

## 1.1 PLANNING FRAMEWORK - PREFACE

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On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Kane County Regional Planning Commission adopted and forwarded to the Kane County Board a 2040 Conceptual Land Use Strategy Report. The report provided the Board with some background regarding the Commissions previously recommended comprehensive plans; reviewed the conceptual planning strategy and the challenges and opportunities for the future of the County; and made 12 recommendations for proceeding with the preparation, review and adoption of the Kane County 2040 Plan (2040 Plan). The twelfth of these recommendations was that the County's next plan, the *2040 Plan* be titled, *Then (1840), Now (2010), and Tomorrow (2040): 200 Years of Settlement, Development, Preservation and Planning for a Safe and Healthy, Liveable Kane County, Illinois.*

**This Planning Framework Section of the 2040 Plan includes:**

**Planning in Kane County** – a chapter that highlights 50 years of comprehensive planning in the County guided by the Regional Planning Commission and supported by the Kane County Board as well as the Commissions most recent efforts to prepare this plan document;

**Kane County Then, Now, and Tomorrow** – provides a 200 year outlook at the settlement, development, preservation and planning in the County, beginning with the County's first 1840 Census, followed by the most recent 2010 Census, and a look into the County's future through 2040 projections;

**2040 Planning Perspective** – presents a 2040 planning perspective based on the 2040 Conceptual Land Use Strategy Map and incorporating ideas and comments received during the public review process and the most recent updates and reports from the land use, resource management, transportation, and healthy living programs.

## 1.2 PLANNING FRAMEWORK – PLANNING IN KANE COUNTY

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Comprehensive planning has been a continuous function of Kane County government for over 50 years. Planning-related activities began when Kane County adopted a zoning ordinance in 1937 and a building ordinance in 1954. Formal county planning began in 1958 when the County Board of Supervisors created the Kane County Regional Planning Commission and a Planning Division in what was then called the Building and Zoning Department.

Today, comprehensive planning, building, zoning and subdivision review remain important functions of the County Development and Community Services Department. The department's planning responsibilities are primarily twofold: (1) preparing and maintaining a long-range county land use plan; and (2) providing planning and resource management assistance to communities and individuals. In addition, the department provides staff services to the Kane County Regional Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Commission, the Economic Development Advisory Board and the Farmland Protection Commission. Another important role for the department is planning coordination with: (1) the Kane County Division of Transportation regarding the fundamental importance of the relationship between land use and transportation, the 2040 Transportation Plan, and opportunities to expand transit systems, improve walkability, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and improve energy efficiency and conservation; (2) the Kane County Health Department regarding the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities project – Making Kane County Fit For Kids, the effort to make the health of children and adults a key factor in all phases of County planning and community development actions, and to implement the strategies of the *Fit Kids 2020 Plan*; and (3) the Kane County Facilities, Subdivision, and Environmental Resource Department regarding the Kane County Water Supply Report (2009), the Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply/Demand Plan (2010), and water resource-driven land use decisions.

Since 1958, the Regional Planning Commission responsibilities have been defined as:

1. To cooperate in the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the County and to make recommendations to the County Board with respect to the plan.
2. To cooperate in the preparation of plans for specific improvements in accordance with the adopted comprehensive plan and make recommendations to the County Board with respect to the improvements.
3. To give aid to the municipal and County offices with the direction of projects for improvements embraced within the comprehensive plan, to further the development of these projects and generally to promote the realization of the comprehensive plan.
4. To report to the County Board on the status of the comprehensive plan and on the effectiveness of County ordinances and regulations as they relate to the comprehensive plan.

5. To transmit to the County Board reports on the important problems, conditions, and proposals pertinent to the future development of the County.

In April 1967 the Regional Planning Commission recommended a five-point general development policy, which was adopted by the County Board. This five-point general development policy statement indicated development goals to be used as a basis for countywide planning. The five adopted development goals addressed employment, people, housing, the environment, and natural resources and have been reflected in every subsequent planning report and land resource management plan leading to this 2040 Plan.

In 1970 a five-year work program was developed to provide direction to County planning efforts. These efforts resulted in the 1976 adoption of the *Generalized Land Use Plan and Planning and Development Policies*. The 1976 Comprehensive Plan (1976 Plan) spelled out goals and policies for future development within the Urban Corridor along the Fox River and adjacent to the outlying municipalities. It also called for a countywide open space system to protect and preserve natural areas and connect existing public land with future acquisitions.

During the next few years, the Planning Commission and County Board determined that two additional issues – the protection of farmland and guidelines for managing rural development – needed to be addressed by the County plan. In 1980, the County Board amended the 1976 Plan, stating as a matter of public policy that the best farmland should be conserved and protected from premature development. The amendment also recognized that the development of rural land could no longer be ignored and deemed that unguided rural development:

- Propagates the irreversible loss of prime farmland;
- Creates conflicts between agricultural and residential land uses; and
- Impacts the cost of providing educational, public safety, and road maintenance services.

The 1980 plan amendment encouraged new rural subdivisions on vacant parcels near existing residential developments and discouraged new subdivisions where they would be detrimental to the goal of preserving prime agricultural land. It noted that Kane County's challenge was to balance additional rural residential development with environmental, conservation, and energy goals, as well as to guide new subdivisions into areas consistent with the County's adopted development goals.

In 1982 these plan amendments were reinforced when the Regional Planning Commission recommended and the Kane County Board adopted the Kane County Comprehensive Land Use Plan 1982-2000 (1982 Land Use Plan). The major purpose of the 1982 Land Use Plan was to provide comprehensive planning and development policies with a detailed plan map to guide balanced growth in the County. The 1982 Land Use Plan recognized that development pressures would intensify in coming decades and, if uncontrolled, would be detrimental to the quality of life in Kane County.

Two of the greatest accomplishments of the 1982 Land Use Plan were the preservation of agriculture and the management of conventional suburban sprawl in the western and central parts of Kane County. Prime agricultural lands outside of the Urban Corridor were identified and development was discouraged in those areas. Medium and high density land uses were concentrated in the eastern portion of Kane County. The plan stressed the need to preserve remaining natural areas, to provide connections between open spaces, and to ensure a full range of recreational opportunities in a countywide open space system.

In 1988 the Kane County Board unanimously adopted the Historic Preservation Ordinance as an amendment to the 1982 Land Use Plan. It was the state's first county preservation ordinance and was soon followed by the adoption of the Kane County Historic Preservation Plan in 1989. That Plan continues to this day to serve as a guide to public improvement and land use decisions as they relate to historic preservation.

Between 1982 and 1994, the County initiated a substantial number of land use planning and resource management related documents (Figure 2, 2030 Plan). At least half of these documents addressed resource and environmental topics such as watersheds, wildlife, and natural areas. Other publications include village land use plans and historic preservation reports.

On September 23, 1985, Illinois adopted the Local Land Resource Management Planning Act, Illinois State Statutes, Chapter 50 ILCS 805. This important legislative initiative added strength to the ability of counties and municipalities to engage in intergovernmental planning activities and to develop joint land resource management plans that address critical land and water resource issues. The Land Resource Management Planning Act states: "It is the purpose of this Act to encourage municipalities and counties to protect the land, air, water, natural resources and environment of the State and to encourage the use of such resources in a manner which is socially and economically desirable through the adoption of joint or compatible Local Land Resource Management Plans."

As Kane County entered the 1990's, growth pressures increased and agricultural preservation, open space acquisition, growth management, environmental protection, and intergovernmental cooperation continued to be viewed as critical issues. As a result, the County Board recognized the need to review the 1982 Land Use Plan and directed the Planning Commission to address the challenges of the future by utilizing the Land Resource Management Plan Act authority.

In February of 1994 the County Board adopted by unanimous vote a Conceptual Land Use Strategy for Kane County recommended by the Planning Commission. With the adoption of the 2020 Strategy, the County Board took an important step to address growth challenges by utilizing the Land Resource Management Planning Act authority. The strategy served as a basic policy guide to the Regional Planning Commission and Development Department staff in working towards the completion of the 2020 Land Resource Management Plan. The strategy findings were as follows:

1. For the purpose of comprehensive planning, Kane County is comprised of three distinct land use strategy areas: the Urban Corridor, the Critical Growth Area, and the Agricultural/Rural Village Area.
2. Different intensities and types of development are appropriate for each area.
3. Open space protection and water resource management must be the foundation of land use planning.
4. Balanced development should be encouraged.
5. Agriculture must continue to be a desired land use.
6. A strong relationship must exist between land use and transportation planning.
7. Eight Partnership Planning Areas (PPAs) should be established to facilitate cooperative planning and project review with the municipalities.

On June 11, 1996, the Kane County Board unanimously adopted the Kane County 2020 Land Resource Management Plan (2020 Plan) as recommended by the Commission. The 2020 Plan went beyond conventional land use planning by aggressively addressing the issues of quality of life, water resource management, open space preservation, and environmental protection. Based on the adopted 2020 Strategy, the 2020 Plan established a strong link between County and municipal land use planning. Subsequent planning successes stemming from the 2020 Plan include the Stormwater Management Plan, the Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Program, the Rustic Roads program, and the Economic Development program.

A major implementation component of the 2020 Plan was the establishment of eight Planning Partnership Areas (PPAs). Recognizing that the majority of land use decisions were made by the municipalities, the PPAs were used to develop a more effective working relationship between the County and the municipalities. Over the years, the County's Regional Planning Commission hosted several joint planning commission meetings in each PPA. The purpose of the meetings was to share information, to identify common goals, and to develop a shared vision for cooperatively managing land resources in a growing and developing Kane County.

As part of the 2020 Planning Program, the County developed a five year series of "Making it Work" workshops. The purpose of each workshop was to provide the municipalities with detailed planning related material, as well as tools for managing growth and protecting natural resources. Including local and national speakers, the workshops addressed the topics of conservation design (1999), land use and transportation (2000), greenways and stormwater (2001), water supply (2002), and smart growth (2003).

In recognition of its merit and success, the 2020 Plan received a number of awards from a variety of groups including, The Landmark Preservation Council of Illinois, the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association, and the American Institute of Architects. More importantly, the 2020 Plan served as an effective statement of County Board policy and demonstrated how the County and municipalities could work together to achieve common goals.

