



Village Board Goals

Priorities, Key Projects & Initiatives

2024 – 2025



Village President and Board of Trustees

Back row (from left): Trustee Cory J. Wesley, Trustee Ravi Parakkat,
Trustee Brian D. Straw, Trustee Chibuike Enyia
Front row (from left): Trustee Susan Buchanan, Trustee Lucia Robinson,
Village President Vicki Scaman, Village Clerk Christina M. Waters

Adopted January 23, 2024

Vision, Values & Guiding Principles

VISION STATEMENT

The Village of Oak Park is a highly desirable place to live and visit because of our people, our shared values, our culture and our location.

We have a strong sense of responsibility to embrace our historic past and support our thriving present as a diverse, welcoming, inclusive and integrated community.

Oak Park is a leader in transformational thought and action committed to making brave decisions that are racially and environmentally just and create a safe, equitable, affordable and vibrant future.

VILLAGE BOARD CORE VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We are Community-Centered in Our Thinking
- We are Fiscally Responsible with Our Public Resources
- We Build Trust through Respectful Dialogue and Board Actions
- We are Transparent and Accountable to the Community
- We Engage and Collaborate with the Community and Partners
- We are Focused on Equity, Innovation and Sustainability





1 Community Affordability

- Priority 1:** Remove Economic Barriers
- Priority 2:** Limit the Tax Levy per a Finance Policy
- Priority 3:** Pursue Governmental Partnerships



2 Community Health & Safety

- Priority 1:** Reduce Crime
- Priority 2:** Explore Alternatives for Youth Engagement
- Priority 3:** Implement BerryDunn Report Recommendations
- Priority 4:** Provide for the Safe Use and Enjoyment of Private and Public Property
- Priority 5:** Provide for Safe Mobility
- Priority 6:** Ensure Healthy Work Environments for Village Workers



3 Racial Equity

- Priority 1:** Ensure Equitable Access to Government Services and Contracts
- Priority 2:** Assess and Address Historical Lack of Equity
- Priority 3:** Support Integration and Diverse Community Entry Points
- Priority 4:** Enhance Cultural Competency



4 Vibrant, Diverse, Connected Neighborhoods

- Priority 1:** Support Sustainable Advancement of Affordable Housing
- Priority 2:** Support Strategies Related to Parking & Mobility
- Priority 3:** Create Opportunities for Neighborhood & Community Engagement
- Priority 4:** Infrastructure that Promotes Sustainable Transportation
- Priority 5:** Emphasis on Relationship Between Neighborhoods and Business Districts
- Priority 6:** Rapid Response Support for Unhoused Residents



5 Sustainability & Resiliency

- Priority 1:** Implement Climate Action Plan
- Priority 2:** Reporting on Plan Progress
- Priority 3:** Resident Engagement and Education
- Priority 4:** Maintain Viable Sustainability Fund



6 Economic Vitality

- Priority 1:** Update the Village's Formal Economic Vitality Strategy
- Priority 2:** Support New and Existing Small Businesses and Districts



COMMUNITY AFFORDABILITY

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 1: Remove Economic Barriers

- a.** Review existing standards for residential assistance programs and identify opportunities to remove potential barriers in order to increase participation in programs.
- b.** Expand the Village's renter support referral system (i.e. consider new options for partnerships to allow resident referrals for legal assistance, realtors, inspections, security deposit assistance).
- c.** Conduct an equity impact analysis and make recommendations concerning Village housing and commercial building assistance programs (including rehabilitation), energy upgrades, benchmarking, and commercial façade and green business programs. This process will include authentic community engagement and user-centered design. (based on CROP AE01)
- d.** Explore opportunities for senior-focused support programs in collaboration with community partners (i.e. engage seniors in partnership with the Township to assist seniors regarding tax breaks, connection to other services such as repair programs, snow shoveling).
- e.** Explore economical internet connectivity options for multifamily residential households such as the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and provide community outreach and data on affordable options.
- f.** Evaluate opportunities to expand eligibility in the Village's Reduced Parking Permit Fee Program, potentially tying eligibility to existing government assistance programs.

