



COMMUNITY PROFILE FRANKLIN PARK, IL



2020

~ ***RISING TO THE OCCASION*** ~

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COMMUNITY FACTSHEET

Community: Franklin Park

Website: <http://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/>

County/township: Cook County, Leyden Township

Form of government: Mayor-Council

Population: 18,012

Area: 4.77 sq. miles

Acres of recreation: 82.92 sq. acres

Public Schools: Leyden High School District #212, Franklin Park School District #84, Mannheim School District #83

Park Districts: Franklin Park Park District, Veterans Park District

Library District: Franklin Park Library District

Other Services/Jurisdictions: Recycle & Trash: Franklin Park via Allied Waste; Sewer: Chicago Metropolitan Reclamation District; Electric: Commonwealth Edison; Water: supplied by the City of Chicago.

AIB Contact: Head of Community Development John Schneider

Volunteer coordinator? Executive Assistant to the Mayor Daphne Henriquez

Have there been any challenges this year weather-related or otherwise, that the judges should know about?

Yes. Starting in March of 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic negatively affected the economic vitality of the village. Revenue sources were reduced, resulting in the termination of many summer internships. These positions normally supplement village staff in expanding and maintaining community gardens, trees, and greenscapes. Moreover, due to a state mandated quarantine, staffing hours were reduced and certain projects were placed on hold. Additionally, In mid-May 2020, the area was adversely affected by excessive flooding which impacted landscaping and outdoor maintenance related activities.

COMMUNITY PROFILE



The Village of Franklin Park, IL is located immediately west of Chicago, south of O’Hare International Airport, and bisected by the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railroads. An older inner-ring suburb, Franklin Park was established as the industrial heart for the Chicagoland region. Yet as the American economy has shifted towards a more service-based regime, our community has realized the importance of sustainability and environmentally-friendly economic planning. As a result, the village is focused on working with America in Bloom, private developers, and other organizations to transform itself into a modern, landscaped, transit oriented community with a revitalized downtown district.

As stated, Franklin Park has historically been dominated by warehousing, metal working, and manufacturing related uses. While still important to the economy, such patterns of development have undoubtedly left scars on our town with acres of impervious concrete and asphalt. Moreover, Franklin Park’s dense residential layout has negatively impacted community resiliency resulting in a severe lack of greenspace. Such issues are apparent after consulting the Chicago Region Tree Initiative’s Interactive canopy map; which shows Franklin Park only having 14% canopy coverage and whilst over 60% of the land is impervious.

In 2008, as with many Midwestern industrially focused communities, the economic vitality of Franklin Park reached a devastating low following the aftermath of the Great Recession. Major manufacturing facilities were abandoned, commercial storefronts sat vacant, and the city faced an uncertain financial future.



Top Left: Community Garden at Village Hall. **Top Right:** Chicago Region Tree Initiative Map. **Bottom:** Streetscaping at Mission Press, 10265 Franklin Ave. Transforming the old commercial-manufacturing district into an modern, innovative light commercial/industrial artisan district with flowers, art, and amenities.

Recognizing the missteps of the past, the Village of Franklin Park rose to the occasion to refocus itself on the pillars of inclusivity, diversity, resiliency, and environmental consciousness. Since the beginning of the decade, our community has made vigorous efforts to rebrand itself as a locality with sustainable, mixed-use, multi-family, and transit oriented development. This strategy has produced enormous positive effects as numerous new commercial, industrial, and residential constructions have arisen across the Village.

Some examples of this revitalization include our new LEED Gold certified police department and the breathtaking Digital Realty Campus. The 2013, \$13 million police station property included native landscaping, flowerbeds, trees, and a permeable paver parking lot. In 2018, the San Francisco based data company Digital Realty finished construction on a new 390,000 sqft facility. Their advanced technology campus utilizes the latest cooling efficiency standards, is LEED certified, and incorporates acres of greenscaping, water retention, and flowered decorated areas. Such economic revitalization would not have been possible without landscaping and beautification bolstering civic pride in the community. Nowadays, developers know that Franklin Park is not only a great place to live, but also a safe place to invest.



Top: Franklin Park Festival Railroad Daze. **Bottom Left:** Main Street Franklin Avenue. **Bottom Right:** Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Senator Dick Durbin tour major plumbing manufacturing Sloan Valve of Franklin Park.

