

*Village of  
Algonquin  
Beautification  
Plan*

*May 2011*

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## Introduction

The Village of Algonquin strives to set itself apart from surrounding municipalities and to define Algonquin as a unique area within the region. The Beautification Plan is a comprehensive plan looking at the aesthetic appeal of the entire Village as seen through the eyes of the residents, businesses and visitors.

The Beautification Plan strives to create a strong sense of place and community pride. Community involvement is a large part of the plan, once the community buys into the goals, it is easier to create and maintain a beautiful Algonquin. Several of the components of the plan are already in place; the plan brings all these elements together in one unified effort and expands to include future improvements that will add more cohesiveness throughout Algonquin.

## Goals

The goals of Algonquin's beautification plan are as follows:

- To create a strong sense of place.
- To raise the aesthetic appeal of the entire Village.
- To foster community pride.
- To define Algonquin's boundaries with surrounding municipalities or unincorporated areas.
- To encourage community involvement.
- To maintain Algonquin's beautification enhancements in perpetuity.

## Opportunities to Beautify Algonquin

### **Public Art Program**

The Village established a Public Art Program in 2005. This program enriches the lives of all residents and visitors to the Village by exposing them to various art forms located throughout the community. Artworks are on loan to the Village for one year and displayed at public buildings and places throughout the Village. The display areas include both indoor and outdoor locations. The majority of the artwork is changed yearly. The current year display plan is available on the Village website.



Example of indoor public art display



Example of indoor public art display



Example of outdoor public art display

### Bicycle Rack Art Program

The Village sponsored a bike rack art contest in 2010 in an effort to encourage more bicycling and to beautify areas with decorative yet functional bike racks. A map showing the bike rack art pieces is available on the Village website ([www.algonquin.org/bike](http://www.algonquin.org/bike)).



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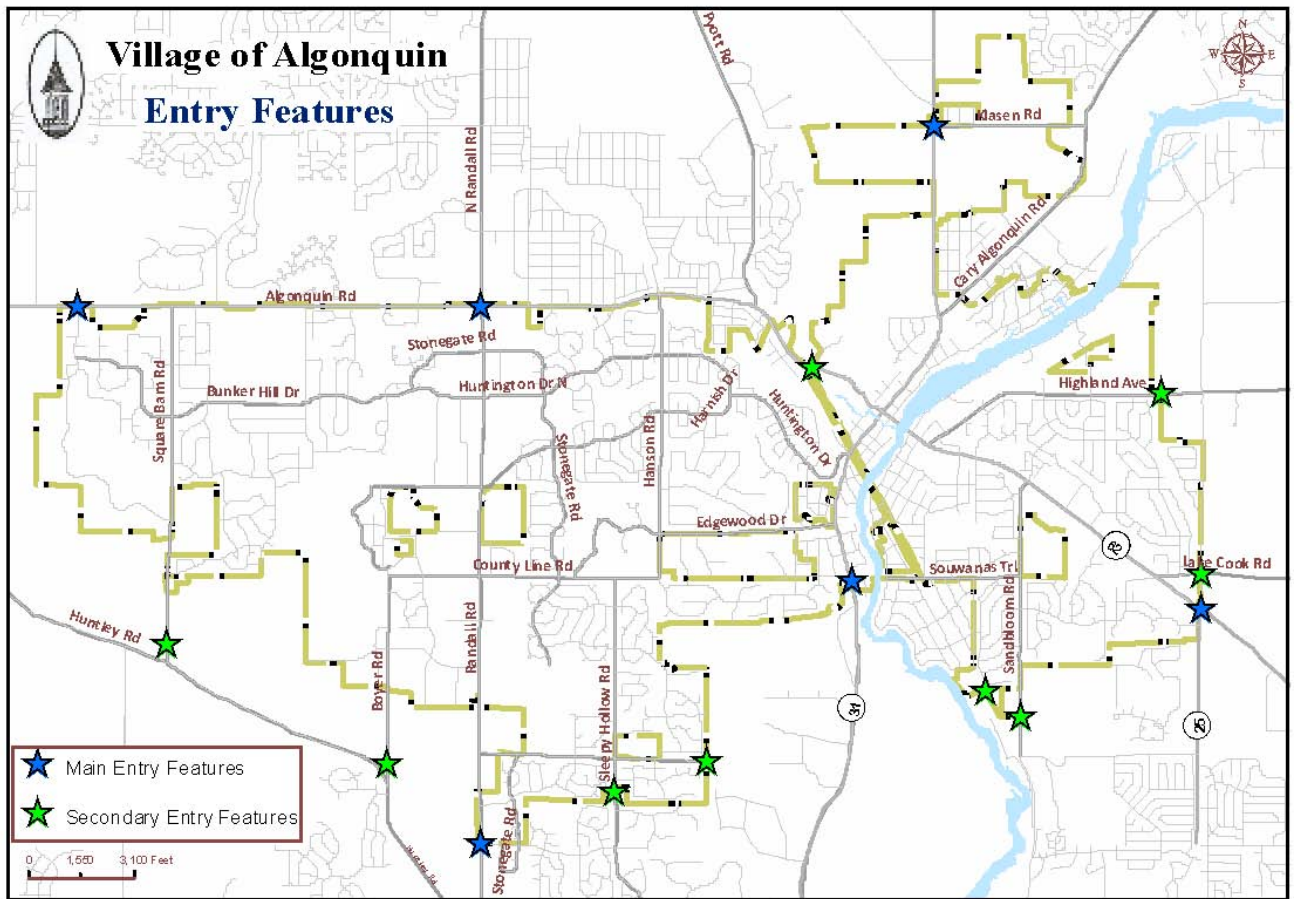
## Entrances into the Village

