

Champaign County Indicators

our future. Here



Collaborative

- County Identity
- Tolerant Community
- Strategic Thinking
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Efficient Public Services
- Participatory Government
- Representative Government
- Town & Gown Relationship
- Countywide Transportation Planning

Prosperous

- Business Climate
- New Business Growth
- Technology Infrastructure
- Workforce Development
- Air Service
- Locally Grown Food

Sustainable

- Urban Growth and Farmland Preservation
- Parks and Natural Areas
- Groundwater Supply
- Energy Use
- Waste Reduction
- Alternative Transportation
- Mixed Use Development
- Urban Redevelopment

Supportive

- Health and Well-being
- Health Care Access
- Access to Services
- A Safe Community
- Affordable Housing
- Accessible Housing

Enriching

- Funding Quality Education
- Alternative Education
- Arts Education
- Regional Arts Center
- Access to Open Space
- Open Access for Recreation



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY INDICATORS

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BACKGROUND

The Champaign County Indicators are the fulfillment of an objective created in the 2007 Champaign County Vision entitled **our future. here.** In order to achieve a level of strategic thinking, where organizations, businesses and governments in Champaign County will have a clear sense of being and sense of place in Champaign County, we need to know our position on a variety of issues. To this end, a set of indicators was proposed that relate to all objectives presented in the vision.

METHODOLOGY

The vision includes objectives, statements that explain the vision, and a series of actions that can help the community begin to turn the vision into a reality. All information in the vision was used in an effort to refine the robust objectives into representative and measurable themes. Many objectives were written to encompass more than one subject and would need more than one indicator. In the majority of these instances, one topic was chosen in an attempt to simplify the objective while still measuring the overall intent.

Not every desirable indicator has readily accessible data. In several of these cases, an effective indicator can be created by use of a community opinion survey or by periodic surveys of community opinion leaders. A community survey as well as a Business, Organization, and Government (BOG) Survey would allow procurement of very specific information relating directly to objectives that would otherwise be difficult to measure.

The process of defining indicators required research, trial and error and subjective decision making. A collection of other indicator projects was referenced including The Boston Indicator Project, Sustainable Pittsburgh, and Sustainable Seattle, among others.



An indicator is

a data series that measures an issue of concern. A good indicator is easily measurable, updated frequently, and is presentable in an easily understood manner.



CRITERIA FOR EFFECTIVE INDICATORS

Selecting effective measures is a critical step in the development of a set of community indicators. In this project, a list of community objectives was used to establish the framework of issues that would be measured. Some of these objectives are not directly measurable or refer to singular actions that cannot be measured over time. In these instances, related data is used or a set of priority actions are suggested as proxies.

Once an indicator or group of indicators is selected, criteria are used to determine the effectiveness of the measures. This project considered eight criteria to determine the effectiveness of the measures:

- Relevance
- Reflects Community Values
- Attractive to local media
- Statistically measurable
- Logically or scientifically defensible
- Reliable
- Provides for time to act
- Policy relevant

Very few indicators fit within all criteria; however, most meet the majority of criteria selected. A number of indicators are shown as potentially meeting criteria. This rating is given to criteria for indicators where data sources are currently under development or there is some uncertainty about the data at this time.

Objectives	Indicator	Relevance: Tells us something we need to know	Reflects Community Values	Attractive to local media	Statistically measurable	Logically or scientifically defensible	Reliable	Indicator provides for time to act	Policy relevant
Collaborative									
County Identity	Sense of Community Index						Potentially meets criteria		
A Tolerant Community	Social Capital Index						Potentially meets criteria		
Strategic Thinking Intergovernment Cooperation	Strategic Thinking Index						Potentially meets criteria		
Efficient Public Services	Cooperation Index						Potentially meets criteria		
Participatory Government	Data Envelop Analysis (DEA)						Potentially meets criteria		Meets criteria
Representative Government	Voter Participation Index						Potentially meets criteria		
Town & Gown Relationship	Community Representation Index						Potentially meets criteria		
Countywide	Community and Higher Education Index						Potentially meets criteria		
Transportation Planning	Steps Taken Towards County Transportation Plan						Potentially meets criteria		Meets criteria
Prosperous									
Business Climate	Reputation for Business Climate								Meets criteria
	Small Business Firm Growth Index & Small Business Payroll								
New Business Growth	Growth Index								
Technology Infrastructure	Index of Employment in Technology Related Sectors								
Workforce Development	Median Wage Index								Meets criteria
Air Service	Share of Annual Regional Enplanements								
Locally Grown Food	Number of Grower Vendors at Urbana Market at the Square								
Sustainable									
Urban Growth and Farmland Preservation	Average Annual Acres of Farmland Converted								
Parks and Natural Areas	Acreeage of Parks and Natural Areas								
Groundwater supply	Steps Taken towards Protecting Groundwater Supply								
Energy Use	County Energy Consumption								
Waste Reduction	Standard Ton of Waste to Landfill and Recycling								
Alternative Transportation	Commuter Mode Split								
Mixed Use Development	Functional Mixed Use								
Urban Redevelopment	TIF Expenditures								
Supportive									
Health and Well-Being	Index of Key Health Measures								
Healthcare Access	Population with Health Care Coverage								
Access to Services	Access to Services Index								
A Safe Community	Reported crimes per 1,000 population								
Affordable Housing	Housing Affordability Factors								
Accessible Housing	Number of Accessible Units								
Enriching									
Funding Quality Education	Public Education Revenue Sources & Instructional Expenditure by District								
Alternative Education	Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment								
Arts Education	Arts Education Index								
Regional Arts Center	Value of In-Kind Contributions to Non-profit Arts Agencies					Potentially meets criteria			
Access to Open Space	Access to Open Space								
Open Access for Recreation	Number of Shared Use Agreements								



COMPARISON COMMUNITIES

A list of communities was selected for comparison purposes with the identified indicators. The communities were selected based primarily on economic and demographic criteria of relevance to Champaign County's unique physical landscape of high quality agricultural land. Location, size, public sector employment, student population, industry/occupation, and measures of social capital were used to determine the following list. For information about these communities and why they were selected, see Appendix A - Community Comparison White Page.

COMPARISON COMMUNITIES

- Bloomington, Indiana
- West Lafayette, Indiana
- Iowa City, Iowa
- Columbia, Missouri
- Kalamazoo, Michigan
- Lawrence, Kansas
- State College, Pennsylvania
- Bloomington/Normal, Illinois

EXPLANATION OF REPORT FORMAT

The report is formatted with the desired objective and a summary of the current status listed at the top of the page. The **Indicator** names the measure used and the **Trend** provides an interpretation of the data that is used. The **Type** of indicator is classified as Upstream (Why is this happening?), Status (What is happening?), and Downstream (Why is this important?). Other information like scale, frequency of the data, and data source are listed here. **The Concept** rationalizes the indicator, providing background to subjective decisions that were made in choosing a specific indicator. The **Community Vision** (shown in *italics*) is reproduced from language produced in our future. here. a vision for Champaign County. This provides greater context for the objective and selected indicator.



OBJECTIVE 1.1: COUNTY IDENTITY

STATUS: UNDER REVIEW

The residents of Champaign County will have a strong sense of being a part of a single community with shared values and common interests.

Indicator:

Sense of Community Index¹

Trend:

Speculatively, Champaign County communities have strong, but independent identities.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennially

Positive Indication: See survey

Source: Community Survey

The Concept: A commonly shared identity provides the momentum to accomplish community goals. Achieving this objective requires widespread community involvement in an organized vision. Participation in initiatives related to the Champaign County Vision shows community action and common interest.

Community Vision: *The objectives identified in the county vision require effective, concerted action, which can only come about with unity of purpose. Unity of purpose can be developed and maintained with a stronger sense of mutual interests, shared values, and education.*

Survey Instrument:

“Sense of Community is a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members’ needs will be met through their commitment to be together.” (McMillan & Chavis 1986)

The Sense of Community Index¹ is a qualitative measure of the sense of community and has been used across many different cultures in the Americas, Asia and the Middle East as well as in a variety of contexts including urban, rural, universities, and internet communities. The index uses measurements developed on an understanding of the theory by Mcmillan and Chavis (as written above). The measures encompass four elements of community including, membership, influence, meeting needs, and a shared emotional connection. For the survey instrument and scoring requirements, See Appendix B - Sense of Community Index 2.

Source:

¹ Chavis, D.M., Lee, K.S., & Acosta J.D. (2008). The Sense of Community (SCI) Revised: The Reliability and Validity of the SCI-2. Paper presented at the 2nd International Community Psychology Conference, Lisboa, Portugal.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: TOLERANT COMMUNITY**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Champaign County will be a model of tolerance, harmony, and respect for racial, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity.

Indicator:

Social Capital Index

Trend:

Speculatively, Champaign County is achieving its goal as a tolerant community.

Type: Upstream

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication: See survey

Source: Community Survey

The Concept: The premise of social capital is the benefit created by trust, reciprocity, information, and cooperation. These elements flow through communities in forms like neighborhood watch groups, barn raising events, and cancer support groups. The idea of social capital is divided into two parts, knowing people (social networks), and the beneficial actions taken by networks (norms of reciprocity). These two parts are measured through the Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey.

Community Vision: *Relations between different racial, ethnic and religious groups have been a challenge historically and remain so today. Moving the entire community forward on key initiatives with a concerted and unified purpose requires that all persons feel included and valued in the community.*

Survey Instrument: The short form survey on Social Capital was developed to provide smaller communities, non profits and financially strapped organizations with the ability to field a social capital survey in conjunction with other surveys or as a financially feasible stand-alone survey. This instrument is particularly useful because it provides a rough comparison to the 2000 Social Capital Benchmark Survey¹ and other surveys that use this instrument and similar survey techniques. For more information about Social Capital and its use as a Champaign County indicator, See Appendix C - Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey Short Form.

Source:

¹ Saguaro Seminar (2002). Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey short form. Retrieved 3/10/2009 from Harvard Saguaro Seminar Web site: <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/saguaro/measurement.htm#shortform>.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: STRATEGIC THINKING**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Organizations, businesses and governments in Champaign County will have a clear sense of their place at the state, national and global scale, and of the ways that global trends and conditions affect their immediate and long term prospects.

Indicator:

Strategic Thinking Index

Trend:

Speculatively, BOG's in Champaign County have a sense of place and diligently respond to national and global issues.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication: See Survey

Source: Leadership Survey (B.O.G.)

The Concept: Strategic thinking is not a readily measurable objective. Community leaders such as city council members, business owners, and community organizations have a distinct knowledge of the community, where it currently stands, and where it is going. A Business, Organization, and Government (BOG) survey will allow us to assess local perceptions of strategic thinking.

Community Vision: *We live in a challenging, fast-paced world. This dynamic requires a much greater understanding of the current conditions and trends and the interconnections between Champaign County, the region, and beyond.*

Survey Instrument: No simple measure of strategic thinking exists. The Leadership Survey has been developed to use the knowledge and general information that community leaders may have. For the survey instrument please see Appendix D - Leadership Survey.

OBJECTIVE 1.4: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Champaign County will be a place where intergovernmental cooperation is actively undertaken by all units of government.

Indicator:

Cooperation Index

Trend

Speculatively, governments are cooperating.

Type: Downstream

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication: More/better cooperation that benefits the public

Source: Leadership Survey (B.O.G.)