Figure 1

KANE COUNTY'S PLANNING BENCHMARKS	
1937	Zoning Ordinance adopted
1954	Building Ordinance adopted
1958	Creation of the Regional Planning Commission and the Planning Division
1967	Five-point general development policy recommended by the Commission – Addressed issues of employment, people, housing, the environment, and natural resources.
1976	Generalized Land Use Plan and planning and development policies adopted – County's first comprehensive plan called out goals and policies for future development within the Urban Corridor along the Fox River and adjacent to municipalities and called for a countywide open space system.
1980	1976 Plan Amendment –Encouraged new rural subdivisions toward existing residential developments and discouraged new rural subdivisions where they would be detrimental to the goal of preserving prime agricultural land.
1982	Kane County Comprehensive Plan 1982-2000 adopted –Comprehensive plan/map and development policies were provided to guide balanced growth in the County
1988/9	Historic Preservation Ordinance and Plan
1994	2020 Conceptual Land Use Strategy adopted by the County Board
1996	2020 Land Resource Management Plan –Three distinct land use strategy areas were introduced
2001	Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Program –County Board adopts Illinois' first Farmland Protection Program
2003	2030 Conceptual Land Use Strategy adopted by the County Board
2004	2030 Land Resource Management Plan and 2030 Transportation Plan –Adopted concurrently; first time a county in IL addressed land use and transportation issues and challenges jointly.
2008	2030 Plan Amendment – –A Protected Agriculture – Limited Development land use category was added that allows for a unique conservation development in a working farm setting.
2010	2040 Conceptual Land Use Strategy adopted by the County Board
<b>Date</b>	2040 Plan –First County policy document integrating health, land use, and transportation plan

Between 1996 and 2004, the County initiated additional land resource planning and growth management programs stemming from the 2020 Plan. Examples included developing village comprehensive plans, purchasing 1,400 acres in agricultural development rights, creating a new Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) for

Kane County, establishing a County CDBG program, initiating a new series of "Priority Places" workshops (2004), and designating the County's first Rustic Road.

As Kane County entered the 21st century, growth pressures increased and agricultural preservation, open space protections, growth management, traffic congestion, water resource planning and intergovernmental cooperation continued to be viewed as critical issues. Appropriately, the County Board recognized the need to review the 2020 Plan and initiate preparation of the 2030 Plan to address the challenges facing the County and municipalities.

On February 11, 2003, the Kane County Board unanimously approved the 2030 Conceptual Land Use Strategy as presented by the Regional Planning Commission. Building upon the principles of the 2020 Plan, land use policies were re-examined and fine-tuned in light of changing demographics, changes in state and federal policies, major infrastructure improvements, major shifts in the regional employment base, and local public policy and land use decisions. The 2030 Conceptual Land Use Strategy affirmed that for the purpose of comprehensive planning the County is comprised of three distinct land use strategy areas: the Urban Corridor Area, the Critical Growth Area, and the Agricultural/Rural Village Area. In addition, each land use strategy area was assigned a specific theme:

- Renaissance - Urban Corridor
- Refinement - Critical Growth
- Recommitment - Agricultural/Rural Village

The 2030 Conceptual Land Use Strategy further directed the Regional Planning Commission to: (1) complete a draft 2030 Land Resource Management Plan, and (2) prepare a process for public review of the draft plan. In May 2003, the Planning Commission released the report "Kane County Land Resource Management Plan, 2030, *Planning for Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities*". That report identified the need for a 2030 Plan, reviewed the plan strategy, identified the 10 recommendations for the 2030 Plan, and outlined a proposed public review process.

During the summer of 2003, the Planning Commission presented that report in a series of public meetings in the Planning Partnership Areas (PPAs). The purpose of those meetings was to communicate to citizens and public officials the direction Kane County was taking towards preparation of a 2030 Plan. These public meetings were attended by hundreds of concerned citizens and officials, many voicing questions and concerns about the challenges and issues facing Kane County, including: traffic congestion, water supply, need for more active recreation parks, concerns about flooding, desire to preserve community character, and housing for aging parents who want to live close to their grandchildren. These public meetings confirmed the need for Kane County to proceed from the Conceptual Strategy to a more detailed Land Resource Management Plan replacing the highly effective, but out of date 2020 Plan.

The next step in the planning program was the completion of "Renaissance of the Urban Corridor," a report highlighting the importance of the historic Urban Corridor along the

Fox River and the opportunities for downtown revitalization, neighborhood preservation, redevelopment and infill development. The publication spotlighted exemplary plans, projects and policies in the Urban Corridor that were at the forefront of the "renaissance", and how those plans and projects demonstrated the 10 Smart Growth Principles. The response to the report from the cities and villages affirmed the Renaissance theme and substantiated the infill, redevelopment and revitalization opportunities in the greenfields, greyfields, and brownfields along the Fox River and Randall Road.

After that, the planning process produced "Recommitment, Preserving Farmland and Agricultural in Kane County," a report completed early in 2004 and focusing on preserving farmland from premature conversion to other land uses. The theme of "recommitment" reflected a desire, a dedication to aggressively pursue farmland preservation and protection through land planning and zoning initiatives, the Kane County Farmland Preservation Program and the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act, and policy decisions regarding public infrastructure investments.

The "Recommitment" report introduced the slogan "50-50-50" for the conceptual land use strategy map. The "50-50-50" slogan reinforced the land use strategy for 2030: Kane County can preserve 50% of its total land area in farmland and open space, but only if 50% of the projected population increase is contained as compact, mixed-use development in the Urban Corridor and Critical Growth Area. Also reported was the LESA system for determining the quality and suitability of land for agricultural economic viability. In addition, the report presented the status of another important "recommitment," the Kane County Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program.

The Renaissance and Recommitment Reports served as bookends for the final report in the planning series, "Refinement, Challenges for the Critical Growth Area". The "Refinement" report consisted: a review of the primary issues and challenges for the Critical Growth Area, the 50-50-50 Land Use Strategy endorsed by the Commission; and a recap of the opportunities for implementing the 10 Smart Growth Principles in the "Priority Places" of the Critical Growth Area. With the completion of that report the Regional Planning Commission had prepared what would serve as a solid foundation for proceeding to finalize and recommend the 2030 Land Resource Management Plan.

Adopted unanimously by the County Board in 2004, the 2030 Land Resource Management Plan, *Planning for Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities (2030 Plan)* was a product of all of these preceding plans and efforts. The 2030 Plan bolstered the County's commitment to water resource management, open space preservation, environmental protection, and intergovernmental cooperation. In addition, it recognized the fundamental importance of the relationship between land use and transportation and the opportunity to plan for expanded transit systems, improved walkability, reduced vehicle miles traveled and improved energy efficiency and conservation. The 2030 Plan also introduced the three challenges: transportation, water resources, and housing, to meet the changes of a growing county. Adopted concurrently, the 2030 Land Resource



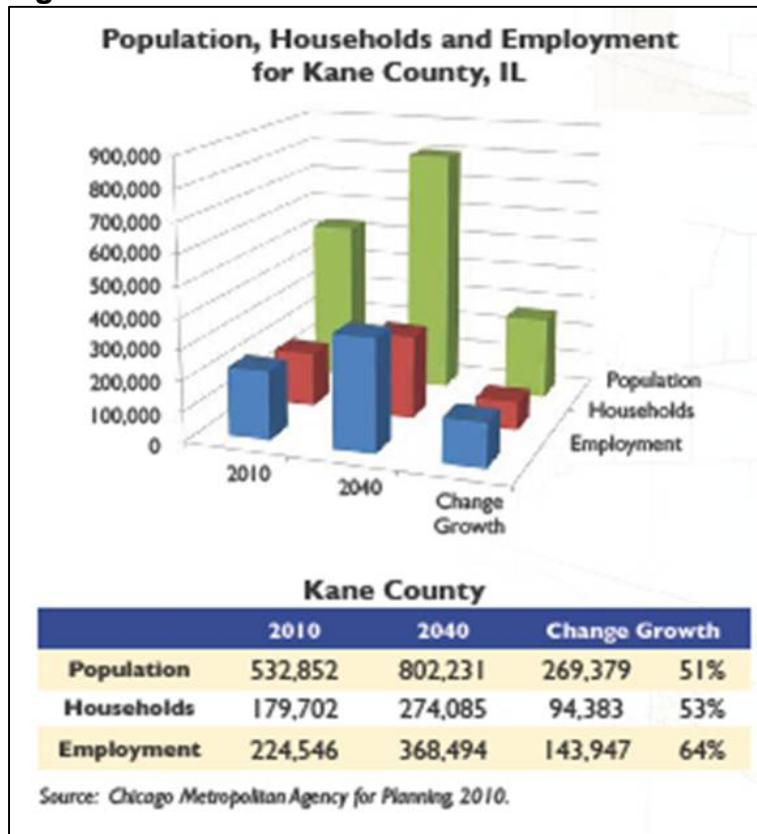
Management Plan and the 2030 Transportation Plan (2030 Plans) represented the first time in Illinois that a county addressed land use and transportation issues and challenges as a package.

Since adoption in 2004, the 2030 Plans have proven to be an effective statement of Kane County public policy on issues related to community development, land and water resource management, open space protection, farmland preservation, transit improvements, highway and intersection investments, and expanded bicycling and improved walkability.

The 2030 Plans have been well received by the citizens of Kane County, have had strong County Board support, have been used effectively by the Planning Commission to articulate the need for cooperative planning initiatives, and have been recognized at regional, state, and national levels as effective county planning documents addressing sensible, managed growth. But with that success, there was also recognition by the Planning Commission and the County Board that the 2030 Plan was a dynamic, not static, statement of public policy. There was a clear commitment that it be "reviewed every five years, with citizen input, in light of changing demographics, changes in local, state or federal policies, major infrastructure improvements, public policy decisions, and economic and employment activities." The review and update process was initiated in November, 2008, which also marked the 50th anniversary of the Kane County Regional Planning Commission being created by the County Board, and five years after the Commission submitted to the Board the recommendations of the 2030 Conceptual Land Use Strategy and Map.

