2018

DEWITT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

APPROVED NOVEMBER 26, 2018



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1.0 - INTRODUCTION AND PROCESS	1
SECTION 2.0 -DEWITT COUNTY TODAY	5
SECTION 3.0 -VISION AND GOALS	16
SECTION 4.0 -ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	18
SECTION 5.0 -LAND USE FRAMEWORK	.24
SECTION 6.0 -TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY	. 47
SECTION 7.0 - PARKS, OPEN SPACE & ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES	.54
SECTION 8.0 -IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	6 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2018 DeWitt County Comprehensive Plan is designed to guide the County on matters related to growth and development over the next 20 years. The Plan provides recommendations that are meant to assist DeWitt County with policy decisions regarding issues such as economic development, land use, transportation, and the environment. These recommendations were derived from an evaluation of community assets, input from residents and stakeholders, and anticipated trends within the County.

The County adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 1992. The existing plan is guided by three underlying themes; to preserve the agriculture land resources in the County, promote DeWitt County's quality-of-Life, and to encourage opportunistic devel-opment in the County. The updated Comprehensive Plan builds on the themes, goals and objectives of the existing comprehen-sive plan, taking into consideration the changing development patterns and conditions in the County.

Implementation of the Plan is intended to protect the County's rural character and important assets, while also encouraging economic growth. The purpose of the Plan is to provide a tool that will assist the County with progressing towards this vision.

VISION FOR THE COUNTY

The Plan begins with a vision of the County and what it hopes to accomplish going forward.

DEWITT COUNTY ENJOYS A WELCOMING, RURAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE HEART OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS. DEWITT COUNTY IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING ITS AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE, PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE HIGH-QUALITY RESIDENTIAL GROWTH FOR ALL AGES AND INCOMES, ENHANCING ECONOMIC RESILIENCY, AND PROMOTING WORLD-CLASS RECREATIONAL AMENITIES.

KEY THEMES

The Plan is guided by a set of key themes that address DeWitt County's unique qualities, as well as the community's wants and needs. These principles serve as the foundation for the DeWitt County Comprehensive Plan.

TELLING THE DEWITT STORY

Promote the area as a great place to live and play, with convenient access to four major metro areas (Bloomington/Normal, Springfield, Decatur, and Champaign/Urbana), and high-quality recreational resources.

MAINTAIN AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE & RURAL ATMOSPHERE

Focus growth towards municipalities, preserve prime farmland, and celebrate rural life.

FOCUS ON A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Attract new industry and jobs, promoting entrepreneurship, reducing economic reliance on the Exelon Clinton Power Station.

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

Grow population to attract new retail/restaurants, with a focus on diversifying the housing stock to provide options for recent college grads, young professionals, and seniors.

ENHANCE RESILIENCY

Promote partnerships, cost sharing, and intergovernmental cooperation. Protecting natural resources. Developing sound capital improvement plans.



PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Comprehensive Plan identifies goals and recommendations to achieve the County's vision.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Develop a program to promote DeWitt County as a great place to live. This program will aim to attract more people to the County and thus enhance the base of local employees and shoppers. This would be a way to market the County, by identifying assets and opportunities that promote DeWitt County's Quality-of-Life. Additionally, the County should aim to expand the activities of the DeWitt County Development Council, including participating in regional economic development strategies, as well as creating a strategic plan.

LAND USE FRAMEWORK

The County should continue to take steps to preserve prime farmland, existing parks, open space, and recreation through zoning and land use regulations. Maintaining the rural character of the County, as well as the County's important assets, is vital. Therefore, the County should limit growth to already-developed areas, encouraging infill development as much as possible, especially where vacancies are present. Existing downtown corridors are ideal infill opportunities for small-scale commercial development. The County should also encourage contiguous industrial growth where appropriate.

The Comprehensive Plan also recommends that the County take advantage of its proximity to nearby metropolitan areas when working to attract new residential, commercial and industrial growth. Finally, the County should proactively coordinate with townships and municipalities to ensure growth and development are managed in a consistent manner.

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Given the County's excellent regional connectivity, the focus of roadway improvements in the County should be on maintenance. While existing roadways are generally in good condition today, a regular system of maintenance and replacement will be essential to maintaining the County's competitive accessibility advantages. The County also has access to a Class-1 rail line, which should be promoted and leveraged when attracting development. While the County is served by a major freight line, it is not served by a passenger rail. However, Show Bus is an alternative, local transportation option. The County should work with Show Bus to better market the service to County residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

In conjunction with the preservation of the County's important environmental assets and natural resources through zoning and land use regulation, the County should also support appropriate development that improves or enhances these features. The County has a responsibility to assist with the coordination between local stakeholders, municipalities and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in order to maintain the quality and improve accessibility to these assets. The County should also leverage and promote these unique assets when working to attract new development.

Because of its size and recreational opportunities, Clinton Lake is an amenity that attracts people from all over the region and beyond. However, the lake and the land around it are currently owned by Exelon Corporation as part of the Clinton Power Station. Because this amenity is so significant for the County in terms of recreation and tourism, the County should proactively support a channel of communication between the IDNR and Exelon Corporation in regard to the long term management of Clinton Lake and the surrounding parks and open space.

KEY THEMES

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INTRODUCTION & PROCESS

"A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS DESIGNED TO GUIDE LONG-RANGE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS."

1.0 PURPOSE AND USE OF PLAN

The DeWitt County Comprehensive Plan builds on the goals of the existing comprehensive plan, adopted in 1992. It also introduces important updates, which more accurately reflect the County's current vision for the future. The Plan provides recommendations for a wide range of issues, including: Economic Development, Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment. The plan also focuses on implementation – how to achieve the County's vision through potential funding programs, management, maintenance, and organization. The DeWitt County Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies that will act as a blueprint for County staff, elected officials, and other key stakeholders as they work to enhance the County over the next 20 years.

Legal Authority:

"(Counties) should have a plan made for the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of said region, and of public improvements and utilities therein, and which plans will in the judgment of the county board, in accordance with the present and future needs of the region and of the State, best promote health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, efficiency and economy in the process of development and the general welfare of said region." (55 ILCS 5/5-14001)

"The county planning commission or regional planning commissions created under the provisions of this Division shall encourage the cooperation of the political subdivisions within their respective territories in any matters whatsoever which may concern the county or regional plan or maps prepared by such commission as an aid toward coordination of municipal plans with county and regional plans." (55 ILCS 5/5-14005)

1.1 REGIONAL SETTING & HISTORY

DeWitt County makes up 405 square miles of Central Illinois. The county is home to over 16,000 residents spread out across thirteen townships, two cities, and five villages (US Census Bureau - 2017 Annual Population Estimate). DeWitt County residents celebrate rural life, taking pride in the County's rich agricultural land and natural landscapes. While maintaining its small-town charm, the County also offers exceptional regional mobility given its proximity to nearby metropolitan areas and access to major roadways.

Regional Setting

DeWitt County is located just 25 miles from Bloomington-Normal and Decatur, approximately 50 miles from Springfield and Champaign-Urbana, and 150 miles from two major cities, Chicago and St. Louis. Given its proximity to Bloomington Normal, DeWitt County is considered part of the Bloomington Illinois Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is bordered by McLean County to the north, Piatt County to the east, Macon County to the south, and Logan County to the west.

In addition to its proximity to other major municipalities, the County also benefits from its excellent regional connectivity via the Interstate Highway System. DeWitt County is accessible from two major interstates (I-72 & I-74), two U.S. Routes (US-51 & US-150), and three State Routes (IL-10, IL-48, & IL-54).

History

DeWitt County was first inhabited by the Kickapoo and Potawatomi tribes, and then became home to European settlers around 1820. The County of DeWitt was officially organized in March 1839 when portions of Macon (south) and McLean (north) counties were merged. The County was named after a distinguished New York lawyer/politician, DeWitt Clinton (1769-1828).

Shortly after the County's formation, Clinton, the County seat, became home to Clifton H. Moore, the town's first resident attorney. Around the same time, Abraham Lincoln, an attorney of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, also became a frequent visitor of Clinton, developing a role in the local courthouse as a both a representing attorney and even as a judge, at times. Lincoln and Moore worked together frequently, most famously as the representatives for the Illinois Central Railroad in several lawsuits. Lincoln frequented the area often, even sharing

Moore's law office in Clinton for a short period and staying at Moore's estate just outside of Clinton. The happenings of a young President Lincoln, his partner C.H. Moore, and several other significant historical persons of the time, such as George McClellan, Stephen Douglas, and David Davis, continue to be a source of pride for the County. This rich Victorian Era history is preserved in many forms throughout the County, including the aforementioned C.H. Moore Homestead, the Taylor-Magill House, where President Lincoln often stayed or dined, and the First National Bank and Trust Company, built in 1872.

Following this period and throughout the 20th century, DeWitt County settled into its rural identity. Corn and Soy production grew rapidly in the County, primarily due to the fertile soils and plentiful water supply in DeWitt County. As of 2008, approximately 88% of the County's farmland met the US Department of Agriculture's standards for Prime Farmland.

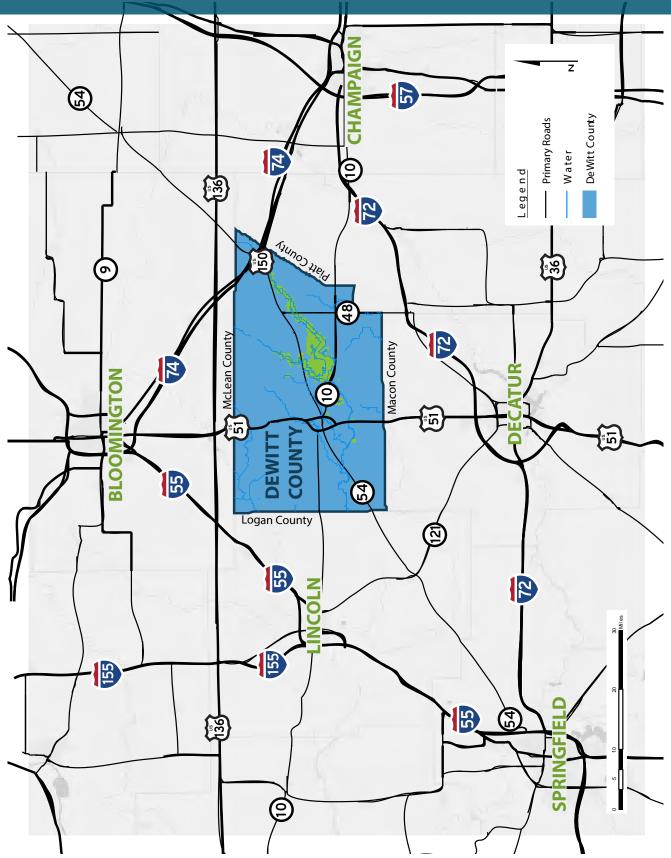
"PRIME FARMLAND IS LAND THAT HAS THE BEST COMBINATION OF PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS FOR PRODUCING FOOD, FEED, FOR-AGE, FIBER, AND OILSEED CROPS AND IS AVAILABLE FOR THESE USES."

-USDA PRIME FARMLAND DEFINITION

In the 1970s, the Clinton Power Station began construction near the town of Clinton. The power plant not only brought changes to employment, but it also resulted in significant changes to the County's physical landscape. In 1977, Salt Creek was dammed to create a cooling lake for the power plant, which became known as Clinton Lake. Clinton Lake, now 5,000 acres, has become a major attraction for the County by offering recreational activities for residents and visitors.

In 2000, DeWitt County had a population of 16,798, which decreased slightly to 16,561 by 2010. In 2018, the population is estimated to be around 16,463. 88% of the County's land use remains agricultural, which contributes to DeWitt County's rural identity. However, DeWitt's character, scenic landscapes, and regional accessibility make it an ideal place for future development and growth.

REGIONAL SETTING



1.2 PLANNING PROCESS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Development of the DeWitt County Comprehensive Plan update involved participation from residents, County Staff, elected officials, and variety of other stakeholders.

Steering Committee

A steering committee was formed at the onset of the project. This committee was a collection of County staff, representatives from Clinton, Farmer City and Weldon, local businesses, residents and other stakeholders. The purpose of this committee was to get those with a vested interest in the community to provide input and direction throughout the planning process.

Project Website

A project website (dewittcountyplan.com) was created to keep the community informed during the planning process. The website contained important documents and other updates related to the planning process. The website also provided residents with a way to communicate with the project team by providing a way to share ideas and concerns. The website also provided a link to an online survey that was made available for residents to share their input on the project.

Online Survey

An online survey was made available to residents of DeWitt County through the project website. The questions on the survey asked residents to provide some information about themselves, as well as their ideas and concerns regarding themes such as housing, transportation, and economic development within the County.



DE WITT COUNTY TODAY



2.0 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Data for this study was collected from the U.S. Census, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), and ESRI Business Analyst. The demographic information provided in this section represents the entire DeWitt County, including the incorporated municipalities, given the availability of data from the sources previously listed.

The following section provides an overview of DeWitt County's demographic composition. An analysis of the data collected for this section helped inform the recommendations provided in this plan.

Population

The County's population has been stable to slowly declining over several years. The population in 2000 was approximately 16,798, which fell to 16,561 (-1.4%) in 2010. Today in DeWitt County, there are approximately 16,463 residents. ESRI Business Analyst projects the County's population to continue to decline slightly to 16,284 by 2023. Plan objectives encourage reversal of this trend, with a goal of promotion of slow but steady increase in population.

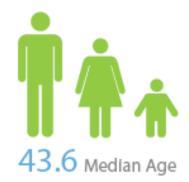


DE WITT COUNTY TODAY

Age

The County's population is gradually getting older, with the median age rising from 41.6 in 2010 to 43.6 in 2018. By 2023, the median age is expected to rise again to 44.4. In light of this trend, the County should explore ways to enhance housing and health care opportunities for an aging population.

Figure 1. Median Age 2018





Race & Ethnicity

* Bars show deviation from Illinois

The County's population in 2018 is majority White Alone (95.73%), as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. The County's population is expected to change slightly over the next five years, with the White Alone population decreasing to 94.79%, and increases in African American and Hispanic populations.

Source: ESRI Business Analyst

Figure 2. Demographic Summary 2018

Indicator	Value	Difference	
White Alone	95.73	+26.13	
Black Alone	0.89	-13.37	
American Indian/Alaska Native Alone	0.19	-0.16	
Asian Alone	0.37	-5.25	
Pacific Islander Alone	0.02	-0.02	
Other Race	1.21	-6.24	
Two or More Races	1.58	-1.10	
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	2.80	-14.79	

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Source: ESRI Business Analyst

DEWITT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Households

Within the County, there are a total of 6,846 households. Of the total number of households, 4,579 are Family Households (67%). The Average Household Size for the County is 2.37, which is less than the average for adjacent McLean and Piatt Counties, but greater than Logan and Macon Counties.

Figure 3. Households 2018



Educational Attainment

Approximately 57% of DeWitt County Residents have a High School Diploma. About 30% of County residents hold a Bachelor's degree, Graduate degree or higher. Additionally, 35% of DeWitt County residents have some college or an Associates degree, which is significant because that population may include residents who received educational experience related to trade and skilled labor. Overall, DeWitt County is well educated, having the highest percentage of residents with a High School Diploma compared to neighboring counties in the area. The percent of residents with a Bachelor's Degree and a Graduate/ Professional Degree is comparable to neighboring counties.

Source: ESRI Business Analyst

Income

In 2010, the Median Household Income for DeWitt County was estimated to be \$53,510. As of 2018, the Median Household Income is estimated to be \$50,889, which decreased by approximately 4.9% since 2010. Although the County has seen nearly a 5% decrease since 2010, it is estimated that by 2023 the Median Household Income for the county will rise above the 2010 value, reaching approximately \$54,877. As of 2016, the county had a poverty rate of 12.0%, which was less than the national rate of 12.7% that year.

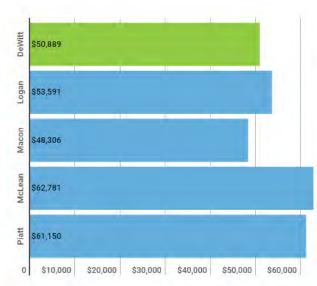
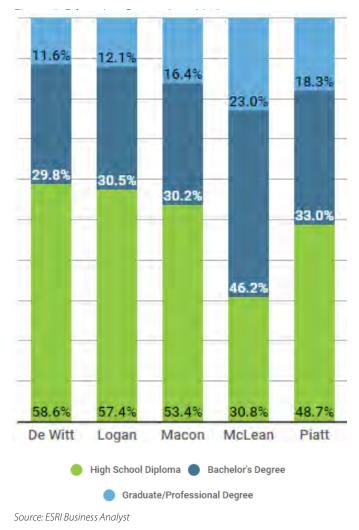


Figure 4. Median Household Income 2018

Source: ESRI Business Analyst



Employment

DeWitt County's largest employers by industry are Health Care/Social Assistance (1,117 jobs), Manufacturing (1,088 jobs), and Retail Trade (951 jobs). Other significant industries include Finance/Insurance (610 jobs), Construction (581 jobs), and Educational Services (534 jobs). Overall, 54.6% of the employed population has White Collar occupations, while Blue Collar occupations make up 27.1% and Service occupations make up 18.4%.

DeWitt County's largest employers include Exelon Corporation, Warner Hospital & Health Services, Miller Container Corporation, R.R. Donnelley, Trinity Structural Towers, Inc., and HNC Products. Due to the high percentage of land used for agriculture, jobs are not distributed homogeneously throughout the county.

As of 2015, more residents worked outside the County than worked inside the County. The daily number of residents who left the County to work elsewhere was 3,733, compared to 2,588, the daily number of people who lived elsewhere who entered the County to work. In 2015, there were a total of 2,147 residents who both lived and were employed within the County.

The unemployment rate in DeWitt County in of 2016 was 4.8%, which decreased to an estimated 2.9% as of 2018.

