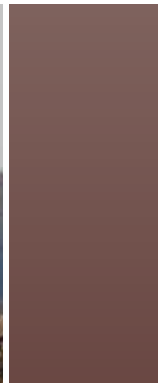


# Piatt County Comprehensive Plan



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VOLUME ONE

Created for the Piatt County Board  
in collaboration with the Piatt County  
Regional Planning Commission

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
**rpc**  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# PIATT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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## Plan Purpose

The Piatt County Comprehensive Plan promotes the logical development of all land uses in conjunction with necessary infrastructure improvements while protecting sensitive environmental, cultural, and historic areas. The plan will be a benchmark for how Piatt County develops over the next 20 or more years. It will help answer the question: As a county, are we developing and functioning the way we envisioned in our comprehensive plan?

## The Planning Process

The process for creating the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan began in September 2007 when the Piatt County Board approved the creation of the Piatt County Regional Planning Commission (PCRPC) for the purpose of developing a plan. The PCRPC is comprised of a 16-member board which includes two representatives from each civil township in Piatt County. The process extended through September 2009.

The planning process is divided into four elements:

- Existing Conditions and Trends Analysis
- Vision, Goals and Objectives
- Future Conditions
- Implementation Plan

## Existing Conditions and Trends Analysis

The Existing Conditions and Trends Analysis is the foundation for the other elements in the Comprehensive Plan. Historic trends and current data provide perspectives on how the future of Piatt County might develop. In addition, any existing policies and plans are evaluated to ensure that the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan maintains consistency with them. These perspectives in turn are reflected in later stages of the planning process, including goals and objectives identification and future conditions maps. As part of this analysis, data for the following themes were collected and, where applicable, mapped for Piatt County:

- Historic Background
- Geography
- Population and demographics
- Economy and employment
- Community facilities
- Utilities
- Housing
- Historic and cultural resources
- Transportation
- Existing land use
- Natural resources
- Nature preserves, parks and recreation

Formulating population and employment projections is another critical part of this planning phase. Projections provide a basis for estimating potential land, transportation, services, and

infrastructure needs for the future. In the next element, visioning, residents and local decision makers evaluate different growth scenarios that capture how Piatt County might look given the estimated population and employment forecasts.

### **Vision, Goals and Objectives**

Formulating a vision for the future of Piatt County involves soliciting both structured and unstructured input from residents. During this element, a public workshop facilitated collecting ideas about strengths, weaknesses, values, and desires from participating residents. Throughout the planning process, unstructured input was collected as interested parties communicated their ideas via email, phone, mail, internet and meetings with staff and county board officials.

All input received was considered in the creation of a vision for the county, which is a concise statement of what residents want to see for the future of Piatt County. Goals and objectives were formulated that detail what exact end states we want to achieve and how we can achieve them. Creating a vision, goals, and objectives establishes a general framework for the more specific questions of determining future conditions and an implementation plan.

### **Future Conditions**

Future conditions were proposed for the county based on the existing conditions and trends analysis, vision, goals, objectives, and public input. Land use, transportation, infrastructure, and services needs were identified in consideration of how Piatt County is expected to grow in population and employment over approximately 20 years.

### **Implementation Plan**

The implementation plan details the actions that need to be undertaken for Piatt County to achieve its vision for the future. Changes to existing ordinances and policies might be necessary to promote the proposed future land uses, transportation, infrastructure and services; the implementation plan details what modifications should be considered. The implementation plan also includes factors that were identified in the planning process that were beyond the scope of this plan, but should be considered and/or resolved in the future. Finally, potential funding sources were identified that can be used for implementing projects from the plan.

### *Other elements of the planning process*

The four elements identified above have distinct time frames, or stages, for their completion. Other elements in the process extend through each stage and are critical to a successful planning process:

- **Steering Committee meetings:** a total of 13 steering committee meetings occurred during the process. The meetings were spaced so that committee members typically reviewed end-stage draft documents such as the existing conditions report. Steering committee members are considered to be valuable assets to the planning process because of their knowledge of Piatt County and their ability to connect with and gather input from residents in their townships for the plan.
- **Public participation:** The principal opportunities for engaging the public in the planning process were a structured public workshop to help formulate a vision, goals and objectives in July 2008 and a public hearing for the final draft Comprehensive Plan in August 2009.

Other opportunities for public involvement were ongoing throughout the process. Steering Committee meetings and County Board meetings were open to the public and advertised in the *Journal Republican* and on the PCRPC website, [www.piattrpc.org](http://www.piattrpc.org). Residents provided input and communicate concerns to staff, steering committee members and county board officials in person, via email, telephone or regular mail.

The approval stage is the final element in the planning process. Approximately three months in summer 2009 were slated for seeking approval from the steering committee, public and county board.



## Existing Plans and Policies

Existing plans and policies provide the current planning process with perspectives on past conditions, trends, desires, values, and regulations. Each must be examined and considered in light of the current situation in the community so that the plan will be consistent with existing documents and reflective of as many input sources as possible. The following plans and policies were made available for this planning process:

### 1970 Piatt County Comprehensive Plan

#### Synopsis:

Piatt County's 1970 Comprehensive Plan was created by Harland Bartholomew and Associates under the first Piatt County Regional Planning Commission's direction. The plan includes existing and proposed future conditions perspectives on population, economy, natural and cultural resources, land use, transportation, community facilities, and housing for all municipalities and other areas of Piatt County. A capital improvements and implementation plan detailed how the proposed future conditions could be achieved over a twenty year time frame.

#### Relation to current planning process:

The 1970 plan is the foundation for the current planning process. Data and information from the previous plan will be compared to current information, and all ideas discussed in the 1970 plan will be considered in this planning process.

### City of Monticello Master Plan

#### Synopsis:

The 1998 Monticello Master Plan was prepared by Homer L. Chastain and Associates under the direction of the City Council and Planning Commission. The plan includes existing and proposed future conditions for land use, natural features, population, housing, utilities, transportation and parks. An implementation plan is included that details actions needed to realize the plan's goals and objectives over a twenty year time period.

#### Relation to current planning process:

The 1970 Piatt County Comprehensive Plan included the City of Monticello. The current plan will include aspects of the Monticello Plan so that a complete representation of the county can be made.

### City of Monticello Strategic Plan

#### Synopsis:

The Monticello Strategic Plan is a five-year action plan for future development in the community under the following themes: business development; population retention; parks and recreation, and tourism.

#### Relation to current planning process:

Recommended actions outlined in the Strategic Plan can influence goals, objectives, and implementation measures in the countywide plan.

## Village of Atwood Strategic Plan

### Synopsis:

The Atwood Strategic Plan is a five-year action plan for future development in the community under the following themes: business development; downtown retail development; housing; infrastructure; parks and recreation; population retention and tourism. A preferred future scenario for the Village was identified during the strategic plan's creation.

### Relation to current planning process:

Recommended actions outlined in the Strategic Plan can influence goals, objectives, and implementation measures in the countywide plan.

## Zoning Ordinances

### Synopsis:

Zoning ordinances are established to regulate land uses that promote compatibility of uses, protect individual and community property, and promote the logical physical development of a community. Zoning ordinances are often based on a comprehensive or master plan, as is the case for Piatt County. Each community's zoning ordinance may differ from others in the county in terms of the zones they have defined and the conditions under which development may occur. Zoning ordinances exist for:

- Piatt County (2005)
- Atwood (2007)
- Bement (1981)
- Cerro Gordo (1995)
- Cisco (1994)
- Deland (1975)
- Hammond (unknown)
- Mansfield (1980)
- Monticello (2007)

Zoning District	Piatt	Atwood	Bement	Cerro Gordo	Cisco	Deland	Hammond	Mansfield	Monticello
Agricultural or Rural	x		x		x	x		x	x
Conservation	x					x		x	x
Residential Suburban	x				x	x		x	x
Residential Urban			x	x	x	x			x
Residential Single Family		x						x	x
Residential Two-Family		x						x	x
Residential Multi-Family								x	
Residential Mobile Home		x							
Residential Mixed					x				
Business	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Neighborhood Commercial		x		x	x			x	
Industrial	x		x	x	x	x		x	x
Limited Industrial					x				
Planned Industrial								x	x
Interchange Agricultural	x								
Interchange Residential	x								
Interchange Business	x								
Interchange Industrial	x								

*Information on Hammond was not available.*

### Relation to Current Planning Process

The new Piatt County Comprehensive Plan might necessitate consideration of new or revised ordinances depending on what ideas are developed in terms of land uses and recommended development practices. Any ordinance revisions fall outside the scope of this planning process.

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# CHAPTER 1: HISTORY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

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## Introduction

A plan that conveys Piatt County accurately demonstrates that it is a product of, among other things, its history, geography, geology, location, and natural resource availability. Understanding the past is crucial to making any recommendations for the future. Piatt County's history is rooted in settlement, expansion, agriculture and manufacturing. This section shows how the county is situated in Illinois and the larger region, how it is accessed, basic infrastructure and natural resource statistics, and how the population is distributed. All of the topics discussed in this section are detailed further in other areas of the plan.

## History

Before being admitted to the Union in 1818, Illinois was claimed by the French by right of discovery, and later Virginia through the exploits of George Rogers Clark. In 1784, the land was deeded to the United States. In 1804, the territory of Illinois was established and in 1818 the State of Illinois was formed. European settlers had already moved into the southern areas of the state, and only came into the Piatt County area in the 1820's. Settlements were established as land was cleared for agriculture, and the population grew. Soon, demand for closer County Government grew; petitions were circulated, and in January of 1841, Piatt County was established. Growth continued, and by 1870 there were 10,946 persons reported in the county.

Monticello, named after Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home, became the County seat. The first Circuit Court was held May 1, 1841, in the "Old Fort", which was the first large structure in the city. 1843 saw the construction of the first courthouse, a wooden building. The first brick courthouse was not built until 1903. That building continues to serve as the County Courthouse today.

By 1889, Samuel Allerton was the largest landowner in Piatt County. He converted over 7,000 acres to farmland and established an estate southwest of Monticello. Around that time, the City of Monticello was notified that if a building was constructed, Mrs. Allerton would donate the books to establish a library. In July 1897, the Allerton Library and opera house opened. Mrs. Allerton donated over 2,500 volumes to the new library. In 1900, Samuel Allerton's son Robert took over his father's estate and 19,000 acre farm,



*Robert Allerton Park*

turning it into a magnificent display of art and sculpture. In 1946, Robert Allerton donated the mansion and several hundred acres of farmland to the University of Illinois, creating a public retreat and conference center.

Infrastructure has been an integral part of Piatt County's growth and development. Villages and other incorporated areas tended to grow up near railroads, grain elevators, and other important community resource points. Piatt County is situated nearly halfway between two Central Illinois city centers: Champaign/Urbana and Decatur. Travel between these populated areas was frequent from early settlement times, and roads were established within Piatt County by settlers following old Indian trails. The first state road was a route that led from Urbana, through Monticello, and on to Springfield.

Postal service began regularly with the arrival of stagecoaches around 1839, travelling on the east-west road from Urbana to Springfield. Stagecoach delivery ceased after the introduction of railroads in the County. Railroads within the county were established in the mid 1850's and carried freight and passengers. Many of the villages in the county had their origins along one or more of those rail lines.

Population grew in the County until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when it peaked at around 17,000 people. Today, the population of Piatt County is estimated to be 16,493 and is expected to grow to 17,842 by 2030.

Today, the population of Piatt County is estimated to be 16,493 and is expected to grow to 17,842 by 2030.

## Regional Context

Piatt County is situated in the east-central part of Illinois, between Champaign and Macon Counties to the east and west, DeWitt and Mclean Counties to the north, and Moultrie County to the south. The cities of Decatur and Champaign/Urbana are both within a 25 mile radius of Monticello. Bloomington is within 50 miles; Springfield, Danville, Peoria, and Terra Haute, Indiana are within a 75 mile radius.

Map 1-1 shows the regional transportation system, including the major roads running through Piatt County. The County is crossed by several state and federal highways. Federal interstates include I-72, which runs east-west through the center of the county near Monticello, and I-74, which runs near Mansfield through the northern part of the County. Paralleling these interstates are IL 47, which runs along I-72, and US 150, which runs next to I-74. Other state and US highways include IL 10, which runs east-west through the northern portion of the county, IL 105, which runs north-south through the southern half of the county, IL 32 which runs from Cerro Gordo to the north, and US 36, which runs along the southern county border.

Several railroads run through Piatt County and serve most of the municipal areas. Exceptions to this are the villages of Deland and White Heath, which are not located adjacent to a rail

line. The Norfolk Southern runs north-south through Mansfield and Monticello, and east-west through Cerro Gordo and Bement. CSX runs parallel to US36 through Hammond and Atwood on the southern end of the County.

Map 1-1:

## Regional Context

Champaign, Dewitt, Douglas, Macon, Mclean, Moultrie, Piatt Counties



The County contains one airport: Monticello Airport, located two miles south of Monticello. This airport has one 2,797-foot turf-surfaced runway, serving small single-engine planes and gliders. Nearby commercial airports include Willard Airport, Decatur Airport, and Central Illinois Regional Airport at Bloomington-Normal.

The topography of Piatt County is generally flat and rolling, with a few exceptions, such as two glacial moraines. The Champaign Moraine runs through the northeastern portion of the county and rises approximately 80 feet to a maximum elevation of 810 feet, also the highest elevation in the County. The Cerro Gordo Moraine runs roughly along the southern bank of the Sangamon River, and rises nearly 70 feet to a maximum elevation of 760 feet. Other terrain features include land sloping to tributaries and flood plains.

Because of the level nature of the land, use is primarily agricultural, with 92% of the County's 440 square miles devoted to cropland. Of the remaining land, 2.0% is institutional or open space, 2.5% are undeveloped, and 3.5% other (municipal areas, roads, water bodies).

Surface water within the County is primarily restricted to streams and small ponds. The largest river running through the County is the Sangamon River, which runs northeast-southwest. The watersheds within the county are the Salt Fork, Upper Sangamon, and Upper Kaskaskia.

Piatt County, along with the majority of the region, obtains a large percentage of its ground water from the Mahomet Aquifer, which stretches from Indiana to the Illinois River and lies under most of Piatt County.

Land cover, as a result of extensive agriculture, is primarily restricted to river and stream floodplains. This is in keeping with the rest of the east-central Illinois landscape of gently rolling fields, broken up by occasional windrows, floodplains, and irrigation ditches. An exception to this in Piatt County is the large strip of forest and grassland that corresponds with the ½-mile wide floodplain of the Sangamon River.

**Piatt County is primarily agricultural, with 92% of the County's 440 square miles devoted to cropland.**

## Townships

As Map 1-2 shows, Piatt County is divided into eight civil townships which provide general services such as township road maintenance. Townships with county highways are contracted by the county for road maintenance as well. Each township has an incorporated municipality within their borders, and several contain smaller, unincorporated towns and residential centers. Table 1-1 lists the populations of each of the Townships.

**Table 1-1: Piatt County Townships**








Township	Population	Municipalities	Unincorporated Areas
Bement	1979	Bement	Milmine
Blue Ridge	1414	Mansfield	Harris
Cerro Gordo	2199	Cerro Gordo	Burrowsville, La Place, Lintner
Goose Creek	852	DeLand	
Monticello	5604	Monticello	
Sangamon	2014	Monticello	Centerville, Galesville, Lodge, White Heath
Unity	1560	Atwood, Hammond	Pierson Station, Voorhies
Willow Branch	716	Cisco	

*Source: US Census, Census 2000*

Map 1-2:

# Townships and Municipalities

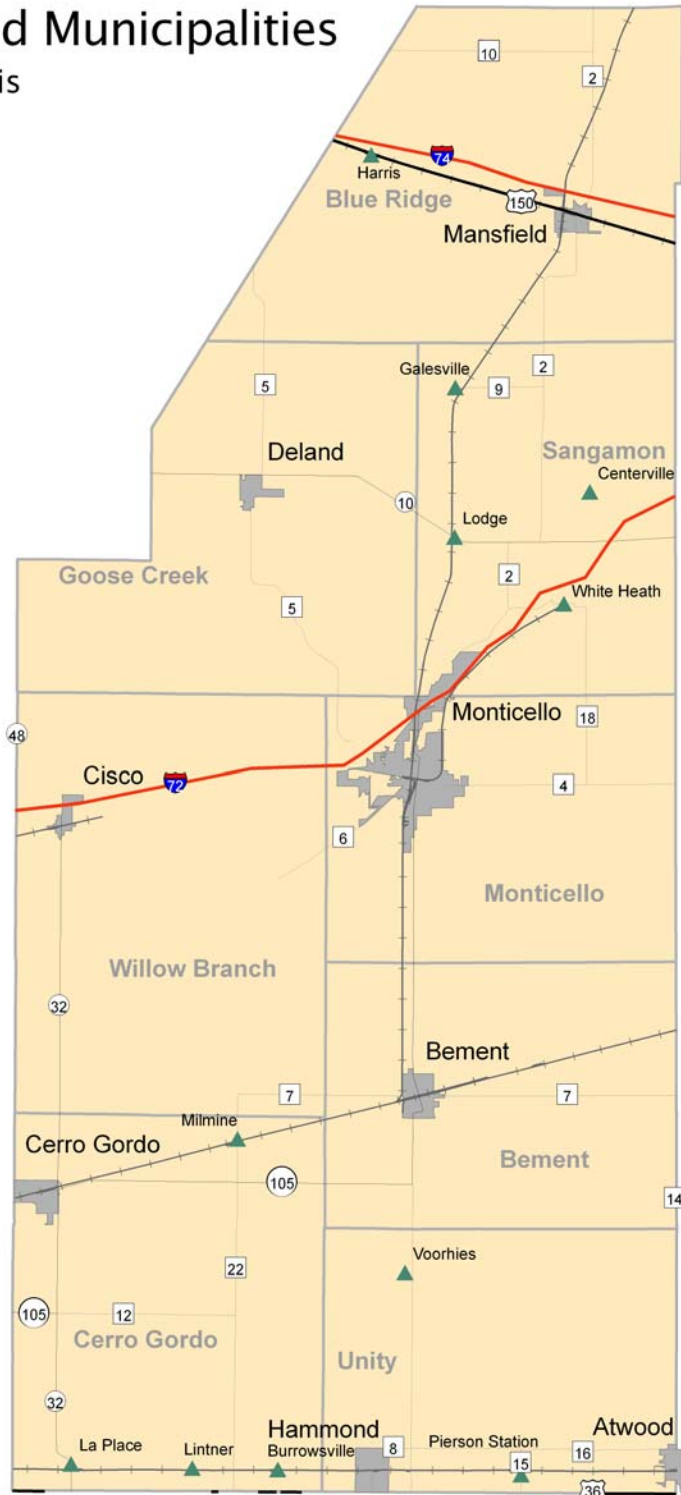
## Piatt County, Illinois

-  Township
-  Municipality
-  Settlement
-  County Hwy
-  State Hwy
-  U.S. Hwy
-  Interstate



Production Date:  
July, 2009

Sources:  
IDOT  
CCGIS





## **Municipalities**

*Atwood-* The Village of Atwood is located in Unity Township in the southeastern corner of Piatt County, with approximately half of the village lying in Douglas County. Atwood began as a railroad town, and much of the older, commercial development is situated near the tracks as a result. The majority of residential development on the Piatt County side is located between County Road 16 and the railroad.

*Bement-* Bement is located in the center of Bement Township, in the south-central part of the County. Development occurred in line with the railroad, and many older streets do not correspond with the north south grid as a result. Commercial property is situated along the rail line, leaving residential development to the north and south of the downtown strip.

*Cerro Gordo-* The Village of Cerro Gordo is located along a railroad near the southwestern edge of the County, in Cerro Gordo Township. Another railroad town, Cerro Gordo also developed off the north-south grid. Commercial and institutional land is situated adjacent to the railroad and to the south, with some development occurring at other locations. Homes are left to fill in the gaps, occurring somewhat evenly north and south of the tracks.

*Cisco-* The Village of Cisco is in Willow Branch Township, in the west-central portion of the County, and is located along a railroad and south of I-72. Development is centered almost entirely south of the highway, with the exception of one residential development north of I-72. Commercial development and a small industrial development are almost entirely along the railroad.

*Deland-* The Village of Deland is located in Goose Creek Township in the northwest portion of the County along Illinois 10 and Goose Creek. Open space exists in two parks within the village, as well as along the creek. Commercial development occurs along Illinois 10 and the main north south axis, County Highway 5. Residential areas are distributed evenly on either side of this axis, with the exception of a residential development east of the village.

*Hammond-* The Village of Hammond is in Unity Township on the south-central edge of the County, north of US 36. Hammond has developed on the south side of the railroad, and nearly all commercial and institutional developments are along either the rail line or along US 36.

*Mansfield-* Mansfield is located at the northern tip of the County, along US 150 and south of interchange exit 166 on I-74, in Blue Ridge Township. Development of the town has occurred along US 150, with the exception of a residential and recreational development on the northwest side adjacent to I-74. Commercial development is along the railroad at the west edge of the village and at the intersection of County 2 at US 150.

*Monticello-* The City of Monticello is located in Monticello and Sangamon Townships, near the center of the County. Railroads helped in the early development of Monticello, and the introduction of I-72 through Piatt County has had an impact on growth and development of the city. Development has occurred along I-72, IL 47, IL 105, and several railroads.

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## CHAPTER 2: POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

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### Introduction

Demographics describe characteristics of a population. Analyzing these characteristics show us that populations grow, decline, age, and change in a number of ways. Understanding demographic trends and characteristics helps identify community needs and plan for current shortcomings and future needs.

### Population Change

In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the population in Piatt County experienced a consistent gradual decline from 17,706 in 1900 to 13,970 in 1950. Between 1960 and 2000, population grew to 16,369. For the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, annual population estimates show an annual change of less than one percent and a 0.79 percent increase for the years between 2001 and 2007.

Table 2-1: County Population, 1900-2007

	Piatt County	Change (%)
1900	17,706	n/a
1910	16,376	-7.51%
1920	15,714	-4.04%
1930	15,588	-0.80%
1940	14,659	-5.96%
1950	13,970	-4.70%
1960	14,960	7.09%
1970	15,509	3.67%
1980	16,581	6.91%
1990	15,548	-6.23%
2000	*16,369	5.28%
2001 (est.)	16,338	-0.18%
2002 (est.)	16,247	-0.56%
2003 (est.)	16,410	1.00%
2004 (est.)	16,482	0.44%
2005 (est.)	16,602	0.73%
2006 (est.)	16,688	0.52%
2007 (est.)	16,493	-0.12%

U.S. Census Bureau – Population Archive

\*Corrected count from 16365

The City of Monticello comprises the majority of the incorporated population in Piatt County and has experienced relatively consistent population growth. Smaller incorporated areas in Piatt County grew between 1990 and 2000, but are estimated to have lost population since 2000. Population losses range from 62 people in Cerro Gordo to two people in Hammond.

**Table 2-2: Municipal Populations in Piatt County, 1990-2006**

	Decennial Census			Census Population Estimates							
	1990	2000	Change (%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Change (%)
<b>Atwood</b>	1,253	1,290	2.95%	1,289	1,282	1,271	1,263	1,254	1,243	1,238	-3.96%
<b>Bement</b>	1,668	1,784	6.95%	1,781	1,762	1,739	1,748	1,736	1,731	1,728	-2.98%
<b>Cerro Gordo</b>	1,436	1,436	0.00%	1,433	1,418	1,394	1,396	1,386	1,379	1,371	-4.33%
<b>Cisco</b>	282	286	1.42%	288	286	284	286	286	285	283	-1.74%
<b>De Land</b>	458	475	3.71%	475	471	466	468	466	470	468	-1.47%
<b>Hammond</b>	527	518	-1.71%	520	526	517	523	522	521	518	-0.38%
<b>Mansfield</b>	929	949	2.15%	950	949	933	938	935	935	932	-1.89%
<b>Monticello</b>	4,549	5,138	12.95%	5,149	5,144	5,131	5,174	5,205	5,250	5,345	3.81%

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000, Census Population Estimates*

### Rural-Urban split

Table 2-3 provides rural and urban populations for each township in the County. Piatt County townships are entirely rural, except for Monticello Township, which has 5,137 people living in an urban cluster in and around the City of Monticello. Urban clusters can include both municipalities and surrounding unincorporated urbanized areas. An Urban Cluster is a densely settled area with a population between 2,500 and 49,999. The remaining 11,232 people in Piatt County lived in areas designated as rural. Bement is the next largest incorporated area, which had 1,784 residents in 2000.

**Table 2-3: Urban and Rural\*\* Populations by Township, 2000**

	Bement	Blue Ridge	Cerro Gordo	Goose Creek	Monticello	Sangamon	Unity	Willow Branch
<b>Urban</b>	0	0	0	0	*5,137	0	0	0
<b>Rural</b>	1,979	1,414	2,199	852	467	2,041	1,560	720

*U.S. Census Bureau - Census 2000*

*\*5,120 people from City of Monticello and 17 people from Monticello Township*

*\*\*Urban and rural census designations do not necessarily follow corporate limit boundaries*

## Rural Populations

Township populations are split between municipal and unincorporated populations. Table 2-4 shows this split as well as population dynamics within rural areas. Monticello Township shows a significant decrease in unincorporated population because of annexations to the City of Monticello. Alternatively, Sangamon Township has a significant increase in the unincorporated populations as they have experienced large growth outside of municipalities.

**Table 2- 4: Township Population, 1990 - 2000**

	1990			2000			Unincorp. Change
	Population Total	Municipal Total	Unincorp. Total	Population Total	Municipal Total	Unincorp. Total	
Piatt County	15,548	10,500	5,048	16,369	11,224	5,145	97
Bement	1,928	1,668	260	1,979	1,784	195	-65
Blue Ridge	1,407	929	478	1,414	949	465	-13
Cerro Gordo	2,208	1,436	772	2,199	1,436	763	-9
Goose Creek	848	458	390	852	475	377	-13
Monticello	5,339	4,549	790	5,604	5,135	469	-321
Sangamon	1,481	0	1,481	2,041	3	2,038	557
Unity	1,605	1178	427	1,560	1,178	382	-45
Willow Branch	732	282	450	720	286	434	-16

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

## Migration

Table 2-5 provides information about components of population change in Piatt County. Natural increase in the county is variable from year to year and ranges from a loss of two in 2002 to an increase of 63 in 1997. Net migration is the greatest contributor to annual population change in Piatt County, ranging from a loss of 269 in 1999 to a gain of 269 in 1992.

**Table 2-5: Components of Population Change for the County, 1990-2005**

	Population	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Annual Population Change	Net Migration
1990	15,555	203	158	45	74	29
1991	15,629	179	175	4	70	66
1992	15,699	183	159	24	293	269
1993	15,992	200	149	51	7	-44
1994	15,999	196	158	38	156	118
1995	16,155	180	154	26	130	104
1996	16,285	196	177	19	193	174
1997	16,478	208	145	63	-48	-111
1998	16,430	179	150	29	193	164
1999	16,623	170	159	11	-258	-269
2000	16,369	191	149	42	-41	-83
2001	16,328	165	147	18	-159	-177
2002	16,169	156	158	-2	126	128
2003	16,295	197	148	49	62	13
2004	16,357	179	139	40	150	110
2005	16,507	186	155	31	-	-

Population totals for the years 1990 to 2005 are intercensal estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau as of July 1st of each year; census years also use estimates for consistency.

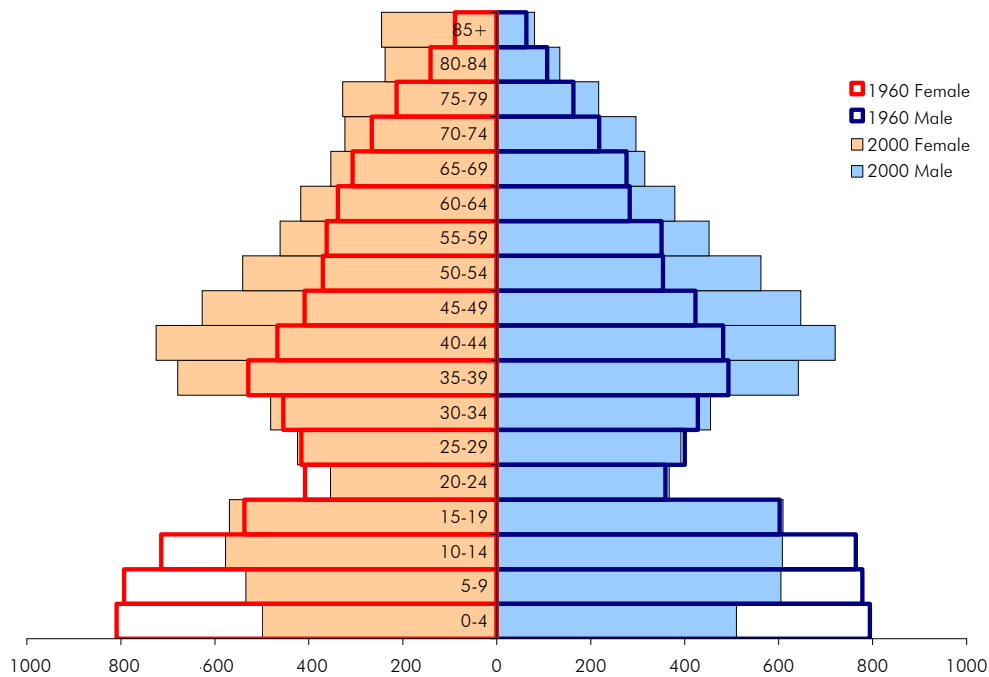
Birth and death totals are from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Natural Increase, Population Change and Net Migration are calculated from population, births, and deaths.

## Age

Chart 2-1 provides a detail of population by age for Piatt County. The number of females continues to exceed the number of males primarily in the 55 years and over demographic. A reduction in the 0-14 year demographic is notable between 1960 and 2000. The population in 2000 is substantially older than the population was in 1960, as can be seen in the upper portion of the chart.

Chart 2 – 1: Population Pyramid



U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1960, Census 2000

## Race

In the 2000 Census, for the first time, respondents were given the option of selecting one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities. In the following tables, the “other” column for 2000 includes respondents of some other race and those of two or more races. The “other” column for 1990 only includes those respondents of some other race. The Census 2000 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 1990 Census or earlier years. In 2000, respondents of two or more races accounted for 0.5 percent of the population of Piatt County. Hispanic is not a racial category but rather an ethnic category in which people are classified based on any number of cultural identities including language, country of origin, and lineage or parents’ ancestry. Hispanics can be of any race.

Table 2-6 provides racial composition by township for Piatt County. The population for Piatt County in 2000 was 98.8% white, 0.2% black, 0.4% other (one race) and 0.6% of two or more races. Ethnicity in Piatt County is limited to 0.2% that are Hispanic or Latino. The majority of people with Hispanic or Latino ethnicities live in Monticello Township.

**Table 2-6: Race and Ethnicity by Township, 2000**

	White	Black or African American	AIAN	Asian	NHPI	Other	Two or more	Total	Hispanic or Latino
<b>Bement</b>	1,950	16	0	4	0	2	7	1,979	6
<b>Blue Ridge</b>	1,397	3	0	5	0	0	9	1,414	8
<b>Cerro Gordo</b>	2,178	7	0	1	0	0	13	2,199	9
<b>Goose Creek</b>	837	2	0	1	1	5	6	852	7
<b>Monticello</b>	5,547	4	8	8	2	4	31	5,604	43
<b>Sangamon</b>	2,023	0	0	1	0	2	15	2,041	17
<b>Unity</b>	1,540	6	5	1	0	6	2	1,560	8
<b>Willow Branch</b>	701	1	0	0	0	4	10	*716	5

U.S. Census Bureau - Census 2000

\*Willow Branch corrected population is 720, no correction was provided for race so the sum remains at 716

### Educational Attainment

Table 2-7 provides information from the 2000 Census about the educational attainment for the population over 25 years of age. Piatt County exceeds the state in the percent of the population that received a high school diploma and equivalent or an associate's degree; the county falls short for bachelor's and graduate or professional degrees.

**Table 2-7: County Educational Attainment, 2000**

	Piatt		Illinois	
<b>All</b>	11,118	n/a	7,973,671	n/a
<b>High school graduate</b>	4,133	37.2%	2,212,291	27.7%
<b>Associate degree</b>	781	7.0%	482,502	6.1%
<b>Bachelor's degree</b>	1,491	13.4%	1,317,182	16.5%
<b>Graduate or Professional Degree</b>	849	7.6%	760,867	9.5%

U.S. Census Bureau - Census 2000

## Income

Between 1990 and 2000, national inflation grew by 34.3 percent. Table 2-8 compares income by townships across three measures of income. Per Capita income measures average annual income across the entire workforce. Median household income measures income by residence of people who live together but are unrelated like college roommates. Median family income measures annual income by residence for people who are related and live together. All measures of income in Piatt County increased by a slightly larger percentage than the State of Illinois but remain lower in terms of dollars earned. Sangamon Township has the highest income measures of the eight townships in Piatt County and surpasses the state average.

**Table 2-8: Township Income Characteristics, 1989-1999**

*1989 -1999 Inflation = 34.3%*

	Per Capita Income			Median Household Income			Median Family Income		
	1989	1999	Change	1989	1999	Change	1989	1999	Change
<b>Bement</b>	12,089	18,195	33.60%	27,354	41,141	33.50%	31,875	48,144	33.80%
<b>Blue Ridge</b>	12,903	20,774	37.90%	31,007	46,458	33.30%	34,187	51,500	33.60%
<b>Cerro Gordo</b>	12,455	16,911	26.30%	30,599	41,103	25.60%	34,688	46,681	25.70%
<b>Goose Creek</b>	12,124	20,245	40.10%	27,344	46,833	41.60%	34,219	49,107	30.30%
<b>Monticello</b>	15,200	23,516	35.40%	33,356	46,486	28.20%	38,173	58,659	34.90%
<b>Sangamon</b>	13,662	24,102	43.30%	34,583	55,714	37.90%	40,526	60,865	33.40%
<b>Unity</b>	13,222	19,252	31.30%	28,704	41,000	30.00%	35,298	48,750	27.60%
<b>Willow Branch</b>	15,059	19,871	24.20%	35,568	48,365	26.50%	37,312	55,625	32.90%
<b>Piatt County</b>	13,690	21,075	35.00%	31,369	45,752	31.40%	35,902	52,218	31.20%
<b>Illinois</b>	15,201	23,104	34.20%	32,252	46,590	30.00%	38,664	55,545	30.40%

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

*Income characteristics provided for year prior to Census*

Table 2-9 provides information about income characteristics for incorporated areas in Piatt County. Incomes within incorporated areas grew at a higher rate than in rural areas, reaching an 80 percent increase in some cases between 1989 and 1999. The City of Monticello has the highest incomes across all three measures while Cisco, Deland, and Hammond have the greatest changes in income between 1989 and 1999.

**Table 2-9: Incorporated Area Income Characteristics, 1990-2000**

	Per Capita Income			Median Household Income			Median Family Income		
	1989	1999	Change	1989	1999	Change	1989	1999	Change
<b>Atwood</b>	12,628	18,028	42.8%	26,774	36,806	37.5%	30,259	45,625	50.8%
<b>Bement</b>	11,643	17,995	54.6%	27,287	40,163	47.2%	31,641	47,652	50.6%
<b>Cerro Gordo</b>	12,754	16,635	30.4%	30,817	40,529	31.5%	36,012	42,250	17.3%
<b>Cisco</b>	10,366	17,722	71.0%	21,667	40,625	87.5%	29,000	43,750	50.9%
<b>Deland</b>	10,829	17,377	60.5%	22,738	40,982	80.2%	25,208	45,156	79.1%
<b>Hammond</b>	12,145	19,313	59.0%	30,568	45,833	49.9%	36,354	51,528	41.7%
<b>Mansfield</b>	11,889	20,947	76.2%	27,813	43,942	58.0%	31,711	48,393	52.6%
<b>Monticello</b>	15,537	23,257	49.7%	33,491	45,754	36.6%	37,950	57,287	51.0%

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000  
 Income characteristics provided for year prior to Census  
 1989 -1999 Inflation = 34.3%*



## Poverty

Table 2-10 provides information about the population for which poverty status is determined. This population excludes unrelated individuals in a household under the age of 15 and people in group quarters, dormitories and barracks. The poverty threshold in 1999 for families with two to three people ranged from \$10,070 to \$13,423. In Piatt County, five percent of people for which poverty status was determined fell below the poverty level for which they qualify. Twenty six percent of this population was under the age of eighteen.

**Table 2-10: Poverty Determination, 2000**

	Number	Percent
Total Population	16,365	
Total Population used in calculation	16,104	
Income in 1999 below poverty level	799	5.0%

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 2000*

## Density

Population density in Piatt County is quite low due to its predominantly rural setting. Density is calculated by dividing the total population within a geographic area by the land area in square miles. Table 2-11 shows Sangamon Township with the most dramatic change in density between 1990 and 2000 due to expansion of the City of Monticello; Cerro Gordo had the least change in that same time period. Densities throughout the townships and municipalities, as seen in Table 2-12, remain low. Table 2-13 compares population density of municipalities in close proximity to Piatt County. Monticello is the least dense while other communities in Piatt County are comparable to Bloomington, Savoy and Danville.

**Table 2-11: Population and Housing Density by Township, 2000**

	Population Density			Housing Density		
	1990	2000	Change	1990	2000	Change
Bement	39.8	40.9	2.8%	15.8	16.6	5.1%
Blue Ridge	22	22.1	0.5%	8.4	9.5	13.1%
Cerro Gordo	36.5	36.3	-0.5%	14.6	14.8	1.4%
Goose Creek	15	15.1	0.7%	5.9	6.2	5.1%
Monticello	111.5	116.9	4.8%	45.4	49.9	9.9%
Sangamon	31.2	43.1	38.1%	12	16.1	34.2%
Unity	33.3	32.4	-2.7%	14.1	14.3	1.4%
Willow Branch	10.9	10.6	-2.8%	4.2	4.4	4.8%

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*  
*Density is calculated as people/housing units per square mile*

Table 2-12: Population and Housing Density by Municipality, 2000

	Population Density			Housing Density		
	1990	2000	Change	1990	2000	Change
Atwood (part)	2170	2,401.30	10.7%	916.7	1,033.30	12.7%
Bement	2085	2,197.10	5.4%	820	890.4	8.6%
Cerro Gordo	2051.4	1,938.00	-5.5%	824.3	786.8	-4.5%
Cisco	705	692.7	-1.7%	285	296.5	4.0%
De Land	1145	1,198.10	4.6%	490	519.6	6.0%
Hammond	658.8	679.8	3.2%	288.8	320.2	10.9%
Ivesdale (part)	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Mansfield	1858	1,856.30	-0.1%	742	829.4	11.8%
Monticello (Monticello Twp.)	2394.2	2,043.80	-14.6%	989.5	885.6	-10.5%
Monticello (Sangamon Twp.)	0	6.4	n/a	0	2.1	n/a

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

Table 2-13: Population Density Comparisons, 2000

	Density
Champaign	3974.6
Urbana	3468.3
Normal	3332.6
Savoy	2899.9
Bloomington	2880.3
Atwood*	2401.3
Bement*	2197.1
Danville	1994.0
Decatur	1969.7
Rantoul	1776.5
Monticello*	1724.7

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 2000*

Map 2-1

# Population Density

## Piatt County, Illinois

### Legend

#### Population Density

Lowest



Highest

10 County Hwy

48 State Hwy

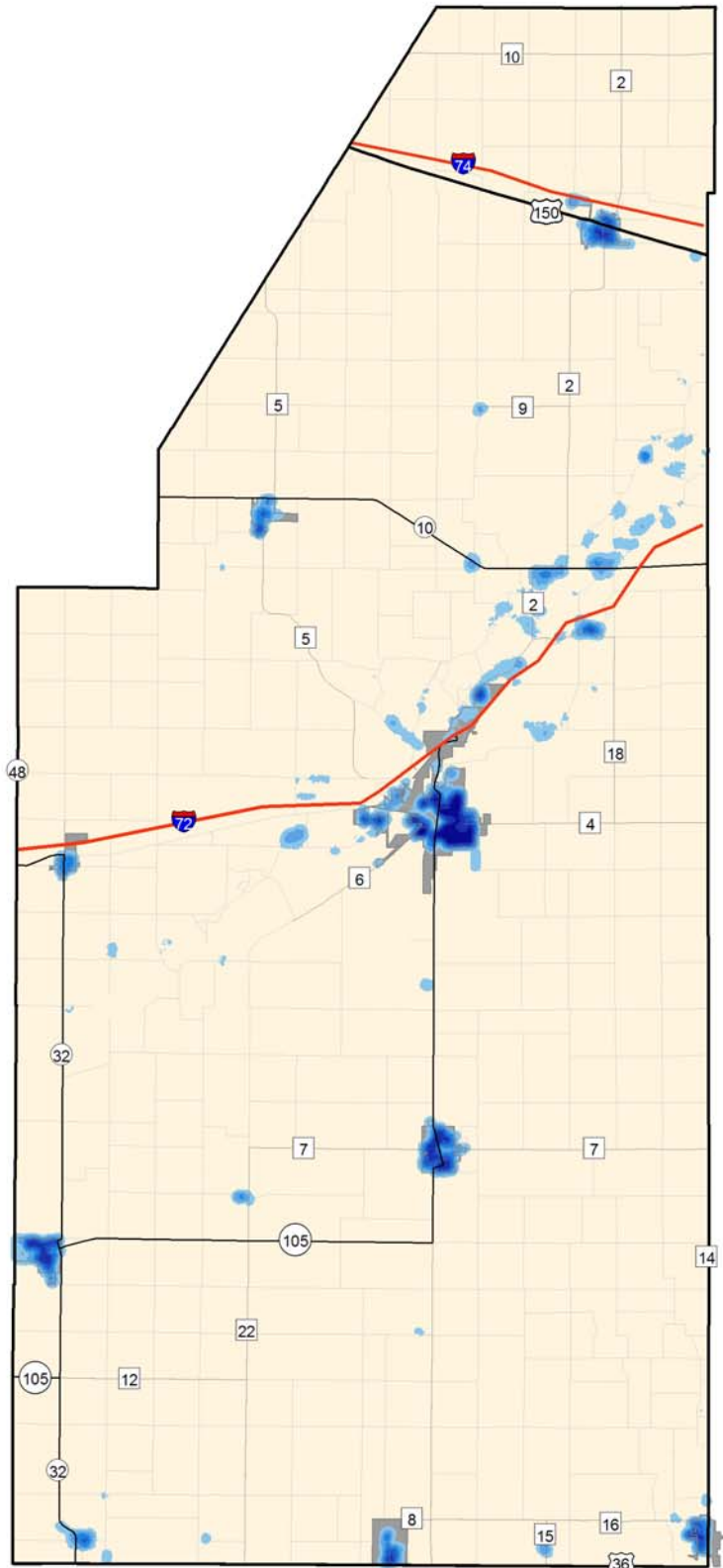
150 U.S. Hwy

74 Interstate



Production Date:  
January, 2008

Sources:  
CCGIS  
IDOT



## Households and Families

Household size is one of the key factors to consider when determining existing and future housing demand. Household and family sizes are falling in Piatt County, increasing the demand for housing. Table 2-14 shows an average household size of 2.50 people and an average family size of 2.96 in 2000. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of Piatt County households increased from 5,934 to 6,475. Table 2-15 show a housing growth rate of 9.1 percent compared to a population increase of 5.25 percent.

**Table 2-14: Size of Residential Units, 1990-2000**

	Average Household Size		Average Family Size	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Atwood	2.48	2.42	2.92	2.92
Bement	2.61	2.48	3.00	2.97
Cerro Gordo	2.59	2.56	3.07	3.00
Cisco	2.64	2.42	3.02	2.78
Deland	2.52	2.50	2.97	2.86
Hammond	2.42	2.30	2.97	2.95
Mansfield	2.62	2.40	3.04	2.79
Monticello	2.44	2.34	2.94	2.91
Piatt County	2.58	2.50	3.02	2.96

*U.S. Census Bureau Census 1990, Census 2000*

**Table 2-15: Number of Households, 1990-2000**

	1990	2000	Change
McLean	46,796	56,746	21.3%
Champaign	63,900	70,597	10.5%
Piatt	5,934	6,475	9.1%
De Witt	6,488	6,770	4.3%
Macon	45,996	46,561	1.2%

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

## Home Ownership

Home ownership distributed by age of householder provides more detail about the population that lives in Piatt County as well as buying trends. Home ownership increased in Piatt County between 1990 and 2000. The greatest increase occurred in the 45 to 54 year age group. The greatest decrease occurred in the 25-35 year age group. The actual change within age group column compares each ten-year age group from 1990 to 2000. This follows the population that is 15-24 years old in 1990 until they are 25-34 years old in 2000. During this time the group 619 more households are formed within the 10 year age group. This shows that while 30% fewer homes are owned by people 25 – 34 years of age, they comprise the largest segment of the population looking for housing.

**Table 2-16: Number of Households by Age of Householder, 1990-2000**

	1990 Census	2000 Census	Pct. Change 1990-2000	Actual Change within Age Group
Total households:	5952	6475	8.8%	
Householder 15 to 24 years	213	209	-1.9%	
Householder 25 to 34 years	1192	832	-30.2%	619
Householder 35 to 44 years	1295	1447	11.7%	255
Householder 45 to 54 years	842	1354	60.8%	59
Householder 55 to 64 years	913	978	7.1%	136
Householder 65 to 74 years	811	795	-2.0%	-118
Householder 75 years and over	686	860	25.4%	49

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

**Table 2-17: Number of Households by Size and Type, 1990 - 2000**

	1990	2000	Actual Change	Percent Change
Total	5934	6475	541	9.12%
1-person household	1288	1532	244	18.94%
Married-couple family	3984	4099	115	2.89%
Male householder, no wife present	133	186	53	39.85%
Female householder, no husband present	383	442	59	15.40%
Nonfamily households	146	216	70	47.95%

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

## Future Projections for County, Townships, and Municipalities

### County level projections

Population projections were analyzed from three sources: Woods & Poole, Inc.; Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; and the US Census Bureau. Projections from these three agencies for horizon year 2030 indicated a range of 17,167 to 18,034. An average of the three sources was utilized for this plan, as shown in Table 2-18. These projections reflect a 1-2% increase in population per decade and a nine percent total increase over the 30 year time frame.

**Table 2-18: Piatt County Population Projections, 2005-2030**

2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change 2000-2030	% Change 2000-2030
16,369	16,680	16,912	17,157	17,413	17,618	17,842	1,473	9.0%

Source: 2000 population is from US Census Bureau. All other projection estimates are an average of three separate sources: Woods & Poole, DCEO, and US Census Bureau.

### Township and municipal level projections

Projections below the county level are not readily available from the sources used for the Piatt County projections. Recent population changes were taken into account when considering how each township and municipality would increase or decrease in population in future years. Table 2-19 shows the anticipated change in population by township in Piatt County. Monticello Township anticipates the most increase in population by 2030, with approximately 588 more people. This is closely followed by Sangamon Township, which could increase by 495. The largest decrease according to the projections would occur in Cerro Gordo Township, with a loss of 59.

**Table 2-19: Piatt County Townships Population Projections, 2005-2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change 2000- 2030	% Change 2000- 2030
Bement Township	1,979	1,963	1,981	1,999	2,018	2,036	2,055	76	3.8%
Blue Ridge Township	1,414	1,446	1,466	1,486	1,507	1,528	1,549	135	9.5%
Cerro Gordo Township	2,199	2,189	2,179	2,169	2,159	2,149	2,140	-59	-2.7%
Goose Creek Township	852	887	891	895	900	904	908	56	6.6%
Monticello Township	5,604	5,736	5,831	5,933	6,042	6,111	6,192	588	10.5%
Sangamon Township	2,041	2,129	2,208	2,291	2,379	2,454	2,536	495	24.3%
Unity Township	1,560	1,572	1,584	1,596	1,609	1,621	1,633	73	4.7%
Willow Branch Township	720	758	772	786	800	815	830	110	15.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,369</b>	<b>16,680</b>	<b>16,912</b>	<b>17,157</b>	<b>17,413</b>	<b>17,618</b>	<b>17,842</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

Municipal level projections were estimated from recent patterns in population change and consideration of historic rural-urban split proportions from the Census Bureau. Table 2-20 shows the population projections for each municipality through 2030. The City of Monticello anticipates the largest increase in population, with 824 more residents by 2030. The projections indicate that the Village of Cerro Gordo might experience the largest decline in population, 51. This decline was estimated between 2000 and 2005. The projection shows a constant population from 2005 to 2030 as the decline is expected to level out. It is expected that Cerro Gordo will continue to see fluctuations, but remain fairly constant. Using the generalized trends selected from the past 20 years, four of the villages are projected to decrease in population. Piatt County’s aging population, and limitations due to public sewer service, makes this estimation seem reasonable. Overall, the municipalities could increase by 878 people by 2030, reflecting the tendency for movement to larger urban areas such as Monticello.

**Table 2-20: Piatt County Municipalities Population Projections, 2005-2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change 2000- 2030	% Change 2000- 2030
Village of Atwood	1,290	1,250	1,268	1,287	1,306	1,325	1,345	55	4.3%
Village of Bement	1,784	1,739	1,764	1,789	1,815	1,841	1,868	84	4.7%
Village of Cerro Gordo	1,436	1,385	1,385	1,385	1,385	1,385	1,385	-51	-3.6%
Village of Cisco	288	286	280	275	269	264	258	-30	-10.4%
Village of Deland	475	473	471	469	467	465	463	-12	-2.5%
Village of Hammond	518	523	522	521	519	518	517	-1	-0.2%
Village of Mansfield	949	939	943	946	950	954	958	9	0.9%
City of Monticello	5,146	5,275	5,407	5,543	5,682	5,824	5,970	824	16.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,886</b>	<b>11,870</b>	<b>12,040</b>	<b>12,215</b>	<b>12,394</b>	<b>12,576</b>	<b>12,764</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>7.4%</b>

**Key Findings**

- Population is increasing, slowly.
- Villages are experiencing recent population loss while the City of Monticello grows.
- People in Piatt County continue to leave rural areas for urban areas.
- Migration is the greatest contributor to population change in Piatt County
- The population in Piatt County is aging.
- Incomes levels in Piatt County are increasing.
- Five percent of the population is below the poverty level.
- Home ownership is increasing.

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## CHAPTER 3: ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

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### Introduction

A community with a healthy economy can attract more businesses and residents; the more residents can acquire in terms of employment, products, and services from their own community, the more self-sufficient it will be. Labor force, employment sectors, and product sales are all indicative of community self-sufficiency, and can help establish goals that lead toward a healthier economy. This section provides general information about the past, present, and potential future of Piatt County's economy.

### Labor Force

Piatt County's labor force is at its highest level historically, with 9,430 persons in 2007. As can be seen in Table 3-1, this marks an increase of over 20% from 1997, compared to a population increase of only 1% in the same time period.

**Table 3-1: Piatt County Labor Force, 1977-2007**

	<b>1977</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% change 97-07</b>	<b>% change 77-07</b>
Population	16,445	15,830	16,311	16,493	1.1%	0.3%
Labor Force	8,367	8,074	7,846	9,430	20.2%	12.7%
Employed	8,052	7,383	7,448	9,085	22.0%	12.8%
Unemployed	315	691	398	345	-13.3%	9.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.8	8.6	5.1	3.7	-27.5%	-2.6%

*Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security*

Piatt has the fifth largest labor force in the seven county region that includes all counties sharing a border with Piatt County. Table 3-2 shows that the increase in labor force over the last decade is the largest in the region, and its proportion of labor force to total population is the second highest, at 57%. The table also shows that Champaign, Macon, and McLean counties are the strongest employment destinations for residents in the area.

Table 3-2: Regional Labor Force Comparison, 1997-2007

County	Labor Force			As % of Population	
	1997	2007	% Change	1997	2007
Champaign	95,069	105,053	11%	53.8%	55.2%
DeWitt	8,388	8,644	3%	50.1%	52.6%
Douglas	11,908	10,543	-11%	59.8%	53.8%
Macon	59,980	54,994	-8%	51.8%	50.6%
McLean	83,528	91,036	9%	57.9%	55.4%
Moultrie	7,810	8,240	6%	54.9%	57.5%
Piatt	7,846	9,405	20%	48.1%	57.0%
Illinois	6,290,800	6,697,400	6%	51.6%	52.1%

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, US Census

Table 3-3 displays county to county commuter flows for 1989 and 1999 for employees in the seven county region. Piatt County’s employee base largely relies on its own residents, with about 75% of Piatt County workers also residing in Piatt. Champaign and Macon residents who work in Piatt County nearly doubled between 1989 and 1999, from 317 to 594.

Table 3-3: Journey to Work for Piatt County Employees, 1989-1999

Piatt County employees				
who live in:	1989	1999	1989	1999
Piatt	3475	3460	80.3%	75.5%
Champaign	195	375	4.5%	8.2%
Macon	122	219	2.8%	4.8%
Douglas	122	108	2.8%	2.4%
De Witt	65	101	1.5%	2.2%
Moultrie	57	67	1.3%	1.5%
McLean	47	38	1.1%	0.8%
Other	246	215	5.7%	4.7%
TOTAL	4329	4583	100.0%	100.0%

Source: US Census

Table 3-4 displays county to county commuter flows for residents of Piatt County in the seven county region. The data show that over half of Piatt County’s working residents commute to jobs outside Piatt County, and that more of them did so in 1999 than in 1989. Champaign County and Macon County are the biggest destinations for workers from Piatt County, with Champaign County becoming a more predominant force in 1999. Overall, the two tables show that Piatt County has a net outflow of working residents.

Table 3-4: Journey to Work for Piatt County Residents, 1989-1999

<b>Piatt County residents who work in:</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1999</b>
Piatt	3475	3460	46.5%	41.3%
Champaign	2152	2882	28.8%	34.4%
Macon	1067	1178	14.3%	14.1%
Douglas	209	196	2.8%	2.3%
De Witt	205	172	2.7%	2.1%
Moultrie	95	124	1.3%	1.5%
McLean	61	105	0.8%	1.3%
Other	202	258	2.7%	3.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7466</b>	<b>8375</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: US Census

### Employment Sectors

Piatt County's strongest employment sector, comprising about 14% of total employment in 2006, is in local government. Retail trade and construction are the second and third strongest, respectively, with the construction sector overtaking a diminishing manufacturing sector between 2001 and 2006. Farm employment, shown as decreasing between 2001 and 2006, is the fourth strongest industry.

The largest increase in employment between 2001 and 2006 was in construction (37.7%, 153 employees). Manufacturing experienced the largest decrease (40.4%, 227 employees). Overall, employment decreased minimally during this time period by 0.4% (26 employees).

Industry earnings in Piatt County are 98% dependent on non-farm earnings, as can be seen in Table 3-6. The earnings leaders for 2006 are in government and government enterprises, reflective of its leading number of employees for the county. Other strong industries in terms of earnings include manufacturing and wholesale trade. Manufacturing, however, shows the most significant decline out of all sectors in both earnings and number of employees between 2001 and 2006. Other significant earnings declines from 2001 to 2006 were in farming and retail trade. Significant increases in the same time period were found in construction, wholesale trade, and services industries.

Table 3-5: Piatt County Employment by Sector, 2001-2006

NAICS Code	Sector	2001	2006	% of Total 2001	% of Total 2006	Change 2001-2006	% Change 2001-2006
10	<b>Total employment</b>	6110	6136	100.0%	100.0%	26	0.4%
20	Wage and salary employment	4119	3870	67.4%	63.1%	-249	-6.0%
40	Proprietors employment	1991	2266	32.6%	36.9%	275	13.8%
50	Farm proprietors employment	464	446	23.3%	19.7%	-18	-3.9%
60	Nonfarm proprietors employment	1527	1820	76.7%	80.3%	293	19.2%
70	<b>Farm employment</b>	568	533	9.3%	8.7%	-35	-6.2%
80	Nonfarm employment	5542	5603	90.7%	91.3%	61	1.1%
90	<b>Private employment</b>	4476	4607	73.3%	75.1%	131	2.9%
100	Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
200	Mining	(D)	14	(D)	0.2%	(D)	(D)
300	Utilities	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
400	Construction	406	559	6.6%	9.1%	153	37.7%
500	Manufacturing	562	335	9.2%	5.5%	-227	-40.4%
600	Wholesale trade	358	319	5.9%	5.2%	-39	-10.9%
700	Retail trade	597	650	9.8%	10.6%	53	8.9%
800	Transportation and warehousing	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
900	Information	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1000	Finance and insurance	287	316	4.7%	5.1%	29	10.1%
1100	Real estate and rental and leasing	167	224	2.7%	3.7%	57	34.1%
1200	Professional and technical services	264	298	4.3%	4.9%	34	12.9%
1300	Management of companies and enterprises	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%
1400	Administrative and waste services	144	147	2.4%	2.4%	3	2.1%
1500	Educational services	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1600	Health care and social assistance	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1700	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	106	102	1.7%	1.7%	-4	-3.8%
1800	Accommodation and food services	274	321	4.5%	5.2%	47	17.2%
1900	Other services, except public administration	407	470	6.7%	7.7%	63	15.5%
2000	<b>Government and government enterprises</b>	1066	996	17.4%	16.2%	-70	-6.6%
2001	Federal, civilian	58	54	0.9%	0.9%	-4	-6.9%
2002	Military	35	32	0.6%	0.5%	-3	-8.6%
2010	State and local	973	910	15.9%	14.8%	-63	-6.5%
2011	State government	37	31	0.6%	0.5%	-6	-16.2%
2012	Local government	936	879	15.3%	14.3%	-57	-6.1%

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

(D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.

The BEA employment series for states and local areas comprises estimates of the number of jobs, full-time plus part-time, by place of work. Full-time and part-time jobs are counted at equal weight. Employees, sole proprietors, and active partners are included, but unpaid family workers and volunteers are not included.

<http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/CA25Nfn.cfm>

Table 3-6: Piatt County Wages by Sector (in thousands of dollars), 2001-2006

NAICS Code	Sector	2001	2006	% of Total 2001	% of Total 2006	Change 2001-2006	% Change 2001-2006
	<b>Total earnings</b>	<b>149,491</b>	<b>153,968</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,477</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
81	Farm earnings	4,953	3,743	3%	2%	-1,210	-24.4%
82	Nonfarm earnings	144,538	150,225	97%	98%	5,687	3.9%
90	<b>Private earnings</b>	<b>113,104</b>	<b>114,280</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
100	Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
200	Mining	(D)	195	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
300	Utilities	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
400	Construction	11,181	14,512	7%	9%	3,331	29.8%
500	Manufacturing	25,118	15,583	17%	10%	-9,535	-38.0%
600	Wholesale trade	13,302	14,635	9%	10%	1,333	10.0%
700	Retail trade	11,732	10,551	8%	7%	-1,181	-10.1%
800	Transportation and warehousing	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
900	Information	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1000	Finance and insurance	6,944	7,441	5%	5%	(D)	7.2%
1100	Real estate and rental and leasing	2,198	1,387	1%	1%	-811	-36.9%
1200	Professional and technical services	6,131	7,313	4%	5%	1,182	19.3%
1300	Management of companies and enterprises	0	0	0%	0%	0	0.0%
1400	Administrative and waste services	1,922	1,048	1%	1%	-874	-45.5%
1500	Educational services	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1600	Health care and social assistance	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1700	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	693	729	0%	0%	36	5.2%
1800	Accommodation and food services	2,230	3,622	1%	2%	1,392	62.4%
1900	Other services, except public administration	5,315	7,357	4%	5%	2,042	38.4%
2000	<b>Government and government enterprises</b>	<b>31,434</b>	<b>35,945</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>4,511</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
2001	Federal, civilian	2,892	3,422	2%	2%	530	18.3%
2002	Military	589	1,135	0%	1%	546	92.7%
2010	State and local	27,953	31,388	19%	20%	3,435	12.3%
2011	State government	1,365	1,531	1%	1%	166	12.2%
2012	Local government	26,588	29,857	18%	19%	3,269	12.3%

Source: <http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/CA05Nfn.cfm>

(D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.

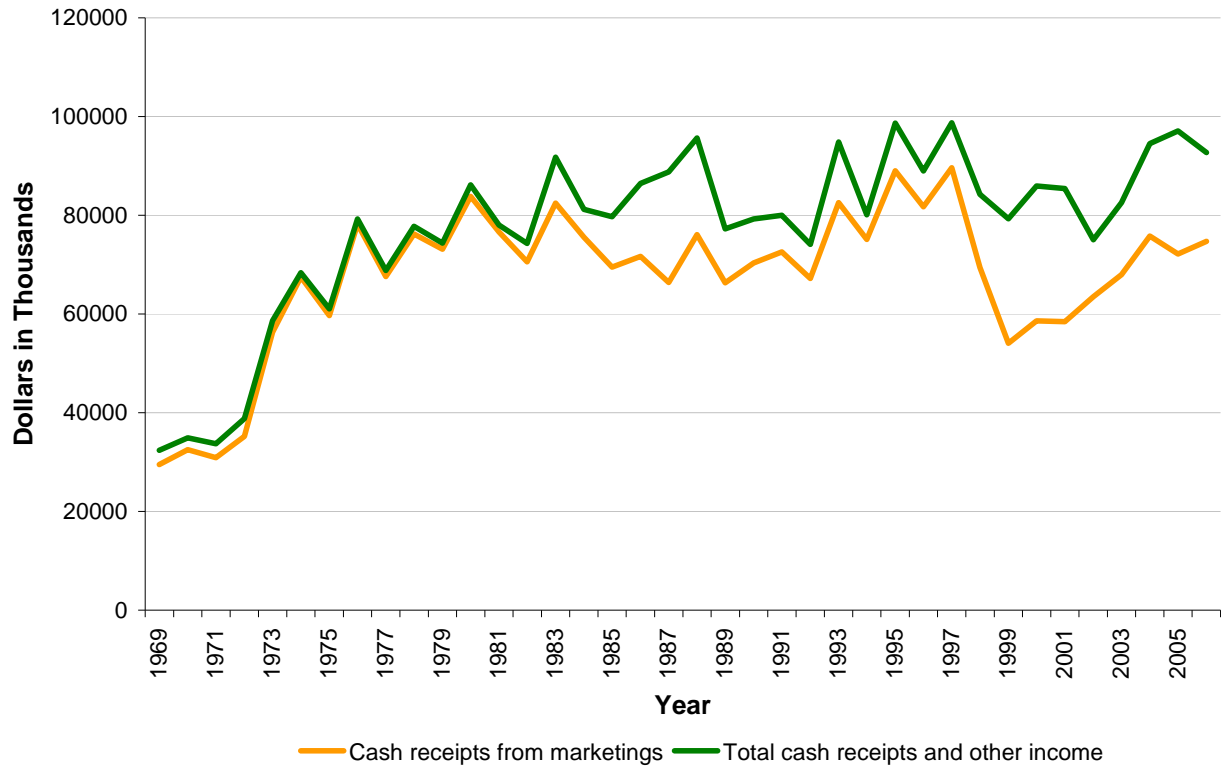
## Agricultural Economy

The previous section noted that the agricultural industry has a significant but declining influence on employment and earnings in Piatt County. This tendency is not reflected in annual cash receipts, which are the value of gross revenues received from the marketing of crop commodities. Chart 3-1 shows a general increase in sales from 1969 to 2006. Cash receipts from marketing are the value of gross revenues received from the marketing of agricultural commodities, both livestock and crops, during a given calendar year. Total cash

receipts and other income include government payments as well as income from machine hire, custom work and rental income.

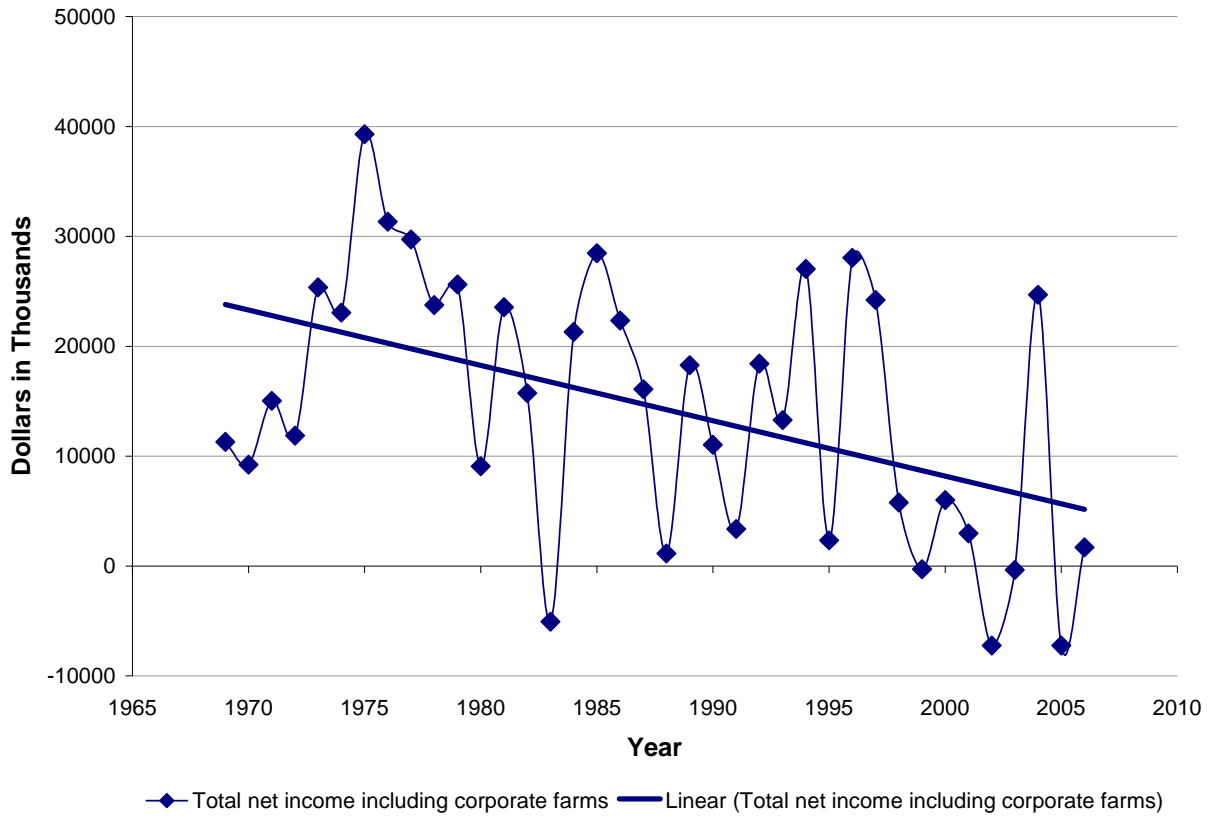
Annual cash receipts provide a picture of income but fail to incorporate production expenses as well as changes in value of inventory. This is an estimated value of net change in inventories of livestock and crops that are held for sale during a calendar year.

**Chart 3-1: Agricultural Cash Receipts, 1969-2006**



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Chart 3-2: Total Net Farm Income, 1969-2006



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

The number of farms in Piatt County decreased between 1997 and 2002, from 449 to 384, as seen in Table 3-7. Significant decreases were found in farms with 10-999 acres, with farms greater than 1,000 acres increasing in number. The average farm size in 1997 was 550 acres, increasing to 583 acres in 2002. These factors suggest that larger farms are changing the rural landscape in the county.

Table 3-7: Number of Farms by Acreage, 1997-2002

	1997	2002	% Change 1997 to 2002
<b>Number of Farms by Farm Size</b>			
1 to 9 acres	8	9	12.50%
10 to 49 acres	52	40	-23.08%
50 to 99 acres	42	32	-23.81%
100 to 499 acres	144	117	-18.75%
500 to 999 acres	121	97	-19.83%
1000+ acres	82	89	8.54%
<b>Total Farms</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>-14.48%</b>
<b>Harvested Acreage</b>			
Acreage in Farms >1000 acres	121,950	143,419	17.60%
Share of Acreage in Farms > 1000 acres	50.12%	58.19%	
<b>Total Acreage (Censuses)</b>	<b>243,308</b>	<b>246,470</b>	<b>1.30%</b>

Source: 1997, 2002 Census of Agriculture

Table 3-8 indicates a significant decrease in the number of part-owners in farms and a slight increase in full owners. Tenant farms also decreased between 1997 and 2002.

Table 3-8: Number of Farms by Tenure, 1997-2002

Tenure	1997	2002	% Change 1997 - 2002
<b>Full Owners:</b>			
Total	164	166	1.22%
Harvested cropland	151	120	-20.53%
<b>Part Owners:</b>			
Total	193	174	-9.84%
Harvested cropland	193	167	-13.47%
<b>Tenants:</b>			
Total	108	102	-5.56%
Harvested cropland	105	97	-7.62%

Source: Table 40, 2002 Census, National Agricultural Statistical Services, US Department of Agriculture

Comparative statistics regarding market value of land, buildings, and agricultural products can be found in Table 3-9. While there was an increase in land and buildings from 1997 to 2002, agricultural product values declined. Livestock, poultry, and their products comprised 6.3% of all agricultural products sold in 1997; this figure decreased to 3.9% in 2002. While crops increased in their proportion to all agricultural products sold, their value decreased by 12% from 1997 to 2002.



