



## CHAPTER 7: PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

### Drainage Districts

In 1879, the State of Illinois passed legislation to organize drainage districts ("Illinois Drainage Code," 70 ILCS 605/1-*et seq*). Drainage districts are authorized to levy an assessment against all landowners within the district to cover costs including: the initial cost of constructing a drainage system; annual maintenance costs; or additional drainage improvement projects.<sup>1</sup>

A large portion of the County's soils consist of 'hydric' (wet soils) that have been drained and that are presently used as cropland, or for purposes other than wetland.<sup>2</sup> The drainage systems installed by drainage districts consist of subsurface tile drains, surface inlets, open drainage ditches or some combination of these.<sup>3</sup> In some areas, ditches were dug where no channel previously existed to connect with natural streams.

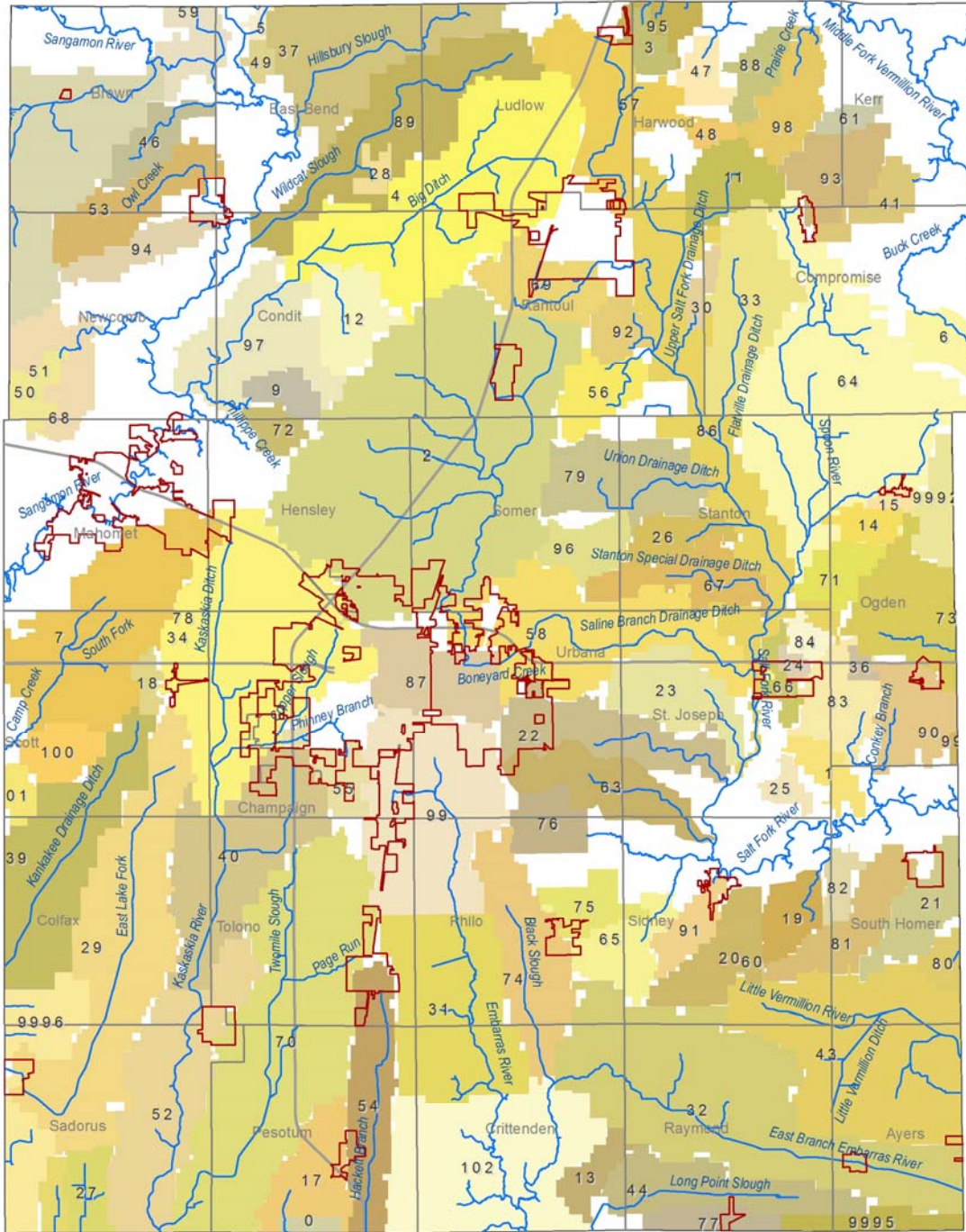
Champaign County has 102 drainage districts, approximately 80 of which are considered as active, with appointed or elected drainage district commissioners.<sup>4</sup> Established drainage districts cover the majority of the County's five watersheds; however, within the County, major portions of the Sangamon River watershed, the southern portions of the Salt Fork River watershed, portions of the Middlefork River watershed, and other segments of drainageways are not located within a drainage district. Figure 7-1 illustrates the locations of drainage districts in the County. Serving as the legend for Figure 7-1 is Table 7-1 which lists established drainage districts located wholly or partially within the County. As mapped, the boundaries of the Drainage Districts overlap in some locations. The map provided in Figure 7-1 is based on the several individually prepared drainage district maps on file, and represents the best county-wide map of drainage districts available at this time.<sup>5</sup>

