

# Elevating Aging-in-Community/ Lifecycle Living *in* Yorkville

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*A Strategic Guide*

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Content developed by Planning/Aging  
in partnership with the Aging in a Changing Region  
program of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

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# Executive Summary

Yorkville participated during 2022 in the “Aging in a Changing Region” (*AiaCR*) program, funded by a grant from the RRF Foundation for Aging, and led by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Planning/Aging. Planning/Aging developed strategies for Yorkville to elevate its support of Aging-in-Community. The following recommendations are divided into three broad categories: Communication; Coordination; and Collaboration Recommendations.

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## Coordination Recommendations

- Take a ‘whole of government’ approach to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living
- Establish an Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living Commission to play a policy and review role
- Incorporate Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living into key municipal initiatives
- Include Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living as a pillar of the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Update
- View public realm opportunities as important to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living
- View Yorkville’s housing issues in part through an Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living lens
- Investigate including “Missing Middle Housing” options in Yorkville’s housing stock
- Develop the Downtown Overlay District in support of Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living
- Review operations and programs for Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living consistency

## Collaboration Recommendations

- Continue to leverage and grow working partnerships with key stakeholder partners
- Better collaborate with the network of existing service-providers to reduce the knowledge gap
- Explore developing expanded partnership opportunities between Yorkville’s younger and older adult groups
- Incorporate the faith community in overall Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living efforts
- Regularly attend the MMC’s Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative

## Communication Recommendations

- Elevate and promote Yorkville’s commitment to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living
- Provide a consistent and integrated message about Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living
- Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior

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The recommendations are fleshed out in this document. It is up to the city and community to review, select and prioritize from this list of recommendations and develop implementation plans going forward. As Yorkville’s conversation is at an early stage, additional ideas, and strategies for supporting Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living can and should be added to this list.

## WHAT IS AGING IN COMMUNITY?

**Aging-in-Community** refers to a coordinated municipality-wide effort to support the evolving needs and interests of its aging population.

**Aging-in-Community** is inclusive of the narrower term “aging-in-place” which focuses on one’s dwelling, using a broader, community-level lens to identify a set of plans, programs, procedures, and services that in combination help support its older residents.

**Aging-in-Community** is an important component of ‘livable community’ efforts that address the needs and interests of residents throughout their lifespans.

Communities that support **Aging-in-Community** are by definition ‘age-friendly’ and ‘dementia-friendly’ communities.

Study of **Aging-in-Community** programs throughout the United States identifies key indicators of likely success of a municipality’s **Aging-in-Community** program:

- Issue champions among (but not overreliance upon) elected officials, staff leadership, and the overall community
- Dedicated human and financial resources
- Collaborations with key aging network and other community stakeholders
- Coordination between **Aging-in-Community** and other municipal priorities

## The “Aging in a Changing Region” Program

Municipalities throughout the metropolitan Chicago region – like regions throughout the country – are experiencing substantial growth in the number and percentage share of their older adult populations and are looking for strategies to help address these shifts.

Three partner organizations – the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC, serving the Chicago region’s 275 cities, towns and villages), the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP, the regional planning organization for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties), and Planning/Aging (a consultancy focused

on the intersection of city planning and the growing aging population) – received funding from the RRF Foundation for Aging to assist municipalities’ support of Aging-in-Community. This program – “Aging in a Changing Region” (AiaCR) – builds upon the idea that wherever a municipality is currently in its support of Aging-in-Community, strategic guidance can help elevate its support going forward.

In 2021 and in 2022, MMC invited municipal participation in the AiaCR program. Interested municipalities submitted applications that combined an assessment of their Aging-in-Community goals and work

to date, and assistance they envisioned to help advance these goals. The 2022 Cohort of municipalities – Bellwood and Broadview (*participating jointly*), Highland Park, Maywood, Richton Park, and Yorkville – reflects the region's diversity in terms of geography, socio-economic factors, community type, and Aging-in-Community experience.



*The historic county courthouse perches majestically above Downtown Yorkville*



## WHAT THIS DOCUMENT **ISN'T**

- ✗ **ISN'T** a detailed physical plan document with specific infrastructure or other capital projects identified and costed out, with their implementation details outlined
- ✗ **ISN'T** a compendium of 'best practices' from other local or non-local municipalities – while identifying certain approaches from elsewhere can be valuable as references, anything planned for Yorkville should be tailored to the specifics of Yorkville
- ✗ **ISN'T** a write-up of a rigorous, data-driven assessment and planning process with a precise schedule for future evaluations and updates, as Yorkville's involvement with the AiaCR program was a qualitative assessment of current conditions and potential future efforts and strategies



## WHAT THIS DOCUMENT **IS**

- ✓ **IS** a practical strategic guide tailored to Yorkville on how to elevate its current support of Aging-in-Community – designed to be used as an ongoing resource, not to gather dust on shelves due to its unreadability or impenetrability
- ✓ **IS** full of specific topical recommendations of further actions Yorkville may choose to take, either through utilization of its existing resources, joining with other entities in collaborative activities, or by engaging external partners
- ✓ **IS** a working framework of specific action steps that Yorkville can take to elevate its support of Aging-in-Community, and which can be modified, adapted, or augmented at any point to even better meet evolving community needs

# Yorkville's Aging-in-Community/ Lifecycle Living Context

## Yorkville's Demographics

Yorkville's age cohorts skew younger than Kendall County's overall, and considerably younger than the CMAP region's overall. Yorkville's 65 and Over population is 7.2 percent vs. Kendall County's 10.4 percent and CMAP's 14.4 percent. The age cohort from 50 to 64 years old, who might be viewed as the next group becoming older adults, is relatively smaller in Yorkville than elsewhere – 14.1 percent vs. 16.4 percent

in Kendall County and 19.2 percent in the CMAP region overall.