The Village has six main entry intersections (East Algonquin Road at Route 25; West Algonquin Road at Wentworth Drive; Main Street at Klasen Road; Main Street at Wastewater Treatment Facility; Randall Road at Algonquin Road; and Randall Road at Grandview). In order to clearly define when a person is entering the Village limits, the Village has erected free standing signs in these locations. In order to create a grand entrance these entry signs can be spruced up with additional landscaping, decorative lights, or other amenities. Other entrances into the Village that could be considered include: Square Barn Road at Huntley Road; Boyer Road at Huntley Road; Sleepy Hollow at Highmeadow Lane; Longmeadow Parkway at eastern Village boundary; Sandbloom Road at southern boundary; Lake Cook Road at Route 25; Highland Avenue at eastern boundary and entrances into the Village on the Prairie Trail Bike Path near Algonquin Road (north end) and the Fox River Trail near Souwanas Trail (south end). The boundary along Algonquin Road needs to be further identified; particularly West Algonquin Road to make it clear what areas are incorporated into Algonquin and which areas are not.



Existing Entrance on Main Street at Wastewater Treatment Facility

The following map shows the six main entry locations with a blue asterisk and the nine, secondary entry locations with a green asterisk. The secondary locations should only be constructed once development expansion has reached the ultimate boundary of the Village limits, or should be made in such a manner that the entry feature can be moved.



The most obvious way to inform motorists that they are entering another community is with entrance signage. The Village, as funds allow or as developers improve these parcels, should upgrade the entryway features into Algonquin. A common entry feature theme should be designed and repeated for all the entry locations, although they do not need to be identical. The secondary entry features will be smaller in scale than the main entry features.

The following illustrates various components that can make up an entry feature:

- Use common design and materials in all entry features and throughout the community
- Use earth-tone colors
- Use long lasting materials
  - reddish-brown brick
  - field stone
  - limestone
  - metal
  - ornate aluminum fencing
- Landscape materials should be native
- Landscaping should be integral to overall design



Example of entry feature elements

- Low maintenance materials and design
- Use night time feature or lighting elements



Example of entry feature elements



Example of entry feature elements



Example of entry feature elements



Example of entry feature elements

In the future, the Village may host a design competition for the entry feature. Once a design or several designs have been selected, a consultant would be hired to produce working drawings of the entrance feature and cost estimates. The entry feature(s) should have similar elements recognizable to Algonquin but do not all have to be identical. The entry feature should consist of the following design criteria (these criteria would be reviewed prior to launching the design competition):

- Constructed with stone or brick materials
- Incorporate a light element
- No logo, slogan, or population should be included
- Only native plants should be included

### Streetscape Design

The Old Town District currently has a common streetscape theme with brick paver highlights in the sidewalks, acorn lights, matching wayfinding signage, and entrance signs to define the boundary of the Old Town. As budget allows the streetscaping theme in the Old Town District should be extended to all streets



Route 62 Bridge Streetscape

within the district, following the Downtown Streetscape Enhancements Plan dated April 2008. Other areas of the Village could also benefit from creating defined streetscape themes for the various neighborhoods/districts. The streetscape themes should be carefully designed to take into account the type of movements through the area, vehicles or pedestrian, speed of travel, inviting places to stop and rest, or pass through. The scale of the elements shall be designed as appropriate.



