VISION KENDALL

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN









ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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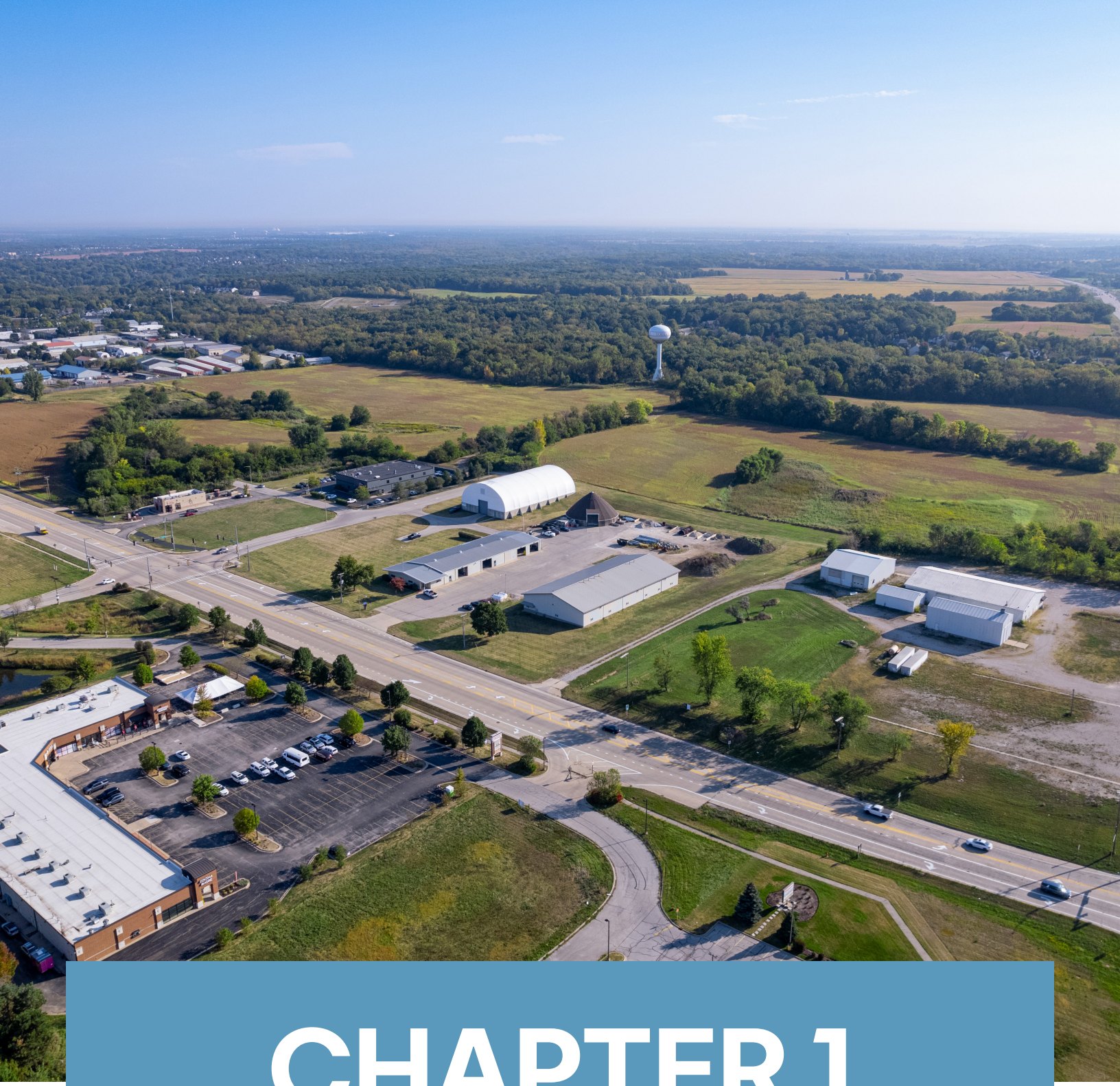
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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION & PROCESS

INTRODUCTION & PROCESS

Kendall County, Illinois, is located on the outskirts of the Chicago metropolitan area. A high quality of life, coupled with this regional proximity, has resulted in significant growth and the need to create a plan to guide future development. This plan is designed as 20-year vision to manage future growth and development.

1.1 PURPOSE & USE OF THE PLAN

A Comprehensive Plan is a vision of the future. The plan builds the rationale for an illustrates the most appropriate use of land within the County. The plan takes a holistic approach, including evaluation and recommendations on economic development, housing, transportation, community facilities and services, open space, community character, land use, and strategies to implement the plan's vision. This Comprehensive Plan:

- Provides a guide to decisions that are legally sound. It allows the County to step back from current zoning cases and create a vision for future growth and development. Following the plan's guidance will provide a sound basis for future decisions that are defensible should the County ever be challenged on a land use decision.
- Informs budget and policy decisions that shape quality of life.
- Builds on past plans, actions and decisions while reflecting changes in society, demographics, the economy, and technology.
- Advances economic development, outlining realistic opportunities for growth and development.
- Answers the question, "What does the County want to see here?"
- Outlines implementation that brings about desired change.
- Provides a tool that can be used to seek funding through grants and foundations.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Land Use



Economic Development



Transportation



Community Character



Community Facilities & Services



Housing



Infrastructure



Implementation

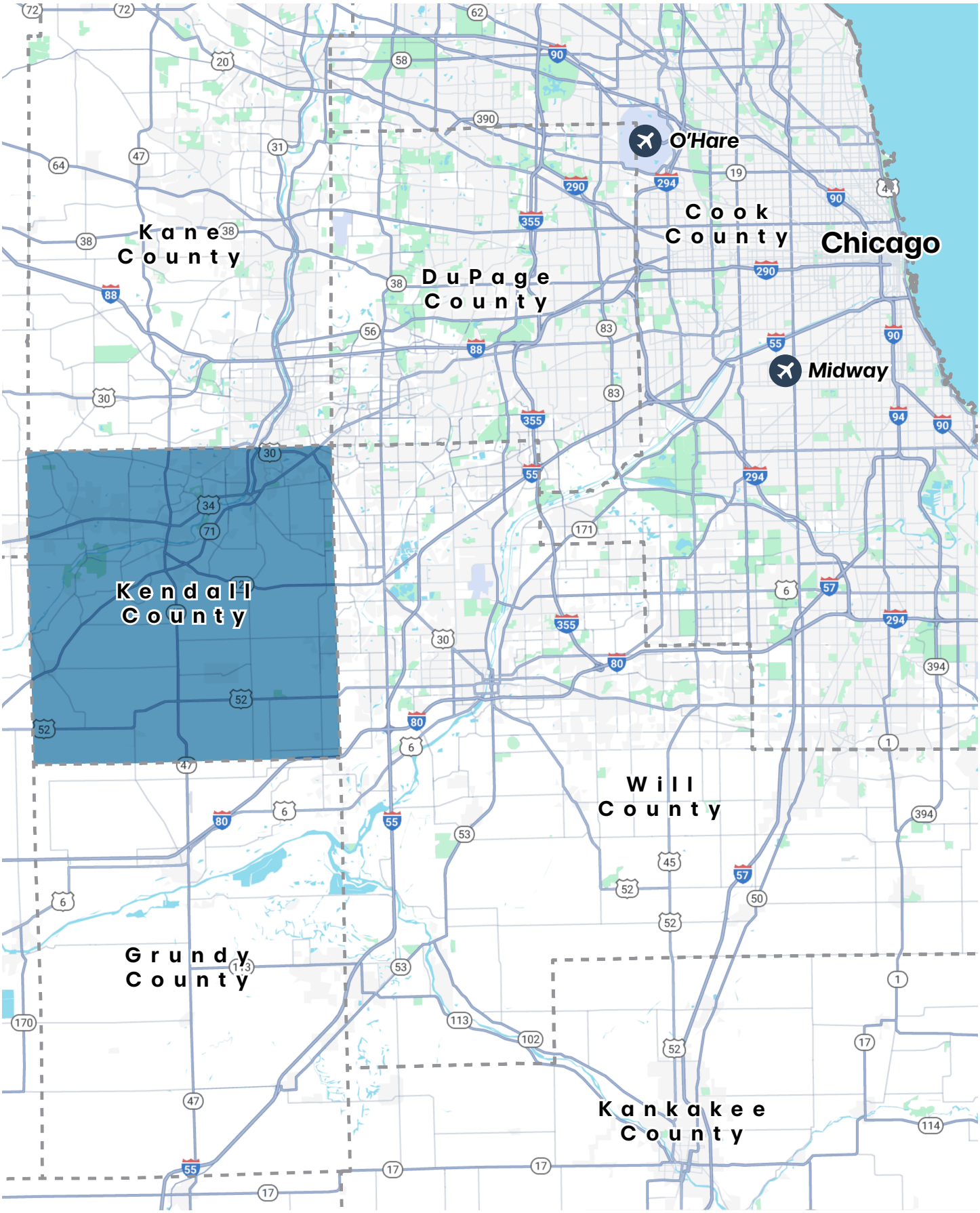


Figure 1.1 *Location Map of Kendall County*

1.2 REGIONAL & LOCAL CONTEXT

Kendall County is in the western Chicago suburbs as a collar county, with an area of 322 square miles. It is the smallest Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) county. Despite its size, Kendall County sits in a strategic position, bordering six counties (Kane, DuPage, Will, Grundy, LaSalle, and DeKalb) and is close to major cities such as Aurora, Joliet, and Naperville in the area. Kendall County comprises nine townships: Big Grove, Bristol, Fox, Kendall, Lisbon, Little Rock, Na-Au-Say, Oswego, and Seward.

Kendall County is characterized by its picturesque natural landscape, rich agriculture base, and fast-growing suburban communities. The location of Kendall County presents itself as a transitional area between traditional agricultural land and vibrant economic development. The three northern townships (Little Rock, Bristol, and Oswego) continue to be the main economic development area powered by the diverse commercial and industrial businesses, multi-modal infrastructure network, as well as majority of residential neighborhoods. The townships along the eastern county lines including Na-Au-Say and Seward are embracing the west-bound development expansion from Will County featuring industrial and residential developments. The rest of the County continues to maintain its agricultural tradition and rural character.

The communities in Kendall County range widely in size, character, and population. From vibrant suburban communities like Oswego (2024 population 38,778) to rural villages with small-town charm like Newark (2024 population 980). There are seven municipalities (Plano, Yorkville, Oswego, Plattville, Lisbon, Newark, and Millbrook) completely or mostly located in Kendall County, nine (Sandwich, Millington, Montgomery, Aurora, Plainfield, Joliet, Shorewood, and Minooka) are expanding into the County, and one large,

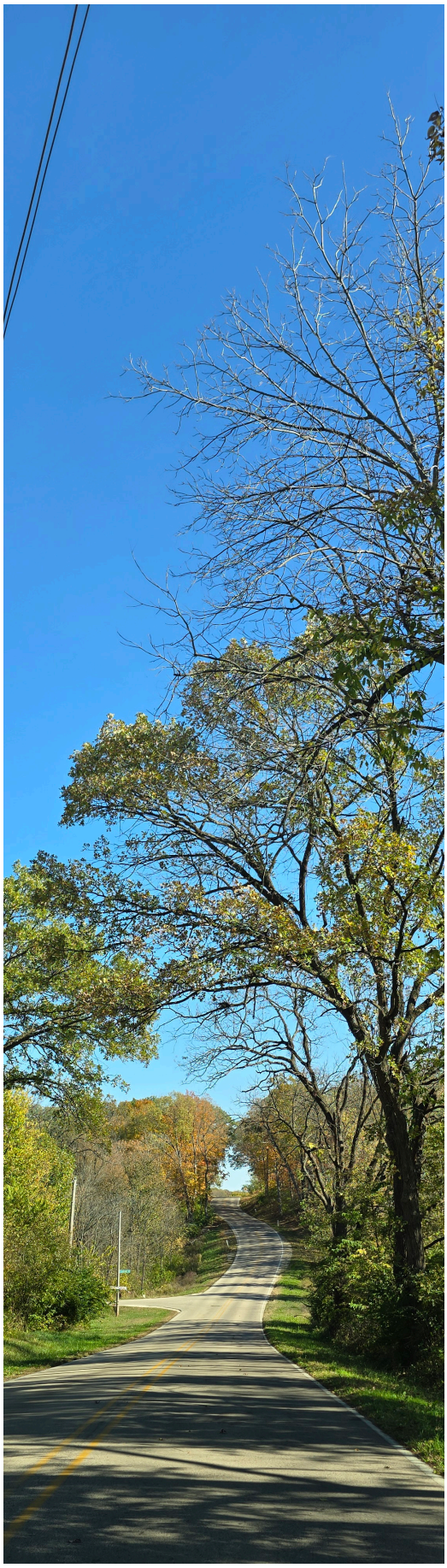


unincorporated community known as Boulder Hill. Yorkville, which is in the center geographically, serves as the county seat.

A network of U.S., state, and county highways traverses Kendall County, providing critical connections to the Chicago metropolitan area and the national transportation system. Major corridors, including U.S. Routes 34 and 52 and Illinois Routes 47, 71, and 126, serve as primary east–west and north–south links for residents, freight movement, and regional travel. This roadway network has played a central role in shaping growth patterns, particularly by supporting suburban residential development and industrial expansion near key corridors.

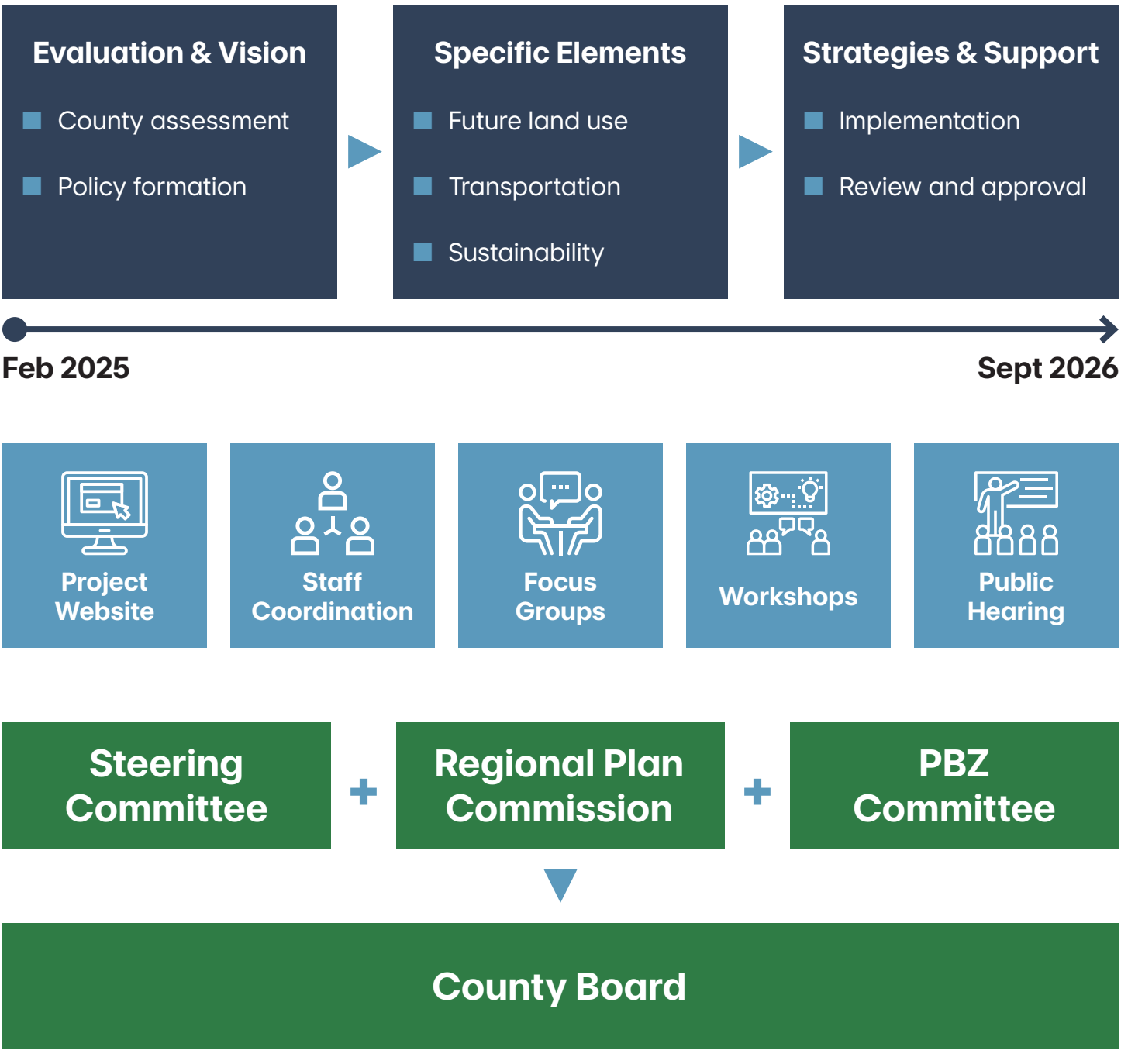
While no commuter rail lines currently operate directly within the County, Metra service is accessible in nearby communities such as Aurora and Naperville, providing commuter connections to downtown Chicago and regional employment centers. Freight rail lines operated by major carriers pass near or along the County's periphery, supporting regional goods movement and contributing to the attractiveness of nearby industrial and logistics development. Kendall County has access to Amtrak, the national passenger rail service, via stations in Plano or in nearby downtown Joliet.

Kendall County is also strategically located relative to major air transportation facilities. Residents and businesses have access to Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Chicago Midway International Airport, as well as Chicago Rockford International Airport, a key cargo hub. In addition, several regional and general aviation airports, including Aurora Municipal Airport, Morris Municipal Airport, and Joliet Regional Airport, serve business, recreational, and freight-related aviation needs. Together, these transportation assets enhance Kendall County's regional connectivity and support economic growth while reinforcing its role as an exurban community within the greater Chicago region.



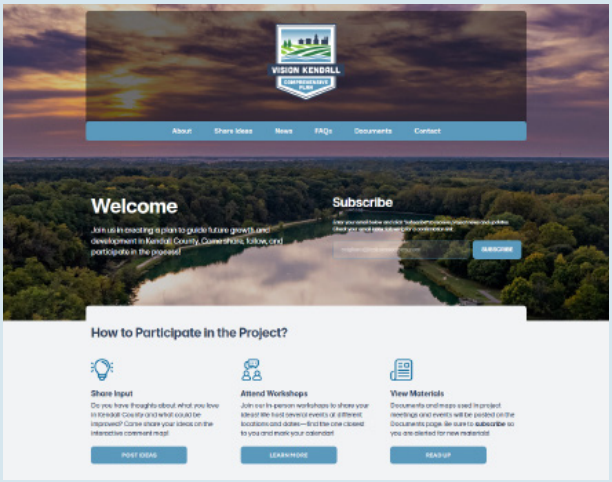
1.3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Community engagement plays a critical role in creating an effective and sustainable plan. By incorporating a wide range of engagement activities throughout the project, the process evolves from a procedural exercise into a genuinely collaborative effort across the County. This approach ensures that the plan reflects the community's values, concerns, and aspirations rather than relying solely on top-down decision-making. This Comprehensive Plan is based on extensive community input throughout the planning process, which is summarized in the illustration below.

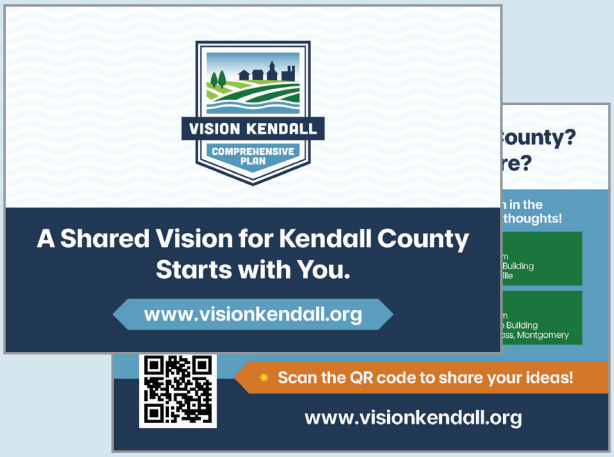


The following showcases the key outreach efforts the project team conducted to ensure broad community participation throughout the process:

- Creation of a project web site ***www.VisionKendall.org*** that was maintained throughout the planning process, providing opportunities for residents to share ideas through surveys and an interactive mapping tool, access draft documents, receive regular updates and project news, and learn about the purpose and use of the plan.
- A quick survey and interactive comment map that allowed the public to share their living and working experiences in Kendall County.
- Promotional postcards distributed at public open house meetings, pop-up booths, and at County and township facilities.
- News articles published by regional media outlets to build awareness and encourage public participation.
- Promotional posts highlighting the project website, public events, surveys, and other key updates are shared across community Facebook groups to expand the reach.
- A series of five open house meetings held at various locations throughout the County to discuss overall vision and identify key opportunities and concerns.
- An additional series of five open house meetings to review the draft plan and receive public feedback.



Project Brand and Website



Promotional Postcard



Social Media Materials

- Regular meetings throughout the planning process with the Comprehensive Land Plan Committee to provide updates and obtain input and direction.
- Direct outreach and discussions with key stakeholders throughout the County including municipalities, townships, economic development professionals, key County departments, fire districts, school officials, the farm bureau, developers, and others actively involved in land development.
- A pop-up booth at the National Night Out event, offering residents a chance to share their concerns and vision for Kendall County's future.
- A public hearing before the Regional Planning Commission to formally present the plan and receive additional public comments.

5,500
Website Views

131
Newsletter Subscribers

236
Survey & Map Responses

12
Outreach Events

*As of 9/15/2026



1.4 PAST PLANNING EFFORTS

From 1994 until the adoption of this Comprehensive Plan, Kendall County employed a Land Resources Management Plan (LRMP) to guide planning decisions. The LRMP was based on the guidance and authorization contained in the Illinois Local Land Resource Management Planning Act, P.A. 84-865. That act, and the more general Illinois County Code (55 ILCS 55 5/), recommends that counties adopt land use plans and related policies and objectives.

Both planning approaches included significant input from residents and businesses, focus on unincorporated areas of the County, and contain extensive plans and recommendations. Key differences between the two planning approaches are summarized as follows

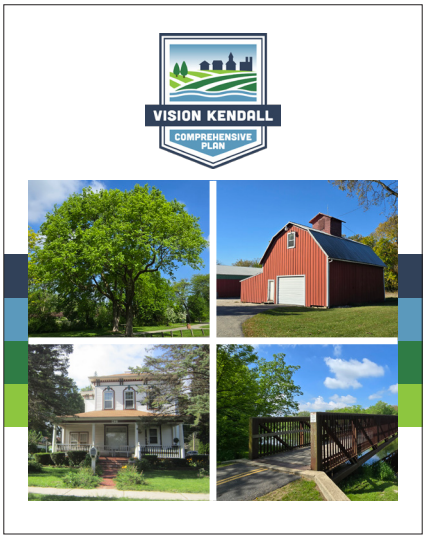
Land Resources Management Plan (1994-early 2026)

- Contained extensive goals and objectives for both planning and management.
- Contains separate chapters by Township or group of Townships, developed over a series of years.
- Contains extensive policies designed to implement the plan.

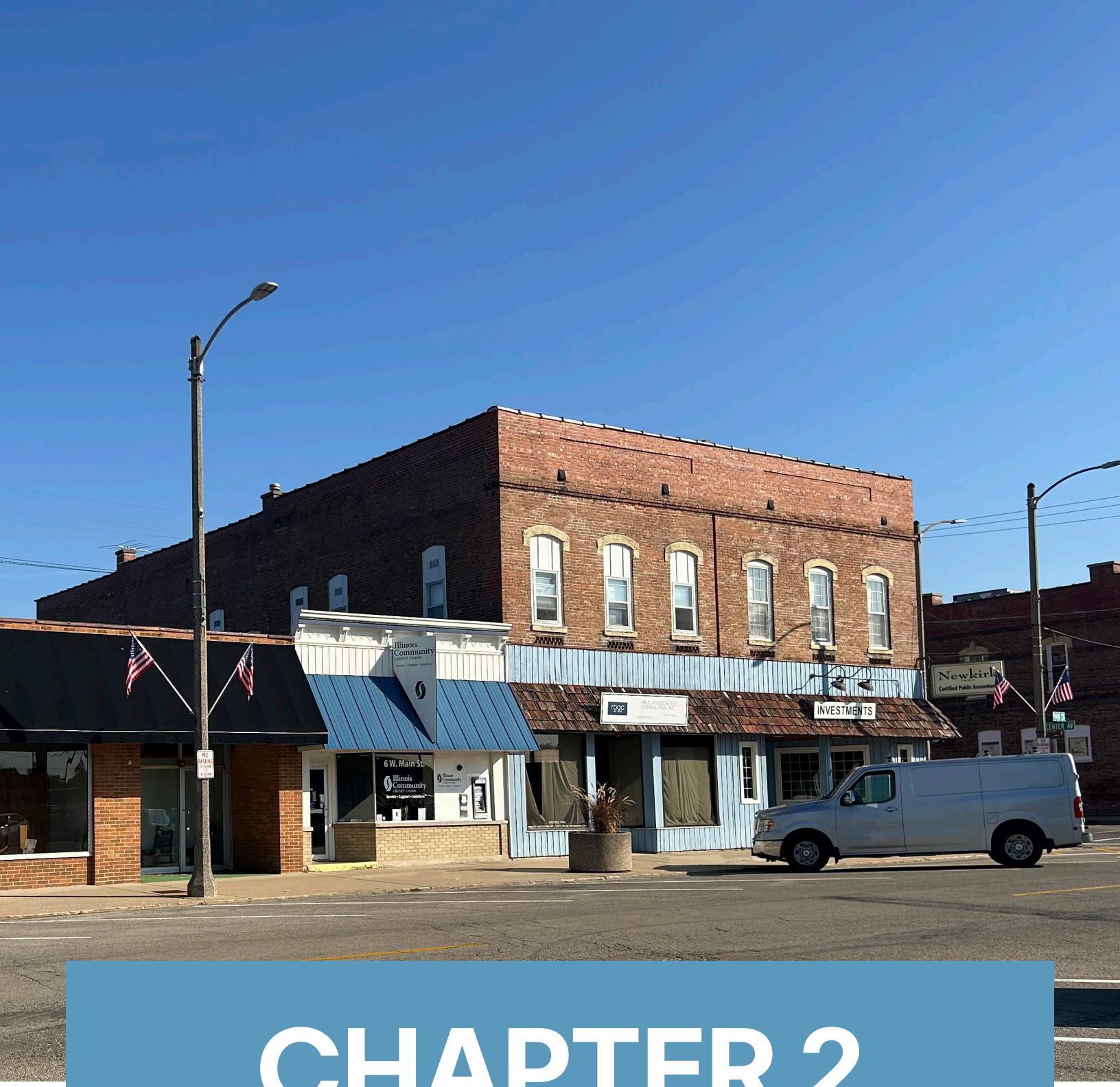
Comprehensive Plan (2026 +)

- Consolidates key goals and objectives in a more concise county vision.
- Contains one overall plan for the County and created over about 18 months.
- Leaves policy decisions to the County Board and their Strategic Planning efforts.






Fox River Trail
MILE
37
Waubonsie Trl
Civic Center 0.2
Dwtn Oswego 1.4



CHAPTER 2
EXISTING CONDITIONS & TRENDS

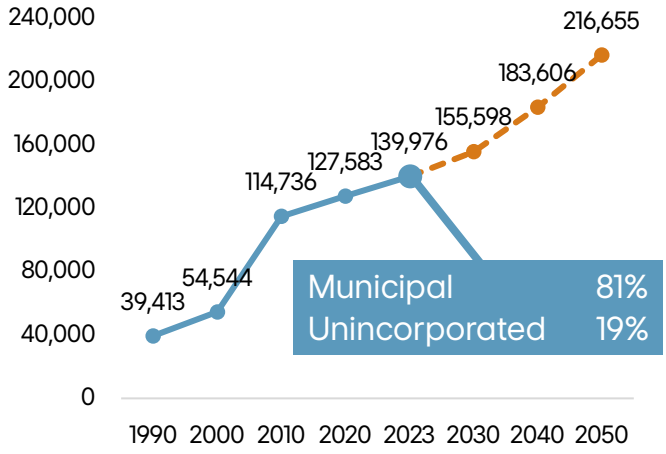
EXISTING CONDITIONS & TRENDS

A clear understanding of where Kendall County is today, taking into consideration past and future trends, is essential in developing a strategy to manage future growth and development. This chapter focuses on understanding population and growth trends in the County and the infrastructure needed to support that growth.

2.1 POPULATION GROWTH

Kendall County is the fastest-growing county in Illinois. This rapid population growth began in the early 2000s as households increasingly relocated from older, more built-out suburbs into exurban communities offering newer housing, larger lots, and relative affordability. As shown in Figure 2.1, Kendall County's population increased from 39,413 in 1990 to 139,976 in 2023, an increase of 255 percent, or more than 100,000 residents. **The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Kendall County added another 3,195 people in 2024 along, bringing the total population to 143,171. The County is projected to continue growing, reaching approximately 216,655 residents by 2050. The majority (81%) of the population lives within the municipalities.**

While growth was especially pronounced between 2000 and 2010, Kendall County has continued to experience strong population increases. This sustained growth distinguishes Kendall County from many other counties in the state, where growth has slowed or reversed in recent years.



	Population	Change
1990	39,413	/
2000	54,544	+38.4%
2010	114,736	+110.4%
2020	127,583	+11.2%
2023	139,976	+9.7%
Projections		
2030	155,598	+11.2%
2040	183,606	+18%
2050	216,655	+18%

Figure 2.1 *County Population Trend 1990-2050*
Source: US Census 1990-2020, and US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates and Teska Associates, Inc. (Projections)

	Kendall County	Kane County	DuPage County	Will County	Grundy County	LaSalle County	DeKalb County	Illinois
1990	37,202	278,405	658,835	324,460	30,582	112,003	74,624	11,426,518
2000	54,544	404,119	904,161	502,266	37,535	111,509	88,969	12,419,293
Change	46.6%	45.2%	37.2%	**54.8%**	22.7%	-0.4%	19.2%	8.7%
2010	114,736	515,269	916,924	677,560	50,063	113,924	105,160	12,830,632
Change	**110.4%**	27.5%	1.4%	34.9%	33.4%	2.2%	18.2%	3.3%
2020	127,583	516,522	932,877	696,355	52,533	109,658	100,420	12,812,508
Change	**133.9%**	27.8%	3.2%	38.6%	40.0%	-1.7%	12.9%	3.2%
2023	139,976	514,982	921,213	700,728	52,920	108,309	100,288	12,549,689
Change	**9.7%**	-0.3%	-1.3%	0.6%	0.7%	-1.2%	-0.1%	-2.1%
33-year Change	**255.2%**	62.2%	17.9%	96.1%	63.7%	1.3%	28.7%	9.8%

Figure 2.2 *Population Change 1990-2023*
Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, and US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

Kendall County's growth far outpaces that of surrounding counties and the State of Illinois (Figure 2.2). Over the past 30 years, Kendall County recorded the highest population increase in the region. While other exurban counties such as Will, Kane, and Grundy also experienced notable growth, their recent growth rates have slowed considerably. In contrast, Kendall County continued to add nearly 10 percent to its population between 2020 and 2023, even as most neighboring counties saw stagnation or decline. This trend reinforces Kendall County's ongoing role as a key growth frontier within the greater Chicago metropolitan area.

Population growth within Kendall County has not occurred evenly. Townships located closer to more developed neighboring counties to the north (Kane) and east (Will) have experienced the most significant growth. These areas are more directly influenced by westward economic expansion from Chicago, industrial development, and transportation access. For example, recent industrial and logistics investment along corridors such as Ridge Road in Plainfield has supported both job creation and residential development in nearby townships.

As a result, Na-Au-Say, Seward, Bristol, Oswego, Kendall, and Little Rock Townships have experienced substantial population increases since 1990. Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships have seen explosive growth as new subdivisions and employment opportunities expanded

outward from adjacent metropolitan areas. Conversely, more rural townships such as Fox, Big Grove, and Lisbon have experienced much slower growth or population decline.

These areas retain a stronger agricultural and rural character and face development constraints related to infrastructure availability and market demand.

	Little Rock	Bristol	Oswego	Fox	Kendall	Na-Au-Say	Big Grove	Lisbon	Seward
1990	7,081	5,598	18,078	1,146	3,417	1,067	1,430	781	812
2000	7,662	7,677	28,417	1,355	4,538	1,591	1,526	896	876
Change	8.2%	37.1%	**57.2%**	18.2%	32.8%	49.1%	6.7%	14.7%	7.9%
2010	13,076	26,230	50,870	1,675	7,739	8,145	1,647	899	4,455
Change	70.7%	241.7%	79.0%	23.6%	70.5%	**411.9%**	7.9%	0.3%	408.6%
2020	14,036	32,030	55,771	1,681	8,532	10,771	1,622	771	6,655
Change	7.3%	22.1%	9.6%	0.4%	10.2%	**32.2%**	-1.5%	-14.2%	49.4%
2023	14,411	33,120	56,912	1,636	8,995	10,875	1,753	683	6,668
Change	2.7%	3.4%	2.0%	-2.7%	**5.4%**	1.0%	8.1%	-11.4%	0.2%
33-year Change	103.5%	491.6%	214.8%	42.8%	163.2%	919.2%	22.6%	-12.5%	**721.2%**

Figure 2.3 *Township Population Change 1990-2023*
Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, and US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

2.2 AGE CHARACTERISTICS

Kendall County remains one of the younger counties in the region. While the median age has increased gradually from 32.1 in 1990 to 36.0 in 2023, it remains well below the Illinois median age of 39.5. Compared with adjacent counties, Kendall County is the second youngest and has aged at a slower rate, reflecting its continued attraction to working-age households and families (Figure 2.4).

Although Kendall County remains young, its age structure is shifting. Residents aged 55 and older now account for approximately one-fifth of the total population, up from 16 percent in 1990. At the same time, the share of children and youth has declined, falling below 30 percent in 2023 after remaining above that level for several decades. These trends suggest growing demand for senior services, age-friendly housing, and healthcare, alongside evolving needs for schools and family-oriented amenities.

	Kendall County	Kane County	DuPage County	Will County	Grundy County	LaSalle County	DeKalb County	Illinois
1990	32.1	30.8	32.3	31.1	33.3	35.5	27.0	32.8
2000	34.1	32.2	35.2	33.3	36.3	38.1	28.4	34.7
2010	32.9	34.5	38.2	35.4	36.1	41.0	29.3	36.6
2020	35.8	38.3	40.1	39.0	38.7	42.5	34.3	38.8
2023	36.0	39.1	40.6	39.6	38.6	42.5	34.4	39.5
33-year Change	12.1%	26.9%	25.7%	27.3%	15.9%	19.7%	27.4%	20.4%

Figure 2.4 *Average Age 1990-2023*
Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, and US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

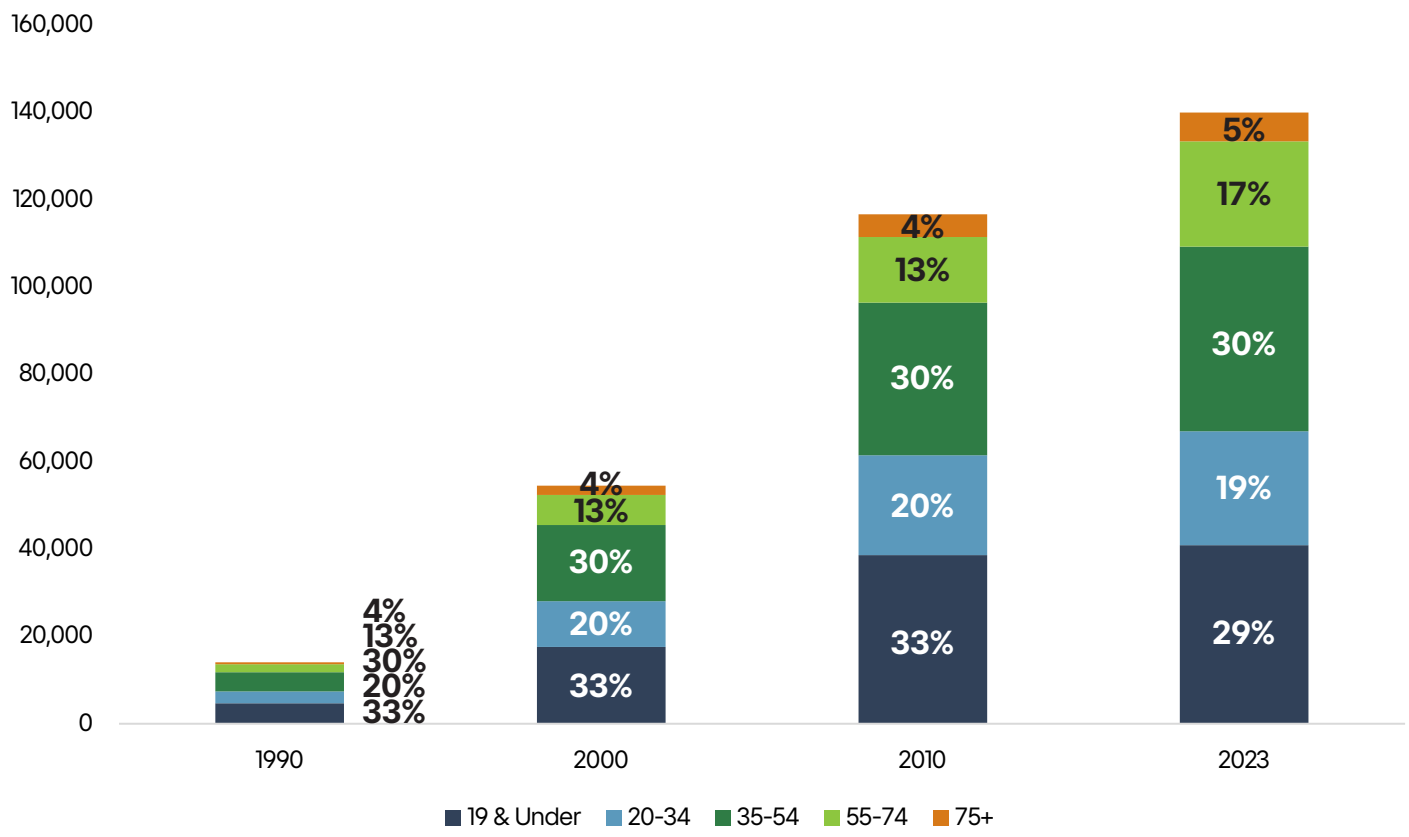


Figure 2.5 *Age Distribution Breakdown 1990-2023*
Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, and US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

2.3 HOUSEHOLDS

In 2023, Kendall County contained 44,934 households with an average household size of 3.1 persons. Although households with more than two people still represent a majority (53 percent), 61 percent of households do not include children. This reflects broader demographic trends, including declining birth rates, aging residents, and an increasing number of empty nesters.

Most households in Kendall County are married households (57 percent), and homeownership is prevalent, with approximately 85 percent of housing units owner-occupied. These patterns are closely tied to the County's dominant single-family housing stock and suburban development character.

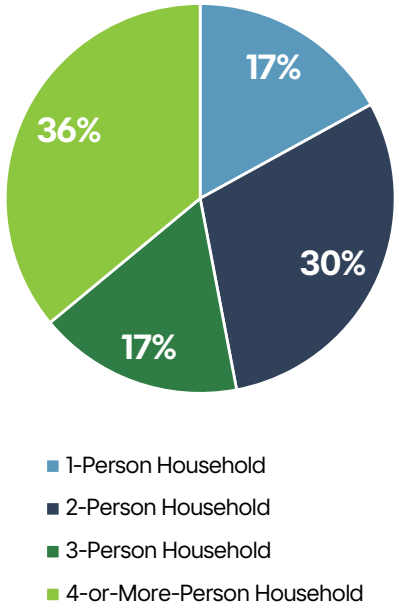


Figure 2.6 *Household Size 2023*
Source: US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

2.4 INCOME & EMPLOYMENT

Household incomes in Kendall County have increased substantially over the past three decades. Median household income grew by more than 185 percent between 1990 and 2023, reaching $122,235. This is approximately 159 percent of the Illinois median household income. In contrast, in 1990 Kendall County's median income was only about $10,000 higher than the state median. Income distribution data further illustrate the County's economic strength. Approximately 44 percent of households earn more than the County median income, and about 70 percent earn more than the state median.

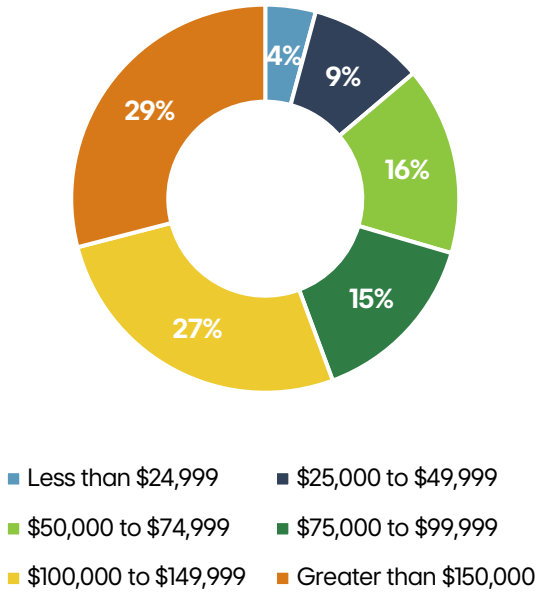


Figure 2.7 *Household Income Distribution 2023*
Source: US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

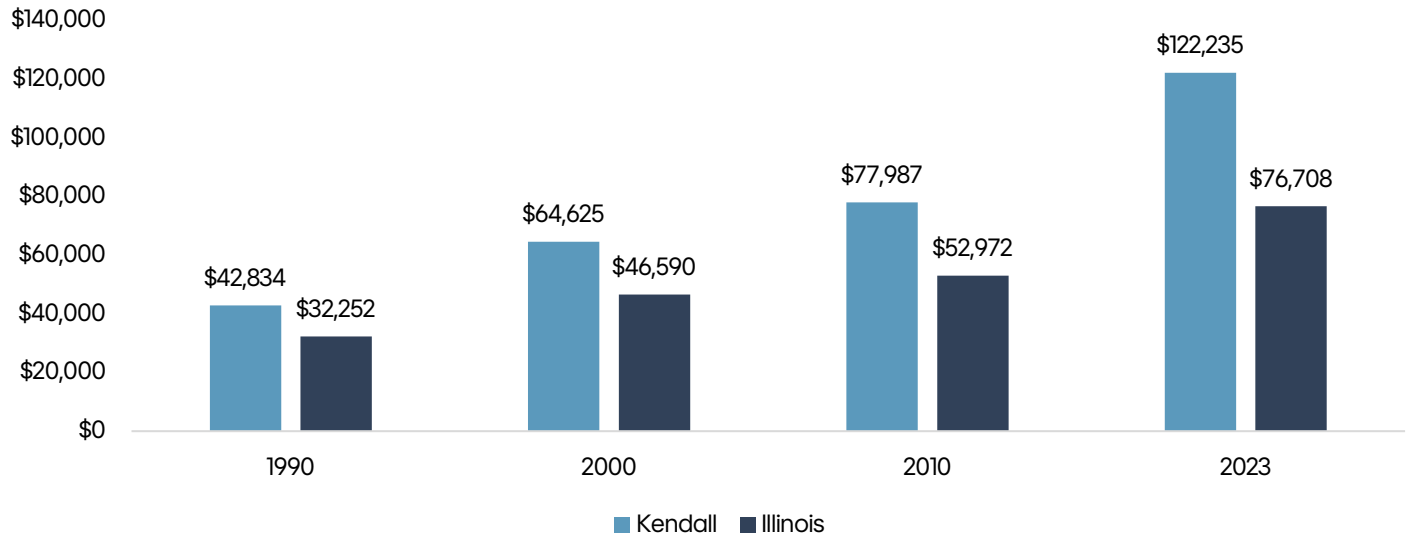


Figure 2.8 *Median Household Income 2023*
Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010, and US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

2.5 RACE & ETHNICITY

Kendall County has become significantly more diverse over the past three decades. In 1990, White residents accounted for approximately 95 percent of the population. By 2023, that share declined to 61 percent. During the same period, the Hispanic population increased to 23 percent, making it the second-largest ethnic group in the County. Black and Asian populations have also grown, reaching 8 percent and 4 percent of the population, respectively. Reflecting these demographic changes, language diversity has increased. While English remains the primary language spoken at home (79 percent), Spanish is spoken by approximately 14 percent of residents. These trends underscore the importance of culturally responsive planning, multilingual communication, and equitable access to public services.

