



**McDonough County Comprehensive Plan:
Where Agriculture, Industry & Education Meet**

Prepared for McDonough County
by the Western Illinois Regional Council
December 2012

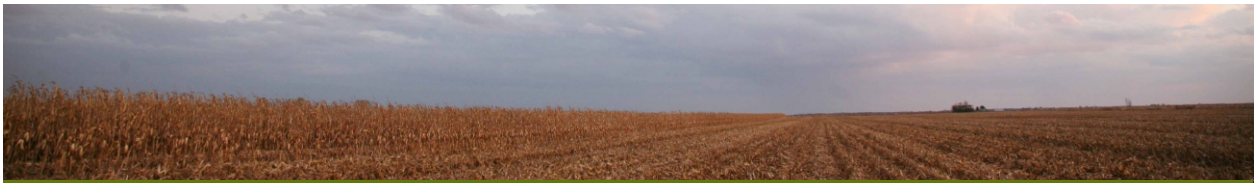


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Where Agriculture, Industry & Education Meet

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**Introduction:
Exploring and Understanding the Balance of the
Agricultural, Commercial and Residential
Components of the County Today will Determine
and Enhance the Quality and Prosperity of Life in
the County Tomorrow**



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hanges in the local economy, demographics and development lead to the creation of an updated comprehensive plan for McDonough County.

McDonough County, located in west-central Illinois, is where agriculture and small communities support a blend of legacy property owners while complemented by a population that has chosen to relocate to the area to take advantage of the local quality of life. Considered a rural county by many definitions, McDonough County has its share of positive and negative qualities that must be managed successfully in order to foster the current nature and success found within. Development, economy and demographic change are just a few of the issues that have prompted the McDonough County Board to initiate this comprehensive planning process. The desire to encourage further development and create additional and better paying jobs in the county is coupled with the understanding that new development should be located efficiently to provide services and infrastructure that ensures wise use of the county's many natural resources, including its prime agriculture land. The county is challenged to maintain a healthy balance between serving the interests of the private property owner and directing future development in ways that will be most beneficial for the county as a whole. Exploring and understanding the balance of the agricultural, commercial and residential components of the county today will determine and enhance the quality and prosperity of life in this county tomorrow.

McDonough County last completed a comprehensive plan in 1972. In 2008, the McDonough County Board decided to update the process and completely reconstruct the comprehensive plan due to the extreme out datedness of the previous plan. A county-wide survey, strategic focus group meetings, and issue based public forums were conducted between 2009 and 2010 to gather, study and interpret information and to formulate goals, objectives and strategies. Many comments have been received from individuals representing communities, townships, organizations and the general public throughout

this process. These comments have all been taken into consideration while this document has been prepared.

The McDonough County Comprehensive Plan, hereafter referred to as the Plan, is the official long-range general land use policy document for McDonough County. According to the Illinois Compiled Statutes 55 ILCS, Chapter 5/Counties Code, every county may create a planning commission. The powers of the planning commission most significantly surround the creation of the comprehensive plan. An official comprehensive plan must be approved and formally adopted by the appropriate authorities, in this case, the Planning Commission and McDonough County Board. A comprehensive plan is advisory and does not regulate or control the use of private property unless it has been implemented by local ordinances. The Plan sets forth general planning policies and appropriation of land uses. The Plan should be used as a tool for the County Board while developing local policy and during the implementation of activities that impact local development and the county. The Plan serves as the basis for coordination of physical resources based on corporeal, social, economic and environmental factors and should be augmented, as needed, to meet the ever changing needs of the county. The County Board has made information available to assist citizens with their understanding of this planning process and has encouraged all involvement.

The major components of the Plan are primarily narrative. There are also several maps that have been produced which graphically depict land use and transportation routes. More specifically, the information included in the Plan is presented as follows:

- **Geographical Perspective-**

A concise detail of the physical characteristics of the county.

- **Historical Perspective-**

A brief history of the development of the county.

- **County Profile-**

An identification of current attributes and trends within the county. The data collected for this section of the Plan was compiled by reviewing the most recent U.S. Census, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs' reports, the Western Illinois Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and various agency reports. Tables were compiled and presented to the Planning Commission for use in establishing long-term goals and objectives for the county.

- **County Vision-**

A detailed survey was mailed randomly throughout the county and made available to all residents via the internet, at local libraries and at the County Courthouse. The survey covered a broad range of topics that were included in the overall long-range goals and objectives of the Plan. The survey instrument is included in the appendix.

- **Goals, Objectives, & Recommendations-**

This portion of the document is one of the most significant elements of the Plan. Goals are long-term, general statements of desired direction. Objectives consist of more specific steps that can be developed and accomplished while working to achieve the overall long-term goal. The recommendations listed are more specific ways to achieve the individual objectives.

- **Implementation Strategies-**

The strategies listed in this section of the Plan identify specific actions that the McDonough County Board can take to achieve the Plan's goals and objectives. These items may include changes to local ordinances and codes and methods for funding various recommendations.

- **Maps-**

Finally, the Plan includes three classification maps: current land use; future land use; and transportation. These maps outline how land is currently being used; the recommendations for future development and land use; and current transportation networks and development.

The goals, objectives and implementation strategies contained in this Plan are not presented in any particular order of importance. The county recognizes that consensus is not always unanimous. While distinguishing these differences, the Plan attempts to consider the best overall response to issues, maintaining that there might be minimal inconsistencies between individual strategies. Further, not all objectives can be resolved to the same degree as it is imperative that the county maintain a degree of flexibility within the process in order to maximize practicability.

The Plan maps are generalized graphics which depict current uses of land and transportation routes and recommended future uses of that same property. In addition, there is a map depicting recommendations for improvement and/or creation of additional transportation pathways. In many instances, there may not be changes to what is currently found within the county. However, in certain circumstances, there will be allowances made for development where beneficial for the overall county. The graphical representations included in this Plan should not be used independently from the narrative or take precedence over the written portion of the Plan.

A draft comprehensive plan was made available throughout the county and a public hearing was held to formally present the Plan to the public and the Planning Commission. Following the recommendations of the Planning Commission, the Plan was submitted to the full McDonough County Board for its consideration.

Geographical Perspective: Glacially Formed, Nestled Between Two Rivers, a Fertile Soil that Sustains Life



Thomas Rice

A Connected County

McDonough County is located centrally between the two major U.S. cities of the area: approximately 230 miles southwest of Chicago and 180 miles north of St. Louis. Its location is also in close proximity to the cities of Peoria, Springfield, and the Quad Cities: 75 miles, 85 miles, and 84 miles respectively. There are two major Illinois highways that intersect in McDonough County; U. S. 67 running north and south and U. S. 136 running east to west. U. S. 67, a four lane roadway, connects with U. S. 34 in Monmouth allowing for access to Interstate 74 at Galesburg. The four lane expressway IL 336 from Quincy to Macomb was completed within the past three years with the intention of continuing onto Peoria. IL 336 connects with Interstate 172 at Quincy and eventually connects to Interstate 72 approximately 15 miles south of Quincy allowing for access to Springfield to the east and Kansas City to the west.



One major rail line runs through McDonough County and is owned by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company. This line also services Amtrak transportation between Quincy and Chicago, with scheduled stops in Macomb.

A Force of Nature

McDonough County is located in the area commonly known as west-central Illinois. McDonough County is found in the Galesburg Plain which is part of the greater Illinoian glacial till plain.¹ Glaciers once covered nearly the entire land area of what is now recognized as Illinois.² The local landscape was greatly shaped as a result of glacial activity; the eventual retreat of the glacier from this region left moraines, or areas characterized by the accumulation of rock and debris

deposited by the melting of the glacier. The physical landscape for the county is generally flat, making the area conducive for agricultural production, but also possesses rolling hills (moraines) and valleys carved out by the La Moine River and other waterways in the county. Macomb, the county seat, is located approximately 40 miles east of the Mississippi River and approximately 38 miles west of the Illinois River.

The La Moine River is a tributary of the Illinois River and all of McDonough County falls within the watershed of the Illinois River with 90% of the drainage occurring through the La Moine River.³ The highest elevations are associated with the linear hills in the northwestern part of the county which are approximately 800 feet above sea level. The lowest point occurs in the La Moine River Valley in the southwestern part of the county and is recorded at approximately 470 feet above sea level.⁴

Soil That Provides

Soil is a precious resource in all of the Midwest, and McDonough County is no exception. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement done in 2003 by the Illinois Department of Transportation shows that the acreage of farmland in McDonough County was nearly 92 percent of the total county land.⁵ Generally the land is gently sloping across the county with good soil consistency. Subsurface materials that can be found within the county include: sand and gravel, water, limestone bedrock, clay, and coal.⁶ There are no natural lakes in McDonough County.

Mining has been present in McDonough County since the late 19th century according to the July 2010 Illinois State Geological Survey managed through the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Only one such mine, the North Grindstone Mine, is still in operation today.⁷ Also, the county's rich clay deposits allowed Macomb to harbor a pottery company and a brickyard in Colchester for well over a century.

The average annual precipitation for McDonough County, as recorded in the 2005 Soil Survey update for the county, is approximately 39 inches, over half of which occurs between April and September. The

average snowfall during the winter months is recorded at 24.6 inches. During the winter the average daily temperature is 25.8 degrees F and the average daily minimum temperature is 16.1 degrees F. During the summer months the average daily temperature is approximately 75 degrees F and the average maximum temperature is approximately 86 degrees F.⁸

¹ United States, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey of McDonough County, Illinois (Champaign: Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1997/2005) 2

² "Glaciers", [A Virtual Field Trip Through Northeastern Illinois](http://jove.geol.niu.edu/faculty/fischer429_info/429trips/NIF/Glaciers.htm), Julie Dubsy, James Hort, Brad Sleeth, Northern Illinois University, 21st Nov. 2000, 20th July 2011, <http://jove.geol.niu.edu/faculty/fischer429_info/429trips/NIF/Glaciers.htm>

³ Soil Survey, 2

⁴ Ibid, 2

⁵ "Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Macomb Area Study, McDonough County" [Environmental Reviews](http://www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/rt336impact/rt336_hp.html), Illinois Department of Transportation, accessed July 20th, 2011 http://www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/rt336impact/rt336_hp.html

⁶ Soil, Survey, 1

⁷ "Directory of Coal Mines in Illinois: McDonough County", [Illinois State Geological Survey: Prairie Research Institute](http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/maps-data-pub/coal-maps/mines-series/mines-directories/pdf-files/mines-directory-mcdonough.pdf), E. McDonald McKay, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, July 2010, July 20th, 2011, <http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/maps-data-pub/coal-maps/mines-series/mines-directories/pdf-files/mines-directory-mcdonough.pdf>

⁸ Soil Survey, 3

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Historical Perspective: Land with History, a Seat of Justice, an Agricultural Landscape



Historical Figures

Thomas McDonough (Macdonough) and Alexander Macomb were both heroes of the War of 1812. During that war, McDonough was a Commodore of the US Navy, while Macomb was appointed Adjutant General of the US Army. McDonough commanded the fleet of 14 vessels on Lake Champlain in their defeat of the British near Plattsburg, New York on September 11, 1814. Macomb and his force of less than 8,000 soldiers faced nearly 11,000 British troops at Plattsburg and similarly, Macomb's troops were also victorious over the British at Plattsburg on the same date in 1814. Prior to the land and naval battles of Lake Champlain (Plattsburg Bay), it appeared that the British were winning the war but McDonough's and Macomb's victories forced the retreat of the British from northeastern New York State into Canada. The British failure in the campaign along Lake Champlain led to the end of the War of 1812. A statue honoring McDonough and Macomb is located in Chandler Park in Macomb.



Commodore Thomas McDonough (Macdonough)

Another important figure that emerged before Macomb was officially founded, was Reverend John Baker, a Baptist minister, who built his home in almost the exact center of McDonough County. Once the population was great enough to need a

county government, Reverend Baker's home served as the "seat of justice". Not only was Reverend Baker's home the place for politics, courthouse and clerk's office, but it also served as a tavern and grocery for community members.

The County Seat

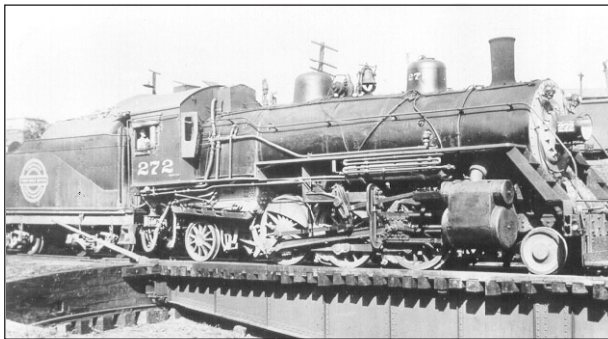
The distinction of being the first settler of Macomb goes to Elias McFadden who, with his family from Kentucky, constructed his homestead just west of the present MacArthur school in 1828. By 1830 nearly 500 settlers were living within the county; the first local election was held in July of that year in McFadden's home. Macomb was originally named Washington, presumably a patriotic gesture and respect to the first president, George Washington. Washington remained the name for the community until 1831, when it was changed to honor heroes of the more recent War of 1812. The name Macomb was chosen to honor General Alexander Macomb, due to his heroic acts in the War of 1812. The county was named for similar patriotic reasons because the same day that General Macomb defeated the British at Plattsburgh in 1814; Commodore Macdonough won a decisive victory on Lake Champlain. The settlers of the area saw no greater way to honor these heroes of American independence than by immortalizing them forever.

Aside from producing the heroes that the county and city of Macomb would be named after, the War of 1812 had a much larger effect in bringing settlers to the Midwest. Land grants were awarded to war veterans and those who volunteered in the War of 1812 as part of the Illinois Military Tract set aside by Congress. The first land ownership in the county was initially granted to these veterans around the year 1818, though many of the veterans sold their land rights to speculators which prompted a surge in land development.

Organized education first originated in 1834, just four years after the town was founded, in a one-room school house built of logs. Macomb's first high school was built on East Calhoun Street in 1866. This former school house building occupied the site of the current

McDonough County YMCA. University classes were not offered until 1899 when Western Illinois State Normal School, now Western Illinois University, began conducting classes. Representative Lawrence Sherman was of key importance in establishing the school in Macomb.

The rail industry began in 1855 when the Northern Cross Railroad was constructed through Macomb, leading to a rise in the town's population. In 1903, the Macomb and Western Illinois Railway was built from



1903 Brooks Locomotive

Macomb to nearby Industry and Littleton by local financier Charles V. Chandler, though this railroad was abandoned in 1930. The City of Macomb continues as the hub for rail service in the county, with both Amtrak and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail companies utilizing the BNSF rail line.

The City of Macomb has been visited by several US Presidents over the years: Ulysses S. Grant, Andrew Johnson, Rutherford B. Hayes, William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt had all made short addresses in Macomb. Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama both spoke to the community before they were officially elected U. S. President.

Historical Structures

One of the most notable historic structures in the county today may be the McDonough County Courthouse, having been rebuilt three times, each time in the same location. The first courthouse was made of logs, built in 1831; the second was brick, built in 1835; and finally in 1868, the courthouse that stands today was designed by Elijah E. Meyers of Springfield



McDonough County Courthouse, Macomb, Illinois (present day)

and erected. The courthouse is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Second Empire Revival architecture structure is built with limestone and red brick. The courthouse today is still a central show piece within the county and wears the 1890s installed gabled roof which replaced the original Mansard roof.

McDonough County has several national historical sites: the McDonough County Courthouse, the Welling-Everyly Horse Barn and the Clarence Kleinkopf Round Barn, Sherman Hall at Western Illinois University and the Moses King Brick and Tile Works (Brickyard).

Shortly following the construction of the courthouse, the Welling-Everyly Horse Barn near Adair was built. The barn is built of stick-style, Basilica Type Architecture and was built in 1882. The Clarence Kleinkopf Round Barn, a popular tourist attraction near



Clarence Kleinkopf Round Barn, Colchester, Illinois (present day)

Colchester is a true-round architectural building, built in 1914. Two more recent additions to the National Register are Sherman Hall and the Moses King Brickyard. Sherman Hall on the Western Illinois

Western Illinois University campus was added to the National Historic Register in 1998. The building has been open to students since 1900 and is still actively used. The Moses King Brickyard was added to the National Register in 2001. Formerly an extraction site for brick material, it is now covered in gardens and used as an arts venue and educational center.

History of McDonough County Towns

The town of Blandinsville was platted in 1842 by a settler from Vermont named Joseph L. Blandin whose brick home now serves as the Blandin House Museum, displaying historic materials. The nearby park in Blandinsville, which was originally meant to be the town square, boasts 115 years of summer celebrations with the Blandinsville Farmer's Picnic. The Masonic Temple and Union Bank on Main Street are also notable historic structures.

Located east of Blandinsville on Route 9 are the towns of Sciota and Good Hope. Both of these communities developed in the presence of the Toledo, Peoria, and Western Railroad. Construction of the rail line began in the late 1850's and the towns were both platted along the line in 1867. Sciota was one of the largest hubs in the county for the shipment of grains and had more than 300 residents by the early 20th century. Good Hope also operated as a shipping community for grain distribution during the early years after its founding. The community of Good Hope was also on the forefront of medical technology in its early years as the town's doctor possessed the first x-ray machine outside of Chicago.

Also developing along with the expanding railroad was the town of Bardolph. Originally, the small settlement was called Wolf's Grove which was changed to Randolph after W.H. Randolph platted the town in 1854. It was later changed to its present name due to another town in Illinois already possessing the name Randolph. In 1856 construction of the Bardolph railroad depot was completed, which resulted in the town gaining some importance as a shipping stop in the area.

The origins of the City of Bushnell tie in with the expansion of the rail line network during the mid-19th century as well. Bushnell was named after the president of the Northern Cross Railroad, Nehemiah Bushnell, after he built a line through the community back in 1854. By the beginning of the 20th century, Bushnell was servicing two rail lines through two depots which had, on average, 20 passenger trains passing through per day. A popular claim to fame for the town was the result of a major improvement to the milling process for oats. The Nagel brothers of



The original old mill in Bushnell where rolled oats were processed.

Bushnell invented a process for making rolled oats. Their old mill was located where the FS Feed Mill and Warehouse now stands. Bushnell celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2004. Bushnell is also home to the Fall Festival which has been an annual event for over fifty years.

A few miles north of Bushnell lies the community of Prairie City which saw its first store open in 1854, the same year that the Northern Cross Railroad, owned by Nehemiah Bushnell, opened its rail line through Bushnell. However, the origins of the settlement can be traced back to Matthew B. Robinson, along with Henry Brink, as the first settlers of the community in 1835. The town was officially incorporated in 1857. Within a quarter century of when Prairie City became incorporated, the town boasted a population of nearly 800 people, as well as more than 20 businesses.

Located in the southeast corner of McDonough County, the town of Industry developed independently of the expanding rail line network throughout the county; its beginnings are the result of early pioneers and explorers whose presence in the area can be dated back to the mid-1820s. The community began to form when John Price was given a small parcel of land to open a blacksmith shop by a local pioneer named John Dowin. The shop became so industrious that the community aptly took the name Industry and was incorporated in 1867. A brickyard, coal mine, and cigar factory all operated in the town using the Macomb, Industry, and Littleton rail lines up until the line was closed in 1929.

Also located in the southeast quadrant of McDonough County is the unincorporated Village of Adair which developed when the Rockford, Rock Island, and St. Louis Railroad came into the community in 1870. The town was originally called Reedyville; however, the name was changed to Adair in 1880.

The communities of Colchester and Tennessee lie in the southwest corner of McDonough County. The geographical layout of this area differs from much of the county as small valleys and streams dot the landscape. Both of the communities developed around the Northern Cross Railroad in the middle of the 19th century. The settlements were present before the railroad arrived as large deposits of coal had been found in the region along the La Moine River. Within 25 years of the town being platted, nearly 80,000 tons of coal was being shipped out of Colchester each year and nearly 20 passenger and freight trains were passing through the communities every day. Along with the coal industry, Colchester also had two mills, a cigar factory, harness and windmill factory, and most notably, the Moses King Brickyard. The Brickyard was in operation until 1970 and has most recently been operating as an educational facility; it can be found on the National Register of Historic Places.



Moses King Brickyard stacks and kiln, Colchester, Illinois (present day)

This Colchester area also holds a place in popular culture for McDonough County. This portion of the county was a hotbed for bootlegging activities during the prohibition era and Colchester's most famous bootlegger, Kelly Wagle, had ties to the famous gangster Al Capone. It is popular belief throughout McDonough County that the small development known as Vishnu Springs was used by Capone as a hideout for money and alcohol. Vishnu Springs was established as



Visitors at Vishnu Springs in the 1920s

a health resort at the end of the 19th century by Darius Hicks but was closed by the 1920s due to its remote location in one of the valleys north of Tennessee. Still standing is the three story hotel but most of the other original structures are lost to history. The property is now owned by the Western Illinois University and efforts are being made to maintain this as an historic site.

Historic Phases of McDonough County

It can be said that McDonough County has passed through four historical phases of which the first has been characterized as the frontier period. The earliest settlements in the county can be traced back to the presidency of Andrew Jackson in the 1830's. Explorers and pioneers alike ventured from established settlements such as Chicago and St. Louis, where they would eventually settle down and start a new life in an unfamiliar landscape. Early communities, such as Carter's Settlement located just southeast of Industry, consisted of two to three families living in close proximity for protection, as the fear of Indian attacks was prevalent on the frontier. At approximately the same time that Carter's Settlement was founded, the first rail line in the United States was completed from Albany to Schenectady, New York; within 20 years, railroad companies would be laying tracks through west central Illinois.

The second phase, the railroad era, followed and quickly ended the early days of isolation on the frontier for the pioneers. The towns in McDonough County today were created, and most incorporated, once a rail line was laid in the area. Early settlements were left



Good Hope, Illinois grain elevator

and the people consolidated on spots along the tracks. Soon, depots were constructed which resulted in the flow of goods, materials, and people from urban centers such as Chicago and St. Louis to the depots at Prairie City or Tennessee.

Early settlers to the area saw the potential for McDonough County to be a haven for large-scale family agriculture. The most notable effect that the new rail network had on the landscape was the impact on the scale at which farming was being conducted. Almost all of the towns in McDonough County had constructed a grain elevator near the depot to transport their crops to major urban centers; with the arrival of the railroads to the area, McDonough County transformed into the agricultural center that it is today.

McDonough County was established in 1826 and the first courthouse was completed in 1831 at the geographical center of the county; the community that developed around it became the city of Macomb, and thus the county seat. Just as the railroad era brought an end to the isolation of the pioneers from major urban centers, the automobile era brought an end to the isolation of towns from one another within McDonough County.

When mass production of automobiles became a reality with the Ford assembly line, the automobile era became the third phase of the county's history. Macomb was already the host to the county jail, fair grounds, college and St. Francis Hospital. The city had a very well developed square surrounding the courthouse along with an opera house capable of seating 800 persons, luxurious hotels, and variety of stores that could cater to every need of the county.



St. Francis Hospital, Macomb, Illinois

Needless to say, the advent of the automobile era saw Macomb experiencing unprecedented population growth. However, the easier travel between the outlying communities in McDonough County and Macomb, coupled with the Great Depression, ultimately turned out to be detrimental in the long run to the economies of the smaller towns within the county.

The fourth phase, or the present period, has brought about somewhat of a re-emergence of equilibrium between the county seat and its outlying communities. The instability that was present in the small towns dotting the county during the automobile rush in the early decades of the 20th century has diminished greatly. While Macomb has grown as the center of the county and the west central Illinois region, the population and economies of the outlying communities have remained relatively constant thus allowing for a degree of stability to have returned to the outlying communities.