Looking from the opposite end of the lifespan, people aged 34 and under make up 55.3 percent of Yorkville's population, compared to Kendall County's 49.3 percent and the CMAP region's 46.3 percent. Yorkville's current Median Age is 32.7 years, compared to Kendall County's 35.5 years and the CMAP region's 37.7 years.

## Yorkville is Steadily Aging

Yorkville			Kendall County		CMAP Region	
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Under 5	1,359	7.0%	8,545	6.7%	508,895	6.0%
5 to 19	4,954	25.6%	31,067	24.4%	1,624,354	19.2%
20 to 34	4,399	22.7%	23,250	18.2%	1,781,246	21.1%
35 to 49	4,545	23.4%	30,565	24.0%	1,688,609	20.0%
50 to 64	2,737	14.1%	20,914	16.4%	1,625,883	19.2%
65 to 74	1,033	5.3%	8,421	6.6%	713,897	8.4%
75 to 84	187	1.0%	3,518	2.8%	348,205	4.1%
85 and Over	172	0.9%	1,303	1.0%	160,449	1.9%
Median Age	32.7		35.5		37.7	

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey five-year estimates

[CMAP Community Data Snapshot | Yorkville \(illinois.gov\)](#)



Yorkville's age cohort breakdown has remained remarkably constant since 2000, despite its overall population having increased by well over 200 percent between 2000 and today, with its Median Age only varying from 33.2 years in 2000 to 32.7 years in 2020.

	2000	2006-2010	2016-2020
19 and Under	32.4%	29.3%	32.6%
20 to 34	20.5%	22.9%	22.7%
35 to 49	24.9%	24.4%	23.4%
50 to 64	12.3%	15.6%	14.1%
65 and Over	9.8%	7.7%	7.2%
Median Age	33.2%	33.4%	32.7%

*Source: 2000 Census; 2006-2010 and 2016-2020 American Community Survey five-year estimates*

[CMAP Community Data Snapshot | Yorkville \(illinois.gov\)](https://illinois.gov/cmap-community-data-snapshot/yorkville)

## Lifecycle Living

Yorkville's demographics support a novel approach to thinking about Aging-in-Community: rather than a sole focus on older residents as a monolithic group that should be thought about and planned for in isolation, Yorkville might wish to take a more holistic 'lifecycle' approach and look for opportunities to support its older adults in ways that also support younger adults, families, and children in the community. Indeed, during this engagement and the

planning of the AiaCR workshops, the Core Team agreed with this strategy and coined the phrase "Lifecycle Living" as the frame for this mutually intergenerational strategy. As we believe that Lifecycle Living considerably overlaps with and is consistent with Aging-in-Community, the two phrases will be used somewhat interchangeably through the remainder of this document, including in its title.



*"Lifecycle Living" suggests a mindset similarly broad as Yorkville's skies*



## Yorkville's Plans & Ordinances

Yorkville's award-winning Comprehensive Plan was developed in 2016, just as the city and region was emerging from a significant economic recession, and it made numerous recommendations intended to identify a strategic vision that incorporated sustainable growth and addressed quality of life issues. Many of the key planning issues that it identified then are still very relevant today. While the Comprehensive Plan included several references and recommendations consistent with Aging-in-Community or Lifecycle Living, it did not specifically address or include them in its Implementation Strategy section beyond a reference to a generalized need for additional "senior housing". In 2024, Yorkville will begin updating the Comprehensive Plan, with a scheduled 2026 completion.

Yorkville is currently developing a Unified Development Ordinance to consolidate its development ordinances into a single document and provide more clarity and flexibility in its development process.

In 2019 Yorkville developed a Streetscape Master Plan for the Downtown Overlay District and is currently considering implementation steps. Responding to the Comprehensive Plan's calls to better support and build upon Downtown's assets, the Streetscape Master Plan identified a set of strategies to help "building community and quality of life".

This engagement is intended to support and be consistent with these and other key City initiatives and strategies, and the recommendations contained herein should in part be viewed with this in mind.



# Yorkville's Physical Environment

Yorkville prides itself for having the “characteristics of small-town charm near big city amenities”. As a developer-built – rather than a planned – community, Yorkville provides some atypical considerations when strategizing approaches to Aging-in-Community or Lifecycle Living. Some of these considerations are visible from viewing the chronological mapping on the City's website or its Zoning Map, both of which evidence large undeveloped or unincorporated parcels interspersed with developed neighborhoods and subdivisions – what the 2016 Comprehensive Plan described as “a somewhat scattered, leap-frog manner”. The fact that Yorkville's city limits currently encompass about 20 square miles while its planning area exceeds 70 square miles underscores that some of the challenges of creating a more physically connected community.

