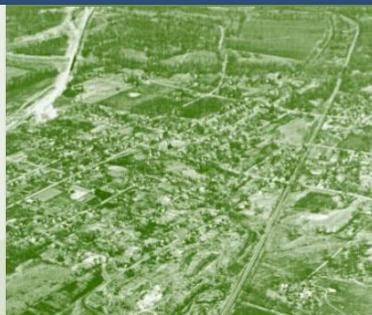
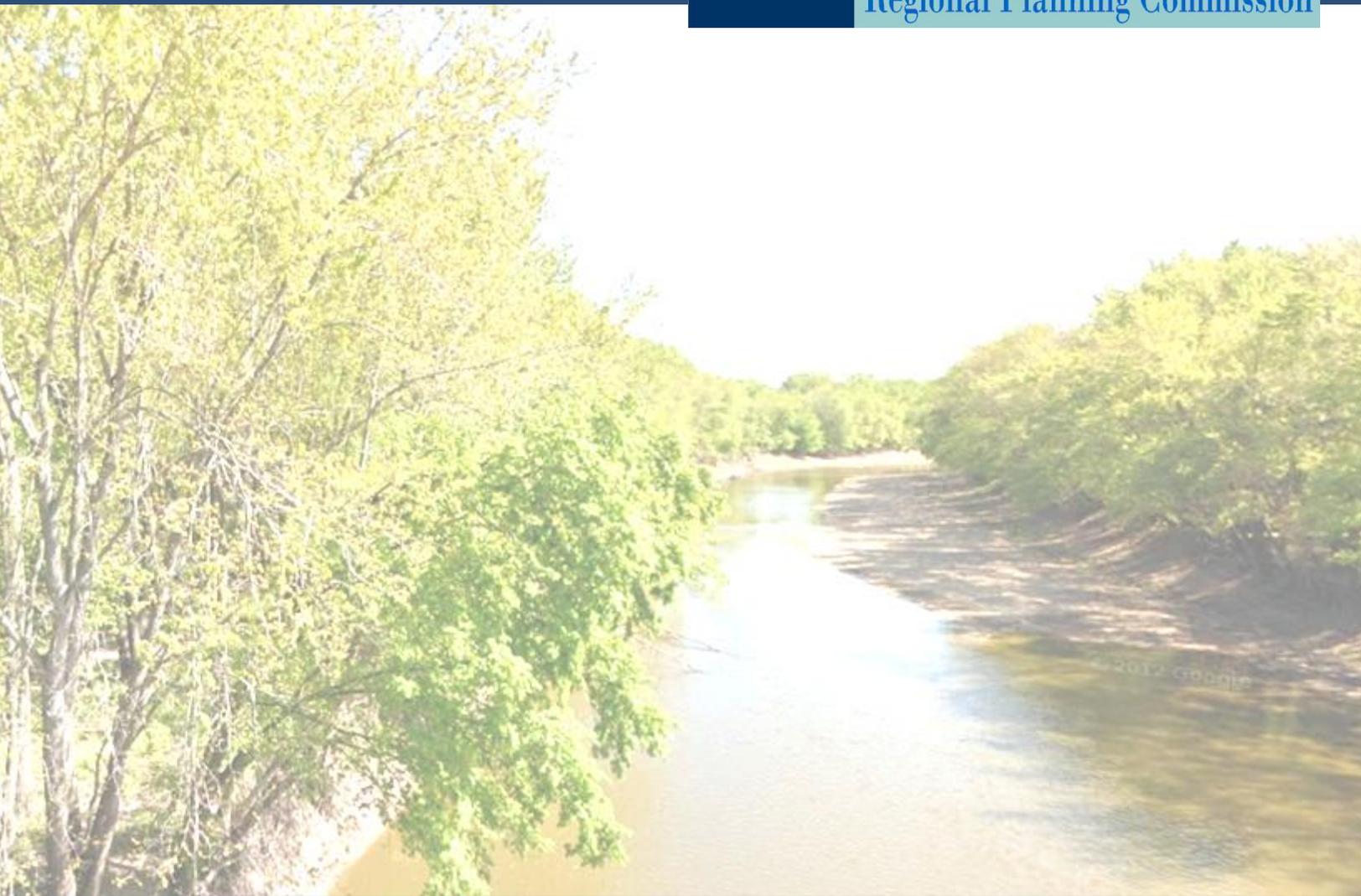


The Village of Riverton Comprehensive Plan 2015-2040

SSC
RPC

Springfield-Sangamon County
Regional Planning Commission





The Village of Riverton Comprehensive Plan 2015-2040

Prepared by the
Springfield-Sangamon County
Regional Planning Commission



Advise • Plan • Evaluate • Lead



*Envisioned
revitalization of
Historic
Downtown
Riverton*





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Riverton*





Letter from the Executive Director

October 20, 2014

Dear President Rader, Council Members, and Citizens of Riverton:

In conjunction with the Riverton Economic Development Committee, the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC) is pleased to present this comprehensive plan. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with the leadership and citizens of Riverton in the development of this plan, which we believe offers long-term guidance for the maintenance and enhancement of areas critical to the village's success.

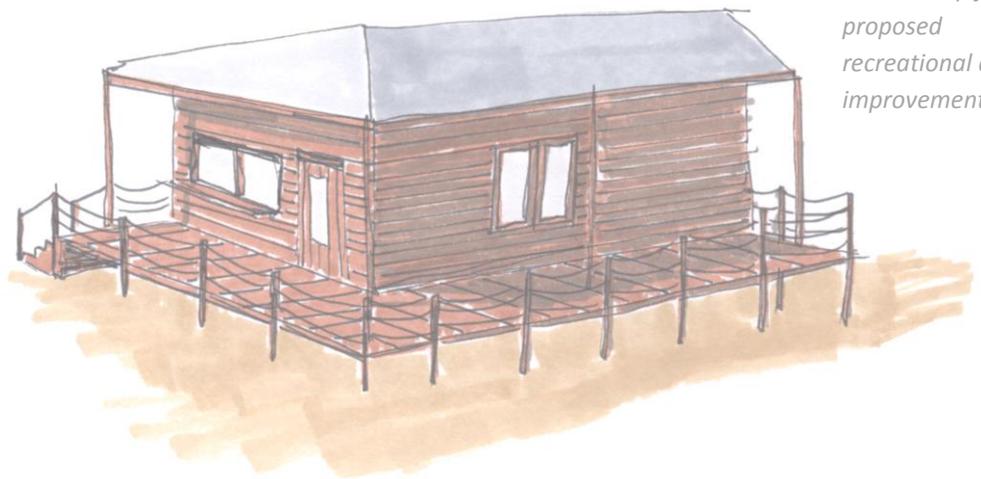
From the very inception of the planning process, all of those involved endeavored to incorporate the perspectives and desires of Riverton residents in the development of the plan. During the spring of 2014, for example, residents responded to a community survey intended to gather their opinions concerning the opportunities and challenges the village faces over the next 25 years. During the summer of 2014, the Riverton Village Board and residents of Riverton were offered yet again the opportunity to provide input into the plan at multiple public meetings. In these meetings, residents reviewed and commented on the survey results and conceptual designs for proposed future land use which SSCRPC staff created based upon the community survey results as well as the recommendations of village officials.

As a result of this dialogue and the information gathered, the SSCRPC developed this plan, which shows the village's past and present conditions, and highlights scenarios that the village can pursue to further enhance the community in the years to come. We are hopeful that this comprehensive plan will meet the needs of the village of Riverton over the next 25 years.

The SSCRPC thanks you for the opportunity to participate in building Riverton's future.

Sincerely,

Norm Sims, Executive Director
Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission



*Envisioned cabin
or bait shop for
proposed
recreational area
improvements*



Executive Summary

This comprehensive plan for Riverton describes the village's present situation and targets future challenges and opportunities. It provides a flexible blueprint for the village to use when approaching its future over the next 25 years. The overview of the village's current assets is broken down into history, demographics, environmental factors, utilities, transportation, economic development, regionalism and land use components.

The plan incorporates resident feedback through a community survey conducted by the SSCRPC for the village. An analysis of survey results is provided as an appendix to this document, and resident quotations from the open-ended comments section are highlighted for illustrative purposes throughout the plan. The plan also contemplates many goals for the community's long-term success, which are discussed thoroughly in the *Strategies and Actions* section of this plan. Some of these goals are described in greater detail than others, and the plan includes proposed "views" to allow Riverton residents to envision their community with enriched land uses and amenities tailored to their future needs.

Riverton has unique assets that provide it with a competitive advantage when compared to many nearby "bedroom" communities whose residents work in the City of Springfield. Its resources include a rich history, village-owned utilities, a mid-sized residential population, proximity to historical resources, and numerous parks and open spaces. The plan highlights these strengths and offers strategies to further expand upon them and grow Riverton's positive attributes.

Most significantly, Riverton's greatest asset is its access to portions of the Sangamon River, offering great heritage, scenic, and recreational potential. This resource is unique and unlike those in other Sangamon County communities, particularly in terms of its potential to attract recreational tourism. If appropriately connected to other regional resources through partnerships and strong transportation infrastructure, Riverton could leverage these resources to become a regional recreational and historical gem. However, these resources are currently underutilized and not well documented. The comprehensive plan targets some significant ways Riverton can work to maintain, advance, or expand its community quality of life utilizing these resources and its other strengths.

Riverton does face some unique challenges. Property maintenance concerns are replete, and the severity of incompatible and mixed land uses in some areas of Riverton creates a scattered economic development focus, in addition to potential health and safety issues. Riverton also faces challenges related to specific demographic groups. Residents report concern that income and education difficulties among some cohorts of the village population have generated a youth population in need of engagement and motivation. An emphasis on restoring community culture, living and buying local, youth development, and generating "pride in place" are thought to be essential for Riverton to overcome these challenges.

The comprehensive plan identifies Riverton's goals and actions in the next 25 years for addressing these concerns. With the plan as a guide and a resource, Riverton can work toward plan implementation. Key strategies include focused land use patterns, improved connectivity, youth development, historic downtown revitalization, and recreational tourism resource development. While the plan pragmatically identifies concerns, it provides three "tiers" for village action, allowing local leaders to maintain, advance, or expand village benefits. This allows identification of a more limited strategic focus if

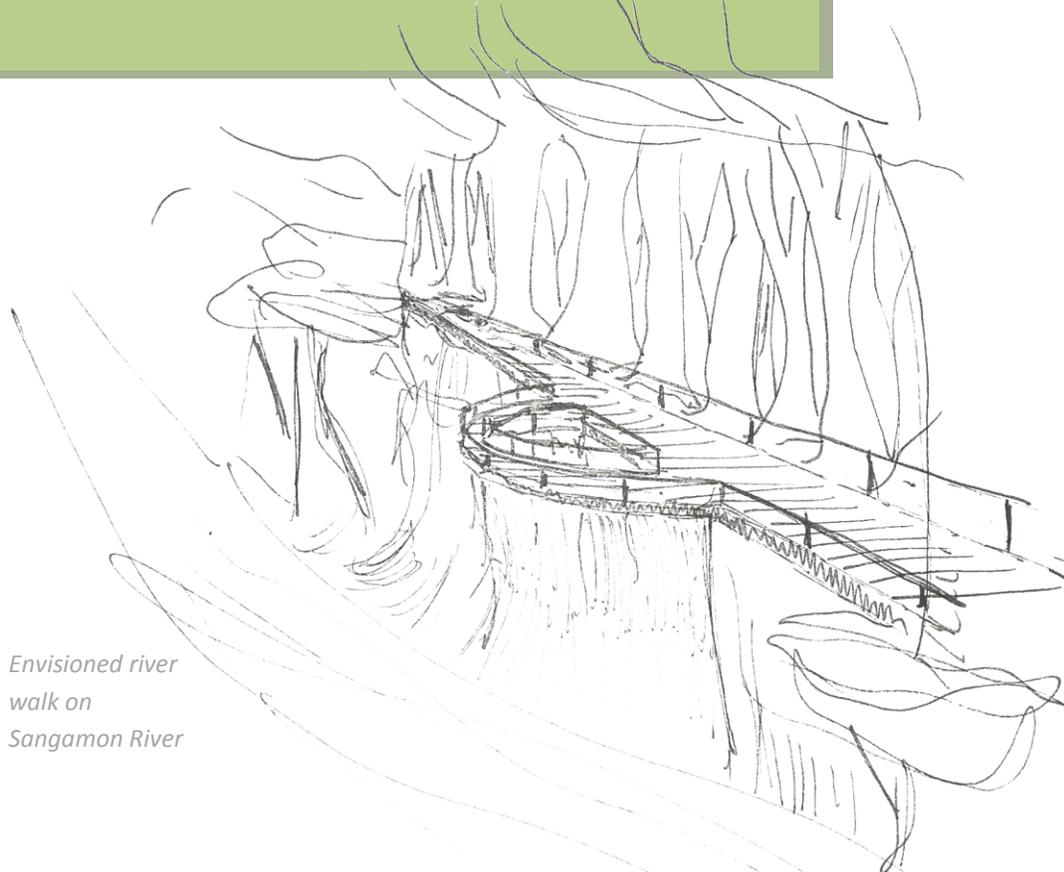
resources do not permit expansive efforts, but also allows Riverton to stretch itself toward high-impact goals if it should choose to do so. Finally, Riverton's goals are highlighted for easy reference in a *Strategies and Actions Chart* included as an appendix to the plan document. The chart identifies an area of focus and a goal tier for each action item. By implementing these priorities, Riverton can begin intentionally mitigating community concerns, and ultimately work to cultivate improvements in the on-going quality of life for all residents.

Key Themes and Strategies

Several key themes, goals, and strategies surface throughout the Riverton plan. At the end of each section, these are highlighted in light of the information presented in that section.

- Riverton has unique assets and attributes that are currently underutilized.
- Riverton faces significant challenges, and must be strategic in how it works to capitalize on its special resources.
- Some of Riverton's community improvement and investment in recent years has been scattered and has not focused around core strategic objectives.
- Riverton should build quality-of-life and "pride in place" factors as the centerpiece of its economic development strategy.
- To achieve this, Riverton should focus on improving property maintenance and invest in designated character areas.
- Investing in youth support is a key strategy for Riverton.
- Riverton's land use should reorient the village toward the riverfront.
- Riverton can use the village's rich history and natural environment to create a tourism economy.
- Riverton should also expand on and utilize recreational resources to develop this economy.
- Riverton should ensure that it partners with regional and national entities to achieve village goals.

*Envisioned river
walk on
Sangamon River*





History

Riverton's establishment and growth tells not only the story of its past, but serves as prologue to an exciting future.

The village of Riverton was established in 1837, and since that time, has had a rich and diverse history. Where not otherwise cited, information in the history section below has been derived from local interviews and resources from the Sangamon Valley Collection of Springfield's Lincoln Public Library. The variety of ethnic groups, strong public figures, and business establishments that have had a vast impact on Riverton since it was first platted is evident in the number of names the community has held across time. These names include Judy's Ferry, Jamestown, Howlett, and Riverton.

The Early Days: "Illinois's First Highway" and Young Abraham Lincoln

Prior to the formal incorporation of Riverton, the area of the Lower Sangamon River Valley that now makes up the village was a hub for several groups. Various Native American tribes, including Mississippians, lived near Riverton, and local evidence has been found of hunting grounds, burial mounds, and the locations of sacrificial rituals. Additionally, long-standing migration patterns in and around the area led to the creation of a standing trail, or "trace," used by many in the area's early years to travel to the Cahokia Mounds in Illinois near St. Louis, Missouri (Moore, Brady, and Garrison, 2014).



Young Lincoln Arrives in Jamestown;
Source: Ostendorf Originals, 1978,
abelincoln.com

The trail eventually became known known as Edward's Trace, named after Illinois Governor Ninian Edwards. Following some of the early migration and hunting patterns of Native Americans in the area, the trace crossed over the southeast corner of modern incorporated Riverton. Over time, Edward's Trace was surveyed and became a formally documented trail, connecting area settlements and forts. The

Trace was also significant during the Civil War, as it connected the hospitals and training grounds at Camp Butler to Union supply lines. Though little known at present, it has been called "Illinois's First Highway" by some because of its significant role in circulating people and supplies throughout this portion of the state during the nineteenth century.

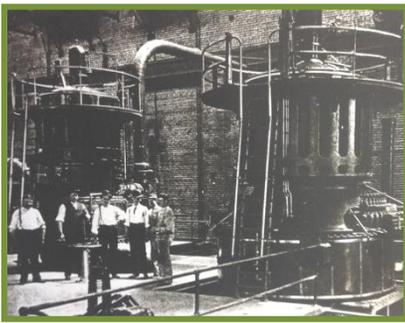
The community that would become Riverton was first settled as a result of a ferry over the Sangamon River at that location. Over the years this ferry changed ownership numerous times, but initially the community that grew up around it derived its first name from owner John Judy, who was also the original surveyor of Edward's Trace. The growing community was a destination for trappers and traders in the lower Sangamon River valley area, and in 1831 a young Abraham Lincoln was said to first arrive in Sangamon County via canoe in what would become Riverton.

The land forming the village changed ownership on numerous occasions during this early period, but was eventually purchased and platted by John Taylor, a Springfield merchant and developer, in 1837 as a proposed railroad town. The name Jamestown was officially selected at that time to honor James Reed, a merchant who established the community's first industry, a sawmill and cabinet/furniture factory.

For a period of time, Jamestown experienced slow growth, partially due to the new railroad—a Northern Cross line—being unreliable in its early years. Many of the prominent landowners, including Taylor and Reed, sold their land and left the area. Reed joined the Donner-Reed Party and traveled westward from the Springfield area. This group of travelers is now famous for the Donner Party Tragedy in the Sierra Mountains, where harsh winter conditions and starvation led to death and probably cannibalization of many members of the party, though most of the Reed family survived. After Reed left the area, it started to become revitalized with the advent of the Sangamon and Morgan Railroad.

Mid-1800s: Industry and Expansion

In the 1860s, P.L. Howlett came to the area. He purchased a great deal of land in the community, and due to his economic contributions to the area the state legislature renamed Jamestown after him in 1868. While prospecting for oil in the area, he made the first discovery of coal in central Illinois. Howlett subsequently created the first coal mine shaft in the area during the late 1860s.



Old Riverton Rail Factory; Source: The State Journal-Register, Sangamon Valley Collection

The discovery of coal had a profound and lasting impact on Riverton. The presence of coal mines caused them to be a major employer for much of the village's history. The mines, owned by the Western Coal & Mining Company, led to a population increase in the town that brought substantial residential and business development. The last coal mine in Riverton closed in 1933, at which point population increases flagged somewhat and many residents turned to employment opportunities in the nearby City of Springfield.

Other major industries significant to the early history of the village included a distillery, the cabinet factory previously mentioned, and a nearby paper mill in Spaulding. At this time of westward expansion in America's history, Riverton and the surrounding area also played their own unique roles in the tales of growth and expansion toward west. For example, the Jesse James gang stayed in Riverton in 1876. Howlett himself, following an 1865 explosion in the distillery during which he experience significant financial lost, eventually went bankrupt and transferred ownership of his properties to James Bunn.

Early 1900s: Ethnic Diversity and Community Spirit

It was after Howlett's bankruptcy that the name of the village was changed to Riverton in honor of its location on the Sangamon. As a result of the significant presence of the mining community, Riverton also became a settling place for large populations of Italian, Lithuanian, Russian, and Austrian immigrants.

An excellent account of frontier life in Illinois was written in 1884 by one of these immigrants, a Scotsman named James Wilson. Wilson discussed life in Riverton, opportunities and systems of government in Illinois, and other cultural components important to the immigrant populations' way of life. One area of Riverton was known as a Little Italy, and such



Westward Aerial of Riverton, 1958; Source: The State Journal-Register, Sangamon Valley Collection

ethnic neighborhoods had significant influence on Riverton’s development. This also became evident in the 1950s, when Riverton residents were given opportunities to assist in the naming of streets by buying into street signs, with some families giving streets unique names based on their own family histories.

Among the businesses and families that have long-standing histories in Riverton, one significant one was developed by community leader Cyrus Wheeland in the early 1900s. Wheeland was a farmer and land developer. Following his early death, his wife, Olive Wheeland Black, invested in making their property into a “haven” of beauty, which served as a regional retreat destination throughout the following years. The family also donated land for a YMCA camp in the area. Ultimately, the property was converted to “The Mansion,” a night club and music venue which burned down in 1992 (Sangamon County Historical Society).



Wheeland Haven, ca. 1920; Source: Sangamon Valley Collection and Sangamon County Historical Society

Similarly, Riverton’s history of important business establishments continues into the present with many other properties. The village has a strong civic culture, as demonstrated by the development of its many parks, community groups, and civic resources. There are a number of significant community facilities in Riverton, which have historically included the post office, numerous of churches of varying denominations, and the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Late 1900s: Celebrating a Rich Past

Related to this strong civic infrastructure, Riverton has developed substantial community culture and civic pride over the years. A World War I and II Memorial was dedicated in 1950, and numerous parks and campgrounds were created.



The Mansion Inn, ca. 1991; Source: The State Journal-Register, Sangamon Valley Collection

At its sesquicentennial celebration in 1987, great community pride became evident in the level of documentation and preserved photography that still existed from the community’s early days. Riverton’s Fire Protection District has also been a large part of the local culture, with members donating time and resources to maintaining a strong volunteer department including, for example, making personal monetary donations for a new fire truck in 1950.

Significant to the local government and long-term planning, the village has historically maintained its own gas, water, and electric utilities, and is one of few villages in Illinois to do so. These utilities have at times had significant impact on the village. In 1939, for example, difficult financial times for the village led to water and sewer funding under the Works Progress Administration. In the 1970s, the village again had difficulties with utility capacity, including water shortages, delays in school openings because of sewer capacity, and similar growing pains. However, these difficulties ultimately demonstrated the village’s ability to confront and overcome local challenges.

Early Twenty-first Century: Toward the Future

With its mining history, documented ethnic diversity, strong civic culture, and active local government, Riverton's history makes it a community replete with opportunities for growth and development in keeping with, and in response to, trends in the village's and region's future. Continuing with its tradition of community spirit, the most recent addition to Riverton's strong park infrastructure occurred in 2004 when the Field of Dreams was purchased and developed.

Each of the many noteworthy components of Riverton's history described above contributes to the village's availability of resources to succeed and move forward. Riverton's history serves as a not just a backdrop, but as a jumping-off point for its future. The convergence of countless distinctive stories related to Riverton and its location suggests that it is even better equipped than many of its peer communities to allow its past to play a unique role in its future.

History: Key Themes and Strategies

- Riverton's history is a "jumping off" point for the remainder of its plan. It has an unusually wide range of interest historical resources, or which many residents and regional partners are currently unaware.
- Riverton therefore has unique historical assets and attributes that are currently underutilized.
- Riverton should build quality-of-life and "pride in place" factors as the centerpiece of its economic development strategy.
- Riverton's history and culture of civic pride can be revitalized through targeted community investment. Riverton's history can also attract additional investment and economic development activity.
- A great deal of Riverton's heritage focuses on its proximity to the Sangamon River. Therefore, Riverton's land use should reorient the village toward the riverfront.
- Riverton can use the village's rich history and natural environment to create a tourism economy.

"My motto: 'Let's stay involved and help make Riverton the very best it can be.'"

-Riverton resident in community survey response



Demographic Factors

Of significant importance to any community is the recognition of the trends affecting it, particularly its demographics. Central Illinois as a region is generally experiencing population aging and rural population growth decline. It is important for Riverton to recognize and understand its relationship to these trends in order to ensure that it is prepared to meet any challenges that may be associated with them.

Population

As of the 2010 Census, Riverton had a population of 3,455. From 2000 to 2010, the City's population grew by 13%, an increase of 407 residents. This represents a somewhat smaller ten-year growth rate than some of its peer and competitor communities, including such "bedroom" communities as Chatham, Sherman, and Rochester. However, Riverton remains in a similar population bracket to that of Sherman and Rochester, with substantially more residents than the Village of Williamsville, to the north.

In comparison to its nearest neighbors (Table 2.1), Riverton is larger and has experienced comparable or more robust growth over the last ten years. Dawson, Riverton's neighbor to the east, has experienced only a slight increase in population, whereas Grandview has experienced a slight decline. Spaulding, the exception among Riverton's near neighbors, has experienced a larger percentage increase (though over a smaller base population) compared to Riverton.

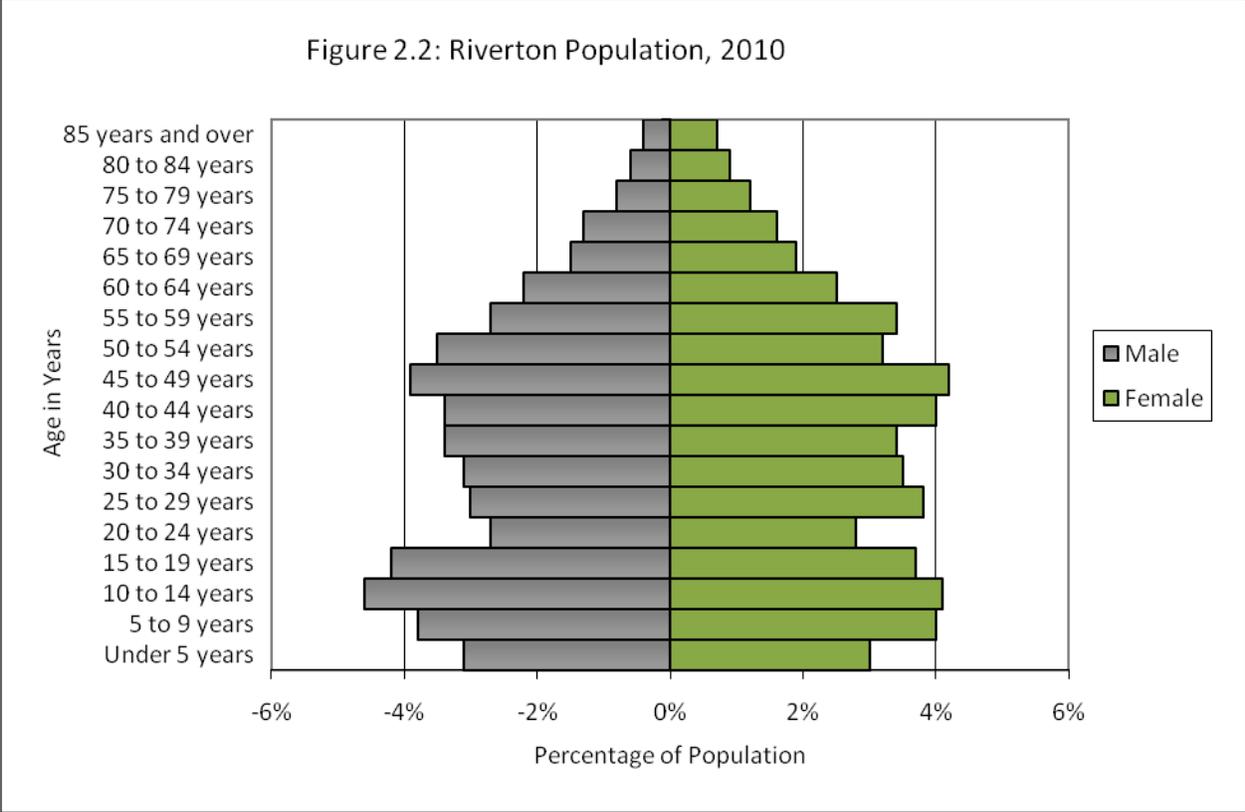
Table 2.1: Comparative Populations			
<i>Source: 2000 Census Analysis, SSCRPC, and 2010 US Census</i>			
	2000	2010	Ten-Year % Change
Riverton	3,048	3,455	13%
<i>Peer Communities</i>			
Chatham	8,583	11,500	34%
Sherman	2,871	4,148	44%
Rochester	2,893	3,689	28%
Williamsville	1,439	1,476	3%
<i>Near Neighbors</i>			
Dawson	466	509	9%
Grandview	1,537	1,441	-6%
Spaulding	559	873	56%

It is important to note that in addition to these communities, with whom Riverton may compete for residential growth, Riverton is also demographically and commercially affected by changes on the east side of the city of Springfield. Although comparative figures are more difficult to capture in this circumstance because only portions of Springfield can be considered neighbors of Riverton, it is valuable to consider the actions and trends of neighbors such as Springfield and Grandview when examining demographic forces at work in Riverton.

In 2010, the median age of Riverton’s population was 35.5 years, compared to Sangamon County’s median age of 39.2. Compared to some peer communities, Riverton has a relatively even population distribution in terms of age groups. Between 5 and 8% of Riverton’s population falls in each cohort from ages 0-4 to ages 55-59. Somewhat smaller percentages of the population are in the older cohorts.

This pattern is somewhat atypical for communities in Sangamon County (Figure 2.2) , many of which are experiencing a decline in younger population and with larger proportions of those in the 50-65 age cohorts; the so-called Baby Boomer generation. While Riverton’s population pyramid demonstrates this trend slightly with a moderate “bulge” at this section of its population pyramid, it has a larger percentage of its population in cohorts under age 19 than many communities. In fact, the village’s largest cohorts are actually those between ages 10 and 14, ages 15 and 19, and ages 45 and 49.

Another noteworthy trend is the smaller proportions of those aged 20 to 24, suggesting that out-migration after high school graduation may be occurring. Riverton may wish to consider this trend in light of any future efforts to attract and retain younger families. Riverton has a relatively typical distribution of male and female population, with 51.9% female. Its younger population has slightly more males and its older population slightly more females, which is not atypical. If Riverton can retain this younger population, its unusually robust younger cohorts may prove to be a great asset for the village.



Riverton’s somewhat smoother population distribution as compared to peer communities may have implications for its future development. One way in which the US Census Bureau summarizes the information in order to more easily analyze what these implications might be, is through the use of age dependency ratios. These ratios represent a picture of which portions of the population are depending upon the workforce population, either for direct support or to bear a higher portion of the local tax

needs. The lower the dependency ratio, particularly for old-age dependency, the more likely it is to benefit the local economy, because more people are in the workforce supporting governmental functions such as education and social services. Age dependency ratios are derived by dividing the combined under-15 and 65-and-over populations by the 16-to-64 population and multiplying by 100. The old-age dependency ratio is derived by dividing the population 65 and over by the 16-to-64 population and multiplying by 100. The child dependency ratio is derived by dividing the population under 15 by the 16-to-64 population and multiplying by 100.

Table 2.3		
Summary Indicators		
SSCRPC Calculations		
based on 2010 US Census		
	<i>Riverton</i>	<i>Sangamon County</i>
Median age (years)	35.5	39.2
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	92.7	92.3
Age dependency ratio	50.0	50.1
Old-age dependency ratio	16.2	20.8
Child dependency ratio	33.7	29.3

In this case, Riverton’s old-age dependency ratio is relatively lower than some surrounding communities’ ratios, and its child dependency ratio relatively high. Again, this is likely to be beneficial to the local economy *if* Riverton can retain this younger population as it ages.

It is important to note that the child dependency ratio was calculated using 16 as the cut-off age for dependency, meaning that it is a relatively conservative estimate of child dependency. Some calculations of child dependency may instead include the 15 to 19 age cohort as dependents as well. In the event that this cohort is included in the child dependency ratio, Riverton’s ratio becomes 51.8, whereas Sangamon County’s is 43.6. Similarly, using 65 as the cut-off age assumes that those over 65 are dependent, which is not necessarily the case in all communities.

While these cut-off ages can be calculated differently if so desired, the most significant information derived from the dependency indicators is how Riverton compares to peers in the region on these factors. This is demonstrated in Table 2.3, where in comparison to the Sangamon County region as a whole, Riverton has higher child dependency and lower old-age dependency ratios.

These trends indicate that Riverton’s attention to education services will continue to be of particular importance. The indicators also suggest that, while significant, Riverton may experience less pressure than some surrounding communities to respond to increases in its aging population in the near future.

