

TCD3 APPENDIX OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Village of Downers Grove

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DRAFT

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
COMMUNITY MAPPING TOOL	2
Community Assets	2
Development Priority Sites	3
Problematic Intersections	3
Public Safety Concerns	4
Undesirable Use	4
Key Transit Destination	4
Desired Use/Development	5
Poor Appearance	5
Compiled Results from Community Mapping	5
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP	14
NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOP	25
Neighborhood Area Map	25
Compiled Results from Neighborhood Workshops	33
GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP	67
Compiled Results from the Governing Body Workshop	71
BOARDS and COMMISSIONS WORKSHOP	73
Compiled Results from the Boards and Commissions Workshop	76
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WORKSHOP	78
MIDDLE SCHOOL WORKSHOP	79
BUSINESS WORKSHOP	80
Compiled Results from the Business Workshop	81
COMMUNITY RESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE	92
COMMUNITY BUSINESS QUESTIONNAIRE	104



APPENDIX

COMMUNITY OUTREACH DETAILS

Community outreach is the involvement of the community at-large in the creation and management of their surroundings. It involves community residents, business owners and elected/appointed officials in planning and design decision making, promoting a sense of community and an avenue by which information about local conditions, needs and attitudes can be channeled. Allowing the community to participate in the formation of a plan can help foster a sense of stewardship as well, by allowing people to feel that their ideas have influenced the final decisions.

An extensive community outreach program offers a community an opportunity to collectively think about and plan for the long-term future, while promoting an understanding of all of the issues shaping the community’s future. It answers four basic questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- Where do we want to be? and,
- How do we get there?

The community outreach process seeks to identify a community’s values and envision a preferred future.

Throughout the TCD3 process, the Downer’s Grove community was engaged in traditional community outreach activities such as face-to-face workshops and meetings, as well as new internet technologies that allowed people to participate in the process from the comfort of their own home. Over 850 responses were collected via online surveys, and over 375 people participated in various community workshops.

This report outlines in detail several different forums that elected officials, residents and representatives of the Downers Grove business community were invited to participate in, including:

- Interactive Mapping
- Initial Community Workshop
- Neighborhood Workshops (4)
- Governing Body Workshop
- Boards and Commissions Workshop
- Business Workshop
- Student Workshops (Elementary and Middle School)

These outreach efforts offered important insight on local issues, concerns and opinions that were used to develop the Principle Recommendation of the TCD3.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS OFFERED IMPORTANT INSIGHT ON LOCAL ISSUES, CONCERNS AND OPINIONS THAT WERE USED TO DEVELOP THE PRINCIPLE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TCD3

COMMUNITY MAPPING TOOL

COMMUNITY ISSUES MAPPING TOOL

The interactive TCD3 Website provided the Downers Grove community with an on-line Community Issues Mapping Tool. The Mapping Tool allowed residents to identify, map and comment on areas of concern within the community as well as valued community assets.

Using a legend with nine “points of interest” categories, participants were able to categorize specific locations in the community that they view as opportunities, threats or assets. The “points of interest” provided included:

Community Asset

An asset to the community that should be maintained or enhanced.

Development Priority Sites

Sites that should be developed or redeveloped in the short term.

Problematic Intersection

Intersections that are a safety concern or negatively impact the smooth flow of traffic.

Public Safety Concern

Areas that pose a concern to public safety and pedestrians.

Undesirable Use

An existing use in the community that is undesirable.

Key Transit Destination

An area that should be better served by public transit.

Desired Use/Development

An area and/or use that should be developed.

Poor Appearance

Areas that are unsightly or could benefit from additional landscaping or aesthetic improvements.

Other

All other opportunities, threats or assets.

Overall, 55 different maps were created that included 239 points of interest.

This section summarizes the key points of interest by category.

Community Assets – 56 Points

An asset is defined as something that is useful or desirable within the community. As it pertains to the TCD3, an asset is something the community residents, business persons, and/or elected/appointed officials desire to maintain or enhance for the Village’s long-range future.

Community members identified a variety of destinations and features as assets throughout the Village. The more popular locations identified include:

- McCullum Park – particularly its trails and walking paths (5)
- Prince Pond (5)
- Downers Grove Golf Course (4)
- Tivoli Theater (4)

COMMUNITY ASSETS



Development Priority Sites – 27 Points

A development priority site is a site that the community felt should be developed/redeveloped in the near future, or that should take precedence over other sites in the Village. Oftentimes, these sites were identified as underutilized or in poor condition. They may include sites that are currently for sale, are home to incompatible and/or undesirable uses, or consist of buildings that are dated, under parked, or suffering from functional obsolescence. Development/redevelopment of these sites could serve as a catalyst for further enhancement along the Village’s corridors.

Several sites within the Village were identified as underutilized or in poor condition. The most noted development sites include:

- Meadowbrook Shopping Center (8) – Comments noted the poor condition significant vacancies at the center and identified the site a possible location for an assisted living development or park facilities.
- Former Hines Lumber Site (4) – Suggestions for the site included townhomes, a pool, a museum, or new location for the Downers Grove Ice Arena.
- Southwest corner of Lee and Ogden Avenues (3)
- Parking Lot at Main and Grove Streets (2)
- Downers Park Shopping Center (2) – Vacant storefronts in northern portion of center

Problematic Intersections – 32 Points

Problematic intersections are intersections within the Village that negatively impact the smooth, continuous flow of traffic, or pose a safety concerns for area residents and visitors. Throughout the community mapping process, few intersections were identified as problematic by more than one user, although there were several corridors where multiple intersections were identified.

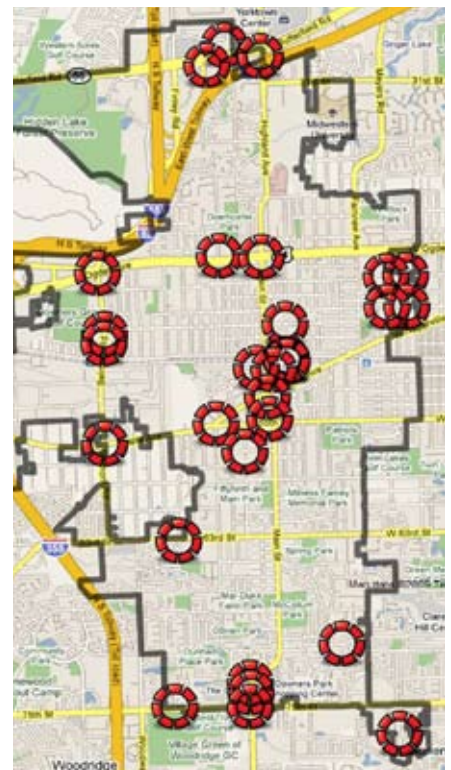
Other comments addressed common concerns such as the need for additional stop signs in residential areas. The most commonly identified problematic intersections include:

- Butterfield Road – Frontage Road, Access to parking lots
- Ogden Avenue – Belmont Road, Main Street, Venard Road
- Belmont Road – Haddow Avenue, Prairie Avenue, Maple Avenue
- Lemont Road – 75th Street, Dunham, Entrances to the Grove and Downers Park Shopping Centers
- Downtown – one-way street confusion; Intersection of Washington Street and Warren Avenue/Railroad Tracks,

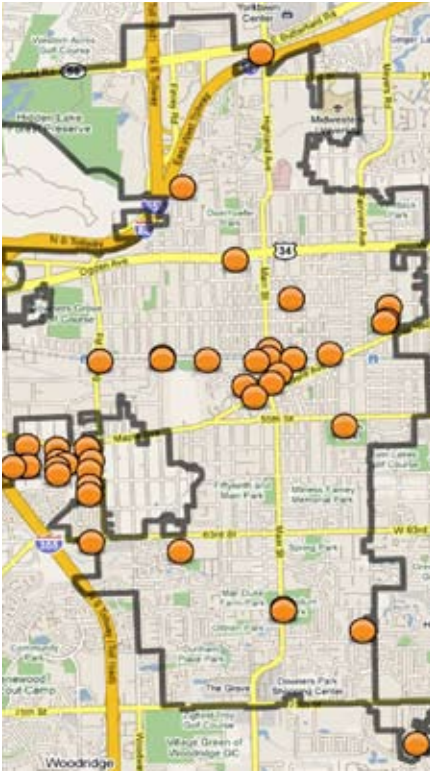
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY SITES



PROBLEMATIC INTERSECTIONS



PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS



Public Safety Concerns – 46 Points

Public safety concerns are areas that pose a concern to public safety and pedestrians throughout the community. Locations where community members observed these safety concerns are located throughout the community, with dense clusters in the Downtown and in an unincorporated area near the Village's western border. Only a few locations were identified by multiple users. The majority of comments, though site specific, related to common concerns related to public safety such as:

- High-speed traffic in residential areas
- Poor pedestrian crossing amenities along busy roadways
- Cut through traffic in residential areas – Particularly in the area to the southwest of Belmont Road and Maple Avenue where large volumes of high-speed traffic were indicated as an issue for College Road and Chase, Elinor, and Katrine Avenues
- Poor road conditions impacting the safety for drivers
- Poor condition of park amenities
- Water bodies – Barth Pond and a creek that passes through Hummer Park
- Railroad crossings – Formal crossings along roadways and problems with frequent crossing at uncontrolled locations

Undesirable Use – 15 Points

An undesirable use is a use that community members find undesirable or objectionable within the Village. Community members identified several undesirable uses; however two issues were identified by numerous users.

- Massage Parlors/Spas (4) – Ogden Avenue between Main Street and Fairview Avenue
- Tivoli Hotel (3) – Poor condition of accommodations

Key Transit Destination – 13 Points

Throughout the Village, there were several areas that people felt should be better served by public transit. Key transit destinations identified by the community included a range of community assets including the library, schools, and parks. The most noted locations include:

- Belmont Road Metra Station
- Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital
- Shopping centers throughout the Village

UNDESIRABLE USE



Desired Use/Development – 22 Points

Desired uses and/or development are areas in the community that residents felt should be developed, or targeted for a specific land use. Community members identified a variety of existing uses and development that they deemed desirable. They also identified several desirable uses for potential development sites. Downtown Downers Grove was the only area where comments related to desirable uses and development concentrated in one location.

- Downtown – Additional retail, restaurants, townhomes/condominiums, and parking
- Public Pool – Maple Avenue and 55th Place; Village Hall site; Meadowbrook Shopping Center

Poor Appearance – 20 Points

Many of the locations noted for poor appearance also appear as locations of undesirable uses or development sites. Poor appearance indicates that an area is unsightly in its current state, or that it could benefit from additional landscaping or aesthetic improvements. The most frequently identified locations with a poor appearance include:

- Meadowbrook Shopping Center
- Intersection of Lemont and 75th Street – Parking areas, Entrance to the community
- Northeast corner of Main and 63rd Streets – Vacant gas station

Compiled Results from Community Mapping

The table on the following pages (page 6 through page 13) presents each of the points identified during Community Mapping, sorted by Point of Interest category.

DESIRED USE/DEVELOPMENT



KEY TRANSIT DESTINATION



POOR APPEARANCE



Community Mapping Compiled Results		
Point Title	Description	Point of Interest Category
Metra Station		Community Asset
Shady Lane Estates	Unique architecture for the area - should be preserved	Community Asset
traffic		Community Asset
Creek at Florence	The creek at Florence	Community Asset
Open Space	Open space, forest candidate.	Community Asset
Open Space	Open space, forest candidate	Community Asset
Open Space	Open space, forest candidate	Community Asset
Tivoli Theater	Need I say more?	Community Asset
Westmont Illinois	Resident of Westmont Illinois	Community Asset
D.G. Golf Course		Community Asset
McCullum Park	Wonderful park, keep maintaining path, keep plowing path in the winter.	Community Asset
Downers Grove Park District Golf Course	Downers Grove Park District Golf Course	Community Asset
Prince Pond	Area on east and south side of pond should be rezoned to single family houses	Community Asset
Butterfield Rd.	This is a great section of stores/restaurants. Seeing additional commercial options would be great.	Community Asset
Shady Lane	There are several modest homes here with common design elements, set in an old tree nursery, making for an area unique in Downers Grove.	Community Asset
Downtown Downers Grove	Downtown Downers Grove is where Emo Philips was born and raised.	Community Asset
Downtown Living	Recent projects, like Acadia, bring in people living downtown. With more people living in downtown DG, more restaurants and shops will be able to do business from walk-up buyers.	Community Asset
Poor Maintenance	corner allowed to lie fallow. Owners should be required to maintain better.	Community Asset
Prince Pond		Community Asset
Prince Pond		Community Asset
Shopping		Community Asset
Maple Woods	Lots of mature trees. Community Use of baseball fields.	Community Asset
Hummer Park		Community Asset
McCullum Park		Community Asset
Washington Park	Great Park, looking forward to the improvements	Community Asset
Tivoli Theater		Community Asset
Mar-Duke Farm Park		Community Asset
Lyman Woods		Community Asset
Barth Pond		Community Asset
Tivoli	Awesome theater with appaling accommodations.	Community Asset
Lyman Woods	Great programs for everyone	Community Asset
Belmont Park	A unique rural area of Downers Grove where large homes have been and are continuing to be redeveloped on proportionately large lots. This area is a unique part of Downers Grove and the zoning needs to be designated as such in the future land use map.	Community Asset
Downers Grove Museum	Great asset to our community	Community Asset
Cemetery		Community Asset
942 Maple Avenue	Victorian Office Home converted to office building	Community Asset
preserve uniqueness	maintain character of larger lots, mature trees	Community Asset
Cars parking on streets	Cars for a family of four park on streets where school buses must turn, residents trying to access Marie DR is a potential danger for drivers and pedestrians.	Community Asset
Prince Pond	Preserve, protect, and maybe allow supervised campfires in the summer and more hockey /skating facilities in the Winter.	Community Asset
59th and Main Sts.	snow hill great for winter fun	Community Asset
Tivoli		Community Asset
Mar-Duke Farms	This wonderful place attracts small farmers of all ages and nationalities.	Community Asset
DG Public Library		Community Asset
Maple Grove Forest Presere		Community Asset

Community Mapping Compiled Results		
Point Title	Description	Point of Interest Category
Johnson Woods	This is a heavily wooded area with many trees 70 years old. Planned sidewalks would destroy many trees and the natural, woody flavor of the area.	Community Asset
Wonderful course		Community Asset
McCullum Park	Every time we walk here, we talk about how wonderful McCollum park is.	Community Asset
Commuter Shuttle	I know there is always talk about ending this service, and I know it would be nice if residents used it more, but having the shuttle really improves our quality of life.	Community Asset
McCollum Park	ALL PARKS IN DG NEED TO BE KEPT UP. THEY ARE AS OF NOW BUT WE MUST KEEP THEM SHARP. ITS A BIG ASSET TO DG! THANK YOU!	Community Asset
McCollum Park	Great courts and trail. Very Important for local residents	Community Asset
DG Golf Course	This is a jewel ... we are lucky to have this here in village limits!	Community Asset
Police Department	DG Police are ever-present and responsive. Thanks!	Community Asset
Doerhoffer		Community Asset
Prince Pond	The neighborhood should have conservation protections to preserve character and significance.	Community Asset
Hoopers Hollow	What a great place to relax, bring families and enjoy our natural resources.	Community Asset
DG Fire Department	DG Fire Department has a nice new station near 55th Street, but I hope they keep their stations in other parts of town. I feel safe with them on the job.	Community Asset
Waterpark	This is a dead mall. Its a good location for a water park or other entertainment venue.	Desired Use/Development
Park needed in Belmont Park		Desired Use/Development
Retail		Desired Use/Development
Thai Restaurant	A Thai restaurant downtown would be nice. Or noodles of some sort other than Italian...??	Desired Use/Development
Underpass walkway	No way to cross tracks between Belmont and Main Street. Kids on there all the time with bikes. Belmont Underpass and Fprest condo construction will block people in	Desired Use/Development
Downtown Area	One of our greatest assets	Desired Use/Development
Park needed in Belmont Park neighborhood -plenty of space		Desired Use/Development
Potential Townhouse Development	Suitable location of developments like the Villas of Maple Woods. Provides a buffer to the Ellsworth Industrial Park. Direct access to Belmont Rd that can handle additional traffic from higher destiny housing without impacting existing residents with cut through traffic issues.	Desired Use/Development
Single family detached housing	Single family detached housing with minimum Lot Size 20,000 sq ft (100ft x 200ft) for the area bounded by Maple Ave to north, Belmont Rd to east, 59th and Hobson Rd to the south, Walnut to the west, minus existing commercial complex at Maple Ave and Belmont Rd.	Desired Use/Development
Potential Townhouse Development	Suitable location of developments like the Villas of Maple Woods. Provides a buffer to the Ellsworth Industrial Park and Cameo commercial area. Direct access to Maple Ave to which can handle additional traffic from higher destiny housing without impacting existing residents with cut through traffic issues.	Desired Use/Development
New Cultural Center?		Desired Use/Development
Peffect location for Public Pool	This would be a great location for a new pool for the village	Desired Use/Development
New Downtown Belmont	This is a good area for retail development that is about 4 to 6 times the size of that at Fairview Av and the BNSF RR.	Desired Use/Development
Former dumpsite	There must be a private developer who can safely develop this land for use ?!?	Desired Use/Development
Sidewalk	Sidewalks needed on 7th street between William and Cumnor	Desired Use/Development
Park (?) at 39th	This purports to be a park, but offers no amenities or besides a bench or two. Green space (grass and a few trees) is nice, but this space is too small to serve any real purpose without a playground or defined picnic area or something. Currently provides napping space for individuals who may or may not be waiting for the bus.	Desired Use/Development
testing	testing	Desired Use/Development
Parking at Maple	We need to keep this parking lot, we need easy, convenient downtown parking.	Desired Use/Development
Condos/Stores	We need some stores in these lovely buildings	Desired Use/Development
Village tree nursery site	Planting in seedlings and transplanting out saplings a rate of 200 trees each year would save the village \$30,000 year in tree stock costs. We could specialize in hardy species that absorb lots of water, like burr oak, swamp maples, and river birches.	Desired Use/Development
Retail	Retail stores and condos	Desired Use/Development

Community Mapping Compiled Results		
Point Title	Description	Point of Interest Category
Park and Pool	If the Village Hal moves forward, this would be a great place for a pool complex and park. The VH parking deck could be scaled up for the extra parking needs. All right in the middle of town for easy access to the entire community.	Desired Use/Development
Ripe for redevelopment		Development Priority Site
Meadowbrook Shopping Center		Development Priority Site
Hines Lumber Site		Development Priority Site
Retail and condos	Retail and condos	Development Priority Site
Undeveloped Ogden Acres	Acres of weeds sitting unused and unkempt on valuable Ogden Ave. property.	Development Priority Site
Old dominicks site and walgreens	We need to get this space filled. Why doesnt walgreens take the site and fix it up.	Development Priority Site
Lighted Athletic Fields	Much needed athletic fields. Getting lights and artificial surfaces would greatly improve field availability in the village.	Development Priority Site
Fairview	Vacant corner lot? We could be reaping tax \$ from a fastfood site or something.	Development Priority Site
Belmont	Looks pretty bad. Heavily traveled with lots of potential.	Development Priority Site
Meadow Brook Shopping	This area should be a high priority to redevelop into a retail center	Development Priority Site
So much untapped potential	This big parcel has been sitting unused for 20 years at least.	Development Priority Site
Potential Park District development site	_If_ the Park District must have additional building(s) to handle large number of residents (i.e. swimming pool) this is one of two suitable locations. The viability of surrounding commercial properties might also improve with such a development.	Development Priority Site
Big empty stores	Circuit City and Expo are gone.	Development Priority Site
Former Hines Lumber site	Need to re-use-redevelop... How about a Burlington Railway museum, or re-locate the DG Ice arena here?	Development Priority Site
Parking lot on Main	With the deck, this lot could be first floor retail, and up to three stories tall for offices or apartments.	Development Priority Site
Old Junk Yard	Whatever clean-up issues plague this site at Lee and Ogden should be resolved. This is a lot of prime land!	Development Priority Site
Former Hines Lumber site	Need to re-use-redevelop... How about a Burlington Railway museum, or re-locate the DG Ice arena here?	Development Priority Site
Meadowbrook Mall	So much wasted space! We all shop at Target down the road, but the sales tax revenues go to Woodridge.	Development Priority Site
Carpenter road	needs resurfacing many potholes	Development Priority Site
Could be a nice park if baseball field were improved		Development Priority Site
Potential assisted living development site	This location seems challenged to sustain viable commercial properties (other than restaurants). There will be a need for assisted living and this location could provide an excellent opportunity as well as a boost for auxiliary commercial opportunities.	Development Priority Site
	this is a mess of a site and in need of rehab.	Development Priority Site
Potential Park District development site	_If_ the Park District must have additional building(s) to handle large number of residents (i.e. swimming pool) this is one of two suitable locations. The viability of surrounding commercial properties might also improve with such a development.	Development Priority Site
Hines Lumber	Townhomes? How about a pool?	Development Priority Site
Green Knolls Shopping	Place this parcel on fast track for project completion	Development Priority Site
Bad neighborhood		Development Priority Site
Good Sam	Reverse Commute?	Key Transit Destination
Ogden Ave.		Key Transit Destination
Butterfield Road shopping corridor	Need some kind of transit and better frontage access on the North.	Key Transit Destination
Downers Grove Park District Golf Course	Downers Grove Park District Golf Course	Key Transit Destination
Peace Memorial Manor	Senior residents here are in desperate need of affordable transportation to shopping, recreation, and services.	Key Transit Destination
Library		Key Transit Destination
Shop DG		Key Transit Destination
Midwest U	Campus bound students who could spend in DG	Key Transit Destination
Jewel	Good stop for Seniors.	Key Transit Destination
Belmont station		Key Transit Destination
Henry Puffer School	Not just a key destination during the school year in the morning and afternoon, but during the spring, summer, and fall for use of fields for athletic events.	Key Transit Destination

Community Mapping Compiled Results		
Point Title	Description	Point of Interest Category
Belmont Train Station	It would be nice if the bike racks could be replaced with working ones.	Key Transit Destination
Shop IN DG		Key Transit Destination
Tennis Courts Beginning to sink	While still a decent facility, the north side of the courts are beginning to sink and will become unplayable in the next few years	Other
Villas of Maple Retention Pond	Formerly wooded area now a large retention pond surrounded by beautiful townhomes	Other
Stop Sign	This was a great location for a stop sign, being that it is a busy intersection near a school.	Other
	The N-S street running the short block between Black Oak Drive and Candlewood Drive has a problematic and confusing inconsistency in name	Other
Lack of Communication from Village	Which citizens approved the so called "survey satisfaction". I suppose our community was the 4 dissatisfied, some neighbors are seniors who were never approached, some neighbors do not have computers, we are the forgotten.	Other
Keep single family		Other
New traffic patterns resulting from the completion of the underpass	While most residents agree the underpass is a benefit on paper, what will be done to insure that undesirable traffic patterns do not develop as result of completion of the underpass? Our concern is for those residents who live on east-west streets (Curtiss, Gilbert, Warren, Prairie, ...) between Belmont Road and Forest Ave between Maple Ave and Prairie Ave whose roads with see an increased flow of traffic as a result of trying to bypass the train crossings at Forest Ave, Main St, and Washington. We would like to see Maple Ave and Ogden Ave shoulder the extra traffic.	Other
Keep single family	Keep single family on large lots	Other
Keep current zoning	We need to keep this area single family with large homes on large lots	Other
Poor drainage	Flow of creek behind homes on Bending Oaks Place is impeded. Appears that someone has erected a berm. This causes the water to back up during hard rain and snow melts, flooding the yards and homes on the end of Bending Oaks Place and Stonewall. While this flooding is happening the rain collection area at Elmore and Bending Oaks Pl. remains empty.	Other
Keep single family on large lots		Other
Keep single family		Other
Keep single family		Other
Poor drainage	Flow of creek behind homes on Bending Oaks Place is impeded. Appears that someone has erected a berm. This causes the water to back up during hard rain and snow melts, flooding the yards and homes on the end of Bending Oaks Place and Stonewall. While this flooding is happening the rain collection area at Elmore and Bending Oaks Pl. remains empty.	Other
Transit Parking	The parking garage is good, but not perfect. Commuters still have to walk a couple blocks outdoors and the commuter spaces often fill up. Are there plans for more parking in the works?	Other
Some parts of Meadowbrook	Parts are fine but several parts are in poor repair and appearance	Poor Appearance
DG Welcome Sign	This white brick sign with black letters is very dated and should be replaced.	Poor Appearance
Graffiti still on north wall	There is graffiti still on the north brick wall that faces 63rd, this has been there for two years.	Poor Appearance
Meadowbrook Shopping Center	Realizing this is privately owned a challenge ... but nonetheless needs EDC help.	Poor Appearance
Tarp roof/houses	some of these houses right on 63rd have had blue tarp roof for quite some time. They are for sale and not going anywhere.	Poor Appearance
Former Amoco Station on N.E. Corner of Main	The closed down gas station has become an eye sore. It appears the property is not being maintained.	Poor Appearance
Gilbert Pk. Parking Lot		Poor Appearance
Deserted Amoco Station	Claim eminent domain and tear down existing structure at owners expense [use liens if necessary]. Grass would look better than what exists	Poor Appearance
Old gas station	poor look	Poor Appearance
Grant St.	Blind hills need signs, poor street condition	Poor Appearance
Apartments along Fairview		Poor Appearance
Gateway to D.G.		Poor Appearance
Funky looking little businesses		Poor Appearance
Meadowbrook Shopping Center	The number of vacancies and design of the property works against it	Poor Appearance

Community Mapping Compiled Results

Point Title	Description	Point of Interest Category
Unproper Graffiti Removal	The DuPage department of transportation has failed to restore the appearance of the traffic control box, it has been this way for two years.	Poor Appearance
Carpenter Street	the street is in very poor repair and becoming dangerous. There is too much through traffic, people driving too fast, and potholes that get worse by the day.	Poor Appearance
Meadowbrook Shopping Center	Empty retail, poor condition of center, massive empty parking lots.	Poor Appearance
Barth Pond retaining walls	In several places they are corroded and partially missing, posing a safety hazard.	Poor Appearance
Lemont		Problematic Intersection
Blanchard and Brookbank Road	No stop or yield sign, but blind hill increases risk of children and others. Blanchard seems to be used as a cut through during rush hour. The speed of vehicles is usually above the speed limit.	Problematic Intersection
Washington/ Prairie	Speed, cut through traffic and children and families walking to park are a bad mix	Problematic Intersection
Washington	needs repair of curbs, sidewalks	Problematic Intersection
Claremont	Traffic on Claremont is not solved yet. It is used by everyone as a cut thru from Main to Fairview and all the way thru Darien on 71st. Speed is the issue too. Please just put a few stop signs in and forget the speed bumps that can not be used year round!	Problematic Intersection
Butterfield Road Shopping	Impossible to enter/exit this parking lot	Problematic Intersection
Washington and the RR tracks	This intersection needs a grade separation (underpass).	Problematic Intersection
Terrible Traffic Back Ups	This intersection at Springside and 63rd should be right turn only because traffic backs up horribly - especially now that they added the new street from the school. There are lights with left turn arrows one block in both directions that should be used and this should be right turn only.	Problematic Intersection
Poor light timing	only a 4 or 5 southbound cars can make it through the light at rushhour. VERY frustrating	Problematic Intersection
Stop Sign	North and South traffic should have a stop sign for safer access to Fairview	Problematic Intersection
Multiple access areas	Unsafe and challenging with so many areas of access, heavy traffic affected by trains and upcoming construction for new development.	Problematic Intersection
Stop Sign	North and South traffic should have a stop sign for safer access to Fairview	Problematic Intersection
Stop Sign	North and South traffic should have a stop sign for safer access to Fairview	Problematic Intersection
Stop Sign	North and South traffic should have a stop sign for safer access to Fairview	Problematic Intersection
Left turn into Henry Puffer School	A left turn lane is a must to keep traffic flowing. Especially after the underpass is completed.	Problematic Intersection
Traffic at Ogden Ave	Traffic at this intersection is only going to increase upon completion of the underpass.	Problematic Intersection
Left turn on to Haddow Ave.	A left turn lane is a must to keep traffic flowing. Especially after the underpass is completed.	Problematic Intersection
Parked cars near intersection	Cars parked on streets of intersection of Knottingham LN	Problematic Intersection
Maple Intersection	Left on arrow only on Maple slows traffic. Go back to left arrow	Problematic Intersection
Downtown One-Way Rats Nest	This downtown rats nest of one-way streets turns mailing a letter into a huge chore.	Problematic Intersection
Poor road conditions		Problematic Intersection
Washington Crossing	This intersection can be dangerous when people are getting off the train.	Problematic Intersection
Bad Traffic	This intersection is crazy at rush hour and will need a long-term solution	Problematic Intersection
Frontage Rd	Frontage Rd from Highland Ave. to Downers Drive is almost dangerous to drive on. The intersection is always busy during rush hour, but the crater-like surface is unacceptable. Is this a county responsibility?	Problematic Intersection
Northbound confusion	Northbound, the elimination of right-on-red and the narrowing of 2 lanes to 1 on Main is a problem. Also, no Left-turn-only lane adds to confusion.	Problematic Intersection
Traffic Light needed	Needed at 75th Street and Devereaux. As traffic on 75th increases, even right turns are difficult most times during the day	Problematic Intersection
Ogden	traffic light needed	Problematic Intersection
Lemont Road at Dunham	The county traffic light is usually poorly timed and impacts traffic flow	Problematic Intersection
Washington south of tracks	This bit of road needs pot holes filled and lines to show people where to walk	Problematic Intersection
Dunham and Entrances to Malls	Have seen two accidents in the past 3 months here. Turn lanes are goofy. Road is another problem as it is in disrepair. Better in and out for both sides of the road.	Problematic Intersection
Cars parked overnight on streets	Homes that have a family of four have parked on the street where school buses must turn and some residents turn providing a dangerous hazard to drivers and pedestrians.	Public Safety Concern
Too much traffic		Public Safety Concern