Two major factors in the Planning Commission's review of the 2030 Plan and extending out another decade were the Census Bureau's 2010 estimates of population, households and employment; and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) 2040 projections of population, households, and employment. The challenge to the Commission was how best to plan, encourage, facilitate and design more compact, mixed use development for a 2040 Kane County with about 270,000 more people, approximately 95,000 additional households and an estimated 145,000 more jobs spread across 30 municipalities and the large unincorporated area (Figure 2).

**Figure 2**



Other review factors included municipal annexations and approved development plans, major open space acquisitions, new municipal incorporations, i.e., Villages of Campton Hills, Big Rock, and Kaneville, updates and revisions to municipal plans, the Route 47 Corridor Study, the Randall Road Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study, the Making Kane County Fit For Kids project, the current recession, housing foreclosures and record unemployment, the collapse of the housing boom, and other changes and trends.

The Commission also reviewed the three strategy areas of the 2030 Plan and the themes assigned to each. They considered the Randall Road

BRT Project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and other KDOT Transit initiatives. The Commission identified the success of the Farmland Preservation Program and the adoption of the Protected Agriculture – Limited Development amendment to the 2030 Plan as important update factors. The Commission reviewed the citizen input since 2004 from the “Priority Places” workshop series. Especially important to the update was the input and information from the last in that series, the May 8, 2009 workshop entitled “Smart Growth is Healthy Living” which focused on bringing the planning, transportation and health communities together to focus on changing the built environment to support healthy eating and active living.

And finally, Commission members participated in the Fit for Kids Project launched April 7, 2008, and the Leadership Summit which provided participants with an in-depth briefing on the childhood obesity epidemic and called for a sustained, countywide mobilization through implementation of the following strategic action principles:

1. Develop land use, planning and other public policies that foster and support physical activity for all our communities;
2. Assure that fresh fruits and vegetables are affordable and accessible to all families in our communities;
3. Support a culture of wellness and health promotion in our workplaces, schools, homes, communities and other institutions;

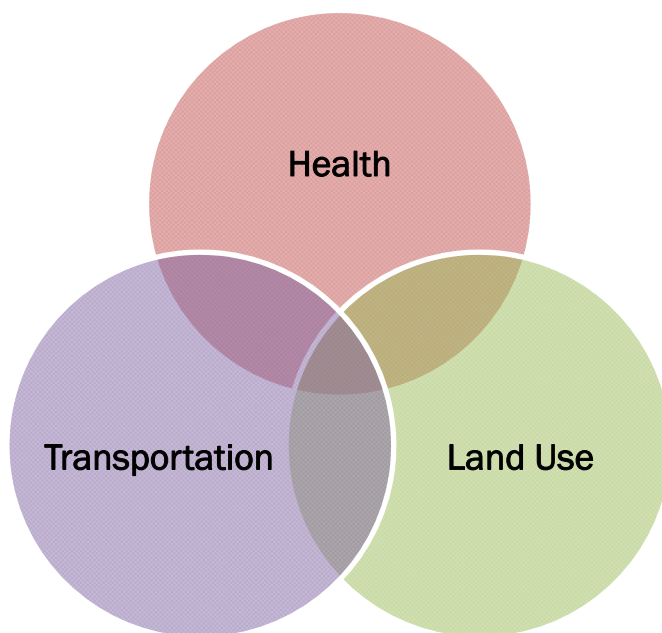
4. Provide parents and children with reliable, up-to-date information in multiple settings regarding healthy physical activity and eating habits.

After almost two years of reviewing and analyzing the 2030 Plan the Kane County Regional Planning Commission submitted to the County Board their report, “2040 Conceptual Land Use Strategy, *Then (1840), Now (2010), and Tomorrow (2040), Two Hundred Years of Settlement, Development, Preservation and Planning for a Safe, Healthy and Livable Kane County.*” On October 12, 2010, the Kane County Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 10-297, which adopted the above referenced report and directed the Kane County Regional Planning Commission to proceed with the preparation of a Kane County 2040 Plan (2040 Plan).

Two statements from the Commission’s report should be highlighted. First, “The Commission is proud of its previous role in preparing and recommending both the 2020 and 2030 Plans to the County Board and now accepts the challenge and responsibility of expanding the County planning horizon another decade and completing the 2040 Plan”. And, “We anticipate recommending to the County Board a 2040 Plan that will likely be the first in Illinois to mold the three disciples, transportation, health and land use planning into a single master plan.”

This 2040 Plan is the product of a unique convergence of three planning processes: transportation, health, and land use, within a comprehensive, countywide planning program supported by the Kane County Board (Figure 3). It builds on the successes of the past to meet the challenges of the future and is a powerful public statement of planning for a safe, healthy, and livable Kane County.

**Figure 3. Quality of Kane Model**



### **1.3 PLANNING FRAMEWORK – KANE COUNTY THEN (1840) NOW (2010) TOMORROW (2040)**

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#### **THEN - 1840 Kane County**

The earliest recorded settler in Kane County, Christopher Payne, crossed the prairie heading west from Naperville and passed the north end of the “big woods” to establish his home just east of the present City of Batavia in 1833. A large boulder with a plaque on the north side of Wilson Street, just west of Kirk Road identifies the site of his first cabin. The *History of Kane County* records the first permanent settlers in Aurora and Geneva also arrived in 1833. The following year, 1834, witnessed settlers in Blackberry, Dundee, St. Charles and Sugar Grove, followed by the first permanent settlers in Big Rock, Burlington, Campton, Elgin, Kaneville, Plato and Rutland in 1835. By 1836 the first immigrants arrived in the last townships to be settled, Hampshire and Virgil.

By 1836 enough settlers had arrived in the area for the Illinois legislature to establish Kane County. The County was created on January 16, 1836, and was named after Elias Kent Kane (1794-1835) who was Illinois’ first Secretary of State (1818-1822), a United States Senator (1825-1835), and prime mover in achieving Statehood for Illinois. Shortly thereafter, Herrington’s Tavern and Inn on the banks of the Fox River in Geneva was selected to serve as the first Kane County seat and courthouse because it was also the site of the only post office in the new County. The new residents of Kane County then elected their first officials, three commissioners, a sheriff, a coroner, a surveyor, and a recorder of deeds, on June 4, 1836.

The early settlers found abundant hardwood forests, a flowing river to harness for waterpower, fertile lands to farm, springs of pure drinking water, and stone outcroppings for foundations and homes. Forests of oak and other trees bordered the Fox River while the areas west of the river were composed of woodlands and prairies. The wooded areas covered approximately one quarter of the County. The prairie consisted primarily of tall, tough grasses often growing ten to fifteen feet high. The soil below the grass was often wet and swampy and the grass roots were tangled and tough, making the land difficult to plough. The land was largely black soil with some clay, sand and gravel. Extensive tracts of low, marshy lands also covered portions of the County. Wildlife in the area consisted of deer, wildcats, lynx, wolves, wild pigeons, ducks and geese, quail, crows, robins, other small birds, and abundant fish. A variety of nuts and berries were also found here by early settlers.

Settlement of the area escalated after 1836, when the Native Americans were forced to relocate west of the Mississippi River. Increased settlement of the central and western sections of the County had begun by 1840. The beginnings of the urban area along the river were already established. Most of the desirable timbered land along the river was claimed. New settlers looked toward the groves of trees out on the prairies to the west as locations for their homes and farms. The names of these early settlement areas reflect the homesteaders’ reliance on wood: Sugar Grove, Pingree Grove, Pigeon

Woods (Hampshire Township), Lone Grove (Kaneville Township), Ohio Grove (Virgil Township), and Lances' Grove (Blackberry Township). Two important inventions, John Deere's Moldboard Plow (1837) and McCormick's Virginia Reaper (introduced in Kane County in 1846), enabled the settlers to expand their farming to the surrounding prairies.

The 1840 Landscape Map (Figure 4) is a composite of the original township plats of survey prepared by Surveyors James Thompson, John P. Thompson, James Galloway, Eli S. Prescott, and Ignatius Sprigg, between 1839 and 1842. The surveyors walked and measured section lines and recorded information about the land as they went. Their records were sometimes generalized and some physical and environmental features were missed, but, nevertheless, these surveys represent the first comprehensive inventory of the resources of Kane County.

In 1840 the County landscape was still mostly native timber and prairie. Many of the early fields were along the Fox River or on the edge or closely located to the woodlands. Today's Nelson Lake, labeled as "mud lake", appears west of what would be Batavia, and the Waubensee "swamp" south of Aurora, the Clanyard marsh in Rutland, the Rob Roy "slough" in Sugar Grove, and other major wetlands appear on the map. An area of "27 ancient mounds" is shown in what is now Sleepy Hollow, Dundee Township along the bluffs of the old oxbow bend of the Fox River. Ten dams and their mills and saw mills are located along the Fox River. Today's Montgomery dam is not identified but two dams between Aurora and North Aurora are shown which don't exist today. Associated with most of the dams are the earliest towns, Dundee, Elgin, Charleston (St. Charles), Geneva, Batavia and Aurora.