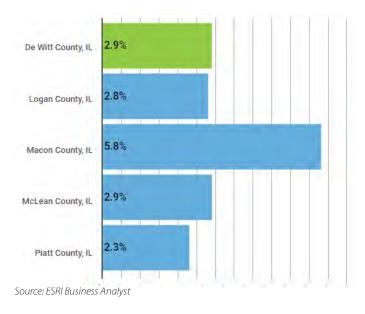
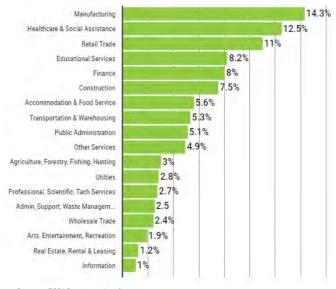
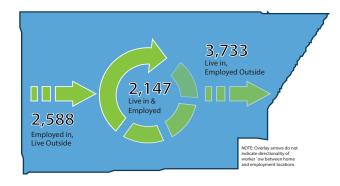


Figure 7. Employment By Industry 2018



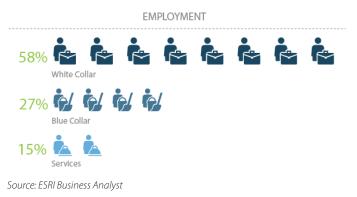
Source: ESRI Business Analyst

Figure 8. Employment Inflow/Outflow 2015



Source: US Census Burea





Housing

DeWitt County has a total of 7,521 housing units in 2018. The majority of the County's housing units are single-family detached homes (83.6%). Other common housing structures in the County include multi-family housing (8.0%), mobile homes (5.4%), duplexes (2.3%), and single-family attached housing (0.7%).

Approximately one in three homes in DeWitt County was built prior to 1939 (32.7%). The majority of DeWitt County's housing stock was constructed between 1950 and 1980 (35.3%). Approximately one in four homes in the County were built after 1980 (25.6%), and only one in ten of all homes in the County were built after 2000 (9.6%).

Between 2010 and 2018, the percent of Owner-Occupied Housing has increased from 69.7% to 72.3%. The percent of Renter-Occupied Housing decreased from 20.9% to 18.7%. Vacant Housing also decreased slightly from 9.4% in 2010 to 9.0% in 2018. While Owner-Occupied Housing is expected to increase in the next five years, so is vacant housing.

The County's Median Home Value in 2018 is \$108,974, which is similar to Logan County, but less than McLean and Piatt counties. DeWitt County's Median Home Value is expected to increase slightly over the next five years to \$126,507 by 2023.

Figure 13. Property Value (Single-Family, Owner-Occupied) 2016

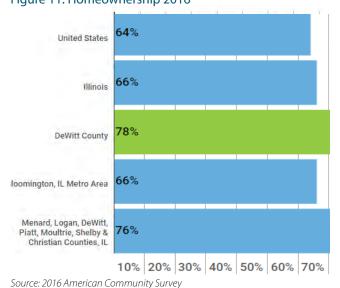
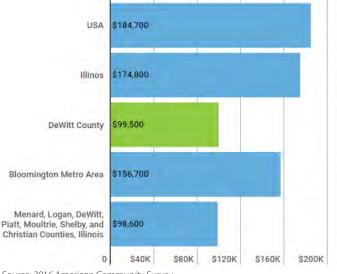


Figure 11. Homeownership 2016



Source: 2016 American Community Survey

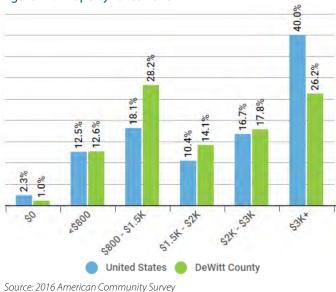


Figure 12. Property Taxes 2016

De Witt County, IL \$108,974 Logan County, IL \$109,599 Macon County, IL \$96,510

\$163,057

\$129,070



Piatt County, IL

McLean County, IL

Figure 10. Median Home Value 2018

2.1 RURAL CHARACTER

When talking with DeWitt County residents, one of the reasons for their love for the area is its rural character. Rural Character broadly refers to the qualities and features that contribute to a community's rural identity. In DeWitt County, this includes:

- Robust Agrarian Base
- Open Spaces and Natural Landscapes
- Recreation/Outdoor Activities
- Historic Resources
- Strong Sense-of-Community

These qualities contribute to the appeal of the community, helping to keep and attract residents and businesses. Protecting the rural character of DeWitt County is both essential for its long term sustainability and challenging in that it becomes more difficult to preserve these qualities as growth and development occur. Proper planning that promotes rural character, while also allowing appropriate growth and development, will help protect and enhance the qualities of rural living enjoyed by DeWitt County residents.

2.2 COMMUNITY ASSETS

The County boasts several unique assets that contribute to the area's identity and lifestyle. Many of these assets are essential to the economic and social health of the community, providing both recreational opportunities and economic drivers, services and aid that allow the community to thrive.

By identifying the community's existing features and resources, DeWitt County will have a better understanding of what is important in regard to future development. This includes the assets that the County wants to protect, preserve and/ or grow, and the assets that make DeWitt County competitive when it comes to marketing the County to potential industries and future residents.

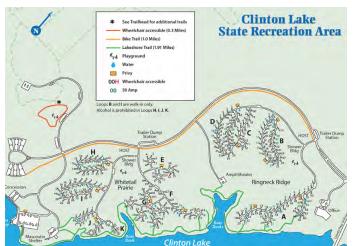
Environment/Recreation

Clinton Lake State Recreation Area

Clinton Lake is a 5,000-acre lake that is owned by Exelon Corporation as the cooling lake for the Clinton Power Station. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources manages recreation on the lake, and in surrounding areas within the 9,300-acre site, with the exception of Clinton Lake Marina and the surrounding 50 acres of County-owned property. Clinton Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) is known for its many recreational benefits: boating, rowing, hunting, fishing, swimming, hiking and camping. The Lake has two boat launches, a fishing pier, and a large sand beach. The Clinton Lake Marina provides bait, fuel and boat rental services, as well. Clinton Lake SRA also has several hiking trails, a bike trail and campgrounds. Other features include an amphitheater, parks, concessions, and shelter, making it an ideal place for families to stay or visit.

Because of its size and amenities, Clinton Lake is used by the Clinton Lake Sailing Association and the University of Illinois rowing team for practice and competitions. Clinton Lake is also used for competitive fishing tournaments. Large events like these draw many visitors from throughout the state and the greater Midwest region.

Figure 14. Clinton State Recreation Map



Source: IDNR

Weldon Springs State Park

Weldon Springs State Park is a 550-acre park approximately 2 miles southeast of Clinton. The IDNR manages year-round recreation at the park. Summer recreational activities at the park include fishing, camping, hiking, picnicking, horseshoes, and limited boating. Winter recreational activities at the park include sledding, tobogganing, ice fishing, and cross-country skiing. Other features include an amphitheater, parks, concessions, and shelters.

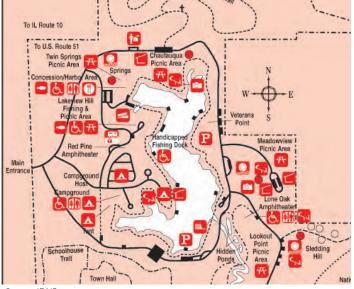


Figure 15. Weldon Springs State Recreation Map

Source: IDNR

C.H. Moore Homestead (DeWitt County Museum)

The C.H. Moore Homestead fully restored is Victorian homestead that was once home to Clinton's first resident attorney. Moore was well-known for his career working along-side Abraham Lincoln in the mid-19th Century, prior to his presidency. The Homestead was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, and has since been maintained and restored. The historic homestead has become the DeWitt County Museum, which hosts several events at the Homestead, including the annual Apple n' Pork Festival.

Apple n' Pork Festival

The Apple n' Pork Festival is unique to DeWitt County, making it an important identifying asset for the community. The fiftyyear-old festival is held every September at the C.H. Moore Homestead in Clinton, and draws in visitors from all over Central Illinois and beyond. According to the DeWitt County Museum, the host of the festival, an estimated 80,000 people attend the festival annually.

Farmer City Raceway

The Farmer City Raceway is a 1/4-mile high-banked dirt track located in the Fairgrounds near Farmer City. Once a track for horse shows, the Farmer City Raceway is now home to several classes of competitive auto racing. This local motorsports facility draws visitors, competitors, and loyal fans to DeWitt County from all over Central Illinois and beyond.

Equestrian Resources

The DeWitt County Riding Club has a 4.25-acre equestrian facility adjacent to Clinton Lake, just 6 miles east of Clinton, IL. The DeWitt County Riding Club hosts equine shows, exhibitions and competitions, such as barrel racing, western pleasure, trick riding, and pole bending in the Club's half-acre arena.

The Midwest Equine, associated with the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, specializes in the treatment of horses. The clinic has surgical facilities, X-ray equipment, intensive care and convalescent units, and maternity wards, and now offers reproduction and lameness specialist services.

Clinton Community YMCA

The Clinton Community YMCA offers several amenities to local residents, including a wellness center & free weight room, racquetball courts, aerobics/fitness classes, open gym, and a pool. The YMCA's mission is to provide programs that "build healthy spirit, mind and body for all." The YMCA provides discounted memberships for Senior Citizens, Youth and Family, including Single Parent Families. Membership Assistance, made possible by the Strong Kids Campaign and United Way, is also available to those who qualify.

University of Illinois Extension

The DeWitt-Piatt-Macon Extension Unit offers a variety of educational programs for local residents, including clubs and programs related to agriculture, community and economic development, consumer sciences, horticulture, leadership, local foods, nutrition and wellness, small farms and 4-H and youth development.

The 4-H Program is instrumental in youth education and development in the region, providing youth the opportunity to learn new life skills through real experiences. As of 2017, the DeWitt-Piatt-Macon Extension Unit had a total of 85 4-H Clubs serving local youth.

Clinton Area Farmers and Artisans Market

The Clinton Area Farmers and Artisans Market features locally grown produce and hand-made items from local farmers and artisans throughout the County. It operates every Saturday from May through October.

Education

Richland Community College

Richland Community College has a 4,000-square-foot extension center adjacent to the Clinton High School. The Clinton Extension Center offers admissions, advising, registration, placement testing, virtual testing, financial aid, and other resources to DeWitt County residents. The Clinton Extension Center has daytime credit classes, and interactive evening classes, as well as General Education Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Blue Ridge Community Unit School District 18

School District 18 serves elementary through high school age students in DeWitt County. The total enrollment for the District's four schools is around 900 students. Schools within this District include: Blue Ridge High School (9-12), Blue Ridge Junior High School (7-8), Blue Ridge Mansfield Elementary School (4-6), and Ruth M Schneider Elementary School (PK-3).

Clinton Community Unit School District 15

School District 15 serves elementary through high school age students in DeWitt County. The total enrollment for the District's six schools is around 2,150 students. Schools within this District include: Clinton High School (9-12), Clinton Junior High School (6-8), Clinton Elementary School (2-5), Douglas Elementary School (PK-1), Lincoln Elementary School (PK-1).

DeLand-Weldon Community Unit School District 57

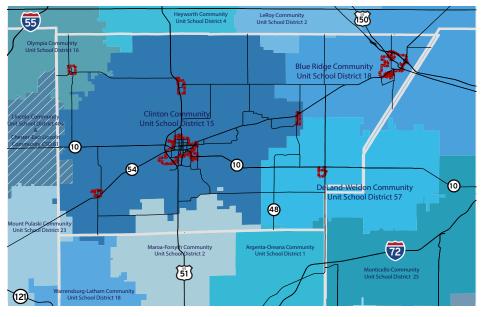
School District 57 serves elementary through high school age students in DeWitt County. The total enrollment for the District's three schools is around 215 students. Schools within this district include: Deland-Weldon Elementary School (PK-6), Deland-Weldon Middle School (7-8), and Deland-Weldon High School (9-12).

Overall, all of the facilities among these three districts are currently in good condition and have sufficient room to accommodate growth. If needed, the Districts could expand on existing school sites in the future.

Other School Districts that serve part of DeWitt County:

- Maroa-Forsyth Community Unit School District 2
- Olympia Community Unit District 16
- Heyworth Community Unit School District 4
- Le Roy Community School District 2
- Lincoln Community High School District 404
- Chester-East Lincoln Community Csd 61
- Argenta-Oreana Community Unit School District 1
- Monticello Community Unit School District 25

Figure 16. School Districts



Health Care

Warner Hospital & Health Services

Warner Hospital and Health Services was built in Clinton in 1906 through a donation made by Dr. John Warner of Clinton prior to his death in 1905. The City received ownership of the hospital in 1909, and still owns it to this day. The current hospital facility was completed in 1978, and an additional medical office building was added to the site in 1999 to house their Family Medicine center. Warner Hospital offers a variety of services for nearby residents, including emergency services, family medicine, various types of therapy and rehab services, nutritional counseling, surgery, a walk-in clinic, and much more. The hospital has more than 150 employees, making it one of the largest employers in DeWitt County.

Additionally, DeWitt County residents have access to other regional health care facilities in nearby metropolitan areas. Some of these facilities include Advocate BroMenn Medical Center and OSF St. Joseph's Hospital in Bloomington, Hospital Sisters Health System and Decatur Memorial Hospital in Decatur, Childrens Hospital of Illinois in Peoria, Carle Foundation Hospital of Champaign, and Memorial Medical Center and St. John's Hospital of Springfield.

Transportation

Highway System

DeWitt County is served by two major interstates (I-72 & I-74), two U.S. Routes (US-51 & US-150), and three State Routes (IL-10, IL-48, & IL-54). This system of major roadways links the County to several metropolitan areas in the region. North and southbound highways link DeWitt County to Bloomington-Normal and Decatur, while east and westbound highways and interstates link the county to Champaign-Urbana and Peoria.

'Show Bus'

The 'Show Bus' Public Transportation Provider offers both limited-stop and door-to-door transportation service options for rural areas of Central Illinois, including DeWitt County. Show Bus is available to all residents of DeWitt County, and is free for all residents who are 60+ years of age. Show Bus offers routes and destinations between local towns, within the County, and even offers destinations outside of the County in neighboring Champaign, Decatur and Bloomington on scheduled days.



Industry

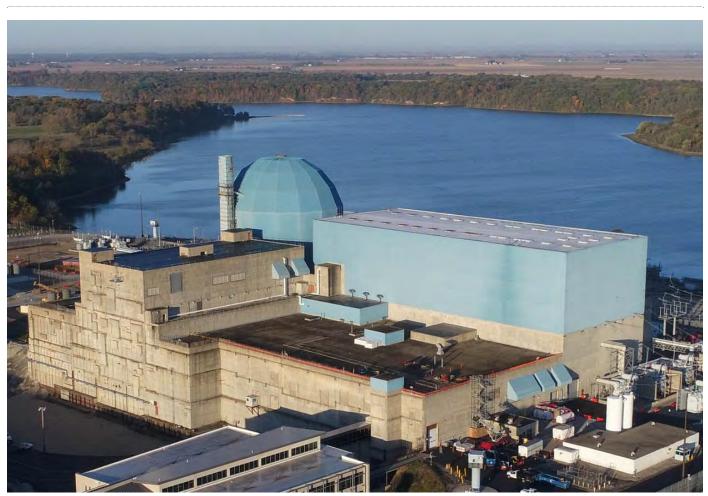
Clinton Power Station (Exelon Corporation)

Exelon Corporation owns approximately 14,300 acres of land in DeWitt County as part of the Clinton Power Station, including the 5,000-acre cooling lake (Clinton Lake). Exelon employs approximately 700 people through the Clinton Power Station and provides approximately \$13 million in annual property taxes as of 2016. In addition to providing community support in the form of jobs and taxes, Exelon Corporation also provides financial support to groups and organizations within the community through local grants and matching programs. Most of Exelon's aid is a result of the annual United Way campaign, which matches fifty cents for every dollar that Exelon employees pledge to United Way agencies. In 2016, Exelon donated more than \$200,000 in financial support to DeWitt County organizations.

Exelon Corporation does not have any current plans to upgrade or expand the power plant.

However, the plant is expected to remain in operation until at least 2026 as a result of state legislation adopted in 2016. This legislation, known as The Future Energy Jobs Bill (SB 2814), provided Exelon with 1c/kWh (or approximately \$235 million per year) in subsidies to keep the Clinton Power Station operating. The Future Energy Jobs Bill allows for the "procurement of zero emission credits from zero emission facilities, in order to achieve the State's environmental objectives and reduce the adverse impact of emitted air pollutants on the health and welfare of the State's citizens." However, the reactor operating license for the Clinton Power Station is expected to expire in September of 2026. Furthermore, nuclear plants generally have a limited lifespan of roughly 40 years (or up to 70 years), which may affect the longevity of the Clinton Power Station facilities and infrastructure.

Exelon has previously explored opportunities for expansion of the Clinton Power Station in 2010. The County should continue to work with Excelon to encourage the continued use of the plant.



Source: Exelon Corporation, 2018

2.4 COMMUNITY SURVEY

The community survey, an integral part of the outreach step of the planning process, produced a variety of input from community residents and stakeholders. The themes of the survey included housing, transportation, and economic development. The survey results are provided in the Appendix of this document, and short summaries of the survey results are provided below:

Housing

When asked why they chose to live in DeWitt County, residents expressed that the rural character of the community was a very important factor. Additionally, residents expressed that being near family and friends, price/value of housing, proximity to jobs, and the local schools were also important factors that contributed to the reason why residents choose to live in DeWitt County.

Residents also shared their input regarding the availability and diversity of housing options within the County. Several opportunities for residential growth were identified, including better housing options for seniors, young individuals and families, and larger families. Options for rental housing in DeWitt County are also said to be limited, and could potentially be an opportunity for growth. Most residents feel, however, that DeWitt County offers good housing options within their price range.

Transportation

Overall, residents feel that access to public transportation is limited within the County, sharing that most travel within the County, and outside of the County, is done via automobile. Many expressed the Show Bus did not meet the transportation needs of the public, and many residents were ill-informed about Show Bus services, or were not aware of the Show Bus service altogether. Residents expressed that they would like to see some sort of taxi or ride-sharing service that residents could use for local transportation needs.