The Concept: Cooperation rarely has concrete or definable evidence. Cooperation can occur in meetings, correspondences and general understandings. Community and business leaders have an overt understanding of relationships and opportunities for cooperation. Surveying a sample of this group will provide pertinent information about success and failure in intergovernmental cooperation.

Community Vision: *Champaign County has many independent governmental units with overlapping jurisdictions. Moving forward on any specific initiative usually requires consensus from numerous local taxing districts that coordinate and implement public policy, planning and appropriation of resources. More efficient, effective, and coordinated delivery of public services likely reduces public expenditure.*

Survey Instrument: No simple measure of cooperation exists. Opportunities for cooperation occur regularly, however a conscientious effort is required to fully realize intergovernmental cooperation. Judgements are to a large extent, subjective. The Leadership Survey has been developed to use community leaders' knowledge and perceptions of cooperation. For the survey instrument, please see Appendix D - Leadership Survey.

OBJECTIVE 1.5: EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Duplicative services will be substantially eliminated and all appropriate opportunities for sharing or consolidating government responsibilities will be implemented.

Indicator:

Data Envelop Analysis (DEA)¹

Trend:

Speculatively, public services are efficiently provided. Opportunities for consolidation may be present.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Local Government

Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: See Survey

Source: Government DEA Survey Form

The Concept: Data Envelopment Analysis is a non-statistical efficiency measure for public service output for each unit of input compared to other agencies. The analysis does not produce a frontier or ultimate point of efficiency. It simply compares relative efficiency of service against the most efficient service provided.

Community Vision: *More effective and efficient governmental services should translate into improved government and lower costs. Fewer independent entities will make it easier for citizens to understand the authority and responsibilities of the governments that serve them. In other regions, fewer governmental units provide the same range of services, which may create a potentially significant competitive disadvantage for the county.*

Survey Instrument: See Appendix E - Government DEA Survey form for details about required information and the statistical analysis used.

Comment about the Data: This is potentially a data intensive calculation and therefore a relatively time consuming and expensive indicator.

Source:

¹ Moore, Adrian, Nolan, James, Segal, Geoffrey. 2003. Putting out the trash: measuring municipal service efficiency in U.S. cities. Reason Public Policy Institute

OBJECTIVE 1.6: PARTICIPATORY GOVERNMENT

STATUS: GREATER RATE OF PARTICIPATION THAN STATE

A significant proportion of the citizenry, of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds, will be actively engaged in local elections and in government decision-making and action.

Indicator:

Voter Participation Index

Trend:

Local voter participation is greater than State voter participation.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennial

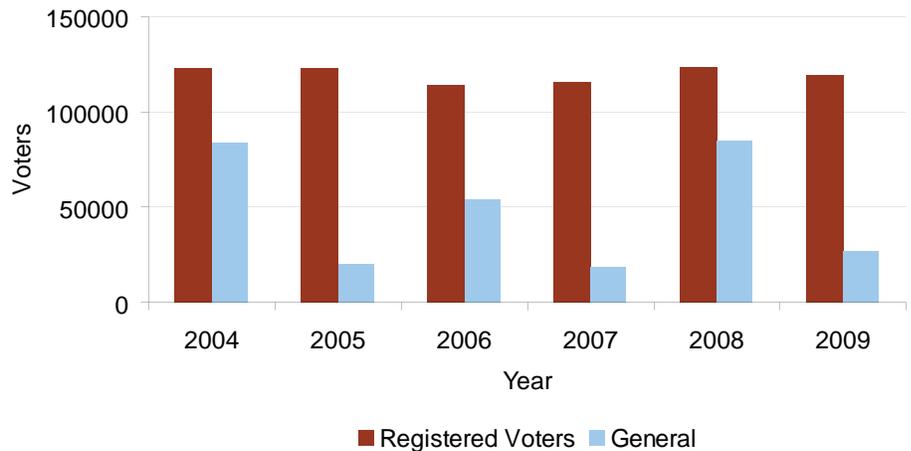
Positive Indication: Increasing voter participation rates

Source: Champaign County Clerk

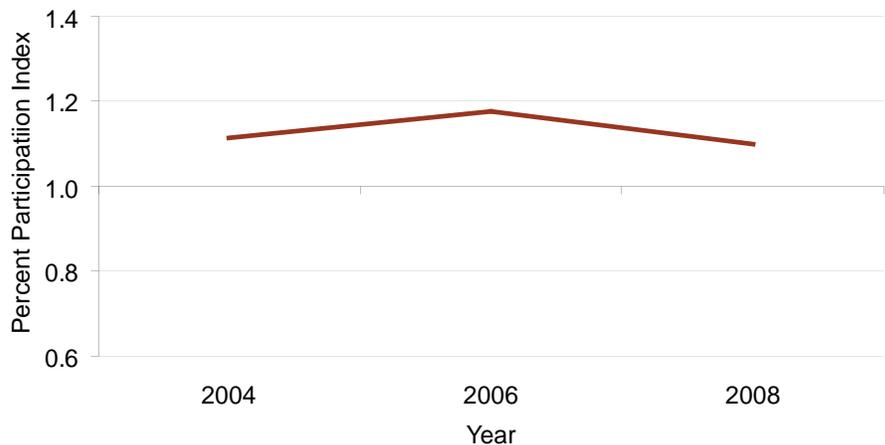
The Concept: Voting is one predominant method by which the public can participate in government. Records are maintained and publicly available making this an ideal and easy indicator to use. Comparison between years is difficult due to the varied races on the ballot and jurisdictions involved. The most appropriate comparison can be made for U.S. Presidential election years, and then the alternate four year interval. The alternate four year provides information about participation in local politics that may get lost in higher turnout rates for the national races. The participation index compares voting rates from Champaign County and the State of Illinois. An index value of greater than 1.0 indicates greater participation in Champaign County than the State Average.

Community Vision: A more involved citizenry ensures more responsive government and more effective policy. This is especially true today, since it is difficult to understand and navigate local governments, many of which have overlapping jurisdictions and responsibilities.

Local Voter Participation in Consolidated and General Elections



Voter Participation Index in General Elections
Champaign County and State of Illinois



OBJECTIVE 1.7: REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

STATUS: UNDER REVIEW

Citizen leaders will effectively represent all segments of the community.

Indicator:

Community Representation Index

Trend:

Speculatively, portions of the community are underrepresented.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication: See Survey

Source: Community Survey

The Concept: Representation in government has two interpretations. One is in regards to gender, race, age, and education. Another interpretation seeks to address potentially underrepresented portions of the population. In each instance, effective representation results in issues that are fairly and effectively communicated and understood throughout government. The survey questions address the local population's involvement, trust, and perceptions of their various levels of government.

Community Vision: *Good government requires appreciation of all perspectives in the community and sound decision-making. This requires that concerns be expressed effectively by persons who can speak credibly for constituent groups and who are also knowledgeable about government procedures, processes and issues. It also requires independent critical review of government processes.*

Survey Instrument: The short form survey on Social Capital¹ was developed to provide smaller communities, non profits and financially strapped organizations with the ability to field a social capital survey in conjunction with other surveys or as a financially feasible stand-alone survey. This instrument is particularly useful because it provides a rough comparison to the 2000 Social Capital Benchmark Survey and possibly other surveys that use this instrument and similar survey techniques. For more information about Social Capital and its use as a Champaign County indicator, See Appendix C - Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey short form.

Source:

¹ Saguaro Seminar (2002). Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey short form. Retrieved 3/10/2009 from Havard Saguaro Seminar Web site: <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/saguaro/measurement.htm#shortform>.

OBJECTIVE 1.8: TOWN & GOWN RELATIONSHIP**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Leadership of the University of Illinois and Parkland College will bring the knowledge, skill and energy of their institutions to all significant civic initiatives.

Indicator:

Community and Higher
Education Index

Trend:

Speculatively, closer relationships
would produce greater benefits.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication: See Survey

Source: Leadership Survey (B.O.G.)

The Concept: The relationship between a community and university may be significant, but often has no concrete or definable evidence. The relationship extends to participation in local governments, civic outreach, public engagement, and cooperation. Community and business leaders have an overt understanding of relationships and opportunities for cooperation. Surveying a sample of this group will provide pertinent information about the town / gown relationship.

Community Vision: *Our institutions of higher learning are among the best in the nation and a unique source of specialized knowledge and expertise. At the same time, they are very important employers in highly competitive industries and have a special stake in the well being and competitiveness of the community. It is crucial to leverage their substantial resources and address their concerns as we make decisions and undertake initiatives.*

Survey Instrument: No simple measure of the Town / Gown relationship exists. The Leadership Survey has been developed to use community leaders' knowledge and perceptions of this relationship. For the survey instrument, please see Appendix D - Leadership Survey.

OBJECTIVE 1.9: COUNTYWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Appropriate agencies will implement a coordinated county-wide transportation plan produced by a representative transportation planning program comparable to the Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS).

Indicator:

Steps Taken Towards County Transportation Plan

Trend:

Speculatively, transportation planning occurs primarily in the urbanized area of Champaign County and can be expanded county wide.

Type: Upstream

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication: Action steps taken

Source: CCRPC

Required Action Steps:

- Educate residents and leaders about a Countywide Transportation Plan
- Obtain commitment from all impacted communities
- Conduct a Countywide transportation study to research needs
- Extend Transportation Model

The Concept: Since the objective is essentially stated as a one time action, there is no data stream to measure progress. By identifying the steps required to achieve the action, we can monitor progress of single actions to achieve the objective. These actions are subjective and the steps will need to be updated.

Community Vision: *Present transportation planning efforts are tied to institutional structures with artificial boundaries. Travel and transportation questions extend throughout the county and need, therefore, to be coordinated on a county-wide basis. Demand for transportation quality and mode choice are countywide issues. An integrated planning system would ensure quality and comprehensiveness throughout the county.*

OBJECTIVE 2.1: BUSINESS CLIMATE

STATUS: IMPROVING BUT LESS FAVORABLE THAN COMPARISON COMMUNITIES

Champaign County will have a national reputation for its favorable business climate and support for local businesses.

Indicator:

Reputation for Business Climate

Trend:

Business climate is improving but falls below comparison communities.

Type: Status

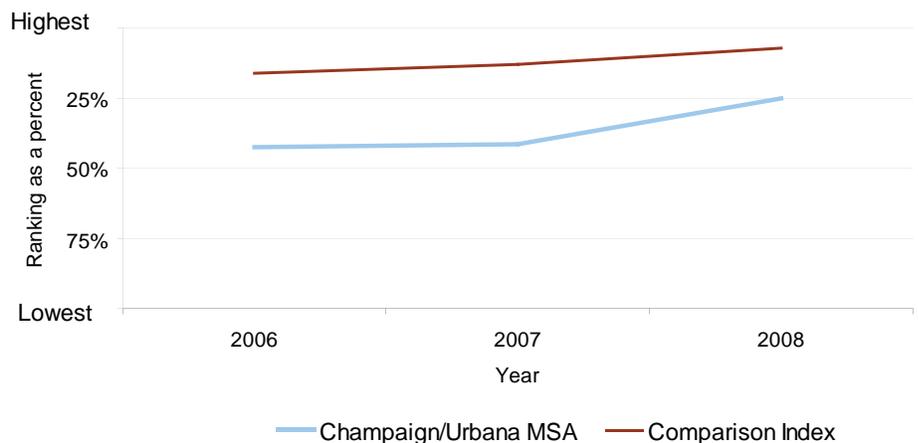
Geographic Scale: Metropolitan Statistical Area

Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: High Ranking

Source: Forbes Magazine

Reputation for Business Climate



The Concept: Forbes magazine has an established index that tracks a number of criteria related to business climate¹. The index allows localities to rank themselves among other communities across the nation against these criteria, revealing which aspects of business climate we can work on and in which we are leaders.

