

**CHAPTER 7**  
**Intergovernmental Cooperation**

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**Intergovernmental Cooperation**

The intergovernmental cooperation chapter identifies opportunities for establishing or maintaining cooperation between local units of government. Cooperation improves lines of communication between different units of government; aids in the recognition and possible resolution of conflicts between jurisdictions; and, allows for the identification of mutual service needs and improvements. The intent of this chapter is to identify, inventory and analyze existing and potential cooperative relationships.

**Section 7.1 Inventory of Intergovernmental Agreements**

Inventory and examination of existing relations allows for the understanding of how units of local government currently work together and how these relationships can be enhanced. As Ogle County develops and redevelops in the future it is important for the County to continue to work with surrounding units of local government. Ogle County has several standing agreements with other units of local government.

- A. Lee County: Ogle County maintains an intergovernmental agreement with Lee County for the purpose of administering the Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone within Ogle County, setting policies, boundary changes, and the sharing of administrative costs of the Enterprise Zones.
- B. There currently exists an intergovernmental agreement among all the taxing districts that have a revenue interest in the Byron nuclear plant owned by Exelon. The group consists of: Ogle County, Rockvale Township, Byron School District #226, Oregon School District #220, Byron Fire Dept., Byron Forest Preserve, Oregon Park District, Kishwaukee Community College, Rock Valley College, Byron Museum District, and Byron Library. This group has been organized since about 1989 and meets as the need arises. Informally, its purpose could be described as a coalition of local taxing districts whose purpose is to ensure a “fair” property assessment of the nuke plant.
- C. Northern Illinois Technology Triangle: Ogle County, along with Boone County, DeKalb County, Winnebago County, the City of Rockford, Rochelle Municipal Utilities, Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation and Northern Illinois University, is a member of a coalition known as the “Northern Illinois Technology Triangle” or NITT. NITT is a high speed, large capacity, fiber-optic network that forms a triangle whose perimeter is 175 miles long. Existing dark (unused) fiber was leased to make up the northern and southern legs of the NITT Triangle. Because there was no existing fiber to complete the western leg of this triangle, 30 miles of new fiber optic cable had to be installed. The Illinois Department of Transportation also had a need to construct fiber along the same section and agreed to complete this fiber build by November 2007, allowing the NITT access to the dark fiber needed to complete the triangle. In addition, the City of Rochelle constructed a multi-million dollar technology center to distribute NITT services locally and along the I-39 corridor. The NITT incorporated 5 strategic access points along the 175 mile triangle for distribution and connectivity to the network. These access points are located in Rochelle, Rockford, Hoffman Estates, DuPage National Technology Park and soon to be completed in DeKalb County.
- D. The Ogle County Highway maintains three long standing intergovernmental agreements with agencies in Ogle County:
  - An agreement is maintained with 23 of the 24 Township Highway Commissioners to issue oversized load permits for them on their Township Highways. Rather than haulers contacting the Ogle County Highway Department and each applicable Township

Highway Commissioner to obtain a permit to haul an oversized load, haulers can contact the County, which will then issue the necessary oversized permits for the County and Township roads.

- The Ogle County Highway Department maintains a mutual aid agreement with many of the Townships to assist each other in the construction and maintenance of our roadway systems.
  - An agreement is maintained with the City of Rochelle for the maintenance of County traffic signals in the Rochelle area.
- E. Ogle County GIS Partnership: Ogle County is a foundation member, along with the City of Rochelle, in the Ogle County GIS Partnership. The Ogle County GIS Partnership is an intergovernmental cooperative agreement to pool funds to support a county-wide Geographic Information System (GIS). Other public entity members of the GIS Partnership include the Village of Adeline, City of Byron, Village of Creston, Village of Davis Junction, Village of Forreston, Village of Hillcrest, Village of Leaf River, Village of Mt. Morris, City of Polo, Village of Stillman Valley, Byron Township, Flagg Township, Marion Township, Oregon-Nashua Township, Pine Creek Township, Pine Rock Township, Rockvale Township, Ogle County E9-1-1 Board, Ogle County Emergency Management Agency, Monroe Fire Protection District, Mt. Morris Fire Protection District, Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District, Oregon Fire Protection District, Polo Fire Protection District, and Stillman Valley Fire Protection District, Creston-Dement Park District, Oregon Park District, Ogle County Soil & Water Conservation District.
- F. The Ogle County Animal Control Department maintains intergovernmental agreements with Pine Rock Township and the Village of Adeline for the enforcement of “leash laws” requiring dogs to be on a leash.

## **Section 7.2 Issues/Conclusions Regarding Intergovernmental Relations**

- The existing intergovernmental agreements that Ogle County maintains are and have been mutually beneficial relationships.
- The existing intergovernmental agreements and relationships maintained by Ogle County should be continued.

## **Section 7.3 Additional Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cooperation and Beneficial Agreements**

None identified

## **Section 7.4 Goals/Objectives/Policies**

### A. Goals

1. Encourage cooperation between Ogle County and other units of government, where appropriate, to ensure availability of services and facilities.
2. All intergovernmental agreements shall be entered into with the best interests of the residents of the Ogle County getting foremost consideration.

### B. Objectives

1. Share services across county or municipal borders whenever deemed appropriate by the County.
2. Periodically review intergovernmental agreements to re-affirm that they are still in the best interests of the residents of Ogle County.

### C. Policies

1. Establish and maintain communication with municipalities, townships and other units of local government for discussion on land use and other related issues.
2. Maintain existing intergovernmental relations and cooperation so long as they are in the best interests of the residents of Ogle County.
3. Explore additional opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation and beneficial agreements.
4. Coordinate economic development incentives across jurisdictional boundaries.