Another opportunity for improvement that residents identified within the County is the overall infrastructure conditions. Many residents felt that conditions of roads could be improved. Others discussed the importance of proper signage, which could improve traffic and safety conditions.

While most residents feel that access to recreational trails and bike paths is good within the County, some feel that additional trail and path connections could be made to improve connectivity between towns and major recreation areas, such as Clinton Lake and Weldon Springs State Park.

Economic Development

Commercial growth within the County has been slow, and many residents resort to spending in other nearby counties with more commercial variety. DeWitt County residents are interested in seeing more retail options within the County, especially in the 'downtowns' and existing commercial corridors. Many expressed that they would like to see more farm stores (i.e. Rural King, Farm and Fleet, etc.), sit-down family restaurants, recreational options for children and families (i.e. pool/waterpark, skating rink, indoor recreational facility or sports complex), and a better variety of grocery and convenience stores. Many residents also identified Clinton Lake as a node for additional commercial growth related to tourism and recreation (i.e. equipment rental, bait/tackle stores, outdoors/ camping stores, vacation rentals, specialty restaurants).

"THE QUIET, SMALL TOWN, NON-COMMERCIAL FEEL IS SOMETHING I LOVE IN THIS COM-MUNITY. I USED TO LIVE IN THE CITY AND MOVED BACK TO THIS AREA BECAUSE I CRAVED THE OPEN SPACE AGAIN!"

"WE MOVED TO DEWITT COUNTY FOR THE OPEN COUNTRY, TO LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE TOWNS, AND TO ENJOY THE OPEN SPACE."

"THE SMALL TOWN RURAL CHARM IS WHY WE CITIZENS LIVE HERE."

-DEWITT COUNTY RESIDENTS (ON-LINE SURVEY)

VISION AND GOALS

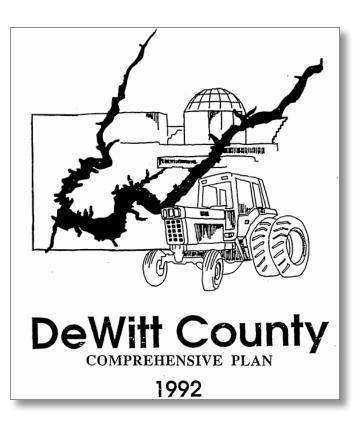


3 VISION + GOALS

3.0 VISION

DEWITT COUNTY ENJOYS A WELCOMING, RURAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE HEART OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS. DEWITT COUNTY IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING ITS AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE, PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE HIGH-QUALITY RESIDENTIAL GROWTH FOR ALL AGES AND INCOMES, ENHANCING ECONOMIC RESILIENCY, AND PROMOTING WORLD-CLASS RECREATIONAL AMENITIES.

The vision and goals of this plan build on and add to those of the existing comprehensive plan, adopted in 1992. The community vision expresses the overall ideal of the community's future and will guide the path for all planning recommendations and implementation processes. The goals provided in this plan are directly linked to the community vision, and are meant to guide all decision-making by County staff, elected officials, and other key stakeholders over the next 20 years.



DeWitt County Comprehensive Plan 1992

Guiding Themes:

Preserve the Agriculture Land Resources Promote DeWitt County's Quality of Life Encourage Opportunistic Development

GOALS

GOAL #5 TRANSPORTATION

Maintain transportation network within the County to improve safety, ease of access, and overall mobility for residents, businesses, and visitors.

GOAL #6 RECREATION & TOURISM

Identify and enhance community assets that provide opportunities to support and encourage development related to recreation and tourism.

GOAL #7 SUSTAINABILITY

Pursue the protection and preservation of the County's shared natural resources, water features, recreational areas, and open spaces in order to enhance quality-of-life for DeWitt County residents and wildlife.

GOAL #8 CAPACITY & RESILIENCY

Promote both public and private partnerships and overall cooperation between stakeholders as a way to improve the County's ability to meet future development and growth needs.

GOAL #1

Recognize, celebrate and market DeWitt County's rural character while promoting appropriate progress and growth that will enhance the rural lifestyle for DeWitt County residents and businesses.

GOAL #2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support new commercial and industrial development that diversifies the regional economy and provides long-term employment opportunities.

GOAL #3 GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Retain the rural character, preserve quality agricultural land, and direct growth to developed areas of the County.

GOAL #4 RESIDENTIAL

Ensure that DeWitt County residents have access to a diverse, affordable and well-maintained housing stock.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development is of critical importance for DeWitt County. It has the ability to elevate the sustainability and overall quality of life for residents. Local economic development has many advantages, including bringing jobs, shopping, and services closer to home, reducing commuting costs and time. Furthermore, enhancing local economic development can promote job growth, expand the tax base, and provide the goods and services that residents need, without having to leave their community. DeWitt County has many amenities on which it can build, including excellent regional connectivity, many recreational and cultural destinations, an affordable housing stock, location along a Class-1 freight rail line, and the County's overall character. These factors make DeWitt County attractive for new residential and business growth.

Regional Planning

DeWitt County has, to a large extent, been caught in the middle when it comes to economic development. While historically more associated with Decatur and Macon County to the south, DeWitt County is now included with McLean County to the north in the Bloomington-Normal Metropolitan Statistical area. This realignment is a positive for DeWitt County, as the Bloomington-Normal area has one of the stronger economies in central Illinois and has been growing in recent years.

The State of Illinois has defined a number of Economic Development Regions (EDR), and requires each region to prepare economic development plans and strategies at a regional level. DeWitt County has been shifted into Region 3, including DeWitt, Fulton, Livingston, McLean, Marshall, Mason, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Woodford Counties. EDRs are each required to prepare regional and local economic development plans. The most recent plan for EDR 3 was approved in 2017, and thus does not include specific information regarding DeWitt County. An early implementation step for the County in furthering economic development goals will be to be actively involved in the update to the EDR 3 regional economic development plan.

Within EDR 3, major industrial employment is expected to grow or remain within the manufacturing, finance, business management, transportation, distribution & logistics, and healthcare industries. Employment is expected to increase in information technology, transportation, distribution & logistics (TDL), healthcare, and the manufacturing industries by 2022 given growth figures since 2012. DeWitt accounts for only 2.5% of the 2015 population of EDR 3, and borders EDR 1. Many of the same industries anticipate strong

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Figure 17. Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area

industrial clusters in EDR 1, including manufacturing, agriculture, finance, business management, TDL and healthcare. Significant employment growth is expected to occur within the finance, business management, information technology and transportation, distribution & logistics, and healthcare industries.

4.0 MARKET TRENDS

- DeWitt County has been relatively stable of the past 20 years, actually showing a slight decline in population from 16,798 to 16,463 between 2000 and 2018. Current projections by ESRI Business Analyst suggest the County is expected to continue to decline over the next five years, decreasing to a projected 16,284 by 2023. One of the key goals of this Comprehensive Plan is to reverse this trend, promoting a slow but sustained increase in population, with a goal of 18,000 residents by 2030 and 20,000 by 2040.
- DeWitt County's location between nearby metropolitan areas, such as Bloomington, Champaign and Decatur, makes the County unique. The County is able to maintain the character of a rural community, while still providing residents access to the amenities and employment opportunities of a more metropolitan area. While this is an advantage in many ways for the County, it also comes with competition for attracting economic development.

Many of the commercial corridors in DeWitt County are experiencing declining economic vitality due to competition with nearby economic hubs, as well as competition with box-stores and online retail. In 2017, e-commerce sales reached 8.9% of total U.S. retail sales. This is associated with the rapid growth of Amazon, which supported 4% of all retail sales in 2017, or about 44% of U.S. e-commerce sales. Unfortunately, this has resulted in the loss of small-business retailers that serve local residents noted in community outreach efforts. It has also caused disinvestment in important commercial corridors and nodes within the County.

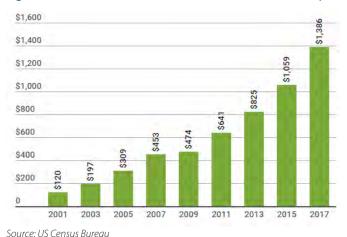


Figure 18. E-Commerce Sales in the United States (Per Capita)

Table 1. DeWitt County Demographics

DEWITT COUNTY	
Population	16,463
Households	6,846
Median Disposable Income	\$40,366
Per Capita Income	\$27,834

Table 2. Retail Gap Summary

Source: 2015 ACS, 5-year estimate

Retail Potential	Retail Gap
\$214,989,915	\$50,808,915
\$194,799,669	\$44,632,448
\$20,190,246	\$6,176,467
	\$214,989,915 \$194,799,669

Source: 2015 ACS, 5-year estimate

Table 3. Retail Gap Detailed

RETAIL GAP DETAILED Industry Group **Retail Potential Retail Gap Development Potential (sf)** \$42.108.075 -\$619.589 Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers **Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores** \$6.067.742 \$4.842.060 14.899 **Electronics & Appliance Stores** \$6,994,284 \$6,608,476 206,136 \$6,438,824 Bldg Materials, Garden Equip. & Supply Stores \$14.370.490 19.811 Food & Beverage Stores \$31,690,319 -\$629,477 **Health & Personal Care Stores** \$13,185,483 \$8,131,089 25,018 **Gasoline Stations** \$20,685,073 \$4,553,621 14,011 **Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores** \$9,547,219 \$8,544,918 26,322 Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores \$4,873,974 \$4,076,264 12,542 **General Merchandise Stores** \$32,556,139 -\$6,283,062 **Miscellaneous Store Retailers** \$7,343,075 \$3,863,473 11,887 15,710 \$5,377,796 \$5,105,851 Nonstore Retailers \$20,190,246 \$6,176,467 19,004 Food Services & Drinking Places

Source: 2015 ACS, 5-year estimate

Gap Retail Analysis

Market trends and potential focuses on regional demand and highlights potential opportunities for retail growth in DeWitt County. This analysis is provided in the form of a County-wide retail gap analysis, presenting an overview of retail opportunities. It should not be used to evaluate specific retail developments at specific locations.

DeWitt County's retail market potential has been assessed through a 'gap analysis' - a comparison of supply and demand. A gap analysis compares aggregate consumer spending (demand) to aggregate retail sales (supply) within a given industry and market area.

When demand is greater than supply, "leakage" exists (shown in Green in Table 3), suggesting that residents are

spending dollars outside of the market area, and opportunities for growth within the market area exist. When supply outweighs demand, a "surplus" exists (shown in Blue in Table 3), suggesting that retail sales are greater than consumer spending. Industries with leakage indicate opportunities for growth as local demand outweighs supply. Industries with surplus indicate market saturation and oversupply for the market area.

Data provided by CoStar, a leading provider of real estate information and analytics, indicate that average sales per square foot for retail in the U.S. is declining in recent years to roughly \$325 per square foot. Average sales per square foot can be helpful in examining potential future development potential, as retail leakage from the County can be translated into the amount of potential future development that can be supported in that particular retail category.

4.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Guiding Strategies:

- Support and pursue tourism related to the County's recreational opportunities, historic resources, agricultural heritage and other locally-unique attractions.
- Continue to leverage DeWitt County's regional connectivity as a tool for economic development
- Encourage infill development in existing commercial corridors to elevate services to local residents and expand the local tax base
- Promote entrepreneurship

Commercial Development

Commercial Development in DeWitt County is limited due to the County's population size and proximity to other major economic hubs. However, DeWitt has a few opportunities for commercial development that should be explored.

DeWitt County's inventory of cultural, historical and recreational resources provides the County with commercial development opportunities. These amenities are unique to the County, and are valuable assets that should be leveraged to promote DeWitt County as a destination. Building the image of DeWitt as a destination could help bring money into the County through tourism and commercial development. Additionally, it could help attract future residents and non-tourist related businesses as a result.

Based on the preceding retail gap analysis, the best opportunities to attract new commercial development in DeWitt County appear to include:

- A regional appliance store such as Dick Van Dyke or Sherman's.
- Limited expansion of existing building material or garden supply facilities.
- Opportunities for unique restaurants are present in DeWitt County, particularly in more populated areas such as Clinton, along Interstate Highway 74 in Farmer City, or near regional recreational draws like Clinton Lake.

What the above analysis does not reflect is the recent closing of the Wal-Mart in Clinton. While the table above shows a significant 'surplus' in the general merchandise store category, that surplus was likely the result of sales at the local Wal-Mart. The loss of this local outlet for everyday items would suggest an opportunity for a store to replace that function, potentially a store such as Big "R" or Tractor Supply that focus on farming communities. Dollar stores also fill a portion of this niche.

Business & Industrial Development

DeWitt County's Manufacturing sector makes up 14.3% of total local employment, followed by Healthcare and Social Assistance, which makes up 12.5% of total local employment. While these industries dominate local employment, they are mostly concentrated to a few local employers. Most development opportunity for DeWitt County is linked to both the expansion of already existing businesses and institutions, as well as the diversification of business within the County. By attracting new types of industry, the County can reduce economic and employment reliance on large businesses, in addition to attracting population via new or different job opportunities.

Key areas of focus for attracting new industries should be on the region's existing business clusters, including:

Agribusiness

In addition to the obvious benefit of being in a region with some of the best soils in the world, agribusinesses has the opportunity to thrive locally by building on a strong base of regional businesses, from Archer Daniels Midland, Tate & Lyle, Heartland Ag, and Next Generation, to the Syngenta Seeds Laboratory near Wapella and the Monsanto Production facility in Farmer City.

Given the strong agricultural base in the region, agriretail can also thrive, such as farm equipment suppliers and tractor dealers. DeWitt County is currently home to three major farming equipment dealerships: Central IL Ag (Case IH), AHW LLC (John Deere), and Altorfer Inc. (Caterpillar).

The County should also encourage the growth of the Agritourism industry, building on the existing inventory of agri-tourism related businesses such as Mariah's Mums, Wagon Wheel Pumpkin Farm, Timberview Alpacas, and Hasler's Double D Ranch.

Logistics and Transportation

DeWitt County's central location between Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, Decatur and Springfield make it an ideal location for a facility to serve these major central Illinois communities. The Class 1 rail access to the CN railway, and convenient access to regional and national Interstate Highways support this focus.

Advanced Manufacturing

DeWitt County's location in proximity to a major research center such as the University of Illinois, plus other regional universities such as Illinois State, Illinois Wesleyan, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Millikin University offers opportunities to pursue advanced manufacturing businesses. The combination of affordable land and infrastructure, combined with access to these excellent research facilities, suggest potential to attract new start-up businesses in this growing field.

Promoting Entrepreneurship

While attracting larger businesses gets a lot of attention, according to the Small Business Administration (SBA), small businesses have generated over 65% of the net new jobs since 1995. Most businesses in DeWitt County are small businesses and promoting and encouraging the formation of new small businesses offers great potential to retain and attract both residents and jobs. Recommended strategies include promotion of existing small businesses, providing resources to help residents create or build their own small business, and encouraging students to consider creating or helping to build a small business.

Promoting Small Business

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce and the Farmer City Chamber of Commerce are two active Chambers in the County. Both organizations focus on promoting small businesses.

In addition to regular networking and educational events, the annual Clinton Chamber Business Expo and the Farmers and Artisans Market are great examples of local promotion of small businesses within the County.

Other community efforts, such as a "shop local" program, or bringing visitors into town through events and activities, all can help to promote local small businesses.

Small Business Information

An excellent resource for new entrepreneurs is the Illinois Small Business Development Center, which offers a wide range of services to those looking to start or enhance their business. Unfortunately, due to State budget cuts the nearest Small Business Development Center to DeWitt County is in Edwardsville at SIU-E. The State of Illinois also offers resources on their web site regarding starting a small business, which can be found here: <u>https://www. illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/BeginHere/Pages/</u> <u>BusinessInformationCenter.aspx</u>

Another resource for small businesses in DeWitt County is Decatur SCORE, which offers free advice and counseling for small businesses. Other resources offered by Decatur SCORE include mentoring programs, educational opportunities and workshops, and an online library of resources.

Millikin University in Decatur offers an Entrepreneurship Program, which allows students who are interested in "running a small business, becoming a freelance professional or leading innovative projects within an existing organization" to earn a degree in Entrepreneurship. Millikin University aims to teach students business basics and help students develop an entrepreneurial mindset. Millikin University's Center for Entrepreneurship also provides small business and entrepreneurship resources business men and women in the region. The Center for Entrepreneurship works with local organizations, such as SCORE and the Millikin Micro Business Network.

Youth Program

One innovative program being developed in DeWitt County is the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) program. This program, started in Effingham, is now active in 28 communities. The program was originally created to stem the loss of youth in rural America because of the lack of opportunites. The program introduces High School students to local businesses and the opportunities in them. It also encourages students to think about businesses they would like to start, and how to go about that. This model has been very successful, both in helping local businesses find young talent and in exposing students to local opportunities to stay and raise their future family close to home. Locally, the Central Illinois CEO brings together students from Clinton High School, Blue Ridge High School, Maroa-Forsyth High School, and Warrensburg-Latham High School. The first class will begin in Fall 2019. The DeWitt County Economic Development Council has been a major early contributor to this effort. More information on the CEO program can be found here: https://www.effinghamceo.com/.

Broadband Internet Services

There is a persistent, well-documented "digital divide" that exists between urban and rural areas as related to broadband high-speed internet access. Significantly lower percentages of rural populations, as opposed to urban populations, have access to high-speed internet connections. An increase in adoption of broadband service within the County can potentially result in increases in income, job creation and lower unemployment rates for residents and businesses alike.

DeWitt County should work towards universal broadband access. Programs such as the Connect America Fund through the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) can help the County encourage economic development through increased access to high-speed internet.

