



**Village of Mount Prospect, IL  
Committee of the Whole  
Meeting  
Agenda**

Village of Mount Prospect  
Village Hall - 3rd Floor  
Boardroom  
50 S. Emerson St.  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

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**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

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**1 CALL TO ORDER**

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**2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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2.1 [Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting - January 24, 2023](#)

**3 CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

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**4 DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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4.1 [Aging in the Community Action Plan Presentation, Discussion, and Feedback](#)

4.2 [Village Government Sustainability Plan: Initial Report Review and Feedback](#)

**5 VILLAGE MANAGERS REPORT**

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**6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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**7 ADJOURNMENT**

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## Item Cover Page

### **Subject**

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting -  
January 24, 2023**

Meeting

March 14, 2023 - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE -

Fiscal Impact

Dollar Amount

Budget Source

Category

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Type

Minutes

### **Information**

### **Alternatives**

### **Staff Recommendation**

ATTACHMENTS:  
[Jan 24 COW.pdf](#)



**Village of Mount Prospect  
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 / 7:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Paul Hoefert called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. at Olive Palace Banquets, 828 E. Rand Road in Mount Prospect.

a. Roll Call

Members present upon roll call by the Village Clerk: Mayor Paul Hoefert, Trustee Agostino Filippone, Trustee Terri Gens, Trustee John Matuszak, Trustee Richard Rogers, Trustee Colleen Saccotelli and Trustee Zadel

Absent: None

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2.1 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of December 13, 2022

Motion by Colleen Saccotelli second by Terri Gens to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of December 13, 2022:

Aye: Agostino Filippone, Terri Gens, John Matuszak, Richard Rogers, Colleen Saccotelli and Michael Zadel

Nay: None

*Final resolution: Minutes approved.*

**3. Citizens to be Heard**

Lloyd Miller

*Citizen identified by the Village Manager as a former Mount Prospect firefighter/paramedic who addressed the Board with personnel concerns*

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4.1 Second Village Board discussion of rehabilitation options for the Fairview Gardens Sewer Pump Station.

Director of Public Works Sean Dorsey began his presentation by thanking residents in attendance. Mr. Dorsey introduced the presentation that will include a brief background of the subject project, a project update since last discussed at a Committee of the Whole in July 2022 and plans for the future. Mr. Dorsey introduced Luke Mattson, consulting engineer with Ciorba Group who has been involved with the project since the early stages.

Mr. Mattson provided background information on the 2019 replacement of the Fairview Lift Station. As part of the Village's Sanitary Lift Station Replacement Program, the Fairview lift station was evaluated and found to be at the end of its' useful life. Ciorba was contracted to begin the design process. Mr. Mattson displayed of a map of the Fairview Lift Station tributary and explained the function of lift stations. As part of the design process, permits are required by the

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). MWRDGC performs an analysis of the lift stations to determine daily water usage. Pumps are sized based on these calculations. Ciorba discovered the existing size of the pumps are too small to handle flow coming in and going out. The matter is further complicated because MWRDGC will not issue a permit to replace the pump station in kind. Mr. Mattson explained in order to obtain a permit, the discharge capacity of the pump station would need to be reduced by approximately two-thirds. This reduction would result in frequent basement back-ups during common rain events. The situation is exacerbated when it rains. Mr. Mattson stated an investigation into why this was happening began with a look at the public drainage system. The investigation also included flow monitoring in the system to measure the level of drainage coming in. Ultimately, it was determined the likely location is from the private side of the property lines. Mr. Mattson further explained the issue by displaying graphs of flow meter results from rain events occurring in 2020. Next, Mr. Mattson described standard residential plumbing sanitary flows using diagrams and maps and discussed violations that were found on private properties.

The Village tasked Ciorba with developing alternatives to address this issue. Mr. Mattson described different alternatives that include the following:

- Construction and installation of 54-inch pipes along almost every street in the subject neighborhood at an estimated cost of \$9.7 million.
- Construction of a large underground relief storage system located at the St. Emily parking lot at an estimated cost of \$5.1 million or Bluett Park at an estimated cost of \$4.0 million.
- Address the problem at its source on the site of private properties at a cost of \$2.4 million

Mr. Dorsey displayed a map of the Fairview Gardens subdivision depicting homes with either sump pumps, footing tile connections or exterior drains. The subdivision was built in Cook County and was later annexed into the Village. The subdivision includes approximately 300 homes. Mr. Dorsey stated the problem the Village is attempting to solve is replacing the pump station but MWRDGC does not allow the Village to keep the current size of the pumps.

Mr. Dorsey discussed updates of the initial pilot project basin area on Lowden Lane that includes 23 homes. These homes have either direct footing tile connections or sump pumps. Mr. Dorsey stated three (3) model homes were selected for the initial phase of the pilot program. The owners of these homes volunteered to be part of this pilot program. The homes include the three different styles prevalent in the neighborhood; raised ranch, split-level and split level with sub-basement. Mr. Dorsey stated the work was successfully completed in these homes and cost-effective. Mr. Dorsey added the footing tiles were disconnected and sump pumps were installed in their place. Disconnecting these systems removed considerable amounts of storm water from the sanitary system allowing it to be pushed through the proper storm water systems, reducing the capacity need of the sanitary pump station. The work on the three homes was completed before holidays and recently, the Village completed work on two (2) additional homes on Lowden Lane.

Mr. Dorsey stated the remaining homes requiring footing tile disconnects will be completed in the next several weeks. Once completed, flow monitors will be installed in the basin. Mr. Dorsey stated the work is completed in about two days with little disruptions to the homeowners. There have been no complaints from the homeowners thus far. With no significant rainfall to date, the system has yet to be tested to determine if it solves the problem. Mr. Dorsey stated the goal is to complete the remaining homes in the pilot project area and wait for rain.

Mr. Dorsey discussed next steps that include testing the hypothesis that most water comes from direct footing tile connections. Next steps also include the re-inspection of homes in the pilot project area, disconnecting all direct footing tile connections in the pilot area, re-flow monitoring of the Lowden Lane sub-basin in Spring, and determine efficacy and total cost. Mr. Dorsey plans to conduct another public meeting once these steps have been completed.

Upon completion of Mr. Dorsey's presentation, Mayor Hofert opened the floor to the residents.

*Approximately 50 residents from the affected neighborhood attended the meeting.*

The following residents addressed the Board with questions and concerns. Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Mattson and Public Works Water and Sewer Superintendent Casey Botterman provided answers to their questions:

Colt Deckard  
308 N. Stratton Lane

Mark Leider  
129 N. Stratton Lane

Robert McElhattan  
1504 Lowden Lane

John Leone  
208 N. Stratton Lane

Dennis Stephens  
210 N. Yates

I. Draganov  
222 N. Yates Lane

C.J. Zimmerman  
207 N. Deneen Lane

Steve Polit  
601 N. Wilshire Lane

Eric Saari  
1425 E. Emmerson

Ho-Ung Yee  
124 N. Horner Lane

Board Comments:

- Expressed gratitude to Olive Palace for allowing the Village to host the meeting at their location
- Homeowners were thanked for doing their homework and participating in this process
- Questioned portion of the Village Code regarding limiting the point of discharge sump pumps to be not more than five (5) feet from a foundation. *Mr. Dorsey provided reasoning behind the ordinance. By requiring up to five (5) feet of piping, it allows the discharge to be absorbed by as much of the property as possible, thus, minimizing discharge to accumulate or in their neighboring yards.*

- Staff should re-examine our Code limiting the sump pump pipe to five (5) feet; does not seem adequate

Resident

1402 Lowden

- Recently had conversion completed; although it was a temporary disruption, it was well worth it; pleased with the process and the professionals performing the work

Mayor Hoefert thanked all those who participated in the meeting and in the process. Mayor Hoefert encouraged residents to reach out the the Board or Public Works with any lingering or follow-up questions.

## **5. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

Village Manager Michael Cassady acknowledged the comments of Lloyd Miller who spoke under "Citizens to be Heard" earlier in the meeting. Mr. Cassady stated staff is well aware of the situation and it is being appropriately addressed internally.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Hoefert asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Rogers, seconded by Trustee Zadel, moved to adjourn the meeting. By unanimous roll vote of the Village Board, the January 24, 2023 Committee the Whole meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Agoranos  
Village Clerk



## Item Cover Page

**Subject**

**Aging in the Community Action Plan  
Presentation, Discussion, and Feedback**

Meeting

March 14, 2023 - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE -

Fiscal Impact

Dollar Amount

Budget Source

Category

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Type

Discussion Item

**Information**

Aging in Community / Aging in Place has been a strategic priority for the Village since 2019. Work on this initiative commenced in 2019 with the formation of a stakeholder committee whose work led to the facilitation of six focus groups in September and October of 2019. Data from these focus groups and recommendations for moving the initiative forward were presented at a [Committee of the Whole meeting in September, 2020](#). The Village Board concurred with staff recommendations, and the Village pursued enrollment in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. In February 2021, the Village was notified of its acceptance into the network as the 512<sup>th</sup> community to enroll. The Village convened the Age-Friendly Task Force in 2021 with the goal of developing a three-year action plan. This task force is comprised of community partners and residents with expertise and interest in age-friendly policy and programming.

The Age-Friendly Task Force and Village staff liaisons from the Human Services and Community Development Departments' have completed work on the assessment and planning phases of the action plan process. The assessment phase included the collection of primary data (focus groups, survey), collection of secondary data (Census, existing efforts) and the development of a community profile.

The AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities provides a template

and resources for completing the work of the initiative, which includes an Age-Friendly community survey. The task force reviewed and adapted the AARP Age-Friendly survey to create the Village of Mount Prospect Aging in Community survey. The survey launched in September 2021 and remained open for approximately four months. The survey was available in print and electronically and was offered in English and Spanish. Additionally, Language Line services (i.e. interpreting, translation services) were available to assist other non-English speaking residents interested in completing the survey. The Age-Friendly Task Force employed a variety of marketing strategies to raise awareness of the survey and distributed surveys at numerous locations and events. The Village received four hundred and sixty six (466) survey responses. Data was analyzed by the task force and staff liaisons. Data and survey findings are available in the attached Aging in Community Survey Report.

The Village learned of a grant opportunity through its affiliation with the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus Age Friendly Collaborative. The RRF Foundation for Aging offered the "Aging in a Changing Region" grant to support local municipalities on their aging in community efforts. The Village applied for the Aging in a Changing region grant in March of 2021 and was selected to participate in the 2021 cohort. Village staff worked with Brad Winick of Planning/Aging to design two workshops; one for community stakeholders and one for residents of Mount Prospect. Workshops were held in September and December of 2021. Following the workshops, a report was presented to the Village; Elevating Aging-in-Community in Mount Prospect - A Strategic Guide. (Report attached)

Following the grant workshops and survey data analysis, the Age-Friendly Task Force moved to the Planning phase of the action plan process. A consultant was utilized to work with the task force on the development of the mission, vision and values. This work resulted in the following:

**Mission:** Strengthen community infrastructure and systems that enhance the lives of older adults.

**Vision:** Mount Prospect is an accessible, inclusive community where older adults thrive and have the tools to navigate the aging process.

**Values:** Intergenerational, Accessible, Respectful, Collaborative, Adaptable

In addition to the Aging in Community survey data, the task force analyzed secondary data sources which included other Village surveys as well as various local and state agency plans and reports for a total of eleven (11) sources. The task force identified eleven (11) themes across all sources; housing, health and wellness, information/communication, transportation, social engagement, diverse

populations, aging network, technology, physical environment, workforce/caregivers and employment/volunteering. It is not feasible to address every issue in a three-year action plan; therefore the task force followed a two-step process to select priority areas.

Priority areas were selected with a dot-voting method in which task force members were asked to choose the top five priority areas from the eleven (11) community assessment themes that best reflect the priorities of the stakeholders and residents in the community. The five priority areas with the most votes were housing, transportation, social engagement, information/communication, and health/wellness. Task force participants and staff liaisons were assigned to a priority area based on areas of expertise and interest. Each of the groups worked to sort data for their priority area based on high/low feasibility and high/low impact. The purpose of this exercise was to identify high impact/high feasibility goals and objectives that could be addressed in a three-year action plan. Each of the groups identified two goals with corresponding objectives for their priority area. Objectives were drafted using the SMART model. A complete list of goals and objectives can be found in the attached Draft Action Plan report.

### **Next Steps**

The Aging in Community Task Force is seeking feedback on the draft action plan and proposed goals and objectives at the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 14, 2023. Following this presentation and discussion, the action plan will be finalized and submitted to AARP for final approval. Working groups will be formed for each of the priority areas and these groups will begin implementation of the three-year action plan. Task force members have been invited to continue with this initiative as a co-chair of a priority area working group. Co-chairs and staff liaisons will meet quarterly to provide updates for each of the working groups and to ensure that the plan is moving forward.

### **Alternatives**

1. Discuss the draft Aging in Community Action Plan.
2. Action at the discretion of the Village Board.

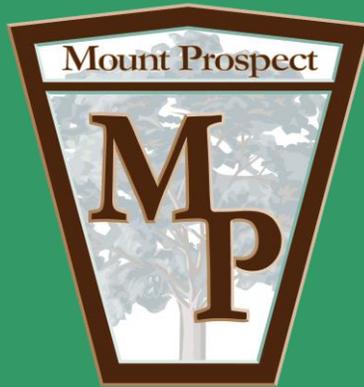
### **Staff Recommendation**

Discuss the draft Aging in Community Action Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

[VOMP Aging in Community Action Plan\\_03.07.23 DRAFT.pdf](#)

Appendix B\_Aging in Community Survey Report\_03.07.23 DRAFT.pdf  
Appendix C\_AiaCR final report -- Mount Prospect -- 4.7.2022.pdf  
COW Presentation 3-14-23\_revised.pdf



# AGING IN COMMUNITY Action Plan

March 2023  
DRAFT



Village of Mount Prospect Downtown

# Contents

Letter from the Mayor or Village Board .....	3
Executive Summary .....	4
Introduction .....	6
Why Focus on Aging?.....	6
Community Profile.....	7
Social Characteristics.....	8
Housing Characteristics .....	8
Economic Characteristics.....	9
AARP Livability Index.....	9
The Path to Age-Friendly.....	10
Action Plan Process.....	11
Roles and Responsibilities for the Action Plan .....	11
Mission, Vision, and Values .....	13
Community Assessment .....	14
Aging in Community Survey Findings .....	14
Senior Focus Groups Findings .....	16
Review of Other Aging in Community Data Sources.....	16
Goals and Objectives .....	20
Housing .....	20
Transportation .....	20
Social Engagement.....	21
Information / Communication .....	22
Health / Wellness .....	23
Implementation.....	24
Appendix A: AARP Livability Index – Mount Prospect	
Appendix B: Aging in Community Survey Report	
Appendix C: Aging in a Changing Region Strategic Guide	
Appendix D: Community Assessment Sources	

# Letter from the Mayor or Village Board

DRAFT

# Executive Summary

The Village of Mount Prospect launched the Aging in Community Initiative in 2019. **The mission of the initiative is to strengthen community infrastructure and systems that enhance the lives of older adults.** The Village convened a Task Force composed of community partners and residents with expertise and interest in age-friendly policy and programming to develop a three-year Action Plan. The Action Plan lays out concrete goals and objectives that will enhance age-friendly features of the community and advance Mount Prospect as an **accessible, inclusive community where older adults thrive and have the tools to navigate the aging process.**

## ACTION PLAN PROCESS

### Assessment (2021)

- Collect Primary Data (Focus Groups, Survey)
- Collect Secondary Data (Census, Existing Efforts)
- Develop Community Profile



### Planning (2022)

- Develop Vision, Mission, and Values of Plan
- Analyze Primary and Secondary Data
- Prioritize Needs and Goals



### Implementation / Evaluation (2023-2025)

- Convene Work Groups to Lead Implementation
- Define Strategies and Metrics to Achieve Goals
- Implement Plan; Evaluate and Adjust As Needed



The Task Force established mission, vision, and values statements to guide the decisions and actions of the Aging in Community Initiative.

## AGING IN COMMUNITY MISSION, VISION, VALUES

### MISSION

Strengthen community infrastructure and systems that enhance the lives of older adults.

### VISION

Mount Prospect is an accessible, inclusive community where older adults thrive and have the tools to navigate the aging process.

### VALUES

Intergenerational • Accessible • Respectful  
Collaborative • Adaptable

Community input was collected from a variety of sources, including:

- Senior Focus Groups 2019
- Aging in Community Survey 2021 (Appendix B)
- Senior Opportunities Survey 2021
- Aging in a Changing Region Strategic Guide 2022 (Appendix C)
- Human Services Needs Assessment 2022

The Task Force sorted the community data and input into 11 thematic areas, and then prioritized the top 5 areas for the Action Plan. The Task Force identified goals and objectives for each priority area. Work Groups will be formed to lead the work for each Priority Area and meet the goals for the three-year Action Plan period.

MOUNT PROSPECT AGING IN COMMUNITY: PRIORITY AREAS & GOALS			
<b>Housing</b>	<b>1</b>	Enable older adults to remain in their homes through physical modifications to the structure.	
	<b>2</b>	Enable older adults to remain in their homes by connecting them to affordable and reliable home maintenance services.	
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>3</b>	Decrease barriers to transportation for older adults in Mount Prospect.	
	<b>4</b>	Increase access to all of Mount Prospect via public and other transportation programs.	
<b>Social Engagement</b>	<b>5</b>	Increase social engagement opportunities for older adults.	
	<b>6</b>	Decrease social isolation in older adults.	
<b>Information / Communication</b>	<b>7</b>	Reduce barriers for older adults to access information and resources.	
	<b>8</b>	Enhance existing methods of communication to connect older adults and their caregivers to resources and events.	
<b>Health / Wellness</b>	<b>9</b>	Increase older adult access to health and wellness resources.	
	<b>10</b>	Increase awareness of mental health issues among older adults.	

Image Credits: Andrejs Kirma, Icon Solutions, Adrien Coquet, Ricki Tri Putra, and Becris from the Noun Project

# Introduction

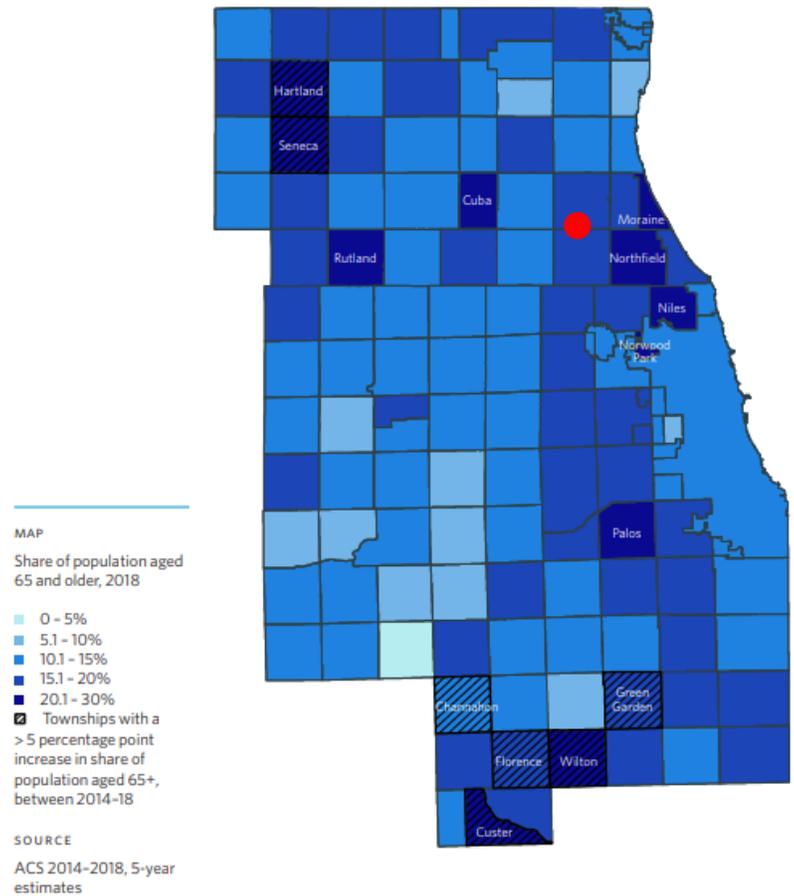
## Why Focus on Aging?

It is an undeniable fact that Americans are getting older. The country as a whole is experiencing a demographic shift towards an aging population. This is due to a multitude of factors, such as declining birth rates and advances in medicine, but can primarily be attributed to the large generation born after World War II known as the Baby Boomers. By 2030, when all Baby Boomers are older than 65, they are expected to make up 21% of the US population. The Chicago metropolitan region senior population is projected to increase by 880,000 between 2015 and 2050.<sup>1</sup>

According to AARP, 77% of adults 50 years and older would prefer to stay in their communities and homes long-term, a process also known as “aging-in-place.” It is important for municipalities to evaluate and improve current infrastructure and programs for older adults, so all residents can live a safe and fulfilling life in the area of their choice.

Map Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Senior population **growing fastest** in northern Cook, western McHenry, and southern Will counties



**17%** of Mount Prospect’s population is 65+

**24%** of suburban Cook older adults are householders that live alone

**32%** of suburban Cook adults 60+ are still in the labor force

**3 in 4** adults age 50+ want to stay in their homes and communities as they age

By 2030, **1 in 5** Americans will be over the age of 65

By 2050, people 50+ will spend **61 cents** out of every retail dollar spent

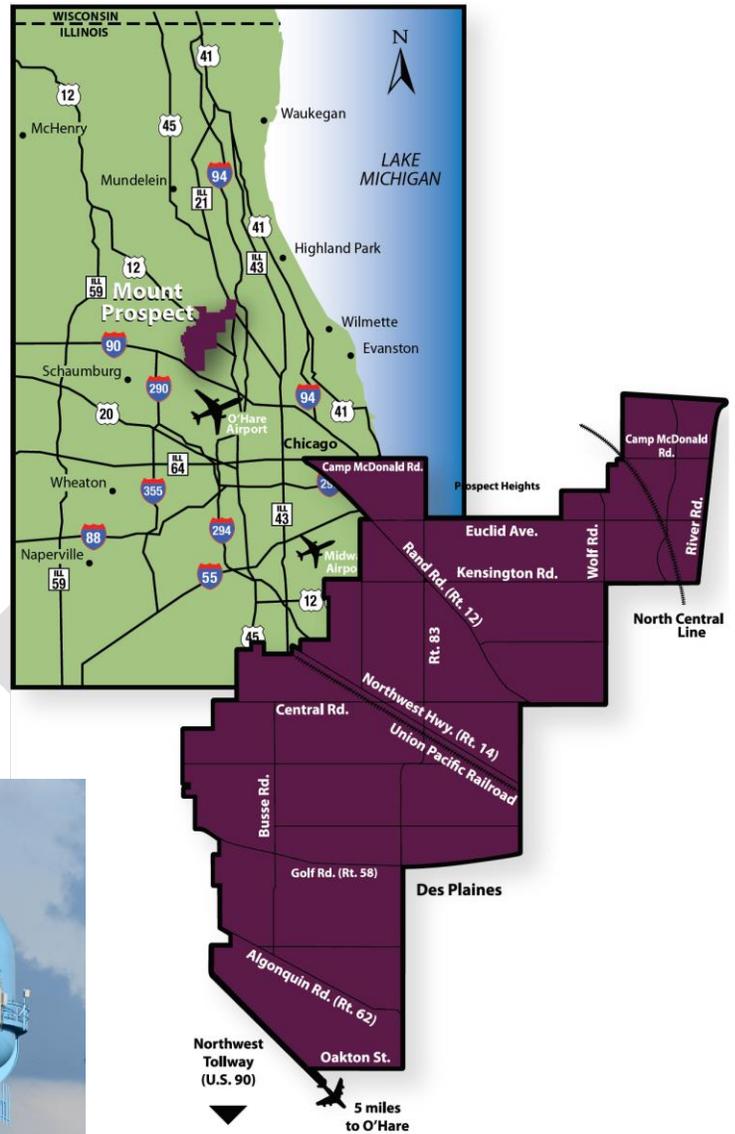
By 2060, life expectancy for Americans is projected to increase to **85.6** years<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CMAP Policy Brief, 2021. [“Planning for an aging population in northeastern Illinois.”](#)

<sup>2</sup> Fact Sources: 1, 2, 3. American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2015-2019; 4. AARP.org; 5. Census.gov; 6. AARP.org; 7. Census.gov

# Community Profile

The Village of Mount Prospect was incorporated in 1917 after being founded by a collection of farmers. Originally a commuter town built around a rail station, Mount Prospect has leveraged its position in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago to evolve into a community with a strong economic base. This is due, in part, to its location 20 miles northwest of Chicago as well as proximity to other amenities in the Northwestern suburbs such as O'Hare International Airport, the Allstate Arena, and the Schaumburg Convention Center. Recent changes to the Village's downtown have increased the number of mixed-use buildings and created open community spaces that allow residents to patronize local businesses while maintaining small-town charm.



After experiencing the majority of its population growth between 1950 and 1980, the Village of Mount Prospect's population has mostly leveled out. On par with national trends, the share of the population who is 55 and older is growing; this presents not only a challenge, but also opportunity. As the older share of the population grows, they will have a significant impact on spending and economic growth in the coming decades. This growing demographic requires strong planning to ensure that the Village can capitalize on the opportunity to make it a great place to age, as well as live out its mission to advance the community's collective quality of life and potential.

## MOUNT PROSPECT SNAPSHOT

Population	Total: 56,510 60+: 13,418
Bachelor Degree+	Total: 47% 60+: 40%
Below Poverty Level	Total: 5% 60+: 8%
Homeowners	Total: 70% 60+: 82%
Cost-Burdened Owners	Total: 23% 60+: 30%
Cost-Burdened Renters	Total: 42% 60+: 47%
White Alone, Not Latino	Total: 65% 60+: 80%
Speak Other Languages	Total: 43% 60+: 33%
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	Total: 17% 60+: 22%

## Social Characteristics

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, the Village of Mount Prospect has a total population of 56,510. The median age is 40.5, which is 3.2 years older than the median age for Cook County. Currently, 24% of the population is 60 years or older. Mount Prospect has strong educational attainment, with 47% of residents having a Bachelor's degree or higher. Additionally, 92% of residents have at least a high school education. About 9% of the total population has a disability.

Looking specifically at the 60+ population, the Village has 13,418 residents age 60 or older. 40% of this population have a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 90% have at least a high school education. 24% of the older adult population has a disability.

Mount Prospect has an ethnically diverse population, which presents unique opportunities and challenges for an aging community. Mount Prospect has a significant Hispanic / Latino population as well as a large Asian population. Additionally, there is a significant community of Eastern European immigrants. 43% of Mount Prospect residents speak a language other than English at home, and 17% speak English less than "very well." 65% of the population identifies as White alone, not Hispanic or Latino.

Looking specifically at 60+ adults, 80% of this population identifies as White alone, not Hispanic or Latino. 33% of the older population speaks a language other than English at home, and 22% speak English less than "very well."

## Housing Characteristics

Because the majority of Mount Prospect's growth took place during the late Twentieth Century, approximately 78% of the housing stock was built before 1980. This may affect the accessibility of these houses for an aging population, as well as create significant maintenance needs. The majority of housing is single-family homes (61%), followed by 20+ units (16%), 2-9 units (14%), and 10-19 units (9%).

70% of residents own their homes, though 23% of owner-occupied units are "cost-burdened" (spending more than 30% of their income on housing). This number increases to 43% for renter-occupied units. Median monthly owner costs for a housing unit with a mortgage is \$2,320, while median gross rent is \$1,239. The median value of a home is \$336,300. 95% of households have at least 1 vehicle available. 94% of households have a computer and 91% have a broadband internet subscription.

Among 60+ adults, 82% own their homes. 30% of older homeowners are cost-burdened, while 47% of older renters are cost-burdened.

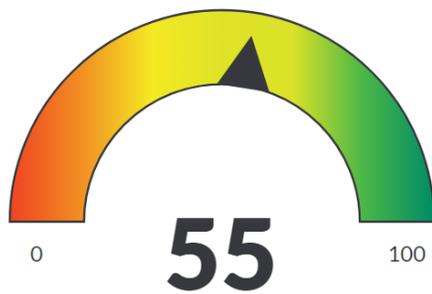
## Economic Characteristics

The median household income is \$92,477, which is significantly higher than the \$72,121 median income for Cook County. 5% of the total Mount Prospect population is below 100 percent of the poverty level, compared to 8% of the 60+ population. About 10% of the total population does not have health insurance coverage.

68% of the total population is in the labor force, while 32% of the 60+ adults are in the labor force. 72% of workers age 16+ drive alone to work, 7% take public transit, and 11% work from home. The mean travel time to work is roughly 30 minutes. Management, business, science, and arts is the largest occupation group for Mount Prospect residents (45%), followed by sales and office (21%), service (14%), production, transportation, and material moving (13%), and natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (7%).

## AARP Livability Index

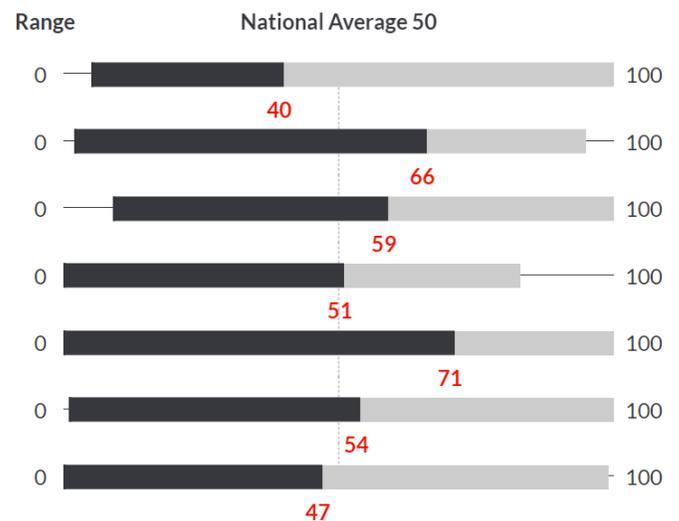
The AARP Livability Index is a tool designed to measure community livability on a scale of 0-100, with a higher score indicating greater livability. Mount Prospect has a livability score of 55, which is slightly greater than the national average of 50. Its highest scores are in neighborhood and health, while the lowest scoring categories are housing and job opportunities. The full AARP Livability Index Profile is available in Appendix A.



### Overall Livability Score ⓘ

The overall livability index score for Zip Code 60056 is 55. This is in the top half of communities in the U.S.

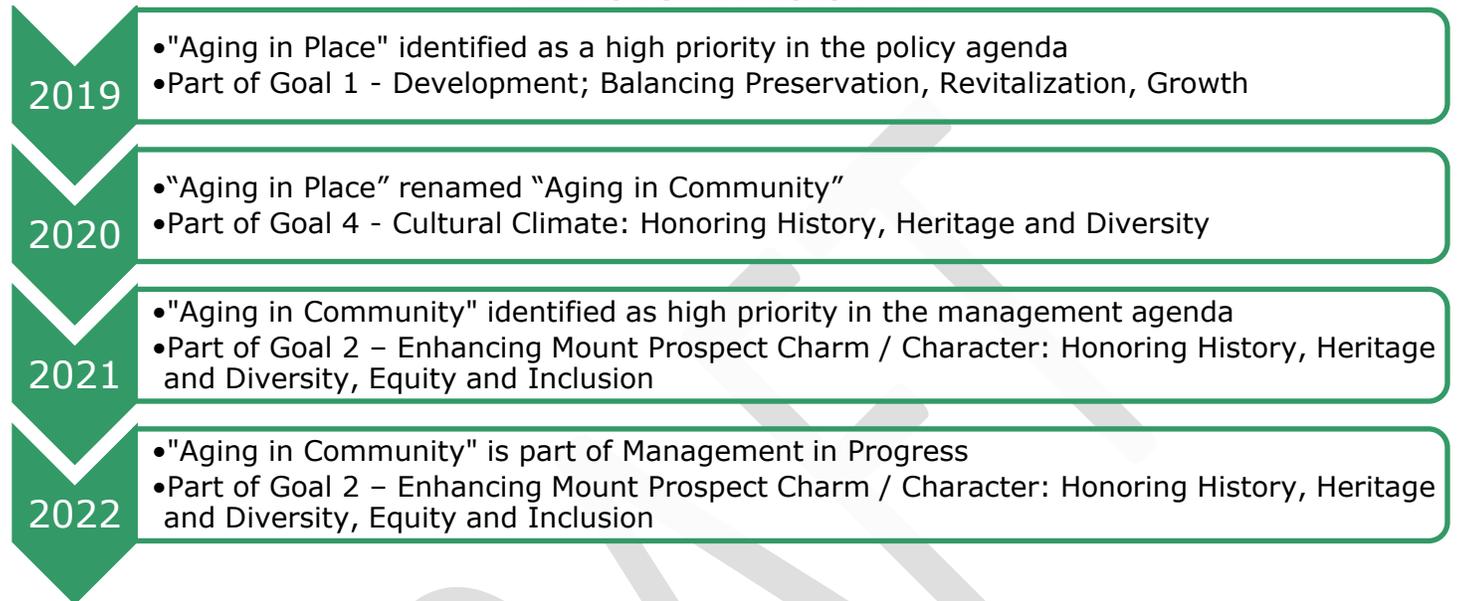
- Housing ⓘ
- Neighborhood ⓘ
- Transportation ⓘ
- Environment ⓘ
- Health ⓘ
- Engagement ⓘ
- Opportunity ⓘ



# The Path to Age-Friendly

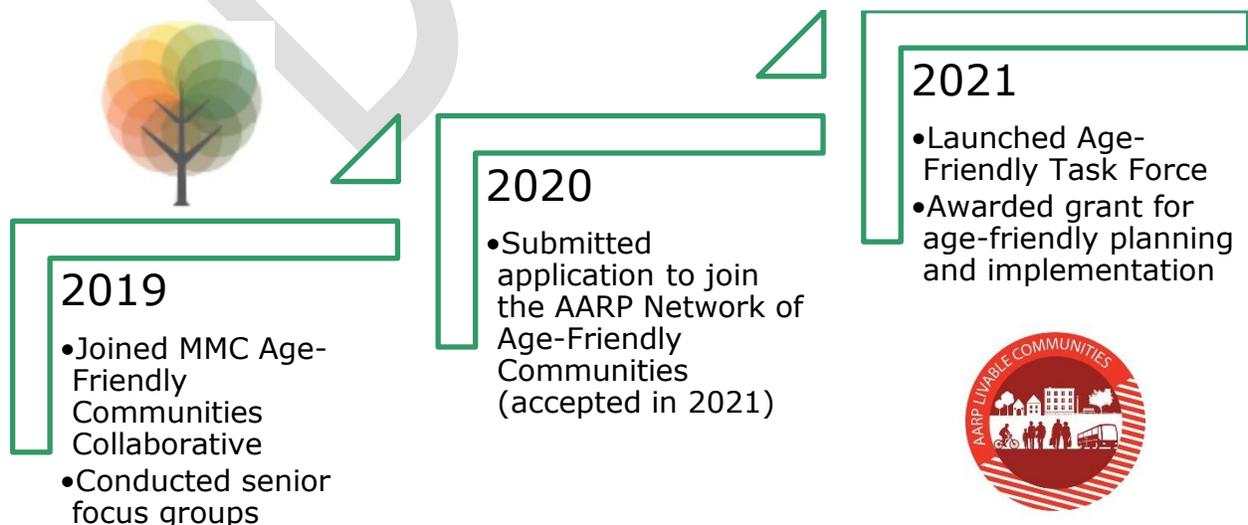
The Village of Mount Prospect identified "Aging in Place" as a strategic priority starting in the 2019 Strategic Plan. In 2020 the initiative was renamed "Aging in Community," to recognize that many older adults in Mount Prospect not only wish to remain "in place" in their homes, but also wish to remain in the Mount Prospect community for as long as they can.

## VILLAGE STRATEGIC PLAN



The Village has taken steps towards age-friendly designation, including joining the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative in 2019 and joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities in 2021. Many other municipalities are facing similar challenges in meeting the needs of their existing older adult population and preparing for an increase in this demographic. The Collaborative and Network provide best practices, technical assistance, and peer learning opportunities for communities interested in age-friendly practices, no matter where they are on the path to age-friendly.

## VILLAGE OF MOUNT PROSPECT PATH TO AGE-FRIENDLY



## Action Plan Process

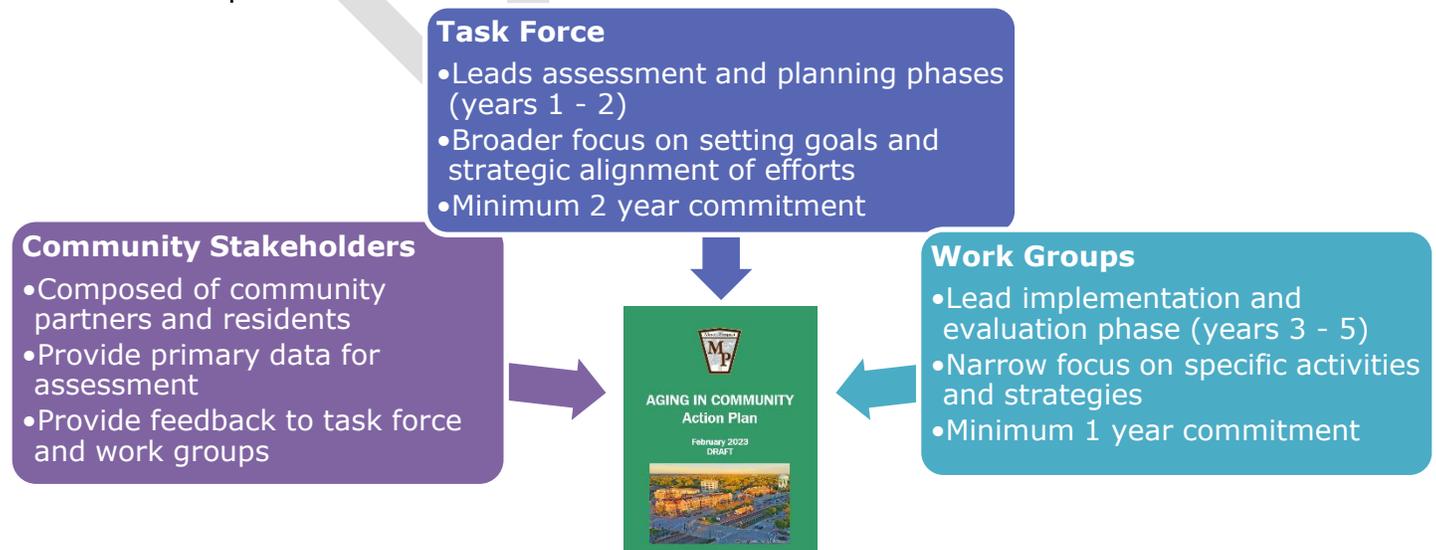
In 2021, the Village convened an Age-Friendly Task Force (“Task Force”) composed of community partners and residents with expertise and interest in age-friendly policy and programming to develop a three-year Action Plan. The Action Plan lays out concrete goals and objectives that will enhance age-friendly features of the community and advance Mount Prospect as an **accessible, inclusive community where older adults thrive and have the tools to navigate the aging process.**

### ACTION PLAN PROCESS



## Roles and Responsibilities for the Action Plan

The Task Force led the assessment and planning phases of the Action Plan from 2021 through 2022. The Work Groups will lead the implementation and evaluation phase from 2023 through 2025. Community partners and residents (collectively referred to as “Community Stakeholders”) will be engaged throughout the five-year period to provide data and feedback to the Task Force and Work Groups.



## **Aging in Community Task Force Members**

**Amy Gall** • Connections to Care  
**Beth Corrigan-Buchen** • Mount Prospect Public Library  
**Bruce Barry** • River Trails Park District  
**Christie Webb** • St. Mark Lutheran Church  
**Crissy Castillo** • Kenneth Young Center Older Adult Services  
**Irma Rodriguez** • Senior Resident  
**Jeanette Palmer** • Right at Home  
**Kathleen Meersman Murphy** • Law Office of Kathleen Meersman Murphy, LLC  
**Rafi Sahakian** • Coldwell Banker Realty  
**Walter Szymczak** • Senior Resident  
**Yihyun Kim** • Hanul Family Alliance

## **Aging in Community Staff Liaisons**

**Antonia Lalagos** • VOMP Community Development  
**GinnyThomas** • VOMP Human Services  
**Julie Kane** • VOMP Human Services  
**Mark Rysavy** • VOMP Community Development  
**Nicole Cooper-Ffrench** • VOMP Human Services

## **Former Aging in Community Task Force Members**

**Bill Gonzalez** • Picket Fence Realty  
**Dallas Tomlin** • Connections to Care  
**Emily Bettler** • VOMP Community Development  
**Emily Kaitis** • Law Office of Kathleen Meersman Murphy, LLC  
**Jill Heinking** • VOMP Human Services  
**Kenia Roman** • VOMP Human Services  
**Valeria Tarka** • VOMP Community Development

## **Aging in Community Workshop #1 Stakeholder Organizations**

A Homecare Service LLC  
Access Community Health Network  
Allcare Medical Equipment and Supply LLC  
American Legion #525  
Arosa Care  
Busey Bank  
Catholic Charities Senior Services  
District 214 Community Education  
Elk Grove Township  
Friedrichs Funeral Home  
Frisbie Senior Center  
Hands on Suburban  
Interfaith Council

Kenneth Young Center  
Kenzie Senior Residences  
Lifeway Mobility Chicago  
Medtec Health Care  
Mount Prospect Park District  
Mount Prospect Senior Living  
Northwest Community Hospital  
Northwest Compass  
Northwest Housing Partnership  
Right at Home  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Van Driel's Medical Supply  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337

## Mission, Vision, and Values

Brad Winick of Planning/Aging led a workshop with the Task Force members to establish the mission, vision, and values of the Aging in Community Initiative. The mission is a one-sentence statement of why the initiative was launched, including specific aims and goals. The vision statement is a one-sentence aspirational description of the long-term effects that will result from the work of the initiative. Value statements detail the core values that should guide the age-friendly work. The Task Force incorporated the voice of community residents and their own experience in the aging network to arrive at the statements.

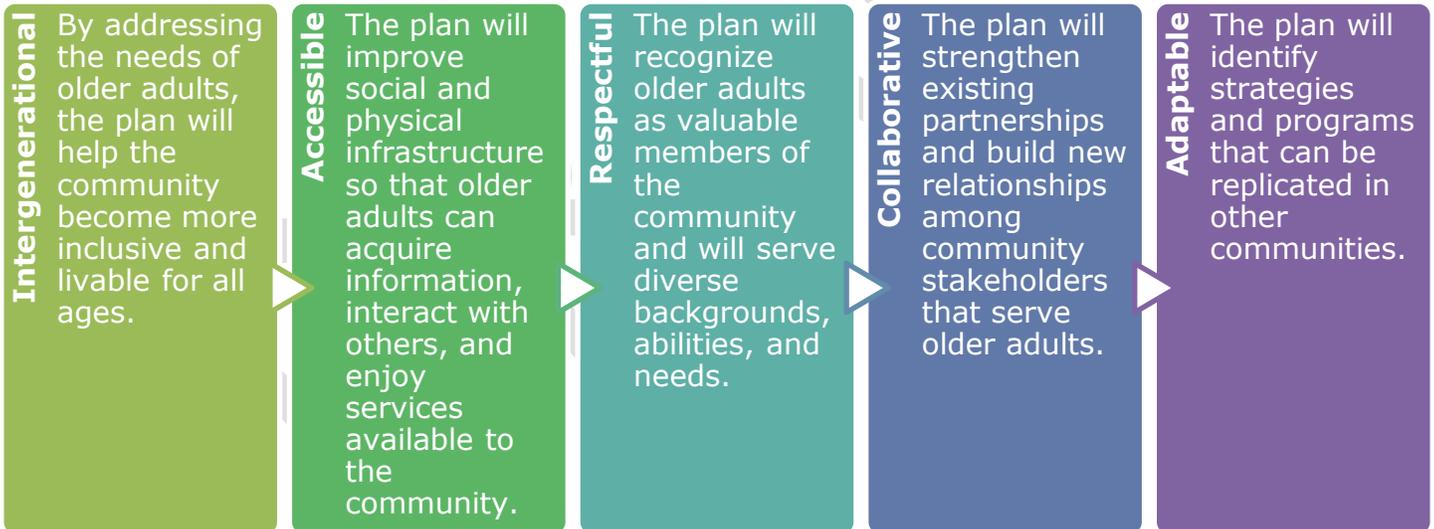
### MISSION

- Strengthen community infrastructure and systems that enhance the lives of older adults.

### VISION

- Mount Prospect is an accessible, inclusive community where older adults thrive and have the tools to navigate the aging process.

### VALUES



# Community Assessment

The community assessment is used by the Task Force to decide what goals to set and the activities necessary to reach those goals. The Task Force pulled out key findings from the Aging in Community Survey, senior focus groups, and other sources of information to identify recurring themes and subthemes related to aging in community. The Task Force then prioritized goals and identified activities that reflect the needs and preferences of Mount Prospect’s older residents and align with the mission, vision, and values of the Aging in Community Initiative.