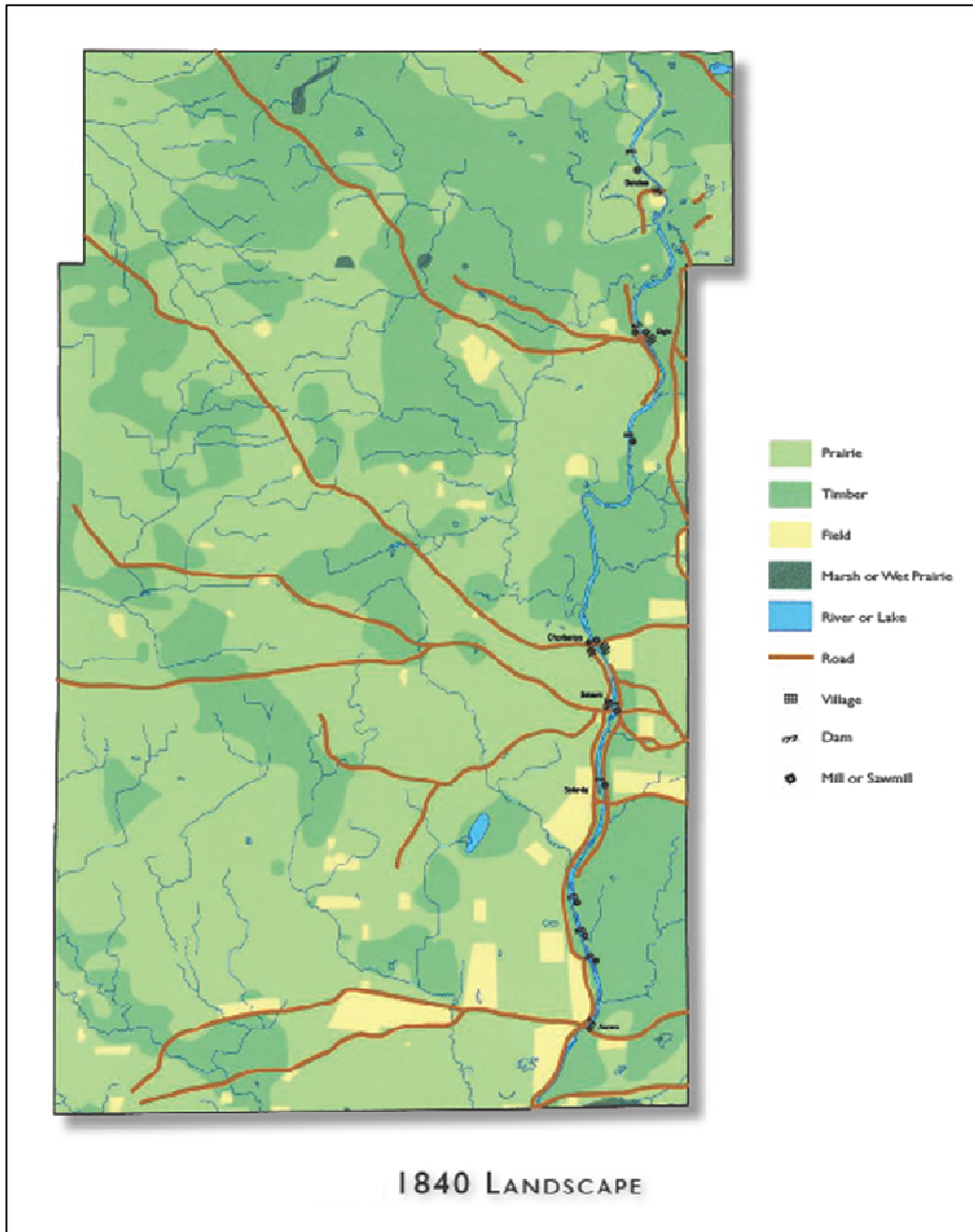
Linking these early settlements, towns and fields to each other and to counties and towns outside the Fox Valley is a network of trails and roads. For example, the survey identifies:

- in Dundee Township, "a road from Ottawa to Dundee"; in Elgin, "a road from Elgin to Chicago"; east from Geneva (IL Rt. 38) "a road to Chicago"; from Batavia (Wilson Street today) is "a road to Wareville" west from Geneva extending along what is Kaneville and Fabyan; and on into Blackberry Township is "a road to Orange", apparently a settlement west of Kane County.
- in Aurora Township, paralleling what is now Montgomery Road, is "a road to Chicago"; and crossing the township east to west and extending into Sugar Grove Township is "a road to Galena."
- Also, in Sugar Grove is a route called a "road from Dixon to Aurora". Heading northwest across Plato, Burlington, Rutland and Hampshire are two roads "from Chicago to Galena" which are today's Burlington Road, Big Timber Road, Reinking Road and U.S Route 20. Another road crossing Plato is identified as "a road from Charleston (St. Charles) to Belvedere."

Some of the 1840 roads are still in existence, many times in the same location as the roads and highways of today. There is a fork in a trail in Campton Township close to the Garfield Farm and Tavern which is now the general route of IL 38 heading west

across Virgil Township and Campton Hills Road. Portions of Jericho and Granart Roads in Sugar Grove and Big Rock were already trails in 1840. A fork in the 1840 road south of Bald Mound in Blackberry Township is today where Fabyan, Main Street and Bliss Roads intersect. These early road and trails of a fledgling transportation system linked the growing towns, brought people and goods to expanding markets, provided opportunities for early commerce and manufacturing, and gave access for more farmers and settlers.

**Figure 4. Kane County's 1840 Landscape**



## **THEN - 1840 Census**

By 1840 a still young nation, the United States of America, was conducting its Sixth Census as required every ten years by the Constitution. Kane County, as one of Illinois newest counties, was included in that 1840 Census which today gives us a first glimpse at the settlement and growth of the County in the first 5 or 6 years. The Compendium of the Sixth Census, Recapitulation of the Aggregate Amount of Each Description of Persons within the District of Illinois, By Counties and Principal Towns, records a total of 6,501 persons residing in Kane County (Compendium of the Sixth Census, pp. 84-87). The Census records 3,530, Free White Males: 586 who were under age 5, 814 over 20 and under 30, and 71 between 60 and 70. It recorded 2,967 Free White Females: 588 under age 5, 4 over 80 but under 90, and 562 between the ages of 20 and 30. There were 6 males and 4 females older than 80. The battle over slavery still lay ahead of America, so the 1840 Census recorded 4 "Free Colored Persons": 3 males and 1 female. There are no "Slaves" documented in the 1840 Census of Kane County although it records that in the entire state of Illinois there were 168 male slaves and 163 female slaves. The compendium also indicates that there were 3 pensioners for revolutionary or military services residing in the County.

In 1840 Kane County's population of 6,501 was greater than the 4,476 residents of Chicago, exceeded the 3,535 citizens of DuPage County, and of all the current Chicago metropolitan counties, only Cook and Will, 10,201 and 10,167 respectively, had a greater population. Kendall County did not yet exist and was still included in LaSalle County. DeKalb and McHenry had populations of 1,697 and 2,578. The most populous counties in Illinois were downstate and included St. Clair, (13,631) Sangamon, (14,716) Pike, (11,728) Morgan, (19,547) Madison, (14,433) Greene, (11,951) Gallatin, (10,760) Fulton, (13,142) and Adams (14,476) Counties. These were central and southern Illinois counties that were settled even before Statehood was granted to Illinois in 1818.

The Sixth Census reveals that Kane County's residents were already hard at work with settlement and development. The vast majority, 1,239 persons were engaged in agriculture, 40 employed in commerce, 317 in manufactures and trades, and 49 citizens worked as learned professionals and engineers. A fledging educational system was already in place with 39 primary and common schools educating 1,153 early scholars. While most adults apparently had some education, the record indicates there were 10 white people over 20 years of age who could not read or write.

On the farms there were 1,658 horses and mules, 7,858 neat cattle, 1,262 sheep, an amazing 17,279 swine (pigs), and the estimated value of all kinds of poultry was \$2,811.00. The rich, fertile farmland was already producing 150,110 bushels of wheat, 5,980 bushels of barley, and 167,468 bushels of oats. The soybeans of today are not listed as a crop in 1840 but 151,310 bushels of Indian corn were harvested along with 1,363 and 737 bushels of rye and buckwheat. Various other crops included 1,961 pounds of wool, 77,372 bushels of potatoes and 6,592 tons of hay, much of it went to feed the dairy cattle that produced \$18,788 worth of milk and cream.

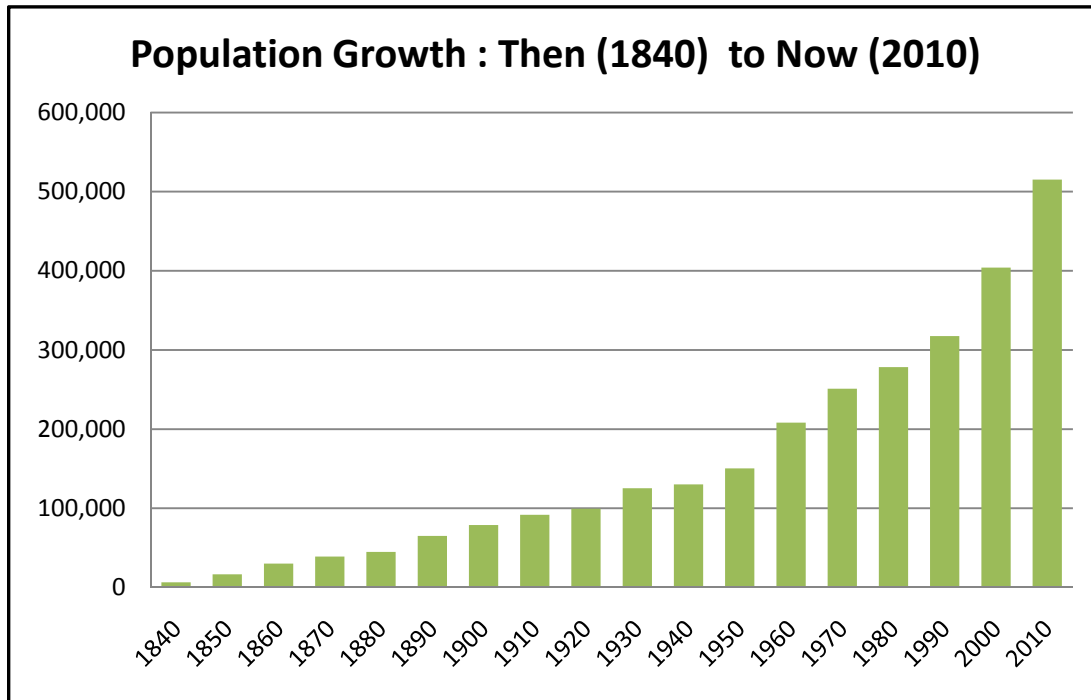
In the early cities and villages commerce was active. There were already 16 retail dry goods, grocery and other stores with a capital investment of \$60,746. There were 15 men employed making bricks and lime that had a value of \$2,530.00. Smaller manufacturing operations were lumber products, flax operations, hat, cap, and bonnet manufacturing, and leather, tanneries and saddleries. Two distilleries produced 18,000 gallons of distilled and fermented liquors and two men were employed making carriages and wagons. The 6 grist mills and 22 saw mills along the Fox River employed 59 men, produced goods worth \$22,360 and represented \$106,600 of investment. Additionally, 9 men were employed making furniture, and 7 brick or stone houses and 29 wooden houses were built with the value of constructing or building estimated at \$36,910.