Other Resources

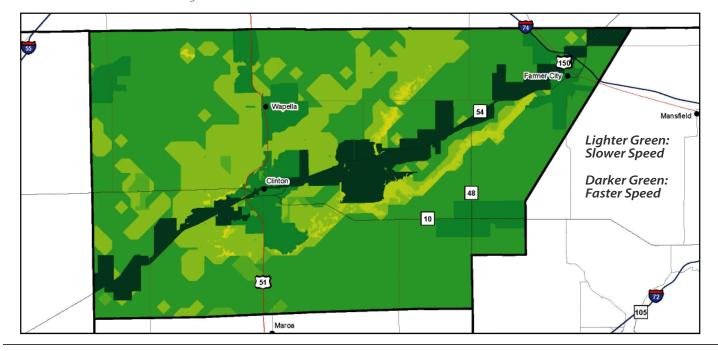
The DeWitt County Development Council is a valuable organization that can be leveraged to help attract and retain commercial development in DeWitt County. The Development Council aims to promote local business expansion and job force growth, and attract new commerce and development to the County.

In addition to the DeWitt County Development Council, the DeWitt County Farm Bureau is also a valuable resource for the County given the strong agricultural presence in the local economy. The DeWitt County Farm Bureau is a non-profit organization whose goal is to "improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life" in the County. The DeWitt County Farm Bureau provides informational, opportunity/networking services for its advocacy, and members.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a program to promote DeWitt County as a great place to live. Livingston County has begun a similar program, aimed at attracting more people to the County and thus enhance the base of local employees and shoppers. Their program, Live Livingston, highlights the Counties attributes and identifies opportunities for new residential development. Created by a former residential developer, this program identifies assets and opportunities that make the County a great place to raise a family. More information on Live Livingston can be found here: http://livelivingston.org/
- 2. Expand activities of the DeWitt County Development Council, including:
 - Developing an Economic Development Strategic
 Plan.
 - Participation in regional Economic Development Efforts, particularly the EDR 3 program.
 - Update and refresh the DCDC web site to better promote the County and local opportunities.



Source: www.broadbandillinois.org



LAND USE FRAMEWORK

In DeWitt County, Clinton and Wapella have developed their own zoning regulations that control the use of land within their municipal boundaries. The area within 11/2 miles of both municipalities is a shared responsibility regarding land use. If a property owner within the 1 ¹/₂ mile planning jurisdiction of these incorporated municipalities chooses to annex into either Clinton or Wapella, or to enter into a pre-annexation agreement for future annexation, the use of their land will be controlled by the zoning regulations of that municipality. Alternatively, they may choose to remain in unincorporated DeWitt County and be regulated by the County's zoning. In the maps and plans included in this chapter, land use within the incorporated areas of Clinton and Wapella have been left blank since they are under the control of the local municipality. In all other areas of the County including the incorporated municipalities of Farmer City, DeWitt, Kenney, Waynesville and Weldon, the County regulates the use of land through its zoning authority.

5.0 EXISTING LAND USE

Establishing future land use recommendations requires an inventory and understanding of the existing land use patterns within the County's planning jurisdiction.

Land Use Patterns Of DeWitt County:

- DeWitt County continues to be a primarily rural County, with over 88% of land designated as agricultural, 3% as Ag-Residential, and 0.1% as Commercial Agriculture.
- With the exception of the City of Clinton, the County lacks strong commercial nodes or corridors within municipal limits
- Exelon Corporation owns over 13,000 acres in the County as part of the Clinton Power Station and the surrounding site, which includes Clinton Lake.
- Existing shore-land development around Clinton Lake is limited, but offers opportunities for development.
- With 131 acres of vacant land within municipal limits, DeWitt County has available land for future development opportunities within already developed areas of the County.

DeWitt County Legal Authority:

"The County board or board of County commissioners, as the case may be, of each County, shall have the power to regulate and restrict the location and use of buildings, structures and land... In all ordinances or resolutions passed under the authority of this Division, due allowance shall be made for existing conditions, the conservation of property values, the directions of building development to the best advantage of the entire County, and the uses to which property is devoted at the time of the enactment of any such ordinance or resolution." (55 ILCS 5/5-12001)

"Nothing in this Division shall be construed to restrict the powers granted by statute to cities, villages and incorporated towns as to territory contiguous to but outside of the limits of such cities, villages and incorporated towns. Any zoning ordinance enacted by a city, village or incorporated town shall supersede, with respect to territory within the corporate limits of the municipality, any County zoning plan otherwise applicable. The powers granted to counties by this Division shall be treated as in addition to powers conferred by statute to control or approve maps, plats or subdivisions." (55 ILCS 5/5-12001)

Factors Influencing Development Patterns

Natural Resources:

DeWitt County has about 10,000 acres of parks and open space, as well as 5,500 acres of surface water and 18,700 acres of floodplain hazard zones. Additionally, DeWitt County has prime agricultural land, which the County wishes to preserve and protect from sprawl and other non-rural development. While these resources limit development, they also attract residents to the County and to specific areas near these features.

Infrastructure:

DeWitt County's transportation system and network of public utilities influences land use patterns and determine the location and extent of development opportunities. The transportation system also offers proximity to neighboring metropolitan areas, which is influential in attracting and retaining residents.

Land Use Regulation:

The DeWitt County Zoning Ordinance ensures the separation of incompatible uses and the protection of certain valued uses. The ordinance determines development patterns through a regulatory process in all areas of the County not governed by municipal ordinance. This includes everywhere within the County except within Clinton and Wapella's municipal limits.



5.1 EXISTING ZONING

While existing land use shows the actual use of each property, zoning shows what uses are permitted to be developed based on the County's current zoning regulations. The following section describes the existing zoning districts described in the Revised Zoning Code of DeWitt County, Illinois. These districts include:



Zoning Districts

A Agricultural District

PURPOSE "to facilitate the proper use of lands best suited to agriculture through preventing the admixture of urban and rural uses which creates incompatibility and conflict, places unbalanced tax loads on agricultural lands to help pay for urban services and contributes to the premature termination of agricultural pursuits."

B-1 General Commercial District

PURPOSE "to promote development of the existing principal commercial development in municipalities."

B-2 Convenience Commercial District

PURPOSE "to provide for minor shopping areas at the edges of neighborhoods to provide for the day-to-day needs for goods and services."

B-3 Highway Commercial District

PURPOSE "to provide appropriate areas for commercial establishments which are oriented to the motoring public or which require large sites for off-street parking or display of merchandise."

FD Floodplain District

PURPOSE "promotion of the public health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare; conservation of the value of land and buildings throughout the County."

General Industrial District

PURPOSE "to recognize existing industrial development within the County and the desirability of reserving additional land for possible new, expanded or relocated industries"

R-1 Low Density Single-Family Residential PURPOSE "areas for families wishing to live on large lots in residential neighborhoods within communities."

R-2 High Density Single-Family Residential **PURPOSE** "protect those residential areas of the community that were developed in most part prior to World War II from encroachment from potential conflicting uses and to provide for future residential and related development and redevelopment."

R-3 Multi-Family Residential District

PURPOSE "provide for the conversion of single-family structures to multi-family structures in the established portions of the community where larger two-story homes predominate and to provide new areas for modern multi-family development."

R-4 Mobile Home District

PURPOSE "to provide for people who wish to own a mobile home placed on a privately owned lot."

RD-1 Rural Development District - 1

PURPOSE "to allow various uses along designated highways; provided, they locate on lots having at least a 240-foot frontage and that access of driveways is controlled."

RD-2 Rural Development District - 2

PURPOSE "promote the logical growth of uses around the County's communities... for the increasing demand for rural non-farm development sites."

RD-3 Rural Development District - 3

PURPOSE "promote the logical growth of residences around the County's communities."

5.2 FUTURE LAND USE

The future land use recommendations for DeWitt County are illustrated on the Future Land Use Plan Map. These recommendations reflect the County's desired physical layout consistent with historic land use patterns, existing land use patterns and the planning goals outlined in Section 3: Vision and Goals.

The Future Land Use Map is a guide intended to inform future development within the County's jurisdiction. The boundaries suggested in this plan are flexible and designed to show general land use patterns, not hard and fast limits. For example, a rezoning request that is generally consistent with the Comprehensive Plan but proposes to push a residential area a few hundred feet beyond the limits shown on the Future Land Use Plan may be appropriate based on the specific physical and economic factors of that specific case. It is important that the County give fair consideration to any proposal for land development that varies from the Plan.

Land Use Categories

The map includes ten land use designations, which represent the primary land use and general characteristics of parcels under the DeWitt County jurisdiction.

Residential

Single-Family Detached and Single-Family Attached homes on lots generally less than one (1) acre. Also includes concentrated residential subdivisions and multi-family residential uses. Exists primarily in and around already developed areas.

Estate Residential

Single-Family Detached residential use on lots generally one (5) acre to fifteen (15) acres in size. Includes large residential lots in rural subdivisions, usually near natural amenities, such as lakes, streams, parks and open space, etc.

Ag-Residential

Single-Family Detached residential use on lots generally one (1) acre to fifteen (15) acres in size. Ag-Residential coexists alongside Agricultural use.

Agricultural

Farming and related uses.

Parks/Open Space/Recreation

Parks and dedicated public or private recreational and environmental conservation uses.

Public/Institutional

Educational, medical, religious, utility, and governmental facilities.

Industrial

Manufacturing, warehousing, storage, assembly uses, and other general industrial uses.

Commercial Agriculture

Manufacturing, warehousing, storage, assembly uses, and other industrial uses specifically related to commercial agricultural production.

Business/Commercial

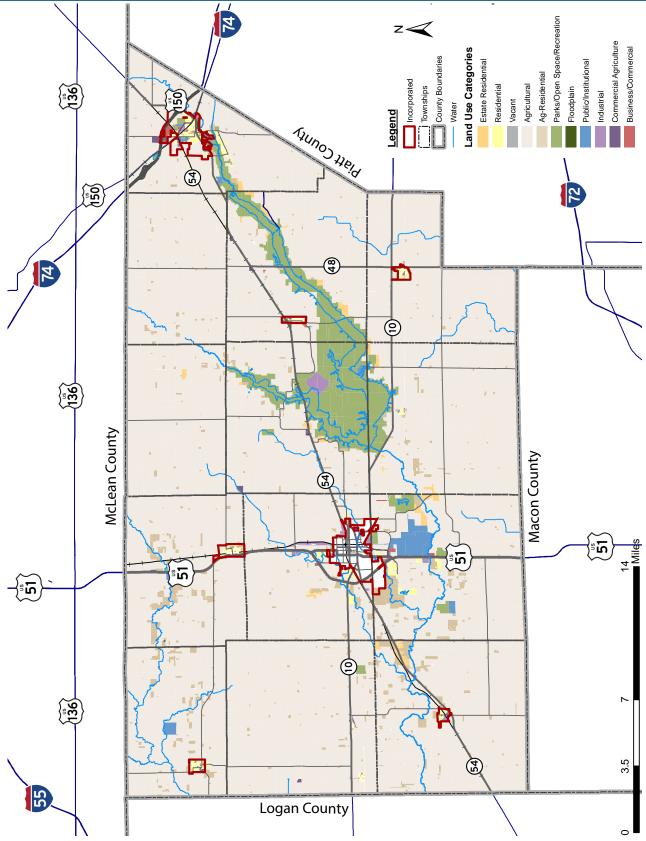
Retail, office uses, and other service commercial uses.

Floodplain

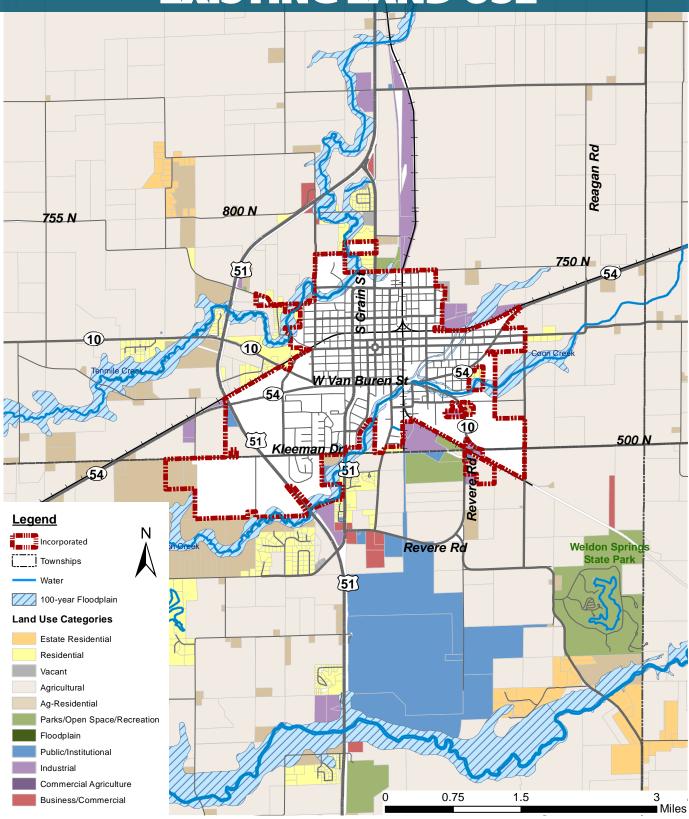
Preserved land adjacent to streams or rivers with restricted development.



