of estimated shade coverage within 10 years post-installation inside the LEED boundary. This calculation includes existing trees to remain, proposed shade trees, proposed ornamental trees, and proposed evergreen trees.

Percent of Tree canopy – The percent of tree canopy for Ryan Field will be 15.5% (Inside LEED Boundary) or 26.2% (If excluding Stadium Footprint). This calculation includes existing trees to remain, proposed shade trees, proposed ornamental trees, and proposed evergreen trees. As mentioned in the square footage of shaded area section above, Ryan Field will have a total of 119,461 square feet of estimated shade coverage within 10 years post-installation inside the LEED boundary. If the stadium is included in the LEED boundary, the above estimated canopy coverage will shade about 15.46% of the area. If the stadium is not included in the LEED boundary, the above estimated canopy coverage will shade about 26.17% of the area.

Restroom Hand dryers

Electric hand dryers were analyzed and determined not feasible for the project to implement at this time. Potential incorporation of hand dryers in the future will continue to be discussed with Northwestern University and the facility operator.

EV Charging

There are 26 EV chargers to be installed day (1) which will support charging for 52 designated EV spaces. There is infrastructure accounted for to expand this day (2) to accommodate additional 206 spaces which was issued as CCD 111. A markup of these locations is included in Appendix 5, please note that an additional 6 more spaces have been identified at the far north side of the east lot to address the full 206 needed.

LED Lights

100% of lights within the stadium fenceline and including those new in the east parking lot are LED. This will include all Par base lamps which are LED as well as the field lighting system.

Modeled Energy Use Intensity

The modeled EUI for Ryan Field is 59 kBtu/sf/yr.

Solar PV Feasibility

The implementation of solar panels specific to this project was investigated by the project team and was determined not to be feasible. Northwestern & Ryan Field remain committed to investigating additional off-site renewable energy opportunities and will continue to evaluate other potential opportunities in the future in conjunction with the Ryan Field Operations team. Solar arrays are currently installed on other select NU buildings, such as the Ryan Field House.

Full Building Electrification

Building electrification feasibility

The implementation of a 100% electric stadium was investigated by the project team and was determined not to be feasible. Northwestern & Ryan Field remain committed to investigating future electrification of building systems and equipment and will continue to evaluate opportunities in the future in conjunction with the Ryan Field Operations team.

Percent of electrified space heating systems

The sole heating system at Ryan Field is a fuel fired boiler / hydronic heating system. Fully electric heating systems within the facility make up less than 5% total. Electric heaters have been used in limited spaces as well as for infrared heating in premium suite tubs only.

Electric kitchen equipment

Induction warming equipment will be utilized in the clubs and suites for hot holding. Electric cooking appliances will be utilized in the cooking markets, for example electric combi-ovens and electric conveyor ovens.

Operations

While the decisions made at the facility's design stage has a large influence on the sustainability targets Ryan Field can meet, there are many opportunities to advance sustainability once the facility is operating. This section outlines how Oak View Group (venue manager) will operate the facility in alignment with the City of Evanston & Northwestern's sustainability goals and related policies.

In addition to the City of Evanston and Northwestern University sustainability expectations, as a property managed by Oak View Group, the Oak View Group team will be driving continued sustainability excellence at Ryan Field in alignment to OVG's sustainability strategy – 'Future Positive'. The 4 pillars of Future Positive include

- Achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2040 (and OVG's commitment to The Climate Pledge)

- Championing Water Stewardship
- Advancing Waste Diversion
- Strengthening Community Resilience

The OVG team at Ryan Field will include an operations staff member who, as part of their role, will oversee sustainability reporting and day-to-day implementation of this Sustainability Plan as it relates to facility operations. This staff member and the rest of the OVG Ryan Field team will also have the ongoing support from OVG's global sustainability team.

Net Zero Emissions by 2040 – Operations

Ryan Field recognizes that building energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions are central to the City of Evanston's climate priorities, relevant City ordinances, and Northwestern University's broader sustainability commitments. Ryan Field will support the City of Evanston's Climate Action and Resilience Plan and applicable building performance expectations by prioritizing energy efficiency, tracking energy use, reducing onsite fossil fuel use where technically and operationally feasible, and increasing renewable electricity use over time. This section outlines Ryan Field's operations approach to Net Zero emissions.

