APPENDIX 2: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION EFFORTS

August 14, 2007 Monticello, Illinois

PIATT COU NTY 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, 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.

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, CCRPC Planner, at 328-3313.

Please view the Existing Conditions Report posted at 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

Contact us!

Susan Chavarria Andrew Levy schavarr@ccrpc.org alevy@ccrpc.org

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana IL 61802 Phone: (217) 328-3313 Fax: (217) 328-2426

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:

<u>Strength</u> - positive influences that originate within the county. (good agricultural land) <u>W</u>eakness - negative influences that originate within the county. (conflict between residential and ag. land) <u>O</u>pportunity - influence from outside the county that may result in a positive impact. (ADM buying crops) <u>Threat</u> - 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



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	Р	Ν	NE
٠	Lake Water (recreation)	Р	Ν	NE
•	Rivers	Р	Ν	NE
•	Wildlife habitat	Р	Ν	NE
•	Open space	Р	Ν	NE
•	Fishing/Hunting	Р	Ν	NE
•	Farming	Р	Ν	NE
•	Appreciating Night Sky	Р	Ν	NE
•	Hearing Nature	Р	Ν	NE
•	Community Values	Р	Ν	NE
•	Crime	Р	Ν	NE
•	Quality of Schools	Р	Ν	NE
٠	Job Opportunities	Р	Ν	NE
٠	Transportation	Р	Ν	NE
٠	Road maintenance	Р	Ν	NE
٠	High quality housing	Р	Ν	NE
٠	Affordable housing	Р	Ν	NE
٠	Scenic Views	Р	Ν	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

"Conserve" refers to a type of management of landscapes that maintains productivity and use for future generations.

clustered residential development.

3. Write a phrase that you think defines 'traditional rural value'.



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)



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:		



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.

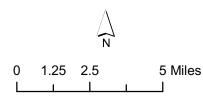




Mapping Exercise Explanations and Comments

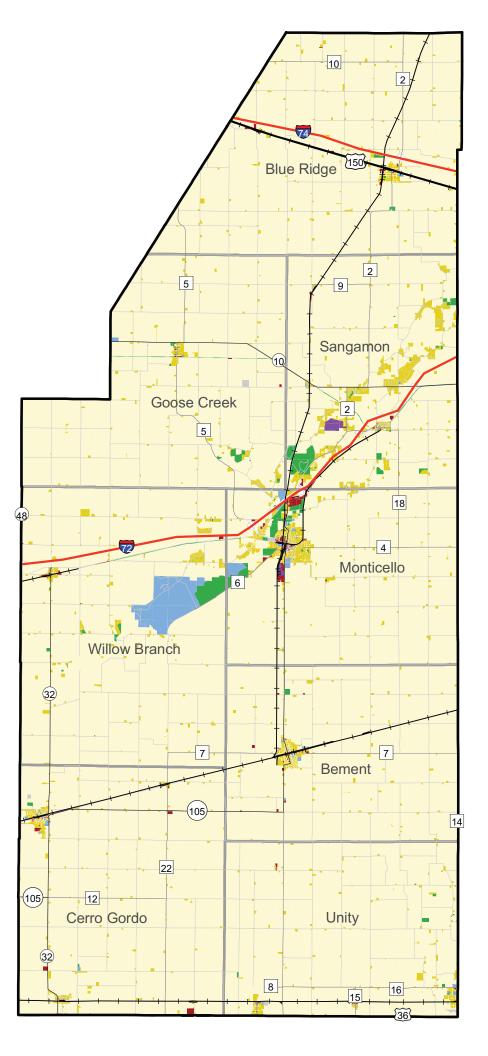


Existing Land Use Piatt County Legend County **Civil Township** Agriculture Residential Utility Commercial Industrial Institutional **Open Space County Hwy** 10 (48) State Hwy 150 U.S. Hwy 74 Interstate