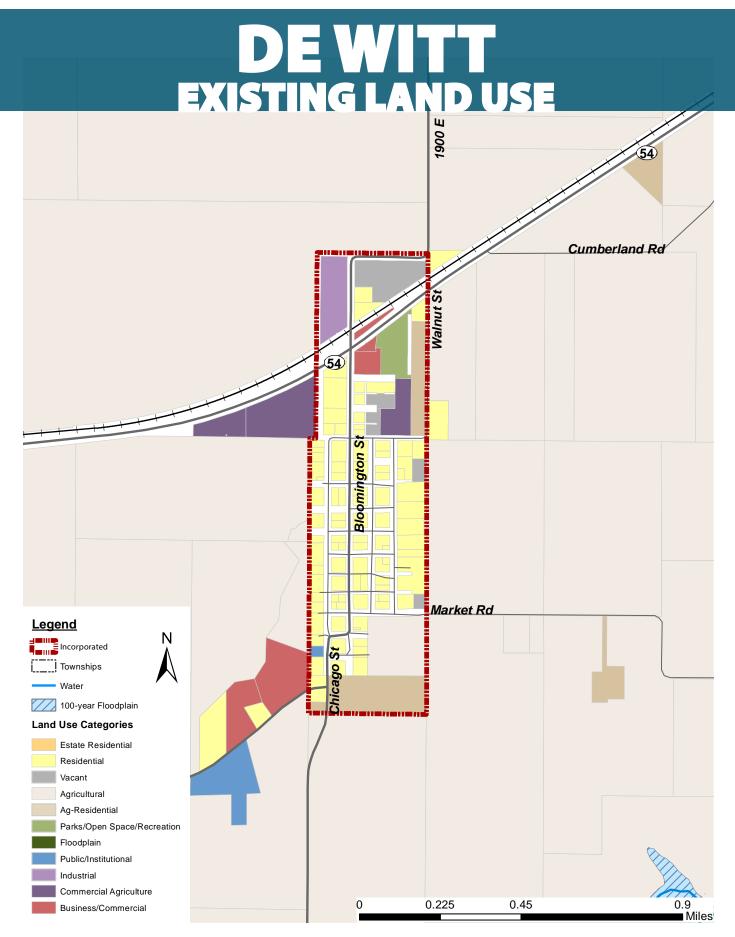
DE WITT COUNTY EXISTING LAND USE



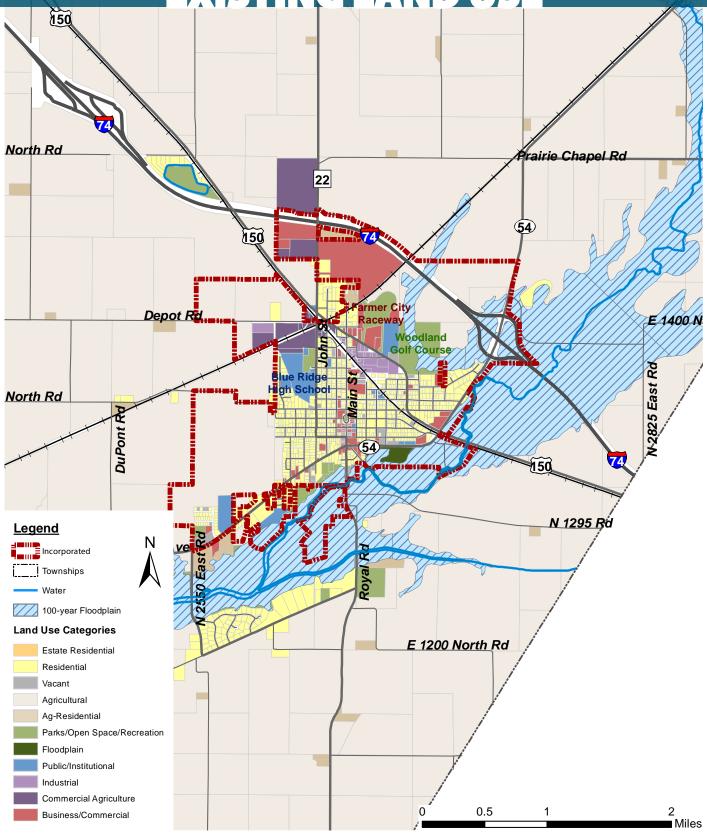
CLINTON EXISTING LAND USE

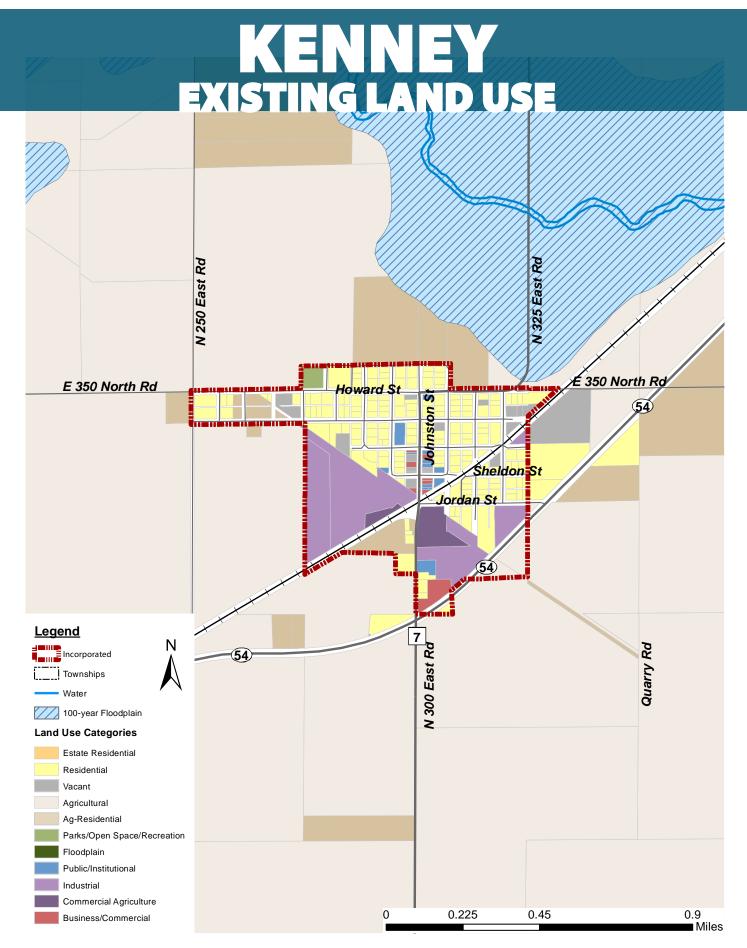


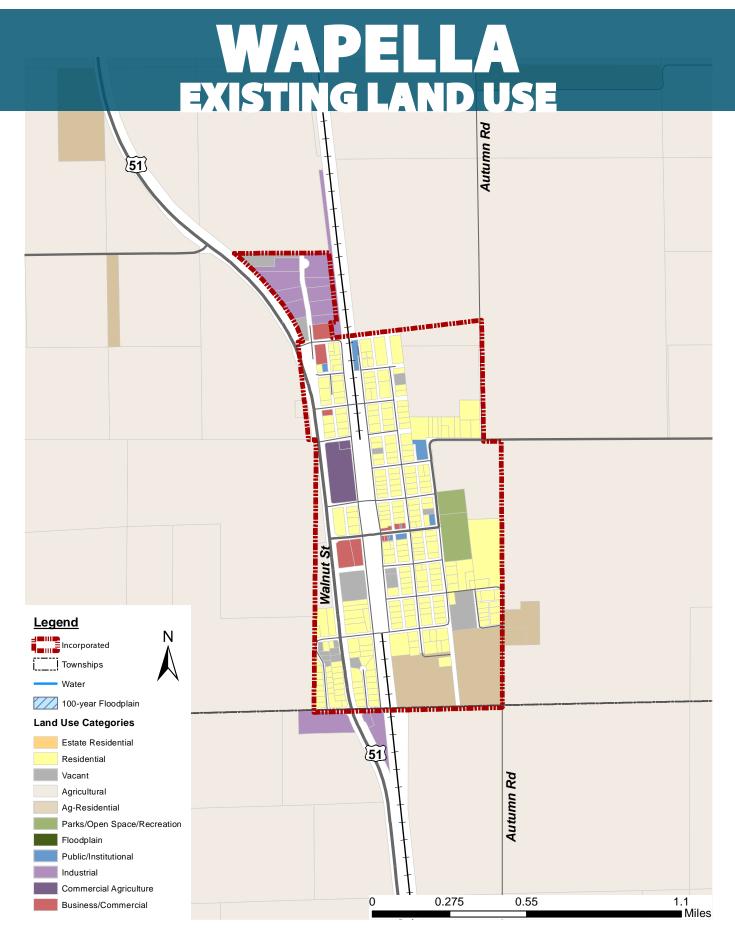
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK



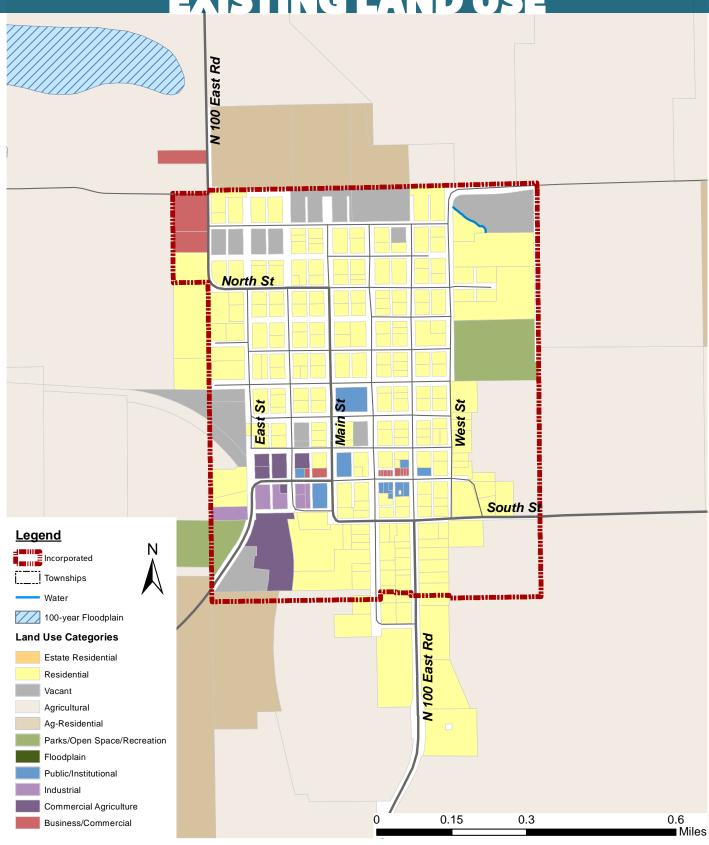
FARMER CITY EXISTING LAND USE



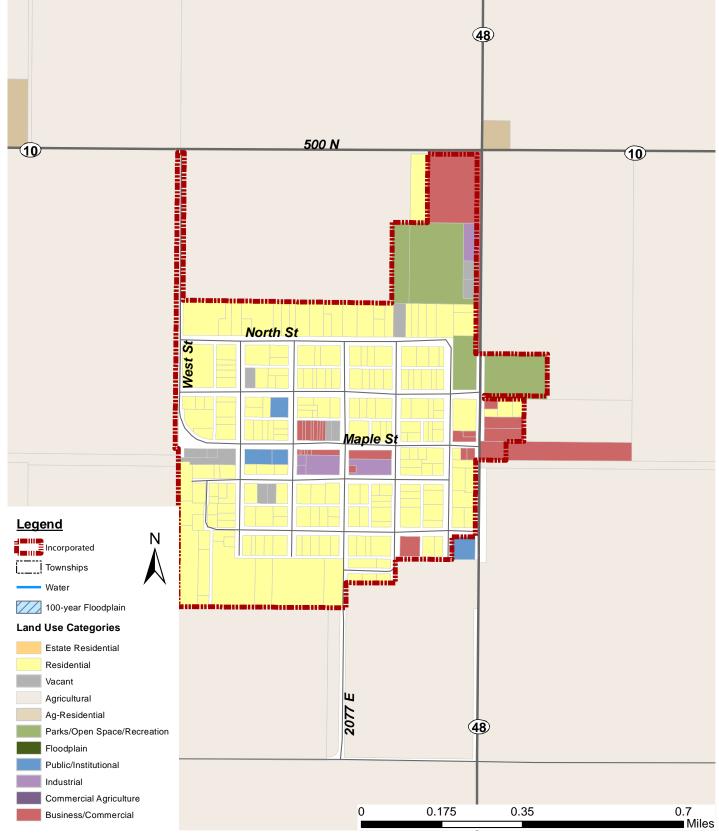




WAYNESVILLE Existing land use



WELDON EXISTNG LAND USE



Future Land Use Themes

The following future land use themes, based on the vision and goals of the County, will assist County officials and their municipal partners in preserving the rural character and natural resources of the County, while also allowing appropriate growth and development.

Agricultural Preservation

DeWitt County's fertile agricultural land is an important feature that should be protected. The Future Land Use Plan strives to preserve the prime agricultural land by encouraging all non-agricultural development and some commercial agricultural industry be limited to areas within the County that are already developed or zoned for these types of development.

Connectivity & Mobility

DeWitt County has a strong network of existing roadways that contribute to the County's regional connectivity and resident mobility. This Plan promotes land use patterns that leverage the County's existing network, when and where appropriate.

Opportunistic Development

DeWitt County's proximity to neighboring metropolitan areas is an important tool for attracting development and growing population. However, it is important that the County does not expend resources or compromise character in an effort to compete with these large economic hubs. The Plan encourages land use patterns that attract secondary development that will take advantage of the County's proximity to Bloomington-Normal, Decatur, Champaign-Urbana, and Lincoln.

Residential

With a location approximately mid-way between Champaign-Urbana and Bloomington-Normal, Farmer City is well positioned for future residential growth. Opportunities exist to attract residents that may desire a more rural, small town lifestyle with convenient interstate access to the jobs and services of the nearby larger metropolitan areas. For similar geographic reasons, Clinton, Wapella or another of the County's municipalities may be able to attract additional residential growth – particularly for two-income families where one spouse may work in say Decatur while another works in Bloomington or Springfield. There is also the potential for vacation home-type development in proximity to Clinton Lake and other natural features of the County.

Commercial

Commercial development opportunities in DeWitt County will largely be related to the ability of the County to attract additional residential development. Without additional population, attracting new retail development will be difficult. However, several opportunities exist for new commercial development, including:

Highway service oriented uses in Farmer City adjacent to Interstate 74.

Agricultural tourism opportunities such as apple orchards, pumpkin patches, horse riding etc. that can draw people from the neighboring metropolitan areas to the north, south, east and west to central DeWitt County for a weekend in the country.

Recreational tourism service opportunities related primarily to Clinton Lake. This could include opportunities for adventure sports, outfitters and guides, as well as camping, lodging and dining facilities.

Industrial

Industrial development requires access to an appropriate labor force, access to infrastructure (water and sewer services), and a good transportation network (roads and in some cases rail). Given these requirements, the best opportunities for industrial development in DeWitt County would be near one of the County's larger municipalities. Clinton's central location and larger size offers opportunities to draw employers and employees from regional communities like Springfield, Decatur, Champaign and Bloomington. Wapella's proximity to the Bloomington-Normal area offers opportunities to attract smaller employers looking for a less expensive location while still near a major metropolitan area. Similarly, Farmer City offers excellent opportunities to expand on their strong base in agriculture-related industries along the I-74 corridor.

Jurisdictional Coordination

DeWitt County should proactively coordinate with townships and municipalities to ensure growth is managed in a consistent manner that protects the County from future land use conflicts and incompatible development.

Tourism

DeWitt County has many tourism amenities, such as Clinton Lake and Clifton H Moore Homestead, which contribute to the County's identity, and can be leveraged to promote development within the County. The Plan promotes the protection and preservation of these natural, historical and cultural amenities, while also encouraging complementary development, as long as it does not diminish the quality of these amenities.

Environmental Constraints

While DeWitt County's many natural resources and environmental features are attractive to potential development, these assets can also be growth constraints. The County's inventory of creeks, lakes, riparian areas, recreational areas, and wildlife habitats limits development that would compromise this rich system of natural features. This Plan promotes the conservation and enhancement of these areas, while also encouraging development that complements these features. This may include recreational, residential and tourism related development which can help to preserve these environmental assets.

Figure 20. Land Use (Acres)

Floodplain	11
Commercial Agriculture	402
Business/Commercial	762
Estate Residential	1,229
Public/Institutional	1,681
ndustrial	1,822
Residential	4,314
Ag-Residential	7,189
Open Space	14,016
Agricultural	223,156

* Floodplain category includes land zoned as Floodplain, it does not include the flood hazard zones

Source: DeWitt County

Table 4. Land Use Comparison

Figure 19. Riparian Areas Diagram

Source: EPA

Table 5. Compatible Zoning Districts

FUTURE LAND				СОМ	PATIBL	E ZONII	NG DIS	TRICTS					
USE DESIGNATION	Α	B-1	B-2	B-3	FP	1	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	RD-1	RD-2	RD-3
Residential								Х	х	х		х	Х
Agricultural	Х												
Ag-Residential	Х						Х				Х		
Parks/Open Space/Recreation					х								
Public/Institutional		х	Х	Х									
Industrial						х							
Commercial Agriculture	Х					х							
Business/Commercial		х	х	х									

	EXIST	ING	FUTURE		
LAND USE TYPE	ACRES	%	ACRES	%	
Residential	2,978	1 %	5,542	2 %	
Agricultural	226,604	88 %	223,156	87 %	
Ag-Residential	7,777	3 %	7,189	3 %	
Parks/Open Space/ Recreation	14,087	6 %	14016	6 %	
Public/Institutional	1,695	1 %	1,681	<1 %	
Industrial	788	<1 %	1,822	1 %	
Commercial Agriculture	258	<1 %	402	<1 %	
Business Commercial	326	<1 %	762	<1 %	
Floodplain	30	<1 %	11	<1 %	

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK



RECOMMENDATIONS

County-Wide

- 1. Limit growth to already-developed areas of the County.
- 2. Encourage infill development as much as possible.

Clinton Area

- 1. Allow for commercial growth west of the municipal boundary, near the intersection of IL-54 and US-51.
- 2. Encourage residential growth around the area's water features, including Ten Mile Creek and Coon Creek, where other land use may be limited.
- 3. Encourage contiguous industrial growth in the area along Revere Road, just south of Clinton, given existing industrial use patterns in the southeast corner of the City.

De Witt

1. Limit growth outside of its current municipal boundary, and encourage infill development where vacancies are present.

Farmer City

- 1. Encourage residential growth around Clinton Lake where other land use may be limited and where residential development is attractive.
- 2. Limit growth outside of its current municipal boundary, especially southeast of the City where flood hazard zones are large.
- 3. Encourage that industrial growth take place north of the city, where industries would have access to the interstate and rail line.
- Promote the existing downtown corridor on Main St and IL-54 as an infill opportunity for small-scale commercial development. Larger commercial growth opportunities are available in and around the Northern portion of the City.

Kenney

- 1. Limit growth outside of its current municipal boundary, and encourage infill development where vacancies are present.
- 2. Promote the existing downtown corridor on Johnston Street as an infill opportunity for small-scale commercial development.
- 3. Encourage contiguous industrial growth in the southeast corner of the community, along IL-54.

Wapella

- 1. Limit growth outside of its current municipal boundary, and encourage infill development where vacancies are present.
- 2. Encourage industrial infill in the northwest corner where industrial use is already dominant
- 3. Preserve existing parks/open space/recreation use within the community

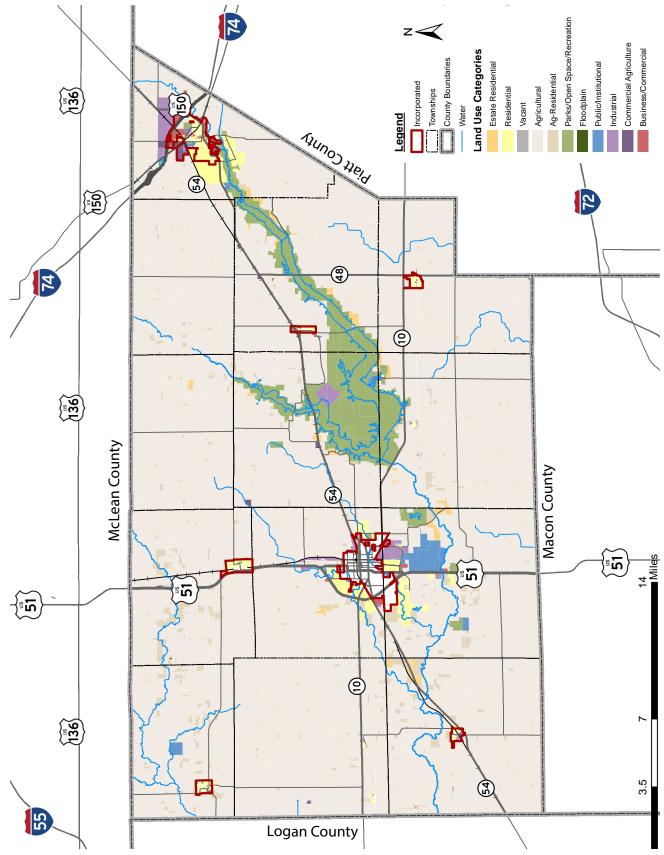
Waynesville

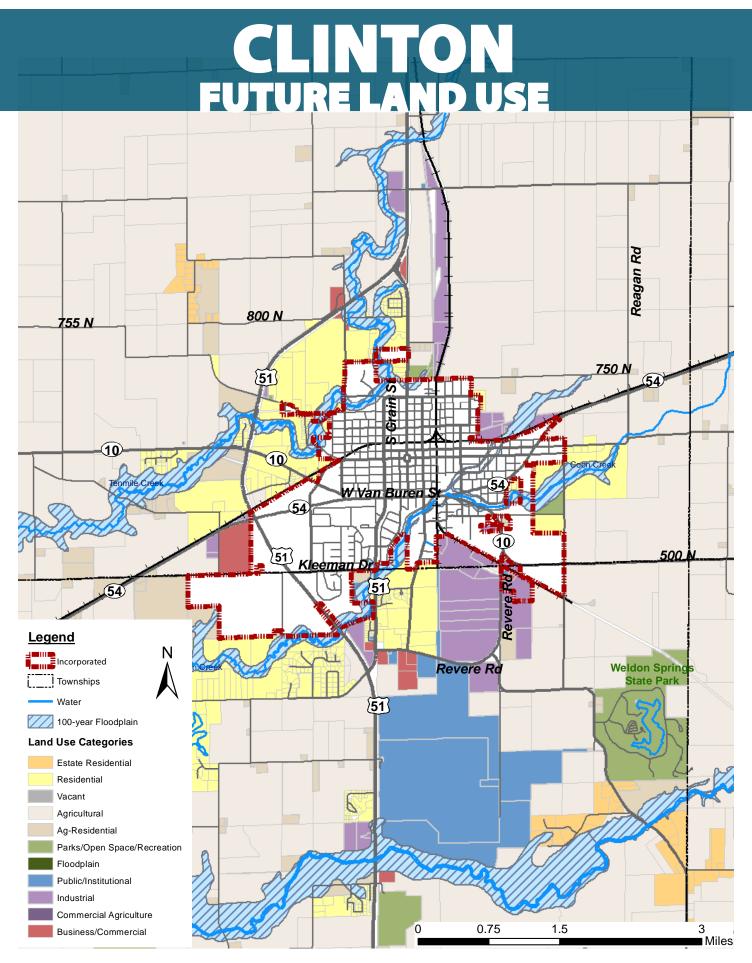
- 1. Limit growth outside of its current municipal boundary, and encourage infill development where vacancies are present.
- 2. Encourage industrial infill in the southwest corner where industrial use is already dominant.
- 3. Preserve existing parks/open space/recreation use within the community.

