

SANGAMON COUNTY
2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Rural Amenities



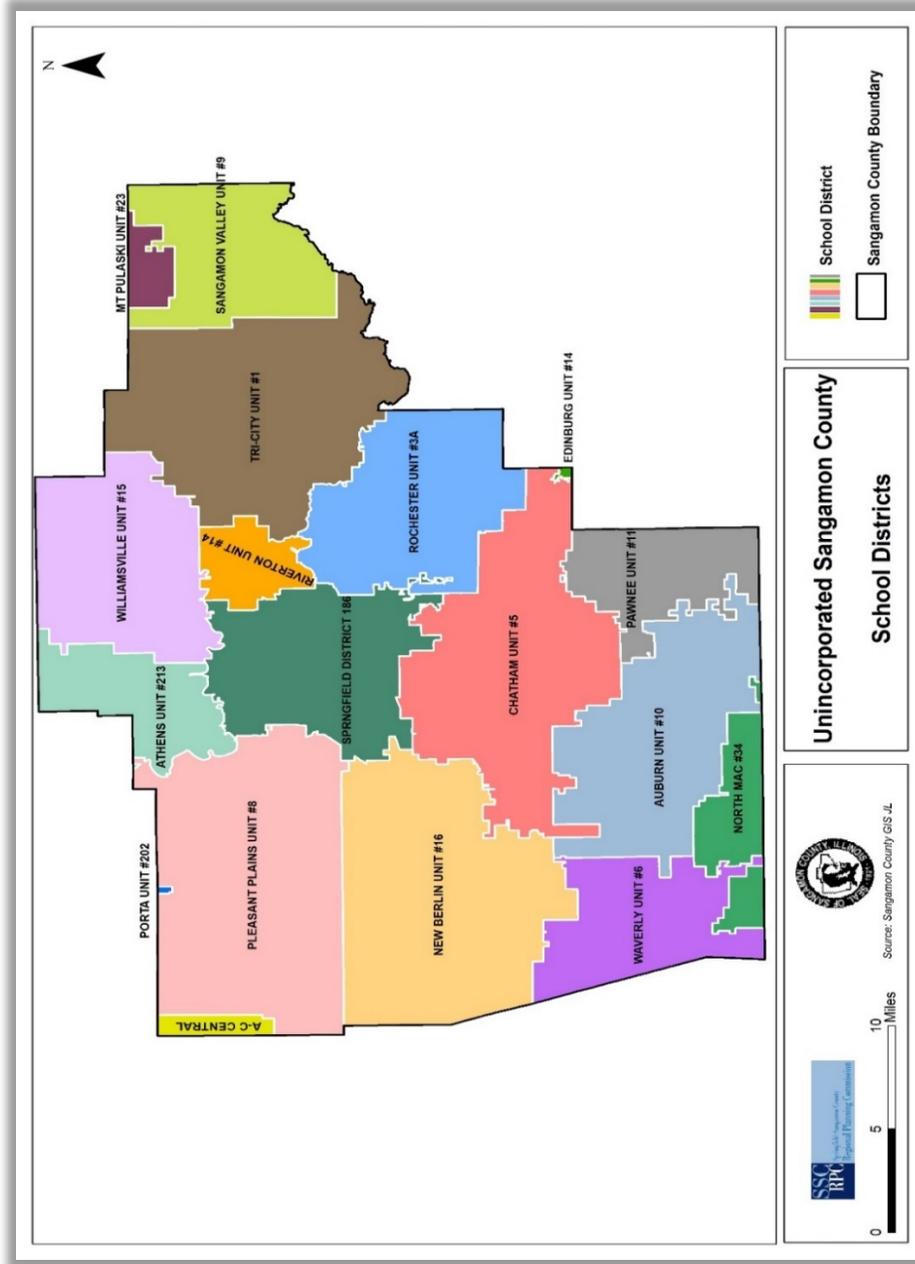
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Education

Sangamon County has 18 school districts throughout the region. Some of the school districts within Sangamon County have external boundaries that are beyond the county's limits and are not centered within Sangamon County such as Porta CUSD #202 and North Mac CUSD #34. Figure 1 displays the school districts' boundaries in relation to Sangamon County.