In a few short years, the settlement and development of Kane County was well underway. Damming the river, cutting the woodlands, plowing the prairie and draining the wetlands was changing the 1840 landscape from the natural toward what exists today. The ponds above the dams on the Fox River, the early trails and roads and the first platting of the towns has influenced the forms of today's cities and villages. And the boundaries of the townships, sections and quarter sections created by the original surveys remain on the landscape as fence lines, civil borders, highways, and other physical features.

The 1840 population grew and prospered during subsequent decades. By 1850 the population had increased by more than 10,000 to 16,703, a change of 156.93%. The next decade brought the first 2 railroads to the Fox Valley, heading west from Geneva and Elgin, bringing new commerce and industry, and a 1860 population count of 25,906. Steady growth through the remainder of the century expanded the population to 78,629 by 1900. By 1950 the population had doubled again to 150,388. During the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, there was double digit percent change in population every decade. The construction of the interstate highway system and suburban growth westward from Chicago into the Fox Valley contributed to a population of 404,119 by the year 2000 (Figure 5).



**Figure 5**



**NOW - 2010 Kane County**

The more than 10,000 population growth in that first decade, from 6,501 in 1840 to 16,703 in 1850, a change of 156.93%, represented the fastest numerical change and percent growth of early Kane County. For comparison in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 2000 to 2010, the County witnessed population increases that averaged more than 10,000 per year for the entire decade. The population grew from 404,119 in 2000 to 515,269 in 2010, an increase of 111,150 persons, the greatest numerical growth by decade in Kane County's history (Figure 5).

The early settlers and leaders, Christopher Payne in Batavia, the McCarty's in Aurora, Herrington's in Geneva, William Beith in St. Charles, the Gifford's in Elgin and the Carpenter brothers in Carpentersville, would scarcely recognize many parts of the County after 160 years of settlement and development. And yet, along the banks of the Fox River, in the rolling hills and wooded creek bottoms, and out on the flatter, farmed plains, large areas of Kane County might still be recognized by these early residents. And their family names live on in our villages, streets, parks, buildings and other landmarks around Kane County. Much of this rich heritage has been preserved by the local historic preservation organizations and museums around Kane County for the education and enrichment of today's residents.

Figure 6 superimposes over the 1840 landscape map the 2010 map with present day open space, the current road network, and the developed areas. Notice that many of the early trails and roads are the highways of 2010. Burlington Road, Illinois Route 38,

Galena/Granart, Big Timber/Route 20, Illinois Routes 25 and 31, and Fabyan/Hughes are some of the best examples of today's roads following yesterday's trails.

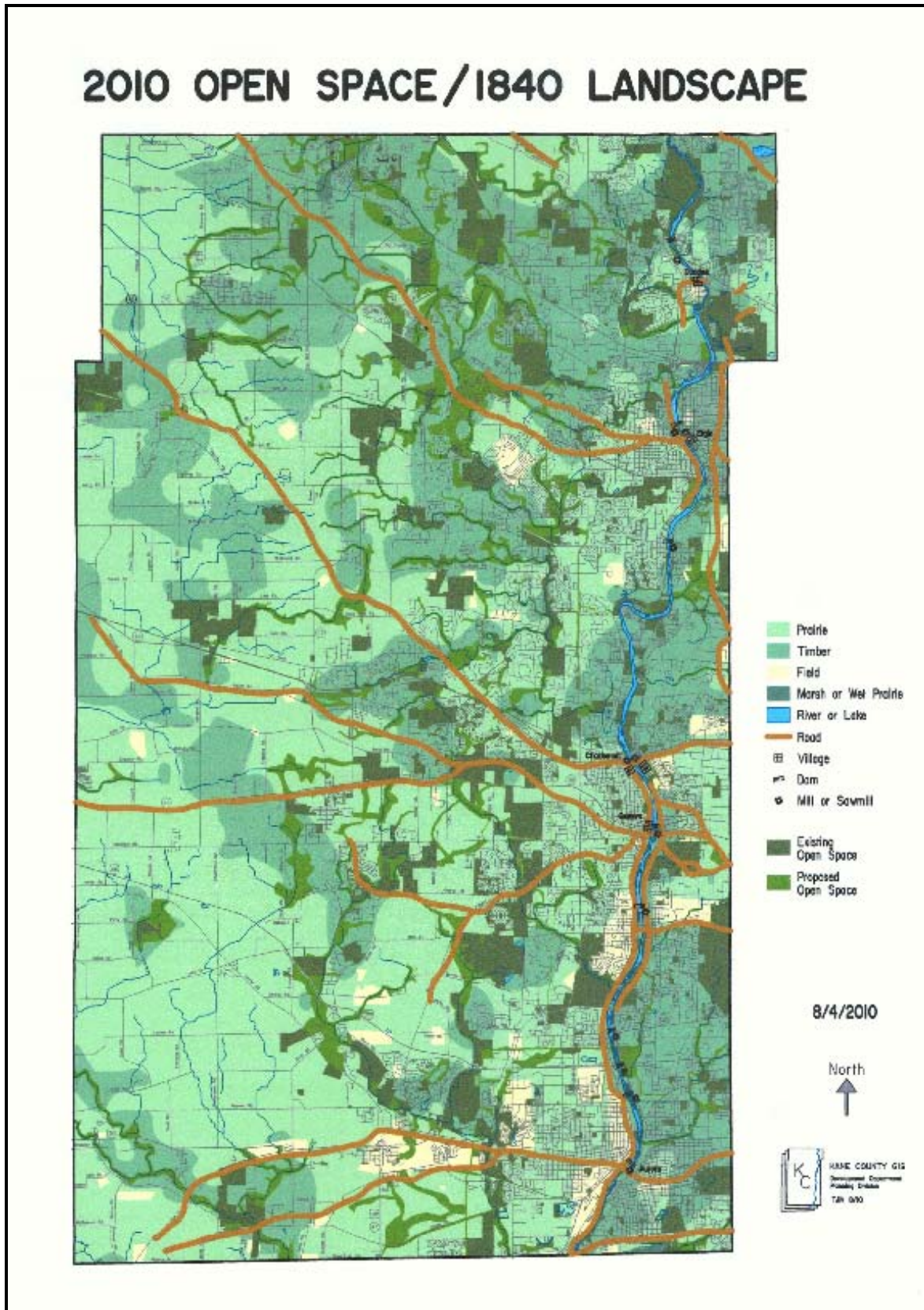
Also, notice how many of the Forest Preserve and park district land acquisitions over the years have protected and preserved the creek corridors, wooded areas, wetlands, marshes or wet prairies shown on the 1840 landscape map. Many 1840 timber areas show a current road pattern as a result of the low density, wooded lots developed over the years in parts of Big Rock, along Blackberry Creek, west of St. Charles in Campton Hills, and northwest of Elgin in the valley of Tyler Creek.

While many of the early 1840 fields have been subsequently platted, developed and annexed for County and municipal growth, some of the early farmed areas, especially west of Randall Road, are still in agricultural use today. Most of the prairie stands of 1840 that hold some of the most fertile soils in the world have now been filled and farmed for over 150 years. Although large acreages of the early prairies have been subdivided and developed over the decades for homes and businesses, well over 50% of Kane County is still in agricultural and open space use today.

During the last decade of rapid growth, there were unparalleled levels of commitment to preservation and planning. The Kane County Forest Preserve District received overwhelming support from the voters for \$85 million in referendum funds to acquire new preserves and expand and improve existing properties. The Brunner Family Forest Preserve, 741 acres along the Fox River in Dundee Township, has some of the highest quality wildlife habitat, creates a 3.5 mile stretch of Fox River waterfront, and preserves a landscape the earliest settlers would recognize. The Burlington Prairie, Muirhead Springs, Mill Creek Lake Run, Cardinal Creek, Tekakwitha Woods, LeRoy Oakes and Big Rock additions expand existing Forest Preserves and continue the plan and preservation of open space and natural areas for current and future residents. The New Haven Forest Preserve in Aurora and Elgin West Regional Park represent new partnerships and intergovernmental agreements with park districts and municipalities to meet the recreational and changing open space needs of growing communities.

The 200-2010 decade witnessed unparalleled numerical growth in big towns and small villages and the creation of several new municipalities. Big Rock (2001), Kaneville (2006), and Campton Hills (2007), incorporated as municipalities. Aurora became Illinois' second largest municipality during the decade and Pingree Grove became one of the fastest growing villages. Montgomery and Elgin grew west to Route 47. Elburn added a new Metra commuter rail station. In fact, more land was annexed to Kane County municipalities, more land was zoned and subdivided, and more building permits issued for new homes than any other decade in our history. Figure 7 indicates in grey the 2010 incorporated areas of the 524 square miles of Kane County. They range from the 40 acres of Hoffman Estates in Section 36 of Dundee Township, to approximately 27 square miles and just over 30 square miles of Aurora and Elgin respectively.

Figure 6



The same map clearly indicates the one and one-half mile extraterritorial jurisdiction of the municipalities beyond their incorporated limits. During the 2000-2010 decade of growth the extraterritorial areas grew significantly as municipal boundaries expanded and new municipalities like Campton Hills incorporated. Note that in 2010 all of the Sustainable Urban Area is incorporated or within the 1 ½ mile jurisdiction, almost all of the Critical Growth Area and all but two small stretches of the Route 47 Corridor fall within municipal jurisdictions. Only in the agricultural and small town area west of Route 47 are significant areas totally outside municipal limits and jurisdiction. The 2010 Census data clearly reflects a statement of the 2030 Plan which supported “the logical, orderly growth of the cities and villages, where 90% or more of the new population (emphasis added) will reside.”