Measure/Method – Forbes Magazine uses 3 primary measures to determine business climate

1. Cost of doing business - Index based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space.
2. Job Growth - 5-year annualized figures.
3. Educational Attainment - Share of Population over age 25 with a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Community Vision: *Our institutions of higher learning are among the best in the nation and a unique source of specialized knowledge and expertise. At the same time they are very important employers in highly competitive industries and have a special stake in the well being and competitiveness of the community. It is crucial to leverage their substantial resources and address their concerns as we make decisions and undertake initiatives.*

Source:

¹ Forbes Magazine (2008). Best Places for Businesses and Careers, Smaller Metro Areas. Retrieved 3/10/2009 from Forbes Magazine Web site: http://www.forbes.com/2008/03/19/best-business-cities-biz-bestplaces08-cx_kb_0319places_land.html.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: NEW BUSINESS GROWTH

STATUS: DECLINE IN SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH, COMPETITIVE PAY FOR EMPLOYEES

The success rate of new businesses will increase significantly, and the earnings and employment in small businesses will keep pace with the overall growth of the county economy.

Indicator:

Small Business Firm Growth Index
Small Business Payroll Growth Index

Trend:

The rate at which small firms are establishing in Champaign County is decreasing. Annual payroll for small businesses is gradually meeting that of larger firms.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Metropolitan Statistical Area

Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: Stable or increasing growth trend.

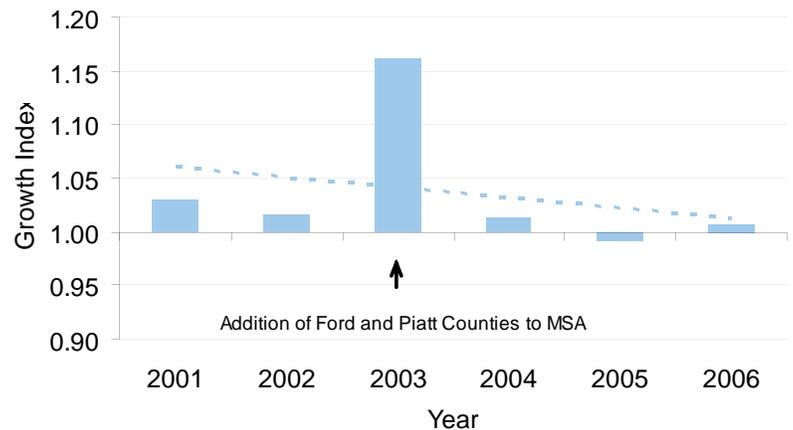
Source: Small Business Administration

The Concept: Two concepts are established in this objective: significant increase in business, and comparison of earnings and employment. The selected indicators focus on comparison of earnings and employment. Comparing large and small businesses requires a method of accounting for these differences. The index allows a simple comparison of change from one year to another, while excluding the differences in magnitude for number of establishments and employment.

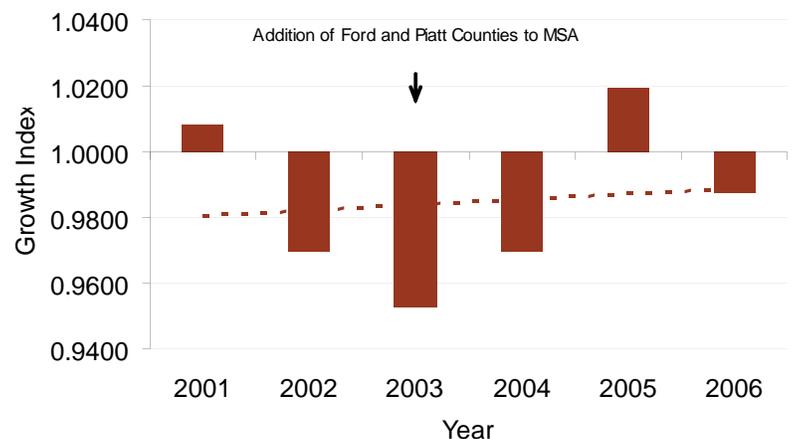
Community Vision: *New businesses generate a substantial part of overall employment growth and are the foundation for expansion of the county's economy into new areas of opportunity. Supporting minority-owned businesses is an important means to broaden economic wellbeing and community cohesion. Fostering new business is especially important with respect to commercializing innovations developed by the University of Illinois.*

Comment about the Data: The ratio used, measures similarity in change between small businesses (fewer than 500 employees) and large businesses (greater than 500 employees). Over time, this shows a comparative trend for business establishment and payroll.

Overall Small Business Growth Index



Small Business Payroll Growth Index



OBJECTIVE 2.3: TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE
STATUS: NOT CURRENTLY A LEADER

Champaign County will have technology infrastructure that places it among the leaders in the nation.

Indicator:

Index of Employment in Technology Related Sectors

Trend:

Sectors in Champaign County related to technology infrastructure are declining or matching sectors of comparison communities.

Type: Downstream

Geographic Scale: County

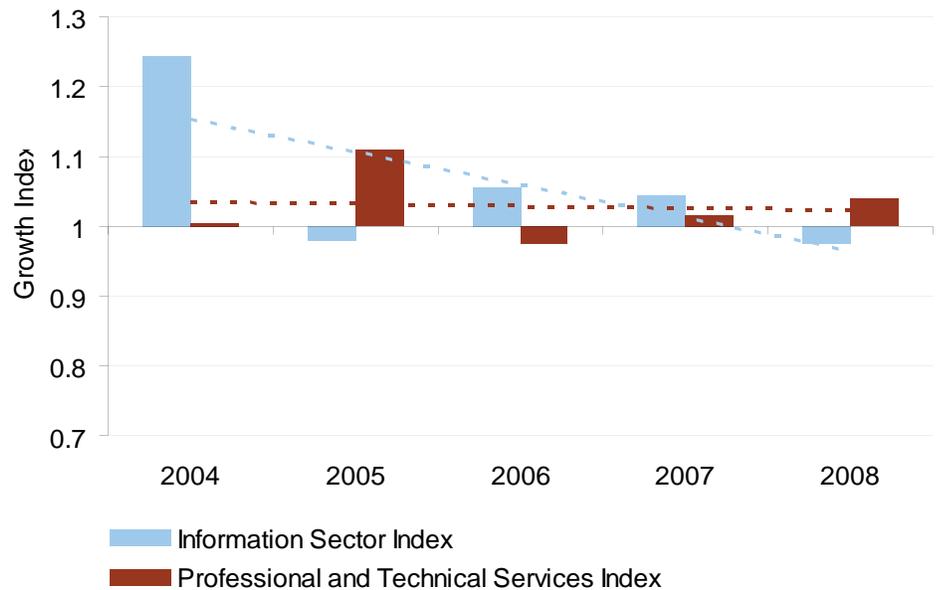
Frequency: Quarterly

Positive Indication: Increasing

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics

Comparison of Information and Professional and Technical Services Sector Growth

Champaign County and Comparison Communities



The Concept: Access to technology and technology services will allow business expansion and business establishment, resulting in new jobs in two important sectors. Information (NAICS - 51) includes Telecommunications and Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services; Professional and Technology (NAICS - 54) includes Computer Systems Design and Related Services; and Scientific Research and Development Services. These subsectors rely heavily on technology infrastructure, therefore growth would indicate a strong advantage in technology infrastructure.

Community Vision: *Fast, dependable, affordable broadband access to digital information is an increasingly important factor in retaining and attracting quality jobs and employment in Champaign County. National ranking of communities with the best technology infrastructure contribute to comparative data that individuals and businesses use to decide on where to locate and invest.*

Comment on the Data: Subsectors are included that may not directly depend on technology infrastructure. Further interpretation may be necessary to determine which subsectors are experiencing the greatest change and the extent of their reliance on technology infrastructure.

OBJECTIVE 2.4: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

STATUS: LOCAL WAGES ARE LESS THAN AVERAGE STATE WAGES

Champaign County will have a unified, comprehensive workforce development program that will increase the share of county employment in well-paying occupations and raise the median wage relative to the State.

Indicator:

Median Wage Index

Trend:

Speculatively, local wages are lower than State wages.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale:

Metropolitan Statistical Area

Frequency: Quarterly

Positive Indication: Greater number of occupation categories will have higher median wages than the State

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security

The Concept: The median wage index compares wages in Champaign County to the average wages in the State of Illinois. Index bars facing left show County wages are less than the State of Illinois. Index bars facing right show County wages that are greater than the State of Illinois. The length of the bar corresponds to the difference in wages.

Median Annual Wage Index by SOC Classification
Champaign MSA & State of Illinois - Qtr3 2008



Community Vision: *The overall economic well-being of the county and the breadth of economic opportunity are built on the well-being of individual families and the wages they earn. A local economy where growth is led by more well-paying, higher-skilled jobs will also generate a greater number of jobs at all skill levels.*

Comment on the Data: In 2008, for five of the twenty-three SOC classifications, Champaign MSA exceeds the State Median Wage. These are Health Care Practitioners, Health Care Support, Food Preparation and Service; Building and Grounds Cleaning; and Farming. Trend analysis in the future will use the average across all occupations (Total), but make notation of those that are greater in Champaign County.

OBJECTIVE 2.5: AIR SERVICE

STATUS: SHARE IS BELOW OTHER REGIONAL AIRPORTS

Champaign County will be the premier regional air service hub in Central Illinois.

Indicator:

Share of annual regional enplanements

Trend:

Holding a steady share of market, but below other regional airports.

Type: Status

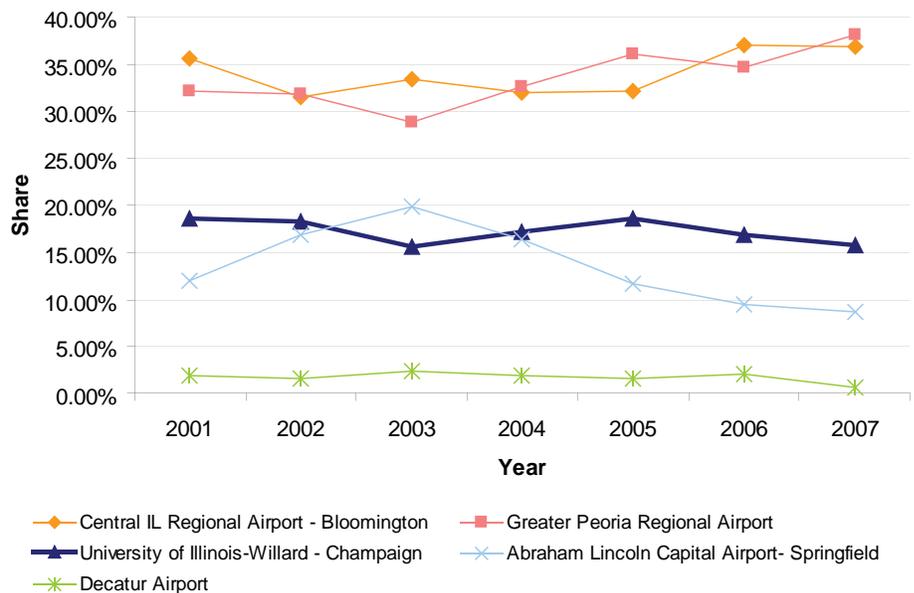
Geographic Scale: Central Illinois Region

Frequency: Annually in October

Positive Indication: Increasing share of enplanements

Source: Federal Aviation Administration

Market Share of Regional Enplanements in Central Illinois



The Concept: Regional air service is a complex model with many factors that are used to derive market share. These include population, service carriers, and destinations. The enplanement data is not normalized against one or more of these factors because of complex definitions and the significant impact that these definitions impose on calculations. Defining the region, market, overlap, and leakages pose too much subjectivity to provide an understandable measure. This indicator simply reports the share of regional flights that each airport provides as a measure of its rating. The Central Illinois region has five airports of medium size that are used for comparison.