Weldon

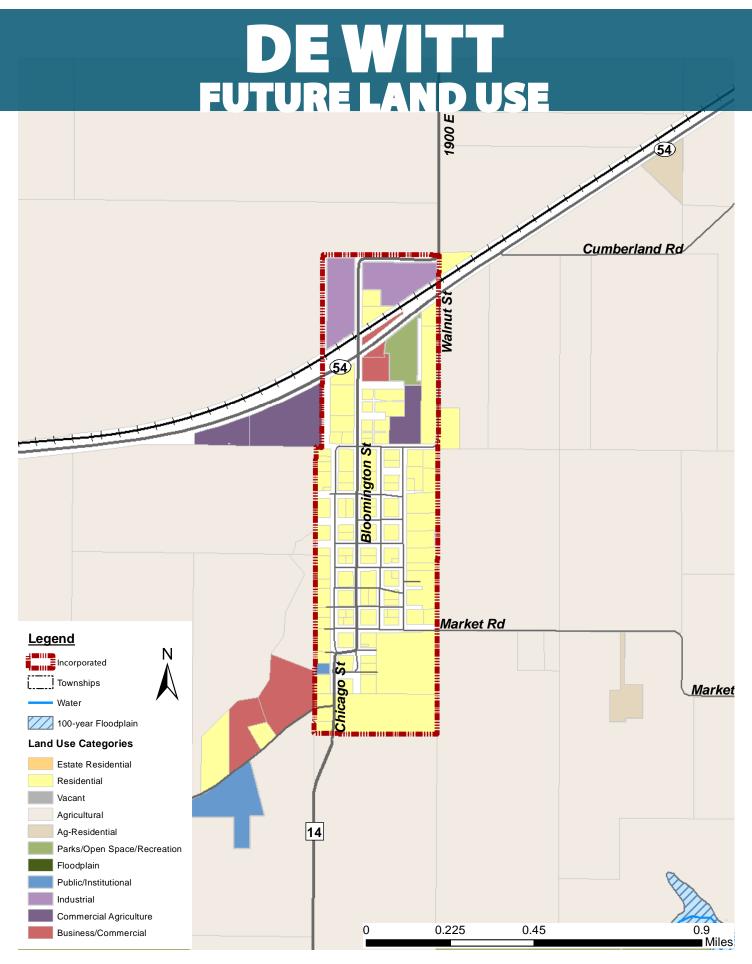
- 1. Limit growth outside of its current municipal boundary, and encourage infill development where vacancies are present.
- 2. Promote the existing downtown corridor on Maple Street as an infill opportunity for small-scale commercial development.
- 3. Preserve existing parks/open space/recreation use within the community.

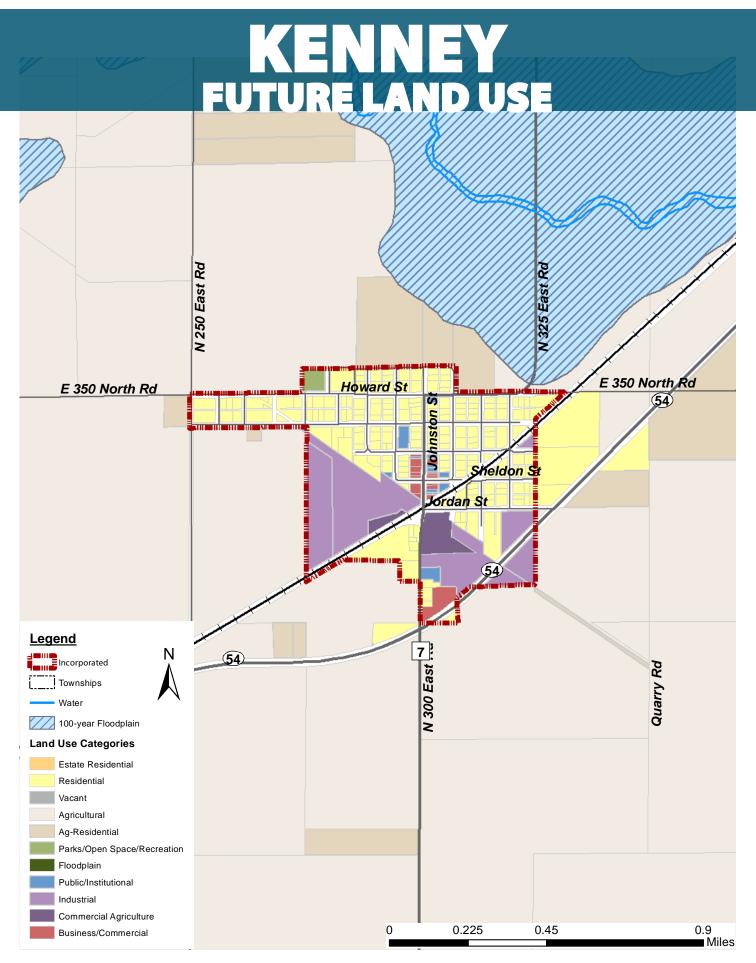
DE WITT COUNTY FUTURE LAND USE

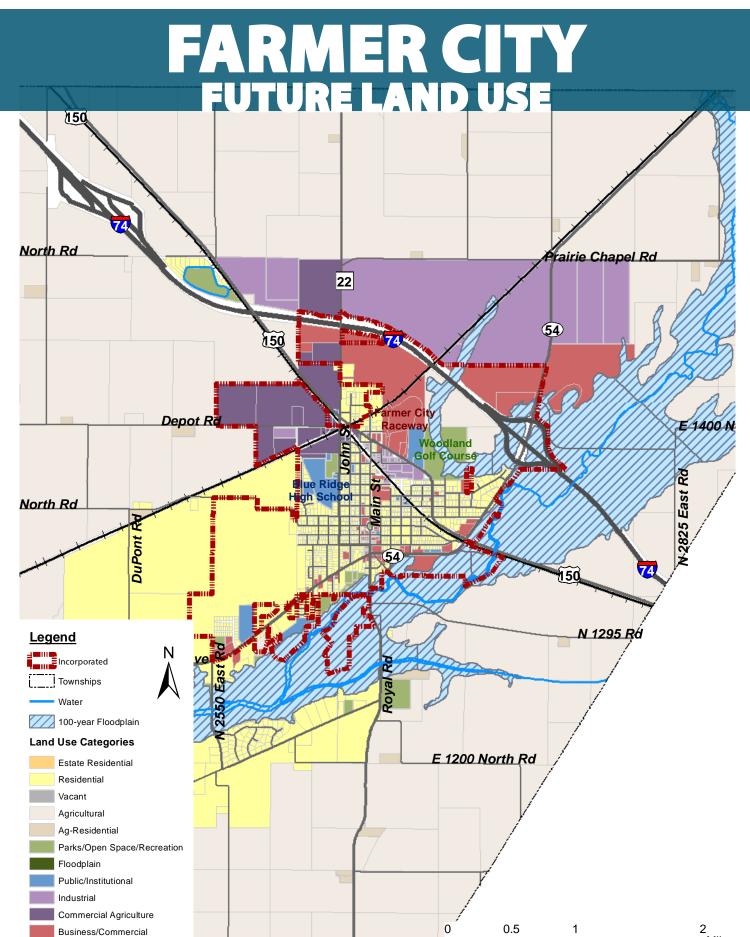




LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

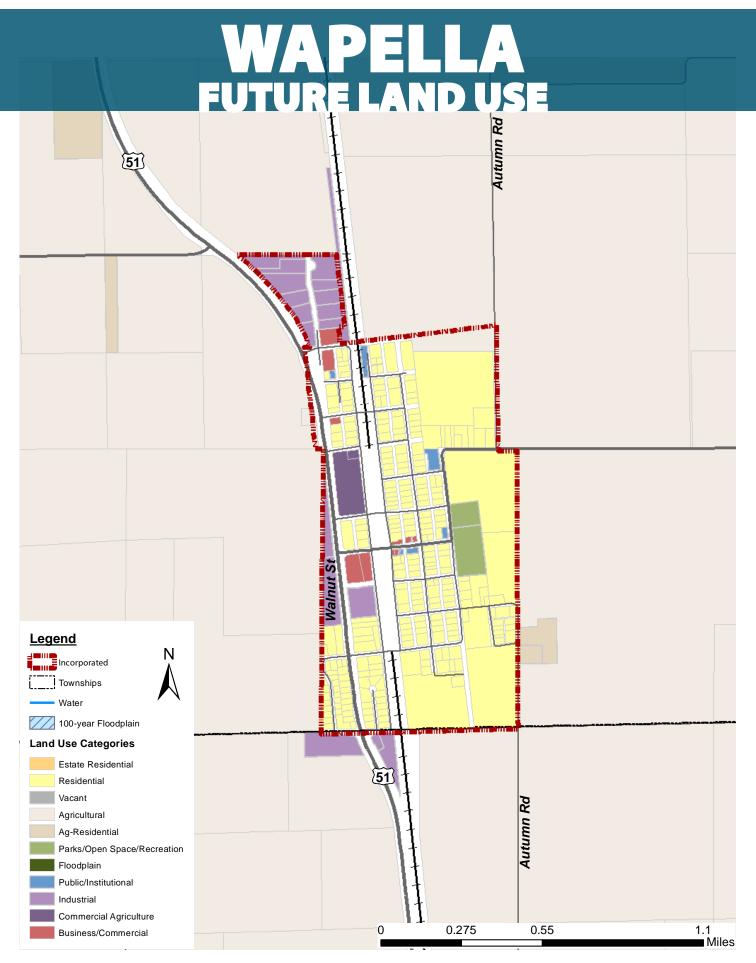




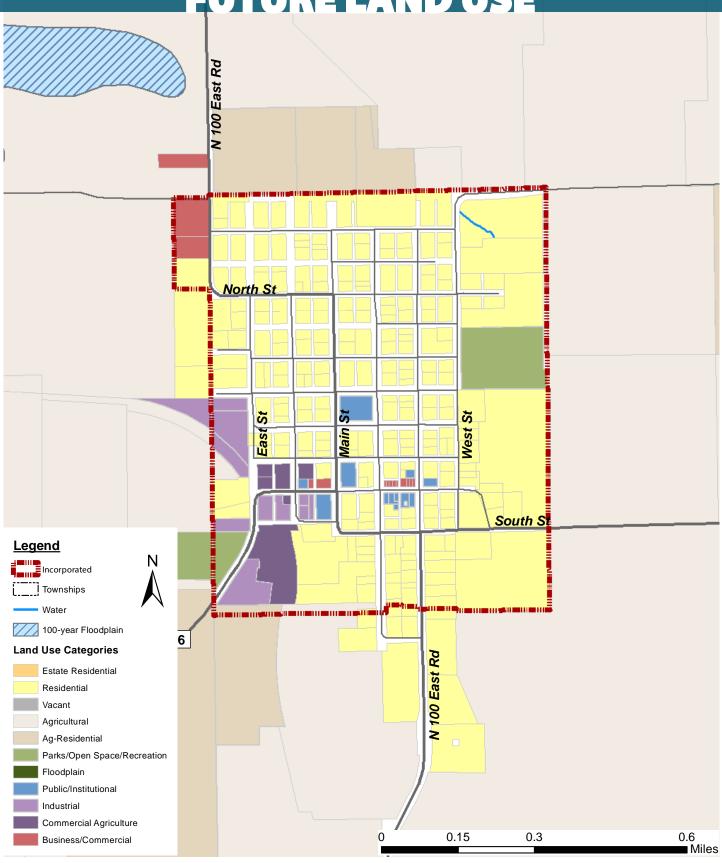


Miles

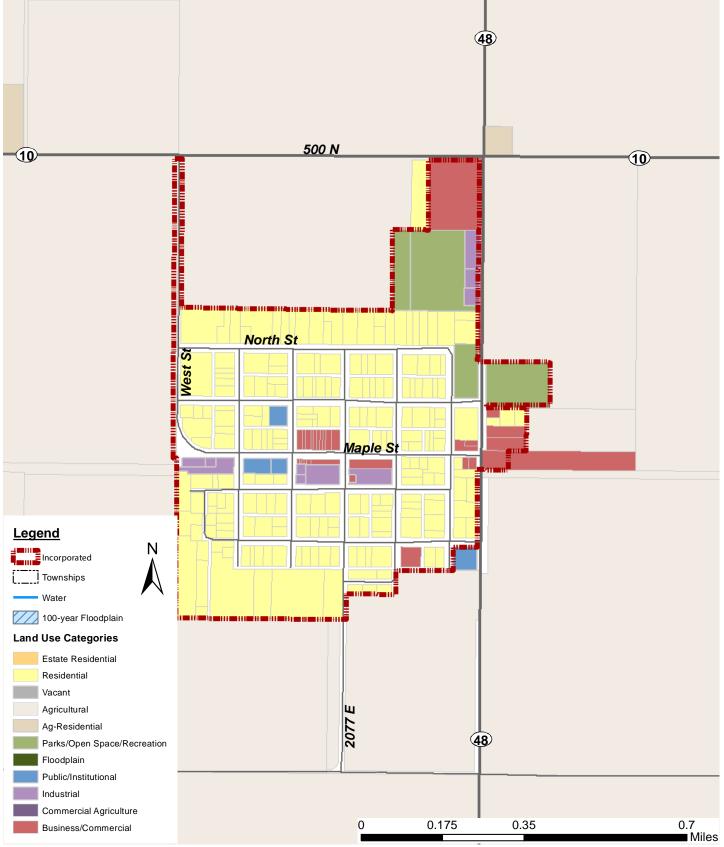
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK



WAYNESVILLE FUTURE LAND USE



WELDON FUTURE LAND USE



TRANSPORTATION + MOBILITY

DeWitt County's transportation network is dominated primarily by vehicle travel. The County has an extensive roadway network, which allows for mobility and connectivity to the surrounding region. Additionally, several small airports and a public bus system add to the County's transportation network. The County does not have expansive bicycle routes or any commuter rail activity within its boundary. DeWitt's regional connectivity gives the County a competitive advantage in terms of future development. Its centralized location between metro areas in Central Illinois is an incentive for prospective businesses to move to the area.

This section identifies transportation improvements and opportunities that will support desired development throughout the County, with emphasis placed on expanding and improving existing infrastructure. The recommendations suggested in this section focus on linking residents to places, jobs, and resources in DeWitt County.

6.0 TRANSPORTATION PLANS

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a strategic plan that provides objectives and implementation strategies for the future development of the Illinois transportation system. IDOT's LRTP vision for the Illinois transportation system is "to provide innovative, sustainable and multi-modal transportation solutions that support local goals and grow Illinois' economy" (IDOT, 2017). The State is committed to preserving and improving its vast multi-modal transportation network.

Figure 21. Five Performance Goals of the Long-Range Transportation Plan



ECONOMY

6

el En

Improve Illinois' economy by providing transportation infrastructure that supports the efficient movement of people and goods.

LIVABILITY

Enhance the quality of life across the state by ensuring that transportation investments advance local goals, provide multimodal options, and preserve the environment.

MOBILITY

Support all modes of transportation to improve accessibility and safety by improving connections between all modes of transportation.

PERFORMANCE GOALS

RESILIENCY

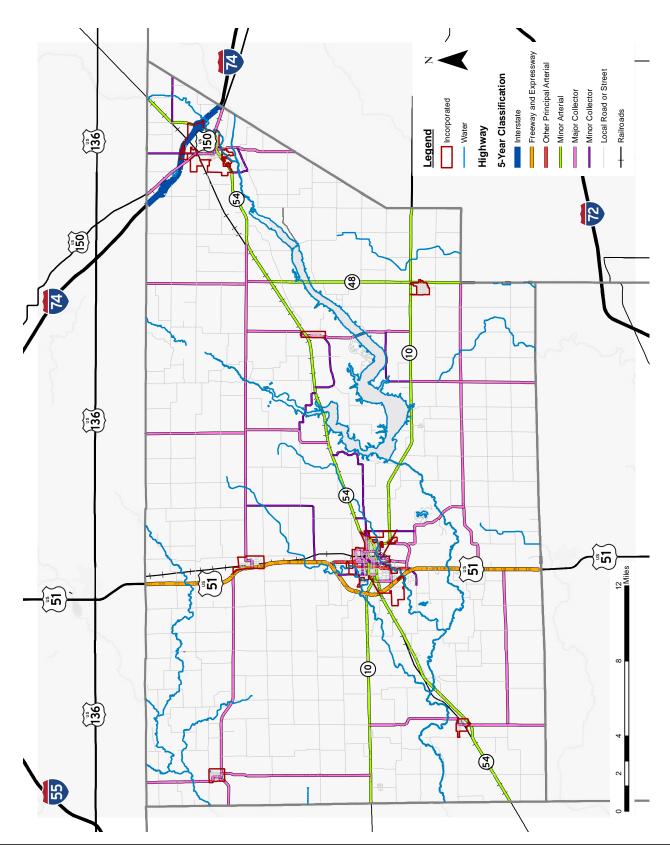
Proactively assess, plan and invest in the state's transportation system to ensure that our infrastructure is prepared to sustain and recover from extreme events and other disruptions.