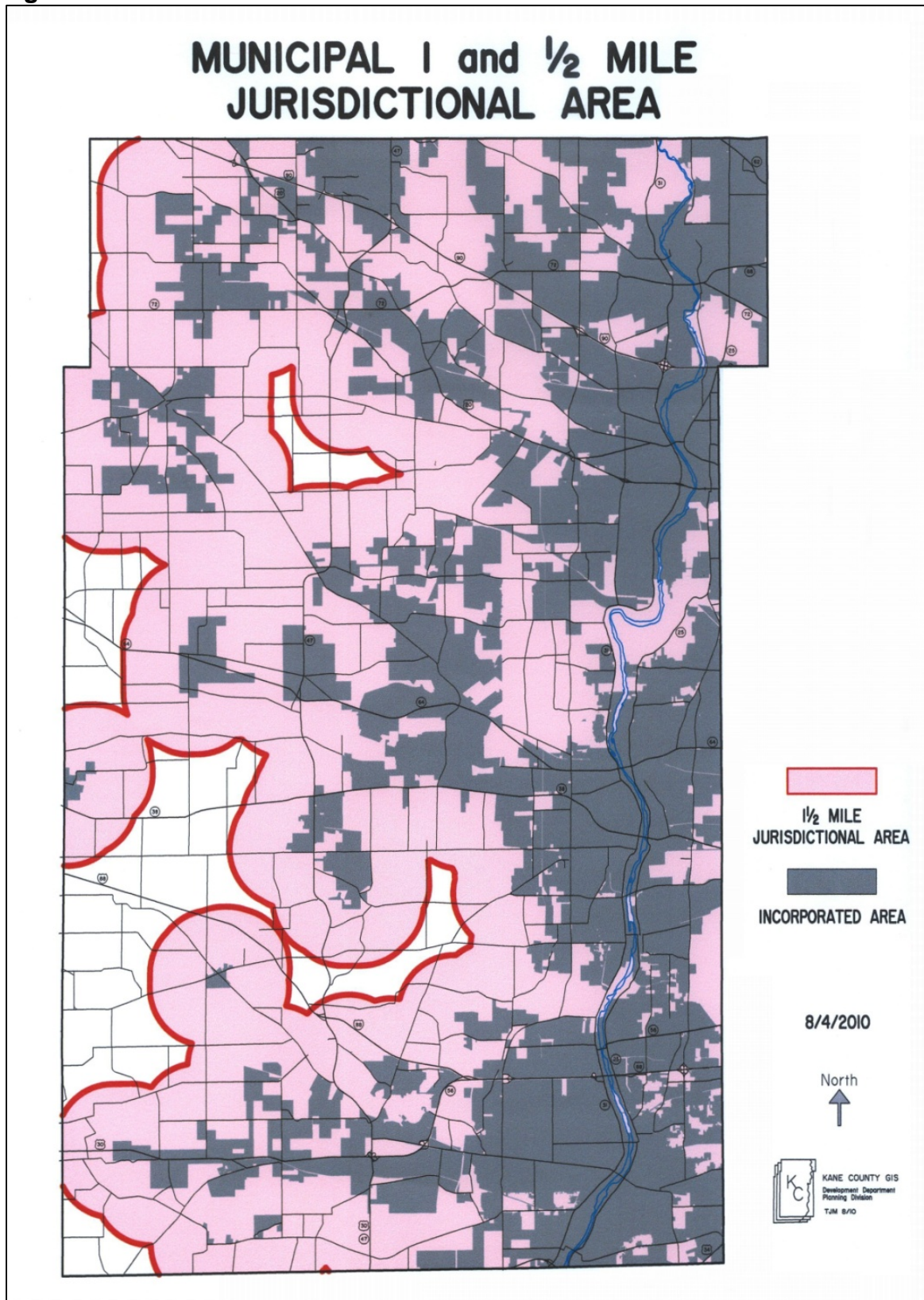
Since the adoption of the 2030 Plan in 2004, municipalities have engaged in planning and community development efforts that have advanced the land use strategy (Figure 8). Cities and villages have engaged their communities to establish visions and ultimately policy guides for the future revitalization of their downtowns. Promoting downtown investment and redevelopment opportunities, preserving community assets and rich history, enhancing streetscapes and urban design or village character, and establishing a strong community and sense of place are all common themes in these downtown master plans and downtown revitalization plans. The Fox River has been a focus of downtown revitalization for many Sustainable Urban Area communities located along the river. Improvements to the riverfront, such as riverfront plazas, pedestrian bridges, enhanced landscaping and restored riverbanks, upgraded bikeways and pedestrian paths, and artwork are bringing civic pride and activity to the downtowns.

More focused sub-area plans or corridor plans have provided strategies for development and redevelopment, direction for enhanced landscaping and building designs, and recommendations to improve connections to a community’s downtown. Municipalities within the Sustainable Urban Area and Critical Growth Area, such as Elgin, Montgomery, Geneva, and Huntley, are also planning for redevelopment opportunities around existing or planned Metra Stations with transit-oriented-development (TOD) subarea plans. In addition, bikeway and pedestrian master plans have been prepared by municipalities to improve connectivity and recreational opportunities for their residents.

Municipalities within the Sustainable Urban Area are proactively planning for initiatives and programs that will ensure their communities are greener and more sustainable. Elgin, Aurora, and Algonquin have undergone significant community-focused efforts to prepare sustainable master plans or environmental action plans that will encourage energy conservation and the use of renewable energy, conserve ecological and natural resources, improve air quality, develop sustainable building and energy-efficiency policies, encourage recycling and rainwater harvesting, and engage public and private stakeholders on sustainability initiatives.



Figure 7



## **Figure 8. Municipal Planning Efforts Since 2004**

### **Comprehensive Plans:**

City of St. Charles (In Progress)  
Village of Campton Hills (In Progress)  
Village of Elburn (In Progress)  
Kaneville Comprehensive Plan (2009)  
Lily Lake Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2009)  
Village of Algonquin Comprehensive Plan (2008)  
Village of Carpentersville Comprehensive Plan (2007)  
City of Batavia Comprehensive Plan (2007)  
Village of Barrington Hills Comprehensive Plan (2005)  
Village of Burlington Land Use Plan (2005)  
Village of Big Rock Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2003 – to be updated in 2012/13)

### **Downtown Master Plans/Revitalization Plan**

City of Geneva, Downtown Station – Area Master Plan (In Progress)  
Village of Huntley, Downtown Revitalization Plan (2010)  
Village of East Dundee, Downtown Depot Redevelopment/Utilization (2008)  
Village of East Dundee, Downtown Revitalization Plan (2007)  
City of Aurora, A Master Plan for Downtown (2006)

### **Riverfront Master Plans:**

City of Aurora - RiverEdge Park Master Plan (2007)

### **Village Center Plans:**

Village of Carpentersville, Old Town Area Plan (In Progress)  
Village of Pingree Grove, Village and Heritage District Master Plan (2011)  
Village of South Elgin, Village Center Master Plan – update to comp. plan (2007)  
Village of Pingree Grove, Village Center Vision and Concept Plan (2006)

### **Sub-Area Plans:**

City of Geneva, Southeast Master Plan (In Progress)  
City of Aurora, Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (2005-2009)  
Village of Montgomery, Western Development Subarea Plan (2008)  
Village of Montgomery, Montgomery Preserve Sub-Area Plan (2006)  
Village of Montgomery, Mill District Enhancement Project, Montgomery Village Center (2006)  
Village of Wayne, Rte. 25 Subarea Plan (2005)

### **Corridor Plans:**

Village of Carpentersville, Longmeadow Parkway Corridor Study (2009)  
Village of East Dundee, Route 72 Corridor Plan and Streetscape Enhancements (2008)  
Village of Bartlett, Bartlett Road Corridor Plan (2007)  
Village of Montgomery, Orchard Rd./Blackberry Creek Corridor Plan (2005)  
Village of Montgomery, Montgomery Road Corridor Plan (2004)

### **Main Street Plan:**

Village of Sugar Grove, Main Street Plan (2007)

### **Design Guidelines:**

City of Geneva, Design Guidelines for Historic Properties (2010)  
City of Batavia Historic Preservation Design Guidelines (2009)  
City of Aurora, Aurora Riverfront Vision and Design Guidelines (2006)

### **Mobility/Transportation Plans:**

St. Charles Circulator Study (2011)

City of Geneva, Downtown/Station Area Master Plan (2011)  
City of Elgin, CNU Connectivity Study (2010)  
City of Elgin, National Street Subarea Plan – TOD (2010)  
TOD Plan & Park and Ride Study, Village of Montgomery (2009)  
Village of Huntley, TOD Plan (2009)

**Bicycle or Bikeway/Pedestrian Master Plans**

Village of Hoffman Estate, Comprehensive Bicycle Plan (2010)  
Village of Montgomery (2010)  
City of Aurora, Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2009)  
Village of Algonquin, Parks, Trails, and Open Space (2008)  
City of Elgin (2008)  
City of Batavia (2007)  
City of Geneva, Bikeway Implementation Plan (2005)

**Sustainability/Environmental Action Plans**

City of Elgin, Sustainability Action Plan (draft 2011)  
City of Aurora, Sustainability Plan (2009)  
Village of Algonquin, Environmental Action Plan (2008)

**Green Infrastructure Plan**

Village of Campton Hills, Green Infrastructure Plan (2010)

**Comprehensive Open Space Master Plan**

Village of South Elgin, Comprehensive Open Space Master Plan (2009)  
Village of Algonquin, Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan (2008)

**Watershed Plan**

Village of Algonquin, Woods Creek Watershed Protection Plan (2001)

## **Tomorrow - 2010 Census**

The 1840 Census count for Kane County of 6,501 persons was a county total that did not identify the number of citizens in any of the small towns and villages along the Fox River. In fact, that Census only enumerated the population of four principal towns in Illinois, Alton, Chicago, Springfield and Quincy. Chicago's population of 4,476 was almost twice that of the other three towns and the total Illinois population was only 476,183.

In contrast, the 2010 Census indicates for just Kane County a population of 515,269 and Aurora is now the second largest city in Illinois with almost 200,000 residents, spread across 46 square miles in portions of DuPage, Will, Kendall and Kane County. In Kane alone the Aurora 2010 population is over 130,000. All or portions of 29 other municipalities, along with the unincorporated areas account for our over half a million residents and standing as the fifth most populous County in Illinois.