**Table 3-9: Market Value of Land, Buildings, and Products Sold, 1997–2002**

	1997	2002	% Change
Estimated market value of land/ buildings, average per acre	\$2,914	\$2,981	2.3%
Estimated market value of land/ buildings, average per farm	\$1,572,444	\$1,827,180	16.2%
Market value of agricultural products sold	\$83,439,000	\$71,605,000	-14.2%
Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm	\$186,248	\$162,002	-13.0%
Market value of agricultural products sold, Crops	\$78,165,000	\$68,784,000	-12.0%
Market value of ag products sold, Livestock, poultry, and their products	\$5,275,000	\$2,821,000	-46.5%

Source: 1997, 2002 Census of Agriculture

In terms of specific crop yields, Table 3-10 provides figures for corn, soybeans, and wheat from 2003 through 2007. Corn has taken precedence over soybeans in Piatt County in the last five years, with wheat varying from year to year.

**Table 3-10: Acreage Harvested, Yield and Production of Crops, 2003-2007**

Crop	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	%Change 2003- 2007	%Change 2006- 2007
<b>Corn</b>							
Acres Harvested	128,700	133,200	138,000	140,100	161,200	25.3%	15.1%
Yield ( Bushels/Acre)	185	191	171	182	190	2.7%	4.4%
Production (Bushels)	23,809,500	25,441,200	23,598,000	25,498,200	30,628,000	28.6%	20.1%
<b>Soybeans</b>							
Acres Harvested	122,400	115,600	113,500	114,500	96,600	-21.1%	-15.6%
Yield ( Bushels/Acre)	41	54	56	55	56	36.6%	1.8%
Production (Bushels)	5,018,400	6,242,400	6,356,000	6,297,500	5,409,600	7.8%	-14.1%
<b>Wheat</b>							
Acres Harvested	1,500	2,100	1,500	1,900	1,700	13.3%	-10.5%
Yield ( Bushels/Acre)	90	53	74	92	63	-30.0%	-31.5%
Production (Bushels)	135,000	111,300	111,000	174,800	107,100	-20.7%	-38.7%

Source: Quick Stats, Illinois Agricultural Statistical Service, Illinois Department of Agriculture

The county's livestock inventory, as noted in Table 3-11, saw a fairly significant reduction in cattle, calves, hogs and pigs between 1997 and 2002, with a slight increase in sheep and lambs.

Table 3-11: Livestock inventory, 1997-2002

	1997	2002	Change 1997-2002	% Change 1997-2002
<b>Number of Farms</b>				
Cattle and calves inventory - Beef cows	47	40	-7	-14.9%
Cattle and calves inventory - Milk cows	2	4	2	100.0%
Cattle and calves inventory	62	51	-11	-17.7%
Hogs and pigs inventory	17	15	-2	-11.8%
Sheep and lambs inventory	5	14	9	180.0%
<b>Number of Animals</b>				
Cattle and calves inventory - Beef cows	(D)	701	-	-
Cattle and calves inventory - Milk cows	(D)	113	-	-
Cattle and calves inventory	2860	2,294	-566	-19.8%
Hogs and pigs inventory	15839	8,072	-7767	-49.0%
Sheep and lambs inventory	162	230	68	42.0%

Source: 1997, 2002 Census of Agriculture

The number of farms devoted to crops and livestock both decreased from 1997 to 2002, as shown in Table 3-12. The table also reflects that the majority of farms in Piatt County are for crops.

Table 3-12: Number of Farms by Type, 1997-2002

Type of Farm	1997	2002	% Change
Crop	439	420	-4.3%
Livestock	84	80	-4.8%
Total	523	500	-4.4%

## Private Sector Economy

As can be seen in Table 3-13, between 1997 and 2002, the private sector in Piatt County grew by approximately 10%, with 18 additional businesses establishing within the five years. Sales receipts for this sector in the same time period increased by 21%. The average sales per establishment in 1997 were approximately \$633,439, versus \$699,632 in 2002.

**Table 3-13: Private Sector Number of Establishments, Sales, and Payroll, 1997-2002**

NAICS Code	Description	Establishments			Sales receipts or shipments (in \$1000s)		
		1997	2002	% Change	1997	2002	% Change
21	Mining	X	X	X	X	X	X
22	Utilities	X	X	X	X	X	X
23	Construction	X	X	X	X	X	X
31-33	Manufacturing	X	X	X	X	X	X
42	Wholesale trade	29	22	-24%	D	D	D
44-45	Retail trade	55	54	-2%	\$99,377	\$110,651	11%
48-49	Transportation & warehousing	X	X	X	X	X	X
51	Information	X	X	X	X	X	X
52	Finance & insurance	X	X	X	X	X	X
53	Real estate & rental & leasing	8	6	-25%	\$2,036	\$1,381	-32%
54	Professional, scientific, & technical services	25	33	32%	\$4,571	\$7,642	67%
55	Management of companies & enterprises	X	X	X	X	X	X
56	Administrative/support/waste mgmt/remediation services	7	11	57%	\$2,764	\$2,987	8%
61	Educational services	X	X	X	X	X	X
62	Health care & social assistance	14	27	93%	\$6,499	\$17,724	173%
71	Arts, entertainment, & recreation	3	4	33%	D	D	D
72	Accommodation & food services	28	32	14%	D	D	D
81	Other services (except public administration)	20	18	-10%	\$4,473	\$4,439	-1%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>189</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$119,720</b>	<b>\$144,824</b>	<b>21%</b>

Source: 1997 and 2002 Economic Census, US Census Bureau

D = Withheld to avoid disclosing data of individual companies; data are included in higher level totals

X = Not applicable

### *Retail Sector*

Retail trade lost one establishment between 1997 and 2002, but increased sales receipts by 11%, from over \$99 million to \$110 million. Retail trade comprised 29% of all private sector establishments in 1997, which decreased to 26% in 2002. In 1997, the proportion of retail trade sales to total sales in the private sector was 83%; this decreased to 76% in 2002.

### *Healthcare Sector*

Healthcare and social assistance establishments increased in number by 93%, from 14 to 27 between 1997 and 2002. These establishments comprised 7% of the total private sector establishments in 1997, increasing to 13% in 2002. Sales receipts for this sector almost tripled for the same time period, from \$6.5 million to \$17.7 million. In 1997, the proportion of healthcare related sales to total sales in the private sector was 5%; this increased to 12% in 2002.

### *Services Sector*

A combined total of 94 service sector establishments existed in 1997; this increased to 121 by 2002, or 29%. Service sectors comprised half of the private sector establishments in 1997, increasing to 58% in 2002. Sales receipts for these sectors increased by 79% for the same time period, from \$18.3 million to \$32.8 million. In 1997, the proportion of service sector sales to total sales in the private sector was 15%; this increased to 23% in 2002.

## **Future Economy**

Employment projections through 2030 suggest that total employment will increase in Piatt County, with the most significant growth occurring in the service, retail, and local government sectors. A decline is anticipated in farm and federal government employment. All private employment sectors are expected to increase in employment with the least growth in wholesale trade, manufacturing, and mining. Overall, the projections indicate that total employment will grow at a decreasing rate through 2030, with a decennial rate of 8% growth that is anticipated to decrease to about 6% between 2020 and 2030.

Table 3-14: Employment Sector Projections, 2005-2030

NAICS Description	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change	%
							2005-2030	Change 2005-2030
Total Employment	6,111	6,348	6,578	6,795	7,004	7,202	1,091	18%
Farm Employment	551	540	529	518	507	495	-56	-10%
Non-farm employment	5,560	5,808	6,049	6,277	6,497	6,707	1,147	21%
Private Employment	4,590	4,785	4,974	5,149	5,316	5,473	883	19%
Agricultural Services, Other	129	154	178	203	227	252	123	95%
Mining	32	36	40	44	48	52	20	63%
Construction	306	314	322	328	335	341	35	11%
Manufacturing	404	409	413	415	417	418	14	3%
Transport, Comm & Public Utilities	197	200	203	206	209	212	15	8%
Wholesale Trade	325	327	329	330	330	330	5	2%
Retail Trade	1,078	1,115	1,152	1,185	1,216	1,243	165	15%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	581	598	615	630	644	658	77	13%
Services	1,538	1,632	1,722	1,808	1,890	1,967	429	28%
Government Employment	970	1,023	1,075	1,128	1,181	1,234	264	27%
Federal Civilian	51	49	46	44	42	40	-11	-22%
Federal Military	31	31	32	32	32	32	1	3%
State and Local	888	943	997	1,052	1,107	1,162	274	31%

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. Washington, D.C. Copyright 2007. Woods & Poole does not guarantee the accuracy of this data. The use of this data and the conclusion drawn from it are solely the responsibility of CCRPC.

### Key Findings

- Recent trends suggest a strengthening workforce in Piatt County, but residents are still more dependent on neighboring counties than their home county for work.
- In 2006, local government was the strongest employment sector in Piatt County, followed by retail trade and construction.
- Private sector employment and earnings dominated government and farm employment and earnings in the most recent economic Census (2002).
- Manufacturing experienced the largest loss in workforce and in earnings between 2001 and 2006.
- The number of farms in Piatt County decreased by 14% between 1997 and 2002.
- Farm sizes generally increased between 1997 and 2002.
- The majority of farms are devoted to crops rather than livestock. Corn is the predominant crop in the county.
- The number of private sector establishments increased by 10% between 1997 and 2002.
- Retail trade dominates the number of establishments and annual sales receipts in the private sector.
- Service establishments increased in number more than any other private sector industry.
- Employment projections suggest that private employment sectors will grow the most through 2030, with retail, services, and local government employment experiencing the greatest increases.

## Plans for the Economy

This section establishes goals, objectives and strategies for the future conditions of Piatt County's economy. Recommendations in this chapter are intended to provide tools by which the economy can be strengthened and of more benefit to residents. Creating a balance between quality of life for residents, needed infrastructure for developing Piatt County's economic base, and available financial resources is crucial to a growing economy.

### Issues

Piatt County residents indicated a variety of issues related to the economy during the public input opportunities afforded by the planning process.

- There are not enough jobs or industry in Piatt County.
- Opportunities for growth are not being encouraged in some employment sectors.
- Some residents oppose industry in some parts of Piatt County.
- There are few existing facilities for business expansion or growth.
- Residents would like more shopping areas.
- Residents would like to maintain agricultural/rural character.

## Best Management Practices

There are several factors that should be considered in light of current known best planning practices for Piatt County's economy. The following can be considered when implementing the plan.

- **Regional coordination**  
Applications for funding are considered more favorably by state and local agencies when they are multi-jurisdictional or regional projects. Expertise in some fields can also be shared via working groups such as Economic Development Districts.
- **Marketing**  
Marketing the County's strengths is essential to attracting more of an economic base. Immediate information readiness, especially via electronic means, is the standard for developers and potential business interests. The more information the county has about available infrastructure, vacant buildings, buildable lots, demographic and community information, the more ready they will be to answer inquiries and solicit development.

## Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Strive to achieve a stable economy that includes business diversity, provides high-paying primary employment opportunities, and is compatible with planned growth and quality of life objectives for the County.

Objective 1.1: Consider preparing an economic development implementation program that includes programs to attract complementary businesses for Piatt County.

Objective 1.2: Retain and/or attract employers, which provide employment opportunities of sufficient income to sustain a family standard of living.

Goal 2: Support workforce education to expand and diversify the County's labor pool through a variety of institutions and learning technologies.

Objective 2.1: Coordinate with State and local agencies to identify and help the workforce obtain information, training, transportation, and maintain employment.

Objective 2.2: Continue to support State agencies in obtaining and disseminating accurate labor market information and encourage local employers to participate in supplying labor market information.

Goal 3: Improve the county's capacity to effectively foster the expansion of existing business operations as well as the location of new industrial investments which generate better paying employment opportunities for local residents.

Objective 3.1: Strengthen the capabilities of local governments and economic development organizations and their efforts to solicit desirable firms interested in starting operations within Piatt County through information sharing.

Objective 3.2: Support public relation campaigns of local organizations, such as Chambers of Commerce, to better develop and promote the assets of Piatt County.

Objective 3.3: Continue to cooperate with local governments and developments in an effort to strengthen the capability for providing assistance to existing local businesses interested in expanding their current operations within the county.

Objective 3.4: Work with regional, state and federal resource agencies to bolster economic opportunities in Piatt County through grants, loans, public private partnerships and other available programs.

Goal 4: Establish Piatt County as a viable area for tourism.

Objective 4.1: Create a marketing plan that identifies possible tourism sites and activities, establishes possible funding sources and responsible parties for implementing the plan.

### **Future Conditions**

Employment projections through 2030 suggest that total employment will increase in Piatt County, with the most significant growth occurring in the service, retail, and local government sectors. A decline is anticipated in farm and federal government employment. All private employment sectors are expected to increase in employment with the least growth in wholesale trade, manufacturing, and mining. Overall, the projections indicate that total employment will grow at a decreasing rate through 2030, with a decennial rate of 8% growth that is anticipated to decrease to about 6% between 2020 and 2030.

In the future, Piatt County will have many opportunities for both living and working in the county. A more diverse economic base will be present, which will be facilitated by improved infrastructure, services, and marketing. Public transportation, ride sharing, and other alternative transportation modes will assist residents in arriving to training centers and their jobs. In addition to regional educational opportunities, local schools and libraries can be used for computer based training sites. Economic development will occur in conjunction with the most recent Future Land Use Map in accordance with the plan's goals and objectives.



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# CHAPTER 4: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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## Introduction

A comprehensive plan will recognize the importance of services provided and available to the community. This section outlines government institutions and community organizations that provide required services to Piatt County residents.

## Schools

There are currently 26 public schools within seven different school districts that serve the residents of Piatt County. Table 4-1 shows there are 12 elementary level schools, six middle schools, and seven high schools. Enrollment varies from 27 students at Deland-Weldon Middle School to 862 students at Mahomet-Seymour High School.



*Monticello Middle School*

**Table 4-1: Schools Serving Piatt County**

School	Village	2007 Enrollment	Grades Served
<b><i>Atwood Hammond Community Unit School District #39</i></b>			
Atwood Hammond High School	Atwood	115	9-12
Atwood Hammond Elementary School	Atwood	322	P-8
<b><i>Bement Community Unit School District #5</i></b>			
Bement Elementary School	Bement	217	P-5
Bement High School	Bement	137	9-12
Bement Middle School	Bement	83	6-8
<b><i>Blue Ridge Community Unit District #18</i></b>			
Blue Ridge Mansfield Elementary School	Mansfield	195	4-6
Blue Ridge Junior High School	Mansfield	135	7-8
Blue Ridge High School	Farmer City	281	9-12
Ruth M Schneider Elementary School	Farmer City	321	PK-3
<b><i>Cerro Gordo Community Unit School District #100</i></b>			
Cerro Gordo Elementary School	Cerro Gordo	287	P-5
Cerro Gordo High School	Cerro Gordo	176	9-12
Cerro-Gordo Middle School	Cerro Gordo	125	6-8
<b><i>Deland Weldon Community Unit School District #57</i></b>			
Deland-Weldon Elementary School	Weldon	135	P-6
Deland-Weldon High School	Deland	53	9-12
Deland Weldon Middle School	Weldon	27	7-8
<b><i>Mahomet-Seymour Unit #3</i></b>			
Mahomet-Seymour High School	Mahomet	862	9-12
Mahomet-Seymour Junior High School	Mahomet	650	6-8
Middletown Early Childhood Center	Mahomet	239	PK-K
Lincoln Trail Elementary School	Mahomet	616	3-5
Sangamon Elementary School	Mahomet	390	1-2
<b><i>Monticello Community School District #25</i></b>			
Lincoln Elementary School	Monticello	230	K, 1-2
Monticello High School	Monticello	520	9-12
Monticello Middle School	Monticello	428	6-8
Washington School	Monticello	385	3-5
White Heath Elementary School	White Heath	133	P-4

Source: Illinois State Board of Education

## School Districts

Residents of Piatt County attend seven school districts, each serving different geographic areas of the County. Enrollment within these school districts ranges from 215 students at Deland-Weldon CUSD 57 to 2,757 students at Mahomet-Seymour CUSD 3. Student/teacher ratios were lower than Illinois averages in Piatt County school districts except for Mahomet-Seymour CUSD 3.

**Table 4-2: School Districts**

School District Name	Enrollment	Pupil- Elementary Teacher Ratio	Pupil- Secondary Teacher Ratio	2004 Equalized Assessed Valuation per Pupil
Atwood Hammond CUSD 39	437	12.7:1	12.0:1	\$88,406
Bement CUSD 5	437	16.6:1	12.5:1	\$97,980
Blue Ridge CUSD 18	932	18.5:1	15.2:1	\$109,022
Cerro Gordo CUSD 100	588	14.7:1	14.7:1	\$82,632
Deland-Weldon CUSD 57	215	13.0:1	16.6:1	\$218,043
Mahomet-Seymour CUSD 3	2,757	19.1:1	19.6:1	\$73,854
Monticello CUSD 25	1,696	16.6:1	14.1:1	\$98,074

IL Pupil/ Teacher ratio - 18.8:1

Source: Illinois State Board of Education - 2007 Report Card

## Fire Districts

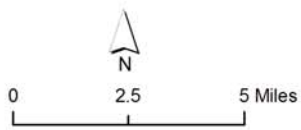
Piatt County is served by eleven Fire Protection Districts (FPD) serving the smaller villages and unincorporated areas of the County, and one Municipal Fire Department which serves Monticello. Each station provides coverage for an assigned geographic area, as outlined in Map 4-1. Three FPDs not located in the County, Farmer City FPD, Ivesdale FPD, and Weldon FPD, also provide protection.

Map 4-1:

# Fire Protection Service Piatt County, Illinois

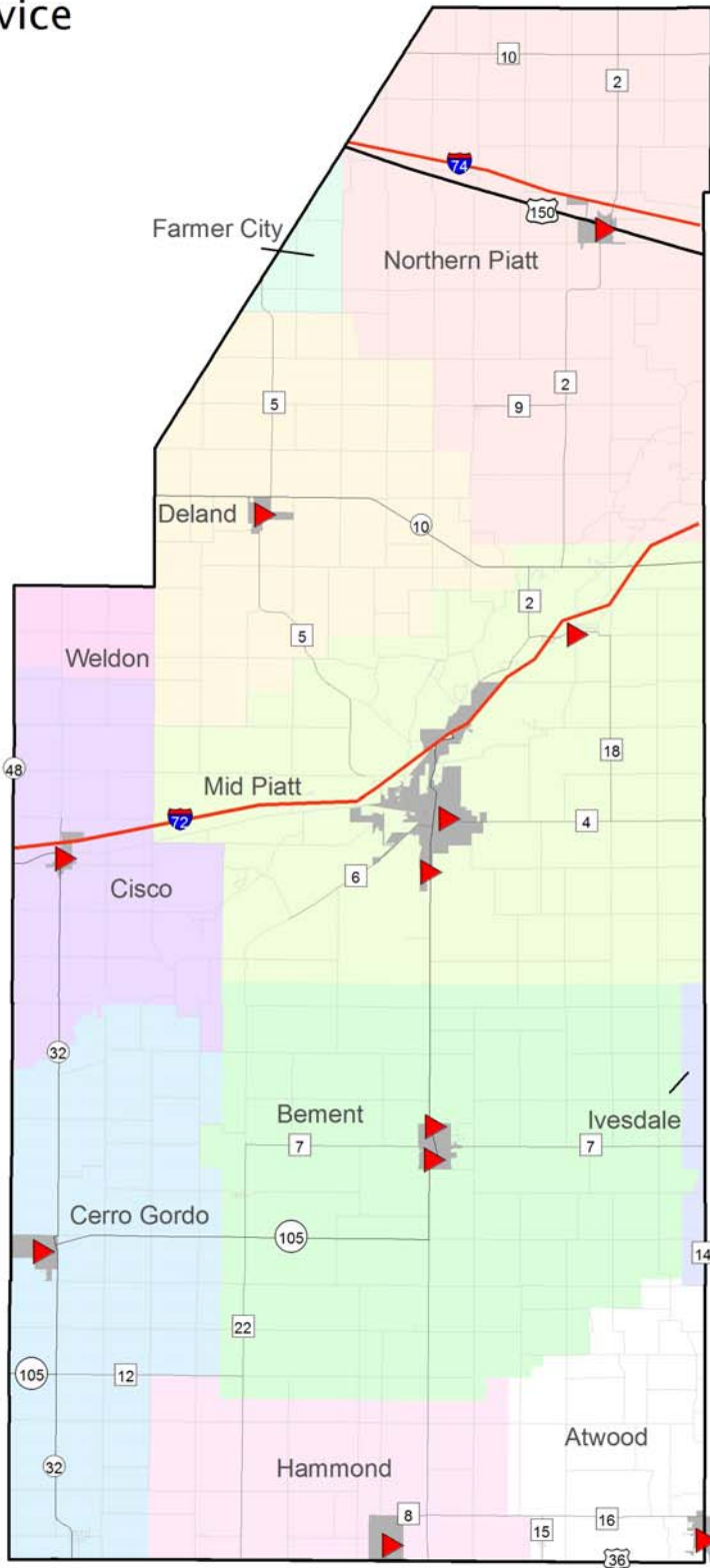
## Legend

-  Fire Stations
-  County Hwy
-  State Hwy
-  U.S. Hwy
-  Interstate



Production Date:  
January, 2008

Sources:  
CCRPC  
CCGIS  
IDOT



## ISO Rating

Fire suppression capability is rated by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Commercial Risk Services Inc. using the Fire Suppression Rating Scheme (FSRS). Under this system, each fire protection district is evaluated and given an ISO rating which is used to determine the fire fighting capability of an individual district. This number can vary from 1, being the best, down to 10, which represents no fire protection. Many small FPDs have a dual rating. The first number represents the protection to urban areas and those within a five mile radius of the fire station. The second number represents rural areas and those outside a five mile radius. Table 4-3 lists Fire Protection Districts providing coverage in Piatt County, and their ISO Ratings where available.

**Table 4-3: Fire Protection Districts and ISO ratings**

<u>Department/ District</u>	<u>Station Location</u>	<u>ISO Rating</u>
Atwood FPD	Atwood	5/9
Bement FPD	Bement	9/10
Cerro Gordo FPD	Cerro Gordo	6/9
Cisco FPD	Cisco	9/10
DeLand FPD	DeLand	7/9
Farmer City FPD (DeWitt Co.)	Farmer City (DeWitt Co.)	6/9
Hammond FPD	Hammond	7/9
Ivesdale FPD (Champaign Co.)	Ivesdale (Champaign Co.)	8/9
Mid-Piatt FPD	White Heath	6/9
Monticello Fire And Rescue	Monticello	5
Northern Piatt County FPD	Mansfield	6/9

*Source: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshall*

## Police

Piatt County Police Protection is provided to unincorporated areas by the Piatt County Sheriff's Office. The City of Monticello's Police department is comprised of six full-time and three part-time employees.

## Emergency Medical/Ambulatory Services

There are three emergency medical/ambulance providers in Piatt County: Cerro Gordo Community Ambulance Service, Kirby Ambulance Service in Monticello, and Emergency Ambulance Service in Monticello.

## Hospitals and Healthcare Centers

*Carle Clinic- Monticello-* Carle Clinic serves residents of Piatt County, providing routine care and treating minor and more serious illnesses. Preventative care, minor surgery, and diagnostic services are provided on location. Additionally, patrons have access to the collective knowledge of Carle Clinic's other physicians and medical experts who can consult through the patient's personal doctor.

*Kirby Hospital-* Kirby Hospital, located in Monticello, is the only hospital located in Piatt County. Kirby Hospital has served the Piatt County region for over 60 years, providing Emergency Services including 24/7 ambulance service, EMT, and homebound patient care. Additionally, the hospital offers Laboratory, Oncology, and general surgical service. Therapy services include Cardiac Rehabilitation, Diabetes Care, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy. Residents of the Atwood/Hammond/Arthur area can gain access to medical facilities at the Kirby Medical group at Atwood.

*Peterson Health Care Center-* The Peterson Health Care Center is a 60-bed facility located in Bement, providing nursing facility care to seniors in Piatt County.

*Piatt County Mental Health Center-* Located in Monticello, the Piatt County Mental Health Center provides behavioral health services to the area. Care is provided for persons with a full range of developmental disabilities. Services provided include outpatient therapy, vocational evaluation and placement, and alcohol and drug outpatient services.

*Piatt County Nursing Home-* Piatt County Nursing Home is a 100-bed intermediate nursing facility providing 24-hour care in Monticello. Piatt County Nursing home has 150 staff available to serve county residents. Professionals provide in-house care for residents, and also sponsor outreach programs such as Piatt County Services for Seniors, Faith in Action, and Care Management Services, all providing care to older adults living in the community.

## Senior Living Centers

*Tatman Village-* Tatman village is a senior residential community located in Monticello. Established in 1981, Tatman village offers elderly persons the opportunity to reside in the community and still maintain an independent lifestyle. Tatman Village offers 52 apartments ranging in size from individual studios to 2 bedroom units. Preference is offered first to residents of Monticello Township, then Piatt County residents, and finally affiliates of the County.

*Maple Point –* Maple Point is a supported living community with 30 apartment style units. The center will be opened in 2008 and provide preferential admission to Piatt County residents.

## Social Services

*Food Pantries-* A variety of organizations have food pantries: Mansfield United Methodist Church; Piatt County Ecumenical Food Pantry, Monticello; Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation, Monticello; Lord's Storehouse, La Place; Lodge Church of God; and God's Lifeline, Cerro Gordo. Days and hours of service vary.

*DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department-* The DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department offers health assistance for residents in the bi-county area. Services include immunizations, wellness clinics, environmental health services, as well as establishing public health policy.

*Illinois Department of Human Services-* Illinois Department of Human Services was established in 1997 to provide Illinois residents access to services intended to relieve financial stress. Services include housing assistance, food stamp program, addiction counseling, child care, medical assistance, violence prevention, and disability rehabilitation.

*Senior Citizens Transportation Advisory Board-* Based in Cerro Gordo, the Board provides mini-bus services for senior citizens in Cerro Gordo, Monticello, Bement, Mansfield, and Deland.

*Piattran County Transportation-* Piattran provides a program for those with special transportation needs in Piatt County. Medivan provides medical transportation for those who are in a wheelchair or who cannot navigate a standard vehicle. Piattran also offers services to teens aged 12 and up for recreational opportunities in neighboring counties.

*Piatt County Services for Seniors-* Provides information and assistance on senior services for citizens 60 and older. Transportation assistance is available for medical appointments. Services for Seniors also provides direction to area services, ensuring that Piatt County seniors are connected to the programs, agencies, and assistance they need.

*Piatt County Faith in Action-* Is a volunteer caregiver ministry that offers assistance to senior adults. Services include companionship, minor home repair, yard work, grocery shopping, meal preparation, transportation for errands, and respite care.

*Dove Inc.-* Provides support and services for domestic violence victims, assistance for homeless persons, and a number of other programs for residents of Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, and DeWitt Counties.

*Willow Tree Mission-* Willow Tree Mission provides a clothing pantry, food share program, and shelter for victims of domestic violence.

## Plans for Public Services

This section establishes goals, objectives and strategies for the future conditions of Piatt County's public services. Recommendations in this chapter are intended to provide tools by which the community can be improved in terms of quality of life, health and safety. Providing public services can be challenging in terms of who has the responsibility for providing them and ensuring that all residents are served as optimally as possible.

### Issues

Piatt County residents indicated a variety of issues related to public services during the public input opportunities afforded by the planning process.

- Smaller towns have a lack of ambulances, resulting in high response times.
- Recycling could be expanded in the County.

## Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Piatt County will support a system of public safety, justice and law enforcement that provides equal and fair treatment to all.

Objective 1.1: Encourage police, fire, and ambulance service for all residents of Piatt County.

Objective 1.2: Periodically assess whether there is adequate service given considerations such as population growth, new employment centers, and barriers to accessibility by emergency vehicles and facilitate solutions.

Goal 2: Piatt County will be a place where residents have access to community services that foster healthier lives.

Objective 2.1: Encourage programs for senior citizens.

Objective 2.2: Encourage programs for low income families.

Objective 2.3: Encourage programs for victims of domestic violence.

Objective 2.4: Encourage programs for children.

Objective 2.5: Encourage programs for continuing adult education.



## **Future Conditions**

### ***Schools***

Population projections for horizon year 2030 suggest that there will be fewer school aged children in Piatt County than there are currently. To fully identify future needs, a school facilities plan should be completed by all Piatt County school districts that identifies capacity, building age, existing expansions, and perceived needs. A prioritized project list should be created that allows some room for potential growth. The future of schools in Piatt County should continue to espouse the ideals of quality education, adequate facilities, and equity for all students.

### ***Police***

Population and municipal growth will both be determining factors in the amount of police presence needed in Piatt County. While there is no standard for the number of police officers needed for a given population, public sentiment can be a gauge used to determine need. Police response times can also be useful in identifying geographic gaps in coverage.

### ***Fire***

The future of fire protection in Piatt County, as in every county, should focus on improving response times. A gap analysis can be performed that identifies areas with high response times. Lower ISO ratings are a reflection of improved response times, among other factors. Gaps should be prioritized for potential expanded service, for which funding can be sought.

### ***Ambulance***

Ambulance service is geographically focused on the central and western portions of the county. Like police and fire, a gap analysis can be undertaken to prioritize where future service expansion could take place if funding becomes available.

### ***Social Services Programs***

There will always be a need for a variety of programs that serve residents. In order to ensure that Piatt County maintains and implements necessary programs in the future, periodic opportunities should be provided for residents to identify their needs and prioritize them. In twenty years, Piatt County should be more self-sufficient in its provision of social services. It should be inclusive of all needs and coordinate efforts so that resources can be found and used equitably and efficiently.

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# CHAPTER 5: UTILITIES

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## Public Sanitary Sewer

The presence or absence of public sanitary sewer service is a major factor in site selection for new development. Generally, within the County, public sanitary sewer service is available to the larger municipalities. Table 5-1 provides information regarding the status of public sanitary sewer service availability within the municipalities of Piatt County as of May 2008.

**Table 5-1: Availability of Public Sanitary Sewer**

Municipality	Public Sewer Available?	Are plans underway to provide public sewer?	Treatment Capacity (g/day)	Excess Capacity (g/day)
Atwood	Yes	NA	344,000	200,000
Bement	Yes	NA	unk	unk
Cerro Gordo	Yes	NA	100,000	0
Cisco	No	No	NA	NA
Deland	No	No	NA	NA
Hammond	Yes	NA	unk	unk
Mansfield	No	No	NA	NA
Monticello	Yes	NA	1,000,000	450,000

## Onsite Wastewater Disposal Systems

At the present time, several villages and rural settlements of the County rely on private, on-site wastewater disposal systems as the method of wastewater treatment and disposal. The villages and settlements in this category include: Village of Cisco, Village of Deland, Village of Mansfield, and the settlements Galesville, La Place, Lodge, White Heath, Pierson Station, and Milmine.

### *Septic Onsite Wastewater Disposal Systems*

All onsite wastewater disposal systems require initial approval by the Piatt County Health Department in order to safeguard the public health and safety. At present in Illinois, once private residential wastewater systems are installed, there are no requirements in place that set effluent limits for some pollutants, or that require that effluent be tested periodically to ensure that onsite wastewater disposal systems are functioning as they should.

Map 5-1 shows areas that have good soil attributes for septic systems.

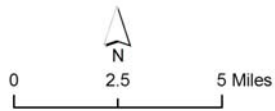
Map 5-1: Areas of 'Good' Potential for Septic Tank Absorption Fields

# Potential for Septic Suitability

Piatt County, Illinois

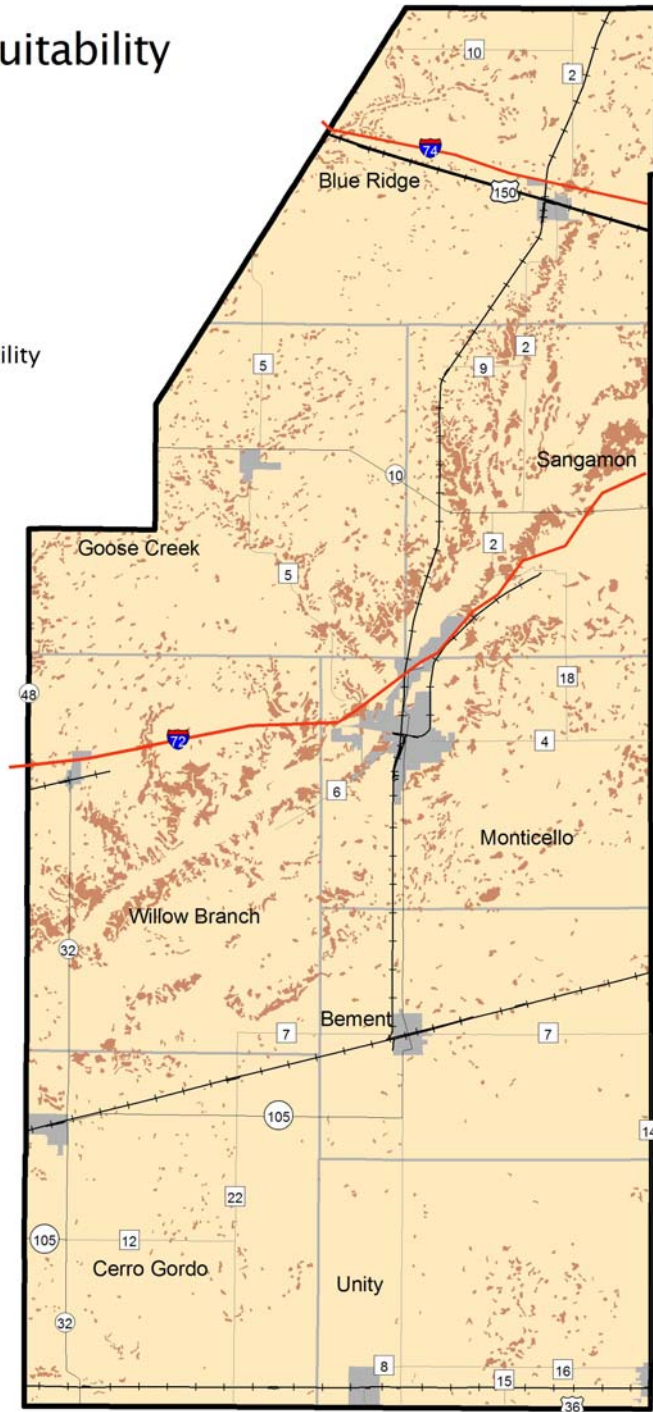
## Legend

-  Good Potential for Septic Suitability
-  County
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Civil Township
-  County Hwy
-  State Hwy
-  U.S. Hwy
-  Interstate



Production Date:  
November, 2007

Sources:  
USDA  
IDOT  
CCGIS



## County Regulations of Onsite Wastewater Disposal Systems

The County Zoning Ordinance requires that lots less than 43,560 square feet (one acre) in area must be served by a public water supply and either a public sewer or a sewage disposal system (other than a septic tank seepage field system) approved by the plat committee for a subdivision or by the County Board for an individual lot.

Before any subdivision is approved, the subdivider must present proof that an approved sewage disposal system will be available and if a septic tank-seepage field system is to be used, that soil conditions throughout the entire area to be subdivided permit satisfactory percolation for the seepage field to comply with the applicable regulations of the State of Illinois.

### Public Water Service

Another primary determinant of site suitability for development is the availability of a water supply. Generally, the service areas for water systems that serve urbanized areas are usually defined by elevation. Most public water systems are gravity driven, with the service area limited to the highest elevation to which the existing gravity system can deliver adequate water pressure to fight fires. Public water systems will sometimes be supplemented with extra pumps or lift stations to serve a development that would otherwise be outside a service area. The costs associated with maintenance of pumps and lift stations is significant and most operators prefer to plan for a system that is gravity-driven.

#### *Public Water Supply Service Availability*

Within Piatt County, each of the eight principal municipalities is served by at least one municipal well. Smaller communities and other rural areas are served by private wells.

**Table 5-2: Availability of Public Water**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Public Water Available?</b>	<b>Treatment Capacity (g/day)</b>	<b>Excess Capacity (g/day)</b>
Atwood	Yes	360,000	225,000
Bement	Yes	100,000	50,000
Cerro Gordo	Yes	100,000	0
Cisco	Yes	unk	unk
Deland	Yes	50,000	15,000
Hammond	Yes	unk	unk
Mansfield	Yes	40,000	0
Monticello	Yes	1,176,000	350,000
White Heath	Yes	unk	unk

## Private Onsite Wells

In outlying rural areas of the County, residences and other developments that are not served by a public water system rely on private wells for water supply. Generally, private onsite wells are dug to access subsurface areas of water bearing sand and gravel deposits (or aquifers) that are sufficiently sized to provide a dependable water supply. If a well is dug into sand and gravel deposits of greater thickness, the likelihood of a dependable water supply increases.

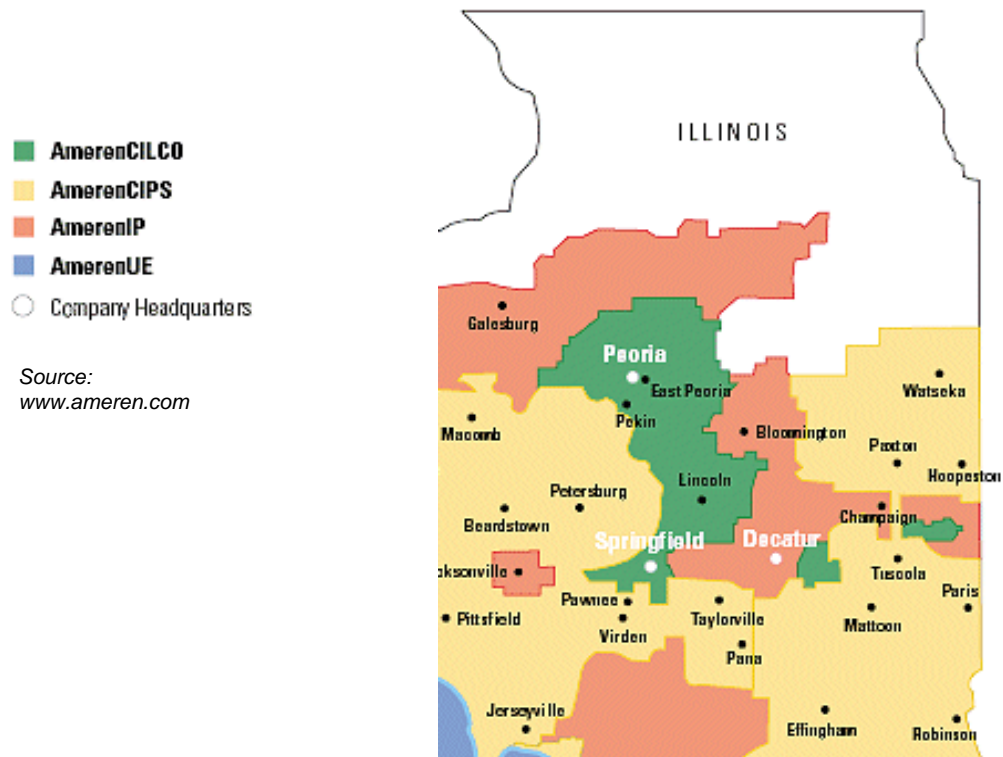
## Energy Resources

Ameren Corporation, with its operating companies AmerenIP and AmerenCILCO, serves the majority of the County's electricity and natural gas needs. The corporations' Goose Creek Energy Facility is located in Piatt County. The facility is a 510 MW natural gas-fired, peaking facility and the only large-scale power generation facility in the County.

### *Electric and Natural Gas Distribution*

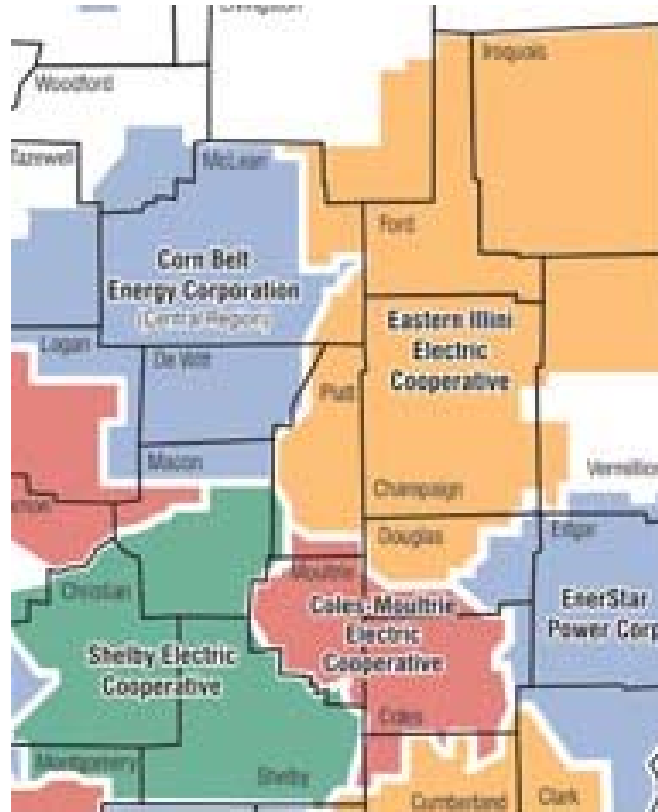
Electric restructuring allows customers to choose who supplies the generation portion of the electric service, based on their own needs and preferences (e.g., including how or where the electricity is produced, economic or environmental support, the lowest price or total cost or the best combination of the prices, services and incentives). Ameren supplies bundled generation, transmission and distribution services to residential customers in Piatt County. Figure 5-1 shows service areas for Ameren in east central Illinois.

Figure 5-1: Ameren Service Area



Rural Electric Cooperatives also provide services within Piatt County. Figure 5-2 provides the names and locations of these cooperatives.

Figure 5-2: Rural Electric Cooperatives



Map 5-3 shows locations of high voltage transmission lines, electric substations, electric generation facilities, and gas transmission pipelines. Location information provided is approximate due to the limited scope of information available from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC).

AmerenIP purchases electricity in the market from national power grid suppliers, predominantly produced through coal-fired, gas-fired, hydroelectric and nuclear power plants owned and operated by the parent company Ameren.

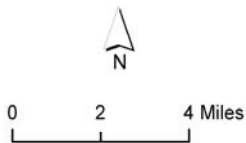
Map 5-3: Utility Transmission and Distribution Lines

# Utility Transmission and Distribution

Piatt County, Illinois

## Legend

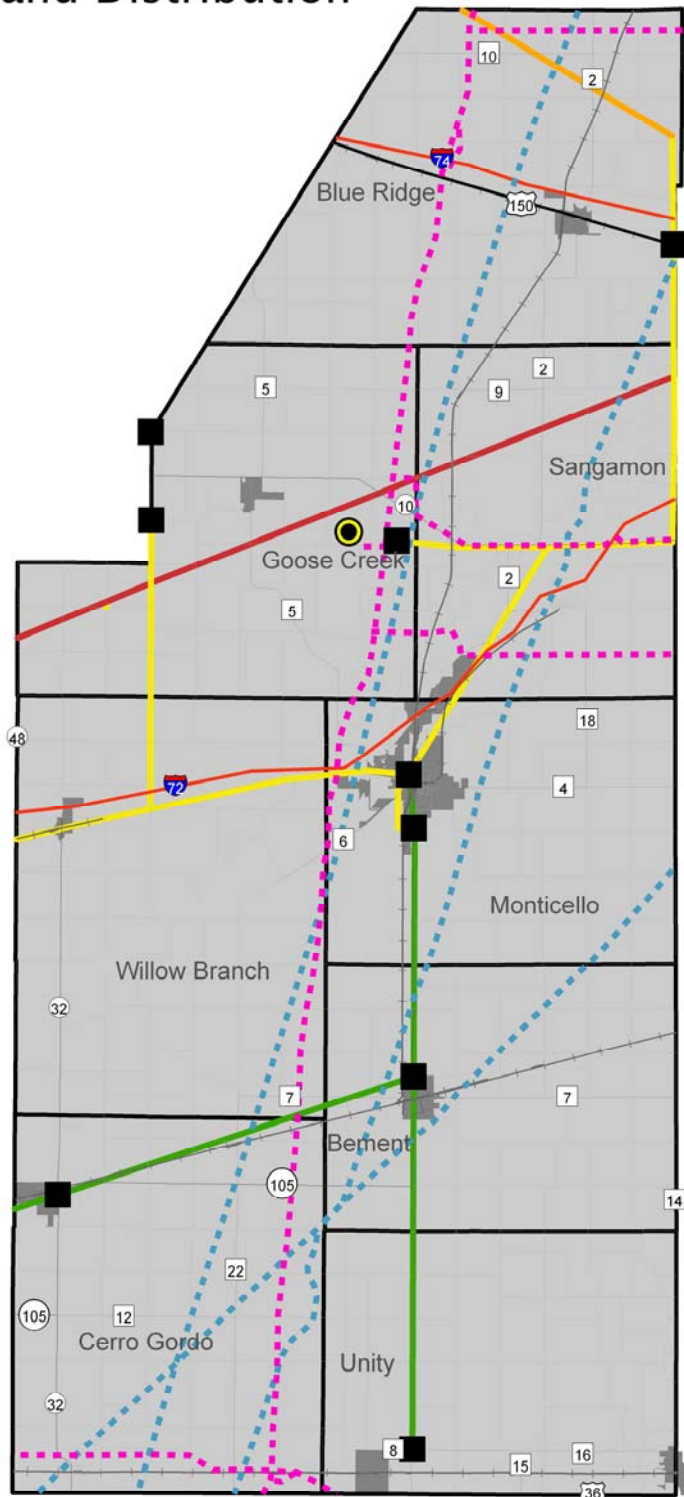
- Electric Substations
- Hazardous Liquid Pipeline
- Gas Transmission Pipeline
- Hazardous Liquid Pipeline
- Electric Transmission Capacity
- 34.5 kV
- 69 kV
- 138 kV
- 345 kV
- ▭ Civil Township
- ▭ Municipal Boundary
- Goose Creek Energy Facility
- 10 County Hwy
- 48 State Hwy
- 150 U.S. Hwy
- 74 Interstate



Production Date:  
July, 2009

Sources:  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
IDOT  
CCGIS

Hazardous liquids include:  
Petroleum, petroleum products,  
or anhydrous ammonia





## Renewable Energy Resources

### *Biogas and Biomass*

Biogas (i.e. methane/waste from livestock, sludge from municipal waste water, segregated organic wastes) is a potential source of energy that converts waste materials into energy production materials through anaerobic digestion. Biomass (plant material) can be used to produce energy most commonly in the form of biofuel (i.e. ethanol) but can also be used as combustible material to produce heat energy (*Renewable Energy Resource Program Report*, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Energy and Recycling, 2006). This type of energy production is constrained due to cost but is becoming a valuable alternative to other higher polluting sources of energy. Scale and environmental impacts are still important factors when considering biogas or biomass energy sources. Corn grown in Piatt County is currently being used to produce ethanol, however no statistics have been found that quantify production amounts.

### *Solar Energy*

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign generated a study showing that while Illinois has a desirable amount of solar radiation for energy production (134-180 kilowatt hours per square meter of array per year), the cost of photovoltaic production, technology for battery capacity, as well as currently subsidized energy costs, makes this form of energy production cost prohibitive in east-central Illinois. Consumer cost reflects this as solar energy costs approximately 50 cents per kilowatt hour where standard technologies cost around 11 cents per kilowatt hour, but are rising. Large scale solar energy facilities could help offset more expensive power production such as peak power facilities and distributed power generation facilities (*Evaluation of the Potential for Photovoltaic Power Generation in Illinois* by Angus Rockett, Illinois State Water Survey, 2006). Smaller scale solar systems depend on demand from users, payback rates, economic incentives and opportunities for net metering. Solar resources can also be used to reduce energy consumption through passive design techniques. Solar resources can be used to produce hot water, heat rooms, and provide lighting without converting it to electricity.

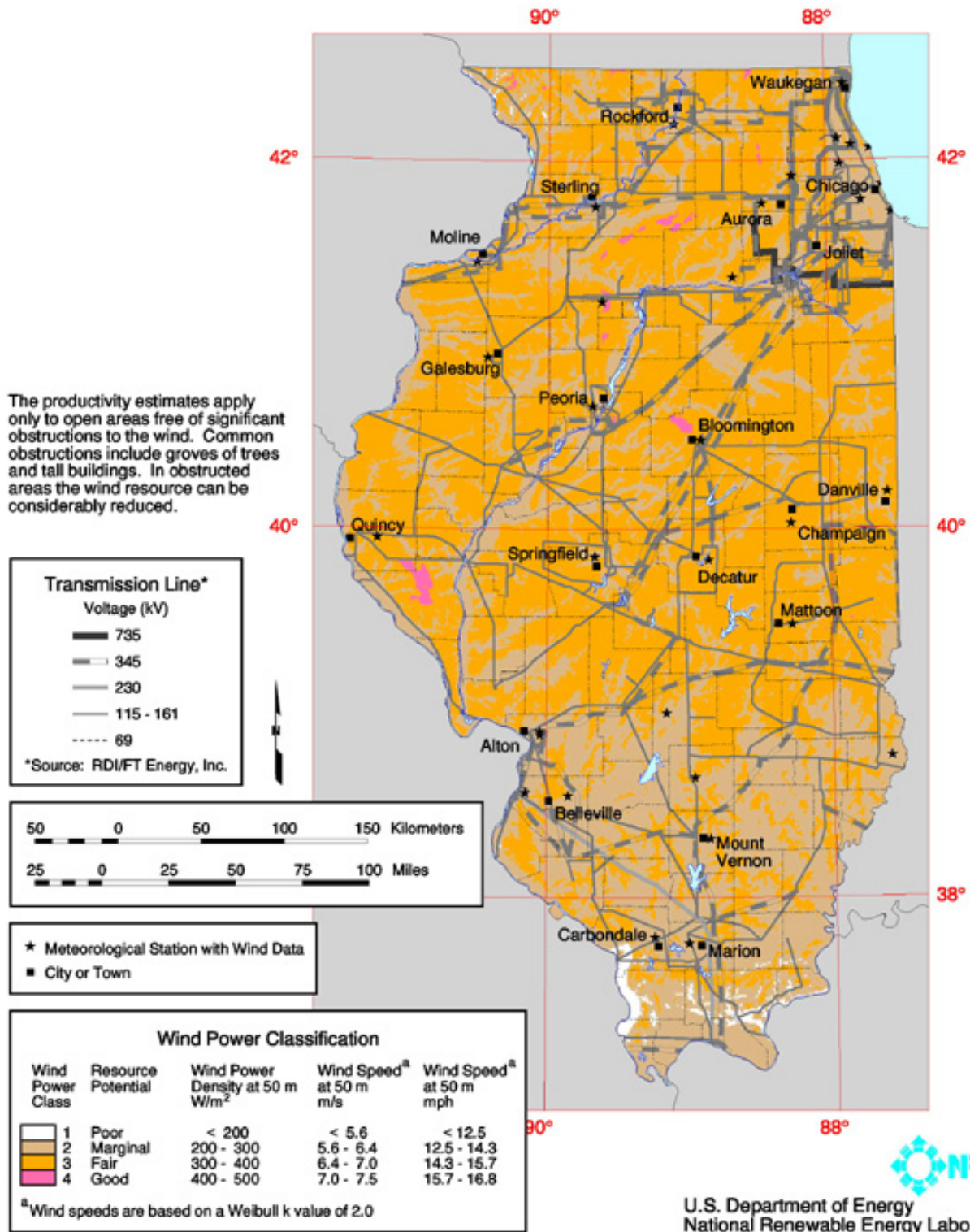
### *Wind Energy*

Wind power is an increasingly viable alternative for energy production, with developing technology and increased interest in renewable energy. Many areas in Illinois have already undertaken wind farm projects with more being proposed annually. Much of Piatt County is rated as having fair potential for wind energy and all counties have a major transmission line through which energy can be sold and supplied to distribution companies. Costs are competitive in today's wholesale market, making the demand for wind turbines increase exponentially. Waiting lists are long for wind turbine production and small scale operations are often ignored for larger, more profitable endeavors. Smaller scale wind turbines are available for potential residential or small commercial use, but height restrictions and wind speeds can limit the viability of this resource. Piatt County adopted a wind farm ordinance in 2009.

The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) published maps that estimate the potential wind power resource throughout the State of Illinois. Map 5-4 is the USDOE Illinois Wind Resource Map. The USDOE wind power resource maps reflect data about estimated wind speeds at 50 meters above ground and distance to transmission lines. Five prime wind zones were established in Illinois; a small area stretches through the northeast corner of Piatt County while others are located near Bloomington and Mattoon. The majority of Piatt County was rated as Fair, having an average wind speed of 14.3 - 15.7 mph.

Map 5-4: Wind Resource Potential

## Illinois - Wind Resource Map



## Plans for Infrastructure

This section establishes goals, objectives and strategies for the future conditions of Piatt County's infrastructure. Recommendations in this chapter are intended to provide tools for community improvement and for strengthening Piatt County's economic base. Provision of infrastructure can be complicated in terms of responsibility for providing it, prioritizing construction and improvement, and ensuring that it adequately serves the existing and potential population.

### Issues

Piatt County residents indicated a variety of issues related to infrastructure during the public input opportunities afforded by the planning process.

- Residents perceive poor drainage on rural secondary roads.
- Funding is lacking for infrastructure improvements.
- Residents perceive an eroding tax base in conjunction with increased demand for services.

## Best Management Practices

There are several factors that should be considered in light of current known best planning practices for infrastructure. The following can be considered when implementing the plan.

- Economic development programs  
State and regional economic development programs can help fund infrastructure projects. These initiatives come in the form of both loans and grants. Planning and project prioritization services are also available at the regional and state levels.
- Aquifer protection  
Although central Illinois has considerable aquifer resources, they cannot be assumed to be infinite. As new development occurs in Piatt County, especially for industries that might need a significant amount of groundwater resources, the aquifers need to be considered for both present and future populations.
- Environmental awareness  
There are a variety of tools that Piatt County can use to ensure that its quality environment will continue well into the future. Some tools are also effective in mitigating existing issues; for example, use of permeable surface materials can improve drainage and mitigate erosion while also being friendlier to the environment.

## Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: In support of the land use and development goals, new urban and rural development should be supported with adequate water and wastewater facilities.

Objective 1.1: For municipalities that provide water or wastewater facilities; require that new developments connect to those facilities.

Objective 1.2: Review current County guidelines for on-site waste disposal systems in unincorporated areas of the County for effectiveness in ground water aquifer protection.

Objective 1.3: Consider possible use of alternative rural waste water disposal systems such as land treatment technologies.

Objective 1.4: Ensure that there is sufficient infrastructure available for the needs of new and expanding industries.

Goal 2: Support managing County solid waste in accordance with the following action hierarchy: prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle, waste to energy, incinerate, and landfill.

Objective 2.1: Update the county's solid waste management plan as needed.

Objective 2.2: Continue to seek grants to further the County's recycling, conservation, and education efforts.

Objective 2.3: Identify and establish County programs which provide education and identify agencies, services and vendors which support the action hierarchy for solid waste handling and disposal.

Goal 3: Ensure a supply of high-quality water, including conservation measures, to support the county's population, economy and natural systems.

Objective 3.1: Utilize design solutions that reduce the amount of impervious surfaces.

Objective 3.2: Support programs that raise public awareness about countywide water supply and storm water issues.

Objective 3.3: Develop standards which encourage increased use of native landscaping through demonstration projects.

Objective 3.4: Work with institutions and organizations to better communicate the importance of water and other natural resources to the public.

Objective 3.5: Encourage cooperation between communities and water suppliers to ensure adequacy of intake, treatment, and distribution of the public water supply.

Goal 4: Encourage efforts between public agencies (state and local) and technology providers.

Goal 5: Piatt County will have a drainage system that withstands a 10 year storm.

Objective 5.1: Create and implement a countywide Storm Water Management and Erosion Control ordinance.

Objective 5.2: Require that the management of storm water discharge meets standards that will ensure there will not be adverse impacts on agriculture, or on the quality of potable public surface water supplies.

Objective 5.3: Create a countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for state hazard mitigation funding.

Goal 6: Piatt County will seek to be fiscally responsible by optimizing use of existing infrastructure before replacing or expanding its infrastructure system.

Objective 6.1: Create and update an inventory, maintenance and capital improvement plan for all infrastructure systems in Piatt County.

Objective 6.2: New developments needing additional infrastructure will work with the County to determine an equitable distribution of related costs.

## **Future Conditions**

With the Future Land Use Map and knowledge of needed infrastructure projects, Piatt County can prioritize these projects at the county level and seek funding for them based on population affected, potential for economic investment, and other factors.

### ***Water***

In general, Piatt County residents are supplied with public water via municipal wells. Some municipalities are in need of more storage capacity, updated facilities, and/or new lines. In order to attract more of an economic base to the County, municipalities and areas designated on the Future Land Use Map as suitable for industry and commerce will need to update their water storage capacities and related infrastructure. Given the current information collected during the planning process, this is especially true for the villages of Cerro Gordo, Cisco, Deland, and Mansfield.

### ***Drainage***

Piatt County's significant problems with drainage during heavy storms need to be mitigated for safety as well as reducing maintenance costs for affected roads and land. In twenty years, the county at minimum should have a plan that identifies problem drainage areas, cost estimates, and needs prioritization. Funding should be actively and continuously sought to mitigate these issues.

### ***Sanitary Sewers***

Public sanitary sewer systems exist in Atwood, Bement, Cerro Gordo, Hammond and Monticello. There are no current plans to provide service in Cisco, Deland, and Mansfield. Like water systems, Piatt County's future economy depends on having adequate sewer infrastructure.

The alternative to sanitary sewers is onsite wastewater disposal systems, or septic systems. Cisco, Deland and Mansfield depend on these for their sanitary needs. These systems can pose significant health and environmental issues if they stop functioning properly. These municipalities and unincorporated areas of the County should set the goal of having public sanitary sewer systems as soon as possible to mitigate these concerns.

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# CHAPTER 6: HOUSING

## Introduction

Housing is a basic need. The range of housing opportunities and choices help define a community's character and provide evidence of the prevailing socio-economic conditions. Important characteristics of housing include variability in service provision and safety, impacts on local economies, influences on road conditions and traffic patterns, and availability of suitable housing for all residents in the county. Community housing stocks are lasting features on the landscape and need to be monitored and maintained to provide long lasting utility and express the desired community character.

## Housing Units

Between 1980 and 1990, the number of housing units decreased by 1.5 percent, primarily in rural areas, though many incorporated areas experienced some decline as well. The U.S. Census defines a housing unit as a house, apartment unit, mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied, or, if vacant, is intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. From 1990 to 2000, Piatt County increased its total housing stock by 571 homes (9.1%). The combination of increasing population and fewer people per dwelling unit made this increase significant in Bement (10%), Monticello (18%), and Sangamon Township (34%). The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there were 7,201 housing units countywide in 2006. This is a 5.9% increase from 2000. Table 6-1 provides total housing units for incorporated areas and townships between 1980 and 2000.

**Table 6-1: Number of Housing Units by Municipality and Township, 1980-2000**

	1980	1990	2000
<b>Atwood (Piatt pt.)</b>	317	275	284
<b>Bement</b>	677	656	723
<b>Cerro Gordo</b>	578	577	583
<b>Cisco</b>	130	114	113
<b>Deland</b>	194	196	206
<b>Hammond</b>	226	231	244
<b>Mansfield</b>	366	371	424
<b>Monticello</b>	1872	1880	2225
<b>Bement Township</b>	106	109	80
<b>Blue Ridge Township</b>	184	168	181
<b>Cerro Gordo Township</b>	358	305	314
<b>Goose Creek Township</b>	172	138	144
<b>Monticello Township</b>	185	294	169
<b>Sangamon Township</b>	556	567	762
<b>Unity Township</b>	201	175	161
<b>Willow Branch Township</b>	196	171	185
<b>Total</b>	6318	6227	6798

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1980, Census 1990, Census 2000*

## Tenure

From 1980 to 2000, owner occupied housing has increased, comprising over 75 percent of housing in Piatt County in 2000. Renter occupied housing has decreased in number and proportion while vacant housing has decreased overall since 1980. Table 6-2 shows decennial housing tenures from 1980 to 2000.

**Table 6-2: County Housing Tenure, 1980-2000**

	Owner Occupied	Percent of Total	Renter Occupied	Percent of Total	Vacant	Percent of Total
<b>1980</b>	4503	71.5	1436	22.8	363	5.8
<b>1990</b>	4539	72.9	1395	22.4	293	4.7
<b>2000</b>	5197	76.4	1278	18.8	323	4.8

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1980, Census 1990, Census 2000*

## Vacancy Status

Efficient housing markets provide an adequate supply of housing units for sale or rent. This allows for proper absorption of new households due to natural growth as well as migration. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) promotes an overall vacancy rate of 3 percent (1.5 percent for owner occupied and 5 percent for rentals). In 2000, overall vacancy in Piatt County was 4.8 percent. Further data shows that vacancy rates for owner-occupied units were at 1.1 percent while renter-occupied vacancies were at 1.0 percent. This means that 2.6 percent of vacant buildings in Piatt County are owned or rented but do not have permanent residents or continual use. The vacancies attributed as unoccupied or primarily for seasonal use do not supplement the housing market in Piatt County. Similar vacancy rates existed in 1990, as seen in Table 6-3.

**Table 6-3: County Occupancy and Vacancy Status, 1990-2000**

	1990		2000	
	Actual	Percent	Actual	Percent
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	6227		6798	
<b>Occupied</b>	5934	95.3	6475	95.2
<b>Vacant</b>	293	4.7	323	4.8
<b>For Rent</b>	66	1.1	70	1.0
<b>For Sale Only</b>	56	.9	76	1.1
<b>Rented or Sold, not occupied</b>	n/a	n/a	82	1.2
<b>Seasonal Use</b>	22	.4	3	0.0
<b>For migrant workers</b>	n/a	n/a	0	0.0
<b>Other vacant</b>	149	2.4	92	1.4

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

## Size

Single family homes comprise 83.9 percent of housing in Piatt County. Single Family attached units (generally associated with condominiums) are included in the 1-Family category in Table 6-4. These units, however, represent only a small portion of the housing in Piatt County. According to the 2000 Census, only seven percent of homes in Piatt County are multi-family homes.

**Table 6-4: Housing Stock by Type**

	1990		2000	
	Actual	Percent	Actual	Percent
<b>Total Occupied</b>	5934	95.3	6475	95.3
<b>1-Family</b>	5143	82.6	5704	83.9
<b>2-Family</b>	100	1.6	118	1.7
<b>3+-Family</b>	340	5.5	338	5.0
<b>Other</b>	351	5.6	315	4.6
<b>Unoccupied</b>	293	4.7	323	4.8
<b>Total Units</b>	6227		6798	

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

## Age

One-third of all housing units in Piatt County were constructed before 1939, according to the 2000 census. A spike in construction of owner occupied homes occurred between 1960 and 1970, but building rates have steadily decreased since that time. Rental unit ages are evenly distributed, with a slight increase for those built prior to 1939.

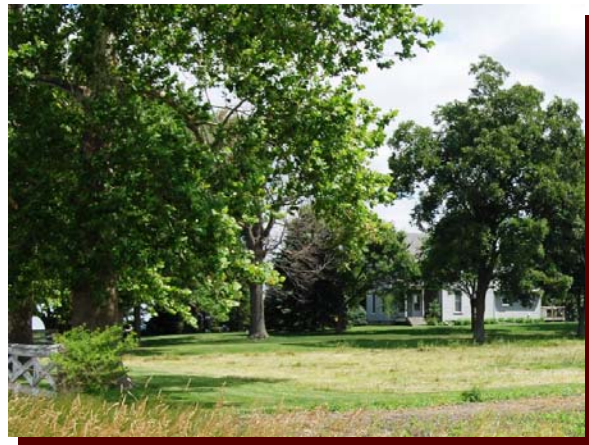
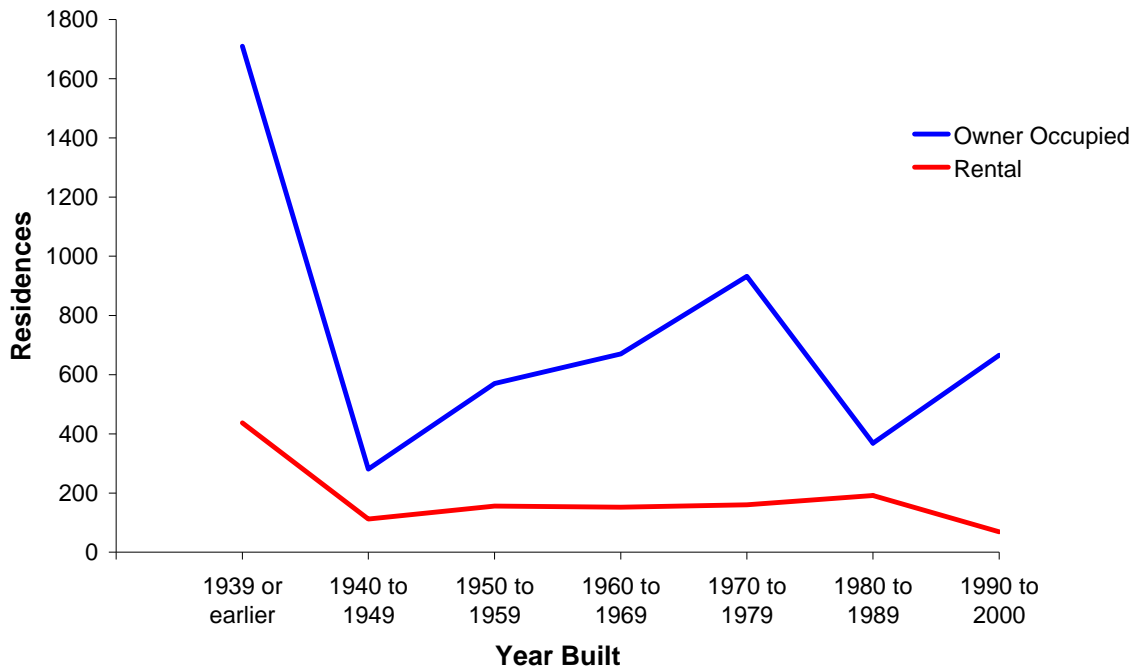


Chart 6-1: Age of Residences



Value

The 2000 Census shows median home values in Piatt County at \$82,600. Value ranges more than doubled since 1990, with the most change occurring in the upper quartile. Compared to surrounding counties, Piatt County has a lower median value than more urban counties such as Champaign and McLean Counties. Piatt County has higher median values than neighboring rural counties Dewitt, Douglas and Moultrie Counties. Of the rural counties, Piatt has the highest value for the lower quartile, while Dewitt has the highest value for the upper quartile.

Table 6-5: Owner Occupied Home Values

	1990	2000	Change
Lower Quartile	\$36,800	\$61,700	67.7%
Median	\$51,200	\$82,600	61.3%
Upper Quartile	\$71,700	\$124,200	73.2%
Inter-Quartile Range	\$34,900	\$62,500	79.1%

*U.S Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

**Table 6-6: Owner Occupied Home Value Comparison, 2000**

	Champaign	De Witt	Douglas	McLean	Moultrie	Piatt
<b>Lower Quartile</b>	68,900	53,200	49,600	85,600	53,500	61,700
<b>Median</b>	94,700	74,300	70,500	114,800	72,800	82,600
<b>Upper Quartile</b>	134,000	98,200	96,200	153,300	97,400	124,200

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 2000*

Rental values in Piatt County have increased, but at a slower rate than owner values. The largest increase occurred at the upper quartile level. Rental values compared to surrounding counties are below the urban counties (Champaign, McLean) and higher than the predominantly rural counties (DeWitt, Douglas, Moultrie).

**Table 6-7: Change in Rent**

	1990	2000	Percent Change
<b>Lower Quartile</b>	177	243	37.29
<b>Median</b>	232	346	49.14
<b>Upper Quartile</b>	297	453	52.53
<b>Quartile Range</b>	120	210	75.00

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 1990, Census 2000*

**Table 6-8: Rental Costs in 2000 Comparison**

	Champaign	De Witt	Douglas	McLean	Moultrie	Piatt
<b>Lower Quartile</b>	365	221	241	357	237	243
<b>Median</b>	455	307	317	461	331	346
<b>Upper Quartile</b>	589	392	390	588	402	453

*U.S. Census Bureau – Census 2000*

## Affordability

Affordability is often measured by taking housing costs as a percentage of household income. Basic assessments use a cutoff of 30% of income as an affordable payment. 14.9 percent of households in Piatt County paid greater than 30% of their income in housing costs. 69.4% of the population paid less than 20% of their income in housing costs.

**Table 6-9: Housing Cost as a Percent of Household Income, 1999**

	Number of Households	Percent of Households
Less than 20 percent	3,023	69.4%
20 to 24 percent	494	11.3%
25 to 29 percent	361	8.3%
30 to 34 percent	222	5.1%
35 percent or more	426	9.8%
Not computed	10	0.2%

*U.S. Census Bureau - Census 2000*

## Supply

Piatt County granted 317 residential building permits for new construction outside of incorporated areas between 1999 and 2007. The majority of these are in areas adjacent to the Sangamon River in Sangamon and Willow Branch Townships.

**Table 6-10: Residential Building Permits by Township, 1999-2007**

	Permits
Blue Ridge	28
Bement	3
Cerro Gordo	9
Goose Creek	10
Monticello	41
Sangamon	135
Unity	14
Willow Branch	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>317</b>

*Piatt County Zoning Department*

## Housing Programs

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) - Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation (CIEDC)

LIHEAP energy assistance will provide a one-time benefit to eligible households to be used to pay energy bills.

