



DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

small town atmosphere | educational excellence | commitment to family values | a quality community

Earlier this year the Village was accepted into the RTA's Community Planning Program. The program assists suburban communities with planning studies to improve their downtown. The RTA hopes to increase transit ridership while helping communities plan for the future.

What is a downtown redevelopment plan?

A plan includes specific guidelines, goals, and a vision that facilitates investment and redevelopment. The end product will include long-term plans for parking and traffic, redevelopment possibilities, architectural design standards, a market assessment and more.

Why does Western Springs need a redevelopment plan?

The objective of the redevelopment plan is to enhance our unique and successful downtown while creating a vision to guide future redevelopment. Developers and property owners proposing projects are seeking confident answers to questions relating to standards for architectural design, height, parking and many other issues. To aid in the process of redevelopment, the Village needs to be prepared to answer these questions. Upon completion of the plan, the Village will be able to present to developers and property owners specific information that has been obtained through use of public input and endorsed by the Village Board. This will facilitate growth that meets the standards established for Western Springs through a collaborative process.

What is involved in the creation of the downtown plan?

The process to compile a long-term redevelopment plan will include obtaining input from the public, research performed by industry professionals, interactive design workshops, and community briefings. Several public meetings, both informal and formal, will be held during the process of preparing the plan documents. These meetings will serve as opportunities for the public to provide input and see the visual aids prepared by the consultants.

Community members participated in the process of selecting a consulting firm and recommended to the Village Board the firm they felt would best serve the interests of the Village of Western Springs as well as the RTA. At the October 12 meeting of the Village Board, a contract was approved to hire the consulting firm, Teska & Associates, to prepare the downtown plan. The project will be 80 percent funded with a grant from the RTA Community Planning Program and will take approximately 12 months to complete.

As the project progresses, updates and meeting schedules will be available at www.wsprings.com. If you would like more information regarding the plan, please contact Martin Scott, Director of Community Development, at mScott@wsprings.com or 708-246-1800. ext 175.



Grant Funding

The Village would like to thank the RTA for their generous support of our efforts to develop a plan to enhance and sustain a vibrant downtown Western Springs. A community planning grant from the RTA is providing 80% of the funding of this plan.

Tower Topics Correction

This article originally was published in the November-December issue of the Tower Topics. Due to an error in the printing process, only a portion of the article was printed. This newsletter is being provided at no cost to the Village.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

First Step...Complete a Survey

The process of creating the downtown plan begins with the completion of a short survey. Results of the survey will provide valuable information about downtown Western Springs that will be used in the decision-making process. The ultimate goal of creating a downtown plan is that it meets the needs of the community.

Public input is essential to the success of this endeavor, whether a person lives, works or just visits. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at

www.wsprings.com. The link will only allow one survey per internet address. For individuals without access to e-mail, hard copies are available at the Village hall and local businesses.



Additional Input Opportunities...WE NEED YOU!

Public input continues with participation in focus group meetings. Next year the Village staff will be hosting these meetings to offer citizens the opportunity to discuss the plan and brainstorm together through informal settings. Additionally, open houses will be held for the public to offer feedback on the plan proposals. Once again, input from the public will be needed and welcomed!

The RTA, Village officials and staff, as well as the consultants, are excited to obtain feedback from the public as we work together to create an amazing plan for the future of our **own**

downtown. The process will continue through 2010 and **www.wsprings.com** and *Tower Topics* will help keep you “in the loop” about the project.