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McDonough County Profile: Using Social Statistics as the Guidepost to Better Living



McDonough County Profile

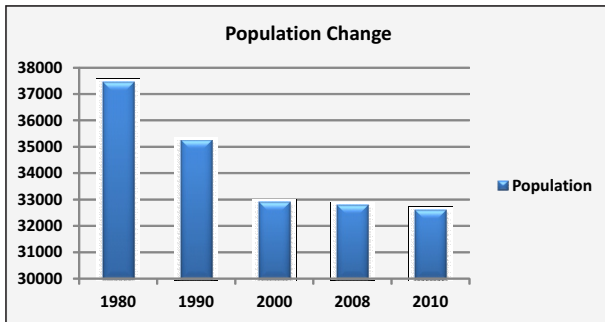
Where Agriculture, Industry & Education Meet

In order to adequately be prepared for future maintenance, development or growth, it is imperative that a thorough review of current conditions be performed in relation to the study area. Because of the complex nature of data, it is also suggested that the review be concise and easy to follow. Data in this segment of the comprehensive plan should provide users of the plan with information pertaining to current local conditions. Due to the nature of inaccuracies in growth projections and other data estimation, no inferences will be made in this plan nor will any projections be made with available data.

Population

According to the 2010 Census, McDonough County has a population of 32,612 persons. Based on this number, and a review of previous decennial numbers, it can be determined that the county is experiencing a decline in population that has been the trend since at least 1980. However, it is important to note that the rate of decline in population has slowed, with a decrease in population in the last ten years of 301 persons or approximately 0.9 percent. The population decrease between 1990 and 2000 was at a rate of 6.6 percent and the population decrease between 1980 and 1990 was 5.9 percent (Figure 1).

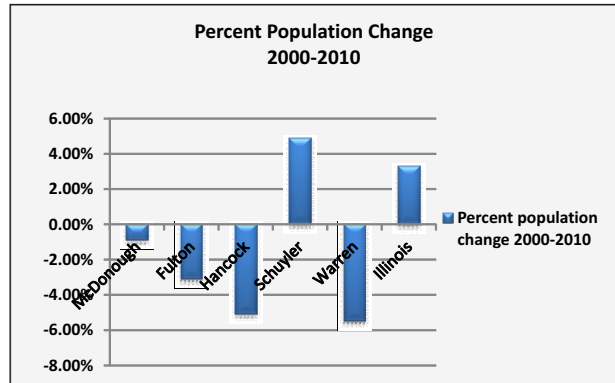
Figure 1



Source: 1980-2010 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

Most counties adjacent to McDonough County are also experiencing population decline. Hancock and Warren counties experienced population decline in excess of five percent (-5.10% and -5.50 % respectively) between 2000 and 2010 (Figure 2). The closing of major employers (Methode in Carthage and Maytag in Galesburg) is the most likely cause for population loss in these areas. The loss of population in Warren County is particularly interesting when compared to the population gain in Schuyler County. Both counties house food processors as major employers and, in both counties, there has been a significant gain in minority populations. Warren County, however, likely contained a large portion of households that received primary compensation from Maytag Corporation, which officially closed in Galesburg in September 2004.

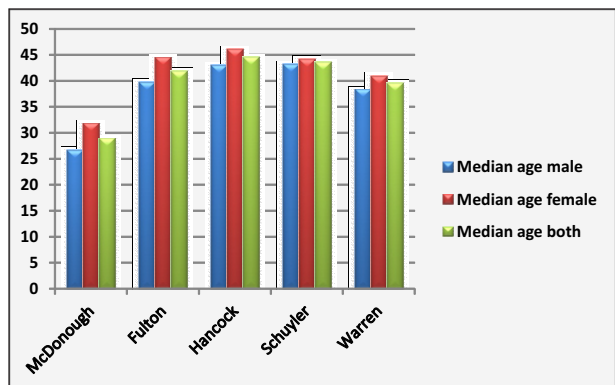
Figure 2



Source: 1980-2010 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

According to the 2010 Census, the median age in McDonough County is 28.9 years. This is significantly younger than the median age of the state which is 36.6 years. However, it must be remembered that the student population of Western Illinois University (WIU) is included in the population numbers, and therefore, this greatly alters the demographics of the county. Median age in neighboring counties (Figure 3) tends to be closer to the state average and higher than the median age in McDonough County. Age trend cognizance is an important factor in decision making. Ensuring that the county is developed in a manner that enables older adults to live independently, participate in and contribute more fully to community life while maintaining access to health and human services should be an ongoing local goal.

Figure 3



Source: 2010 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

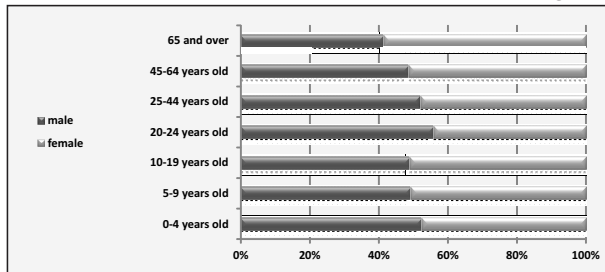
Population

The county also has a relatively large portion of its population over age 65 with 4644 persons, or 14 percent of the population in this demographic category. This number is slightly over the comparable state breakdown of 12.5 percent within the same age group. Sixty-two percent of the McDonough County population is between the ages of 20 and 64 (Table 1). The population of the county is comprised of basically 50 percent males and 50 percent females when reviewing all age brackets within the total population. The age bracket with the most noticeable difference is between the ages of 20 and 24, with 56 percent being male and 44 percent being female (Figure 4).

	Male	Female	Total
0-4 years old	788	717	1,505
5-9 years old	746	765	1,511
10-19 years old	2,311	2,400	4,711
20-24 years old	3,837	3,035	6,872
25-44 years old	3,295	3,040	6,335
45-64 years old	3,427	3,610	7,037
65 and over	1,926	2,718	4,644

Source: 2010 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

Figure 4



Source: 2010 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

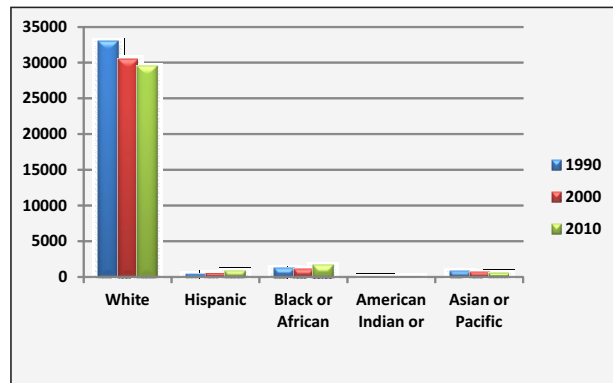
Over the past few decades, the way in which the U. S. Census tabulates race categories has changed. The first decennial census impacted greatly by this change was the 2000 U. S.

Census. 2010 is the first year that a true comparison can be made with current census numbers and the previous census. This dynamic has made for some difficulties in previous analysis. Starting only in 2000 were survey participants allowed to choose more than one race. McDonough County experienced a growth in most minority populations over the past two decades (Table 2, Figure 5). In particular, the percentage of persons reporting their race as either Hispanic or Latino nearly doubled from 1.5 percent of the population in the county to 2.7 percent of the population. The percentage of persons reporting their race as either Black or African American also increased over the past 20 years, with 3.5 percent of the population in this racial category in 2000 compared to five percent in 2010.

	2010	2000	1990
White	29,476	30,568	32,992
Hispanic	867	488	358
Black or African American	1,642	1,138	1,254
American Indian or Alaskan Native	75	47	65
Asian or Pacific Islander	582	678	802

Source: 2010 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

Figure 5



Source: 2010 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

Population

Without the increase in the local minority populations, the population decline in the county would be even more significant than what was reported in the census. Nonetheless, McDonough County remains a predominately white county with 90.4 percent of its population being white (Figure 6).

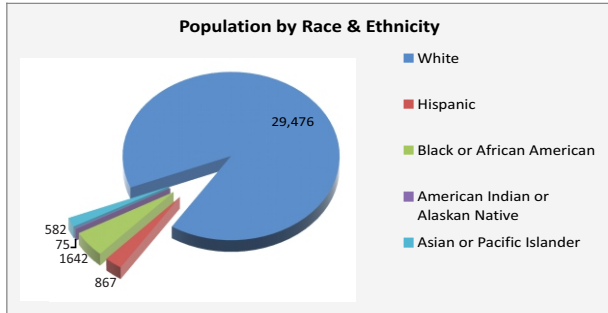


Figure 6

Source: 2010 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

The census data currently available pertaining to population and education is not yet available from the 2010 U. S. Census, so information listed pertains to the 1990 U. S. Census and the 2000 U. S. Census.

Between 1990 and 2000, there was a significant decrease in the percentage of the population that had not obtained a diploma (Table 3). Conversely during that same time period, there had been a significant increase in the percentage of the population reporting obtaining a graduate or a professional degree (Figure 7).

	1990	2000
Less than 9th grade	1,514	852
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	2,186	1,491
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	6,519	5,996
Some college, no degree	3,319	3,895
Associate's degree	885	890
Bachelor's degree	2,415	2,385
Graduate or professional degree	1,946	2,435

Source: 1990-2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

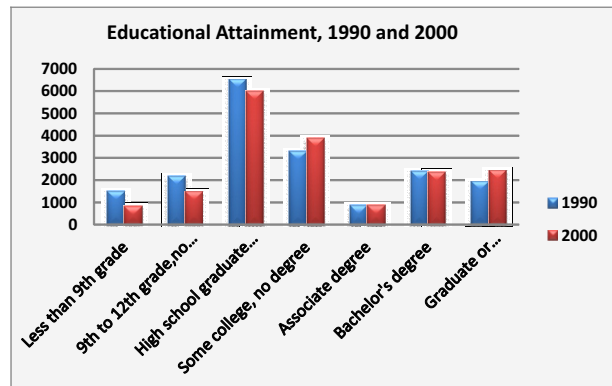


Figure 7

Source: 1990-2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

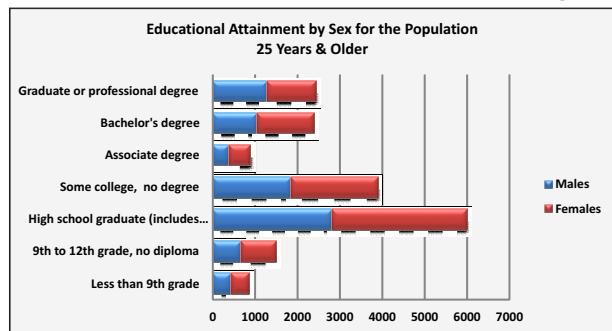


Figure 8

Source: 2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

There seems to be more women with bachelor's degrees than men, but men have a slightly higher rate of professional or graduate degrees. 17.8 percent of all persons over 25 years of age with high school diplomas are female and 15.6 percent are male (Figure 8). This disparity could be explained by the fact that there are more women over the age of 25 (53.1 percent) than men (46.9 percent).

The impact of being the home county for WIU is also evident in these numbers as more persons are likely to have additional education as employees of the university.

Housing

According to the 2010 Census, there are 14,419 housing units in McDonough County, of which 13,057, or 90.6 percent, are occupied. This vacancy rate is slightly higher than the state rate of 8.7 percent. McDonough County has an owner-occupied rate of 58.5 percent, while 41.5 percent of county units are renter-occupied. McDonough County has a much higher renter-occupancy than the state does (32.5 percent).

The majority of McDonough County housing units are single unit and detached homes. Due to the presence of WIU, there are also a considerable number of persons located in group quarters housed in the dormitories.

More than one-third of the owner occupied homes in McDonough County were built before 1939 (Figure 9). Over 86 percent of the total housing units in the county that are also owner occupied were constructed before 1979. Only 13.6 percent of the total number of owner occupied units were therefore built after 1980. The increasing age of local housing is significant because it may indicate that a growing number of houses may need improvements.

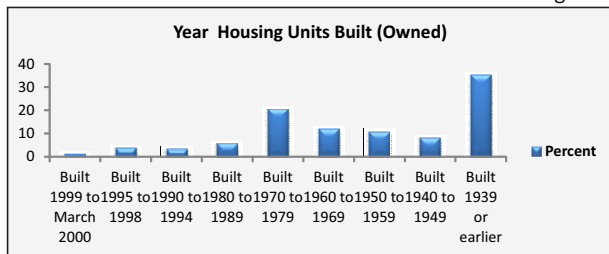


Figure 9

Source: 2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

In terms of rental housing, over 20 percent of the housing units were built in 1939 or earlier (Figure 10). 81.8 percent of all rental units were constructed prior to 1980. This percentage is about five percent lower than the owner occupied units. New rental units may be due to the slight upswing in rental housing post 1980. 18.2 percent of the rental units were built after 1980.

According to the 2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing, 56 percent of the owner occupied housing units have a mortgage on the unit. Of those with a mortgage, the median selected monthly owner cost is \$679 or approximately 17.7 percent of the median selected cost as a percentage of household income. Of the 4,113 renter-occupied units, the median gross rent as a percentage of household income was 28.8 percent. The overall median rent was \$393 dollars.

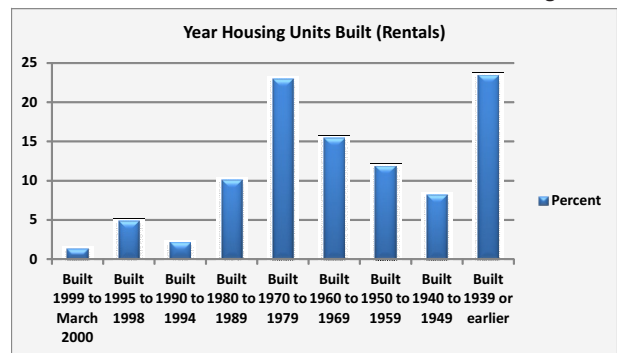


Figure 10

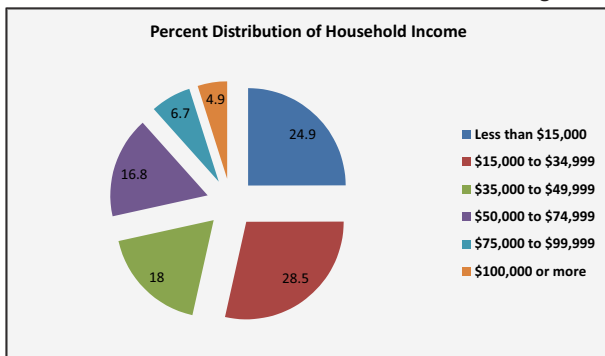
Source: 2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

Economy

According to 2000 Census data (1999 dollars), median household income for the region (including Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren counties) is \$35,131. The median household income for McDonough County is \$32,141, the lowest of any of the counties included in the region. McDonough County’s median income is also approximately 31% lower than the state median household income of \$46,590. This relatively large disparity may in part be contributed to by the number of Western Illinois University students included in the Census data. Regardless, the regional median household income is still 25% lower than the state median household income. This number indicates that this region of the state is inhabited by more low-to-moderate income earners than elsewhere in the state.

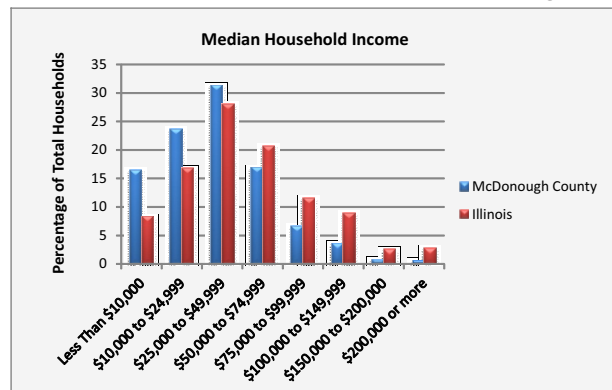
Growth in the regional median household income was higher (54%) when comparing 1989 dollars (1990 U. S. Census) to 1999 (2000 U. S. Census) dollars than the growth in statewide median household income (44%). The rate of growth in McDonough County (48%) was also higher than the rate of growth statewide (44%). 71.4% of McDonough County households have incomes under \$49,999 and 88.2% of McDonough County households have incomes under \$74,999. Over one half of the residents in McDonough County make less than \$35,000 per year. Less than five percent (4.9%) of households in McDonough County make \$100,000 or more (Figure 11). Comparatively, according to 2000 Census data, 14.4% of households in Illinois make \$100,000 or more (Figure 12). In the six county region, approximately 4.7% of the households make \$100,000 or more. In general, McDonough County residents earn less than others in many parts of the state.

Figure 11



Source: 2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

Figure 12



Source: 2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

According to the 2000 U. S. Census, nearly 20 percent (19.8 %) of McDonough County residents live below the poverty level.¹ This number is nearly double the state percentage of 10.7 percent of residents living below the poverty level. In McDonough County, 19.6 percent of children under the age of 18 live below the state poverty level, while 7.2 percent of persons over the age of 65 live below the state poverty level. The childhood poverty level in McDonough County is higher than the state percentage of 14 percent of children under the age of 18 living below the poverty level. Conversely, the percentage of persons living below the poverty level over the age of 65 in McDonough County is lower than the state-wide percentage of 8.3 percent of persons over 65 living below the poverty level.

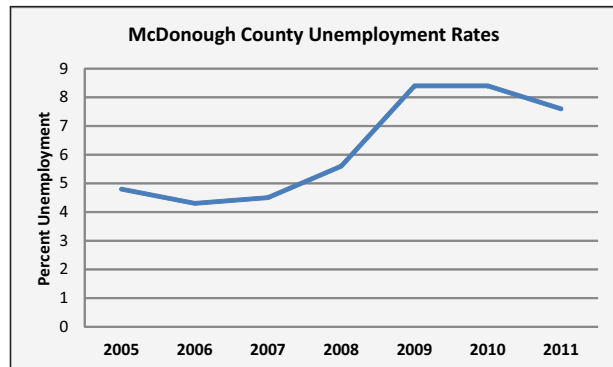
Although much of the demographic review for this section of the comprehensive plan comes from U. S. Census data, additional information from the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) has been included since it captures more concisely the dramatic changes in the economy that have impacted the state within the last 10 years.

[1] Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).

Economy

According to IDES, the regional unemployment rate in 1990 was 5.7 percent; by 2000 the unemployment rate in the region had dropped to 4.7 percent. In 2010, the regional unemployment rate had spiked to 10 percent, declining slightly in 2011 to 8.7 percent (Figure 13). In 2010, Fulton and Hancock counties had the highest unemployment in the region at 11.8 percent. McDonough County actually had the lowest unemployment in the region in 2010 at 8.4 percent. In 2011, Fulton County had the highest unemployment in the region at 10.3 percent and again McDonough County had the lowest unemployment in the region at 7.6 percent (Figure 14). To compare, in 2011 the state-wide unemployment rate was 9.8 percent and the national unemployment rate was 8.9 percent (Figure 15). All told, McDonough County has not suffered from the same degree of unemployment as other counties in the area have. Clearly, that does not mean that

Figure 14



Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security

Figure 15

Illinois Unemployment Rate by County Annual Average 2011

IL Dept. of Employment Security, Economic Information & Analysis Div.

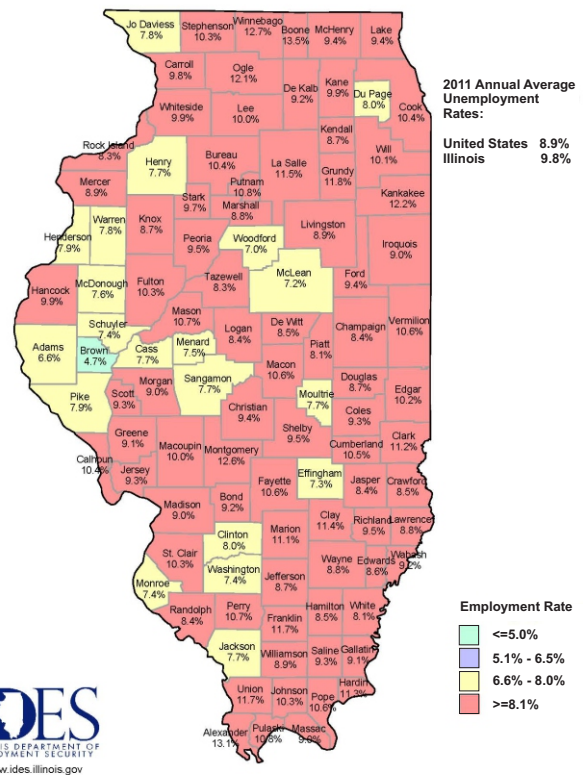
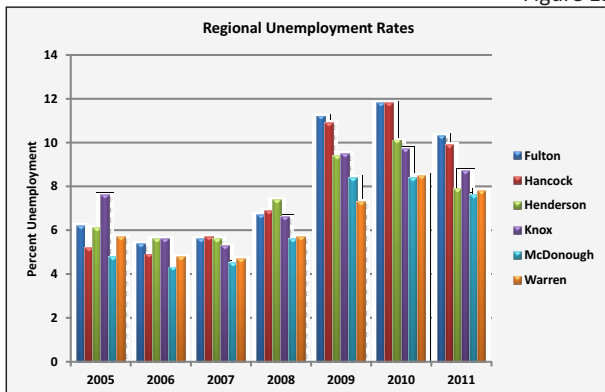


Figure 13



Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security

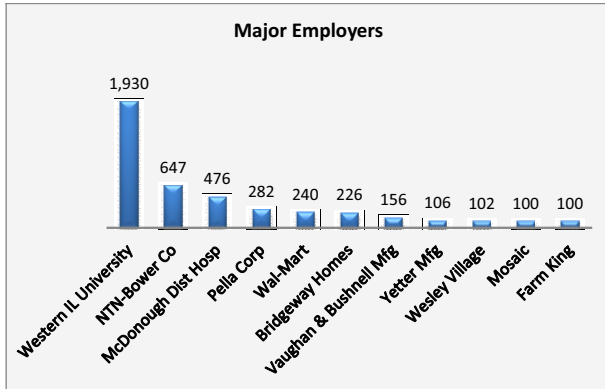
the rate is of no continuing concern. Local, regional, state-wide, federal and global trends indicate that the economy is not strong and governments are concerned and cautious about what the future holds. How the intricacies of the global economy will continue to impact this region is unknown, but with a diversified workforce and the strong presence of major employers in the county, certainly the hope remains that McDonough County will be buffered somewhat from the worst impacts of a very difficult situation.



Economy

The majority of workers in McDonough County are employed in education, health care, manufacturing, retail trade and food service. The largest employer by far in the region is Western Illinois University, with more than 1,930 employees (Figure 16).

Figure 16



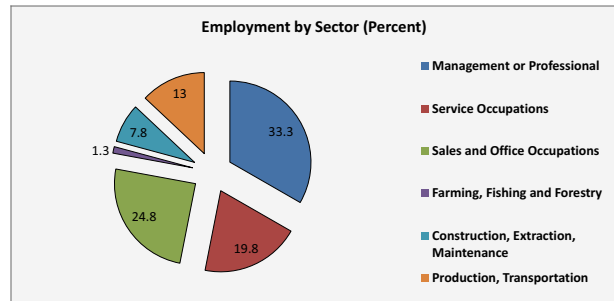
Source: Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development, 2011 and Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, 2009

All of the local manufacturing facilities, including NTN Bower Corporation, Pella Corporation, Yetter Manufacturing, and Vaughan & Bushnell Manufacturing, make up an additional large portion of local jobs employing 1191 persons. With a major expansion announced, and groundbreaking having already occurred, NTN Bower Corporation will hopefully be adding over 100 jobs to these numbers within the next couple of years. Clearly not included within these numbers are the numerous jobs resulting from local schools and school districts. These entities are also a significant source of employment in the county.

Roughly one third of McDonough County’s employed workforce is employed by the management or professional sector (Figure 17). These high numbers are due to the presence of Western Illinois University within the county and also because of the presence of McDonough District Hospital. Sales and Office Occupations account for the second largest employment sector with 24.8 percent of the county employed workforce in this classification. According to U. S. Census information, only 1.3 percent of the locally employed workforce is employed in Farming, Fishing and Forestry. This number may seem out of line since McDonough County is certainly a county largely based on agriculture. However,

many of the jobs that are derived from agriculture in this region will actually fall under a different classification such as management, professional, sales or production.