Community Vision: *The actual and perceived availability of convenient passenger and freight air service is a key location criterion for many businesses. This is particularly true in the technology sector where the University of Illinois plays a key role. Air service is also important to existing enterprises and is a quality of life issue for many. Champaign County possesses facilities at Willard Airport, the Rantoul National Aviation Center, and Frasca Field that constitute important opportunities to expand passenger, freight and other air services.*

Comment on the Data: Currently, the premier regional air service hub is the Central Illinois Regional Airport in Bloomington-Normal. U of I Willard Airport has a significantly smaller share of enplanements compared to the Bloomington and Peoria airports.

OBJECTIVE 2.6: LOCALLY GROWN FOOD

STATUS: 34 GROWER VENDORS

A significantly increased share of the food consumed in Champaign County will be produced in the county.

Indicator:

Number of Grower Vendors at Urbana Market at the Square

Trend:

Speculatively, number is increasing.

Type: Status

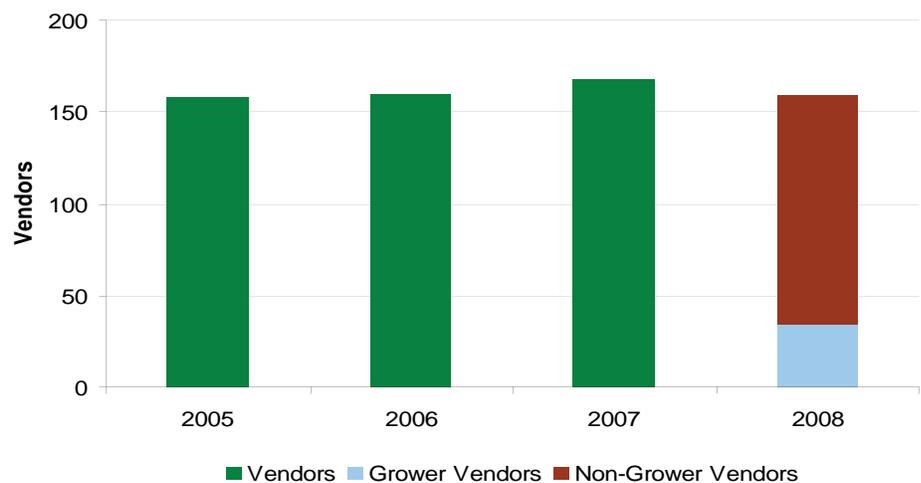
Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: Grower Vendors Increasing

Source: City of Urbana Market at the Square Annual Report

Urbana Market at the Square Vendors



The Concept: There are a variety of ways to obtain locally grown food including backyard gardens, community agriculture plots, Community Supported Agriculture, restaurants, and local food markets. The Urbana Market at the Square is one of the largest in the state and provides locally grown food to residents from the entirety of Champaign County. The number of vendors who grow food to sell at the market represents a portion of the food grown in the County. As this amount increases, it is likely that more vendors will sign up to sell their goods to residents of Champaign County. Determining the share of food consumed in Champaign County that is 'local' is not yet feasible.

Community Vision: *The desire to support local farmers and food processors as well as the growing interest in organic and healthier foods creates opportunities to promote local farms and businesses which could result in economic health and environmental benefits in the community.*

Comment on the Data: Many residents have backyard gardens, are members of Community Supported Agriculture plots, or buy local foods at stores that supply local foods. Farmers markets are also located in a number of communities in Champaign County. Urbana's Market at the Square is an appropriate measure of locally grown food because it reaches a large number of county residents, and consistently records data. This data substitutes the term 'local food' for food grown in Champaign County since some grower vendors come from outside of Champaign County. In the future, more comprehensive measures will likely replace this indicator and potentially provide for determining the share of food consumed and produced specifically within Champaign County.



OBJECTIVE 3.1: URBAN GROWTH & FARMLAND PRESERVATION
STATUS: TWO ACRES CONVERTED FOR EVERY NEW RESIDENT

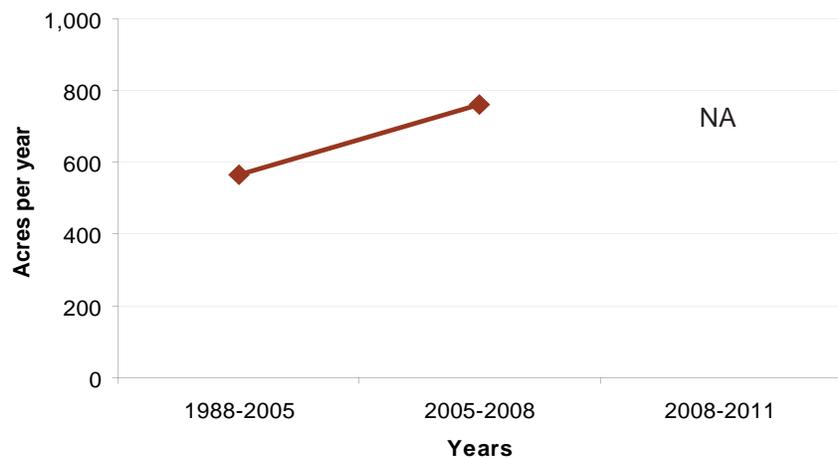
Urban Growth and Farmland Preservation - By 2030 a significantly larger share of new development will be built at higher densities and will be contiguous to or within existing built-up areas.

Indicator: Average Annual Acres of Farmland Converted

Trend:
 Speculatively, the annual average conversion of farmland increased.

Type: Status
Geographic Scale: Countywide
Frequency: Triennially
Positive Indication: Decrease in acres consumed annually.
Source: CCGISC

Average Annual Acres of Farmland Converted



The Concept: Two criterion are used for determining whether farmland has been converted. First, if the ownership of the land was changed such that commercial agriculture was no longer viable on the site. For example, land acquired by the Champaign County Forest Preserve District is considered to be converted even if little physical change had taken place. Second, land was deemed converted when the aerial photograph showed a relatively undisturbed area in 1988 that in 2005 showed disturbance that would:

- a) destroy or substantially impair the soils on the site so as to foreclose future row crop agriculture; or
- b) the natural qualities of the site, including soils, were disturbed to the point that the ecological processes on the site were significantly diminished.

Community Vision: *Outward urban growth can be a source of increasing service cost, increasing infrastructure cost, and increasing transportation costs. This occurs when urban amenities are forced outwards linearly rather than maximizing the amount of area developed and minimizing the perimeter of the development. This cannot occur uniformly due to physical limitations, boundaries, and numerous other reasons, however compact and contiguous development patterns are one solution to suburban type sprawl. Increasing infill and high density development allows municipal expansion without pressuring the outer municipal limits and converting farmland.*

Comment on the Data: Between 1988 and 2005, on average, 563 acres of farmland were converted to some other land use annually. Between 2005 and 2007, this rate of change increased to 760 acres annually. Updates will be completed every three years using digital aerial photography to determine the total area converted. This measure is closely connected to economic prosperity and standard outward expansion of urban areas. If these change, the amount of farmland conversion will also change.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS**STATUS: CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HAS 5,907 ACRES OF PARK LAND**

The acreage of urban and county parks and protected natural areas will at least double, the ecological integrity of their natural areas will be restored, and the sites will be protected from disturbance by neighboring land uses.

Indicator: Acreage of Parks and Natural Areas	Champaign County Parks			
	Total Acreage by Agency	1970	2005	2008
Trend: Parks and natural areas have increased in acreage.	Champaign County Forest Preserve	1,226	3,611	3,771
	Champaign Park District	338	552	552
Type: Status Geographic Scale: Countywide Frequency: 3 years Positive Indication: Increase in acreage Source: Greenways and Trails Plan, ISGS	Urbana Park District	216	544	544
	Rantoul Park District	203	198	198
	University of Illinois Arboretum & Illini Grove	169	169	169
	Student Facilities	125		
	Golf Courses	254	241	241
	Other Parks	13	295	335
	Village of Savoy	*	17	17
	Village of Mahomet	*	80	80
	Total	2,644	5,706	5,907
	Private Natural Areas	?	?	
Public Natural Areas	?	?		

* Included in Other Parks

The Concept: This report defines parks and natural areas as County Forest Preserves, Municipal Parks, and State Identified Natural Areas. This information is collected and distributed through the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan and the Illinois State Geological Survey GIS Clearinghouse.

Community Vision: *The availability of parks, preserves, and outdoor recreation opportunities is an important element of the attractiveness and competitiveness of the community. The remaining natural areas in the county continue to be lost to development and opportunities to expand park acreage in those areas are dissipating. Preserving and restoring natural areas can lend to a sense of place in the community and provide important recreation opportunities and natural services.*

Comment on the Data: There is currently a need for defining natural areas as separate from parks. Issues that need to be resolved include ownership, program involvement, and criteria for inclusion/exclusion. Once defined, a method for calculating changes in size of these areas should be addressed.

OBJECTIVE 3.3: GROUNDWATER SUPPLY**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Policies will be in place that protect the county's groundwater resources and ensure a safe, sustainable water supply for humans and wildlife.

Indicator:

Steps taken towards protecting groundwater supply

Trend:

Speculatively, increased water extraction is impacting the sustainability of the groundwater supply.

Required Action Steps:

- Adopt action steps proposed by Mahomet Aquifer Consortium
- Adoption of water use policies / regulations
- Adoption of groundwater protection policies / regulations
- Protect groundwater recharge areas

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennially

Positive Indication: Action steps are completed

Source: CCRPC

The Concept: Through identifying the steps required to achieve the action, we can monitor progress towards protecting our groundwater supply. The list generated is based on the thoughts at the current time and is subjective. Steps will need to be updated in the future.

Community Vision: *An abundant and safe water supply is a key and increasingly important asset to the county. This supply is critical to business, agriculture, domestic use and for maintenance of streamflow.*

Comment on the Data: The Mahomet Aquifer Consortium was formed to develop an approach to better study and understand the Mahomet Aquifer. The Consortium is made up of water authorities, water companies, local, county, state, and federal government, professional groups, and the general public.

OBJECTIVE 3.4: ENERGY USE

STATUS: OVER 90 MILLION BTU'S PER PERSON, ANNUALLY

Champaign County will significantly reduce nonrenewable energy use.

Indicator:

County Energy Consumption

Trend:

Standard energy consumption is increasing.

