



COMMUNITY PROFILE

PLAINFIELD, IL

2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Community At-A-Glance and Introduction	1
Community Vitality	3
Flowers	9
Landscaped Areas	11
Urban Forestry	15
Celebrating Heritage	19
Overall Impression	25
America In Bloom Tour Map	28
Contacts and Special Thanks	29

COMMUNITY AT-A-GLANCE

Community name:	Village of Plainfield
Phone:	(815) 436-7093
County/township:	Will County and Kendall County; Plainfield, Wheatland, Oswego, & Na-Au-Say Townships
Contact name:	Amy De Boni
AIB committee chair contact:	Amy De Boni
Population:	43,110
Website:	www.painfield-il.org
Area in square miles:	26.12 square miles
Acres of active recreation:	Approximately 1,255 acres
Acres of passive recreation:	Approximately 1,030 acres
Form of government:	Village President & Board of Trustees; Village Administrator
What jurisdictions operate the public-school system?	Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202; Oswego Community Unit School District 308; Indian Prairie School District 204
What jurisdiction operates the utilities?	The water and sewer systems are operated by the Village of Plainfield. Trash, recycling, yard waste, and household hazardous/electronic waste collection are handled by Waste Management through a contract with the Village. Electric service is offered through Commonwealth Edison.
Do you have a volunteer coordinator?	N/A
Have there been any challenges this year weather-related or otherwise, the judges should know about?	Over the course of the past year, the Village has dealt with numerous challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as weather related issues including flooding, a derecho, and a confirmed EF-1 tornado.
Years participated in America in Bloom National Awards Program:	1

2021 AMERICA IN BLOOM - PLAINFIELD, IL

COMMUNITY AT-A-GLANCE

Introduction to your community:

Downtown Plainfield, which is the heart of the community, is a vibrant, pedestrian-focused destination for shopping, dining, and entertainment. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Downtown Historic District is architecturally diverse with a wonderful collection of historic buildings built between 1850 and 1960. The downtown is home to a number of special events throughout the year including Plainfield Fest, classic car nights, parades, and holiday events.

Settlers' Park is a 20+ acre park, located adjacent to the Village Hall, in Historic Downtown Plainfield. The park features the Richard A. Rock Amphitheater, a History Walk, monuments, a lake, open space, a picnic shelter, playground/tot lot, a StoryWalk, and walking trails.

The park represents a meeting of the old and new in Plainfield. It was developed to provide the community with a connection to nature as well as a place to gather. It is many things to many people... a glimpse back in time; a place to explore, reflect, and relax; a tribute to the Village's beginnings; and a celebration of the community's past, present, and future. Settlers Park is also home to the Village's annual summer concert series and movies in the park.

Plainfield is also home to the Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, numerous historic landmarks, a wonderful park and trail system, and the DuPage River which provides numerous outdoor recreational opportunities.

At the crossroads of the historic Lincoln Highway and Route 66, Plainfield continues to build upon its already rich history, and the Village Government is well positioned to accommodate growth and welcomes new commercial and industrial development to help parallel the success of its residential expansion.



COMMUNITY VITALITY



The Plainfield area was first settled in the 1820s along the DuPage River and the first 13 blocks were officially platted in 1834 by Chester Ingersoll. For many years, the Village was an agricultural community and its location along the Lincoln Highway was a charming respite for many travelers. In 1990, there were 4,557 people in the community. Between 2000 and 2010, the population nearly tripled in size from 13,038 people to 39,581 people with new residential and commercial development. Despite substantial growth, the Village remains an attractive community to live in by maintaining a small-town appeal. Residents take an active role in the community through both civic participation on municipal commissions as well as through volunteerism with local non-profit organizations, the chamber of commerce, YMCA, food pantry, and other social service organizations. This active involvement creates a strong sense of community which was evident during the past year as we all navigated the COVID-19 pandemic.

CV.a.01 - Municipal volunteer boards:

The Village of Plainfield has two volunteer commissions that are made up of Plainfield residents with an interest in shaping their community. The Plan Commission is an advisory body to the Village Board. They review requests for annexation, zoning, variance, site plan, special use, preliminary plat, and final plat. The Plan Commission meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is an advisory body to the Village Board for matters pertaining to historic preservation. The types of cases that are brought before the HPC include landmark designation, district designation, certificate of appropriateness, certificate of economic hardship, requests affecting landmarks and/or districts and rehabilitation grant program. The HPC meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

CV.a.02 - Municipality offers grants to neighborhood associations for enhancements:

To sustain the vitality and sense of history in the historic downtown Plainfield area, the Village offers grants to



downtown historic buildings. Façade improvement grants provide funding to restore and maintain the facades of historic buildings in Downtown Plainfield. Rehabilitation grants are also available to businesses and residences alike to promote investment and rehabilitation of historic properties throughout Plainfield. The Village of Plainfield provides matching funding on both rehabilitation and façade grant projects.

CV.a.04 - ADA accessibility in public areas and other programs for inclusion:

To improve walkability for all residents, Plainfield prioritizes ADA sidewalk improvements as part of its Street Improvement Program. The ADA sidewalk program has enhanced crossings at intersections throughout the Village to ensure all residents can safely and easily cross Village streets. ADA compliant ramps were placed at all intersections of the recently remodeled traffic circle at Renwick Road and Drauden Road (see the image above).

In an effort to connect the Village Hall with Downtown Plainfield, streets were resurfaced to ensure that sidewalks connecting the Village Hall, Settlers' Park, and Downtown Plainfield remain safe to use and accessible for everyone.

CV.b.01 - Describe outdoor recreation facilities play areas and maintenance:

The oldest public space in Plainfield is located in the heart of town. The Village Green was originally created in 1834 as a public square, surrounded by houses and commercial buildings. Chester Ingersoll originally envisioned the Village Green as the core of downtown but changed the area to a public park the following year. To ensure the endurance of the park, the deed for the Village Green states that if houses or commercial property were to be built anywhere on the plot of land, the remaining plot of the land would be returned to the Ingersoll family. While the park is now maintained and owned by the Plainfield Park District, it continues to be an enjoyable staple of Downtown Plainfield for recreational and special events, including the Plainfield Harvest 5K and the Heart of Christmas holiday event.

The Normantown Trails Equestrian Center (NTEC) is a 6-acre equestrian center that offers lessons, riding, and boarding opportunities through the Plainfield Park District. The NTEC offers multiple trail routes around the center and throughout the neighboring subdivisions. In addition to horses, Plainfield has many spaces for smaller four-legged friends including three different dog parks throughout town.

Throughout Plainfield, there are dozens of community and neighborhood parks including Van Horn Woods, which contains over 87 acres of woods, green spaces, and natural resource areas. The Van Horn Woods pond offers fishing opportunities and hosts a yearly fishing tournament for kids each spring.

Another large park in Plainfield is Gregory Bott Park with over 58 acres of recreation space. Bott Park offers bike trails throughout the park, with trails leading to Downtown Plainfield, Settlers' Park, and the Streams Recreation Center. Park District youth sports teams call Bott Park home year-round for practices and games. Walking trails, playgrounds, a skate park, basketball courts, and baseball fields ensure there are recreation opportunities for residents of all ages.