Race and Ethnicity

Table 2.4, below, shows the racial and ethnic composition of Riverton’s population as of the 2010 Census. Riverton’s largest population group identifies as racially white, though it exhibits much more diversity than some other communities in Sangamon County. US Census designations do not highlight distinctions among various ethnic groups within the white population, including those of different

European descents, which is a significant component of the demographic and cultural awareness exhibited in Riverton’s history.

Table 2.4 Racial Composition of Population Riverton, IL 2010 Source: 2010 US Census	
RACIAL DESIGNATION	%
One Race	98.6
White	97.2
Black or African American	0.5
American Indian and Alaskan Native	0.4
Asian	0.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0
Some other race	0.1
Two or more races	1.4
TOTAL	100.0
HISPANIC	1.3

Household Type

As of 2010, Riverton had 1,431 housing units. Of this total, 95.9% were occupied and 4.1% were vacant. The American Community Survey estimated for 2012 that 68.7% of these housing units were owner-occupied, and 31.3% were renter-occupied.

Table 2.5 shows the breakdown of the 1,373 occupied units (2010) within the village by household type. Approximately 70% of the households were family households, defined by the Census Bureau as “at least one householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption,” (Census Bureau, 2012). To provide greater detail on these family households, 45% of all households are married couple families (husband-wife, as defined by 2010 Census), and the remaining 25% are other family types, with no spouse present. Among husband and wife families, 19% of all households have children under the age of 18, and among other types of families, 17% have children. Approximately 5% of the households were non-family. However, it is important to note that this 5% includes only non-family households with two or more persons, not single-person households.

Again, these demographics suggest that Riverton has relatively high proportions of children as compared to other communities. The average household size in Riverton was 2.52 persons at the 2010 Census.

Table 2.5	
Household Type	
Riverton, IL 2010	
<i>Source: 2010 US Census, ESRI Community Analyst</i>	
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS:	1,373
2+ Person Households	1,026 (74.7%)
Family	958 (69.8%)
With own children < 18	492 (35.8%)
Non-Family	68 (5.0%)
One Person Households	347 (25.3%)
All Households with Children	539 (39.3%)
Multi-generational Households	41 (3.0%)

Also of significance when examining demographic factors in Riverton is the transience of residents. Riverton has relatively high percentages of rental housing (31.3% renter-occupied) as compared to such peers as Dawson (20.7%), Rochester (9.9%), and Sherman (14.4%). Because of this, village officials and residents expressed interest in the turnover experienced for housing stock in the area. The ACS provides estimates for housing turnover as depicted in Table 2.6, below. At 13.2%, Riverton has a relatively high percentage of persons moving to a different house in the same county in the last year. Another statistical snapshot of this phenomenon is the percentage of persons in Riverton who have moved since 2010. ACS estimates this at 9.7% in Riverton, compared to an average of 6.7% in the three peer communities described above. These demographic trends will play an important role in Riverton’s future land use considerations and proposed housing stock.

Table 2.6			
Housing Unit Turnover			
Riverton, IL			
<i>Source: 2008-2012 American Community Survey</i>			
RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO	#	%	Margin of Error
POPULATION 1 YEAR AND OVER	3,436	3,436	-
Same house	2,856	83.1%	+/-12.3
Different house in the US	580	16.9%	+/-12.3
Same county	452	13.2%	+/-12.1
Different county	128	3.7%	+/-4.5
Same state	128	3.7%	+/-4.5
Different state	0	0.0%	+/-0.9
Abroad	0	0.0%	+/-0.9

As has historically been the case, migration patterns in Riverton are more a product of short moves within the county than of residents leaving to other states or even other counties. It is likely that most of these movements are a result of employment changes or a desire to live in a smaller, outlying community but commute into Springfield.

Education

Although education data by grade level can reveal important insights about a community, the 2010 Census did not contain any items related to educational attainment. Accordingly, this analysis relies on estimates provided through the American Community Survey for 2008-2012.

Table 2.7, below, provides educational attainment data. ACS estimates are for education levels based upon individuals over age 25. Since the estimates are computed based on a smaller population sample and in comparison to prior Census data, the table includes a column indicating the percentage of marginal error possible for each estimate. According to the estimates, those with high school diplomas or an equivalent comprise the largest single percentage of Riverton residents, with 37.8% at this level of educational attainment. Approximately 15.2% of Riverton’s population has a Bachelor’s Degree, with 26.8% having attended some college.

Table 2.7 Educational Attainment Riverton, IL <i>Source: 2008-2012 ACS Estimates</i>			
	#	%	Margin of Error
Population 25 years and over	2,237	-	-
Less than 9th grade	129	5.8%	+/-4.5
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	179	8.0%	+/-5.0
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	846	37.8%	+/-8.8
Some college, no degree	600	26.8%	+/-8.0
Associate's degree	92	4.1%	+/-2.6
Bachelor's degree	339	15.2%	+/-5.3
Graduate or professional degree	52	2.3%	+/-1.8

Table 2.8, below, compares these Riverton ACS educational attainment estimates to the ESRI 2010 estimates for high school and college graduates aged 25 and over in nearby municipalities in Sangamon County. Riverton has smaller percentages of high school and college graduates than most comparable Sangamon County municipalities, with Grandview and Dawson being most similar.

Table 2.8 Educational Attainment Sangamon County Communities <i>Source: American Community Survey, 2010 ESRI Estimates</i>		
	High School	College
Riverton	86.2%	17.5%
Sangamon County	91.9%	33.2%
Chatham	96.8%	41.6%
Dawson	87.9%	10.4%
Grandview	83.0%	10.5%
Rochester	97.5%	45.7%
Sherman	94.7%	39.3%
Springfield	91.9%	33.2%

Household Income

Given these household and educational comparisons, a final important component of the demographic picture of the village is provided in Table 2.9, below, which displays the ACS estimates of household income distribution for Riverton and Sangamon County in 2011. Again, the reader should understand that the ACS estimates are built from 2000 Census data, because the 2010 US Census did not collect income data by household.

The table indicates that the largest percentage of Riverton residents fell in the household income ranges under \$15,000 or between \$35,000 and \$99,000. Riverton’s percentage of residents with an annual household income of under \$35,000 (29%) was less than the comparable Sangamon County percentage (33%). In the \$35,000-\$75,000 bracket, however, Riverton had 38% of households, compared to Sangamon County’s 35%. Riverton displays a slightly lower percentage (24%) of households in the household income bracket of \$75,000-\$149,000 than the County, and a much smaller percentage of those earning over \$150,000 annually (0%) than Sangamon County (7%). As a whole, Riverton’s household income distribution is structurally comparable but lower than that of the County as a whole.

Table 2.10 also displays the mean and median household income in Riverton as compared to Sangamon County and other communities in the region. Riverton’s income levels are generally at levels similar to or lower than other communities in the rural areas of the county, though slightly higher on both measurements than those of Grandview, and slightly higher on median income than the City of Springfield.

Table 2.9				
Household Income Distribution 2011 Estimates				
<i>Source: 2011 American Community Survey</i>				
	Riverton		Sangamon County	
	#	%	#	%
Total Households	1,423	100%	83,630	100%
Less than \$15,000	262	18%	9,088	11%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	128	9%	9,180	11%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	90	6%	9,492	11%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	195	14%	12,816	15%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	352	25%	16,630	20%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	262	18%	11,338	14%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	86	6%	9,647	12%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	48	3%	2,963	4%
\$200,000 or more	0	0%	2,476	3%
Under \$35,000	408	29%	27,760	33%
\$35,000 - \$74,999	547	38%	29,446	35%
\$75,000 - \$149,999	348	24%	20,985	25%
\$150,000 or more	48	3%	5,439	7%

Table 2.10		
Comparative Household income		
2011 Estimates		
<i>Source: ACS, ESRI Business/Community Analyst Online (2011 Inflation-adjusted)</i>		
	Median	Mean
Riverton	\$53,661	\$54,993
Sangamon County	\$51,227	\$66,541
Chatham	\$69,891	\$78,521
Grandview	\$37,484	\$45,259
Sherman	\$79,887	\$89,656
Springfield	\$45,674	\$62,414

Population Projections

Population changes in small communities can be difficult to predict over time, sometimes decreasing the utility of the projections. Because Riverton has the ability to annex additional land over time, 2010 Census data on population, coupled with reasonable methods for projecting population, can still only provide a limited picture of what might impact Riverton’s population over the next 25 years.

Riverton's population grew by 13% between 2000 and 2010, which represents a slight decrease in growth rate from 1990-2000, when it grew by 15.5%. Accordingly, it is reasonable to expect that, while Riverton may grow in the future, it is unlikely to sustain the same rate of growth as it did during earlier decades, when the region as a whole was experiencing increases in population and housing.

Population projections can be constructed using a variety of methodologies. Some of these methodologies include: a straight line algebraic projection, wherein the village's current growth rates are trended outward for a number of years; a building permits method, where data related to housing units is utilized to construct a reasonable projection of what might occur in the village's future; and a births/deaths method, where the age groups of various demographics are considered in terms of natural population growth and attrition likely to come from typical birth and death patterns. Using these methodologies, the SSCRPC has projected that Riverton's 2040 population could be 4,681; 4,014; or 3,841 (respectively, by method). If one were to consider just the mid-point of these projections, one might consider growth to be near 4,261.

The population projections associated with this comprehensive plan rely on this information, but are also informed by the 20-year housing growth patterns that the SSCRPC anticipates Riverton will see, which are further explored in the plan's *Future Land Use* section. Moreover, these projections take into account residents' preferences, as detailed in their responses to the community survey conducted in the course of this planning process (Appendix A).

The first trend of importance in examining Riverton's growth potential is the growth of the region. Sangamon County as a whole experienced a slower rate of growth (4.5%) from 2000 to 2010 than it did from 1990 to 2000 (5.9%). These slowing growth rates may affect the number of potential residents Riverton can attract, as it is but one among many smaller rural communities in the region competing for a slower-growing potential resident pool.

Several other factors are also involved in informing Riverton's population growth potential. The first is its demographic makeup. Riverton has relatively high proportions of children as compared to other communities in the region, which can be of benefit for population growth if the village works to retain local residents as they age, potentially by providing a strong environment of services and amenities. However, Riverton will need to work to maintain this strong base in the younger age cohort and build from this base a viable workforce population. Currently, Riverton experiences some difficulties with its younger population, and based upon the community survey, youth recreation opportunities, educational resources, and drug abuse resistance programming will be key needs in Riverton to ensure its demographic patterns do not inhibit its growth opportunities in the future.

School district expansion considerations and the continued maintenance of strong schools, which will be further contemplated later in the plan, will also be important to Riverton's population sustainability and growth. Since many households with children are part of Riverton's population, access to schools is an essential part of maintaining its population base. Additionally, the village has historically experienced some expansion challenges due to school district boundaries, which will be addressed later in this plan. These considerations inform the population projections below. If they are resolved, Riverton is more likely to experience a moderate growth scenario.

Riverton's population growth will also be affected by its ability to attract residential development. This will require such actions as the annexation of property as well as ensuring that adequate utilities are available to meet development needs. Therefore, if Riverton does not take the steps described later in

this plan to maintain its utility infrastructure and ensure that capital needs are met, it may also inhibit its growth potential, experiencing one of the lower-growth scenarios described below.

Table 2.11, depicts the projected population of Riverton in situations of no growth, low growth, and medium growth. The most likely scenario would be moderate growth in the event the village works to implement strong planning practices. However, should the village pursue none of the activities outlined in the *Strategies and Actions* section of this plan, it would be more likely to see no or minimal growth in keeping with the demographic patterns being experienced in other areas of the region.

Table 2.11 Population Projections Riverton, Illinois			
	No Growth	Low Growth	Moderate Growth
1990 (actual)	2,638	--	--
2000 (actual)	3,160	--	--
2010(actual)	3,455	--	--
2020	3,490	3,593	3,628
2030	3,524	3,665	3,809
2040	3,560	3,702	4,000

Demographics: Key Themes and Strategies

- Riverton faces unique challenges, and must be strategic in how it works to capitalize on its special resources. These challenges include:
 - a regional trend of population declines,
 - an aging population,
 - a large low to moderate income population, and
 - education concerns.
- Riverton should build quality-of-life and "pride in place" factors as the centerpiece of its economic development strategy.
- Investing in youth support is a key strategy for Riverton, so that it can attract and retain young families and develop a strong, quality workforce. Riverton needs to do more for its kids and their families.
- Riverton’s history and culture of civic pride can be revitalized through targeted community investment.

“Riverton is a small town, thus the feeling of neighbors who are there for you.”

“I really like the small town feel.”

-Riverton residents in community survey



Environment and Natural Resources

Geology

Riverton sits along the eastern edge of the Springfield Plain, just west of the Buffalo Hart Moraine in Sangamon County. The Springfield Plain features the lower Sangamon River, with an older and more developed network of tributaries than the Bloomington Ridged Plain to the east (Bergstrom, Piskin, & Follmer, 1976). The river valley averages about one mile across, reaching distances as great as two miles across in certain areas. As the glaciers in this area retreated many years ago, the melt water left behind sandy hills and silted/sandy bottomlands. The soils provide the area with an abundant source of groundwater at shallow depths near the Sangamon River, into which many Sangamon County municipalities tap (Bergstrom et al., 1976). The sandy and silted soils also give Riverton its hilly appearance.

Along the river bottom, the soils are covered with what scientists refer to as the Cahokia Alluvium. This is fine grained sediment that was deposited in recent times by running water, standing water, and other living organisms. Beneath the Cahokia Alluvium, there is a rock formation called the Henry formation in and near Riverton. This formation contains primarily gravel and sand that was sorted by the melt water released by a glacier that stood east of the Shelbyville Moraines, which are east of the Buffalo Hart Moraine (Bergstrom et al., 1976).

Over thousands of years, wind-blown soils, or loess, were deposited over much of Sangamon County from areas to the northwest, including the Illinois River valley and glacial deposits in northwest Illinois. Loess makes excellent farm soil and ranges from approximately 6-15 feet in depth in various parts of Sangamon County. The area around Riverton has an average depth of 10-12 feet. Much of the loess in the Riverton area is called Peoria loess. Beneath the Peoria loess is a soil formation called the Parkland sands. Near the river valley, the Parkland sand is near the surface. However, as one proceeds away from the river valley, the Parkland sand is under laid by loess and has silt over laid from the formation of the Sangamon River and its tributaries (Bergstrom et al., 1976).

Beneath the soils, there are several layers of rock. From approximately 0 to 300 feet in depth, the earth materials consists of unconsolidated, glacial, windblown, and alluvial (river) deposits. From 300 feet to approximately 5000-6500 feet are bedded sedimentary rocks consisting of limestone, dolomite, sandstone, and shale. Along the surface, the soils and rocks left by the retreating glaciers left behind branch like alluvial patterns along the river (Bergstrom et al., 1976). The river and hills give Riverton a unique feel.

Topography

Riverton has significant contour changes as a result of its natural development. It is one of the few municipalities in Sangamon County with hills. Elevations of 520 feet above sea level near the Sangamon River are not uncommon. Moving east from the river, the terrain rises rapidly, approaching 560 feet near the river and approximately 580-590 feet in the eastern and northern parts of the village. The bluff gives Riverton a unique character. The presence of the river also includes significant floodplain in and around Riverton, which is discussed in further detail below.

Floodplain

The presence or absence of floodplains can have a major bearing on long-term development and where development occurs. A floodplain is the area where the rivers and streams settle during a flood, and includes any land subject to a 1%-annual or greater chance of flooding in a given year. The formation of a floodplain is due to the existence of adjacent rivers and streams, which can rise during high precipitation times to create standing water in areas. When natural forces create these bodies of water, they deposit silt and other rich soil materials.

Within the floodplain, there is an area called the “floodway,” which includes “the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to pass the base flood without increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height” (Illinois Quick Guide, 5). Waters in the floodway typically flow faster and deeper than elsewhere, and the presence of a current in these areas leads to greater restrictions on development here (see Figure 3.1, below).



Historic flooding within Riverton;
Source: The Sangamon Valley
Collection

Property in the 100-year floodplain in Sangamon County is restricted by a special set of regulations in order to protect public safety, prevent flood hazards, protect buildings, and maintain property values. These floodplain ordinances make federal flood insurance available, and decrease taxpayer costs related to flood control and damage (SSCRPC, 2009).

For substantial development projects, a floodplain development permit is required. Projects in the floodway require both State of Illinois and local floodplain permits, to ensure that displaced water will not cause additional flooding to other properties. In the floodway, alternatives such as raised buildings, pervious concrete, open space for recreational use, and similar mechanisms for alleviating diverted water flow can be permitted. In all floodplain developments (including the floodway and flood fringe), structures must be elevated at minimum one foot about flood elevation.

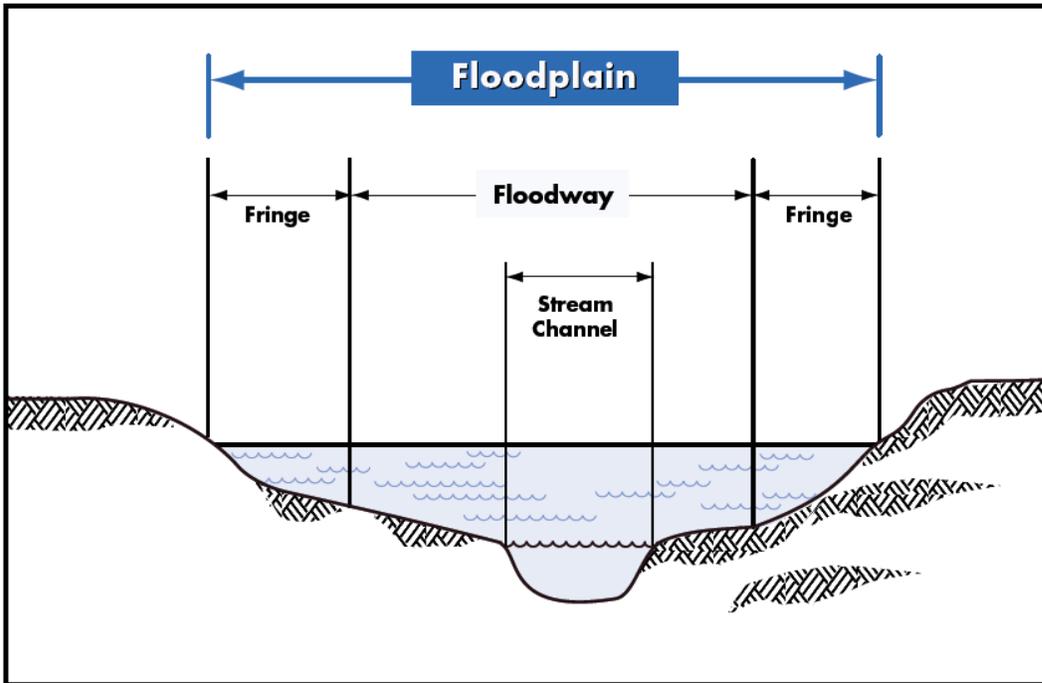
After flooding in the mid-1990s, Riverton participated in a floodplain buy-out project for some parcels along the Sangamon River, meaning that some property in this area is publicly owned and cannot have structures developed on it. In some other areas, however, properties with residential owners still exist in the floodplain.

Owners of properties within the floodplain are also encouraged to purchase flood insurance. Floodplain determinations are informed by Flood Insurance Rate Maps developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In the latest FEMA maps issued in 2007, there are substantial portions of the land in and near Riverton that are in the floodplain. Figure 3.1, below, defines this area.

The existence of this floodplain area has multiple implications for the village. First, the village should bear in mind that it may face development limitations in these areas. Second, the village will need to continually monitor any changes in the floodplain maps, which are periodically re-issued by FEMA, in

order to ensure awareness of which properties are affected by floodplain restrictions. Finally, the village may wish to consider alternative uses of these areas which do not require developments of restricted varieties. Currently, there is some residential development within floodplain areas in Riverton. In the event that these properties become vacant at any point in the future, Riverton should encourage their continued vacancy.

Figure 3.1: Diagram related to Floodplain area; Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Floodplain Management in Illinois: Quick Guide



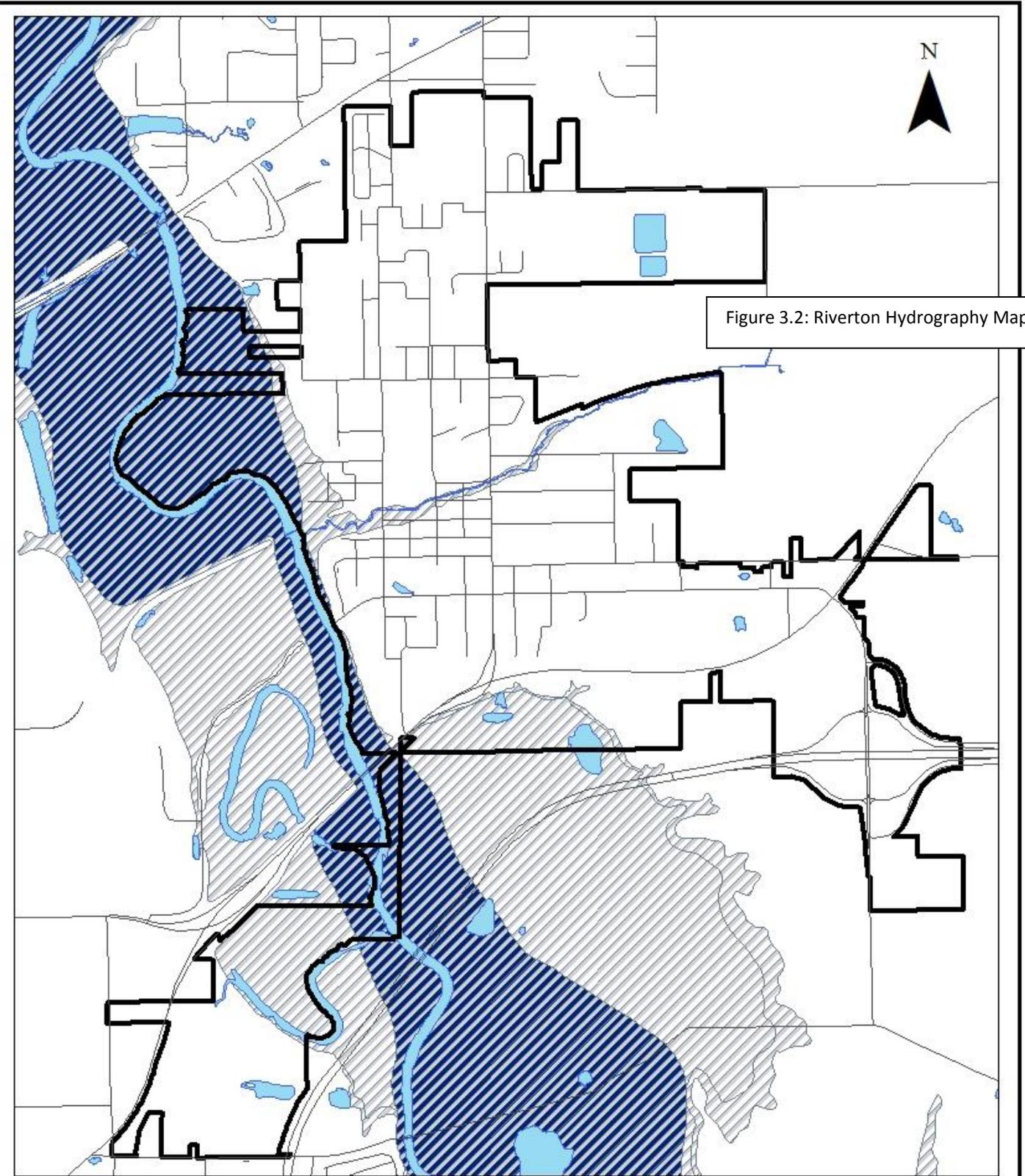


Figure 3.2: Riverton Hydrography Map

SSC RPC
 Springfield-Sangamon County
 Regional Planning Commission

Data: FEMA, Sangamon County GIS
 0.0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
 Miles 8U, 1/7/14

Riverton Hydrography and FEMA Flood Hazard Area

- Riverton
- Hydrography
- FEMA Flood Hazard Zone
- Floodway

Wetlands

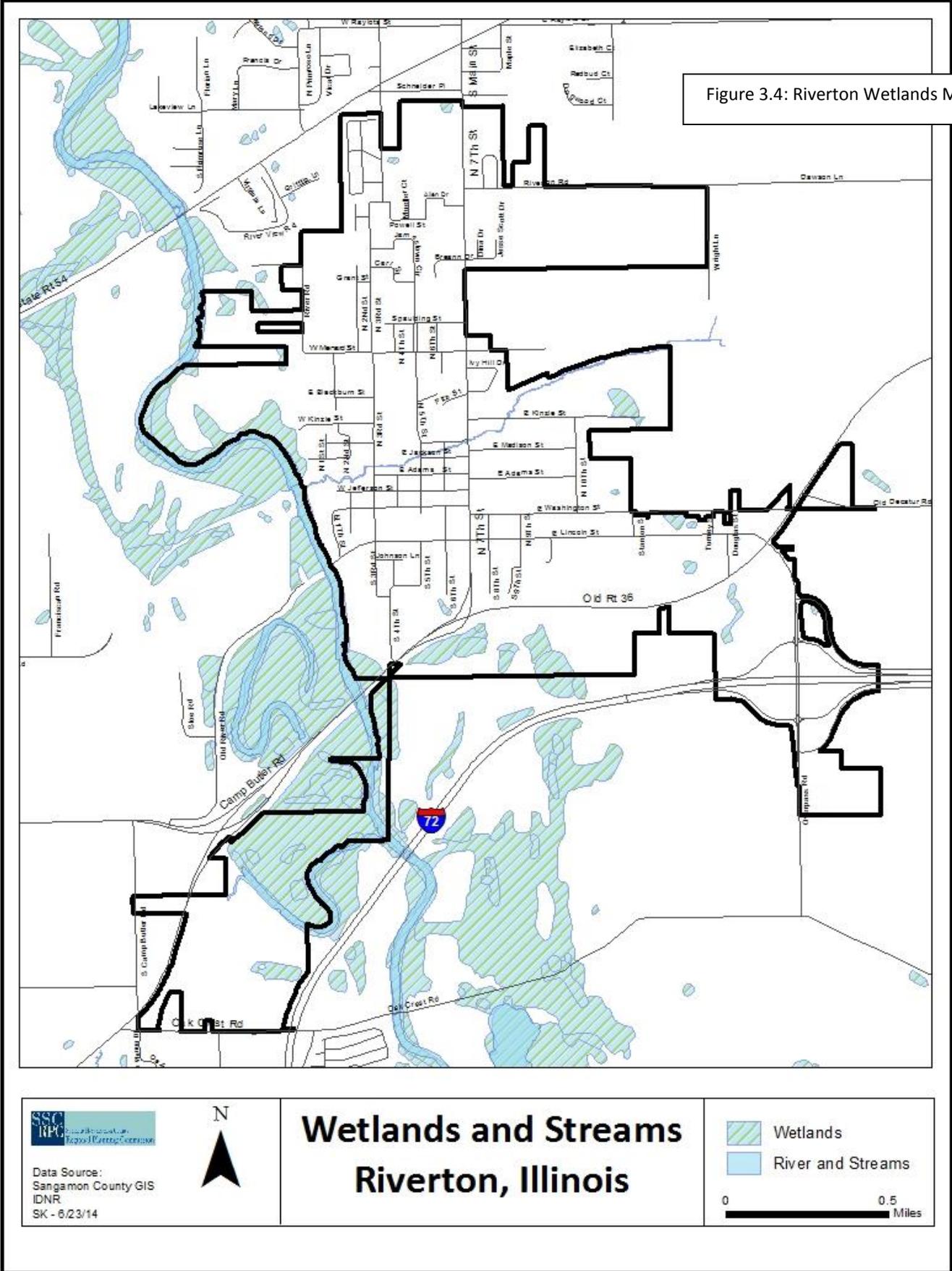
Along with floodplain, wetlands can play an important role in determining where development can occur. They are created when glaciers and erosion form streams and crevices. Wetlands generally retain ground water because they form over long periods of time at the edges of streams and other bodies of water. They have several natural purposes. Wetlands serve as a filter of runoff before it re-enters streams. They also harbor numerous species of plants and animals, many which thrive in environments not easily recreated through artificial means. If a regulated wetland is present, it could indicate a more intensive review for a development project, including review by state and/or federal agencies. The table below, Table 3.3, indicates the types of wetlands present within village limits.

Wetlands Code	Code Explanation
PABF	Palustrine, Aquatic Bed, Semipermanently Flooded
PEMA	Palustrine, Emergent, Temporarily Flooded
PEMC	Palustrine, Emergent, Seasonally Flooded
PEMCf	Palustrine, Emergent, Seasonally Flooded, Farmed
PFO1A	Palustrine, Forested, Broadleaf Deciduous, Temporarily Flooded
PFO1C	Palustrine, Forested, Broadleaf Deciduous, Seasonally Flooded
PUBFx	Palustrine, Unconsolidated Bottom, Semipermanently Flooded, Excavated
PUBG	Palustrine, Unconsolidated Bottom, Intermittently Exposed
PUBGh	Palustrine, Unconsolidated Bottom, Intermittently Exposed, Diked/Impounded
PUBGx	Palustrine, Unconsolidated Bottom, Intermittently Exposed, Excavated

The codes shown above describe a variety of wetlands. They are all from the palustrine system, which is another term for prairies, bogs, and fens (Cowardin, Carter, Golet, & LaRue, 1979/1992). Aerial photography analysis shows they include old pits, private ponds, and generally forested areas. Figure 3.3, below, indicates the location of the wetlands within the village limits and in the general vicinity of Riverton. Many of the wetlands codes indicate the presence of temporarily or semipermanently flooded areas. This reflects the location of many of the wetlands in the Sangamon River floodplain.

Within the planning areas of the village, there are some notable wetlands. One is coded R2UBH, which is a riverine, lower perennial, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded wetland. This is the code for the Sangamon River. The code means the river has a low grade and a slow velocity with a base of sand and mud. Usually, low perennial wetland areas have well developed floodplains, as is the case with the Sangamon River (Cowardin, et al., 1979/1992). Another type of wetlands, coded PFO1A, appears to have the largest amount of land. This type of wetland provides a home for a wide variety of plant species, based upon a cursory examination of the wetlands inventory declassifier (US Fish and Wildlife Services, n.d.). The fact that it is temporarily flooded also indicates a broad spectrum of wetlands plants may be present here.