Type: Status

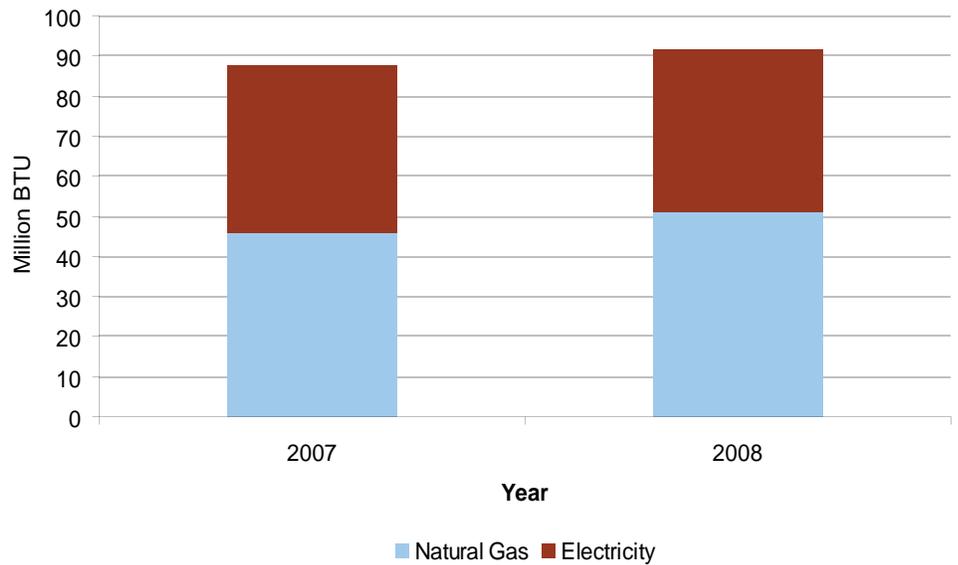
Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication: Energy consumption decreases

Source: Ameren IP, Local Electric Cooperatives, Village of Rantoul

Per Capita Annual Energy Consumption by Type



The Concept: Nonrenewable energy sources currently include gasoline, electricity, natural gas, and diesel fuel. Natural gas and electricity are two forms of energy that can be tracked in Champaign County. Electricity consumed in Champaign County is predominantly generated through coal and nuclear power plants operating in Illinois and Indiana. An increase in small scale systems will effectively reduce consumption of nonrenewable energy. Larger wind systems located in Champaign County will hopefully be tracked for their impact on local energy consumption. The use of nonrenewable energy is directly related to greenhouse gas emissions and is a primary concern of this objective. Greenhouse gas emissions have been correlated with a rise in the earth’s temperature.

Community Vision: *Non-renewable energy supplies are finite and increasing in cost. Renewable energy use depletes fewer resources and can be cost effective. Increasing use of renewable energy sources reduces the nation’s reliance on insecure foreign energy sources, pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.*

OBJECTIVE 3.5: WASTE REDUCTION

STATUS: NEARLY ONE TON OF WASTE PER PERSON, ANNUALLY

Champaign County will significantly reduce the tonnage of waste disposed of in landfills and increase the volume and type of materials that are reused or recycled.

Indicator:

Standard ton of waste to landfill and recycling

Trend:

The amount of waste generated in Champaign County is decreasing.

Type: Status

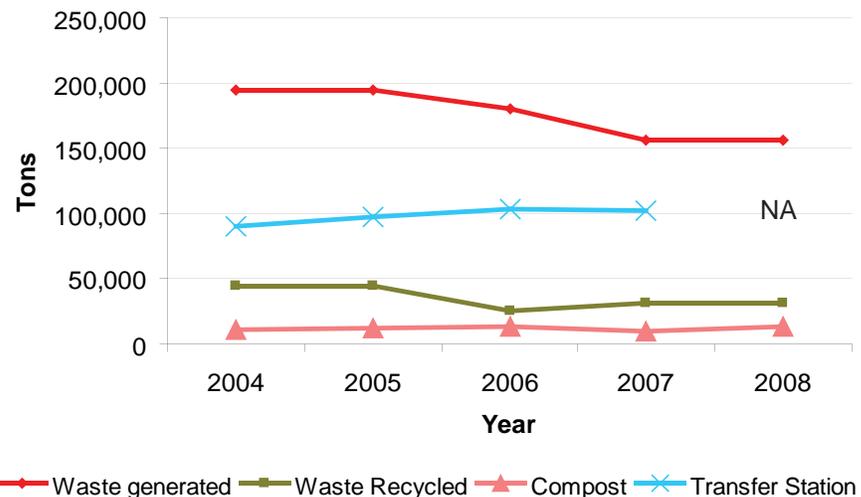
Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: 2 years

Positive Indication: Less waste to landfill

Source: ILEPA Landfill Capacity Report

Solid Waste Generated



The Concept: Data regarding solid waste in Champaign County is split into four categories: waste generated, waste recycled, compost, and transfer station (another measure of recycling). These measures currently use a variety of estimating techniques and have a lack accountability and accuracy, which makes the data somewhat unreliable. In the future, better information will likely be available to supplant the information currently shown above.

Community Vision: *Waste reduction through increased efficiency, reuse, and recycling reduces the consumption of natural resources and energy, reduces pollution, and conserves available landfill capacity. It also offers opportunities to reduce costs associated with waste collection, transport and disposal.*

Comment on the Data: Other measures of waste generation are currently in development by the Illinois Recycling Association. Once available, these measures may take the place of EPA records because of greater reporting frequency and flexibility in analysis.

OBJECTIVE 3.6: ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

STATUS: 30% USES ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

Land use patterns, infrastructure investments, programs, and policies will provide most people with convenient and safe transportation choices and encourage walking, biking, and public transit.

Indicator:

Commuter Mode Split

Trend: Commuters are maintaining their mode choice.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Countywide

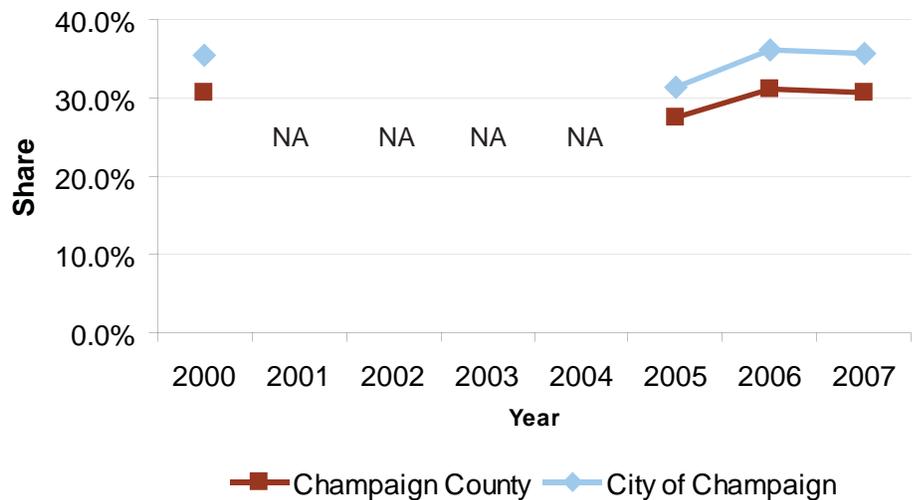
Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: Increasing Share

Source: U.S. Census American

Community Survey

**Commuter Mode Split -
Alternative Modes Combined**



The Concept: Commuter mode split for Champaign County is measured through the American Community Survey (ACS). Response options include: Car, truck, or van -- drove alone; Car, truck, or van -- carpoled; Public transportation (excluding taxicab), Walked, Other means, or Worked at home. Alternative modes group all choices except Drove Alone.

Community Vision: Increased use of alternative modes of transportation will reduce dependence on foreign energy sources, reduce pollution, lessen traffic congestion, reduce the need for street and parking infrastructure, and contribute to more active and healthier life styles. Wider availability of alternatives can expand consumer choice and increase the mobility of those who cannot or who prefer not to drive.

Comment on the Data: Data from the American Community Survey have larger confidence intervals and therefore include an indication of the margin of error. Direct comparisons between the decennial census and ACS estimates are possible, but potential differences in margin of error creates some inconsistency.

OBJECTIVE 3.7: MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Public and private initiatives will significantly increase the development and redevelopment of mixed use neighborhoods that include strong local businesses.

Indicator:

Functional Mixed Use

Trend:

Not Established

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: Undetermined

Source: CCRPC

The Concept: Both horizontal and vertical mixed use can limit vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for job commutes, daily needs shopping, getting to school, and other common destinations. These might include the following: Bank, Child care facility (licensed), Community/civic center, Convenience store, Hair care, Hardware store, Health club or outdoor recreation facility, Laundry/dry cleaner, Library, Medical/dental office, Pharmacy (stand-alone), Place of worship, Post office, Restaurant, School, Senior care facility, Supermarket, or Theater. Mixed use provides walkable access to a variety of these uses and provides many community benefits when developed in accessible locations. A more precise definition of what mixed use could be adopted by municipalities in Champaign County that better defines the desired function of mixed use development. This can include definitions of neighborhood units, service areas for neighborhood businesses, residential densities, and desirable mix of land uses for our various types and ages of neighborhoods.

Community Vision: *Mixed use neighborhoods permit people to meet more of their day-to-day needs by walking, allowing healthier and more convivial lifestyles as well as lessening the need to drive and to provide additional street and parking infrastructure. Mixing uses can create more compact forms of development, thereby reducing the consumption of natural resources and generation of pollution.*

OBJECTIVE 3.8: URBAN REDEVELOPMENT**STATUS: \$9.7 MILLION SPENT IN 2008**

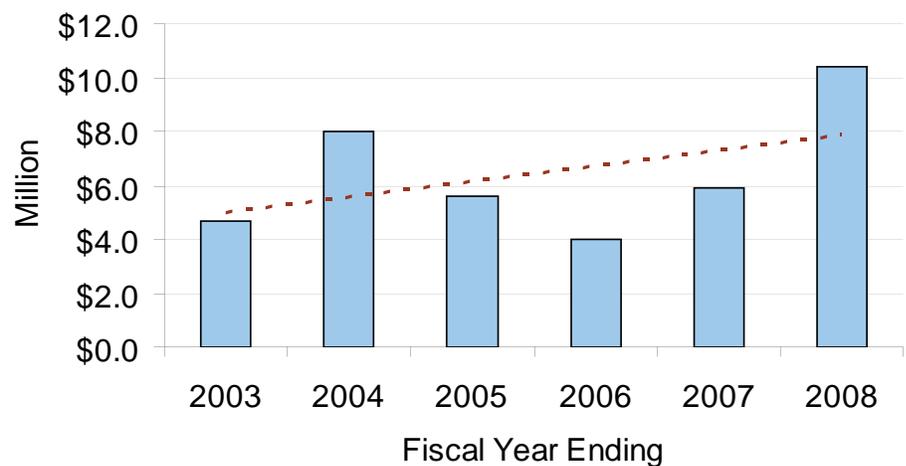
Existing neighborhoods and downtowns will see significant new investment and become desirable locations where older buildings are preserved and complemented by new development.

Indicator:

TIF Expenditures

Trend:

Countywide TIF expenditures fluctuate, but have increased since 2006.

Type: Status**Geographic Scale:** Countywide**Frequency:** Annual**Positive Indication:** TIF expenditures are increasing**Source:** Municipal Budget**Countywide TIF Expenditures**

The Concept: Redevelopment areas in Champaign County can summarily be defined as TIF zones, Enterprise Zones, and Community Development Target Areas. The amount expended in TIF districts from established financing reflects new investment in locations that have shown a decline. Eight municipalities in Champaign County have TIF districts including Champaign, Fisher, Homer, Mahomet, Rantoul, Savoy, Tolono and Urbana.

