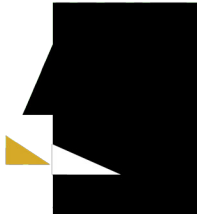


# Champaign County Indicators

our future. Here



## 2010 UPDATE

### Collaborative

- County Identity
- Tolerant Community
- Strategic Thinking
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Efficient Public Services
- Participatory Government
- Representative Government
- Town & Gown Relationship
- County-wide Transportation Planning

### Prosperous

- Business Climate
- New Business Growth
- Technology Infrastructure
- Workforce Development
- Air Service
- Locally Grown Food

### Sustainable

- Urban Growth and Farmland Preservation
- Parks and Natural Areas
- Groundwater Supply
- Energy Use
- Waste Reduction
- Alternative Transportation
- Mixed Use Development
- Urban Redevelopment

### Supportive

- Health and Well-being
- Health Care Access
- Access to Services
- A Safe Community
- Affordable Housing
- Accessible Housing

### Enriching

- Funding Quality Education
- Alternative Education
- Arts Education
- Regional Arts Center
- Access to Open Space
- Open Access for Recreation



# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY INDICATORS

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## BACKGROUND

The Champaign County Indicators are the fulfillment of an objective created in our future. here. A Vision for Champaign County published in 2007. In order to achieve a level of strategic thinking, where organizations, businesses and governments in Champaign County have a clear sense of purpose and sense of place in Champaign County, we need to measure our status regarding the community vision. To this end, a set of indicators was identified to measure progress towards the objectives presented in the vision.

## METHODOLOGY

our future. here. includes objectives, rationale, and a series of actions that can help the community begin to turn the vision into reality. All information in the vision was used to refine the often robust objectives into representative and measurable themes. Many objectives were written to encompass multiple topics suggesting the need for multiple indicators. However, for the sake of simplicity, one topic was selected to measure the overall intent of the objectives.

An indicator was not identified or accessible for every objective. In several cases, an effective indicator might be created through the use of a community opinion survey. In other cases, data sources are in development, but information is not available at the current time. As measures become available, indicators will be added to the report.

The process of defining indicators included research, trial and error, and in some instances subjective decision-making. Other indicator projects were referenced including The Boston Indicator Project, Sustainable Pittsburgh, and Sustainable Seattle among others.



### An indicator is

a data series that measures an issue of concern. A good indicator is easily measurable, updated frequently, and is presentable in an easily understood manner.

# CRITERIA FOR EFFECTIVE INDICATORS

Selecting effective measures from many possibilities is a critical step in the development of community indicators. In this project, a list of community objectives was used to establish the framework of issues to be measured. Some of these objectives are not directly measurable or refer to single actions that cannot be measured over time. In these instances, related data or a set of priority actions are suggested as proxies.

Once an indicator was identified, eight criteria were used to determine the effectiveness of the measures.

- Relevance
- Reflects Community Values
- Attractive to local media
- Statistically measurable
- Logically or scientifically defensible
- Reliable
- Provides for time to act
- Policy relevant

Very few indicators meet all criteria; however, appropriate measures will meet the majority of these criteria. A number of indicators are shown as potentially meeting criteria. This rating is given to criteria for indicators where data sources are currently under development or there is some uncertainty about the data continuity or the quality of the data at this time.

		<div> <div>Potentially meets criteria</div> <div>Meets criteria</div> </div>							
		Relevance: Tells us something we need to know	Reflects Community Values	Attractive to local media	Statistically measurable	Logically or scientifically defensible	Reliable	Indicator provides for time to act	Policy relevant
<b>Collaborative</b>									
County Identity	Herfindahl index of racial and ethnic diversity								
A Tolerant Community	Reported hate crimes								
Strategic Thinking	Under review								
Intergovernment Cooperation	Under review								
Efficient Public Services	Data Envelop Analysis (DEA)								
Participatory Government	Voter Participation Index								
Representative Government	Under review								
Town & Gown Relationship	Under review								
Countywide Transportation Planning	Steps Taken Towards completing a County-wide Transportation Plan								
<b>Prosperous</b>									
Business Climate	Reputation for Business Climate								
New Business Growth	Small Business Starts Index & Small Business Payroll Index								
Technology Infrastructure	Index of Employment in Technology Related Sectors								
Workforce Development	Median Wage Index								
Air Service	Share of Annual Regional Enplanements								
Locally Grown Food	Average Attendance per capita								
<b>Sustainable</b>									
Urban Growth and Farmland Preservation	Farmland conversion & Residential Development Density by Subdivision								
Parks and Natural Areas	Acreage of Parks and Natural Areas								
Groundwater supply	Steps Taken towards Protecting Groundwater Supply								
Energy Use	Under review								
Waste Reduction	Standard Tons of Waste to Landfill and Recycling								
Alternative Transportation	Change in Bicycle Infrastructure								
Mixed Use Development	Functional Mixed Use								
Urban Redevelopment	TIF Expenditures								
<b>Supportive</b>									
Health and Well-Being	Index of Key Health Measures								
Healthcare Access	Population with Health Care Coverage								
Access to Services	Access to Services Index								
A Safe Community	Reported crimes per 1,000 population								
Affordable Housing	Housing Affordability Factors								
Accessible Housing	Under review								
<b>Enriching</b>									
Funding Quality Education	Public Education Revenue Sources & Instructional Expenditure by District								
Alternative Education	Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment								
Arts Education	Arts Education Index								
Regional Arts Center	Value of In-Kind Contributions to Non-profit Arts Agencies								
Access to Open Space	Access to Open Space								
Open Access for									



## COMPARISON COMMUNITIES

A list of communities were identified for comparison purposes with particular indicators. The communities were identified based on economic and demographic statistics and similarity to Champaign County's unique physical landscape of high quality agricultural land. Location, size, public sector employment, student population, industry/occupation, and measures of social capital were used to determine the following list. For information about these communities and why they were selected, see Appendix A - Community Comparison White Page.

## EXPLANATION OF REPORT FORMAT

The report is formatted to include objectives from the community vision and a summary of the current status as indicated by the data. The **Indicator** name, the measure used, and the **Trend** provide a brief analysis of the data. **Type** classifies the indicator as Upstream (Why is this happening?), Status (What is happening?), or Downstream (Why is this important?). Other information such as scale, frequency of the data, and data source are also listed. **The Measure** provides background to information about the selected indicator and assumptions about that indicator. The **Community Vision** (shown in *italics*) is reproduced from language produced in **our future. here.** A Vision for Champaign County. This provides greater context for the objective and selected indicator.

## COMPARISON COMMUNITIES

- Bloomington, Indiana
- West Lafayette, Indiana
- Iowa City, Iowa
- Columbia, Missouri
- Kalamazoo, Michigan
- Lawrence, Kansas
- State College, Pennsylvania
- Bloomington/Normal, Illinois



**OBJECTIVE 1.1: COUNTY IDENTITY****STATUS: RANGE OF RACIAL DIVERSITY IN COMMUNITIES**

The residents of Champaign County will have a strong sense of being a part of a single community with shared values and common interests.

**Indicator:**

Herfindahl index of racial and ethnic diversity.

**Trend:**

Speculatively, Champaign County communities have strong, yet independent identities. Some communities may experience difficulty in identifying shared values and common interests. Efforts should be undertaken to ensure that all members are included in the County's identity.

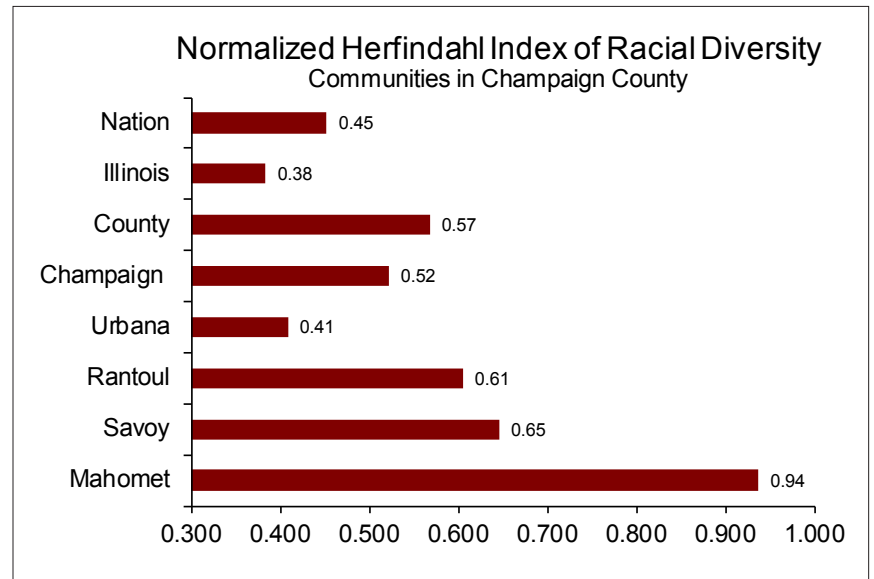
**Type:** Upstream

**Geographic Scale:** County and Municipalities

**Frequency:** Decennially

**Desired Progress:** Evidence of social capital despite diversity.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau



**The Measure:** A value of zero in the graph represents a heterogeneous population and a value of one represents a homogenous population. The Herfindahl Index of racial and ethnic diversity is a measure related to a theory regarding Social Capital. Social Capital is defined as the “features of social life including networks, norms, and trust - that enable participants to act together more effectively to pursue shared objectives” (Robert Putnam in *Tuning in, tuning out: The strange disappearance of social capital in America*, 1995). Putnam’s theory states that social capital is inhibited by diversity. Measures or evidence of social capital despite diversity are needed to show progress towards achieving shared values and common interests. This indicator measures the social condition in which Champaign County and respective communities operate. Positive progress for this objective will be based on qualitative evidence of shared values and common interests despite tendencies for heterogeneity to inhibit social capital.

**Community Vision:** *The objectives identified in the county vision require effective, concerted action, which can only come about with unity of purpose. Unity of purpose can be developed and maintained with a stronger sense of mutual interests, shared values, and education.*

**OBJECTIVE 1.2: TOLERANT COMMUNITY****STATUS: IN-LINE WITH COMPARISON COMMUNITIES**

Champaign County will be a model of tolerance, harmony, and respect for racial, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity.

**Indicator:**

Reported hate crimes

**Trend:**

Champaign County is in-line with other comparison communities. Additional effort is needed to achieve a status of model tolerant community. The use of targeted programs that promote tolerance and understanding could be implemented.

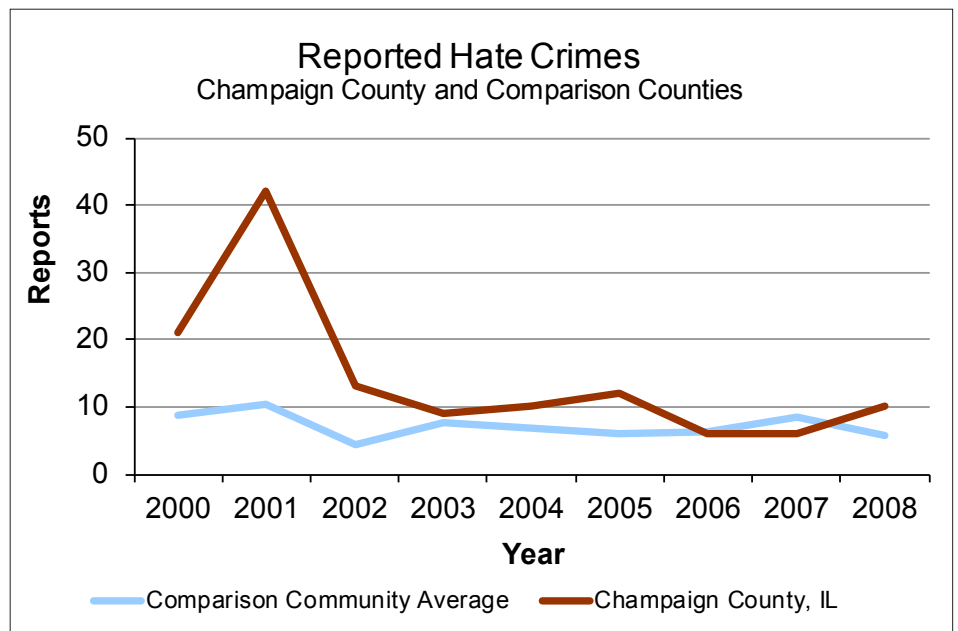
**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Annually

**Desired Progress:** Fewer reported hate crimes.

**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Database for each State



**The Measure:** Hate crime is defined as a crime committed by a person by reason of actual or perceived race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or gender. Reported hate crimes in Champaign County are in-line with the comparison counties for which data is available.