CV.b.02 - Walking, biking, and exercise trail network, and/or events:

The Village of Plainfield has over 50 miles of trails, paths, and sidewalks. These pathways are constantly growing in length and popularity. A portion of the Plainfield trail network includes asphalt trails that are part of the proposed 29-mile regional DuPage River trail. The Fort Beggs trail takes visitors from Downtown Plainfield along and over the DuPage River, through Renwick Park.

Recently, Plainfield adopted a new Riverfront Master Plan that highlights a future trail connecting north and south Plainfield. Starting south at Renwick Road and working its way through downtown towards the Pace Park-n-Ride, the plan is designed to be implemented over a 10-year period.

Plainfield is also home to several annual 5Ks/10Ks including the Harvest 5K, Fast Cat, Special Olympics Torch Run, and Run for the Brave.

CV.b.03 - Performances/events for art, dance, theatre, music, and/or cinema:

At the Plainfield Township Community Center, the Plainfield Art League hosts a permanent art exhibit and painting sessions. They typically meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. In addition to monthly meetings, they also host regular judgments and galleries, with awards for both members and student categories. Regular art league meetings are open to the public for viewing and enjoyment.

Settlers' Park consists of over 20 acres of recreational area just west of the DuPage River. Adjacent to the Village Hall and across from Downtown Plainfield, Settlers' Park is a source a of limitless recreation and relaxation. Settlers' Park includes an amphitheater where live music and movies in the park can be seen throughout the summer.



CV.b.08 - Public library/resources center/programs:

Since its inception in 1925, the Plainfield Public Library has been a staple in the community. The library provides the community with 119,163 different books for residents to check out and dozens of events each week. The library hosts a variety of events including virtual painting nights, take and makes, and virtual museum visits. In addition to these events, the Plainfield Public Library has collaborated with multiple organizations throughout Plainfield to create new experiences, events, and exhibits. Examples include the Plainfield StoryWalk at Settlers' Park and a historical database that was created in partnership with the Plainfield Historical Society, titled Will County, Preserving History's Heritage.

CV.b.09 - Describe the community center:

The Village of Plainfield contains both enduring and emerging community centers. The Plainfield Township Community Center is an 11,375 square foot building located in Downtown Plainfield. The Community Center is frequently used for senior activities and active adults, offers free parking and is a short walk from the shops and restaurants on Lockport Street. In addition to the Community Center, the Prairie Active Recreation Center (PARC) is a recreation and fitness center operated by the Plainfield Park District. The 40,000 square foot facility opened in 2019. Over 18,000 square feet of the roofing space of the PARC is outfitted with solar panels, helping the PARC become the first recreation center in the State of Illinois with a Net-Zero Certification. The PARC also contains multiple office spaces and a 1,600 square foot multipurpose room. Events at PARC range from classes for toddlers and seniors to a yearly St. Patrick's Day Luncheon to computer and science classes.

CV.b.10 - Farmers' Market(s) location and frequency:

During the summer, a lively open-air farmers' market operates in Downtown Plainfield. The Farmers Market takes



place every Sunday afternoons from early June to mid-September. In addition to produce, visitors to the Farmers Market can find locally raised meats, handcrafted jewelry, crafts, and other vendors. The Farmers Market is a great way to spend a relaxing Sunday and experience the amenities of downtown and support family farms and locally made products.

CV.c.01 - Community gardening sites:

To promote gardening in Plainfield, Plainfield Township offers garden plots to both residents and non-residents. Over the past three years, over 100 plots have been rented and gardened as a result of the gardening program.

CV.c.05 - Programs to encourage youth involvement:

To foster youth involvement in Plainfield, multiple organizations promote and foster a culture of involvement. The Plainfield Junior Woman's Club, one of over 250 in the state, has raised funds, collected donations, and volunteered for dozens of different non-profits and charities throughout Will County. In addition to volunteering, the Plainfield Junior Woman's Club offers scholarship opportunities to female students in Plainfield School District 202 who have a strong record of volunteering in the community.

The Plainfield Athletic Club is a strong example of fostering youth involvement in Plainfield for over half of a century. Since its establishment in 1952, the Plainfield Athletic Club has offered softball and baseball seasons for the youth of Plainfield and the surrounding area. Currently, the Plainfield Athletic Club has over 1,000 players with an age range of 4-16. Beginning in the spring of 2021, the Plainfield Athletic Club will join Little League International and have the chance to compete in international softball and baseball tournaments such as the Little League World Series, televised on ESPN and ABC.



2021 AMERICA IN BLOOM - PLAINFIELD, IL

COMMUNITY VITALITY

In addition to baseball and softball, youth soccer is another sport that has grown in popularity in Plainfield. The Plainfield Soccer Association (PSA) is a youth soccer organization that was founded by two residents in 1982. The organization has grown from 78 players to over 3,000 players. PSA has also added travel teams to its organization, with over 500 players. The Plainfield Soccer Association plays at four different parks throughout Plainfield and offers spring, summer, and fall seasons and camps for youth athletes.

The Plainfield Public Library also offers plenty of opportunities for youth of all ages to join clubs, events, and participate in activities and volunteer events. Most teen programs offered by the library are designed for grades 6-12. Despite the hardships presented by COVID-19, programs at the library have made a strong pivot to virtual and take-and-make. Take-and-make programs consist of craft materials pre-packaged by the staff at the Plainfield Public Library that can be picked up and assembled at home. For the summer of 2021, the Plainfield Public Library is hosting “Chalk the Walk” to start the summer season.

In addition to crafts, meet-ups, and other programs, teens are welcome and encouraged to volunteer at the Plainfield Public Library. Opportunities to volunteer include English as a Second Language assistance, local history projects and initiatives, computer instruction and support, and garden maintenance. Due to COVID-19, volunteer opportunities are currently virtual.

CV.c.06 - Recognition programs for volunteers:

The Plainfield Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is a volunteer organization, led by Police Chief John Konopek, dedicated to planning for and responding to major emergencies or disasters that impact the Village of Plainfield. They respond to emergency callouts for traffic control, scene lighting, or rehab for major police or fire incidents. They also assist with severe weather calls which includes spotting, traffic control, and cleanup. Each year, they hold a volunteer recognition evening to thank their volunteers.



FLOWERS



The Village has several gardens and display areas that showcase flowers throughout the Village including planting beds, hanging baskets, and cast flowerpots. These flowers help to beautify the community and provide residents and visitors with eye-catching displays.

FL.a.01 - Public or private management of flower displays and four-season action plan:

The Village displays flowers in a variety of ways for public view. In early spring, flowers such as tulips and hyacinths are planted and displayed until late fall. As the weather becomes more favorable, pansies are added to flowerpots and bedded areas to brighten up the town. In the early summer months, hanging baskets are filled with petunias and sweet potato vines. Tropical plants such as canas, musa banana leaf plants, and elephant ears are displayed in a multitude of flowerpots. Once fall approaches, the Village harvests tubulars and rhizomes from summer plants to repropagate the following year and the flowerpot plantings are changed to include mums, millet, corn cobs, and gourds. The Village also encourages natural plantings which requires a Natural Planting Permit. This permit includes a list of suitable plants to incorporate into your garden and an unsuitable plant list based on the Illinois Noxious Weed Act.