Weatherization – Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation (CIEDC)

Weatherization Services include energy efficiency, heating system examination, and health/safety items including smoke alarms, CO detectors, and fire extinguishers.

CDBG – Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation (CIEDC)

Works to ensure decent affordable housing, provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses.

## Key Findings

- Housing stock in Piatt County increased by 571 homes between 1990 and 2000.
- Housing stock in rural areas increased between 1990 and 2000, but not uniformly. Sangamon and Willow Branch Townships had greater increases than other townships.
- It is estimated that an increase in the number of housing units has continued through the latest available data (2005).
- Housing units are primarily owner-occupied and comprise the majority of units in Piatt County.
- Vacancy rates due to sales are smaller than levels recommended by HUD.
- A greater number of vacancies in Piatt County are due to non-permanent residence and seasonal use homes.
- Nearly 84 percent of occupied homes are single family units.
- One-third of all housing units in Piatt County were constructed before 1939.
- Home values are increasing and reaching those of more urban counties like Champaign and McLean counties.
- 14.9 percent of the population in Piatt County paid greater than 30% of their household income towards housing costs in 1999.
- Rural residential development has increased primarily in Sangamon and Willow Branch Townships.

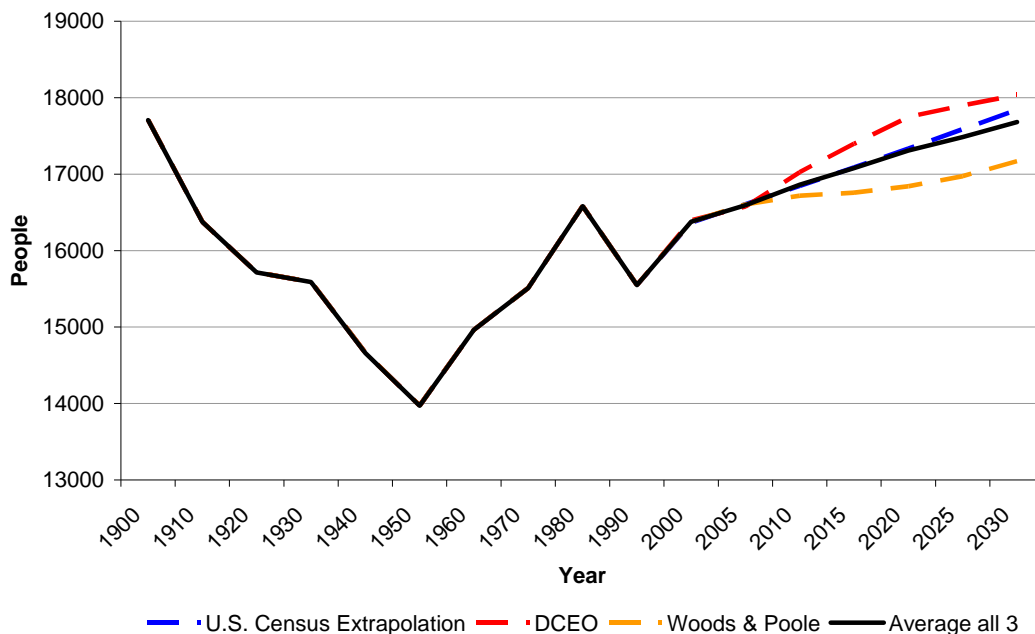
## Plans for Housing

This section establishes goals, objectives and strategies for the future condition of housing in Piatt County. Recommendations included in this chapter are intended to promote an adequate supply of decent housing and that the existing housing stock is maintained and used appropriately as demand and standards change. The framework of homes and other land uses form neighborhoods which create the functional unit of a community. Maintenance and appropriate uses throughout all parts of the neighborhood units ensures the long-term health and viability of entire communities.

## Projections

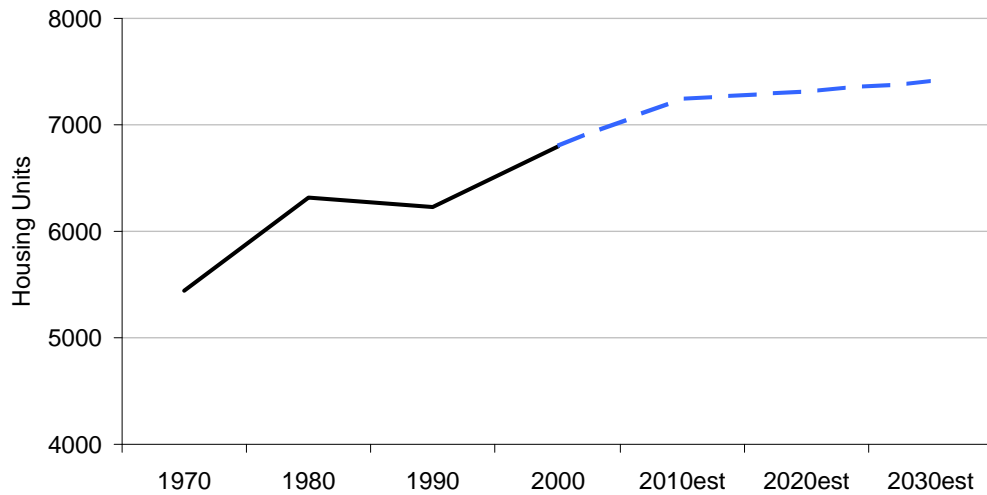
Future housing demand is projected using population growth trends. Existing household size and density data were used to convert population estimates to housing estimates. Population projections show a moderate increase from 2010 to 2030. Housing projections show a high rate of growth until 2010 and then a slower than moderate rate from 2010 to 2030. This is a reflection of the high growth that was experienced between 2000 and 2007. Recent housing estimates from the U.S. Census show greater than expected housing development in Piatt County. However, this growth rate is expected to slow and reach expected targets over the next 20 years.

**Population Projections**





### Housing Projection



#### Issues in Housing

Overall, residents are satisfied with housing options in Piatt County, which is observed in data showing that the median family (in terms of income) can afford the median home in Piatt County. There is a small population that is potentially underserved and could benefit from more alternatives in affordable housing. Piatt County residents feel that they have a strong housing stock that is affordable and provides rural living options that aren't easily found closer to larger cities. Residents have noticed that recent developments have resulted in greater impacts on resources such as farmland and natural areas. Residents also identified threats to housing including a lack of industry to support the local tax base, rural development detracting from community, and potential industrial development locating too close to residential areas. The following issues were derived from input received during the planning process:

- Of those surveyed, 84 percent of home owners and 75 percent of renters, were overall satisfied with housing options available in Piatt County.
- How can we improve the aging housing stock in Piatt County?
- How can adequate housing options for seniors be addressed?
- How can decent housing be made available for persons with low income?
- How can the detrimental effects on agriculture, environment, rural character, and infrastructure from rural housing development be reduced?
- How do we maintain the influential attributes that draw people into living in Piatt County?
- How can opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency be used in Piatt County?

## Best Management Practices

The following best management practices were collected from adopted comprehensive plans and recommendations from professional organizations like the American Planning Association.

- Encourage a variety of housing types in existing and new neighborhoods.
- Meet the housing needs of senior citizens and those with special needs.
- Develop educational outreach regarding local housing issues.
- Inform residents about Right to Farm Resolution, especially residents living in rural areas and urban edges next to agricultural land.
- Encourage home design that enhances and fits within community character.

## Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Piatt County will have a mix of housing types that reflect income-based demand while ensuring that housing inventories remain appealing to the desires of the community.

Objective 1.1: Take maximum advantage of federal and state funding for housing rehabilitation of substandard structures.

Goal 2: Piatt County will continue to be an attractive place to live for residents.

Goal 3: Adequate infrastructure and public services to support existing and new developments will be provided in a fiscally responsible manner.

Objective 3.1: Promote growth contiguous to urban areas in order to optimize infrastructure costs and prevent leap frog development.

Objective 3.2: Developers will pay an equitable amount for infrastructure improvements related to their new developments.

Goal 4: Land uses in Piatt County will be planned in consideration of adjacent land uses and residents.

Goal 5: Encourage the construction of energy efficient and water conserving housing through public education programs and regulations that promote innovative and environmentally sensitive building technologies.

Objective 5.1: Provide information about state and federal incentives for using environmentally friendly practices.

Goal 6: Encourage ADA accessible housing in new developments and renovation projects.

## Future Conditions

In 2030, Piatt County will have a diverse, healthy, and desirable housing stock. Residents will have access to an appropriate distribution of single family and multi-family housing types. A variety of housing sizes will provide residents with the appropriate choice for their needs. Diverse housing, mixed with non-residential uses establishes a symbiotic relationship where residents support businesses, and businesses enhance residents' quality of life. Piatt County residents will find that they can find a variety of housing types including those with Universal Design and in close proximity to employment centers. Homes will be predominantly located in urban areas where access to services, jobs, and transportation options are excellent. The homes that are built in rural areas will not compromise the rural character of Piatt County. Rural development will be situated to blend into the existing rural fabric.

Homes in Piatt County are attractive and healthy. A variety of programs will assist urban and rural homeowners in maintaining their property in good repair. The housing stock in Piatt County has great value and is worth the expense of maintaining. The well maintained housing stock has a direct impact on the health and well-being of Piatt County residents. Exposure to carbon monoxide, mold, and pesticides in the home are greatly reduced.

Residents of Piatt County will find desirable homes that use design, quality products, and technology that promote self-sufficiency and efficient living. Development strategies are created to include anticipated demand from aging, low income, and commuter populations. Homes are designed to be durable and adaptive to the long-term needs of a number of residents. Residents are less dependent on electricity and other forms of mass produced energy. Onsite energy and conditioning systems are used to increase self-sufficiency and minimize consumption of non-renewable resources.

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# CHAPTER 7: HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

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## Introduction

Cultural resources invite residents and visitors to learn more about their surroundings and the history of the area. Piatt County is home to several of these cultural and historic resources, some dating as far back as the founding of the county and settlement, others to when Lincoln traveled the state as a Circuit Court lawyer. Memorials, recreation sites, museums and an Illinois State Historic Site can all be found in the County.

## Historic Sites

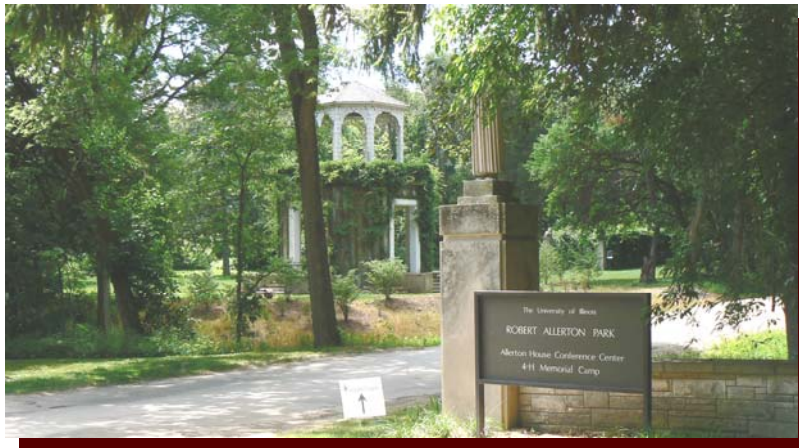
*Piatt County Courthouse-* The Piatt County Courthouse is situated in the center of the square in downtown Monticello. It has served Piatt County since its completion in 1903. It currently houses many of the County's governmental offices.

*Bryant Cottage State Historic Site-* This four-room cottage was built in Bement in 1856 by Bement businessman Francis Bryant. It is rumored to have been the site where Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas met to determine the format for the Lincoln-Douglas Debates.

*Lincoln/Douglas Meeting Location Monument-* This is an Historical Marker located on Illinois 105 South of Monticello.



*Allerton Park and Retreat Center*- Robert Allerton, son of Chicago Businessman Samuel Allerton, built the 1500-acre retreat and conference center with wooded trails, formal gardens, and a turn-of-the-century English-inspired mansion. There are several acres of formal sculpture gardens and greenhouses arranged next to the University of Illinois operated mansion, which now serves as a retreat and conference center. There are also several miles of interpretive and primitive hiking trails through the wooded and upland forested areas. Statuary, such as the Sun Singer, Fu Dogs, and Death of the Last Centaur are placed throughout the gardens and along the trails, serving as points of interest. The estate is also host to an Illinois 4-H Memorial Camp. Financial support for the Park and Center comes from the Farmland that Allerton also left to the University for this purpose. Allerton Park is located 3.5 miles west of Monticello at 515 Old Timber Road.



*Bement Veterans Memorial*- This Memorial is a tribute to veterans of all wars since the French and Indian War, focusing on those veterans from the Bement area. The memorial is comprised of six black granite stones inscribed with the names of veterans, grouped by conflict. A seventh, larger stone depicts the raising of the American Flag on Iwo Jima, as well as a Bald Eagle in defensive posture, referencing the defense of our nation by our military. The Memorial is located on the west side of Bement City Park and on the east side of Illinois 105.



*Goose Creek Township Carnegie Library*- This library was dedicated in 1912 after the Deland Women's club obtained an \$8,000 dollar grant from Andrew Carnegie. It is still a working library and part of the Lincoln Trail Libraries System.



*Voorhies Castle* - Located in the small village of Voorhies, approximately 5 miles south of Bement, Illinois. The castle was built by Nels Larson, a Swedish immigrant, who arrived with little more than pocket change in 1867; who earned enough money to buy the village of Voorhies in 1885; and who went on to build the magnificent castle between 1898 and 1902. Larson later also built a clock tower barn between 1910 and 1915. The clock tower stood 68 feet above the Illinois prairie, until a strong straight-line wind toppled the barn and tower in 1976.

### **Archaeological Resources**

The Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 4320, as amended, 17 IAC 4180) requires a review of all state funded, permitted or licensed undertakings for their effect on cultural resources. Archaeological resources range throughout the span of Illinois Prehistory providing information about the lifestyles of early inhabitants of the area, and what the landscape was like long before settlers ventured to the area. Historic archaeological resources are also present in Piatt County which inform about life during frontier times in Piatt County.



## Regional Attractions

*Monticello Railway Museum-* This Museum is volunteer-run by and for enthusiasts of railway history, and gives visitors a unique look at railway life. Operational railcars offer train rides from May to November for a small fee, and the museum displays railcars and other pieces of railroad history. The Monticello Railway Museum is located at 992 Iron Horse Place in Monticello.



*Piatt County Museum-* Begun in 1965 as “The Piatt County Pioneers”, the Piatt County Museum seeks to preserve and display heritage of Piatt County. Currently, the Museum is in the process of relocating from three original buildings to a single building in order to consolidate and expand their collection. The Historic University of Illinois Beef Barn was dismantled and will be reconstructed to house the consolidated collection.

*Harris Agricultural Museum, Atwood-* Displays include antique tractors, engines and a 1919 Model "T" Ford-grain/dump truck. Soil, tillage, harvesting and planting equipment are also on exhibit and there are replicas of a 1920's farmstead kitchen, early grain elevator office and blacksmith shop.

*Other Local Museums:* The following is a list of museums that are not located in Piatt County, but are within driving distance and can be considered Cultural Resources.

Krannert Art Museum & Kinkead Pavilion, Champaign- This museum, located on the University of Illinois Campus, features rotating art exhibitions as well as permanent collections.

Champaign County Historical Museum, Champaign- This museum preserves and exhibits object relating to and depicting the history of Champaign County.

Orpheum Children’s Science Museum, Champaign- This science center located in downtown Champaign allows children to engage in and learn about science in an informal, interactive setting.



Parkland Art Gallery, Champaign- This teaching gallery exhibits a variety of work from regional and national contemporary artists.

Spurlock Museum, Urbana- This museum displays objects of cultural heritage from six continents, and features rotating exhibits.

Birks Museum, Decatur- This museum includes a collection of antiquities, with space available to display temporary exhibitions.

Children's Museum of Illinois, Decatur- Rotating interactive exhibits allow children to experience science and nature hands on.

Governor Oglesby Mansion, Decatur- This elaborate Italianate mansion was the home of Illinois Governor Richard Oglesby, friend and political ally of Abraham Lincoln.

Hieronymus Mueller Museum, Decatur- This museum exhibits artifacts and objects of the Mueller family, notable for patenting the water cooled radiator, spark plug, and variable speed transmission.

Macon County Historical Museum and Prairie Village, Decatur- Visitors are able to take a look into life in the mid 1800's. The museum includes an 1850's cabin, one-room school house, and Lincoln themed interpretive exhibits.

McLean County Museum of History, Bloomington – The museum is located in an old court house which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One exhibit shows collections of pictures depicting farm life in Illinois.

Prairie Aviation Museum, Bloomington – This museum gives an up-close glimpse at air travel and technology. A flight simulator takes visitors on a “fly over” of Bloomington and actual aircraft including an F-4N Phantom and T-38A Talon are on display.

Ecology Action Center, Normal – This center offers visitors a chance to learn and understand more about nature, recycling, composting, and saving energy. The center provides classes, workshops and nature walks in the community.

Miller Park Zoo, Bloomington - Miller Park Zoo offers many exhibits and Zookeeper interaction opportunities in a family-friendly park setting.

Scovill Zoo, Decatur - Nestled along the shores of Lake Decatur, Scovill Zoo is home to more than 500 animals spanning six continents.

## Libraries

Piatt County has seven public libraries. Table 7-1 shows how many books each of these libraries have on hold, according to the Illinois State Library's Illinois Public Library Statistics, fiscal year 2005-2006.

**Table 7-1: Piatt County Libraries**

<u>Library</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Books</u>
Atwood-Hammond Public Library	Atwood	19,771
Bement Public Library	Bement	13,225
Blue Ridge Township Public Library	Mansfield	12,725
Goose Creek Township Carnegie Library	Deland	5,420
Hope Welty Public Library	Cerro Gordo	14,035
Monticello Township (Allerton) Public Library	Monticello	27,341
Willow Branch Township Public Library	Cisco	8,014
Total Piatt County Circulation		100,531

*Source: Illinois State Library 2005-2006*

It should be noted that modern library facilities provide more than books. Many locations provide DVD's, CD's, periodicals, scanning, printing, faxing, and Internet access to patrons. Additionally, many libraries offer interlibrary loans, allowing small libraries to greatly increase the number of materials available. Adult and children reading programs, GED classes and testing, as well as internet and email are also important parts of the libraries in Piatt County. All of the libraries in Piatt County are part of the Lincoln Trails Library System.

## Plans for Historic and Cultural Resources

This section establishes goals, objectives and strategies for the future condition of historic and cultural resources. Recommendations included in this chapter are intended to direct decision makers and the general public towards conserving resources for appropriate use and benefit of County residents and visitors. Preservation can be used as a tool in cooperation with other elements suggested in the comprehensive plan to create affordable housing and use existing infrastructure rather than constructing new. Historic and Cultural Resources covers a broad range attractions including archeological, recreational, entertainment, and educational. The plan concertedly implies that these resources should be preserved and maintained for the benefit of the community at large.

## Issues in Historic and Cultural Resources

Residents are split regarding access to the arts in Piatt County while more residents are satisfied with cultural activities. Preservation has a rich history in parts of Piatt County and is obviously an important part of the community. Developing interpretive information such as pamphlets and signs can provide educational and recreational resources for the community. Public private partnerships as well as regional partnerships are other tools that can expand the reach of existing resources and develop accessibility of desirable resources. The following issues were derived from public input received during the planning process and best management practices:

- Survey respondents indicated an equal positive and negative response for access to the arts (defined as musical programs, plays, paintings and other art work). A greater percent of respondents indicated that they are satisfied with cultural activities than dissatisfied.

## Best Management Practices

- Greater knowledge and interpretation of Cultural and Historic Resources may increase the positive response to questions about access to cultural activities.
- Regional attractions, while outside of the scope of County resources, can be referenced as assets to the community. Relationships with regional attractions can generate productive partnerships and opportunities for marketing.
- Support decisions that positively impact the overall success and availability of libraries and their services.

## Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Identify, record, and evaluate resources and sites.

Objective 1.1: Encourage the use of professionally developed historic surveys to determine historic and cultural resources.

Objective 1.2: Encourage the coordination of ordinances and plans to develop sound preservation programs.

Goal 2: Preserve Historic and Cultural Resources

Objective 2.1: Support preservation efforts for its contribution to quality of life and cultural vitality.

Goal 3: Increase awareness of Historic and Cultural Resources

Objective 3.1: Provide information to residents and visitors about the historic and cultural resources in Piatt County

Goal 4: Work with the private sector, independent organizations, and citizens to be aware of and enhance and protect historic and cultural resources.

Goal 5: Integrate Historical and Cultural Resource Management into local development policies

Objective 5.1: Preservation is used for inclusion, protection and encouragement of housing options and infill projects, not their prohibition.

Goal 6: Preserve the importance and functioning of the existing Central Business Districts

Objective 6.1: Central Business Districts are vibrant areas in the County.

## Future Conditions

In 2030, Piatt County will preserve and use its historic and cultural resources for the benefit of both residents and visitors. These resources will have been identified and integrated into the community through published information, participation programs, and signage. Preservation will not be viewed as a barrier to desirable change in the community. Rather, preservation is a vehicle for enhance quality of life and cultural vitality. Establishing plans and incorporating preservation into policies and ordinances develops a level playing field and focuses the importance of resource preservation.

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# CHAPTER 8: TRANSPORTATION

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## Introduction

Piatt County's transportation network includes roads, rail, air, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities and related amenities.

## Roads

Piatt County has over 1,000 miles of roadways. The convergence of interstates and lesser highways puts the County in a favorable position for regional markets, including Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis.

## Interstates

Two interstates totaling 32 miles traverse Piatt County: I-74 and I-72. I-74 crosses northern Piatt County east-west, extending from its intersection with I-80 in Davenport, Iowa to its intersection with I-75 in Cincinnati, Ohio. I-72 runs between its intersection with US Highway 61 in Hannibal, Missouri, and the west side of Champaign at I-57.

There are a total of six interchanges in Piatt County. I-74 has one interchange northeast of Mansfield. I-72 has five interchanges: at Illinois Route 10, at old Illinois Route 47, at Illinois Route 105, at County Highway 5, and at Illinois Route 48.

## Federal, State, and County Highways

US 150 runs roughly parallel to I-74 approximately eight miles through Piatt County, traversing the Village of Mansfield. US 36 follows the entire southern county line, approximately 15 miles.



*IL10 near White Heath*

Illinois highways in Piatt County cover 54 miles and include Routes 10, 32, 48, and 105. Route 10 extends east-west through the north-central part of the county, and connects with I-72 northeast of White Heath. Route 32 comes into the Village of Cisco from the west, then turns south, traversing the Village of Cerro Gordo and extending past the southern county line. Route 48 runs along the western county line between County Road 300 North and E 1500 North Road. Route 105 begins at the I-72 interchange in northern Monticello, running south through the City and the Village of Bement. IL-105 then turns to the west toward the Village of Cerro Gordo. It then turns southward on County Road 100 East for approximately three miles before turning west again on County Road 400 North.

Sixteen county highways totaling approximately 76 miles connect communities, other counties, rural areas, and other major roads in Piatt County.

### ***Township Roads***

The majority of roads in Piatt County are township roads. Individual township roads generally carry much lower volumes of traffic than County Highways. Most township roads in Piatt County carry less than 600 vehicles daily; however, because of their narrow width and general characteristics, township roads also have a limited traffic capacity. Nearly all rural traffic travels to some extent over township roads. Township roads provide basic access in the rural area and are important for farm related traffic. The presence of farm traffic on township roads has some effect on safety because farm vehicles are generally larger and move more slowly than non-farm traffic. Farm related traffic is generally seasonal and does not occur year round. Non-farm rural traffic also results from isolated rural residential development. Non-farm rural traffic occurs year round and even a small volume of non-farm rural traffic can be a serious impediment to seasonal farming operations. Some township roads carry a much greater than desirable volume of non-farm traffic, which can create serious traffic safety issues when seasonal farm traffic does occur.

### ***Functional Classification***

IDOT classifies each roadway in the County by the type of service they are intended to provide, independent of the traffic volume actually using the roadways. IDOT uses different classifications, which are divided into Urban and Non-Urban subtypes due to the significant differences in roadway characteristics. In its most generalized form, functional class can be divided into the following categories: Interstate, Other Principal Arterial, Minor Arterial, Collector, and Local Road. Table 8-1 shows the number of miles by functional classification for roads in Piatt County. Map 8-1 displays the classifications.

**Table 8-1: Functional Classification of Piatt County Roads**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Miles</b>
Interstate	33
Other Principal Arterial	5
Minor Arterial	59
Non-Urban	56
Urban	3
Major Collector (non-urban)	100
Minor Collector (non-urban)	44
Local Road or Street	750
Non-Urban	626
Urban	124
Collector (urban)	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>















*Source: Illinois Highway Information System*

Map 8-1:

# Roadway Functional Class

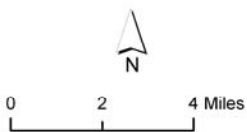
Piatt County, Illinois

## Legend

-  Interstate
-  Minor Arterial (Non-Urban)
-  Other Principal Arterial
-  Major Collector (Non-Urban)
-  Minor Collector (Non-Urban)
-  Minor Arterial (Urban)
-  Collector (Urban)
-  Local Road or Street (Urban)
-  Local Road or Street (Non-Urban)
-  Municipal Boundary
-  County Hwy
-  State Hwy
-  U.S. Hwy
-  Interstate

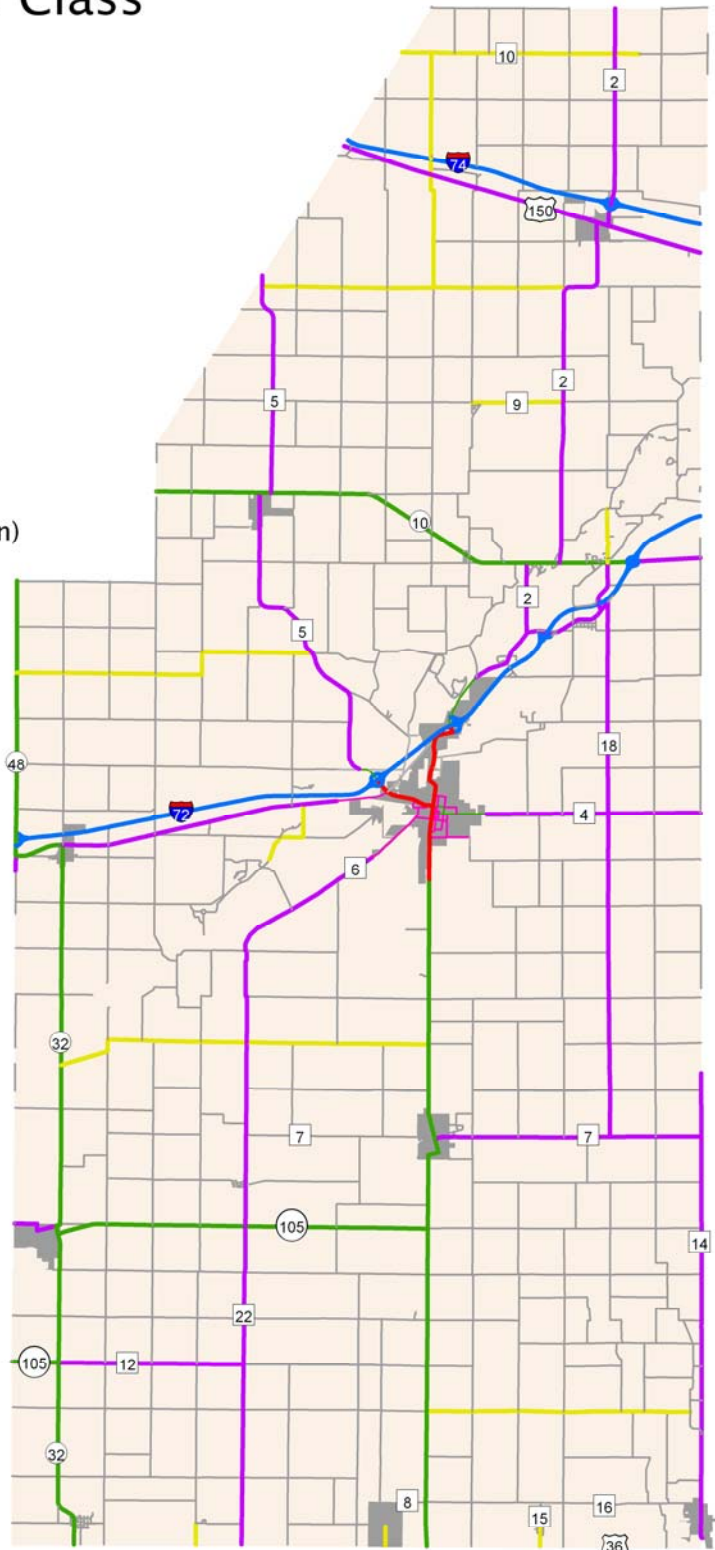
Functional Classification designated by IDOT based on the following criteria

- the type of trip served
- the type of area served
- the characteristics of the road and sometimes
- Service to urban activity centers
- System continuity
- Land use considerations
- Route spacing
- Trip length
- Traffic volume
- Control of access
- Vehicle miles of travel and mileage



Production Date:  
July, 2009

Sources:  
IDOT



## Maintenance Jurisdiction

A variety of agencies maintain roadways in Piatt County, ranging from private parties to state agencies. As can be seen in Table 8-2, township or road districts maintain approximately 63% of Piatt County roads. Once roads are annexed into a municipality, a maintenance agreement is typically transferred from the township to the municipality.

**Table 8-2: Roadway Maintenance Jurisdictions in Piatt County**

Maintenance Jurisdiction	Miles	% of Total Miles
Township or Road District	632	63.2%
Municipality	138	13.8%
IL Division of Highways	111	11.1%
County	76	7.6%
Adjacent Township or Road District	32	3.2%
Other State Agency	7	0.7%
Private	2	0.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Illinois Highway Information System, December 2007

## Traffic Volumes

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) counts are bi-directional 24-hour traffic volumes for a given roadway segment. Generally, interstates carry the greatest burden of traffic volumes, but there are some municipal roads in Monticello that carry volumes greater than some interstate segments. Table 8-3 shows those roads in the county with an ADT greater than 10,000. Map 8-2 displays countywide ADT volumes.

**Table 8-3: Piatt County Roads with ADT Greater Than 10,000**

Rank	Segment	ADT
1	I-74 between eastern county line and County Highway 2	19,400
2	I-74 between western county line and County Highway 2	18,400
3	I-72 between eastern county line and IL-10	13,900
4	I-72 between IL-105 and Old Route 47	13,800
5	I-72 between IL-10 and Old Route 47	13,700
6	I-72 between IL-105 and County Highway 5	10,800
7	I-72 between County Highway 5 and western county line	10,700
8	Market Street (IL-105) between Center Street and Marion Street	10,500

Source: IDOT 2005



Map 8-2:

# Average Daily Traffic 2005

Piatt County, Illinois

## Legend

Average Daily Traffic

- 0 - 500
- 550 - 1800
- 1801 - 4000
- 4001 - 10000
- 10001 - 19400

■ Municipality

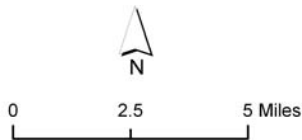
■ County

10 County Hwy

48 State Hwy

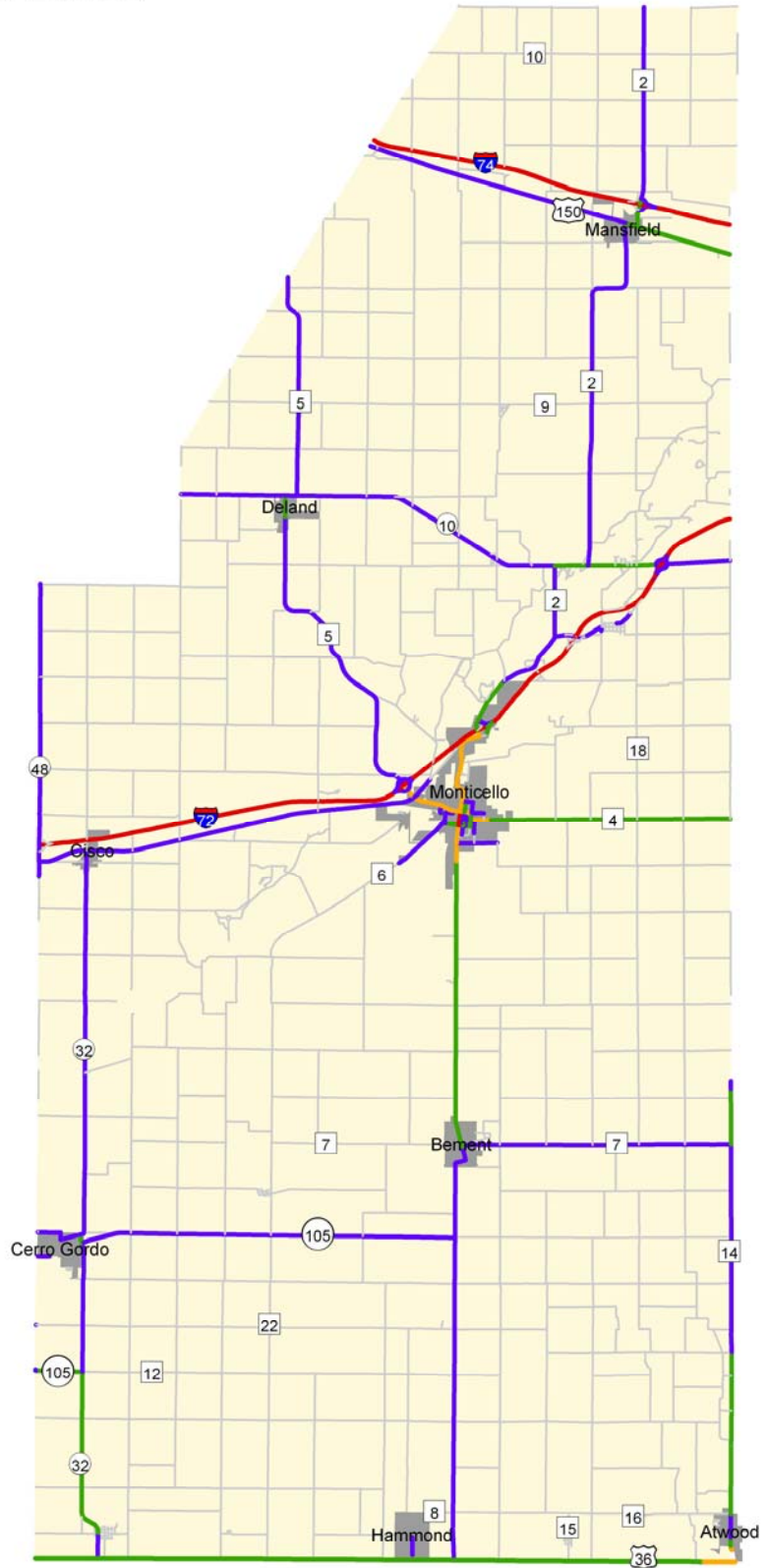
150 U.S. Hwy

74 Interstate



Production Date:  
July, 2009

Sources:  
IDOT  
CCGIS



## Commuting to Work

The majority of workers in Piatt County live in Piatt County. Of the 4,583 people the 1999 Census registered as working in Piatt County, 3,460, or 75%, were residents of Piatt County. This is five percent fewer residents than the previous decade. The Census also showed that 4,915 Piatt County residents, or 59% of working Piatt County residents, left the County to work elsewhere. Piatt County received 1,123 workers from other counties. Map 8-3 illustrates the movement of residents to their place of work in surrounding counties.

Piatt County residents tend to travel to work alone by car more than any other mode. Table 8-4 shows the number of workers aged 16 years or older by each mode for their commute to work. Fewer people are carpooling, the majority of whom changed to traveling alone in a personal vehicle.

**Table 8-4: Commuter Travel Modes for Piatt County**

<b>Travel Mode to Work</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Change 1990- 2000</b>
Car, truck, or van:	6,755	7,620	90.5%	91.1%	12.8%
Drove alone	5,721	6,988	76.6%	83.5%	22.1%
Carpooled	1,034	632	13.8%	7.6%	-38.9%
Public Transportation	4	10	0.05%	0.12%	150.0%
Motorcycle	2	12	0.0%	0.1%	500.0%
Bicycle	27	5	0.4%	0.1%	-81.5%
Walked	261	264	3.5%	3.2%	1.1%
Other means	39	56	0.5%	0.7%	43.6%
Worked at home	378	400	5.1%	4.8%	5.8%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,466</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

The majority of working residents in Piatt County spend more than 20 minutes traveling to work, as can be seen in Table 8-5.

**Table 8-5: Commuter Travel Time**

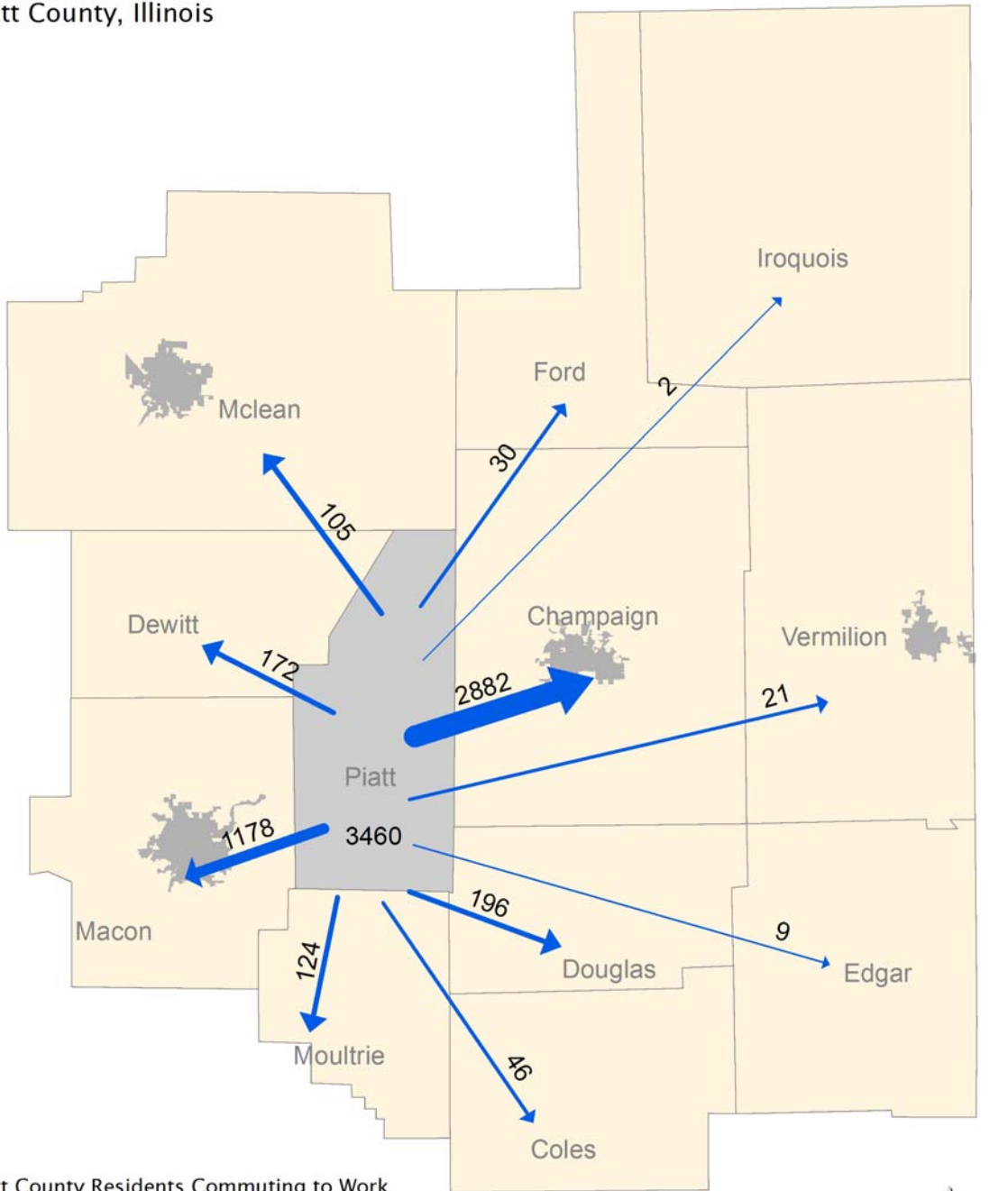
	Commuters	% of Total Commuters
Less than 5 minutes	699	9%
5 to 9 minutes	1,059	13%
10 to 14 minutes	728	9%
15 to 19 minutes	646	8%
20 to 24 minutes	1,149	14%
25 to 29 minutes	803	10%
30 to 34 minutes	1,496	19%
35 to 39 minutes	292	4%
40 to 44 minutes	313	4%
45 to 59 minutes	435	5%
60 to 89 minutes	221	3%
90 or more minutes	134	2%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census*

Map 8-3:

# Residents Place of Work - 1999

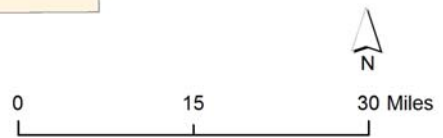
Piatt County, Illinois



Piatt County Residents Commuting to Work

Production Date:  
December, 2007

Source:  
U.S. Census



## Rail

Piatt County has approximately 75 miles of active rail lines, owned by four different companies: Norfolk and Southern (NS), Topflight Grain, CSX Transportation (CSX), and Consolidated Rail Corporation (CR). Monticello Railway Museum also owns track between Monticello and White Heath which can be used on the weekends by museum visitors.

- Norfolk and Southern owns the track that runs north-south through Piatt County, traversing Mansfield, Galesville, Monticello, and Bement.
- Norfolk and Southern also owns the track that runs east-west through the south-central part of the county, running through Cerro Gordo, Milmine, and Bement.
- Topflight Grain owns track abutting the Village of Cisco on the west side of the county.
- The CSX line parallels the south county line, traversing Hammond, Atwood, LaPlace, and Pierson Station.
- The Consolidated Rail Corporation Line crosses northern Piatt County, crossing Mansfield and the Norfolk and Western tracks.

### *Crossing Locations*

There are 70 at-grade crossing locations and nine grade-separated crossings (bridges) in Piatt County, as shown in Map 8-4. Each crossing is distinct from the others due to roadway geometry and the type of protection the crossing offers. Crossings can have flashing lights, signals, crossbucks, gates, signs, or be grade separated from vehicular traffic (i.e. overpass or underpass).

Of the grade separated crossings, five are located in unincorporated areas of the County. There are 58 at-grade crossings in unincorporated areas, the majority of which are only protected by crossbucks.



*Rail crossing at Milmine*

### *Rail Traffic*

*Freight traffic.* Map 8-5 shows rail traffic for the County. The Norfolk-Western line running east-west through Bement is the busiest rail line in Piatt County, with 51 trains running daily, according to the Federal Railroad Administration. The Norfolk-Western line running north-south through Monticello is the second most utilized track, with eight trains per day. The CSX line in southern Piatt County is the third most utilized, with five trains per day.

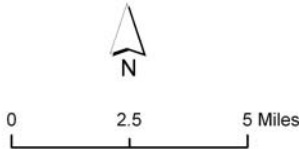
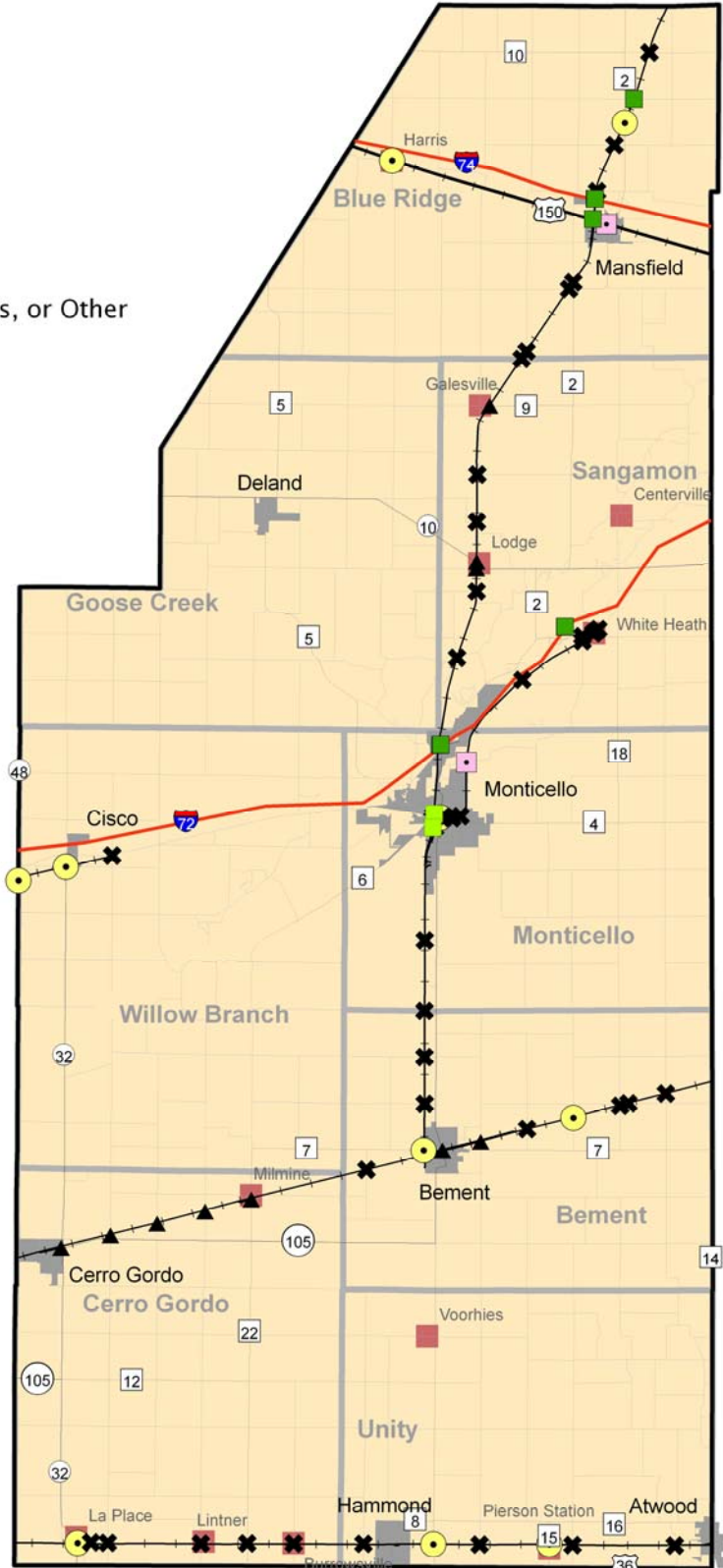
Map 8-4:

# Railroad Crossings

## Piatt County, Illinois

### Legend

- Bridge Carries Rail
- Bridge Crosses Rail
- Highway Signals, Wigwags, Bells, or Other
- Flashing Lights
- ✕ Crossbucks
- ▲ All Other Gates
- +—+— Railroad
- Roads
- Settlement
- Municipal Boundary
- Civil Township
- 10 County Hwy
- 48 State Hwy
- 150 U.S. Hwy
- Interstate



Production Date:  
July, 2009

Sources:  
IDOT  
CCGIS



Map 8-5:

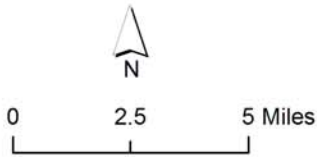
# Trains Per Day, 2006

## Piatt County, Illinois

### Legend

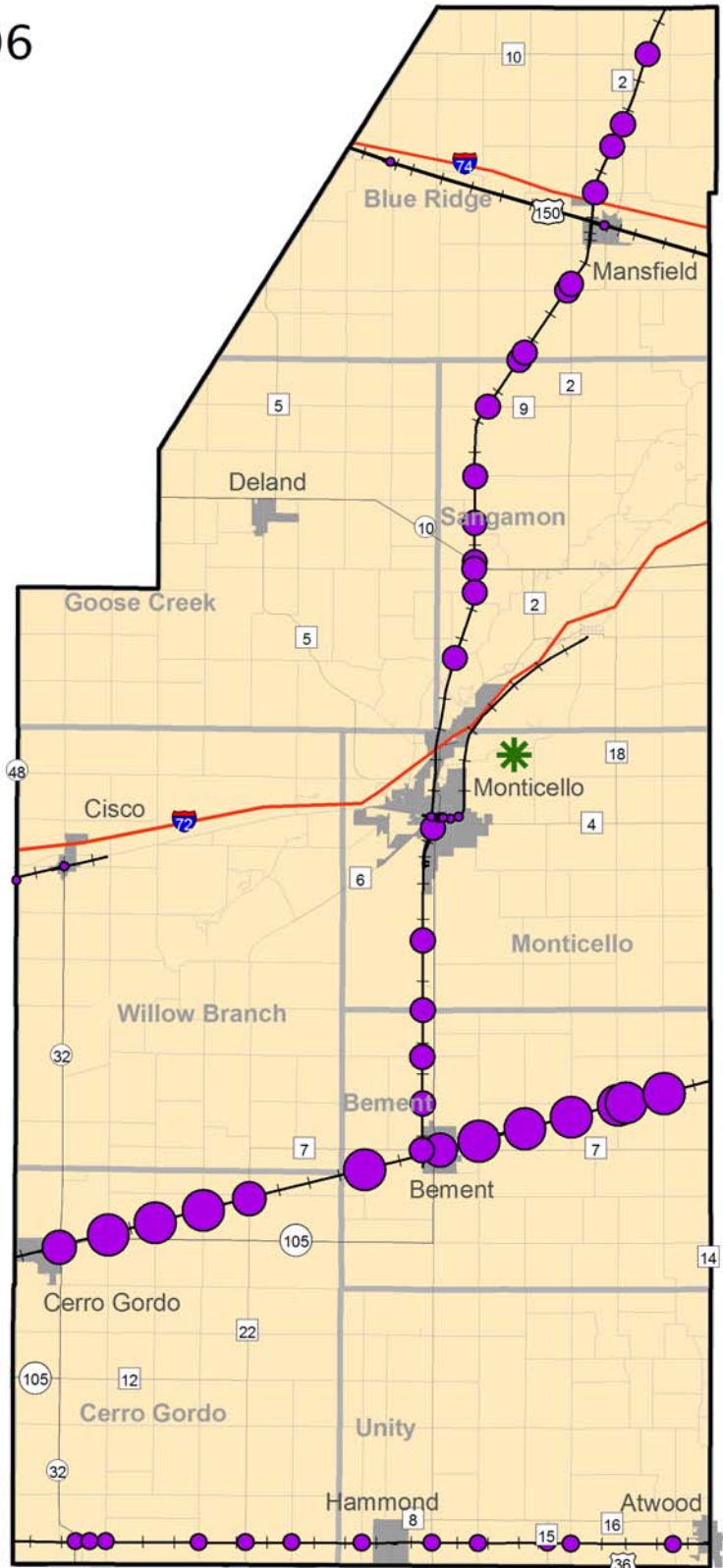
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 8
- 9 - 25
- 26 - 51
- Municipal Boundary
- Civil Township
- 10 County Hwy
- 48 State Hwy
- 150 U.S. Hwy
- 74 Interstate

 The Monticello Railway Museum runs a train four times on Saturday and three times on Sunday during summer months.



Production Date:  
May, 2008

Sources:  
IDOT  
CCGISC



## **Air**

Piatt County has one privately-owned airport, which is open to the public, located approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Monticello. As of the end of 2005, there were 16 aircraft housed there.

There are numerous airports in the region surrounding Piatt County from which commercial airline services are available: University of Illinois Willard Airport (18 miles); Decatur Airport (28 miles); Bloomington-Normal Airport (44 miles), and Springfield Capital Airport (68 miles).

## **Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities**

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities include sidewalks, on-street bike lanes, on-street bike routes, off-street shared use paths and off-street side paths. Sidewalks generally have good coverage in urban areas to facilitate pedestrian movement, but may be lacking in some areas and are less likely to be found in smaller municipalities. On-street bike lanes are typically urban facilities that provide dedicated roadway space, signage, and markings for bicyclists. On-street bike routes are roadways that are typically identified by signage that are considered better for bicycle traveling conditions and safety. Off-street shared use paths are generally 8-10 feet in width, paved or unpaved, facilities that are intended for use by pedestrians, bicycles, strollers, and/or skaters. Off-street side paths are shared use paths adjacent to roadways.

In Piatt County, there are numerous hiking trails in Allerton Park and Lodge Park. There is also mile long shared use path on the east side of Monticello. Heartland Pathways, in the northern part of the county, is a pedestrian nature trail. Plans are under development for a path between Heartland Pathways and Monticello via the rail line that parallels I-72; a path connecting Allerton Park with Monticello; and a path between Monticello and Bement.



## Plans for Transportation

This section establishes goals, objectives and strategies for the future conditions of Piatt County's transportation system. Recommendations in this chapter are intended to provide tools by which travel can be safer and more efficient, and Piatt County's economic base can be strengthened.

### Issues

Piatt County residents indicated a variety of issues with transportation during the public input opportunities afforded by the planning process.

- The County is lacking in pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- A significant number of commuters travel long distances to get to work, which can become costly and have negative effects on area roads.
- Lack of interstate access in some areas of the county is a deciding factor for industries seeking a new location.
- There are conflicts between agricultural vehicles and other vehicles, especially during harvest season.
- There was a negative response to road maintenance in the County.
- The County has inadequate public transit service.

### Best Management Practices

There are many transportation related factors that should be considered in light of current known best planning practices. The following can be considered when implementing the plan.

- Relationship between land use and transportation

Land use and transportation are inextricably linked. Transportation infrastructure must be sufficient to support existing and developing land uses. The lack of infrastructure can affect whether an industry or other business decides to locate in Piatt County. Using the future land use map, needed transportation infrastructure should be identified, prioritized, and constructed when possible.

- Multi-modalism

Transportation system users should be provided with as many options as possible. Constructing facilities that focus on modes such as public transit, bicycling, and walking can make a community more viable and valued. Increasing the opportunity for other transportation modes can reduce usage of roadways and thus decrease maintenance costs over the long term.

- Traffic calming

Some roads, generally in urban areas, can promote high speeds and safety issues. Traffic calming is a term that encompasses a variety of tools that can help slow traffic via roadway design. Medians, landscaping, traffic circles, bumpouts, and speed humps can be appropriate depending on the location and situation.

- Education/enforcement/engineering/encouragement

These four “E’s” can help successfully implement new transportation projects and initiatives. Education refers to keeping residents and transportation system users aware of changes that may affect them. Changeable message signs, media campaigns, and mailings are all tools that can make the county safer. Enforcement involves penalizing those that break rules and regulations, albeit through government fines, police ticketing, or other means. Projects that have considered every cause and effect in their engineering will have a more successful implementation and result in a safer system. Encouraging system users with positive relations and incentives can also make for a successful transportation project.

- Interagency coordination

Coordinating efforts between municipalities, counties, and other jurisdictions can benefit everyone involved. If transportation projects are geographically close or have similar materials needs, cost savings can be realized. Continuing coordination is a hallmark of an effective transportation system.

- Public Input

Involving the public early and continuously in any planning process is integral to a transportation system that works well for those who use it. Providing opportunities via public meetings, online or mailed surveys, and other tools can facilitate their inclusion.

## Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Piatt County will have a safe, efficient, and economical transportation system that makes the best use of existing infrastructure, optimizes mobility, promotes environmental sensitivity, accessibility, and economic development, and enhances quality of life for all users.

Objective 1.1: Optimize the movement of people and goods within the county and between the county and other areas.

Objective 1.2: Improve access for safe, convenient, and economical movements of people and goods through access management practices and consideration of land use design in transportation system improvements.

Objective 1.3: Where feasible and practical, all transportation system users will have convenient, multi-modal access to all parts of the county.

Objective 1.4: Improve safety for all users by considering crash reduction strategies such as improvements to roadway geometry, signage and markings, and educational opportunities for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Objective 1.5: Interagency coordination will be emphasized in all phases of transportation planning, implementation, and construction.

## **Future Conditions**

The existing Piatt County road system should be able to manage the anticipated increase in population over the next 20 to 30 years. The planning focus for the county should thus be on maintaining the existing roadways so that all types of transportation system users can safely and efficiently travel through Piatt County. In addition, facilities for travel modes such as walking, bicycling and public transit should be increasingly considered as more cost-effective and environmentally sound alternatives to the automobile.

Within the next twenty years, motorists will share the road more equitably with bicyclists, especially as they travel to and from major recreation areas such as Allerton Park. There will be enough useable road width and signage on selected high bicycle traffic corridors for both travel modes to safely coexist. Public transit will be regularly available between residential areas, employment centers, and other activity centers both within the county and to adjacent counties' metropolitan areas. Rail crossings will be safer as more signals, markings, and tools are implemented. In general, there will be more travel options for residents and workers in Piatt County.

## **Roads**

Roadway improvements should focus on a maintenance schedule as determined by the County Highway Department. Consideration should be given to public input, roadway age, traffic increases, deterioration factors, and typical vehicle types traveling on the roads. Roads that serve major activity centers such as grain elevators, tourist attractions, and other significant points of interest are important to the economic development of the county and should thus be maintained to retain and attract more economic development.

Roadway safety issues are often attributed to human error when driving. In some cases, however, such things as roadway geometry, design, signage, markings, and adjacent objects can play a role as well. One method to improve safety along road segments is access management. This tool minimizes the number of accesses along a stretch of road, essentially minimizing the potential conflict between turning cars and those traveling straight on the road. Access management is largely used along high-volume arterial roadways, but also applies to rural roads that can have many driveways leading to homes. In the rural setting, access can be limited by designing shared driveways for two or more establishments rather than allowing one driveway per establishment. Similarly, if a new commercial development is proposed, the site can be designed to have only one access point and to site it where safety is optimized in terms of sight distance, topography, and other factors.

Piatt County communities should have reasonable access to the two interstates that run through the county. Access to interstates can be important to economic development for the community, in conjunction with other infrastructure systems in sufficient supply to garner interest from developers. An analysis can be done to determine if an interchange is warranted for a given roadway, but funding is improbable. Roadways that efficiently carry traffic from the communities toward existing interchanges should be maintained if not improved to improve access to all parts of the county.

Adding capacity to roads in Piatt County is likely not necessary considering the anticipated population increase over the next twenty years. If, in the longer term, a certain roadway segment is expected to carry a significant amount of traffic that would necessitate road widening, sooner rather than later is a better time to plan for utility easements and other right of way needs. Locating new utility lines along roadway right of ways is the most cost effective in terms of land acquisition. Moving those utility lines for roadway widening, however, is cost prohibitive. By placing utility lines far enough away from major road corridors, widening that stretch of roadway will not need to include utility relocation. Similarly, if a major new road is proposed for construction, sufficient land should be purchased for right of way in case further widening is anticipated in the future.

### ***Rail***

With up to 50 trains a day running through some rail intersections, and the majority of rural rail crossings only offering cross bucks to protect motorists, safety is a concern for conflicts between trains and motorists. When warranted and economically feasible, additional safety tools should be installed at these crossings, such as gates and lights. Rails intersecting with roads should be maintained to minimize hazards to both motorists and bicyclists.

Unused rail right of way can be used for pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Through railbanking, railroads can temporarily be converted for recreational trail use and, if desired by the rail company, converted back to rail in the future. These facilities have proven to help the economies of adjacent small communities and assist in creating a regional system that can attract more tourism for the county.

### ***Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities***

Bicycling and walking are increasingly used forms of transportation in light of environmental, health, and economic concerns. Making these travel modes more viable in Piatt County will involve planning a system of facilities that can include multi-use paths, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and related signage and markings.

Safety, accessibility, and connectivity are paramount to a successful system. All types of users should feel safe on area local roads, where their rights are equal to motorists, and on any facilities constructed for them. Communities seeking to expand on their bicycle system should be aware of the capabilities of different bicyclists, and plan for both recreational and commuter bicyclists. Bicycle paths should be accessible in terms of how easy they are to get to and use. They should be located where the likelihood of their use will be optimized.

Bicycle facilities should also connect to the community's major activity centers, residential areas, and popular recreational areas.

Finding an alignment for bicycle and pedestrian facilities can be difficult, especially with constraints such as right-of-way and property ownership. For these reasons, when possible, these facilities should be planned for and installed in conjunction with new roadways or road improvements where adding them would be feasible physically and financially. In areas where the community would like to have bicycle and pedestrian facilities installed, existing easements can be used, new easements created, or abandoned rail lines can be converted for use. Input from adjacent property owners should be sought and they should be encouraged to be involved in the planning and implementation of these paths.

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities can be popular tourist attractions. Piatt County should consider how it can connect to other counties, trails, and recreational places of interest as it works toward a transportation system that is inclusive of these travel modes. Projects that include more than one jurisdiction and/or link to other existing facilities have a higher probability of being supported and funded.



*Hiking trail in eastern Piatt County*

### ***Public Transit***

Currently Piatt County offers public transit service through Piattran. Continuing service should focus on reaching more communities more frequently. Piattran could become a major provider of commuter services within Piatt County and beyond by playing a role in park and ride services. The County should consider possible contract services for public transit between major employers and communities in the county.

### ***Air***

Piatt County is very well situated between several larger airports, within an hour's driving distance. Plans regarding the existing airport southeast of Monticello states that expansion is unfeasible. Relocating the airport could increase local enplanements.

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# CHAPTER 9: LAND USE

## Introduction

The comprehensive planning process provides the opportunity to express methods of guiding changes and development in a way that maintains community character, protects the environment, and ensures public safety. This chapter details existing land use classification, municipal land uses, county zoning and relevant trends.

## Existing Land Use

Land use analysis in Piatt County was completed with parcel based GIS data as well as property assessment records from the Piatt County Assessors office. Tax assessment land use designations were used as initial categories; however, each parcel was checked to ensure that its primary use was identified regardless of ownership or past usage. Table 9-1 shows the nineteen land use types, acreages and percent of total land used in the land use analysis. Over 90% of the land in Piatt County is categorized under agricultural type uses or is undeveloped. Undeveloped lands include forests and prairies that are not managed for production.

**Table 9-1: Land Use Types**

	Acreage	Percent
<b>Total</b>	278133.24	
<b>Farmland without Building</b>	215,045.80	77.32%
<b>Farmland with Building</b>	40,666.56	14.62%
<b>Undeveloped</b>	7,383.90	2.65%
<b>Residential Single Family</b>	6,927.33	2.49%
<b>Residential Vacant</b>	597.53	0.21%
<b>Residential Duplex</b>	27.88	0.01%
<b>Apartment</b>	7.63	0.00%
<b>Commercial Retail</b>	665.61	0.24%
<b>Commercial Office</b>	1.05	0.00%
<b>Rail Active</b>	696.99	0.25%
<b>Industrial</b>	347.12	0.12%
<b>Rail Vacant</b>	141.78	0.05%
<b>Utilities</b>	111.36	0.04%
<b>Institutional</b>	2346.56	0.84%
<b>Open Space Public</b>	2223.21	0.80%
<b>Open Space Private</b>	710.06	0.26%
<b>Cemetery</b>	213.03	0.08%
<b>Green Space</b>	14.79	0.01%














*Piatt County Assessors Office  
Allerton Park is included as an institutional land use*

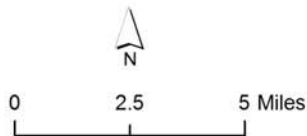
Map 9-1:

# Existing Land Use

## Piatt County

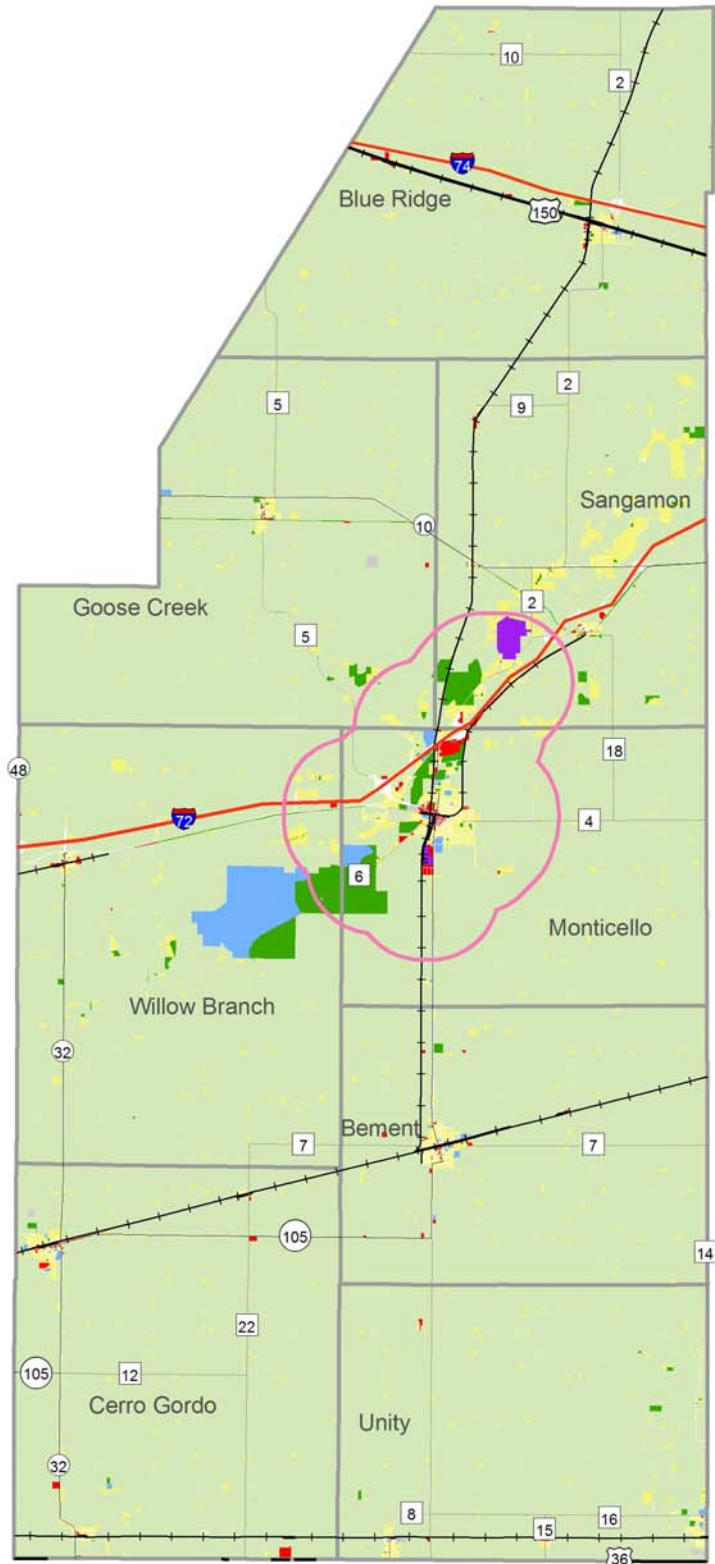
### Legend

-  Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
-  Civil Township
-  Agriculture
-  Residential
-  Utility
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Institutional
-  Open Space
-  County Hwy
-  State Hwy
-  U.S. Hwy
-  Interstate



Production Date:  
May 2008

Sources:  
Piatt County Assessor  
CCGIS  
CCRPC





## Agricultural

Agricultural land use in Piatt County is dominated by corn and soybean production. Tilling is the predominant method of readying soil for planting and irrigation is generally not practiced. Agricultural land was developed with infrastructure including drainage tiles and ditches to efficiently move excess water out of fields. Township roadways are also a critical part of agricultural land use, providing farmers access to fields and allowing transportation of goods at harvest time. The dominance of agricultural land use and lack of other commercial or industrial development is evident in land use patterns in Piatt County.

### *Existing programs related to Agricultural Land Use*

- The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land. CRP participants plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program - designed to enhance the Illinois River by protecting water quality and land in the Illinois River Watershed.
- Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program – EQIP is the NRCS’ principal program for delivering conservation technical and financial assistance to private land owners. EQIP supports the needs of agricultural operations with or without livestock by offering ideas, solutions, guidance for a successful and sustainable conservation operation. The most common conservation practices include, Forest Stand Improvement, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grassed Waterway, Residue Management, Streambank shoreline protection, Terrace, Tree Shrub Establishment, and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management. Other programs are available for grazing and confined livestock operations.
- Wetland Reserve Program – designed to create and restore quality wetland habitats in the Illinois River Watershed and across the state.
- The Tax Incentive Filter Strip Program is an incentive for installing protective vegetative filter strips on land adjacent to surface or ground water sources, landowners may receive a reduced property tax assessment of 1/6th of its value as cropland. Landowners can expect to save about \$1 to \$25 per acres in taxes depending on soils and local tax rates. Vegetative filter strip design and certification assistance is available from the Soil and Water Conservation District office.

*Common issues for agricultural land use include:*

- Access to transportation –rail/road
- Drainage ditches
- Conversion of farmland to other land uses
- Small farms being bought out for larger farms
- Erosion

## **Residential**














The majority of residential land use in Piatt County is located within municipalities. Municipalities range from the City of Monticello, which incorporates 3.85 square miles of the county, to the Village of Cisco, which incorporates 0.32 square miles. A variety of small settlements dot the county, forming agglomerations of single family residences. Rural areas along the Sangamon River are increasingly being developed into rural residences both lot by lot and through larger subdivision developments. These developments have a variety of forms, qualities, and impacts on both infrastructure and the environment.

