

# WOOD DALE

Vision Plan

Final Proposal  
07.11.2013





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# Introduction



The Vision Plan is the City of Wood Dale’s official guide for decision-making related to physical development and is intended to be utilized for the next ten years.

Wood Dale is a cohesive community with attractive amenities including good housing stock, viable businesses and substantial green spaces. What it lacks is a sense of identity, place and a focus on the center of the city. Thousands of people travel through Wood Dale on either Irving Park Road or the Metra but they do not consider the city as a destination. With the advent of a western entrance to the O’Hare airport complex, Wood Dale is in an excellent position to become a gateway city. The Vision Plan will provide ideas and improvements that will give Wood Dale its missing identity by proposing expanded and new amenities that will benefit its residents and attract new visitors. These options if undertaken can also be a catalyst that will stimulate the economic development downtown core.

## Purpose

The core area of Wood Dale, specifically the intersection of Wood Dale Rd and Irving Park Rd has an indistinct character and no definition. One could pass through Wood Dale without realizing one had been there. This study was commissioned to provide ideas to establish a sense of “Place,” clearly denoting the Irving Park corridor as a significant access and the surrounding streets a “destination” as well as a transit corridor. The enhancements proposed should serve to improve the character of the streets, offer more recreational opportunities within the “core” district, and stimulate business activity.

## Economic Vitality

As the City of Wood Dale continues to upgrade through increased improvements in the streetscape, providing community amenities and giving the citizens a place to enjoy nature, more people and businesses will consider Wood Dale as a place to call home and conduct business. This effect will increase exponentially creating a happy and healthy community for its residence and business owners.

## Guiding Principles

Four major principles were developed that would be the basis for building the Vision Plan as follows:

**ATTRACT** – in order to create a sense of pride for Wood Dale citizens and attract new visitors, several prospects are proposed. A new marker at Wood Dale’s major intersection should be developed to provide an identity for the city. New amenities should be considered that will identify Wood Dale as a destination.

**ENHANCE** – in order to improve Wood Dale’s image, several ideas should be explored including expanded and enhanced park space, a public garden, a themed adventure play space, improved outdoor markets, event spaces and an adaptable indoor/outdoor performance and event venue.

**SUPPORT** – in order to enhance the ability for residents and visitors to utilize the new amenities, parking for cars and bicycles should be examined, reorganized and expanded as necessary.

**CONNECT** – in order to improve the visual quality of Wood Dale the existing street system should be examined to improve the v and circulation. Median and curb plantings, and paving improvements should be considered for the major core streets.

## Vision Plan Approach & Scale

The vision plan is intended to be a dynamic living document, a starting point for a process of change and will be Wood Dale’s guideline for its immediate and future development for the Core areas. It is a tool to make decisions now and in the future. The plan identifies Wood Dale’s needs and problems after a comprehensive planning process and suggests a direction for the next 10 years. The creation of this plan acquired the input of the Mayor, the Board of Trustees and City staff. All of the previous plans and studies that were undertaken offered important input to the Vision Plan. The Plan concentrated on the Wood Dale Core including park spaces, the major streets (Wood Dale and Irving Park Roads), the Salt Creek natural areas and the commuter rail lines.

## Existing Residential & Commercial

The plan provides an outline that regards current and future needs of the residents and businesses of Wood Dale to create and maintain a logical basis for zoning, subdivision design and public improvements. The plan acts as an advisory guide to the Planning Commission and the City Council to ensure that residential, public and private properties are protected and v coordinated to one another.

## New Commercial Development

New and improved streetscapes will also increase opportunities for local businesses. As the downtown area of Wood Dale improves, more businesses will find their operation to be viable consideration near the main intersection of Irving Park Rd and Wood Dale Rd thus increasing the local economic sector.

# Geographical Analysis



As traffic increases through Wood Dale due to the advent of the Elgin-O'Hare expressway, Wood Dale will be transformed into the gateway city of the O'Hare International Airport.

## Population Demographics

The census bureau reports that there were approximately 13,000 people in the city of Wood Dale as of 2010. Additionally it has approximately 5,000 households, 3,600 families and a population density of 2,900 people per square mile.

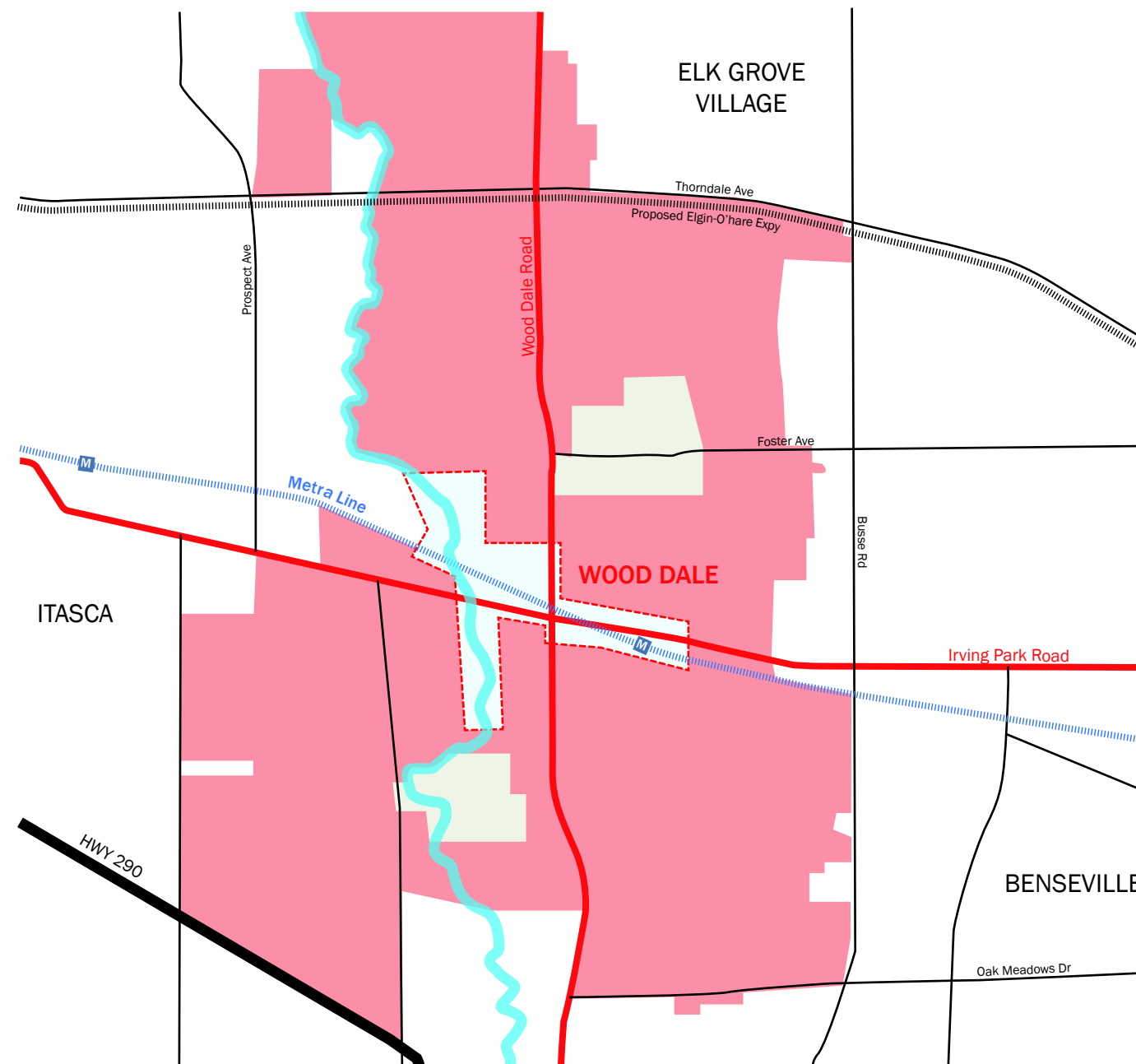
Recently, the city has experienced economic growth in the industrial sector which has increased its daytime population to 35,000 persons.

## Location & Transportation

Wood Dale is located approximately 25 miles NW from downtown Chicago and 10 miles from O'hare International Airport. It is also conveniently surrounded by Hwy 90 to the north, Hwy 294 to the east, and Hwy 290 to the west and south.

