
CHAPTER 12: IMPLEMENTATION

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"> • Admin 1.1
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"> • Admin 2 • Housing 3.1

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"> • Land Use 1.1
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"> • Land Use 1.1
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"> • Land Use 1.2
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"> • Land Use 1.3 • Housing 3
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"> • Land Use 1.4
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"> • Land Use 1.4 • Natural Areas 1 • Natural Areas 2 • Natural Areas 3
Establish new program	Establish a local farmland conservation program.	SWCD, U of I Extension, County Board	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use 1.5 • Land Use 1.1
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"> • Land Use 1.5

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"> • Land Use 1.5 • Natural Areas 4
Land Use Policies	Establish <i>policies</i> that encourage infill development.	Zoning and Plats Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use 1.5 • Housing 3
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"> • Land Use 1.6 • Housing 4
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"> • Land Use 1.6 • Housing 4
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"> • Land Use 1.7
Cooperate	Recognize and cooperate with municipal comprehensive planning efforts.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use 1.8 • Admin 2
	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"> • Land Use 1.8 Admin 2
	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"> • Land Use 1.9
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"> • Land Use 1.10 • Natural Areas 2 • Natural Areas 3
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"> • Land Use 1.11 • Admin 1.1
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"> • Objective 1.2 • Objective 1.9

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"> • Housing 1.1
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"> • Housing 1.1
Adopt Design Guidelines	Adopt <i>design guidelines</i> for residential developments.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing 2.1
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"> • Housing 2.1 • Land Use 1
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"> • Housing 2.1 • Parks 1 • Parks 4 • Parks 5
	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"> • Housing 3.1 • Land Use 1.1
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"> • Housing 3.1 • Infrastructure 1 • Infrastructure 6
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"> • Housing 3.1 • Admin 2
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"> • Housing 3.2
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"> • Housing 5.1

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"> • ED 3.3
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"> • ED 3.4
Adopt a Plan	Develop and adopt a marketing plan for tourism. Facilitate its implementation.	Economic Development Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED 4.1 • Parks 2

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"> • Infrastructure 3.1 • Natural Areas 3
Amend Subdivision Ordinance	Amend Subdivision Ordinance to include design guidelines for public infrastructure.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure 3.1
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"> • Infrastructure 3.2
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"> • Infrastructure 3.3 • Natural Areas 4
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"> • Infrastructure 3.3
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"> • Infrastructure 3.4
Cooperate	Cooperate with water suppliers to ensure a sustainable water supply.	County Board, Zoning and Plats Committee	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure 3.5
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"> • Infrastructure 5.1
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"> • Infrastructure 5.2
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"> • Infrastructure 5.2

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"> • Services 1.1
Study	Determine quality of service provision and seek to improve services to all County residents.	County Board	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services 1.2
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"> • Services 2.1 • Services 2.2 • Services 2.3 • Services 2.4 • Services 2.5
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"> • Services 2.1 • Services 2.2 • Services 2.3 • Services 2.4 • Services 2.5
Publicize	List public service programs on the County website with general descriptions and contact information.	County Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services 2.1 • Services 2.2 • Services 2.3 • Services 2.4 • Services 2.5
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"> • Services 2.1 • Services 2.2 • Services 2.3 • Services 2.4 • Services 2.5

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"> • Transportation 1.1
Study	Complete studies regarding access management and land use development in coordination with transportation improvements.	Transportation Committee	Mid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation 1.2
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"> • Transportation 1.3
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"> • Transportation 1.4
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"> • Transportation 1.5

Parks, Preserves and Recreation

Generalized Action	Specific Implementation Step	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeline	Related Goals & Objectives
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"> • Parks 1.1
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"> • Parks 1.2 • Parks 1.3 • Parks 4.1
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"> • Parks 1.4
Study	Identify priority open space areas.	Forest Preserve Board	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks 1.5
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"> • Parks 1.7 • Parks 2.3 • Parks 5.1 • Parks 5.2
	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"> • Parks 2.1
Publicize	Publicize parks as important amenities in Piatt County.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks 2.2
Study	Identify accessibility and maintenance issues in park areas.	Forest Preserve Board, SWCD, U of I Extension	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks 3.1
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"> • Parks 3.1
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"> • Parks 3.2
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"> • Parks 3.3

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"> • Parks 3.3
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"> • Parks 3.4
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"> • Parks 3.5
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"> • Parks 4.2

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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