An estimated 80% of the cropland and pasture areas within the County are underlain with drainage district tiles and privately owned field tile installed over the years.<sup>6</sup> Within the County, thousands of miles of drain tiles terminate at outlet pipes into drainage channels. The end-point drainage outlets need to remain above normal water levels in the drainage channel to assure positive drainage. The effectiveness of land drainage and its impact on agricultural productivity and economic return largely depends on the condition of these drain tile lines and tile outlets. (A separate review of drainage concerns for rural residents and farmers within the County is provided in Chapter 12.) Ultimately, the effectiveness of drainage systems upstream will directly impact downstream conditions with regard to flooding and water quality.

### **Channel Maintenance**

Drainage districts continue to address formidable channel maintenance challenges, including: covered drainage outlet pipes; tile outlets below the water line; unstable bank slopes; or woody debris blockages. In recent years, certain higher impact channel maintenance practices (e.g., dredging or clear-cutting), though generally occurring infrequently, have been met with objections from those concerned with the potential adverse impacts on aquatic habitat, biodiversity and downstream flooding.

**Figure 7-1: Drainage Districts**



**Drainage Districts**

Champaign County

Legend

- Drainage District
- No Drainage District
- County Boundary
- Non-Intermittent Stream
- Civil Township
- Municipal Boundary



0 2.5 5 Miles

Date Map Prepared:  
 October, 2007

**Table 7-1: Drainage Districts within Champaign County**

Number in Figure 7-1	Drainage District	Number in Figure 7-1	Drainage District
1	Bailey Branch	56	Raup
2	Beaver Lake	57	Salt Fork
3	Big Tile Ditch Company	58	Saline Branch
4	Big Slough	59	Sangamon & Drummer
5	Blackford Slough	60	Schindler
6	Buck Creek Mutual	61	Schneider Mutual
7	Camp Creek Special	63	Silver Creek
8	Conkey Branch	64	Spoon River
9	Conrad Fisher	65	South Fork
11	Dillsburg Special	66	#6 St. Joseph Twp
12	#1 Condit	67	Stanton Special
13	Crittenden Twp. #1	68	Stover Mutual
14	#10 Ogden Township	69	Triple Fork
15	#11 Ogden Township	70	Two Mile Slough
17	Pesotum Consolidated	71	Union Stanton-Ogden Twp
18	#2 Town of Scott	72	Union #1 of Hensley and Condit
19	#1 Town of Sidney	73	#1 Ogden & Oakwood
20	#2 Sidney Township	74	#1 Philo & Crittenden
21	#1 Town of South Homer	75	Union #1 Philo & Sidney
22	St. Joseph Township #3	76	#1 Philo & Urbana
23	St. Joseph Twp. #4	77	Union #1 Raymond & Murdock
24	St. Joseph Twp #5	78	Union #1 Scott & Champaign
25	St. Joseph Twp #8	79	#2 Somer & Stanton
26	#1 Town of Stanton	80	Union #1 Homer & Sidell
27	Dry Fork Mutual	81	Union #2 South Homer & Sidney
28	East Bend Mutual	82	Union #3 South Homer & Sidney
29	East Lake Fork	83	#2 St. Joseph & Ogden
30	Ehmen-Schmidt Mutual	84	Union DD #7 St. Joe & Ogden
31	Embarras River Mutual	86	Upper Salt Fork
32	Embarras Special	87	Urbana-Champaign Sanitary
33	Flatville Special	88	West Branch
34	Fountain Head	89	Wildcat Special
36	Hickory Grove	90	Willow Branch
37	Hillsbury Slough Special	91	Wrisk
39	Kankakee	92	Youman's Branch Mutual
40	Kaskaskia Special	93	Harwood and Kerr
41	Kerr and Compromise	94	Willow Brook Special
42	Killbury Mutual	95	Ludlow Special
43	Little Vermilion	96	#1 Town of Somer
44	Long Point Slough	97	Lower Big Slough
45	Lotus Special	98	Prairie Creek
46	Nelson-Moore-Fairfield	99	Upper Embarras
47	Harwood Twp Mutual WC	100	#1 Town of Scott
48	Harwood Twp Mutual CS	101	East Camp Creek
49	Dickerson Slough	102	North Fork Embarras
50	Meyers Mutual	9991	Vermilion County #48
51	Newcomb Special	9992	Vermilion County #49
52	Okaw	9993	Douglas County #16
53	Owl Creek	9994	Douglas County #31
54	Pesotum Slough	9995	Douglas County #51
55	Phinney Branch Mutual	9996	Piatt County #15

