



**City of Joliet  
Illinois**

**2024 Community Profile**

## **Contact Information**

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## **Community Information**

**Population:** 150,362

**County/township:** Will County. Joliet, Jackson, Manhattan, New Lenox, Troy, Channahon, Plainfield, Nay-Au-Say, Seward, Lockport Townships

**Municipal Website:** [www.joliet.gov](http://www.joliet.gov)

**Municipal Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/TheCityofJoliet>

**Area in square miles:** 65

**Acres of active recreation:** Access to 130 miles of trails and 78 community parks.

**Acres of passive recreation:** Joliet Park District has 640 acres of wooded land. Pilcher Park consists of 293 acres designated an Illinois Nature Preserve because it is a high-quality natural area. 110 additional acres within the park along Hickory Creek is an Illinois Land and Water Reserve. Access to over 22,000 acres of land managed by the Forest Preserve District of Will County

**Form of government (mayor, council, manager, etc.):** City Manager Form of Government. We also have a Mayor, five District City Council Members and three At-Large Council Members

**Jurisdiction(s) operates the public-school system:** Due to Joliet's geographic size and expansion over the last 30 years, Joliet children attend school operated by the following school districts: Joliet Grade School District, Joliet Township High School District, Plainfield School District, Minooka School District, Troy School District, Elwood School District, Laraway School District, Union School District, New Lenox School District, and Lincoln-Way High School District.

**Jurisdiction operates the utilities (water, sewer, electrical, trash, recycling, etc.):** City of Joliet operates the water and sewer and contracts for curbside waste removal and recycling. Electricity is not provided by the city and several companies distribute their electricity through Commonwealth Edison Co., a public utility.

**Volunteer coordinator name if position exists:** None

**Any challenges this year weather-related or otherwise the Advisors should know about:** The heat and droughts over the last two summers have stressed the flora and fauna in Joliet.

**Years participated in America in Bloom Program:** 2018, 2020, 2021

**Previous America in Bloom Awards and Recognitions:** Joliet won the AIB Crescent Gardens sponsored "Eye Popping Pots" Award in 2020.

## **Introduction to your community (500 words or less):**

Located 40 miles southwest of Chicago, Joliet is the third largest city in Illinois by population, with approximately 150,000 residents. As Joliet expanded its boundaries through annexations in the 1990s, its population increased from 76,800 residents in 1990 to 150,000 in 2020. These annexations have also resulted in Joliet being the second-largest city in Illinois by land area (65 square miles). In addition, Joliet has territory extending into Kendall County and transects multiple grade school districts, high school districts, and park districts. The population of the greater Joliet area, including unincorporated neighborhoods of Preston Heights, Ingalls Park, and Ridgewood, as well as the adjacent municipalities, is over 200,000 people.

Joliet and the greater Joliet area have become more racially and ethnically diverse over the last few decades. The 2020 decennial census showed that 45% of the city's population identified as White non-Hispanic, Hispanic, 34%, and Black non-Hispanic, 16%. Most of the city's near west and east side neighborhoods and the Joliet area's unincorporated neighborhoods are majority-minority neighborhoods.

Joliet has long been a regional business, government, and commerce center. Will County's seat has been in downtown Joliet since its establishment in 1836. Joliet's historical and physical development has been shaped by the Des Plaines River (Chicago Sanitary Shipping Canal), numerous rail lines, and state highways, which include the historic Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30) and historic Route 66. Joliet sits at the intersection of two major interstate highways (I-80 and I-55) and close to a third (I-355). Joliet was and continues to be the "Crossroads of Mid-America."

Joliet offers a traditional downtown, traditional and suburban-style residential areas, older and more modern commercial corridors, and older and modern industrial areas. The city is home to St. Joseph Medical Center, Louis Joliet Mall, the University of St. Francis, and Joliet Junior College. In addition, there is a rapidly growing logistics sector with CenterPoint-Joliet Intermodal Center, Third Coast Intermodal Hub, Amazon Fulfillment Center, and supporting logistics centers for IKEA, Mars, Whirlpool, Walmart, Home Depot, Harbor Freight, Target, and others.

Joliet has public transportation options in the form of buses, commuter rail, and passenger rail. Pace Suburban Bus provides service on several routes throughout Joliet, with a significant pulse point in the downtown's Gateway Center Bus Station, which opened in December 2021. Metra runs twenty-five outbound trains and twenty-five inbound trains per weekday on its Heritage Corridor and Rock Island lines. Amtrak also makes five southbound and five northbound daily stops as part of its service. These rail services feed into the Gateway Center Train Station, which opened in April 2018.