Yorkville's residential neighborhoods vary in terms of housing types, and the neighborhoods themselves fall into one of two main types. The City's Future Land Use Map differentiates between “Traditional Neighborhood Residential” (*spanning the Fox River on both sides of Bridge Street*) and “Suburban Neighborhoods” (*much of the residentially zoned property on throughout Yorkville*). The Traditional Neighborhoods consist of homes primarily spaced on smaller lots on rectilinear gridded streets that meet at intersections, while the Suburban Neighborhoods often consist of larger houses on lots located on curvilinear streets that often end in cul-de-sacs. Suburban Neighborhoods are generally internally focused and replete with parks and greenways, paths and trails, and water features, while Traditional Neighborhoods are more externally focused, and often rely on adjacent or nearby institutions for their recreational needs. The current draft Unified Development Ordinance, while eliminating minimum lot sizes, maintains the distinction between what it refers to as “Traditional Residence” and “Suburban Residence” districts.



*Yorkville clearly has the Fox River in its heart*



*Many of Yorkville's traditional neighborhoods are just south of the Fox River*



*Many new/recent neighborhoods incorporate path and trail networks*





***Yorkville contains a handful of townhome developments***



***Yorkville also has a few low-slung multi-unit developments***



***Some recent infill developments target the older adult downsizing market***



***Yorkville features the affordable Anthony Place older adult development***

Much of Yorkville's commercial core is at or near the intersection of Bridge Street and Veterans Parkway, with the civic campus along Game Farm Road nearby. The physical distance between these key civic amenities and much of Yorkville's residential population, and the need to cross one or both major vehicular thoroughfares to access them, is one factor contributing to Yorkville's disconnectedness.

## Yorkville's Housing Stock

In general, Yorkville's housing stock is typical to Kendall County and the region's far-flung suburbs, with approximately 85 percent of the housing stock detached or attached single-family homes, nearly 3/4 of which contain three or more bedrooms. The variety and age-diversity of its neighborhoods, however, does give Yorkville a wide range of housing types, with its single-family homes ranging from smaller traditional designs to larger newer suburban designs, and the remainder of Yorkville housing stock including multiple story apartment buildings and attached townhome developments.

Yorkville notably includes several housing developments designed to provide a range of housing options for older adults, including Anthony Place, which contains 50 one and two-bedroom units (*three of which receive municipal rent support*) for adults 55 and older who meet its income restrictions, Heartland Meadows, an under-construction development of 46 freestanding single-family homesites for adults 55 and older, and a handful of assisted living and memory care facilities.

# Yorkville's Aging in a Changing Region Engagement

## Municipal Workshops

A key component of AiaCR is a pair of educational and strategic workshops, planned in coordination with a Core Team of key municipal and stakeholder contacts. At each workshop, Planning/Aging provided a brief educational background to explain Aging-in-Community, framed in an intergenerational “livable communities for all ages” manner, as values held by older adults – appropriate and affordable housing options, transportation options, convenient goods and services, safe places to gather, and access to information and engagement opportunities – are consistent with those held by younger adults.

Planning engagements typically include a robust assessment of a community's assets and challenges. The limited AiaCR scope, however, required an informal streamlined assessment process, in which Planning/Aging spoke with key community stakeholders, and reviewed guidance documents such as the community's

Comprehensive, Housing, Transportation plans and other available, relevant municipal information. In addition, residents and key internal and external stakeholders were asked to complete brief input/assessment forms on which residents shared their experiences living and aging in the community, and stakeholders assessed how well they felt the community currently supported Aging-in-Community.

The highlights from this collected resident and stakeholder input were presented, along with facilitated discussions that were the core of the workshops: engaging residents to share their lived experiences and ideas as to how they think the community would be able to support them in the future; and internal and other key stakeholders to consider ways they might be able to augment or modify their services and strategies to better support Aging-in-Community going forward.



*Receiving resident input at Workshop #1*



*The Workshop #2 audience shared much meaningful input*



# Yorkville's Workshops

Yorkville's Workshop #1 was held on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Its attendance was 13 people, about 1/3 residents, and the other 2/3 stakeholders and Core Team members. Workshop #1's discussion was valuable but limited due to the small crowd size.

Workshop #2 was held on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, and thanks to a robust publicity campaign, its attendance was approximately 40 people, about 3/4 residents, and the other 1/4 elected officials and department heads from municipal government, sister agencies such as the Library and partner stakeholder organizations.

The facilitated discussion at Workshop #2 was a true engagement highlight, as residents and stakeholders engaged one another on their thoughts as to what constitutes a true caring community, and how residents can help engender it.

## Key Input

Certain significant themes stood out from the facilitated discussions with residents at the two workshops, including:

- What attendees like about Yorkville includes the sense of community and the safe, small-town feel, many available activities, responsive staff and public officials, and having neighbors who know and look out for one another
- Features attendees particularly appreciate include the library, the fact that traffic flow and the ability to get through town are generally easy, open spaces, and access to the Fox River
- To the attendees, successful Aging-in-



*The engagement between attendees was a particular Workshop #2 highlight*

Community would include timely access to food, medicine, and emergency services, a range of appropriate housing options, affordable transportation options that include door-to-door service, healthy eating and affordable exercising opportunities, wellness options, and social connectivity

- Attendees reported getting their general information from a variety of digital and hard-copy, formal and informal sources, and felt the need to proactively seek out much of this info, and wondered if the awareness and information gathering struggles many older adults face could be lessened
- The attendees agreed that for any information specific to older adults Senior Services Associates at the Beecher Center is a one-stop information source





