# **COUNTY OF KANE**

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT PLANNING & SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION



County Government Center 719 Batavia Avenue Geneva, Illinois 60134 Phone: (630) 232-3480 Fax: (630) 232-3411

#### MEMORANDUM

December 6, 2024

TO: Keith Berkhout, Zoning Planner

FROM: Matt Tansley, Planner

- RE: Kane County Regional Planning Commission Recommendation for Stuckemeyer Petition for 2040 Land Use Amendment
- CC: Mark VanKerkhoff, Director; Natalie Zine, Zoning Planner

The Kane County Regional Planning Commission voted on December 5, 2024 to recommend the approval of a request by petitioner, Barbara Stuckemeyer, to amend the 2040 Land Use Map's designation of PIN: 04-35-400-012 from Countryside Estate / Residential to Rural Residential. Attached you will find a copy of the petition staff report, including the action recommended by the Commission (identified as Option A in the Considerations for Action section of the report).

Respectfully,

Matt Tansley, Planner

ATTACHMENTS: Stuckemeyer Staff Report\_FINAL

### **STAFF REPORT**

TO:	Kane County Regional Planning Commission
FROM:	Mark VanKerkhoff, AIA, Director of Development & Community Services
DATE:	December 5, 2024
RE:	Stuckemeyer Petition to Amend 2040 Land Use Map – PIN: 04-35-400-012; Burlington Township

#### **OVERVIEW**

The subject of this report is a petition to amend the 2040 Land Use Map for an approximately one-acre area of a parcel in Burlington Township that is planned for subdivision. (see **Exhibit 1** – Stuckemeyer Site Plan). The subject site is located on the west side of Thomas Road to the immediate southwest of the intersection with McDonald Road. The site is also located approximately 1.3 miles to the northeast of the Village of Virgil's corporate boundary. The petitioner and owner, Barbara Stuckemeyer, is requesting the land use amendment in conjunction with a petition to rezone the site area from F-District Farming to R-7 Two-Family Residential.

The owner has submitted an application to subdivide their property (PIN: 04-35-400-012) into two parcels sized approximately 1 acre (subject site) and 21 acres. The 1-acre subject site is residential in use while the remaining 21-acre area is agricultural (see **Exhibit 2** –Site Aerial Photos). The subject area consists of a duplex (or two-family unit) that was legally permitted at the time of construction. Prior to 1973, two-family units were a permitted use in areas of the county zoned for agricultural activities, which would make the residence an existing non-conforming use under the current application of the Kane County Zoning Ordinance. The site also includes an encroaching garage from the neighboring property to the north. The garage is presently being used by the current renters on the site, as well as the owner of the property to the north, who also owns the garage.

The Regional Planning Commission has been tasked with reviewing the petitioner's proposed land use change for consistency with the Kane County 2040 Plan and Land Use Map. The following Staff Report, prepared by Kane County Development and Community Services Department staff, provides the Regional Planning Commissioners with relevant background information, including the context of the subject area and the county's applicable long-range planning policies.

#### BACKGROUND

PURPOSE: Assess the proposed land use change from Countryside Estate Residential to Rural Residential.

LOCATION: The subject property is located on the west side of Thomas Road within the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 41 North, Range 6 East (Burlington Township).

ACREAGE: 1.0 (*existing lot = 22.2 acres*)

EXISTING LAND USE: The existing land use of the site area is residential, which includes a duplex and an encroaching garage. The larger area of the existing parcel is agricultural. The parcel is currently zoned F District-Farming (see **Exhibit 3** – Area Zoning Map).

FUTURE LAND USE: The 2040 Land Use Map indicates that the subject site resides in the Countryside / Estate Residential area, and the area west of the site and within the existing parcel is designated as Agriculture (see **Exhibit 4** – 2040 Land Use Maps).

SURROUNDING LAND USES: Adjoining properties to the northwest and west are zoned F-District Farming, with areas to the northeast, east, and south predominantly zoned for E-1 & E-2 Estate Districts. The 2040 Plan Map designates the area to the west of the subject site as agriculture, while the area to the north, south, and east of the site falls within the Countryside / Estate Residential area.

