
JOLIET HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

2025 – YEAR IN REVIEW

GOALS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

Educate the Public about Historic Resources

Utilize Historic Preservation Month (May) as an opportunity to promote Joliet’s unique historic resources:

- create a programmatic calendar for Historic Preservation Month
- utilize social media platforms for disseminating content to the public
- co-sponsor one educational program

Staff completed daily posts about architectural styles and historic information. Commission co-sponsored Stone & Steeples architectural tour.

Stewardship of Designated Historic Properties

Update the Certificate of Appropriateness Application form and website to ensure a clear, transparent, prompt and predictable permitting process

This did not occur.

Promote Historic Resources

Ensure that the City’s historic resources are considered during the City’s Comprehensive Plan process

- Review examples of preservation plans
- Sponsor a historic preservation / heritage tourism workshop to aid in the development of the City’s Comprehensive Plan
- Review and comment on draft comprehensive plan

The Comprehensive Plan project launched in 2025. Goals & Objectives related neighborhood character, community identity, and heritage are included in the Vision, Goals, & Objectives Statement. The Arts, Culture, & Heritage Workshop occurred on January 21, 2026.

Partner with the JAHM and comparable organizations to co-sponsor one educational program utilizing research from HPC / City sponsored projects.

Commission co-sponsored Stone & Steeples architectural tour. JAHM is also a committed partner with the Joliet Area African American Historic Context Study.

Review data input process and efficiency of the City’s building permit software program

Ongoing

Encourage use of the Residential and Commercial Design Guidelines Manuals

- Work with City Center Partnership to encourage use of Commercial Design Guidelines Manual

Targeted outreach in coordination with the CCP did not occur.

<p>Hold two technical workshops. Potential topics include: painting / siding, windows, real estate, insurance, financial incentives, etc. <i>The SHPO confirmed that they would conduct two workshops on the state's Property Tax Assessment Freeze Program and Tax Credits; however, this was put off due to the delay of the River Edge Redevelopment Zone Program implementation.</i></p>	<p>Promote applicable workshop opportunities to property owners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update email database of historic property owners so that staff can forward free workshop opportunities <i>This did not occur.</i></p>	<p>Ensure an active historic and cultural resource survey program. Potential projects include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hitching posts and related Black and Latinx historic resources Neighborhood-based businesses Catalog homes <p><i>The Commission initiated survey of hitching posts in November 2025. The Joliet Area African American Historic Context Study will result in resource identification.</i></p>
<p>Deliver a presentation at the Joliet Landlord Training should this event be held. <i>This did not occur.</i></p>	<p>Establish a building permit fee waiver program and explore waiver of other development fees <i>Staff prepared preliminary information but did not move forward with implementation.</i></p>	<p>Sponsor the Annual Historic Preservation Awards Program <i>The City made two awards in 2025: 900 N. Raynor & Patrick Haley Mansion</i></p>
	<p>Continue Holiday Card project as a method of communicating updates and recognizing property owner contribution's to preserving Joliet's heritage <i>Holiday Card was sent</i></p>	<p>Nominate or encourage nomination of at least one property as a landmark <i>This did not occur</i></p>
	<p>Review applicability of Existing Building Code and building inspection process for designated and undesignated historic buildings <i>This did not occur.</i></p>	<p>Survey properties on the endangered property list and regularly update and review the list of endangered historic properties <i>This did not occur.</i></p>
	<p>Meet with the residents of the Upper Bluff Local Historic Districts <i>This did not occur</i></p>	

Address shortage of available and knowledgeable historic preservation-minded contractors.

- 1. Prepare inventory of local contractors.**
- 2. Convene meeting with local contractors**
- 3. Understand training gaps at local and regional programs**
- 4. Work with LI to address issue at the regional and state level.**

This did not occur. This is a national issue that is also being addressed at higher levels. did not occur.

Monitor the successful completion of ongoing projects:

- 1. Joliet Area African American Historic Context Study**
This project has two components – a written study and oral histories. The City received an extension from the State and these projects will conclude summer of 2026.
 - 2. Route 66 Centennial**
Staff participates in Route 66 Centennial events. Staff oversaw completion of ADA and circulation enhancements at this location.
 - 3. I-80 Des Plaines River Bridge Community Plan**
Documentation of neighborhood history and oral histories are part of this project. Project expected to conclude at the end of 2026.
 - 4. Joliet Comprehensive Plan**
The Comprehensive Plan project launched in 2025. Goals & Objectives related neighborhood character, community identity, and heritage are included in the Vision, Goals, & Objectives Statement. The Arts, Culture, & Heritage Workshop occurred on January 21, 2026.
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Explore possible funding sources such as CLG, NPS, and C.D.B.G funds for identified historic preservation projects.

(Approved on January 22, 2025)