Community Mapping Compiled Results		
Point Title	Description	Point of Interest Category
Barth Pond retaining walls	In several places they are corroded and partially missing, posing a safety hazard.	Public Safety Concern
too much traffic		Public Safety Concern
Bad Parking Situation	See the other note I made - it is both a public safety concern and undesirable use	Public Safety Concern
Main Street RR Crossing	In a perfect world, no road crosses rail road tracks at grade.	Public Safety Concern
Too much traffic		Public Safety Concern
Traffic Unsafe intersection		Public Safety Concern
Traffic		Public Safety Concern
Traffic		Public Safety Concern
House	very dirty	Public Safety Concern
Too much traffic		Public Safety Concern
Washington and the RR tracks	This intersection needs a grade separation (underpass).	Public Safety Concern
Street repairs and drainage	Yes, everybody complaining about potholes but our neighborhood gets no acknowledgement of them or the poor drainage when the rains come.	Public Safety Concern
Poor road conditions		Public Safety Concern
Drivers cutting through neighborhood at high speeds		Public Safety Concern
Terrible traffic and parking		Public Safety Concern
Carpenter Road Dip	Carpenter Road, about 150 feet North of Maple Ave., has a dip/large steep valley in the road that is causing vehicles to hit bottom. The road is not smooth and is not a result of pot holes. There are at least 3 sewer caps/holes affecting this road at this point. Public Works should review this section of road and project.	Public Safety Concern
Chase Ave is used by cut through traffic	Chase Ave is used as a cut through to bypass stop lights at Maple and Belmont, Belmont and Hobson/59th, and Belmont and 63rd. Too much traffic for narrow roads that two cars can barely pass at the same time. The cut through traffic does not obey posted speeds signs, stop signs, or no left turn signs. Enforcement of the signage is ineffective. A permanent solution (speed humps / one way traffic / partial dead ending, complete dead ending) that does not require enforcement is needed.	Public Safety Concern
Speeding Traffic	Constant speeding traffic is very dangerous on this street. It is 25mph but most are going 40-50mph.	Public Safety Concern
Dangerous area	Cars going 40-50mph on this street often nearly miss people walking. It is a 25mph zone but is NOT enforced. There is constant speeding traffic.	Public Safety Concern
Too Much Traffic	too much cut-thru traffic, speeding, do not obey signs	Public Safety Concern
Too much traffic		Public Safety Concern
Dangerous intersection	The sign says it all. We need to improve this access to shops restaurants.	Public Safety Concern
Sidewalks	There should be sidewalks on both sides of the street of Chicago. Many children walk to school and end up having to cross Chicago (a very busy street) 3 times in order to walk on a sidewalk to school.	Public Safety Concern
Metra tracks		Public Safety Concern
Confusing Street	Main Street is hard to transit for non-residents, as the traffic lane repeatedly changes. This needs to change long-term.	Public Safety Concern
Railroad Tracks	The tracks are routinely crossed by kids and muck up traffic at each crossing. Can we move the tracks below grade long term and provide crossings?	Public Safety Concern
Washington St.	Bypass around Main St. High traffic/speed volume, especially where intersects w/ Prairie, at Washington Park.	Public Safety Concern
	The creek at Florence	Public Safety Concern
Washington Road Replacement	this road was to be fixed in 1999. How can the village allow this deplorable roadway to continue to deteriorate?	Public Safety Concern
Warren/Washington Intersection	This intersection just in front of the train crossing here sorely needs a stop light. Throughway traffic, commuters, and traffic in and out of the Police Station and Village Hall are poorly directed by four- (actually THREE)-way stop signs alone.	Public Safety Concern
Crossing main st to McCollum	Parking is an issue for McCollum Park. People dodge cars on Main to get to the park.	Public Safety Concern
Creek at Florence		Public Safety Concern
Grant St.	Blind Hills not marked	Public Safety Concern

Community Mapping Compiled Results		
Point Title	Description	Point of Interest Category
Chase Ave is used by cut through traffic	Chase Ave is used as a cut through to bypass stop lights at Maple and Belmont, Belmont and Hobson/59th, and Belmont and 63rd. Too much traffic for narrow roads that two cars can barely pass at the same time. The cut through traffic does not obey posted speeds signs, stop signs, or no left turn signs. Enforcement of the signage is ineffective. A permanent solution (speed humps / one way traffic / partial dead ending, complete dead ending) that does not require enforcement is needed.	Public Safety Concern
Chase Ave is used by cut through traffic	Chase Ave is used as a cut through to bypass stop lights at Maple and Belmont, Belmont and Hobson/59th, and Belmont and 63rd. Too much traffic for narrow roads that two cars can barely pass at the same time. The cut through traffic does not obey posted speeds signs, stop signs, or no left turn signs. Enforcement of the signage is ineffective. A permanent solution (speed humps / one way traffic / partial dead ending, complete dead ending) that does not require enforcement is needed.	Public Safety Concern
College Rd is used by cut through traffic	College Rd is used as a cut through to bypass stop lights at Maple and Belmont, Belmont and Hobson/59th, and Belmont and 63rd. Too much traffic for narrow roads that two cars can barely pass at the same time. The cut through traffic does not obey posted speeds signs, stop signs, or no left turn signs. Enforcement of the signage is ineffective. A permanent solution (speed humps / one way traffic / partial dead ending, complete dead ending) that does not require enforcement is needed.	Public Safety Concern
Pedestrians on RR tracks	Frequent crossing point for kids on bikes and people on foot to get north of tracks	Public Safety Concern
Elinor Ave is used by cut through traffic	Elinor Ave is used as a cut through to bypass stop lights at Maple and Belmont, Belmont and Hobson/59th, and Belmont and 63rd. Too much traffic for narrow roads that two cars can barely pass at the same time. The cut through traffic does not obey posted speeds signs, stop signs, or no left turn signs. Enforcement of the signage is ineffective. A permanent solution (speed humps / one way traffic / partial dead ending, complete dead ending) that does not require enforcement is needed.	Public Safety Concern
Traffic		Public Safety Concern
Traffic	to may cars going to fast	Public Safety Concern
	Kids on RR tracks here often to access Warren without going all the way to Belmont or Forest Avenue to go north.	Public Safety Concern
crosswalk timing	review current timing of all crosswalks - add timers if necessary	Public Safety Concern
Spas in DG	You need to remove these types of spas in DG. Deal with them please!	Undesirable Use
Tivoli Hotel		Undesirable Use
Bad Parking	Springside Avenue south of 63rd should only allow parking on one side of the street not both. When cars park on both sides of the street only one car can fit down the road at the time - if there are cars going in both directions one has to back up so the other can get by - possibly going backwards into oncoming traffic on 63rd - this has happened to me multiple times when the school is having sporting events.	Undesirable Use
Tivoli Hotel		Undesirable Use
Shopping Center needs to be torn down and remodeled	This place is a rotting cesspool of garbage - not properly maintained, mostly empty and a blight on the town. It needs to be torn down and rebuilt - also needs new owner and management for the facility.	Undesirable Use
sidewalks planned	The village plans sidewalks for this area. They are not needed as this area has no through streets. The neighborhood does not want sidewalks.	Undesirable Use
Ogden Avenue Retail	Parts of Ogden look really shabby compared with the rest of the town. We need to upgrade the quality of properties and tenants along this street. TIF District?	Undesirable Use
Tivoli Hotel		Undesirable Use
Another Massage Parlor		Undesirable Use
Massage Parlors	Lisle got rid of them, we should too.	Undesirable Use
Villas of Maple Woods Townhouses	The Villas of Maple Woods Townhouses squandered one of the Downers Groves last areas where large homes could be developed on proportionately large lots. The townhouses do not provide any buffering to existing homes and only encroached into a vibrant single family detached residences with large lots in a rural setting. There are still many areas in Downers Grove where developments like this would have better suited the Village and its residents.	Undesirable Use
Oneway Street	During school hours is Lincoln Av oneway east the best use of this street. There is a stop light at Licoln Av and Fairview Av allowing for safe access to Fairview. The oneway street should be west. You can make Indianapolis Av one way east.	Undesirable Use
Road Issue	This road is in dire need of repair. Many potholes that are filled and then re-appear. Need to re-do this road this year.	Undesirable Use

Community Mapping Compiled Results

Point Title	Description	Point of Interest Category
Massage Parlors	Several on Ogden Ave.	Undesirable Use
Massage Parlors	Why?	Undesirable Use

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

INITIAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The TCD3 Initial Community Workshop was held on March 4th, 2009 at Downers Grove South High School at 7pm. The workshop was attended by approximately ninety (90) Village residents and leaders. The workshop was held to begin the TCD3 community dialogue and outreach process and was designed to allow residents the opportunity to identify and discuss issues, concerns, and priorities facing the Downers Grove community.

The workshop began with an overview of the TCD3 process and a brief overview of some of the feedback obtained to date from the interactive TCD3 Project Website. This Summary Report provides a detailed overview of the comments and feedback provided by participants during the workshop. The questions asked and the responses provided are summarized on the following pages.

Identify five (5) issues or concerns confronting the Downers Grove community.

A large number of issues and concerns, covering a wide range of topics, were identified by participants at the TCD3 Initial Community Workshop. The list of more than 350 identified issues can be grouped into the following 7 topical categories; (a) Infrastructure; (b) Economic Development; (c) Residential; (d) Public Services and Facilities; (e) Parks and Recreation; (f) Education; and, (g) Financial. A summary and inventory of all issues and concerns identified and discussed by workshop participants is provided for each specific category below.

Infrastructure Issues or Concerns - 118 responses	Count
Stormwater Management (flooding, flood control, management, retention/detention areas, policies, drainage, control, storm sewers, capital projects)	29
Roads and Streets (repair, maintenance, repaving, potholes, gutters)	26
Traffic (control, calming, congestion & volume, planning for future, monitoring flow patterns)	20
Walkability, Pedestrian Mobility and Safety (pedestrians, intersection of 55th and Carpenter, traffic law enforcement, more traffic controls, trim bushes/improve sightlines, sidewalks)	15
Public Transportation (commuter parking availability/capacity, transit for residential areas to Metra, bicycle lanes, improve/expand routes and schedules)	12
Infrastructure (maintaining, improving, aging)	9
Railroad (congestion from at grade crossing, general safety, Belmont underpass)	7
Responses cited by only one participant: Widen Main Street, Integrity of sanitary system	

Infrastructure

Infrastructure issues or concerns incorporate all responses related to roads and streets, stormwater and drainage, sidewalks, and other types of public infrastructure. In total, 118 responses at the workshop concern infrastructure, more than any other topic.

The issue of stormwater was cited most frequently (29). With the recent flooding that has taken place in the Village of Downers Grove and elsewhere, it was evident that the issue of stormwater was at the forefront of the minds of many workshop participants. Flooding/flood control was another concern identified by workshop participants. Issues pertaining to roads and streets were also a commonly cited problem (26). General street repair and maintenance, including repaving streets and filling potholes are examples of concerns voiced by participants at the workshop. A summary of infrastructure issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Economic Development

Downtown Downers Grove was the most commonly cited issue or concern expressed by workshop participants among economic development related topics (25). Participants expressed their desire for downtown to be more vibrant and to have a broader mix of retail and commercial uses. Attracting new businesses to Downers Grove and retaining existing businesses was another top economic development issue of workshop participants. Ogden Avenue was another top concern, as was attracting and retaining businesses and improving the business climate in the community. A summary of economic development issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Economic Development Issues or Concerns - 66 responses		Count
Downtown (mix of uses, empty storefronts, mixed incomes, grocery store , parking, geographic size, bicycle parking)		25
Business Retention and Attraction/Improved Business Climate		11
Ogden Avenue (strengthen retail, reduce dependency on auto retailers, better gateway, improved landscaping, sign ordinance, buy utilities)		11
Commercial redevelopment (Meadowbrook Shopping Center, 75th Street, Ogden Avenue, Belmont Avenue, other blighted areas)		10
Commercial Revitalization (improve quality and diversity, more employment, more efficient use,		5
75th Street (improve access, more economic development initiatives)		2
Retail Competition (from neighboring communities, missed opportunities)		2
Responses cited by only one participant: Balance of Residential/Commercial/Industrial Development, Loss of Businesses (Number of businesses declining), Stagnant Sign Ordinance, Satellite business districts		

Residential

Controlling land development and redevelopment through better zoning, plans and code enforcement was the most commonly cited issue or concern which pertained to Downers Grove’s residential areas - 15. Some workshop attendees expressed a desire for the Village to make changes to the zoning ordinance limiting the size of new development in order to maintain the “feel” and “character” of residential neighborhoods. Diversifying the housing stock by providing for senior housing, and making homes more affordable for 1st time home buys and workforce were other top residential concerns.

A summary of residential issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Residential Issues or Concerns - 51 responses		Count
Land Development/Redevelopment Control (zoning, code enforcement, plans)		15
Diversified Housing (senior housing, 1st time buyers, workforce housing, affordable housing)		12
Trees (preserve and protect the tree canopy, reduce trees being cut for improvements)		8
Maintain property values		3
Property taxes and assessments		3
Residential Redevelopment/Housing		3
Preserving Neighborhood Character/Atmosphere		3
Downtown Condos (too many, vacancies)		2
Aging homeowner demographic		2
Responses cited by only one participant: Housing (non-specific)		

Public Services and Facilities Issues or Concerns - 44 responses	Count
Sustainability (increase environmental awareness, explore a green initiative plan, alternative energy, energy conservation, reduce impervious services, recycle)	7
New Village Hall and New Police Station	6
Maintain excellent village services (Recycling/Fire Protection/Police Protection/Maintenance)	6
Improved Services (to community, from township, for seniors)	6
Improve communication (transparent politics, more economical means, easy phone number for non-emergency, unbiased media, reaching out to seniors, information on codes/enforcement)	6
Safety (Homeland Protection/Security Sirens/Walking Police Patrols Downtown/Code Violations/Tornado Warning Siren)	5
Snow Removal	3
Intergovernmental Cooperation	3
Get approval of neighbors before putting in sidewalks	2
Responses cited by only one participant: Population diversity, Actions which affect our youth and elderly both, Teens drinking - harsh laws and enforce them, Delayed construction projects, Attract and maintain high-quality staff, Development of service networks	

Parks and Recreation Issues or Concerns - 31 responses	Count
Community Pool (a community pool IS needed, NOT needed, make a final decision on the matter)	10
Park Sites (more neighborhood parks, public spaces, green space)	7
Preservation Areas (open space ordinance/public spaces/natural resources)	4
Youth and Teen Opportunities (Downtown activity/Lack of programs for teens)	4
Affordable and/or free activities for families and children	2
Performing Arts Opportunities (better performing arts venues)	2
Lack of bike/running paths	2
Responses cited by only one participant: Park District needs to be more responsive, Plan for replacement of Downers Grove Park District over next 3 to 5 years, Lack of recreational/athletic outdoor facilities available to schools and community, Enforce no golf in public parks, Outdoor Activity Centers	

Public Services & Facilities

There were fewer dominant themes or issues for issues and concerns cited which pertained to public services and facilities and as a result no one issue or theme surfaced as a top concern in this category. The environment and sustainability was an undercurrent or theme for 7 responses, and the construction of a new Village Hall and Police Station was specifically cited 6 times. A summary of all issues and concerns pertaining to public services and facilities is presented in the adjacent table.

Parks & Recreation

The issue of the community pool was the top issue under the Parks and Recreation umbrella topic. Seven workshop participants expressed their support of the project while three expressed their opposition to it. One participant even mentioned that the measure had been voted down twice. Other recreational and entertainment issues and concerns included the development of youth and teen entertainment opportunities in downtown Downers Grove, building a performing arts center, the lack of bicycle paths in town, and the creation of outdoor activity center for the community. A summary of all issues and concerns pertaining to parks and recreation are presented in the adjacent table.

Educational

The most commonly cited educational-related issue was maintaining good schools throughout the Village of Downers Grove. Residents expressed a desire to keep education standards high and continue to maintain the high quality of education at every level. The finances of the local school districts were another top-cited educational concern among workshop participants. The table below presents a summary and inventory of all educational issues cited by participants.

Educational Issues or Concerns - 14 responses		Count
Maintaining good schools (high education standards, high quality)		9
School funding/School District 58 Finances (Maintain their high caliber, viability)		5
Responses cited by only one participant: Southside elementary schools not as sound as north side elementary schools, Connection of education to workforce needs, Maintain Arts and Music Programs, Schools (non-specific), Education for all ages		

Financial

Several issues related to financial and economic concerns were cited, with some reflecting the current state of the economy and the resulting decrease in Village revenue. Some participants expressed their desire for the Village and other taxing bodies to adjust their budgets for a lower volume of revenue by “eliminating government waste” and preparing for a decline in the sales tax. Budget management, tax rates, and the overall financial health of the Village and other taxing bodies were also mentioned as top financial issues among workshop participants. A summary of all financial issues and concerns are presented in the table below.

Financial Issues or Concerns - 20 responses		Count
Financial Health (budget management, ensure long term funding, monitor conditions)		7
Taxes (keep taxes low/taxes are too high)		6
Adjust Budget for lower volume of revenue (No Government Waste/Declining Sales Tax)		5
Effect of national, state, and local economy (Lower Revenues)		2
Responses cited by only one participant: Funding capital investment projects including town center, Expectations for services exceed willingness to pay (raise taxes, pass referendums, etc.)		

Specific Issue	First	Second	Third	Count	Weighted Score
Stormwater/Flooding	12	3	4	18	46
School or Education Funding/Enhancement/Maintain Quality of	8	8	3	19	43
Neighborhood Character/Home Size/Teardowns	9	4	3	16	38
Village Budget/Revenue/Finance/Eroding Tax Base	10	3	0	12	36
Trees Canopy	5	3	3	11	24
Downtown (Enhancement of/Improvements to/Concerns About/Grocery In/Parking)	5	4	1	10	24
Traffic/Transportation Issues	4	3	5	11	23
Senior Issues/Programs/Housing	5	3	2	10	23
Attracting and Retaining Businesses	1	4	9	14	20
Housing Diversity	3	4	2	9	19
Ogden Avenue (Improve/Beautification of/Fewer Apartments/Safety)	1	2	11	14	18
Infrastructure Improvements	2	4	4	10	18
Affordable Housing/Balanced Housing Stock/Attract First Time Home Buyers	3	2	4	9	17
Streets/Roads	1	6	1	8	16
Open Space/Green Space/Parks/Environment/Landscaping Ordinance	1	4	3	8	14
Railroad Issues (Grade Separation)	3	2	0	5	13
Village Services	0	3	3	6	9
Zoning /Land Use Issues	1	2	2	5	9
Recreational Facilities/Bicycle Trails	2	1	1	4	9
Community Pool Issue	0	2	4	6	8
Parking Issues (Expand Library Parking/Commuter Parking)	2	0	2	4	8
Public Transportation	0	1	5	6	7
New Village Hall/New Police Station	0	3	1	4	7
Infill Development	1	2	0	3	7
Alternative Energy/Energy Efficiency/Recycling	1	0	3	4	6
Safety (Pedestrian/Traffic/Tornado and Siren Alerts)	1	0	2	3	5
Lower Taxes	1	1	0	2	5
Activities for Youth/Children	0	2	0	2	4
Performing Arts Support (Venues, etc.)	0	1	1	2	3
Create a Phone Number for Non-Emergencies	0	1	1	2	3
Diversify Businesses	0	1	0	1	2
Empty Retail	0	0	1	1	1
Meadowbrook Shopping Center	0	0	1	1	1
Fewer Apartments	0	0	1	1	1

*Weighted score: 3 points first issue, 2 points second issue, and 1 point third issue.

List in Order of importance, the three (3) most important issues discussed thus far.

After discussing issues and concerns confronting the Village of Downers Grove community, workshop participants were asked to rank, in order of importance, what they perceived to be the three most important issues discussed thus far. Ranking the large number of issues previously identified by the community provided a measure of focus for further group discussion. The ranking process also offered more simplified snapshot of top concerns and issues among the large group of over 80 participants.

The adjacent table presents the results of this step of the workshop, and orders the issues by a calculated score since responses were in order of importance. The simple scoring system gives three “points” to participant’s top issue, two “points” to their second, and one “point” to their third.

Stormwater and flooding was the top priority for 12 participants, 18 total and scored 46. Schools and education funding and enhancement was the top concern for 8 participants and scored 43. Neighborhood character/home size scored 38 and the Village’s finances (budget, revenue, tax bases, etc.) scored 36. A complete summary of the ranking and scoring of issues discussed at the workshop is presented in the adjacent table.

Identify three (3) specific projects or actions that you would like to see undertaken within the Downer Grove Community.

After identifying the issues and concerns of greatest importance, community members were asked to identify three specific projects or actions they would like see undertaken within the Downers Grove community. Similar to other question, responses from participants can be placed into topical categories, including Transportation, Environmental, Residential, Recreational, Economic Development, Municipal/Public Issues, Beautification, and Educational, each inventoried and discussed below.

Municipal/Public Projects and Actions

A series of municipal/public projects and actions were suggested by community workshop participants. The project or action most commonly identified were the related items of the mitigation of stormwater issues and prioritization and implementation of infrastructure projects. Taken together, these two items were identified as an important municipal project 11 times. The construction of a new Village Hall and Police Station was the second most popular municipal/public project identified by participants, receiving six (6) nominations. Some participants provided further detail, expressing a desire for a new Village Hall or Police Station to be more centrally located within Downtown Downers Grove. A summary of the 51 responses pertaining to municipal/public projects and actions can be found in the adjacent table.

Municipal/Public Projects or Actions - 51 responses		Count
Stormwater		7
Develop Town Center with Village Hall and DGPD		6
Prioritize Infrastructure Projects		4
Snowplowing Cul De Sacs		2
Infrastructure Prioritize/Maintain		2
Complete Sidewalks (On all Streets)		2
More sirens for security (Upgrade for tornados)		2
Revise building code to address stormwater management		2
Develop a Non-emergency Phone Number (i.e. 411)		2
Responses cited by only one participant: Identify Revenue Streams, Purchase and Remove homes from floodways, Hire Firm to address Stormwater concerns, More Police Patrol, Meet with parts of the community on regular basis, Develop call-in line to Village Council for Comments, Increase Services to residents, Develop Neighborhood Watch Groups, Cut back bushes along Village ROWs, Finish construction projects in a timely manner, Reduce taxes on Seniors making less than \$25K, Increase enforcement of liquor licenses to prevent DUIs, Leaf Pick-Up, Update Land Use Map, Establish Block Captains to help village drain stormwater, Tax Breaks for New Development, Complete Streets, Street Lighting, Hire competent building inspectors, Create a hazardous action plan, Prudent use of government funds, New Urbanism.		

Transportation Projects or Actions - 50 responses	Count
Maintain and Improve Roads	13
Railroad Crossing Improvements (Underpass/Overpass)	8
Increase Parking for CBD	6
Reduce Traffic	3
Increase Parking for Library	3
Integrate Shuttle	2
Become a Bicycle Friendly Community (Build Paths)	2

Responses cited by only one participant: Grade Separation at Washington Street, Clean 55th Street, Improve 3 most congested Intersections, Develop a "Dial-a-ride" program for seniors, Bus Routes between office parks and train stations, Photos for traffic control, Improve street cleaning to avoid flooding, Build a pedestrian crossing at 63rd and Fairmount, Free shuttles for seniors, Repair tracks at Fairview, Build overpass over Ogden, Better quality of materials for streets (Longer Life), Public Transportation.

Economic Development Projects or Actions - 27 responses	Count
Provide Incentives to attract businesses (to downtown and throughout DG)	5
Grocery Store Downtown	5
Redevelopment along Ogden	3
Develop Retail	3
Shopping Nights at key Commercial Areas in DG	2

Responses cited by only one participant: Keep a level Tax Base, Development of Downtown, Develop outside of recreational areas, Redevelop Fairview Station Area for Mixed Use, Develop Plan to Grow Tax Base, Develop Meadowbrook Shopping Center, Attract Businesses, Enhance satellite Business Districts, Development of NW Territory.

Transportation

Workshop participants indicated that the maintenance and improvement to roads as the transportation related project they most desired to see. Such a project should address the potholes and street repair concerns identified in Questions 1 and 2. Railroad crossing improvements, including grade separation recommendations were cited by 8 participants aimed at improving rail crossing safety and convenience was the second most commonly cited transportation project. This measure would also address a second significant community issue by reducing traffic throughout Downers Grove. In total 50 transportation projects or actions were suggested by workshop participants all of which are summarized in the adjacent table.

Economic Development

The current economic downturn has placed economic development projects and actions at the forefront of the community's collective conscience. Workshop participants recommended that the Village provide tax breaks and other incentives to attract businesses to Downers Grove. More specifically, several participants identified a grocery store as a desired retailer for Downtown Downers Grove. Other economic development-related projects/actions suggested by community members included the redevelopment of Ogden Avenue, continued retail development throughout the Village, the enhancement of "satellite" business districts, and the maintenance of a level tax base. In total 27 economic development projects or actions were suggested by workshop participants, all of which are summarized in the adjacent table.

Environmental

Three workshop participants expressed a desire to see additional tree plantings throughout the community, especially in residential neighborhoods. Other environmental projects identified by Downers Grove residents indicated they would like to see include an increase in the amount of open space and the number of parks throughout the community. Community members also stated a desire for Downers Grove to become more energy efficient and implement “Go Green” initiatives. The 19 environmental projects are actions cited by participants are summarized in the adjacent table.

Environmental Projects or Actions - 19 responses	Count
Plant more trees	3
Expand Open Space	2
Parks	2
Energy Efficiency (Increase!)	2
Responses cited by only one participant: Creation of a Municipal Tree Nursery, Stop Cutting Down Trees, Adopt Tree Preservation Ordinance, Efficiency Program Implement it, Maintain Tree Canopy, Require developers to Save Mature Trees, Retain Trees, Implement Go Green Initiatives, Buy land for new urban forest areas, Use advanced environmental practices.	

Residential

The most significant residential actions identified by workshop participants was related to a common concern with the demolition of existing homes and the construction of newer, larger homes in their place. The six participants who identified this as a project or action they would like to see undertaken expressed a desire for the Village of Downers Grove to protect neighborhood character by updating the current zoning code to limit the size of new residential development. The 18 residential projects or actions are summarized in the adjacent table.