#### **STAFF REVIEW**

#### KANE COUNTY 2040 PLAN

The Kane County 2040 Land Use Map identifies the 1-acre subject site as within the Countryside / Estate Residential land use area. According to the Kane County 2040 Plan these areas are commonly "characterized by rolling, moraine hills separated by wetlands or small creeks and with large areas of woodlands and other native vegetation. These areas are often adjacent to existing low-density residential areas, may already have a limited degree of scattered, estate-type development, and sometimes include land used for equestrian activities or serve as a low-density transition to important agricultural and green infrastructure resources." The Plan goes on to recommend that low density criteria be applied "for future developments to preserve the character, wildlife base, and natural features of these areas." It is further recommended that the gross density of these areas should generally not exceed an average of one dwelling unit per four acres of land.

The subject site also falls within the western corridor of the County's Conceptual Land Use Strategy Map: the Agricultural / Food, Farm and Small Town Area (see **Exhibit 5** – Conceptual Land Use Strategy Map). The 2040 Plan establishes policy for this corridor which includes the protection of "productive farmland and the emergence of locally grown foods as a desirable goal." The Plan also recognizes the adopted plans of municipalities in the western corridor calling for the "protection of farmland through the preservation of their small town character."

The following objectives from applicable chapters of the 2040 Plan should be considered in issuing a recommendation for the subject site's land use designation:

#### Land Use and Built Environment:

*Objective 3*: To promote reinvestment in underutilized vacant properties, opportunities for compact, mixed-use development, and possibilities for suburban retrofits as preferred alternatives to new development that consumes more farmland and open space.

#### Housing:

*Objective 1*: To promote a balanced supply of housing types and prices countywide in order to meet the profound changes and shifts in the socio-demographic profile of Kane County residents.

*Objective 4*: To maintain and create a diverse and affordable housing stock in communities that have existing or planned infrastructure.

Objective 5: To encourage the removal of barriers in regulations that unnecessarily increase housing costs and discourage housing diversity.

*Objective 6*: To maintain, enhance, and create neighborhoods that are safe, free from environmental and public health hazards, provide a sense of community, and offer a choice of housing.

#### Agriculture: Food and Farm:

*Objective 1*: To protect farmland as a valuable natural resource and economically productive land use through land use policy in both municipal and County land use and transportation decisions.

*Objective 2*: To discourage projects that will have a detrimental impact on the preservation of agricultural lands and discourage the use of public funds for such projects.

#### **Open Space and Green Infrastructure:**

*Objective 2*: To continue the efforts in protecting the environment and restoring the unique and fragile environments associated with the geography of Kane County.

#### VILLAGE OF VIRGIL – PLANNING JURISDICTION

The subject site does fall within the Village of Virgil's mile and a half extra-territorial planning jurisdiction. According to Virgil's Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map (see **Exhibit 6** – Virgil Future Land Use Map), the subject site is located within the Agriculture / Open Space Area. The Plan further recognizes the importance of agriculture in the regional economy, with emphasis on the growth of niche agricultural activities including nurseys, greenhouses, floriculture, and sod production. The Plan also echoes Kane County's commitment to protecting farmland through agricultural conservation easements, preserving these lands from premature development.

No comments or concerns were received from Virgil Village Officials as of the publication of this report.

#### WATER RESOURCES

The parcel is currently working on recording a minor subdivision to divide the residential portion of the lot from the farming portion. The owner does not intend on any improvements to the residential lot, and the farm portion will continue to be farmed. They seek the separation so that the uses may be sold separately.

While no development is planned for any Development in the future as defined by the Kane County Stormwater Management Ordinance on the resulting R-7 and F parcels that singularly results in greater than 5,000 sq ft of new impervious area, or cumulatively (as of Jan 1, 2002) results in greater than 25,000 sq ft of new impervious area or 3 acres of disturbance, Stormwater Management Measures, as required by the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance, shall be provided.

#### **Regional Planning Commission Considerations for Action**

#### **RPC Recommendation Option A – Approval**

The following analyses may be considered for supporting the *approval* of the petitioner's request:

The petitioner's request to amend the 2040 Land Use category of the of the subject site from Countryside / Estate Residential to Rural Residential would bring the property into compliance with existing land use guidelines. At the time of its construction, the duplex on the site was permitted and built in compliance with Kane County's zoning and development requirements. Prior to 1973, two-family units were a permitted use on properties zoned for agricultural activity. Amending the Land Use Map and zoning of the subject site would alleviate a hardship associated with the eventual transfer of ownership of the property. The property has already been developed for residential use by way of the duplex, and the proposed subdivision and land use reclassification would not intensify or otherwise alter the current use of the property.