## Fire Protection and Emergency Services

Champaign County is divided into 24 Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) serving smaller villages and the unincorporated areas and municipal fire departments which serve the cities of Champaign, Urbana, Rantoul, Savoy and Bondville. Table 7-2 lists all Fire Protection Districts that serve Champaign County. These fire protection districts and rural fire stations are mapped in Figure 7-2.

The provision of fire protection and emergency ambulance services is an important consideration during the review of proposed rural residential subdivisions. One request for a rural residential subdivision within an outlying rural unincorporated area of the County was recently approved with the provision of a dry hydrant and pond as a source for fire fighting water.<sup>7</sup>

Figure 7-3 shows those parts of the County that are within five mile driving distance of a rural fire station. These are not specific indications of fire service protection as boundary agreements between individual fire stations apply and municipal fire stations were not included in the analysis. This map is an approximate representation of access to fire protection services within the County.

Fire suppression capability of each district in the county is rated by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Commercial Risk Services Inc. following the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The FSRS is used nationally to determine the fire suppression capability of fire protection services. The FSRS is the manual ISO refers to in reviewing the fire-fighting capabilities of individual fire protection districts or fire departments. FSRS (or more commonly, ISO) ratings measure on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the best and 10 representing no fire protection, the ability of a fire protection district to suppress fire and minimize damage.

ISO ratings measure three features of fire protection: Fire Alarms, Engine Companies (Fire Departments), and Water Supply.<sup>8</sup>

- *Fire Alarms*  
10% of overall grading is based on how well the fire department receives fire alarms and dispatches its fire-fighting resources.
- *Engine Companies* (more commonly referred to as 'fire stations')  
50% of the overall grading is based on the number of engine companies and the amount of water a community needs to fight a fire. ISO representatives assess the distribution of fire stations throughout the area and determine whether a fire department or fire protection district checks its pumps and inventories its equipment regularly.
- *Water Supply*  
40% of the grading is based on the available water supply, and whether the community served has sufficient water supply for fire suppression beyond daily maximum consumption.

Most smaller FPDs, including those in Champaign County, have a dual rating. The first number is the rating for fire protection in urban areas and up to five miles travel distance from the fire station. The second number refers to fire protection beyond the five mile radius. Table 7-2 lists ISO ratings for Champaign County FPDs and Fire Departments.