Figure 3.4: Riverton Wetlands Map



Data Source:
Sangamon County GIS
IDNR
SK - 6/23/14



Wetlands and Streams Riverton, Illinois

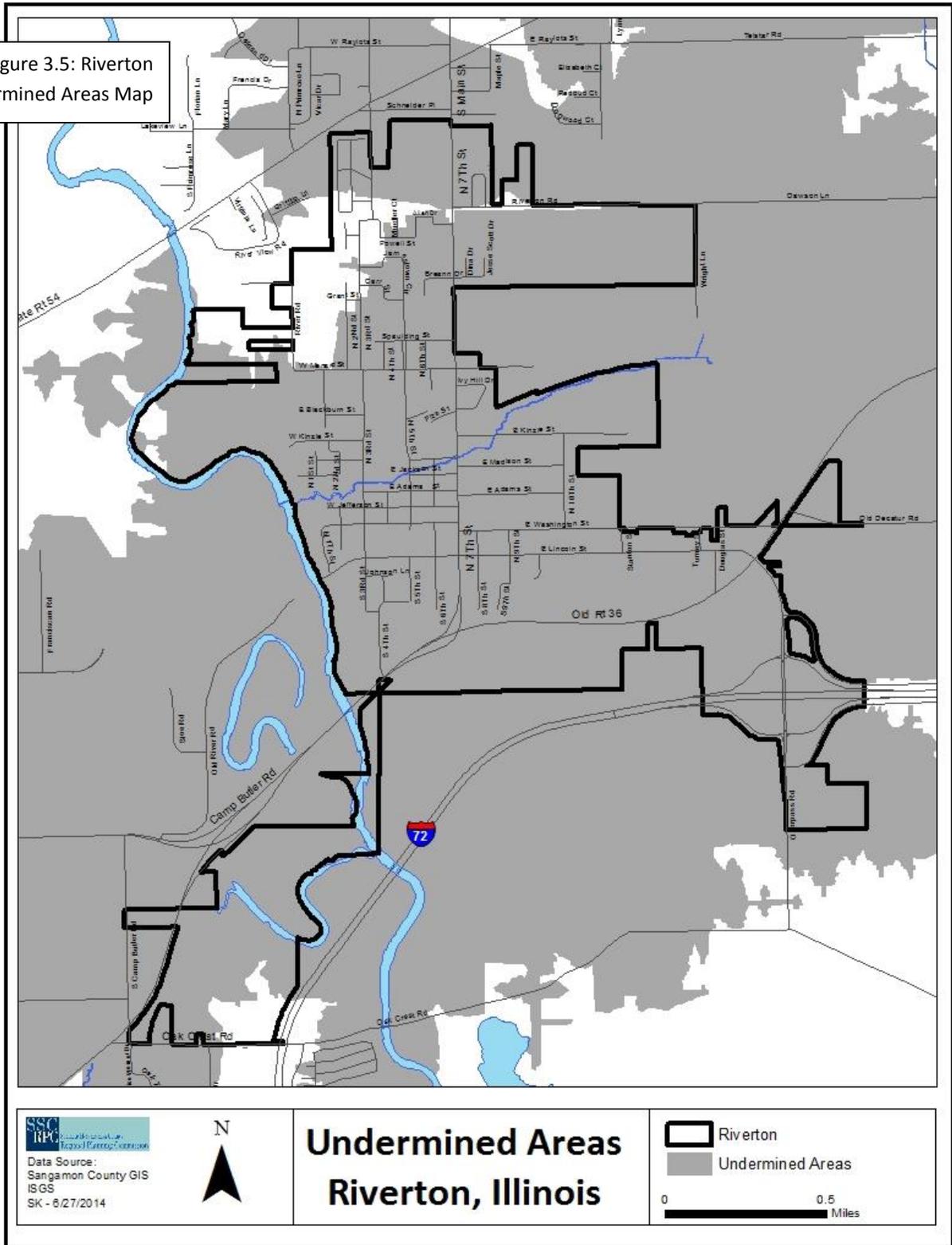
- Wetlands
- River and Streams

0 0.5 Miles

Undermined Areas

Riverton has a history of coal mining and the legacy of two mines leaves a large portion of the village undermined, as shown in Figure 3.5, below.

Figure 3.5: Riverton Undermined Areas Map



The two mines historically located in Riverton were the Bissell Coal Company Clear Lake Mine, which operated from 1892-1923, and the Peabody Coal Mine Number 59, which operated from 1884-1951. The Clear Lake Mine was a room and pillar mine that extended across the north portion of the village. The Peabody Mine was a room and pillar panel mine and extended across the south portion of the village and west into Springfield (Illinois State Geological Survey [ISGS], 2014; Chenoweth, Bargh, and Treworgy, 1993/2009).

While this mining history provides a unique asset to Riverton in terms of cultural resources, the village should consider that substantial proportions of its planning area may be at risk for mine subsidence. Mine subsidence is the collapsing of voids in the ground left from coal mining as time and pressure cause structural failures. Mine subsidence is always a risk in any area where coal mining has occurred. Subsidence can occur from the time of extraction to 100+ years after the closure of a mine (Illinois Department of Natural Resources [IDNR], n.d.). It can cause the failure of foundations, septic fields, utilities, roads, and other structures on the surface and below.

While many areas of Sangamon County include developments in undermined areas, Riverton should take note of the existence of these areas, and ensure that it is adequately informed as to the potential risks associated with mine subsidence. The village should also consider avenues it can take to ensure that potential property owner(s) understand risks and are adequately equipped to take appropriate precautionary measures.

The village should take note that there are some regulations municipalities can adopt to combat mine subsidence. An example can be found in Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (1983) region which contains development regulations that attempt to mitigate the risk of utilities and structures for mine subsidence. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources also maintains an Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Division which looks at what damages occur to structures because of mine subsidence, and helps municipalities, developers, and residents determine if hazardous conditions exist.

Soil Suitability for Agriculture and Septic Fields

Agriculture is an important land use in the vicinity of Riverton. Soils play an important role in the farming sector of the economy. Also, the weathering and soil products of the till and loess layers in the area can affect building foundations, soil slope stability, and drainage (Bergstrom et al., 1976). Because soils play an important role in both agriculture and development, this plan identifies and addresses some characteristics of the soil that are important in these respects. The area in Riverton's village limits and the near vicinity contains a wide variety of soil types, as noted below from an analysis using the Sangamon County soils maps and Geographic Information System (GIS). Some soils are considered prime for farming such as the Middletown silt loam and Ipava. Others are considered prime for farming if certain mitigating conditions are met; e.g. draining the soil. Still others are not considered prime for agricultural purposes. Interestingly, the village has some areas in its northern part that contain the Middletown soil, described above, that are prime for farming.

Table 3.6 Soils in the Riverton Area			
Alvin	Elburn	Kendall	Radford
Assumption	Elco	Keomah	Ross
Broadwell	Elkhart	Lawson	Rozetta
Buckhart	Fayette	Middletown	Sable
Camden	Hartsburg	Navlys	Sawmill
Clarksdale	Hickory	Oscos	Shiloh
Denny	Huntsville	Plano	Thebes
Drury	Ipava	Proctor	Tice

Figure 3.7, below, indicates that some of the territory in and near the village is prime farmland or prime farmland if drained. Green areas indicate prime farm ground with well drained soils. Lighter colors indicate non-prime farmland, which are highly erodible or periodically flood prone soils. White, or non-colored areas are floodways and floodplains that should not be developed. Depending on how much farmland Sangamon County and the village wish to preserve, farmland could pose a constraint on future development near Riverton.

One important feature of farmland is its ability to drain quickly. Former farm fields under conversion to development sites often have drain tile systems. When choosing a site to build/develop, it is important to have an understanding of where the drain tiles are located. If heavy equipment or a foundation is placed on soils where drain tiles are located, the tiles can crack or break. If the drain tiles remain broken, ground water can seep into foundations and basements, causing cracking and/or structural problems for future property owners.

Several soils in the above table and on the map have limiting features and/or a high water table that is less than two feet from the surface. This can be a constraint when trying to design a private sewage disposal system that may require an alternative system from the traditional septic field. Soils with a high water table can affect the stability of a foundation and also cause water to leak into basements. Soils with high water tables further interfere with the use of private septic fields to filter raw sewage. It is important that the water table of the soils on a particular piece of land be considered when building, especially if one is constructing a dwelling or other structure which will contain a basement and/or a septic field. Figure 3.8, below, provides a depiction of the suitability of soils in the Riverton area for septic fields.

Figure 3.7: Riverton Farmland Quality Map

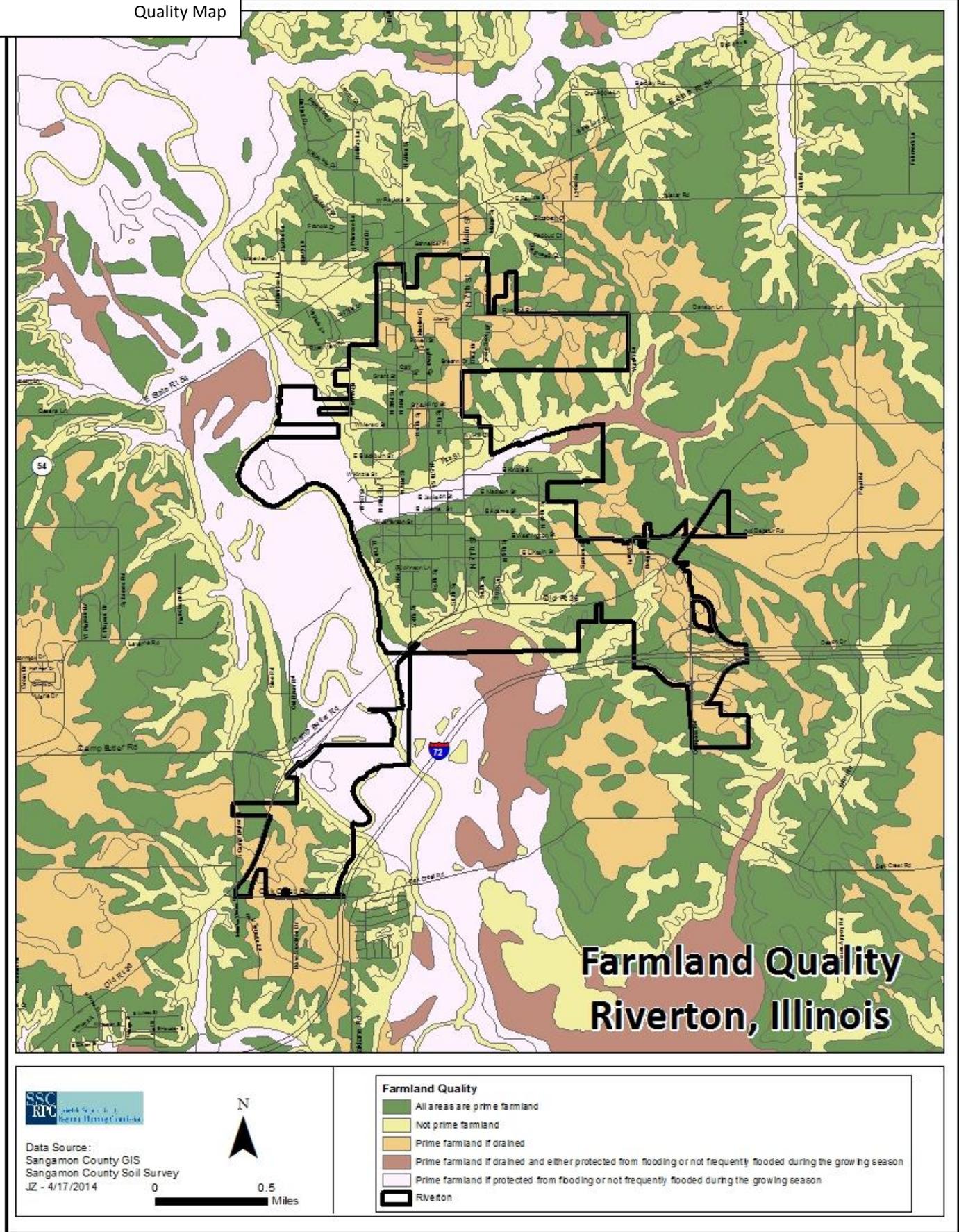
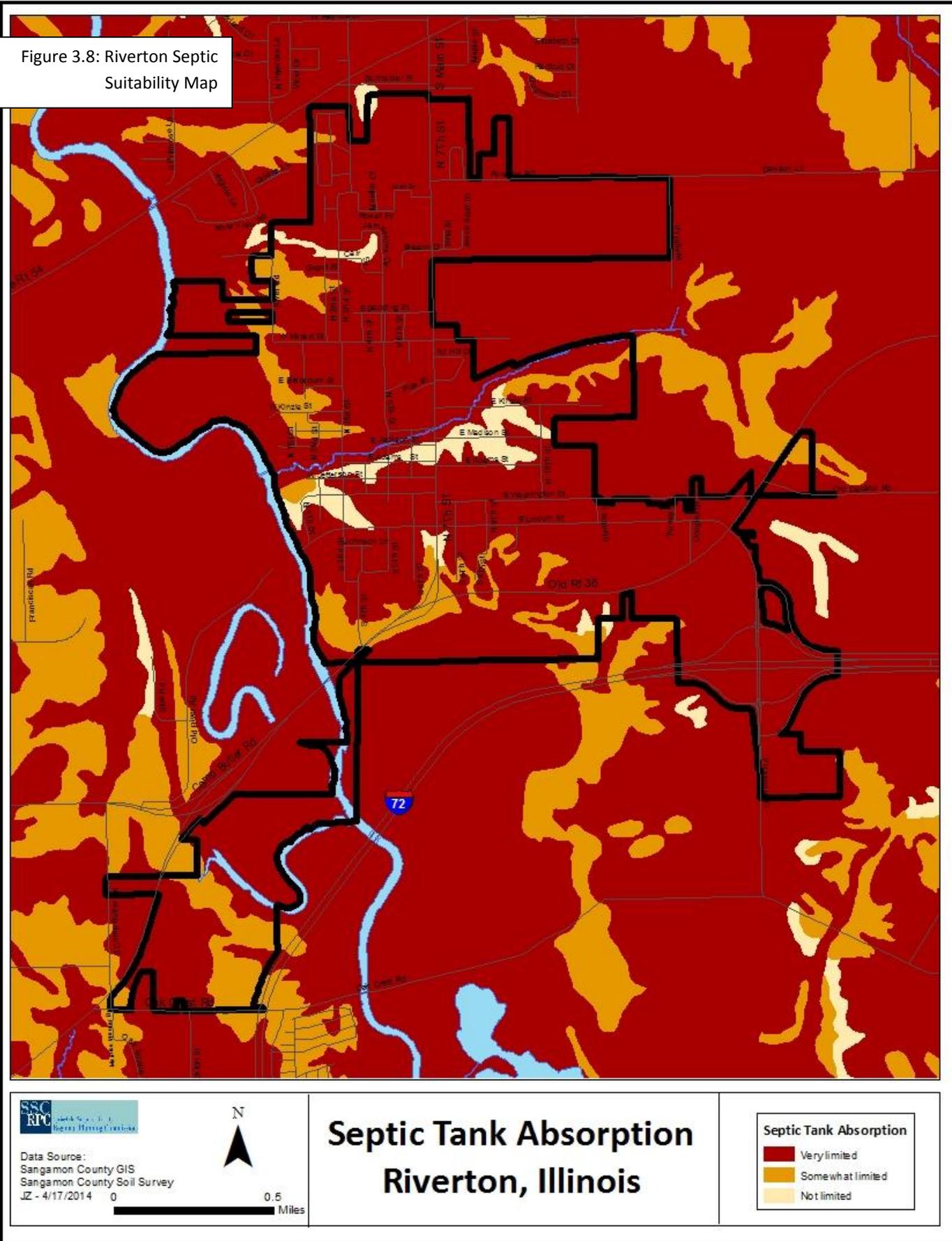


Figure 3.8: Riverton Septic Suitability Map



Natural Area Inventory

The *Inventory of Sangamon County Natural Areas* prepared by LaGessee and Associates (2004) provides a classification of natural areas according to natural community type and relative quality. The inventory identifies grades for each forest within Sangamon County. All natural areas near Riverton are grade C or D. The grades are described as follows:

- Grade A: Relatively stable or undisturbed communities.
- Grade B: Late successional or lightly disturbed communities.
- Grade C: Mid-successional or moderately to heavily disturbed communities.
- Grade D: Early successional or severely disturbed communities.
- Grade E: Very early successional or very severely disturbed communities.

Figure 3.10, below, describes the natural areas that the LaGessee report classified as Grade C or better in and around Riverton. Many of the areas identified on the natural areas inventory map are floodplain forest, mixed timber, or tree plantings. Many of the natural areas in and near Riverton are floodplain forest and mixed timber, due to its location on the Sangamon River. Riverton and its surrounding area also have some areas of mixed timber, pasture with dispersed oaks, mesic upland and dry mesic upland, and slough, though these types of natural areas are less prevalent than floodplain forest.

The LaGessee report classifies the forested areas around Riverton, primarily Floodplain Forest, as dominated by silver maple trees and cottonwoods in most areas, with floodplain forest dominated by bur oaks, black walnuts, and sycamores also dispersed through the floodplain forest. The majority of these natural areas are graded C, which indicates a moderate to heavily disturbed natural community.

Also worth consideration is the area south of the village near the intersection of the South Fork Sangamon River and Sugar Creek, where the Sangamon River's shifting patterns over time formed an island, due to an oxbow formation in the river being cut off. Some local officials believe that this oxbow island, pictured in Figure 3.9, has undisturbed natural areas due to its isolation from interference for an extended period of time. The village may wish to explore the quality of the timber and natural area in this location.

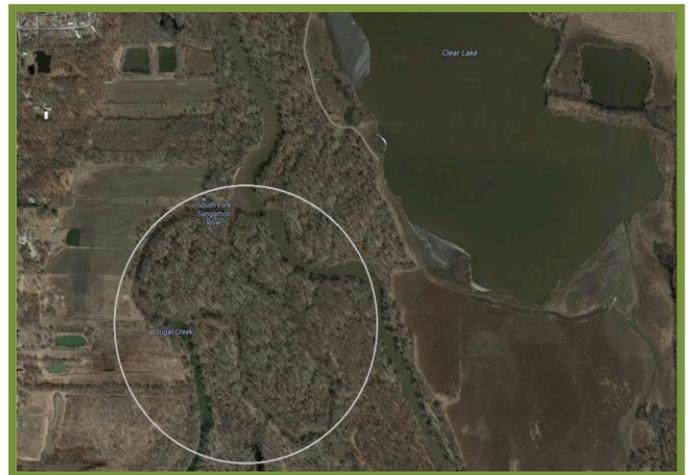


Figure 3.9: Oxbow island formed by Sangamon River patterns

Overall, the presence of more substantial natural areas in and near Riverton, though many of them are disturbed or early successional, can be considered an asset for the community. These natural areas can contribute to Riverton's economic development possibilities, particularly in areas where the floodplain prohibits development of many uses. Additionally, and although the SSCRPC did not fully explore the presence of unique species or wildlife populations in these areas, the village may wish to work with experts to understand the potential impact of planning activities on wildlife. Natural areas in Riverton are therefore an important factor for the community's planning and should be protected.

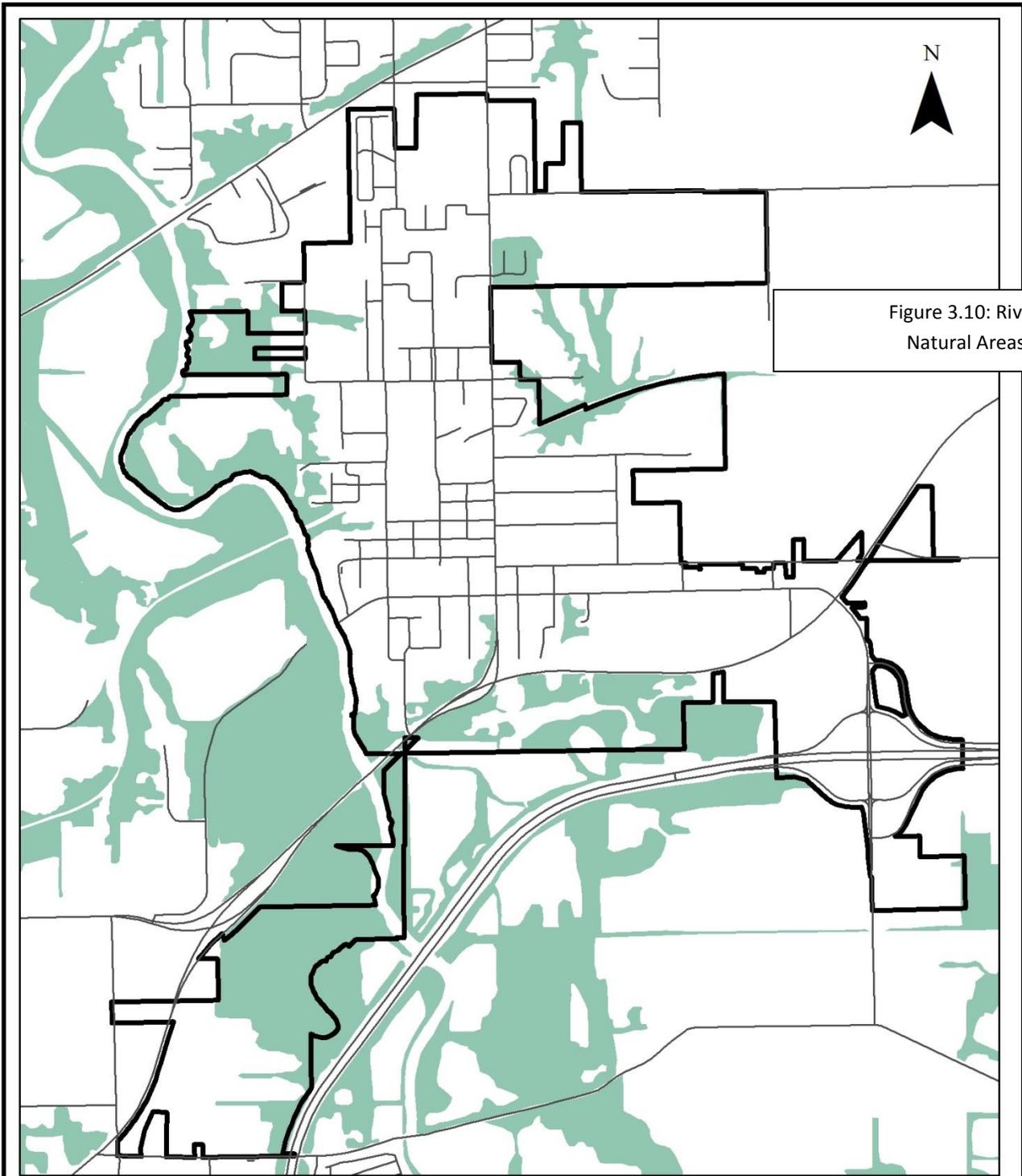


Figure 3.10: Riverton Natural Areas Map

SSC RPC
Springfield-Sangamon County
Regional Planning Commission

Data: Sangamon County GIS,
LaGesse and Associates
0.0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Miles au, 1/7/14

Natural Areas Riverton, Illinois

Quality	
	A - Relatively Stable or Undisturbed Communities
	B - Late Successional or lightly disturbed communities
	C - Mid-successional or moderately to heavily disturbed communities

Conservation Reserve Programs

Another significant factor related to Riverton’s environment and natural resources that will likely impact its strategies for the future, is the presence of lands enrolled in state or federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREP) tied to the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CREP programs are sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) at the state level, and federal CREP and CRP programs are run by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency.

The purpose of both programs is to retire farm land from production where it is subject to frequent flooding or is environmentally sensitive. This retired land is then contractually restricted related to development and use, and is set aside for reforestation, natural area creation, or similar purposes targeted toward erosion control and watershed protection.

Participation in both programs is voluntary. For federal programs, contract lengths are typically 10-15 years. Some easements on properties may be allowed via a buy-out of that portion of the contract. For state programs, CREP contracts are indefinite. Activities such as trail creation are restricted, though minimal noninvasive activities, such as camping, hunting, and hiking can be permitted. Under a current contract for state CREP-enrolled land, creating an easement for recreational use after the time of contract formation is unlikely, as buy-outs are limited.

In and around Riverton, there are several areas that are CREP or CRP-enrolled. The village should work with INDR to identify these areas. Riverton will likely need to work with land owners in these areas to understand limitations on their properties and how they may affect future use.

Natural Hazard Mitigation

In August 2007, Riverton participated in the Sangamon County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was facilitated by the SSCRPC and developed through the Sangamon County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Task Force. In November 2008, FEMA approved the plan for several jurisdictions, including the village of Riverton. The plan identified nine hazards that affect Sangamon County: droughts, earthquakes, extreme heat, floods, severe storms, tornadoes, winter storms, dam failure, and mine subsidence.

Communities have long aspired to protect residents from disasters. Traditionally, this has meant responding to residents’ needs *after* a natural hazard occurred. Instead, mitigation attempts to reduce the need for response through efforts that can be taken *prior* to a disaster that reduce the potential risks to life and property. One strategy for mitigation is to permanently remove people and structures from harm’s way when a known area of impact can be identified; e.g. buyouts of homes in a floodplain. Another strategy is to significantly reduce the impact from a known risk; e.g. a tornado.

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan provides an assessment of the risks to Sangamon County from natural hazard events and a comprehensive range of mitigation projects which lessen the impact of these hazards on communities.

As part of the planning process for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, each community selected a list of projects it could undertake and a prioritization ranking of the projects. The projects Riverton selected in descending order of importance according to the plan were: (1) bury power lines to village wells, (2) create storm shelter(s) or safe room(s) for use in severe weather, (3) drainage improvements in the 200 block of Blackburn, (4) erect signage “Ballparks to be evacuated during periods of lightning”, and (5)

create volunteer network for checking on citizens with disabilities during [severe] storm/inclement weather.

With the availability of mitigation grant funding from the federal government, communities have the opportunity to complete mitigation projects that would not otherwise be financially possible. Through the efforts of the SSCRPC to coordinate communities for mitigation planning efforts, Riverton and other Sangamon County communities achieve this eligibility through planning.

At the writing of this plan, an update to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is underway. Riverton is participating in this effort, and should continue to do so for this mitigation planning cycle and others that occur within the horizon of its comprehensive plan, in order to ensure that its natural hazard mitigation project needs are eligible for funding.

Environment: Key Themes and Strategies

- Riverton has unique assets and attributes that are currently underutilized. These include its riverfront, which has historically been treated as a liability.
- It faces unique challenges, and must be strategic in how it works to capitalize on its special resources. Much of Riverton floods in the areas near the Sangamon River. This is a unique challenge, and land uses should be specifically targeted to help these areas retain some recreational and economic value, rather than creating risk for homeowners through continued residential use.
- While Riverton has historically viewed its substantial floodplain as a liability, this area could be an asset if used for recreational purposes that do not require intensive development.
- A great deal of Riverton's heritage focuses on its proximity to the Sangamon River. Therefore, Riverton's land use should reorient the village toward the riverfront.
- Riverton can use its natural environment to create a tourism economy, including its wildlife and natural woodland areas. Further exploration and documentation of these resources would be of value.

“...we are close to the river, have great parks and sports facilities...”

-Riverton resident in community survey



Scenic river view in the village.



Utilities and Infrastructure

Water Utilities

As noted previously, the village manages its own water utility. It currently has five wells in addition to a water treatment plant within the village. Its wells are located near the river bottoms and draw water from the aquifer near the Sangamon River. The village's water plant is located near Old Route 36 and 7th Street. Half the plant has newer infrastructure, and the other half has older infrastructure that is not currently in use. Treated water is stored in two elevated storage tanks or towers, one in the northern and one in the central portion of the village. These facilities serve all residents of the village, as well as some residents of the unincorporated area near Riverton and residents of the village of Spaulding.

Riverton recently upgraded its water system by implementing major improvements on its water main lines. These upgrades are part of an on-going effort to increase all water lines from 4" to 6" on a gradual basis. The village also plans to add a 10" main toward the eastern portion of the village in the area historically known as the "Mansion" location. This upgrade will assist the village in having requisite capacity for industrial and commercial development near the I-72 interchange as opportunities may arise. The village's water infrastructure, particularly in terms of its mains, appears likely to be able to support intended development during the time frame of this plan.

The village's current daily water usage is approximately 350,000 gallons of water per day, according to the village engineer. Water pressure appears to be adequate throughout the village to meet fire flow needs. According to village officials, Riverton currently has 19 hours of spare water capacity for its user load, with generators for each of its wells in an emergency situation.

While the village's water capacity currently allows it some additional capacity for residential and commercial development, over time the village may require additional upgrades to handle larger-capacity developments. Capacity of its water generation plant and storage capacity are both more likely to lead to challenges in serving large new developments than its mains, which appear to be adequate to meet development needs.

More specifically, some water treatment and storage infrastructure needs are likely to affect the village during the timeframe of this plan. The village could benefit from additional storage to meet spare water capacity in emergency situations. Even under normal use circumstances, peak usage days during hot weather can cause water to be fed directly through the treatment system to users, rather than being stored for a period of time. In particularly high usage situations this can cause water to spend less time filtering through the reactor system at the water plant, slightly reducing water quality. While this is not a public health concern, it may be of benefit for the village to evaluate ways to add capacity during the time horizon of this plan.

Concurrent with the development of the plan, the village developed a capital plan to further understand these needs with the assistance of professional engineers. Priorities highlighted in this capital plan include the following, which the SSCRPC has derived from the capital plan and placed in priority order following consultation with the village engineer:

- Replace structurally inadequate sanitary sewer;
- Install a new reaction tank;

- Install a new brining system;
- Expand water line replacement and upsizing efforts;
- Install sanitary sewer extensions;
- Install an additional water storage tank; and
- Install additional wells.

Because of these needs, ensuring that the village follows a capital plan will be important to sustaining on-going development capacity in coming years. During the plan development process for this Comprehensive Plan, Riverton has worked with its village engineer to create a prioritized capital needs plan, the lead priorities of which are those listed above.

In keeping with these capital needs, during the plan development process village leadership expressed its intent to eventually re-bond existing revenue bonds to rehabilitate the second half of the water plant and eventually replace water mains.

The village is also currently undertaking strategic infrastructure upgrades and additions to extend water and sewer lines toward areas in the eastern and southwestern sections of Riverton where additional development is likely to occur. Potential infrastructure upgrades, particularly pertaining to Riverton’s water system, should be a primary consideration for the village in its future efforts.

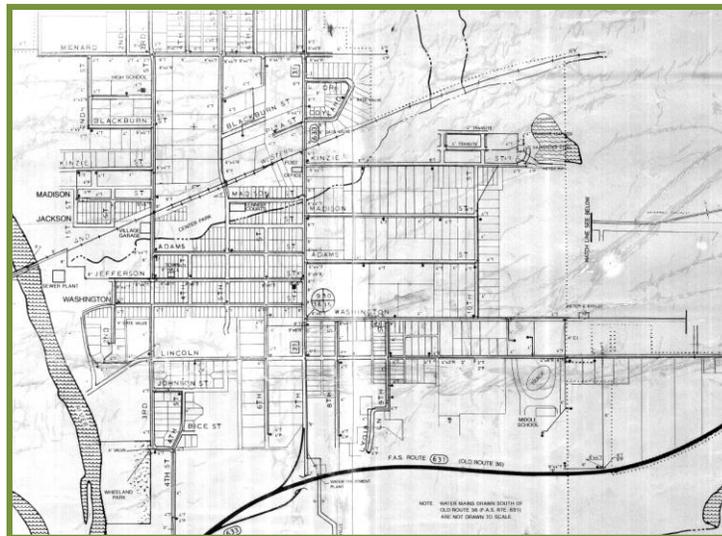


Figure 4.1: Historic Water Infrastructure Map Snapshot, Vasconcelles Engineering Corp; Source: Kuhn & Trello Consulting Engineers, LCC.

Wastewater Utilities

Riverton also operates a Water Reclamation Center located on Riverton Road. Wastewater is treated through a bacteriological process and discharged into the Sangamon River. Its sewer plant was approximately 20- years old as of the writing of this plan, and is a lagoon system with some excess capacity.

Previously, Riverton’s wastewater was processed at a sewage treatment plant located on west Jefferson Street. This property is still municipally owned, and houses a pump station that transfers wastewater from its prior receiving and treatment location near the Sangamon River up an incline to the current lagoon sewer system.

The relatively new sewer treatment facility on the western edge of Riverton, as well as its remaining capacity, is an asset to the village. The SSCRPC has no indication that major upgrades to Riverton’s wastewater treatment system will be necessary within the horizon of this plan.

The village does have some on-going needs related to its sewage collection system. Some of its mains are aging and will need repair and upgrades in the coming years. Riverton’s primary capital needs related to wastewater are in this area. The recently-developed village capital plan addresses these

requirements. In order to continue investment in its long-term capacity for additional development, the village should stay at pace with these identified needs.