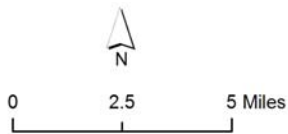
Map 9-2:

# Permits for New Residential Construction 1999 to 2006 by PLS Section

Piatt County, Illinois

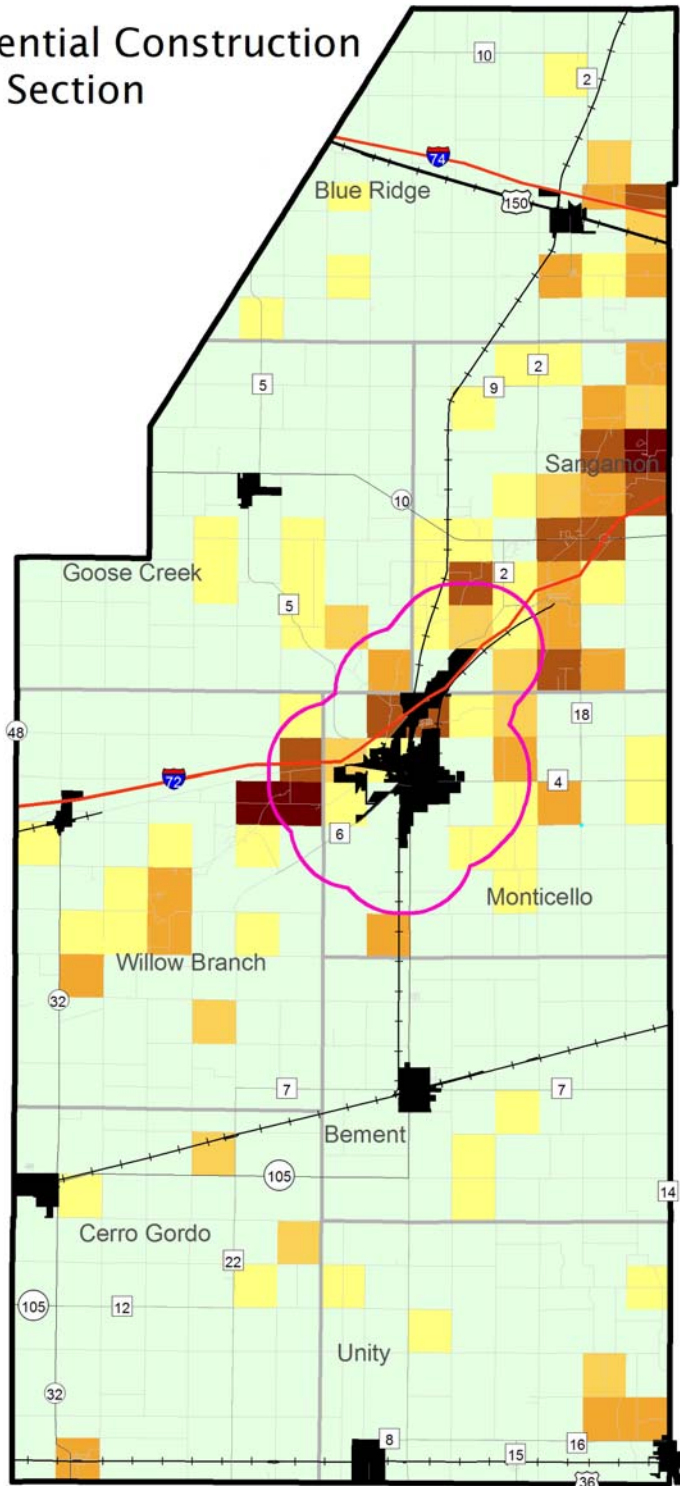
## Legend

-  Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
-  Railroads
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Civil Township
- Number of Permits**
-  1
-  2
-  3 - 5
-  6 - 10
-  11 - 38
-  10 County Hwy
-  48 State Hwy
-  150 U.S. Hwy
-  74 Interstate



Production Date:  
November, 2007

Sources:  
Piatt County Tax Assessor  
CCGIS  
IDOT



## Commercial

There are approximately 664.53 acres (0.24%) currently being used for commercial uses. These areas are generally located within municipal jurisdictions and primarily within the City of Monticello. The area surrounding the Market Street exit from I-72 is largely commercial, along with downtown Monticello and an area south of Monticello on Illinois Route 105. Numerous regional commercial centers are located in neighboring counties in Champaign/Urbana, Tuscola, Decatur, and Bloomington/Normal.

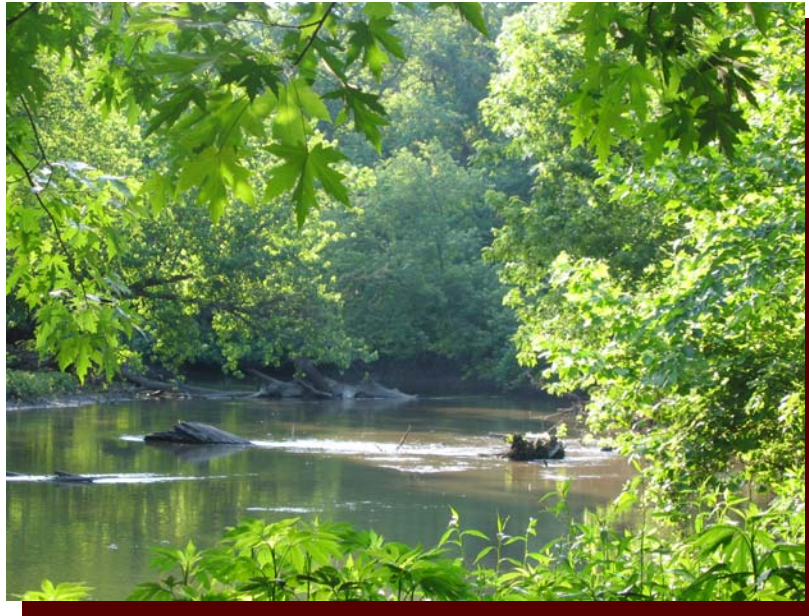


## Industrial and Utility

Industrial land use in Piatt County is limited to a quarry operation north of Monticello, CIMCO in Bement, and a section of land south of Monticello between the rail line and Illinois Route 105. Goose Creek Energy Center is located between Lodge and Deland in Goose Creek Township. These stretches were designated for industry and generally contain agriculture or rail related buildings.

## Open Space

Open space in Piatt County is split into a number of categories. Public open space includes parks and recreation areas, private open space areas like golf courses, drainage areas or privately owned land (without buildings) that is primarily used for recreation, and green space in small strips of land that are undeveloped and have limited development potential. 1332 acres in Piatt County can be considered a type of open space.



## Municipal Land Use

This comprehensive plan also details seven of the eight incorporated areas in Piatt County: Atwood, Bement, Cerro Gordo, Cisco, Deland, Hammond, and Mansfield. Monticello is not included because it updated its own comprehensive plan in 1998. Municipal land use in Piatt County is dominated by residential land use, but also contains areas of institutional and commercial land use. In the following sections, the symbols below are used to identify features present in each village in Piatt County.

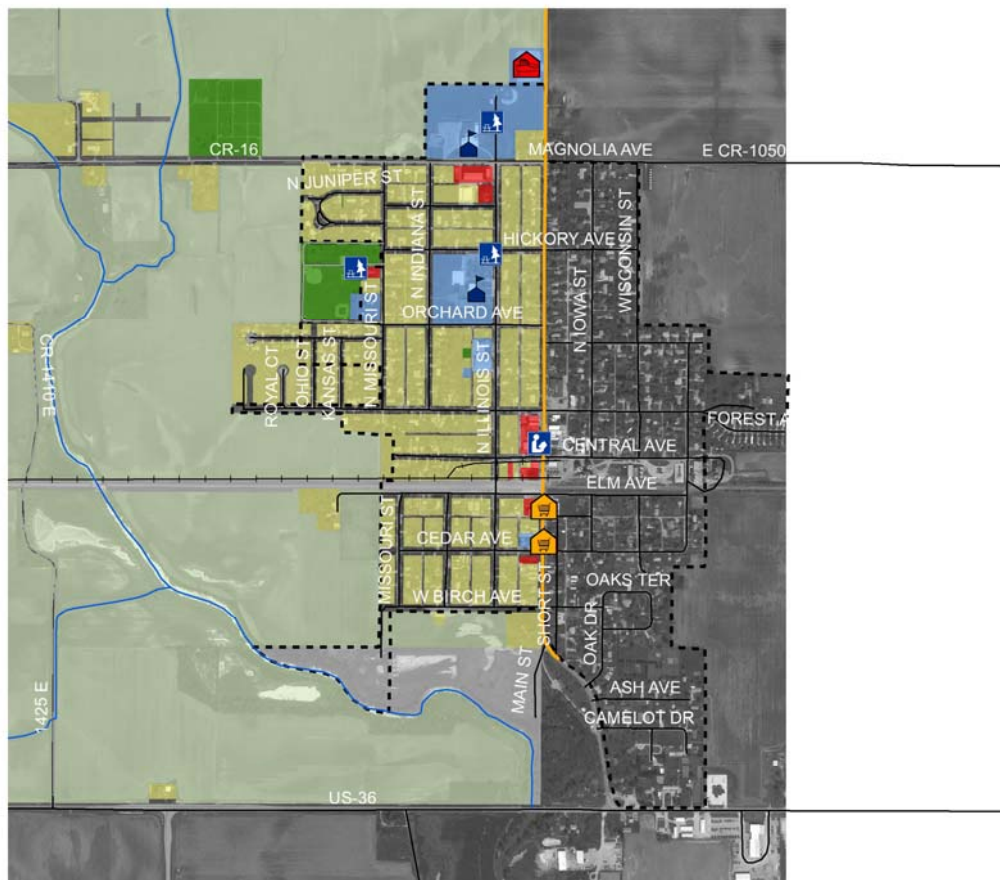
-  Education
-  Fire Station
-  Grocery Store
-  Library
-  Park

Atwood has experienced infill residential development on the Douglas County side along East Ash Avenue and new residential development outside its corporate limits to the north of West Forest Avenue. The central business district is physically dominated by the rail infrastructure grain storage facility just to the east; however, many businesses have found a good home in Atwood and have worked to create an attractive commercial experience. The Lake Fork of the Kaskaskia River flows along the west side of Atwood, passing along a portion of the southern municipal boundary near the sewage treatment plant.

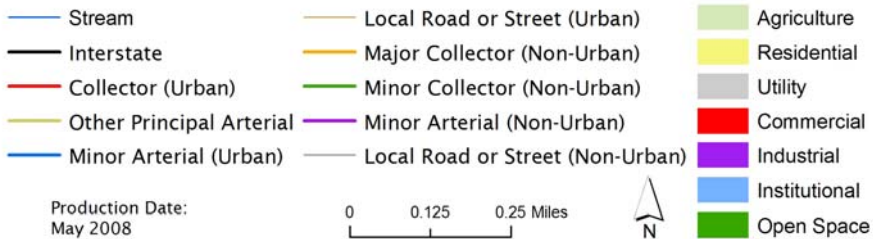
Map 9-3:

## Atwood Existing Land Use

Piatt County, Illinois



### Legend





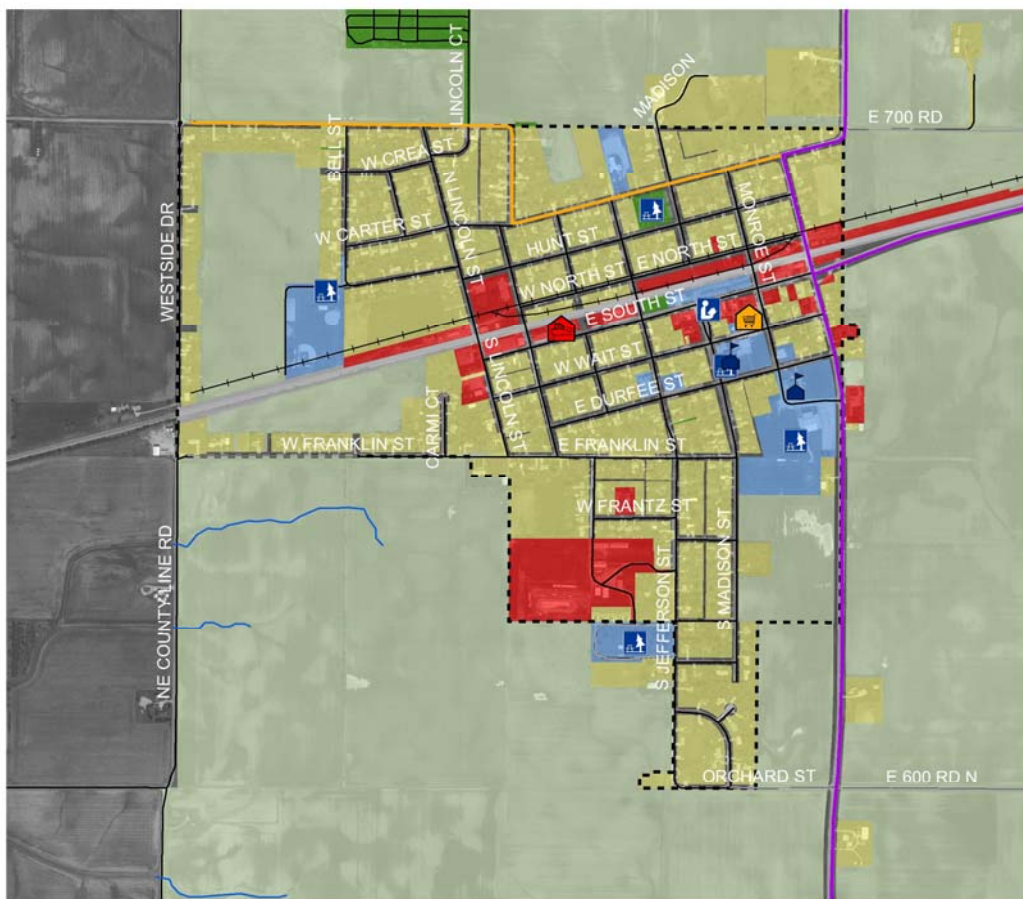


Cerro Gordo is located on the western county boundary bordering Macon County. The majority of commercial development is located along South Street and along IL-32. New residential development has occurred along the southern and western edges of town. Development on the west edge borders County Highway 3 and Westside Drive and Franklin Street. A large amount of land in Cerro Gordo is designated as institutional because of the two schools located within city limits. Piatt County Fairgrounds are located on the south side of Cerro Gordo.

Map 9-5:

## Cerro Gordo Existing Land Use

Piatt County, Illinois



**Legend**

- |                          |                                  |               |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Stream                   | Local Road or Street (Urban)     | Agriculture   |
| Interstate               | Major Collector (Non-Urban)      | Residential   |
| Collector (Urban)        | Minor Collector (Non-Urban)      | Utility       |
| Other Principal Arterial | Minor Arterial (Non-Urban)       | Commercial    |
| Minor Arterial (Urban)   | Local Road or Street (Non-Urban) | Industrial    |
|                          |                                  | Institutional |
|                          |                                  | Open Space    |

Production Date:  
May 2008

0 0.125 0.25 Miles



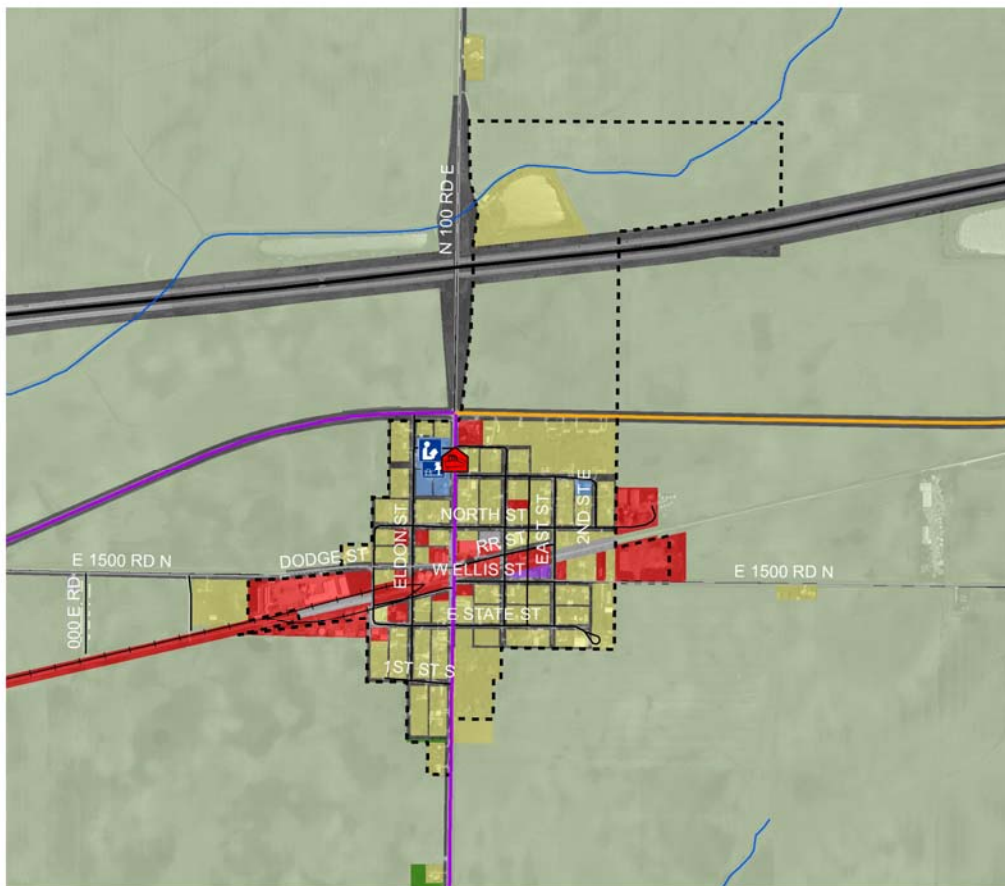


The Village of Cisco is located in west central Piatt County along Interstate 72. There is currently an interstate bridge but no interchange at Cisco, limiting the development that has occurred. IL-32 runs through the town connecting to IL-48. Development is compact with commercial/industrial along the rail line and residential on either side. The village has a community baseball diamond on the north side of town but no other recreational area. Some residential infill development has occurred but a number of lots remain empty within corporate limits.

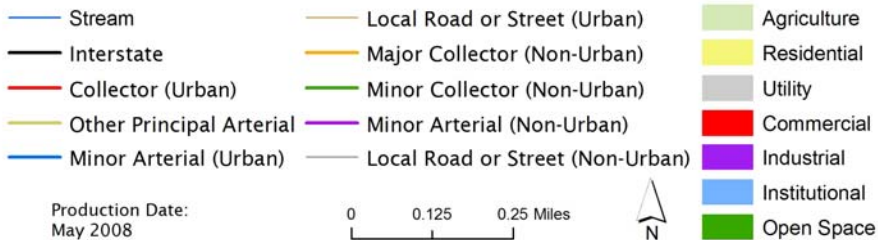
Map 9-6:

## Cisco Existing Land Use

Piatt County, Illinois



### Legend

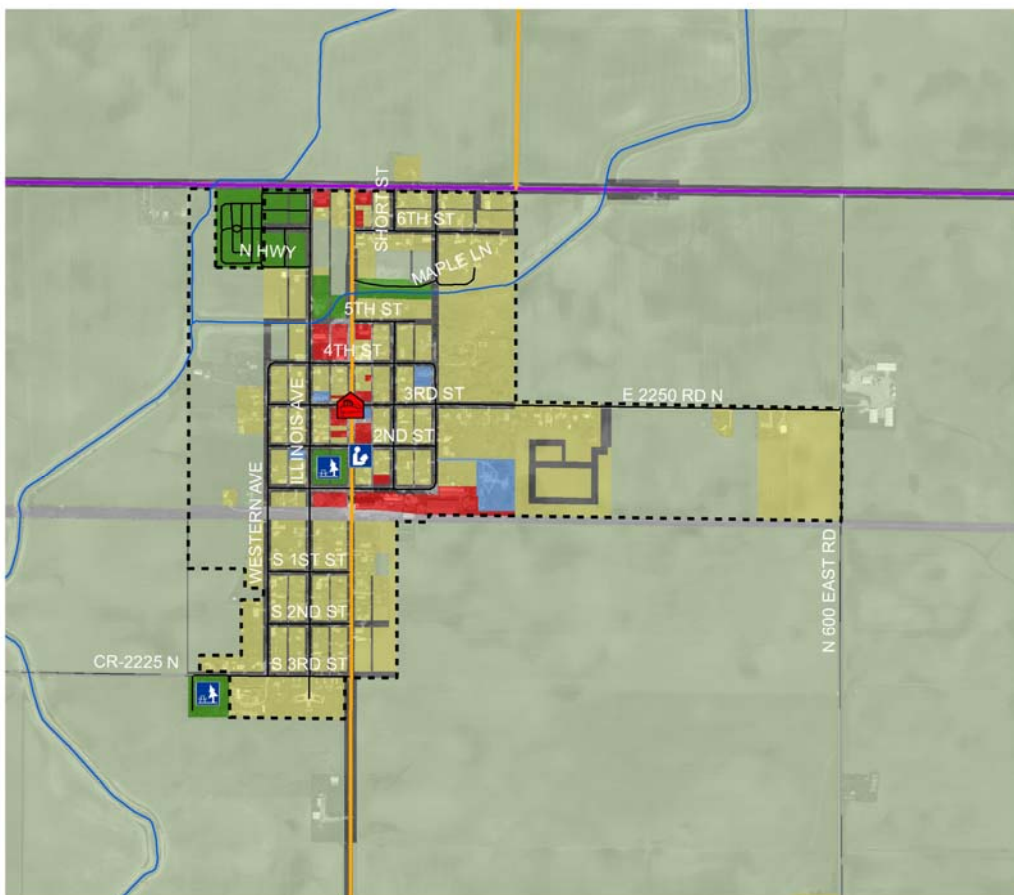


Deland is another compact community with little vacant land between occupied residences and businesses. Commerce in Deland is centralized along IL-10. The part of Deland that lies to the south of the inactive rail line is dense residential without other land uses except for a school that has been converted into apartments and associated park. The north side of Deland contains a cemetery, a small number of commercial uses, and Goose Creek, which runs from east to west. Two bridges span the creek. Deland has a County Forest Preserve within its boundary and is home to a Carnegie Library built in 1912.

Map 9-7:

## Deland Existing Land Use

Piatt County, Illinois



### Legend

Stream	Local Road or Street (Urban)	Agriculture
Interstate	Major Collector (Non-Urban)	Residential
Collector (Urban)	Minor Collector (Non-Urban)	Utility
Other Principal Arterial	Minor Arterial (Non-Urban)	Commercial
Minor Arterial (Urban)	Local Road or Street (Non-Urban)	Industrial
		Institutional
		Open Space

Production Date: May 2008

0 0.125 0.25 Miles

N

Hammond lies in the south central part of Piatt County. Commercial land uses are predominantly located along US Highway 36 as well as near the intersection of the active and inactive rail lines. The active rail line presents a significant barrier though two at-grade crossings. Approximately half of the land within municipal limits is developed.

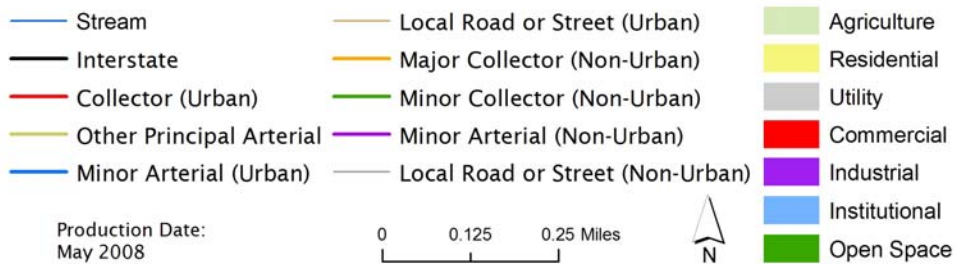
Map 9-8:

## Hammond Existing Land Use

Piatt County, Illinois



### Legend



Mansfield is located along Interstate 74 in the North Part of Piatt County. The dominant land use feature is the interstate interchange. Mansfield has experienced the greatest growth of the small villages within Piatt County. Residences span Newton Street to the east, reach towards the interchange at the north and line a portion of the interstate to the northwest, resulting in the loss of a compact village. Infill has occurred in the southwest part of the village, taking advantage of existing infrastructure. Commercial land uses are found near the interchange, in the center of the village, as well as along the rail line. Park space can be found at the county forest preserve property and areas associated with the schools.

Map 9-9:

## Mansfield Existing Land Use

Piatt County, Illinois



### Legend

- |                          |                                  |               |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Stream                   | Local Road or Street (Urban)     | Agriculture   |
| Interstate               | Major Collector (Non-Urban)      | Residential   |
| Collector (Urban)        | Minor Collector (Non-Urban)      | Utility       |
| Other Principal Arterial | Minor Arterial (Non-Urban)       | Commercial    |
| Minor Arterial (Urban)   | Local Road or Street (Non-Urban) | Industrial    |
|                          |                                  | Institutional |
|                          |                                  | Open Space    |

Production Date:  
May 2008

0 0.125 0.25 Miles



## Settlements

Six settlements exist within Piatt County: Galesville, La Place Lodge, Milmine, Pierson Station, and White Heath. These locales were built along rail lines and generally have grain elevators or another type of agricultural infrastructure. Land uses are almost exclusively residential except for agricultural related businesses. The settlement achieving the most growth is La Place in the southwest corner of the County.

## County Zoning

Piatt County uses 9 zoning designations. The purpose and intents are provided below as written in the Piatt County Zoning Ordinance.

1. *A-1, Agricultural District*

2. *AC, Conservation District*

It is the purpose of the A-1 and A-C Districts to provide a means by which agricultural land may be protected and enhanced as an economic and environmental resource of major importance to the County.

3. *RS Suburban Residential District*

R-S, Residential Suburban: The R-S District is intended to provide low density single family dwelling use and to allow certain public facilities. The provisions of the R-S District are also intended to control density of population and provide adequate open space around buildings and structures in the district to accomplish these purposes

4. *B-1, General Business District*

The B-1 District is intended to provide for the specialized types of service business and commercial establishments, which due to their function and methods of operation are permitted uses only in this district.

5. *I-1, General Industrial District*

The I-1 District is intended for the purpose of allowing light industrial, basic and primary industries which are generally not compatible with residential or commercial activity.

6. *I-A, Interchange Agricultural Subdistrict*

The Interchange Agricultural District is established as a zone in which agriculture and certain related uses are encouraged as the proper use of lands best suited for agriculture, thus preventing the intermingling of urban and rural land uses.

7. *I-RS, Interchange Residential Subdistrict*

The Interchange Residential District is intended to provide residential uses and to allow business and industrial uses that do not detrimentally affect the primary residential nature of the district

8. *I-B, Interchange Business Subdistrict*

The Interchange Business District is established to assure the desirable development of high-quality highway user facilities with their related uses and other commercial enterprises.



9. I-1, Interchange Industrial Subdistrict (\* all areas with this zoning designation have been annexed into Monticello)

The Interchange Industrial District is established to accommodate light industrial uses that are relatively “clean” activities such as the manufacture and storage of products within entirely enclosed buildings and which require freeway access and prestige frontage on a tract of land comprising one (1) acre or more.

**Table 9-2: Piatt County Zoning Districts**

Zoning	Acres	Percent Total
A-1	256,506.6	91.21%
AC	16,551.0	5.89%
B-1	217.9	0.08%
I-1	210.6	0.07%
I-A	69.5	0.02%
I-B	235.4	0.08%
I-RS	228.1	0.08%
RS	2,304.7	0.82%
Atwood	193.3	0.07%
Bement	485.8	0.17%
Cerro Gordo	429.3	0.15%
Cisco	202.3	0.07%
Deland	262.3	0.09%
Hammond	482.2	0.17%
Ivesdale	28.3	0.01%
Mansfield	344.1	0.12%
Monticello	2,467.9	0.88%
Incorporated	4895.6	1.74%

*Champaign County GIS Consortium*

Piatt County zoning designates 273,057.6 acres (97.1%) as A-1 or AC, which are intended to protect agricultural land, open space, wooded areas, streams, mineral deposits, and other natural resources from incompatible land use and as an economic and environmental resource. 2,304.0 acres (0.82%) are zoned as RS for suburban residential development and 4895.6 acres (1.74%) of the county falls within incorporated boundaries.

### Land Market Values

Equalized assessed values (EAV) for property in Piatt County show little change in value, increasing by only 6.16% between 2000 and 2005. This suggests that demand for property is low in Piatt County compared to other areas in the state. While Piatt County residents are increasingly commuting to Champaign County, this trend is not currently at levels that will impact land values at the county level.

**Table 9-3: Total EAV (Thousands of \$)**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Change (00-05)
<b>Piatt Non-Collar Counties</b>	269,859	271,564	274,512	284,476	278,323	286,476	6.16%
<b>Illinois</b>	50,112,777	52,431,138	54,840,512	57,257,541	58,161,149	61,488,925	22.7%
	204,178,018	220,330,253	240,809,532	259,727,001	277,898,235	303,038,485	48.42%

### Land Use Trends

The 1970 Comprehensive Plan for Piatt County completed a land use analysis determining land use acreages for a collection of categories. At that time, the land use analysis was completed through a field survey of the county. The current method involved aerial photo interpretation as well as a field verification survey for questionable parcels. Direct comparisons are affected by the two different methods, however data is still informative. Total acreages differ by 11,065.6 acres (267,062.2 and 278,127.8) due to the change in survey method and the use of GIS data. The greatest change, between 1968 and 2007, was an increase of 5,146.6 acres of residential land. Not far behind is an increase of 3,420 acres of agricultural land use.

**Table 9-4: Piatt County Land Use**

	Acres 1968	Acres 2007	Actual Change	Percent Change
<b>Agriculture</b>	259675.8	263095.8	3420.0	1.32%
<b>Residential</b>	2447.0	7593.6	5146.6	210.32%
<b>Commercial</b>	70.9	663.5	592.6	835.83%
<b>Industrial</b>	1915.9	1269.0	-646.9	-34.57%
<b>Open Space</b>	2953.5	5505.9	2552.4	86.42%

CCGIS, Piatt County Assessment Office, Piatt County 1970 Comp. Plan

## Key Findings

- Agriculture is the dominant land use in Piatt County.
- Rural Residential land uses are becoming increasingly common, and are primarily located in Sangamon and Willow Branch Townships.
- Commercial land use growth has generally located within the municipal limits of Monticello.
- Little growth has occurred within smaller villages since 1970.
- The growth that has occurred is likely a result of interstate interchange location.
- All villages have meeting facilities.
- All villages have recreation areas.

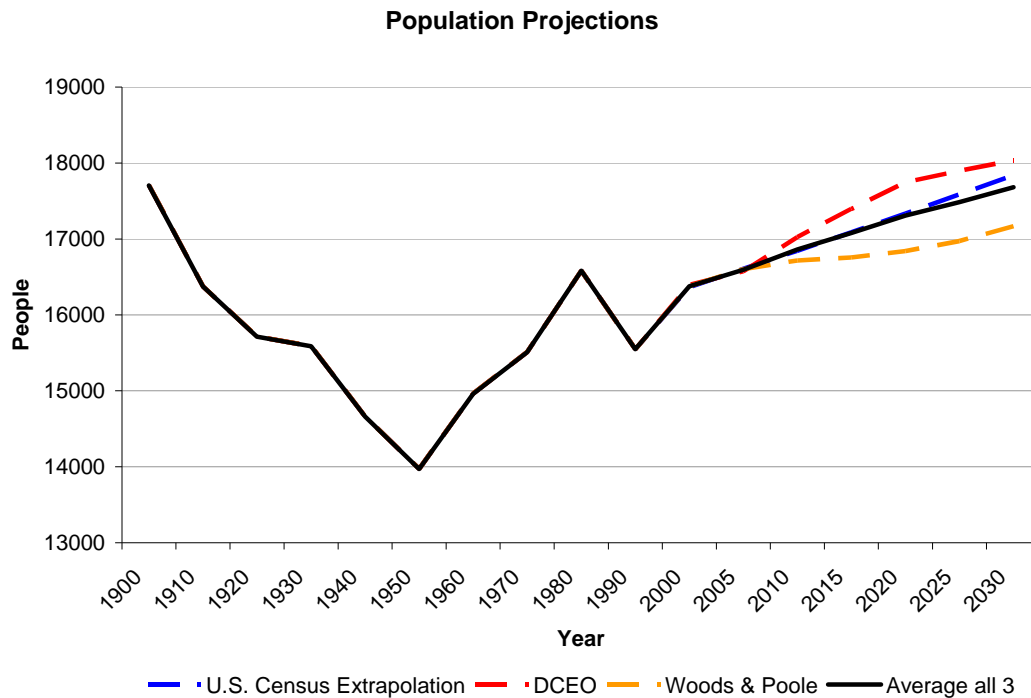


## Plans for Land Use and Land Capability

The Comprehensive Plan is not a precise projection of future development and land use in Piatt County. Even though we plan for the future, we must realize that growth is determined more by market forces than local government actions or plans. Long term strategic plans help as a guide for residents and government decision-makers, but do not guarantee the desired result. Cooperation between government officials, residents, and developers is an essential step in realizing planned futures.

This section answers three specific questions. How much development is to occur? Where will development occur? What form of development will take place? Population and employment projections are used here to answer the first question, and help to form reasonable scenarios of the future. The second question is answered through land use analysis that provides appropriate locations for development to occur based on inherent characteristics and existing development in Piatt County. The Future Land Use Map is the result of the analysis and uses goals and objectives, projections, public participation, and data analysis to develop a desirable future. The third question is answered by a series of land use descriptions and that articulate concerns about specific types of development. Concerns include impact on infrastructure, impact on the environment, mobility, preservation, and character. These concerns are an important part of development, though often not implemented until it is too late in the process.

## Population Projections



## Issues in Land Use

The following issues were derived from input received during the planning process. Residents of Piatt County identified concern for a large number and wide range of land use related issues. The majority revolve around agriculture, industry, and development trends. Residents wish to maintain the rural and agricultural character of Piatt County and perceive development and the increase of large farms as having a negative impact. Rural residential development has increased in the recent past and converted farmland to other uses. While residents generally agree that industrial development would be good for Piatt County, concerns about location and impact on the environment often overwhelm discussions regarding potential development. Opportunities likely exist for increased specialization in agricultural related industries which residents view as helping rural areas without the perceived negative impacts of other types of industrial development.

Residents appreciate the need for new residential development, but are concerned about the impact that it is having. Residences are increasingly spreading outwards from municipal limits, resulting in greater impacts on infrastructure especially roadways. Transportation options other than automobiles are nearly absent in these areas.

Residents are content with the amount of park space and recreation in Piatt County. Scenic qualities include unobstructed views of the horizon, slight rolling topography, and waterways.

- Preserve farmland
- Large farms are eliminating the next generation of local farmers
- Development is taking over farmland
- Rural housing developments are detrimental to agriculture, prime farmland, the environment, rural character, and existing infrastructure.
- Opportunities are not sought enough for agriculture related industries
- Development and large farms are taking away from environment
- Natural areas are taking land out of production
- Wildlife habitats are being bisected by development
- Existing industries respect the environment; wish that potential new industries respect the environment as well.

## Best Management Practices

- Residences should be grouped to form functional neighborhood units rather than sprawling patterns of development that have few supporting community uses like grocery stores or day care centers.
- Cluster development is a tool that identifies critical aspects of the landscape or character of a site and seeks to minimize visual and environmental impacts.
- Mixed use developments are the inclusion of residential, commercial and other uses that produce diverse and convenient communities.

- Planned developments are used to design neighborhoods with greater specificity to ensure appropriate housing mixes, densities, and supporting community uses.
- Preserve areas near municipalities for future urban growth.
- Direct residential commercial and industrial growth to incorporated areas where appropriate infrastructure and services already exist.

## Goals and Objectives

Numerous goals and objectives that have been created are applicable to the land use chapter. The strategies identified for future land use are intended to work in concert with all goals and objectives though not all are listed in this section. Below are Goals and Objectives that were adopted under the land use heading.

Goal 1: Use land for the affordance of employment, residence, and recreation while ensuring the capacity of that land to be used in such ways indefinitely, while recognizing individual landowners' rights.

Objective 1.1: Develop land in densities and patterns that are consistent with the long-term continuation of agriculture as a primary land use.

Objective 1.2: Allocate adequate commercial, industrial, and residential acreage to meet future needs while minimizing conflicts between these and other land uses.

Objective 1.3: Concentrate growth and development within the County's municipalities rather than rural parts of the county to use existing infrastructure, provide appropriate service, and reduce negative impacts and costs associated with development.

Objective 1.4: Preserve areas that are environmentally sensitive or provide natural services.

Objective 1.5: In planning for future community growth areas, seek to avoid unnecessary conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural land-uses.

Objective 1.6: Approve development projects subject to existing or planned public facilities and utilities.

Objective 1.7: Encourage all developments to have pre-annexation agreements and/or annexation to municipalities when within the one and one-half mile extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJ's).

Objective 1.8: Encourage planned development through pre-annexation agreements and/or annexation to municipalities with input from surrounding landowners and all surrounding jurisdictions.

Objective 1.9: Coordinate land use designations with soil and topographic characteristics, the protection of historical and natural resources, existing land uses, and the availability of public facilities.

Objective 1.10: Low Impact Development techniques will be used to protect the land and building construction waste management will ensure proper use and disposal of building materials.

### **Growth Assumptions**

1. Growth will occur on at a rate similar to the average of projected population growth from Illinois DCEO, Woods & Poole, and U.S. Census Estimates.
2. Family sizes and structures will remain constant in Piatt County between 2000 and 2030.
3. Overall housing density (dwelling units / square mile) of minor jurisdictions (municipalities and townships) in Piatt County will remain constant between 2000 and 2030 with only a few exceptions.
4. Municipalities will continue to grow into unincorporated areas of Piatt County.
5. Employment to land use ratios will remain constant in Piatt County between 2000 and 2030.
6. Institutional land use will have little change even though there is projected employment growth.

### **Future Land Use Recommendations**

Recommendations for Piatt County have been restricted to land outside of incorporated areas. Conflict occurs in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of municipalities with adopted comprehensive plans. In these areas, municipalities have planning jurisdiction while the County has zoning jurisdiction (currently only applies to City of Monticello). In ETJ areas, recommendations are limited and are intended to support Municipal Comprehensive plans by allowing municipalities to grow compactly, and not locating land uses that may cause nuisances to land uses planned by the municipality. In ETJ areas specifically, farmland preservation achieves County goals, and allows municipalities to grow when necessary. The Countywide Future Land Use Map should support other municipalities in developing their comprehensive plans.

## Land Use Projections

Land use projections were calculated on a simple acres-per-resident calculation was used to find future needs for residential areas. The number was developed only for unincorporated areas based on existing population and housing density defined by the United States Census Bureau. Similarly, acres per employee were used to determine land required for commercial and industrial development. These calculations are much less accurate due to the great variability in commercial and industrial employment. The numbers are used to help locate potential sites though these will likely be established on a case-by-case basis, or simply proposed by a developer based on their own site selection criteria.

	1968 (acres)	2007 (acres)	2030 Projection (acres)	Change 2007- 2030 (%)
Agriculture	259,676	263,096	262,100	-0.38
Residential	2,447	7,594	8,439	11.13
Commercial	71	664	803	20.93
Industrial	1,916	1,269	1,281	0.95
Open Space	2,953	5,506	5,506	0.00

## Mapping Criteria

Determination of future land use includes a suitability analysis that uses spatial data to establish zones that have conditions appropriate for a desired development type. This analysis was completed for both residential and commercial/industrial development. The following conditions were considered for each analysis. Public input from the Comprehensive Plan workshop was also incorporated into the designation of land uses. Assets were determined for parks, but were not analyzed with a suitability analysis. No new park land is designated in the Comprehensive Plan update.

- Assets are conditions that indicate good suitability for a certain type of development.
- Constraints are conditions that indicate poor suitability for a certain type of development.

## Components of Suitability Maps

Condition	Residential	Commercial Industrial	Parks	Agriculture
Within Municipal Limits	Asset	Asset	Asset	Constraint
Road Access	Asset	Asset	Asset	Constraint
Interstate Access		Asset		Constraint
Rail Access		Asset		Constraint
Wetlands	Constraint	Constraint	Asset	Constraint
Public Sewer	Asset	Asset		Constraint
100 yr Flood Plain	Constraint	Constraint	Asset	
Public Water Service	Asset	Asset		Constraint
Septic Suitability of Soil	Constraint			
Conservation Land	Constraint	Constraint	Asset	Constraint
Prime Farmland	Constraint	Constraint		Asset
Facility Planning Area	Asset	Asset		Constraint
Access to Groundwater	Asset	Asset	Asset	Constraint
Existing Residential	Asset	Constraint	Asset	Constraint

### **Future Land Use Descriptions**

The Future Land Use Map is an image that represents both natural and man-made features of the county. Analysis and public input were used to attribute use of land in Piatt County that is desirable and appropriate. Appropriate uses are defined by carrying capacity of the land, current supply, and projected demand for land use types. Six land use categories described with both words and images create an image of future land use in Piatt County.

The Future Land Use Map is not a zoning map and the categories do not represent zoning districts. The Comprehensive Plan is used to help determine policy decisions related to growth, development, investment, and regulatory changes, which might include changes to zoning and subdivision ordinances. Current regulations and zoning maps are available at the Piatt County Zoning Department.

### **Residential Land Uses**

Areas designated for future residential land use indicate areas that are suitable for the development of homes and that can support the uses and impacts associated with residential development. Residential development is split into three categories: urban, suburban, and conservation. Areas that have been included on the Future Land Use map include:

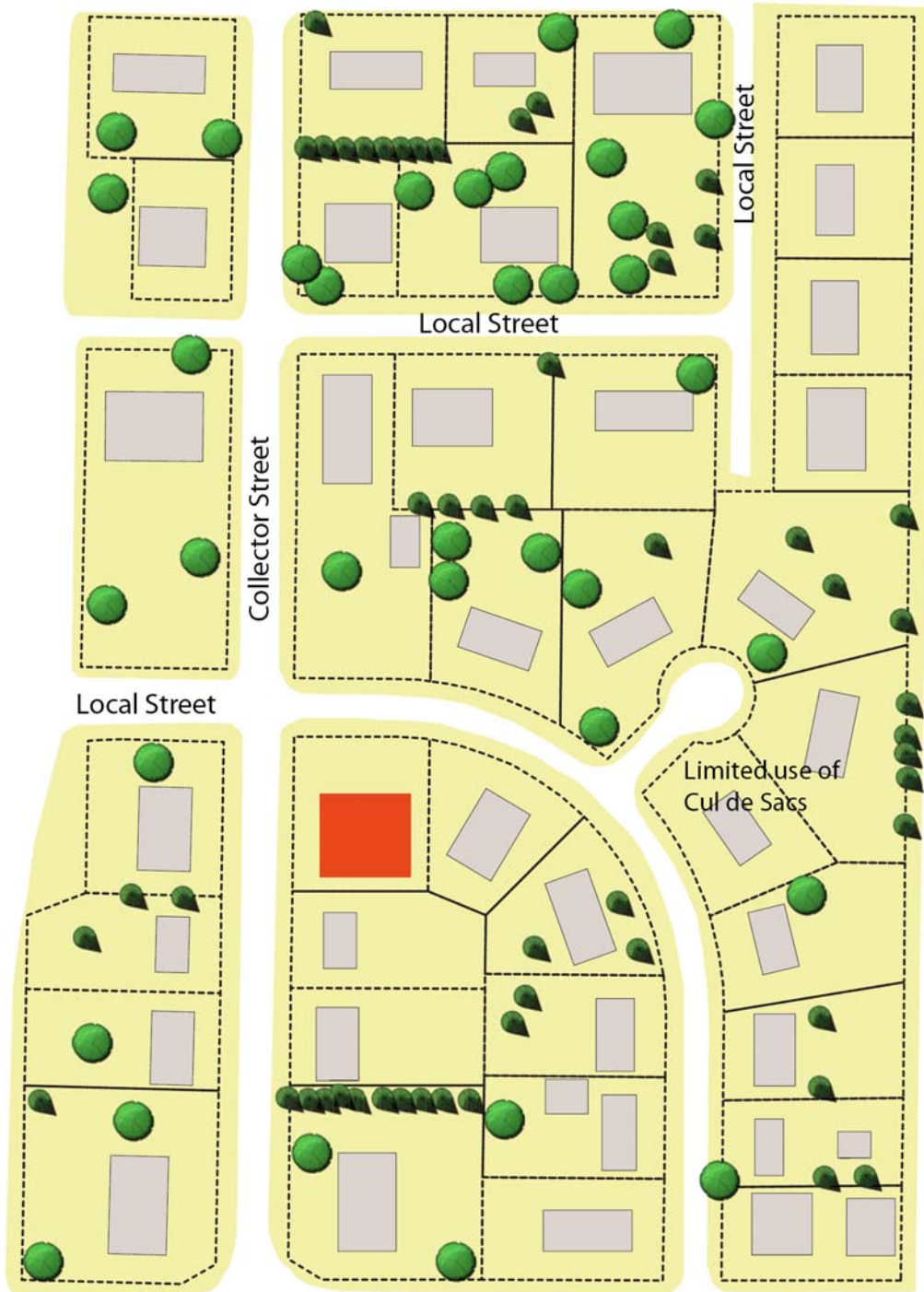
1. Existing developed residential land
2. Lots that are subdivided for residential development
3. Areas suitable for residential expansion based on suitability analysis and goals and policies set forth in this plan.

**High Density (Urban) Residential** - Land use in urban areas is predominantly residential. These include both single family and multi-family residences, avoiding clustering of one type. A mixture of residence types eliminates pockets of wealth/poverty, reduces tendency for multi-family residences to be placed in undesirable locations, and can help maintain community cohesion by allowing residents to change their housing situation, without moving out of the neighborhood. Commercial properties are concentrated in center town areas with some neighborhood services spread through residential areas if larger than 1-mile in circumference. Urban residences are on compact lots divided by a grid network of streets and alleys. Individual blocks are cohesive units by emphasizing auto access through alleys. Roadway width is used to signify appropriate speeds. Pedestrians and bicycle traffic is directed to sidewalks and bike lanes, respectively, in high traffic areas. Places with very low traffic may encourage pedestrian traffic on streets.





**Medium Density (Suburban) Residential** - Land uses in suburban areas are predominantly single family residential. Other compatible uses may include civic, institutional, and park uses. Commercial development is limited to those that will be primarily supported by business from the surrounding neighborhoods. This might include a small corner grocery, day care, or post office. This type of development creates community connectivity by integrating neighborhood services into design.



**Conservation Residential** - Residential development is common in rural areas that have natural and other visual amenities. The protection of these unique areas is important for maintaining rural character and ecological systems. Elements of particular importance are view sheds, buffers on stream and drainage corridors, steep slopes, environmental corridors, farmland and transportation.

The primary objective of rural development can be to minimize the total amount of disturbance and impact. Natural features such as tree lines and steep slopes are often used to identify boundaries. This helps to maintain the natural appearance of the landscape. Building setbacks include buffers from steep slopes, streams or wetlands, ridge lines, and prime farmland. These guidelines are especially helpful in siting development on large tracts. Rather than permitting development on any part of a 20 acre tract, structures may only be built where important rural characteristics are not impacted or the development is concealed by rural characteristics.

Higher density developments that move away from municipal limits contribute to issues synonymous with the term sprawl. This includes dominance of transportation by private automobiles, lack of centralized planning, fiscal disparity, and segregation of land uses, among others. Measures can be taken to address the problems of sprawl, and encourage close-knit, healthy communities. Coordination between municipalities and the county will help address problems related to mixing of jurisdiction and unlimited outward growth. The County Comprehensive Plan can be used as a base framework in coordination with Municipal Comprehensive Plans. Multimodal transportation infrastructure can be included in rural residential areas that connect these areas to transportation hubs as well as local towns where residents might go for daily commercial goods.

Conventional Development

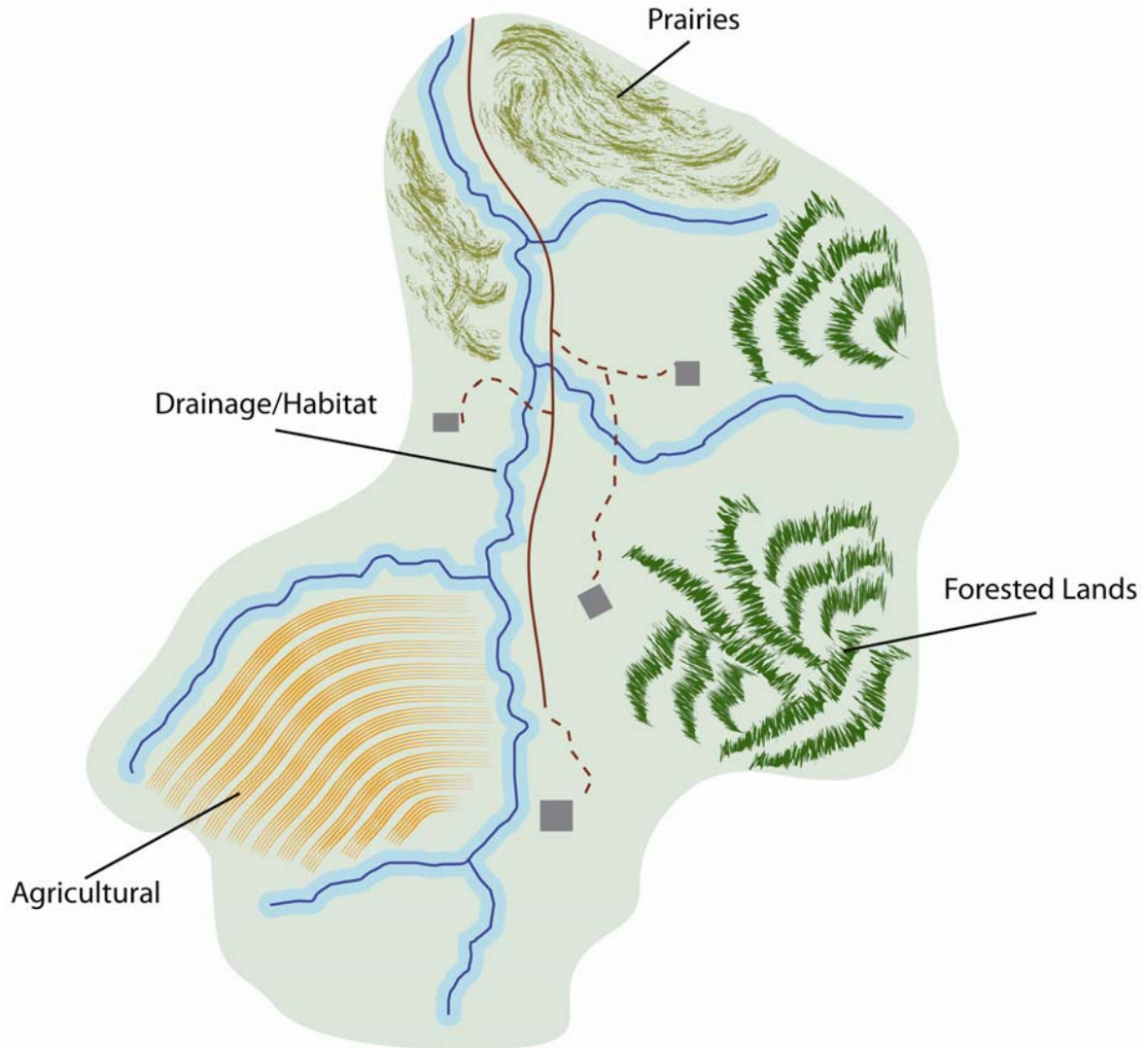


Conservation Design Development



*Existing residences shown as dark rectangles, new development shown as lighter rectangles*

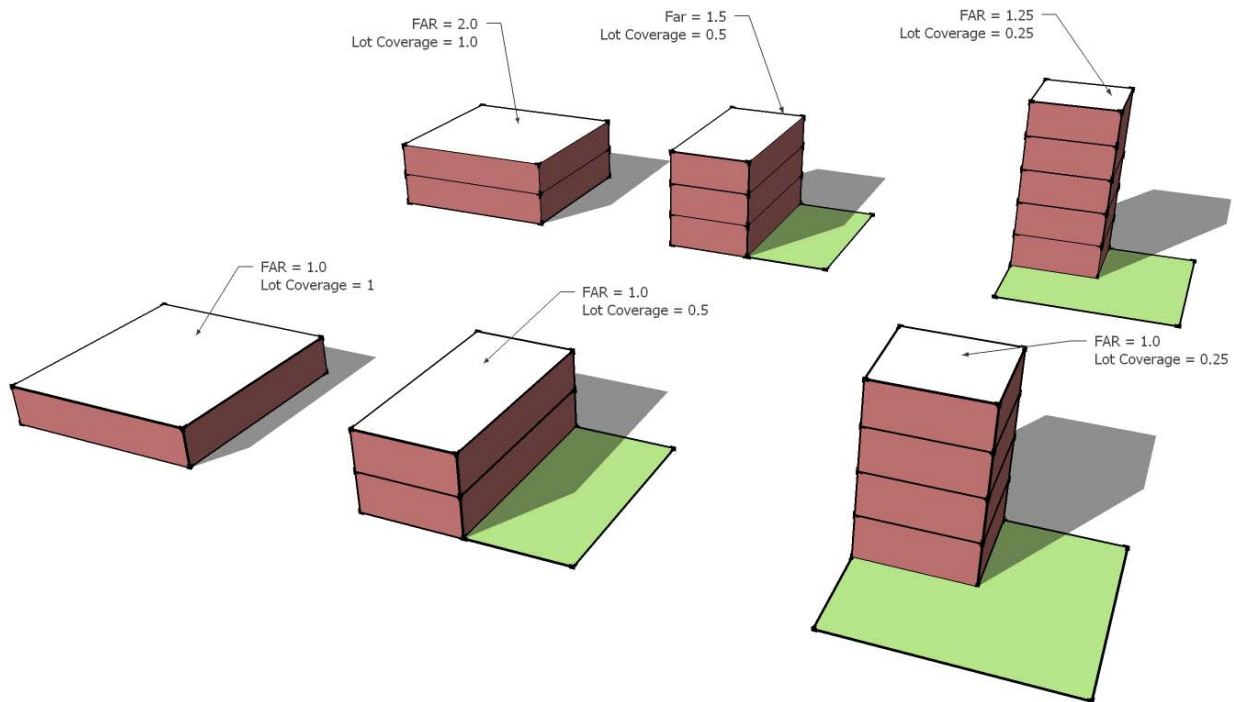
**Low Density (Rural) Residential** – Low density and suburban residential development is often linked to sprawl and the problems associated with sprawl. This includes dominance of transportation by private automobiles, lack of centralized planning, fiscal disparity, and segregation of land uses. However, Piatt County as predominantly residential, values its variety of residences and the rustic living that rural housing provides. The extremely limited amount of low density development projected for Piatt County effectively eliminates some of the problems associated with sprawl. However, other characteristics of development including the maintenance of rural character, agriculture, and the environment are impacted. Lot development and design can address or resolve these types of issues if introduced at the design level before approvals are granted. On the site development side, drainage and pollution can be addressed through low impact development techniques. Site selection aspects include preserving habitat, open space, and agriculture. Technology can also play a major role as is occurring now with no cut-off lighting. This directs light to desired location and effectively limits the light source from lighting other areas.



## Commercial / Industrial

The future land use map includes the determination of existing and future commercial / industrial development. For rural communities, it can be difficult to determine appropriate locations for this type of growth. Important issues that can be leveraged by the county are transportation, impact on farming, environmental impacts, and use of public water and sewer facilities. New and developing technology allows for small scale sanitary facilities and site development that minimizes impact on soil, drainage, and environmentally sensitive areas. Controls for commercial development include Floor Area Ratios (FAR). FAR is a tool that helps control height of buildings and open land area to fit within the neighborhood context. Lot Coverage is another tool that measures land use intensity by representing the portion of a site occupied by a building in relation to the entire area of the lot. New industrial and commercial development should be considered only on a case-by-case basis determined by the goals, objectives, and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.

- Commercial uses include those defined in the zoning ordinance.
- Industrial uses include those defined in the zoning ordinance.



### **Institutional**

Institutional areas include land where public facilities exist or are to be located. These include government, educational, and religious facilities. Efforts can be made to mitigate nuisances and provide appropriate and efficient supporting infrastructure in these areas.

### **Agricultural**

The agricultural designation includes soils rated as best prime farmland and is intended to preserve and enhance land for crop production. More intense agricultural uses such as livestock operations are also found in this area, but are located to minimize conflicts with adjacent uses. Rural Residential development occurs in two different patterns. Cluster development that uses design techniques to efficiently use land while minimizing all impacts of the use. Large lot development allows land owners to use their land but helps to control the rural and scenic character of rural lands.



### **Transportation**

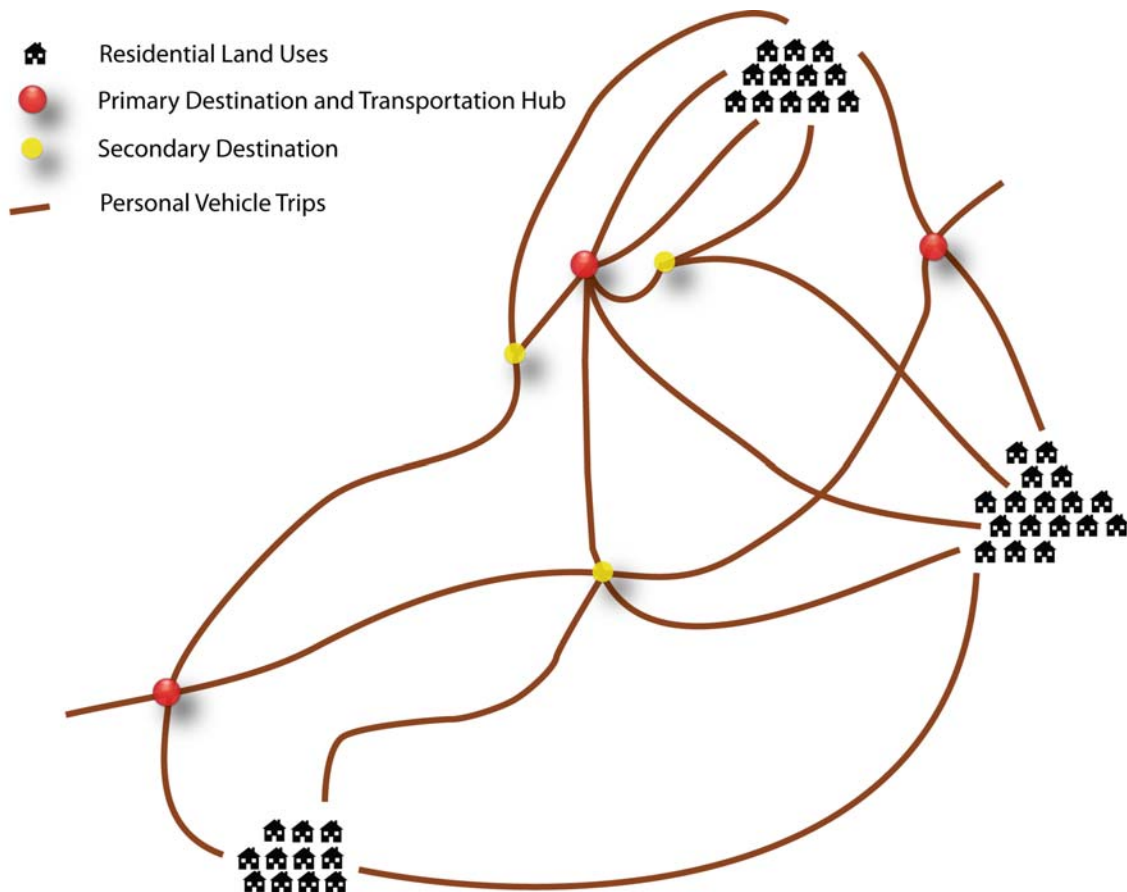
***Mobility Hub*** – Transportation hubs create the structure for maximizing alternatives to single occupant vehicle travel. The hubs connect multiple transportation options allowing commuters to use the most efficient mode for the maximum amount of their journey. This could begin with constructing park and rides that are connected to residential areas by trails. Eventually, transit systems could be routed through these areas to maximize efficiency. It is generally accepted that land development determines the availability and modes of transportation. Developing multi-modal connections with the development reverses this determination and provides residents of Piatt County with the ability to choose and use efficient and economical transportation options.



**Trails** – Linking residential centers to transportation hubs and other activity centers is the backbone of alternative transportation options. These connections are essential for conservation developments that establish higher densities in areas that do not have supporting infrastructure as might be found in urban settings. Trails can range from striping on roadways to dedicated paths and should also link residential developments to centers of commerce and points of interest. Providing residents with an appropriate option other than personal automobiles can be a goal for all residential development.

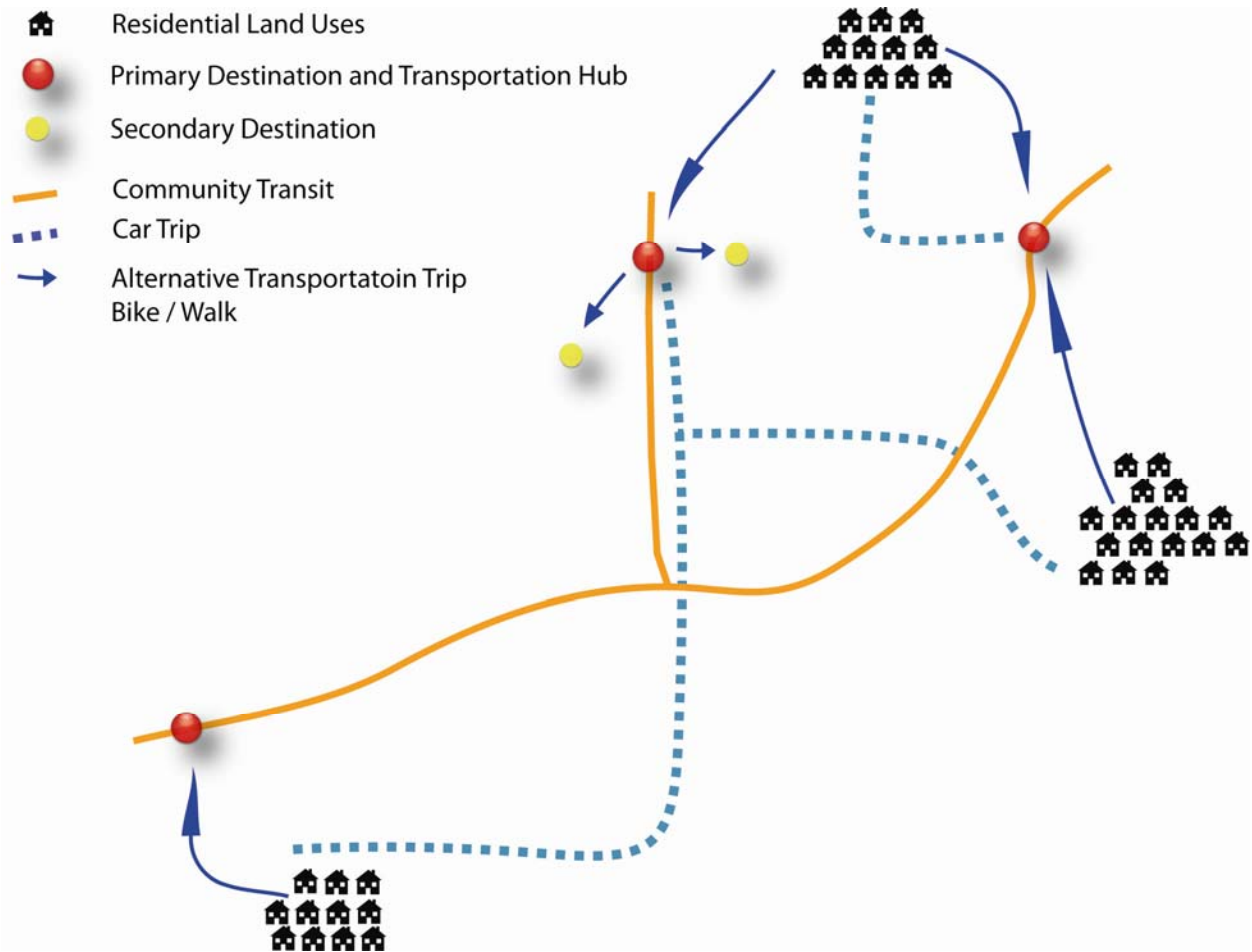
### *Standard Transportation Concept Map*

Standard transportation planning connects all varieties of destinations through road networks that primarily support personal vehicles. The concept map below shows a transportation network focused on personal vehicle trips.



## Transportation Hub Concept Map

Transportation hubs allow better utility transportation options that encourage alternative travel modes. These options will become increasingly important as personal vehicle trips become more expensive.



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# CHAPTER 10: NATURAL RESOURCES

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## Introduction

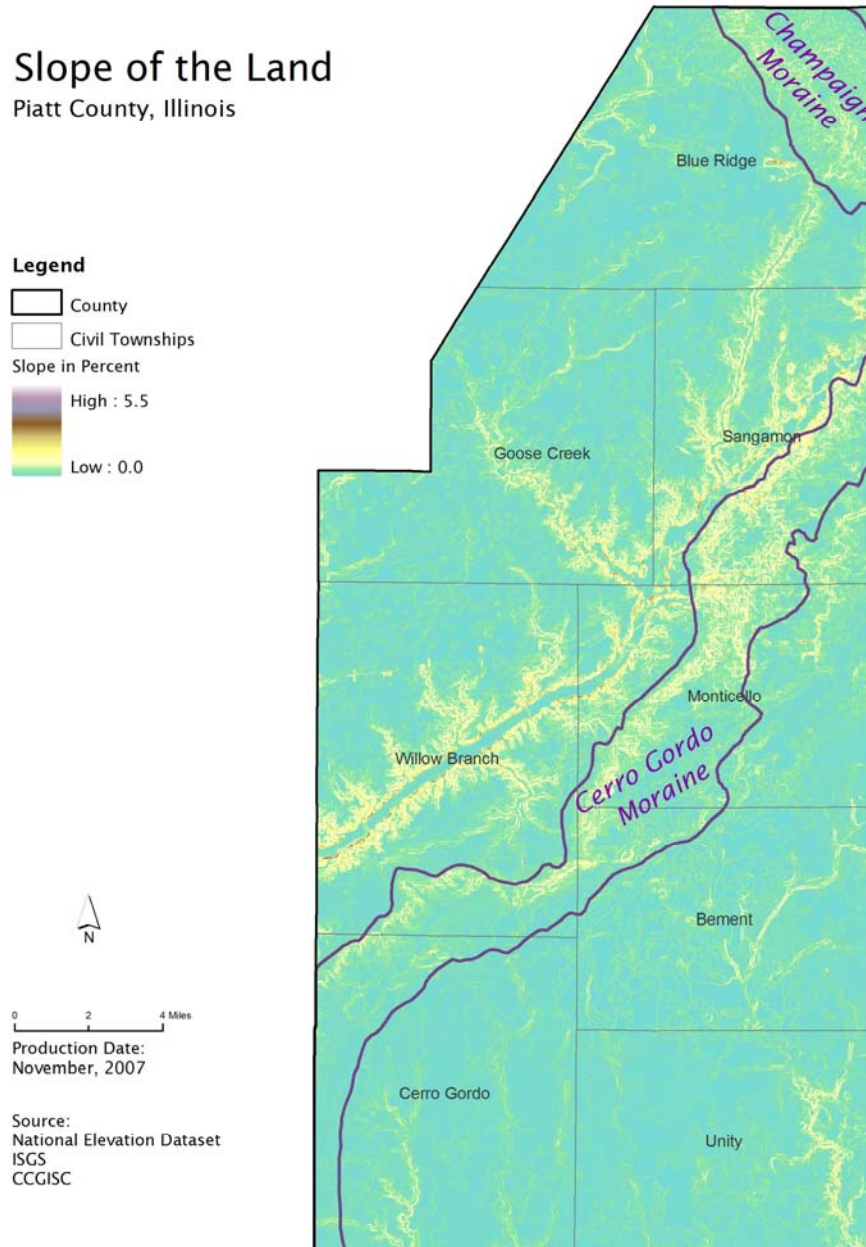
A comprehensive plan provides a platform for defining proper use of natural resource areas. Natural resources provide a range of benefits which at times can conflict when that resource is utilized. Efficient resources often allow more than one use to occur. Comprehensive plans can outline procedures for long term resource use rationalizing potential actions that will result in desired outcomes. This chapter contains information related to the geographic landscape, water resources, soil and mineral resources, wildlife habitat, and climate.



## Physical Geography

The 437 square miles of Piatt County are crossed by 461 linear miles of rivers, streams, and drainage ways. Two glacial moraines pass through the county, determining flow of water and providing noticeable rolling landscapes with small but evident changes in elevation. Glacial till and outwash plain are the predominant geologic features resulting in a mean slope of 0.19 percent. Glacial drift ranges from 100 to about 460 feet below the surface and is comprised of a mixture of clay, silt, sand, pebbles, and larger stones. Wind-lain silt and loess also cover the county, which greatly contributes to the rich prairie soils that are found there.