**Table 7-2: ISO Rating for FPDs and Fire Departments**

<b>Department/ District</b>	<b>Station Location (s)</b>	<b>ISO Rating</b>
Allerton FPD	Village of Allerton	8/9
Broadlands- Longview FPD	Village of Broadlands/Village of Longview	7
Carroll FPD	City of Urbana (1)	5/9
Champaign FD	City of Champaign (6)	2
Corn Belt FPD	Village of Mahomet	5/9
Eastern Prairie FPD	City of Champaign (1)	7/9
Edge-Scott FPD	Urbana Township	4/7
Gifford FPD	Village of Gifford	6/9-10
Homer FPD	Village of Homer (2)	7/9
Ivesdale FPD	Village of Ivesdale	8/9
Ludlow FPD	Village of Ludlow	7/9
Northern Piatt FPD	Village of Mansfield, Piatt County	6/9
Ogden- Royal FPD	Village of Ogden, Village of Royal	6
Pesotum FPD	Village of Pesotum	8/9
Philo FPD	Village of Philo	6
Rantoul FD	Village of Rantoul (2/1 satellite)	4/9
Sadorus FPD	Village of Sadorus	8/9
Sangamon Valley FPD	Villages of Fisher, Dewey, Foosland (3)	7/9
Savoy FD	Village of Savoy	4
Scott FPD	Scott Township	6/9
Sidney FPD	Village of Sidney	7
St. Joseph- Stanton FPD	Village of St. Joseph	5/9
Thomasboro FPD	Village of Thomasboro	6/9
Tolono FPD	Village of Tolono (2)	6/9
Urbana FD	City of Urbana (4)	2

Source: RPC Staff Contacts with Individual FD and FPD Chiefs, September- October, 2007

### Ambulance Services

Three ambulance service providers operate within the County: Gibson City, Arrow and Pro Ambulance. Gibson City Ambulance only responds to Brown Township through an agreement with the Sangamon Valley Fire Protection District whereas Arrow and Pro ambulances respond to anywhere within the County based on agreements they have with individual fire protection districts or by citizen request. Within the city limits of Champaign and Urbana, Arrow and Pro are required to achieve a response within 12 minutes of the time the call was received by the ambulance service on Alpha and Bravo response calls and within 8 minutes on Charlie, Delta or Echo response calls. These times must be met on at least 90% of the calls received. Both Champaign and Urbana utilize the same “Ambulance Ordinance” to set the standards listed above. Arrow, Pro and METCAD all utilize Priority Dispatch Emergency Medical Dispatch Protocols to determine the response level of each call, as well as to give pre-arrival instructions such as CPR to callers. All other entities within Champaign County do not have an Ordinance to control ambulance services and have no minimum response time restrictions in place.

Though both Arrow and Pro will provide services to anywhere within the County, most fire protection districts have entered into agreements with one of the providers to be exclusively dispatched on any medical call in their district. Levels of care start at First Responder, Emergency Medical Technician Basic, EMT–Intermediate, and EMT–Paramedic, with each level listed providing a higher amount of care offered. All of the fire departments and Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) provide either a First Responder EMS care or EMT–B care; The City of Urbana Fire Department, St. Joseph-Stanton FPD,

and Homer FPD provide EMT–I level of patient care non-transport. Cornbelt FPD provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) service at the EMT–P level of patient care non-transport. This is provided for through a contractual agreement with Arrow Ambulance. Some other fire departments and FPDs provide space in their facilities for an ambulance service to house one of their manned units. Rantoul Fire Department and Savoy Fire Department have this agreement with Pro. This aids in providing a faster response time for their fire protection districts. Ivesdale FPD and Sadorus FPD have one unmanned ambulance provided by Arrow in the Sadorus station. Within the Cities of Champaign and Urbana, the incorporated area is divided east and west along Neil Street in Champaign. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, Arrow and Pro Ambulance switch their coverage area.<sup>9</sup>

Within the Champaign-Urbana incorporated area, ambulance crews from both Arrow and Pro Ambulance are required by Ordinance to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS or paramedic-level service) on each call. In other areas of the County, both services provide ALS service on all calls, even though no Ordinance requires them to do so. Air Life helicopter is housed at Carle Hospital and when available and weather conditions permit, is automatically dispatched to critical calls. Helicopter responses are primarily outside of the Champaign-Urbana area due to the ability to obtain quick response times from ground crews. Appropriate landing sites are also of concern.

