



ANTIOCH COMMUNITY VISION



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Dustin D. Nilsen - Director of Community Development

Village of Antioch ~ Authentic by Nature

Vision Statement

“Antioch is a community steeped in rich history and tradition, anchored by a safe, small-town atmosphere, and known for its quality of life. Its vibrant economy draws from the charm of a quaint downtown, a well educated workforce, and a robust commercial sector. The variety of recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors are accentuated by the area’s proximity to the Chain of Lakes and network of locally-established park, open space, and trail systems. Antioch proudly supports the collaboration of its educational institutions, faith-based and philanthropic organizations, and service agencies to provide opportunities for investment and the enrichment of our families, businesses, and community”.

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Introduction

Historical Overview

In 1991 the Village of Antioch Comprehensive Plan was adopted as the principal guidance document to serve and address a multitude of community development issues including housing, transportation, environment, and growth management. This plan was the culmination of works and input contributed by members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Village officials, and community stakeholders. While it has been nearly 24 years since this plan was completed, it is still relevant as many of its areas of focus involve issues we face today. The strategies and policies incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan are in need of periodic review and updates to respond to the evolution of community aspirations, public interest, regulatory changes, and environmental working and living conditions. Many of these priority areas of concern are as just as important today as they were in 1991 and by dedicating our attention to their understanding, our knowledge of their complexities and our management abilities have increased dramatically.

More recently, in 2003 and 2006, major revisions to the Comprehensive Plan began to address targeted growth areas and redevelopment policies important to Antioch. Special interests studies such as the Corlands Report for Parks and Open Space, Downtown Revitalization Planning, Transit Implementation Planning, and Lifestyle Corridor all offered additional goals and objectives to guide policy and the future direction of Antioch.

In 2012, the Village established its first overall strategic plan to not only address community development policies, but to adopt organizational initiatives and goals, setting a baseline of involvement for the Village as a participant in shaping the community and the municipal organization's future look and operation. A principal component of the Strategic Plan was to establish a Community Vision. Through the formation of a steering committee, the Village and a consortium of stakeholders began formulating a forward-reaching Vision, which would serve as a statement of future aspirations and milestones for its achievement.

While the history of Antioch, its downtown, its patterns of growth, and proximity to natural resources have, in many ways, remained the same; the manner in which they influence our daily lives, the manner in which we access information, purchase goods, conduct our daily business, and engage in community has changed significantly. Antioch is well-positioned to succeed over the next 100 years, but to do so we must take stock of where we are today, what we have accomplished, and detail what we need to do to reach our collective goals.



Methodist Church



Antioch Theatre Marquee Lighting



Authentic by Nature Winter

Statement of Purpose

The Antioch Community Vision is an expression of what we value as a community and where we hope to be in the future. It is motivated by the idea that if we articulate where we are trying to go and share the message in a report and findings, the likelihood of success increases significantly.

As a living document, the Vision shall be used and reviewed regularly by all members of our community including, but not limited to, residents, local government, civic organizations, institutions and businesses.

Process, Outreach, and Methodology

The Antioch Vision Committee was created to promote balanced consideration of the broad range of perspectives and topics that would be voiced through the community visioning process. Some committee members were selected to broadly represent institutional and social perspectives of the community. Others were selected because of their long standing involvement in the community and experience observing Antioch’s evolution and maturation over time.

During the first phase of the Vision development the committee served as an important conduit of information to community members, interest groups, and other organizations in an effort to encourage broad participation. Members provided input on the community-wide survey, helped identify stakeholders to be interviewed and attended workshops to get a first-hand sense of the values and needs of the community. Members piloted, reviewed, and offered feedback at each of the incremental stages of the report and process, including the analysis of core values and emerging themes from each component of the visioning process. The Committee provided continuity and feedback through the various phases and aspects of the Vision Process.

Community Workshops

Another component of the process involved a series of four community workshops. Stakeholder meetings, student focus groups, and open houses were designed to engage the attention, interest, and involvement of a broad spectrum of Antioch community members, and provide opportunities for group discussion and meaningful input into the community's vision. The format used for the workshops allowed community members to participate in a series of small group discussions of short duration, followed by identification of common themes in a larger group setting.

