



## INTRODUCTION

This *Existing Conditions and Trends Report* provides a baseline of information regarding existing conditions and land use trends in Champaign County. This forms the foundation and frame of reference for developing the County's Land Resource Management Plan, namely:

- establishing a land use policy framework to guide County Board decisions related to land resources and land use;
- creating a future land use map; and
- identifying potential and measurable means of implementing the recommended policy framework and future land use plan.

### **Data Collection and Analyses**

This report is largely based on existing reports, publications, information and data that is available from the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission library collection, local libraries, or online from official webpages of state agencies, local organizations and other governmental entities.

Additional data collection occurred within the time and budget constraints of the project. This consisted of providing updated information regarding available public services and facilities; compiling historic County zoning use permit data related to residential development; and identifying specific land uses and features related to agricultural infrastructure and cultural resources.

### **Data Mapping**

#### ***Champaign County GIS Consortium***

Except as otherwise noted, maps contained within this report were prepared by the Champaign County GIS Consortium (CCGIS) for the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC). CCGIS is a program of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, formed in September of 2002 in order to secure the benefits of data collection and analysis at the countywide scale and to share the cost of implementation, maintenance, and data acquisition.

#### ***Map Disclaimer***

The maps contained within this report that were prepared by the CCGIS use the best available data. These maps and underlying data are intended to be used as a general index to land-related information and for general planning purposes only. The CCGIS and RPC do not warranty or guarantee the accuracy of mapped information for any purpose.

## Report Overview

**Chapters 1 through 3** provide background information regarding land use planning in Champaign County; the County's decision to develop a Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP), a description of the project scope and process used to develop the County LRMP; an overview of existing land use plans and policies within the County, and an explanation of the inputs used to define the LRMP planning area.

**Chapter 4** contains regional demographic, employment and economic data relevant to land use and resource management. Decennial census data was used for demographics because of its low margin of error.

**Chapters 5 through 11** provide descriptions and maps of environmental and man-made infrastructure. Topics include required elements of the LRMP, descriptions of parks and recreation systems, energy infrastructure, and public facilities and services.

**Chapter 12** contains a description of existing generalized land use, both on a countywide basis and at the individual township level. Countywide and township maps portray generalized land uses and selected existing environmental conditions.

**Chapter 13**, as a conclusion to this report, identifies key themes presented in Chapters 1 through 12 and highlights conditions and trends in the County. This chapter suggests relationships between key conditions which may result in conflict or synergy.