Emissions Baseline

Because Ryan Field is a new, event-driven facility, its greenhouse gas emissions baseline will need to be set after year one of operations. In year one of operations the Ryan Field baseline measurement and tracking will include:

- Quantities of fossil fuels burned on site, such as natural gas, and the associated emissions
- Quantities of purchased electricity, and the associated emissions
- Quantities of fugitive emissions, i.e. refrigerants
- Modeled energy use intensity vs. actual energy use intensity
- Tracking performance of building systems & equipment which consume energy, including peak demands
- Dark day energy use vs. event day energy use

These baselines will be used to establish mid-term targets, track progress, and update Ryan Field's Operations roadmap to Net Zero by 2040. At minimum, the Operations Net Zero pathway will evaluate:

- Current and projected sources of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions
- Modeled Energy Use Intensity versus actual EUI once the facility is operational
- Opportunities to reduce energy demand through operational efficiency
- Opportunities to reduce or phase down onsite fossil fuel use against a cost curve
- Future electrification opportunities during major equipment replacement, capital planning, or operational improvement cycles
- Renewable electricity procurement strategy
- Purchasing of verified carbon offsets

- Interim targets aligned with relevant 2030, 2035, and 2040 timelines

Energy efficiency

As part of prioritizing the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the Ryan Field staff will conduct an annual energy efficiency audit. This will be conducted by a third-party energy advisory firm, and will identify gaps in equipment energy performance, as well as operations teams standard operating procedures. These annual audits will also include assessments for procuring off-site renewable energy, adding on-site renewable, including estimate cost ranges and federal, state, and local incentives. These audits will also assess technology innovations, such as future grid resilience efforts like battery storage, demand response, microgrid integration, or backup power improvements. Ryan Field will document the relevant feasibility considerations, operational benefits, and constraints.

Renewable Electricity and Solar PV

Ryan Field will coordinate with Northwestern University and relevant energy procurement stakeholders to define the current and future role of renewable electricity in stadium operations. This will include documenting applicable renewable electricity procurement, clarifying how Ryan Field integrates with Northwestern's broader energy strategy, and identifying procurement mechanisms that can support long-term renewable electricity goals.

Ryan Field's renewable electricity approach will be informed by available feasibility studies, site constraints, utility procurement structures, and Northwestern's broader sustainability commitments. As referenced in the Construction section of this document, solar panels were evaluated and determined not feasible at this time. Northwestern University has a 15-year partnership with Clearway Energy and remains committed to investigating additional off-site renewable energy opportunities. Northwestern will continue to evaluate future renewable energy opportunities in coordination with the stadium operator. Solar arrays are currently installed on other select Northwestern facilities, including Ryan Fieldhouse.

Where renewable energy opportunities require additional evaluation, Ryan Field will identify the relevant owner, decision criteria, constraints, and future review pathway. This includes both procurement-based renewable electricity options and any future reconsideration of onsite or site-based renewable energy opportunities, including rooftop, site-based, or parking canopy solar where applicable.

Hybrid and electric stadium operations equipment

In an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of fossil fuels, the Ryan Field operations staff is prioritizing hybrid and electric equipment for operations. This equipment includes stadium operations vehicles, golf carts, forklifts, and landscaping tools. At the time of submitting this Sustainability Plan, the Ryan Field Operations team is in the process of procuring this equipment. As equipment reaches its end of life, the operations staff will conduct market research for a replacement, and a hybrid and electric model will be included in the assessment.

Waste, Recycling, Composting & Reuse

Ryan Field will manage event and operational waste through source reduction, recycling, composting, responsible service-ware selection, waste hauler coordination, staff training, and post-event cleanup procedures. The waste program will be designed to reduce landfill disposal, improve material recovery, support neighborhood cleanliness, and establish the data needed to set future waste diversion goals.

Because Ryan Field is a new, event-driven facility, the initial waste stream and composition baseline will be established after operations begin. During the first event season, Ryan Field will track available waste, recycling, composting, donation, and other diversion data to understand material generation patterns, contamination issues, hauler capabilities, and operational constraints. Once baseline data is available, Ryan Field will establish timebound and quantitative waste diversion goals.

Waste Collection System

Ryan Field will implement a waste collection system that supports landfill, recycling, and composting. In year one, a compost stream will first be rolled out back-of-house and in year two of operations will be rolled out front of house. Collection infrastructure will be designed to provide consistent, clearly labeled disposal options for guests, staff, vendors, and back-of-house operations. Front of house bins will have three slots for depositing waste. In year one, signage will include landfill and recycling, in year two when composting collection is rolled out, the signage in the third collection slot will be converted to say composting.

Ryan Field operations, OVG Sustainability, Levy, custodial teams, and haulers will coordinate ongoing to maintain clear communication regarding accepted materials, servicing frequency, and event-day staffing needs.

Recycling Program

Ryan Field will provide front-of-house and back-of-house recycling collection. The recycling program will include materials commonly generated through stadium operations, including beverage containers, cardboard, paper, and other accepted materials based on local hauler requirements.

Recycling implementation will include:

- Front-of-house recycling containers
- Back-of-house cardboard and mixed recycling collection
- Clear signage for guest engagement & education, aligned with accepted materials
- Staff and vendor training on recycling procedures
- Coordination with haulers to confirm accepted materials and contamination thresholds
- Post-event review of contamination issues and corrective actions

Hauler reporting will be used where available to track recycling tonnage, contamination feedback, and diversion performance. Where hauler reporting is limited, Ryan Field will document available estimates, waste audits, or operational observations until more complete reporting is available.