Residential Projects or Actions - 18 responses	Count
Update Zoning Code to Protect Neighborhood Character	6
Diversify Housing	2
New Home Buyer Incentive Program	2
Affordable Housing	2
Responses cited by only one participant: No large multi-family complexes, Market DG to attract home buyers to DG, Forced Home Repair, Develop Strategic Plan for Senior Housing Village Wide, Senior Housing Availability, Vacant Housing Oversight.	

Recreational

There were 15 recreational projects or actions identified by workshop participants. The most commonly cited recreational project community members of Downers Grove would like undertaken is the construction of a community pool. This project was cited four times by community members who attended the initial community workshop.

Recreational Projects or Actions - 15 responses	Count
Build some community pools	4
Build Performing Arts Center	3
Pool Decision	2
Responses cited by only one participant: Build Outdoor Recreation Center, Safe places for teens, Build network of bike/run paths, Replace basketball rims at Concord Park, Add softball field to O'Brien Park, Kill pool plan.	

Beautification Projects or Actions - 8 responses	Count
Ogden Avenue Beautification	4
Responses cited by only one participant: Remove Decorative Crosswalks in Downtown, Develop Landscape Ordinance, Clean up Meadowbrook Shopping Center, Develop Master Parkway/Median Design Plan.	

Beautification

Only 8 different beautification projects or actions were mentioned by participants, however improving the aesthetic appearance of Ogden Avenue throughout Downers Grove represented half of those responses - 4. Other suggested beautification improvements were isolated response pertaining to 4 different projects. The 8 beautification responses are summarized in the adjacent table.

Educational Projects or Actions - 6 responses	Count
Responses cited by only one participant: Communication system between all schools, Maintain Funding of Public School Programs, Consolidate school districts into 1, Replace Roofs, Upgrade all schools, Reward Superior Teachers.	

Educational

Six individual community workshop participants identified six different education-related projects/actions to be undertaken by the Village of Downers Grove. These projects or actions are identified in the adjacent table.



What are the primary strengths and assets of Downers Grove?

Community workshop participants were asked what they believed to be the primary strengths and assets of Downers Grove. Answers to this question varied greatly. Some items received votes from multiple community members while others received only one vote.

The schools and education system of Downers Grove were the strengths/assets most commonly cited by residents of Downers Grove. This item was listed as a local asset by 38 community members. A summary of all responses is presented in the adjacent table.

Primary Strengths and Assets	Count
Schools/Education System	38
Residents/Neighbors/People	26
Location	15
Train Stations (Location/Access to)	14
Downtown (CBD)	14
Village Leaders	13
Parks/Open Spaces	12
Housing	9
Community Identity	7
Neighborhoods	7
Tree Canopy	6
Community Involvement	6
Volunteers/Volunteerism	6
Low/Reasonable Taxes	5
History	5
Diversity	5
Friendly People	4
Events/Festivals	4
Socioeconomic Diversity	3
Families	3
Tax Base	3
Character	3
Library	2
Commercial/Industrial Base	2
Affordable Housing	2
Responses cited by only one participant: Businesses, Tivoli Theatre, Safe Community, Local Government, Aesthetics of Community, Housing Prices, Churches, Ogden Avenue, Natural Resources, Community Spirit.	





Obstacles and Barriers	Count
Money/Revenue/Funding/Cash/Financing	28
Decreasing/Eroding Tax Base (Fewer Businesses)	19
Recession	10
Lack of Vision/Objectives/Focus	10
Leadership	6
Politics/Bureaucracy	5
Stronger Prioritization	5
Special Interest Groups speaking for entire community	4
Aging Demographic	3
Raising taxes	3
Fear of Change	3
Unaffordable Housing (New especially)	3
Competition from other Neighboring Towns	3
Seniors afraid of change	2
Overlapping Taxing Bodies	2
Limited Space	2
Traffic	2
Interagency Fighting	2

Responses cited by only one participant: Few new families involved, 30-50 year olds not involved, Residents, Businesses, Competing Interests, Parking, Volunteers over the long term, Laissez Faire Attitudes, Ogden Avenue being State-owned, Lack of Tree Preservation, Increasing Traffic Congestion, Who gets services and who pays for them, Accountability for projects undertaken, Quality educators leaving for better pay, No critical mass of shopping areas, Financial institutions with a loss of revenue, Village putting plans on the shelf, Foreclosures, Trying to please everyone, NIMBY.

What are the major obstacles and barriers facing the community that may prevent or hinder it from achieving its objectives?

Finally, community workshop participants were asked to identify what they perceived to be the major obstacles or barriers facing the Village of Downers Grove that may prevent or hinder it from achieving its objectives. A selection of responses to this question is summarized below.

Community members identified money/financing to be the biggest obstacle preventing the Village of Downers Grove from achieving its objectives. This item was cited as a major obstacle/barrier by workshop participants 28 times with one respondent noting, “Money is always tight and, given today’s economy, it’s even tighter.” Participants identified the related issue of a decreasing or eroding tax base, comprised of a decreasing number of businesses, as a major barrier confronting Downers Grove. This item was cited 19 times by participants. A summary of all responses is presented in the adjacent table.

NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOP

NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The TCD3 Workshop for residents of Downers Grove's four residential neighborhood areas were held the evenings of April 16th and April 20th, 2009 at local locations throughout the community. The workshops were attended by over 250 people including both Downers Grove residents and representatives of the local business community. The neighborhood areas for are defined as follows:

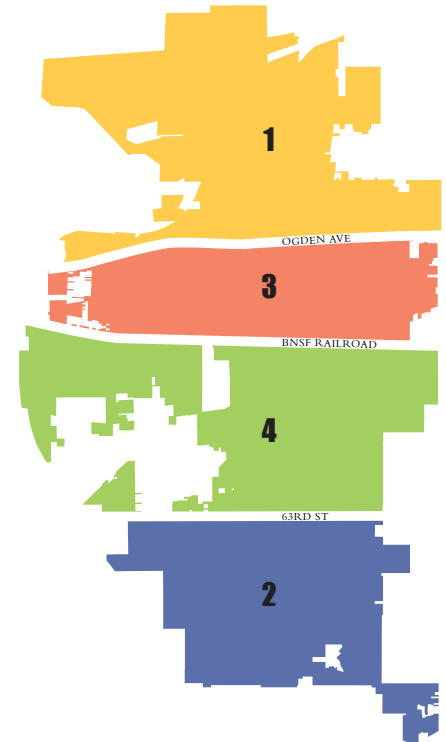
- Neighborhood 1 (N1) – All areas north of Ogden Avenue – American Legion Post, 4000 Saratoga Avenue
- Neighborhood 2 (N2) – All areas south of 63rd Street – El Sierra School, 6835 Fairmount School
- Neighborhood 3 (N3) – Areas south of Ogden Avenue to BNSF – Herick Middle School, 4435 Middaugh Avenue
- Neighborhood 4 (N4) – Areas south of BNSF tracks to 63rd Street – Fairmount School, 6036 Blodgett

The workshops aided in focusing the TCD3 community outreach process on local issues and was designed to allow residents the opportunity to identify and discuss issues, concerns, and priorities facing the Downers Grove community and their neighborhoods in particular. Discussion at the meeting was organized around topics or categories that were derived from responses to general questions in previous community-wide workshops. The eight primary categories used during the meeting included a) infrastructure, b) economic develop-

ment, c) public services and facilities, d) parks and recreation, e) education, f) residential, g) financial, and h) other. Participants formed groups ranging in size of between 4 to 8 individuals and were asked to collectively list the top five neighborhood issues related to a given category.

This Summary Report provides an overview of the comments and feedback provided by participants during the Neighborhood Workshops. Group comments received within each category have been classified by the general subject, issue or concern they address. Narrative text is used to highlight community-wide concerns that were universally identified in the neighborhood workshops as well as issues and concerns unique to each neighborhood. Any rankings of significance indicated within this narrative are in relation to the number of comments related to a given category. Tables supporting the text and summarizing the input for each neighborhood workshop are presented.

Neighborhood Map



Please list the top five neighborhood issues relating to:

Infrastructure

The umbrella category of Infrastructure incorporates issues or concerns related to roads and streets, stormwater and drainage, sidewalks, and other types of public infrastructure.

As indicated by the number of related comments, stormwater management and flood control is a priority issue for all of the Neighborhoods. Based on the frequency of responses and comments, two of four neighborhoods (N1 and N2) indicated stormwater management and flood control to be their most important issue, although it still ranked high in both N3 and N4.

Pedestrian mobility and safety was also priority issue for each of the neighborhoods. Although specific comments varied, each neighborhood was concerned about sidewalks and crosswalks. The most commonly cited concern was in regard to the previous TCDII policy which sought to establish sidewalks throughout the Village on at least one side of each local street. Participants, groups and neighborhoods all varied in opinion over this policy, with some suggesting it would impact neighborhoods and others stating it was necessary for pedestrian mobility and safety. Other comments related to pedestrian safety in Downtown a community-wide concern for pedestrian safety at railroad crossings and underpasses.

Street repairs and poor roadway conditions were also identified as important issues within the Village by workshop groups. So too was traffic congestion, access and circulation, all of which were considered by many to be top issues facing the community.

A summary of each neighborhood area’s infrastructure related issues and concerns are presented in the tables below.

Neighborhood 1: Infrastructure Issues or Concerns - 26 responses	Count
Stormwater / Flood Management	8
Sidewalks / Pedestrian Safety	6
Access & Circulation / Traffic	4
Street Repairs	3
Utilities	3
Public Transportation	1
Street Lighting	1

Neighborhood 2: Infrastructure Issues or Concerns - 57 responses	Count
Stormwater / Flood Management	20
Sidewalks / Pedestrian Safety / Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure	10
Street Repairs	10
Access & Circulation / Traffic	9
Utilities	4
Public Transportation	1
Sewer	1
Street Lighting	1
Traffic Safety	1

Neighborhood 3: Infrastructure Issues or Concerns - 94 responses	Count
Sidewalks / Pedestrian Safety/ Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure	24
Stormwater / Flood Management	22
Street Repairs	16
Access & Circulation / Traffic	13
Utilities	6
Maintenance	5
Traffic Safety	4
Public Transportation	3
Street Lighting	1

Neighborhood 4: Infrastructure Issues or Concerns - 40 responses	Count
Street Repairs	11
Sidewalks / Pedestrian Safety / Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure	8
Stormwater / Flood Management	8
Traffic Safety	5
Access & Circulation / Traffic	4
Utilities	2
Parking	1
Public Transportation	1

Economic Development

The category of Economic Development generally incorporates issues or concerns related to the health of the Village’s business community and commercial districts. Comments frequently concerned commercial development, commercial district enhancement, and business expansion and retention efforts.

Retail mix was identified as a significant issue in each neighborhood area. Comments regarding retail mix often involved calling for a particular type of store or restaurant or reference to the existing mix of businesses in Downers Grove. Several comments also called specifically for a downtown grocery store. If grocery store comments are

combined with general retail mix comments, this topic becomes the most significant issue community-wide.

With the exception of comments regarding retail mix, economic development comments varied widely by neighborhood with no single issue consistently identified across all neighborhood groups. Commercial vacancies were the most significant issue in Neighborhood 4, but this issue was not a priority in any other neighborhood. On the other hand, the related topic of redevelopment, including project suggestions and inquiries, received few comments in Neighborhood 4, but was a major concern in Neighborhoods 1 and 3 respectively.

Residents in Neighborhoods 2 and 3 frequently commented on business development, offering suggestions related to development incentives, slowing business turnover and the general need to attract and retain businesses. Comments related to special events were significant in Neighborhood 1 with the majority of these comments related to Heritage Fest or holding additional events to bring traffic to Downtown.

A summary of each neighborhood area’s economic development related issues and concerns is presented in the tables below.

Neighborhood 1: Economic Development Issues or Concerns - 22 responses	Count
Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions	7
Events	4
Retail Mix	3
Beautification	2
Commercial Vacancies	2
Signage	2
Business Development	1
Downtown Grocery	1

Neighborhood 2: Economic Development Issues or Concerns - 38 responses	Count
Retail Mix	7
Business Development	6
Parking	5
Signage	5
Beautification	4
Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions	4
Downtown Grocery	3
Events	3
Commercial Vacancies	1

Neighborhood 3: Economic Development Issues or Concerns - 47 responses	Count
Retail Mix	10
Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions	9
Business Development	8
Downtown Grocery	7
Events	5
Commercial Vacancies	3
Signage	3
Beautification	1
Parking	1

Neighborhood 4: Economic Development Issues or Concerns - 39 responses	Count
Commercial Vacancies	11
Retail Mix	11
Parking	5
Events	3
Beautification	2
Business Development	2
Downtown Grocery	2
Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions	2
Retail Hours	1

Residential

Residential comments generally relate to issues affecting the quality of life within the Village’s neighborhoods. The majority of comments made by residents in this category were in regards to residential development, community character, and housing diversity.

The use of development controls was a major issue in all four neighborhood areas. Residents indicated a need for stronger controls on land development and redevelopment through better use of tools such as zoning and design guidelines. These comments were often mentioned in relation to issues with new or renovated housing not fitting in with the surrounding structures. Related to this topic, residents also indicated a concern with the enforcement of existing codes and ordinances. This topic was the most significant issue for Neighborhood 1.

Tree protection and preservation was the most significant concern in Neighborhood 3, but was not a significant issue in any other neighborhood. Neighborhood 3 residents also considered the issue of law enforcement to be an important issue as did residents of Neighborhood 1. The majority of these comments related to parking and traffic enforcement on local streets.

General comments indicating a need to preserve neighborhood or community character were significant in Neighborhoods 2 and 4. Though community character was not explicitly indicated to be a significant issue in Neighborhoods 1 or 3, residents in these areas frequently commented on a need for improved code enforcement to minimize the negative impacts of new development on existing character.

Comments related to housing diversity, including topics such as housing affordability, senior housing, residential density were also common, particularly among residents of Neighborhood 4.

A summary of each neighborhood area’s residential related issues and concerns is presented in the tables below.

Neighborhood 1: Residential Issues or Concerns - 15 responses	Count
Development Controls	4
Code Enforcement	3
Law Enforcement	3
Teardowns	3
Housing Affordability	1
Senior Housing	1

Neighborhood 2: Residential Issues or Concerns - 36 responses	Count
Community Character	6
Development Controls	6
Housing Affordability	6
Permitting & Zoning	5
Nuisance	3
Teardowns	3
Law Enforcement	2
Code Enforcement	1
Housing Vacancies	1
Satisfied	1
Senior Housing	1
Tree Protection	1

Neighborhood 3: Residential Issues or Concerns - 55 responses	Count
Law Enforcement	9
Tree Protection	9
Development Controls	7
Code Enforcement	6
Housing Vacancies	6
Nuisance	6
Community Character	4
Housing Affordability	3
Teardowns	3
Permitting & Zoning	1
Senior Housing	1

Neighborhood 4: Residential Issues or Concerns - 43 responses	Count
Nuisance	6
Community Character	5
Permitting & Zoning	5
Development Controls	4
Housing Affordability	4
Housing Density	4
Housing Vacancies	4
Law Enforcement	4
Teardowns	2
Tree Protection	2
Code Enforcement	1
Parking	1
Public Safety	1

Public Services & Facilities

Public Services and Facilities is one of the more diverse discussion categories, because the Village offers a wide range of services in numerous facilities. As a result, few dominant issues emerged from the residents’ comments pertaining to public services and facilities.

Overall, the proposed construction of a new Village Hall and Police Station was the most significant public services and facilities issue within the community. Many of these comments were calls for the Village to make a better argument for the need of a facility. Some of the residents’ comments regarding the proposed Village Hall and Police Station related to poor lines of communication between the Village and residents. The topic of communication and outreach was a significant issue in three of the four neighborhoods (N1, N2, and N3).

Many residents also commented on the local recycling program which was a major issue in Neighborhoods 1, 2 and 3. Comments typically consisted of requests for things such as an expanded recycling program, larger bins, or an annual electronics recycling day.

Other significant issues were unique to one or two neighborhoods. For example:

- Residents of Neighborhood 4 indicated that snow removal was a significant issue.
- Public safety was of notable concern in Neighborhoods 1 and 2.

A summary of each neighborhood area’s public services and facilities related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent tables.

Neighborhood 1: Public Services & Facilities Issues or Concerns - 20 responses	Count
Communication/Outreach	4
Public Safety	4
Leaf Collection	3
Recycling	3
Snow Removal	2
Village Hall / Police Station	2
Community Facilities	1
Library	1

Neighborhood 2: Public Services & Facilities Issues or Concerns - 41 responses	Count
Recycling	6
Village Hall / Police Station	6
Communication/Outreach	4
Public Safety	4
Satisfied	4
Leaf Collection	3
Snow Removal	3
Technology	3
Parking	2
Post Office	2
Village Administration	2
Library	1
Refuse Removal	1

Neighborhood 3: Public Services & Facilities Issues or Concerns - 60 responses	Count
Communication/Outreach	16
Village Hall / Police Station	8
Recycling	6
Village Administration	6
Refuse Removal	5
Public Safety	4
Leaf Collection	3
Community Facilities	2
Library	2
Pool	2
Post Office	2
Parking	1
Satisfied	1
Services	1
Snow Removal	1

Neighborhood 4: Public Services & Facilities Issues or Concerns - 30 responses	Count
Village Hall / Police Station	9
Snow Removal	6
Community Facilities	3
Public Safety	3
Satisfied	3
Leaf Collection	2
Services	2
Communication/Outreach	1
Refuse Removal	1

Neighborhood 1: Parks & Recreation Issues or Concerns - 19 responses	Count
Parks & Rec Programming	6
Pool	4
Park Amenities	3
Satisfied	2
Parking	1
Parks & Rec Maintenance	1
Park Sites	1
Paths	1

Neighborhood 2: Parks & Recreation Issues or Concerns - 28 responses	Count
Pool	7
Parks & Rec Maintenance	5
Park Amenities	4
Parks & Rec Programming	4
Park Sites	3
Paths	2
Park	1
Park Lighting	1
Satisfied	1

Neighborhood 3: Parks & Recreation Issues or Concerns - 38 responses	Count
Parks & Rec Programming	9
Pool	9
Park Amenities	6
Park Sites	5
Parks & Rec Maintenance	4
Paths	4
Park Lighting	1

Neighborhood 4: Parks & Recreation Issues or Concerns - 24 responses	Count
Pool	8
Paths	4
Park Lighting	3
Park Sites	2
Parks & Rec Maintenance	2
Parks & Rec Programming	2
Satisfied	2
Park Amenities	1

Parks & Recreation

The category of Parks and Recreation generally incorporates issues or concerns related to the creation, expansion and maintenance of the Village’s parks and recreation facilities as well as the programs and amenities offered at those facilities. While comments related to parks and recreation varied widely, there were some items that were given universal attention by residents.

The construction of a public pool was the issue receiving the most overall comments by residents. This issue was a top priority in all four neighborhood areas. Though opinions were generally split on the matter, several called for some type of formal vote on the subject to settle the matter indefinitely.

As indicated by the number of related comments, programming at parks and recreational facilities was the most significant issue in Neighborhoods 1 and 3. These comments typically included suggestions for new programs or the expansion of existing offerings as well as criticisms of those offerings.

Residents also frequently commented on park amenities. These comments most often included suggestions for additional facilities such as public restrooms in certain parks, a spray park, baseball fields, a skate park, or synthetic turf fields. The topic of park amenities was a significant issue for residents in three of four neighborhoods (N1, N2, and N3).

A summary of each neighborhood area’s parks and recreation related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent tables.



Educational

The Education category generally incorporates issues or concerns related to the administration and performance of local school districts and the creation, expansion and maintenance of their facilities. This category encompasses a variety of topics such as course and program recommendations, maintenance issues, parking needs, school finances, district boundaries, and faculty and educational standards.

The courses and programs offered at Downers Grove schools were the most frequently commented on education topic by residents. This was a significant issue for residents in all four neighborhood areas. Comments on courses and programs were chiefly comprised of suggestions for new classes, amended curriculum requirements, after school programs.

Concerns related to school administration were significant in Neighborhoods 3 and 4. These comments were often related to the length of school days or

the academic year, teacher compensation, issues with the school board, or disputed school policies. Maintaining high educational standards throughout the Village of Downers Grove was indicated to be important issue among the residents of Neighborhoods 1 and 4. Comments from residents of Neighborhoods 2 or 3 typically focused more on the continued need for quality school faculty and staff.

A summary of each neighborhood area's education related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent tables.



Neighborhood 1: Education Issues or Concerns - 13 responses		Count
Courses/Programs		3
Educational Standards		2
Satisfied		2
School Maintenance		2
Parking		1
School Administration		1
School Finances		1
Volunteerism		1

Neighborhood 2: Education Issues or Concerns - 28 responses		Count
Courses/Programs		11
School District Boundaries		3
School Finances		4
Higher Education		2
School Administration		2
School Faculty & Staff		2
School Maintenance		2
Educational Standards		1
Satisfied		1

Neighborhood 3: Education Issues or Concerns - 41 responses		Count
School Administration		14
Courses/Programs		9
School Maintenance		4
School Faculty & Staff		3
School Finances		3
School District Boundaries		2
School Facilities		2
Transparency		2
Educational Standards		1
Parking		1

Neighborhood 4: Education Issues or Concerns - 21 responses		Count
Courses/Programs		8
Educational Standards		4
School Administration		3
School Facilities		2
School Finances		2
Satisfied		1
Transparency		1

Neighborhood 1: Financial Issues or Concerns - 14 responses	Count
Funding / Revenue	6
Budget Adjustments - Expenditures	3
Taxes	3
Financial Planning	2

Neighborhood 2: Financial Issues or Concerns - 15 responses	Count
Financial Planning	4
Taxes	4
Funding / Revenue	3
Transparency	3
Satisfied	1

Neighborhood 3: Financial Issues or Concerns - 28 responses	Count
Taxes	8
Transparency	8
Funding / Revenue	6
Budget Adjustments - Expenditures	3
Coordination	1
Financial Planning	1
Satisfied	1

Neighborhood 4: Financial Issues or Concerns - 25 responses	Count
Taxes	6
Funding / Revenue	6
Budget Adjustments - Expenditures	5
Financial Planning	3
Transparency	3
Coordination	2

Financial

Comments within the Financial category relate to the Village budget, revenues and expenditures, and the current state of the economy. Comments within this category were generally more focused with a few topics receiving the majority of comments.

The issue of taxes was the most commented on financial issue overall among residents and was a significant issue in all four neighborhood areas. The majority of these comments were calls for assessment and property tax adjustments in light of the recent economic downturn. Some also indicated a general concern with the local cost of living.

Residents indicated a concern with potential declines in retail sales tax dollars and made comments related to the identification of new or expanded sources of Village revenue. The issue of funding and revenue was the most significant issue among residents of Neighborhoods 1 and 2 and was also significant in Neighborhoods 3 and 4. Many comments were suggestions for new funding sources including TIF or fee-based services for some services currently paid for by tax revenue.

In addition to identifying new sources of revenue, residents called for the need to amend the budget to reduce expenditures. Budget adjustment recommendations were an important concern in Neighborhoods 1, 3, and 4. While budget changes were not explicitly called for by residents of Neighborhood 2, a related improvement in financial planning was the most significant concern among this group.

The need for greater transparency was also identified as a significant issue among residents and was the most important issue among N3 residents.

A summary of each neighborhood area's finance related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent tables.

Compiled Results from Neighborhood Workshops

The table on the following pages (page 33 through page 66) presents a detailed summary of each of the comments received at the Neighborhood Workshops, sorted by Neighborhood Number.

Comment	Category	General Subject
Neighborhood 1 Compiled Results		
Stormwater detention: a) in gullies, now full - maintenance, clean leaves; b) new houses are causing problems - 80% land covetttrage	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Sidewalks - Quality of installations - sod in fill, etc.	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Roads deteriorating - on Ogden, others	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Need sanitary sewers north of Ogden encourage folks to do	Infrastructure	Sewer
Stormwater management (streets with storm sewers that are not properly maintained)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Pedestrians have difficulty crossing Ogden Avenue	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Streets & curbs need to be replaced in Orchard Brook (Arrow Wood Lane)	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Stormwater Drainage: yards flooding, also streets; Orchard Brook, 40th & Sterling; West of Highland on Barnsewood; Seely & Virginia	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Transportation - maintain/expand Village bus service	Infrastructure	Public Transportation
Traffic: flow; congestion (Egress from Budington Hglds to Ogden)	Infrastructure	Traffic
Streets & Sidewalks: Curbs (repair & replace); Potholes (resurfacing)	Infrastructure	Sidewalks - Maintenance
Public utilities: electrical (frequent outages); aging water mains	Infrastructure	Utilities
Storm sewer - Shady Lane, pitched downward into the subdivision sewers get clogged w/water & need to clean out	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Sanitary sewer - Burlington Highlands, do not force to have b/c it's cost prohibitive for many residents - ok if at least a large % of infrastructure is paid by Village	Infrastructure	Sewer
Street maintenance - potholes on Ogden & streets in general	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Frontage Rd parallel to Butterfield south side near I-88 entrance	Infrastructure	Traffic
Stoplight at Ogden & Downers or vicinity balance against	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Sidewalks no 40th near Seely wouldn't be used balance against safety	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Non-clogging grates, proper drainage, need covers for water to pass through but	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Proper sized drainage	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management

Comment	Category	General Subject
Curbing improper materials & pitch to road, Flooding on Barnsewood across from pond	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Dakota Plan - What happened at Ogden & Belmont? Ugly, ugly & cut down any landscaping. Power mart has zero landscaping & cut all existing	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Ogden Avenue ugly, needs improvement	Economic Development	Beautification
Get quality of tenant - Tattoo shops/spa	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Car dealers + & --, Good for taxes	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Need to create more conformity on signage/Ogden	Economic Development	Signage
Office/retail, luxury apts behind Home depot is OK	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Status of Ogden Avenue Redevelopment, some progress, but not enough	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Effect of Econ. Dev. On congestion/traffic/buses	Infrastructure	Traffic
N of I-88 - Review best uses of space	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Economic development is a good thing, but need more transparency & communication - Recruit development, but within rules - sign ordinances	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Old junk yard (Lee & Ogden), status?	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
NW corner Cumnor & Ogden - old dry cleaner & gas station is an eyesore; people try to rent by calling # but no response	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
On Ogden; try for one more aesthetically pleasing signage w/o being too cumbersome on businesses; additional work on landscaping needed	Economic Development	Signage
Street signs are wonderful!	Economic Development	Beautification
A shoe store for men's, women's & children anywhere	Economic Development	Retail Mix
What happened to Aldi and apartment development at Ogden and Lee; what are future plans	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Attract businesses (tax incentive) to Butterfield & Highland	Economic Development	Business Development
Need grocery store in town	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Ogden Avenue vacancies	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Street lighting	Infrastructure	Street Lighting
Village hall needs to be replaced	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Snow plow sidewalks	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Like free leaf pick-up & happy with new garbage service, but could they wait until 7:30 am	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Don't wait 'till Thanksgiving for street sweeping	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Snow plowing is good	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Village hall is new one necessary?	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Happy to see police patrols on side streets and attempts to slow traffic into hospital - maybe speed bumps.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Fire department and paramedic calls are good. Nice to see them in pairs.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Educating public on how to deal with wild animals: coyotes, foxes, etc.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Encourage neighborhood associations to increase involvement (very few people come to this meeting!)	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach

Comment	Category	General Subject
Recycling – Electronics, hazardous material, more amnesty days	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Continue fall free leaf pick-up	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Amnesty day 2 times a year – fall and spring	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Keep refuse sticker costs reasonable; thank you for free recycling; New recycling bins	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Ambulance & fire dept. & police services are good/respectful – if not an emergency, follow rules of the road	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Better traffic control/enforcement on main thoroughfares and through Orchard Brook	Residential	Law Enforcement
Enforce quiet zones around Good Sam – typically Ambulances etc. from Lombard	Residential	Law Enforcement
Put pool to the vote of a binding referendum. Can it truly support itself? Make it affordable	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Park District has good affordable programs, but limited options for working parents	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Carefully listen to neighbors adjacent to parks before making changes or enhancements	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Provide more activities for pre-teens and teenagers (e.g. athletic events or drop-in programs)	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Make Lyman Woods less restrictive; e.g. cross country ski or "mountain" bike	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Parks need to rake their leaves – they fill up their sewers	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Rec center is great	Parks & Recreation	Satisfied
Pool is an open issue, plus and minus some want it, some not	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Never enough baseball, soccer fields – land locked. Can we coordinate more with school fields, can we shield neighbors from lighting?	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Library needs way to do more artistic stuff. Rooms fill quickly, Lincoln Center is inadequate.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Library
Need additional playing fields	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Community pool needed	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Bike trails needed	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Organized/supervised youth facility	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Utilize existing facilities for performing arts	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Lack of parking at Doerhoeffer Park	Parks & Recreation	Parking
Lack of public pool – but not a water park	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Encourage recreational use of retention ponds (developed as part of stormwater project)	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
Develop & publicize more adult recreation opportunities.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Develop a dog park, or areas within existing parks.	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Properly funding the schools (in relation to over-all market conditions)	Education	School Finances
Maintain high quality of education in order to maintain high property value	Education	Educational Standards
Pierce Downer needs a larger parking lot	Education	Parking

Comment	Category	General Subject
Ability to have all day kindergarten should it be mandatory or optional?	Education	Courses/Programs
Teachers & aides are hard working! Crossing guards, lunch moms are fabulous volunteers. Great volunteers all around!	Education	Satisfied
Need better maintenance - roofs. Also, admin. Service center needs help.	Education	School Maintenance
Need volunteer help/spirit for schools	Education	Volunteerism
Like "Select 58" - What 58 students have done for the community	Education	Courses/Programs
COD is good	Education	Courses/Programs
Happy with high schools	Education	Satisfied
Maintenance of school building in a down economy	Education	School Maintenance
Excellent schools are an asset to our community and support property values. Need to maintain this.	Education	Educational Standards
Controlling footprint of new/remodeled housing ("shoe horning")	Residential	Development Controls
Maintaining appearance - External housekeeping; Enforce codes; Made worse by increased foreclosures	Residential	Code Enforcement
Fear that increased density brings social/crime issues	Residential	Development Controls
Streetlights & sidewalks lacking in some areas - Burlington Highlands	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Maintain walkability of neighborhoods - Cars block sidewalks	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Managing redevelopment, by being aware of over-building, possibly resulting in increase of surface water	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Limit teardowns in order to maintain affordable housing and reduce storm sewer issues	Residential	Teardowns
Address monstrous house issue (height for example); have houses fit into the neighborhood	Residential	Development Controls
Consistent & realistic code enforcement, implementation w/o curbing a property owner's desire to improve their property	Residential	Code Enforcement
Easily identifiable person/easier method to get the correct department regarding residential issues	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Height out of the ground - foundation too high	Residential	Development Controls
Too many teardowns, period. Teardowns are too big!	Residential	Teardowns
Consistency of code enforcement on rebuilds/remodels	Residential	Code Enforcement
Affordable housing is a pipe dream with \$200,000 lots - can't accomplish this	Residential	Housing Affordability
Letting teardowns escape with not observing ordinance - cheating	Residential	Teardowns
Senior residential between Peace Manor and their own house	Residential	Senior Housing
Encourage more economic development to increase tax revenues.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Current downturn is creating revenue shortfalls, need long term solutions to reduce this impact.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Availability of federal stimulus funds for Downers Grove?	Financial	Funding / Revenue
How do we keep taxes low? How can we review everything/prioritize everything that the town spends on. Zero based budgeting!	Financial	Taxes

Comment	Category	General Subject
How can we contract our government to meet our income.	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Some way to get revenue without impacting home owners.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
How can we learn to save money, not spend.	Financial	Financial Planning
Need more women in government with tight purse strings.	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Taxes in TIF area can go up if property value goes up.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Consider more long term planning as opposed to smaller "piece meal" projects - will	Financial	Financial Planning
When value of property goes down, the assessed value still goes up. Make easier to work w/township to reassess	Financial	Taxes
Will the continuing development of Highland landmark benefit us from a tax perspective in any way?	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Prioritize capital projects on a necessary basis	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Do all we can to keep property taxes down (to attract buyers)	Financial	Taxes
Friday night car show is a benefit to downtown	Economic Development	Events
Give incentives to vacant buildings	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Enforce speed limits (but no cameras!): Belle Aires; Downers Grove	Residential	Law Enforcement
Need arts center facility	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Community Facilities
Loose the ice festival - waste of \$. Does Heritage Fest make money? Really??	Economic Development	Events
Education: Field trip to Springfield, IL - Substitute for some of the other field trips (Lincoln Library add)	Education	School Administration
Parades are a plus - Sileut Parade, Memorial Day, good for the community	Economic Development	Events
Shops & restaurants & events in the downtown during the summer are a pleasant thing	Economic Development	Events
Golf course is a nice place - so is the Tivoli	Parks & Recreation	Satisfied
Neighborhood 2 Compiled Results		
Potholes/Street Improvement	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Street lights too infrequent in the neighborhood	Infrastructure	Street Lighting
Curtiss Street should be 2-way	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Stormwater drainage specifically the result of new construction/tear down in the existing neighborhoods & loss of open space	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Sanitary District continue to replace and update connections to main system and make public aware of program	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Make public aware of status of changes to stormwater system - we know the Village is working on improvement but give specifics	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
New construction sump pumps!!!	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Stormwater - retention/neighbors pumping into street/ fees?	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Power lines - Should be buried	Infrastructure	Utilities
Road resurfacing --> some need actual rebuilding, not patching	Infrastructure	Street Repairs

Comment	Category	General Subject
Belmont underpass --> should open up the Belmont area as another commercial area	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Stormwater - Codes need to be re-evaluated	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Train Station - Overall maintenance of sidewalks & platform	Infrastructure	Sidewalks - Maintenance
Ped & Bicycle friendly infrastructure	Infrastructure	Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure
Electricity - Reliable service	Infrastructure	Utilities
Cable competition	Infrastructure	Utilities
Stormwater Drainage - need a better detention and mitigation plan; code enforcement or stormwater routing	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Street surface repair - repair cycle more frequent or assessment better	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Belmont traffic maintenance - prohibit excess traffic on streets parallel to Belmont - speed maintenance, peak hour restrictions	Infrastructure	Traffic
Ogden Avenue repair - need curb and	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Emergency Telephone contacts for water, storm, electrical concerns. Hotline.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Condition of primary streets in town. E.g. Prairie, Rogers	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Water drainage infrastructure	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Residential landscaping that inhibits proper drainage or creates water issues for neighboring homes	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Preserve and maintain brick street area to maintain charm and historic character	Residential	Community Character
Lack of safety procedures and directives for train-related accidents and potentially hazardous conditions for residents living near tracks	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Roads deteriorating as are sidewalks	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Stormwater management is it progressing	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Railroad tracks crossing. During construction what about safety for citizens. Is there a way to contain the dust and all other pollution it produces.	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Sidewalks on Ogden seem to be mandatory, certainly necessary	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Permit costs for absolutely every little project and so expensive.	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
Fix the roads - Fill the potholes.	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Press IDOT to fix Ogden	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Luxury motors need to install an overpass on Ogden for their salesmen	Infrastructure	Traffic
Fix the flooding	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
No economic development at the cost of housing and neighborhoods	Residential	Community Character
Business is encroaching too much on the housing	Residential	Community Character
Don't expand commercial until existing stores are full	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Ogden Avenue beautification	Economic Development	Beautification
Accessibility issues (sidewalks/Ogden Ave)	Infrastructure	Sidewalks - Accessibility

Comment	Category	General Subject
Village needs incentives for business --> Diversity of businesses --> Beautification of buildings	Economic Development	Business Development
Downtown business - anchor store/get people to shop (advertise)	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Ogden Avenue - all of it	Economic Development	Beautification
Ogden - Getting & retaining businesses	Economic Development	Business Development
Ogden - Sidewalks, in neighborhoods too	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Signs	Economic Development	Signage
North of tracks - Downtown - lack of identity	Economic Development	Beautification
Downtown land uses - grocery store or small market	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Ogden Avenue businesses - limited parking/need to diversify	Economic Development	Parking
Parking garage	Economic Development	Parking
Ogden avenue cleanup	Economic Development	Beautification
Signs and sign codes	Economic Development	Signage
Businesses on Ogden Ave come & go like Ky Fried Chicken etc.	Economic Development	Business Development
Patronage often dependent on how accessible parking attached is	Economic Development	Parking
What for senior access, pedestrian lanes, etc.	Infrastructure	Sidewalks - Accessibility
Diversity of businesses on Ogden. Why so many banks?	Economic Development	Retail Mix
No pedestrian access across Ogden Ave. take life in hand crossing by foot.	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Downtown not cater to anything for Senior easy access, Pkg difficult	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Bicycle lane seems disjointed (& not developed)	Infrastructure	Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure
Lack of variety among Downtown retail stores - No grocery store, shoe store	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Too much dependence on car dealerships on Ogden Ave - For tax revenue, esp in current economic environment	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Development of the Fairview Station area retail district	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Loss of major retailers - E.g. Expo & failure to attract new ones in their place	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Eventual Belmont Crossing retail development	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Balance between improvement of downtown while keeping a residential feel	Residential	Community Character
Grocery store in downtown area	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Teardowns versus harmonizing w/neighborhood	Residential	Teardowns
Improving downtown businesses	Economic Development	Business Development
Continue to bring add'l tenants into existing bldgs (office space in Highland)	Economic Development	Business Development
As properties are developed along Ogden continue with add'l 'green' space areas, parking	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Downtown needs grocery/gen'l merchandise stores	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Study possibility of national tenants locating downtown	Economic Development	Retail Mix

Comment	Category	General Subject
Trash - we support bigger recycle bins	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Public washrooms in parks	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Snowplowing - could improve	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Consolidate fleet maintenance from VH to Public Works	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Consolidate VH and PW	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Garbage - recycling bins on wheels	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Overall public services - Table is satisfied	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Satisfied
Free leaf pick-up (like other communities)	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Improved technology - more video recording of council meeting on website - not just mp3s	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Technology
Fire dept. - is there a user fee for paramedic?	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
It seems there are many fire trucks that respond to calls - is all this "man power" needed (of course we understand the extent of the emergency is unknown at the time of the call)	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
New police facility - explore a multi-use facility	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Is the village hall siting on very valuable land?	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
New police dept.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Voting @ schools is a concern	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Administration
Not enough recycling bins in downtown & parks	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Leaf collection	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Broader recycling program & toters	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Retain village hall (new or existing) in its current central location	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
ARC Disposal Service - Reduced categories of recyclable materials accepted - E.g. styrofoam not acceptable	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
High satisfaction with DG Police and Fire services	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Satisfied
Communication to/from Village - normal everyday problems	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Better cleanout policy - inlets before/after storms	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Better sewer cleanout policy - notification of sewer cleanout days	Infrastructure	Sewer
Leaf pickup vacuuming / brush pickup	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Licensing system for vendors - lawn care, contractors, publish list of approval	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Administration
Past office has become inaccessible & total nuisance to search for a mailbox. Who ever heard of no mailbox anywhere & no signs to direct to one near one's post office. Most of us go to the very accessible Lisle P.O.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Post Office
Police always good & respond well	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Satisfied
Block between Puffer & train never plowed well	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Kudos to Fire Dept., Police, paramedics, Public Works	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Satisfied
Are seatbelt stops overdone	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
More Downtown parking - Especially @ library	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Parking

Comment	Category	General Subject
Better traffic control on side streets	Infrastructure	Traffic
More police presence in neighborhoods instead of stacking & harassing drivers on Ogden for cash to finance their new bldg.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Mark clear the curbs near fire hydrants for no parking	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Parking
Enforce parking laws for more revenue	Residential	Law Enforcement
Kudos for parks & well cared for	Parks & Recreation	Satisfied
The more walking paths the better	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Barth & Prince Ponds seem a bit dangerous w/sloping. May be a safety issue.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Great programs in recreation	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Lap pool could make rec. ctr. Complete source of workouts	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Heritage Fest seems too big now & lost family focus	Economic Development	Events
Downers Grove Pool - support for; concern for costs associated w/personnel	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Limited adult/child programming	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Dislike lottery system for classes at PD	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
McCullum Park access/egress improvement - internal circulation and parking, potential signal and turn lanes	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Neighborhood Park sign and traffic - standards control, evaluate and recommend standard signage and traffic calming on neighborhood streets	Economic Development	Signage
Eliminate policy of using park property for commercial purposes --> Cell phone towers	Parks & Recreation	Park
Eliminate night illumination of cell phone tower in Hummer Park	Parks & Recreation	Park Lighting
Create a binding pool referendum to bring closure to the debate	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Create a mature tree protection policy in our parks	Residential	Tree Protection
Removal of playground equipment at Hummer Park	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Too much spent on replacement equipment	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Outdoor pool?	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Continue upkeep of existing parks and the park district programming	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Keep the green space - is there any add'l land to acquire	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
Keep looking at pool options	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Street bike paths are confusing and dangerous	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Some park district classes seem to cost too much	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Some parks seem to be replaced earlier than necessary maybe which a waste of taxpayer money	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
The pool issue - lack of a public pool	Parks & Recreation	Pool
High number of pocket parks with no obvious purpose and few big parks that serve the larger community	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
Lack of soccer fields in DG - no facility for that specific sport	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
Continued stormwater remediation projects between DGPD & VODG - great job would like to see more	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Bathrooms in park	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities

Comment	Category	General Subject
Increase utilization of Fischel Park safety issues (policing)	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Dog park	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Pool	Parks & Recreation	Pool
We want a big sledding hill	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Foster the relationship between park district / DG58 such as the evening at O'Neill/Fitness Night	Education	Courses/Programs
How should the needed physical repairs to the schools be paid for?	Education	School Maintenance
Are the public schools promoting their accomplishments? We have signs re: Olympians, what about the Blue Ribbon School?	Education	School Administration
Facility improvements	Education	School Maintenance
Overcrowding (elementary schools) reevaluate school boundaries	Education	School District Boundaries
Foreign language available for more children K-8	Education	Courses/Programs
Technology as a line item on the budget	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Technology
Broadband access in all schools	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Technology
Get rid of Everyday Math @ Dist 58	Education	Courses/Programs
Unify 58 & 99 to cut administrative cost	Education	School District Boundaries
More transparency with the gifted programs	Education	School Finances
More funding & support for IEP students	Education	School Finances
High quality schools	Education	Satisfied
Televis board meeting like other gov't bodies in town - more financial transparency is a must from the school districts	Education	Transparency
Promote stronger relationships between high school students & companies in DG	Education	Courses/Programs
Work education for parents on the safety programs in the schools - whatever children are learning, parents should learn	Education	Courses/Programs
Is adult literacy being addressed as well as it could be?	Education	Courses/Programs
Midwestern Univ. doesn't seem integrated into our town, so unlike North Central in Naperville. Many people not aware of its existence even. Shouldn't we be interactive even though its private.	Education	Higher Education
Many of our educators don't live here & not a part of our community. Can't we hire our own residents to make children aware of caring for our own community.	Education	School Faculty & Staff
Rotate teachers & principals to share talent	Education	School Faculty & Staff
Provide additional resources to underperforming schools	Education	School Finances
Redraw Puffer & Pierce Downer boundaries to equalize enrollments	Education	School District Boundaries
Retain College of DuPage as a 2 year institution	Education	Higher Education
Review school crossings at major thoroughfares to maintain safety	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Early childhood foreign language access - at schools, paid volunteers	Education	Courses/Programs
Competition btw. Friends of Gifted/Frog and PD programs and sporting clubs - help FROG get program out - market it and program out sooner	Education	Courses/Programs

Comment	Category	General Subject
Develop consistent math curriculum policy - one that doesn't require curriculum changes from school to school and grade to grade	Education	Courses/Programs
Math/Science hands on - high school mentoring of jr. high and 5th/6th - allow student better access to science, labs, facilities	Education	Courses/Programs
Summer HS class diversification and broadening for greater experience	Education	Courses/Programs
No child left behind needs to be "left behind"	Education	Educational Standards
District 58 should have greater differentiation (ala district 99)	Education	School Administration
New housing stock to take into account the existing neighborhoods - Land to bldg ratio, setbacks, etc. (water run-off...) less trees, less habitat....	Residential	Development Controls
Explore "green" landscaping - native plants, less hardscape, rain barrel, offer incentives to change "turf", leaf blowing....	Residential	Development Controls
Rain barrel incentive??	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Stormwater codes for new construction	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Teardown rules --> Codes pertaining to size of new homes (footprint)	Residential	Teardowns
Affordable housing	Residential	Housing Affordability
Preserve unique character of individual neighborhoods	Residential	Community Character
Maintain diversity of housing stock to accommodate diverse income levels	Residential	Housing Affordability
Impact fees to offset damage to local street by developers	Residential	Development Controls
Restrict higher grading and lot coverage (footprint) to minimize loss of permeable land for drainage - Offer tax credits for people building w/permeable surface materials	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Stormwater	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Streets	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Taxes	Financial	Taxes
"Active Sr." Housing	Residential	Senior Housing
Teardowns versus harmonizing w/neighborhood	Residential	Teardowns
Potholes/Street Repairs	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Zoning commission inequities and difficulty in working with code service	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
All sidewalks should be shoveled	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
No more McMansions	Residential	Development Controls
Not more lot variances to fit condos and homes that are too big for the lot.	Residential	Development Controls
Current codes allow for houses way too big for the lot contributing to all the flooding. Where can the water go if there is not lot outside the house.	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Tougher rezoning process	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
Fix the flooding	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Limit on building footprint - investigate and recommend limits	Residential	Development Controls

Comment	Category	General Subject
Stormwater and "Impact" fees related to building size and capacity of systems	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Code Enforcement – stricter code enforcement of architecture and structures	Residential	Law Enforcement
Residential Eye Sores – enforcement of outdoor "storage" of cars, lawn equipment, etc. RED TAG em.	Residential	Code Enforcement
NO SKUNK ZONE	Residential	Nuisance
The McMansions are replacing our quaint feel. Out pricing the moderate incomes	Residential	Housing Affordability
Peddlers from outside our community are a nuisance if not scary	Residential	Nuisance
Dealerships test driving cars thru small streets not main roads.	Infrastructure	Traffic
Love everything mostly	Residential	Satisfied
More fiscal responsibility & transparency - all taxing gov't entities; live within means; don't purchase new unless it really needs to be replaced	Financial	Transparency
Implications of TIF expiring (Ogden Ave.) in the future?	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Continue to investigate grants	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Continue the fiscal responsibility that the Village has shown in the past.	Financial	Financial Planning
Getting more & more difficult to buy a house here - too many high-end	Residential	Housing Affordability
Lots of homes vacant & for sale	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Price of permits has become unrealistic/excessive. Don't we want residents to be able to afford upkeep & maintenance of older homes & not just to have to tear down...	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
Water problems/flooding expensive to homeowner	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Equalize the property tax burden between commercial & residential property	Financial	Taxes
Promote the mortgage credit certificate program (IHDA) to help alleviate the foreclosure situation	Residential	Housing Affordability
Affordable housing	Residential	Housing Affordability
Codes need to be easier to allow people to make modest improvements	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
Downtown rents need to be reasonable in order to keep small businesses	Economic Development	Business Development
Are assessments fair & equitable?	Financial	Taxes
Kudos to Village --> Cut budget & were proactive instills confidence in residents	Financial	Satisfied
Reevaluate Dist 58 budgets to account for long range expenditures	Financial	Financial Planning
Potential for increased revenue for services that would be inline w/neighborhood communities	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Village ledger Sheet - Publish simplified version	Financial	Transparency
Review Village Capital Facility Needs	Financial	Transparency
Expand public investment financial planning - What are communities highest priorities	Financial	Financial Planning
Parking Pricing -Re-evaluate pricing policy near train stations and parking charges for out of town permittees.	Economic Development	Parking
No new taxes without a referendum	Financial	Taxes

Comment	Category	General Subject
Live within your budget like everyone else	Financial	Financial Planning
Maintain the integrity of the downtown area. Keep all the services located in the area: post office, village hall, police, library - Not spread out all over town at a price tag the village cannot afford for new bldgs.	Residential	Community Character
Aggressively seek & attract more diverse retail business.	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Recycling center or event within community. Lat year's was fabulous. Will it be repeated.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Can we do away with overhead power lines eventually	Infrastructure	Utilities
Can we have brush chipping available (thru forestry dept.?) twice a year at least for free & not related to our refuse pickup co - ARC	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Refuse Removal
Heritage Fest has gotten too big & pay for shuttle now & parking?	Economic Development	Events
Want to see more village activities - such as "First Night"	Economic Development	Events
Love the library	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Library
Massage parlors & methadone clinic	Residential	Nuisance
Ogden Ave signage still needs to be standardized	Economic Development	Signage
Public transportation	Infrastructure	Public Transportation
Do NOT enact red-light-camera policy in village	Infrastructure	Traffic
Don't like: One way streets in Downtown	Infrastructure	Traffic
Don't like location of parking deck, need one on the north side of tracks	Economic Development	Parking
Don't like lack of drive-up mailboxes near post office	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Post Office
Neighborhood 3 Compiled Results		
Streets - Potholes everywhere	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Unwanted sidewalk planning - if we have to get sidewalks, we want curbs by the sidewalk. Save our trees!	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Stormwater - flooding problems	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Stop signs - yield signs area a false sense of security	Economic Development	Signage
Underpass - on/around Main Street (direct link to Good Sam/police dept.)	Infrastructure	Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure
Reconstruct/repave streets (general comment)	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
St. Joseph Creek conveyance from Brookbank to Barth Pond	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Downtown crosswalks are hazardous since drivers don't stop	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Railroad safety is a problem at Maple.	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Continue sidewalk plan as a necessary public improvement	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Flooding & storm water issues increasing over last few years - Deer Creek Sub. Specifically	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management

Comment	Category	General Subject
Many roads in need of repair --> level roads to manholes, potholes	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Smell of gas coming from in front of Georgian Townhomes on Curtis. Been there for years.	Residential	Nuisance
Power outage/utilities/electrical grid - Surges; Outages	Infrastructure	Utilities
Sidewalks - ongoing issue at the expense of losing trees & natural habitat. Residents didn't have a choice, decision was made for them.	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Traffic Control: Warrenville & Belmont - East on Ogden, SB restricted & not allowed to cross 2 lanes of traffic; Main & 58th left turn lane would be good; Fairview & 55th turning lane --> light at Main & Ogden, north & south very short	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Condition of Roads: Chip & Oil Slurry Road thru 88th breaking down; Washington Clyde to 61st Holes; railroad crossing at Fairview BAD non-grade level crossing of train track	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Bond SB posted for contractor completion of development: 1) Brookbank go south of 55th	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Stormwater 5739 Dunham - Stormwater backs up & floods parking lot (St. Paul Church)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Walkability - Sidewalks in Clyde Estates (East of Main)	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Safety Issues: Crosswalk - Educate people to stop & better entrance blinker lights	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Flooding & Drainage issues: Major issues at 5600 block (5621) flooding; 5572 Main Street flooding/drainage; 6200 Chase flooding & apron issue; 1307 Gilbert (due to Creek: Gate issue); 1232 Gilbert; 110 8th Street Gauge next decreases flooding	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Sidewalks - Each street have area sidewalk but don't cut down trees to build sidewalks	Residential	Tree Protection
Better code enforcement as property lines of general code enforcement clearly	Residential	Code Enforcement
Potholes - over building & over congested	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Flooding esp. from 55th to 56th and Fairview to Main (Deer Creek & St. Joe's creek areas, Plus Belmont square area - 5th)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Drainage - sump pumps empty directly into street and then water pools & ices over in winter	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Do no install sidewalks until water/drainage issues are resolved	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
The Village waits too long to fix roads	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Outreach to neighborhoods affected by major projects: send letter or something to inform them of start & progress	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Better coordination amongst utilities that can affect roads. Several examples of roads being fixed by Village, then ripped up by Comcast/Nicor, etc.	Infrastructure	Utilities
Ogden & Belmont are especially bad	Infrastructure	Traffic
Traffic calming devices needed	Infrastructure	Traffic
Sidewalk improvement still needed	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Lack of project mgt for Public Works projects	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Administration
Flooding and stormwater improvements needed	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management

Comment	Category	General Subject
Road maintenance improvement to curb & gutter throughout village	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Sidewalks 14 ft. from curb (snow) - TCDIII should abolish or modify TCDII "one on one side"	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Streets - wider springside & brookbank between 59th & 63rd	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Increase san sewer sizes	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Red lite cameras	Infrastructure	Traffic
Relocate entrance to new mall north west corner of 63rd & Main	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Underpass at Washington & RR	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Coordinate utility construction with planned resurfacing of streets.	Infrastructure	Utilities
Street repairs - Poor resurfacing quality, poor signage, poor drain design	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Stormwater design and management - Appears that collection/storage capacity not sufficient. Plans not made public (apparently)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
TCD2 stated sidewalks on every street. Construction of new sidewalks may not be cost-effective when street /other repairs may be needed.	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Coordination of improvements (sidewalks/sewers, etc.) done at same time to defray cost increases and provide improvements in a timely manner.	Infrastructure	Utilities
Maintenance especially of previous improvements.	Infrastructure	Maintenance
Crosswalk (especially downtown) costs	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Review sidewalks policy to reconsider priority based upon neighborhood agreement: repeal every street requirement; No trees should be removed, creative design is possible	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Stormwater: Review current policy to correct different neighborhoods; Development control	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Repair road maintenance with priority annuals assessment	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
New development impact on roadway must be at expense of developer	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Oversight: Monitoring by Village must be greater for development projects.	Residential	Code Enforcement
Keep the residential zoning and character of 63rd Street between intersections	Residential	Community Character
Downtown grocery store desired	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Common garbage corral in Downtown to cleanup and open up library alley and other areas	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Refuse Removal
Master plan for desired commercial mix on Ogden, 63rd, Burlington	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Nicer signs on Ogden (Xxxxxx signs all have to be lower); architectural review of signs.	Economic Development	Signage
Ogden - too many small car shops on Ogden; Cheaper square footage; Better landscaping & trees to improve	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Consider reduce sales tax to 7.5% to encourage spending in D.G.	Economic Development	Business Development
New development - No more big buildings downtown, its over built	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
More practical businesses downtown & more affordable restaurants	Economic Development	Retail Mix

Comment	Category	General Subject
Improve traffic flow downtown & parking; limit special events that hurt shops	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Vacant abandoned gas station; Grocery store in downtown	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Meadowbrook Shopping center - Provide incentive to cheap big box store (%)	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Traffic from CUS Auto Main St & 63rd with new store is a concern	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Attract anchor store in downtown; grocery w/Corelo's in Town.	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
What has happened to Ogden Ave redevelopment plan (?)	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Shopping centers Quality - Appear rundown with many empty spaces. Work harder to either rebuild or attract new tenants or remove unused portions.	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Attract more general merchandising (all family member clothing shoes, etc.) rather than niche (boutique) stores especially downtown.	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Smaller grocery food stores, meat markets especially near senior housing areas along with other shops.	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Development along Belmont Ave especially near new underpass	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Work on Ogden Ave redevelopment	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
63rd Street b/w Woodward & Belmont: junky, seedy, won't shop there b/c of safety concerns, concerned about influence of Prentiss Creek on area; make it like Seven Bridge but w/o competing with Downtown	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Parking lots on 75th Street in great need of repair, lots of potholes	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Downtown: Add a grocery/food stop esp. produce store. Great to have a library in the downtown area.	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Condo development & the number unsold - Have approved all of these development & they can't build them until they can pre-sell & sell existing condos. Can't be in the common interest of the Village for all of these to sit empty.	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Grocery store Downtown - People can walk to like an Amici's, Nature's Best, Trader Joe's	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Shopping Centers: Need redevelopment 63rd & Woodward; Highland & Butterfield (by Expo)	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Grocery store in Downtown	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Revitalize shopping area at 63rd & Woodward parking lot needs to be upgraded	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Lower sales tax to help merchants by giving them a competitive advantage	Economic Development	Business Development
More live entertainment at Tivoli to bring in outside revenues	Economic Development	Events
More family oriented stores - reasonably priced - no more boutiques	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Basic staple store i.e. Walgreens downtown for seniors	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Teenage oriented business i.e. Jamba Juice	Economic Development	Retail Mix
No more condos - build only if units are taken	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Maintenance of existing sites before approving new projects (i.e. lone Star "Stone Pile" & Driveways)	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
63rd /Woodward - Village encourage consolidated/ neighborhood centered development	Economic Development	Retail Mix