A similar determination was made by the Regional Planning Commission and County Board in 2017 to approve a land use amendment for a 4-acre property at the northwest corner of Factly Rd. and Engel Rd. in Hampshire Township (aka the Brettschneider petition). This site included multiple residential units on a single lot, including one duplex structure. The residential structures in this case were also constructed in compliance with existing land use requirements, but became non-conforming uses following subsequent updates to the County's land use plans and Zoning Ordinance. The 2040 Land Use Map was amended from Countryside / Estate Residential to Rural Residential to account for the existing use. This would enable the eventual rezoning and subdivision of the site. The remaining 21-acre portion of the lot proposed for subdivision cannot have any additional housing units constructed on it without rezoning. Once subdivided, the lot would fall below the 40-acre minimum threshold for the construction of a single-family residence on properties zoned for F-District Farming.

The Rural Residential land use designation is more closely aligned with the current use and proposed subdivision of the subject property. The Rural Residential land use is similar to Countryside Estate Residential in that it recognizes areas of lower density residential development patterns on lands that are not well suited for agricultural production (see **Exhibit 7** – 2040 Land Use Descriptions). But Rural Residential accommodates a higher density threshold of one-acre minimum lot sizes and gross density of roughly two acres per dwelling unit. Whereas Countryside / Estate Residential recommends that gross densities not exceed an average of one dwelling unit per four acres of land.

Also, the petitioner's proposal does not conflict with the County's Conceptual Land Use Strategy for the Agricultural / Food, Farm and Small Town Area. The Strategy emphasizes the importance of preserving productive agricultural lands and discourages the premature conversion of these lands to non-agricultural uses. The petitioner is not proposing to make improvements or changes to the subject site that would take prime farmland out of production. In this respect, the proposal also aligns with the desires of smaller villages in the western corridor to preserve their small town character. This is further reflected in the Village of Virgil's Future Land Use Map which identifies the subject site and neighboring properties as within the Agriculture / Open Space area.

<u>Potential Action</u>: To approve the petitioner's request to amend the Kane County 2040 Land Use Map's designation of the subject site to Rural Residential.

#### **RPC Recommendation Option B – Denial**

The following analyses may be considered for supporting the *denial* of the petitioner's request:

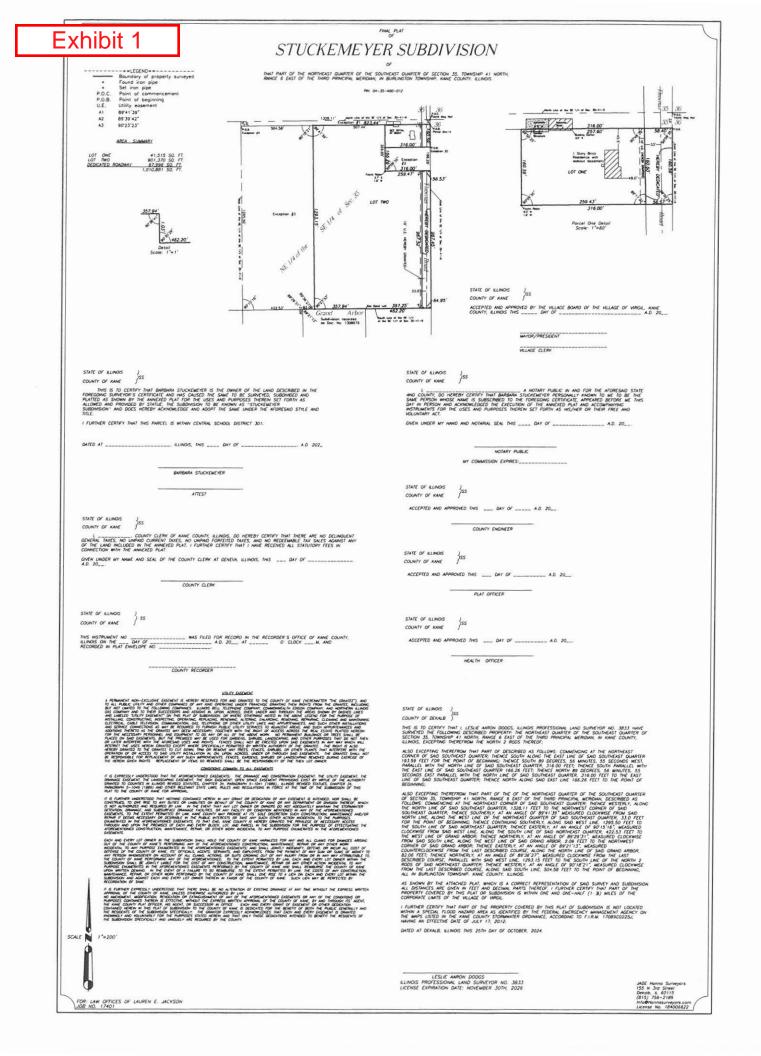
The proposed land use amendment for the subject site may be misaligned with recommendations of the Kane County 2040 Plan and 2040 Land Use Map, as well as the Village of Virgil's Future Land Use Map. The subject site falls within the Countryside / Estate Residential area of the 2040 Land Use Map. The 2040 Plan recommends the application of low-density criteria for these areas to preserve their character, wildlife base, and natural features.

