



2025

Community Profile



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New in 2024-2025: All initiatives undertaken are noted and bolded in green.

COMMUNITY-AT-A-GLANCE

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AIB committee chair contact and/or volunteer coordinator: AJ Balsamo, Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Chair

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Community Information

Community name: Village of Hawthorn Woods

Population: 9,062

County/township: Lake County/Ela Township

Municipal Website: www.vhw.org

Municipal Facebook page: @villageofhawthornwoods

Area in square miles: 8.26 with 57 lane miles of streets

Acres of active recreation: 137

Acres of passive recreation: 36.5

Form of government (mayor, council, manager, etc.): The Village of Hawthorn Woods is a Mayor-Manager form of government consisting of Mayor Dominick DiMaggio; a volunteer Village Board of Trustees; and Chief Operating Officer, Pamela O. Newton.

Jurisdiction(s) that operate the public-school system? Lake Zurich Community Unit School District 95

Jurisdiction(s) that operate the utilities (water, sewer, electrical, trash, recycling, etc.)?

Water: Lake County Public Works, Aqua Illinois, Village of Hawthorn Woods, individual private wells
Sewer: Lake County Public Works, Aqua Illinois, Village of Hawthorn Woods, individual private septic tanks
Electrical: ComEd, MC2
Gas: Nicor
Trash: Waste Management
Recycling: Waste Management
Telecommunications: AT&T
Cable: Comcast

Volunteer coordinator name if position exists:

Director of Parks and Recreation, Amy Mason, and Trustee Liaison, James Kaiser

Have there been any challenges this year weather-related or otherwise, the judges should know about?

As a midwestern community, the Village of Hawthorn Woods typically experiences a late spring, hot and humid summer, and cold winter.

Years participated in America in Bloom National Awards Program: Eight years, including 2025

Previous America in Bloom Awards and Recognitions:

Outstanding Achievement Award in Urban Forestry	2024
America in Bloom Champion – Population Category 9,000 – 14,000	2024
America in Bloom Champion – Population Category 5,000 – 10,000	2023
America in Bloom – Community Involvement Recognition	2023
Outstanding Achievement Award in Landscaped Areas	2022
Landscaped Areas Community Recognition	2022
Outstanding Achievement Award in Environmental Efforts	2021
Coollest Place for Kids	2021
Innovation in Action- Most Impressive New Program	2021
Overall Impression Community Recognition	2021
Best Ecological Preservation Project -	2020
Meadowlark Park and Arboretum and Brierwoods Preserve	
Community Champion – Pamela O. Newton, Village of Hawthorn Woods COO	2020
Environmental Efforts Community Recognition	2020
America in Bloom Champion – Population Category 5,000 – 10,000	2019
Outstanding Achievement Award in Environmental Efforts	2019
Cultivating Inspiration – Community Mentoring Award	2019
Landscaped Areas Community Recognition	2019
America in Bloom Champion – Population Category 5,000 – 10,000	2018
Community Vitality Community Recognition	2018

Introduction to the Village of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois

On March 10, 1958, the formation of the Village of Hawthorn Woods was approved by a unanimous vote of the 71 citizens who became the original residents of our community. Hawthorn Woods became Lake County's 31st municipality and quickly distinguished itself as an upscale, friendly community that placed a high value on the protection of our natural resources as we designed an estate lifestyle within the suburban region. With approximately 9,060 residents, Hawthorn Woods remains a highly desirable place to live, work, and play in a natural setting among trees, lakes, and parks. Hawthorn Woods is recognized for its beautiful open spaces and park amenities, as well as great schools, friendly business districts, and professional services. A full service Police Department, Public Works Department, Finance Department, Community Development Department, and Parks and Recreation Department all work together to provide excellence in service to the citizens, visitors, and business community of Hawthorn Woods.

With the addition of the Hawthorn Woods Country Club, the Village has continued along a controlled population growth trend. The Village of Hawthorn Woods built a state-of-the-art aquatic center that has become the central gathering place for residents each summer. Future plans include bike trails designed to connect the neighborhoods to the parks, and a downtown sustainable community with a diversified housing stock to create a hometown appeal.

The Village of Hawthorn Woods provides many recreation and leisure activities, including a seniors group, wonderful preschool programs, recreation classes, a summer camp, and fun for the entire family. The Village conducts free concerts in the park each Friday on summer evenings, a series of movies in the park, various barn events, and offers free special events to the residents, including an annual Bark in the Park; Party in the Park; 4th of July celebrations; and an old-fashioned holiday tree lighting ceremony complete with carolers and hot chocolate.

Just 35 miles north of the City of Chicago, Hawthorn Woods is part of a 52 city/village county that prides itself on a rural lifestyle and an "oasis" from the city life. We support equestrian farms, homes on one-acre estates, and good old-fashioned walkable neighborhoods and parks. The coffee pot is always on at Village Hall to welcome our residents. Unlike the modern city hall structures that surround us, Hawthorn Woods has worked hard to restore and preserve an old dairy barn as our Village Hall. We work in a barn, legislate in a barn, and serve the constituents in a barn!



The barn has become a symbol of our identity and is incorporated into our Village logo. It is the centerpiece of our community, and reminds us of the agrarian lifestyle that preceded these modern times. The residents who move to Hawthorn Woods choose a lifestyle that puts importance on the environment, on preservation, on conservation and recreation, accessible to all neighborhoods. We are Hawthorn Woods!

COMMUNITY VITALITY

PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS IN COMMUNITY VITALITY:

In 2021, The Village of Hawthorn Woods was recognized and celebrated for our community energy, spirit, and vitality by winning the prestigious Governor’s Hometown Award in Environmental Stewardship for our volunteer efforts with the Brierwoods Preserve Restoration Initiative! We pride ourselves with providing community services that exceed expectations, and we raise the bar of excellence each day even before we get out of bed. All of our cell phones include an app that sends each of us an automatic message every morning before our alarm rings as a reminder to start our day with passion and joy. It is a simple message with an emoji heart and the word Excellence! This simple reminder has become contagious throughout our entire community. From volunteers to our local business owners, Hawthorn Woods residents practice community vitality, and this energy can be felt in all that we do.

Even the casual observer or guest in our community comments on this positive energy that is recognized in all sectors of town. One journalist once wrote about Hawthorn Woods and compared us to Brigadoon, a literary place where almost everything seems perfect and everyone seems happy. And while we all have struggles throughout our day, we do attempt to overcome those with a positive attitude knowing that we are ambassadors of service for the Village of Hawthorn Woods. You won’t just see it, you will feel it every time you are in our town!



Aqua Illinois brought corporate volunteers to clear invasive buckthorn for a “Day of Service at Brierwoods Preserve,” led by company President, Craig Blanchette.



Friends of Indian Creek Wetlands and the Stevenson High School Green Team volunteer to clear invasive buckthorn at Indian Creek Preserve.

Indian Creek Preserve is a Village-owned 9.5-acre parcel of land comprised of woodland and wetland ecosystems that has remained untouched for over a century. The Village of Hawthorn Woods revitalized this precious natural area for public use, tree canopy expansion, wetland restoration, as well as wildlife and pollinator habitat restoration with the assistance in grant funding provided by the CN Railway and America in Bloom.



A dedication ceremony was conducted on August 9, 2023. America in Bloom Executive Director Laura Kunkle and America in Bloom Grant Review Committee Chair Dr. Marvin Miller were in attendance, along with CN State and Local Affairs Manager Kevin Donahue (pictured above).

A total of ten volunteer restoration days took place to clear the preserve of invasive buckthorn with the dedicated volunteer assistance of the Friends of Indian Creek Wetlands; Stevenson High School Green Team; and Digital GreenSigns, involving a total of seventy-eight volunteers!

In 2021, the Village introduced the Green Business Program of Hawthorn Woods, intended to promote and celebrate green business practices in our Village, big and small. This program aims to educate business owners on options for greening their business, incentivize sustainable actions in our community, and publicly recognize these accomplishments to residents and customers. Local business owners can learn how to reduce energy costs, manage waste, and support natural landscapes through our Green Business Guidebook and Action Resources. Our Green Business Program received the “Innovation in Action” award during the 2021 America in Bloom Virtual Symposium.



In December of 2022, the Village of Hawthorn Woods was the proud recipient of the Municipal Innovation Award from the Lake County Municipal League (LCML) for our Green Business Program. The LCML Municipal Innovations Awards program recognizes municipalities that developed strategic programs to solve municipal challenges and increase the effectiveness of local government.

2024-2025 Metric Heading Examples with Brief Narratives for Community Vitality

CV.01 - An economic development plan is in place and implemented: The Village of Hawthorn Woods Comprehensive Plan was adopted on June 16, 2014, which established a vision for the community and serves as a guide for future development. The Village also commissioned a Downtown/Uptown Market Analysis and Infrastructure Assessment in July of 2017. The intent of this document is to analyze residential and commercial markets and trends, with emphasis on the defined uptown and downtown areas of Hawthorn Woods. Both the comprehensive plan and the assessment can be found on our Village website (vhw.org).

CV.03 - Master plan exists for current and/or future green space: Once again, our Comprehensive Plan also includes a Parks, Open Space & Environmental Features Plan for green space.