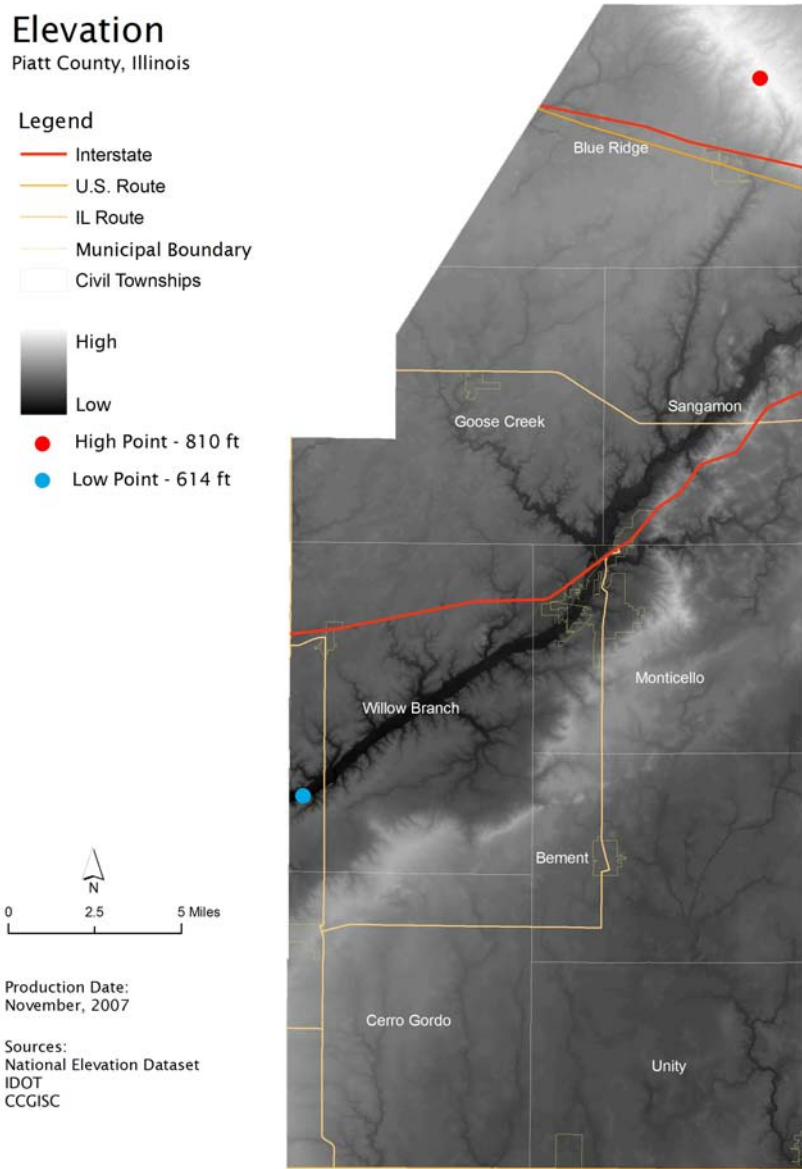
Map 10-1:



## Topography

Piatt County land elevations range from 614 to 810 feet above mean sea level. The lowest point in the county is in Willow Branch Township where the Sangamon River crosses into Macon County. The highest point is located in Blue Ridge Township north of Mansfield. The slope of the land in Piatt County ranges from 0 to 5.5 percent. Highest slopes occur along the Sangamon River and other smaller drainage areas as well as along the two glacial moraines that run through the County. The northern portion of the county contains a greater number of rolling hills than the flat of the southern portion. At one time timber and prairie covered the county at near proportional acreages.

Map 10-2:



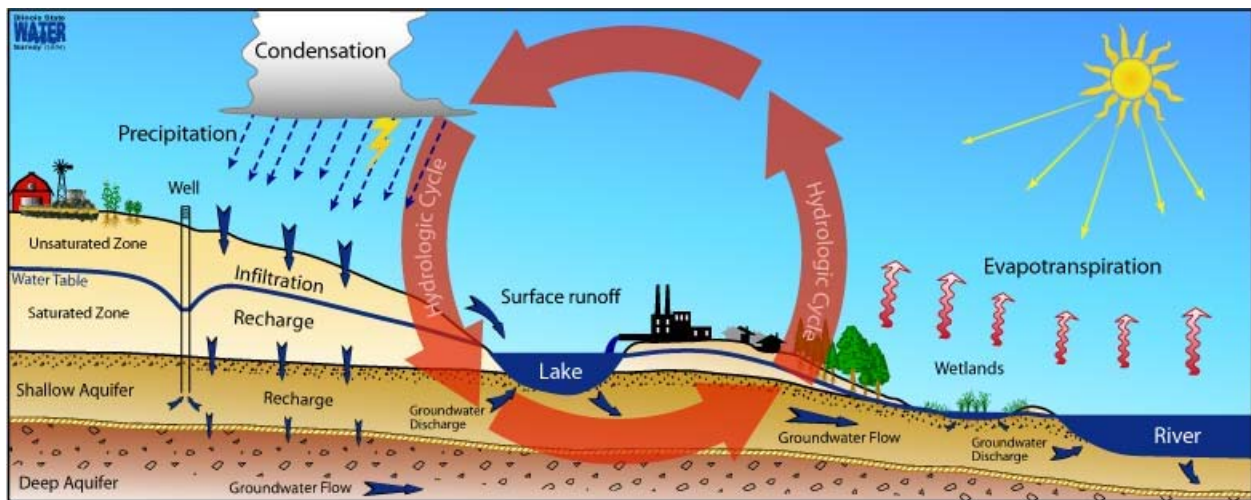
## Water Resources

Water resources in Piatt County include both surface and underground sources. Surface waters are sustained through local precipitation events (rain, snow) while underground aquifers are recharged throughout the region by infiltration. Infiltration rates are variable based on composition of the ground but are presently undetermined.

### Groundwater

The Mahomet Aquifer is the primary groundwater source for much of East Central Illinois as well as West Central Indiana. The top of the aquifer is within 70 to 90 feet of the surface, making it a readily available source for ground water. These pre-glacial period waterways provide the county with water for both potable and commercial uses. Bedrock aquifers also exist down to depths of 500 feet below the surface; however, these are more difficult to tap. Planning for groundwater use has become a major initiative in the State of Illinois with state government funding research and local organizations providing a voice for local interests and concerns. Current research is probing at the amount of water available for extraction and how that amount can be maintained in the long-term future. Other relevant research topics include pollution and groundwater quality, as well as groundwater recharge.

Figure 10-1: Hydrologic Cycle



Source: Illinois State Water Survey








Map 10-3:

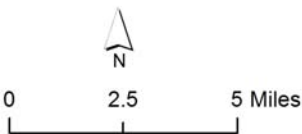
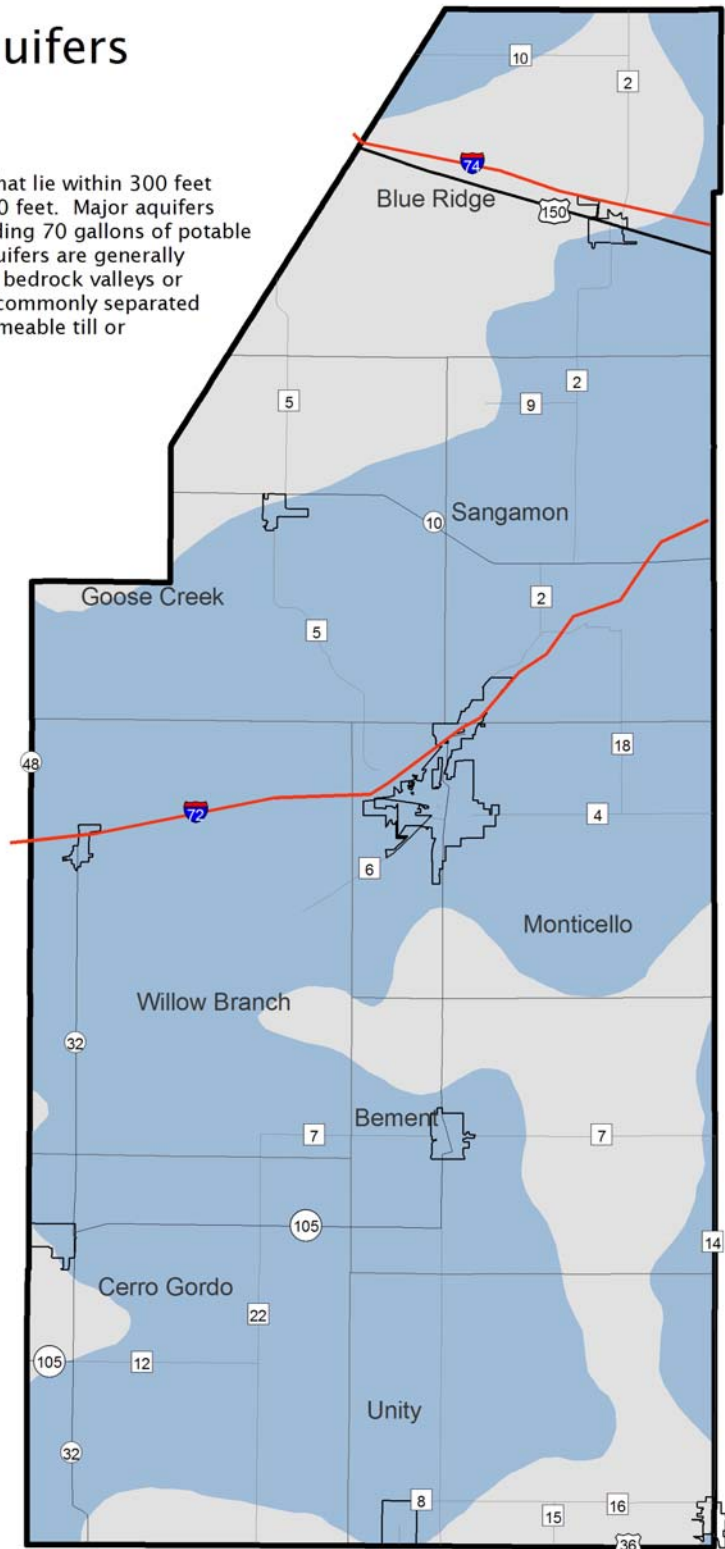
# Sand and Gravel Aquifers

Piatt County, Illinois

This map depicts Sand and Gravel Aquifers that lie within 300 feet of the surface and the bases occur within 500 feet. Major aquifers are defined as geologic units capable of yielding 70 gallons of potable water per minute. Major sand and gravel aquifers are generally Quaternary deposits found within pre-glacial bedrock valleys or along modern streams and rivers. They are commonly separated from shallower aquifers by layers of less permeable till or fine-grained lacustrine deposits.

## Legend

-  Aquifer Absent
-  Aquifer Present
-  County Boundary
-  Civil Township
-  Municipal Boundary

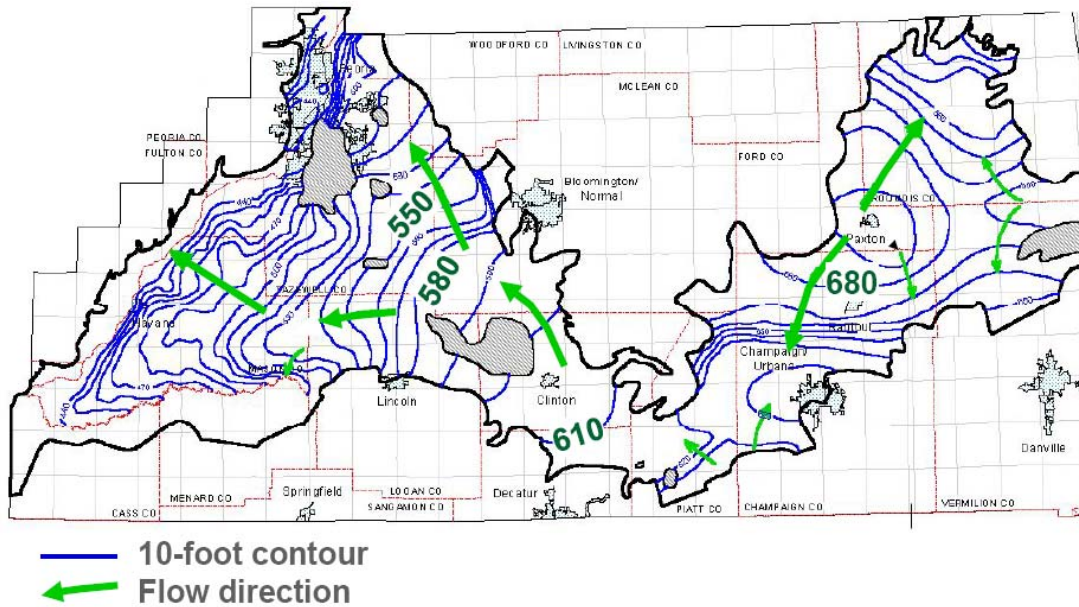


Production Date:  
November, 2007

Sources:  
IDOT  
ISGS  
CCGIS

It is estimated that groundwater in the Mahomet Aquifer flows mostly from east to west, with few exceptions. One area is near Paxton, in Ford County, which flows north into Iroquois County. The other is on the Champaign/Piatt County border, flowing northeast towards the municipalities of Champaign and Urbana. Since groundwater is the predominant source of potable water in Piatt County, the primary concern is that the source is maintained and regulated so that it sustains as many people as possible in the region.

**Figure 10-2: Approximated Surface of Groundwater under Natural Pressure Conditions (Potentiometric Surfaces)**



Source: Illinois State Water Service

### **Wells and Wellheads**

The dependency on groundwater as a water source requires individual water wells to be drilled. This indication of rural development, while not a natural resource, has notable impacts on our natural resources and essentially becomes a part of the rural infrastructure.

### **Surface Water**

Surface water in Piatt County features the Sangamon River which runs southwest through the county. The Sangamon River drains approximately the northern 2/3 of the county while the Kaskaskia River system drains the southern 1/3 of the county. Surface water in Piatt County mainly provides drainage for agriculture land uses and effluence from water treatment plants. The County is split into three primary hydrologic watersheds. The Salt Fork in the Sangamon watershed drains the Trenkle Slough at the very northwest corner of the county. The Upper Sangamon watershed drains the majority of the County, including Madden Creek, Goose Creek, Wildcat Creek, Camp Creek, Willow Branch, Run Ditch and Spoil Bank. The Upper Kaskaskia watershed drains Ditch No.3, Ditch No. 4, Hammond Mutual Ditch, and Unity No. 3 and Lake Fork Special.

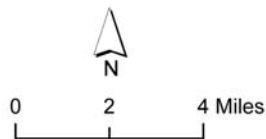
Map 10-5:

# Watershed and Surface Water

## Piatt County, Illinois

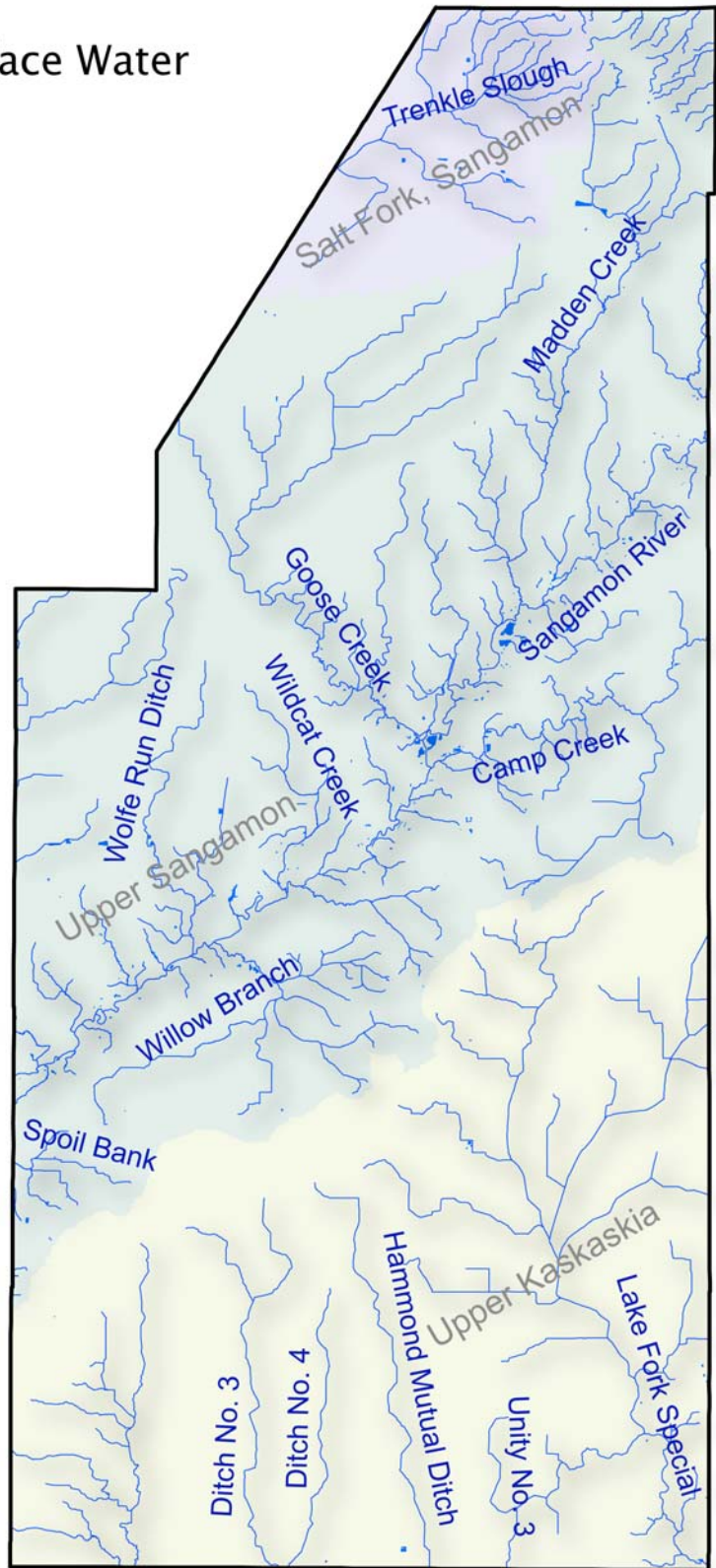
### Legend

-  County Boundary
-  Lakes
-  Streams



Production Date:  
May 2008

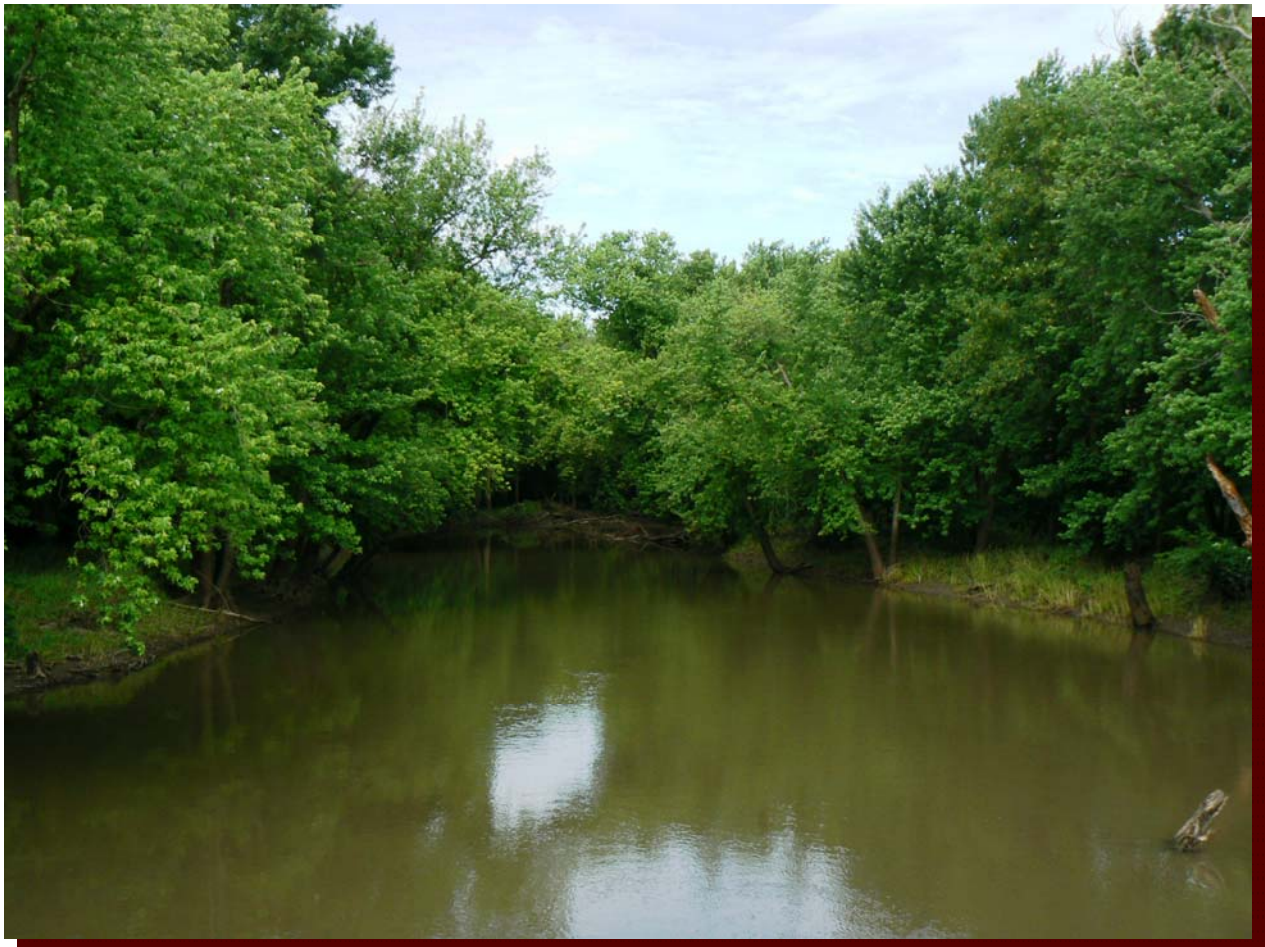
Sources:  
CCGIS  
ISGS





The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) assesses and monitors water quality through stream monitoring sites on a regular basis throughout the state. Ten water quality monitoring sites are located along streams in Piatt County. No lakes in Piatt County are currently monitored by the IEPA. Sedimentation and nutrient loading are the leading stressors of water quality in Piatt County.

Waters are considered impaired when they cannot meet use expectations set for them under state and federal law. When this occurs, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports are written to determine the maximum amount of pollution a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards for its designated uses. Designated uses include: aquatic life, public water supply, swimming, recreation, fish consumption, and aesthetic quality. TMDL requirements have been set for the Upper Sangamon watershed in Piatt County. A segment of the Sangamon River is designated as impaired for Primary Contact/Swimming but fully supports aquatic life and fish consumption as uses.



*Sangamon River*



Map 10-6:

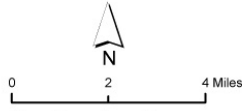
# Surface Water Quality

## Piatt County, Illinois

### Stream Category

- 2
- 3
- 5

- IEPA Stream Monitor Site
- Total Maximum Daily Load



Production Date:  
November, 2007

### Pollution Cause Identification

- 400 - Fecal Coliform
- 84 - Alteration in stream-side or littoral vegetative covers
- 348 - Polychlorinated biphenyls
- 371 - Sedimentation/Siltation
- 399 - Total Dissolved Solids
- 458 - Nitrogen(total)
- 463 - Impairment Unknown
- N/A - Not Available

### Pollution Source Identification

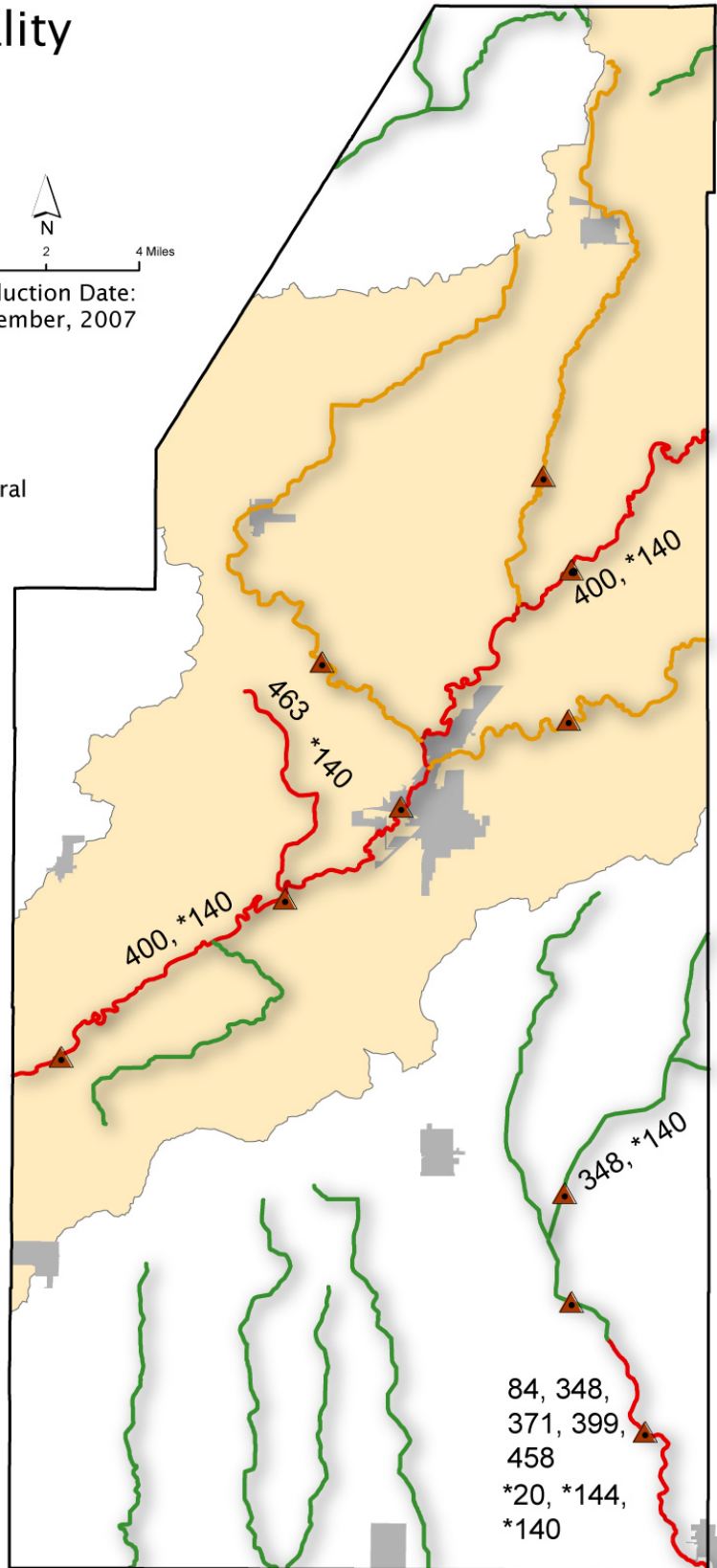
- \*20 - Channelization
- \*144 - Crop Production (crop land or dry land)
- \*140 - Unknown
- N/A - Not Available

### Category Definitions

- 2 - Attaining some for the designated uses; no use is threatened; and insufficient or no data information is available to determine if the remaining uses are attained or threatened.
- 3 - Insufficient or no data and information to determine if any designated use is attained.
- 5 - The water quality standard is not attained.

### Sources:

Stream Monitor data provided by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)  
Champaign County  
Regional Planning Commission







































## Drainage Districts

Twenty-nine drainage districts are assembled within Piatt County. The districts are given the power to construct and maintain drainage improvements and to pay for them through assessments on the land within the district. A variety of methods exist for maintaining ditches, ranging from high impact dredging to lower impact stream bank and soil erosion control. Cost often plays a critical role in the method of maintenance.

Map 10-7:

### Drainage Districts Piatt County, Illinois

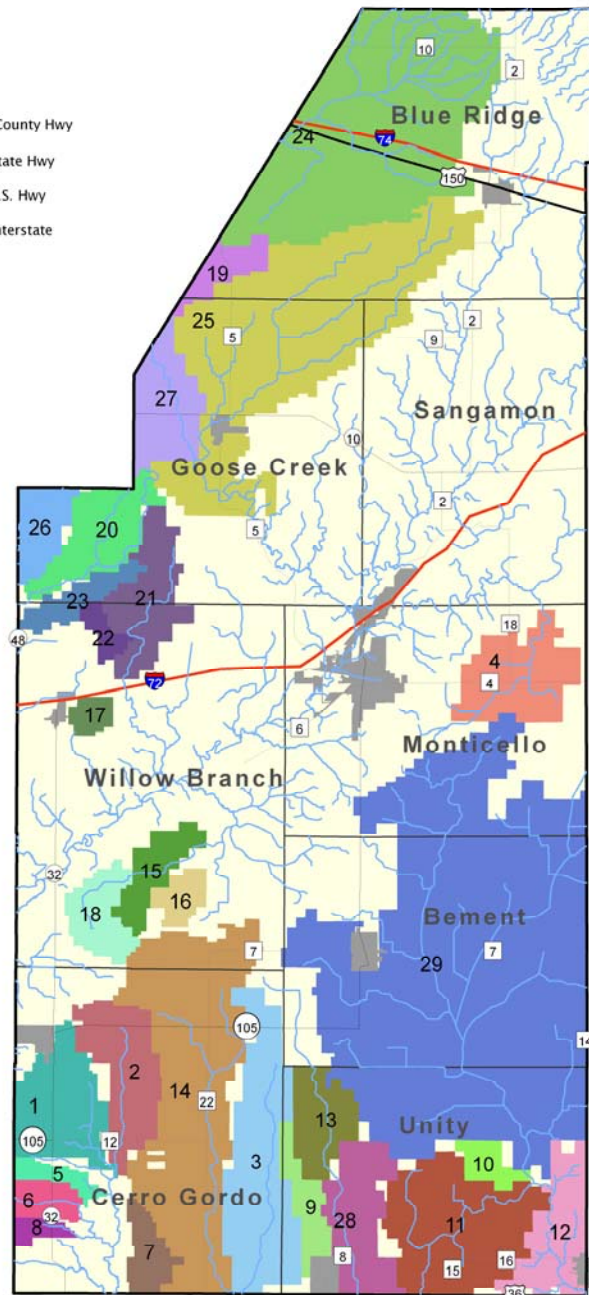
#### Legend

- |   |   |   |            |
|---|---|---|------------|
|    | County Boundary                               |  | County Hwy |
|    | Municipality                                  |  | State Hwy  |
|    | Civil Township                                |  | U.S. Hwy   |
|    | 1 - D.D. No. 1 of Cerro Gordo                 |  | Interstate |
|    | 2 - D.D. No. 2 of Cerro Gordo                 |   |            |
|    | 3 - D.D. No. 4 of Cerro Gordo                 |   |            |
|    | 4 - D.D. No. 2 of Monticello                  |   |            |
|    | 5 - Union D.D. #5 of Cerro Gordo & Long Creek |   |            |
|    | 6 - Union D.D. #6 of Cerro Gordo & Long Creek |   |            |
|    | 7 - Union D.D. #7 of Cerro Gordo & Lovington  |   |            |
|  | 8 - Mutual D.D. of Cerro Gordo & Long Creek   |   |            |
|  | 9 - Union #1 by users of Unity & Lovington    |   |            |
|  | 10 - D.D. #2. of Unity                        |   |            |
|  | 11 - D.D. #3 of Unity                         |   |            |
|  | 12 - D.D. #7 of Unity                         |   |            |
|  | 13 - D.D. #9 of Unity                         |   |            |
|  | 14 - Union #3 of Cerro Gordo & Willow Branch  |   |            |
|  | 15 - Willow Branch D.D. #10                   |   |            |
|  | 16 - Willow Branch D.D. #12                   |   |            |
|  | 17 - Willow Branch D.D. #5.                   |   |            |
|  | 18 - Willow Branch D.D. #4                    |   |            |
|  | 19 - Goose Creek Special D.D.                 |   |            |
|  | 20 - Goose Creek D.D. #1                      |   |            |
|  | 21 - Wolfe Run Special D.D.                   |   |            |
|  | 22 - Wolfe Run Union D.D. #1                  |   |            |
|  | 23 - Wolfe Run Union D.D. #2                  |   |            |
|  | 24 - Trenkle Slough D.D.                      |   |            |
|  | 25 - Deland Special D.D.                      |   |            |
|  | 26 - Friends Creek Special D.D.               |   |            |
|  | 27 - Dewitt Special D.D.                      |   |            |
|  | 28 - Hammond Mutual D.D.                      |   |            |
|  | 29 - Lake Fork Special D.D.                   |   |            |
|   | undetermined - Wildcat Creek D.D.             |   |            |



Production Date:  
July, 2009

Sources:  
Federal Land Bank of Saint Louis  
Drainage District Map  
IDOT  
CCGIS

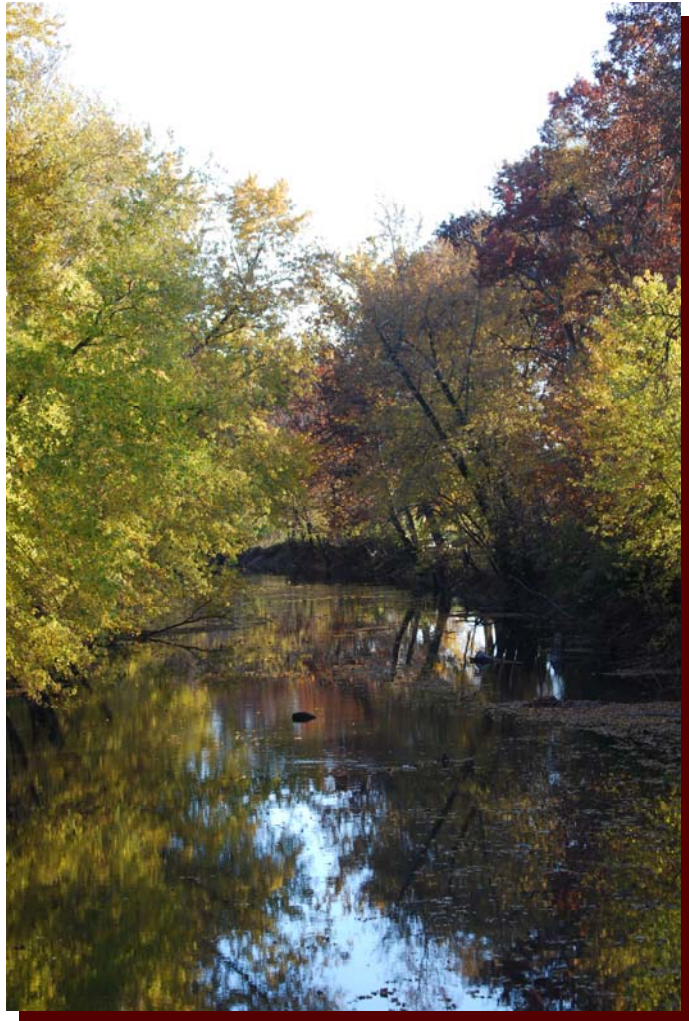


## Flood Plain

Flooding is a major concern in Piatt County, particularly as rural areas continue to see water over roadways and banks overflowing. An ecological perspective considers flood plains to be a natural resource. Flood plains consist of stream channels, topographic floodplain, and transitional upland fringe. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has produced paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM); most FIRM maps in Illinois are outdated by 20 years or more. Map updates for numerous counties in Illinois are in progress; however, Piatt County is not on the list to be updated. An update of these maps is highly desirable to better understand areas that flood on a regular basis and to maximize the developable areas surrounding the flood plain without endangering property owners.

## Wetlands

Wetlands have one or more of the three following attributes: 1- periodically support wetland plants; 2-substrate of predominantly undrained hydric soil; or 3-covered by shallow water for at least part of the year. Many different types of wetlands exist as combinations of these three attributes. Piatt County currently holds 5.9 square miles of wetland that are predominantly located within the Sangamon River floodplain. 4.6 square miles of this are categorized as Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland. These areas are generally described as forested swamp or wetland shrub bog or wetland. Wetlands are important parts of our environment because they provide a slowing mechanism for floodwater; they help to clean pollutants from surface waters; and they provide habitat for both flora and fauna.





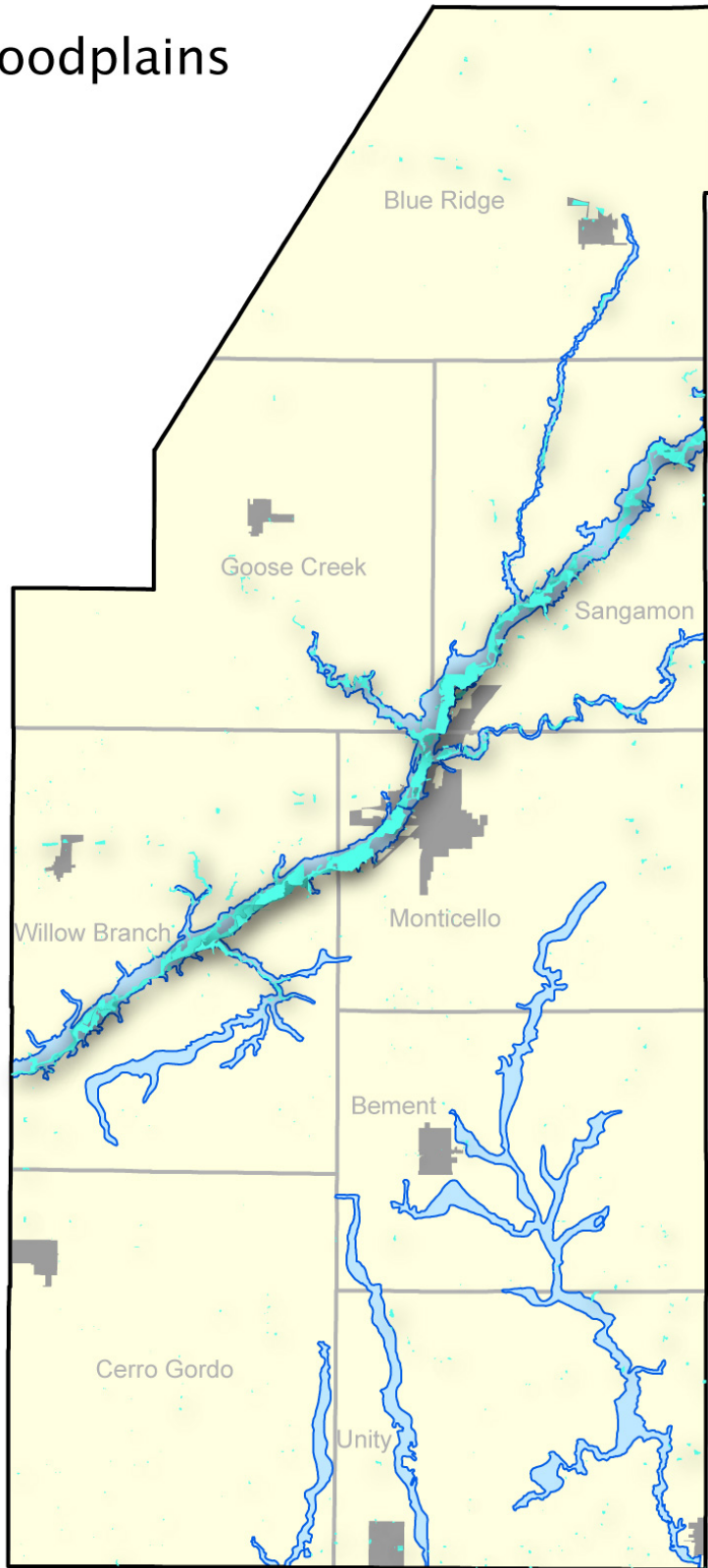
Map 10-8:

# Wetlands and Floodplains

Piatt County, Illinois

## Legend

-  Wetlands
-  Floodplains
-  Civil Township
-  Municipality



Production Date:  
November, 2007

Sources:  
FEMA National Flood Insurance  
Program Maps  
CCGIS

## Soil Resources

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) groups soil based on productivity without degrading over a long period of time. Major classes range from Class I to Class VII. These classes, along with a productivity index, provide a Land Evaluation (LE) score that emphasizes farmland productivity. Piatt County also uses subclass descriptors to specify more about the soils' productivity. A similar ranking system focuses on Site Assessment (SA), including other important factors such as location, compatibility, storm water management, and others. Piatt County uses the combination of these criteria in a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) scoring system, which is a tool help make decisions regarding farmland conversion. Currently, 96.6 percent (269,330 acres) of the land in Piatt County is considered prime farmland.









*Farmland north of Milmine*

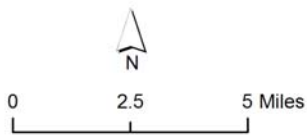
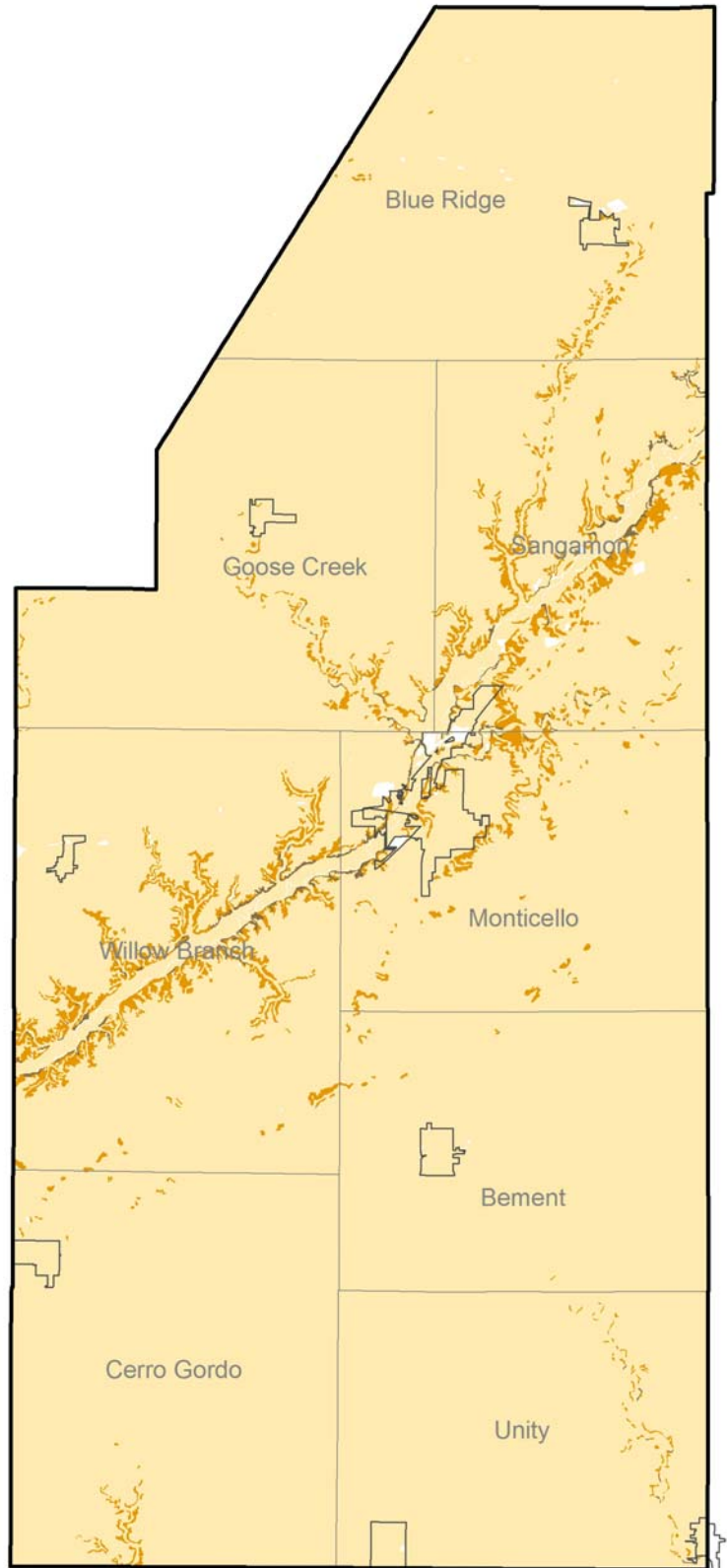
Map 10-9:

# Prime Farmland

## Piatt County, Illinois

### Legend

-  County
-  Civil Townships
-  Municipal Boundary
- LESA Group
  -  Prime Farmland
  -  Important
  -  Nonprime Farmland



Production Date:  
January, 2008

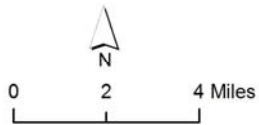
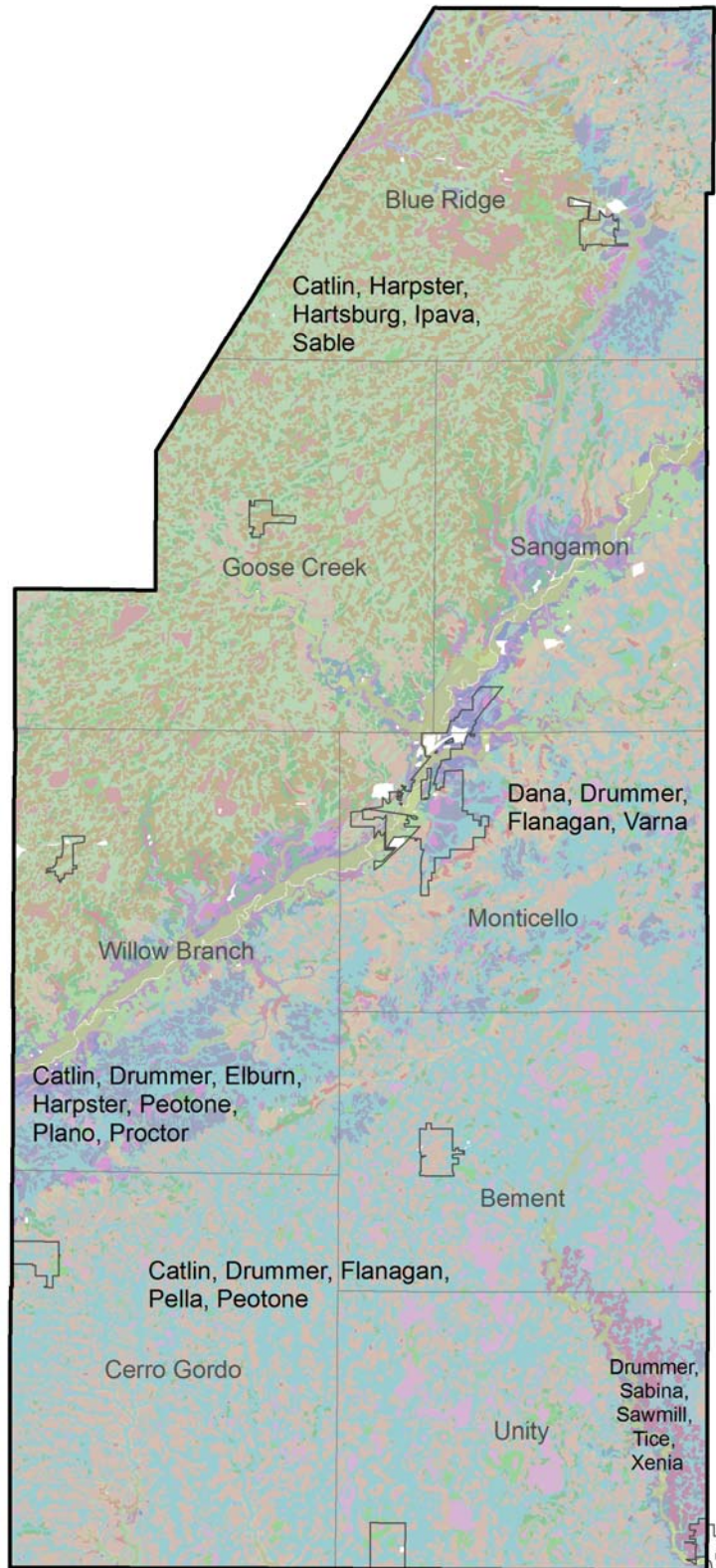
Sources:  
SSURGO  
National Cooperative Soil Survey  
CCGIS



Map 10-10:

# Soil Groupings

Piatt County, Illinois



Production Date:  
January, 2008

Sources:  
SSURGO  
National Cooperative Soil Survey  
CCGIS

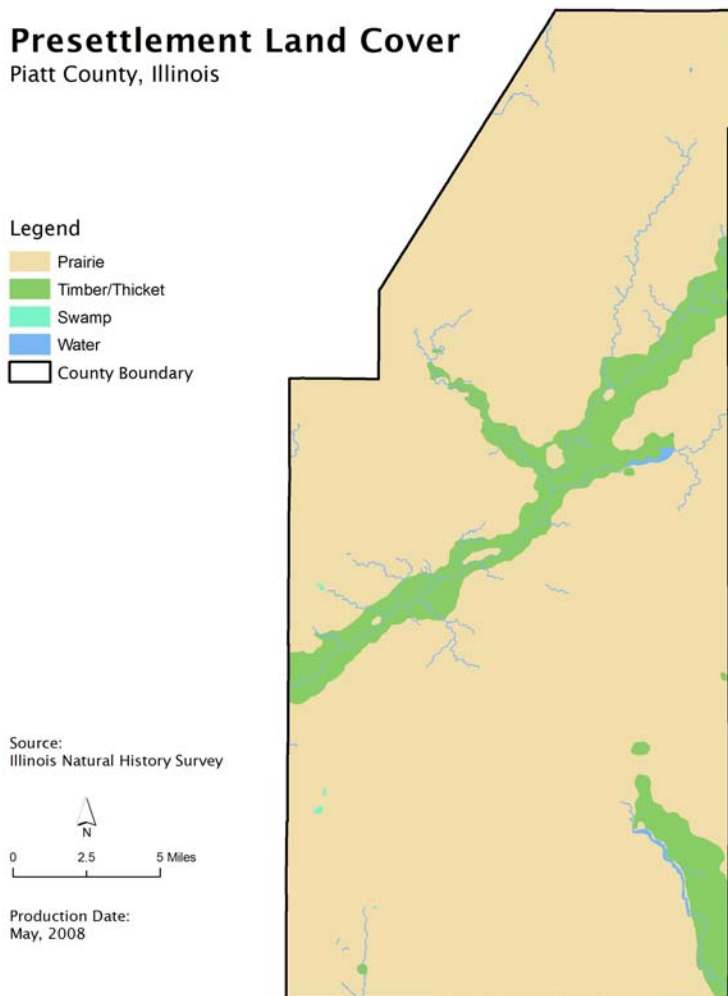
## Minerals

Mineral resources in Piatt County are limited primarily to sand and gravel. Sand alluvium near the Sangamon River reaches to a depth of more than ten feet. A few areas of gravel deposits from glacial melt water are also located in the county. Coal is also located below the surface of Piatt County. Oil wells are present in the county though there is currently little to no extraction.

## Land Cover

Presettlement land cover in Piatt County consists of prairie and timbered acreages along the Sangamon River and Lake Fork of the Kaskaskia River. The timbered areas represented in presettlement maps are largely limited to areas in close proximity to flood plains. A portion of this area is now developed as farmland. This loss of woodland has reduced both quantity and quality of natural habitats through fragmentation.

Map 10-11:









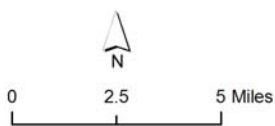
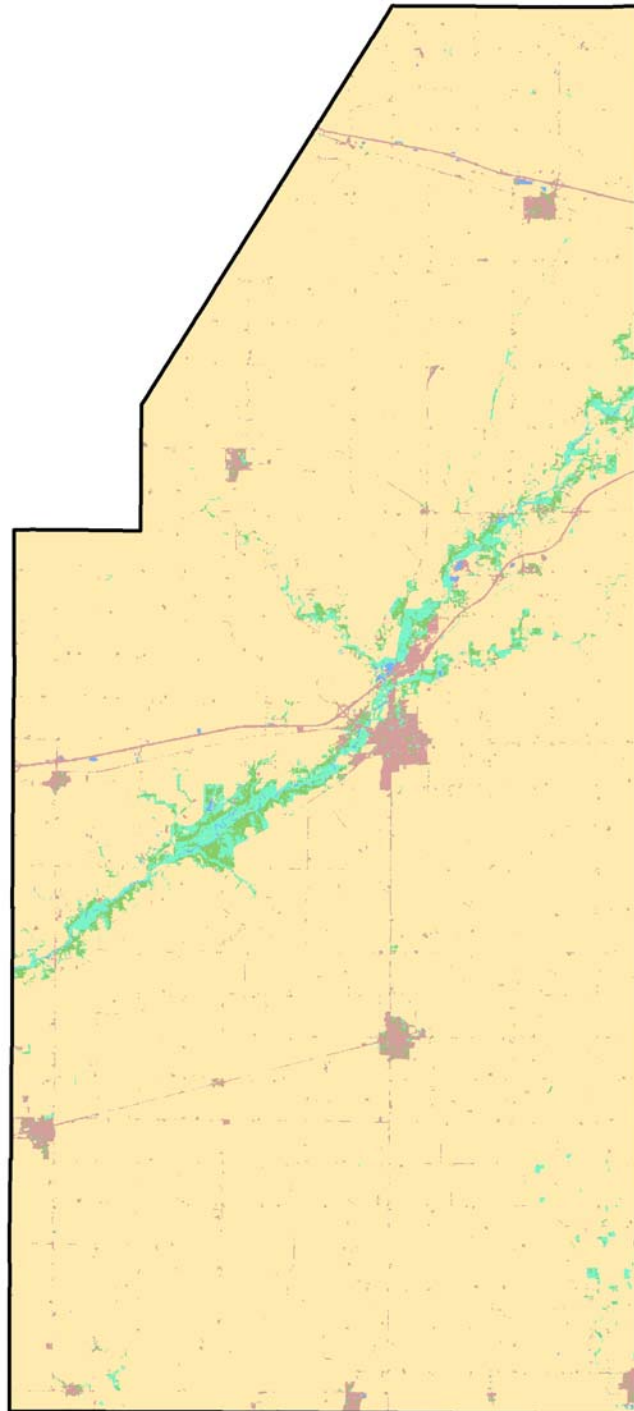


Map 10-12:

## Land Cover Piatt County, Illinois

### Legend

-  Agriculture
-  Forested
-  Urban/Developed
-  Prairie/Wetland
-  Water
-  County Boundary



Production Date:  
May, 2008

Source:  
IDNR

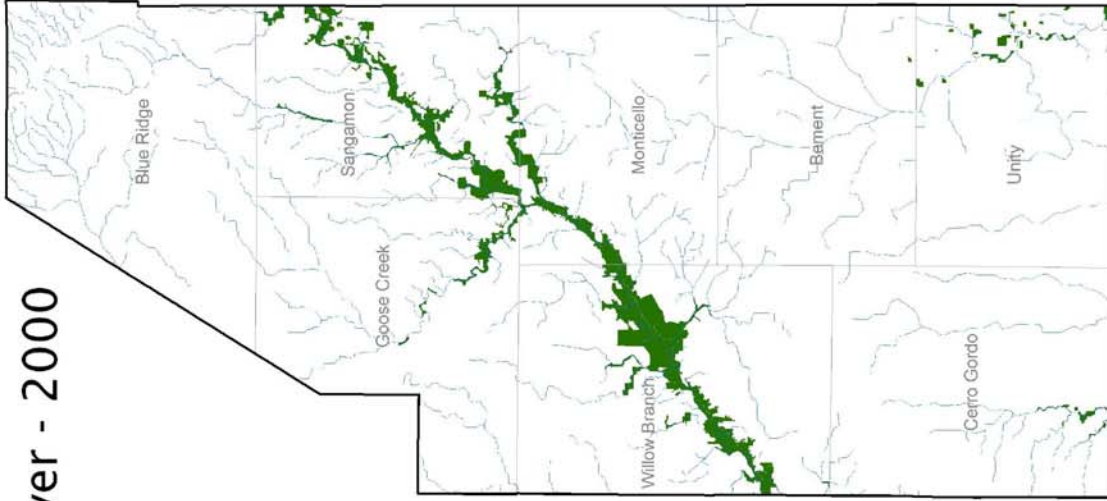
### Forests

Approximately three percent of Piatt County is currently covered by woodlands. Surveys from 1850 approximate nine percent of the county as being wooded. Currently, no timber is actively extracted for commercial use in Piatt County. The most significant change in wooded areas is the amount of interior forest compared to edge forest.

Map 10-13:

### Woodland Cover - 2000

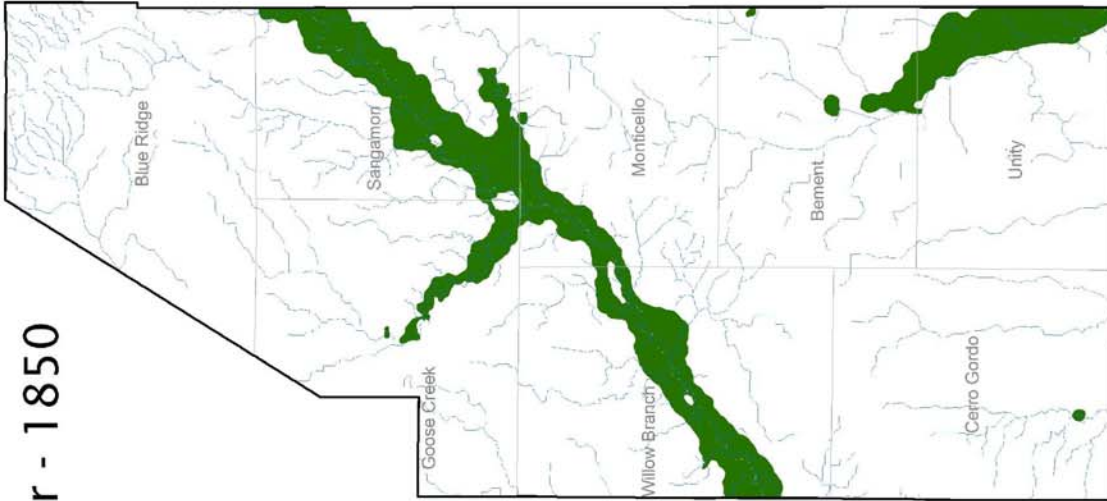
Piatt County, Illinois



Sources:  
CCGIS

### Woodland Cover - 1850

Piatt County, Illinois



- Civil Township
- Stream
- Woodland
- Municipality



0 2.5 5 Miles

Production Date:  
January, 2008

Sources:  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
CCGIS

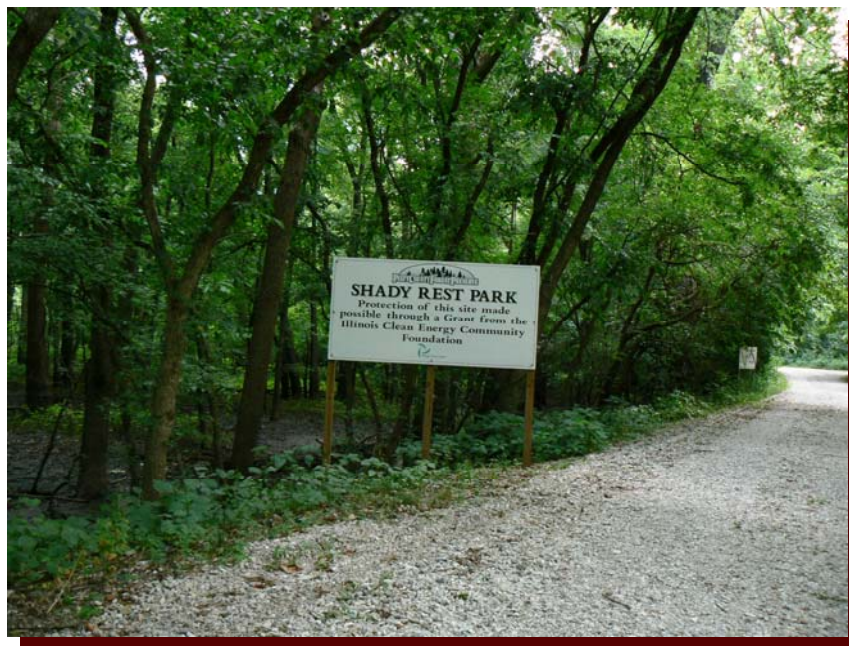
## Wildlife/Habitats

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources published the Critical Trends Assessment Project in 1997 as a state of the environment report for Illinois. Piatt County was included in the Grand Prairie region of the state and was included in the assessment of this region. Notable inclusions in this report are the occurrences of habitat fragmentation, and increasing competition from exotic species. More specifically, wildlife habitat in Piatt County has largely been converted to agricultural land uses through forest cutting and the draining of wetlands. The loss of natural habitat has resulted in some cases a reduction in population of certain species while other species are maintained and move into urbanized or other developed areas. The Illinois Natural History Survey maintains a list of threatened and endangered species as listed by the State of Illinois. The table below lists the species for Piatt County as of January 2008. Allerton Park is one of approximately ten natural areas in Illinois that has a population of the endangered Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake.

## Land and Water Reserves

Monticello's Sangamon River Land and Water Reserve is a 153-acre natural area located along the Sangamon River, owned by the City of Monticello. It protects a section of the Sangamon River, which is recognized as a biologically significant stream with aquatic resources, especially fresh-water mussels. There are more than a dozen species of mussels recorded from this stretch of river.

Shady Rest is an approximately 28-acre natural area located along the Sangamon River north of Monticello. This natural area protects a segment of the Sangamon River, bottomland forest and upland forest.



Jasmine Hollow, is a privately owned 143.77-acre natural area along the Sangamon River southwest of Allerton Park and Monticello. The parcel protects a segment of the Sangamon River and is one of nine protected natural areas that preserve more than 8.5 miles of the river and more than 3,100 acres of forest and other natural land along the Sangamon River corridor. Jasmine Hollow provides an important habitat corridor link to these protected natural lands. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources C2000 program enabled protection of the site by providing a grant to register the area as a land and water reserve.

**Table 10-1: Threatened and Endangered Species in Piatt County, 2008**

Latin name	Common Name	Threatened/ Endangered	Occurrence	Last Observed
Ammodramus henslowii	<b>Henslow's Sparrow</b>	LT	1	6/10/2006
Clonophis kirtlandi	<b>Kirtland's Snake</b>	LT	3	9/25/2006
Lanius ludovicianus	<b>Loggerhead Shrike</b>	LT	1	5/25/2000
Phlox pilosa ssp. sangamonensis	<b>Sangamon Phlox</b>	LE	3	6/14/2004
Sistrurus catenatus catenatus	<b>Eastern Massasauga</b>	LE	1	4/9/2007
Tomanthera auriculata	<b>Ear-leafed Foxglove</b>	LT	1	9/1/1933

Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources

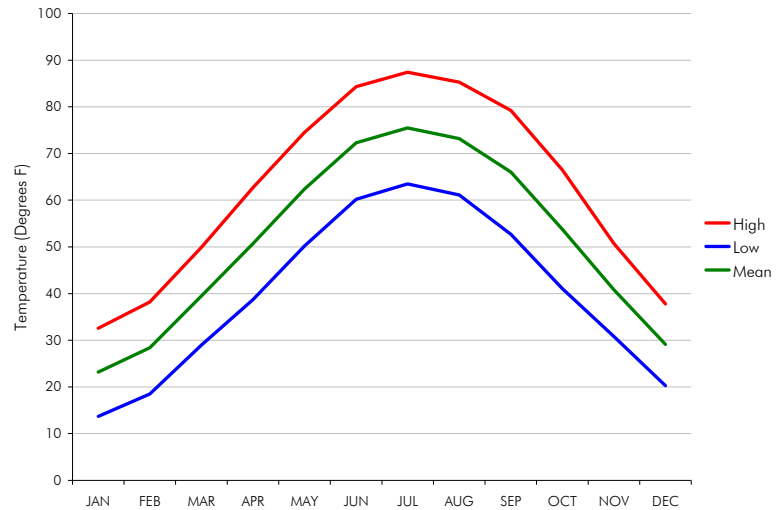
LT=Listed as Threatened – Any breeding species which is likely to become a state endangered species within the foreseeable future in Illinois.

LE=Listed as Endangered – Any species which is in danger of extinction as a breeding species in Illinois.

## Climate

Mean temperatures for Piatt County range from 23.2 degrees (F) to 75.5 degrees (F). High temperatures range from 32.6 degrees (F) to 87.4 degrees (F). Annually, 29.8 days reach temperatures greater than 90 degrees (F) and 37.4 days where the maximum temperature is below 32 degrees (F).

Chart 10-1: Monthly Temperatures 1971-2000



Precipitation is highest during the spring and summer months; average rainfall is 39.68 inches. In the spring and summer months, between 1 and 1.5 days in each month will receive greater than one inch in a single rain event. On average, 7 to 11.3 days each month experience some degree of precipitation.

Chart 10-2: Monthly Precipitation

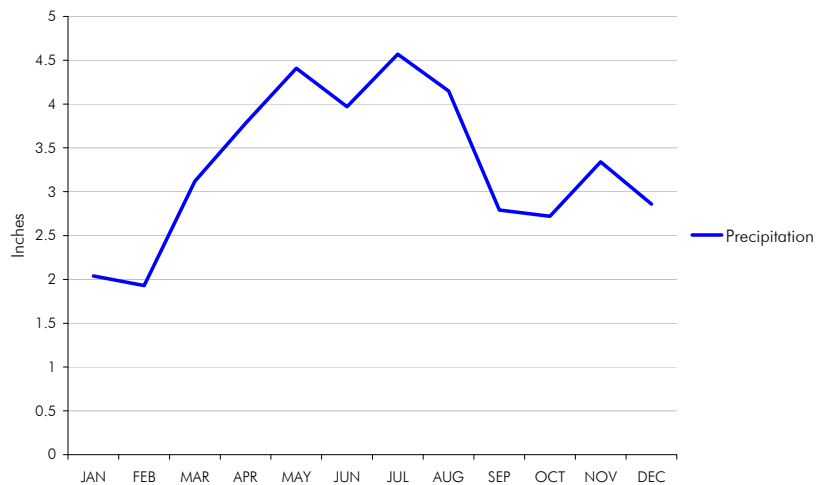


Chart 10-3: Monthly Snowfall

Snowfall in Piatt County averages 22.7 inches annually, the majority occurring between the months of December and March. Snow events rarely accumulate greater than 5 inches in a single day. One and two inch accumulations are much more common.

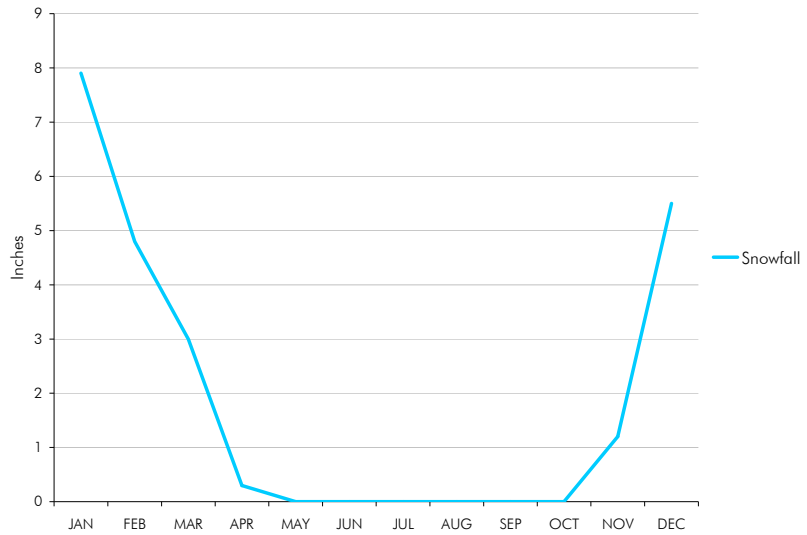
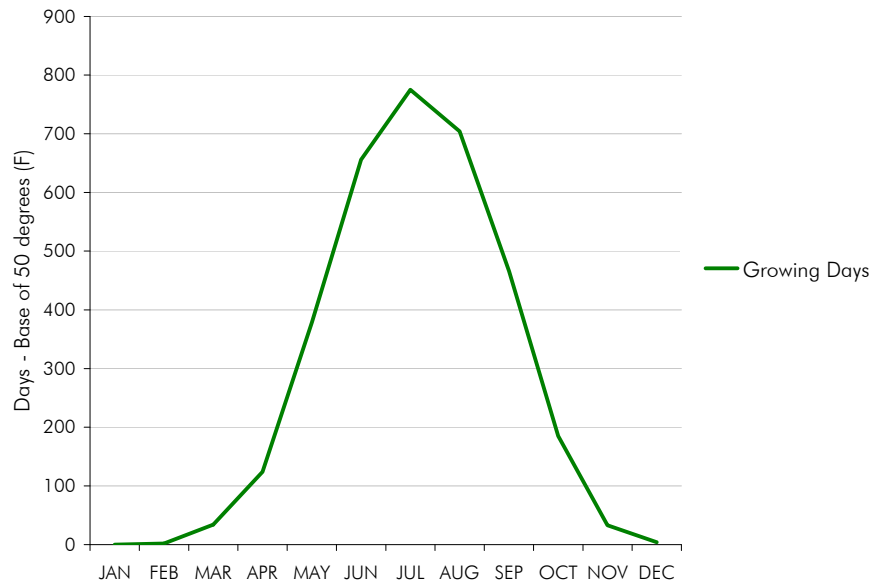


Chart 10-4: Growing Degree Days

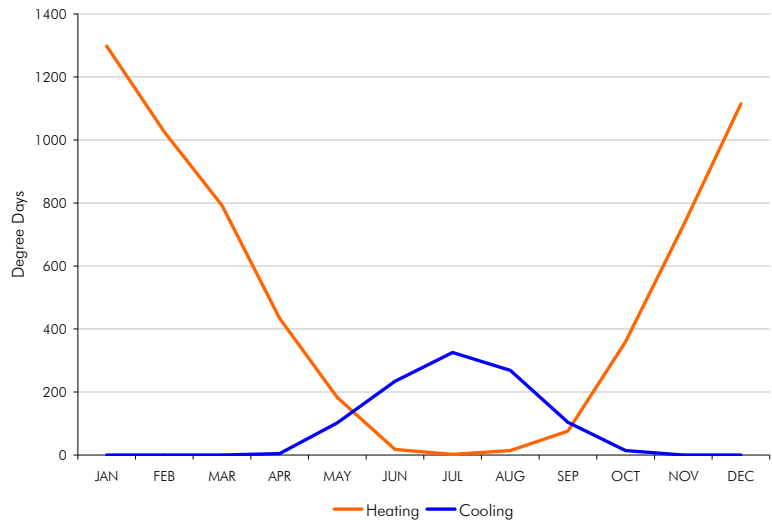
Growing degree days occur in Piatt County predominantly between March and November. On average, 174 days have a base temperature of 32 degrees (F) or above. The median date of last spring occurrence for 32 degree temperatures is April 23 while the median date of the first fall freeze is October 11.