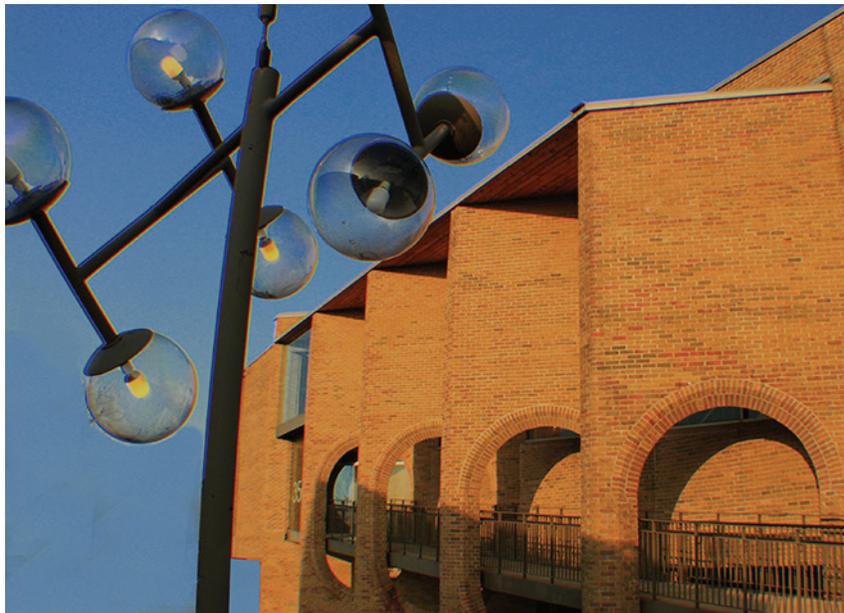
COMMUNITY AFFORDABILITY

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 2: Limit the Tax Levy per a Finance Policy

- a.** Amend the financial policies to include a policy centered around specific property tax levy limitations.
- b.** Create a long-term financial plan for the Village to support fiscal sustainability and effective, efficient and equitable service delivery. This includes a comprehensive review of various potential new revenue sources.
- c.** As part of the long-term financial plan, include a comprehensive review of Village fees including the development of low and moderate-income standards for implementation of progressive fees and rates.





COMMUNITY AFFORDABILITY

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 3: Pursue Governmental Partnerships

- a.** Create an interagency equity consortium on affordability with current equity leads of the other taxing bodies to create awareness around various issues.
- b.** Seek opportunities to collaborate with other Oak Park taxing bodies to alleviate the property tax burden (e.g. coordination of capital improvement planning across all Oak Park taxing bodies, joint opportunities to grow the tax base, etc.).
- c.** Explore partnerships with other communities regarding the expansion of the Village’s emergency dispatch (West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center) to ensure Oak Park’s delivery of emergency services in the most cost-effective manner.
- d.** Evaluate the existing IGA with D200 for the Village’s OPRF High School Community Parking Garage to determine recommendations for the future ownership and operation of the garage.



COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 1: Reduce Crime

- a.** Implement an alternative calls-for-service response.
 - i.** Activate the “Police to Citizen” RMS Portal as recommended in the BerryDunn study to allow citizens to self-report miscellaneous incidents online.
 - ii.** Establish a Telephone Report Unit as recommended in the BerryDunn study to allow citizens the option to file miscellaneous incidents via telephone.
 - iii.** Implement staff’s recommendations on a pilot alternative response to calls for service model based on the Village Manager’s Task Force and evaluate the results.
- b.** Implement a violence prevention program, including gun violence
 - i.** Develop a “Gun Buy Back program” in order to give residents the option of turning in guns to further promote public safety, potentially increasing the safety in people’s homes, and the safety of the community.
 - ii.** Increase public awareness of gun violence as a public health issue.
 - iii.** Explore with D97 and D200 the Safe2Help program designed to help students, staff and parents report concerning behavior with the goal of sharing information that might help prevent suicide, bullying, school violence or other threats to school safety.
 - iv.** Increase the reach of the Opioid Overdose Prevention Project by expanding education to reduce opioid use in our community.
- c.** Create and implement regular educational campaigns for Safe Gun Storage and Back to School/Bike to School safety.
- d.** Start a Citizen Police Academy to educate the community on police procedures, promote community partnership with law enforcement and potentially establish volunteer program with the graduates.
- e.** Develop and implement a strategy for data-informed policing to prevent and reduce crime and allocate resources effectively.



COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 2: Explore Alternatives for Youth Engagement

- a.** Explore a partnership with local bike repair businesses or other agencies for a bike lending program or bike giving program for youth (i.e. educate on bike safety, learn bike repair skills) or explore potentially using bikes the Village may have in surplus from the Police Department (based on CROP VT05).
- b.** Establish a youth defense program in the Village’s adjudication system.
- c.** Increase non-traditional partners for youth adjudication such as a partnership with BUILD from the Austin area.
- d.** Provide community service opportunities for youth (i.e. seek opportunities in Village events or recruitment for Village commissions).
- e.** Collaborate with D97 and D200 to create a youth opportunity in schools that encourage and elevate youth voices to understand their community experiences and provide civic engagement opportunities.



COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 3: Implement BerryDunn Report Recommendations

- a.** Update and evaluate all policies in an effort to ensure the Department is operating constitutionally based on vetted best practices to guard against the potential for any predatory policies.
- b.** Create a three-year strategic plan that prioritizes and implements BerryDunn's 42 recommendations.
- c.** Develop recruitment strategies to attract a diverse pool of qualified candidates and provide the highest quality training and support staff personally and professionally to maintain the highest level of service to the Village of Oak Park.
- d.** Partner with West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch and participating jurisdictions (River Forest and Forest Park) to secure and begin implementation of a new CAD/RMS system to meet new data collection goals.
- e.** Work with the DEI Office to create specific protocols in the proposed five-year department strategic plan for advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in the Police Department.
- f.** Develop a communication and engagement strategy to strengthen the Police Department's connection with the community.
- g.** Evaluate Citizen Police Oversight Committee (policies, procedures, protocols) and make recommendations for enhancements to the current model.



COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 4: Provide for the Safe Use and Enjoyment of Private and Public Property

- a. Evaluate the pilot towing initiative for Southeast Oak Park.
- b. Explore a formal agreement with funeral directors to establish routes in Oak Park and explore potential community outreach/ traffic alerts and notification.
- c. Update the Village's disaster response and evacuation procedures to identify and support individuals at increased risk to impacts from life-threatening events through disaster preparedness planning in collaboration with affected groups such as individuals experiencing housing insecurity, and linguistically isolated populations. (based on CROP AR04)
- d. As part of the emergency operations plan, review the Village's shelter and welfare procedures to explore the option of permanent and pop-up resilient climate hubs in high vulnerability areas where individuals can receive emergency assistance and temporary shelter during climate disasters. (based on CROP AR05)



COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 5: Provide for Safe Mobility

- a.** Create and implement a Vision Zero Plan (VZP) including robust community engagement. The VZP will include recommendations for specific improvements, policy changes, and other treatments and tools to improve safety for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists in the Village with a goal of reducing or eliminating fatalities and severe injuries for all users of the Village's transportation network. Recommendations for specific VZP projects and safety improvements will be included in future CIP and Budget documents for implementation starting in 2025 in alignment with Climate Ready Oak Park Plan Goals: VT02/VT08/ET04.
- b.** Evaluate traffic calming measures installed across the Village to confirm their effectiveness in slowing traffic and improving safety.
- c.** Update the Village's traffic enforcement strategy.
- d.** Implement education initiatives related to public transit safety as identified in the Village's IPLAN (i.e. train safety, access).