*Some homes have had multiple generations of residents from within one family*

- Attendees stated that there is not enough appropriate and affordable housing to support older residents staying in Yorkville, and people who have been here for years have had to move
- Some older adults in Yorkville have no help either because they have no children or few children that cannot (*or will not*) help their parents. These people need to rely on support services
- Amongst attendees, most live in single family houses, with only a few in townhomes. 1/4 reported that they will be able to age in their current homes, while 3/4 say they'll want or need to move, and would be looking for single-level, lower maintenance; more affordable/lower tax options
- But most attendees fear that their desired/needed next home does not exist in Yorkville, for different reasons: some want more service/amenity rich housing options, while others want lesser service/amenity rich but more affordable housing options
- There was some concern about older homeowners being able to receive lawn mowing and other maintenance support services
- There is some interest in multi-generational solutions and other creative housing options such as mid-town locations with good access to commercial and other amenities
- It was noted that too often, aging is viewed as relevant just to older adults rather than being viewed from a broader community lifecycle perspective
- It is difficult for older adults to access transportation. While KAT (*Kendall Area Transit*) is well-received, there is interest in having other transportation services. There is little or no on-demand or public transit for older or younger working adults
- Attendees reported mixed results on accessibility within their neighborhoods, with some neighborhoods having complete sidewalk, path, and trail networks, while other are missing sidewalks

- Public spaces, physical accessibility and amenities are generally seen as good. Social accessibility however is seen as more of an individual matter, with comments that residents “need to put yourself out there” and “be a joiner”
- One attendee mentioned that “since the church is no longer the center of the community, Yorkville is doing things that keep the community together”
- There are concerns about roadway crosswalks with crossing times too quick for many older adults' pace
- Linking intergenerational matters and roadway crossing safety are concerns about younger Yorkville residents showing a lack of respect for older adults walking or driving
- Some attendees indicated that they currently avoid Yorkville's downtown due to narrow sidewalks, the difficulty of navigation, and a lack of parking

## Resident Input Forms

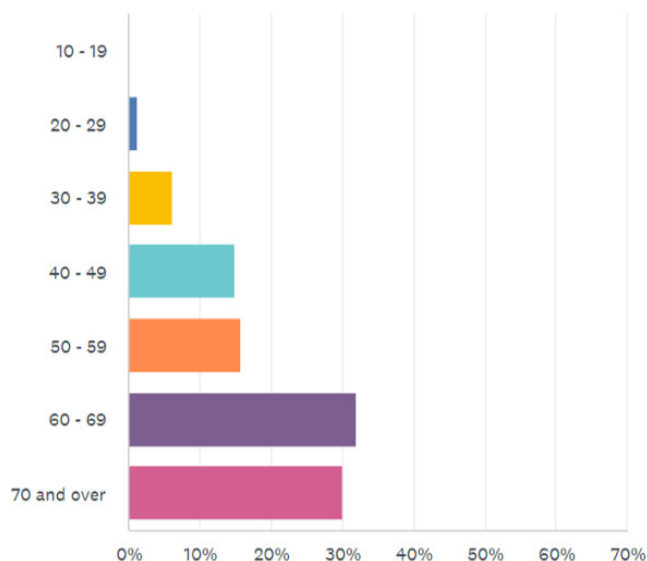
In addition to the two public workshops, residents of all ages were invited to complete and submit a short informal survey document that gave them an opportunity to share their lived Yorkville experience. The Resident Input Forms were made available at Village Hall, the Beecher Center, at older adult residences, online and elsewhere.

Nearly 230 Resident Input Forms were submitted, with respondents ranging from their 20s to their 70s, spread rather evenly from 30 years and older. Respondents' tenure living in Yorkville skewed heavily towards recent arrivals, with ~3/4 living in Yorkville fewer than 20 years.

Much of the input from the submitted Resident Input Forms reiterated themes

Please select your age category:

Answered: 229 Skipped: 0



***Yorkville residents of various ages completed and submitted 229 Resident Input Forms***

from the public workshops, including: how respondents get their general and older-adult focused information; that respondents primarily live in single-family homes, which mostly meet their current needs, but that only about half believe will meet their future needs; that their desired future housing would differ from their current housing by being smaller, single-story, more easily maintained and more affordable, and perhaps would offer support services.

*Yorkville was unique among AiaCR municipalities in that it had the benefit of a Yorkville High School intern – Alexandria Sandoval – who, as part of her internship with the Community Development Department, modified the Resident Input Form and distributed it to her peers and their parents. As about 2/3 of Alexandria's respondents were her peers, the responses she received broadened the age range of Yorkville's*

*resident respondents and offered important insights on how to formulate the Lifecycle Living approach to better resonate with residents throughout their lifespans. While almost all of Alexandria's respondents indicated that Yorkville is a good place to live and raise families, not surprisingly most of the younger respondents feel at present that they will choose to live elsewhere. This suggests that part of Yorkville's Lifecycle Living strategy should mindfully engage with younger residents, and work to engage them in community matters. Specific community and culture building initiatives such as revitalizing Downtown may be good starting points for intergenerational engagement.*

