

## 1.5 2040 GOALS

### Introduction

The development of countywide **goals** begins with identifying shared **values**, which are then translated into **objectives** or more specific goals that serve as a guide for public policy and action. **Policies** then translate objectives into statements that set out standards and guidelines to inform decisions made by staff, Regional Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Kane County Board.

#### Values

Values are widely shared concepts of what is good. Examples of shared values commonly held by the residents of Kane County include a county:

- where residents enjoy the beautiful and scenic Fox River as part of their communities, as a clean drinkable water source, for the scenic biking and walking trails along the river, and other recreation activities, such as fishing or kayaking;
- where every resident can enjoy the benefits of the gently rolling countryside, fertile farmland, local farm products, a network of parks and Forest Preserves, and the scenic quality of the Midwest within a 10-15 minute drive from home;
- with a countywide biking and walking trail network that is second to none providing opportunities for exercise, transportation, and community connectivity;
- that has a sense of history from the preserved downtowns along the Fox River to the historic neighborhoods, small towns, rustic roads and centennial farms in the western townships;
- that has opportunities for healthy, active living and quality health care for all families;
- with strong neighborhoods to raise families with quality jobs and schools, ample parks and Park District programming; and
- with proximity to the world class City of Chicago with cultural, educational, and scientific opportunities, and accessibility to the regional and global center through a first class transportation network.

#### Goals

Goals are an expression of values; they provide policy direction towards a final objective. Goals may not be specific but yet provide a means to measure the success of the desires of a community to maintain and improve the quality of life.

The 2040 Plan is based on the strong foundation provided by previously adopted plans and countywide goals contained within these plans. Adopted over 50 years ago, the five-point 1967 General Development Policy included countywide planning goals for employment, people, housing, environmental considerations and natural resources. Those original development goals were affirmed in 1976 with the adoption of the Kane County Planning and Development Policies and

the Generalized Land Use Plan and reaffirmed in the 1982 Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The countywide planning goals from 1967, 1976, and 1982 are:

- **Employment**  
Kane County's present position as an economically balanced community (employment equal to labor force) should be maintained.
- **People**  
All types of people should be able to live in Kane County so that a labor force with diversified skills and training is available.
- **Housing**  
Housing of all sizes, types and prices should be available.
- **Environmental Considerations**  
Every person has the right to live and work in an attractive and healthful environment.
- **Natural Resources**  
All development decisions should consider the conservation and wise use of the soil, air, water resources and the natural environment of Kane County.

In 1993 the Kane County Regional Planning Commission reviewed the growth and development occurring across Kane County and expanded the countywide planning goals to include agricultural preservation, historic preservation, transportation and cooperative planning for the unanimously adopted and highly successful 2020 Land Resource Management Plan.

Those four additional goals are:

- **Agricultural Preservation**  
Support the conservation, protection, development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products.
- **Historic Preservation**  
Support the conservation, protection, development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products.
- **Transportation**  
Provide safe, efficient transportation systems that provide mobility choices and that are compatible with mixed land use patterns.

- **Cooperative Planning**

Work with the various jurisdictions located within Kane County to achieve a shared community vision.

The subsequent 2030 Land Resource Management Plan, adopted in 2004, added a tenth goal to address population distribution and land use consumption at a time of unprecedented population growth and community development projected for the next 25 years.

- **Land Use**

Work with the municipalities to ensure that 50% of the area of Kane County is in agriculture and open space land uses by 2030.

In preparing the 2040 Plan and reviewing the 10 planning goals that had evolved over 50 years, there was consensus among the Regional Planning Commission that the countywide planning goals had served a valuable purpose that needed to be revised, updated and modernized for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition, the Commission's 2040 Conceptual Land Use Strategy report, adopted by the Kane County Board on August of 2010 addressed issues such as economic prosperity, jobs in a global economy, public health and active living/healthy eating, mobility and connectivity, sustainability and energy and other topics that needed to be more adequately articulated and more finely focused in order to effectively communicate to current and future residents of Kane County. Accordingly, 10 updated countywide planning goals, based on the previous plans but geared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, were prepared by the Commission for the 2040 Plan.

The 2040 Countywide Planning Goals are:

- **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.

### **Objectives**

Objectives are the means to achieve stated goals. They are specific statements of purpose serving as a guide for public policy and action.

Although they are general in nature, these ten goals can be achieved through the more specific statements of purpose, the objectives, identified for the County in the Planning Issues section of the 2040 Plan. These Planning Issues are: Introduction: Healthy People, Healthy Living, Healthy Communities, Land Use and Built Environment, Mobility and Connectivity, Community Health, Housing, Agriculture: Food and Farm, Open Space and Green Infrastructure, Water Resources, Sustainability and Energy, Historic Preservation, and Economic Prosperity.

## **Policies**

Policies translate objectives into useful and understandable decision guidelines. Policies are to be fully considered and evaluated when allocating resources, making public improvements, directing growth and reviewing development proposals.

Similarly, these ten goals can be achieved through the more specific policies, the decision guidelines, identified for the County in the ten Planning Issues sections of the 2040 Plan.

The attainment of the 2040 Plan goals is a long-term process. As Kane County grows and develops, the **values, goals, objectives and policies** of its citizens and elected officials may evolve. The 2040 Plan will be reviewed every 5 years, with citizen input, in the light of changing demographics, changes in state or federal policies, major infrastructure improvements, major shifts in the regional employment base, public policy decisions and economic and employment activities. At that time, the Regional Planning Commission and elected officials of Kane County will revise the 2040 Plan as appropriate.