**Community Vision:** *Relations between different racial, ethnic and religious groups have been a challenge historically and remain so today. Moving the entire community forward on key initiatives with a concerted and unified purpose requires that all persons feel included and valued in the community.*

**OBJECTIVE 1.3: STRATEGIC THINKING****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Organizations, businesses and governments in Champaign County will have a clear sense of their place at the state, national and global scale, and of the ways that global trends and conditions affect their immediate and long term prospects.

**Indicator:**

Under review

**Trend:**

Speculatively, BOG's in Champaign County have a sense of place and diligently respond to national and global issues.

**Type:**

**Geographic Scale:**

**Frequency:**

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:**

**The Measure:** No measure has been identified as appropriate and feasible at the current time.

**Community Vision:** *We live in a challenging, fast-paced world. This dynamic requires a much greater understanding of the current conditions and trends and the interconnections between Champaign County, the region, and beyond.*



**OBJECTIVE 1.4: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Champaign County will be a place where intergovernmental cooperation is actively undertaken by all units of government.

**Indicator:**

Under review

**Trend**

Speculatively, local governments cooperate on a variety of initiatives. However, little is known about the extent and true benefits of these cooperative efforts. Additional disclosure and publicity for intergovernmental cooperation may be necessary.

**Type:**

**Geographic Scale:**

**Frequency:**

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:**

**The Measure:** No measure has been identified as appropriate and feasible at the current time.

**Community Vision:** *Champaign County has many independent governmental units with overlapping jurisdictions. Moving forward on any specific initiative usually requires consensus from numerous local taxing districts that coordinate and implement public policy, planning and appropriation of resources. More efficient, effective, and coordinated delivery of public services likely reduces public expenditure.*

**OBJECTIVE 1.5: EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Duplicative services will be substantially eliminated and all appropriate opportunities for sharing or consolidating government responsibilities will be implemented.

**Indicator:**

Data Envelop Analysis (DEA)<sup>1</sup>

**Trend:**

Speculatively, public services are provided efficiently. Additional opportunities for consolidation may be present, but currently unfeasible.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** Local Government

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** See Survey

**Source:** Government DEA Survey Form

**The Measure:** Data Envelopment Analysis is a non-statistical efficiency measure for public service output for each unit of input compared to other agencies. The analysis does not produce a frontier or ultimate point of efficiency. It simply compares relative efficiency of service against the most efficient service provided.

**Community Vision:** *More effective and efficient governmental services should translate into improved government and lower costs. Fewer independent entities will make it easier for citizens to understand the authority and responsibilities of the governments that serve them. In other regions, fewer governmental units provide the same range of services, which may create a potentially significant competitive disadvantage for the county.*

**Survey Instrument:** See Appendix B - Government DEA Survey form for details about required information and the statistical analysis used.

**Comment about the Data:** This is potentially a data intensive calculation and therefore a relatively time consuming and expensive indicator.

**Source:**

<sup>1</sup> Moore, Adrian; Nolan, James; Segal, Geoffrey. 2003. Putting out the trash: measuring municipal service efficiency in U.S. cities. Reason Public Policy Institute

**OBJECTIVE 1.6: PARTICIPATORY GOVERNMENT****STATUS: GREATER RATE OF VOTER PARTICIPATION THAN STATE**

A significant proportion of the citizenry, of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds, will be actively engaged in local elections and in government decision-making and action.

**Indicator:**

Voter Participation Index

**Trend:**

Local voter participation is greater than State average. Presidential elections continue to draw a significantly larger share of voters to the polls.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

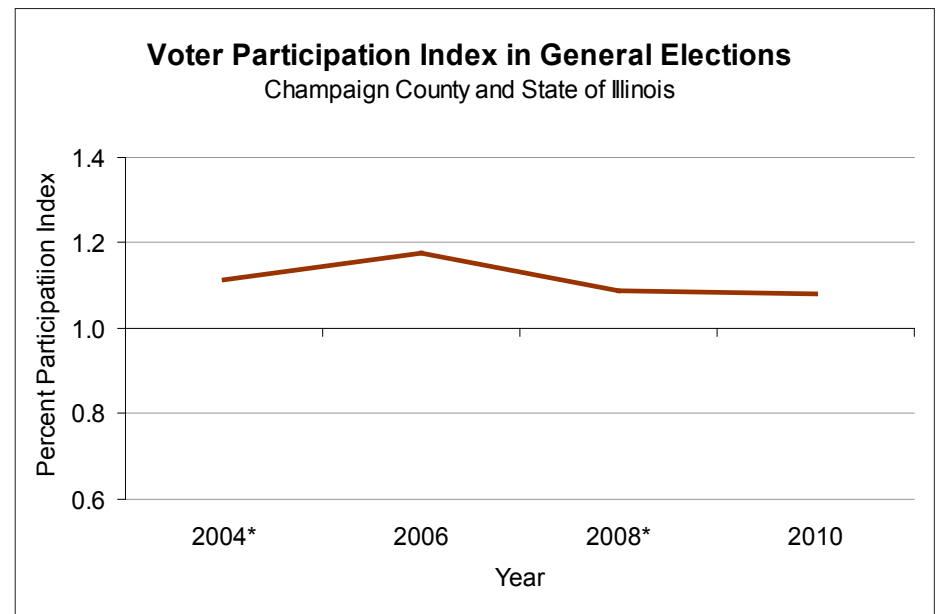
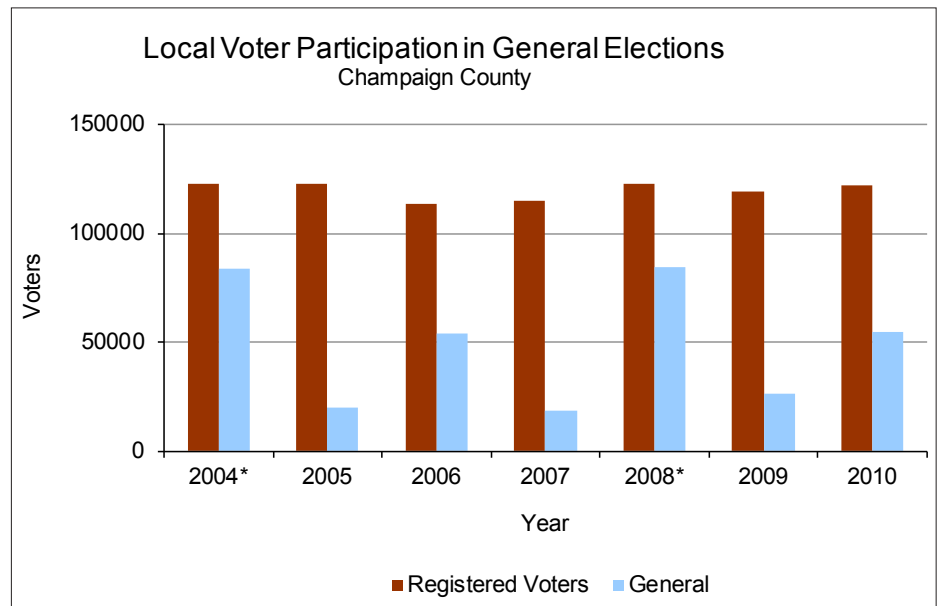
**Frequency:** Biennial

**Desired Progress:** Increasing voter participation rates

**Source:** Champaign County Clerk

**The Measure:** Voting is one method by which the public can participate in government. Voting records are maintained and publicly available making this a readily available indicator. The most appropriate comparison can be made from U.S. Presidential election years due to a difference in magnitude of voter turn out. Other years are to be compared with caution, understanding the races that are held each year. The participation index compares voting rates from Champaign County and the State of Illinois for National and State election years. An index value of greater than 1.0 indicates greater participation in Champaign County than the State Average.

\* 2004 and 2008 were presidential election years.



**Community Vision:** A more involved citizenry ensures more responsive government and more effective policy. This is especially true today, since it is difficult to understand and navigate local governments, many of which have overlapping jurisdictions and responsibilities.

## OBJECTIVE 1.7: REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

### STATUS: UNDER REVIEW

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Citizen leaders will effectively represent all segments of the community.

**Indicator:**

Under review

**Trend:**

Speculatively, portions of the community are underrepresented.

**Type:**

**Geographic Scale:**

**Frequency:**

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:**

**The Measure:** No measure has been identified as appropriate and feasible at the current time.

**Community Vision:** *Good government requires appreciation of all perspectives in the community and sound decision-making. This requires that concerns be expressed effectively by persons who can speak credibly for constituent groups and who are also knowledgeable about government procedures, processes and issues. It also requires independent critical review of government processes.*

**OBJECTIVE 1.8: TOWN & GOWN RELATIONSHIP****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Leadership of the University of Illinois and Parkland College will bring the knowledge, skill and energy of their institutions to all significant civic initiatives.

**Indicator:**

Under review

**Trend:**

Speculatively, there are opportunities to achieve closer relationships that will produce community benefits.

**Type:**

**Geographic Scale:**

**Frequency:**

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:**

**The Measure:** No measure has been identified as appropriate and feasible at the current time.

**Community Vision:** *Our institutions of higher learning are among the best in the nation and a unique source of specialized knowledge and expertise. At the same time, they are very important employers in highly competitive industries and have a special stake in the well being and competitiveness of the community. It is crucial to leverage their substantial resources and address their concerns as we make decisions and undertake initiatives.*

**OBJECTIVE 1.9: COUNTY-WIDE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Appropriate agencies will implement a coordinated county-wide transportation plan produced by a representative transportation planning program comparable to the Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS).

**Indicator:**

Steps taken towards completing a county-wide transportation plan

**Trend:**

Speculatively, detailed transportation planning primarily occurs in the urbanized area of Champaign County

**Suggested Action Steps:**

- Educate residents and leaders about a county-wide Transportation Plan
- Obtain commitment to transportation planning from all relevant communities
- Conduct a Transportation Study to research county-wide needs
- Extend CUUATS Transportation Model

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** Proceed with action steps

**Source:** CCRPC

**The Measure:** Since this objective is essentially stated as a one time action, there is no data stream to measure progress. By identifying the steps required to achieve the action, progress can be monitored. The suggested actions steps may need periodic updates.

**Community Vision:** *Present transportation planning efforts are tied to institutional structures with artificial boundaries. Travel and transportation questions extend throughout the county and need, therefore, to be coordinated on a county-wide basis. Demand for transportation quality and mode choice are county-wide issues. An integrated planning system would ensure quality and comprehensiveness throughout the county.*

**Actions Underway:**

- Extend Transportation Model - In September 2010, the Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (housed at the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission) received a grant to extend the Travel Demand Model to include all of Champaign County. The model has an expected completion date in 2012.

### OBJECTIVE 2.1: BUSINESS CLIMATE

#### STATUS: LESS FAVORABLE THAN COMPARISON COMMUNITIES

Champaign County will have a national reputation for its favorable business climate and support for local businesses.

##### Indicator:

Reputation for Businesses and Careers

##### Trend:

Reputation is generally improving but remains below comparison community average.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** Metropolitan Statistical Area

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** Higher rank than average among comparison communities

**Source:** Forbes Magazine

**The Measure:** Forbes magazine records a number of criteria related to business climate<sup>1</sup>. Their index ranks metropolitan statistical areas on three primary measures. Measures 1 and 2 for Champaign are consistently worse than comparison communities.

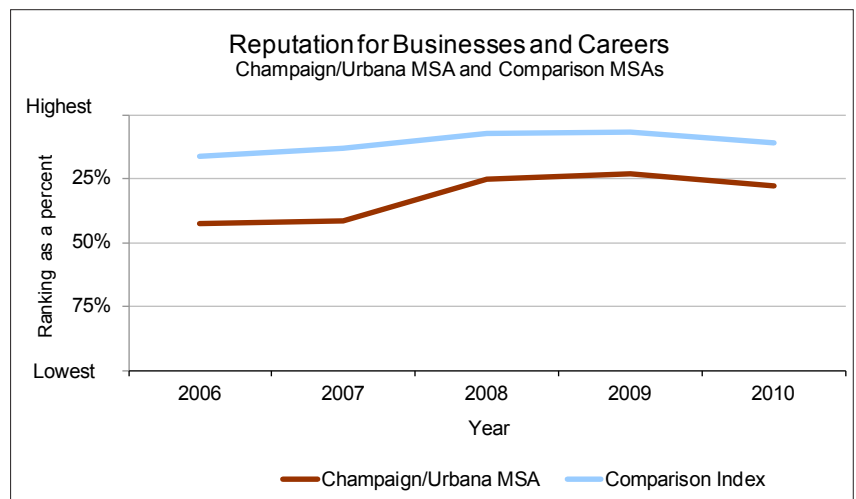
1. Cost of doing business - Index based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space.
2. Job Growth - 5-year annualized figures.
3. Educational Attainment - Share of Population over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher.

