

CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY PROFILE & GENERAL OBJECTIVES

MISSION STATEMENT

The 2021 Comprehensive Plan serves as the official policy guide for future developments and physical improvements that will fulfill the consensus vision for the Village of Barrington. The vision for the Village of Barrington is to preserve the Village's character and small-town feel while maintaining a prosperous economic base, promoting the quality of its neighborhoods, providing appropriate, efficient and diverse transportation opportunities and protecting its extensive natural resources and environmental character. The Comprehensive Plan should serve as a guide to address:

- *Land use and development in the Village;*
- *Enhanced and continued revitalization of the Village Center and the Route 14 business corridor;*
- *Preservation of Barrington's historical character and community design;*
- *Continued implementation and enhancement of an efficient and safe multi-modal transportation system and related infrastructure; and*
- *Protection and enhancement of environmental features and open space throughout the Village and the surrounding Barrington area.*

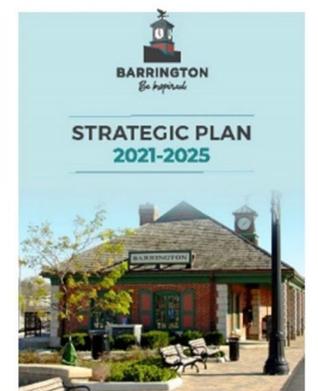
INTRODUCTION

The first Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Barrington was adopted in 1958. Major revisions and/or updates were made in 1972, 1981, 1990, 2000 and 2010. This 2021 update (sometimes referred to as "the 2021 Comprehensive Plan") is built upon the structure and format of the 1990, 2000 and 2010 plans, while incorporating current data and revised planning principles for selected elements. The desires of its citizens, the current needs of the community and the forces expected to impact the Village and the surrounding region in the future have all been given due consideration in the development of this Plan.

Community participation and feedback is one of the primary drivers for the updates to the 2021 Comprehensive Plan. In 2019, the Village conducted a resident survey which covered a number of topics relating to comprehensive planning. The survey had a 24.7% response rate with a total of 1,111 responses which is a significant response rate (see **Appendix B**). In late 2019 through 2020, the Village held a series of eight (8) neighborhood meeting to address the different neighborhoods and geographical regions of the Village as well as two (2) special focus meetings to discuss multimodal transportation and environmental sustainability. These meetings gave the public the opportunity to review the recommendations of the existing document, discuss current opportunities and concerns and make recommendations for future plans in their neighborhoods and throughout the Village. These meetings were attended by approximately 340 members of the community in addition to approximately 25 comments submitted online. In addition to the neighborhood meetings, the Committee of the Whole and the Plan Commission held a series of public workshops to discuss and review the proposed updates to the Comprehensive Plan.

The following planning studies and plans were utilized or referenced in preparing this update, and are referenced throughout where appropriate:

- **Village of Barrington 2021-2025 Strategic Plan**
- **Village of Barrington Capital Improvement Plan**
- **Village of Barrington 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan**
- **Village of Barrington Affordable Housing Plan (2015)**
- **NWMC Multimodal Transportation Plan (2020)**
- **Village of Barrington Community Design for CMAP's Go To 2040 Plan**, prepared by Topographis in cooperation with the Village of Barrington



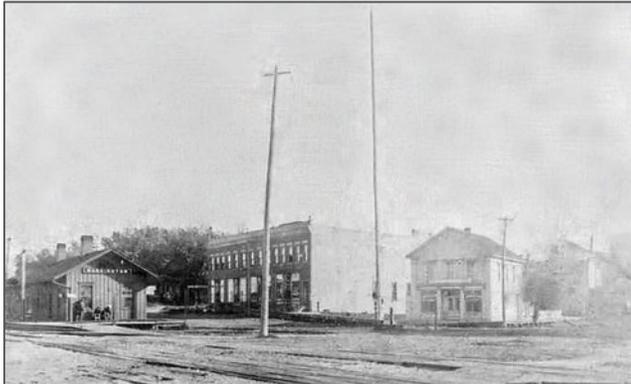
(2009). Certain recommendations from this plan are being carried forward and/or being modified accordingly. See **Chapter 5: Village Center**.