Comment	Category	General Subject
Keep post office downtown	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Post Office
Review incentives/rebates - "too loose"	Economic Development	Business Development
Mix of use Downtown - grocery	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Improve shopping malls 63rd & Woodward, Fairview & 63rd, 63rd & Main, 75 & Lemont - less concrete, more green viable businesses, Ogden Avenue still need major improvement	Economic Development	Beautification
list of business in Ellworth Park - retail opportunities	Economic Development	Business Development
Improve Taxie Rand on Ogden	Economic Development	Business Development
More diverse businesses in CBD	Economic Development	Business Development
More police patrolling enforcement(Eliner Ave). More patrols (visible) in less active areas.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Cost of new police station seems excessive	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Options for recycling totes (like garbage totes). Totes with covers maybe needed.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Additional alternative fuel municipal vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles for village contractors.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Community Facilities
New building/renovation to current building capital projects should require tax payer approval via referendum	Financial	Transparency
Plows should be speed monitored. Too much salt is dumped. Trucks damage infrastructure.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Drop off zone for children and books at Library. Move commuter parking from Main Street train station to Fairview & Belmont.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Library
Lower parking available to CBD employees.	Economic Development	Parking
New police station - Is it needed? If it is, make it cost efficient & green. Maybe site in industrial area - Meadowbrook	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Village Hall to stay where it is	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Better communication and involvement of public in planning future facilities (Village Hall and police station)	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Village owned or controlled tree nursery to grow our own trees for cost savings. Possible partnership with other large land owners such as schools and park district.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Community Facilities
Uniform toter program for recycling.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
More neighborhood patrols on bikes.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Pro leaf pickup and bury utilities	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Better recycling efforts & Heritage Fest Tuesday concerts - Use PSA's at events and have more recycling containers evident	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
New village hall out of CBD Ellsworth?	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Year-round community pool with cooperative uses	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Pool
DGPD foot/bike patrols in CBD and neighborhoods interacting residents	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Improve communication to citizens - include option to receive email communication instead of paper	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach

Comment	Category	General Subject
Add a new town/city hall - but don't spend too much money! Maybe @ the Meadowbrook Shopping Center on 63rd b/w Woodward & Belmont.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Garbage: People putting their garbage out days early and not getting fined.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Refuse Removal
Good service from public works dept. Police are doing a great job!	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Satisfied
Village sponsored leaf pick-up in fall	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Enforce keeping snow off of sidewalks where children walk to school and in business areas along Ogden Avenue	Residential	Law Enforcement
Pick up garbage before recyclable and yard waste to minimize odors on hot days	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Refuse Removal
Street sweeping more often	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Services
Maintain ditches	Infrastructure	Maintenance
Better enforcement of speeding and DUI's	Residential	Law Enforcement
Lees money for new buildings (police, etc.) & more money on flooding	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Hold off on new public buildings due to economy -- When do build make it an example green building (use solar, etc.)	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Encourage recycling for commercial buildings & village buildings -- coordinate thru Village	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Improve communication to citizens via email & via mail to seniors	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Improve mail boxes to drop off mail	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Post Office
Inclusion of condo homeowners in the Village contract for garbage collection	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Refuse Removal
Request Village to foster a network of condo assns. In DG for the purpose of Education Advocacy	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
New firehouse on Main & 55th done well --> not over the top	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Cable TV rates are out of control - Package it to serve your personal needs	Infrastructure	Utilities
Add on vs. New police station	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Police Station
Skunks - Animal control please get rid of them	Residential	Nuisance
New police facility and/or expanded	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Police Station
Code enforcement - 2 to 6 am parking ban	Residential	Law Enforcement
Recycling - new contractor doesn't accept everything the old one did, like styrofoam plates & items, #6 plastic, etc.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Keep cost of garbage Removal down.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Refuse Removal
We want a public pool.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Pool
Pool: Aquatic park, negotiate with DG xxxxx Club to buy property for a pool in the area where pool already is.	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Bicycle path - improved, safer through village prairie (?)	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Synthetic turf in parks where it makes sense	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities

Comment	Category	General Subject
Neighborhood parks even though they are small, should be acquired & used	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
More lighted fields like Dohoffer	Parks & Recreation	Park Lighting
Park needed west of Bunham	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
Dual purpose parks with water retention below park artificial fields	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
Separate fee schedule with reduced cost for unincorporated residents	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Good goal but bad implementation	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Continue to explore pool privileges at existing facilities (Maple Hill or elsewhere)	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Bike route connectivity, esp. north-south	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Improve communication to all residents for proposed changes to any park, not just immediate neighbors. Web site and email alerts.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Encourage permeable and environmentally friendly paving (permeable pavers, grass, crete)	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Pool - outdoor swimming, not big & fancy	Parks & Recreation	Pool
More concession @ parks w/all-day long sporting events - jobs for kids!!	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Keep our trees! If you have to build sidewalks - build them around the trees	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Enforce no feeding geese	Residential	Law Enforcement
Bike path that's contiguous	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Increase activities for kids - especially evenings.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Ice skating at 59th & Main. Everything is in place. No follow thru.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Establish long term growth program for trees before cutting down non-diseased trees.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Teams using Park district fields that neither team is Downers Grove resident.	Residential	Law Enforcement
Infrastructure: No parking on blind hills; Parking on one side only on busy thoroughfares; i.e. Curtiss, Blodgett, Washington, Forest, Prince ,Lyman, Randall, Webster	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Municipal pool - Vote on ballot so it can be yea/nay with finality	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Use of park areas for flood/stormwater control. Some may need redesign to make water storage area outside of playing areas and accessible (not entire area flooded)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Re-evaluation of park use as neighborhood changes and see if new needs are required	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
No feeding of wildlife in park areas.	Residential	Law Enforcement
Keep Barth Pond for water retention	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Use parks to help w/flood control	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Put time limit on lights for parks - 10 pm	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Increase support of the underground rail road house & make museum more user friendly & xxxxxx programs	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming

Comment	Category	General Subject
Don't build a pool by residential but in open field off Walnut St. north of tracks - make it senior friendly, or build it in Meadowbrook Shopping Center	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Coordination between park & village for unmaintained drainage under Fairmount & 56th (1/2 full) & drainage swale to Barth Pond (sediment and less fun)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Playground facilities are designed for too much safety and less fun	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Recreation center at Belmont and Ogden should have indoor pool for year round use if residents vote for it.	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Take the Park District's chainsaws away!	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Don't want to pay for services that we supported by taxes that we still have to pay a fee for, i.e. Rec Center.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
No Pool!!! Partner with Swim & Racquet Club to offer passes to DG residents	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Cooperation between Private & Public sector of Parks & Rec.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Add a spray park, like Ty Warner Park in Westmont, somewhere in DG	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
No Pool! And stop spending money on studies to add a pool.	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Love the Farmers Market - keep it up!	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Great services from YMCA Indian Boundary & Rec Center on Belmont. But increase after work adult programs for those that work 8-6.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Create a skate park/skating park for kids 11-15. Make it a safe place for them to socialize. Can be added to an economically challenged area like 63rd St. shopping area	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Reset boundaries and district as village grows in size to keep class sizes uniform & not split neighborhoods	Education	School District Boundaries
Parents choice for schools	Education	School Administration
Improved communication from boards of Ed including televised meetings and podcasts	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
More parking by North HS and more handicap parking available	Education	Parking
More K-6 activities district wide - team sports, combined choirs	Education	Courses/Programs
Fix leaking school roofs - Hire competent contractors, NOT the lowest bid	Education	School Maintenance
Keep the fine arts going; Music - Art - Expand programs even if longer school day required (45 min-1 hour)	Education	Courses/Programs
Offer full day Kindergarten; After school day care	Education	Courses/Programs
Competitive teacher pay; quality teachers	Education	School Faculty & Staff
Maintain current classroom sizes	Education	Educational Standards
If busing is not going to be allowed in less than 1 1/2 miles, improve drop off & pick up in school zones	Education	School Administration
Create ventilation specifically in school gyms	Education	School Facilities
Coordinate construction projects in the blocks around schools with summer vacations rather than doing it first weeks of schools	Education	School Maintenance
Crossing guards should be on-time & able to walk across the street with kids	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety

Comment	Category	General Subject
Constructive spending for school administrators; No transparency	Education	Transparency
Should consider unified school district 58 & 99	Education	School District Boundaries
Requirement for Math so students don't have to take remedial courses at COD	Education	Courses/Programs
Preschool opportunities very expensive when do it xxxxxx days privately; Early childhood education.	Education	Courses/Programs
Evaluation of number of school institute days (seems excessive)	Education	School Administration
Reduce/Remove spring break	Education	School Administration
Improve maintenance and coordination of maintenance projects and budgets (allot specific % to maintenance)	Education	School Maintenance
Coordinate all districts so days off are contemporaneous	Education	School Administration
Televis D58 & D99 meetings	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Village should add C.P.I. to Downtown TIF payments to schools	Education	School Finances
Restore nature education program in D58, esp. conservation practices	Education	Courses/Programs
Need a D58 & D99-wide recycling program so all schools can recycle free of charge	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Recycling
Energy conservation plan needed for all (each) schools	Education	School Administration
Lack of transparency in Dist 58 & 99 sch. Board & administration	Education	Transparency
School Board members should not accept contributions from teachers unions	Education	School Administration
Top heavy w/administration	Education	School Administration
Plan maintenance & capital costs in advance	Education	School Maintenance
Consultants providing erroneous information on enrollment projections, i.e. several years ago we were being told to expect increasing enrollment; now we're looking at decreasing enrollment	Education	School Administration
It's important to support it within reason	Education	School Administration
Well paid but also well qualified	Education	School Faculty & Staff
Keep limits on administrative costs	Education	School Finances
Teen center in D.G.	Education	School Facilities
Look at population demographics & facilities & plan well	Education	School Administration
Better mgmt. of costs, particularly teachers salaries.	Education	School Finances
Values not there for the high salaries being paid otut.	Education	School Administration
Longevity leads itself to complacency with tenured teachers. Should be higher recertification requirements.	Education	School Faculty & Staff
Increase communication from schools to ALL residents (not just the parents of kids @ school) when they need money for improvements. Explain it in great detail.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Plan clubs to operate out of schools for kids to participate in - don't rely on volunteers - have an opportunity for Boys/Girls clubs	Education	Courses/Programs

Comment	Category	General Subject
Make Spanish MANDATORY from 1st Grade on!	Education	Courses/Programs
Have all programs available @ all schools. Champions is not @ all schools; Spanish is not available @ all schools.	Education	Courses/Programs
Options for older residents, housing zoning changes	Residential	Senior Housing
Code enforcement of multiple people in single family home	Residential	Code Enforcement
Trees - Presewer trees; Proactive tree replacement; Replacement of trees when sidewalks placed	Residential	Tree Protection
No apparent Village plan to replace trees; Plant trees in empty areas or where trees have been removed.	Residential	Tree Protection
Neighborhood Conservation District to keep flave	Residential	Tree Protection
Building code review that allows new building with less set-back than adjacent dwellings	Residential	Development Controls
Ordinance for maintenance of foreclosure houses or ill-maintained ordinance	Residential	Code Enforcement
Speed on streets thru neighborhoods - (speed hump?) Other traffic calming devices	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
Code enforcement improvement	Residential	Code Enforcement
TCDIII should abolish or modify TCDII on one sidewalk on one side of each street.	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Sidewalks - No!	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Limit teardowns -- stop building "McMansions"	Residential	Teardowns
Affordable housing - Smaller homes limit condo costs	Residential	Housing Affordability
Property taxes- Can taxes go down since property values have decreased?	Financial	Taxes
Enforcement of Village ordinances - 2-6 am parking (lack of police patrolling of neighborhood)	Residential	Law Enforcement
Code enforcement - vacant properties, houses & lots	Residential	Code Enforcement
Stop signs	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
Minimize variations and exception to setback (e.g. fireplaces, A/C units, decks, eaves, window wells...)	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
Encourage & preserve low-density single family residential devel.	Residential	Development Controls
Need code for maximum impervious cover (e.g. 50% for single family)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Encourage rainwater conservation and reuse (permeable pavers and rain barrels)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Encourage large diameter "heritage" trees on private property (Removal must be justified and compensated)	Residential	Tree Protection
Obtain easements over all creek channels	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Zoning for square foot of home vs. land. Lot splitting.	Residential	Development Controls
Concern about vacant homes/potential rezone requests for multi-tenant use in future	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Stormwater impacts from new development	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Greater radius for notifications (1 square block); Better method of notification	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Revision of current code requiring residential upkeep - vacant, rentals, etc.	Residential	Housing Vacancies

Comment	Category	General Subject
Illegal dumping onto empty lots. No enforcement and its increasing	Residential	Law Enforcement
Increasing walkability: create prairie walks w/ extension; Install/maintain sidewalks – but don't install sidewalks unless doing it right w/curbs & drainage done properly; Picking up landscaping waste.	Infrastructure	Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure
Some neighbors have HUGE piles of branches in front of their yards. INCREASE Amnesty days for yard waste.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Water ban: Why can't we have water on all days? We should be able to have water on all days.	Infrastructure	Utilities
Saturated market for condominiums. Limit building of new condos.	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Limit on construction of townhomes.	Residential	Development Controls
New-builds at teardown locations do not fit neighborhood look and demographics (price too high for area)	Residential	Teardowns
Lease condos & sell condos that are empty	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Traffic issues – less speed bumps	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
Encourage affordable housing	Residential	Housing Affordability
Taxes keep going up & up – keep taxes lower	Financial	Taxes
Less teardowns & portion real incentives for preservation – tree preservation	Residential	Teardowns
Village sponsored community events to bring people together over issues & for social time	Residential	Community Character
Incentives for homeowners to install rain barrels, native landscaping, rain gardens, etc.	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Trees → Don't cut them down!!! Northbrook requires a permit from anyone who wants to cut down a tree; Cutting down trees to put in sidewalks.; Cutting down trees to accommodate developers!; This is why we are called Downers Grove & not just Downers	Residential	Tree Protection
Coyote sightings → they are an issue	Residential	Nuisance
Do not cut trees during bird nesting. Willowbrook Wildlife Center states it is illegal to cut down an occupied tree. Cut either before or after nesting.	Residential	Tree Protection
Aging & pricing of houses – Affordability, price increases, taxes; Inability to sell & stay in D.G.	Residential	Housing Affordability
Limit size/scale of house to lot size (ratio)	Residential	Development Controls
Gypsy moths need to be brought under control quickly!	Residential	Nuisance
Treating resident with respect	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Responsible redevelopment – limit # of large home permits, lot coverage to house ratio	Residential	Development Controls
Proactive annexation agreement to preserve neighborhood character	Residential	Community Character
Tree program where resident & village split cost for private property. Tree preservation program	Residential	Tree Protection
Village admin is doing well to cut costs and communicate with residents	Financial	Satisfied
Any new program must have a dedicated revenue source for life of the program	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Downtown businesses should benefit from festivals and special events. Move activities out of immediate Downtown to maintain traffic on Main St.	Economic Development	Events

Comment	Category	General Subject
Park District be a better steward of our money - Do we need money spent on pool studies; Make final decision	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Research more revenue generating events in the Village and get on them; Heritage Fest	Economic Development	Events
Would it be appropriate to annex surrounding land near Hobsoin & Pershing, other side of Belmont for tax revenue	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Administration
Get more state & federal money!! Stimulus money.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Village should have referendum of large expenditures for facilities over \$1,000,000.	Financial	Transparency
Work harder on getting business into Village to get taxes.	Economic Development	Business Development
School board members should show more respect for one another	Education	School Administration
Park Board to operate with existing or lower budget.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Don't waste money on unwanted projects -- SIDEWALKS	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Taxes should go down with property values	Financial	Taxes
Mid market retailer - sales taxes, Walmart, Meijer	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Consolidate projects - streets, sewers, sidewalks, organize to maximize financial sense.	Infrastructure	Maintenance
Increase capital project funding - finish projects started	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Provide excellent services but view taxes in a more private sector manner. Use money wisely and ensure value.	Financial	Taxes
Decrease public funding for bus shuttle.	Infrastructure	Public Transportation
Provide financial incentive to get more businesses to town.	Economic Development	Business Development
Will assessments go down because home values are down?	Financial	Taxes
Lower expenses/lower salary as public/business must do as economy is in downturn	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Hold current budget forums in each district to explain in layman's terms so taxpaying public understands financial issues	Financial	Transparency
Village should have bond issues approved by referendum as park & schools must do.	Financial	Transparency
Reduce and/or coordinate municipalities to maximize savings and retain current budget	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Cap/freeze decorative/minor projects until economy improves. Focus on needed improvements and necessary large-scale projects.	Infrastructure	Maintenance
Have money set-aside for projects; plan for them.	Financial	Financial Planning
Keep taxes stable - spend responsibly	Financial	Taxes
Have a long term plan that is voted on or known/ approved by the residents. Increase transparency in to spending.	Financial	Transparency
Lower overall tax rates (property)	Financial	Taxes
Reduce budget costs for Village, schools & Park District	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Taxes - reduce & keep affordable; keep seniors in D.G. & young people in D.G.	Financial	Taxes

Comment	Category	General Subject
Park District be more accountable for money spent	Financial	Transparency
Check & balances on costs & overruns	Financial	Transparency
Limit large expenses to a public hearing	Financial	Transparency
Keep costs down due to economy said may have to be careful with money	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Library has outgrown capacity - needs more size	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Library
Request more courtesy from all village employees; Some appear angry and unhelpful	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
How will parking lot needs be determined for Metra	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Parking
Reduce/Remove Downers Grove shuttle. Make system self supporting.	Infrastructure	Public Transportation
Require school buses to move to intersection areas if not picking up students.	Education	School Administration
No Sidewalks - Save 33 trees & \$400,000!	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
If we must have sidewalks postpone until stormwater issue taken care of & combine w/curbs/sewers/stormwater mgmt.	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Please repair potholes!	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Repair RR crossings on Fairview (bad), Washington (really bad)	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Traffic, traffic, traffic	Infrastructure	Traffic
Seriously, still, we don't want a pool!	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Increase usability of Fishel Park. Make it more functional.	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
Try to get federal economic stimulus money to alleviate flooding issues for private property.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
More bike routes. Connect all the parks up w/bike/walking paths then publish a map.	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Have a free "circulator" bus that goes around DG on Saturdays (like the Heritage Fest buses). Reduces cars BUT the buses should be green or run on natural gas, not diesel.	Infrastructure	Public Transportation
Really take a look at flooding.	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Road maintenance cycle increased & sidewalk replacement and repair annually	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Bigger bands at Heritage Fest	Economic Development	Events
More intergovernmental agreements that encourage cross utilization of facilities.	Financial	Coordination
New Village website hard to navigate. Old version easier to use.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Podcast visual, not just audio. Think You Tube.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Stop sign at 7th & Victor; Traffic calming in area of 2nd Street through 8th St.	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
Improve welcome signs to Downers (see Lisle in new signs)	Economic Development	Signage
College Street is dark - improve lighting	Infrastructure	Street Lighting
More community events for Downers Grove citizens (not just costly events)	Economic Development	Events

Comment	Category	General Subject
Japanese Knotweed - invasive species control	Residential	Nuisance
Community pot lucks & community gatherings - increase community	Residential	Community Character
Investigate Village building code for xxxx xxxx, green, solar panel to allow them!	Residential	Development Controls
Wind farm at Espxxxxx area north of 88 - Could be attraction & function as special to Village	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Pedestrian & bicycle crossing on Main St at tracks; Pedestrian crossing Ogden Ave	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Bicycle routes downtown - especially at Village Hall only now	Infrastructure	Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure
Campaign reform - No advantage for individuals making Zoning decisions	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Administration
Term limits - 2 consecutive terms maximum at least 1 term before reelection	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Administration
Council is not responsive to public participation; Once elected, elected candidates stop listening	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Know Your Village program (8 weeks); Village employees must take class; Nominal charge, run by Chamber (See Naperville)	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Administration
No feeding ANY WILDLIFE, enforce law.	Residential	Nuisance
Enforce speed limits on residential streets - Webster, 62nd, Randall, 59th, Washington, 61st, Dunham; Law of no right turn at Kenyon off of Main is not enforces.	Residential	Law Enforcement
Put no through street between 59th & Main or Washington	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
TCDII should be abolish or modify the TCDII idea of a sidewalk on one side of each street or let residents opt out with good reasons.	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Replace headwall 'bed rails' railing across creek & 5600 Fairmount - Bent/Rusting	Infrastructure	Maintenance
Repair railroad crossing at Fariview Avenue	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Consider left turn arrow on Main St north-bound at CB&Q when gates are down	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Also work with County for left turn signal on SB Main at 55th St when NB has arrow	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Trees should be preserved and increased in quantity in parkways, parks and private properties	Residential	Tree Protection
Community development should grade developers (residential and commercial) for design and construction quality and responsiveness & adherence to codes/lack of variations requested.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Administration
Neighborhood 4 Compiled Results		
Street condition	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Snow plow (esp. cul de sacs)	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Refuse - What they want stuff they make money	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Refuse Removal
Trees	Residential	Tree Protection
Speeding along Claremont/speed bumps	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
Drainage during rain (debris clogs drains)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Potholes along Claremont	Infrastructure	Street Repairs

Comment	Category	General Subject
Sporadic power outages	Infrastructure	Utilities
Curbside leaf pickup may help (drainage problems)	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Snow Removal/plowing on side streets	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Roads, potholes	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Crosswalks - e.g. #1.63rd & Fairmount; Main & McCullom South of Fire Station; Fairview between 63rd & 75th - no crosswalk in this area; Oxford & Main; 63rd & Main.; Button to get light to cross	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Commercial properties parking lot should be maintained (75th & Main, NW wall has huge potholes)	Economic Development	Parking
Sidewalks that need repair - some are uneven, tilted and had not been fixed	Infrastructure	Sidewalks - Maintenance
Traffic flow/speed on side streets. E.g. Claremont, also Valley View, kids drag race. Possible better police coverage needed.	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
Stormwater management (standing water during/after heavy rain)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Street maintenance/repair (the streets are ripped up, potholes and no repairs seem to be getting done)	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
No speed humps!	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
Roads - poor shape, carpenter, Fairmount unfinished - too long not done	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Flooding - Oxford Ave area, etc.	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Multiuse paths for (safe) biking, walking (like Woodridge did)	Infrastructure	Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure
Expenses & priorities - what's reasonable, see plan for police dept.	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Fairmount & Briargate fixed already, too long.	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
In ten years never has drainage problems since this infrastructure has been implemented now we have a drain problem. 67th CT	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Claremont - are the speed bumps coming back? A lot of accidents here.	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
Eye sore on 75th, old Dominick's? What will be done.	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
66th St - When will the potholes be fixed? Getting bigger all the time.	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Development of vacant properties. Detention pond/flooding issues (66th behind St. James Ct.)	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
More parking in downtown. Better signage for deck	Infrastructure	Parking
Residential/main thoroughfare maintenance - repair of potholes	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Speeding in residential areas - posting of additional speed limit signs	Infrastructure	Traffic Safety
Evaluate traffic patterns/lights/one-way signs	Infrastructure	Traffic
Storm run-off by Clairmont in Blackburn Street floods every time it rains - inadequate sewage (& Valley View) the whole south end of town.	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Street maintenance & potholes	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
We have to encourage owners of shopping centers to maintain their shopping centers in order to keep them full & healthy (potholes by Ulta Foods) The Grove	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions

Comment	Category	General Subject
We have a parking problem in Downtown - people don't want to use the garage	Economic Development	Parking
We don't need any more high rises or restaurants Downtown (although some of us like the restaurants)	Economic Development	Retail Mix
We need a grocery store downtown	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Watch police & Village Hall development closely - no Taj Mahal	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
We need more stores not real estate offices Downtown	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Wine & Dine Trader Joe's to go to 75th Street too!	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Find new occupants for Dominick's on 75th St	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Spruce up "Woodward & 63rd" shopping center	Economic Development	Redevelopment - Questions/ Suggestions
Keep up the "good work" on having people keep the \$ in D.G. All promotions Downtown. (Ladies night out, discount dinners, coupons)	Economic Development	Events
Why force sidewalks in neighborhoods that don't want sidewalks. Use the money for things public wants.	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Don't have too many 'projects' going on once, where the Town loses \$ Finish one project before starting another.	Financial	Coordination
Limit strip mall development. Vacancies are occurring everywhere.	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Attempt to get a better mix of businesses in downtown - related to tight parking	Economic Development	Retail Mix
development of north side of tracks - downtown satellite parking area (?)	Economic Development	Parking
More nice restaurant in So. Downers Grove	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Southwest corner 63rd & Woodward has too many empty stores (now a mish mash of unrelated stores. Basically all malls at 75th & Lemont	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Amoco @ 63rd & Main has been empty (NE corner) should be taken down, land repurposed	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Want businesses that will serve the local community, draw in shoppers, instead of making neighborhood look shabby, undesirable	Economic Development	Retail Mix
More "useful" stores downtown: hardware store & grocery store. Need right mix of businesses & types of businesses to support tax base.	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Empty storefront around town. (i.e. Dominick's @ 75th & Lemont, 63rd & Woodward)	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Why does downtown Downers Grove close down early on weekends? Stay open until 10? Do something to keep folks downtown. Dairy Queen on 63rd & Main is open till 11:00 & busy.	Economic Development	Retail Hours
Maybe start an entertainment district Downtown? Performing arts center with a tie-in to restaurants.	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Development plan for Ogden Ave - Improve traffic; Easier access in & out of businesses; Better appearance	Economic Development	Beautification
Better transition from business area to residential	Residential	Community Character
Don't see need to rebuild village buildings	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
If Village buildings have to be redone, move location that frees up prime land for business	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Fill/clear vacant business buildings outside Downtown	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies

Comment	Category	General Subject
"Right sized" grocery store downtown	Economic Development	Downtown Grocery
Parking garage - not convenient for downtown - if you do park there it is unclear where to park. Unconducive to business.	Economic Development	Parking
Not getting the proper business - we specialize in 'fringe' stores	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Empty storefronts; Large business closing	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Downtown - needs practical stores (grocery, pharmacy, etc.) especially for condo owners & to give diners to go	Economic Development	Retail Mix
Ogden Ave - businesses (appearance)	Economic Development	Beautification
Turn lights in McCollum off earlier time - 11:00 pm.	Parks & Recreation	Park Lighting
Paths in parks, trail connect the parks (Similar to Darien & Woodridge) for walking, running, bikes.	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Pools here in town - not aquatic center, but smaller community pools. (Outdoor pools) May be more expensive that worth it, but should be evaluated.	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Control costs - projects tend to be more than originally stated.	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Change to McCullom Park (redevelopment) - water tower	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
Too many geese! Barth Pond - Patriot Park	Residential	Nuisance
I would like to see us have an outdoor pool - absorb DG Polo & Racket Club - Make it all one big park - How about people being able to go & pay per time	Parks & Recreation	Pool
4 Lyman Woods - putting too much money into it, One of our members was angry about the cutting of trees.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
I wish there were more structures for bigger kids to play on - everything is geared to toddlers only	Parks & Recreation	Park Amenities
Keep parks the way they are unique - each serves a special need.	Parks & Recreation	Satisfied
Swimming pool construction is too expensive & duplicates facilities in and around DG	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Develop a park south of 75th (still DG!) Needn't be large, but green space would be welcome.	Parks & Recreation	Park Sites
Lights & noise levels can be annoying. When park is closed - lights go out.	Parks & Recreation	Park Lighting
Adult centers are to be recommended for active adults.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Put together a 'volunteer' program for recreation & parks for families who have a lot of kids so they can participate.	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Programming
Keep up the good work - we are happy w/how clean & maintained our parks are.	Parks & Recreation	Satisfied
Table "water Park" on back shelf for now. Too many more important issues going on.	Parks & Recreation	Pool
User funded community park.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
More festivals like Heritage Fest.	Economic Development	Events
Improved bike routes - better way to cross busy streets; be able to ride bike from one end to the other	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Pool - it's unresolved & money being spent talking	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Parks - Keep & improve community/neighborhood parks. Provide variety within parks to meet needs (walking paths, playgrounds, etc.)	Parks & Recreation	Pool

