



KANE COUNTY

2040 PLAN

Executive Summary



Quality Of Kane

Healthy People, Healthy Living, Healthy Communities-
It's about Quality of Life



A Plan for Current & Future Generations

Healthy People, Healthy Living, Healthy Communities

The Kane County 2040 Plan integrates community health with transportation and land use planning. This innovative method of planning laid the foundation for the overarching theme of the 2040 Plan: Healthy People, Healthy Living, Healthy Communities. This theme recognizes and emphasizes the connection between the most important resources in Kane County – its people – with the opportunities and barriers for healthy living created by the built and natural environment, and how together they shape the overall health of communities. The chapters of the 2040 Plan are reflective of the County's goal to have the healthiest residents in Illinois. Each chapter provides clear objectives and policies for land use, transportation and community health decision makers that are responsive to the future needs and vision of our citizens within the capacity of our resources.

Since World War II and the spread of growth into suburban communities designed for the automobile, community health has operated in a separate sphere than land use and transportation planning. Such an approach limits both the input needed for good planning and decisions as well as the possibilities for the healthiest outcomes. Kane County recognizes that all three areas, health, land use and transportation, contribute to the quality of life and the health of our communities. The 2040 Plan represents the convergence of planning for land use, transportation and health in Kane County. The interconnectedness of the three planning spheres are demonstrated throughout the 2040 Plan's ten chapters.

A Shared Vision



The 2040 Plan proposes vision and direction for the County Board and the county's 30 municipalities. Kane County is unique in that this vision is the synergy of transportation, land use and health planning perspectives. Merging these interdependent planning disciplines makes this vision clearer and has put the County in an advantageous position to implement the smart growth principles that will lead to improved public health outcomes. Additionally, the 2040 Plan vision has been shaped by residents who provided their comments and ideas throughout the public review process.



KANE COUNTY 2040 PLAN GOALS

Healthy Communities

Improve the health of Kane County's citizens, including its children, by consciously making changes to the environment that support active living, healthy eating, and local food production.

Economic Prosperity

Maintain and strengthen the county's economic edge and respond to demographic changes, workforce development, technology and the changing global economy.

Housing

Create a range of housing opportunities and choices that meet the needs of the projected population growth and changing demographics.

Mobility and Connectivity

Improve connectivity, construct needed infrastructure, and increase travel options that provide safe access to land uses for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and public transportation patrons, while enhancing and improving the health of the population.

Agriculture: Food and Farm

Expand production of locally grown foods, and support production agriculture and farmland preservation.

Green Infrastructure and Water Resources

Enhance and expand the county's green infrastructure, protect the local water supply, and improve water quality through best management practices.

Land Use and Built Environment

Collaborate with the municipalities to ensure that 50% of the area of the county is in agriculture and open space uses by 2040 by focusing compact, mixed use development within established urban areas, employment centers, and along transportation corridors.

Sustainability and Energy

Promote quality of life, financial prosperity, innovative ideas and technologies while improving energy efficiency, and reducing fossil fuel emissions and energy use.

Historic Preservation

Protect historic and cultural resources to preserve and revitalize community character.

Cooperative Planning

Partner with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, municipalities, and other stakeholders to coordinate planning efforts to meet regional and local goals.

These 10 goals can be achieved through specific statements of purpose, the objectives, which are identified and examined throughout the 2040 Plan Chapters.



LAND USE

The way a community is planned and developed – its land use patterns, transportation options and community design – strongly influences the health of those living there. In planning for the new growth expected in the next 30 years, the 2040 Plan promotes infill, compact, mixed-use development in targeted areas that will increase travel options such as transit, biking and walking, allowing residents to live more active, healthy lifestyles. Additionally, by focusing infill and redevelopment in established communities with readily available public infrastructure, urban sprawl and land use consumption are reduced. This preserves opportunities for the expansion of the countywide green infrastructure network, increases opportunities for protecting farmland and increasing local food production and also plays a large part in replenishing aquifers. The County's policy is to promote collaborative planning in partnership with the municipalities on future transportation corridors, such as Randall Road (Randall/ Orchard Road Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study) and Illinois Route 47 (Illinois Route 47 Corridor Study), to improve energy efficiency, air quality and mobility choices for healthier residents.

** These icons indicate county long range plans that are mutually supportive within this chapter.*



MOBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

The mobility and connectivity planning issue in the 2040 Plan emphasizes the importance of providing more opportunities for residents to use health-promoting travel options, such as transit, walking and biking. The county has an extensive transportation system, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, local roads and highways, bus and rail networks, and interstate highways. However, the projected population and employment growth in Kane County will challenge the existing transportation system and its carrying capacity. Through the integration of land use, transportation and health planning, the County can be more effective in developing the needed infrastructure to increase travel options and provide the "Complete Streets" that allow safe access to land uses for all users.