Major attractions in Joliet include historic downtown architecture, the Rialto Square Theater, Harrah's Casino, Hollywood Casino, Joliet Slammers baseball, Autobahn Country Club, Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Visitors Center, Old Joliet Prison, Rock & Roll Museum, Ironworks Historic Site, Bicentennial Park, and four regional bicycle trails.

## COMMUNITY VITALITY

Policies, programs, activities, and facilities that lead to a vibrant community and promote a sense of health and well-being. Includes, but not limited to, senior and community centers, libraries, museums, arts/cultural organizations, mentoring programs, schools, faith-based organizations, parks, playgrounds, dog parks, sports fields, water activities, trails, golf courses, and other active and passive recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.

The City of Joliet is an evolving community with abundant cultural, art, history, and outdoor opportunities. The vibrancy of the city comes from a combination of museums, libraries, a historic theater, preserved historical neighborhoods, parks, trails, natural areas as well as programs and events that offer education, arts, and festive events.

Several new attractions have opened since the last AIB profile submittal and others continue to thrive. New attractions include the Joliet Railroad Museum, the Illinois Rock & Roll Museum on Route 66, the Planinsek Grocery and Meat Market Museum, and Bishop's Hill Winery.

Mainstay attractions continue to be the Rialto Square Theater, Joliet Slammers, and the Old Joliet Prison. The circa 1926 Beaux Arts style Rialto Square Theater is one of the most beautiful theaters in the nation and a centerpiece of downtown Joliet. It continues to offer numerous nationally recognized musicians, comedians and entertainment performances throughout the year. Legendary actor Bill Murray and businessman Mike Veeck recently purchased a controlling stake in the Joliet Slammer's leading to even more community excitement for Joliet's beloved baseball team.



*Milano bread toss at a Slammers game in June. Milano Bakery has been a Joliet institution for over 100 years! Joliet Slammers games continue to offer fun and affordable family entertainment.*

The community as well as state and federal officials continue to support stabilization work and educational programming at the Old Joliet Prison Historic site (former Joliet Correctional Center). Over \$7 million has been secured in stabilization funding. The Joliet Area Historical Museum is overseeing these efforts. The National Park Service also awarded the City funding to prepare a national register historic district nomination for the site, which listed on the National Register in September 2023. The site is now open daily during the warmer months to walk-up

and pre-registered visitors. The Museum and its community partners are planning more projects to bolster use of this historic resource as funding becomes available.

Regarding downtown Joliet, the Joliet Public Library completed a \$10 million modernization project on its downtown branch in 2022. Will County completed a new 10-story courthouse facility in November 2020. The estimated investment in this project is \$200 million. This facility is LEED certified green construction. Around the same time, Joliet residents and visitors began benefiting from the reopened Chicago Street, which had been closed to thru traffic for several decades. The City hopes that this reopening coupled with the planned reconstruction of Chicago Street, will facilitate greater use and enjoyment of the downtown. To that end, the City intends to start construction on the long-awaited City Square project this summer, which will be downtown gathering space located across the Rialto with trees, green space, benches and large performance stage. The goal is to continue investment in the downtown Joliet to enhance opportunities for employees, residents, shoppers, and tourists.

Owing to Joliet's size, Joliet includes three park districts, which are separate taxing bodies. These park districts are Joliet Park District, Plainfield Park District and New Lenox Park District. All three park districts continue to make investments in recreational opportunities. The Joliet Park District recently completed substantial renovations to its Inwood facilities, which included work at the stadium, athletic fields, multi-purpose center, and ice arena. The Joliet Park district also recently installed a new playground and basketball court at its Nowell Park facility. The Forest Preserve District of Will County, also a separate taxing body, continues to improve its preserves and trails within the city limits, including the Hadley Valley Preserve, Joliet Iron Works Historic Site, Lower Rock Run Preserve, Rock Run Preserve, and Sugar Creek Preserve as well as the DuPage River Trail, I&M Canal Trail, Joliet Junction Trail, Old Plank Road Trail, Rock Run Greenway Trail, Spring Creek Greenway Trail and Wauponsee Glacial Trail. It also manages hundreds of acres of land for conservation only.



*The Forest Preserve District completed the long-awaited Black Road bike bridge over Interstate 55, which established a dedicated off- road trail connection between the Hammel Woods preserve and Rock Run preserve trail systems and provides a critical link to more than 50 miles of regional trails. In addition, the Forest Preserve District continues to work on enhancing trail connections in the area, with a current focus on improvements along the Essington Road corridor.*

Majority of the above-mentioned attractions, sites and initiatives are all stewarded by dedicated volunteer boards. Other active groups in Joliet include the United Way, Greater Joliet Area YMCA, Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions Clubs, and numerous foundation boards. The near west side and east side of Joliet – the oldest areas of the City – are also guided by active neighborhood councils who hold monthly meetings to keep residents informed and convey resident concerns to elected officials and staff.