Composting and Organics

Ryan Field will implement composting collection in back of house (i.e. kitchens) in year one of operations. Levy – Ryan Field’s food & beverage provider – will coordinate with Ryan Field Operations and the hauler in order to successfully deliver this stream. Rolling composting out in year one in controlled back-of-house areas first, will allow for staff training, material control, and contamination management will more manageable quantities of waste. This will provide an on ramp to year two when composting collection is rolled out to guests front-of-house.

Composting implementation will include:

- Back of house containers & clear signage
- Staff and vendor training on composting procedures
- Post-event review of contamination issues and corrective actions
- Coordination with haulers to confirm accepted materials and contamination thresholds
- Additionally in year two: Clear signage for guest engagement & education, aligned with accepted materials

Reusable, Compostable, and Recyclable Service-ware

Ryan Field will coordinate with Levy to evaluate service-ware options that support source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.

Pending coordination with the waste hauler and timeline for sourcing compostable disposables, the service-ware strategy will include:

- Whether reusable service-ware will be used in suites, clubs, catering, back-of-house, or other controlled-service areas
- Where single-use service-ware remains necessary for safety, speed of service, sanitation, operational, or guest experience reasons
- Whether disposable products are recyclable, compostable, or both
- Whether selected compostable products are accepted by the local compost processor
- Whether selected recyclable products are compatible with local recycling infrastructure
- How service-ware choices will be communicated to staff, vendors, and guests
- How contamination will be monitored and corrected

Reusable service-ware should be prioritized where collection, washing, storage, labor, food safety, and event operations make it practical. Where reusable service-ware is not feasible, Levy will prioritize products that align with confirmed hauler and processor acceptance requirements.

Food Waste Reduction and Food Donation

Levy operations at Ryan Field will evaluate opportunities to reduce food waste at the source, and recovery to divert surplus food where safe, practical, and compliant with applicable food safety requirements. Levy, the food and beverage provider for Ryan Field, has a company goal to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030. Levy will use Waste Not 2.0, a proprietary, tablet-based waste-tracking program designed to change behavior with real-time tracking and dashboard reporting. Food waste reduction reports will be shared to demonstrate reduction efforts after establishing a baseline.

All Levy locations have robust food donation programs with local community non-profits to recover surplus food from events. In the greater Chicago market, Levy partners with Careit to help distribute food donations from Levy venues to local non-profits across the community, thus supporting local community members in need.

Food donation procedures will address:

- Eligible food types
- Food safety and temperature control
- Storage and packaging
- Pickup or delivery logistics
- Donation partner responsibilities
- Tracking of donated food weight or meals, where available
- Documentation for annual sustainability reporting

Where food donation is not feasible for certain events or food types, Levy at Ryan Field will identify whether surplus food can be reduced through production planning, inventory management, staff meal use, or composting.

Staff, Vendor, and Event-Day Training

Ryan Field will support waste diversion through staff, vendor, and event-day training. Training will be tailored to each operational group, including custodial teams, food and beverage staff, event staff, vendors, student workers, and waste ambassadors where used.

Training topics are likely to include:

- Waste stream definitions
- Accepted and prohibited materials in each stream
- Bag colors to use in each stream
- Where to bring each stream back of house (i.e. toter locations)
- Waste Sorting
- Hard to recycle materials
- Contamination prevention
- Event cleanup procedures
- How to report issues or request support

Ryan Field may also consider staff, student, or volunteer waste ambassadors for high-impact events, pilot programs, or early-season implementation support. Waste ambassadors can help answer guest questions, reduce contamination, and provide operational feedback on signage and bin placement.

First-Season Waste Baseline and Diversion Goals

Ryan Field will establish an initial waste stream baseline following the first full operating year. The baseline will include landfill, recycling, composting, food donation, and other diversion streams where data is available.

The baseline process will include:

- Hauler tonnage or volume reports
- Event-level waste summaries where available
- Post-event waste audits or visual inspections where feasible
- Identification of major material streams
- Contamination observations
- Service-ware and packaging impacts
- Operational barriers and improvement opportunities

Once baseline data is available, Ryan Field will establish timebound and quantitative waste diversion goals. Goals may include overall diversion targets, stream-specific goals, contamination reduction goals, composting expansion milestones, food donation tracking, or event-specific pilot targets.

Ryan Field may evaluate a long-term aspirational diversion target after the first event season, but any formal diversion target will be based on confirmed hauler data, accepted materials, local processing infrastructure, service-ware sourcing, staffing capacity, and event operations.

Waste Metrics and Reporting

Ryan Field will use waste data to track performance, identify operational improvements, and support annual sustainability reporting.