Comment	Category	General Subject
Biking opportunities - more safe opportunities (not leave town to ride)	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Swimming pool (for at least 20 years)	Parks & Recreation	Pool
No performing arts center	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Community Facilities
Do baseball coaches & parents still have to prepare/maintain baseball fields?	Parks & Recreation	Parks & Rec Maintenance
Have some sort of social hall/community room available for use (at a nominal fee) to residents	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Community Facilities
Admission fee to rec center is too high	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Lack of public pool	Parks & Recreation	Pool
Foreclosures - There are too many	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Real Estate taxes - Tax bills are unreasonable	Financial	Taxes
McMansions' - Lack of affordable housing	Residential	Development Controls
63rd & Main - What are they doing there?	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Lax zoning board - approved project that should never have been approved	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
McMansions dwarfing other houses	Residential	Development Controls
Permit Approvals - Look at how the building fits into the existing neighborhood. For example: Who approved the new townhomes on Fairview, just south of 63rd on East Side? Weird site location, no back yards, etc.	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
Permit Process - Need a permit for too many things.	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
Need for more affordable housing.	Residential	Housing Affordability
Why can't you park overnight on the streets? What is the reason for this? Residents should be able to park in front of their houses.	Residential	Parking
1320 67th house is an eyesore & falling down. Must be renovated or torndown.	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Dog problems - running loose, barking late @ night, chasing & attacking bikers & walkers	Residential	Nuisance
Sh??? problems - population seems to be growing too quickly.	Residential	Housing Density
Control teardowns & 'McMansions' - concern is for the future, center nice homes on large lots that may attract building of oversized homes. Not exclude them, but control size, height, area units.	Residential	Teardowns
People parking on sidewalk, e.g. white panel truck at 67th & Barrett, where it's parked to block view of oncoming traffic	Residential	Law Enforcement
Lawn services never pick up leaves, but blow them into the street.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Leaf Collection
Sidewalks. Put in only where people want them. Don't force them. Some people like no sidewalks.	Infrastructure	Sidewalks
Teardown - limit how many property taxes go up.	Residential	Teardowns
More crimes in neighborhood. Maybe more police. Need enhanced security.	Residential	Public Safety
Skunks & raccoons prevalent	Residential	Nuisance

Comment	Category	General Subject
No more apartments! No rezoning for condos.	Residential	Housing Density
Speeding on residential streets. Enforce speed limits.	Residential	Law Enforcement
Sidewalk safety/repairs	Infrastructure	Sidewalks - Maintenance
Make sure streets are repaired after construction of new homes and teardowns.	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Limit the size of new homes so that they fit neighborhood instead of lot line to lot line building. Keep to zoning plan maps and not do spot zoning.	Residential	Development Controls
We need more bike paths. We need more variety - pet Fairview build!	Parks & Recreation	Paths
Spot Zoning - impact of residential zoning & neighborhoods (integrity of neighborhood)	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
Enforcement of laws - Look of neighborhood (junk, etc.)	Residential	Law Enforcement
Vacant properties (looks hazardous) (i.e. 67th St near Dunham, etc.)	Residential	Housing Vacancies
Keep housing density low - limit new multifamily housing	Residential	Housing Density
More residential speed enforcement.	Residential	Law Enforcement
Neighborhood Appearance - Enhance code to keep neighborhood looking good	Residential	Development Controls
Rezoning of neighborhoods important. Corporations attempting to build apartment complexes in residential neighborhoods should be denied.	Residential	Housing Density
Affordable housing - Should be able to offer a wide range of prices for residents.	Residential	Housing Affordability
Reluctance of Fire Department to rent public space at new station @ Main & 55th	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Do we really need a new police station in this economic climate?	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Village hall/police dept. - continue to explore building new facilities - conscious of tax dollars	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
emergency services excellent	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Satisfied
public works service excellent	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Satisfied
Do we really need a village hall and a large police station?	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
North-South traffic congestion (this may be more infrastructure)	Infrastructure	Traffic
Don't charge for cages to catch skunks	Residential	Nuisance
Try to get a handle on the geese population.	Residential	Nuisance
Snow plow services - Gallagher & Henry and El Sierra Subdivision - not sufficient	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
We need sidewalk, snow, maintenance for homes owned by seniors	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Services
Plowing of snow onto the sidewalks (at crosswalks) is bad - they should come back & open them up. Encourage residents to clear storm sewers & cross walks	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Run-off from homes goops up the sidewalks - so people have to walk in the street	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
The lighting at Whitlock Park is too harsh by the bathroom building - it's way too urban & unfriendly	Parks & Recreation	Park Lighting

Comment	Category	General Subject
Police dept - concern about cost for new facility	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Better value for the dollar on public facilities - Other towns seem to get comparable facilities for far less money	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Community Facilities
More train parking/Downtown parking	Economic Development	Parking
Underpass/overpass across the tracks downtown on Washington	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
More police patrols, instead of speed bumps.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Very pleased with Village customer service, police, fire, emergency	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Satisfied
District 58, some teachers are there that should have retired long ago.	Education	School Finances
Concern about Dist. 58's handle of financials - overstaffed administration, not efficient (not all felt this way)	Education	School Finances
District 99 - perception Downers North is "better" school than Downers South. Diversity of standards may feed this perception - is there some way to emphasize diversity as a benefit. Need to address needs of more diverse students - programs, development, class size, help to involve diverse families, especially in high school. Unique concern for our area of town, so we need more done in this area.	Education	Courses/Programs
Civics education	Education	Courses/Programs
More advanced classes.	Education	Courses/Programs
Need to pass AYP for Dist 99	Education	Educational Standards
Address the theft issues @ South. Let the community know about this. Keep us informed.	Education	School Administration
More security for our students.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Public Safety
Need more art & music classes!	Education	Courses/Programs
We need to keep standards high for teachers & for students	Education	Educational Standards
School day should be longer according to some	Education	School Administration
Lowering of standards based on No Child Left Behind is wrong - Standards should stay high in all fields - Math, science too.	Education	Educational Standards
Teachers need more assistance to keep standards high	Education	Educational Standards
Limited of space & land for schools (expansion, maintenance, & multiuse)	Education	School Facilities
Continue the excellence in the elementary & secondary schools	Education	Satisfied
Gifted programs need to be increased	Education	Courses/Programs
Emphasis on standardized testing	Education	School Administration
Broader social issues - drugs, alcohol, cutting, depression	Education	Courses/Programs
Over scheduling of sports and activities	Education	Courses/Programs
Dist 58 - Why is the Board so resistant to questions by Scott McConnell? Why not be more transparent?	Education	Transparency
What is the projected enrollment for our schools? Will we have an over supply of schools?	Education	School Facilities

Comment	Category	General Subject
Do DG South kids get to golf for free at the DG Golf Course? DG North apparently gets to golf there for free.	Education	Courses/Programs
Not confident that taxes are being used well/optimally - spending on immediate operational needs, but not saving on capital improvements. Need a more strategic plan to have a pool of funds built up, so not going back to tax payers for capital improvements. Planning is not effective ??? to cover operating & capital needs in the event "surprises" for tax payers	Financial	Financial Planning
How will economy affect Village budget?	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Village is planning on large projects in uncertain economic times	Financial	Financial Planning
Are we being wasteful?	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Are we preparing for a decreased tax base?	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Only do things that are important. Don't fix it, if it's not broken. Wait a few years between projects. Don't tear up the whole town at one time.	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Wait on new police station. We don't need one right at this time.	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Village Hall / Police Station
Share facilities/one building for numerous offices. Financial sharing.	Financial	Coordination
Tax advantages to attract new business to DG & downtown area.	Economic Development	Business Development
Continue to be frugal with taxpayer dollars.	Financial	Budget Adjustments - Expenditures
Info campaign in the media - spend in DG - Lets benefit as a community from the tax dollars.	Financial	Funding / Revenue
Compared to other towns we have a high sales tax 8%	Financial	Taxes
Keep property taxes down	Financial	Taxes
Keep values of houses up	Residential	Housing Affordability
Fair Assessments - Make them go down when house values fall	Financial	Taxes
Referendums needed before spending big money. i.e. Police Dept. & City Hall - Prudence in spending Village funds	Financial	Transparency
Fiscal responsibility (match revenue & expense)	Financial	Financial Planning
Taxes/cost of living	Financial	Taxes
Transparency & Accountability with Village spending - Make spending very visibly published	Financial	Transparency
Open cable to competition in the Village	Infrastructure	Utilities
Lack of participation by citizens in service clubs	Residential	Community Character
Limited business hours for tickets at train station	Infrastructure	Public Transportation
Heritage Fest seems to be getting sleazier	Economic Development	Events
Light at 55th & Fairview (left turn)	Infrastructure	Access & Circulation
Vacant gas station at 63rd & Main	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
63rd & Woodward shopping center should be town down	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies

Comment	Category	General Subject
We would like to have a tavern in town	Economic Development	Retail Mix
More street sweeping	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Services
Better coordination with county snow Removal	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Don't reduce budget on snow Removal - safety issue	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Snow Removal
Generally, keep the "Village" feel of Downers Grove	Residential	Community Character
Assistance to smaller businesses to stay in downtown	Economic Development	Business Development
Is it necessary to spend millions of dollars to fix stormwater problem? Too much is being spent for this. Some areas need it, but occasional flooded street isn't that big a deal.	Infrastructure	Stormwater / Flood Management
Neighborhood character	Residential	Community Character
Affordable housing (live & work in same town)	Residential	Housing Affordability
Follow up on resident concerns. Citizens concerns that go to Public Works, etc. - citizens should be notified if issue will be addressed or not	Public Svcs. & Fac.	Communication/Outreach
Track crossing @ Fairview needs to be repaired. Rough crossing.	Infrastructure	Street Repairs
Too many trains - too long	Residential	Nuisance
When a 'minor' problem comes up w/building permits, new construction to use common sense, when enforcing law, lessen the 'red tape' for rare occasions	Residential	Code Enforcement
Preserve the trees	Residential	Tree Protection
Safety walking across Ogden - overpass or underpass by DG North	Infrastructure	Pedestrian Safety
Historic Preservation - Shady Lane!	Residential	Community Character
Keeping vacant properties maintenance - Fairmont going out to 75th is very narrow parking should be restricted.	Economic Development	Commercial Vacancies
Preservation! Zoning	Residential	Permitting & Zoning
Ogden sidewalks should be built & maintained	Infrastructure	Sidewalks

GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP

GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP

A Governing Body Workshop was conducted on April 30, 2009 at the Downers Grove Park District's Lincoln Community Center with elected officials representing Downers Grove school districts, the park district, and the Village. The workshop was attended by approximately 25 local elected officials. The workshop was held to build off of the results and information learned from the Initial Community Workshop which was held on March 4th, 2009 at Downers Grove South High School. The purpose of the Governing Body Workshop was to allow elected officials to identify specific issues from the perspective of local governing bodies for each of the topical categories.

Based upon the input received at that Initial Community Workshop, six (6) topical categories were identified that captured most of the issues expressed at that meeting. The categories are: (a) Infrastructure; (b) Economic Development; (c) Residential; (d) Public Services and Facilities; (e) Parks and Recreation; and (f) Education. Participants formed groups ranging in size of between 5 and 7 individuals and were asked to collectively list the top five neighborhood issues related to a given category.

This Summary Report is intended to serve as an overview of the comments and feedback provided by participants during the workshop. Narrative text is used to highlight the concerns of elected officials and any rankings of significance indicated are in relation to the number

of comments related to a given category. Tables supporting the text and summarizing the input for each neighborhood workshop are presented.

Please list the top five neighborhood issues relating to:

Infrastructure

The category of Infrastructure generally incorporates issues or concerns related to roads and streets, stormwater and drainage, sidewalks, and other types of public infrastructure. Stormwater management and flood control was the most important issue for workshop participants. These comments generally indicated a need to better prioritize related infrastructure projects and manage this issue over the long-term.

Street repairs and poor roadway conditions were also identified as important issues within the Village. In addition to necessary pothole repairs, participants also cited a need for curb-and-gutter and sidewalk maintenance and a comprehensive maintenance and repair plan. Traffic access and circulation was another major issue for participants. Comments identified the congestion in Downtown, on north-south routes, and at train crossings as a concern. Participants also indicated a need for expanded local public transportation and a comprehensive transportation plan that would include both motorized and non-motorized facilities.

A summary of the workshop's infrastructure related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Infrastructure Issues or Concerns - 39 responses	Count
Stormwater / Flood Management	6
Access & Circulation / Traffic	4
Street Repairs	4
Coordination	3
Parking	3
Public Transportation	3
Sidewalks / Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure	3
Technology	3
Utilities	3
Village Administration	3
Street Lighting	2
Traffic Safety	2

Economic Development Issues or Concerns - 29 responses	Count
Business Development	10
Redevelopment	6
Retail Mix	4
Events	2
Revenue	2
Beautification	1
Downtown Grocery	1
Signage	1
Taxes	1

Residential Issues or Concerns - 17 responses	Count
Community Character	4
Diverse Housing	2
Leaf Collection	2
Permitting & Zoning	2
Tree Protection	2
Communication/Outreach	1
Development Controls	1
Teardowns	1
Nuisance	1
Volunteerism	1

Economic Development

The category of Economic Development generally incorporates issues or concerns related to the health of the Village’s business community and commercial districts. Comments related to the general topic of business development were the most significant among participants. Comments stated a general desire to attract more employers and retailers, retain existing businesses, and invest in existing commercial areas. In addition to these general comments, participants also offered several suggestions for specific targets of redevelopment including train crossings, 75th and Lemont, Ogden Avenue, 63rd and Woodward, and Ellsworth Park at the Belmont overpass. The current retail mix in commercial areas was also a top issue among participants. Comments indicated a desire to attract national retailers such as Wal-Mart and add businesses Downtown such as a grocery store or hardware store that cater to the needs of local residents.

A summary of the workshop’s economic development related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Residential

Residential comments generally relate to issues affecting the quality of life within the Village’s neighborhoods. The residential comments made by the governing body workshop participants were relatively diverse with few issues receiving multiple comments. The most significant residential issue identified was that of community character with several comments indicating a desire to preserve existing neighborhood assets such as architecture and natural features. Other comments touching on the issues of teardowns, development controls, and permitting and zoning also related to this general topic. No other significant issues could be identified from the workshop.

A summary of the workshop’s residential related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Public Services and Facilities

Public Services and Facilities is one of the more diverse discussion categories, because the Village offers a wide range of services in numerous facilities. Three dominant issues emerged from the comments received.

Several participants made comments with regard to the need for additional community facilities, making this the most significant public services and facilities issue. These suggestions included a shared community center, civic and fine arts center, programming and facilities targets at teens, and a large administrative center to house multiple public services. The related issue of the proposed Village Hall and Police Station was also significant importance among participants. These comments all supported a need for the facility.

The topic of social services was also an important issue within the community. The majority of these comments indicated that additional services were required to address homelessness within the community. Other social service related comments indicated a desire for networking programs for the unemployed, youth programs, and a general increase in neighborhood activities. Comments related to village administration were also significant among participants. The majority of these comments called for the creation of additional ‘green’ initiatives that would promote a more sustainable Downers Grove.

A summary of the workshop’s public services and facilities related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Parks and Recreation

The category of Parks and Recreation generally incorporates issues or concerns related to the creation, expansion and maintenance of the Village’s parks and recreation facilities as well as the programs and amenities offered at those facilities. Comments related to parks and recreation concentrated in only a few major issues. The topic of parks and recreation programming was the most significant issue among participants. Programming related comments included requests for additional youth programs, senior programs, volunteer opportunities, and team sports.

Park maintenance was also a significant issue among participants who indicated a desire to retain existing levels of service and quality of parks. Other significant comments related to desired park amenities such as a dog park, an expanded golf course, and cultural center. Several participants also stated comments related to the construction of a public pool in Downers Grove. All of these comments indicated a desire to finalize the matter without stating a preference either in favor or against.

A summary of the workshop’s parks and recreation related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Public Services & Facilities Issues or Concerns - 30 responses	Count
Community Facilities	9
Social Services	7
Village Administration	4
Village Hall / Police Station	4
Public Safety	2
Capital Improvements	1
Communication/Outreach	1
Post Office	1
Snow Removal	1

Parks & Recreation Issues or Concerns - 22 responses	Count
Parks & Rec Programming	5
Park Amenities	4
Parks & Rec Maintenance	4
Pool	4
Park Sites	3
Paths	2

Education Issues or Concerns - 23 responses	Count
Courses/Programs	7
Educational Standards	4
School Administration	4
School Facilities	4
Communication/Outreach	2
Coordination	1
Parking	1

Education

The Education category generally incorporates issues or concerns related to the administration and performance of local school districts and the creation, expansion and maintenance of their facilities. This category encompasses a variety of topics such as course and program recommendations, maintenance issues, parking needs, school finances, district boundaries, and faculty and educational standards.

The courses and programs offered at Downers Grove schools were the most significant issue within the topic of education. Comments on courses and programs were related to a desire for additional language and fine arts education, continued support of athletics, and creating additional opportunities for vocational training and working with local businesses.

Concerns related to school administration were a significant issue among participants. These comments were related to the length of the school day

and academic year, parent outreach and involvement, and fiscal responsibility. Comments related to educational standards were also significant and indicated a general desire to maintain quality education throughout the community. Participants provided several comments related to school facilities as well. These comments related to the use of green technology, acquiring land for expansion, and making buildings available for public use.

A summary of the workshop’s education related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.



Compiled Results from the Governing Body Workshop

The tables on pages 63 and 64) present a detailed summary of each of the comments received at the Governing Body Workshop, sorted by general category.

INFRASTRUCTURE	
Specific Issue or Concern - 39 responses	Count
Stormwater / Flood Management	6
Access & Circulation / Traffic	4
Street Repairs	4
Coordination	3
Parking	3
Public Transportation	3
Sidewalks / Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure	3
Technology	3
Utilities	3
Village Administration	3
Street Lighting	2
Traffic Safety	2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Specific Issue or Concern - 29 responses	Count
Business Development	10
Redevelopment	6
Retail Mix	4
Events	2
Revenue	2
Beautification	1
Downtown Grocery	1
Signage	1
Taxes	1

PUBLIC SERVICES & FACILITIES	
Specific Issue or Concern - 30 responses	Count
Community Facilities	9
Social Services	7
Village Administration	4
Village Hall / Police Station	4
Public Safety	2
Capital Improvements	1
Communication/Outreach	1
Post Office	1

PARKS & RECREATION	
Specific Issue or Concern - 22 responses	Count
Parks & Rec Programming	5
Park Amenities	4
Parks & Rec Maintenance	4
Pool	4
Park Sites	3
Paths	2

EDUCATION	
Specific Issue or Concern - 23 responses	Count
Courses/Programs	7
Educational Standards	4
School Administration	4
School Facilities	4
Communication/Outreach	2
Coordination	1
Parking	1

RESIDENTIAL	
Specific Issue or Concern - 17 responses	Count
Community Character	4
Diverse Housing	2
Leaf Collection	2
Permitting & Zoning	2
Tree Protection	2
Communication/Outreach	1
Development Controls	1
Teardowns	1
Nuisance	1
Volunteering	1

BOARDS and COMMISSIONS WORKSHOP

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS WORKSHOP

A Boards and Commissions Workshop was conducted on May 2, 2009 at the Midwestern University campus with appointed officials representing the various boards and commissions within the Village’s government. The workshop was attended by approximately 25 of the Village’s appointed officials. The workshop was held to build off of the results and information learned from the Initial Community Workshop which was held on March 4th, 2009 at Downers Grove South High School. The purpose of the Boards and Commissions Workshop was to allow elected officials to identify specific issues from the perspective of involved citizens for each of the topical categories.

Based upon the input received at that Initial Community Workshop, six (6) topical categories were identified that captured most of the issues expressed at that meeting. The categories are: (a) Infrastructure; (b) Economic Development; (c) Residential; (d) Public Services and Facilities; (e) Parks and Recreation; and (f) Education. Participants formed groups ranging in size of between 5 to 8 individuals and were asked to collectively list the top five issues related to a given category.

This Summary Report is intended to serve as an overview of the comments and feedback provided by participants during the workshop. Narrative text is used to highlight the concerns of appointed officials and any rankings of significance indicated are in relation to the number of comments related to a given category. Tables supporting the text and summarizing the input for each neighborhood workshop are presented.

Please list the top five issues relating to:

Infrastructure

The category of Infrastructure generally incorporates issues or concerns related to roads and streets, stormwater and drainage, sidewalks, and other types of public infrastructure. Comments related to infrastructure covered a wide range of topics, of which the most significant was utilities. These comments related to the adequate provision of water, the elimination of septic systems, and the burying of electricity lines. Street repairs and poor roadway conditions were also identified as important issues within the Village by workshop groups.

A summary of the workshop’s infrastructure related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Infrastructure Issues or Concerns - 20 responses	Count
Utilities	5
Street Repairs	3
Coordination	2
Parking	2
Sidewalks	2
Stormwater / Flood Management	2
Street Lighting	2
Access & Circulation	1
Public Transportation	1

Economic Development Issues or Concerns - 9 responses	Count
Business Development	3
Redevelopment	3
Retail Mix	2
Downtown Grocery	1

Residential Issues or Concerns - 14 responses	Count
Tree Protection	4
Development Controls	3
Code Enforcement	2
Housing Vacancies	2
Community Character	1
Senior Housing	1
Teardowns	1

Public Services & Facilities Issues or Concerns - 24 responses	Count
Village Hall / Police Station	5
Community Facilities	4
Technology	4
Public Safety	2
Social Services	2
Traffic Safety	2
Village Administration	2
Capital Improvements	1
Leaf Collection	1
Library	1

Economic Development

The category of Economic Development generally incorporates issues or concerns related to the health of the Village’s business community and commercial districts. Business development and redevelopment were the most significant issues identified by participants. These comments frequently included recommendations for commercial development, commercial district enhancement, and business expansion and retention efforts. Retail mix was also indicated to be a significant issue and comments included suggestions for new businesses.

A summary of the workshop’s economic development related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Residential

Residential comments generally relate to issues affecting the quality of life within the Village’s neighborhoods. The majority of comments made by participants in this category were in regards to residential development, community character, and housing diversity. Tree protection and preservation was the most significant concern. Issues related to development controls and the related topic of code enforcement were also significant among participants. Participants indicated a need for stronger controls on land development and redevelopment through better use of tools such as zoning and teardown regulations.

A summary of the workshop’s residential related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Public Services and Facilities

Public Services and Facilities is one of the more diverse discussion categories, because the Village offers a wide range of services in numerous facilities. Three dominant issues emerged from the comments received. The proposed construction of a new Village Hall and Police Station was the most significant issue for participants. These comments varied with some in support of the project, others against the project, and others calling for the Village to make a better argument for the need of the project.

Several participants also made comments with regard to the need for additional community facilities, namely a performing arts center and youth center. This topic was of significant importance along with the topic of technology. Technology related comments were chiefly comprised of requests for improvements to existing village communications technologies and the need for correlated long term planning.

A summary of the workshop’s public services and facilities related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Parks and Recreation

The category of Parks and Recreation generally incorporates issues or concerns related to the creation, expansion and maintenance of the Village’s parks and recreation facilities as well as the programs and amenities offered at those facilities. Comments related to parks and recreation varied widely and the construction of a public pool was the only issue receiving a significant number of comments by participants. None of these comments stated a preference for or against the pool, but instead called for a transparent and thorough process for deciding the matter. No other issue received a significant number of comments within the Parks and Recreation category.

A summary of the workshop’s parks and recreation related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Education

The Education category generally incorporates issues or concerns related to the administration and performance of local school districts and the creation, expansion and maintenance of their facilities. This category encompasses a variety of topics such as course and program recommendations, maintenance issues, parking needs, school finances, district boundaries, and faculty and educational standards.

The topic of school administration was the most important among participants. These comments were related to the length of the academic year, the quality of teachers, and issues with the school board election process.

The courses and programs offered at Downers Grove schools were also of significant concern for participants. Comments on courses and programs were related to a desire for additional language, arts and music education and suggestions for new or expanded school programs.

A summary of the workshop’s education related issues and concerns is presented in the adjacent table.

Parks & Recreation Issues or Concerns - 17 responses	Count
Pool	5
Parks & Rec Facilities	2
Parks & Rec Programming	2
Coordination	1
Park Amenities	1
Park Sites	1
Parks & Rec Maintenance	1
Communication / Outreach	1
Paths	1
Signage	1
Transparency	1

Education Issues or Concerns - 18 responses	Count
School Administration	5
Courses/Programs	4
Educational Standards	2
School Facilities	2
School Finances	2
School District Boundaries	1
School Maintenance	1
Transparency	1

Compiled Results from the Boards and Commissions Workshop

The tables on page 76 and page 77 present a detailed summary of each of the comments received at the Boards and Commissions Workshop, sorted by general category.

INFRASTRUCTURE	
Specific Issue or Concern - 20 responses	Count
Utilities	5
Street Repairs	3
Coordination	2
Parking	2
Sidewalks	2
Stormwater / Flood Management	2
Street Lighting	2
Access & Circulation	1
Public Transportation	1

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Specific Issue or Concern - 9 responses	Count
Business Development	3
Redevelopment	3
Retail Mix	2
Downtown Grocery	1

PUBLIC SERVICES & FACILITIES	
Specific Issue or Concern - 24 responses	Count
Village Hall / Police Station	5
Community Facilities	4
Technology	4
Public Safety	2
Social Services	2
Traffic Safety	2
Village Administration	2
Capital Improvements	1
Leaf Collection	1
Library	1

PARKS & RECREATION	
Specific Issue or Concern - 17 responses	Count
Pool	5
Parks & Rec Facilities	2
Communication / Outreach	1
Coordination	1
Park Amenities	1
Park Sites	1
Parks & Rec Maintenance	1
Parks & Rec Programming	2
Paths	1
Signage	1
Transparency	1

EDUCATION	
Specific Issue or Concern - 18 responses	Count
School Administration	5
Courses/Programs	4
Educational Standards	2
School Facilities	2
School Finances	2
School District Boundaries	1
School Maintenance	1
Transparency	1

RESIDENTIAL	
Specific Issue or Concern - 14 responses	Count
Tree Protection	4
Development Controls	3
Code Enforcement	2
Housing Vacancies	2
Community Character	1
Senior Housing	1
Teardowns	1



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WORKSHOP

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WORKSHOP

A TCD3 Elementary School Workshop was held on May 21, 2009 at Henry Puffer Grade School. Approximately 20 students from fourth, fifth, and sixth grades participated in the afternoon workshop. The workshop was conducted as an open discussion where students were asked to break into small groups to discuss topics and then share their thoughts with the entire workshop group. While small group notes were collected, the focus was on facilitating a group discussion about the various issues raised. As such, this brief Summary Report outlines the facilitators' understanding of students' comments as presented in both written and spoken form during the workshop.

Better Village...

Students were first asked to comment on the most significant village-wide issues having an impact on their quality of life. Those issues identified by students included the need for a skate park, pool, water park, closer take-out restaurants, additional school sports, fewer condominiums and construction projects, a unified Hillcrest district, environmental preservation and protection, additional parks, and additional children and teen stores Downtown. Several themes were identified in these general comments that were then used to facilitate a more detailed discussion of community issues. Students were asked to discuss how the Village could improve the following – downtown, circulation, entertainment and recreation, and the environment.

Better Downtown...