Wind direction is generally from the south during spring, summer, and fall, and from the west during the winter months. Mean wind speed in open areas averages 10 mph. Annual gusts reach up to 80 mph.

Chart 10-5: Heating and Cooling Degree Days

Heating and cooling degree days indicate household energy consumption for space heating or cooling. Heating degree days are calculated for days with average temperatures below 65 degrees Fahrenheit while cooling degree days are for average temperatures above 65 degrees Fahrenheit. This information can be compared from year to year and is used to define characteristics of a location in alternative energy studies. The great amount of heating required through the year in Piatt County provides a case for focusing on efficient heating systems.



### Key Findings

- The Mahomet aquifer is the primary source of water for Piatt County.
- Individual water wells are common in Piatt County.
- Surface water quality is degraded along a few stream segments.
- Flood plains and wetlands are an important part of the environment in Piatt County.
- Better information is needed about flood plains and low lying roadways.
- Soil is the greatest naturally occurring resource in Piatt County.
- Sand and gravel deposits are located in certain areas of the County.
- Piatt County is dominated by agricultural land cover and has lost substantial forested land.
- Wildlife habitat has degraded through fragmentation and increased competition from exotic species.



## Plans for Natural Resources

This section establishes goals, objectives and strategies for the future conditions of natural resources. Recommendations in this chapter intend to provide tools by which natural resources can be maintained and provide benefit to residents of Piatt County. Natural resource areas contain a variety of services (flood protection, water purification) that are important to maintain or restore. Development can have significant impact on these services and developers may not have the same concerns as residents. These concerns can be recognized countywide through controls and requirements that match the desires of county residents.

## Issues in Natural Resources

A variety of natural resources exist in Piatt County. Plans for natural resources include methods for protection, preservation, conservation, and restoration. These methods of response depend on the resource and its relationship to people living in the community. The qualities of some natural resources are directly connected to public health and should be heavily controlled. Other natural resources have complicated tradeoffs where conservation, restoration and unregulated management are desirable methods. Residents showed concern for land use priorities and conflicts between natural resource areas and farmland. They were also concerned with negative impacts from development. The following issues were derived from public input received during the planning process. The breadth of natural resource issues is developed in the best management practices section.

- How do we reduce negative impacts on natural resources from development?
- How do we maintain farm production and provide for natural areas?
- How do we keep from bisecting animal habitats?
- How do we help industries interested in locating in Piatt County respect the environment and residents?



## **Best Management Practices**

The following best management practices were collected from The Environmental Planning Handbook published by Planners Press.

### ***Public Health***

#### Water Supply

- Protect surface and ground water sources
- Growth and development does not exceed sustainable water capacity

#### Water Quality

- Meet Federal and State requirements
- Maintain or improve water quality
- Protect present and future water sources
- Development should not degrade water quality
- Water suppliers coordinate water testing and protection with state and federal officials

#### Air Quality

- Maintaining air quality to meet federal standards (vehicles, burning)

#### Solid Waste and Recycling

- Reduce solid waste
- Dispose of solid waste safely and responsibly
- Increase reuse and recycling of solid waste
- Keep waste disposal away from environmental areas

#### Toxic Substances

- Use and store hazardous waste responsibly

### ***Landscapes***

#### Habitat

- Maintain population of native species by preserving habitats and ecosystems
- Minimize human impact on native species

#### Wetlands

- Protect important wetlands that provide water recharge flood protection, wildlife habitat, aesthetic and educational benefit
- Protection standards for isolated fresh-water wetlands

#### Natural Hazards

- Respond effectively to natural disasters
- Establish a natural hazard mitigation plan

### ***Working Landscapes***

#### Farming

- Sustainable use of agricultural land while maintaining environmental quality
- Valid economic use of land
- Promote use of soil and water conservation plans and practices on agricultural land

- Avoid conflicts between farm operations and nonfarm development

#### Forestry

- Sustained yield management of forests for timber resources, recreational uses, and environmental services
- Promote replanting and selective cutting

#### Mining

- Encourage development of valuable mineral and aggregate resources while maintaining environmental quality

### Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Preserve the integrity of the Sangamon River, other natural waterways (class 1 streams) and wetlands as sustainable sources of water and as an environmental, recreational and economic resource.

Objective 1.1: Educate residents about the role that natural resources and wildlife play in maintaining a high quality of life in the County, and residents' roles in protection and restoration efforts.

Objective 1.2: Natural areas will be protected to benefit all county residents by protecting against floods, cleaning surface waters, and preventing erosion.

Objective 1.3: Promote recreation and tourism opportunities within the County.

Goal 2: Piatt County's environmental features and natural resources will be safeguarded as distinguishing features of the community.

Objective 2.1: Prepare a county-wide inventory and program to preserve and manage existing and potential natural resources and habitats that emphasizes larger, connected areas rather than small, isolated pockets.

Objective 2.2: Make available to the public the state of Illinois Department of Natural Resources inventory that identifies natural resources and habitats that are unique to Piatt County.

Goal 3: Piatt County will provide wildlife with habitats that are minimally affected and fragmented by development.

Objective 3.1: Support the use of cluster housing and conservation design techniques to preserve open space and environmentally sensitive areas.

Objective 3.2: Consider environmentally sensitive areas when constructing new roadway alignments.

Goal 4: Piatt County residents and agencies will work collaboratively to protect the county's natural resources.

Objective 4.1: Encourage County residents to be good stewards of natural resources.

Objective 4.2: Encourage efforts of local governments and their programs that strive to protect and improve the quality and productivity of soils in the County.

Objective 4.3: Participate in developing a regional approach to preserving and managing natural resources including ground and surface water resources.

Objective 4.4: Identify strategies to reduce pollution levels within the County, including air, night sky, noise, water, and land pollutants.

Goal 5: Protect groundwater resources, including the Mahomet Aquifer, from over-extraction.

Objective 5.1: Consider studies regarding local area groundwater and how their recommendations may relate to Piatt County.

Objective 5.2: Educate Piatt County residents about area water resources and how they can make water-conserving choices.

## **Future Conditions**

In 2030, natural resources in Piatt County will be conserved, protected, preserved, and restored based on identified needs and conditions. These four levels of management will be determined by cooperative multijurisdictional efforts and scientific rationale. Regulatory barriers to natural resource management will be eliminated and landowners will be encouraged to design and implement management techniques.

Highly desirable resources such as water (ground and surface) wetlands, flood plains, and forests are monitored for their health and integrity. Development controls are used to avoid, mitigate, or minimize potential negative impacts and a no negative impact balance for development is the accepted standard. Less restrictive controls are afforded to other resource areas; however, emphasis is prescribed for maintaining or enhancing natural resources.

Land use conflicts with natural areas are determined through carrying capacity criteria. Impact on water quality, presence of native species, and ecological service are consulted along with other criteria to permit development or land use conversion. Development in Piatt County does not exceed sustainable capacities of land, water, and other essential resources.

Development is encouraged to be designed so that it limits negative impacts and uses restoration to enhance ecological integrity of the local environment.

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# CHAPTER 11: NATURE PRESERVES, PARKS & RECREATION

## Introduction

Parks and open spaces are community assets that promote a sense of place, interaction among residents, and healthy living. While there are no standards that identify how many acres of parks should exist in a community, analysis can be completed that determines whether or not parks have the desired amenities and geographic location for residents and visitors. Park and trail development should be considered in all new residential developments and as communities grow.

## Nature Preserves, Parks and Recreation

Piatt County has 28 parks totaling over 3,000 acres, as shown in Table 11-1 and Map 11-1. Each of the eight municipalities has one or more parks, and some unincorporated villages also have park areas.



*Sun Singer at Allerton Park*

**Table 11-1: Piatt County Parks**

Name	Acres
Allerton Park Monticello	1804
Weldon Springs State Park - Piatt County Unit	640
Lodge Park Monticello	439
Shady Rest Piatt County Forest Preserve White Heath	60
Piatt County Forest Preserve Galesville	60
Piatt County Forest Preserve Monticello	26
Valentine Park Monticello	18
Piatt County Fairgrounds Cerro Gordo	15
Piatt County Forest Preserve Bement	9
Robert C Burke Memorial Park Monticello	9
Gordy Park Cerro Gordo	8
Atwood Park	8
Bement Recreational Park	5
Piatt County Forest Preserve Cerro Gordo	5
Piatt County Forest Preserve Mansfield	3
Head Start School Park Cisco	3
Merry Park Monticello	3
Hammond School Park	3
Deland Baseball Diamond	3
Memorial Park Bement	2
White Heath Baseball Diamond	2
Piatt County Forest Preserve Deland	2
Dale C Born Memorial Park Cerro Gordo	2
Burgess Park Monticello	1
Piatt County Forest Preserve Hammond	1
Eagle Creek Park Monticello	1
Nick's Park Community Playground Monticello	0
Gucker Park Monticello	0
Rotary Centennial Park Monticello	0
<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>3131</b>

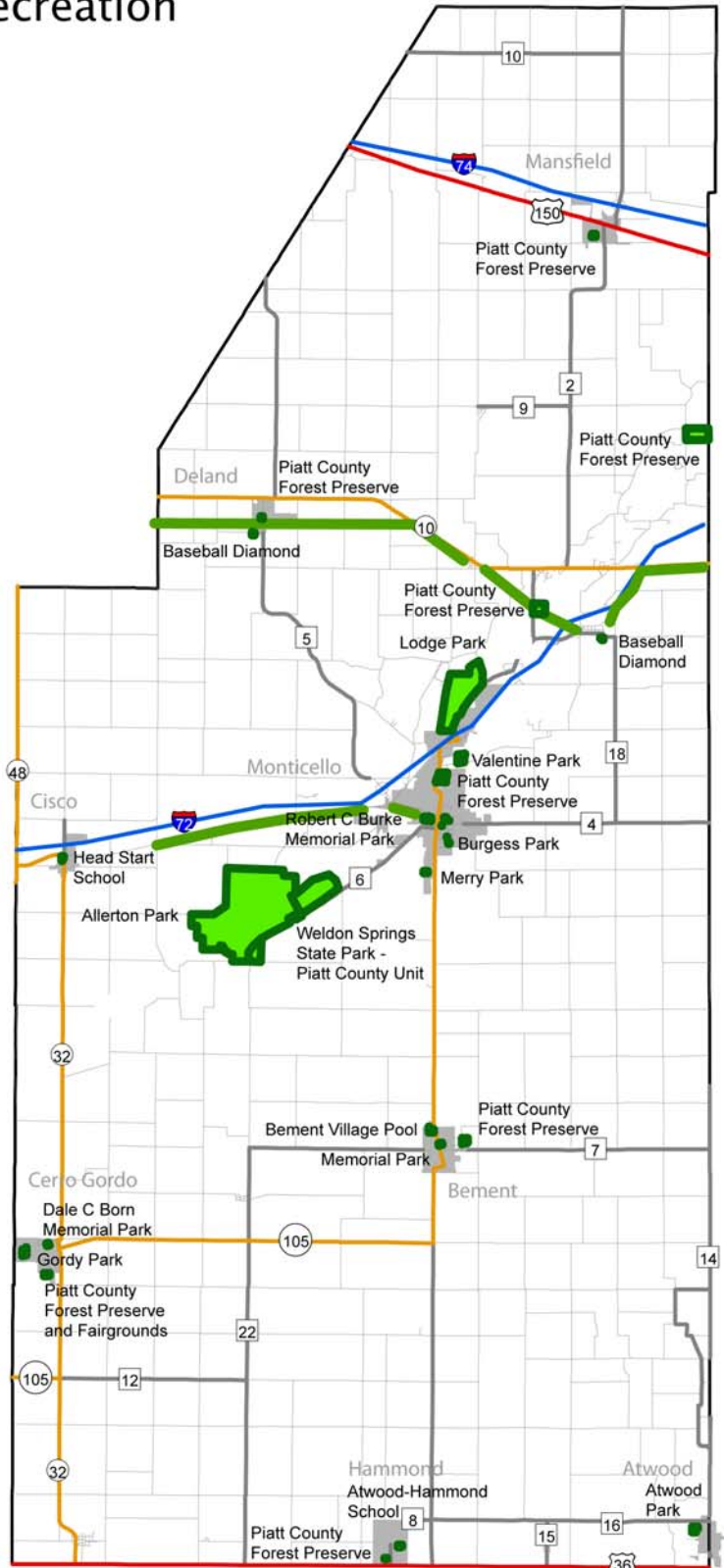
Map 11-1:

# Preserves, Parks, and Recreation

## Piatt County, Illinois

### Legend

-  Parks
-  Heartland Pathways
-  Interstate
-  US Highway
-  State Highway
-  County Highway
-  Roads
-  County
-  Municipal Boundary



0 2 4 Miles

Production Date:  
January, 2008

Sources:  
IDOT  
CCGIS

The three largest parks in Piatt County (Allerton Park, Weldon Springs State Park – Piatt County Unit, and Lodge Park) total approximately 2,884.2 acres, or 94% of the total park area. Allerton Park and Lodge Park can be considered regional parks due to their size and amenities.

The three largest parks in Piatt County (Allerton Park, Weldon Springs State Park – Piatt County Unit, and Lodge Park) total approximately 2,884.2 acres, or 94% of the total park area.

Allerton Park was an estate built by Robert Allerton in the early 1900s. He donated the property, which includes the manor house, woodlands, gardens, and sculpture gardens, to the University of Illinois in 1946. Hiking, bicycling, picnicking, and touring the gardens and sculptures are all popular pastimes. There are over 14 miles of unpaved walking trails and over a mile of paved roads that connect different areas of the park for use by visitors. The park is located west of the City of Monticello.

Lodge Park, located in north Monticello has camping and picnic sites adjacent to the Sangamon River. Fishing, camping, hiking and special events are all attractions at this 440 acre park.

Weldon Springs State Park – Piatt County Unit is located southwest of Monticello, adjacent to Allerton Park and is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. It covers 640 acres with grasslands and forests along the south side of the Sangamon River. Hunting is allowed in the park only in designated areas.

The Piatt County Forest Preserve has approximately 45 acres in six different municipalities and one unincorporated area in Piatt County, including Bement, Cerro Gordo, Deland, Hammond, Mansfield, Monticello, White Heath and Sangamon Township.

Heartland Pathways is a 33-mile greenway that extends through parts of Piatt, Champaign, and DeWitt Counties.

### Key Findings

- Park amenities and geographic proximity to residents need to be assessed to determine future park needs.
- Allerton Park and Lodge Park are regional attractions in Piatt County.

## Plans for Parks, Preserves and Recreation

This section establishes goals, objectives and strategies for the future conditions of Piatt County's parks and recreation areas. Recommendations in this chapter are intended to provide tools by which these amenities can be improved and strengthen the positive imagery in the county.

### Issues

Piatt County residents indicated a variety of issues related to parks, preserves, and recreation during the public input opportunities afforded by the planning process.

- There is a lack of maintenance at some parks in Piatt County.
- Green space is lacking in some new subdivisions.
- Parks and recreational facilities need more marketing and promotion.
- Accessibility for disabled persons could be improved at parks and recreation areas.
- Residents would like more recreational programs for children and adults.

### Best Management Practices

There are several factors that should be considered in light of current known best planning practices for Piatt County's economy. The following can be considered when implementing the plan.

- **Connectivity**  
Parks should be accessible by a variety of transportation modes. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities within and connecting parks are positive additions to a community and can increase park usage.
- **Proximity**  
Ideally, parks will be located within walking distance of every residence within incorporated areas and rural settlements. Walking distance is typically considered to be  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Having parks adjacent to residential areas raises property values of those residences closest to the park.
- **Diversity**  
Amenities within a system of parks should include as many amenities as possible, and economically feasible. Such amenities might include water features, trails, a variety of ball fields, playgrounds for different ages, and other elements that cater to different types of users.



## Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Piatt County will have sufficient open space and related amenities for all residents that can be accessed by multiple travel modes.

Objective 1.1: Undertake a needs assessment that identifies park space, amenities, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Objective 1.2: Acquire amenities in accordance with an amenities plan that is based on the desires and needs of a majority of Piatt County residents.

Objective 1.3: Acquire adequate sites in advance of need and in accordance with an overall parks acquisition plan.

Objective 1.4: Create and implement an ordinance that requires an established amount of open space in all new developments.

Objective 1.5: Withdraw from normal urban use and retain as permanent open space those areas which because of topography, flooding, steep slopes, or other similar conditions are not suitable for development.

Objective 1.6: Encourage Federal Rails-to-Trails initiatives, especially those that have linkages to parks and other recreational activity centers.

Objective 1.7: Encourage safe and logical connections between parks, residential areas, and other activity centers for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Goal 2: The Piatt County parks system will be a regional tourist attraction and draw for area residents.

Objective 2.1: Develop a marketing plan for Piatt County parks, including an inventory of attractions, potential funding sources for marketing and tourism, and responsible parties.

Objective 2.2: Market parks in Piatt County as an amenity for home seekers.

Objective 2.3: Use trails and routes to connect Piatt County to other regional attractions.

Goal 3: Piatt County parks will be maintained and upgraded as needed given available funding.

Objective 3.1: Maintain facilities so that they remain safe, viable, and handicap accessible recreation and tourist areas.

Objective 3.2: Seek funds for maintenance, upgrading, and expansion of parks and their facilities.

Objective 3.3: Make best use of volunteers for maintenance.

Objective 3.4: Ensure that all facilities meet or exceed accessibility standards for disabled persons.

Objective 3.5: Support creative funding mechanisms in order to achieve and implement park, open space, and recreation objectives at every level of Piatt County government.

Goal 4: Piatt County parks will remain important activity centers in the community.

Objective 4.1: Protect and enhance the extensive open space areas that are essential to the overall image and character of Piatt County and its municipalities.

Objective 4.2: Identify opportunities to network multi-use trails and pathways to provide connections between subdivisions, schools, parks, and commercial areas.

Goal 5: Support a public and private parks and recreation system that promotes healthy lifestyles by offering active and passive recreational opportunities.

Objective 5.1: Create a County Greenways and Trails Plan and provide support for any interrelated municipal open space plans.

Objective 5.2: Continue to enhance access and utilization of the Sangamon River for recreational purposes.

## **Future Conditions**

Piatt County has ample parks and preserves space on a regional scale. The next twenty years should focus on accelerated maintenance of existing facilities and implementing new amenities and programs. New residential subdivisions should have dedicated public open space to further provide for local recreation opportunities. Trails should become more prominent through and between activity centers such as the parks, tourist attractions, and commercial areas. Piatt County can become a regional tourist attraction with a showcase parks system and connecting trails. Cooperation and partnerships with other entities to provide a unified and interconnected park system is a high priority. A regional park plan will help entities establish priority projects and develop partnerships that will help accomplish identified goals.

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# CHAPTER 12: IMPLEMENTATION

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## Introduction

The purpose of the implementation plan is to compile information that will help Piatt County achieve its goals, objectives, and related projects identified during the Comprehensive Plan process. The implementation plan details tasks, responsible parties, time frames for completion, and local priority to each action and project. The implementation plan is a reflection of:

- issues and opportunities identified in the Existing Conditions Report;
- the Plan's goals and objectives;
- needs identified through the Future Conditions Report;
- public input gathered throughout the planning process; and
- input from the Steering Committee and County Board officials.

Implementing Piatt County's Comprehensive Plan will foster change on a variety of levels. Changes to local ordinances will need to be considered to reflect recommended improvements, design concepts, and/or policies. Developers might need to consider design concepts to which they might not be accustomed. Residents could be asked to accept changes in their communities and neighborhoods that are based on improved development practices. Infrastructure project timings could be reprioritized given new information in the plan. These are just some of the examples of how the comprehensive planning process can impact Piatt County.

This section will:

- Detail an implementation plan for the County
- Identify potential funding sources for projects and implementation tasks
- Provide strategies for implementing ideas in the Plan
- Discuss issues that need to be considered in more detail

Implementation tasks related to the plan's goals and objectives are outlined on the following tables, organized by goal subject. Each table includes a general action title, implementation step, responsible parties, priority, timeline, and to which goals and objectives each task is related. Please note that the Timeline column will be determined by the Piatt County Board as time and resources allow.

**Administrative**

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals & Objectives
Involve the Public	Create a public involvement policy and integrate it into all planning, zoning, and construction processes	Zoning and Plats Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admin 1.1</li> </ul>
Establish a Committee	Continue the Piatt County Regional Planning Commission or create a similar body for the purpose of further collaboration with other local, regional, state, and federal government agencies.	Piatt County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admin 2</li> <li>• Housing 3.1</li> </ul>

*Goals and objectives identified in the Administrative section can be achieved through many of implementation actions of other sections.*

Land Use and Development

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals & Objectives
Amend Subdivision Ordinance	Amend <i>Subdivision Ordinance</i> as necessary. Amendments may include design standards for new development (clustering, etc.) and discretionary development criteria.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.1</li> </ul>
Amend Zoning Ordinance	Amend <i>Zoning Ordinance</i> as necessary. Changes may include the zoning map, minimum lot size or allowed uses.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.1</li> </ul>
Update Plan	Update the <i>Piatt County Comprehensive Plan</i> when necessary, to help minimize conflicts and update the Plan to allocate adequate amounts of land use.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.2</li> </ul>
Existing and New Planning Documents	<i>Existing and new planning documents</i> will include special consideration of the importance of maintaining rural areas and building upon existing infrastructure.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.3</li> <li>• Housing 3</li> </ul>
Amend Zoning Ordinance	Amend <i>Zoning Ordinance</i> with requirements for open space or setbacks from environmentally sensitive areas.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.4</li> </ul>
Adopt an Environmental Checklist	Create and adopt an environmental assessment checklist to include with <i>Subdivision Ordinance</i> requirements to avoid negative impacts on resources. Assessment topics may include, but are not limited to, land, water and biological resources.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.4</li> <li>• Natural Areas 1</li> <li>• Natural Areas 2</li> <li>• Natural Areas 3</li> </ul>
Establish new program	Establish a local farmland conservation program.	SWCD, U of I Extension, County Board	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.5</li> <li>• Land Use 1.1</li> </ul>
Existing and New Planning Documents	<i>Existing and new planning documents</i> will emphasize farmland protection as a viable economic base for Piatt County.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.5</li> </ul>

Publicize	Publicize existing farmland conservation programs which can be used in Piatt County.	SWCD, U of I Extension	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.5</li> <li>• Natural Areas 4</li> </ul>
Land Use Policies	Establish <i>policies</i> that encourage infill development.	Zoning and Plats Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.5</li> <li>• Housing 3</li> </ul>
Land Use Policies	Review <i>Area General Plans</i> to ensure proper connections to infrastructure.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.6</li> <li>• Housing 4</li> </ul>
Land Use Policies	In development approvals, consider proper connection to existing development as highly favorable.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.6</li> <li>• Housing 4</li> </ul>
Land Use Policies	Develop <i>policies</i> which encourage municipal/county cooperation in the 1-1/2 mile extraterritorial jurisdiction. Cooperation efforts may include multi-jurisdictional meetings and approval of development.	Zoning and Plats Committee, County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.7</li> </ul>
Cooperate	Recognize and cooperate with municipal comprehensive planning efforts.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.8</li> <li>• Admin 2</li> </ul>
	Refer to Municipal Comprehensive Plans when provided development proposals within extraterritorial jurisdiction.	Zoning and Plats Committee, County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.8</li> <li>Admin 2</li> </ul>
	Review <i>Area General Plans</i> to ensure proper coordination between land uses and characteristics of the land and surrounding area.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.9</li> </ul>
Adopt Low Impact Development Guidelines	Create and adopt <i>Low Impact Development Guidelines</i> for new developments.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.10</li> <li>• Natural Areas 2</li> <li>• Natural Areas 3</li> </ul>
Amend Subdivision Ordinance	When amending ordinance, provide appropriate opportunities for public involvement to determine desirability of ordinances.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use 1.11</li> <li>• Admin 1.1</li> </ul>
Amend Subdivision Ordinance	Amend Zoning Ordinance to include multiple Industrial Zoning options and include design elements reflecting these distinct zones.	County Board, County Zoning Office, Zoning Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1.2</li> <li>• Objective 1.9</li> </ul>

## Housing

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals & Objectives
Identify Funding	Identify funding sources and timelines for federal and state funding of housing rehabilitation. Apply for grants as appropriate.	County Board CIEDC	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 1.1</li> </ul>
Publicize	Increase marketing for available housing programs through newsletters or other methods such as inserting notices in tax bills.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 1.1</li> </ul>
Adopt Design Guidelines	Adopt <i>design guidelines</i> for residential developments.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 2.1</li> </ul>
Adopt Housing Mix Standards	Request a mix of housing types for larger scale <i>development proposals</i> and ensure appropriate environmental conditions for each type. The mix could be accomplished through phased development.	County Board	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 2.1</li> <li>• Land Use 1</li> </ul>
Amend Zoning Ordinance	Amend <i>Zoning Ordinance</i> to require open space or appropriate donation of cash or land by developers to improve quality of life through trails and parks.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 2.1</li> <li>• Parks 1</li> <li>• Parks 4</li> <li>• Parks 5</li> </ul>
	Maintain <i>Zoning Ordinance</i> requirement of minimum lot sizes of 20 acres or larger for new lots.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 3.1</li> <li>• Land Use 1.1</li> </ul>
Amend development criteria	In development approvals, consider proper connection to existing development as highly favorable.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 3.1</li> <li>• Infrastructure 1</li> <li>• Infrastructure 6</li> </ul>
Establish a Committee	Increase cooperation with municipal jurisdictions in planning and development through a permanent Regional Planning Commission to optimize infrastructure prevent leapfrog development.	County Board	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 3.1</li> <li>• Admin 2</li> </ul>
Adopt Schedule of Fees	Adopt a <i>schedule</i> of impact fees, fee in lieu, or other equitable structure that reduces cost burdens placed on the general public.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 3.2</li> </ul>
Publicize	Provide information regarding federal and state housing rehabilitation programs at county offices and through mailings.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing 5.1</li> </ul>

## Economy

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals and Objectives
Public Involvement	Identify the concerns of Piatt County residents regarding economic development through a countywide vision or survey.	Zoning and Plats Committee, U of I Extension	Mid		• ED 1.1
Study	Determine potential costs and benefits of an economic development program for Piatt County.	Economic Development Committee	Low		• ED 1.1
Cooperate	Use ECIEDD and CIEDC to develop a business retention and attraction program that surveys existing businesses and produces materials that may help attract new businesses.	Economic Development Committee	Low		• ED 1.2
	Partner with regional economic development organizations to broaden the reach of Piatt County.	Economic Development Committee	High		• ED 1.2
Study	Complete an employment sector/market gap analysis to identify potential development sectors for the County.	Economic Development Committee	Low		• ED 1.2
Publicize	Create and publish workforce development studies.	Economic Development Committee	Mid		• ED 2.1
	Publicize labor market information.	Economic Development Committee	High		• ED 2.2
Publicize	Continue to provide technical assistance to local governments and development organizations in the preparation of promotional materials which can be used to solicit the attention of prospective and interested firms in initiating new operations within the county (i.e., printed brochures, slide presentations, a system of responding to requests for community information, development of websites, etc.)	Economic Development Committee	Mid		• ED 3.1



Publicize	Continue to foster an increased awareness of the economic importance of the county's existing businesses and industries and its potential to generate new capital and venture investments and employment opportunities with appropriate assistance from local government(s) and/or development organizations.	Economic Development Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ED 3.3</li> </ul>
Identify Funding	Identify potential funding sources for economic development and pursue them. These include grants, loans, public private partnerships and others.	Economic Development Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ED 3.4</li> </ul>
Adopt a Plan	Develop and adopt a marketing plan for tourism. Facilitate its implementation.	Economic Development Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ED 4.1</li> <li>• Parks 2</li> </ul>

**Public Facilities and Infrastructure**

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals & Objectives
Cooperate	Initiate discussion with municipalities to revise zoning/subdivision ordinances to require that new developments connect to municipal water and sewer infrastructure.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Low		• Infrastructure 1.1
Amend Zoning Ordinance	Review <i>Zoning Ordinance</i> for lot size requirements for private sanitary sewage disposal. Determine capacity of the land on a lot by lot basis.	County Board	Mid		• Infrastructure 1.2
Amend Zoning Ordinance	Amend <i>Zoning Ordinance</i> with revised requirements for on-site waste disposal systems.	County Board	Mid		• Infrastructure 1.2
Cooperate	Work with public health district to identify any issues with on-site waste disposal regulation or existing systems.	Zoning and Plats Committee	High		• Infrastructure 1.2
Amend Subdivision Ordinance	Amend <i>Subdivision Ordinance</i> to allow identified alternative septic systems that are determined viable for developments in Piatt County.	County Board	Mid		• Infrastructure 1.3
Cooperate	Work with other entities to build new commercial/industrial infrastructure when supply is decreasing.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		• Infrastructure 1.4
Study	Monitor infrastructure capacity. Update infrastructure maps as new information becomes available.	Zoning and Plats Committee	High		• Infrastructure 1.4
Update Plan	Update the County's <i>Solid Waste Plan</i> on a 5-year interval.	Solid Waste Management	High		• Infrastructure 2.1
Identify Funding	Identify potential funding sources and their cycles/timelines for recycling, resources conservation, and education about waste management. Pursue funding opportunities.	County Board	High		• Infrastructure 2.2
Publicize	Publish materials that identify waste management programs and locations for people to properly dispose of waste in Piatt County. This should include recycling and electronic waste facilities.	Solid Waste Management	High		• Infrastructure 2.3

Adopt Design Guidelines	Establish design guidelines for public infrastructure elements that use environmentally sensitive design and prioritize the long term use and maintenance of systems.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 3.1</li> <li>• Natural Areas 3</li> </ul>
Amend Subdivision Ordinance	Amend Subdivision Ordinance to include design guidelines for public infrastructure.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 3.1</li> </ul>
Publicize	Publish materials that identify water supply and storm water capacity issues. Include projects that homeowners can do to help relieve pressures on water systems.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 3.2</li> </ul>
Adopt a Rapid Permitting Process	Implement a rapid <i>permitting</i> process for developments that wish to participate in a native landscaping demonstration project.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 3.3</li> <li>• Natural Areas 4</li> </ul>
Adopt Environmental Checklist	Develop suggested practices for native landscapes in Piatt County, including native species lists of canopy trees, understory trees, and shrubs.	County Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 3.3</li> </ul>
Cooperate	Work with University Extension and Soil Water Conservation District to provide countywide education programs.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 3.4</li> </ul>
Cooperate	Cooperate with water suppliers to ensure a sustainable water supply.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 3.5</li> </ul>
Adopt Storm Water Management and Erosion Control Ordinance	Develop and adopt a <i>Storm Water Management and Erosion Control Ordinance</i> .	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 5.1</li> </ul>
Adopt Storm Water Management Guidelines	Develop guidelines for storm water management that are specific to storm water issues.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 5.2</li> </ul>
Amend Subdivision Ordinance	Amend <i>subdivision ordinance</i> to include standards that maintain or reduce storm water discharge rates.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure 5.2</li> </ul>

Adopt Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan	Create a countywide <i>Hazard Mitigation Plan</i> to establish eligibility for state hazard mitigation funding.	County Board	Mid		• Infrastructure 5.3
Cooperate	Obtain data from municipalities and infrastructure districts regarding existing and planned infrastructure including water, sewer and road.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	High		• Infrastructure 6.1
Cooperate	Map existing and planned infrastructure on a Countywide basis.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		• Infrastructure 6.1
Adopt schedule of fees	Develop and adopt cost sharing frameworks, fees, or other arrangements for projects requiring additional infrastructure.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	Low		• Infrastructure 6.2
Study	Obtain a Cost of Services study to determine cost of development.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	Low		• Infrastructure 6.2

Public Services

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals & Objectives
Cooperate	Encourage cooperation between service providers for the benefit of County residents.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services 1.1</li> </ul>
Study	Determine quality of service provision and seek to improve services to all County residents.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services 1.2</li> </ul>
Study	Conduct an analysis of available services and potential gaps in service. Identify potential resources for filling those gaps.	County Board	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services 2.1</li> <li>• Services 2.2</li> <li>• Services 2.3</li> <li>• Services 2.4</li> <li>• Services 2.5</li> </ul>
Board Action	Appoint a County representative to sit on the board of public service programs to provide a voice for the needs of county residents.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services 2.1</li> <li>• Services 2.2</li> <li>• Services 2.3</li> <li>• Services 2.4</li> <li>• Services 2.5</li> </ul>
Publicize	List public service programs on the County website with general descriptions and contact information.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services 2.1</li> <li>• Services 2.2</li> <li>• Services 2.3</li> <li>• Services 2.4</li> <li>• Services 2.5</li> </ul>
Publicize	Create a directory of all available programs, both governmental and non-governmental, for distribution throughout Piatt County and online.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services 2.1</li> <li>• Services 2.2</li> <li>• Services 2.3</li> <li>• Services 2.4</li> <li>• Services 2.5</li> </ul>

Transportation

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals & Objectives
Identify Funding	Actively seek funding to maintain existing transportation systems.	Transportation Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation 1.1</li> </ul>
Study	Complete studies regarding access management and land use development in coordination with transportation improvements.	Transportation Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation 1.2</li> </ul>
Cooperate	Working with PiattTran, encourage routing plans for public transit that maximize employee access to the County's employment centers.	Transportation Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation 1.3</li> </ul>
Identify Funding	Reduce the number and severity of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular crashes in order to increase safety. Increase pedestrian safety by continuing to maintain and expand safety features such as street lighting and sidewalk systems where possible.	Transportation Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation 1.4</li> </ul>
Identify Funding	Continually seek funding sources for transportation projects. Coordinate projects with other jurisdictions in order to maximize available funding. Anticipate roadway expansions and how they relate to utility lines; plan enough right-of-way on new road projects so that utilities will not have to be moved in the future.	Transportation Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation 1.5</li> </ul>

**Parks, Preserves and Recreation**

<b>Generalized Action</b>	<b>Specific Implementation Step</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Related Goals &amp; Objectives</b>
Study	Develop a needs assessment for park space amenities and bike/pedestrian facilities.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 1.1</li> </ul>
Purchase	Purchase land that is determined to be a fundamental resource for Piatt County.	County Board, Forest Preserve Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 1.2</li> <li>• Parks 1.3</li> <li>• Parks 4.1</li> </ul>
Amend Subdivision Ordinance	Amend the Subdivision Ordinance to include an open space requirement.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee, Forest Preserve Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 1.4</li> </ul>
Study	Identify priority open space areas.	Forest Preserve Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 1.5</li> </ul>
Adopt a Plan	Create and adopt a Countywide Greenways and Trails Plan.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 1.7</li> <li>• Parks 2.3</li> <li>• Parks 5.1</li> <li>• Parks 5.2</li> </ul>
	Create and adopt a marketing plan for parks and attractions.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 2.1</li> </ul>
Publicize	Publicize parks as important amenities in Piatt County.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 2.2</li> </ul>
Study	Identify accessibility and maintenance issues in park areas.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 3.1</li> </ul>
Adopt a Plan	Develop a maintenance and accessibility implementation schedule for all parks and their amenities.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 3.1</li> </ul>
Identify Funding	Create a list of funding sources for maintenance, upgrade or expansion of parks.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 3.2</li> </ul>
Publicize	Establish clean up or work days with volunteers at parks.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 3.3</li> </ul>

Cooperate	Establish an email list of volunteers for park activities.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 3.3</li> </ul>
Identify Funding	Identify potential funding sources for meeting accessibility standards.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 3.4</li> </ul>
Identify Funding	Create a list of potential funding mechanisms for parks and recreation.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 3.5</li> </ul>
Study	Identify methods for developing multi-use trails and pathways between high traffic areas.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks 4.2</li> </ul>



## Natural Resources

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals & Objectives
Publicize	Encourage demonstration plots that integrate human interaction with natural areas and the environment.	SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		• Natural Areas 1.1
Adopt a Green Infrastructure Plan	Develop a green infrastructure plan.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	Low		• Natural Areas 1.2
Amend Subdivision Ordinance	Amend <i>Subdivision Ordinance</i> to enhance protection of fundamental natural systems from human impact and developments.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		• Natural Areas 1.2
Amend Zoning Ordinance	Amend <i>Zoning Ordinance</i> to enhance protection of fundamental natural systems from human impact and developments.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		• Natural Areas 1.2
Publicize	Maintain lists and detailed information about recreation and tourism for inclusion in state publications and promotions.	SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		• Natural Areas 1.3
Publicize	Make state publications available at recreation areas as well as county buildings and popular destinations.	SWCD, U of I Extension	High		• Natural Areas 1.3
Adopt a Greenways and Trails Plan	Create and adopt a Greenways and Trails Plan.	SWCD, U of I Extension	High		• Natural Areas 2.1
Publicize	Link to Illinois DNR Natural Areas Inventory report on the County website.	SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		• Natural Areas 2.2
Publicize	Make copies of IDNR Natural Areas Inventory available at County Offices and at libraries.	SWCD, U of I Extension	Low		• Natural Areas 2.2
Adopt Design Guidelines	Adopt guidelines for potential development density bonuses if significant conservation design techniques are achieved through a development.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Low		• Natural Areas 3.1
Amend Zoning Ordinance	Amend zoning ordinance to allow for conservation design specific to Piatt County.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		• Natural Areas 3.1

Adopt Environmental Checklist	Adopt an environmental assessment checklist. Assessment topics may include, but are not limited to, land, water and biological resources.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		• Natural Areas 3.2
Publicize	The County will encourage public outreach and education regarding the benefits of non-fragmented, continuous areas of woodlands, pastures, prairies or meadows and management practices to sustain these areas.	SWCD, U of I Extension	High		• Natural Areas 4.1
Publicize	The County will promote conservation and sustainable management practices on private property through the use of educational resources, voluntary land preservation agreements, tax exemption policies, voluntary transfer of development rights, and voluntary purchase of development rights.	SWCD, U of I Extension	High		• Natural Areas 4.1
Publicize	The County will encourage the establishment of public-private partnerships to conserve woodlands and other natural areas in Piatt County.	SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		• Natural Areas 4.1
Publicize	The County will support Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District efforts to prevent soil degradation and water pollution and disseminate information regarding subsurface and surface drainage systems.	County Board	Mid		• Natural Areas 4.2
Board Action	Appoint a County representative to sit on boards which manage natural resources including ground and surface water.	County Board	High		• Natural Areas 4.3
Amend Zoning Ordinance	Amend <i>Zoning Ordinance</i> to reduce specific types of pollution.	Zoning and Plats Committee	Mid		• Natural Areas 4.4
Board Action	Consider issues identified in local area groundwater studies.	County Board	Low		• Natural Areas 5.1
Publicize	Maintain a list of ideas and opportunities for residents to participate in water conservation around their home.	SWCD, U of I Extension	High		• Natural Areas 5.2

## Historic and Cultural Resources

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals & Objectives
Study	Historic and cultural resource surveys are conducted by topic professionals.	County Board	Mid		• HCR 1.1
Existing and New Planning Documents	Include historic and cultural resource protection in planning and construction efforts.	County Board	High		• HCR 1.2
Cooperate	Work with the Piatt County Museum, Historical Society, and other organizations, which promote the preservation of historic and cultural resources.	SWCD, U of I Extension	Mid		• HCR 2.1
Publicize	Publish materials such as plaques, brochures, and self guided tours to provide information to residents and visitors about resources.	SWCD, U of I Extension	Low		• HCR 3.1
Adopt a Plan	Provide equitable and integrated preservation efforts that advance the quality of life for all County residents.	County Board	Low		• HCR 5.1
	Pay special attention to development and activities that take place in Central Business Districts to maintain the core functions of these areas.	County Board	Mid		• HCR 6.1

## Long Term Projects Identified in the Comprehensive Plan

The following projects were identified as concepts through the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Update. More planning, research and public input is required to create fully formed implementation tasks. These projects will help achieve goals and objectives identified through the plan. Information provided with the concepts includes a brief vision and explanation of the project and potential steps to take for initiating a project. Other details to be determined in the future includes: participating agencies, project time line, detailed project description, and estimated return on investment.

### *Infrastructure for alternative transportation (sidewalks, paths, marked routes)*

Transportation alternatives will become increasingly important in the future due to rising fuel/energy costs. Developing the necessary infrastructure to promote walking, bicycling, car pooling or using mass transit will provide opportunities to all members of the community. Priority can be placed on developing options that connect residential areas to employment centers which will include larger scale infrastructure. Also of priority is connecting neighborhoods to shopping opportunities and service needs where walking and biking are easy choices.

1. Study existing demands and alternative transportation infrastructure to determine need.
2. Prioritize locations for development, could be on a 10-15 year schedule. Try to establish routes in an orderly system to avoid confusion.
3. Identify opportunities for development and funding sources. Promote dedicated funding sources.
4. Implement established schedule.

### *Increase awareness and availability of public transit and Park & Ride facilities*

Public Transit and Ride Share facilities will also become increasingly important in the future due to rising fuel and energy costs. Necessary infrastructure will allow community members to maintain employment, access to needs, and lifestyles. The focus can include projects which make it easier for the community to reduce the number of miles driven in single occupancy vehicles.

#### Public Transit

1. Establish a set of goals specific to public transportation (who it serves, destinations, schedules) through a visioning process that is focused on public participation.
2. Identify existing public transportation and coordination programs.
3. Analyze gaps in current system.
4. Determine if practical and applicable solutions exist to fill the gap.
5. Modify or add services if financially feasible.

#### Ride Share

1. Complete a study which identifies desirability for Park & Ride facilities.

2. With input from the community, determine approximate locations for infrastructure that considers population centers, employment centers, target user populations, and land owner interest.
3. Determine funding sources.
4. Obtain land and construct the facilities.

***Develop and implement a maintenance schedule for water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer infrastructure***

There has been a serious short-coming in maintenance of existing infrastructure throughout the United States. Increasing pressures on these systems are creating problems and generating forecasts of failure or enhanced degradation. While expensive to maintain, proper and timely maintenance of systems is often a less expensive route than replacement after complete failure.

1. Identify existing maintenance schedules (formal and informal).
2. Develop formal maintenance schedules and funding for infrastructure.
3. Implement schedules.

***Improve rail intersection safety***

There are 58 at grade crossings in the unincorporated area. A majority of these are protected only by crossbucks. Additional protection or approach improvements might be warranted as traffic increases on rural roads.

1. Identify hazardous crossings and increased traffic patterns.
2. Prioritize improvements.
3. Obtain funding for improvements. Contact Illinois Commerce Commission for information about their Grade Crossing Protection Fund.

***Create park connections through recreational trails, paths, or designated routes***

A plan that specifically identifies needs regarding significant resources (historical, cultural, natural) and recreation, would significantly benefit the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan. This type of plan would not be used to guide future development as the Comprehensive Plan does. Instead, as funding opportunities arise, the plan will already identify and prioritize projects that will help meet the needs of Piatt County and its residents.

1. Develop a Greenways and Trails Plan.
2. Seek funding for implementing the ideas and projects in the plan.
3. Develop the parks and trails system as funding allows.

***Create an agricultural land preservation program***

Agriculture is a fundamental component of the Piatt County economy. Protection and preservation of agricultural land from development is increasingly a concern throughout the United States and Illinois. The County can support agricultural land preservation programs by making them available to landowners. Efforts can range from supporting state and federal

legislation or funding to supporting non-profit organizations that would be interested in creating a land trust or other preservation program.

1. Determine the type of program that would benefit the County (Ag. district, Ag. zoning, conservation district, tax relief, purchase of development rights).
2. Appoint a local board.
3. Develop and implement the program.

### ***Develop an Economic Development Assessment***

A unified strategy for economic development will identify needs and desires for Piatt County. Without this type of organization of people and efforts, it is difficult to comprehensively identify strengths and weaknesses. A careful study of existing economic development (successful and unsuccessful) will help develop insightful recommendations. Elements can include: economy overview (major employers, strengths, challenges), institutional capacity (overview of incentives, programs and economic development organizations) and recommendations.

### ***Establish a Countywide Recycling Program***

Recycling is becoming more important as raw materials become more expensive and landfill space is decreasing. Many types of programs exist, from curbside pickups to rural drop-off sites. The County can play a role in coordinating the program, developing the program, or working with private companies who could manage the program.

### ***Maintain Natural Resources in Perpetuity***

Natural resources are important parts of our living environment and daily lives. Natural resources impact quality of life and also provide for health and safety issues. The long-term health and sustainability of Piatt County partly depends on the wellbeing of local natural resources. Valuing and managing resources for their long-term health can be a constant and cooperative effort in Piatt County.

### **Potential Funding Sources**

In order to implement projects identified in the plan, funding sources must be found and successfully solicited for funding. Funding sources are available at federal, state, and local levels. In some cases different funds can be combined to complete a project; for example, federal and state funding can sometimes be combined to fully fund a project. In contrast, some funding sources at the federal and state levels require a local funding match.

Funding sources listed below are organized by the overarching themes used throughout the plan. In some cases, funding sources may be applicable to multiple themes. Funding sources listed are not a full reflection of available funds; these sources are available at the time of publication but might not necessarily be available in the future.

## Federal

### **Transportation**

- *Surface Transportation Program (STP)* provides funding for all types of transportation projects, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Within STP funding, there are several unique funding programs:

Safety: 10% of STP funds are available only for safety programs such as railway-highway crossing projects and hazard elimination.

Transportation Enhancements: 10% of STP funds are available for projects that include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, educational programs, landscaping, and historic preservation, among other factors.

- *Federal Transit Administration Section 5311* has grants available for transportation projects that are included in a State program of mass transportation service projects (including service agreements with private providers of mass transportation service).
- *Appropriation earmarks*  
The federal government creates a transportation appropriations bill every six years. Within this bill, a small percentage of the funding goes to earmarked projects garnered through political support and based on community need. Earmarked funds are used in almost any type of transportation construction project. While this is arguably the biggest funding source opportunity, it also is the least frequent (every 6 years or more), can have a long process (SAFETEA-LU took two years to be passed), and is the least likely to be successful due to the national competition for earmarks.

### **Economic Development/Infrastructure**

- *Economic Development Administration* has a variety of programs that can help communities plan for, construct, and implement economic development initiatives. Funding is available for buildings, infrastructure, planning, research, and collaborative efforts with universities.
- *US Department of Agriculture* has grant and loan programs designed specifically for rural communities. Programs include grants for businesses, economic development, and community facilities. Loans can be applied for that can be used for business expansion, community facilities, and other economic development projects.

### **Public Services**

- *US Department of Justice* can provide funding for technical assistance, regarding criminal justice and law enforcement initiatives ranging from research to education to support for specific community relations programs.
- *US Department of Energy* can fund upgrades to power systems such as geothermal energy for schools.

### **Housing**

- *US Department of Housing and Urban Development* has funding opportunities available for rural housing and economic development and to support housing and economic development activities in rural areas.
- *USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grants* help to repair or rehabilitate individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops owned and/or occupied by very low- and low-income rural persons.

### **Historic and Cultural Resources**

- *National Park Service* provides grants for educational programs and the preservation of historic properties and cultural artifacts
- *National Endowment for the Humanities* provides grants for preservation and conservation of collections, and on a more limited scale, facilities improvements.

### **Parks, Preserves, and Recreation**

- *National Park Service* provides grants for stewardship of state and local parks.

### **Natural Resources**

- *Environmental Protection Agency* offers numerous grant programs related to wetland preservation, research, education, cleanup, plants and animals, among others.
- *USDA* funds air quality, water quality and other initiatives related to natural resources.

### **State**

#### **Transportation**

- *Motor Fuel Taxes* are collected on each gallon of gasoline/diesel sold in the state. The funds are then distributed to:
  - Municipalities, based on population
  - Counties, based on the number of vehicle registrations in their jurisdiction
  - Road districts/townships, based on their proportion of total road mileage in the state

MFT monies can be used for roadway construction and maintenance projects with the authorization of the IDOT District office. Allocations are provided monthly and are a relatively stable source of external income for local governments.

- *Bonds* are debt obligations issued by states, cities, counties and other governmental entities to raise money to build projects for their communities. Issuing a bond often requires a referendum to determine if the public backs the idea. Bonds can be used to pay for a variety of projects such as roadway improvements, libraries, and schools. Bonds can be repaid using such tools as: property tax levies that sometimes are assessed only in areas benefiting from the improvement; sales taxes, and special fees (i.e. sewer fees, parking fees, etc.).



- *Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program* provides funding for community based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure.
- *Illinois Commerce Commission* facilitates construction of railroad crossing safety projects through its Grade Crossing Protection Fund.
- *Gas tax increases* can be used to fund transportation projects at the state level. Counties and municipalities can also institute a gas tax to help pay for one or more transportation projects (temporary) or for general transportation system maintenance and operation (permanent).

### ***Economic Development/Infrastructure***

- *Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity* administers the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP), which assists in financing economic development, public facilities and housing rehabilitation projects.
- *Illinois Commerce Commission* provides grants for installing high-speed communications networks, especially in rural areas through its Digital Divide Elimination Infrastructure Fund (DDEIF) Program.

### ***Public Services***

- *The State of Illinois' Capital Development Board* is responsible for construction and renovation of state-owned facilities such as colleges, prisons, and government buildings, and also can assist local areas with school construction through its School Construction Grant Program.

### ***Housing***

- Illinois Housing Development Agency...Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Illinois Housing Development Agency...HOME—Single-Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (SFOOR) Program

### ***Historic and Cultural Resources***

- *Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity* provides grants through its Tourism Attraction Development Grant Program (TAP) and other similar programs.
- *The Illinois State Museum* offers grants through its Illinois Public Museum Grants Program.

### ***Parks, Preserves, and Recreation***

- *Illinois Department of Natural Resources* offers grants for land acquisition and development, trails, and other recreational facilities.

## **Natural Resources**

- *Illinois Department of Natural Resources* through its Office of Resource Conservation offers grants to help protect, acquire, enhance or manage wildlife habitat, including research and education.
- *The Illinois Department of Agriculture* offers a Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program to facilitate research, education, and on-farm demonstration projects regarding sustainable agricultural practices.

## **Local**

- *Local budgets*  
County, municipal, and township budgets all have funding available for roadway construction and improvements. In most cases, plans for how to spend that funding are found in a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), which generally extends 10 years, or another, shorter term project plan.
- *Private contributions*  
Private donations of land, capital, or infrastructure can be essential to jumpstarting and/or completing a project. As private businesspersons, developers will often give something extra to a development such as open space or a shared-use path. They also sometimes make roadway improvements in anticipation of the traffic their establishment might create. Public-private partnerships help remove some of the burden from government budgets while promoting community involvement and interest in a project.
- *Special assessments*  
This type of funding is a one-time charge that state and local governments may impose on property owners who benefit from the construction of adjacent road or sewer lines. A bond is issued to cover the initial costs, and property owners pay their share over a pre-determined timeline.
- *Special service area*  
Business and property owners may choose to create a special service area (SSA) in concert with a local government entity. Taxes or assessments (whose term typically runs between ten and twenty years) are determined fairly based on proportioning a property's equalized assessed value or width of property frontage or property area. SSAs may fund such things as marketing, infrastructure improvements, or unique street signs. A SSA must be approved by a majority of the benefiting owners and businesses.
- *Local special tax*  
Special taxes can be levied at the municipal or county level in order to raise funds for community needs. Examples of this include increasing the sales tax to fund schools and levying a local gas tax to pay for road improvements.
- *Bonds (see state funding section)*

## Topics for Further Consideration

### Growth in municipal areas

Employment center growth, according to the future conditions plans, should occur mostly within or adjacent to municipal limits in order to make for the most efficient use of existing infrastructure and funds. Many of the municipalities in Piatt County have infrastructure needs that would be beneficial for the community and potentially attractive to businesses seeking locations. These municipalities generally do not have the resources to construct the infrastructure with the given budget or the staff resources to seek additional funding.

Piatt County should consider how it can collaborate with the municipalities to help fulfill these infrastructure needs so that everyone can benefit from the economic development that could occur with these improvements. There are a variety of measures that the County Board can help with to make this happen, including:

- Facilitating engineering studies for projects;
- Providing grant writing assistance and funding source research;
- Providing part or all of local match requirements for projects; and
- Strengthening grant applications with letters of support.

The Future Land Use section outlines potential areas for suitable business and industrial growth. The Piatt County Board can prioritize a suitable area as a place to improve infrastructure and market its potential for investors. If this area falls within a municipal limit, local coordination will be necessary to make such a project come to fruition.

### A self-sufficient Piatt County

The Piatt County phone survey that was completed as part of the planning process indicated that the majority of Piatt County residents work and shop outside the county. In addition, the survey responses indicated that residents felt that Piatt County is lacking in recreational opportunities.

While nothing can change factors like the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign being a major regional employer, Piatt County can look into the types of employment centers that would cater to its residents' interests and educational levels. In addition, they can complete an analysis of what residents are looking for in recreational opportunities. Once that information has been collected, the county can focus on how to draw those interests to Piatt County. By bringing both work and home into closer proximity within Piatt County, residents' activity centers will follow suit to some extent. Demand within Piatt County should increase for shopping areas and recreational opportunities as residents stay in their home county to work. With residents spending more time in Piatt County, more money will be spent as well. This will improve the county's tax base which will in turn support expenditures in needed infrastructure and programs.

## Monitoring the Plan

Plan implementation also involves certain “housekeeping” tasks that can be considered on two levels: project related implementation, and concept related implementation. These tasks are as necessary to fulfill as our goals, objectives and building projects.

### Project related implementation

- *Review project priorities periodically:* Projects in the Comprehensive Plan have undergone an initial prioritization process; this prioritization should be reviewed periodically to include new projects and change priorities if new funding or information becomes available.
- *Keep a record of prioritized projects and their implementation:* As a benchmark for completing the plan, project lists should be reviewed with each update of the Comprehensive Plan.
- *Seek new funding resources:* Local agencies should continually seek new funding sources for those projects that do not currently have funding.

### Concept related implementation

- *Complete benchmarks identified in plan:* Benchmarks are based on the goals and objectives as well as the project lists; they are measurable events that signify the end of a process.
- *Update plan:* Plans are updated to ensure the use of accurate information, check off goals and objectives which have been completed, and establish new goals and objectives. The opportunity to re-evaluate priorities, identify changed assumptions and develop new goals is an important process to undertake on a frequent basis.
- *Determine responsible parties:* Each benchmark and project requires participation by different agencies, potentially including local, regional, state, and federal agencies. Responsible parties should be clear on their role in implementing tasks in the Comprehensive Plan, and should act upon them accordingly.
- *Monitor area development:* While the Comprehensive Plan is based on best available local knowledge at the time of writing, changes may occur or anticipated changes may not occur. Decision making processes and future updates to the plan should reflect these changes.
- *Evaluate change:* Local agencies should assess how unanticipated changes will affect the plan, and react to those changes logically and efficiently.
- *Revise forecasts:* Population and employment forecasts should be revised with each update, or when it is clear that a development that was not anticipated in the previous plan will have a significant impact on current goals and objectives.
- *Seek funding for implementation:* Some of the goals and objectives will require significant staff time or other inputs to be completed. Funding must be sought for both projects and concept implementation.

## Successful Plan Implementation

Bringing the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan to fruition will require public officials, local government staff, and residents to form new perspectives and help build creative ways to achieve the goals established in this plan. The plan identifies steps that the county can take to achieve its goals; however, many more options exist. Creative thinking and cooperation between government officials, representatives, and the general public will lead to positive results. This plan primarily identifies substantial changes to the standard procedure that will help achieve goals in the plan. A number of obstacles will be faced as changes are proposed and implemented. A concerted effort to work through obstacles will ultimately lead to a better result.

### Regulatory Changes (Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances)

Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance changes can turn futuristic goals stated in the plan into bona fide regulations which the county will take responsibility for implementing. As we learn more about public health and safety issues, we change regulations to protect our communities. The same can be true for regulations concerning land use and development. As we change the way we use land, and learn more about the long term impacts humans have on the land, the content of structures we use to govern land may also change. Obstacles will certainly be faced; however, a comprehensive planning process and allowing time to properly understand all issues and viewpoints is critical for success.

### Obstacles

- **Conflicting Viewpoints** – Many different viewpoints exist regarding land, ownership rights, and government controls which are often intermingled in this type of process. Conflicting viewpoints can lead to heated debates and discouraging remarks. Providing ample publicity about changes, and opportunity for residents to provide input is essential for successfully achieving a goal.
- **Time** – Formulating potential changes and addressing public concerns are time consuming tasks. It is important to take the required time to obtain input and develop ideas. A hurried process often results in a lack of support and may contribute to the demise of the project. When changing the role of government, public support must be obtained.
- **Money** – This type of endeavor often requires financial support for increased staff, meeting supplies, studies and surveys, or consultants. Establishing a dedicated funding source for planning and plan revision is an important step to using and implementing plans.

### Publicize

Information is generated at greater speeds and in greater quantities now than ever before. The expectation is that people are able to acquire the information they need with little hassle. The reality is that this requires time and money that some agencies have not yet prioritized.

Having a forum for providing information and organizing information is increasingly a responsibility of public bodies and expected by residents.

### ***Obstacles***

- **Comprehensiveness** – Identifying a forum for publicizing information is an important step in how successful a publication will be. Taking extra time and resources to ensure that your publication reaches all possible interested groups will facilitate a more effective implementation process.
- **Information Quality** – Determining what information will best suit what you want to achieve with the publication is a critical factor of successful publication. Different people consume and analyze information differently. By anticipating different perspectives and how they will react to information, and reflecting those perspectives in your publication, your project will have a more effective outcome.

### **Public Involvement**

Early and continuing public involvement using a variety of means is necessary for any successful planning or implementation effort. If residents feel they are not involved in a process, they can react negatively and convince others to halt initiatives that are identified in the plan. Public involvement should occur from early planning stages throughout implementation and in monitoring a successful project. Projects should seek to obtain a great amount of public input and be willing to not move forward until a desirable amount of input is gathered. This potentially means a delayed project, but certainly means a better result.

### ***Obstacles***

- **Inclusivity** – Diversity in developing public involvement opportunities will likely draw a diverse group from your population ensuring that your project is considering a variety of perspectives.
- **Funding** – Sufficient funding should be set aside for public involvement and outreach efforts. Costs can add up quickly for media releases, print ads, meeting supplies, signs, and other minimal public involvement necessities.
- **Learning methods** – Everyone learns differently. Some learn more effectively by reading text, while others learn better from a graphic presentation of the same information. Others learn better by experiencing something hands on, while others benefit more from simply observing. Public involvement opportunities should have materials that can be used by people of all learning types.

### **Adopt a Plan or Complete a Study**

Some elements of the comprehensive plan can only be effectively and fully resolved through further study or by adopting additional plans. Many themes fall outside the scope of an initial planning process because they were brought to light during that planning process. Some initiatives require input from specific stakeholders who help develop a study and see that it is implemented. If these groups are excluded, resistance to change may inhibit the goals laid out in the plan.

### **Obstacles**

- Perspectives – A study must consider all sides of a story. An analysis should seek to identify the problems by all interested parties and consider solutions using input from those same individuals and agencies.
- Defining need – Need for further study might be identified as an implementation measure in the plan, but perhaps its idea has come too early for consideration. Until relevant parties have an interest that is tangible to them, it will be difficult to convince people to participate in the study. Further, it will be difficult to find funding sources if there is no community support by the idea. Some studies may appropriately take years to come to fruition.
- Funding – Requesting funds for further study once a large comprehensive planning process has taken place can seem inappropriate because many assume that no further planning or study is needed. It can be difficult to convince local officials and others of the benefits to further studies. It may take time to acquire funding for further study, which is partly dependent on when local officials perceive the need to consider a topic in more detail.

### **Cooperate**

Cooperation among agencies is critical to successful plan implementation. Cooperation can take the form of staff time, in-kind labor, funding, or other types. Sometimes cooperation needs to be official, through intergovernmental agreements, while other times a verbal agreement is sufficient.

### **Obstacles**

- Conflicting viewpoints – Differing perspectives, both in the present or in the past, can create conflict that defeats cooperative efforts. Seeking to discover the issues and resolve them is an important part of cooperation.
- Hidden agendas – If someone that is part of the implementation process is not completely up front with relevant information, cooperative efforts can be hampered. Someone with an agenda different than what would successfully complete an implementation task should not necessarily be excluded from the effort; rather, all efforts should be made to constructively unite differing agendas into the completion of one goal.

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# APPENDIX 1: PROJECTIONS

Projections use existing trends to predict future conditions. The Piatt County Comprehensive Plan uses projections to determine demand for future land use. Population estimates are used to project demand for residential land uses. The United States Census Annual Population Estimate and Regional Economic Information System (REIS) are sophisticated population estimates that are updated annually.

**Table A1-1: Population Estimates**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Census Est.</b>	<b>REIS</b>
<b>1969</b>		15495
<b>1970</b>	<b>15509</b>	<b>15525</b>
1971	15700	15683
1972	15900	15893
1973	16000	15964
1974	16000	15958
1975	16200	16210
1976	16400	16402
1977	16400	16445
1978	16500	16549
1979	16500	16454
<b>1980</b>	<b>16581</b>	<b>16610</b>
1981	16701	16701
1982	16493	16493
1983	16404	16404
1984	16305	16305
1985	16192	16192
1986	15978	15978
1987	15830	15830
1988	15777	15777
1989	15571	15571
<b>1990</b>	<b>15548</b>	<b>15550</b>
1991	15629	15602
1992	15699	15650
1993	15992	15919
1994	15999	15904
1995	16155	16037
1996	16285	16144
1997	16478	16311
1998	16430	16231
1999	16623	16388
<b>2000</b>	<b>16369</b>	<b>16374</b>
2001	16338	16338
2002	16247	16247
2003	16410	16410
2004	16482	16482
2005	16602	16602
2006	16688	NA

*U.S. Census and Regional Economic Information System*

## Comparison of Population Projections

Two existing projections were used along with one developed by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission from Census data. These existing projections were then used to determine a moderate projection which was used to forecast land use demand.

Table A1-2: 30 year projections

	Woods & Poole	DCEO	Census Extrapolated	Average W&P/DCEO	Average all 3
2000	16,374	16,396	16,369	16,385	16,380
2005	16,602	16,573	16,680	16,588	16,618
2010	16,716	17,023	16,997	16,870	16,912
2015	16,756	17,396	17,320	17,076	17,157
2020	16,841	17,748	17,649	17,295	17,413
2025	16,973	17,897	17,984	17,435	17,618
2030	17,167	18,034	18,326	17,601	17,842

Chart A1-1: Population Estimates and Projections

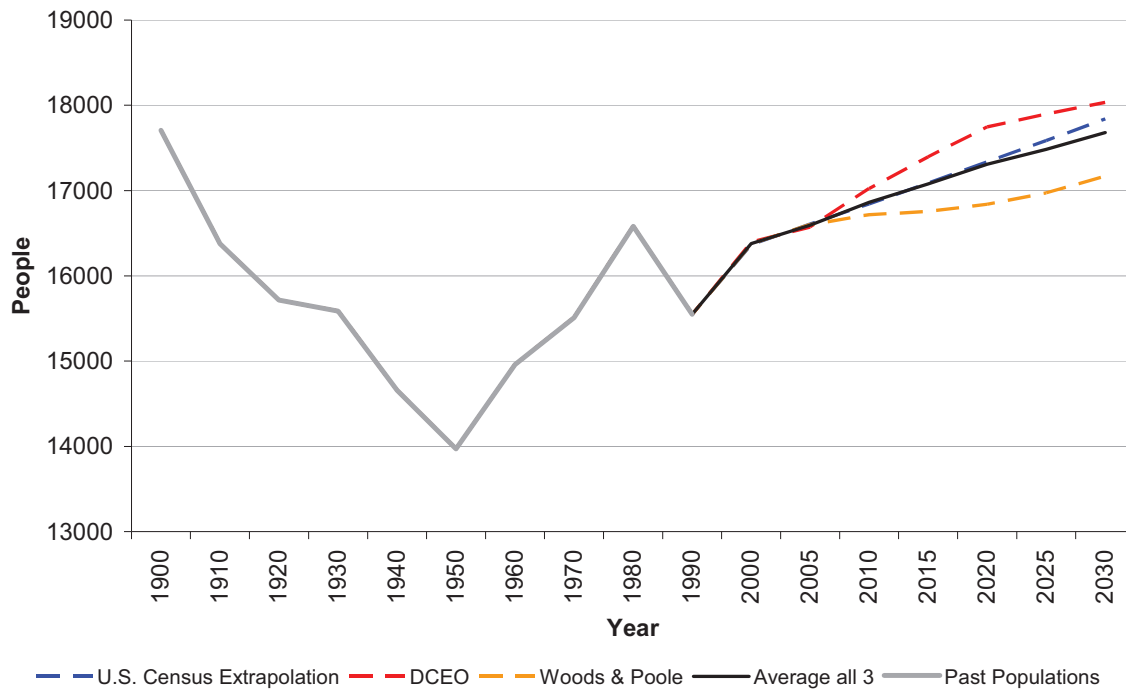


Table A1-3: Projection for Piatt County

\*average of all three projections

	1990	1995	Census 2000	1-Jul-00	1-Jul-01	1-Jul-02	1-Jul-03	1-Jul-04	1-Jul-05	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
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Piatt County, Illinois	15,548	16,155	16,365	16,369	16,338	16,251	16,426	16,498	16,680	16,912	17,157	17,413	17,618	17,842*
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Projections for 2010 – 2025 were estimated by taking the projected 5 year rate of change for each township and applying it backwards in 5 year increments.

Table A1-4: Projection by Township

	1990	1995	Census 2000	1-Jul-00	1-Jul-01	1-Jul-02	1-Jul-03	1-Jul-04	1-Jul-05	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Bement township	1,928	1,972	1,979	1,979	1,961	1,942	1,959	1,953	1,963	1,981	1,999	2,018	2,036	2,055
Blue Ridge township	1,407	1,456	1,414	1,414	1,418	1,406	1,423	1,430	1,446	1,466	1,486	1,507	1,528	1,549
Cerro Gordo township	2,208	2,252	2,199	2,199	2,183	2,160	2,177	2,176	2,189	2,179	2,169	2,159	2,149	2,140
Goose Creek township	848	866	852	852	852	850	862	869	887	891	895	900	904	908
Monticello township	5,339	5,623	5,604	5,604	5,597	5,581	5,634	5,666	5,736	5,831	5,933	6,042	6,111	6,192
Sangamon township	1,481	1,568	2,041	2,041	2,042	2,042	2,072	2,095	2,129	2,208	2,291	2,379	2,454	2,536
Unity township	1,605	1,640	1,560	1,560	1,563	1,547	1,563	1,563	1,572	1,584	1,596	1,609	1,621	1,633
Willow Branch township	732	778	716	720	722	723	736	746	758	772	786	800	815	830
TOTAL	15,548	16,155	16,365	16,369	16,338	16,251	16,426	16,498	16,680	16,912	17,157	17,413	17,618	17,842

No township level projections are available through the 3 sources used for county-level projections. Recent population figures were used to extrapolate township-level forecasts, ensuring that they sum to the "average of 3" projection for Piatt County

Table A1-5: Rate of Change for Townships

	5-year Rate of Change	5-year Rate of Change
Bement Township	0.9%	2.4%
Blue Ridge Township	1.4%	4.3%
Cerro Gordo Township	-0.5%	0.8%
Goose Creek Township	0.5%	1.8%

Rates determined by using 5 – year intervals of existing Census population estimates (90-95, 95-00, 00-05) and the 2030 population projection.