VITALITY

Civic pride runs strong through our community as the Franklin Park area offers countless options to residents for recreation, education, and competition. And even though Franklin Park is next to the big city of Chicago, residents can always find an escape into nature. Residents can peacefully cycle through Franklin Park before turning onto the Des Plaines River Trail, connecting over 50 miles of suburbs to natural river habitat. The village government also works in collaboration with the local library and park district to entertain young ones in immersive family learning programs.



Top: Little Pearl Park. **Bottom Left:** Downtown bike stand. **Bottom Right:** Farmer's Market at AIB CN Grant 2020 parking lot.

When looking for public engagement, look no further than village hall with its bountiful community garden filled with fresh fruits and vegetables. Franklin Park also promotes active lifestyles through sports. Residents can utilize multiple baseball or soccer fields, tennis courts, or even the park district's ice rink. Over the years, our municipality and its partner local government organizations have taken impressive steps to boost community vitality through an impressive number of public amenities.

2020 Metrics for Community Vitality

- CV.a.01 - Municipal volunteer boards: Franklin Park Plan Commission has strategized public enhancement projects related to transportation, environmental sustainability, and economic development; communicating with business leaders and residents to advise village officials.
- CV.a.03 - Master Plan for Parks & Rec: The Village of Franklin Park 2017 Comprehensive Plan advocates for brown field cleanup, creating bikeways, and enhancing open space. Chapter 8 “Natural Areas” dives into detail on sustainability and environmental initiatives.
- CV.a.04 - ADA park accessibility: Village and Park District amenities include ADA ramps and handicap parking.
- CV.a.05 - Alternative transportation. Village in process of expanding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Franklin Park Zoning encourages Transit Oriented Development near downtown Metra rail and Pace bus stations. Village website encourages residents to use mass transit, ridesharing, and park-n-ride at http://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/living/mass_transit/.
- CV.b.01- Outdoor recreation facilities: Franklin Park is home to over 15 playgrounds, 2 public pools, a war memorial, a gazebo, several recreation sports fields, and a community garden. Moreover, the municipality is directly adjacent to Schiller Woods, the Des Plaines River Trail, and Indian Boundary Golf Course. <https://www.fpparks.org/interactive-map/>
- CV.b.02 – Trail networks: Village is expanding pedestrian and bicycle facilities with bike sharrows in residential areas, leading a multijurisdictional Des Plaines River Trail revitalization project, and is pursuing a new East-West multi-use path/shared lanes connection along Franklin and Belmont.
- CV.b.03 - Public Events: The village holds Franklin Park Fest every year. The event offers music, food, games, and a chance to explore train cars and locomotives.
- CV.b.04 – Leyden Township offers various non-school sports competitions for all ages.
- CV.b.05-07 – Public amenities: Parks come with a variety of tree cover, landscaping, benches, and verified ADA accessible playground equipment.
- CV.b.08 - Public Library: Franklin Park Public Library offers resources and programs to seniors, children, families, and young adults. <https://www.fppld.org/>
- CV.b.09 – Community center: The Park District of Franklin Park offers early childhood development, youth dance, athletics, & theatre programs, an ice rink, a fitness gym, and a senior citizen engagement program. <https://www.fpparks.org/>
- CV.b.10 - Farmers’ Market: The village of Franklin Park has held Farmer’s Markets in town when conditions permit.
- CV.c.01 - Community Garden: Open to the public next to Village Hall at 9500 Belmont Ave, Franklin Park, IL.
- CV.c.02 - Food Banks: The Leyden Township Food Pantry offers services to residents and families age 18 and over.
- CV.c.03 - Promotes Bike/Walk to school days: There are specific areas within Leyden Township’s School District that require students to walk or bike from home. Franklin Park has stepped up to increase ease of access for such residents by adding sharrows along select residential streets.
- CV.c.05 - Youth involvement: Youth can get involved through the Park District, Leyden Township, or through school.