North Harrison Streetscape

While it is nice to define specific areas, the Village must be careful to not exclude other areas and to ensure all areas are coordinated. Ideas of neighborhoods/districts to develop a streetscape plan for may include: East Algonquin Road shopping district, Randall Road shopping district, and the Algonquin Corporate Campus.

Each residential subdivision typically has entry monuments announcing the name of the subdivision. These entry features are the responsibility of the Home Owners Association. The Village should contact the associations to encourage them to provide continual maintenance on the signs and landscape areas. When there is no home owners association, maintenance of the sign should be the responsibility of the home owners where the sign is placed. The Village does not want the responsibility of maintaining subdivision entry signs and features.



Streetscape Enhancements  
Downtown Historic District  
Village of Algonquin, Illinois

Primary Commercial Streetscape



Existing



Proposed

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Existing and Proposed Streetscape Improvements for Main Street

Examples of decorative street signage:

- black decorative poles
- consistent signage for entire Village or specific featured areas
- paint the back sides of signs



Example of decorative street sign



Example of decorative street sign



Example of back of painted street sign

Examples of decorative street fixtures:

- common color scheme for all poles
- seasonal plantings



Example of decorative street fixture



Example of decorative street fixture



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Examples of unfinished (not painted) versus finished (painted) poles:



Example of unpainted poles and fixtures



Example of painted poles and fixtures

### **Landscape Walls/Landscape Medians**

Landscaping can unify and beautify an area by repeating common elements. The Village should use native plants and trees as much as possible in the landscape designs to encourage and promote the Village's commitment to the natural environment. Hanson Road and Huntington Drive both have large hills with terraced retaining walls. The terraced retaining walls offer a great opportunity to provide a positive visual impact for motorists and pedestrians. The S-curve along West Algonquin Road is another blank wall that could benefit from landscaping or a mural to provide more interest to the area.

Randall Road, Corporate Parkway, Compton Drive, Broadsmore Drive and West Algonquin Road currently have landscaped medians within the road right-of-way. The landscaping varies from grass that needs to be mowed to extensive plantings of native perennials and trees. The jurisdiction of the road, the volume and speed of traffic, and maintenance responsibilities will ultimately dictate the extent of landscaping suitable for each landscape median area. However, common landscape elements can be used to unify the areas if desired or simply having landscaped medians may be enough to recognize Algonquin as different from other areas.



Example of landscaped median

The Village of Algonquin may partner with the Village of Lake in the Hills to work with McHenry County Division of Transportation to landscape the grass medians along West Algonquin Road. This partnership may involve cost sharing and maintenance agreements.

Examples of landscaped medians:

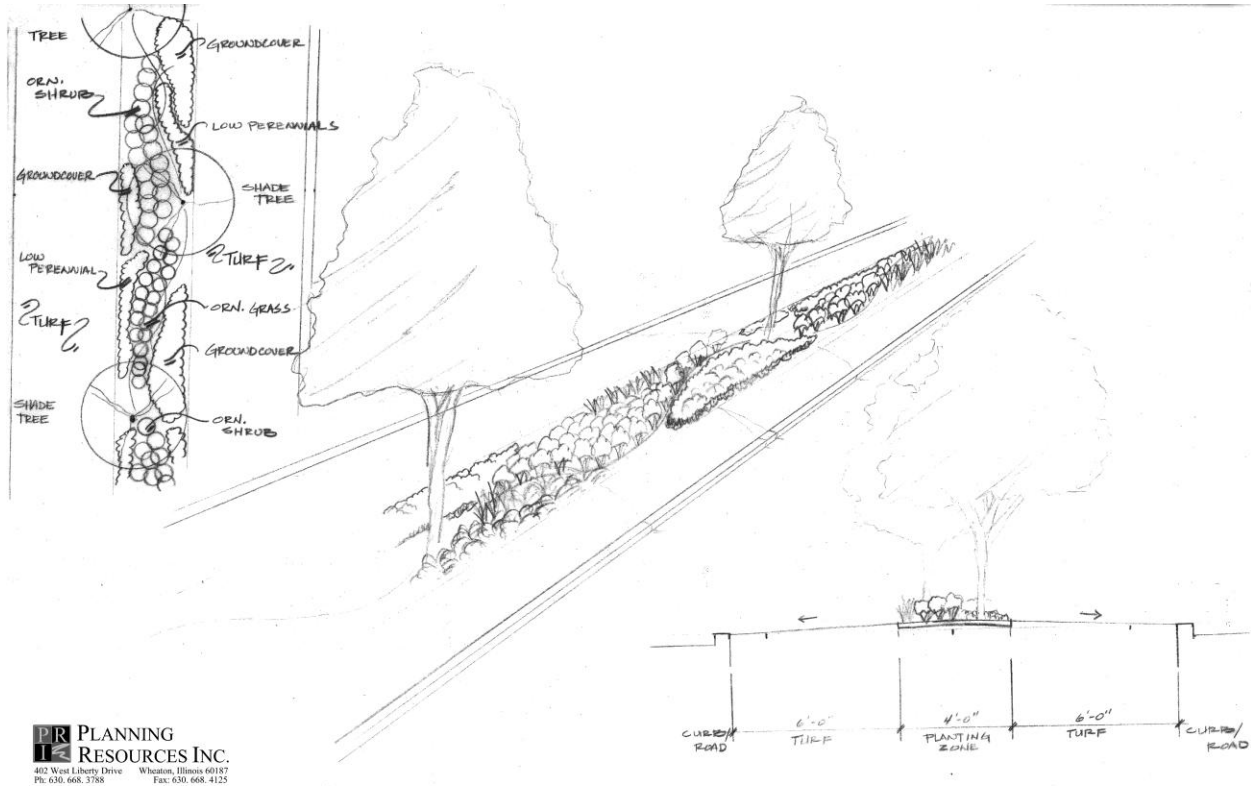
-landscape plantings can vary based on road conditions (traffic volume, traffic speed, width of median, irrigation method, etc)



