



# Community & Culture

## Introduction and Overview

**Community:** a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government and often have a common and historical heritage or a locality inhabited by such a group.

**Culture:** the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic or age group.  
(Dictionary.com, 2013)

Outstanding schools, excellent community services and a first class record for public safety have contributed to making Orland Park one of the nation's most attractive and desirable places to live. Community services at the neighborhood level, such as schools and recreation programs, have consistently been identified by residents as the top reasons they appreciate living in Orland Park. These attitudes show that Orland Park is a community that enjoys security, recreation, high quality homes, thriving commercial centers, quality education, and access to beautiful natural landscapes.

From establishing a popular natural open space and park system to planning and building a mixed-use transit oriented downtown, the Village has made considerable progress toward creating important community places and natural spaces. While these have undoubtedly improved the livability of residents and viability of merchants, more is needed to build a strong sense of place that preserves community heritage, builds community character and identity, engages the community and enhances Orland Park's economic vitality.





*Day Camp, Orland Park*

*When it comes to a place to live and raise a family, most Americans want two things: the opportunity for themselves and their children to prosper, and a quality of life that lets them enjoy the fruits of their work.*  
*(Money Magazine, 2006)*



*2012 Concert on the Lawn, Orland Park*

## 2030 Vision

In 2030, Orland Park will facilitate community life for all ages through education, arts and culture, recreation, an engaging environment, religious communities, clubs, healthy neighborhoods, public participation and responsive governance. Orland Park will foster a dynamic and unique sense of place that is inspiring and attractive and draws visitors, private investment, businesses, and residents of all ages.

## Key Concept

“With the evolution of the suburbs in America, a desire for a memorable communal experience has become more pronounced. The mass-produced aspect of suburban sprawl has left many new communities without a public sense of belonging. They lack communal identity and social memory, the ingredients of Sense of Place” (*Dunham-Jones and Williamson, 2011*).

A key concept of this chapter is the idea of nurturing a unique sense of place, which was one of the highest priorities cited by participants in the Comprehensive Plan Visioning Session. While the Land Use, Design & Character chapter emphasizes sense of place through built environment, this chapter emphasizes sense of place through community and culture.

The sense of place desired by Orland Park residents will require more than just what is recommended in this chapter, however. It will require land use strategies for uses and activities in our districts, transportation strategies for access and linkages to and from our neighborhoods, character and design strategies for sociability to create comfortable public spaces and, most importantly, public participation to establish safe and attractive spaces that project positive images and reflect the family values of the community. These things combined, along with the intangible attributes inherent in each, will build the desired sense of place and improve the community’s quality of life.

## Community and Culture Principles

1. Strengthen neighborhoods as places for residents to create meaningful connections between people and places.
2. Preserve and invest in the community’s heritage and cultural assets.
3. Improve community health and vitality.
4. Make transparency and fiscal sustainability a core element of government services.
5. Anticipate and plan for changing needs of a maturing population.





*Memorial Day, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)*

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## Community & Culture Components

The components that follow are summarized and intended to provide only a broad overview of the multi-faceted elements that contribute to the Community & Culture of Orland Park.

### Overview

Orland Park's history, patterns of development and people have shaped the culture of the Village, just as the population growth over the past 50 years has shaped the community. The social groups, behaviors and beliefs that combine to create the culture and community of Orland Park derive from a wide variety of contexts. The graphic below provides a visual representation of the complexity involved in the community and culture of the Village of Orland Park. In Orland Park, like other communities, places are valuable and unique with their own characteristics, identities and even customs. The neighborhood relationships born from these qualities influence and energize our civic and cultural mindset.





Arts Fair at Orland Crossing, Orland Park

## Arts & Culture

Many agencies and businesses contribute to the arts and cultural environment of Orland Park. The Arts Commission has sponsored a number of activities ranging from the Art in the Park program to fine art fairs and shows, including various seasonal musical concerts and film festivals. These events enrich and add to the vibrancy of Orland Park. In 1993, the Orland Park Theatre Troupe was founded. The Troupe produces several productions annually and holds performances at the Orland Park Civic Center and at Sandburg High School's Performing Arts Center. The Village maintains a full time Cultural Center that provides Orland Park residents with dedicated facilities for fine arts, music, and cultural programs, training and recreation through the Village's Recreation and Parks Department. Highlighting public art and culture is an important activity for the community because it preserves local identity and community value and reinforces public investment.