Fig. 1



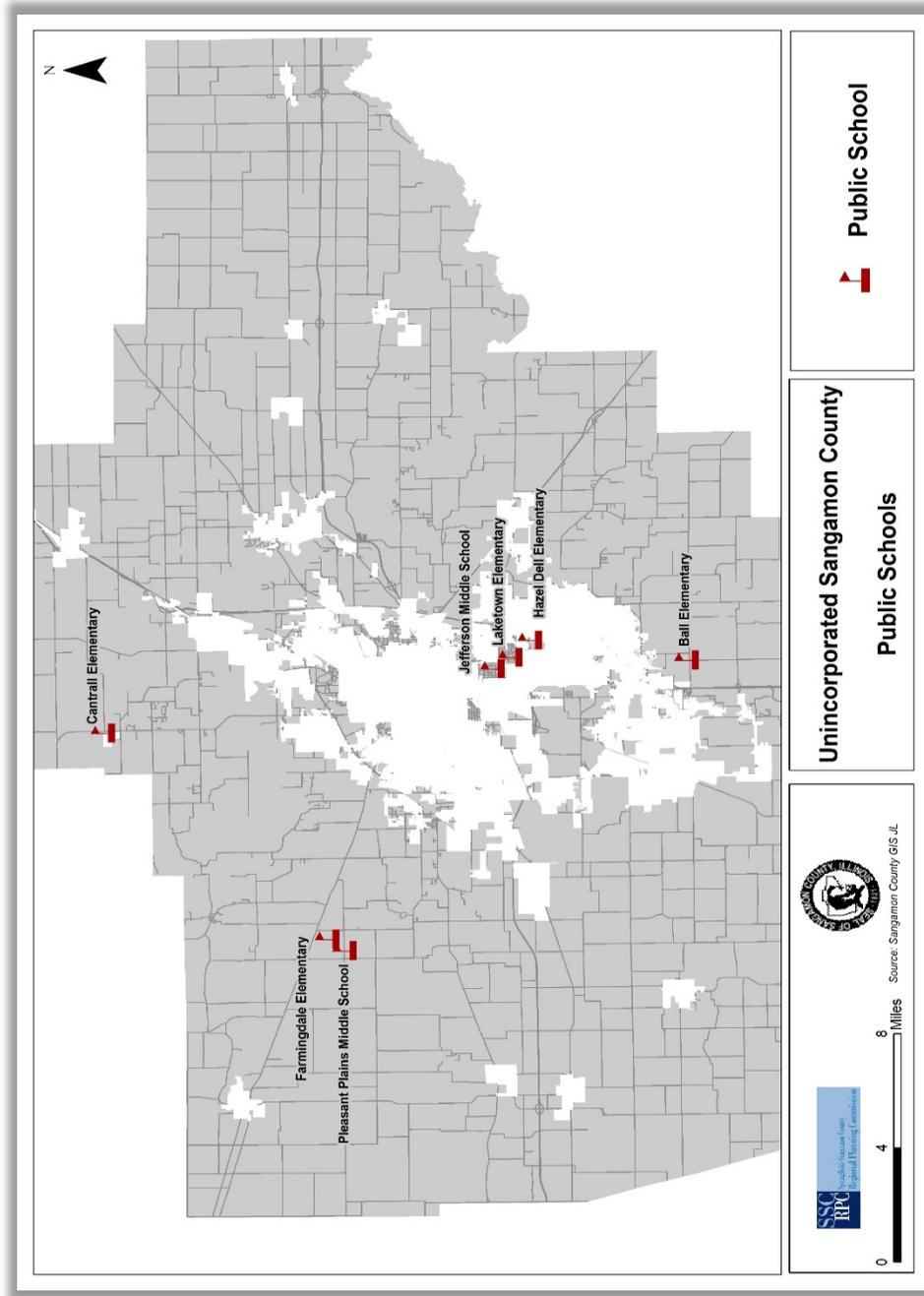
The Sangamon County school districts' total enrollment combine for 35,782 students (illinoisreportcard.com, 2017), and slightly more than 6,000 school-aged people (5-18 years old) live in unincorporated Sangamon County (ESRI). Enrollment for school districts range from 286 (Edinburg CUSD #4) to over 4,000 students. Since some school districts' boundaries go beyond the boundaries of Sangamon County, services associated with a student population are likely to be addressed by adjacent counties. Figure 2 displays the total enrollment for students that live within Sangamon County (County School Facilities Sales Tax).

Fig. 2

Sangamon County Student Enrollment	
<i>School District</i>	<i>Students addressed in Sangmon County</i>
Tri City CUSD 1	583
Rochester CUSD 3a	2,249
Ball Chatham CUSD 5	4,712
Pleasant Plains CUSD 8	1,280
Auburn CUSD 10	1,352
Pawnee CUSD 11	460
Riverton CUSD 14	1,462
Williamsville CUSD	1,533
New Berlin CUSD 16	908
Springfield SD 186	14,709
A-C Central CUSD 262	14
Edinburg CUSD 4	0
Mt Pulaski CUSD 23	13
Sangamon Valley CUSD 9	280
North Mac CUSD 34	224
Porta CUSD 202	1
Athens CUSD 213	412
Waverly CUSD 6	148
<i>Total</i>	<i>30,340</i>

Most of the schools in Sangamon County are located within villages or incorporated areas; however, there are seven public school facilities located within the unincorporated area of Sangamon County. In each case, these schools are part of a larger district. Cantrall Elementary (Athens CUSD #213), Farmingdale Elementary and Pleasant Plains Middle School (Pleasant Plains CUSD #8), Hazel Dell Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Laketown Elementary (Springfield SPS #186) and Ball Elementary (Ball-Chatham CUSD #5) are all located in unincorporated Sangamon County. The schools' locations in unincorporated Sangamon County are viewable in Figure 3.