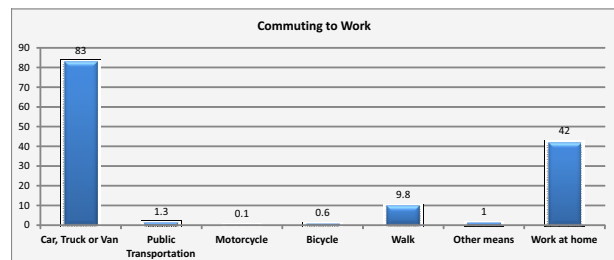
Figure 17



Source: 2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

Over 83 percent of McDonough County residents drive to work (Figure 18) and within that number, 10.5 percent carpool. Comparatively, state-wide approximately 84 percent of workers drive to work and 11 percent carpool. According to 2000 U. S. Census, only 1.3 percent of McDonough County residents use public transportation to get to work.

Figure 18



Source: 2000 U. S. Census of Population and Housing

It should be noted that it is anticipated that with the development and major expansion of the McDonough County Public Transportation Program, 2010 U. S. Census information should show an increase in use of public transit due to the expansion of this program.

Retail trade in McDonough County in 2009 saw a total of \$323,584,237 (Table 4).

Economy

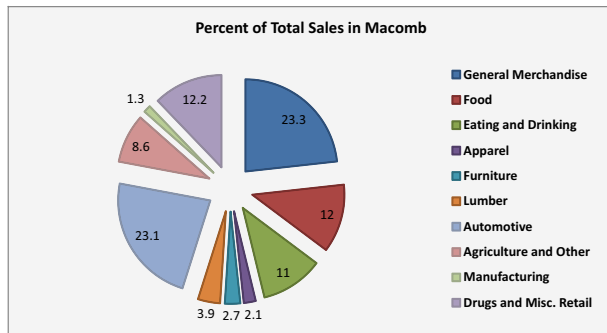
Table 4
Retail Sales

Category	McDonough County Total	Average Per Household	Percentage of Total
General Merchandise	\$75,271,609	\$6,075	23.3%
Food	\$38,728,883	\$3,126	12.0%
Eating and Drinking	\$35,497,009	\$2,865	11.0%
Apparel	\$6,783,248	\$547	2.1%
Furniture	\$8,748,927	\$706	2.7%
Lumber	\$12,493,993	\$1,008	3.9%
Automotive	\$74,831,397	\$6,040	23.1%
Agriculture and Other	\$27,715,228	\$2,237	8.6%
Manufacturing	\$4,182,005	\$338	1.3%
Drugs and Misc. Retail	\$39,331,938	\$3,174	12.2%
	\$323,584,237	\$26,117	

Source: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, 2009

General merchandise accounted for 23.3 percent of the total sales in McDonough County, and automotive sales followed closely behind in terms of total sales accounting for 23.1 percent of the overall total of county sales (Figure 19). Retail spending within the county averaged \$26,117 for each household.

Figure 19

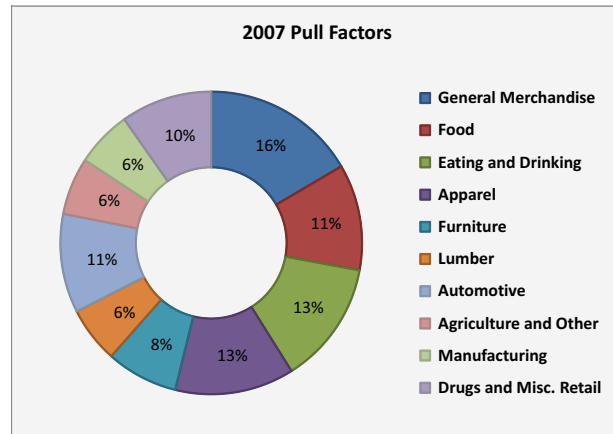


Source: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, 2009

The retail drawing power of a community is described by its pull factor, calculated as the ratio of local per capita retail sales to downstate per capita sales. A pull factor greater than 1.0 indicates that a community is attracting sales from visitors, while a pull factor less than 1.0 means that local residents are shopping elsewhere.

In addition to describing total retail sales, pull factors also illustrate how various retail sectors are performing. It is important to note that sales data is self reported, leading to fluctuations in sales by category since businesses may not report themselves in the same category every year.

Figure 20



Source: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, 2009

The pull factor data for McDonough County indicates that General Merchandise and Eating and Drinking are the areas where the county attracts the most spending from inhabitants outside of the county. Apparel, Food and Automotive are the next strongest sales categories that attract spending from outside of the county (Figure 20). Manufacturing and Lumber are the weakest pull factor categories which indicate that there is a higher ratio of dollars spent by McDonough County inhabitants outside of the county (Table 5).

Economy

Table 5
Pull Factor Numbers

Sales Category	Pull Factor %(2007)
General Merchandise	1.27
Food	0.87
Eating and Drinking	1.01
Apparel	0.98
Furniture	0.59
Lumber	0.46
Automotive	0.81
Agriculture and Other	0.47
Manufacturing	0.46
Drugs and Misc. Retail	0.75

Source: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, 2009

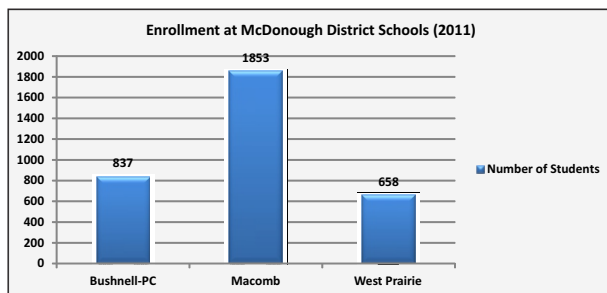
Ultimately, McDonough County does have areas where it is losing local dollars to retailers outside of the county. However, McDonough County is also a mini-urban center and does successfully attract regional dollars to its big box stores, automotive retailers and local restaurants.

Education

There are three school districts in McDonough County: Bushnell Prairie City School District 170, Macomb School District 185 and West Prairie School District 103. According to the Interactive Illinois Report Card, the total enrollment in all three school districts for 2010/2011 was 3348 students (Figure 21). In addition, there are two private schools in McDonough County that would add approximately 150 students to total enrollment numbers.

There is a range of class size between the three school districts. Within the Bushnell-Prairie City School District, the class sizes consistently fall well below the state average (Table 6). West Prairie School District exceeds the average state class size in fifth and eighth grades. Within the Macomb School District, the school exceeds the average state class size in kindergarten through six grades. (Figure 22).

Figure 21



Source: Interactive Illinois Report Card, 2011

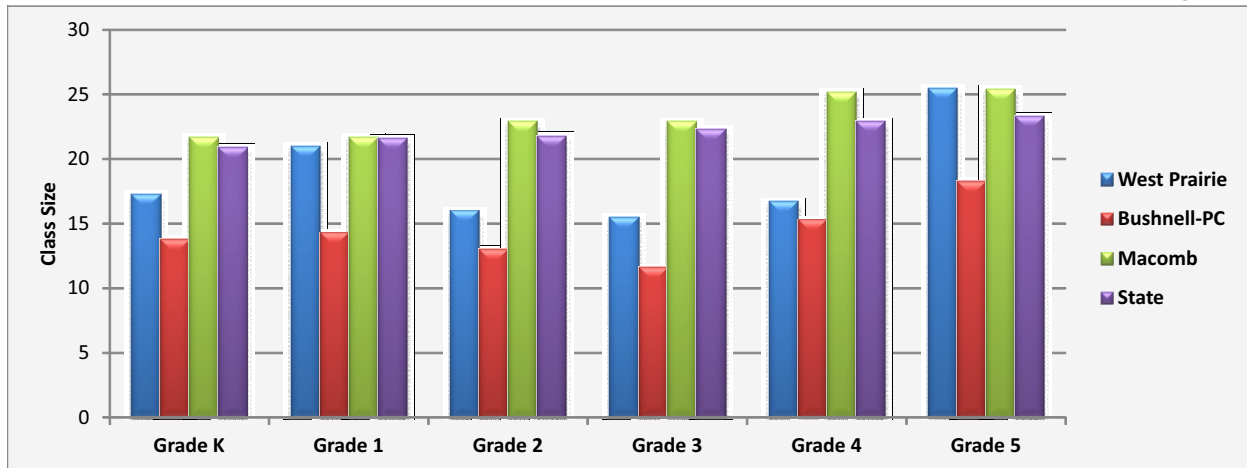
Table 6
Average Class Size

District	Gr. K	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 7	Gr. 8	HS
West Prairie	17.3	21	16	15.5	16.7	25.5	21.5	21	25.5	14.6
Bushnell-PC	13.8	14.3	13	11.6	15.3	18.3	16.8	21	16.4	12.8
Macomb	21.7	21.7	22.9	22.9	25.2	25.4	23	20.2	20.8	18.6
State	20.9	21.6	21.8	22.3	22.9	23.3	22.0	21.3	21.3	19.2

Source: Interactive Illinois State Report Card, 2011

Education

Figure 22



Source: Interactive Illinois State Report Card, 2011

Within all three school districts in McDonough County, on average, teachers have more experience than the state average of 13.2 years (Table 7). Within all three school districts in McDonough County, on average, a higher percentage of teachers have Bachelor’s degrees than the state average of 31.5 percent. However, all area schools have fewer teachers with Master’s degrees than the state average of 68.4 percent. The school district with the highest percentage of teachers with a Master’s degree is the Macomb School District (Figure 23).

The academic performance of area schools varies greatly from district to district. Macomb reported the highest graduation rate of 84.3 percent to the Illinois Board of Education. This is slightly greater than the state average of 83.8 percent (Table 8). Bushnell-PC falls quite short of the state average graduation rate with only 69.9 percent.

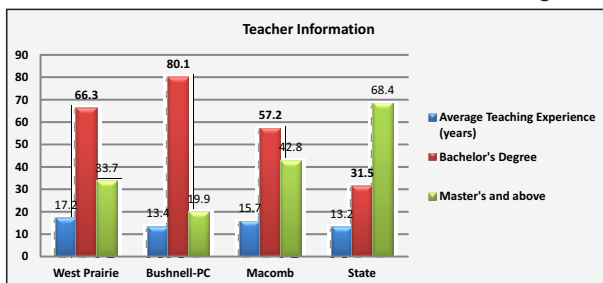
In terms of overall rate of performance for all tests during the 2010-2011 year, the Macomb School District achieved the highest overall score of 85.8, higher than the state average of 76.5. West Prairie also exceeded the state average with a score of 81.8. However, the Bushnell-PC School District fell under the state average with a score of 69. Again, in terms of student test scores, both West Prairie and Macomb school districts exceeded the average state score of 20.6, with West Prairie and Macomb scoring 21.4 and 23.8 respectively, on the ACT Composite. Bushnell-PC School District students scored on average 19.7, below the state average (Figure 24).

Table 7
Teacher’s Experience and Education

District	Average Teaching Experience (yrs.)	Bachelor’s	Master’s and more
West Prairie	17.2	66.3	33.7
Bushnell-PC	13.4	80.1	19.9
Macomb	15.7	57.5	42.8
State	13.2	31.5	68.4

Source: Interactive Illinois State Report Card, 2011

Figure 23



Source: Interactive Illinois State Report Card, 2011

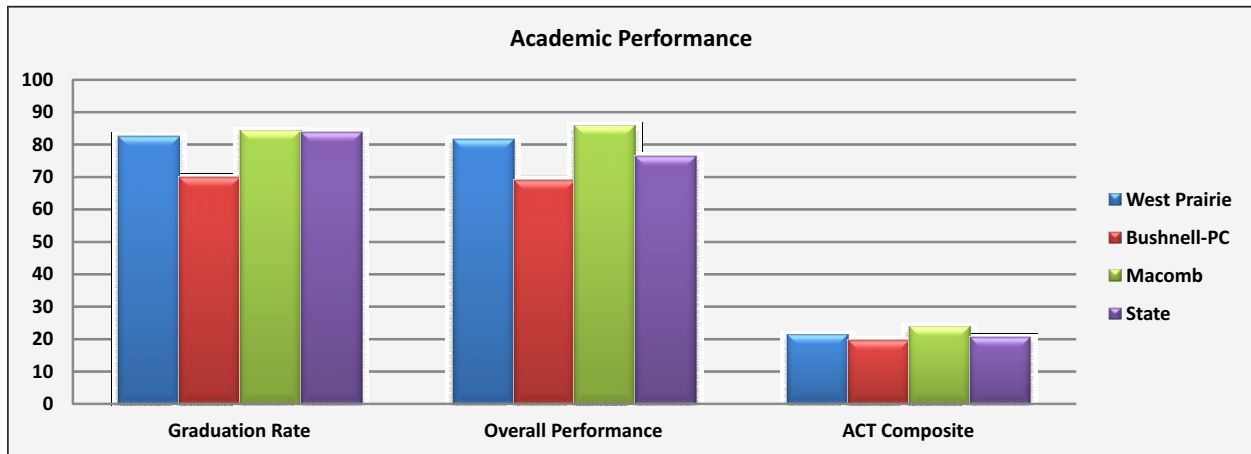
Table 8
Academic Performance

District	Graduation Rate	Overall Performance	ACT Composite
West Prairie	82.7	81.8	21.4
Bushnell-PC	69.9	69	19.7
Macomb	84.3	85.8	23.8
State	83.8	76.5	20.6

Source: Interactive Illinois State Report Card, 2011

Education

Figure 24



Source: Illinois Interactive Report Card, 2011

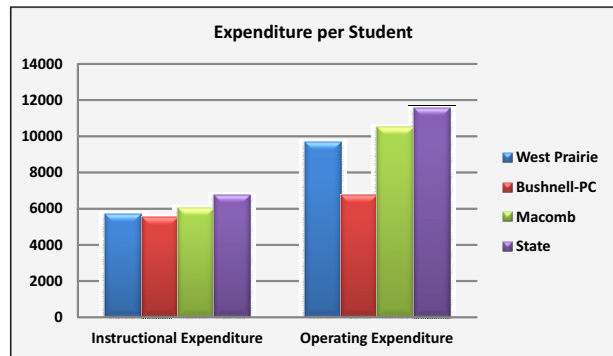
All three school districts in McDonough County report instructional and operational expenditures lower than the state averages (Table 9). The Macomb School District reports the highest expenditures in both categories (Figure 25).

economy continues to struggle, and the populations in area communities decline, funding local schools will continue to be an issue and consolidation will continue to be a topic for consideration.

Figure 25

District	Instructional Expenditure	Operating Expenditure
West Prairie	\$5,689	\$9,663
Bushnell-PC	\$5,532	\$6,773
Macomb	\$6,020	\$10,533
State	\$6,773	\$11,537

Source: Illinois Interactive Report Card, 2011



Source: Illinois Interactive Report Card, 2011

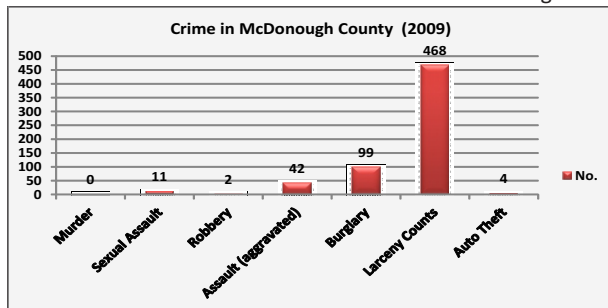
Funding school activities continues to be an ongoing concern in the county. Regional Superintendent Offices have seen state funding eliminated and restored with significant cuts that will result in restructuring within the near future.

The Bushnell-PC School District appears to be having the most financial difficulty at present of the three county districts, in addition to test scores falling behind area schools and state averages. The Bushnell-PC School District also very recently underwent a referendum to consolidate with school districts located outside of the county which did not pass. As the state

Public Safety

McDonough County is a safe county, particularly compared with state averages. Sexual assaults, aggravated assaults, burglary and larceny are the most common crimes committed locally (Figure 26). It is important to remember that the crime rates listed for the county are listed for the county as a whole, not only the unincorporated areas. When staff data is listed, the data is listed for McDonough County department staff only. Most incorporated communities within the county have some police protection. In communities where this is not possible, intergovernmental agreements provide localized protection when needed. Bardolph and Industry would be two communities that utilize special agreements in order to provide localized protection that cannot be provided independently by the communities.

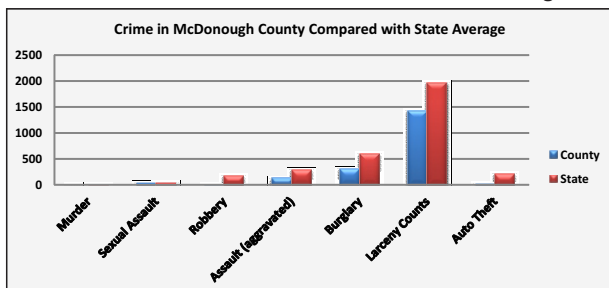
Figure 26



Source: Illinois State Police, 2011

McDonough County is below the state average for crime per 100,000 individuals with a rating of 1,918.3 versus the state rating of 3,283.9. For the county, larceny and burglary have relatively high rates of occurrence, but even these rates do not exceed the state average (Figure 27).

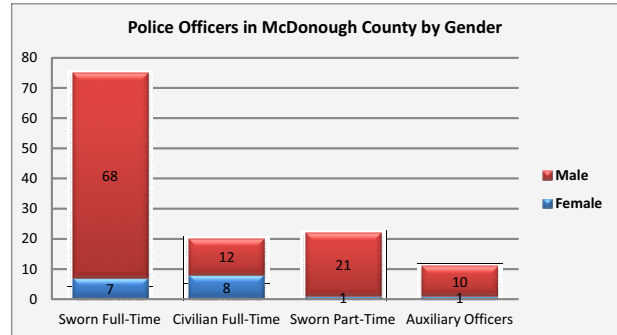
Figure 27



Source: Illinois State Police, 2011

The makeup of the county police staff vary from sworn to civilian and from full to part time. Also, there is an increasing addition of female staff to local police protection (Figure 28).

Figure 28



Source: Illinois State Police, 2011

In McDonough County, fire protection services are provided by 8 different fire departments or fire protection districts. For purposes of this document, three different fire districts never responded to requests for information on the number of employees or volunteers that currently make up each force. According to the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshall, the remaining districts and departments are staffed as follows:

District	Number of Employees or Volunteers
LaHarpe	Unknown
Blandinsville-Hire	19
Bushnell	34
Colchester	20
Emmet-Chalmers	17
Good Hope-Sciota	25
Industry	Unknown
Macomb	20
New Salem	Unknown

Emergency Services are provided in large part by first responders from the local fire departments and fire protection districts. Also, with the presence of the McDonough District Hospital, ambulatory service is broad reaching and provides critical care and access in a timely manner to persons with need.

Community Services

As a county government, McDonough County does not manage or own its own utilities. Specifically, there are no county-based water or sewer systems. With the addition of a municipal sanitary sewer system in Tennessee, there is only one community in the county, Sciota, that does not have municipal water and sewer systems in place.

Within the last 10 years, the development of the West-Prairie Water Cooperative, a water unit that purchases water in bulk from the Dallas Rural Water District, has helped to expand rural water lines throughout different portions of the county. The Dallas Rural Water District also has lines that serve rural portions of McDonough County. In this way, unincorporated areas of the county that have critical water needs due to poor quantity and quality can have access to water that is potable and meets state and federal regulations.

McDonough County is fortunate to have access to some of the best locally managed roads in the region. In addition to the McDonough County Public Transportation Program, there is also Peoria Charter Coach Bus Service and Macomb to O'Hare Bus Service.

Two federal roadways, US 67 and US 136 traverse McDonough County. Four state roadways, Illinois Routes 9, 41, 61 and 95, also go through the county. Highway improvement discussions continue. The development of 336 (supplemental freeway FA 407) began in 1969, with passage of appropriating legislation for review, and consideration, of statewide highway improvements. When completed, the four-lane highway will connect not only Quincy to Macomb, but will also involve the construction of a bypass around Macomb, continuing with the additional four-lane highway on to Peoria. An additional area highway improvement that will impact McDonough County and Route 336 is the planned US 67 expansion between Macomb and Alton. To date, much construction has occurred between Alton and Jacksonville, and to some degree north towards Beardstown. 336, in the context of the Macomb bypass (based on an IDOT study completed in June 2004), would connect all of the area routes and allow for easier movement of traffic within the region. The Macomb to Peoria alignments are being developed and evaluated within the selected primary corridor; public comments are being received; and the planning process continues. To date, the Macomb to Peoria portion of 336 is not currently funded past the study stage and funding on all of the highway improvements continues to be a consideration.

McDonough County is home to one of the finest airports in the state. The Illinois Department of Transportation-Division of Aeronautics, recognized Macomb Municipal Airport as "General Aviation Publicly Owned Airport of the Year". This award is given to airports for outstanding work in the areas of airport maintenance and appearance, community support, and promotion of aviation. Macomb Municipal Airport has been awarded this honor once in 1996 and again in 2008. Accommodations and services currently in place include: 100 x 100 ft. corporate hangar with 28 ft. door, office space for corporate flight departments, 24 hour fuel services, on-field aircraft repair and maintenance. Professional pilot services, instruction and charter flight operations are also on field. These services include but are not limited to: private and commercial pilot training, instrument pilot training, pilot supplies, and on-demand aircraft charter flights. A 2012 economic impact study completed by the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics, revealed Macomb Municipal Airport creates 41 total jobs, 1.3 million in total payroll, and 7.3 million in total economic output (sum of the annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures). Corporate flight activity accounts for approximately half of Macomb's airport operations. At present, Macomb Municipal Airport supports corporate flight operations for NTN Bower, Pioneer Hybrid, Methode Electronics, and Pella corporations, among others. Other airport operations include seasonal aerial agricultural spraying, law enforcement operations, WIU ROTC training, and Peoria National Guard helicopter operations. Macomb Municipal Airport supports air ambulance operations to local hospitals as well as aero care doctor and organ transplant teams.

In terms of rail service, McDonough County has major transaction by Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and also a local rail service providing access for primarily agricultural related purposes along the northern portion of the county into LaHarpe and Hancock County. In McDonough County, Macomb is an Amtrak community. Having access to passenger rail service is an enormous benefit to the area and the service continues to see annual increases in usage from a broad range of riders including students travelling to and from WIU, professionals and families.

McDonough County has four community libraries, not including the library at WIU. Macomb houses the largest of the local libraries and has 20,045 members (Table 10).

Community Services

Library	Internet Stations	Fax/Copy	#Materials	Members
Macomb Public Library	Yes	Yes	58,142	20,045
Colchester District Library	Yes	Yes	8,909	1,493
Bushnell Public Library	Yes	Yes	23,557	4,379
Blandinsville Public Library	Yes	Yes	23,914	2,345

Source: Individual Library Directors, 2011

McDonough County is fortunate to have access to one state park within its boundaries. Access to certain of the activities at the park has been limited at times and in recent years due to state funding. Most of the municipalities located in McDonough County also have a minimum of one park, although most of the smaller communities do not have park districts (Table 11).

Park	Acres	Facilities
Argyle State Park	1700	Picnic area, camping, hiking, boating
Argyle Hollow Barrens Nature Preserve		Unique plants and scenery
Macomb Park District	890	
Everly Park		Four shelters, ball diamond, playground
Everwood Disc Golf Course		18-hole disc golf course
Glenwood Park		Two shelters, two playgrounds
Glenwood Pool		Shower/locker rooms, baby pool, snacks
Lakeview Nature Center		Interpretive/Learning Center

Community Services

Table 11 McDonough County Parks		
Park	Acres	Facilities
Macomb Park District		
Cont.		
Gumbart Woods		Hiking trails, bird watching
Downing Ball Park		Two softball fields, two shelters, snacks
Ball Fore		Batting cages, mini golf course, driving range, volleyball, archery, basketball, picnic area, concessions, playground, ice skating
Wesley Tennis Courts		Tennis courts
Derry Park		Walking, scenery
Patton Park		Two shelters, playground, football field, baseball diamonds
Veterans Park		Playground, walking trail, concessions, softball fields, soccer fields
City of Macomb	240	
Chandler Park		Playground, gazebo, shelter, memorial
Compton Park		Walking, scenery
Spring Lake Park		Hiking, bike trails, boating, fishing, camping, paddle boats, showers
Bushnell Park District	70	
Veteran's Memorial Park		Historic Memorial, shelter, benches

Community Services

Table 11 McDonough County Parks		
Park	Acres	Facilities
Colchester	12	
Colchester City Park		Picnic area, shelter
Friendway Park		Baseball diamonds, picnic area, shelter, concessions
Prairie City	1.4	General city park

Source: WIRC Intern, 2012

According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the average state-wide amount of public outdoor recreation lands in Illinois is 11.35 acres per 1,000 population. This includes park district and municipal parks. In McDonough County, the average amount of public outdoor recreation land is 26.58 acres per 1,000 population, over double the state average.