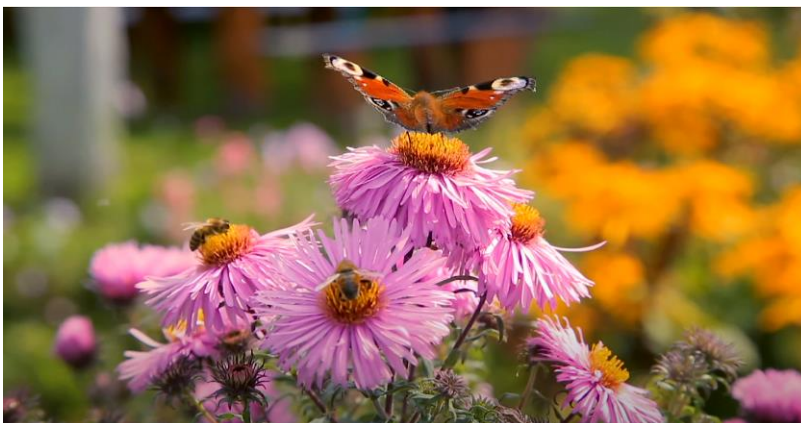


FLOWERS



Franklin Park understands the importance of flowered areas when looking to attract more customers and residents. When looking to revitalize the downtown, the most high-impact measure Franklin Park took was to provide and maintain flower boxes along the sidewalks. Major institutions such as our police station, village hall, and Metra train station now feature vibrant in-ground or raised planters allowing citizens to take pride in their community. Our many parks feature stunning flower gardens bursting with native plantings, allowing residents to relax and take in the beauty. We are especially proud of our new butterfly/pollinator garden at the Franklin Park Gazebo, across from village hall.

Our staff recognizes the importance of blending hardy, tough native plantings that can survive harsh Chicago winters with colorful, inviting species of flowers. Andy Smolen, Franklin Park's arborist and Deputy Utilities Commissioner, is a renowned Master Gardener. His expertise has proven invaluable in guiding our community towards a more ecologically sustainable and vibrant future.



2020 Metrics for Flowers

FL.a.01 - Management of flower displays: Management by Deputy Utilities Commissioner Andrew Smolen, Department of Public Works.

FL.a.03 - Pollinator Habitats encouraged by village, publically available pollinator garden located at 9300 Belmont.

FL.b.03 - Demonstration/display garden: Flowers and plants labeled at parks and flowerbeds across the community.

FL.b.04 – “How to” efforts for beautification: Various flyers handed out at village events such as Arbor day and Earth Day.

FL.c.01-10 - Floral displays & design: Franklin Park has established vibrant and colorful flowerbeds throughout the village to serve as focal points for businesses, signs, or institutions. Seasonal baskets and planters can be found in the downtown district, Grade Ave, and other high traffic locations areas. Year-round installations are placed where space is available, especially in public parks and near municipal buildings. Native plants are promoted given their ability to survive the harsh Chicago winters.

FL.d.01-05 - Plant health and display maintenance: All aspects, from watering, fertilization, grooming, pest-control, and other health maintenance of flowers handled by trained professionals with the Department of Public Works.

FL.e.01-02 - Volunteers or civic groups efforts: Each year in April the village celebrates Kids Garden month, which promotes parents to garden with their kids. A variety of programs are usually offered by the Park district, including special gardening classes and informational guides. <https://www.fpparks.org/kids-garden-month/>

Below: A community gateway at the corner of Belmont and Edgington, next to Village Hall



LANDSCAPED AREAS

The most challenging struggle concerning the village has to be the lack of greenspace available in heavily packed industrial areas. Mountains of concrete and asphalt cover the landscape, often resulting in flooding, a lack of beauty, and wasted space. While the 2008 Great Recession was a setback for our community, it also gave our residents a chance to re-envision our standards for construction. With many lots vacant or underutilized, developers were able to consolidate parcels of land to build modern warehousing and distribution facilities.

As a result, modern design codes were implemented to contain stormwater runoff, proper truck parking standards were added, and sightline & setback beautification was encouraged. Not only were massive detention ponds installed in industrial areas, but the department of community development was able to convince developers to go above and beyond when it came to landscaping. Trees, grassy berms, bushes, prairies, and flowers were placed to entice new businesses. Our community aims to build on such success as our village is currently overhauling the municipal zoning code to incorporate new landscaping and sustainable development practices.



Left: Planting Trees. **Top Right:** Chesnut Park. **Bottom Right:** Landscaping along Grand Ave Digital Realty Campus

2020 Metric for Landscaped Areas

LA.a.01 - Management of planting public landscaped areas: Franklin Park recognizes the importance landscaping has on both its community atmosphere and its economic vitality. In the 2017 Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 8 Section 3 highlights what steps can be taken to implement attractive greenscaping, enhanced buffering, and removing of excessive pavement for new and existing development.

LA.a.02-03 - Municipal landscape ordinances: Taking inspiration from the 2017 Comprehensive plan, the Village is currently undergoing a re-write of its municipal zoning code to include sections requiring landscaping and beautification for new or renovated commercial, industrial, and multi-family lots.