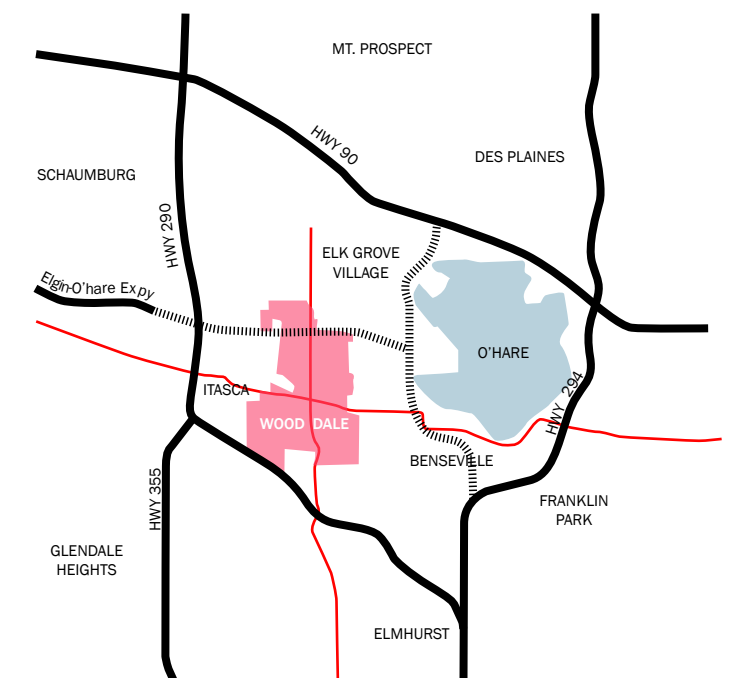
The Metra connects the City of Wood Dale to downtown Chicago with a commute duration of 1 hour. The city is also serviced by Pace Bus System.

The area is in process of building an expressway that will connect Elgin to the O'Hare Airport. This highway will traverse directly through Wood Dale which will give it more recognition and traffic. It is expected that Wood Dale will experience an economic boost once this expressway is completed.



City limits of Wood Dale, IL

- Area of Project Concentration
- City of Wood Dale
- Salt Creek
- Metra Stop
- Proposed Elgin-O'hare Extension



Regional Area of Wood Dale, IL



## Project Area

There are five principal axes which define the central core of Wood Dale. These strong lineal axis impose the frame about which the central core plan must be developed.

The main axis/artery is Irving Park Road, which is a major East-West highway carrying over 30,000 vehicles (in each direction) through the city daily.

The secondary axis/artery is Wood Dale Road, the principal North-South Street through the village. At peak hours vehicular traffic is heavy, though during normal hours there is modest traffic on Wood Dale Road. It handles over 12,000 vehicles daily (in each direction).

The rail tracks, serving both commuter and freight traffic, bisects the “Core” at an angle, causing an difficult and complex intersection at Irving Park and Wood Dale Road.

Front Street serves as a feeder from Irving Park Road to Wood Dale Road to relieve traffic turning north bound from the intersection. The intersection of the railroad track crossing through the principal intersection complicates vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The defining western edge of the city core, is Salt Creek, which meanders adjacent through publicly owned land and private property.

## Property Ownership

The properties adjacent to the Salt Creek are under multiple ownerships.

To the north is the North Salt Creek County Forest Preserve and the Wood Dale Itasca Flood Control Facility




The intervening land is held by:

- \* The Village of Itasca to the west side of Salt Creek and north of Irving Park Road
- \* The City of Wood Dale
- \* The Du Page County Forrest Preserve District
- \* The Wood Dale Park District
- \* Land proposed for ownership by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- \* The balance of land bordering Alt Creek is in private ownership
- \* On the south boundary of Wood Dale the Salt Creek



Map of Wood Dale's parcels



-  Proposed Area
-  Railroad Tracks
-  Salt Creek



Map of Wood Dale flood plain

## Salt Creek Floodplain

Salt Creek is a 43.4 mile-long stream that is an important tributary to the Des Plaines River, part of the Illinois River and ultimately the Mississippi River watersheds. Most of the creek's watershed is urbanized, densely populated and flood-prone. The Wood Dale-Itasca Reservoir is a part of the Flood mediation system.

According to water data reports published by the v, in 2010 Salt Creek experienced a mean water level of 7.2ft. Records for 2012 show a max gage height of 14.36 on July 23 and min of 6.12ft on October 20th. Extremes for period of record indicate that Salt Creek rose to 16.58ft September of 2008, and fell to 5.88 ft July of 2001.

It is advised that all buildings be constructed with the lowest floor above the flood protection level. Additionally, grading and watertight construction can prevent lower level water damage.

# Community Analysis



The city of Wood Dale is a desirable location for residents and businesses due to its abundance in green space, prosperous economy, and small town charm.

The City of Wood Dale has a rich history spanning back to early settlement in the late 1800's. Today Wood Dale is prosperous and growing community of approximately 13,000 residents from many diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Wood Dale is a community that offers a variety of new housing opportunities including affordable condominiums, luxury town homes and single family homes.

The city of Wood Dale is abundant in green space with many acres of forest preserves, densely tree lined neighborhoods and numerous public and private leisure spaces. The city's proximity to Chicago, O'Hare Airport and several major interstate highways, as well as numerous shopping areas and restaurants make Wood Dale an ideal place for families and businesses alike.

Wood Dale has a history of economic progress and is highly desirable because of its large acres of open space, outstanding Park District and School District facilities. The city of Wood Dale offers all the benefits of a modern urbanized city, while also keeping some of it's small town charm.



People of Wood Dale

## The People of Wood Dale

The racial profile of the city is approximately 82.5% white, .78% Black or African American, 5.7% Asian, .08% American Indian and 10.95% from other races with almost 20% identifying as being Ethnically Hispanic.

The population of Wood Dale continues to increase in ethnic, racial and religious minorities. The progress and success of the city could benefit from the utilization of community programs, festivals and events that respect and integrate this diversity.



Entrance to the city from "the street and location"



North view of Walnut St on Irving Park Rd.



View of businesses on Wood Dale Rd between Commercial St and Stoneham St



View of "residential" street

## Existing Streetscape

The existing planting along Irving Park Rd tends to be sparsely landscaped. The city is called Wood Dale but while driving along Irving Park Road there is a noticeable lack of trees. It would be an interesting concept to represent the name of the city with the appearance of the streets and landscaping. In the areas where planting has been done, there is a noticeable improvement in the quality and character of the streetscape.

There is a power line on the north side of Irving Park Rd and the parkway is frequently broken with driveway access to homes and businesses. In the earlier plan it was recommended that the power lines be moved underground. If this is still a possibility, it should be encouraged.

A new signage plan has been adopted and will be implemented. When possible, it also has been recommended by the city that new construction along Irving Park Rd and Wood Dale Rd conform and be modified to the prairie-style architecture. If accomplished, this would enhance cohesiveness and identity of Wood Dale's physical environment.

## Existing Community Character

The core of Wood Dale is currently uneven and diffuse in character with no connecting themes. The downtown area consists of the Metra station which experiences heavy traffic, the Water Park which only receives use during the summer months, and a few key administrative buildings near to the main intersection.

Currently the Water Park serves as the recreational center in the core area. Festivals also represent another venue which brings the community together. All of these activities do take place around and near the main intersection, which makes this the prime location to strengthen and invest in.

Many small businesses are also located around the "Core". Strengthening this area will strengthen the economy of downtown Wood Dale, and foster an improved business climate. New development on the prime site along Walnut between Front and Commercial and additional development along Irving Park Rd could also strengthen the economic development of the Core.

The main intersection of Wood Dale and Irving is heavily trafficked. By updating and strengthening the visual experience of this intersection Wood Dale could potentially receive more attention and recognition, rather than just being another stop light on ones East to West travel pattern.