Approximately 80% of elementary school participants indicated that they visit Downtown Downers Grove at least once a week. Restaurants, movies, the library, and car shows were some of the most popular reasons for visiting downtown. When asked how Downtown could be improved, elementary student comments indicated that the health and appearance of existing businesses and the number of cultural amenities and events were important. It was indicated that store vacancies and on-going construction detracted from the Downtown area's appeal. Students stated that more stores targeted at young children and teens, a biking or sports store, juice or popcorn stand, or hands-on museum could be used to fill existing vacancies. Additional special events such as dances and public spaces such as a central park with water features or a community garden could also be used to enliven Downtown.

Better Circulation...

Elementary students were also asked how travel to, from, and within Downers Grove could be improved. All four workshop small groups identified a need for additional bike lanes and trails. Students also indicated a desire for additional local bus service and the creation of a Downtown shuttle bus. Pedestrian safety was also identified as a concern as students commented on a need for additional crosswalks, streetlighting, signage, and buggy parking areas to minimize clutter on sidewalks. Other comments included the need for additional bike racks, a bike rental and repair shop, and more dispersed parking areas.

Better Recreation and Entertainment...

The need to make Downers Grove 'more fun' was also commented on by many elementary students. Ideas for improving entertainment and amusement related uses in Downers Grove included ice skate rental at local parks, weekly classes at the recreation center, regular youth dances, board game nights, regular field days at local parks, and additional community-wide league sports. Other venues desired by the elementary students included an air-bounce facility, go-cart track, paint ball facility, improved ice arena, batting cages, roller rink, and mini-golf.

Better Environment...

The protection of the environment was an issue of significant importance among elementary students. Several groups indicated a desire to institute a regular volunteer clean up day to pick up trash and to create community gardens. Students also indicated a strong desire to expand the local recycling program, including extending the program to multifamily residential buildings, creating opportunities for CFL recycling, and placing more bins in public spaces. Other suggestions included planting more trees, creating more opportunities for the youth to volunteer, expanding the use of rain barrels, promoting eco-friendly restaurants and businesses, and creating eco-awareness programs and signage.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORKSHOP

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORKSHOP

A TCD3 Middle School Workshop was held on May 21, 2009 at Henry Puffer Grade School. Approximately 15 students from seventh and eighth grades participated in the afternoon workshop. The workshop was conducted as an open discussion where students were asked to break into small groups to discuss topics and then share their thoughts with the entire workshop group. While small group notes were collected, the focus was on facilitating a group discussion about the various issues raised. As such, this brief Summary Report outlines the facilitators' understanding of students' comments as presented in both written and spoken form during the workshop.

Students were first asked to comment on the most significant village-wide issues having an impact on their quality of life. Those issues identified by students included the need for additional park district activities and better parks, indoor and outdoor entertainment venues, teen 'hang outs', an expanded police station, public pool, juice stand and other specialty food shops, butterfly garden or petting zoo, dog park, additional teen sports opportunities, improved school sanitation, and improved teacher evaluations. Based on these initial comments, students were then asked to discuss how to improve key areas of the community, including downtown, parks and recreation, transportation, and the environment.

Downtown Downers Grove

When asked how Downtown could be improved, middle school student com-

ments indicated that the mix of businesses in Downtown and pedestrian-oriented convenience were important. The students listed several retailers they felt were lacking in Downtown including a specialty candy shop, teen clothing store, beauty supply store, more affordable dining options, and cafés. They also indicated that cigar shops were not desirable and that more special event and festivals should be held. To make Downtown more appealing to pedestrians it was indicated that improved enforcement of pedestrian crossings, improved parking and traffic circulation, additional public seating, improved drinking fountains, and the creation of a downtown wi-fi network would be welcomed improvements.

Transportation

Middle school students were also asked how transportation in Downtown Downers Grove and throughout the community could be improved. Student comments were generally in regard to non-motorized safety, circulation, and access. The majority of students called for dedicated bike lanes or jogging paths, the elimination of on-street parking, segway or scooter rental, and expanded bus service. Other suggestions included free deck parking, the construction of a railroad underpass at Main Street, and improved wayfinding and signage.

Parks and Recreation

Students also offered several suggestions to improve the parks and recreational amenities throughout the community. Students indicated that parks and recreation areas should be beautified through the planting of more flowers and trees

and the removal of graffiti. Suggestions were also made for additional or expanded facilities such as basketball courts, volleyball courts, baseball and softball fields, public pool and water park, and recreation center. Some atypical facilities suggested by middle school students included a shooting or archery range, horse stables, rock climbing facility, and public orchards. Additional comments highlighted the need for a bike rental program, outdoor concerts, and larger parks.

Environment

When asked how the local environment could be improved students commented on the topics of energy conservation, public transportation, and village services. Several comments emphasized the importance of using alternative energy technologies, such as solar panels, in public facilities and local businesses. Some also suggested that the Village require the use of Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFL), improved insulation, and the use of eco-friendly pesticides and herbicides. It was also indicated that a 'Green Store' that sells environmentally sustainable products and organic foods was desirable. Middle school students also indicated that they believed village services and events could be improved with regard to the environment. Suggestions included a litter pick-up day, an expanded recycling program with public bins, expanded street cleaning, an energy conservation day, the use of less salt on local roads, and heated sidewalks. Students also expressed a desire for local bus service with eco-friendly buses.

BUSINESS WORKSHOP



BUSINESS WORKSHOP

The TCD3 Business Workshop was held the morning of May 28th, 2009 at the DoubleTree Suites and Conference Center on Butterfield Road in Downers Grove. The workshop was attended by approximately thirty (30) members of the Downers Grove business community. The workshop was held to gain insight from the unique perspective of business owners and operators within the Village and to allow them an opportunity to discuss issues, concerns, and priorities facing the Downers Grove business community. The workshop began with an overview of the TCD3 process and a review of some of the feedback obtained at other community workshops. This Summary Report is intended to serve as a summary of the comments and feedback provided by participants during the Business Workshop. A detailed tabulation of responses from all of the community workshops is provided in a separate document.

The topics touched upon by Business Workshop participants did not range as widely as those of the larger community-wide workshops. A question asking participants to identify the five most significant issues or concerns facing the business community yielded a total of 117 responses. The list below cites the six specific issues most commented on by business workshop participants.

- Business Operation issues were also identified as a significant issue by participants. These comments typically identified high property taxes, prohibitive sales tax rates, and the general costs of conducting business including the costs of insurance, communications, rent, etc. as a disadvantage to doing business in Downers Grove.
- Signage was identified as a significant issue by many participants who indicated that they believed the existing signage ordinance was potentially too restrictive.
- Traffic and Congestion issues were identified several times. These comments typically related to Downtown congestion, railroad related traffic, and peak hour traffic.
- Parking issues were cited by several participants. These comments were comprised of people requesting either additional off-street parking facilities such as a deck or additional on-street parking in front of businesses. A lack of public parking in Downtown Downers Grove and a perceived overabundance of commuter parking were also issues.
- Marketing was identified as a concern by a significant number of participants as well. These comments typically related to a lack of effective, joint efforts to attract patrons to the Village's commercial areas and a lack of local avenues for advertising. Several comments also related to minimal signage directing patrons to the commercial areas and informing the public of what these areas have to offer.
- Permitting & Code Enforcement issues were cited by several participants. These comments typically related to inconsistencies in enforcement or permit requirements on behalf of the Village or the speed and associated costs of the process.

Participants were then asked to rank their top three issues based on the large number of issues previously identified to provide a measure of focus in further discussion. The top three issues identified in the group's 65 comments were as follows:

- Permitting Process
- Signage
- Business Operation

When asked to identify specific short term projects or actions that the business community would like to see undertaken within Downers Grove, responses were mixed with only a few items receiving a significant number of nominations. Specific projects listed included marketing campaigns, branding and signage, a revision and streamlining of the permitting process, a sign ordinance review, and railroad crossing improvements aimed at improving pedestrian access and circulation. A similar list of long term projects was also developed. These projects included improvements to the road network, congestion mitigation, and beautification and façade improvements in the Ogden Avenue corridor.

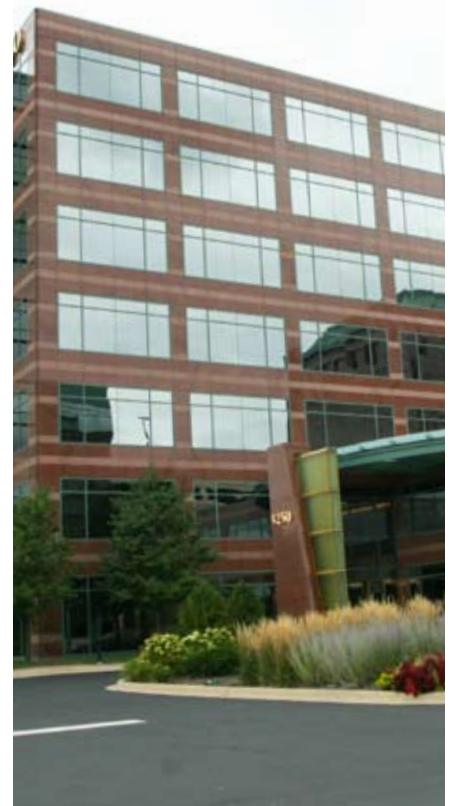
Business workshop participants were also asked what they believed were the primary advantages of having a business in Downers Grove. The Village's location with respect to highways, major arterials and transit was most commonly cited by business workshop participants. The relatively well educated and affluent resident population of Downers Grove's was also frequently identified as an advantage for local businesses. Other

advantages included the Village's location with respect to other communities, proximity to area destinations, the quality of the business community, access to networking, and the ability of the school system to attract a solid residential base.

In addition to the above, business workshop participants were asked to identify the primary disadvantages to having a business in Downers Grove. Business community members identified the local business climate and high costs of operation as the biggest disadvantage. Participants also identified competition as it relates both direct retail competition and competing incentives from surrounding municipalities in attracting new businesses. A current lack of collective marketing for the Village's commercial areas was also often cited by participants. However, workshop participants emphasized that the positive elements of doing business in Downers Grove outweighed any negative aspects or perceptions.

Compiled Results from the Business Workshop

The table on the following pages (page 82 through page 91) presents a detailed summary of each of the comments received at the Business Workshop, sorted by the corresponding question.



Business Workshop Compiled Results

Comment	Category
Question 1 : Identify five (5) issues or concerns confronting businesses in Downers Grove.	
Property taxes	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Maintaining a viable biz climate - taxes	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Cost of doing business	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Sales tax (8.0%) - continues to go up	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Taxes - sales, property tax, all are increasing despite harsh climate	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Controlling costs	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Rising state business taxes	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Taxes - sales, property tax, all are increasing despite harsh climate	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Taxation rates in Illinois	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Older buildings - cost to renovate	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Need for lower telecommunications costs for small business	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Taxes - sales, property tax, all are increasing despite harsh climate	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Cost of doing business resulting from additional taxes & fees from Village	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
High taxes (not increase)	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Insurance costs	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Mix in downtown area	Business Mix
Need for more professional building in Downtown D.G.	Business Mix
Need more large corporations, need large corporations, more included in community	Business Mix
More manufacturers needed	Business Mix
Bringing in the attraction of right mix of businesses	Business Mix
Small business incubator	Business Mix
Improvement of City-owned buildings on Main Street - façade & overall	City-owned Property
Keeping business supply local - providing needs to each other	Coordination - B2B
Need more forums for blending/connecting large businesses with small businesses -- recruitment	Coordination - B2B
Downtown destination site	Downtown Destination
Keeping workforce content/contain cost while keeping people	Education / Workforce Development
Trained workforce	Education / Workforce Development
Schooling / College & beyond	Education / Workforce Development
Hiring qualified workers	Education / Workforce Development
Access to capital	Financing
Identifying 'deterrents' to achieving viable business	General
Continual revitalization of Downtown Area to destination	General
Employer pool morale - motivation in tough economies	General
Rental prices - Downtown	General
Overlapping business advocacy organizations - Chamber, Downtown, EDC	General

Business Workshop Compiled Results	
Comment	Category
Village government/business retention	General
Maintaining/enhancing existing businesses or employers	General
Attracting new business	General
Disconnect between "pockets" of business groups - downtown, industrial park, Ogden Avenue	General
Coordinating Downtown economic development with the rest of the village	General
Lower demand - economic downturn	General
Economic conditions	General
Competitive geography	General
Economy	General
Economy	General
North side improvements	General
Nearby undesirable land uses potential	General
At time, Village mission not aligned with moving forward	General
Village provides little economic support for new businesses	General
Housing	Housing
infrastructure	Infrastructure
Road infrastructure kept up to promote business and trucking	Infrastructure
Infrastructure	Infrastructure
Promotion of all business	Marketing
Lack of awareness in regards to Downtown being a destination	Marketing
Awareness of shopping and business in community	Marketing
Attracting business to D.G.	Marketing
How to entice shoppers to key retail locations	Marketing
Marketing	Marketing
No good source to contact & reach all residents - No Downers Grove specific publication	Marketing
Advertising/marketing	Marketing
Ogden Ave improvement i.e. building conditions, traffic control	Ogden Avenue
Beautification of Ogden Ave.	Ogden Avenue
Façade improvement on Ogden Ave.	Ogden Avenue
Appearance of Ogden Avenue businesses	Ogden Avenue
Parking	Parking
parking	Parking
Parking in Downtown D.G.	Parking
Parking	Parking
Parking/too much commuter parking, not enough on-street parking	Parking
Parking in front of CBD businesses	Parking
Parking lot at mall at the corner (NW) of Main St. and 75th St.	Parking

Business Workshop Compiled Results

Comment	Category
Parking	Parking
Parking in Downtown	Parking
Attracting foot traffic...customers to use local business	Pedestrian Access & Circulation
We need more foot traffic; customers - Downtown specifically	Pedestrian Access & Circulation
Maintenance of streets & sidewalks Downtown	Pedestrian Access & Circulation
Fire sprinkler enforcement	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permitting process	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Consistency in permits & Village process	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Fire code enforcement handling	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Building code - not streamlined	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permitting process	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Ordinance that don't fall in line with time	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Hassle in getting permits	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Too much red tape	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Lack of ease in maintaining business property because of permitting regulations	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Harder to hire competitive contractors because of [permitting regulations]	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Lack of cohesion permitting inspection process within same project	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Village building/expansion restrictions - disincentive	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permitting process - has improved	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Fire safety	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Difficulty in changing zoning to promote business growth	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Signage	Signage
Roads signage	Signage
Restricted signage	Signage
Signage to DG Downtown	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage - Downtown and directing into the Downtown	Signage
No Downtown signage to direct people	Signage
Restrictions on signs	Signage
Freight train traffic (downtown congestion)	Traffic / Congestion
transportation	Traffic / Congestion
Traffic	Traffic / Congestion
Traffic flow	Traffic / Congestion
Traffic	Traffic / Congestion
Traffic	Traffic / Congestion

Business Workshop Compiled Results	
Comment	Category
Traffic in major corridors	Traffic / Congestion
Many freight trains stopping traffic for 10-15 [minutes]	Traffic / Congestion
Lack of downtown railroad overpass/underpass - traffic	Traffic / Congestion
Transportation/train & auto & car pool	Transportation
Keeping the buildings filled / rentals filled	Vacancies
Decaying shopping centers - 63rd & Woodward, etc.	Vacancies
Building permits	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Question 2 : What are the three most important issues discussed so far?	
Ogden Ave. beatification plan	Beautification & Façade Improvements
Façade & overall improvement of City-owned buildings	Beautification & Façade Improvements
Beautification of Ogden Ave.	Beautification & Façade Improvements
Ogden façade	Beautification & Façade Improvements
Downtown improvement	Beautification & Façade Improvements
Property taxes	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Cost of doing biz	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Taxes - sales, property tax, all are increasing despite harsh climate	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Property taxes	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Cost of business Employee morale/motivation	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Taxes	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Rising state taxes	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Single communications medium	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Favorable new business climate	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Business recruitment	Business Mix
Small business incubator	Business Mix
Residential & community involvement	Community Involvement
B2B opportunities to cross supply needs & keep it local	Coordination - B2B
Bridging large & small businesses	Coordination - B2B
Business communication	Coordination - B2B
Downtown should be a destination	Downtown Destination
Downtown a destination	Downtown Destination
Attraction	Downtown Destination
Downtown as destination point	Downtown Destination
Workforce development	Education / Workforce Development
Infrastructure	Infrastructure
Infrastructure	Infrastructure
Road infrastructure	Infrastructure

Business Workshop Compiled Results

Comment	Category
Promotion	Marketing
Parking	Parking
Parking Downtown	Parking
Parking issue in Downtown area	Parking
Commuter Parking	Parking
Downtown parking	Parking
Downtown parking	Parking
Permitting process	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Fire code/permit process	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permitting	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permits - understanding & consistency	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permitting	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Ordinances	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permitting - Not all Village staff understand how their decisions affect business	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Inconsistencies in the permitting process	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permitting	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Village/government/consistency	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Difficulty in changing zoning to promote business growth	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permitting	Permitting & Code Enforcement
TCD is being done (what is the deliverable)	Planning
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage - as it relates to each business corridor	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage - appropriate to different corridors	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Stormwater	Stormwater
Traffic	Traffic
Traffic	Traffic
Traffic/circulation	Traffic / Congestion
Traffic Flow	Traffic / Congestion
Decaying/empty shopping centers	Vacancies

Business Workshop Compiled Results

Comment	Category
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Question 3 : If you had the power to undertake one project or action to improve the business climate within Downers Grove in the short term, what would it be?

Improve Ogden Ave. appearance	Beautification & Façade Improvements
Reduce taxes on businesses	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Small business incubator - facility and services	Business Mix
Business promotion / Economic support	Economic Development
Provide economic incentive to attract businesses	Economic Development
Annex Lisle	General
Plan event to bring our businesses together with residents	Marketing
Use 355 as medium for advertising to southwest/northwest suburb commuters	Marketing
Signage on 355 and 88 profiling business exits	Marketing
I would Brand the Village and use signage from all 4 sides to direct people to our Downtown Destination	Marketing
Have Village focus on promoting use of Village businesses	Marketing
Open space development	Open Space
Parking	Parking
Walnut Ave/overpass for truck traffic to Ellsworth Business Park or additional underpass to improve traffic	Pedestrian Access & Circulation
Sidewalks & improvements on Ogden; Safer pedestrian thoroughfares - overpasses or underpasses	Pedestrian Access & Circulation
Permit process - Shorten and make easier	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permit process - Fix calc	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Educate all Village staff on how the permitting/inspection process affects business	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Improve the permitting/occupancy process, eliminating the inconsistencies in the process	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Consistency with Village officials / enforcement	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Look at TCD deliverables -- Impact analysis w/short term goals in mind	Planning
Sign ordinances	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage	Signage
Signage - No signage directing people to downtown	Signage
Traffic	Traffic
Improve traffic/parking/train schedules to make it easy to treat within Downers Grove	Traffic / Congestion
Create shuttle svc. throughout Downers	Transportation
Fill vacant structures	Vacancies

Question 4 : If you had the power to undertake one project or action to improve the business climate within Downers Grove in the long term, what would it be?

Downtown improvement	Beautification & Façade Improvements
Remove obstacles for business development by having businesses be considered just as important as the residents of Downers Grove	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Reduce the cost of doing business in D.G.	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs

Business Workshop Compiled Results	
Comment	Category
Good mix of business and façade improvement in DG!	Business Mix
I would like a committee that works w/EDC to attract the right mix of businesses to our town	Business Mix
Incentives to attract businesses!	Economic Development
Workforce development	Education / Workforce Development
An educated manufacturing work force with basics of machining, inspection, maintenance, etc.	Education / Workforce Development
Education campaign --> Retain our roots	General
Institute program to register employees licenses to be used to ticket	General
All Village staff would have to have real business experience	General
Parking within DG Downtown	Parking
Additional parking in Downtown - Deck on north side of tracks	Parking
Downtown railroad underpass/overpass - at least for pedestrians and bicycles	Pedestrian Access & Circulation
Develop plan to increase foot traffic & activities in Downtown area	Pedestrian Access & Circulation
Eliminate permit frustrations, keep taxes as low as possible to encourage business to locate within Downers Grove	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Long term Ogden Ave. Plan	Planning
Ogden Avenue improvements - Comprehensive Plan	Planning
Impact analysis with long term goals	Planning
2nd Grade separation	Traffic / Congestion
Speed up the process for Belmont expansion	Traffic / Congestion
Work to improve infrastructure & traffic circulation	Traffic / Congestion
Another grade crossing/underpass	Traffic / Congestion
Question 5 : What are the primary advantages of having a business in Downers Grove?	
SSA in Downtown - Co-op marketing	Business Community
Economic Development Corp.	Business Community
Access to Village staff, EDC, Chamber, Downtown Mgt. Corporation of Bus. Orgs. To promote bus.	Business Community
Strong & diverse business community	Business Community
Good cooperative climate between gov. & businesses	Business Community
Chamber EDC support	Business Community
Quality of biz in the Village	Business Community
Downtown charm	Character
Authentic Downtown & newly revitalized	Character
Great (vibrant) downtown	Character
NOT Naperville	Character
Sense of community	Character
History	Character
"small town" feeling	Character
Downtown area	Character

Business Workshop Compiled Results	
Comment	Category
Community pride	Community Involvement
Affluent community - most families have a degree of disposable income	Demographics - Income, Education
Well educated people / work force; consumers	Demographics - Income, Education
As a community, residents (generally) above average income, strong education system, excellent quality of life.	Demographics - Income, Education
residents - 55,000	Demographics - Income, Education
upscale clientele base	Demographics - Income, Education
Great demographics (educated, above average incomes)	Demographics - Income, Education
Attract higher income shopper/educated worker	Demographics - Income, Education
Good employment pool	Demographics - Income, Education
Fairly affluent community & surrounding suburbs	Demographics - Income, Education
Diversity of economic base (tax revenues can be diversified)	Diverse Economic Base
Good foot traffic from restaurants and trains, pedestrians	Foot Traffic
Good place to live & work	Good Place
Good family municipality - stable residency	Good Place
Quality of life in the community	Good Place
ready to grow	Growth potential
Improving community	Improving
Businesses are now starting to relocate to Downers grove which benefits us	Improving
Close to my home	Location
Location	Location
Great location - centrally located (Chicago area), history, charm, transportation, services	Location
Location	Location
Great access point to Downtown and surrounding area	Location
Do not need to travel to Chicago/Oak Brook	Location
Nice suburb located centrally around other nice suburbs (Naperville, Oak Brook, Schaumburg (SWNW))	Location
Good exposure - Our business is on Main Street	Location
Attractive, viable business corridors/location	Location
Location is easy to get to	Location - Transportation
Access to major highways/train	Location - Transportation
Access to larger market of western Chicago suburbs	Location - Transportation
Easy access to toll way, train	Location - Transportation
Potential for incoming transportation to downtown (reverse commute, etc.)	Location - Transportation
Expressways	Location - Transportation
Access to expressway & transportation	Location - Transportation
Easy access to toll way, train	Location - Transportation
Excellent transportation	Location - Transportation
Good location relative to major arteries	Location - Transportation

Business Workshop Compiled Results

Comment	Category
Central location & access to transportation	Location - Transportation
Good logistical location	Location - Transportation
Transportation, access, toll ways	Location - Transportation
Location w/highway system	Location - Transportation
Roads - geography	Location - Transportation
Transportation: location to expressways, train	Location - Transportation
Generally good public services	Public Services
Quality services provided by the Village	Public Services
Pleasant - safe, clean area	Safety
Schools	Schools
Schools	Schools
It is a great community - great schools, great chamber, caring people	Schools
Great community & good schools	Schools
Educational system is superior	Schools
schools	Schools
Size of community	Size of Community
Transportation	Transportation
Excellent Village administration - sees the big picture	Village Administration
Proactive Village staff	Village Administration
Right leadership in place	Village Administration
Question 6 : What are the primary disadvantages of having a business in Downers Grove?	
Taxes - Cost of doing business, need for a trained (in basic) work force	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
High cost of operating in downtown	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Cost of living -- "Everything continues to expand WEST for affordability"	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Taxes - Cost of doing business, need for a trained (in basic) work force	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Taxes	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Renting property	Business Climate - Taxes, Costs
Poor involvement of business owners	Business Community
Lack of larger corporate involvement	Business Community
Need more large companies to establish in Downers Grove, i.e. Naperville, Schaumburg	Business Mix
Viable mix of businesses	Business Mix
Lots of competition from surrounding communities	Competition
More attractive \$ incentives from surrounding suburbs	Competition
Competitive from larger market of western Chicago suburbs	Competition
Attraction incentives	Competition
Our location so close to Oak Brook, Yorktown, 75th & Lemont creates a business attraction dilemma for the Downtown	Competition
Competitive surrounding	Competition

Business Workshop Compiled Results	
Comment	Category
There is no Downtown anchor/attraction	Downtown Destination
No major shopping malls to bring consumers in	Downtown Destination
Landlocked, difficult to redevelop and grow	Growth potential
None of note? Space for growth?	Growth potential
Maintaining infrastructure	Infrastructure
Lack of a concentrated target market	Market Area
Hidden jewel - Need to let everyone know about us & our location	Marketing
You can't become Naperville - We cannot create a river walk environment, we don't need to compete w/Naperville, We can brand ourselves & be distinguished	Marketing
Lack of awareness for retail	Marketing
Overall branding of community	Marketing
Support for Downtown business	Marketing
Parking for shoppers	Parking
Downtown - Parking	Parking
Parking	Parking
Permitting	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permit process	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Permitting	Permitting & Code Enforcement
Uniform store hours in Downtown	Store Hours
Congestion with traffic at particular times of day	Traffic / Congestion
Traffic in and around the area	Traffic / Congestion
Traffic downtown	Traffic / Congestion
Trains	Transportation
Difficulty in changing zoning so we can grow	Village Administration
Inconsistency in dealing w/Village official staff	Village Administration
Lack of leadership programs to train new & future leaders	Village Administration
Attractive, viable business corridor/location	
Question 7 : Additional comments...	
Tivoli Theatre is a huge community asset that needs a proactive plan to preserve and leverage as a downtown magnet attraction	
Need to keep focusing on lower or keeping the cost of doing business in DG low without affecting the constraints of the Village	

COMMUNITY RESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE



COMMUNITY RESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

This Questionnaire was one of two on-line surveys that were prepared as a part of the TCD3 community outreach process. It was intended to allow anyone in the Village to participate in the process, even if they were unable to attend a meeting or workshop.

The Resident Questionnaire was designed to gather input from Village residents. It included multiple choice and open ended questions. Hard copies of the questionnaire were also available at the Village Hall in the event that a resident did not want, or did not have the ability, to take the survey on-line.

The questionnaire consisted of 38 questions and focused on a variety of issues that influence the everyday life of Village residents. A total of 861 people submitted their responses to the questionnaire via the TCD3 Project Website.

QUESTION 1: How long have you lived in Downers Grove?

Answers/Options (854 responses)	Percentage
Less than one year	2.8%
One to five years	13.2%
Six to ten years	16.5%
Eleven to twenty years	26.9%
Twenty-one to thirty years	19.1%
Over thirty years	21.4%

QUESTION 2: If in Downers Grove less than 10 years, from where did you move from?