For more information, please visit the service provider’s website (last accessed 3/25/2010):

<http://www.arrowambulance.com/>

<http://www.provena.org/COVENANT/body.cfm?id=116>

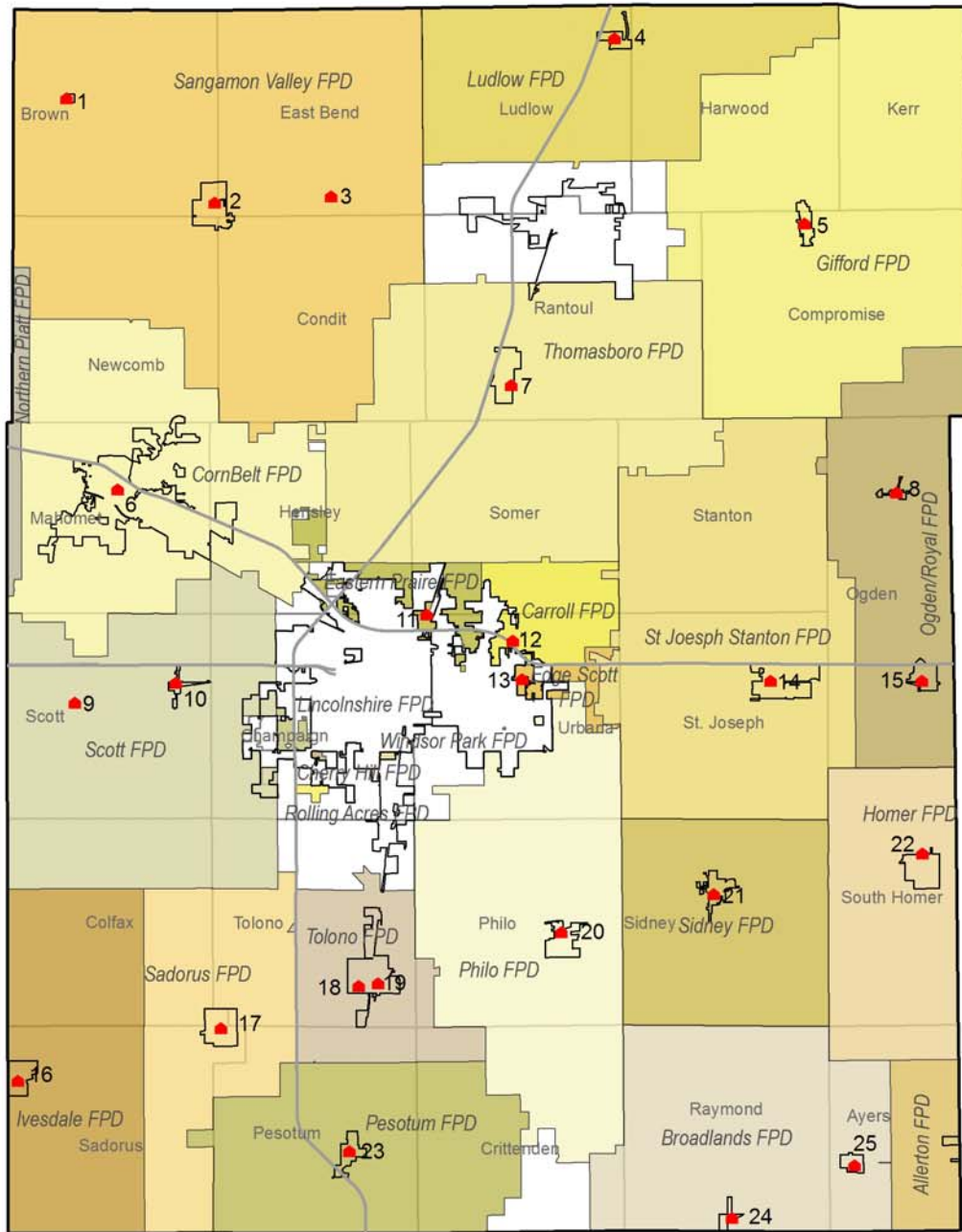
<http://www.gibsonhospital.org/services/ambulance.aspx>

### **Police Services Provided by Champaign County Sheriff’s Office**

Police services are provided to unincorporated areas in Champaign County by the Champaign County Sheriff’s Office. Patrols are provided in the unincorporated areas of the County, and, at present, are additionally contracted to the following villages: Ivesdale; Philo; Sidney; St. Joseph; and Savoy. Vehicular patrols are conducted year round, as well as foot patrols, weather permitting.<sup>10</sup>