## Stakeholder Assessments

In addition to receiving input from residents, key internal and external stakeholders were asked for their views on how Yorkville currently supports Aging-in-Community. 13 assessments from internal stakeholders – from the Administration, Building Safety & Zoning, Community Development, Engineering and Public Works departments, the City Clerk's Office, and the Bristol Kendall Fire Protection District – were

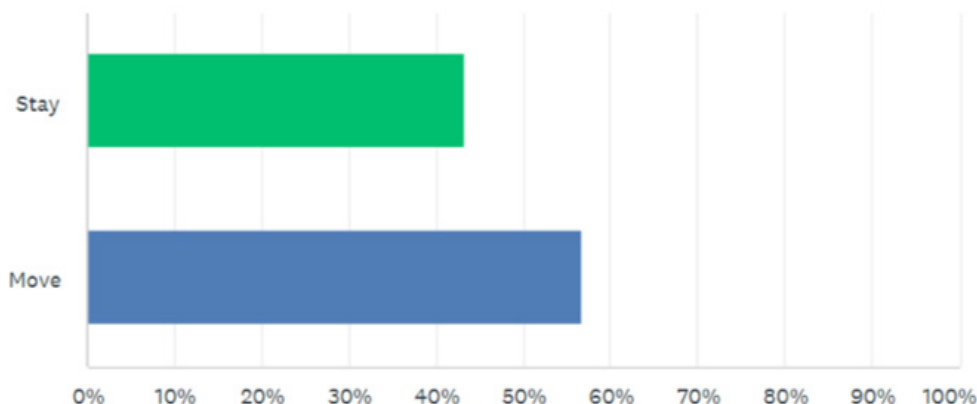
submitted. In addition, we received 20 assessments from external stakeholder partners with Senior Services Associates, Kendall County Health Department, and the Yorkville Public Library.

The key points from this stakeholder input included:

- A belief that both they and many of Yorkville's older residents share a moderate knowledge of existing older adult services
- While getting feedback from older residents on existing or missing services or programs is often a challenge as many are not comfortable with digital communication, the feedback received is mostly positive, with some concerns about a shortage of information and/or programs
- The most consistent area of concern was for a need to expand transportation options for Yorkville residents
- Yorkville's key municipal issues are seen as economic development, additional older adult housing options, and improved older adult access to health care

Will you be able to age in your current housing (stay) or will you have to move at some point?

Answered: 229 Skipped: 0



*A majority of respondents anticipate needing or wanting to move from their current housing at some point*



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## FOR ELEVATING AGING-IN-COMMUNITY/ LIFECYCLE LIVING IN YORKVILLE

### ✓ COORDINATION

*Take a “whole-of-government” approach to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living*

*Establish an Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living Commission to play a policy and review role*

*Incorporate Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living into key municipal initiatives*

*Include Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living as a pillar of the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Update*

*View public realm opportunities as important to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living*

*View Yorkville's housing issues in part through an Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living lens*

*Investigate including “Missing Middle Housing” options in Yorkville's housing stock*

*Develop the Downtown Overlay District in support of Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living*

*Review operations and programs for Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living consistency*

### ✓ COLLABORATION

*Continue to leverage and grow working partnerships with key stakeholder partners*

*Better collaborate with the network of existing service-providers to reduce the knowledge gap*

*Explore developing expanded partnership opportunities between Yorkville's younger and older adult groups*

*Incorporate the faith community in overall Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living efforts*

*Regularly attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative*

### ✓ COMMUNICATION

*Elevate and promote Yorkville's commitment to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living*

*Provide a consistent and integrated message about Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living*

*Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior*

# Recommendations for Elevating Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living in Yorkville

From the beginning of this engagement, one of the City's goals was an identification and analysis of gaps to its present level of support of Aging-in-Community (and eventually an even broader "Lifecycle Living" framework). As the engagement progressed – and as crystalized by the discussion between residents at Workshop #2 – it became clear that strategic recommendations addressing Yorkville's physical and social environments were in order.

The following recommendations have been grouped into three broad and inter-related categories of **Coordination** (*between Yorkville's various programs and goals*), **Collaboration** (*with existing and potential partners*), and **Communication** (*and knowledge-sharing, both internal and external*).

## COORDINATION

### Take a "whole-of-government" approach to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living

Experience elsewhere indicates that a key success factor for building a robust Aging-in-Community or Lifecycle Living-type program is positioning it within a whole of government framework, wherein diverse governmental departments and sister agencies coordinate in addressing shared issues or challenges, rather than delegating Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living to a single department or agency. While this

applies to any municipality, it is particularly important for a City like Yorkville that must utilize its human and financial resources creatively and efficiently.

### Establish an Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living Commission to play a policy and review role

As a wide swath of Yorkville should collectively "own" Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living, establishing a new, ongoing Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living Commission would help embed this commitment into City practice and insulate it from potential future electoral or community changes. Ideally, the Commission would include a range of members representing the public and private sectors, community stakeholders (*such as sister agencies like the Yorkville Public Library, and social service, health care and housing organizations which support older adults, veterans, youth and others*), and residents from throughout the lifecycle. The Commission would be charged with setting its own operational rules, meeting regularly to provide an ongoing forum for coordinating Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living activities, reviewing significant development proposals as to their impacts on Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living, and preparing and presenting to the City Council a 'State of Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living in Yorkville' annual update.