## Community Focal Points and Places

Orland Park includes a number of public and private focal point areas. The celebrated and award winning Village Hall Campus at 147th Street and Ravinia Avenue is the home of municipal government. Built in 1989, the campus is the center of public and civic activity, hosting events ranging from farmers markets, concerts and art fairs to symposiums, sporting events and even private parties. But community focal points aren't always public buildings or spaces. Orland Square Mall serves as a major community destination for Orland Park and the other Southwestern Suburbs. The Mall attracts close to 10 million visitors each year and is frequently one of the top ranked malls in Illinois in terms of popularity and sales. Popular outdoor spaces range from Centennial Park, a large park with a wide array of regional recreational and sporting opportunities, to Crescent Park, a smaller more urban green space intended to function as a community focal point for local events and activities in Downtown Orland Park.

*If we put care into the  
shaping of the places we live,  
we can have a positive impact  
in individual lives that  
ultimately improves overall  
quality of life and happiness  
for everyone.*

*(The Prince's Foundation)*



Village Hall Campus, Memorial Day, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)



## Employment Centers

Orland Park's main employment centers are generally retail-based malls and shopping centers. However, small clusters of offices and even manufacturing areas are located throughout the Village and are important sources of employment. While Orland Park is also home to a burgeoning medical office sector, many local jobs are low-wage earning administrative, retail and restaurant sector jobs.

The majority of Orland Park residents commute, sometimes long distances, to other communities for work. It is important to keep high quality jobs and skilled labor in the region in order to remain economically competitive and advance the overall quality of life for residents.

## Entertainment

Despite the number of venues and opportunities for entertainment, ranging from Marcus Theater to Dave & Busters to a wide variety of restaurants, Orland Park is typically not associated with entertainment. Resident surveys have indicated that there is a high demand for more entertainment opportunities in Orland Park. Entertainment venues should provide a variety of options for all demographics and also contribute to Orland Park's sense of place.

## Events & Markets

Orland Park and other agencies host a wide variety of successful local events, festivals, and markets. Each year the Orland Park Recreation and Parks Department publishes seasonal program guides with an abundance of recreation and educational opportunities. Offerings range from Independence Day celebrations and concerts in the parks to ice skating in Centennial Park, popular day camps, athletics programs and exercise group classes. Special events offered in Orland Park also include the Lions Club Orland Days, the Taste of Orland, the Chili Challenge, the Chamber of Commerce Fine Arts Fair, concerts in the park, the Great Pumpkin Party and the Turkey Trot. One of Orland Park's favorite summer-long events is the Farmer's Market. Held each Friday morning on the Village Hall Campus, the community gathers to buy produce and crafts as well as enjoy lunch time barbeques and recreational opportunities for children.

## Facilities, Assets & Services

Without sufficient public facilities, a municipality cannot grow safely and quality of life diminishes. Orland Park provides a wide variety of efficient municipal services to serve the residents and businesses. Staff work hard to maintain roads, parks, sewers, storm water systems, potable water systems and pump stations. Facilities such as police stations, recreation venues, administration offices and public transit facilities contribute to a high quality municipal operation.

Community facilities and assets also include fire stations and schools run by special districts. The Village's fire assets are administered by 5 different local fire protection districts based on geography, but primarily by Orland Park Fire Protection District. Likewise, the schools are also administered by six local school districts. These districts are separate governmental entities independent of the Village. Cooperative and proactive planning ensures that these facilities operate to provide sufficient services to the area.