**Community Vision:** *Our institutions of higher learning are among the best in the nation and a unique source of specialized knowledge and expertise. At the same time they are very important employers in highly competitive industries and have a special stake in the well being and competitiveness of the community. It is crucial to leverage their substantial resources and address their concerns as we make decisions and undertake initiatives.*

##### Source:

<sup>1</sup> Forbes Magazine (2008). Best Places for Businesses and Careers, Smaller Metro Areas. Retrieved 3/10/2009 from Forbes Magazine Web site: [http://www.forbes.com/2008/03/19/best-business-cities-biz-bestplaces08-cx\\_kb\\_0319places\\_land.html](http://www.forbes.com/2008/03/19/best-business-cities-biz-bestplaces08-cx_kb_0319places_land.html).

MSA Ranking of Best Reputation for Businesses and Careers Ranked from low to high					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Iowa City, IA	13	5	2	9	2
Columbia, MO	16	3	4	5	8
West Lafayette, IN	40	24	16	8	12
Bloomington, IN	12	6	3	4	16
Lawrence, KS	60	49	24	28	21
Bloomington, IL	50	58	20	12	38
State College, PA	15	21	23	21	43
Champaign, IL	76	74	45	41	50
Comparison Average	29	23.7	13.1	12.4	20



## OBJECTIVE 2.2: NEW BUSINESS GROWTH

### STATUS: INCREASING SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH, INCREASING PAY FOR EMPLOYEES

The success rate of new businesses will increase significantly, and the earnings and employment in small businesses will keep pace with the overall growth of the county economy.

#### Indicator:

Small Business Starts Index

Small Business Payroll Index

#### Trend:

The launch rate for small firms in Champaign County is increasing. Annual payrolls for small businesses are not growing at the same rate as payrolls for large businesses

**Type:** Status

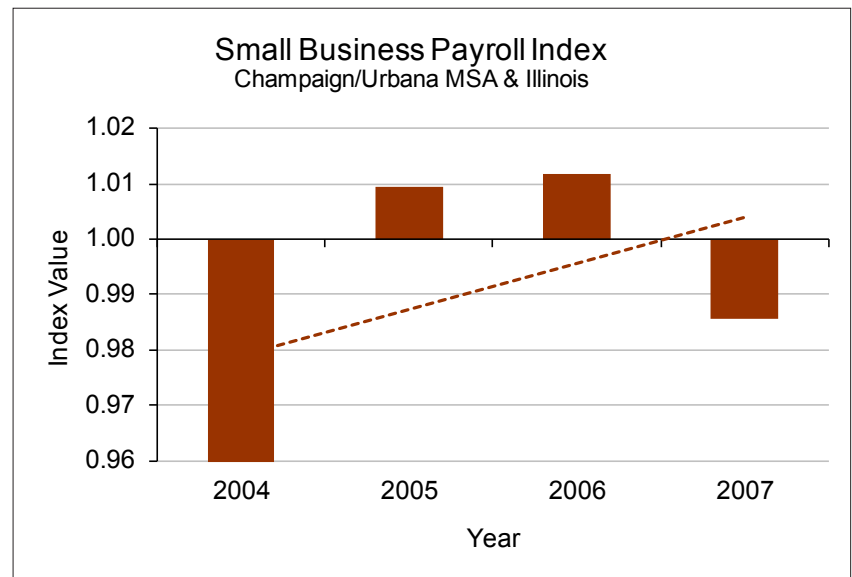
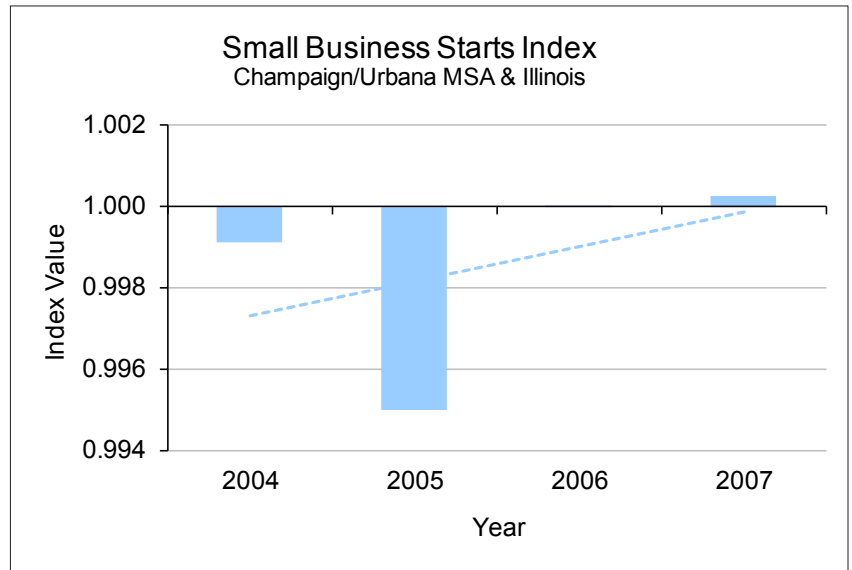
**Geographic Scale:** Metropolitan Statistical Area

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** Growth trend

**Source:** Small Business Administration

**The Measure:** Two concepts are identified in this objective: significant increase in business, and comparison of earnings and employment. New business is measured by comparing change in local business starts to business starts at the state level. Payroll is used to measure earnings and employment. Change in local payroll of small businesses (less than 500 employees) is compared the change in payroll of small businesses statewide. Each index allows a simple comparison of change from one year to another.



**Community Vision:** *New businesses generate a substantial part of overall employment growth and are the foundation for expansion of the county's economy into new areas of opportunity. Supporting minority-owned businesses is an important means to broaden economic wellbeing and community cohesion. Fostering new business is especially important with respect to commercializing innovations developed by the University of Illinois.*



## OBJECTIVE 2.3: TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

### STATUS: INCREASING TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE SECTOR

Champaign County will have technology infrastructure that places it among the leaders in the nation.

**Indicator:**

Index of Employment in  
Technology Related Sectors

**Trend:**

Information sector is declining  
while professional and  
technical services is increasing  
relative to comparison  
communities.

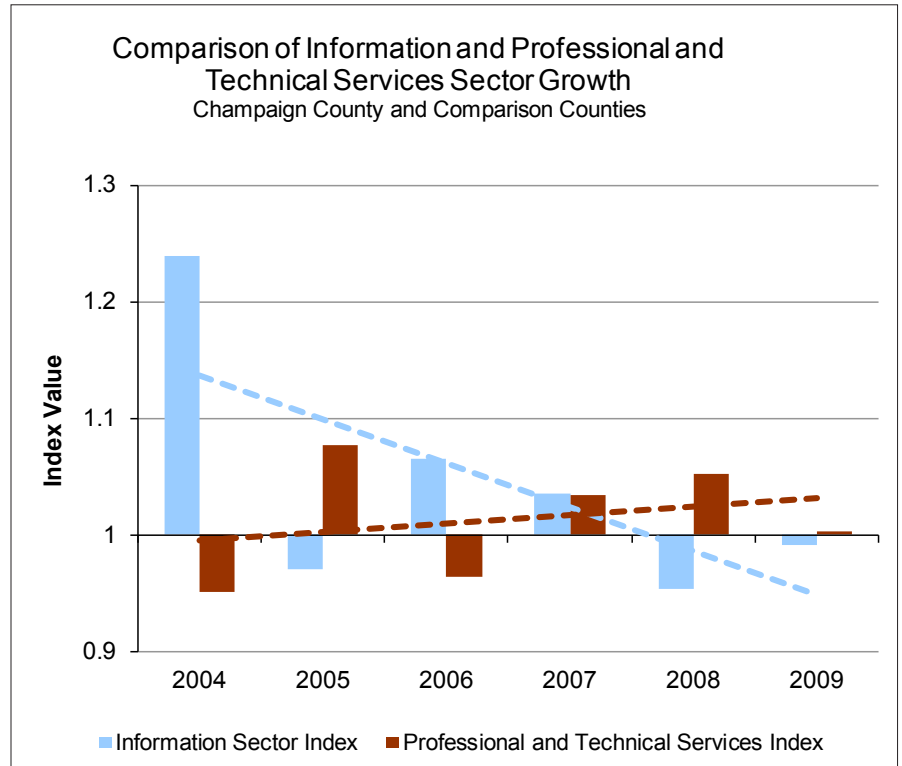
**Type:** Downstream

**Geographic Scale:** County

**Frequency:** Quarterly

**Desired Progress:** Increasing  
employment in these sectors

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Local  
Employment Dynamics



**The Measure:** Increasing access to technology and technology services will allow business expansion and business establishment, resulting in new jobs in two important sectors. Information (NAICS - 51), which includes Telecommunications and Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services; Professional and Technology (NAICS - 54), which includes Computer Systems Design and Related Services; and Scientific Research and Development Services. These sub-sectors rely heavily on technology infrastructure, therefore employment growth would indicate increasing advantage in technology infrastructure.

**Community Vision:** *Fast, dependable, affordable broadband access to digital information is an increasingly important factor in retaining and attracting quality jobs and employment in Champaign County. National ranking of communities with the best technology infrastructure contribute to comparative data that individuals and businesses use to decide on where to locate and invest.*

**Comment on the Data:** Sub-sectors are included that may not directly depend on technology infrastructure. Further interpretation may be necessary to determine which sub-sectors are experiencing the greatest change and the extent of their reliance on technology infrastructure.

## OBJECTIVE 2.4: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### STATUS: LOCAL WAGES ARE LESS THAN AVERAGE STATE WAGES

Champaign County will have a unified, comprehensive workforce development program that will increase the share of county employment in well-paying occupations and raise the median wage relative to the State.

#### Indicator:

Median Wage Index

#### Trend:

Numerous local wages are lower than the State, but approaching the State average over time.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:**