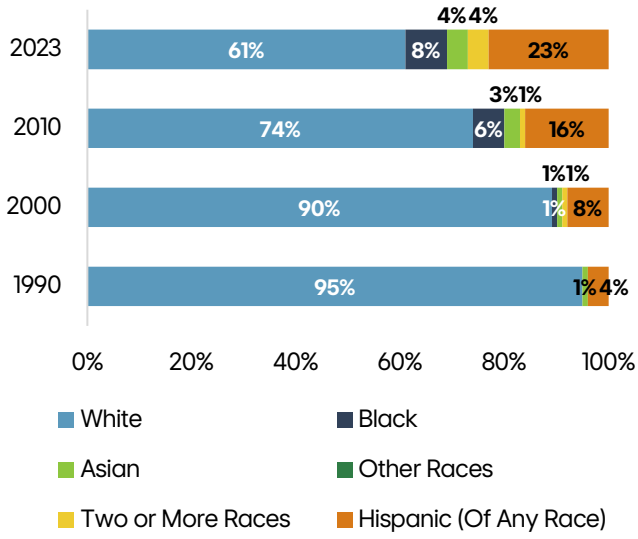


Figure 2.9 *Race and Ethnicity 1990-2023*
Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010, and US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

2.6 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment in Kendall County is high and has improved steadily over time. In 1990, 83.7 percent of residents aged 25 and older had a high school diploma or higher; by 2023, that share increased to 93.2 percent, among the highest rates in the region. Higher education attainment has also increased significantly. The share of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher more than doubled, from 17.8 percent in 1990 to 36.5 percent in 2023. This educated workforce supports economic competitiveness, attracts employers, and contributes to higher household incomes.

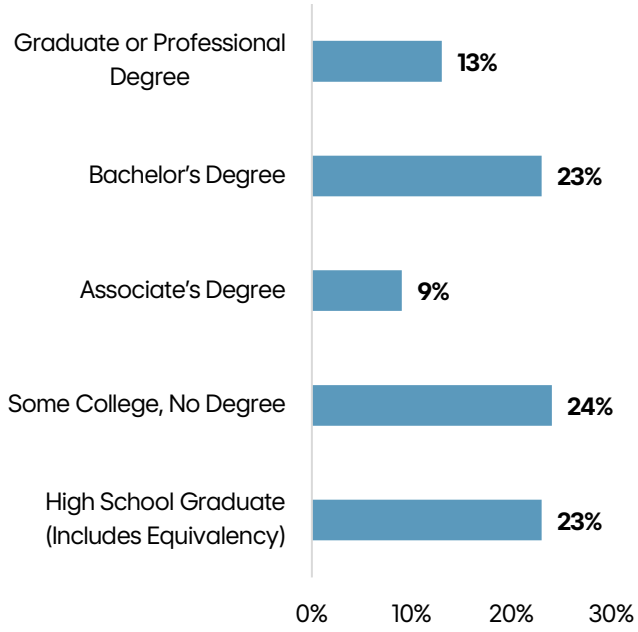


Figure 2.10 *Educational Attainment 2023*
Source: US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

	High School Graduate or Higher		Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
	1990	2023	1990	2023
Kendall County	83.7%	93.2%	17.8%	36.5%
Kane County	77.7%	88.1%	21.4%	39.4%
DuPage County	88.6%	92.5%	36.0%	52.4%
Will County	80.4%	91.7%	18.0%	36.6%
Grundy County	79.0%	94.2%	12.5%	24.2%
LaSalle County	73.1%	90.6%	10.5%	19.3%
DeKalb County	83.9%	91.5%	26.1%	30.6%
Illinois	76.2%	90.6%	21.0%	38.3%

Figure 2.11 *Comparative Educational Attainment 1990 and 2023*
Source: US Census 1990, and American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

2.7 EMPLOYMENT

Kendall County occupies a transitional position between its agricultural roots and a diversifying suburban economy. Strong regional transportation connections link the County to the Chicago metropolitan area and support continued economic development. In 2023, Kendall County's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent, among the lowest in the region and well below the state average.

	Kendall County	Kane County	DuPage County	Will County	Grundy County	LaSalle County	DeKalb County	Illinois
2023	3.8%	3.8%	4.0%	3.7%	4.5%	5.2%	4.8%	4.7%
2025	4.2%	4.4%	3.5%	3.8%	3.6%	5.1%	4.4%	4.3%

Figure 2.12 *Comparative Unemployment Rate 2023 and 2025*
Source: US Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates and Illinois Department of Employment Security 2025

Retail trade, educational services, and accommodation and food services represent the largest employment sectors within the County. Among County residents, health care, retail, and education are the most common occupations. Between 2013 and 2023, these top industries expanded their footprint as both resident employment and local job opportunities grew. Health

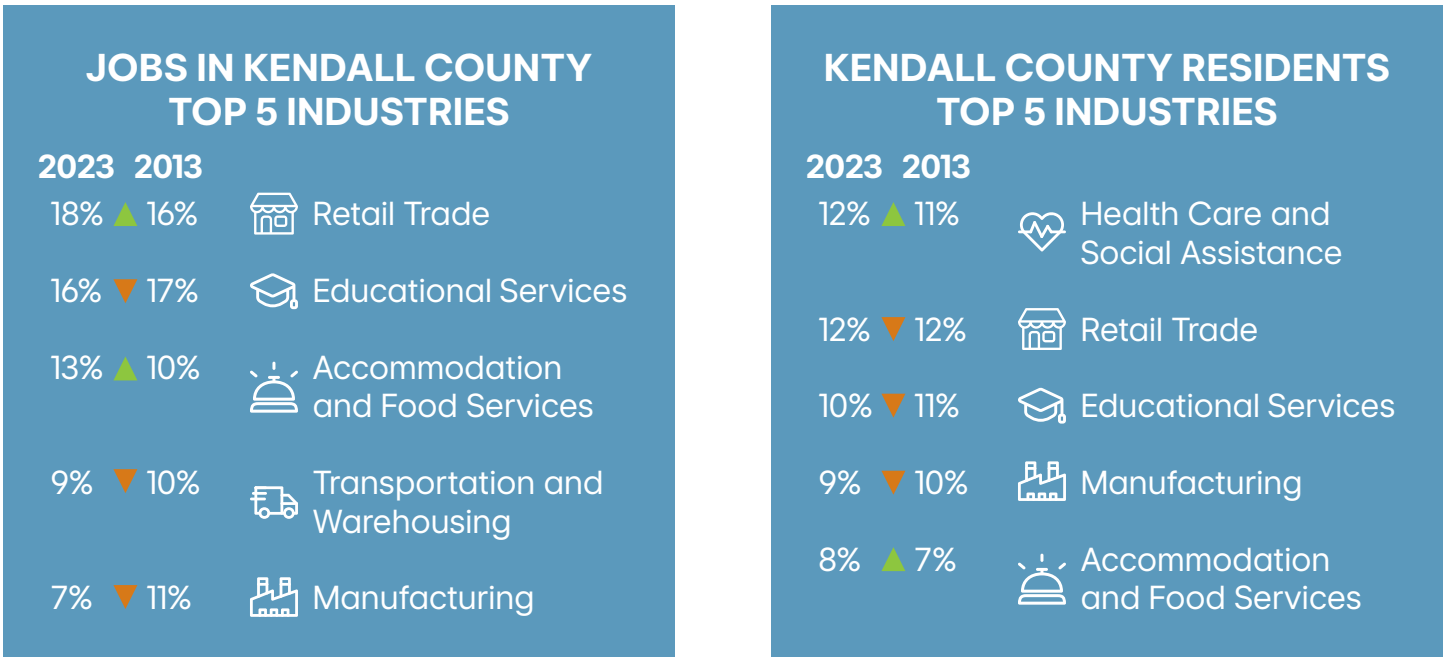
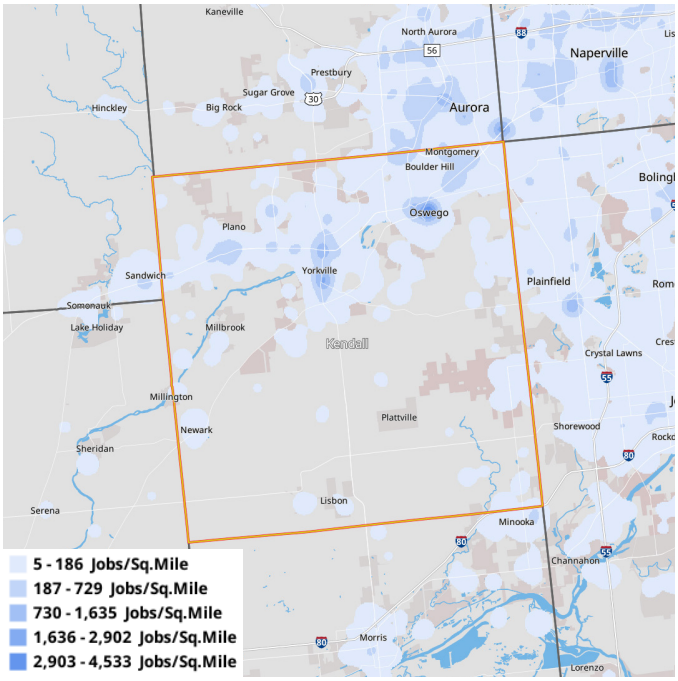


Figure 2.13 *Employment by Industry Sector in Kendall County 2013 and 2023*
Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD

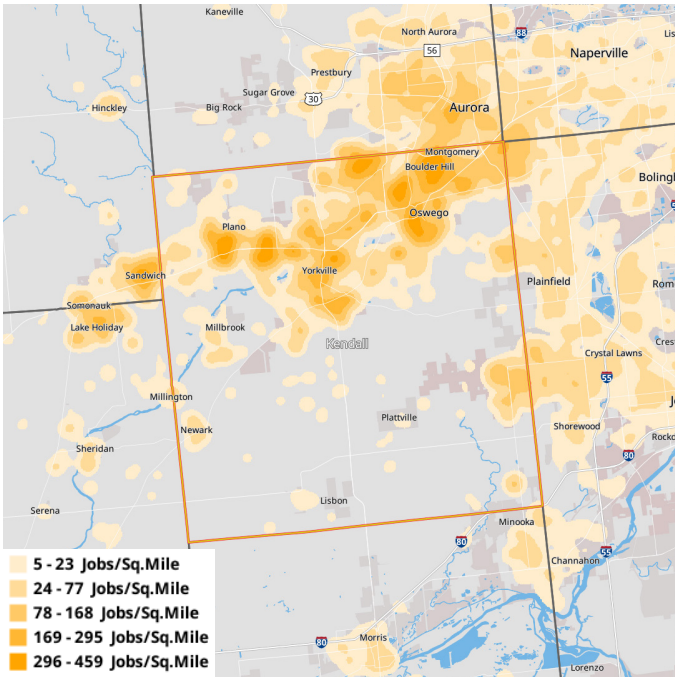
care, retail, and education saw some of the largest increases in resident workers, while retail trade and accommodation and food services strengthened their roles as major local employers. In contrast, manufacturing declined in its share of both resident and local jobs, signaling a continued shift from traditional industrial employment toward service-oriented and consumer-focused sectors. However, a substantial share of residents commute outside the County for work, primarily to major employment centers such as Chicago, Aurora, Naperville, and Joliet.

Kendall County experiences a significant jobs–housing imbalance. In 2023, approximately 72,138 residents worked outside the County, while 20,873 workers commuted into Kendall County from elsewhere. Only 9,695 workers both lived and worked within the County. This pattern places continued pressure on regional transportation infrastructure.



Top 5 Communities	Number of Workers
Chicago	10,565 (12.9%)
Aurora	7,237 (8.8%)
Naperville	5,051 (6.2%)
Oswego	3,785 (4.6%)
Yorkville	2,748 (3.4%)
All Others	52,447 (64.1%)

Figure 2.14 *Where Kendall County Residents Work*
Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD



Top 5 Communities	Number of Workers
Aurora	2,776 (9.1%)
Oswego	2,540 (8.3%)
Yorkville	2,065 (6.8%)
Joliet	1,459 (4.8%)
Plano	1,313 (4.3%)
All Others	20,415 (66.8%)

Figure 2.15 *Where Workers in Kendall County Live*
Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD

2.8 COMMUTING

Commuting patterns reflect limited transit availability. Driving remains the dominant mode of travel to work, as the County lacks direct commuter rail service and has limited bus coverage. More than half of households own at least two vehicles, and one-third own three or more. The average commute time of 32.6 minutes reflects frequent travel between Kendall County and nearby municipalities rather than exclusively long-distance commutes to Chicago.

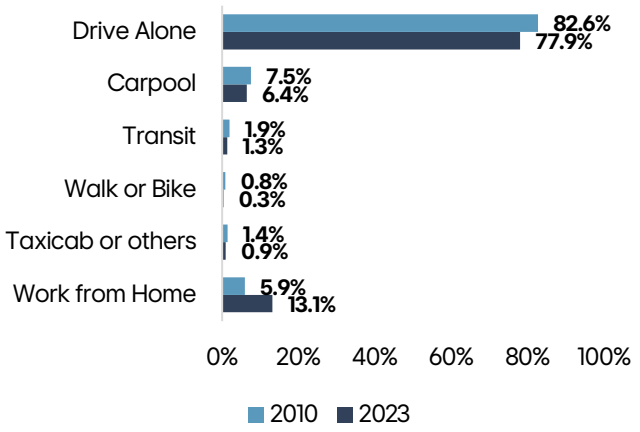


Figure 2.16 *Mode of Travel to Work 2010 and 2023*
Source: US Census 2010 and American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

2.9 HOUSING

Kendall County's housing stock reflects typical suburban development patterns. Most housing units are located within municipalities where municipal water, sewer, and solid waste services are available. Single-family homes dominate the housing market, accounting for 74 percent detached and 16 percent attached units. Homeownership is strong at approximately 85 percent.

Housing construction has closely followed the County's rapid growth. 60 percent of housing units were built after 2000, particularly in communities such as Oswego, Yorkville, and Plainfield. Most homes contain three or more bedrooms, aligning with historically larger household sizes.

However, the limited diversity of housing types presents challenges for affordability and changing demographics. With a housing stock heavily skewed toward single-family ownership units, options for young adults, smaller households, seniors,

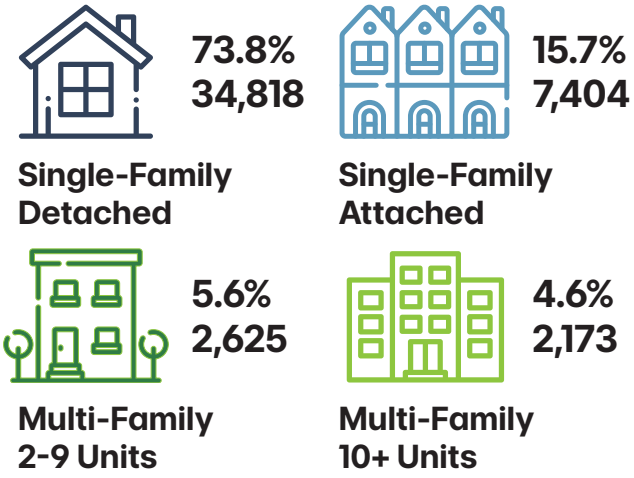


Figure 2.17 *Housing Type 2023*
Source: 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

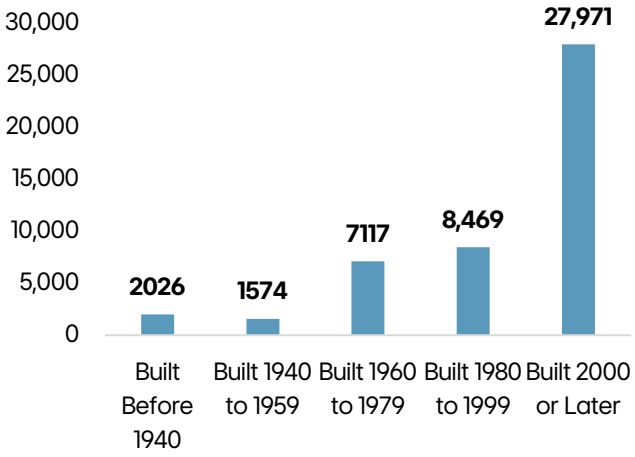


Figure 2.18 *Housing Age 2023*
Source: 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

and lower-income residents are constrained. Housing is generally considered "affordable" when housing expenses are less than 30 percent of household income. While only 26 percent of homeowners are cost-burdened, half of renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. Expanding the range of housing types could improve affordability, support workforce retention, and accommodate an aging population. Strategically locating these housing options within municipalities and near employment centers, services, and infrastructure will be critical to ensuring long-term fiscal and service sustainability.

Since new housing in unincorporated areas is served by well and septic, they require larger lots. These larger lots typically result in larger homes. **In 2025, the average new home built in unincorporated Kendall County was approximately $616,000.**

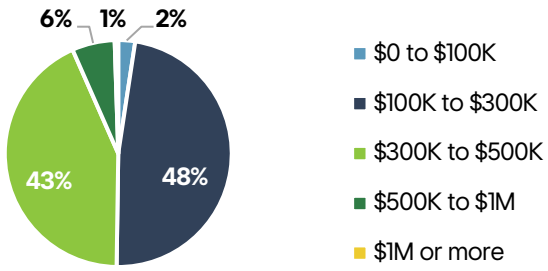


Figure 2.19 *Home Value 2023*
Source: American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

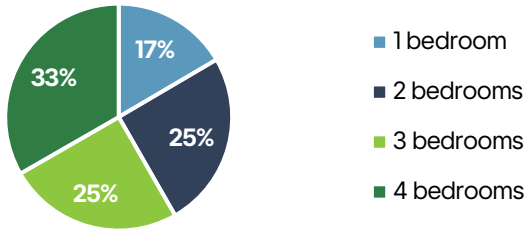


Figure 2.20 *Median Gross Rent By Bedrooms 2023*
Source: American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

	Homeowners	Renters
Median Household Income	$119,427	$72,955
Mortgage Status	67%	n/a
Median Home Value	$326,700	n/a
Median Rent Cost	n/a	$1,714
Median Monthly Housing Costs*	$1,970	$1,714
Median Monthly Costs as a Percentage of Household Income	20%	30%
% Paying > 30% of income	25%	42%

Housing costs include mortgages, taxes, insurance, utilities, and fees for owners with or without a mortgage

Figure 2.21 *Housing Affordability 2023*
Source: American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates

2.10 INTERNET ACCESS

Internet access in Kendall County remains unevenly distributed. While internet connectivity has become a fundamental component of daily life supporting education, employment, healthcare, and commerce, significant disparities persist between incorporated communities and rural, unincorporated areas. As growth continues and reliance on digital services increases, expanding accessible and affordable internet service has become an increasingly urgent infrastructure issue for the County.

Overall, in 2023, approximately 95.6 percent of households in Kendall County had access to some form of internet service, including cellular, fixed broadband, or satellite connections. Broadband refers to high-speed, always-on internet connections with sufficient bandwidth to support modern digital needs and includes technologies such as fiber-optic, cable, DSL, satellite, and 4G/5G wireless. Within incorporated and more densely developed areas, fixed broadband services, primarily fiber, cable, and DSL, are the dominant form of connectivity. These service areas coincide with established development patterns, particularly within major communities along the Fox River Corridor and in the eastern portion of the County, including Plano, Yorkville, Montgomery, Oswego, Plainfield, and Joliet. Several smaller or more remote municipalities, such as Millington and Newark, also have access to fixed broadband infrastructure.

Among households served by fixed broadband, approximately 93.6 percent (Source: Federal Communications

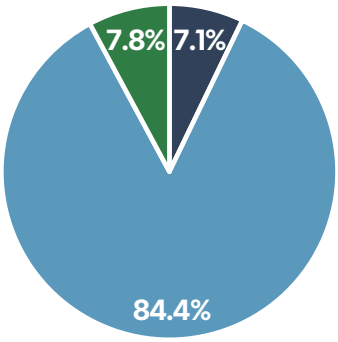


Figure 2.22 *Type of Internet Subscription 2023*
Source: 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

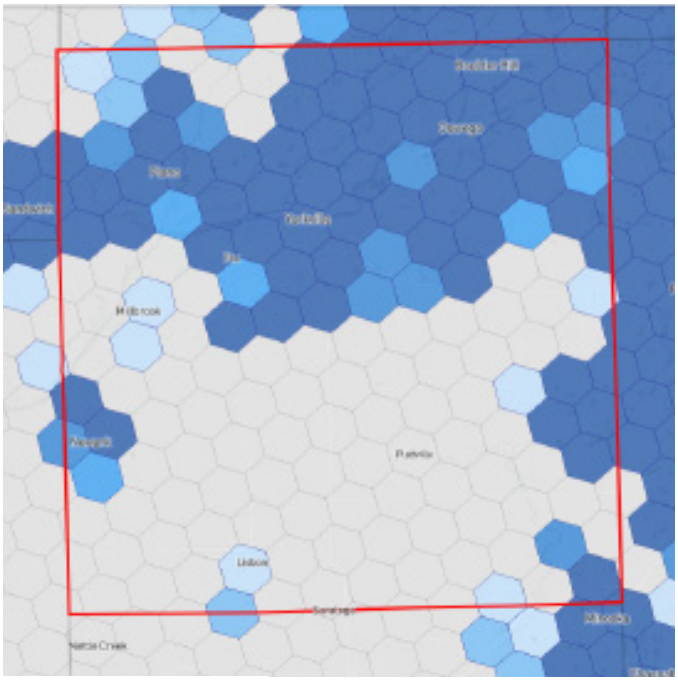
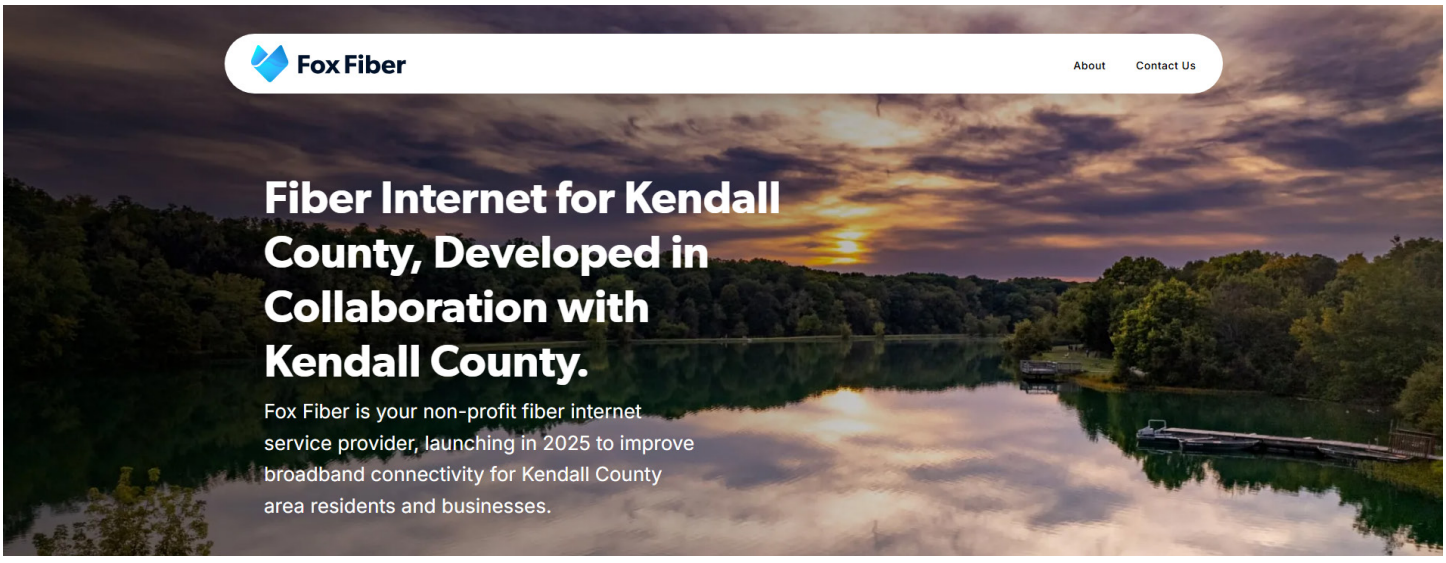


Figure 2.23 *Wired Broadband Coverage 2023*
Source: Federal Communications Commission

Commission) have access to speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, which reflects the current benchmark used by the State of Illinois to define robust broadband service capable of supporting activities such as high-definition streaming, remote work and learning, video conferencing, and multi-device use. In contrast, residential development in unincorporated areas and small rural settlements faces substantial gaps in fixed broadband availability, due to lower development density, greater distances between users, and the high cost of extending fiber or cable infrastructure. As a result, households in these areas are more likely to rely on cellular data plans or satellite-based services, which can be less reliable, more expensive, and more limited in speed and capacity.

To address these service gaps and establish a resilient, countywide communications infrastructure, the Kendall County Board formally established the Connect Kendall County Commission in early 2022 to guide broadband planning and implementation. Through this initiative, the County pursued a public-private partnership approach and selected Pivot-Tech Development to assist with planning, financing, and delivery of a countywide middle-mile broadband network, designed to improve access and enable last-mile service expansion. In March 2024, Kendall County secured a $15 million grant from the Illinois Office of Broadband, providing a critical funding foundation for the project. To support full implementation beyond the state grant, the nonprofit entity Fox Fiber, NFP was created to issue approximately $30 million in tax-exempt revenue bonds to finance construction and initial operations. These bonds are structured so that repayment is supported by network revenues rather than the County's general funds. Once the bonds are retired, full ownership of the broadband network will transfer to Kendall County, establishing a long-term public infrastructure asset. Construction of the network began in summer 2025, with phased build-out of core fiber rings across the northeastern and southwestern portions of the County to support future service expansion.



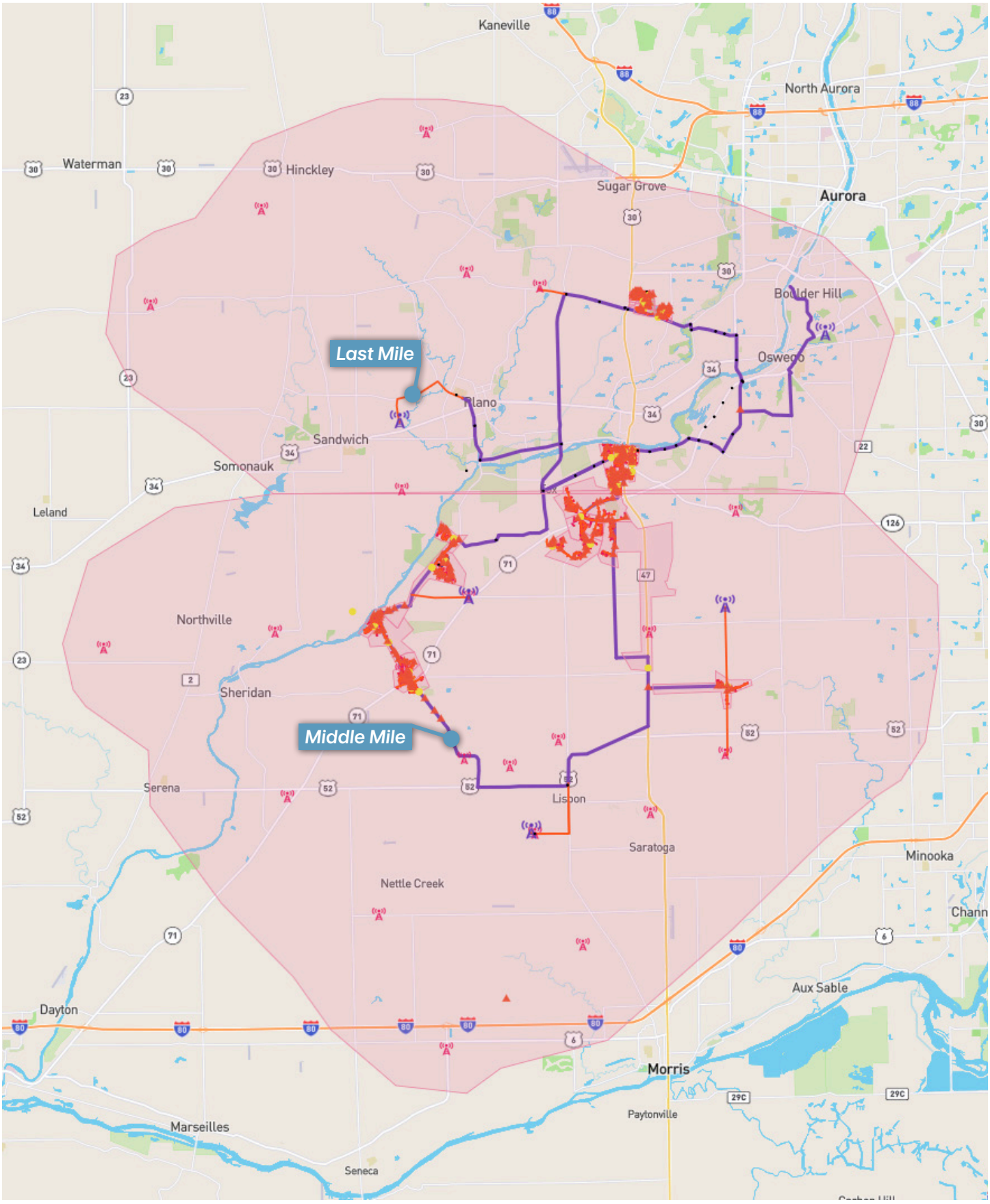
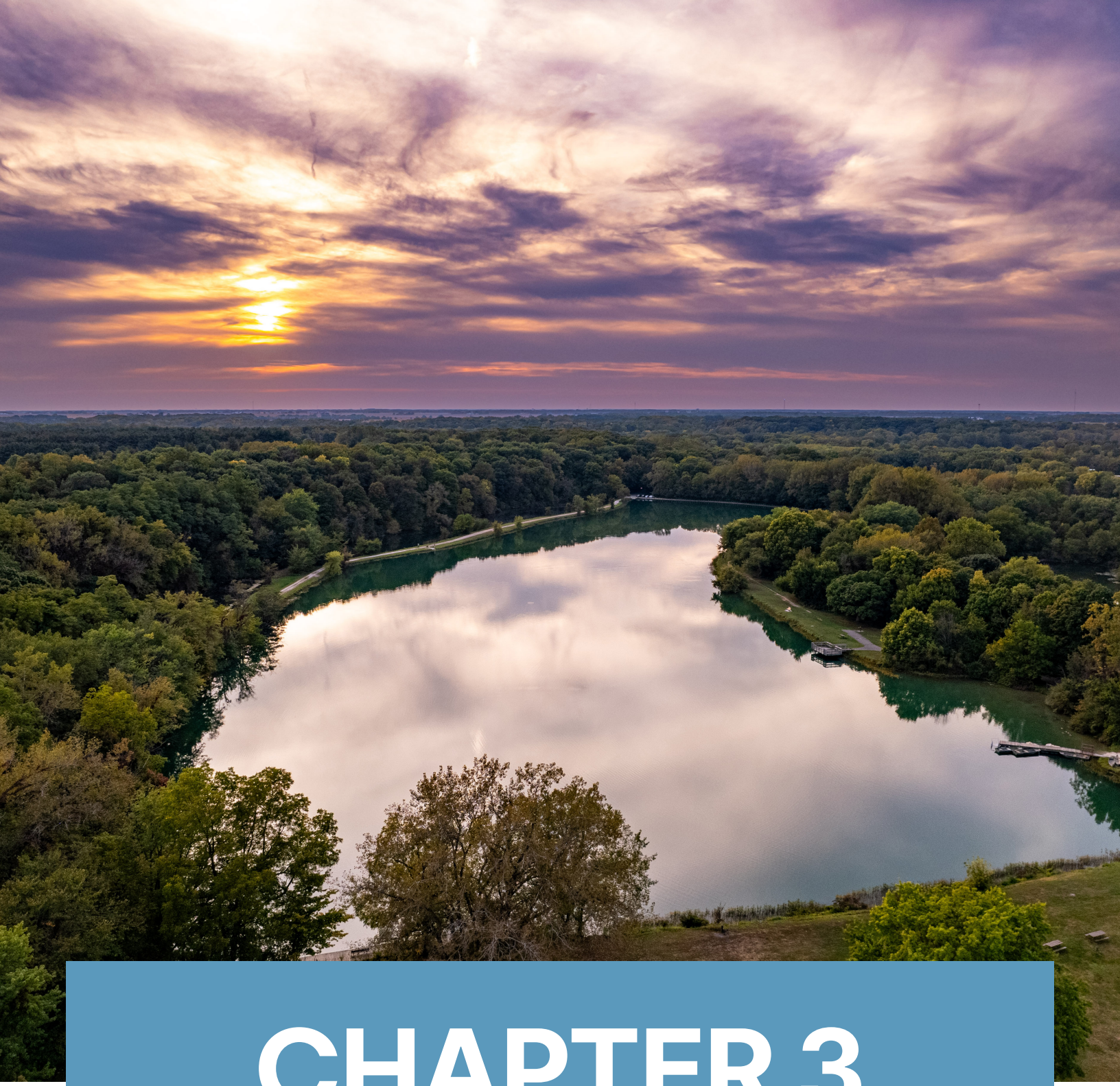


Figure 2.24 *Fox Fiber Broadband Service Coverage*
Source: Pivot Tech





CHAPTER 3
VISION

VISION

The public engagement effort was designed to solicit ideas and vision for the future of Kendall County. A parallel process was going on at the same time with the County Board adopting a Strategic Plan. These processes shared many similarities in terms of what is important to Kendall County residents.

The vision statement parallels many of the ideas that came out of the engagement process as well as the Strategic Plan adopted by the County Board on February 3, 2026.

> *County is a welcoming and forward-looking community where innovation meets tradition – balancing growth and open rural landscapes. The County connects people, places, and opportunities through strong infrastructure, sustainable development, and a shared commitment to fiscal responsibility.*

From the engagement process, four key themes emerged as illustrated below:



Preserve Rural Character

- Preserve natural areas
- Farmland preservation
- Agritourism
- Promote a healthy environment



Promote Economic Development

- More local, good paying jobs
- Enhance tax base
- Promote tourism



Communications/ Coordination

- Engage residents
- Governmental coordination between County, towns, and townships



Connectivity

- Expand trail network
- Connect roads
- Improve intersections
- Enhance public transportation

3.1 PRESERVE RURAL CHARACTER

Many people move to Kendall County because of the rural character featuring extensive agricultural fields, the beautiful Fox Valley River corridor, and an excellent Forest Preserve system that has protected over 2,800 acres of prairie, forest, and other important open spaces. However, many of those same new residents are in new homes developed where farmland used to be. This plan is designed to accommodate reasonable and appropriate growth while preserving the County's prized rural character. Key goals in this area include:

GOAL 1.1 Value agriculture as an important land use – not just a holding area for future development.

- Utilize Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) score in review of zoning and development cases.
- Educate new residents about the benefits and challenges of living in a rural area by providing information on the County's website and social media channels during harvest season and throughout the year.
- Follow the guidance of the Future Land Use Plan, keeping areas planned for agriculture for agricultural use during the timeframe of this plan. If the County Board determines that it is appropriate to rezone agricultural property, the Future Land Use Plan should also be amended.

GOAL 1.2 Celebrate the County's agricultural heritage through promotion of agritourism.

- Support existing and new businesses that grow and sell their own agricultural products direct to consumers like orchards and nurseries.
- Work with regional tourism organizations such as the Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote the many tourism assets of the County.

GOAL 1.3 Preserve important natural areas and open space for future generations.

- Continue to expand County Forest Preserves to protect important natural resources such as prairies and woodlands.
- Expand the Forest Preserve system to keep pace with population growth, striving for a system with 30 acres of regional open space per 1,000 residents (Forest Preserves and State Parks/Natural Areas).
- Work with organizations such as the Conservation Foundation and Open Lands to facilitate open space preservation.

3.2 PROMOTE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

While Kendall County has a well-educated workforce, almost 88 percent of those that live in Kendall County travel outside the County to work. This requirement to travel farther to work creates additional roadway congestion, requires people to spend more time commuting, and does not directly help the local tax base. Residents were clear that they would like more good paying jobs in the County. Key goals in this area include:

GOAL 2.1 Provide more opportunities for residents to work in Kendall County in good paying jobs.

- Continue the work of the Kendall Economic Development Alliance to coordinate and partner with municipalities to attract new businesses and jobs to the County.
- Promote the County's well-educated population, regional connectivity, and quality of life to trade organizations and individual employers.
- Partner with local employers, Worknet Batavia, and the Workforce Development Board to conduct local job fairs for County residents.

GOAL 2.2 Enhance the County's non-residential tax base through attraction of industrial and commercial businesses.

- Partner with municipalities in attracting employers to industrial parks served by public water and sewer systems.
- Attract new commercial businesses that can operate on well and septic systems along major roadway corridors such as Route 47 and Ridge Road.
- Tell stories through the "Made in Kendall" program to inform the public of the many unique and interesting products produced locally.
- Develop a County-wide economic development strategy using shared services and collaboration to focus on business attraction, investment, and job growth.
- Develop a County-wide broadband network.

GOAL 2.3 Encourage tourism in Kendall County.

- Promote the County's natural environment as a place to spend the weekend enjoying nature at a Forest Preserve, floating the Fox River, or traveling the County's scenic routes while stopping in local communities for great food, shopping, and entertainment.
- Work with regional tourism organizations such as the Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote the many tourism assets of the County.

3.3 COMMUNICATIONS & COORDINATION

Despite most people having a computer in their pocket, getting the word about local events, plans, and regulations continues to be a challenge for local governments. The days of everyone reading the same local newspaper are long-gone. To coordinate and communicate effectively today requires multi-channel communications.

GOAL 3.1 Engage residents.

- Through updated websites, e-mail blasts, and social media keep residents informed of events, activities, and government policies.
- Identify and implement a system for promoting County-wide activities using existing electronic message boards through-out the County at libraries and County, Township and Municipal buildings.
- Work with local news organizations to share important information for residents.

GOAL 3.2 Coordinate governments between the County, Townships and Municipalities.

- Conduct an annual meeting hosted by the Kendall County Regional Planning Commission where planners and municipal leaders can share developments in their communities and discuss opportunities for joint planning and growth.
- Explore opportunities and implement shared services, staff, or facilities between all levels of local government.
- Encourage annexations of properties proposed for non-agricultural uses adjacent to municipalities to annex into that community for improved access to municipal services.

3.4 ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

In a growing County like Kendall, new residential developments are often created on the edge of communities in locations that are somewhat isolated from other areas of the County. It is therefore no surprise that many residents noted improved connectivity of both roads and trails as a concern during the engagement efforts conducted as a part of this Vision Kendall plan development. Key goals include:

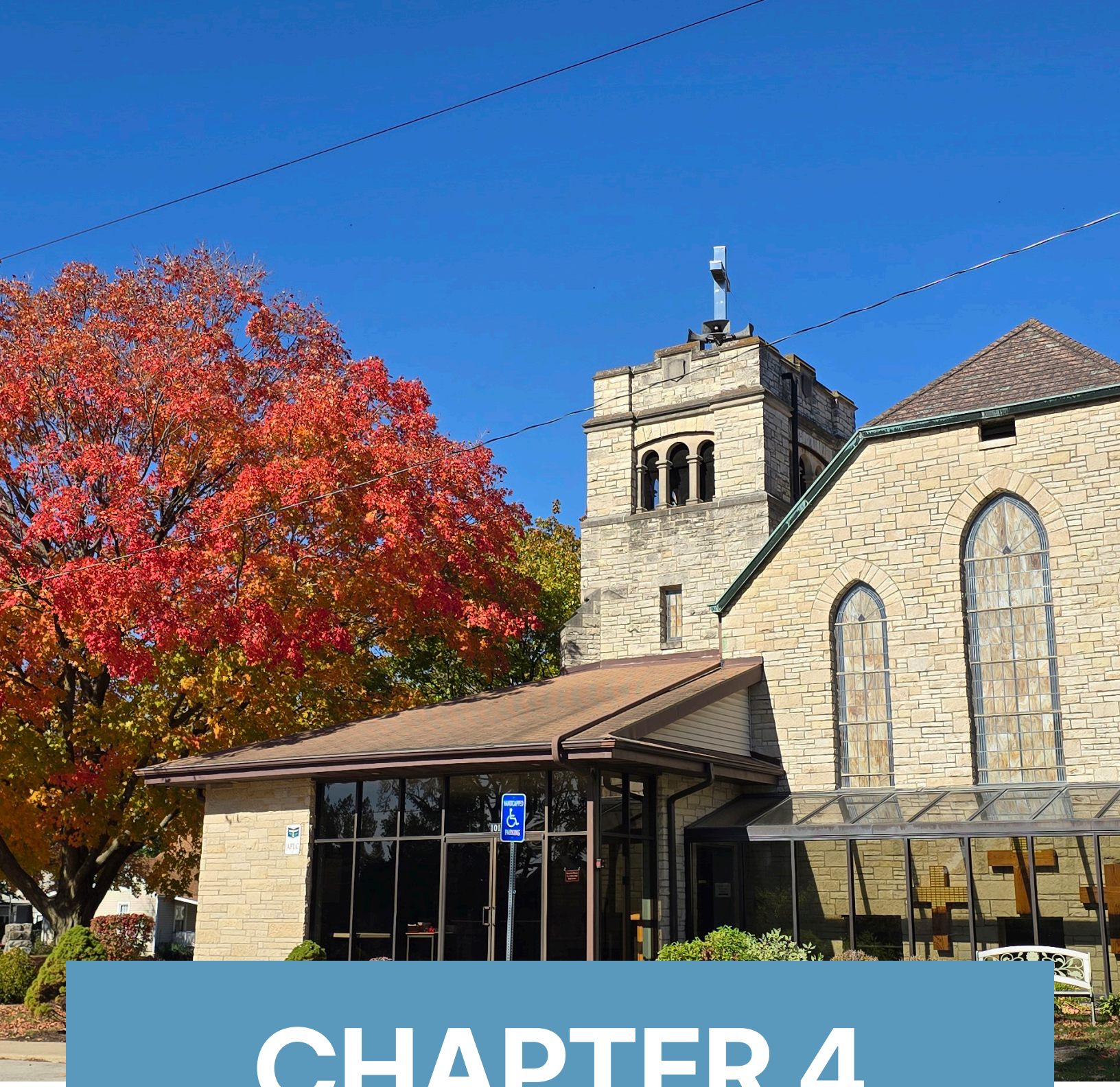
GOAL 4.1 Expand the trail network, interconnecting local (municipal/Park District) and regional trails (Forest Preserve).

- Maintain a coordinated future trail plan that links local and regional trails into an integrated network.
- Work with residents and other taxing bodies to prioritize future trail improvements.
- Seek grants to fund trail extensions and connections to build-out a network of trails that connects residents to major employment centers and recreational resources.
- Develop capital improvement plans to maintain and expand the trail network for the enjoyment of residents.

GOAL 4.2 Develop and maintain a system of interconnected roadways to provide accessibility within region.

