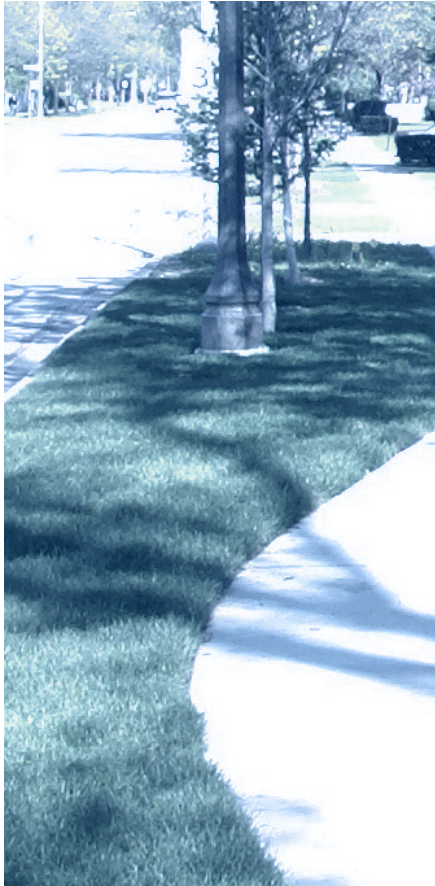


# RIVER FOREST FORWARD

— A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE —



## Village of River Forest **ACTION MATRIX**

**Draft Plan**

**March 18, 2019**



## Action Matrix

The Action Matrix presents a list of implementation strategies, policies and recommendations formulated within River Forest Forward. The matrix is intended to assist Village staff and elected and appointed officials with prioritizing implementation activities and projects over the life of the plan. In addition, the matrix allows the Village to approve specific, actionable items on an annual basis and evaluate progress based upon completed implementation strategies.

As such, the matrix is provided under separate cover as a compendium document that will be regularly reviewed and update by Village staff as implementation occurs. The Action Matrix should not be considered a finite list of actions to be undertaken, as additional initiatives an project will likely be identified over the life of the Plan. Rather, the Action Matrix should be used as a tool to assist the Village in better identifying and tracking implementation success over time.

**Note: The Action Matrix is provided under separate cover as a compendium document to River Forest Forward, and is on file with the Village of River Forest.**

The Action Matrix offers a brief description of each project and indicates the following:

## Potential Funding

Funding sources outlined in the Potential Funding Sources section of this Plan are allocated to actions that may qualify for each opportunity. The Village should continue to search for additional grants, funding agencies, and programs and keep track of deadlines and changes to requirement.

## Lead Boards/Commissions

The Action Matrix identifies the appropriate Board or Commission that should take a lead role in undertaking an identified action. Although it may be necessary to involve several boards and commissions, as well as Village departments and other community stakeholders, many implementation actions will require particular boards or commissions taking the lead. The following boards and commissions are identified as abbreviated within the matrix:

- VB=Village Board
- DRB=Development Review Board
- ZBA=Zoning Board of Appeals
- PC=Plan Commission
- EDC=Economic Development Commission
- TSC=Traffic & Safety Commission
- HPC=Historic Preservation Commission
- SC=Sustainability Commission

## Priority Level

Priority is assigned with consideration for the cost, ease of implementation, and importance. Each strategy in the Action Matrix is indicated with one of the following:

- Priority 1: Near-term, low-cost, easier to implement, critical
- Priority 2: Mid-term, essential
- Priority 3: Long-term, desirable

## Ease of Implementation

The ease of implementation is indicated by a traditional grade scale from A to F, with A being easiest to implement and F being most difficult to implement. This category is a collective indicator of the anticipated level of effort by responsible parties, estimated cost, budget opportunities, and general stakeholder interest.