City of Wood Dale Entry Marker



The Beach Water Park



Metra Station



City Hall [FIND OR TAKE A BETTER PICTURE]



Salt Creek



Bike Path along reservoir



Bridge over Irving Park Road in Itasca



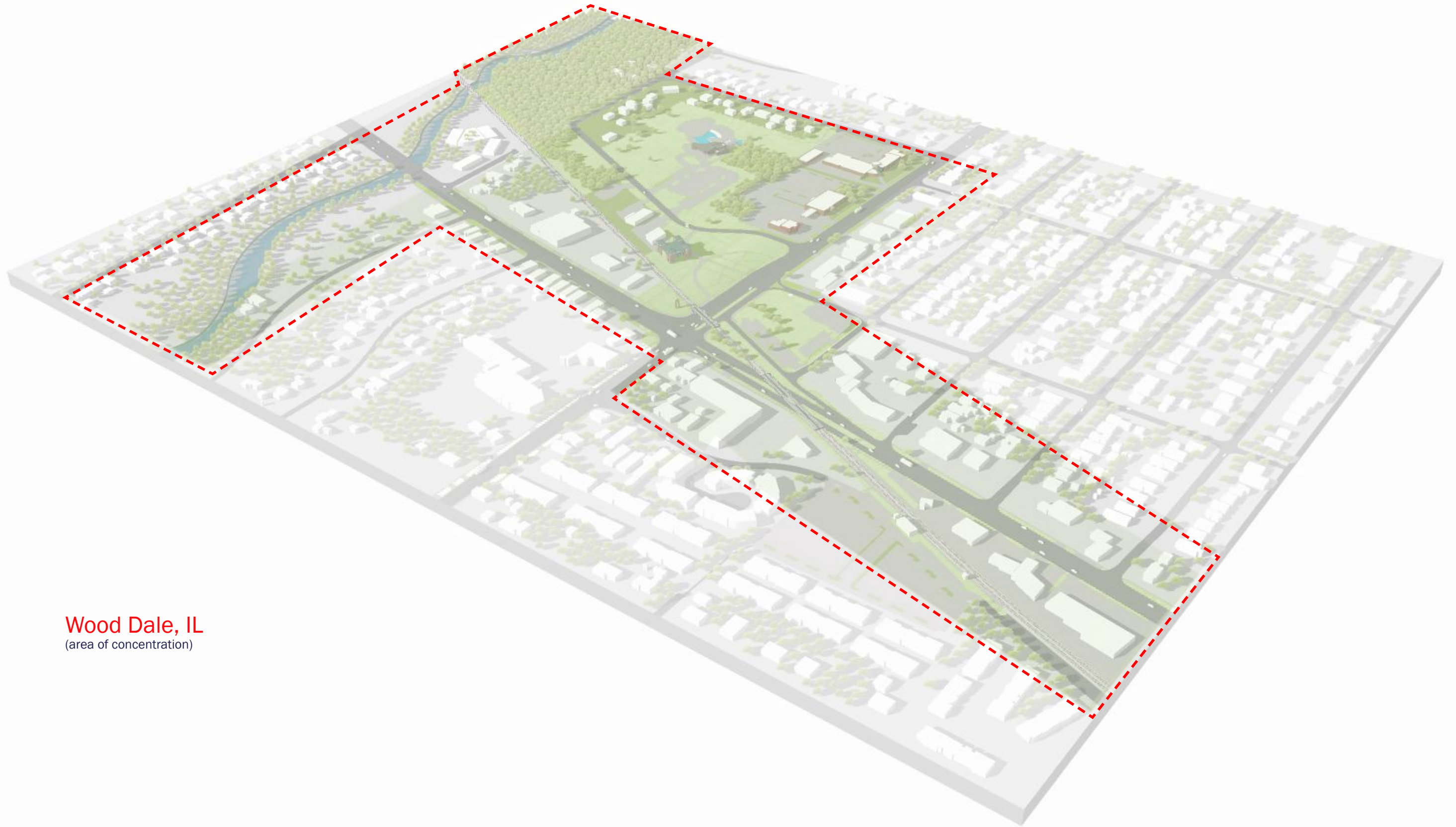
Community Garden

## Existing Nature and Trails

Currently there is a “foundation” from which to develop an enhanced experience of the natural and man-made open spaces in the study area.

The Salt Creek is a part of the natural ecosystem, and various public agencies own a large amount of property along the creek. This runs to the Wood Dale Itasca Reservoir, which has an existing path surrounding it. Enhancing the possibilities along the creek could provide both passive and active recreational possibilities for the citizens of Wood Dale and bring visitors to the community.

The current garden along Wood Dale Road will need to be relocated to traffic lane expansion, but the garden offers a sense of pride in the community and a place for plant lovers and gardeners to gain ideas and inspiration. These sort of features add to “a sense of place” and create identity.



Wood Dale, IL  
(area of concentration)

# Vision Plan Overview



The direct goal and main purpose of the vision plan for the City of Wood Dale is intended to improve the general streetscape, strengthen core amenities and extend the nature trail.

Revitalization of Wood Dale revolves around three core pillars of improvement. Update the general streetscape, create public amenities, and extend the nature trail. The fundamental purpose of the development plan is to enable the City of Wood Dale's planning commission to establish a future direction for the City's physical development. Once the plan is officially conceived, adopted and maintained this plan will serve as a guide for all areas of conservation and development in the downtown area of Wood Dale.

Due to constant change in social and economic progress, this plan shall be periodically reviewed to reflect the needs and desires of the residents and businesses in the City of Wood Dale. Additionally the cooperation and consensus among the various public and private agencies, developers and citizens of the city must be maintained to ensure that all goals are met.

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## Methodology

The methodology used to create the development plan includes 6 key steps:

- \* *Data Analysis* - creating a current assessment of the physical state of the main intersection and amenities.
- \* *Goals & Objectives* - creating a common goal through cooperation with city officials and multiple organizations
- \* *Plan and Preparation* - Analyzing the data and defining current and future needs of the city.
- \* *Schematic Design* - Using divergent thinking processes to engineer multiple options and concepts
- \* *Developmental Implementation* - Subsequently providing improvements that reflect the needs of the community.
- \* *Administration* - formulate appropriate contract procedures and administrative practices to complete the Vision Plan

## Improve Streetscape

A number of improvements can be made to the streetscape of Wood Dale, currently the planting is fairly barren along the streets that lead to the main intersection of Irving Park Rd and Wood Dale Rd. These improvements would include planting trees along the curb, adding median planters between lanes, creating character through paved walkways, and adding signature lighting.

## Strengthen Core

Wood Dale suffers from an undefined core. One of the primary purposes of the vision plan is to create an identity for the center of the city. The creation of a prominent iconic visual marker that will provide information about events that are taking place in Wood Dale is the major element suggested by the plan. The core will also be strengthened by providing landscaped medians and pedestrian friendly paving systems that will demarcate the center of Wood Dale. A major new indoor-outdoor performance and rental venue will create an attractive place as the hub of downtown activities.

## Extend Nature Trail

Wood Dale's proximity to the Salt Creek and the adjacent forest is an asset that is not currently easily accessible. An extension of the existing trail system can bring residents and visitors more easily into the center core. By diverting the trail users to the businesses and activities that can be created in the central core will be an economic benefit. An expanded nature trail with explanatory graphics and exercise stations will be a benefit to the citizens of Wood Dale and have the potential to receive funding from health organizations or a state LAWCON grant.



Wood Dale, IL  
(Proposed streetscape improvements)



# Wood Dale Streetscape



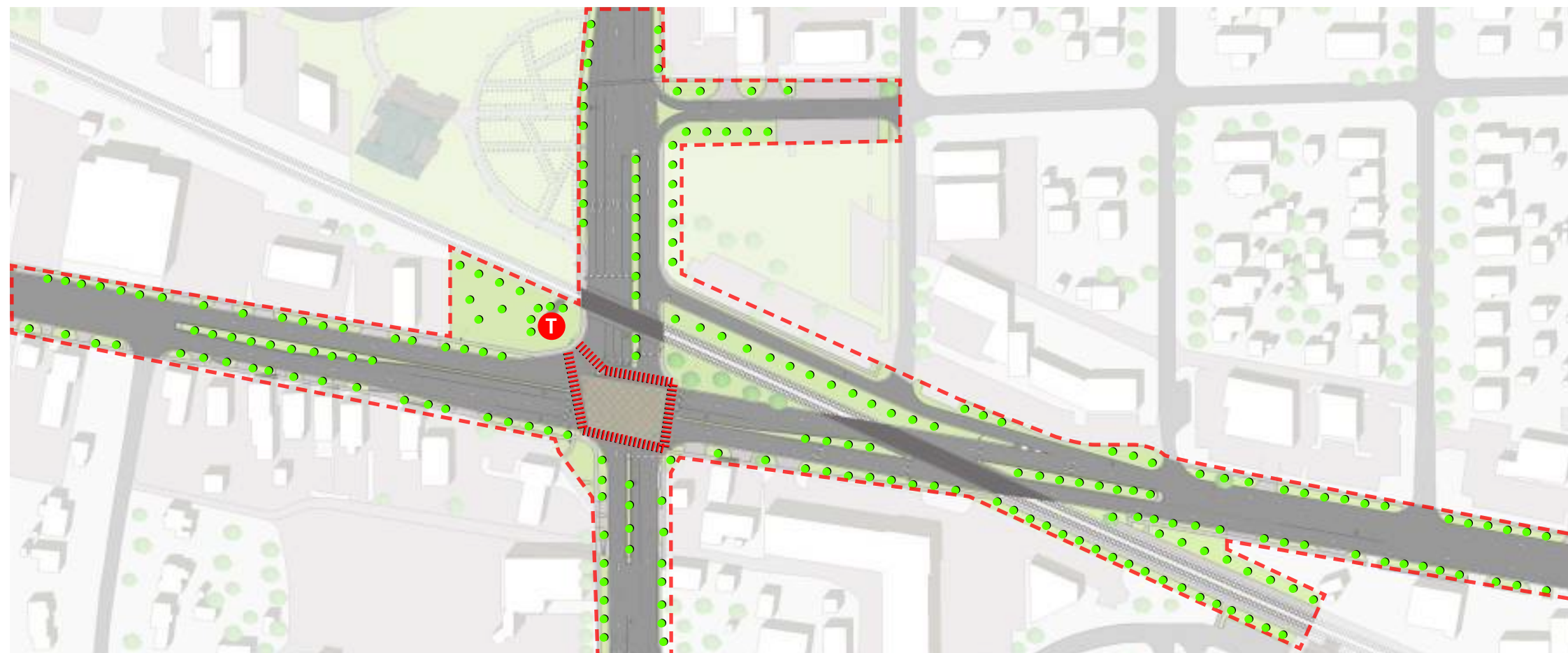
Improvements to the main intersection of Wood Dale should establish character and identity for the community, aid in the beautification process, and emphasize the unity of vehicles and pedestrians.