CV.02 - Communication: Our Village shares the Ela Area Public Library with surrounding communities, located three miles from Village Hall. Village Hall also has a resource center kiosk comprised of informational brochures from other agencies and resource centers.

During an introductory virtual meeting with our 2022 America in Bloom judges, Sue Amatangelo and Carlo Balistreri, it was suggested by Carlo that the Village create an Instagram account in addition to our Facebook page to promote community events, activities, and updates, in addition to photo displays. An Instagram account was immediately created and is currently active with a total of 229 followers!



CV.04 - Public parks and/or green spaces are available: The Village of Hawthorn Woods boast 24 public parks totaling 180.02 acres. All parks are free to the public, open year-round from sunrise to sunset, and accessible to all mobilities.

CV.05 – Active and/or passive recreation opportunities: With 24 parks and nature preserves for over 9,060 residents, Hawthorn Woods has been recognized as one of the top places to live by several independent agencies. We have recently opened two pickle ball courts to meet the requests of our aging senior population. We conduct classes in fitness, swimming, field sports, and even stargazing. The Village boasts a sled hill, a full Aquatic Center and café amenities, an Arnold Palmer Golf Course, as well as public access to our lakes and ponds. The Aquatic Center received the “Coolest Place for Kids” award at the 2021 America in Bloom Virtual Symposium. Additional instructional classes in pickleball, soccer, baseball/softball, basketball, lacrosse, and football are also available through our Parks and Recreation Department. Our motto is “Leave No Child Left Inside.”

Our Village map is located on page 33 and is heavily utilized and expanding each year as the community grows and develops. The bike path is included in our appendix.

In 2022, the Village entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Lake County Division of Transportation to construct a 10-foot-wide bike path on the west side of Gilmer Road from Midlothian Road to Schwerman Road and along both the east and west sides of Midlothian Road from Gilmer Road to approximately 1,400 feet southwest of Gilmer Road. The total length of the bike path is approximately 6,800 feet or 1.3 miles, now near completion.



Gilmer Road Bike Path



Midlothian Road Bike Path

CV.06 – Seating is available near walking, exercise, playground areas, and/or public transportation spots: ADA accessible park benches, many of which composed of recycled wood and metal, are present near our park playgrounds, walking trails, and Brierwoods Preserve observation deck.

CV.07 – Shade is provided for participants and/or spectators at cultural and sporting events: Our popular Community Park boasts a large gazebo and our active Heritage Oaks Park includes two pavilions.



Brierwoods Preserve Observation Deck



Community Park Gazebo

CV.08 - Community gathering space: Hawthorn Woods boasts two extremely popular, indoor community centers. The Community Room at the Aquatic Center is utilized for community events and fairs, and available for use to Homeowner Associations, garden groups, scout troops, and governmental agencies. The Village Barn is also often used for senior luncheons, group meetings, instructional classes, public events, and private functions.

CV.09 – Accessible age and ability-appropriate play areas: Hawthorn Woods has been awarded for accessible play areas and specific play pieces. Accessibility extends to all ages and accommodates wheeled walkers, wheelchairs, strollers, and ramps for all municipal properties and facilities. A chair lift is also available in both municipal buildings and at our Aquatic Center.

CV.11 – Community celebrations and/or cultural performances: We have several outdoor spaces for the performing arts. The most popular is the Community Park Gazebo, where each Friday night during the summer months, hundreds of people gather together with their picnic baskets to enjoy a free community concert. Each week, the concert features a different type of music, from country to rock. We often accompany this event with art tables or an old-fashioned outdoor movie for the entire family. During winter months, we program cultural arts in the Village Barn, complete with vocal choirs, piano recitals, barn dances, movie nights, and pajama parties, just to name a few. We also have a new, outdoor arbor theatre located in the Hawthorn Hills development, where we plan to provide programming to this new neighborhood to engage residents. We also utilize the St. Matthew Church gymnasium and the Hawthorn Woods Country Club for larger community events.

In September of 2022, the Village hosted our first-ever “Party in the Park.” This free annual special event was held at Community Park and consisted of live music, food truck vendors, petting zoo, train rides, and additional activities for both children and adults. It was a tremendous success in 2022 with over 1000 community members in attendance. It is now an annual event with attendance increasing each and every year.

In 2022, A widely successful first-ever holiday concert was hosted by the Village in partnership with the Lake County Symphony Orchestra this past December in our Village Barn. This event marked the first time the entire symphony orchestra has performed within our community. This concert took place in 2023 and 2024, as well, and is now a sold out annual event.



“Party in the Park” at Community Park



Independence Day Festival



Lake County Symphony Orchestra holiday concert at the Village Barn



Thanksgiving Craft Fair in the Village Barn – the historic Village Barn is utilized for several special events and gatherings throughout every year.

CV.08 - Community gathering space: Hawthorn Woods boasts two extremely popular, indoor community centers. The Community Room at the Aquatic Center is utilized for community events and fairs, and available for use to Homeowner Associations, garden groups, scout troops, and governmental agencies. The Village Barn is also often used for senior luncheons, group meetings, instructional classes, public events, and private functions.

August 10, 2023, the Village of Hawthorn Woods hosted the America in Bloom (AIB) Lake County Community Summit in our Village Barn. This summit was intended to introduce the many benefits of becoming affiliated with AIB to surrounding municipalities and to showcase our community with a one-hour bus tour. As a result of our leadership, the Village of Highwood became a member of the America in Bloom national association, and Buffalo Grove and Mundelein were recognized at the national awards ceremony.



A total of twenty-seven municipal employees registered to attend the event representing eight different communities. We considered this event quite a success!

CV.14 – Safety policies, programs, and/or services are in place: Our police department is located within our Village Hall Barn and is comprised of thirteen sworn police officers. Four fire departments serve a segment of our community, consisting of the Countryside Fire Protection District; Lake Zurich Fire Department; Long Grove Fire Protection District; and the Wauconda Fire District.

CV.15 – Youth-focused programs: As mentioned in metric CV.5, our Village motto is “Leave No Child Left Inside.” We offer an extensive list of youth activities, such as instructional classes in soccer, baseball/softball, basketball, lacrosse, swimming, and football, along with the Woodchucks Summer Camp Program and a variety of special family events, all coordinated through our Parks and Recreation Department.

Each year, our Parks and Recreation Department welcomes *Wings and Talons*, a raptor education foundation, as they bring live birds of prey to visit and to share their incredible knowledge with us. During this interactive workshop, *Wings and Talons* guides attendees through the fascinating lives of raptors across different seasons.



Topics include:

- The migration phases of birds of prey, highlighting their incredible journeys.
- An exploration of non-migratory raptors and how they adapt to survive through the seasons.
- Insights into the adaptations that enable these birds to thrive in diverse environments.

This event is a partnership between the Village of Hawthorn Woods and the Ancient Oaks Foundation, focusing on community conservation and fostering connections with nature. Whether you're a bird enthusiast or simply curious about wildlife, this popular program offers a unique opportunity to witness raptors up close and learn about their vital role in our ecosystem.

CV.16 – Non-municipal volunteer boards: The Village of Hawthorn Woods boasts two environmentally focused volunteer committees. The Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee consists of 10 members appointed by the Mayor. A monthly report is presented to the Mayor and Board of Trustees during their public meeting. Additionally, there is an appointed Sustainability Committee that consists of 8 members. All committee volunteers have taken and passed the Open Meetings Act and all agendas are posted online and outside Village Hall at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Roll call and meeting minutes are approved at each meeting.

New in 2025:

On June 6, 2025, the Village of Hawthorn Woods was pleased to have achieved our three-year recertification as an Audubon International Sustainable Community in recognition of our outstanding efforts to foster environmental awareness and good stewardship.



Hawthorn Woods is the first community in the State of Illinois to receive this prestigious recognition!

Jill Moore, the Sustainable Communities Specialist for Audubon International, presented the certificate to Mayor Dominick DiMaggio during our first summer 2025 Concert in the Park at Community Park. Jill spent the day touring our municipality with Village staff, while meeting with various business managers, environmental groups, and public officials.

FLORAL IMPACT

PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS IN FLORAL IMPACT:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods, once referred to as “Brigadoon” in the press, is an oasis 35 miles north of the City of Chicago. Nestled between Chicago and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Village experiences a hot summer and very cold winter temperatures. We fall within the Zone 5 hardiness plant zone for our flowering trees and perennials, and we make great use of our outdoor season.

With snowfall often occurring within the month of April, our spring is late and lasts just weeks until the summer temperatures and dry conditions are upon us. To accommodate our challenges with climate growth cycles, the Village has adopted hardy annuals for our spring plantings and we rely upon our natural perennials to enhance the colorscape.

- We integrate annuals, with wildflower and perennial plantings to create a diverse and ever-blooming view shed
- We use container plantings and window boxes on municipal buildings to add color and texture
- We utilize hanging baskets to accentuate flowering splashes of color and to vary the height of the colorscape
- We have landscaped floral boxes and hardscape areas around signage to create mini pocket parks around town
- We have 44 landscaped cul-de-sac islands located throughout town in every neighborhood, along with the creation of pollinator sanctuaries in each roundabout
- We conduct an annual Excellence in Gardening competition and award winners each month from spring to fall
- We have a dedicated maintenance staff and our own watering truck to supplement when rainfall is scarce and drought conditions persist
- We maintain a raised vegetable garden
- We maintain a raised flower bed
- We conduct bulb propagation
- We engage in perennial plant splitting



Hawthorn Woods Aquatic Center boasts a unique use of ornamental grasses, trees, and annual flowers.