Ryan Field will review waste performance at least annually and use the results to refine collection infrastructure, staff training, vendor coordination, inform Levy's service-ware sourcing, composting feasibility, and diversion goals. Where data is incomplete during the first season, Ryan Field will document available information, identify data gaps, and improve reporting processes for future years.

Water Management

Ryan Field will manage water usage and efficiency through water use tracking, operational review, and ongoing maintenance. This section addresses facility water performance. Because

Ryan Field is a new, event-driven facility, annual water use baselines will be established following the first full operating year.

Water use will be tracked through utility data, submeters where available, building management systems, and operational records. Annual water use benchmarking will be coordinated with the broader building performance review process to support applicable City requirements and identify opportunities for operational improvement.

Water performance tracking may include:

- Annual water use
- Monthly water use, where available
- Event-related water use trends, where data allows
- Irrigation demand, where applicable
- Water use associated with major operational areas such as restrooms, kitchens, concessions, cleaning, and landscape maintenance, where data allows
- Opportunities for operational efficiency improvements or fixture and equipment adjustments

Once actual water use data is available, Ryan Field will use the baseline to evaluate future reduction opportunities and establish timebound water performance goals where appropriate.

Transportation & Sustainability

Ryan Field addresses transportation and event-related traffic impacts through the Transportation Management Plan. This section is intended to connect transportation-related sustainability strategies to the broader operational requirements of the Transportation Management Plan. This section does not duplicate or supersede the Transportation Management Plan.

Electric Shuttle Bus Feasibility

As part of our planning efforts for Ryan Field event transportation services, OVG conducted a comprehensive market outreach to identify a qualified shuttle provider capable of supplying electric vehicle (EV) shuttle service. We contacted 24 local and national shuttle operators to assess fleet availability, operational capabilities, and interest in supporting Northwestern University's event transportation program.

Of the 24 operators contacted, 15 responded that they do not currently have EV shuttles within their fleet, while the remaining 9 operators did not respond despite multiple outreach attempts. Among the operators that provided feedback, the consistent theme was that the significantly higher acquisition and operating costs associated with EV shuttle vehicles have limited fleet investment. Several providers indicated that, while there is growing interest in electric fleets, current vehicle pricing, charging infrastructure requirements, and operational limitations have made widespread adoption financially impractical for their businesses.

Based on this market assessment, there appears to be a limited availability of commercial EV shuttle providers capable of supporting large-scale event transportation in the Chicago market.

This outreach demonstrates that the lack of qualified providers is driven by broader market constraints rather than a lack of due diligence, and it reinforces the need to evaluate alternative fleet options or phased sustainability strategies until the EV shuttle market matures.

Operator Name	Website	Status
Charter Up	https://www.charterup.com/	No Response
Chicago Motor Coach	https://usacoachbus.com/	No EV buses in fleet
Coach USA/Wisconsin Coach Lines	https://www.coachusa.com/	No Response
Compass	https://www.compasstrans.net/	No EV buses in fleet
Corporate Shuttles	https://www.corporateshuttle.com/	No Response
Echo Limousine	https://echolimousine.com/	No EV buses in fleet
Emotive	emotivelogistics.com	No EV buses in fleet
First Student Charter	https://firststudentinc.com/	No Response
GoGo Charters	https://gogocharters.com/	No EV buses in fleet
Ideal Charter	https://idealcharter.com/	No EV buses in fleet
Infinity	https://www.infinitytransportation.net/	No EV buses in fleet
M&M Shuttle Services	https://mmbuses.com/	No EV buses in fleet
National Charter Bus	https://www.nationalbuscharter.com/	No Response
North Shore Transit	https://cookillinois.com/north-shore-transit-inc/	No Response
Peoria Charter	https://peoriacharter.com/	No EV buses in fleet
Pontarelli	https://www.pontarelliischicago.com/	No Response
Safeway Transportation	https://safewaytransportationservices.com/	No EV buses in fleet
Septran	https://summitllc.com/companies/septran/	No Response
Spare Wheels Transportation	https://sparewheels.com/	No EV buses in fleet
Taylor Services	https://www.taylorservicestransportation.com/	No EV buses in fleet
TMS	https://www.tms.com/	No EV buses in fleet
United Bus	https://www.unitedbuses.com/	No EV buses in fleet
Windy City Limousine	www.windycitylimos.com	No EV buses in fleet
Zeelo	https://zeelo.com	No Response

Communications strategies for alternative transportation

Ryan Field will support transportation communications strategies that encourage transit use, shuttle ridership, walking, biking, and other non-single-occupancy vehicle travel where safe, practical, and consistent with event operations. These strategies may include pre-event guest communications, Know Before You Go messaging, shuttle information, transit directions, pedestrian access guidance, and bicycle parking information.

Parking, Rideshare, and Neighborhood Spillover Management

These topics are addressed in the Transportation Management Plan.

Bicycle Parking and Micromobility

Ryan Field will be operating a bike valet service to encourage bike use for attending events.