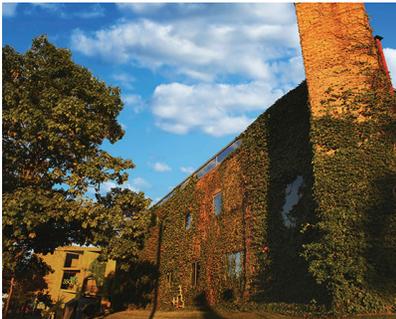


COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 6: Ensure Healthy Work Environments for Village Workers

- a.** Improve existing Village facilities (i.e. police station and Village Hall are currently in process) and create a long-term strategy for all other facilities such as fire station needs.
- b.** Seek ways to enhance current wellness options, in particular various counseling and mental health services specific to first responders in the Police and Fire departments.
- c.** Evaluate current employee wellness activities and develop an updated strategic plan to strengthen and encourage health and wellness Village-wide.



RACIAL EQUITY

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 1: Ensure Equitable Access to Government Services and Contracts

- a.** Create a formal language access policy and programming for the Village.
- b.** Create a “Say My Name” identity exploration training experience for staff and the community that will start a conversation as to how names play a role in language access.
- c.** Complete Racial Equity Assessment and implement a Racial Equity Action Strategic Plan.
- d.** Audit policies and procedures from a racial equity lens regarding ADA and aging in community accessibility.
- e.** Review the current purchasing policy regarding Minority and Woman-Owned Business for the Village and recommend any updates (based on CROP SD03).
- f.** Develop and implement an open data portal with the goal of enabling citizens to access, comprehend public information, engage in decision making, and showcase government transparency.
- g.** Evaluate the Village’s current emergency notification system, and other partners who may have similar notification systems that impact residents, to understand if the existing hazard notification and response system are responsive to language needs and are culturally appropriate and accessible to individuals with disabilities. (based on CROP AR02).



RACIAL EQUITY

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 2: Assess and Address Historical Lack of Equity

- a.** Finalize reparations research and evaluation, conduct community educational sessions and provide recommendations for next steps including potential advocacy efforts at the federal and state level.
- b.** Explore paths to homeownership with the creation of a Renter to Homeowner Program and utilizing a non-profit organization to develop the means to address lack of equity in homeownership, including first-time home-buying counseling and potential down-payment assistance.
- c.** Ensure equitable treatment for tenants when renting units by utilizing contractor or Village staff more routinely to test rental practices within the Village to ensure equity among potential tenants.
- d.** Collaborate with the West Cook YMCA's chronic health disease prevention initiative (using Village ARPA funds) to develop the health equity component of the program and evaluate if this model should be institutionalized.
- e.** Evaluate Village historic commitment to protecting human rights (i.e. current Human Rights Ordinance, associated policies and practices and associated Community Relations division programming).



RACIAL EQUITY

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 3: Support Integration and Diverse Community Entry Points

- a.** Assess the Village’s racial integration strategies and use the upcoming Housing Study and the Racial Equity Assessment to inform the development of modern racial integration strategies including a focus on diverse businesses.
- b.** Develop a “Will You Be My Neighbor?” Train the Trainer Series that will educate the community on developing inclusive neighborhood practices.

Priority 4: Enhance Cultural Competency

- a.** Create a Community Cultural Conversation Speaker Series.
- b.** Develop DEI educational resource bank on the Village website (i.e. cultural holiday guides, educational videos, book references) (based on CROP EB02).





VIBRANT, DIVERSE, CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 1: Support Sustainable Advancement of Affordable Housing

- a. Analyze the potential of creating additional funding sources for the Housing Trust Fund
 - i. Implement and evaluate an increase. to the Hotel/Motel (Hotel plus Airbnb) tax with a portion of said tax dedicated to funding the Housing Trust Fund.
 - ii. Implement and evaluate various building permit fee increases (i.e. demolition fees)
 - iii. Review and consider other revenue opportunities for the Housing Trust Fund via the long-term financial planning process.
- b. Complete the housing study and begin implementation of the updated housing vision and strategy.
- c. Evaluate single-family zoning, and recommend diversification of housing stock.
 - i. Re-evaluate single-family zoning land uses relative to “Missing Middle” housing opportunities and report results to the Village Board with potential recommended action.
 - Missing Middle Housing is a range of house-scale buildings with multiple units, compatible in scale and form, with detached single-family homes that are located in a walkable neighborhood.
 - ii. Implement single-family homeownership strategies to increase affordable options through the use of resources from the Village’s Housing Trust Fund.