FL.a.02 - Program to encourage pollinator habitats:

Pollinator habitats within the Village are exemplified through natural planting areas. The Plainfield Park District has multiple parks and wildflower areas such as Mather Woods and Clow Stephens Park. The Plainfield Riverfront also includes multiple protected “no mowing areas” to protect the natural plant areas.

FL.b.02 - Recognition program(s) for business and/ or residences:

The Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recognizes residents, business owners, and the public who have made improvements to their properties including those that have maintained the historic character



of their buildings. The HPC judges four different categories which include Rehabilitation of the Year, Architectural Compatibility, Architectural Details, and Landscape/Streetscape. Beautiful landscaping displays on both residential and commercial properties have been recognized by the HPC for their contribution to the betterment of the Village. Award recognition takes place every year during Preservation Month which is celebrated in May.

FL.b.03 - Demonstration/display garden(s):

The Village of Plainfield has several areas of flowering display gardens that include the Route 66 gazebo, Village Hall, and entrance to Settlers' Park. These areas incorporate a variety of annuals, perennials, pollinators, and natural plantings.

FL.b.04 - Community communication efforts about selection and care of flowers:

Every spring, the Plainfield Riverfront Foundation cleans up and refreshes the existing bedded areas located at Riverfront Park. Volunteers from organizations such as Kiwanis, the Riverfront Foundation, and the VFW work together to restore areas damaged by flooding, plant annual and perennial flowers, and clean up debris.

FL.d.04 - Plant health and display strategies:

Plant health care is an approach to prevent flowers, shrubs, and trees from becoming stressed. Stressed plants have a lower immune system which makes them more susceptible to diseases. Weekly and bi-weekly pruning of plants allows the Village to quickly address plants that may be having issues. Being able to identify stressed, diseased, or bug-infested plants is a top priority in keeping displays throughout the Village looking vibrant.

Some of the Village's display strategies include:

- Right plant, right place in every new planting area, flowerpot, and bedded area.
- Protection from the elements, amount of sun or shade a plant will receive, and pollution i.e., vehicle/salt goes into each plant's location.

FL.e.01 - Volunteers donations and/or participation:

Every year, the Village of Plainfield hosts The Big Serve. The Big Serve is a way for the community, along with the Public Works Department, to give back. The weekend event includes a river clean up, Route 59 garbage pickup, assisting elderly residents with general exterior home maintenance, and other beautification activities within the Village.

FL.e.02 - Civic groups, garden clubs, Master Gardeners, and /or school floral-related programs and efforts:

The Village of Plainfield has nine registered Master Gardeners.



LANDSCAPED AREAS



The Village takes great pride in its landscaping efforts and this is visible in our management and maintenance of public landscaped areas as well as the Village's landscape ordinances.

LA.a.01 - Management of planting public landscaped areas:

The Public Works Department, specifically the Forestry and Grounds Division, is responsible for the grooming and pruning of plants and flowers as well as the removal and/or replacement of dead plants. The Village takes a proactive approach to maintaining shrub and perennial health by providing the proper growing environment for each plant (known as Plant Health Care - PHC). For example, perennial plants and ornamental bushes are trimmed on a scheduled basis to prevent disease and ensure their overall health. In general, regular trimming takes place in the late spring, after certain plants have flowered, but before they set bud. There are many different pruning techniques throughout the growing season that we adhere to.

LA.a.02 - Municipal landscape ordinances:

Public spaces in the Village are planted with native species of trees and ornamental bushes that not only beautify our community but are guaranteed to thrive due to their ecological compatibility. They also create a safe and healthy environment for residents and visitors alike. The Village's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances ensure that these expectations extend to residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Article XVI (Landscaping) of the Zoning Ordinance establishes minimum standards regarding the type, size, and number of plants for any given development as well as provisions on enforcement to guarantee their long-term health and maintenance. Article II (Subdivision Code) incorporates design standards that include landscaping requirements for residential lots as well as standards for landscaping in the parkways, boulevards, and common open space areas. In addition to codified regulations, the Village has established guidelines to provide direction

2021 AMERICA IN BLOOM - PLAINFIELD, IL

LANDSCAPED AREAS

on preferred landscaping treatments as well as to encourage creative land developments. It has been the Village's policy that new residential development be developed pursuant to a planned development that encourages unique developments and exceptional landscaping.

LA.b.01 - Planning for restoration of natural areas and management of invasive plants:

Several years ago, the Village encountered a flowering rush in the Settlers' Park pond that required consultation by an expert to positively identify the plant and provide treatment options. It was decided that the best course of action would be to have the pond sprayed and do mechanical control on the bedded areas that were affected by the invasive plant. This plant was successfully removed by digging the plant out and putting in a bag to prevent further contamination and spreading. Following its successful removal, the Village continues to control the plant's return through a maintenance schedule that includes spraying the pond to eradicate the plant and prevent it from spreading. These types of learning experiences over the years result in a preparedness in dealing with invasive plants and hopefully preventing them from damaging the native habitat.

Most recently, the Village adopted a Riverfront Master Plan that incorporates environmentally conscious goals including riparian corridor and streambank restoration, improvements to the shoreline, and constructed wetland areas that incorporate a diverse native plant palette. In planning for the future of the riverfront, the Village understands that the river's ecological health is not only important within the immediate project area, but also benefits all communities located within the DuPage River Watershed area.

LA.b.03 - Demonstration/display gardens:

The Village has several display landscape gardens including:



The Route 66 Gazebo



Village Hall



Various flowering garden areas within Settlers' Park

LA.b.04 - Communication of "Right Plant in the Right Place" and/or other plant issues:

The Village considers soil conditions when planting different species of plants which includes consideration of the maximum size, soil composition, and ground moisture levels to choose what plants will work best in any given area. The Village is also dedicated to promoting native planting education. With developers, the Village has established natural landscaping guidelines that provide illustrations of plant species and simple descriptions of conditions these species thrive in. The purpose being to encourage natural landscaping within new developments that provide environmental benefits and preserve the area's historical origin. For residents, the Plainfield Public Library's Green Lecture Series provides an opportunity to receive one-on-one advice from area landscape experts and learn new skills.

LA.b.05 - Recognition program for attractive landscapes:

The Historic Preservation Commission annually recognizes individuals in the Village for their efforts in maintaining the historic character of their buildings and physical improvements to the historic areas of the Village. One of the categories for recognition is landscaping and streetscape. Since 2019, the Historic Preservation Commission has recognized the Public Works Department for their outstanding efforts beautifying the flowerpots in Downtown and planted areas around Village Hall. In 2020, the Village's Grounds Maintenance Equipment Operator received the Award of Merit.