The improvements made to the intersection of Wood Dale Rd and Irving Park Rd is the key point for establishing an identity for the city of Wood Dale. With the addition of marked crosswalks, a clock tower, and streetscape planting, this intersection could enhance the experience of motorist, pedestrians and bikers.

Crosswalk improvements will greatly increase the safety of the main intersection. Providing a multi-use design to the pavement will benefit the community aesthetically, and emphasize the unity of vehicles and pedestrians through the use of marked pathways, tactile paving and an intersection core.

The addition of the Clock Tower will represent an official signifier to the arrival of the Wood Dale core. In addition to having prairie style characteristics, the tower could house translucent LED back lit panels that would change colors and messages depending on seasonal festivities and current events.

Median and curb planting will improve the safety of the intersection by providing a separation between oncoming traffic. Reintroducing trees and plants to the streetscape within IDOT standards will also aid in the beautification process of the core, reduce road rage and encourage pedestrians to cross at the marked crosswalks.



## Benefits of Urban Planting

- \* Reduced harm from tailpipe emissions, gas transformation efficiency.
- \* Increased motorized traffic and pedestrian safety.
- \* Reduced and more appropriate urban traffic speeds.
- \* Less drainage infrastructure.
- \* Rain, sun and heat protection for drivers, reduced road rage, improves overall emotional and psychological health.

-- Outline for the streetscape, includes pathway to Metra and front street.

**T** The clock tower will signify the convergence of Irving Park Rd and Wood Dale Rd, thus establishing the center of the city.

||||| Crosswalk paving provides pedestrians safe crossing and reserves the rights of vehicles on the roadway.

● Substantial planting of trees could be added to the Wood Dale Core area. Providing shade and natural beauty.

● Existing Trees



## Crosswalks

Currently, the main intersection of Wood Dale Rd and Irving Park Rd is lacking in safety and design considerations. By adding key features such as an *intersection core*, *marked cross walks* and *tactile paving*, the intersection could be transformed into prominent feature of downtown Wood Dale which could provide the community with more recognition.

The characteristics of the *intersection core* should ultimately signify the shared nature of the streets. The design of the intersection should serve to minimize the number of conflicts between cars, buses, pedestrians and bikes in addition to accommodating to the subjected use.

*Marked crosswalks* are an essential component for aiding pedestrians to move safely and conveniently across roadways. Additionally, crosswalks provide an aesthetic benefit by adding unique design treatments to the streetscape. This ultimately increases the presence and safety of pedestrians. The illustrations shown are conceptual, and the final design would be developed in concert with IDOT

*Tactile paving* will provide a detectable ground surface to assist pedestrians who are blind and visually impaired to cross the street. Tactile surfaces should be added to the end of each side walk to mark the line between sidewalk and street.

The addition of these three upgrades to the intersection will emphasize the crosswalks and intersection as a fundamental component of the pedestrian presence, while reserving the rights to vehicles on the roadway.



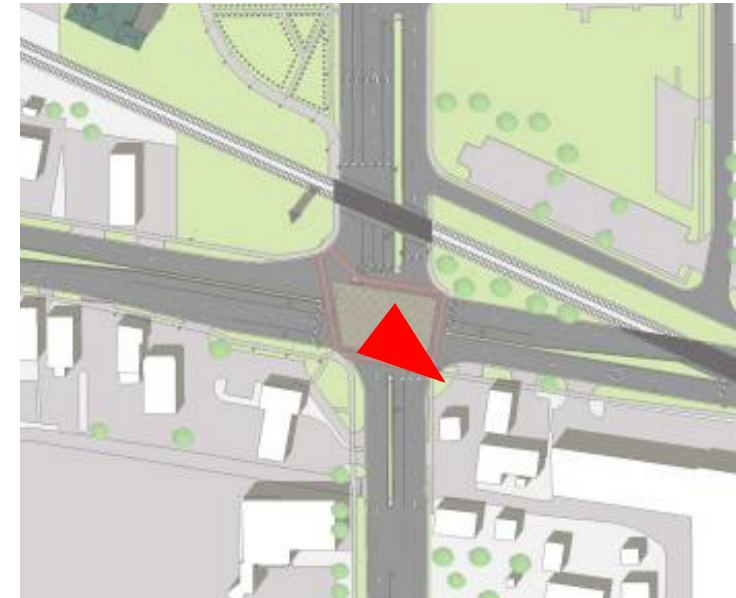
Northwest view of Irving Park Rd and Wood Dale Rd



After crosswalk improvements



After crosswalk improvements



Key Plan

### Pattern Design

An inexpensive solution to define the center of the major Street system of Wood Dale is to create colored stamped asphalt patterns to define the intersections and create clear paths for pedestrians. Pavement patterns will not only make it safer for pedestrians but it will calm traffic and help define Wood Dale's Center.



## Clock Tower

The intersection of Irving Park road and Wood Dale Ave experiences the highest daily traffic volume, and is the logical place for a major signifier. The recommendation is to build an object of sufficient size that will be noticed and remembered by all who pass by. It could include the Wood Dale Logo, a time and temperature indicator, or even be more elaborate with messages announcing city events, changing colors to go with seasonal festivities, etc. The actual element will have to be designed with these parameters and budget in mind.

We have shown one example of a possible version which includes all these options. The conceptual example shown is constructed in brick and is designed in a prairie-style. It can be seen from all directions of the intersection and is built to a height which insures visibility to all motorists and pedestrians that pass through the intersection.



Before view of main intersection



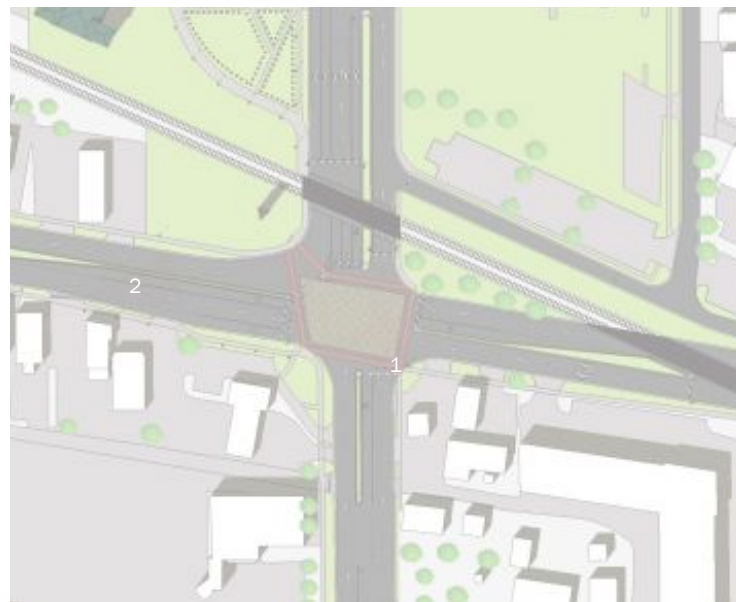
1) After view of the clock tower from the main intersection