*Weekly Saturday farmers market in downtown Joliet*

## FLORAL IMPACT

Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of floral displays and seasonal accents for beautification, including but not limited to annuals, perennials, bulbs, tropical plants, flowering topiaries, colorful foliage, and cultivated and native plants for season-round interest for displays in containers, hanging baskets, window boxes, raised planters, trellises, and in-ground plantings.

For years, the City of Joliet has been beautifying the downtown with annual flower planters and hanging baskets. Joliet won the AIB Crescent Gardens sponsored “Eye Popping Pots” Award in 2020. Our 80 Tusco 36” and 42” diameter rolled rim pots added in 2020 will once again allow annual flowers to be placed in an expanded area of the city center. Planting and maintenance are a joint effort between the city and City Center Partnership.



*“Eye popping pots” from the 2020 AIB Program*

Native flowers funded by the 2021 CN/AIB Grant planted at Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park are blooming profusely. There was some doubt about the ability of deep-rooted species survival in the rocky substrate, but most are doing well.

A regional showstopper is the Joliet Park District’s Bird Haven Greenhouse & Conservatory which features spectacular floral shows with seasonal motifs during the fall, winter, and spring. Year-round attractions are offered with a tropical house, cacti room, and show house. This Italian Renaissance-style facility, designed by Lord and Burnham Company, was constructed at its current site in the early 1900's.



*Plantings funded through the 2021 CN/AIB Grant at Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park*



*Example of civic pride from the Joliet Lion's Club*



## LANDSCAPED AREAS

Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of the managed landscape. This includes hardscape features, cultivated and native trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, vines, succulents, edibles, evergreen topiaries, turf, groundcovers, and pollinator-friendly plant material.

Thirteen previously landscaped entrances to the city were selected to undergo a beautification project in 2024. In June of this year, the council approved a \$542,000 beautification project aimed at enhancing these entryway locations with perennials designed to create visual impact that will endure through the winter and into future years. Callery pear trees had been used at many of the gateway sites. As they decline in health and as the gateways are refurbished, they will be replaced with diverse non-invasive species. The gateway areas are maintained through landscaping contracts managed by the City and the parkways and other City properties are maintained by City staff. There are 43 Homeowners Associations and many have volunteers who maintain a landscaped entryway to their subdivisions.