Community Vision: Existing neighborhoods represent substantial sunk investment in private buildings and public infrastructure. Reinvestment and redevelopment in existing neighborhoods captures more value from these investments, preserves historic structures and neighborhoods, fosters more compact growth patterns, and makes for more lively and convivial communities.



OBJECTIVE 4.1: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

STATUS: KEY MEASURES HAVE NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED

Key measures of health and safety will significantly improve for all residents in Champaign County.

Indicator:

Index of Key Health Measures

Trend:

Key measures of health and well-being are increasing, but with fluctuation.

Type: Status

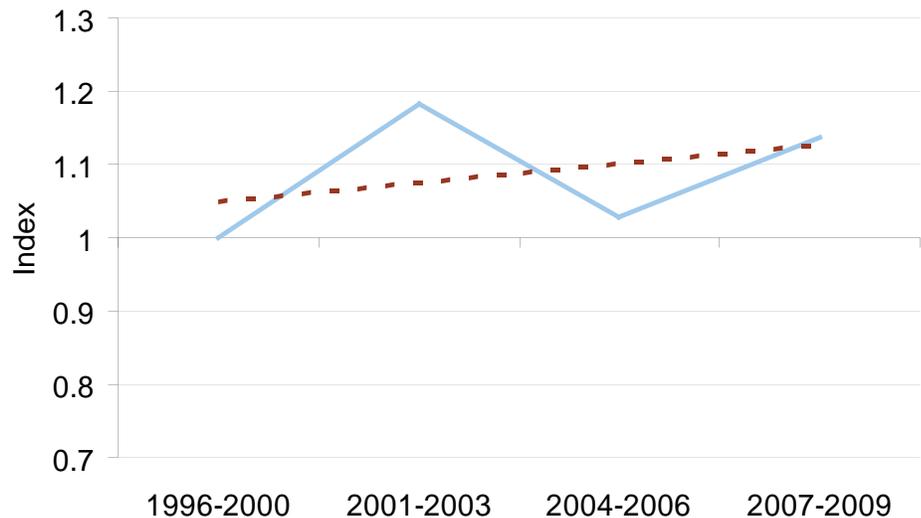
Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication: Decrease

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Index for Key Measures of Health and Well-Being



The Concept: The index of key measures uses a variety of health statistics in a weighted average system. The index shows annual changes in the following measures (weight in percent): no report of diabetes (30%), annual flu shot (30%), no report of high cholesterol (20%), fair to excellent general health (5%), 3 or more fruits or vegetables per day (5%), no risk of binge drinking (5%), and non-smoker (5%).

Community Vision: *Apart from a simple concern for the well-being of county residents, health factors are a measure of prosperity and quality of life. Site selectors use statistical measures of well-being to identify good locations for business establishment and new investment. The county's ranking with respect to key measures affects the way it is viewed from outside by businesses and investors.*

Comment on the Data: Measures of health statistics are from a sample of adults living in Champaign County obtained through the nationwide Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey.

OBJECTIVE 4.2: HEALTH CARE ACCESS**STATUS: 68% OF RESIDENTS HAVE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE**

Champaign County will be a national model for providing access to an affordable, integrated, comprehensive, and seamless model of healthcare.

Indicator:

Population with Health Care Coverage

Trend:

Survey data shows a slight increase.

Type: Status

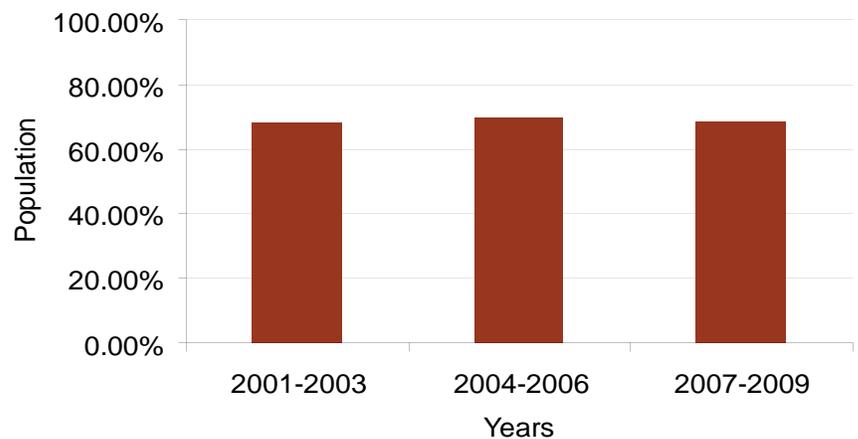
Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Triennial

Positive Indication: Increasing

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Percent of Population with Health Care Coverage



The Concept: Access to the health care system is based on a structure of coverage models and programs. The percentage of people with health care coverage indicates the prevalence and ability of county residents to access health care.

Community Vision: *Physical and mental health care are key measures of well-being and happiness. A healthier community imposes fewer costs on business and government and is a more competitive location for new investment. Access to health care is uneven and subject to disruption by the vicissitudes of life. Wider access helps keep everyone on a footing where they can live more satisfying lives and participate more constructively in society.*

Comment on the Data: This data includes people with any type of health care coverage defined as health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare.

OBJECTIVE 4.3: ACCESS TO SERVICES**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Residents of every community will have convenient access to information, education, recreation, supportive services, and crisis intervention.

Indicator: Access to Services Index	Issue	Rank	Percent of Respondents
Trend: Not Established	Education	1	19
	Jobs and Employment	2	18
	Healthcare	3	14
	Support for families	4	11
	Basic needs	5	10
	Behavioral healthcare	6	8
	Housing and homelessness	6	8
	Family violence	8	5
	Help from agencies	9	3
	Transportation	9	3

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: County

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication:

Source: Community Survey

Source: Community Needs Assessment - 2004

The Concept: Access to services is largely determined by the population in need of those services. A community survey will help determine perceptions of community services and provide a forum for the public to air concerns about current conditions. The 2004 Community Needs Assessment can provide background to help develop survey questions. The table above indicates issues that Champaign County residents believe will present the biggest problems.

Community Vision: *All residents, those in poverty and youth especially, need convenient nearby access to an array of services. Minimizing the costs of service delivery should include costs borne by private individuals as well the costs to service providers.*

Survey Questions: No appropriate measure of access to services exists. The Community Survey has been developed to gain a better understanding for access to services. For the survey instrument, please see Appendix F - Community Survey.

OBJECTIVE 4.4: A SAFE COMMUNITY**STATUS: 39 CRIMES PER 1,000 PEOPLE IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY**

Champaign County's communities will be safe environments that effectively deter drug use, criminal activity, and inmate recidivism through an integrated countywide system of evidence-based practices.

Indicator:

Reported crimes

Trend:

Reported crimes per person is declining.

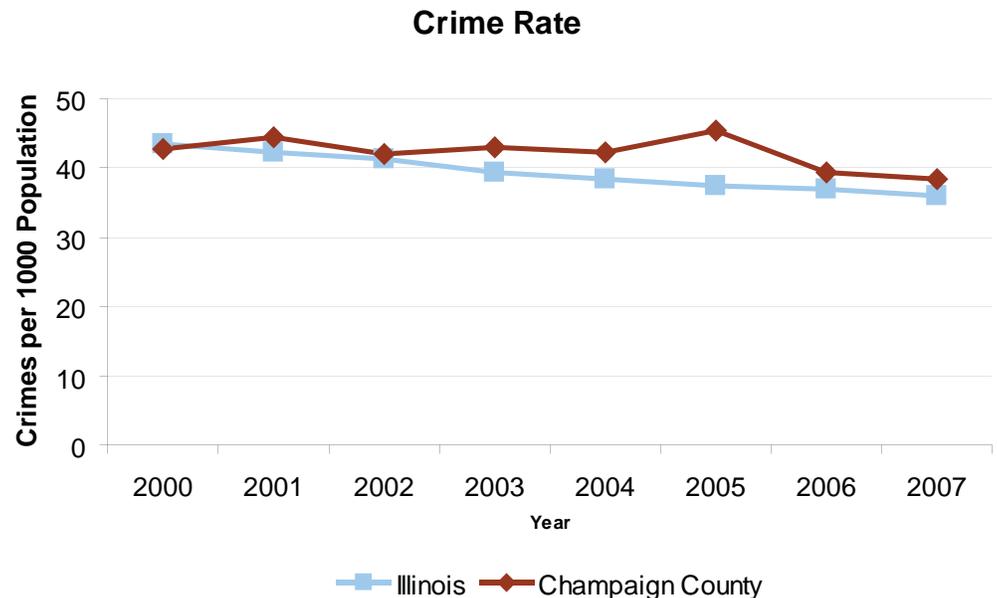
Type: Downstream

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: Decrease relative to the State

Source: Illinois State Police



The Concept: This indicator shows annual crimes reported per population. This allows for a comparison to the state, as well as comparison over time. All crime is not possible to capture in data; however, a decline in reported crimes indicates a decrease in all crimes seen and unseen.

Community Vision: *The incidence of crime is a key element of the actual and perceived quality of life. It imposes costs on individuals and on the larger community and creates a special burden on low-income persons and at-risk youth who are most likely to be crime victims.*

OBJECTIVE 4.5: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

STATUS: 75% OF HOMES BEING SOLD ARE AFFORDABLE

All persons at every income level will be able to afford safe, quality housing.

Indicator:

Housing Affordability Factors

Trend:

As median sales price and median family income diverge, homes are generally less affordable.

Type: Upstream

Geographic Scale: Metropolitan Statistical Area

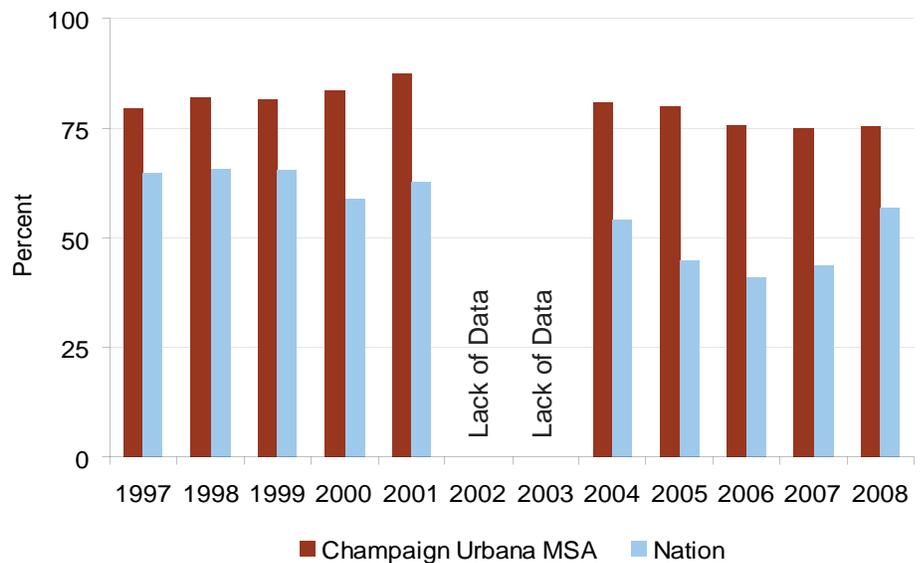
Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: Median sales price and median family income have a paralleled rate of change.

