

Elevating Aging-in-Community *in* Mount Prospect

A Strategic Guide



*Content developed by Planning/Aging
in partnership with the Aging in a Changing Region
program of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus*

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Executive Summary

Mount Prospect was one of five municipalities that participated during 2021 in the “Aging in a Changing Region” (*AiaCR*) program, run by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Planning/Aging, and funded by a grant from the RRF Foundation for Aging.

Planning/Aging led two public workshops and reviewed input to identify strategies which the Age-Friendly Task Force can incorporate into its Action Plan to elevate support of aging-in-community. The following recommendations are divided into two categories: Policy Recommendations dealing with Mount Prospect’s approach to and handling of its support for aging-in-community, and Programmatic Recommendations which address Mount Prospect’s key aging-in-community challenge or opportunity areas.

Policy Recommendations

- Continue to take a ‘whole of government’ approach to supporting aging-in-community
- Continue to practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior
- Incorporate aging-in-community into key municipal conversations and initiatives
- Integrate aging-in-community with diversity efforts, and vice versa
- Evolve the Task Force into (*or establish a separate*) Aging-in-Community Commission to play an ongoing policy advising and review role
- Designate a staff person in each Village department as the aging-in-community liaison
- Continue to regularly attend the MMC’s Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional aging-in-community activities
- Look to play a significant role in regional aging-in-community and livable/healthy communities collaboratives

Programmatic Recommendations

- Continue to establish the Farley Community Room as a “one-stop” resource center for information on existing older adult services and programming
- Regularly evaluate existing plans, programs, facilities, and operations for their aging-in-community consistency
- Rethink and potentially ramp up the Village’s volunteer programs and opportunities
- Consider developing an aging-in-community handbook to help residents navigate issues and connect with available resources
- Conduct a focused study of Mount Prospect’s older adult housing market
- Explore creative ways to leverage the Village’s existing housing stock to grow affordable aging-in-community options
- Do a real assessment of all existing Village transportation assets and develop strategies for better leveraging them

This document completes Mount Prospect’s involvement with the AiaCR program. It is now up to the Age-Friendly Task Force and the Village to review, select and prioritize strategic recommendations for inclusion in its Age-Friendly Action Plan. As the aging-in-community conversation remains robust, additional ideas and strategies can and should be added.

WHAT IS AGING IN COMMUNITY?

Aging-in-community refers to a coordinated municipality-wide “whole of government” effort to support the evolving needs and interests of its aging population.

Aging-in-community is inclusive of the narrower term “aging-in-place” which focuses on one’s dwelling, using a broader, community-level lens to identify a set of plans, programs, procedures, and services that in combination help support a municipality’s older residents.

Aging-in-community is an important component of ‘livable community’ efforts that address the needs and interests of residents throughout their lifespans.

Communities that support **aging-in-community** are by definition ‘age-friendly’ and ‘dementia-friendly’ communities.

Evidence from notable **aging-in-community** programs throughout the United States identifies several key indicators of the likely success of a municipality’s **aging-in-community** program: issue champions amongst (but not overreliance upon) its elected officials, staff leadership, and the overall community; dedicated human and financial resources; collaborations with key aging network and other municipal stakeholders; and mindful coordination between **aging-in-community** and other key municipal priorities.

The “Aging in a Changing Region” Program

Municipalities throughout the metropolitan Chicago region – as in regions throughout the country – are experiencing substantial growth in the number and percentage share of their older adult populations and are looking for strategies to address these shifts.

In 2021, three partner organizations – the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (*an organization of the Chicago region’s 275 cities, towns and villages*), the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (*the regional planning organization for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties*), and Planning/Aging (a

consultancy focused on the intersection between community planning and the growing aging population) received funding from the RRF Foundation for Aging to support selected municipalities with these efforts. This program – called “Aging in a Changing Region” (*AiaCR*) – is based on the idea that regardless of where a municipality is at in its discussions, planning, and implementing of strategies to support aging-in-community – providing them with targeted guidance can help advance their efforts.

In March 2021, MMC put out a call for municipalities to apply to participate in the

AiaCR program. Interested municipalities submitted applications that combined a self-assessment of their aging-in-community work to date, their aging-in-community goals, and assistance they envisioned to help advance their goals. In June 2021, the AiaCR partners unveiled a 2021 Cohort of municipalities – Bensenville, Calumet City, Hawthorn Woods, Mount Prospect and Park Forest – that reflect the region's diversity in terms of community geography, socio-economic factors, community type, and aging-in-community experience.



Village Trustee Colleen Saccotelli welcoming attendees to the September 29, 2021 workshop

Municipal Workshops

A key element of AiaCR was a pair of educational and strategic workshops in each selected municipality. Once the 2021 Cohort was selected, Planning/Aging engaged a core team of municipal point persons to identify their aging-in-community goals and develop strategies for their workshops. While certain aspects of the workshops bore similarities between municipalities, many aspects such as timing, target audiences and structure were unique to each municipality, due to each community's specific preferences.

