

Vision 2020

Woodstock: A hallmark community with historic charm and the magic of Disney.

A respect for its rich history, an expectation of excellence and a commitment to a specific quality of life, are what give Woodstock the vibrancy of a city and the comfort of a community. Balanced lifecycle housing and the comfort and safety of home create a lifelong opportunity for a peaceful sanctuary. A robust commercial business sector affords attractive career employment and financial investment. The downtown Square is a unique destination for a boutique shopping experience around a beautiful park with trees and plantings that reflect the seasons. Cultural events at the Woodstock Opera House offer a wide array of entertainment and throughout the year, the streets around the Square come alive with horse and carriage rides, Victorian Christmas events, farmers markets, band concerts, festivals, art shows and fairs. Woodstock is a magical respite where businesses, citizens and government work together with boundless energy, pride and vision to create and protect a community of excellence.

Woodstock is ...

A Place to Call Home

Residents of Woodstock enjoy their safe haven and often take evening strolls to the Square to listen to weekly concerts and enjoy cultural events at the Opera House. The spirit of community is enhanced through the seasons as everyone comes together to enjoy the Fourth of July, Memorial Day and the celebrations of Christmas. Our police department is a vigilant guardian of our peaceful city and businesses and citizens are actively involved partners in maintaining peace and security. Street by street, our neighborhoods reflect a pride of ownership in the care of yards and homes. Everyone feels welcome and is anxious to be involved and give back as we work together to preserve the special place of Woodstock.

In Housing, Health and Safety, Woodstock will ...

- Be a community of law abiding citizens with no tolerance for crime
- Maintain a vigilant police department committed to and accountable for providing public safety and security

- Offer a safe environment secured through community policing and determined public-private partnerships
- Have no tolerance for gang, graffiti, or drug activity
- Provide a fire safe community, exceptional emergency medical services and innovative disaster preparedness through proactive, collaborative partnerships with the fire/rescue district and other organizations
- Offer a balance of housing opportunities throughout the community providing a stable economic foundation to support the school system
- Offer low-income housing opportunities at state minimum standard levels
- Maintain a balance of housing opportunities between owner-occupied and rental properties
- Offer lifecycle housing
- Provide new housing, commercial and industrial developments that emphasize green space and environmental sustainability
- Have City ordinances that preserve our historic character, protect our neighborhoods and natural resources, and promote single family lifestyles
- Promote federal, state and local financial opportunities to restore, preserve and maintain historic structures
- Promote a “get fit” community with walking and connected bicycle paths and sidewalks throughout the City
- Promote health and fitness through state-of-the-art fitness facilities and programming that educates and encourages and supports a fit lifestyle
- Be the home of an outstanding comprehensive destination health care system

Woodstock is ...

A Place with Lifelong Learning Second to None

Educational opportunities, both public and private, in Woodstock are a hallmark model for communities throughout the country. All children in the community enter adulthood and the global workforce with above average knowledge and skills. Schools, businesses and government have strong bonds and a shared vision of providing excellence in our educational programs that allow our children to achieve extraordinary things. Our seniors are actively involved in this effort, as well, and their wisdom has proven to be invaluable.

In Schools, Libraries and Innovation, Woodstock will ...

- Aggressively pursue, “Stronger Partnerships Toward Better Results”
- Ensure that all children are “ready to read” by Kindergarten
- Provide exceptional private and public educational opportunities
- Teach 21st Century skills to ensure all high school graduates will be ready to compete in a global market
- Offer innovative educational and vocational opportunities supported by modern technology for students of all ages in the community

Woodstock is ...

A Connected Green Community

When you enter Woodstock from any direction, you immediately experience an innovative, progressive community that cares deeply about its rich green environment. Every citizen enjoys the network of transportation options...bus service, trains, walking and bicycle paths...available to take anyone virtually anywhere in the City and its environs. All natural resources are valued as essential assets of the community and new developments are critically analyzed to evaluate environmental impact.

In Accessibility and Environmental Sensitivity, Woodstock will ...