Table A1-6: Projection by Municipality

	1990	1995	Census 2000	1-Jul-00	1-Jul-01	1-Jul-02	1-Jul-03	1-Jul-04	1-Jul-05	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Atwood village	1,253	1,258	1,290	1,290	1,282	1,271	1,264	1,256	1,250	1,268	1,287	1,306	1,325	1,345
Bement village	1,668	1,716	1,784	1,784	1,762	1,739	1,749	1,737	1,739	1,764	1,789	1,815	1,841	1,868
Cerro Gordo village	1,436	1,438	1,436	1,436	1,418	1,394	1,398	1,387	1,385	1,385	1,385	1,385	1,385	1,385
Cisco village	282	298	264	288	286	284	286	286	286	280	275	269	264	258
De Land village	458	453	475	475	471	466	468	467	473	471	469	467	465	463
Hammond village	527	536	518	518	526	517	524	522	523	522	521	519	518	517
Mansfield village	929	969	949	949	949	934	939	936	939	943	946	950	954	958
Monticello city	4,549	5,048	5,138	5,146	5,144	5,132	5,179	5,210	5,275	5,407	5,543	5,682	5,824	5,970
TOTAL	11,102	11,716	11,854	11,886	11,838	11,737	11,807	11,801	11,870	12,040	12,215	12,394	12,576	12,764

Atwood and Hammond villages add up to more than the Unity Township total population estimates and projections because all of Atwood Village is considered for the municipal figures, while only the part of Atwood Village that falls in Piatt County is considered for the township figures.

Table A1-7: Rate of Change for Municipalities

	5-year Rate of Change
Atwood village	1.5%
Bement village	1.4%
Cerro Gordo village	0.0%
Cisco village	-2.0%
De Land village	-0.4%
Hammond village	-0.2%
Mansfield village	0.4%
Monticello city	2.5%

Rates determined by using 5 – year intervals of existing Census population estimates (90-95, 95-00, 00-05) and the 2030 population projection.

## Projected Residential Land Use Demand

Table A1-8: Population Translated to Demand for Incorporated Residential Land Use

Municipalities	Pop 2000	Pop 2030	Pop Change 2000-2030	% Pop Change 2000-2030	Housing Units 2000	Avg Pop per Housing Unit	Housing Units 2030	Housing Units Dif 00-30
Atwood village	660	715	55	6.3%	284	2.3	308	24
Bement village	1,784	1,868	84	9.5%	723	2.5	757	34
Cerro Gordo village	1,436	1,385	-51	-5.8%	583	2.5	562	-21
Cisco village	288	258	-30	-3.4%	113	2.5	101	-12
De Land village	475	463	-12	-1.4%	206	2.3	201	-5
Hammond village	518	517	-1	-0.1%	244	2.1	244	0
Mansfield village	949	958	9	1.0%	424	2.2	428	4
Monticello city	5,146	5,970	824	93.9%	2,226	2.3	2,583	357
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,256</b>	<b>12,134</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>4,803</b>		<b>5,183</b>	<b>380</b>

Atwood village only reflects Piatt County side

In order to determine the estimated demand for new residential development for horizon year 2030, incorporated and unincorporated areas need to be considered separately due to differences in population densities and trends. This methodology assumes that 2000 housing densities will be similar in the horizon year 2030; in other words, within each municipality and township, housing lot sizes and types will generally stay the same.

Municipalities	Housing Density (per sq mile) 2000	Sq Mi 2000	Sq Mi 2030	Dif Sq Mi 00-30
Atwood village	1,033.3	0.30	0.30	0.00
Bement village	890.4	0.78	0.85	0.07
Cerro Gordo village	786.8	0.72	0.71	-0.01
Cisco village	296.5	0.40	0.34	-0.06
De Land village	519.6	0.39	0.39	0.00
Hammond village	320.2	0.74	0.76	0.02
Mansfield village	829.4	0.53	0.52	-0.01
Monticello city	885.6	1.93	2.92	0.99
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5.79</b>	<b>6.78</b>	<b>1.0</b>

Negative growth is excluded from the sum of "Dif Sq. Mi. 00-30" column.

1.0 square mile = 640 acres

The projected demand for new residential development by 2030 in the incorporated area of Piatt County is 640 acres.

Table A1-9: Population Translated to Demand for Unincorporated Residential Land Use

Townships	Pop 2000	Pop 2030	Pop Change 2000-2030	% Pop Change 2000-2030	Housing Units 2000	Avg Pop per Housing Unit	Housing Units 2030	Housing Units Dif 00-30
Bement township	1,979	2,055	76	3.8%	803	2.5	834	31
Blue Ridge township	1,414	1,549	135	9.5%	605	2.3	663	58
Cerro Gordo township	2,199	2,140	-59	-2.7%	897	2.5	873	-24
Goose Creek township	852	908	56	6.6%	350	2.4	373	23
Monticello township	5,604	6,192	588	10.5%	2,394	2.3	2,645	251
Sangamon township	2,041	2,536	495	24.2%	762	2.7	947	185
Unity township	1,560	1,633	73	4.7%	689	2.3	721	32
Willow Branch township	720	830	110	15.2%	298	2.4	343	45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,369</b>	<b>17,842</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>6,798</b>		<b>7,399</b>	<b>601</b>

Townships	Housing Density (per sq mile) 2000	Sq Mi 2000	Non-Municipal Sq Mi 2000	Non-Municipal Housing Units 2000	Non-Municipal Housing Units 2030	Dif # Housing Units 00-30	Non-municipal Housing Density (per sq mile) 2000	New Non-Municipal Sq Mi 2030
Bement township	16.6	48.4	47.6	80	77	-3	1.7	-0.52
Blue Ridge township	9.5	63.7	63.2	181	235	54	2.9	0.05
Cerro Gordo township	14.8	60.6	59.9	314	311	-3	5.2	-1.50
Goose Creek township	6.2	56.5	56.1	144	172	28	2.6	0.09
Monticello township	49.9	48.0	46.6	762	786	24	16.4	0.69
Sangamon township	16.1	47.3	46.8	168	224	56	3.6	0.06
Unity township	14.3	48.2	47.1	161	170	9	3.4	0.37
Willow Branch township	4.4	67.7	67.3	185	242	57	2.7	0.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>440.33</b>	<b>434.54</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>2,216</b>	<b>221</b>		<b>1.3</b>

Negative growth is excluded from the sum of "Dif Sq. Mi. 00-30".  
 1.3 square miles = 832 acres  
 The projected demand for new residential development for unincorporated Platt County is 832 acres.

## Employment Projections

In order to determine the estimated acreage of new employment center development for horizon year 2030, different employment sectors and their number of employees were analyzed. The number of employees by sector was related to generalized land uses' acreages for Piatt County in base year 2005. This ratio of acres for a specified employment sector to the number of employees in that employment sector was then utilized in calculating the number of acres in these employment sectors for horizon year 2030. Three generalized land uses were used in the calculations: industrial, retail/office, and institutional. For the purposes of these projections, the assumption was made that any new agriculture related employment would require no new acreage other than existing agricultural land. These projections also assume that the same ratio of employees to acres for each sector will be maintained between 2005 and 2030.

The following inputs are required for determining the projected number of new acres needed for employment in 2030:

- Employment estimates by NAICS sector for 2005
- Employment projections for 2030
- Existing land use acreages

NAICS employment sectors include farm employment and non-farm employment. Non-farm employment is divided into private sector employment and government employment. Private sector employment is divided into nine general subsectors: Agricultural Services; Mining; Construction; Manufacturing; Transport; Communications and Public Utilities; Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; Finance, Insurance & Real Estate; and Services. For this analysis, these employment sectors needed to generally fit into the three land uses listed above, as shown in the following table:

Table A1-10: Generalized Land Uses

Land Use:	Industrial	Retail/Office	Institutional
Related Sectors:	Manufacturing	Retail Trade, Finance, Insurance & Real Estate, Services	Government (Federal, state and local)

Other sectors in Piatt County were not calculated as part of the analysis because their anticipated use of land was minimal given the number of employees or type of employment sector. Sectors shown in table A1-10 comprise 82% of non-farm employees. Agricultural services; mining; construction; transport; communications and public utilities; and wholesale trade comprise the other 18% of employees in 2005. Agricultural services and mining (4% of employees) were assumed to not require any new land, so they were excluded from the analysis. The other four sectors that were not included were deemed insignificant in terms of the amount of acreage they would comprise and the difficulty in assigning them to a specific land use.

## Projected Employment Land Use Demand

Table A1-11: Employment Projections

NAICS Description	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change 2005-2030	% Change 2005-2030
Total Employment	6,111	6,348	6,578	6,795	7,004	7,202	1,091	18%
Farm Employment	551	540	529	518	507	495	-56	-10%
Non-farm employment	5,560	5,808	6,049	6,277	6,497	6,707	1,147	21%
Private Employment	4,590	4,785	4,974	5,149	5,316	5,473	883	19%
Agricultural Services, Other	129	154	178	203	227	252	123	95%
Mining	32	36	40	44	48	52	20	63%
Construction	306	314	322	328	335	341	35	11%
Manufacturing	404	409	413	415	417	418	14	3%
Transport, Comm & Public Utilities	197	200	203	206	209	212	15	8%
Wholesale Trade	325	327	329	330	330	330	5	2%
Retail Trade	1,078	1,115	1,152	1,185	1,216	1,243	165	15%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	581	598	615	630	644	658	77	13%
Services	1,538	1,632	1,722	1,808	1,890	1,967	429	28%
Government Employment	970	1,023	1,075	1,128	1,181	1,234	264	27%
Federal Civilian	51	49	46	44	42	40	-11	-22%
Federal Military	31	31	32	32	32	32	1	3%
State and Local	888	943	997	1,052	1,107	1,162	274	31%

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. Washington, D.C. Copyright 2007. Woods & Poole does not guarantee the accuracy of this data. The use of this data and the conclusion drawn from it are solely the responsibility of CCRPC.

The projections suggest that there will be a total of 629 new acres of employment centers in 2030.

	2005 acreage	2005 ratio acres:emp	2030 ratio extrapolated	Difference in acres
Industrial	347	.86	359	12
Retail / Office	664	0.21	803	139
Institutions	1758	1.81	2237	478



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## APPENDIX 2: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION EFFORTS

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## For Immediate Release

August 14, 2007  
Monticello, Illinois

# **PIATT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE WILL PROVIDE BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Piatt County Board, Tuesday, approved a contract with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission to prepare an update the County's Comprehensive Plan. This effort will include establishment of a Piatt County Regional Planning Commission to oversee the effort. It will be undertaken over the next 18 months at a total cost not to exceed \$104,714.

The Current Piatt County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1970 and no longer serves as a helpful guide to the County government in making land use and development decisions. The new plan will be used to guide decisions on zoning, subdivisions, infrastructure expenditures, economic development and other matters. It will enable the County Board to ensure that new streets, utilities and public services will be provided in a timely and efficient manner. The plan will give homeowners, landowners and prospective developers advance knowledge of the County government's intentions and policies. This will minimize future conflicts over land use and development and also assist in marketing sites in the County for economic development.

Planners will look forward 20 years with new population and economic growth projections. The effort will collect and analyze information on natural resources, the County economy, soils, land use, government jurisdiction, public services and facilities, utilities, parks and preserves and cultural resources. It will look at important trends in the County and identify goals and principles for altering negative trends and fostering positive ones. It will also include a future land use map for the unincorporated area of the County. A website will be created to make it easy to track work on the plan and provide input to the process.

The effort will be coordinated with municipalities that have already adopted plans that cover areas within their "extra-territorial jurisdiction". There are areas within one and one half miles of a municipality's corporate limits within which it has the power to adopt plans and regulate subdivisions.

The new Piatt County Regional Planning Commission will oversee the effort and provide a conduit for bringing the concerns of the general public into the planning process. The Commission is an eighteen-member body that includes representatives from all townships in the county. The County Engineer, the County Zoning Administrator, the Piatt County Extension Director and the Soil and Water Conservation District's Resource Conservationist also will participate as non-voting advisory members of the panel.

Professional assistance in developing the plan will be provided by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission through a technical services contract. The Urbana based organization already provides technical assistance to Piatt County's Geographic Information System and staffs the East Central Illinois Economic Development District of which the County is a member. The project will be managed by the CCRPC's Community Development Program Manager, Susan Chavarria.

Work on the project will begin in September and is expected to be completed by April, 2009.

For more information contact: Susan Chavarria  
328-3313  
schavarria@ccrpc.org

## Media Advisory

For Immediate Release: July 21, 2008

### Contact:

Susan Chavarria, CCRPC Regional Planning Manager  
schavarr@ccrpc.org  
217-328-3313

**WHAT:** County residents are invited to attend a public workshop to share their ideas about the future of Piatt County

**WHEN:** 6:00 – 8:30 PM  
Tuesday, July 29, 2008

**WHERE:** Monticello Community Building Ballroom

### Monticello, IL — COUNTY RESIDENTS INVITED TO SHARE IDEAS ABOUT PIATT COUNTY'S FUTURE

The Champaign County Regional Plan Commission (CCRPC) has been contracted to develop a Comprehensive Plan for Piatt County. The Comprehensive Plan includes all physical area in the County except the City of Monticello, which has its own Master Plan that was adopted in 1998. Current work on the plan involves creating goals, objectives, and a vision for how Piatt County should function in terms of land use, transportation, infrastructure, and community services.

CCRPC will hold a public workshop so that Piatt County residents can provide their ideas about community services, strengths and weaknesses as well as land use in the County. The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, July 29, 2008 at the Monticello Community Building Ballroom, 102 East Livingston Street in Monticello. All County residents are encouraged to attend the workshop.

### About the Comprehensive Plan Project

The 18-month process of updating Piatt County's Comprehensive Plan began in September 2007 with the formation of the Piatt County Regional Planning Commission (PCRPC), a 16 member board whose purpose is to guide the planning process. To date, the PCRPC Board has overseen the preparation of the *Piatt County Existing Conditions Report*, a baseline reference regarding land use, transportation, infrastructure, and natural resources. The document, as approved by the Board on July 1, 2008, will be available on the Piatt County Regional Planning Commission website, [www.piattrpc.org](http://www.piattrpc.org), by mid-July.

Upcoming stages of the planning process include developing proposed future conditions and an implementation plan that outlines specific tasks, responsible parties, and potential funding sources.

The Plan will be used by the County Board, its committees, the Zoning Board of Appeals and County staff. The development of the Comprehensive Plan is intended to help shape a shared understanding of issues and will provide:

- a baseline of information regarding existing conditions and trends in the County;
- a policy framework for making specific decisions related to land use, transportation, infrastructure, services, and natural resources in the County;
- advance notice to landowners and developers regarding the County's expectations and policies regarding land use and development; and
- a guide for how to implement the needs and desires of Piatt County residents as they will be reflected in the plan.

## **PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

### **PIATT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

*The Piatt County Board is updating the 1970 Piatt County Comprehensive Plan.  
Please join us to share your ideas about the future of Piatt County!  
Rural area land use, transportation, community services, and other topics  
will be discussed during this structured workshop.*

**Tuesday, July 29, 2008**  
**6:00 - 8:30 PM**  
**Monticello Community Building Ballroom**  
**102 East Livingston Street, Monticello**

For more information or to arrange special accommodations,  
please contact Andrew Levy, Project Planner at 328-3313.

# PUBLIC WORKSHOP

## PIATT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

*The Piatt County Board is updating the 1970 Piatt County Comprehensive Plan. Please join us to share your ideas about the future of Piatt County!*

*Rural area land use, transportation, community services, and other topics will be discussed during this structured workshop.*

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**6:00 - 8:30 PM**

**Monticello Community Building Ballroom  
102 East Livingston Street, Monticello**

For more information or to arrange special accommodations, please contact Andrew Levy, CCRPC Planner, at 328-3313.

Please view the Existing Conditions Report posted at [www.piattrpc.org](http://www.piattrpc.org)

*The Piatt County Board contracted with the  
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission  
to update the Comprehensive Plan.*



## Piatt County Comprehensive Plan

For more information on the project, documents, meetings,  
and how to stay involved, check out the project website:

[www.piattrpc.org](http://www.piattrpc.org)

### Contact us!

Susan Chavarria  
schavarr@ccrpc.org

Andrew Levy  
alevy@ccrpc.org

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission  
1776 East Washington Street, Urbana IL 61802  
Phone: (217) 328-3313 Fax: (217) 328-2426

# Public Workshop Exercises

## Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Update

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Tuesday July 29, 2008

### **S.W.O.T Analysis**

SWOT is a planning tool that helps identify positives and negatives both inside and outside the community. The intended result of a SWOT exercise is a comprehensive picture of the major issues currently affecting the community. These ideas will be analyzed and transformed into strategies that use strengths to take advantage of opportunities, and minimize weaknesses by avoiding threats.

### **Definitions:**

Strength - positive influences that originate within the county. (good agricultural land)

Weakness - negative influences that originate within the county. (conflict between residential and ag. land)

Opportunity - influence from outside the county that may result in a positive impact. (ADM buying crops)

Threat - influence from outside the county that may result in a negative impact. (demand for rural housing)

### **Themes:**

- Housing
- Economy
- Agriculture
- Parks and Recreation
- Natural Areas
- Environmental Stewardship
- Employment
- Infrastructure (sanitary sewer, water, internet, roads)
- Public services (ambulance, fire, schools, hospitals, etc.)
- Transportation





# Public Workshop Exercises

## Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Update

Tuesday July 29, 2008

### Rural Character

Identifying specific elements of the character and landscape in Piatt County provides decision makers with a goal of keeping desirable characteristics in the county. These characteristics could range from the visual qualities of rolling hills to quality of water to having a library in each village. Identifying desirable rural development allows the creation of a vision that will have achievable goals.

1. What effect has Rural Development had on lifestyles in rural Piatt County? (Please circle one)

- Positive
- No Effect
- Negative

2. How have the following rural area qualities been affected? (circle 'P' for positive, 'n' for negative, 'NE' for no effect)

• Drinking Water	P	N	NE
• Lake Water (recreation)	P	N	NE
• Rivers	P	N	NE
• Wildlife habitat	P	N	NE
• Open space	P	N	NE
• Fishing/Hunting	P	N	NE
• Farming	P	N	NE
• Appreciating Night Sky	P	N	NE
• Hearing Nature	P	N	NE
• Community Values	P	N	NE
• Crime	P	N	NE
• Quality of Schools	P	N	NE
• Job Opportunities	P	N	NE
• Transportation	P	N	NE
• Road maintenance	P	N	NE
• High quality housing	P	N	NE
• Affordable housing	P	N	NE
• Scenic Views	P	N	NE

#### Definitions

“Rural character” refers to the way land is used and the activities that take place in unincorporated areas.

“Rural development” refers to development outside incorporated areas. Rural development can consist of a variety of uses and residential densities, including clustered residential development.

“Conserve” refers to a type of management of landscapes that maintains productivity and use for future generations.

3. Write a phrase that you think defines ‘traditional rural value’.



# Public Workshop Exercises

## Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Update

---

Tuesday July 29, 2008

4. Where do you most often find the strongest sense of community? (Please circle one)

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Neighborhood              | Church            |
| Children's Activities     | Interest Groups   |
| Extended Families         | Recreation/Sports |
| Political Activist Groups | Town meetings     |
| Other _____               |                   |

5. Agriculture is an important part of the Piatt County economy. (Please circle one)

- Yes, agree
- No, disagree
- No opinion

6. Should Piatt County conserve agricultural land use? (Please circle one)

- Yes, agree
- No, disagree
- No opinion

7. Natural area corridors are important for recreation as well as flood control, pollution control, and climate regulation. (Please circle one)

- Yes, agree
- No, disagree
- No opinion

8. What type of residential growth is most desirable for rural Piatt County (subject to minimum lot size and onsite sanitary sewer restrictions )? (Circle all that apply)

- Current development types
- Encouraged as subdivision development
- Encouraged only on land unsuitable for farmland
- Single family homes on lots smaller than 5 acres
- Single family homes on lots larger than 5 acres
- Lots that are spread far apart
- Lots that are clustered together to maximize efficiency
- Other (please list)



# Public Workshop Exercises

## Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Update

---

Tuesday July 29, 2008

9. Should Piatt County conserve forested and prairie areas? (Please circle one)

- Yes, agree
- No, disagree
- No opinion

10. Should Piatt County conserve the rural character of the County? (Please circle one)

- Yes, agree
- No, disagree
- No opinion

11. In Piatt County, do you favor attracting... (Circle all that apply)

- More heavy manufacturing
- More light industry
- More Agricultural Industry
- None of the above

12. Do you feel that you are adequately informed about decisions made by Piatt County Government?

- Yes
- No

13. What type of communication would help inform you about issues addressed by Piatt County Government? (circle one)

Newspaper

Mailed Newsletter

Email

Radio spots

Website postings

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



# Public Workshop Exercises

## Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Update

---

Tuesday July 29, 2008

### Mapping Exercises

1. Identify areas of environmental and ecological value that are important to preserve regardless of ownership or expense. Describe them if it is not clear what the unique feature is for the areas.

A. Mark these by drawing a green boundary around the area and apply diagonal hash marks.



2. Identify areas that you believe to be scenic landscapes that you feel should be preserved purely for their visual qualities.

A. Draw a thick green arrow, from view points to the prominent feature in view (rolling hill, aesthetic barn, etc.).



B. Also draw a line for approximate locations of where you would like to see walking or biking trails or other activity centers to enhance active lifestyles in rural areas.



3. An industrial firm wants to locate in Piatt County. Assume for the purposes of this exercise that:

- They can develop anywhere in the County
- They need access to rail and/or highways
- Water supply and available infrastructure are not factors in selecting potential sites

A. Where do you recommend they locate? Identify as many areas as possible based on the assumptions with a simple red polygon and provide your reasons on the attached comment sheet.



B. In what areas should this type of development be restricted? Identify as many areas as possible based on the assumptions using a red polygon with an X through it and provide your reasons on the attached comment sheet.





**Mapping Exercise Explanations and Comments**

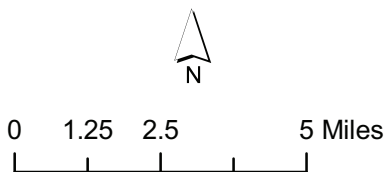
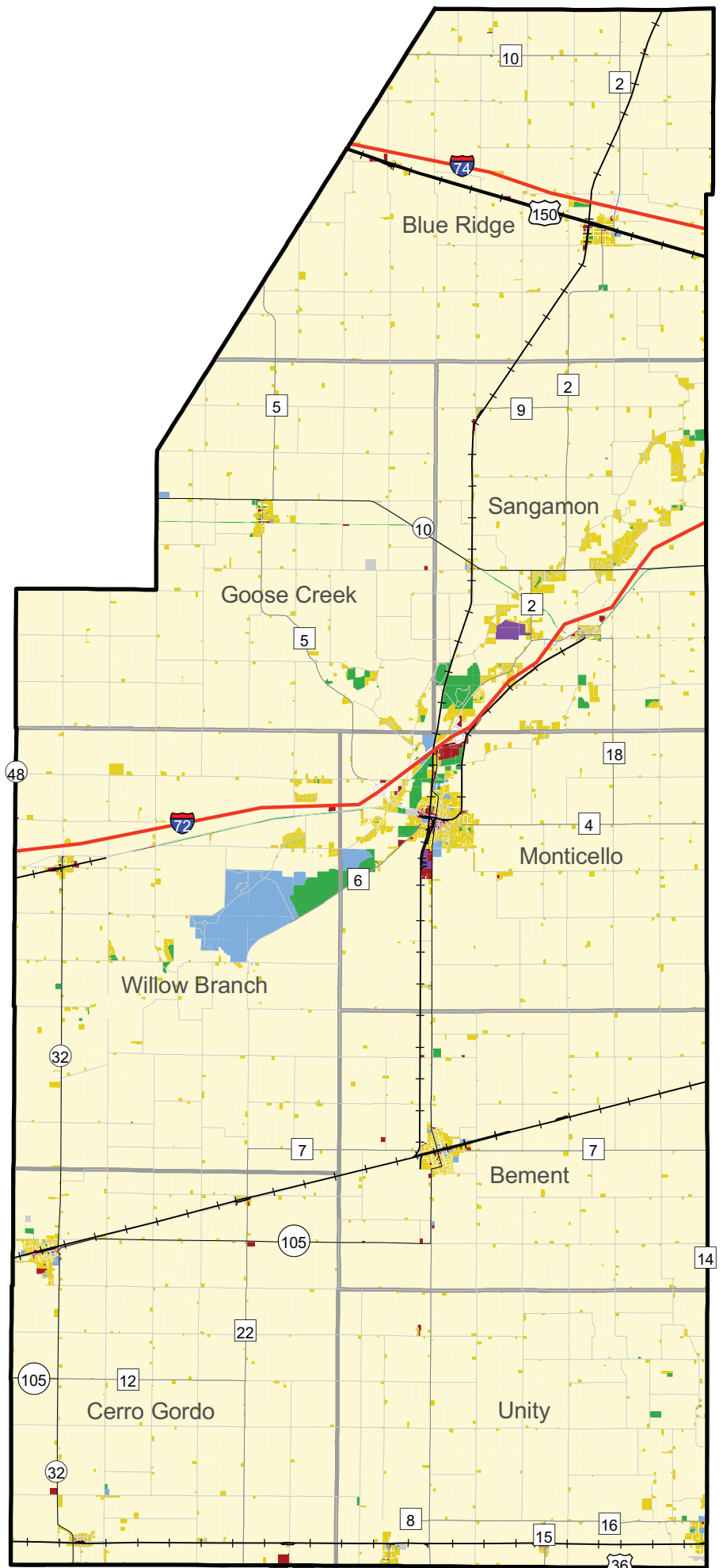


# Existing Land Use

## Piatt County

### Legend

-  County
-  Civil Township
-  Agriculture
-  Residential
-  Utility
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Institutional
-  Open Space
-  County Hwy
-  State Hwy
-  U.S. Hwy
-  Interstate













Production Date:  
May 2008

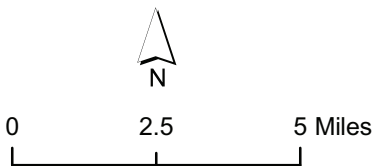
Sources:  
Piatt County Assessor  
CCGIS  
CCRPC

# Land Cover

## Piatt County, Illinois

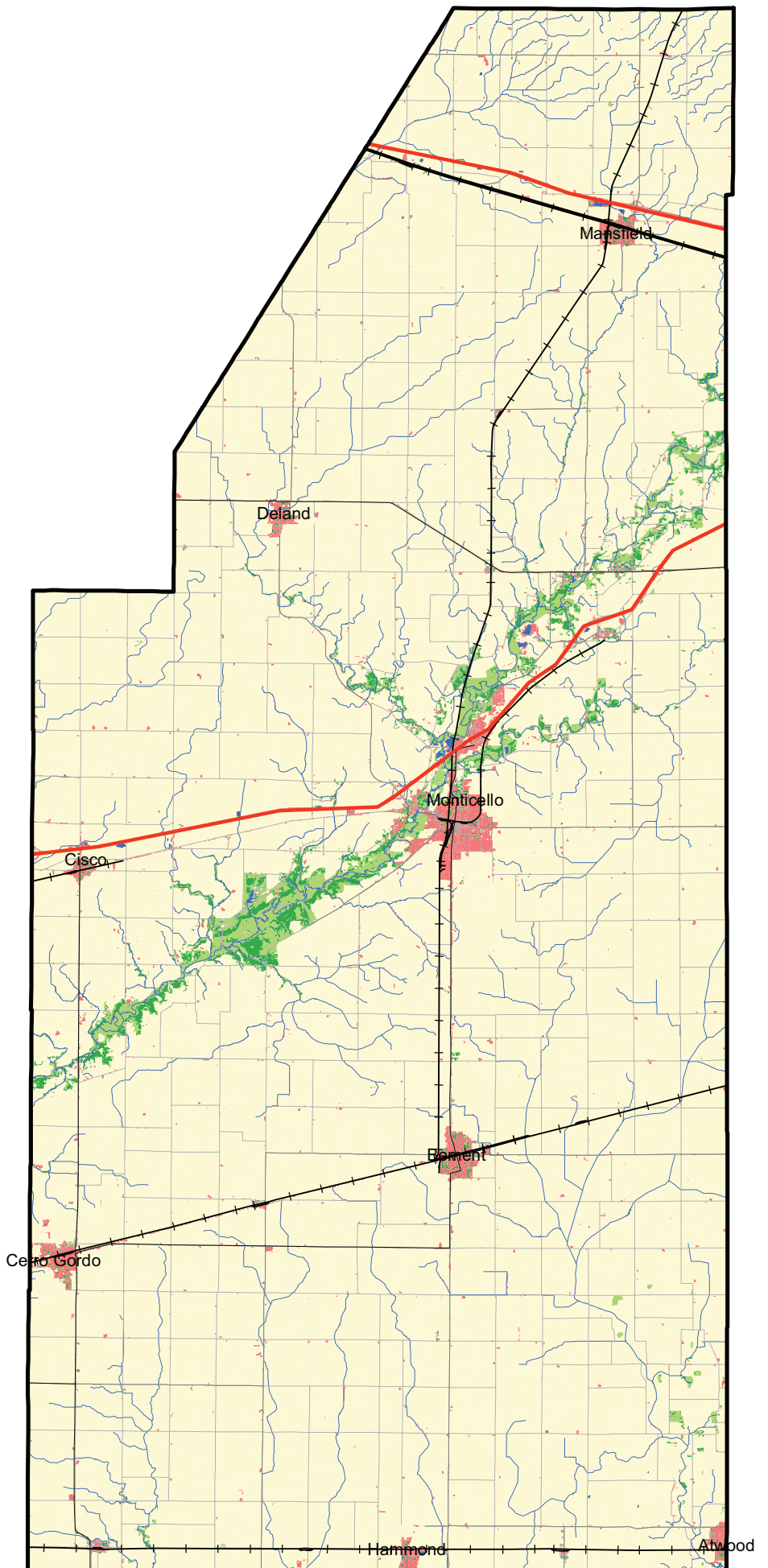
### Legend

-  County Boundary
-  Agriculture
-  Forested
-  Urban/Developed
-  Prairie/Wetland
-  Water
-  County Hwy
-  State Hwy
-  U.S. Hwy
-  Interstate



Production Date:  
May, 2008








Source:  
Illinois Department of Agriculture

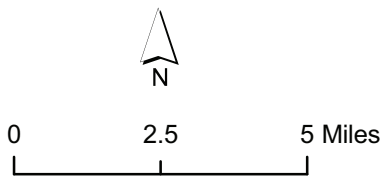


# Approximate Building Location of Permits for New Residential Construction 1999 to 2006

Piatt County, Illinois

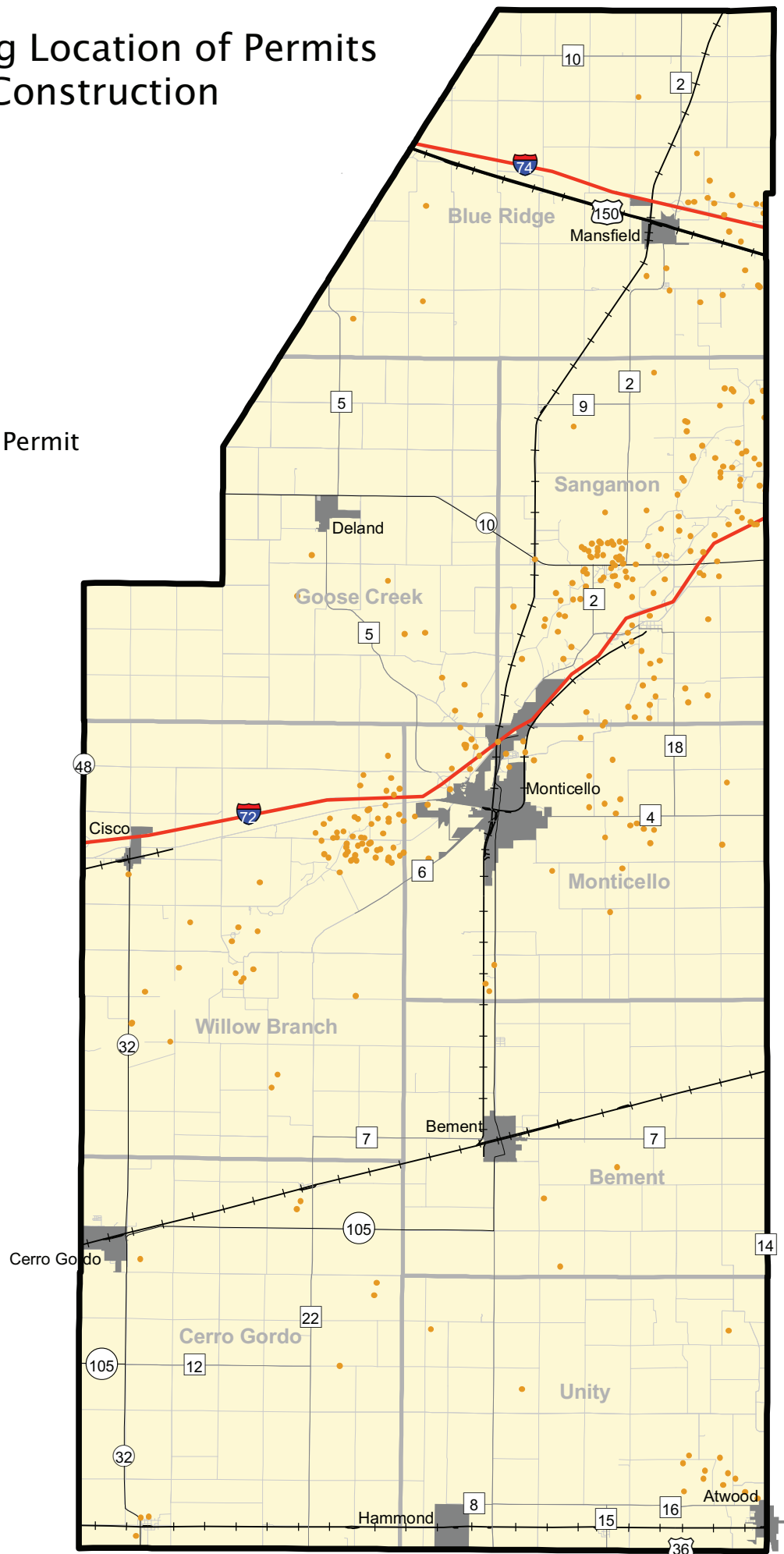
## Legend

- New Residential Building Permit
-  Railroads
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Civil Township
-  County Hwy
-  State Hwy
-  U.S. Hwy
-  Interstate



Production Date:  
November, 2007

Sources:  
Piatt County Tax Assessor  
CCGIS  
IDOT







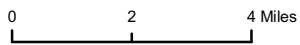
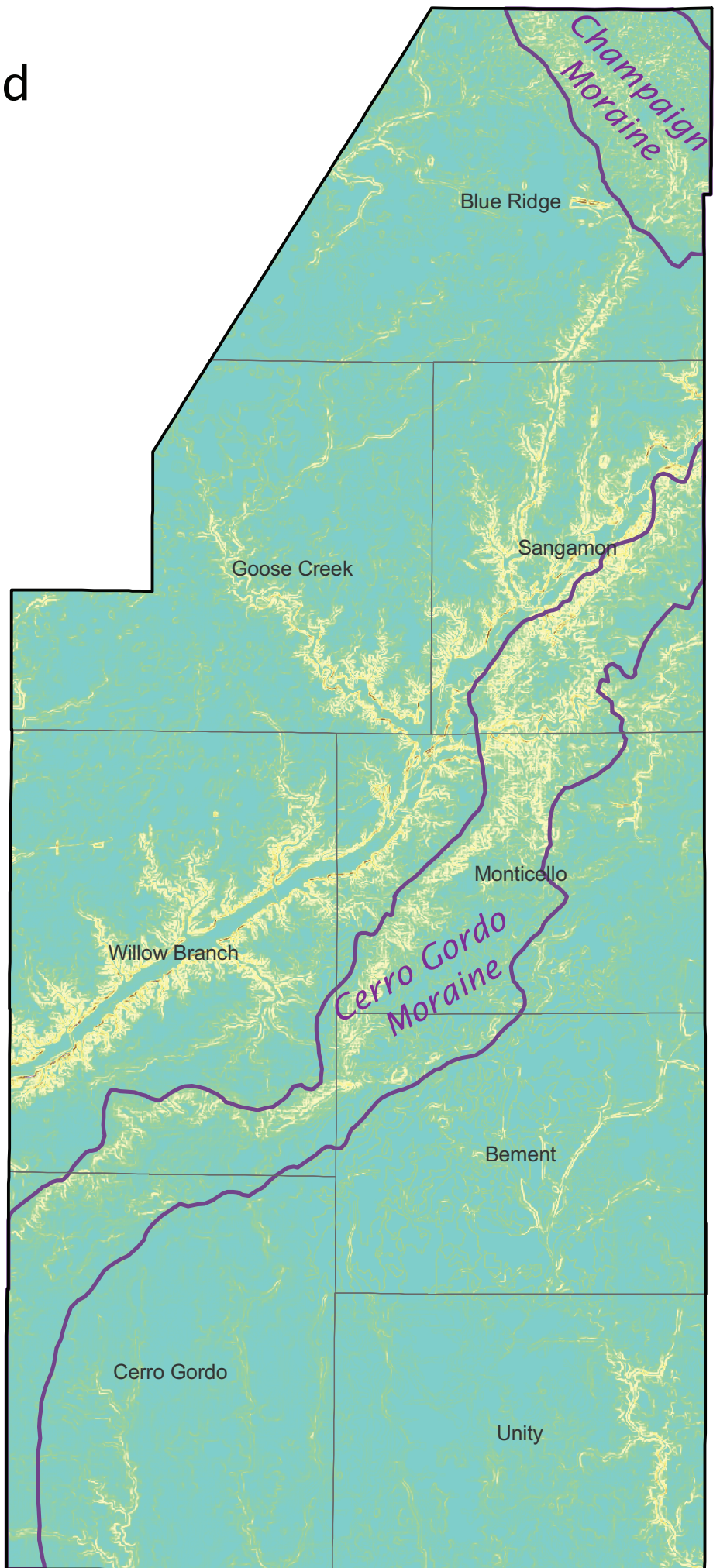
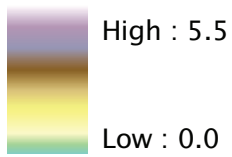
# Slope of the Land

Piatt County, Illinois

## Legend

-  County
-  Civil Townships

Slope in Percent










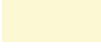




Production Date:  
November, 2007

Source:  
National Elevation Dataset  
ISGS  
CCGIS

# Average Daily Traffic 2005

## Piatt County, Illinois

### Legend

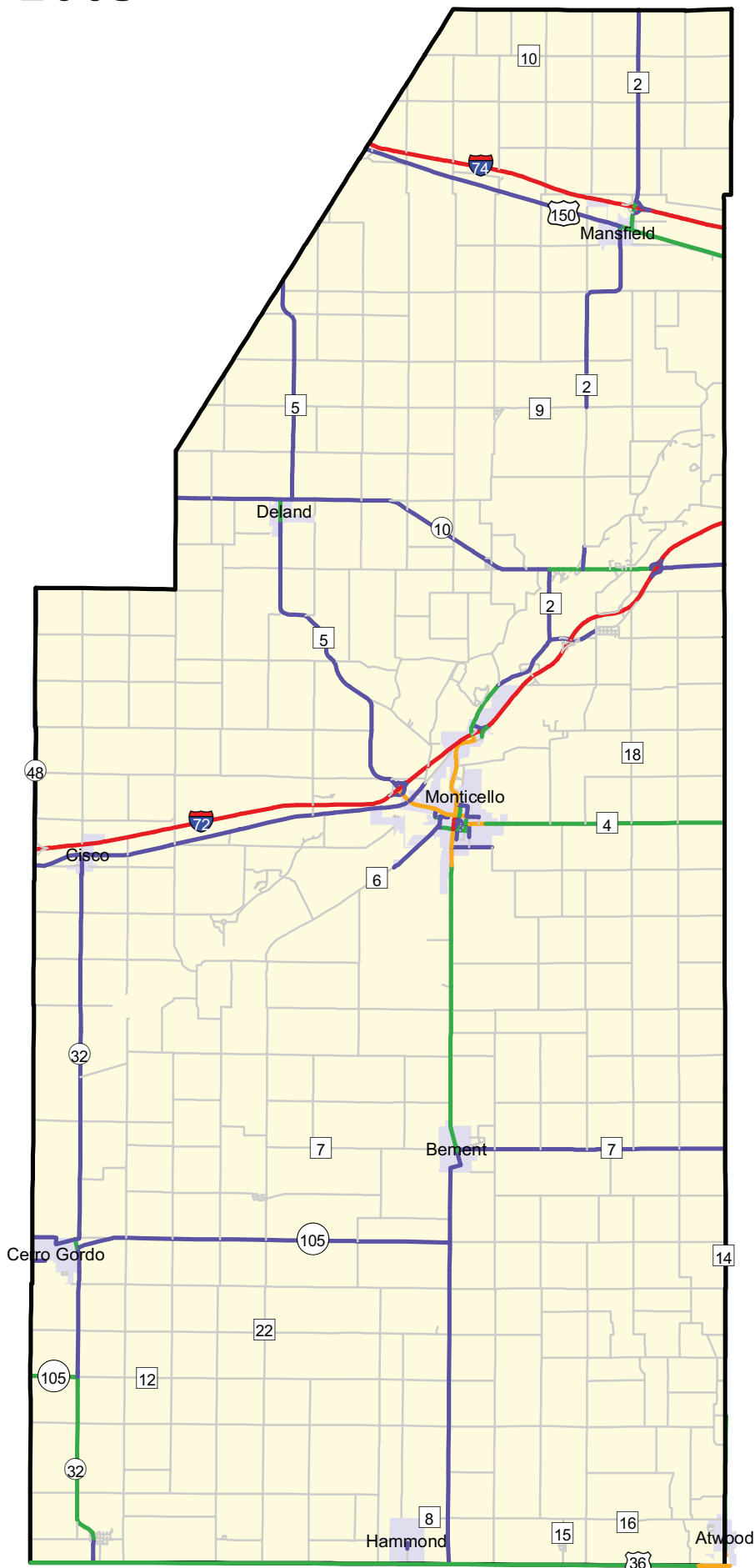
-  County
- Average Daily Traffic**
-  0 - 600
-  601 - 1,800
-  1,801 - 4,500
-  4,501 - 10,000
-  10,001 - 19,400
-  Municipality
-  County
-  County Hwy
-  State Hwy
-  U.S. Hwy
-  Interstate



0 2.5 5 Miles

Production Date:  
November, 2007

Sources:  
IDOT  
CCGIS



# Comprehensive Plan Update Workshop Basemap

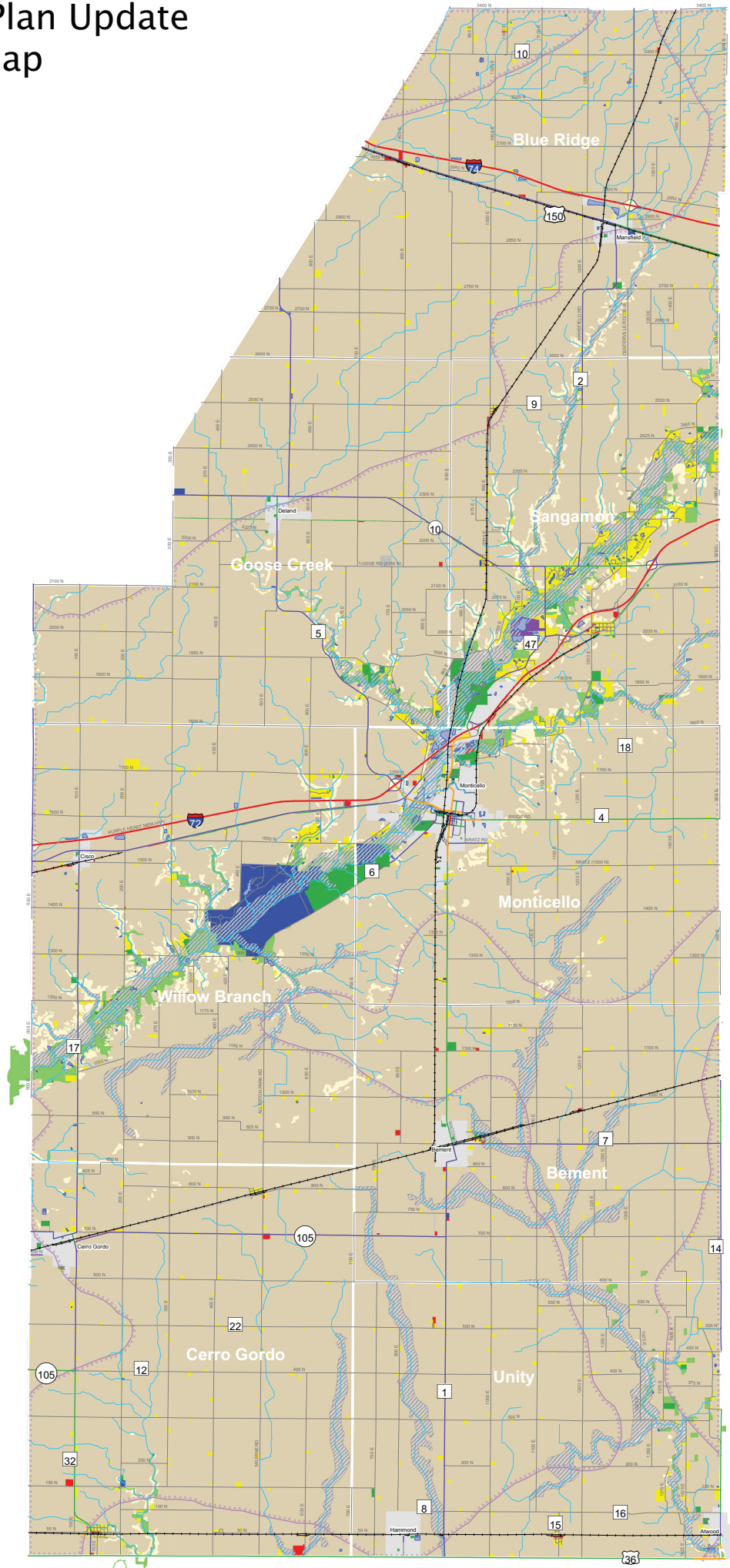
Piatt County, Illinois

## Legend

### Average Daily Traffic

- 0 - 600
- 601 - 1,800
- 1,801 - 4,500
- 4,501 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 19,400

- Sand and Gravel Aquifer
- Streams
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- FEMA Flood Zone
- Residential
- Utility
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Open Space
- Woodland
- Prime Farmland (LESA)



0 2 4 Miles

Sources:  
CCGIS  
CCRPC  
IDOT  
ISGS



# Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Exit Questionnaire

Before you leave, please take a moment to answer the following questions. Your feedback is crucial to documenting your participation in the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan process and will improve future planning efforts in Piatt County.

*Note: All responses will be strictly confidential.*

1. What is your gender:     Female     Male
  
2. Please tell us which ethnic or racial group you most closely identify with:  
   Black/African-American     Asian     White/Caucasian     Other \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Are you Hispanic or Latino?             Yes             No
  
4. What is your age?  
   under 20             20-24 years             25-34 years             35-44 years  
   45-54 years         55-64 years             65-74 years             75 or older
  
5. Please tell us about your annual household income:  
   Less than \$15,000         \$15,000 to \$34,999             \$35,000 to \$49,999  
   \$50,000 to \$74,999     \$75,000 to \$99,999             More than \$100,000
  
6. Please tell us about your education attainment level:  
   Less than a high school diploma         High School Diploma (GED)  
   Some college     College Graduate     Post Graduate study     Post graduate degree
  
7. How long have you lived in Piatt County?  
   0-4 years     5-9 years     10-19 years         20+ years     Life-long resident
  
8. What township do you live in?  
   Bement             Blue Ridge             Cerro Gordo             Goose Creek  
   Monticello         Sangamon             Unity                     Willow Branch
  
9. Are you a land owner in Piatt County?     Yes             No
  
10. What is your principal occupation? \_\_\_\_\_
  
11. How did you learn about the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Workshop?  
   Newspaper ad             Newspaper article             Sign along road  
   Flyer                       County Board member         Word of mouth  
   Website                     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Feel free to add any comments about the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan process, including the Workshop, on the reverse side of this page. Thank you!



PLEASE PRINT Piatt County Comprehensive Plan -- Public Workshop - 7/29/08

	NAME	Organization	Address	City	ST	ZIP	Phone	E-mail
1	JoAnn Shafer	Willow Branch Twp	P.O. Box 153	Cisco	IL	61838	217-669-233	wilbrtwp@earthlink.com
2	Sandy Manuel	Blue Ridge Twp	P.O. Box 446	Manassas	IL	61854	217-598-5225	smanuel@illinois.edu
3	Jim Reed	P.C. Regional Planning	771E-1950M Rd	Monticello	IL	61856	217-762-3444	
4	John Lyons	Law. 15 Townships	P.O. Box 260	Alexandria	IL	61913	578-346	lyonspride@consolidated.net
5	Tim Hayes		1001 Poplar Lane	Monticello	IL	61856	762-2298	None
6	Judith Harper		P.O. Box 6	White Heath	IL	61884	762-2600	None
7	Jake Lieb	Lieb Farms/Bureau	109 E. Dawson Rd	Monticello	IL	61856	714-4133	
8	Richard Manuel		3094 N 1300E Road	MANASSAS	IL	61854	417-5016	RKMANNO@ILLINOIS.EDU
9	Gary Govani	Sungamaw Twp	1078 IL Rt 10	Monticello	IL	61856	699-4900	Clyonzi@HoffJones.com
10	DAVE SHERMAN	BLUE RIDGE	109 N JERRESON	MANASSAS	IL	61854	489-2091	
11	Ray Spencer		108 E. Meek	White Heath	IL	61884	762-2044	ray@illinoisalumni.org
12	Ally Nolan		1076 IL. 107.10	Mont	IL	61856	762-7791	
13	Anne Reeser		308 Kipling	Mont	IL	61856	762-5835	areeser@peoplepc.com
14	<del>Shirley Hill</del>							
15	Shirley Hill	Sungamaw Twp	2207 Wagon Track	White Heath	IL	61884		
16	Mad P. Ben		1 Welsh-cob	White Heath	IL	61884	687-4175	
17	Von Lambert		3 Welsh cob	White Heath	IL	61884	687-2855	Von.Lambert@gmail.com
18	Dick Paton		235 N Western	Delam	IL	61839		
19	Joseph T. Hraden		1365 Treasure Lane	White Heath	IL	61884		
20	Glenn Parker		2171 Railroads St	Sledge	IL	61856	217-762-2698	

Piatt County Comprehensive Plan -- Public Workshop - 7/29/08

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	Organization	Address	City	ST	ZIP	Phone	E-mail
21 M. Ke W. Leaver	County Board	1517 N. 1000 EAST RD	Monticello	IL	61856	762-5586	
22 Jonathan Mansel	Piatt County SUCD	1201 A Bear Lane	Monticello	IL	61856	762-2146 ext 3	
23 Dick Wilkin	RC BBER	502 E. Washyke	"	"	"	762-2654	
24 Sandra McVicker	PIATT	302 E. Center	"	"	"	762-9096	
25 Steve Bradshaw	Farm Bureau	PO Box 203	"	"	"	762-2128	dietz@piatt-fs.com
26 Paul Sperry	CITIZEN	1019 SONS TOWN ROAD	"	IL	"	778-6658	PAULSPERRY@KATV.COM
27 Dianne Geissal	CITIZEN	2033 Shady Bent Rd.	"	IL	61856	762-2853	dianne.geissal@evnghospital.org
28 Wyatt Muse	CITIZEN	1378E MOON Rd	"	IL	61856	369-1805	Wyatt@illinoisalumni.org
29 Brent Buckalar	CITIZEN	8 Welsh Cob	White Heath	IL	61884	687-4035	pbuckalar@hotmail.com
30 Mike Nolan	CITIZEN	1076 Old Rt 10	Monticello	IL	61856	762-7791	madenrun@monticello.net
31 QUANE Kempson	Piatt Co. Vegetant	9 PARNASSIA LANE	White Heath		61884		
32 Craig Myers	P.C.F.B.	830 Alverton Rd	Monticello	IL	61856	762-5545	Craig@craigmyers.net
33 Eric Miller	Resident	36 Long Grove Dr.	Mont.			762-8189	
34 Woodrow Chervenak	Resident	1074 Bucks Pond Rd	Monticello	IL	61856	762-4271	wchervenak@net66.com
35 Sheila Maloney	CITIZEN	4 Welsh Cob Cir.	White Heath	IL	61884	687-4188	sheilam@piatt.net
36 Cathy Peterson	CITIZEN	235 N. WEST ST PO Box 235	DeLand	IL	61839	417-6485	spokane@piatt.net
37 Mary Parker	CITIZEN	2171 Railroad St.	Jodge	IL	61856	762-2678	maryparker@piatt.net
38 MARK GUSBERT	CITIZEN	4 WELSH COB CIR	WHITE HEATH	IL	61884	687-4180	markgusbert@people.com
39 Amy Meyer	CITIZEN	4 River Valley Ranch	White Heath	IL	61884	687-4128	
40 Bill Meyer	CITIZEN	4 River Valley Ranch	White Heath	IL	61884	687-4128	aymeyer@isp.com

	NAME	Organization	Address	City	ST	ZIP	Phone	E-mail
41	Paul Quirk		1894 E Zeeb Rd	Monticello	IL	61856	762-7702	
42	Roger Hendrix		702 E 600 N. Rd.	Bement	IL	61813	618-8057	
43	PAUL QUICK		211 W. LOCUST	ATWOOD	IL	61913	578-2562	
44	MAX OLSON		906 CRESTVIEW DR.	Monticello	IL	61856	762-7936	
45	Ellen Robrock		112 E 1045 North Rd.	Cerro Gordo	IL	61818	763-3601	
46	Dick Robrock		" "	"	"	"	"	
47	Sandra Smith		208 E 1400 North Rd	Creed	IL	61830	217-669-2167	
48	Jim Smith		" "	"	"	"	"	
49	Trisk Gale		1824 County Farm Rd	Mont.	IL	61856	217-762-7394	
50	JACK HARPER		14 SANDY LAKE RD	Mont	IL	61856	762-8688	
51	Conniel Hendrix		1826 Bucks Fork Rd	Mont	IL	61856	762-7402	
52	Perry Hendrix		" "	"	"	"	"	
53								
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# WORKSHOP ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

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## **Purpose**

The Public Participation workshop garners input from the residents of Piatt County about topics that will be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. These topics include local economy; community facilities; utilities; housing; historic and cultural resources; transportation; land use; natural resources; and nature preserves, parks and recreation. Input obtained ranges from opinions about quantity and quality of existing conditions to perceptions of future conditions and desires.

## **Methodology**

The Piatt County Public Participation workshop was held at the Monticello Community Building in the City of Monticello the evening of July 29, 2008. Residents were notified about this workshop through posters placed around the county at major intersections and in communities, newspaper advertisements and articles, announcements from the County Board, and other means.

The workshop was split into three sections and lasted for two and one half hours. The first exercise, a SWOT analysis, identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the topics listed above. This was done through a simple presentation and dialog with participants.

The second exercise consisted of a 13-question multiple choice survey that focused on defining the rural character of Piatt County, identifying desirable development types, and perceptions of conserving the environment and agricultural land use.

The third exercise asked participants to map specific attributes of their county as well as potential solutions to an industrial development scenario. A base map and series of reference maps were used to help locate specific attributes that could be used to make informed decisions.

## Demographics

Demographic information was collected to determine the type of sample achieved. With 43 participants, no result of the workshop can be stated as representative of the views of the county. However, the information obtained from the participants greatly enhances the planning efforts by the Piatt County Regional Planning Commission. The information from the workshop will be used to help identify concerns and ideas that are affecting residents in Piatt County.

The following tables compare demographic data from the workshop participants to data from the 2000 U.S. Census for Piatt County.

<b>Gender</b>	Workshop	2000 Census
Female	60%	52%
Male	40%	48%

<b>Race</b>	Workshop	2000 Census
Caucasian	100%	99%
Black	0%	0.2%
Other	0%	0.8%

<b>Age</b>	Workshop	2000 Census
20-24	2%	4%
25-34	9%	10%
35-44	7%	17%
45-54	19%	14%
55-64	28%	14%
65-74	26%	8%
75 over	9%	8%

<b>Income</b>	Workshop	2000 Census
Under 15,000	5%	11%
15,000-34,999	12%	25%
35,000-49,999	7%	20%
50,000-74,999	14%	25%
75,000-99,999	23%	11%
100,000 or more	30%	8%
No response	9%	N/A

## Resident Characteristics

Workshop participants had higher educational attainment than the general population, with 68% having a post graduate degree versus 21% for the general Piatt County population.

Participants were predominantly long-term residents, and the majority (44%) live in Sangamon Township. 86% of the participants own land within Piatt County and 21% are currently retired.

## Education

	Survey	Census
High School Diploma	12%	37%
Some College	16%	24%
College Grad	37%	13%
Post Grad Study	12%	N/A
Post Grad Degree	19%	8%
No Response	5%	N/A

## Tenure in Piatt County

	Survey
0-4 years	5%
5-9 years	7%
10-19 years	16%
20+ years	35%
Life long resident	37%

## Township of Residence

	Survey	Census
Bement	5%	12%
Blue Ridge	9%	9%
Cerro Gordo	0%	13%
Goose Creek	14%	5%
Monticello	14%	34%
Sangamon	44%	12%
Unity	5%	10%
Willow Branch	7%	4%
No Response	2%	N/A

## Land Owner

	Survey
Yes	86%
No	14%

## Occupation

	Survey
Retired	21%
Agriculture	19%

## SWOT Analysis

A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats exercise seeks to gain as many different perspectives as possible regarding a specific set of topics. For the Piatt County public workshop, the topics were:

- local economy
- community facilities
- utilities; housing
- historic and cultural resources
- transportation
- land use
- natural resources
- nature preserves, parks and recreation

The facilitator sought at least three strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for each topic; in some cases, many more were identified.

Once the perspectives are collected, they are used to help identify goals and objectives for the plan. Strengths are things happening currently that we want to promote, sustain, or support. Weaknesses are also about present conditions, and are things we need to improve upon or strengthen. Opportunities are typically about the future, and are things we need to promote, seek, or encourage. Threats are also typically about the future, and are things we want to avoid or mitigate. We can use our strengths and build upon our weaknesses to help realize opportunities and minimize threats.

The following pages list those strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified by participants for each of the aforementioned topics.

## Housing

### Strengths

- school districts attract residents to Piatt
- good healthcare/proximity to Kirby & CU hospitals, et al
- low taxes
- affordable housing
- proximity to UIUC
- good locations between CU and Decatur
- I-72, I-74
- good food source
- rural atmosphere/rural living away from big cities
- drainage district maintenance
- good growth with low infrastructure expenses
- clean air
- low crime rate
- excellent drinking water
- pleasant landscape
- parks, Forest Preserve District

### Weaknesses

- Monticello annexing subdivisions
- housing increases drainage needs, which can affect roads
- decreasing wildlife habitat due to rural housing
- hedgerows removed for more agriculture decreases wildlife habitats
- increase rural housing increases road and infrastructure maintenance
- decrease in rural character due to increase in rural housing
- conflicts between existing rural use and emerging rural uses
- losing prime farmland to residential development
- increased damage to ecosystems and streams
- mean income is \$52k; not adequate for lower income residents
- distance to activity/employment centers means higher gas costs

### Opportunities

- Monticello annexations are an opportunity for infrastructure extension
- wide range of housing types
- places of work outside county
- high taxes and poor schools in outside areas bring people to Piatt
- incentivize retirement housing
- opportunities for using renewable energy
- aging housing stock can get help from incentives
- possible tax structures that can help plan implementation

### Threats

- state mandates (i.e. septic system rules)
- lack of industry affects tax base, getting people to stay (threat because industry isn't being allowed in, threat of losing what we have)
- rural development keeping people from coming into town to spend money
- industrial development is too close to housing
- threat to privacy due to increase in housing subdivisions

### Strength

Promote/Sustain/Support

### Weakness

Improve/Strengthen

### Opportunity

Promote/Seek/Encourage

### Threat

Avoid/Mitigate

## Economy

### Strengths

- small businesses
- strong ag economy
- proximity to intellectual capital (UIUC)
- entrepreneurial spirit
- growing tourism
- relatively low unemployment at county level

### Weaknesses

- not enough jobs, industry
- having to work outside the county with high gas prices
- underemployed residents

### Opportunities

- trained personnel are available
- opportunity to engage emerging industries
- bio tech startups, especially related to ag, which could come from places like UIUC
- opportunity to attract businesses that can process ag products
- good infrastructure for industry

### Threats

- big cities--existing industries might detract
- strong opposition to new industry
- declining economy in large cities like Decatur a threat to adjacent communities
- no existing facilities for expansion/growth--might make companies move elsewhere
- increasing property tax levels
- competing regions can leave some facets out of plan

### Strength

Promote/Sustain/Support

### Weakness

Improve/Strengthen

### Opportunity

Promote/Seek/Encourage

### Threat

Avoid/Mitigate

## Agriculture

### Strengths

- best land/soils anywhere
- desire to preserve farm ground
- climate
- ag related facilities
- diversity of crops

### Weaknesses

- farm income not keeping up with inflation
- soil erosion
- lack of next generation of farmers/lack of opportunities
- small farmers are not feasible
- federal legislation (more do's and don't's)
- loss of farmland to development

### Opportunities

- research
- product development
- biomass

### Threats

- subdivisions
- industry
- people moving to rural subdivisions not understanding surrounding ag ways
- external megafarms bidding on opportunity to cash rent
- 1031 money coming in to drive prices up--artificially inflates the economy
- rising price of farm inputs/petroleum

### Strength

Promote/Sustain/Support

### Weakness

Improve/Strengthen

### Opportunity

Promote/Seek/Encourage

### Threat

Avoid/Mitigate

## Parks and Recreation

### Strengths

- lots of parks
- Allerton Park
- well-designed parks
- good outdoor recreational facilities
- good distribution throughout county

### Weaknesses

- lack of infrastructure (ex: bridge at Allerton)
- lack of maintenance and support to maintain them
- lack of green space in new subdivisions
- lack of promotion
- aging park infrastructure/facilities
- infestation by non-native/invasive species
- need more handicap accessibility at Allerton, other parks

### Opportunities

- increased tourism
- lack of maintenance creates atmosphere of volunteerism
- unutilized Rails to Trails system has potential
- opportunity to promote Piatt in a positive light

### Threats

- funding
- loss of diversity
- West Nile

### Strength

Promote/Sustain/Support

### Weakness

Improve/Strengthen

### Opportunity

Promote/Seek/Encourage

### Threat

Avoid/Mitigate



## Natural Areas

### Strengths

- good planning by farmers/landowners to preserve land
- Allerton--diversity of species
- Sangamon River corridor
- increased use of trees in landscaping
- creeks and drainage districts for recreation, making ground farmable/stabilizes soil
- timberland

### Weaknesses

- divergent uses/needs of natural areas
- lack of natural areas in new subdivisions
- deforestation trend
- trash and litter
- promoting snake habitats
- natural areas take land out of production

### Opportunities

- developers seem to like building around natural areas
- more human interaction if they are further developed with trails, facilities
- safe wildlife habitat
- opportunity to preserve remaining natural areas
- education
- promote hunting

### Threats

- subdivisions/development/larger farms taking away natural areas
- dissection of wildlife habitats by development fragmentation
- state cutting funds to help areas

### Strength

Promote/Sustain/Support

### Weakness

Improve/Strengthen

### Opportunity

Promote/Seek/Encourage

### Threat

Avoid/Mitigate

## Environment

### Strengths

- clean
- Piatt Co. Soil & Water Conservation District
- spirit of good environmental stewardship
- industries are aware of environment in Piatt

### Weaknesses

- lack of good stewardship in some cases
- lack of countywide recycling program

### Opportunities

- None listed

### Threats

- well digging by Champaign and Decatur
- state control of funding
- state mandates
- possibility of industrial contamination
- necessity of crop spraying

## Employment

### Strengths

- Low unemployment

### Weaknesses

- low unemployment
- lack of local jobs in Piatt
- brain drain

### Opportunities

- None listed

### Threats

- lack of infrastructure to support large industries (i.e. gas lines)
- also in smaller communities (i.e. sewage systems)
- lack of creativity; need for more forward thinking rather than dwelling on the past

### Strength

Promote/Sustain/Support

### Weakness

Improve/Strengthen

### Opportunity

Promote/Seek/Encourage

### Threat

Avoid/Mitigate

## Infrastructure

### Strengths

- excellent opportunities for water

### Weaknesses

- aging roads, bridges
- poor drainage on rural secondary roads
- deterioration of state highways
- lack of money to improve
- lack of conjunction of all infrastructure types to optimize use
- no room to upgrade/expand facilities

### Opportunities

- opportunity to build rail sidings
- high speed internet
- develop local wind/solar power

### Threats

- lack of money to maintain
- lack of qualified personnel
- oil prices affect road maintenance
- eroding tax base and increased demand for services

## Public Services

### Strengths

- volunteers
- good forest preserve district
- good transportation dept: Piattran
- teacher-student ratio

### Weaknesses

- lack of social services for aging, poor
- lack of info/advertising for available services
- minimal public transportation systems
- no room to upgrade/expand facilities
- lack of ambulances in smaller towns/high response times

### Opportunities

- insurance (ISO) ratings

### Threats

- less state money
- declining populations to serve around Monticello
- cost of transportation for rural schools

### Strength

Promote/Sustain/Support

### Weakness

Improve/Strengthen

### Opportunity

Promote/Seek/Encourage

### Threat

Avoid/Mitigate

## Transportation

### Strengths

- Piattran
- 2 day truck travel to most of US--good location
- law enforcement getting drunks off roads
- 2 interstates
- airports: 3 within 1 hour drive

### Weaknesses

- lack of junction between travel modes, especially between road and rail
- problem getting low income patients home from hospital
- lack of funding
- lack of bike trails
- sidewalks not always available

### Opportunities

- coordinate commuter transport given increased gas prices and existing rail
- possibility of taxi services

### Threats

- high truck traffic threatens highways
- competition of ag equipment on roads

### Strength

Promote/Sustain/Support

### Weakness

Improve/Strengthen

### Opportunity

Promote/Seek/Encourage

### Threat

Avoid/Mitigate

## Rural Character Questionnaire

When asked what effects rural development has had on rural lifestyles in general, the participants were split between positive (48%) and negative (39%).

When asked about how rural development affected other specific aspects of rural quality, participants responded in the following manner:

	Positive	Negative	Both	No Effect
Drinking Water	8	13	0	19
Lake Water	7	9	0	25
Rivers	9	17	0	9
Wildlife Habitat	9	26	1	5
Open Space	9	25	1	6
Fishing	7	26	0	8
Farming	8	25	0	8
Night Sky	10	22	0	9
Sounds of Nature	7	20	0	12
Community Values	22	12	0	5
Crime	9	14	0	17
Quality of Schools	27	2	0	10
Job Opportunities	13	10	0	16
Transportation	9	12	0	17
Road Maintenance	10	25	0	5
High Quality Housing	27	5	0	5
Affordable Housing	8	16	1	13
Scenic Views	10	23	0	7

“Rural character” refers to the way land is used and the activities that take place in unincorporated areas.

In a further attempt to define rural character, participants were asked to write a phrase that defined traditional rural value. Twenty people responded with a variety of statements.

- "Ah the smell of money"
- Being able to roam as you please
- Caring, courtesy, and cooperation
- Family farms
- Home town pride and community
- Honor the golden rule
- Keeping housing away from prime farmland
- Maintaining existing farm ground, limit development
- Neighbors helping neighbors
- Open area with fields of grain, farm animals in pastures
- Open spaces with rural scenes
- Peace at home and heart
- Preservation of country living and farming without urban development
- Privacy not diminished by too many people
- Sense of community
- Small minded farmers
- The ability of farm families being able to make a living without interference from city people who have chosen to move to the rural areas
- Traditional rural value incorporates appreciation of land and its value while realizing that change is inevitable with the goal of benefiting all.
- Values linked to the land and its use for agriculture and animal husbandry in a morally responsible fashion

Rural communities have a variety of gathering places. Participants felt the strongest sense of community within their neighborhoods (42%). Others include church, political groups, town meetings, and children's activities.

The remaining questions are focused on how land is used and the importance of particular land use types.

When asked if agriculture is an important part of the Piatt County economy, 98% of the participants agreed that it is and 90% of respondents stated that land used in agriculture should be conserved. 95% of respondents agreed that forested and prairie areas should be conserved and 95% of respondents agreed that rural character should be preserved.

"Conserve" refers to a type of management of landscapes that maintains productivity and use for future generations.

All respondents stated that they believe natural area corridors are important for recreation as well as flood control, pollution control, and climate regulation.

Participants were asked which types of development are most desirable for Piatt County.

### Development Type

Current Development	12%
Subdivision Development	21%
Development on land only unsuitable for farmland	55%
Single Family homes on lots smaller than 5 acres	29%
Single Family homes on lots larger than 5 acres	26%
Lots that are spread far apart	14%
Lots that are clustered together	17%

Other types of development that were listed as desirable include:

- As an extension to existing city limits – not sprouted up in the middle of nowhere
- I don't see any downside to development it is the one thing that brings money into the county. Leave the north alone; work on development in the South. Leave Sangamon Township alone.
- Less "McMansions" discourage through property tax assessment policies. Redevelop existing developed areas vs. taking prime farmland. Enforce zoning regulations with fewer variances granted.
- Preferably, no more sprawl
- Retirement homes
- Within city limits
- would like uniform subdivision standards enforced with roads required to be with two egresses required by all developers, no gravel roads allowed--might serve to keep subdivision development in check. Same road widths required by all--too many...