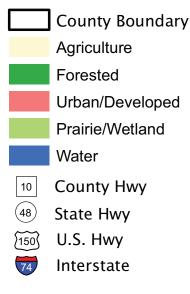
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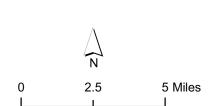
Sources: Piatt County Assessor CCGISC CCRPC



Land Cover Piatt County, Illinois

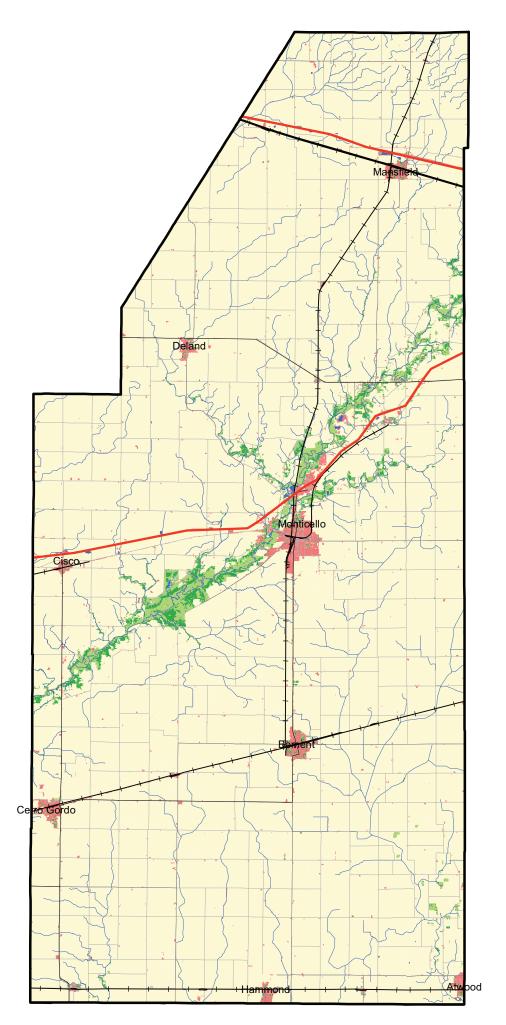
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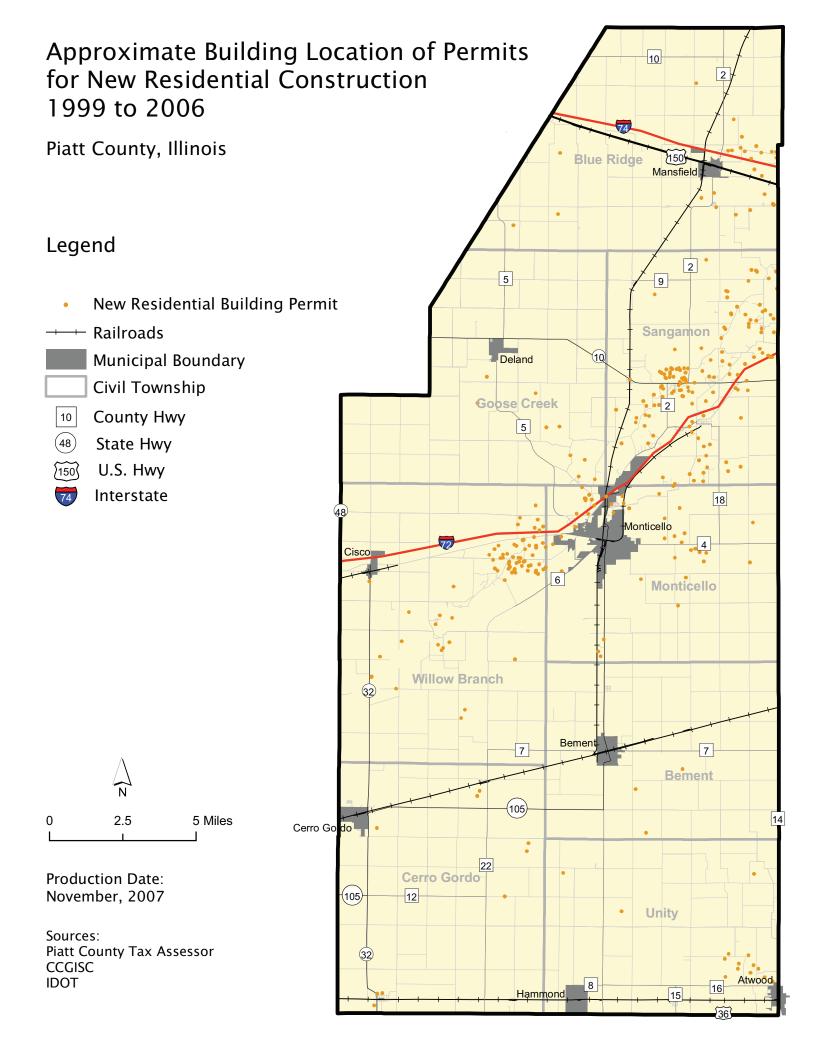