## Aging in Community Survey Findings

The primary source of information for the community assessment was the Aging in Community Survey. The full Aging in Community Survey Report is available in Appendix B. The Task Force launched the survey in 2021 to collect information about the current and anticipated needs of older adults in the Mount Prospect community. The target population for the survey was Mount Prospect residents ages 55 and over. The Task Force analyzed the 466 survey responses and identified the overall themes, as well as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that emerged from the survey data.

### THEMES FROM AGING IN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2021

<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong desire to stay in home as long as possible</li> <li>• ½ of respondents said a home modification would be needed</li> <li>• Lack of housing options for older adults to transition as they age</li> <li>• Housing affordability</li> </ul>	
<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy dependence on private vehicles for transportation</li> <li>• Few people reported using public transportation and it scored low for its “convenience”</li> </ul>	
<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness of available resources</li> <li>• Need information in many formats (e.g. print, electronic, phone, multiple languages)</li> </ul>	
<b>Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment questions scored lowest out of all the categories</li> <li>• Challenges identifying and getting to / from volunteer opportunities</li> </ul>	
<b>Social Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand barriers to participating in social opportunities (transportation, cost, age of participants, cultural, etc.)</li> </ul>	
<b>Special Populations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different strategies for reaching different age cohorts (e.g. pre-retirement vs. post-retirement age)</li> <li>• Collect more information from minority populations about their needs</li> </ul>	

Image Credits: Andrejs Kirma, Icon Solutions, Ricki Tri Putra, Adrien Coquet, and Guilherme Furtado from the Noun Project



### Community Strengths

Overall the respondents thought Mount Prospect was a “very good” place for people to live as they age. Many respondents have lived in the community a long time, conveying a sense of satisfaction and ownership. This is echoed in the overwhelming desire to be able to live independently in their homes as they age and the strong

desire to remain in their current community for as long as possible. The physical environment was rated highly for the quality of its sidewalks, hospitals and health care facilities, and well-maintained homes and properties. Questions related to health care professionals were rated "very good" on average. The library, faith communities, and park districts were identified as key resources for life-long learning, while the most trusted sources of information were family and friends, senior centers, units of local government, and health care professionals. There was a low response rate about home repair services in the community, but those who did respond rated these categories "very good." Few reported using public transportation, but those who do rated the public transit "very good" in terms of safety. At an individual level, most respondents self-reported as being in "very good" health. 90% of respondents have daily or weekly contact with others, and 90% have someone to call any time of day or night if they were in trouble or distress.

### **Community Weaknesses**



While most respondents expressed a preference to stay in their homes, data suggests that the community does not have enough facilities to accommodate those that need to move out of their homes. Questions asking about the availability of affordable housing, variety of housing options for older adults, and physically accessible homes received low scores. Personal safety or security concerns were cited as a "major factor" if respondents were to move from their current community, though it was not clear if the concerns were from home safety (e.g. falling hazards) or community safety (e.g. crime). 74% of respondents reported living in single-family homes, and 50% of respondents reported that their home would need major repairs and / or modifications to stay there as long as possible. When asked to rate the community's home repair and maintenance services, there was a high proportion of "no response," suggesting that residents may be unfamiliar with these services. In the area of Education, Civic Engagement, and Volunteering, respondents gave a "fair" rating for "activities that offer senior discounts" and "transportation to and from volunteer opportunities." Village Hall and the local Senior Center appear to be under-utilized as a source for continuing education and self-improvement classes, and there may be a lack of awareness about local service agencies. When asked to rate health and wellness services, accessible mental health services and affordable in-home caregiving scored lowest.



### **Community Opportunities**

One of the biggest opportunities identified by the Task Force was helping adults plan ahead of time for how they would like to age, rather than waiting for a crisis before decisions are made. There is a great deal of information available but there has to be a strategy to coordinate delivery of and access to the information. Mount Prospect has taken steps to enhance information dissemination through a senior newsletter and could potentially fill additional information gaps through this vehicle. Other ideas such as a directory phone service (e.g. 311) and aging workshops were discussed. Many community organizations and institutions have existing programs and services, and where possible organizations should partner instead of re-creating existing programs. New forms of technology can pose a barrier for older adults, but it can also be an opportunity for greater engagement and connection to family and friends through texting, video calls, and social media. There is an opportunity to help older adults achieve their goals to live safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible by supporting access to affordable home remodeling and maintenance services, and exploring universal housing design. Finally, almost three-quarters of the respondents reported that they were retired, which represents a potential source of volunteers and advocates who may have spare time to support older adult initiatives.



### Community Threats

For some older adults, employment is not optional, but various barriers such as ageism or the need to take care of a loved one can make it difficult to find work. Costs continue to rise for caregiving services and 28% of respondents said they were “very likely” or “extremely likely” to provide unpaid care to an adult loved one in the future. The Covid-19 pandemic was cited as a major threat that greatly impacted many aspects of aging, including increased pressure on the caregiving workforce, reduced access to in-home services, and fewer socialization opportunities. Nearly one-third of the respondents reported that they lived alone. Social media, while a great connector, can also exacerbate feelings of isolation or anxiety. Older adults may be resistant to change and may find it challenging to downsize their belongings, adapt to new technology, or try new ways of doing things. 93% of respondents reported that they drive themselves, but the Task Force found that most people are not prepared for when they can no longer drive, and suburban infrastructure is predominantly car-oriented. The country is facing a severe housing shortage of all types of housing, which has increased housing prices for all demographics. Lastly, many local institutions do not have the capacity to deliver information and services to non-English speakers.

### Senior Focus Groups Findings

Another important source of information for the community assessment were the senior focus groups conducted in 2019. The Village of Mount Prospect Human Services Department, in partnership with the Mount Prospect Public Library, Mount Prospect Park District, and River Trails Park District, facilitated six focus groups with a total of 46 adults in three age ranges: 57-67, 68-77, and 78+. The themes from the focus groups are summarized below.

#### THEMES FROM SENIOR FOCUS GROUPS, 2019

✓ Desire to age in Mount Prospect
✓ Need awareness of services through lists of activities, brochures, newsletter, central location for senior news
✓ Village services and resources are strengths of the community
✓ Desire a space to gather
✓ Will consider various housing options including staying in home, downsizing, affordability, centrally located housing and mixed age living
✓ Transportation options are important for ability to get around
✓ Opportunities for socialization to add to quality of life

*"Of all the needs discussed, which one is the most important to you?"*



### Review of Other Aging in Community Data Sources

Beyond the survey and focus groups, the Task Force reviewed nine additional data sources related to aging in community and feedback from Mount Prospect residents. The sources were a variety of surveys, plans, and other reports from the local, regional, and state level. The idea behind this review was to identify recurring themes and subthemes, for two reasons: first, if a theme appeared across multiple sources, it is likely a critical issue that needs to be addressed; and second, if multiple organizations or locations are addressing a particular theme, then it

makes strategic sense to align our work with existing efforts. More detail about the community assessment sources is in Appendix D.

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SOURCES

### Surveys

- Aging in Community Survey (2021)
- Human Services Senior Opportunities Survey (2021)
- VOMP Community Survey (2020)

### Plans

- Human Services Needs Assessment (2022)
- AgeOptions – Area Agency on Aging Plan (2022)
- IDOA – State Plan on Aging (2022)
- VOMP Strategic Plan (2021)
- VOMP Comprehensive Plan (2017)

### Other

- Aging in a Changing Region Report (2022)
- MMC AFCC Strategic Planning Survey (2022)
- Human Services Senior Focus Groups (2019)

The Task Force identified 11 themes across the 11 sources. The themes are listed in the leftmost column in the table below, followed by the definition of the theme in the second column, and the subthemes in the third column.

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT THEMES

Theme	Definition	Subtheme
<b>Housing</b>	Housing as it relates to older adults includes options, economic factors and supports needed.	Housing issues to be considered include range of housing options, supportive services for those aging in place, modification needs, and affordability of senior housing.
<b>Health and Wellness</b>	Health and Wellness of older adults should be considered from a social, physical and mental health lens.	Issues that affect health and wellness include access to nutritious foods, physical activity opportunities, focus on prevention, response to elder abuse and neglect, access to mental health services and ability to maintain independence.
<b>Information / Communication</b>	Both access to information and the modality of communicating information should be considered for older adults.	Communication and information needs include awareness of programs offered, language barriers addressed, referral lists for resources and educational programs on a variety of topics.
<b>Transportation</b>	Transportation encompasses the methods older adults use	Transportation issues include lack of transportation options, geographic

	to get around and the various barriers and challenges they face in doing so.	restrictions to programs, difficulty managing ride share technology and lack of options for those that do not drive.
<b>Social Engagement</b>	Social Engagement includes both opportunities and ability to connect with others and the barriers that affect older adults.	Issues affecting social engagement include homebound status, effect of COVID pandemic, understanding barriers to engagement, opportunities to participate in and intergenerational programs.
<b>Diverse Populations</b>	Any identity outside of being an older adult.	Considerations for diverse populations such as veterans, LGBTQ, race and ethnicity and English as a second language. Issues identified include congregate meal sites with ethnic meals, programs delivered through lens of inclusion, needs of different age cohorts, access to programs that address social determinants to health, address language barriers.
<b>Aging Network</b>	The Aging network is comprised of local, state and federal agencies that service older adults.	Aging network issues include inability to understand and reach agencies regarding benefits, access to quality home and community based services, and need for inter-jurisdictional collaboration around aging issues.
<b>Technology</b>	Technology with regard to barriers for older adults in navigating systems and accessing information.	Technology issues include literacy, access to technology, inability to navigate applications online, education on technology needed.
<b>Physical Environment</b>	Physical environment as it affects older adults' ability to utilize facilities and move about the community in a safe manner.	Physical environment concerns include facility accessibility issues, safety education, increased walkability, businesses need to be handicap accessible,
<b>Workforce / Caregivers</b>	Issues affecting access to services for older adults and support for unpaid caregivers.	Need for paid caregivers, challenges with direct care services to older adults and lack of volunteers for aging services.
<b>Employment / Volunteering</b>	Opportunities for older adults to work and volunteer as they desire.	Opportunities for employment and volunteering, ability to get to and from.

## Prioritization of Themes

The community assessment captured the wide breadth of issues that affect the quality of life for older adults. Many of these issues also affect quality of life for other age groups. It is not feasible to address every issue in a three-year action plan; therefore the Task Force followed a two-step process to select priority areas and goals.

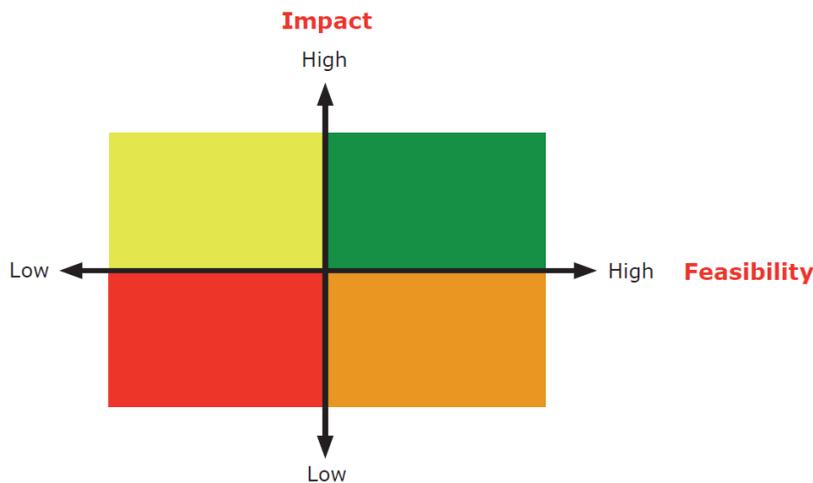
The priority areas were selected with a dot-voting method in which Task Force members were asked to choose the top five priority areas from the 11 community assessment themes that best reflect the priorities of the stakeholders in the community. The community assessment data was printed on cards and laid out on tables by theme (see image below). The data was color-coded by its source: for example, Aging in Community Survey data was printed on orange paper,

whereas senior focus group data was printed on green paper. The Task Force members were given five “dots” (stickers) to place on their top five themes. The five priorities with the most votes (dots) were housing, transportation, social engagement, information / communication, and health / wellness.

### COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT DATA CARDS



### FIVE PRIORITY AREAS



Once the five priority areas were selected, the Task Force sorted the priority area data into four quadrants based on high / low impact and high / low feasibility. The purpose of this exercise was to identify high impact, high feasibility goals and objectives that could be addressed in a three-year action plan.

# Goals and Objectives

The Task Force created two goals per priority area, and up to three objectives per goal. The end result is an Action Plan with 10 goals and 27 objectives. The goals identify the broad, long-term outcomes to achieve, while the objectives identify the methods used to meet the goals. The objectives were drafted following the SMART model:

**Specific:** Who? (Target population and persons doing the activity) and What? (Action/activity)

**Measurable:** How will we quantify success?

**Achievable:** Is this feasible given current resources and constraints?

**Relevant:** Will this work help make progress toward the goal and strategic priority?

**Time-bound:** Provides a timeline indicating when the objective will be met.

The Work Groups will break down the objectives into smaller activities and tasks, and further define the ownership of each objective and activity, the time frames for implementation, and the metrics used to quantify success.

## Housing

One of the resounding messages from the community assessment is the overwhelming desire of older adults to be able to live independently in their homes as they age and the strong desire to remain in their current community for as long as possible. The Task Force honed in on housing goals that make physical home modifications and home maintenance more attainable and affordable for older adults, thus allowing them to “age in place” more safely and independently.

	<b>HOUSING</b>
<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>Enable older adults to remain in their homes through physical modifications to the structure.</b>
1.1	Create a network of contractors and handymen available to modify homes for older adults.
1.2	Market the network to the public via automated voice response (AVR), newsletter, website, and social media, and through partner organizations.
<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>Enable older adults to remain in their homes by connecting them to affordable and reliable home maintenance services.</b>
2.1	Compile a list of handymen / maintenance companies for simple home maintenance.
2.2	Compile a list of programs, volunteers, and charities to assist with simple home maintenance.
2.3	After lists and networks are created, use newsletter, automated voice response (AVR), website, social media, and partner organizations to market these services.

## Transportation

Access to reliable transportation was identified as a key to aging well and it is a critical component to success in other priority areas like social engagement and health and wellness.

One of the key issues is how to get around town if one cannot drive themselves, whether due to age, disability, or finances. The Task Force focused its transportation goals on reducing barriers to using existing public transit and ride-sharing programs, and conducting a transportation study to identify where investment in the transportation system would be most effective.

	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>
<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>Decrease barriers to transportation for older adults in Mount Prospect.</b>
3.1	Host annual transportation resource fairs in conjunction with educational transportation program for older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families and friends to increase both awareness of and enrollment in existing transportation programs.
3.2	Host an educational program on a quarterly basis for older adults, persons with disabilities, and their family and friends to educate residents on various transportation options and how to navigate these options.
3.3	Develop a mechanism to educate and accompany older adults on their first public transportation ride.
<b>Goal 4</b>	<b>Increase access to all of Mount Prospect via public and other transportation programs.</b>
4.1	Host a transportation discussion with all transportation stakeholders regarding transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities.
4.2	Hire independent firm to conduct a transportation study in Mount Prospect to identify gaps in service and barriers to accessing transportation for community members with a focus on older adults and persons with disabilities.
4.3	Implement the recommendations from the transportation study to eliminate gaps in transportation services for older adults.

## Social Engagement

Another resounding message from the community assessment was the desire for more activities, classes, and events for older adults to learn and socialize. The Task Force recognized that many community partners offer programming for older adults but more coordination is needed so that residents are aware of the offerings. Given the shortage in staffing and funding for many community organizations, the Task Force hopes to tap into the talent and time of the older adults to help develop and lead new programs and activities. The Task Force also recognized social isolation as a key issue, however more information is needed to identify effective interventions for the Mount Prospect community.

	<b>SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>Goal 5</b>	<b>Increase social engagement opportunities for older adults.</b>
5.1	Create a decentralized senior center model for activities.

5.2	Increase the number of older adult-led social events and activities.
5.3	Increase the number of intergenerational programs in the community.
<b>Goal 6</b>	<b>Decrease social isolation in older adults.</b>
6.1	Research best practices, legislation, and funding for addressing social isolation.
6.2	Implement findings from research in Objective 6.1.
6.3	Develop list of places that offer congregate meal opportunities and organizations that offer meals-on-wheels programs for home-bound older adults.

### Information / Communication

Information and communication was a cross-cutting theme identified by the Task Force. There is more information available than ever, but finding the right information when you need it can be an overwhelming task as we age. The Task Force identified two objectives to streamline and centralize high level information about resources and events for older adults. The community assessment noted many barriers to accessing information, including digital literacy, language, and social isolation. The Task Force would like to gather more information to identify effective communication methods to reach the older adult community.

	<b>INFORMATION / COMMUNICATION</b>
<b>Goal 7</b>	<b>Reduce barriers for older adults to access information and resources.</b>
7.1	Assess existing methods of communication between local community partners and older adults.
7.2	Identify older adult populations with barriers to accessing information and resources and prioritize barriers to address.
7.3	Reduce the digital divide for older adults by increasing familiarity with smartphones and computers.
<b>Goal 8</b>	<b>Enhance existing methods of communication to connect older adults and their caregivers to resources and events.</b>
8.1	Develop an easy-to-use older adult guidebook in digital and print formats.
8.2	Identify the most efficient way to alert older adults about community events.

## Health / Wellness

The community assessment revealed many assets in terms of health and wellness for older adults in Mount Prospect, such as availability of doctors and hospitals, and a population that generally outperforms the US median in health metrics such as smoking and obesity prevalence and preventable hospitalization rates. The Task Force decided to focus on prevention through education; physical activity; and mental health.

	<b>HEALTH / WELLNESS</b>
<b>Goal 9</b>	<b>Increase older adult access to health and wellness resources.</b>
9.1	Increase physical activity among older adults by offering more free events throughout the week.
9.2	Increase awareness of health and wellness topics among older adults by offering workshops and broadcast content.
<b>Goal 10</b>	<b>Increase awareness of mental health issues among older adults.</b>
10.1	Reduce stigma about mental health issues through educational events.
10.2	Identify “dementia-friendly” practices that can be implemented in Mount Prospect.
10.3	Increase the number of older adults and stakeholders who are certified in mental health first aid.

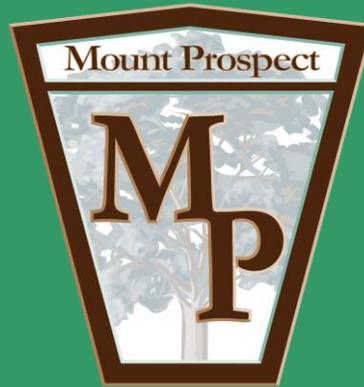
# Implementation

The Action Plan will be submitted to the Village Board and then to AARP for approval, however, AARP does not dictate a specific process for implementation. The Task Force will hand off the Action Plan to the Work Groups, who will be responsible for refining, implementing, and evaluating the plan over the next three years. There will be five work groups, each focused on one of the five priority areas.

## AGING IN COMMUNITY WORK GROUPS



Work Groups will consist of 5-8 members whom are invited based on their expertise in a specific area, their work with the older adult population, or their affiliation with Mount Prospect. Village staff will assemble the Work Groups with input from Task Force members. Co-chairs will be responsible for meeting logistics, facilitation, and pushing the group to achieve the stated goals and objectives. Ideally, a Task Force member and a Village staff liaison will serve as co-chairs for each Work Group. In the beginning, Work Groups will meet monthly and transition to more or less frequency depending on the activities at hand. Work Group co-chairs will meet on a quarterly basis to report on metrics, evaluate strategies, and obtain feedback from other groups. Community members will be consulted at various stages of implementation and provided with updates on the progress of the plan.



# AGING IN COMMUNITY Survey Report

September 2022



# Contents

Executive Summary..... 3  
    Themes from the Survey..... 3  
    Strengths..... 3  
    Weaknesses..... 4  
    Opportunities..... 4  
    Threats..... 4  
Introduction..... 5  
Survey Methodology..... 5  
Community Characteristic Scores..... 7  
Demographics..... 9  
Aging in Our Community..... 13  
Aging in Our Homes..... 16  
Physical Environment..... 18  
Transportation..... 20  
Health and Wellness..... 22  
Social Isolation..... 24  
Education, Civic Engagement, and Volunteering..... 25  
Employment and Jobs..... 28  
Communication and Information..... 29  
Caregiving..... 31  
Conclusion..... 32  
    Reflection on Survey Methodology..... 32

## Appendix A: Aging in Community Survey Questions

# Executive Summary

The Village of Mount Prospect launched the Aging in Community Initiative in 2019. **The mission of the initiative is to strengthen community infrastructure and systems that enhance the lives of older adults.** The Village has convened an Age-Friendly Task Force to carry out this mission. The Task Force launched the Aging in Community Survey in 2021 to collect information about the current and anticipated needs of older adults in the community. This information will help shape the priorities of a three-year Age-Friendly Action Plan. The Task Force analyzed the survey responses and identified the overall themes, as well as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that emerged from the survey data.

## Themes from the Survey

<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong desire to stay in home as long as possible</li> <li>• About half of respondents said a home modification would be needed</li> <li>• Lack of housing options for older adults to transition as they age</li> <li>• Housing affordability</li> </ul>	
<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy dependence on private vehicles for transportation</li> <li>• Few people reported using public transportation and it scored low for its “convenience”</li> </ul>	
<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness of available resources</li> <li>• Need information in many formats (e.g. print, electronic, phone, multiple languages)</li> </ul>	
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Image Credits: Andrejs Kirma, Icon Solutions, Ricki Tri Putra, Adrien Coquet, and Guilherme Furtado from the Noun Project



### Strengths

Overall the respondents thought Mount Prospect was a “very good” place for people to live as they age. Many respondents have lived in the community a long time, conveying a sense of satisfaction and ownership. This is echoed in the overwhelming desire to be able to live independently in their homes as they age and the strong desire to remain in their current community for as long as possible. The physical environment was rated highly for the quality of its sidewalks, hospitals and health care facilities, and well-maintained homes and properties. Questions related to health care professionals were rated “very good” on average. The library, faith community, and park districts were identified as key resources for life-long learning, while the most trusted sources of information were family and friends, senior centers, units of local government, and health care professionals. There was a low response rate about home repair services in the community, but those who did respond rated these categories

“very good.” Few reported using public transportation, but those who do rated the public transit “very good” in terms of safety. At an individual level, most respondents self-reported as being in “very good” health. 90% of respondents have daily or weekly contact with others, and 90% have someone to call any time of day or night if they were in trouble or distress.

### Weaknesses

 While most respondents expressed a preference to stay in their homes, data suggests that the community does not have enough facilities to accommodate those that need to move out of their homes. Questions asking about the availability of affordable housing, variety of housing options for older adults, and physically accessible homes received low scores. Personal safety or security concerns were cited as a “major factor” if respondents were to move from their current community, though it was not clear if the concerns were from home safety (e.g. falling hazards) or community safety (e.g. crime). 74% of respondents reported living in single-family homes, and 50% of respondents reported that their home would need major repairs and / or modifications to stay there as long as possible. When asked to rate the community’s home repair and maintenance services, there was a high proportion of “no response,” suggesting that residents may be unfamiliar with these services. In the area of Education, Civic Engagement, and Volunteering, respondents gave a “fair” rating for “activities that offer senior discounts” and “transportation to and from volunteer opportunities.” Village Hall and the local Senior Center appear to be under-utilized as a source for continuing education and self-improvement classes, and there may be a lack of awareness about local service agencies. When asked to rate health and wellness services, accessible mental health services and affordable in-home caregiving scored lowest.



### Opportunities

One of the biggest opportunities identified by the Task Force was helping adults plan ahead of time for how they would like to age, rather than waiting for a crisis before decisions are made. There is a great deal of information available but there has to be a strategy to coordinate delivery of and access to the information. Mount Prospect has taken steps to enhance information dissemination through a senior newsletter and could potentially fill additional information gaps through this vehicle. Other ideas such as a directory phone service (e.g. 311) and aging workshops were discussed. Many community organizations and institutions have existing programs and services, and where possible organizations should partner instead of re-creating existing programs. New forms of technology can pose a barrier for older adults, but it can also be an opportunity for greater engagement and connection to family and friends through texting, video calls, and social media. There is an opportunity to help older adults achieve their goals to live safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible by supporting access to affordable home remodeling and maintenance services, and exploring universal housing design. Finally, almost three-quarters of the respondents reported that they were retired, which represents a potential source of volunteers and advocates who may have spare time to support older adult initiatives.

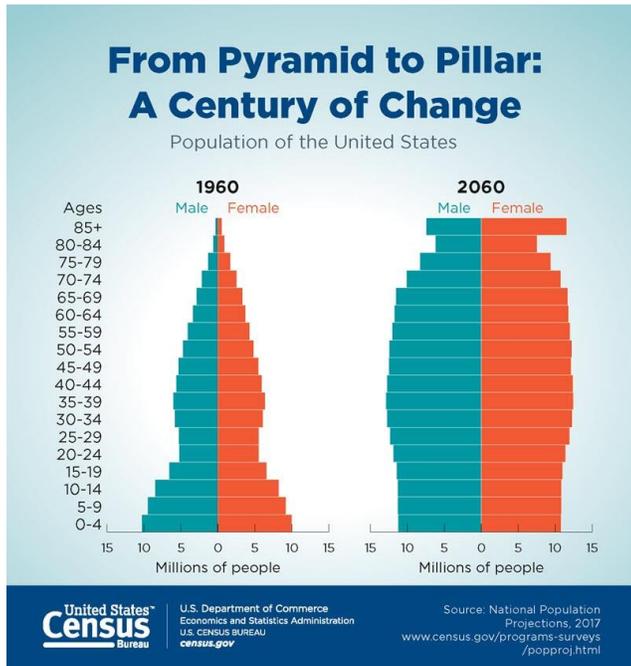


### Threats

For some older adults, employment is not optional, but various barriers such as ageism or the need to take care of a loved one can make it difficult to find work. Costs continue to rise for caregiving services and 28% of respondents said they were “very likely” or “extremely likely” to provide unpaid care to an adult loved one in the future. The Covid-19 pandemic was cited as a major threat that greatly impacted many aspects of aging, including increased pressure on the caregiving workforce, reduced access to in-home services, and fewer socialization opportunities. Nearly one-third of the respondents reported that they lived alone. Social media, while a great connector, can also exacerbate feelings of isolation or anxiety. Older adults may be resistant to change and may find it challenging to downsize their belongings, adapt to new technology, or try new ways of doing things. 93% of respondents reported that they drive themselves, but the Task Force found that most people are not prepared for when they can no longer drive, and suburban infrastructure is predominantly car-oriented. The country is facing a severe housing shortage of all types of housing, which has increased housing prices for all demographics. Lastly, many local institutions do not have the capacity to deliver information and services to non-English speakers.

# Introduction

Our population is aging – and this demographic shift comes with opportunities and challenges.



**17%** of Mount Prospect’s population is 65+

**24%** of suburban Cook older adults are householders that live alone

**32%** of suburban Cook adults 60+ are still in the labor force

**3 in 4** adults age 50+ want to stay in their homes and communities as they age

By 2030, **1 in 5** Americans will be over the age of 65

By 2050, people 50+ will spend **61 cents** out of every retail dollar spent

By 2060, life expectancy for Americans is projected to increase to **85.6 years**<sup>1</sup>

Recognizing this trend, the Village of Mount Prospect launched the Aging in Community Initiative in 2019. The mission of the initiative is to strengthen community infrastructure and systems that enhance the lives of older adults.

The Village convened an Age-Friendly Task Force to carry out this mission. The Task Force launched the Aging in Community Survey to collect information about the current and anticipated needs of older adults in the community. This information will help shape the priorities of a three-year Age-Friendly Action Plan.

## Survey Methodology

The Task Force adapted the 2020 AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey to create the 2021 Village of Mount Prospect Aging in Community Survey. The survey questions are available in Appendix A. The target population for the survey was Mount Prospect residents ages 55 and over. The survey included 44 multiple choice questions and 1 open-ended question covering the following topics:

<b>Aging in Our Community</b>	<b>Employment and Jobs</b>	<b>Caregiving</b>
<b>Aging in Our Homes</b>	<b>Health and Wellness</b>	<b>Social Isolation</b>
<b>Communication and Information</b>	<b>Physical Environment</b>	<b>Demographics</b>
<b>Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering</b>	<b>Transportation (Public)</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Fact Sources: 1, 2, 3. American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2015-2019; 4. AARP.org; 5. Census.gov; 6. AARP.org; 7. Census.gov; Population Pyramid – Census.gov.

The survey was available in English and Spanish, and the Village offered assistance to other non-English speakers through language line services. Hanul Family Alliance provided a Korean translator for survey events held at some of the senior residences. Respondents could complete the survey online or fill out a paper copy. The survey did not request any identifying information, so all responses were completely anonymous. None of the survey questions were required; participants could elect to skip any questions they did not wish to answer.

The Age-Friendly Task Force employed a variety of marketing strategies to raise awareness of the survey and distributed surveys at numerous locations and events, such as:

- Direct mailing to 65+ year old residents who purchased vehicle sticker with senior discount (over 5,000 households)
- Aging in Community Kick-Off Event at Village Hall
- Aging in Community Workshop at Village Hall
- Community Connections Center Survey Distribution Event
- Fire Department blood drives
- Medicare Part D open enrollment events
- Events at residential buildings where older adults live
- Distribution of surveys at community organizations, such as senior centers and churches
- Spreading the word through digital communications such as social media, press release, and newsletters

The survey was open for approximately 4 months, from September 29, 2021 through January 20, 2022. The Village received 466 surveys, all of which were analyzed to produce this data report. The number of responses (N) for each question is 466 unless otherwise noted. Some questions asked the respondents to rate various characteristics of the community on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 meaning “Poor” and 5 meaning “Excellent.” Each characteristic was designated an overall “score” based on a weighted average of the responses. The scales and scores used for each question are provided in the results.

## Community Characteristic Scores

Respondents were asked to score various characteristics of the community on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 meaning “Poor” and 5 meaning “Excellent.” The following chart depicts the characteristics in descending order from highest rated to lowest rated.

#	Community Characteristic	Score	Scale	Category
18	Quality of health care professionals	4.10	Very good	Health and Wellness
15	Conveniently located hospitals, health care facilities, and emergency care centers	4.10	Very good	Physical Environment
18	Availability of health care professionals	4.05	Very good	Health and Wellness
15	Well-maintained homes and properties	3.99	Very good	Physical Environment
18	Diversity of health care professionals	3.87	Very good	Health and Wellness
15	Well-maintained and safe parks	3.76	Very good	Physical Environment
18	Affordability of health care professionals	3.64	Very good	Health and Wellness
3	How would you rate your current community as a place for people to live as they age?	3.61	Very good	Aging in Our Community
14	Sidewalks that are in good condition, safe for pedestrians, and accessible for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices	3.56	Very good	Physical Environment
15	Public buildings and spaces, including restrooms, that are accessible to people of different physical abilities	3.53	Very good	Physical Environment
13	Home modification and home repair contractors who are trustworthy, do quality work, and are affordable	3.48	Very good	Aging in Our Homes
15	Conveniently located, affordable public parking and sufficient handicap parking	3.46	Very good	Physical Environment
15	Conveniently located shopping and services for daily needs (grocery, pharmacy, etc.)	3.46	Very good	Physical Environment
13	Seasonal services such as lawn work or snow removal for low-income and older adults	3.40	Very good	Aging in Our Homes
14	Well-lit, accessible, safe streets and intersections for all users	3.37	Good	Physical Environment
30	Free access to computers and the Internet in public places	3.33	Good	Communication and Information
17	Safe	3.22	Good	Transportation (Public)
19	Affordable health and wellness programs and classes like nutrition, diabetic management and weight control	3.20	Good	Health and Wellness
19	Accessible social services	3.20	Good	Health and Wellness
14	Sufficient time for pedestrian crossings	3.19	Good	Physical Environment
15	Enough benches for resting in public areas	3.17	Good	Physical Environment
30	Access to community information in one central source	3.17	Good	Communication and Information
14	Audio and visual pedestrian crossings	3.12	Good	Physical Environment
19	Affordable physical fitness activities for older adults	3.11	Good	Health and Wellness
25	A range of volunteer activities to choose from	3.06	Good	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering
23	Continuing education classes or social clubs to pursue new interests and hobbies	3.04	Good	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering
15	Well-maintained, safe, affordable housing	3.04	Good	Physical Environment
23	Conveniently located entertainment venues	3.00	Good	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering

Appendix B: Aging in Community Survey Report

15	Housing options for older adults such as active adult communities, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing	3.00	Good	Physical Environment
30	Clearly displayed printed community information with large lettering	2.99	Good	Communication and Information
17	Affordable	2.98	Good	Transportation (Public)
23	Activities or events that involve both younger and older people	2.93	Good	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering
19	Accessible mental health services	2.91	Good	Health and Wellness
30	Community information that is available in a number of different languages	2.88	Good	Communication and Information
19	Affordable in-home services including care giving, personal care, housekeeping, and cooking	2.86	Good	Health and Wellness
23	A variety of cultural activities for diverse populations	2.85	Good	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering
17	Accessible	2.81	Good	Transportation (Public)
25	Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies such as community councils or committees	2.79	Good	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering
17	Timely	2.76	Good	Transportation (Public)
25	Easy to find information on available local volunteer opportunities	2.71	Good	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering
30	Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home	2.70	Good	Communication and Information
17	Convenient	2.68	Good	Transportation (Public)
23	Activities geared specifically towards older adults	2.65	Good	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering
15	Homes that are built with things like a no step entrance, wider doorways, and first floor bedrooms and bathrooms	2.64	Good	Physical Environment
14	Separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians	2.61	Good	Physical Environment
23	Activities that offer senior discounts	2.56	Fair	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering
28	A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults	2.45	Fair	Employment and Jobs
28	Policies that ensure older adults can continue to have equal opportunity to work for as long as they want or need to regardless of their age	2.39	Fair	Employment and Jobs
28	Jobs that are adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities	2.34	Fair	Employment and Jobs
25	Transportation to and from volunteer activities	2.31	Fair	Education, Civic Engagement, Volunteering
28	Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work	2.28	Fair	Employment and Jobs

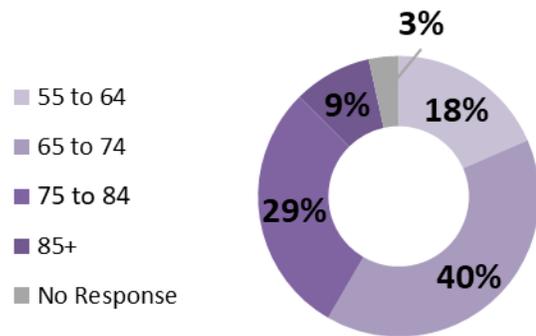
# Demographics

## Age

The majority of respondents (40%) were between the ages of 65 and 74. The median age of respondents was 72.

What is your age as of your last birthday?	Number	Percent
55 to 59 years	35	8%
60 to 64 years	51	11%
65 to 69 years	87	19%
70 to 74 years	99	21%
75 to 79 years	73	16%
80 to 84 years	63	14%
85 years and over	42	9%
No Response	16	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>100%</b>

What is your age as of your last birthday?

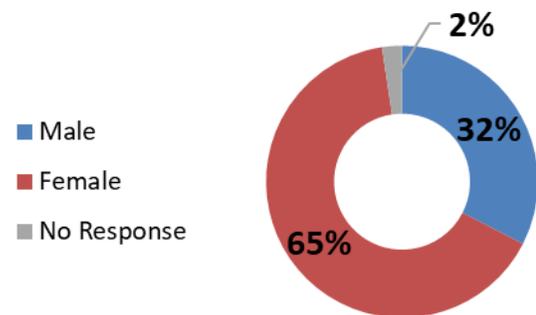


## Gender

Two-thirds of respondents were female, and one-third were male.

How do you identify?	Number	Percent
Male	151	32%
Female	302	65%
Other (please specify)	2	0%
No Response	11	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>100%</b>

How do you identify?

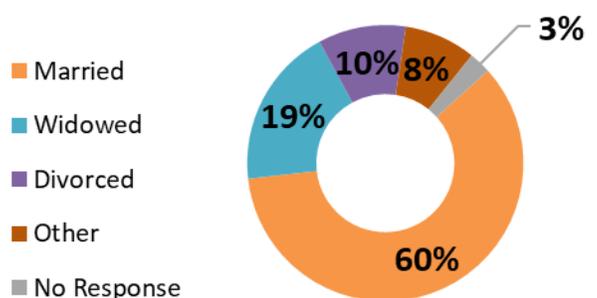


## Marital Status

The majority of respondents (60%) were married.

What is your current marital status?	Number	Percent
Married	279	60%
Not married, living together	5	1%
Separated	3	1%
Divorced	48	10%
Widowed	88	19%
Never Married	24	5%
Other (please specify)	7	2%
No Response	12	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>100%</b>

What is your current marital status?

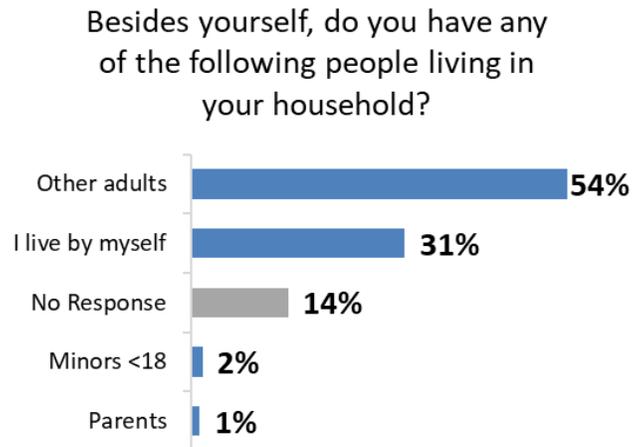


## Household Composition

Over half of respondents (54%) lived with other adults in their home, while almost one-third lived by themselves. Few respondents reported living with minors under 18 or with parents.

Besides yourself, do you have any of the following people living in your household? (Check all that apply)	Number	Percent
Other adults	251	54%
I live by myself	143	31%
No Response	65	14%
Minors <18	8	2%
Parents	6	1%
TOTAL	466	*

\* Respondents could choose more than one response so the total does not equal 100%

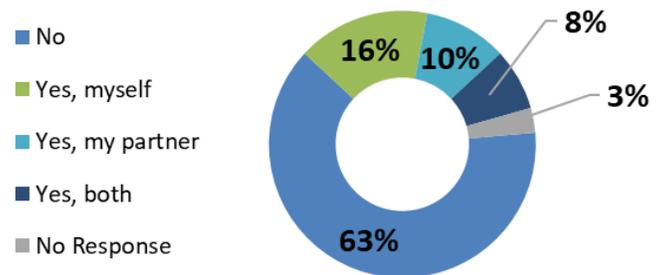


## Disability Status

One-third of respondents (34%) reported that themselves or their partner have a disability, handicap, or chronic disease that keeps them from fully participating in various activities.

Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you or your spouse or partner from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?	Number	Percent
No	295	63%
Yes, myself	75	16%
Yes, my partner	47	10%
Yes, both	35	8%
No Response	14	3%
TOTAL	466	100%

Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you or your spouse or partner from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

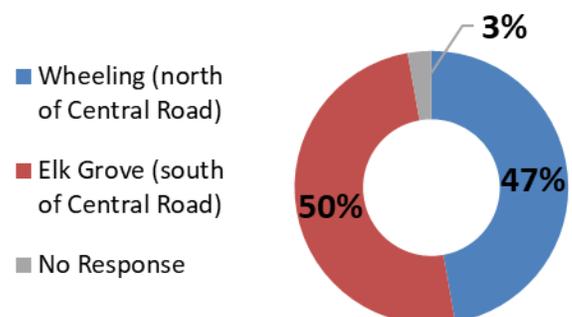


## Township

Respondents were split almost evenly between Elk Grove and Wheeling Townships.

What township do you live in?	Number	Percent
Wheeling (north of Central Road)	220	47%
Elk Grove (south of Central Road)	233	50%
No Response	13	3%
TOTAL	466	100%

What township do you live in?

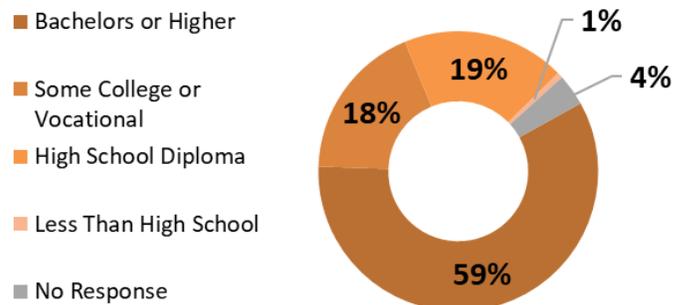


## Educational Level

The majority of respondents (60%) completed a 4-year college degree or higher.

What is the highest level of education that you completed?	Number	Percent
Graduate or professional degree(s)	147	32%
4-year college degree	126	27%
2-year college degree	54	12%
Vocational training / certificate	31	7%
High school, GED or equivalent	88	19%
Less than a high school diploma	3	1%
No Response	17	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>100%</b>

What is the highest level of education that you completed?

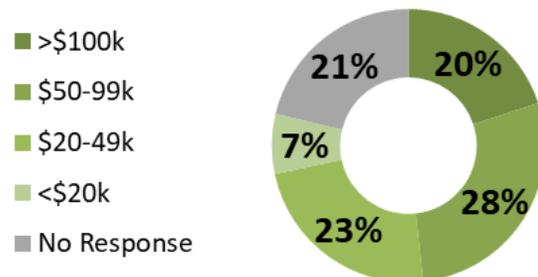


## Household Income

Respondents were distributed fairly evenly across income levels, with most households (28%) earning between \$50k and \$99k. 21% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

What was your annual household income before taxes in 2020?	Number	Percent
\$150,000 or more	50	11%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	43	9%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	60	13%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	72	15%
\$30,000 to \$49,999	73	16%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	36	8%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	28	6%
Less than \$10,000	5	1%
No Response	99	21%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>100%</b>

What was your annual household income before taxes in 2020?

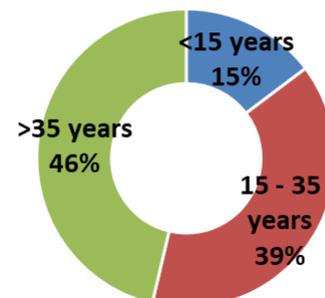


## Years Lived in Community

Nearly half of respondents (46%) have lived in the community for over 35 years; a quarter (25%) of respondents have lived here 46 years or more. The Village received the fewest responses (6%) from residents living in the community less than five years.

How long have you lived in your community?	Number	Percent
Less than 5 years	27	6%
5 – 14 years	41	9%
15 - 25 years	86	18%
26 - 35 years	94	20%
36 - 45 years	98	21%
46 years or more	116	25%
No Response	4	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>100%</b>

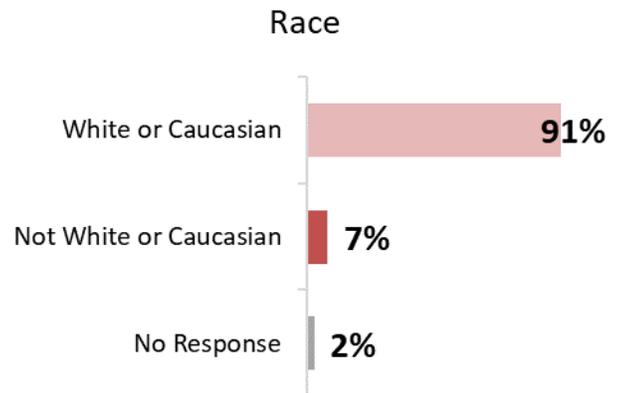
How long have you lived in your community?



## Race

Most respondents (91%) identified as White, while 7% identified as non-White. The second most selected race was Asian, or 4% of respondents.

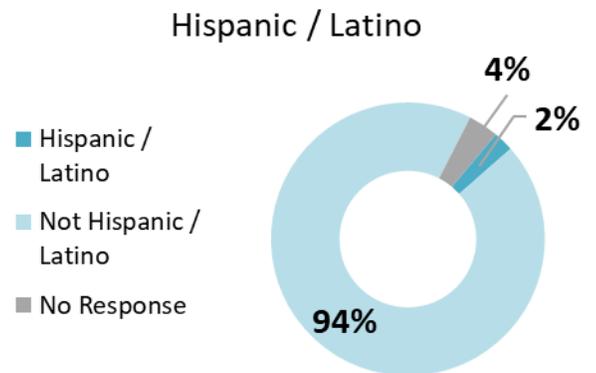
What is your race? (Check all that apply)	Number	Percent
White or Caucasian	424	91%
Asian	20	4%
Multi-racial	5	1%
Other (please specify)	5	1%
Black or African American	2	0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0%
No Response	11	2%
TOTAL	466	*



## Hispanic Origin

Most respondents (94%) identified as non-Hispanic / Latino, while 2% identified as Hispanic / Latino.

