

The Aurora, Plainfield & Joliet Streetcar Barn
24216 W Lockport Street
Plainfield

The restoration and redevelopment of the 1903 Streetcar Barn is a featured site in the Plainfield Riverfront Master Plan. The property is located in the TIF District and is eligible for as much as \$150,000 matching funds of the Façade Improvement Grant Program.

The Streetcar Barn was built for the Joliet, Plainfield & Aurora Railway, a streetcar company that connected the cities of Aurora and Joliet. In 1905, the company name was changed to the Aurora, Plainfield & Joliet Railway Company. The streetcar barn is the original building built by the line at Plainfield and is the sole surviving structure of this streetcar line, which included a 20 acre resort park along the DuPage River at Plainfield from 1904-1923. The streetcar barn has been enlarged over time; however, the original structure remains intact within the building complex and has been identified as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The brick building is largely vacant and has received only minor repair work in the last two decades, leading to deterioration due to deferred maintenance. Although accessible to the site, up-to-date utilities have not been provided and current utility service must be upgraded; the building was last fully-utilized as a manufacturing facility for agricultural equipment. Original windows, overhead coiling doors, mechanics' bays, rails and other architectural features are reminders of the building's glory days as the repair shop for the streetcar line.

The building, which includes a sizable parking area that is a rare amenity in downtown Plainfield, is ideally situated for redevelopment as a dining or entertainment venue near the future riverfront park. The Village of Plainfield has purchased the adjacent building in order to provide a street extension, affording street frontage on three sides of the historic streetcar barn property.

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