Another area in which the village may need to continue to make investments in its wastewater system in order to increase the likelihood for future development is the extension of sewer lines to other portions of the village and its service area. Utilities serving the southwestern stretch of land annexed by the village are currently sporadic. Similarly, Riverton provides water service to the village of Spaulding, but no sewer system is available there. Riverton may wish to consider expanding to serve these areas if feasible within a conservative, “smart” growth scenario that does not overextend village resources.

Finally, in the event that any major wastewater treatment plant upgrades would become necessary within the horizon of this plan, the village has the opportunity to consider joining the Springfield Metro Sanitary District (SMSD) to meet local treatment needs. Riverton’s location makes it a good candidate for a future connection to the SMSD as an alternative sewer service resource. An SMSD sewer line extends to Irisdale Subdivision, which at its nearest point is less than 1.5 miles from the Riverton village limits. An analysis of the feasibility of joining the district, as well as a cost-benefit study relative to current expenditures and any potential capital needs, may be beneficial for the village to consider.

Gas and Electric Utilities

The Village of Riverton is one of several municipalities in Sangamon County that also owns and operates a natural gas distribution system. Riverton is a member of the Interstate Municipal Gas Agency and purchases wholesale natural gas through this entity. Similarly, Riverton has an electric distribution system. Its power supply is purchased through the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, of which it is a member.

Riverton’s gas and electric systems have adequate capacity to handle additional commercial and residential development. Because of its participation in co-ops, the village has only partial control over utility rates for natural gas and electric service. Riverton should continue to monitor its distribution systems for these two utilities and ensure their long-term viability.

However, SSCRPC received no indications from the village or from engineering professionals that Riverton has significant needs in these areas that will result in substantial costs or reduce the village’s ability to develop. The village should continue to work to ensure that pricing levels are kept as low as possible and energy efficiency upgrades are implemented where possible in all of its utility systems.

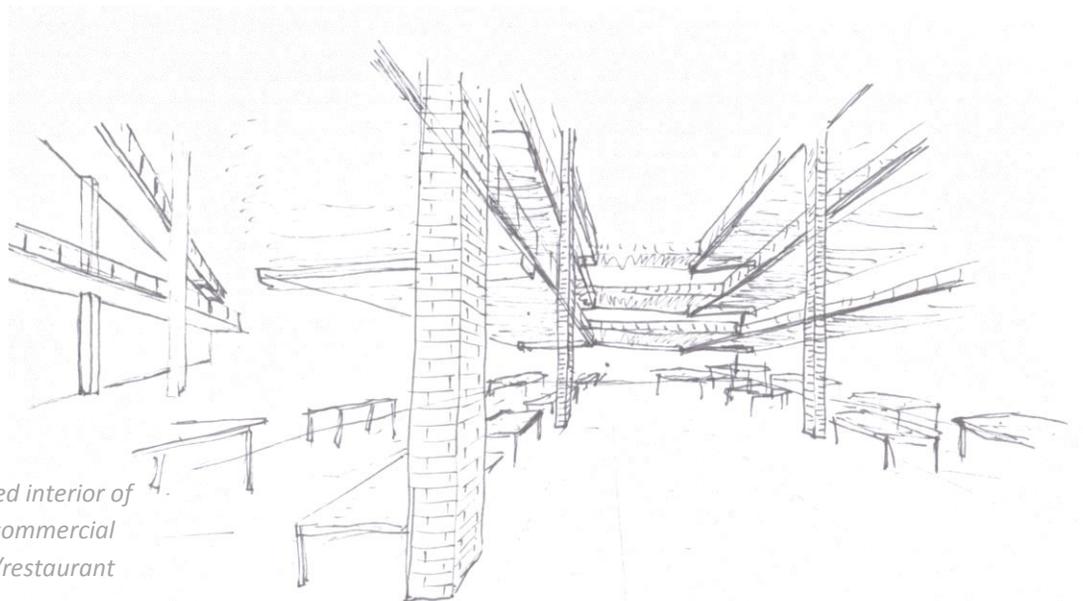
Utility Concerns

In addition to the capital needs associated with these utilities, Riverton has at times experienced resident dissatisfaction with its utility prices. While it is not unusual for customers to desire more favorable pricing schemes for utility services, Riverton’s costs for most utility services are in the middle to high range compared to peers, according to comparative rate information compiled by the SSCRPC, the Sangamon County Electric Aggregation Consortium, and neighboring village of Dawson officials. Village officials should work to ensure that costs are minimized to the greatest extent possible, and should strive to ensure on-going professionalism in terms of utility management and customer service.

Utilities: Key Themes and Strategies

- Riverton faces unique challenges, and must be strategic in how it works to capitalize on its special resources.
- Village-owned utilities could be an asset for residential and commercial development, but currently distract and divide the village.
- Riverton should build quality-of-life and "pride in place" factors as the centerpiece of its economic development strategy. Riverton could invest in its people and its business by using its utilities as a tool.
- For its utilities, this means carefully-targeted improvements, efforts to reduce prices where possible, and continued attempts to bolster positive resident perceptions through customer service.

Over 60% of community survey respondents ranked utility prices as poor or fair.



Envisioned interior of historic commercial building/restaurant



Transportation

A transportation system is a group of networks designed to carry people to jobs, schools, goods and services, recreational opportunities, community activities, and other significant locations. According to the American Planning Association’s *Planner’s Dictionary*, a transportation system includes “links, services and facilities,” which can be of local, regional, state, or national significance (Davidson & Dolnick, 2004, p. 425). The system for Riverton being considered in the development of this plan includes local elements, such as streets, sidewalks, bike paths, rural transit and railroads.

The following information is illustrative, and is intended to guide the development of an efficient and effective transportation network in and near Riverton during the next 25 years.

Roadways

Roads serve two primary functions. They carry vehicular traffic from place to place efficiently. They also provide access to and connect various pieces of land (Handy, Paterson, & Butler, 2003). Riverton is part of a larger network of roads which links it to Springfield, Sangamon County, and other places within the state or nation via the highway system, including especially nearby Interstates 72 (I-72) and 55 (I-55).

Every roadway system is made up of a hierarchy of streets as described below (Table 5.1). For this plan, the SSCRPC used these roadway descriptions to classify the existing street system for the Village of Riverton.

Table 5.1: Street System Definitions
Major Arterial Street: The highest traffic volume corridors serving major activity centers and the longest trip desires. Service to abutting land is subordinate to the provision of travel service to major traffic movements. They are normally spaced on a one mile grid pattern and may include expressways.
Minor Arterial Street: Streets and roadways which interconnect with and augment the major arterial street system and provide service trips of moderate length at a somewhat lower level of travel mobility than major arterials. Minor arterials place more emphasis on land access and distribute travel to geographic areas smaller than those identified with major arterials.
Collector Street: Streets penetrating neighborhoods collecting traffic from local streets and channeling it into the arterial street system. A minor amount of through traffic may be expected, but collector streets primarily provide land access service and carry local traffic movements within residential neighborhoods and commercial and industrial areas.
Local Street: Streets not classified in a higher system which primarily provide direct access to abutting land and access to higher types of roadways. They offer the lowest level of mobility being the narrowest and shortest streets in the street system. Through traffic is deliberately discouraged.

Major Arterials

For the purposes of this plan, I-72 is considered a major arterial street that is a limited access divided highway. The annual average daily traffic count (AADT) in 2012 near the Village of Riverton was approximately 14,000.

Minor Arterials

Riverton is also bordered by Old Route 36 to the South, on which AADT passing the entrance to the village was 2,500 in 2012. Old Route 36 is considered a Minor Arterial, and links the village to Springfield, Riverton, Dawson, and additional communities to the east.

Old Route 54 is another important minor arterial street just north of Riverton, which links Springfield, Spaulding, and other communities in central Illinois traveling east-west out of Sangamon County. The road serves as an additional east-west conduit to Riverton although it does not actually intersect village boundaries. Traffic counts on Old Route 54 were approximately 6,050 AADT in 2012.

Riverton's other minor arterial is 7th Street. This street runs north-south through the center of the village. The AADT of 7th Street was approximately 3,700 in 2012. Just north of Riverton, 7th Street, which is also County Highway 31, runs through the Village of Spaulding. There is an at-grade crossing here with the Norfolk-Southern Rail line that runs through the area.

Collector Streets

Lincoln Street functions as a collector street running from east-west toward the southern portion of the village, just north of Old Route 36. It connects to Old Route 36 at the western edge of the city, and subsequently links to the I-72 overpass. This street may increase in use in the event that the village continues to develop westward. The AADT of Lincoln Street in 2012 was 1,300.

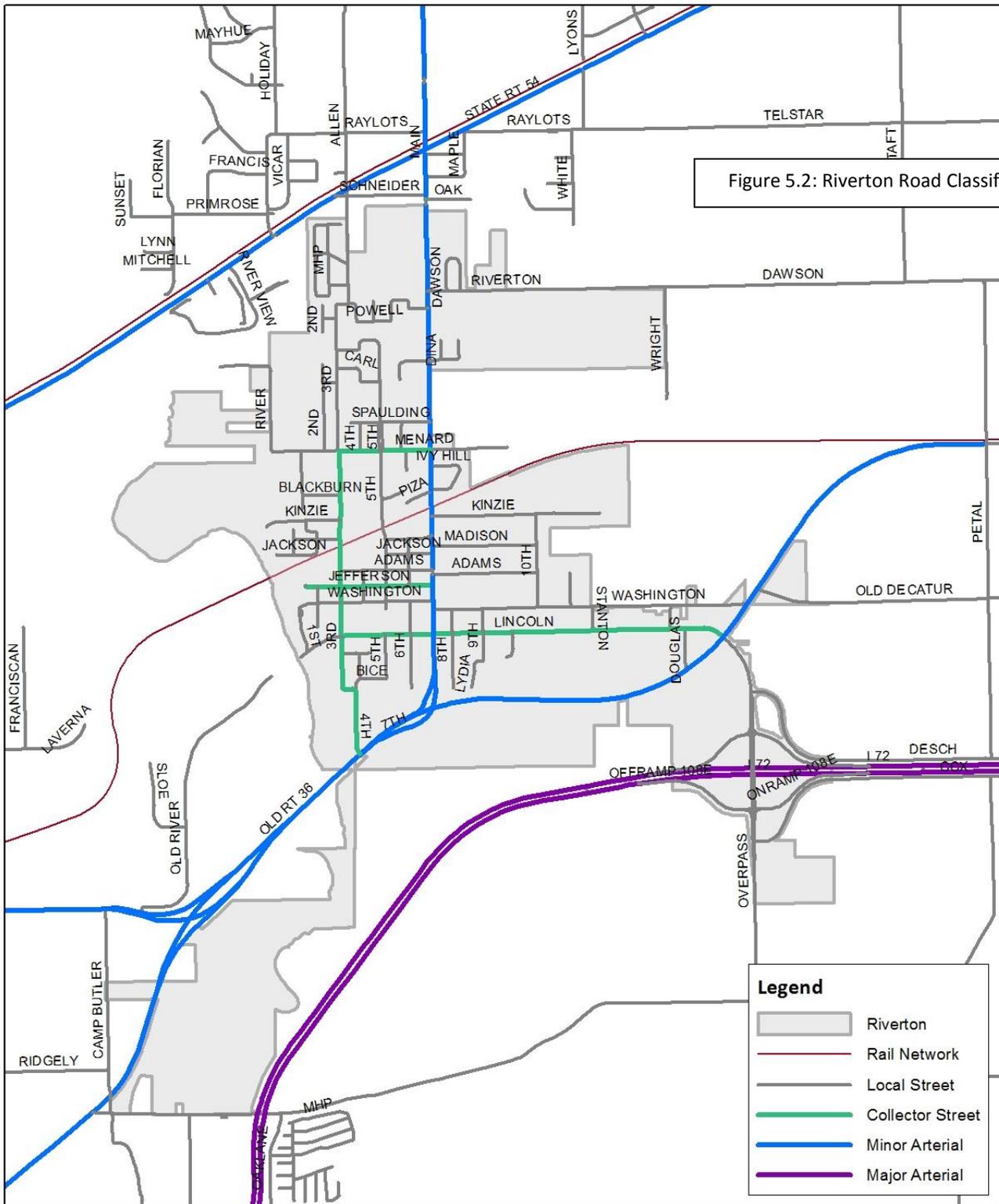
Additionally, 3rd Street functions as a north-south collector in the village, paralleling the 7th Street Minor Arterial and drawing traffic from local roads to these arterials. Jefferson and Menard Streets serve as collectors, and assist in traffic circulation in the downtown area and around the elementary and high school properties. While AADTs are not available for all of these segments, Menard Street's AADT was 1,050 in 2012.

Local Roads

Much of the village of Riverton is made up of local roads. Many of these are unlikely to see changes in traffic volume because the surrounding areas are already developed. Riverton Road (formerly Dawson Lane) is a local street that is likely to experience additional traffic volume if westward expansion in Riverton continues.

Figure 5.2 depicts the existing road network in the Village of Riverton using the classifications offered above.

Figure 5.2: Riverton Road Classifications



N
 Data Source:
 Sangamon County GIS
 AU, 9.10.2014

Village of Riverton Existing Road Network

SSC
 RPC
 Springfield-Sangamon County
 Regional Planning Commission

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Crash Data and Traffic Safety

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) uses five categories to record automobile crashes. They are described in the bulleted points below.

- **Fatal Crash:** A fatal crash is a motor vehicle crash (single or multiple) that results in the death of one or more persons.
- **“A” Injury** (incapacitating injury): Any injury, other than a fatal injury, which prevents the injured person from walking, driving, or normally continuing the activities he/she was capable of performing before the injury occurred. Includes severe lacerations, broken limbs, skull or chest injuries, and abdominal injuries.
- **“B” Injury** (non-incapacitating injury): Any injury, other than a fatal or incapacitating injury, which is evident to observers at the scene of the crash. Includes lump on head, abrasions, bruises, minor lacerations.
- **“C” Injury** (possible injury): Any injury reported or claimed which is neither of the above injuries. Includes momentary unconsciousness, claims of injuries not evident, limping, complaint of pain, nausea, or hysteria.
- **Property Damage:** A crash in which there were no deaths or injuries, but property damage is in excess of \$500.

Between 2007 and 2011, the most recent five-year period for which crash data is available, there were 162 crashes within the Village of Riverton’s corporate limits. This is illustrated in Table 5.3, below, which includes all crash categories from fatal to property damage. The year with the most crashes within the village for all types of crashes was 2008 with 47. The year with the least crashes for all types was 2011 with 19.

As a result of these crashes, there were 29 injuries in the same five-year period. Among these 29 injuries, only 5 were Type “A” incapacitating injuries. Additionally, one fatality occurred in a crash during this five-year period. Figure 5.4, below, indicates the location near which the crash incidents occurred. Several additional incidents occurred very near the village’s corporate limits, particularly in the southwestern portion of the village, but these are not included because the crash incident location did not intersect the village’s corporate boundaries.

Table 5.3 Village of Riverton Crashes	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Crashes</i>
2007	33
2008	47
2009	30
2010	33
2011	19
TOTAL	162

Figure 5.4: Riverton Crash Locations



Data Source:
Sangamon County GIS
AU, 9.10.2014



0 0.25 0.5 Miles



Village of Riverton Crash Data 2007-2011

Legend

- Riverton
- Other Crashes
- A-Injury
- Fatal

Railroads

The Norfolk Southern Railroad runs east-west through the center of the Village of Riverton. This rail segment is part of a trunk line which runs from Kansas City, Missouri, through Springfield and Decatur, to destinations further east. It is used to ship freight throughout the United States as there is no passenger traffic on this line. At-grade crossings exist at 3rd Street, 5th Street, and 7th Streets in the village.

As with all at-grade crossings, these intersections are a safety concern for the village. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists must use extreme caution around all of these intersections. Additionally, there are a number of safety concerns associated with the rail's unprotected proximity to the village's Center Park and other open spaces and residential areas. The village may wish to consider adding buffers such as tree lines between the rails and its residential and park areas. Currently, little or no buffer exists throughout the corridor.

One additional effort the village may wish to consider is safety improvements for its at-grade rail crossings. Small pedestrian bridges, additional signage, or improvements to crossing gates may be of benefit at various crossings. Some funding programs for such improvements exist at the state level. For example, funds for the Crossing Safety Improvement Program (CSIP) are appropriated to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and administered by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). This program is funded through a portion of the state motor fuel tax, and allows local grants for at-grade crossing improvements.

More aggressive solutions to railroad safety concerns, such as the elimination of at-grade crossings, are likely to be cost-prohibitive to the village, unless the railroad funds an improvement of a more substantial nature.

In addition to the Norfolk Southern rail line, a Canadian Northern Railroad line runs just north of the village. This rail line largely parallels Old Route 54. Although there is one at-grade crossing very near Riverton, and others in the area, all of those associated with this line are north of the corporate limits.

Pedestrian Connectivity

Pedestrian safety is a concern at the local, state and national levels of government. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there were 4,743 fatal crashes involving pedestrians nationwide in 2012 (NHTSA, 2014). This is a decrease of less than 1% from the year 2000 (4,763). In fact, a 15% increase has occurred since 2009, the low point for traffic fatalities in the last decade.

To address concerns about pedestrian safety at the local level, one possible strategy the village could adopt is to encourage what is termed the Complete Streets Concept. According to the Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the area) Complete Streets, "refers to public rights-of-way that are designed and operated to provide a safe and accessible transportation network for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders, regardless of age or ability. This context-sensitive approach considers all transportation projects as potential opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers." Building complete streets is a way that the village could improve public safety while improving transportation options for residents.

The Village of Riverton has made some substantial efforts to incorporate Complete Streets concepts by providing additional sidewalks in the last several years. Sidewalks are important as a means of protecting pedestrians and other non-motorized traffic when traveling from place-to-place within the village. If there are no sidewalks in an area, pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles use streets, thereby increasing the possibility of accidents. A strong Complete Streets policy often includes a commitment from the municipality to require sidewalks in its land subdivision ordinance as a condition for subdivision approval.

While the village is to be commended for recent efforts, there are still substantial portions of the village that lack sidewalks. Fortunately for new development, incorporating Complete Streets into subdivision design is a relatively simple process for new divisions. Requiring an ADA compliant sidewalk along both sides of all streets in new subdivisions can help improve connectivity in newer areas. The village should review its subdivision ordinance to ensure that this requirement is in place and meets Complete Street guidelines.

Retrofitting sidewalks in previously platted areas presents some challenges, however. The village should continue and expand its existing efforts where possible, ensuring that at every stage of the construction process appropriate pedestrian safety measures and ADA compliance are taken into account. The village should also continue to take advantage of available funding resources, including Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grants and Safe Routes to School Grants, like the one utilized for recent sidewalk installation, with priority given to projects connecting specific areas that are commonly accessed through pedestrian travel. This should include such community facilities as schools and parks. Riverton's park-rich environment creates several destinations for pedestrians. Also, and if the village's population growth warrants a future commercial character area, new park, or a new retail use, this could create a new pedestrian-generating area. In this event the Village will need to plan and incorporate sidewalks and other pathways for pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle use. The village's proposed land use area map (Figure 8.2) also identifies some key transportation corridors for sidewalks or paved trails, to ensure pedestrian connectivity (see *Proposed Land Use* section).

Paved Multi-Use Trails

The village also has the ability to construct a network of on-road and off-road bicycle and pedestrian trails in the future. These trails represent a significant component of Riverton's economic development potential, in addition to their positive contribution to transportation connectivity.

The following funding sources could be used to construct a bicycle or pedestrian trail, or fund improvements related to a bicycle or pedestrian trail. The Off-Highway Vehicle grant program listed may be better suited for unpaved trails, which are discussed further below.

- *The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) provides funding for community based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. Sponsors may receive up to 80 percent reimbursement for project costs. The remaining 20 percent is the responsibility of the project sponsor. A project must qualify in one of the twelve eligible categories listed in the ITEP Guidelines Manual and it must relate to surface transportation to be eligible for funding. Typically, the application process appears to open sometime in February through May with application review from June through August and committee review and award announcements in September and October.*

-
- *The **Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)** provides funding for sidewalks and pedestrian improvements that create linkages to schools, enabling school children to walk safely to their school destinations. Created in 2005, SRTS is intended to promote health behavior in children, and allows for various types of improvements, including new sidewalks, sidewalk repair, roundabouts, bike lanes, signals, wide shoulders, and various other similar improvements. In conjunction with Riverton CUSD #14, the village applied for and received \$250,000 in SRTS funding in 2014, which has enabled it to install new sidewalks in various areas throughout the village. Riverton should continue to draw upon SRTS funding for improvements.*

 - *The **Illinois Bicycle Path Program** was created in 1990 to assist eligible units of government in acquiring, constructing, and rehabilitating non-motorized bicycle paths and directly related support facilities. Grants are available to any local government agency having statutory authority to acquire and develop land for public bicycle path purposes. Financial assistance is up to 50% of the approved project cost. Maximum grant awards for development projects are limited to \$200,000 per annual request. All grant applications must be sent to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). These funds cannot be used to create a looped trail system within a single parcel or park site. There were no funds for this program due to the state's financial crisis from 2008 to 2012.*

 - *The **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** funds a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail projects. This program is 80% federal funding with a 20% local match. The maximum award grant is \$200,000 per application for non-motorized development projects. There is no set maximum grant award amount for acquisition of motorized projects. This program could also fund an unpaved trail. Since RTP was funded through the latest federal transportation bill, also called SAFETEA-LU, it is unknown at this time whether the program is funded. Applications are placed through IDNR and are due by March 1 of each calendar year. There are sometimes long delays between application and funding for this grant source. An application fee is also now required for this program.*

 - *The **Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant Program** provides financial aid to government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and other eligible groups or individuals to develop, operate, maintain, and acquire land for off-highway vehicle parks and trails. These facilities must be open and accessible to the public. Examples of eligible project activities include: cost of land acquisition from willing sellers for OHV trails and scramble areas; construction, rehabilitation, maintenance and design for OHV trails/routes and scramble areas; restoration of areas damaged by OHV usage; rider education and safety programs; cost of facility security. The program can also help restore areas damaged by unauthorized OHV use. The OHV grant program can provide up to 100% funding reimbursement assistance for approved, eligible project costs. Applications for grant assistance must be received by IDNR no later than March 1 of each calendar year. Awards are generally announced within 180 days following the application deadline date. The Trails Grant Programs now require a non-refundable Application Fee (IDNR, Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Program).*

Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

A proposed bicycle/pedestrian network of on-road and off-road improvements is shown in Figure 5.5, below. On-road improvements include things such as: wide shoulders, bike lanes (at minimum 5 feet

wide), combined parking/bike lanes, and “sharrows.” A visual depiction of these examples can be found in Appendix C to the comprehensive plan. Additionally, the proposed SATS bicycle and pedestrian network improvements displayed in Figure 5.5 can be accompanied and guided by the key transportation corridors for Riverton discussed in the *Proposed Land Use* section, which emphasizes in greater detail the local areas that the village may wish to target in future planning efforts to parallel economic development priorities.

An on-road bicycle improvement can be as simple as the placement of way-finding signs. An assessment of risk factors should accompany the planning of on-road improvements. The risk factors for on-road bicycle signage and improvements stem from a court case, *Boub v. Wayne Township*, argued before the Illinois Supreme Court in 1998.

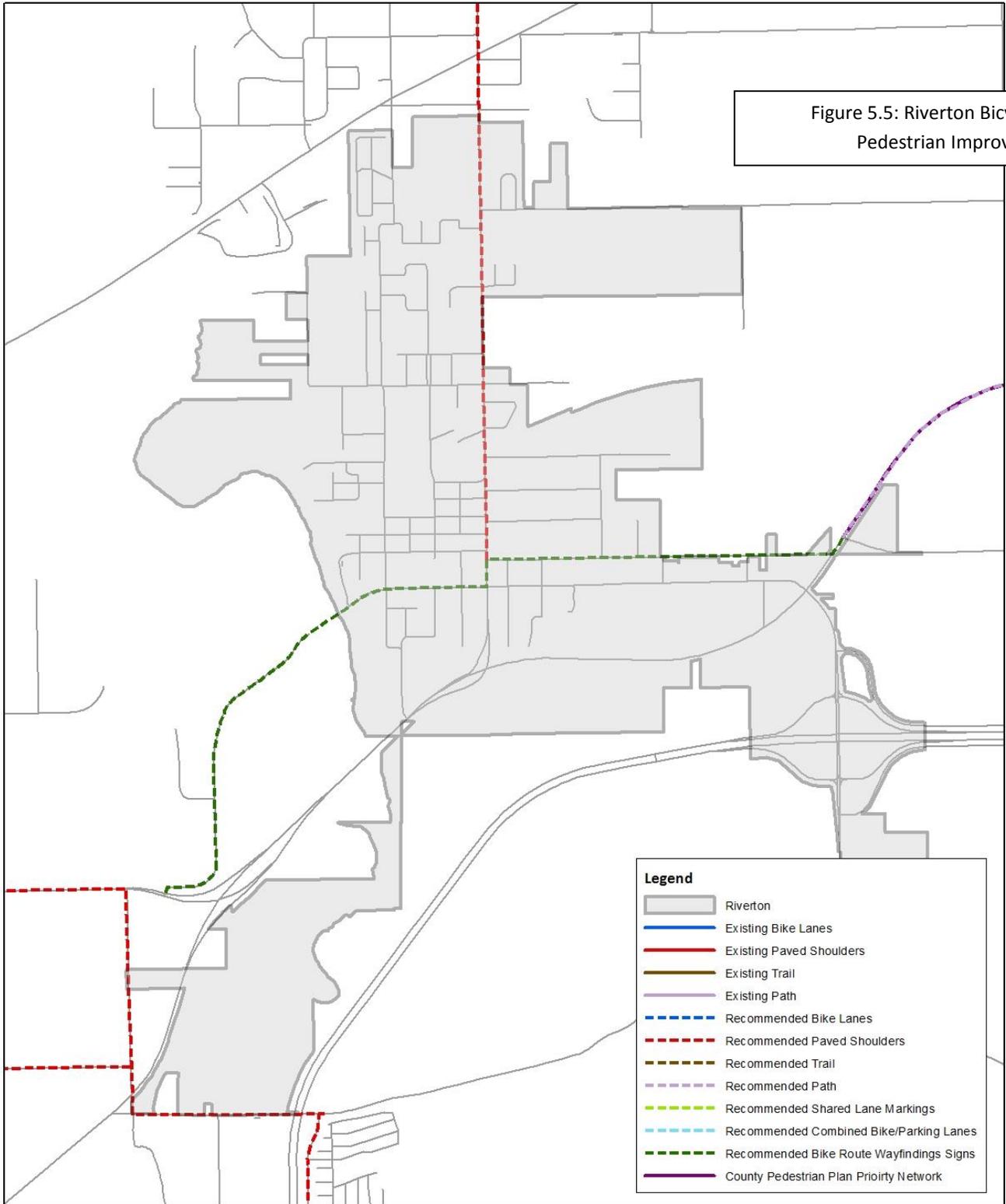
The Route 66 Trail Plan, developed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), states that local governments receive immunity for, “injuries suffered by cyclists due to road condition,” (IDNR, 2010, p. 44). However, it also states, “this immunity vanishes for roads designated with bicycle-specific features such as signage or bike lane markings,” (ibid, p. 44). To promote the benefits of on-road improvements, the plan also notes that two insurers did not foresee insurance premium increases for 10 miles of off-road bike paths, on-road bike lanes, or signed bike routes provided the insurers were consulted to ensure proper engineering design standards were met. The village may wish to consult with its insurer before signing or constructing on-road bicycle improvements to ensure this information would apply. Examples of off-road pathways for bicycles and pedestrians include dedicated trails like the Sangamon Valley Trail, the Lost Bridge Trail, or the Interurban Trail, and six-foot side path trails next to roads in areas with higher speed limits and limited driveways. Visual examples of these concepts are also shown in Appendix C.

Again, it is important to note that trail connections to Springfield and other surrounding communities may be a particularly important feature for Riverton’s future economic development goals contemplated elsewhere in this plan. The bike and pedestrian accommodations map below takes this into consideration by including the bicycle network information envisioned by SATS for the Riverton area. Although Riverton was not a participant in the creation of the Metropolitan Planning Area’s overall bike and pedestrian plan, Riverton residents’ involvement on the Community Advisory Committee for the SATS 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan allowed these corridors to be identified and incorporated into SATS planning efforts.

Additionally, outside of the MPA, the SSCRPC facilitated the development of a regional, county-wide, bicycle and pedestrian plan. This plan builds on SATS efforts outside of the MPA, and identifies key bike and pedestrian networks. These network additions are also included in Figure 5.5, below.

It will be of particular importance in Riverton’s future for the village to implement proposed bike and pedestrian improvements for a number of reasons. Bike and pedestrian networks are vital to a complete system of transportation networks. They provide opportunities for transportation to and from resources and amenities for residents without cars, as well as those who wish to pursue more active lifestyles. They are an amenity shown to be of particular interest to younger population cohorts (particularly the age group that began reaching adulthood after the year 2000, often referred to as “Millennials”) that may be targets for in-migration to the village. Given the importance of recreational tourism as part of a long-term Riverton economic development strategy (explored further in the *Economic Development* section of this plan), the village will wish to facilitate easy access to its businesses and service by pedestrians and bicyclists.

Figure 5.5: Riverton Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements



N
 Data Source:
 Sangamon County GIS
 AU, 9.5.2014

Village of Riverton: SATS- Envisioned Bicycle Network

**SSC
 RPC** Springfield Sangamon County
 Regional Planning Commission

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Unpaved Trails

In addition to the paved trails discussed above, Riverton may wish to explore unpaved trails as part of its transportation network, particularly as a feature of this recreational district discussed in the *Proposed Land Use* section, below. Unpaved trails require only minimal maintenance and would be an appropriate transportation use in the substantial floodplain areas in and around Riverton. Figure 8.5 in the *Proposed Land Use* section contemplates some key areas along the Sangamon River where unpaved trail corridors may be of particular benefit. Off Road Vehicle grants such as the IDNR resources discussed above are at times available for these purposes, as are volunteer groups and resources related to biking, hiking, equestrian, and other unpaved trail use groups.

Transportation Corridor Plan

The main purpose of a transportation corridor plan is to move traffic – both vehicular and non-vehicular – from place to place in the most safe, effective, and efficient way possible. In order to link Riverton to the broader surrounding efforts related to transportation planning throughout the region, Figure 5.6, below, includes a map of SATS-identified Street and Highway projects through 2035. Figure 5.6 also provides information as to which corridors will have pedestrian accommodations included in the improvement process.