- Aggressively work with IDOT and county, state and federal elected officials to re-design and improve Route 47 as an efficient transportation corridor
- Maintain a strong commitment to the protection of natural resources through responsible stewardship characterized by strong city planning and sensible annexation
- Maintain a professional, responsive public works department capable of meeting the critical utility and infrastructure demands of a growing community
- Construct a public works facility to house required departmental functions utilizing the concepts of “green building construction”
- Provide an innovative street network with efficient connectors
- Provide train and bus schedules to serve all citizens with mobile transportation throughout the City and beyond
- Have walking and bicycle paths running throughout the City and connecting to regional systems that extend miles in multiple directions

- Have a large, inviting park system providing community “green space”, as well as a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities
- Have a beautiful lake that serves the community as a recreational resource after years of providing extraction revenues to the City as a gravel pit and enhanced natural water amenities in City parks
- Have distinctive greenscape entryways and cobblestone detail that introduce the magic of Woodstock

Woodstock is ...

A Culturally Enriched Environment

The Opera House and Square provide popular settings for a wide array of cultural and artistic events and programming. Both are cornerstones of our history and support a vibrant downtown. Our neighborhoods, many characterized by intricately renovated and historically recognized Victorian homes and cultural diversity, and our city parks and amenities provide equally attractive venues for recreational and educational opportunities.

In Culture, Arts, History, Recreation and Sustainability, Woodstock will...

- Weave ethnic backgrounds together into the rich fabric of community in a manner that celebrates ethnic diversity, promotes a better understanding of each other, and supports “One Woodstock”
- Maintain and support the Opera House, nationally known for its outstanding programming and for the cultural enrichment it provides to the community
- Offer artistic and cultural facilities and programs that serve all citizens
- Vigorously pursue innovative sources of funding to preserve and maintain the historic character of significant buildings and the Square
- Set the stage of the downtown area with historic architectural detail and colors, cobblestone streets, period lighting and attractive multi-season streetscape plantings
- Provide and support the display of a wide range of public art throughout the community
- Have a YMCA-type community center attractive to both young and old with abundant programming and recreational activities

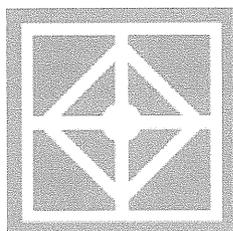
Woodstock is ...

A Premier Destination

It is the unique character and vibrancy of Woodstock that brings visitors back again and again, and our vision that attracts capital investors. All constituencies are committed to and actively involved in our shared vision and all community activity is guided by the vision. The result is a powerful, unified force engaged in creating “One Woodstock”, a premier destination.

In Investment, Tourism and Economic Vitality, Woodstock will...

- Be a community of choice for residents, visitors and investors
- Recognize, promote and protect the Square as the “crown jewel” and major identity element of the City
- Have a group of downtown building and business owners investing in, and committed to, creating a magical experience in the Square area
- Preserve the Opera House, Old Courthouse, and the Sheriff’s House for future generations
- Have growing, sustainable sales tax revenues
- Offer high-paying job opportunities
- Offer a world-class business park on Route 14 or Route 47
- Support strong workforce development partnerships
- Offer an effective partnership network of public, private and civic organizations that attracts, promotes and retains local businesses
- Be eternally committed to the economic vitality of the municipal government and school systems
- Be grounded in the vision of single family life and a rich culture characterized by a respect for, and an appreciation of, both history and future opportunity
- Be a community consistent with its vision and providing clear direction for all existing and future stakeholders
- Maintain strong, ethical, professional leadership dedicated to the community vision and accountable for its accomplishment
- Maintain active citizen participation and engagement in the accomplishment of its vision



Woodstock... A Clear Vision for the Future

By the year 2020, the City of Woodstock will be recognized as a hallmark community with historic charm and the magic of Disney. Its residents and leaders will continue with a clear vision for the future in which the educational system will be a model for all others in the State of Illinois, all corridors into the City will be accessible and attractive, the entire community will be environmentally sensitive, visitors and investors will see Woodstock as a premier destination, the overall economy will be sound and vital, and our downtown Square will be known as a national treasure that continues to offer magical experiences.