At workshops, Planning/Aging provided background to build understanding and support for aging-in-community, which

was framed as consistent with “livable communities for all ages” as values held by older adults – accessible and affordable housing options, reliable transportation services, convenient goods and services, safe places to gather and access to information and engagement opportunities – are identical to values held by younger adults.

Planning engagements typically include an assessment of a community's assets and challenges. The limited AiaCR scope required a more streamlined assessment process. Prior to each first workshop, Planning/Aging spoke with community stakeholders, reviewed guidance

documents such as the community's Comprehensive, Housing, Transportation and other plans, and reviewed available surveys on residents' perceptions about their communities. Each community was asked to have key internal stakeholders complete an assessment of the degree to which their agency or department supports the growing older adult population and offer insights as to challenges or opportunities.

The highlights from this input were presented at the workshops, leading to a facilitated discussion engaging participants to drill down on their aging-in-community experiences – residents sharing how they perceive the community will be able to support them going forward, and internal stakeholders considering ways they might be able to augment or modify their services to better support aging-in-community in the future.

The workshops were documented with notes and photographs. Some workshops – including in Mount Prospect – were recorded and are available on municipal websites. All workshop presentations were given to the municipalities so they could be made widely available.



WHAT THIS DOCUMENT ISN'T

- ✘ *ISN'T a detailed physical plan document with specific infrastructure or other capital projects identified and costed out, and their implementation details outlined*
- ✘ *ISN'T a compendium of 'best practices' from other local or non-local municipalities – while approaches from elsewhere can be valuable as references, anything planned for Mount Prospect should be tailored to the specifics of Mount Prospect*
- ✘ *ISN'T a write-up of a rigorous, data-driven assessment, as Mount Prospect's involvement with the AiaCR program was rather a qualitative assessment of current conditions, and included a review of available assessments and community input*



WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS

- ✔ *IS a practical strategic guide tailored to Mount Prospect on how to elevate the current support for aging-in-community – designed to be used as an ongoing resource, not gather dust on shelves due to its unreadability or impracticality*
- ✔ *IS specific recommendations of further actions Mount Prospect may choose to take, either through utilization of its existing resources, joining with other entities in collaborative activities, or by engaging external partners*
- ✔ *IS a set of action steps that Mount Prospect can take to elevate its support of aging-in-community, and which can be incorporated into the Age-Friendly Task Force's Action Plan*

Mount Prospect's Aging-in-Community Context

In its AiaCR application, the core team – led by Director of Human Services Julie Kane – self-assessed that Mount Prospect was at the 'Advanced Involvement' stage in its commitment to aging-in-community, as it was identified as a high priority in the 2019 Strategic Plan, and in 2021 gained entry into the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities (*the United States affiliate of the World Health Organization [WHO] Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities*). Mount Prospect's extensive aging-in-community efforts stood out among the 2021 AiaCR Cohort of municipalities and provided a unique opportunity.

Simultaneous with participation in the AiaCR program, Mount Prospect was

convening an Age-Friendly Task Force, charged with leading the Assessment and Planning components of the AARP age-friendly process. The core team determined that the goals for the AiaCR Workshops – in addition to helping educate about and broaden support for aging-in-community and soliciting and receiving input from the community – would include identification of strategic recommendations to assist the Task Force as it develops its required Age-Friendly Action Plan.

As should surprise no one, Mount Prospect is aging, and at a rate above Cook County and the CMAP region – its 65 and older population is 17.5 percent vs. Cook County's 14.3 percent and CMAP's 14.1 percent, and its 35- to 64-year-old population is 41.0

Mount Prospect is Steadily Aging

	Mount Prospect		Cook County		CMAP Region	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Under 5	3,982	7.3%	322,193	6.2%	518,065	6.1%
5 to 19	9,720	17.8%	946,085	18.2%	1,644,152	19.4%
20 to 34	9,050	16.6%	1,191,506	22.9%	1,794,152	21.1%
35 to 49	11,786	21.6%	1,032,143	19.9%	1,701,494	20.1%
50 to 64	10,582	19.4%	965,178	18.6%	1,635,766	19.3%
65 to 74	5,070	9.3%	421,947	8.1%	691,947	8.2%
75 to 84	3,135	5.7%	221,513	4.3%	346,833	4.1%
85 and Over	1,279	2.3%	97,710	1.9%	150,858	1.8%
Median Age	40.4		36.8		37.5	

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey five-year estimates

[CMAP Community Data Snapshot | Mount Prospect \(illinois.gov\)](https://illinois.gov/cmap-community-data-snapshot/mount-prospect)

percent vs. Cook's 38.5 percent and CMAP's 39.4 percent. Mount Prospect is on track with Census Bureau predictions that by 2030, 1 in 5 of its residents will be 65 or older, and that in terms of percentage, the 85 and older sub-cohort will continue to be the fastest growing portion of this

Mount Prospect's Comprehensive Plan and other long-range plans and guidance documents, while not placing a specific focus on aging-in-community, all promoted policies consistent with it. In addition, the last several Strategic Plans have all positioned aging-in-community as a high priority municipal agenda item.