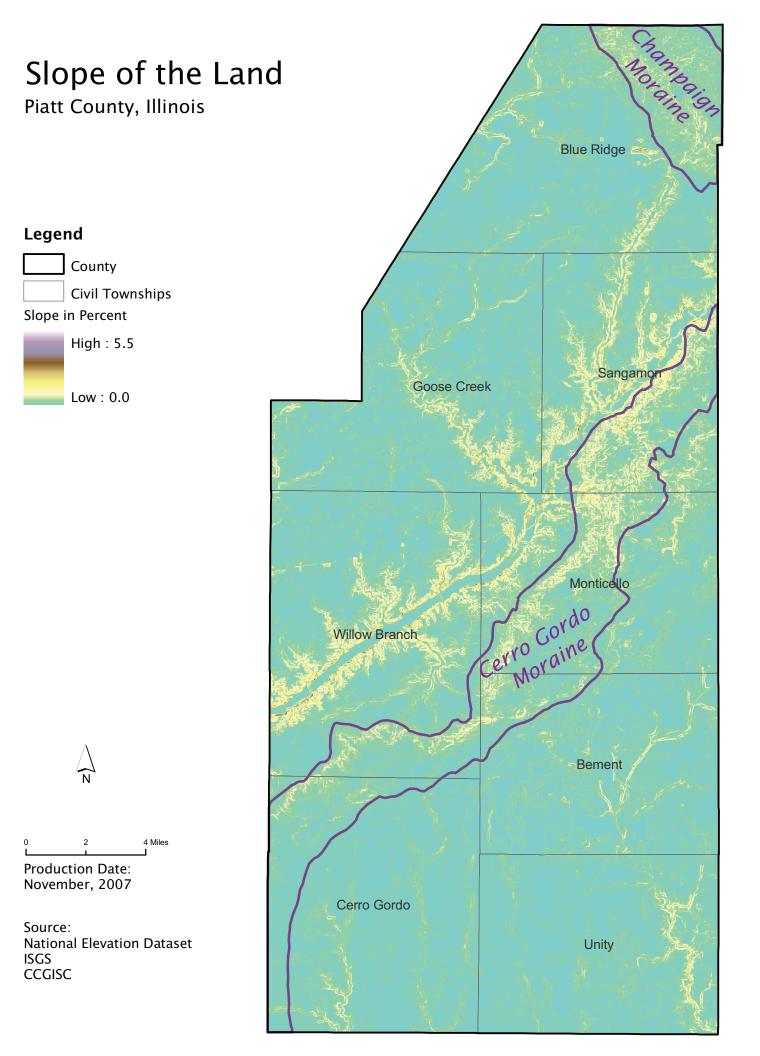


Production Date: May, 2008

Source: Ilinois Department of Agriculture



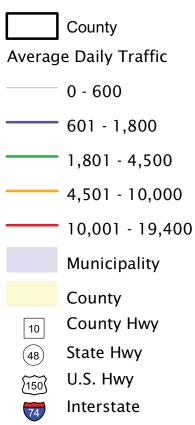


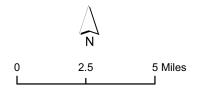


Average Daily Traffic 2005

Piatt County, Illinois

