

Historic Preservation FAQs

What is the Park Ridge Historic Preservation Commission?

The Park Ridge Historic Preservation Commission is composed of nine residents, appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of City Council, with various backgrounds. The Commission is responsible for many things, including identifying buildings and areas having historic significance; recommending the designation of landmarks and structures in historic districts; reviewing proposed alterations to landmarks and structures within historic districts; and educating the public about historic preservation. The Commission meets monthly and its meetings are public.

What is a local landmark and what are the benefits of local landmark designation?

A local landmark is a site or structure that has been identified as a critical architectural, historical, or cultural resource with significance to Park Ridge. The Historic Preservation Commission recommends approval to the City Council, and the City Council takes final action on landmark designation.

The benefits of owning a local landmark are recognition and protection of the landmark as a significant Park Ridge historic, architectural or cultural resource. Other benefits include participation in the nationwide effort to preserve the character of local communities, and possible tax benefits through the State of Illinois.

Is owner consent required for landmark designation?

Yes, owner consent is required to become a local landmark.

If my home is designated a landmark, what additional approvals are required for any exterior modifications, etc.?

A Certificate of Appropriateness is required for an alteration to a landmarked structure. The Historic Preservation Commission will review the proposed changes. Appearance Commission review is not required for landmarked properties. Landscaping changes alone and interior modifications are not subject to any additional reviews.

If I sell my home after it is designated a landmark, can the next homeowner rescind the designation?

It is possible to rescind the designation, although the Commission would encourage and assist the owner in finding alternative options and solutions.

What is a historic district, and what are the benefits of being in an historic district?

An historic district is a group of historic resources that are deemed significant as a collection of structures.

The purpose of designation of a district is to protect significant buildings within its boundaries from unnecessary or insensitive destruction, alteration or removal. Recognition of the special historic, architectural or cultural qualities that make Park Ridge a unique and desirable place is another benefit.

Is owner consent required for historic districts?

Consent by the owners of not less than two-thirds of the zoning lots within the proposed historic district is required. Applications for historic districts must have at least 50% of the zoning lots proposed within the district's consent.

When does the Historic Preservation Commission meet?

The Commission meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00pm at the Park Ridge City Hall, 505 Butler Place, in the Council Chambers on the 1st floor.

If I have more questions, who should I contact?

You may contact Jon Branham, City Planner, with any questions at (847) 318-5203 or at jbranham@parkridge.us.