A Metra Union Pacific Northwest Line train at the downtown Mount Prospect station

Mount Prospect's Key Stakeholder and Community Survey Input

The input from the key stakeholder assessments done as part of this AiaCR project, and the resident input received from the 2021 Aging in Community Survey distributed by the Task Force provided valuable insights in preparation for the workshops.

Key observations from the stakeholder assessments included:

- Mount Prospect is fortunate to have a wide range of stakeholders committed to supporting older adults and aging-in-community now and in the foreseeable future

- Many assessments conveyed a pervasive sense of empathy, conveying compassion rather than frustration with older adult concerns

Key challenges identified in the stakeholder assessments included:

- A shortage of accessible transportation and affordable and appropriate housing
- A lack of community and older adult awareness of the various programs offered
- A misfit between older adult technical aptitude and programs that require technical abilities



Looking southeast through downtown Mount Prospect

- Language and communication issues
- A lack of volunteers and/or difficulties with volunteer coordination
- Some facility accessibility issues
- Funding shortages leading to staff and service shortfalls

Key general observations from the Aging in Community Survey included:

- There were many respondents, disproportionately white English speakers
- ~ 90 percent of the respondents were positive about aging-in-community in Mount Prospect
- ~ 58 percent of responders hope to stay in their current residence, while 42 percent hope to move into easier-to-maintain, one-level, likely smaller, homes
- While 92 percent said staying was important, safety/security issues, more affordability and social interactions chances were reasons mentioned for considering leaving Mount Prospect
- 52 percent said their homes needed no major modifications to allow them

to stay, while 48 percent indicated modification needs, mostly dealing with access or egress issues

Key takeaways from the Aging in Community Survey were:

- Mount Prospect's public infrastructure and built environment are generally perceived as adequate, as were public transportation options, although very few respondents indicated that they use public transportation
- While Mount Prospect's availability of health care professionals was rated highly, access to related health care services was only rated in the mid-range
- Mount Prospect's activities and opportunities for older adults were rated as mid-range
- Respondents rated the Village's information dissemination as adequate, and they seek out specific older adult-related information from various sources

Mount Prospect's AiaCR Public Workshops

- Mount Prospect staged their AiaCR workshops on Wednesdays, the first on September 29th and the second on December 1st
- The workshops were well-attended, about 60 people at each, with Workshop #1 attendees primarily internal and community stakeholders, and Workshop #2 attendees primarily residents
- The Village's core team led the publicity and outreach efforts, and Planning/ Aging led the workshops themselves and made short presentations on aging-in-community
- The workshop highlights were facilitated discussions in which attendees discussed their experiences living and aging in, and serving, Mount Prospect, and identified aging-in-community issues and challenges they have experienced or envision
- Overall, the input from the workshops – both the appreciated Village attributes and the identified areas of concern – mirrored input from the stakeholder assessments, the 2019 Senior Focus Groups and the 2021 Aging in Community Survey conducted as part of the Age-Friendly process, the 2020 Community Survey, and other community input opportunities