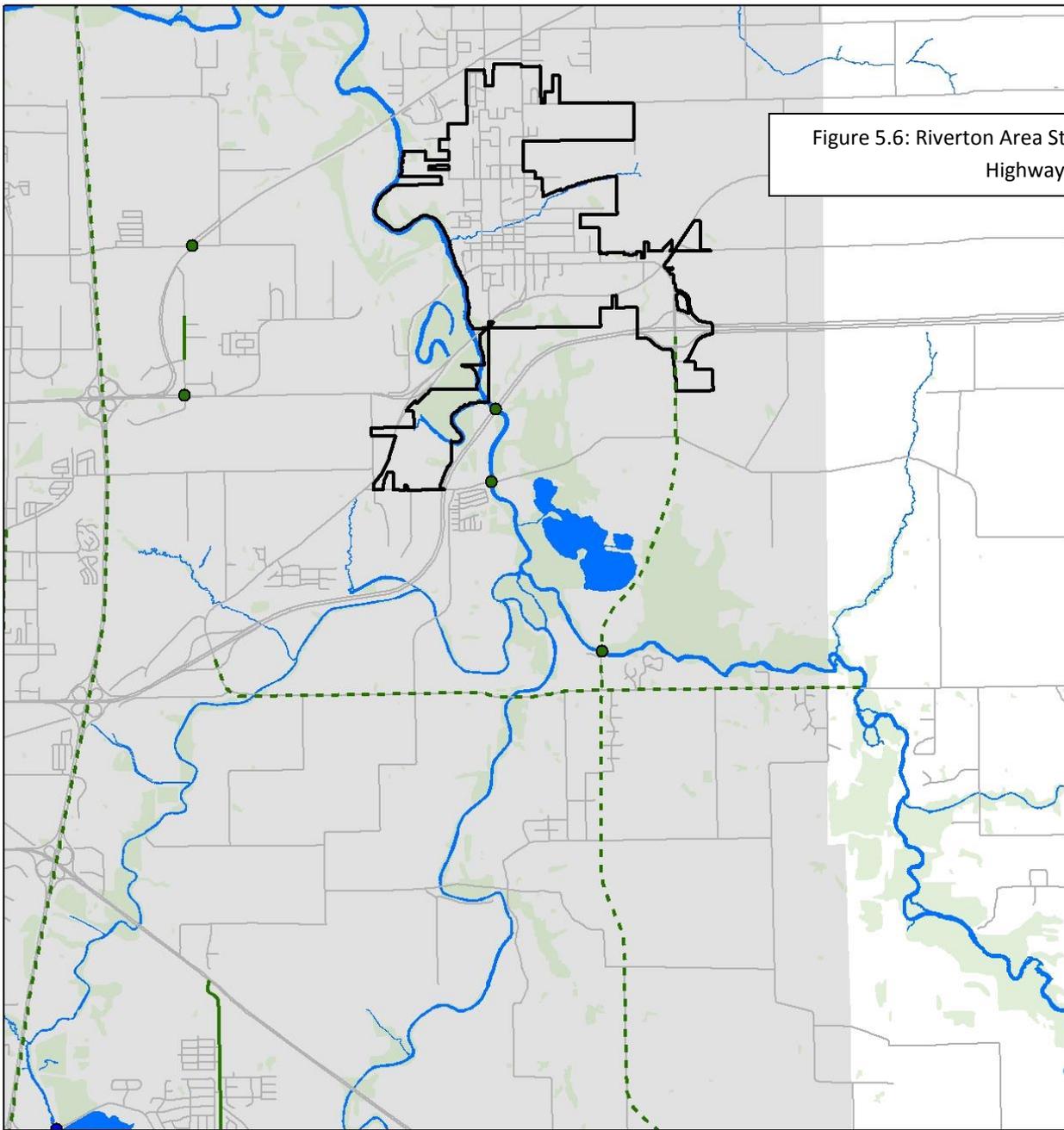
It is important to note that at the writing of this plan, SATS was in the process of crafting an update to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that would build upon these street and highway projects, which are included in the LRTP 2035. With the creation of the 2040 LRTP, some additions to the street and highway proposed network may occur. However, the SSCRPC expects that SATS-identified street and roadway improvements will experience little change in Riverton and the surrounding area in this plan update.

Riverton-Rochester Road Connection

As contemplated in the corridor map below (Figure 5.6), it is important to highlight that plans to construct an extension of Cardinal Hill Road, as a Riverton-Rochester road connection, have been considered for a number of years. Sangamon County has taken steps to secure the right of way for this future road corridor.

Local officials should continue to work together to plan for this eventuality once funding becomes available. Special considerations need to be given to the approaches to both communities consistent with the guidance provided in the Regional Strategic Plan for Sangamon County (SSCRPC, 2014). Specific and specialized planning should be arranged by local officials as it relates to corridor development in this area, with special consideration given to the recreational and natural area development along this corridor. The village may wish to consider designating this road as a heritage highway of some sort with bicycle accommodations and historic markers where appropriate. Additionally, efforts should be taken to protect any environmentally sensitive areas near the Sangamon River, while developing it in such a manner that it will provide significant potential for economic benefit through recreational and natural area developments in the Lower Sangamon River region. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations should be an important component of this future corridor. In keeping with the Complete Streets policy discussed above, local leaders should not approve any designs that do not allow for safe pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along this road connection.

Figure 5.6: Riverton Area Street and Highway Projects



Riverton Area: SATS Street & Highway Projects LRTP 2035



Data Source: Fiscal Years 2010-2013
Transportation Improvement Program
and Sangamon County GIS.

Updated: July 2013 - BMS
*Note - Committed Projects #2 and #23 are not shown due to
their funding work throughout the City of Springfield.

Riverton
 IDNR Designated Wetlands
 MPA Boundary

**SATS-
Identified
Roadway
Projects**



No sidewalks
 Sidewalks

0 0.75 1.5
Miles

Combined Corridor Map

As discussed above, in recent decades a complete transportation network has come to mean building a system of networks which provides an efficient means of transportation for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorized traffic alike. The proposed transportation corridor plan includes both a trail network and several classes of streets that Riverton should prioritize for future additions and improvements. Major and minor arterial streets are designed to carry traffic through an area in the most efficient manner possible. Collector streets carry traffic from local arterials to local streets and from local streets to arterial streets. Local streets carry traffic from collectors and primarily provide access to property. For the purpose of this proposed transportation corridor plan, the SSCRPC continues to use the definitions provided above.

In essence, the transportation corridor plan (Figure 5.7, below), provides a combined picture of Riverton's transportation needs within the horizon of this plan and links its existing and future networks to the broader regional transportation networks. This map includes the local priority needs identified in the *Proposed Land Use* section of this plan, the SATS-area roadway and bike/pedestrian plan accommodations, and also the bike/pedestrian plan accommodations for the county area outside of the MPA.

The Corridor map is of particular importance because it guides the village in identifying key improvements for connecting Riverton to other jurisdictions and locations in the area through its built infrastructure. Considering future improvements within a framework of *linkages* to other villages will assist Riverton in targeting transportation networks improvements and other growth. These concepts are closely linked to the SSCRPC's *Sangamon County Regional Strategic Plan*, which provides a vision for a vital cycle of regional improvement for the area over the next 20 to 25 years.

The Regional Strategic Plan, available at www.sscrpc.com, especially emphasizes the idea of using corridors as linkages between communities. It identifies several examples of "character areas" that can help municipalities in the region shape the form of entrances and exits to their village in a manner in keeping with the regional vision. Especially near approaches to Riverton, village leaders should review these "character area" concepts identified in the Regional Strategic Plan and consider implementing them. The *Proposed Land Use* section of this plan also deals with various districts within the village in keeping with a "character areas" concept, reflecting the priorities identified in the Regional Strategic Plan, and linking the village to broader regional strategies.

Alternative Transportation Options

It should be noted that Riverton's location may limit some residents' options for transportation through means such as automobile, walking, bicycling, or carpooling to locations in neighboring communities. Though Riverton is closer in proximity to the City of Springfield than many other rural Sangamon County communities, which represents an asset to the village, it is still necessary to consider alternative travel options to assist residents in these situations, particularly as a large cohort of the population ages.

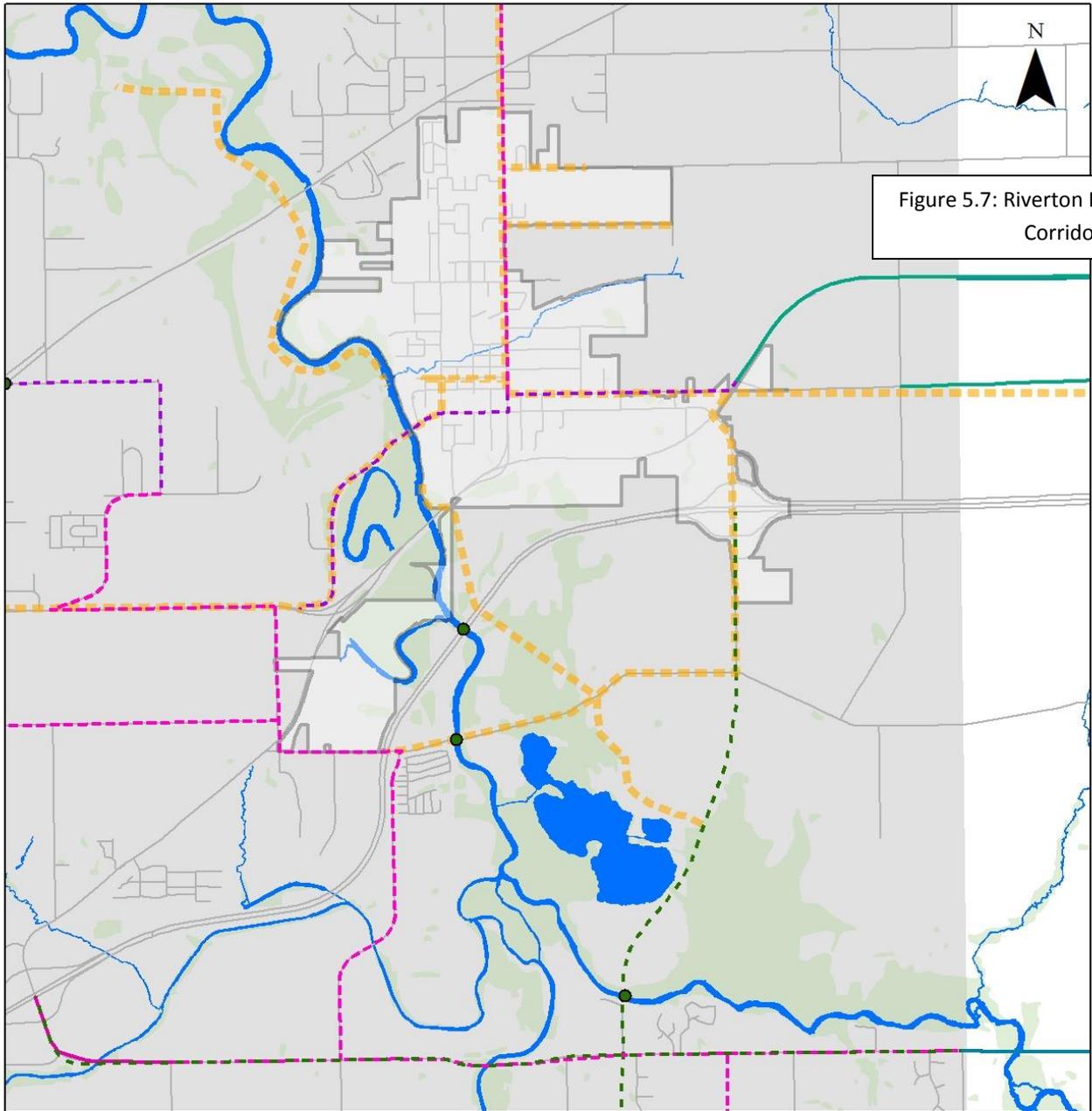


Figure 5.7: Riverton Future Corridor Map

Riverton Area: Combined Future Corridor Plan

Data Sources: Fiscal Years
2010-2013 Transportation
Improvement Program, County
Bike and Pedestrian Plan,
MPA Bike and Pedestrian Plan,
Sangamon County GIS, and
SSCRPC Proposed Land Use Map.
AU, 9.15.14

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverton IDNR Designated Wetlands MPA Boundary Comp. Plan-Identified Local Priorities County Bike Plan Priority County Pedestrian Plan Priority | <p>SATS Roadway Network Planned Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sidewalks Sidewalks | <p>SATS Bike Accomodations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Bike Lanes Existing Paved Shoulders Existing Trail Existing Path Recommended Bike Lanes Recommended Paved Shoulders Recommended Trail Recommended Path Rec. Bike Wayfinding Signs |
|--|---|--|



0 0.5 Miles

In these situations, carpooling may provide an immediate alternative means of getting to work or other destinations. According to the community survey, 70% of the total number of Riverton survey respondents currently have a household member that drives alone to work. Thirty-one percent of total respondents also have a household member that work or work from home, with response percentages equaling greater than 100% due to the possibility of more than one response per household. Only 4% of total respondents indicated that they utilize a carpool. The village may wish to consider facilitating a carpool to aid in additional carpooling activities.

At the time of this plan's development, the Sangamon County Board is working with Menard County and the Springfield Mass Transit District (SMTD) toward the implementation of an area-wide transit system; the Sangamon-Menard Area Regional Transit (SMART). In the near future, this system will provide demand-response transit service, using small buses or vans, to Riverton residents, as well as people living in the rural area outside of the village. Rides will be available by making a reservation with service to all areas of the county, including into Springfield, for a nominal fare.

Although this service is nearing implementation, it is significant that only 18% of survey respondents indicated that they are familiar with the program. Similarly, 19% indicated that they do not know whether or not they would be likely to use the service, and 12% report neutrality when asked about their likelihood of using the service. The village should work to assist in SMART marketing efforts to ensure that it can expand upon the 21% of respondents likely to use SMART with residents from among the currently undecided group.

Transportation: Key Themes and Strategies

- Riverton has unique assets and attributes that are currently underutilized. Its transportation networks are well-situated in relation to larger regional collectors and roadways.
- Within the village, it faces unique challenges such as pedestrian connectivity, and must be strategic in how it works to capitalize on its special resources.
- Riverton has already begun working to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity. Drawing upon all available financial resources will assist the village in continuing these efforts. This will assist Riverton as it invests in its younger and older age cohorts.
- Riverton should expand on and utilize recreational resources to develop this economy. This includes bike and pedestrian trails, amenities, and signage, connecting to tourism resources Riverton and in the surrounding region.
- Riverton should ensure that it partners with regional and national entities to achieve village goals.

“The greatest improvement I would like to see is the addition of sidewalk.”

-Riverton resident in community survey

Westward view of proposed historic mixed-use commercial and recreation area.



Connected pedestrian trails and sidewalks in envisioned downtown.





Economic Development

Economic development involves efforts to improve the financial well-being and quality-of-life of a community through the expansion, attraction, creation, and retention of business activity. These efforts are intended to create new employment opportunities in the community, but also to sustain and increase the community's tax base. Efforts to increase the economic base of a community are important because the generation of new wealth and business opportunity provides the public resources most often needed to implement the community's long-range plans.

This being the case, economic development planning often includes policies and programs that governments use to achieve economic objectives by providing the vital infrastructure and services that improve or retain a community's competitive position while maintaining the necessary balance for substantial and sustained growth. Moreover, economic development planning components often include quality-of-life considerations in a community, which are becoming an increasingly important component of business location decisions that depend upon a strong residential base to support commercial activities.

Riverton residents and planning committee members indicated throughout the planning process that economic development efforts were of particular importance to the village. In developing plans for future growth it is important to consider significant factors encouraging and retarding growth, the current market presence of the community, the potential the market holds for business retention, expansion and attraction, and any special challenges and opportunities that can be foreseen.

Supporting Infrastructure

Consumers, producers and suppliers all need physical access to the marketplace and the utilities necessary for both residential and commercial activities. For this reason, the availability of supporting infrastructure is critical to long-term success. Minimally, this infrastructure includes roads and highways, necessary provision of water and sewer, and access to electricity and telecommunication services. Although these assets have been described in greater detail in the preceding sections, this section recaps the considerations related to Riverton's infrastructure that specifically pertain to its economic development section.

Roadway Access

The Village of Riverton has more than adequate major highway access, with Old Route 36 running adjacent to the southern portion of the village and Interstate 72 less than a mile from the south-eastern corporate limit of the village. An additional I-72 access point is within two miles of the village, and Interstate 55 access is within three miles of the village. These entry points allow for quick and efficient travel to the Village of Riverton, as well as from the village to the nearby City of Springfield.

In addition to this transportation infrastructure, the village's utilities infrastructure is also an important component in establishing a foundation for its economic development needs. Riverton's utilities are addressed in greater detail in the *Utilities* section of this plan, but each is also briefly addressed below.

Water and Wastewater Utilities

The village manages its own water utility. It currently has five wells, in addition to a water treatment plant within the village. Treated water is stored in two elevated storage tanks each with 200,000 gallons of capacity. The village's current daily water usage is approximately 350,000 gallons of water per day, according to the village engineer. Water pressure appears to be adequate throughout the village to meet fire flow needs.

Riverton currently supplies water to the Village of Spaulding, as well as some of the surrounding unincorporated areas. Riverton has 19 hours' spare water capacity for its user load currently, with generators for each of its wells in an emergency situation. While the village's water capacity current allows it some additional capacity for residential and commercial development, over time the village may require additional upgrade to handle larger-capacity developments.

Riverton recently upgraded its water system by implementing major improvements on its water main lines. The village has expressed intent to re-bond existing revenue bonds in the future to rehabilitate the second half of its water plant and eventually replace water mains. Additionally, another water tower may be needed within the horizon of this plan.

The village also operates a Water Reclamation Center located on Riverton Road. Wastewater is treated through a bacteriological process and discharged into the Sangamon River. Its sewer plant was approximately twenty years old at the writing of the plan, and is a lagoon system with some excess capacity. No known problems or concerns exist related to the sewer plant.

In addition to the water improvement described above, Riverton is also currently undertaking strategic infrastructure upgrades and additions to extend water and sewer lines toward areas in the eastern and southwestern sections of Riverton where additional development is likely. Potential infrastructure upgrades, particularly pertaining to Riverton's water system, represent a critical aspect of the village's economic development approach. Working to ensure that the village has and follows a capital plan will be important to sustaining on-going development capacity in coming years. During the plan development process for this Strategic Plan, Riverton has worked with its village engineer to create a prioritized capital needs plan. The village should work to align revenue sources with priorities identified in this plan for long-term infrastructure capacity, particularly those highlighted in the *Utilities* section.

Gas and Electric Utilities

The Village of Riverton is one of several municipalities in Sangamon County that also owns and operates a natural gas distribution system. Riverton is a member of the Interstate Municipal Gas Agency, and purchases wholesale natural gas through this entity. Similarly, Riverton has an electric distribution system. Its power supply is purchased through the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, of which it is a member. Riverton's gas and electric systems have adequate capacity to handle additional commercial development.

Telecommunications

The Village of Riverton has a franchise agreement with Casscomm for many of its telecommunications needs. AT&T is another internet and telephone provider serving the area. Reliability on the part of both of these providers has been reported by residents to be satisfactory in the community survey (see

Appendix A). The current telecommunications utilities providers would likely be able to support any feasible continued growth in Riverton.

Workforce Availability

According to the US Census Bureau, in 2010 Riverton’s population was 3,455. This represents an increase of approximately 13% from its 2000 population of 3,048.

Population and resident age are both key factors relevant to assessing local development capacity. As discussed in the *Demographics* section of this plan, Riverton has a relatively young median age (35.5 years) compared to the remainder of Sangamon County, suggesting that a demographic makeup beneficial to strong workforce potential is likely. However, Riverton’s dependency ratio remains at a comparable level to that of the rest of Sangamon County (50.0), largely due to its high percentage of dependent children as compared to its workforce population.

This being the case, the village has approximately 2,300 persons between the ages of 20 and 64 according to the US Census Bureau. These 2,300 persons account for approximately 67% of Riverton’s total population. Among this group, there are approximately 600 persons employed within the village

These labor force estimates, coupled with employment capacity of businesses within the village, suggest that a large portion of Riverton’s labor force is employed in nearby communities; therefore, Riverton has labor force availability required to meet needs of future development projects. The differential of those working within versus outside the village would indicate that sufficient labor capacity exists within the village to support some additional growth if jobs comparable to those being found outside the community were developed within it.

This labor availability is important to economic development opportunities, but does not appear to represent a problem for the village. Total population growth in Riverton over the last two decades has been steady but slight. Between 1990 and 2000, population growth in Riverton was about 15%. Between 2000 and 2010, the average annual rate of growth was slightly less, resulting in a total increase of about 13%. It is important to note that Riverton’s growth rate has lessened slightly, in keeping with trends in many rural areas of Illinois. However, this decline is less likely to negatively impact Riverton within the horizon of this plan because of its comparatively young population and the relatively robust labor force availability associated with this youthfulness.

Another important consideration related to workforce availability is the educational attainment of village residents and the strength of Riverton

Table 6.1: Educational Opportunities for Riverton Workforce			
Illinois District Report Cards			
Overall Performance on ISAT Tests (percent meeting/exceeding state standards)			Student Mobility
	2011-12	2012-13	
Ball-Chatham CUSD 5	79%	70%	7%
Rochester CUSD 3A	76%	78%	6%
Riverton CUSD 14	55%	57%	18%
Pleasant Plains CUSD 8	76%	75%	8%
Williamsville CUSD 15	70%	74%	8%
Tri-City CUSD 1	64%	62%	4%
Statewide Average	59%	59%	13%

workforce availability is the educational attainment of village residents and the strength of Riverton

schools. The school district in the Riverton area ranks in the mid-range among school districts in Sangamon County. School progress as measured in ISAT scores is displayed in Table 6.1. School scores are a matter of concern for Riverton, which fares worse in ISAT performance tests than most neighboring schools. It should be noted that ISAT scores may reflect a lower than historical patterns, because of changes in ISBE standards for “Meets” and “Exceeds” to meet Common Core Standards. Nevertheless, even when compared to scores of peers for whom a similarly stringent new standard is being applied, Riverton students do not fare particularly well. Moreover, Riverton has higher percentages of student mobility, which can be disruptive to its classrooms and create difficulties in student success.

Despite these challenges, Riverton fares moderately in terms of overall educational attainment. About 86% of the population has completed high school, and 18% have a bachelor’s degree or a higher education level. This is competitive with some of its neighboring communities, such as Dawson, Spaulding, and Grandview. However, other peers, such as Sherman and Williamsville, have higher education levels. Riverton CUSD #14 and its residents and local partners should seek to continuously improve its educational attainment and school system to maintain its competitive standing.

Business Establishments

According to the ESRI estimates based upon Dun & Bradstreet data, the Village of Riverton’s main industries are Services, Retail, and Construction. These industries represent 57.1%, 13.6% and 13.6% of Riverton businesses, respectively. Moreover, they employ 60.4%, 19.4%, and 8.2% of Riverton employees. Among the various types of service industries in the village, day care centers, accounting or insurance brokers, and restaurants or food service establishments are the primary groups in Riverton’s business makeup. Table 6.3, below (page 59), includes businesses that currently operate in Riverton.

Business Revenue

The current state of revenue-generating business activity can be partially assessed from sales tax data. The sales and related taxes disbursed to the Village from 2007 through 2013 are shown in Table 6.2.

The table reveals that the revenues disbursed to the Village decreased from 2010-2011, and increased again starting after 2012. As is the case with other communities in the region, Riverton’s sales tax revenues are subject to regional and national trends. The decline in sales tax disbursement in the period noted is most likely due to the dramatic changes in the market and economic climate that occurred nationwide following 2008. Riverton appears to have been buffered to some extent from the difficulties of the recession due to influxes of sales tax revenue from new businesses in the area. As the table indicates, sales tax disbursements stabilized and rebounded to about \$140,000 annually following the recovery.

Table 6.2: Disbursement Information for Riverton Sales Taxes Calendar Years 2007-2013		
Year	Municipal Sales Tax	Percent Change from Previous Year
2007	\$ 119,370	
2008	\$ 132,768	+11%
2009	\$ 135,285	+2%
2010	\$ 134,240	-1%
2011	\$ 132,306	-1%
2012	\$ 140,815	+6%
2013	\$ 149,404	+6%
Source: Illinois Department of Revenue		

Village residents maintain a great deal of consumer potential. As Table 6.4 indicates, Riverton ranks in the mid-range on median household income when compared to nearby communities, though slightly lower than its population peers. However, all of these comparison communities have considerably higher median household incomes than the countywide median household income of \$50,166 in 2010 (US Census Bureau’s 2010 American Community Survey Estimates). Riverton’s median household income thus suggests that it maintains a competitive footing in comparison to its surrounding region.

The Village does have a reasonably strong and stable residential base, important to economic development because of the need for a stable residential population and strong housing stock to support commercial development. As noted in the *Demographic* section above, the village included 1,373 households as of the 2010 Census. ESRI estimates that this number increased to 1,400 by 2013 and will continue to increase to 1,439 by 2018.

Average household size in the village as of the 2010 Census is 2.52, which is slightly higher than national and state averages. ESRI data suggests that this number has decreased slightly since 2010 to 2.51, but will likely remain constant over the next five years.

These larger household sizes stem primarily from the higher proportions of children in the Riverton community. Riverton has a fairly high percentage of households with children, which may contribute to the on-going viability of the village economically. This is especially the case if the younger population can be enticed to stay in the community, rather than moving away.

According to the 2010 Census, 925 out of 1,431 total housing units (65%) in the village are owner-occupied, with 31% renter-occupied and 4% vacant. The number of housing units has increased moderately since 2000, with growth of about 7% in total units. ESRI estimated that the 2010 median home value in the village was \$96,400, compared to a median national home value of just under \$158,000. However, ESRI estimates that Riverton’s 2013 median home value was approximately \$127,000. While there are some reliability concerns related to estimated home values, overall Riverton appears to be fairly competitive in relation to Sangamon County as a whole, where the median home value estimated for 2007-2011 was \$120,900. This indicates that the village has the number of households and the property value to support additional local retail.

Similarly, ESRI reports that the median disposable income for Riverton is estimated to be \$44,868 as of 2013. For Census Tract 38.02, which covers the majority of the village, Total Retail Sales were estimated

Table 6.4: 2010 Median Household Income Sangamon County, Illinois		
	2010 Median Household Income	2010 Population
Riverton	\$57,037	3,455
Peer Communities		
Sherman	\$79,460	3,636
Rochester	\$87,275*	3,689
Williamsville	\$65,266	1,466
Near Neighbors		
Dawson	\$39,886*	509
Spaulding	\$86,188*	873
Source: ESRI Business Analyst Online, 2010 *ESRI Community Analyst Online, 2007-2011 ACS Estimate		

by ESRI to be \$14.6 million on an annual basis. Retail Sales Potential was, in contrast, estimated at \$66.6 million. This suggests that Riverton currently is not maximizing its retail market potential.

Surplus and leakage figures related to demand and supply parity within the village market can provide further confirmation of the village’s ability to support additional commercial growth. Due to the small size of Riverton and its proximity to larger markets, these figures should be taken with a cautionary note. However, they can provide insightful information on where the village has opportunity to grow. ESRI describes its methodology for developing the leakage/surplus factor as such:

ESRI enables the comparison of supply and demand simply in one measure, the Leakage/Surplus conveniently measures the balance between the volume of supply (retail sales) generated by retail industry and the demand (spending by households [i.e., retail potential]) within the same industry. Leakage in an area represents a condition where a market's supply is less than the demand. That is, retailers outside the market area are fulfilling the demand for retail products; therefore, demand is leaking out of the trade area. Surplus in an area represents a condition where supply exceeds the area's demand. Retailers are attracting shoppers that reside outside the trade area, so the surplus is in market supply. (<http://www.esri.com/library/whitepapers/pdfs/esri-data-retail-marketplace.pdf>)

The SSCRPC notes that a positive value represents ‘leakage’ of retail opportunity outside of the village, whereas a negative value represents a surplus of retail sales. Tract 38.02’s leakage/surplus index for Total Retail is estimated at +63.9 (leakage), likely indicating that a large portion of the village’s demand is currently being met outside of the village. Table 6.5, below, offers leakage/surplus factors for this tract for a number of specific types of retail, particularly those identified by residents in the community survey as services and amenities they’d prefer to see added within the village.

Table 6.5: Leakage/Surplus Factors				
Census Tract 38.02 (Village of Riverton and near surrounding area to northeast)				
<i>Note: Positive value indicates leakage, negative indicates surplus.</i>				
Retail Trade	Food & Beverage Stores	Grocery Stores	Clothing & Accessory Stores	Health & Personal Care Stores
+64.7	+25.9	+28.2	+100	+100
Book, Periodical, & Music	General Merchandise Stores	Office Supply & Gift Stores	Full-Service Restaurants	Food Service & Drink Places
+100	+70.4	+76.2	+81.5	+56.6

Riverton displays a leakage in each of these areas, with highest retail leakages in the areas of clothing stores, health/personal care stores, and book/music stores. The village should consider this information in targeting its retail development efforts.

As a result of overall slowing growth trends in the region (SSCRPC, 2014, *2010 Census Analysis*), the Village will find itself competing with other nearby communities for additional retail business growth. This will especially be the case with businesses which require a larger population base to thrive, such as businesses with expensive inventory or those that cluster around other like businesses. Local tax rates also affect business retention, expansion and attraction, and in this area the village is competitive. The village’s tax rates are similar and competitive with other smaller communities within Sangamon County

(see Table 6.6). Riverton charges no additional sales tax on top of the state sales tax rate of 6.25%, like all of its comparable communities except those with home rule, including Sherman and Springfield. However, Riverton’s telecommunications tax rate is slightly higher than that of peer communities, with the Village of Rochester as one exception.

Table 6.6: Comparative Tax Rates Sangamon County, Illinois (select municipalities)				
	Riverton	Sherman	Rochester	Williamsville
Sales Tax	6.25%	6.75%	6.25%	6.25%
Use and Service Tax	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%
Telecommunication Tax	11.00%	7.00%	13.00%	7.75%

Like its peers, Riverton receives a portion of municipal sales tax from the Illinois Department of Revenue (1% of total sales tax for sales within its corporate boundaries, listed above) and Motor Fuel Tax money. However, Riverton has several additional financial resources available to it for meeting village needs to which other municipalities may not have access because they do not all own their own utilities as Riverton does. The village also receives revenues from its utility services. While these revenue streams can assist the village in ensuring it has enough revenue to develop needed infrastructure improvements for business or retail growth, Riverton should work to ensure that its rates remain competitive as compared to other communities’.

Strategies for the Future

Communities with strong economic development strategies strive to cultivate both community attractiveness and development-ready environments. Given Riverton’s market presence and potential, the low cost of living, and small-town feel in proximity to the amenities of Springfield, it has great potential to foster economic development if certain community obstacles voice in the community survey and in other forums, such as perceived declines in community spirit, demographic challenges, and property maintenance concerns, can be overcome. A forward-looking economic development strategy for Riverton highlights tools and opportunities in the existing economic landscape of the village, while seeking to identify and overcome its challenges, as informed by the information compiled in all sections of this plan.

Special Opportunities and Tools

Geographic Location

A key economic development attribute working in Riverton’s favor is its geographic location. Riverton is located in close proximity to Springfield and is nearly contiguous to the accompanying markets and amenities, yet retains a “small town” atmosphere. Many village residents cited this combination of factors in open-ended comments about favorite aspects of the village.

While a number of other “bedroom” communities have equal ability to fit this description, the village pairs this locational strength with several others. It has access to both Interstate 72 and Old Route 36, with Interstate 55 also nearby, strengthening its footing as an industrial or commercial site location. Riverton offers quick access to the resources of north and east Springfield. Two rail lines run near Riverton, one through the central portion of the village (Norfolk Western), and one immediately north of the village (Illinois Central Gulf). While these rails do not have spurs in the village, the rail spur near the grain elevator at Barclay Road to the near north of the village is an economic asset.

Riverton also benefits from its geographic location because of the abundant water available to it from the Sangamon River and the Mohomet Aquifer. If it can continue to maintain its water infrastructure appropriately, there will likely be no shortage of water resources available to residential, commercial, or industrial developers wishing to develop in the village. Riverton’s sewer infrastructure is also currently adequate for future development. Moreover, there is high likelihood that this can continue to be the case, particularly because Riverton’s location immediately east of Springfield also makes it a good candidate for a future connection to the Springfield Metro Sanitary District as an alternative sewer service resource. As noted previously, an SMSD sewer line extends to Irisdale Subdivision, which at its nearest point is less than 1.5 miles from the village limits.

Natural Resources

Tied to Riverton’s location is its natural resource base. The village sits on a bluff overlooking the Sangamon River, and is near considerable acreage of beautiful natural watershed and forested areas. Riverton’s natural environment is particularly significant because of the untouched oxbow area island immediately south of the village’s corporate limits.