*Envision Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living as important pillars of tomorrow's Yorkville*

**Incorporate Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living into key municipal initiatives**

Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living should become an important lens through which proposed City projects, capital improvements, programs or strategies are viewed and evaluated – regardless of whether these initiatives are seen as primarily benefitting Yorkville’s economic development, infrastructure, sustainability or other key agendas. This evaluation should ask: how would these plans, programs or strategies impact the older adult population, and how would they advance Yorkville towards being a Lifecycle Living community that supports residents of all ages?

**Include Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living as a pillar of the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Update**

The upcoming Comprehensive Plan Update provides an ideal opportunity to cement Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living as an important civic value and coordinate it with other community goals and aspirations on an ongoing policy basis. This could be done in different ways, such as identifying specific Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living attributes for multiple land use types or districts or developing Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living as part of an overall community vision and linking it to developed “placemaking and community character”-type considerations.



### **View public realm opportunities as important to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living**

Yorkville's public realm and its walkability and accessibility are important elements of a livable community for all ages. Workshop attendees and other residents pointed out connectivity gaps within some neighborhoods, between neighborhoods, along major roadways, and throughout some of Yorkville's commercial core. Yorkville should pursue all opportunities to address these issues, and over time eliminate gaps and barriers in order to better provide for better community physical connectivity and support Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living.

### **View Yorkville's housing issues in part through an Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living lens**

Yorkville's older residents speak openly about housing-related concerns, such as their ability to navigate multiple-story single family houses, affordability, and upkeep challenges. With most of Yorkville's older adults living independently throughout the City, viewing issues about the condition and affordability of Yorkville's housing stock in part through an Aging-in-Community lens will help identify older-adult housing needs and gaps in Yorkville's housing stock, guide housing-related policy decisions, inform development planning, and market specific opportunities to targeted developers.

### **Investigate including "Missing Middle Housing" options in Yorkville's housing stock**

The phrase "Missing Middle Housing" refers to a spectrum of house-scale buildings with multiple units in walkable neighborhoods, some of which might fit Yorkville's housing needs and support Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living. It could be a valuable exercise to utilize the Missing Middle Housing framework and check the



*Community connectivity will require closing some public sidewalk gaps*

new Unified Development Ordinance's Residential District definitions to determine whether Missing Middle Housing types would be allowable.

### **Develop the Downtown Overlay District in support of Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living**

The implementation stage of the Streetscape Master Plan for the Downtown Overlay District is another ideal opportunity for mindful incorporation of Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living considerations. In addition to the proposed area walkability improvements, carefully consider adding creative new housing, commercial, recreational and programming options that could provide support, attract and/or retain current Yorkville residents from throughout the lifespan.

### **Review operations and programs for Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living consistency**

City departmental staff should conduct a review of their operations and programs to identify any requirements that explicitly or unintentionally undercut support for Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living, and work with the Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living Commission (see above) to remedy any findings. Even if this review does not unearth barriers, it may reveal opportunities for enhancements to foster broader community engagement and participation.



*This engagement helped build some strong links between Yorkville staff and key stakeholder partners*

## **COLLABORATION**

### **Continue to leverage and grow working partnerships with key stakeholder partners**

The Core Team established to help guide this engagement has proven to be a fine example of working between silos to build awareness of existing programs and services that support older adults, their caregivers and families, and veterans in the community, as well as to begin envisioning new opportunities to expand and enhance these services. This wonderful spirit of partnership should be continued and expanded to more fully include additional partners such as the Parks & Recreation Department and the Library.

### **Better collaborate with the network of existing service-providers to reduce the knowledge gap**

This engagement also made clear that a knowledge gap exists between Yorkville's staff and the network of external stakeholder organizations that supports older adults and their caregivers with a range of support services. Efforts (such as the new Aging-in-Community Commission discussed above) and ongoing training should be made to elevate staff awareness of existing service-providers to help staff better collaborate with them and to increase their ability to refer older adult Yorkville residents and caregivers.

### **Explore developing expanded partnership opportunities between Yorkville's younger and older adult groups**

An existing internship arrangement with Yorkville High School was already pointed out as a mutually-beneficial example that benefitted this engagement. It might be seen as an example of an even richer palette of partnership opportunities



for residents throughout the lifespan – students with service learning and mentorship needs, and technical skills, and older adults who can draw upon decades of experiences, and who may have technical questions or needs. This expanded partnership could leverage and draw upon the existing “Volunteering & Community Involvement” page on City website.

### **Incorporate the faith community in overall Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living efforts**

Yorkville's faith community appeared to be absent from this engagement, although churches and places of worship certainly play a substantial role supporting the community's older adults and their caregivers and families, as well as provide a range of services for younger people. Better coordination with the faith community would likely increase Yorkville's overall Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living engagement and support level.

### **Regularly attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative**

The quarterly Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative meetings typically include representatives of several dozen regional municipalities involved with Aging-in-Community activities and provide topical knowledge and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Yorkville's experiences with and lessons learned from the AiaCR program during 2022 will likely be of interest to other municipalities. The Collaborative can also serve as a portal to other regional Aging-in-Community activities sponsored by a range of stakeholder entities, such as the bi-monthly American Society on Aging topical roundtables (*see the Appendix for further resource information*).

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Elevate and promote Yorkville's commitment to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living**

Yorkville should express and promote its support for Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living more visibly, as a true commitment to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living is not obvious in some of Yorkville's communications, including but not limited to the City's website. A clear statement such as *“Yorkville is committed to Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living!”* could set the tone, followed by a continuity of commitment and purpose on appropriate following or linked pages.