Brad Winick of Planning/Aging addressing stakeholders at Workshop #1



Brad Winick addressing resident attendees at Workshop #2

Recommendations for Elevating Aging-in-Community in Mount Prospect

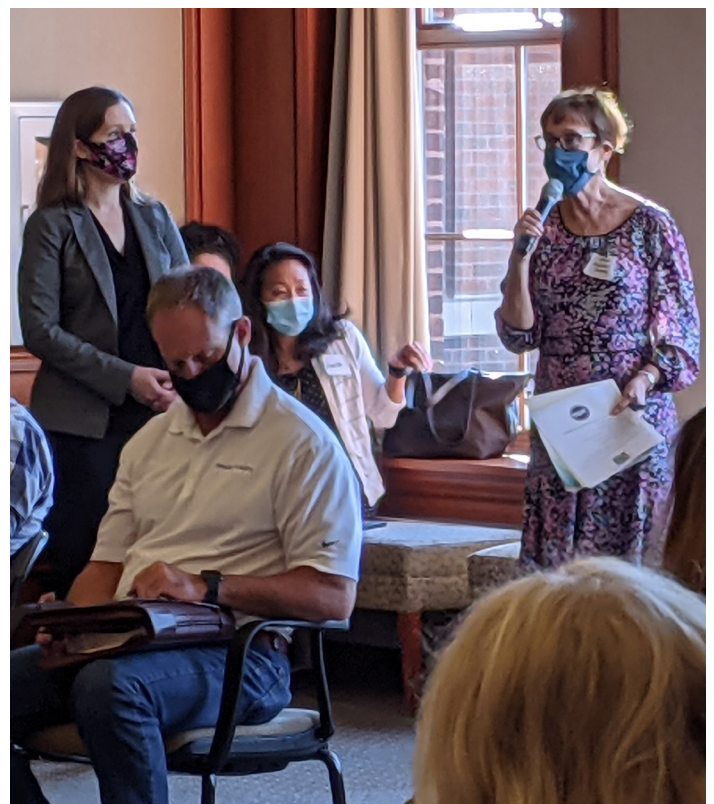
Due to its substantial efforts developing aging-in-community support strategies prior to engagement with the AiaCR program, Mount Prospect had a unique and advanced starting point as compared to the other 2021 Cohort municipalities. Therefore, the following recommendations do not call for some of the more fundamental activities more befitting an early involvement municipality. The recommendations are divided into two categories: Policy and Programmatic. The Policy Recommendations primarily deal with Mount Prospect's approach to, handling of, and expression of its support for aging-in-community. The Programmatic Recommendation are topical and address Mount Prospect's key specific aging-in-community challenges or opportunities.

Policy Recommendations

Consistent with Mount Prospect's advanced aging-in-community involvement, the first two recommendations are simply to maintain important aspects of aging-in-community support:

Continue to take a 'whole of government' approach to supporting aging-in-community Mount Prospect already follows and should continue to follow the best practice learned elsewhere which indicates that a key success factor for building and maintaining a robust aging-in-community program is positioning it within a whole of government framework, wherein diverse governmental

departments and sister agencies coordinate in addressing shared issues or challenges, rather than delegating aging-in-community to a single department or agency. As part of this, the Village could express its support for aging-in-community even more visibly, beginning with the Village website's home page, on which a clear statement such as "We actively support aging-in-community!" can set a tone, followed by a continuity of commitment and purpose on appropriate following or linked pages.



Key stakeholders sharing their aging-in-community perspectives at Workshop #1



Residents sharing their personal lived experiences at Workshop #2

Continue to practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior
Ageism is discrimination against older people due to negative and inaccurate stereotypes. Just as anti-racism is the practice of actively identifying and opposing racism, anti-ageism seeks out, calls out, and looks to change anything that perpetuates ageist ideas or behavior. Continue to ensure that all references to Mount Prospect's older adults characterizes them as civic assets and resources to be leveraged, rather than viewing them primarily through a needs-based or a medical lens. Most of Mount Prospect's older adults live independently among the general population, rather than in buildings that specifically cater to and support older adults, so they should be celebrated for their independence and the Village's interdependence.

Incorporate aging-in-community into key municipal conversations and initiatives
Aging-in-community should be a lens through which all proposed or existing Village projects, programs or strategies are viewed and evaluated – regardless of whether the initiatives are seen as primarily

benefitting Mount Prospect's economic development, affordability, infrastructure, sustainability, public safety, or other Village agendas. This evaluation should ask: how do or how would these plans, programs or strategies impact our older adult population? In doing this, the Village will likely find that impacts on older adults will often be consistent with impacts on the overall population – underscoring the notion that support for aging-in-community is an important component of being a livable community for all ages.

Evolve the Task Force into (or establish a separate) Aging-in-Community Commission to play an ongoing policy advising and review role

A wide swath of Mount Prospect should collectively “own” aging-in-community, and an ongoing entity would be invaluable to playing a key aging-in-community policy role. This entity could grow out of the Task Force once its work is complete, or it could be a separate entity, and should include a broad range of members representing the public and private sectors, including key stakeholders (*e.g. faith communities, sister agencies such as the library, park districts*



Stakeholders engaging with one another at Workshop #1

and school districts, and other community organizations), and residents including – but not limited to – older adults, who (*with Village staff support*) might be charged with: reviewing development/redevelopment proposals as to their impacts on aging-in-community; preparing and presenting to the Village Board an annual ‘State of Aging-in-Community’ type report; sponsoring aging-in-community events; and playing an ongoing role in overseeing the Farley Community Room (*discussed further below*).

Integrate the Village’s aging-in-community efforts with its diversity efforts, and vice versa

The Village recognizes the ongoing need to better engage with its minority population, as underscored by the Aging in Community Survey’s disproportionate response rates. This was brought home by workshop comments about older

adults’ lack of trust outside of their own communities, statements such as “it takes the entire community to identify needs” and “diverse input starts with getting to know neighbors”, and a suggested “Neighbor Awareness Program”. Everyone ages, although their aging experiences are impacted by their cultural traditions, and aging-in-community can be creatively used as a means by which Mount Prospect can both support its older adults and reach out to engage with all components of its diverse population. Techniques can include ensuring diverse participation on the Aging-in-Community Commission and leveraging multi-cultural events and festivals as ways to draw people together, and as a two-way portal to ongoing and robust conversations about aging-in-community in the shared community.