STEWARDSHIP

Safeguard existing funding and increase revenues to support system maintenance, modernization, and strategic growth of Illinois' transportation system.

Source: IDOT

ROADWAYS



6.1 Major Roadways

Roadway corridors within the County are designated among state, county and local jurisdictions. The responsibilities of these jurisdictions include addressing roadway infrastructure, capacity, safety issues and maintenance.

The following section describes roadways based on the Roadway Functional Classifications as described by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). IDOT's classification system groups roadway facilities based on how they function in serving traffic movements and providing access to adjacent properties.

73% of the roadway system in DeWitt County is classified as Local Roads or Streets, and 15% of the roadway system is classified as Collector Streets. The County has jurisdictional responsibility over 95.7 miles, nearly 11% of the entire roadway system.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the County's excellent regional connectivity, the focus of roadway improvements in the County should be on maintenance. While existing roadways are generally in good condition today, a regular system of maintenance and replacement will be essential to maintaining the County's competitive accessibility advantages. The only new roadways proposed would be local roadways that may be needed to support new development. Improvements to County or State routes would primarily be related to providing enhanced access to new development in the form of turn lanes or traffic control devices.

Principal Arterials
 Minor Arterials
 Collector Streets
 Local Roads or Streets
 Local Roads or Streets

Figure 22. Roadway Miles (Functional Class)

Source: IDOT





Source: IDOT

FUNCTIONAL CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ROADWAY MILES IN DEWITT COUNTY	% OF TOTAL
Principal Arterials	The arterial system typically provides for high travel speeds and the longest trip movements to quickly move relatively large volumes of traffic.	29.4 miles	3.4%
Minor Arterials	The arterial system typically provides for high travel speeds and the longest trip movements to quickly move relatively large volumes of traffic.	68.6 miles	7.9%
Collector Streets	Collector routes have traffic volumes and speeds that are typically lower than those of arterials.	135.5 miles	15.6%
Local Roads or Streets	Local roads and streets generally have low speeds, low traffic volumes, and short trip distances.	637.3 miles	73.2%

Table 6. Functional Class Descriptions & Roadway Miles in DeWittt County

Source: Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Bureau of Design and Environment Manual, § 43-1, pg. 43-1.02, (2010)

6.2 RAIL

Freight Rail

Class I Railroads:

"Having annual carrier operating revenues of \$250 million or more in 1991 dollars", which adjusted for inflation was \$452,653,248" (Surface Transportation Board, 2012)

The Canadian National Railway (CN) is one of seven Class I freight railways operating in the United States. This major freight line, which completely traverses the County and includes a spur line in Kenney and another up through Wapella, provides service to many of the County's incorporated areas and their industries.

The Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) has a 30 mile dormant freight railway that runs from Bloomington to Mansfield, and traverses the northwest corner of the County, going directly through Farmer City. Norfolk Southern has plans to abandon this section of the railway that has remained dormant since 2003, providing an opportunity for communities along the line to convert the railway to a new use.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Promote and leverage freight rail assets to attract new industries to the area.
- 2. Work with the Illinois State Freight Advisory council to "advise the State on freight related priorities, issues, projects, and funding needs"
- 3. Work with neighboring communities along a dormant Norfolk Southern rail line to convert the railway into a usable asset, such as a public infrastructure corridor or recreational trail.
- 4. Explore opportunities for appropriate rail spurs off these main freight lines to serve local industries.



Figure 24. Railroad Lines

Source: IDOT

Passenger Rail

DeWitt County does not have direct access to a passenger rail line within the County. However, Amtrak passenger rail lines service nearby metropolitan areas, including Bloomington-Normal, Lincoln, Springfield and Champaign-Urbana. As part of its long-range planning efforts, IDOT continues to provide funding to Amtrak in order to maintain and update rail infrastructure and facilities. As part of this objective, IDOT has assisted Amtrak in updating or replacing several station facilities, including those in Lincoln and Bloomington-Normal. In addition, the State has been actively working to facilitate high-speed rail activity on the line between Chicago and St. Louis which will reduce travel times by over an hour.

Given the relatively limited population of the County, and the proximity to services in nearby communities, extension of new passenger rail service to DeWitt County is not feasible for the foreseeable future.

6.3 AIR

Public Airports

In addition to these facilities, residents of DeWitt County have access to public airport facilities in the region, including:

Decatur Airport is approximately 2,100 acres in size, just 27 miles from Clinton. Decatur Airport operations consist primarily of general aviation and military operations, as well as some air taxi and commercial operations.

Central Illinois Regional Airport (CIRA) at Bloomington-Normal is approximately 1,968 acres in size, and is located 29 miles from Clinton. CIRA operations are mostly general aviation, air taxi, passenger airline, and limited military operations.

University of Illinois Willard Airport is approximately 1,799 acres in size, and is located 44 miles from Clinton. Willard Airport's operations are mostly general aviation, air taxi and military.

Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport is approximately 2,300 acres in size, and is three miles northwest of downtown Springfield and 44 miles from Clinton. Capitol Airport's operations consist primarily of general aviation, air taxi and military, and some passenger airline operations.



Figure 25. Regional Airport Facilities

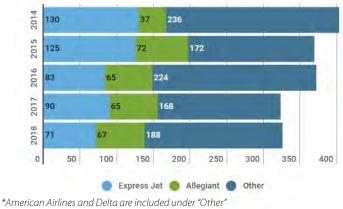
Source: IDOT; US Census Bureau; Teska Associates

TRANSPORTATION AND FACILITIES

Figure 28. Decatur Airport

Figure 26. Central Illinois Regional Airport Total Annual Passengers by Destination & by Airline

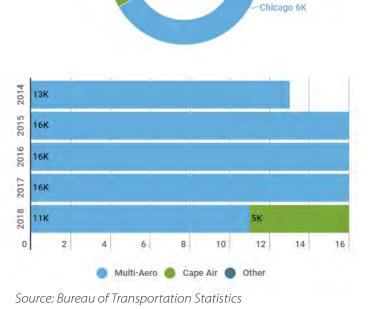




St. Louis 3K

Passengers

Total Annual Passengers by Destination & by Airline



*American Airlines and Delta are included under "Other" Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Figure 27. Willard Airport Total Annual Passengers by Destination & by Airline

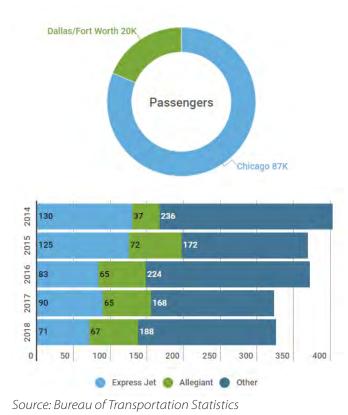
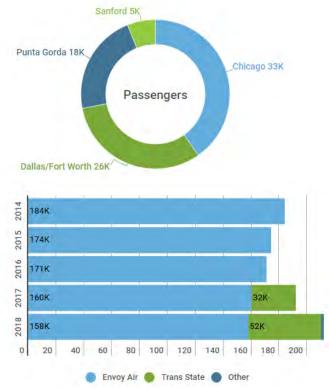


Figure 29. Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport Total Annual Passengers by Destination & by Airline



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

DEWITT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Private Airports

DeWitt County has several small, private airports including:

- John Scharff (2 miles east of Clinton)
- Hooterville Airport (6 miles west of Clinton)
- Sugar Hollow Airport (6 miles east of Clinton)
- Martin RLA Airport (6 miles southeast of Clinton)
- Thorp Airport (1 mile southeast of Wapella)

These private airports are primarily used for agricultural related activities such as crop dusting, or for small private aircraft for personal use.

6.4 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

DeWitt County's only public transportation service is 'Show Bus,' which provides on-demand and scheduled commuter transportation for the County and surrounding rural areas. Show Bus is funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation (Federal Transit Act, as amended), the Downstate Operating Assistance Program, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging, United Way, and fares/contracts. Additional funding for Show Bus comes from supporting businesses, organizations, local governments and citizens. Show Bus is available to all residents of DeWitt County, and is free for all residents who are 60+ years of age. All Show Bus vehicles are ADA accessible for residents with disabilities. Show Bus provides transportation to destinations both within the County and to other nearby metropolitan areas. Greyhound Bus service is also provided out of Burlington Trailways in Bloomington-Normal and out of Illinois Terminal in Champaign, IL for the long-distance travel needs of DeWitt County residents.

The County is not currently served by a rideshare service, such as Uber or Lyft. However, throughout the outreach process, residents have an interest for a local on-demand ride or ride-share service.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Market Show Bus as an alternative transportation option, and improve the overall usability by increasing information availability regarding schedules, routes, and fares.
- 2. Encourage rideshare providers to expand into DeWitt County, particular within larger communities like Clinton, Farmer City and Wapella.



Source: Show Bus, 2018



7 PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

WHILE MUCH OF DEWITT COUNTY IS AGRICULTURAL, THE COUNTY IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE SOME EXCELLENT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL ASSETS. FACILITIES SUCH AS CLINTON LAKE AND WELDON STATE PARK PROVIDE BOTH RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS AND PROVIDE A REGIONAL DRAW FROM SURROUNDING COUNTIES AND OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE.

The 2015-2019 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a guide for the conservation and development of Illinois' outdoor recreation resources. The goal of this plan is to provide parks and open spaces that are resource-compatible and ultimately accessible to all citizens. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers the SCORP. It used in the evaluation of grant applications, in allocation of funding for State operated facilities, and to guide land acquisition.

"The purpose of the plan is to evaluate the outdoor recreation needs of Illinois citizens and determine how best to meet these needs, considering the state's natural resources, recreational lands and facilities and socioeconomic factors." (SCORP)



7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

Topography & Soil

DeWitt County is located in the Illinois/Indiana Prairies (Level IV), which is part of the larger Central Corn Belt Plains Ecoregion (Level III) as defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Central Corn Belt Plains were once home to extensive prairie communities that were native to the glaciated plains. These prairie communities have since been replaced with agriculture that takes advantage of the dark, fertile soil that resulted from the most recent glacial episodes. DeWitt County's soil fits this classification, allowing extensive production of corn and soybeans. Furthermore, the County's rich soil classifies most of the County as 'prime farmland,'meaning it has" the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics or producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses," as defined by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s standards for prime farmland.

Water Features

Surface Water

Clinton Lake is approximately 5,000 acres of surface water in DeWitt County. The lake was created by damming Salt Creek, and has two main streams that supply it, including North Fork Creek and Salt Creek, and several smaller tributaries that drain to those.

Weldon Springs Lake is the second largest body of surface water in DeWitt County. It is a 29 acre reservoir for Weldon Springs, a tributary of Salt Creek, which is a major tributary of the Sangamon River.

Watersheds

The Sangamon River Watershed encompasses approximately 5,362 square miles of East-Central Illinois, including parts of Cass, Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Logan, Macon, Mason, McLean, Menard, Piatt, Sangamon and Tazewell counties. Within that larger watershed is the sub-watershed known as the Clinton Lake Watershed, which covers approximately 294 square miles of DeWitt, McLean, and Piatt Counties.

Aquifers

The Mahomet Aquifer underlies the greater East-Central Illinois region, including parts of 14 counties: Cass, Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Iroquois, Macon, Mason, McLean, Menard, Piatt,

Vermilion and Woodford. The Mahomet aquifer is a sand and gravel deposit that is saturated with water. It is located approximately 100 feet below ground, and is partially located in the Sangamon River Watershed. The Mahomet Aquifer is the primary drinking water source for many of the communities that sit over it, including DeWitt County. In total, nearly 750,000 people use the aquifer in some way, as well as many business and farms.

Floodplains

Most of the County's floodplains are located around Salt Creek and its tributaries. In total, the County's floodplains cover approximately 18,700 acres, which is less than 9% of the total area of the County. The 2013 Illinois Hazard Mitigation Plan assigned DeWitt County a Flood Hazard Rating of "high" and a Severe Storm Hazard rating of "severe." DeWitt County has had two federally declared floods between 1981 and 2013, and has a Flood Vulnerability Rating of "Average."

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil for all or part of the year. They are important natural resources as they provide fish and wildlife habitats, store flood waters, and help to improve water quality. DeWitt County has extensive wetland areas located primarily along major waterways including the Salt Creek, Ten Mile Creek, and Coon Creek, as well as isolated scattered wetlands located throughout the County. The total area of wetlands within the County is 193 acres, or less than 1% of the total land area of the County.

Native Species

Central Illinois is home to numerous species of flora and fauna. The Clinton Lake area alone is home to over 25 species of waterfowl, and provides habitat for over 10,000 bird migrations per season. While most of the County is used for active farming, forested areas remain primarily along major rivers and streams and Clinton Lake.

DeWitt County is home to several endangered species including the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (threatened flower), the Osprey (endangered bird), the Rusty Patched Bumblebee (endangered) and several species of bats that live and/or migrate through the area. Other species such as the Bald Eagle are Federally protected, if not technically endangered.

More detailed and current information on endangered species within the County are provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (www.dnr.illinois.gov) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (www.fws.gov)

Agriculture

In 2012, the US Census Bureau reported that DeWitt County had 511 farms. 457 of those farms were reported to be cropland, and of that total, 370 were harvested cropland. The majority of farms in DeWitt are producing corn for grain (276 farms). Additionally, many farmers in DeWitt are producing other agricultural commodities, such as cattle and calves (70 farms), hogs and pigs (18), sheep and lambs (8), and broilers and other poultry (4 farms).



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Encourage infill development in appropriate locations in order to help preserve high-quality soil, natural areas and environmental features.
- 2. Protect water systems through zoning and land use regulations, incentives for infill development, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) and agricultural BMPs (Table 7.).
- 3. Limit development in flood hazard zones where potential flooding can negatively impact the well-being and public health of residents, as well as property and infrastructure.

"Leaving crop residue (plant materials from past harvests) on the soil surface reduces runoff and soil erosion, conserves soil moisture, helps keep nutrients and pesti- cides on the field, and improves soil, water, and air quality"
"Fully managing and accounting for all nutrient inputs helps ensure nutrients are available to meet crop needs while reducing nutrient movements off fields. It also helps prevent excessive buildup in soils and helps protect air quality"
"Varied methods for keeping insects, weeds, disease, and other pests below economically harmful levels while protecting soil, water, and air quality"
"From simple grassed waterways to riparian areas, buffers provide an additional barrier of protection by capturing potential pollut- ants that might otherwise move into surface waters"

Table 7. The EPA's Agricultural Best Management Practices AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

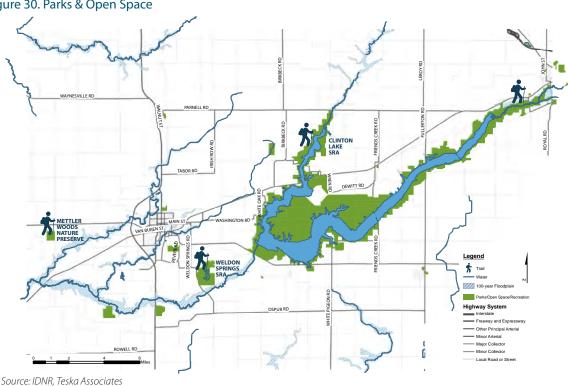


Figure 30. Parks & Open Space

7.2 PARKS

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) currently owns and manages approximately 1,100 acres of land in the County. Additionally, IDNR manages approximately 9,300 acres of forested and riparian habitat near Clinton Lake, known as the Clinton Lake State Recreation Area. Other State owned lands within the County include: Weldon Springs State Recreation Area, Birkbeck State Habitat, Hallsville State Habitat, Finfrock State Habitat, and Hills Cemetery.

Weldon Springs State Recreation Area and Clinton Lake Recreation Area are unique parks comprised of lands managed for various recreational and conservation activities, including but not limited to fishing, hunting, camping, boating, hiking, historic preservation, land preservation, habitat preservation and they are home to several wildlife species.

In addition to the state owned recreation areas and habitats, DeWitt County is also home to the Mettler Woods Nature Preserve, just west of Clinton. This open space feature is roughly 87 acres of upland forest and a 0.6 mile out-and-back trail. It was officially dedicated as a Nature Preserve in 2004, and was later donated to the Land Conservation Foundation by The Nature Conservancy in 2005.

Some counties in the State operate independent Forest Preserve Districts or Conservation Districts. However, given the large State Recreation Areas within DeWitt County, the need for such as regional open space resource is minimal and is not recommended.

Local recreational needs are met by smaller parks operated by municipalities such as Clinton, Wapella and Farmer City. These facilities provide opportunities for informal recreation such as playgrounds or walking. They also provide facilities for team sports like soccer, baseball and football. Farmer City operates a swimming pool which is very popular locally and throughout the County.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Maintain appropriate zoning and land use regulations for land surrounding the state recreation areas and habitat sites. This is especially of concern near Weldon Springs, where the municipal landfill is proximate, and Clinton Lake, where residential development is desired to increase.
- Continue to enforce floodplain regulations and zoning to maintain the ability to handle major storm events with minimal damage to property and maximum enjoyment of open space and recreational opportunities.
- 3. Support appropriate expansion of the park sites.
- 4. Maintain County infrastructure that allows access to the park sites, including roadways, trails and signage.
- 5. Promote State recreational and municipal parks and open space sites on the County website and in other social, digital and print materials.
- 6. Encourage and support a channel of communication between the IDNR and Exelon Corporation in regard to the long term management of Clinton Lake and the surrounding parks and open space.

7.3 TRAILS

North Fork Trail (Clinton Lake SRA)

The North Fork Trail is a 9.1 mile loop trail located in the forested North Fork section of the Clinton Lake site. This is a popular pedestrian trail for hiking, running, and birding. It is considered a moderate level hiking trail.

Clinton Lake Trail (Clinton Lake SRA)

The Clinton Lake Trail is a 1 mile 'out and back' trail located in the northwestern region of the Clinton Lake site. This pedestrian trail is considered appropriate for all skill levels.