Subdivision entrances in Hawthorn Woods make use of color, texture, height variation, diverse tree species, and flowers.



Lakeside Residential Subdivisions have worked hard to eliminate the invasive purple loosestrife.



Our Village Barn Landscape makes use of hardscape elements along with bulbs and perennials.

2024-2025 Metric Headings Examples with Brief Narratives for Floral Impact

FI.01 – Plant combinations are carefully selected for location and environmental conditions: As a proclaimed Monarch Waystation, the Village implements primarily native pollinator plants throughout our public spaces. Our designated official flower is the Echinacea “Cheyenne Spirit” coneflower, which surround all of our park entrance signage. Native, diverse pollinator plants can also be found within our 44 municipal island “pollinator pockets.”

FI.05 – Regular pruning, dead-heading, weeding, removal, and/or replacement of dead plants is conducted on public properties: Our Parks Crew conducts pruning in the winter months. During the spring, dead plants are replaced. During the spring and summer months, weeding and dead-heading takes place, especially within our two largest parks, Community Park and Heritage Oaks Park.

FI.06 - Demonstration/display garden(s): We participate in this initiative with demonstrated seeds supplied by AIB sponsors, in addition to native wildflower seeds and plugs donated by Project Wingspan and milkweed plugs donated by Monarch Watch. We have an educational tree walk at Meadowlark Park and Arboretum due to funding from a Morton Arboretum tree grant. We have also implemented a demonstration garden at Village Hall and our Public Works facility with sign identifiers on plants, as part of the America in Bloom initiative from 2020.

Brierwoods Preserve boasts interpretive educational signage that includes the benefits of pollinators, the lifecycle of the Monarch butterfly, and native woodland flower listings, to name a few.

As outlined in the Village’s newly-adopted, comprehensive Sustainability Plan, our goal is to implement and maintain several community gardens to provide opportunities for homeowners and guests to participate in gardening activities. An area within Community Park has already been designated to support this effort and is planted with both trees and perennials. We also distribute pollinator seeds and sapling trees at our Arbor Day free seed and tree giveaway. Additionally, we have several gardens that have been adopted by members of the Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee. These volunteers plant, weed, water, and maintain individual gardens on public property.



FI.10 – Efforts to educate and raise public awareness of the importance of flowers: We have an ongoing public education campaign involving all written media for educational purposes. We have created individual information sheets about the proper way to plant a tree, eliminating the volcano mulching issue. We have also created a purple loosestrife information sheet on lakes and wetlands that we take to our HOA meetings. We offer suggestions on the species of plants that attract and sustain pollinators and encourage all residents to assist in creating a Village-wide Monarch waystation. As Hawthorn Woods is located within the migratory flight pattern of various pollinator insects, we have a great opportunity to support many species with declining populations.

FI.11 - Recognition program(s) for businesses and/ or residences: We sponsor a monthly *Excellence in Gardening Award Program* involving designated residential and business categories. Nominations are open and are publicized in our E-Blast newsletter to the general public with over 5,460 weekly subscribers, as well as to various garden and environmental clubs in the area.



Four Excellence in Gardening Residential Award Recipients

Fl.12 – Volunteer programs: Our flower management system involves several different levels of participation. We have implemented an Adopt-A-Park Program comprised of community volunteers who live near or adjacent to our neighborhood parks. They assist with general oversight and upkeep, including supplemental watering during periods when rainfall is lacking. We have also enlisted the assistance of our Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee and the Landscape and Flowers Subcommittee. These individuals take ownership of the flowers in our public spaces and assist our employees with weeding and design plantings. Finally, our Parks Crew oversees the volunteer efforts, and supplements with our watering truck, when necessary, during times of drought. Throughout our cold winters, our businesses and residents in town use planters with fir and evergreen/berry cuttings, along with seasonal décor, to create a winter wonderland landscape to accompany our snowy season.



Meadowlark Park and Arboretum Woodland Forest Play Pod Area



Rotary Club of Long Grove/Kildeer/Hawthorn Woods volunteers planting pollinator plugs at Meadowlark Park and Arboretum.



Meadowlark Park and Arboretum 2.5-acre pollinator meadow



Rotary Club of Long Grove/Kildeer/Hawthorn Woods volunteers planting "Pollinator Pocket" plugs within a municipal road island.

LANDSCAPED AREAS

PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS IN LANDSCAPED AREAS:

Hawthorn Woods is known for its trees and lakes and well-manicured properties. We have often been referred to as a postcard community, with beautiful landscapes and picturesque vistas. However, what makes us unique is the integration of native plantings and natural features as our backdrop. Citizens play a significant role in the review process for all of our developments, whether commercial/retail, residential, or governmental. We employ professionals to maintain the highest quality of turf and native plantings. Best Management Practices include:

- Harmony of textures, color, seasonal blooms and hardiness
- Recycling of hardwood branches for use as mulch
- Use of certified arborist for tree inventory
- Integration of park benches into viewshed for optimal visibility of lakes, woodlands, and prairies
- Management of wetlands and stream corridors to maintain water drainage to prevent flooding
- Management and eradication of invasive species, including purple loosestrife and buckthorn
- Reintroduction of new oak seedlings for new forest generation
- Clearing of shrubs from forest floor to allow sunlight to penetrate new plantings
- Diversifying species to attract pollinator bees, hummingbirds, and Monarch butterflies
- Use of natural groundcovers where possible to reduce dependence on watering turf grass
- Supporting the flora and fauna in its natural condition
- Homeowners Associations are involved in training annually
- Membership in stormwater management boards and sub-watershed membership
- Partnership with various environmental volunteer groups and supportive collaboration
- Municipal tree inventory, including species, health, location, size, and maintenance needs



Residential Subdivision Landscape Entrance



Municipal Street Roundabout Landscape Design



Commercial Landscape Design



Neighborhood Bridge Landscape Design

2024-2025 Metric Heading Examples with Brief Narratives for Landscaped Areas

LA.02 – Proper maintenance: Public landscaped areas are managed by volunteers and our Parks and Recreation staff. We have a full-service team dedicated to planting, watering, maintaining, and expanding our landscaped areas.

LA.03 - Landscape ordinances: There is an ordinance requiring an approved landscape plan along with a landscape bond held for the full growing year if plant replacements are necessary after the first winter season.

LA.08 – Lawn and turf areas: We keep a log as required by the State of Illinois and manage our weeds and pests on an ongoing basis. Our ballfields are monitored for turf health, as they experience heavy use. To offset the wear and tear on the turf, we allow our fields to rest a day without play after an active weekend.

LA.09 – Procedures to monitor and/or manage diseases and/or pests: Hawthorn Woods is recovering previously farmed properties and restoring the land back to its original intent by reforesting and allowing the hydric soils to generate wetlands. We employ certified herbicide applicators who remove invasive plants and shrubs, like teasel, buckthorn, and garlic mustard. Our volunteers work in designated areas clearing buckthorn and other invasive plants, that are then re-seeded with prairie mix or woodland mix.



Educational signage posted next to the Observation Deck at Brierwoods Preserve and throughout the park site.



Vibrant window boxes adorn the historic Village Barn.

LA.11 – Training programs: We have partnered, on several occasions, with the Ancient Oaks Foundation to conduct educational programs both in-person and virtually to educate the public on numerous environmental topics. We have also conducted in-person workshops with Hawthorn Gardens, who send a horticulturalist to assist residents with landscape questions or concerns, and then instructs them on how to create container plantings, including hands-on assembly. Every participant takes home their own container pot. Finally, classes are held each week at our local nursery to learn about new gardening techniques. We promote these opportunities through our weekly Village E-Blast online newsletter.

LA.12 - Volunteer activities: Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee has provided generous donations towards our efforts both in finances and materials. They have also conducted fundraisers at our Friday night “Concert in the Park” series by selling plants split from their own gardens, accompanied with a bag of popcorn for the fun of it! Our flower boxes and park plantings were completely designed by our Flowers and Landscape Volunteer Subcommittee.

URBAN FORESTRY

PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS IN URBAN FORESTRY:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is proud to be designated as a Tree City USA municipality for the past eight consecutive years with numerous efforts awarded with this certification. The Village commits its resources to financially support:

- Minimum \$2.00 per population count in tree related expenditures as a minimum requirement to be a Tree City USA designated community
- Diversification of tree species and parkway planting program
- Treatment of ash trees where applicable and removal of trees infested with the emerald ash borer
- Arborist consultant, depending on the project
- Certified pesticide applicators and inspectors on staff
- Certified park professionals on staff
- Certified playground safety inspectors on staff to protect playground equipment located within our woodlands
- Tree tag inventory for every municipal tree
- Landscape and tree replacement Management Plan
- Certified arboretum created in Hawthorn Woods with assistance from The Morton Arboretum



Rambling Hills Park



Brierwoods Preserve Walking Trail

In 2024, the Village was the proud recipient of the 2023 Chicago Region Earmark Urban and Community Forestry funding opportunity to increase our tree canopy throughout eleven of our nationally-award winning parks, as well as replenish our tree nursery. We purchased, properly planted, and maintain a total of 134 diverse, quality trees to initiate an increase in our urban tree canopy. This grant is administered through The Morton Arboretum. Kankakee Nursery tree delivery pictured here.