- Maintain and update a county-wide 5-year capital improvement program for roadways.
- Improve roadway intersections for enhanced traffic flow including realignment where needed to improve safety and flow, consider round-a-bouts where appropriate, and provide turn lanes and other improvements identified through transportation analysis and modeling.
- Enhance important regional transportation routes such as Ridge Road, Eldamain Road south of Route 71 to connect to Route 47, and a future realignment of Grove Road and Brisbin Road to encourage economic development.
- Coordinate with IDOT for continued improvement of regional routes such as Route 47, Route 34, Route 30, and Route 52.


2
3



CHAPTER 4
CHARACTER & LAND USE

CHARACTER & LAND USE

4.1 AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE/COUNTY CHARACTER & HISTORIC RESOURCES

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Kendall County was created in 1841 from parts of LaSalle and Kane Counties. It was named after Amos Kendall, the Postmaster General in Andrew Jackson's cabinet.

Several Native American tribes, including the Potawatomi, Fox, and Kickapoo where in the area long before the formal designation of Kendall County. These tribes lived in semi-permanent villages along the Fox River and relied on hunting, fishing, and agriculture for their sustenance.



Villages of Indigenous People in the Fox and Illinois River Valleys 1830
Image Credit: Helen Hornbeck Tanner and Miklos Pinther, University of Oklahoma Press

AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

The productivity of the soils was a major factor in attracting early European-American settlers who began arriving in the 1820s, primarily from New England and New York. Towns like Newark, Lisbon, and Plattville began to take shape, serving as centers of commerce and social activity for the growing population.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed the rapid industrialization of Kendall County. The construction













Image Credits: Kendall County, Illinois Genealogy

of railroads, particularly the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, spurred economic development by facilitating the transportation of goods and materials. Industrial centers emerged in towns like Yorkville, Plano, and Sandwich, where factories, mills, and foundries produced agricultural implements, machinery, and other goods.

Agriculture remained the backbone of Kendall County's economy well into the 20th century. The County's rich soil and favorable climate made it ideal for farming, especially for corn, soybeans, and dairy products. Family-owned farms and agricultural cooperatives played a crucial role in sustaining rural communities and providing food and commodities to urban markets. Corn and soybeans remain major crops today. Livestock operations are minimal in the County, but many specialty crops such as apples, pumpkins, tree and ornamental plant nurseries, and sod farms are also present within the County.

The Kendall County Fair continues to serve as a celebration of this agricultural heritage. The first Kendall County Fair occurred in 1841, and fairs continued annually until 1907. The Fair was revived in 1993 and continues to this day.

SOILS

Illinois has some of the best farmland in the nation, and arguably the world. Kendall County is no exception, with most land classified by the USDA as prime farmland. Prime farmlands have the best combination of physical and chemical features for producing crops. Portions of Kendall County are designated as farmland of statewide importance (with characteristics similar to



Kendall County Fairgrounds

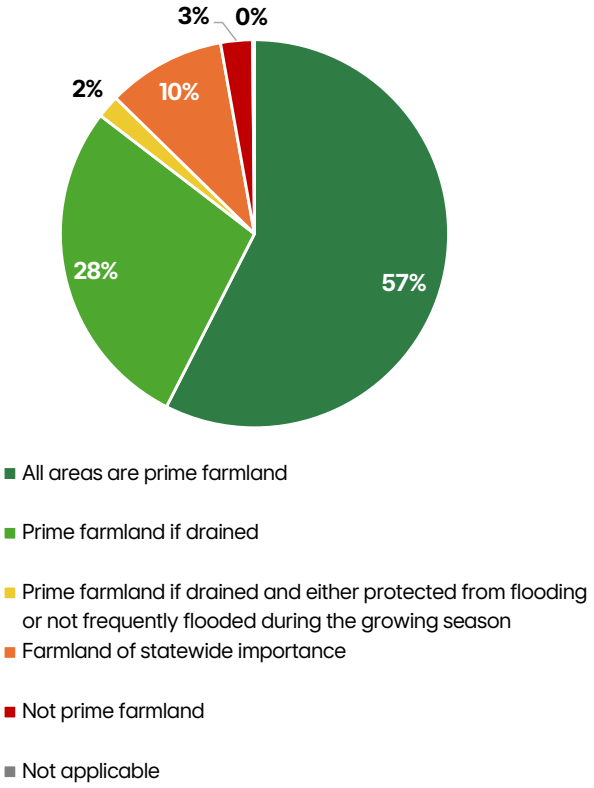
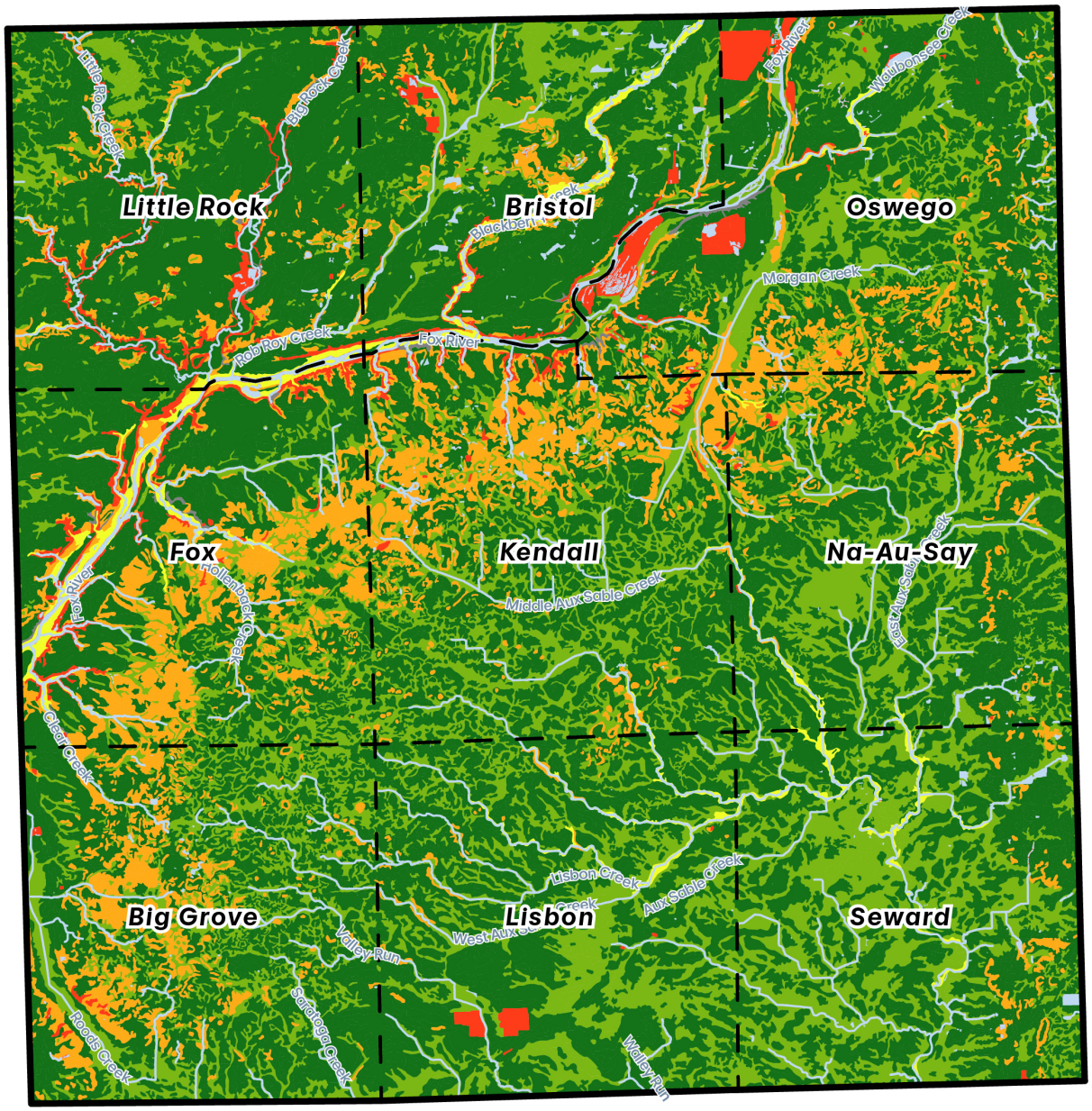


Figure 4.1 *Farmland Class Distribution 2024*
Source: United States Department of Agriculture



Legend

Farmland Classification

- All areas are prime farmland
- Prime farmland if drained
- Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Not prime farmland
- Not applicable
- Water
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 4.2 *Kendall County Farmland Classification Map*
Source: United States Department of Agriculture

prime farmland), located generally south of the Fox River and Route 71. Given relatively flat topography and poor drainage, soil in the Aux Sable Creek watershed, particularly in Seward Township, can be problematic for both farming and development.

COUNTY CHARACTER

When asked to describe the character of Kendall County, residents most often used words like family farm, rural, scenic, and growing. These themes reflect both the County's deep agricultural roots and its ongoing transition as new development, communities, and landscapes continue to evolve. Taken together, they can be distilled into four distinct character areas that illustrate the diverse places, environments, and experiences that define Kendall County:

THE FOX RIVER CORRIDOR

The Fox River and surrounding bluffs are beautiful. The historic Farnsworth house is located along the Fox River, as are several of the County's Forest Preserves and Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Areas. Much of the remaining wooded areas in the County are along the shores of the Fox River. The County developed the Fox River Corridor Plan back in 2008, and that plan still contains excellent guidance for preservation, land use, and development along the river corridor.



RURAL FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL AREAS

Despite rapid population growth, two-thirds of Kendall County is still agricultural – particularly in the south half of the County. In the summer, fields of corn and soybeans dominate the view. While classic farmsteads are still prevalent, many newer homes have also been constructed in recent years.



GROWING SUBURBS AND NEW SUBDIVISIONS

Much of Kendall County's population growth in recent years has occurred in newer subdivisions on the eastern and northern edges of the County in communities like Minooka, Joliet, Plainfield, Oswego, Montgomery, Yorkville and Plano. These new subdivisions sometimes create conflicts with agriculture, particularly impacting rural roads and attracting new residents that are not accustomed to the noise, dust and smells of normal agricultural activities.



TRADITIONAL TOWNS AND PLACES

Larger communities like Plano, Yorkville and Oswego all have distinct downtowns built on grid street systems with neighborhoods with a mix of housing around them. Communities like Newark, Lisbon, and Millington were also established long ago, but have experienced much slower growth and still retain much of their rural character. Plattville and Millbrook are both small communities that have incorporated with their own local governments. There are also several unincorporated places in the County like Bristol and Helmar that contain a cluster of homes, churches, and a few businesses. Each of these traditional communities has their own unique character.





LaSalle Manor Retreat Center

HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Kendall County Historical Society is a key local resource, telling the story of the people and places that are unique to the area. Lyons Farm, operated by the Society, is a collection of some 15 structures that have been moved to the Farm to celebrate County history.

The Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission, established in 1992, also takes an active role in celebrating the County's rich history. The Commission has been conducting historic structure surveys, has a local landmark nomination program, and conducts annual awards to celebrate residents who contribute to preserving the County's heritage and the important structures that contribute to Kendall's unique charm. In 2006, the County adopted its Historic Preservation Ordinance. Structures receiving awards have included the Chapel on the Green in Yorkville, the LaSalle Manor Retreat Center, and the Historic Yorkville Jail and Sheriff's residence.

The Gilbert Gaylord House and Farm, located at 1542 Plainfield Road in Na-Au-Say Township, was the first property designated as a local landmark by the Kendall County Board on April 21, 2015. The Italianate-style home was built in 1865. On June 16, 2026, the County Board designated its second local landmark, the Edward H. Booth House, which was built around 1860. The builder, Edward Booth, was a carpenter who immigrated from England and was known for building several schools throughout the County.

Kendall County is also home to 11 places listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation that recognizes their historical, architectural, or cultural importance and makes them eligible for preservation incentives and protections. These include:



THE CHAPEL ON THE GREEN[1]
107 W. Center Street, Yorkville
Listed on September 6, 2016
Formerly the Bristol Congregational Church.



CHICAGO, BURLINGTON, AND QUINCY RAILROAD DEPOT
101 W. Main Street, Plano
Listed on November 12, 1993
Amtrak Station, Built in 1913, Classical Revival American Craftsman.



DOWNTOWN OSWEGO HISTORIC DISTRICT[2]
Main Street, Oswego
Listed on August 15, 2022
Features a range of architectural styles from its 1845–1972 period of significance, including late Victorian architecture, and late 19th- and 20th-century Revival styles



EVELYN SITE[3]
East of Big Grove Road, and in between Newark Road and Lisbon Center Road
Listed on December 19, 1978
Contains utensils from a 1650 B.C. camp or village on a dried lakebed, uncovered in the mid-1970s during construction of ComEd power lines. Named by the Evelyn family, who owned the farm, it was later excavated by Northwestern University archaeologists.

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[1] IvoShandor, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0
[2] Teemu08, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0
[3] Map data © Google 2026, Image © Airbus



FARNSWORTH HOUSE[1]
14520 River Road, Yorkville
Listed on October 7, 2004
International style designed by Mies van der Rohe Operated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation with tours and events.



KENDALL COUNTY COURT HOUSE[2]
109 W. Ridge Street, Yorkville
Listed on November 12, 1998
Built in 1862–64; 1887 in the Italianate style.



PLANO HOTEL[3]
120 W. Main Street, Plano
Listed on November 12, 1993
Built in 1868 in the Italianate style.



PLANO STONE CHURCH[4]
304 S. Center Avenue, Plano
Listed on November 2, 1990
Built in 1868 in the Greek Revival style, built by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

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[2] IvoShandor, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0
[3] IvoShandor, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0
[4] A. McMurray, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.5



ALBERT H. SEARS HOUSE[1]
603 E. North Street, Plano
Listed on January 29, 1987
Built in 1881 in the Queen Anne style.



LEWIS STEWARD HOUSE[2]
611 E. Main Street, Plano
Listed on November 28, 2003
Built in 1854 in the Italianate style.



YORKVILLE SCHOOL[3]
201 W. Center Street, Yorkville
Listed on January 24, 1995
Built in 1887 in late Victorian, late 19th- and 20th-century Revival style. Now Parkview Christian Academy.

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4.2 NATURE PRESERVES & PARKS

Kendall County is recognized for its natural landscapes, which are central to the County's identity and quality of life. From scenic forest preserves to the winding Fox River and its tributaries, open space in Kendall County takes many forms and serves a wide range of ecological, recreational, and cultural functions. These landscapes provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, environmental education, habitat protection, and scenic enjoyment, while also reinforcing the County's rural character amid continued growth pressures.

The Kendall County Forest Preserve District (KCFPD) is the primary agency responsible for acquiring, protecting, and managing natural areas in the County. The District manages more than 2,800 acres across 27 forest preserve sites, of which 12 preserves are currently open to the public. The Forest Foundation of Kendall County, a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization, supports the District by raising funds for land acquisition, ecological restoration, environmental education, and recreational improvements. In addition, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) manages several state-owned open space assets in Kendall County, including Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area and public river access along portions of the Fox River between Millbrook and Oswego.

As the following table shows, Kendall County currently has fewer acres preserved in Forest Preserves than surrounding counties. However, Kendall County is blessed with being home to the 1,350-acre Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area.

County	2024 Population	Forest Preserve Acres	Forest Preserve Acres Per 1,000 residents	State Park Acres*	Public Regional Open Space per 1,000 residents
Kendall	143,171	2,800	19.6	1,350	29.0
DuPage	937,877	26,000	27.7	501	28.3
Will	708,583	23,000	32.5	20	32.5
Kane	520,997	23,000	44.1	-	44.1

* Silver Springs in Kendall, James Pate Phillips in DuPage, Channahon in Will

Figure 4.3 *Comparative Park Level of Service 2024*
Source: National Recreation and Park Association

KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

Richard Young Forest Preserve and the adjacent **Lyon Forest Preserve**, located at 8225 IL Route 71 in Yorkville, together encompass approximately 141 acres. These preserves feature 2.9 miles of trails, two picnic shelters, a fire ring, grill, and three overlook decks. The site contains a diverse mosaic of natural communities, including woodlands, seeps, restored prairies, and Lyon Creek. More than 430 native plant species have been documented here, including several state-listed threatened and endangered species.

Subat Forest Preserve, located at 4845 Eldamain Road north of River Road in Plano, is a 68-acre preserve centered around a rare fen wetland system. The preserve offers a picnic shelter, approximately one mile of trails, and an overlook deck. Ongoing restoration efforts focus on protecting the fen's hydrology and supporting specialized plant and wildlife species, including pollinators and hummingbirds.

Millbrook South Forest Preserve, located at 8563 Fox River Drive in Millbrook, encompasses 546 acres along the Fox River. The preserve includes 2.7 miles of trails, picnic tables, and access to diverse habitats suitable for hiking, birdwatching, and nature observation. Its size and river adjacency make it an important regional open space and wildlife corridor.

Maramech Forest Preserve, located at 14780 Griswold Springs Road in Plano, is an 86-acre preserve directly west of the Edith Farnsworth House. Acquired in 1966 as the District's first preserve, Maramech features wet savanna, northern flatwoods, seep



Subat Forest Preserve
Image Credit: Enjoy Aurora



Maramech Forest Preserve
Image Credit: Enjoy Aurora

springs, and upland forest. Amenities include 0.4 miles of trails, an overlook deck, picnic shelter, water station, and restrooms.

Jay Woods Forest Preserve, located at 860 Creek Road in Plano, encompasses 220 acres divided into two parcels on either side of Creek Road. The preserve contains woodland and prairie habitats and features 1.8 miles of trails, picnic facilities, water access, restrooms, and an observation deck overlooking Little Rock Creek.

Hoover Forest Preserve, located at 11285 Fox Road in western Yorkville, is a 400-acre preserve situated along the Fox River. The preserve features 5.5 miles of upgraded trails, camping facilities, educational programming, and interpretive features such as the Rookery Education Center and the reconstructed Potawatomi Village (Neshnabe'k). Nearly 300 native plant species have been identified here, and the site plays a key role in habitat preservation and environmental education.



Hoover Forest Preserve
Image Credit: Enjoy Aurora

Harris Forest Preserve, located at 10460 IL Route 71 in Yorkville, is a 90-acre preserve south of the Route 47 corridor. One of the most heavily used preserves in the County, Harris includes picnic shelters, a fishing lake, horse arena, baseball diamond, sled hill, restrooms, and water stations. Oak and maple woodlands, wetlands, and ravines provide both recreational and ecological value.



Harris Forest Preserve

Blackberry Trail Forest Preserve, a 133-acre preserve in Montgomery, extends along Blackberry Creek between U.S. Route 30 and Highland Drive. Surrounded by residential and commercial development, the preserve provides 1.84 miles of trails

connecting neighborhood subdivisions and includes prairie and wetland habitats well-suited for bird observation.

Baker Woods Forest Preserve, located at 2939 U.S. Route 52 in Minooka, encompasses 229 acres along the Aux Sable Creek. The preserve features old-growth hardwood forests, restored prairie, equestrian facilities at the historic Ellis House, fishing access, and seasonal recreation opportunities such as cross-country skiing.

Shuh Shuh Gah Canoe Launch, located at 7488 Valley Lane in Millbrook, is a 3.4-acre river access site providing canoe and kayak launching, fishing access, picnic facilities, restrooms, and water stations.

Little Rock Creek Forest Preserve, opened in 2019, encompasses 135 acres along a 1.25-mile stretch of Little Rock Creek near its confluence with Big Rock Creek and the Fox River. The preserve connects with Maramech Forest Preserve and includes 1.1 miles of natural-surface trails through woodlands, prairies, and ravines.

Pickerill-Pigott Forest Preserve, located at 6350 Minkler Road in Yorkville, is a 99-acre preserve opened in 2021. It includes the renovated Pickerill Estate House, approximately two miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, scenic overlooks, and ponds for catch-and-release fishing.

Several Forest Preserve District properties in Figure 4.4 remain closed to public access to protect sensitive habitats and support land management objectives.



Baker Woods Forest Preserve



Shuh Shuh Gah Canoe Launch

Forest Preserve	Acreage
Henneberry Forest Preserve	387.9
Reservation Woods	48.6
Newark Forest Preserve	75.4
Millington Forest Preserve	356.2
Tucker Millington Fen Forest Preserve	8.3
Hollenback Sugarbush Forest Preserve	83.2
Millbrook North Forest Preserve	399.0
River Road Forest Preserve	55.6
Blackberry Creek South Forest Preserve	40.2
Fox River Islands	46.3

Figure 4.4 *Kendall County Forest Preserve District Private Properties*

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (IDNR)

Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area, located at 13608 Fox Road in Yorkville, encompasses approximately 1,350 acres and is managed by IDNR. The site includes oak woodlands, restored prairie, wetlands, and Fox River frontage. Recreational opportunities include fishing, hiking, equestrian trails, hunting, sledding, and seasonal ice fishing. The park supports over 100 bird species and serves as the largest contiguous public open spaces in Kendall County.

Yorkville Prairie Nature Preserve, located northeast of Yorkville, is a 28.6-acre high-quality wet-mesic prairie representing the Grand Prairie Section of Illinois. The preserve is managed primarily for conservation and ecological research.



Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area

PARK DISTRICTS

In addition to the Kendall County Forest Preserve District and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, several park districts provide parks, recreation facilities, and open space within Kendall County. These districts play a critical role in meeting day-to-day recreational needs, managing neighborhood parks and athletic facilities, and preserving smaller-scale natural areas embedded within developed communities. Collectively, they extend the County's open space network, support active lifestyles, and enhance quality of life for residents across both incorporated and unincorporated areas.

OSWEGOLAND PARK DISTRICT

The Oswegoland Park District, established in 1950, serves residents of Oswego, portions of Montgomery, Aurora, and Plainfield, as well as Boulder Hill and surrounding unincorporated areas in Kendall and Will Counties. The District manages 57 parks, greenways, and natural areas totaling approximately 1,301 acres, making it one of the most significant park providers in Kendall County by acreage.

Oswegoland Park District offers a diverse mix of amenities, including three recreation centers, two outdoor swimming pools, the Fox Bend Golf Course, and the Little White School Museum, along with more than 20 miles of walking and biking trails. Many of the District's properties include prairie remnants, wetlands, and greenway corridors that contribute to local ecological function while also supporting recreation. In 2025, the District opened the Grove Administration & Operations Center, strengthening its ability to maintain facilities and deliver programming as the service area continues to grow.

FOX VALLEY PARK DISTRICT

Founded in 1947, the Fox Valley Park District was originally created to protect scenic lands along the Fox River and has since grown into the second-largest park district in Illinois. The District serves communities in Aurora, North Aurora, Montgomery, portions of Sugar Grove, and unincorporated areas of Kane, DuPage, Kendall, and Will Counties.

Within Kendall County, the Fox Valley Park District manages a network of parks that reflect its regional mission of river corridor preservation and recreation. District-wide, Fox Valley Park District maintains 172 parks, 22 miles of river shoreline, and 25 lakes, encompassing more than 2,600 acres. Properties within Kendall County tend to emphasize neighborhood parks, trail connections, and access to Blackberry Creek and nearby open space corridors.

PLAINFIELD PARK DISTRICT

The Plainfield Park District, established in 1966, serves parts of Bolingbrook, Crest Hill, Joliet, Plainfield, and Romeoville, and unincorporated areas in Will and Kendall Counties. The District manages 91 parks totaling approximately 1,500 acres, with eight parks located within Kendall County.

Plainfield Park District facilities emphasize neighborhood recreation, playgrounds, and community amenities. District-wide offerings include more than 60 playgrounds, the Normantown Equestrian Center, the Prairie Activity & Recreation Center (PARC), and the Ottawa Street Pool. Within Kendall County, Plainfield Park District parks provide accessible green space and recreational opportunities in growing residential areas near the Will County border.

SANDWICH PARK DISTRICT

The Sandwich Park District, formed in 1966, serves the Village of Sandwich and manages 12 parks and recreational facilities, one of which is in Kendall County. The District focuses on community-scale parks and family-oriented amenities that support both daily recreation and special events.

Key facilities operated by the Sandwich Park District include the David A. Francis Center, located within Knights Park, and Milestone Park, a 20-acre park featuring a popular splash pad with agricultural-themed spray features and a skate park. Within Kendall County, the District's park facilities contribute to local recreational access in and around the Sandwich area.

JOLIET PARK DISTRICT

Established in 1922, the Joliet Park District is one of the oldest park districts in Illinois and provides recreational services to Joliet and surrounding communities in Will and Kendall Counties. The District manages more than 1,650 acres across 78 parks, offering a wide range of facilities and programming.

The District also offers extensive year-round programming, from early childhood education to large community events such as the Taste of Joliet. Parks located within Kendall County tend to serve growing residential areas in the Minooka and western Joliet region, providing neighborhood-scale recreation and open space.

MUNICIPAL PARKS

Only a few municipalities operate and maintain their own park systems. Yorkville manages approximately 40 parks, Minooka oversees 17 parks, and Plano maintains approximately a dozen parks and recreational facilities. Smaller municipalities typically rely on informal open spaces or other park providers.

YORKVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Established in 1988, the Yorkville Parks and Recreation Department provides year-round recreational programs, leagues, community events, and park facilities for all ages. The Department manages an extensive system of neighborhood and community parks throughout Yorkville, offering playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, and open space.

FOX VALLEY FAMILY YMCA

The Fox Valley Family YMCA is a major community asset in Kendall County, offering a broad range of programs that promote health, wellness, youth development, and social connection. Serving more than 8,600 members of all ages, the YMCA provides access to fitness facilities, youth sports, childcare services, and enrichment activities that support physical and mental well-being. Beyond recreation, the organization strengthens community cohesion by hosting events, fostering volunteerism, and providing critical resources for families. Its accessible programming and community-oriented mission make the Fox Valley Family YMCA a key contributor to quality of life in the region.

Established in 1979, the organization currently operates two facilities in Plano and Sandwich. The Plano location (Central Branch), opened in 1991, includes a 75,000-square-foot building featuring a fitness center, gymnasium, eight-lane 25-yard pool, fully equipped gymnastics training facility, music and dance rooms, childcare facilities, and 17 acres of outdoor open space. The Sandwich location (West Branch), opened in 2006, consists of a 14,000-square-foot fitness center and an adjacent Early Learning Academy building. The Branch also operates the S.A.F.E. School Age Care and Summer Camp program located at the School Age Child Care Center across the street.

To better serve communities to the east, including Yorkville, Montgomery, Sugar Grove, Oswego, and Boulder Hill, the YMCA began construction of the East Branch in Bristol on August 27, 2024. The new 59,700-square-foot facility will be built on 26 acres at the southeast corner of Galena Road and Cannonball Trail. Key features will include a fitness center, multi-purpose gymnasium, indoor track, natatorium, and daycare facility. The project is planned in three phases and the first phrase is expected to be completed by early 2026.







Image Credits: Fox Valley Family YMCA

4.3 WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Each species plays an important role in the ecosystem to preserve biodiversity, improve air and water quality, reduce soil erosion, and provide other ecosystem services. Preserving wildlife habitats helps protect the biodiversity of the planet, improve air and water quality, and soil erosion.

To understand the existing wildlife conditions, reviewing threatened and endangered species and natural habitats are important steps. IDNR administers and routinely updates the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI), which lists endangered and threatened species and INAI sites. Also, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) identifies protected lands, including nature preserves, land and water reserves, and Natural Heritage Landmarks. These data provide support for conservation and land use decisions for various entities and groups.

THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

Endangered species are those in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges. Threatened species are those likely to become endangered within the foreseeable futures. Kendall County supports a diverse range of state-listed threatened (LT) and endangered (LE) species, reflecting the presence of remnant high-quality habitats despite ongoing development and agricultural pressures. 24 species have been documented in the County, including plants, pollinators, fish, reptiles, birds, and freshwater mussels. These species are primarily associated with wetlands, riparian corridors, high-quality streams, and mature woodland remnants, highlighting the ecological importance of these environments.

Plants represent the largest share of listed species and are closely tied to wetlands, wet prairies, floodplains, and forested systems. Species such as False Bugbane, Showy Lady's Slipper, Heart-leaved Plantain, Beaked Spike Rush, and Slender Bog Arrow Grass indicate intact hydrology and high-quality natural communities. Woodland species, including Butternut, Rock Elm, and Alder Buckthorn, further suggest the presence of remnant forest and savanna conditions.

Pollinators and aquatic species provide important indicators of broader ecosystem health. The rusty patched bumble bee, with recent observations in 2023, underscores the importance of native flowering habitat and reduced pesticide exposure. Fish and mussel species, including mottled sculpin, redhorse species, Monkeyface, and Rainbow, depend on clean, stable stream and river systems, making them sensitive to water quality degradation and altered hydrology.

Blanding's turtle, documented as recently as 2024, relies on connected wetland complexes and adjacent upland areas, and is particularly vulnerable to habitat fragmentation and road mortality. Bird species such as Loggerhead Shrike and Osprey highlight the role of open landscapes and river corridors, although older records may reflect declining habitat availability.

ENDANGERED SPECIES (LE)



Actaea racemosa[1]
False Bugbane



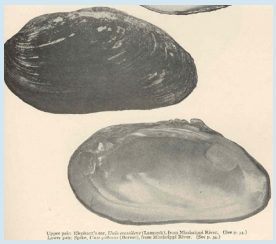
Bombus affinis[2]
Rusty Patched Bumble Bee



Cypripedium reginae[3]
Showy Lady's Slipper



Emydoidea blandingii[4]
Blanding's Turtle



Eurynia dilatata[5]
Spike Mussel



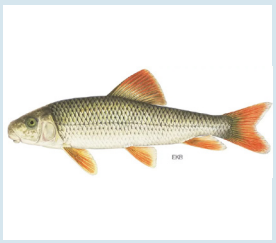
Juglans cinerea[6]
Butternut



Lanius ludovicianus[7]
Loggerhead Shrike



Mimulus glabratus[8]
Yellow Monkey Flower



Moxostoma valenciennesi[9]
Greater Redhorse



Plantago cordata[10]
Heart-leaved Plantain



Rhamnus alnifolia[11]
Alder Buckthorn



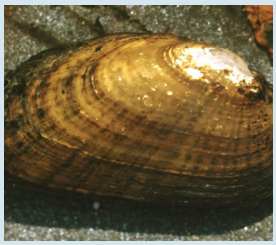
Scirpus hattorianus[12]
Bulrush



Ulmus thomasii[13]
Rock Elm



Veronica americana[14]
American Brooklime



Villosa iris[15]
Rainbow Mussel

THREATENED SPECIES (LT)



Aster furcatus[16]
Forked Aster



Carex bromoides[17]
Sedge



Cottus bairdii[18]
Mottled Sculpin



Eleocharis rostellata[19]
Beaked Spike Rush



Monarda clinopodia[20]
White Bergamot



Moxostoma carinatum[21]
River Redhorse



Pandion haliaetus[22]
Osprey



Quadrula metanevra[23]
Monkeyface Mussel



Triglochin palustris[24]
Slender Bog Arrow Grass

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[21] *Olaf Nelson, Flickr, CC BY-NC 2.0*
[22] *RoySmith, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0*
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[24] *BotBln, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0*

NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES

The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) is a collection of ecological information on natural areas evaluated to have statewide ecological and conservation significance. These sites preserve rare natural communities, endangered species habitats, and features reflecting pre-settlement conditions. Sites are categorized into six levels based on distinct criteria like size, quality, and rarity to protect significant remnants of Illinois' natural heritage. The site categories are subject to periodical reassessments:

In Kendall County, multiple Category I, II, and III sites such as Yorkville Prairie, Silver Springs, and Millhurst fens, demonstrate the importance of groundwater-dependent ecosystems which support many threatened and endangered species. Major waterways such as the Fox River, Big Rock Creek, and Aux Sable Creek function as critical ecological corridors, providing aquatic and riparian habitats and enhancing regional landscape connectivity. Together, all of the INAI sites establish the ecological foundation for Kendall County and reiterate the importance of natural resource and habitat protection in future land use planning.



CATEGORY I
High-quality natural community and natural community restorations



CATEGORY II
Specific suitable habitat for state-listed species or state-listed species relocations



CATEGORY III
State dedicated Nature Preserves, Land and Water Reserves, and Natural Heritage Landmarks



CATEGORY IV
Outstanding geological features



CATEGORY VI
Unusual concentrations of flora or fauna and high-quality streams

*Category V is currently unused.

INAI Site	Category
Fox River	II, VI
Yorkville Prairie	I, III
Big Rock Creek	I, II
Emmons' Woods Land and Water Reserve	II, III
Maramech Woods	II, III
Silver Springs Railroad Prairie	I, III
Yorkville Forested Seep and Fen	I, II
Millhurst Fen	II, III
Aux Sable Creek	II, VI
Silver Springs Fen	I
Millington Fen	II, III
Yorkville Seep	I, II
Dixon Valley Sedge Meadow	I, III

Figure 4.5 *INAI Sites in Kendall County*
Source: The Illinois Natural Heritage Database

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION PROTECTED LANDS

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) is a state organization established by the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. The Commission identifies, protects, stewards, and defends high quality natural areas in the State through the Illinois Nature Preserves System, which allows private and public lands to be voluntarily dedicated or registered for state protection. Three protection programs are active: Nature Preserves (NP), Land and Water Reserves (LWR), and Natural Heritage Landmarks (NHL).

The protected sites in Kendall County safeguard some of the County's highest-quality prairie, fen, sedge meadow, woodland, and wetland systems. They serve as important habitat areas and ecological reference landscapes.

NATURE PRESERVES

Offers the highest level of permanent legal protection to high quality natural areas.

LAND AND WATER RESERVE

Provides a more relaxed form of protection, either for a designated number of years or in perpetuity.

NATURAL HERITAGE LANDMARK

A voluntary recognition program that introduces a landowner to the concept of natural area protection and allows the state to assist with management of the natural area.

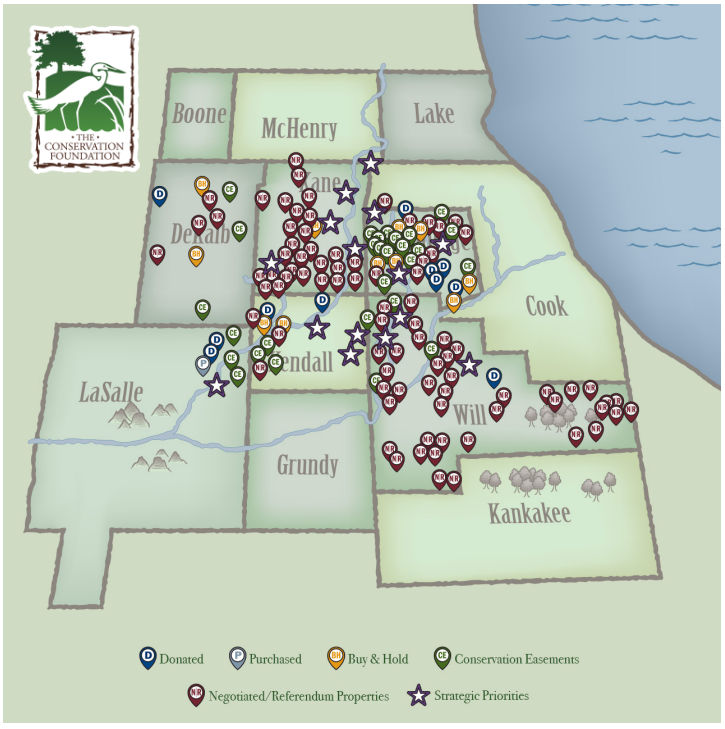
INPC Protected Area	Program
Yorkville Prairie South Natural Heritage Landmark	NHL
Maramech Woods Nature Preserve	NP
Yorkville Railroad Prairie Natural Heritage Landmark	NHL
Yorkville Prairie Nature Preserve	NP
Dickson Sedge Meadow Natural Heritage Landmark	NHL
Tucker-Millington Fen Nature Preserve	NP
Millhurst Fen Nature Preserve	NP
Emmons' Woods Land and Water Reserve	LWR

Figure 4.6 *INPC Protected Lands in Kendall County*
Source: The Illinois Natural Heritage Database

THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The Conservation Foundation, founded in 1972, serves Kendall, Kane, Will, and DuPage Counties with a mission to preserve and restore open space, protect rivers and watersheds, and promote environmental stewardship. It is northeastern Illinois's oldest and largest nonprofit land and watershed conservation organization. The Foundation has preserved a total of 1,378 acres across Kendall County, protecting 23 sites—many of which are now Forest Preserves. The Dickson-Murst Farm in Montgomery serves as the base for the Foundation's Kendall County branch and hosts several public events each year, including two "Days at the Farm" celebrations and the annual Beer, Bands & Barns event.

The Conservation Foundation facilitates the Lower Fox River Conservation Project, which includes the LaSalle County portion of the watershed and is one of the Foundation's top priorities. The Lower Fox River is also one of only 33 Conservation Opportunity Areas in Illinois designated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) as a high-priority conservation area. The Foundation has developed community partnerships and demonstration rain gardens in Yorkville, Plano, Oswego, and Minooka. Staff have assisted in developing watershed protection plans for Blackberry Creek, Aux Sable Creek, Big Rock Creek, and Little Rock Creek. These initiatives have supported the protection of several natural areas within Kendall County, including Jay Woods Forest Preserve, Little Rock Creek Forest Preserve, and multiple parcels within Reservation Woods. The Foundation also played a central role in planning and supporting the Protect Kendall Now! project, which local agencies have used to guide the preservation of thousands of acres of open space. In addition, the Conservation Foundation has collaborated with the Kendall County Forest Preserve District to pass two successful public referendums to fund open space acquisition. Community partnerships have included native plants and rain gardens.



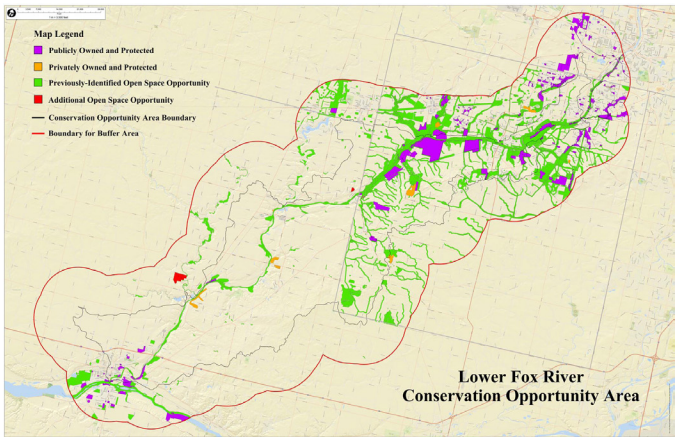
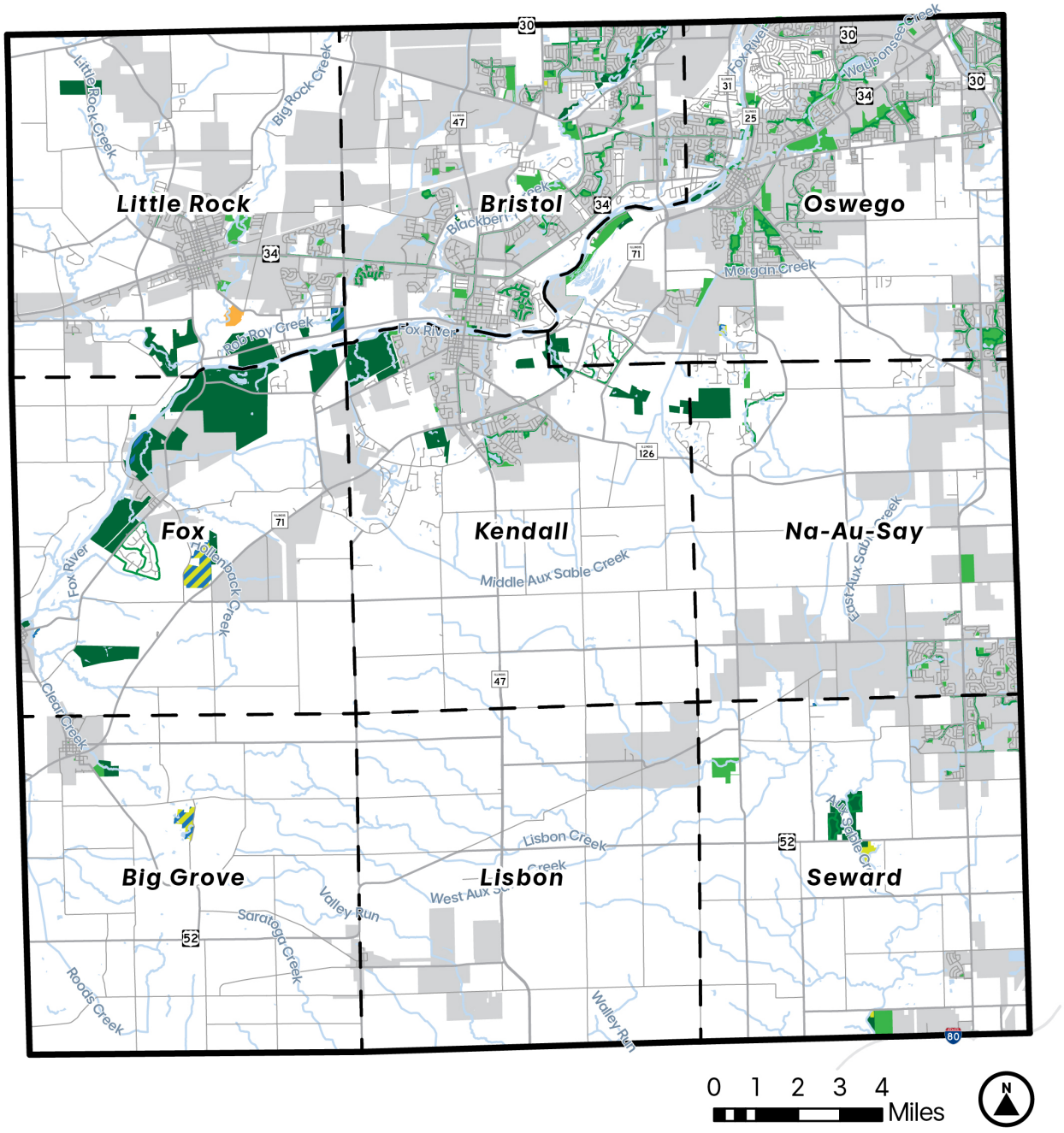


Image Credits: The Conservation Foundation



Legend

Protected Open Space

- State/County
- Municipal
- Private
- Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
- Conservation Easement
- Off-Street Multi-Use Paths
- Water
- Roadways
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 4.7 *Kendall County Existing Open Space and Trail Map*

4.4 TREE COVERAGE

Tree coverage plays a critical role in improving air and water quality, reducing stormwater runoff and flood risk, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and moderating energy use through building shading. Trees also provide essential wildlife habitat and contribute significantly to community character, visual quality, and overall quality of life.

Kendall County's landscape is historically rooted in tallgrass prairie, with limited native woodland primarily occurring in groves and along river corridors. Today, the County remains agricultural, and existing woodlands are concentrated along the Fox River and its tributaries, forming a distinctive prairie–forest mosaic. Notable forested areas are preserved within sites such as Subat Forest Preserve, Hoover Forest Preserve, Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve, Maramech Woods Nature Preserve, and Reservation Woods, which collectively represent some of the County's most ecologically valuable wooded landscapes.