Micromobility options will be evaluated based on safety, staging locations, local regulations, pedestrian flow, curb management, and neighborhood impacts.

Anti-Idling and Low-Emission Operations

Ryan Field will implement anti-idling practices for shuttles, buses, delivery vehicles, loading areas, and event operations vehicles. Anti-idling expectations will be communicated to relevant operators, vendors, transportation providers, and event staff.

Greenspace Management & Landscaping Maintenance

As referenced in the Construction section of the Sustainability Plan, Ryan Field's landscaping design incorporates native plant species and tree canopy coverage. Once the facility is open, ongoing landscaping maintenance will maintain or increase this percentage of native plant species and tree canopy.

Landscaping maintenance practices at Ryan Field will maintain landscaped areas through a coordinated maintenance approach that supports plant health, site aesthetics, biodiversity, pollinators, and human health. As such, the integrated pest management practices will limit pesticide application while maintaining safe and functional landscapes.

Community Engagement & Ongoing Coordination

Northwestern recognizes that a successful sustainability plan requires ongoing communication, collaboration, and partnership with our neighbors and the City of Evanston. This section is intended to connect sustainability implementation with the broader community coordination structure for Ryan Field.

As the stadium operations evolve, Northwestern will continue working with City staff, the Community Advisory Council, and operational partners to share information, listen to feedback, and identify opportunities to strengthen sustainability practices over time. The intent of this approach is to support greater transparency and understanding, and to ensure that sustainability remains responsive to operational needs and community concerns.

Community Coordination Structure

Sustainability is most effective when it reflects the perspectives and experiences of those who live, work, and spend time in the surrounding community. Ryan Field will seek opportunities to incorporate sustainability into its broader community engagement efforts and operational coordination where appropriate.

Community coordination may include:

- Regular communication and coordination with the City of Evanston on sustainability matters, as appropriate
- Resident communication process
- Collaboration among Northwestern University, Ryan Field Foundation LLC, Oak View Group, and other operational partners to support continuous improvement
- Considering community feedback as one of many important inputs in evaluating future operational enhancement

Community Advisory Council Updates

As implementation continues and performance data becomes available, Ryan Field will participate in annual Community Advisory Council engagement, consistent with applicable MOU requirements, to review plan effectiveness and provide updates. Sustainability updates may include progress against the implementation roadmap, confirmed baseline metrics, annual reporting outcomes, operational improvements, unresolved barriers, and planned next steps.

Resident Communication and Feedback Process

Ryan Field will maintain a process for receiving, reviewing, and responding to community feedback related to sustainability and event-related impacts.

Where relevant, complaint trends may be reviewed through the Community Advisory Council update process or another applicable community reporting pathway.

Monitoring, Reporting & Accountability

Ryan Field will maintain a monitoring, reporting, and accountability process to track implementation of this Sustainability Plan, evaluate progress, and identify barriers. This section establishes the process for tracking plan commitments and updating the Sustainability Plan.

The monitoring and reporting process is intended to ensure that the Sustainability Plan functions as an active implementation document rather than a one-time submission. Ryan Field will use confirmed baselines, annual sustainability data, and operational review findings to evaluate progress and identify future actions.

The annual update will include confirmed baseline metrics, annual performance against these baselines, completed actions, unresolved barriers, and planned next steps. The annual reporting process will include:

- Energy and water benchmarking status
- Progress against Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2040
- Percent of renewable electricity procured
- Electrification and onsite emissions reduction updates
- Waste, recycling, composting, and diversion performance
- Quantity of food donated
- Greenspace, shade, and tree canopy updates
- Corrective actions or revised timelines where implementation is delayed

Where data is unavailable or incomplete, Ryan Field will identify the data gap, responsible party, expected data source, and timeline for improving reporting.

City and Community Reporting

Ryan Field will make relevant sustainability information available through applicable City coordination, Community Advisory Council updates, annual reporting, or other agreed-upon reporting pathways. The specific reporting format, cadence, and distribution process will be confirmed with Northwestern University, Ryan Field operations, and applicable City or community stakeholders.

City and community reporting will focus on plan implementation, confirmed baselines, annual performance updates, progress toward goals, unresolved barriers, and planned next steps.

Corrective Action and Plan Updates

Where implementation delays, missed targets, data gaps, or operational barriers are identified, Ryan Field will document the issue and coordinate with the appropriate responsible party to evaluate corrective actions or updated timelines. Corrective actions for example, may include additional training, revised procedures, vendor coordination, infrastructure adjustments, procurement changes, operational pilots, or future capital planning.

The Sustainability Plan will be reviewed at least annually and updated as needed to reflect confirmed baselines, operational performance, completed actions, changed conditions, new opportunities, or revised implementation timelines.