New in 2025:

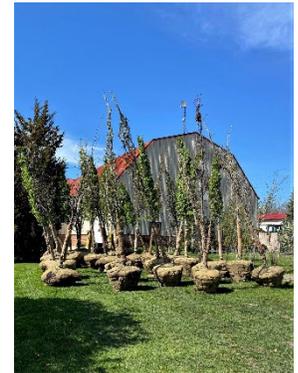
The Village of Hawthorn Woods received funding through the *2024-2026 Urban and Community Forestry Grant – Tree Inventories, Planting, and Invasive Species Removal* grant opportunity. A total of one and a half acres of woody invasive buckthorn was removed from two of our public parks, Brierwoods Preserve and Woodland Park. The two park sites were infested with buckthorn overgrowth, which can harm the health of a variety of local ecosystems, such as outcompeting native plants and contributing to erosion. Once the buckthorn was remediated, 34 new native, diverse trees were planted.



Brierwoods buckthorn removal

New in 2025:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is pleased to announce a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to preserving and enhancing our urban forest. As outlined in our recently adopted Urban Forest Management Plan, the Village endeavored to increase our community tree canopy from 26.7% in 2022 to 31% in 2033. With the planting of over 935 trees in the last two years, Hawthorn Woods now boasts a canopy cover of 32.84%!



Kankakee Nursery tree delivery

2024-2025 Metric Heading Examples with Brief Narratives for Urban Forestry

UF.01 – The municipal plan addresses the role urban forest initiatives play in the green infrastructure of the community: In 2022, the Village of Hawthorn Woods Urban Forest Management Plan was officially adopted, made possible through funding received by the 2021 Urban and Community Forestry Grant, which is administered through The Morton Arboretum. Our Urban Forest Management Plan can be found on our Village website at vhw.org.

UF.02 – Efforts in place to educate and raise the public awareness of the importance of urban forestry: We have several educational handouts that we distribute during our special events, summer camp sessions, and Arbor Day Free Tree Sapling Giveaway

UF.03 - Municipal ordinance enacted and enforced for tree planting and/or preservation: Ordinances are included in the appendix for your review. We have strict standards for tree protective measures before and during construction, protection of historic trees, permits for tree removals, and maintenance of our heritage trees. We have held lively competitions to identify and locate the oldest and largest trees in town. We also host acorn collection efforts for reproduction from our oldest oaks in Brierwoods Preserve, a municipally-owned woodland and wetland ecosystem.

UF.04 - Tree board and/or department is available, active, and/or interacts with the community: Our new Sustainability Committee was appointed by the Mayor to serve as the Hawthorn Woods Tree Board.

UF.05 – Certified municipal personnel, trained arborist, urban forester, and/or Department of Natural Resources (DNR) entity actively manages the urban forest: Arborists are retained from Apex Landscaping as outside contractors. We have recently hired a tree specialist from a private tree care company to assist us on staff.

UF.06 – Trees are healthy and contribute to public health and wellness: A survey is conducted by the Apex Landscaping arborist and trees are tagged and inventoried with location identification, species, health, and maintenance. Our Parks Crew trims, prunes, and provides chainsaw services on all our municipal trees. An ongoing buckthorn removal program is in place.

UF.07 – The Village of Hawthorn Woods maintains strict standards with regards to the protection of trees before and during any construction, protection of historic trees, permit requirements for tree removals, and maintenance of our heritage trees. A contest is conducted challenging residents to identify heritage trees within the Village with prizes awarded. We also partner with the Ancient Oaks Foundation in conducting free historic tree seminars at our Village Hall Barn.

UF.08 – The Village maintains a native, diverse tree nursery located next to our Public Works facility. Our Village Environmental Stewardship web page offers planting and tree care instructions provided by the Arbor Day Foundation, along with the harmful effects of volcano mulching. Here is the link to our web page: <https://www.vhw.org/619/Environmental-Stewardship>. We have also implemented a recycled tree planter program with planters placed at the entrances to businesses in town.



Village Tree Nursery

UF.09 – Our award-winning Meadowlark Park and Arboretum boasts descriptive signage that includes a tree list/legend, tree map, as well as turf establishments. The signage identifies 31 different native, diverse tree species located within the park site. We also print, distribute, and post brochures on our Village website to further spark public awareness.



Meadowlark Tree Map

UF.10 - Our Village Environmental Stewardship web page offers planting and tree care instructions provided by the Arbor Day Foundation, along with the harmful effects of volcano mulching. Our Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation Ryan Mathy has successfully completed the Chicago Region Trees Initiative Urban Forestry Basic Training and is tasked with training our seasonal Parks crew members and resident volunteers as to how to properly remove invasive buckthorn and plant trees.

UF.11 – Tree planting guidelines are often posted within our weekly electronic E-Blast newsletter, with over 6,200 subscribers, and our quarterly hard copy *Hawthorn Woods Happenings* newsletter, sent to over 9,000 community members. This past April, 750 free tree saplings were distributed to residents, along with tree planting instructions and pollinator seed packets. We partner with the Ancient Oaks Foundation in conducting free tree care seminars at our Village Hall Barn. We also take advantage of our social media outlets and Village website to post tree planting instructions and invasive species removal guidelines. Here is the link to our web page: <https://www.vhw.org/619/Environmental-Stewardship>. Instruction is also provided by our Parks staff during in-person volunteer work days.



Digital GreenSigns, LLC volunteers planting trees at Indian Creek Preserve

UF.12 – The municipality is a member of urban forestry organizations, participates in programs, and/or earns designations and awards:

New in 2025:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is proud to announce our 10th consecutive year of recognition as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. This prestigious designation honors the Village’s continued commitment to effective urban forest management and environmental stewardship.



TREE CITY USA
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

To earn Tree City USA status, Hawthorn Woods has consistently met and maintained the following four core requirements: maintaining a tree board; adopting a community tree ordinance; investing in community forestry; and celebrating Arbor Day with an annual tree sapling giveaway to residents.

This past April, 750 free tree saplings were distributed to residents, along with tree planting instructions and pollinator seed packets.

New in 2025:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods earns a mark of distinction in receiving the coveted Tree City USA Growth Award for the fourth consecutive year from the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of our commitment to effective urban forest management. A Growth Award is bestowed upon a community alongside their Tree City USA designation for demonstrating environmental improvement and a higher level of tree care.



UF.13 – Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community’s urban forestry: Volunteers assist with tree planting and care every spring and fall. We conduct several events each year, from planned Arbor Day tree plantings with the Fox Tribe Indian Princesses to the planting of tree saplings conducted by Boy Scout Troop #92, Eagle Scout candidates, Girl Scout Troop #1409, Aqua Illinois, Inc., and the Rotary Club of Long Grove/Kildeer/Hawthorn Woods throughout several areas of town.

In 2021, the Parks and Recreation Department launched our Tree Memorial Program, intended to honor or memorialize a loved one and to further expand our urban tree canopy.



Arbor Day tree planting with the Fox Tribe Indian Princesses



Meadowlark Park and Arboretum Tree Planting

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES:

Hawthorn Woods is among the top 3 recycling towns in Lake County. Based off a per capita equalization factor, we are in 1st Place! The Village of Hawthorn Woods prides itself in its environmental efforts and educational outreach programs. We are a member of the Lake County Solid Waste Agency and several river agencies that form a consortium to keep stormwater runoff contaminant-free. The Village formed what is now our Sustainability Committee composed of citizen volunteers who take the lead on all activities and promotional programs to support our natural ecosystems, flora, and fauna. Listed below is a sampling of some of the environmental events sponsored by the Village of Hawthorn Woods to reduce waste in landfills and maintain a healthy lifestyle for all residents.

- Recently adopted Urban Forest Management Plan
- New Environmental Initiative Brochure for all residents
- New self-guided hike and native plant guide for Brierwoods Preserve
- Member of Greenest Region Sustainability Group (Chicago consortium of 100 greenest cities)
- Sol Smart Solar Silver Level designation
- Hazardous waste collection events partnered with SWALCO (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County)
- Recycling of plastics, glass, metal, and paper
- Food scrap recycling program
- Electronic waste collections
- Environmental spring clean-up day in partnership with Waste Management
- Creation of Village tree nursery
- Composting of wood products
- Rain barrels and native plant sale (partnership with Forest Preserve District)
- Solar energy ordinance revision to support renewable energy source
- Integrated Pest Management - Village employs licensed applicators and inspectors
- Air quality monitoring program with Argonne Laboratories (MMC)
- Waste water is treated and repurposed as non-potable water to water the golf course
- Controlled wetland burns
- Youth activities for generational involvement
- Citizen participation with environmental volunteer restoration days
- Eagle Scout candidate environmental projects



Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee volunteers distributing free tree saplings during our annual Arbor Day Tree Sapling Giveaway at the Aquatic Center parking lot on April 26, 2025.