Designate a staff person in each Village department as the aging-in-community liaison

While certain individuals already play such a role for the overall Mount Prospect municipal government, it is likely that not all residents know this and may search for who to contact on a department-by-department basis. Designating and publicizing a specific staff person in each key public-facing department as their aging-in-community liaison would make the government more accessible to older adults and more efficient, as a resident wanting to report an issue or concern would be able to contact the designated aging-in-community liaison within the Public Works, Community Development, Village Administration or Finance Departments rather than search various departments for the appropriate way to do so. The aging-in-community liaisons should meet periodically to learn from one another, and address issues or training needs proactively in a coordinated manner.

Continue to regularly attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional aging-in-community activities

The quarterly Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative meetings typically include representatives of several dozen regional municipalities involved with aging-in-community activities and provide topical knowledge and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Mount Prospect's experiences with and lessons learned from the AiaCR program, and the coordination between the AiaCR program and its integration with the development of its Age-Friendly Action Plan will likely be of interest to other municipalities. Involvement with the Collaborative also serves as a good portal to other regional aging-in-community activities sponsored by a range of stakeholder entities, such as the bi-monthly American Society on Aging topical roundtables (*see the Appendix for resource information*).

Look to play a significant role with regional aging-in-community and livable/healthy communities collaboratives

Key Mount Prospect staff are already involved with certain regional aging network, public health and other assessment or planning collaboratives, and this is to be commended and continued. As the metropolitan Chicago region is behind many peer regions in working on some of these important topics in a truly multi-sectoral manner, communities with a significant whole-of-government aging-in-community story to tell should look to share its experiences and provide an inspiring example. (*Doing so may also bring attention to Mount Prospect as a practice leader, with potential institutional and/or fiscal support benefits*).

Programmatic Recommendations

Continue to establish the Farley Community Room as a "one-stop" resource center for information on existing older adult services and programming

The workshops underscored that key municipal stakeholders and residents lacked comprehensive knowledge of existing older adult services and programming available in the Mount Prospect region. This lack of knowledge restricts the ability of older adult residents to avail themselves of valuable resources and hampers the ability of municipal stakeholders to make referrals to these resources. The Village already has begun establishing the Farley Community Room in Village Hall as a "one-stop" resource center at which residents and stakeholders could learn about and access existing resources. Protocols for the center's ongoing oversight, maintenance and updating should be established and agreed upon upfront, and identified roles for the Aging-in-Community Commission, with staff support. The Farley Community Room would leverage and augment the work performed for years by the Community Connections Center in "providing a pathway to Village services, social services.....and other services for all residents."



Decorative signage along the downtown Mount Prospect mixed-use rail corridor



Elected officials and key municipal staff participated in the two workshops

Regularly evaluate existing plans, programs, facilities, and operations for their aging-in-community consistency
Building upon the internal assessments done in preparation for the workshops, Village and sister agency staff should regularly evaluate their plans, programs, facilities and operations to identify any wording, technical or other requirements, or physical conditions that explicitly or unintentionally undercut support for aging-in-community, and work with the Aging-in-Community Commission to remedy any findings. Even if this review does not unearth barriers, it may reveal opportunities for enhancements to foster broader and more diverse (*not limited just to older adults*) community participation.

Rethink and potentially ramp up the Village's volunteer programs and opportunities

Among the civic damage caused by the COVID pandemic were diminished engagement opportunities and increased social isolation experienced by many older adults, and this was articulated in comments at the workshops – with stakeholders expressing their difficulties in finding volunteers and residents expressing their desire for increased volunteering or engagement opportunities. Perhaps as COVID diminishes the time is right to rethink and possibly ramp up village-wide

volunteer programs and opportunities, and how they are communicated, not just for older adults, but for all residents. As part of this rethinking, creative partnerships with educational and other sister agencies may identify potential multi- and inter-generational opportunities.

Consider developing an aging-in-community handbook-style document to help residents navigate issues and connect with available resources

At the workshops, residents expressed questions and concerns about issues – ranging from infrastructure maintenance to transportation to available supportive services and programs for older adults – that highlight a lack of understanding about existing municipal and external programs and services that can impact their aging-in-community experiences. These questions and uncertainties can translate into resident frustrations, and some residents suggested that an aging-in-community guide would help them navigate aging-in-community. As part of the AiaCR program, CMAP is currently providing technical assistance and developing an aging-in-community handbook template to be customized in interested municipalities. Mount Prospect should keep an eye on this development and consider indicating interest in learning how to be engaged as a future handbook-style document community.