*Memorial Day, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)*

*Over 90% of residents plan on staying in Orland Park for five or more years and would recommend Orland Park to others as a place to live.*

*(NCR, 2012)*



*Public Works Leaf Pick Up, Orland Park*



*Twin Towers Sanctuary 1899, Old Orland*

## Faith Based Institutions

There are over 15 places of worship in Orland Park serving a range of denominations and religious faiths. Some of the larger facilities have community centers that provide specific amenities and activities to members such as parochial schools, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, and gathering places like meeting rooms, classrooms, libraries and large halls. The larger institutions, such as Parkview Christian Church, Orland Park Prayer Center and Ashburn Baptist Church attract many non residents and act as a regional draw to the area. Leveraging these services and facilities and the social networks of these institutions for community related engagement, activities, projects and events can improve the quality of life of their congregants as well as their Orland Park neighbors.

## Government

The Village of Orland Park is the primary, but not the only, local government in Orland Park. Other local governments include Orland Township, Orland Fire Protection District, Consolidated High School District 230, and Orland School District 135. However, the list is not limited to just these as there are three other townships, four other local fire protection districts, and five other school districts that also service Orland Park neighborhoods and business districts. These are separate governmental entities that do not include State or Federal offices like the Secretary of State or the US House of Representatives.

The presence of so many jurisdictions in Orland Park is mostly the result of growth over the last 20 years. Village boundaries overlapped into other townships because the Village could service an area better than its neighbors. In other cases like the fire districts, response times and levels of service determined which district was more appropriate to serve Orland Park neighborhoods. And in some cases, old boundaries were never vacated by inter-governmental agreement between Orland Park and other taxing authorities. For residents, the number of local governments and their overlapping boundaries can be difficult to navigate. It is important to understand this context and make sound policy decisions that efficiently coordinate services to our shared constituency. It is also important that accountability for residents is traceable, services are streamlined and the responsibility for government services is met.

## Historic Preservation

The community's historic preservation assets and their collective history serve an important role in setting the cultural tone for Orland Park. The Old Orland Historic District is the oldest neighborhood, located on the north side of the Village. It has a picturesque turn-of-the-century collection of small shops, historic churches and attractive houses. The district is home to 32 distinct historic buildings, 16 of which are contributing structures, landmarks and two are local icons on the National Register of Historic Places. Recently, a number of new single family homes have been constructed in styles and materials consistent with the historic integrity of the area. Additionally, there are ten (10) landmarks scattered around Orland Park, including the Stellwagen Farmstead, Boley Farmstead and the Village Hall Campus.

Much of the historic preservation effort in Orland Park has been centered in the historic district. Respecting the historic remnants of rural Orland Township as well as understanding the evolution of the Village in the last century is the next step in preserving the overall historic sense of community and place in Orland Park.



## Retail

Most people familiar with Orland Park identify the community as a place to shop. Serving as the region's shopping and dining destination has been an important economic development objective and has helped define Orland Park's sense of place. Visitors from as far as Joliet and Indiana come to Orland Park to shop at the wide range of retail stores and to dine at many restaurants and eateries. Residents are generally well served by grocery stores, delis and other service establishments to meet daily needs. Many of these places have become meeting spots or social focal points for neighborhood residents.

## Education

The local education system, from elementary school to high school, is highly valued and one of the most popular reasons residents choose to live in Orland Park. The public schools are frequently identified as one of the best in the region, and a critical amenity to Orland Park families. There are 13 public schools in Orland Park, nine are elementary schools, three are junior high schools and one is a high school (although some Orland Park residents also attend high schools in other communities). Orland Park also boasts excellent parochial schools and smaller private schools. Area school facilities provide many indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities for students as well as local residents. The schools provide neighborhoods with places for community gatherings and double-up as community polling centers on election days, disaster recovery places and, in some cases, places of worship and meeting places. St. Xavier University, Robert Morris University and ITT Technical Institute have also have locations in Orland Park, offering a wide varieties of programs and classes.