Village of Hawthorn Woods Sustainability Outreach Table

2024-2025 Metric Heading Examples with Brief Narratives for Environmental Initiatives

EI.02 – A municipal environmental plan is accessible and reviewed annually: We have recently adopted an aggressive, comprehensive Sustainability Plan, which can be found on our Village website at vhw.org.

EI.03 - Environmental board and/or Green Team are available, active, and/or interact with the community: We have a newly designated Sustainability Committee (also serving as our Tree Board) and a Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee. We enjoy a strong commitment from our elected and appointed officials.

EI.06 - Programs to educate, encourage, and/or expand the understanding of the role and importance of pollinators and ecological habitats are available for all ages: Hawthorn Woods has recently implemented two pollinator habitats within Brierwoods Preserve and the Meadowlark Park and Arboretum, which consists of a 2.5-acre pollinator meadow.

In 2023, Village completed our “Pollinator Pocket Program” by implementing small pollinator gardens in all 44 of our municipal cul-de-sac road islands, thus expanding our pollinator landscape. This initiative took only two consecutive spring seasons to complete due to the extensive funding and volunteer efforts of the Rotary Club of Long Grove/Kildeer/Hawthorn Woods. Most importantly, the Village of Hawthorn Woods has passed a resolution creating an umbrella of protection over our community. The Mayor has officially proclaimed the Village of Hawthorn Woods as a designated Monarch Butterfly Waystation, where every parcel in town is encouraged to implement a host plant and various nectar plants to sustain our pollinators throughout their migratory path through Hawthorn Woods.

EI.07 - Green infrastructure policies and/or techniques are used throughout the community: We enforce the Lake County Stormwater Management Ordinance and have a certified wetland specialist as our consulting engineer. Examples of bio-swales and rain gardens to reduce stormwater run-off pollution will be highlighted during your tour of Hawthorn Woods, including the new parking lot at St. Matthew Lutheran Church and our new park design at Meadowlark Park and Arboretum. Effective and efficient waterwise irrigation is in place through our water provider, Aqua Illinois.

New in 2025:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods was chosen to participate, once again, in the Lake County Tree Planting Program in the spring and fall of 2025. This fully-funded program is intended to enhance local stormwater management efforts with the planting of new trees. A total of 42 free native trees were requested and approved for planting areas located within Brierwoods Preserve, Community Park, and along Lagoon Drive.



EI.12 - Collection is available for trash, recyclables, compostables, and food waste: Residential curbside trash collection is required, with once or twice a week collection options. No open burning is permitted. Composting of yard waste is encouraged and a service is provided for curbside pick-up for every resident. Mulch mowing is also encouraged on large lots to provide essential nutrients for the soil.

EI.13 – Recycling and trash containers are available in public areas: Containers to address both recyclables and trash are both present at all of our public parks. Labeling is consistent. Routine trash and recycle pickup take place twice a week. Additional containers are available during special events.

EI.15 – The municipality uses energy-efficient vehicles in its fleet for police, fire, public transit, and/or city employees: We have all new hybrid Police Department vehicles to promote this initiative.

EI.16 - Electric vehicle charging station are located throughout the community:

New in 2025:

In March of 2025, the Village of Hawthorn Woods applied for the *ComEd Powering Safe Communities* grant opportunity to seek the installation of our first-ever electric vehicle charging station in our Village Hall public parking lot. The grant recipient announcement is scheduled for July of 2025.



EI.18 – Educational programs for all ages are available and promote environmental initiatives: We take advantage of all media outlets, including web-based and paper communications, educational park signage, along with virtual and in-person tours of our parks and preserves. Below please find educational park signage for Brierwoods Preserve and Meadowlark Park and Arboretum, all made possible through grant funding provided by the CN Railway and America in Bloom.



Meadowlark Park and Arboretum educational signage with one of six leaf-shaped signs pictured.



Indian Creek Preserve Educational Signage



Brierwoods Preserve Educational Signage

EI.19 - Youth organizations: The following youth organizations are involved in our environmental initiatives: Stevenson High School Green Team; Fox Tribe Indian Princesses; Boy Scout Troop #92; Eagle Scout candidates; and Girl Scout Troop #1409. Their efforts associated with our Adopt-A-Park, Adopt-A-Highway, and park restoration events are highlighted on our Village website; weekly E-Blast electronic newsletter sent to over 5,700 subscribers; quarterly *Hawthorn Woods Happenings* print newsletter mailed to over 2,945 households; as well as our Facebook and Instagram pages.



Stevenson High School Adopt-A-Highway volunteers

EI.20 - Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages: Without the dedicated volunteer groups of all ages involved in the maintenance and enhancement of our 24 parks and preserves, the clearing of buckthorn and the planting of tree saplings, pollinator plants, and flowers would not take place with a Parks Crew consisting of only two full-time employees. We depend heavily upon the following volunteer groups to help fulfill our many environmental initiatives: Village of Hawthorn Woods Sustainability Committee; Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee; Rotary Club of Long Grove/Kildeer/Hawthorn Woods; Friends of Indian Creek Wetlands; Stevenson High School Green Team; Fox Tribe Indian Princesses; Boy Scout Troop #92; Eagle Scout candidates; and Girl Scout Troop #1409.

As a designated International Dark Sky Community, many families participated in our annual *Hawthorn Woods at Night Stargazing Class*. Each year, the class is held at full capacity.



Dark sky moon photo taken by resident, Dennis Sundin, from his Hawthorn Woods backyard.



Hawthorn Woods family attending Dark Sky Stargazing Class, wearing facial masks.



Hawthorn Woods Dark Sky Photo

On November 15, 2022, Chief Operating Officer Pamela Newton conducted the “Light Pollution Affects Everyone – Become an International Dark Sky Community” webinar hosted by America in Bloom. Pam discussed the positive impact of becoming a dark sky community, as well as why and how all communities should endeavor to achieve this designation and consider turning out the lights at night. A total of 57 communities from across the country participated in this webinar.



On April 15, 2023, the Village of Hawthorn Woods participated in Lake County’s annual Green Living Fair as a designated International Dark Sky Community for the first time. Approximately 600 people attended the fair. The Village spent the day discussing the harmful effects and prevention of light pollution with attendees, as well as promoting participation in the International Dark-Sky Association.



Green Living Fair Dark Sky Display Table

On November 29, 2023, Chief Operating Officer Pamela O. Newton and Communications Coordinator Kim Stewart were invited to present to the Lake County Planning, Building, Zoning and Environment Committee regarding our involvement as an International Dark Sky Community. We also discussed the importance of reducing light pollution and how a community may easily initiate such an effort.



On March 5, 2024, Communications Coordinator Kim Stewart was invited to present to the Wild Ones Lake-To-Prairie Chapter regarding our involvement as an International Dark Sky Community and the importance of reducing light pollution and how an individual may easily initiate such an effort. Kim invited International Dark Sky Delegate Adam Kruezer to participate, as well. The event was both in-person and virtual with over 50 attendees. The Wild Ones is a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve biodiversity through environmentally sound landscaping practices.



CELEBRATING HERITAGE

PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS IN CELEBRATING HERITAGE:

We honor the First Nations People, specifically the Potawatomi Nation, and their artifacts left behind, who first inhabited this land of trees, lakes, and streams, where hunting was abundant and shelter was available. This part of the Great Lakes region was later settled by European descendants, who sought a different lifestyle from other suburban municipalities.

Living with nature was part of the agrarian society that founded Hawthorn Woods. The natural resources of the land attracted farmers, blacksmiths, and land baron families, like the renowned advertising executive Leo Burnett, to this area.

On March 10, 1958, the Village of Hawthorn Woods incorporated and in 1967 the government purchased the large dairy barn located at the center of the first homes built. The barn was part of a larger farm owned by Matt Larson and today remains one of the few remaining Roman truss structures in the State of Illinois. In those days, cows were herded down the rural streets to the nearby lakes and ponds, as Lake County is rich in aquatic land. Twenty percent of Lake County is covered in water, and contains the most endangered flora and fauna in the entire State of Illinois.

Our heritage was developed from a love of the land...and it is still our priority today. And what happened to that dairy barn that was purchased in 1967? It is still serving the residents as our Village Hall, council chambers, public meeting space, community room rental, and resident services building. We are working in a historic heritage center. The same rural lifestyle that attracted those settlers to Hawthorn Woods a century ago is still the same reason people relocate here today. The abundance of nature and wildlife co-existing with people and places makes Hawthorn Woods as oasis worth preserving for generations to come.



Antique disc tiller donated by the Kirshner Family of Hawthorn Woods in front of Village Hall.



Antique barn equipment donated by Hawthorn Woods resident, displayed in Village Hall.



Antique farm seed sorter donated by the Tarquino Family of Hawthorn Woods, displayed in Village Hall.

In 2022, the Village of Hawthorn Woods proudly introduced the Phoebe Snetsinger Memorial Garden, an outdoor living museum and pollinator garden located in Community Park, initiated as an Eagle Scout Project through Kyle Wanca.

Phoebe Burnett Snetsinger traversed the globe documenting nearly 85% of the world’s bird population. During her many adventures, Phoebe courted danger, but remained steadfast in her purpose. As a result, she became one of the most renowned birders of all time.