- **Village of Barrington Stormwater Management Study**, prepared by Hey and Associates (April 2010)
- **Village of Barrington Water Supply Study**, prepared by Burns and McDonnell (2006)
- **Village of Barrington Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan Analysis**, prepared by Huff & Huff (May 2007). A new study is currently underway at the time of adoption of this Plan.
- **Village Center Master Plan**, prepared by The Lakota Group in cooperation with the Village of Barrington (August 1999)

The Village should undertake the following key planning studies to assist in furthering the goals and objectives of this Plan as well as the Village Capital Improvement Plan and 2021-2025 Strategic Plan:

1. **Village Bike & Pedestrian Connectivity Study and Assessment**
2. **Village Parking and Transportation Study**
3. **Village Economic Development and Housing Study**
4. **Utility Capacity Studies as identified in the Village Capital Improvement Plan**

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Barrington Area Library Local History Photos: Arnett C. Lines Family Collection

The area now known as Barrington was settled by pioneers in the 1830s. The area's rich soil and ample water supply naturally attracted a growing number of farming families. People began to migrate from the City of Chicago to the Barrington area with the development of railroad lines from the port facilities in Chicago. In 1863, the 300 people who comprised the population of Barrington Station decided, in a referendum, to separate local and township powers. This led to the state legislature's approval of a charter for the Village of Barrington in 1865. The Village of Barrington was incorporated on February 16, 1865.

Many families from nearby communities saw the advantages of moving to Barrington and having easy access to the railroad and the growing number of stores that had recently opened. In reaction to this steady migration, the number and variety of new small businesses near the railroad kept pace with the growing needs of the population. In the last decades of the 19th century, the City of Chicago grew from a promising prairie town to a great pivotal hub of commerce and industry. As Chicago became more prosperous, the desire for small town living led to major population growth in the surrounding countryside and the Village of Barrington.

In the 1920's, advancements in transportation allowed wealthy families from Chicago to move into the Barrington area and build family estate homes. The location of the Village and its attractive environment appealed to those who had become wealthy during the booming 1920s. The Village's population growth slowed during the difficult times of the 1930s and 1940s, but then resumed in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s as a result of the suburbanization in the Chicago area and the post-World War II baby boom.

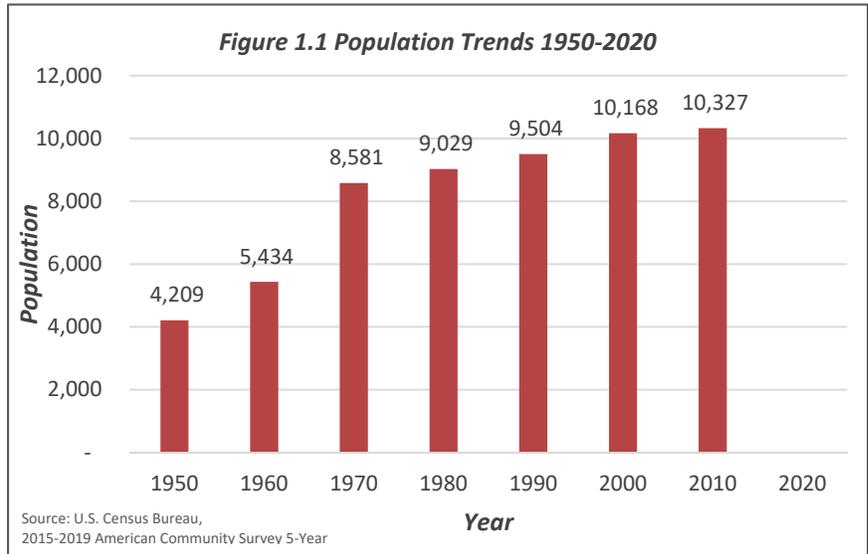
**In 2015, the
Village celebrated
its
sesquicentennial
(150th)
anniversary!**

The Village of Barrington as we know it today is located in both Cook and Lake Counties with Lake-Cook Road as the north-south dividing line between the Counties. The Village offers many key services to its residents including locally controlled Police and Fire Departments as well as municipal potable water and sanitary sewer systems. Barrington residents also enjoy the extensive services, facilities and amenities of the Barrington Community Unit School District 220, Barrington Park District, Barrington Area Library District and both the Lake and Cook County Forest Preserves. The Village is surrounded by several

key forest preserves including Cuba Marsh to the northeast, Deer Grove to the east and Crab Tree Nature Center to the southwest.