Orland Square Mall, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)

*With good homes, low crime,  
above average schools  
and plenty to do,  
Orland Park combines the  
vibrancy of the city with the  
comforts of the suburbs.*

*(Money Magazine, 2006)*



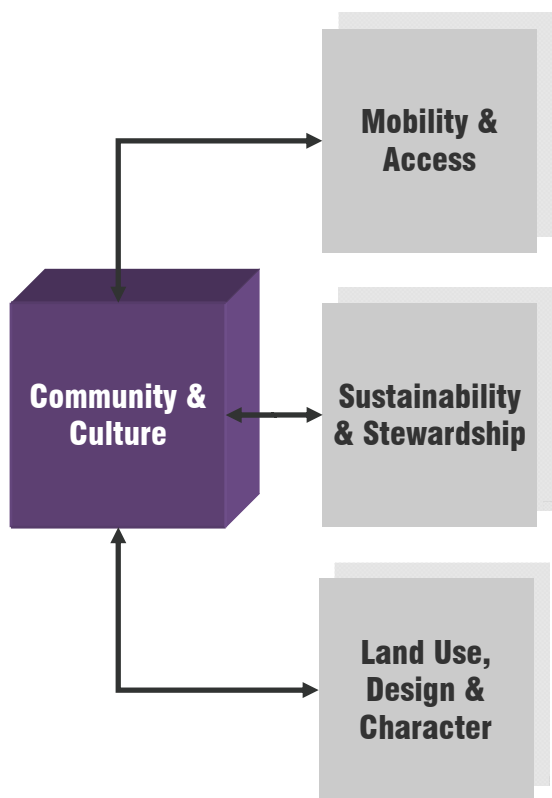
Art Fair, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)



2011 Pet & Bike Parade, Orland Park

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## Recommendations

The goals, objectives and action items outlined in this chapter are intended to build a strong Orland Park identity through the characteristics and features that define Orland Park neighborhoods, marketplaces, workplaces and public places. They are also intended to build capacity for programs, facilities, resources and other amenities that make, and will continue to make, Orland Park a great place to live, work and play. The Community & Culture Chapter is closely related to the Mobility & Access, Sustainability & Stewardship, and Land Use, Design & Character Chapters.

This chapter provides detailed policy guidance for specific components that relate directly to the daily experience of life in Orland Park. The recommendations aim to address the needs and issues of Orland Park residents, as well as, contribute to the broader *QualityPLACES NaturalSPACES* vision of the community.

## Needs and Issues

1. Orland Park residents are very active in their churches, schools, recreation and social groups. Community engagement is needed at the government level to maximize citizen input in decision making.
2. Public spaces and venues are not always used to the fullest potential as places for cultural and public expression.
3. Investment in existing cultural and historic assets for heritage preservation and education should be expanded.
4. While Orland Park was the first community to achieve a 100% score on the Illinois Policy Institutes 10 point transparency checklist, many find local government confusing and complicated.
5. Aging infrastructure, community assets and facilities need reinvestment to sustain over the long term.
6. Arts and cultural offerings should be a direct contributor to Orland Park's sense of place.
7. Local services and community needs must be adapted to meet the demands of changing demographics and an aging population.

## GO TO 2040

### Efficiency and Transparency

The recommendations of the Community & Culture Chapter align with a number of goals highlighted in CMAP's GO TO 2040 Plan. The GO TO 2040 Chapter on "Efficient Governance" highlights the importance that access to and availability of information contributes to the efficiency of government and to the accountability to taxpayers. This chapter also highlights the importance of coordinated investments to increase efficiency.

The GO TO 2040 plan states that, *Residents are served best when government information is freely accessible to all. When bodies have access to complete, accurate and timely information, leaders can make decisions that are better for our communities and region. Every government action or decision should be based on high-quality information so all costs, benefits and alternatives can be considered. Open sharing of information between public entities will also make it easier to coordinate policies and operations, improving their efficiency.*  
(CMAP, 2010a)



Art Fair, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)

## GOAL 1.0: CULTIVATE

Cultivate diverse and meaningful cultural offerings to increase the quality of life for all Orland Park residents and visitors. Sponsor cultural investment in community assets that endow innovation, knowledge sharing and entrepreneurship to create a multi-faceted culturally creative economy.

### Objective 1.1

A variety of arts, cultural and entertainment offerings in Orland Park will enhance livability for all ages and social groups.