## Action Matrix

#	Action	Potential Funding	Lead Boards/ Commissions	Priority	Ease
<b>Chapter 4: Residential Neighborhoods</b>					
3.01	Apply the land use designations of the Land Use Plan to guide future development and investment within River Forest.		VB/DRB	1	A
3.02	Ensure any future actions regarding land use and development take into consideration the significance of the Village's rich architectural history.		VB/DRB/HPC	1	A
<b>Chapter 4: Residential Neighborhoods</b>					
4.01	Preserve and enhance the unique character of River Forest's single-family detached neighborhoods.			1	A
4.02	Continue to monitor new development to ensure that changes are sensitive to and reflective of existing Village character and the architectural diversity, for which River Forest is known.		VB/DRB	1	A
4.03	Hold new multi-family residential developments to high standards and ensure they reflect the overall character of the community.	TIF, LIHTC, HTC	VB/DRB	1	B
4.04	"Prepare and adopt an Affordable Housing Plan that meets state requirements."		VB	1	B
4.05	"Identify where residential and commercial area adjacency is problematic and examine ways to facilitate the use of buffering and screening techniques."	SSA, TIF, BDD	PC	3	B
4.06	Revise the Village's landscape ordinance to require enhanced screening and consider an amortization schedule to ensure compliance within a set time frame.		PC/ZBA	2	A
4.07	Promote native plants due to their durability, drought resistance, flood mitigation, and 4-season landscape.	On-site Improvement Program	SC	3	A
4.08	Make key intersection and pedestrian crossing improvements to enhance the safety and walkability of the neighborhoods.	FAST, CMAQ, STBGP	TSC	2	D
4.09	Prioritize implementation of the recently completed Safe Walking Routes to School (SWRTS) study recommendations that identify several safety improvements focused on the areas around the community's schools.	SRTS, CMAQ, STBGP	TSC	1	C
4.10	Consider requiring any construction work on the designated Significant Properties to be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission.		VB/HPC	2	A
4.11	Consider working cooperatively with the Park District and Library in forming a joint Aging in Place Committee focused on ensuring River Forest remain at the forefront of providing a high quality of life for aging residents.		VB	1	A
4.12	Encourage the utilization of green infrastructure systems to further mitigate flooding in the neighborhoods.	STBGP, CMAQ	SC	2	D
4.13	Identify changes in the Village zoning ordinance and building codes that would accommodate and possibly incentivize the use of permeable surfaces and on-site stormwater mitigating installations.	On-Site Improvement Program, BDD	PC/ZBA/SC	2	B
4.14	"Protect and preserve parkway trees by continuing its parkway tree program to ensure existing parkway trees are replaced with a variety of species."		SC	3	C
<b>Chapter 5: Commercial Areas</b>					
5.01	Consider constructing cul-de-sacs on a case-by-case basis as a potential way of accommodating desirable development.	BDD, SSA, TIF	TSC/DRB	3	E
5.02	Identify properties within the Village Center Commercial area for the development of public parking to serve the existing businesses and future development of the area.	BDD, SSA, TIF	VB	1	C
5.03	Implement the same streetscape enhancement program along the Lake Street Corridor to all commercial areas to establish a unique and defining aesthetic for River Forest.	BDD, SSA, TIF	VB	2	E
5.04	Update and revise the zoning ordinance to better reflect the desired character for the different commercial areas.		PC/ZBA	1	B