Route 66 Park at the Broadway Street Greenway

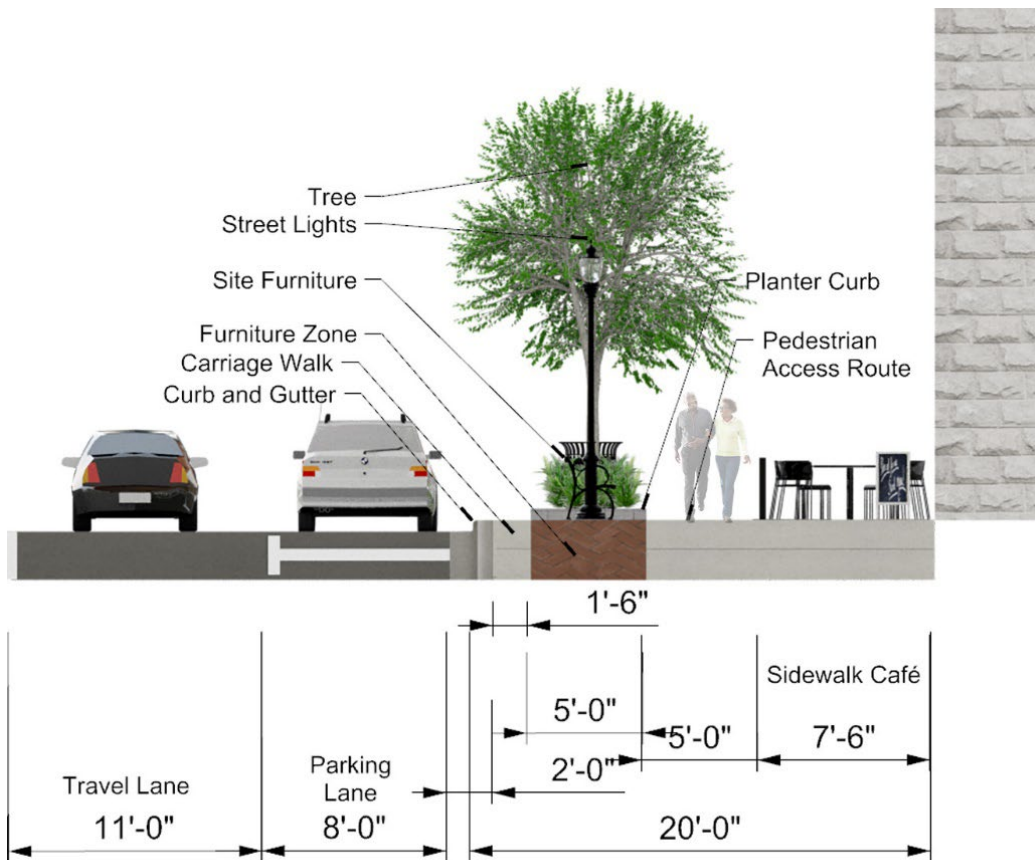


- A. Rich & Creamy Ice Cream Shop
- B. Broadway Greenway Arboretum Sign entrance
- C. Playground
- D. Sprit Statue
- E. Arboretum—part one
- F. Route 66 interpretive signage
- G. Route 66 Monument sign
- H. Gas can object
- S. Steelman Statue

*The City is also reinvesting in the Broadway Street Greenway, which includes Route 66 Park and an arboretum, with new signage, interpretative signage and plantings.*

The current 2024 CN/AIB Grant to enhance the Infantry Drive Arbors and Pond will greatly improve an area that was created over 20 years ago. Some original species remain, but pollinators and native plants will be introduced to create a more environmentally friendly site. The other part of the 2024 CN/AIB Grant is improvement to the Chicago St. entry median into downtown Joliet.

This beautification of the Chicago Street medians with new plantings will complement the streetscape enhancements that have recently been completed and underway to the north. The City recently reopened and completed streetscaping along a one-block stretch of North Chicago Street from Washington Street to Jefferson Street that had been closed for approximately 40 years and had diverted northbound vehicular traffic away from the historic core of the downtown along a bypass route. The City intends to reconstruct North Chicago Street from Jefferson Street to Webster Street starting in 2024, which will include new streetscaping elements. A companion to this project is the City Square project, which will bring a vibrant gathering place to Downtown Joliet with trees, an open lawn, and plantings.



*Partial cross section showing future streetscape improvements along the reconstructed Chicago Street*

The Joliet, New Lenox and Plainfield Park District's also maintain landscaped areas within the numerous parks and recreation areas that they manage. This includes the Joliet Park District's beautiful outdoor landscaped grounds at the Bird Haven Greenhouse & Conservatory.

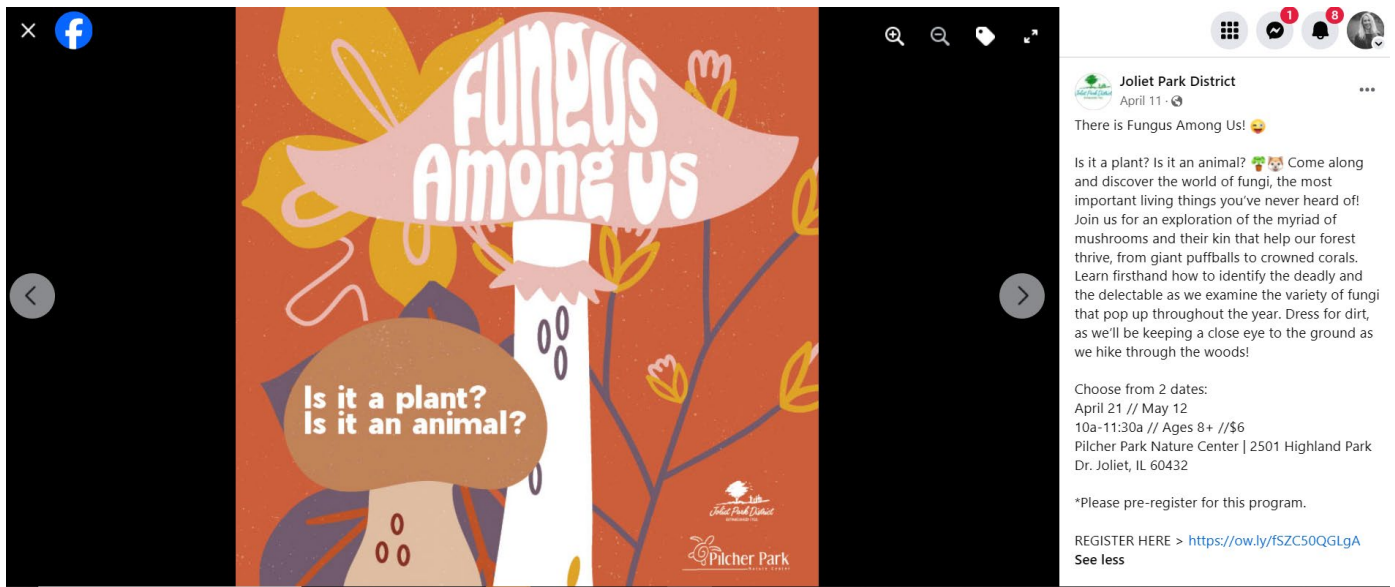
## URBAN FORESTRY

Strategic design, use, installation, and maintenance of trees on public and private lands.