The existing and continued use of the subject property may be misaligned with the Kane County 2040 Plan and 2040 Future land Use Map as well as the Village of Virgil's Future Land Use Map. The subject site falls within the Countryside / Estate Residential area of the 2040 Land Use Map. The 2040 Plan recommends the application of low-density criteria for these areas to preserve their character, wildlife base, and natural features. Once subdivided, the subject site's residential density will exceed the recommended one unit per four acres of land for this land use area. The Rural Residential land use is most commonly applied as an infill strategy to properties that are between and adjacent to other properties of the same classification.

<u>Potential Action</u>: To deny the petitioner's request to amend the Kane County 2040 Land Use Map's designation of the subject site to Rural Residential.

#### **Exhibits**

- 1. Stuckemeyer Site Plan
- 2. Site Aerial Photos
- 3. Zoning Map (site area)
- 4. 2040 Land Use Map (site area)
- 5. Conceptual Land Use Strategy
- 6. Virgil Future Land Use Map
- 7. 2040 Land Use Descriptions



### Stuckemeyer Property (8N486 Thomas Road - Hampshire Twp.)





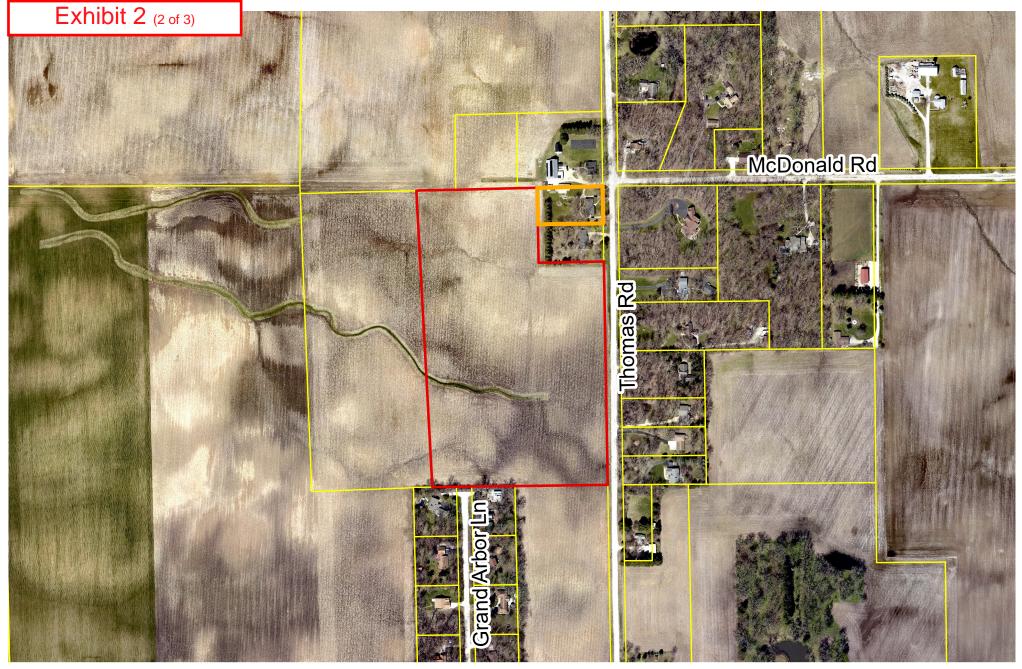
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Development and Community Services Department MTT - 11/24