There was an educational component to the two workshops

So much for the low-hanging fruit! Much of the workshop conversation -- consistent with the 2019 Focus Groups, the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Survey, the 2021 Aging in Community Survey and other community input opportunities – centered on the challenges of finding and maintaining affordable housing and transportation options, which are addressed below:

Conduct a focused study of Mount Prospect's older adult housing market
 Mount Prospect already has several policy plans and documents that call for more housing options to support older adults aging-in-community. Yet residents and stakeholders at the workshops continue to indicate concerns that their current housing situation will not appropriately support their desire to age well and safely, primarily due to the need to navigate stairs to access fundamental living or support spaces such as bathrooms or laundries. Much of Mount Prospect's current housing inventory consists of multi-level homes and it is not clear whether there are enough single-level units – particularly affordable units -- to meet the demand

of current older adult residents looking to relocate within Mount Prospect in the future. Performing or commissioning an older adult housing market study – with a sharp focus on “Missing Middle Housing” and other affordable and appropriate options -- would help quantify market gaps and inform housing-related decisions, including preferred use mixes for potential redevelopment sites.

Explore creative ways to leverage the Village's existing housing stock to grow affordable aging-in-community options
 The previous recommendation referred largely to potential new housing, whereas the Village should also work to harvest the existing housing stock, as many older adult residents wish to remain in their current homes and/or neighborhoods. As stated above, many multi-level Mount Prospect homes are not a good fit for aging residents, while some homes and lots are larger than needed. The Village might conduct a thorough exploration of potential options such as developing or participating with an existing home-sharing program, and/or permitting the development and operation of small Accessory Dwelling Units on existing developed parcels. In addition, existing housing and aging network organization partners (*including but not limited to AgeOptions, the Northwest Housing Partnership [NWHP], the Illinois Housing Development Authority and others*) may be receptive to developing a home modification program that would perform more substantial work than NWHP's existing handyman program, making them a better/safer fit for their residents. Also, as an entitlement community the Village receives an annual allocation of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and has latitude in how it can spend these funds, including on supporting affordable aging-in-community housing.



The most valuable part of the workshops was attendee input received during facilitated discussions

Do a real assessment of all existing Village transportation assets and develop strategies for better leveraging them

The workshops yielded many concerns about older adult transportation within Mount Prospect, including: the limited nature and lack of adequate and reliable scheduling for public and township-provided transportation; difficulties of managing technologically-based ride share or on-demand services; a shortage of volunteer drivers (*including drivers who can speak languages other than English*); the expense of maintaining a vehicle and insurance; and the danger

of certain roads. It will not be easy – particularly with multiple providers and township jurisdictions – but the Village could make a deep dive assessment of the benefits and shortfalls of all existing rolling transportation stock in the Village and thinking through strategies to better link and leverage them for the benefit of community – including but not limited to – older adult residents. Part of this assessment should be the identification of potential additional partners within sectors such as health care and business.

Aging-in-Community Resources

Some excellent centralized document repositories at which to find aging-in-community resources are listed below – Mount Prospect is likely already familiar with many of them. There may be some redundancies as certain documents may be included in multiple repositories. Some of these repositories will provide links to additional resources. Carefully evaluate any resources found for their applicability to Mount Prospect's specific interests and needs.

Aging in a Changing Region Partner Organization Resources

[AFCC REPOSITORY - Google Drive](#)

This repository is maintained by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and includes both resource materials and documents developed for its Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative.

[Home - CMAP \(illinois.gov\)](#)

The Chicagoland Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the seven-county metropolitan Chicago region, and develops and provides plans, programs, and other initiatives.

[Aging in Place - CMAP \(illinois.gov\)](#)

CMAP developed this Aging in Place white paper in 2016.

[Planning Aging-Supportive Communities](#)

This 2015 American Planning Association (APA) Planners Advisory Service report was primarily authored by Brad Winick of Planning/Aging. APA members can download the report for free, others are required to purchase it for \$25.

Local/Regional Aging-in-Community Aging Network Organizations Serving Mount Prospect

[Home - AgeOptions](#)

AgeOptions (*formerly known as the Suburban Cook County Area Agency on Aging*) is designated by the federal Older Americans Act and the Illinois Department on Aging as the planning and service agency for the 30 townships surrounding Chicago and supports partner agencies to provide a wide range of aging-in-community services.

[Catholic Charities summary of services 2019.pdf](#)

Catholic Charities North/Northwest Regional Services provides various services for older adults – including those who live in Mount Prospect – and it provides a wide range of home and community-based services.

[Senior Services – Elk Grove Township](#)

Elk Grove Township provides a range of services – including the Dial-A-Bus service – for Mount Prospect older adults who reside south of Central Road.