With appropriate cultivation of these resources, the opportunity exists for them to be used as a recreational destination or an environmental amenity, rather than underutilized floodplain. Riverton should consider its location near the Sangamon River as an economic development tool, and work to fully capitalize on its amenities. Local residents can benefit from natural resources for their own quality of life, and amenities based around these resources could also be leveraged to attract new residents and tourists. Riverton should note in its consideration of these opportunities that river levels tend to increase and decrease substantially at various portions of the year. Additionally, village officials may wish to become informed about and monitor any impact that the Decatur Lake dam upstream may have.

To provide additional detail regarding the significance of the Lower Sangamon River Valley in this area, Riverton should note that substantial funding is available for waterfront access programs for fishing and canoeing through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, this waterfront plays into the rich history of Riverton through linkages such as the Lincoln Heritage Riverton Trail. Riverton can leverage these amenities as part of its economic development strategy, and should work with Springfield, Sangamon County, and State agencies to explore funding possibilities through programs such as these.

Recreational Resources

Alongside these natural resources, Riverton already provides a strong park system, though improvements could be beneficial for some of its older park infrastructure. As a community, Riverton

emphasizes its athletic teams and sports facilities, and strong community engagement occurs through these resources. Large percentages of survey respondents indicate involvement on sports teams. Riverton has invested heavily in its “Field of Dreams” on the east side of the community. While many community residents indicated a lack of cultural and recreational resources in the community, Riverton has many assets available to it that could assist in amplifying the opportunities that already exist or in creating new programming that utilize current facilities.

Building on current park facilities, including especially its riverside campground, Riverton could use its natural resources and existing recreational infrastructure to become a niche market for outdoor tourism. With a limited purchase of additional parcels, Riverton could add to its campground. Additional primitive campsites would be a low-cost addition. Some small improvements in campground appearance and amenities would also encourage campground maintenance by users. Some of these improvements could include wireless internet, signage pointing to historic resources, an improved boat launch, fishing sites, and similar amenities.

Moving beyond the campground resources, and as noted above, Riverton has the opportunity to open its riverfront and provide park space to ensure that residents can enjoy the beautiful river views associated with its natural environment. This park could connect to recreational resources such as Riverton’s other parks, the campground, and sidewalks or bike trails. The park could also be developed near a pedestrian bridge, potentially built on existing footings that remain in the river, which would connect residents across the river to additional resources.

In addition to traditional asphalt paved trails, Riverton could harness volunteer resources to assist in building low-cost, low-maintenance multi-use non-paved trails throughout much of the river bottom area for use by hikers, bird-watchers, and bikers. Moreover, corporate sponsorship opportunities may exist related to outdoor recreational outfitters and equipment shops, which may have a desire to assist in the cultivation of these resources. Additionally, on a regional basis Riverton could serve as a center for outdoor recreation activities such as bird watching, hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, off-highway vehicle and equestrian uses, and potentially a climbing wall, zip line, or other outdoor recreation features. These recreational activities and the demographic group associated with them have great potential to draw economic activity through outdoor and sports tourism spending. Outfitting retailers could benefit from these recreational activities.

A review of literature on recreational trails suggests that they can have positive impact on property values and sales. For all segments of the population, paved or non-paved trails can be valuable community amenities. Residential development would benefit from an economic development strategy that fully appreciates and utilizes recreational opportunities associated with Riverton’s environment. Especially given the increasing emphasis on community amenities by the Millennial age cohort that will be the bulk of the home-owning residential population in coming years, trail access will likely become increasingly valuable in Riverton’s future.

One important note related to these recreational resources is that some of the land in the discussed recreational areas is enrolled in state and federal CREP programs, as discussed in the *Environment and Natural Resources* Section of this plan. The village will need to carefully review CREP program requirements and work to ensure that its economic development strategies are not counter to the potential uses of CREP land.

Cultural Assets

Additionally, Riverton's geographic location places it near many historical and cultural resources. Tourism related to Abraham Lincoln and Route 66, along with other cultural resources, is a major industry for the region. Due to its Lincoln connections, Riverton could benefit economically from its proximity to other Lincoln sites with a targeted marketing effort to attract tourists to "add a day" to their stay in the area. This may be a particularly promising approach if the recreational amenities discussed above are provided.

Riverton also may benefit from other historical events at its location, especially those described in the *History* section of this plan pertaining to the James Gang, Riverton's association with the Edward's Trace, Civil War, Native American's, Donner Party, Italian heritage, and its coal mining history. Additionally, its proximity to historical Camp Butler cemetery could be a regional draw for bringing tourists to the Riverton area. Riverton has access to a broad cross-section of historic resources, and its current amenities and heritage are underdeveloped and underutilized.

These location resources and the associated historical benefits to the village can be fully utilized if Riverton implements development strategies that capitalize on these strengths, rather than ignoring them. As a starting point, its historic main street could be revitalized in connection with the village's campground. For example, a Lincoln-themed canoe launch, accessible via bike path, could highlight the historical tie-ins of many of the recreational attributes discussed above.



Historic Riverton Jail Cell, located in Center Park. Additional signage marketing this unique amenity is needed.

Key to a more advanced economic development strategy for Riverton will be the identification of these resources and the thoughtful leveraging of public and private investment to ensure that recreational tourism is linked to appropriate historical connections, thereby also linking the economic development potential of Riverton with that of the region more broadly through tourism with a historical focus.

Riverton also has the facilities in place to provide excellent fine arts resources to its residents. Riverton's High School has one of the leading theater/auditorium facilities in the region. Additional community programming related to the facility would assist it in becoming a fully-utilized asset. Building Riverton schools' arts programming to ensure that the district is known as a leader in such programs would also further incentivize residential development in the area. Moreover, summer programs related to the arts could provide an outlet for youth, potentially reducing crime and drug abuse concerns that residents reported in the area. The village should identify and learn from other communities, such as Nashville, IN, that have successfully linked

historic sites, natural beauty, and the arts, into a viable economic development platform.

Special Challenges

Geographic Location

While Riverton's location provides it with many of the resources necessary for economic development, the village also faces some location-based challenges pertaining to its development goals. Without focused efforts to overcome these challenges, Riverton may have difficulty achieving long-term economic growth.

To its west, large portions of land bordering Riverton are unsuitable for many types of development because they are in the floodplain. Additionally, to its north, Riverton is largely restricted by its adjacency to the Village of Spaulding. Unless it pursues annexation, Riverton is unlikely to expand in this direction. Similarly, while Riverton has some annexed land to the southwest, infrastructure costs will constrain development in the southern leg of the village to a more limited growth pattern.

Riverton does have opportunities for expansion to the east, where there are several plots of vacant and agricultural land that may be available for development. However, village officials have found that the proximity of the Tri-City School District boundary to the immediate east of village limits makes residential growth troublesome in this area. Some developers are hesitant to create a subdivision that is divided between two school districts, and some concerns have been voiced related to student transportation time and opportunities for students that would travel to Tri-City schools from near or within the Riverton village limits.

Riverton has several development options that could assist it in circumventing these challenges. One is to develop additional senior housing or supportive/assisted living facilities. Village officials indicated in discussions with SSCRPC staff during plan development that in recent years they have explored options for an Alzheimer's facility or assisted living village to the east of the village. Alternatively, the village could continue to seek arrangements with developers that do not share school district concerns, or could pursue avenues such as a land reallocation between school districts or consolidation between the two districts.

Utility Systems' Capacity

Like many smaller villages, managing infrastructure demands could potentially place strain on the village resources available to meet economic development needs. With additional development, the village must work to continually identify and meet its short- and long-term needs.

As discussed in greater detail in the *Utilities* section of this plan, some of these needs will include water and sewer system improvements. With additional residential and commercial development, the village will likely need a new water tower and upgrades to its water treatment system. While the village's sewage treatment system has additional capacity for new developments likely within the planning horizon, some of its sewage collection infrastructure will need upgrades to reach structural adequacy in the long term.

Plans are currently underway to extend larger water and sewer mains eastward toward Lincoln Street and Old Route 36's intersection. Village priorities for utility upgrades have been identified earlier in this plan.

Without efforts to continue with these improvements, the village would face long-term development challenges. While this represents a substantial list of long-term improvements, Riverton has given adequate forethought to needs to be able to prepare a capital funding plan and continue to extend its current bonds in order to meet these needs steadily over time.

Demographic Difficulties

The demographic make-up of communities can dramatically affect the challenges and opportunities presented to them. Riverton is no exception. First, Riverton faces the challenging trends applicable to most other communities in the region. Much of the Sangamon County region is currently experiencing slowing growth in population. Again, Riverton is not an exception. From 1990-2000 it grew at a rate of 15.5%. In the following decade, it grew only 13%. While some of this decline in growth could potentially be attributed to the economic recession, these forces could continue in the next decade as well, and may make continued growth for Riverton and other areas in the region a challenge.

Riverton also has a large dependent population (elderly and children), as compared to its workforce population. As noted above, dependency ratios provide a picture of which portions of the population are depending upon the workforce population, either for direct support (as exemplified in the relationship between parents and children), or to bear a higher portion of the local tax needs. The lower the dependency ratios, particularly for old-age dependency, the more likely it is to benefit the local economy, because more people are in the workforce supporting governmental functions such as education and social services. Riverton's old age dependency ratio is slightly less than the countywide average, though still fairly high (see Table 2.3). Riverton's child dependency ratio is higher than the countywide average. This implies that Riverton's dependency demographic challenges are not as severe as they might be. However, Riverton will need to work to retain this cohort of young people as they become working-age adults in order to retain its economic standing with a favorable dependency ratio.



Riverton High School Fine Arts Facility;
Source: BLLD Architects

As discussed above, this younger age cohort presents a challenge for Riverton. Several economic development strategies can take this into account, working to target improvements to meet these needs. Several Riverton churches have youth groups. Some sports programs exist in the area. The YMCA currently offers after school and summer programs in Riverton. The village could partner with these or similar programs to sponsor additional youth activities and ensure that youth are not participating in hazardous, detrimental, or illegal activities during after-school hours, but are instead receiving the support they need.

Ensuring that village community spaces have access to free public wireless internet could also be a resource in maintaining a base of younger residents and encouraging economic development. Riverton's library, parks, camp ground, and historic downtown area could benefit from free, village-sponsored, public wireless internet, and Riverton may wish to explore options for this service.

Along with youth programs, another part of cultivating its large population of children is to perpetuate community spirit and educational attainment through strong schools. As discussed above, school districts may also be a challenge to Riverton's economic development goals. The village should offer whatever support it can to the school district in its efforts to improve educational attainment and retain a strong student populace.

Riverton's final demographic challenge is its high rate of population turnover. Its student mobility percentage, for example, is 5% higher than the statewide average, likely contributing to some of the concerns above. Riverton's 2010 housing vacancy rate was 4%, with 33% of its housing renter-occupied. Riverton should work to reduce rental housing and attempt to expand single-family housing in order to combat transience. Additionally, Riverton can work to attract single-family residential development by improving infrastructure on an on-going basis to meet capacity needs, providing sidewalk access to new development areas, and working with partnering jurisdictions to ensure that schooling available to residents is high-caliber.



Riverton students prepare for homecoming. Photo Courtesy of Hawks Nest Café, Riverton, IL

Appearance and Perceptions of Village

One of Riverton's challenges as it strives to improve and expand, is its need to cultivate additional "pride in place" among village residents. Partially due to high population turnover rates, Riverton presently appears to lack some of the cultural and civic identity that defines other successful communities. Growing this community spirit is a challenging task, but if achieved would catalyze other improvements by strengthening civic networks in the community.

One aspect of existing negative perceptions of the village may be tied to the need for improved property maintenance within Riverton. Some residents' properties can be considered dilapidated or under-maintained. Many survey respondents reported complaints about unused vehicles and trash littering the community. As part of its economic development strategy, the village should continue to expand efforts to enforce property maintenance codes and clean up the village. Improved streetscape, curbs, and sidewalks would also contribute to these efforts. Volunteer programs to engage in community beautification efforts could be beneficial. A collective effort at community improvement would spur both engagement and pride in place.

Property clean-up could also be improved by gradual changes in zoning enforcement and land use planning to group land uses in more orderly patterns. As will be further explored in the *Land Use* section of this plan, Riverton's current land use pattern is fairly scattered one. Forms and functions of buildings are not always grouped in order, which could contribute to residents' declining desire to maintain homes. Disorderly heavy commercial properties immediately adjacent to residential properties limit residents' abilities and desires to truly beautify their properties, and these land use patterns are both outside of good planning practices and not conducive to public health and safety. In addition to property clean-up and encouraging more orderly land use, the village can take other steps to overcome challenges related to village perceptions. Encouraging civic engagement and the creation of youth programs and volunteerism is essential. The village can encourage such activities by sponsoring the programs or by lending space or equipment to such groups. Village employees, including public works or law enforcement officials, could provide event staffing. The village can also encourage involvement

through additional large festivals. Reinstating storied baseball tournaments, a village fish fry, and other large cultural events could generate “hometown pride.” Moreover, the village could arrange events honoring “hometown heroes” from local history or sports programs. A “Riverfest,” for example, which brought a carnival or river front games to the village’s historic main street or riverside park could also assist in this.

Finally, the village can catalyze future efforts through increased dispersion of village information. One beneficial step toward this goal, the redesign of the village webpage, has taken place in recent years, but a continuation of these efforts would be of value. Resources like the web page and social media could also assist in connecting groups with residents. Advertising related to local summer camp programs, free summer lunches, and similar opportunities should be included in village communications.

Economic Development Strategy

In reviewing these opportunities and challenges, it is evident that Riverton’s overall economic development strategy should be one that emphasizes moderate, “smart” growth. Rather than haphazardly encouraging any and all development, Riverton should pursue targeted action steps that work to incentivize further development in the village *while* improving residents’ quality of life.

Cultivation of pride in place and community clean-up should be used to attract development investment. Riverton should work from the ground up to build a mentality and populace that supports community investment. It will be increasingly important for the village to intentionally view all efforts at community improvement as interconnected, and to work to strengthen residents’ connections with one another and pride in the community. Village officials should address problems within the community in ways that are targeted to capitalize upon existing resources.

Riverton’s economic development should also be driven by data and planning. Resident preferences related to development locations are known via the community survey. Leakage and surplus figures can also be of assistance in targeting commercial expansion needs. Cultural, natural, and recreational resources could be utilized to attract additional spending from people outside of and within the village. Approving amenities and pride in place, along with traditional development methods of attracting commercial growth, will be essential if Riverton is to prevent community decline and encourage long-standing community viability.

Economic Development: Key Themes and Strategies

- Riverton has unique assets and attributes that are currently underutilized. Its chief assets of its riverfront, civic pride, and good park system are not being leveraged as effectively as they might in encouraging
- Riverton faces unique challenges, and must be strategic in how it works to capitalize on its special resources.
- Riverton should build quality-of-life and "pride in place" factors as the centerpiece of its economic development strategy. Riverton's youth and community spirit have suffered without high levels of investment from community partners.
- Riverton's economic development strategy to date has currently focused on westward expansion and the industrial/commercial area to the south east part of the village. Growth has been the goal, regardless of the type or cost of that growth.
- Instead, Riverton should focus on improving property maintenance and invest in designated character areas. It should also invest in its people, to ensure that a quality community fabric can be retained in the long run. Many residents expressed desire for these strategies in the community survey.
- Riverton's land use should reorient the village toward the riverfront.
- Riverton can use the village's rich history and natural environment to create a tourism economy.
- Riverton should also expand on and utilize recreational resources to develop this economy.
- Riverton should ensure that it partners with regional and national entities to achieve village goals.

“‘Live’ and ‘work’ are cultivated. I would like to see investment in the ‘play’ aspect of our community.”

“Some Riverton residents should take more responsibility in keeping their property from having unkempt appearances.”

“Would like to see more amenities to encourage younger families to move here.”

-Riverton residents in community survey

*Envisioned
additional boating
facilities at Clear
Lake.*





Regionalism

The SSCRPC has found that factors in the regional environment suggest local governments will have increased need and responsibility to look outside of their own jurisdictional boundaries in the next several decades. Accordingly, the SSCRPC has endeavored to explore regional issues in this section of Riverton’s Comprehensive Plan. Many regional issues are relevant to Riverton’s long-term goals, both as potential challenges for the village and as opportunities for the village to benefit its residents through increased collaboration with other jurisdictions in the area.

Existing Context

It has become increasingly evident since the 2008 Great Recession that a “new normal” exists for local government. Costs continue to rise, while governmental revenues have not rebounded as rapidly. Little appetite appears to exist among residents of most localities for tax increases or other revenue-generating efforts on the part of local officials. Riverton’s community survey suggests that its residents are no exception. Meanwhile, employee pension costs, infrastructure maintenance materials costs, and other significant budgetary needs on the part of local officials grow more expensive.

As a result of this trying context, local governments in Sangamon County have, over the last several years, undertaken efforts to function more effectively by improving service sharing arrangements. Localities are looking outside of their jurisdictional boundaries to seek partnerships that can effectively lower costs or improve services.

This is also significant at a time when incentives provided at the federal and state levels have begun to emphasize regional activities and multi-jurisdictional partnerships. Grant applications and funding sources have begun to prioritize efforts and projects that are premised on long-range plan objectives and are intended for completion in a regional or multi-jurisdictional context.

Efforts toward collaboration in the Sangamon County region have been apparent through the creation of a number of new groups and institutions in the last several years. The Citizens’ Efficiency Commission for Sangamon County has attempted to collect information and make advisory recommendations on options available to local governments to assist them in providing better services at lower costs. A public appetite for regionalism was confirmed in the voters’ expression of support for the CEC’s efforts through two recent referenda calling for a continuation of the CEC’s work for an additional three-year term. In Sangamon County at large, these referenda received 68% and 72% affirmative votes. In Clear Lake Township Precincts 1 and 3, which cover the vast majority of the Village of Riverton’s population, the referenda received comparably high rates of support (68% and 73%; and 72% and 70%, respectively).

As an extension of the CEC’s efforts, a new Regional Leadership Council, or mayors’ and chief executives’ caucus for the Sangamon County region, has been formed. This group established bylaws and began meeting quarterly during 2013. It has functioned cooperatively on a number of policy initiatives and information-gathering endeavors. This group was previously organized on a preliminary, informal basis, to express support and approval for the current Regional Strategic Plan for Sangamon County, which will be discussed further below.

Challenges Encouraging Regionalism

Development Challenges: School Districts

In keeping with this local context of growing regionalism, Riverton faces a number of specific challenges and concerns that may be confronted only through an increasingly regional approach. As noted in the *Economic Development* section above, one challenge pertaining to Riverton’s eastward residential expansion is the perception of distinctions between the Riverton and Tri-City school districts. Local officials note that developing properties east of the currently-developed village presents challenges as these properties are not all within a single district and are accordingly at times perceived less favorably by potential residents and developers.

A regional approach may be required to overcome this difficulty. While residents expressed very limited support for school consolidation in their community survey, consolidation may in fact be of benefit and even necessary if Riverton is to continue to expand eastward. While the actions of the school districts are not under the direct purview of the Village of Riverton, its residents can work to encourage or discourage efforts toward this type of regionalism. Riverton School District officials may also wish to consider opportunities for sharing programming, administrative, procurement, or other “overhead” functions with Tri-City Schools. Such sharing would reduce Tri-City costs and improve the district, would benefit both districts financially, and would strengthen the bonds of cooperation and shared investment in common goals.

Development Challenges: Neighboring Municipalities

Similarly, development to the north of the Village of Riverton is currently prevented by the Village of Spaulding. Spaulding faces many budgetary challenges and is fairly small in size. Currently, Riverton provides water service to the village. Most of Spaulding does not have sewer access, but instead utilizes septic systems. Riverton residents expressed somewhat more enthusiasm about the prospect of consolidation with Spaulding in the community survey than the prospect of school consolidation, with a strong plurality favoring both intergovernmental cooperation and Spaulding consolidation. Riverton may wish to consider approaching Spaulding for further collaborative efforts to reduce administrative costs, or with preliminary considerations related to a consolidation effort.

Special District Challenges

Beyond the challenges directly facing the village, some other challenges exist for the special districts and other units of government that serve residents in the same geographic area as the village. For example, increased training requirements and declining volunteerism have presented challenges to many fire protection districts in the Sangamon County region. While Riverton Area FPD remains among the stronger districts, it may wish to consider collaborative efforts with other districts in order to assist in defraying its on-going costs, as well as ensuring adequate emergency response in neighboring fire protection districts which struggle to and field an appropriate response to calls for emergency service in the area.

Regional Collaboration Opportunities

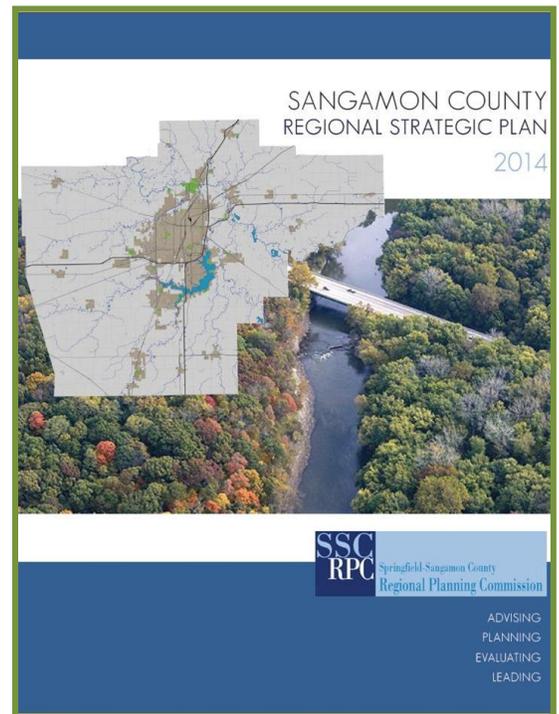
Short of consolidation or collaboration efforts in response to challenges already facing Riverton and the jurisdictions that serve its residents, additional regional opportunities are also available that Riverton may wish to pursue proactively.

Regional Leadership Council

The first is continued involvement by Riverton officials in the Regional Leadership Council, a mayors' and village presidents' peer network established through the work of the CEC and formalized in 2013. This peer group will provide opportunities for Riverton to receive valuable information. Shared procurement efforts, best practices, and policy advice are among the valuable resources the RLC may offer to the Village of Riverton.

Regional Strategic Plan

The next is consideration and implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan for Sangamon County. The Regional Plan provides insights as to how local governments can effectively pursue a shared vision for the area, thereby building collective strength and capacity. It outlines specific design approaches for corridors entering and exiting the village, which may provide Riverton a more cohesive connection to the amenities, style, and feel of the region at large. It also provides insights for improvement in terms of heritage and cultural resources and transportation networks, both of which appear to be regional strategies on which Riverton residents feel the village could use improvement, given the village's community survey results (see Appendix A).



Tourism Activities

Riverton also has opportunities to proactively seek stronger ties to the regional tourism and recreational economy in order to strengthen its competitive footing as a village in Sangamon County. Strategic partnerships with the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau and other organizations responsible for promoting the area's history, particularly as pertains to the history of Abraham Lincoln, are a valuable resource for Riverton. The recreational and environmental "destination" components of Riverton's economic development strategy can be enhanced through increased collaboration with other entities pursuing similar marketing and historic tourism strategies, as well as environmental groups.

Wastewater Treatment

Riverton's location immediately east of the City of Springfield also makes it a good candidate for a future connection to the Springfield Metro Sanitary District as an alternative sewer service resource. As noted previously, an SMSD sewer line extends to Irisdale Subdivision, which at its nearest point is less than 1.5 miles from the Village limits of Riverton. The village may wish to further explore opportunities for turning its sewage treatment over to the SMSD as additional capacity is needed, in the event that, over time, the village does not have the resources to meet capacity needs or increasingly stringent environmental protection regulations.

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Riverton should also make efforts to ensure that it is working collaboratively with partner jurisdictions to clarify and simplify its development process. As Riverton looks toward the future, it will wish to exercise

its authority over development and subdivision of property within and near its corporate limits to ensure to the extent practicable that future uses are in conformity with the goals outlined in this plan. For the area within 1.5 miles of its corporate boundaries, Riverton can exercise some authority due to its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) over the area (see estimated ETJ boundaries as mapped in Figure 8.2, page 84).

Currently, Riverton’s ETJ overlaps with that of Springfield, and the boundary of each jurisdiction’s ETJ is therefore by default a line equidistant from the nearest points of the two corporate boundaries. To clarify and simplify this boundary, Riverton should explore the creation of an agreement related to its extraterritorial jurisdiction with the City of Springfield. Additionally, though Spaulding and Clear Lake do not exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction, they are within this perimeter and efforts on the village of Riverton’s part to clarify the ETJ relationship with them may be beneficial. Riverton may also wish to work with partner jurisdictions to ensure that its zoning and land subdivision processes follow stringent policies and practices that are clear to the public and help the village achieve its land use goals.

Regional Partners for Collaborative Efforts

While these regional efforts are likely to prove complex and challenging, the potential benefits are substantial. Numerous governmental and non-governmental partners are available for Riverton as it pursues its goals. The village may wish to review the partners list included in Appendix B as a resource for future efforts toward regional goals.

Regionalism: Key Themes and Strategies

- Riverton has unique assets and attributes that are currently underutilized, often because of the “siloes” nature of local government entities.
- Regional neighbors and jurisdictional boundaries present development challenges for Riverton, and a regional approach will be required to overcome some these challenges.
- The village faces unique challenges, and must be strategic in how it works to capitalize on its special resources.
- Riverton should ensure that it partners with regional and national entities to achieve village goals.



Existing Land Use

General Characteristics

The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission completed a field survey of existing land uses in the Village of Riverton during summer 2014. Riverton’s land use is comprised of following categories:

Agriculture	Areas that are pastureland, farmland, or where livestock is present.
Open Space	Areas used for parks and recreation, as well as environmentally sensitive areas.
Community Facility	Public facilities including but not limited to schools, churches, community centers, fire stations, libraries, village halls, cemeteries, or government buildings.
Vacant	Lots without buildings or other uses, or areas expected to be developed or with development potential. Includes platted lots that do not yet have buildings.
Single Family	Detached, single family housing units, with one unit per lot.
Duplex	Two-family, attached houses.
Multiple Family	Buildings with three or more dwellings.
Mobile Home	Detached housing units that are transportable structures, but are used in a fixed location as semi-permanent dwellings.
Office/ Service	Low-traffic office and service uses, including banks, healthcare, and insurance offices.
Commercial	Any office, service, retail, museum, tourist attraction, or wholesale trade use except those involving extensive trucking, shipping, warehousing, and outside storage
Heavy Commercial/ Industrial	Service and commercial uses involving trucking, shipping, warehousing, or outside storage, highway oriented businesses, heavy and light industrial uses.

Generally speaking, the Village of Riverton’s current land uses do not follow patterns consistent with best land use planning practices. In characterizing existing land uses, SSCRPC staff experienced difficulty in classifying many parcels where, for instance, heavy commercial uses were co-located immediately next to a single-family residence, at times on a single parcel. Standards of land use in Riverton appear somewhat inconsistent, which may contribute to the property management difficulties the village has experienced.

An existing land use map that provides the most detailed and accurate depiction of existing use available can be found in Figure 8.2, below. Patterns of mixed uses are particularly evident in the portion of the village just north of Old Route 36 in the southeast corner of the village. Residential, heavy commercial/industrial, and office are intermingled with little buffering or clarity of intended use in various areas of the village.

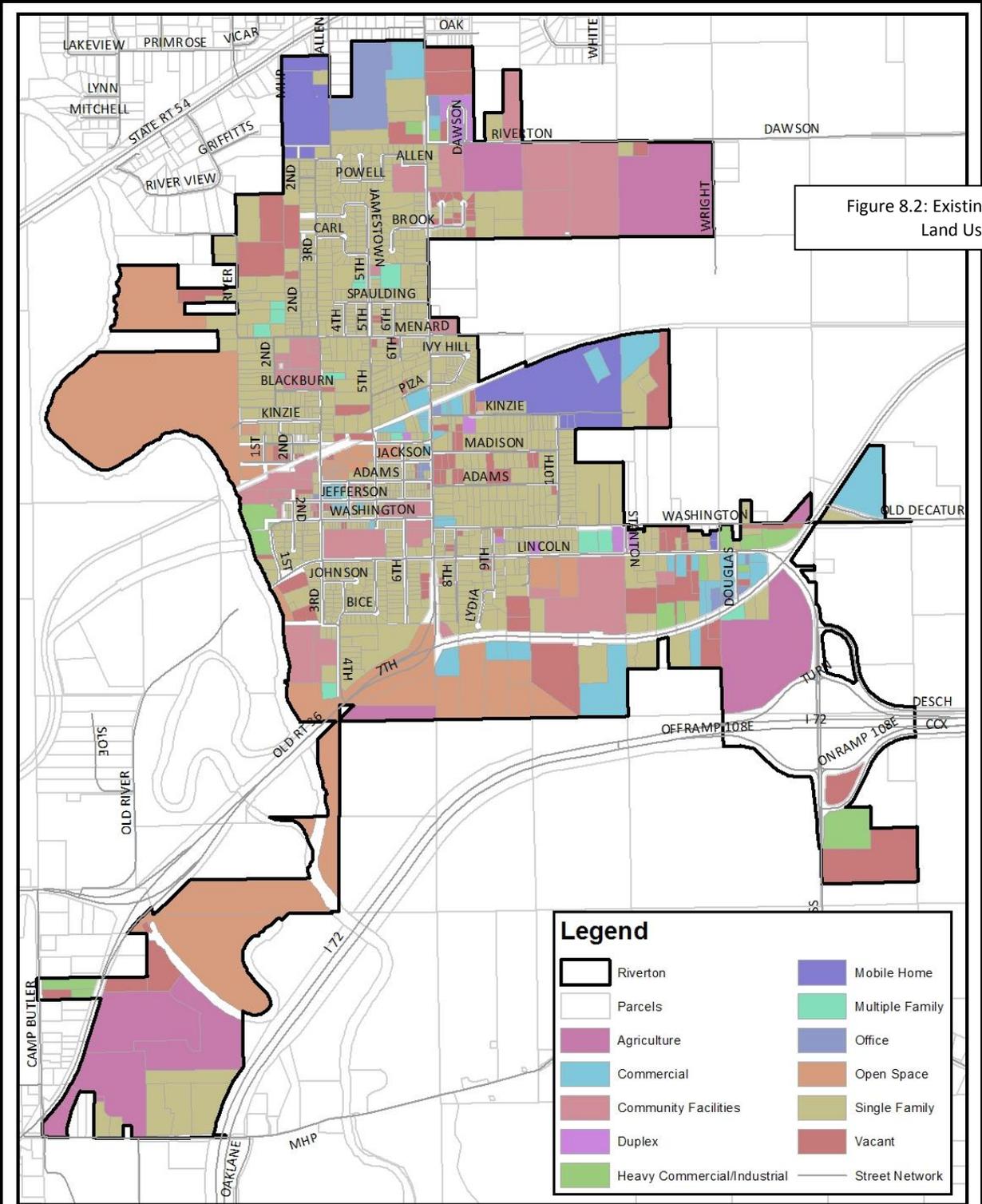


Figure 8.2: Existing Land Use

N
Data Source:
Sangamon County GIS
AU, 7.22.14

Village of Riverton Existing Land Use

SSC
RPC
Springfield Sangamon County
Regional Planning Commission

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Existing Uses

The Village of Riverton is comprised of approximately 1490 acres, or approximately 2.33 square miles of land. Approximately 71 acres are right of way, waterway, or undevelopable land, which were excluded from the following land use analysis. Table 8.3, below, contains the acreage in each land use category, as well as the percentage distribution of each land use category.