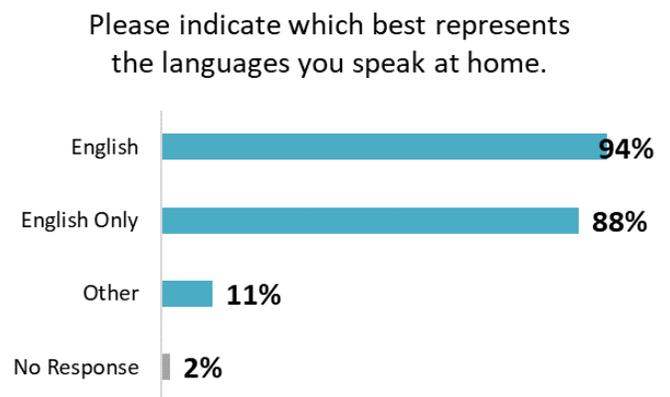
Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or of Latino origin or descent?	Number	Percent
Hispanic / Latino	14	2%
Not Hispanic / Latino	436	94%
No Response	16	4%
TOTAL	466	100%



## Language

Most respondents (94%) speak English at home; 88% of respondents speak only English. 11% of respondents speak other languages alone or in addition to English. The two most spoken languages after English were Spanish (2%) and Korean (2%).

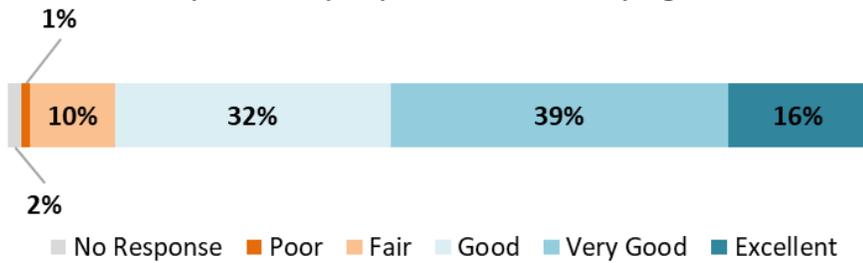
Please indicate which best represents the languages you speak at home. (Check all that apply)	Number	Percent
English	438	94%
Other (please specify)	23	5%
Spanish	9	2%
Korean	9	2%
Polish	7	2%
Gujarati	2	0%
No Response	8	2%
TOTAL	466	*



# Aging in Our Community

This section explores the various factors influencing the decision to remain in or depart from the community, and to remain in or depart from their current home. Overall, the Village was rated as a **“Very Good” place for people to live as they age** and most respondents said they were more likely to stay in their current residence and never move. The biggest factor influencing a decision to move out of their current home was **“wanting a home that will help you live independently as you age.”** The biggest factor influencing a decision to move out of their current community was **“personal safety or security concerns.”** Overall, respondents said it was **“Very Important” to remain in their current community as long as possible.**

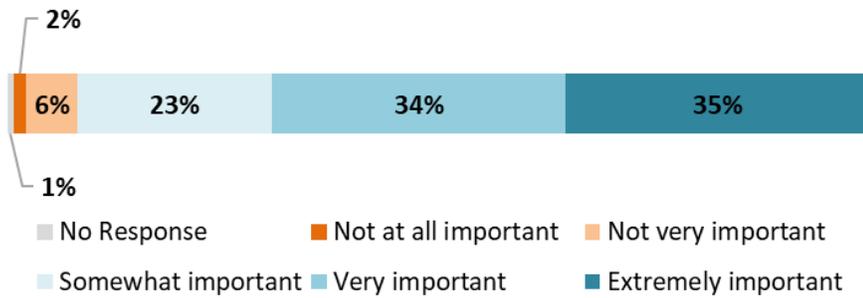
How would you rate your current community as a place for people to live as they age?



**Weighted Score**  
3.61 Very Good

Scale	
4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

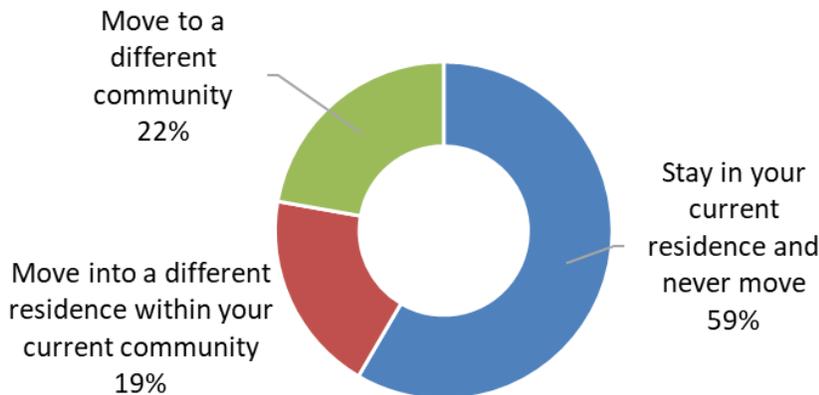
How important is it for you to remain in your current COMMUNITY for as long as possible?



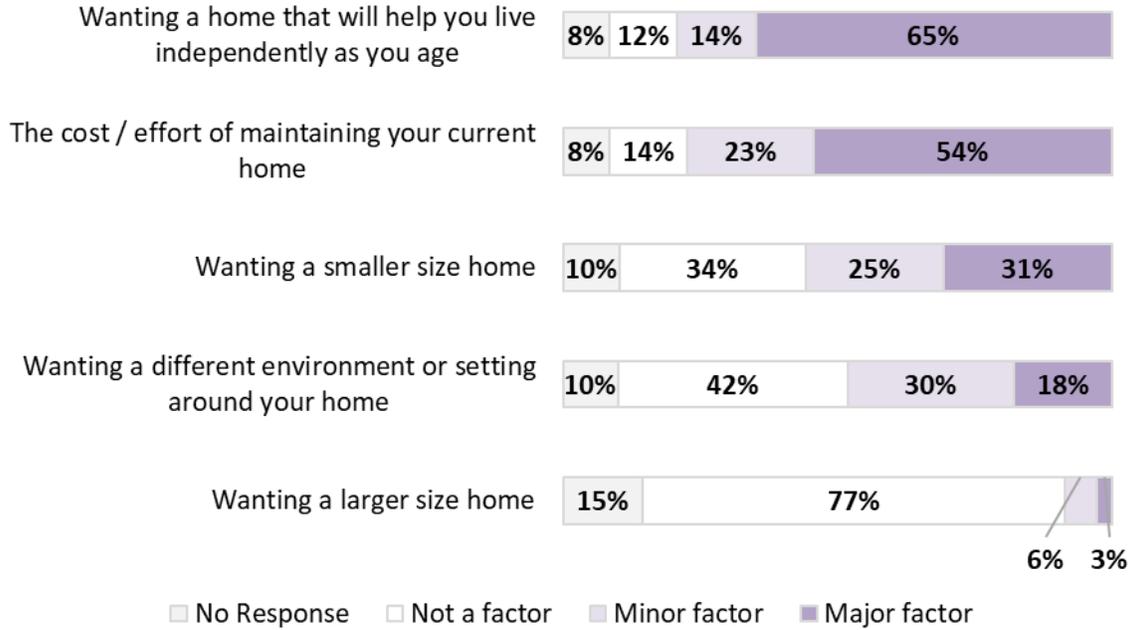
**Weighted Score**  
3.96 Very Important

Scale	
4.2 - 5.0	Extremely important
3.4 - 4.2	Very important
2.6 - 3.4	Somewhat important
1.8 - 2.6	Not very important
1.0 - 1.8	Not at all important

Thinking about your future years, are you more likely to:



**If you were to consider moving out of your current HOME, what factors would influence your decision?**



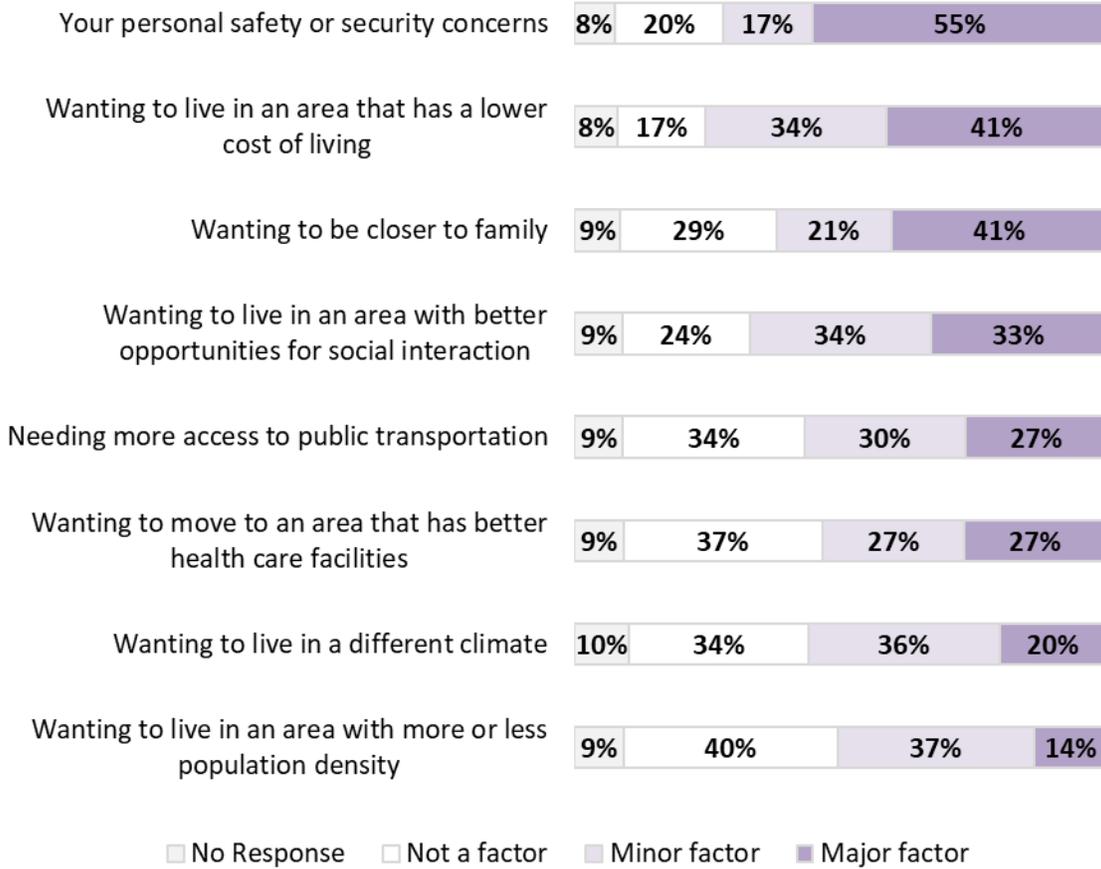
**Scale**

Major	2.33 - 3.00
Minor	1.66 - 2.33
Not	1.00 - 1.66

**Weighted Scores**

Wanting a home that will help you live independently as you age	2.57	Major factor
The cost / effort of maintaining your current home	2.44	Major factor
Wanting a smaller size home	1.96	Minor factor
Wanting a different environment or setting around your home	1.73	Minor factor
Wanting a larger size home	1.13	Not a factor

## If you were to consider moving out of your current COMMUNITY, what factors would influence your decision?



### Scale

Major	2.33 - 3.00
Minor	1.66 - 2.33
Not	1.00 - 1.66

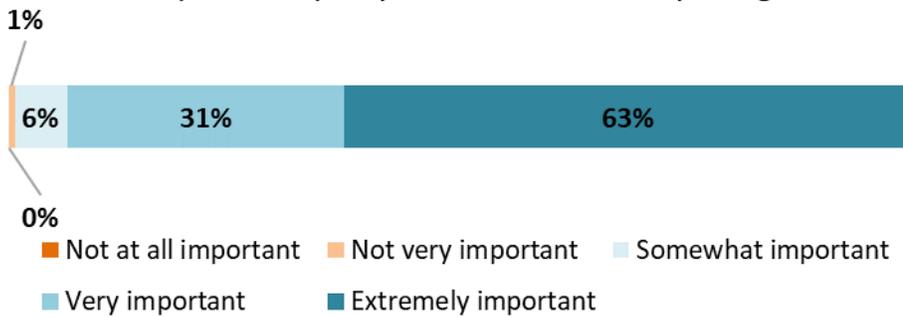
### Weighted Scores

Your personal safety or security concerns	2.38	Major factor
Wanting to live in an area that has a lower cost of living	2.27	Minor factor
Wanting to be closer to family	2.12	Minor factor
Wanting to live in an area w/ better opportunities for social interaction	2.10	Minor factor
Needing more access to public transportation	1.92	Minor factor
Wanting to move to an area that has better health care facilities	1.88	Minor factor
Wanting to live in a different climate	1.85	Minor factor
Wanting to live in an area with more or less population density	1.71	Minor factor

# Aging in Our Homes

The questions in this section asked respondents to describe the type of housing they live in and evaluate characteristics that may prevent them from staying in the home as they age. Respondents thought it was **“Extremely Important” to be able to live independently in their own homes as they age**; this question received the highest weighted score of all the questions on the survey, suggesting that respondents strongly desire the opportunity to “age in place” with independence. Most respondents live in a **single-family house**, and most respondents **own their home**, regardless of the type. Over three-quarters said they have to use stairs to access a part of their home. **Stairs were the number one area in the home needing major repairs**, modifications, or changes to enable residents to stay in the home as long as possible. Overall, the respondents rated the community’s **home repair and maintenance services as “Very Good.”**

How important is it for you to be able to live independently in your own HOME as you age?



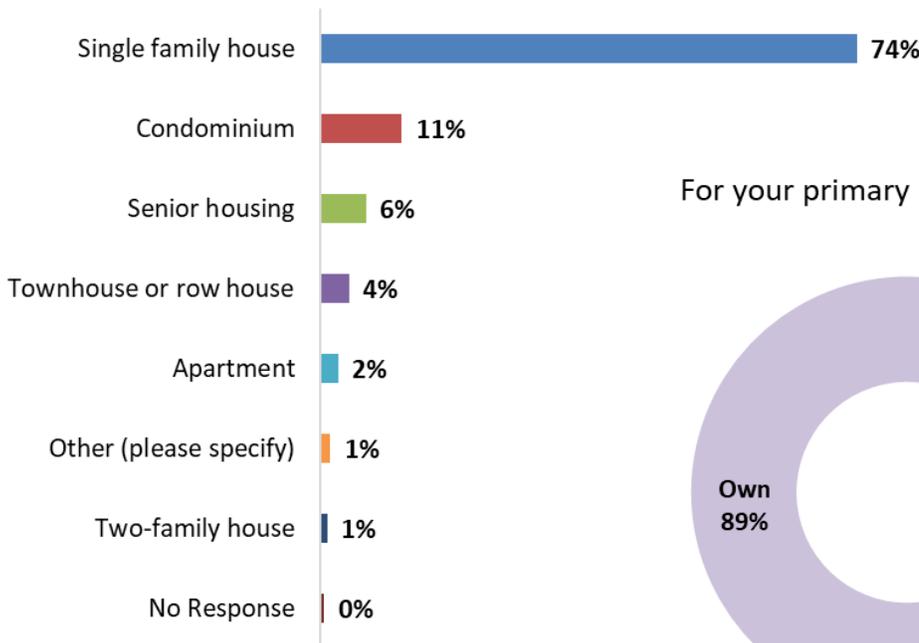
Weighted Score

4.56 Extremely Important

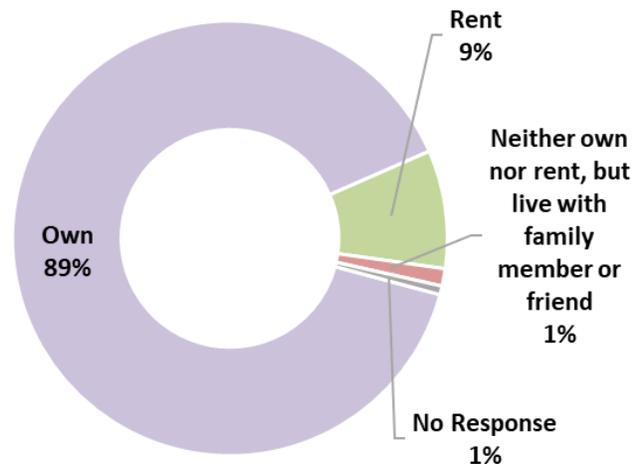
Scale

4.2 - 5.0	Extremely important
3.4 - 4.2	Very important
2.6 - 3.4	Somewhat important
1.8 - 2.6	Not very important
1.0 - 1.8	Not at all important

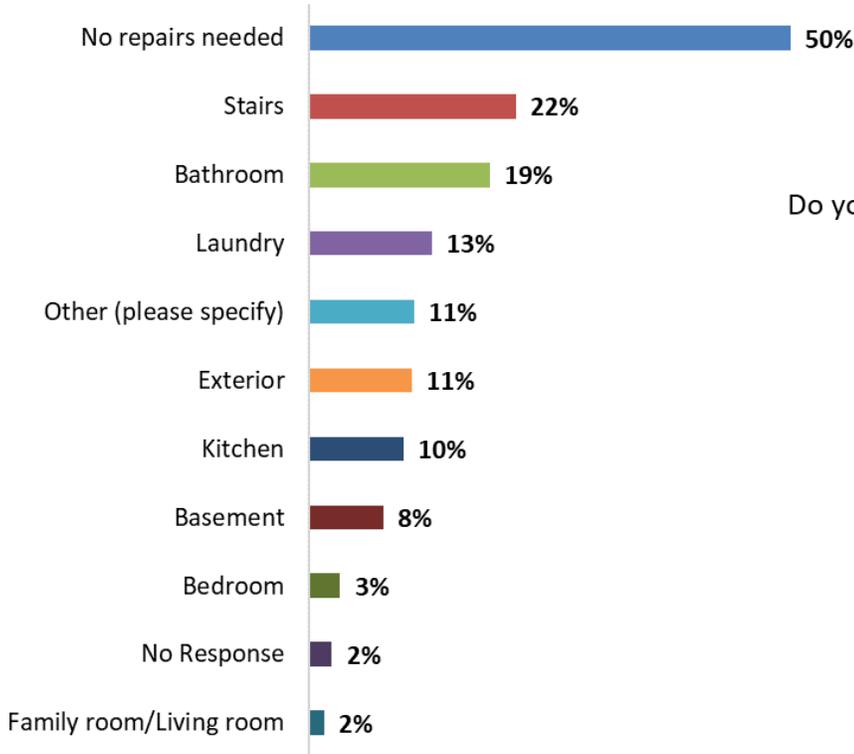
Which of the following types of homes best describes where you currently live?



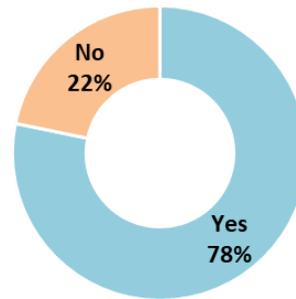
For your primary home, do you...



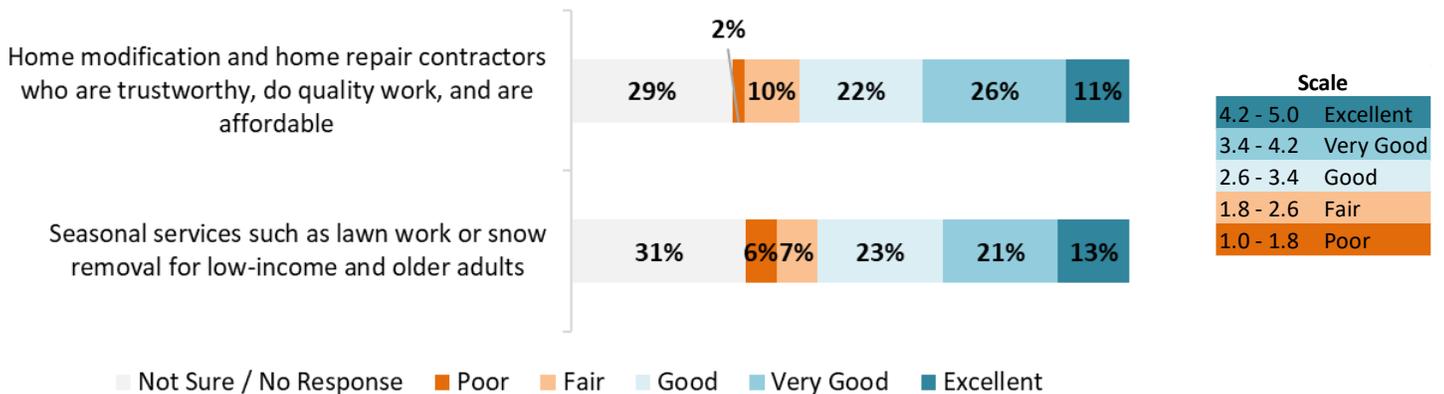
Which areas in your home need major repairs, modifications, or changes to enable you to stay there for as long as possible? [Check all that apply]



Do you have to use stairs to access any part of your home?



How would you rate your community's home repair and maintenance services?



Scale	
4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

**Weighted Scores**

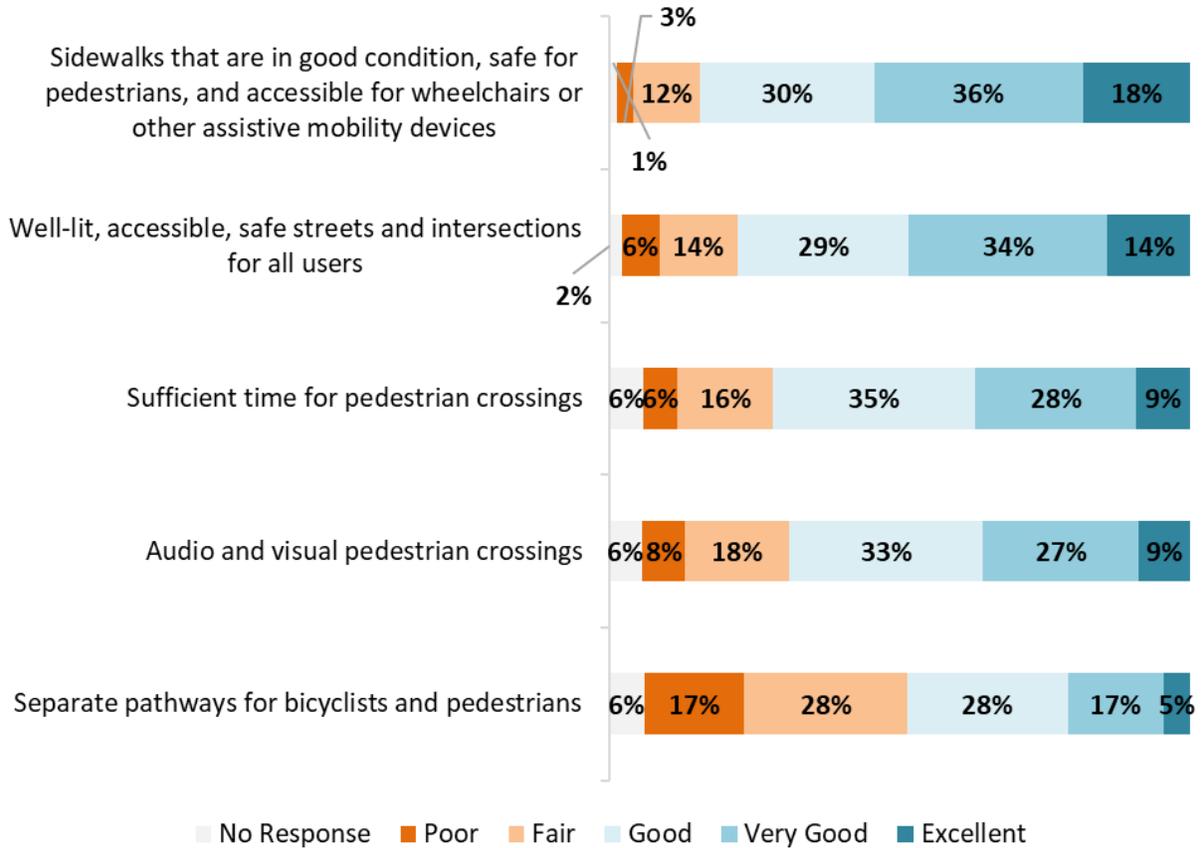
Home modification and home repair contractors who are trustworthy, do quality work, and are affordable  
 Seasonal services such as lawn work or snow removal for low-income and older adults

3.48	Very Good
3.40	Very Good

# Physical Environment

This set of questions asked respondents to rate the physical environment, such as housing, public spaces, health care facilities, shopping for daily needs, and sidewalks. For public infrastructure, **sidewalks** received the highest rating (**Very Good**) and **separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians** received the lowest rating (**Good**). For built environment, **conveniently located health care facilities** and **well-maintained properties** received the highest ratings (**Very Good**) while **housing options for older adults** and **availability of homes with accessible features** received the lowest ratings (**Good**).

How would you rate your community's public infrastructure?

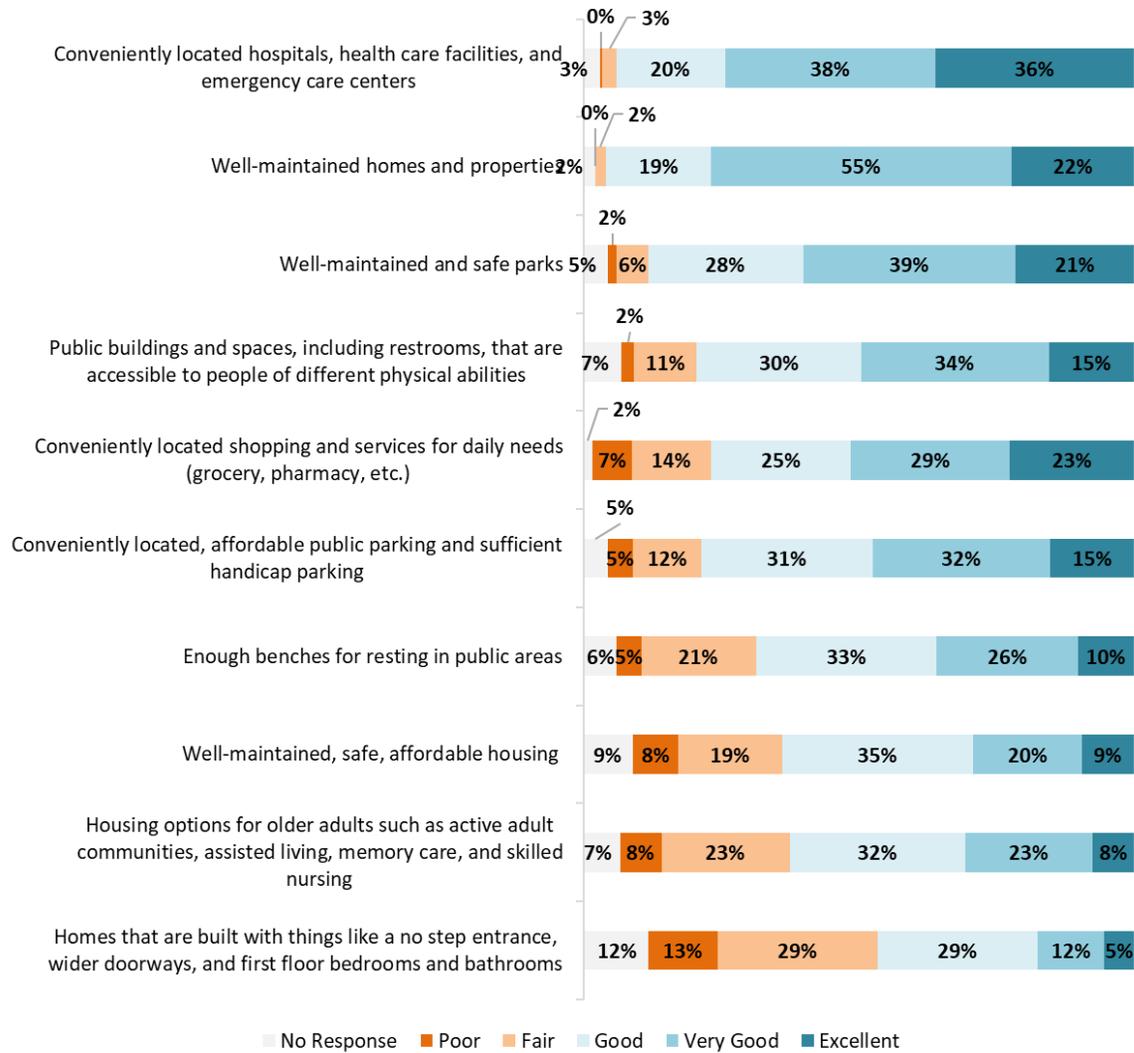


Scale	
4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

**Weighted Scores**

Sidewalks that are in good condition, safe for pedestrians, and accessible for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices	3.56	Very good
Well-lit, accessible, safe streets and intersections for all users	3.37	Good
Sufficient time for pedestrian crossings	3.19	Good
Audio and visual pedestrian crossings	3.12	Good
Separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians	2.61	Good

How would you rate your community's built environment?



**Scale**

4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

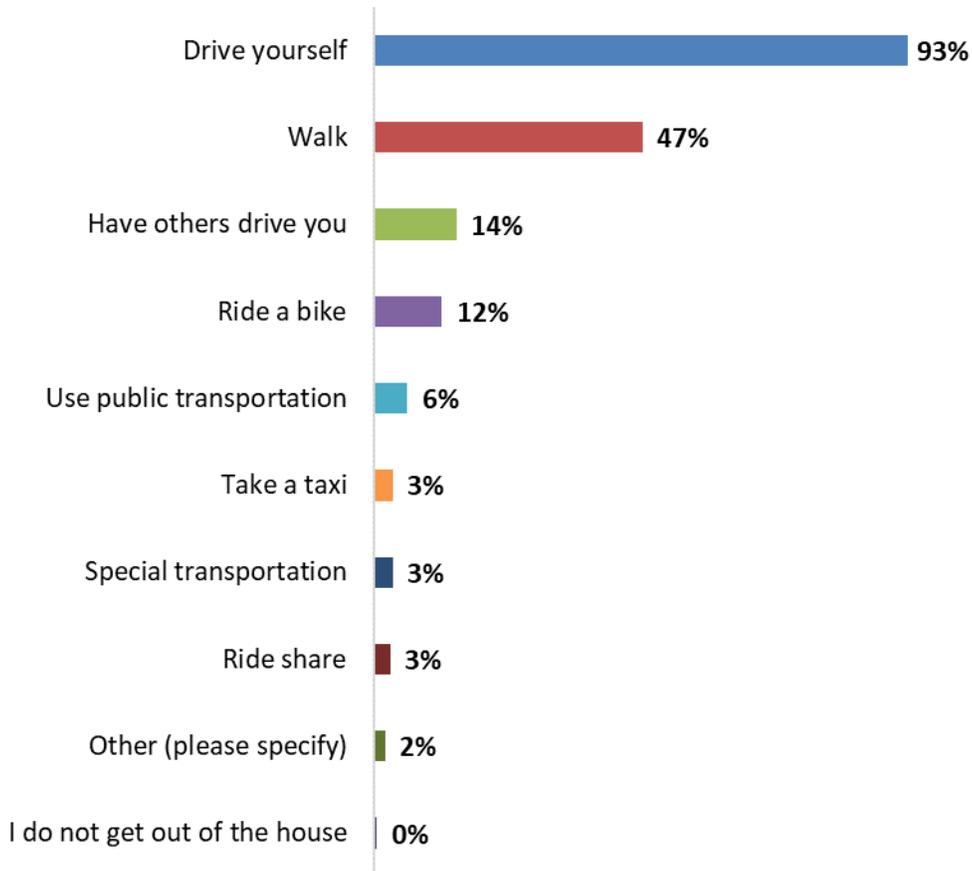
**Weighted Scores**

Conveniently located hospitals, health care facilities, and emergency care centers	4.10	Very Good
Well-maintained homes and properties	3.99	Very Good
Well-maintained and safe parks	3.76	Very Good
Public buildings and spaces, including restrooms, that are accessible to people of different physical abilities	3.53	Very Good
Conveniently located, affordable public parking and sufficient handicap parking	3.46	Very Good
Conveniently located shopping and services for daily needs (grocery, pharmacy, etc.)	3.46	Very Good
Enough benches for resting in public areas	3.17	Good
Well-maintained, safe, affordable housing	3.04	Good
Housing options for older adults such as active adult communities, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing	3.00	Good
Homes that are built with things like a no step entrance, wider doorways, and first floor bedrooms and bathrooms	2.64	Good

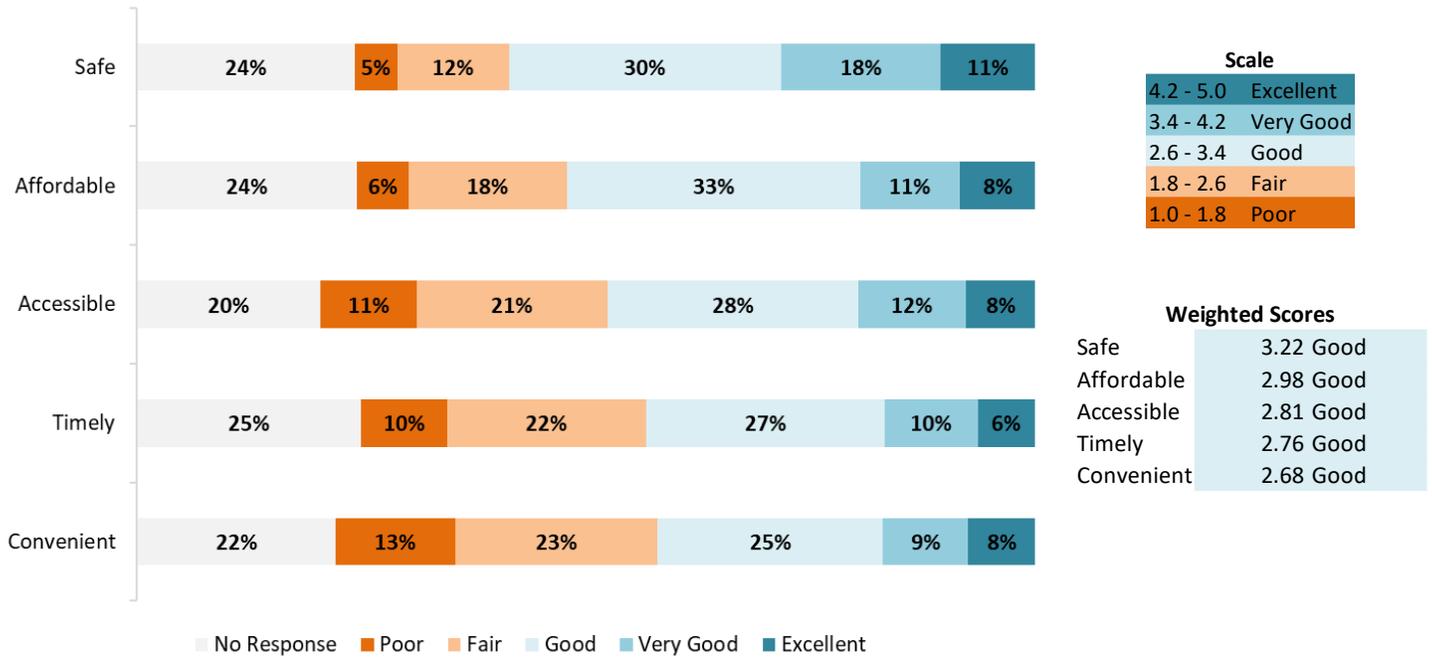
# Transportation

This section explores how respondents travel around town and asked respondents to rate public transportation in their community. The most common method of transport was **“Drive yourself” (93%)**, followed by **“Walk” (47%)**. Only 6% of respondents reported using public transportation, which likely explains the high rate of “no response” when asked to rate public transportation. The highest rated category for public transportation was **“safe”** and the lowest was **“convenient.”** The 6% of respondents who reported using public transportation gave overall higher ratings to public transportation.

How do you usually get around your community?  
(Check all that apply)



How would you rate your community's public transportation in the following categories? [All Responses]



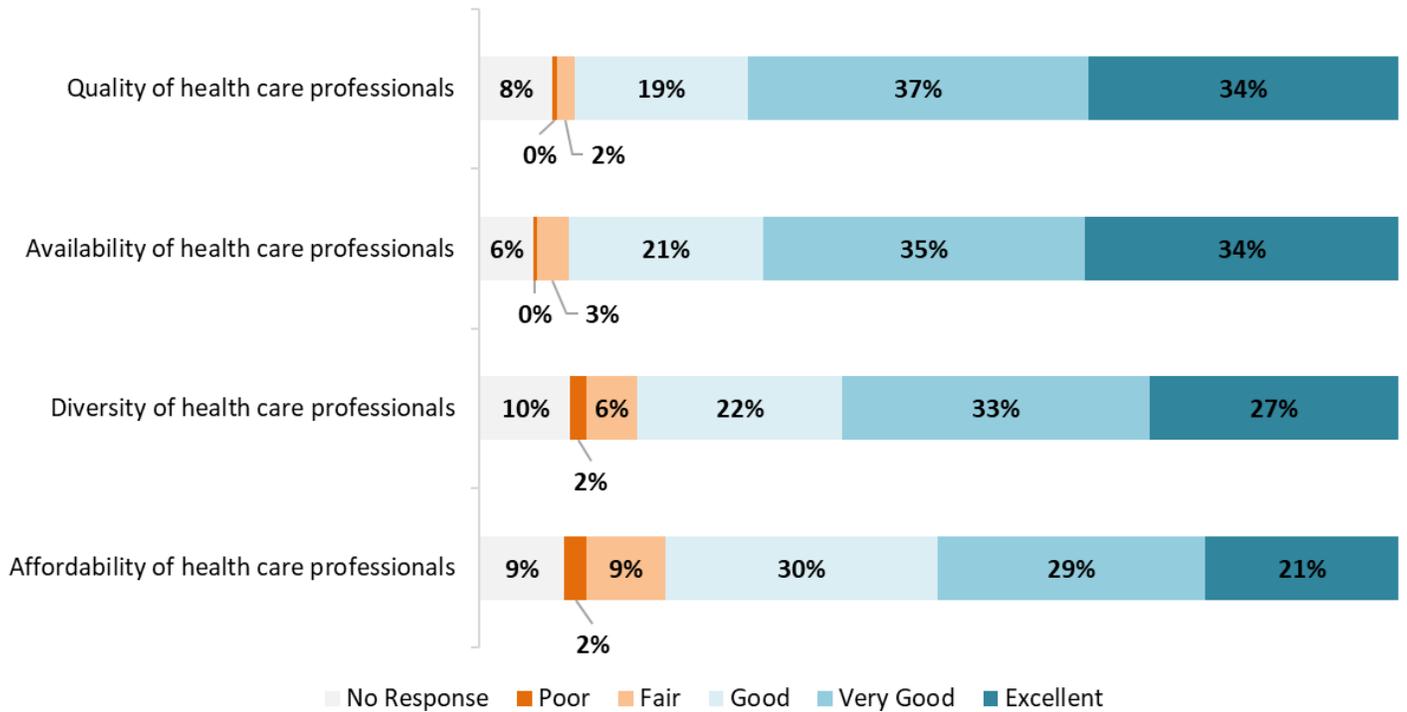
How would you rate your community's public transportation in the following categories? [Respondents who use public transportation]



# Health and Wellness

The questions in this section asked respondents to rate health care professionals and health and wellness services in the community. **Health care professionals were rated “Very Good”** and had among the highest ratings on the survey. **Health and wellness services were rated “Good.”**

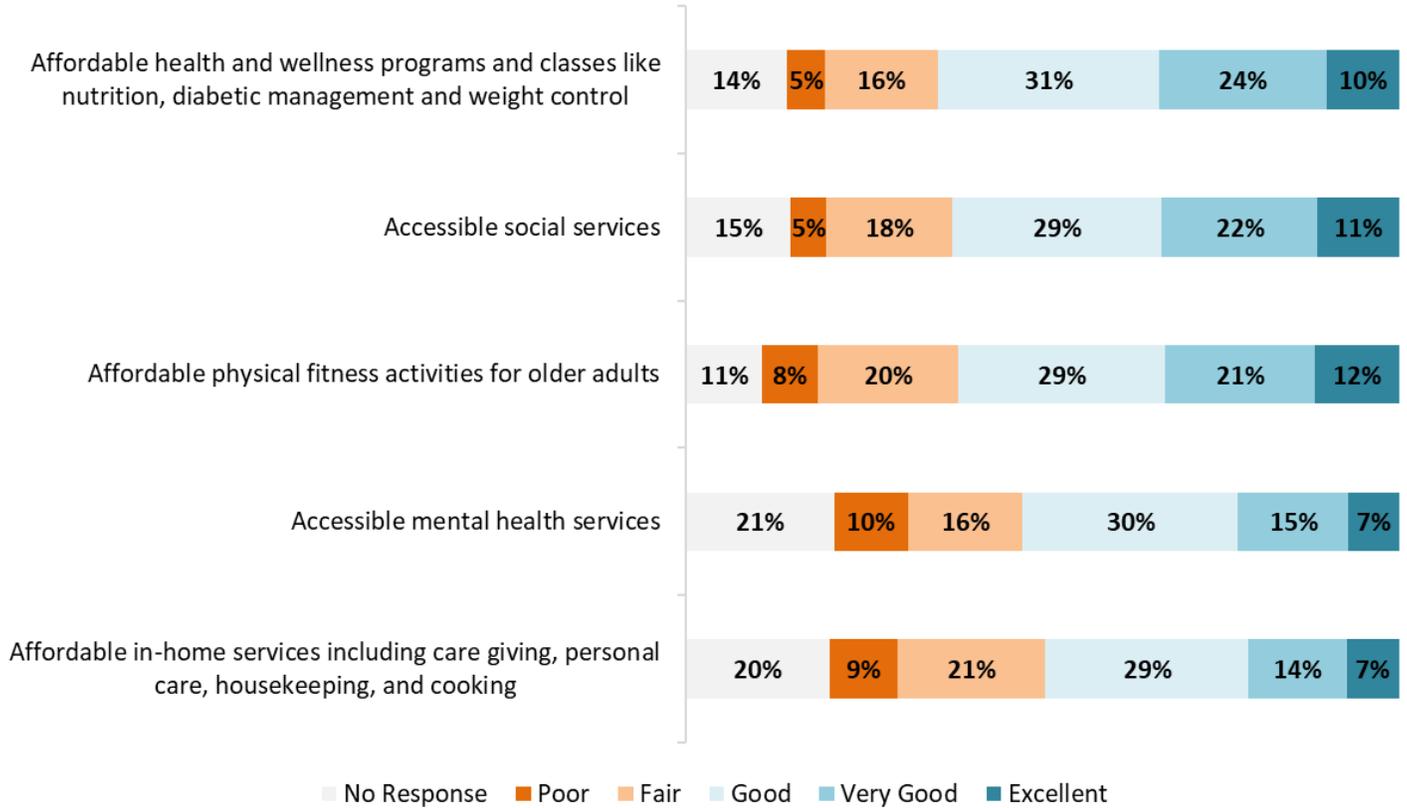
Thinking about health in your community, how would you rate your community on the following?



Scale	
4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

Weighted Scores		
Quality of health care professionals	4.10	Very Good
Availability of health care professionals	4.05	Very Good
Diversity of health care professionals	3.87	Very Good
Affordability of health care professionals	3.64	Very Good

### How would you rate the health and wellness services in your community?



Scale	
4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

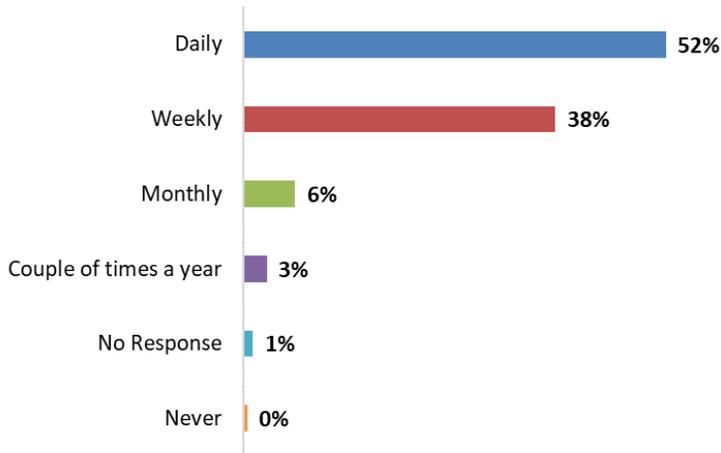
#### Weighted Scores

Affordable health and wellness programs and classes like nutrition, diabetic management and weight control	3.20	Good
Accessible social services	3.20	Good
Affordable physical fitness activities for older adults	3.11	Good
Accessible mental health services	2.91	Good
Affordable in-home services including care giving, personal care, housekeeping, and cooking	2.86	Good

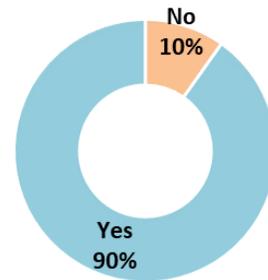
# Social Isolation

This set of questions asked participants to evaluate their own level of isolation. **Over half of respondents reported having “Daily” contact with family, friends, or neighbors** who do not live with them, and **90% of respondents have a friend or family member that can help at any time** if they were in trouble or distress. Overall respondents reported that they **“Never” felt isolated from others**, and **“Rarely” felt left out or lacked companionship**. It should be noted that the Village did not have a mechanism for identifying socially isolated individuals and therefore the survey responses may not fully reflect the degree of social isolation found in the community.