LA.b.06 - School gardening programs:

Youth and student gardening are beginning to take off in Plainfield. One example of this is the Lincoln Grows outdoor classroom at Lincoln Elementary School. Started by the Parent-Teacher Association, the outdoor garden helps promote a connection between nature and students. The gardening space also serves as a classroom and helps students learn kinetically through hands-on gardening experiences. The garden consists of multiple green spaces, spaces for students to relax and enjoy themselves, and garden beds. The raised garden beds and the harvest they produce can be consumed by students or donated. The garden also has a 95-gallon water barrel to water in ground plants and teach sustainability.

LA.d.07 - Turf Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies and weed management:

Turf health measures, such as IPM, are in place to monitor and manage diseases, pests, and weeds. One of the Village's policies is to cut the turf at 3.5" to prevent diseases. The Village also fertilizes for control of annual weeds, such as



2021 AMERICA IN BLOOM - PLAINFIELD, IL

LANDSCAPED AREAS

dandelions, to promote healthy green grass. At highly visible intersections, the turf is mowed twice weekly and monitored for lawn diseases.

Some strategies that are in place to manage weeds include removing, mulching, and applying granules pre-emerge. This process takes place in the spring and as time permits, Village Staff bed-shape along all existing bedded areas and tree bases. In most cases, the spoils can be raked back into the bedded areas to reserve the nutrients prior to mulching. The Village uses a post-pre-emerge to ensure the future growth of annual weeds does not take place.

Regarding turf procedures, the Village practices proper mowing, edging, and replacement of dead turf when needed. Planted turf grass requires continual care and is mowed often which reduces the likelihood for weeds to drop seeds. Weed and feed fertilizers are also used to maintain a healthy well-established turf.

LA.e.01 - Volunteer activities related to landscaped areas and turf:

As mentioned previously, the Village is involved with The Big Serve. As part of the event, volunteers assist individual properties, based on need, with completing maintenance tasks including planting flowers, bushes, trees, mulching, weeding, and tree trimming. The Boy Scouts also volunteer their time to assist with flower planting and Arbor Day tree plantings each year.

LA.e.02 - Community educational programs related to landscapes:

The Green Village Lecture Series has included topics such as the basics of plant seeds, homemade and natural cleaning supplies, and organic food supplies. These lectures have been presented by the Plainfield Public Library for over 11 years. Therese Chaves, the coordinator of the program, says that the goal is simple: to promote programs that help the community. During the pandemic, instead of having in-person events, programs were offered through a partnership with the University of Illinois horticultural studies department via video. While the Plainfield Library is looking forward to hosting in-person events again soon, the video series will be kept on as part of the program to ensure access to those who cannot attend.



URBAN FORESTRY



The Village of Plainfield has an estimated 35,000 parkway trees. These trees are currently on a trimming cycle of about seven years and are trimmed by an experienced and accomplished staff of two certified arborists. Over the past eight years, Plainfield has removed approximately 5,000 ash trees. In addition to ash tree removal, Plainfield has experienced several storms that have destroyed about 500 trees. Elected officials have strongly supported efforts to aggressively replant these damaged and lost trees. Planting has consisted of at least 600-800 trees per year for the past eight years; only recently slowing down due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The Plainfield Public Works Department handles all removals and stump grinding, except for a few trees each year that are contracted out due to their proximity to overhead wires or other challenges. An experienced crew of skilled individuals that care about the community and the dedication they provide ensure Plainfield's trees are looking their best and make Plainfield a highly desirable place to live and visit.

UF.a.01 - Identify personnel on staff or accessing trained individuals such as arborists and/or urban foresters:

The Village of Plainfield currently has two certified arborists on staff, one of which is a certified municipal specialist. These arborists take the lead in the field and decide on tree trimming priorities throughout town. They earn continuing education units (CEUs) to ensure their arborist licenses are up to date. These individuals demonstrate a high level of care for Plainfield's trees and follow all proper procedures for trimming and safety around the equipment.

UF.a.02 - Tree board/commission/department and activities:

Plainfield has a dedicated Forestry Division, comprised of three individuals, in the Public Works Department that is tasked with the overall maintenance of parkway trees throughout the Village. Staff trims approximately

400 miles of tree-lined roadways. Other staff members from the Street Division are utilized, when available, for brush chipping, tree trimming operations, and/or emergency removals.

UF.a.03 - Municipal ordinance(s) enacted/enforced for tree preservation on public and/or private property and policy for ID and protection of historic trees:

The Village has established a Heritage Tree Recognition Program to promote tree conservation by recognizing trees that add to the value, aesthetics, and character of the Village. The Historic Preservation Commission is involved in the decision-making process by nominating Heritage Trees for consideration. Newly designated trees are recognized each year in conjunction with the Village's celebrations for Arbor Day and Historic Preservation Month.

Article XIV of the Village's Zoning Ordinance addresses tree replacement in order to preserve existing trees on a property. New developments must consider how existing trees can be saved and incorporated into new residential, commercial, and industrial development when possible. For example, existing woodland areas can count toward buffer yard landscaping requirements in lieu of being removed and replaced by other forms of yard buffering.

UF.a.05 - Tree City USA community activities:

The Village of Plainfield is a Tree City USA community and this year, the Village received its 30-year designation. The Village has worked with many organizations and partners in the community, including local schools and Cub Scout organizations to celebrate Arbor Day. Arbor Day celebrations in Plainfield provide the organizations an opportunity to help and improve the community. The Forestry Department also gives the Cub Scouts saplings to take home and plant on their own.

UF.b.01 - Tree inventory:

A joint effort between the Village's GIS and Forestry Divisions is to create a tree inventory, which has resulted in the documentation of approximately 1/8 of the Village's trees. This inventory was started last winter and the goal is to have it complete within two years. It is a beneficial program that helps Staff track tree removals and trimming cycles in town on a visual level.

UF.b.02 - Annual tree planting program for public areas:

The Village's annual tree planting consists of planting approximately 600-800 trees each year. However, the challenges presented by COVID-19 last year resulted in a reduction in anticipated planting. The removal of many Ash Trees has given Plainfield the chance to diversify our tree canopy with a litany of different species to avoid creating monocultures of trees. While there will always be the potential for issues similar in nature to the Ash Borer, the Village is





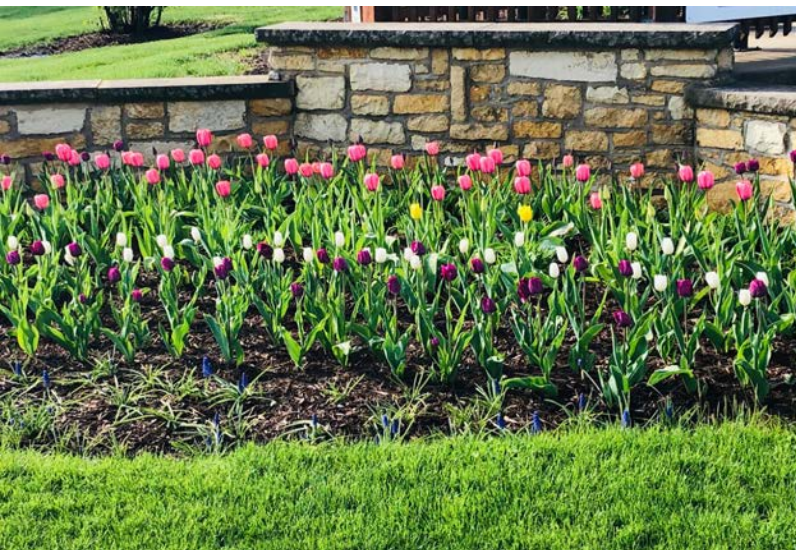
now better equipped to react to future pest infestation and recognizes the importance of diversifying our urban forest tree species.