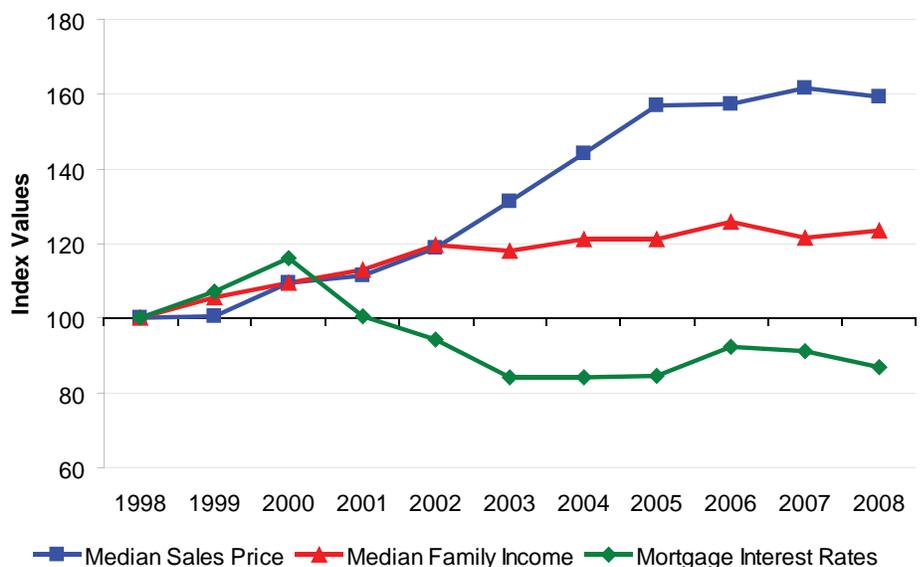
Source: City of Urbana Consolidated Plan

The Concept: The Housing Opportunity Index (HOI) is defined as the share of homes in an area that are affordable to a family earning the median income. This measure is comprised of two primary components, housing prices and median family income. A third factor, mortgage interest rates, also influences housing affordability. The Housing Affordability Factor Index shows the change in each of the three factors. Since 1998, single family home prices increased by 59% while median family income has increased by 24%. Interest rates have decreased by 13%. (comparison does not require adjustment for inflation).

Housing Opportunity Index



Housing Affordability Factor Index



Community Vision: Safe, sound housing is a basic requirement for pursuing a livelihood, raising children, and participating productively in society. It is, therefore, in everyone's interest to try to ensure that all residents can find housing that meets their needs without putting undue strain on their household income.

OBJECTIVE 4.6: ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

STATUS: UNDER REVIEW

All persons with disabilities will be able to purchase or rent quality housing that is accessible, supportive, and meets their needs, at an affordable cost.

Indicator:

Number of Accessible Units

Trend:

Speculatively, number of units are increasing.

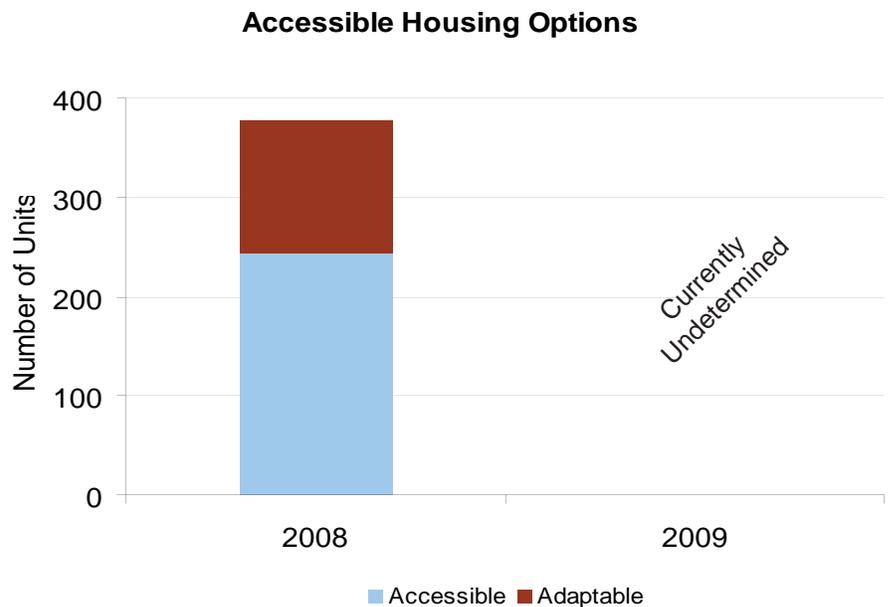
Type: Upstream

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: Increasing

Source: Persons Assuming Control of thier Environment (PACE)



The Concept: Enable the widest spectrum of people, regardless of age or ability, to more easily participate in their community life, by increasing the proportion of areas that are usable by people of diverse abilities. An increase in the stock of accessible and adaptable housing units shows a greater ability to obtain quality housing for persons with disabilities.

Community Vision: *Broad housing options for persons with disabilities ensures that the benefits of good, sound supportive housing are available to everyone, thereby enabling effective participation in civic life. This goal will become even more important as the population ages.*

Comment on the Data: Data obtained through phone calls to housing complexes or management firms that are listed as having accessible or adaptable housing units.

OBJECTIVE 5.1: FUNDING QUALITY EDUCATION
STATUS: VARIATION IN FUNDING IS INCREASING

All public schools will provide excellent instruction and student services in state-of-the-art facilities to all children, and will have the necessary financial resources, funded from a balance of sources that significantly reduce dependence on property taxes.

Indicator:

Instructional Expenditure by District

Trend:

Negative

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: County School Districts

Frequency: Annual

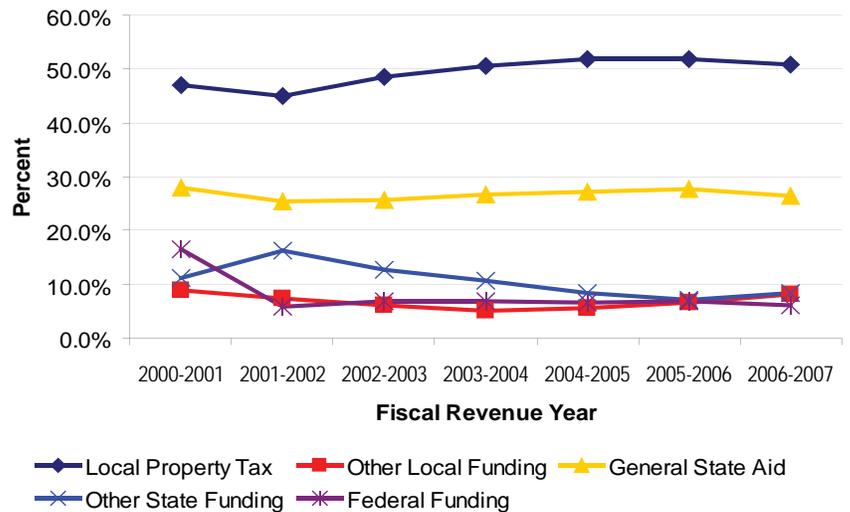
Positive Indication: Deviation in expenditures stays the same or decreases.

Source: Illinois State Board of Education

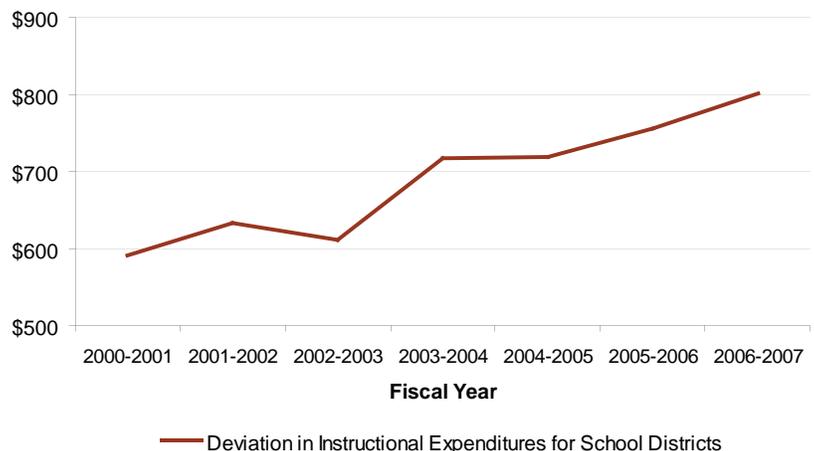
The Concept: The objective determined in our future. here. cites a reduction in revenue from property taxes. This is a complex issue that is simply reported here as a percent of revenue sources. Expenditures are equally complex and difficult to compare because each district functions under different circumstances. Diversion in per pupil expenditures is used as an indicator under the assumption that all students in Champaign County should receive approximately the same dollar amounts towards their education. Greater variation indicates that the opposite is true.

Community Vision: *A quality education is critical to ensuring that all children have opportunities to lead successful and fulfilling lives. A well-prepared and skilled workforce is essential to the economic growth and competitiveness of the county as well (see the Workforce Development objective). All Champaign County school districts need the resources required to provide a quality education to the children that they serve. The ability to provide quality education to all students requires political support for raising sufficient revenues. This is difficult under the current funding system, which relies very heavily on a regressive and unpopular property tax and creates great discrepancies in the tax base available to different school districts.*

Public Education Revenue Sources



Variation in Instructional Expenditure per Pupil



OBJECTIVE 5.2: ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

STATUS: OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE, DROPOUTS DECLINING

All students will have access to a range of alternative forms of schooling that meet their educational needs and enrich the learning environment.

Indicator:

Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment

Trend:

Alternative education opportunities are increasing and drop out figures are declining.

Type: Downstream

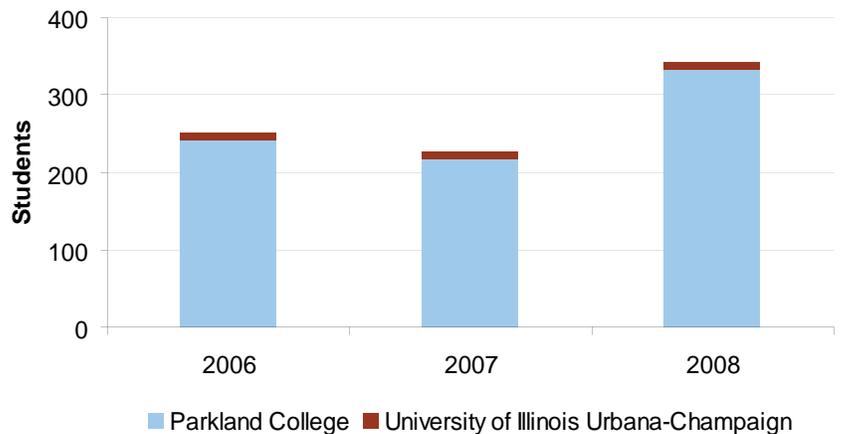
Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication: Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment opportunities are available.