Appendix 1 – Ryan Field SUO & MOU

Ryan Field SUO – Sustainability Plan Requirements:

A Ryan Field Sustainability Plan that includes both “Construction” and “Operations” with either an all-electric net zero building or a pathway to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 where feasible:

a. “Construction”

1. Provide plan for deconstruction (not demolition) of the existing structure.
2. Provide plan for onsite materials reuse
3. Use low-carbon steel and low-carbon concrete
4. Calculate embodied carbon
5. Conduct feasibility study of greywater digester for food prep waste in concession areas
6. Collaborate with ComEd on full building electrification, EV charging, and available incentives.
7. Conduct new feasibility study of solar PV or solar parking canopies

b. “Operations”

1. Plan a path towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions that primarily addresses emissions from the building’s energy usage by 2040
2. Include food waste diversion services within the Stadium Complex. Include reusable food and beverage wares and the needed infrastructure.
3. Provide litter management plans for parking lot and neighboring areas
1. Install hand dryers in restrooms
2. Utilize all electric shuttle buses for the transportation management plans for events

Ryan Field MOU – Sustainability Plan Requirements:

Northwestern shall deliver sustainability plan in compliance with the City’s Climate Action & Resiliency Plan where feasible, to the City no less than six (6) months prior to the first event date following the date on which a certificate of occupancy is issued to Ryan Field (the Sustainability Plan) for review and approval by the City Manager or their designee, which Northwestern shall update and deliver to the City annually thereafter. Approval of the Sustainability Plan will not be unreasonably withheld. The Failure of Northwestern to deliver or follow the approve Security Plan may be subject to the penalties and remedies of Section 15(a). The Sustainability Plan shall describe Northwestern’s intentions with respect to activities related to environmental sustainability in connection with the operation of Ryan Field, such as, by way of example only, the following topics:

- a. Trash clean up
- b. Recycling
- c. Composting
- d. Water Management
- e. Greenspace

Project Name: Ryan Field
Project Phase Construction
Cert. Target: Gold
Date: 07.15.2026



	Y	M	N	Credit	Integrative Process	1
	1					
16	0	5	Location and Transportation			16
LEED for Neighborhood Development Location				Credit		Require
Sensitive Land Protection	1			Credit		1
High Priority Site	1	1		Credit		2
Surrounding Density and Diverse Uses	4	4	1	Credit		5
Access to Quality Transit	3	2		Credit		5
Bicycle Facilities			1	Credit		1
Reduced Parking Footprint	1	1		Credit		1
Electric Vehicles	1			Credit		1
10	3	0	Sustainable Sites			10
Construction Activity Pollution Prevention	Priorreq					Require
Site Assessment	1			Credit		1
Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat	2			Credit		1
Open Space	1			Credit		1
Rainwater Management	3			Credit		3
Heat Island Reduction	2			Credit		2
Light Pollution Reduction	1			Credit		1
11	5	0	Water Efficiency			11
Outdoor Water Use Reduction	Priorreq					Require
Indoor Water Use Reduction	Priorreq					Require
Building-Level Water Metering	Priorreq					Require
Outdoor Water Use Reduction: 50% / 100%	1	1		Credit		2
Indoor Water Use Reduction: 25% / 30% / 35% / 40% / 45% / 50%	3	3		Credit		6
Cooling Tower Water Use	2			Credit		2
Water Metering	1			Credit		1
33	17	2	Energy and Atmosphere			33
Fundamental Commissioning and Verification	Priorreq					Require
Minimum Energy Performance	Priorreq					Require
Building-Level Energy Metering	Priorreq					Require
Fundamental Refrigerant Management	Priorreq					Require
Enhanced Commissioning	6			Credit		6
Optimize Energy Performance	18			Credit		18
Advanced Energy Metering	1			Credit		1
Grid-Optimal ACP	1	1		Credit		2
Renewable Energy	3	2		Credit		5
Enhanced Refrigerant Management	1			Credit		1

[illegible]

Appendix 3 - Bird-Friendly Building Design Ordinance Compliance

HNTB Corporation	1111 Main Street, Suite 2500	Telephone (816) 472-1201
The HNTB Companies	Kansas City, MO 64106	
Infrastructure Solutions		hntb.com



May 4, 2026

Sarah Flax
Community Development Director
City of Evanston
909 Davis Street
Evanston, IL 60201

Re: Ordinance 108-O-23

Dear Sarah

This letter is in regard to Ordinance 108-O-23: An Ordinance Granting a Special Use for a Planned Development to Demolish the Existing Ryan Field and Ancillary Maintenance Building and Construct A New Stadium in the U2 University Athletics Facilities District.