Example of landscaped median



Example of landscaped median



Sketch of landscaped median for West Algonquin Road

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## Urban Forest

The Village has a comprehensive tree preservation ordinance and urban forestry management system in place to protect and enhance the trees within the Village. The wooded bluffs along the river are one of the most iconic images of Algonquin. The Village requires all new developments to preserve existing trees where feasible and plant additional trees on site. All Village streets are lined with parkway trees.

## Parks

The Village completed a Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan in 2008. This plan should be referenced when additional park land is added to the Village or when plans to develop a park are considered. In addition, for the development of park land, the beautification factor should be considered in accordance with this plan.

## Blight Elimination

Unattractive items within the Village shall be removed, replaced with more attractive options, or screened as appropriate. Billboards should be removed as lease terms expire and/or as development occurs on those properties. Overhead wires should be buried underground as a condition of all new developments or as finances allow in older sections of the Village. If necessary to be installed, sound walls shall be designed to be attractive with patterns, colors or artwork on them.



Overhead wires interfere with decorative light fixture



Billboards add visual blight to an area



Streetscape with overhead wires



Streetscape without overhead wires

### Private Investment

The Village has a strong property maintenance code that requires property owners to maintain their properties to certain standards. The Village has two property maintenance inspectors that routinely work with residential and commercial property owners to ensure the properties are maintained (lawns are mowed, dead landscaping replaced, parking lots striped and in good condition, buildings painted, trash is picked up, etc). This is a proactive approach that results in a more desirable community for everyone.

Quality development keeps the Village of Algonquin standards high and ensures future investment in the community. All new development or redevelopment projects are reviewed by qualified staff, appointed and elected officials. This detailed review considers the site plan, design layout, and architectural review based on codes (zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, conservation design, sign code and planned unit development process) and aesthetics.

### Community Involvement

#### **Volunteer Days**

At a minimum once a year a volunteer day would be organized to clean up the Village. The first volunteer day would be held in the Spring, after all the snow is gone. The day would include picking up garbage in all Village parks and open space areas and picking up garbage along the streets. Village staff would participate along side residents and business owners. The Village would provide for all garbage bags, recycling bins, waste removal, plastic gloves and any safety equipment/signs for roadside clean up. The Village will organize times and locations for the clean-ups to occur. A partnership with Waste Management (or current waste hauler) may help facilitate the collection of items collected.

#### **Adopt-A-Planting-Area**

There are several small landscaped areas around the Village that can be adopted. These areas include Village of Algonquin entry signs, park signs, art display locations, planters, and small street side planting areas. An application form would be required to be filled out by the

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individual or group interested in adopting a planting area. The individual/group would be responsible for maintaining their assigned planting area for the entire year. The involvement would include keeping the area free of debris, weeds, maintaining the plants, and adding flowers. The Village would post a small sign at each area stating this area is part of the adopt-a-planting-area program and list the individual/group in charge. If an individual/group signs up to maintain an area and fails then the Village will assume responsibility for the remainder of the year or give the responsibility to another individual/group interested. That individual/group shall not be allowed to adopt a planting area for a period of 5 years. The individual/group will be responsible for all costs incurred with the planting of new materials. The Parks and Forestry department may provide assistance to individuals/groups as needed.