*Some of Yorkville's oldest houses are well into their second century of occupancy*





*Establishing meaningful linkages between the two sides of the Fox River and between all elements of Yorkville's population can be viewed as twin, linked goals*

### **Provide a consistent and integrated message about Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living**

Yorkville should convey a “whole-of-enterprise” approach towards Aging-in-Community/Lifecycle Living, whereby support of older adult residents and others is purposefully integrated into the work of all City departments and sister agencies, and not isolated to any one entity. Currently, the various services, programs and events specifically targeted towards older adults are found in several places on the City’s website. This could be reevaluated as to whether and how they might be better consolidated to make resident searches and inquiries even easier.

### **Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior**

Ageism is discrimination against older people due to negative and inaccurate stereotypes. Consciously ensure that all references to Yorkville’s older adults characterizes them as civic assets and resources to be leveraged in a Lifecycle Living community, rather than viewing them solely through a needs-based or a medical lens. Most of Yorkville’s older adults live independently among the general population, rather than in buildings that specifically support older adults, so they should be celebrated for their independence and contributions to Yorkville more so than for their dependence.

# Aging-in-Community Resources

Some excellent centralized document repositories at which to find Aging-in-Community resources are listed below – Yorkville is likely already familiar with many of them. There may be some redundancies as certain documents may be included in multiple repositories. Some of these repositories will provide links to additional resources. Carefully evaluate any resources found for their applicability to Yorkville's specific interests and needs.

This list is not exhaustive, and it focuses on Aging-in-Community resources. A companion list may be developed to include additional Lifecycle Living resources.

## Aging in a Changing Region Partner Organization Resources

### [Aging-in-Community - Mayors Caucus](#)

The Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and Aging in a Changing Region are the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' two programs focused on helping municipalities issues related to their growing older adult populations.

### [AFCC REPOSITORY - Google Drive](#)

This data repository is maintained by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and includes both resource materials and documents developed for its Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative.

### [Home - CMAP \(illinois.gov\)](#)

The Chicagoland Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the seven-county metropolitan Chicago region, and develops and provides plans, programs, and other initiatives.

### [Aging in Place - CMAP \(illinois.gov\)](#)

CMAP developed this Aging in Place white paper in 2016.

### [Planning Aging-Supportive Communities](#)

This 2015 American Planning Association (APA) Planners Advisory Service report was primarily authored by Brad Winick of Planning/Aging. APA members can download the report for free, others are required to purchase it for \$25.

## Local/Regional Aging-in-Community Aging Network Organizations Serving Yorkville

### [AgeGuide](#)

AgeGuide (*officially known as AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois*) is one of 13 Area Agencies on Aging in Illinois, serves as the planning and service agency for DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties, and works with local partners to implement the Older Americans Act and coordinate a wide variety of services to support people 60 and over, their caregivers and relatives raising children.

<http://www.seniorservicesassoc.org/>

Senior Services Associates provides a wide range of services to support older adults, their caregivers and families, and veterans, and is dedicated to preserving their independence, promoting mental and physical well-being and protecting their rights and dignity. Many of SSA's services and programs are provided at the Beecher Center.

<http://www.cnnssa.org/>

Community Nutrition Network and Senior Services Association is associated with Meals on Wheels, its fundraising, community outreach, and public awareness arm, and provides home-delivered and congregate dining site meal services to qualified older adults.

<http://www.kendallhealth.org/>

The Kendall County Health Department promotes physical, mental, environmental and protects the community's health, and prevents disease, and promotes family economic self-sufficiency through person-based services and population-based programs. KCHD is headquartered in Yorkville.

<http://www.pslegal.org/>

Prairie State Legal Services provides low-income older adults and vulnerable people access to legal services to meet their basic needs and help them be treated fairly in the pursuit of justice.

[Veteran Assistance | Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County | Illinois \(kendallvets.org\)](http://www.kendallvets.org/)

The non-profit Kendall County Veterans Assistance Commission is dedicated to supporting veterans and their families by providing a range of social, logistical, and mental health support services.

[About KAT - Voluntary Action Center \(vacdk.com\)](http://www.vacdck.com)

Kendall Area Transit is a general public transportation service that prioritizes service for older adults and disabled persons, and offers to registered riders demand response service within Kendall County and to designated locations outside of Kendall County.

## Aging-in-Community General Resources

### ASA Roundtables

The local chapter of the American Society on Aging stages free bi-monthly topical Roundtables, often on Aging-in-Community topics. Currently being staged virtually due to COVID-19, they had previously been presented at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. Bonnie Ewald ([Bonnie.Ewald@rush.edu](mailto:Bonnie.Ewald@rush.edu)) serves as the roundtable coordinator.

### [AARP Livable Communities Publications and Resources](#)

This repository is the best location at which to explore AARP's many resources, including its Livable Communities and Public Policy Institute initiatives and publications, and the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

### [AARP Illinois](#)

The AARP-Illinois state has a number of staff persons involved with advocacy and community engagement, and who may be able to provide linkages to AARP's extensive data resources.



### [Resources for Age-Friendly Communities | The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation](#)

The New Jersey-based Taub Foundation includes Aging-in-Community as one of its primary focus topics, and maintains a comprehensive and well-organized Aging-in-Community library.

