



## COMMUNITY FACILITIES, PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

Community facilities are comprised of places and institutions that meet the civic, cultural, social, recreational, educational, and spiritual needs of the community. These facilities include municipal buildings, public safety services, schools, library, parks, religious institutions, healthcare facilities, and historical sites. Public infrastructure encompasses the municipal services and utilities that are vital to the daily function of the Village. Water, sewer, electric and communications utilities, and roadways are the most common elements of public infrastructure. Taken together community facilities and public infrastructure form the physical backbone of a community that benefits current residents and attracts potential new residents.

Based on the Community Assessment, Hanover Park's municipal facilities and public infrastructure are generally in good condition, providing adequate facilities, services, and utilities for the daily function of the Village. In addition, because Hanover Park is a built-out community, with a minimal forecasted population growth, there are no immediate plans or needs to make a significant investment in new facilities or public infrastructure. Therefore, it will still be essential to make the necessary improvements to ensure the facilities, services and utilities to provide the community with adequate capacity, that are well-maintained, and accessible to all.

While there are no immediate plans or needs to make major investments in public facilities and infrastructure, the Village is challenged with public safety, community image and aesthetics issues. A focus of the Village's future actions should address these issues.

### VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

#### ***Vision:* Hanover Park Will Foster a Positive Community Image Through Promotion of Quality Community Aesthetics**

Hanover Park has suffered from both lack of and a negative community identity. However, Hanover Park has tremendous qualities including family-oriented, affordable neighborhoods, strong parks and schools, good transportation access with commuter rail service, and cultural diversity which should be promoted, marketed, and celebrated.

***Goal 1:*** *Develop a positive, distinct identity and sense of community pride built upon the unique qualities of Hanover Park's family-oriented community and civic resources.*



Hanover Park resident's pride in their community is often tempered by the somewhat negative Village image by both residents and non-Village residents. While some of these issues are difficult to overcome in the short term, Hanover Park should actively address negative perceptions and stereotypes by opening lines of communication with residents through existing and potential neighborhood organizations, by aggressively promoting the many benefits of Village life, and celebrating the cultural diversity of the community.

### **Objectives:**

- Enhance and promote open communication channels with all Village residents, including public safety issues.
- Develop a marketing campaign that promotes Hanover Park to the region and beyond, particularly emphasizing the community's quality of life, affordable cost of living, and regional access advantages for business.
- Continue to support and enhance Hanover Park's points of community pride, including the quality affordable housing stock, education system, cultural diversity, and the parks and open space system.
- Actively seek and promote greater involvement of all residents, particularly those in under-represented populations, in civic life through a participatory approach to planning, budgeting and community decision-making.
- Develop relationships and utilize the resources of the local media including television, radio, internet, and print to assist in the promotion of Hanover Park qualities and assets.

### **Goal 2:** *Celebrate and promote cultural diversity.*

Hanover Park includes over 9,000 Hispanic residents, over 4,000 residents of Asian decent, and a wide variety of people from other cultural origins. Cultural diversity – the inclusion of people from all backgrounds – is essential to social, cultural, and economic sustainability. Allowing all populations the attainment of quality living, health, education, and jobs are fundamental to any community. This requires community facilities, services and networks of a high standard, and community engagement practices which include diverse cultures, such as through arts and employment opportunities. However, programming and adequate spaces for cultural and community events spaces in Hanover Park are limited. This hinders the ability of some residents to play an active role in the development of their community through arts and cultural events, and for all Hanover Park's residents to access the richness of their community's cultures. Hanover Park should continue to provide opportunities an open dialogue with the various ethnic populations in order to must promote cultural diversity, and explore ways to capitalize on unique economic development opportunities.

### **Objectives:**

- Utilize cultural diversity as an economic development opportunity, including the possibility for the creation and promotion of fairs, parades, and unique restaurant clusters.
- Utilize the Village's Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Committee to encourage the inclusion of all cultures in Village-wide elections, activities, and decisions.
- Create an open and honest dialogue with minority populations to identify and address local community needs and opportunities.
- Enhance opportunities and celebrate Hanover Park's rich diversity by integrating various cultural traditions into local artistic and cultural programming.
- Utilize arts and programming as a means to promote public art as a part of overall development and to beautify unsightly areas of the Village.



**Goal 3:** Foster civic pride by ensuring facilities and services are responsive to the needs of citizens and the business community.

A critical component to the quality of life of the residents and strength of the business community is the quality of the public facilities and services. While, for the most part Hanover Park's various public agencies provide quality facilities and services to the community, there are opportunities for continuing maintenance and strategic improvements.

**Objectives:**

- Open dialogue and continue to work with residents, business, and community leaders to improve public safety.
- Monitor the capacity and demands on municipal services and facilities (e.g. water, sewer, stormwater, police, fire, telecommunications, and general government) and improve or expand them as necessary.
- Monitor the changing demographics of the community to ensure public services and facilities adequately serve residents of all ages. Particular attention should be given to the growing aging population which may require additional community services.
- Establish a partnership with an agency to establish a recycling program to properly dispose of toxic items such as batteries, computer hardware, etc. Currently, DuPage County offers recycling for toxic items, so this focus should be for Cook County residents.
- Research and apply for grants and funds to improve the telecommunications infrastructure throughout the Village.
  - Work with cable, internet, and telecommunication providers to provide up-to-date technology infrastructure to all residents, public agencies, and businesses.
  - Consider partnering with a telecommunications provider to provide free wireless internet service to the Village Center and/or community facilities.
- Monitor the need for a community center/ recreation center in the southside of the Village.
- Maintain a cooperative relationship with various school districts, park districts, library districts, local education and recreational providers serving Hanover Park residents to monitor services, curricula, programming and facilities, and provide enhancements as necessary to ensure a dependable and quality learning and recreational environment for the community.

**Goal 4:** Enhance the appearance of properties and structures in Hanover Park in order to foster a positive civic pride, reduce crime, promote economic development opportunities, and increase property values.

Hanover Park recognizes the importance of the appearance of properties and beautification of the Village towards the quality of life and business stability. Property maintenance, appearance improvements, and beautification efforts will require the cooperation and positive action from the Village, local businesses, community groups, home owners associations (HOA), schools and individual citizens. A strategy for beautification improvements should focus on Village action, public awareness and community participation.

**Objectives:**

- Develop a Village Beautification and Property Maintenance Plan.
- Combine strict enforcement of the Village's property standards with promotion of community principles and expectations for property maintenance, in order to create an environment that encourages property owners to maintain their properties for their own welfare and for the good and safety of the entire neighborhood and Village.



- Enhance the appearance of all properties along major community corridors including east Lake Street, Barrington/County Farm Road, and Irving Park Road.
- Develop and adopt design guidelines that promote, require, and enforce the Village design expectations.
- Enhance the appearance of community gateways at Barrington Road and Irving Park Road, County Farm Road and Army Trail Road, and any other major Village points of entry to create a unique and memorable impression of Hanover Park upon arrival into the Village.
- Seek creative ways to enhance the appearance and use of vacant properties and buildings, including property maintenance and temporary uses, in highly visible locations, especially those along Lake Street, Barrington/County Farm Road, and Irving Park Road.
- The Village will promptly respond and investigate complaints regarding relevant illegal or nuisance activities.
- Through regular patrol, the Village will identify problems and work with property owners so the violation of the Village ordinance is addressed appropriately and in a timely manner.

< REFERENCE COMMUNITY FACILITIES MAP >