LA.b.01 - Restoration of natural areas: Chapter 8 Section 2 identifies several lots in the village, some even near downtown, which could be redeveloped into parks, passive green space, or naturally landscaped retention areas with native plantings.

LA.b.02 - Invasive Species: The village actively cuts down and traps any invasion species.

LA.b.04 – “How to” for plant issues: The village offers residents guides at the front desk, as well as during promotion events such as Arbor or Earth Day.

LA.b.06 - School gardening programs: See “EE.e.01-03” below

LA.c.01-03 - Landscaping design & implementation: To break enhance the village’s image, beautification measures were initiated next to many large commercial or industrial buildings with few windows. An example of this includes the landscaping near Digital Reality, which Franklin Park encouraged in the planning phase of the construction process. The trees and landscaping installed ensure durability to the harsh Chicago winters, ease of maintenance, provide shade, promote the use of native grasses and plants, and create interesting focal points which break up monotonous walls or empty spaces.

LA.d.01-05 - Landscaping health and display maintenance: The Franklin Park sustainability imitative aims to increase the health of citizens and the environment through a number of suggestions to residents and businesses.

LA.d.06-07 - Turf pest and weed management strategy: The village of Franklin Park supports the ideas of natural lawn care, which doesn’t rely on chemical fertilizers and pesticides to artificially green a lawn.
http://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/living/sustainability_initiatives/

LA.e.01 - Volunteer activities: Volunteer events occur with the input from other local governments and organizations such a s the American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, and Lions Club.

LA.e.02 - Community educational programs: Most programs can be found through the Franklin Park Park District.

URBAN FORESTRY

In 2008, the first instance of emerald ash borer was discovered in Franklin Park. At the time, approximately 21% of the public tree inventory had belonged to the Ash family. This harbinger of destruction ultimately led to the removal of more than 1,100 Ash trees in our community; devastating the tree canopy. According to analysis by the Chicago Region Tree Initiative in 2014, Franklin Park only had a tree canopy coverage of 14%. This was in drastic comparison to neighboring communities such as Schiller Park or River Grove with 24% and 34% tree canopy coverages; respectively. Such a lack of urban forestry led the Chicago Region Tree Initiative to nominate Franklin Park as one of the top 10 communities in most need of arboreal investment. Since then, the village of has taken impressive strides in trying to expand the tree canopy while also preserving old historic trees. Educational efforts to accomplish this goal include holding Arbor Day every year to provide important information to residents and encouraging residents to plant trees on private property.

Below: Timber Park





Moreover, Franklin Park has teamed up with Spring Grove Nursery and iTrees.com to offer residents a 10% discount for planting trees on private property. For every ten trees purchased by our residents, Spring Grove Nursery donates a free tree to the village.

Other important steps to increase the resiliency of our urban forestry include having the village code updated to establish a tree commission with ordinances relating to the planting, maintenance, protection, and removal of trees. Finally, the Village of Franklin Park has realized the importance that a diversified, healthy urban forest would have on the community; and became a certified Tree City in 2012.



Left: Memorial Tree planted in coordination with Lions Club. **Right:** Arbor Day educational display on Emerald Ash Borer.

2020 Metric for Urban Forestry

UF.a.01 - Village has trained staff/arborists/urban foresters: Village Arborist & Deputy Utilities Commissioner Andrew Smolen.

UF.a.02 - Has active tree board/commission/department: Franklin Park Tree Preservation Committee

UF.a.03 - Tree preservation: Title 2-14-9; It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, injure, or destroy a tree having an aggregate diameter of eight (8) inches or greater, within village limits without a tree removal permit.

UF.a.04 – Tree Preservation during Construction: Title 2-14-10; During construction, all reasonable steps necessary must be taken to prevent the destruction or damaging of all trees 3.0 inches in diameter or large.

UF.a.05 - Tree City USA community: Yes, since 2012.

UF.b.01 - Tree inventory: Continually updated for public right of way and municipally maintained trees.

UF.b.02 - Annual tree planting program: Franklin Park has joined with Spring Grove Nursery and iTrees.com to offer residents a 10% discount for planting on private property. Delivery and planting handled by a professional. For every ten trees purchased by our residents, Spring Grove Nursery will donate a free tree to the Village.

UF.b.03 - Tree Protection & Management strategies in public areas: The village has the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants, and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares and public grounds, as may be necessary to ensure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.