UF.b.03 - Management strategies for tree health and removal of dead, imperiled, and invasive trees in public areas:

The Village has excelled at removing and replacing 5,000 ash trees plagued by the Emerald Ash Borer with only a few hundred Ash Trees left to replace. Being in the Midwest, Plainfield is also known for occasional high wind speeds and the potential for tornado activity. Several times in past years, the Public Works Department has been out for weeks at a time performing storm cleanup and as a result, have found that proper trimming can lessen the impact of a severe storm on trees. The current policy is to check each tree once a year throughout the summer and remove it if it is over 50% dead. To ensure replacement, the tree will then go on a replanting schedule and is replaced the following year.

UF.b.05 - Communication to residents of tree-related issues:

The Village sends information to residents regarding any tree-related issues in the community. Information is dispersed through multiple mediums and social media platforms to ensure maximum communication with residents. Information is shared at Village Board meetings and through Facebook, Twitter, and the Village newsletters. Plainfield has also started to take a modern approach to communication through the use of video announcements. An example of this includes a video letting residents know about the Gypsy Moth spraying that took place in and around Settlers' Park in 2020.



UF.e.02 - Community participation in Arbor Day or other tree-related activities:

Plainfield participates in Arbor Day every year with an Arbor Day Proclamation, Arbor Day social media posts, and the planting of an Arbor Day tree with the assistance of the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts in Plainfield. The Village also provides free saplings that are ordered from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Public Works Staff also attend various community events to pass out tree pamphlets, prizes, and saplings to residents. At these Arbor Day events,

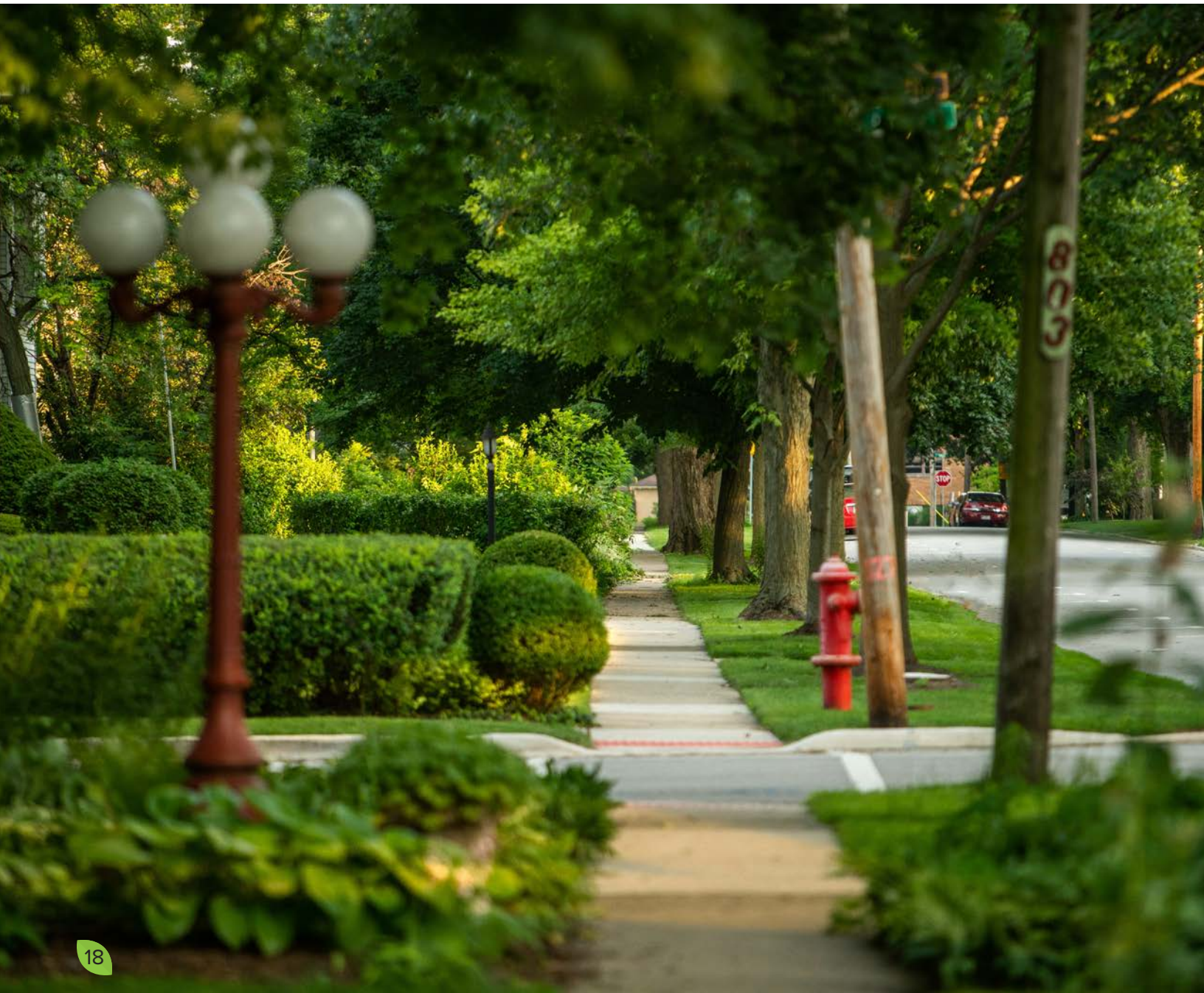
2021 AMERICA IN BLOOM - PLAINFIELD, IL

URBAN FORESTRY

Staff Members discuss topics including tree care and tree diseases to keep an eye on in the upcoming season. Safety in tree maintenance is highlighted and the arborists also have a chance to show off some of the tools they use. Outside of Arbor Day, Village Arborists attend local community meetings to inform community members about the Emerald Ash Borer, telltale signs of an infestation, and the costs associated with treatment versus removal.

UF.e.03 - Volunteers assist in tree planting and/or care:

The Public Works Department has participated in The Big Serve, a community-wide day of volunteering in Plainfield. During the most recent event, Village Staff, with the help of about 10 volunteers per property, trimmed trees off fence lines, cleaned trees out of yards, and planted trees and bushes for residents. For the regular planting program, Public Works passes out gator bags to residents so that they can water the newly planted trees during times of drought and explains to residents the proper amount of water each specific tree should be getting each week.