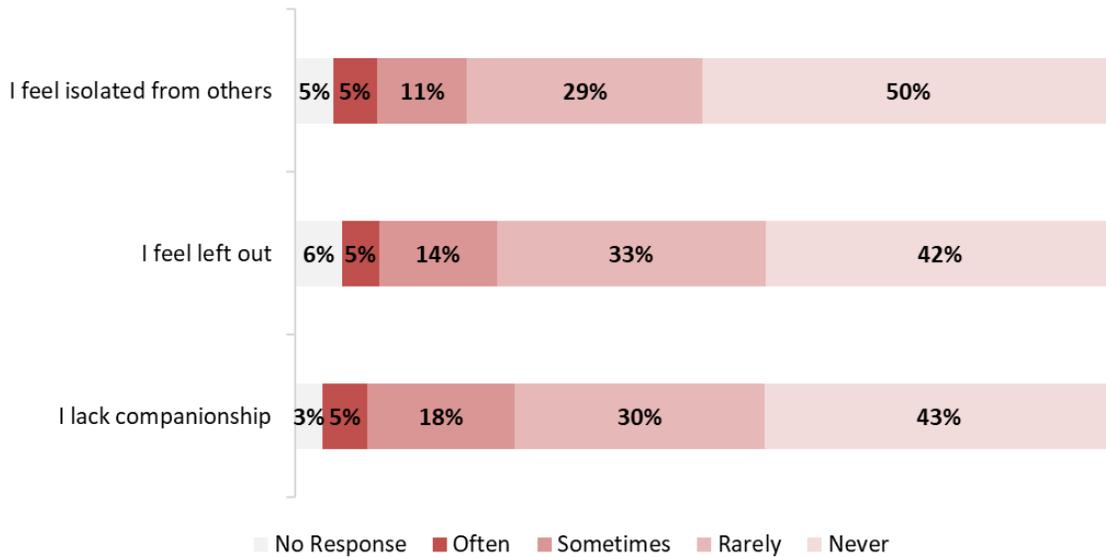
How often do you have contact with family, friends, or neighbors who do not live with you?



If you were in trouble or distress, do you have friends or family who can help you at any time of the day or night?



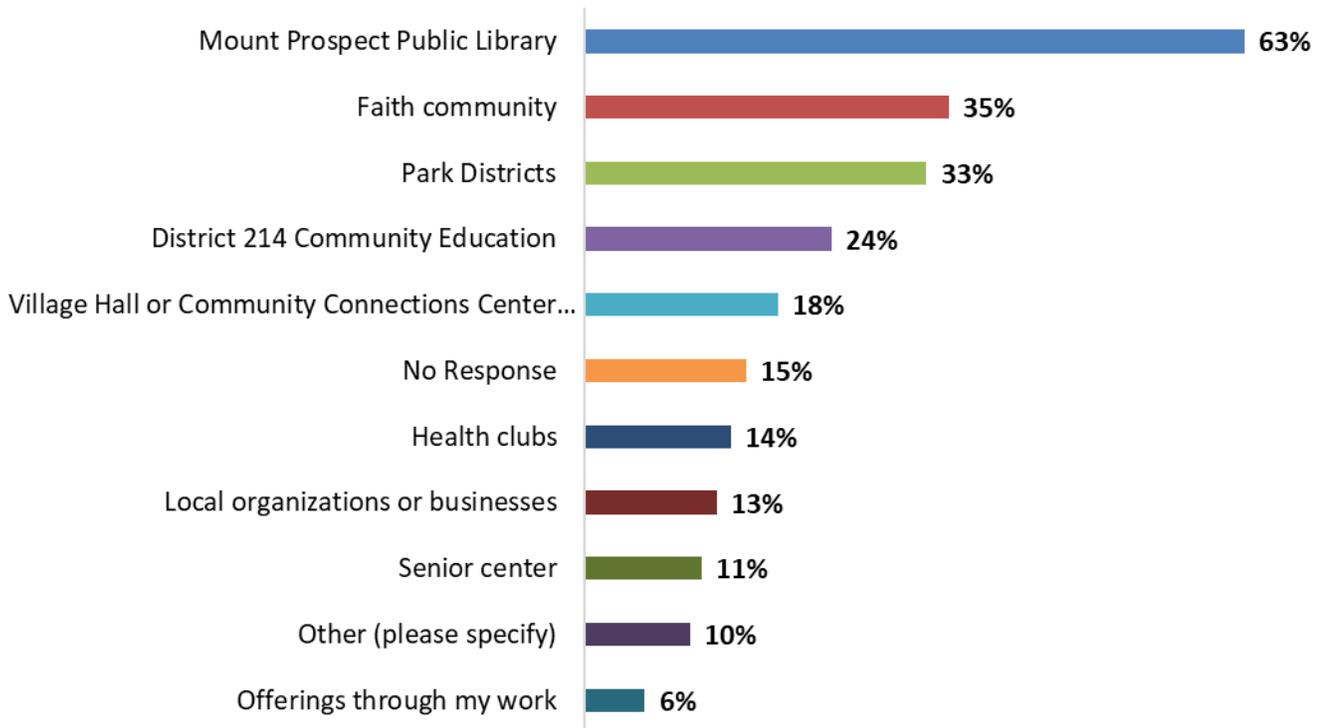
How often do you feel the following?



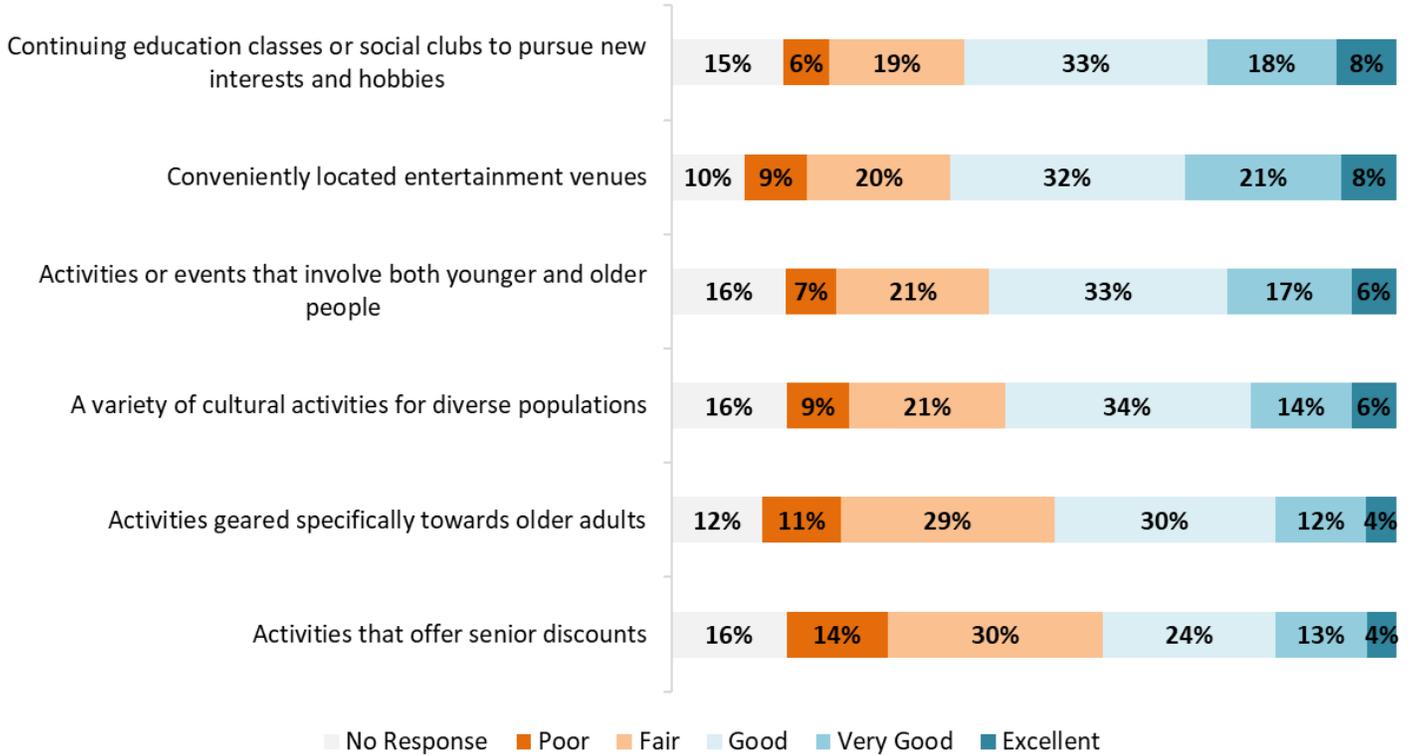
## Education, Civic Engagement, and Volunteering

The questions in this section asked participants to rate the community in areas of social participation, education, volunteering, and civic engagement. These areas were rated from “Good” to “Fair.” The most popular sources for educational classes or programs were the **library, faith community, and park districts**. The highest rated social participation category was “**continuing education classes or social clubs to pursue new interests or hobbies,**” while the lowest rated was “**activities that offer senior discounts.**” The highest rated volunteer and civic engagement category was “**a range of volunteer activities to choose from,**” while the lowest rated was “**transportation to and from volunteer activities.**”

Do you use the following sources for continuing education or self-improvement classes or programs? (Check all that apply)



### How would you rate your community in the following areas of social participation, inclusion and education?



**Scale**

4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

**Weighted Scores**

Continuing education classes or social clubs to pursue new interests and hobbies	3.04	Good
Conveniently located entertainment venues	3.00	Good
Activities or events that involve both younger and older people	2.93	Good
A variety of cultural activities for diverse populations	2.85	Good
Activities geared specifically towards older adults	2.65	Good
Activities that offer senior discounts	2.56	Fair

### How would you rate your community in the following areas of volunteering and civic engagement?



**Scale**

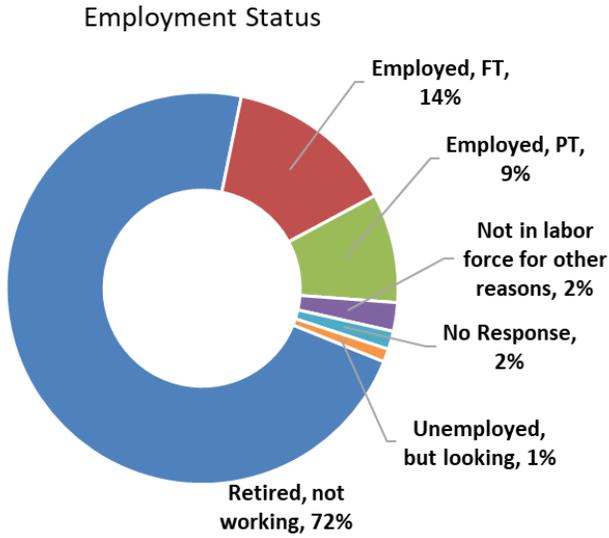
4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

**Weighted Scores**

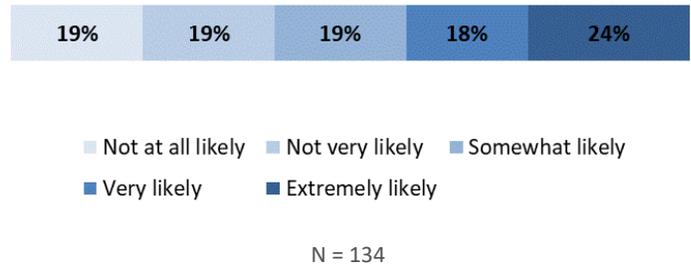
A range of volunteer activities to choose from	3.06	Good
Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies such as community councils or committees	2.79	Good
Easy to find information on available local volunteer opportunities	2.71	Good
Transportation to and from volunteer activities	2.31	Fair

# Employment and Jobs

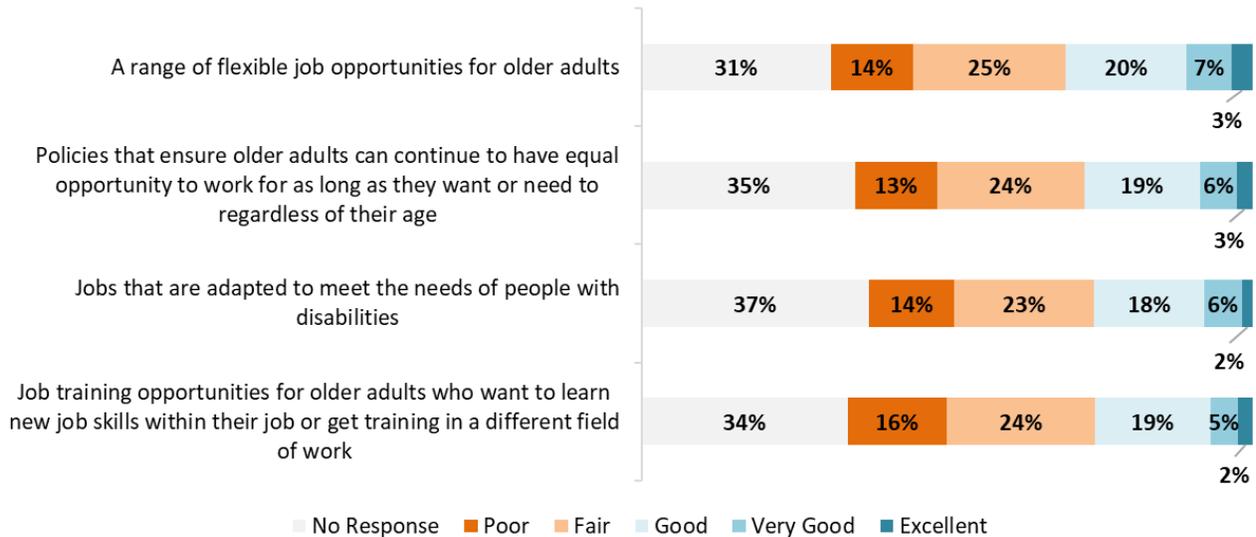
This section explored employment status, retirement, and job opportunities for older adults. A little over **20%** of the respondents indicated they were **employed full- or part-time**, and **42%** of those currently employed said it was “Very Likely” or “Extremely Likely” they would **continue to work for as long as possible**, rather than choosing to retire. The categories related to job opportunities for older adults received the lowest ratings on the survey and the highest number of “no responses.”



How likely is it that you will continue to work as long as possible, rather than choosing to retire and no longer work for pay?



How would you rate your community in terms of job opportunities for older adults?



### Weighted Scores

A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults  
 Policies that ensure older adults can continue to have equal opportunity to work for as long as they want or need to regardless of their age  
 Jobs that are adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities  
 Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work

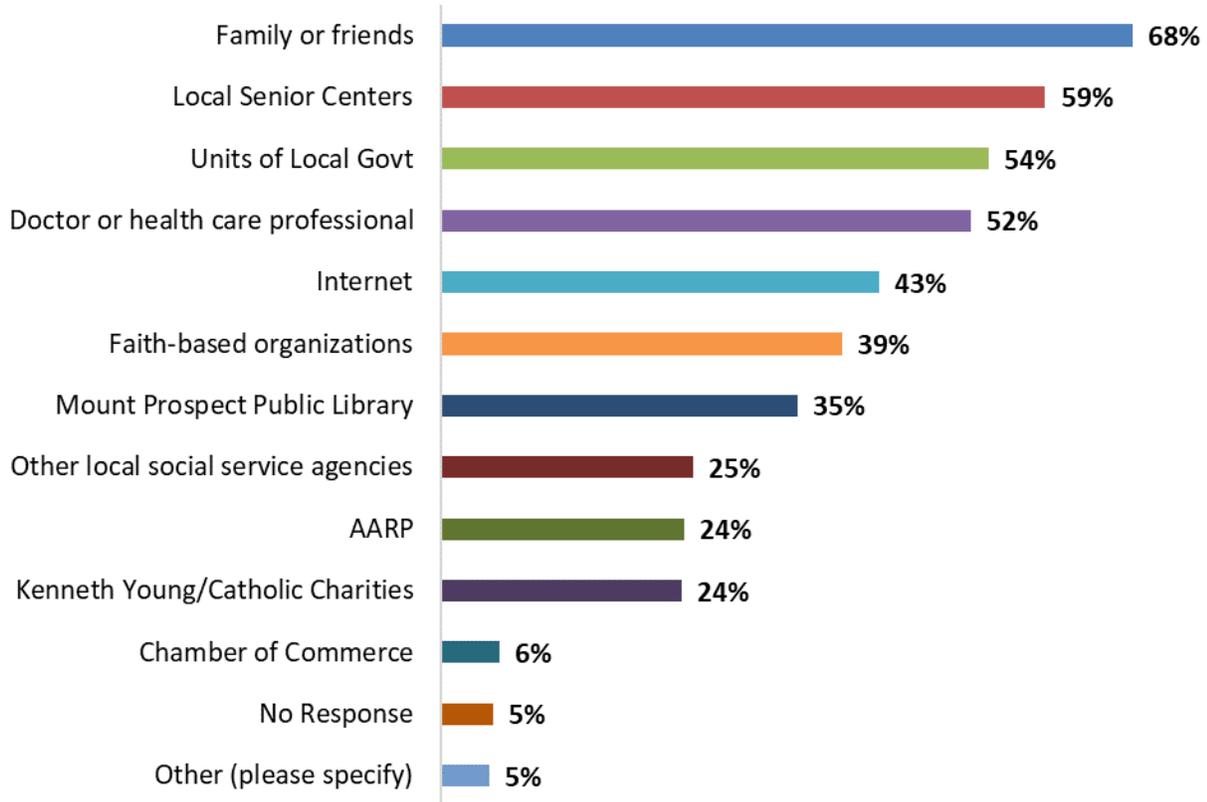
2.45	Fair
2.39	Fair
2.34	Fair
2.28	Fair

4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

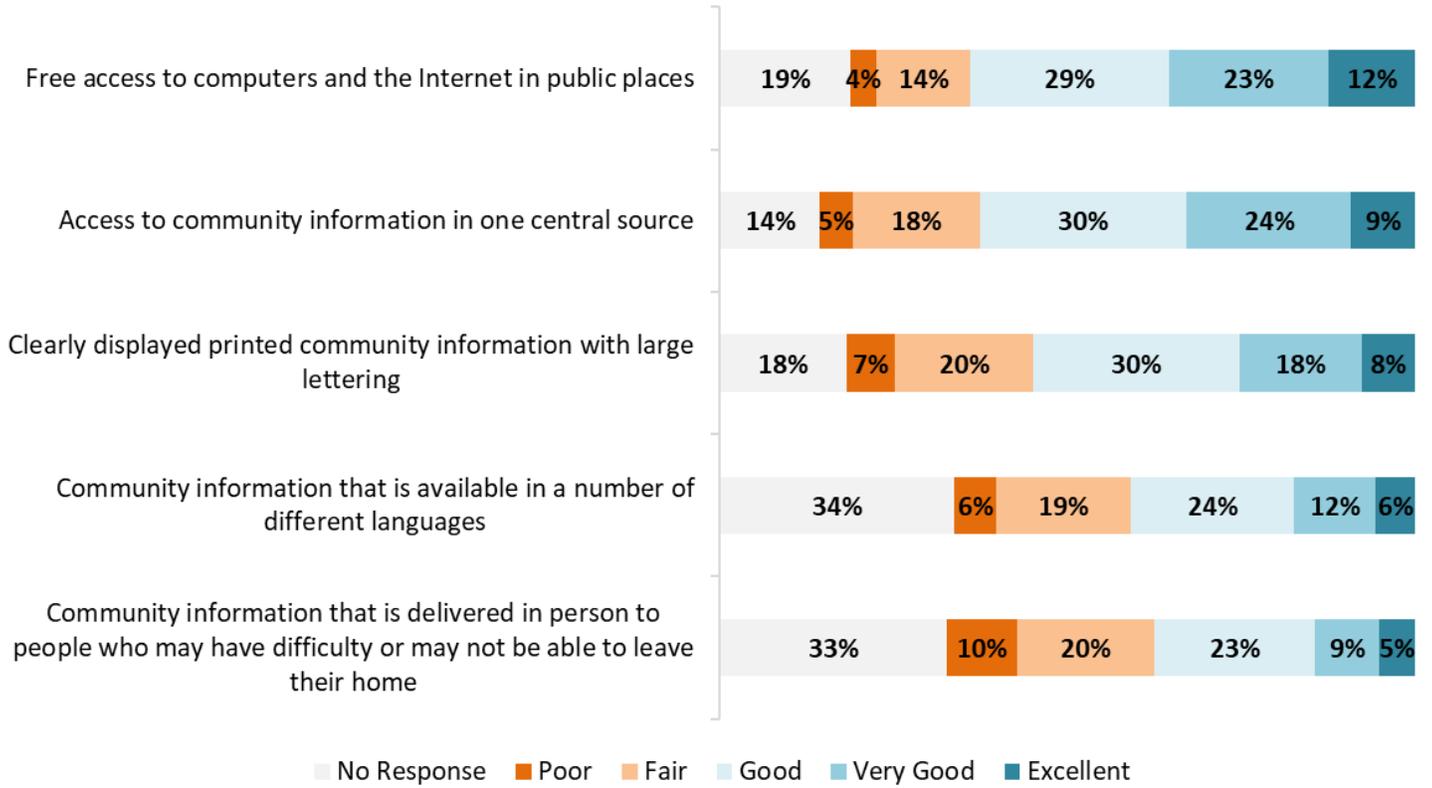
## Communication and Information

The questions in this section asked respondents to identify sources of information they use regularly, and to rate the community in the areas of information access and dissemination. The most common source of information was **family or friends** (68%), followed by **local senior centers** (59%). **Information access and dissemination categories were rated “Good.”**

Would you turn to the following resources if you, a family member or friend needed information about services for older adults?



### How would you rate your community in the following areas of information access and dissemination?



Scale	
4.2 - 5.0	Excellent
3.4 - 4.2	Very Good
2.6 - 3.4	Good
1.8 - 2.6	Fair
1.0 - 1.8	Poor

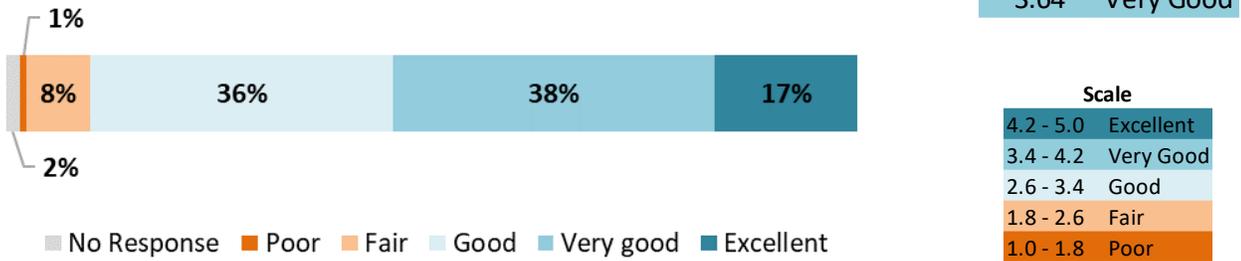
#### Weighted Scores

Free access to computers and the Internet in public places	3.33	Good
Access to community information in one central source	3.17	Good
Clearly displayed printed community information with large lettering	2.99	Good
Community information that is available in a number of different languages	2.88	Good
Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home	2.70	Good

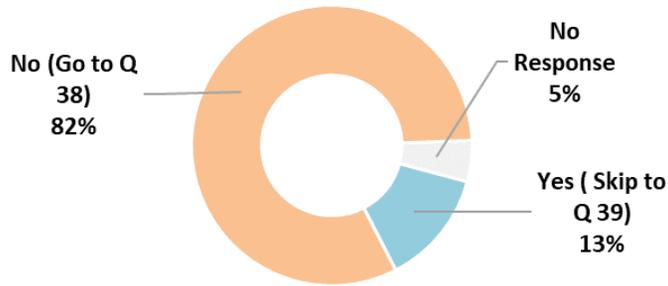
# Caregiving

The questions in this section asked about caregiving for adult loved ones and asked respondents to rate their own health. **Over half (55%) of respondents rated their health “Very Good” or “Excellent.”** 13% of respondents reported **providing unpaid care to an adult loved one.** Of those not currently providing care, 28% of respondents reported it was “Very Likely” or “Extremely Likely” that they will provide unpaid care to an adult loved one in the future.

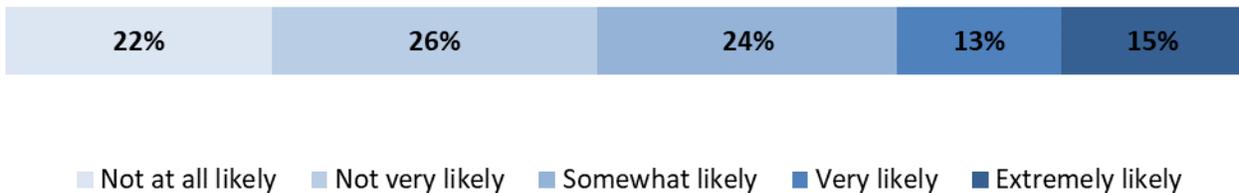
In general how would you rate your health?



Are you currently a family caregiver providing unpaid care to an adult loved one to help them take care of themselves?



How likely is it that you will provide unpaid care to an adult loved one in the future?



N = 376

## Conclusion

The data collected from the Aging in Community Survey will guide the Task Force in its development of a three-year Action Plan, which will ultimately be approved by the Village Board and submitted to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The survey data will be referenced by the Work Groups as they implement the plan in the coming years. Figure XX depicts the rough timeline for the Action Plan. Community residents will be consulted throughout the process to ensure the plan aligns with the needs of the community.



The survey information provides a useful snapshot of the Village to its residents and community partners and may be used for other aging initiatives outside of the Village's purview. In the future, the Village may release additional appendices showing the data in different formats.

### Reflection on Survey Methodology

The Village elected to use the AARP Community Survey<sup>2</sup> as a template for the Mount Prospect Aging in Community Survey. The Task Force made slight modifications to the AARP survey in an effort to capture information that was most relevant to Mount Prospect. The advantages of using the AARP template included:

- Questions on a wide range of topics;
- Template has been used by other age-friendly communities and allows for some comparisons and benchmarking; and
- Surveys require a minimum time commitment and anonymity for residents compared to attending a focus group or public meeting.

The Task Force identified some challenges based on their own experience developing, disseminating, and analyzing the survey data, as well as feedback from community members who took the survey.

- **Length:** Despite cutting some questions from the template, some community members said the survey was too long. The final survey had 44 questions and many of them were multi-part questions.

<sup>2</sup> Survey is available at <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/info-2014/aarp-community-survey-questionnaire.html>

- **Rating Scale:** Many questions asked respondents to rate community characteristics on a 5-point scale (Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, or Excellent). The middle choice was labeled “good” rather than “average” or “neutral,” which may have skewed the results toward the positive end of the scale.
- **Open-ended Questions:** The survey did not have any open-ended questions except for the initial question. This limited the ability of respondents to elaborate on their multiple-choice selections. However, the Task Force also had limited ability to analyze a high volume of open-ended responses.
- **Language:** The survey was available in English and Spanish. However, only 3 surveys out of 466 were completed in Spanish. The Village did not have the capacity to translate the survey into other languages to reach a greater number of non-English-speaking older adults.
- **Format:** The survey was provided online and in paper format. It was critical to have a paper survey available for this population. 18% of the surveys (85) submitted were on paper.
- **Population Samples:** The Task Force made a concerted effort to identify and reach out to over- and under-sampled populations in Mount Prospect to the best of its ability, but still fell short of its goals with the following populations:

Under-sampled Populations	Over-Sampled Populations
Ethnicity: Asian Household: Living with parent(s) Education: Less than a high school diploma Language: Non-English speakers Income: Less than \$10,000 Age: 55 to 59 years old Languages Spoken at Home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spanish</li> <li>- French, Haitian, or Cajun</li> <li>- Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages</li> <li>- Other Indo-European languages</li> <li>- Korean</li> <li>- Vietnamese</li> <li>- Tagalog (incl. Filipino)</li> <li>- Other Asian and Pacific Island languages</li> <li>- Arabic</li> </ul>	Education: Bachelor’s degree or higher Age: 75 to 84 years old Language: Speak only English Languages Spoken at Home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- German</li> <li>- Chinese</li> </ul>

These notes are provided as areas for consideration if another aging survey is utilized by the Village or another community. Overall the Task Force found that the survey was successful in its response rate and serves as an important input in the Age-Friendly Action Plan.



Village of Mount Prospect Aging in Community Survey

We are asking you, as a Village of Mount Prospect resident who is 55 years of age or older, to complete our Aging in Community survey. The Village of Mount Prospect identified “Aging in Community” as a high priority in the 2019 strategic plan. In response, the Village joined the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities in February of 2021 as the 512th community to enroll. AARP defines a livable community as one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and has supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence; allow residents to age in place; and foster residents’ engagement in the community’s civic, economic and social life.

Your feedback in this survey will help the Village to understand the needs of our residents and will help shape the priorities in a three-year Age-Friendly Action Plan. The Age-Friendly Action Plan will prepare Mount Prospect to be a livable community for all, with a focus on our aging population.

Answer the questions to the best of your ability - there are no right or wrong answers. If you are unsure about a question or it does not apply to you, you can skip the question. Your responses will be reported in an aggregate format and identifying information will be removed to preserve anonymity of respondents.

If you have any questions, please email [agingincommunity@mountprospect.org](mailto:agingincommunity@mountprospect.org).

1. What would be your number one recommendation for Mount Prospect visitors?

2. How long have you lived in your community?

- Less than 5 years
- 5 – 14 years
- 15 - 25 years
- 26 - 35 years
- 36 - 45 years
- 46 years or more

3. How would you rate your current community as a place for people to live as they age?

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

4. Thinking about your future years, are you more likely to

- Move to a different community
- Move into a different residence within your current community
- Stay in your current residence and never move

5. Some people find that they need or want to move out of their home as they get older. If you were to consider moving out of your current home, what factors would influence your decision?

	Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor
Wanting a smaller size home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting a larger size home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The cost / effort of maintaining your current home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting a home that will help you live independently as you age, for example a home without stairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting a different environment or setting around your home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Some people find that they need or want to move out of their community as they get older. If you were to consider moving out of your current community, what factors would influence your decision?

	Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor
Your personal safety or security concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting to move to an area that has better health care facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting to be closer to family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Needing more access to public transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting to live in a different climate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting to live in an area that has a lower cost of living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting to live in an area with better opportunities for social interaction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting to live in an area with more or less population density	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. How important is it for you to remain in your current community for as long as possible?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

8. Which of the following types of homes best describes where you currently live? (Check only one)

- Single family house
- Two family house that has two separate living units
- Townhouse or row house
- Apartment
- Condominium
- Senior housing
- Other (please specify)

9. Do you have to use stairs to access any part of your home?

- Yes
- No

10. For your primary home, do you...

- Own
- Rent
- Neither own nor rent, but live with family member or friend

11. How important is it for you to be able to live independently in your own home as you age?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important
- Not sure

12. Which areas in your home need major repairs, modifications, or changes to enable you to stay there for as long as possible? [Check all that apply]

- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Basement
- Bedroom
- Family room/Living room
- Exterior (entrance, exits, etc.)
- Stairs
- Laundry
- My home does not need major repairs or modifications to enable me to stay
- Other (please specify)

13. How would you rate your community's home repair and maintenance services?

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure
Home modification and home repair contractors who are trustworthy, do quality work, and are affordable	<input type="radio"/>					
Seasonal services such as lawn work or snow removal for low-income and older adults	<input type="radio"/>					

14. How would you rate your community's public infrastructure?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Sidewalks that are in good condition, safe for pedestrians, and accessible for wheelchairs or other assistive mobility devices	<input type="radio"/>				
Well-lit, accessible, safe streets and intersections for all users	<input type="radio"/>				
Audio and visual pedestrian crossings	<input type="radio"/>				
Sufficient time for pedestrian crossings	<input type="radio"/>				
Separate pathways for bicyclists and pedestrians	<input type="radio"/>				

15. How would you rate your community's built environment?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Well-maintained homes and properties	<input type="radio"/>				
Housing options for older adults such as active adult communities, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing	<input type="radio"/>				
Homes that are built with things like a no step entrance, wider doorways, and first floor bedrooms and bathrooms	<input type="radio"/>				
Well-maintained, safe, affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>				
Well-maintained and safe parks	<input type="radio"/>				
Public buildings and spaces, including restrooms, that are accessible to people of different physical abilities	<input type="radio"/>				
Enough benches for resting in public areas	<input type="radio"/>				
Conveniently located hospitals, health care facilities, and emergency care centers	<input type="radio"/>				
Conveniently located, affordable public parking and sufficient handicap parking	<input type="radio"/>				
Conveniently located shopping and services for daily needs (grocery, pharmacy, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>				

16. How do you usually get around your community? (Check all that apply)

- Walk
- Drive yourself
- Have others drive you
- Take a taxi
- Use a ride source company such as Uber/Lyft
- Use a special transportation service, such as Township bus or Connections to Care
- Use public transportation
- Ride a bike
- I do not get out of the house
- Other (please specify)

17. How would you rate your community's public transportation in the following categories?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Accessible	<input type="radio"/>				
Convenient	<input type="radio"/>				
Affordable	<input type="radio"/>				
Timely	<input type="radio"/>				
Safe	<input type="radio"/>				

18. Thinking about health in your community, how would you rate your community on the following?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Availability of health care professionals	<input type="radio"/>				
Quality of health care professionals	<input type="radio"/>				
Affordability of health care professionals	<input type="radio"/>				
Diversity of health care professionals	<input type="radio"/>				

19. How would you rate the health and wellness services in your community?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Affordable health and wellness programs and classes like nutrition, diabetic management and weight control	<input type="radio"/>				
Affordable physical fitness activities for older adults	<input type="radio"/>				
Accessible social services	<input type="radio"/>				
Accessible mental health services	<input type="radio"/>				
Affordable in-home services including care giving, personal care, housekeeping, and cooking	<input type="radio"/>				

20. How often do you have contact with family, friends, or neighbors who do not live with you?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Couple of times a year
- Never

21. How often do you feel the following?

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
I lack companionship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel left out	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel isolated from others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. If you were in trouble or distress, do you have friends or family who can help you at any time of the day or night?

- Yes
- No

23. Do you use the following sources for continuing education or self-improvement classes or programs?

(Check all that apply)

- District 214 Community Education
- Faith community
- Local organizations or businesses
- Village Hall or Community Connections Center Programs
- Offerings through my work
- Park Districts
- Health clubs
- Senior center
- Mount Prospect Public Library
- Other (please specify)

24. How would you rate your community in the following areas of social participation, inclusion and education?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Conveniently located entertainment venues	<input type="radio"/>				
Activities geared specifically towards older adults	<input type="radio"/>				
Activities that offer senior discounts	<input type="radio"/>				
Activities or events that involve both younger and older people	<input type="radio"/>				
A variety of cultural activities for diverse populations	<input type="radio"/>				
Continuing education classes or social clubs to pursue new interests and hobbies	<input type="radio"/>				

25. How would you rate your community in the following areas of volunteering and civic engagement?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
A range of volunteer activities to choose from	<input type="radio"/>				
Opportunities for older adults to participate in decision making bodies such as community councils or committees	<input type="radio"/>				
Easy to find information on available local volunteer opportunities	<input type="radio"/>				
Transportation to and from volunteer activities	<input type="radio"/>				

26. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

- Employed, part-time - GO TO Question 27
- Employed, full-time - GO TO Question 27
- Unemployed, but looking for work - GO TO Question 27
- Retired, not working at all - SKIP TO Question 28
- Not in labor force for other reasons - SKIP TO Question 28

27. How likely is it that you will continue to work as long as possible, rather than choosing to retire and no longer work for pay?

- Extremely likely
- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not very likely
- Not at all likely

28. How would you rate your community in terms of job opportunities for older adults?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
A range of flexible job opportunities for older adults	<input type="radio"/>				
Job training opportunities for older adults who want to learn new job skills within their job or get training in a different field of work	<input type="radio"/>				
Jobs that are adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>				
Policies that ensure older adults can continue to have equal opportunity to work for as long as they want or need to regardless of their age	<input type="radio"/>				

29. Would you turn to the following resources if you, a family member or friend needed information about services for older adults such as caregiving services, home delivered meals, home repair, medical transport, or social activities? (Check all that apply)

- Local Senior Centers
- Kenneth Young/Catholic Charities
- Other local social service agencies
- Family or friends
- AARP
- Faith-based organizations like churches or synagogues
- Internet
- Your doctor or health care professional
- Units of local government such as the Village of Mount Prospect Human Services Department or the Cook County Department of Public Health
- Mount Prospect Public Library
- Chamber of Commerce
- Other (please specify)

30. How would you rate your community in the following areas of information access and dissemination?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Access to community information in one central source	<input type="radio"/>				
Clearly displayed printed community information with large lettering	<input type="radio"/>				
Free access to computers and the Internet in public places	<input type="radio"/>				
Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home	<input type="radio"/>				
Community information that is available in a number of different languages	<input type="radio"/>				

31. How do you identify?

- Male
- Female
- Other (please specify)

32. What is your age as of your last birthday? (Age in Years)

33. What is your current marital status?

- Married
- Not married, living together
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Never Married
- Other (please specify)

34. Besides yourself, do you have any of the following people living in your household? (Check all that apply)

- Minors under age 18
- Parents
- Other adults, such as relatives or friends 18 and over
- I live by myself

35. In general how would you rate your health?

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

36. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you or your spouse or partner from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

- Yes, myself
- Yes, my spouse or partner
- Yes, both me and my spouse or partner
- No

37. A family caregiver is someone who provides care for an adult loved one who is ill, frail, elderly, or has a physical, mental, or emotional disability. This care may include helping with personal needs like bathing or dressing, meals, household chores, shopping, transportation, managing medical care or finances, or even visiting regularly to see how they are doing. This adult need not live with you.

Are you currently a family caregiver providing unpaid care to an adult loved one to help them take care of themselves?

- Yes ( Skip to Q 39)
- No (Go to Q 38)

38. How likely is it that you will provide unpaid care to an adult loved one in the future?

- Extremely likely
- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not very likely
- Not at all likely

39. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

- Less than a high school diploma
- High school diploma, GED or equivalent
- Vocational training or certificate program
- 2-year college degree
- 4-year college degree
- Graduate or professional degree(s)

40. Please indicate which best represents the languages you speak at home. Check all that apply.

- English
- Spanish
- Korean
- Polish
- Gujarati
- Other (please specify)

41. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or of Latino origin or descent?

- Yes
- No

42. What is your race? (Check all that apply)

- Black or African American
- White or Caucasian
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multi-racial
- Other (please specify)

43. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2020?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$29,999
- \$30,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more

44. What township do you live in?

- Elk Grove (south of Central Road)
- Wheeling (north of Central Road)

# Elevating Aging-in-Community *in* Mount Prospect

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*A Strategic Guide*

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*Content developed by Planning/Aging  
in partnership with the Aging in a Changing Region  
program of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus*

**April 2022**

# Executive Summary

Mount Prospect was one of five municipalities that participated during 2021 in the “Aging in a Changing Region” (*AiaCR*) program, run by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Planning/Aging, and funded by a grant from the RRF Foundation for Aging.

Planning/Aging led two public workshops and reviewed input to identify strategies which the Age-Friendly Task Force can incorporate into its Action Plan to elevate support of aging-in-community. The following recommendations are divided into two categories: Policy Recommendations dealing with Mount Prospect’s approach to and handling of its support for aging-in-community, and Programmatic Recommendations which address Mount Prospect’s key aging-in-community challenge or opportunity areas.

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## Policy Recommendations

- Continue to take a ‘whole of government’ approach to supporting aging-in-community
- Continue to practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior
- Incorporate aging-in-community into key municipal conversations and initiatives
- Integrate aging-in-community with diversity efforts, and vice versa
- Evolve the Task Force into (*or establish a separate*) Aging-in-Community Commission to play an ongoing policy advising and review role
- Designate a staff person in each Village department as the aging-in-community liaison
- Continue to regularly attend the MMC’s Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional aging-in-community activities
- Look to play a significant role in regional aging-in-community and livable/healthy communities collaboratives

## Programmatic Recommendations

- Continue to establish the Farley Community Room as a “one-stop” resource center for information on existing older adult services and programming
- Regularly evaluate existing plans, programs, facilities, and operations for their aging-in-community consistency
- Rethink and potentially ramp up the Village’s volunteer programs and opportunities
- Consider developing an aging-in-community handbook to help residents navigate issues and connect with available resources
- Conduct a focused study of Mount Prospect’s older adult housing market
- Explore creative ways to leverage the Village’s existing housing stock to grow affordable aging-in-community options
- Do a real assessment of all existing Village transportation assets and develop strategies for better leveraging them

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This document completes Mount Prospect’s involvement with the AiaCR program. It is now up to the Age-Friendly Task Force and the Village to review, select and prioritize strategic recommendations for inclusion in its Age-Friendly Action Plan. As the aging-in-community conversation remains robust, additional ideas and strategies can and should be added.

## WHAT IS AGING IN COMMUNITY?

**Aging-in-community** refers to a coordinated municipality-wide “whole of government” effort to support the evolving needs and interests of its aging population.

**Aging-in-community** is inclusive of the narrower term “aging-in-place” which focuses on one’s dwelling, using a broader, community-level lens to identify a set of plans, programs, procedures, and services that in combination help support a municipality’s older residents.

**Aging-in-community** is an important component of ‘livable community’ efforts that address the needs and interests of residents throughout their lifespans.

Communities that support **aging-in-community** are by definition ‘age-friendly’ and ‘dementia-friendly’ communities.

Evidence from notable **aging-in-community** programs throughout the United States identifies several key indicators of the likely success of a municipality’s **aging-in-community** program: issue champions amongst (but not overreliance upon) its elected officials, staff leadership, and the overall community; dedicated human and financial resources; collaborations with key aging network and other municipal stakeholders; and mindful coordination between **aging-in-community** and other key municipal priorities.

# The “Aging in a Changing Region” Program

Municipalities throughout the metropolitan Chicago region – as in regions throughout the country – are experiencing substantial growth in the number and percentage share of their older adult populations and are looking for strategies to address these shifts.

In 2021, three partner organizations – the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (*an organization of the Chicago region’s 275 cities, towns and villages*), the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (*the regional planning organization for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties*), and Planning/Aging (a

*consultancy focused on the intersection between community planning and the growing aging population*) received funding from the RRF Foundation for Aging to support selected municipalities with these efforts. This program – called “Aging in a Changing Region” (*AiaCR*) – is based on the idea that regardless of where a municipality is at in its discussions, planning, and implementing of strategies to support aging-in-community – providing them with targeted guidance can help advance their efforts.

In March 2021, MMC put out a call for municipalities to apply to participate in the

AiaCR program. Interested municipalities submitted applications that combined a self-assessment of their aging-in-community work to date, their aging-in-community goals, and assistance they envisioned to help advance their goals. In June 2021, the AiaCR partners unveiled a 2021 Cohort of municipalities – Bensenville, Calumet City, Hawthorn Woods, Mount Prospect and Park Forest – that reflect the region's diversity in terms of community geography, socio-economic factors, community type, and aging-in-community experience.



*Village Trustee Colleen Saccotelli welcoming attendees to the September 29, 2021 workshop*

## Municipal Workshops

A key element of AiaCR was a pair of educational and strategic workshops in each selected municipality. Once the 2021 Cohort was selected, Planning/Aging engaged a core team of municipal point persons to identify their aging-in-community goals and develop strategies for their workshops. While certain aspects of the workshops bore similarities between municipalities, many aspects such as timing, target audiences and structure were unique to each municipality, due to each community's specific preferences.

At workshops, Planning/Aging provided background to build understanding and support for aging-in-community, which

was framed as consistent with “livable communities for all ages” as values held by older adults – accessible and affordable housing options, reliable transportation services, convenient goods and services, safe places to gather and access to information and engagement opportunities – are identical to values held by younger adults.

Planning engagements typically include an assessment of a community's assets and challenges. The limited AiaCR scope required a more streamlined assessment process. Prior to each first workshop, Planning/Aging spoke with community stakeholders, reviewed guidance

documents such as the community's Comprehensive, Housing, Transportation and other plans, and reviewed available surveys on residents' perceptions about their communities. Each community was asked to have key internal stakeholders complete an assessment of the degree to which their agency or department supports the growing older adult population and offer insights as to challenges or opportunities.

The highlights from this input were presented at the workshops, leading to a facilitated discussion engaging participants to drill down on their aging-in-community experiences – residents sharing how they perceive the community will be able to support them going forward, and internal stakeholders considering ways they might be able to augment or modify their services to better support aging-in-community in the future.