The average state-wide supply of regional outdoor recreation lands is 52.69 acres per 1,000 population. This includes county and state lands. In McDonough County, the average amount of regional outdoor recreation lands is 52.13 acres per 1,000 population, nearly the same as the state average.

**McDonough County Vision:
Public Perspective Provides Elected
Officials the Tools to Envision the Future**



McDonough County Vision

Where Agriculture, Industry & Education Meet

A survey of county opinion provides information and insight useful for the development of long-term planning. A survey encourages public participation in plan creation and is the first direct element of the process that is owned entirely by the local population. Survey results give elected officials and leaders an indication of what residents view as problem areas in the county. Survey responses also reveal areas where residents believe county leaders are succeeding.

In 2009, the Western Illinois Regional Council, in cooperation with Western Illinois University through the Western Survey Research Center (WSRC), the Planning Commission and the McDonough County Board, produced a survey that was randomly mailed to county residents. The survey was also made available to residents at area libraries and also at the county courthouse. Further, the survey was made available online through a third party website. A total of 447 people completed the survey. The survey was composed in a way that keeps all responses anonymous. Survey questions included topics reviewed in the County Profile. A copy of the survey instrument is included with this plan as Attachment A.

POPULATION

Approximately 54 percent of survey respondents were male, a proportion slightly above the demographic breakdown of the county as a whole (Figure 1). Nearly 82 percent of those who responded to the survey were 45 years old or older, even though they represent only 35.7 percent of McDonough County's population (Figure 2).

Figure 1

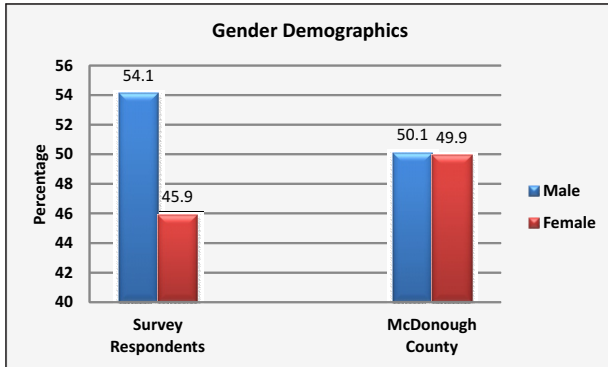
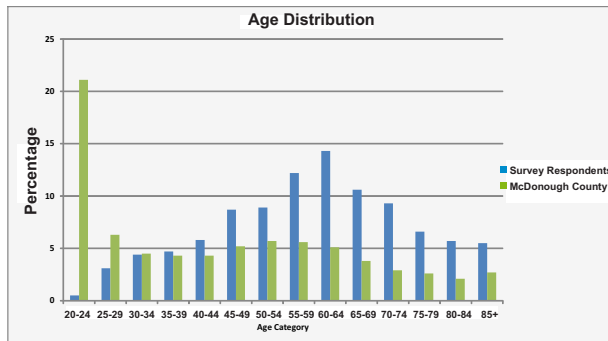


Figure 2



Over 93 percent of survey respondents volunteered their household income. The vast majority of the respondents have annual household incomes of less than \$75,000, with approximately 50 percent having incomes between \$25,000 and \$74,999 (Figure 3). Over 38 percent of survey participants are retired, while another 47.7 percent are permanently employed full-time (Figure 4).

Figure 3

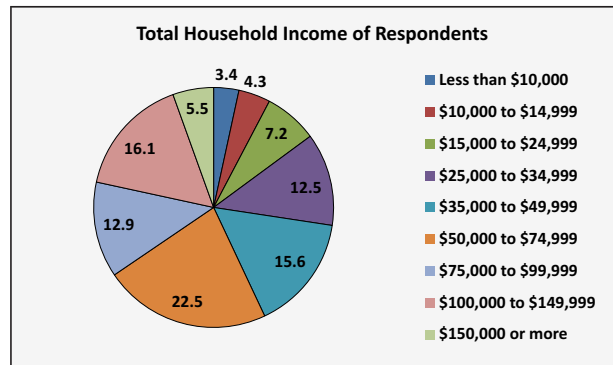
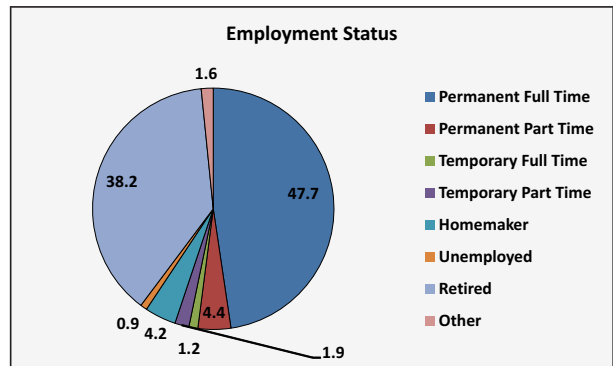
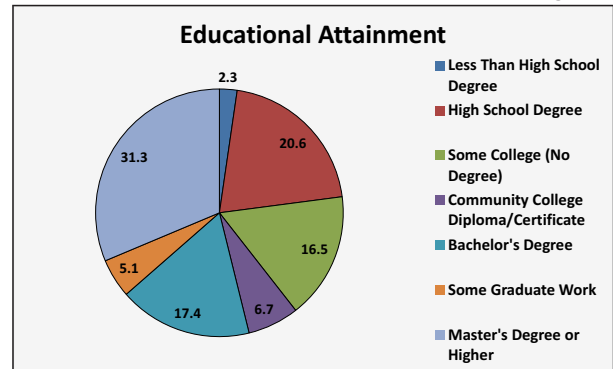


Figure 4



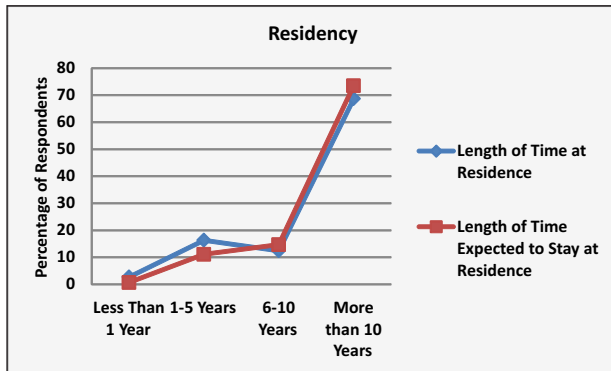
Roughly 21 percent of survey respondents indicate that the highest level of education they have achieved is a high school diploma. Another 17.4 percent of participants have earned Bachelor's degrees, while an additional 31.3 percent have Master's degrees or other degrees of higher education (Figure 5).

Figure 5



POPULATION

Figure 6



Nearly 70 percent of those surveyed have lived in McDonough County for more than ten years, and over 73 percent of respondents expect to continue living in McDonough County for at least another ten years (Figure 6).

The longevity of the respondents is helpful because this group of residents is more likely to be familiar with the county and its history and can better comment on the county's positive and negative attributes.

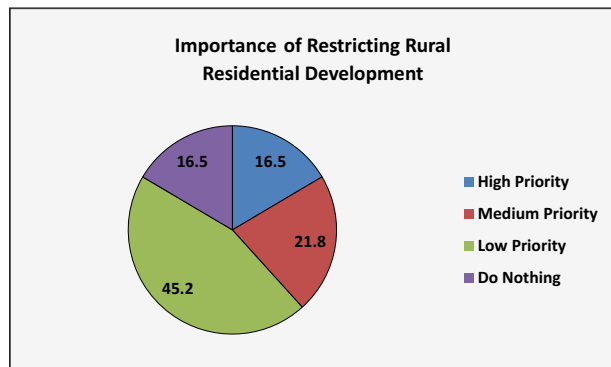
HOUSING

In any county, a well-maintained, variably priced housing stock is a desirable quality. Housing availability should meet current needs but be poised to accommodate future demand as the county grows.

Over 77 percent (77.4%) of those surveyed are satisfied with the structural qualities of their neighborhood's homes, while 74.8 percent are satisfied with the general appearance of the buildings in their neighborhoods. Nearly 80 percent (79.8%) of the respondents are satisfied with the location of their homes in relation to work and services.

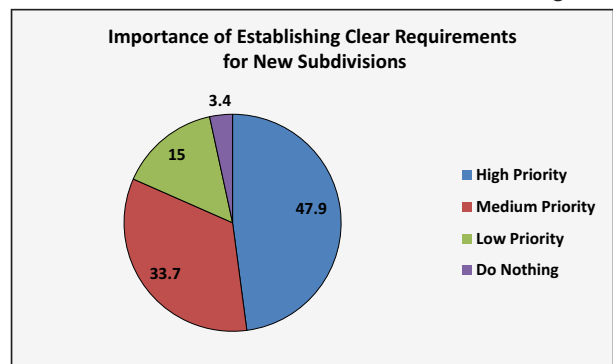
When asked how important it is that the county work with design strategies and invest public funds to restrict housing developments in rural areas, 61.7 percent of the respondents believed that it should be a low local priority or that the county should do nothing (Figure 7).

Figure 7



When asked how important it is that the county work with design strategies and invest public funds to establish clear requirements for new subdivisions (including planning for roads, septic systems, water lines, etc.), 81.6 percent of respondents believe that it should be at minimum a medium priority for the county (Figure 8).

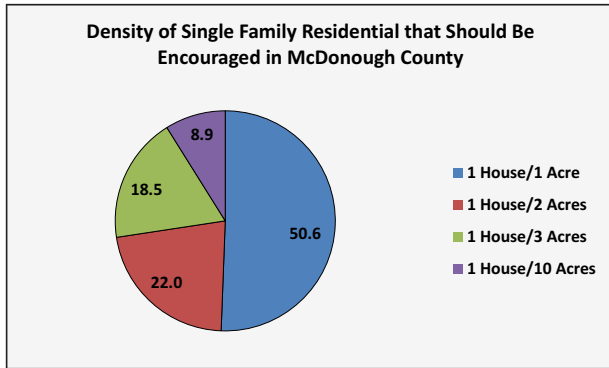
Figure 8



When asked what kind of single family residential development should be encouraged in unincorporated McDonough County, 50.6 percent responded that one house should be allowed per acre (Figure 9). Current regulations do not allow for subdivision of property at that density.

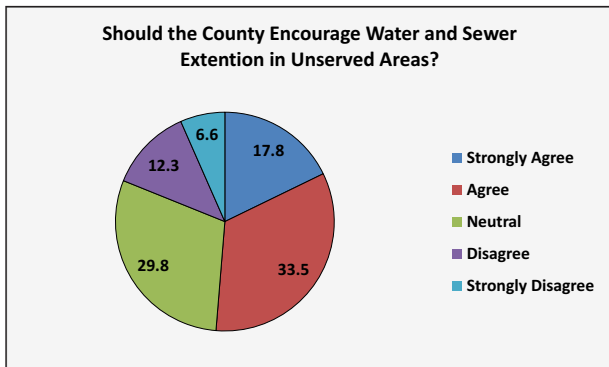
HOUSING

Figure 9



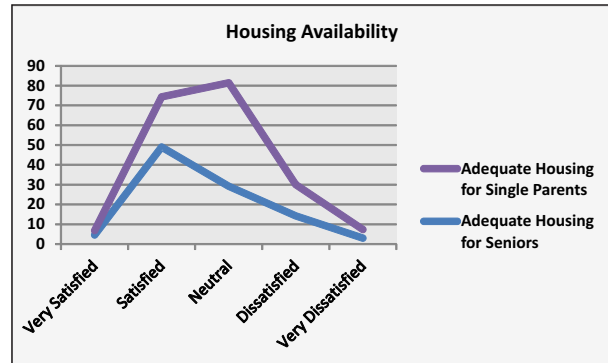
When asked how important it is that the county work with design strategies and invest public funds to extend drinking water and sanitary sewer systems to areas that lack those services within the county, 51.3 percent agree that it should be a county-wide priority (Figure 10).

Figure 10



Over 53 percent (53.6%) of survey participants are satisfied with the availability of the housing stock for seniors, and 27.5 percent are satisfied with housing availability for single parents (Figure 11).

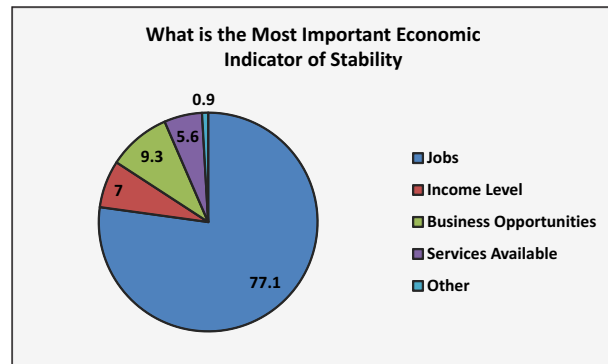
Figure 11



ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Several questions in the survey concern the county's perception of the local economy. Respondents were first asked what they felt is the most important indicator of economic stability and 77.1 percent of the respondents stated that jobs are the most significant indicator of stability (Figure 12).

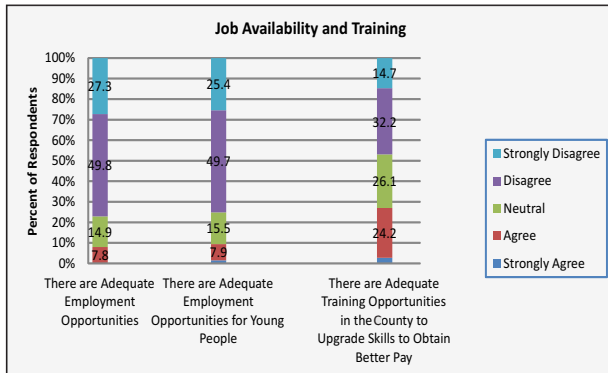
Figure 12



ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Respondents were asked several questions about job availability, opportunities and training in the county. Nearly 71 percent (70.7%) of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree that there are adequate employment opportunities in the county. Nearly five more percent of the respondents (75.1%) disagree that there are adequate employment opportunities in the county for young people. Almost 47 percent (46.9%) of respondents disagree that there are adequate training opportunities in the county to upgrade skills in order to obtain employment/better-pay employment in the county (Figure 13).

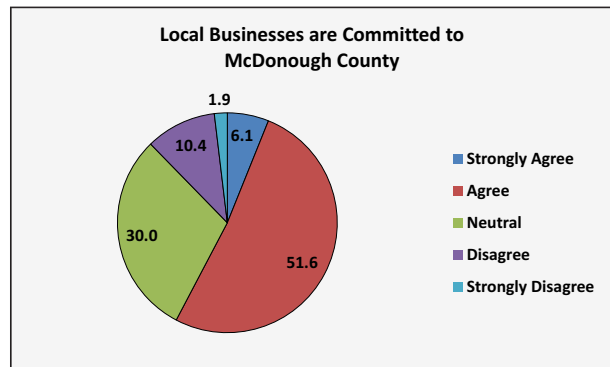
Figure 13



This opinion reflects the growing trend of rural communities throughout the country that are experiencing the migration of local youth to larger metropolitan areas where employment opportunities are more plentiful. Future implications of the youth exodus include loss of population, fewer children in local school districts, smaller educated work force and erosion of the local tax base.

When asked what economic development tools will be most effective in McDonough County, respondents chose Promoting/Seeking Additional Industrial Development most often (276), followed by Expansion of Transportation Access (139) and Promoting Local Stability (121). Promoting the Local Agricultural Industry was the next tool most commonly chosen by the respondents (120).

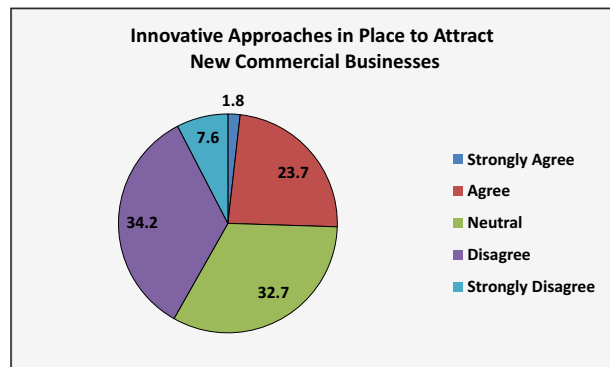
Figure 14



Thirty percent of respondents indicate that they feel neutral about whether or not businesses in McDonough County are committed to the county. An additional 12.3 percent said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this sentiment. Conversely, 57.7 percent of respondents did believe that local businesses are committed to the county (Figure 14).

However, 41.8 percent of respondents do not agree that McDonough County is using innovative approaches to attract new commercial business to the county (Figure 15). Close to the same percentage of the respondents, 40.4 percent do not agree that McDonough County is using innovative approaches to attract new industry to the county (Figure 16).

Figure 15



ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Figure 16

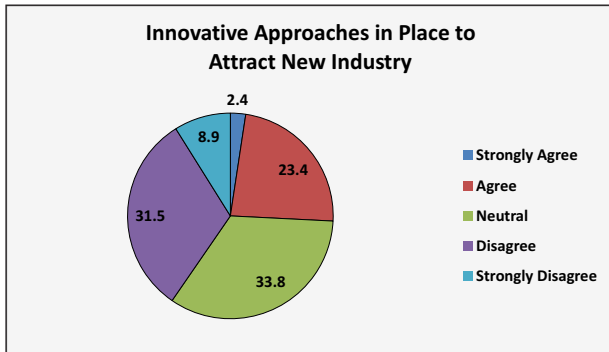
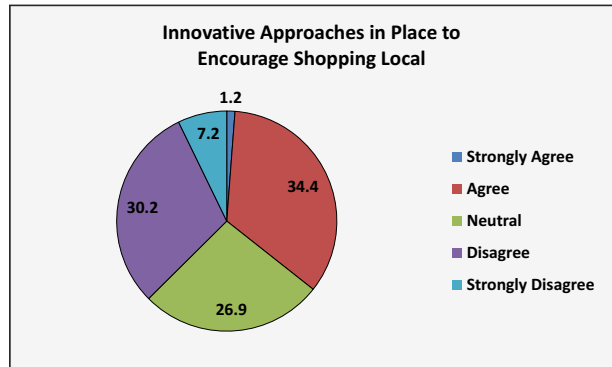


Figure 18



Only 20 percent of respondents believe that McDonough County is using innovative techniques to encourage the expansion of local existing business (Figure 17.) More respondents (35.6%) did believe that McDonough County is utilizing innovative approaches in order to encourage residents in McDonough County to shop local (Figure 18).

When local residents travel outside of McDonough County to shop, most of the respondents indicated that they travel to Quincy. Galesburg and Peoria were the next most frequently given responses (Figure 19).

Figure 17

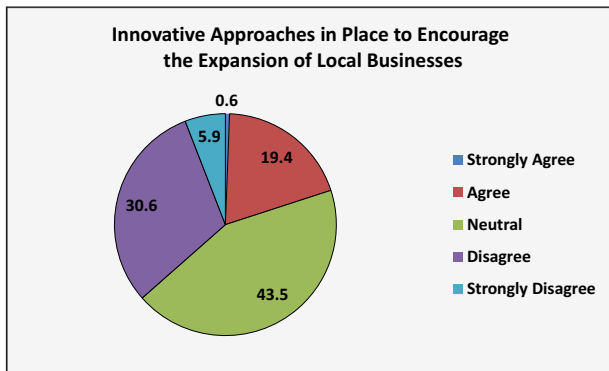


Figure 19

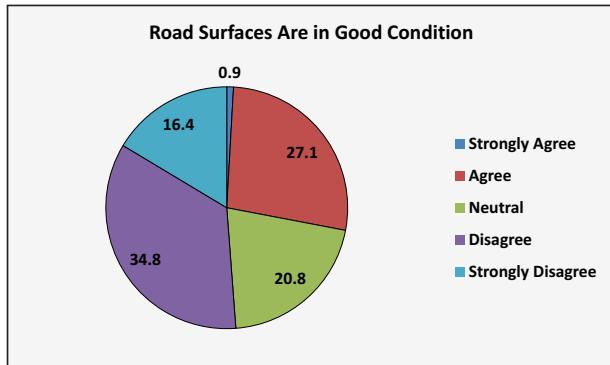


TRANSPORTATION

Several questions in the survey pertained to area road networks and other concepts involving transportation. To begin, the majority of respondents believe that road surfaces in McDonough County are not in good condition. Several years of extremely cold winters, some with large moisture events involved, caused considerable damage on many area roads. Certainly the timing of the survey and the timing of those weather events could account for some of the reasoning behind this response (Figure 20).

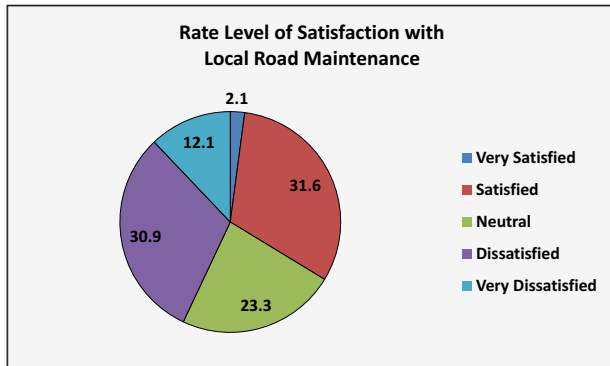
TRANSPORTATION

Figure 20



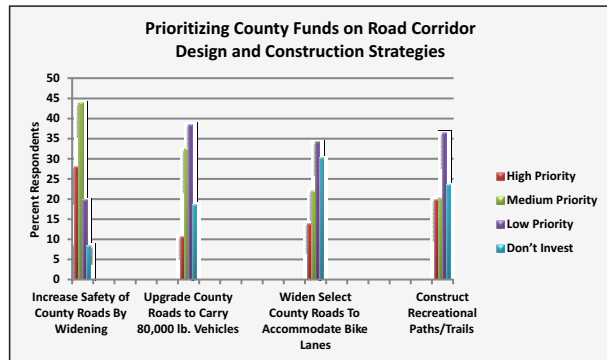
Forty-three percent of the respondents are not satisfied with overall road maintenance (Figure 21).

Figure 21



Survey recipients were asked how they would prioritize the utilization of county funds on certain design and construction strategies. Increasing the Safety of County Roads by Widening was the strategy most often assigned as a High Priority. Widening County Roads to Accommodate Bike Lanes was the strategy most often chosen as the strategy that the county should not invest funds in (Figure 22).

Figure 22

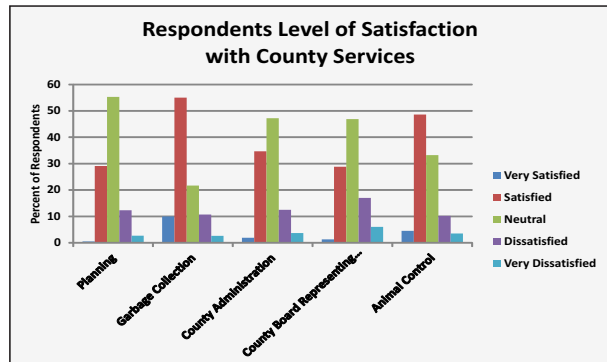


When residents were asked what types of transportation improvements should be made in McDonough County, respondents chose Improve Existing Infrastructure First (276), then Public Transportation (174), Inter-city 4-Lane Highways (133) and finally, Inter-city Public Transportation (102).

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Based on survey responses, participants vary in opinion to their satisfaction with locally available services. Garbage Collection is the service that respondents seemed to be most satisfied with, with 65 percent being satisfied or very satisfied with this service. The next highest ranked service was Animal Control, with 53.1 percent being satisfied or very satisfied. Conversely, participants seem to be less satisfied with the County Board's Effectiveness in Representing the Interests of the County, with 23 percent being unsatisfied or very unsatisfied. The next service with the most unsatisfied or very unsatisfied responses (16.2 percent) is the County's Administrative Services (Figure 23).