Fig. 3



Recreation

Unincorporated Sangamon County currently has 23.3 miles of multi-use trails. The Sangamon Valley, Interurban and Iron Bridge Trails stretch through portions of central Sangamon County. The trails provide an opportunity to connect multiple locations throughout the area. Expansion of the trails include linking existing trails in Sangamon County to other counties providing a continuous trail system in central Illinois.

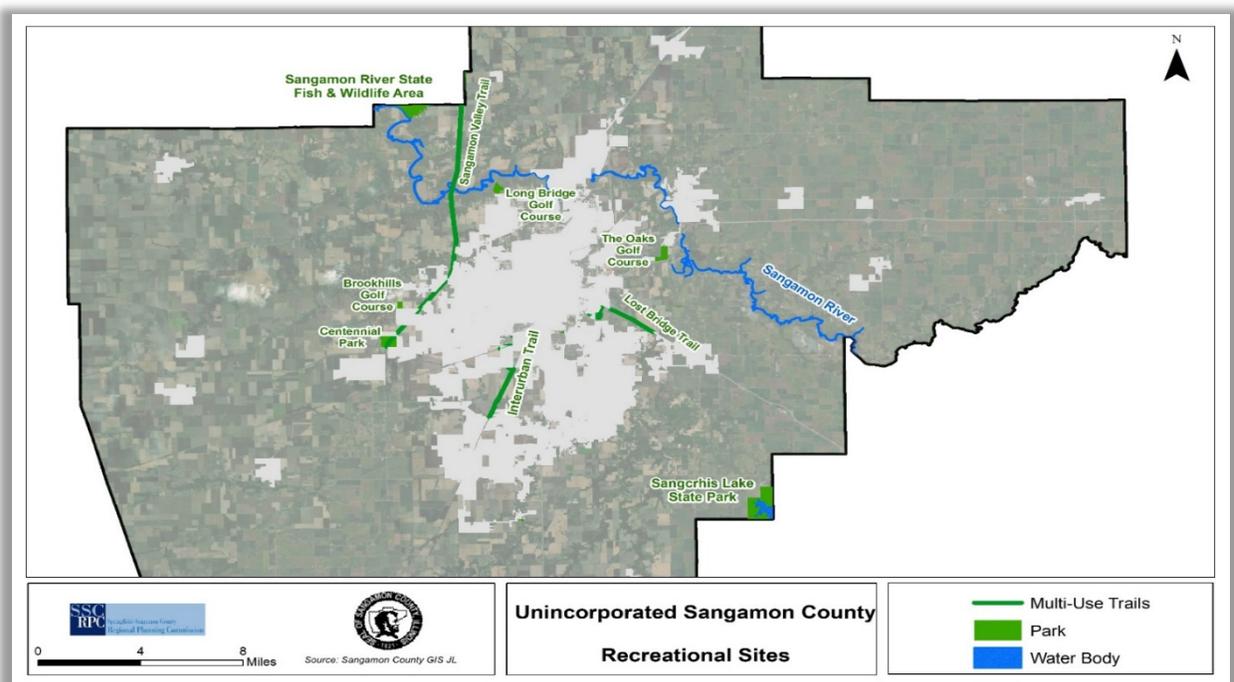
The Sangamon River meanders for more than 20 miles through Sangamon County. Kayaking and fishing are allowed in certain areas, and the river is located adjacent to recreation sites such as Carpenter Park in Springfield and the Sangamon River State Fish and Wildlife Area.

Sangcrhis Lake State Park is partially located in the southeast area of Sangamon County. It is maintained by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The park totals nearly 770 acres and has approximately 17 miles of shoreline within unincorporated Sangamon County. Camping, hunting, fishing, archery, boating, hiking and other recreational activities are permitted within the park (IDNR).

The Sangamon River State Fish and Wildlife Area, also known as the Sangamon County Conservation Area, is located in the northern portion of Sangamon County. It includes 178 acres of forested land with permitted hunting. The area is characterized with steeply rolling hills and hollows along with timbered areas of oak and hickory trees (IDNR).

Three public golf courses are located in unincorporated Sangamon County: Brookhills, Long Bridge, and The Oaks. These sites offer nine and 18-hole courses and are able to host events or gatherings inside their country club. Figure 4 displays the multiple golf courses and other recreational sites in unincorporated Sangamon County.