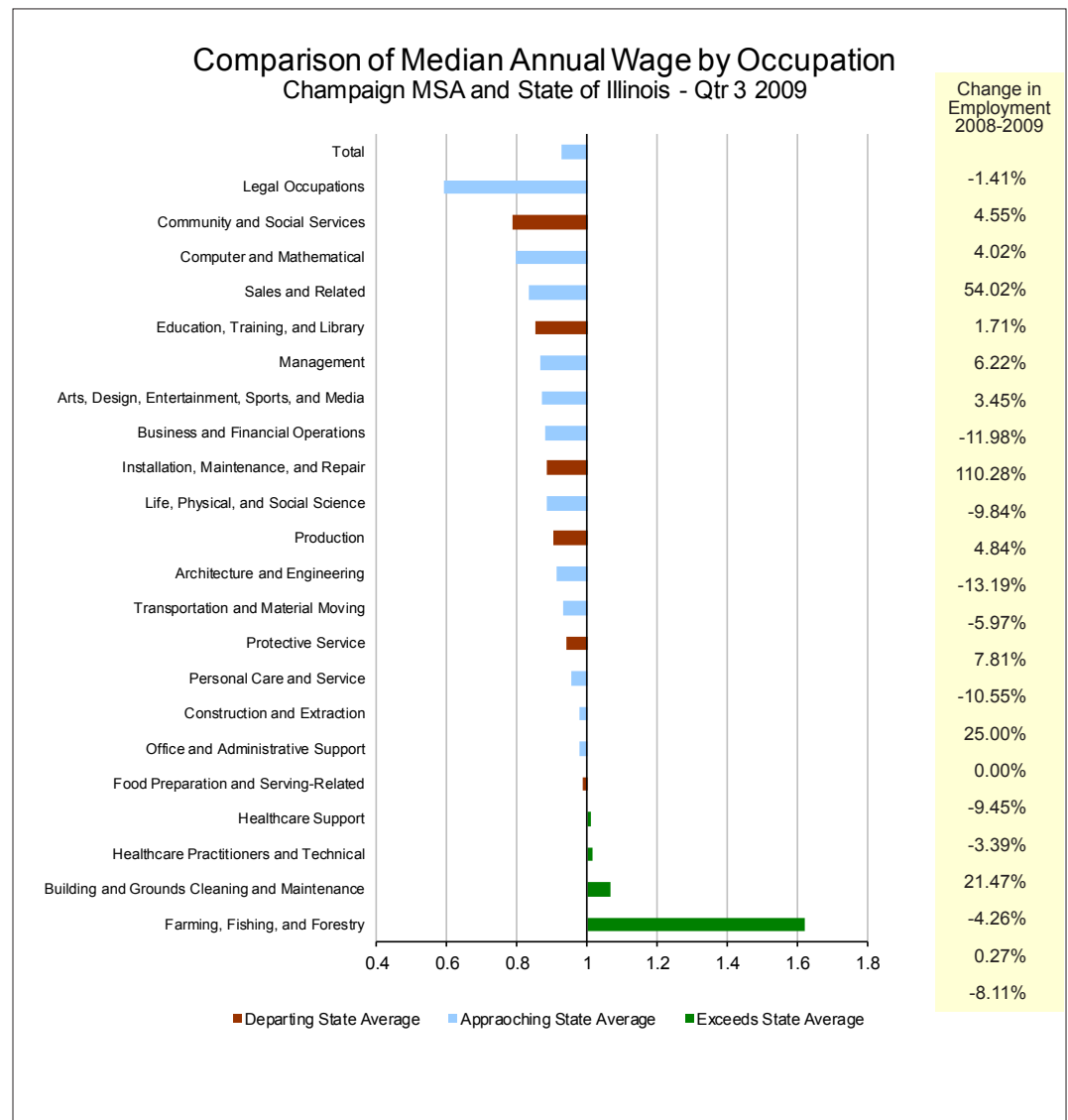
Metropolitan Statistical Area

**Frequency:** Quarterly

**Desired Progress:** Greater number of occupation categories will have higher median wages than the State

**Source:** Illinois Department of Employment Security, BLS

**The Measure:** The median wage index compares wages in Champaign County to the State of Illinois. Index bars facing left show occupations with an average wage below the State of Illinois. The graph is color coded to show occupations that are diverging from, approaching or currently exceed state wages.



**Community Vision:** The overall economic well-being of the county and the breadth of economic opportunity are built on the well-being of individual families and the wages they earn. A local economy where growth is led by more well-paying, higher-skilled jobs will also generate a greater number of jobs at all skill levels.

**Comment on the Data:** In 2009, Champaign MSA wages exceed the State median in four occupations.

## OBJECTIVE 2.5: AIR SERVICE

### STATUS: SHARE IS BELOW OTHER REGIONAL AIRPORTS

Champaign County will be the premier regional air service hub in Central Illinois.

#### Indicator:

Share of annual regional enplanements

#### Trend:

Holding a steady share of market, but below other regional airports.

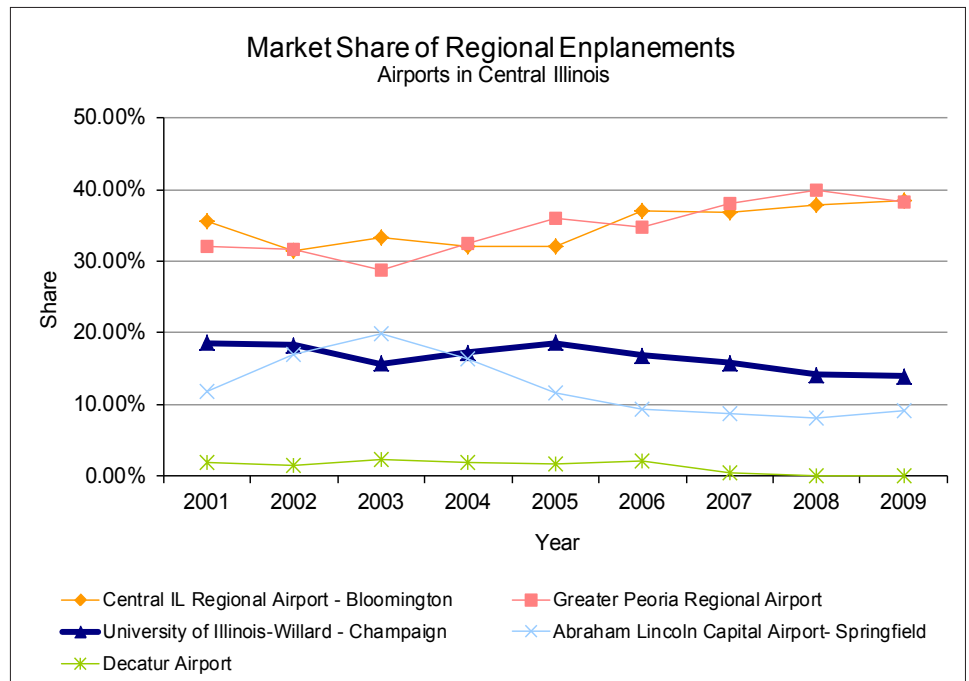
#### Type: Status

**Geographic Scale:** Central Illinois Region

**Frequency:** Annually in October

**Desired Progress:** Increasing share of enplanements

**Source:** Federal Aviation Administration



**The Measure:** Regional air service is a complex model with many factors that are used to derive market share. These include population, service carriers, and destinations. The enplanement data is not normalized against one or more of these factors because of complex definitions and the significant impact that these definitions impose on calculations. Defining the region, market, overlap, and leakages pose too much subjectivity to provide an understandable measure. This indicator simply reports the share of regional flights that each airport provides as a measure of its rating. The Central Illinois region has five airports of medium size that are used for comparison.

**Community Vision:** *The actual and perceived availability of convenient passenger and freight air service is a key location criterion for many businesses. This is particularly true in the technology sector where the University of Illinois plays a key role. Air service is also important to existing enterprises and is a quality of life issue for many. Champaign County possesses facilities at Willard Airport, the Rantoul National Aviation Center, and Frasca Field that constitute important opportunities to expand passenger, freight and other air services.*

**Comment on the Data:** Currently, the premier regional air service hub is the Central Illinois Regional Airport in Bloomington-Normal. U of I Willard Airport has a significantly smaller share of enplanements compared to the Bloomington and Peoria airports.

## OBJECTIVE 2.6: LOCALLY GROWN FOOD

**STATUS: ON AVERAGE, 3.18% OF RESIDENTS ATTEND THE MARKET**

A significantly increased share of the food consumed in Champaign County will be produced in the county.

**Indicator:**

Average Attendance Per Capita

**Trend:**

Market attendance is increasing per capita.

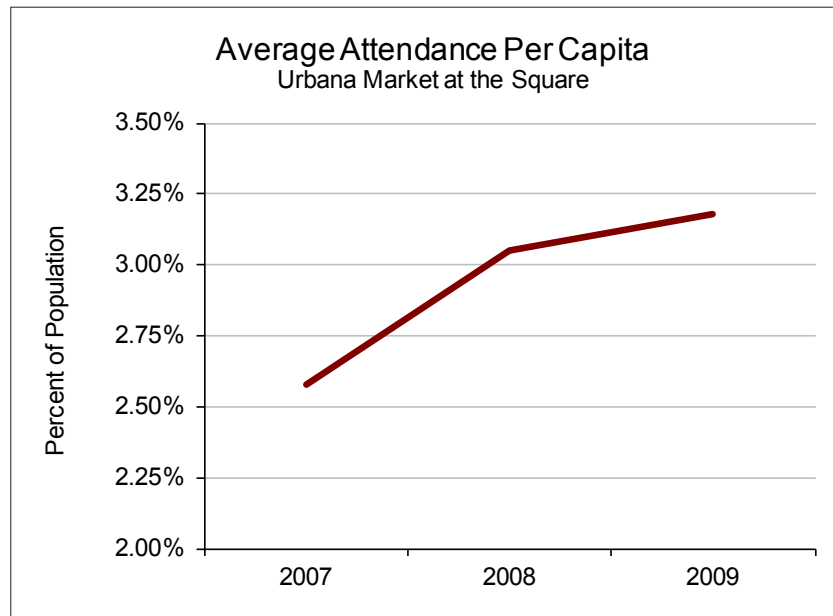
**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** Increase in participation per capita

**Source:** City of Urbana - Market at the Square Annual Report



**The Measure:** There are a variety of ways to obtain locally grown food including backyard gardens, community agriculture plots, Community Supported Agriculture, restaurants, and local food markets. The Urbana Market at the Square is one of the largest in the state and provides locally grown food to residents from the entirety of Champaign County. The per capita measure of Market at the Square is based on estimated attendance by market staff and county population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Community Vision:** *The desire to support local farmers and food processors as well as the growing interest in organic and healthier foods creates opportunities to promote local farms and businesses which could result in economic health and environmental benefits in the community.*

**Comment on the Data:** Many residents have backyard gardens, are members of Community Supported Agriculture plots, or buy local foods at locations other than the Urbana Farmers Market. However, Urbana's Market at the Square is an appropriate measure of locally grown food because it reaches a large number of county residents, and consistently records data. This data substitutes the term 'local food' for food grown in Champaign County since some Market at the Square vendors come from outside of Champaign County. In the future, more comprehensive measures will likely replace this indicator and may provide a method for determining the share of food produced, sold, and consumed specifically within Champaign County.

## OBJECTIVE 3.1: URBAN GROWTH & FARMLAND PRESERVATION

### STATUS: RESIDENTIAL DENSITY IS INCREASING

Urban Growth and Farmland Preservation - By 2030 a significantly larger share of new development will be built at higher densities and will be contiguous to or within existing built-up areas.

**Indicator:** Acres of Farmland Converted and Residential Density by Subdivision

**Trend:**

Per Capita farmland consumption is decreasing, residential density is increasing.

**Type:** Status/Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

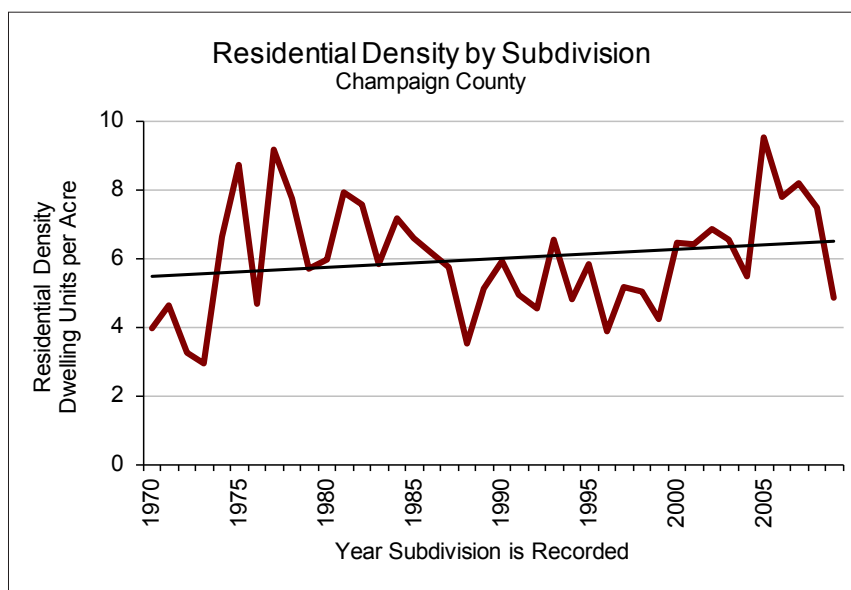
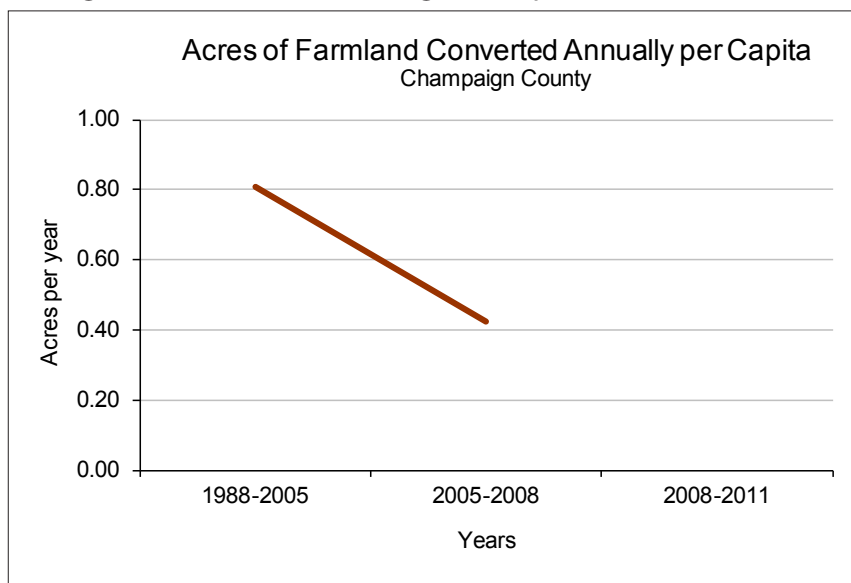
**Frequency:** Every three years/ Annually

**Desired Progress:** Reduction in acres of farmland converted / Increase in dwelling units per acre

**Source:** CCGISC

**The Measure:** Acres of farmland converted per capita is measured using digital tax parcels and air photo interpretation in GIS. Aerials are generally available in three year intervals.