2) View of the clock tower from Irving Park Road

### LED Lighting

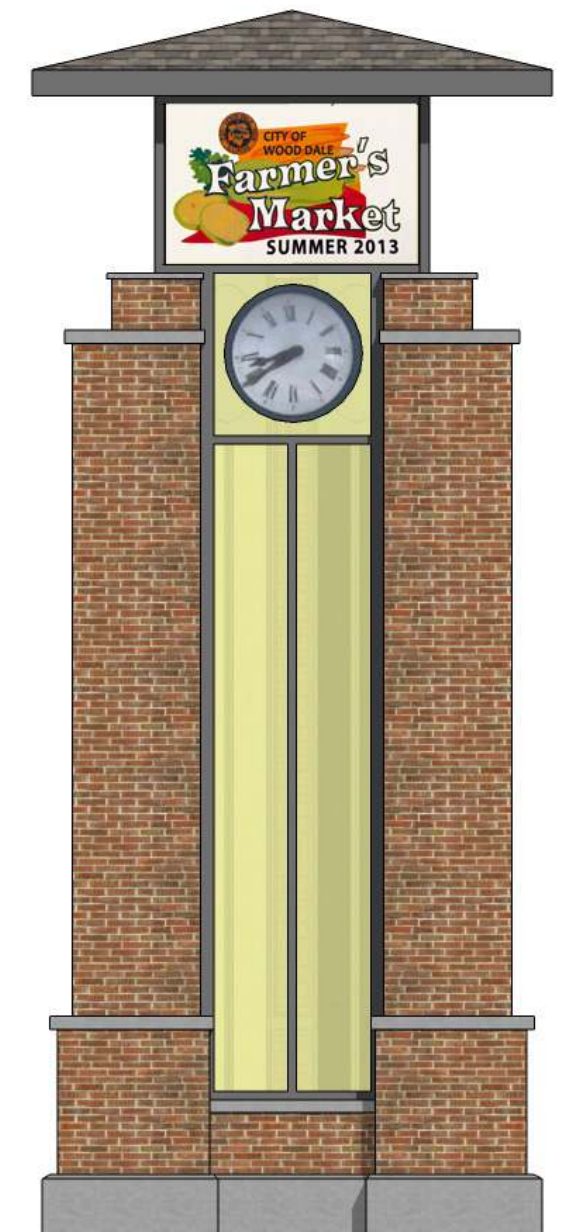
The translucent panels could provide the opportunity for back lighting, and the inclusion of information via LED back lighting. Care should be taken in the intensity of any signage so as not to appear garish or disturbing for drivers at night.



Key Plan



Seasonal and event related LED signs.





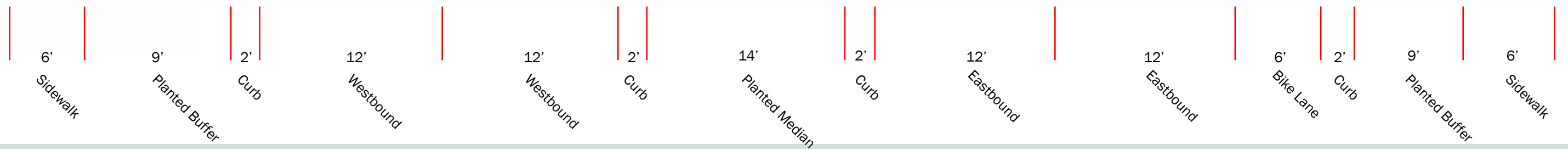
## Medians

The addition of median and planting will improve vehicle and pedestrian safety while improving the beauty of the main causeways leading into the main intersection of Wood Dale.

Parkway and median planting have been used successfully in numerous communities to improve the physical environment and quality of experience. Working with IDOT individual communities can establish their own specific guidelines based on the character of the community and its goals in establishing an individual character.

For Wood Dale developing this stronger character, primarily along Irving Park Road, would be a crucial step in identifying the community as one with pride of place.

Earlier plans had recommended that the power lines be placed underground. If possible, with the rebuilding of Irving Park Road, this option should be investigated.





Median planting during Spring



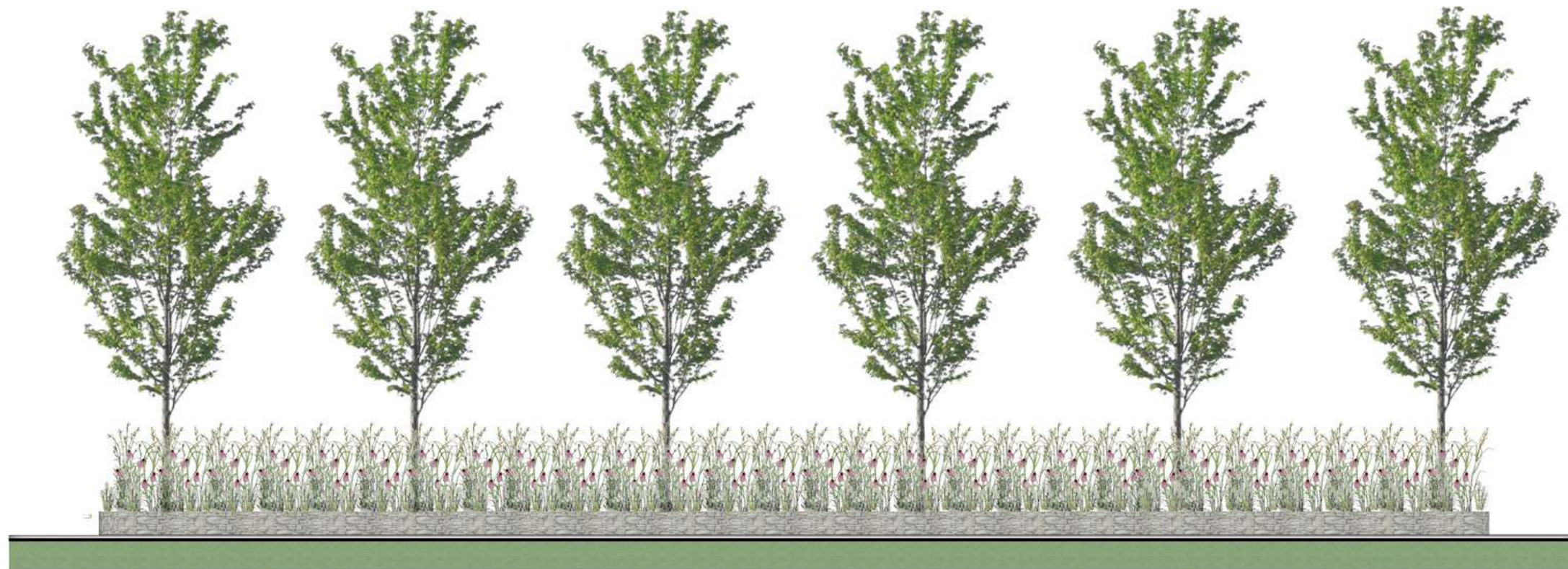
Median planting during Fall



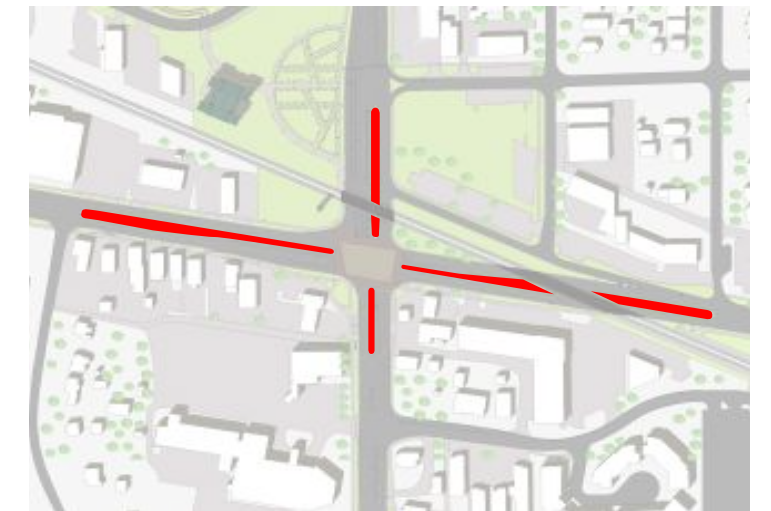
Median planting during Summer

### Benefits of Median Planters

- \* Provides safety by separating the lanes of oncoming traffic.
- \* Reduces traffic speeds and road rage.
- \* Encouraging pedestrians to cross at the crosswalk instead of cutting through lanes of traffic.
- \* Landscaped medians help to reduce the urban heat island effect by incorporating trees and other plants.
- \* Medians reduce the amount of water that enters storm sewers by collecting it and reintroducing it into the soil.
- \* Median planting aids in the beautification and greening process of the streetscape.
- \* Plantings can be changed out seasonally, to contribute to the community character.