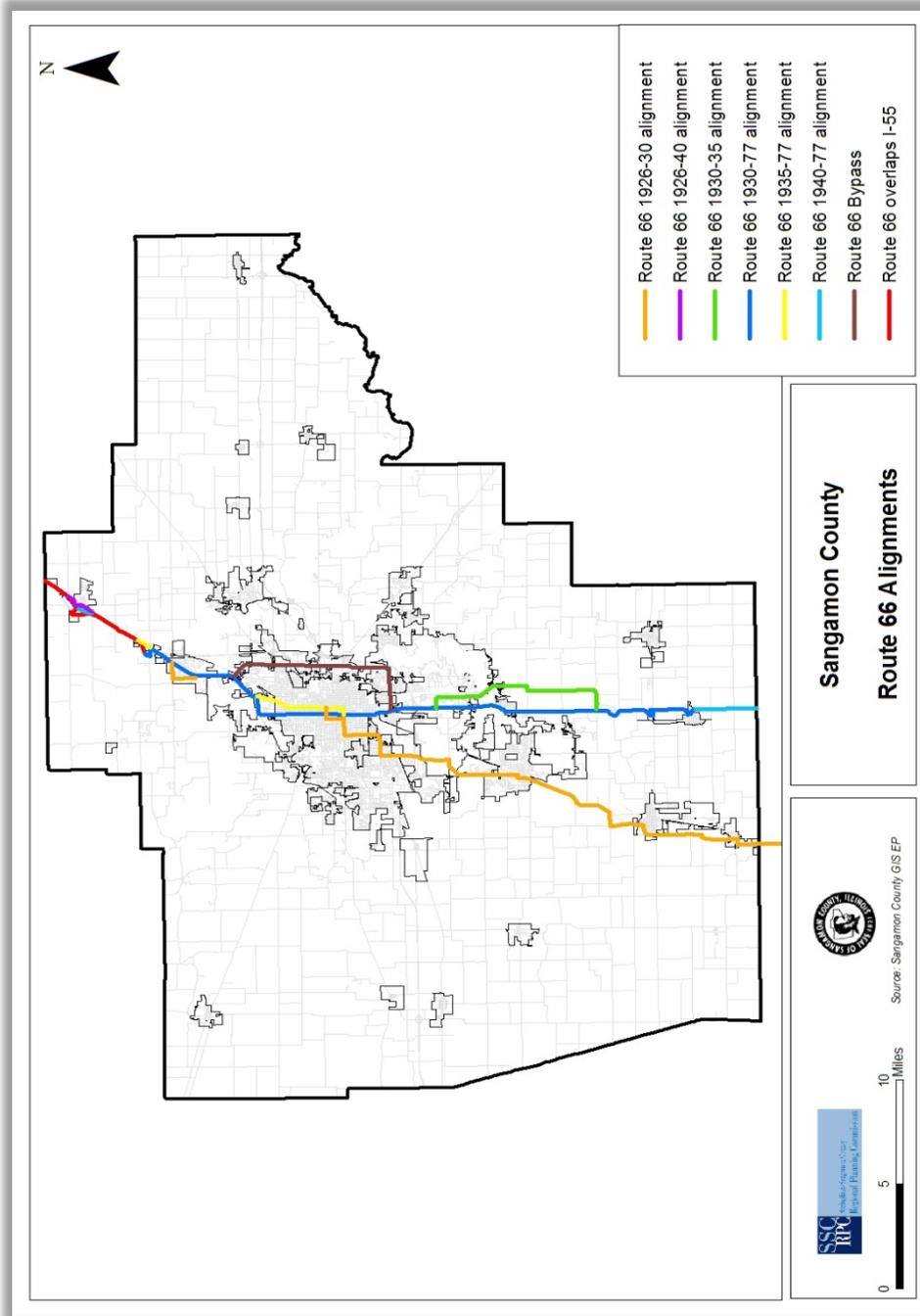
Fig. 4



Culture & Entertainment

One of the most significant cultural amenities in Sangamon County is the Historic Route 66, which is one of the most famous roads in the United States. Historic Route 66 cuts through the center of Sangamon County and offers tourism opportunities for the county. Figure 5 depicts the various alignments of Route 66.

Fig. 5



Two segments of the Historic Route 66 located in Sangamon County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Along with these two listings, an additional fifteen locations are listed on the NRHP. The complete listing along with their township locations can be found in Figure 6

Fig. 6

National Register of Historic Places within unincorporated Sangamon County	
Name	Township
Bolivia Road Bridge	Lanesville
Brunk Farmstead	Cotton Hill
Caldwell Farmstead	Curran
Camp Butler National Cemetery	Clear Lake
Camp Lincoln Commissary Building	Springfield
Clayville Tavern	Cartwright
Illinois Route 4 -- North of Auburn	Chatham
Illinois State Fairgrounds	Springfield
Lazy A Motel	Springfield
Miller, Joseph, House	Cooper
Power Farmstead	Fancy Creek
Ross, Joseph, House	Cooper
Route 66 by Carpenter Park	Springfield/Capital
Route 66 South of Lake Springfield	Ball/Capital
Sugar Creek Covered Bridge	Ball
Taft Farmstead	Rochester
Tiger -- Anderson House	Springfield

Similar to the NRHP, Sangamon County provides a process to designate historic landmarks located within the county. The Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission's members are appointed by the Sangamon County Board. This commission reviews all landmark applications and provides a recommendation to the Sangamon County Board who ultimately designates a site as an official county landmark. Currently, Sangamon County has nine designated county landmarks that have been deemed to be historically significant. Figure 7 lists the county landmarks with a general area location and the official date the Sangamon County Board designated the landmark.