The workshops were documented with notes and photographs. Some workshops – including in Mount Prospect – were recorded and are available on municipal websites. All workshop presentations were given to the municipalities so they could be made widely available.



## WHAT THIS DOCUMENT ISN'T

- ✘ **ISN'T** a detailed physical plan document with specific infrastructure or other capital projects identified and costed out, and their implementation details outlined
- ✘ **ISN'T** a compendium of 'best practices' from other local or non-local municipalities – while approaches from elsewhere can be valuable as references, anything planned for Mount Prospect should be tailored to the specifics of Mount Prospect
- ✘ **ISN'T** a write-up of a rigorous, data-driven assessment, as Mount Prospect's involvement with the AiaCR program was rather a qualitative assessment of current conditions, and included a review of available assessments and community input



## WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS

- ✔ **IS** a practical strategic guide tailored to Mount Prospect on how to elevate the current support for aging-in-community – designed to be used as an ongoing resource, not gather dust on shelves due to its unreadability or impracticality
- ✔ **IS** specific recommendations of further actions Mount Prospect may choose to take, either through utilization of its existing resources, joining with other entities in collaborative activities, or by engaging external partners
- ✔ **IS** a set of action steps that Mount Prospect can take to elevate its support of aging-in-community, and which can be incorporated into the Age-Friendly Task Force's Action Plan

# Mount Prospect's Aging-in-Community Context

In its AiaCR application, the core team – led by Director of Human Services Julie Kane – self-assessed that Mount Prospect was at the 'Advanced Involvement' stage in its commitment to aging-in-community, as it was identified as a high priority in the 2019 Strategic Plan, and in 2021 gained entry into the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities (*the United States affiliate of the World Health Organization [WHO] Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities*). Mount Prospect's extensive aging-in-community efforts stood out among the 2021 AiaCR Cohort of municipalities and provided a unique opportunity.

Simultaneous with participation in the AiaCR program, Mount Prospect was

convening an Age-Friendly Task Force, charged with leading the Assessment and Planning components of the AARP age-friendly process. The core team determined that the goals for the AiaCR Workshops – in addition to helping educate about and broaden support for aging-in-community and soliciting and receiving input from the community – would include identification of strategic recommendations to assist the Task Force as it develops its required Age-Friendly Action Plan.

As should surprise no one, Mount Prospect is aging, and at a rate above Cook County and the CMAP region – its 65 and older population is 17.5 percent vs. Cook County's 14.3 percent and CMAP's 14.1 percent, and its 35- to 64-year-old population is 41.0

## Mount Prospect is Steadily Aging

	Mount Prospect		Cook County		CMAP Region	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Under 5	3,982	7.3%	322,193	6.2%	518,065	6.1%
5 to 19	9,720	17.8%	946,085	18.2%	1,644,152	19.4%
20 to 34	9,050	16.6%	1,191,506	22.9%	1,794,152	21.1%
35 to 49	11,786	21.6%	1,032,143	19.9%	1,701,494	20.1%
50 to 64	10,582	19.4%	965,178	18.6%	1,635,766	19.3%
65 to 74	5,070	9.3%	421,947	8.1%	691,947	8.2%
75 to 84	3,135	5.7%	221,513	4.3%	346,833	4.1%
85 and Over	1,279	2.3%	97,710	1.9%	150,858	1.8%
Median Age	40.4		36.8		37.5	

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey five-year estimates

[CMAP Community Data Snapshot | Mount Prospect \(illinois.gov\)](https://illinois.gov/cmap-community-data-snapshot/mount-prospect)

percent vs. Cook's 38.5 percent and CMAP's 39.4 percent. Mount Prospect is on track with Census Bureau predictions that by 2030, 1 in 5 of its residents will be 65 or older, and that in terms of percentage, the 85 and older sub-cohort will continue to be the fastest growing portion of this

Mount Prospect's Comprehensive Plan and other long-range plans and guidance documents, while not placing a specific focus on aging-in-community, all promoted policies consistent with it. In addition, the last several Strategic Plans have all positioned aging-in-community as a high priority municipal agenda item.



*A Metra Union Pacific Northwest Line train at the downtown Mount Prospect station*

## Mount Prospect's Key Stakeholder and Community Survey Input

The input from the key stakeholder assessments done as part of this AiaCR project, and the resident input received from the 2021 Aging in Community Survey distributed by the Task Force provided valuable insights in preparation for the workshops.

Key observations from the stakeholder assessments included:

- Mount Prospect is fortunate to have a wide range of stakeholders committed to supporting older adults and aging-in-community now and in the foreseeable future

- Many assessments conveyed a pervasive sense of empathy, conveying compassion rather than frustration with older adult concerns

Key challenges identified in the stakeholder assessments included:

- A shortage of accessible transportation and affordable and appropriate housing
- A lack of community and older adult awareness of the various programs offered
- A misfit between older adult technical aptitude and programs that require technical abilities

*Looking southeast through downtown Mount Prospect*



- Language and communication issues
- A lack of volunteers and/or difficulties with volunteer coordination
- Some facility accessibility issues
- Funding shortages leading to staff and service shortfalls

Key general observations from the Aging in Community Survey included:

- There were many respondents, disproportionately white English speakers
- ~ 90 percent of the respondents were positive about aging-in-community in Mount Prospect
- ~ 58 percent of responders hope to stay in their current residence, while 42 percent hope to move into easier-to-maintain, one-level, likely smaller, homes
- While 92 percent said staying was important, safety/security issues, more affordability and social interactions chances were reasons mentioned for considering leaving Mount Prospect
- 52 percent said their homes needed no major modifications to allow them

to stay, while 48 percent indicated modification needs, mostly dealing with access or egress issues

Key takeaways from the Aging in Community Survey were:

- Mount Prospect's public infrastructure and built environment are generally perceived as adequate, as were public transportation options, although very few respondents indicated that they use public transportation
- While Mount Prospect's availability of health care professionals was rated highly, access to related health care services was only rated in the mid-range
- Mount Prospect's activities and opportunities for older adults were rated as mid-range
- Respondents rated the Village's information dissemination as adequate, and they seek out specific older adult-related information from various sources

# Mount Prospect's AiaCR Public Workshops

- Mount Prospect staged their AiaCR workshops on Wednesdays, the first on September 29<sup>th</sup> and the second on December 1<sup>st</sup>
- The workshops were well-attended, about 60 people at each, with Workshop #1 attendees primarily internal and community stakeholders, and Workshop #2 attendees primarily residents
- The Village's core team led the publicity and outreach efforts, and Planning/Aging led the workshops themselves and made short presentations on aging-in-community
- The workshop highlights were facilitated discussions in which attendees discussed their experiences living and aging in, and serving, Mount Prospect, and identified aging-in-community issues and challenges they have experienced or envision
- Overall, the input from the workshops – both the appreciated Village attributes and the identified areas of concern – mirrored input from the stakeholder assessments, the 2019 Senior Focus Groups and the 2021 Aging in Community Survey conducted as part of the Age-Friendly process, the 2020 Community Survey, and other community input opportunities



*Brad Winick of Planning/Aging addressing stakeholders at Workshop #1*



*Brad Winick addressing resident attendees at Workshop #2*

# Recommendations for Elevating Aging-in-Community in Mount Prospect

Due to its substantial efforts developing aging-in-community support strategies prior to engagement with the AiaCR program, Mount Prospect had a unique and advanced starting point as compared to the other 2021 Cohort municipalities. Therefore, the following recommendations do not call for some of the more fundamental activities more befitting an early involvement municipality. The recommendations are divided into two categories: Policy and Programmatic. The Policy Recommendations primarily deal with Mount Prospect's approach to, handling of, and expression of its support for aging-in-community. The Programmatic Recommendations are topical and address Mount Prospect's key specific aging-in-community challenges or opportunities.

## Policy Recommendations

Consistent with Mount Prospect's advanced aging-in-community involvement, the first two recommendations are simply to maintain important aspects of aging-in-community support:

Continue to take a 'whole of government' approach to supporting aging-in-community. Mount Prospect already follows and should continue to follow the best practice learned elsewhere which indicates that a key success factor for building and maintaining a robust aging-in-community program is positioning it within a whole of government framework, wherein diverse governmental

departments and sister agencies coordinate in addressing shared issues or challenges, rather than delegating aging-in-community to a single department or agency. As part of this, the Village could express its support for aging-in-community even more visibly, beginning with the Village website's home page, on which a clear statement such as "We actively support aging-in-community!" can set a tone, followed by a continuity of commitment and purpose on appropriate following or linked pages.



*Key stakeholders sharing their aging-in-community perspectives at Workshop #1*



*Residents sharing their personal lived experiences at Workshop #2*

**Continue to practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior**  
Ageism is discrimination against older people due to negative and inaccurate stereotypes. Just as anti-racism is the practice of actively identifying and opposing racism, anti-ageism seeks out, calls out, and looks to change anything that perpetuates ageist ideas or behavior. Continue to ensure that all references to Mount Prospect's older adults characterizes them as civic assets and resources to be leveraged, rather than viewing them primarily through a needs-based or a medical lens. Most of Mount Prospect's older adults live independently among the general population, rather than in buildings that specifically cater to and support older adults, so they should be celebrated for their independence and the Village's interdependence.

**Incorporate aging-in-community into key municipal conversations and initiatives**  
Aging-in-community should be a lens through which all proposed or existing Village projects, programs or strategies are viewed and evaluated – regardless of whether the initiatives are seen as primarily

benefitting Mount Prospect's economic development, affordability, infrastructure, sustainability, public safety, or other Village agendas. This evaluation should ask: how do or how would these plans, programs or strategies impact our older adult population? In doing this, the Village will likely find that impacts on older adults will often be consistent with impacts on the overall population – underscoring the notion that support for aging-in-community is an important component of being a livable community for all ages.

**Evolve the Task Force into (or establish a separate) Aging-in-Community Commission to play an ongoing policy advising and review role**

A wide swath of Mount Prospect should collectively “own” aging-in-community, and an ongoing entity would be invaluable to playing a key aging-in-community policy role. This entity could grow out of the Task Force once its work is complete, or it could be a separate entity, and should include a broad range of members representing the public and private sectors, including key stakeholders (*e.g. faith communities, sister agencies such as the library, park districts*



*Stakeholders engaging with one another at Workshop #1*

and school districts, and other community organizations), and residents including – but not limited to – older adults, who (*with Village staff support*) might be charged with: reviewing development/redevelopment proposals as to their impacts on aging-in-community; preparing and presenting to the Village Board an annual ‘State of Aging-in-Community’ type report; sponsoring aging-in-community events; and playing an ongoing role in overseeing the Farley Community Room (*discussed further below*).

**Integrate the Village’s aging-in-community efforts with its diversity efforts, and vice versa**

The Village recognizes the ongoing need to better engage with its minority population, as underscored by the Aging in Community Survey’s disproportionate response rates. This was brought home by workshop comments about older

adults’ lack of trust outside of their own communities, statements such as “it takes the entire community to identify needs” and “diverse input starts with getting to know neighbors”, and a suggested “Neighbor Awareness Program”. Everyone ages, although their aging experiences are impacted by their cultural traditions, and aging-in-community can be creatively used as a means by which Mount Prospect can both support its older adults and reach out to engage with all components of its diverse population. Techniques can include ensuring diverse participation on the Aging-in-Community Commission and leveraging multi-cultural events and festivals as ways to draw people together, and as a two-way portal to ongoing and robust conversations about aging-in-community in the shared community.

**Designate a staff person in each Village department as the aging-in-community liaison**

While certain individuals already play such a role for the overall Mount Prospect municipal government, it is likely that not all residents know this and may search for who to contact on a department-by-department basis. Designating and publicizing a specific staff person in each key public-facing department as their aging-in-community liaison would make the government more accessible to older adults and more efficient, as a resident wanting to report an issue or concern would be able to contact the designated aging-in-community liaison within the Public Works, Community Development, Village Administration or Finance Departments rather than search various departments for the appropriate way to do so. The aging-in-community liaisons should meet periodically to learn from one another, and address issues or training needs proactively in a coordinated manner.

### **Continue to regularly attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional aging-in-community activities**

The quarterly Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative meetings typically include representatives of several dozen regional municipalities involved with aging-in-community activities and provide topical knowledge and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Mount Prospect's experiences with and lessons learned from the AiaCR program, and the coordination between the AiaCR program and its integration with the development of its Age-Friendly Action Plan will likely be of interest to other municipalities. Involvement with the Collaborative also serves as a good portal to other regional aging-in-community activities sponsored by a range of stakeholder entities, such as the bi-monthly American Society on Aging topical roundtables (*see the Appendix for resource information*).

### **Look to play a significant role with regional aging-in-community and livable/healthy communities collaboratives**

Key Mount Prospect staff are already involved with certain regional aging network, public health and other assessment or planning collaboratives, and this is to be commended and continued. As the metropolitan Chicago region is behind many peer regions in working on some of these important topics in a truly multi-sectoral manner, communities with a significant whole-of-government aging-in-community story to tell should look to share its experiences and provide an inspiring example. (*Doing so may also bring attention to Mount Prospect as a practice leader, with potential institutional and/or fiscal support benefits*).

## **Programmatic Recommendations**

### **Continue to establish the Farley Community Room as a "one-stop" resource center for information on existing older adult services and programming**

The workshops underscored that key municipal stakeholders and residents lacked comprehensive knowledge of existing older adult services and programming available in the Mount Prospect region. This lack of knowledge restricts the ability of older adult residents to avail themselves of valuable resources and hampers the ability of municipal stakeholders to make referrals to these resources. The Village already has begun establishing the Farley Community Room in Village Hall as a "one-stop" resource center at which residents and stakeholders could learn about and access existing resources. Protocols for the center's ongoing oversight, maintenance and updating should be established and agreed upon upfront, and identified roles for the Aging-in-Community Commission, with staff support. The Farley Community Room would leverage and augment the work performed for years by the Community Connections Center in "providing a pathway to Village services, social services.....and other services for all residents."



*Decorative signage along the downtown Mount Prospect mixed-use rail corridor*



*Elected officials and key municipal staff participated in the two workshops*

**Regularly evaluate existing plans, programs, facilities, and operations for their aging-in-community consistency**  
 Building upon the internal assessments done in preparation for the workshops, Village and sister agency staff should regularly evaluate their plans, programs, facilities and operations to identify any wording, technical or other requirements, or physical conditions that explicitly or unintentionally undercut support for aging-in-community, and work with the Aging-in-Community Commission to remedy any findings. Even if this review does not unearth barriers, it may reveal opportunities for enhancements to foster broader and more diverse (*not limited just to older adults*) community participation.

**Rethink and potentially ramp up the Village's volunteer programs and opportunities**

Among the civic damage caused by the COVID pandemic were diminished engagement opportunities and increased social isolation experienced by many older adults, and this was articulated in comments at the workshops – with stakeholders expressing their difficulties in finding volunteers and residents expressing their desire for increased volunteering or engagement opportunities. Perhaps as COVID diminishes the time is right to rethink and possibly ramp up village-wide

volunteer programs and opportunities, and how they are communicated, not just for older adults, but for all residents. As part of this rethinking, creative partnerships with educational and other sister agencies may identify potential multi- and inter-generational opportunities.

**Consider developing an aging-in-community handbook-style document to help residents navigate issues and connect with available resources**

At the workshops, residents expressed questions and concerns about issues – ranging from infrastructure maintenance to transportation to available supportive services and programs for older adults – that highlight a lack of understanding about existing municipal and external programs and services that can impact their aging-in-community experiences. These questions and uncertainties can translate into resident frustrations, and some residents suggested that an aging-in-community guide would help them navigate aging-in-community. As part of the AiaCR program, CMAP is currently providing technical assistance and developing an aging-in-community handbook template to be customized in interested municipalities. Mount Prospect should keep an eye on this development and consider indicating interest in learning how to be engaged as a future handbook-style document community.



*There was an educational component to the two workshops*

So much for the low-hanging fruit! Much of the workshop conversation -- consistent with the 2019 Focus Groups, the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Survey, the 2021 Aging in Community Survey and other community input opportunities -- centered on the challenges of finding and maintaining affordable housing and transportation options, which are addressed below:

**Conduct a focused study of Mount Prospect's older adult housing market**  
Mount Prospect already has several policy plans and documents that call for more housing options to support older adults aging-in-community. Yet residents and stakeholders at the workshops continue to indicate concerns that their current housing situation will not appropriately support their desire to age well and safely, primarily due to the need to navigate stairs to access fundamental living or support spaces such as bathrooms or laundries. Much of Mount Prospect's current housing inventory consists of multi-level homes and it is not clear whether there are enough single-level units -- particularly affordable units -- to meet the demand

of current older adult residents looking to relocate within Mount Prospect in the future. Performing or commissioning an older adult housing market study -- with a sharp focus on "Missing Middle Housing" and other affordable and appropriate options -- would help quantify market gaps and inform housing-related decisions, including preferred use mixes for potential redevelopment sites.

**Explore creative ways to leverage the Village's existing housing stock to grow affordable aging-in-community options**  
The previous recommendation referred largely to potential new housing, whereas the Village should also work to harvest the existing housing stock, as many older adult residents wish to remain in their current homes and/or neighborhoods. As stated above, many multi-level Mount Prospect homes are not a good fit for aging residents, while some homes and lots are larger than needed. The Village might conduct a thorough exploration of potential options such as developing or participating with an existing home-sharing program, and/or permitting the development and operation of small Accessory Dwelling Units on existing developed parcels. In addition, existing housing and aging network organization partners (*including but not limited to AgeOptions, the Northwest Housing Partnership [NWHHP], the Illinois Housing Development Authority and others*) may be receptive to developing a home modification program that would perform more substantial work than NWHHP's existing handyman program, making them a better/safer fit for their residents. Also, as an entitlement community the Village receives an annual allocation of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and has latitude in how it can spend these funds, including on supporting affordable aging-in-community housing.



*The most valuable part of the workshops was attendee input received during facilitated discussions*

**Do a real assessment of all existing Village transportation assets and develop strategies for better leveraging them**

The workshops yielded many concerns about older adult transportation within Mount Prospect, including: the limited nature and lack of adequate and reliable scheduling for public and township-provided transportation; difficulties of managing technologically-based ride share or on-demand services; a shortage of volunteer drivers (*including drivers who can speak languages other than English*); the expense of maintaining a vehicle and insurance; and the danger

of certain roads. It will not be easy – particularly with multiple providers and township jurisdictions – but the Village could make a deep dive assessment of the benefits and shortfalls of all existing rolling transportation stock in the Village and thinking through strategies to better link and leverage them for the benefit of community – including but not limited to – older adult residents. Part of this assessment should be the identification of potential additional partners within sectors such as health care and business.

# Aging-in-Community Resources

Some excellent centralized document repositories at which to find aging-in-community resources are listed below – Mount Prospect is likely already familiar with many of them. There may be some redundancies as certain documents may be included in multiple repositories. Some of these repositories will provide links to additional resources. Carefully evaluate any resources found for their applicability to Mount Prospect's specific interests and needs.

## Aging in a Changing Region Partner Organization Resources

### [AFCC REPOSITORY - Google Drive](#)

This repository is maintained by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and includes both resource materials and documents developed for its Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative.

### [Home - CMAP \(illinois.gov\)](#)

The Chicagoland Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the seven-county metropolitan Chicago region, and develops and provides plans, programs, and other initiatives.

### [Aging in Place - CMAP \(illinois.gov\)](#)

CMAP developed this Aging in Place white paper in 2016.

### [Planning Aging-Supportive Communities](#)

This 2015 American Planning Association (APA) Planners Advisory Service report was primarily authored by Brad Winick of Planning/Aging. APA members can download the report for free, others are required to purchase it for \$25.

## Local/Regional Aging-in-Community Aging Network Organizations Serving Mount Prospect

### [Home - AgeOptions](#)

AgeOptions (*formerly known as the Suburban Cook County Area Agency on Aging*) is designated by the federal Older Americans Act and the Illinois Department on Aging as the planning and service agency for the 30 townships surrounding Chicago and supports partner agencies to provide a wide range of aging-in-community services.

### [Catholic Charities summary of services 2019.pdf](#)

Catholic Charities North/Northwest Regional Services provides various services for older adults – including those who live in Mount Prospect – and it provides a wide range of home and community-based services.

### [Senior Services – Elk Grove Township](#)

Elk Grove Township provides a range of services – including the Dial-A-Bus service – for Mount Prospect older adults who reside south of Central Road.

### [Older Adult Services | Kenneth Young Center](#)

The Elk Grove Village-based Kenneth Young Center provides comprehensive in-home assessments and services to Mount Prospect older adults who reside in Elk Grove Township, and operates a Mount Prospect office and drop-in center at 1585 W. Dempster St., Suite 110.

### [Welcome to Wheeling Township](#)

Wheeling Township provides a range of services – including Medical Van and Dial-A-Bus services – for Mount Prospect older adults who reside north of Central Road.

### [North West Housing Partnership - Affordable Housing, IL \(nwhp.net\)](#)

This northwest metropolitan Chicago area suburban five-town collaborative runs several housing programs, including their Handyman Program which helps support aging-in-place and aging-in-community.

### [Home Sharing | Center of Concern](#)

Des Plaines-based Center of Concern provides a broad range of services to support its mission “...to provide housing solutions, support services, and counseling for older adults, people with disabilities, and others in need, enabling them to live with dignity and independence.” It manages a longstanding home sharing program throughout Cook County.

## Aging-in-Community General Resources

### ASA Roundtables

The local chapter of the American Society on Aging stages free bi-monthly topical Roundtables, often on aging-in-community topics. Currently being staged virtually due to COVID-19, they had previously been presented at Rush University Medical

Center in Chicago. Bonnie Ewald ([Bonnie\\_Ewald@rush.edu](mailto:Bonnie_Ewald@rush.edu)) serves as the roundtable coordinator.

### [AARP Livable Communities Publications and Resources](#)

This repository is the best location at which to explore AARP's many resources, including its Livable Communities and Public Policy Institute initiatives and publications, and the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

### [AARP Illinois](#)

While the AARP-Illinois office is in flux due to its current efforts to replace both the State Director and the volunteer State President, they have a number of staff persons involved with advocacy and community engagement.

### [Resources for Age-Friendly Communities | The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation](#)

The New Jersey-based Taub Foundation includes aging-in-community as one of its primary focus topics, and maintains a comprehensive and well-organized aging-in-community library.

### [Age-Friendly Resources | Grantmakers in Aging \(giaging.org\)](#)

New York City-based Grantmakers-in-Aging is the preeminent membership organization for philanthropies focused on aging issues. It maintains a resource center full of GIA-funded and other resources.

### [Publications \(usaging.org\)](#)

Washington DC-based USAging (formerly the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging – “n4a”) maintains an extensive searchable database of primarily n4a-sponsored reports and other documents.

### [Research \(ncoa.org\)](#)

The Washington DC-based National Council on Aging (ncoa) provides research articles and other materials for older

adults, caregivers, aging professionals and advocates, primarily developed by ncoa staff and its partners.

## Planning Resources

[Search \(planning.org\)](#) (*American Planning Association resources search results for “aging-in-community”*)

The American Planning Association maintains a resource library searchable by topic, including this link to aging-in-community resources.

## Transportation Resources

[Aging and Disability Transportation Overview | NADTC](#) (*National Aging and Disability Transportation Center*)

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) is a program initially funded in 2015 by the Federal Transit Administration and administered by Easterseals and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). Its resource center provides information on transportation for older adults and people with disabilities.

[Home - National Center for Mobility Management](#)

The National Center for Mobility Management is a program of NADTC that focuses on and maintains resources on person-centered transportation services.

## Housing/Aging-in-Place Resources

[Missing Middle Housing: Diverse choices for walkable neighborhood living](#)

Opticos Design founder Daniel Parolek coined the term “Missing Middle Housing” to convey the provision of enhanced housing options for sustainable, walkable communities. This link provides examples and resources for consideration.

[IHDA - Illinois Housing Development Authority](#)

This state agency’s mission is “to finance the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois” and administers numerous programs to support lenders, developers, local government, nonprofits, community groups, homeowners and renters in delivering and maintaining affordable housing.

[Aging in Place Resources | Aging In Place Resources for Seniors Living at Home](#)

Aginginplace.com is maintained by its Oregon-based founder Patrick Roden, a nurse by training, and it maintains a comprehensive set of resources dedicated to supporting older adults aging in place.

[Welcome - HomesRenewed™ Resource Center](#)

HomesRenewed was founded by Maryland-based contractor and aging-in-place advocate Louis Tenenbaum and its website provides various aging-in-place materials and resources.

[Aging in Place: Growing Older at Home | National Institute on Aging \(nih.gov\)](#)

The National Institute on Aging is a program of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and has developed a database of aging-in-place resources.

## Ageism Resources

### [Home \(reframingaging.org\)](http://reframingaging.org)

The Reframing Aging Initiative began in 2012 as a shared initiative of eight national aging organizations to find out how the American public perceives of aging, and once it was determined that this perception was negative, developing an infrastructure of strategies and techniques to convey more positive and supportive messaging. This website offers many tools and resources.

### [Old School: Anti-Ageism Clearinghouse](#)

This clearing house was established by anti-ageism activist Ashton Applewhite and her colleagues, and it provides free and vetted resources to help educate people about ageism and how to dismantle it.

## Intergenerational Resources

### [Resources - Generations United \(gu.org\)](http://generationsunited.org)

Generations United is the preeminent national advocacy and informational organization supporting intergenerational collaborations, programs, and policies. Established by a group of organizations that focused on different portions of the lifespan, it maintains a resource library.

# Acknowledgements

## Mount Prospect Resident Attendees

Gayle Abrams • Carol Kopp • Kenneth & Nancy Arndt • Hedwig Kuehn • Linda & Gerald Askeland • Harriet Malinowski • Les & Edith Bencsics • Florence Organ • Carol Blatnick • Joyce Raygor • Keith Brennar • Andrea Rosen • Robert Bruckner • Hilde Rossier • Dutch DeGroot • David Schein • Cathy Dunnington • Jerome & Patricia Thomas • Judy Gerth • Diane Turner-Hurns • William & Inette Godman • Barbara Vertucci • Veronica Grimpe • Linda Waycie • Maureen Groh • Les Weber • Constance Grossman • Vanessa Williams • John Hadfield • Liz & John Zulaski • Jane Holmstrom

## Representatives from Stakeholder Organizations

Lynne O'Malley, *Right at Home* • Maureen Centeno, *Northwest Community Hospital* • Stephen Samuelson, *Frisbie Senior Center* • Andres Valencia, *St. Paul Lutheran Church* • Russ Bechtold, *Interfaith Council* • Les Durov, *Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337* • Brian Mulcrone, *American Legion #525* • Robyn Sandys, *Northwest Housing Partnership* • Christine Lawrence, *Mount Prospect Senior Living* • Shelley Barros, *Mount Prospect Senior Living* • Claudia Cook, *Arosa Care* • Cynthia Gunderson, *Catholic Charities Senior Services* • Sandra McClain, *Kenneth Young Center* • Joe Gambsnay, *Freidrichs Funeral Home* • Claudia Boyle, *Van Driel's Medical Supply* • Sonia Ivanov, *Northwest Compass* • Anna Klimkowicz, *Northwest Compass* • John Eilering, *Busey Bank* • Sylvia Arreola & Monica Hong, *Kenzie Senior Residences* • Dari Hartmann, *St. Paul Lutheran Church* • Shihwan Chung, *Medtec Health Care* • Cathy Veller, *District 214 Community Education* • Laura Lapp, *Hands on Suburban* • Corey Dewey, *Elk Grove Township* • Henry Sanchez, *A Homecare Service LLC/ Allcare Medical Equipment and Supply LLC* • Ruth Yueill, *Mount Prospect Park District* • Jim Whittington, *Lifeway Mobility Chicago* • Rachel Nagengast, *Access Community Health Network*

## Mount Prospect Age-Friendly Task Force members

Bruce Barry, *River Trails Park District* • Crissy Castillo, *Kenneth Young Center-Older Adult Services* • Beth Corrigan-Buchen, *Mount Prospect Public Library* • Bill Gonzalez, *Picket Fence Realty* • Emily Kaitis, *Law Office of Kathleen Meersman Murphy, LLC* • Yihyun Kim, *Hanul Family Alliance* • Kathleen Meersman Murphy, *Law Office of Kathleen Meersman Murphy, LLC* • Jeanette Palmer, *Right at Home* • Irma Rodriguez, *Mount Prospect Resident* • Walter Szymczak, *Mount Prospect Resident* • Dallas Tomlin, *Connections to Care* • Christie Webb, *St. Mark Lutheran Church* • Rafi Sahakian, *Coldwell Banker* • Amy Gall, *Connections to Care*

## Village of Mount Prospect Staff & Elected Official Attendees

Julie Kane, *Director of Human Services (Core Team member)* • Jill Heinking, *Public Health Nurse (Core Team member)* • Ginny Thomas, *Senior Services Social Worker (Core Team member)* • Antonia Lalagos, *Development Planner (Core Team member)* • Valeria Tarka, *Planning Intern (Core Team member)*

Colleen Saccotelli, *Trustee* • Terri Gens, *Trustee*

Esther Salutillo, *Deputy Director of Human Services* • Howard Kleinstein, *Director of Communications* • Nellie Beckner, *Assistant Village Manager* • Claire Wheatley, *Finance Department* • Mark Bechtold, *Police Department* • Edward Szmergalski, *Police Department* • Victor Pierce, *Public Works* • Patty Ham, *Public Works* • Bill Schroeder, *Director of Building & Inspection Services* • Mark Rysavy, *Deputy Director of Building & Inspection Services* • Kenia Roman, *Human Services Intern*

## Aging in a Changing Region Team Members

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## Report Designer

Kathrine Nichols

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

*This document itself was produced to be supportive of aging-in-community. All of the graphic details – font selection, a minimum 12-point font size, page layouts, the inclusion of graphics, avoiding the use of reversed-out text on light colored backgrounds, etc. – were made to make this document easily legible for anyone with visual sensitivity issues. Just as the body of this document makes the case that municipal decisions supportive of aging-in-community are innately supportive of livable communities for all ages, this document itself should be seen as innately supportive of readers of all ages.*

*One final aging-in-community recommendation is that all municipal documents, websites, social media postings, etc. should consciously strive to be easily legible for all viewers, including – but not limited to – older adults.*

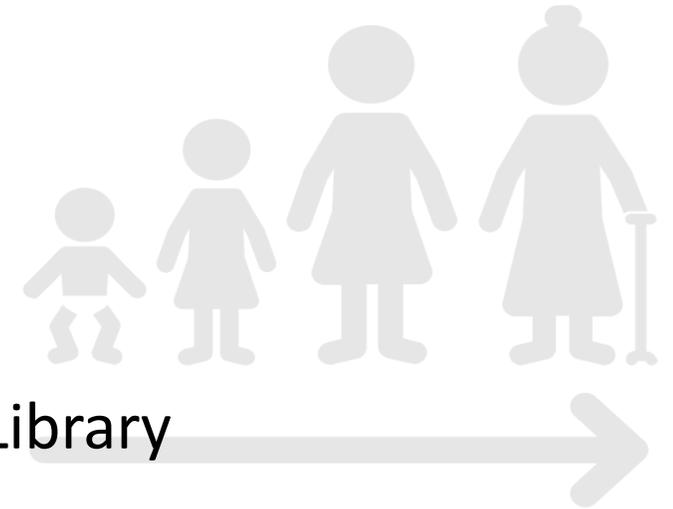
# Village of Mount Prospect Aging In Community



# Age-Friendly Task Force

- Bruce Barry
- Beth Corrigan-Buchen
- Crissy Castillo
- Amy Gall
- Yihyun Kim
- Kathleen Meersman-Murphy
- Jeanette Palmer
- Irma Rodriguez
- Rafi Sahakian
- Walter Szymczak

River Trails Park District  
Mount Prospect Public Library  
Kenneth Young Center  
Connections to Care  
Hanul Family Alliance  
Law Office of Kathleen Meersman-Murphy  
Right at Home  
Mount Prospect Resident  
Coldwell Banker Realty  
Mount Prospect Resident



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from Noun Project

# Village of Mount Prospect Staff Liaisons

## Human Services Department

- Nicole Cooper- Ffrench
- Julie Kane
- Ginny Thomas

Public Health Nurse

Director of Human Services

Senior Services Social Worker

## Community Development Department

- Antonia Lalagos
- Mark Rysavy

Development Planner

Deputy Director of Building  
and Inspection Services



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# Why Focus on Aging?

**Our community is growing older...**

## National

- The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that by 2030, one in five people will be age 65 and older.
- By 2050, people 50+ will spend 61 cents out of every retail dollar spent.
- By 2060, life expectancy for Americans is projected to increase to 85.6 years.

## Mount Prospect

### American Community Survey 2017-2021

Age Cohorts	Count	Percent
19 and Under	14,064	24.9
20 to 34	9,496	16.8
35 to 54	16,184	28.6
55 to 64	6,805	12.0
65 to 74	5,232	9.3
75 to 84	3,336	5.9
85 and Older	1,393	2.5

# Why Focus on Aging?

**The Village has identified Aging in Community as a strategic priority...**

## 2019 Strategic Plan

- Identified as a high priority in the policy agenda
- Goal 1 - Development; Balancing Preservation, Revitalization, Growth

## 2020 Strategic Plan

- “Aging in Place” renamed “Aging in Community”
- Goal 4 - Cultural Climate: Honoring History, Heritage and Diversity

## 2021 Strategic Plan

- Identified as high priority in the management agenda
- Goal 2 – Enhancing Mount Prospect Charm / Character: Honoring History, Heritage and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

# Village Takes Steps Towards Age-Friendly Designation

2019

- Joins Metropolitan Mayors Caucus – Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative
- Forms Stakeholder Committee
- Conducts senior focus groups

2020

- Applies to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

2021

- Accepted into the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities
- Awarded Aging in a Changing Region workshop grant
- Launches Age-Friendly Task Force

# Village Moves Aging in Community Initiative Forward

2022

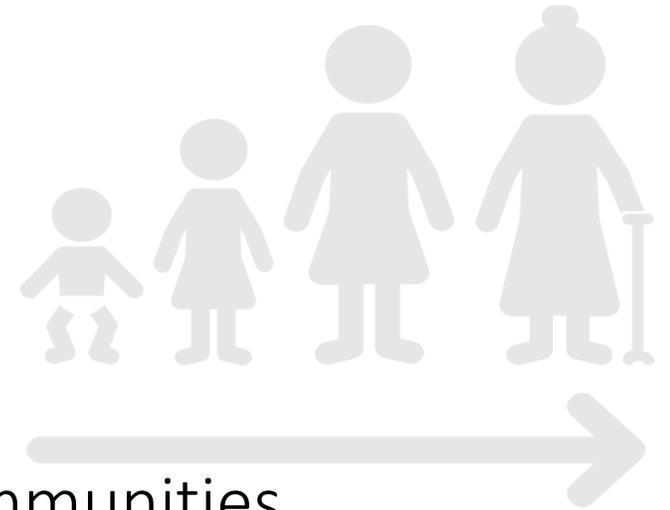
- Age-Friendly Task Force develops Vision, Mission, and Values of Plan
- Analyze Primary and Secondary Data
- Prioritize Needs and Goals

2023

- Finalize Draft Action Plan and present to Village Board
- Submit to AARP for approval

2023-  
2025

- Convene Work Groups to Lead Implementation
- Define Strategies and Metrics to Achieve Goals
- Implement Plan; Evaluate and Adjust as Needed



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# Metropolitan Mayors Caucus-Age Friendly Communities Collaborative

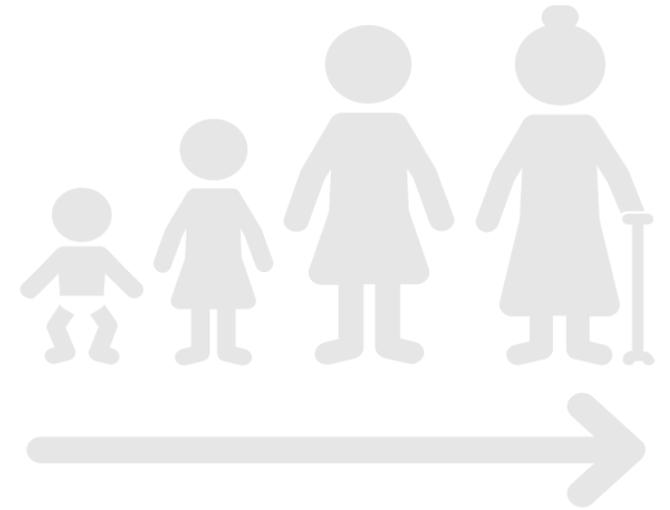
Stakeholder Committee Formed  
Senior Focus Groups Conducted

# 2019

# Focus Group Themes

## Aging in Community Stakeholder Committee

- Village of Mount Prospect Human Services Department
  - Mount Prospect Public Library
  - Mount Prospect Park District
  - River Trails Park District
- Desire to age in Mount Prospect
  - Need awareness of services through lists of activities, brochures, newsletter, central location for senior news
  - Village services and resources are strengths of the community
  - Desire a space to gather
  - Will consider various housing options including staying in home, downsizing, affordability, centrally located housing and mixed age living
  - Transportation options are important for ability to get around
  - Opportunities for socialization add to quality of life



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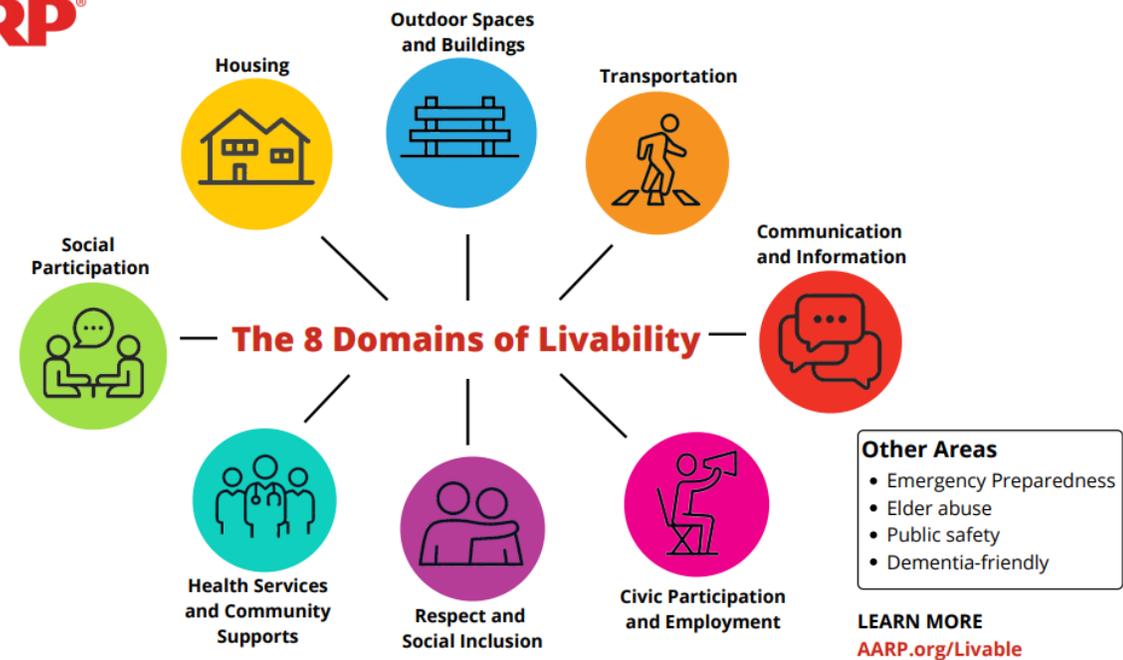
# Applied to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative

# 2020

# AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities



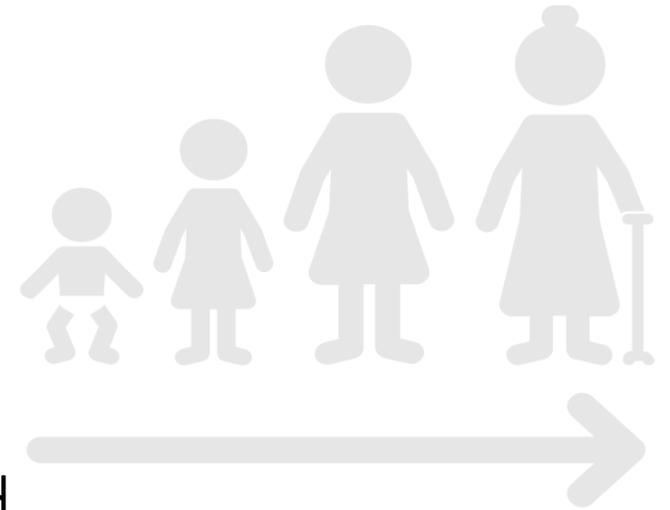
- The **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities** is the United States Affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for rapid population aging and the parallel trend of urbanization.



Illustrations from iStock

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Age-Friendly Task Force Launched  
Aging in Community Survey Launched  
Senior Opportunities Survey Launched  
Awarded Aging in a Changing Region Workshop Grant  
(Residents & Stakeholders)

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# 2021

# Aging in Community Survey

## Aging in Community Survey

- 466 Survey responses received
- Survey available in English and Spanish
- Online and paper copy
- Direct mailing to residents 65+ who purchased vehicle stickers (over 5,000 households)
- Aging in Community Kick Off event
- Other distribution methods



Completed surveys can be dropped off at:

Village of Mount Prospect  
Human Services Department  
50 S Emerson St  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Community Connections Center  
1711 W Algonquin Rd  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Or email completed survey to:  
agingincommunity@mountprospect.org

Village of Mount Prospect Aging in Community Survey

We are asking you, as a Village of Mount Prospect resident who is 55 years of age or older, to complete our Aging in Community survey. The Village of Mount Prospect identified "Aging in Community" as a high priority in the 2019 strategic plan. In response, the Village joined the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities in February of 2021 as the 512th community to enroll. AARP defines a livable community as one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and has supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence; allow residents to age in place; and foster residents' engagement in the community's civic, economic and social life.

Your feedback in this survey will help the Village to understand the needs of our residents and will help shape the priorities in a three-year Age-Friendly Action Plan. The Age-Friendly Action Plan will prepare Mount Prospect to be a livable community for all, with a focus on our aging population.

Answer the questions to the best of your ability - there are no right or wrong answers. If you are unsure about a question or it does not apply to you, you can skip the question. Your responses will be reported in an aggregate format and identifying information will be removed to preserve anonymity of respondents.

If you have any questions, please email [agingincommunity@mountprospect.org](mailto:agingincommunity@mountprospect.org).

1. What would be your number one recommendation for Mount Prospect visitors?

# Aging in a Changing Region Grant 2021

- Mount Prospect selected as one of five municipalities in the 2021 Aging in a Changing Region program.
- Planning/Aging led two workshops; one with Mount Prospect residents and the other with community stakeholders and Village team members.
- Data from both workshops used to develop a strategic guide to be used by Task Force as a resource when developing the three year action plan.



Age-Friendly Task Force Developed Vision, Mission,  
and Values for Action Plan  
Analyzed Primary and Secondary Data  
Prioritized Needs and Goals



Illustration by Adrien Coquet  
from Noun Project

2022

# Mission, Vision, Values

## Mission

- Strengthen community infrastructure and systems that enhance the lives of older adults.

## Vision

- Mount Prospect is an accessible, inclusive community where older adults thrive and have the tools to navigate the aging process.

## Values

- Intergenerational, Accessible, Respectful, Collaborative, Adaptive

# Aging in Community Survey Themes

<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong desire to stay in home as long as possible</li> <li>• ½ of respondents said a home modification would be needed</li> <li>• Lack of housing options for older adults to transition as they age</li> <li>• Housing affordability</li> </ul>	
<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy dependence on private vehicles for transportation</li> <li>• Few people reported using public transportation and it scored low for its "convenience"</li> </ul>	
<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness of available resources</li> <li>• Need information in many formats (e.g. print, electronic, phone, multiple languages)</li> </ul>	
<b>Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment questions scored lowest out of all the categories</li> <li>• Challenges identifying and getting to / from volunteer opportunities</li> </ul>	
<b>Social Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand barriers to participating in social opportunities (transportation, cost, age of participants, cultural, etc.)</li> </ul>	
<b>Special Populations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different strategies for reaching different age cohorts (e.g. pre-retirement vs. post-retirement age)</li> <li>• Collect more information from minority populations about their needs</li> </ul>	

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# Five Priority Areas

**Housing**

**Transportation**

**Social  
Engagement**

**Info /  
Communication**

**Health /  
Wellness**

	<b>HOUSING</b>
<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>Enable older adults to remain in their homes through physical modifications to the structure.</b>
1.1	Create a network of contractors and handymen available to modify homes for older adults.
1.2	Market the network to the public via automated voice response (AVR), newsletter, website, and social media, and through partner organizations.
<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>Enable older adults to remain in their homes by connecting them to affordable and reliable home maintenance services.</b>
2.1	Compile a list of handymen / maintenance companies for simple home maintenance.
2.2	Compile a list of programs, volunteers, and charities to assist with simple home maintenance.
2.3	After lists and networks are created, use newsletter, automated voice response (AVR), website, social media, and partner organizations to market these services.