Residential density by subdivision is calculated by estimating the number of dwelling units for all residential parcels based on land use. These are then summarized and aggregated by subdivision to get an overall residential density for an area.



**Community Vision:** Outward urban growth can be a source of increasing service cost, increasing infrastructure cost, and increasing transportation costs. This occurs when urban amenities are forced outwards linearly rather than maximizing the amount of area developed and minimizing the perimeter of the development. This cannot occur uniformly due to physical limitations, boundaries, and numerous other reasons, however compact and contiguous development patterns are one solution to suburban type sprawl. Increasing infill and high density development allows municipal expansion without pressuring the outer municipal limits and converting farmland.

**OBJECTIVE 3.2: PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS****STATUS: CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HAS 5,907 ACRES OF PARK LAND**

The acreage of urban and county parks and protected natural areas will at least double, the ecological integrity of their natural areas will be restored, and the sites will be protected from disturbance by neighboring land uses.

**Indicator:**

Acreage of Parks and Natural Areas

**Trend:**

Parks and natural areas have increased in acreage.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Every 3 years

**Desired Progress:** Increase in acreage

**Source:** Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan, ISGS

**Champaign County Parks**

Total Acreage by Agency	1970	2005	2008
Champaign County Forest Preserve	1,226	3,611	3,771
Champaign Park District	338	552	552
Urbana Park District	216	544	544
Rantoul Park District	203	198	198
University of Illinois			
Arboretum & Illini Grove	169	169	169
Student Facilities	125		
Golf Courses	254	241	241
Other Parks	13	295	335
Village of Savoy	*	17	17
Village of Mahomet	*	80	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,644</b>	<b>5,706</b>	<b>5,907</b>

\* Included in Other Parks

**The Measure:** Parks and natural areas are defined as park land owned by the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Municipalities, or Natural Areas identified by the State of Illinois. This information is collected and distributed through the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan and the Illinois State Geological Survey GIS Clearinghouse.

**Community Vision:** *The availability of parks, preserves, and outdoor recreation opportunities is an important element of the attractiveness and competitiveness of the community. The remaining natural areas in the county continue to be lost to development and opportunities to expand park acreage in those areas are dissipating. Preserving and restoring natural areas can lend to a sense of place in the community and provide important recreation opportunities and natural services.*

**Comment on the Data:** There is currently a need for defining natural areas as separate from parks. Issues that need to be resolved include ownership, program involvement, and criteria for inclusion/exclusion. Once defined, a method for calculating changes in size of these areas should be addressed.

**OBJECTIVE 3.3: GROUNDWATER SUPPLY****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Policies will be in place that protect the county's groundwater resources and ensure a safe, sustainable water supply for humans and wildlife.

**Indicator:**

Steps taken towards protecting groundwater supply

**Trend:**

Speculatively, increased water extraction is impacting the sustainability of the groundwater supply.

**Required Action Steps:**

- Adopt action steps proposed by Mahomet Aquifer Consortium
- Adoption of water use policies / regulations
- Adoption of groundwater protection policies / regulations
- Protection of groundwater recharge areas

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Biennially

**Desired Progress:** Action steps are completed

**Source:** CCRPC

**The Measure:** Through identifying the steps needed to protect the County's groundwater resources, progress can be monitored towards achieving this objective. The list of action steps is suggested and can be modified at any time.

**Community Vision:** *An abundant and safe water supply is a key and increasingly important asset to the county. This supply is critical to business, agriculture, domestic use and for maintenance of stream flow.*

**Comment on the Data:** The Mahomet Aquifer Consortium was formed to develop an approach for studying and understanding the Mahomet Aquifer as a groundwater resource. The Consortium is comprised of water authorities, water companies, local, county, state, and federal government, professional groups, and the general public.

**OBJECTIVE 3.4: ENERGY USE****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Champaign County will significantly reduce nonrenewable energy use.

**Indicator:**

Under review

**Trend:**

Speculatively, standard energy consumption per capita is decreasing.

**Type:**

**Geographic Scale:**

**Frequency:**

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:**

**The Measure:** No measure has been identified as appropriate and feasible at the current time.

**Community Vision:** *Non-renewable energy supplies are finite and increasing in cost. Renewable energy use depletes fewer resources and can be cost effective. Increasing use of renewable energy sources reduces the nation's reliance on insecure foreign energy sources, pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.*



**OBJECTIVE 3.5: WASTE REDUCTION****STATUS: NEARLY ONE TON OF WASTE PER PERSON, ANNUALLY**

Champaign County will significantly reduce the tonnage of waste disposed of in landfills and increase the volume and type of materials that are reused or recycled.

**Indicator:**

Standard ton of waste to landfill and recycling

**Trend:**

The amount of waste generated in Champaign County is decreasing.

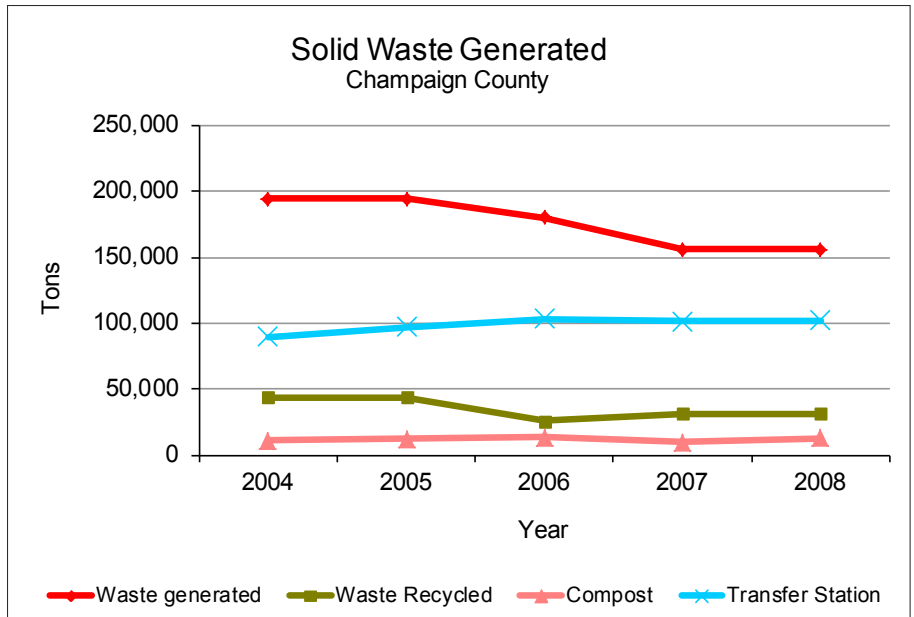
**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** 2 years

**Desired Progress:** Less waste to landfill

**Source:** ILEPA Landfill Capacity Report



**The Measure:** Data regarding solid waste in Champaign County is split into four categories: waste generated, waste recycled, compost, and transfer station (another measure of recycling). These measures currently use a variety of estimating techniques and have a lack accountability and accuracy, which makes the data somewhat unreliable. In the future, better information will likely be available to supplant the information currently shown above.

**Community Vision:** *Waste reduction through increased efficiency, reuse, and recycling reduces the consumption of natural resources and energy, reduces pollution, and conserves available landfill capacity. It also offers opportunities to reduce costs associated with waste collection, transport and disposal.*

**Comment on the Data:** Other measures of waste generation are currently in development by the Illinois Recycling Association. Once available, these measures may take the place of EPA records because of greater reporting frequency and flexibility in analysis.

## OBJECTIVE 3.6: ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

### STATUS: BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE GROWS 12.6%

Land use patterns, infrastructure investments, programs, and policies will provide most people with convenient and safe transportation choices and encourage walking, biking, and public transit.

#### Indicator:

Change in Bicycle Infrastructure

**Trend:** Bicycle infrastructure is increasing primarily through additional on street bike lanes.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** Increasing Share

**Source:** Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study

Path Type / Mileage	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Shared-Use Path (sidepath, off-street)	42.82	43.83	1.01	2.4%
Divided Shared-Use Path	4.60	4.60	0.00	0.0%
Bike Path (includes UIUC Bike Path)	7.90	7.90	0.00	0.0%
Bike Lanes (on-street)	4.73	10.10	5.36	113.3%
Total:	60.05	67.60	7.55	12.6%

**The Measure:** Change in bicycle infrastructure shows greater opportunity for the community to use alternative transportation.

**Community Vision:** *Increased use of alternative modes of transportation will reduce dependence on foreign energy sources, reduce pollution, lessen traffic congestion, reduce the need for street and parking infrastructure, and contribute to more active and healthier life styles. Wider availability of alternatives can expand consumer choice and increase the mobility of those who cannot or who prefer not to drive.*

**OBJECTIVE 3.7: MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Public and private initiatives will significantly increase the development and redevelopment of mixed use neighborhoods that include strong local businesses.

**Indicator:**

Functional Mixed Use

**Trend:**

Speculatively, mixed use development is increasing.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:**

**The Measure:** Both horizontal and vertical mixed use can limit vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for job commutes, daily needs shopping, getting to school, and other common destinations. Destinations might include: Bank, Child care facility (licensed), Community/civic center, Convenience store, Hair care, Hardware store, Health club or outdoor recreation facility, Laundry/dry cleaner, Library, Medical/dental office, Pharmacy (stand-alone), Place of worship, Post office, Restaurant, School, Senior care facility, Supermarket, or Theater. Mixed use provides walkable access to a variety of these uses and provides many community benefits when developed in accessible locations. A more precise definition of mixed use could be adopted by municipalities in Champaign County . This can include definitions of neighborhood units, service areas for neighborhood businesses, residential densities, and a desirable mix of land uses for neighborhoods.

**Community Vision:** *Mixed use neighborhoods permit people to meet more of their day-today needs by walking, allowing healthier and more convivial lifestyles as well as lessening the need to drive and to provide additional street and parking infrastructure. Mixing uses can create more compact forms of development, thereby reducing the consumption of natural resources and generation of pollution.*

**OBJECTIVE 3.8: URBAN REDEVELOPMENT****STATUS: NEARLY \$12 MILLION IN PUBLIC FUNDS SPENT IN 2009**

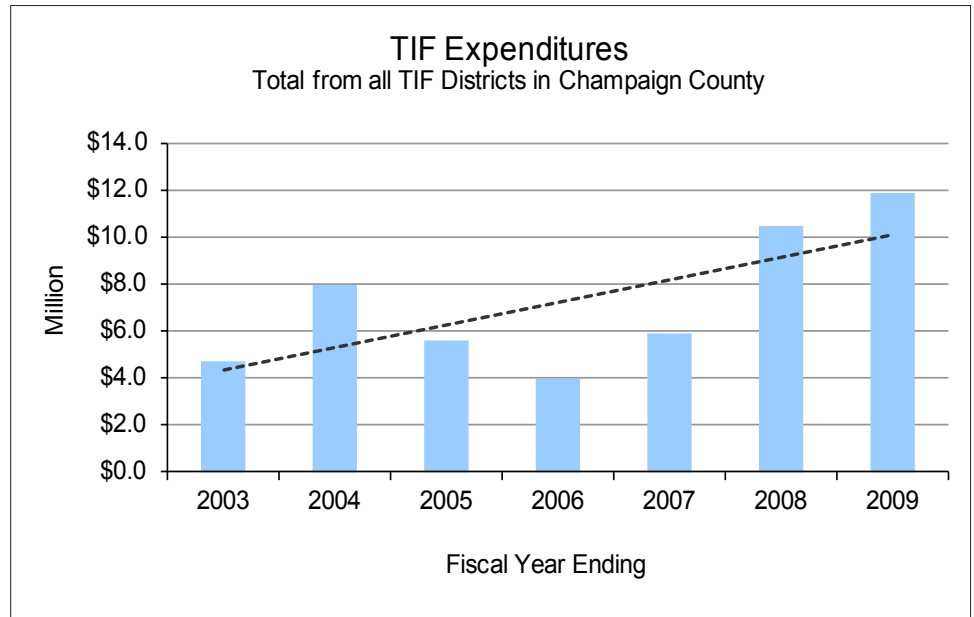
Existing neighborhoods and downtowns will see significant new investment and become desirable locations where older buildings are preserved and complemented by new development.