VIBRANT, DIVERSE, CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 2: Support Strategies Related to Parking & Mobility

- a.** Evaluate the effectiveness of the 2023 parking pilot expansion to select overnight on-street parking permit zones, in order to determine if overnight parking access has improved for residents, particularly those in multi-family dwellings, and consider if additional overnight parking access is possible within the operation of the overall parking system.
- b.** Evaluate alternative or expanded eligibility criteria for the Village’s Employee Discount Parking Program (EDPP), which provides discounted parking rates for employees who work in Oak Park and earn less than \$20 per hour in an effort to lessen parking pressures for neighborhoods in and around business districts.
- c.** Evaluate the Village’s High-Volume Business Validation Parking Program to determine if program eligibility criteria need to be adjusted to expand the number of qualifying businesses thus encouraging additional utilization of parking garages in an effort to lessen parking pressures for neighborhoods in and around the Hemingway, DTOP and Pleasant business districts.



VIBRANT, DIVERSE, CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 3: Create Opportunities for Neighborhood & Community Engagement

- a.** Implement neighborhood partnership programs and services to facilitate systematic support for public and volunteer engagement, communication, problem-solving, and community building with neighborhoods, residents and community-based organizations.
 - i.** Hire staff and scale-up operations of the Neighborhood Partnership Office and Village Hall Welcome Center.
 - ii.** Develop and implement a neighborhood partnership registry to facilitate communication, alert notifications, relationship building, volunteer opportunities, support services, collaborative problem-solving, and constructive engagement opportunities with neighborhood organizations, residents and volunteers.
 - iii.** Formalize procedures for volunteer engagement in the community and within the Village organization.
 - iv.** Explore opportunities to expand programming at neighborhood block parties and resident engagement in neighborhood, community, and Village-sponsored special events.
- b.** Implement a community and civic education program to facilitate greater resident and community understanding of Village government operations and community initiatives; strengthen relationship building with Village officials; and foster informed community leadership and public engagement.
 - i.** Implement an ‘Oak Park 101’ curriculum and academy, bringing together all facets of municipal government to better engage residents and educate stakeholders about the Village operations and its rich history, wealth of services and brilliant future.
 - ii.** Provide various Village educational workshops and forums (Examples: “Renting in Oak Park”, “Parking in Oak Park”, “Aging in Oak Park”, “Affordable Homeownership in Oak Park”, etc.) and various other topics relating to Village operations and key initiatives.



VIBRANT, DIVERSE, CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

Key Initiatives or Projects

- c.** Reestablish and implement the Village Hall Welcome Center as a clearinghouse to ensure responsive and seamless service connection for Village Hall visitors, and reinitiate the Welcome to Oak Park program for new residents and businesses.
- d.** Create a Tenant Resource Fair (building off the Tenant Workshop). This program will occur twice a year to support information sharing on the Resident Tenant Landlord Ordinance (RTLO), mediation services, an overview of Fair Housing, and opportunities for tenants to access resources from community partners. This program is in response to staff identified need for tenants to have continual support in addressing their most pressing needs.
- e.** Implement a fair housing coalition for the purpose of bringing together several key community stakeholders to address various housing related equity needs. These meetings will occur on a quarterly basis with representation from relators, community leaders, community partners and residents to inform address key equity topics as it relates to housing.
- f.** Implement a comprehensive strategic communications plan and community engagement guide for the Village, ensuring resources are maximized, strategies are unified and implementation is standardized across all departments and disciplines.
- g.** Implement a brand story that clearly articulates the Village’s vision, mission and core values. Further modernize the brand standards and style guide to better unify the image, tone and messaging delivered by the Village.