POPULATION

In 1950, Barrington had a population of 4,209. By 1970, Barrington’s population had doubled to 8,581. From 1970 to 2010, the population gradually increased by an average of 5% per decade. According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) for 2015-2019, in 2019, Barrington had an estimated population of 10,290. The deceleration of population growth may be attributed to the national recession that began in 2007, which strongly affected the housing market. Figure 1.1 illustrates Barrington’s population trends over the past 70 years.



Since 2000, Barrington has experienced only a slight increase in population, which is similar to the State of Illinois population trend since 2000. Figure 1.2 below illustrates a comparison of Barrington’s population trends to those of Cook County, Lake County and the State of Illinois. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) estimates that by the year 2040, the Village of Barrington will have a population of 12,788. The 2015-2019 ACS age distribution for Barrington is shown below in Figure 1.4.

Figure 1.2: Population Change from 2000 to 2020

Population	1990	2000	2010	2020	Change 2000 to 2020
Barrington	9,504	10,168	10,327		
Cook County	5,105,067	5,376,741	5,200,950		
Lake County	516,418	644,356	704,596		
State of Illinois	11,430,602	12,419,293	12,843,166		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

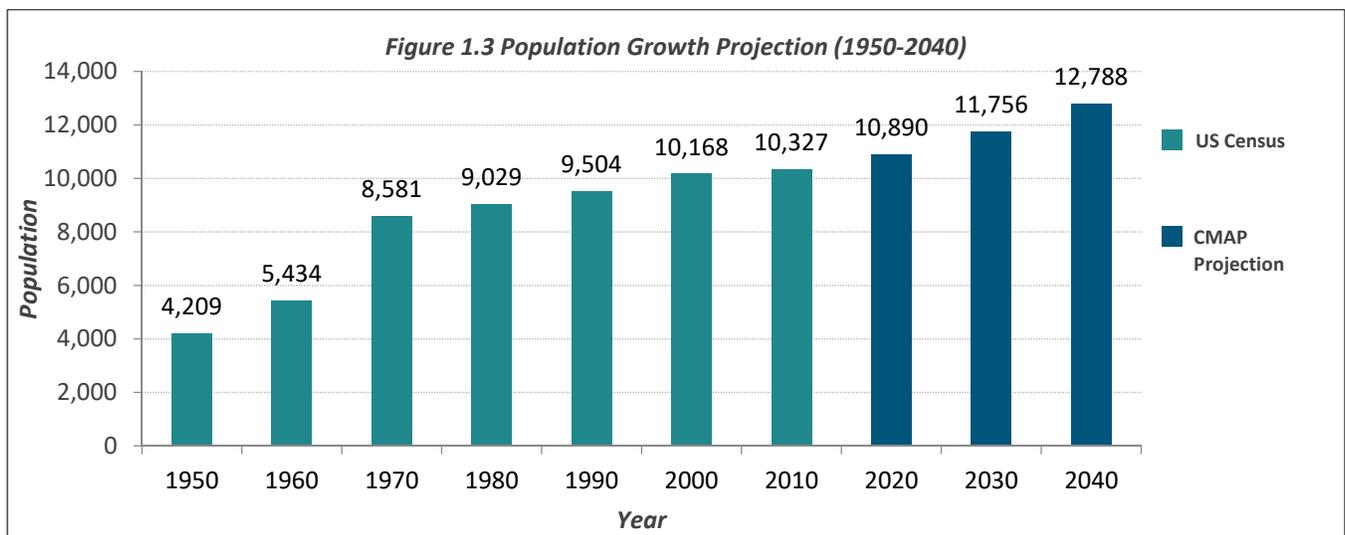
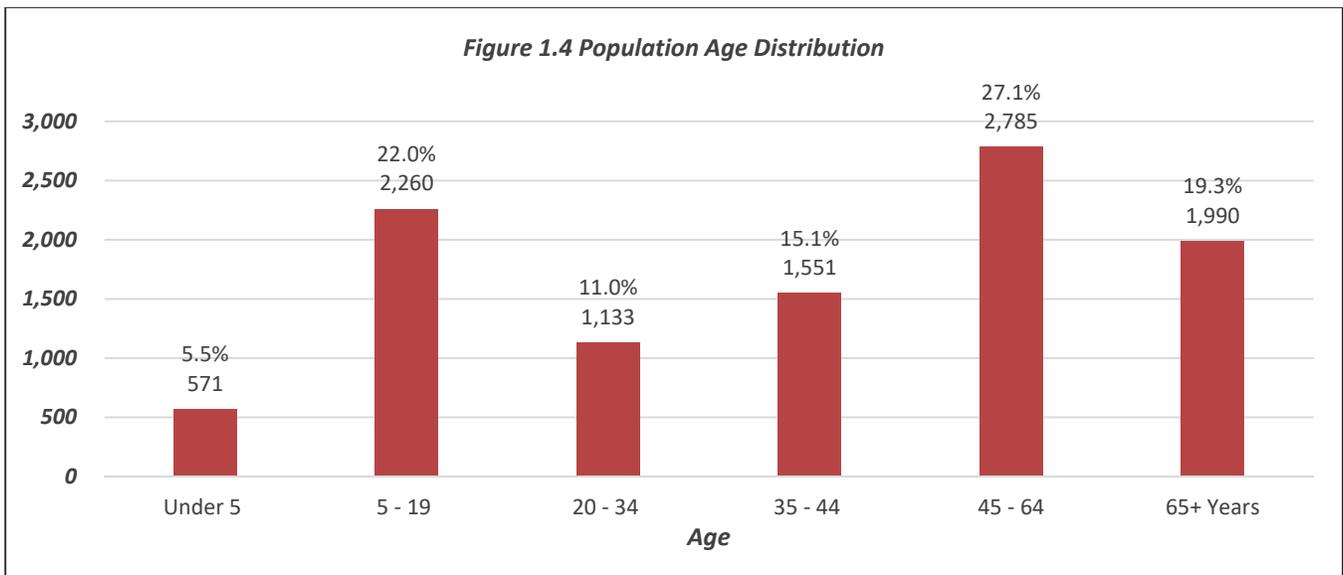


Figure 1.4 Population Age Distribution



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