The City of Joliet values trees and the urban forest. The trees beautify the community, provide habitat for wildlife and cooling and cleaning the air. The City has lost many trees to disease and has funded over 10,000 trees to be planted over a 10-year period. This will not replace all trees lost but will help make up for some losses. Tree diversity has been the focus, so that any future diseases or pests will not devastate large areas. In 1990 the city planning dept. gathered citizens who were concerned about the future of trees in the city to a meeting. That gathering resulted in the creation of the Tree Advisory Board. Having received Tree City USA designation for 33 years, the City of Joliet continues to fund trees and support most the recommendations of the Tree Advisory Board. A tree survey and updated Urban Forestry Plan will be undertaken through a U.S. Dept. of Ag Forest Service Grant this year.

In 2022, both a Tree Preservation Ordinance and Urban Forest Management Plan were adopted by the Joliet City Council. The city was recently awarded an Inflation Reduction Act Grant for \$216,500 toward a complete Tree Inventory and Updated Management Plan which was awarded to cities over 75,000 in population who qualify as having disadvantaged populations. Part of the grant requires meeting with the public in these areas to receive their input. Over 750 sapling trees were distributed to residents as part of Joliet’s Arbor Day Celebration. One of these distribution events took place at the Joliet Slammer’s game on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> this year, which was promoted on Facebook in English and Spanish!

As noted in the Community Vitality section, the Joliet Park District and Forest Preserve District of Will County manage hundreds of acres of urban forest in Joliet. Each entity also offers a variety of programs and activities for all ages at their preserves and parks that encourages residents to “reconnect with nature.” In Joliet, the Joliet Park District also operates the Pilcher Park Nature Center and the Forest Preserve District of Will County operates the Sugar Creek Administration Center.



An example of the nature-focused programming offered at the Pilcher Park Nature Center through the Joliet Park District.



*2024 Arbor Day poster contest winners from Carl Sandburg Elementary School (Joliet District 86) with the Joliet City Council.*



*City Arborist, Jim Teiber, led a “tree walk” at the Broadway Greenway Arboretum in August 2023. Attendees explored over 30 varieties of trees and learned valuable information about tree species and care, including the best times for pruning.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Environmental and sustainable leadership, policies, plans, and programs for water, resource conservation; pollution control; trash, recycling, and reuse; climate change issues, green Infrastructure, and alternative energy resources.

The continuing availability of a sufficient supply of groundwater from reliable water sources has become an increasing regional concern as local governments seek to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The State of Illinois Water Survey reported that Joliet’s water supply will run out by 2030. A water commission was established to oversee the City’s efforts to proactively evaluate options through the Alternative Water Source Program, which included numerous public meetings. The city has chosen to go through the City of Chicago to obtain Lake Michigan water. A companion effort to obtain an alternative water source is water conservation and reduction. To that end, A key planning tool for the Joliet Alternative Water Source Program is a public outreach program to facilitate communications between the City, the public, businesses, other municipalities, Will County, and other stakeholders. This program was branded as ‘Rethink Water Joliet.’ <https://www.rethinkwaterjoliet.org/>

Implementation of ‘Rethink Water Joliet’ public relations plan continues to educate and engage stakeholders through a robust website, Facebook posts, and in-person communication. ‘Rethink Water Joliet’ representatives continue to attend local events and festivals to provide Program updates and information on water conservation. The City also has a water conservation ordinance, which restricts the days and hours during which residents and businesses may water their landscaping. A low flush toilet rebate program is in place as well as a rain barrel program.



Example of a routine facebook post issued by the City of Joliet to encourage water conservation.

It should be noted that the City of Joliet Department of Public Utilities is the largest entity in the State of Illinois that provides all four key water and wastewater services: wastewater collection, wastewater treatment, water treatment and water distribution. The Utilities Department also actively manages the Combined Sewer Overflow Reduction Program, non-revenue water reduction programs and Lead Water Service Line Replacement Program.