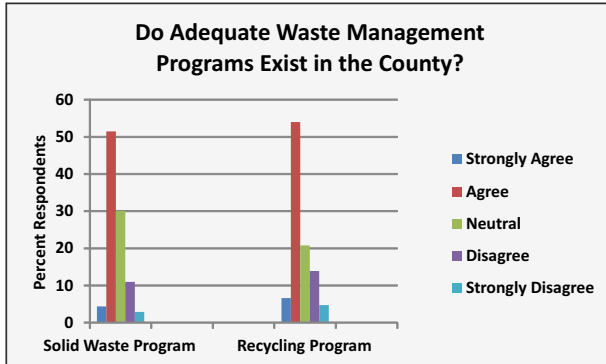
Figure 23



COMMUNITY SERVICES

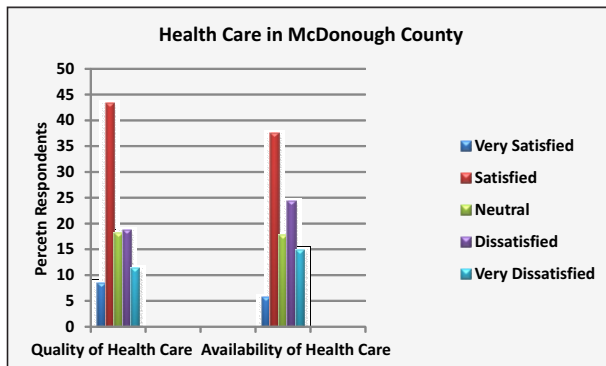
A strong majority of respondents (60.6 %) strongly agree or agree that the county has a good recycling program. Further, 55.9 percent believe that the county has good access to a solid waste program, one that encompasses the care and control of the waste stream, offers special collection services and also program education (Figure 24).

Figure 24



Respondents in the survey are more complimentary of the quality of the health care services than the availability of health care services in McDonough County. Nearly 52 percent (51.8%) of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with health care quality, compared to 43.2 percent of respondents being very satisfied or satisfied with the availability of local health care (Figure 25).

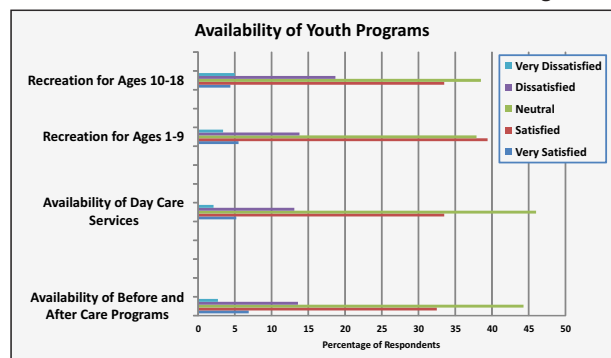
Figure 25



A large percentage of the respondents did not seem to feel strongly one way or another, when questioned about satisfaction in terms of youth programs, daycare services, and

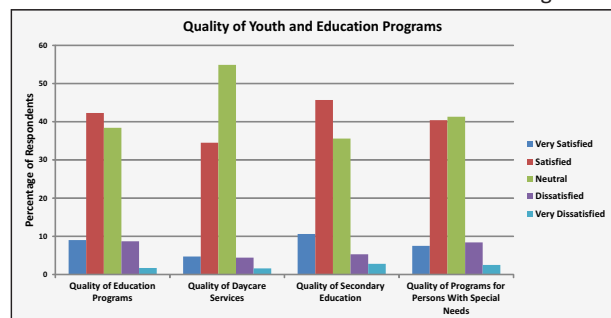
youth recreation programs. This may in part be that many respondents are older and may not have children in the age category where these questions are relevant (Figure 26). Respondents were more satisfied or very satisfied with the availability of recreation programs for children ages 1-9 (44.9%) and the availability of before and after school programs for children (39.4%) than day care services for children (38.7%) and recreation programs for children ages 10-18 (37.9%).

Figure 26



The high occurrence of neutral responses in regard to the perceived quality of youth services again likely is a reflection of the average age of survey respondents. The quality of secondary education received the highest percentage of responses as very satisfied or satisfied (56.3%). The quality of elementary education programs received the next highest percent of responses as very satisfied or satisfied (51.3%). Respondents seemed to rate the level of satisfaction of the quality of local day care services the lowest, with only 39.2 percent of responses as very satisfied or satisfied (Figure 27).

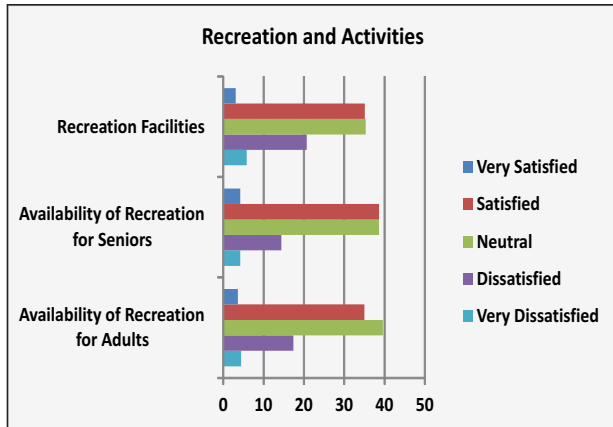
Figure 27



COMMUNITY SERVICES

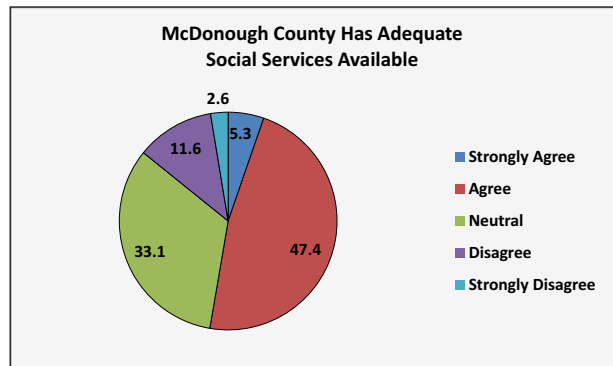
More of the respondents reported that they are satisfied with recreation programs for seniors with 42.8 percent choosing very satisfied or satisfied compared to 38.6 percent of respondents choosing very satisfied or satisfied in regard to recreation programs listed generally for adults (Figure 28).

Figure 28



In terms of area services, the majority of respondents agree or strongly agree that there are adequate social services available in McDonough County. Only 14.2 percent of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree that there are adequate social services available in the county (Figure 30).

Figure 30



Over two thirds of survey respondents indicated that they are very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of library services (66.9%) and the availability of library services (66.5%). This is one of the areas of county services that respondents seem to view highly (Figure 29).

Figure 29

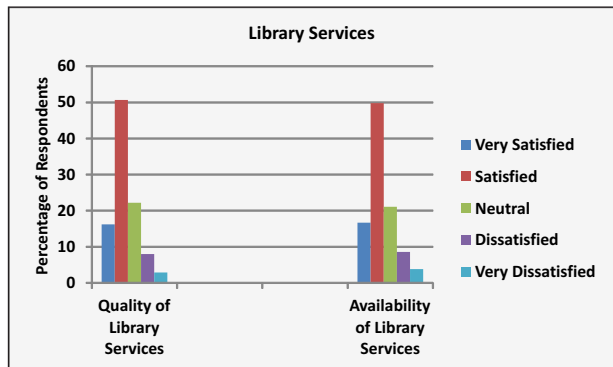
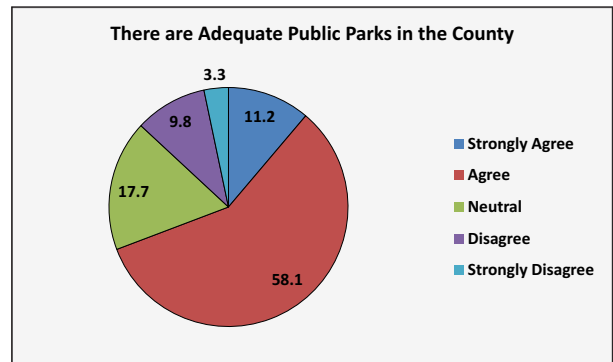


Figure 31



Finally, 69.3 percent of respondents believe that there are adequate public parks in the county, and only 13.1 percent disagree or strongly disagree that there are adequate parks in the county (Figure 31).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

In regard to local internet access, 79 percent of the respondents indicated that they have internet access at home (Figure 32). Of these respondents, the majority (59.8%) use DSL while another 19.2 percent utilize a wireless service (Figure 33).

Figure 32

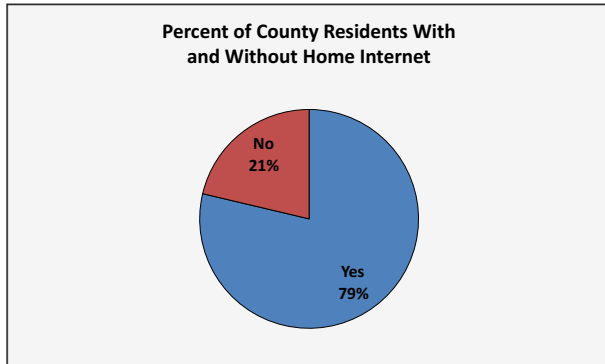


Figure 33

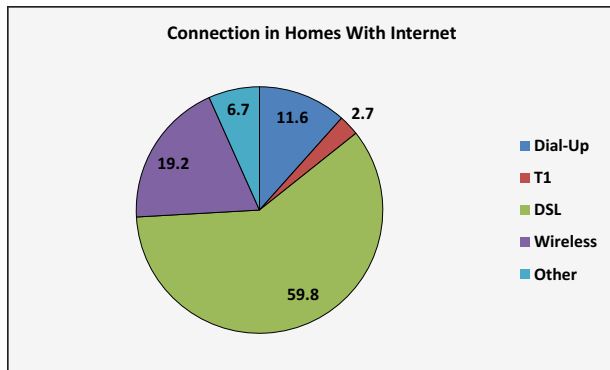
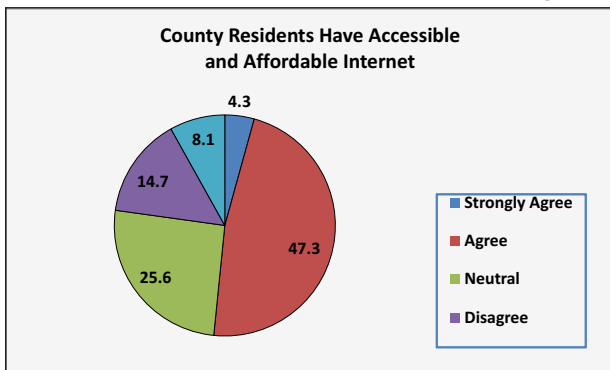


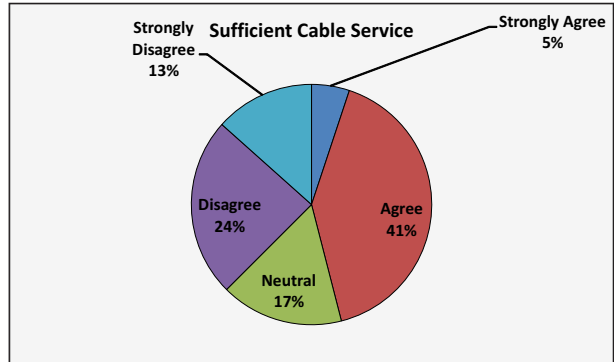
Figure 34



Roughly half of the respondents (51.6%) agree that there is accessible and affordable internet in the county (Figure 34).

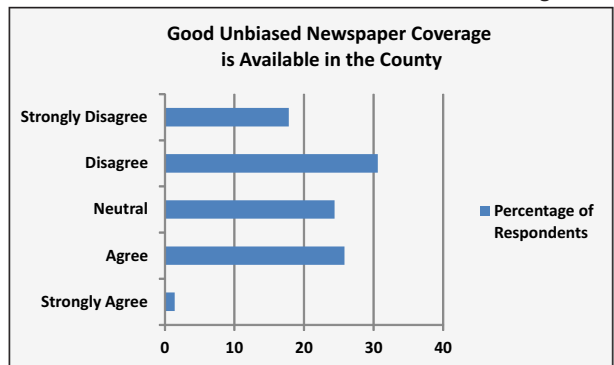
Forty-six percent of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that there is sufficient cable service in the county. Thirty-seven percent of respondents believe that there is not sufficient cable in the county (Figure 35).

Figure 35



Finally, in terms of print media, a strong percentage (48.4%) of the survey respondents indicated that they did not believe that there is good, unbiased newspaper coverage within the county. Only 27.2 percent of respondents believe that the coverage is good and unbiased (Figure 36).

Figure 36



PUBLIC SAFETY

The majority of respondents (59.3%) feel safe walking through the county after dark, while only 23.7 percent of respondents did not feel safe walking in the county after dark (Figure 37). However, when asked about how they feel about crime over the past 2 years, 35 percent believe that crime has increased, 49 percent believe that it has stayed the same and only 16 percent believe that crime has decreased (Figure 38).

Figure 37

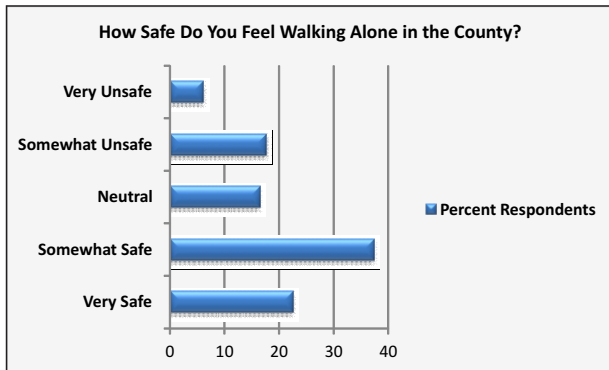
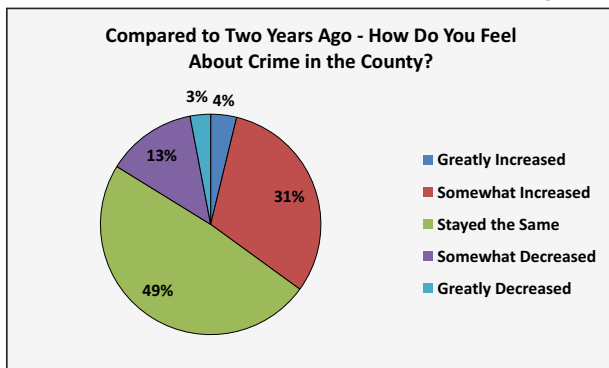


Figure 38



Across the board, respondents seem quite satisfied with the emergency services in McDonough County. Fire protection received the highest percentage of satisfied responses with 89.1 percent. Ambulance service received the next highest percentage of satisfied responses (85.9%) and 81.7 percent of respondents found the police protection to be satisfactory (Figures 39-41).

Figure 39

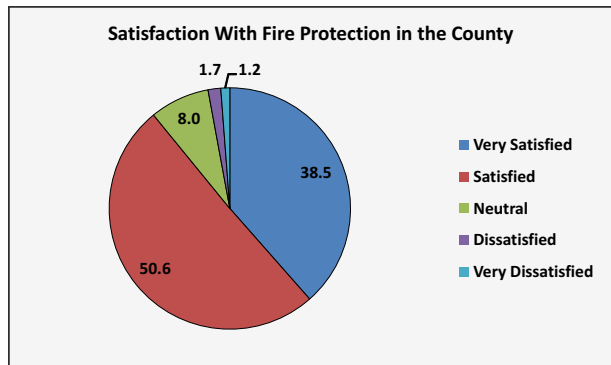


Figure 40

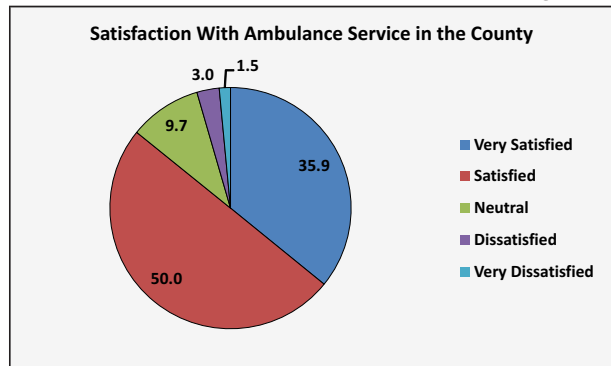
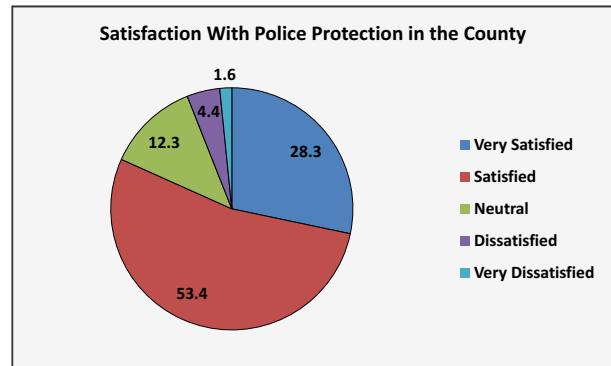


Figure 41



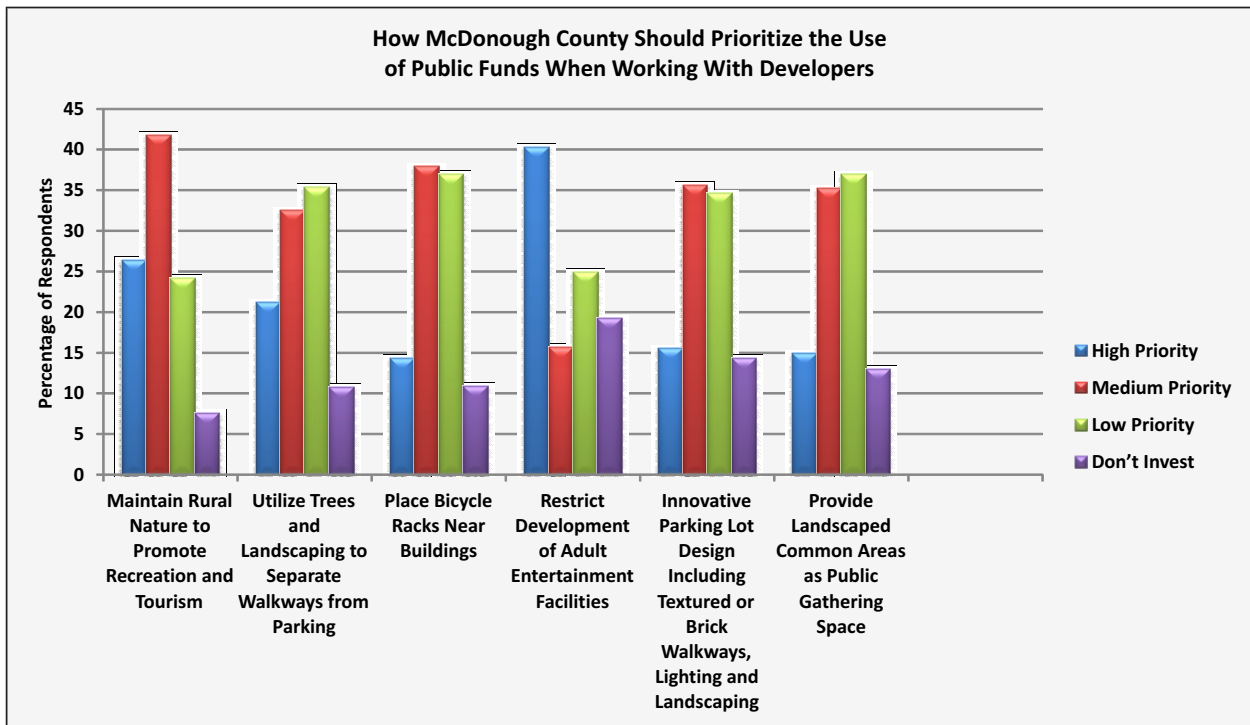
NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE

There were mixed responses when asked how to prioritize the use of public funds when considering potential developments or design strategies.

Over 40 percent (40.3%) of respondents believe that it should be a high priority to restrict or prevent the development of adult entertainment facilities. However, it is interesting to note, that of the different strategies listed in Figure 42, the option to not invest in a restriction also was listed highest (at 19.2%) in regard to adult entertainment.

Comparatively, the next response most likely to be chosen as a high priority was the strategy to utilize and maintain the rural nature of the county in promoting recreation and tourism (at 26.4%). It appears that most of the strategies listed were prioritized as a medium or low priority by the respondents to the survey.

Figure 42



There has been lengthy discussion and many survey questions pertaining to land use management within the county. The most direct question on the survey asks what respondents believe to be the most effective tools for managing growth. The tool chosen the most by respondents (272 responses) was the development of a Comprehensive Plan. The next tool chosen most often was the development of a Capital Improvement Plan (244 responses) and then a Transportation Plan (210 responses). It is interesting to note, that in a county that does not currently have zoning, the Zoning tool was chosen by 200 respondents (Table 1).

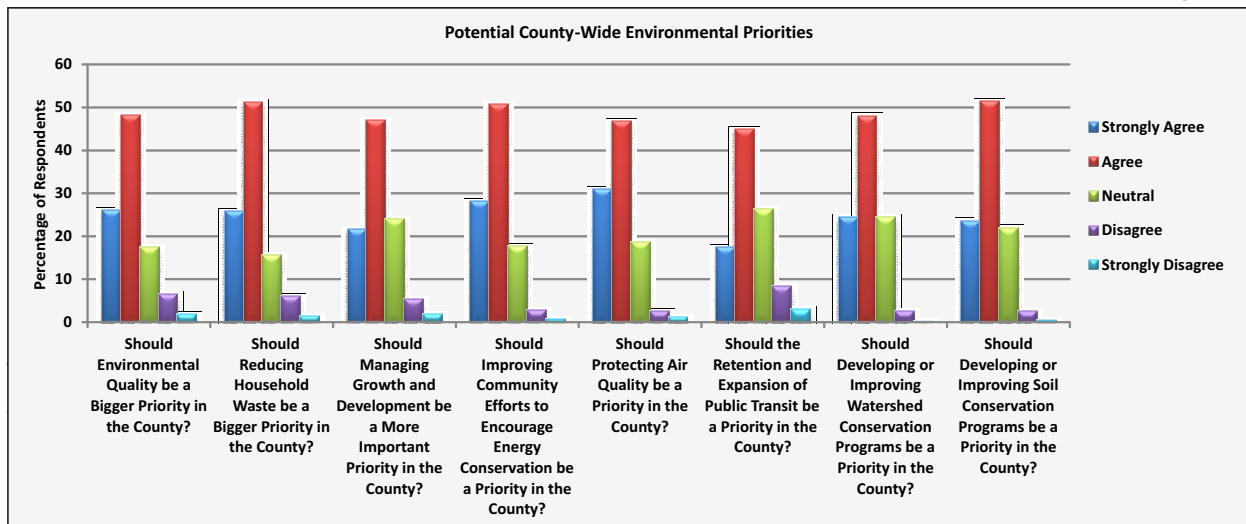
NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE

Table 1
What Are the Most Effective Tools for Managing Local Growth

	Number of Responses
Comprehensive Plan.....	272
Capital Improvement Plan.....	244
Transportation Plan	210
Zoning.....	200
Updated/Improved Subdivision Requirements	119

When posed a question listing various environmental priorities that should or should not be considered, all of the issues listed received responses with the majority in agreement. Expanded public transportation received a response rate of 62.3 percent in agreement, and it is likely that this received the lowest positive response because McDonough County already has a well-developed transit program in place (Figure 43).