Elevation of median planter along Wood Dale Rd



Key Plan



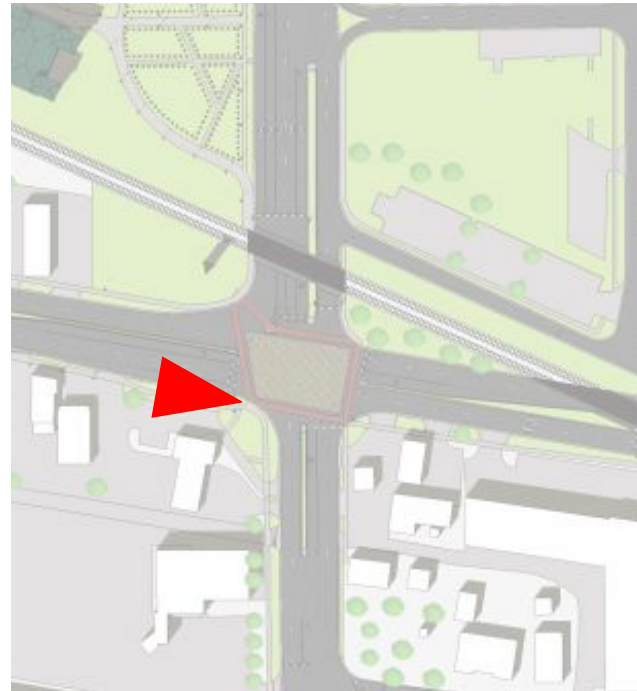
## Curbside Planting



View of Irving Park Rd parkway before planting

### Irving Park Rd

Landscaping along the curbs complements median planting in addition to protecting pedestrians from vehicles on the major thoroughfares. The use of stone or concrete planters could be used along Irving Park Rd to provide further safety as it is the most trafficked street in Wood Dale. Negotiating the location of the planters would have to be conducted with IDOT.



Key Plan



View of Irving Park Rd parkway after planting





View or rail parkway between Irving Park Rd and Front St after planting



View or rail parkway between Irving Park Rd and Front St before planting



Key Plan

### Front Street

The intersection as previously stated, is highly complex due to the railroad right of way intersection at an acute angle. IDOT has proposed modifications to the intersection that may be implemented in the future. Planting along this strip will create a lined and safe walkway for pedestrians.



Wood Dale, IL  
(Proposed core improvements)

# Wood Dale Core



The “Core” is the area bounded on the south by the rail tracks, on the east by Wood Dale Road, on the north by Center Street, and on the west by Grove Street. Commercial Street is slated for re-alignment to the north.

The Wood Dale City Hall sits on north east corner, and private residences line Center and Grove street. Centrally located is the Water Park.

Two private holdings occur along Wood Dale Road, the SBT Bank and White Cottage Italian Restaurant. The religious facility to the south, along the railroad tracks, is likely to relocate.

The remaining area provides a large area for development of features and activities to enliven and strengthen the city’s “center”.

A number of options have been discussed and can be considered as possibilities in short and long range planning. The following attractions and spaces are provided as an outline:

- \* Public Garden
- \* Pavilion
- \* Festival Space
- \* Barn
- \* Adventure Park
- \* Existing Water Park

The core area has approximately 340 parking spaces that could be utilized during events.



-- Outline for the core, area includes public land and land that could affect the core.

● The addition of trees could be added to the Wood Dale Core area. Providing shade and natural beauty.

● Existing Trees

■ There is a possibility to turn this section of land into a shopping center for retail and local businesses.

\* Signage for all the attractions in the Wood Dale Core to direct pedestrians and event goers.

■ The addition of benches will provide a more comfortable and inviting experience for all users.

# Indicates the number of parking spaces for adjacent parking lots.

**G** The public garden acts as a gateway to the Wood Dale Core. It will include a mix of native plants and trees. Signage and a map for the core will be located at its entrance.

**P** The pavilion provides a year round activity space and acts as the anchor building for the Wood Dale Core.

**F** The festival space will accommodate seasonal festivities and could extend onto the grass if needed.

**B** The barn will provide fun attractions and learning activities

**A** The adventure park could feature unique play ground equipment and educational elements for children.

**W** The existing water park could undergo facade improvements and could be accompanied by a concession stand.



## Public Garden

The visual entry to the core recreation area is presently marked by a garden. One option could be to move and enhance the garden due to the proposed alteration of the intersection at Irving Park Rd and Wood Dale Rd.

The public garden proposed is an expanded version similar to the existing one, with native and seasonal plantings. It would be of sufficient size to be noticed and entice those interested in stopping and visiting. Casual walking paths and plant identification could be provided in addition to seating for those interested in a leisurely visit.



Pavement Design

Bird's Eye View of Garden



A place to enjoy nature



Native flowers

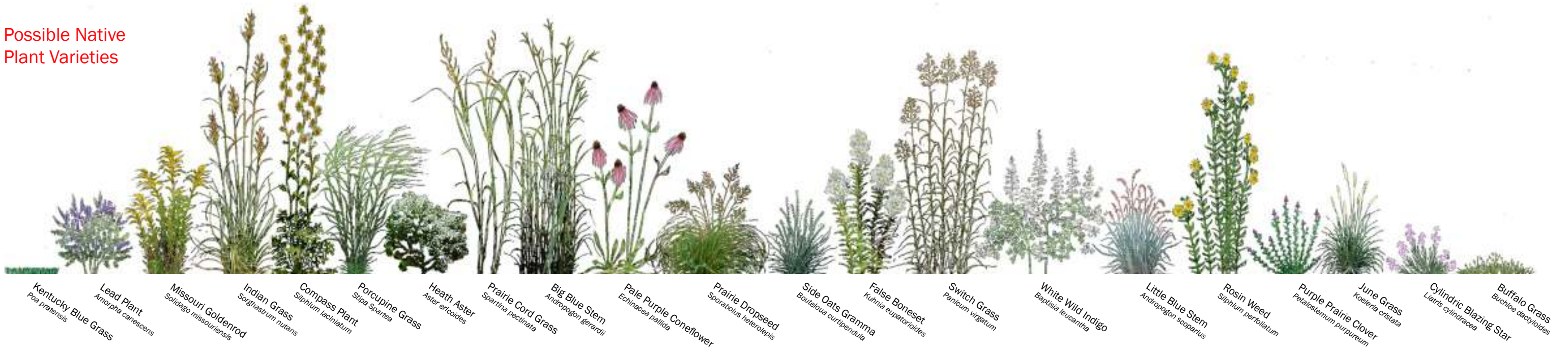
## Benefits of Native Plants

With habitats disappearing at alarming rates, native plants provide plants and animals with an oasis of vegetation they need to thrive. The native plants proposed meet the needs of local wildlife without causing longterm harm to other indigenous plant communities. The benefits of native plants in the urban landscape include the following:

- \* Protective cover for indigenous animals and insects.
- \* Provides seeds for birds.
- \* Produces nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies.
- \* Creates pollen for a currently decreasing bee population.
- \* Provides larval host plants for butterfly caterpillars.
- \* Less maintenance than exotic plants.

Additionally, the use of native plants limits the chances of potentially invasive and exotic plant species from being introduced into the environment.

## Possible Native Plant Varieties



## Pavilion

The concept for a Pavilion creates an anchor for the “Core” and provides a year round activity space in addition to creating a sense of place for Wood Dale.

The preliminary version presented in these sketches allows for multiple uses. Operable Glass walls would permit an open structure in good weather and an enclosed space during the rest of the year, creating a year round activity center in the core area. During the summer it provides a space for musical events with both covered seating and an opening into an area for picnickers. It would also serve as a covered space for specialized arts, antique and craft fairs, amateur theatrical events, dances, exhibits and many other uses. As an enclosed structure it could house similar functions year round.

The version shown also includes a second story space which could be multipurpose, providing a possible dining facility with a full functioning kitchen, a meeting space or additional indoor space to serve the uses mentioned on the lower level.



1) Perspective of Pavilion Lawn

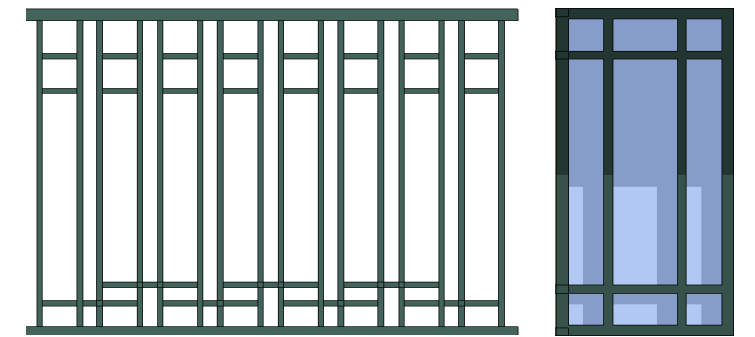


Interior perspective of first floor theater

Interior perspective of second floor banquet hall

### Prairie Style

The structure is shown in the Prairie Style to coordinate with the Tower and add a unifying character and identity to the central core and the City of Wood Dale. The following details are showcase a handrail and glazing with Prairie Style features.