Joliet continues to be a regional leader in water conservation and alternative water source management. Through much outreach and engagement, Joliet was able to obtain commitments from several of its neighboring municipalities – Channahon, Crest Hill, Minooka, Romeoville, and Shorewood – to form the Grand Prairie Water Commission – to collectively purchase water from the City of Chicago, which helps to reduce cost-burdens to residents. <https://www.gpwc-il.org/>



*City staff promoting water conservation at a Joliet Slammers game last summer.*

Related to solar energy, the City of Joliet permits hundreds of permits annually for roof-mounted solar. City staff has proposed a series of amendments to its Zoning Ordinance to more clearly regulate roof mounted and ground mounted solar, which should result in prompter and more predictable permitting and thus encourage its use. The City expects additional zoning amendments, that promote sustainability and environmental conservation, to be recommended at the conclusion of the City-wide comprehensive plan project.

Regarding waste management, the City's waste management contract includes separate recycling and yard waste pickup. Recycling occurs every week, compost pick up occurs about 8 months, and electronic and hazardous waste pick-up is now part of the city's negotiated waste hauling contract.



*Collins Street Neighborhood Council's Annual Spring Cleanup (April 2024). The majority of the City's neighborhood councils hold annual cleanups once or even twice a year.*

## CELEBRATING HERITAGE

Recognition, designation, protection, commemoration, and celebration of historical, cultural, natural, agricultural, and industrial resources.

The formation of a Historic Preservation Commission in 1990 marked the beginning of cooperative efforts between citizens and city government to preserve and celebrate Joliet's history. Since the last profile, the City continues to make great strides in preserving its heritage. The City designated two more properties as local historic landmarks in 2023 and one in 2022. The City completed the St. John's Historic Resource Survey, Illinois State Penitentiary-Joliet National Register Historic District nomination, Downtown Joliet National Register Historic District nomination, and Historic Design Guidelines Manual projects. The City continues to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month in May with daily Facebook posts that celebrate the City's historic architecture and heritage. The City updated its webpage to better highlight these projects and ongoing initiatives: [www.joliet.gov/historicpreservation](http://www.joliet.gov/historicpreservation). The newest heritage project that the City is leading is the Joliet Area African American Historic context study which will document the history and culture of the Joliet area Black community. This context study is the second undertaken in Illinois. It is being enthusiastically funded by the State of Illinois along with the City of Joliet, Joliet Township, Lockport Township and Will County. [www.joliet.gov/blackhistory](http://www.joliet.gov/blackhistory).

It should be noted that the City established an Arts Commission in 2019. The Commission spent the pandemic years refining policies and cultivating public initiatives. In 2024, the Commission issued a request for proposals for a large, signature sculpture to be located at the center of City Square and will soon launch a public vetting process for the numerous submittals. The Arts Commission also sponsored in this year a poet laureate contest and the City Council approved the contract with this individual on July 2nd.

### **BUILDING A PLACE OF CONSCIENCE FROM A PLACE OF INCARCERATION:**

#### **THE NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING OF THE ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY AT JOLIET**

EXPLORE THE OLD JOLIET PRISON'S SIGNIFICANCE AS A PLACE OF INCARCERATION AS WELL AS A PHYSICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE PROBLEMATIC AND COMPLICATED HISTORY OF ILLINOIS' PRISON SYSTEM. HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT LARA RAMSEY WILL DISCUSS FINDINGS FROM HER RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE OLD JOLIET PRISON. THE PROGRAM WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE JOLIET AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM AUDITORIUM.

THIS PROGRAM IS BEING SUPPORTED IN PART BY AN UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES GRANT FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

**NOVEMBER 30TH, 6PM  
204 N OTTAWA ST. JOLIET 60432**



As mentioned in the Community Vitality section, the City and the Joliet Area Historical Museum continue to work on stabilization at the Old Joliet Prison so that this historic site of conscience can continue to be a tangible reminder of the long and complex evolution of prison ideology. The Museum also continues to refine the site's interpretative plan to be rooted in an honest historical narrative. From the Museum's conversations with a diverse array of community stakeholders over the years, the Museum acknowledges that Joliet's 165-year-old relationship with the penitentiary is oftentimes complicated and even painful.

The Joliet Railroad Museum opened in May of 2024 and features information on the railroad companies that operated lines through Joliet as well as the mechanisms and controls that coordinated the movement of trains. The Museum is located within a circa 1913 interlocking signal tower and offers an unrivaled vantage point from which to view contemporary rail traffic. The Planisek Grocery and Meat Market Museum also opened in the fall of 2023 and this Museum shares and interprets the immigrant experience in Joliet, their role in community development, and their lasting cultural impact on the city.

The Illinois Rock & Roll Museum on Route 66 opened in the fall of 2023 and celebrates the rich history and contributions of musicians, performers and industry leaders who have impacted the music world and embodied the creative spirit of Illinois. A 24' guitar sculpture "Gigantar" hangs from the front of the building.