The U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) for 2015-2019 estimates the Village has 3,906 households. According to the 2015-2019 ACS, residential units in Barrington were approximately 73% owner-occupied and 27% renter-occupied. This is a decrease from 2010 in owner occupied households, when 81% were owner-occupied and 19% were renter-occupied. The 2015-2019 ACS dataset also indicates that the Village contains 2,817 single-family detached housing units and 201 single-family attached housing units (77% of the total). The balance of the housing stock is comprised of 104 duplexes (3% of the total), and 784 multi-family dwellings in buildings with three or more units (20% of the total).

BUSINESS PROFILE

The Village is home to approximately 700 local, regional, national and international businesses, including major employers such as Motor Werks of Barrington, Wickstrom Auto Group, Pepper Construction, PepsiCo and the Barrington Community Unit School District 220. According to the data collected by the Village through ongoing surveys and the issuance of permits, there is approximately 3,000,000 square feet of commercial space in Barrington. Approximately 20% of Barrington's land use is dedicated to commercial, office or industrial uses. According to the 2015-2019 ACS, there are 7,575 day time employees working in the Village as of 2019. See **Chapter 10: Economic Development** for further information on Barrington's economic characteristics and recommendations relating to economic development in the Village.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This section establishes broad, philosophical objectives that should be used in evaluating planning proposals and decision-making relative to future land uses. This section also establishes key strategies to further the goals and objectives identified in the chapters throughout this Plan.