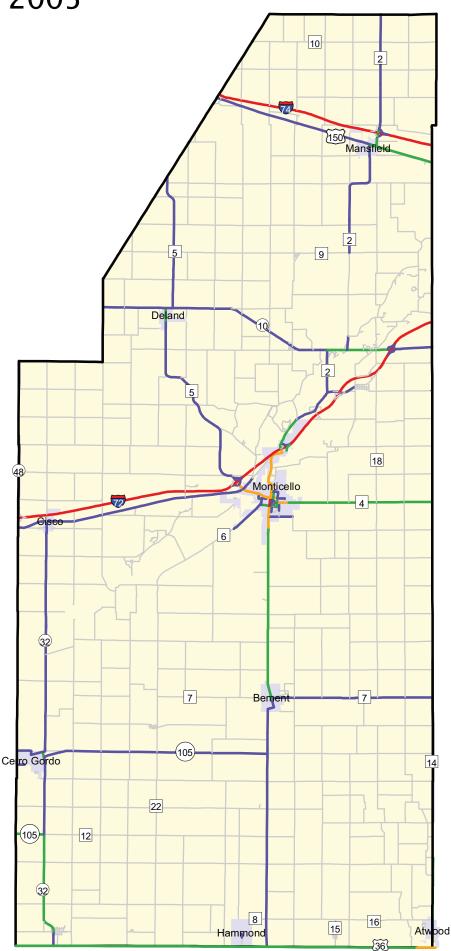
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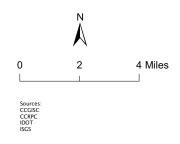
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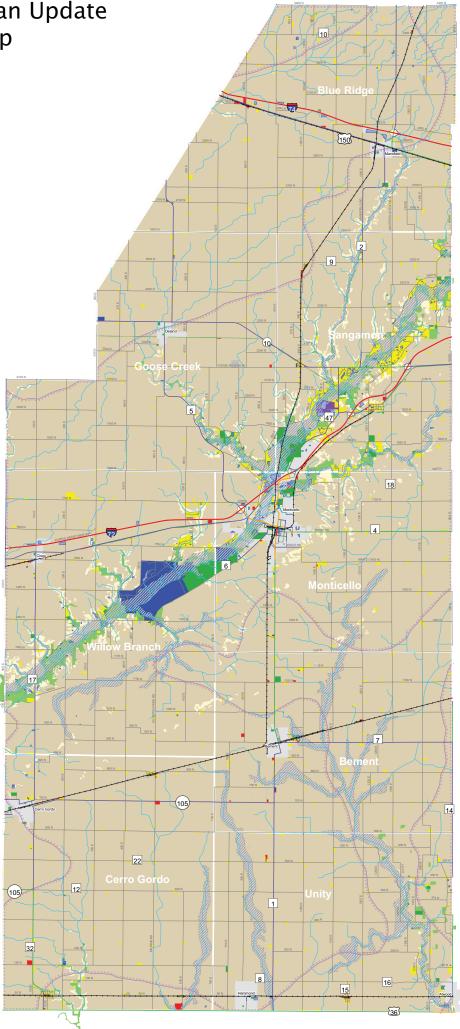