The County is divided in half, east and west. Each half is overseen by a sergeant who is responsible for all deputies and activity during each shift. The Champaign County Sheriff’s department is understaffed, with less than one deputy per 1,000 population. (Incorporated police departments may average two officers per 1,000 population.) Two of the more densely populated unincorporated areas with insufficient police patrol coverage are the Scottswood Subdivision in east Urbana and the Dobbins Downs Subdivision, situated along the northwest City of Champaign limits.<sup>11</sup>

**Figure 7-2: Champaign County Fire Protection Districts**



**Fire Protection Districts**  
Champaign County

Legend

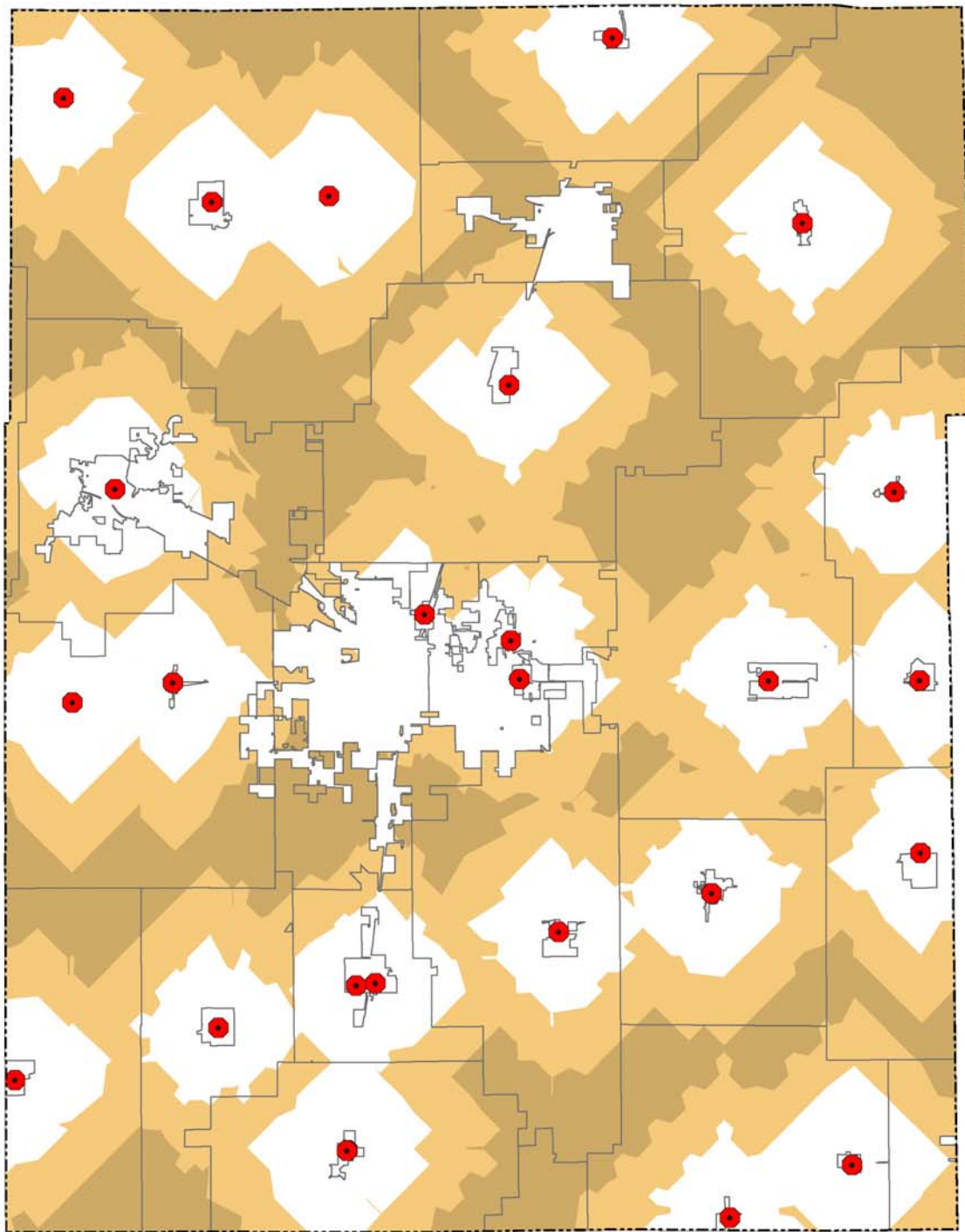
-  Fire Station
-  County Boundary
-  Civil Township
-  Municipal Boundary