Her love of nature began in Hawthorn Woods on the homestead of her parents, Leo and Naomi (Geddes) Burnett. The homestead is now known as White Birch Lakes subdivision. Her life ended tragically while on a bird expedition in Madagascar in 1999 at 67 years of age.

This pollinator garden, designed in her honor by renowned landscape architect, Pamela Self, was created to attract the birds she loved while bringing one closer to nature.



Phoebe Snetsinger Garden Educational Signage



Eagle Scout Kyle Wanca Planting Volunteer Group

In 2022, the Village of Hawthorn Woods received funding through the 2022 *Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program*, administered through The Morton Arboretum. This funding opportunity will increase the health and growth of our urban forest through the implementation of a diverse tree planting program surrounding our new Hawthorn Heritage Outdoor Museum Trail, located within our 36-acre Community Park campus.

The Phoebe Snetsinger Memorial Garden is the first of several horticultural installments to be implemented along the trail to commemorate particular individuals involved in the historical development of Hawthorn Woods.

In August of 2023, the Village of Hawthorn Woods proudly introduced a new memorial garden honoring Leo and Naomi (Geddes) Burnett to join the existing garden honoring their daughter, Phoebe Snetsinger. Her parents, Leo and Naomi Burnett were original land owners who incorporated into the Village of Hawthorn Woods in 1958. Their love of nature began in Hawthorn Woods on the Burnett homestead, now located on Old McHenry Road.



Leo and Naomi Burnett Memorial Garden

The Leo Burnett advertising company remains an international leader in the marketing arena, with many of his ad campaigns originally conceived in Hawthorn Woods. Many of his television commercials included the Jolly Green Giant, Tony the Tiger, United Airlines, the Keebler Elves, the Maytag Man, the Marlboro Man, and the Pillsbury Dough Boy, which are among some of Burnett's most successful national ad campaigns.

2024-2025 Metric Heading Examples with Brief Narratives for Celebrating Heritage

CH.01 - Historic Preservation, Historic Society, and/or Architectural Review Board: We have a dedicated Hawthorn Woods Cultural Heritage Committee. They work in concert with the Ela Historical Society. We also have an Architectural Review Board. We have recently created brochures highlighting our special one-room school houses and barns in town.

CH.02 - Historic preservation ordinances are enacted and enforced: We are exploring the legalities of private property rights vs. preservation desires. We have legal counsel assisting us with this initiative, which is still in progress.

CH.03 - Historic districts, neighborhoods, structures, landmarks and/or objects are identified and labeled: St. Matthew Lutheran Church and Cemetery is 150 years old and is pursuing this designation at our request. We have also taken great strides in this area with signage now highlighting our donated antique barn and farm equipment to include the grantor.

CH.04 - Cemeteries and monuments are in place and well maintained: All are maintained and cleaned annually. The cemetery that holds the pioneers of Hawthorn Woods is a recognized historical cemetery. Tombstones of the first European settlers are etched in German, following the occupation of land by the First Nations People.

CH.05 – Historical museums and/or interpretive displays are available and maintained: This is one of our greatest areas of improvement as stewards of our cultural history. Artifacts in our care are displayed within the Village, both indoors and outdoors.

CH.09 – Programs are in place for the purchase, installation, and/or long-term maintenance of memorial features: Our Memorial Bench Program honors a loved one with an ADA accessible, recycled park bench and engraved plaque. Our Memorial Tree Program also honors a loved one with the planting of a native tree and engraved plaque. A dedication ceremony is involved with both programs with Mayor Dominick DiMaggio in attendance.

CH.10 - Natural and agricultural areas are identified and protected: By ordinance, purchase, and zoning, we protect our natural resources in perpetuity.

CH.11 - Parades, festivals, events, and/or programs are held to commemorate the community’s heritage, culture, or diversity: We are like an old-fashioned throwback when promoting and conducting community gatherings. We have fireworks; a parade; Hometown Holiday tree lighting event; a “Concerts in the Park” summer series; and many other celebrations of our agricultural heritage. We promote this through our “Rural by Design” program and agricultural sculptures.

CH.13 – Community heritage and/or cultural diversity are supported and promoted to all ages: The Village of Hawthorn Woods is proud to partner with the Ela Historical Society, a township agency that houses a museum of our town’s history. We have worked with the historical society to produce informational pamphlets about two of our one-room schoolhouses and historical information about the advertising executive, Leo Burnett, who created the Marlboro Man, Jolly Green Giant, Keebler Elves, Tony the Tiger, and other national ad campaigns for clients such as United Airlines, right here at his home in Hawthorn Woods. Actor, Marlon Brando, also spent his teenage years here residing in his family’s local farmhouse.

CH.14 - Youth of all ages and abilities participate in historical programs: We have implemented a new park site entitled Meadowlark Park and Arboretum, which includes play equipment that illustrates the historical development of the land use of Hawthorn Woods before homes were ever built in the area. Children can romp their way around a playground museum and learn while having fun, beginning with the glacial period, then progressing towards the woodland and wetland era, continuing onto the agricultural period, and finally ending with the industrial modernization play pod. The grand opening of this innovative historical playground took place in October of 2021.

We are also creating a scavenger hunt for children, which will involve all of our historical pieces located throughout town (disk tiller, combine for harvest crops, farm implements from the turn of the century...) on public display. Children can discover our vast historical agricultural heritage in an entertaining way.



Meadowlark Park and Arboretum interactive playground depicting the historical development of Hawthorn Woods. The glacial period is represented above.

CH.15 - Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's heritage preservation efforts: Our volunteers have formed a group entitled the Hawthorn Woods Cultural Heritage Committee. This committee contacted Wikipedia to correct inaccuracies found involving our historical timeline. We have a wonderful book written by a volunteer about our Hawthorn Woods community.



Annual July 4th Flag Raising Ceremony



Party in the Park Family Fun Fest

OVERALL IMPRESSION

PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS IN OVERALL IMPRESSION:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods' overall impression is warm and welcoming. We have worked diligently to create an attractive and livable community through the use of prudent planning and zoning. Many of the homes are situated on large, oversized lots. Above-ground swimming pools and yard fencing are prohibited, in order to maintain our "Rural by Design" atmosphere and support wildlife ecosystems without boundaries. The new subdivisions being developed all incorporate public amenities, such as parks, playgrounds, walking trails, and open green space. Dark sky compliant outdoor lighting is now also required.

The Village of Hawthorn Woods was recently named the *Third Best City for Fit Lifestyles* in the State of Illinois for 2020, according to BarBend.com, a leading health, wellness, and fitness independent website. Our parks and nature preserves have become an essential part of a physical and mental health lifestyle for our residents of all ages and abilities.

A major attraction for Hawthorn Woods is safety, having been recognized by numerous organizations for being a crime-free municipality and ranked #1 Safest Community in the State of Illinois. Just 35 miles north of the City of Chicago, the largest threat to the peace in the Village of Hawthorn Woods is the occasional unapproved construction of a backyard shed. Director of Public Safety, John Malcolm, and our outstanding crew of police officers are quick to tell you that their work is 10% law enforcement, 90% community involvement. This is a Village where an officer will bolster a child's spirits in bad weather by driving him to school in our department's Humvee.

Hawthorn Woods is a small community which borders many larger communities. Therefore, the Village belongs to a multiple of highly recognized school districts: District 79 and 120 – Mundelein; District 95 – Lake Zurich; District 96 – Long Grove; and District 125 – Lincolnshire. Award-winning Adlai E. Stevenson High School of Long Grove boasts a national rank of #194 and a state rank of #6. According to U.S. News & World Report, it is considered one of the best high schools in the country. Our exceptional school districts attract individuals from all over the United States.

Coupled with being safe, Hawthorn Woods is environmentally friendly, clean, and free of trash and litter. Properties within the Village are well-maintained through effective code enforcement. We are a recently designated Dark Sky Community, and therefore, void of unnecessary light pollution. The Village's community events and 4th of July celebration truly are straight from a Norman Rockwell painting.



Countryside Glen subdivision is an example of our Dark Sky lighting ordinance in practice

2024-2025 Metric Heading Examples with Brief Narratives for Overall Impression

OI.01 - Signage ordinances are enacted and enforced: We uphold very strict signage ordinances that create a sense of our "Rural by Design" intent, as well as supporting our many environmental initiatives.

OI.02 - Ordinances are enacted and enforced to address blight issues: We have a weed ordinance and will lien property if it is unkept or unsightly. Garbage cans may remain curbside for 24 hours only. We employ a full-time code enforcement officer to ensure compliance of our regulations.

OI.03 - Code enforcement/compliance officer is available: We employ a full-time code enforcement officer.

OI.05 - First impressions are positive in residential, business, and/or municipal areas: Our homestead properties, buildings, structures, grounds, decks, patios, and yards are neat and in order. This is due to a complaint-driven, strict code enforcement program and, quite frankly, community pride in upkeep. Our Village code does not allow above-ground swimming pools, outdoor fencing, and tool sheds, in order to maintain an open, rural atmosphere.

CI.06 - Infrastructure is in good condition: Hawthorn Grove subdivision streets are now cleaned regularly. Our roadways are in need of repair. However, due to numerous funding sources, the Village expects to invest \$2.5 million dollars this year into infrastructure improvements on roads and the rehabilitation of our Community Park parking lot.