## Stuckemeyer Property (8N486 Thomas Road - Hampshire Twp.)





Stuckeymeyer Subject Site Stuckeymeyer Existing Parcel 237.5 475

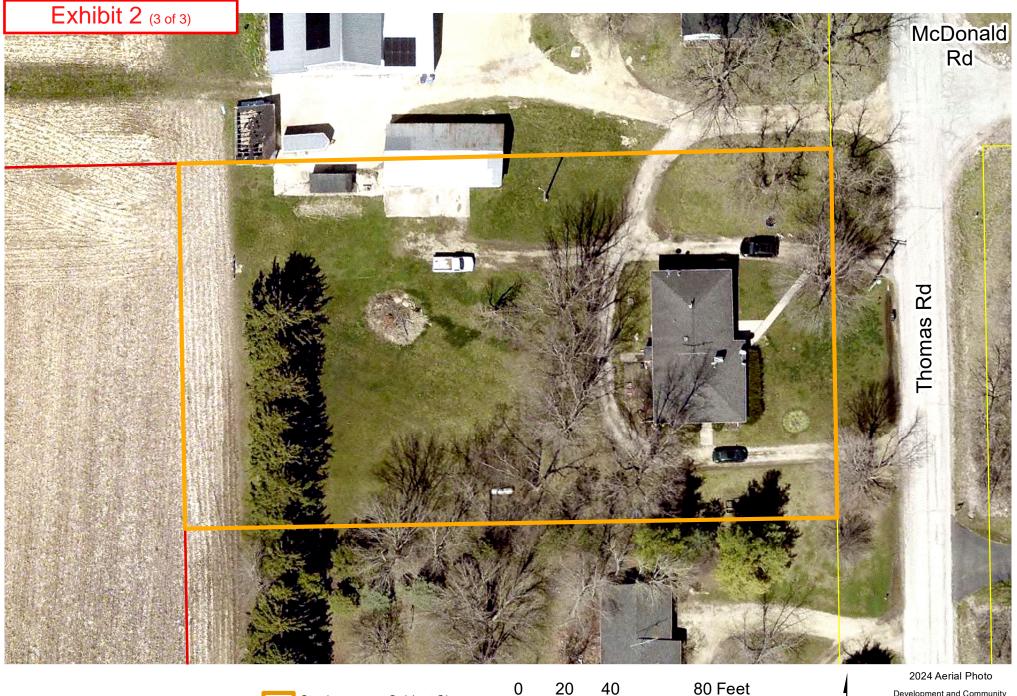
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950 Feet