Table 8.3 Riverton Existing Land Use Categories		
Category	Acres	% of Total Acres
Agriculture	163.0	11%
Commercial	62.2	4%
Community Facilities	122.7	9%
Duplex	10.5	1%
Heavy Commercial/Industrial	28.4	2%
Mobile Home	55.1	4%
Multiple Family	12.3	1%
Office	21.7	2%
Open Space	242.6	17%
Single Family	569.6	40%
Vacant	131.0	9%
TOTAL	1,419.0	100%

Riverton has a fairly typical distribution of land uses for a rural community, with slight exceptions. The top three categories of existing land use are single family residential, open space, and agricultural. About 570 acres, or 40% of classifiable land in Riverton, was single-family residential use.

The second largest land use category in Riverton was open space, at about 17% of total classifiable acres. This is a fairly high proportion of open space in the village as compared to similar communities, likely because Riverton has a high proportion of environmentally sensitive areas that are to remain open space due to the presence of natural areas or floodplains.

One common characteristic of rural communities is the large amount of land that is classified for agricultural use. Though among its top uses, when compared to some rural communities in the region, Riverton has little agricultural land proportionate to other uses. While many communities located outside of a large urban core tend to experience an increase in single family residential development over time on agricultural land within the village, Riverton is already largely developed in these potential areas.

Nevertheless, Riverton’s location relative to the City of Springfield makes it a strong candidate for residential growth. Much of the land within the village’s extraterritorial jurisdiction (1.5 miles surrounding the village), particularly to the immediate east, is agricultural land that may be suitable for development if it can properly be served by village utility infrastructure. This may assist the village as it considers future options for annexing additional land and encouraging or discouraging increased residential use.

Vacancy Rates

Also important to land use considerations is the proportion of properties that are currently vacant, though considered residential in use. The vacancy rate for the Village of Riverton as of the 2010 Census was 4.1%. This percentage was less than the comparable county and state statistics of 7.7% and 8.7%, respectively. Table 8.4 below indicates the vacancy rates for the Village of Riverton, Sangamon County, and the State of Illinois.

Table 8.4 Housing Unit Vacancy Rates 2010				
Jurisdiction	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Units	% Vacant
Illinois	5,296,715	4,836,972	459,743	8.7
Sangamon County	89,901	82,986	6,915	7.7
Riverton	1,431	1,373	58	4.1

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Communities generally aspire to minimize vacancy rates so that properties are well-maintained and residential potential is not lost. The following table represents vacancy percentages of Sangamon County places that compare or are nearby to Riverton. Dawson and Grandview each had a greater vacancy rate than Riverton (6.6% and 5.3%, respectively), but competing communities such as Sherman, Williamsville, Chatham, and Rochester all had lower vacancy percentages.

Table 8.5 Percent Vacant Comparison 2010			
Municipality	% Vacant	Municipality	% Vacant
Riverton	4.1%	Williamsville	3.5%
Chatham	3.2%	Dawson	6.6%
Rochester	3.1%	Grandview	5.3%
Sherman	3.5%	Spaulding	2.5%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Implications of Existing Land Use Trends

The Village should work to address a number of potential concerns identified by the SSCRPC's survey of existing land use. First, its land use should gradually be brought into more consistent and clear patterns of use, which will assist in public health and safety, and will help the village maintain a more orderly and cohesive development philosophy. Second, the village has little vacant land currently available. It may wish to consider pre-annexing or annexing parcels to the east to help spur development possibilities. Finally, the village should work to enforce property maintenance codes to assist in making existing properties appealing, ultimately contributing to a lower vacancy rate that can contribute to better long-term residential potential.

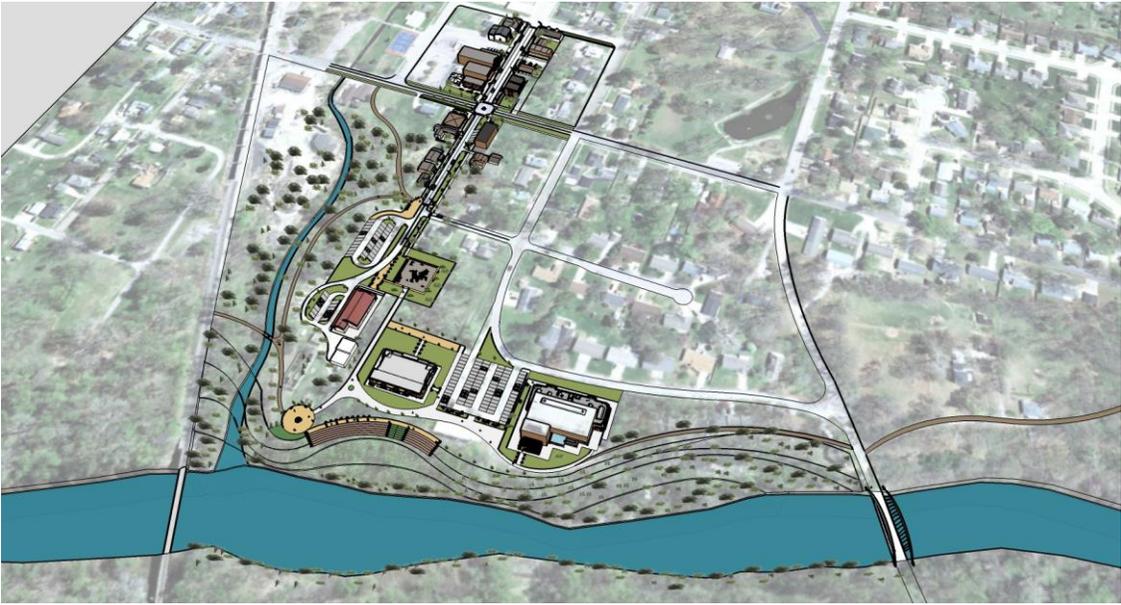
Existing Land Use: Key Themes and Strategies

- Riverton has unique assets and attributes that are currently underutilized. It faces unique challenges, and must be strategic in how it works to capitalize on its special resources.
- Riverton's uses are scattered, and property maintenance suffers in several key areas of the village.
- These scattered uses present health and safety concerns, and also deter residents from having pride in the village and continuing to invest in it.
- Riverton has focused on attaining growth in any form, rather than focused, quality, sustainable investment.
- Riverton should build quality-of-life and "pride in place" factors as the centerpiece of its economic development strategy. To achieve this, Riverton should focus on improving property maintenance, as well as other reorientations in its thinking, discussed further in the *Proposed Land Use* section.

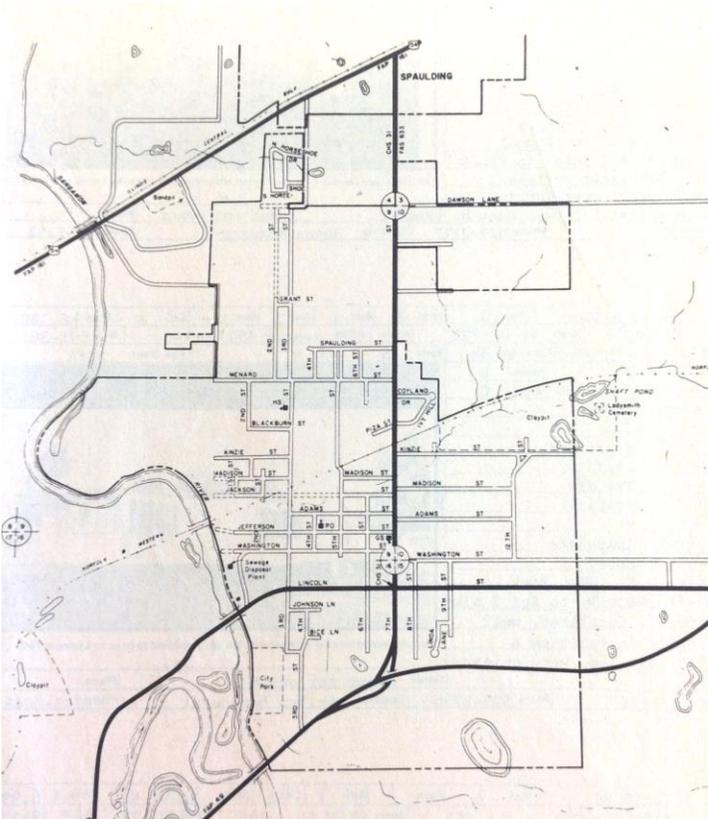
“Some of the property owners don't take care of their places.”

“Streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, lighting—not just on the main streets, but the entire town. It's a wow factor.”

-Riverton residents in community survey



Eastward aerial view showing proposed pedestrian river crossing in foreground.



Riverton Street map, 1970's



Proposed and Future Land Use

Future use of land is one of the most essential components of a municipal comprehensive plan, as it provides support for village zoning decisions and assists in guiding the development process. However, a comprehensive plan includes more than just proposed land use maps. Often the proposed land use map is mistakenly viewed as *the plan* by members of the public. It is important to note that, in addition to a land use map, a comprehensive plan includes proposed goals and initiatives to guide development throughout its planning period.

The Riverton comprehensive plan presents a picture, using current assumptions, of what growth may look like in the future. Combined, the proposed land use maps, the related goals and initiatives, and the information presented in the prior sections of the comprehensive plan provide a framework to guide development decisions in Riverton's long-term future. The proposed land use maps provide logical, visual representations of where particular land uses should be located in development scenarios in Riverton's future. However, flexibility is also important in implementing the comprehensive plan, because the community's needs and desires can change over time. Flexibility is also required because it is impossible to see exactly what development proposals will occur in Riverton's future.

As will be discussed in the *Strategies and Actions* section of this plan, Riverton can take any of several approaches to its future land use. Depending upon its efforts to improve village services and amenities, Riverton may expect to see varying degrees of private development leveraged by its actions. As such, proposed land use goals contemplated in this plan will be discussed in terms of a three-tiered approach, including "maintain," "advance," and "expand" vantage points. This allows the village flexibility in pursuing a more limited goal set at times when it has more limited capacity, while still retaining the potential to pursue a broad and aggressive vision should the village have resources and desire to attain it.

Land Use Practices and Principles

Riverton's land use policies to date have resulted in incongruous or mixed uses, forms, and styles in many areas of the village. The SSCRPC finds that these incongruities have resulted in some health and safety hazards in certain areas of the village, in addition to visual detractions. For example, toward the southeastern portion of the village, heavy commercial and industrial uses, such as trucking and heavy equipment storage, are located immediately adjacent to residential parcels. Generally speaking, these patterns are not in keeping with good land use practices.

As a result of these considerations, the importance of guiding land use by a comprehensive philosophy is especially evident for Riverton. One common practice for ensuring that compatible uses are located in neighboring areas is that often termed "Euclidean" zoning. This zoning approach attempts to place similar uses near one another, grouping residences, commercial areas, industrial areas, etc. together in appropriate areas (zones or districts) with like uses, buffering less intense land uses from more intense ones. While critics suggest that Euclidean zoning decreases walkability within a community, it has long been a standard planning practice and is in common use throughout the nation. Conversely, others advocate for a mixed-use approach (based upon forms of use, for example), which blends uses in a single area to increase connectivity between them.

Because of the Village of Riverton’s smaller size, connectivity within the village is likely to be facilitated adequately through transportation policies implemented in the environment produced by either of these land use principles. Accordingly, the SSCRPC finds that the most beneficial land use philosophy for the Village of Riverton would be a blended approach, which attempts to cluster like uses in similar areas to decrease the sometimes unsightly and hazardous blending of uses currently in place, yet still targets appropriate areas to create mixed use developments in order to advance the village’s larger economic development strategy.

Riverton’s future land use philosophy should also address any expansion or annexation that the village may wish to undertake. Currently, the village has extra-territorial jurisdiction over the area 1.5 miles in radius surrounding its corporate limits, because it has a past comprehensive plan that contemplates ETJ and takes this into account in its land subdivision ordinance. Much of this land toward the west and south sides of the village is undevelopable or limited-development floodplain, though these areas could be used for recreational uses or other uses that do not conflict with floodplain regulations.

Moreover, the City of Springfield’s corporate limits expand to within one mile of Riverton’s village limits. Much of the area between the two is developed with subdivisions, Camp Butler Cemetery, and land owned and operated by the Franciscan orders of the Hospital Sisters and the Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross. The area beyond the eastern portion of the village includes largely agricultural uses surrounding Riverton. Finally, north of Riverton, the village is landlocked by the neighboring Village of Spaulding.

Several of these areas may be appropriate targets for future annexation and development. However, the village should approach future annexations with an eye for contiguous and compact growth. Particularly because it owns its own utilities and is responsible for all capital costs of expanding services to newly annexed properties far from the village center, broad-reaching annexations are unlikely to be in the village’s best interests over time.

Proposed Land Use Categories

The proposed land use maps for the Village of Riverton include a number of land use categories, some of which already exist and some that do not. The definitions provided in Table 8.1, below, indicate the general characteristics of the various proposed land use categories.

The base categories described in this table, as well as the symbols used to represent them, are consistent with land uses already existing and in Riverton and elsewhere in Sangamon County (see *Existing Land Use* Section). However, some unique character areas with mixed uses have been identified for Riverton, and are intended for application on top of these categories to help flexibly shepherd the village toward the cohesive land use practices described above. These character areas are intended as a guide for areas both within and outside the village, to assist the village in developing a set of uses within these zones, but also a distinctive “look” and “feel” for these areas that may allow from some blending of uses. Again, the use of character areas is in keeping with the Regional Strategic Plan for the county, as is of particular importance near entryways and exists to and from the village.

Identification of Key Land Use Districts & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

While the underlying uses for specific parcels are better addressed via a visual land use map, a description of the land use plan that identifies key districts and target areas in keeping with Riverton’s

economic development strategy may be helpful in allowing village officials to look at land use more broadly. Figure 8.2, below, provides visual depictions of these land use districts, in addition to the written descriptions that follow. It also depicts Riverton’s extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and how it intersects with proposed land use concepts. It should be noted that Riverton’s ETJ overlaps with the City of Springfield’s in some areas. In this case, and in keeping with Riverton’s current land subdivision ordinance language, the SSCRPC has very roughly approximated midpoint lines between the two jurisdictions’ corporate limits for the ETJ boundary. However, this mapping is imprecise.

Unique Riverton Area Identifiers		Proposed Land Use Categories	
		Agriculture	Areas that are pastureland, farmland, or where livestock is present.
Recreational Amenity		Open Space	Areas used for parks and recreation, as well as environmentally sensitive areas.
		Community Facility	Public facilities including but not limited to schools, churches, community centers, fire stations, libraries, village halls, cemeteries, or government buildings.
		Vacant	Lots without buildings or other uses, or areas expected to be developed or with development potential. Includes platted lots that do not yet have buildings.
Mixed Residential		Single Family	Detached, single family housing units, with one unit per lot.
		Duplex	Two-family, attached houses.
		Multiple Family	Buildings with three or more dwellings.
		Mobile Home	Detached housing units that are transportable structures, but are used in a fixed location as semi-permanent dwellings.
Mixed Light Commercial		Office/Service	Low-traffic office and service uses, including banks, healthcare, and insurance offices.
	Mixed Heavy Commercial	Commercial	Any office, service, retail, museum, tourist attraction, or wholesale trade use except those involving extensive trucking, shipping, warehousing, and outside storage
		Heavy Commercial/Industrial	Service and commercial uses involving trucking, shipping, warehousing, or outside storage, highway oriented businesses, heavy and light industrial uses.

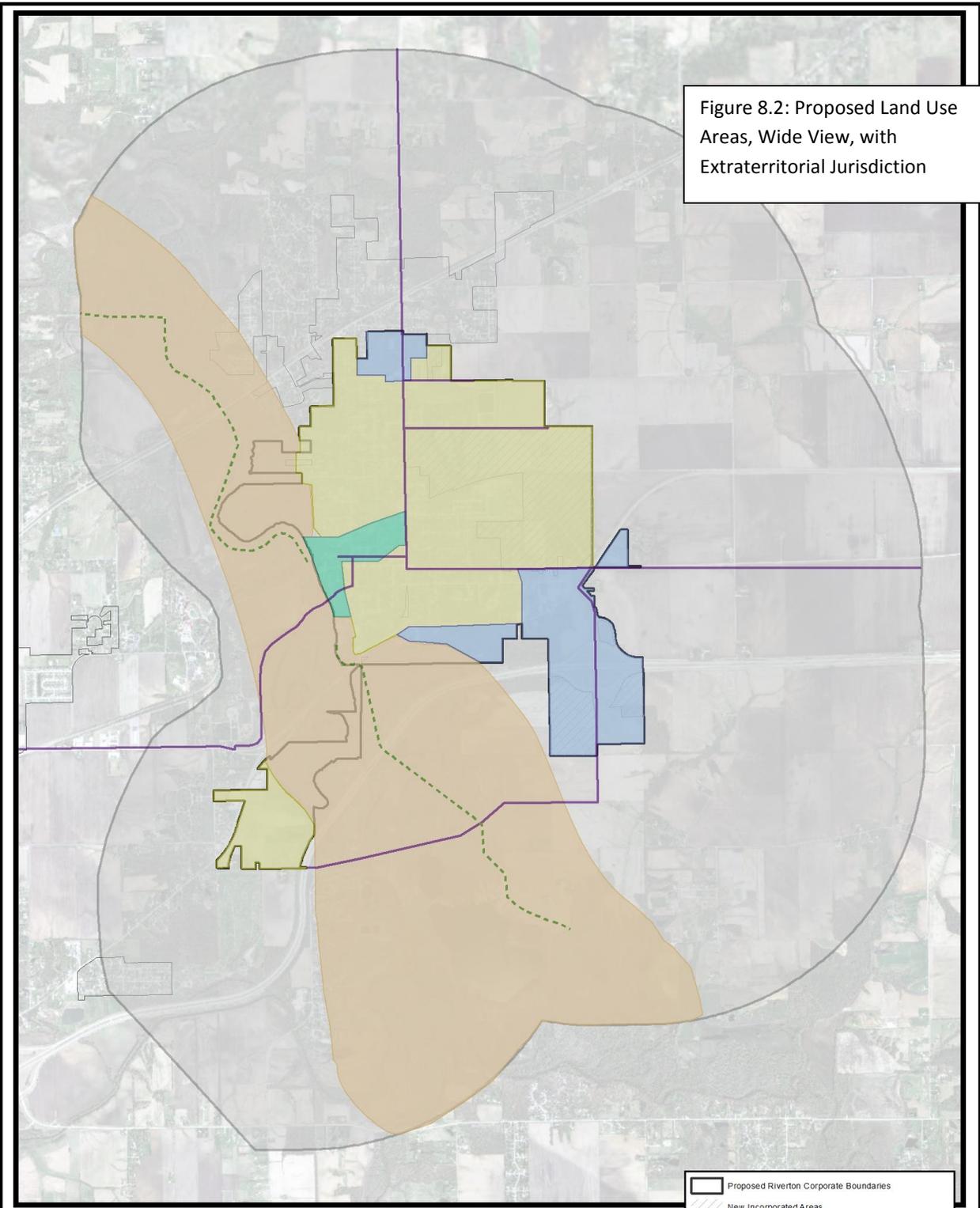
In the future, the village will wish to formulate an agreement with all jurisdictions overlapping with its ETJ, to ensure that land subdivision authorities are clearly delineated. This is of particular importance given the existence of floodplain within these areas, which amplifies the importance of understanding which jurisdiction has development authority over various parcels.

Again, the districts identified in Figure 8.2 provide the “big picture” to guide overall development priorities in Riverton for each zone. However, the SSCRPC acknowledges that a more nuanced, textured look at proposed uses is also required. Accordingly, for some of the zones a focused proposed land use map depicts future uses in the area in accompaniment to the text. Finally, more detailed proposed land use map of the full village is available in Figure 8.3, below, and on a larger scale in Appendix E.



Proposed redevelopment of utility yard.

Figure 8.2: Proposed Land Use Areas, Wide View, with Extraterritorial Jurisdiction



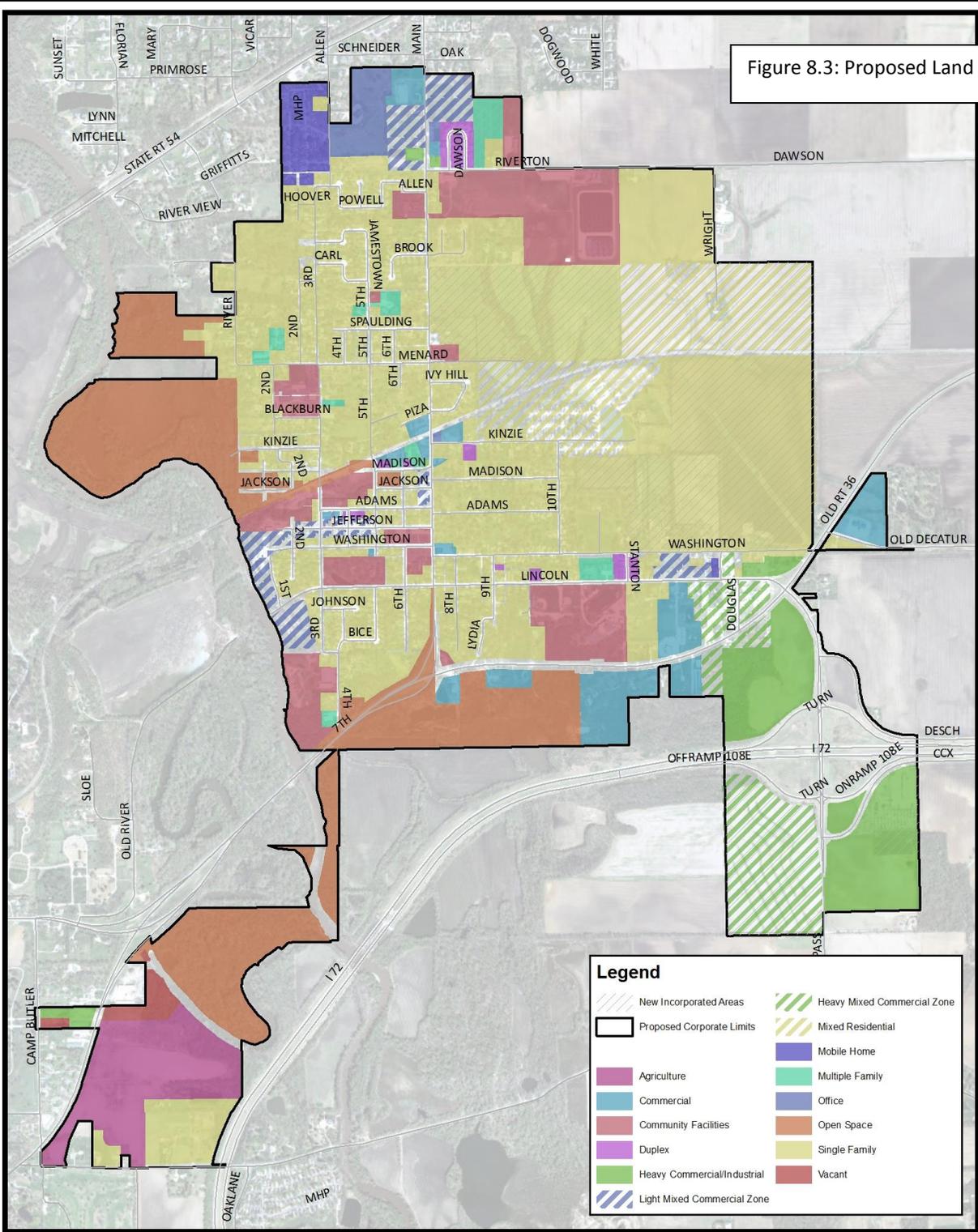
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 Data Source:
 Sangamon County GIS
 AU, 9.16.14
 0 0.25 0.5 Miles



Riverton Area Proposed Use Districts & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

- Proposed Riverton Corporate Boundaries
- New Incorporated Areas
- Riverton Estimated Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (Existing)
- Incorporated Areas (Non-ETJ)
- Recommended Key Paved Corridors
- Recommended Key Unpaved Corridors
- Historic Riverton Mixed-Use District
- Commercial District
- Recreational Amenity District
- Mixed Residential District

Figure 8.3: Proposed Land Use



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Data Source:
Sangamon County GIS
AU, 9.16.14

Village of Riverton Proposed Land Use

SSC
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Springfield-Sangamon County
Regional Planning Commission

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Zone 1: Blended Residential Character Area

The large majority of the Village of Riverton is proposed to continue as a residential area, whether the village pursues a limited “maintain” plan or a more extensive “advance” or “expand” plan (see yellow areas in Figure 8.2 and 8.3, above). Currently, the Village’s residences are largely focused in the broad area of the central village, with some exceptions blended into the commercial areas toward the north and southeast portions of the village.

The proposed land use plan limits additional multi-family housing. The plan recommends that existing single-family houses in areas targeted for continuation as residential uses stay single-family. Village residents have expressed limited to no preference for additional multi-family housing, and have especially expressed via the community survey a desire to limit future mobile homes. As the proposed land use contemplates, some multi-family housing can be used as buffer here between light commercial and single-family residential uses. In a growth-oriented approach, the village may also wish to consider multi-family senior or assisted living housing toward its eastward border, particularly in the event that school district boundary realignment does not occur. Some parcels included in this area are not currently part of the village’s corporate limits, but are targeted for potential annexation. In particular, this includes the regions to the west of the village.

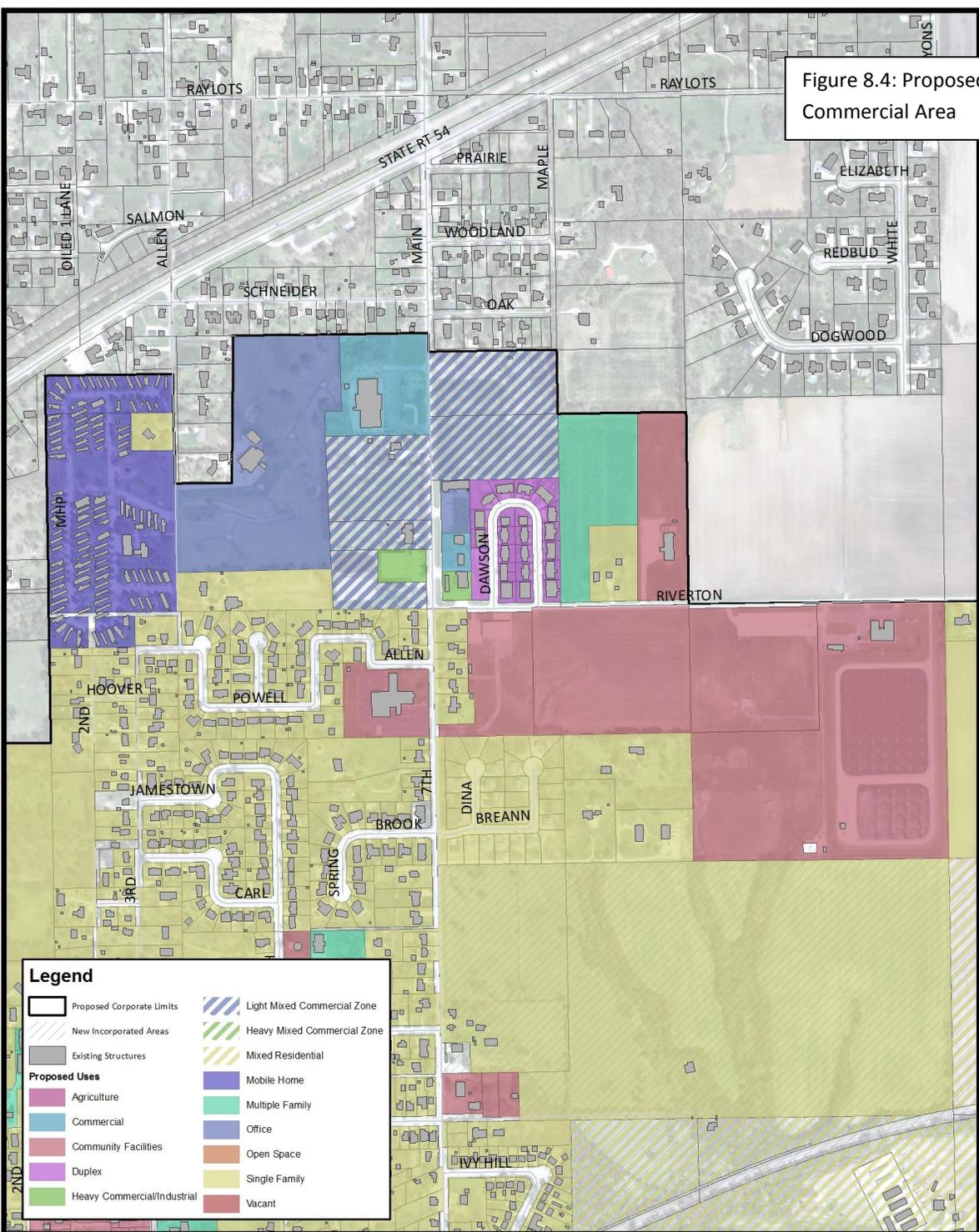
The remainder of the single-family housing units designated in this district, as well as all multi-family housing units, are to be considered in light of a future comprehensive effort by the village to maintain high-quality property maintenance standards. The majority of the zone should be directed toward single-family housing, preferably with high-quality housing stock in every use and variety. Within this zone, several community facilities and designated open spaces also exist. As the village-owned library and community center are fairly recent developments, this plan assumes that they will remain in their current locations through the duration of the plan horizon. The proposed land use plan also suggests that, for the most part, churches, parks, and schools are likely to remain largely in their current locations.

Finally, the proposed land use in this zone highlights several key connecting corridors, the use of which allows residents to travel between community facilities and key features in the zone discussed below. These corridors should be considered as key in transportation improvement efforts, and land uses should be compatible to these goals. Even with a “maintain” approach, these land uses will be beneficial and even necessary to the village. This strong residential foundation, with connectivity to other significant features in the village, will be increasingly necessary in more far-reaching goals and actions taken as part of plan implementation efforts.

Zones 2 & 3: Targeted Commercial Character Areas

The village’s proposed land use map targets two key districts for commercial development (see blue areas in Figure 8.2, above). These areas are highlighted for commercial proposed uses due to their beneficial proximity to major transportation arterials, the existing trends toward commercial development in these areas, the availability of infrastructure in these areas, and the benefit that commercial districts can provide in terms of achieving Riverton’s long-term economic development goals. Even with a more limited “maintain” approach to Riverton’s future land use, the village should encourage commercial or light commercial uses in these areas.

Figure 8.4: Proposed North Commercial Area



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Data Source:
Sangamon County GIS
AU, 9.3.14

Proposed Land Use: Zone 2- Targeted Commercial Area

**SSC
RPC** Springfield-Sangamon County
Regional Planning Commission

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The first recommended commercial area is in the northern portion of the city. It extends from the village's northernmost limit south to Riverton Road (formerly Dawson Lane), and from Allen Street in the east to the area immediately north of Dawson Circle residential area. This area is intended for a mixed light commercial district, which may include either offices/services or commercial uses (Figure 8.4). It should be noted that the entirety of this district is not currently within the village's corporate limits, but the proposed land use plan contemplates some slight expansion of village boundaries in this area.

Beyond this general description, the proposed land use plan demonstrates that this district is centered upon 7th Street/Route 31. It allows for office and service buildings on some parcels currently used for commercial and office space, and also contemplates the continuation of some commercial uses. Ultimately, it recommends the gradual conversion of the residential parcels in this area over to light mixed commercial uses. Riverton may also wish to contemplate designating a walking or footpath through this commercial district that would allow residents to access Spaulding Veteran's Memorial Park and would connect to the 7th Street key transportation corridor. Moreover, the north commercial district is intended for lighter commercial uses due to its proximity to residential areas in Riverton and Spaulding, but also allows the village to take advantage of Old Route 54 access immediately to its north. This commercial area would also be of benefit in connecting residents over to the western portion of the mixed residential area, where the current village hall and library are located as community facilities.