### [Age-Friendly Resources | Grantmakers in Aging \(giaging.org\)](#)

New York City-based Grantmakers-in-Aging is the preeminent membership organization for philanthropies focused on aging issues. It maintains a resource center full of GIA-funded and other resources.

### [Publications \(usaging.org\)](#)

Washington DC-based US Aging (*formerly the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging – “n4a”*) maintains an extensive searchable database of primarily n4a-sponsored reports and other documents.

### [Research \(ncoa.org\)](#)

The Washington DC-based National Council on Aging (ncoa) provides research articles and other materials for older adults, caregivers, aging professionals and advocates, primarily developed by ncoa staff and its partners.

### [Communities for All Ages Initiatives | MARC](#)

The Mid-America Regional Council serving the Kansas City region has housed for over ten years one of the country’s preeminent Aging-in-Community programs, which includes the Communities for All Ages initiative that works with member communities in some ways similar to the Aging in a Changing Region program. The CfAA webpage contains valuable information on housing and other important topics

### [First Suburbs Coalition | MARC](#)

A related MARC initiative is the First Suburbs Coalition, which focuses on developing useful housing remodeling and zoning-related information and tools targeted to suburban communities whose housing stock was largely built between World War II and 1970

## Planning Resources

[Search \(planning.org\)](#) (*American Planning Association resources search results for “Aging-in-Community”*)

The American Planning Association maintains a resource library searchable by topic, including this link to Aging-in-Community resources.

### [Building a Community for All Ages | City of Raymore, MO](#)

In 2017 Raymore, Missouri, a suburban community of ~20,000 residents, developed and adopted a Community for All Ages Master Plan to link to its existing Comprehensive Plan and specifically support its Aging-in-Community initiative. This effort was a collaboration between the City of Raymore and the Kansas City Community for All Ages Initiative, and is an excellent example of codifying Aging-in-Community work at the municipal level

## Transportation Resources

### [Aging and Disability Transportation Overview | NADTC](#) *(National Aging and Disability Transportation Center)*

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) is a program initially funded in 2015 by the Federal Transit Administration and administered by Easterseals and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). Its resource center provides information on transportation for older adults and people with disabilities.

### [Home - National Center for Mobility Management](#)

The National Center for Mobility Management is a program of NADTC that focuses on and maintains resources on person-centered transportation services.

## Housing/Aging-in-Place Resources

### [Home Sharing | Center of Concern](#)

Des Plaines-based Center of Concern provides a broad range of services to support its mission "...to provide housing solutions, support services, and counseling for older adults, people with disabilities, and others in need, enabling them to live with dignity and independence." It manages a longstanding home sharing program throughout Cook County and is available to provide consultative services throughout the region.

### [IHDA - Illinois Housing Development Authority](#)

This state agency's mission is "to finance the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois" and administers numerous programs to support lenders, developers, local government, nonprofits, community groups, homeowners and renters in delivering and maintaining affordable housing.

### [Missing Middle Housing: Diverse choices for walkable neighborhood living](#)

Opticos Design founder Daniel Parolek coined the term "Missing Middle Housing" to convey the provision of enhanced housing options for sustainable, walkable communities. This link provides examples and resources for consideration.

### [Aging in Place Resources | Aging In Place Resources for Seniors Living at Home](#)

Aginginplace.com is maintained by its Oregon-based founder Patrick Roden, a nurse by training, and it maintains a comprehensive set of resources dedicated to supporting older adults aging in place.

### [Welcome - HomesRenewed™ Resource Center](#)

HomesRenewed was founded by Maryland-based contractor and aging-in-place advocate Louis Tenenbaum and its website provides various aging-in-place materials and resources.

### [Aging in Place: Growing Older at Home | National Institute on Aging \(nih.gov\)](#)

The National Institute on Aging is a program of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and has developed a database of aging-in-place resources.

## Ageism Resources

### [Home \(reframingaging.org\)](http://reframingaging.org)

The Reframing Aging Initiative began in 2012 as a shared initiative of eight national aging organizations to find out how the American public perceives of aging, and once it was determined that this perception was negative, developing an infrastructure of strategies and techniques to convey more positive and supportive messaging. This website offers many tools and resources.

### [Old School: Anti-Ageism Clearinghouse](#)

This clearing house was established by anti-ageism activist Ashton Applewhite and her colleagues, and it provides free and vetted resources to help educate people about ageism and how to dismantle it.

## Intergenerational Resources

### [Resources - Generations United \(gu.org\)](http://gu.org)

Generations United is the preeminent national advocacy and informational organization supporting intergenerational collaborations, programs, and policies. Established by a group of organizations that focused on different portions of the lifespan, it maintains a resource library.



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## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

*This document itself was produced to be supportive of aging-in-community. All of the graphic details – font selection, a minimum 12-point font size, page layouts, the inclusion of graphics, avoiding the use of reversed-out text on light colored backgrounds, etc. – were made to make this document easily legible for anyone with visual sensitivity issues. Just as the body of this document makes the case that municipal decisions supportive of aging-in-community are innately supportive of livable communities for all ages, this document itself should be seen as innately supportive of readers of all ages.*

*One final aging-in-community recommendation is that all municipal documents, websites, social media postings, etc. should consciously strive to be easily legible for all viewers, including – but not limited to – older adults.*