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Residents encouraged to provide input on strategic historic preservation plan

The Historic Preservation Commission is urging residents to review and comment on the final draft of a 10-year strategic preservation plan created to help guide efforts to identify and protect important historic resources throughout the Village of Oak Park.

Residents are encouraged to provide input on the plan's goals and objectives throughout April. The [draft plan](#) is posted on the main Historic Preservation page of the Village website. Once finalized, the new plan will replace a long-range plan created in 1994.

Commissioners say a strategic preservation plan will enhance efforts to identify and protect important historic resources, create new methods for encouraging rehabilitation and adaptive use of important historic buildings and structures, and promote a strong historic preservation ethic among a cross-section of community stakeholders and residents.

"With several neighborhood and commercial district plans already completed, and a comprehensive plan update planned in the near future, it is critical that Oak Park's historic preservation program be evaluated, strengthened and integrated within the community's current and on-going planning activities," said Historic Preservation Commission Chair Tom Bassett-Dilley.

The new strategic plan was approached in three phases. The first phase developed a comprehensive baseline of information for future analysis and decision-making. The second phase explored ideas and concepts for specific historic preservation planning strategies and initiatives. And the third, plan-making phase created a formal document of strategies to achieve both short and long-term goals.

Diane Williams of [Business Districts, Inc.](#) is working with a steering committee to facilitate the planning process. The committee includes representatives from various Village commissions, the Park District of Oak Park, commercial and residential property owners, and local not-for-profit organizations.

In addition to the draft plan, information on the process is posted on the Historic Preservation pages of the Village web site, www.oak-park.us. For more information on the plan or the process, or to provide input, call 708.358.5417 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us.

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