Attached is written response from Perkins & Will related to Bird Friendly Building Design Compliance for the New Ryan Field project. Also attached is written response from Smith Group related to Floodplain Regulation Compliance for the New Ryan Field project.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions related to these two items.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darren Nielsen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darren Nielsen, RA
Vice President
HNTB

Attachments:

- Perkins & Will letter, dated March 30, 2026
- Smith Group letter, dated April 14, 2026

Perkins&Will

Date: 3.30.2026

Darren Nielsen
HNTB
1111 Main Street, Suite 2500
Kansas City, MO 64106

Re: Ryan Field – Bird Friendly Building Design Compliance
Perkins&Will Project No. 022231.000

Dear Darren,

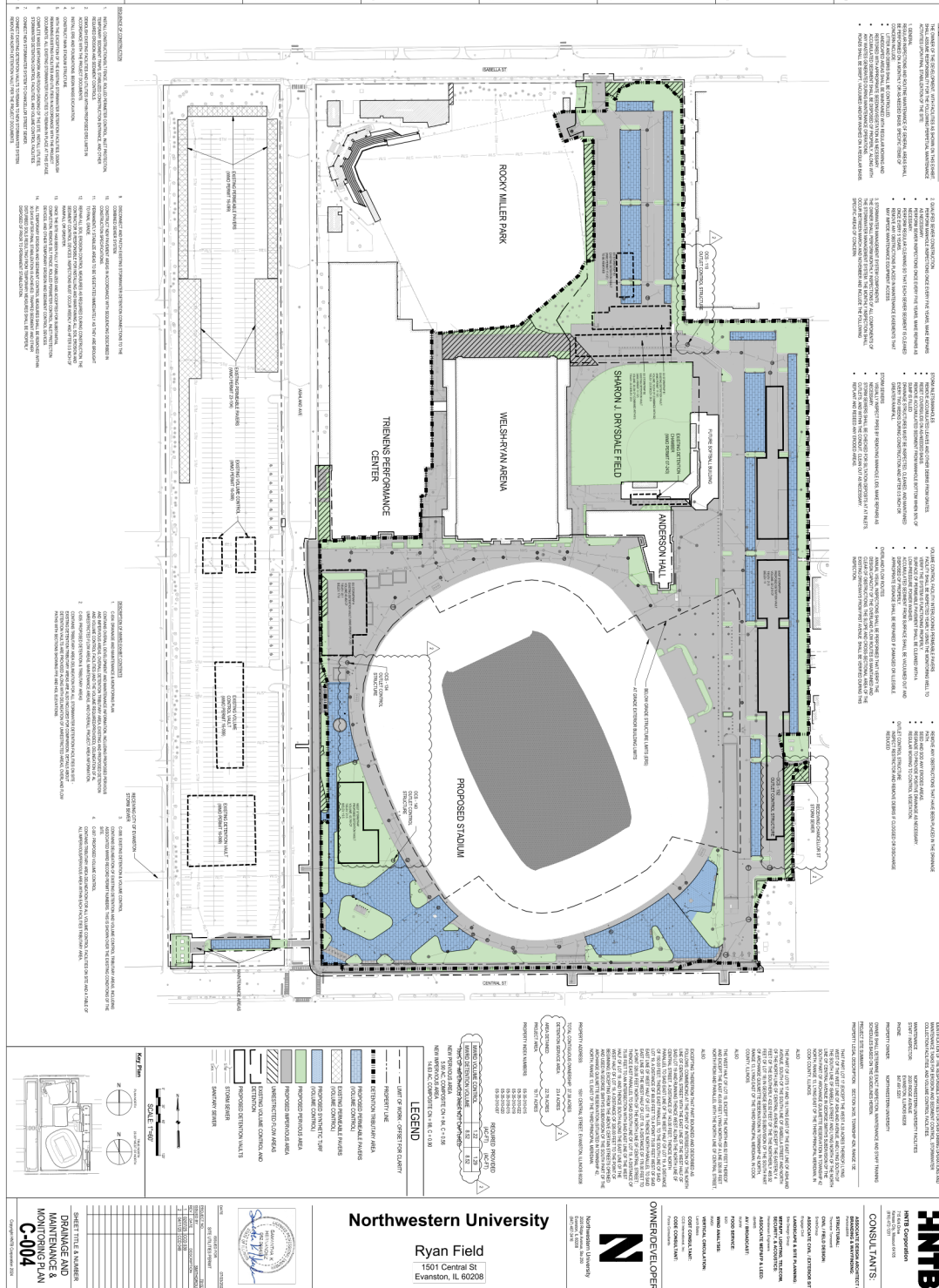
This is to confirm that to the best of our knowledge and as documented on drawing sheets AS007, AS008 and AS009 that are part of the Contract Documents submitted for the project building permit, the building design meets the requirements of the **City of Evanston Ordinance 83-O-22, Chapter 24 – Bird Friendly Building Design**.

Sincerely,



Christopher Hale, AIA, LEED AP
Managing Principal
Perkins&Will

410 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60611
www.perkinswill.com



HNTB Corporation	1111 Main Street, Suite 2500	Telephone (816) 472-1201
The HNTB Companies	Kansas City, MO 64106	
Infrastructure Solutions		hntb.com



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Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions related to these two items.