According to the 2020 Tree Census Report published by The Morton Arboretum, Kendall County contains approximately 3 million trees, with a combined tree and shrub canopy covering 11 percent of the County's land area. This represents the lowest canopy coverage among counties in the Chicago metropolitan region. Although Kendall County experienced an increase in canopy cover between 2010 and 2020, rising from 9 percent to 11 percent, its overall coverage remains well below the regional average and far below the national average of approximately 35 percent (Nowak and

2020 TREE PROFILE OF KENDALL COUNTY

Number of trees:
2,991,000

Tree and shrub cover:
11%

Percentage of trees < 6' dia.:
58.7%

Pollution removal:
395.2 tons/year

Oxygen production:
18.4k tons/year

Avoided runoff:
31.6m cubic feet/year

Source: The Morton Arboretum and The Champion of Trees

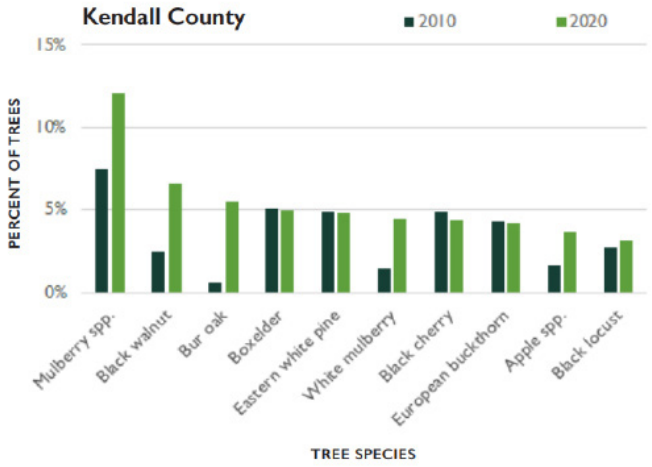


Figure 4.8 *Changes of the Top 10 Species in Tree Population in Kendall County Source: The Morton Arboretum and The Champion of Trees*

Greenfield, 2018). This disparity reflects the County's continued dominance of agricultural land uses and recent patterns of suburban development.

Species composition presents both opportunities and challenges. The most common tree species in Kendall County include mulberry species (including white mulberry), black walnut, and bur oak. Of particular concern is the prevalence of mulberry species, which are considered invasive woody plants. Kendall County has the highest proportion of mulberry species in the metropolitan area, accounting for approximately 17 percent of all trees, a significant increase from 8 percent in 2010. Additional invasive species such as Callery pear, European buckthorn, and black locust are also present throughout the County. The dominance of invasive species indicates that a substantial portion of existing canopy coverage does not provide the same ecological benefits as native tree species and highlights the urgency of invasive species management, removal, and replacement with native and climate-resilient trees.

Comparatively, Kendall County continues to lag neighboring counties in tree and shrub canopy coverage, as shown in Figure 4.9. While all counties in the Chicago metropolitan region experienced canopy gains between 2010 and 2020, Kendall County's growth rate and overall coverage remain modest. Expanding and improving tree canopy, particularly through native species restoration along river corridors, agricultural edges, and developing areas, represents a significant opportunity to enhance environmental resilience, biodiversity, and long-term sustainability across the County.

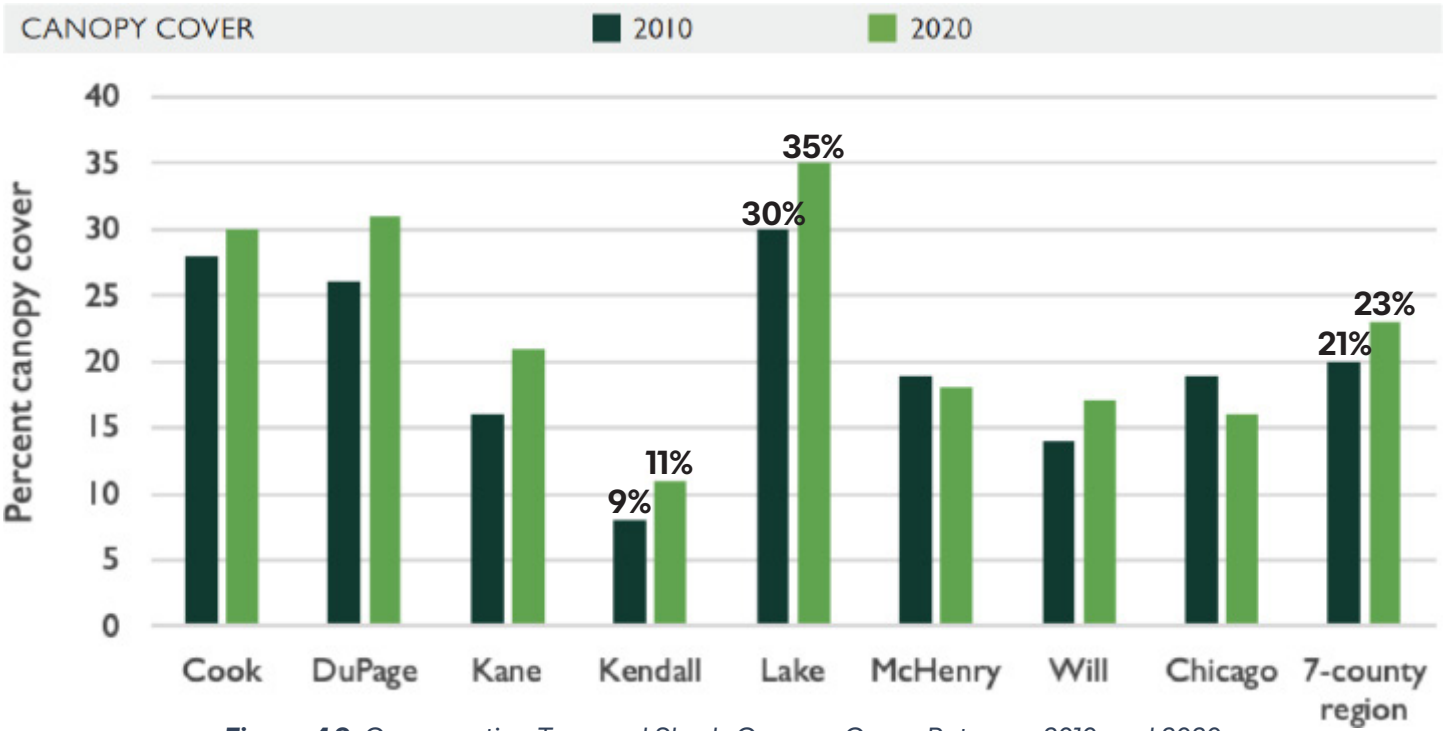
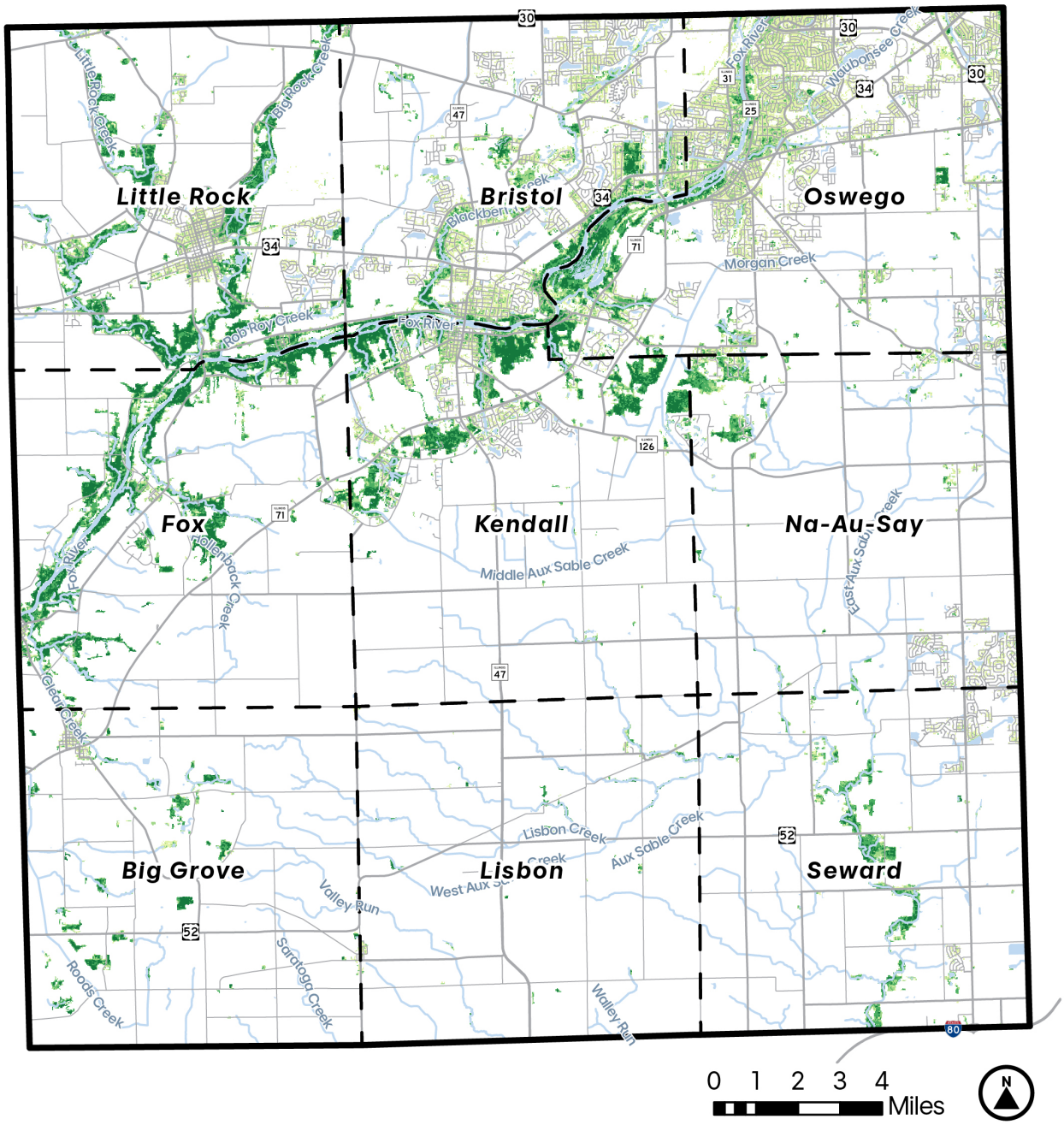


Figure 4.9 *Comparative Tree and Shrub Canopy Cover Between 2010 and 2020*
Source: The Morton Arboretum and The Champion of Trees



Legend

Tree Canopy Coverage

- 0-1%
- 1-25%
- 25-50%
- 50-75%
- >75%
- Unsurveyed
- Water
- Roadways
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 4.10 *Kendall County Tree Canopy Map*
Source: United States Department of Agriculture

4.5 WETLANDS

Wetlands are transitional ecosystems where water saturates the soil either seasonally or permanently, supporting specialized vegetation and wildlife. Often referred to as "nature's kidneys," wetlands provide critical ecosystem services including flood storage, water filtration, groundwater recharge, habitat for fish and wildlife, and recreational opportunities.

Wetlands in Kendall County are highly fragmented and primarily associated with major water corridors such as the Fox River and Aux Sable Creek, as well as floodplains and low-lying areas with hydric soils. Based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), wetlands in Kendall County are classified within Palustrine and Riverine systems, totaling approximately 5,050 acres.

While the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) includes lakes and ponds as part of Illinois' broader wetland and aquatic community framework, the NWI distinguishes deepwater habitats (such as open lakes and ponds) from vegetated wetlands for mapping and acreage purposes. Accordingly, this plan reports palustrine and riverine wetlands as the primary wetland acreage, with open water features documented separately as aquatic resources.



EMERGENT WETLAND[1]

Emergent wetlands include marshes, wet prairies, and wet meadows dominated by herbaceous vegetation such as cattails, sedges, and rushes. These wetlands play an important role in stormwater storage and water quality treatment.



FORESTED WETLAND[2]

Forested wetlands support flood-tolerant tree species such as silver maple, cottonwood, green ash, and elm. Located primarily along rivers, these wetlands provide flood resilience, bank stabilization, wildlife habitat, and carbon storage.

Image Credits:
[1] Desert LCC, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0
[2] Melanie Olds/USFWS, Wikimedia Commons



SHRUB WETLAND[1]

Shrub wetlands occur as transitional systems dominated by woody vegetation less than 20 feet tall and provide important wildlife cover and buffering functions.



AQUATIC BED WETLAND[2]

Aquatic bed wetlands contain submerged or floating vegetation and are limited in extent, typically occurring in backwaters or slow-moving channels.



OPEN WATER AND ARTIFICIAL WETLAND[3]

Open water and artificial wetlands, including detention basins and retention ponds, are common in developed areas and provide stormwater and limited habitat functions.



RIVERINE WETLAND[4]

Riverine wetlands include streams, rivers, and associated floodplain features that convey floodwaters and support aquatic connectivity.

Image Credits:
[1] Tim Kiser, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.5
[2] Johannes.gr, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0 AT
[3] U.S. Geological Survey, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0
[4] Dinesh Valke, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

4.6 SCENIC ROUTES

One of the characteristics Kendall County residents have long prized is the open/rural character of the area. While the character of some parts of the County have changed dramatically in the past 20 or 30 years with the influx of new residents and businesses, much of the County is still farmland and open space. Since the initial Land Resource Management Plan back in the 1990s, the County has designated certain roadways as scenic routes. These routes represent places in the County where the drive is more than just getting from place A to place B. Areas where you can see the Fox River, wooded slopes and ravines, rolling farmland, and nature. These are routes that represent the rural character of Kendall County at it's best – and areas that should be preserved for the scenic enjoyment of future generations.

The identified routes are mostly unchanged from those identified in the initial Land Resources Management Plan. They were identified by plan consultants after reviewing air photographs, topographic maps, and more importantly driving roadways throughout the County. These routes are depicted on the Recreational Open Space Opportunity Map.

The following are recommended strategies for protecting and enhancing the scenic character of these scenic routes:

- Consider open space buffers along the roadway and setbacks beyond what is typically required in the zoning district from the adjacent roadway right-of-way for any new development (some of this is already included in the zoning ordinance).
- Identify and preserve, to the fullest extent possible, views of natural areas like woodlands, rivers and streams from the adjacent roadway.
- Work with local groups to conduct roadside trash collection to keep these areas clean.



Scenic Route	Segment
Creek Road	Galena Road to Little Rock Road
Burr Oak Road	Griswold Springs Road to Millhurst Road
Millhurst Road	Millington Road to Fox River Drive
River Road	Fox River Drive to Route 47
Fox River Drive	River Road to County Line
Finnie Road	Rogers Road and Millington Road
Route 71	Orchard Drive to County Line
Highpoint Road	Route 71 to Route 71
Townhouse Road	Route 71 to Route 52
Van Emmon Road	Route 47 to Route 71
Reservation Road	Minkler Road to Grove Road
Grove Road	Reservation Road to Route 126
Route 126	Grove Road to Minkler Road
Jughandle Road	Route 52 to Bell Road
Bell Road	Jughandle Road to Ridge Road
Route 52	Jughandle Road to O'Brien Road
Budd Road	Millbrook Road to the ComEd Transmission line
Millbrook Road	Fox River Drive to Walker Road
Eldamain Road	River Road to Fox Road

Figure 4.11 *List of Scenic Routes in Kendall County*



4.7 EXISTING LAND USE

Land use planning is a foundational component of all planning efforts, as land uses directly influence community quality of life, economic development, transportation networks, and natural resource preservation. Understanding existing land use patterns in Kendall County is the first step in assessing current development conditions and shaping a vision for future growth.

As one of Illinois's fastest-growing counties, Kendall's population more than doubled from approximately 54,000 in 2000 to over 130,000 by 2020. This growth has occurred primarily at the expense of cultivated croplands. Significant development waves, led by residential and commercial uses, have concentrated along the Fox River corridor in the northern townships. Meanwhile, Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships in the east have seen spillover residential and industrial growth from neighboring Will County municipalities such as Plainfield, Joliet, Shorewood, and Minooka. Unincorporated areas of the County contain both residential subdivisions, typically near municipalities, and more scattered rural settlements.

An existing land use map, based on Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) GIS data and the definitions, illustrates the current distribution of land uses across the County, highlighting concentrations and emerging growth areas. Figure 4.12 presents the existing land use inventory for Kendall County:

Existing Land Use	Percent
Agricultural	74.7%
Single-Family Residential	10.3%
Multi-Family Residential	0.1%
Commercial	0.9%
Industrial	1.4%
Institutional	0.9%
Utility	1.8%
Open Space	4.5%
Vacant	1.9%
Under Construction	0.1%
Right-Of-Way	3.5%

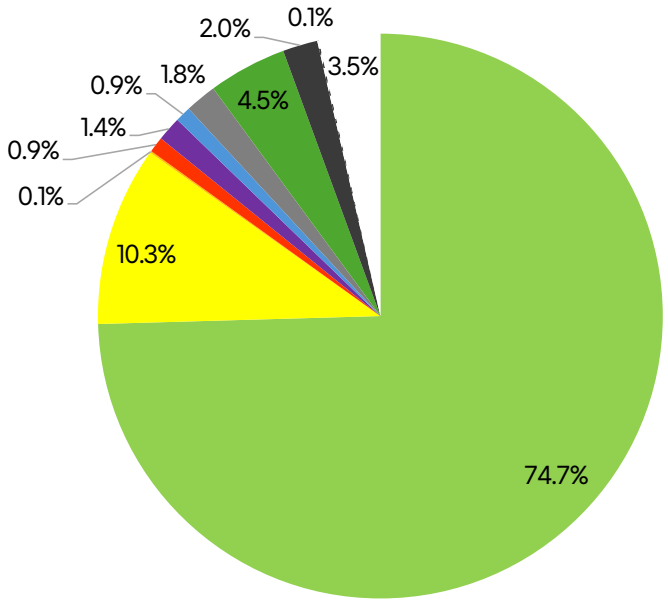
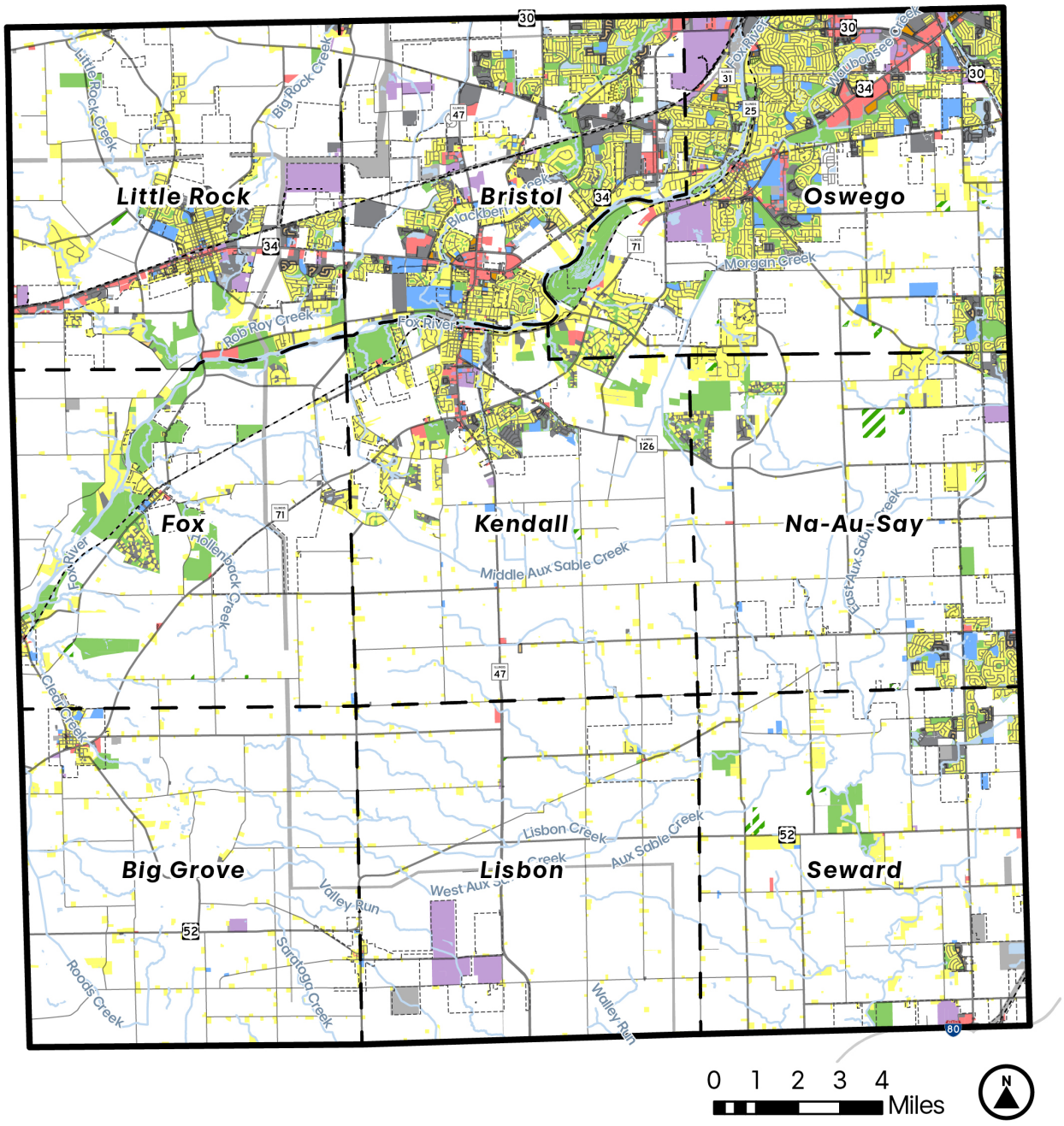


Figure 4.12 *Existing Land Use Inventory of Kendall County 2026*



Legend

Existing Land Use

- Agricultural
- Agricultural Tourism
- Single-Family Detached
- Single-Family Attached
- Multi-Family
- Commercial
- Institutional
- Industrial/Mining
- Utilities
- Open Space
- Vacant/Under Construction
- Water
- Roadways
- Railways
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 4.13 *Kendall County Existing Land Use Map*

Single-Family Residential. Includes all single-family housing, as well as multi-unit structures (e.g., townhomes and duplexes) whose units do not share a common entryway.

Multi-Family Residential. Includes multiple-unit residential buildings with a common entryway. Includes retirement complexes (except nursing homes), two-flats, three-flats, condominiums, cooperatives, and single-resident occupancy (SRO) buildings. Does not include mixed-use buildings with street-level commercial and 1–3 floors of residential above.

Commercial. Includes buildings used for retail, service, office, entertainment, and hospitality. Vertically mixed-use buildings containing both commercial and residential units on the same parcel are included.

Industrial. Includes mineral extraction, smaller-scale and larger-scale manufacturing and warehousing operations, industrial flex uses, and long-term storage facilities.

Institutional. Includes medical facilities (hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care); educational facilities (K–12 and post-secondary); government administration and services; prison and correctional facilities; religious facilities; cemeteries; community recreational centers; and national laboratories.

Utility. Includes transportation rights-of-way and associated facilities; rail and roadway ROW; aircraft transportation; independent automobile parking; communication infrastructure; utilities and waste facilities (such as substations, wastewater treatment











plants, landfills, stormwater basins); and intermodal facilities.

Agriculture. Land classified by the assessor as agricultural, including row crops, field crops, fallow fields, pasture, horse, dairy, livestock, and mixed agricultural operations. Includes parcels assessed as developed where aerial imagery shows continued agricultural use.

Open Space. Includes recreational open space, public and private golf courses, conservation areas, non-public open space in a natural state, trails or greenways, and waterbodies.

Vacant. Land in an undeveloped state with no agricultural use and no protection as open space. Includes vacant residential, commercial, industrial, and other vacant land based on assessor classification.

Under Construction. Land platted for development where construction activity is visible in aerial imagery (e.g., grading, roadway installation, foundations, incomplete structures, or incomplete landscaping).

Right-of-Way. Includes roadway rights-of-way.

Despite significant development over the past two decades, agricultural land still accounts for three-quarters of the County's area, highlighting Kendall County's enduring rural identity and the continued importance of farming. Single-family residential development is the second-largest land use, underscoring its dominance as the primary housing type, while multi-family residential accounts for only 0.1 percent of land,





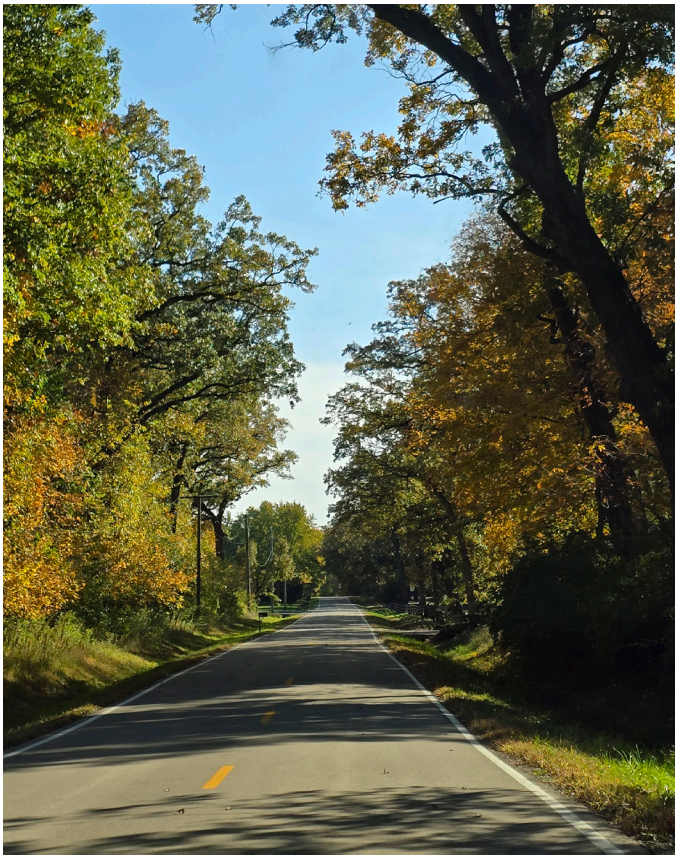






reflecting a low-density, limited-diversity housing pattern.

Protected open space, including parks, preserves, and greenways, comprises 4.5 percent of the County land, complementing the agricultural base and supporting environmental quality, recreation, and overall well-being. These patterns provide a foundation for green infrastructure and resource protection strategies. Overall, Kendall County's land use patterns indicate an agricultural and low-density county with limited areas devoted to higher-intensity residential or employment uses. Looking forward, balancing growth with farmland preservation, expanding housing diversity, and aligning future development with infrastructure and economic goals will be key challenges and opportunities for the next 15–20 years.



4.8 FUTURE LAND USE

Future land use planning establishes a long-term framework to guide Kendall County's growth, balancing development with the preservation of agriculture, open space, and natural resources, while ensuring new development occurs in appropriate, strategic locations. Thoughtful land use planning supports responsible decision-making, protects community character, and promotes a high quality of life.

The County's Future Land Use Plan builds on the Land Resource Management Plan, which has been updated periodically since 1994. The most recent update, completed in 2024, maintains consistency in the location of major land use categories, with notable adjustments to:

- Maintain farmland while allowing for appropriate growth and development
- Reduce areas designated for commercial uses due to declining demand
- Expand industrial land designations to reflect economic development priorities
- Manage future renewable energy (solar farm) sites

It should be noted that designation of land on the Future Land Use Plan does not change the current zoning of the property as zoning is the legal tool used by the County to regulate the use of land. The Future Land Use Plan is a guide for County decisions on requests for future rezoning.

Future land use categories in Kendall County are summarized as follows:

Municipality. The Municipality category represents areas that are incorporated into a City or Village. Each incorporated area is governed by its own municipal zoning ordinance, except for Millbrook and Plattville which adhere to County zoning codes.

Agricultural. Intended to encourage farming and agricultural businesses and protect the existing character of rural areas, the Agricultural land use category is designed for continued agricultural use. Residential use shall not be permitted unless it is directly associated with the operation of a local farm or existing physical constraints are consistent with the Kendall County Zoning Ordinance, which states that "physical features which serve as barriers to farm operations such as streams, rock outcroppings and property configuration in relationship to wetlands, flood-prone areas or buildings" render a site incompatible with agricultural use. Expansive woodland coverage, poor soil conditions, and excessive slopes are other physical constraints that would render a site incompatible with agricultural use.

Agricultural Conservation. These areas are like the above agricultural category, but they have an extra layer of protection due to their classification per the requirements of the Illinois Agricultural Areas Conservation and Protection Act. The owners of these properties have voluntarily placed their land in an Agricultural Conservation Area, meaning the property can only be used for agricultural purposes. Property can be removed from this category, but only after a formal submission and hearing process.

Countryside Residential. (Not to exceed 0.33 dwelling units per gross buildable acre.) The Countryside Residential land use category promotes large-lot, low-density detached single-family residential development in an area that primarily maintains an agricultural/rural environment. This land use category is consistent with the County's R-1 zoning district requiring a minimum 3-acre lot size. The district provides a rural or countryside setting, retaining a large amount of agricultural land or open space.

Planned Rural Estate Residential. (Not to exceed 0.45 dwelling units per gross buildable acre.) The Planned Rural Estate Residential land use category promotes low-density detached single family residential development. This land use category is generally consistent with the County's R-1 and RPD-1 zoning districts, permitting a base density of 0.33 du/ac and a maximum density of 0.45 du/ac. Planned development and clustering are strongly encouraged within this land use category to preserve the natural features of the land such as topography and vegetation. Lot size may be varied with a planned development, but the overall density should be within the guidelines established in this plan. The district provides a semi-rural or countryside setting, retaining a greater amount of open space. Compatible governmental, educational, religious, and recreational uses may also be permitted in these areas. Planned Rural Estate Residential uses are proposed at the outermost fringe of municipalities.

Planned Rural Residential. (Not to exceed 0.65 dwelling units per gross buildable acre; a density bonus to increase the maximum density up to 0.85 du/ac may also be granted.) The Planned Rural Residential land use category promotes large-lot, low-density detached single-family residential development. This land use category is consistent with the County's RPD-2 zoning district, permitting a base density of 0.45 du/ac and a maximum density of 0.65 du/ac. Planned development and clustering are strongly encouraged within this category to preserve the natural features of the land such as topography and vegetation. Lot size may be varied with a planned development, but the overall density should be within the guidelines established in this plan. An additional density bonus up to 0.85 du/ac may be granted if a proposed development: (1) is partially or entirely located within 100 ft of a Class A Stream (as defined by IDNR) or its tributaries, or (2) utilizes both community septic and community water services. The district provides a semi-rural or countryside setting, retaining a greater amount of open space. Compatible governmental, educational, religious, and recreational uses may also be permitted in these areas. Public water should be provided where practical. Planned Rural Residential uses are primarily proposed at the outer fringe of municipalities but closer in than Planned Rural Estate Residential uses.

Suburban Residential. (Not to exceed 1.0 dwelling units per gross buildable acre if developed under County zoning authority.) The Suburban Residential land use category promotes a residential character of low to

The Planned Residential land use categories *are designed to accommodate conservation design subdivisions. With conservation design, residential lot sizes are reduced in exchange for additional common open space. These open space areas can contain recreational amenities such as trails and playgrounds. They typically include a combination of preservation of existing woodland and prairie and new native plantings. Several conservation design subdivisions were started in the County prior to the recession on the mid 2000s, including Brighton Oaks, Grove Estates, Henneberry Woods, and Rosehill.*



Image Credit: Imagery © 2026 Nearmap, HERE

medium density residences. This land use is consistent with the County's RPD-3 zoning district, permitting a base density of 0.86 du/ac and a maximum density of 1.0 du/ac. Higher municipal densities are appropriate on lots where adequate public sewer and water systems exist or can be made available (via community septic and well systems). Creative planned developments may also be appropriate under County zoning authority at a much lower density. While anticipated to contain primarily single-family detached housing, some attached housing units may be considered, particularly within a planned development. Compatible governmental, educational, religious, and recreational uses may also be permitted in these areas. Suburban Residential uses are typically located around incorporated areas since these areas have the highest likelihood of being annexed into a municipality.

Commercial. The Commercial land use category provides for retail, service and office establishments that offer goods and services in easily accessible locations.

Mixed Use Business. The Mixed Use Business land use category is designed to accommodate a variety of uses near each other. Areas shown for mixed use business are planned for future pedestrian-oriented shopping, living, and working environments. This category does not include industrial uses.

Transportation Corridor. The Transportation Corridor land use category includes concentrations of land uses that require accessibility to large metropolitan markets. Transportation corridors are located along major federal and state highways that carry high volumes of traffic. County economic development efforts can focus on preparing the areas adjoining high-capacity transportation routes for commercial, industrial, or office development. To maintain efficient circulation along the Route 47 transportation corridor, transportation elements such as limited curb cuts, right-in/right-out site access, and appropriate traffic light spacing (typically a minimum of ½-mile) are recommended. Minimum setbacks, landscaping requirements, and other physical design features should be incorporated to fit the rural character of the County. Appropriate zoning categories for the transportation corridor include A1-SU, B-3, B-5 PUD, B-6, or B-7.

Industrial. The Industrial land use category provides for employment opportunities for County residents while providing a balanced tax base. Appropriate uses include offices, warehousing, highway-oriented commercial businesses, and light industrial uses as permitted within the County's B-5 Business Planned Development District, B-6 Office and Research Park District, M-1 Limited Manufacturing District, and M-2 Heavy Industrial District. Buildings and land in this category should be properly landscaped and developed in an orderly manner that conveys a well-maintained environment, which is particularly important to create an attractive buffer between Industrial and any adjacent M-1 or M-2.

Mining. The Mining land use category applies to existing, active mining quarries. These quarries are located just west of Route 47 between Joliet Road and Sherrill Road. Although the quarries are largely kept out of view by tall man-made hills, the

existence of the quarries is fairly apparent by the volume of truck traffic in the area, particularly as the trucks enter and exit off of Route 47 via Quarry Road. Mining uses typically fall under the M-3 Manufacturing District (Earth Material Extraction, Processing and Site Reclamation).

Potential Mining District. As development continues to occur in the region, there may come a time when expansion of existing mines is needed. The potential mining district overlay indicates areas believed to have underlying mineral resources and access to key transportation routes which may make them appropriate for future mining activity and rezoning to M-3. Any specific mining application will be closely reviewed to ensure that it meets environmental performance standards appropriate to Kendall County and the specific location, including the buffering of such uses from adjacent residential, institutional, or public uses. Road impacts will also be closely evaluated to minimize impact on local transportation systems.

Public / Institutional. The Public/Institutional land use category applies to those lands where existing or proposed federal, state, or local governmental activities are conducted. Public and private educational and other Non-Profit organization facilities are also categorized as public/institutional uses. The Public/Institutional uses shown on the Future Land Use Plan represent primarily existing places of worship, cemeteries, government facilities, and schools. Where future sites have been acquired by a School District, these properties have also been mapped as public/institutional use on the Future Land Use Plan. Additional Public/Institutional uses will certainly be established to accommodate future population growth, but they are not all shown on the map due to the complexity of projecting the size and locations of these future uses.

Electric Transmission. The Electric Transmission land use category applies to land used or designated for high-voltage electrical transmission infrastructure that carries electricity over long distances. Utility corridors, towers or poles, and associated equipment needed to move power between generation facilities and substations.

Renewable Energy. The Renewable Energy land use category applies to land used or designated for facilities that generate electricity from naturally replenishing resources such as sunlight, wind, or water. This category includes installations like solar farms, wind farms, and other renewable energy generation sites.

Open Space. The Open Space land use category is designated for permanent conservation and protected from development. The category includes County Forest Preserves, State Parks and Recreation Areas, and private land with a permanent conservation easement.

Riparian Corridor. Vegetated areas located adjacent to creeks, streams, rivers, and other waterways that should be protected from development, disturbance, or encroachment in order to maintain natural hydrologic, ecological, and water quality functions. The appropriate width of the corridor is variable based on site conditions such as slopes, soils, vegetative cover, etc.

Additional Open Space Opportunity. Land that contain significant natural features, including but not limited to mature woodlands, prairies, and wetlands. These areas would be ideal candidates for conservation easements and other techniques to maintain their ecological integrity and to protect these important environmental resources. Development still may be appropriate based on the underlying land use, but only after careful review of the existing environmental assets.

Public input and farmland preservation initiatives have guided the restoration of agricultural land in Na-Au-Say, Kendall, and Seward Townships. The new plan reduces commercial designations, establishes a distinct industrial category, and addresses renewable energy development. Most commercial and industrial projects are anticipated to locate within municipalities for access to utilities and services.

Figure 4.14 compares the future land use inventory between the 2026 and 2024 plans:

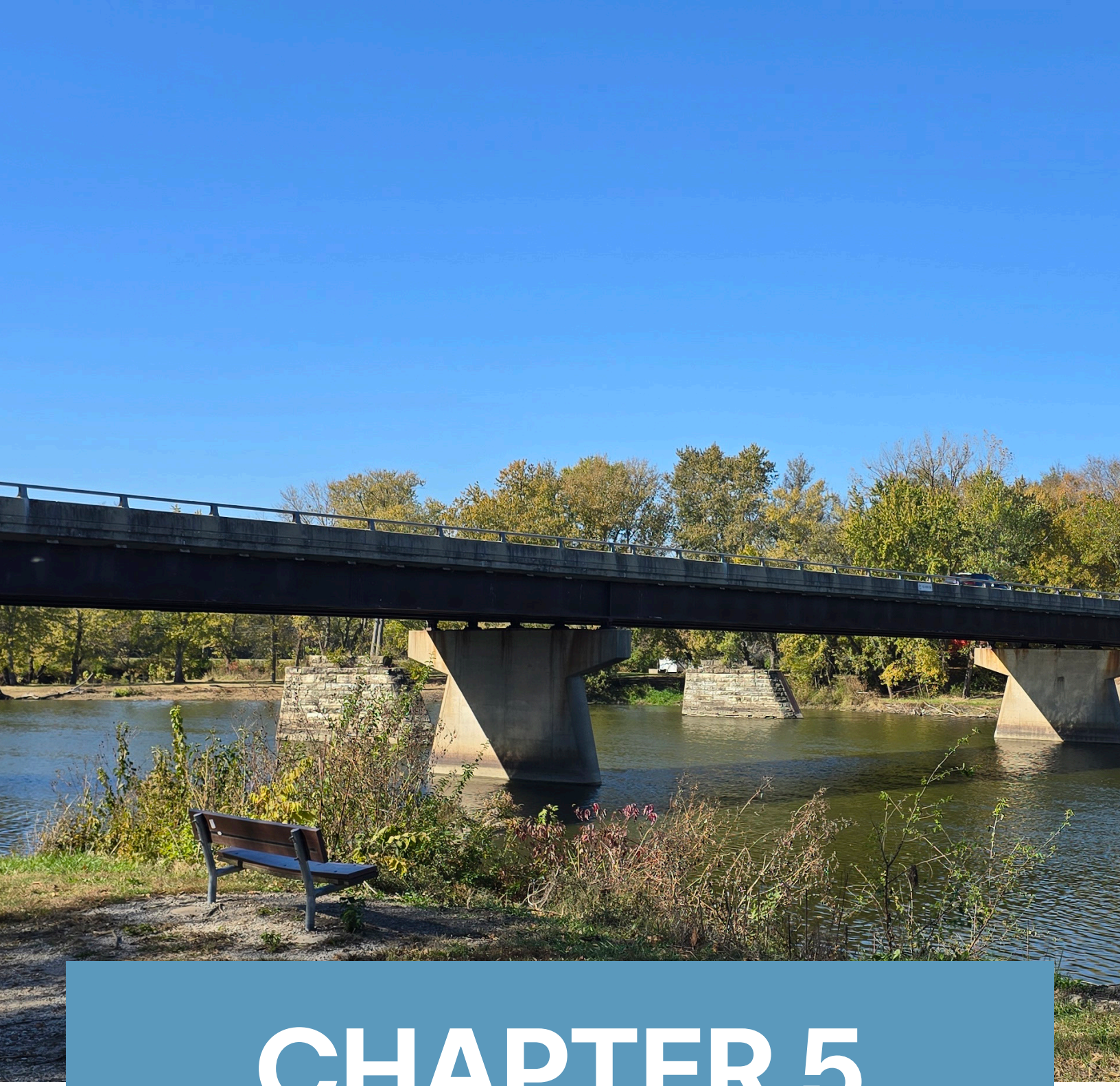


	2026		2024	
Future Land Use	Acreage	Percent	Acreage	Percent
Agricultural Conservation (Overlay)	1,858.4	/	1,858.4	/
Agriculture	73,275.3	35.7%	51,599.4	25.1%
Countryside Residential	2,296.9	1.1%	9,944.1	4.8%
Rural Estate Residential	2,425.4	1.2%	13,118.0	6.4%
Rural Residential	35,088.5	17.1%	37,373.2	18.2%
Suburban Residential	17,691.5	8.6%	25,624.8	12.5%
Municipality	49,811.4	24.3%	46,945.6	22.9%
Commercial	3,015.0	1.5%	5,770.0	2.8%
Mixed Use Business*	421.6	0.2%	5,798.7	2.8%
Transportation Corridor**	3,352.9	1.6%	657.0	0.3%
Industrial	4,668.9	2.3%	/	/
Mining	263.6	0.1%	263.6	0.1%
Potential Mining District	468.5	0.2%	468.5	0.2%
Public / Institutional	812.1	0.4%	496.9	0.2%
Electric Transmission	2,178.6	1.1%	2,178.6	1.1%
Open Space	9,452.8	4.6%	4,984.5	2.4%

Figure 4.14 *Comparative Future Land Use Inventory of Kendall County 2026 vs 2024*

Acreage noted in the above table was calculated from the GIS used to create the Future Land Use Plans. These areas represent an ultimate development pattern in 20 plus years after these areas are built out. For the foreseeable future, actual land use will remain closer to the existing land use shown on Pages 67-68.
** Mixed Use Business now excludes industrial, which is classified separately.*
*** Transportation Corridor designation amended to allow light industrial and remove residential.*





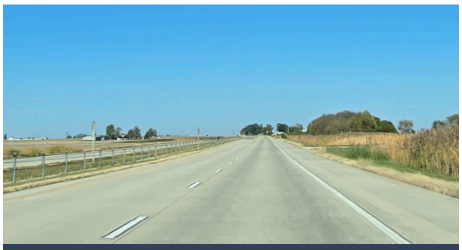
CHAPTER 5
MOBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

MOBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

5.1 ROADWAY NETWORK

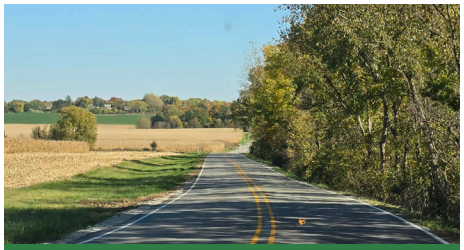
Kendall County relies heavily on its roadway system to support daily commuting, goods movement, emergency access, and regional connectivity. The County's roadway network links local communities to employment centers throughout the Chicago metropolitan area and provides critical east–west and north–south travel routes across northern Illinois and throughout the United States.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) classifies roadways based on functional classification, using criteria such as annual average daily traffic (AADT), surrounding land use (urban or rural), trip length, connectivity, access control, and roadway design characteristics (e.g., speed, lane width, and spacing). Roadways are grouped into three primary categories: In addition to functional classification, roadways are also categorized by jurisdiction, which determines the public agency responsible for construction, maintenance, operations, funding, and regulatory oversight. Understanding roadway jurisdiction is particularly important in Kendall County due to its mix of urban, suburban, and rural contexts and the number of agencies involved. Responsibilities are distributed as follows:



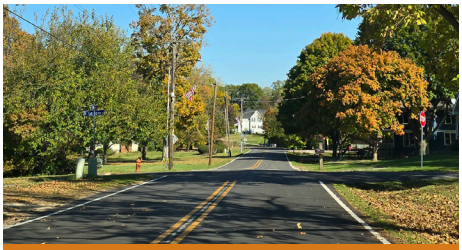
IL Route 47

ARTERIAL
Emphasizes mobility, accommodate long-distance travel, and typically limit access points. These include interstates, U.S. highways, and major state routes.



Reservation Road

COLLECTOR
Balances mobility and land access by channeling traffic from local roads to arterial routes.