CELEBRATING HERITAGE



From heritage and community events to the renovation of historic buildings, the Village of Plainfield finds many ways to recognize and preserve the historic fabric of the community. The quaint downtown preserves all the charm of the past while providing a lively destination for visitors and residents to enjoy shopping, dining, events, and sites reminiscent of a postcard. Local community action and Village ordinances work in combination to ensure that the growth of the community remains rooted in its humble beginnings and is retained for many years to come.

CH.a.01 - Historic preservation ordinance(s):

Article XV of the Village's Code of Ordinance establishes the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Village established the Historic Preservation Ordinance for the purposes of:

- (1) Providing a mechanism to identify and preserve the distinctive historic architectural areas, buildings, structures, landscapes, and archaeological sites which represent elements of the Village's cultural, social, economic, political, and/or architectural history; and
- (2) Fostering civic pride in the beauty and noble accomplishments of the past as embodied in the Village's architecture and historic sites; and
- (3) Protecting and increasing the value of property within the historic districts of the Village and those sites designated as landmarks; and
- (4) Encouraging preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of the Village's historic buildings and structures and of its historic residential and commercial neighborhoods; and
- (5) Ensuring that the economic benefits resulting from preservation (e.g. tax incentives, new jobs, renewed buildings) are available to the citizens of Plainfield.

CH.a.03 - Historic Preservation and/or Architectural Review Board:

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is made up of nine residents who have special knowledge or training in fields closely related to historic preservation. The HPC designates local historic landmarks, local historic districts, and reviews Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) and Certificate of Economic Hardship (COEH) applications. This Commission is also recognized by the Department of the Interior as a Certified Local Government. This designation gives the HPC the ability to review National Register Nominations, participate in grant programs, and participate in other federal and state incentive programs. The HPC provides an annual report of their activities to the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office.

CH.a.04 - Historical Society activities:

The Plainfield Historical Society is made up of approximately 150 members dedicated to researching, collecting, and preserving the history of the Village. They offer programs for residents on various topics related to Plainfield's history, publish a quarterly newspaper, and over the years, have operated a cemetery walk and other tours for the public. Visitors and residents can learn more about the Village's history at one of the following museums that are open to the public:



Main Street Museum
23836 W. Main Street



EJ&E Depot #4 Buildings
15023/15033 S. Wood Farm Road

This building originally served as the office for the Plainfield Grain Company and has been converted to a museum. The Historical Society has approximately 150 members and is the repository for Plainfield artifacts and chronicles Plainfield history and events. The museum is typically open on Saturdays from 1 - 4 pm.

The Depot originally served the Joliet, Aurora & Northern Railway as a combination freight and passenger station. It was moved to this property after being donated to the Historical Society and operates as an outdoor museum.

In addition, the Historical Society also owns and maintains other property located within the Village including:

- **Quality Hill House or Centennial House - 23718 W. Lockport Street**
This historic home dating back to the 1800's is understood to have been a safe house along the Underground Railroad.
- **Wheatland Township Monuments - 23761 W. 119th Street**
Two monuments are located on land donated to the Historical Society that commemorate the site of the Wheatland Township plowing matches. These competitions recognized those who plowed fields of a certain size in a given amount of time.

CH.b.02 - National Register of Historic Places district and/or individual designations in place:

In 2013, Downtown Plainfield received the honor of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Downtown Historic District incorporates the historic core and extends from Illinois Route 59 to James Street along Lockport Street. Notable buildings include the Masonic Lodge, Opera House, and Plymouth Congregational Church. In addition, the following structures are individually recognized on the National Register:



Flander's House
24044 W. Main Street



Halfway House
24038 W. Main Street



Standard Oil Gasoline Station
15102 W. Lockport Street

CH.b.03 - Preservation of natural and/or agricultural areas

The Village is home to a range of natural areas that are preserved and maintained for current and future generations to enjoy. Both the Plainfield Township Park District and Will County Forest Preserve maintain facilities located within the Village and their efforts ensure that all residents can access open space, view wildlife, and spend time in nature. Clow Stephens Park is approximately 106 acres of property that was donated to the Park District in 2004 to provide public land for trails, prairie restoration, soccer fields, wetlands, and more.

The 323-acre Lake Renwick Heron Rookery was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 1992 in order to protect a large heron rookery which contains great egrets, great blue herons, black-crowned night-herons and double-crested cormorants. It is part of the 829-acre Lake Renwick Preserve that provides visitors opportunities to view many different species of birds through the trail system. Other natural and agricultural areas located within the Village include Mather Woods, Eaton Preserve, Plainfield Riverfront, and the Riverview Farmstead Preserve.

CH.b.04 - Preservation of documents and records, both oral and written, and artifacts:

The Plainfield Historical Society maintains historical records and documents including newspaper records, photos, postcards, maps, and more. The Historical Society is located within The Main Street Museum and is open on Saturdays for visitors to explore the many artifacts and exhibits from Plainfield's past.

The Riverfront Foundation also operates a museum in a building located on the Plainfield Riverfront. In 1904, the Aurora, Plainfield, & Joliet Railway established a streetcar line with a popular, twenty-acre camping resort. The attraction included camping cabins, an auditorium, a dance pavilion, restaurant, bowling alley, toboggan slide, as well as swimming and boating along the DuPage River. The Riverfront Museum details the history of the riverfront, highlighting the historic Electric Park and contains other historic artifacts from Plainfield's history.

CH.b.05 - Education: historical publications/websites, interpretive signage, tours, museums, and programs in place:

As noted above, both the Plainfield Historical Society and the Riverfront Foundation operate museums dedicated to showcasing Plainfield's history. The Plainfield Historical Society is located at 23836 W. Main Street and the

2021 AMERICA IN BLOOM - PLAINFIELD, IL CELEBRATING HERITAGE

Riverfront Museum is located at the end of Countryman Drive at Plainfield’s Riverfront. The Historical Society also operates the Depot Museum located across from Village Hall. In addition to the depot, the property also includes a historic caboose and freight car.

Interpretative and historic signage can be found within the museums as well as elsewhere in the Village including:

- History Walk at Settlers’ Park;
- Interpretative sign located on the Lockport Street Bridge with a historic view of Electric Park;
- Plaque in Downtown Plainfield recognizing the National Register Historic District; and
- Signage located outside the Depot Museum.

The Village’s website includes an interactive GIS map that identifies the boundaries of the National Register Downtown Historic District and the East Side Historic District as well as the Village’s historic landmarks, including those listed on the National Register. Visitors can also obtain a self-guided Downtown walking tour brochure with summaries on historic buildings along Lockport Street.

The Plainfield Public Library, in partnership with the Plainfield Historical Society, Shorewood-Troy Public Library, and the Will County Recorder of Deeds, digitized historical books, newsletters, and photographs to create an online source on Will County history. This collection is accessible online and includes records that date back to 1835. Pictured here is a sample from the archives, the 1903 Plainfield Rivals Baseball team.