Volunteer planting an Oak tree

### Priority List

The list of projects and priority ranking system may change based on jurisdiction, least amount of conflicts, impact, and cost. The projects should be evaluated on a yearly basis as part of the capital improvement plan update and private development projects.

Priority list:

1. Maintain existing enhancements
2. Continue private property enforcement and compliance
3. Existing landscape islands in right-of-ways
4. Gateways into Village
5. Street sign upgrades
6. Hanson Road (east side) landscaping on steep slope

### Implementation

The Beautification Plan lays the foundation for many public improvements and programs throughout the Village. However, it is understood that these projects will be phased into the capital improvement plan as the budget allows. It may also be possible to apply for grants or have developers pay for improvements.

Private development shall be required to pay for beautification enhancements within or near the development area. Maintenance costs should be borne by the developer during the required maintenance period of the development.

A key factor to keep in mind as the beautification projects are designed and constructed is long-term maintenance costs. Monetary expenses may include added labor costs, contractual services, equipment, materials, management of volunteers, plant materials, and etcetera. A new beautifully landscaped entry feature will not look beautiful in a few years if it is not well maintained then we have created an eyesore rather than an enhancement. The chart below shows

examples of projects, design cost, construction cost and maintenance costs. This helps to put in perspective the initial and long-term costs of the beautification plan elements.

<b>Beautification Plan Estimates of Cost for Improvements</b>				
<i>In order to provide a realistic idea of what some of the beautification improvements will cost, the following spreadsheet has been provided. The improvements are just a sampling of items noted in the Beautification Plan. The costs listed below are estimates based on dollars today (2011) and may change based on when the project actually occurs.</i>				
<b>Improvement Description</b>	<b>Design Cost</b>	<b>Construction Cost</b>	<b>Maintenance Cost</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Main Village Entry Features-6 entry locations</b>	\$20,000	\$90,000 to \$180,000	\$750/Yr./Location \$4,500	Contract price; or manage with 1 seasonal employee
<b>Secondary Village Entry Features-9 entry locations</b>	\$10,000	\$36,000 to \$72,000	\$750/Yr./Location \$6,750	Contract price; or manage with 1 seasonal employee
<b>Downtown Streetscape Improvements-per April 2008 plan</b>	\$360,000	\$5,038,990	1 F/T Employee	The downtown crew never received its second full time employee as originally proposed. This will absolutely make this hire necessary.
<b>Paint all traffic signal poles, mast arms, and lights black or other determined color</b>	N/A	\$25,000/intersection	\$25,000/intersection every 7 years	Work is difficult due to peeling and cracking of existing paint systems, or preparation work on aluminum poles
<b>Use decorative poles for all signage (stop signs, street signs, instructional signage, etc.)</b>	N/A	3100 signs @ \$620= \$1,922,000 not including labor	4 to 5 Knock downs per year @ \$620= \$3,100 not incl. labor	Lack of manpower and budget restraints would burden this division and create a project which would take years to complete.
<b>Cover or paint the backs of all signs black or other determined color</b>	N/A	3100 signs @ \$70= 217,000 Backing or 3100 signs @ \$8.95= \$27,745 Paint	unknown, reliability is an unknown factor	Lack of manpower and budget restraints would burden this division and create a project which would take years to complete.
<b>Compton Drive Landscape Islands (to use as a reference for future landscape islands)</b>	\$4,316.26 for design and construction engineering	\$125.10 per linear foot	\$3,000/Yr. 2,500 Linear Ft. \$1.20/Ft.	The vegetation planted is too high for islands thus causing safety issues for crosswalks and cross traffic.
<b>Corporate Parkway Landscape Islands (to use as a reference for future landscape islands)</b>	\$6,613.99 for design and construction engineering	\$176.37 per linear foot	\$4,750/Yr. 2,875 Linear Ft. \$2.10/Ft.	This could be a standard or reference
<b>Hanson Road (east side) landscape/retaining wall improvements</b>	\$13,808.14 for design and construction engineering	\$526.02 per linear foot	\$2,250/Yr. 480 Linear Ft. \$4.68/Ft.	No idea what construction or design would cost, this is normally completed by Parks Dept.