Community engagement was a prominent component of the project to engage residents, business and property owners, Village staff and officials, and other stakeholders. As summarized on the graphic on the left, the project obtained a multitude of community input through a multi-pronged approach to its Community Engagement Strategy. This feedback formed a solid foundation of community thoughts, ideas, and concerns to inform the preparation of long-range planning strategies to guide sensible growth and development in Homer Glen. In addition, Village officials played an instrumental role in guiding the process to amend the Sign Code and prepare Design Guidelines for Sustainability and Development (Chapter 11).

The graphics on the following pages highlight interactions and key takeaways from some of the engagement activities, including HomerFest (June 22-23, 2019), Stakeholder Focus Groups (June 25-26, 2019), Public Open House (June 26, 2019), and Subarea Concepts Design Workshop (February 11, 2020). Chapter 4 also illustrates how community input helped create the Framework Plan.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Below are key stats generated from the various community engagement activities.

1,110 PROJECT WEBSITE VIEWS

100+ COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE, AT HOMERFEST, AND AT THE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE WITHIN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE PROJECT

200+ STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED VIA FOCUS GROUPS, INTERVIEWS, OPEN HOUSES, WORKSHOPS, AND OTHER OUTREACH METHODS

22 THOUGHTS AND IDEAS SHARED ON CHALKBOARDS AT HOMERFEST

138 UNIQUE COMMENTS SHARED AT THE JUNE 26TH PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

600+ UNIQUE COMMENTS SHARED AT THE FEBRUARY 11TH SUBAREA CONCEPTS DESIGN WORKSHOP
The timeline below summarizes the various community engagement activities that were conducted throughout the planning process. The input generated from these activities were important building blocks that formed a solid foundation for the long-range planning strategies that will guide future growth and development in Homer Glen.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### TIMELINE

The timeline below summarizes the various community engagement activities that were conducted throughout the planning process. The input generated from these activities were important building blocks that formed a solid foundation for the long-range planning strategies that will guide future growth and development in Homer Glen.

- **6/22/19 HOMERFEST**
  - **INTENT:** Community input using interactive chalkboards

- **6/25/19 FOCUS GROUPS**
  - **INTENT:** Topical discussions with community stakeholders

- **6/26/19 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**
  - **INTENT:** First public meeting to gather community input

- **5/14/19 STEERING COMMITTEE #1**
  - **INTENT:** Village Board discussion of design guidelines for sustainability and development

- **6/15/19 PROJECT WEBSITE (ONGOING)**
  - **INTENT:** Launched at the start of the process, the project website served as a one-stop shop for community members to learn more about the comprehensive plan, find upcoming meeting dates and outreach activities, share feedback, and review draft deliverables.
  
  > www.MyHomerGlen.org

- **7/16/19 STEERING COMMITTEE #2**
  - **INTENT:** Village Board discussion of design guidelines for sustainability and development

- **8/8/19 PROJECT WEBSITE (ONGOING)**
  - **INTENT:** Launched at the start of the process, the project website served as a one-stop shop for community members to learn more about the comprehensive plan, find upcoming meeting dates and outreach activities, share feedback, and review draft deliverables.

- **8/28/19 STEERING COMMITTEE #3**
  - **INTENT:** Village Board discussion of design guidelines for sustainability and development

- **8/28/19 VILLAGE BOARD CODE WORKSHOP #1**
  - **INTENT:** Village Board discussion of design guidelines for sustainability and development

- **9/9/19 STEERING COMMITTEE #4**
  - **INTENT:** Village Board discussion of design guidelines for sustainability and development
Conceptual development framework plans are provided in Chapter 4 for the Village’s four primary subareas:

1. 143rd St/Lemont Rd
2. 159th St/I-355
3. Cedar Rd/Bruce Rd
4. 159th St/Bell Rd

Preliminary concepts were developed during the Subarea Concepts Design Workshop, which was held on February 11, 2020, in conjunction with a joint meeting of the Village Board, Plan Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Environment Committee, and Community and Economic Development Committee. Workshop participants broke into small groups to participate in interactive mapping exercises to help visualize potential development ideas for each subarea. Highlights from the workshop are illustrated in the event photos below.