CH.b.06 - Programs in place to encourage youth involvement:

Every year, members of the Historical Society provide a historic walking tour of Plainfield to all third-grade students within District 202. The tour highlights the Village’s history and introduces young students to historic preservation.

CH.c.03 - Cemeteries, monuments, and/or plaques:

The Plainfield Township Cemetery, between U.S. Route 30 and IL Route 59, was established in 1837. The first inscription noted in the Cemetery Logbook was made on June 19, 1837. Many early Plainfield settlers as well as numerous veterans from the Civil War, World Wars I & II, and the Vietnam War are buried here.

The Plainfield Tornado Memorial is dedicated to the 29 people who lost their lives as a result of an EF5 tornado



that left a trail of destruction through much of Plainfield and neighboring towns on August 28, 1990. After the tornado, thousands of volunteers came forward to help with the immediate needs of the community and oversee its long-term recovery. This memorial salutes their spirit and symbolizes Plainfield's eternal gratitude for their help.

Three different monuments that recognize those that have served our country have been moved to Settlers' Park including:



The Plainfield Soldiers' Monument was first installed near the Congregational Church in 1924. It was rededicated in 2006 and relocated to Settlers' Park in 2009. It recognizes those who fought in the Civil War, World War I, Spanish-American War, and Red Cross Nurses.



The Veterans Memorial Monument was built in 1956 to commemorate Plainfield residents who served this country. It was originally located near Route 59 and Main Street. In 2014, the monument was relocated to Settlers' Park.



The Tribute Memorial was established to pay tribute to American servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during peacetime. The monument was inspired by two Plainfield residents, who graduated from Plainfield Central High School and lost their lives while serving their country.

The Historic Preservation Commission designates properties within the Village that have historical or architectural significance as local landmarks based on the criteria outlined in the Historic Preservation Ordinance. A plaque is installed in front of the designated landmark. As of today, 22 properties have been awarded the title of Historic Landmark. In addition, the Historic Preservation Commission designated local historic districts. Currently, there are two local historic districts established. A local historic district sign is installed in each historic district.

CH.c.05 - Parades, festivals, events, programs commemorating heritage:

Plainfield offers a variety of events and celebrations. The annual Irish Parade in March is organized by the Village Preservation Association and began in 2002. The Irish Parade celebrates St. Patrick's Day and commemorates the early Irish ancestors in town. Cruise Nights, organized by the Plainfield Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce, occur every Tuesday evening in Downtown Plainfield during the months of June, July, and part of August. Local car enthusiasts gather to showcase their classic and unique vehicles. The annual Homecoming Parade, which has 70 years of history, is traditionally scheduled in October. The parade features more than 100 entries, with floats, students, staff, and family representing most of the district's 30 schools.

CH.d.01 - Volunteer participation in community's heritage activities:

The Village Preservation Association (VPA) of Plainfield is made up of a group of residents committed to the preservation of the historical and cultural resources of the Village. Volunteers also help organize community events.



OVERALL IMPRESSION



While the Village of Plainfield is known for its small-town ambiance; it is also a bustling and vibrant community dedicated to providing a quality environment for both residents and local businesses. Policy-wise, the Village has adopted ordinances to regulate the appearance of the Village. In addition to administrative actions, the Village is creative and passionate about beautifying the community. The diligence of pursuing high standards contributes to the Village's success in community development.

Ol.a.01 - Signage ordinances:

The Village of Plainfield has a comprehensive sign code that covers a variety of signage from permanent signs to temporary signs. The Village also has banner regulations regulating the dimension and appearance of banners. The signage regulations are adopted in an effort to preserve, protect, and promote the public health, safety, and welfare; reduce visual confusion and restrict signs which increase the probability of accidents by distracting attention, obstructing vision, or otherwise affecting the public good; and enhance the physical appearance of the village.

Ol.a.02 - Ordinances in place to address blight issues:

The Village's Code Enforcement Department follows the Village's Property Maintenance Code which was developed based on the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, published by the International Code Council. The Code regulates the minimum maintenance requirements for the existing buildings in the Village. The Downtown TIF District was established in 1998 to help combat the lack of investment and removal of blight in the downtown area and make public improvements and historic downtown rehabilitations for properties that pre-date 1968. As of 2020, \$6 million has been invested into the downtown TIF district and \$3 million in private investment has been received for the downtown. In 2019, Plainfield established a second TIF District located on U.S. Route 30, just south of Renwick Road to Interstate 55, and one of the key objectives of this TIF is to revitalize

2021 AMERICA IN BLOOM - PLAINFIELD, IL

OVERALL IMPRESSION

the blighted structures located within this area while also beautifying the corridor with new streetscape and plantings.

OI.a.03 - Code enforcement/compliance officer on municipal staff:

The Code Enforcement Division is managed by the Building Department and includes two code enforcement officers to help ensure that residents and businesses are compliant with Village Ordinances.

OI.b.03 - Public restrooms available:

Public restrooms are available in multiple parks, including Settlers' Park, Bott Park, Clow Stephens Park, Van Horn Woods, and the Village Green. The public restrooms are maintained by the Village of Plainfield, the Forest Preserve District of Will County, and the Plainfield Park District.

OI.b.04 - Community gateway entry features:

Currently, the Village has major community gateway signs located at the Village limits on Illinois Route 59 to the north and south, Lockport Street, Illinois Route 126, and U.S. Route 30. Monument signs are located at the entrance to all of the parks in the Village including Settlers' Park and the Village Green.

OI.b.05 - Use of banners, murals, and/or public art:

Plainfield welcomes the use of banners for civic event promotion in downtown. The Village rotates the banners seasonally and also has banners that feature special events such as Cruise Nights, Homecoming, etc. A Plainfield mural is also installed on the west elevation of the DNA Athletics store on Lockport Street.

OI.b.06 - Wayfinding signage:

As part of the downtown streetscape renovation project, the Village has upgraded its wayfinding system in the downtown area, which is comprised of illuminated road signs, informational kiosks with maps and event posters, and entryway signs. To commemorate historic U.S. Route 66 and the Lincoln Highway, signs for each highway are placed along the routes.



Ol.b.07 - Use of non-plant seasonal decorations (lights, ornaments, etc.):

In addition to the excellent landscaping, a variety of non-plant decorations are utilized to decorate the Village every year. The Public Works Department decorates with corn stalks on the light poles and entry signage in the fall. During the winter holidays, the Public Works Department installs Christmas decorations on streetlight poles and light strings on the downtown trees. The Plainfield Park District hosts the Grinchmas on the Green event and community organizations are invited to decorate trees during the holidays. In a few parks, the Park District has installed bronze statues. A pair of LED light poles are located at the intersection of W. Lockport Street and S. Fox River Street. The light colors and programs are changed seasonally and for special memorial days and festivals.

Ol.c.06 - Street sweeping schedule:

The Village operates a regular schedule for street cleaning. The downtown is swept weekly on Fridays. The residential subdivisions are swept three times a year in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. The main roads are swept once a month. The Village Public Works Department owns two sweepers: a Pelican and a Crosswind. The Crosswind is capable of sucking debris out of catch basins when the need arises.