#### Action Items

- Promote projects that enhance access to local culture, boost local economic development and create jobs.
- Attract appropriate venues to appropriate areas, such as a theater in the Main Street area of Downtown Orland Park.
- Continue to use major parks as community and neighborhood gathering places and equip them with pavilions and venues to host festivals, concerts, plays etc.
- Encourage and support street markets, fairs and festival marketplace spaces to showcase local cultural expressions.
- Integrate public art and expression in architectural, landscape, transportation, parks and open space, and other similar capital projects and designs.
- Upgrade the Arts Commission to a foundation and establish a community-wide Neighborhood and Community Arts Program made up of public and private stakeholders to facilitate and direct educational and cultural programming
- Encourage creative public engagement with urban design through outreach to schools and colleges, art contests, design workshops, community visioning, music, performances etc.
- Support recurring festivals and events that promote the arts, culture, heritage, participation and community building.
- Consider the establishment of an artist live/work district.

### Objective 1.2

Orland Park's cultural heritage will help influence, and be reflective of a unique and authentic sense of place for the community.

#### Action Items

- Adopt a cultural policy declaring all public spaces as cultural spaces.
- Create a Cultural Master Plan to shape and guide the cultural, artistic and historic priorities of the community.
- Capitalize and promote the benefits of local and regional tourism that accrue from the community's cultural assets.
- Complete a community values or community resources based analysis to inventory historic and cultural elements that uniquely define Orland Park.
- Develop a preservation strategy and policy for the Village's historic assets.



## GOAL 2.0 ACTIVATE

Activate Orland Park neighborhoods, public spaces, marketplaces and workplaces to be vibrant, attractive and complete gathering places.

### Objective 2.1

Every Orland Park neighborhood will have at least five great public places.

#### Action Items

- Establish a neighborhood planning program that reflects the wants and needs of local residents.
- Promote opportunities for social interaction and community pride by introducing activities from different cultures in public places.
- Maintain existing and develop new community services and sociable gathering spaces (e.g. sports fields, parks, community centers, restaurants, etc.)
- Encourage use of neighborhood pavilions for community, cultural and sporting events at major parks.
- Consider additional community-based market gardens, commons or small neighborhood piazzas on un-programmed land or vacant lots.
- Activate the public realm with art, displays, and other amenities that reflect culture and contribute to a sense of place.

### Objective 2.2

Orland Park will continue to be a desirable, safe and high quality community for all ages and social groups.

#### Action Items

- Promote intergenerational and mixed income neighborhoods to increase diversity and contribute to an inclusive community.
- Maintain Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation.
- Plan for new or expanded services to serve anticipated demographic changes, like the increasing aging population.
- Sustain effective and responsive law enforcement and public safety services.
- Maintain high quality active recreational and sporting activities.
- Analyze Village recreational, cultural and entertainment programming to balance community demands, maximize the diversity of offerings and promote public health and wellness for all ages.
- Continue to improve private and public cooperation and collaboration on cultural, recreational and entertainment opportunities.

### Objective 2.3

Orland Park will have neighborhood commercial centers that will support a variety of activities and a healthy lifestyle for nearby residents.

#### Action Items

- Support compact neighborhood centers, in appropriate locations, that provide easy access to daily needs of nearby residents.
- Collaborate with property managers and business owners to establish business district groups that will serve commercial development.
- Attract new types of neighborhood-based businesses that create sociable spaces and “third places” that positively impact the daily lives of residents and visitors. For example, bicycle rental shops near major bikeways or local bakeries, cafés, confectionaries and book stores near parks.



*Centennial Park Aquatic Center, Orland Park*

## What is a “Third Place” and why are they so important?

“Third places” are neighborhood gathering places where local people routinely hang out and socialize. Common examples include the corner pub, store, diner, coffee shop, barber shop or hair salon. Third places often are hosts to informal clubs where people bond and networks are formed. These places serve a fundamental role in building community. As private spaces they offer informal public interaction and tend to have minimal restrictions on access. These are places where people regularly mix. Think of the television shows *Cheers* or *Friends* at the local pub or coffee shop where people went to share experiences to form strong social ties. Third places are essential to the growth of social capital and sense of belonging to a good place.