Table 3 depicts the distribution of total Kane County population among the municipalities. After Aurora, Elgin and Carpentersville are the second and third most populated municipalities. Kaneville, newly incorporated in 2007, contains 484 persons, Hoffman Estates, has zero residents in its forty acres within Kane County, and Barrington Hills grew to 137 residents within Kane's borders.



**Table 1**

Geographic Area	2000 Population	2010 Population	Change, 2000 to 2010	
			Number	Percent
Algonquin Village	5022	8433	3411	40.45%
Aurora City	100290	130976	30686	23.43%
Barrington Hills Village	97	137	40	29.20%
Bartlett Village	2	0	-2	N/A
Batavia City	23866	26045	2179	8.37%
Big Rock Village		1126	N/A	N/A
Burlington Village	452	618	166	26.86%
Campton Hills Village		11131	N/A	N/A
Carpentersville Village	30586	37691	7105	18.85%
East Dundee Village	2948	2860	-88	-3.08%
Elburn Village	2756	5602	2846	50.80%
Elgin City	74013	84156	10143	12.05%
Geneva City	19515	21495	1980	9.21%
Gilberts Village	1279	6879	5600	81.41%
Hampshire Village	2900	5563	2663	47.87%
Hoffman Estates Village	0	0	0	N/A
Huntley Village	1107	5795	4688	80.90%
Kaneville Village		484	N/A	N/A
Lily Lake Village	825	993	168	16.92%
Maple Park Village	652	672	20	2.98%
Montgomery Village	3855	7871	4016	51.02%
North Aurora Village	10585	16760	6175	36.84%
Pingree Grove Village	124	4532	4408	97.26%
Prestbury CDP		1722	N/A	N/A
Sleepy Hollow Village	3553	3304	-249	-7.54%
South Elgin Village	16100	21985	5885	26.77%
St. Charles City	27727	32431	4704	14.50%
Sugar Grove Village	3909	8997	5088	56.55%
Virgil Village	266	329	63	19.15%
Wayne Village	834	861	27	3.14%
West Dundee Village	5428	7331	1903	25.96%
Total Incorporated	338691	456779	118088	25.85%
Total Unincorporated	65428	58490	-6938	-11.86%
Total	404119	515269	111150	21.57%

Aurora's leading numerical change of just over 30,000 was followed by Elgin, 10,143, Carpentersville, 7,105, North Aurora, 6,175, South Elgin, 5,885, and Sugar Grove, 5,088. The greatest percent change from 2000 to 2010 occurred in Pingree Grove, 97.26%, Gilberts, 81.41%, Huntley, 80.90%, Sugar Grove, 56.55%, Montgomery, 51.02% and Elburn, 50.80%. While the largest numerical municipal growth occurred in the Sustainable Urban Area of the Kane County Conceptual Land Use Strategy Plan, the greatest percent increases were in the municipalities developing within the Critical Growth Area.

Table 1 also indicates a decline in unincorporated population from 65,428 in 2000 to 58,490 in 2010. New unincorporated growth, in the Mill Creek PUD for example, was offset by the incorporation of Kaneville, 484, Big Rock, 1,126, and Campton Hills, 11,131, between 2000 and 2010. However, the total unincorporated population in 2010 continues to be the third largest, exceeded only by the incorporated populations of Aurora and Elgin.

The 1840 Census revealed that a majority of the Kane County workforce was then engaged in agriculture. While the earliest farmed areas have expanded over the decades to now include 192,372 of the total 335,448 acres of Kane County, the workforce engaged in agriculture as a primary occupation has drastically decreased to 759 persons operating farms. The total number of farms has slightly increased from 619 in 2002 to 759 in 2007.

While livestock were a big part of 1840 farming, in 2007 livestock sales make up only 11% or \$22,519,000 of the market value of production in the County. 89%, over \$175,000,000 is in crop sales. The total value of agricultural products sold, \$198,108,000, ranks Kane 20<sup>th</sup> out of 102 counties in Illinois and 325<sup>th</sup> out of 3,076 counties in the U.S. Corn for grain and soybeans for beans are now the principle crops accounting for over 90% of farm sales. Hay and silage, wheat and nursery stock are the other top crops in 2007. Kane's ranking as third in Illinois for the number of acres in tree and sod nursery stock is a key sign of being on the edge of metropolitan growth in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. That proximity to developing areas is further emphasized by the value of nursery, greenhouse, horticulture, and sod sales which place Kane first among counties in Illinois.

Hogs and pigs top the livestock list in 2007 (35,426) as in 1840 (17,279). 8,908 cattle and calves were on Kane County farms in 2007 compared to 7,858 in 1840. Horses and ponies (3,271) are now used primarily for pleasure riding and racing, while back then the horses and mules (1,658) were used to work and expand the farms. Other crops reflected in the 2007 Census of Agriculture include raising pheasants, cut Christmas trees, sheep, goats, and their products, and a state rank of 13<sup>th</sup> in the value of sales of vegetables, melons, potatoes and sweet potatoes. Some of these farm products are indicative of the changing face of agriculture on the edge of the growing metropolitan area in 2010.

In March of 2010 the State of Illinois Department of Employment Security, indicated 185,561 persons employed by 13,024 different employers. Of the total number employed, 155,665 persons were employed in the private sector and the balance, 29,896 persons, were employed by state, local, and federal units of public government.

As previously noted, agricultural employment in 2010 is minimal compared to the other employment sectors. The other goods-producing sectors of construction and manufacturing employed 6,797 and 27,699 persons respectively. The service-providing sectors employed a total of 120,445 persons by 10,049 various units with 35,102 jobs in trade, transportation and utilities. The wholesale and retail trade categories indicate 15,261 and 20,202 persons employed. Another large category, professional and business services, employed 23,241 persons and finance, insurance and real estate employed another 8,850 persons. One of the largest categories of employment in Kane County is educational and health services, which indicates a total of 26,110 persons employed, 3,323 in educational services and 22,787 in health care and social assistance. A growing employment category in 2010 in leisure and hospitality with 18,274 persons employed in arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations and food services.

The total number of employed, 185,561, in March of 2010 accounted for total annual wages of \$1,809,700,000. As of September, 2010 the number of employed had increased in Kane County to 191,253 with annual wages of \$1,942,034,000. The number of employed from March to September had increased in agriculture, manufacturing, service providers, business and professional services, construction, and most other categories. Declines in the number of employed were in finance, insurance, real estate, and state, local, and federal government.

## 1.4 PLANNING FRAMEWORK – 2040 PLANNING PERSPECTIVE

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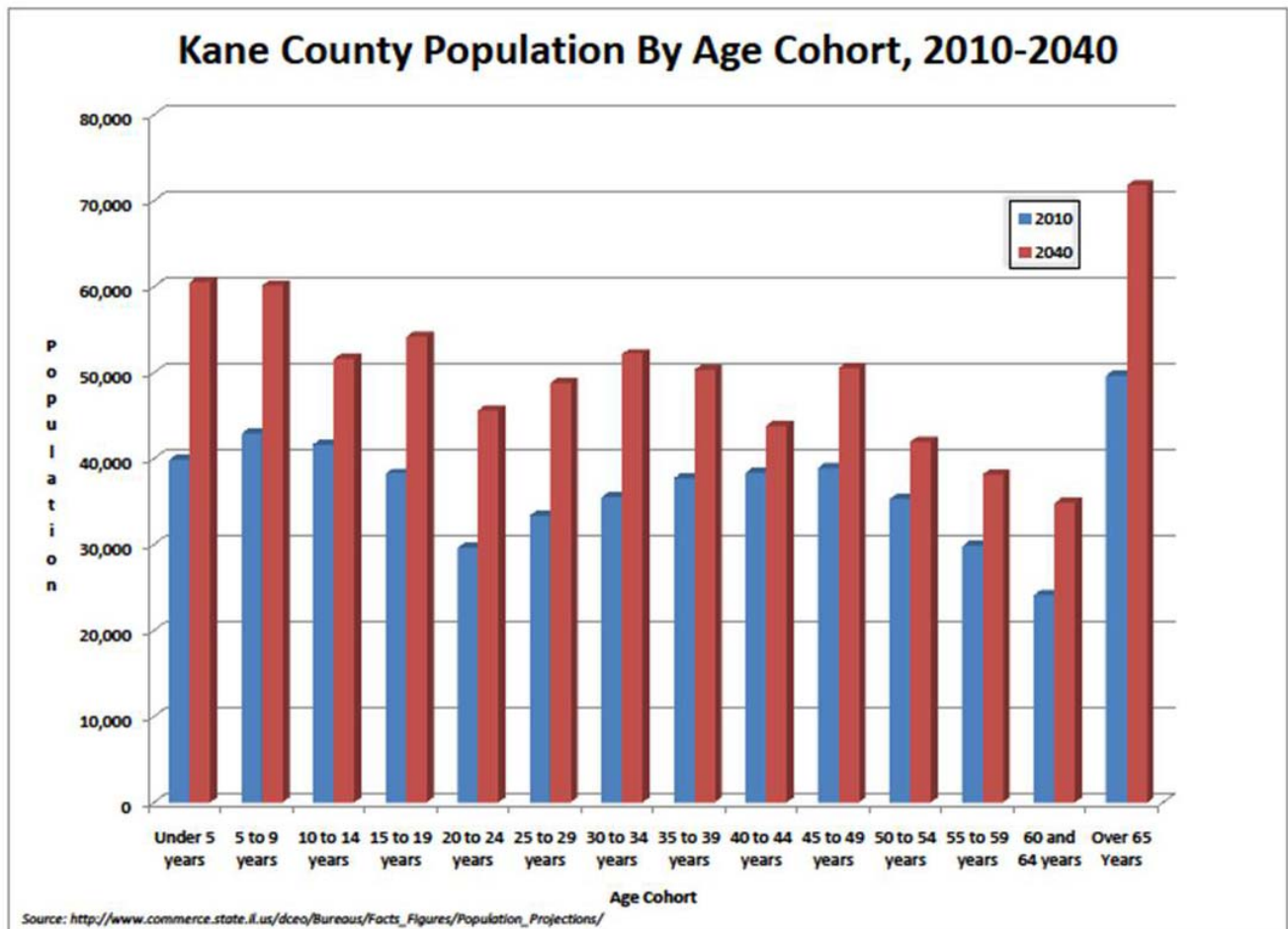
Almost 8 years have passed since the Kane County Board unanimously adopted the 2030 Plan on October 12, 2004. The 2030 Planning Perspective of the Plan was introduced with the statement “the Chicago region has begun the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in a position of strength. Our region is diverse, attractive, and prosperous. The City of Chicago and the surrounding 272 municipalities produce \$300 billion worth of goods and services annually” (The Metropolis Plan: Choices for the Chicago Region). It went on to state that the position of strength was “equally applicable to Kane County and its 28 municipalities. Our County is strong, our citizens diverse, our river valley and rolling farmland are attractive, our communities are prosperous and WE ARE GROWING!”