Best regards

Darren Nielsen, RA
Vice President
HNTB

Attachments:

- Perkins & Will letter, dated March 30, 2026
- Smith Group letter, dated April 14, 2026

SMITHGROUP

April 14, 2026

Darren Nielsen, RA
Vice President
HNTB Architecture
1111 Main Street, Suite 2500
Kansas City, MO 64106

Re Floodplain Regulation Compliance – Northwestern University - The Ryan Field

This letter is to formally confirm that the Northwestern University Ryan Field project located at 1501 Central St. has been designed to comply with applicable floodplain regulations and requirements as outlined in the City of Evanston City Code Chapter 4-13, Floodplain Regulations, and the Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD).

The Ryan Field project has two distinct scopes of work as it relates to this discussion:

The Ryan Field: Includes the new stadium and surrounding site improvements. The project site is located on the Northwestern University (NU) Athletic Campus which is bound by Central St. to the south, Ashland Ave. to the west, Isabella St. to the north, and a residential neighborhood to the east.

Chancellor Street Storm Sewer: The project provides storm drainage for the NU Athletic Campus, including Ryan Field, but has been designed and permitted as a stand-alone project. The storm sewer starts at the NU property limits bordering Chancellor Street and extends east along Chancellor Street and Asbury Avenue, ultimately discharging to the North Shore Channel.

City of Evanston Chapter 4-13, Floodplain Regulations

The City of Evanston Floodplain Regulations apply to any development activities, including new construction, substantial improvements, and alterations of a watercourse wholly within, partially within or in contact with the floodplains.

The Ryan Field: The project is not located within or adjacent to any floodplain or waterway. The City Floodplain Regulations are therefore not applicable to the project site.

Chancellor Street Storm Sewer: The storm sewer discharges to the North Shore Channel which is identified by FEMA as a Special Flood Hazard Area (floodplain) – Zone A. The outfall was designed and installed to be located above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). No fill or other improvements are proposed within the floodplain. A joint application for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) was submitted for this project. After review and determination of the OHWM, a No Permit Required (NPR) Letter has been issued by USACE (see attached).

MWRD - Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO)

Both project scopes have been permitted under the MWRD WMO. Permit numbers and the issuance dates for each are as follows:

The Ryan Field

- WMO Permit #: 2024-0300
- Issuance Date: 7/15/2025

SMITHGROUP

Chancellor Street Storm Sewer

- WMO Permit #: 2024-0294
- Issuance Date: 4/1/2025
- Permit Closed: 12/19/2025

As indicated above, the Chancellor Street Storm Sewer scope of work is complete and the permit was closed out following final inspection by MWRD. The Ryan Field scope of work is ongoing with regular site visits by MWRD.

It is our professional opinion that the full scope of work described above has been designed and permitted to comply with all applicable floodplain regulations as set forth by the City of Evanston and MWRD as well as USACE and IDNR.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 608-327-4424 or sam.hernandez@smithgroup.com.

Sincerely,



Samantha Hernandez, P.E.
Principal, Civil Engineer
SmithGroup

Attachment: USACE No Permit Required Letter



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT
231 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, SUITE 1500
CHICAGO IL 60604-1437

November 19, 2024

Regulatory Branch (LRC-2024-390)

SUBJECT: No Permit Required (NPR) Letter, NURF - Chancellor Street Storm Sewer,
Evanston, Illinois (Latitude 41.7250576767291°N, Longitude -88.2698399473828°W)

Larry Blouin
Northwestern University
1501 Central Street
Evanston, Illinois, 60201

Dear Mr. Blouin,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, has completed its review of your 08/30/2024 request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issue a **NPR** for the above-referenced activity. The subject project has been assigned number LRC-2024-390. Please reference this number in all future correspondence concerning this project.

Following a review of the information you furnished to this office and assuming your project is conducted only as set forth in the report titled, "Northwestern University Ryan Field – Chancellor Street Storm Sewer", 08/01/2024 (revised 08/14/2024), prepared by SmithGroup. As a result, this office is issuing a NPR letter for the above-referenced activity. Please be aware that any unpermitted discharge into an area within the jurisdiction of this office may result in civil or criminal enforcement under the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1319.

It is your responsibility to obtain any required state, county, or local approvals for impacts to wetland areas not under the Department of the Army jurisdiction. For projects located in unincorporated and unauthorized municipalities in Cook County, please contact the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago at (312) 751-3247.

- 2 -

This determination is based only on the proposed activity and is not an AJD for the subject parcel. If you wish to receive an AJD on the Subject Property, or you have questions regarding the Regulatory program, please contact this office by telephone at 312-846-5512, or email at Charissa.J.Lindquist@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen G. Chernich".

Kathleen G. Chernich
Assistant Chief
Regulatory Branch

CC:

Smith Group (Samantha Hernandez)

Appendix 5 – EV Chargers