CI.07 – Community amenities are in good condition: As a designated International Dark Sky Community, all municipal and residential outdoor lighting must be dark sky compliant, in accordance with our Municipal Lighting Ordinance No. 1965-19 (included in the appendix). Internally lit municipal, commercial, and residential signage is not permitted. Subdivision entrance signs are often unlit or solar illuminated. Outdoor street lighting is only used in cases of intersection or public safety. The preservation of our night sky is critical to the migratory patterns of nocturnal wildlife.



Kiddie Academy Dark Sky Photo

New in 2024-2025:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods Parks & Recreation Department recently completed a refurbishment of the outdoor basketball court at Heritage Oaks Park. The original 15-year-old sport court was removed and replaced with new asphalt and court lines. The two tennis courts have also been resurfaced, and are now composed of one tennis court and two pickleball courts. All courts opened in March of 2025.



OI.09 - Wayfinding signage is visible, attractive; and in appropriate locations throughout the community: Wayfinding signage can be found on our state routes, county routes, public parks, and don't forget our Turtle Crossing signage! Every subdivision entrance sign includes the phrase "of Hawthorn Woods." We have also recently posted new logo signs on all of our bridges, as the result of an AIB recommendation.



Horse Crossing Street Signage

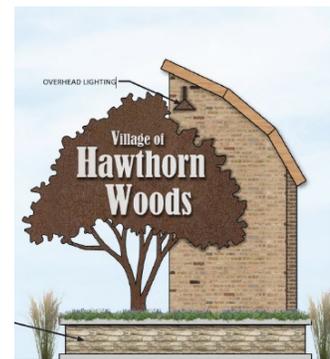


Turtle Crossing Street Signage

New in 2025:

In direct response to suggestions provided by previous AIB advisors, the Village installed our first-ever monument sign to designate the north entrance to our community. This unique design is also considered public art.

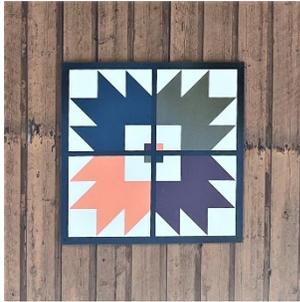
On June 30, 2025, the Village of Hawthorn Woods applied for the *T-Mobile Hometown* grant opportunity to fund the second monument sign to designate the south entry to our community.



OI.10 - Public art is located throughout the community: We display banners, and have introduced public art through farm heritage sculptures located throughout town. Public art is on display at the Aquatic Center, as well.

New in 2024-2025:

All municipal buildings now feature a barn quilt. In rural communities, barn quilts were once used to identify a family's homestead, rather than an address. A barn quilt is featured on our Village Hall Barn, Public Works Building, and Aquatic Center.



OI.11 - Year-round seasonal decorations are used in key areas: We make use of lights, outdoor displays, banners, signs, and Hometown Holiday displays.

In 2022, the addition of a 6-foot menorah holiday light display to represent Hanukkah and a 7-foot kinara holiday light display to represent the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa were included in our Hometown Holiday light display at Community Park to further foster community camaraderie and cohesiveness, and expand our efforts of inclusion and equity within a diverse population.



12 Days of Christmas Light Display



Menorah Light Display

New in 2024-2025:

In October of 2024, the Village of Hawthorn Woods received funding through the *ComEd Powering the Holidays* grant program to expand and enhance our traditional, nondenominational, and cultural light displays with the purchase of two hundred 28" LED Candy Cane Pathway Lights to safely illuminate the paved walking trail from the Community Park parking lot to the Public Works building and to our holiday tree for our annual Hometown Holiday event.

In our continued effort to become a more sustainable and energy efficient community, the Village also replaced all incandescent holiday light display bulbs with energy-efficient multicolor C7 LED bulbs, along with the required C7 wire.



OI.12 - Pet waste policies are posted and/or enforced: Pet waste policies are posted on all park regulation signage.

OI.14 - Programs are in place to encourage, recruit, and/or engage volunteers of all ages and segments of the community's overall impression: We have tremendous volunteerism, from restoration days in our parks and preserves, to Adopt-A-Park, Adopt-A-Highway, stream clean days, and Waste Management Spring Clean-Up Week (unlimited collection of junk and appliances). We wish you could witness these initiatives in action!



The Village of Hawthorn Woods Memorial Bench Program honors a loved one with a recycled park bench donation and engraved plaque. The bench pictured above is located at Brierwoods Preserve.



The Simmons Family plants a Quaking Aspen tree in Woodland Park to memorialize a loved one along with an engraved plaque as part of our Memorial Tree Program.

New in 2024-2025:

The Village of Hawthorn Woods invested approximately \$2.5 million dollars in 2024 and 2025 into infrastructure improvements on our roadways and the rehabilitation of our Community Park parking lot through the following funding sources: Rebuild Illinois; State of Illinois; Surface Transportation Program; and our *Hawthorn Woods Paves the Way* road referendum funding.

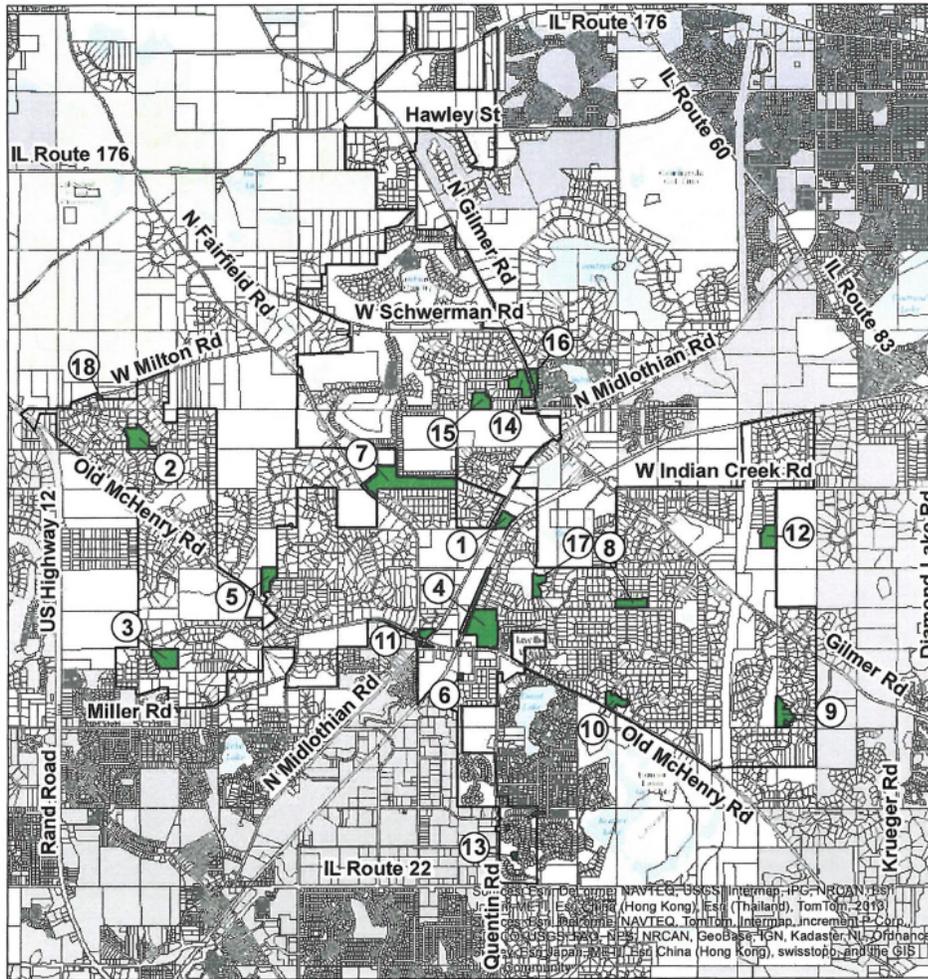


Rehabilitated Community Park Parking Lot



Rehabilitated Glen Road and Lancelot Lane Residential Roadways

VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS PARK MAP



Location and Park Name:

1. Aquatic Center
2. B&B Park
3. Brierwoods Park
4. Community Park
5. Copperfield Park
6. Heather Highlands Park
7. Heritage Oaks Park
8. Highview Park
9. Rambling Hills Park
10. Woodland Park
11. Burnett Park/Three Corners Park
12. Indian Creek Natural Area
13. Hawthorn Trails Park
14. Countryside Meadows Pond
15. Countryside Meadows Park
16. Countryside Meadows Open Space Reserve
17. Hawthorn Woods Wildlife Sanctuary
18. Milton Road Natural Area

Sheet 1 of 2 Prepared By: RCCA
 See Sheet 2 of 2 Dated: 11-13-13
 For Park Amenities List

