

Prior to the 1830s, the Des Plaines River Valley was home to the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Ottawa Native Americans (Cusack, 2011). These Native American tribes inhabited the land for hundreds of years until the 1833 Treaty of Chicago, wherein eastern U.S. settlers removed them from their land to settle and farm (Michaels, 1986). In the 1850s, the Illinois and Wisconsin Land Company purchased the land to build railroad tracks there using a steam mill to convert trees into railroad ties. The steam mill was converted to a grist mill later on by settler Socrates Rand, which attracted farmers to the area (Cusack, 2011). Another railroad that ran through the area was purchased by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway in 1859 and named its station “Des Plaines” (Cusack, 2011), which means “Of the Plains” (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2013).

Following the development of these dependable railways and subsequent business sections, the Village of Des Plaines was incorporated in 1870 (Michaels, 1986). Des Plaines was reincorporated in 1873 and elected its first village board, then converted to a city government in 1925 (Cusack, 2011). The population of Des Plaines grew to nearly nine thousand by 1930 and has since boomed to nearly sixty thousand (U.S. Census Bureau). In 1930, the population of Des Plaines was 99.9% white and only 0.1% other (Perry, 2005), but since then the racial makeup has changed. According to the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Report, Des Plaines’ racial makeup is now 77.6% white, 19.2% Hispanic or Latino, 13.3% Asian, and 2.2% African American.

Des Plaines is a Northwestern suburb of Chicago in Cook County, Illinois which sits 17 miles northwest of downtown Chicago (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2013); maps of the suburb can be found below (Map 1 and 2). Des Plaines has a total area of approximately 14.28 square miles and is bordered by Busse Road, Touhy Avenue, Central Road, and Mannheim Road; the zip

codes for this area include 60016 and 60018 (U.S. Census Bureau). Des Plaines has two interstate highways running through it, which are I-90 and I-294, and is famous for the 133 mile-long Des Plaines River which played a large role in the area's development (Cusack, 2011). One interesting physical feature of Des Plaines is what's known as the "Des Plaines Disturbance," an ancient meteorite crater that measures 75 to 200 feet beneath the surface and is now filled with glacial water (Geocaching, 2008). Des Plaines is home to several parks and golf courses, including Lake Park, Harry Semro, and Des Plaines Golf Center (Des Plaines Park District, 2015). As of 2019, Des Plaines has 23,325 housing units, (US Census Bureau), 65.69% of which are family households and 34.31% of which are not family households (Des Plaines Demographics, 2019). According to the Des Plaines zoning map, a majority of the zoning in Des Plaines is single-family residential (2020). Additionally, most of the commercial zoning takes place along Lee Street/Mannheim Road, Elmhurst Road, and River Road, and the Central Business District is in downtown Des Plaines on Miner/Thacker Street (Des Plaines Zoning Map, 2020). To get around Des Plaines, there are several available modes of transportation available aside from private vehicles, including the Metra, Pace Bus service, and bike routes (City of Des Plaines, 2021). However, 92.3% of commuters take private cars, while the remaining percentage of commuters tend to walk or take the bus, with an average overall commute time of about 28.5 minutes (DataUSA, 2021). Photos of Des Plaines' physical features can be found below.

As previously mentioned, the demographic composition of Des Plaines has changed over the past century and a half. At present, there are 58,899 residents of Des Plaines, 51.2% of which are female, and 48.9% of which are male (US Census Bureau, 2019). Des Plaines' racial makeup is 77.6% white, 19.2% Hispanic or Latino, 13.3% Asian, and 2.2% African American (US Census Bureau, 2019). 5.1% of Des Plaines' population is under 5 years of age, while 19.1% of

Des Plaines' population is over the age of 65 years (US Census Bureau, 2019). According to the U.S. Census Bureau from 2019, 32.5% of Des Plaines inhabitants are foreign-born, and 2,094 inhabitants are veterans. Regarding education, 88.4% of persons over the age of 25 years living in Des Plaines have a high school diploma or higher, and 38.2% of persons over the age of 25 in Des Plaines have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher (US Census Bureau, 2019). The median age of people in Des Plaines is 43 years (Des Plaines Demographics, 2019).