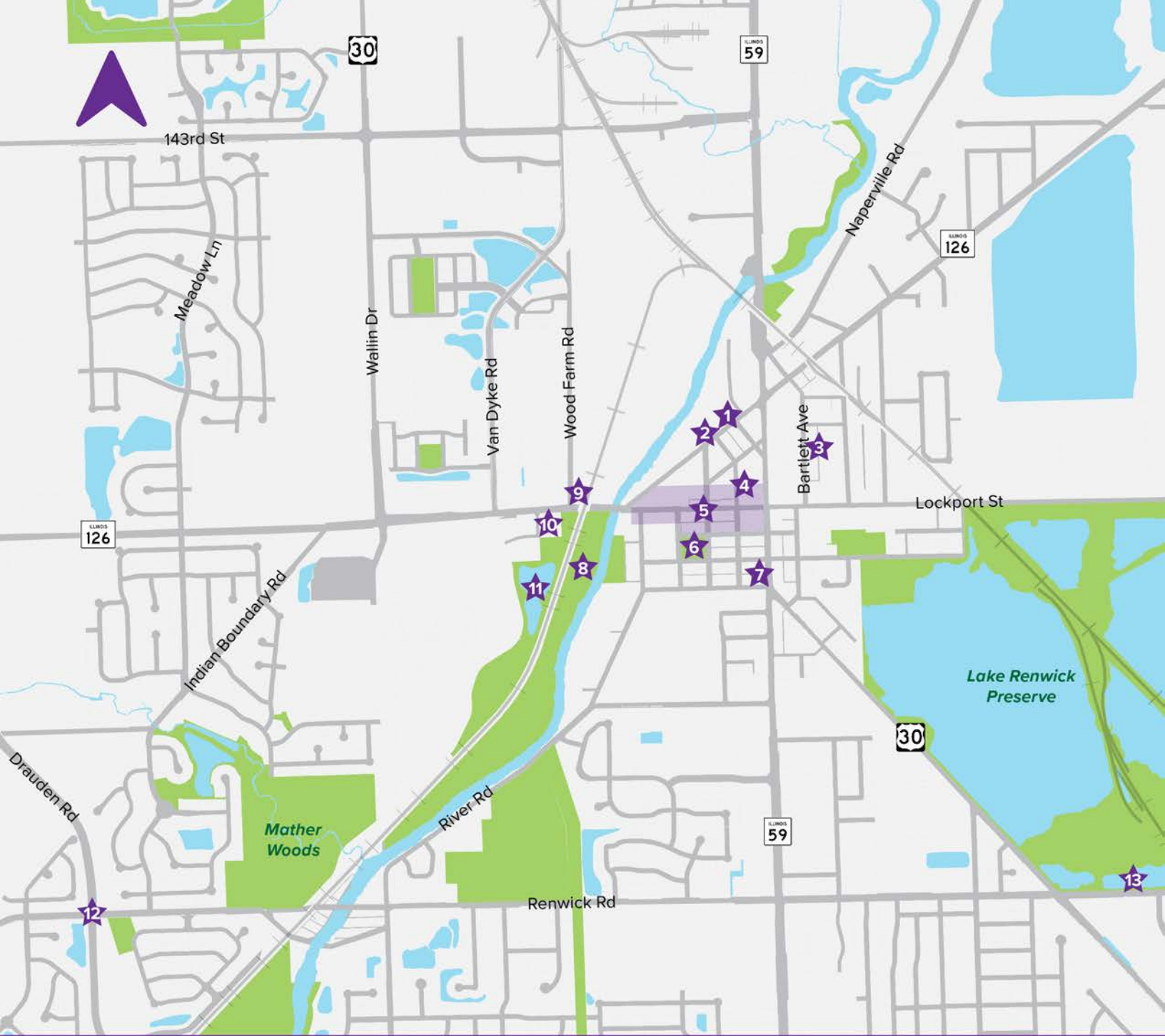


Ol.d.01 - Volunteer participation and/or funding of community revitalization and improvement initiatives:

The Village has adopted incentive programs in order to help revitalize and improve the community. The Façade Program located in the Historic Downtown District is designed to provide financial assistance to the property owners in the downtown area for the rehabilitation and restoration of the existing commercial buildings. The properties that are designated as a landmark and/or participate in a designated district qualify to participate in both the Façade Improvement Program and the Rehabilitation Grant Program. The Downtown TIF District was established to help make public improvements and historic downtown rehabilitations for properties that pre-date 1968. Additionally, the Fire Life and Safety System Grant Program is an incentive program that is a joint effort by the Village and the Plainfield Fire Protection District to promote the implementation of fire, life, and safety improvements to commercial and/or mixed-use buildings in the downtown area, again, for properties that pre-date 1968.

Ol.d.02 - Program or process for residents to fund public amenities such as memorial benches:

The Plainfield Park District offers the living memory program. Donors may choose to plant a tree or place a park bench in honor of a loved one. The Plainfield Riverfront Foundation operates a Memorial Bench Program where a plaque is engraved with a loved one's name and installed in front of a bench located at Plainfield's riverfront. The Riverfront Foundation also has a brick program where donors can honor friends and family, remember a loved one, or commemorate milestones. Bricks will be installed in a future project at the Plainfield Riverfront.



America In Bloom Tour Map of Plainfield

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ★ 1 Flander's House
24044 W. Main St | ★ 6 Village Green | ★ 10 Village Hall
24401 W. Lockport St |
| ★ 2 Halfway House
24038 W. Main St | ★ 7 Chester Ingersoll Residence
24010 W. Commercial St | ★ 11 Settlers' Park |
| ★ 3 Eastside Historic District
S. Bartlett Ave | ★ 8 Riverfront | ★ 12 Drauden Road Roundabout |
| ★ 4 Plainfield Public Library
15025 S. Illinois St | ★ 9 Historic Depot
15033 Wood Farm Rd | ★ 13 Lake Renwick Heron Rookery |
| ★ 5 Historic Standard Gas Station
24103 W. Lockport St | | ■ Downtown Plainfield |

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation/Title	Email	Phone
Amy De Boni	Community Relations Director	adeboni@goplainfield.com	815-436-7093
Yuchen Ding	Associate Planner	yding@goplainfield.com	815-436-7093
Brian Fahnstrom	Crew Leader - Forestry & Grounds Maintenance	bfahnstrom@goplainfield.com	815-436-3577
Jessica Gal	Associate Planner	jgal@goplainfield.com	815-436-7093
John Hannon	Grounds Maintenance Operator 2	jhannon@goplainfield.com	815-436-3577
Jack Malec	Management Intern	jmalec@goplainfield.com	815-436-7093
Jake Melrose	Economic Development Manager	jmelrose@goplainfield.com	815-436-7093
Chad Newcomer	Grounds Maintenance Operator 1	cnewcomer@goplainfield.com	815-436-3577
Scott Threewitt	Lead Engineer	sthreewitt@goplainfield.com	815-436-3577

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