*(Dunham-Jones and Williamson, 2011)*

*Garden Walk in Old Orland, Orland Park**Kruse School Neighborhood Meeting, Orland Park***GOAL 3.0 ENGAGE AND GOVERN**

Based on a foundation of public participation, Orland Park will demonstrate an efficient, equitable and cost effective use of public resources.

**Objective 3.1**

Orland Park residents will understand the basic functions of local government and feel empowered in their role as involved citizens.

**Action Items**

- Continue 100% local government transparency rating and maintain up to date transparency policies to reflect changing technology and improved techniques.
- Encourage public participation using convenient and innovative tools and techniques (e.g. technology, drawing, modeling, social media etc.).
- Work with community leaders to empower and enable them to participate in the decision making process.
- Create a database of stakeholders, business associations and other organizations that can be used for public outreach efforts.
- Promote a culture for local government that is centered on the common constituency of residents and taxpayers.

**Objective 3.2**

Orland Park will be a technologically advanced and consistent source of high quality public information.

**Action Items**

- Support “open source” policies to share appropriate data with the public and other governmental organizations.
- Maintain a publicly accessible, web-based interactive project tracking system for proposed development and other infrastructure projects.
- Utilize the Public Information office to improve community outreach and public engagement.
- Guarantee data security for all forms of web-based information technologies.
- Maintain and update the Village Website as the “face” of Orland Park.

**“Place-Making”****Creating a unified vision.**

Put simply, “Place-making”, involves looking at, listening to, and asking questions of the people who live, work and play in a particular space, to discover their needs and aspirations. This information is used to create a common vision for that place. The vision can evolve quickly into an implementation strategy, beginning with small-scale, do-able improvements that immediately bring benefits to public spaces and the people who use them.

The Place Diagram, developed by Project for Public Spaces, helps communities evaluate places. The inner ring represents key attributes, the middle ring intangible qualities, and the outer ring measurable data.

(PPS and MPC, 2008)





### Objective 3.3

Orland Park will provide high quality public services and be recognized as a leader in local government best practices.

#### Action Items

- Support robust implementation of a Village-wide performance management program.
- Foster a spirit of open communication, coordination, collaboration and cooperation between governmental agencies.
- Participate in regular inter-agency and regional dialogue by means of local governmental conferences to meet, share, consult and discuss legislation, policies, projects and plans as they relate to the common constituency and the community.
- Support streamlined and consolidated functions of local government and the restructuring of overlapping and redundant services among other agencies.
- Identify opportunities for joint sponsorship of relevant public ventures that share the resources of the common constituency.
- Continue to conduct scientific community surveys to benchmark performance.



*Fourth of July, Orland Park*



*Public Piazza at Orland Park Public Library, Orland Park*



*Summer Art Camp, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)*

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## Keystone Projects

The following sample projects have incorporated recommendations and principles identified in the Community & Culture chapter. They are included for reference, to provide local context to the Comprehensive Plan.

### Taste of Orland

#### Project Description

Annually, the Village of Orland Park hosts the Taste of Orland Park. Taste of Orland Park is a three day food and music fest where local restaurants, community organizations and live entertainment descend on the Village Hall Campus for a weekend of food, music, car shows, games, and family friendly community fun. The ninth annual Taste of Orland Park in August of 2012 drew over 40,000 attendees and featured 18 local restaurants.

Mayor Dan McLaughlin notes, “The Taste of Orland Park is a great showcase of the Orland Park community. The restaurants, the community booths, the sponsors, the local performing groups, the school groups — everyone makes it a great weekend showcasing what makes Orland Park the great town that it is.”



*Taste of Orland Park, Orland Park*

### Goals in Action

- Support and expand arts, cultural and entertainment offerings to improve livability for all groups and enhance a unique sense of place.
- Continue to use major parks as community and neighborhood gathering places and equip them with pavilions and venues to host festivals, concerts, plays etc.
- Encourage and support street markets, fairs and festival marketplace spaces to showcase local cultural expressions.
- Support recurring festivals and events that promote the arts, culture, heritage, participation and community building.
- Promote opportunities for social interaction and community pride by introducing activities from different cultures in public places.
- Continue to improve private and public cooperation and collaboration on cultural, recreational and entertainment opportunities.