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5.05	Monitor mobility and parking trends over time, including ride sharing, autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles, and more, and adjust parking standards accordingly to best accommodate the needs of the Village.		TSC/SC	3	B
5.06	Provide a sufficient number of well-designed and appropriately located bicycle racks in order to accommodate and support cyclists and bicycle traffic generated by residents, shoppers, employees, and visitors.	STBGP, CMAQ, STP	TSC	2	C
5.07	Monitor the use of bike racks on a regular basis to ensure an appropriate number is being provided.		TSC	2	B
5.08	Provide public parking to better accommodate business owners, employees, customers, and commuters in the Village Center Area.	BDD, SSA, TIF	VB	2	E
5.09	Assess the current parking requirements in the zoning ordinance and amend standards as appropriate.		PC/ZBA	1	B
5.10	Provide bicycle racks in the Village Center Area, appropriately located in the right-of-way or as part of public parking lots.	STBGP, CMAQ, STP	TSC	2	C
5.11	Whenever possible, utilize appropriate permeable surface materials and green infrastructure and stormwater management practices in commercial parking lots.	STBGP, CMAQ, STP	SC	3	E
5.12	Consider the application of the Commercial Design Guidelines to all commercial development in the Village.		PC/ZBA	2	B
5.13	Work with local economic development partners, including the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce, to attract, retain and expand business success in the River Forest area.	BDD, SSA, TIF	EDC	1	F
5.14	Fully leverage the River Forest Economic Development Commission (EDC) as part of its focused effort to attract desirable business and new development to the Village.		EDC	2	C
5.15	Continue to identify opportunities in the Village, seek out potential “partners” who might be interested in River Forest development, and provide information and support in a manner that continues to make the Village a business-friendly community.	BDD, SSA	EDC	2	B
5.16	Utilize the expertise of the EDC to develop and implement a strategic marketing and recruitment plan for targeted business areas of the Village, as well as develop strategies to reduce the cost of doing business in River Forest and enhance the Village’s position within the competitive landscape.	BDD, SSA	EDC	2	B

### Chapter 6: Corridor Framework Plans

6.01	Coordinate with Elmwood Park, Oak Park, and Forest Park on initiatives to improve the appearance, functionality, economic vibrancy, and overall success of the North Avenue, Harlem Avenue, and Madison Street corridors.			1	B
6.02	Consider cooperative arrangement with the Township, Park District, and/or Village to expand the River Forest Community Center.		VB	1	F
6.03	Consider relocating the public works facility and redeveloping the site, if an appropriate location for the public works facility could be identified and the facility moved.	BDD, SSA, TIF	VB	1	F
6.04	Explore an improved parking configuration for parking along North Avenue to improve the safety and appearance of the area.	On-site Improvement Program, TIF, BID	TSC	3	D
6.05	Further augment the Village Center Area parking by providing public parking lots in appropriate locations in the areas between the Lake Street fronting businesses and the multi-family development to the south.	BDD, SSA, TIF	VB	2	E
6.06	Install bicycle racks at key locations to accommodate cyclists and promote a bike-friendly environment.	STBGP, CMAQ, STP	TSC	3	D
6.07	Provide clearly marked pedestrian crosswalk along Hawthorne Avenue by the Metra Station.	FAST, CMAQ, STBGP	TSC	1	E
6.08	Improve the condition of the platform, staircases, and tunnel at the Metra Station.			2	E

### Chapter 7: Transportation & Mobility

7.01	Develop and adopt a local Complete Streets Policy ordinance, establishing a clear emphasis and dedication to designing streets for all users.		TSC	1	B
7.02	Work with IDOT on alternatives to widening North Avenue to preserve the parking lane for commercial businesses.	FAST, ITEP, STBGP	TSC	1	D