Comprehensive Plan Update Workshop Basemap

Piatt County, Illinois







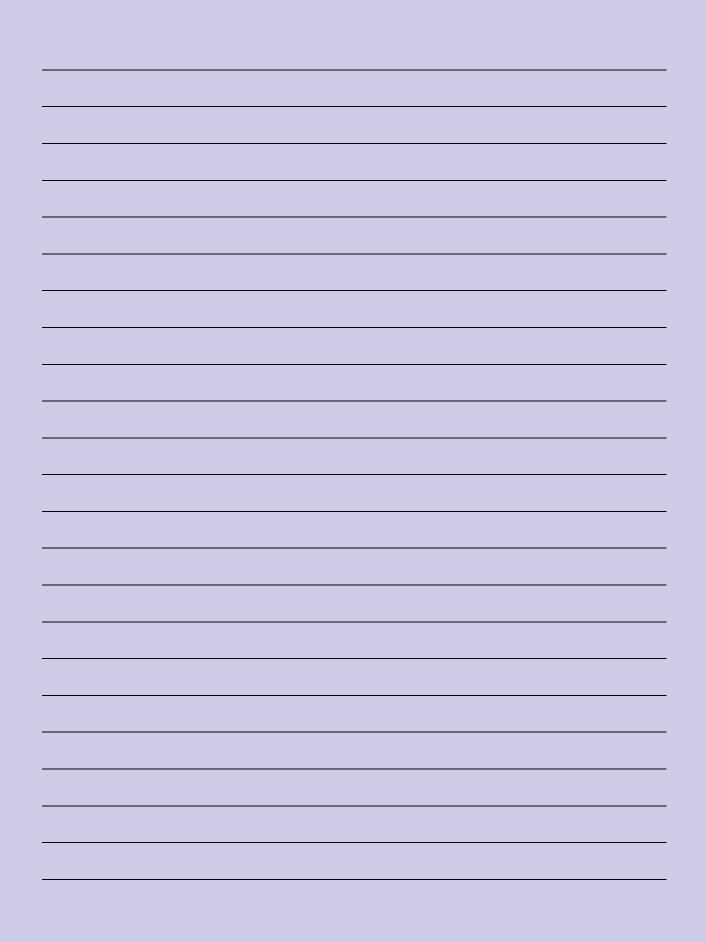
Piatt County Comprehensive Plan Exit Questionnaire

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	10. What is your principal occupation?							
11	 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 Co

Piatt County Comprehensive Plan -- Public Workshop - 7/29/08

Revised 7/28/2008

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Piatt County Comprehensive Plan -- Public Workshop - 7/29/08

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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.

60% 40%	52%
40%	
	48%
	2000 Census
	99%
	0.2%
0%	0.8%
Workshop	2000 Census
2%	4%
9%	10%
7%	17%
19%	14%
28%	14%
26%	8%
9%	8%
	9% 7% 19% 28% 26%

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	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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public Workshop Results November 3, 2008 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.

Industry Type	
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

 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.

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.

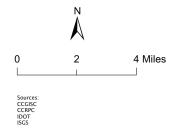
B. In what areas should this type of development be restricted? Identify as many areas as possible based on the assumptions using a red polygon with an X through it and provide your reasons on the attached comment sheet.