*Taste of Orland Park, Orland Park*

## 2012 National Citizen Survey

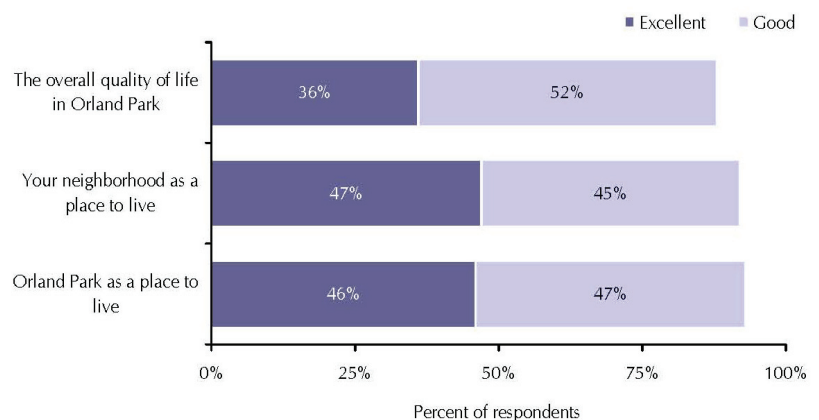
### Project Description

In 2012, the Village of Orland Park initiated a comprehensive resident survey called the National Citizen Survey. National Citizen Survey provides a statistically valid survey of resident opinions about the community and services provided by local government. Survey results may be used by staff, elected officials and other stakeholders for community planning and resource allocation, program improvement and policy making.

The survey identifies strengths and weaknesses of the community and services provided by the government in eight focus areas. The focus areas are Community Quality, Community Design, Public Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Recreation and Wellness, Community Inclusiveness, Civic Engagement, and Public Trust. An article in the Daily Southtown emphasized, “Orland Park, compared with its peers, scored far above average in virtually all categories”. The survey results provide valuable, statistically valid, insights that will guide decision making for Village officials and also provide data to compare Orland Park with other communities.

### Goals in Action

- Engage the community in the decision-making process.
- The Village will be a technologically advanced and consistent source of high quality public information.
- Encourage public participation in the design and development of their community.
- Support “open source” policies to share data with the public and other governmental organizations.
- Use cultural and non-traditional venues to facilitate public participation and discussion.



*Ratings of Overall Community Quality, 2012 National Citizen Survey*



## Irish Patriot

### Project Description

In 2012, the Irish Patriot, a local family owned Irish pub and restaurant opened at 143rd Street and Union Avenue. The prime location in the historic district takes advantage of close proximity to the 143rd Street train station and to the developing Main Street area of Downtown Orland Park. Originally constructed in 1910, the owner, Vincent Tuohy, described the building as a “basement-to-roof remodeling and renovation....and worked closely with the Historic Preservation Review Commission (HPRC) as well to make sure it fit visual themes of stores nearby.” The project is an example of maintaining Orland Park’s sense of place by preserving history and providing a “third place” for residents and visitors to meet and gather.

Third Places can be found in a variety of environments from public buildings like the recreation center to outdoor spaces such as Centennial Park to restaurants like local Starbucks or McDonalds. The people are what make these spaces dynamic as much as the design or location. Social media is also growing to influence impromptu meet-ups acting as a “third place” all on its own.

### Goals in Action

- Attract new types of neighborhood-based businesses that create sociable spaces and “third places” that positively impact the daily lives of residents and visitors. For example, bicycle rental shops near major bikeways or local bakeries, cafés, confectionaries and book stores near parks.
- Establish at least one public space or square in each neighborhood that can accommodate accessible “third place” locations.
- Maintain existing and develop new community services and sociable gathering spaces (e.g. sports fields, parks, community centers, gardens, restaurants, shopping, etc.)



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