  
0      2.5      5 Miles

Date Map Prepared:  
October, 2007

- |                            |                             |                                   |                               |                              |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 - Foolsland Fire Station | 6 - Mahomet Fire Station    | 11 - Eastern Prairie Fire Station | 16 - Ivesdale Fire Station    | 21 - Sidney Fire Station     |
| 2 - Fisher Fire Station    | 7 - Thomasboro Fire Station | 12 - Carroll Fire Station         | 17 - Sadorus Fire Station     | 22 - Homer Fire Station      |
| 3 - Dewey Fire Station     | 8 - Royal Fire Station      | 13 - Edge Scott Fire Station      | 18 - Tolono West Fire Station | 23 - Pesotum Fire Station    |
| 4 - Ludlow Fire Station    | 9 - Seymour Fire Station    | 14 - St Joseph Fire Station       | 19 - Tolono East Fire Station | 24 - Broadlands Fire Station |
| 5 - Gifford Fire Station   | 10 - Bondville Fire Station | 15 - Ogden Fire Station           | 20 - Philo Fire Station       | 25 - Longview Fire Station   |




**Figure 7-3: Fire Districts and Distance Traveled in Miles**



**Fire Districts and Distance Traveled**  
 Champaign County

**Legend**

- Outside 3 mile buffer
- Outside 5 mile buffer
- Municipal Boundary
- Fire District
- Rural Fire Stations
- Municipal Boundary


  

  

  
 Date Map Prepared:  
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## Public Schools

There are 14 school districts located primarily within Champaign County, as illustrated in Figure 7- 4. Table 7-3 shows the districts' enrollment for 2002 and 2006 and the number of schools in each district.

**Table 7-3: School Districts and Enrollment, 2002 and 2006**

	2002 Enrollment	2006 Enrollment	02-06 Change	Schools in District
Fisher Community Unit School District #1	592	600	8	2
Mahomet-Seymour Community Unit School District #3	2,659	2,776	117	5
Champaign Community Unit School District #4	8,967	8,897	-70	16
Tolono Community Unit School District #7	1,333	1,514	181	4
Heritage Community Unit School District #8	581	562	-19	3
Urbana School District #116	4,424	4,128	-296	8
Thomasboro Community Consolidated Grade School #130	227	185	-42	1
Rantoul City School District #137	1,628	1,713	85	5
Ludlow Community Consolidated School District #142	102	98	-4	1
St. Joseph Community Consolidated School District #169	688	795	107	1
Gifford Community Consolidated Grade School District #188	205	202	-3	1
Rantoul Township High School District #193	800	786	-14	1
Prairieview Community Consolidated School District #197	146	140	-6	2
St. Joseph-Ogden Community High School District #305	450	483	33	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,802</b>	<b>22879</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>51</b>

Sources: Interactive Illinois Report Card, <http://iirc.niu.edu>, Illinois State Board of Education