Community-wide Survey

Based on feedback from the steering committee and input provided at the community workshops, core values were developed and set the foundation for a community-wide survey. Surveys were mailed township wide to offer each community member an opportunity to provide input. The survey was also made available on the internet. Residents were asked to answer 15 questions that focused on Antioch's quality of life, local economy, the natural environment, social setting, education and volunteer programs.

Over 670 responses were received and evaluated by the Vision Steering Committee to broaden the perspective of the identified core values at a greater level of specificity and detail. The survey data was summarized and pictographs were generated to help tell the story of the background data that served to form the basis of the Antioch Community Vision.

Vision Statement

Refining the data to a unified statement that reflected Antioch's core values was the first step in reaching consensus on a final product. After a month of open public comment, the draft Vision statement was heard and approved by the Village Board. The statement serves as an executive summary of the Village's core values and is given the highest priority in this document.

Antioch Vision Webpage (TBD)

Pending the adoption of the Vision, it is recommended that the Village share and publish its documents and findings on the internet for access by resident and for future usage.

Document Structure

The Antioch Community Vision is organized into a single, unified executive statement (Vision Statement) of six (6) core values, and is then followed by an additional analysis of each core value which further illustrates a desired or ideal future for Antioch.

Within each Core Value analysis, a mission statement is included to provide direction to achieve that vision. More focused and tactical than the overall vision statement, the Core Value analysis and missional goals express greater meaning and detailed direction for achievement .

Supporting exhibits and findings are included to explain data trends and provide backup to the methods and findings. Graphs and pictograms illustrate the results of the Community wide survey and reveal the themes that supported the Core Values, Mission Statements, and goals set forth in the body of the Community Vision.

Village of Antioch ~ Authentic by Nature

Vision Statement

“Antioch is a community steeped in rich history and tradition, anchored by a safe, small-town atmosphere, and known for its quality of life. Its vibrant economy draws from the charm of a quaint downtown, a well educated workforce, and a robust commercial sector. The variety of recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors are accentuated by the area’s proximity to the Chain of Lakes and network of locally-established park, open space, and trail systems. Antioch proudly supports the collaboration of its educational institutions, faith-based and philanthropic organizations, and service agencies to provide opportunities for investment and the enrichment of our families, businesses, and community”.

Antioch’s Core Values

Stakeholders and citizen input identified the core values of the community. These fundamental values are those we will strive to maintain and achieve. The following six (6) areas are the dominant themes that community valued today and envision as defining attributes of Antioch. They are represented in the Vision Statement and their meaning and intent are further explored in dedicated sections of the Vision Document.

Small Town Atmosphere & Historic Community Character

Pedestrian Connectivity & Community Accessibility

*Access to Entertainment, Recreation & Active,
Healthy Lifestyles*

Open Spaces & the Natural Environment

A Vibrant Economy, Business Diversity & Tourism

*High Quality Education, Civic Engagement &
Community Services*

Small Town Atmosphere & Historic Community Character

Vision Mission Statement: Enhance Antioch's unique attributes—its small town feel and historic community character. Build upon the cornerstone of service and the Village's culture of renewal, volunteerism, and philanthropy. Revitalize and expand downtown as a community focal point that offers a unique and memorable experience for residents and visitors.

Small Town Atmosphere

Antioch's small town feel and historic character are defining attributes of the Village and create a traditional, small-town identity. Our proximity to the Chain of Lakes and natural resources are historically tied to our establishment and economic success. The community is united in its desire that Antioch remain beautiful, well-kept, clean, quiet, safe, and well-planned. Antioch will work to maintain both its community character and quality of life by protecting its heritage as a lake community, and hometown community, while offering neighbors and guests a warm and welcoming visitors' experience.



Chain of Lakes Vintage Photo



Vacation Postcard



Main Street

Historic Community Character

The Village's historic character comes from its turn of the century downtown and the legacy as a vacation lake community. Embracing this history and implementing it are accomplished through environmental design and investments that reestablish our connection to the natural lake elements. The Authentic by Nature brand represents a cultural and geographic relationship between our natural surroundings and the heritage of a destination community rooted in a genuine agricultural work ethic. The community envisions this dynamic not only being maintained but enhanced in its desire to keep its authentic elements and natural amenities in a mutually beneficial and harmonious relationship.