The largest industries in Des Plaines are Health Care and Social Assistance at 15.3%, Manufacturing at 12.7%, Retail Trade at 11.1%, and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services at 7.54% (DataUSA, 2019). The most common job positions in Des Plaines are in Office and Administrative Support at 11.1%, Sales and Related occupations at 10.2%, and Management occupations at 9.85% (DataUSA, 2019). The median household income of Des Plaines workers is \$69,760, which is higher than the national median income of \$65,712 (DataUSA, 2019). There is some income disparity in Des Plaines, as there are some sections of Des Plaines where the median household income is \$58,362, while there are other sections that have a median household income of \$109,539, and its surrounding suburbs have similar ranges of income (DataUSA, 2019). The unemployment rate in Des Plaines is 7.0%, which is 1.0% higher than the national unemployment rate of 6.0% (Best Places, 2019). The crime rate in Des Plaines is 12 per every 1,000 residents, whereas the crime rates of nearby suburbs are 20.12 in Mount Prospect, 16.02 in Park Ridge, and 18.63 in Elk Grove (Best Places, 2019). The median sale price for a home in Des Plaines was \$256,700 in 2019, which increased from \$251,700 in 2018 (DataUSA, 2019). According to Illinois Demographics, 66.09% of homes in Des Plaines are owned, while 33.91% are rented at an average rate of \$1,480 (2019). Des Plaines contains

retail, commercial and industrial businesses, which tend to be next to one another rather than spread out (Des Plaines Zoning Map, 2020).

Des Plaines has a mayor-council form of leadership, made up of ten elected officials who are the Mayor, the City Clerk, and 8 elected Aldermen (Access Your Government, 2021). The mayor of Des Plaines is Andrew Goczowski, the City Clerk is Jessica Mastalski, and the eight Aldermen of Des Plaines are Mark A. Lysakowski, Colt Moylan, Sean Oskerka, Artur Zadrozny, Carla Brookman, Malcolm Chester, Patsy Smith, and Shamoon Ebrahimi (Access Your Government, 2021). Des Plaines has a City Manager, Michael G. Bartholomew, who is in charge of overseeing policies and budgeting, as well as implementing the city's strategic plan with his leadership team (Access Your Government, 2021). The city manager oversees the eight city departments, which are Community and Economic Development, Finance, Fire Department, Police Department, Human Resources, Health and Human Services, Media Services, and Public Works and Engineering; (Access Your Government, 2021). A chart of the elected officials (Figure 1.1) and executive personnel (Figure 1.2) can be found below.

There are several other governments that overlap in the suburb of Des Plaines. The Congressional District in Des Plaines is District 9, with Representative Jan Schakowsky (USHoR 2021). Des Plaines is in Illinois where the U.S. Senators are Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin (U.S. Senate, 2021), the governor of Illinois is J.B. Pritzker, the Attorney General is Kwame Raoul, and the Secretary of State is Jesse White (Illinois State Board of Elections, 2021). Des Plaines is located in Representative District 55 with State Representative Martin Moylan, and in Senate District 28 with State Senator Laura M. Murphy (Illinois State Board of Elections, 2021). Des Plaines is a part of Cook County, which has elected Board President Toni H. Preckwinkle, Cook County Clerk Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, Sheriff Thomas J.

Dart, and State's Attorney Kimberly Foxx (Cook County Clerk's Office, 2021). Des Plaines is in Maine Township, with Supervisor Karn J. Dimond, and Clerk Peter Gialamas (Maine township, 2021). Des Plaines does not have separate fire, library, or park districts, but the Des Plaines River Trail is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (Des Plaines Development and Projects, 2021).

Des Plaines is actively involved in resolving issues and moving forward with development this year and is planning to continue to do so in the coming years. Des Plaines recently shared their final strategic plan for 2022, called "Roadmap to the Future" (2021). In this plan, they have listed their High-Level Goals, which include Community Character, Reimagined Growth, Infrastructure and Mobility, and Municipal Excellence (Roadmap, 2021).

The strategic plan describes its Community Character goal as "Honor and build upon the community we have created so that our potential is realized" (Roadmap, 2021), and one way they attempt to accomplish this is through increased cooperation and pride with their institutional partners and entities (Roadmap 2021). Other ways Des Plaines plans to accomplish this goal will be by creating beautiful landscapes and streetscapes, maximizing natural assets, expanding walkway networks, and working with the Des Plaines Park District to increase recreational activities for the community (Roadmap, 2021). Part of the plan is also to provide affordable housing, reforest neighborhoods, hire a City Planner to organize more events, and kickstart a marketing plan to get the city's name out there (Roadmap, 2021).

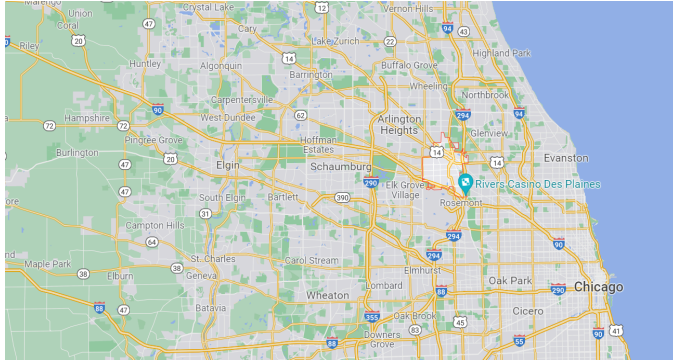
The second High-Level Goal, Re-imagined Growth, will be met by adding businesses to the downtown shopping district to increase visitation and revenue, rebuilding train stations like Cumberland to make them more functional, ensure proper zoning uses, and make the most of under-utilized properties (Roadmap, 2021). The third goal, Infrastructure and Mobility, will be

met by increasing street and sidewalk replacement, investing in the City water main replacements and upgrades, expanding green infrastructure, and developing a Capital Improvement Plan for long-term sustainability (Roadmap, 2021). The last goal, Municipal Excellence, will be accomplished by adhering to the practices and principles of the previous goals, and by being more financially responsible through balancing needs with resources (Roadmap, 2021).