Now, more than a decade into the new century, the region and Kane County can still celebrate the diversity and strength of our citizens. From Lake Michigan to the Fox River and the fertile farmland, our region is still an attractive place to live and work. Northeastern Illinois remains an important center in the global economy, but is now faced with new challenges for long-term growth and economic prosperity during a time of economic uncertainty.

And, while growth has drastically slowed since the economic recession of 2008, the regional 2040 projections for population, households, and employment indicate that Kane County can expect almost 270,000 more residents, about 95,000 new households, and close to 150,000 additional employment opportunities during the next three decades.

In addition to growing, the overall population is also becoming more racially and ethnically diverse and is aging. In Kane County, the number of foreign-born residents increased from 4.0% in 1970 to 15.7% in 2000. From 2000 to 2010, the foreign born population increased to 18.2%. As of 2010 the Latin Americans and Asians make up the largest total population of foreign born residents in the County, 13.6% and 2.1% respectively. According to CMAP, “as the baby boomer generation continues to age, metropolitan Chicago will experience a significant increase in its senior population (residents who are 65 years of age or older), a dynamic that mirrors national trends. By 2040 the number of residents between 65 and 84 years of age is projected to double. Furthermore, the number of residents in the region who are over 85 years old is projected to triple.” In Kane County the senior population is estimated to increase by 154,601 people (Figure 9). Comprehensive planning for our growing county and the profound population, land use, transportation, housing, open space, natural resource and healthy living challenges we face has become more important than ever.

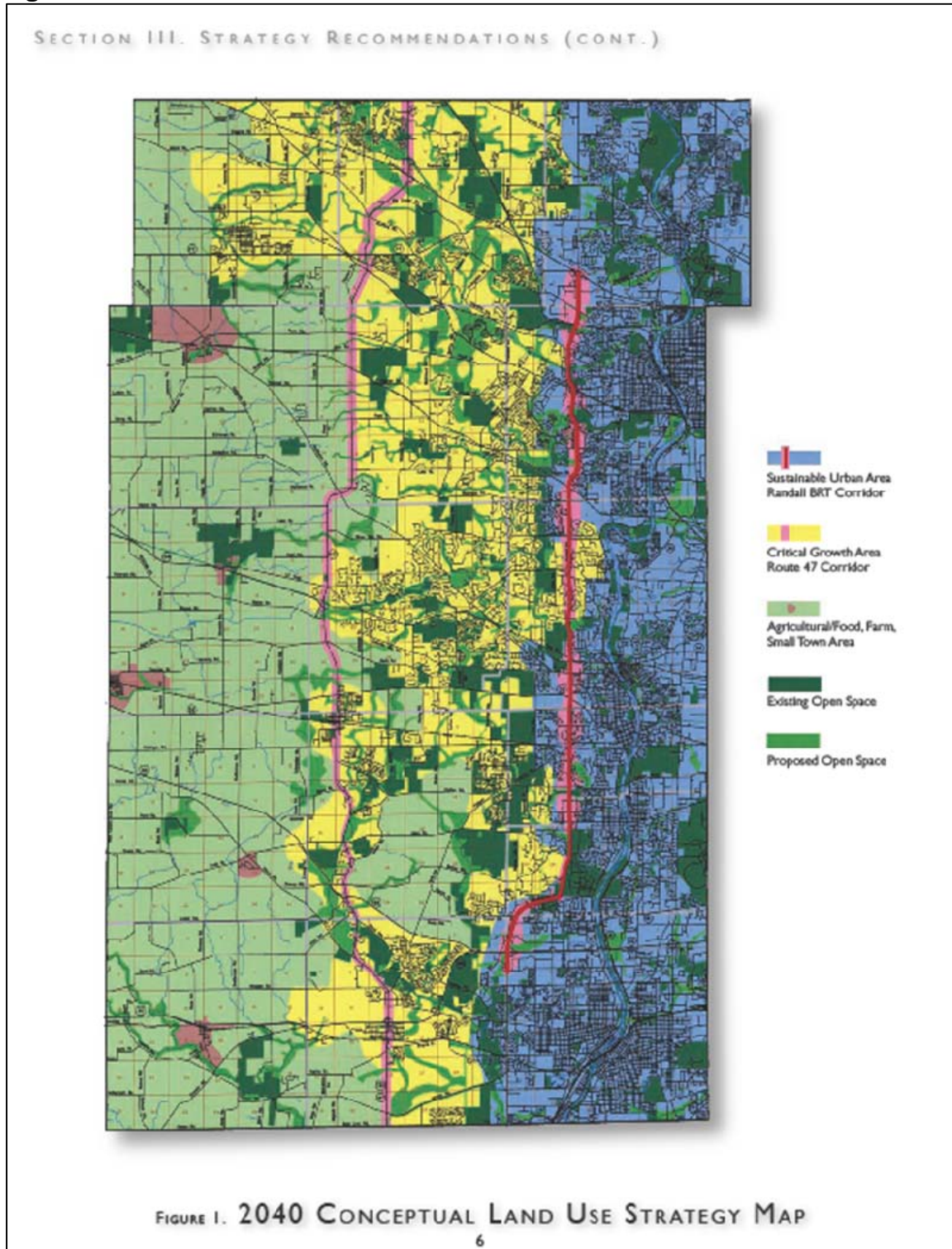
Figure 9



Like its predecessors the 2020 and 2030 Plans, the planning framework for this Plan is based on a Conceptual Land Use Strategy Map recommended by the Planning Commission and unanimously adopted by the County Board on October 12, 2010, to serve as a basis for the preparation of this 2040 Plan report. It presents what the “TOMORROW” could be for Kane County.

The three conceptual strategy areas have been carried over from the 2020 and 2030 Plans. The names of the three strategy areas, the Sustainable Urban Area, the Critical Growth Area, and the Agricultural / Food, Farm, Small Town Area, have been revised slightly to reflect a variety of changes in the County, and are depicted on Figure 8. While the three themes introduced in the 2030 Plan are still appropriate and remain applicable to the **Conceptual Strategy Areas**, the 2040 Plan adds a new, over-arching theme: **Healthy People, Healthy Living, Healthy Communities**.

Figure 10



The **Sustainable Urban Area** clearly reveals that there continues to be a **Renaissance**, a revival of the communities and neighborhoods along the Fox River. Since first used as a theme in the 2030 Plan, the Renaissance of the Sustainable Urban Area is evidenced by festivals, public art, beautification projects, renewable energy programs, redevelopment, resurgence, downtown revitalization, farmers markets, community gardens, place making, new public buildings, private preservation activities, a new sense of neighborhood and community pride, and the list goes on and on. All of these are indicative of what can be termed sustainable urbanism and it is alive and well in the Fox River Communities.

The **Critical Growth Area** title remains the same as in the 2020 and 2030 Plans and the theme of **Refinement** is more appropriate than ever. The Critical Growth Area continues to be where Kane County and the fast growing municipalities of the past decade face the greatest challenges to sensible, managed growth over the next three decades. The Planning Commission's report to the County Board stated "The Commission believes this (Critical Growth Area) is where Kane County still has a great opportunity to implement Smart Growth Principles and incorporate Priority Places into community development decisions." This 2040 Plan reflects a "refinement" by Kane County of the geographic area, the diversity and mix of planned municipal development, expanded transportation opportunities, additional open space initiatives, natural resource driven decision making and healthy living in the Critical Growth Area.

The fertile soil, productive farmland, agri-business investments and small towns of central and western Kane County are named the **Agricultural/Food, Farm, Small Town Area**. The first part of the title, "food and farm", reflects the County's policy of protecting productive farmland and the emergence of locally grown foods as a desirable goal. The second part of the title, "small towns", reflects the fact that Kaneville, Big Rock, and Campton Hills have incorporated as municipalities since 2001, and other villages have grown but they have all adopted municipal plans that emphasize the protection of farmland through the preservation of their small town characters. As these communities and the County face development issues in the future, as population increases and as demand and supply of locally grown farm product grows, no theme is more important or valid for the Agricultural/Food, Farm, Small Town Area than **Recommitment**.

The Sustainable Urban Area, the Critical Growth Area, and the Agricultural/Food, Farm, Small Town Area as depicted on Figure 10 incorporates an updated and expanded **Open Space Armature, the Green Infrastructure Network**. This countywide open space system, the green infrastructure, has been a prominent component of every single adopted County plan for over 4 decades. The 2040 Conceptual Strategy Map continues that tradition by highlighting and emphasizing the importance of open space protection, greenway implementation, and water resource management along the Fox River and in the developing watersheds. The 2040 map reflects the County's continued recommitment to preserving more than 50% of the County's land area in agriculture and open space uses three decades from now. The farms, locally grown foods, and open



space are an important component to the County's over-arching goal of the 2040 Plan, "Healthy People, Healthy Living, Healthy Communities."

New elements depicted on the 2040 Conceptual Strategy map are the Illinois Route 47 Corridor and the Randall/Orchard Road BRT Corridor. Both of these Corridors represent opportunities to link land use and transportation opportunities to create jobs and new economic development consistent with healthier communities. The Illinois Route 47 Corridor is where the municipalities and the County can cooperatively plan to meet the challenges of the future and accommodate significant population and employment increases in the Critical Growth Area. The same is true for the Randall/Orchard Road BRT Corridor in the Sustainable Urban Area and meeting the transportation, housing, and employment challenges of the next three decades.