2024 Aerial Photo

Development and Community Services Department MTT - 11/24

## Stuckemeyer Property (8N486 Thomas Road - Hampshire Twp.)

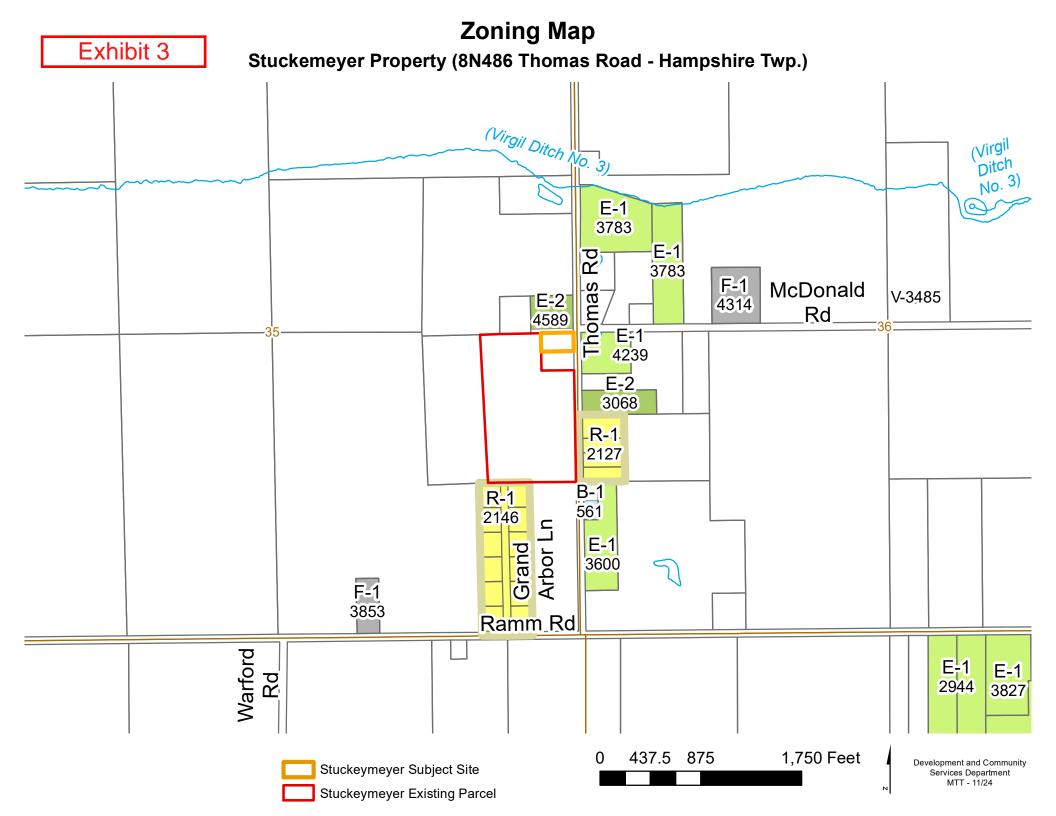




Stuckeymeyer Subject Site Stuckeymeyer Existing Parcel

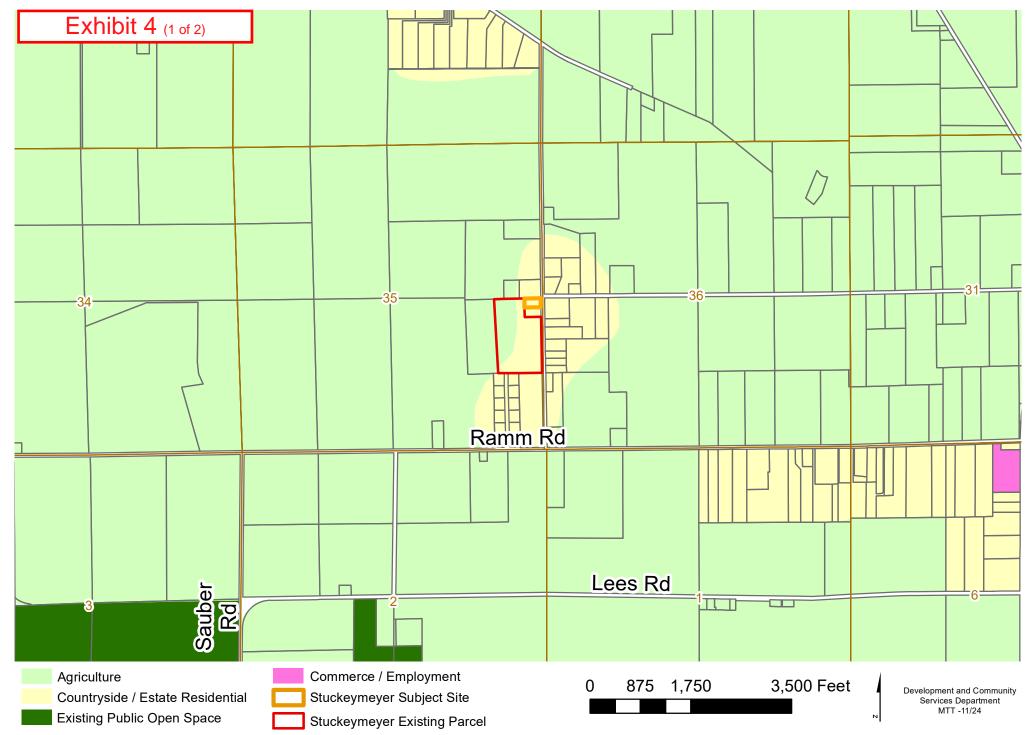