	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>
<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>Decrease barriers to transportation for older adults in Mount Prospect.</b>
3.1	Host annual transportation resource fairs in conjunction with educational transportation program for older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families and friends to increase both awareness of and enrollment in existing transportation programs.
3.2	Host an educational program on a quarterly basis for older adults, persons with disabilities, and their family and friends to educate residents on various transportation options and how to navigate these options.
3.3	Develop a mechanism to educate and accompany older adults on their first public transportation ride.
<b>Goal 4</b>	<b>Increase access to all of Mount Prospect via public and other transportation programs.</b>
4.1	Host a transportation discussion with all transportation stakeholders regarding transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities.
4.2	Hire independent firm to conduct a transportation study in Mount Prospect to identify gaps in service and barriers to accessing transportation for community members with a focus on older adults and persons with disabilities.
4.3	Implement the recommendations from the transportation study to eliminate gaps in transportation services for older adults.

	<b>SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>Goal 5</b>	<b>Increase social engagement opportunities for older adults.</b>
5.1	Create a decentralized senior center model for activities.
5.2	Increase the number of older adult-led social events and activities.
5.3	Increase the number of intergenerational programs in the community.
<b>Goal 6</b>	<b>Decrease social isolation in older adults.</b>
6.1	Research best practices, legislation, and funding for addressing social isolation.
6.2	Implement findings from research in Objective 6.1.
6.3	Develop list of places that offer congregate meal opportunities and organizations that offer meals-on-wheels programs for home-bound older adults.

<b>i</b>	<b>INFORMATION / COMMUNICATION</b>
<b>Goal 7</b>	<b>Reduce barriers for older adults to access information and resources.</b>
7.1	Assess existing methods of communication between local community partners and older adults.
7.2	Identify older adult populations with barriers to accessing information and resources and prioritize barriers to address.
7.3	Reduce the digital divide for older adults by increasing familiarity with smartphones and computers.
<b>Goal 8</b>	<b>Enhance existing methods of communication to connect older adults and their caregivers to resources and events.</b>
8.1	Develop an easy-to-use older adult guidebook in digital and print formats.
8.2	Identify the most efficient way to alert older adults about community events.





## HEALTH / WELLNESS

### Goal 9

**Increase older adult access to health and wellness resources.**

9.1

Increase physical activity among older adults by offering more free events throughout the week.

9.2

Increase awareness of health and wellness topics among older adults by offering workshops and broadcast content.

### Goal 10

**Increase awareness of mental health issues among older adults.**

10.1

Reduce stigma about mental health issues through educational events.

10.2

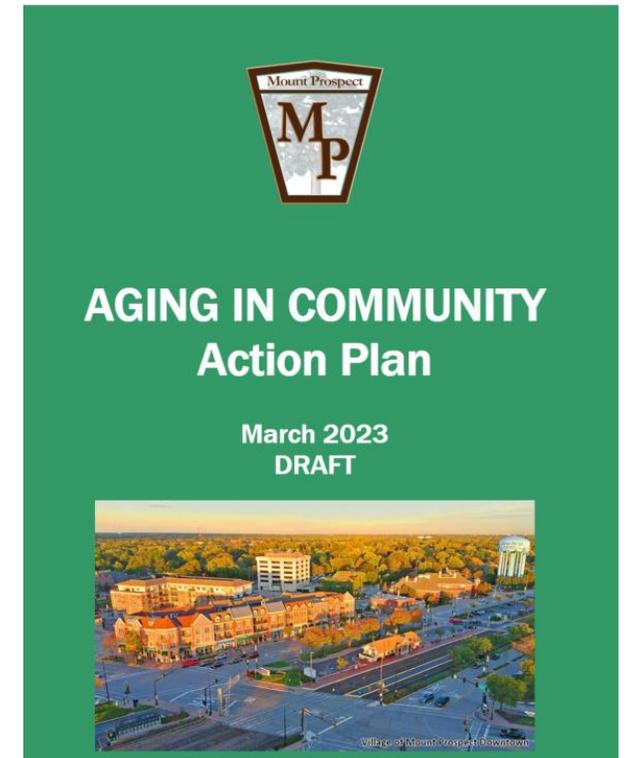
Identify “dementia-friendly” practices that can be implemented in Mount Prospect.

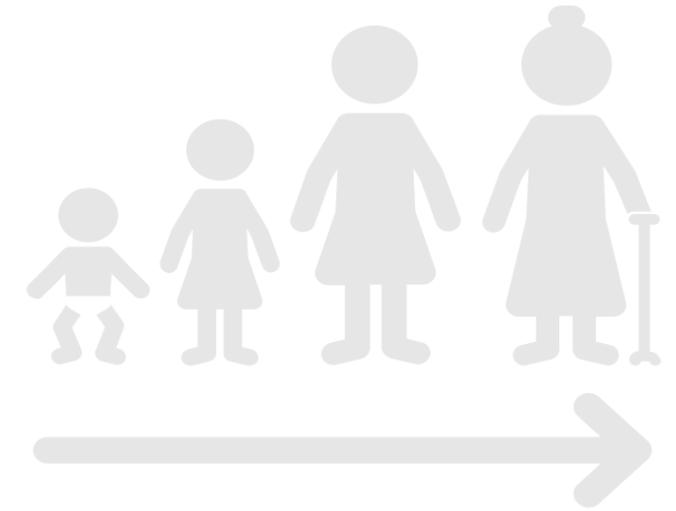
10.3

Increase the number of older adults and stakeholders who are certified in mental health first aid.

# Next Steps

- Task Force will receive feedback on the draft action plan and proposed goals and objectives at the COW meeting.
- Following this presentation and discussion, the action plan will be finalized and submitted to AARP for final approval.
- Working groups will be formed for each of the priority areas and these groups will begin implementation of the three-year action plan.
- Working group co-chairs and staff liaisons will meet quarterly to provide updates for each of the working groups and to ensure that the plan is moving forward.





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# Questions and Comments



## Item Cover Page

**Subject** **Village Government Sustainability Plan: Initial Report Review and Feedback**

Meeting March 14, 2023 - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE -

Fiscal Impact

Dollar Amount

Budget Source

Category **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Type Discussion Item

### **Information**

#### **Purpose:**

The Sustainability Plan Report and Implementation Guide are the result of the Village Board's 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Strategic Plan prioritization.

The 2021-2022 Strategic Plan Action: "Village Operational Sustainability Plan: Development", which has the working title of "Sustainability Plan Report", reviews past and current Village government operations for sustainability processes and activities. The Village did not have a prior document that attempted comprehensively recorded the Village's sustainability actions and achievements.

The 2022-2023 Strategic Plan Action: "Village Government Sustainability Plan: Community Task Force Review and Refinement, Report with Recommendation and Direction", which a working title of "Sustainability Plan - Implementation Guide" proposes goals with a five-year outlook, and identifies actions that address each goal. The action included forming an Ad Hoc Committee, preparing initial report from Ad Hoc Committee, and report review and feedback with the Village Board at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

#### **Introduction:**

Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable practices support ecological, human and economic health and vitality. This is reflected in the Metropolitan Mayor Caucus Greenest Region Compact, which the Village Board endorsed by resolution on February 12, 2008, with it's 49 high-level goals across 10 sustainability categories:

- Climate
- Economic Development
- Energy

- Land
- Leadership
- Mobility
- Municipal Operations
- Sustainable Communities
- Water
- Waste & Recycling

The Greenest Region Compact and the Framework, a companion document that provides objectives and strategies, was designed as a tool for municipalities to supplement their existing sustainability plans, to construct a local sustainability plan, and to be pseudo-sustainability plan in absence of a local one.

Sustainability is also a journey with respect to sustainable actions for individuals and institutions. Village of Mount Prospect's journey started decades prior to the referenced Strategic Plan actions; however, this is the first-time staff, community members, and the Village Board are working toward a formal Sustainability Plan Report and Implementation Guide with a five-year outlook. While these planning documents are new, the Village has incorporated sustainability in operations, capital projects, policies and in long-ranging planning like the Comprehensive Plan and Community Investment Plan. The Sustainability Plan Report outlines regional efforts, notable achievements/awards and highlights the importance of the Greenest Region Compact categories. It also explains Village actions, past and present, in support of the Greenest Region Compact. These are just a few of the Village's achievements:

- Early implementers of curb side recycling for single-family homes
- Installed electric vehicle charging stations in the Emerson Street and Maple Street Parking Decks
- Tree City USA Award - 38 consecutive years
- SolSmart Gold Designated Community
- Signatory to the Mayors Monarch Pledge
- New Sidewalk Program to fill gaps in pedestrian networks
- The Village's Backyard Drainage "Rain Garden" Program
- Annual household hazardous waste recycling events
- Various Flood Control/Stormwater Improvement Projects (Levee 37, Burning Bush Trails Park, Aspen Trails Park, Isabella Drainage Improvements, etc.)

### **Ad Hoc Committee:**

The 2022-2023 Strategic Plan Action "Village Government Sustainability Plan" outlined the formation of a Ad Hoc Committee. The committee was formed with members from existing boards and commissions who volunteered to participate and several members of the public (i.e. not a member of a board or commission). Several volunteers have professional environmental or sustainability related experience which proved helpful to discussions and planning. The Village's boards and commissions members have existing knowledge of Village operations which was thought to be beneficial to the sustainability planning process. In addition, their experience participating in the sustainability ad hoc committee may be

valuable to the board or commission of which they are a current member.

This planning process was facilitated by staff and was similar to the Village Board's strategic planning process. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee was in September 2022. The assignment was to review and provide feedback on the Sustainability Plan Report, which carried over into the October meeting. After reviewing what the Village has completed so far, Ad Hoc Committee members were asked to provide purpose-driven long term goals which the group would discuss and prioritize at the November meeting. Staff created the first draft of the Implementation Guide based on the prioritization process and insights from the Committee during December, for review at the January 2023 Ad Hoc Committee meeting. In February, staff worked to prepare for the February 28, 2023 Committee of the Whole discussion and provide the Committee an opportunity to review the presentation through email (since the Ad Hoc Committee did not meet in February).

### **Implementation Guide:**

The Implementation Guide's goals are the result of the Ad Hoc Committee proposing and prioritizing goals. The goals are listed in the order of most votes received and a goal need a majority of votes to make the list.

1. Promote the use of environment friendly alternatives for landscapes throughout the community
2. Help reduce solid waste tonnage generated by all users
3. Construct new shared-use paths and sidewalks to create greater opportunities for walking and biking
4. Use energy for building and facilities efficiently
5. Maintain landscapes with an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood appeal, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner, which minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides
6. Formalize participation in the Illinois Finance Authority's C-PACE Program that will allow commercial and certain residential properties to finance investment in electric vehicle charging, energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy and resilient design of new and existing buildings
7. Encourage installation of solar panels and participation in the Village's community solar program

In the Guide, each goal is framed by objectives that provide the intended outcomes. Additional context is provided by the *Value to the Community* and *Value to Environment* sections. These are followed by identified *Challenges* and *Opportunities* related to each goal. The *Management in Progress* actions are planned capital projects or exiting programs provided by staff that address the specific goal. These efforts were shared with the Ad Hoc Committee prior to them proposing the *Actions*. The action items listed *On The Horizon* are actions which have no current or planned supporting initiatives. Lastly, goals submitted by committee members and did not receive a majority of votes are recorded under the *Goals On The Horizon* section of the guide. This is to further document the planning process, since this information may be beneficial if this process was to repeat in the future.

### **Next Steps:**

The Village Board may use the Implementation Guide as a resource in the 2023-2024

strategic planning process. Staff is already making progress on some Actions submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee and has identified planned capital projects or exiting programs that address majority of the goals.

It is undetermined at this time if the Sustainability Implementation Guide will have annual planning sessions like the Village's Strategic Plan or how those sessions would be facilitated.

**Conclusion:**

As stated, sustainability is a journey, and this is the Village's first step into formal sustainability planning. Other communities' sustainability plans may have more than seven goals or more actions identified; however, they may also be at a different point in their journey. The Village of Mount Prospect has made a lot of progress without a formal plan in place, in part to leadership by past Mayors and Village Boards, collaborating with regional partners and staff who work towards the best interest of the community and best practices.

**Alternatives**

1. Discuss the draft Sustainability Plan Implementation Guide.
2. Action at the discretion of the Village Board.

**Staff Recommendation**

ATTACHMENTS:

[Sustainability Recommendation Draft 03.02.2023.pdf](#)

[March 14 COW Presentation.pdf](#)

[Village Operational Sustainability Report\\_Draft\\_V1.8\\_02.01.2023 - Copy.pdf](#)



# Village of Mount Prospect

## Sustainability Plan

*Part II - Implementation Guide*

2023 – 2028

**Strategic Plan:** Policy Agenda / High Priority

Goal 1: Effective Village Government: Financially Sound, Providing Exceptional Service

Draft 03/02/2023

### **Village of Mount Prospect Goals 2028**

- 1) Promote the use of environment friendly alternatives for landscapes throughout the community
- 2) Help reduce-solid waste tonnage generated by all users
- 3) Construct new shared-use paths and sidewalks to create greater opportunities for walking and biking
- 4) Use energy for building and facilities efficiently
- 5) Maintain landscapes with an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood appeal, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner, which minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides
- 6) Formalize participation in the Illinois Finance Authority's C-PACE Program that will allow commercial and certain residential properties to finance investment in electric vehicle charging, energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy and resilient design of new and existing buildings
- 7) Encourage installation of solar panels and participation in the Village's community solar program

GOAL 1 – Promote the use of environment friendly alternatives for landscapes throughout the community

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Increase the use of sustainable and/or native plants resilient to the urban environment in landscaping at Village-owned properties unless such use is not appropriate

Objective 2: Utilize green infrastructure, including rain gardens, to assist with controlling storm water when feasible

Objective 3: Create a communication campaign centered around limiting the use of fertilizer and pesticides for lawn care, storm water benefits of native plants, water conservation and composting

Objective 4:

VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

1: Provides new habitats for animals and insects increasing biodiversity

2: Pollinators are critical for growing crops

3: Provides more opportunities for the community to learn about ecosystems

4: May improve health and well-being by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of synthetic chemicals

5: Some wildlife species help control mosquitoes and other nuisance insects

6: Green spaces improve an individual’s health by creating more opportunities to connect with nature

VALUE TO ENVIRONMENT

1: Supports biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem

2: Reduces water consumption

3: Native landscapes reduce the need for lawn equipment and fertilizers; reducing new carbon emissions

4: Reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides

5:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

*Challenges*

C1: Differing aesthetic preferences for lawns and yards

C2: Increasing potential for tall grass and weeds code enforcement complaints

C3: In their first season, native plants require more attention and care, mostly in watering to become established

C4: Native landscaped areas require maintenance and weeding

C5: Potential sight triangle obstructions at intersections and driveways

C6: Possible impact on home values with traditional turf and landscaping receiving a higher value than a yard mostly converted to native grasses and flowers

C7: Creates opportunities for nuisance wildlife since tall grasses and plants may provide food and cover (i.e. mice, raccoons, coyotes, ticks, etc.)

C8: Some native plants are aggressive spreaders and go beyond designated planting areas

C9:

#### *Opportunities*

O1: Use the Village's existing native landscaped areas as educational opportunities

O2: Link interested individuals to information on how to landscape with native plants

O3: Community resources like the Mount Prospect Garden Club and Mount Prospect Monarchs Facebook group

O4:

#### *ACTIONS (Provided by the Ad Hoc Committee)*

1: Continue participation with the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Monarch Waystation Program (Village has 5 butterfly gardens) and the Illinois Monarch Project

2: Install signage by planting beds to identify plant types and explain why these plants are beneficial to the environment

3: Host informational tables at Village and community events (i.e. Midwest Grows Green / Garden Club)

4: Find ways to publicize materials supporting alternatives for grass lawns and limiting the use of fertilizer and pesticides for lawn care

5. Increase public awareness of natural lawn care techniques and alternatives to traditional turf grass

6. Host informational presentations/seminars lead by industry experts (Chip Osborne – Healthy Lawn Presentation)

7. Have a native plant seeds giveaway, possibly in conjunction with community group

8. Connect residents to resources for better lawn care and plant health (i.e. Lurvey's Garden Center)

9. Continue to look for actions and learn from neighboring communities and organizations (i.e. Skokie / Evanston / Chicago Park District)
10. Create a Sustainability Guide to provide to new residents and realtors (i.e. native plants, natural lawn care, drainage, link to related resources)
- 11.

MANAGEMENT IN PROGRESS (*Provided by Village Staff*)

- 1: Klehm's Island Landscape: New landscape design for the center island including perennial planting beds, trees, hardscape, irrigation, and a new raised annual flower bed
- 2: New Sustainable Landscaping Projects:
  - Along Rand Road from Schoenbeck Rd north to about 2440 E Rand Road
  - Corner of Euclid Ave and Elmhurst Rd, adjacent from Old Orchard Country Club golf course
- 3.
- 4.

ON THE HORIZON 2023 – 2028:

- 1: A Pollinator Garden at Central Rd and Mount Prospect Road
- 2:

GOAL 2 – Help reduce solid waste tonnage generated by all users

OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Set recycling targets for single family residences
- Objective 2: Continue to track single-family diversion rates
- Objective 3: Increase recycling and decrease amount of contamination in recycling pickups
- Objective 4: Share information on how people can reduce the amount of waste they create
- Objective 5: Promote reusing materials instead of disposing as waste or recycling
- Objective 6:

VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

- 1: Promotes a circular economy
- 2: Opportunity to learn how to make more environmentally friendly purchases
- 3: Supports the local economy
- 4:

VALUE TO ENVIRONMENT

- 1: Reduces use of non-renewable resources
- 2: Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution associated with the manufacturing, shipping, and recycling of goods
- 3: Less toxic chemicals contaminating soils or water sources
- 4:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

*Challenges*

- C1: Wishcycling and contaminated recyclables
- C2: A demand for recycled materials
- C3: Multiple layers of product packaging generating additional waste
- C4: Products designed for planned obsolescence and disposable products
- C5: Growth of the throw-away economy/society
- C6:

### *Opportunities*

- O1: Illinois legislators introducing an Extended Producer Responsibility bill for product packaging and paper products
- O2: Village of Mount Prospect launching Styrofoam recycling
- O3: Resale shops, garage sales, flea markets and customer to customer (C2C) marketplaces
- O4: Increasing popularity of upcycling within society
- O5: Illinois EPA Grant funding opportunity to support county solid waste planning

### *ACTIONS (Provided by the Ad Hoc Committee)*

- 1: Share information to help the community reduce solid waste at the source
- 2: Increase awareness on issues with wishcycling
- 3: Create a Village “Recycle Coach” Podcast – share lessons learned from recycling audits, recycling tips and information
- 4: Ask restaurants to reduce single use plastic (provide upon request only). Collaborate with the Mount Prospect Downtown Merchants Association to achieve this action. Create a recognition or award for these businesses

### *MANAGEMENT IN PROGRESS (Provided by Village Staff)*

- 1: Conduct multi-family recycling audits in 2023
- 2: Continue with single family audits that were implemented in 2022
- 3: Launch Styrofoam recycling, addresses the biggest contaminant in the recycling stream
- 4: Continue production of the Village’s Recycling Newsletter
- 5: Share SWANCC’s Reusability Guide with the community
- 6: Update recycling “How to” decals and distribute; outcome of the 2022 recycling audit
- 7:

### *ON THE HORIZON 2023 – 2028*

- 1:

GOAL 3 – Construct new shared-use paths and sidewalks to create greater opportunities for walking and biking

#### OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Increase bike path infrastructure, sidewalks, bridges and the pedestrian network within Mount Prospect
- Objective 2: Support public transit access and commuter ridership
- Objective 3: Reduce last mile barriers for public transportation
- Objective 4: Support active transportation
- Objective 5: Reduce vehicle congestion and pollution

#### VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

- 1: Increases physical activity and creates potential for improved health and mental wellbeing outcomes
- 2: Improves public transit Supports higher ridership and enables continued investment in public transit
- 3: Advances social equity and quality of life
- 4: Improves air quality by reducing vehicle trips and congestion
- 5: Creates a more walkable and beautiful village

#### VALUE TO ENVIRONMENT

- 1: Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution
- 2: Reduces ground and surface water pollution Reduces pollutant stormwater runoffs from roadways and parking lots
- 3: Potential to preserve or provide greenspace (i.e. smaller parking lots & narrower roads)
- 4: Reduces paved heat islands and increase greener streetscapes with landscaping

#### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

##### *Challenges*

- C1: Convenience of traveling by a vehicle
- C2: Gaps in bike and public transportation networks to connect to regional areas

C3: Inclement or hot weather

C4: Safety concerns from cyclists sharing roads with distracted drivers

C5: Available funding for bike or shared use path design, engineering and construction

C6: Competing individual and jurisdictional priorities that limit support for shared bike lanes on roads

### *Opportunities*

O1: Increasing awareness and more individuals choosing active transportation

O2: [Participating in the Chicago metropolitan area plan is already planning ways](#) to improve bike route networks and implement complete street policies [throughout the village](#)

O3: Reducing last mile barriers for public transportation

O4: [Monitoring](#) electric bike and scooter trends for [providing alternate modes of transportation and connectivity to public transit](#)

O5: [Community events and groups that promote biking \(i.e. Family Bike Ride event hosted by the Special Events Commission; Mount Prospect Bike Club\)](#)

### *ACTIONS (Provided by the Ad Hoc Committee)*

1: Continue to support Northwest Municipal Conference - Bike & Pedestrian Committee efforts to better connect bike paths throughout suburban communities

2: [Explore the feasibility of a](#) shared shuttle bus program connecting business areas to various stops in the community (i.e. Schaumburg's Woodfield Trolley)

3: Identify the first and last mile gaps for Mount Prospect's public transit routes

### *MANAGEMENT IN PROGRESS (Provided by Village Staff)*

1: Construction of shared use paths, lighting and associated wayfinding signs along corridors that meet the goals of the Village Bike Plan (Kensington Road at railroad tracks -- Phase I & II Engineering -- \$35,000 & Wolf Road -- Phase II Engineering -- \$260,000)

2: Central Road Pedestrian Crossing Improvements at Cathy Lane (Construction Engineering - \$71,000, Construction -\$710,000)

3: New Sidewalk Program (installs new sidewalks to fill in gaps in the sidewalk infrastructure)

- Rand Road from Camp McDonald Road to the existing sidewalk (north side)
- Wolf Road from Euclid Avenue to the Prospect Heights Train Station (east side)
- Busse Road from Imperial Court to I-90 (east side)
- Oakton Street from I-90 to Lexington Drive (north side)
- Oakton Street from I-90 to the Village limits (south side)

- 4: Launch an Arterial Bike Network Study in 2023
- 5: Continue to explore the Meadows Melas Bridge project
- 6: Construct pedestrian crossing at Busse Ave and Main Street
- 7: Construct the Rand Road shared use path that will connect with Des Plaines
- 8:

#### ON THE HORIZON 2023 – 2028

- 1: Construction of shared use paths, lighting and associated wayfinding signs along corridors that meet the goals of the Village Bike Plan (Algonquin Rd., Busse Rd., Rand Rd., Golf Rd.)
- 2: Pilot a protected bike lane - Kensington Business Center

## GOAL 4 – Use energy for building and facilities efficiently

### OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Establish metrics to evaluate energy use as a community
- Objective 2: Review the Village Code to improve resource efficiency and adopt clean energy
- Objective 3: Increase energy efficiency of municipal government buildings
- Objective 4: Engage the community in clean energy practices
- Objective 5:

### VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

- 1: Reduce natural gas and electric bills with a possibility of long-term net savings
- 2: Increase property value by improving energy efficiency of buildings
- 3: Improves resiliency of building stock
- 4: Meet growing energy demand and create jobs
- 5: Diversify energy sources and improve resiliency of energy generation systems

### VALUE TO ENVIRONMENT

- 1: Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution through improved energy efficiency
- 2: Diversify energy sources to lessen the environmental impact of energy generation
- 3:
- 4:

### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#### *Challenges*

- C1: Individuals and businesses having the financial resources available to make energy efficiency improvements
- C2: Higher energy efficiency standards affecting return on investment for home builders/developers
- C3: Long-term (20 year) return on investment
- C4: Lower electric and natural gas prices on average

C5: Municipal franchise agreements with ComEd and Nicor

*Opportunities*

O1: Funding opportunities from the Inflation Reduction Act

O2: Increasing electric and natural gas prices, supply shortages, and related economic factors

O3: Implementing higher energy efficiency codes

O4: Development of building performance standards and stretch codes

O5:

*ACTIONS (Provided by the Ad Hoc Committee)*

1: Conduct an energy audit of municipal government buildings

2: Adopt the 2022 Illinois Energy Conservation Code

3: Greater promotion of the Village's Community Solar Program through an additional postcard mailing informing residents of the program combined with a social media campaign

4: Offer presentations/webinars hosted by industry experts in electric vehicles, energy sources, community solar, etc., and create portal on the Village's website for people to access these presentations/webinars on-demand **(May apply to all seven goals)**

5: Establish a brand/logo for the Village's sustainability efforts **(Applies to all seven goals)**

6: Improve communications with the community regarding the Village's sustainability efforts and link the community to resources to help individuals sustainability efforts **(Applies to all seven goals)**

7: Add a Green Tips section to the Village Newsletter **(Applies to all seven goals)**

8: Share rebate information from the Inflation Reduction Act & Clean Energy Jobs Act

*MANAGEMENT IN PROGRESS (Provided by Village Staff)*

1:

2:

*ON THE HORIZON 2023 – 2028*

1:

2:

GOAL 5 – Maintain landscapes with an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood appeal, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner, which minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides

#### OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Use integrated pest management strategies for municipal buildings and landscapes to reduce impact from pesticides

Objective 2: Educate residents on the dangers of home pesticide use to human health, pollinators and insects; share information on natural alternatives

Objective 3: Reduce the use of coal tar pavement sealants through the community

Objective 4:

#### VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

1: Helps to reduce potential for exposure to chemicals and their associated health concerns

2:

3:

4:

#### VALUE TO ENVIRONMENT

1: Reduces harm to non-targeted plants and insects

2: Reduces water pollution of waterways and groundwater

3: Supports biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem

4:

#### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

##### *Challenges*

C1: Appearance and maintenance standards of public property and rights-of-way versus the appearance of native plants and landscaping (i.e. increased code enforcement complaints, negative feedback to public works)

C2: Increases cost of landscaping maintenance (i.e. weeding by hand, increased frequency)

C3: Pesticides are required to control various native and invasive pests like the emerald ash borer

C4: Influx of invasive species and changes in weather patterns may also increase landscaping and pest control costs (i.e. Common Buckthorn)

C5: Decreasing insect populations will affect ecosystem health and possibly food supplies

C6:

*Opportunities*

O1: Provide information about Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

O2: The Village of Mount Prospect does not use coal tar sealant

O3:

O4:

*ACTIONS (Provided by the Ad Hoc Committee)*

- 1: Connect residents to information on natural alternatives for pesticides and herbicides
- 2: Continue to look for actions and learn from neighboring communities and organizations
- 3: Create a Sustainability Guide to provide to new residents and realtors (i.e. native plants, natural lawn care, drainage, link to related resources)
4. Increase public awareness on dangers from coal tar sealants to human health
5. Install signage in planting beds to identify different plant types and explain why these plants are beneficial to the environment

*MANAGEMENT IN PROGRESS (Provided by Village Staff)*

1:

2:

*ON THE HORIZON 2023 – 2028*

1:

2:

**GOAL 6** – Formalize participation in the Illinois Finance Authority’s C-PACE Program that will allow commercial and certain residential properties to finance investment in electric vehicle charging, energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy and resilient design of new and existing buildings.

**OBJECTIVES**

Objective 1: Provide commercial and certain residential properties a financing opportunity to make investments in electric vehicle charging, energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy and resilient design of new and existing buildings

Objective 2: Reduce carbon emissions, energy use, and water consumption

Objective 3: Upgrade or repurpose existing buildings to retain or attract businesses

Objective 4:

**VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY**

1: Reduces energy and water use; opportunities to pass savings on to tenants

2: Reduces the building owners’ cost of capital to fund building improvements

3: New business opportunities for technical, trades, lending and equipment sales

4: Generates investment and reinvestment within the community

5: 100% voluntary: no property owner is obligated to take any action

6:

**VALUE TO ENVIRONMENT**

1: Reduces carbon emissions, energy use, and water consumption

2: Improves energy efficiency and expands installation of clean energy technologies

3: Contributes to developing high performing buildings

4: Creates a more resilient building stock

5:

**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

*Challenges*

C1: Program created by the Illinois Legislature (Property Assessed Clean Energy Act 50 ILCS 50/1) and subject to any future legislative changes

C2: Familiarizing developers and property owners with the opportunity

C3: Requires interested property owners to execute additional agreements under the statewide IFA PACE Program

C4: Loan remains with property and uses the property tax bill as a means to ensure repayment

*Opportunities*

O1: Provides a loan for specific improvements at a lower interest rate than a traditional construction loan without financial or administrative risk to the village

O2: Loan repayment risk is eliminated if the property is sold – Loan remains with property and uses the property tax bill as a means to ensure repayment

O3: More resilient commercial and industrial buildings

O4: Addresses challenges of Goal 4: Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently

O5: Increases property value by improving energy efficiency of buildings

O6: Support business development and retention

O7: Provides beneficial sustainable funding at no cost to residents or the municipality

*ACTIONS (Provided by the Ad Hoc Committee)*

1: Village Board approves an ordinance for Mount Prospect to participate in the C-PACE Program

2: Increase awareness of the C-PACE program

3: Present C-PACE projects for Village Board approval

4: Create a recognition or an award for C-PACE projects in Mount Prospect and webpage providing environmental impact information for each approved project

*MANAGEMENT IN PROGRESS (Provided by Village Staff)*

1:

2:

*ON THE HORIZON 2023 – 2028*

1:

2:

GOAL 7 – Encourage installation of solar panels and participation in the Village’s community solar program

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Increase participation in solar energy among residential and commercial properties

Objective 2: Create a communication campaign that provides information and resources about solar panels and the Village’s community solar program

Objective 3: Install solar panels on Village properties

Objective 4: Engage the community in clean energy practices

Objective 5:

Objective 6:

VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

1: Reduces air pollution

2: Owning and installing solar panels provides a potential for a return on investment

3: Community solar allows for equal access to environmental benefits of solar energy with an opportunity for cost savings

4: Increases property values for the homes with solar panels installed

5: Diversifies energy production for a more resilient electric grid

6:

VALUE TO ENVIRONMENT

1: Assist the region’s shift to renewable energy

2: Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants from power plants such as sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter

3:

4:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

*Challenges*

C1: Existing electric grid may not be adequate to support larger solar panel installations

C2: Available funding, materials and labor for electric grid improvements

C3: The notion of cutting down mature trees to maximize solar energy generation

C4: Not every roof configuration is ideal for maximum solar power generation

C5: Environmental impacts from manufacturing solar panels

C6: End of life recycling of solar panels and safe disposal of toxic materials

C7:

#### *Opportunities*

O1: Mount Prospect is solar ready - SolSmart Gold Designated Community

O2: Federal and State tax incentives support installing solar panels

O3: There is a lot of expressed interest for solar energy and installing solar panels

O4: Future advancements in solar panel technology (i.e. printable solar panels)

O5:

#### *ACTIONS (Provided by the Ad Hoc Committee)*

1: Promote the Village's Community Solar Program for increased participation

2: Understand climate change on a local level and what it means for Mount Prospect (i.e. increase rainfall, draughts, temperature extremes, etc.)

3: Communicate how climate change will impact the community (i.e. increased energy demand for AC with climate change).

4: Create a map of Mount Prospect showing where solar panels are installed

5: Create a decision tree resource for residents evaluating if installing solar energy is right for them

#### *MANAGEMENT IN PROGRESS (Provided by Village Staff)*

1: Increase solar panel adoption within the community (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.)

2:

#### *ON THE HORIZON 2023 – 2028*

1: Install solar panels on Village properties or equivalent (i.e. participation in community solar)

2:

## **GOALS ON THE HORIZON**

- Create an informational campaign on storm water management projects and how systems will operate when rain events exceed storm water system capacity. Frames expectations and gives resources for residents to prepare for significant rain events (i.e. 500 year storm).
- Increase electric vehicle use in the Village fleet
- Benchmark the Village of Mount Prospect with other municipalities in the region to develop best practices for sustainability
- Update community plans, zoning and design standards to increase housing and community resilience to the impacts of climate change, including flooding, heat island, and extreme weather particularly for populations most vulnerable every 5 years
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts, specifically, a resiliency plan to protect assets, public health, and provide essential services through natural and man-made disasters
- Create a traffic task force with representatives of school administration and parents from each of the primary schools located within Mount Prospect to develop standardized, school-specific procedures to reduce congestion and idling, such as staggered release of students depending on transportation mode
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, specifically "Measure and monitor GHG emissions"
- Promote sustainable businesses who are Green America
- Preserve and seek opportunities for more green space (pocket parks); reduce amount of impermeable pavement and blacktop
- Increase public transit access and commuter ridership
- Develop and launch an "Understanding Mount Prospect's Natural Drainage Hydrology" education program, including making topographic/hydrologic maps available on the village web site
- Every sustainability measure must go through a cost/benefit analysis to justify the feasibility to taxpayers



# Sustainability Plan Presentation

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MARCH 14, 2023



# Leadership Guides

- 2021 – 2022: “Village Operational Sustainability Plan: Development”
  - Review current Village government operations
  - Review trends and best practices
  - Prepare a report with findings and recommendations

- 2022 – 2023: “Village Government Sustainability Plan”
  - Form Ad Hoc Committee
  - Prepare Initial Report

Key Issues	
Definition: Sustainability	Village Actions
Village Service Impact	Policy Priorities
Opportunities for Future	



# Sustainability Plan – Status Report

- Regional Efforts
- Related Village Plans & Sustainability Awards
- List of Village efforts and actions support the goals

Sustainability Categories	
1. Climate & Atmosphere	6. Mobility
2. Economic Development	7. Sustainable Communities
3. Stationary Energy	8. Waste & Recycling
4. Land	9. Water
5. Leadership & Municipal Operations	



# Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee

- '22-'23 Strategic Plan: Kick-Off Ad Hoc Committee
- September (Purpose & Overview)
- October (Sustainability Plan – Feedback)
- November (Review and Prioritize Goals)
- January (Review Recommendation “Strategic Plan – Implementation”)



# Sustainability Plan – Implementation

- Goals
- Objectives
- Value to Community
- Value to Environment
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Actions (Provided by Ad Hoc Committee)
- Management in Progress (Provided by Village Staff)
- On the Horizon



# Prioritized Goals

1. Promote the use of environment friendly alternatives for landscapes throughout the community
2. Help reduce solid waste tonnage generated by all users
3. Construct new shared-use paths and sidewalks to create greater opportunities for walking and biking
4. Use energy for building and facilities efficiently
5. Maintain landscapes with an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood appeal, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner, which minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides



# Prioritized Goals

6. Formalize participation in the Illinois Finance Authority's C-PACE Program that will allow commercial and certain residential properties to finance investment in electric vehicle charging, energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy and resilient design of new and existing buildings
7. Encourage installation of solar panels and participation in the Village's community solar program



# Goal 1: Promote environment friendly alternatives for landscapes throughout the community

## OBJECTIVES

1. Increase the use of sustainable and/or native plants resilient to the urban environment in landscaping at Village-owned properties unless such use is not appropriate
2. Utilize green infrastructure, including rain gardens, to assist with controlling storm water when feasible
3. Create a communication campaign centered around limiting the use of fertilizer and pesticides for lawn care, storm water benefits of native plants, water conservation and composting

# Goal 1: Promote environment friendly alternatives for landscapes throughout the community



Value to the Community	Value to Environment
Provides new habitats for animals and insects increasing biodiversity	Reduces water consumption
Pollinators are critical for growing crops	Reduce the need for lawn equipment; reducing new carbon emissions
Provides more opportunities for the community to learn about ecosystems	Reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides

# Goal 1: Promote environment friendly alternatives for landscapes throughout the community



Challenges	Opportunities
Differing aesthetic preferences for lawns and yards	Use the Village's existing native landscaped areas as educational opportunities
Increasing potential for tall grass and weeds code enforcement complaints	Link interested individuals to information on how to landscape with native plants
Native landscaped areas require maintenance and weeding	Community resources like the Mount Prospect Garden Club and Mount Prospect Monarchs Facebook group



# Goal 1: Actions

- Continue participation with the Mayors' Monarch Pledge
- Install signage by planting beds to identify plant types and explain why these plants are beneficial to the environment
- Find ways to publicize materials supporting alternatives for grass lawns and limiting the use of fertilizer and pesticides for lawn care
- Create a Sustainability Guide to provide to new residents and realtors (i.e., native plants, natural lawn care, drainage, link to related resources)

# Goal 2: Help reduce solid waste tonnage generated by all users



## OBJECTIVES

1. Set recycling targets for single family residences
2. Continue to track single-family diversion rates
3. Increase recycling and decrease amount of contamination in recycling pickups
4. Share information on how people can reduce the amount of waste they create
5. Promote reusing materials instead of disposing as waste or recycling

# Goal 2: Help reduce solid waste tonnage generated by all users



Value to the Community	Value to Environment
Promotes a circular economy	Reduces use of non-renewable resources
Opportunity to learn how to make more environmentally friendly purchases	Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution associated with the manufacturing, shipping, and recycling of goods
Supports the local economy	Less toxic chemicals contaminating soils or water sources

# Goal 2: Help reduce solid waste tonnage generated by all users



Challenges	Opportunities
Wishcycling and contaminated recyclables	Illinois legislators introducing an Extended Producer Responsibility bill for product packaging and paper products
A demand for recycled materials	Village of Mount Prospect launching Styrofoam recycling
Multiple layers of product packaging generating additional waste	Resale shops, garage sales, flea markets and customer to customer (C2C) marketplaces



## Goal 2: Actions

- Share information to help the community reduce solid waste at the source
- Increase awareness on issues with wishcycling
- Create a Village “Recycle Coach” Podcast – share lessons learned from recycling audits, recycling tips and information
- Ask restaurants to reduce single use plastic (provide upon request only). Collaborate with the Mount Prospect Downtown Merchants Association to achieve this action. Create a recognition or award for these businesses

# Goal 3: Construct new shared-use paths and sidewalks



## OBJECTIVES

1. Increase bike path infrastructure, sidewalks, bridges and the pedestrian network within Mount Prospect
2. Support public transit access and commuter ridership
3. Reduce last mile barriers for public transportation
4. Support active transportation
5. Reduce vehicle congestion and pollution

# Goal 3: Construct new shared-use paths and sidewalks



Value to the Community	Value to Environment
Increases physical activity and creates potential for improved health and mental wellbeing outcomes	Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution
Supports higher ridership and enables continued investment in public transit	Reduces pollutant stormwater runoffs from roadways and parking lots
Advances social equity and quality of life	Potential to preserve or provide greenspace (i.e., smaller parking lots & narrower roads)

# Goal 3: Construct new shared-use paths and sidewalks



Challenges	Opportunities
Convenience of traveling by a vehicle	Increasing awareness and more individuals choosing active transportation
Gaps in bike and public transportation networks to connect to regional areas	Reducing last mile barriers for public transportation
Inclement or hot weather	Monitoring electric bike and scooter trends for providing alternate modes of transportation and connectivity to public transit



# Goal 3: Actions

- Continue to support Northwest Municipal Conference - Bike & Pedestrian Committee efforts to better connect bike paths throughout suburban communities
- Explore the feasibility of a shared shuttle bus program connecting business areas to various stops in the community (i.e., Schaumburg's Woodfield Trolley)
- Identify the first and last mile gaps for Mount Prospect's public transit routes

# Goal 4: Use energy for building and facilities efficiently



## OBJECTIVES

1. Establish metrics to evaluate energy use as a community
2. Review the Village Code to improve resource efficiency and adopt clean energy
3. Increase energy efficiency of municipal government buildings
4. Engage the community in clean energy practices

# Goal 4: Use energy for building and facilities efficiently



Value to the Community	Value to Environment
Reduce natural gas and electric bills with a possibility of long-term net savings	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution
Improves resiliency of building stock	Lessen the environmental impact of energy generation
Meet growing energy demand and create jobs	

# Goal 4: Use energy for building and facilities efficiently



Challenges	Opportunities
Having the financial resources available to make energy efficiency improvements	Funding opportunities from the Inflation Reduction Act
Higher energy efficiency standards affecting return on investment for home builders/developers	Increasing electric and natural gas prices, supply shortages, and related economic factors
Lower electric and natural gas prices on average	Implementing higher energy efficiency codes



# Goal 4: Actions

- Conduct an energy audit of municipal government buildings
- Greater promotion of the Village's Community Solar Program
- Offer presentations/webinars hosted by industry experts in electric vehicles, energy sources, community solar, etc., and create portal on the Village's website for people to access these presentations/webinars on-demand.
- Share rebate information from the Inflation Reduction Act & Clean Energy Jobs Act

Goal 5: Maintain landscapes with an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood appeal, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner, which minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides



## OBJECTIVES

1. Use integrated pest management strategies for municipal buildings and landscapes to reduce impact from pesticides
2. Educate residents on the dangers of home pesticide use to human health, pollinators and insects; share information on natural alternatives
3. Reduce the use of coal tar pavement sealants through the community

Goal 5: Maintain landscapes with an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood appeal, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner, which minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides



Value to the Community	Value to Environment
Helps to reduce potential for exposure to chemicals and their associated health concerns	Reduces harm to non-targeted plants and insects
	Reduces water pollution of waterways and groundwater
	Supports biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem

# Goal 5: Maintain landscapes with an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood appeal, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner, which minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides



Challenges	Opportunities
Appearance and maintenance standards of public property and rights-of-way versus the appearance of native plants and landscaping	Provide information about Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Increases cost of landscaping maintenance (i.e., weeding by hand, increased frequency)	The Village of Mount Prospect does not use coal tar sealant
Pesticides are required to control various native and invasive pests like the emerald ash borer	



# Goal 5: Actions

- Connect residents to information on natural alternatives for pesticides and herbicides
- Continue to look for actions and learn from neighboring communities and organizations
- Increase public awareness on dangers from coal tar sealants to human health
- Create a Sustainability Guide to provide to new residents and realtors (i.e. native plants, natural lawn care, drainage, link to related resources)

# Goal 6: Formalize participation in the Illinois Finance Authority's C-PACE Program



## OBJECTIVES

1. Provide commercial and certain residential properties a financing opportunity to make investments in electric vehicle charging, energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy and resilient design of new and existing buildings
2. Reduce carbon emissions, energy use, and water consumption
3. Upgrade or repurpose existing buildings to retain or attract businesses

# Goal 6: Formalize participation in the Illinois Finance Authority's C-PACE Program



Value to the Community	Value to Environment
Reduces energy and water use; opportunities to pass savings on to tenants	Reduces carbon emissions, energy use, and water consumption
Reduces the building owners' cost of capital to fund building improvements	Improves energy efficiency and expands installation of clean energy technologies
New business opportunities for technical, trades, lending and equipment sales	Contributes to developing high performing buildings

# Goal 6: Formalize participation in the Illinois Finance Authority's C-PACE Program



Challenges	Opportunities
Program created by the Illinois Legislature (Property Assessed Clean Energy Act 50 ILCS 50/1) and subject to any future legislative changes	Provides a loan for specific improvements at a lower interest rate than a traditional construction loan without risk to the Village
Familiarizing developers and property owners with the opportunity	Loan repayment risk is eliminated if the property is sold – remains with property & uses property tax bill to ensure repayment
Requires interested property owners to execute additional agreements under the statewide IFA PACE Program	More resilient commercial and industrial buildings



# Goal 6: Actions

- Village Board approves an ordinance for Mount Prospect to participate in the C-PACE Program
- Increase awareness of the C-PACE program
- Present C-PACE projects for Village Board approval
- Create a recognition or an award for C-PACE projects in Mount Prospect and webpage providing environmental impact information for each approved project

# Goal 7: Encourage installation of solar panels and participation in the Village's community solar program



## OBJECTIVES

1. Increase participation in solar energy among residential and commercial properties
2. Create a communication campaign that provides information and resources about solar panels and the Village's community solar program
3. Install solar panels on Village properties
4. Engage the community in clean energy practices

# Goal 7: Encourage installation of solar panels and participation in the Village's community solar program



Value to the Community	Value to Environment
Reduces air pollution	Assist the region's shift to renewable energy
Provides a potential for a return on investment	Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants from power plants such as sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter
Community solar allows for equal access to environmental benefits of solar energy with an opportunity for cost savings	

# Goal 7: Encourage installation of solar panels and participation in the Village's community solar program



Challenges	Opportunities
Existing electric grid may not be adequate to support larger solar panel installations	Mount Prospect is solar ready - SolSmart Gold Designated Community
Available funding, materials and labor for electric grid improvements	Federal and State tax incentives support installing solar panels
The notion of cutting down mature trees to maximize solar energy generation	There is a lot of expressed interest for solar energy and installing solar panels



# Goal 7: Actions

- Promote the Village's Community Solar Program for increased participation
- Understand climate change on a local level and what it means for Mount Prospect (i.e., increase rainfall, draughts, temperature extremes, etc.)
- Communicate how climate change will impact the community (i.e., increased energy demand for AC with climate change)
- Create a decision tree resource for residents evaluating if installing solar energy is right for them



# Actions Overall

- Improve communications with the community regarding the Village's sustainability efforts and link the community to resources to help individuals' sustainability efforts
- Add a Green Tips section to the Village Newsletter
- Establish a brand/logo for the Village's sustainability efforts
- Offer presentations/webinars hosted by sustainability experts and create portal on the Village's website for people to access these presentations/webinars on-demand.