Fig. 7

Sangamon County Landmarks		
Property Description	Area Location	Date Listed
Brunk Farmstead	Rochester vicinity	11-2006
Lincoln -Van Buren Trail	Rochester vicinity	5-2007
Inn of the Lamplighter - Pool & Deck	Springfield	8-2009
Sangamon Ordnance Plant Water Tower	Illioopolis	3-2010
George Power Courthouse	Cantrall	8-2013
Bethel Cemetery	Buffalo	7-2014
Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church	Williamsville vicinity	7-2016
Churchill Cemetery (Bissell Cemetery/ German Prairie Cemetery)	Springfield	5-2017
Mechanicsburg Christian Church	Mechanicsburg	9-2018

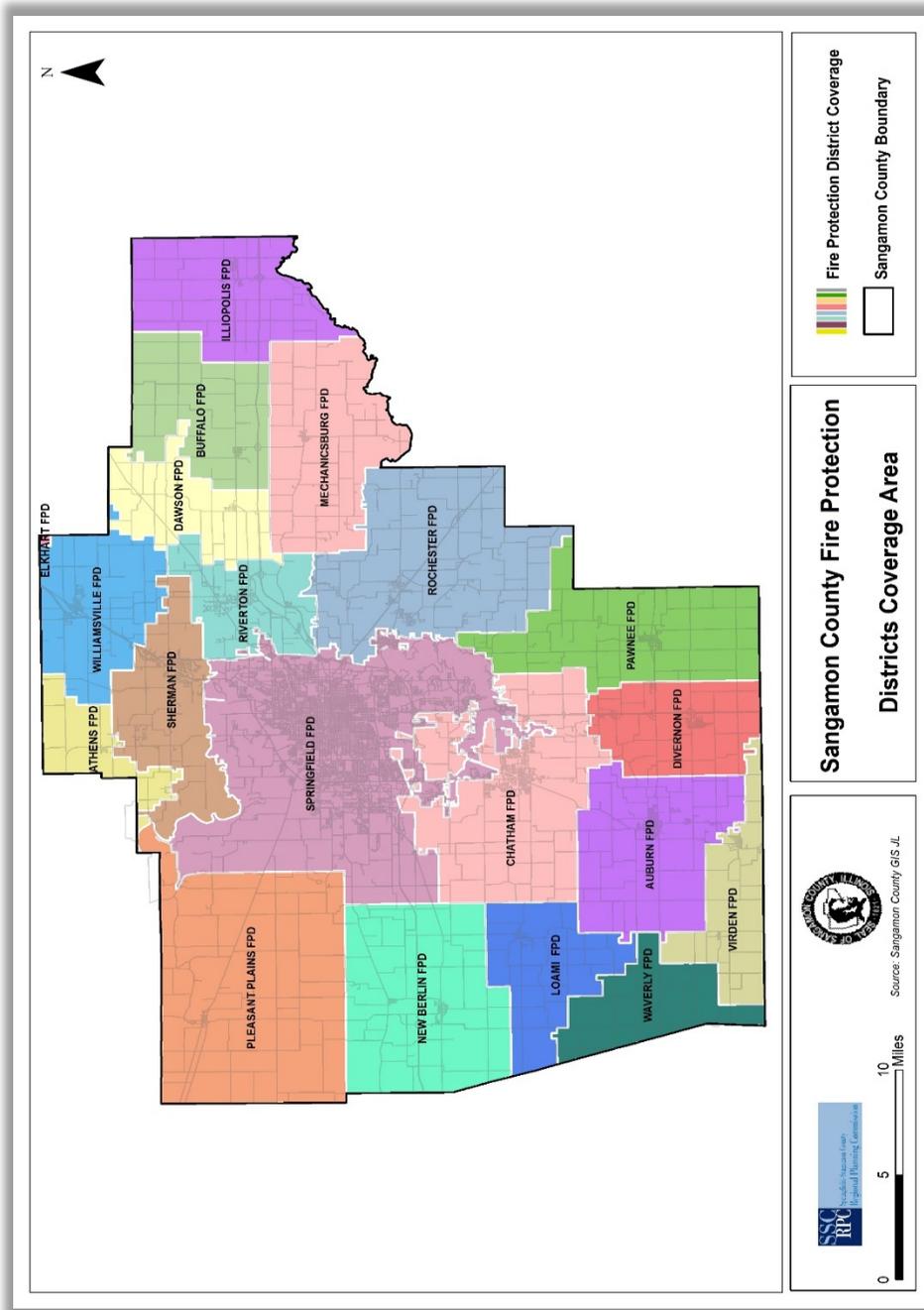
Unincorporated Sangamon County is home to the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Each year in mid-August the Illinois State Fair occurs over an eleven day period featuring grandstand entertainment every evening, various food vendors, and various rides and attractions to provide entertainment for the whole family. The Illinois State Fair brings in hundreds of thousands of people into Sangamon County. Figure 8 details the Illinois State Fair attendance for the past four years. Throughout the year, the fairgrounds are utilized as an entertainment venue for various events that range from various races to expos and even wedding receptions.