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7.03	Work with IDOT to best manage and schedule short- and long-term projects along North Avenue and Harlem Avenue in a manner that reduce impacts to local roadway capacity.	FAST, ITEP, STBGP	TSC	2	D
7.04	Coordinate with CMAP, IDOT, and other regional partners to consider the short- and long-term impacts of expressway projects in the area and identify potential projects to address capacity issues in the Village.		TSC	3	C
7.05	Regularly review roadway capacity along collector and local roadways to identify problem areas and address shifts in how drivers move through the community over time.		TSC	1	B
7.06	Continue to monitor truck traffic within the Village and direct truck movement away from residential areas, with a particular focus on commercial uses along Lake Street.		TSC	2	B
7.07	Interconnect traffic signals to allow for progressive traffic flow along Lake Street.	FAST, ITEP, STBGP	TSC	3	C
7.08	Replace all yield control and uncontrolled intersections with all-way stop control, including the yield control at Thatcher Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue.	FAST, ITEP, STBGP	TSC	2	D
7.09	Monitor parking conditions and make adjustments to the street parking regulations as best serves the residents, businesses, and institutions of the Village.		TSC/PC/ZBA	2	B
7.10	Consider a more detailed parking study of the commercial corridors.		TSC	1	B
7.11	Work with the Sustainability Commission to research and consider incorporation of services and technologies, such as electric cars and car-sharing, in River Forest.		SC	3	B
7.12	Coordinate with Metra to ensure quality of UP-W Line service within River Forest, including considerations for long-term impacts based on ridership increases, such as parking capacity and nuisances to adjacent neighborhoods.		VB/TSC	2	D
7.13	Improve pedestrian safety and the River Forest Metra station by installing highly visible pedestrian crosswalks that safely accommodate the high volume of commuters accessing the station on foot.	FAST, ITEP, STBGP	TSC	1	D
7.14	Work with CTA to identify potential barriers to ridership and methods to better leverage these services to support economic development in River Forest.		VB/EDC	3	B
7.15	Coordinate with Pace to explore additional infrastructure improvements that will improve the rider experience and encourage ridership.	FAST, ITEP, STBGP	TSC	3	C
7.16	Remain actively involved in planning and implementation of the PULSE BRT service.	FAST, ITEP, STBGP	TSC	1	A
7.17	Concentrate efforts on maintaining the quality and upkeep of sidewalks, including regularly identifying necessary sidewalk repairs and upgrades, particularly as part of larger roadway capital improvement projects.	FAST, ITEP, STBGP	TSC	1	B
7.18	Work with IDOT to upgrade the parallel-line markings at these crosswalks to high-visibility "ladderstyle" markings.	FAST, ITEP, STBGP	TSC	2	C
7.19	As discussed in the Village's Safe Walking Routes to School study, improve all uncontrolled and yield-controlled intersections with stop controls and ladder-style crosswalks.	SRTS, CMAQ, STBGP	TSC	2	D
7.20	Actively seek connections to both regional trail systems, working cooperatively with the Forest Preserve of Cook County and other potential partners.	ITGP, IBPP	VB/SC/TSC	1	E
7.21	Partner with adjacent municipalities, particularly Oak Park, to consider related trail extension projects.		TSC	2	B
7.22	Actively seek full implementation of the Bicycle Plan to provide and support a comprehensive system for bicycle mobility in River Forest.	ITGP, IBPP	TSC	1	E
7.23	Continue to coordinate with the UP Railway in reducing nuisances to adjacent residential areas.		VB	3	B
7.24	Work with Metra and the UP railway to make necessary improvements, including improvements to railway overpasses.		VB	3	C
7.25	Install high-visibility crosswalks across Central Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue at approaches to the underpasses.	SRTS, CMAQ, STBGP	TSC	2	D
7.26	Add in-street school crossing signs for the crosswalks.	SRTS, CMAQ, STBGP	TSC	2	B
7.27	Improve the overall condition and appearance of railroad viaducts in River Forest.		VB	2	E
7.28	Continue to support and foster the mural/public art enhancements for all the viaducts from Lathrop Avenue to Thatcher Avenue.		VB	2	D