# Goals on the Horizon

- Increase electric vehicle use in Village fleet
- Update community plans, zoning and design standards to increase housing and community resilience to the impacts of climate change, every 5 years
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts
- Measure, monitor, and reduce GHG emissions
- Promote sustainable businesses
- Preserve and seek opportunities for more green space; reduce amount of impermeable pavement
- Increase public transit access and commuter ridership

# Next Steps

- Finalize Sustainability Plan: Status Report and Implementation Guide
- 2023 – 2024: Strategic Plan (Village Board & Staff)



PW Open House 2019 - Photo by Mike Zarnek



# Village of Mount Prospect

## Sustainability Plan

### *Part I – Report*

**Strategic Plan:** Policy Agenda / High Priority

Goal 1: Effective Village Government: Financially Sound, Providing Exceptional Service

**Draft 02/24/2023**

## Contents

Introduction: .....	2
Regional Efforts: .....	3
Related Village Plans: .....	4
Sustainability Awards: .....	5
Sustainability Plan: .....	7
Terminology: .....	8
1. Atmosphere & Air .....	9
2. Economic Development .....	11
3. Stationary Energy .....	13
4. Land .....	18
5. Leadership + Municipal Operations .....	21
6. Mobility: .....	23
7. Sustainable Communities: .....	28
8. Waste and Recycling .....	30
9. Water .....	33
Sustainability in Mount Prospect Survey: .....	35

## **Introduction:**

The Village Board prioritized preparing of a Village Operational Sustainability Plan during the 2021-2022 the Village Board Strategic Planning Process. This High Priority Policy Agenda action item includes a summary of current government operations for sustainability processes and activities, identifying new initiatives through a review of trends and best practices, conducting community outreach, and preparing a report with findings and recommendations.

The 2021-2022 Strategic Plan also recommends the creation of a Community Sustainability Strategy Action Plan. This action item is to create a Sustainability Action Plan with many of the Key Issues (Waste and Recycling, Water Conservation, Land Use, Pesticide Use, Electric Vehicle in the Community, etc.) that overlap with the Village Operational Sustainability Plan.

The Village Operational Sustainability Plan is intended to be foundational sustainability document for the Village of Mount Prospect. This plan identifies focus areas by using the Greenest Region Compact goals and framework and explains why these focus areas are important for supporting sustainability. It also reviews the Village's past achievements and current initiatives related to sustainability which will assist in directing resources to focus areas that may need more attention. A Part II – Implementation Guide will outline new initiatives and accompany the Village Operational Sustainability Plan. It is advised that both documents would receive annual updates to track completed actions and adjust future initiatives.

### **Sustainability Plan Goals:**

- Review regional suitability efforts
- Highlight sustainability initiatives in long-range plans and prior sustainability-related awards
- Establish sustainability focus areas/categories and explain how they support sustainability
- Document prior sustainability initiatives and related actions for each focus area/category.
- Conduct a *Sustainability in Mount Prospect Survey* and review findings

### **Village of Mount Prospect**

Incorporated in 1917, the Village of Mount Prospect (Population – 56,852) is located in Cook County Illinois, 25 miles northwest of downtown Chicago and is a short drive north of O'Hare International Airport and south of Chicago Executive Airport. The community was largely shaped by its rail line connection to the City of Chicago, bisecting state highways and access to Interstate 90. The I-90 interchange was upgraded to a full interchange in 2017, providing western access to the community. Mount Prospect has grown to boast a full range of business locations including Kensington Business Center, Randhurst Village shopping center, a revitalized mixed-use downtown, convenient light industrial properties and 20,795 Occupied Housing Units (13,533 Single-family & 8,490 Multi-family).

## Regional Efforts:

The Village of Mount Prospect is not alone in its sustainability efforts. Beyond national and state level actions, there are regional organizations and agencies planning and implementing initiatives to improve sustainability in the region.

### *Metropolitan Mayors Caucus*

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (“Caucus”) is a membership organization providing a forum for municipalities to collaborate on shared goals and to improve the quality of life for the region. The Caucus’ Environmental Initiatives have served as guidelines for the Village for nearly two decades. Clean Air Counts was a collaborative effort by the Caucus, City of Chicago, federal and state environmental protection agencies, and member municipalities. The goal was to encourage the use of fewer air pollutants in everyday lives. In 2004, the Village received the Bronze level Clean Air Counts award.

The Caucus later developed an environmental initiative, known as the Greenest Region Compact (GRC), to address the region’s impact on its natural resources. At the February 12, 2008 Committee of the Whole meeting, staff recommended and the Village Board subsequently [adopted a resolution endorsing the GRC](#). About eight years later the Caucus updated the GRC and released a GRC 2, which synthesized sustainable goals already adopted by leading communities in the region that align with common regional, national and global objectives. Village staff uses the GRC 2’s companion Framework as a guide to identify Village environmental strategies and implement actions. The Village Board [approved Resolution 14-16 in 2016 endorsing GRC 2](#).

In the summer of 2021, the Caucus, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy launched the [Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region](#). The European Union, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the Metropolitan Planning Council supported the development of the plan. The Plan’s Climate Mitigation Goal is “net zero greenhouse” and the Climate Adaptation Goal is defined as persistent, equitable climate adaption. The 2050 targets are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 80% from 2005 levels and have cohesive, and resilient communities. Mount Prospect endorsed the Caucus’ 2021 Climate Action Plan on December 17, 2021. The Caucus is now developing initiatives to help municipalities reach the plan’s mitigation and adaption targets.

### *Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is the regional planning organization for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties. CMAP has programs addressing regional economy, livability planning, local planning, transportation planning and programming. CMAP coordinated the development of [ON to 2050](#), a long-range plan to help northeastern Illinois implement strategies that address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment and other quality-of-life issues. The environment chapter has the following three goals:

- A region prepared for climate change
- Integrated approach to water resources
- Development practices that protect natural resources

CMAAP also has conducted regional greenhouse gas emissions inventories in 2010 and 2015. The results of the [2015 Chicago Regional Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory](#) helped to establish climate mitigation targets and strategy recommendation within the [ON to 2050](#) plan. CMAAP's Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory data also facilitated in the development of the [Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region](#).

#### *Northwest Municipal Conference*

The Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) is a regional council of government representing forty-two municipalities spanning Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry Counties. NWMC has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee that reviews issues and strategies for implementing successful bicycle and pedestrian projects in the region. In addition, a Transportation Committee examines regional transportation issues and is currently working on a regional multi-modal plan. A multi-modal plan reviews all travel modes (passenger car, commercial trucks, buses, commuter rail, bikes, walking, etc.) within a community and how they are connected to provide safe and efficient transportation.<sup>1</sup> During the summer of 2021, NWMC staff attended various members' community events to share information about the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan with residents and local stakeholders including Mount Prospect's 2021 Family Bike Ride event.

#### *Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago*

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is a special-purpose district responsible for treating wastewater and providing stormwater management for residents and businesses throughout Cook County. [MWRD's Watershed Management Ordinance](#) (WMO) applies to all development (sewer construction, drainage and detention, floodplain management, riparian environment protection, soil erosion and sediment control, etc.) within Cook County. The WMO provides uniform stormwater management regulations to prevent future commercial, municipal, and residential development and redevelopment projects from exacerbating flooding and protects environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, MWRD provides services like a subsidized rain barrels, free Exceptional Quality compost, and a Restore the Canopy program that provides free oak tree saplings to Cook County residents.

The Caucus, CMAAP, NWMC and MWRD are just several of the main regional entities promoting sustainability.

### **Related Village Plans:**

Several of the Village's long range planning documents address sustainability within the community.

A community's comprehensive plan guides planning and development policy and is generally updated every ten years. As a community's primary planning document, it describes goals and objectives for existing and future development, as well as outlines the steps necessary to achieve these goals. The Village's [Comprehensive Plan – Envision Mount Prospect](#), adopted November 7, 2017, has Guiding Principles that draw parallels to the goals and actions of the sustainability plan.

- A livable built environment
- Mobility through an accessible, integrated, and resilient transportation system

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<sup>1</sup> Illinois FY 2020 – 2025 Proposed Multimodal Multi-Year Improvement Program, Illinois Department of Transportation, October 2020. <https://idot.illinois.gov/Assets/uploads/files/Transportation-System/Planning/2020-2025%20Multimodal%20Multi-Year%20Program.pdf>

- Providing for and protecting the needs of the community
- A community that improves the health, safety and welfare of its residents
- Responsible use of our environment that promotes resilience
- Economic vitality through support, innovation and collaboration

The [Connect South Mount Prospect: 2020 Sub-area Plan](#) adopted December 1, 2020 builds off the 2017 Comprehensive Plan by setting goals for south Mount Prospect: addressing future developments and public improvements to enhance the quality of life for its residents, thriving economy for businesses, and create a sense of identity and connection to the overall Village. Several sustainability themes emerged from community engagement conducted during plan development including open spaces, bus transportation, bicycles and sidewalks, cultural diversity and inclusion in the community, Higgins Creek floodway, community gardens, and support residents in leading a healthy, safe and active lifestyle.

A bike plan is a recommended strategy of many sustainability plans and Mount Prospect developed one in 2011. The Village Board approved the [Mount Prospect Bicycle Plan](#) in February 2012. The primary objectives are:

- To develop a comprehensive biking and walking network consisting of marked on-street bikeways, signed routes, and multi-use trails where possible;
- To develop a safety and education plan for the Village of Mount Prospect; and
- To understand the energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction of a fully implemented bicycle network.

On February 11, 2020, staff presented a [Bicycle Plan Update at a Committee of the Whole meeting](#) of the Village Board. The update shared progress on proposed bike network improvements and communicated the Village's commitment to continue employing the Plan as a guidance document in the development of a robust multi-modal transportation network for Village residents and visitors.

In February 2020, the [Village Board adopted a Complete Streets Policy](#). The policy was developed utilizing model policies promulgated by CMAP and the National Complete Streets Coalition. Complete Streets are streets that provides safe and convenient access for all users (pedestrians, bicycles, transit users, freight, passenger vehicles, emergency vehicles, etc.). It establishes that the Village will consider incorporating pedestrian, bicyclist, and other multi-model user improvements whenever a street is reconstructed or substantially improved. The policy merely formalized the Village's long-held intent to plan, design, operate and maintain streets in a manner that makes them accessible and safe for all users.

In addition, the Village of Mount Prospect was awarded a \$489,600 grant to fund energy efficiency and conservation projects as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The [Energy Strategy Plan approved April 2010](#) established an energy consumption baseline for both Village operations and the community, as well as identifies energy efficiency and conservation goals.

### **Sustainability Awards:**

Over the years, the Village has received a number of awards related to sustainability. These recognitions reflect some of the ongoing efforts by staff to manage available resources, incorporate best practices and plan for the future.

### *Tree City USA Recognition*

Every April, the Arbor Day Foundation recognizes communities for their efforts in proper tree management and care. The Village has received the Tree City USA recognition for 38 consecutive years due to Village's compliance with Tree City USA standards, which are based on an assurance of proficient management of the urban forest. Mount Prospect also has received the Arbor Day Foundation's Growth Award 15 times since its inception. The [Growth Award recognizes additional activities](#) towards environmental improvement and encourage higher levels of tree care and community engagement during the calendar year.

### *SolSmart Gold*

On March 17, 2022, the Village of Mount Prospect was designated "SolSmart Gold" for advancing solar energy growth. SolSmart is a national designation program that recognizes communities that reduce local barriers to solar energy. The program is led by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and the International City/County Management Association and is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office. In 2021, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus worked in partnership with SolSmart to recruit communities and help them meet the requirements for designation. Communities that take sufficient action are designated either gold, silver, or bronze. This designation recognizes the Village of Mount Prospect for taking bold steps to encourage solar energy growth and remove obstacles to solar development. A SolSmart Gold designation is a signal that the Village of Mount Prospect is "open for solar business."

### *2019 Water Saver Utility Award*

The Public Works Department was awarded the 2019 Water Saver Utility Award from the American Water Works Association. This award is an international recognition for the exceptional efforts made by the department's crews operating, maintaining, and improving the Village-owned potable water distribution system. In particular, the Village of Mount Prospect was recognized for sustained efforts to decrease water loss and replacing aging infrastructure.

### *Sustainability Partnership Game Changer Award*

The Public Works Department received the 2019 Sustainability Partnership Game Changer Award for its myriad of solid waste and recycling programs that diverted 35% of residents' waste stream from landfills in 2018. The award was shared with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), and recognizes the Village and SWANCC for their efforts in sustainability and recycling. The National Waste & Recycling Association recognize organizations and individuals who have made significant impact in the waste and recycling industry.

### *Illinois Sustainability Award*

In 2018, the Public Works Department received an Illinois Sustainability Award from University of Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ITSC) for their efforts in waste reduction. The adoption of an organics recycling program and being the third municipality in the Chicago metro area to implement curbside textile recycling contributed to the Village receiving the award. Public Works also offers drop-off recycling options for batteries, light bulbs, plastic bags/wraps, pharmaceuticals, mercury thermometers, thermostats and wall switches, sharps, holiday lights, and weekly electronic recycling drop-off times between April and October. In addition, the Village has had drop-off household hazardous collection days

for residents since 2018. Moreover, curbside leaf collection, pumpkin recycling, Christmas tree collections are more seasonal recycling opportunities for residents. The Public Works Department and SWANCC shared the 2019 Sustainability Partnership Game Changer Award by the National Waste & Recycling Association for these sustainability and recycling efforts.

#### *2018 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award*

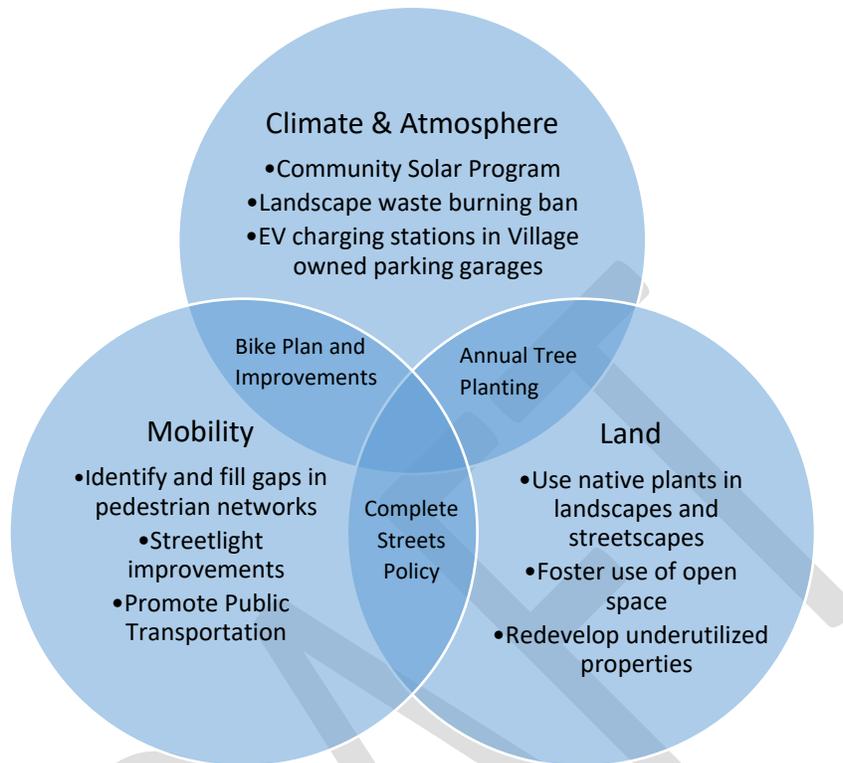
2018 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award is a national recognition for the exceptional efforts made by the Public Works crews each winter. The American Public Works Association established this award in 2008 to promote best practices in snow and ice removal, which includes minimizing environmental impacts.

### **Sustainability Plan:**

The Village Sustainability Plan has the following categories:

- 1) Climate & Atmosphere
- 2) Economic Development
- 3) Stationary Energy
- 4) Land
- 5) Leadership & Municipal Operations
- 6) Mobility
- 7) Sustainable Communities
- 8) Waste and Recycling
- 9) Water

Each category includes an explanation of the focus area and a list of initial Village of Mount Prospect efforts. Future efforts will be addressed in Part II – Implementation Guide. The efforts and initiatives may appear multiple times in different categories, as there is natural overlap of goals across some categories. The Venn-diagram below provides an example of how the categories can overlap since initiatives listed in the sets could also benefit multiple areas.



Actions with a Green Region Compact  logo next to them are strategies stated in the Greenest Region Compact Framework.

**Terminology:**

*Sustainability* is defined as the long-term viability of a community, set of social institutions, or societal practice. It is understood as a form of intergenerational ethics in which the environmental and economic actions taken by present persons do not diminish the opportunities of future persons to enjoy similar levels of wealth, utility or welfare.<sup>2</sup> In 1987, the United Nations Brundtland Commission defined sustainability as, “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines sustainability as, “Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.”<sup>4</sup>

In this plan, sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable practices support ecological, human and economic health and vitality. Responses from the 2021 Sustainability in Mount Prospect Survey overwhelmingly agree (94.49% or 120 out of 127) that this definition of sustainability matches their own definition.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/science/sustainability>

<sup>3</sup> Sustainability. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/sustainability>

<sup>4</sup> Learn About Sustainability. US Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/sustainability/learn-about-sustainability>

The term is frequently used interchangeably with climate change; however, the scope of sustainability is much broader than only addressing greenhouse gases, global warming and climate change.

Greenhouse Gases are chemical compounds that allow sunlight to reach the Earth's surface and absorb infrared energy (heat) that is reradiated from the surface back into the atmosphere. There are natural and man-made chemical compounds that trap heat in the lower atmosphere. The natural occurring compounds are carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, and nitrous oxide.<sup>5</sup> The synthetic chemicals include chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) – first versions of refrigerants and aerosol propellants, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – also refrigerants and aerosol propellants, perfluorocarbons (PFCs) – by product of aluminum production and used in manufacturing of semiconductors, and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) – used in electric utilities transmission systems.<sup>6 7 8</sup>

Global Warming is the long-term heating of Earth's climate system observed since the pre-industrial period (between 1850 and 1900) due to human activities, primarily fossil fuel burning (such as coal, oil and natural gas), which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in Earth's atmosphere.<sup>9</sup>

Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates. These changes have a broad range of observed effects that are synonymous with the term.<sup>10</sup>

## 1. Climate & Atmosphere

### *Overview*

Climate & Atmosphere addresses greenhouse gasses and particle pollution from human activity resulting in climate change and air pollution. These substances may reach concentrations in the air that cause undesirable health, economic or aesthetic effects.<sup>11</sup> In addition, the man-made compounds, fluorocarbons, that damage the stratospheric ozone layer that shields earth from ultraviolet rays generated from the sun are also included in this category.<sup>12</sup>

Human activities have reintroduced previously sequestered greenhouse gases into the atmosphere through anthropogenic activities such as fossil-fuel combustion and deforestation. Over time, the newly released greenhouse gases have led to increases in global temperatures, creating climate instability experienced through changing regional weather patterns (i.e. temperatures, flooding, drought, and severe weather events).<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/monitoring-references/faq/greenhouse-gases.php>

<sup>6</sup> (published in The Chapman & Hall Encyclopedia of Environmental Science, edited by David E. Alexander and Rhodes W. Fairbridge, pp pp.78-80, Kluwer Academic, Boston, MA, 1999.) Elkins, James W., Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) <https://gml.noaa.gov/hats/publicitn/elkins/cfcs.html>

<sup>7</sup> Overview: Greenhouse Gases. US Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>

<sup>8</sup> Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6) Basics. US Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/eps-partnership/sulfur-hexafluoride-sf6-basics>

<sup>9</sup> Overview: Weather, Global Warming and Climate Change. NASA's Global Climate Change. <https://climate.nasa.gov/resources/global-warming-vs-climate-change/>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/science/air-pollution>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/chlorofluorocarbons-cfcs-and-hydrofluorocarbons-hfc>

<sup>13</sup> <https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2918/the-atmosphere-keeping-a-weather-eye-on-earths-climate-instabilities/>

Fossil fuels are energy sources for transportation, electricity production, heating buildings and a variety of appliances and tools. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) 2015 Chicago Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory shows that approximately 69% of the region's greenhouse gases emissions come from stationary energy, including electricity and natural gas consumption for homes and businesses. While, the transportation sector accounts for 29% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>14</sup> This Climate & Atmosphere category's focus is on transportation and aerosol sources of air pollution while Stationary Energy, has its own section within this plan, addresses emission sources like electricity generation and building.

The Climate & Atmosphere category's goals also address governments' roll in developing resilience to climate change impacts as well as engaging in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Climate resiliency is the ability to prepare for, respond and recover from severe weather events, floods, drought, extreme cold and heat, or other potentially hazardous events related to a changing climate. Climate change mitigation is taking action to limit future climate change (i.e. reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and climate change adaptation means preparing for and adjusting to severe and potentially hazardous weather events related to a changing climate. Climate resiliency, climate change mitigation and change adaptation listed under this goal; however, they are also present in all Greenest Region Compact goals.

#### Greenest Region Compact's Climate Goals:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Maintain clean and healthful air
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts
- Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaption

The majority of transportation modes produce greenhouse gas emissions from their use. This spans personal vehicles, public and freight transportation, by land, air or water. . In addition, there may be related climate impacts from transportation including airplane condensation trails that act like natural clouds, reflecting incoming sunlight (heat) back into space and trap radiating heat from earth posing an additional global warming concern.<sup>17</sup>

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a global issue; however, states and local governments may play a role by setting their own goals. Illinois recently approved the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that sets the policy to move toward 100% clean energy by 2050. Regional planning organizations can also provide leadership by setting goals for municipalities and agencies. For example, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus spearheaded the development of the [Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region](#), setting the goal to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions at least 80% from 2005 levels. As stated previously, Mount Prospect endorsed the Caucus' 2021 Climate Action Plan on December 17, 2021. The Caucus is now developing initiatives to help municipalities reach the plan's mitigation and adaption targets.

The Village of Mount Prospect has looked for ways to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. One example is the Village's comprehensive vehicle "fleet" evaluation and replacement policy. Proper maintenance ensures that systems to reduce emissions and the engines themselves are operating as intended and not polluting more than expected. While replacing vehicles at an optimum point in their life cycle (i.e. cost to maintenance vs resale value) allows the Village to reduce its emissions by updating to newer vehicles with improved emission controls and greater gas mileage capabilities. In addition, the Village has revaluated

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050/strategy-papers/ghg>

<sup>17</sup> <https://climate.mit.edu/explainers/aviation>

certain fleet vehicles to right size for their use and, in December 2014, engaged a public fleet consultant, Mercury Associates, to conduct an alternative fuel study regarding the viability of utilizing alternative fuel technologies. The analysis considered environmental benefits, operational efficacy, and financial cost of each fuel technology with the goal of assessing the feasibility of introducing alternative fuel technologies into the Village's fleet. The study was presented in July of 2015 and the analysis indicated that there were not any opportunities for alternative fuel vehicles in the Village fleet that are both operationally and financially feasible. Since 2015 more vehicle manufacturers are producing hybrid and fully electric vehicles. The Village currently has three (3) hybrid vehicles in its fleet. In addition, the Village Board approved a proposal from Mercury Associates to develop an electric vehicle transition plan on February 1, 2022. The new report analyzes how fully electric vehicles may be incorporated into the Village's fleet and the environmental impacts of the electric vehicle platform.

Efforts the Village has made to develop resiliency to climate change impacts

The following list of efforts and actions support the goals for Climate & Atmosphere identified above:

- The Village's Vehicle Replacement Policy supports replacing vehicles with more fuel-efficient/hybrid powered vehicles for Village operations when feasible
- 2015 Alternative Fuel Study and the 2022 Electric Vehicle Transition Plan of municipal fleet vehicles
- Banned burning of landscape waste/leaves within incorporated Mount Prospect reduces air pollution 
- The Village installed electric vehicle charging stations in the Emerson Street and Maple Street Parking Decks to support individuals purchasing electric vehicles.
- Established landscaping requirements for developments
- Established maximum permitted lot coverage percentages
- Staff inventoried Village parkway trees to track the condition and maintenance they receive
- Received Tree City USA designation, 38 years running, demonstrates the Village's commitment to a thriving urban forest
- Public Works annual Tree Planting Program work towards planting the same or more than the number of trees removed during a year so future generations can enjoy the benefits tree lined streets.
- The Urban Forest Management Plan (update) in 2013 documents the Village of Mount Prospect, Forestry/Grounds Division parkway tree management program and provide guidance for planning into the future.

## 2. Economic Development

### *Overview*

Economic Development aims to generate local access to services, products, and employment beneficial to individuals and the community overall. A community with vibrant and diverse economic activity would be able to address individual challenges and provide opportunities for communities to become more resilient.<sup>18</sup> There is a balance between sustaining long-term economic growth and direct or indirect

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.cnt.org/sustainable-economic-development>

impacts to the environment. Businesses and municipalities play supporting roles in a community's economic development efforts.

As environmental, climate change and corporate social responsibility concerns have grown among consumers' priorities, many businesses started to mitigate negative impacts from product production and service delivery. Green innovations and new technologies create opportunities to reduce environmental impacts of existing operations as well as new employment prospects. New industries carry along the potential for positively changing socio-economical aspects of a community. A municipality may encourage green innovation and local businesses through recognizing those who practice sustainability. In addition, a municipality reviews proposed businesses and developments for impacts to public health, safety and welfare of the community.

A strong local economy assists in advancing climate resiliency, mitigation and adaptation through private investment into properties and business operations. For example, businesses with sufficient positive cash flow may have the capital and interest to make their operations more energy efficient, switch from internal combustion engine to hybrid or electric fleet vehicles, or reduce other negative environmental impacts. Businesses also need to prepare to adapt to ensure continuity when faced with severe weather events and risks stemming from climate change affecting their operations. Plus, a strong local economy helps to fund municipal operations and projects (i.e. storm water improvements, installing pedestrian crossings, annual parkway tree planting, etc.) that help create a more sustainable community overall. However, probably the most important aspect is that a strong local economy provides residents opportunities and access to employment and resources facilitating investment and reinvestment community-wide.

Greenest Region Compact's Economic Development Goals:

- Promote innovation and a competitive workforce
- Cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs, and businesses
- Continue to be a business friendly community expand the sales tax base (VOMP)
- Support and help facilitate investment and reinvestment in the community (VOMP)

Mount Prospect has a diverse mix of economic activity including retail, food service, health care, technology and light industrial sectors. The activity is distributed throughout the municipal boundaries. The Rand Road Corridor is capped with Randhurst Village on the northwest, Mt. Prospect Plaza on the southeast and the 300 acre Kensington Business Center situated in-between. The Northwest Highway corridor is another stretch of commercial activity that spans the center of the Community with Downtown Mount Prospect at the midpoint. South Mount Prospect has a variety of commercial and light industrial activity along Golf Rd, Busse Rd, Elmhurst Rd, Algonquin Rd, and Oakton St.

The Village's [Experience Mount Prospect website](#) and [Mount Prospect Entrepreneurs Initiative](#) are two examples of promoting local shopping and businesses. In addition, the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Merchants Association Mount Prospect are organizations helping promote local goods and services.

The following list of efforts and actions support the goals for Economic Development identified above:

- The Village established an Economic Development Commission (EDC) in 1993. The main functions include business retention, business attraction, and marketing of the Village.

- Collaboration with the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Merchants Association for economic development, business recruitment and retention services
- Continued support of the Lions Club Farmers Markets and car shows. Why
- Continued support of local entrepreneurs that utilize the informal economy and move them toward standard business formation through Mount Prospect Entrepreneur Initiative (MPEI). MPEI is a platform for resources, events, and help for any entrepreneur looking to start a business
- Provide prospective property owners and businesses with an interactive available properties map available on the Village website
- Provide residents with an interactive restaurant map
- Offer support and endorsement of a class 6b and class 7c Cook County Classification, which reduces property tax bills for qualifying properties
- Participate and adopt tax increment financing districts (TIF) to help facilitate new development and growth in a specified area or corridor
- Offer matching grants to qualifying retail/restaurant operations in the Village for interior and/or exterior improvements of an existing property
- Provided \$820,000 in COVID-19 grants to assist businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Attend local and national trade shows to attract new businesses while showcasing Mount Prospect as a destination
- Participate in sales tax sharing agreements for those businesses that have annual sales over \$75 million
- In collaboration with the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce, the Village organizes ribbon cuttings to promote and welcome new businesses into the community
- Offers new and prospective businesses a business resource guide which guides businesses how to open a business in the Village
- Promotes new businesses and new opportunities or vacant storefronts on Village operated social media pages, including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram
- The Village devotes significant staff time toward streamlining and simplifying the building permit process by offering bi-weekly team meetings, pre-submittal meetings, and an online building permit portal to quickly and efficiently answer questions to the business community

### 3. Stationary Energy

#### *Overview*

Stationary Energy addresses electricity use, and heating and cooling of buildings. These sources are significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Electricity production represents 25 percent of total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2019.<sup>19</sup> Natural gas for furnaces, stoves, water heaters as well as electricity generation poses its own environmental concerns. Burning natural gas for energy is more efficient and pollutes less than most other fossil fuels; however, it consists of mostly methane, which has a stronger greenhouse gas effect than carbon dioxide.<sup>20</sup> Methane, the primary component of natural gas,

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/natural-gas/natural-gas-and-the-environment.php>

is more than 25 times as potent as a greenhouse gas compared to carbon dioxide.<sup>22</sup> Methane is converted to carbon dioxide in the combustion process. However, the uncaptured and leaked methane from the production, storage/transmission, processing and distribution (i.e. mains, meters, and appliances) are responsible for emissions. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that in 2018, methane emissions from natural gas, petroleum systems and from abandoned oil and natural gas wells were the source of about 29% of total U.S. methane emissions and about 3% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions<sup>23</sup>.

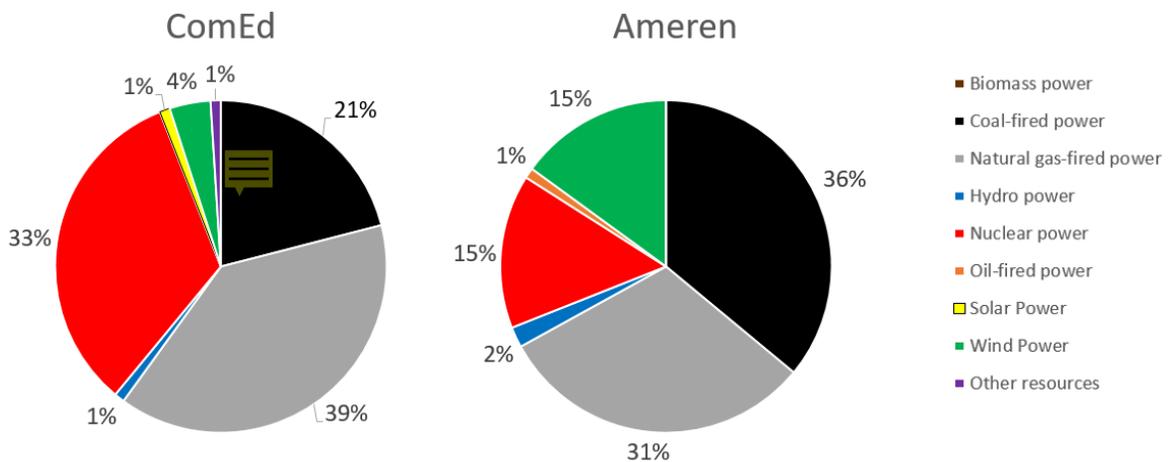
Energy suppliers in Illinois are required to provide quarterly Environmental Disclosure Filings to the Illinois Commerce Commission. Environmental Disclosure Filings are a breakdown of known sources of electricity supplied in Illinois. The table and graphs below show the sources of electricity supplied for the 12 months ending June 30, 2022. In general, ComEd is the default energy supplier and distributor for northern Illinois and Ameren is the same for central and southern Illinois. There are alternative retail electric suppliers that customers may choose as their energy supplier and some of these suppliers offer 100 percent green or clean energy options. Energy suppliers purchase the energy they deliver from regional energy generators. The result is many energy suppliers have very similar breakdown of power types (i.e. natural gas, coal, nuclear, etc.). There are energy suppliers that offer 100 percent green energy contracts; however, these offers usually involve renewable energy certificates (REC). A REC is a market-based accounting of when one megawatt-hour (MWh) of renewable energy electricity is generated and delivered to the electric grid<sup>24</sup>. Once the energy is delivered into the grid, then the REC can be sold to energy suppliers. This means that the electricity arriving to a building may be from a fossil fuel power plant even though the energy is being billed as being green. The upside is a green energy contract ultimately supports greater clean power generation.

Environmental Disclosure Statements Sources of Electricity Supplied for the 12 months ending June 30, 2022		
	<b>ComEd</b>	<b>Ameren</b>
Biomass power	0%	0%
Coal-fired power	21%	36%
Natural gas-fired power	39%	31%
Hydro power	1%	2%
Nuclear power	33%	15%
Oil-fired power	0%	1%
Solar Power	1%	0%
Wind Power	4%	15%
Other resources	1%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/gmi/importance-methane>

<sup>23</sup> Based on carbon-dioxide equivalents. Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2018*, Table ES-2, April 2020

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/green-power-markets/renewable-energy-certificates-recs>



The greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production will decrease with electricity generation transitioning more towards renewables and nuclear sources. This in turn decreases an individual’s carbon footprint when using electric appliances. Controlling emissions from energy consumption and production is a critical step towards a more sustainable future. An individual may reduce their energy consumption by increasing their energy efficiency. This can include keeping the thermostat a few degrees higher in summer and lower in the winter, switching to LED lights, and turning off and unplugging appliances when they are not in use are just a few options. In addition, ComEd customers have opportunities to reduce energy usage with a free energy assessment by ComEd that includes free and discounted products. A similar service is offered by Nicor Gas for their customers.

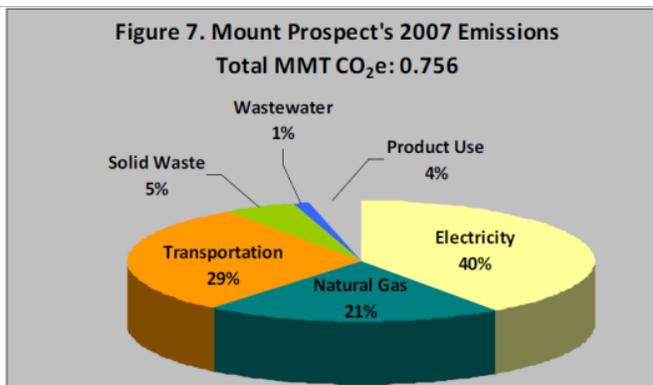
**Greenest Region Compact’s Energy Goals**

- Use energy for building and facilities efficiently
- Advance renewable energy
- Reduce energy consumption
- Enact policies that support clean energy
- Engage the community in clean energy practices

In 2007, the Center for Neighborhood Technology produced an Energy and Emissions Profile for Mount Prospect. The Profile was part of a larger Municipal Energy Profile Project funded by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to provide emissions profiles to all 270+ municipalities in the 7-county Chicago metropolitan region. Below is the breakdown of Mount Prospect’s emissions by sector included in the Profile. The Profile is attached as appendix **TBD**.

**Mount Prospect’s Emissions by Sector, 2007**

Sector	MMT CO <sub>2</sub> e
Electricity	0.305
Natural Gas	0.156
Transportation	0.223
Solid Waste	0.038
Waste Water	0.007
Product Use	0.028
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.756</b>



As the table and graph show, electricity and natural gas in 2007 represents 61% of the community's emissions. This information may serve as a benchmark to evaluate progress when a similar analysis is conducted in the future.

The 2010 Energy Strategy Plan provides details on energy consumption within each source. Village facilities accounted for the largest electricity use. Facilities included Village Hall, the Public Works facility, the old Public Safety Building/Fire Station 13 (NW corner of Northwest Highway and Maple St.) and the outlying fire stations. This assessment may serve as a possible benchmark to measure the Village's progress going forward. The following table is from the 2010 Energy Strategy Plan and shows energy consumption by source.

Village Government Operations Energy Consumption by Source		
Source	Energy (Btus)	Percent of Total Use
Electricity	66,658,000,000	65%
Natural Gas	12,968,000,000	13%
Vehicle Fuel	23,010,000,000	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,636,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Solar and wind energy help cities reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation and are climate mitigation tools. Another approach is making cities more energy efficient by updating buildings codes to be more energy efficient and using energy efficiency appliances including switching to LED lights.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriated funds through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program to governmental entities to develop and implement projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions in their communities. In [2010, the Village developed an Energy Strategy Plan](#), attached as Appendix **TBD**, which identified short and long-term energy efficiency goals and activities, and established general implementation guidance. Some outcomes from the EECBG grant funding and the Energy Strategy Plan are that the Village replaced conventional streetlights with LEDs along Prospect Ave, Kensington Rd and Elmhurst Rd, Euclid Ave and Kensington Rd surrounding Randhurst Village, developed a Village Bike Plan, installed bike racks around downtown and Kensington Business Center, funded Home Weatherization Grants, and provided public education and outreach.

Also in 2009, the Village Code was amended to allow for environmentally sensitive development techniques with specific provisions for wind and solar energy conversion systems. Properties in all zoning

districts were provided with the opportunity to add rooftop mounted photovoltaics and wind energy conversion systems to their properties. Ground mounted solar and wind energy conversion systems were allowed in all zoning districts except for residential. The below table shows the number of residential solar building permits over the past recent years.

2018	27
2019	50
2020	40
2021	40
2022	46

In 2019 and 2020, Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County, and Will County partnered with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) to coordinate a solar group buy across all four counties. The program offered residents and small businesses an opportunity to benefit from a bulk group-purchase of solar panels. In addition, the installer was chosen through a bidding process and vetted by the partnership. The Village promoted the program by hosting an informational Solar Power Hours and sharing program information on the Village’s website and social media. The following summarizes the regional impact of this group effort:

- 1,727 people attended Solar Power Hours
- 205 properties added solar
- 1474 kilowatts of solar have been installed
- Each year, the PV systems installed through the program will avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 2,962,653 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>25</sup>

The following list of efforts and actions support the goals for Stationary Energy that the Village has undertook:

- The Village Board Adopted 2015 IL Energy Conservation Code 
- Staff participated in International Energy Conservation Code amendments
- Village Code permits solar and wind energy solutions to be installed on residential and commercial properties 
- Community Development Block Grant offers eligible homeowners Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Program to replace old furnaces, water heaters and increase energy efficiency.
- Launched a Community Solar Program
- Implemented energy efficiency measures that have a longer-term payback
  - Installed new HVAC equipment at Public Works replacing 30 year old technology.
  - Various system updates/upgrades (i.e. pump/lift stations/VFD replacement)
- Implemented energy efficiency measures that have a short-term payback
  - Occupancy sensors for lights in Village Buildings where applicable
  - Improving energy efficiency with LED streetlights retrofits - ongoing
  - Improved energy efficiency with LED lights in the Emerson Street Parking Deck
- Created an energy conservation related - [Sustainability Resources Page](#)

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.growsolar.org/chicagoland/>

- Created a Solar Energy webpage - [Installing Solar Energy Systems](#)
- ComEd Smart meters installed at Village Buildings
- The Village's Community Investment process provides long term planning for energy efficiency equipment upgrades
- The Village's Human Services Department and Citizen Utility Board hosts a Utility Bill Clinic to help residents lower their natural gas, electric and phone bills.
- SolSmart Gold Designee – awarded 2009. Roof top solar PV is permitted in all zoning districts and the Building and Inspection Services Department committed to a 3-day turnaround time to process complete small solar PV project building permits.

#### 4. Land

##### *Overview*

The Land category addresses environmental components like open space, trees, landscaping, in-fill and transit-oriented development. Management of living and built environments in a conscientious manner helps in maintaining stable conditions for people and wildlife to live comfortably. A community's green spaces, trees, and sustainable land use techniques are climate resiliency tools as weather patterns change due to climate change creating severe storms, flooding, and draughts. Many actions within the land category provide mutualistic benefits to goals within other categories of this plan. For example, a medium-sized oak tree can absorb 2,800 gallons of rainfall per year, which lessens the impact on stormwater systems. While the shade it provides can reduce the impact of urban heat islands and support wildlife that contribute to a healthy environment in their own unique ways.<sup>26 27</sup> Planting new trees and maintain the health and integrity of existing trees play a critical role for climate change mitigation. The Village's logo, which includes a tree, is an expression of the Village's commitment to sustainability and particularly to the urban forest.

The land on which the Chicago region developed has undergone a significant change over the past 200 years. When the first settlers came to what would later become Mount Prospect they found a wide-open space covered in prairie grasses. The first settlers cleared the land and established farms. After the railroad line was built, farmers began shifting from subsistence farming to commercial farming, specializing in dairy cows, onions, mushrooms, and sugar beets. Fast-forward nearly 175 years and very little remains from those early years, as the Village is mostly developed land. Mount Prospect has just over 500 acres of open space (CMAP footnote). Park and Forest Preserve Districts are stewards of most the natural, open and park spaces in Cook County. The Mt. Prospect Park District manages 454 acres consisting of 32 parks and recreational facilities. River Trails Park District manages 139 acres across Mount Prospect and Prospect Heights. In addition, Arlington Heights, Prospect Heights and Des Plaines Park Districts serve portions of

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<sup>26</sup> <https://las.depaul.edu/centers-and-institutes/chaddick-institute-for-metropolitan-development/research-and-publications/Documents/2017%20IML%20Journal/Increasing%20the%20Benefits%20from%20Urban%20Trees%20while%20Minimizing%20Costs%20-%20L.%20Darling%20M.%20Custic%20C.%20S.%20Smith.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> The Role of Our Urban Forest in the Chicago Metropolitan Region's Future  
[https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/61012/Urban-forestry-strategy\\_11-08-2010.pdf/79f31e83-dd2d-4bd7-ad4b-a3969bbf5f20](https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/61012/Urban-forestry-strategy_11-08-2010.pdf/79f31e83-dd2d-4bd7-ad4b-a3969bbf5f20)

Mount Prospect. Just outside the borders of Mount Prospect, the Cook County Forest Preserve District manages open space accompanying the Des Plaines River and the 3,558 acre Ned Brown Preserve commonly known as Busse Woods.

General Land Use , 2015 – CMAP Mount Prospect Community Data Snapshot August 2021 Release		
Land Use Type	Acres	Percent
Single-Family Residential	2,909.6	43.8
Multi-Family Residential	380.6	5.7
Commercial	567.1	8.5
Industrial	464.9	7.0
Institutional	282.9	4.3
Mixed Use	11.3	0.2
Transportation and Other	1,467.5	22.1
Agricultural	0.0	0.0
Open Space	512.5	7.7
Vacant	47.0	0.7
TOTAL	6,643.4	100

Mount Prospect has very few remaining undeveloped land opportunities and future growth will need to be accommodated within the community areas that can support change. The table provides a snapshot of the Land Uses in the Village. The limited amount of vacant land creates challenges for future new public parks and green spaces, as these amenities would likely need to be built on privately owned and developed land. Encouraging future developments and improvements to incorporate green spaces and other environmental friendly concepts into their designs would be one alternative method for enhancing Mount Prospect’s sustainability.

#### Greenest Region Compact’s Land Goals

- Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles
- Conserve restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems
- Support networks of accessible, well-used and enjoyable parks
- Sustain a robust urban forest canopy
- Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services
- Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies
- Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community

The Village manages the grounds around Village Buildings and over 40 acres of green space throughout Mount Prospect, with 15 dedicated locations for annual flower displays. Yearly, the Village plants over 20,000 plants to fill the approximate 12,000 square feet of annual beds. Over 40 different types of annuals are selected in various patterns for the displays. The Village of Mount Prospect committed to the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge and maintains six (6) butterfly gardens also known as Monarch Waystations. These gardens provide habitat areas for Monarch Butterfly to aid them on their annual migration. Staff has doubled efforts in most of these gardens to include plant varieties that are beneficial to a variety species of butterflies, bees, and many types of birds.

In addition, the Village Code’s landscape requirements are to promote, protect and preserve the general health and safety of the people of the community and, as part of the general welfare, ensure aesthetic compatibility among land uses within the community. It is also the purpose of these regulations to safeguard the environmental quality and aesthetic character of the community by limiting the removal and ensuring replacement of trees upon private property within the Village. The Village also requires replacement trees on developments where trees are removed for a new building or structure. Lot coverage and landscape requirements are two mechanisms that help the community preserve green space on private property.