VIBRANT, DIVERSE, CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 4: Infrastructure that Promotes Sustainable Transportation

- a. Pursue grants or other resources to accelerate the Village's efforts to strategically deploy publicly-accessible electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) in public lots, garages, and the right-of-way, with an emphasis on areas where residents do not have access to private parking.
- b. Complete the design and continue to accelerate construction of the Neighborhood Greenways Plan with the intent of full implementation by the end of fiscal year 2026. Update the 2008 Bike Plan and evaluate the feasibility of protected bike lanes.

Priority 5: Emphasis on Relationship Between Neighborhoods and Business Districts

Explore the role that special events play in the community including impact to neighborhood relationships, economic vitality, and overall community experience. Recommend special event policies related to the Board's vision, values and goals of community affordability, community health and safety, racial equity, vibrant, diverse and connected neighborhoods, sustainability & resiliency and economic vitality.



VIBRANT, DIVERSE, CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 6: Rapid Response Support for Unhoused Residents

- a.** Examine increasing financial and programmatic support for organizations working to assist the unhoused.
 - i.** Explore the potential use of any Village satellite office space for street outreach.
 - ii.** Engage and bridge gaps with private landlords to allow access to available, vacant residential properties in the Village.
 - iii.** Host community forums to promote education, awareness, and advocacy within the community for residents, social services, and our unhoused population.
 - iv.** Provide resources to the business communities to ensure they understand how the Village is working to address unhoused residents and panhandling.
 - v.** Review policies around unattended belongings and encampments within the community and Village staff engagement with unhoused residents.
 - vi.** Support the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition in identifying warming and cooling shelters that are accessible throughout the year as inclement weather conditions effect the area
 - vii.** Support Housing Forward and the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition to advocate with State Officials and the Homelessness Office for additional resources in the Oak Park community.
- b.** Include support for the unhoused in the Village’s alternative mental health call response model.



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 1: Implement Climate Action Plan

- a.** Update and implement the Village's purchasing policy as a sustainable procurement policy for all Village operating departments, emphasizing certified socially and environmentally responsible materials and equipment with the goal of providing contract opportunities to local residents and disadvantaged business enterprises (based on CROP ED01, GJ04, SD03).
- b.** Review the Village's formal investment policy to determine if there are opportunities for alignment with the commitments and goals of Climate Ready Oak Park such as elimination of fossil fuels and expansion of renewable energy; protection of biodiversity and other nature-based climate solutions; and sustainable and equitable development and business practices.
- c.** By the end of 2025, transition the municipal aggregation contract to be at least one-third renewable energy supply by pursuing procurement opportunities to increase the percent of renewable energy in the electricity supplied and expand Community Choice Aggregation subscribership (based on CROP RE01, RE02).
- d.** Advance Village policies and programs to support the transition of the Village's and the community's natural gas equipment to electric equipment, improve building energy efficiency, and increase onsite renewable energy installations.
 - i.** Adopt an energy stretch code for major building renovations and public facilities that requires enhanced building system performance, electrification and readiness for on-site solar energy and electric vehicle charging (based on CROP EE01).
 - ii.** Revise the current Village's housing rehabilitation programs to a multi-year program to encompass electrification, renewable energy, climate resiliency, and healthy housing retrofits for highly vulnerable community members to maintain affordability (based on CROP BD06).
 - iii.** Update the Plan Development process to enhance compensating benefits to include additional building energy and water efficiency, waste reduction, and climate resiliency features (based on CROP EE02).



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

Key Initiatives or Projects

- e. Create a process in collaboration with external partners to increase the number of commercial and institutional buildings participating in the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program and other funding/financing programs (based on CROP BD04).
- f. Advance Village policies and programs to support the transition of the Village's and the community's gas-powered passenger vehicles to zero-carbon vehicles.
 - i. Evaluate the return of various shared-mobility programs (based on CROP VT05).
 - ii. Pursue federal and state funding, financing, and technical assistance to help local governing partners and businesses transition fleets to zero-carbon vehicles (based on CROP DP01, TS02).
- g. Advance Village policies and programs to reduce commuter miles from gas-powered passenger vehicles.
 - i. Reassess telecommuting work policies, implement transit flexible spending accounts for Village employees to incentivize mass transit, and provide accessible alternative active transportation methods (based on CROP VT07).
- h. Advance Village policies and programs to support the transition of the Village's and community's land to green infrastructure.
 - i. Develop a plan to transition 30% of Village-owned property to native species, green infrastructure including bioswales, organic soil amendments, and new forested areas, via turf removal/reduction or other site-appropriate strategies. Include equitable and authentic community engagement processes during the planning process. (based on CROP NN03).