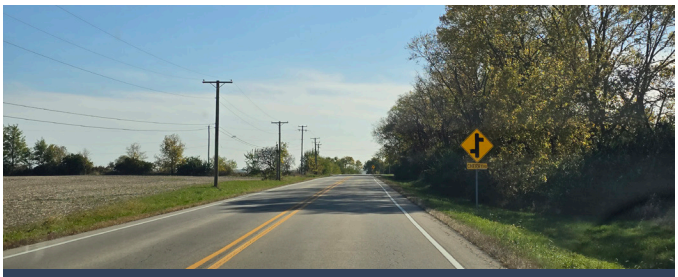
Chicago Road, Newark

LOCAL
Provides direct access to adjacent land uses, operate at lower speeds, and carry minimal through traffic.



US Route 30

IDOT owns and maintains interstates, U.S. routes, and state highways.



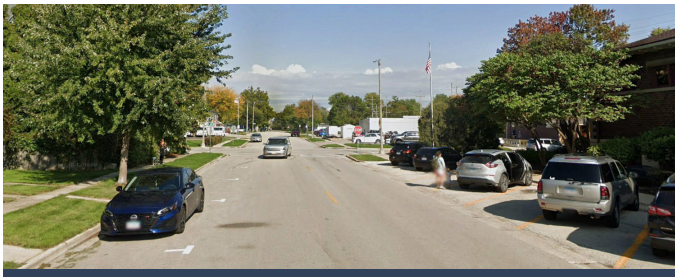
Grove Road

The **Kendall County Highway Dept.** maintains county highways and selected arterial and collector roads in unincorporated areas.



Whitewillow Road

Township highway departments maintain roads in unincorporated areas not under county jurisdiction.



North Street, Plano

Municipalities maintain most streets within corporate boundaries unless otherwise designated.

This multi-jurisdictional framework requires ongoing coordination to ensure continuity of roadway standards, efficient maintenance, and aligned capital improvement planning. Figure A.1 summarizes Kendall County roadways above the local level by functional classification and jurisdiction, and is accompanied by a map illustrating the existing roadway network.

As development continues to extend into previously undeveloped areas, the roadway network will need to expand accordingly. Establishing a future roadway framework at the countywide level helps prevent development from obstructing planned roadway corridors and ensures adequate right-of-way preservation for future widening or extensions. Kendall County's arterial and collector roadway planning should remain consistent with municipal transportation plans and align with the 2025–2045 Kendall County Long-Range Transportation Plan as well as each municipality's transportation plan, particularly regarding project prioritization, safety improvements, and capacity enhancements. To support this coordination, the Future Roadway Map in the Appendix compiles the most up-to-date transportation plans from Kendall County and its municipalities, illustrating planned roadway extensions and improvements.

5.2 TRUCK TRANSPORTATION

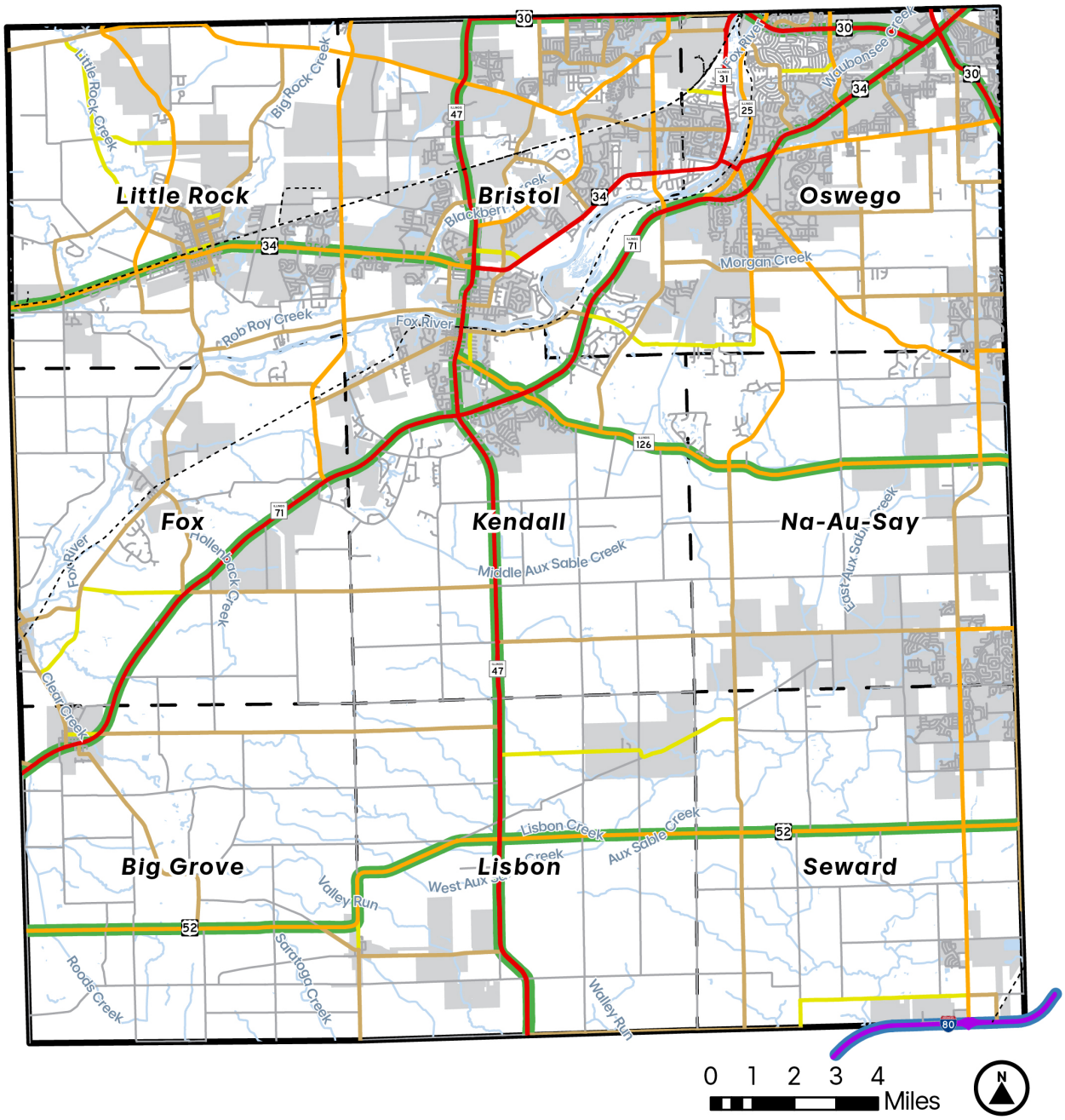
Truck transportation plays a critical role in Kendall County's economy, supporting industrial development, agriculture, warehousing, and regional goods movement. Freight traffic primarily utilizes interstate, U.S., and state highways, which are designated as State-Managed Class II truck routes.

Class II truck routes are major arterials that meet minimum design requirements, including lane widths of at least 11 feet. Vehicles operating on these routes are subject to state regulations limiting maximum width to 8 feet 6 inches and axle weight limits of 20,000 pounds for single axles and 34,000 pounds for tandem axles. Most major arterial roadways in Kendall County are designated as Class II truck routes. One notable exception is U.S. Route 34 between Illinois Route 47 and Illinois Route 71, which is not designated as a truck route due to operational or design constraints. Several local streets are also designated as Local Class II truck routes, particularly in Oswego, Montgomery, Sandwich, and unincorporated Boulder Hill, providing last-mile connections between industrial areas and state highways.

IDOT is responsible for maintaining and strengthening the designated truck route system in coordination with county and municipal agencies. As logistics and industrial development continue to expand, particularly along eastern Kendall County and near major corridors, route planning will remain a key consideration for roadway durability, safety, noise mitigation, and land use compatibility.



Francis C. Klaas Bridge
Image Credit: Kendall County



Legend

Roadway Functional Class

- Highway
- Major Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Local

State-Designated Truck Routes

- Class I
- Class II

- Water
- Roadways
- Railroads
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 5.1 *Kendall County Existing Transportation Network Map*

5.3 RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Kendall County benefits from its position along major freight and passenger rail corridors connecting Chicagoland to national markets. Three rail lines traverse or border the County, supporting freight movement and limited passenger service.

BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE (BNSF) RAILWAY

Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway runs through northern Kendall County including Montgomery, Oswego, Yorkville, Plano, and Sandwich. As a Class I railroad, this is the most critical freight corridor in the County, extending from Chicago westward to major markets including Texas, Arizona, and California. The line consists of two main tracks in Kendall County, with a proposed third track planned to facilitate expanded freight and Metra commuter service.
The BNSF line also hosts Amtrak passenger services. The Amtrak station is located in Plano (PLO) and serves the Illinois Zephyr and Carl Sandburg trains, offering daily service to Chicago (northbound) and Quincy (southbound) with one train in the morning and one in the evening for each route, while the long-distance Southwest Chief and California Zephyr routes pass through but don't stop there.

The BNSF line has also been under study and discussion for a potential extension for Metra BNSF commuter rail line. The project can be traced back to the early 2000s with feasibility studies. In 2019, significant steps were taken for the Kendall County Metra extension, with Metra awarding a major engineering contract and Illinois lawmakers approving $100 million in state funding for studies, aiming to cover station design,

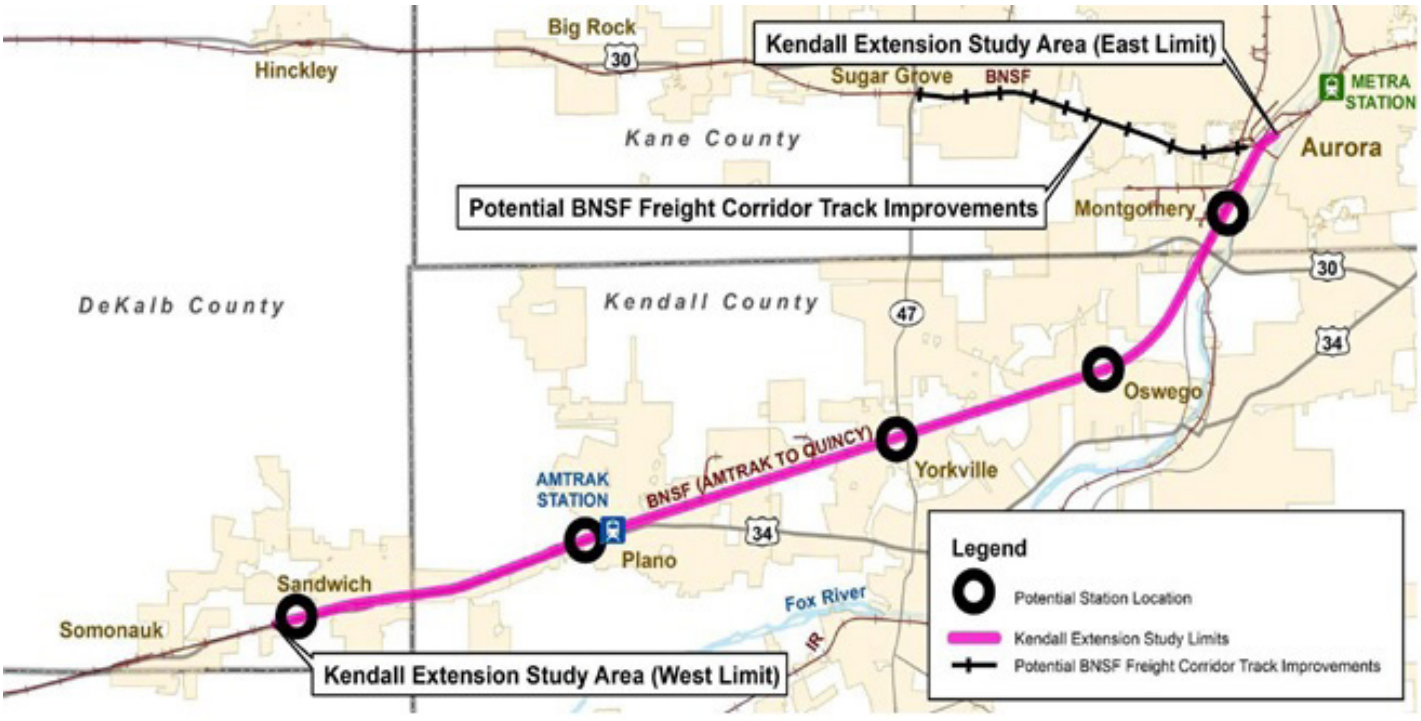


Figure 5.2 *Kendall Rail Extension Study Area*

environmental impacts, and cost analysis. The proposed extension would start from Aurora, adding potential new stations in Montgomery, Oswego, Yorkville, Plano, and Sandwich. The project requires constructing a third main track west of Aurora to handle both freight and commuter traffic, along with new rail yards and station facilities. This study is also exploring a potentially more affordable alternative to use the Illinois Railway tracks through the downtown areas of Oswego and Yorkville rather than the main BNSF line. In November 2025, the Kendall County Board approved a $6 million grant agreement ($4.8M federal, $1.2M state) for a "Phase Two" environmental and alternatives analysis.

ILLINOIS RAILWAY

The Illinois Railway, operated by OmniTRAX, runs approximately 113 miles between Aurora and Streator. Entering Kendall County at Montgomery, the line follows the Fox River through downtown Oswego, Yorkville, Millbrook, and Millington. While primarily a freight corridor, the line has gained planning interest due to its proximity to downtown areas and potential compatibility with future passenger service concepts.

ELGIN, JOLIET & EASTERN (EJ&E) RAILWAY

The EJ&E Railway, owned by Canadian National Railway, enters southeastern Kendall County near Minooka. Historically known as the Outer Belt Line, EJ&E functions as a major freight bypass, allowing long-haul trains to avoid congested rail yards in central Chicago. This line plays a critical role in regional freight efficiency and reinforces Kendall County's strategic position within the national rail network.



BNSF Railway Crossing

5.5 AIR TRANSPORTATION

Although Kendall County does not contain a commercial airport, it is well served by nearby regional, general aviation, and international airports, providing strong access for business travel, cargo movement, and passenger service. These facilities strengthen Kendall County's economic competitiveness and regional connectivity.

Major commercial airports serving the County include Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Chicago Midway International Airport, and Chicago Rockford International Airport, all accessible within 30 to 80 miles via the regional highway network. Rockford, in particular, functions as a major air cargo hub supporting freight logistics in northern Illinois.

Kendall County also benefits from proximity to several general aviation airports. They play an important role in supporting local economies, providing charter services, and accommodating training and recreational activities.



AURORA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (AUZ/ARR)[1]

The airport is in Sugar Grove, about 10 miles north of downtown Yorkville. The airport is owned and operated by the City of Aurora. This airport acts as a primary reliever for Chicago's O'Hare and Midway airports. In 2024, the airport handles approximately 76,885 operations annually. 196 airplanes are based at ARR. It covers an area of 1,100 acres and features a 24/7 FAA-operated control tower and three runways:

- Runway 9/27: 6,501 × 100 ft, surface: concrete
- Runway 15/33: 5,503 × 100 ft, surface: concrete
- Runway 18/36: 3,198 × 75 ft, surface: asphalt

Image Credit:
[1] Jauerback, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0



JOLIET REGIONAL AIRPORT (JOT)[1]

The airport is located west of Joliet near I-55. The airport is owned by the Joliet Park District. In 2024, the airport handles approximately 25,000 operations annually and serves general aviation and recreational users. 65 airplanes are based at JOT. The airport covers an area of 178 acres and has two runways:

- Runway 13/31: 2,937 × 100 ft, surface: asphalt
- Runway 4/22: 2,746 × 150 ft, surface: turf



MORRIS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (C09)

The airport is also known as James R. Washburn Field. It is less than one mile from the Kendall County border. It is owned and operated by the City of Morris. In 2024, the airport handles approximately 42,300 operations annually. 62 airplanes are based in Morris. Currently, the airport currently has one paved runway: Runway 18/36 is 5,501 by 75 feet and is asphalt. In 2019, the airport was awarded $12 million to build a new crosswind runway to make the airport accessible in a wider array of weather conditions. This new runway is currently under construction.



LEWIS UNIVERSITY AIRPORT (LOT)[2]

The airport is located in Romeoville, Illinois, adjacent to Lewis University. The airport is owned and operated by the Joliet Regional Port District. In 2024, the airport handle approximately 104,000 aircraft operations annually. 129 aircraft are based at LOT. The airport covers an area of 1,000 acres and has two runways:

- Runway 2/20: 6,500 × 100 ft, surface: concrete
- Runway 9/27: 5,500 × 75 ft, surface: asphalt

Image Credits:
[1] Teemu08, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0
[2] SamP3312, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

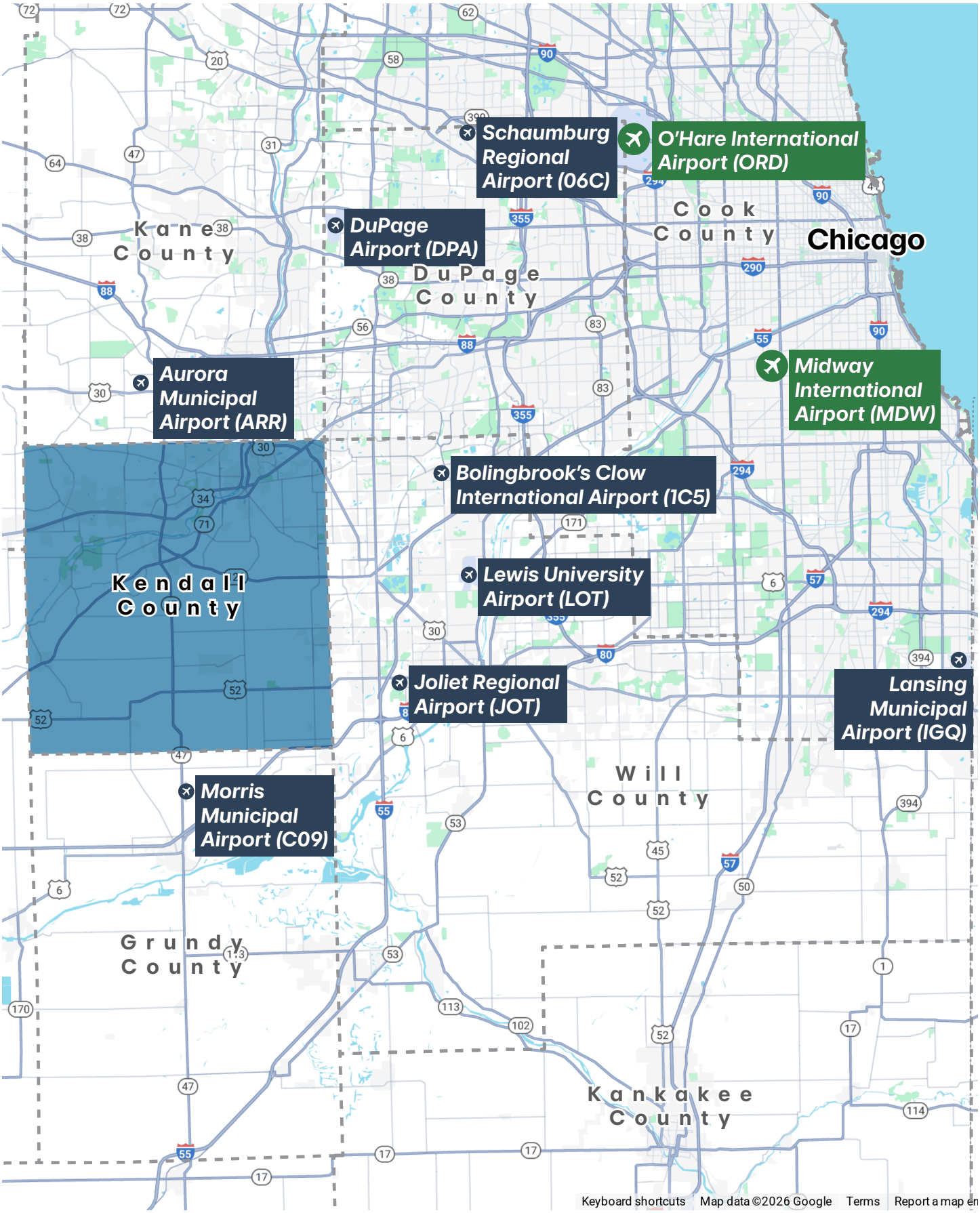


Figure 5.3 *Chicagoland Airport Map*

5.6 BUS & DEMAND-RESPONSIVE TRANSIT

Kendall County currently has no fixed-route bus transit service. The nearest fixed-route transit service to Kendall County is Pace Route 540, which serves the southeast Aurora area and has a designated stop at Rush-Copley Medical Center, just north of the Kane–Kendall County line. This route provides an important regional connection to employment, healthcare, and regional transit hubs for residents living near the County's northeastern edge.

To address local mobility needs, Kendall County operates its own demand-response transit system, Kendall Area Transit (KAT).

KAT is funded in part through the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) with support from the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. Unlike fixed-route systems, KAT provides flexible, curb-to-curb or door-to-door service, making it particularly valuable for seniors and individuals with disabilities, while remaining available to the public. KAT serves the entirety of Kendall County and selected destinations outside the County, including, but not limited to, Aurora, Joliet, Plainfield, and Sandwich. Service is available Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with holiday schedules varying. Riders are required to register in advance before scheduling trips.



Kendall County Transit Bus
Image Credit: Kendall County Government

5.7 TRAILS & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Kendall County's natural landscapes and growing communities create strong demand for walking and bicycling facilities. Trails play an important role in promoting active transportation, recreational access, tourism, and quality of life. Most trails are off-street facilities, typically 10 feet wide, and designed to accommodate pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists. Surface types vary based on setting, with crushed limestone trails in natural areas and paved trails in urbanized locations. Currently, about 150 miles of paved multi-use paths exist throughout the County, within incorporated areas, forest preserves, and residential



Paved Trail in Violet Patch Park

Forest Preserve	Address
Richard Young and Lyon Forest Preserve	8225 IL Route 71, Yorkville
Subat Forest Preserve	4845 Eldamain Road, Plano
Millbrook South Forest Preserve	8563 Fox River Drive, Millbrook
Maramech Forest Preserve	14780 Griswold Springs Road, Plano
Jay Woods Forest Preserve	860 Creek Road, Plano
Hoover Forest Preserve	11285 Fox Road, Yorkville
Harris Forest Preserve	10460 IL Route 71, Yorkville
Blackberry Forest Preserve	2550-2551 Concord Drive, Montgomery
Baker Woods Forest Preserve	2939 US Route 52, Minooka
Shuh Shuh Gah Canoe Launch	7488 Valley Lane, Millbrook
Little Rock Creek Forest Preserve	15238 Burr Oak Road, Plano
Pickerill-Pigott Forest Preserve	6350 Minkler Road, Yorkville

Figure 5.4 *Kendall County Forest Preserves with Trails*

subdivisions. Municipalities or Park Districts own and maintain most trails within their boundaries, while the Kendall County Forest Preserve District maintains trails within forest preserves, as summarized in Figure 5.4.

Several municipalities, including Plano, Yorkville, Montgomery, Oswego, Plainfield, Shorewood, and Minooka, have adopted local bikeway plans, and neighboring counties such as Kane and Will are advancing regional trail connections. These efforts collectively support a more cohesive, multi-county active transportation network. To support these efforts, the Future Trail Plan identifies all planned county and municipal off-street multi-use paths aimed at expanding and better connecting Kendall County's active transportation network.

As existing and planned trail corridors intersect major roadways, including Routes 34, 47, 71, and 126, special attention must be given to user safety. These corridors are characterized by wide cross-sections, high traffic volumes, and elevated vehicle speeds, creating significant barriers for pedestrians and bicyclists. To ensure safe and comfortable crossings, a range of traffic calming and crossing enhancements should be incorporated into both intersection improvements and trail development projects. These may include high-visibility crosswalks, accessible pedestrian signals (APS) with audible cues, median refuge islands where feasible, and optimized signal timing to better manage turning movements and reduce conflicts. Additional measures such as curb extensions, reduced curb radii, advance stop bars, and pedestrian-activated crossing beacons (e.g., RRFBs or HAWK signals) should also be considered to further enhance visibility, slow vehicle speeds, and improve overall crossing safety.

Rural areas of Kendall County face unique challenges due to lower population density and long distances between destinations. While extending off-street trails to all rural villages may not be immediately feasible, equity in access remains important. As an interim strategy, expanding paved shoulders along major roadways can provide safer bicycling accommodations and improve connectivity between rural communities and the broader trail network.



Improved Intersection at Routes 47 and 126
Image Credit: Google Earth



Example of Wider Road Shoulder for Bicycling
Image Credit: Alan Levine, Flickr, CC BY 2.0

FABULOUS FOX! WATER TRAIL

The Fabulous Fox! Water Trail is a designated non-motorized recreational corridor along the Fox River that extends approximately 200 miles, from Mukwonago, Wisconsin, to Ottawa, Illinois. The trail includes a coordinated network of more than 80 public access points, such as canoe and kayak launches, portage routes around dams, and riverfront parks. The Water Trail is managed through a partnership of local governments, park districts, and regional organizations, with wayfinding signage, maps, and safety information provided to support user navigation and river stewardship. By formalizing access to the Fox River, the trail enhances recreational connectivity, promotes water-based tourism, and encourages long-term river conservation and public investment in riverfront amenities.

■ ***fabulousfoxwatertrail.org***



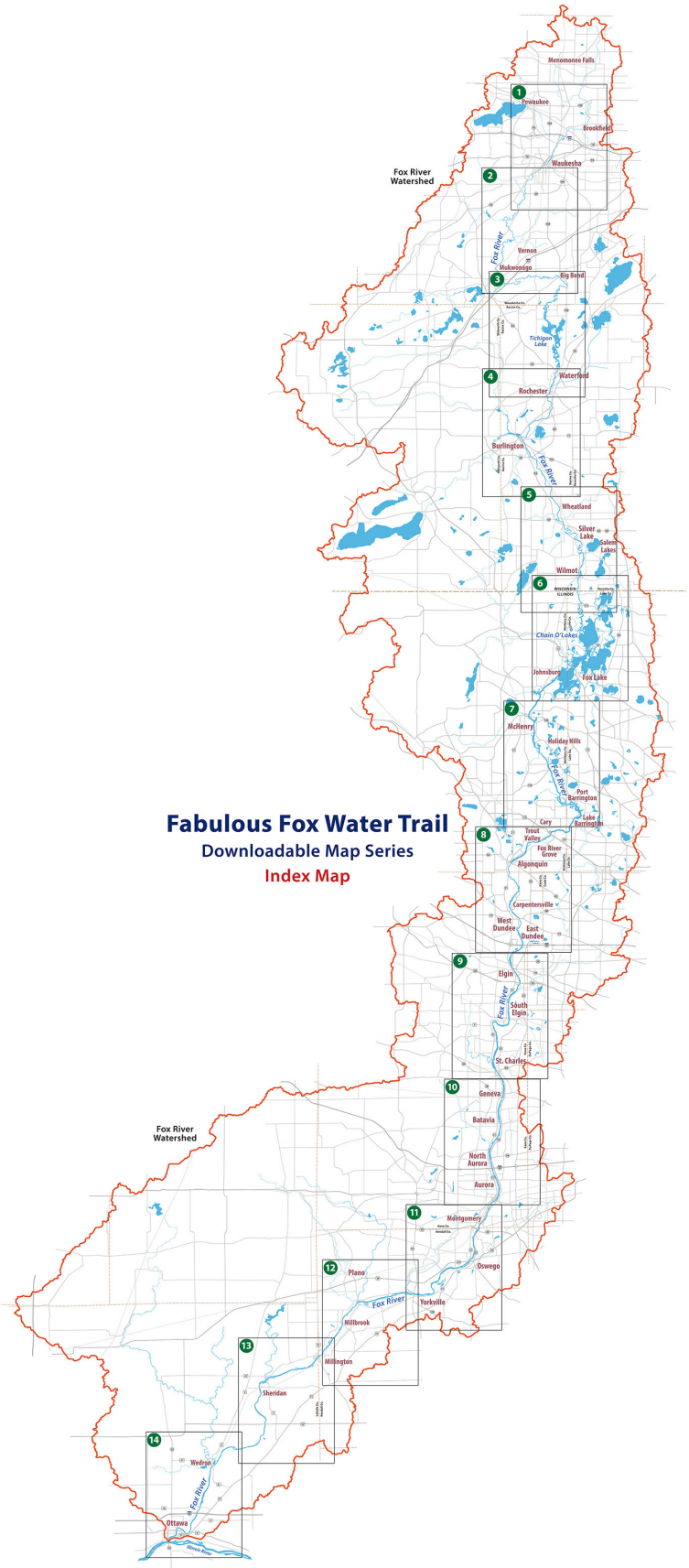
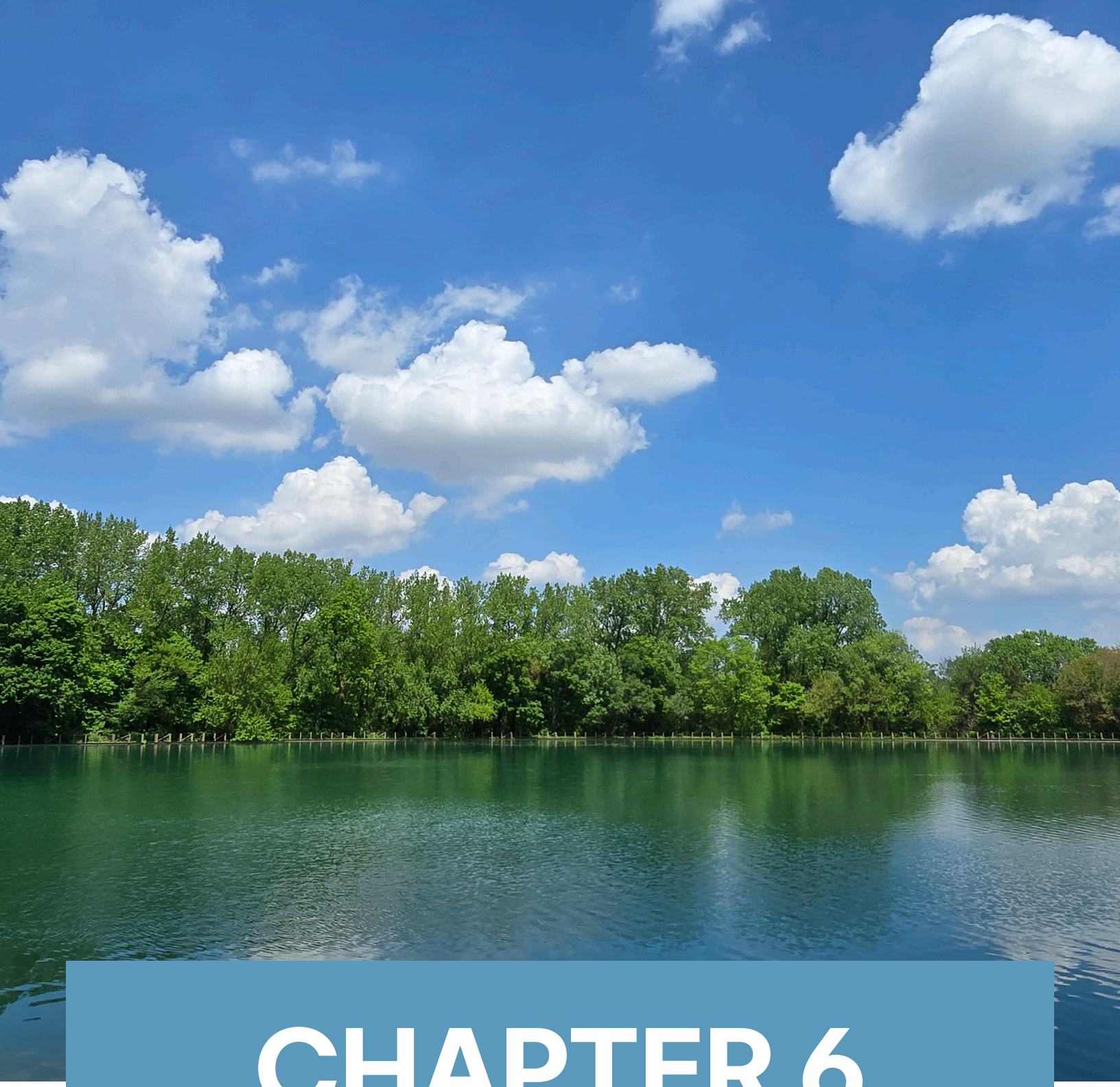


Figure 5.5 *Kendall County Forest Preserves with Trails*
Image Credit: Southeast Fox River Partnership





CHAPTER 6
ENERGY & WATER

ENERGY & WATER

6.1 ENERGY

Electricity in Kendall County is provided by Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), with Ameren serving as a secondary provider to select municipalities, including Millbrook, Newark, and Millington, and southwest rural areas. Corn Belt Energy, an electric power provider based in Bloomington, Illinois, also supplies a small portion of electricity service near Newark. Electricity is delivered through four major alternating current overhead transmission corridors, supported by fourteen substations managed by ComEd, which distribute power throughout the County. These transmission corridors form the backbone of the County's electrical infrastructure and are critical to maintaining reliability and meeting future demand.

Kendall County's primary source of in-county electricity generation is natural gas, supplied by the Kendall County Generation Facility in Minooka. This gas-fired facility has a capacity of 1,256 megawatts and comprises eight generators producing

Corridor	Path	Voltage (KV)	Substations (1, 2)
1	Oswego – Naperville	138	Oswego, Wolf's Crossing
	Bristol – Oswego	138	UNKNOWN124334, Oswego
	Montgomery – Plano	138	Montgomery, Plano (138KV)
	Bristol – Plano	138	UNKNOWN124334, Plano (138KV)
	Sandwich – Plano	138	UNKNOWN124332, Plano (138KV)
	Sandwich – Plano	138	UNKNOWN124333, TAP138226
2	Morris – Romeoville	138	Dresden, TAP138233
	Minooka – Morris	345	TAP138227, Collins
	Pekin - Morris	345	Tazewell, TAP138229
	Naperville – Morris	345	Wolf's Crossing, Dresden
	Lockport – Minooka	345	Lockport, TAP138230
3	Marseilles – Plano	345	LaSalle, Plano (345 KV)
4	Morris – Plano	765	Collins, Plano (765 KV)

Figure 6.1 *Major Electric Power Transmission Corridors in Kendall County*
Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PIN	Community	Capacity (MW)	Acreage
02-29-100-006	Yorkville	2	7
07-05-400-011	Newark	2	11
08-31-200-002	Lisbon	3	100
08-33-126-006	Lisbon	2	15
08-33-200-006	Lisbon	3	20
09-25-100-006	Minooka	5	35
09-25-100-005	Minooka	5	46
02-08-200-030	Yorkville	5	23
02-08-300-011 and 02-08-300-012	Yorkville	5	35
02-08-300-008	Yorkville	5	29
02-09-400-007	Kendall County	5	37
02-15-126-004	Yorkville	5	26
05-16-300-011 and 05-17-400-015	Kendall County	5	39
09-24-400-020 and 09-24-400-023	Shorewood	5	35
07-07-100-005 and 07-07-100-022	Newark	5	21
06-09-400-004	Kendall County	5	35
01-10-400-002, 01-11-300-001, 01-10-400-003, Land Patent 17302, 01-11-200-001, 01-03-100-006, 01-03-100-008, 01-03-200-002, 01-14-101-003, 01-02-400-001, 01-01-300-004, 01-03-100-009, 01-03-200-001, 01-14-101-002, 01-03-400-001, 01-02-300-001, 01-16-226-001, 01-15-100-007, 01-15-100-011, 01-15-200-006, 01-15-100-012	Plano	250	1,567
01-33-200-006	Kendall County	5	33
02-18-400-007 and 02-17-300-009	Yorkville	5	27

Figure 6.2 *Solar Farms in Kendall County (Proposed, Approved, and/or Built)*

approximately 5.5 terawatt-hours annually. Operational since March 2002 and currently owned by Dynegy Kendall Energy LLC, it ranks eleventh among 368 Illinois power plants and third among 65 natural gas plants in terms of annual net electricity generation.

In addition to traditional power generation, the County has experienced rapid growth in solar energy over the past five years. Fourteen solar farms are completed or approved, with four additional projects officially proposed, collectively occupying over 500 acres and providing a designed capacity of 322 megawatts (see Figure 6.2). These installations include both community solar farms and public sector projects that supplement municipal electricity usage. For example, the City of Plano installed a 1.23-megawatt solar system in 2020 that provides approximately 78 percent of the electricity demand for its water reclamation facility. In 2021, Kendall County began utilizing a 2-megawatt, seven-acre solar field to supply electricity to the Public Safety Center, Judicial Center, and Public Health Department. The Fox Metro Water Reclamation District activated a 2-megawatt, 16-acre solar field, supplying 20 percent of its annual electricity needs.

Despite their environmental and economic benefits, ground-mounted solar farms occupy significant land relative to their output, making siting decisions critical. Poorly located projects can consume prime agricultural land, limit economic development opportunities, or disrupt natural habitats. Ideal locations for solar include rooftops, preserving ground for agriculture or other uses while gaining the additional benefit of electrical generation.



Ground-Mounted Solar Panels in Lisbon



Roof-Mounted Solar Panels on a Warehouse in Minooka
Image Credit: Imagery © 2026 Nearmap, HERE



Canopy-Mounted Solar Panels in a Parking Lot
Image Credit: Wikideas1, Wikimedia Commons, CC0

For example, large warehouse buildings can have equally large solar installations on their rooftops, generating electricity for on-site or off-site use.

In addition, parking facilities offer strong potential for solar integration. Solar canopies over surface lots and structured parking can generate power while providing shade, reducing heat island effects, and improving user comfort. These installations can also support electric vehicle charging infrastructure, further advancing local sustainability goals.

Where rooftop or canopy-mounted systems are not feasible, optimal locations for ground-mounted solar in Kendall County should prioritize proximity to existing high-voltage transmission lines and substations, avoid flood-prone or environmentally sensitive areas, and align with long-term municipal growth and land use plans.

To guide development, the Minooka Solar Farm Plan, adopted in 2024, identifies preferred solar development areas within the municipal boundary. On the county level, five properties totaling 1,328 acres are designated as potential sites, with two additional areas suggested: one south of Plattville and east of Lisbon, and another west of Lisbon between the planning areas of Yorkville and Lisbon, each extending approximately one-quarter mile from the transmission corridors. The City of Plano also identifies solar energy development opportunities in its Comprehensive Plan, encompassing approximately 637 acres bounded by the county line, Galena Road, Tyler Road, and Sedgewick Road. The Alternative Energy Opportunity Map in the Appendix shows all existing and planned solar farms in Kendall County.



Ground-Mounted Solar Panels in Newark
Image Credit: Imagery © 2026 Nearmap, HERE

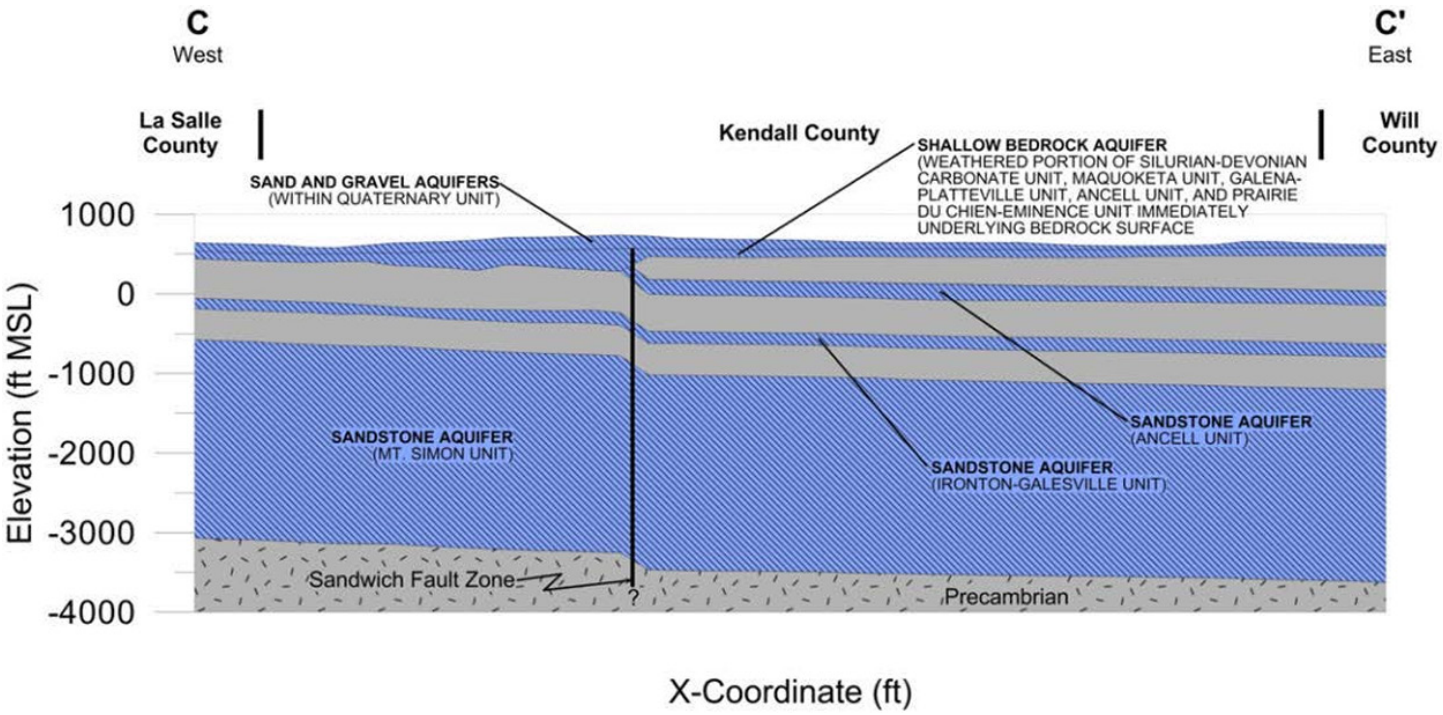


Figure 6.3 *Aquifers in Kendall County*
Image Credit: Illinois State Water Survey

6.2 WATER SUPPLY

Kendall County relies almost entirely on groundwater from deep aquifers. Groundwater is accessed through wells and springs, and serves drinking water, agriculture, and industrial uses. Aquifers are underground layers of porous rock, sand, or gravel saturated with water, which are replenished by precipitation infiltrating from the surface. Three principal aquifer types supply Kendall County: sandstone aquifers, shallow bedrock aquifers, and sand and gravel aquifers.

The sandstone aquifers, including the Ancell, Ironton-Galesville, and Mt. Simon Units, are deep bedrock formations providing about 75 percent of the County's water. These aquifers currently serve major municipalities such as Oswego, Yorkville, Montgomery, and Joliet. The shallow bedrock aquifers encompass weathered bedrock extending approximately 25 to 125 feet below the surface and supply water in the southwest and northeast corners of the County, including Newark and several smaller communities. Sand and gravel aquifers are discontinuous, unconsolidated layers overlying the shallow bedrock aquifer and supply areas such as Plano in the northwest. Water is accessed via two principal types of wells. Domestic wells support residential and farm use, while high-capacity wells serve municipal, industrial, commercial, and irrigation demands. Overall, groundwater quality in Kendall County is good. Naturally occurring contaminants such as arsenic and radium are not problematic. Some wells may contain nuisance contaminants, including hardness, iron, and boron, while a limited number of wells have elevated fluoride, nitrate, or chloride levels.

Due to declining groundwater levels and growing demand, several Kendall County municipalities are transitioning to treated Lake Michigan water. Plainfield was the first, beginning service in 2004, with one pumping station, five water towers, pressure stations, over 225 miles of distribution mains, and three groundwater wells retained for emergency use. Shorewood, Minooka, and Joliet are members of the Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC), a regional effort to secure long-term Lake Michigan water through transmission mains, pumping stations, and storage infrastructure; Joliet has signed a 100-year agreement with Chicago, with service expected by 2030. Meanwhile, Yorkville, Montgomery, and Oswego are connecting to the DuPage Water Commission (DWC) via the WaterLink project, which will extend Lake Michigan water from Naperville into Kendall County. The first phase of construction began in December 2025, with deliveries anticipated by 2028, providing a sustainable, long-term supply to replace declining aquifer sources.