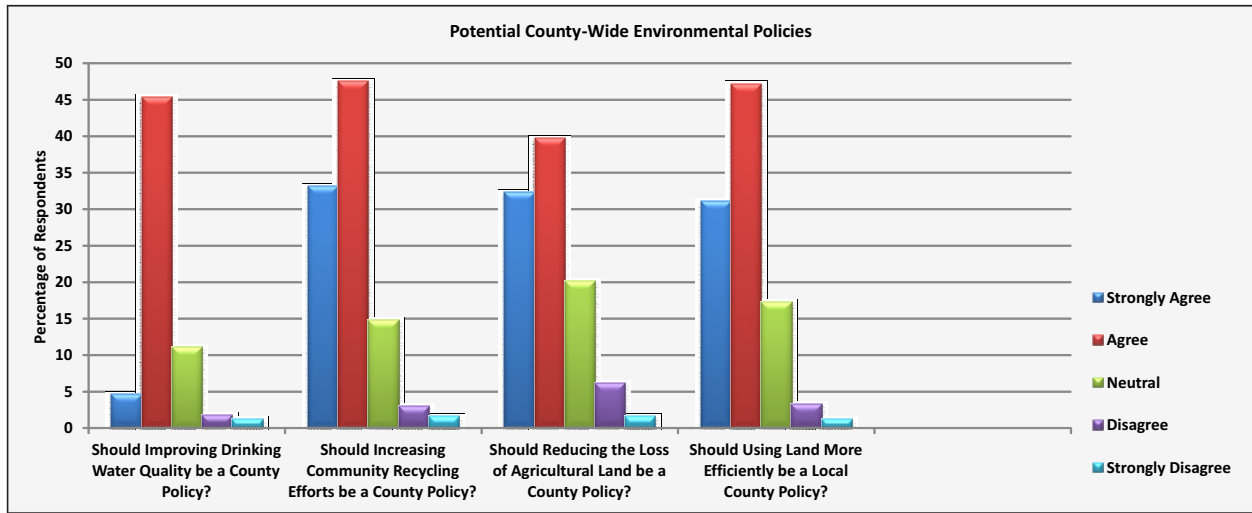
Figure 43



There were additional survey questions that asked respondents to consider additional county-based environmental policies. Again, most of the potential policies received a majority of responses in agreement with the potential policies (Figure 44).

NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE

Figure 44



When considering the best way to protect agricultural land in McDonough County, respondents chose the Promotion of the Agricultural Industry in 34.7% of responses. The next most selected tool was the Addition of Regulatory Control Over Subdivision Activities with 26.4% of the responses (Figure 45).

It is clear in Figure 46, that a strong majority of the respondents (67%) believe that natural resources are very important. Further, ninety-eight percent of the respondents indicated that natural resources are at least somewhat important.

Figure 45

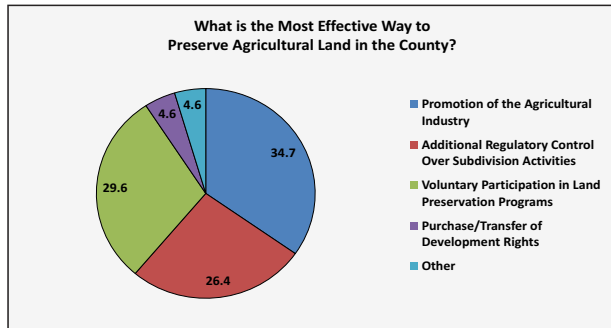
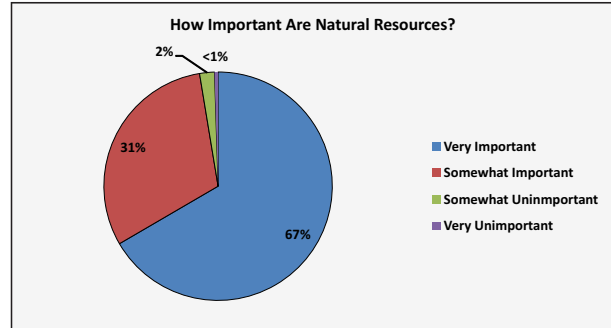


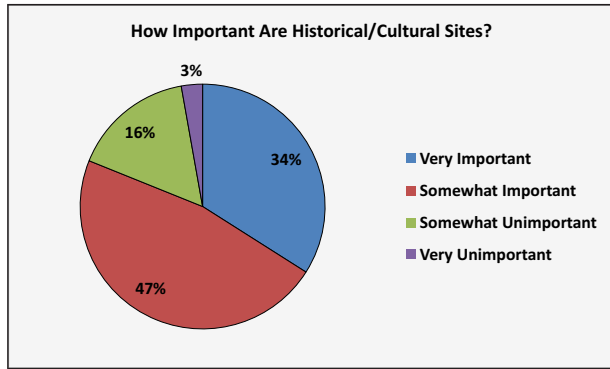
Figure 46



NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE

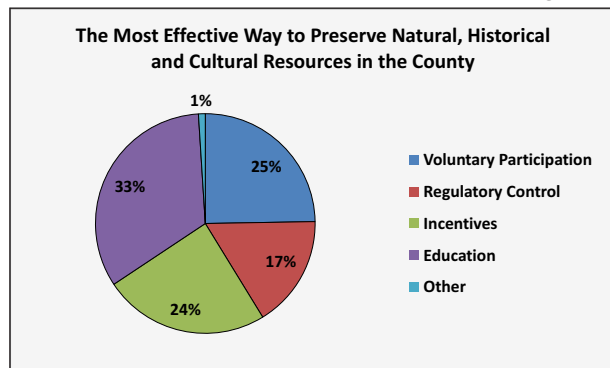
Fewer respondents indicated that historical and cultural sites were important, but still the vast majority (81%) indicate that they are at a minimum somewhat important (Figure 47).

Figure 47



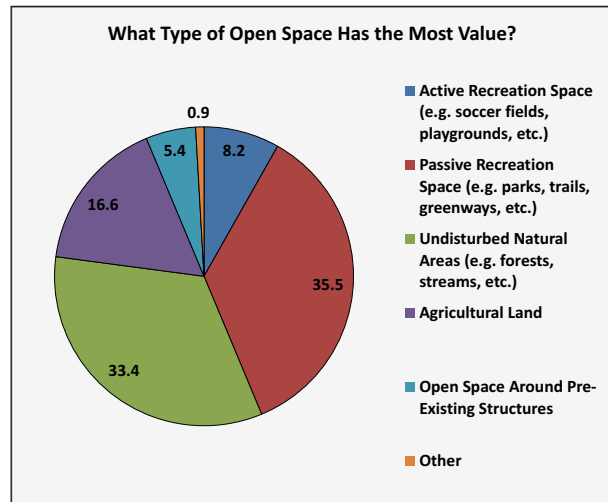
The big question, now that respondents have indicated that natural, historical and cultural resources are important, is how to preserve these resources. When asked what the most effective way is to protect these various resources, 33 percent of respondents indicated that they believed the answer to be education. An additional 25 percent of respondents believe that property owners will voluntarily protect natural, historical and cultural resources. It did not appear that respondents were particularly supportive of regulatory control with only 17 percent choosing this as the most effective way to provide local protection (Figure 48).

Figure 48



Survey respondents were asked about what types of open spaces have the most value, at least to that individual. Passive Recreation Space (35.5%) and Undisturbed Natural Areas (33.4%) were the two types of open spaces assigned the most value by respondents totaling nearly 70 percent of all choices (Figure 49).

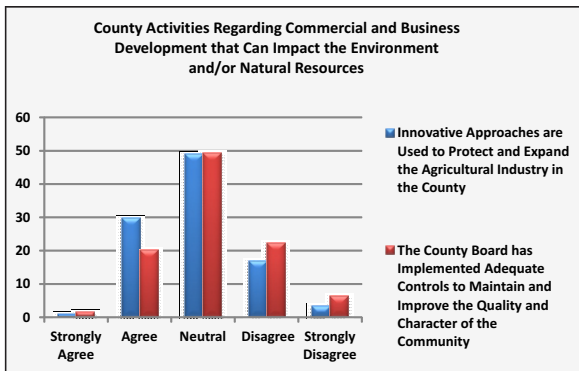
Figure 49



Finally, survey recipients were asked if the County Board uses innovative approaches to protect and/or expand the agricultural industry in the county. Also, survey recipients were asked if the County Board has regulatory controls in place to control and maintain the character of the county. In response to both questions, the majority of the respondents listed that they felt neutral about this issue. The remaining respondents indicate that they were more likely to choose that they agree with the statement than disagree (Figure 50).

NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE

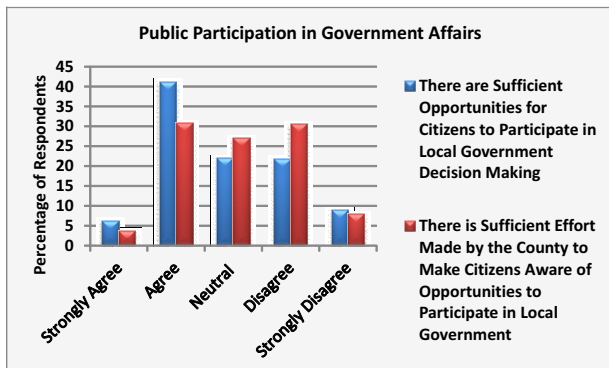
Figure 50



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

It is clear based on survey responses, that many of the respondents do not believe (38.5%) that McDonough County does an adequate job of making local residents aware of how they can participate in local government decision making. This response is in contrast to the 47.4 percent of respondents that do believe that there are opportunities for citizens to participate in local government decision making (Figure 51).

Figure 51



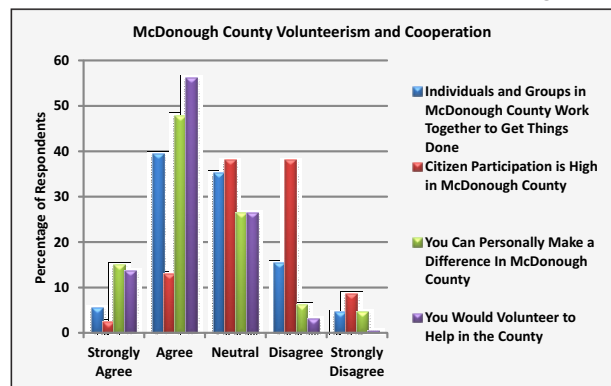
A rather high percentage of respondents (83.7%) strongly agreed or agreed that they would be willing to volunteer and help out within the county. This response corresponds with

the 62.8 percent of the respondents who strongly agreed or agreed that they can make a difference in McDonough County.

Less than a majority (44.9%) of the respondents believe that there is an ability for citizens and groups to work together in the county to get things done.

Over 46 percent (46.5%) of respondents disagree or strongly disagree that there is high citizen participation in McDonough County (Figure 52).

Figure 52



Goals, Objectives & Recommendations: Securing the Healthy Development and Growth of McDonough County



Goals, Objectives & Recommendations

Where Agriculture, Industry & Education Meet

Throughout the latter part of 2010 and 2011, the McDonough County Planning Commission met and established county development goals, objectives, and relevant recommendations. These decisions were based on county profile data gathered for the county, county survey responses, and input from focus groups, topical public meetings, committee members, county staff, and other board members.

Goals are statements that describe, in general terms, a desired future condition. Objectives are statements that describe a specific future condition that is to be attained within a stated period of time.

Recommendations are courses of action or rules of conduct to be used to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan.

Specifically, the Commission determined that there are nine primary goals it seeks to fulfill in order to secure the healthy development and growth of the county. The goals relate to economic development, transportation, education, agriculture, housing, community facilities, land use, historic preservation, and natural resources.

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
<p>GOAL: Expand the economic well-being of the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage increased involvement in Macomb Area Economic Development Corporation (MAEDCO) as the economic development resource for the county. ● Expand interest in the county by increased marketing of the county as a prime location for business development. ● Work with neighboring counties and/or communities to encourage a regional focus on economic development. ● Maintain efficiency of local economic development tools and resources.
<p>Objective 1: Create and expand business and development opportunities in the county.</p>	
<p>Objective 2: Encourage entrepreneurship in local education and opportunities for young persons in the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work with educational institutions to develop youth training and entrepreneurial programs. ● Coordinate with Workforce Investment for job training and development opportunities to employ and keep young persons actively engaged in the area. ● Communicate the necessity for, and encourage the development of, a business plan for any business development or expansion projects. ● Coordinate with entrepreneurship incubator facilities and the local university/colleges to utilize these resources to generate interest in the development of local businesses. ● Encourage vertical integration with parental/child involvement of business ideas for business plan development with assistance from the Small Business Development Center.
<p>Objective 3: Encourage the development of additional agri-business in the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborate with WIU and other organizations to expand specialty agri-business in the county. ● Expand farmers markets and local food initiatives throughout the county. ● Encourage agri-business plan development through assistance from the Small Business Development Center. ● Encourage the expansion of production agriculture such as soybeans, corn, livestock, etc.
<p>Objective 4: Promote the development of complementary industries to county businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand business opportunities in relation to wind farm development in and around the county. ● Expand alternative/specialty crops/organic/livestock farm development in the county. ● Attract new retail stores to the county. ● Investigate pull factors to determine what goods and services residents are leaving the county to obtain. ● Encourage opportunities for value added businesses and industries.

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued)	
<p><u>Objective 5:</u> Encourage local downtowns to be active and thriving commercial centers throughout the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attract specialty anchors in downtown areas. ● Encourage mixed-use developments in downtown areas. ● Encourage local communities to participate in the Illinois Main Street/Hometown Award programs. ● Investigate possibilities for expansion of qualified Enterprise Zones or TIF areas in the county.
<p><u>Objective 6:</u> Expand industrial development in McDonough County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Market and further develop the industrial parks in the county. ● Strive to diversify the industrial base within the county. ● Create/maintain an economic development fund at the county level. ● Work with neighboring counties to develop regional industrial clusters. ● Develop a plan to address the brownfields versus greenfields issue, while meeting the needs of prospective business/industry. ● Explore opportunities and consider the development of a revolving loan fund for the county.
<p><u>Objective 7:</u> Develop and maintain adequate and appropriate infrastructure throughout the county to ensure readiness for economic development opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage development along main line railroad tracks to ensure that high speed rail double track can be installed in the future. ● Encourage the maintenance and improvement of county roads.
<p><u>Objective 8:</u> Ensure that the local workforce is properly trained to better fit the demands of potential economic development opportunities and to stem youth out-migration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish/diversify local technical training programs. ● Work with area colleges to expand curricula tailored to the needs of up and coming technologies such as "green technologies". ● Maintain a high quality public education system to provide employers with a well-trained workforce. ● Encourage training on rules and requirements of on-line sales (eBay, Craig's List, etc.) including taxes, revenue reporting, etc. ● Encourage the utilization of executive training resources available through Western Illinois University (WIU), Spoon River College (SRC) and Carl Sandburg College (CSC).
<p><u>Objective 9:</u> Establish an economic development committee or liaison on the county board that will be the main point of contact for inquiries within the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage the emphasis for working collaboratively with all related existing agencies/entities in the county. ● Encourage the intergenerational access to business development assistance and opportunities to keep youth in the community.

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
TRANSPORTATION	
<p>GOAL: Ensure a safe and efficient transportation system throughout the county that serves the needs of residents, businesses, visitors, and the agricultural community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As funding is available, upgrade county road networks and increase signage, including white striping on the right sides of roads to delineate road surfaces. ● Ensure that seasonal load limits are followed on all rural roads. ● Encourage adequate funding to rural counties for road maintenance. ● Encourage rail transportation and increased access/development for rail opportunities. ● Enhance the visual appearance of all major corridors throughout the county. ● Develop and maintain a five-year capital road improvement plan to target resources to those areas of the county in need of such improvements. ● Consider developing designated pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout the county.
<p>Objective 1: Maintain and expand the effective transportation system operating in the county.</p>	
<p>Objective 2: Encourage the continued use and expansion of the McDonough County Public Transportation (MCPT) system.</p>	
EDUCATION	
<p>GOAL: Ensure accessibility to high quality primary, secondary, post-secondary and vocational educational opportunities for the residents of the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review existing programs and assess educational voids. ● Seek additional funding and expand vocational/technical offerings in high demand areas. ● Work with Workforce Investment, university and area colleges to maximize opportunities. ● Increase access to agricultural based education programs throughout the school districts. ● Explore ways to expand broadband within the schools to promote better communication, better educational opportunities and increased connectivity.
<p>Objective 1: Explore opportunities for increased vocational technical educational offerings through the high schools.</p>	
<p>Objective 2: Ensure educators are being kept current in relation to new technologies and curricula.</p>	

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
EDUCATION (continued)	
<p><u>Objective 3:</u> Explore opportunities for increased administrative peer exchange and governmental interactions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish committee of all district(s) representatives to meet on regular basis to discuss issues facing educators/administrators/districts. ● Meet at least quarterly with county board committee to discuss issues relevant to the county based districts. ● Work with local legislators to increase funding opportunities for education.
<p><u>Objective 4:</u> Explore opportunities within and outside the county for school cooperation/sharing of resources at every educational level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct survey throughout existing school districts to determine current financial condition, interest level in consolidation and proposed benefits of this undertaking. ● Establish committee of relevant district representatives to meet on regular basis to discuss potential for consolidation. ● Conduct public hearings and meetings with the public to determine viability of this undertaking.
AGRICULTURE	
<p><u>GOAL:</u> Enhance and maintain the operational efficiency and productivity of the county’s agricultural land for current and future generations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Utilize NRCS soil data and county parcel data to create an accurate map of local prime agricultural land.
<p><u>Objective 1:</u> Designate prime agricultural land at the county level.</p>	
<p><u>Objective 2:</u> Ensure local roads meet the needs of agricultural economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work with legislators to address the funding needed to maintain and improve farm to market routes throughout the county. ● Increase the communication of the Township Road Commissioners, County Engineers, and the McDonough County Board to ensure that local resources are allocated in the most effective way possible.
<p><u>Objective 3:</u> Encourage agriculture entrepreneurship in McDonough County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have a central website location to access relevant information in McDonough County. ● Develop a youth-based entrepreneurship program in the county and encourage local schools to incorporate the program into area curricula. ● Form a young professionals/farmers group that can connect young persons interested in agriculture with mentors and others who work within the industry.

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
AGRICULTURE (continued)	
<p>Objective 4: Assist the local agricultural economy in maintaining competitiveness and overall profitability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage the development of the local foods initiative. ● Encourage the expansion of production agriculture such as soybeans, corn, livestock, etc. ● Promote the availability of cost share and other initiatives available at the state and local level. ● Work with colleges and universities and other research groups to ensure that local producers are considering alternative crops and value added crops.
HOUSING	
<p>GOAL: Maintain and expand affordable and quality housing opportunities for the residents of the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage the development of multiple-family residential dwelling units where community services and facilities are adequate to handle such developments and where such developments are compatible with surrounding residential neighborhoods. ● Encourage the development of all types and prices of housing in McDonough County, including the creation of a variety of affordable housing options. ● Provide financial and regulatory incentives to encourage and assist developers to construct new single and multiple-family housing units in the county. ● Work with developers and others to create condominium type housing units for senior citizens that are accessible to persons with limited mobility. ● Encourage the development of mid to upper priced single-family homes for middle and upper income families and single professionals. ● Encourage the development of well-planned new residential developments that include open space, woodlands, and storm water retention and drainage. ● Work with regional and state agencies to continue and expand homebuyer assistance programs in McDonough County.
<p>Objective 1: Promote and develop diverse housing options within McDonough County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage the development of multiple-family residential dwelling units where community services and facilities are adequate to handle such developments and where such developments are compatible with surrounding residential neighborhoods. ● Encourage the development of all types and prices of housing in McDonough County, including the creation of a variety of affordable housing options. ● Provide financial and regulatory incentives to encourage and assist developers to construct new single and multiple-family housing units in the county. ● Work with developers and others to create condominium type housing units for senior citizens that are accessible to persons with limited mobility. ● Encourage the development of mid to upper priced single-family homes for middle and upper income families and single professionals. ● Encourage the development of well-planned new residential developments that include open space, woodlands, and storm water retention and drainage. ● Work with regional and state agencies to continue and expand homebuyer assistance programs in McDonough County.
<p>Objective 2: Enhance and maintain the quality of the existing housing stock and the overall appearance of residences within McDonough County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider programs to encourage residential property owners to maintain both exterior and interior property areas. ● Continue and expand owner and renter-occupied housing rehabilitation programs in all parts of the county. ● Work with regional and state agencies to develop programs that are designed to eliminate sub-standard housing in McDonough County.

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
COMMUNITY FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE	
<p>GOAL: Maintain and improve community facilities and public infrastructure to protect the health and safety of all county residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage cooperative efforts within the county, and ensure active coordination of all county emergency services, to deal with man-made and natural disasters and emergencies. ● Encourage the establishment of emergency medical and rescue services where there are currently voids in such services. ● Encourage existing services to upgrade equipment and to provide continued training to local staff and volunteers. ● Upgrade water mains in residential and commercial areas where water pressure is insufficient to provide adequate fire protection. ● Develop an emergency warning siren location map and ensure that all areas in the county are covered within hearing distance of siren sound. ● Explore other cost effective methods for disseminating emergency warnings throughout the county.
<p>Objective 1: Promote and expand public safety efforts.</p>	
<p>Objective 2: Maintain and improve McDonough County’s technological infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create and maintain a county website, including the provision of information concerning county services and amenities. ● Continue to work with the Geographic Information System (GIS) Center at WIU to provide up-to-date mapping info for all county users. ● Complete a technology inventory of what is currently available. ● Create and maintain a technological infrastructure plan for the county. ● Forge regional partnerships for broadband and wireless technology development.
<p>Objective 3 Develop and maintain high-quality water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems throughout the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage improvements to water distribution systems where necessary and minimize local water loss. ● Maintain the high quality of drinking water in McDonough County by continuing to encourage necessary improvements to area water treatment and storage facilities. ● Encourage improvements to sanitary sewer collection systems where necessary and minimize infiltration and inflow that can increase the load of sewage treatment plants. ● Encourage improvements to, and updating of, treatment and water plants. ● Encourage e-waste and paint collection/drop-off/recycling in order to protect groundwater resources. ● Work with property owners to develop consistent policies concerning ownership of water and sewer lines and responsibility for repairs and replacement where applicable.

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
COMMUNITY FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE (continued)	
<p><u>Objective 3 (continued)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer improvements with other infrastructure and neighborhood improvements, such as roadway repairs and improvements, to ensure that projects are completed in a manner that reduces inconvenience to residents and businesses and in an order that is most cost effective for the county. ● Develop policies and programs to control storm water runoff from both public and private properties within the county. ● Seek state and federal funding assistance for water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer improvements to reduce the financial burden on property owners and users. ● Where feasible, encourage the connection of all residences, businesses and institutions not currently served with public water and sewer. ● Work with the McDonough County Health Department to ensure local private water and sewer systems are in compliance with all appropriate regulations. ● Review health department requirements regarding well construction/location in relation to lot lines.
<p><u>Objective 4:</u> Maintain a high quality road system in McDonough County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a program that requires that all subsurface infrastructure be installed or repaired either before or simultaneously with roadway construction or renovation. ● Review current subdivision codes. ● As funds are available, white stripe the right side of county roads to delineate the outside of the roadways. ● Identify and pursue funding sources for repair and expansion of infrastructure.
<p><u>Objective 5:</u> Promote recycling efforts in McDonough County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work within McDonough County to encourage participation in regional clean-ups and recycling efforts. ● Establish a local drop-off recycling location where other recycling is not available. ● Seek grant funding that will make local recycling more feasible. ● Explore opportunities/methods to establish neighborhood based recycling in the county, including through intergovernmental agreements.