0 2,000 4,000 8,000 Feet

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Village of Hawthorn Woods				
Name	Affiliation	Title	Email	Phone
Dominick DiMaggio	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Mayor	ddimaggio@vhw.org	847-847-3550
Cathy Bayer	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Trustee, Sustainability Committee Liaison	cbayer@vhw.org	847-847-3552
Thomas Rychlik	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Trustee	trychlik@vhw.org	847-847-3551
Anne Hurst	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Trustee, Sustainability Committee Liaison	ahurst@vhw.org	847-847-3554
James Kaiser	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Trustee, HW in Bloom Committee Liaison	jkaiser@vhw.org	847-847-3553
Farah Laman	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Trustee, HW in Bloom Committee Member	flaman@vhw.org	847-847-3549
Jodi McCarthy	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Trustee, Finance Committee Liaison	jmccarthy@vhw.org	847-847-3547
Pamela Newton	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Chief Operating Officer	pnewton@vhw.org	847-847-3535
Katreina Koprowski	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Chief Financial Officer	kyork@vhw.org	847-847-3590
Donna Lobaito	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Chief Administrative Officer	dlobaito@vhw.org	847-540-5222
Amy Mason	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Director, Parks and Recreation	amason@vhw.org	847-847-3533
Erika Frable	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Public Works Director/ Village Engineer	efrable@vhw.org	847-540-5223
Ryan Mathy	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation	rmathy@vhw.org	847-533-1306
John Sanchez	Village of Hawthorn Woods	Parks Maintenance Specialist	jsanchez@vhw.org	224-500-5535
Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee				
AJ Balsamo	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Chairperson	annejulie.balsamo@gmail.com	415-601-4910
Karen Johanson	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Landscape Areas & Flowers	puppylover44@comcast.net	847-331-9157
Farah Laman	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Celebrating Heritage	flaman02@gmail.com	630-745-7747
DiAnn Meagher	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Adopt-a-Park Program	diannmeager@gmail.com	847-770-2520
Sally Folkes	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Landscape Areas & Flowers	sally.folkes@comcast.net	847-846-3771
Appaji Valavala	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Adopt-A-Park Program & Community Vitality	appaji.valavala@gmail.com	732-771-6932
Pam Scaletta	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Landscape Areas & Flowers	pamelascaletta@aol.com	847-899-6956
Beryl Ibbotson	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Landscape Areas & Flowers	ibboecho@comcast.net	847-847-7207
Samina Imtiaz	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Flowers	saminaimtiaz@gmail.com	847-571-6275
Bob Riddle	Hawthorn Woods in Bloom	Fundraising and Special Events	jolue@aol.com	847-571-0836



**America in Bloom
Village of Hawthorn Woods Tour Itinerary
July 14-15, 2025**

Sunday, July 13

- 9:42 a.m. Sharon Adnams - Arrival at O'Hare International Airport
United Airlines Flight 3565
- 9:47 a.m. Ellen Paparozzi – Arrival at O'Hare International Airport
United Airlines Flight 752
- (Pam Newton will arrange for shuttle service)
- 11:30 a.m. Arrival at Holiday Inn Express, Lake Zurich
- 6:00 p.m. Retrieval from Holiday Inn Express, Lake Zurich
(Pam Newton will provide transportation from hotel to restaurant)
- 6:15 p.m. “Pre-Game” Dinner at Beelow’s Steakhouse, Lake Zurich
(Sharon, Ellen, Pam, and Mayor Dominick and Maria DiMaggio in attendance)

Monday, July 14

- 8:00 a.m. Retrieval from Holiday Inn Express, Lake Zurich
(Kim Stewart will provide transportation from hotel to Village Hall)

Cultural Heritage Preservation

- 8:30 a.m. Village Hall Orientation and History of Village Barn as Adaptive Reuse
and Recycled Tree Stump Planter Initiative
- 8:45 a.m. St. Matthew Lutheran Church Settlers Cemetery
- 9:15 a.m. Hawthorn Gardens Garden Center
- 9:45 a.m. White Birch Subdivision - Drive-by
- 10:00 a.m. Heritage Oaks Park Woodchucks Summer Camp

- 10:45 a.m. Circle Drive - 1st neighborhood to be developed in Hawthorn Woods
- 11:00 a.m. **14 Hawthorn Drive – Jim and Laurel Kaiser Pollinator Garden**
- 11:30 a.m. Indian Creek Preserve – Site of two CN/AIB EcoConnexions Grant Awards
- 12:00 p.m. **14 Seneca Avenue West – Steve Miller Sculpture Garden**
- 12:45 p.m. Picnic Lunch in Historic Village Barn
International Dark Sky Community/Audubon Sustainable Community
Tree City USA/Bee City USA
(Sharon, Ellen, Pam, Amy, Ryan, and Kim in attendance)

Environmental Efforts Initiatives

- 1:45 p.m. **14 Squire Road – Bob & Jolue Riddle Garden**
- 2:15 p.m. Woodland Park – Chicago Region Trees Initiative Grant Program - Drive-by

Urban Forestry Immersion

- 2:30 p.m. **1 Elm Street – Richard Kirshner Hardscape Waterfall Garden**
- 3:00 p.m. Acorn Acres Park – Oldest park in the Village of Hawthorn Woods
- 3:10 p.m. Brierwoods Preserve Hike – Site of CN/AIB EcoConnexions Grant Award
- 3:45 p.m. Transport to Holiday Inn Express, Lake Zurich
- 6:00 p.m. Retrieval from Holiday Inn Express, Lake Zurich

(Ryan Mathy will provide transportation to and from hotel)

Community Vitality! Meet the Volunteers that Make It Happen.

- 6:30 p.m. Welcome Reception at the home of Mayor Dominick DiMaggio
7 South Meadow Lane

Reception Attendees:
Village Board of Trustees
Village Executive Leadership Team
Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee Members

(Kim Stewart will provide transportation from reception to hotel)

Tuesday, July 15

- 8:00 a.m. Retrieval from Holiday Inn Express, Lake Zurich
(Kim Stewart will provide transportation from hotel to Village Hall)

Creating Community Without a Downtown: How and Why We Do It.

- 8:30 a.m. Village Hall daily briefing
- 8:50 a.m. Leo Burnett historic homestead - Drive-by
- 9:00 a.m. Hubbard School House circa 1905 – Drive-by
- 9:15 a.m. **5 North Trail – Jeri Alles and Dave Hanley Garden**
Excellence in Gardening Presentation for July
- 9:45 a.m. Hawthorn Woods Commons Business Park – Byline Bank – Drive-by
- 10:00 a.m. Aquatic Center – “Coolest Place for Kids”
- 10:30 a.m. Country Bumpkin Garden Center
- 11:00 a.m. The Barn at Timber Pointe Drive – Drive-by
- 11:15 a.m. Countryside Glen Subdivision

Celebrating our Rural by Design Agricultural and Equestrian Heritage

- 11:30 a.m. Equestrian Row – Owens Road/Milton Road
- 11:45 a.m. **6 Goldfinch Court – Eclectic Recycled Garden**
- 12:15 p.m. Business Community Welcome Luncheon
at Hawthorn Woods Country Club
- 2:00 p.m. Hawthorn Woods Country Club Golf Cart Tour featuring solar energy
and sustainable garden practice

Flowers and Landscapes

- 2:30 p.m. Meadowlark Park and Arboretum
- 3:00 p.m. Community Park Hawthorn Heritage Museum Trail (ADA accessible)
- Phoebe Snetsinger Memorial Garden
 - Leo & Naomi Burnett Memorial Garden
- 3:30 p.m. Transport to Holiday Inn Express, Lake Zurich
- 6:00 p.m. Retrieval from Holiday Inn Express, Lake Zurich
- (Kim Stewart will provide transportation to and from hotel)

Better Together: Celebrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

6:30 p.m. Farewell Dinner with Parks & Recreation Staff at Kemper Lakes Golf Club
(Kim Stewart will provide transportation from golf club to hotel)

Wednesday, July 16

10:00 a.m. Departure from Holiday Inn Express, Lake Zurich

12:50 p.m. Sharon Adnams – Departure from O’Hare International Airport
United Airlines Flight 752

12:50 p.m. Ellen Paparozzi – Departure from O’Hare International Airport
United Airlines Flight 752

(Ryan Mathy will provide transportation from hotel to airport)

***Itinerary locations in bold denote Excellence in Gardening Award Winners**

* Hawthorn Woods Community Bank/Neo-Traditional Diversified Housing – alternate site

America in Bloom Advisor Email and Mobile Contact Information

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Ellen Paparozzi, PhD

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Ryan Mathy, Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

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Kim Stewart, Grants & Sustainability Coordinator

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(847) 668-9621

Tour Contact Information

Doug Duvall (St. Matthew Lutheran Church)

(847) 438-7709

Bill Koch (Hawthorn Gardens)

(847) 726-0627

Steve Miller & Nancy Kranberg (Excellence in Gardening Award Winner)

Steve cell:

(847) 370-2982

Nancy cell:

(847) 533-3509

Laurel Kaiser (Excellence in Gardening Award Winner)

(847) 902-4235

Bob Riddle (Excellence in Gardening Award Winner)

(847) 571-0836

Richard Kirshner (Excellence in Gardening Award Winner)

(847) 624-4444

Michael Miodonski (Hubbard School House)

(224) 688-3370

Jeri Alles & Dave Hanley (Excellence in Gardening Award Winner)

Jeri Cell:

(847) 721-0155

Home:

(847) 726-0155

George White IV (Country Bumpkin)

(847) 566-2176

Naresh & Cauvery (Excellence in Gardening Award Winner)

(630) 207-9616