Water conservation measures can also help support and protect groundwater recharge. As residents and businesses work to reduce their water consumptions, the need to expand additional water capacity can be reduced.

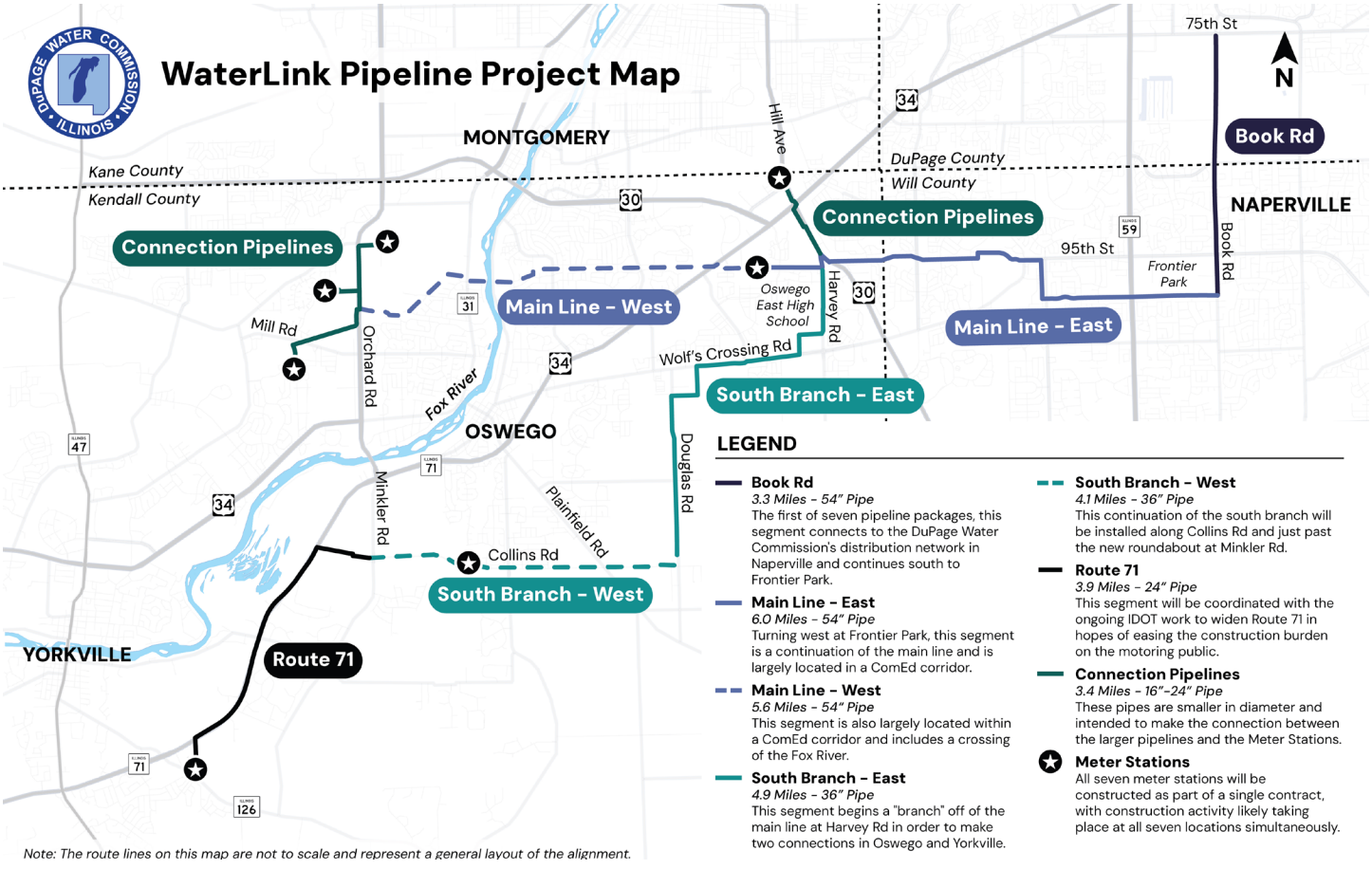


Figure 6.4 *WaterLink Pipeline Project Map*
Image Credit: WaterLink

6.3 WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Wastewater and sewage management in Kendall County is accomplished through a combination of municipal sanitary districts in urban areas and private onsite septic systems in unincorporated regions, reflecting the County's mix of urban, suburban, and rural land uses. The County has two independent sanitary districts that specifically address sewage collection and treatment: the Yorkville-Bristol Sanitary District (YBSD) and the Newark Sanitary District. In addition, the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District provides regional wastewater treatment services to multiple communities, complementing municipal facilities.

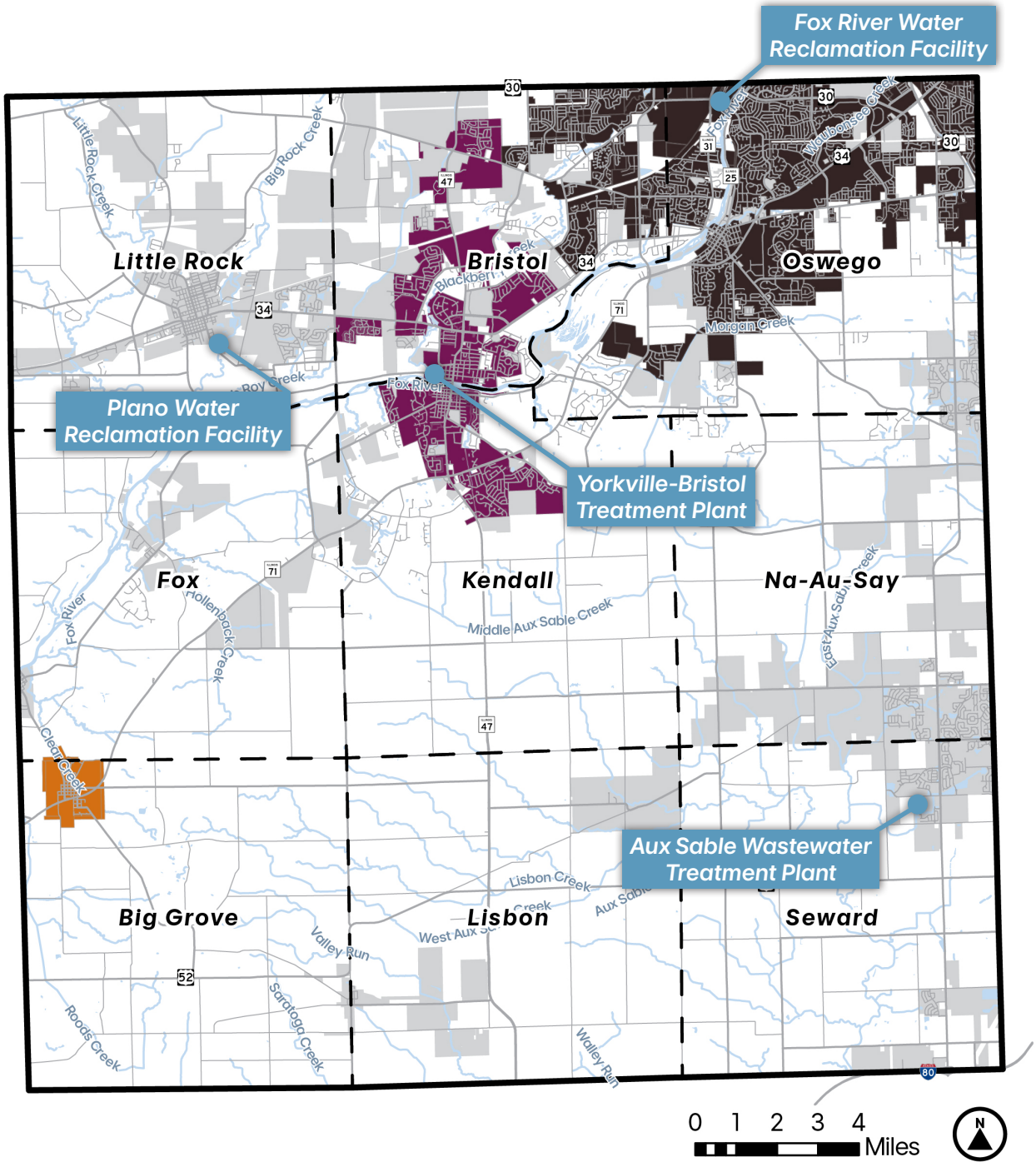
The Yorkville-Bristol Sanitary District (YBSD) is the primary local wastewater authority and serves the City of Yorkville, with a service population of approximately 36,200 residents. The district operates its main treatment plant on River Street, designed to handle an average daily flow of 3.62 million gallons per day (MGD), with a peak capacity of 6.14 MGD to accommodate wet weather events and potential surges in flow. The facility uses conventional secondary treatment processes and has been maintained and upgraded over time to ensure compliance with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) discharge standards.

The Newark Sanitary District manages wastewater collection and treatment for the Village of Newark, serving its local population through an independent treatment system tailored to the village's scale and infrastructure needs. While smaller than Yorkville, Newark's system is critical for maintaining public health and water quality in the northeastern portion of the County.

In addition to municipal systems, the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, based in Oswego, provides regional wastewater services to roughly 80,000 customers across multiple communities. Its service area



Fox Metro Water Reclamation Facility
Image Credit: Fox Metro Water Reclamation District



Legend

Sanitary Districts

- Fox Metro Water Reclamation District
- Yorkville-Bristol
- Newark

- Water
- Roadways
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 6.5 *Kendall County Sanitary District Map*

includes parts of Oswego, Montgomery, portions of Yorkville, and the unincorporated Boulder Hill community. The regional facility has a peak flow capacity of 139 MGD during wet weather events, reflecting its multi-phase expansion completed in 2025 to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and meet federal and state water quality standards. Fox Metro serves as a critical regional infrastructure provider, ensuring that densely developed areas with high wastewater generation have adequate treatment capacity and reducing potential environmental impacts on the Fox River and downstream water bodies.

The City of Plano Water Reclamation Facility operates independently, providing wastewater services to approximately 11,000 residential customers and several local industries. The facility processes an estimated 256 million gallons of wastewater annually, employing advanced treatment processes to remove pollutants and maintain compliance with IEPA discharge permits. Its operations are integral to supporting local industry while protecting surface water quality and public health.

Joliet operates three sanitary wastewater treatment facilities, one of which, the Aux Sable Wastewater Treatment Plant, is located in Kendall County along Black Road, just west of Ridge Road. The plant plays a critical role in the regional wastewater system, receiving and treating sewage from Joliet and surrounding communities before safely discharging treated effluent. Its location along a major corridor enables it to efficiently serve nearby development, supported by an extensive network of sanitary sewers and pump stations that convey flows throughout the service area.

For residents and developments outside municipal coverage, private onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) are widely used. These systems



Plano Water Reclamation Facility
Image Credit: City of Plano

are regulated by the Kendall County Health Department's Environmental Health Unit under the Illinois Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act and local ordinances. The Health Department reviews construction plans, issues permits, conducts inspections, and investigates potential public health nuisances from malfunctioning systems. The County enforces strict standards for system design, installation, and maintenance to prevent contamination of groundwater resources and surface waters, recognizing that unregulated or poorly maintained systems can pose significant environmental and health risks.

6.4 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater refers to precipitation, including rainfall or snowmelt, that flows over land or impervious surfaces such as streets, roofs, and parking lots rather than infiltrating into the ground. This runoff often enters storm drains, ditches, and eventually rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water, potentially causing flooding, erosion, and water quality impacts. Effective stormwater management is essential to protect public safety, preserve natural resources, and maintain infrastructure integrity.

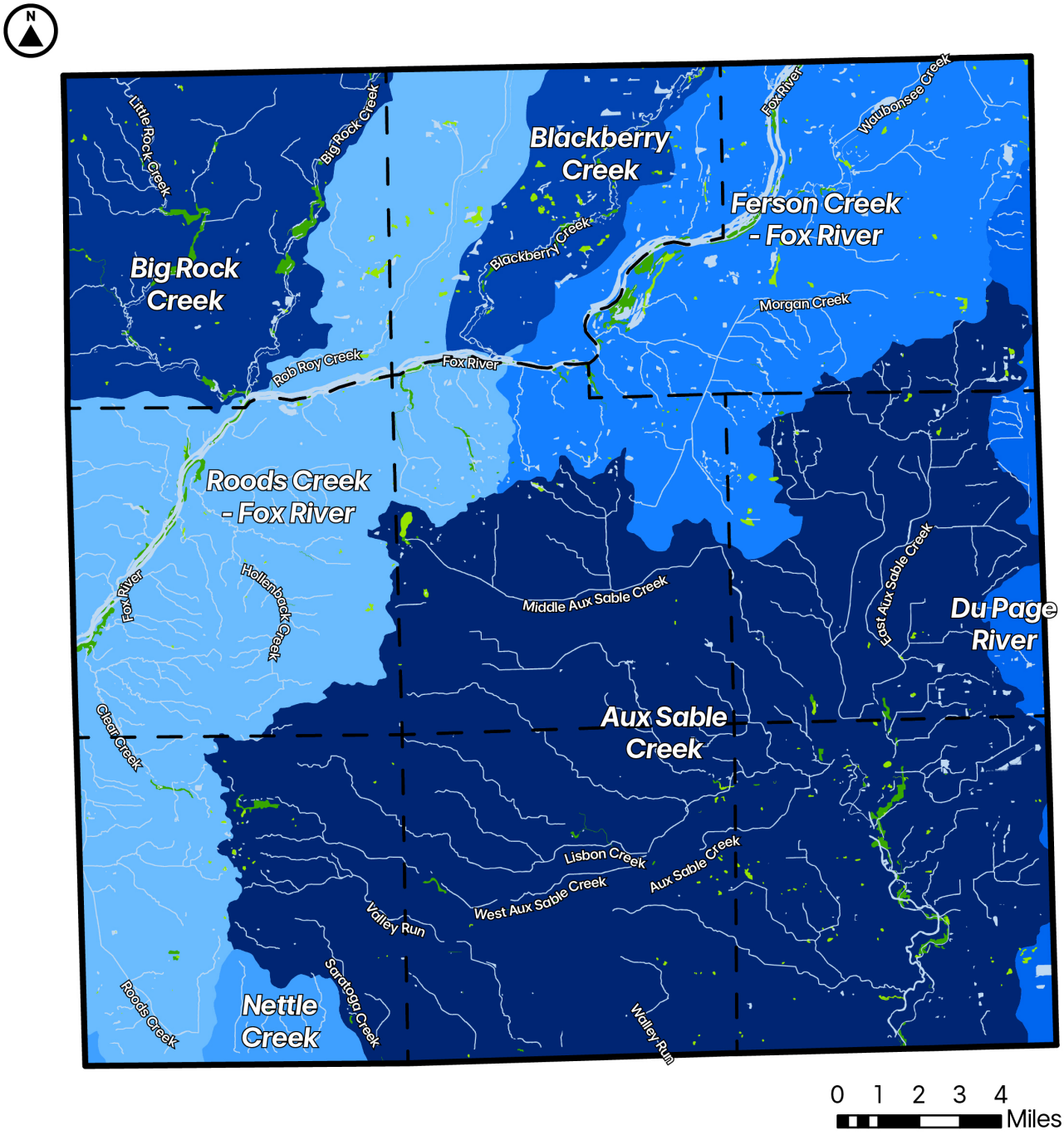
WATERSHEDS

A watershed, also known as a drainage basin, is a geographic area where all precipitation drains into a common body of water, such as a river, lake, or ocean. Watershed boundaries are defined by topography, such as hills or ridges, rather than political borders, meaning every piece of land belongs to a watershed. Watersheds are categorized hierarchically as basins, sub-basins, and local watersheds, from the largest to smallest scale.

Kendall County is primarily located within two regional watersheds: the Lower Fox River and the Upper Illinois River, each further subdivided into smaller sub watersheds that capture localized drainage patterns and flood risks. The Des Plaines River watershed, including the DuPage River sub watershed, touches only the eastern boundary of the County.

The northeastern and central portions of Kendall County fall within the Lower Fox River watershed. This watershed drains north to south toward the Illinois River and includes the main stem of the Fox River and many tributary systems. Flood hazards in this watershed are influenced both by riverine flooding along the Fox River corridor and by runoff from tributary sub watersheds draining agricultural, suburban, and developing lands. Because the Fox River corridor contains established communities, transportation infrastructure, and natural resource areas, stormwater management in this watershed emphasizes floodplain protection, controlling runoff rates, and coordinating with upstream and downstream jurisdictions to reduce risk.

The southern and western portions of Kendall County are part of the Upper Illinois River watershed (HUC 07120005), which features broad, low-gradient drainage areas conveying water toward the Illinois River through systems such as Aux Sable Creek and its tributaries. Flood risks in this watershed are often associated with expansive floodplains, slow-moving floodwaters, and cumulative runoff from



Legend

Watersheds

- Aux Sable Creek
- Big Rock Creek
- Blackberry Creek
- Des Plaines River
- Du Page River
- Ferson Creek-Fox River
- Nettle Creek
- Roods Creek-Fox River
- Somonauk Creek
- Waupecan Creek-Illinois River

Wetlands

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Water
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 6.6 *Kendall County Watershed and Wetland Map*
Source: United States Geological Survey

large drainage areas. Stormwater planning here focuses on preserving natural drainageways, managing large runoff volumes, and minimizing downstream flood impacts.

Within these regional watersheds, Kendall County is further divided into multiple sub watersheds, each representing a distinct drainage basin with its own hydrologic characteristics. These include Fox River tributary systems such as Blackberry Creek, Big Rock Creek, Roods Creek, and Ferson Creek, as well as Aux Sable Creek sub watersheds and Nettle Creek within the Upper Illinois River system. Sub watershed-level analysis allows for more precise evaluation of localized flooding, stormwater infrastructure needs, land-use impacts, and opportunities for green infrastructure. It is particularly useful for identifying areas where development pressure, soil conditions, and topography may increase runoff or flood risk, even when these impacts are not evident at the broader watershed scale.

FLOODPLAINS

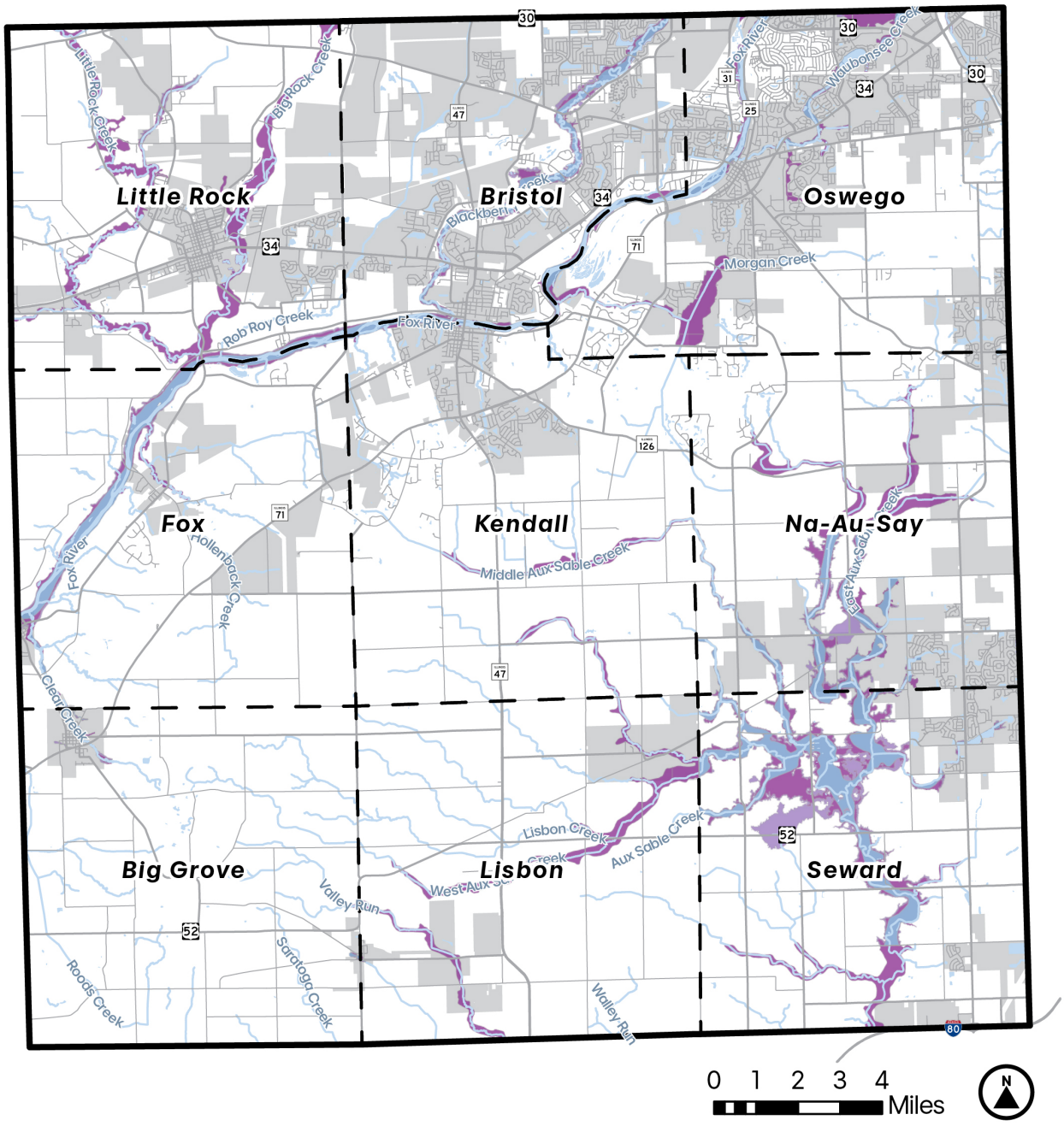
Flood hazards in Kendall County are associated with its network of rivers, creeks, and low-lying floodplain areas, particularly along the Fox River and Aux Sable Creek, and their tributaries. Flooding can occur during heavy rainfall, rapid snowmelt, or prolonged wet conditions, resulting in overbank flows that affect nearby properties, roads, and infrastructure.

The most widely recognized flood hazard mapping comes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), including Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) dataset. These products delineate Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), representing land with a 1-percent annual chance of flooding, commonly referred to as the "100-year floodplain."

FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

In addition to federal mapping, Kendall County enforces a Stormwater Management Ordinance and permit requirements applicable to new development and significant land-disturbing activities. The ordinance requires that new development be designed so that post-development runoff volumes and peak flow rates do not exceed pre-development conditions. It includes standards for stormwater management plans, detention basin design, drainage system evaluation, water quality protection, and provisions for wetlands and floodplain considerations. Any development or grading activity that could alter stormwater runoff, including soil disturbance and changes in impervious areas, requires a Stormwater Management Permit. County staff and engineering consultants review projects to ensure compliance with quantity, quality, and safety requirements. The ordinance is integrated with the County's Subdivision Control Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance, and allows the County to establish compensatory storage and other technical requirements. Amendments and variances have been applied over the years to address specific project needs and evolving technical standards.

In 2024, Kendall County updated its Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is revised every five years to comply with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000,



Legend

Flood Hazards

- 0.2% Annual Chance
- 1% Annual Chance
- Regulatory Floodway
- Water
- Roadways
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 6.7 *Kendall County Flood Hazard Map*
Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

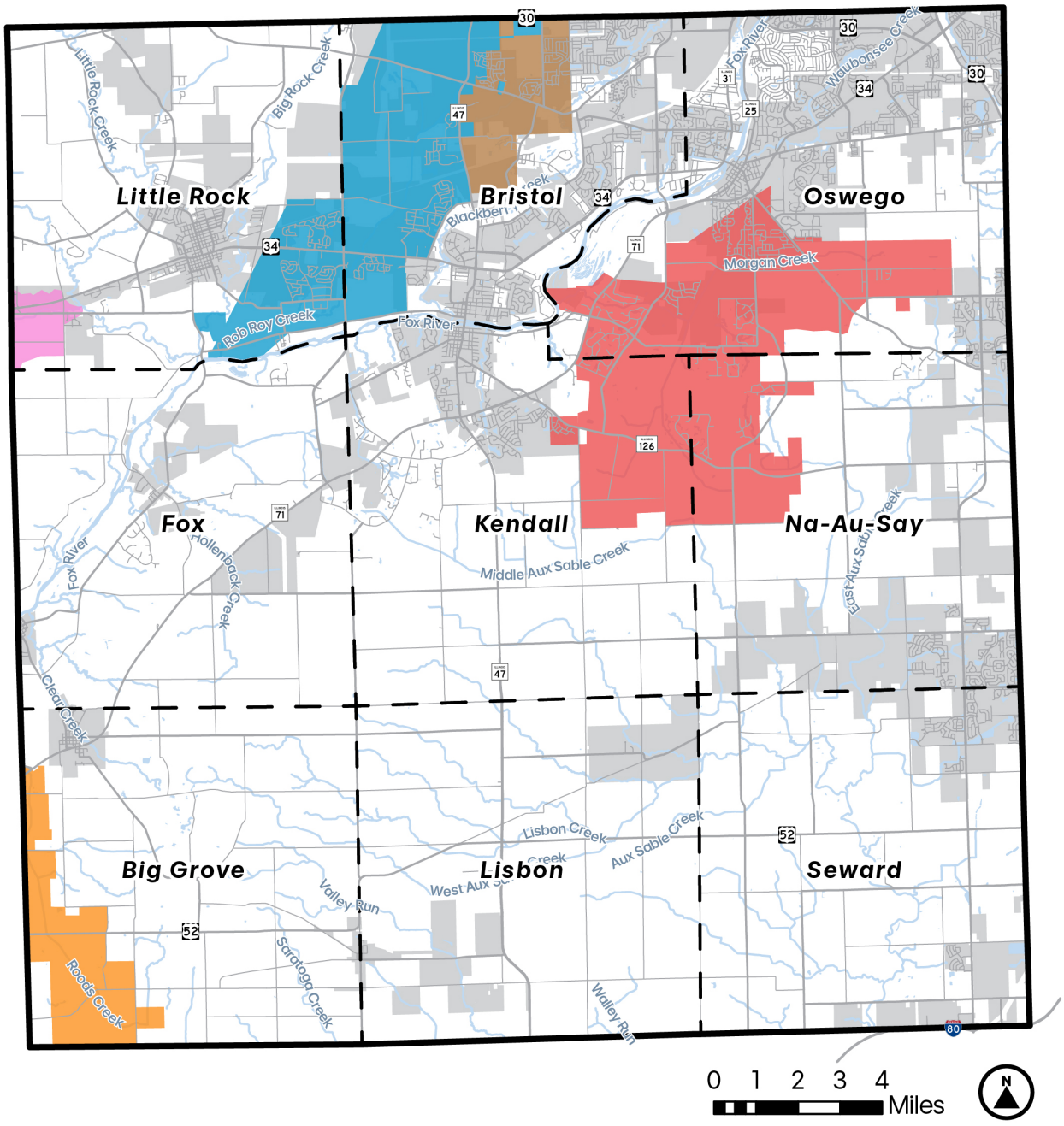
enabling local governments to qualify for non-emergency FEMA hazard mitigation grants. This interagency effort involves over twenty entities, including municipalities such as Lisbon, Montgomery, Newark, Oswego, Plano, Plattville, and Yorkville, as well as partners including Oswego CUSD #308, Plano SD #88, the Oswegoland Park District, townships, and fire protection districts. The plan describes how flood events, particularly riverine flooding along major waterways and flash flooding in low-lying or poorly drained areas, have historically affected communities. It identifies vulnerabilities within regulatory 100-year floodplain areas and highlights the potential for stormwater infrastructure failure to exacerbate flood damage, along with hazards such as dam or levee issues.

The mitigation plan emphasizes controlling development within mapped floodplain zones, reviewing new development for compliance with local ordinances, and addressing the role that inadequate drainage systems and storm sewer capacity can play in localized flooding. Key strategies include enhancing stormwater management and drainage infrastructure, improving public education on flood risks, coordinating mitigation efforts among participating jurisdictions, and increasing emergency preparedness to protect critical facilities and community assets before flood events occur. By documenting flood risk and recommending mitigation actions, the plan supports long-term resilience and allows the County to secure federal mitigation funding and implement projects that reduce future flood losses.

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

Drainage districts are local entities established to construct and maintain drainage or levee infrastructure for agricultural, sanitary, or mining purposes. Districts are formed by the County Board upon request from landowners within the proposed district. Kendall County currently has five active drainage districts: Big Slough, Morgan Creek, Northville, Raymond, and Rob Roy. These districts operate under the Illinois Drainage Code (70 ILCS 605), which governs the construction, maintenance, and repair of drains and levees for agricultural and sanitary purposes. Boundaries are determined by topography and the natural flow of water to a common outlet.

Each drainage district is governed by three appointed commissioners serving three-year terms. They are authorized to levy taxes on land within the district to fund necessary infrastructure improvements. Drainage districts coordinate with County committees, such as the Stormwater Management Oversight Committee, to manage regional flood control, maintain levees and drainage channels, and respond to evolving hydrologic and land-use conditions. These coordinated efforts help ensure that both agricultural lands and urbanized areas are protected from flooding while supporting sustainable development and natural resource preservation.



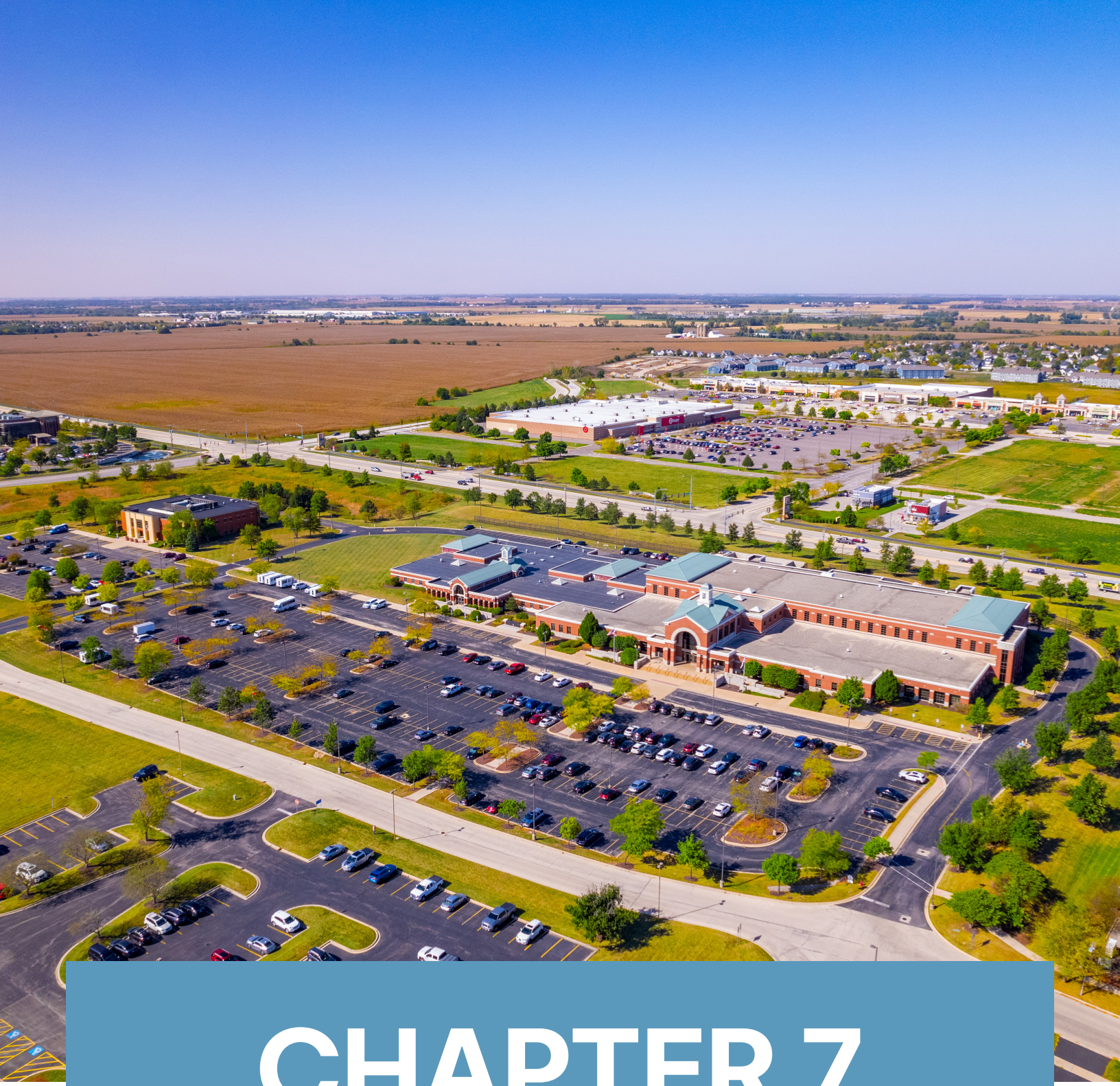
Legend

Drainage Districts

- Morgan Creek
- Rob Roy
- Big Slough
- Raymond
- Northville
- Water
- Roadways
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 6.8 *Kendall County Drainage District Map*





CHAPTER 7
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

With solid median household incomes and significant new residential, commercial, and industrial development, Kendall County is economically prosperous. Despite these positives, most residents work outside the County leaving considerable opportunities to attract new industry, additional shops, and restaurants to support a growing population, and additional housing to capitalize on the County's excellent quality of life.

7.1 INDUSTRY

Kendall County has a long history of attracting industrial development. Going back to 1861, Plano is the birthplace of the harvester which both cut grains and deposited it on the machine's platform. For over 60 years Caterpillar manufactured heavy earth moving equipment and loaders at their plant in Montgomery. That location has now been transformed into The Grid which offers opportunities for large and midsize users.

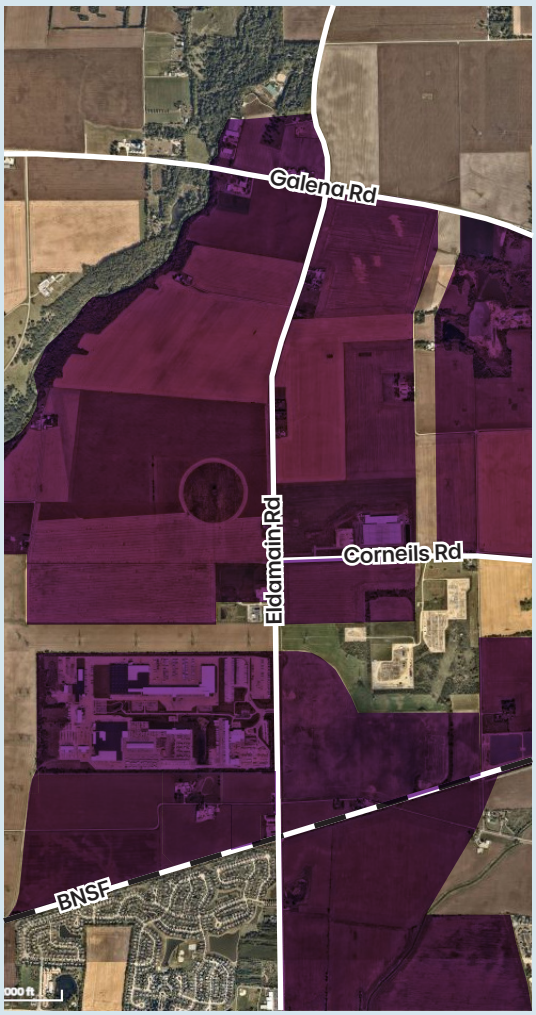
Kendall County has also attracted a range of other manufacturing facilities, from the Menards facility in Plano that produces many types of building materials such as blocks and building trusses, to the Wrigley facility in Yorkville that manufactures Skittles and other food products. The map below highlights major industrial opportunity areas in Kendall County.





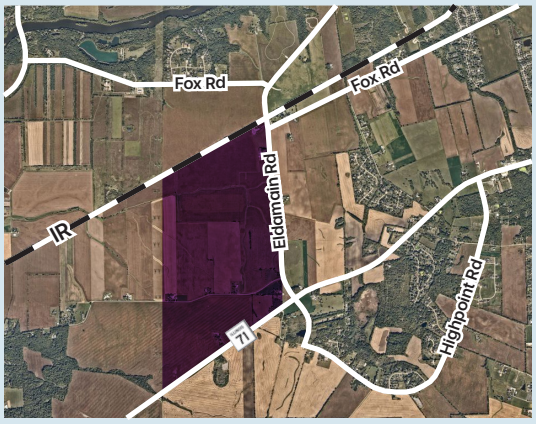
LARGE PARCEL INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Given its excellent access to the Chicago region, and cost-to-cost Via I-80, Kendall County has several areas with existing and future sites for larger industrial and logistics facilities.



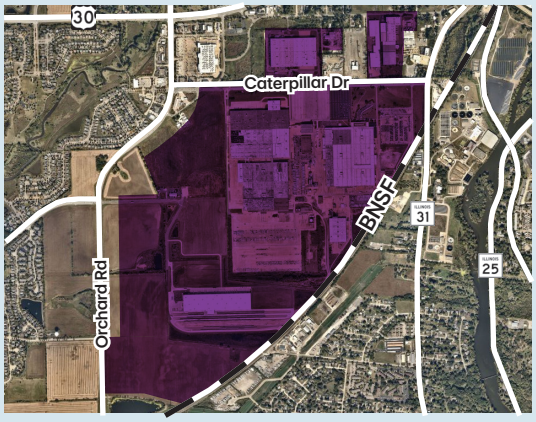
1. ELDAMAIN CORRIDOR

This growing industrial corridor is home to a major Menard's Manufacturing and Distribution Center, Bright Farms ILG Greenhouse, and TMF Plastic Solutions. The extension of Eldamain Road south across the Fox River provides this area with excellent access to I-80 via either Route 71 or via connection to Route 47. With major electrical transmission lines and a ComEd substation located in the area, this corridor has received extensive interest as a future home of Data Centers with many proposed and approved for 1,000s of acres in the area. Municipal water and sewer service is available or can be extended by the City of Plano west of Eldamain Road and the City of Yorkville to the east. Other potential uses in the area include logistics facilities and manufacturing of all types given both the transportation and workforce availability in the area. This area is also blessed with access to the Class 1 Burlington Northern Railroad, which already has a rail spur for the Menard's facility and could potentially add more for new facilities requiring rail access.



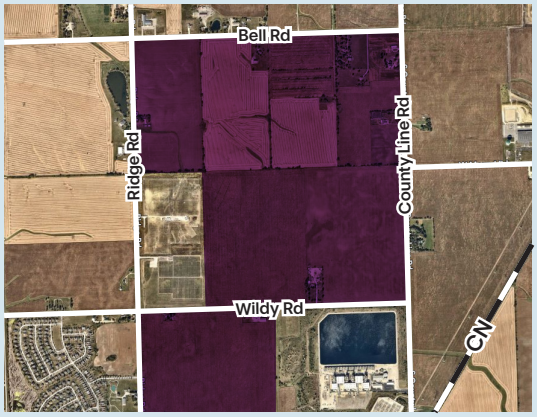
2. ROUTE 71 & ELDAMAIN ROAD

While primarily farm fields today, the area at the intersection of Route 71 and Eldamain Road has significant long-term potential for future industrial development given excellent north-south connectivity via Eldamain Road and excellent east-west connectivity via Route 71. This area is in between Yorkville and Millbrook, and would likely be annexed in whole or in part by these municipalities.



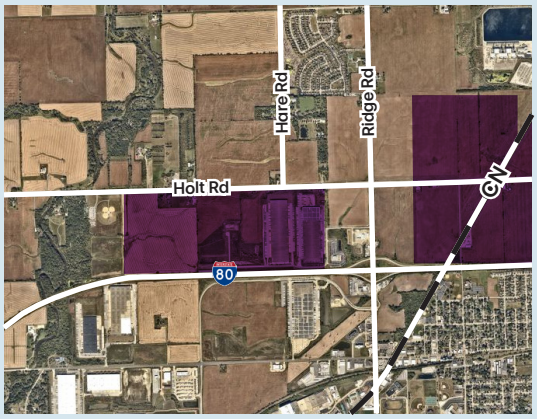
3. THE GRID & ENVIRONS

The Grid, with over 4 million square feet under roof offer opportunities for large and midsize users. Tangent Manufacturing and a Caterpillar office building are two of several occupants of the Grid today. This site is in the Village of Montgomery just south or Route 30 between Route 31 and Orchard Road. It is fully served by public utilities, features rail access, and is within a Tax Increment Financing District.



4. RIDGE ROAD SOUTH/MINOOKA

This area of Minooka, just north of I-80 along Ridge Road offers potential for future industrial and commercial development. The Kendall Dynegy Energy Plant has operated in the area for years, and the Equinix Data Center is planned for this area. A solar farm is also under construction just north of Wildy Road on the east side of Ridge Road. Given the excellent north-south connectivity offered by Ridge Road and convenient access to I-80, this area has considerable potential for additional economic development opportunities.



5. I-80 CORRIDOR

Given the outstanding accessibility of this corridor, logistics and light manufacturing uses have located to this area in Minooka in recent years. On the Kendall County (north) side of I-80, there is a Macy's distribution facility and Electrolux. Just south in Grundy County Walmart, Granger, Kellogg and several other large warehouse facilities have been constructed. This area is served by public water and sewer, and many large sites remain for future industrial or logistics related businesses.



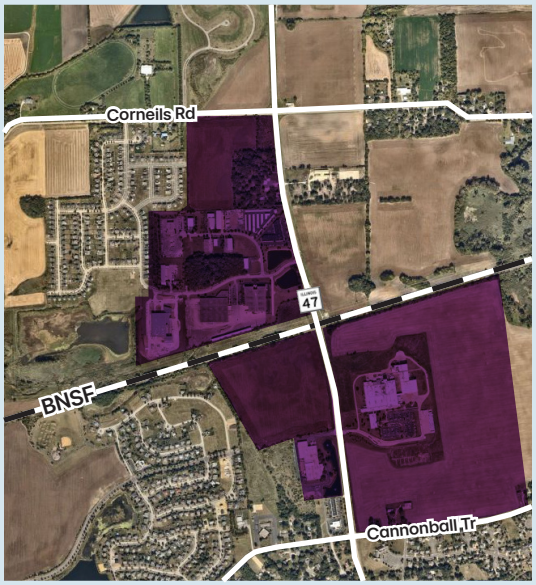
6. RIDGE ROAD NORTH/PLAINFIELD

This rapidly growing industrial and logistics park is located in the Village of Plainfield at the intersection of Ridge Road and 143rd Street. With the extension of 143rd Street is completed to Route 126 direct access to I-55 will be available. This area has access to public water and sewer, and is already home to several large users including DSL and Diageo (the latter on the Will County side of the line). There has been considerable interest from the development community in this location, and additional construction is anticipated in the near future.

Image Credits: Imagery © 2026 Nearmap, HERE

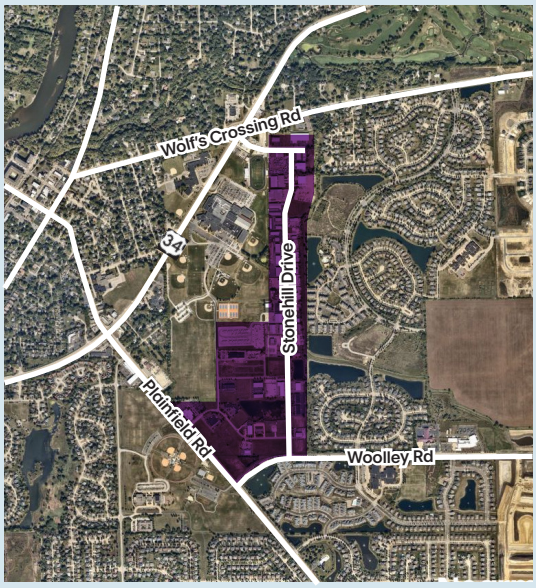
SMALL TO MEDIUM PARCEL INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITY AREAS

In discussions with real estate brokers, the need for smaller industrial parcels that can accommodate contractors, small manufacturing facilities, and similar uses was highlighted as an important need in Kendall County. Fortunately, Kendall County already has several clusters of this type of use. These locations are noted below. As the County continues to grow, it would be desirable to have a future small to medium parcel business park in the southern portion of the County.