The Mobility and Connectivity principles outlined in the 2040 Plan are consistent with strategies identified in the County's Long Range Transportation Plan and other related plans. The 2040 Plan advocates the creation of a Primary Transit Network (PTN) policy. The PTN is an approach to coordinating transit and land use that entails agreement between municipalities and service providers (Pace) on the corridors where the highest level of service is desired and most feasible. The 2040 Plan also advances the coordination of local and regional strategies for transit supportive land use investments, policies and programs that will increase the propensity to use transit.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

The implementation of strategies outlined in the Community Health chapter is necessary to reach the County's goal of having the healthiest residents in Illinois. Kane County Health Department conducted the 2011-2012 Community Health Assessment to identify the key health issues facing our county and update the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to reflect these updated threats. The results identified chronic disease, obesity, and poor social and emotional wellness as major issues in our community. The priorities and strategies included in the CHIP identify policy, systems and environmental changes which will improve community health outcomes and align with the goals and objectives in the 2040 Plan. The 2040 Plan has also been structured to support the County's Fit for Kids planning initiative. Fit for Kids was created to guide actions that will reverse the epidemic of childhood obesity by 2020. The 2040 Plan supports Fit for Kids through outlining policies that dictate health promoting land uses, transportation options and the supply of locally grown healthy foods.



HOUSING

Meeting the housing needs of a growing, diversifying and aging population is a major challenge facing the county and our municipalities over the next 30 years. Kane County understands this challenge will be addressed through providing a range of housing opportunities that promote equitable and affordable housing while also providing the lifestyle amenities Kane County residents demand now and will demand in the future. As we plan for the expected growth in population and households – 270,000 more residents and 95,000 additional households – the 2040 Plan promotes compact, mixed-use and transit oriented housing development patterns that take advantage of infill and redevelopment opportunities. These smart growth principles will allow the County to reach many of our goals including preserving open space, reducing vehicle miles traveled and reducing energy consumption. Meeting the need for attractive housing for a diverse and aging population is also necessary to attract a competitive workforce and innovative employers that will grow our economy. Recognizing that much of the county's future housing stock will be the result of municipal decisions, the County is committed to taking on a leadership role to promote the 2040 Plan's housing objectives. These objectives will lead to a more livable, sustainable and healthy Kane County.



AGRICULTURE: FOOD + FARM

Like much of Illinois, Kane County has some of the most productive farmland in the world. Also, like much of Illinois and the nation, Kane County faces critical challenges to the health of our citizens, specifically in the areas of childhood obesity and diabetes. The strategy of utilizing our agricultural land as a resource to improve our residents' health is outlined in the 2040 Plan.

Agriculture has been the dominant land use in the county for 150 years and still occupies almost 68% of our unincorporated land. A continued threat to agriculture is the encroachment of development and the conflicts that arise between farm and non-farm uses. Kane County strongly supports protective land use strategies which discourage the premature conversion of farmland. The 2040 Plan fully incorporates and supports the county's Farmland Protection Program. This Program was created in 2001 and is currently protecting 4,927 acres of farmland through conservation easements. Over \$32 million has been invested by the County and the Federal Government to support this program. The 2040 Plan also supports and advances the efforts of the Growing for Kane Program. This program will increase the supply of and demand for fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy, thus stimulating our local economy and providing our residents with the healthy food options that will help combat childhood obesity and diabetes and take us one step closer to having the healthiest residents in Illinois.



OPEN SPACE- GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Open space is the armature of the 2040 Plan - as it was for the 2020 Plan and the 2030 Plan - providing the framework that complements all other land uses. The open space armature is a tapestry of undeveloped public and private lands, with the Fox River and its tributaries as its backbone. Open space can be acquired and preserved in a number of ways through public and private efforts, including forest preserve, township and park district acquisitions as well as through the development approval process and the dedication of conservation easements. The open space armature and the greenway systems are the foundation for an expanded green infrastructure network as we look out to the year 2040. The green infrastructure network extends in and through developed areas, linking habitats and improving water and environmental quality.

Building on the principles of the 2040 Plan, the county has developed a Green Infrastructure Plan. This plan used multiple layers of data to objectively identify networks of habitats and open space for the county. This Plan focuses on green infrastructure best management practices in order to reduce toxic runoff and flooding, maintain quality groundwater, reduce air pollution, mitigate heat island effect, improve energy efficiency, minimize the need for stormwater infrastructure materials, lower water treatment costs and increase property values. This plan is also vital in helping the county reach its goal of preserving over 50% of the county's land area as agriculture and open space.