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<b>Chapter 8: Parks, Open Space &amp; the Environment</b>					
8.01	Coordinate to foster collaboration with the Park District as a valuable partner in addressing the community's needs and ensuring access to recreation and outdoor spaces.		VB	1	C
8.02	Work with the Park District to seek the development of additional parkland where opportunities arise.	IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF	PC	3	F
8.03	Focus on improving and providing greater access to existing parks and open spaces.	Illinois Trails Grants Program, Illinois Bicycle Path Program, IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF	TSC	1	C
8.04	Coordinate with the Park District and Forest Preserve to explore opportunities to develop additional active or passive recreational amenities in the forest preserves that are open to River Forest residents.	IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF	VB	1	E
8.05	Partner with local schools, universities, and other public and private organizations to make their facilities available for use by River Forest residents.		VB	2	B
8.06	Consult the Park District as a partner in maintaining and pursuing sustainability initiatives and best practices.		SC	1	B
8.07	Explore potential partnerships with the Township and the River Forest Community Center to expand programming for Village residents and the possibility of an expanded joint Community Center/Park District facility.	IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF	VB	2	E
8.08	Work with the Park District to explore the feasibility and impact of relocating the Park District Equipment Facility to another location, including the potential of consolidating the equipment facility with the River Forest Public Works Garage facility or other Village-owned site.	BDD, SSA, TIF	VB	2	F
8.09	Coordinate with the Forest Preserve to explore potential sidewalk and trail connections between the Village's sidewalk system, designated streets, and the forest preserves.	Illinois Trails Grants Program, Illinois Bicycle Path Program, IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF, STP, CMAQ, SRTS, ITEP	VB/TSC/SC	1	D
8.10	Coordinate with the Forest Preserve to seek extension of the Des Plaines River Trail through the Village and the potential for a looped trail system, including the development of trailheads at key locations.	Illinois Trails Grants Program, Illinois Bicycle Path Program, IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF, STP, CMAQ, SRTS, ITEP	VB/TSC/SC	1	F
8.11	Coordinate with the Forest Preserve, Park District, and adjacent communities to explore trail connections to and through River Forest that would incorporate the Village as part of a larger regional trail system.	Illinois Trails Grants Program, Illinois Bicycle Path Program, IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF, STP, CMAQ, SRTS, ITEP	VB/TSC/SC	2	E
8.12	Coordinate with the Forest Preserve to mitigate potential impacts on residential areas adjacent to the forest preserves, such as flooding or wildlife nuisances.	IDNR	VB	3	D
8.13	Coordinate with the Forest Preserve to explore the possibility of programs and activities in the area that utilize the forest preserves as an educational opportunity.		VB/SC	2	C
8.14	Assist the Forest Preserve with conservation and wildlife protection programs in the area.	IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF	SC	3	C
8.15	Consult the Forest Preserve as a partner in pursuing sustainability initiatives and best practices that could benefit the greater River Forest area.		VB/SC	1	B
8.16	Coordinate with the River Forest Tennis Club to explore opportunities for events or programs that make the facility open to the public more frequently at certain times of the year.		VB	3	B

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8.17	Partner with the Oak Park Tennis Center to explore programming and event opportunities at the Center that will promote recreation for residents of both River Forest and Oak Park.		VB	3	B
8.18	Host regular meetings with all recreational facilities and service providers in River Forest to ensure open communication about ongoing projects, long-term goals, and emerging issues.		VB	1	A
8.19	Coordinate with the River Forest Community Center to explore the potential for expansion or redevelopment of the Center as a larger joint facility.	IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF	VB	1	F
8.20	Continue to survey and map the location of trees that are maintained by the Village.		SC	2	B
8.21	Develop a dedicated tree replacement program that addresses trees in all areas of the Village, including all public and private property.		SC	2	B
8.22	Incentivize the preservation of existing trees and the planting of additional trees as part of new development projects.		SC	2	B
8.23	Work with the Sustainability Commission to educate residents on the importance of tree preservation and replacement.		SC	2	B
8.24	Remain actively dedicated to sustainability and work with the Sustainability Commission to maintain and expand sustainability programs in River Forest.		SC	1	C
8.25	Increase awareness of opportunities to engage in sustainable practices.		SC	1	B
8.26	Provide opportunities within the Village to learn about sustainability, including dedicated events, activities, and partnerships that offer residents ways to learn about sustainability and ongoing efforts in the community.		SC	2	C
8.27	Reduce overall energy consumption, including establishment of baseline metrics for reduction of energy consumption and efforts to educate residents, businesses, and property owners about energy efficiency and retrofit programs.		SC	2	D
8.28	Support knowledge and awareness of best practices and technologies related to energy conservation and renewable energy development.		SC	2	C
8.29	Increase investment in Renewable Energy Procurement, including the development and distribution of information regarding best practices to utilize alternative energy sources, with a focus on solar technology.		SC	3	B
8.30	Improve all municipal facilities with energy efficient systems and encourage residents, businesses, and new construction projects to do the same.	TIF	SC/DRB	2	E
8.31	Enhance and protect existing open spaces, green spaces, and eco systems with native plant species and landscaping.	IDNR, OSLAD, LWCF, On-Site & Façade Improvement Programs	SC	2	C
8.32	Reduce synthetic chemical usage in River Forest, including through continued efforts to promote natural lawn care and pest management and reduce the utilization of synthetic chemicals and harmful substances in outdoor spaces.		SC	3	D
8.33	Educate and encourage River Forest taxing bodies and institutions to use the healthiest, most sustainable, and safest methods for parks and open land.		SC	2	C
8.34	Divert community-wide residential waste from landfills and establish waste benchmarks for reduction as well as educate on best practices to help divert residential waste from landfills.		SC	3	D
8.35	Educate Village residents on recycling, landfill waste, and composting practices, and promote, educate, and enhance ongoing programs and systems for recycling, composting, and ways to reduce landfill waste.		SC	2	B
8.36	Assist Village staff in educating residents in reducing the consumption of potable water.		SC	2	B
8.37	Improve and maintain water quality such as by working with other taxing bodies, institutions, residents, and businesses to reduce synthetic herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizer practices.		SC	3	C
<b>Chapter 9: Community Facilities</b>					
9.01	Support the continued operation and improvement of both public and private school facilities within the Village while ensuring that they do not negatively impact the residential neighborhoods in which they are located.			1	B
9.02	Explore new opportunities for partnering on the delivery of programs, events, and services for the community with both universities.		VB	2	A