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
<p>LAND USE</p>	
<p>GOAL: Ensure land use determinations are compatible between preservation and development and that a balance is achieved between private and public landowners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review existing ordinances and develop/expand as needed. ● Encourage the preservation of prime agricultural land while respecting personal property rights. ● Review current development and encourage growth that minimizes demand on local infrastructure. ● Encourage the preservation of ecologically significant land, open space, natural resources and recreational space for future use in the county. ● Encourage the fullest use of the voluntary land conservation programs available. ● Encourage state and federal agencies to review the comprehensive plan and maps prior to initiating road and other construction projects in the county.
<p>Objective 1: Pursue development and planning strategies that provide for orderly growth of the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage the fullest use of the voluntary land conservation programs available. ● Encourage state and federal agencies to review the comprehensive plan and maps prior to initiating road and other construction projects in the county.
<p>Objective 2: Encourage growth and development that is consistent with the comprehensive plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After the adoption of the comprehensive plan, review all goals, objectives and strategies on an annual basis. ● Encourage the review of current land use policies where necessary. ● Ensure that intergovernmental agreements are reviewed and used when making decisions on growth and development related issues.
<p>HISTORIC PRESERVATION</p>	
<p>GOAL: Preserve and promote the county’s historic and cultural attributes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop/maintain/update a map of the county's historically significant properties and structures. ● Develop a consortium that can help local historic preservation groups coordinate efforts. ● Promote local historic preservation efforts through a county website. ● Develop a county-based plan to provide signage for the historically significant properties and structures within the area. ● Promote historic preservation, historic events and historically significant sites in the county, including the historic barns, through brochures, news media, TV, the internet and other electronic means. ● Promote walking tours of historic homes, the cemeteries, barns, etc. through program development and the internet except when sites are located on private property. ● Utilize data at WIU Archives and the GIS Center to complete the mapping of all of the historically significant properties in the county. ● Organize the McDonough County historic sites scenic drive to be a festival held on an annual basis. ● Develop and expand history related activities in area school districts to increase student awareness of local historically significant events. ● Expand historic properties/sites signage program in the county.
<p>Objective 1: Increase public awareness of historically significant properties and structures within the county.</p>	

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
HISTORIC PRESERVATION (continued)	
<p><u>Objective 2:</u> Preserve and protect the county's historic properties and structures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct a comprehensive detailed survey and analysis of the county's historic properties and structures. ● Develop a catalog of historic structures. ● Assist local property owners with the state and federal historic preservation processes. ● Adopt a local historic preservation ordinance and become a Certified Local Government through this process. ● Develop and implement intergovernmental agreements between the county and relevant units of government to ensure cooperation. ● Review existing county ordinances and revise as needed to ensure consistency and uniformity.

NATURAL RESOURCES

<p><u>GOAL:</u> Preserve and promote the county's natural resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work with local legislators and potential funding sources to continue to make improvements to Argyle Lake State Park and other green spaces within the county.
<p><u>Objective 1:</u> Promote natural resource recreational opportunities within the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance cleanup programs to increase recreational usage of county waterways such as the La Moine River. ● Ensure that local natural resource recreational areas are ADA compliant, have adequate parking, access and lighting.
<p><u>Objective 2:</u> Provide a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities for all area residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage passive and active experiences in all local parks. ● Construct pathways and greenways that link local recreational resources within the county. ● Limit heavy recreational usage access on highly sensitive natural resource areas. ● Develop passive recreational opportunities on highly sensitive areas. ● Seek Rails to Trails funding if available in the future. ● Promote and support recreational hunting usage in the county through promotional materials and tourism.
<p><u>Objective 3:</u> Protect the natural resources within the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage development that protects and enhances the county's natural resources. ● Work with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to encourage the use of conservation programs within the county. ● Work with state and federal agencies to protect local waterways and water sources.

Goal & Objectives	Recommendations
<p>NATURAL RESOURCES (continued)</p>	
<p><u>Objective 3: (continued)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work with relevant agencies to encourage local habitat protection. ● Develop an awareness program to increase participation in available federal programs that protect waterways and natural resources. ● Increase awareness of, and participation in, voluntary conservation easement programs as a way to protect local habitat.

**Implementation Strategies:
Action Based Initiatives that Recognize
the Qualities of Present Day McDonough
County and the Rich Possibilities
of its Future**



Implementation Strategies

Where Agriculture, Industry & Education Meet

Having reviewed the Goals, Objectives and Recommendations as prepared with significant input from the public on a variety of levels, the Commission developed Strategies. Strategies are actions to be taken throughout a five year and longer period in order to implement the Plan. The intent is to make the Plan a working and useful document. These Strategies are offered for consideration and are to be used as a guide for the county's future growth and development.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

■ SHORT TERM 2012-2014 ■ LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>The overall economic development goal for McDonough County, as determined in the comprehensive planning process, is to maintain and expand the economic well-being of the county. The planning process established several objectives in order to accomplish this overall goal.</p> <p>In order to accomplish the overall goal and the specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented during the next five-year period.</p>	Create and expand business and development opportunities in the county.	Encourage Increased Involvement with MAEDCO and Other Regional Economic Development Professionals	McDonough County Board	<p>Work to establish a more interactive relationship with local economic developers who can, in turn, work with existing and potential business and industry wishing to expand or locate in the county. The county should establish an economic development sub-committee headed by the MAEDCO liaison and who reports directly to the County Board. This sub-committee would be responsible for working with area economic developers to guide the promotion of the county to attract new, and assist with the expansion of existing, businesses.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Year One (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013) and on-going.</p>
	Encourage entrepreneurship in local education and opportunities for young persons in the county.			
	Encourage the development of additional agri-business in the county.			
	Promote the development of complementary industries to county businesses.			
	Encourage local downtowns to be active and thriving commercial centers throughout the county.			
	Expand industrial development in McDonough County.			
	Develop and maintain adequate and appropriate infrastructure throughout the county to ensure readiness for economic development opportunities.			
	Ensure that the local workforce is properly trained to better fit the demands of potential economic development opportunities and to stem youth out-migration.			
Establish an economic development committee or liaison on the county board that will be the main point of contact for inquiries within the county.	<p>ACTION</p> <p>Create a County Database of Available Commercial Development Sites and Community Needs</p>	McDonough County Board	<p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Work with communities and community development entities in the county to identify specific locations suitable for business sites and create a working database with maps of these sites that can be updated and then advertised. Encourage new or expanding commercial businesses to utilize existing vacant sites whenever possible</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>	

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>The overall economic development goal for McDonough County, as determined in the comprehensive planning process is to maintain and expand the economic well-being of the county. The planning process established several objectives in order to accomplish this overall goal.</p> <p>In order to accomplish the overall goal and the specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented during the next five-year period.</p>	Create and expand business and development opportunities in the county.			<p>instead of expanding to undeveloped areas in order to help preserve the county's rural landscape. Encourage green businesses and niche businesses that can satisfy local needs when possible.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Year Two (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014) and on-going.</p>
	Encourage entrepreneurship in local education and opportunities for young persons in the county.			
	Encourage the development of additional agri-business in the county.			
	Promote the development of complementary industries to county businesses.	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
	Encourage local downtowns to be active and thriving commercial centers throughout the county.	Encourage Green and Niche Businesses	McDonough County Board	<p>As awareness of the need to preserve our ecosystem grows and consumers switch over to gain the environmental, health and cost savings benefits that going green can offer, they will look to these new markets. The county, working with economic development professionals, should evaluate the potential for green and niche opportunities in new and existing businesses. Once analyzed, and a relevant focus has been determined, work with area economic developers to attract, develop, promote and market these businesses.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Year Two (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014) and on-going.</p>
	Expand industrial development in McDonough County.			
	Develop and maintain adequate and appropriate infrastructure throughout the county to ensure readiness for economic development opportunities.			
	Ensure that the local workforce is properly trained to better fit the demands of potential economic development opportunities and to stem youth out-migration.			
Establish an economic development committee or liaison on the county board that will be the main point of contact for inquiries within the county.				

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>The overall economic development goal for McDonough County, as determined in the comprehensive planning process is to maintain and expand the economic well-being of the county. The planning process established several objectives in order to accomplish this overall goal.</p> <p>In order to accomplish the overall goal and the specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented during the next five-year period.</p>	Create and expand business and development opportunities in the county.	Enhance the Appearance and Image of the County to Attract New Businesses	McDonough County Board	<p>The county should adopt high-quality design and development standards that will ensure new industrial and commercial development will contribute in a positive way to the image and appearance of the county. These standards should be compatible with any residential, natural resource or other areas of concern within the proximity.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Year Two - Four (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016) and on-going.</p>
	Encourage entrepreneurship in local education and opportunities for young persons in the county.			
	Encourage the development of additional agri-business in the county.			
	Promote the development of complementary industries to county businesses.			
	Encourage local downtowns to be active and thriving commercial centers throughout the county.			
	Expand industrial development in McDonough County.			
	Develop and maintain adequate and appropriate infrastructure throughout the county to ensure readiness for economic development opportunities.			
	Ensure that the local workforce is properly trained to better fit the demands of potential economic development opportunities and to stem youth out-migration.			
Establish an economic development committee or liaison on the county board that will be the main point of contact for inquiries within the county.				

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

TRANSPORTATION

■ SHORT TERM 2012-2014 ■ LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Ensuring a safe and efficient transportation system throughout the county that serves the needs of residents, businesses, visitors, and the agricultural community is the overall goal determined by the comprehensive planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following specific objectives were established. The following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented by the county in order to accomplish the overall goal and objectives.</p>	<p>Maintain and expand the effective transportation system operating in the county.</p>	<p>Develop and Implement a Road Capital Improvement Plan</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The county should develop and implement a five-year road capital improvement plan to better direct available resources to those areas of the county most in need of such improvements. Included in this would be phased in signage improvements and considerations for visual appearance upgrades.</p> <p><u>TIMEFRAME</u> Years One - Five (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>
	<p>Encourage the continued use and expansion of the McDonough County Public Transportation (MCPT) system.</p>			
		ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
		<p>Encourage Lessons Learned Dialogue with Surrounding Counties and Area Communities</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The county should coordinate with neighboring counties on future travel impacts that might generate from business expansion and growth in other counties. Included in this would be lessons learned due to road improvement/ expansion impacts both negative and positive.</p> <p><u>TIMEFRAME</u> Years One - Five (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

EDUCATION

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Ensuring accessibility to high quality primary, secondary, post-secondary and vocational educational opportunities for the residents of the county is the overall goal determined in the planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following specific objectives were established. The following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented by the county in order to accomplish the overall goal and objectives.</p>	<p>Explore opportunities for increased vocational technical educational offerings through the high schools.</p>	<p>Establish a District Representative Committee</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The county should establish a committee of all district educational institution representatives and regional superintendents. This committee would be scheduled to meet with county representatives on a quarterly basis. This would increase opportunities for professional interfacing as well as dialoguing with county officials to increase awareness of issues pertinent to education as well as opportunities for additional governmental interactions.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME Years One - Five (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>
	<p>Ensure educators are being kept current in relation to new technologies and curricula.</p>			
	<p>Explore opportunities for increased administrative peer exchange and governmental interactions.</p>			
	<p>Explore opportunities within and outside the county for school cooperation/sharing of resources at every educational level.</p>			
		ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
		<p>Encourage Expansion of Vocational-Technical Educational Opportunities</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>There has been discussion that opportunities for vocational and technical education are somewhat limited. Through the District Committee, the county should promote the expansion of vocational technical and educational programs in the schools. This will both enhance curriculum availability while expanding available workforce skills which could be an additional plus for economic growth and development.</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

EDUCATION

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
				<p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Years Two - Five (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

AGRICULTURE

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Enhancing and maintaining the operational efficiency and productivity of the county's agricultural land for current and future generations is the overall goal as determined by the Commission.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following specific objectives were established. The following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented by the county in order to accomplish the overall goal and objectives.</p>	Designate prime agricultural land at the county level.	<p>Encourage the continued use of Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be Used by Farmers/ Landowners Throughout the County by Providing Education on Cost Share Programs</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>Enhance educational opportunities for learning about pollution control and water quality improvements in the county including incentives that can help landowners pay for improvements.</p> <p>Local university and college agriculture programs, University of Illinois - Extension (UI-Extension) and other research groups may be able to offer the public suggestions for alternative crops and new farming methods that have been successful in other parts of the country at benefitting farmers and the environment.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Years One - Five (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>
	Ensure local roads meet the needs of agricultural economy.			
	Encourage agriculture entrepreneurship in McDonough County.			
	Assist the local agricultural economy in maintaining competitiveness and overall profitability.			

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

AGRICULTURE

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Enhancing and maintaining the operational efficiency and productivity of the county’s agricultural land for current and future generations is the overall goal as determined by the Committee.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following specific objectives were established. The following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented by the county in order to accomplish the overall goal and objectives.</p>	<p>Designate prime agricultural land at the county level.</p>	<p>Encourage Intergenerational Dialogue and Youth Involvement</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The county should promote opportunities in coordination with UI-Extension; ag based service organizations, etc. for intergenerational dialogue, the discussion of BMPs and the involvement of youth. The purpose for this coordination is to maintain the integrity of family farm operations in the county.</p> <p><u>TIMEFRAME</u></p> <p>Years Two - Four (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2016) and on-going.</p>
	<p>Ensure local roads meet the needs of agricultural economy.</p>			
	<p>Encourage agriculture entrepreneurship in McDonough County.</p>			
	<p>Assist the local agricultural economy in maintaining competitiveness and overall profitability.</p>			

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

HOUSING

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>The overall housing goal determined by the comprehensive planning process is to maintain and expand affordable and quality housing for all residents of the county.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the planning process established the following objectives. In order to accomplish the overall goal and the specific housing objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented during the next five-year period.</p>	<p>Promote and develop diverse housing options in the county.</p> <p>Enhance and maintain the quality of the existing housing stock and the overall appearance of residences within the county.</p>	<p>Establish and Maintain an On-Going Homebuyer Assistance Program</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The county should apply for funding from Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) to establish a homebuyer assistance program to assist low and moderate income families to achieve home ownership. The county may want to consider utilizing a regional agency with prior experience in administering such a program, like the Western Illinois Regional Council, to assist in the process. The homebuyer assistance program should contain components that provide both the down payment and rehabilitation assistance.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME Years One - Five (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>
		<p>Establish and Maintain an On-Going Residential Rehabilitation Program</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The county should work with regional and state organizations to seek Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) Program and Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) funding to establish and maintain an on-going housing rehabilitation program to assist low and</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

HOUSING

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>The overall housing goal determined by the comprehensive planning process is to maintain and expand affordable and quality housing for all residents of the county.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the planning process established the following objectives. In order to accomplish the overall goal and the specific housing objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented during the next five-year period.</p>	<p>Promote and develop diverse housing options in the county.</p>			<p>moderate income families with making improvements to their homes. This will improve the quality of the housing stock in the county by repairing deteriorating units and affordability by allowing income eligible and elderly home owners to remain in their homes.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME Year One - Five (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>
	<p>Enhance and maintain the quality of the existing housing stock and the overall appearance of residences within the county.</p>			
		ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
		<p>Review and Expand Existing Subdivision Ordinance as Needed</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>Improving local ordinances will ensure that future housing stock is built to appropriate standards in order to preserve and prolong the life of new and existing housing stock. Strengthening local ordinances will also help protect the health and safety of the residents inhabiting the housing, possibly eliminating accidents and fires that could have otherwise been prevented.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME Year One - Five (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE

SHORT TERM 2012-2014
LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Maintaining and improving community facilities and public infrastructure to protect the health and safety of all county residents is the overall goal established by the planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following objectives were selected. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p>	<p>Promote and expand public safety efforts.</p>	<p>County Website</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The county should develop an interactive website that accesses relevant county office information, links for information on special events and services, and other pertinent programs/information. Once developed, the county must ensure the website is maintained and updated on a regular basis to keep all information current.</p> <p><u>TIMEFRAME</u> Year Two (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014) and on-going.</p>
	<p>Maintain and improve McDonough County’s technological infrastructure.</p>			
	<p>Develop and maintain high-quality water, sanitary and storm sewer systems throughout the county.</p>			
	<p>Maintain a high quality road system in McDonough County.</p>			
	<p>Promote recycling efforts in McDonough County.</p>			

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.	Promote and expand public safety efforts.	Encourage Communities and Public Entities to Seek Grant Funding for Energy Savings Programs as Available	McDonough County	<p>With rising prices of electric and gas and the initiative to cut energy consumption to help preserve the environment, the county should encourage local governments, municipalities and schools to look for ways to cut power usage. Many times, utility costs can take away funds that could have otherwise been used to improve another aspect of the county. By updating buildings and facilities to more energy efficient lights, appliances and heating/cooling units, big savings can be measured. Currently, there are many opportunities available to benefit from rebates and/or funding to pay for these upgrades; in turn, lowering energy consumption into the future.</p> <p><u>TIMEFRAME</u> Years Two - Four (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2016) and on-going.</p>
	Maintain and improve McDonough County's technological infrastructure.			
	Develop and maintain high-quality water, sanitary and storm sewer systems throughout the county.			
	Maintain a high quality road system in McDonough County.			
	Promote recycling efforts in McDonough County.			
		ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
		Enhance the Emergency Communications Network for the County	McDonough County	Continue working with McDonough County Emergency Services Disaster Agency (ESDA) to ensure disaster preparedness (continued on next page)

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Maintaining and improving community facilities and public infrastructure to protect the health and safety of all county residents is the overall goal established by the planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following objectives were selected. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p>	Promote and expand public safety efforts.			<p>and communication systems are maintained and updated. Those plans could include mapping out warning siren locations throughout the county and locate areas that are in need of additional sirens; ensure the maintenance and repair of sirens by monthly testing throughout the county; and provide informative periodic training to the public on disaster preparedness. Coordination could be assisted by utilizing the county website to share information; public meetings and mailings as needed. This information could include notification of test times, what to do if sirens go off and how to report sirens that are not working.</p> <p><u>TIMEFRAME</u> Years Two - Four (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2016) and on-going.</p>
	Maintain and improve McDonough County's technological infrastructure.			
	Develop and maintain high-quality water, sanitary and storm sewer systems throughout the county.			
	Maintain a high quality road system in McDonough County.			
	Promote recycling efforts in McDonough County.			
		ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
		Water Improvements	McDonough County	Using information from local resources, the county should continue to encourage improvements to private wells to ensure safe drinking water availability to encourage residents, and expansion of water availability through water cooperatives. The county should consider seeking federal (continued on next page)

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Maintaining and improving community facilities and public infrastructure to protect the health and safety of all county residents is the overall goal established by the planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following objectives were selected. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p>	Promote and expand public safety efforts.			grant funds as the resource to accomplish this.
	Maintain and improve McDonough County's technological infrastructure.			TIMEFRAME Years One - Five (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.
	Develop and maintain high-quality water, sanitary and storm sewer systems throughout the county.			
	Maintain a high quality road system in McDonough County.	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
	Promote recycling efforts in McDonough County.	Develop a Telecommunication Plan	McDonough County	The county should develop a plan that considers short and long term telecommunication needs, including broadband expansion, with an emphasis on infrastructure and service needs for both the public and private sectors. Consideration should be given to seeking federal grant funds as the resource to accomplish this.
				TIMEFRAME Years Two - Four (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016) and on-going.
		ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
		Review Illinois Solar and Wind Access Laws	McDonough County	By reviewing laws and codes in Illinois related to public access and installation of solar and wind energy measures, the county can determine if local ordinances are needed to encourage or regulate these possible future energy sources. Look to other nearby counties in Illinois that (continued on next page)

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE

SHORT TERM 2012-2014
LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Maintaining and improving community facilities and public infrastructure to protect the health and safety of all county residents is the overall goal established by the planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following objectives were selected. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p>	Promote and expand public safety efforts.			<p>have experience in these types of energy sources to gain advice and precedence on possible concerns and problems that could arise.</p> <p><u>TIMEFRAME</u> Years Two - Five (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>
	Maintain and improve McDonough County's technological infrastructure.			
	Develop and maintain high-quality water, sanitary and storm sewer systems throughout the county.			
	Maintain a high quality road system in McDonough County.			
	Promote recycling efforts in McDonough County.			

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

LAND USE

SHORT TERM 2012-2014
LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Ensuring land use determinations are compatible between preservation and development and that a balance is achieved between the private and public landowners is the overall goal established by the planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following objectives were</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>	Pursue development and planning strategies that provide for the orderly growth of the county.	Plan for Orderly Future Development of the County	McDonough County	<p>The County Board should plan for future development of the county by pursuing development and planning strategies that are consistent with the plan and considers the best interest and welfare of the county residents while maintaining the agricultural base and natural resources.</p> <p><u>TIMEFRAME</u> Year Two (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014) and on-going.</p>
	Encourage growth and development that is consistent with the comprehensive plan.			

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

LAND USE

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>selected. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p>	<p>Pursue development and planning strategies that provide for the orderly growth of the county.</p>	<p>Update and Revise Relevant Existing County Regulations to Reflect the Land Use Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The County Board should review and update its policies to ensure consistency with the new comprehensive plan. The county may want to consider including any administrative procedures; site design, improvement and infrastructure design standards; development standards, etc. This review may allow for all development policies to be incorporated into an easy-to-use and well-defined document that is understandable to both the general public and potential developers.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME Year Three (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015) and on-going.</p>
	<p>Encourage growth and development that is consistent with the comprehensive plan.</p>			

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>The preservation and promotion of the county’s historic and cultural attributes is the overall goal established by the Commission.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following specific objectives (continued on next page)</p>	<p>Increase public awareness of historically significant properties and structures within the county.</p>	<p>Consider Historic Preservation Programs</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>Voluntary historic preservation programs could be considered by the County Board that defines those structures in the county with characteristics that are historically significant and establishes a legal framework whereby the properties are protected by adequate codes and regulations.</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>
	<p>Preserve and protect the county’s historic properties and structures.</p>			

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>were formulated. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p> <p>The preservation and promotion of the county’s historic and cultural attributes is the overall goal established by the Commission.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following specific objectives were formulated. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p>				<p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Year Two (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014) and on-going.</p>
	<p>Increase public awareness of historically significant properties and structures within the county.</p> <p>Preserve and protect the county’s historic properties and structures.</p>	<p>Develop an Updated Portfolio and Map Locations of the County’s Historically Significant Properties and Structures</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The county should consider working with the McDonough County Historical Society and local community planning agencies in conducting a comprehensive survey and analysis of the county's historic properties and structures. Additional data could be collected from WIU Archives and the GIS Center to create a complete database of significant historical landmarks within the county. An updated list and map of locations should be generated for promotion on a county website, pamphlets, and news media to encourage public interest.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Year Two (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014) and on-going.</p>

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>The preservation and promotion of the county’s historic and cultural attributes is the overall goal established by the Committee.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following specific objectives were formulated. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p>	<p>Increase public awareness of historically significant properties and structures within the county.</p>	<p>Organize an Annual McDonough County Historical Scenic Drive</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>Work with the McDonough County Historical Society in expanding and promoting tours of historic properties, cemeteries, and structures throughout the county. Organize an annual event to the public that tours the significant historical properties and structures. Involvement of local school systems in the event would raise awareness in children of our county history and encourage historical information to be passed on to future generations.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Year Three (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015) and on-going.</p>
	<p>Preserve and protect the county’s historic properties and structures.</p>			

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

NATURAL RESOURCES

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Preserving and promoting the county’s natural resources is the overall goal established in the planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following objectives were formulated. In order to accomplish the overall goal and (continued on next page)</p>	<p>Promote natural resource recreational opportunities within the county.</p>	<p>Implement a Waterway Cleanup Adoption Program</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>The county should work with local service organizations, land owners, WIU and the public school system to solicit volunteers for waterway cleanup programs. Cleanup activities should be conducted along the La Moine River and other waterway/recreational areas to control the accumulation of unsightly litter.</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>
	<p>Provide a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities for all area residents.</p>			
	<p>Protect the natural resources within the county.</p>			

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

NATURAL RESOURCES (continued)

■ SHORT TERM 2012-2014 ■ LONG TERM 2012-2017

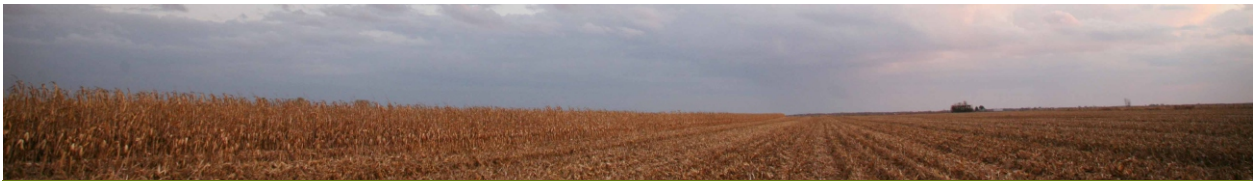
GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p> <p>Preserving and promoting the county's natural resources is the overall goal established in the planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following objectives were formulated. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should</p>	Promote natural resource recreational opportunities within the county.			Participants can be recognized by news articles or special recognition at a county board meeting.
	Provide a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities for all area residents.			TIMEFRAME Years One - Five (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.
	Protect the natural resources within the county.			
		ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
		Seek Funding for Updating and Maintaining State and Local Parks	McDonough County	The county should continue to work with local legislators and planning agencies to seek potential funding to continue to make improvements to Argyle Lake State Park and other recreation areas in the county. While updates are being made, consideration should be taken to make sure that all recreational areas are ADA accessible, have adequate parking and energy efficient lighting.
				TIMEFRAME Years Three - Five (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.
		ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
		Update the 2004 <i>McDonough County Trails and Greenways Plan</i>	McDonough County	The county should update the current plan to link recreational areas within the county. This plan considers future implementation to incorporate green pathways/trails connecting recreational areas to populous areas (continued on next page)

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

NATURAL RESOURCES

SHORT TERM 2012-2014 LONG TERM 2012-2017

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
<p>Preserving and promoting the county's natural resources is the overall goal established in the planning process.</p> <p>In order to accomplish this goal, the following objectives were formulated. In order to accomplish the overall goal and specific objectives, the following actions and timeframes should be considered and implemented.</p>	<p>Promote natural resource recreational opportunities within the county.</p>			<p>for example; Macomb/WIU to Argyle Lake State Park and Spring Lake. Increasing recreational activities in the county may help to draw new populations who are moving to areas that have more recreational opportunities.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME Years Two - Four (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2016) and on-going.</p>
	<p>Provide a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities for all area residents.</p>			
	<p>Protect the natural resources within the county.</p>			
		ACTION	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION
		<p>Encourage All Townships to Participate in Cleanups on an Annual Basis</p>	<p>McDonough County</p>	<p>Create township-wide cleanup days where residents can bring large items for disposal might spur volunteers to continue to help clean up unsightly trash in ditches around the county, and also deter people from dumping/littering along roadsides. This would be a step towards protecting the natural beauty of the countryside and further protect groundwater. Explore ways to further expand rural recycling programs, where drop off locations are available.</p> <p>TIMEFRAME Years Three - Five (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017) and on-going.</p>



Summary

Where Agriculture, Industry & Education Meet

The ideas presented in the Comprehensive Plan are conceptual yet directive. However, the plan is not regulatory. To ensure that local ordinances coincide with the direction of the Plan, the McDonough County Board should review all appropriate local regulations. The county may find changes need to be made to the subdivision ordinance, or that the creation of new regulation will be necessary in order to meet certain recommendations found within the Plan.