WATER RESOURCES

The increasing demand for water due to a growing county population makes finding adequate and sustainable water supplies for both human and ecosystem needs one of the major challenges addressed by the 2040 Plan. Lake Michigan water is not considered a viable option for Kane County in the future due to cost and multiple laws. Therefore, the long term sources of drinking water are the Fox River, shallow groundwater and deep aquifers. Kane County recognizes these resources as our greatest natural assets and the 2040 Plan emphasizes the necessity of their protection and improvement. The conservation and enhancement of our water supplies can be addressed by land use decisions. Higher density developments reduce land consumption allowing communities to improve water quality by reducing impervious cover and therefore polluted stormwater runoff. The county's Green Infrastructure Plan promotes the improvement of both water quality and quantity by advocating green infrastructure practices that reduce toxic runoff and recharge our aquifers with clean water.



SUSTAINABILITY + ENERGY

The concept of sustainability contains three elements - society, the environment and the economy - that play an important role in the development of healthy communities. Kane County must strive to achieve a balance between these elements to ensure quality of life now and into the future. Kane County consumes energy primarily for transportation, the heating and cooling of buildings and powering lights, appliances, and other household accessories. Energy costs are rising and are expected to do so for the foreseeable future. Increasing energy costs and changing energy needs raise economic, environmental and social concerns that impact municipalities, businesses and households. The 2040 Plan is consistent with the 2040 Energy Plan which recognizes land use planning as an effective technique to conserve limited energy resources. The recognition of fossil fuels as a finite, polluting and increasingly costly source of energy has resulted in efforts directed toward conservation and the use of renewable sources of energy. Smart land use decisions play an important role in providing mobility options that can reduce vehicle miles traveled, traffic congestion and emissions. The 2040 Plan emphasizes the importance of creating livable communities with compact, mixed-use, multi-modal developments which encourage more sustainable actions and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The quality of air and water available now and into the future has a direct effect on the quality of life in our communities and the health of our residents.

ANSWERING THE CALL FOR ACTION: *Implementation*

The Kane County Planning Cooperative was created as the central core of the 2040 Plan's implementation strategies. The Cooperative is staffed primarily with county planners from three departments – Development, Health and Transportation – but receives support from a myriad of local and regional planning partners. The mission of the Cooperative is to encourage education and information sharing related to planning and to assist with local planning decisions.

The innovative collaboration between the three sectors of the Cooperative serves as a model for other governmental agencies, a tool to capture and distribute funding and technical assistance and an all-encompassing planning entity that has Kane County in the best possible position to implement the smart growth principles that are leading to improved health outcomes. The Planning Cooperative is integral in achieving the goal of having the healthiest residents in Illinois.

Major Policy Recommendations

TRANSPORTATION

- 1 Consider the design and operation of roadways that create a safe, attractive, multi-modal transportation system with comfortable access and travel for all users, to provide healthy transportation and lifestyle options.
- 2 Provide a high level of traffic operations and management that increases the safety and efficiency of the motoring and non-motoring public.
- 3 Consider and implement infrastructure designs that preserve and protect the natural resources of Kane County.
- 4 Given the limited financial resources, develop programs that focus on system maintenance, safety improvements, and priority capital investments.

HEALTH

- 1 Continue to promote health in all policies where we live, learn, work, and play through the use of tools like health impact assessments (HIA).
- 2 Continue to promote policies that increase access to and consumption of healthy foods throughout the county.
- 3 Promote local food production through the Growing for Kane Program and other initiatives that stimulate the supply and demand of locally grown food.
- 4 Continue to promote the implementation of strategies from the Community Health Improvement Plan and Fit Kids 2020 Plan through cross-sector collaboration to achieve community-wide health and wellness through partnerships

with school districts, higher education institutions, social service agencies, the faith-based community, non-profit organizations, hospitals, healthcare providers, employers, park districts, municipal staff, elected officials and other organizations.

- 5 Develop and implement policies that assure safe access to playgrounds, parks, trails, open space and schools.

LAND USE

- 1 Encourage development investments in existing urban areas; strategically located near employment centers, transit nodes and major corridors to reduce sprawl and promote active lifestyles.
- 2 Incorporate conservation and sustainability criteria in development controls and County ordinances to protect natural, scenic, historic, archaeological and environmental areas when making land use and development decisions.
- 3 Work with partner agencies and municipalities to increase the availability of quality, safe, diverse, affordable housing for Kane County residents.
- 4 Utilize implementation tools including conservation easements, land dedications and tax adjustments as alternative methods for implementing local, County and regional open space and farmland protection plans.
- 5 Promote a variety of farming operations in Kane County through continuing to preserve agricultural lands, identifying scattered-site and smaller farm sites throughout the county, increasing opportunities to lease public land for growing and pursuing funding opportunities.



ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Demographic changes and economic trends point to our population becoming increasingly interested in living and working in areas that are more compact, walkable and that offer convenient transportation options. The places that will be the most successful in the future economy will be those that can adapt and accommodate the desires of tomorrow's residents and businesses. Kane County will need to be proactive and innovative in the types of assistance provided to local businesses. Successful communities will be able to find a more effective and efficient approach to leveraging resources such as tax credits, infrastructure improvement grants, workforce development and workforce housing programs and loans in order to create and support a thriving economic climate.

This chapter of The 2040 Plan examines economic prosperity in relation to:

- The Region
- Healthy Community Design
- Industry Clusters
- Communications Infrastructure
- The Green Economy
- Agribusiness

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Since the adoption of the Historic Preservation Program in 1988, the County has designated 44 historic landmarks, 3 rustic road corridors, 1 historic district and 5 preservation-oriented intergovernmental agreements with municipalities. Today the program's aim is to preserve and protect the character of the county's rural areas, unique communities and valuable historic resources. The Kane County 2040 Plan, Rural Structures Survey, Historic Preservation Ordinance, Preservation Plan, Register of Historic Places, Rustic Road Program and intergovernmental agreements with municipalities are all tools used by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Kane County Board to address preservation issues facing the county. The Historic Preservation Program addresses a variety of issues including the preservation and redevelopment of older downtowns, the protection of historic resources and landscapes in order to balance new development, the preservation and adaptive reuse of agricultural buildings, and intergovernmental cooperation with municipalities to use historic preservation as one of their tools to create sustainable and livable communities.



KANE COUNTY 2040 PLAN

Kane County Planning Cooperative

Broad-based, continuing cooperation in implementing the goals of the 2040 Plan is absolutely critical if we are to maintain an exceptional Kane County, with Healthy People, Healthy Living and Healthy Communities.

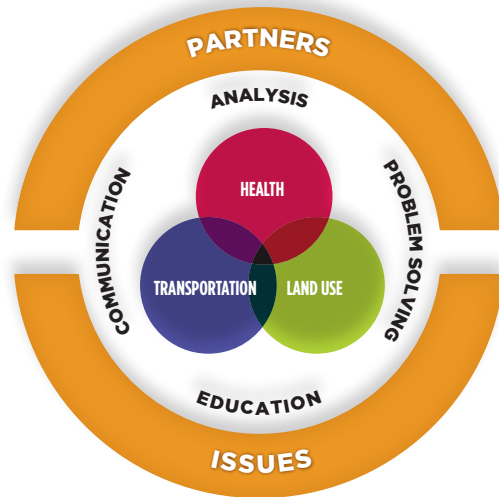
The Kane County Planning Cooperative

- Is the central core of the 2040 Plan's implementation strategies
- Integrates planning: health, transportation and land use
- Fills gaps in local planning resources
- Provides education and information on critical issues
- Partners include all agencies involved in planning
- Open to elected and appointed officials, planning commission members, staff, private sector planners

COOPERATION = INCREASED ACCESS TO FUNDING

Local projects integrating health, transportation and land use have the greatest funding opportunities. Kane County is already a leader in this area, so partners can benefit from County successes. Federal, state and private foundation grants are becoming more and more competitive, limiting awards to projects which are clearly tied to adopted plans and involve collaboration.

GO TO 2040, the adopted plan for the Chicago region, calls attention to the importance of collaboration between communities for transportation, housing, economic development, and other issues. Collaboration can often allow participating jurisdictions to access more funding than they could by going it alone. Accordingly, the primary goal of the Planning Cooperative is to fill the funding gaps in critical topics common to many of Kane County's municipal and other partners by providing a local forum for education, analysis, communication, problem solving and by integrating health, transportation and land use planning.



PARTNERS

- Kane County
- Municipalities
- Park Districts
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Economic Development Agencies
- Forest Preserve
- Council of Mayors
- Townships
- Kane County Farm Bureau
- CMAP

PARTNER IDENTIFIED TOPICS

- Stalled developments
- Model ordinances for emerging issues
- Municipalities with no or overextended planning staff
- Inter-jurisdictional development policies and projects
- Exposure to Health Impact Assessments as a planning and policy assessment tool
- Availability of professional planning resources for municipal planning commissions



AWARDS



2014 ULI VISION AWARDS FINALIST



APA-IL 2013 "BEST PRACTICE" AWARD



APHA 2012 "POWER OF POLICY" AWARD



HEALTH DEPARTMENT FIVE-YEAR ACCREDITATION