Participants were asked specifically what type of industrial development they preferred for Piatt County.

<u>Industry Type</u>	
Heavy Manufacturing	17%
Light Industry	62%
Agricultural Industry	48%
None of the Above	19%

“Rural development” refers to development outside incorporated areas. Rural development can consist of a variety of uses and residential densities, including clustered residential development.

The survey concluded by asking if people in Piatt County felt informed about the decisions made by the County government. 45% stated that they felt informed. When asked what media best communicated government activities, 48 % stated newspaper and 24 % stated a mailed newsletter. The least popular methods included emails and websites.

# Public Workshop Exercises

## Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Update

Tuesday July 29, 2008

### Mapping Exercises

1. Identify areas of environmental and ecological value that are important to preserve regardless of ownership or expense. Describe them if it is not clear what the unique feature is for the areas.

A. Mark these by drawing a green boundary around the area and apply diagonal hash marks.



2. Identify areas that you believe to be scenic landscapes that you feel should be preserved purely for their visual qualities.

A. Draw a thick green arrow, from view points to the prominent feature in view (rolling hill, aesthetic barn, etc.).



B. Also draw a line for approximate locations of where you would like to see walking or biking trails or other activity centers to enhance active lifestyles in rural areas.



3. An industrial firm wants to locate in Piatt County. Assume for the purposes of this exercise that:

- They can develop anywhere in the County
- They need access to rail and/or highways
- Water supply and available infrastructure are not factors in selecting potential sites

A. Where do you recommend they locate? Identify as many areas as possible based on the assumptions with a simple red polygon and provide your reasons on the attached comment sheet.



B. In what areas should this type of development be restricted? Identify as many areas as possible based on the assumptions using a red polygon with an X through it and provide your reasons on the attached comment sheet.





# Comprehensive Plan Update Workshop Basemap

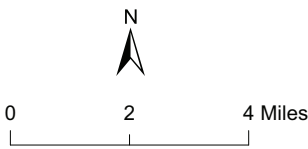
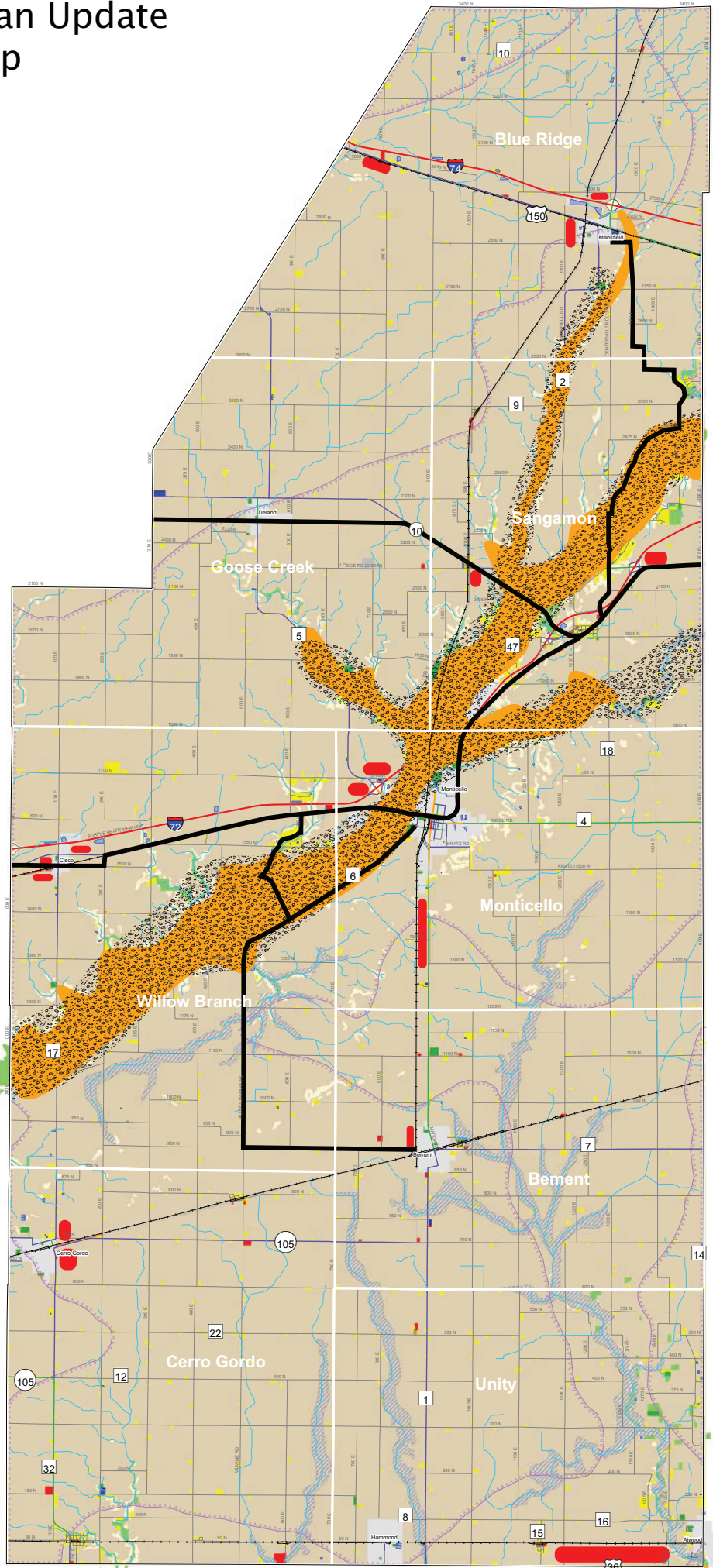
## Piatt County, Illinois

### Legend

#### Average Daily Traffic

- 0 - 600
- 601 - 1,800
- 1,801 - 4,500
- 4,501 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 19,400

- Sand and Gravel Aquifer
- Streams
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- FEMA Flood Zone
- Residential
- Utility
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Open Space
- Woodland
- Prime Farmland (LESA)
- Sensitive Environment
- Industry not desired
- Industry desired
- Trail Development



Sources:  
CCGIS  
CCRPC  
IDOT  
ISCS

**Synthesis of Public Input from July 29, 2008 Public Workshop  
and July 1, 2008 Existing Conditions Report for Piatt County**

Element	Public Workshop Input	Related Existing Conditions Factors
Housing	Incentives for improving aging housing stock and for creating housing for the elderly were both suggested	One third of Piatt County's housing units were constructed before 1939.
	Some questioned the affordability of housing for those at or below the median income for Piatt residents	Home values are increasing and reaching those of more urban counties such as Champaign and McLean counties.
	The following factors were identified as influential to deciding to live in Piatt County: proximity to larger cities, University of Illinois	
	Participants felt that rural housing developments are detrimental to agriculture, prime soils, the environment, rural character, and infrastructure demand.	Most recent rural housing growth has occurred in Sangamon and Willow Branch townships.
	The following factors were identified as influential to deciding to live in Piatt County: access to good schools, healthcare, affordable housing; landscape, rural atmosphere, parks, clean air	Student-teacher ratios are mostly lower than Illinois averages. A good portion of Piatt County employment is in the healthcare sector. Piatt County has a considerable inventory of parks and open spaces.
	Participants identified that there are opportunities for using renewable energy in housing.	Much of Piatt County is rated as having fair potential for wind energy and capability for solar energy.
Economy	Small businesses, entrepreneurial spirit, and a strong agriculture sector are seen as the backbone of Piatt County's economy	The number of private sector establishments increased by 10% between 1997 and 2002.
	Participants want to see more industry and good jobs in Piatt County	Between 2001 and 2006, the number of employees in manufacturing decreased from 562 to 335. Other sectors such as construction and services saw significant increases.
	Participants feel there are opportunities for agriculture related industries in Piatt County	Between 2001 and 2006, the number of employees in farming decreased from 568 to 533.
	Larger nearby cities affect the economy and employment in Piatt County	More Piatt County residents work in adjacent counties (58.7%) than in Piatt County (41.3%).
Agriculture	Participants feel that the area has the best soils in the world and that they want to preserve farm ground	96.6% of the land in Piatt County is considered prime farmland.
	Participants feel that small farms are not feasible, that there are not opportunities for the next generation of farmers, and that farm income is not keeping up with inflation	Employment in farming is anticipated to decrease according to projections through 2030. Total net farmland income between 1969 and 2006 has generally been decreasing in Piatt County.
	Participants feel that development is taking over farmland	Sangamon and Willow Branch townships, which are largely rural, had the highest number of residential building permits granted between 1999 and 2007 (65% of all residential building permits granted in the county).
Parks & Recreation	Participants feel that there is a good quantity and quality of parks and related facilities in Piatt County.	There are over 3000 acres of parks in Piatt County.
	Participants feel that the parks and facilities could be maintained and upgraded more, and need more money to do so.	--
	Participants feel that marketing and tourism could be opportunities for Piatt County parks.	--

**Synthesis of Public Input from July 29, 2008 Public Workshop  
and July 1, 2008 Existing Conditions Report for Piatt County**

Element	Public Workshop Input	Related Existing Conditions Factors
Natural Areas	Participants perceive that subdivisions, development, and larger farms are taking away from natural areas	In 1850, approximately 9% of the county was forested; currently it is about 3% forested.
	Participants perceive that natural areas are taking land out of production.	92% of Piatt County's land is used as farmland; less than 3% is undeveloped (i.e. forests and prairies not managed for production).
	Wildlife habitats are being dissected by development.	IDNR Critical Trends Assessment Project (1997) stated that wildlife habitat in Piatt County has largely been converted to agricultural land uses through forest cutting and the draining of wetlands.
Environment	Participants identify a lack of a countywide recycling program.	--
	Participants consider Piatt County to have a generally clean environment.	--
	Participants believe that existing industries are aware of the environment and want to ensure that potential industries follow their lead.	--
Infrastructure	Participants perceive excellent opportunities for water resources.	The Mahomet Aquifer is the primary groundwater source for much of east central Illinois.
	Participants perceive an overall need for upgrading/maintenance of transportation facilities such as bridges, secondary roads, aging infrastructure, and a lack of money to make such improvements.	Piatt County has over 1,000 miles of roadways.
	Participants expressed not having room to expand and upgrade infrastructure facilities.	Some road rights-of-way do not have room for widening.
	Participants see opportunities for wind and solar energy and for high-speed internet access.	Much of Piatt County is rated as having fair potential for wind energy and capability for solar energy.
Services	Participants perceive a lack of social services for aging and/or low income residents.	Numerous organizations provide services to aging and/or low income residents in Piatt County.
	Participants perceive a lack of information/advertising about available social services programs.	--
	Participants perceive a lack of ambulances and high response times in smaller towns.	There are three ambulance providers in Piatt County; one based in Cerro Gordo and two based in Monticello.
Transportation	Participants perceived Piatt County as having a convenient location to interstates, airports, and regional destinations.	Two interstates traverse Piatt County. Numerous regional airports and international airports are within 1-3 hours driving distance. Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis are all within 3 hours of Piatt County.
	Participants identified a lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities in general.	There is no long-term plan for pedestrian and bicycle facilities construction; there are a few bicycle/pedestrian paths in Piatt County.
	The conflict and safety issues between agricultural vehicles and other roadway users was identified.	--
	More connectivity between travel modes (i.e. road and rail) was also identified as desirable.	--
	Participants think that Piattran is a positive resource, but suggest that public transit service could be expanded.	Piattran was undergoing a community needs study earlier in 2008.

# PIATT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## PUBLIC HEARING & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Piatt County Board  
would like to announce that the  
**Draft Piatt County Comprehensive Plan**  
is available for public review and comment.  
Please let us know what you think by  
participating in these opportunities:

### PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, August 18, 2009  
7:00 PM  
Monticello Community Building  
102 East Livingston Street  
Monticello

### 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Monday, July 27 - Tuesday,  
August 25, 2009  
Document review locations:  
• Piatt County Courthouse  
• Allerton Public Library  
• Online at [www.piattrpc.org](http://www.piattrpc.org)

Comments received will be considered prior to  
final approval of the Plan by the County Board.

For more information, to request a paper or CD copy of the Draft Plan,  
or to arrange special accommodations, contact  
Susan Chavarria at 328-3313 or via email [schavarr@ccrpc.org](mailto:schavarr@ccrpc.org).

**[www.piattrpc.org](http://www.piattrpc.org)**

The Piatt County Board contracted with the Champaign County  
Regional Planning Commission to update the Comprehensive Plan.

The following display ad was published in the following newspapers:

- Arcola Record Herald, July 30<sup>th</sup>
- Journal Republican, July 29<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>
- News Gazette, July 26<sup>th</sup>
- Southern Piatt Record Herald, July 29<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>

**PIATT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: *Your County, Your Future***

**We want to hear from you!**

The Piatt County Board would like to announce that the Draft Piatt County Comprehensive Plan is available for public review and comment.

Please let us know what you think by participating in these opportunities:

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# LEGAL NOTICE as PUBLISHED IN THE August 12, 2009, Piatt County Journal Republican

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING PIATT COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,  
that the Piatt County Regional  
Planning Commission  
(PCRPC) will hold a Public  
Workshop regarding the Piatt  
County Comprehensive Plan  
Draft at 7:00pm on Tuesday,  
August 18, 2009, Rotary  
Room, Monticello Communi-  
ty Building, 201 N. State  
Street, Monticello, IL 61856.

For more information, please  
contact Susan Chavarria at  
328-3313, Sharon Martin at  
687-2628, or Trish Gale at  
762-3111.

All meetings are open to the  
public. Dated this 7th day of  
August, 2009, at Monticello,  
IL

By:

Sharon Martin,  
Piatt County Board Chairman

Trish Gale,  
Secretary - PCRPC

965815 08/12

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# Procedures for PCRPC Public Hearing

August 18, 2009

- Procedures are at the discretion of the Chairman, within the parameters established by law
- If you would like to speak before the Commission, fill out and submit a Speaker Identification Form
- 5 minute time limit per speaker
- If presentation exceeds 5 minutes, the remainder can be presented in written form that will be conveyed to the Commission at their next meeting
- Representatives speaking on behalf of a group are welcome
- Questions should be directed to the Commission as a whole rather than toward a specific Commissioner
- Commissioners may ask questions of presenters
- No PowerPoint presentations are permitted
- Handouts can be provided to Commissioners during a presentation, but not to the audience; audience members can receive them before or after the public hearing so as not to disrupt the hearing process





Piatt County Regional Planning Commission  
August 18, 2009 Public Hearing  
PUBLIC SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to speak during the public hearing
- My attorney will represent me during the hearing  
Attorney's Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Someone else will speak on my behalf  
Representative's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Piatt County Regional Planning Commission  
August 18, 2009 Public Hearing  
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Attorney's Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Someone else will speak on my behalf  
Representative's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Piatt County Regional Planning Commission  
Public Hearing Sign-In

August 18, 2009

	Name	Organization	Address	City	ZIP	Phone	E-mail
1	Donald Douglas		1345 Treasure Lane	White Heath	61884	687-2684	
2	Brent Buckalew		8 Welsh Cob	White Heath	61884	687-4085	
3	K.E. Wittrock		1364 Treasure Lane	White Heath	61884	687-2868	
4	Peggy Currid		21 Riverview	White Heath	61884	687-4146	currid@gmail.com
5	Glen Parker		2171 Railroad St	Lodge	61856	762-2678	
6	Mark Heimburger		21 Riverview	White Heath	61884	687-4146	
7	John N. Stolla, Jr.		1019 Bucks Pond Road	Monticello	61856	778-6658	
8	Alice Ore		1352 Treasure Lane	White Heath	61884	687-2786	
9	Fred Ore		1352 Treasure Lane	White Heath	61884	687-2786	
10	Sally Nolan		1076 IL Rt 10	Monticello	61856	762-7791	
11	Richard Manuel		3094N 1300 E Rd	Mansfield	61854		
12	Shirley Sharp		2163 Wagon Trail Road	White Heath	61884		
13	Sheila Maloney		4 Welsh Cob	White Heath	61884	687-4180	
14	Marie Fiedler		23 Riverview	White Heath	61884		
15	R. Iderger		Box 141	Argenta	62501		
16	Shirley Hill	Sangamon Township Supervisor	2202 Wagon Trail Rd	White Heath	61884	621-8171	whirlgiri50@sbcglobal.net
17	Mark Ekbert		4 Welsh Cob	White Heath	61884	687-4180	
18	Stacy Bradshaw	Piatt County Farm Bureau	PO Box 223	Monticello	61856	762-2128	dietz@piattms.com
19	Gary Gonzini		1078 IL Rt 10	Monticello	61856	649-4908	glgonzini@harffiones.com
20	Anne Reeser		208 Kipling	Monticello	61856	762-5835	areeser@peoplepc.com

Piatt County Regional Planning Commission  
Public Hearing Sign-In

August 18, 2009

	Name	Organization	Address	City	ZIP	Phone	E-mail
21	Frank Carlisle	UIUC	1277 E IL Rt 10	White Heath	61884	772-0601	
22	Sam Elson	UIUC	63 Glenn Dr	White Heath	61884	687-4081	
23	Michelle Hansen	Piatt Journal Republican		Monticello	61856	762-2511	
24	Tina Klebek		1371 Treasure Lane	White Heath	61884	687-2626	
25	Chuck Burmeister		1371 Treasure Lane	White Heath	61884	687-2626	
26	Joseph T Houska		1365 Treasure Lane	White Heath	61884	687-2604	
27	Lee Ann Rotz		2186 Wagon Trail Rd	White Heath	61884	687-4250	
28	Michael Workman		42 Glenn Dr	White Heath	61884	687-4089	mwrkmmn33@aol.com
29	Laura Workman		42 Glenn Dr	White Heath	61884	687-4089	mwrkmmn33@aol.com
30	Kenneth Aronson		2194 Wagon Trail Rd	White Heath	61884	687-4687	karonson@hughes.net
31	Sandra Hardin		5 Welsh Cob	White Heath	61884		sghardin@hotmail.com
32	Roberta Hardin		2167 Center St	Lodge	61856	762-2065	
33	Wayne Winston		5001 Surrey Rd	Monticello	61856	762-9758	wayne@weelee.net
34	Alan Fletcher		52 Glenn Drive	White Heath	61884		aandkfletch@yahoo.com
35	Kathryn Fletcher		52 Glenn Drive	White Heath	61884		aandkfletch@yahoo.com
36	Barry Allison		2139 N 1275 E	White Heath	61884	687-4099	
37	Delores Paul		1428 E IL Rt 47	Seymour	61875	687-2850	
38	Patti Silver		1371 E 2250 N Rd	White Heath	61884	687-2746	
39	Ann Wilson		2124 N 1300 E Rd	White Heath	61884	687-4004	
40	Margaret Bateman		1370 E 1800 N	Monticello	61856	762-3229	

**Piatt County Regional Planning Commission  
Public Hearing Sign-In**

August 18, 2009

	Name	Organization	Address	City	ZIP	Phone	E-mail
41	Donna Caldwell		253 S Moreland	Decatur	62521	454-8411	
42	Tom Burtness	Wagon Trail Rd HOA	2195 Wagon Trail Rd	White Heath	61884	687-4450	
43	Mark Yarbrough		4 Hickory Ln	White Heath	61884	649-9162	
44	Dean Beazly		1107 E 3000 N Rd	Mansfield	61854	899-1438	
45	Jeff Harshbarger		1484 E 325 N Rd	Atwood	61913	578-3114	
46	Grace Harshbarger		1484 E 325 N Rd	Atwood	61913	578-3114	
47	Kim File		2180 Wagon Trail Rd	White Heath	61884	687-4063	afle@illinois.edu
48	Allan File		2180 Wagon Trail Rd	White Heath	61884	687-4063	allan.file@carle.com
49	Polly Hill		2200 Wagon Trail Rd	White Heath	61884	687-5081	hillpo@champaignschools.org
50	Michael Novak		2186 Wagon Trail Rd	White Heath	61884	687-4250	noropro@gmail.com
51	Kevin Noland		2122 N 1300 East	White Heath	61884	687-2866	KLN2122@yahoo.com
52	Debbie Harper		14 Sand Lake Rd	Monticello	61856	762-8688	zoey23@pdnt.com
53	Jack Harper		14 Sand Lake Rd	Monticello	61856	762-8688	zoey23@pdnt.com
54	Jim Brewer		53 Glenn Dr	White Heath	61884	687-2756	
55	Joan Villa		5 Paradise Ln	White Heath	61884	687-4510	joanvenice@aol.com
56	Lee Winston-Wright		1005 Surrey Rd	Monticello	61856	762-9758	lee@weelee.net
57	Sharon Martin	Piatt County Board	2244 Wagon Trail Rd	White Heath	61884	687-2628	
58	John Lyons	Piatt County Board, PCRPC	231 N Main	Atwood	61913	578-3142	
59	Dick Wilkin	Piatt County Board, PCRPC	502 E Washington	Monticello	61856		
60	Sandy Manuel	PCRPC	3094N 1300 E Rd	Mansfield	61854		

Piatt County Regional Planning Commission  
Public Hearing Sign-In

August 18, 2009

	Name	Organization	Address	City	ZIP	Phone	E-mail
61	Jonathon Manuel	PCRPC	2 Village Road	Mansfield	61854	722-5399	
62	Paul Quick	PCRPC	211 W Locust	Atwood	61913	578-2562	
63	Randy Keith	PCRPC	2084 Shady Rest Rd	Monticello	61856	762-2228	
64	David Sherman	PCRPC	110 W South St	Mansfield	61854	489-2091	
65	Paul Doane	PCRPC	1184 E IL Rt 10	Monticello	61856	493-7702	
66	Joann Shafer	PCRPC	245 Dodge, PO Box 152	Cisco	61830	669-2216	
67	Dale Allen	PCRPC	401 Western	Deland	61839	664-3675	
68	Jim Reed	PCRPC	741 E 1950 N	Monticello	61856		



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## APPENDIX 3: PHONE SURVEY

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# **Piatt County Market Research Telephone Study**

**With emphasis on public perceptions as related to updating  
the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan**

**Conducted for  
Piatt County and Champaign County Regional  
Planning Commission**

**July 14 – 18, 2008**

**Report prepared by:  
Dick Adams  
Jan Kiley**

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Healthcare .....	25
Culture.....	25

## Executive Summary

Piatt County residents give their highest praise to “fire protection” and “ambulance service” among seven county **services** tested. (Overall positive includes evaluations of “excellent” and “good,” overall negative includes “fair” and “poor.”)

Service	Overall Positive	Overall Negative
Fire protection (Question # 2)	82%	7%
Ambulance service (Q.1)	78	8
Garbage collection (Q.5)	76	19
Police protection (Q.3)	75	19
Drinking water (Q.7)	71	22
Maintenance of roads (Q.4)	46	54
Availability & location of recycling services (Q.6)	39	49

“Public libraries” top the list when survey participants evaluate six Piatt County **amenities**.

Amenity	Overall Positive	Overall Negative
Public libraries (Q.8)	82%	12%
The buildings for public schools (Q.13)	78	16
Overall healthcare services (Q.10)	77	15
Parks and recreation facilities (Q.12)	77	20
Care services for senior citizens (Q.9)	64	13
Public meeting facilities (Q.11)	57	25

But seven **community features** of Piatt County are rated less positively overall, with about half receiving generally negative evaluations

Community Feature	Overall Positive	Overall Negative
Availability of community events in general (Q.17)	65%	30%
Availability/maintenance of public sidewalks (Q.18)	58	36
Recreation facilities & programs for children (Q.15)	56	36
Access to the arts (Q.14)	45	45
Recreation facilities & programs for adults (Q.16)	33	54
Availability of facilities for bicycling (Q.19)	32	57
Availability of public mass transit options (Q.20)	28	58

Using a four-point satisfaction scale (ranging from “very satisfied” to “very dissatisfied),” survey participants show general satisfaction with eight **characteristics** of Piatt County life.

Characteristic	Overall Satisfied	Overall Dissatisfied
Rural living (Q.27)	92%	3%
Community spirit (Q.28)	91	7
Schools in Piatt County (Q.21)	88	5
Housing options (Q.24)	83	12
Recreational facilities in general (Q.22)	75	19
Shopping convenience in general (Q.25)	73	26
Cultural activities (Q.26)	59	33
Transportation options (Q.23)	50	38

Piatt County residents feel strongly about “protecting the natural environment” and “maintaining the agricultural character” of the county. But they also favor “new business & shopping opportunities” as well as development in general, although the “costs and benefits to taxpayers” should be made available to the public on proposed development projects. These responses come on 10 statements using a four-point “agree/disagree” scale.

Statement	Overall Agree	Overall Disagree
Piatt County should protect the natural environment (Q.41)	96%	2%
The agricultural character of Piatt County should be maintained (Q.38)	96	3
Proposals for development should include accurate and publicly available descriptions of costs and benefits to taxpayers (Q.34)	94	3
New business and shopping opportunities should be promoted (Q.39)	94	5
I support efforts to create new jobs in the area (Q.32)	93	6
Development should be coordinated with available infrastructure (Q.40)	90	8
Economic development is an important part of the future in Piatt county (Q.36)	89	9
I would recommend the county to a friend as a good location for business (Q.37)	78	18
I am concerned that nearly 60-percent of the Piatt County workforce works outside the county (Q.33)	70	26
Piatt County lacks the infrastructure needed to support new business (Q.35)	61	28

Three questions deal with respondents’ shopping habits:

- Just 30% respond “yes” when asked if they “do the majority of your shopping within Piatt County?” (Q.29)
- Of those who do most shopping *outside* Piatt County, 77% report they go to Champaign-Urbana and 26% to Decatur. (A few mention both.) (Q. 30)
- Just over half (51%) report they can get “most of... daily shopping needs within walking distance of... home or job.” (Q. 31)

Questions asking survey participants to name “one or two main [strengths/weaknesses] of Piatt County” (Q. 42-43) produce these responses (the table shows issues named by 4% or more):

Strengths		Weaknesses	
Schools	33%	Lack of stores, shopping	14%
Small town, rural atmosphere	26	Lack of development, industry	10
Location, near Champaign-Urbana	12	Lack of available jobs	10
Safe place to live	11	Lack of recreation, things to do	10
Community spirit/cooperation	10	Problems with roads, streets	7
Friendliness	9	Lack of communication	6
Agriculture	9	No mass transit, airport	6
Good healthcare	5	Taxes too high	5
Relatively low taxes	5	Location, too near Champ.-Urbana	4
The people	5	Government, political issues	4
Quiet, solitude	5	Lack of infrastructure	4
Just a good place to live	4		
Small population	4		
Don’t know	8%	Don’t know	19%

Grouping together responses on various questions by subject matter leads to some general observations:

- It appears respondents are least satisfied with various aspects of **transportation** in Piatt County. Negative evaluations (“fair” or “poor”) go to the maintenance of roads (54%), mass transit options (58%), and facilities for bicycling (57%), and just 50% are satisfied overall with the county’s transportation options.
- **Recreation** receives somewhat mixed results. While there are positive (“excellent” or “good”) evaluations overall for parks and recreation facilities (77%), the positive percentage is lower on recreation for children (56%), and ratings of recreation for adults are on the negative side (54% negative to 33% positive).
- Piatt County **schools** get good marks overall. One-third of survey participants name schools as the county’s main strength, and almost nine-in-ten (88%) say they’re satisfied with Piatt County schools.
- **Public safety** institutions are also highly rated, with both fire protection (82%) and police protection (75%) receiving far more positive evaluations than negative ones. And respondents citing Piatt County as a “safe place to live” outnumber those mentioning “crime” as a problem by better than 10 to 1.
- On **healthcare**, more than three-out-of-four evaluate both overall healthcare (77%) and ambulance service (78%) on the positive side. However, care services for seniors receive just 64% positive ratings.
- And while nearly three-in-five (59%) are satisfied overall with the availability of **cultural activities**, one-third are dissatisfied. And “access to the arts” receives equal numbers of negative (45%) and positive (45%) evaluations.

These results are based on 336 telephone interviews completed July 14-18, 2008 with members of randomly-selected Piatt County households. Respondents were screened to insure that they did live in Piatt County and were at least 18 years of age.

#

## Purpose

This survey was designed to gather input from Piatt County residents on issues facing the county and to assist the Piatt County Regional Planning Commission regarding the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Update. The questionnaire was developed jointly by the Regional Planning Commission and Research Survey Service, Inc.

## Methodology

Potential respondents for this survey were selected randomly from a universe of listed telephone numbers in Piatt County. Participants were screened to insure that they did live in Piatt County and that they were at least 18 years of age. For the most part, respondents within a household were selected randomly using the “last birthday” method.

An initial call, and up to three call-backs, were made in an efforts to contact as many households as possible from the initially drawn sample. This report is based on a total of 336 completed interviews.

The interviewing was carried out July 14-18, 2008 from the Research Survey Service calling center in Champaign. Most interviews were completed between the hours of 5 and 9 PM, although requests from individual respondents to be contacted at more convenient times for them were honored. Seven experienced interviewers worked on the project. At least one, and most often two, supervisors were on duty during the interviewing. For quality control purposes, at least 10% of each interviewer’s work was confirmed through follow-up calls.

There were no strict quotas designated for or applied to the interviewing for this project. However, supervisors at times used modified quota sampling procedures to insure that broad demographic segments of the Piatt County population were represented in the completed interviews, particularly with regard to gender and age.

The following tables compare demographic data on gender (Q. 51) and age (Q. 44) from the total completed sample to data from the 2000 U.S. Census:

<u>Gender</u>	Survey	Census	<u>Age</u>	Survey	Census
Female	57%	52%	18 – 24	2%	9%
Male	43	48	25 – 34	14	14
			35 – 44	23	23
			45 – 54	21	19
			55 – 64	16	14
			65+	24	21

## Employment

Information on employment was sought from each survey participant – specifically, did they work outside the home, and if they did, in which county was their job located. (Q. 48) The tables on the next page summarize this information. (A small number of respondents listed more than one county in which they work.)

<u>Not Employed</u>	#	%	<u>Where employed</u>	#	%
Retired	83	25%	Piatt County	90	27%
Don't work outside home	26	8	Champaign County	81	24
Unemployed	5	1	Macon County	35	10
Disabled	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Douglas County	6	2
			DeWitt County	4	1
			Other	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>
Totals	116	35%	Totals	230	68%

The 90 survey participants who said they work in Piatt County represent just under 40% of the 230 reporting a work location. This means that roughly 60% of Piatt County respondents who said they work do so outside their home county.

### Location

Survey participants were asked if they lived in an incorporated area or an unincorporated one. Those who said "incorporated area" were asked to name the city, town, or village, and those saying "unincorporated" were asked for their township. Finally, for purposes of tabulation and analysis, the county was then divided into five geographic regions.

#### Incorporated/Unincorporated

	#	%
Incorporated	230	68%
Unincorporated	106	32

#### Incorporated/town

	#	%
Monticello	136	40%
Bement	26	8
Cerro Gordo	24	7
Mansfield	16	5
Atwood	11	3
Hammond	8	2
Deland	7	2
Cisco	2	1

#### Unincorporated/township

	#	%
Sangamon twp.	40	12%
Monticello twp.	20	6
W. Branch twp.	15	4
Cerro Gordo twp.	12	3
Goose Creek twp.	10	3
Blue Ridge twp.	4	1
Bement twp.	3	1
Unity twp.	2	1

#### County Divisions\*

	#	%
Central	156	46%
Northwest	17	5
Northeast	60	18
Southwest	53	16
Southeast	50	15

\* County divisions defined:

- Central - Monticello Township, Monticello
- Northwest - Goose Creek Township, Deland
- Northeast - Blue Ridge Township, Mansfield (and unincorporated Harris)  
Sangamon Township (unincorporated Lodge, Galesville, Centerville, White Heath)
- Southwest - Cerro Gordo Township, Cerro Gordo (and unincorporated LaPlace, Lintner, Milmine)  
Willow Branch Township, Cisco
- Southeast - Bement Township, Bement  
Unity Township, Hammond, part of Atwood (and unincorporated Pierson Station)

### **Other Demographic Data**

Information was also collected from respondents on annual household income (Q. 50) and home ownership (Q. 49)

<b><u>Household Income</u></b>			<b><u>Home Ownership</u></b>		
	#	%		#	%
Under \$15,000	11	3%	Own	311	93%
\$15-\$30,000	21	9	Rent	24	7
\$30-\$45,000	41	12	Refused	1	<1
\$45-\$60,000	59	18			
\$60-\$75,000	47	14			
\$75-\$90,000	45	13			
\$90,000+	69	21			
Refused	28	8			
Don't know	4	1			
No Answer	1	<1			

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## Introduction to Survey Results

For the most part in this report, survey results are reported in the same order as the questions were asked during the survey interviews.

The maximum margin of sampling error for the total sample of 336 completed interviews is plus or minus 5.5 percentage points. However, the error margin is larger for sub-groups, such as those used in demographic comparisons.

Statistical significance is calculated at the 95% confidence level, and some results are noted using words or phrases such as “significant” or “statistically significant.” (Statistical significance may not be noted in all situations, such as those in which a difference in percentages is obviously substantial).

Results noted as significant almost always reflect true differences in the opinions and responses of the populations studied, and not differences due to chance or the randomness of the sample selected. For example, in a discussion of community amenities on page 10, it’s noted that the top four amenities shown in the table “have statistically significant leads over the bottom two” in terms of the percentages of positive evaluations given to each.

This predicts that, 19 times out of 20 (95% of the time) on a survey with a sample of completed interviews this size (336), the percentage of positive evaluations on the amenities tested will not deviate more than the margin of error from results that would be obtained if the entire eligible population of Piatt County were interviewed. It also predicts that, in a survey of the entire county population, the top four amenities would receive more positive evaluations than the other two.

Some tables in the report do not show all possible answers. This is especially the case with regard to open-ended questions, where results may be shown only for the top response categories and not for all of the dozens of categories used. Examples in this report include tables showing responses to questions where participants named the major strengths and weaknesses of Piatt County. However, all responses on all questions are displayed with the survey questionnaire attached at the back of this report book and in the demographic cross-tabulation results provided separately.

It should also be noted that percentages shown on tables in the body of this report may sometimes differ from those on the results questionnaire and cross-tabs. This is because, in some cases, “not asked” or “don’t know” responses have been eliminated in the calculation of tables in the report in order to provide clearer and more meaningful information. An example is the table on page 19 showing the counties visited by survey participants who do the majority of their shopping outside Piatt County.

Throughout this report, some totals may not add to exactly 100% due to rounding or multiple responses.

## Piatt County Services

Fire protection and ambulance services are the most-praised of seven Piatt County services tested in this survey. By contrast, road maintenance and recycling services are the most criticized.

This is how the series of questions was introduced:

“... I’m going to ask you to rate some specific features associated with living in Piatt County. The scale we’ll be using is ‘excellent,’ ‘good,’ ‘fair’ and ‘poor.’ How would you rate these community services....”

“The first is ambulance service in Piatt County?” (Q. 1)

“How about fire protection?” (Q. 2)

“Police protection?” (Q. 3)

“The maintenance of roads?” (Q. 4)

“Garbage collection?” (Q. 5)

“The availability and location of recycling services?” (Q. 6)

“Drinking water?” (Q. 7)

The table shows the services tested, listed in rank order based on the percentage of overall positive (“excellent” or “good”) evaluations.

The top five are bunched fairly closely on overall positive percentages, and the margins between all services in this group of five and the bottom two are statistically significant. Three of the five – “fire protection,” “ambulance service” and “police protection” – are also in a narrow range based on the percentage of “excellent” evaluations.

On the negative side, maintenance of roads has the most overall negative ratings, and it and recycling services are the only ones with more negative evaluations than positive.

### Piatt County Services (% of total sample)

Service	Excel.	Good	Overall Positive	Fair	Poor	Overall Negative	Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
1. Fire Protection	40%	42%	<b>82%</b>	6%	1%	<b>7%</b>	1%	10%
2. Ambulance service	41	36	<b>78</b>	7	1	<b>8</b>	1	13
3. Garbage collection	23	53	<b>76</b>	14	5	<b>19</b>	4	1
4. Police protection	37	38	<b>75</b>	16	3	<b>19</b>	1	5
5. Drinking water	30	40	<b>71</b>	13	9	<b>22</b>	7	-
6. Maintenance of roads	7	38	<b>46</b>	36	18	<b>54</b>	-	<1
7. Recycling services	11	28	<b>39</b>	16	33	<b>49</b>	5	7

*Demographic comparisons* – While there are no huge differences across demographic sub-groups regarding evaluations of these seven Piatt County services, there are some interesting patterns. These are seen not only in responses on the seven services noted above, but also with regard to the six Piatt County “amenities” and seven “features” summarized in subsequent sections of this report.

For one thing, residents of incorporated areas are consistently more likely to give positive (“excellent” or “good”) evaluations than are those in rural, unincorporated parts of the county. And the average difference across all 20 of the items surveyed is approximately 10-percentage points. In a similar manner, residents of the “central” region of the county (Monticello city and Monticello township) provide an average of 10-percentage points more in positive evaluations than do those living elsewhere.

Again across all 20 items (“services,” “amenities” and “features”), the average percentage of positive ratings increases with the age of the respondent. The average difference is about 15 percentage points between the positive evaluations given by those in the 25-34 age group (55% positive) and the ratings coming from seniors 65+ (72% positive). And there’s a roughly 10-point difference across the range of household incomes, although in the opposite direction. There, the average percentage of positive evaluations drops from just under 70% in households with less than \$15,000 in income to under 60% among households where incomes total \$60,000 or greater.

Looking specifically at the seven services, “fire protection” receives the most positive ratings across most sub-groups. However, seniors (age 65+) give it 75% positive evaluations, putting this item fourth behind “ambulance service” (90%), “garbage collection” (89%) and “police protection” (86% positive).

Survey participants with household incomes above \$90,000 are just 74% positive about “fire protection,” ranking it 3<sup>rd</sup> behind “police protection” (75%) and “drinking water” (81%). “Drinking water” also ranks highest among residents of the central division (Monticello city and township), where 91% give it positive evaluations, compared to 86% positive for “fire protection.” Just over half (53%) of residents outside Monticello city and township give positive evaluations to their “drinking water.”

## Community Amenities

Public libraries and public school buildings receive the most positive ratings among six “amenities” of life in Piatt County tested in this survey.

The identical four-point rating scale was used here, with this introduction:

“Now we’ll look at some community amenities in Piatt County. On the same scale of ‘excellent,’ ‘good,’ ‘fair’ and ‘poor,’ how would you rate...”

“Public libraries?” (Q. 8)

“Care services for senior citizens?” (Q. 9)

“Overall healthcare services?” (Q. 10)

“Public meeting facilities?” (Q. 11)

“Parks and recreation facilities?” (Q. 12)

“The buildings for public schools?” (Q. 13)

Once again, rank order is based on the percentage of overall positive comments, and on that basis, the top four have statistically significant leads over the bottom two. However, it should be noted that both “care services for seniors” and “public meeting facilities” have substantially higher percentages of “don’t know” responses than any of the other four.

Looking at these results another way, the ratio of positive to negative evaluations is greatest – almost 7 to 1 – for public libraries. Other ratios are roughly 5 to 1 on “public school buildings,” “overall healthcare services,” and “care for seniors,” 4 to 1 for “parks and recreation facilities,” but just over 2 to 1 for “public meeting facilities.” It’s notable, though, that all of the amenities tested have far more overall positive evaluations than negative.

### Piatt County Community Amenities

(% of total sample)

Service	Excel.	Good	Overall Positive	Fair	Poor	Overall Negative	Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
1. Public Libraries	42%	40%	<b>82%</b>	7%	5%	<b>12%</b>	1%	5%
2. Public school buildings	35	43	<b>78</b>	13	3	<b>16</b>	1	5
3. Overall healthcare	32	45	<b>77</b>	12	3	<b>15</b>	1	6
- Parks, recreation	31	46	<b>77</b>	16	4	<b>20</b>	1	2
5. Care for seniors	27	37	<b>64</b>	9	4	<b>13</b>	1	22
6. Meeting facilities	12	45	<b>57</b>	20	6	<b>25</b>	1	17

*Demographic comparisons* – The overall average differences noted earlier across demographic categories are seen with these “amenities” too. The percentage of positive evaluations tends to increase with the age of the respondent, and to decline as household income grows. And average evaluations tend to be roughly 10 points higher from survey participants living in the central division (Monticello city and township) than elsewhere, and almost 10-points higher among respondents residing in incorporated areas compared to rural regions.

This last division is most pronounced on the evaluations of “public libraries.” Libraries get 89% positive ratings from those in incorporated areas, but just 68% from rural residents, and the difference is statistically significant.

## Community Features

Responses are not nearly as positive on the final seven “community features” evaluated with the same four-point “excellent” to “poor” scoring plan.

These were the features:

“Access to the arts?” (Q. 14)

“Recreation facilities and programs for children?” (Q. 15)

“Recreation facilities and programs for adults?” (Q. 16)

“The availability of community events in general?” (Q. 17)

“The availability and maintenance of public sidewalks?” (Q. 18)

“The availability of facilities for bicycling?” (Q. 19)

“The availability of public mass transit options?” (Q. 20)

As the following table shows, none of the seven features achieves even 20% “excellent” ratings. By contrast, 10 of the 13 items tested in the first two sections (“services” and “amenities”) exceed the 20% mark on evaluations of “excellent.”

In addition, only three of the seven features here – “availability of community events,” “availability and maintenance of public sidewalks” and “recreation facilities and programs for children” – attain a majority of overall positive ratings. The bottom three have negative majorities. (Once again, the features are shown in rank order based on the percentage of overall positive evaluations.)

### Piatt County Community Features (% of total sample)

Service	Excel.	Good	Overall Positive	Fair	Poor	Overall Negative	Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
1. Community events	15%	51%	<b>65%</b>	23%	7%	<b>30%</b>	-	5%
2. Public sidewalks	9	49	<b>58</b>	23	13	<b>36</b>	4	2
3. Recreation for children	18	38	<b>56</b>	26	10	<b>36</b>	1	7
4. Access to the arts	11	34	<b>45</b>	29	15	<b>45</b>	<1	10
5. Recreation for adults	4	29	<b>33</b>	35	20	<b>54</b>	-	12
6. Facilities for bicycling	5	26	<b>32</b>	34	23	<b>57</b>	2	10
7. Mass transit	7	21	<b>28</b>	22	37	<b>58</b>	6	7

*Demographic comparisons* – The same age and income differences show up with these “features” too, with the oldest respondents, those with the lowest household incomes, Monticello township residents, and urban residents, all generally providing more positive evaluations than others.

“Community events” receive the highest percentages of positive ratings across all sub-groups except two. Those with household incomes of \$90,000+ give “public sidewalks” 70% positive to 62% positive for “community events.” And residents of the southeast division of Piatt County (Bement and Unity Townships) give public sidewalks 66% positive, “community events” 62%.

## Services, Amenities and Features Compared

Although there is a certain “apples and oranges” nature to it, a comparison, in one table, of the evaluations of Piatt County “services,” “amenities,” and “features” is interesting. All three use the same four-point “excellent” to “poor” scale.

Here, they are ranked based on the percentage of overall positive ratings.

### Piatt County Services, Amenities and Features Compared (% of total sample)

Service	Excel.	Good	Overall Positive	Fair	Poor	Overall Negative	Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
1. Public Libraries	42%	40%	<b>82%</b>	7%	5%	<b>12%</b>	1%	5%
- Fire Protection	40	42	<b>82</b>	6	1	<b>7</b>	1	10
3. Ambulance service	41	36	<b>78</b>	7	1	<b>8</b>	1	13
- Public school buildings	35	43	<b>78</b>	13	3	<b>16</b>	1	5
5. Overall healthcare	32	45	<b>77</b>	12	3	<b>15</b>	1	6
- Parks, recreation	31	46	<b>77</b>	16	4	<b>20</b>	1	2
7. Garbage collection	23	53	<b>76</b>	14	5	<b>19</b>	4	1
8. Police protection	37	38	<b>75</b>	16	3	<b>19</b>	1	5
9. Drinking water	30	40	<b>71</b>	13	9	<b>22</b>	7	-
10. Community events	15	51	<b>65</b>	23	7	<b>30</b>	-	5
11. Care for seniors	27	37	<b>64</b>	9	4	<b>13</b>	1	22
12. Public sidewalks	9	49	<b>58</b>	23	13	<b>36</b>	4	2
13. Meeting facilities	12	45	<b>57</b>	20	6	<b>25</b>	1	17
14. Recreation for children	18	38	<b>56</b>	26	10	<b>36</b>	1	7
15. Maintenance of roads	7	38	<b>46</b>	36	18	<b>54</b>	-	<1
16. Access to the arts	11	34	<b>45</b>	29	15	<b>45</b>	<1	10
17. Recycling services	11	28	<b>39</b>	16	33	<b>49</b>	5	7
18. Recreation for adults	4	29	<b>33</b>	35	20	<b>54</b>	-	12
19. Facilities for bicycling	5	26	<b>32</b>	34	23	<b>57</b>	2	10
20. Mass transit	7	21	<b>28</b>	22	37	<b>58</b>	6	7
<i>Averages</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i><b>61%</b></i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i><b>30%</b></i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>7%</i>



## Satisfaction with Piatt County Characteristics

Ratings are on a generally positive note when respondents are asked about their levels of satisfaction with eight specific Piatt County characteristics. Roughly three-in-five say they are “very satisfied” with “rural living,” “community spirit” and “Piatt county schools.” And majorities are at least “somewhat satisfied” with the other five.

The section was introduced with this:

“People often choose where to live based on their satisfaction with the amenities available. Next, I’d like you to tell me how satisfied you are with the following amenities in Piatt County. For each one, tell me if you’re ‘very satisfied,’ ‘somewhat satisfied,’ ‘somewhat dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied...’

“How about the schools in Piatt County?” (Q. 21)

“Recreational facilities in general?” (Q. 22)

“Transportation options?” (Q. 23)

“Housing options?” (Q. 24)

“Shopping convenience in general?” (Q. 25)

“Cultural activities?” (Q. 26)

“Rural living?” (Q. 27)

“Community spirit?” (Q. 28)

The characteristics are ranked in the next table based on the percentage indicating overall satisfaction (“very satisfied” plus “somewhat satisfied”).

The top three – rural living, community spirit, and Piatt County schools – all receive judgments of “very satisfied” significantly more often than the other five.

### Satisfaction with Piatt County Characteristics

(% of total sample)

Service	-----Satisfied-----			-----Dissatisfied-----			Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
	Very	Some-what	Overall Satisfied	Some-what	Very	Overall Dissatisfied		
1. Rural living	59%	33%	<b>92%</b>	2%	1%	<b>3%</b>	2%	3%
2. Community spirit	59	32	<b>91</b>	5	2	<b>7</b>	-	1
3. Piatt County schools	60	28	<b>88</b>	4	1	<b>5</b>	2	5
4. Housing options	40	43	<b>83</b>	9	3	<b>12</b>	<1	5
5. Recreational facilities	24	51	<b>75</b>	14	5	<b>19</b>	1	5
6. Shopping convenience	24	48	<b>73</b>	16	10	<b>26</b>	-	1
7. Cultural activities	15	44	<b>59</b>	23	10	<b>33</b>	2	6
8. Transportation options	13	37	<b>50</b>	18	20	<b>38</b>	4	8

*Demographic comparisons* – There are few differences in satisfaction levels across the demographic sub-groups. Looking at averages for all 8 characteristics, 82% of those residing in the central division (Monticello city and township) indicate overall satisfaction, compared to 71% of survey participants living in other parts of the county, but the difference is not statistically significant.

With regard to individual items, homeowners are more satisfied than renters with “housing options,” by a margin of 84% to 75%. And 86% of respondents under age 45 say they are satisfied with “shopping convenience” compared to just 61% of those 55 and older, and that difference is significant.

## **Economic Development and Piatt County's Future**

Strong majorities of Piatt County residents want to protect the natural environment and maintain the agricultural character of the county, while also promoting new businesses and shopping opportunities. And while they generally support economic development, they believe both the costs and benefits of proposed development projects should be made clear to taxpayers.

These priorities are seen in responses to 10 questions dealing with economic development and the future of the county. Survey participants were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement with the following statements on a four-point scale – “strongly agree,” “somewhat agree,” “somewhat disagree” or “strongly disagree.”

“I support efforts to create new jobs in the area.” (Q. 32)

“I am concerned that nearly 60-percent of the Piatt County workforce works outside the county.” (Q. 33)

“Proposals for development should include accurate and publicly available descriptions of costs and benefits to county taxpayers.” (Q. 34)

“Piatt County lacks the infrastructure needed to support new business.” (Q. 35)

“Economic development is an important part of the future of Piatt County.” (Q. 36)

“I would recommend Piatt County to a friend as a good location for business.” (Q. 37)

“The agricultural character of Piatt County should be maintained now and into the future.” (Q. 38)

“New business and shopping opportunities should be promoted.” (Q. 39)

“Development should be coordinated with available infrastructure.” (Q. 40)

“Piatt County should protect the natural environment.” (Q. 41)

The table on the next page shows a comparison of the responses to these ten questions. The statements are in rank order, based on the percentage of respondents indicating overall agreement (“strongly agree” or “somewhat agree”).

Note that more than 7-in-10 *strongly* agree about maintaining the natural environment and the county's agricultural character while at the same time promoting new business and shopping. Roughly the same percentages agree that development is an important part of the future but that both the benefits and costs of development should be explained to taxpayers.

**Agree/Disagree re: Statements on Economic Development/Piatt County Future**  
(% of total sample)

Statement	-----Agree-----			-----Disagree-----			
	Strongly	Some- what	Overall Agree	Some- what	Strongly	Overall Disagree	Don't Know
1. Should protect natural environment	78%	17%	<b>96%</b>	2%	1%	<b>2%</b>	2%
- Maintain agricultural character	75	21	<b>96</b>	2	1	<b>3</b>	1
3. Make development cost/benefits public	77	17	<b>94</b>	3	1	<b>3</b>	2
- Promote new business, shopping	72	22	<b>94</b>	4	2	<b>5</b>	1
5. Support efforts to create new jobs	68	25	<b>93</b>	3	3	<b>6</b>	1
6. Development coordinated with infrastructure	65	25	<b>90</b>	7	<1	<b>8</b>	2
7. Development is important part of future	71	18	<b>89</b>	5	4	<b>9</b>	2
8. Would recommend Piatt Co. to a friend	40	38	<b>78</b>	10	8	<b>18</b>	4
9. Concerned that 60% work outside Piatt	46	24	<b>70</b>	19	7	<b>26</b>	4
10. Piatt lacks infrastructure for new business	30	31	<b>61</b>	20	9	<b>28</b>	11

*Demographic comparisons* – There are very few notable differences on any of these statements. Levels of overall agreement are at 90% and higher among *all* the major demographic sub-groups on the top two – “protect the natural environment” and “maintain the agricultural character of Piatt County.” And on the next five statements, which have overall agreement percentages from 89% to 94%, the levels of agreement are almost as uniformly high across the demographic spectrum.

The statement “I am concerned that 60% of the Piatt County workforce works outside the county” does produce some differences. Only about two-thirds (68%) of homeowners agree, while there is agreement from 92% of renters. Regarding the same statement, there is agreement from just over half (54%) of participants in the highest income group (\$90,000+), compared to roughly three-quarters (74%) of households under \$90,000. Both of these differences are significant.

And on the statement “Piatt County lacks the infrastructure for new business” there is agreement from just 53% of central division residents (Monticello city and township), compared to 67% in the rest of the county. However, this difference does not quite rise to the level of statistical significance.

## Shopping

Seven-in-ten Piatt County residents do the majority of their shopping outside the county, and by a three-to-one margin they pick Champaign-Urbana over Decatur. However, about half indicate they can get most daily shopping needs met within walking distance of their home or job.

The initial question in the shopping series asked:

“Overall, do you do the majority of your shopping within Piatt County?” (Q. 29)

As the following table shows, just 30% say they can satisfy most shopping needs close to home.

### Majority of Shopping Within Piatt County? (% of total sample)

Yes	30%
No	70

*Demographic comparisons* – Majorities of the oldest respondents, and those in the lower ranges of household income, are the only ones answering “yes,” they do the majority of their shopping within Piatt County. By age, 54% of the 65+ group stay in their home county, versus just 22% of younger respondents. And 51% of residents with household incomes under \$45,000 also report shopping at home, compared to 21% of survey participants with incomes of \$45,000 and up.

By geographic area, 40% of residents in the central division (Monticello city and township) say they stay in the county to shop; in contrast, the northeast division (Blue Ridge and Sangamon Townships) has 92% reporting they leave Piatt County to shop, just 8% stay at home. And 35% of women, versus 23% of men, say the majority of their shopping is in Piatt County.

\* \* \* \* \*

Those answering “no” were then asked:

“If not, where do you do the majority of your shopping?” (Q. 30)

Champaign-Urbana is mentioned as a shopping destination by more than three-in-four, Decatur is selected by roughly one-in-four. (Some respondents name more than one place they shop.)

### Where Do You Do Your Shopping? (% of those shopping outside Piatt County)

Champaign-Urbana	77%
Decatur	26
Mt. Zion	2
Mattoon	1
Tuscola	1
Other	2

*Demographic comparisons* – Substantial majorities of most demographic sub-groups show a preference for Champaign-Urbana over Decatur as the place they shop out-of-county. The only exception is based on geography: By 85% to 25%, residents of the southwest division (Cerro Gordo and Willow Branch Townships) favor Decatur over C-U (and some mention both).

\* \* \* \* \*

Finally, Piatt County residents split almost equally on the other question of the series:

“Can you get most of your daily shopping needs within walking distance of your home or job?” (Q. 31)

**Get Most Daily Shopping Needs Within Walking Distance**  
(% of total sample)

Yes	51%
No	49

*Demographic comparisons* – The most striking difference here is based on in-town versus rural residence. Of those living in incorporated areas (cities, towns, villages), 70% answer “yes.” But among residents of unincorporated regions, just 8% say “yes.”

And 59% of those with household incomes under \$75,000 say they can shop within walking distance of home or job, compared to 39% of residents with incomes of \$75,000+. All these differences are significant.

Majorities in two of the county’s five geographic divisions answer “yes” – southeast (68%) and central (60%). Three have majorities responding “no” – northwest (82%), northeast (75%) and southwest (53%).

## Piatt County Strengths/Weaknesses

Near the end of the survey, two open-ended questions asked respondents to name “one or two main strengths [Q. 42]/weaknesses [Q. 43] of Piatt County.”

Just 8% say they “don’t know” about strengths, while 19% “don’t know” about weaknesses. That leaves 306 survey participants who offer a total of 615 comments on strengths, or an average of right at 2 comments per person. The 271 who provide weaknesses give a total of 459 comments, or about 1.7 per respondent. In total, 57% of the remarks are about Piatt County strengths, 43% about weaknesses.

Each comment on both questions has been assigned to one or more of roughly 50 categories.

The following table shows the comment categories – “strengths” and “weaknesses” – mentioned by 4% or more of all those surveyed. These categories represent about 70% of all comments received.

### Piatt County Strengths/Weaknesses (% of total sample)

Strengths		Weaknesses	
Schools	33%	Lack of stores, shopping	14%
Small town, rural atmosphere	26	Lack of development, industry	10
Location, near Champaign-Urbana	12	Lack of recreation, things to do	10
Safe place to live	11	Lack of available jobs	10
Community spirit/cooperation	10	Problems with roads, streets	7
Friendliness	9	Lack of communication	6
Agriculture	9	No mass transit, airport	6
Good healthcare	5	Taxes too high	5
Relatively low taxes	5	Location, too near Champ.-Urbana	4
The people	5	Government, political issues	4
Quiet, solitude	5	Lack of infrastructure	4
Just a good place to live	4		
Small population	4		

*Demographic comparisons* – Schools are named as “strengths” most often by the youngest respondents and those in the middle and upper income categories. Schools are mentioned by 42% of respondents under age 45, by 33% in the 45-54 age category, and by 25% of those 55 and older. Among residents with incomes of \$45,000 and above, schools are named as strengths by 39%, while they’re mentioned by 23% of those whose incomes are below \$45,000.

Comments about schools outnumber those about the “small town/rural atmosphere” by 47% to 21% in the central geographic division and by 41% to 35% in the northwest. Remarks about the “small town/rural atmosphere” predominate over comments about schools in the northeast (35% to 27%), southwest (32% to 19%) and southeast (22% to 10%).

\* \* \* \* \*

The next table pairs comment categories on the same or similar subjects. It takes categories meeting the 4% cut-off for either strengths or weaknesses and shows, in the other column, one or more categories covering identical or similar topics.

For example, 33% of respondents have made schools the most important strength. On the other hand, 3% contend the schools are a major weakness. Being close to the Champaign-Urbana metro area is viewed by 12% as a strength, but by 4% as a weakness, and so on.

**Piatt County Strengths/Weaknesses – Paired**  
(% of total sample)

<b>Strengths</b>		<b>Weaknesses</b>	
Schools	33%	Schools	3%
Small town, rural atmosphere	26	Small population	2
Location, near Champaign-Urbana	12	Location, too near Champ.-Urbana	4
Safe place to live	11	Crime	1
Community spirit/cooperation	10	Lack of comm.. spirit/cooperation	1
Friendliness	9	Not friendly, cliquish	1
Agriculture	9	Land use, developments	2
Good healthcare	5	Lack of healthcare	3
Relatively low taxes	5	Taxes too high	5
The people	5	The people	<1
Quiet, solitude	5	Growth mentality	3
Just a good place to live	4		
Small population	4		
Stores, shopping	1	Lack of stores, shopping	14
Economic development, industry	1}	Lack of development, industry	10
It's good there's not a lot of industry	1}		
Good labor force	1	Lack of available jobs	10
Allerton Park	3}		
Recreation, things to do	2}	Lack of recreation, things to do	10
Other parks	2}	Lack of parks	1
Good roads, streets	1	Problems with roads, streets	7
Transportation, airport	1	No mass transit, airport	6
		Lack of communication	6
		Government, political issues	4
Good infrastructure	<1	Lack of infrastructure	4



## Responses on Specific Issues

This section provides a different analysis – summarizing responses to questions dealing with similar issues. It looks again at statements and questions in the first three sections – services, amenities and features – which use the four-point “excellent” to “poor” scale, as well as the section using the four-point “satisfaction” scale to rate various Piatt County characteristics.

Also factored in are respondents’ suggestions for major county “strengths” and “weaknesses.”

### Transportation

On a variety of questions, respondents are critical of transportation in Piatt County.

For example, satisfaction with Piatt County “transportation options” (Q. 23) is the lowest for any of eight characteristics tested. Just 50% of Piatt County residents are overall satisfied (“very” or “somewhat”), while 38% are not satisfied (“not very” and “not at all”). By comparison, overall satisfaction with the other seven characteristics ranges from a high of 92% (“rural living”) down to 59% (“cultural activities”).

And looking at the extremes of the four-point scale, just 13% say they’re “very satisfied” with Piatt County transportation options, while 20% are “very dissatisfied.”

Service	-----Satisfied-----			-----Dissatisfied-----			Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
	Very	Some-what	Overall Satisfied	Some-what	Very	Overall Dissatisfied		
(Q.23)Transport. options	13%	37%	<b>50%</b>	18%	20%	<b>38%</b>	4%	8%

Overall positive evaluations of “the availability of public mass transit options” (Q. 20) are the lowest of any of the 20 services, features, and amenities tested. Just 28% give positive ratings (“excellent” or “good”) while 58% are negative (“fair” or “poor”).

“Facilities for bicycling” (Q. 19) ranks barely ahead of “mass transit options,” with just 32% positive evaluations versus 57% negative.

And the “maintenance of roads” in Piatt County (Q. 4) also gets more negative (54%) than positive (46%) evaluations.

But respondents are positive (by a 58% to 36% margin) in their ratings of “the availability and maintenance of public sidewalks” (Q. 18).

	Overall			Overall			Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
	Excel.	Good	Positive	Fair	Poor	Negative		
(Q.20) Mass transit	7%	21%	<b>28%</b>	22%	37%	<b>58%</b>	6%	7%
(Q.19) Bicycling	5	26	<b>32</b>	34	23	<b>57</b>	2	10
(Q.4 ) Maintenance of roads	7	38	<b>46</b>	36	18	<b>54</b>	-	<1
(Q.18) Public sidewalks	9	49	<b>58</b>	23	13	<b>36</b>	4	2

Finally, in listing the “strengths” and “weaknesses” of Piatt County, 7% of residents say roads and streets are a weakness, just 1% consider them a strength.

### Recreation

Recreation in Piatt County gets somewhat mixed reviews.

Three-fourths (75%) of survey participants are satisfied overall with “recreational facilities in general” (Q. 22). That ranks this item roughly in the middle of eight amenities tested

	-----Satisfied-----			-----Dissatisfied-----			Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
	Very	Some- what	Overall Satisfied	Some- what	Very	Overall Dissatisfied		
(Q.22) Recreation facilities	24%	51%	<b>75%</b>	14%	5%	<b>19%</b>	1%	5%

And in another question (Q. 12), “parks and recreation facilities” also get positive (“excellent” or “good”) evaluations from better than three-fourths (77%) of respondents.

However, when Piatt County residents are asked to judge more specific “recreation facilities and programs for children” (Q. 15), the positive ratings drop to 56% (versus 36% negative). And the ratio is negative (54% to 33%) regarding “recreation facilities and programs for adults” (Q. 16)

	Overall			Fair	Overall		Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
	Excel.	Good	Positive		Poor	Negative		
(Q.12) Parks, recreation	31%	46%	<b>77%</b>	16%	4%	<b>20%</b>	1%	2%
(Q.15) Rec. for children	18	38	<b>56</b>	26	10	<b>36</b>	1	7
(Q.16) Rec. for adults	4	29	<b>33</b>	35	20	<b>54</b>	-	12

And in the strengths/weaknesses section, while strengths include Allerton Park (mentioned by 3%), parks in general (2%) and recreation (2%), fully 10% cite a lack of recreation facilities and “things to do” as a weakness.

### Schools

Piatt County schools get good marks overall from survey participants.

One-third (33%) of residents mention schools as Piatt County’s main strength, putting it atop that list by a good margin. Only 3% suggest schools are a major weakness, ranking them well down that list.

And 60% report they’re “very satisfied” with the county’s schools, rating schools ahead of seven other characteristics. (Q. 21) Another 28% say they’re “somewhat satisfied” with schools, bringing the overall satisfaction rate to a high 88%.

	-----Satisfied-----			-----Dissatisfied-----			Doesn't Apply	Don't Know
	Very	Some- what	Overall Satisfied	Some- what	Very	Overall Dissatisfied		
(Q.21) Piatt County schools	60%	28%	<b>88%</b>	4%	1%	<b>5%</b>	2%	5%

A substantial 78% give “the buildings for public schools” overall positive evaluations (“excellent” or “good”). (Q. 13) Among county amenities, only public libraries rate higher (82% positive.) (Q. 8)

	<b>Excel.</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Overall Positive</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Overall Negative</b>	<b>Doesn't Apply</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
(Q.13) School buildings	35%	43%	<b>78%</b>	13%	3%	<b>16%</b>	1%	5%
(Q. 8) Public Libraries	42	40	<b>82</b>	7	5	<b>12</b>	1	5

### **Public Safety**

Public safety institutions also rank high in the esteem of Piatt County residents.

Fire protection (82% positive, Q. 2) and police protection (75%, Q. 3) receive far more positive (“excellent” or “good”) evaluations than negative ones (“fair” or “poor”).

	<b>Excel.</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Overall Positive</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Overall Negative</b>	<b>Doesn't Apply</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
(Q.2) Fire Protection	40%	42%	<b>82%</b>	6%	1%	<b>7%</b>	1%	10%
(Q.4) Police protection	37	38	<b>75</b>	16	3	<b>19</b>	1	5

About one-in-nine residents (11%) lists “a safe place to live” as a major strength of Piatt County; just 1% put “crime” as a significant weakness.

### **Healthcare**

More than two-in-five (41%) say ambulance service in the county (Q. 1) is “excellent” (a rating exceeded only by the 42% rating public libraries “excellent”). Ambulance service achieves an overall positive evaluation of 78% when 36% ratings of “good” are added in.

Overall healthcare in the county (Q. 10) has a positive rating of 77%, but when the subject is “care services for seniors” (Q. 9) the positive rating drops to 64%.

	<b>Excel.</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Overall Positive</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Overall Negative</b>	<b>Doesn't Apply</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
(Q.1) Ambulance service	41%	36%	<b>78%</b>	7%	1%	<b>8%</b>	1%	13%
(Q.10) Overall healthcare	32	45	<b>77</b>	12	3	<b>15</b>	1	6
(Q.9). Care for seniors	27	37	<b>64</b>	9	4	<b>13</b>	1	22

On the questions of “strengths” and “weaknesses,” 5% contend healthcare constitutes a Piatt County strength; 2% say it’s a weakness.

### **Culture**

Just two questions touch on culture and the arts.

Survey participants split evenly – with equal positive and negative evaluations – on rating “access to the arts” in Piatt County, as shown in the next table. (Q. 14) (The arts were further defined for respondents as “musical programs, plays, paintings and other artwork.”)

	<b>Excel.</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Overall Positive</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Overall Negative</b>	<b>Doesn't Apply</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
(Q.14) Access to the arts	11%	34%	<b>45%</b>	29	15	<b>45%</b>	<1%	10%

But in another survey section, county residents express overall satisfaction (59%) with “cultural activities.” (Q. 26) However, only “transportation options” gets a lower satisfaction score out of eight characteristics tested.

	-----Satisfied-----			-----Dissatisfied-----			<b>Doesn't Apply</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
	<b>Very</b>	<b>Some- what</b>	<b>Overall Satisfied</b>	<b>Some- what</b>	<b>Very</b>	<b>Overall Dissatisfied</b>		
(Q.26) Cultural activities	15%	44%	<b>59%</b>	23%	10%	<b>33%</b>	2%	6%

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## APPENDIX 4: RESOLUTIONS

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**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING  
THE PIATT COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, in 1970 Piatt County created and adopted the *Comprehensive Plan for Piatt County*; and

**WHEREAS**, significant demographic and economic changes have occurred in Piatt County over the intervening 37 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation and maintenance of an up to date comprehensive plan promotes the health, safety, general welfare and prosperity of the people of Piatt County; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Illinois Counties Code* (55 ILCS 5/5-14) authorizes counties to establish a regional planning commission to create a regional comprehensive plan for the county; and

**WHEREAS**, a broad-based representative body will ensure consideration of the varied interests of persons in Piatt County and provide sound guidance to the County Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board desires to create a plan that looks forward 20 or more years and which will be a living document referred to regularly in making decision and updated regularly as conditions and needs change:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that.

1. The Piatt County Regional Planning Commission (hereafter referred to as Commission) is established for the purpose of creating a comprehensive update to the 1970 *Comprehensive Plan for Piatt County, Illinois*.
2. The plan update will encompass the entirety of the unincorporated area of Piatt County and will be developed in cooperation with municipalities that have adopted extra-territorial comprehensive plans.
3. The following individuals are appointed in their personal capacities to serve as voting members on the Commission, without compensation, for the entirety of its term:

Roger Hendrix, Bement Township  
Ron Mulvaney, Bement Township  
Sandy Manuel, Blue Ridge Township  
Dave Sherman, Blue Ridge Township  
John McRae, Cerro Gordo Township  
Bill Sparks, Cerro Gordo Township  
Dale Allen, Goose Creek Township  
Jim Reed, Goose Creek Township

Ron Davis, Monticello Township  
Dick Wilkin, Monticello Township  
Paul Doane, Sangamon Township  
Madonna Smith, Sangamon Township  
Paul Quick, Unity Township  
John Lyons, Unity Township  
JoAnn Shafer, Willow Branch Township  
Dave Thompson, Willow Branch Township

4. The following persons are appointed ex-officio non-voting advisory members of the Commission:

Trish Gale, Piatt County Zoning Administrator & GIS Officer

Jonathon Manuel, Resource Conservationist, Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation

Nancy King, Piatt County Extension Director, University of Illinois Extension

Jerry Schauf, Piatt County Highway Engineer

5. The County Board designates Commission members **Jim Reed to serve as Chairman** and **Dick Wilkin to serve as Vice-Chair**. The Vice-Chair is to serve in the absence of the Chair.

6. The Commission may adopt its own bylaws and set its own meeting times and place.

7. Any vacancy that may arise on the Commission will be filled by the usual process of appointment by the Piatt County Board. The County Board Chair may remove a Commissioner subject to any proceedings required by law.

8. The Commission shall work in concert with one or more consultants and with other professional assistance as may be provided by the County Board. The Commission may seek additional technical expertise provided that no expenditure for such purpose may be made except by the County Board at its discretion.

9. The term of the Commission runs from the effective date of this resolution to the time the County Board adopts, by resolution, a comprehensive update to the *Comprehensive Plan for Piatt County, Illinois*, unless the term of the Commission is ended earlier or extended by vote of the County Board. Upon expiration or termination of its term, the Commission will have no further charge or authority.

**PRESENTED, ADOPTED, APPROVED AND RECORDED** this 11th day of September, 2007.

SIGNED:

ATTESTED:



K. Max Olson, County Board Chair,  
Piatt County, Illinois



Pat Rhoades, County Clerk  
Ex-officio Clerk of the County Board  
Piatt County, Illinois