Fig. 8

Illinois State Fair Attendance	
2018	369,144
2017	401,648
2016	357,410
2015	411,547

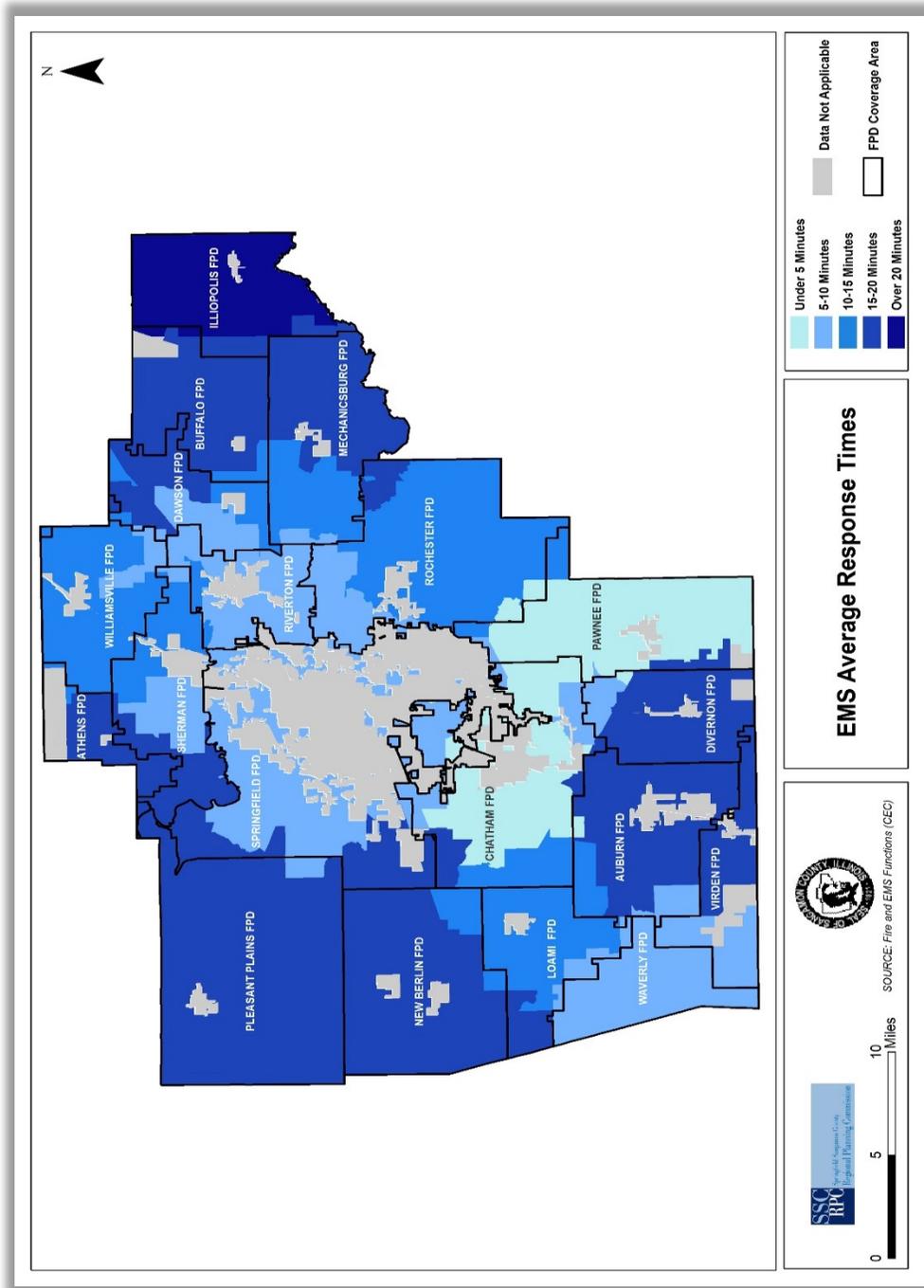
Some fire protection districts lack enough personnel or equipment to serve their local area and must be served by an outside fire district. In Sangamon County, there are 10 FPDs served by another neighboring district: Curran (Springfield FFPD), East Side (Springfield FPD), Island Grove (New Berlin FPD), Lake Springfield (Springfield FPD), North Side (Springfield FPD), South Lawn (Springfield FPD), South Oak Knolls (Springfield FPD), South Side (Springfield FPD), Western (Springfield FPD) and Woodside (Springfield FPD). Figure 10 displays the coverage areas of the 20 FPDs.