Development and Community Services Department MTT - 11/24



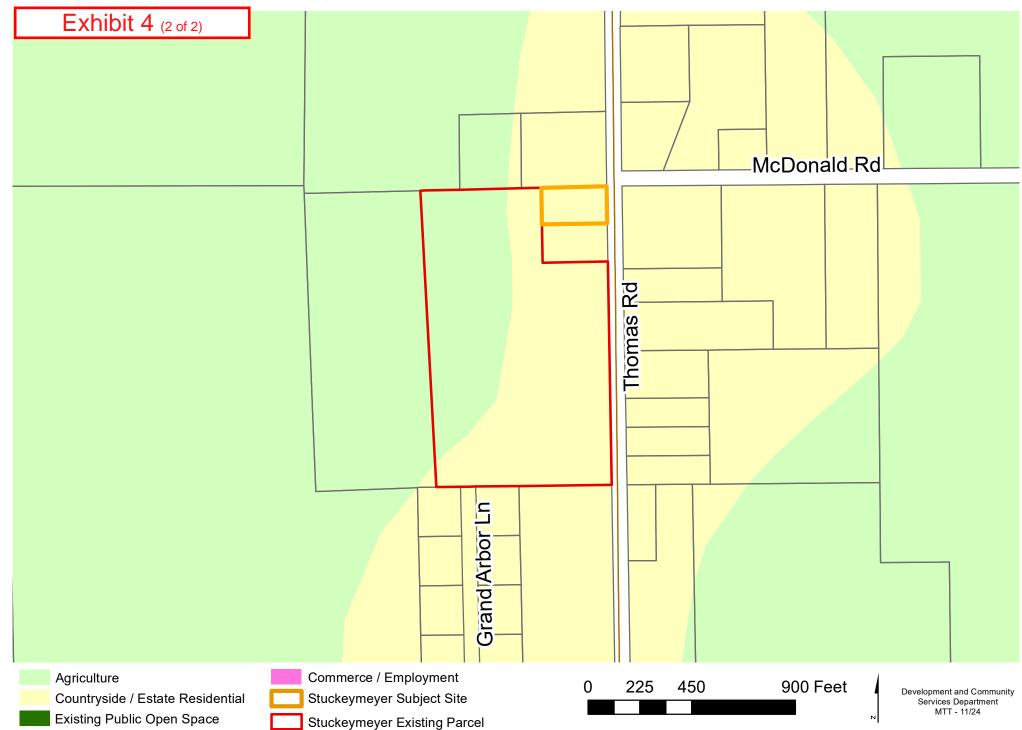
### 2040 Land Use Map

Stuckemeyer Property (8N486 Thomas Road - Hampshire Twp.)



### 2040 Land Use Map

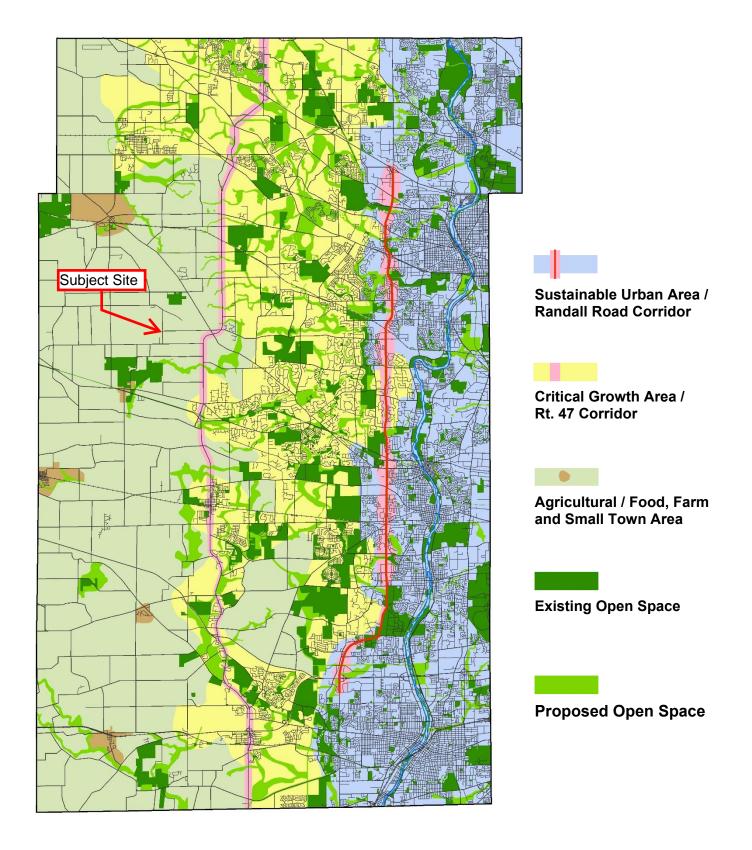
Stuckemeyer Property (8N486 Thomas Road - Hampshire Twp.)



