

Village of Mettawa





Strategic Plan
2026



This Strategic Plan is a Guide

It is advisory and does not constitute a regulation.





Casey Urlacher
President

Mandi Florip
Village Administrator

Sandy Gallo
Village Clerk

Jim Rhodes
Village Attorney

Amy Weiland
Village Treasurer



Parks & Recreation Committee
Wendie Clark

Tim Towne
Matt Witten

Public Works Committee
Tim Towne

Carol Armstrong
Sweb Smolic

Board of Trustees

Carol Armstrong
Wendie Clark
John Maier
Sweb Smolic
Tim Towne
Matt Witten

Finance Committee
John Maier

Carol Armstrong
Sweb Smolic

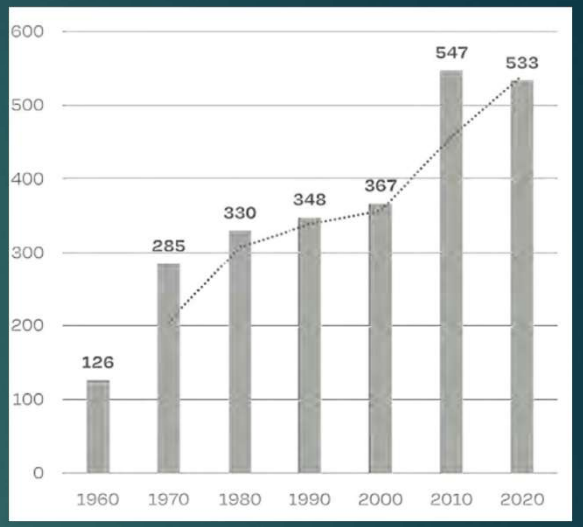
Zoning, Planning and Appeals Commission
Pam Fantus

Karen Carruthers
Dan Gooris
Mark Meluso
Phil Palmer
Orren Pickell
Matt Witten

Safety Commission
Tim Towne

Statistical Comparison

City	Population	Pop Density (people per square mile)	Growth Since YR 2020	Cost of Living Index (ave. for U.S. is 100)	Median Household Income	Land Area (square miles)
Mettawa	533	96.42	1.41%	205	$ 181,333.00	5.36
Bannockburn	1377	589	0.07%	194	$ 195,625.00	2.02
Deerfield	19138	3472.5	-0.10%	148	$ 181,660.00	5.53
Green Oaks	4105	973	-0.02%	147	$ 133,472.00	4.1
Highland Park	30794	2465.2	2.00%	148	$ 168,094.00	12.24
Lake Bluff	5600	1378.2	-0.30%	163	$ 204,000.00	4.08
Lake Forest	19642	1126	1.40%	181	$ 235,081.00	17.2
Libertyville	20643	2336.4	0.30%	134	$ 165,667.00	8.81
Linconshire	8008	1741.6	0.80%	163	$ 185,580.00	4.56
Vernon Hills	27002	3468.5	0.50%	126	$ 121,943.00	7.74



Mettawa Population, 1960-2020

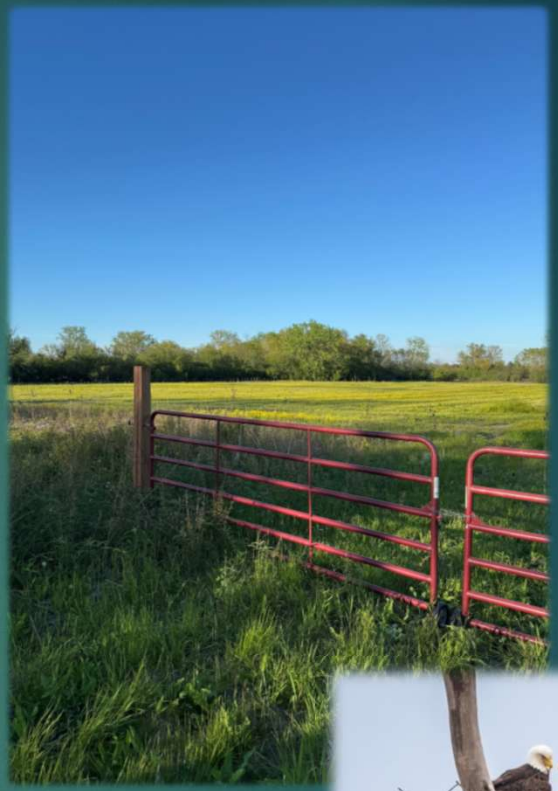
Source: 2000, 2010, 2020 US Decennial Census

Village Mission Statement



The Village of Mettawa strives to preserve and nurture our authentic rural and horse friendly environment and to ensure the highest quality of family life for our residents.







Village Character

The Village of Mettawa is a unique rural residential community including woodlands and open lands covering a six-square-mile area in Lake County, Illinois.

Characterized by its large properties and unurbanized landscape, its natural features convey a strong and unique community identity.

The Village of Mettawa maintains many acres of private open space acting as a buffer for public open space and preserving wildlife habitats.









Land Use



Goal Statement:

To develop a land use policy that protects and preserves a rural residential character.

Objectives:

1. Use appropriate zoning tools to ensure consistency with Mettawa's land use intensity and open space objectives, preserve natural areas, and allow for creative site planning.
2. Continue to acquire, designate, and preserve additional open spaces in the Village.
3. Continue to enforce the zoning code's minimum lot area for residential districts of five builder's acres (200,000 SF) to keep the open and rural nature of the community.
4. Continue code standard that requires burial of utility lines as part of any new development.

ARTICLE I. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

SECTION 9.101. TITLE.