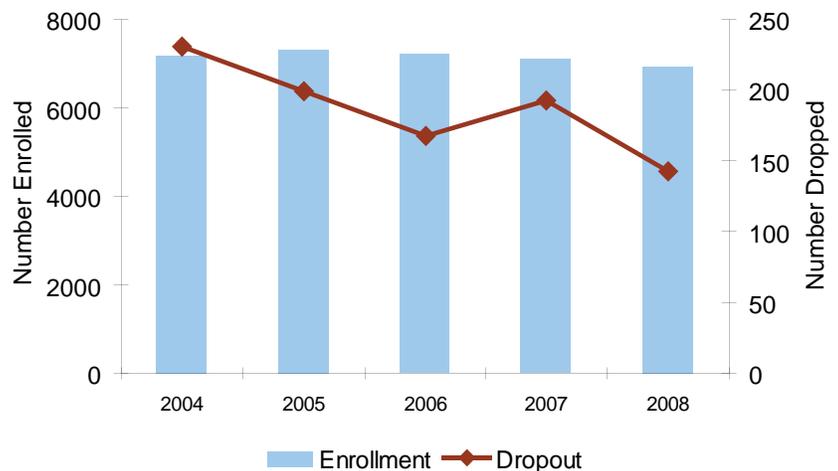
Source: University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Parkland College

High School students with Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment



The Concept: Coordination and cooperation between centers of higher education and school districts provides opportunities for specialized education. Dual credit and dual enrollment programs are two modes for this coordination and cooperation. An alternate interpretation of this objective suggests that students who have access to alternative forms of schooling within the district would not drop out of educational opportunities. Enrollment and dropout statistics shown in the second graph provides an indication of our status with respect to dropout rates countywide.

High School Enrollment and Dropouts



Community Vision: Students come to school from varied settings and with widely divergent skills. A wide array of learning options can best accommodate these varied needs.

Comment on the Data: Data obtained from the Illinois State Board of Education.

OBJECTIVE 5.3: ARTS EDUCATION**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

A consecutive program in all arts disciplines will be an integral part of the curriculum at every grade level in all Champaign County schools.

Indicator:

Arts Education Index

Trend:

Speculatively, arts disciplines are funded at all grade levels.

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: School Districts in Champaign County

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication:

Source: School Survey

The Concept: One difficulty in measuring the amount of arts education in schools districts is that arts education is manifested in many different ways. To account for these differences, a variety of measures can be used and combined into an index value. Measures can include the number of full/parttime arts specialists, number of grade levels receiving arts instructions, arts-specific graduation requirement and others.

Community Vision: *Experiences in and development of skills in the visual, literary and performing arts enhance participants' quality of life, prepare individuals for employment in an economy reliant upon creativity, and nurture life skills such as problem solving, collaboration, leadership, discipline, and positive self-esteem. Study of the arts also enhances learning in other subject areas. Arts education supports the broader importance of the arts in the community and local economy. Arts programs are often undervalued and their funding is vulnerable to cuts due to school funding limitations and decisions.*

Comment on the Data: Measures of arts used are adopted from the Arts at the Core: Every School, Every Student published by Illinois Arts Alliance .

OBJECTIVE 5.4: REGIONAL ARTS CENTER
STATUS: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE BELOW AVERAGE

Champaign County will have a reputation throughout the Midwest as a center for art and entertainment and will be a model for its public and private financial support of the arts.

Indicator:

Value of In-Kind contributions to non-profit arts agencies

Trend:

Speculatively, contributions are increasing.

Type: Upstream

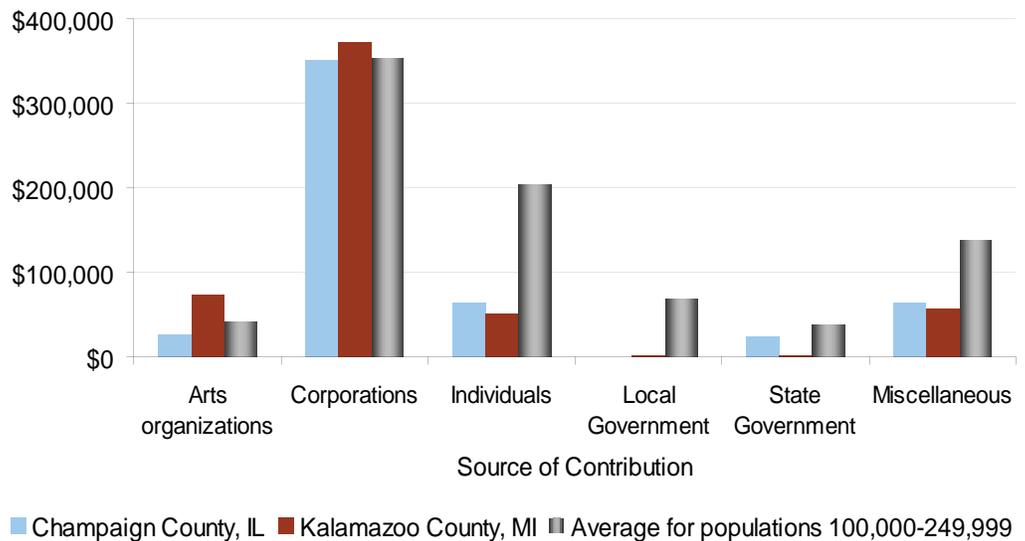
Geographic Scale: MSA

Frequency: Biennial

Positive Indication: Average funding amounts from a variety of sources

Source: Illinois Arts Alliance

Approximate Value of In-Kind Contributions



The Concept: Non profit arts programs (especially public arts) are heavily dependent on a broad base of revenue sources. A model for financial support of the arts will achieve appropriate levels of funding from a variety of sources. This measure was primarily chosen due to data availability and potential for survey replication. The reputation portion of the objective is particularly difficult due to the lack of an established rating standard.

Community Vision: *Art and creativity in all forms enrich quality of life. The arts are also a catalyst for economic development and a vehicle for social change, collaboration, education and more. The arts are essential to building an attractive, healthy and vibrant community.*

Comment on the Data: Data was obtained from a report produced by Americans for the Arts entitled Arts and Economic Prosperity III: The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences.

OBJECTIVE 5.5: ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE

STATUS: 77% OF RESIDENCES HAVE EASY OR OBSTRUCTED ACCESS

All communities and residents will have access to quality neighborhood and regional parks that are connected through trails, greenways, and public sidewalks to all major cultural facilities and schools throughout the county and adjacent locales.

Indicator:

Access to Open Space

Trend:

Speculatively, recent residential developments do not have access to open space. Some smaller communities provide limited access.

Type: Status

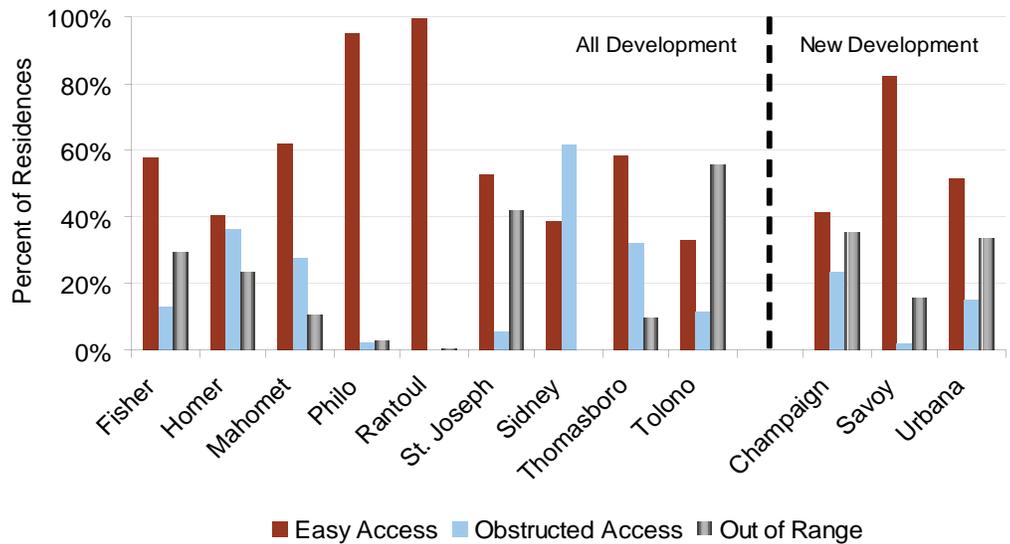
Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Annually

Positive Indication: more residences within 1/4 mile of a park

Source: CCGISC

Access to Open Space



The Concept: Parks are a recreational service commonly provided in municipal areas. These range in size and can be classified as Neighborhood (1-20 acres) or Community Parks (20-75+ acres). Access is determined by two factors: residence proximity to parks, and pedestrian barriers to parks. Proximity is defined as being within 1/2 mile of a neighborhood park, and within 1 mile of a community park. Barriers are defined as arterial streets that might be perceived as difficult to cross due to multiple lanes, or high speed traffic.

Community Vision: Access to parks is a key element of quality of life and helps promote a more active and healthy lifestyle, especially for children. A connected network enhances the value of existing parks and open spaces and provides for additional trail-based recreational opportunities.

Comment on the Data: Residences are defined as tax parcels with a residential land use. Smaller communities were analyzed based on all residential development within corporate limits. Champaign, Urbana and Savoy were analyzed based on new developments active in the fall of 2006. This information was provided through a report prepared by the City of Champaign Planning Department and other local government and non-profit agencies. Regional parks and residences outside of municipal boundaries were not included in this analysis.

OBJECTIVE 5.6: OPEN ACCESS FOR RECREATION**STATUS: UNDER REVIEW**

Government entities will cooperate to provide all county residents with open access for recreation at all appropriate public facilities.

Indicator:

Number of Shared Facilities

Trend: Speculatively,
cooperation is increasing

Type: Status

Geographic Scale: Countywide

Frequency: Annual

Positive Indication:

Source: Champaign County
Assessors Office

The Concept: Shared use agreements provide, in writing, the intent of government and private entities to meet the recreational and lifestyle needs of county residents. Sharing facilities is a cost effective and desirable way to supply residents with locations and facilities for any number of activities.

Community Vision: *Meeting the demand for recreational facilities is increasingly difficult. Cooperative use of existing facilities can maximize the community's return on investments in existing facilities while improving the quality of life and encouraging healthy active lifestyles.*

Comment on the Data: The lack of an indicator shows that Champaign County has yet to fully understand the value of Open Access for Recreation. To learn more about recreation in our communities and use of amenities by County residents, park agencies could be surveyed.

ADDITIONAL DESIRABLE INDICATORS

our future. here. identifies priority concerns of the community, but is not comprehensive. It does not include the following themes which are found in comparable community indicator initiatives. The starred items are recommended additions that would likely not incur significant additional costs.

Health and Environment

Air Quality Index*
Water Quality Index*
Permeability/Stormwater Management Facilities
Number of Brownfields

Economic Prosperity

Number of Patents*
Non-farm employment growth rate*
Percent of firms in sector compared to nation - change in LQ*
R&D Expenditure per capita*
Green Collar Jobs*

Equity

Crime Disparity
Poverty Rate
Homelessness

Conservation of Nature

Land in Conservation
Population Density
Tree Canopy

Stewardship

Companies with ISO 14000 certification
Public environmental spending per capita
Percent of population participating in recycling programs

Transportation

Bikeways*
City transportation alternatives*

Sustainable Communities

Affordability - COL, housing affordability index*
Change in property values by neighborhood*
Public debt per capita (differences in measure)
Sprawl: Change in regional household density
Carbon Emissions
Number of block clubs
Living wages*

Civic Engagement

Participation in civic groups - Survey

Population

Change in households and household size
Single parent households

International Responsibility

Charitable giving to international programs/ initiatives *
International Trade: value of regional merchandise exports
Share of population composed of foreign nationals

Education

Educational Attainment