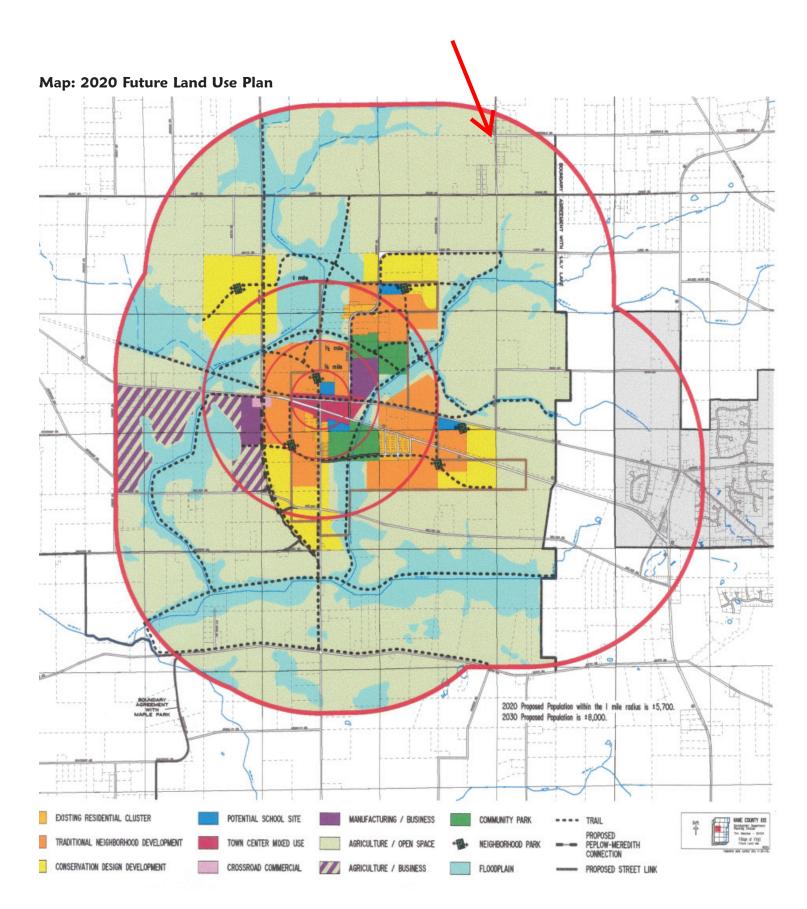


### 2040 CONCEPTUAL LAND USE STRATEGY MAP

Adopted October 12, 2010







#### **Countryside Estate Residential**

The areas indicated on the 2040 Land Use Map in this category are generally those which are characterized by rolling, moraine hills separated by wetlands or small creeks and with large areas of woodlands and other native vegetation. These areas are often adjacent to existing low-density residential areas, may already have a limited degree of scattered, estate-type development, and sometimes include land used for equestrian activities or serve as a low density transition to important agricultural and green infrastructure resources.

The plan recommends establishing low-density criteria for future developments to preserve the character, wildlife base, and natural features of these areas. The density and lot size of each individual development should be determined by the physical characteristics previously stated, the trend and character of development in the surrounding area, soil suitability for septic systems, and significant open space and green infrastructure preservation. The gross density should not generally exceed an average of one dwelling unit per four acres of land.

#### **Rural Residential**

Rural Residential areas designated on the map encourage an infill strategy between and adjacent to existing rural residential developments where prime agricultural lands will not be taken out of production. Extensive areas of rural Kane County have been approved for residential use with a one-acre minimum lot size and gross density of generally about two acres per dwelling unit.

Densities of any new proposed subdivisions in the areas planned for rural residential development should be based on prevailing County standards and regulations, surrounding densities, soil suitability for septic systems, as well as preservation of natural features, preservation of healthy, native trees and the character of the area. County review of subdivision proposals in these areas should also consider the rate of development to ensure that it is consistent with the ability of the townships and other local taxing bodies to provide an adequate level of service to new residents.

#### **Resource Management**

Resource Management is a land use category that supports municipal and County compact, mixed use growth opportunities while emphasizing wise management of land and water resources. The Resource Management category applies primarily to land within the Critical Growth Area. Planned land uses within the Resource Management category can accomplish the goals of both municipal and County land use plans. It is important to emphasize that much of the growth in the Resource Management category will be the result of municipal