Balcony handrail

Glazing



2) Elevation of Pavilion and Grounds



Key Plan



## Festival Grounds

The Core Space needs to accommodate periodic festivals and special events. The proposed layout takes this into consideration. The revised road layout can accommodate temporary tents and pavilions in much the same way the existing road is set up, as a “Midway” leading visitors through the grounds.

If the new pavilion is erected, this facility could serve as the “band stand” of an indoor space for additional concessions and exhibitors. Sufficient open spaces outdoors would provide locations for temporary attractions which may be brought in, such as: Ferris Wheels and Carousels. Should a permanent concession stand be built, this would also enhance the festival activities.

The general enhanced plantings on the grounds would improve the overall experience permitting some visitors to relax in the garden. If the Adventure Park is constructed, it will add to the festival visitor experience and serve to create awareness of this facility to the broad range of visitors to the festival.



Rendering of Festival Space





Festival Area Map

-- Outline for the core, area includes public land and land that would affect the core.

Trees could be added to the *festival grounds*. Providing shade and natural beauty.

● Existing Trees

\* Signage for food and retail tents allows patrons and event goers to orient themselves with festival activities.

▭ The addition of *benches* will provide a more comfortable and inviting experience for all users.

▭ Tables can be added in designated areas for patrons to sit down, relax and enjoy their food.

P The *pavilion* will be incorporated into the festival grounds for those in need of shade in addition to showcasing theatrical events. During festivals, the pavilion doors would remain open to invite patrons inside.



Lawn space behind retail tents



Retail tents



## Adventure Park

An optional Adventure Park could create a space for unique playground features and equipment that could draw children and their parents into the Core. This would be designed with innovative and educational elements that provide both exercise and mental stimulation. A variety of interactive experiences should be examined.



Rendering of Adventure Park at Entrance



Rendering of front gate



Inside the adventure park



Adventure Park Plan

### Optional Attractions

- E** The *entrance* is located off of the parking lot adjacent to the water park. It is reminiscent of the Jurassic Park gate and will entice people to enter with excitement.
- T** The *train* could be an interactive learning exhibit which would replicate trains of the 19th century.
- V** The *tree house village* provides a safer playing environment for kids between the ages of 1 - 5. The size and scale allows for parents to enter and keep a close eye on their children.
- S** The *pirate ship playhouse* could be an attraction that offers fun, interactive and educational features. There is a possibility that the ship would also incorporate water sprays to cool off on a hot day.
- P** The *picnic area* offers an eating area for families. It also allows adults and seniors an opportunity to rest.

- B** The *hot air balloon* attraction allows children and adults to climb up and look out across the adventure park and the surrounding core area.
- L** The *labyrinth* would allow children to develop spatial orientation skills and give the park additional greenery.
- G** The *jungle gym* would allow kids above the age of 5 to play more independently without direct adult supervision. It is located in the center and would experience the most activity.
- C** The *caribbean water area* could be a shallow pool that would allow children to splash and play. Water jets from the pirate ship could be incorporated to make this feature interactive.
- The addition of *benches* will provide a more comfortable and inviting experience for all users.



## Country Barn & Home

One option is the reconstruction of the original Farm and Historic Homestead within the Core District. It's current location is in a manufacturing warehouse district and is unable to be moved. The structures could serve as educational and entertainment features adjacent to the Adventure Park or as a stand alone facility attracting people of all ages.

It would add a component of "history" to Wood Dale and have multiple uses. It could serve as a starting point for hay rides and sleigh rides and also act as a focal point for farmer's markets, seasonal activities, and a variety of festivals.



Rendering of country barn and homestead replica



Merchandise Display



Sleigh Rides



Hay Rides



Concession stand option



View of water park building and slides



Aerial view of water park

Concession stand option



## Water Park

The existing Wood Dale Park District water park is a fairly successful attraction with most of the clientele from Wood Dale. It can be expanded with some additional water slide features to make it an attraction for users beyond Wood Dale. The proposed children's adventure play area adjacent to the water park will be a combination of options that will attract users from many of the North West Chicago suburbs.

There is a possibility to add a concession stand along the outskirts of the Water Park. This would bring in more revenue for the core and provide a unique experience.

The landscape surrounding the Water Park could be altered slightly to facilitate the walk to other attractions such as the Adventure Park and the Country Barn & Homestead. Meandering paths that are landscaped in unity with the rest of the Core would provide a cohesive experience for visitors.

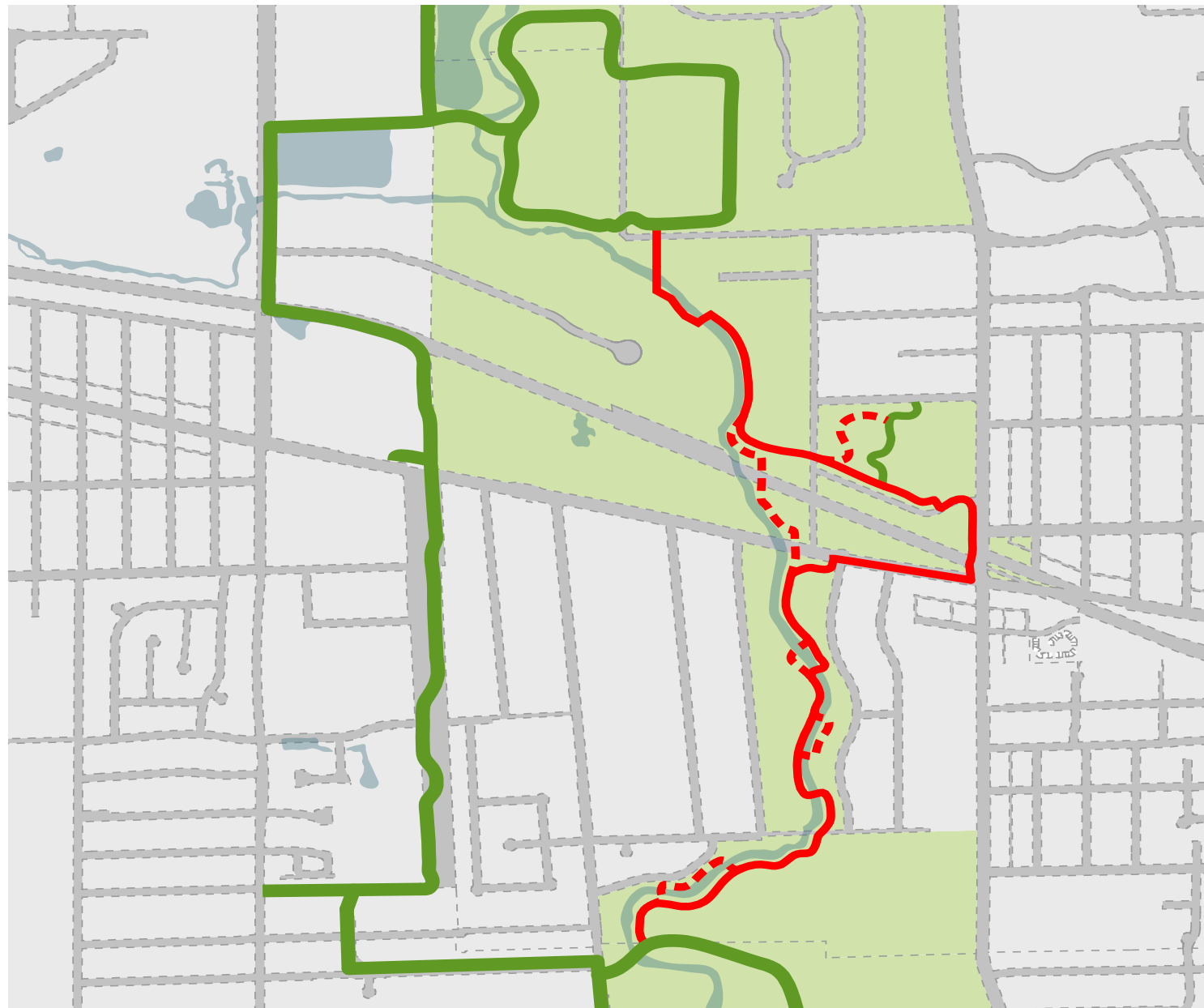


**Wood Dale, IL**  
(Proposed nature trail improvements)

# Wood Dale Trail



The Wood Dale Trail could connect to the existing regional trail system and provide citizens an opportunity to enjoy and explore the natural beauty that Wood Dale has to offer.



Wood Dale Trail connecting to existing regional trail system



Option A: this option would allow the path to be maintained along the East bank of Salt Creek. The trail would be developed making maximum use of public land but would require running the path on some public lots to avoid conflict with private property holders.