**Indicator:**

TIF Expenditures

**Trend:**

County-wide TIF expenditures fluctuate, but have increased since 2006.

**Type:** Status**Geographic Scale:** County-wide**Frequency:** Annual**Desired Progress:** TIF expenditures are increasing**Source:** Municipal budgets

**The Measure:** Redevelopment areas in Champaign County can be generalized as TIF zones, Enterprise Zones, and Community Development Target Areas. The amount expended in TIF districts from established financing reflects new investment in locations that have shown a decline. Eight municipalities in Champaign County have TIF districts including Champaign, Fisher, Homer, Mahomet, Rantoul, Savoy, Tolono and Urbana.

**Community Vision:** *Existing neighborhoods represent substantial sunk investment in private buildings and public infrastructure. Reinvestment and redevelopment in existing neighborhoods captures more value from these investments, preserves historic structures and neighborhoods, fosters more compact growth patterns, and makes for more lively and convivial communities.*

**OBJECTIVE 4.1: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING****STATUS: KEY MEASURES ARE IMPROVING**

Key measures of health and safety will significantly improve for all residents in Champaign County.

**Indicator:**

Index of Key Health Measures

**Trend:**

Key measures of health and well-being are generally increasing.

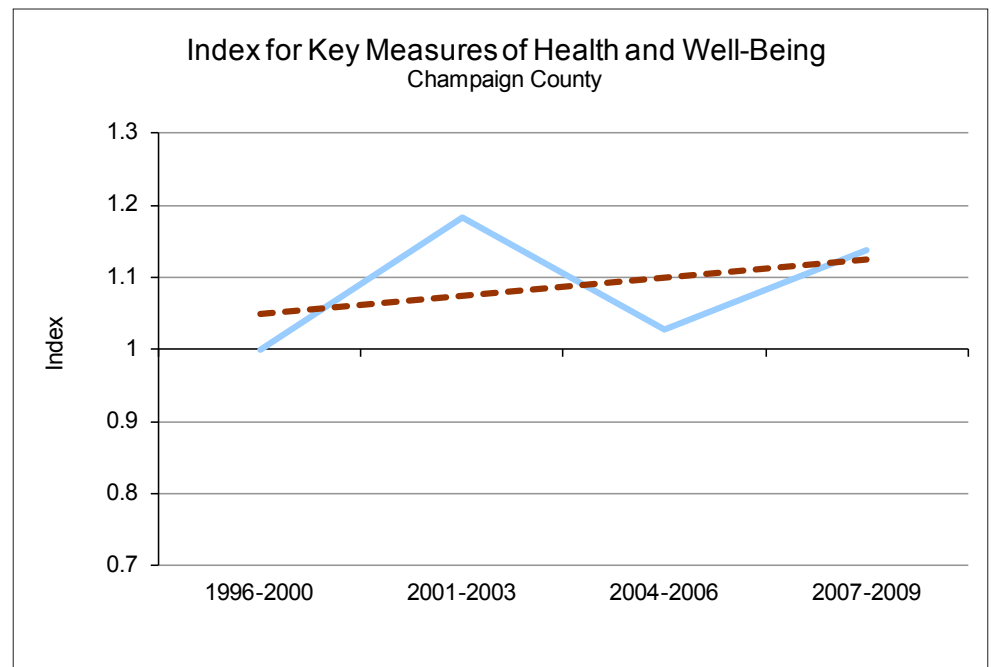
**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Biennial

**Desired Progress:** Increase

**Source:** Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey



**The Measure:** The index of key measures uses several health statistics in a weighted average system. The index shows changes in the following measures (weight in percent): no report of diabetes (30%), annual flu shot (30%), no report of high cholesterol (20%), fair to excellent general health (5%), 3 or more fruits or vegetables per day (5%), no risk of binge drinking (5%), and non-smoker (5%).

**Community Vision:** *Apart from a simple concern for the well-being of county residents, health factors are a measure of prosperity and quality of life. Site selectors use statistical measures of well-being to identify good locations for business establishment and new investment. The county's ranking with respect to key measures affects the way it is viewed from outside by businesses and investors.*

**Comment on the Data:** Measures of health statistics are from a sample of adults living in Champaign County obtained through the nationwide Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey. Additional information about county health statistics can be found at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).

**OBJECTIVE 4.2: HEALTH CARE ACCESS****STATUS: 68% OF RESIDENTS HAVE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE**

Champaign County will be a national model for providing access to an affordable, integrated, comprehensive, and seamless model of health care.

**Indicator:**

Population with Health Care Coverage

**Trend:**

Survey data shows a slight increase.

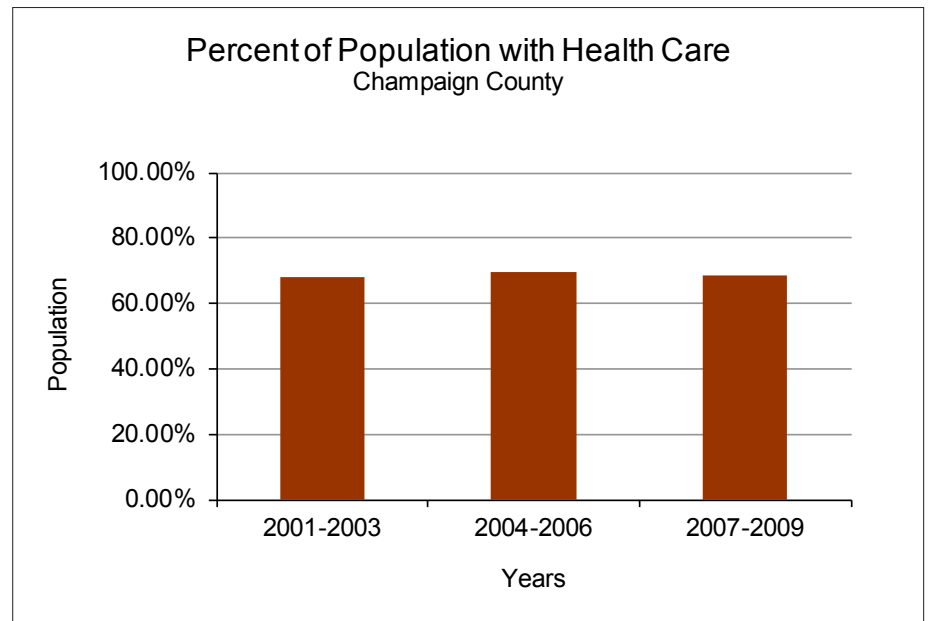
**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Triennial

**Desired Progress:** Increasing

**Source:** Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey



**The Measure:** Access to the health care system is based on a structure of coverage models and programs. The percentage of people with health care coverage is used in this report as a measure of ability for county residents to access health care.

**Community Vision:** *Physical and mental health care are key measures of well-being and happiness. A healthier community imposes fewer costs on business and government and is a more competitive location for new investment. Access to health care is uneven and subject to disruption by the vicissitudes of life. Wider access helps keep everyone on a footing where they can live more satisfying lives and participate more constructively in society.*

**Comment on the Data:** This data includes people with any type of health care coverage defined as health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare.

**OBJECTIVE 4.3: ACCESS TO SERVICES****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Residents of every community will have convenient access to information, education, recreation, supportive services, and crisis intervention.

**Indicator:**

Access to Services Index

**Trend:**

Speculatively, actions are being taken to overcome barriers including access to transportation, schedule conflicts, and service capacity.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Biennial

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:** Community Survey

Issue	Rank	Percent of Respondents
Education	1	19
Jobs and Employment	2	18
Health care	3	14
Support for families	4	11
Basic needs	5	10
Behavioral health care	6	8
Housing and homelessness	6	8
Family violence	8	5
Help from agencies	9	3
Transportation	9	3

Source: Community Needs Assessment - 2004

**The Measure:** Access to services is largely determined by the population in need of those services. A community survey will help determine perceptions of community services and provide a forum for the public to air concerns about current conditions. The 2004 Community Needs Assessment can provide background to help develop survey questions. The table above indicates issues that Champaign County residents believe will present the biggest problems.

**Community Vision:** *All residents, those in poverty and youth especially, need convenient nearby access to an array of services. Minimizing the costs of service delivery should include costs borne by private individuals as well the costs to service providers.*

**Actions underway:**

- CRIS rural transit service
- Expanded service hours for service programs

**OBJECTIVE 4.4: A SAFE COMMUNITY****STATUS: 40 CRIMES PER 1,000 PEOPLE IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY**

Champaign County's communities will be safe environments that effectively deter drug use, criminal activity, and inmate recidivism through an integrated county-wide system of evidence-based practices.

**Indicator:**

Reported crimes

**Trend:**

Reported crimes per person is relatively stable. Crime per 1,000 people in Champaign County continues to exceed that of the State

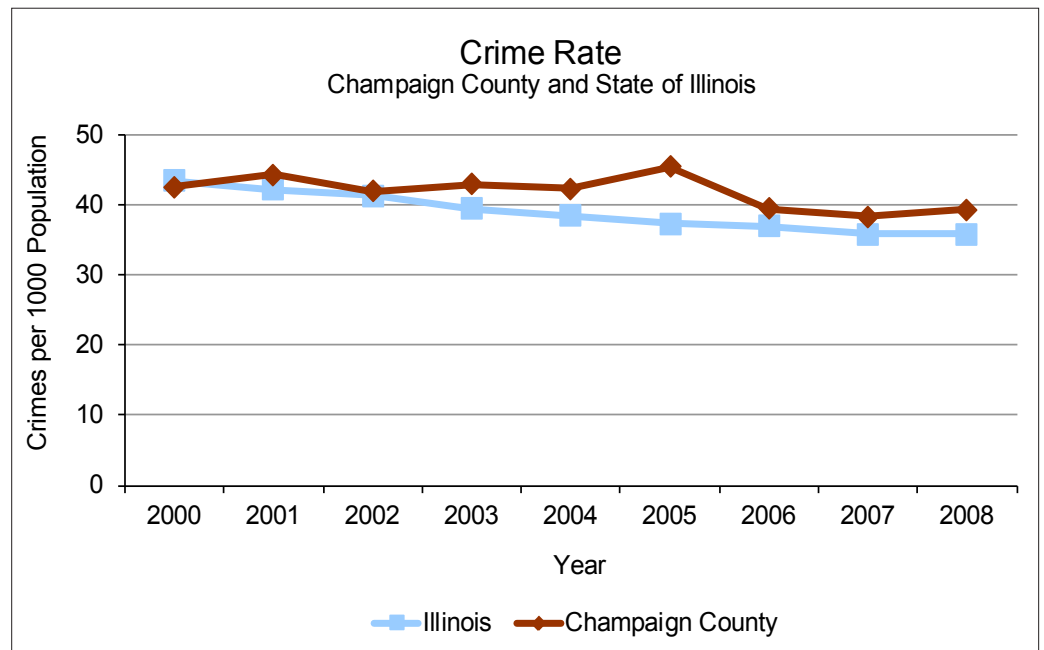
**Type:** Downstream

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** Decrease relative to the State

**Source:** Illinois State Police



**The Measure:** This indicator shows annual crimes reported per population. It is not possible to capture all crimes through available data sources; however, a decline in reported crimes is expected to reflect a decrease in all crimes.

**Community Vision:** *The incidence of crime is a key element of the actual and perceived quality of life. It imposes costs on individuals and on the larger community and creates a special burden on low-income persons and at-risk youth who are most likely to be crime victims.*



### OBJECTIVE 4.5: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**STATUS: 85% OF HOMES BEING SOLD IN THE MSA ARE AFFORDABLE**

All persons at every income level will be able to afford safe, quality housing.

#### Indicator:

Housing Affordability Factors

#### Trend:

More homes being sold are affordable and median sale price and median family income are achieving a paralleled rate of change.