Pedestrian Connectivity & Community Accessibility

Vision Mission Statement: Increase travel options through enhanced walking, bicycling, and transportation systems. Enhance mobility through increased connectivity of activity centers and improved active transportation network.

Pedestrian Connectivity

Outside its core downtown and traditional neighborhoods, the Village developed largely as a suburban style community dominated by automobile biased infrastructure and development patterns. The limited availability of sidewalks and connecting trails in these areas has created obstacles to access and mobility throughout town and the larger community. In the future, improved trail systems and complete streets, where roadways include adequate sidewalks, ensure that neighborhoods are connected to parks and trail systems, thereby enhancing the quality of life, and allowing for safe and enjoyable movement throughout the Village without the requirements of an automobile.



Rural Trails



Complete Street



School Cross Walk

Community Accessibility

The Village's current transportation network is enhanced to improve the safety and comfort of all travelers. Well connected streets and pedestrian routes are established through projects that improve local mobility. Planned improvements that link future development by expanding upon the existing pedestrian facilities and trails improve the opportunity for community connections to existing businesses goods, service, parks, and recreation opportunities.

Regional access is improved by coordinated improvements on the regional level. Weekend services provided by commuter rail and well designed roadways will allow for goods, services, commerce, and visitors to travel to and from regional employment centers by a variety of transportation options.

Entertainment, Recreation & Active, Healthy Lifestyles

Vision Mission Statement: *Promote fun, active lifestyles, quality of life, and community health by improving the availability of social and recreational opportunities.*

Active Lifestyles and Entertainment

Demands for shopping, dining, and entertainment options are highly valued by Antioch residents. They appreciate the ability to purchase a bundle of goods and desire to enjoy local shopping as discretionary entertainment. Both these demands are satisfied by the array of businesses that create the Antioch entertainment experience. Specialty goods and activities that join commerce with the small town atmosphere are desired. In the future, Antioch provides a greater choice of entertainment and commerce opportunities that offer residents and visitors “something to do”. The availability of recreation based around natural amenities, art, culture, and entertainment provides opportunities for residents to enjoy their community and activate their social lives.

Access and Availability of Activities

Access is not only a function of sidewalks and trail projects, but a series of intelligent land use decisions that locate compatible developments and uses in closer proximity to one another. Antioch will locate services near housing and provide connections making compatible land uses more accessible thereby increasing the mobility of the general population by increasing access to nearby recreation and entertainment. Antioch encourages health & well-being through pedestrian and bicycle paths that promote the vitality of its residents, downtown area, schools, commerce centers, and neighborhoods.



Antioch Theatre



Bandshell



Antioch Pool

Parks and Recreation

Antioch is served with a well-developed network of parks and public spaces. These amenities are accessible to all portions of the Village and serve as part of Antioch’s recreation experience. Antioch’s parks, entertainment, public activities, special events, and programs provide inclusive opportunities for all ages and citizen groups to socialize and live an active lifestyle. The Vil-

lage's own facilities and local improvements are interconnected with the facilities constructed by the state, county, and forest preserves and broaden the areas that are accessible and enjoyed by residents.

Open Spaces & the Natural Environment

Vision Mission Statement: *Prioritize the enhancement, restoration, and utilization of open spaces and natural environment. Support and protect Antioch's unique open space and lake heritage through environmental stewardship.*

Chain of Lakes and Natural Environment

The Chain of Lakes and surrounding natural areas have long served as the areas premiere natural resources for recreation and tourist based commerce. Antioch's restored connection to the Chain of Lakes through targeted investment will improve its quality of life, economy, and attraction by offering residents, visitors, and businesses an additional asset that differentiates the Antioch experience from others in the collar counties and the region.



Hiram Buttrick Sawmill



Channel Lake



Cardboard Boat Regatta

Public Spaces and the Public Domain

Streets, Parks, and neighborhood gathering spaces are the first and most visible open spaces available to residents. They are ever-present in our daily lives and dramatically influence the image and aesthetic of a community. These places serve on the front line as open space and recreational service areas often providing dual roles as storm water management or animal sanctuaries. Antioch's right of ways and public improvements will consider the environmental implications and beauty of the area in addition to their basic utility. Public infrastructure projects and capital investments will forward the Vision, sustain, and support high quality neighborhoods and environments for the community.