UF.b.05 - “How to” for residents on tree -related issues: Title 2-14-11 to 2-14-14; Public right of way trees to be planted or prohibited in the village can be seen by residents via a list of authorized/prohibited tree species and other restrictions. Planting requirements for such trees are also prescribed.

UF.c.01-03 – Tree selection & design practices: The village has an official tree plan, as well as several codes regulating tree species selection, preservation, spacing, and other planting requirements.

UF.c.04 - Arboretum/Park with tree labels: While the Morton Arboretum may be a 30 minute drive, Franklin Park does label some trees, flowers, and plants in our parks.

UF.d.01-03 - Tree health and display maintenance: Title 2-14-19; The village has the right to maintain/prune and can remove any tree or part in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest.

UF.e.01 - Memorial trees: Done in conjunction with various volunteer organizations such as the Lions Club and American Legion.

UF.e.02 - Community Arbor Day: Every year Franklin Park celebrates Arbor day. This year the village was set to hold an event at North Elementary school on April 13th.

UF.e.03 - Volunteers assist in tree care: The American Legion, the Lions Club, and various other local school clubs have volunteer days to help the community’s parks.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS



The Village is taking proactive steps to increase the quality of the local environment by focusing on expanding green space, improving the water quality through sustainable infrastructure practices, partnering with developers to construct LEED certified structures, encouraging community recycling programs, and installing smart or electric vehicle infrastructure. Franklin Park is enthusiastic about supporting alternative fuels. Village hall is home to four electric charging stations; moreover, the village owns and deploys two electric vehicles. The recently built Franklin Park Police Department is LEED Gold certified and contains bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pavers. In addition, retention ponds have been built in industrial areas to store extra stormwater from major flooding events. LEED certifications can also be seen in new construction projects such as the Digital Realty Campus.

Historically, stormwater runoff has been a major problem for residents and businesses located in Franklin Park. Flooding of streets and backyards used to occur with almost any major rain-storm. While still not completely fixed, the village has taken steps outlined in the 2017 Comprehensive plan to mitigate flooding. To continue



environmental outreach efforts with residents, the village provides a sustainability webpage and has the “Sustainability in Franklin Park” brochure. These useful quick guides detail how citizens can become more environmentally conscious individuals in regards to bicycling, recycling, electronics disposal, yardwork, tree planting, composting, and rain capture techniques.



2020 Metrics for Environmental Efforts

- EE.a.01 - Environmental Advisory Board: The Franklin Park Tree Preservation Committee and the Planning Commission help in such sustainability efforts.
- EE.a.02-3 - Electric/alternative fuel vehicle usage & charging station: Franklin Park is enthusiastic about supporting alternative fuels. Village hall is home to four electric charging stations; moreover, village owns and deploys two electric vehicles for engineering, permits, and public works.
- EE.a.04 - Stormwater management policies: Stormwater runoff is a major problem for residents and businesses in Franklin Park. Flooding of streets and backyards used to occur with almost any major rainstorm. While still not completely fixed, the village has taken steps outlined in the 2017 Comprehensive plan, to mitigate flooding. recently built Franklin Park Police Department is LEED Gold certified and contains bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pavers. In addition, retention ponds have been built in industrial areas to store extra stormwater from major flooding events.
- EE.a.05 - Pet policies: Title 5-7A-6 of the municipal code states that owners must control their dogs from depositing waste in any place of the village prejudice to others.
https://library.municode.com/il/franklin_park/codes/code_of_ordinances
- EE.b.01 - Sustainability Action Plan: The 2017 Comprehensive plan states in Chapter 1 that environmental consciousness, industrialism, diversity, and resilience are all major elements of Franklin Park's future. As a result, every chapter thereafter proposes implementation strategies that promote the use of sustainable growth. Additionally, major initiatives are also available for the public to see on the village website at http://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/living/sustainability_initiatives/
- EE.b.02 - Environmental education efforts: "The Sustainability in Franklin Park" brochure is a useful quick guide for residents on how to become more environmentally conscious individuals in regards to bicycling, recycling, electronics deposal, yardwork, tree planting, composting, and rain capture techniques.
http://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/19/sustainability_handout.pdf
- EE.b.03 - Litter & environmental cleanup procedure: From industrial sewage and pollution controls to residential waste deposal, the village code contains numerous ordinances to enforce the cleanliness in the community.
- EE.b.04 - Safe pesticide and mosquito spray guide: The village states on its health department page that all residents should take precautions to decrease the likelihood of West Nile transmission. Furthermore, the website states various control methods that both the government and residents can take; such as cleaning roof gutters, keeping lawns well kept, and emptying standing water sources to try and avoid the use of mosquito pesticides.