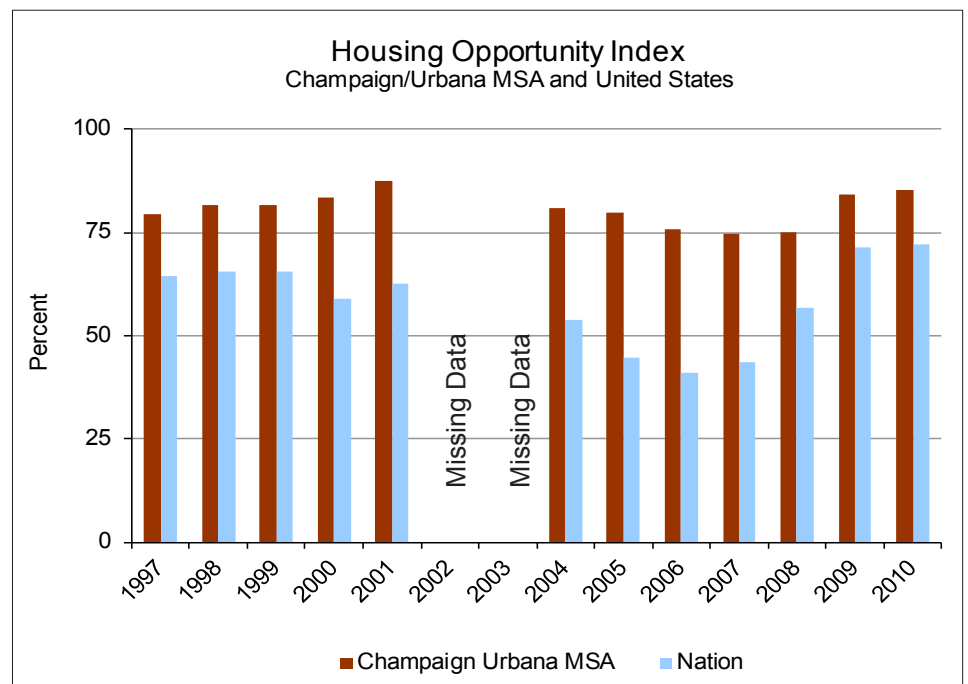
**Type:** Upstream

**Geographic Scale:** Metropolitan Statistical Area

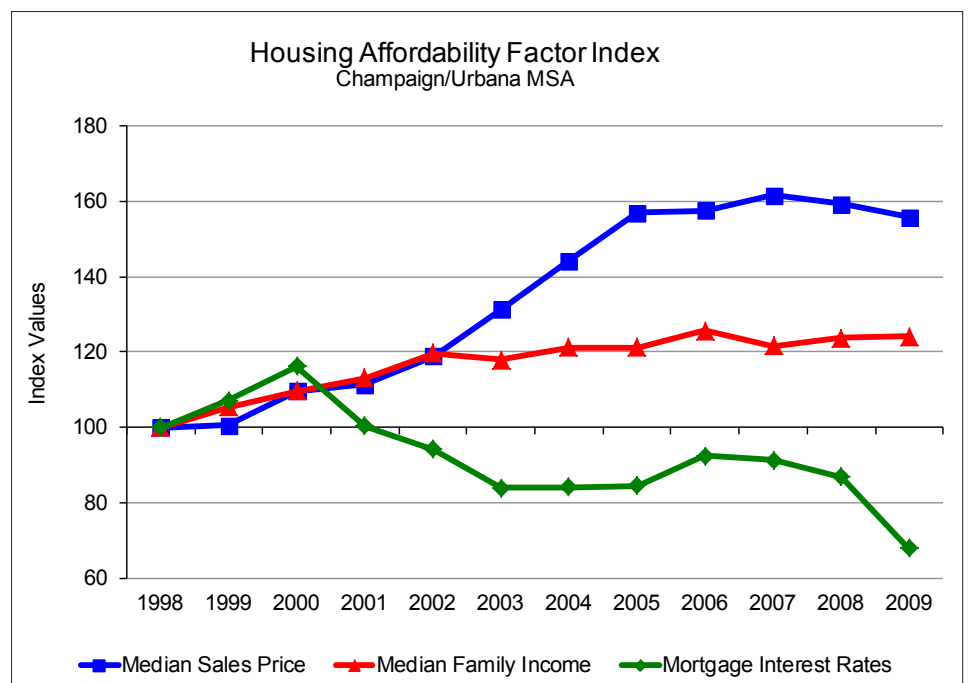
**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** Median sales price and median family income have a paralleled rate of change.

**Source:** City of Urbana Consolidated Plan



**The Measure:** The Housing Opportunity Index (HOI) is defined as the share of homes in an area that are affordable to a family earning the median income. This measure is comprised of two components, housing price and median family income. A third factor, mortgage interest rates, also influences housing affordability. The Housing Affordability Factor Index shows the change in these three factors (comparison does not require adjustment for inflation).



**Community Vision:** Safe, sound housing is a basic requirement for pursuing a livelihood, raising children, and participating productively in society. It is, therefore, in everyone's interest to try to ensure that all residents can find housing that meets their needs without putting undue strain on their household income.

**OBJECTIVE 4.6: ACCESSIBLE HOUSING****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

All persons with disabilities will be able to purchase or rent quality housing that is accessible, supportive, and meets their needs, at an affordable cost.

**Indicator:**

Under review

**Trend:**

Speculatively, number of units is staying the same.

**Type:**

**Geographic Scale:**

**Frequency:**

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:**

**The Measure:** No measure has been identified as appropriate and feasible at the current time.

**Community Vision:** *Broad housing options for persons with disabilities ensures that the benefits of good, sound supportive housing are available to everyone, thereby enabling effective participation in civic life. This goal will become even more important as the population ages.*

## OBJECTIVE 5.1: FUNDING QUALITY EDUCATION

### STATUS: VARIATION IN FUNDING IS INCREASING

All public schools will provide excellent instruction and student services in state-of-the-art facilities to all children, and will have the necessary financial resources, funded from a balance of sources that significantly reduce dependence on property taxes.

#### Indicator:

Instructional Expenditure by District

#### Trend:

Funding levels per student are diverging among school districts in Champaign County.

**Type:** Status

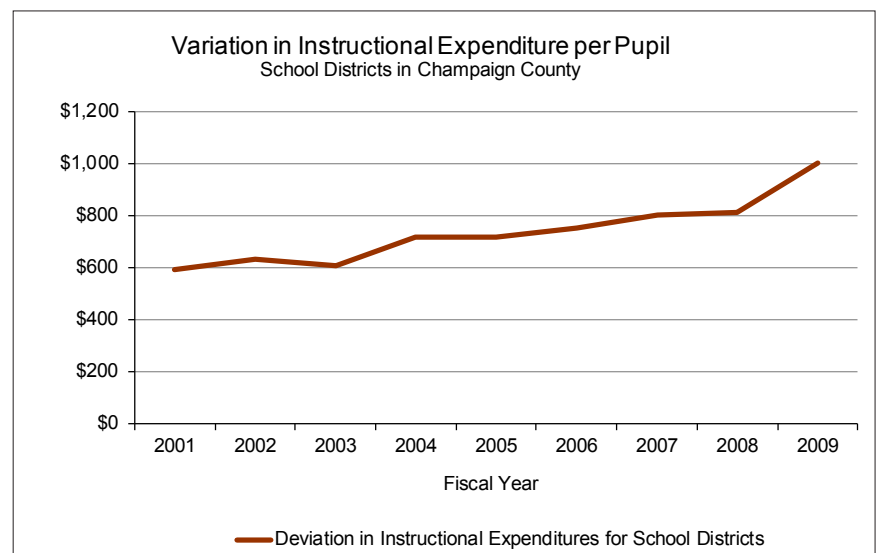
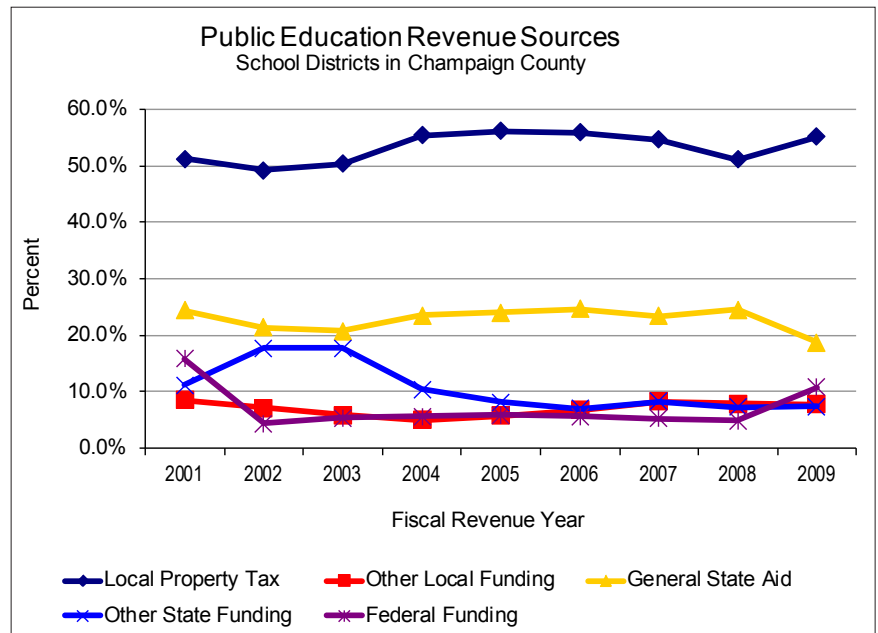
**Geographic Scale:** County School Districts

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** Deviation in expenditures stays the same or decreases.

**Source:** Illinois State Board of Education

**The Measure:** The objective determined in our future. here. cites a reduction in revenue from property taxes. This is a complex issue that is simply reported here as a percent of revenue sources. Expenditures are equally complex and difficult to compare because each district functions under different circumstances. Deviation in per pupil expenditures is used as an indicator under the assumption that all students in Champaign County should receive approximately the same dollar amounts towards their education. Greater variation indicates that the opposite is occurring.



**Community Vision:** A quality education is critical to ensuring that all children have opportunities to lead successful and fulfilling lives. A well-prepared and skilled workforce is essential to the economic growth and competitiveness of the county as well (see the Workforce Development objective). All Champaign County school districts need the resources required to provide a quality education to the children that they serve. The ability to provide quality education to all students requires political support for raising sufficient revenues. This is difficult under the current funding system, which relies very heavily on a regressive and unpopular property tax and creates great discrepancies in the tax base available to different school districts.

## OBJECTIVE 5.2: ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

### STATUS: OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE, DROPOUTS DECLINING

All students will have access to a range of alternative forms of schooling that meet their educational needs and enrich the learning environment.

#### Indicator:

Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment

#### Trend:

Alternative education opportunities are generally increasing and drop out figures are declining.

**Type:** Downstream

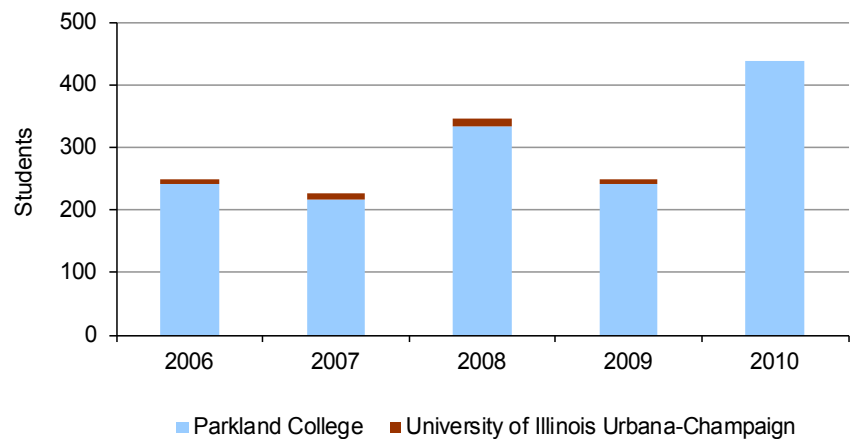
**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:** Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment opportunities are available.