7. ROUTE 47 & BNSF (WRIGLEY, YORKVILLE BUSINESS CENTER)

Within the City of Yorkville, this small but important industrial area includes MARS-Wrigley Manufacturing, Boombah, Aurora Specialty Textiles, Midwest Refrigeration, and several other industrial and commercial uses including sports facilities for CrossFit and Cheerleading. The area is served by public water and sewer service, is adjacent to the BNSF railway, and has several smaller sites still available for industrial use.



8. STONEHILL DRIVE CORRIDOR

Located just east of Oswego High School, this mostly developed corridor is home to many small commercial and light industrial businesses. Businesses range from contractors shops to auto repair and window tinting businesses and carpet and flooring sales. There are still a few small 'shovel ready' lots available for future development, and the park is fully served by public water and sewer facilities.



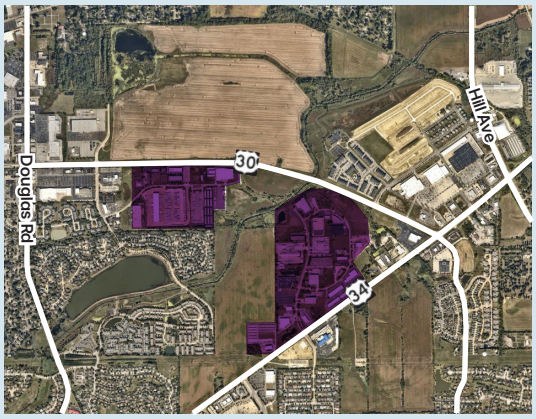
9. ROUTE 30 & TREASURE DRIVE

This small business park in the Village of Oswego provides a cluster of businesses including Salazar Packaging, Anfinson Plastic Molding, and Premier Gymnastics. While this park is primarily developed, there is a key development site remaining directly on Route 30 for a future business (or several businesses).



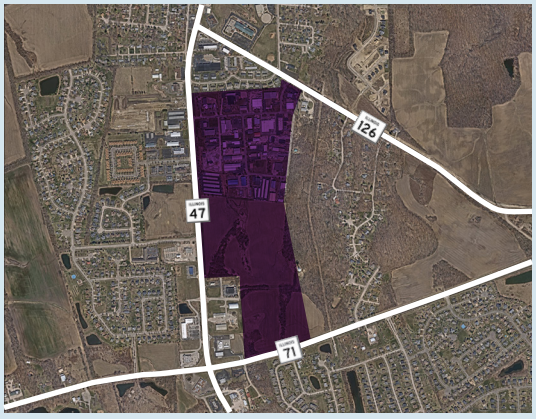
10. CENTRAL ROUTE 47 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

This area in the center of the County is largely unincorporated and located south of the City of Yorkville. Development that has occurred has been on well and septic systems. The recently constructed SemperFi Land Incorporated facility is a good example of possible uses in this area. Key intersections would also be appropriate for retail or service businesses.



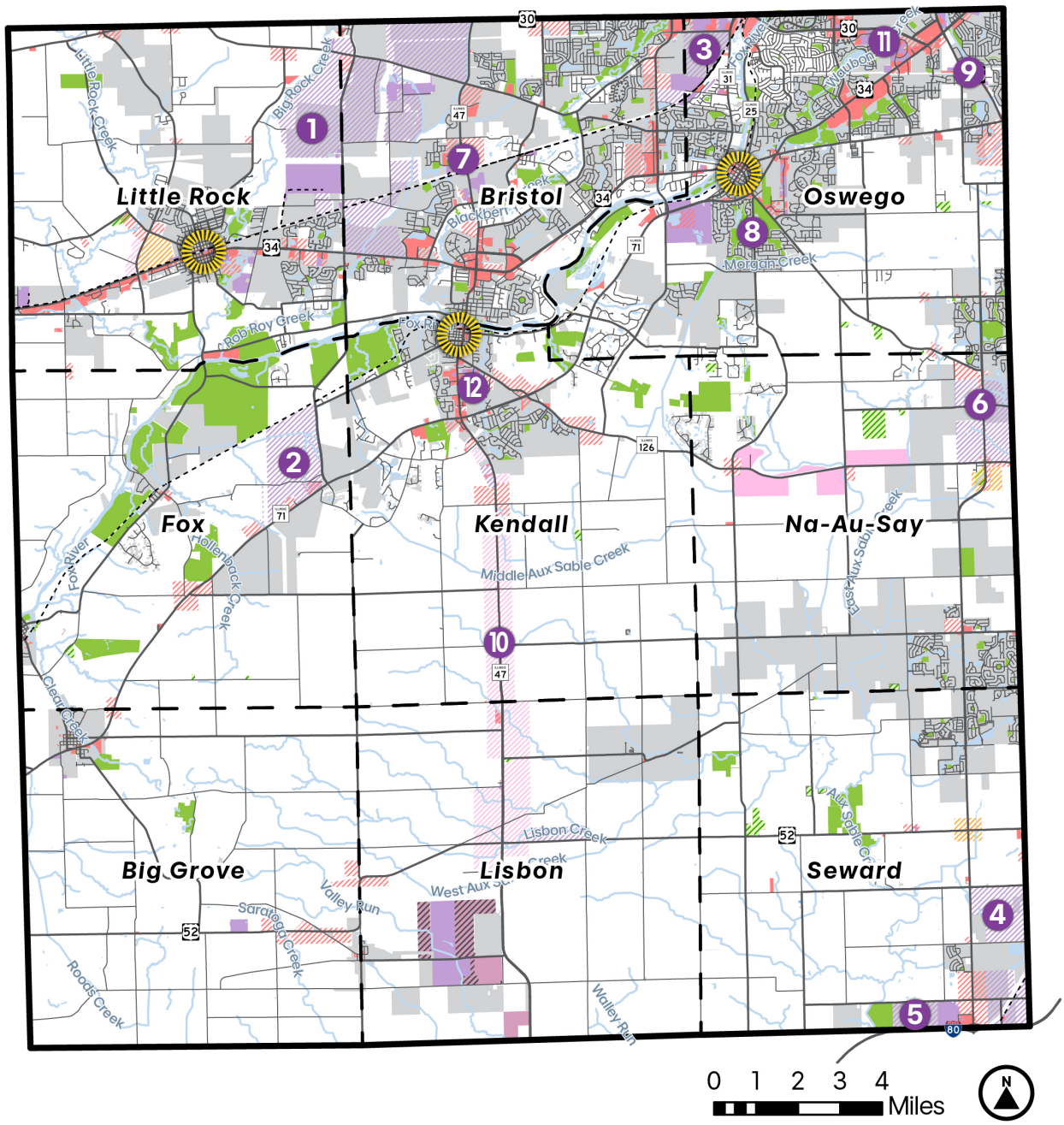
11. KENDALL POINTE BUSINESS CENTER

This 300-acre industrial park is located at the Village of Oswego, just to the west of the Route 30 and Route 34 intersection. While mostly built out, it does have a few remaining lots available for light manufacturing or commercial uses. Existing businesses include HQC Plastic Fabrication, Pression Packaging, and several contractors and sports facilities. The park is fully served by public utilities.



12. FOX INDUSTRIAL PARK

There are approximately 97 undeveloped acres south of the existing industrial park that are zoned M-1 and available for development. The existing industrial park, located on the east side of Route 47 and south of Route 126, is a successful, built-out area with a variety of small businesses.



Legend

Existing Land Use
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mining
- Agricultural Tourism
- Downtown Area
- Open Space

Future Land Use
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mining
- Mixed Use Business
- Transportation Corridor

- Water
- Roadways
- Railways
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 7.1 *Kendall County Industrial Development Opportunity Map*

7.2 GOODS & SERVICES

While shopping trends have clearly been moving in the direction of on-line purchases, residents still desire local places where they can go to shop, dine, and obtain services. Traditionally those activities were done in a community's downtown, and many of those activities still occur in downtown Oswego, Yorkville, and Plano. However, due to the auto dependence of modern life, many of the larger shopping and dining areas have gravitated to major roadway corridors such as along Route 34, Route 47, or Orchard Road. These regional facilities are typically located within a municipality with access to needed public water and sewer service exists.

As the County's population continues to expand, the demand for additional shopping, dining and service facilities will continue to grow. The following sections discuss these opportunities.

DOWNTOWNS/MIXED USE OPPORTUNITIES

Both downtown Oswego and downtown Yorkville have experienced a significant resurgence in recent years. Both downtowns are blessed to be located along the Fox River, and the respective communities are striving to take advantage of the additional recreational opportunities such a location offers. Yorkville has seen a number of new restaurants in their downtown, and they host many events and festivals along the riverfront. Oswego has attracted new residential developments and continues to see strong interest in their unique and attractive downtown featuring a growing variety of shops and dining opportunities. Plano's downtown features the only active rail station in the County, an Amtrak stop. It also has the distinction of being featured as "Smallville" in the Superman movie.

The map also notes downtown Newark as a potential future mixed use opportunity, the intersection of Ridge Road and Route 52 which is identified in Shorewood's Comprehensive Plan as a mixed use development opportunity, and the existing Bounder Hill Market which serves as the default downtown of this unincorporated part of the County.



Downtown Oswego
Image Credit: Dougtone, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0



Downtown Plano
Image Credit: IvoShandor, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

MAJOR REGIONAL RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Five of the six locations shown as major regional retail opportunities already contain significant concentrations of shopping and dining facilities. These established retail locations offer a variety of restaurants, big box retail stores, groceries, and a mix of other smaller shops, entertainment facilities, and services. The sixth, at Ridge and I-80, has potential as a future retail node as the area continues to grow and expand. A QuikTrip is nearing completion at the interchange, and will be the first new commercial retail establishment constructed north of I-80. The area to the south of I-80 in Grundy County already has a significant concentration of hotels, restaurants, and other highway oriented businesses. There remains opportunities for new development, or redevelopment of vacant buildings, in each of these major regional retail opportunity areas.

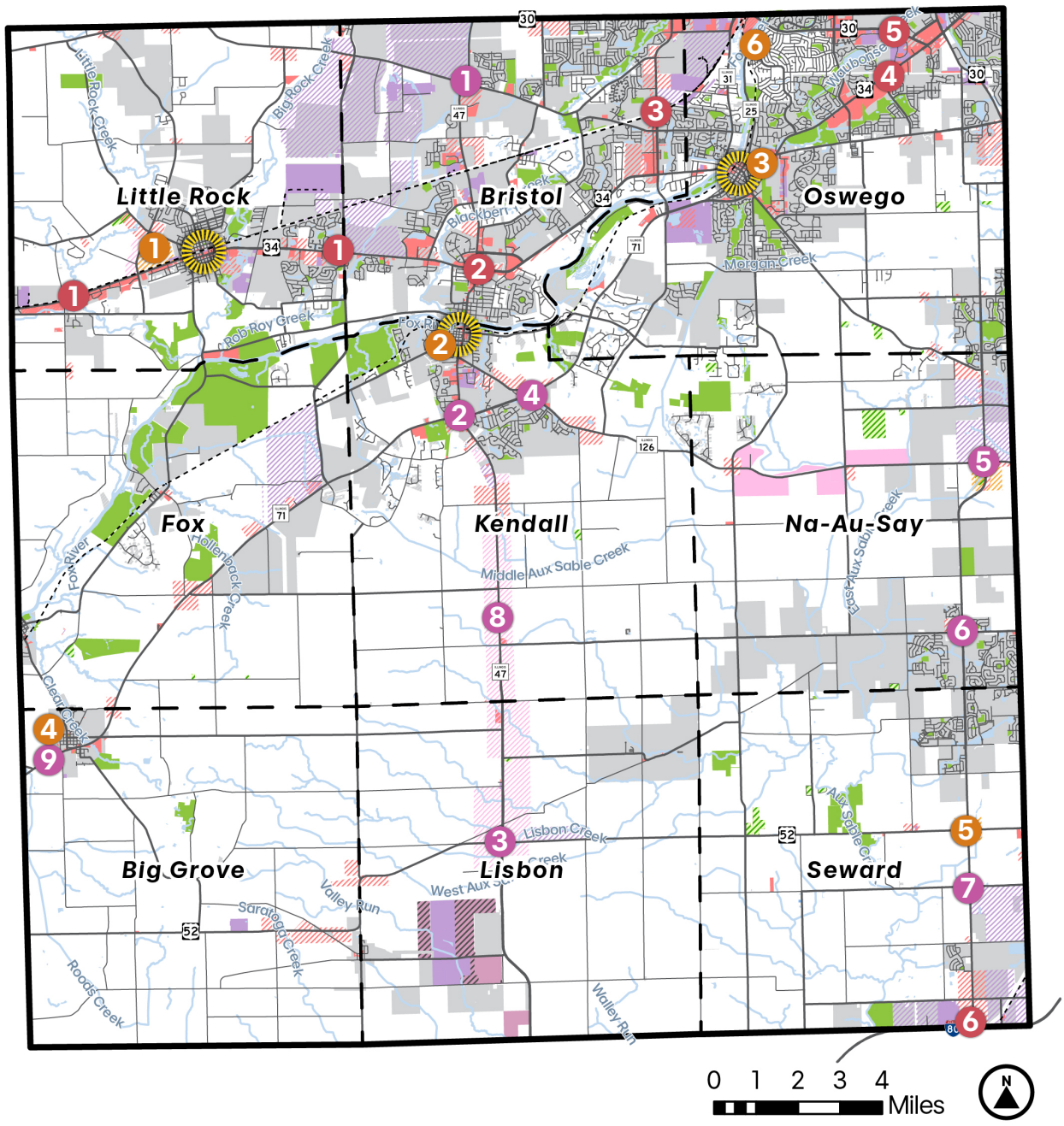
MINOR REGIONAL RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES

There are several locations in the County that serve as minor cross roads, offering the opportunity to meet local and regional retail needs in locations that are primarily outside of an existing municipality. These areas may support some limited retail development in the near-term for convenience foods or fueling stations. Longer term these areas may be annexed into a municipality and developed for more significant dining and retail developments.

Downtown / Mixed Use Opportunities	
1	Plano
2	Yorkville
3	Oswego
4	Newark
5	Ridge and Route 52
6	Boulder Hill Market

Major Regional Retail Opportunities	
1	Route 34 West
2	Route 47 and Route 34
3	Orchard
4	Route 34 East
5	Route 30
6	Ridge and I-80

Minor Regional Retail Opportunities	
1	Route 47 and Galena
2	Route 47 and Route 71
3	Route 47 and Route 52
4	Route 126 and Route 71
5	Route 126 and Ridge
6	Ridge and Caton Farm
7	Ridge and Route 52
8	Route 47 South/Central at Key Intersections
9	Newark



Legend

Existing Land Use
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mining
- Agricultural Tourism
- Downtown Area
- Open Space

Future Land Use
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mining
- Mixed Use Business
- Transportation Corridor

- Water
- Roadways
- Railways
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 7.2 *Kendall County Commercial Development Opportunity Map*

7.3 TOURISM

Tourism, and particularly tourism related to agriculture – often referred to as agritourism, has flourished recently in Kendall County. The County's rural heritage, combined with proximity to the Chicago metropolitan region, offers a close-to-home opportunity for people to spend a day or a weekend in the country. There is considerable opportunity to continue to grow Kendall County's tourism offerings and capitalize on the direct spending at these facilities as well as the indirect spending at local restaurants, shops, and gas stations.

AGRITOURISM AND ATTRACTIONS

Kendall County has long been home to the internationally known and national register listed Farnsworth House south of Plano. It also now has several orchards, pumpkin farms, and other seasonal facilities that draw families to events and to pick items grown on the farm. Given their success, many of these facilities have continued to expand their offerings to incorporate corn mazes, petting zoos, giant playgrounds, and other family-friendly amenities. Given their wide appeal, opportunity exists for additional agritourism offerings either through continued expansion of existing locations or development of new facilities in Kendall County.

BANQUET FACILITIES

Getting married or hosting events in the country continues to grow in popularity nationally and is prominent local trend evidence by the large number of new facilities hosting events in Kendall County. In addition to facilities within County Forest Preserves like Meadowhawk Lodge and the Pickerill and Ellis Houses, there are at least eight approved facilities offering farm events in rural parts of the County. Opportunities to link these facilities with nearby lodging opportunities should be explored to capitalize on their popularity and enhance safety.



Keller's Farmstand

RECREATIONAL AMENITIES

Kendall County has a wonderful Forest Preserve system providing residents and visitors with access to nature throughout the County. The 1,350-acre Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area is another wonderful resource, as are the many municipal and park district facilities available to residents. There are also many Non-Profit and for-profit recreational facilities in the County, including two locations operated by the Fox Valley YMCA, several golf courses, and even a couple of paint ball facilities. As the County continues to grow, additional facilities will be needed to both protect natural areas and provide needed facilities for residents and visitors alike.

INDOOR RECREATIONAL AMENITIES

Indoor for-profit recreational facilities have gained popularity in recent years to provide activities for families, particularly in the wintertime. Some of these facilities are located within large domes providing space for a variety of indoor team sports like soccer or softball/baseball training. Indoor trampoline, gymnastics, and other recreational facilities have also become popular and are located throughout the County, often within former large format retail spaces. These facilities provide an important service for county residents, and offer the opportunity for additional shopping and dining either two or from a visit to the indoor sports facility.

LODGING FACILITIES

There are a few traditional hotels/motels in Kendall County, generally located in more populated communities such as Yorkville and Oswego. Additional hotel opportunities will continue to exist as the population expands. Minooka has recently attached several new hotels to their I-80/Ridge Road interchange although to-date those hotels have been located south of I-80 in Grundy County.

Another significant trend in lodging has been the growth in short-term rentals, often referred to as Air B-n-B's. These are individual homes, or in some cases rooms within a home, that are rented to visitors for stays of from a day or two to up to a month. The County has recently adopted regulations for such uses, and a recent search showed over a dozen such facilities available for rental in the County. Many of these facilities provide unique lodging experiences, and are desired by couples and families. Opportunities exist for additional short-term rentals, particularly in association with the County's many banquet facilities. All such uses shall follow County regulations and guidelines.



Raging Waves Waterpark

Agritourism and Attractions	
1.	Woody's Orchard
2.	Keller Farms
3.	Heap's Giant Pumpkin Farm
4.	Gilted Edge Winery
5.	The Farnsworth House
6.	Aranmore Farm + Polo Club

Banquet Facilities	
1.	Meadowhawk Lodge
2.	Pickerill House
3.	Ellis House
4.	The Venue at the Kendall County Fair Grounds
5.	Ashley Farm
6.	Heartland Farm
7.	Venue 1012, Oswego
8.	Venue 5126
9.	The Homestead
10.	Northfork Farm
11.	Whitetail Ridge Golf Club
12.	Martini Banquet Hall

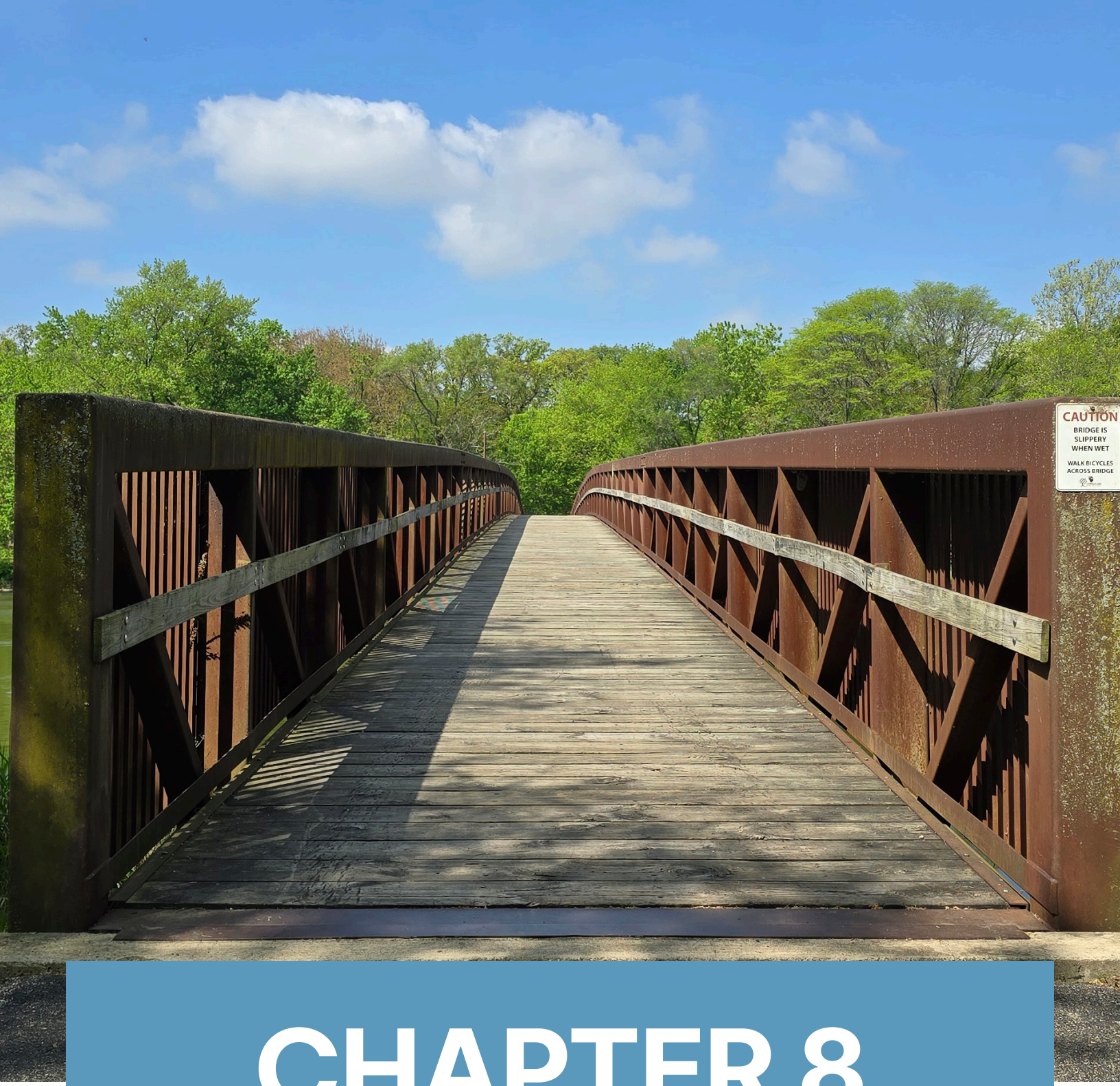
Indoor Entertainment Venues	
1.	Altitude Trampoline Park, Oswego
2.	Go For it Sports Dome
3.	Go Pro Sports Dome

Lodging Facilities	
1.	Hampton Inn
2.	Holiday Inn Express
3.	Super 8
4.	Opal Banquets and Hotel (Planned)
5.	The Montcler
6.	AmericaInn
7.	Best Western
8.	The Homestead 1854

Recreational Amenities	
1.	The Fox River
2.	Marge Cline Whitewater Course
3.	Silver Springs State Fish & Wildlife Area
4.	Forest Preserves
a.	Jay Woods
b.	Maramech
c.	Little Rock Creek
d.	Subat
e.	Fox River Bluffs
f.	Hoover
g.	Harris
h.	Richard Young
i.	Lyons
j.	Pickerell
k.	Reservation Woods
l.	Henneberry
m.	Millbrook North
n.	Millbrook South
o.	Shuh Shuh Gah
p.	Millington
q.	Newark
r.	Ellis Equestrian Center
s.	Baker Woods
t.	Blackberry Creek
5.	Fox River Trail
6.	Fox Paintball
7.	Paint Pursuit Games
8.	Whitetail Ridge Golf Course
9.	Blackberry Oaks Golf Course
10.	Fox Bend Golf Course
11.	Cedardell Golf Club
12.	Raging Waves
13.	Fox Valley YMCA (Plano)
14.	Fox Valley YMCA East

Figure 7.3 *Tourist Resources in Kendall County*





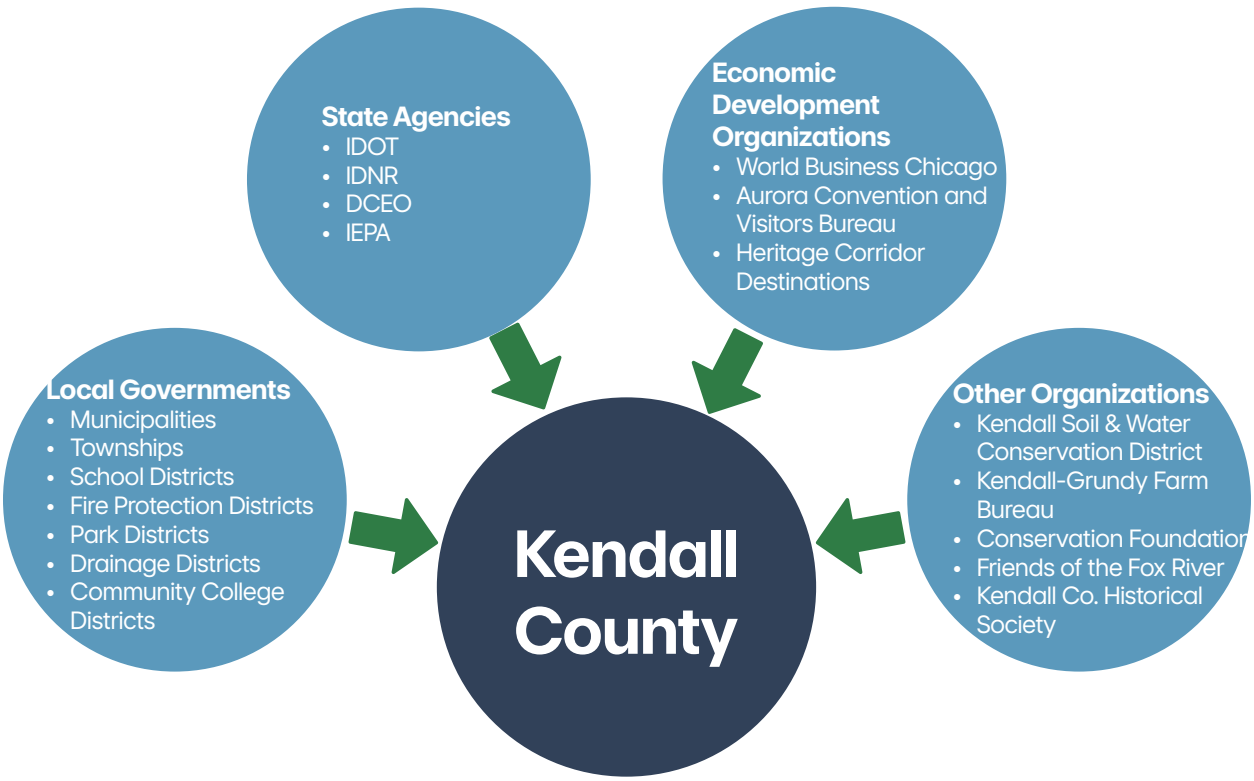
CHAPTER 8
IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION

This plan outlines a vision for County growth and development over the next 20 to 30 years. Achieving that vision will take hard work, teamwork both within and outside the County government, and perseverance. The Vision outlined in Chapter 3 highlights some policies that should lead to plan success. Implementation of those polices will require close coordination with the County's partners and modification or creation of some new tools to fund or manage key plan initiatives. It will also require regular updates to this plan. Consistent with current policy, the plan should be discussed at the annual meeting held by the Regional Planning Commission, and updated at least every 10 years. If the County Board determines that a project is appropriate but inconsistent with the plan, the plan should be modified concurrently with the project's zoning approval.

8.1 STRATEGIES

Strong and active partnerships will be essential to achieve the vision outlined in this plan. While the County government plays a key role, shaping the character and nature of future development will require teamwork with local governments, state agencies, economic development agencies, and many other local organizations. These partnerships are highlighted in the following diagram and noted below.



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

MUNICIPALITIES

Over 75 percent of the County's population lives within local municipalities. These municipalities control land use and development within their incorporated area. Cooperative planning with municipal partners is essential to provide compatible land uses, interconnected transportation systems, and efficient services. This is particularly true within the 1 ½-mile planning jurisdiction of these municipalities since they may one day expand to include this additional area and state law provides them with the ability to regulate the subdivision of land and formally provide input into County zoning cases within their planning jurisdiction. Since adoption of the County's Land Resource Management Plan in the 1990s, the County has conducted an annual planning meeting to promote cooperative planning and sharing of information between the County, Townships, and Municipalities. This Comprehensive Plan recommends continuing this practice of an annual meeting, and encourages future cooperative planning as appropriate for economic development, housing, and other regional issues.

TOWNSHIPS

The County's nine Townships play an important role in maintaining local roads and bridges, assessing property, and providing needed services to County residents. Input from local township officials is a critical part of the development review process for any new zoning cases proposed in the County.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Good schools are important to both existing and future residents. The County partners with local school districts in planning for new residential developments by considering available capacity to support growth and through a land/cash dedication ordinance designed to provide assistance in expanding facilities to accommodate growth. School Districts are typically the largest part of resident's property tax bills, so working to expand commercial and industrial development in the County can benefit both residents overall and the local school district.

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

There are ten Fire Protection Districts in Kendall County: Little Rock-Fox, Bristol-Kendall, Oswego, Sandwich, Newark, Plainfield, Lisbon-Seward, Montgomery-Countryside, Minooka, and Troy. In addition, there are municipal Fire Departments serving residents within Joliet and Aurora. Planning for any new development within the County must consider fire protection, including road interconnectivity, building setbacks and separation, access to water and appropriate fire suppression techniques.

PARK DISTRICTS

Park Districts provide important recreational opportunities for residents within their jurisdiction. The eastern portion of Kendall County contains most of the areas served by a Park District, including areas of Joliet, Plainfield, Oswego, Aurora, and Montgomery. Coordination with local park districts is particularly important in regard to regional trail planning to ensure residents can travel from home to points of interest throughout the County.

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

Drainage Districts provide an important role in maintaining the flow of stormwater through maintaining key drainage channels and working to minimize flooding issues. There are five drainage districts in Kendall County: Big Slough, Morgan Creek, Raymond, Northville, and Rob Roy. The County should consult

with these districts in review of site specific drainage issues including new development and development of regional stormwater management regulations.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS

Joliet Junior College (JJC) is the nation's oldest community college offering a wide range of programs and facilities. It serves the southern part of Kendall County, including Plainfield, Joliet, Minooka, Plattville, Lisbon and Newark. With a main campus in Joliet, JJC also has facilities in Romeoville and Morris. Waubonsee Community College serves the northern part of Kendall County including the communities of Oswego, Yorkville and Plano. With a main campus in Sugar Grove, Waubonsee also has facilities in downtown Aurora and in Plano. Both community colleges are great partners, offering quality educational programs at affordable prices to meet local needs. They are active in workforce development, working closely with local employers to meet their needs for a properly trained workforce. They both offer a variety of programs including both Associate degrees and opportunities for certifications and continuing education.

STATE AGENCIES

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) plays a critical role in connecting roads, rails, and other forms of transportation both within Illinois and to larger national systems. They control and maintain major roadways through the County such as Routes 34, 47, 52, and 71. They provide funding assistance through numerous grant programs, and they provide data on average daily traffic and other important travel measures. A close partnership between the Kendall County (especially the Highway Department) and IDOT is essential to maintaining and expanding roadway improvements.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (IDNR)

IDNR operates many departments and programs that are critical to plan implementation. The Kendall County Forest Preserve District works closely with the Department of Conservation to preserve and protect endangered species and to seek grants for property acquisition and development.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (DCEO)

As the State's lead economic development agency, DCEO is often the first to know about corporate expansion plans and their site requirements. County and municipal partnerships with DCEO can identify local sites that would be appropriate. In some situations, DCEO can also provide funding assistance to make projects happen.

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (IEPA)

The IEPA is responsible for ensuring residents have clean air and water by establishing standards and providing regulatory oversight. This coordination is particularly in regulating industrial activities in the County including mining operations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

GREATER CHICAGOLAND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (GCEP)

The Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership (GCEP) is a regional economic development organization promoting the benefits of the region's workforce, quality of life, mobility assets, and other features managed by World Business Chicago. They maintain significant databases of economic development data that are helpful to target and attract new businesses to Kendall County.

AURORA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

This regional tourism agency promotes the areas many attractions, primarily in the Fox Valley between Geneva and Plano. Given Kendall County's wonderful downtowns and agritourism businesses, maintaining a strong partnership with this group should yield positive benefits to the local economy.

- ***www.enjoyaurora.com***

HERITAGE CORRIDOR DESTINATIONS

This is a similar regional tourism agency, focused on the I&M Canal Corridor stretching from Chicago to LaSalle. This organization promotes events and attractions in the Kendall County communities of Minooka and Joliet. In the future, there may be additional attractions in the southern portions of the County that could benefit from promotion through the Heritage Corridor organization.

- ***www.hcdestinations.com***

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

KENDALL SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (KSWCD)

KSWCD offers numerous educational programs, maintains information and soils, wetlands, and other resources, and plays a critical role in understanding the impact of development on the land. They provide input into proposed development through their Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) program which helps in understanding the productivity of local soils for agricultural use and any challenges that may be present regarding poorly drained areas and their impact on development.

KENDALL-GRUNDY FARM BUREAU

While the County has grown rapidly, agriculture is still the dominate land use in Kendall County and is anticipated to remain so through the life of this plan. Farm Bureau members own most of the land in the County, and care deeply about the land, it's people, the environment, and the economy. Their input is valued in all land use decisions, and their decisions to continue farming or seek development will have a profound impact on the character of the County both now and in the future.

THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The Conservation Foundation has been a long-term partner in protecting and preserving open space resources in Kendall County and the surrounding region for many years. They have identified important resources through their Protect Kendall Now program and other efforts, studied watersheds and protection strategies, and worked to protect lands through direct acquisition, education, and conservation easements. The Dickson-Murst Farm in Montgomery is home to the Conservation Foundation in Kendall County and serves as a program satellite office.

FRIENDS OF THE FOX RIVER

The Fox River and surrounding bluffs provide the counties premier resource for nature enjoyment and recreation. The Friends of the Fox River support these efforts, advocating for protection and to keep the river clean and accessible for all.

KENDALL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Headquartered at Lyons Farm, the Historical Society is the go-to source for information on the people and places that have laid the foundation of what Kendall County is today. They work closely with the County's Historic Preservation Committee to identify important resources to preserve and stories to tell.

8.2 COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIPS

The following tables build on the policies outlined in Chapter 3, Vision. They identify key partners and resources needed to achieve the noted goals. Prioritization of these items will be done by the County Board through their strategic planning process.

PRESERVE RURAL CHARACTER

GOAL 1.1 **Value agriculture as an important land use – not just a holding area for future development.**

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Utilize Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) score in review of zoning and development cases. ■ Educate new residents about the benefits and challenges of living in a rural area by providing information on the County's website and social media channels during harvest season and throughout the year. ■ Follow the guidance of the Future Land Use Plan, keeping areas planned for agriculture for agricultural use during the timeframe of this plan. ■ Promote agricultural conservation easements which offer tax benefits to landowners and preserve agricultural use from development.	■ KCSWCD ■ Farm Bureau ■ PBZ Department ■ Realtors ■ University of Illinois Extension ■ County Fair Association ■ FFA	■ Updates to County website for resident information ■ New resident welcome information on living in a rural area



GOAL 1.2 Celebrate the County's agricultural heritage through promotion of agritourism.

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Support existing and new businesses that grow and sell their own agricultural products direct to consumers like orchards and nurseries. ■ Work with regional tourism organizations such as the Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote the many tourism assets of the County.	■ Aurora Convention and Visitors Bureau ■ Heritage Corridor Destinations ■ Local agritourism businesses ■ Kendall Economic Development Department ■ University of Illinois Extension	■ Membership and advocacy with regional tourism organization

GOAL 1.3 Preserve important natural areas and open space for future generations.

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Continue to expand County Forest Preserves to protect important natural resources such as prairies and woodlands. ■ Expand the Forest Preserve system to keep pace with population growth, striving for a system with 30 acres of regional open space (Forest Preserves and State Parks/Natural Areas) per 1,000 residents. ■ Work with organizations such as the Conservation Foundation and Open Lands to facilitate open space preservation.	■ Kendall Forest Preserve District ■ Conservation Foundation ■ Open Lands ■ IDNR ■ Private property owners	■ Funding for acquisition of open space, including seeking grants, donations, user fees, and potential creation of a dedicated revenue stream through sales tax (with required state authorization)

PROMOTE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

GOAL 2.1 Provide more opportunities for residents to work in Kendall County in good paying jobs.

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Continue the work of the Kendall County Economic Alliance to coordinate and partner with municipalities to attract new businesses and jobs to the County. ■ Promote the County's well-educated population, regional connectivity, and quality of life to trade organizations and individual employers. ■ Partner with local employers and Waubonsee and Joliet Junior Colleges to conduct local job fairs for County residents.	■ Local employers ■ Kendall County Economic Alliance ■ World Business Chicago ■ Community Colleges	■ Continued funding for economic development, including participation in trade conferences and events.

GOAL 2.2 Enhance the County's non-residential tax base through attraction of industrial and commercial businesses.

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Partner with municipalities in attracting employers to industrial parks served by public water and sewer systems. ■ Attract new commercial businesses that can operate on well and septic systems along major roadway corridors such as Route 47 and Ridge Road.	■ Local employers ■ Kendall County Economic Alliance ■ World Business Chicago ■ Community Colleges	■ Attend trade conferences such as ICSC for commercial and the Chicago Industrial Summit ■ Consultant to develop an economic development strategy ■ Continued funding for development and expansion of the broadband network.

Policies (Continued)	Partners	Resources
■ Tell stories through the "Made in Kendall" program to inform the public of the many unique and interesting products produced locally. ■ Develop a County-wide economic development strategy using shared services and collaboration to focus on business attraction, investment, and job growth. ■ Develop a County-wide broadband network.	■ Local employers ■ Kendall County Economic Alliance ■ World Business Chicago ■ Community Colleges	■ Attend trade conferences such as ICSC for commercial and the Chicago Industrial Summit ■ Consultant to develop an economic development strategy ■ Continued funding for development and expansion of the broadband network.

GOAL 2.3 Encourage tourism in Kendall County.

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Promote the County's natural environment as a place to spend the weekend enjoying nature at a Forest Preserve, floating the Fox River, or traveling the County's scenic routes while stopping in local communities for great food, shopping, and entertainment. ■ Work with regional tourism organizations such as the Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote the many tourism assets of the County.	■ Aurora Convention and Visitors Bureau ■ Heritage Destinations ■ Forest Preserve District ■ Local Chambers of Commerce	■ Funding to partner with regional agencies and local businesses to promote tourism

COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION

GOAL 3.1 Engage residents.

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Through updated websites, e-mail blasts, and social media keep residents informed of events, activities, and government policies. ■ Identify and implement a system for promoting County-wide activities using existing electronic message boards through-out the County at libraries and County, Township and Municipal buildings. ■ Work with local news organizations to share important information for residents.	■ Local media outlets including WSPY, Shaw Media, Tribune, the Patch, and others ■ Libraries ■ Municipalities and Townships ■ HOAs	■ As the County continues to grow, a Communications Director may be needed to coordinate and drive engagement

GOAL 3.2 Coordinate governments between the County, Townships, and Municipalities.

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Conduct an annual meeting hosted by the Kendall County Regional Planning Commission where planners and municipal leaders can share developments in their communities and discuss opportunities for joint planning and growth. ■ Explore opportunities and implement shared services, staff, or facilities between all levels of local government. ■ Encourage annexations of properties proposed for non-agricultural uses adjacent to municipalities to annex into that community for improved access to municipal services.	■ Municipalities and Townships ■ PBZ Department ■ KRPC	

ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

GOAL 4.1 Expand the trail network, interconnecting local (municipal/Park District) and regional trails (Forest Preserve).

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Maintain a coordinated future trail plan that links local and regional trails into an integrated network. ■ Work with residents and other taxing bodies to prioritize future trail improvements. ■ Seek grants to fund trail extensions and connections to build-out a network of trails that connects residents to major employment centers and recreational resources. ■ Develop capital improvement plans to maintain and expand the trail network for the enjoyment of residents.	■ Forest Preserve District ■ Park Districts ■ Highway Department ■ PBZ Department ■ Municipalities and Townships ■ IDNR ■ IDOT	■ Grant Funding from IDNR and IDOT

GOAL 4.2 Develop and maintain a system of interconnected roadways to provide accessibility within region.

Policies	Partners	Resources
■ Maintain and update a county-wide 5-year capital improvement program for roadways.	■ Highway Department ■ IDOT ■ Municipalities and Townships	■ Maintain dedicated funds for road improvements ■ Seek grants for major roadway projects

Policies (Continued)	Partners	Resources
■ Improve roadway intersections for enhanced traffic flow including realignment where needed to improve safety and flow, consider round-a-bouts where appropriate, and provide turn lanes and other improvements identified through transportation analysis and modeling. ■ Enhance important regional transportation routes such as Ridge Road, Eldamain Road south of Route 71 to connect to Route 47, and a future realignment of Grove Road and Brisbin Road to encourage economic development. ■ Coordinate with IDOT for continued improvement of regional routes such as Route 47, Route 34, Route 30, and Route 52.	■ Highway Department ■ IDOT ■ Municipalities and Townships	■ Maintain dedicated funds for road improvements ■ Seek grants for major roadway projects

8.3 RESOURCES

Implementation of the vision outlined in this plan will require funding, legislative changes at the state level, and modifications to local regulations. This section outlines some of the resources needed to further the plan's goals.

GRANTS

The non-profit Prairie Sate Conservation Coalition has a conservation fund that offers grants for open space programs.

■ ***www.prairiestateconservation.org***

State and Federal grants are often available to help address local needs. Most often, these are in the areas of transportation, open space, and economic development. In the past, Kendall County obtained grants to assist with such efforts as construction of the Francis C. Klaas Bridge (Eldamain Road) over the Fox River, acquisition of Forest Preserve property, and the study of ways to improve broadband access. Grant programs change frequently based on available funding, needs, and other factors. County staff should stay informed of funding opportunities as they arise. Some key sources of grants include:

- **At the federal level, Grants.gov.** This web site centralizes federal grant opportunities form over 1,000 federal agencies. It allows simple searches based on standard filters to identify programs that can be of assistance in meeting county goals. Appropriations for federal programs is variable, and many programs have need reduced or eliminated in recent years.

- **At the State level.** Three primary agencies administer grant programs that can assist in implementing the County's vision:

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (IDNR)

- **Park and Recreation Facilities Grants (PARC).** This program cover up to 75 percent of capital project costs for the acquisition and development of land for public indoor or outdoor recreation or conservation purposes. It is most often used for buildings or other types of facilities not eligible for the OSLAD program (see below). Grants can be up to $2.5 million dollars. This program would be ideal for nature centers or other facilities within the County's Forest Preserves.

- **Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant (OSLAD).** This long-standing program has helped local governments acquire 1,000's of acres and develop countless recreational facilities. The grant covers up to 75 percent of capital project costs, capped at $600,000 for development projects and $1,725,000 for open space acquisition.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (DCEO)

- **Tourism Attractions Grant Program.** This program provides funding assistance for the development or improvement of tourism attractions and festivals. Funds can be used for capital projects, equipment, training, and interpretive programs. Individual grants can range from $10,000 to $1,000,000. This program could fit in well with the County's economic development strategies of encouraging agritourism.