Lakeside trail (Weldon Springs SRA)

The Weldon Springs Trail is a 2 mile trail that loops around the Weldon Springs Lake. The trail is popular for running, hiking, mountain biking and road biking. It is considered a moderate level trail.

Other trails in the Weldon Springs SRA:

- Beaver Dam Trail
- Whitetail Ski Trail
- Salt Creek Backpack Trail
- Schoolhouse Trail
- Old Farm Trail



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Expand the existing trail network, with a focus on connecting the County's municipalities, trails, state parks, and other open spaces.
- 2. Encourage and support municipalities with the expansion or development of bike trails/lanes within their jurisdictions.
- 3. Assist with the coordination between local stakeholders, municipalities and the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in order to improve trail and park connectivity.
- 4. Promote the County's trail network on the County website and in other social, digital and print materials.

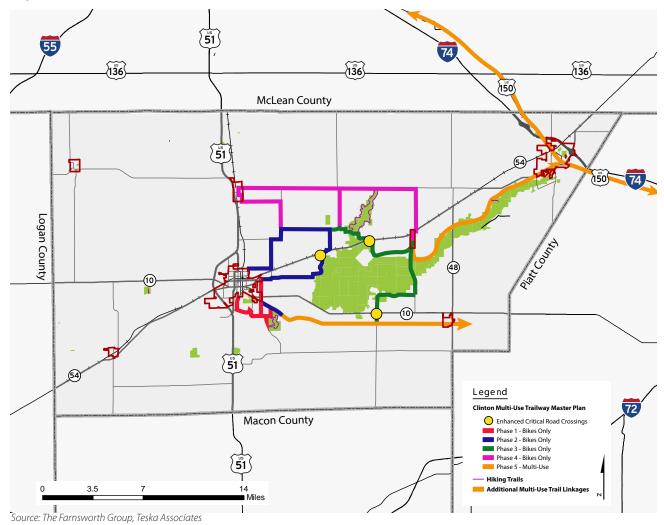


Figure 31. Trails Master Plan

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES



7.4 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

Alternative Energy

Renewable energy resources in Illinois include wind, solar, biodiesel, anaerobic digestion, organic waste biomass, hydropower, landfill gas, and other alternative sources of environmentally preferable energy. Illinois ranks second in the Midwest for installed renewable power capacity, fifth in the nation for installed wind power capacity, third in the nation for ethanol production capacity, and fourth in the nation for biodiesel production capacity. Approximate installed renewable energy capacity in Illinois as of 2018 includes:

- 3,667 megawatts of wind power;
- 53 megawatts from solar photovoltaics;
- 40 megawatts from hydropower; and
- 149 megawatts from biomass and waste.

The Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA of 2016 attempts to fix the existing Renewable Portfolio Standard to encourage expansion of renewable energy resources within the State, as well as provide clean energy job opportunities for low-income communities. Among other provisions, this act has provided significant incentives to greatly expand the generation of solar energy in Illinois.

Wind Energy

In 2016, Illinois had a total of 4026 megawatts of installed wind power which was ranked 5th in the nation for installed wind capacity. This equates to approximately 5.7% of the State's total electric power production.

Several large wind farms currently exist in close proximity to DeWitt County.

Table 8. Proximate Wind Farms

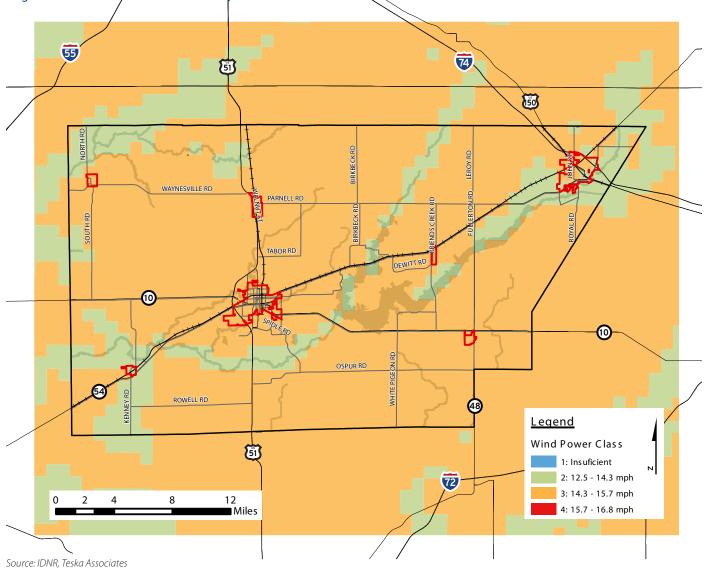
PROXIMATE WIND FARMS					
NAME	CAPACITY (MW)	COUNTY			
Twin Groves	396	McLean			
Cayuga Ridge	300	Livingston			
California Ridge	217	Vermillion/Champaign			
Minonk	200	Woodford/Livingston			
White Oak	150	McLean			
Radford Run	-	Macon			
Hilltopper	-	Logan			
Source: www.e	ia.gov				

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

ILLIN	IOIS WI	ND GE	NERATI	ON (M)	N)									
YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	% Total
2012	880	613	869	782	641	565	320	277	443	771	608	958	7,727	3.91%
2013	1,185	880	999	1,077	766	594	413	323	511	739	1,209	929	9,625	4.73%
2014	1,313	849	1,069	1,097	873	621	498	351	458	842	1,285	829	10,085	4.98%
2015	1,004	936	1,000	1,073	890	518	400	444	628	1,167	1,372	1,316	10,748	5.53%
2016	1,268	1,144	1,096	1,026	855	593	402	333	693	960	1,071	1,186	10,627	5.68%
2017	918	1,071	1,184	1,181	984	910	608	481	603	1,125	1,107	1,125	11,297	6.21%
2018	1,372	1,191	1,237	1,125	898	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.67% (estimated)
Sourc	e: www	.eia.gov												

Table 9. The EPA's Agricultural Best Management Practices





Wind energy development is one of the most important challenges facing DeWitt County today.

The County's Zoning Ordinance controls where wind facilities can be located. The Ordinance was also recently reviewed and updated. Issues addressed in the code include:

- Separation from existing homes, schools and churches
- Setbacks from property lines
- Impact on natural environment (farmland, bird migratory patterns, etc.)
- Decommissioning and/or re-powering facilities at the end of their lifespan.

Solar Energy

Use of solar power within the State of Illinois has been increasing as the cost continues to decrease. Illinois has adopted a 'net metering' rule which allows customers who generate power to use that electricity any time as opposed to when it is generated. Illinois also offers tax credits for solar installation.

While solar energy can help achieve renewable energy goals, it is still rather expensive and requires large land areas to provide significant amounts of power generation. In June 2018, The Illinois General Assembly passed Senate Bill 0484, which sets new standards for how local assessors should value solar farms. Such facilities will now be taxed at \$218,000 per megawatt (MW), which will provide significant property tax revenue to local communities with such facilities.

The installation of large commercial solar facilities is a potential threat to highly productive agricultural land within the County. DeWitt County should protect such valuable agricultural land and limit large commercial solar facilities to less productive land within the County.

The County should review and update zoning regulations for commercial solar facilities for appropriate locations, setbacks, maintenance, and decommissioning of such facilities.



Table 10. Illinois Solar Capacity

ILLINOIS SOLAR CAPACITY

YEAR	CAPACITY	INSTALLED	% CHANGE			
2007	2.2	0.2	10%			
2008	2.8	0.4	27%			
2009	4.5	1.7	61%			
2010	15.5	11.0	244%			
2011	16.2	0.7	5%			
2012	42.9	26.7	165%			
2013	43.4	0.5	1%			
2014	54	10.6	24%			
2015	65	11	20%			
2016	70	5	8%			
Source: Intersta	Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council					



This chapter examines ways the DeWitt County can begin to proactively move towards achieving the key themes highlighted in the plan.

8.1 USE IN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

The Comprehensive Plan will be a key point of reference when reviewing proposed zoning changes (permitted uses and special uses). In general, if a rezoning is proposed that is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, it should receive additional scrutiny and review. It most cases, it may be appropriate to deny a request that is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. However, in some cases conditions may have changed since the plan was adopted that would suggest another use, and resulting zoning, is more appropriate. In such cases, if it is determined that the rezoning is appropriate, then the Comprehensive Plan should also be amended to reflect this new use.

8.2 PLAN UPDATES

This Comprehensive Plan is based on currently available information including market and other conditions. Over time, it will be important for the County to reevaluate plan recommendations considering current economic conditions, desires of the community, and progress towards identified goals. It is recommended that the County review the plan at least every five years, and update as needed (at least every 10 years).

8.3 DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

DeWitt County has building, zoning, and subdivision regulations in place to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents. It is important for the County to periodically update these regulations to accommodate new types of development and the latest in engineering design and construction techniques. The County adopted zoning in 1972, and much of the zoning code appears to have been adopted in 1976. However, selective updates have been made over the years, and additional updates will be needed in the future. Specific areas that should be reviewed considering the Comprehensive Plan include:

- Addition of regulations to address solar farms, and small wind and energy systems. The County recently reviewed provisions for larger wind farms.
- Review of permitted and special uses to incorporate additional uses. For example, various types of senior living facilities such as assisted living, independent living, etc. are not well addressed in the code.
- The County should consider adding provisions for Planned Developments. The Planned Development process offers flexibility and creativity in the design and development process, and allows for a negotiation between the developer and the County.
- A general update to add more illustrations and tables to enhance the use of the code is also recommended.
- The County's zoning code essentially acts as a municipal code for many communities in the County that do not have their own zoning regulations. When the code is updated, it is recommended that meeting be conducted with municipal leaders to see if there are any community specific zoning concerns that should be addressed in an update.

Like the Comprehensive Plan, it is recommend that development regulations (zoning and subdivision) ordinance be reviewed by the Regional Planning Commission every 5 years, or as needed, to address new land uses, building types, and modern design standards.

8.4 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Parks, Open Space, Environment, and Trails - The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers a number of grant programs that may be helpful in implementing plan recommendations. In particular, the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) program has been used by many communities to acquire and develop parks. This program would be an excellent tool for some of the smaller communities in the County to explore improvements to their local parks. This link provides general details on existing programs: <u>http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/grants/Pages/</u> <u>default.aspx.</u> IDNR staff should be contracted to determine if and when any programs are open for new applications.

Economic Development

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers many programs that can assist in plan implementation. Among these programs, the Illinois Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) is one of the better known and more focused programs available to assist smaller communities in DeWitt County. Funding is focused on improving public infrastructure, and comes from a pass-through from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A link to various programs offered by DCEO is found here: http://www.illinois.gov/dceo/ServicesGuide/SitePages/Search.aspx.

As with other programs funded by the State of Illinois, the current budget crisis makes it difficult to know which programs will or will not have funding in future years.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) also administers several programs, which may provide assistance to DeWitt County. The most significant of which are revolving loan programs designed to assist local governments in the improvement of water supplies (Public Water Supply Loan Program) and the construction of wastewater facilities (Water Pollution Control Loan Program). While many of the IEPA programs are under review given state budget issues, these programs have a more permanent source of funding as they are loans rather than grants. More information on IEPA programs can be found here: <u>http://www.epa.illinois.gov/</u> topics/grants-loans/index

The United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (RD) provides financial assistance through loans and some grants to individuals, public bodies, and nonprofits in rural areas. In Illinois, they have an outstanding loan portfolio of over \$2.25 billion. They offer programs that focus on housing, water and wastewater loans and grants, community facilities, and renewable energy and energy efficiency in rural areas. Information on their programs in Illinois can be found here: <u>http://www.rd.usda.gov/il</u>

Transportation

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is responsible for operating and maintaining the major roadways in DeWitt County like Route 51 and IL-10. Improvements to roads in and around DeWitt County compete with funding for other roadway enhancements throughout the State of Illinois. Given limited funding, IDOT often requires private development to fund roadway and intersection improvements adjacent to their property for items like turn lanes and traffic signals. IDOT does have several programs designed with economic to assist development, including programs to assist with rail enhancements (Railway Freight Program), road improvements needed to spur economic development (Economic Development Program), and truck access (Truck Access Route Program). More information on these programs can be found here: http://www.illinois.gov/ dceo/ExpandRelocate/Incentives/grants/Pages/Biz-Idot.aspx. IDOT also administers a Safe Routes to Schools Program (SRTS) designed to make bike and pedestrian improvements to improve accessibility. More information available on this program is here: http:// www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/localtranspor-tation-partners/county-engineers-and-local-publicagencies/safe-routes-to-school/index

Promote both public and private partnerships and overall cooperation between stakeholders as a way to improve the County's ability to meet future development and growth needs.





IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

GOAL #1 CHARACTER IDENTITY

GOAL	TASKS	PARTNERS
Recognize, celebrate and market DeWitt County's rural character while promoting appropriate progress and growth that	Develop marketing campaign to attract new residents to the County	DeWitt County Development Council (DCDC); local school districts; Local municipalities (Clinton, Farmer City, Wapella, Kenney, De Witt, Waynesville, Weldon)
will enhance the rural lifestyle for DeWitt County residents and businesses.	Develop branding program to highlight County assets	DeWitt County Development Council (DCDC); local school districts; Local municipalities (Clinton, Farmer City, Wapella, Kenney, De Witt, Waynesville, Weldon)

GOAL #2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
GOAL	TASKS	PARTNERS
Support new commercial and industrial development that diversifies the regional	Promote agri-business to capitalize on agricul- tural heritage of the County.	Farm Bureau; Local agri-businesses
economy and provides long-term employ- ment opportunities.	Encourage commercial development in existing urban centers and corridors.	Chamber of Commerce; local municipalities (Clinton, Farmer City, Wapella, Kenney, De Witt, Waynesville, Weldon)
	Encourage industrial/manufacturing develop- ment to capitalize on County's central location and access to multiple transportation options.	DeWitt County Development Council (DCDC); Canadian National Railroad; Ameren Illinois
	Promote entrepeneurship and small-business development.	Chamber of Commerce; Small Business Administration (SBA).
	Explore advanced manufacturing opportunities.	DeWitt County Development Council (DCDC)
	Develop an economic development strategic plan.	DeWitt County Development Council (DCDC)
	Work with DeWitt County Development Council to promote the County.	Local municipalities (Clinton, Farmer City, Wapella, Kenney, De Witt, Waynesville, Weldon)
	Leverage freight rail assets to attract new industry to the County.	Canadian National Railroad

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

GOAL #3 GROWTH MANAGEMENT

GOAL	TASKS	PARTNERS
Retain the rural character; preserve quality agricultural land, and direct growth to	Encourage cooperation between the County and local municipalities to coordinate growth management strategies.	Local municipalities (Clinton, Farmer City, Wapella, Kenney, De Witt, Waynesville, Weldon)
developed areas of the County.	Limit growth to developed areas of the County.	
	Encourage infill development in developed areas of the County.	Local municipalities (Clinton, Farmer City, Wapella, Kenney, De Witt, Waynesville, Weldon)
	Continue farmland preservation efforts	American Farmland Trust; Illinois Department of Agriculture; DeWitt County 4-H; DeWitt County Soil and Water Conservation District

GOAL #4 RESIDENTIAL

GOAL	TASKS	PARTNERS
Ensure that DeWitt County residents have access to a diverse, affordable and well	Continue to enforce property maintenance regulations throughout the County.	
maintained housing stock.	Promote the County as an attractive place to live for employees of neighboring urban centers such as Bloomington and Champaign-Urbana.	DeWitt County Development Council (DCDC)
	Explore opportunities for limited residential growth near Lake Clinton.	Local property owners; local developers
	Explore opportunities for senior housing options within the County.	Local developers; Local municipalities (Clinton, Farmer City, Wapella, Kenney, De Witt, Waynesville, Weldon)

GOAL #5 TRANSPORTATION				
GOAL	TASKS	PARTNERS		
Maintain transportation network within the County to improve safety, ease of access, and overall mobility for residents, businesses, and visitors.	Explore opportunities for new rail spurs to support new industrial development.	Canadian National Railroad; local industries		
	Investigate opportunities for 'rails to trails' along abandoned rail lines.	Rails to Trails Conservancy (www.railstotrails. org)		
	Increase marketing efforts of the Show Bus to raise awareness among residents of the County.	Show Bus Public Transportation; Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).		
	Encourage ride-share providers to expand service into the County.	Uber; Lyft; etc.		

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

GOAL #6 RECREATION & TOURISM

GOAL	TASKS	PARTNERS
Identify and enhance community assets that provide opportunities to support and encourage development related to recre- ation and tourism.	Expand existing trails network to provide increased access to recreational areas.	Rails to Trails Conservancy (www.railstotrails. org); IDNR
	Promote State recreational sites on County website	IDNR
	Encourage communication between the County, Exelon and IDNR for the long-term maintenance of Clinton Lake	Exelon; IDNR
	Continue to promote local and regional events such as the Apple N Pork Festival	IDNR; Chamber of Commerce; Local municipal- ities (Clinton, Farmer City, Wapella, Kenney, De Witt, Waynesville, Weldon)

GOAL #7 SUSTAINABILITY

GOAL	TASKS	PARTNERS
Pursue the protection and preservation of the County's shared natural resources, water features, recreational areas, and	Continue to partner with local agencies to preserve natural resources within the County	DeWitt County Soil and Water Conservation District; U of I Agricultural Extension Office
open spaces in order to enhance quali- ty-of-life for DeWitt County residents and wildlife.	Develop zoning regulations to address commu- nity solar farms and individual small energy systems (solar/wind/geo-thermal)	

GOAL #8 CAPACITY & RESILIENCY

GOAL	TASKS	PARTNERS
Promote both public and private partner- ships and overall cooperation between stakeholders as a way to improve the County's ability to meet future develop- ment and growth needs.	Create an annual partners meeting to discuss current growth and development issues within the County	All local taxing bodies within the County
	Develop additional industry and employment opportunities to prepare for potential future closing of the nuclear power plant.	DeWitt County Development Council (DCDC); Illinois Workforce Innovation Board
	Work with Exelon to encourage the continued use and/or expansion of the existing Clinton Power Station.	DeWitt County Development Council (DCDC); Exelon Corporation