Fig. 10



All 20 FPDs with coverage areas in Sangamon County serve as emergency medical service (EMS) responders as well. Response times can be an important piece of information, but vary depending on the emergency and location (“Fire and EMS Functions”). Figure 11 displays the average response time for EMS throughout nearly the entire county. Generally, the further from the central area of the county, the larger the average response time for EMS. Data for small portions of Sangamon County were unavailable for research and analysis.

Fig. 11



Another means of analysis is looking at the statistics of average response time in regards to total or percent of land. Figure 12 displays the acreage and percent of land of unincorporated Sangamon County based on average response times. Nearly half of unincorporated Sangamon County averages 15-20 minutes of EMS response time.

Fig. 12

Emergency Medical Services Response Times by Percent of Acreage in Unincorporated Sangamon County		
Average Response Time	Acres	Percent of land in Unincorporated Sangamon County*
Less than 5 Minutes	48,616.00	9.8%
5-10 Minutes	92,312.48	18.6%
10-15 Minutes	101,866	20.5%
15-20 Minutes	217,396.9	43.8%
Over 20 Minutes	23,056.9	4.6%

**data unavailable for 2.49%, or 12,366.18 acres of unincorporated Sangamon County*

Medical

The field of medicine is an impactful entity that can provide multiple benefits to a community. First, local medical facilities can greatly improve the overall quality of life for residents. These amenities can increase a person's health and in some cases can be life-saving. Second, medical facilities can have positive influences upon the local economy. Health care offers several full-time and part-time employment opportunities and attracts industries and businesses for local development and construction (ruralhealthworks.org).

Sangamon County has three major health care providers: Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), Memorial Medical Center and Springfield Clinic. Together, these medical facilities employ thousands of workers and serve many residents within Sangamon and neighboring counties.

Unincorporated Sangamon County currently does not have a medical facility located within its territory. However, residents in unincorporated areas can utilize medical facilities in local incorporated areas. Springfield is home to HSHS St. John's Hospital, Memorial Medical Center, and Springfield Clinic. Chatham, Riverton, Rochester and Sherman each have at least one satellite office from either Memorial Medical Center, Springfield Clinic, or HSHS in their village limits to serve the local residents.

Cell Service

Access to reliable cellular service is in high-demand across the country. Mobile phones are used by more than 90 percent of citizens in the United States. The ability to communicate globally, have instant access to the internet and be able to connect to digital networks is an unremitting requirement for communities. Strong and reliable cellular and internet accessibility appeals to both residents and businesses.

SSCRPC staff mapped locations of cell towers located within unincorporated Sangamon County. Many existing cell towers are located within incorporated areas; however, a total of 8 towers were accounted for in unincorporated areas. Their locations can be seen in Figure 13.