[Older Adult Services | Kenneth Young Center](#)

The Elk Grove Village-based Kenneth Young Center provides comprehensive in-home assessments and services to Mount Prospect older adults who reside in Elk Grove Township, and operates a Mount Prospect office and drop-in center at 1585 W. Dempster St., Suite 110.

[Welcome to Wheeling Township](#)

Wheeling Township provides a range of services – including Medical Van and Dial-A-Bus services – for Mount Prospect older adults who reside north of Central Road.

[North West Housing Partnership - Affordable Housing, IL \(nwHP.net\)](#)

This northwest metropolitan Chicago area suburban five-town collaborative runs several housing programs, including their Handyman Program which helps support aging-in-place and aging-in-community.

[Home Sharing | Center of Concern](#)

Des Plaines-based Center of Concern provides a broad range of services to support its mission “...to provide housing solutions, support services, and counseling for older adults, people with disabilities, and others in need, enabling them to live with dignity and independence.” It manages a longstanding home sharing program throughout Cook County.

Aging-in-Community General Resources

ASA Roundtables

The local chapter of the American Society on Aging stages free bi-monthly topical Roundtables, often on aging-in-community topics. Currently being staged virtually due to COVID-19, they had previously been presented at Rush University Medical

Center in Chicago. Bonnie Ewald (Bonnie_Ewald@rush.edu) serves as the roundtable coordinator.

[AARP Livable Communities Publications and Resources](#)

This repository is the best location at which to explore AARP's many resources, including its Livable Communities and Public Policy Institute initiatives and publications, and the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

[AARP Illinois](#)

While the AARP-Illinois office is in flux due to its current efforts to replace both the State Director and the volunteer State President, they have a number of staff persons involved with advocacy and community engagement.

[Resources for Age-Friendly Communities | The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation](#)

The New Jersey-based Taub Foundation includes aging-in-community as one of its primary focus topics, and maintains a comprehensive and well-organized aging-in-community library.

[Age-Friendly Resources | Grantmakers in Aging \(giaging.org\)](#)

New York City-based Grantmakers-in-Aging is the preeminent membership organization for philanthropies focused on aging issues. It maintains a resource center full of GIA-funded and other resources.

[Publications \(usaging.org\)](#)

Washington DC-based USAging (formerly the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging – “n4a”) maintains an extensive searchable database of primarily n4a-sponsored reports and other documents.

[Research \(ncoa.org\)](#)

The Washington DC-based National Council on Aging (ncoa) provides research articles and other materials for older

adults, caregivers, aging professionals and advocates, primarily developed by ncoa staff and its partners.

Planning Resources

[Search \(planning.org\)](#) (*American Planning Association resources search results for "aging-in-community"*)

The American Planning Association maintains a resource library searchable by topic, including this link to aging-in-community resources.

Transportation Resources

[Aging and Disability Transportation Overview | NADTC](#) (*National Aging and Disability Transportation Center*)

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) is a program initially funded in 2015 by the Federal Transit Administration and administered by Easterseals and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). Its resource center provides information on transportation for older adults and people with disabilities.

[Home - National Center for Mobility Management](#)

The National Center for Mobility Management is a program of NADTC that focuses on and maintains resources on person-centered transportation services.

Housing/Aging-in-Place Resources

[Missing Middle Housing: Diverse choices for walkable neighborhood living](#)

Opticos Design founder Daniel Parolek coined the term "Missing Middle Housing" to convey the provision of enhanced housing options for sustainable, walkable communities. This link provides examples and resources for consideration.

[IHDA - Illinois Housing Development Authority](#)

This state agency's mission is "to finance the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois" and administers numerous programs to support lenders, developers, local government, nonprofits, community groups, homeowners and renters in delivering and maintaining affordable housing.

[Aging in Place Resources | Aging In Place Resources for Seniors Living at Home](#)

Aginginplace.com is maintained by its Oregon-based founder Patrick Roden, a nurse by training, and it maintains a comprehensive set of resources dedicated to supporting older adults aging in place.

[Welcome - HomesRenewed™ Resource Center](#)

HomesRenewed was founded by Maryland-based contractor and aging-in-place advocate Louis Tenenbaum and its website provides various aging-in-place materials and resources.

[Aging in Place: Growing Older at Home | National Institute on Aging \(nih.gov\)](#)

The National Institute on Aging is a program of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and has developed a database of aging-in-place resources.

Ageism Resources

[Home \(reframingaging.org\)](http://reframingaging.org)

The Reframing Aging Initiative began in 2012 as a shared initiative of eight national aging organizations to find out how the American public perceives of aging, and once it was determined that this perception was negative, developing an infrastructure of strategies and techniques to convey more positive and supportive messaging. This website offers many tools and resources.

[Old School: Anti-Ageism Clearinghouse](#)

This clearing house was established by anti-ageism activist Ashton Applewhite and her colleagues, and it provides free and vetted resources to help educate people about ageism and how to dismantle it.