Option B: this option for the trail could allow for the path to traverse the Salt Creek to avoid private residential holdings. However it would require bridges to private industrial land in Itasca along a narrow strip adjacent to the creek. Intergovernmental negotiations would likely be required.



## Bicycle & Running Path

The Wood Dale Trail could interconnect with the other existing and proposed bicycle trails in the forest preserve district, offering an alternate route and bring cyclist through Wood Dale. Bicycling is experiencing increased popularity as a means of exercise, relaxation and a transport option for short distances. It can be enjoyed by a wide number of age groups.

Due to the cost of building a tunnel under, or a bridge over the intersecting rail tracks, it is anticipated that the trail would run through the Wood Dale Core. This would bring additional vitality to the core and the proposed attractions.

Mixed use trail benefits are widely discussed in an article on trail design, and depending on the intensity of use they can be striped for bicycle and pedestrian purposes. If the amount of users increases, the path can be further developed to accommodate all users.







## Nature Trails

The trail system need not only provide a route for bicycles, but with the potential route through forest preserve land, park district property and city owned land it could provide multiple uses.

Enhancement of the natural landscape along the trail could provide a path that allows residents and visitors alike to enjoy the seasonal changes of the landscape in a more passive atmosphere. Salt Creek, both to the north and south of Irving Park Rd creates a unique opportunity, introducing a natural water feature into the experience. Road walking has been encouraged by health experts, and providing a pleasant experience for this pastime would benefit Wood Dale's citizens of all ages.



The Nature Trail could also have educational areas and look outs. Bird houses, feeders and planting specific vegetation will attract birds to nest in certain areas. The area could also feature a butterfly garden.



## Connecting Bridges

Currently there is not a contiguous section of land on which to allow the trail to be constructed. One option north of Irving Park road would be to bridge the Salt Creek into neighboring Itasca and run a segment of the trail along the west bank of the creek southward until it reaches publicly held land on the east bank. This would require intergovernmental co-operation with Itasca and the manufacturing district property owners along the west bank.

South of Irving Park Road publicly held land is more available on the east bank of Salt Creek to the north, but becomes wider as one heads south, so an option could be to bridge the creek again to take advantage of the deeper property and its recreational potential.





## Fitness Stations

The residents and workers of Wood Dale, IL could benefit greatly from fitness stations along the trail. This project should provide different levels of activities for all users, and offer opportunities for fitness groups to increase the overall well being of the community.

By constructing approximately fitness stations, the nature trail will offer a series of workouts that would be both comprehensive and provide activities for the young and elderly. The following basic level stations could be provided: stretching post, jump touch beam, sit up bench, spring up bars, vertical ladder and a beam run.



Group programs could also be initiated to allow the citizens to come together and improve the health of the overall community. Fitness stations also provide an opportunity for corporate workers in the community to increase their health and the health of their companies by participating in training programs that could utilize such stations in an organized manner.

The benefits provided by fitness stations reaches beyond the health of the individuals, in theory these stations and other amenities could strengthen the economy and presence of Wood Dale, by attracting new residents and companies to the area.

# Vision Plan Implementation



For the Vision Plan to be successful, support and participation from the community, public organizations and local businesses should be organized by an appointed committee.

The City of Wood Dale shall conceive of an implementation framework to proceed with key recommendations is paramount to the success of the Vision Plan. The following is a list of actions and strategies that need to be taken in preparation for the next step in continuation of an ongoing process. For the Vision Plan to be a success, it must be based on continual support and participation between the city, public organizations, local businesses and Wood Dale citizens. The city should lead the promotion, cooperation and collaboration with those aforementioned and other community stakeholders to implement the Vision Plan.

## Committee

The city is advised to organize a committee in charge of all recommendations that follow from the Vision Plan.

The following list serves to guide the selected committee in integral points of implementation: community discussions, regular updates, cooperation from all participating agencies and individuals, review zoning ordinances and other developmental controls, and recognizing potential funding sources.

## 1. Community Discussions

The support and recommendations of the community is essential to the implementation process. The vision plan will require numerous meeting and community discussions relating to the concerns of local businesses, residents and property owners. This forum should be considered as the number one manner in which to relay information to the community.

## 2. Updates

The Vision Plan of Wood Dale is an ongoing process and will change over time to meet the current needs of the times. Social and economic factors will greatly influence the direction of the plan. The city shall regularly review the needs of the community and the direction of progress regarding the plan. Recommendations and changes relating to these factors should be considered in association to the budget and additional commitments of the fiscal year.

## 3. Cooperation

The City of Wood Dale should lead the direction brought forth by the Vision Plan. Administrative action should be determined by a committee chosen by the City of Wood Dale. However, in order for the Vision Plan to be successful, it must cooperate with all concerned parties including neighborhood associations, local business owners and funding sources.

## 4. Zoning and Development

Zoning provides a framework that is important in implementing a planning policy. In addition to establishing various types of uses allowed on specific properties, it outlines the overall character of development to be permitted.

Adoption of the Vision Plan should be followed by a comprehensive review of the multiple developmental controls including zoning, neighborhood ordinances and other prescribable codes. It is paramount that all controls complement the Vision Plan to maintain consistency.

## 5. Phasing and Funding

The recommendations and ideas presented in the Wood Dale Vision Plan should be prioritized based on need, impact and available funding sources or opportunities. Creating the iconic marker at the intersection of Wood Dale and Irving Park Roads should be a first priority. Federal funding for park or bike trail development could be available through the state of Illinois Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) grants or the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program. Bonds could be issued for some of the construction to be paid by rental or vendor fees. Some advertising could be sold for revenue on the LED screen of the iconic marker. Some of the elements suggested can potentially be underwritten by donors who would benefit from a naming opportunity. A public campaign is another possibility for raising money for some of the elements proposed in the plan such as names on paving bricks or benches. Rental fees can be collected from vendors at farmers markets or other festivals. Entry fees can be collected for some of the concerts at the performance venue and rental fees can be charged for use of the banquet facilities.

# Vision Plan Summary



## Conclusion

This vision Plan contains many ideas and options for the reinforcement and enhancement of the City of Wood Dale as a place to live, work and visit. Not all of the ideas presented here may be implemented, but the plan offers a framework from which to select the most viable features and improvements to move the city forward as a “destination”. The final features which are approved can be staged over the time period of the plan as public input and interest is generated and as funding, through various public and private sources, becomes available.

The various initiatives propose to create elements and activities for all age groups and serve a variety of interests.

Though, not within the scope of this study, these improvements should stimulate private commercial and residential development due to an improved physical environment and increase economic vitality.

## Purpose

The core area of Wood Dale along Irving Park Rd, and especially at the intersection of Wood Dale Rd has an indistinct character and no definition. One could pass through Wood Dale without realizing one had been there. This study was commissioned to provide ideas to establish a sense of “Place”, clearly denoting the Irving Park corridor as a significant access and the surrounding streets a “destination” as well as a transit corridor. The enhancements proposed should serve to improve the character of the streets, offer more recreational opportunities within the “core “ district, and stimulate business activity.

## Process

The process included meetings with the planning department and the planning committee to receive input and goals. Site visits were conducted to view existing conditions. Various concepts and ideas were presented both to the planning committee, the full city council and the public to receive additional input and comments. These were refined and brought back for a second presentation and reviewed. Based on this review the final plan has been developed.

## Plans and Policies

In 1997 a Comprehensive Plan update for the entire city was prepared by Teska Associates. This study analyzed the entire community statically and in view of overlapping governmental agencies. The eventual construction of the Elgin O’Hare Expressway link will greatly benefit the north end of Wood Dale, and conceptual plans have been prepared for this area.

In 2003 a Comprehensive Supplement plan was prepared by Camiros building on the initial plan, and dealing further with issues along Irving Park Road and Wood Dale Road, identifying issues and making recommendations. Some of these have been addressed, while other still remain. This study, ten years later, is an update on these recommendations and an expanded view on the “core area and recreational opportunities .”

## Acknowledgements

- \* Wood Dale Comprehensive Plan Update, April 1977, Teska and Associates
- \* City of Wood Dale: Comprehensive Plan Supplement, Public Hearing Draft, 2003
- \* Mn/DOT Bikeway Family Design Manual/ Chapter 5: Shared Use Paths
- \* 7 Bike Trial Benefits, Ride THISbike.com
- \* National Trails Training Partnership; Benefits of Trails and Greenways
- \* Green Cities: Good Health, University of Washington; Safe Streets
- \* Island and Median Strip Planting, William Fletcher III
- \* IDOT; Bureau of Design and Environmental Manual, Chapter 50 Landscape Design