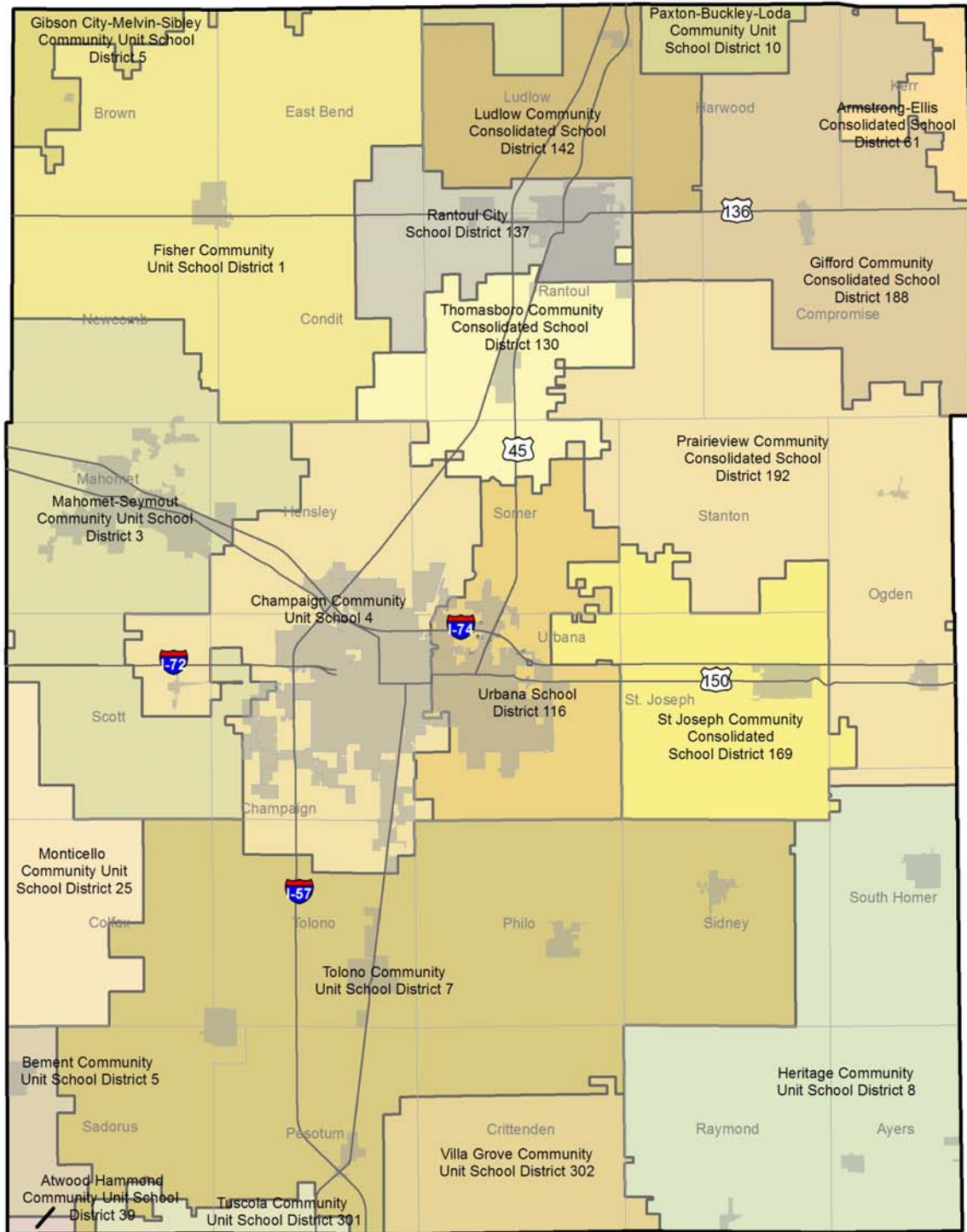
Tolono Unit 7, Mahomet-Seymour Unit 3, and St. Joseph Ogden District 305 have experienced the most growth in school enrollment over the last five years. In contrast, Urbana Unit 116 and Champaign Unit 4 have the largest decreases in enrollment of all Champaign County school districts. Overall, enrollment in Champaign County districts increased by 77 between 2002 and 2006.

### Higher Learning

Since its establishment as a land grant college in 1867, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been a major influence in the economic and cultural development of the County. Today the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a state university with an enrollment of approximately 40,000. The University is nestled between Urbana and Champaign, extending from Neil Street to Lincoln Avenue to the west and east, University Avenue to the north, and Airport Road to the south.

Parkland Community College, located in Champaign, has a present enrollment of approximately 12,000. Parkland's residency district includes almost all of Champaign County and extends into neighboring counties. Since its establishment in 1967, more than 219,000 students have attended Parkland. Over half of District 505 households contain at least one family member who has attended Parkland.<sup>12</sup>

**Figure 7-4: School Districts**



**School Districts**  
 Champaign County

Legend

- Municipal Boundary
- Civil Townships



Date Map Prepared:  
 October, 2007