A. Natural Resources

1. Improve the water quality of aquifers, lakes, rivers, wetlands and streams, and protect them from pollution.
2. Respect, preserve and protect natural topography, soils and vegetation.
3. Maintain capacity of drainage basins, waterways and floodplains.
4. Enhance wildlife habitats and protect them from encroachment by development.
5. Control noxious emissions of air pollutants, odors, sounds, artificial light, etc.
6. Establish greenway corridors along waterways to protect water quality, provide wildlife habitats, preserve floodplains and where feasible, provide recreation.

B. Character

1. The existing character of the Village, which includes diverse and appropriately scaled architecture and historic places, should be reflected in the scale and arrangement of new development.
2. A diverse population should be encouraged by offering a range of housing types, price points and living environments.
3. Employment opportunities should be provided to sustain a high degree of citizen self-sufficiency.
4. The Village Center should function as an active, pedestrian-friendly, multi-use center serving as the Village's main retail district and civic activity area.
5. A system of waterways, common open spaces, landscaped pedestrian areas, sidewalks, bikeways and rights-of-way should permeate the entire Village.
6. Mitigation of traffic congestion caused by through traffic and the railroads should be a priority.
7. New residential developments should be linked to the Village Center and other areas of the Village.

C. Services

1. Contemporary procedures of municipal government and management should be employed wherever they can improve the effectiveness of services.
2. Joint uses of public facilities, (e.g. schools and parks), should be planned and programmed wherever possible.
3. Special districts should be established to provide facilities and services which relate to area-wide resources and users.
4. Public sewer and water utilities should be extended to all properties within the Village, if this becomes financially feasible or through redevelopment opportunities.
5. Connectivity and ADA accessibility should be enhanced by taking full advantage of mass transit, multi-modal transportation opportunities and efficient grouping of goods and services providers.
6. The Village should exercise all possible legal control to manage growth, density and the design quality of development on the surrounding unincorporated lands.
7. The ability of the Village to provide key public works and public safety services to new developments should be a primary consideration of any new development proposal.

D. Infrastructure

1. The ability of the Village's infrastructure to service the new developments should be a primary consideration of any new development proposal.
2. New developments and areas of redevelopment should be encouraged to use natural resource-sensitive methods of storm water control to reduce the size and number of storm sewers as well as improve water quality.
3. ADA accessibility and related infrastructure improvements should be considered and implemented as a part of new development proposals consistent with all applicable codes and regulations.

E. Public Education, Empowerment and Involvement

1. The Village should increase public education and awareness regarding zoning and development regulations, tree preservation, environmental sustainability, water quality and conservation, stormwater management, historic preservation and other such issues that are important to residents, through the public information and participation process.
2. The Village should publicize civic events, including public meetings, through various means, including the Village website, social media, community access cable channel, community events sign, radio, print, etc.
3. Residents should be kept informed about significant development proposals through the Village newsletter, public access television, website and social media and should be invited to give input during the public hearing process.
4. Partnerships with community groups and residents in projects to improve the community should be encouraged.

Cooperation among all members of the community and, in particular, among the civic officials, is vital to the successful use of a comprehensive plan. It is strongly recommended that similar encouragement of cooperative efforts be promoted in all of the jurisdictions surrounding the Village of Barrington, and that their objectives be coordinated with those of the Village of Barrington as set forth in this Chapter.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a guide for the Village to utilize over the next ten (10) years to assist in informing decisions regarding land planning, land use and development and how these elements interact and impact other decisions the Village must make during the lifespan of this Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a living document that should be reviewed on a regular basis. The Village Staff will utilize this plan on a daily basis in considering development inquiries, reviewing proposals and plans, making recommendations to Commissions and the Village Board and generally in working to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Plan. The progress and accomplishments of this Plan should be tracked in order to celebrate our successes, plan our next steps forward and prepare for the future of Barrington.

Be Inspired.