In 2021, the Village commemorated its receipt of the Tree City USA Award from the Arbor Day foundation for the 38<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The Village of Mount Prospect through the Public Works Forestry and Grounds Division is responsible for the maintenance of more than 24,000 parkway trees. The Village updated its [Urban Forest Management Plan in 2013](#) to document the events during the 20 years since 1993 when the plan was first developed. An Urban Forest Management Plan provides detailed information, recommendations, and resources needed to manage public trees effectively and proactively.

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The following list of efforts and actions support the goals for Land identified above:

- 2014 Wood Reclamation Project
- Tree removal contractor uses debris for high end mulch
- Public Works offers free mulch to residents
- Support transit oriented development
  - 20W Apartments
  - Maple Street Lofts
  - 10 N. Main Apartments
  - Prospect Place
  - HQ Residences
- Redevelop underutilized or contaminated properties
  - 10 N. Main Apartments
  - Prospect Place
  - Old gas station at the corner of Route 62/Algonquin Rd. & Route 83 / Elmhurst Rd.
- Fire Station 14 was built in 2008 as a LEED certified building
- Purchased land, designed and constructed Busse Pocket Park
- Parkway trees are inventoried, assessed and managed through Public Works Maintenance Management System
- 2013 Urban Forest Management Plan
- Existing tree planting program
- Public Works tree inspections and strategic tree removal
- 5 year tree trimming cycle and Public Works inspections
- Tree City USA Award 38 consecutive years running
- Manage traditional, cultivated landscapes sustainability - Fertilizers and Pest Management
- Public Works Landscape Master Plan Manual
- Maintain beautiful landscapes and streetscapes to enhance gateways, business districts and important public spaces - Railroad Right of Way, Prospect Ave, North West Highway Streetscape, Kensington Business Center, Mt. Prospect and Central Roads, Village Hall, Public Safety and Public Works.
- Annual Arbor Day Event with tree planting
- Public Works Annual Open House used as an opportunity to educate the community about the value of trees, native and sustainable landscaping
- Foster healthy community relationships through the use of open space - Busse Pocket Park, Park District initiatives

<sup>28</sup> <https://www2.apwa.net/Documents/About/CoopAgreements/UrbanForestry/UrbanForestry-4.pdf>

- Creek bank stabilization with bio-engineering
- The Village Code, especially Chapter 14 Zoning, includes use of lot coverage limitations as a tool to preserve open space on private property.

## 5. Leadership + Municipal Operations

### *Overview*

Most individuals' interactions with government come at the local level: city government, school and park districts, and county government. Some of the primary roles of local government are public safety, solid waste management, conveyance of drinking, storm and sewer water, and transportation infrastructure. This wide variety of critical services provide opportunities for local governments to lead and implement sound solutions that advance all aspects of sustainability. Local governments also provide emergency response to the community impacted by severe weather events and implement solutions for the effects of climate change affecting residents, businesses, and customers. At the core, this all relates to the Strategic Plan Goal of "Effective Village Government: Financially Sound, Providing Exceptional Service".

The Village has implemented numerous sustainability actions that are practical and financially sound. Sometimes it is as easy as responding to technological trends like replacing paper in favor for electronic documents or as challenging as pursuing a stormwater project requiring multi-jurisdiction approval and grant funding to complete. Some sustainability initiatives can be completed through the efforts of Village staff and contractors; however, greater benefits may be realized through a multi-jurisdictional approach and participating in Regional Climate Collaboratives. Climate-related hazards extend beyond municipal boundaries, making regional collaboratives and goals critical to addressing sustainability.<sup>29</sup> For example, stormwater management should involve a watershed-wide perspective and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets should be established at a regional level.

### Sustainability Goals

- Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region
- Lead by demonstrating values and practices
- Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations
- Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability

The Village endorsing the Greenest Region Compact in 2016 and the 2021 Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region are two examples of the Village working collaboratively towards a sustainable region. The Village's stormwater improvements like Levee 37 and the drainage systems installed at Burning Bush and Aspen Trails Parks are more examples of the Village working collaboratively towards a sustainable region. These stormwater projects included coordinating with US Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

A few examples of the Village leading through values and practices include the implementation of textile recycling and hosting annual household hazardous waste collection events. Without these services, particularly for household hazardous waste, residents would not have easy access to recycling these materials and they would remain in homes as potential hazards or eventually be improperly disposed.

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<sup>29</sup> <https://us.sustain.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Regional-Collaboratives-for-Climate-Change-FINAL.pdf>

Another way the Village continues to lessen its impact on the environment is through transitioning away from paper forms and records. Processes and files across all departments have been migrating to electronic methods over the years. The Village's Building and Inspection Service Department went live with an online building permitting software in 2020. Staff is estimating the online permit process will save 45 trees in paper each year.

The Police Department has issued over 13,000 citations since their switch to e-citation. While a paper copy is still provided to the motorist, the significant savings comes from eliminating the multi-paper carbonless tickets. Finance has recently launched a new e-billing software for water/sewer/refuse bills, but has accepted online and auto-debit utility bill payments for many years prior. The Finance Department, who has accepted online and auto-debit utility bill payments for many years, has recently launched a new e-billing software for water/sewer/refuse bills.

One example of collecting data to advance sustainability is implementing automated water meter reading technology. The equipment allows the Village to obtain meter readings without entering a property or having a resident submit a monthly read. For the resident, it provides accurate bills on actual consumptions while giving Village staff the opportunity to notify residents of possible water leaks in the residence (faucets, toilets, humidifiers, etc.).

The following list of efforts and actions support the goals for Leadership + Municipal Operations identified above:

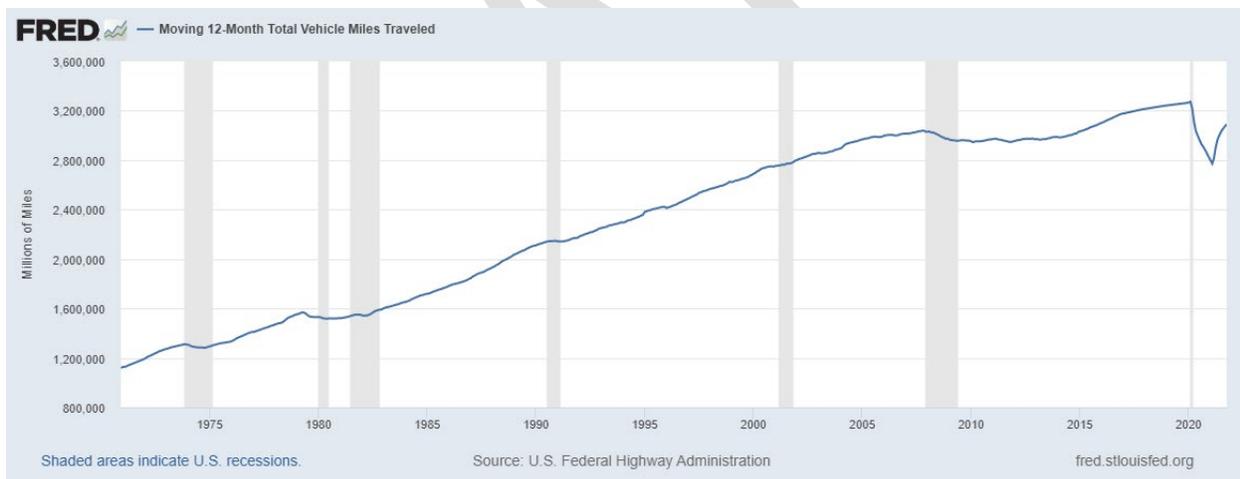
- Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environment Committee & Energy Subcommittee members
- Endorsed Greenest Region Compact in 2008
- Endorsed Greenest Region Compact 2 in 2016
- Endorsed 2021 Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region 2021
- Signatory to the Mayors Monarch Pledge and the installation of five monarch waystations to date (one (1) medium 200-499 sq. ft. and four (4) x-large 1,000 – 4,999 sq. ft.)
- Launch a Community Solar program with the help of Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the Power Bureau
- Village hosts an annual Arbor Day celebration where the school involved plants a tree.
- Designated SolSmart community (in progress)
- Tree City USA Recognition
- 2019 Water Saver Utility Award
- Sustainability Partnership Game Changer Award
- Village received the Bronze level Clean Air Counts award in 2004
- Illinois Sustainability Award
- 2018 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award
- Hazardous household waste, textiles, organics (organics material including fruits, vegetables, meat, etc) recycling programs
- Installed EV charging stations in the Emerson Street and the Maple Street Parking Decks
- The Village's fleet includes three hybrid vehicles as of 12/31/2021.

## 6. Mobility:

### Overview

Movement of people and products are important factors for greenhouse gas emissions and livability of a community. To date, automobiles have been a significant driving force shaping American communities. The Interstate Highway System, state highways and local roads are the foundation for the successful growth of many suburbs and exurbs. Suburbs along rail lines benefited from commuter and freight trains to move people and goods. In addition, some metropolitan regions have a rapid transit system like the Chicago Elevated “L” that serves Chicago and some of its surrounding suburbs. In addition, a network of suburban bus routes along major thoroughfares provides a public transportation option for many destinations only accessible by an automobile.

The graph below shows the moving 12-Month Total Vehicle Miles Traveled from 1970 through October 2021. While the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly put the brakes on people traveling, history shows a sustained gradual increase in vehicle miles traveled year over year. The Federal Highway Administration’s forecast to 2049 of vehicle miles traveled tells of a 0.6% annual increase of light-duty vehicles miles – light duty vehicles including automobiles and light duty trucks used primarily for passenger travel.<sup>30</sup>



Traveling by vehicle is not always available or the best option for people. AAA’s annual Your Driving Costs study, most recently published (August 2021) estimates the cost a new vehicle is \$9,666 per year.<sup>31</sup> Traffic congestion in the Chicago area ranks among the worst in the nation as drivers in Chicago lost 104 hours to traffic congestion in 2021 despite being -27% to -37% below 2019 levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>32</sup>

Traveling by public transit has its own hurdles for people to navigate due to first mile/last mile gaps and long commutes. The first mile/last mile gaps is the extent to which people can access transit stations, usually by walking. Furthermore, transit routes and locations of stations could mean a trip could take

<sup>30</sup> [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/tables/vmt/vmt\\_forecast\\_sum.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/tables/vmt/vmt_forecast_sum.cfm)

<sup>31</sup> <https://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-YDC-Fact-Sheet-FINAL-8-9-21.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> <https://inrix.com/press-releases/2021-traffic-scorecard/>



Household Travel survey data shows that 25.5 million Americans have travel-limiting disabilities.<sup>37</sup> For the Chicago region, 7% of people between the ages of 18 to 64, and 33% of those over the age of 65 have disabilities as defined by the 2017 American Community Survey data ([footnote](#)).<sup>38</sup> A national survey by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center found that among adults age 60 and older, one third have a disability that limits physical activities, vision, or hearing, and 71% use medical equipment or mobility aids.<sup>39</sup>

The federal and state level Department of Transportations are responsible for implementing design guidelines responsive to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA also specifically requires public entities with more than 50 employees that have responsibility for streets and sidewalks to conduct a Self-Evaluation and create a Transition Plan that identifies the steps needed to bring the pedestrian infrastructure under their authority into compliance. The Village of Mount Prospect is working with DLZ Illinois Inc. to to conduct a Self-Evaluation and create a Transition Plan with a scheduled implementation year of 2024.

#### Sustainability Goals

- Support safe and effective active transportation
- Maintain a diverse, safe and efficient transportation network
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices

Three (3) U.S. highways (US-12, US-14, US-45) and three (3) state highways (IL-58, IL-62, IL-83) run through Mount Prospect and the Village maintains 136 miles of local roads. A full service interchange at the municipality's southern boundary provides easy access to Interstate 90 and Chicago. Union Pacific Railroad with Metra Commuter service and regional PACE bus routes, provide public transportation to the area. 253 miles of public sidewalks and 15 miles of signed bike routes support active transportation within the Village. The existing transportation infrastructure is a great starting point for enhancing mobility for the future, which will focus on improving multi-modal transportation (e.g. public transportation, walking, biking, etc.). However, the layout of the municipal boundaries present a challenge with being over eight (8) miles to travel from the northeast to southwest corners of the community while it is about three (3) to travel from the eastern to southern boundaries. In addition, the railroad and state highways, which improve regional mobility, divides downtown and chills connections between neighborhoods as potential obstacles for walking and biking.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Cook County Department of Transportation (CCDOT), Union Pacific Railroad and Regional Transit Authority own and/or operate transportation infrastructure within Mount Prospect. Improving mobility around Mount Prospect frequently requires intergovernmental collaboration that can also complicate what would otherwise seem as simple improvements. For example,

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<sup>37</sup> <https://www.transportation.gov/accessibility>

<sup>38</sup> Toward Universal Mobility: Charting a Path to Improve Transportation Accessibility, December 2019. [https://www.metroplanning.org/uploads/cms/documents/universal\\_mobility\\_report\\_dec2\\_pm.pdf](https://www.metroplanning.org/uploads/cms/documents/universal_mobility_report_dec2_pm.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> Transportation Needs and Assessment: Survey of Older Adults, People with Disabilities, and Caregivers, December 2018 [https://www.nadtc.org/wp-content/uploads/KRC-nadtc-Survey-Report-120718-FINAL\\_for-web508.pdf](https://www.nadtc.org/wp-content/uploads/KRC-nadtc-Survey-Report-120718-FINAL_for-web508.pdf)

adding a pedestrian crosswalk across Main Street/Route 83 requires IDOT approval and for the Village to adhere to their design specifications adding to project costs like new vehicle turn restrictions at the intersection of the proposed crosswalk. There are many times when intergovernmental collaboration is beneficial for the community's mobility. Grant funding offsets cost to construct intersection improvements or transportation agencies may initiate a transit infrastructure improvement independently.

There are varieties of tools for improving the existing transportation network into a diverse, safe and sustainable system such as Complete Streets Policy, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Multimodal Transportation planning, area specific studies, transit-oriented development, etc.

A Complete Streets Policy addresses elements like sidewalks, bicycle lanes, bus lanes, public transportation, private motorists, commercial vehicles, pedestrian crossings, traffic calming measures and streetscapes.<sup>42</sup> The Village's Policy would be applied to all transportation improvements requiring street reconstruction as an opportunity to create safer, more accessible streets for all users. The Complete Streets approach will result in public health benefits and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

A bike plan includes recommendations regarding safety and encouragement programs, as well as bicycling-related infrastructure (e.g. bike parking, on-street bike lanes, traffic calming strategies, etc.) including a comprehensive bikeway network ([Mount Prospect Bike Plan](#)). The [Northwest Municipal Conference adopted a Regional Bike Plan](#) in December 2020. The plan was developed with input from member communities, including Mount Prospect, and identifies corridors of regional significance that connect communities and destinations which were prioritized for improving bicycle infrastructure.

A Multimodal Transportation Plan is a comprehensive evaluation of all modal networks in an area and the key land use destinations they connect. The plan would identify gaps or barriers in the physical transportation networks but also in the socioeconomic conditions of the community. In addition, the Plan provides actions to make streets safer for all users, particularly for pedestrians and bicycles. The [Northwest Municipal Conference published a Multimodal Transportation Plan March 2020](#) for their membership area of over 350 square miles in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry Counties.

Area specific studies are beneficial from transportation and economic development standpoints. These studies begin with evaluating an area's existing conditions by collecting relevant data and input from the community. Opportunities and recommendations for the area are provided to manage challenges and support improvements. Mount Prospect's [Rand Road Corridor Study](#) and [Connect South Mount Prospect: 2020](#) are area specific studies with recommendations on improving mobility within the areas. ([Mount Prospect Long-Range Plans & Studies](#))

Transit-oriented development (TOD) locates moderate to high-density mixed-use (housing, office, retail) construction and other amenities within a half-mile of public transportation options. Benefits of TOD include improving public health by encouraging walking or biking, reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to driving, and provide household cost savings.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/complete-streets>

<sup>43</sup> [https://www.rtachicago.org/sites/default/files/documents/plansandprograms/landusetod/TransitWorks\\_TODbrochure.pdf](https://www.rtachicago.org/sites/default/files/documents/plansandprograms/landusetod/TransitWorks_TODbrochure.pdf)

The following list of efforts and actions support the goals for Mobility identified above:

- In 2011, the Village adopted the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. The goals of the program include enhancing neighborhood safety and livability by reducing excessive speeding and traffic volumes on residential streets to program safety for bicycle and pedestrian travel
- Coordinates Village Bike Plan improvements with regional councils of government and neighboring communities to work towards connected and continuous bike routes throughout the region.
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- Conducts traffic studies to evaluate traffic flow and pedestrian access as needed throughout the Village - multiple downtown intersections, Rand Rd./Kensington Rd./Rte. 83 intersection, Mt. Prospect Rd./Central Rd./Rand Rd. intersection
- The Village Board approved a Complete Streets Policy in 2020 requiring a street design approach to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable travel and access for all roadway users.
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- 
- Completed Kensington Road Bike Path Rehabilitation. The project included repaving the path and adding amenities such as lighting
- The Village is responsible for the Metra Station building in downtown Mount Prospect and commissioned a refresh in 2016
- The Village is working to fill gaps in pedestrian networks by installing new sidewalks as part of the annual Community Investment Plan
- Annually make street lighting improvements along major Village corridors and residential streets to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety.
- Pedestrian crossing improvements intend to increase safety for pedestrians and bikes. The Village has made improvements at Emerson St. and Central Rd., Linneman Rd. and Dempster Ave. Additional improvements are planned at crossings along Central Rd.
- Installed electric vehicle charging station in Emerson Street Parking Deck and Maple Street Parking Deck
- Staff maintains a Public Transportation webpage on the Village's website to provide easy access Metra, PACE Bus, Chicago Transit Authority and commuter parking information
- Synchronize traffic signals to facilitate traffic movement including nighttime signal time changes to reduce vehicle idling
- Connect South Mount Prospect 2020 Sub-Area Plan update references and recommends several transit options for future implementation including: coordinating with PACE to expand service, expand sidewalk network, consider multi-use paths and enhance streetscape and signage.
- 2017 Comprehensive Plan encourages pedestrian and transit friendly developments, to seek opportunities to improve access and provide safe passage for all modes of transportation.
- The Village approved a Bicycle Plan in February 2012. In 2016 a total of 15 miles of bike routes were designated and signed within the Village in accordance with the Bicycle Plan. In 2022. This project will add 14 miles of on-street bike routes were added to the existing bike route network and complete the network as laid out in the Bicycle Plan.

## 7. Sustainable Communities:

### *Overview*

The Sustainable Communities category focuses on the community's health and wellness, and social environment. This supports a variety of initiatives like social services, locally grown food, sustainability award programs, and a welcoming and inclusive community character. The term sustainable communities itself does not have a single definition. The Institute for Sustainable Communities defines a sustainable community as one that manages its human, natural, and financial capital to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations.<sup>44</sup>

Plug the human services department

Demographics stats

Sustainability Goals

- Promote cultural vibrancy in the community
- Foster a culture of health, safety and wellness
- Increase access to sustainably grown local food
- Sustain community principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable
- Promote a sustainability for the community
- Ensure local policies and codes support sustainability
- Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability

Promoting cultural vibrancy is an opportunity to look at community challenges in an inclusive manner to advance local economic, physical, and social change. Creative placemaking is one method for promoting inclusivity and it is a process where community members, artists, culture and arts organizations, community developers, and other stakeholders use arts and cultural strategies to implement community-led change.<sup>45</sup> There is also an economic benefit to arts and cultural as Arts and Cultural Production account for 4.3 percent, or \$919.7 billion, of current-dollar gross domestic product, in 2019.<sup>46</sup> Cultural amenities are important selling points in attracting workforce talent.<sup>47</sup>

Other opportunities have emerged from the private sector as companies are seeking opportunities for making positive social change since are increasingly being rated by their community involvement and impact, ethics, social responsibility and their participation in cultural engagement and connection to the community. Promoting cultural vibrancy fosters a better-connected community with greater potential to find new solutions for improving the health of the community and the environment.

Fostering a culture of health, safety and wellness may be accomplished through a variety of means. Reducing air and water pollution are ways to improve the health and well-being of a community. Mobility and Land goals encourage biking and use of open space, which also improve the health and well-being of

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<sup>44</sup> <https://sustain.org/about/what-is-a-sustainable-community/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.planning.org/knowledgebase/creativeplacemaking/>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.bea.gov/index.php/news/2021/arts-and-cultural-production-satellite-account-us-and-states>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.governing.com/archive/col-how-smaller-cities-attract-keep-millennials.html>

a community. The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light the impacts of social economics and built environment on both physical and mental health.<sup>48</sup> Fostering a culture of health, safety and wellness includes nursing and social services that align with the mission of the Village's Human Services Department as well as services provided by Wheeling and Elk Grove Townships.

Food production plays a role in greenhouse gas emissions and the health and wellness of a community. Sustainability initiatives promote the production of local food with no or reduce applications of herbicides and pesticides. Majority of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions comes from production and not transportation of produce. Produce grown locally in a greenhouse heated by fossil fuels could very likely have a higher greenhouse gas footprint than if the same produce was imported from a climate suited for growing without a greenhouse.<sup>49</sup> In addition, the production of paper and pulp for food packaging further complicates the environmental impact. Food produced locally would generally utilize organic farming methods, which emit less greenhouse gas emissions than conventional methods.<sup>50</sup>

A component of a community's health and social environment are principles supporting a welcoming, inclusive and equitable community. The Village places great importance of our cultural climate, such that "Cultural Climate: Honoring, Heritage and Diversity" is a goal in the annual strategic plan. In addition, the Village's Strategic Plan mission and core values embrace these principles:

*"Mission of Mount Prospect Village Government is to ADVANCE OUR COMMUNITY'S COLLECTIVE QUALITY OF LIFE AND POTENTIAL through ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP and LEADING – EDGE SERVICE DELIVERY.*

*CORE VALUES to respect; listen; be ethical, positive and optimistic; maintain a commitment to service; and sound analysis, decision-making and consensus."*

The following list of efforts and actions support the goals for Sustainable Communities identified above:

- The Village supports the Mount Prospect Historical Society goals of preserving and providing educational opportunities through programs and events to share historical information related to Mount Prospect
- Starting in 2019, the Celebration of Cultures event is an annual commemoration to honor the many diverse populations that live side-by-side in Mount Prospect
- The Village offers Household Hazards Waste Collection events each year to make disposal of waste that requires special treatment more readily available to residents when improper disposal can put the community at risk
- The Village's Backyard Drainage Program is an effort to reduce recurring backyard flooding after any significant rain event. Forty-nine (49) properties have rain gardens installed thus far out of seventy-one (71) identified properties
- Public Works Alternative Fuel Study; right sizing municipal vehicles and replacing with more fuel efficient vehicles helps align internal policies to support sustainability 
- Staff shares information on heating and cooling centers to help prepares the community at times of severe weather

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<sup>48</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1257572/>

<sup>49</sup> *RCC Perspectives*, No. 1, Think Global, Eat Local: Exploring Foodways (2015), pp. 19-24 (6 pages) – Rachel Shindelar  
[https://www.jstor.org/stable/26241302?seq=2#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/26241302?seq=2#metadata_info_tab_contents)

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-12622-7>

- In 2022, the Human Services Department distributed 25 energy efficiency kits to qualifying families in partnership with the UIC Energy Resources Center and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
- The Community Development Block Grant CDBG Sidewalk Replacement Program aims to provide a more convenient and safe pedestrian walkway by removing and replacing uneven and deteriorated squares of the public sidewalk
- The Village Board approved an application for Community Development Block Grant funds to construct a mini-soccer pitch at Euclid Elementary School.
- The Public Works Open House serves as an opportunity to share information related to sustainability (e.g. recycling, tree care, clean water, storm water, etc.) with the community
- Lions Club Farmers Market supports local and healthy food sources, and remaining produce is donated to the Village's Food Pantry which provides clients with access to fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Human Services department receives a weekly bread donation that staff distributes to residents out of the Village's Community Connections Center.

## 8. Waste and Recycling

### *Overview*

Sustainable waste management is important as it addresses collecting, treating, and disposing of solid material that has served its purpose or is no longer useful.<sup>51</sup> Societies have been dealing with waste throughout history and even prehistoric ages. Population, economic activity, and society's consumption of resources and materials influence the production of waste and pollution.<sup>52</sup> There are many different types of wastes including, municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, construction and demolition debris, and industrial non-hazardous waste.<sup>53</sup> Municipal solid waste is everyday items like product packaging, batteries, clothing, bottles and cans, food, newspaper, appliances, electronics and furniture. There are several methods for managing waste but they are not without their own challenges.

In 2018, 50% of municipal solid waste ends up in a landfill.<sup>54</sup> Landfills were the third largest source of U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions in 2019 per EPA's Inventory of U.S Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (1990-2019).<sup>55</sup> Incineration with energy recovery represents 11.8% of municipal solid waste disposal. In 2019, 67 power plants burned 25 million tons of municipal solid waste and generated about 13 billion kWh of electricity. Incineration generates a variety of air pollutants that have health impacts and

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/technology/solid-waste-management>

<sup>52</sup> <https://cfpub.epa.gov/roe/indicator.cfm?i=53>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/wastes>

<sup>54</sup> EPA, Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2018 Fact Sheet. Assessing Trends in Materials Generation and Management in the United States. December 2020. [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-01/documents/2018\\_ff\\_fact\\_sheet\\_dec\\_2020\\_fnl\\_508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-01/documents/2018_ff_fact_sheet_dec_2020_fnl_508.pdf)

<sup>55</sup> EPA, Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks 1990 – 2019. <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/documents/us-ghg-inventory-2021-main-text.pdf?VersionId=yu89kg1O2qP754CdR8Qmyn4RRWc5iodZ>

contribute to climate change, smog and acidification.<sup>56</sup> While recycling consisted of 32.1% of U.S. municipal solid waste in 2018, it has its own challenges. Recycling is effective when there are markets for recycled materials. For example, processing recycled plastic materials may cost more than using new plastic.<sup>57</sup> <sup>58</sup> Another challenge is it is difficult for consumers to understand what materials can be recycled leading to recyclables in the trash and placing trash in the recycling. A relatively new policy approach to improve recycling is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation. EPR holds product manufacturers responsible for the total environmental impact from a product and its packaging including the cost of end-of-life disposal.

#### Sustainability Goals

- Support sustainable material management
- Recycle materials across all sectors
- Divert waste from landfills
- Enact policies that cause sustainable material management
- Engage the community with respect to waste reduction and recycling

The Village of Mount Prospect has a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Program that promotes waste reduction and resource recovery. The Village's residential solid waste contract with Republic Services (expires 12/31/2027) provides services to both single-family residences (curbside collection), multi-family (centralized refuse containers), and commercial properties. Residential waste is disposed of at the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's (SWANCC) transfer station situated near the intersection of Central Road and River Road in Glenview, Illinois pursuant to a use agreement starting March 17, 1992, expiring December 31, 2031. SWANCC is a nonprofit intergovernmental agency established in 1988 and has 23 member communities. The agency provides a variety of waste reduction and recycling services. Batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, medication/sharps, mercury thermometers recycling is available for residents through the Village's membership in SWANCC. Residents may drop off these items at Public Works for convenience. Electronics are also recyclable through SWANCC and the Village hosts drop-off days at Public Works from April through October. In addition, the Village partners with Trex Company and Simple Recycling to provide the community opportunities to recycle plastic bags and textiles. Moreover, the Village hosts hazardous household waste events for residents to conveniently drop off potentially harmful materials banned from landfills, and stored in residences. The four IEPA hosted permanent household hazardous waste disposal sites are located in Naperville, City of Chicago – Goose Island, Rockford, and Gurnee none of which are convenient for Mount Prospect residents.

Organic waste in landfills generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas, while composting food scraps and other organics emits much less methane than landfill disposal. Composting provides a resource to replace use of chemical fertilizers, carbon sequestration, and can be used to remediate contaminated soils.<sup>59</sup> The Village of Mount Prospect was among the first Chicago area towns to provide curbside collection of food

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<sup>56</sup> U.S. EPA (2016) "Air Emissions from Municipal Solid Waste Combustion Facilities

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/us-recycling-system#CurrentChallenges>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/20/750864036/u-s-recycling-industry-is-struggling-to-figure-out-a-future-without-china>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/reducing-impact-wasted-food-feeding-soil-and-composting>

scraps to households. In addition, the [Village Code permits compost piles](#) for single-family homes, if they meet the minimum requirements (i.e. distance from property line, located in rear yard behind the principle structure, not exceeding the maximum size of four (4) feet tall by four (4) wide by four (4) long).

The biggest challenge affecting recycling is contamination. The Village's website, annual Recycling Edition newsletter and Public Works Open House all share information on how to recycle responsibly - by ensuring all items are empty, clean and dry. One dirty item can contaminate thousands of pounds of materials. The Village also partners with the Recycle Coach App to provide residents easy access to recycling information like pick up schedules, recycling information, and detailed information on where and how to recycle thousands of items.

The following list of efforts and actions support the goals for Waste & Recycling identified above:

- The Village's curbside recycling provides resource recovery for plastic, glass, metal cans, aluminum foil, cardboard & paper, and eligible food and liquid containers for single family residents
- The Village's organics recycling offers single family residents curbside pickup of landscape waste and food scraps keeping these biodegradable materials out of landfills
- Annual Household Hazards Waste Collection events each year make disposal of waste that requires special treatment more readily available to residents when improper disposal can put the community at risk
- In addition to curbside recycling and organics programs, Mount Prospect residents have access to a variety of recycling options for the following items, holiday lights, batteries, sharps, electronics, document destruction, pumpkins, and more through partnership with Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County and Republic Disposal
- In 2017, the Village Board approved an ordinance to remove the permit requirement for garage sales. Garage sales support exchange of goods and services among residents. Plus, coordinating the annual garage sale weekend event generates regional interest bring more potential shoppers to individuals' garage sales
- Wood chips from parkway trees removed by Public Works are available for residents to pick and use in their yards for free
- Village Code permits compost piles/bin with certain - size and placement restrictions
- Moving to electronic billing has reduced the Village's paper consumption in municipal operations
  - Building permits may be submitted online Implemented electronic permitting which reduced paper usage and expedited permit review
  - Police Department went live with e-citations that reduce the paper involved in the citation
  - Electronic Fire & EMS reports
  - E-Billing Option for Utility Payments and Vehicle Stickers Purchases
  - Transitioned Metra Parking permits from paper hang-tags to an electric process utilizing license plate numbers and the Police's license plate reader system
- Businesses using fats, oils and greases are required to install and maintain interceptors to properly dispose of waste that would otherwise enter the sewer systems
- Staff works to provide education about correct recycling methods to prevent commingled and containment recycling – Recycling Coach App, recycling information on the Village webpage, Public Works Open House and social media channels, and other public events
- The Village also offers recycling to multi-family buildings with centralized refuse containers

## 9. Water

### Overview

Water, one of the most important natural resources, is vital for all life.<sup>60</sup> Its continuous movement in a hydrological cycle ties together air, clouds, oceans, lakes, river, snowpack and glaciers. Civilizations have repeatedly developed around rivers because it provides drinking water, a place to hunt, fish, grow crops, and a means of transportation. In today's modern and globalized world, water still provides the same benefits as it did 10,000 years ago; however, pollution from human progress has degraded its once pristine quality. Trash and plastic float in oceans and is found along river banks, contaminates infiltrate into ground water from improperly disposed waste and chemicals, and pollutants deposited on impervious surfaces flow into waterways through storm water runoff.<sup>61 62</sup> The Clean Water Act regulates quality standards for surface waters and discharges of pollutants into the water. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978, signed by the U.S and Canada required the EPA to establish water quality criteria for the Great Lakes addressing 29 toxic pollutants. In addition to regulated pollutants, the EPA also monitors unregulated contaminants in drinking water. This has allowed the EPA to monitor polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are long lasting chemicals now present in the blood of people and animals all over the world with possible links to harmful health effects.<sup>63</sup>

Where Water is Found and the Percentage?	
Oceans	97.2%
Ice Caps/Glaciers	2.0%
Groundwater*	0.62%
Freshwater Lakes	0.009%
Inland seas/salt lakes	0.008%
Atmosphere	0.001%
Rivers	0.0001%
Total	99.8381%
*Some of this groundwater lies too far under the earth's surface to be extracted at an affordable cost. (footnote)	

A watershed is an area of land draining or “sheds” into a specific waterbody (i.e. lake, river, stream, etc). Every body of water has a watershed and everyone lives in a watershed. A watershed consists of surface water and groundwater, which are the major sources of drinking water in the United States.<sup>64</sup> The source of that water typically is surface water from rivers, lakes, or reservoirs, or groundwater, which is treated before delivery to consumers. The remaining U.S. population relies on private groundwater wells to meet their household needs.<sup>65</sup>

The depletion of surface water and ground water from pumping it out faster than it can replenish over the long-term creates negative effects including deterioration of water quality, reduction of water in streams and lakes, land subsidence, and increased cost for the user. The effects of ground water depletion are present in the Chicago metropolitan area as the United States Geological Survey states on their website, “Chicago has been using groundwater since at least 1864 and groundwater has been the sole source of drinking water for about 8.2 million people in the Great Lakes watershed. This long-term pumping has lowered groundwater levels by as much as 900

<sup>60</sup> <https://sitn.hms.harvard.edu/uncategorized/2019/biological-roles-of-water-why-is-water-necessary-for-life/>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-08/documents/mgwc-gwc1.pdf>

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/stormwater-r-weiss0608.pdf>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school/science/watersheds-and-drainage-basins>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/drinking-water-and-source-water-research>

feet.”<sup>66</sup> Droughts pose a serious threat to replenishing groundwater aquifers and surface water supplies as rain and snowfall patterns change.

A community’s fresh water sources may be from a lake, river or a well (ground water/aquifer). Water systems are designed to filter out pollution and contaminants providing potable water to a town or metropolitan region.

Once the fresh water is used, it leaves a home or business as sewage. The sewage may enter a septic field or a sewer system to be treated. A sanitary reclamation plant receives and treats sanitary and wastewater to breakdown the organic matter in the water into harmless byproducts before it is returned to the environment.

Stormwater and flooding are another challenge for communities. Traditional development reduces pervious land to absorb rainfall naturally, while, climate change effects historic weather patterns creating greater potential for severe weather events. Stormwater sewers, swales, retention and detention ponds are some infrastructure mitigation tools to manage stormwater.

#### Sustainability Goals

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship

The Village of Mount Prospect’s water supply comes from Lake Michigan, either through Village-owned or Illinois American Water distribution systems. The Village’s water distributor, the Northwest Suburban Municipal Joint Action Water Agency (NSMJAWA) buys water from the City of Chicago. Illinois American Water purchases water from City of Des Plaines, who purchases from City of Chicago and City of Evanston. The Village has three types of sewers: storm, combined, and sanitary. Storm sewers and combined sewer both transport rainwater; although, combined sewers also convey sanitary waste. Mount Prospect’s sewer and wastewater goes to water reclamation plants operated and owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD).

Approximately, separate sanitary and stormwater sewers serve 66 percent of the Village. The stormwater sewers drain into the local creeks. The clear rainwater that enters combined sewers flows with sewer water to reclamation plants for treatment. After being treated the water returns to the environment by discharging into area creeks or rivers.

Five waterways carry stormwater into, through and away from the Village of Mount Prospect: the Des Plaines River, McDonalds Creek, Feehanville Ditch, Weller Creek and Higgins Creek. The creeks and ditches drain into the Des Plaines River, which ultimately drains into the Gulf of Mexico. In 2004, the Illinois General Assembly granted authority to the MWRD to manage stormwater for Cook County. Then in 2013,

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<sup>66</sup> <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school/science/groundwater-decline-and-depletion#overview>

the MWRD Board of Commissioners approved the Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance to provide uniform stormwater management regulations for Cook County in order to prevent future commercial, municipal, and residential development and redevelopment projects from exacerbating flooding and to improve area water quality.

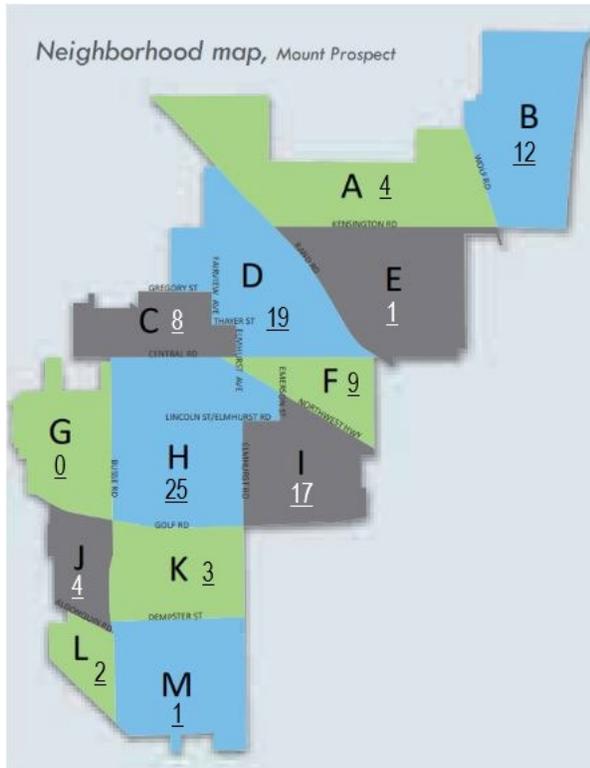
By bordering the Des Plaines River, the Village has experienced firsthand changes in stormwater events from the 1980s to the present day. Army Corp of Engineers designed Levee 37 to prevent floodwater from entering the Village using 1986-87 flooding data; however, rain event patterns changed enough by the time of construction that recent flooding events necessitated further analysis and modification to the Levee 37's pumping systems. Infrastructure improvements to alleviate stormwater and flooding are actions of the Village mitigating climate change.

The following list of efforts and actions support the goals for Water identified above:

- Communities Water Consumption per capita
- Conducted a water rate study to determine sustainable rate structure
- Water Main Replacement, Water Tank Rehabilitation and projects related to sustaining water infrastructure
- Various Flood Control Projects – Grant awards to the Village.
  - Levee 37
  - Burning Bush
  - Aspen Trails
  - Isabella
  - Storm and Combined Sewer inspection and maintenance program
- Neighborhood Drainage Improvements – Private Property Rain Gardens
- Replaced traditional water meters with Automated Meter Reading technology
- Use of preventive devices during construction projections (i.e. catch basins, silt fences, street sweeping)
- Creek bank stabilization with bio-engineering (also under Land)
- Water loss audit & leak detection program
- Implemented computerized controls for salt and de-icing chemicals in vehicles for use during winter storms to efficiently distribute salt and de-icing chemicals
- The Village maintains a Community Rating System (CRS) Class 6 Designation. Due to the staff's floodplain management, the classification results in a 20% flood insurance premium discount for property owners in the floodplain and a 10% discount for property owners outside the floodplain.
- Sprinkler / water use regulations

### **Sustainability in Mount Prospect Survey:**

The Village launched a Sustainability in Mount Prospect Survey via the SurveyMonkey platform in July of 2021. The intended purpose was to start forming a picture of sustainability actions the community has taken and where the Village may focus its efforts. This survey was the first outreach opportunity specifically with sustainability as the sole topic and shared through the Village's website and Facebook page. The survey was open for anyone to take, since it was not possible to verify if responses are from Village residents. Respondents were asked to select what statements best describes them with the answer options being, Currently live Mount Prospect, Used to live in Mount Prospect, Work in Mount



Prospect, Shop in Mount Prospect, Attend Community Events in Mount Prospect, and Other. 92.92% or 105 of the 113 respondents reported they currently live in the Village, and the neighborhood map shows the distribution of responses in the community. The question and map was used in the Community Survey for the Comprehensive Plan adopted 2017. Majority (77.68%) of respondents fit the combined 35 – 64 years old age brackets (52.68% - 35 to 49yos; 25% - 50 to 64 yos). These results may be used to design future outreach.

52.46% (or 64/122) of respondents responded “satisfied” to the question, “How do you feel the Village is doing with regard to sustainable practices overall?”, and 40.98% (or 50/122) of respondents feeling neutral.

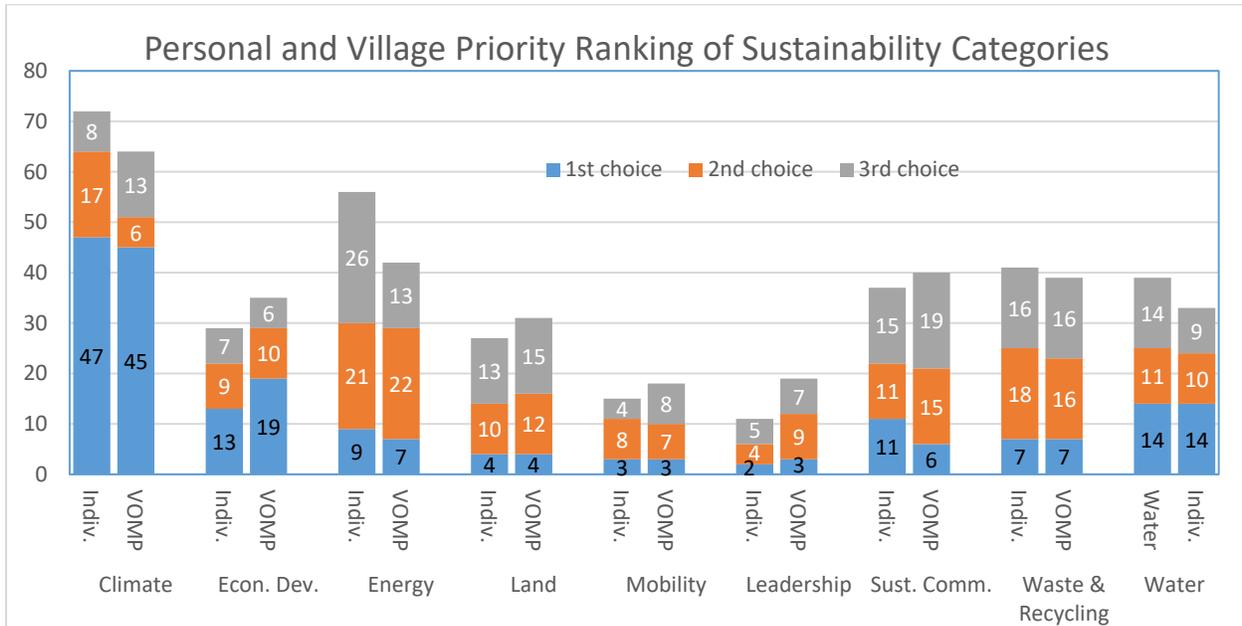
The survey asked which services the respondent would be interested in for furthering sustainability efforts, 107 checked Sustainability Programs (e.g. household hazardous waste collection) and

sustainability information (topic specific information shared via Village’s newsletter, website or social media channels) received 100 votes. Workshops and Seminars received 48 votes. These results should be taken into consideration when planning future Village initiatives.

There was a series of five questions asking what actions the respondent has taken to support sustainability in the categories of, Energy, Mobility, Community, Waste & Recycling, and Water. Six to eight answer options were provided along with the opportunity to submit comments. The purpose of these questions was to begin to understand where the community has made the most progress. Then the Village could evaluate where to allocate resources and estimate the impact of initiatives. For example, a LED light conversion initiative may be less effective since many already use LED lights. On the other hand, an initiative supporting smart power strips may be more effective. The Village may categorize future initiatives into supporting existing successes, working towards improvement, or both. Below are highlights from the survey, which is just the starting point of outreach.

- Respondents engage in sustainable actions much more at home than at work
- The most reported sustainable actions at home were turning off lights, recycling and converting to LEDs
- Eliminating use of single use plastic water bottles and using reusable bags actions received high implementation scores
- Majority of respondents have yet to install energy conversion systems (solar or wind) Installing solar panels had 103 either (at home or at work) answers out of a possible 128

Respondents had a chance to rank the sustainability categories in order of importance to them personally and which should receive the most emphasis from the Village over the next two years. The results are presented in the below table.



Climate (greenhouse gas emissions, clean air, resilience to climate change impacts) ranked at the top as 1<sup>st</sup> Choice for personal and village priorities. Energy (energy efficiency, reduce consumption, renewable and clean energy) came in second overall and 1<sup>st</sup> in 2<sup>nd</sup> choice picks for personal and village priorities. Sustainable Community (health, safety, wellness, inclusive and equitable), Waste & Recycling (material management, waste reduction and recycling), Water (distribute water efficiently, water quality, and manage stormwater) are relatively close for third priority overall.

All the categories are important and the Village is taking actions to further efforts in all. These responses serve as a general guide for which categories are receiving the most interest. These questions should be asked in future outreach initiatives to gather greater input from the community. It also may be beneficial to have additional analysis to evaluate sustainability priorities by sub-areas in the community, similar to the Neighborhood Map.

Respondents were also able to provide a short form answer to what they would like to see accomplished over the next two years. Staff grouped and sorted answers in order to create the word cloud visual below. Encouraging the use of native plants was the most frequently mentioned action with eight comments. The next three actions received seven mentions each, promoting active transportation, stop building new multi-family/stop building and furthering sustainable waste management and recycling.

