

**Amendatory Comprehensive Plan “2012 Update”
Ogle County, Illinois**

Adopted by the Ogle County Board on October 16, 2012.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Ogle County, Illinois Comprehensive Plan. This Comprehensive Plan is the center-piece of the community development planning process, stating our community's development goals and outlining public policies for guiding future growth. It establishes an identifiable destination that allows both the governing body and private interests to plan and budget with an idea as to the direction the County may move in the future, and helps to ensure that future growth is not only anticipated, but planned for. The Plan functions as a practical guide to coordinate day-to-day decisions so they make sense in the future.

Planning a community's future is a complex exercise. The process involves an existing community with a population of longtime residents, newcomers and business people; a government structure whose composition can change yearly; the regulations imposed by state and federal government agencies; the character of the community and the plan devised by numerous developers.

Planning for the future of a community can also be controversial. There are those who seek new development for the jobs and the revenue it will bring. Others oppose it, fearing traffic congestion, loss of natural resources, loss of community identity and related expenditures. There are always those who feel that, if you do nothing, the lack of infrastructure improvements - sewers, water, roads, etc. - will greatly discourage development. History has repeatedly shown that this is not the case. The fact remains that change will occur, and the only question is whether the public or private sector will shape that change.

When it is the public sector that directs the change, there is always the fear that, because you have planned for it, you are encouraging it. That's a rationalization for avoiding planning. The real challenge is assuring that change occurs in concert with the goals and objectives of the community. This can be accomplished by taking an active planning approach. Only in visualizing the future of the community the way you want it to be and sticking to that vision can the vision become a reality.

The Comprehensive Plan is a key element in formulating the approach that a community will take in addressing the issues of land use, public policies toward development, and infrastructure requirements. The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to provide a framework for the County to ensure that a course, focused on a common goal, is maintained.

To achieve this, the Plan should be:

1. Comprehensive - The Plan must address all sections of the community as well as all activities associated with managing development;
2. Flexible - The Plan must be structured to summarize policies and proposals and allow for flexibility to facilitate the ever-changing needs of the community;
3. Provident - The initial requirements of the Plan are to achieve solutions to short term issues, whereas, the ultimate goal of the Plan is to provide a perspective of future development and predict possible problems as far as 20 or more years into the future.

With these general guidelines as a basis, specific issues may be addressed by analyzing the growth patterns and physical features of the County. While a variety of factors influence where and when development takes place, several basic elements can be analyzed to assess the impact of past or future growth. The elements that this plan addresses are: Issues and Opportunities (Chapter 1); Housing (Chapter 2); Transportation Facilities (Chapter 3); Utilities and Community Facilities (Chapter 4); Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources (Chapter 5); Economic Development (Chapter 6); Intergovernmental Cooperation (Chapter 7); Land Use (Chapter 8); and, Implementation (Chapter 9).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Ogle County has, with the exception of the 1980-1990 Census period, shown an upward trend in population since 1920. The County registered its most significant growth in terms of percentage increase between 1950 and 1960, growing by 14% during this 10-year period. The County registered its most significant growth in terms of population increase between 1990 and 2000, growing by 5,075 persons (11.0% increase). Between 2000 and 2010, the County population increased by 2,465 persons (4.8%). Future growth should be anticipated, foresight provided to anticipate the challenges associated with growth and development, and appropriate policies and planning process should be in place to address growth and development when and where it occurs. This Comprehensive Plan addresses these issues and provides a basis for the policies which will shape Ogle County in the future.

Citizen input/participation is an important component of the planning process. Numerous citizens have been involved in the development and evolution of this Comprehensive Plan over the years, and their input is reflected in the goals and objectives formulated herein.