EE.c.01 - Bio-swales or rain gardens: The village has used bioswales in some of it's newest projects, such as the Franklin Park Police station.

EE.d.01-02 - Trash collection and recycling is available: The village mandates that trash removal is takes place on Mondays and is conducted through contract via waste collection company Allied Waste . On such days, residents may move their recycling bin, trash bin, yard waste bag, or other selective materials to the curb for collection.

EE.d.03 - Public receptacles: The village has strategically placed recycling and trash receptacles along important roadways, near the downtown district, and in other important public areas.

EE.d.04 - Yard waste composting: The village accepts yard waste, grass clippings, leaf debris, and broken branches in brown biodegradable bags which can usually be picked up on garbage day separate from recyclables and trash. However, the village also encourages residents to do their own composting and offers a list of items that can be used, as well as a link to EPA.gov on how to compost.

http://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/departments/public_works/debris_other_collection/

http://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/living/sustainability_initiatives/

EE.d.05 - Prescription drug drop offs: The village often posts about upcoming drop off days hosted by nearby institutions such as Triton College.

EE.d.06 - Electronic waste: In 2012, the village banned most electronic devices from being accepted by waste haulers. As a result, the villages set up a E-recycling collection site open during weekdays at 9364 Franklin Avenue.

EE.d.08 - Encourages reuse opportunities or donation areas: The village encourages the donation of old clothing, books, and goods to reuse operations; including as but not limited to the local Salvation Army located within Franklin Park.

EE.e.01-03 – Community events, clubs, & youth involvement: The Park District, nearby elementary schools, and Leyden Township high schools offer various year-round programs, school-based organizations, and summer camps that inspire outdoor adventures, environmental sustainability, and physical activity. Some highlights include the Sunshine Camp, a program for 3-4 year olds that focus on exploration, discovery, and appreciation for nature and hands-on activities like gardening. For teens, students can join the Leyden Ecology Club. The village also celebrates Earth Day at North Park with a variety of family oriented events for all ages.

<https://view.joomag.com/spring-into-summer-2020/M0064334001586799332>

<https://www.leyden212.org/Page/2597>



CELEBRATING HERITAGE

Franklin Park was incorporated on August 4th, 1892 after the completion of the Chicago & Wisconsin Railroads. For the first century of its existence, the village relied heavily on modestly sized commercial manufacturing firms and quickly grew to become an industrial powerhouse. Feeling a sense of pride, our working class community embraced its railroading heritage. To celebrate such pride, the village acquired a Milwaukee Road red caboose to showcase in a public park. In addition, many other artifacts regarding our town's history were cataloged and protected by the Franklin Park Public Library. The Rodger Hammill Local History Room showcases newspapers, yearbooks, photos, microfilms, historical documents, and other records can be found detailing the accounts of Franklin Park's dynamic century-long growth.

To celebrate such heritage, every year the village hosts a festival called Franklin Park Fest. There, residents can listen to music from local bands, eat ethnically traditional food, and climb aboard train engines. Metra, Canadian National, Canadian Pacific, and other historical locomotives always draw huge crowds of prideful enthusiasts and families with curious children. Such festivities have been greatly improved in the past few decades as streetscaping and flowers have been added to the downtown area, where the event is often held.



2020 Metric for Celebrating Heritage

CH.b.01 – Communication of policies: The Franklin Park Compressive Plan outlines the importance of protecting our historical downtown buildings.

CH.b.02 - Historic Places designations in place:

CH.b.03 - Preservation of natural areas: The Village of Franklin Park has led the effort, with Cook County Forest Preserves and several nearby towns taking an active role, in preserving and improving the Des Plaines River Trail, the most important biological habitat and natural area nearby Franklin Park.

CH.b.04-06 - Preservation of artifacts & archives: While village hall is home to a number of artifacts and records, the most extensive educational history program regarding our community can be found at the Franklin Park Library's Rodger Hammill Local History Room. A number of newspapers, yearbooks, photos, microfilms, historical documents, and other records can be found detailing the accounts of Franklin Park's dynamic century long growth. In terms of youth involvement; local elementary schools will take field trips to the library, high schooler's will utilize the resources of the institution for school projects, and the library itself will occasionally host specialty programs on any variety of topics for all ages. More information can be found at <https://www.fppld.org/about/local-history/>.