- **Other Programs.** DCEO has a number of other grant programs available to assist local governments with their economic development objectives. Example grants include Regional Site Readiness Program (Planning and Capital) and the Business Attraction Prime Sites grant programs. These programs are updated and modified frequently based on current trends and needs in the State. The County should regularly check the DCEO website for available programs:
  - ***dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/grants.html***

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT)

- **Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP).** This popular program provides funding for such amenities as pedestrian/bicycle facilities, streetscapes, historic preservation, and overlooks and viewing areas. Many municipalities uses this program to assist with local improvements. For example, Yorkville recently received a grant for streetscape enhancements along Hydraulic Drive in downtown Yorkville.

The County could consider using the program for work on preservation and enhancement of some of the scenic routes identified in the plan. Program details vary from year to year. In 2024, funding was capped at $3,000,000 per project.

- *idot.illinois.gov/programs-and-projects/trails-and-active-transportation/itep.htmlY*

- **Economic Development Program (EDP).** The purpose of the EDP grant is to provide state assistance for roadway improvements or new construction that are necessary for access to new or expanding industrial, manufacturing or distribution type companies. Funding will include preliminary engineering, construction, and contingencies. The focus of the program is on the creation and retention of permanent full-time jobs.

LEGISLATION

State legislation has a major impact on what the County can and can not due regarding the regulation of land and development and the funding of County government. The County should, and does, stay abreast of current legislative proposals and provides input to local legislators in bills impacting County residents. While this is an on-going effort, two areas where legislative assistance that would be helpful in plan implementation include:

- **Use of Sales Tax to Fund Forest Preserve Activities.** Kendall County has a wonderful Forest Preserve system, but funding to maintain and enhance that system is challenging. The County has proposed to shift funding from property taxes to sales tax. This would provide some relief to residents while allowing residents from outside the County that visit local recreational facilities to shoulder some of the cost through purchases at local shops and restaurants. However, this change would require amendment of the County's Code at the state level the County and Forest Preserve District to enact such a tax.

- **Zoning Authority for the Siting of Community Solar facilities.** In January of 2023 the State of Illinois enacted P.A. 102-1123. This law preempts county authority to enact local ordinances that prohibit wind and solar projects. As evidenced by the County developing a solar field to help power their government complex in Yorkville, the County is supportive of renewable energy. However, the current legislation severally limits the County's ability to apply rational zoning standards such as the commonly used LaSalle Zoning Standards. In the right location, renewable energy facilities can be a win for all involved. In the wrong location, the facility can impede future growth and development by making it difficult and costly to extend needed water, sewer and other public infrastructure. Kendall County should continue to work with the Illinois State Association of Counties and others to make sensible changes to existing legislation that will regain some of the County's ability to control the siting of such facilities while protecting private property rights and continuing to support renewable energy.

LOCAL REGULATIONS

The County regulates land use and development through a variety of codes and regulations including:

- Zoning Ordinance
- Subdivision Ordinance
- Building Codes
- Health Department Regulations (as it relates to land use, primarily septic requirements, and food safety standards for businesses).
- Stormwater Management Ordinance

ANNEXATION AGREEMENTS

Municipalities regulate land use and development within their municipal boundaries. They can also extend that ability beyond their boundaries through the application of what is commonly referred to as a "Chatham Annexation." This references a court case between the Village of Chatham and Sangamon County. In that case, the Village of Chatham has entered an annexation agreement with a property owner beyond and not contiguous with their current municipal boundary. Sangamon County argued that since the property was not currently contiguous with the Village, the County's zoning and building regulations should apply until such time as the property becomes contiguous. The Courts sided with the Village, and since that time (2005) municipalities in Illinois have annexed property to apply their zoning, subdivision, and building regulations on property within their 1 ½ mile planning jurisdiction if they have entered into an annexation agreement with the property owner. In Kendall County, Shorewood and Lisbon have both applied this approach to controlling development of solar farms within their planning jurisdiction.

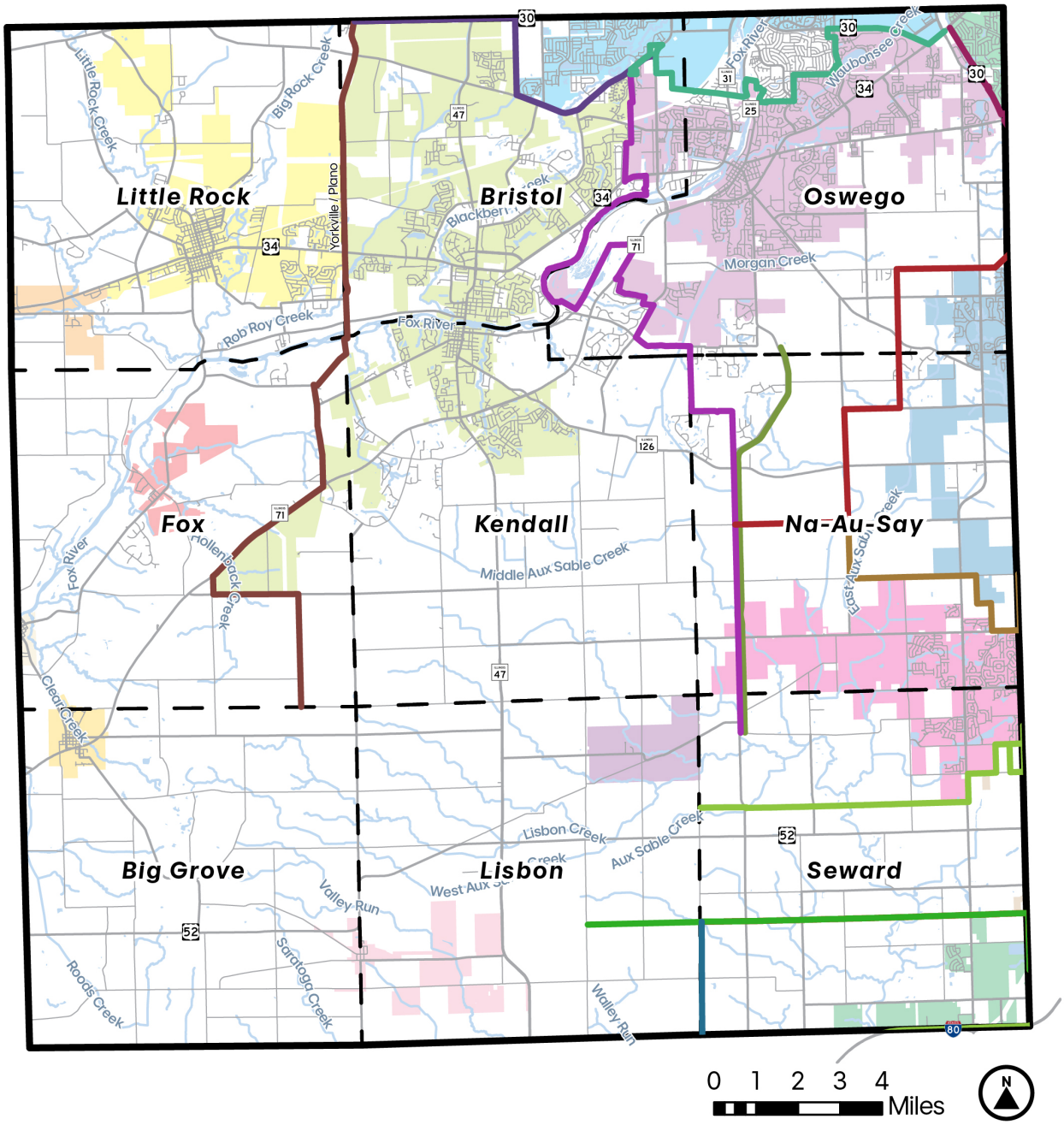
This ability to control the use of land outside municipal boundaries heightens the need for boundary agreements between municipalities. Boundary agreements help address which municipality may ultimately annex a property. This is particularly important when municipal 1 ½ mile planning jurisdictions overlap.

Many communities in Kendall County already have boundary agreements in place, some of which have been recently updated (such agreements typically last for 20 years). Where such agreements do not exist, property owners can attempt to create competition between communities to see who offers them the 'best deal.' For consistent planning for infrastructure expansion and wise land use, boundary agreements are recommended. While development of boundary agreements are the purview of individual municipalities, they are also helpful for the County when property is proposed for rezoning and municipal planning areas would otherwise overlap. While the County is not a party to these agreements, the County's GIS and information from the County Planning and Zoning Department may be helpful in determining appropriate boundaries. The following additional boundary agreements are recommended to help facilitate wise land use planning in Kendall County.

Municipality	Suggested Boundary Agreement(s)
Plano	Sandwich
Millbrook	Plano, Yorkville, Sandwich, Millington, and Newark
Lisbon	Morris, Plattville, Minooka, Newark
Plattville	Joliet

Municipality	Most Recent Boundary Agreement(s)	Expiration
Aurora	Montgomery	2039
	Plainfield	2040
	Oswego	2043
Joliet	Oswego	2027
	Shorewood	2031
	Plainfield	2044
Minooka	Shorewood	2040
Montgomery	Oswego	2021
	Yorkville	2027
	Plano	2034
	Aurora	2039
Oswego	Montgomery	2021
	Joliet	2027
	Aurora	2043
	Yorkville	2042
	Plainfield	2045
Plainfield	Aurora	2040
	Yorkville	2040
	Joliet	2044
	Oswego	2045
Plano	Montgomery	2034
	Yorkville	2040
Shorewood	Joliet	2031
	Minooka	2040
Yorkville	Montgomery	2027
	Sugar Grove	2036
	Plano	2040
	Plainfield	2040
	Oswego	2042

Figure 8.1 *Municipal Boundary Agreement Status*



Legend

Municipalities

- Aurora
- Joliet
- Lisbon
- Millbrook
- Millington
- Minooka
- Montogmery
- Newark
- Oswego
- Plainfield
- Plano
- Plattville
- Sandwich
- Shorewood
- Yorkville

Boundary Agreements

- Joliet/Plainfield
- Joliet/Shorewood
- Minooka/Morris
- Minooka/Shorewood
- Oswego/Aurora
- Oswego/Montgomery
- Oswego/Plainfield
- Yorkville/Montgomery
- Yorkville/Oswego
- Yorkville/Plainfield
- Yorkville/Plano
- Water
- Roadways
- Townships
- Kendall County Boundary

Figure 8.2 *Municipal Boundary Agreement Map*

COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

The County has actively updated the zoning ordinance for consistency with State Statutes and to address modern development practices. As a result, no major changes are needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan. However, there are a number of areas where some additional updates and enhancements will assist with implementation of the Comprehensive Plan's vision. These include:

- **Forestry.** This term is not clearly defined either in state statutes or in the County's zoning code. There are several locations in the County which are processing lumber on their property either for mulch or firewood and claiming to be a forestry operation and thus exempt from zoning regulations. Neighbors have expressed concerns given the appearance and noise from the operations. The States Attorney has suggested that the state needs to better define the term and the County cannot do it proactively. The County should work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to define what constitutes a forestry operation. The Illinois Forestry Development Act should be helpful in this regard. Clearly a property that grows trees for timber would be considered forestry, and the act clearly defines forest products as timer used for lumber for building, furniture, or paper. However, it also excludes producers of firewood or Christmas trees from the definition of timber. Producers of mulch could be considered a landscape business and treated as a permitted or special use accordingly (if not exempt as a forestry business). A new definition, or modification of an existing definition, would be helpful to address businesses focused on firewood once clarity is provided by the DNR.

  Grundy County includes tree clearing, including forestry, and incidental processing, as part of their definition of agricultural uses. This approach may also be helpful, clarifying that operations that harvest and process trees on-site would be permitted, while businesses that harvest trees off-site and process on another site could be handled with a different zoning approach.

- **Cargo containers.** Cargo containers are increasingly used to transport goods both by rail and by truck. Storage of these containers has been an issue in other counties, particularly at intermodal facilities where these containers can be stacked. Updating the zoning ordinance to address container storage is recommended. Will County has good regulations which could serve as a starting point of any code amendment.

- **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).** Affordable housing is a challenge both in Kendall County and throughout the United States. The cost of new construction, particularly on the larger lots required for development under County zoning authority, impacts affordability. The County currently has provisions for guest houses and ECHO housing for the elderly or disabled. It is recommended that the County explore options to allow ADUs on larger lots (R1-R3) and RPD-1 – RPD-3.

- **Land Resources Management Plan (LRMP).** This Comprehensive Plan is

replacing the existing Land Resources Management Plan. All references to the LRMP should be replaced with the term "Comprehensive Plan." However, as the definition of a LRMP in state statute suggests that it serves as the County's Comprehensive Plan, the text change is already implied and does not have to be done immediately upon adoption of this plan.

- **Auto Parking.** There has been a national trend to reexamine parking requirements in zoning regulations, and such a review is recommended for Kendall County. The goal is to better match normal parking demand while reducing overall paved areas which reduces stormwater runoff, reduces construction and maintenance costs, and potentially increases land values by allowing a larger building footprint. For example, the County currently requires 5 parking spaces per 1,000 square feet for retail use. Modern codes have reduced this requirement to 3 or 4 spaces per 1,000 square feet. Some codes even place a maximum on the number of spaces allowed.

- **Truck Parking.** The code currently allows truck and trailer parking and storage as a permitted use in the M1 and M2 zoning districts. Such parking is essential for the operation of many businesses and is appropriate as an appropriate accessory use to support the operations of the adjacent business structure. However, increased trucking demand in recent years has led to installation of large truck and trailer parking areas that are a principal use. These locations generate little in the way of property tax revenue while adding potential impact on local roads. Some recent codes have been modified to create some proportionality to truck/trailer storage areas such as 1 space per 2,500 square feet of building. When allowed truck parking as a principal use is often handled as a conditional or special use.

- **Feather Signs.** These very popular types of temporary signs are often used to promote special events or a newly opened business. The sign section of the code should be reviewed for possible addition of this type of temporary sign.

- **Small Nuclear Power Generation.** The State of Illinois recently modified legislation to allow development of small nuclear power generation facilities. The zoning code should be reviewed to address this issue if desired.

- **Use Table.** The table should be reviewed to ensure consistency with recent updates to the zoning code. For example, Truck Parking Areas, which are permitted use in M1 and M2, does not appear in the table but does appear in the use list. Consideration should be given to removed truck parking under the "Production, Processing, Cleaning, Testing, or Repair category and listing Truck Parking Areas separately in the table as a conditional or special use in the M1 and M2 districts.

- **Scenic Routes.** The County should consider modifications to the zoning ordinance to increase setbacks from scenic routes mapped within the Comprehensive Plan. This could be added to the supplementation regulations to apply to all zoning districts.

A typical front or rear setback in many zoning districts is 50'. Along scenic routes, increasing the setback from the right-of-way to a minimum of 100' or more should be considered to help maintain rural character.

OTHER COUNTY REGULATIONS

The County's building codes and health department regulations have been kept current over the years, and no major changes are suggested at this time. However, they should be periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate based on evolving technology and best practices.

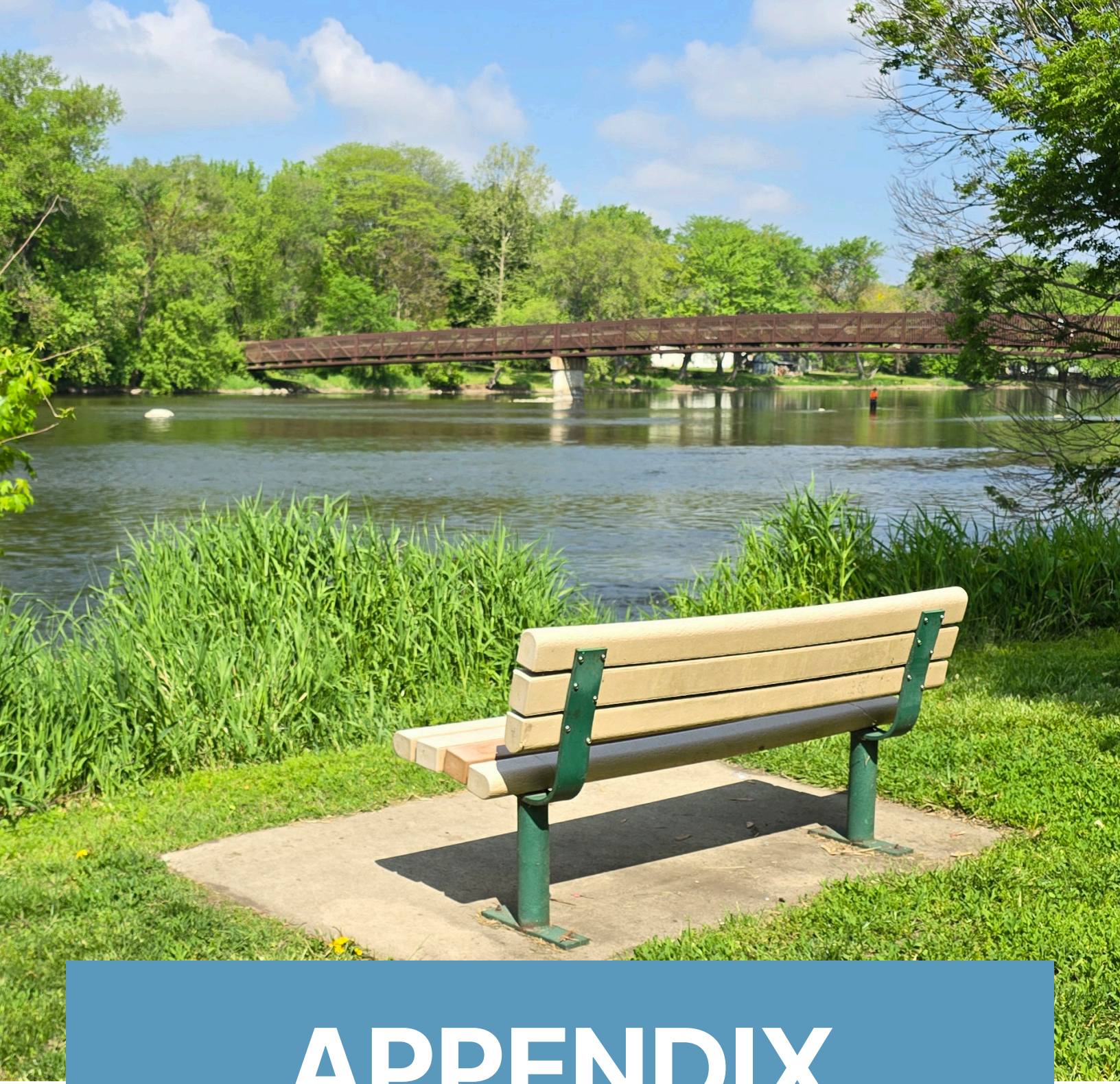
In 2025 and 2026, the County has updated stormwater regulations based on some changes to the State's model flood plain regulations. The revised ordinance was approved by FEMA on February 12, 2026. This ordinance should be updated periodically to reflect Best Management Practices and updates to federal and state guidance.

Given the past loss of tree cover, the County may wish to consider a Tree Protection Ordinance. The Chicago Region Trees Initiative has some good resources for the County to consider.

No major changes have been identified for the County's subdivision regulations. However, if amendments are made to the zoning ordinance to increase setback along scenic routes, it may be appropriate to consider placing a landscape easement within this required setback to emphasize the importance of preserving views and character of these areas.







APPENDIX

KENDALL COUNTY ROAD FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Road	Jurisdiction
Interstate	
I-80	IDOT
Major Arterial	
US Route 30	IDOT
US Route 34 (East of IL Route 47)	IDOT
IL Route 31 (US Route 30 – US Route 34)	IDOT
IL Route 47	IDOT
IL Route 71	IDOT
Minor Arterial	
Ashley Road	Bristol Township
Caton Farm Road (East of Ridge Road)	City of Joliet
Caton Farm Road (East of Ridge Road)	Na-Au-Say Township
Douglas Road	Village of Oswego
Douglas Road	Oswego Township
Douglas Street	Village of Oswego
Douglas Street	Oswego Township
East Washington Street	Village of Oswego
Eldamain Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Galena Road (East of Little Rock Road)	Kendall County Highway Department
Grove Road (North of IL Route 126)	Kendall County Highway Department
IL Route 126	IDOT
IL Route 25	IDOT
Kennedy Road	City of Yorkville
Kennedy Road	Bristol Township
Little Rock Road (North of US Route 34)	Kendall County Highway Department
Orchard Road (US Route 30 – IL Route 71)	Kendall County Highway Department
Plainfield Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Plainfield Road	Village of Oswego
Ridge Road (135th Street – IL Route 126, South of Caton Farm Road)	Kendall County Highway Department
Ridge Road (135th Street – IL Route 126, South of Caton Farm Road)	Village of Plainfield
South Madison Street	Village of Oswego
US Route 52	IDOT
West 135th Street	Village of Plainfield
Wolf's Crossing Road (East of US Route 34)	Village of Oswego
Wolf's Crossing Road (East of US Route 34)	Oswego Township
Major Collector	
111th Street (West of US Route 30)	Village of Oswego
127th Street	Village of Plainfield
5th Street	Village of Oswego

Road	Jurisdiction
Apakesha Grove Road (South of US Route 52)	Village of Lisbon
Base Line Road	Village of Montgomery
Big Rock Avenue	City of Plano
Boulder Hill Pass	Village of Oswego
Boulder Hill Pass	Oswego Township
Briarcliff Road (North of US Route 30)	Village of Montgomery
Bridge Street (Northwest of Fox River Drive)	Kendall County Highway Department
Bristol Ridge Road	Bristol Township
Bristol Ridge Road	City of Yorkville
Cannonball Trail (North of US Route 34)	City of Yorkville
Cannonball Trail (North of US Route 34)	Bristol Township
Cannonball Trail (North of US Route 34)	Kendall County Highway Department
Caterpillar Drive	Village of Montgomery
Caton Farm Road (West of Ridge Road)	Kendall County Highway Department
Center Parkway (South of West Countryside Parkway)	City of Yorkville
Church Street (South of Vine Street)	Kendall County Highway Department
Collins Road (West of Douglas Road)	Village of Oswego
Collins Road (West of Douglas Road)	Oswego Township
Concord Drive	Village of Montgomery
County Line Road (Caton Farm Road – West Mound Road)	Plainfield Township
County Line Road (Caton Farm Road – West Mound Road)	Plainfield and Troy Townships
Creek Road (South of Frazier Road)	Little Rock Township
Creek Road (South of Frazier Road)	City of Plano
Dickson Road	Village of Montgomery
Dickson Road	Bristol Township
Douglas Road	Oswego Township
East Base Line Road (US Route 30 – IL Route 31)	Village of Montgomery
East Benton Street	Kendall County Highway Department
East Church Street	City of Plano
East Joliet Road	Kendall County Highway Department
East Lee Street (East of North Center Street)	City of Plano
East Main Street (IL Route 71 – Walker Road)	Village of Newark
East Rock Street (South Main Street – South Hale Street)	City of Plano
East Sherrill Road (Asheley Road – O'Brien Road)	Kendall County Highway Department
East Spring Street (North Bridge Steet – McHugh Street)	City of Yorkville
East Van Emmon Street (IL Route 47 – East Hydraulic Avenue)	City of Yorkville
Farnsworth Avenue	City of Aurora
Farnsworth Road	City of Aurora
Fox River Drive	Kendall County Highway Department
Fox Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Frazier Road (East of Sandy Bluff Road)	Little Rock Township

Road	Jurisdiction
Galena Road (West of Little Rock Road)	Kendall County Highway Department
Game Farm Road	City of Yorkville
Gordon Road (US Route 30 – Concord Drive)	Village of Montgomery
Griswold Springs Road (East of Little Rock Road)	Little Rock Township
Grove Road (IL Route 126 – East Sherill Road)	Kendall County Highway Department
Harvey Road	Village of Oswego
Harvey Road	Oswego Township
Holt Road (Ridge Road – Wabena Avenue)	Seward Township
Lakewood Creek Drive	Village of Montgomery
Lew Street (South of East Church Street)	City of Plano
Lisbon Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Little Rock Road (South of US Route 34)	City of Plano
Little Rock Road (South of US Route 34)	Little Rock Township
McHugh Road (North of East Spring Street)	City of Yorkville
McHugh Road (North of East Spring Street)	Bristol Township
Mill Road	Village of Oswego
Mill Road	City of Yorkville
Mill Road	Bristol Township
Millbrook Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Miller Road (East of Little Rock Road)	City of Plano
Millington Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Minkler Road (South of IL Route 71)	Village of Oswego
Minkler Road (South of IL Route 71)	Oswego Township
Minkler Road (South of IL Route 71)	Kendall Township
Newark Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Newark Road	Village of Newark
North 41st Road	Big Grove Township
North Ben Street	City of Plano
North Canal Street (Woodman Street – Joliet Road)	Village of Lisbon
North Center Street	City of Plano
North Church Street (North Center Street – Lew Street)	Kendall County Highway Department
North Johnson Street	Kendall County Highway Department
Rance Road	Oswego Township
Rance Road	Village of Oswego
Ridge Road (North of 135th Street, IL Route 126 – Caton Farm Road)	Kendall County Highway Department
Ridge Road	Village of Plainfield
River Road	City of Yorkville
River Road	Little Rock Township
River Road	Bristol Township
River Street	City of Yorkville
Rock Creek Road	Kendall County Highway Department

Road	Jurisdiction
Rock Street	City of Plano
Roth Road	Oswego Township
Sandy Bluff Road (North of US Route 34)	Little Rock Township
Sandy Bluff Road (North of US Route 34)	City of Sandwich
Simons Road	Oswego Township
Simons Road	Village of Plainfield
South Ben Street	City of Plano
South Ben Street	Kendall County Highway Department
South Canal Street	Kendall County Highway Department
South Center Street (North of South Street)	City of Plano
South Church Street	Kendall County Highway Department
South East Street	Kendall County Highway Department
South Hale Street (South Street – East Rock Street)	City of Plano
South Johnson Street	Kendall County Highway Department
South Lew Street	City of Plano
South Townhouse Road	Kendall County Highway Department
South Townhouse Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Stewart Road	Oswego Township
Stewart Road	Village of Plainfield
Townhouse Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Van Emmon Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Vine Street	Kendall County Highway Department
Wabena Avenue	Seward Township
Wabena Avenue	Village of Minooka
Walker Road (IL Route 71 – IL Route 47)	Kendall County Highway Department
West Abe Street	Little Rock Township
West Abe Street	City of Plano
West Countryside Parkway	City of Yorkville
West Fox Road	City of Yorkville
West Fox Road	Kendall County Highway Department
West Fox Street	Kendall County Highway Department
West Hafenrichter Road	City of Aurora
West Rock Street	City of Plano
West Sherrill Road	Grundy County Highway Department
West Somonauk Street	City of Yorkville
West Woodman Street	Village of Lisbon
Wooley Road (West of Roth Road)	Oswego Township
Wooley Road (West of Roth Road)	Village of Oswego
Minor Collector	
Chicago Road (East of Plattville Road)	Kendall County Highway Department
Creek Road	Little Rock Township

Road	Jurisdiction
Creek Road	Little Rock Township
Crimmin Road	Fox Township
East Church Street (East of Lew Street)	City of Plano
East Countryside Parkway	City of Yorkville
East Main Street	Village of Newark
East Main Street (West of Lew Street)	City of Plano
Holt Road (West of Ridge Road)	Village of Minooka
Holt Road (West of Ridge Road)	Seward Township
Light Road	Oswego Township
Mill Street (South of East Van Emmon Street)	City of Yorkville
Miller Road (Creek Road – Little Rock Road)	Little Rock Township
Miller Road (Creek Road – Little Rock Road)	City of Plano
North Canal Street (North of Woodman Street)	Lisbon Township
North Canal Street (North of Woodman Street)	Village of Lisbon
O Brien Road (Holt Road – East Sherill Road)	Seward Township
Plattville Road	Kendall County Highway Department
Reservation Road	Oswego Township
Saugatuck Road	Oswego Township
South Hale Street (East Rock Street – East Larson Street)	City of Plano
Walker Road (Fox River Drive – Millbrook Road)	Fox Township
West Main Street (East of Ben Street)	City of Plano

Figure A.1 *Summary of Roadway Functional Classification in Kendall County*

PUBLIC PARKS IN KENDALL COUNTY

Park	Address	Acreage
Oswegoland Park District		
Andover Park	334 Andover Drive, Oswego	9.6
Ashgate Park	26920 Ashgate Crossing, Plainfield	7.0
Augusta Lake Park	127 Kevin Lane, Oswego	4.9
Barnaby Park	275 Bluegrass Parkway, Oswego	2.9
Bartlett Prairie Wetland	214 Parkside Lane, Oswego	32.4
Bluegrass Park	275 Bluegrass Parkway, Oswego	27.0
Bluegrass Prairie Park	780 Oxbow Ave, Oswego	41.9
Briarcliff Woods Prairie Wetland	Route 30 & Briarcliff Road, Montgomery	18.7
Chesterfield Park and Lake	139 Chesterfield Drive, Oswego	19.3
Civic Center Park	5 Ashlawn Avenue, Oswego	9.4
Community Park at Grande Park	26333 Grande Park Boulevard, Plainfield	91.0
Deerbrook Park	2220 Barrington Drive West, Aurora	11.5
Eagle Ridge Park	1300 Illinois 25, Oswego	31.5
Farmington Lakes Park	2031 Farmington Lakes Drive, Oswego	67.3
Heritage Park	72 Polk Street, Oswego	0.4
Hidden Creek Park	1800 Pontarelli Court, Aurora	0.7
Hudson Crossing Park	65 South Harrison Street, Oswego	7.1
Hunt Club Prairie Wetland	4395 Bickford Avenue, Oswego	37.0
Jaycee Park	134 Saugatuck Rd, Oswego	4.4
Lakeview Park	541 Lakeview Drive, Oswego	1.4
Linden Park	165 Linden Drive, Oswego	4.4
Marina Woods Park	64 Marina Drive, Oswego	1.5
Millstone Park	4669 Mill Road, Oswego	5.4
Morgan Creek Park	360 Morgan Valley Drive, Oswego	4.2
Morgan Creek Prairie Wetland	511 Danbury Drive, Oswego	28.6
Mundsinger Woods	3390 White Oak Drive, Oswego	5.8
North Adams Park	127 North Adams Street, Oswego	1.6
Northampton Greenway	Waubonsie Trail, Oswego	17.7
Northampton Park	310 Northampton Drive, Oswego	7.6
Odgen Falls Park	375 Ogden Falls Boulevard, Oswego	7.1
Old Post Park	116 Old Post Road, Oswego	37.1
Pearce's Ford Park	601 Pearces Ford Road, Oswego	1.9
Prairie Point Community Park	4120 Plainfield Road, Oswego	71.0
PrairieFest Park	394 Prairieview Drive, Oswego	5.0
Prairieview Park	91 Plank Drive, Oswego	24.3
Saw Wee Kee Park	7350 Sundown Lane, Yorkville	134.2
Silverleaf Park	12902 Grande Pines Blvd, Plainfield	8.1
South Point Park	800 Preston Lane, Oswego	14.5

Park	Address	Acreage
Stonegate Park	56 Illinois 25, Oswego	2.5
Summerlin Park	2121 Summerlin Drive, Aurora	23.5
SuzanJohn Park	29 Hampton Road, Montgomery	1.3
Timber Wood Park	12857 Timber Wood Circle, Plainfield	9.2
Townsend Park	418 Devoe Drive, Oswego	8.0
Troy Park	201 North Adams Street, Oswego	1.7
Tuscany Trail Park	445 Grape Vine Trail, Oswego	12.9
Veterans Serenity Park	33 North Adams Street, Oswego	0.5
Village Green Park	47 Monroe Street, Oswego	0.7
Violet Patch Park	1425 Illinois 25, Oswego	2.8
Waa Kee Sha Park	4700 Reservation Road, Oswego	24.8
Washington Park	309 Millstream Lane, Oswego	9.8
Waubonsie Park	10 West Jefferson Street, Oswego	0.2
Waubonsie Wetland	375 Cascade Lane, Oswego	15.2
Willowgate Park	12515 South Cherry Blossom Boulevard, Plainfield	10.8
Winrock Park	21 Winrock Road, Montgomery	10.0
Wormley Heritage Park	331 Century Drive, Oswego	20.4
Fox Valley Park District		
Amber Fields Park	2754 Vicksburg Lane, Aurora	9.8
Balmorea Park	Foster Drive & Helene Rieder Drive	3.2
Blackberry Crossing Park	3042 Troon Drive, Montgomery	17.9
Blackberry Trail Park	2535 Caliendo Circle, Montgomery	17.5
Huntington Chase Park	Foster Drive & White Sands Lane	7.2
Lakewood Creek Park	2301 Lakewood Creek Drive, Montgomery	25.0
Sandwich Park District		
Ernest Memorial Park	3104 Ernest Drive, Sandwich	2.1
Joliet Park District		
Grove Road Park	13297 Grove Road, Minooka	31.0
Hunter's Ridge Park	8101 Expedition Street, Joliet	2.8
Kearney Glen Park	911 Treesdale Way, Joliet	3.2
Kolar Park	1010 Sable Ridge Drive, Joliet	3.2
Lakewood Prairie Park	1200 Barberry Way, Joliet	1.7
Sable Ridge Park	8204 Coop Avenue, Joliet	14.6
United City of Yorkville Parks and Recreation Department		
Autumn Creek North	1397 Slate Drive, Yorkville	0.9
Beecher Community Park	908 Game Farm Road, Yorkville	19.9
Bicentennial Riverfront Park	301 E Hydraulic Avenue, Yorkville	4.4
Bristol Bay Park A	4552 Rosenwinkel Street, Yorkville	1.6
Bristol Bay Regional Park	428 Bristol Bay Drive, Yorkville	49.8
Bristol Station Park	2753 Alan Dale Lane, Yorkville	14.4
Caledonia Park	354 Shadow Wood Drive, Yorkville	10.0

Park	Address	Acreage
Cannonball Ridge Park	2087 Northland Lane, Yorkville	3.9
Clark Park	106 E. Main Street, Yorkville	5.0
Cobb Park	109 Colonial Parkway, Yorkville	0.2
Coleman Park	2500 Fairfax Way, Yorkville	7.6
Countryside Pavilion Park	105 West Countryside, Yorkville	0.5
Crawford Park	201 Windham Circle, Yorkville	9.9
Emily Sleezer Park	837 Homestead Drive, Yorkville	0.3
Fox Hill East	1474 Sycamore Road, Yorkville	3.5
Fox Hill West	1711 John Street, Yorkville	13.4
Gilbert Park	703 Adrian Street, Yorkville	0.3
Grande Reserve Park A	3972 Tuscany Trail, Yorkville	5.0
Grande Reserve Park B	2272 Beresford, Yorkville	8.9
Green's Filling Station Park	2736 Autumn Creek Boulevard, Yorkville	5.9
Hiding Spot Park	307 Park Street, Yorkville	2.1
Jaycee Pond	410 West Center Street, Yorkville	5.9
Junior Women's Club Park at Heartland Circle	1267 Taus Circle, Yorkville	5.6
Kiwanis Park	1809 Country Hills Drive, Yorkville	2.0
Marge Cline Whitewater Course	301 E Hydraulic, Yorkville	n/a
Prestwick Park	2121 Prestwick Lane, Yorkville	6.4
Price Park	525 Burning Bush Drive, Yorkville	0.7
Purcell Park	325 Fairhaven Drive, Yorkville	0.1
Raintree Village Park A	524 Parkside Lane, Yorkville	2.4
Raintree Village Park B	872 Prairie Crossing Drive, Yorkville	7.5
Raintree Village Park C	1138 Goldfinch Avenue, Yorkville	2.2
Rice Park	545 Poplar Drive, Yorkville	1.0
Riemenschneider Park	600 Hayden Drive, Yorkville	7.0
Rivers Edge Park	974 Stony Creek Lane, Yorkville	0.7
Rotary Park	2775 Grande Trail, Yorkville	11.7
Stepping Stones Park	3152 Grande Trail, Yorkville	13.7
Steven G. Bridge Park	3651 Kennedy Road, Yorkville	55.7
Sunflower Park	1765 Walsh Drive, Yorkville	3.4
Town Square Park	301 North Bridge Street (Route 47), Yorkville	2.2
Van Emmon Park	374 East Van Emmon Road, Yorkville	1.9
West Hydraulic Park	West Hydraulic Street, Yorkville	0.7
Wheaton Woods Park	205 Boombah Avenue, Yorkville	7.9
City of Plano		
DePaul Park	301 West South Street, Plano	0.3
Dick Hemmingsen Park	Bailey Street, Plano	2.0
Foli Park	South Hale Street to East Larson Street, Plano	14.3
Gorman Park	Mitchell Street and Klatt Street, Plano	2.9

Park	Address	Acreage
Harry Neubert Park	313 Appaloosa Trail, Plano	0.5
Kristen Street Park	401 Kristen Street, Plano	6.0
Larry Trimberger Park	2030 Pauline Place, Plano	3.8
Lathrop Park	Hale Street and North Street, Plano	0.6
Plano City Park	800 East Main Street, Plano	5.3
Ray Niles Park	Cummins Street and Foli Street, Plano	3.7
Steward Park	East Main Street, Plano	123.3
Village of Minooka Park Department		
Aux Sable Springs Park	2500 Holt Road, Minooka	118.8
Summerfield 1 Park	1311 Kettleson Drive, Minooka	1.9

Figure A.2 *Summary of Public Parks in Kendall County*

VISION KENDALL
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Future Land Use Map

Land Use Category

- Agricultural
- Agricultural Conservation
- Countryside Residential
- Rural Estate Residential
- Rural Residential
- Suburban Residential
- Commercial
- Mixed Use Business
- Riparian Corridor
- Transportation Corridor
- Industrial
- Mining
- Potential Mining District
- Public Institutional
- Electric Transmission
- Renewable Energy
- Open Space
- Additional Open Space Opportunity

Roadway

- Highway
- Arterial
- County Roadway Extension
- Collector
- Local

Boundary

- County
- Municipal

Other

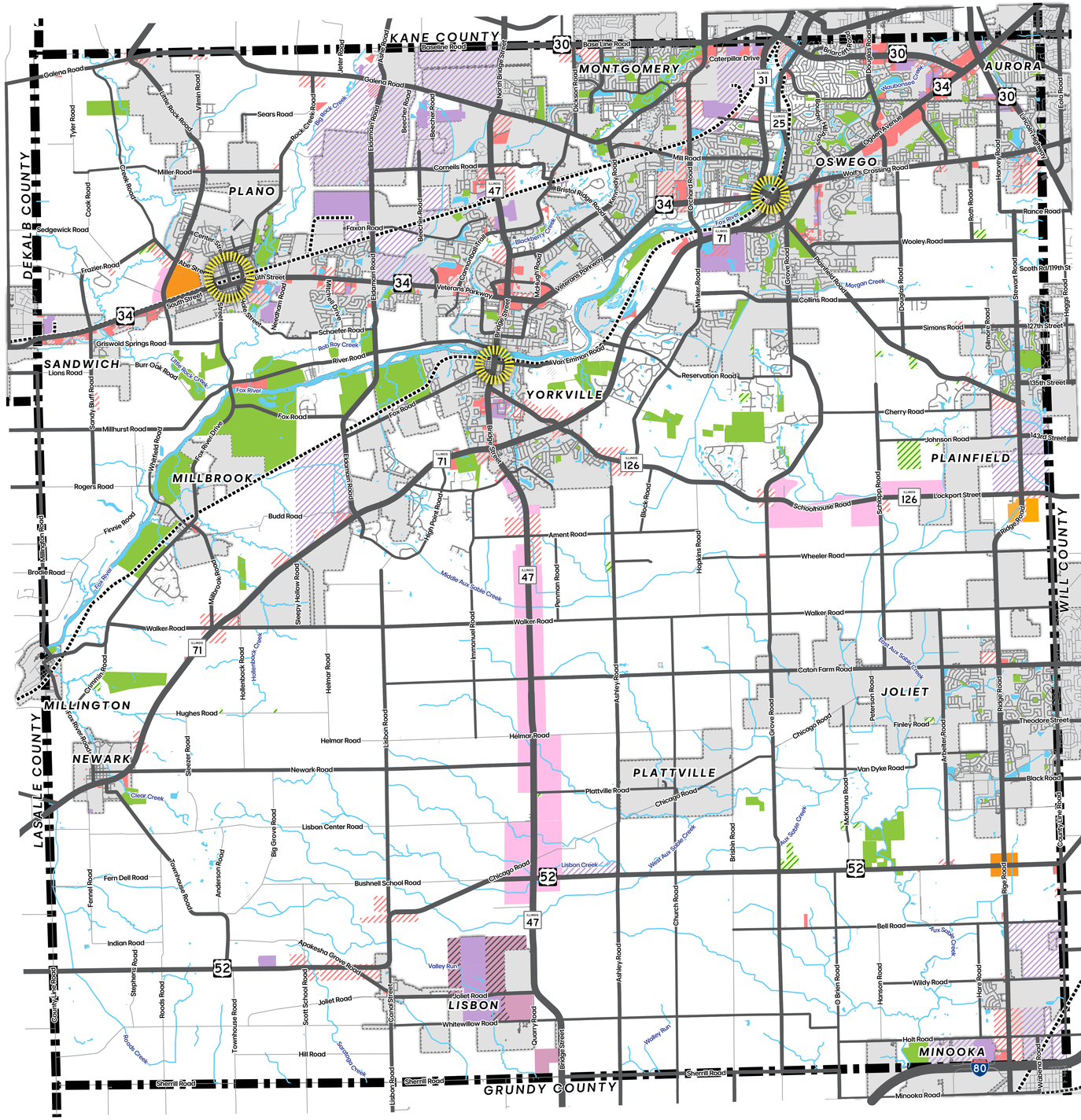
- Water
- Railroad

N

0 1 2 Miles

9/15/2026

teska



Economic Development Opportunity Map

Existing Land Use Category

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mining
- Agricultural Tourism
- Downtown Area

Matching Hatch Patterns Represent Planned or Under Construction

Future Land Use Category

- Mixed Use Business
- Transportation Corridor

Roadway

- Highway
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local

Boundary

- County
- Municipal

Other

- Water
- Park / Forest Preserve
- Railroad

N

0 1 2 Miles

9/15/2026

VISION KENDALL
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Alternative Energy Opportunity Map

Solar Farm Development

- Completed
- Under Construction
- Approved
- Proposed
- Opportunity (Municipal)
- Opportunity (County)

Electric Transmission Infrastructure

- Power Plant
- Substation
- 138 Kilovolts Transmission Line
- 345 Kilovolts Transmission Line
- 765 Kilovolts Transmission Line

Boundary

- County
- Township
- Municipal
- 1.5-Mile Planning Area

Other

- Water
- Street
- Railroad

N

0 1 2 Miles

9/15/2026

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VISION KENDALL
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Recreational Open Space Opportunity Map

Open Space Type

- Forest Preserve / State Park
- Public Park
- Conservation Easement / Reserve
- Stream Corridor
- Additional Open Space Opportunity

Pathway and Route

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Multi-Use Path Extension
- Bike Route Extension
- Scenic Route

Boundary

- County
- Municipal
- Township

Other

- Water
- Railroad
- Street

9/15/2026

N

0 1 2 Miles

Kendall County Est. 1841 Illinois

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VISION KENDALL
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Future Roadway Plan

Roadway Functional Class

- Highway
- Arterial
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Local
- Roadway Extension
- Intersection Improvement

Boundary

- County
- Municipal

Other

- Water
- Park / Forest Preserve
- Railroad
- Railway Station
- Park-n-Ride Facility

N

0 1 2 Miles

9/15/2026

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VISION KENDALL
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Future Trail Plan

Pathway

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Multi-Use Path Extension (County Plan)
- Multi-Use Path Extension (Municipal Plan)
- Bike Route Extension (County Plan)

Boundary

- County
- Township
- Municipal

Other

- Water
- Park / Forest Preserve
- Railroad
- Street
- Railway Station
- Park-n-Ride Facility

N

0 1 2 Miles

9/15/2026

KENDALL COUNTY ILLINOIS Est. 1841

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KENDALL COUNTY
Est. 1841
ILLINOIS