*Bishop Hill Winery, which opened in 2021, was built for brewery owner Fred Sehring and then was later owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet as the Bishop's residence. Here, one can enjoy wine in a historic Romanesque Revival style mansion with a unique history.*



*The African Descendants Military and Historical Museum had its groundbreaking on June 19, 2024. L-R: Museum director Luther Johnson, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, Councilwoman Jan Quillman, State Senator Rachel Ventura, Councilman Cesar Guerrero. This museum will be within the circa 1851 Caseday House and will be dedicated to the history of Black service members in the U.S. Armed Forces and local African American history.*



## OVERALL IMPRESSION

Adequate and effective amenities are provided and in good condition. The community is welcoming, attractive, and leaves a positive impression.

Joliet is a diverse community of people, landscapes, and architecture, as well as educational and leisure opportunities. History has left a mark on the community that is being embraced and the community continues efforts to make Joliet a great place to live. The City continues to make major investments in its roads, sidewalks and infrastructure as well as its people!



*July 3<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day Celebration at Bicentennial Park. Thousands attended this free annual celebration last summer.*



*Joliet Police Explorers Post #220 assisting with traffic control during the 2023 July 3<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day Celebration at Bicentennial Park. Joliet Police Explorer Post 220 is chartered through the Boy Scouts of America's Learning for Life.*



*Councilman Cesar Guerrero with 2023 Neighborhood Hero Award winner Maria Lopez, who lives at 633 Francis Street. The City continues to sponsor the Neighborhood Hero Award program, which recognizes residents who take pride in their property by investing in flowers, plants, trees and well-maintained lawns. The City awarded 18 properties in 2023.*

## BEST IDEA

Using the America in Bloom criteria to guide your thinking, what is the best idea your community has this year? 500 words or less. Please include no more than 3 pictures.

The City of Joliet is undergoing a metamorphosis. Known as a blue-collar city of “Stone and Steel,” (the third largest city in the State of Illinois), the city is in the process of improving critical infrastructure, creating a downtown city square, enhancing landscaping at key entryways, launching a city-wide comprehensive plan. The City’s “big idea” for 2024 is reinvestment and communicating this reinvestment to its citizens.



The City is planning for our future! The City recently committed a little over \$700,000 towards preparing and executing a city-wide comprehensive plan. The City is also working on an Equitable Transit Oriented Development, a Community Plan for the area affected by the Interstate 80 Des Plaines River Bridge reconstruction, an update to its Consolidated Plan. The City is also seeking \$500,000 in funding from HUD through its Choice Neighborhoods Planning grant program to transform a 16 acre circa 1960s housing development on the west side of the river into a thriving mixed-income neighborhood. All of these planning projects involve substantial public outreach and engagement and are stewarded by volunteer steering committees.

The City is also reinvesting by hiring more staff and filling positions through all sectors. The City recently hired a communications director so that the City could more effectively communicate with its residents and business and push more positive stories and accomplishments out to the community.

The City is doing. Every water main installed before 1970 is being replaced to assure that water loss through the system is at a minimum and meets requirements needed to obtain water from Lake Michigan by 2030, when our current aquifer is expected to be insufficient to meet demand. Dramatic steps to unearth and reinstall water mains in our downtown have resulted in challenging conditions for the public but is also in sync with plans for a rebirth of the area.

The City is building. Plans for a City Square and reconstructed Chicago Street, delayed by the effects of Covid 19, are underway, with a \$20 million contract awarded July 2. This will include a vibrant gathering space for events and festivals across from the historic Rialto Theater along Chicago Street (historic Route 66).

The City is rejuvenating. Another contract of \$542,000, recently awarded, will bring life to 13 city entryways with perennials designed to be visually pleasing throughout the seasons. Residents have long expressed support for a beautification project to improve the image of Joliet. This along with the Arbors and Chicago Street median project will enhance our City.

The City is celebrating. The impetus for the speed of this metamorphosis is the 100th Anniversary of Rt. 66 to take place in 2026. Illinois has 300 miles of this historic route, designated a National Scenic Byway in 2005. Joliet is already a destination for Rt. 66 enthusiasts. We are on the “Mother Road” and our “Best Idea” is to wow the public with our profile and be the best that we can be for our residents and Rt. 66 fans.



*Perspective of the future City Square*



*Historic Route 66 passes right in front of historic Union Station. Historic Route 66 and Route 30 "Lincoln's Highway" cross each other in downtown Joliet!*

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Provide information about people the advisors will meet or who can provide FOLLOW-UP information about your community. Add more lines if necessary.