CH.c.01-03 - Signage for historical or significant places well maintained: Franklin Park has numerous historical landmarks. This includes memorial park with military hardware, Caboose Park, and the Engine 2 old fire truck display museum. At each place, there are plaques noting the importance of the location and those historical individuals who are important for the cultural history of the village.

CH.c.04-05 - Community heritage promotions: The village regularly promotes events related to sustainability and cultural heritage, such as when promoting the annual Franklin Park Fest.

CH.d.01-02 - Volunteer participation: The Lions Club and American Legion help with cultural festivals like Franklin Park Fest. Volunteer cleanups also occur at places like the war memorial park.



OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

The Village of Franklin Park is diligently aware of the impact that blight can have on surrounding land values and the overall impression anyone has on a community. After the 2008 Recession, Franklin Park was unattractive to businesses and residents alike. To boost the overall impression of our community, village officials took proactive steps to increase the quality and availability of public amenities. In the downtown district alone, one can find new bike racks, benches, waste receptacles, ample streetlights at night, well painted crosswalks, and other amenities.

In addition, Franklin Park has taken steps to reduce mal-maintenance and blight within the village. A major reason Franklin Park lost investment in various development projects during the 2008 Recession was because of a general perception that the community was rusted, polluted, and falling apart. In addition, the issue of truck parking was also a major concern. Realizing this, the village took extensive measures to ensure that not only is government property clean of graffiti, trash, and other unsightly objects; but that truck parking also be completely banned from the village. This directive was taken a step further last year as the commercial land-use of truck repair has now been outlawed. Moreover, zoning requirements concerning the number of trucks allowed per industrial docking bay have been tightened. Such action ensures that our community is welcoming, attractive, and giving priority to residents rather than big, noisy vehicles.



2020 Metric for Overall Impression

- Ol.a.01 - Signage ordinances: The village has and enforces various sign ordinances. Found municipal code title 9-9
- Ol.a.02 - Ordinances addressing blight & public nuisances: There are multiple ordinances in our code that address such issues as overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, unscreened dumpsters, and other public nuisances. A recent ordinance that has seen success is that of requiring industrial properties alongside railroad tracks to put up fencing to hide unsightly materials from Metra passenger trains.
- Ol.a.03 - Code enforcement: Such enforcement is primarily done through the building department.
- Ol.a.04 - Consistent design standards: Design standards are consistent throughout the village, and are becoming easier to comprehend with the upcoming zoning code rewrite.
- Ol.b.01-02 - Public amenities & crosswalks available: Over the last decade, Franklin Park has increased the quality and availability of public amenities throughout the village. In the downtown district alone, one can find new bike racks, benches, waste receptacles, ample streetlight at night, well painted crosswalks, and other amenities.
- Ol.b.03 - Restrooms are often open to the public at various government building locations. The Franklin Park Police Station is open to the public 24/7.
- Ol.b.04-07 - Gateways, art, & signage: The Village has welcome signs to denote town rough town limits, but the Grand Avenue Bridge is the most dynamic gateway into the village as it showcases murals of historical figures. The Village of Franklin Park also encourages public art and creativity within the downtown district. Auto and pedestrian signage is available to denote village amenities and pride. Finally, it is undoubtable that Franklin Park goes above and beyond with winter holiday decorations.
- Ol.c.01-03 - Condition of community structures & amenities: The village takes maintenance very seriously. A major reason Franklin Park lost investment in various development projects during the 2008 Recession was because of a general perception that the community was rusted, polluted, and falling apart. A major contributing factor to pollution, roadwear, and the general view was truck parking. Realizing this, the village has taken extensive measures to ensure that not only is government property is clean of graffiti, trash, and other unsightly objects; but that truck parking be banned from the village. This directive was taken a step further as the use of truck repair has been outlawed and requirements such as trucks allowed per dock have been tightened.
- Ol.c.04 - Condition of vacant, retention, & open lots. The Village of Franklin Park requires that vacant lots be cleared of junk, nuisances, and vehicles. In other words, the village enforces that vacant land cannot be used as unsightly truck or commercial vehicle parking. While some land that is vacant is eventually slated for redevelopment,
- Ol.c.05 - Control of excessive advertising: The village strongly prohibits excessive window signs, rope lights, and other nuisance signs. Instead, the village promotes the idea of traditional pedestrian friendly signs, awnings.
- Ol.c.06 - Street sweeping: The village owns and operates a street sweeper that regularly cleans village streets on a rotating schedule in spring, summer, and early autumn months.
- Ol.d.01 - Volunteer participation for community revitalization:
- Ol.d.02 - Process for residents to fund public amenities/memorials:

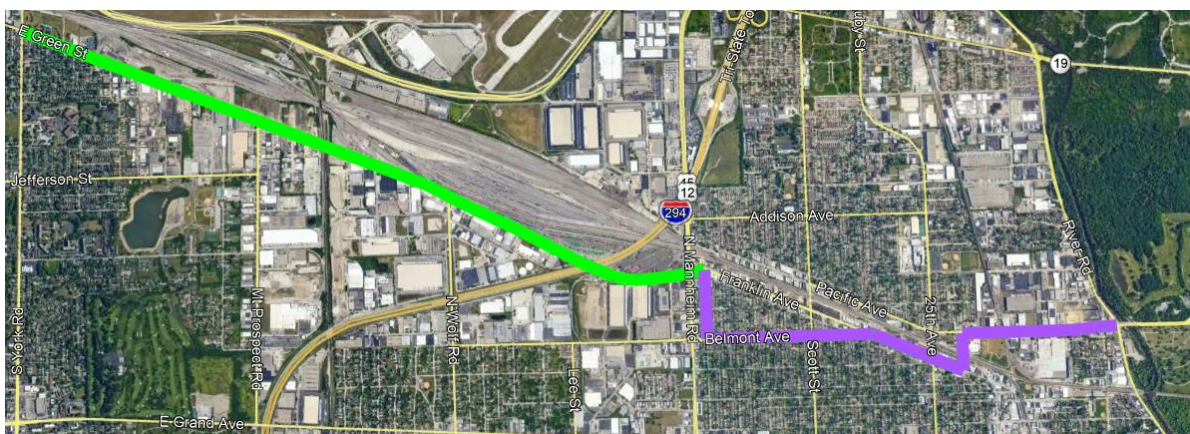
SIGNIFICANT PROJECT

Taking inspiration from the 2012 West Central Municipal Conference Bike Plan and the 2017 Village of Franklin Park Comprehensive Plan, our community has taken three important strides forward this last year in the areas of cycling and bike routes. This can be seen with the installment of residential sharrows connecting students to schools, applying for grants relating to the Franklin/Belmont East-West crosstown bike route connection, and leading the Trail Advisory Group for the Des Plaines River Trail out of Phase I Engineering.



First, sharrows are practical and will improve our community's character. A sharrow is characterized by requiring a low-speed street with arrows indicating a shared automobile-bicycle roadway. This is important as there are specific areas within Leyden Township's School District that mandate high school students walk or bike from home, rather than ride a schoolbus. This new infrastructure will help make our streets safer and healthier as students and families will be able to take sustainable transportation options rather than driving a car.

Second, the village of Franklin Park has been working to create an East-West multi-use path connection for residents. The current route starts near the Des Plaines River Trail and travels west along Belmont Ave connecting trail users to two Metra stations. Eventually, the path will enter the downtown before heading west towards Mannheim Road. As of Spring 2020, the village is in the process of applying for a multimodal transportation project. If awarded, such funds will go towards expanding Franklin Avenue's truck route from roughly 3 to 5 lanes. The new upgraded roadway will also incorporate a new multi-use path alongside. The entire network will then continue into Bensenville in neighboring DuPage County.



Third, it should be known that the village has been leading a project to fix the Des Plaines River Trail (DPRT). In its current condition, the trail is impacted by chronic issues of flooding, disrepair, and unsafe road crossings. The goal was to replace dangerous mid-block crossings and flood-prone underpasses with signalized intersections or overpasses, re-route low-lying segments to higher ground, extend trail past North Ave. to Illinois Prairie Path, increase connectivity to communities & residents, upgrade the path from dirt to a more durable surface, and install amenities such as benches, signage, gateways, and lighting. After receiving more than \$2 million in grants from various sources, the project went through Phase I engineering, where Franklin Park took an active planning role. As an example, nearly all official meetings of the project took place at the Franklin Park Police Department’s community room. In the early spring of this year, the project went through its first public meeting where it received massive support and positive feedback. The DPRT project will next move onto Phase II planning.

Overall, these three developments will allow students, families, and seniors to move freely throughout the village via sustainable methods of transport. In addition, citizens from across the metropolitan region will be able to go from Lake, DuPage, and Cook counties via Franklin Park. Yet, most importantly, getting residents out of cars and into nature next to flowers and trees will be healthier for residents’ physical and mental health.