Fig. 13

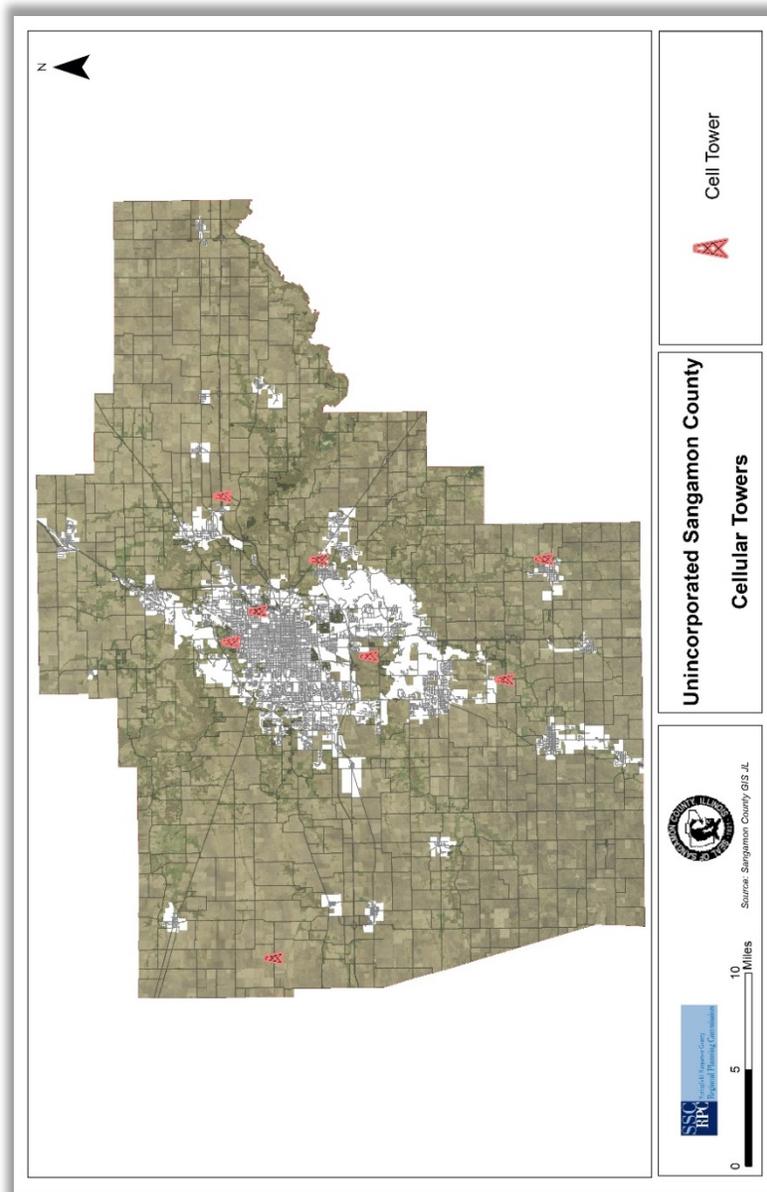
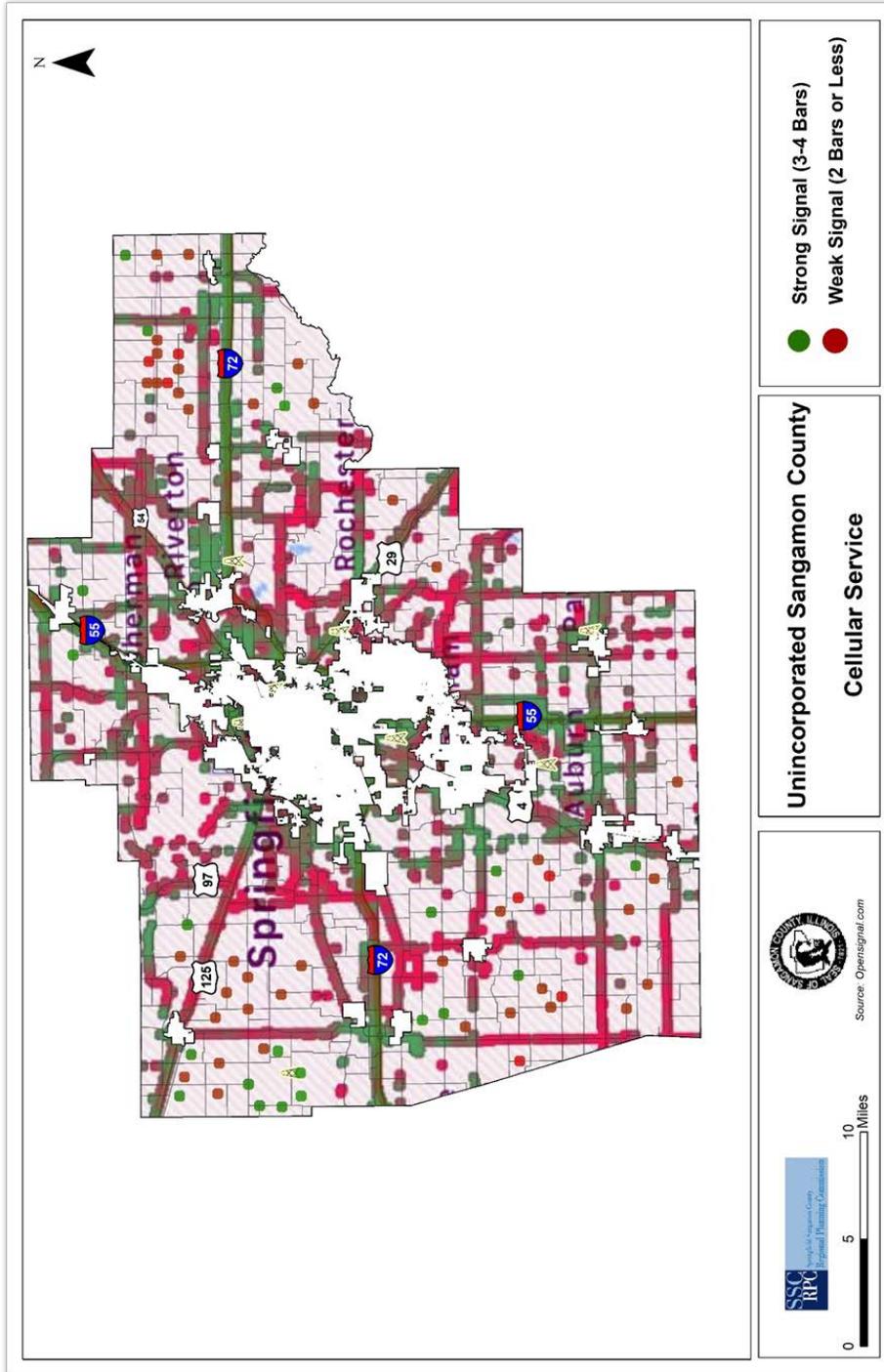


Figure 14 displays unincorporated Sangamon County’s cellular signal strength (Opensignal). The data came from field tests taken by SSCRPC staff via the Opensignal mobile application and previously reported data from the app itself. Opensignal uses crowdsourced data and receives information from a number of popular carriers such as AT&T Inc., Verizon Communications Inc., Sprint Corp. and T-Mobile USA Inc.

Fig. 14



Citations

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