Name	Affiliation/Title	Email	Phone
Lori Carmine	Manager, Bicentennial Park	lcarmine@joliet.gov	
Joseph Nordman	Deputy Director of Operations, Public Works	<a href="mailto:jnordman@joliet.gov">jnordman@joliet.gov</a>	
Cesar Guerrero	City Councilor	<a href="mailto:cguerrero@joliet.gov">cguerrero@joliet.gov</a>	
Sherri Reardon	City Councilor and Joliet Tree Board	sreardon@joliet.gov	Sherri Reardon
Katie Zaban	Manager, Pilcher Park Nature Center	<a href="mailto:kzaban@jolietpark.org">kzaban@jolietpark.org</a>	815-741-7277
John Ekstrom	Director of Parks and Grounds, Joliet Park District	<a href="mailto:jekstrom@jolietpark.org">jekstrom@jolietpark.org</a>	
Brad Staab	Executive Director, Joliet Park District	<a href="mailto:bstaab@jolietpark.org">bstaab@jolietpark.org</a>	
Ralph Schultz	Executive Director, Forest Preserve District of Will County	<a href="mailto:rschultz@fpdwc.org">rschultz@fpdwc.org</a>	
Matthew Novander	Chief Landscape Architect, Forest Preserve District of Will County	mnovander@fpdwc.org	815-722-9412
Bob Collins	Director of Planning, Plainfield Park District	<a href="mailto:collins@plfdparks.org">collins@plfdparks.org</a>	(815) 436-8812 x2718
Greg Peerbolte	Executive Director - Joliet Area Historical Museum, Old Joliet Prison, Planinsek Museum, Railroad Museum	<a href="mailto:g.peerbolte@jolietmuseum.org">g.peerbolte@jolietmuseum.org</a>	815-549-9530
Ron Romero	Executive Director – Rock and Roll Museum	ron@roadtorock.org	815-955-1247
Wade Welsh	Executive Director – Rialto Square Theater	wwelsh@rialtosquare.com	815-726-7171 Ext. 207
Quinn Adamowski	Advocacy Director, Landmarks Illinois	<a href="mailto:gadamowski@landmarks.org">gadamowski@landmarks.org</a>	815-603-4901
Mayor Terry D’Arcy	Mayor, City of Joliet	<a href="mailto:tdarcy@joliet.gov">tdarcy@joliet.gov</a>	815-724-3702
Senator Rachel Ventura	State Senator	<a href="mailto:jessica@senatorventura.com">jessica@senatorventura.com</a>	331-290-0443
Kristine Schlismann	Director of Community Relations, Joliet Township High School	<a href="mailto:kschlismann@jths.org">kschlismann@jths.org</a>	(815) 727-6967

# ADVISOR VISIT ITINERARY

## Day 1: Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>

O'Hare Airport- Jennifer Fidler AA Flight 4030 11:02 AM

Alex Pearl AA Flight 4004 10:50 AM

Check into hotel: Wingate by Wyndham Joliet, 101 McDonald Avenue, Joliet

Dinner: Pick-up 4 pm, Rita Renwick (call when you are settled to confirm pick-up time). Greek Fest, All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, 102 N. Broadway St. Joliet

## Day 2: Monday July 15<sup>th</sup>

9 AM Pick- up Joliet Transport Van, Jim Teiber, Rita Renwick

Tour: Wooded Creek entry, Infantry Drive Grant Site, Joliet Park District Property/Stadium, Bicentennial Park, Pilcher Park Nature Center & Birdhaven Greenhouse.

Noon Kiwanis meeting/lunch & Power Point Presentation (10-12 minutes-15 total with questions) bring a flash drive.

1:00 PM Tour of Jacob Henry Mansion Property

1:30 PM-Tour downtown locations per Jayne Bernhard: Union Station/RR Museum, Slammers Stadium, Rialto, Rock & Roll Museum, Joliet Area Historical Museum

4:30 Drop off at Hotel

6:30 PM Dinner at Magpie's with Jayne Bernhard and Quinn Adamowski. Magpie's at 753 Ruby Street

## Day 3: Tuesday July 16<sup>th</sup>

9 AM Pick-up Joliet Transport Van, Jim Teiber, Rita Renwick

Tour-Joliet Junior College, Rock Run Preserve, Broadway Greenway, Joliet Prison,

11:30: Lunch at Jitters -Rita Renwick

1:00 PM Joliet Public Library, Joliet Central High School,

3:00 PM Drop off at Hotel

4:30 PM Dinner-Rita Renwick

6:30 PM Introduction at Joliet City Council Meeting?

## Day 4: Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast at hotel

Depart Joliet