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

Key Initiatives or Projects



- ii. In accordance with the updated Urban Forestry Management Plan develop a policy to recognize trees as critical infrastructure, increase awareness of the value of the urban forest, and encourage planting on private property (based on CROP EP03).
- iii. Develop a policy to require that buildings with new and reconstructed hardscape (depending on the size of the project) to construct those projects with permeable materials and achieve enhanced on-site stormwater control, or said resident or business will pay a new “in-lieu of” fee into a new green stormwater infrastructure fund (based on CROP DR03), and update the zoning code to encourage green infrastructure practices and native plants for landscaping on parcels seeking building permits (based on CROP NN02).
- i. Create a strategy to include multifamily buildings in opportunities for community members to recycle hazardous, electronic, and medical waste disposal (based on CROP HM01).
- j. Incorporate various sustainable design elements and initiatives as outlined in CROP during the process to plan and design for new village facilities.





SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 2: Reporting on Plan Progress

- a. Create a public report of key performance indicators annually on Climate Ready Oak Park progress. (CROP action MU01).
- b. Create a public report of the greenhouse gas data every two years.

Priority 3: Resident Engagement and Education

- a. Create and implement a strategic communications and engagement plan to educate, raise awareness and connect residents, businesses, institutions, and property owners to programs and services (CROP action G104, DP03, CP02, TC02, PE02, PE05, PE06).
- b. Launch a local arts and social media initiative to communicate climate science and inspire action across community groups (CROP action AC02).



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

Key Initiatives or Projects

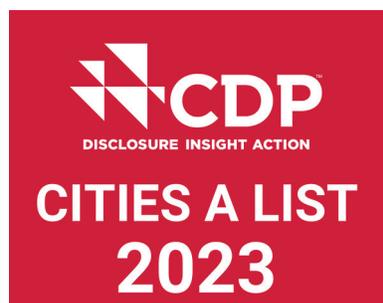


Priority 4: Maintain Viable Sustainability Fund

Identify, review, and seek Board direction on revenue options for Climate Ready actions, i.e., a) incorporating housing-related actions into CDBG programming; b.) funding transportation-related actions through the motor fuel tax and fee-based EV charging; c.) funding energy-related actions through energy utility revenue; d.) funding Office of Sustainability & Resilience staff personnel costs from the General Fund (outside the Sustainability Fund).

Priority 5: Identify Partnerships

- a.** Return the annual Earth Day event to an annual Earth Day to May Day celebration. Collaborate with governmental partners, neighboring jurisdictions, local organizations, community groups, and artists to recognize and encourage sustainable action (CROP action AC01).
- b.** Pursue opportunities to collaborate with governmental partners and neighboring jurisdictions (i.e., C4) on strategies that further Climate Ready commitments (CROP actions AE01, ET01, AR03, CH03, SD02, EF02, WR02, EP02, CS01).



Oak Park



ECONOMIC VITALITY

Key Initiatives or Projects

Priority 1: Update the Village’s Formal Economic Vitality Strategy

- a. Develop and implement an updated vision and comprehensive economic vitality plan including economic and business development strategies for a post-COVID-19 pandemic, new economic era — positioning Oak Park for long-term economic and fiscal stability, growth and resiliency. Key plan considerations will generally include but are not limited to formalized strategies, polices, programs, procedures, and/or practices with the appropriate supporting organizational structure and capabilities to:
 - i. Guide decision-making on investment incentives (defined in policy); real estate acquisition, assembly and disposition activities; plan development and special use applications; and development/redevelopment agreements, aligned with Village priorities for development, redevelopment, and growing the local economy and tax-base.
 - ii. Retain, grow, and attract businesses including small, women and minority owned enterprises, and entrepreneurs choosing to invest in Oak Park.
 - iii. Encourage and support redevelopment and real estate and business investments in priority areas and underutilized sites within the Village, consistent with Village growth priorities.