Coordinating land development plans and open space development, along with internal pedestrian facilities to these areas will enhance the accessibility of usable open space to the community. Antioch is served with a well developed network of parks and public spaces. Antioch's parks, entertainment, public activities, special events, and local improvements are interconnected with the facilities constructed by the state, county, and forest preserves which broaden the areas that are accessible and enjoyed by residents.

A Vibrant Economy, Business Diversity, & Tourism

Vision Mission Statement: *Strengthen the Village's economy and its position as a commercial center through the promotion of increased specialty retail, dining opportunities, Antioch's tourism sectors, and a diverse portfolio of businesses that support the Antioch Vision.*

Business Diversity

Antioch's diverse economic sector provides services, supports the local tax base, and is comprised of corporate citizens invested in partnerships that embody the Antioch community vision strengthen a greater corporate community. Specialty shops of independent business owners and corporate investment will assist in driving the economy, providing jobs, and generating tax revenue. Job creation will lead to increases in daytime population that will strengthen the market and make Antioch a more desirable place to conduct business.

We need to continue to grow with the times - so we don't get left behind and have to fight to save what we love like the Theater

what we love like the Theater

Downtown

Revitalizing the downtown is integral to promoting the Village's identity. Community members appreciate the Village's charm, its quaintness, and its connection to the past; however, revitalizing the downtown is necessary to achieve its potential to serve as a community focal point and major tourist draw.

"10 years from now - Antioch ideally could be a center for continued small business activity. I think a mix of franchises and small business (mom & pop shops) are the key to a successful tax base. The downtown area really is a great cornerstone for family-centered activities."

cornerstone for family-centered activities."

Downtown has a good framework to expand upon such as a walkable grid street system, close proximity to the Metra, the architectural presence of historical buildings, and access from Route 83. Antioch will capitalize on the downtowns potential as a place for people to live, work, and play, helping it emerge as a unique destination, an entertainment venue, and a commerce center.

Stores and restaurants that cater to residents and stay open late, cultural and entertainment activities that draw visitors, and an increased village downtown population base will infuse the

downtown with a vitality that will draw new businesses. The Village will accommodate new uses and redevelopment while still maintaining its small-town feel and charm.



Lake Area Barber Shop



Antioch Corporate Center



Downtown Shopping

Tourism

Antioch delivers a tourist experience and product that encourages visitors and satisfies entertainment demands of the local population. A discerning pool of visitors and customers return in increasing numbers, as Antioch provides a superior destination experience by developing and expanding the number and quality of product offerings. A close working relationship between agency partners, business community, and media increases public awareness of the importance of tourism to the economy and the value that Antioch delivers. As a premier tourist destination, Antioch successfully retains and showcases the values, heritage, culture, and natural beauty of a Chain of Lakes community.

High Quality Education, Community Services, & Civic Engagement

Vision Mission Statement: *Support quality, comprehensive education and life-long learning opportunities, provide community services for a changing population, and maintain a high standard of public safety.*

Education

Antioch has an excellent public and private school system and maintaining its high quality education is a priority for residents. In the future, all schools that serve Antioch will boast exemplary facilities and educational achievements.

Our Schools are vital centers of community life enriched by the diversity of Antioch.

Antioch will establish networks that expand educational opportunities for all ages, partnering businesses, schools, and government, to encourage adult learning and the development of an educated workforce.

Our civic and community organizations partner to promote engagement, well-being, social events, and success of our students and community. Antioch demonstrates its aptitude and ability as creative learners who succeed through personal initiative and sustained effort to reach the highest academic and professional goals. They are critical thinkers who possess technological competence and collaborative skills.

Community Service Providers, Civic Organizations, and Volunteers

Antioch collaborates with outside agencies, assuring the best possible service to its residents. It leads the way through civic and government leadership, creating community involvement and promoting volunteerism. We are responsible in the stewardship of our fiscal resources and fair and equitable in their distribution. Antioch's service organizations embrace diversity,

A safe community where families can enjoy their time together. A school system that is recognized nation wide. A place where people can go to shop for specialty items, eat at great restaurants, and enjoy life in general... but also a place where people can volunteer for their community doing things for FREE as opposed to paying high prices for jobs, renovations, and help in general.