The Village Modifications in this Chapter as well as all international and state codes adopted by reference herein, shall be known as the Building Code of the Village of Mettawa hereinafter referred to as "Building Code" or "this Chapter". A copy of this Chapter as well as all international and state codes adopted by reference herein shall be kept on file for public inspection in the offices of the Village Clerk and the Building Administrator.

(Ord. 500, passed 6-3-2003; Am. Ord. 898, passed 11-19-2024)

SECTION 9.102. ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE.

The *2024 International Building Code*, as published by the International Code Council, is adopted hereby as the Building Code of the Village of Mettawa, Lake County, Illinois, and the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of the said International Building Code are adopted by reference and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this Article, subject to the Village Modifications contained in this Chapter. These regulations shall be known as the Building Code of the Village of Mettawa.

(Ord. 500, passed 6-3-2003; Am. Ord. 721, passed 6-19-2012; Am. Ord. 898, passed 11-19-2024)

Open Space



Goal Statement

To maintain abundant open space within the village and encourage a balanced relationship between the natural ecology and Mettawa's residents.

Objectives

1. Adhere to the Future Land Use Map and continue to discourage all development in open spaces.
2. Collaborate with the Lake Forest Open Lands Association, Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD), and similar organizations to pursue the establishment, protection, enhancement, and the best possible management of all open space resources.
3. Continue efforts to remove invasive plants and species (such as buckthorn) across the Village.
4. Partner with the Lake County Forest Preserve District on trail maintenance and open space restoration efforts to share resources and find mutually beneficial projects.



Sense of Community





Goal Statement

To establish a residential environment with a strong sense of community

Objectives:

1. Increase use of the Village website and other communication channels to regularly share information and resources with residents (e.g. environmental sustainability recommendations for properties).
2. Continue to ensure public trust and encourage collaboration, participation and engagement with the community.
3. Encourage residents to become active in Village matters.
4. Communicate Mettawa's unique rural residential qualities and how it is distinct from other communities.
5. Plan additional Village events that bring the community together.
6. Continue the annual Village picnic event.





Transportation



Goal Statement:

To develop a transportation network that preserves Mettawa's unique atmosphere

Objectives:

1. Prioritize continued maintenance of trails in Mettawa for pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian users. Continue to use trail materials that require limited maintenance and enhance the natural character.
2. Work with IDOT and the City of Lake Forest to pursue a trail extension along Route 60 that would connect Mettawa trails and Whippoorwill Park to the Middlefork Savanna Trail Connection and other regional trails east of I-94.
3. When roadway or utility improvements occur, work with the roadway jurisdiction (LCDOT, IDOT, etc.) to encourage design features that maintain a rural environment (native trees, plants and shrubs; discourage curbs and wide shoulders, use berm alternatives such as native hedgerows and prairie plantings, and bury utilities).
4. Enhance the appearance of Village-controlled corridors by planting native landscaping and replacing dead trees.
5. Continue the scenic easement system where it provides a positive impact on the character of the roadway system.
6. Communicate with the State and County to convey concerns over traffic impacts on the rural character of the Village and opposition to the widening of roads in or through Mettawa.
7. Minimize noise and light impacts from I-94 by encouraging the Illinois Tollway Authority to maintain and extend the sound wall on the west Interstate 94 boundary adjacent to all residentially zoned property. Encourage naturalized vegetative buffers for sound mitigation, where possible.

Village Services



Goal Statement:

Residents have access to an affordable and reliable Lake Michigan water system.

Residents' health, safety and welfare is well-protected.

Objectives:

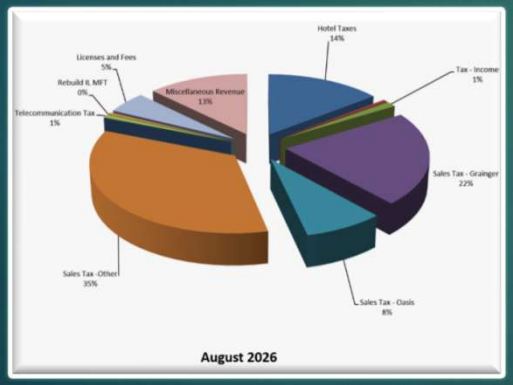
1. Continue to investigate the feasibility of connecting to Lake Michigan water and collaborate with Lake County on development, planning and design.
2. Seek expertise on preliminary engineering, needed investments, and actions required to construct and support a water infrastructure system.
3. Educate decision makers and residents on the value and potential benefits of Lake Michigan water, water distributions systems, environmental impacts, and the services provided.
4. Evaluate and communicate advantages and disadvantages of funding mechanisms, estimates and strategies for the offering of Lake Michigan water as a collaborative process between the Village and residents over time.
5. Maintain as a high priority the protection of residents from crime, fire, and storms through partnerships with service providers (e.g. Lake County Sheriff, Village of Lincolnshire Police Department, Libertyville and Lincolnshire Fire Protection Districts, Lake County Health Department, etc.).
6. Encourage property owners to connect to public water service and public sanitary sewer service where it is provided by other units of government.
7. Periodically evaluate the need for Village administrative and meeting facilities.

Economic Sustainability



Goal Statement:

To ensure the Village continues to be fiscally responsible and transparent.



Objectives:

1. Continue to apply sound budgeting and financial practices.
2. Identify opportunities to reduce costs through innovation and planning which may include competitive bidding, comprehensive infrastructure assessments, and capital improvement planning.
3. Regularly communicate to residents the financial conditions, benchmarks, and recommendations for achieving Village goals.