ECONOMIC VITALITY

Key Initiatives or Projects



- iv.** Attract and foster specific industries identified to have growth potential in Oak Park including any business sectors and/or clusters, existing or emerging within the region.
 - v.** Advance strategic and coordinated marketing of community assets to expand tourism, support growth of local businesses, and assist with attracting new investments and residents.
 - vi.** Strategically encourage and grow the nighttime economy of Oak Park.
 - vii.** Strengthen economic vitality operations through enhanced intergovernmental and community collaboration, and via public-private partnerships where appropriate and beneficial.
 - viii.** Establish a system to collect and monitor data on economic and market conditions to support the agility of Economic Vitality operations.
 - ix.** Grow the organizational capacity and vibrancy of neighborhood business districts as a foundational element of growing the economic vitality of the Village.
 - x.** Identify and leverage a diversity of funding mechanisms to successfully advance the Economic Vitality Plan.
 - xi.** Monitor and report on performance of the updated plan and strategies.
- b.** Continue to partner with the City of Chicago on the development and implementation of the North Avenue Streetscape Plan, and explore of economic development opportunities along the corridor.
 - c.** Renew the Village vision and plan for redevelopment of the Roosevelt Road corridor.
 - i.** Engage an urban design firm to support the Village in either updating the Village's previous 2003 Roosevelt Road plan or create an entirely new Roosevelt Road plan including an implementation roadmap consistent with Village Board priorities.
 - ii.** Initiate conversations with the City of Berwyn and/or the Berwyn Development Corporation regarding the possibility of completing a joint-plan.
 - d.** Explore opportunities for Oak Park businesses and residents to utilize the services of an existing business innovation center to assist with physical product and technology development and manufacturing.



ECONOMIC VITALITY

Key Initiatives or Projects

- i. Create a pilot entrepreneurial scholarship program for Oak Park residents or businesses interested in developing products or services beneficial to Oak Park, with the assistance provided by a local business innovation center, possibly in coordination with MHUB and the Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4).
- e. Explore opportunities with Visit Oak Park to increase local and regional opportunities for visitors that could have a positive impact on Village revenues.
- f. Implement a strategic Village promotional plan in collaboration with Visit Oak Park and other partner agencies aimed at increasing awareness and visibility of Oak Park's unique community profile, regionally, statewide, nationally and internationally. (regionally, statewide, nationally and internationally.).
- g. Evaluate relevant land-use standards to ensure consistency with implementation expectations of the updated Economic Vitality and Housing strategies.



ECONOMIC VITALITY

Key Initiatives or Projects



Priority 2: Support New and Existing Small Businesses and Districts

- a.** Create strategies to reduce retail vacancies under 3%.
 - i.** Establish an accurate and complete first-floor retail/commercial vacancy list and ensure that this vacancy information is made available to prospective brokers and clients through the Economic Vitality section of the Village's website and other available communication means.
 - ii.** Work with representing brokers/property owners to identify and direct potential retail/commercial clients to consider available vacant spaces.
 - iii.** As part of the Economic Vitality Study, identify categories where Oak Park has the greatest retail sales loss in the community and focus, where possible, efforts at attracting retail clients that help to address the identified loss.
 - iv.** Work with businesses, non-profit organizations and established business districts in their efforts to sponsor and improve upon existing special event programming and assist, where possible, any organization looking to create new community events or re-establish previous events like May Madness, Third Friday and potential Roll and Stroll events.
- b.** Implement an outreach and education program to raise awareness of Oak Park's commitment to sustainable business practices. Continue to connect businesses to resources for furthering sustainability practices.
- c.** Conduct an operations and technology assessment of Village-owned parking structures with the goal of optimizing efficiency and improving business district parking experiences.