Future needs of McDonough County have been considered in relation to several topics including, but not limited to, economic development, infrastructure, land use and demographics. The Plan is based on the most currently available information and over time, some of the directives may change. It is the responsibility of the county to review the plan on an annual basis and to update the plan at least once every five years.

Attachment A
McDonough County Survey

2009 McDonough County Comprehensive Plan Community Survey

This survey is designed to assess the opinions of McDonough County residents on ways to improve the quality of life in the county today. Your answers will be kept confidential and your participation is voluntary. (Please circle the number that best reflects your opinion, unless otherwise directed.)

Housing, Safety, and Personal Security

The first set of questions relate to housing, safety, and security in McDonough County today.

Q1 How long have you lived at your present residence?

Less than 1 year 1 1-5 years..... 2 6-10 years..... 3 More than 10 years..... 4

Q2 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your community?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
The structural quality of the buildings in your neighborhoods.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The general appearance of the buildings in your neighborhood.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The location of your home relative to the places that you frequent (e.g., your place of work, the grocery store, etc...).	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q3 How many miles do you travel to work? (Please write your response in the space provided.) _____

Q4 Compared to 2 years ago, would you say that crime in McDonough County has:

Greatly Increased.. 1 Somewhat Increased. 2 Stayed the Same 3 Somewhat Decreased 4 Greatly Decreased 5 Don't Know 8

Q5 How safe do you feel walking alone in McDonough County after dark?

Very Safe . 1 Somewhat Safe 2 Neutral..... 3 Somewhat Unsafe..... 4 Very Unsafe..... 5 Don't Know 8

Q6 Please rate your level of satisfaction with police, fire, and ambulance services in McDonough County...

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
Police protection provided in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Fire protection provided in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Ambulance service in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8

General Development

The next section is related to development plans in McDonough County.

Q7 What priority do you think McDonough County should assign to road corridor design and construction strategies when it comes to investing public funds?

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Don't Invest	Neutral/Don't Know
Increase the safety of county roads by widening and increasing visibility.	1	2	3	4	8
Upgrade county roads to carry 80,000 lb. vehicles.	1	2	3	4	8
Widen select county roads to accommodate striped bike lanes with accompanying signs.	1	2	3	4	8
Construct recreational paths/trails connecting communities, parks and other major destination points.	1	2	3	4	8
Other ideas (Please specify): _____	1	2	3	4	8

Q16 What kind of single family residential development should be encouraged in unincorporated McDonough County?

- 1 house/1 acre 1 1 house/3 acres..... 3
 1 house/2 acres..... 2 1 house/10 acres..... 4

Q17 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement regarding public water and sewer systems in McDonough County?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
Public water and sewer systems should be extended to areas that lack those services in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5

Q18 Where do you think transportation improvements should be made in McDonough County? (Circle up to 3 options.)

- Public transportation services..... 1 Inter-city public transportation 4
 Pedestrian and bike trail system development. 2 Improve existing transportation infrastructure.. 5
 Inter-city 4-lane highways 3 Other (Specify) _____ 6

Community Participation

The statements in this section gather information on your opinions about community participation in McDonough County.

Q19 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding community participation?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
There are sufficient opportunities for citizens to participate in decisions being made by our local government.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Sufficient effort is made to make citizens aware of opportunities to participate.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Individual citizens and groups in McDonough County work together to get things done for our community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Citizen participation in McDonough County is high.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Individual citizens have an important role in contributing toward the health and stability in our community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
You personally can make a difference by contributing your ideas, skills, etc., to your community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
You would be prepared to volunteer to help others in the community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
You would be prepared to serve on a community committee or participate in the planning for the future of McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8

The Environment

The questions in this section gather information based on your perceptions of the various environmental issues affecting McDonough County.

Q20 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding environmental issues?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
The quality of our environment should be a higher priority of local officials.	1	2	3	4	5	8

	1	2	3	4	5	8
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Improving the quality of our drinking water should be an important local environmental policy.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Reducing waste by individual households should be an important local environmental priority in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Our community should be considering alternate means of generating energy for use in homes, businesses and/or community (e.g., solar panels, windmills, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	8
Managing growth and development more effectively should be an important local environmental priority in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Increasing community-recycling efforts should be an important local environmental policy in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Reducing the loss of agricultural land should be an important local environmental policy in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Using land more efficiently should be an important local environmental policy in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Improving waste disposal should be an important local environmental priority in our community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Improving community efforts to encourage energy conservation should be an important local environmental priority in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Protecting air quality should be an important local environmental priority in our community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Retaining and expanding public transportation should be an important environmental priority in our community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Developing and/or improving watershed conservation programs should be an important local environmental priority in our community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Developing and/or improving soil conservation programs should be an important local environmental priority in our community.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q21 What would be the most effective way to preserve agricultural land in McDonough County? (Please circle the 1 option that best reflects your opinion.)

- Promotion of the agricultural industry.....* 1 *Purchase/transfer of development rights.....* 4
- Additional regulatory control over subdivision activities* 2 *Other (Specify): _____* 5
- Voluntary participation in land preservation programs* 3

Q22 Please indicate the level of importance for the following items:

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Don't Know
How important are natural resources to you?	1	2	3	4	8
How important are historical/cultural sites to you?	1	2	3	4	8

Q23 What is the most effective way to preserve the natural, historical and cultural resources of McDonough County?

- Voluntary participation.....* 1 *Promotion of preservation through education..* 4
- Regulatory control.....* 2 *Other (Specify): _____* 5
- Incentives.....* 3

Q24 What type of open space do you value the most? (Circle one only.)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Active recreational space (e.g. soccer fields, playgrounds, etc.)..... | 1 | Agricultural land | 4 |
| Passive recreational space (e.g. parks, trails, greenways) | 2 | Open space around pre-existing structures | 5 |
| Undisturbed natural features (e.g. forests, streams) | 3 | Other (Specify): _____ | 6 |

Community Perceptions, Services and Quality of Life

The following questions are about your perceptions of McDonough County community life.

Q25 Please rate your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the following statements regarding community services in McDonough County?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
Planning services.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Water treatment and distribution systems.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Waste water collection and treatment systems.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Road maintenance.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Garbage collection service.	1	2	3	4	5	8
County's administrative services.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Our County Board's effectiveness in representing the interests of my community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of before and after school programs for children.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of daycare services.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of recreation programs for children (age 1-9).	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of recreation programs for youth (age 10-18).	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability recreation programs for adults.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of recreation programs for seniors.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of activities and entertainment for youth.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of activities and entertainment for adults.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of activities and entertainment for seniors.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of recreation facilities.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of adequate housing for seniors.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The availability of adequate housing for single parents.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The quality of elementary education programs, including before and after school programs.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The quality of daycare services.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The quality of secondary education programs.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The quality of education programs for those with special needs.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q26 Please rate your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the following statements regarding the following services in McDonough County.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
The quality of adult education programs.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The quality of educational programs geared to the needs of local employers.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The quality of educational programs geared to provide the skills new businesses could be seeking.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Quality of health services	1	2	3	4	5	8
Availability of health services	1	2	3	4	5	8
Availability of library services	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q27 Please indicate which community shopping centers you visit on a regular basis. (Circle all that apply.)

Galesburg 1 Burlington..... 3 Peoria..... 5 Other (Specify): 7
 Quincy..... 2 Springfield..... 4 Quad Cities..... 6

Q28 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding employment services?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
There are adequate employment opportunities.	1	2	3	4	5	8
There are adequate training opportunities in our community to upgrade skills to obtain employment/better-paying employment.	1	2	3	4	5	8
There are adequate employment opportunities for young people.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q29 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the follow statements regarding quality of life/sense of community?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
There is a strong community pride in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The people in McDonough County are friendly towards one another.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The people in McDonough County are friendly towards visitors in the area.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Our community is a great place to raise children.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Our community is prepared to deal with external challenges that may seem beyond its control such as loss of jobs.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q30 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding commercial/business development?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
Our local businesses are committed to McDonough County and its future.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Innovative approaches are being used to attract new commercial business within McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Innovative approaches are being used to attract new industry within McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Innovative approaches are being used to protect and expand the agricultural industry within McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Innovative approaches are being used to encourage the expansion of existing local businesses within McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Innovative approaches are being used within McDonough County to encourage residents to purchase goods and services locally.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The County Board has implemented adequate development controls to maintain and improve the quality and character of our community.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Road surfaces in our county are in good condition.	1	2	3	4	5	8
A good solid waste program (care and control of waste stream, collection of garbage, special collections, and program education) is available in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
A good recycling program is available in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Adequate social service programs are available in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
There are adequate public parks in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q31 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding telecommunications and media in McDonough County?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
Cable service in McDonough County is sufficient.	1	2	3	4	5	8
Good, unbiased newspaper coverage is available in McDonough County.	1	2	3	4	5	8
The telecommunications infrastructure in McDonough County is good.	1	2	3	4	5	8
McDonough County residents have accessible and affordable internet access.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q32 Do you currently have internet access at home? (If No, skip to 34.) Yes..... 1 No..... 2

Q33 If you have internet access at home, what kind of connection do you have?
Dial-Up..... 1 *DSL*..... 3 *Other (Specify):* _____ 5
T1..... 2 *Wireless*..... 4

Q34 Do you use internet at work? Yes 1 No..... 2

Q35 Do you use the library for internet access? Yes 1 No..... 2

Q36 How many online purchases have you made in the last six months?
More than 15..... 1 *Between 1 and 4* 4
Between 10 and 15 2 *None, but have made purchases online before* 5
Between 5 and 9..... 3 *I never shop or make purchases online* 6

Q37 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "There are human, physical, or economic resources in our community that are being overlooked and underutilized?"
Strongly Agree 1 *Agree*..... 2 *Neutral*..... 3 *Disagree*.. 4 *Strongly Disagree* 5 *Don't Know* 8

Q38 Please list those human, physical, or economic resources that are being overlooked and underutilized.

Q39 In your opinion, what are the two most important issues facing our community today that you would like to see improved? 1. _____ 2. _____

Q40 List what you think are three (3) of the most desirable qualities of McDonough County.
 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Q41 List what you think are three (3) of the most undesirable qualities of McDonough County.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Q42 Are there any types of businesses that you would like to see more of in McDonough County? If so, please identify them. _____

Q43 Are there any types of business that you think there are too many of in McDonough County? If so, please identify them. _____

Q44 If more retail businesses were to be established, where should they locate?

Q45 If more multi-family housing units were to be established, where should they locate?

About You

The questions in this section gather information about you and will assist in the understanding of how different types of people answered the questions in this survey.

Q46 Are you: Male 1 Female 2

Q47 How many people are currently living in your household?

Q48 Please indicate your age in years.

Q49 What is your current employment status?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Permanent full time</i> 1 | <i>Temporary full time.</i> 3 | <i>Homemaker</i> 5 | <i>Retired</i> 7 |
| <i>Permanent part time</i> 2 | <i>Temporary part time</i> 4 | <i>Unemployed</i> 6 | <i>Other (Specify)</i> 8 |

Q50 What is your present marital status?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Married</i> 1 | <i>Separated/Divorced</i> 3 | <i>Other (Specify)</i> 5 |
| <i>Single, never married</i> 2 | <i>Widowed</i> 4 | |

Q51 Do you own an automobile? (If no, skip to question 52.)

- Yes..... 1 No 2

Q51a How many automobiles are registered at your address? _____

Q52 What was your total household income this past year before taxes and deductions? (All questionnaires are anonymous; no one has any way of knowing who filled out each questionnaire)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Less than \$10,000.</i> 1 | <i>\$25,000 to \$34,999.</i> 4 | <i>\$75,000 to \$99,999</i> 6 |
| <i>\$10,000 to \$14,999</i> 2 | <i>\$35,000 to \$49,999.</i> 5 | <i>\$100,000 to \$149,999</i> 7 |
| <i>\$15,000 to \$24,999</i> 3 | <i>\$50,000 to \$74,999.</i> 5 | <i>\$150,000 or more..</i> 8 |

Q53 What is the highest level of education YOU have completed?

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <i>Less than high-school degree</i> | 1 | <i>Some college (no degree).....</i> | 3 | <i>Bachelor's degree..</i> | 5 | <i>Master's degree or higher (MA, PHD, JD, MD, etc).....</i> | 7 |
| <i>High-school graduate</i> | 2 | <i>Community college diploma/certificate ..</i> | 4 | <i>Some graduate work</i> | 6 | | |

Q54 Is your residence:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Owned.....</i> | 1 | <i>Provided as part of employment.....</i> | 3 | <i>Public housing.....</i> | 5 |
| <i>Rented.....</i> | 2 | <i>Co-op housing.....</i> | 4 | <i>Other (Specify):.....</i> | 6 |

Q55 How long do you expect to continue living in McDonough County?

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <i>Less than a year.....</i> | 1 | <i>More than 5 years but less than 10 years.....</i> | 3 |
| <i>More than 1 year but less than 5 years.....</i> | 2 | <i>10 years or more</i> | 4 |

Q56 What township do you live in? _____

This concludes our survey. Thank you for your participation in the 2009 McDonough County Poll! Please put your questionnaire in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope. Thank you for your time!

Attachment B
Definitions

Definitions

Abutting: A parcel or lots having one or more common boundary lines.

Applicant: Any person, party, corporation or other legal entity making application for development approval to the county.

Application: The application form and accompanying supporting document required of an applicant seeking development approval.

Average Daily Traffic: The total number of trips entering or leaving a specific land development over a twenty-four hour period.

Bond: A form of surety and security to be secured by the county from the developer to assure performance of the installation and/or maintenance of improvements required by the county.

Capital Improvement Plan: A short-range plan, usually four to six years, which identifies capital projects and equipment purchases, provides a planning schedule and identifies options for financing the plan. Essentially, the plan provides a link between a unit of government, school districts, parks and recreation departments and/or other local government entities and a comprehensive and strategic plans and the entity's annual budget

County: McDonough County, Illinois.

County Engineer: The Consulting engineer of the County.

Clerk: The Clerk of the County.

Commission: The Planning Commission of the County.

Common Area: Areas and facilities owned, designated and intended for use by all the residents and owners of a development.

Contractor: The entity responsible for the construction of the subdivision in accordance with the Approved Construction Plans.

County Recorder: The recorder of deeds, McDonough County, Illinois.

Dedication: The deliberate donation of land by its owner for any general public uses or easement, reserving to oneself no other rights than such as are compatible with the full exercise of and enjoyment of the public uses to which this property has been devoted.

Developer: The legal or beneficial owner or owners of any lot or any land included in a proposed development including the holder of an option or contract to purchase, or any person with beneficial interest in a land trust, or other persons having enforceable proprietary interest in such land.

Development: Any activity causing a change to be made in the legal rights or physical state of the real estate.

Driveway: A private roadway to a parking space, garage, dwelling, or other structure or to individual lots and located entirely within the right of way.

Easement: A specific area of land over which a liberty, privilege, or advantage is granted by the Proprietor to the public, a corporation or some particular person or part of the public for specific uses and purposes and which shall be designated a public or private easement, depending on the nature of the use or user.

Frontage: That portion of a lot abutting a street.

Governing Body: The County Board of McDonough County, Illinois.

Guarantee: An irrevocable letter of credit or bond with corporate surety who shall be licensed to write bond in the State of Illinois and shall be in a form and with surety and conditions approved by the County.

Highway Standards: The most recent edition of Highway Standards as published by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Improvements: Grading, street surfacing, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, crosswalks, water mains, fire hydrants, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, culverts, bridges and other additions to the natural state of land which increases its value, utility or habitability.

Land: Earth, water and air, above or below or on the surface, and includes any improvements or structures customarily regarded as land.

Lot: A parcel of land separated from other parcels on a preliminary or recorded plat for the purpose of sale lease or separate use.

Lot Line: A line dividing one lot from another, or from a street right of way line.

Major Streets or Thoroughfare Plan: The part of the Capitol Improvement Plan which sets forth the location, alignment and dimensions of existing and proposed streets and thoroughfares.

Master Plan: The Official Comprehensive Plan for the County including graphic and written proposals indicating the general locations recommended for the streets, parks, schools, public buildings, and all physical developments of the County, including any unit or part of such plan separately adopted, and any amendment to such plans or parts thereof adopted by the County.

Median: A permanent or temporary pavement separation used to separate motor vehicle traffic lanes moving in opposite directions.

Mobile Home Park: A parcel or parcels of real estate developed as a unit, in phases, or in whole, to provide individual sites with street and other improvements for the long-term parking of manufactured mobile homes.

Official Comprehensive Plan: The McDonough County 2012 Comprehensive Plan including any successive amendments thereof of any successive comprehensive plan.

Parcel (or Tract): A continuous area or acreage of land that can be described as provided for in a subdivision.

Pavement: That portion of a street designated or used for vehicular travel measured from back to back of curb or edge to edge of street surface where there are no curbs.

Person: An individual, partnership, firm, corporation or association.

Plat: A map or chart of a subdivision of land.

Final Plat: A map of all or part of a subdivision providing substantial conformance to the preliminary plat of the subdivision prepared in conformance with this County and suitable for recording the County Recorder of Deeds.

Preliminary Plat: A map showing details of a proposed subdivision layout as required by the County.

Sketch Plan: A plan indicating the proposed layout of the subdivision in sufficient detail to show proposed street lots and site features.

Prime Farmland: The full definition in Illinois as identified by the USDA-NRCS with the following criteria:

- A. The soils have sufficient available water capacity within the depth of 40 inches, or in the root zone if it is less than 40 inches deep, (a minimum of 4 inches of available water in the upper 40 inches), to produce the commonly grown crops 7 or more years out of 10.
- B. The soils have mean annual soil temperature at a depth of 20 inches higher than 32 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition, the mean summer temperature at 20 inches is higher than 59 degrees.
- C. The soils have a pH between 4.5 and 8.4 in all horizons within a depth a depth of 40 inches or in the root zone if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep.
- D. The soils have no water table or a water table or a water table that is maintained at a sufficient depth to allow crops common to the area to be grown.
- E. The soils have in all horizons within a depth of 40 inches or in the root zone if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep, an exchangeable sodium percentage of less than 15.
- F. The soils flood less often than once in two years during the growing season.
- G. The soils have a product K (erodibility factor) X percent slope of less than 2.0.
- H. The soils have a permeability rate of at least 0.006 inches per hour in the upper 20 inches.
- I. Less than ten percent of the surface layer in these soils consists of rock fragments coarser than three inches.

Principle Use: The main purpose or activity for which the land or structure is designed, arranged, or intended, and for which it is occupied, used or maintained.

Proprietor: A natural person, firm, association, partnership, cooperation, or combination of any of them, which may hold any ownership interest in land, whether recorded or not.

Public Reservation: A portion of a subdivision that is set aside for public use and made available for public use and acquisition.

Public Utility: Any person, firm or corporation, municipal department, board or commission, duly authorized to furnish and furnishing under governmental regulations to the public: gas, steam, electric, sewage disposal, communication, television, transportation or water.

Public Walkway: A right of way dedicated for the purpose of a pedestrian access through residential areas and located so as to connect to two or more streets, or a street and a public land parcel. Not the same as a sidewalk.

Right of Way: The entire dedicated tract or strip of land that is dedicated for use by the public for circulation and/or service.

Service Connection: A connection to any required utility for purposes of serving individual land uses or structures within a development.

Sidewalk: Portion of right of way used or intended to be used principally for pedestrian passage, which meets or exceeds local standards. Sidewalks typically run parallel with and between a street and lot frontages.

Street: Any street, avenue, boulevard, road, lane parkway, viaduct, alley or other way which is an existing state, county, or municipal roadway, or a street or way shown in a plat heretofore approved pursuant to law or approved by official action, or a street or way on a plan duly filed and recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Deeds. A street includes the land between the street right of way lines, whether improved or unimproved, and may comprise pavement, shoulders, gutters, sidewalks, parking areas and lawns.

Arterial (Major Thoroughfare): A street of greater continuity, which is intended to serve as a large volume traffic way for both the immediate county area and region beyond and may be designated on the county's major thoroughfare, parkway, expressway or equivalent term to identify those streets comprising the basic structure of the street plan.

Boulevard Street: A street developed to two lanes, one-way pavements, separated by a median.

Collector Street (Secondary Thoroughfare): A street used primarily to carry traffic from minor streets to major thoroughfares.

Controlled Access: An arterial (major thoroughfare) having limited access to and from businesses or residences.

Cul-de-sac Street: a minor street of short length, having one end open to traffic and being permanently terminated at the other end by a vehicular turnaround.

Loop Street: A minor street of short length with two openings to traffic beginning from the same street, and projecting parallel to each other, connecting at their termination by a loop.

Marginal Access Street: A minor street paralleling and adjacent to a major thoroughfare that provides access to abutting properties and protection from the traffic.

Local Street: A street of limited continuity used primarily for access to abutting residential properties.

Turnaround: A short boulevard street permanently terminated by a vehicular turnaround.

Subdivision: The division of a parcel, tract or area of land into two or more parts of land for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of transfer of ownership or building development or if a new street or easement of access is involved. Any division of a parcel of land, provided that division of land which may be ordered or approved by a court of affected by testamentary or interstate provision, or a division of land into lots or parcels of five acres or more and not involving a new street or easement of access shall not be deemed a subdivision. The term includes resubdivision and, when appropriate to the context, shall relate to the process of subdividing the land subdivided.

Survey: The process of establishing the location, form, and boundaries of a tract of land by measuring the lines and angles as performed by an Illinois registered land surveyor.

Use: The purpose or activity, for which land or structure thereon, is designed, arranged or intended to be occupied, or for which it is occupied, used or maintained.