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9.03	Work cooperatively with the Universities to expand the availability of university resources to residents.		VB	2	B
9.04	Continually work to monitor and improve circulation and parking operations to minimize the institutions' impact on the neighborhoods in which they are located.	FAST, SRTS, CMAQ, STBGP	TSC	2	C
9.05	Work cooperatively with the library to find solutions to the space and parking problems it is facing.	TIF	VB	2	D
9.06	Continue to explore redevelopment opportunities to provide additional parking in the areas surrounding the Village Hall.	TIF	VB/PC	2	D
9.07	Maintain and enhance public safety within the Village by identifying and addressing public safety concerns as they arise as well as efforts to foster a comfortable and welcoming environment that ensures residents feel safe in their community.		VB/TSC	1	B
9.08	Identify and install additional street lights and other lighting in areas that are dark or feel unsafe.	ITEP, SRTS, CMAQ, STBGP, STP	VB/TSC	2	D
9.09	Conduct regular outreach with residents to receive feedback regarding public safety concerns and educate residents about ongoing issues, improvement projects, and trends.		VB/TSC	2	B
9.10	Review existing information systems to ensure residents are properly educated on public safety and have access to quick information in the event of an emergency.		VB/TSC	2	B
9.11	Work with the business community and new development to provide coordinated/integrated surveillance and alerts systems to improve to the safety and response time for the Village's commercial and institutional areas.		VB/TSC	2	D
9.12	Continue working with local schools to ensure pedestrian/student safety during peak drop-off-pick-up times.		TSC	1	B
9.13	Actively seek an appropriate site for long-term relocation of the Public Works Facility, which includes communication with neighboring communities to identify potential sites or partnership opportunities for co-location of facilities.	BDD, SSA, TIF	VB	1	F
9.14	Continue to review the age and condition of storm sewers and related infrastructure, with a focus on identifying priority improvements projects.			2	C
9.15	Continue to identify problem areas that should be the focus of short-term improvements projects for stormwater management.			2	B
9.16	Update regulations to incentivize stormwater mitigation best practices as part of new development, such as raingardens, native plantings, bioswales, permeable pavement, and more.		SC/PC/ZBA	2	B
9.17	Coordinate with the Forest Preserves of Cook County to address flooding issues within the forest preserves and potential impacts to adjacent properties.		VB	3	C
9.18	Work with the Sustainability Commission to develop water conservation informational materials and potential projects/programming that can be undertaken in the Village relative water conservation and stormwater mitigation.		SC	3	B
9.19	Work closely with the West Cook Solid Waste Agency to address ways to reduce the overall amount of solid waste being sent to landfills.		SC	3	D
9.20	Continue to work with River Forest's religious institutions as they seek to improve, expand, and evolve to better serve the community, in a manner that minimizes any negative impact of parking, traffic, or other activity on the surrounding areas.		PC	3	C

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