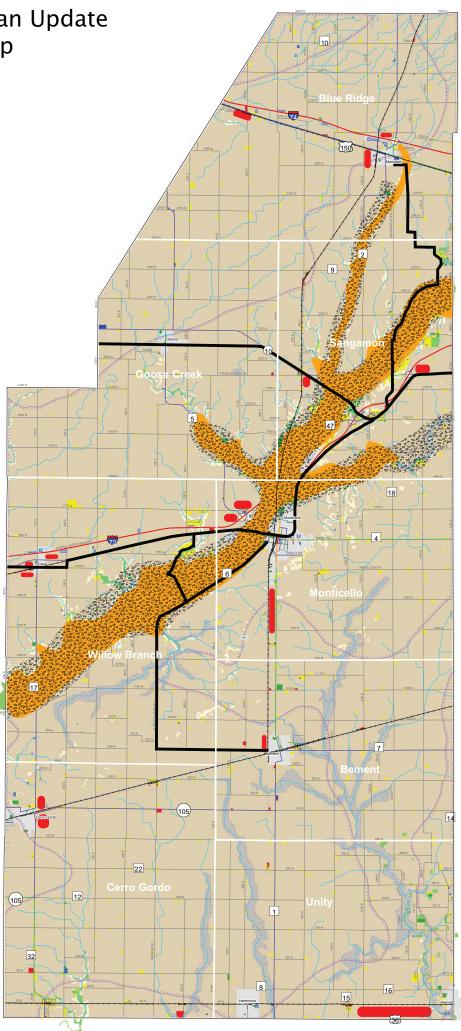
5

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 Envornment Industry not desired Industry desired Trail Development





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
	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 The following factors were identified as influential to deciding to live in Piatt County: proximity to larger cities, University of Illinois	Home values are increasing and reaching those of more urban counties such as Champaign and McLean counties.
Housing	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.
	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.
Economy	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%).
	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.
Agriculture	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. Sangamon and Willow Branch townships, which are
	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).
	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.
Parks & Recreation	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
	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.
Natural Areas	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.
	Participants identify a lack of a countywide recycling program.	
Environment	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.	
	Participants perceive excellent opportunities for water resources.	The Mahomet Aquifer is the primary groundwater source for much of east central Illinois.
Infrastructure	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.
	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.
Services	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.
	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.
Transportation	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 resouce, but suggest that public transit service could be expanded.	Piatttran 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

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.

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 30th
- Journal Republican, July 29th and August 12th
- News Gazette, July 26th
- Southern Piatt Record Herald, July 29th and August 12th

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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Tuesday, August 18, 2009 7:00 PM

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LEGAL NOTICE as PUBLISHED IN THE August 12, 2009, Piatt County Journal Republican

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING PLATT COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Platt County Regional Planning Commission (PCRPC) will hold a Public Workshop regarding the Platt County Comprehensive Plan Draft at 7:00pm on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, Rotary Room, Monticello Community 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

965615 08/12

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 asks 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 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN Your Comments

Your ideas are very important to this planning process. Please use this sheet to let us know of any comments you have about the Draft Piatt County Comprehensive Plan. Your comments will be submitted to the Piatt County Regional Planning Commission Board for their consideration.

Thank you very much for participating in the creation of the Piatt County Comprehensive Plan! You can leave your comment sheet in the box provided at the public hearing or send it by August 25th to:

Susan Chavarria CCRPC 1776 East Washington Street Urbana, IL 61802

If you prefer to email your comments

Please specify "Piatt Plan Public Comment" in the subject line and provide your name and community or township at the end of your comments. Email to schavarr@ccrpc.org by August 25th.

		Piatt County Regional Planning Commission August 18, 2009 Public Hearing PUBLIC SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION FORM
Nan	ne:	
Hom	ne Address:	
Phor	ne:	
	l would like	to speak during the public hearing
	, , ,	will represent me during the hearing ey's Name:
		se will speak on my behalf sentative's Name:

		Piatt County Regional Planning Commission August 18, 2009 Public Hearing PUBLIC SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION FORM
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	l would like	to speak during the public hearing
	, , ,	will represent me during the hearing ey's Name:
		se will speak on my behalf sentative's Name:

E-mail				currid@gmail.com												whirlygirl50@sbcglobal.net		dietz@piattms.com	glgonzini@harffjones.com	areeser@peoplepc.com
Phone	687-2684	687-4085	687-2868	687-4146	762-2678	687-4146	778-6658	687-2786	687-2786	1627-292			687-4180			621-8171	687-4180	762-2128	649-4908	762-5835
ZIP	61884	61884	61884	61884	61856	61884	61856	61884	61884	61856	61854	61884	61884	61884	62501	61884	61884	61856	61856	61856
City	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	Lodge	White Heath	Monticello	White Heath	White Heath	Monticello	Mansfield	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	Argenta	White Heath	White Heath	Monticello	Monticello	Monticello
Address	1345 Treasure Lane	8 Welsh Cob	1364 Treasure Lane	21 Riverview	2171 Railroad St	21 Riverview	1019 Bucks Pond Road	1352 Treasure Lane	1352 Treasure Lane	1076 IL Rt 10	3094N 1300 E Rd	2163 Wagon Trail Road	4 Welsh Cob	23 Riverview	Box 141	2202 Wagon Trail Rd	4 Welsh Cob	PO Box 223	1078 IL Rt 10	208 Kipling
Organization																Sangamon Township Supervisor		Piatt County Farm Bureau		
Name	Donald Douglas	Brent Buckalew	K.E. Wittrock	Peggy Currid	Glen Parker	Mark Heimburger	John N. Stolfa, Jr.	Alice Ore	Fred Ore	Sally Nolan	Richard Manuel	Shirley Sharp	Sheila Maloney	Marie Fiedler	R. Iderger	Shirley Hill	Mark Ekbert	Stacy Bradshaw	Gary Gonzini	Anne Reeser
	-	2	ω	4	5	9	7	ω	6	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

August 18, 2009

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E-mail								mwrkmn33@aol.com	mwrkmn33@aol.com	karonson@hughes.net	sghardin@hotmail.com		wayne@weelee.net	aandkfletch@yahoo.com	aandkfletch@yahoo.com					
								mwrkn	mwrkn	karons	sghardi		wayn	aandkfle	aandkfle					
Phone	772-0601	687-4081	762-2511	687-2626	687-2626	687-2604	687-4250	687-4089	687-4089	687-4687		762-2065	762-9758			687-4099	687-2850	687-2746	687-4004	
ZIP	61884	61884	61856	61884	61884	61884	61884	61884	61884	61884	61884	61856	61856	61884	61884	61884	61875	61884	61884	
City	White Heath	White Heath	Monticello	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	Lodge	Monticello	White Heath	White Heath	White Heath	Seymour	White Heath	White Heath	
Address	1277 E IL Rt 10	63 Glenn Dr		1371 Treasure Lane	1371 Treasure Lane	1365 Treasure Lane	2186 Wagon Trail Rd	42 Glenn Dr	42 Glenn Dr	2194 Wagon Trail Rd	5 Welsh Cob	2167 Center St	5001 Surrey Rd	52 Glenn Drive	52 Glenn Drive	2139 N 1275 E	1428 E IL Rt 47	1371 E 2250 N Rd	2124 N 1300 E Rd	
Organization	NINC	UIUC	Piatt Journal Republican																	
Name	Frank Carlisle	Sam Elson	Michelle Hansen	Tina Klebek	Chuck Burmeister	Joseph T Houska	Lee Ann Rotz	Michael Workman	Laura Workman	Kenneth Aronson	Sandra Hardin	Roberta Hardin	Wayne Winston	Alan Fletcher	Kathryn Fletcher	Barry Allison	Delores Paul	Patti Silver	Ann Wilson	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	

August 18, 2009

Piatt County Regional Planning Commission Public Hearing Sign-In

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Piatt County Regional Planning Commission Public Hearing Sign-In	ganization Address City ZIP Phone	253 S Moreland Decatur 62521 454-8411	Trail Rd HOA 2195 Wagon Trail Rd White Heath 61884 687-4450	4 Hickory Ln White Heath 61884 649-9162	1107 E 3000 N Rd Mansfield 61854 899-1438
Piatt Cour	Organization		Wagon Trail Rd HOA		
		well	sse	hgh	zly

	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	afile@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 Eαst	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		

gust 18, 2009

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	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	
99	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		

Piatt County Regional Planning Commission Public Hearing Sign-In