**INTENT**: Interactive workshop providing community members the opportunity to share their ideas for potential land use and development of four subareas

» See sidebar on the right for workshop details

» See Chapter 4 for conceptual subarea plans
Outreach activities like HomerFest (see next page) and the Public Open House (see page 12) provided opportunities for the community to share their thoughts and ideas regarding the future of Homer Glen. The Consultant Team worked with Village staff to find other opportunities to engage the community.

The project website provided an ongoing option for community feedback. Many ideas have already been shared via the website and direct engagement with the Consultant Team, including those highlighted below.
In the mold of Homer Glen’s popular and emerging “Chalk It Up” community event, the Consultant Team used a set of chalkboards to collect thoughts and ideas from community members attending HomerFest.

One chalkboard asked:

“*I would like to see _____ in Homer Glen.*”

The other chalkboard asked:

“*Use a phrase to describe Homer Glen.*”

People of all ages provided their ideas, with some sharing anecdotes behind their responses.

Results are summarized on the right and in the photos below.

**I would like to see _____ in Homer Glen.**

- Lake water
- Park district (x3)
- Pool
- Splash pad in Heritage Park
- More trees in Heritage Park
- Play activities (under age 10)
- More family events
- Boardwalk in pond in park
- Mariano’s
- Andy’s frozen custard
- Portillo’s (x2)
- Business sponsored park equipment
- More sidewalks: Cedar and 151st
- Affordable housing for single parents
- Indoor pool (good for seniors)

**Use a phrase to describe Homer Glen.**

- Close to everything yet so far
- High taxes
- Quiet area
- Friendly
Designed in an open house format, the first public meeting for the comprehensive plan process provided an informal setting for community members to learn more about the project, review and comment on a series of exhibits, and interact with the Consultant Team.

Findings from the exhibit comments are summarized below.

**NEIGHBORHOODS MAP**
Using a Subdivisions Map, participants used green and red pins to indicate neighborhoods they like and dislike, respectively.

**LIKED**
- BARBALIC
- BLACKROCK ESTATES
- OLD OAK ESTATES
- GOODINGS GROVE
- WOODBINE
- CEDAR CLEN
- STONEBRIDGE WOODS
- HIDDEN VALLEY EST.
- DE BOER WOODS

**DISLIKED**
- LEMONT FARMS
- 167TH/CEDAR (NE)
- 143RD/BELL (SW)

**POTENTIAL SUBAREAS**
Using a map of the potential subareas, participants shared ideas for how they would like to see the subareas develop. Some ideas include:

- NO INDUSTRIAL
- BUSINESS PARK OKAY
- CORPORATE OFFICES
- DOWNTOWN AREA
- HOTEL
- HIGHER ED/COLLEGE
- SPORTS FIELDS
- KEEP AGRICULTURE

**COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**
Using a summary of comments received so far from the project website, participants added their own thoughts and ideas.

- COMMUNITY POOL
- DOWNTOWN AREA
- MORE LOCAL EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
- KID-FRIENDLY PARKS
- MORE LARGE LOTS
- BALANCED GROWTH W/ NATURE
- BIKE TRAILS & SIDEWALKS
- ICE SKATING RINK
- SENIOR ACTIVITIES
- SENIOR TRANSPORT
- PARK DISTRICT
- SOLUTION TO HIGH TAXES AND WATER RATES

**CORE ISSUES**
Using a summary list of preliminary core issues, participants indicated which ones they agree, disagree, or are neutral:

- UTILITIES INFRASTR. PLAN
- DIVERSE HOUSING STOCK
- HINDERING VILLAGE CODES
- BLANK CANVAS FOR DEV.
- MODERNIZED IDENTITY
- FEAR OF CHANGE
- SENSIBLE GROWTH
- EXPANDED TAX BASE
- RURAL HERITAGE

**TRANSPORTATION MAP**
Using a map showing existing roads and trails, participants shared ideas and concerns:

- MORE TRAILS
- SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS
- EQUESTRIAN LOOP
- TRUCK CONCERNS
- INTERSECTION SAFETY
- WILDLIFE EASEMENTS
- HELIPAD TO GOOSE ISLAND