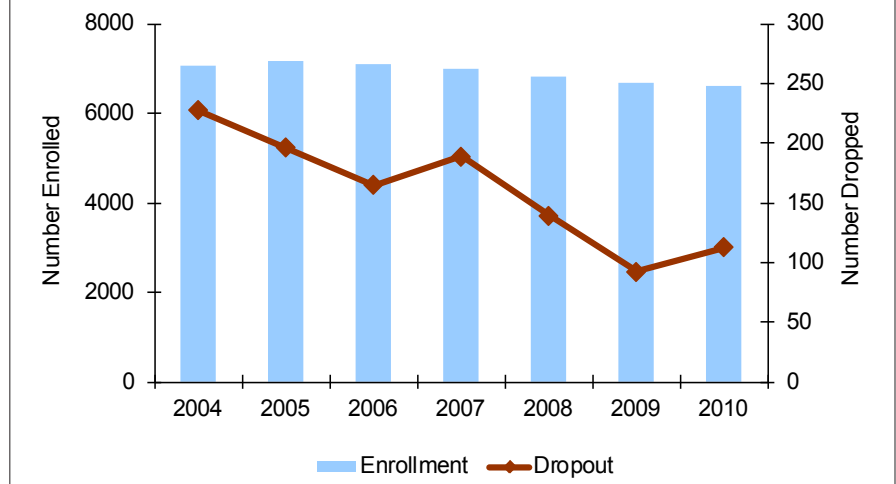
**Source:** Illinois State Board of Education, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Parkland College

High School students with  
Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment  
Champaign County



**The Measure:** Coordination and cooperation between centers of higher education and school districts provides opportunities for specialized education. Dual credit and dual enrollment programs are two modes for this coordination and cooperation. An alternate interpretation of this objective suggests that students who have access to alternative forms of schooling within the district would not drop out of educational opportunities. Enrollment and dropout statistics shown in the second graph provides an indication of our status with respect to dropout rates county-wide.

High School Enrollment and Dropouts  
High Schools in Champaign County



**Community Vision:** Students come to school from varied settings and with widely divergent skills. A wide array of learning options can best accommodate these varied needs.

**OBJECTIVE 5.3: ARTS EDUCATION****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

A consecutive program in all arts disciplines will be an integral part of the curriculum at every grade level in all Champaign County schools.

**Indicator:**

Arts Education Index

**Trend:**

Speculatively, arts disciplines are funded at all grade levels.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** School Districts in Champaign County

**Frequency:** Biennial

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:** School Survey - Under Review

**The Measure:** One difficulty in measuring the amount of arts education in schools districts is that arts education is manifested in many different ways. To account for these differences, a variety of measures can be used and combined into an index value. Measures can include the number of full/part-time arts specialists, number of grade levels receiving arts instructions, arts-specific graduation requirement and others.

**Community Vision:** *Experiences in and development of skills in the visual, literary and performing arts enhance participants' quality of life, prepare individuals for employment in an economy reliant upon creativity, and nurture life skills such as problem solving, collaboration, leadership, discipline, and positive self-esteem. Study of the arts also enhances learning in other subject areas. Arts education supports the broader importance of the arts in the community and local economy. Arts programs are often undervalued and their funding is vulnerable to cuts due to school funding limitations and decisions.*

**Comment on the Data:** Measures of arts could be adapted from the Arts at the Core: Every School, Every Student published by Illinois Arts Alliance.

## OBJECTIVE 5.4: REGIONAL ARTS CENTER

### STATUS: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE BELOW AVERAGE

Champaign County will have a reputation throughout the Midwest as a center for art and entertainment and will be a model for its public and private financial support of the arts.

#### Indicator:

Value of In-Kind contributions to non-profit arts agencies

#### Trend:

Speculatively, contributions are increasing towards the average.

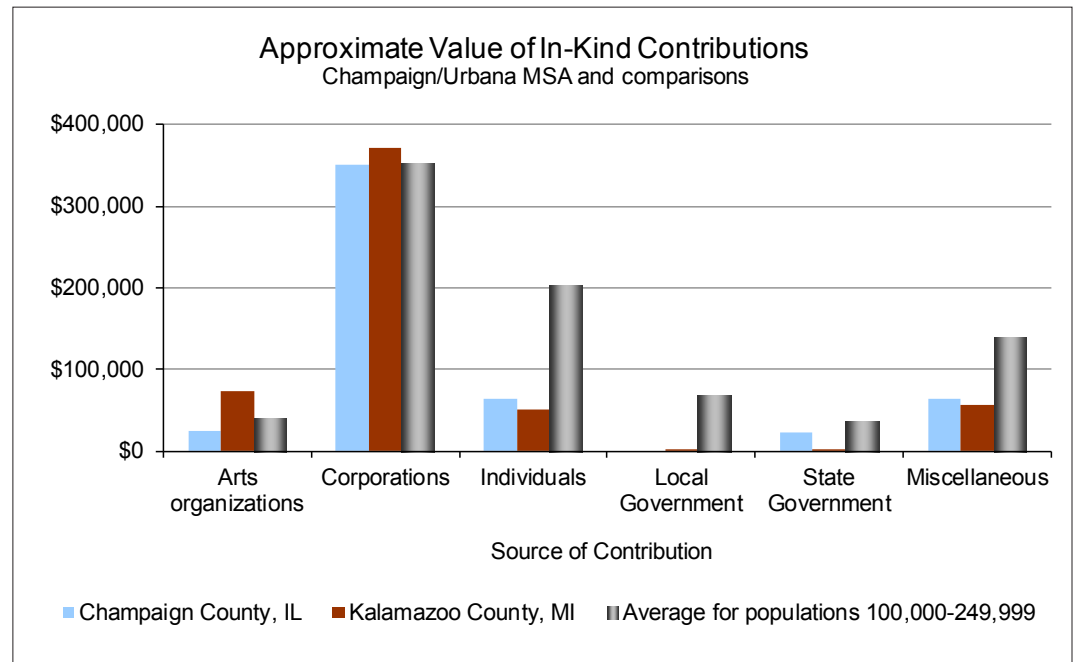
**Type:** Upstream

**Geographic Scale:** MSA

**Frequency:** Biennial

**Desired Progress:** Average funding amounts from a variety of sources

**Source:** Illinois Arts Alliance



**The Measure:** Non profit arts programs (especially public arts) are heavily dependent on a broad base of revenue sources. A model for financial support of the arts will achieve appropriate levels of funding from a variety of sources. This measure was primarily chosen due to data availability and potential for survey replication. The reputation portion of the objective is particularly difficult due to the lack of an established rating standard.

**Community Vision:** *Art and creativity in all forms enrich quality of life. The arts are also a catalyst for economic development and a vehicle for social change, collaboration, education and more. The arts are essential to building an attractive, healthy and vibrant community.*

**Comment on the Data:** Data was obtained from a report produced by Americans for the Arts entitled *Arts and Economic Prosperity III: The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences*.

**OBJECTIVE 5.5: ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE****STATUS: 77% OF RESIDENCES HAVE EASY OR OBSTRUCTED ACCESS**

All communities and residents will have access to quality neighborhood and regional parks that are connected through trails, greenways, and public sidewalks to all major cultural facilities and schools throughout the county and adjacent locales.

**Indicator:**

Access to Open Space

**Trend:**

Speculatively, recent residential developments do not have access to open space. Some smaller communities provide limited access.

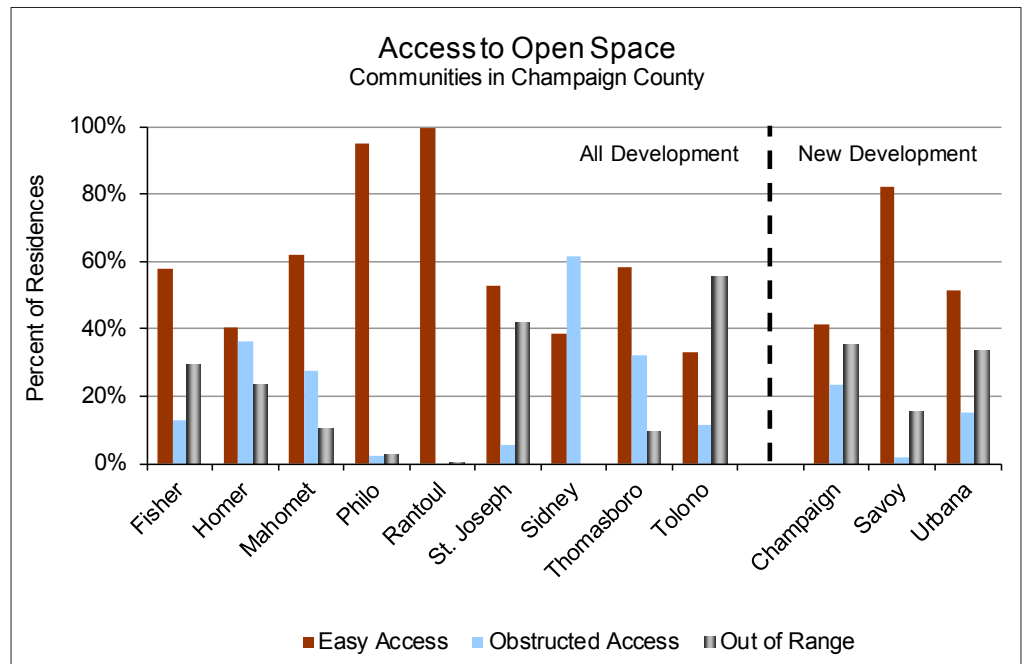
**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Annually

**Desired Progress:** more residences within 1/4 mile of a park

**Source:** CCGISC



**The Measure:** Parks are a recreational service commonly provided in municipal areas. These range in size and can be classified as Neighborhood (1-20 acres) or Community Parks (20-75+ acres). Access is determined by two factors: residence proximity to parks, and pedestrian barriers to parks. Proximity is defined as being within 1/2 mile of a neighborhood park, and within 1 mile of a community park. Barriers are defined as arterial streets that might be perceived as difficult to cross due to multiple lanes, or high speed traffic.

**Community Vision:** *Access to parks is a key element of quality of life and helps promote a more active and healthy lifestyle, especially for children. A connected network enhances the value of existing parks and open spaces and provides for additional trail-based recreational opportunities.*

**Comment on the Data:** Residences are defined as tax parcels with a residential land use. Smaller communities were analyzed based on all residential development within corporate limits. Champaign, Urbana and Savoy were analyzed based on new developments active in the fall of 2006. This information was provided through a report prepared by the City of Champaign Planning Department and other local government and non-profit agencies. Regional parks and residences outside of municipal boundaries were not included in this analysis.

**OBJECTIVE 5.6: OPEN ACCESS FOR RECREATION****STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Government entities will cooperate to provide all county residents with open access for recreation at all appropriate public facilities.

**Indicator:**

Under review

**Trend:** Speculatively, access is increasing through shared community projects and agreements.

**Type:** Status

**Geographic Scale:** County-wide

**Frequency:** Annual

**Desired Progress:**

**Source:**

**The Measure:** Shared use agreements provide, in writing, the intent of government and private entities to meet the recreational and lifestyle needs of county residents. Sharing facilities is a cost effective and desirable way to supply residents with locations and facilities for any number of activities. The lack of an indicator shows that Champaign County has yet to fully understand the value of open access for recreation. To learn more about recreation in our communities and use of amenities by County residents, park agencies could be surveyed.

**Community Vision:** *Meeting the demand for recreational facilities is increasingly difficult. Cooperative use of existing facilities can maximize the community's return on investments in existing facilities while improving the quality of life and encouraging healthy active lifestyles.*



# SUGGESTED FUTURE INDICATORS

**our future. here.** identifies priority concerns of the community, but is not comprehensive. It does not include the following themes which are found in comparable community indicator initiatives. Some data regarding these issues is available in the Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 and the State of the County Report 2010. These are available on the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission website: [www.ccrpc.org](http://www.ccrpc.org)

## Health and Environment

- Air Quality Index
- Water Quality Index
- Permeability/Stormwater Management Facilities
- Number of Brownfields

## Economic Prosperity

- Non-farm employment growth rate
- Percent of firms in sector compared to nation - change in LQ
- R&D Expenditure per capita
- Green Collar Jobs

## Equity

- Crime Disparity
- Poverty Rate
- Homelessness

## Conservation of Nature

- Land in Conservation
- Population Density
- Tree Canopy

## Stewardship

- Companies with ISO 14000 certification
- Public environmental spending per capita
- Percent of population participating in recycling programs

## Transportation

- Bikeways
- City transportation alternatives

## Sustainable Communities

- Affordability - COL, housing affordability index
- Change in property values by neighborhood
- Public debt per capita (differences in measure)
- Sprawl: Change in regional household density
- Carbon Emissions
- Number of block clubs
- Living wages

## Civic Engagement

- Participation in civic groups - Survey

## Population

- Change in households and household size
- Single parent households

## International Responsibility

- Charitable giving to international programs/ initiatives
- International Trade: value of regional merchandise exports
- Share of population composed of foreign nationals

## Education

- Educational Attainment