To still be a town where young families want to raise their kids because they were raised here. To also be known for having a great school district.

act responsibly, are relevant, and contribute to the well-being of the greater community. Our educators and leadership together form a rich professional learning community where all are supported to hone our professional craft and improve our effectiveness as innovators and practitioners. Antioch public safety providers are professionally staffed and appropriately resourced to effectively service the community. As an integral part of a healthy community, they will continue building relationships with outside agencies, remain unified amongst each other, and be in touch with the needs and culture of the local population.

Civic Engagement

Antioch is full of caring, friendly people with a sense of volunteerism and pride. The small town atmosphere of the Village is family-oriented, multi-generational, and stable. Service, charity, faith, and philanthropy are hallmarks of Antioch and define many of its social values. In the future, cultural and generational diversity and social connections will be enhanced through opportunities for volunteerism and civic engagement; more public gathering places, family-friendly activities, and open spaces accessible from our homes and workplaces. Our Families and community are integral to the success of Antioch and are empowered and engaged as educators and leaders.



Faith Lutheran Church



Antioch High School



Antioch Fire

Summary And Acknowledgements

Summary

Village of Antioch Community Vision Document, in its entirety, will help guide future decisions of the Village and community as a whole. This document, once approved, is expected to evolve over time and be reviewed by the Village board. The work put into this document was a collaborative effort made by the Antioch Community Vision Committee, The Village Board of Trustees, Village Staff, Community Stakeholders including civic, religious, educational, fraternal, government, and other outside agencies, the business community and the residents of the Antioch community as a whole. The core values identified within the document were recurring themes brought forth through various outreach methods including workshops and surveys.

The Village of Antioch Community Vision is intended to guide the community towards the core values identified within and will help shape future decisions made by the Village of Antioch staff and the corporate authority. The document will be available through the Village website, and published in pamphlet form as well as displayed throughout the various facilities in the Village.

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to those who were invited, and those that participated in the community workshops and surveys, including, but not limited to, the following:

885 Civic Club
Lions Club
Rotary
Women's Club
Jr. Women's Club
Jr. Women's Club
Jr. Women's Club
Moose Lodge
Antioch Youth Little League
Antioch Vikings Football
Antioch Vikings Cheerleading
Youth Iceless Hockey
AYSO (Soccer)
Lakeland Predators Wrestling Club
Lakes Area Community Band
Special Recreations Services of Northern Lake County
Antioch Community Chours
Girl Scouts
Boy Scouts
Ducks Unlimited
Pheasants Forever

Garden Club
NICC
Historical Society
AYLL
Antioch Jr. Sequoits Basketball
AYSO Soccer 1466
Antioch Waves Swim Team
Bordertown Bandits Softball
Lacrosse Club
Schools
PTO
Antioch Community High School
School Board Dist 33
School Board Dist 34
School Board Dist 36
School Board Dist 117
School Board Dist 117
St. Peter's
Faith Evangelical
Businesses
Auto Body Work & Paint
Dodge of Antioch
Kunes Country Ford Lincoln Mercury
Raymond Chevrolet/KIA
Deli Source
Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce
Citizen Group
Senior Center
HOAs
Windmill Creek
Tiffany Farms
Heron Harbor (Woodland Drive and Heather Glen)
Neu Haven
Clublands
Trevor Creek
Depot Landing
Heron Harbor Unit II
Religious Group
Knights of Columbus
Antioch Baptist Church
Antioch United Methodist Church
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Chain of Lakes Community Bible Church
Chain of Lakes Community Bible Church
Christian Life Fellowship
CrossView Church

North Bridge Church
North Bridge Church
St. Ignatius Episcopal Church
St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic
St Stephen Lutheran Church
Government Groups
Forest Preserve
IDOT
Highway Commissioner -Mark Ring
Township Supervisor- Steve Smouse
Township Offical - Judy Davis
Township Offical - Steve Turner
Township Offical - Tom Shaughnessy
Township Offical - Peter Grant
U.S. Senator Dick Durbin
U.S. Senator Mark Kirk
Congrassman Rand Hultgren
State Senator Pamela Althoff
State Senator Melinda Bush
State Representative Joann Osmond
State Representative Barbara Wheller
JJ Blinkers

Appendices and Supporting Documentation

Insert for Final Publication