Answers/Options (307 responses)	Percentage
City of Chicago	18.9%
Other DuPage County community	28.7%
Cook County	25.4%
Will County	3.9%
Kane County	0.7%
Illinois community outside of Chicagoland Area	1.6%
Outside of Illinois	16.6%
Other (please specify)	7.5%

QUESTION 3: If in Downers Grove less than 10 years, what are your primary reasons for moving to Downers Grove? (Check all that apply)

Answers/Options (298 responses)	Percentage
Employment	18.5%
Regional Location	41.6%
Quality Housing	46.6%
To be near family	29.5%
Grew up in Downers Grove	6.7%
Quality Schools	50.0%
Quality Parks	20.8%
Overall Community Character	47.7%
Other (please specify)	20.8%

QUESTION 4: What are the primary advantages of living in Downers Grove? (Check all that apply)

Answers/Options (842 responses)	Percentage
Quality Residential Neighborhoods	78.4%
Quality of Housing	51.9%
Affordable Housing	24.8%
Shopping	33.5%
Employment Opportunities	9.7%
Metra Station	71.7%
Small Town Character/Charm	62.8%
Environmental Features	14.1%
Regional Location	57.8%
Parks and Recreation Amenities	52.4%
Religious Institutions	19.4%
Friendliness of residents	50.4%
Diversity of population	14.6%
Feeling of safety and security	63.3%
Good schools	71.6%
Good parks	58.0%
Responsive local government	24.5%
Community appearance	46.8%
Good municipal infrastructure	19.7%
Good transportation and circulation	29.1%
Other (please specify)	7.2%

QUESTION 5: What are the primary disadvantages of living in Downers Grove? (Check all that apply)

Answers/Options (735 responses)	Percentage
High taxes	40.7%
Lack of quality residential neighborhoods	1.2%
Low quality of housing	1.8%
High housing costs	36.2%
Lack of available shopping	16.7%
Lack of job opportunities	9.5%
Inconvenient location	0.4%
Lack of parks/recreational amenities	4.2%
Diversity of population	9.8%
Low quality schools	2.2%
High crime rate	1.6%
Lack of parking	20.3%
Many traffic issues	32.8%
Lack of access to public transportation	7.9%
High pollution	1.4%
Unresponsive local government	12.4%
Unattractive community appearance	6.3%
Poor quality of roads	39.7%
Poor quality of sidewalks	16.7%
Poor quality of sewers and stormwater systems	35.2%
Poor quality of telecommunications	6.0%

QUESTION 6: Where do you work?

Answers/Options (825 responses)	Percentage
Downers Grove	19.2%
Naperville	2.9%
Lisle	2.1%
Hinsdale	1.3%
Oak Brook	3.0%
City of Chicago	17.0%
Other Chicagoland Area community	12.8%
Retired	14.9%
Home office	8.0%
Unemployed	3.5%
Other (please specify)	15.3%

QUESTION 7: What is your primary mode of transportation to work?	
Answers/Options (733 responses)	Percentage
Private automobile	60.4%
Car-pool/van-pool	4.2%
Bus	0.4%
Train	17.1%
Bicycle	0.3%
Walk	1.9%
Work at home	10.8%
Other (please specify)	4.9%

QUESTION 8: What other modes of transportation, if any, do you take to work?	
Answers/Options (393 responses)	Percentage
Private automobile	34.4%
Car-pool/van-pool	7.9%
Bus	6.1%
Train	19.8%
Bicycle	14.2%
Walk	16.0%
Work at home	24.7%
Other (please specify)	

QUESTION 9: Do you currently have children enrolled in school (grades K through 12)?	
Answers/Options (822 responses)	Percentage
Yes	40.8%
No	59.2%

QUESTION 10: If you answered yes to the above question (#9), in which grade level(s) are your children enrolled? (Check all that apply)	
Answers/Options (333 responses)	Percentage
Elementary / Middle School	82.3%
High School	40.5%

QUESTION 11: How do you rate the following educational programs in Downers Grove?

Answers/Options (725 responses)	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Pre-school	138	164	45	12	287
Kindergarten	185	223	47	9	207
Elementary School	225	248	46	8	164
Middle School	165	212	50	11	222
High School	208	200	35	15	201
Adult education (college/grad. levels)	34	85	43	22	407
Programs for the gifted	35	78	58	34	392
Programs for the disabled	42	59	30	18	446

QUESTION 12: How do you rate the following public facilities and services within the Downers Grove area?

Answers/Options (818 responses)	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Regional Arterials/State Roads	95	394	219	62	9
Local streets	39	352	282	136	0
Sidewalks	42	403	274	78	5
Trees and landscaping on public property	141	528	121	16	3
Street lights	87	436	199	74	4
Police protection	279	445	51	6	23
Fire protection	346	400	14	2	44
Water quality	284	439	65	6	10
Sewer service	163	422	122	51	37
Storm water drainage	60	250	249	213	27
Snow removal	142	381	210	64	4
Health care services	232	374	52	4	125
Parks and open space	335	397	67	5	3
Recreational facilities	230	411	100	22	24
Recreational programs	221	408	92	10	63
Cultural programs	60	333	185	24	176
Library services	429	314	34	6	20
Community meeting space	93	336	137	15	203
Services for youth	72	276	132	28	267
Services for senior citizens	49	209	75	11	439

QUESTION 13: How do you rate the quality of housing stock (appearance, cost, property maintenance) in your neighborhood/area?

Answers/Options (822 responses)	Percentage
Excellent	27.3%
Good	62.5%
Fair	9.2%
Poor	1.0%

QUESTION 14: How do you rate the overall quality of housing stock (appearance, cost, property maintenance) in Downers Grove?

Answers/Options (821 responses)	Percentage
Excellent	15.3%
Good	74.2%
Fair	9.4%
Poor	1.1%

QUESTION 15: How is the quality of housing changing in Downers Grove?

Answers/Options (813 responses)	Percentage
Getting much worse	2.1%
Getting somewhat worse	15.4%
Staying about the same	40.3%
Getting somewhat better	33.7%
Getting much better	8.5%

QUESTION 16: Are you satisfied with the overall quality of life in Downers Grove?

Answers/Options (822 responses)	Percentage
Very satisfied	39.5%
Satisfied	56.6%
Dissatisfied	2.8%
Very dissatisfied	1.1%

QUESTION 17: How does the quality of life in Downers Grove today compare to ten years ago, or since you moved to Downers Grove if less than ten years?

Answers/Options (795 responses)	Percentage
Much better	8.6%
Somewhat better	33.0%
About the same	43.3%
Somewhat worse	13.6%
Much worse	1.6%

QUESTION 18: Please rate how each of the following currently threatens the quality of life in your neighborhood?

Answers/Options (807 responses)	No Threat	Good	Fair	Poor	Major Threat
Speed of traffic	169	135	191	176	125
Volume of traffic	147	159	185	193	107
Cut-through traffic	177	153	167	153	137
New development	270	175	153	99	84
Poorly maintained properties	223	234	173	100	56
Lack of shopping opportunities	366	183	145	73	22
Crime	186	346	170	56	24
Other (please specify)					

QUESTION 19: In five years Downers Grove will...

Answers/Options (807 responses)	Percentage
Be a better place	40.1%
Get worse	11.5%
Stay about the same	48.4%

QUESTION 20: In five years my neighborhood/area will...

Answers/Options (797 responses)	Percentage
Be a better place	27.9%
Get worse	11.7%
Stay about the same	60.5%

QUESTION 21: Do you feel informed about what is going on in Downers Grove?

Answers/Options (808 responses)	Percentage
Yes	78.5%
No	21.5%

QUESTION 22: Where do you typically get your information about Village and community affairs and programs? (Please check one)

Answers/Options (808 responses)	Percentage
Mailings	13.0%
Internet	13.4%
Local newspapers	49.9%
Cable TV	3.4%
Local conversations	15.3%
Other (please specify)	5.0%

QUESTION 23: Do you think local government is effectively dealing with local issues and concerns?

Answers/Options (778 responses)	Percentage
Yes	69.2%
No	30.8%

QUESTION 24: How important is it for Downers Grove to retain existing businesses as well as attract new commercial (retail, service, or office) businesses?

Answers/Options (817 responses)	Percentage
Very important	87.0%
Somewhat important	12.0%
Not important	1.0%

QUESTION 25: How important is it for Downers Grove to retain existing industrial businesses as well as attract new industrial businesses or other large employers?

Answers/Options (815 responses)	Percentage
Very important	75.6%
Somewhat important	21.5%
Not important	2.9%

QUESTION 26: How important is it for Downers Grove to retain open space as well as acquire new lands for parks and recreational purposes?

Answers/Options (810 responses)	Percentage
Very important	67.5%
Somewhat important	26.3%
Not important	6.2%

QUESTION 27: What kind of new development would you like to see in Downers Grove in the future? (check all that apply)

Answers/Options (790 responses)	Percentage
Single-family homes	44.6%
Townhomes	17.0%
Apartments	4.8%
Condominiums	10.5%
Senior housing	29.4%
Retail stores	52.4%
Restaurants	51.1%
Professional offices	24.3%
Medical facilities	19.0%
Industrial	17.0%
Educational	31.0%
Parks	42.7%
Cultural	40.5%
Other (please specify)	21.9%

QUESTION 28: What kind of new development would you NOT like to see in Downers Grove in the future? (check all that apply)

Answers/Options (709 responses)	Percentage
Single-family homes	9.9%
Townhomes	34.4%
Apartments	70.7%
Condominiums	50.6%
Senior housing	9.0%
Retail stores	9.2%
Restaurants	8.6%
Professional offices	13.1%
Medical facilities	10.6%
Industrial	34.1%
Parks	7.9%
Cultural	5.2%
Other (please specify)	14.4%

QUESTION 29: In what ways can the Village government ensure the future success of commercial areas within Downers Grove? (check all that apply)

Answers/Options (782 responses)	Percentage
Increase the number of parking spaces available	42.2%
Attract more diverse retail	66.4%
Promote more entertainment and dining uses	51.3%
Encourage more attractive commercial development	41.3%
Increase neighborhood commercial	10.0%
Provide incentives for businesses to locate in Downers Grove	54.9%
Allow mixed-use developments	24.4%
Improve development approval process (more efficient)	30.6%
Other (please specify)	10.4%

QUESTION 30: How old are you?

Answers/Options (818 responses)	Percentage
Under 18	0.0%
18-24	0.4%
25-34	6.4%
35-44	25.9%
45-54	31.1%
55-64	20.7%
65-74	9.2%
75 and over	6.5%

QUESTION 31: How many people are in your household?

Answers/Options (815 responses)	Percentage
One	12.9%
Two	28.5%
Three	13.9%
Four	26.1%
Five	13.7%
Six or more	4.9%

QUESTION 32: What category best describes your education level?

Answers/Options (813 responses)	Percentage
Grade school	0.2%
High school	3.8%
Some college	10.3%
2-year college/trade school	7.5%
Bachelors degree	36.5%
Post graduate	40.2%
Other (please specify)	1.4%

QUESTION 33: What is Downers Grove's #1 strength? (Please select only one)

Answers/Options (800 responses)	Percentage
Location/Access to transportation	41.1%
Parks and open space	3.0%
Commercial/shopping	0.5%
Residents	13.3%
Downtown	4.6%
Residential neighborhoods	20.5%
Village government	1.1%
Development potential	0.9%
Police department	0.5%
Fire department	1.6%
Elementary / Middle Schools	4.6%
High Schools	4.0%
Low taxes	1.8%
Other (please specify)	2.5%

QUESTION 34: What is Downers Grove's #1 weakness? (Please select only one)

Answers/Options (766 responses)	Percentage
Traffic	17.9%
Lack of parks and open space	1.0%
Infrastructure	16.3%
Elementary / Middle Schools	1.4%
High Schools	1.0%
Condition of Downtown	7.2%
Residential neighborhoods	1.0%
Lack of available shopping	5.5%
Lack of recreational opportunities	1.4%
Cost of housing	14.1%
High taxes	16.1%
Other (please specify)	17.0%

The following questions (35–38), were open-ended response questions that allowed residents to express their thoughts and feelings in their own words. While no two responses were exactly the same, several common themes were identified through the resident questionnaire.

Responses to each of the questions were very similar. Below is a summary of the comments received.

Question 35: What are the three most important issues facing the Village?

588 responses were collected for Question 35. The top three issues residents felt the Village is facing included stormwater management, infrastructure improvements, and commercial development/appearance along Ogden Avenue.

With regard to stormwater management, residents believed that enhanced mitigation measures should be taken to alleviate drainage problems caused by new development. Many residents believed that the Village should upgrade the community’s aging infrastructure (including storm sewers) and perform better routine maintenance.

Additionally, several comments were associated with the existing character of Ogden Avenue with regard to unattractive buildings, a lack of landscaping, traffic/congestion issues, and the need for overall enhancement along the corridor.

Question 36: What should be the Village’s top priority?

600 responses were collected for Question 36, with themes similar to those previously mentioned. In general, residents felt that downtown improvements, stormwater, and economic development should be the Village’s top priorities.

Many residents identify the Downtown as the “heart of the community,” and believe that the Village should actively work towards attracting new businesses to the area and filling vacant store fronts. Building a viable, attractive downtown is felt to be essential to the health of the Village.

In addition, stormwater was repeatedly cited as one of the most important issues facing the Village. Residents believe that the Village is currently working towards alleviating these concerns, but that more effort is needed. Stormwater management is cited as an issue on Village streets and on individual properties.

Economic development throughout the Village’s main commercial corridors as well as the downtown is also considered a priority by many area residents.

Question 37: What should be done to improve the overall quality of life in the Village?

515 responses were collected for Question 37. In general, residents believed that addressing the most important issues facing the community would improve the overall quality of life in the Village. Specifically, residents expressed interest in infrastructure improvements, downtown enhancements, and economic development.

To improve the quality of life in the Village, infrastructure improvements that would increase vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle accessibility were desired by residents. Several people believe that traffic congestion is a real problem and that alleviating this congestion will improve the quality of life for those in the area.

Several residents also believed that making the downtown area more attractive and incorporating more diverse shopping, dining, and entertainment destinations would be beneficial as well.

Question 38: Please provide any additional comments about our community that you would like to make in the space below.

The majority of responses to Question 38 underscored previous comments (e.g. reiterating the importance of infrastructure improvements) or expressed positive attitudes toward the Village as a great place to live and work. Many survey participants also thanked the Village for providing them with an avenue by which they could share their thoughts and opinions.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS QUESTIONNAIRE



COMMUNITY BUSINESS QUESTIONNAIRE

This Questionnaire was one of two on-line surveys that were prepared as a part of the TCD3 community outreach process. It was intended to allow anyone in the Village to participate in the process, even if they were unable to attend a meeting or workshop.

The Business Questionnaire was designed to gather input from Village business owners. It included multiple choice and open ended questions. Hard copies of the questionnaire were also available at the Village Hall in the event that a business owner did not want, or did not have the ability, to take the survey on-line.

The questionnaire consisted of 34 questions, and focused on several issues that influence everyday business operations for Village business owners. A total of 55 people submitted their responses to the questionnaire via the TCD3 Project Website.

QUESTION 1: Generally, in what area of the Village is your business located?

Answers/Options (46 responses)	Percentage
Downtown	52.2%
Ellsworth Industrial Park	10.9%
Butterfield & Finley	8.7%
Fairview & Maple	8.7%
Ogden Avenue Corridor	10.9%
31st & Highland	2.2%
63rd Street Corridor	2.2%
75th Street Corridor	4.3%
Other (please specify)	10.8%

QUESTION 2: What type of business is it?

Answers/Options (50 responses)	Percentage
Church/Religious Institution	4.0%
Not For Profit	14.0%
Food Store/grocery	0.0%
Restaurant/tavern	4.0%
Other retail (clothes, hardware, jewelry, etc.)	10.0%
Professional office (medical, legal, financial)	32.0%
Manufacturing	4.0%
Consumer service (beauty salon, dry cleaner, etc.)	2.0%
Other (please specify)	30.0%

QUESTION 3: Do you live in Downers Grove?	
Answers/Options (50 responses)	Percentage
Yes	66.0%
No	34.0%

QUESTION 4: How long has your business been in Downers Grove?	
Answers/Options (49 responses)	Percentage
Less than one year	4.1%
One to five years	12.2%
Six to ten years	26.5%
Eleven to twenty years	10.2%
Twenty-one to thirty years	10.2%
Over thirty years	36.7%

QUESTION 5: Do you own or rent the building your business is located in?	
Answers/Options (49 responses)	Percentage
Own	63.3%
Rent	36.7%

QUESTION 6: Do you feel that the building where you operate your business requires any improvements in order to attract customers?	
Answers/Options (49 responses)	Percentage
Yes	46.9%
No	53.1%

QUESTION 7: If you answered yes to the above question, what improvements would you like to make? (Check all that apply)	
Answers/Options (25 responses)	Percentage
New facade or store front	44.0%
Structural repairs	24.0%
Exterior paint	36.0%
Interior paint	16.0%
Remodeling	28.0%
New equipment	12.0%
New sign	32.0%
New parking area resurfacing	24.0%
Larger parking area	44.0%
Improved dumpster and utility screening	20.0%
More landscaping	16.0%
Other (please specify)	24.0%

QUESTION 8: Are you authorized to make improvements to the building that your business is located in?

Answers/Options (49 responses)

Percentage

Yes	63.3%
No	36.7%

QUESTION 9: What are the primary advantages for your business by having it located in the Village of Downers Grove? (Check all that apply)

Answers/Options (49 responses)

Percentage

Proximity to clients/shoppers	69.4%
Proximity to home	63.3%
Parking availability	24.5%
Public transit	18.4%
Current building/property	42.9%
Lack of nearby competition	8.2%
Low taxes	14.3%
There are no advantages	0.0%
Other (please specify)	12.2%

QUESTION 10: Are there other businesses, features, or attractions in the Village of Downers Grove that are particularly advantageous to your business? (Please explain)

Answers/Options (43 responses)

Percentage

Yes	53.5%
No	46.5%

QUESTION 11: What are the primary disadvantages for your business by having it located in the Village of Downers Grove? (Check all that apply)

Answers/Options (47 responses)

Percentage

Current building/property	6.4%
High taxes	21.3%
Parking	31.9%
Traffic related problems	19.1%
Competition	2.1%
Proximity to home	2.1%
Proximity to clients/shoppers	0.0%
Lack of public transit	17.0%
Crime	0.0%
No disadvantages	19.1%
Other (please specify)	23.4%

QUESTION 12: Are you considering enlarging your business operations in Downers Grove?	
Answers/Options (48 responses)	Percentage
Yes	41.7%
No	58.3%

QUESTION 13: If you had the opportunity to move your business out of Downers Grove, would you?	
Answers/Options (48 responses)	Percentage
Yes	12.5%
No	87.5%

QUESTION 14: If you answered yes to the above question, why would you move your business out of Downers Grove?	
Answers/Options (7 responses)	
Only one reason, would look for a town with more foot traffic.	
We would like to stay in downtown. The only thing we would like would be the same square footage on one floor with more available parking.	
We need space and parking.	
Wanted to answer maybe. High taxes and no parking could drive us out of DG, but we hope not.	
Would move for a better facility	
"We would consider expanding in the near future, but would have to consider all of our options.	
We would love to stay in the Fairview / Maple area but parking and traffic are major issues for us."	
Community affinity to impose an artificial "old" look to everything.	

QUESTION 15: What is your primary mode of transportation to work?	
Answers/Options (48 responses)	Percentage
Private automobile	89.6%
Car-pool/van-pool	2.1%
Bus	0.0%
Bicycle	0.0%
Walk	4.2%
Train	0.0%
Other (please specify)	4.2%

QUESTION 16: What other modes of transportation, if any, do you take to work?	
Answers/Options (28 responses)	Percentage
Private automobile	32.1%
Car-pool/van-pool	7.1%
Bus	0.0%
Bicycle	32.1%
Walk	42.9%
Train	7.1%
Other (please specify)	

QUESTION 17: In general, how do the majority of your employees travel to work?

Answers/Options (48 responses)	Percentage
Private automobile	93.8%
Car-pool/van-pool	0.0%
Bus	0.0%
Bicycle	0.0%
Walk	2.1%
Train	0.0%
Other (please specify)	4.2%

QUESTION 18: How many people work at your business? (including yourself)

Answers/Options (48 responses)	Percentage
Less than five	45.8%
Five to ten	12.5%
Eleven to twenty	14.6%
Twenty-one to thirty	4.2%
Thirty-one to fifty	4.2%
Over fifty	18.8%

QUESTION 19: Where do your employees park?

Answers/Options (47 responses)	Percentage
On street parking spaces	4.3%
In a public lot	8.5%
In a private lot (space you own or rent but which is not used for customers)	63.8%
In a customer lot	23.4%

QUESTION 20: Do you own or rent property to provide customer parking?

Answers/Options (47 responses)	Percentage
Yes, own	46.8%
Yes, rent	12.8%
No, neither	40.4%

QUESTION 21: Do you need more parking spaces near your store or business?

Answers/Options (46 responses)	Percentage
Yes	43.5%
No	56.5%

QUESTION 22: How do you rate the following public facilities and services within the Village of Downers Grove?

Answers/Options (48 responses)	Good	Fair	Poor	Dont' Know
Public parking	15	22	11	0
Community Events	35	12	1	0
Street Lights	34	12	1	1
Sidewalks	31	14	3	0
Sewer Service	25	15	1	6
Fire Protection	39	6	0	1
Trees and Landscaping on public property	35	13	0	0
Snow removal	26	16	6	0
Storm water drainage	25	8	9	5
Parks and open space	43	4	0	0
Recreational facilities and programs	37	7	1	2
Water quality	43	4	0	1
Local streets	22	18	8	0
Police protection	43	4	0	1

QUESTION 23: What improvements would you most like to see made in Downers Grove? (Please select up to 5 answers)

Answers/Options (47 responses)	Percentage
More support for local business	61.7%
Upgraded Infrastructure	27.7%
Improve the appearance along roadways	21.3%
Improve Public relations	12.8%
Greater zoning enforcement	10.6%
More commercial development	27.7%
More residential development	12.8%
Lower taxes	40.4%
More efficient development review process	21.3%
More parking in the Downtown	36.2%
Improve public transportation	10.6%
Other (please specify)	29.8%

QUESTION 24: What kind of new developments or uses would you most like to see added to the Village of Downers Grove in the future? (Check all that apply)

Answers/Options (43 responses)	Percentage
Residential	20.9%
Retail	58.1%
Restaurant	58.1%
Service	18.6%
Office	23.3%
Industrial	30.2%
Parks	20.9%
Mixed-use	30.2%
None	14.0%

QUESTION 25: What kind of new developments or uses do you NOT want to see added to the Village of Downers Grove? (Check all that apply)

Answers/Options (36 responses)	Percentage
Residential	25.0%
Retail	8.3%
Restaurant	5.6%
Service	16.7%
Office	11.1%
Industrial	38.9%
Parks	13.9%
Mixed-use	8.3%
None	33.3%
Other (please specify)	13.9%

QUESTION 26: Do you feel informed about what is going on in the Village of Downers Grove?

Answers/Options (48 responses)	Percentage
Yes	72.9%
No	20.8%
Don't Know	6.3%

QUESTION 27: Where do you typically get your information about Village and community affairs and programs? (Please check one)	
Answers/Options (48 responses)	Percentage
Mailings	6.3%
Internet	6.3%
Local newspapers	22.9%
Local conversations	20.8%
Chamber of Commerce/EDC/Downtown Management	33.3%
Village Newsletter	4.2%
Other (please specify)	6.3%

QUESTION 28: Do you think Village government is effectively dealing with Village issues and concerns?	
Answers/Options (48 responses)	Percentage
Yes	45.8%
No	22.9%
Don't know	31.3%

QUESTION 29: How would you describe the Village of Downers Grove today as compared to ten years ago?	
Answers/Options (46 responses)	Percentage
Improved	69.6%
Stayed the same	10.9%
Declined	15.2%
Don't know	4.3%

QUESTION 30: What is the Village of Downers Grove's #1 strength? (Please select only one)	
Answers/Options (46 responses)	Percentage
Location	47.8%
Public Transportation	6.5%
Sewer and water systems	0.0%
Commercial/shopping areas	0.0%
Residential neighborhoods	19.6%
Development potential	4.3%
Police department	0.0%
Low Taxes	0.0%
Overall Community/Appearance	15.2%
Traffic	0.0%
Condition of streets	0.0%
Condition of sidewalks	0.0%
Public Safety	0.0%
Other (please specify)	6.5%

QUESTION 31: What is the Village of Downers Grove's #1 weakness? (Please select only one)

Answers/Options (45 responses)	Percentage
Location	4.4%
Public Transportation	17.8%
Sewer and water systems	11.1%
Commercial/shopping areas	0.0%
Residential neighborhoods	17.8%
Development potential	11.1%
Police department	11.1%
Low Taxes	2.2%
Overall Community/Appearance	0.0%
Traffic	6.7%
Condition of streets	17.8%

QUESTION 32: What are the three most important issues facing the Village of Downers Grove? (Choose 3)

Answers/Options (49 responses)	Percentage
Quality of new development	42.9%
Roads	49.0%
Parking	32.7%
Public Safety	16.3%
Traffic	34.7%
Quality of Residential Neighborhoods	10.2%
Need for new commercial development	30.6%
Need for new residential development	6.1%
Improving Infrastructure	46.9%
Overall Character and Appearance	20.4%
Other (please specify)	10.2%

QUESTION 33: What is the most important thing the Village could do to improve the business climate in Downers Grove?

Answers/Options (29 responses)

Loosen up Liquor ordinances. The permit process and approval is corrupt. You shouldn't have to hire Ken Rathje or Jim Russ in order to open a business in this village

Add more parking garages and bring in some big name retail shops and restaurants.

Parking in the downtown area.

Speaking as a downtown business on the north side of the tracks PARKING

DNK

Continue to ask questions

Lower taxes. More parking. No more condos.

No more construction and help with the rising taxes that small businesses are facing

Work WITH businesses and provide less red tape, not more.

?

provide incentives to shop local

improve north/south street traffic on major street

promote local business free of charge in local publications, especially for senior citizens

"Cut taxes. Cut all unnecessary programs and discretionary spending. Focus on basic services, police, fire, road maintenance. Ensure city and neighborhood stability.

Cut costs in school system and government and any discretionary social programs."

Insure parking for customers,(not commuters) including Saturday and Sunday

The village has always been very supportive of the work we do. It is much appreciated

Approve text amendments to the sign ordinance, recognizing the unique needs of business corridors, i.e., what is applicable to downtown DG is not necessary applicable to Butterfield Rd. or 75th and Lamont.

Promote, promote, promote!

Make sure that residents understand the taxation value of having businesses in their village

Create a reason for people to come to central Downers Grove as a destination not only during the weekdays but also at night and on the weekends.

Keep up maintaining community properties

We would like to see the village pay more attention to the Fairview / Maple business area. We feel neglected over here. Downtown has see it's share of improvements and I think the village has done a great job in Downtown. We could use a little sprucing up too. Parking has always been an issue. There is a lot of potential here in this area, we would like to see the village give us some consideration.

Stop attempting to model the "look" as if it is an old New England area. Human scale can occur with modern designs.

Get one or two anchor stores in the downtown region

Give consumers with discretionary income more reason to spend their money in DG - primarily restaurants and retail.

Review fire code and building permit process. Promote buy locally and have the village do the same.

fill the vacancies with retail that is new and current to increase foot traffic

Creating a better downtown atmosphere with higher profile business and stores

Approve text amendments applicable to business corridors.

QUESTION 34: Please provide any additional comments you feel would be helpful.

Answers/Options (13 responses)

We are a church located in Oak Brook. A significant percentage of our membership is from Downers Grove, so we are always looking to be involved in the Downers Grove community.

After speaking to a few chain restaurants, their main reason for not coming to downtown downers grove was the lack of parking and easy access for their customers. We need more parking.

Keep up the good work!

Several questions should have been more openended

Overdevelopment has ruined our nice downtown. Too much traffic. No more building!

Village has a great location and should entice big companies to locate here with incentives

Please review plan developed some 60 years ago by County Board for railroad grade separation by raising or lowering track bed. (similar to that in Oak Park & other communities)

promote & provide easier access to services especially for senior citizens

"I think that the parking deck was a good idea.

I think that the plan to convert the corner of Maple and Main to a strip mall is very bad. We don't need another strip mall.

I think the downtown events are great, e.g., Heritage Fest, Fine Arts Festival."

Keep moving forward, we're headed in the right direction!

DG should promote village organizations that are unique in their respective categories - e.g. Good Samaritan (level I trauma center), Midwestern University, Sara Lee, Tivoli/Classic Cinemas, Downers Grove Bentley/Luxury Motors, MacNeil Automotive Products, Anderson's Bookshop, Happy Dog Barkery, etc., etc.

In comparison to many other surrounding communities, Downers Grove has a well-established arts community. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a great deal of public support for the arts. The arts organizations are a well-kept secret. There's music, there's dance, there's theatre. I encourage the planners of Downers Grove to look toward this vibrant arts community as a valuable resource. Create the vision to nurture the arts and implement a plan that will send a message to the entire metropolitan Chicago area that Downers Grove is an arts destination. If you do it, they will come. And they will spend money in Downers Grove.

lower taxes