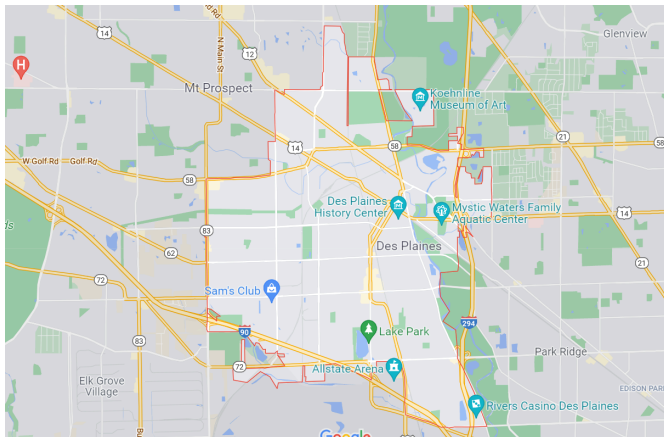
In addition to those issues, Des Plaines has also outlined a proposed \$171.2 million budget for the 2022 fiscal year, which is slightly higher than last year's \$164 million budget (Lissau, 2021). The budget will be going toward construction, salaries, and other projects. One of the main priorities with this budget is flood-prevention projects, which will include new sewers and culverts (Lissau, 2021). Other portions of the budget will be used to renovate City Hall, firehouses, and police stations in Des Plaines, at a total of \$7.9 million (Lissau, 2021). In concordance with Des Plaines' goal of increasing entertainment in the city, Rivers Casino is receiving a 78,000 square foot expansion with 400 new team members. This is expected to bring more revenue to the city, especially given Rivers Casino's proximity to O'hare Airport (Rivers Casino, 2021). Lastly, Des Plaines has decided to address the global issue of climate change in its own province. As of October 2021, the Des Plaines City Council joined a Chicago climate action plan called the Greenest Region Impact, which will address local issues like flooding, and aims to reduce 2005-level carbon emissions by half by 2050. Several other neighboring suburbs are joining this plan as well (Lissau, 2021).

Appendix:

Map 1:



Map 2:



Photos:

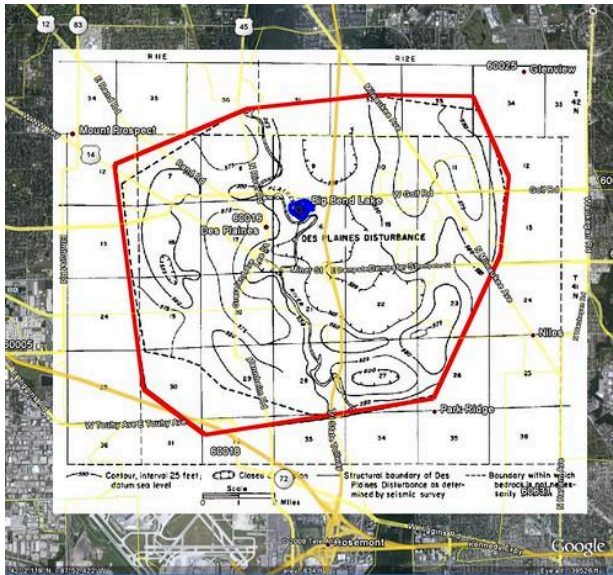


Figure 1.1

Title	Name
Mayor	Andrew Goczowski
City Clerk	Jessica Mastalski
Alderman - Ward 1	Mark A. Lysakowski
Alderman - Ward 2	Colt Moylan
Alderman - Ward 3	Sean Oskerka
Alderman - Ward 4	Artur Zadrozny
Alderman - Ward 5	Carla Brookman
Alderman - Ward 6	Malcolm Chester
Alderman - Ward 7	Patsy Smith
Alderman - Ward 8	Shamoon Ebrahimi

Figure 1.2

Department	Name	Title
Finance	Dorothy Wisniewski	Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance
Community and Economic Development	John Carlisle	Director of Community and Economic Development
Fire	Dan Anderson	Fire Chief
Police	David Anderson	Police Chief
Police	Commander Matt Bowler	Media Relations/Public Information Officer
Human Resources	Becky Madison	Director of Human Resources
Media Services	Jennie Vana	Media Services Director
Media Services	Maureen Stern	Sr. Communications Coordinator

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