Intergenerational Resources

[Resources - Generations United \(gu.org\)](http://generationsunited.org)

Generations United is the preeminent national advocacy and informational organization supporting intergenerational collaborations, programs, and policies. Established by a group of organizations that focused on different portions of the lifespan, it maintains a resource library.

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Mount Prospect Resident Attendees

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Representatives from Stakeholder Organizations

Lynne O'Malley, *Right at Home* • Maureen Centeno, *Northwest Community Hospital* • Stephen Samuelson, *Frisbie Senior Center* • Andres Valencia, *St. Paul Lutheran Church* • Russ Bechtold, *Interfaith Council* • Les Durov, *Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337* • Brian Mulcrone, *American Legion #525* • Robyn Sandys, *Northwest Housing Partnership* • Christine Lawrence, *Mount Prospect Senior Living* • Shelley Barros, *Mount Prospect Senior Living* • Claudia Cook, *Arosa Care* • Cynthia Gunderson, *Catholic Charities Senior Services* • Sandra McClain, *Kenneth Young Center* • Joe Gambsnay, *Freidrichs Funeral Home* • Claudia Boyle, *Van Driel's Medical Supply* • Sonia Ivanov, *Northwest Compass* • Anna Klimkowicz, *Northwest Compass* • John Eilering, *Busey Bank* • Sylvia Arreola & Monica Hong, *Kenzie Senior Residences* • Dari Hartmann, *St. Paul Lutheran Church* • Shihwan Chung, *Medtec Health Care* • Cathy Veller, *District 214 Community Education* • Laura Lapp, *Hands on Suburban* • Corey Dewey, *Elk Grove Township* • Henry Sanchez, *A Homecare Service LLC/ Allcare Medical Equipment and Supply LLC* • Ruth Yueill, *Mount Prospect Park District* • Jim Whittington, *Lifeway Mobility Chicago* • Rachel Nagengast, *Access Community Health Network*

Mount Prospect Age-Friendly Task Force members

Bruce Barry, *River Trails Park District* • Crissy Castillo, *Kenneth Young Center-Older Adult Services* • Beth Corrigan-Buchen, *Mount Prospect Public Library* • Bill Gonzalez, *Picket Fence Realty* • Emily Kaitis, *Law Office of Kathleen Meersman Murphy, LLC* • Yihyun Kim, *Hanul Family Alliance* • Kathleen Meersman Murphy, *Law Office of Kathleen Meersman Murphy, LLC* • Jeanette Palmer, *Right at Home* • Irma Rodriguez, *Mount Prospect Resident* • Walter Szymczak, *Mount Prospect Resident* • Dallas Tomlin, *Connections to Care* • Christie Webb, *St. Mark Lutheran Church* • Rafi Sahakian, *Coldwell Banker* • Amy Gall, *Connections to Care*

Village of Mount Prospect Staff & Elected Official Attendees

Julie Kane, *Director of Human Services (Core Team member)* • Jill Heinking, *Public Health Nurse (Core Team member)* • Ginny Thomas, *Senior Services Social Worker (Core Team member)* • Antonia Lalagos, *Development Planner (Core Team member)* • Valeria Tarka, *Planning Intern (Core Team member)*

Colleen Saccotelli, *Trustee* • Terri Gens, *Trustee*

Esther Salutillo, *Deputy Director of Human Services* • Howard Kleinstein, *Director of Communications* • Nellie Beckner, *Assistant Village Manager* • Claire Wheatley, *Finance Department* • Mark Bechtold, *Police Department* • Edward Szmergalski, *Police Department* • Victor Pierce, *Public Works* • Patty Ham, *Public Works* • Bill Schroeder, *Director of Building & Inspection Services* • Mark Rysavy, *Deputy Director of Building & Inspection Services* • Kenia Roman, *Human Services Intern*

Aging in a Changing Region Team Members

Kyle Smith, Katie Friedman, Cheryl Scott & Nancy Firfer, *Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus* • Jonathan Burch, Enrique Castillo & Dominick Argumedo, *Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning* • Brad Winick, *Planning/Aging*

Report Designer

Kathrine Nichols

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document itself was produced to be supportive of aging-in-community. All of the graphic details – font selection, a minimum 12-point font size, page layouts, the inclusion of graphics, avoiding the use of reversed-out text on light colored backgrounds, etc. – were made to make this document easily legible for anyone with visual sensitivity issues. Just as the body of this document makes the case that municipal decisions supportive of aging-in-community are innately supportive of livable communities for all ages, this document itself should be seen as innately supportive of readers of all ages.

One final aging-in-community recommendation is that all municipal documents, websites, social media postings, etc. should consciously strive to be easily legible for all viewers, including – but not limited to – older adults.