The second commercial area proposed is in the southern portion of the city. One portion of this area extends from Washington Street to the southernmost corporate limits and from just west of Yazell Lane to just east of the I-72 interchange. It also encompasses the small portion of the village newly annexed between Old Decatur Road and Old Route 36, as well as the area within the village corporate limits just south of Old Route 36. In Riverton's existing land use, much of these region is commercial, heavy commercial, or industrial. Some parcels included in this district, such as that to the immediate southwest of the I-72 interchange, are not currently part of the village's corporate limits, but are targeted for potential annexation.

Additional detail for this district is provided in Figure 8.5. Generally speaking, this commercial area is intended for slightly heavier uses than those contemplated for the northern commercial district. The area's interstate access makes it an excellent candidate for heavy commercial or even lighter industrial uses that can be served by the village's current water capacity. In the portion just north of Old Route 36, a phased mixed commercial set of uses should gradually taper into lighter commercial uses prior to reaching neighboring residential and community facility uses. The village should work to gradually incentivize the conversion of residential uses in this area to lighter commercial uses.

Finally, the area south of Old Route 36 and west of the interstate exchange can also have some limited commercial uses. Much of this land is floodplain and has varying elevations, and accordingly, these areas have been included in the recreational district discussed below. Where feasible, however, commercial or agricultural uses could also be appropriate for these parcels.

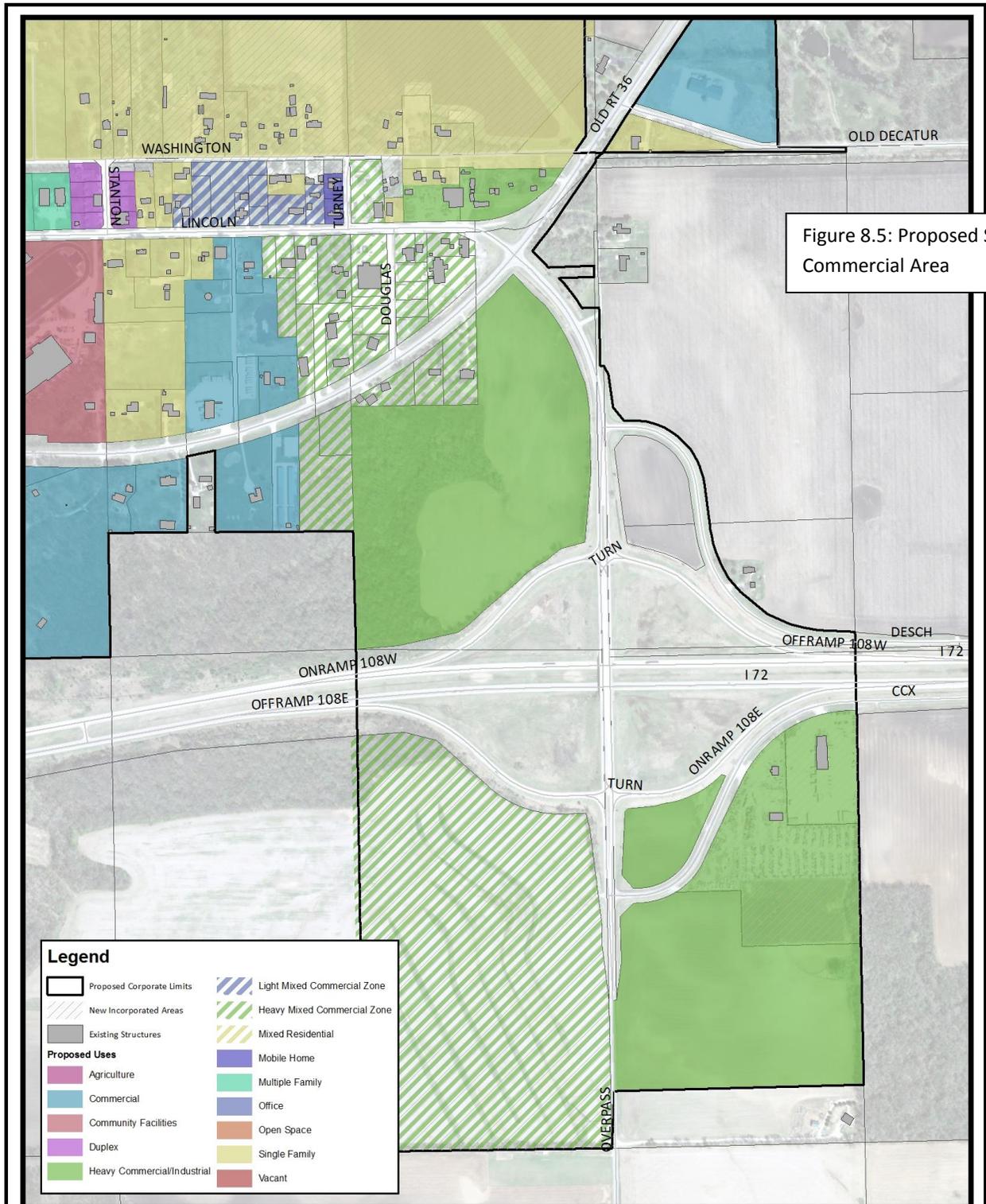


Figure 8.5: Proposed South Commercial Area

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 Data Source:
 Sangamon County GIS
 AU, 9.3.14

Proposed Land Use: Zone 3- Targeted Commercial Area

**SSC
 RPC** Springfield-Sangamon County
 Regional Planning Commission

0 0.05 0.1 Miles

Zone 4: Historic Riverton Main Stream Character Area

The area along Jefferson Street, leading toward the riverfront and expanding southward toward the existing village-owned campground can be considered the chief priority among the village's targeted proposed land use zones. As depicted in the proposed land use maps (Figure 8.3 and 8.6), this main street commercial corridor is a priority for redirecting the village toward its historic riverfront.

The parcel on the west end of Jefferson Street, current in use as a village storage yard, can be cleaned up and converted into park or public space, perhaps with some required mediation efforts related to the former sewer treatment site located here.

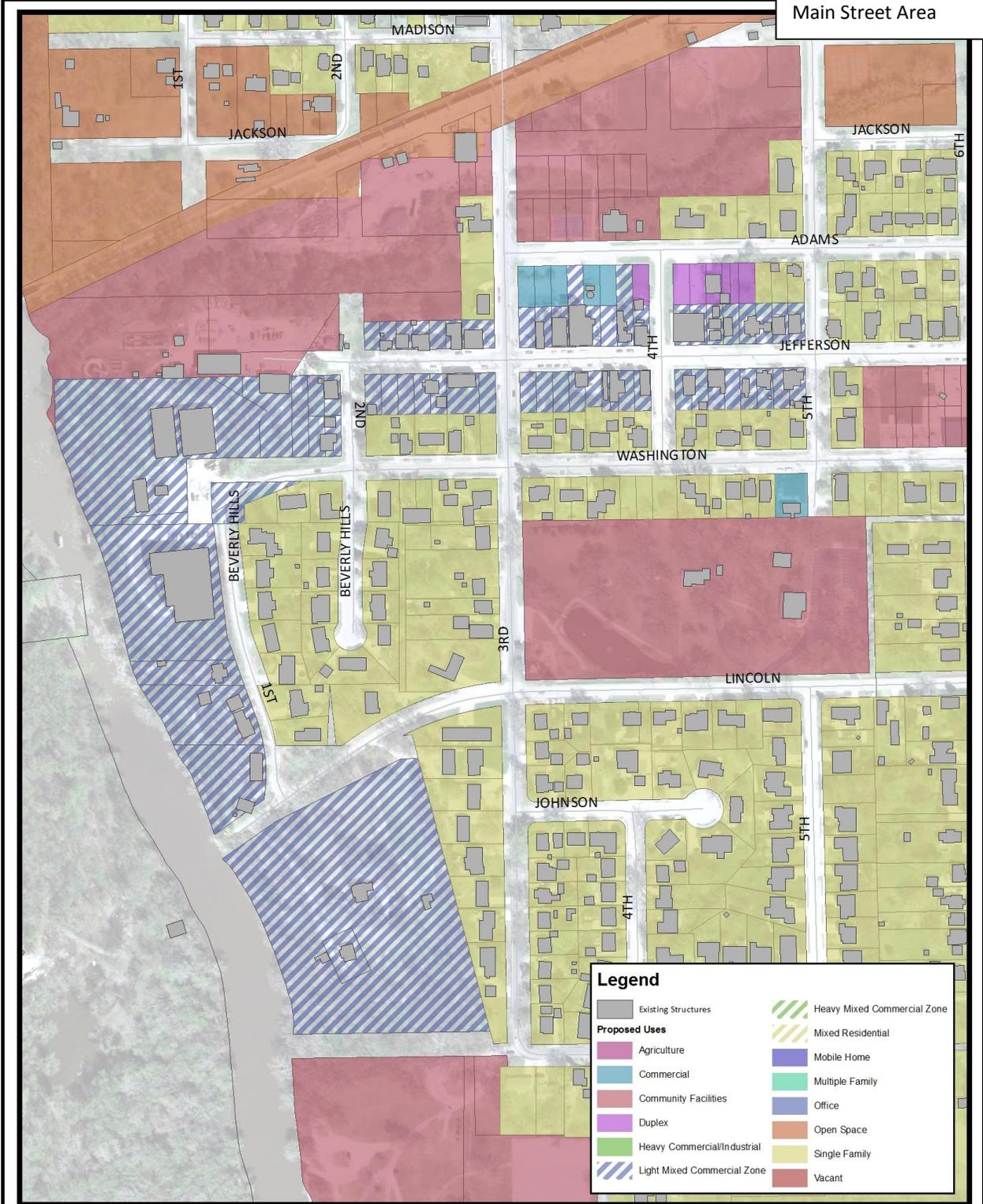
Uses along Jefferson Street could include light commercial, office and commercial uses. Additionally, this area is a good candidate for a mixed-use approach, including multi-family housing over offices, restaurants and coffee shops, and perhaps public uses such as a business incubator or a Riverton historical museum in one of the village-owned facilities or a purchased storefront.

This area would also thrive with an opening of the riverfront, which could allow public or private development to create park-like or light commercial uses that take advantage of Riverton's scenic riverfront resources.

The views below depict the areas the historic commercial district would encompass. They also contemplate some proposed uses that may benefit the village. Again, and as described above, connecting these uses to other areas of the village using key connecting corridors will be essential as a development strategy. Moreover, it is important to note that the village can leverage or incentivize private development to achieve these objectives. Strategies for doing so are outlined in the *Strategies and Actions* section of the plan. These efforts would especially be a priority for "advance" or "expand" orientation toward Riverton's land use plan.



Figure 8.6: Proposed Historic Main Street Area



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 Data Source:
 Sangamon County GIS
 AU, 9.3.14

Proposed Land Use: Zone 4: Historic Mixed-Use District

SSC
RPC
 Springfield-Sangamon County
 Regional Planning Commission

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Figure 8.10: Envisioned Historic Downtown Streetscapes

- 1- Historic revitalized main street corridor; northwest-facing aerial
- 2- Focal point at 3rd and Jefferson Streets
- 3- Village historical cultural center on current municipal yard lot
- 4- Westward facing aerial view
- 5- Refurbished commercial buildings for mixed commercial/retail/office uses
- 6- Improved streetscape and parking



Zone 5: Recreational Heritage Area

The fifth area of focus for Riverton’s proposed land use map is a recreational district, targeted both for village expansion and improvement, and for strategic village partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to cultivate recreational uses. The proposed recreational uses in this district stem largely from the fact that limited development opportunities exist due to the prevalence of floodplain in this area. Moreover, the presence of the Sangamon River in this region provides Riverton with a unique resource that most communities do not have, but which is currently being vastly underutilized.

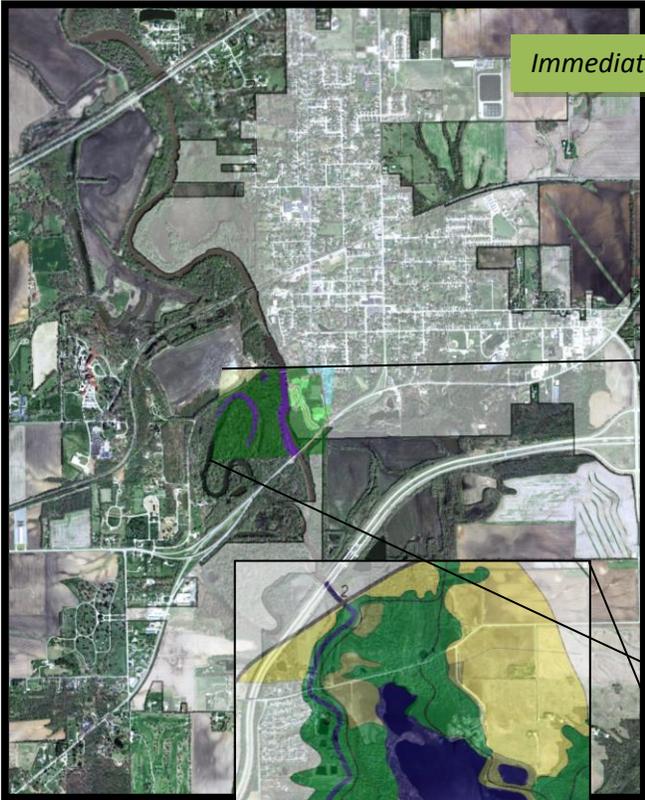
In keeping with its economic development strategy, Riverton should take an approach that preserves, highlights, and improves these areas for economic development. Appropriate uses may include campgrounds; ATV, hiking, biking, or equestrian trails; a canoe launch; or other amenities that take advantage of the scenic Sangamon River and associated resources. Recreational uses could also include bird watching or similar interactions with the area’s unique wildlife populations. Even in a limited “maintain” approach, Riverton should at minimum pursue land uses that expand its existing campground and incorporate the neighboring parcels. These areas should be utilized for purposes that expand upon the recreational resources available through Riverton’s parks and campground.

In the event that Riverton has capacity to pursue a more aggressive economic development strategy through its proposed land use, the remainder of the recreational amenity district that is outside of the village’s corporate limits could be targeted for recreational expansion through annexation, partnership, or intergovernmental agreements. The City of Springfield-owned Clear Lake area gravel pits to the south of Riverton could be utilized to form an idea park environment with additional camping, fishing, and similar recreation. Floodplain areas and publicly-owned land in the Driftwood Acres buy-out property could be utilized to connect this recreational zone through to the village-owned property. In the long term, a recreational area that forms a linear park all the way to the Springfield Park District’s Riverside and Carpenter parks may be attainable.

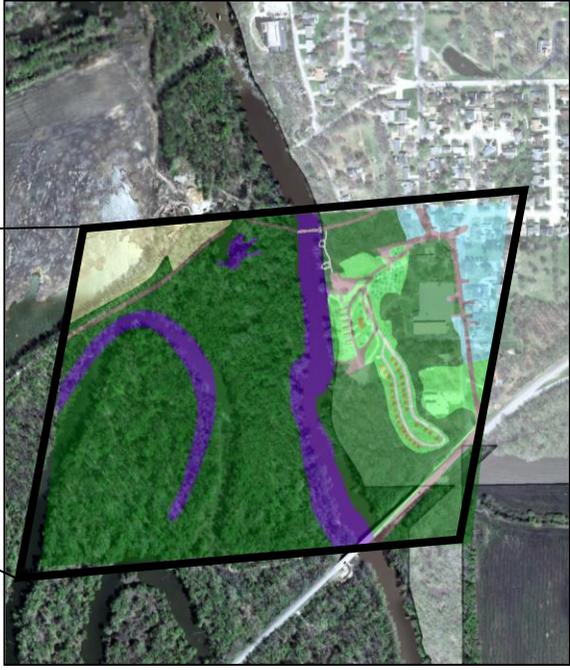
Ultimately, Riverton could form the hub of a historic recreational area. With its campground as a feature highlighting the landing of Abraham Lincoln in Jamestown, and potentially including cabins as well as tent camping facilities, a boat launch, and similar amenities, Riverton’s proposed use as a recreational area could generate enormous economic development potential. Unpaved and paved trails, waterway uses, and similar features could make up the uses in these areas. These uses could also be linked to the key transportation corridor entering Riverton on its west side, with a bike and pedestrian bridge on existing footings that links to historic resources such as Camp Butler Cemetery and Lincoln sites in Springfield. While ambitious, designating this area for recreational use fits the limitations of the land and allows Riverton pursue a meaningful economic development strategy. These efforts would especially be a priority for “advance” or “expand” orientation toward Riverton’s land use plan.

A number of illustrations are provided below to highlight the activities and uses that would be of benefit in and around the Village. Additional drawings related to campground facilities and recreational uses in the expansive zone beginning at Riverton’s campground but expanding south and east are included in Appendix E.

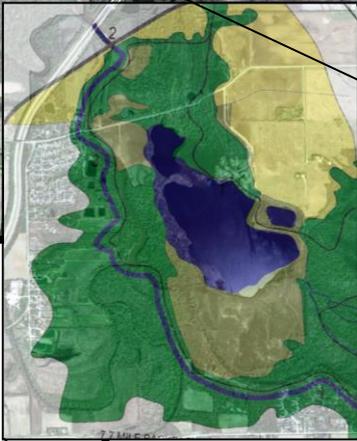
Figure 8.11: Aerial View with Select Recreational Area Call-outs



Immediate Area Aerial Shot



Wheeland Park Recreational Area



Clear Lake Recreational Area

Wide View Aerial Shot with distance references



- TO LINCOLN'S NEW SALEM 25 MILES
- CARPENTER PARK 3 MILES
- RIVERSIDE PARK 2.5 MILES
- GURGEN'S PARK 3.5 MILES
- WHEELAND PARK
- TO SPRINGFIELD 3 MILES

TO CHICAGO 195 MILES

TO DECATUR 32 MILES

Figure 8.12: Detailed Aerial View of Riverton Campground Improvements

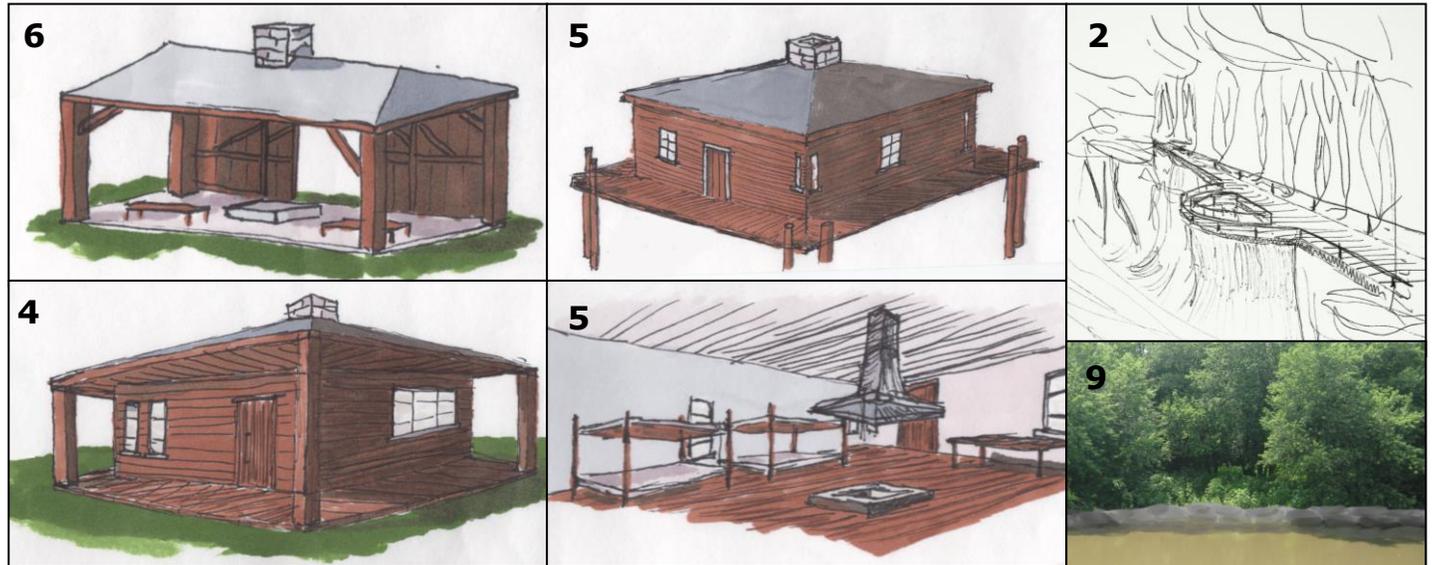
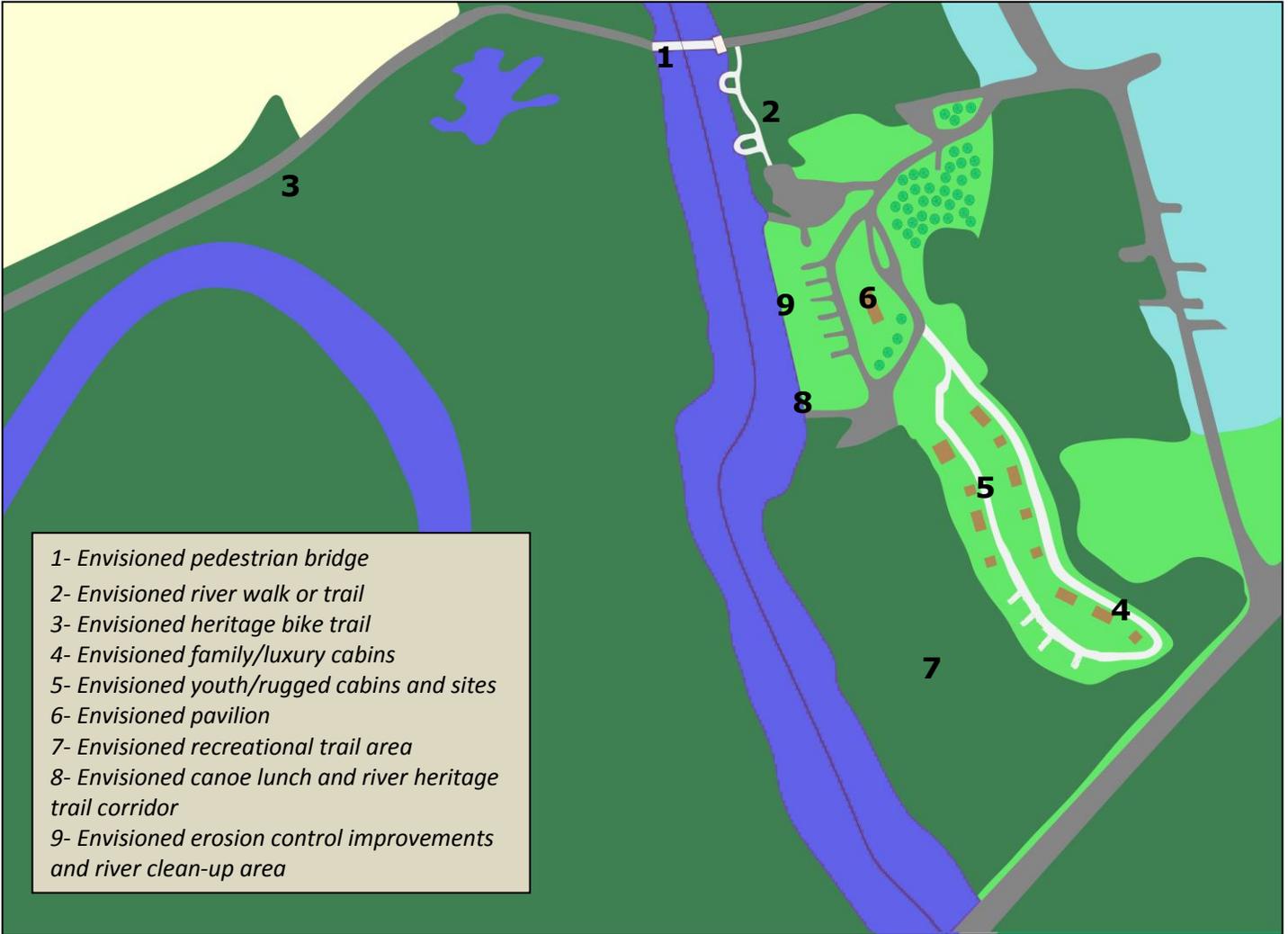


Figure 8.13: Detailed Aerial View of Clear Lake Recreational Destination Character Area Improvement

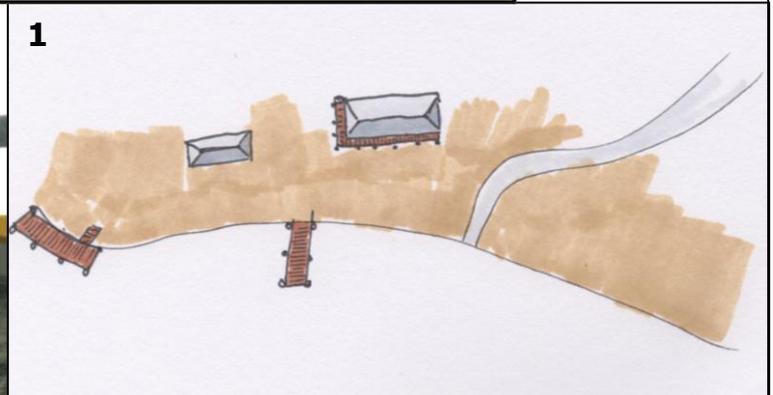
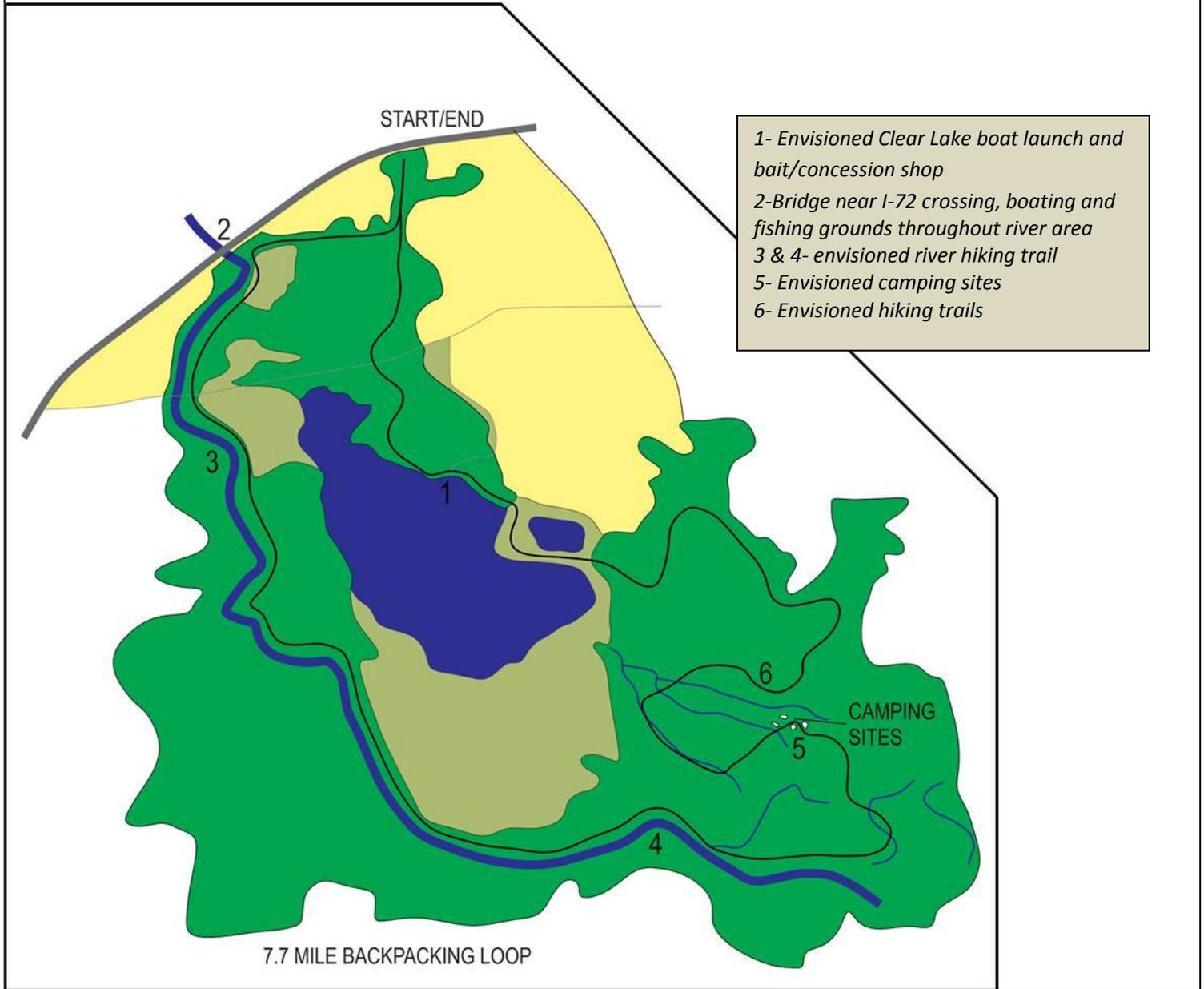


Figure 8.14: Proposed Improvements and Uses in Recreational Character Area

Potential boating and fishing uses

Source: HowStuffWorks.com



Envisioned ATV and off-highway vehicle trails

Source: Oneida County, WI



Proposed rugged campsite uses in undeveloped areas



Bird watching, photography, and outdoor sports



Improved hiking signage and multi-use unpaved trails near existing campground

Envisioned outdoor adventure sports amenities



Land Use Strategies

In order to achieve the land use goals proposed above, Riverton will require a number of proactive strategies. First, Riverton will need to work to ensure that any infrastructure needs are met to target proposed land use goals. Targeting infrastructure to areas where growth is desired can assist in incentivizing such growth. Additionally, enforcement of building code and property maintenance standards will be critical for Riverton.

To ensure that the areas where uses are currently scattered and unsafe can be gradually realigned over time, Riverton may wish to explore an aggressive land swapping program that allows residential homeowners to move out of targeted commercial districts. The village may also wish to annex additional properties where possible in pursuit of its proposed land use goals.

Enforcement of zoning, as well as the potential rezoning of properties, may be of assistance in these endeavors as well. In order to ensure that stringent policies and practices are in place for its zoning enforcement, the village should consider implementing one of three options. The village could hire a paid zoning administrator to handle its zoning caseload and ensure that zoning and land use standards are objectively applied. The village could also work under agreement with the SSCPRC to handle these functions, as is the case for the City of Springfield and Sangamon County. Finally, the village could hire consulting assistance where needed on difficult zoning cases. Further strategies are contemplated in the *Strategies and Actions* section of this plan.

Proposed Land Use: Key Themes and Strategies

- Riverton has unique assets and attributes that are currently underutilized.
- To achieve this, Riverton should focus on improving property maintenance and invest in designated character areas. Currently, Riverton has many declining and dilapidated properties. On-going efforts at improvement are necessary to promote economic development in the village.
- Current land uses and strategies have emphasized growth in any form, rather than sustainable, quality investment.
- Riverton's land use should reorient the village toward the riverfront. The streetscape and views incorporated for the Historic Downtown Mixed-Use Character Area assist the village in achieving these goals.
- Riverton can use the village's rich history and natural environment to create a tourism economy. Recreational and downtown character area detailed envisioned above will assist the village in achieving this.
- Riverton should also expand on and utilize recreational resources to develop this economy.
- Riverton should ensure that it partners with regional and national entities to achieve village goals.



Strategies and Actions

The preceding sections of this plan provide a catalog of the village's present situation, and begin to develop a blueprint for the village's future by identifying a number of considerations to be taken into account to ensure both community stability and amenity preservation. As part of the planning effort, the village should consider and address a number of specific goals relevant to plan implementation. Associated with these goals are recommended strategic initiatives. In some cases initial action steps are identified that will assist the village in advancing these initiatives.

The strategies and actions below are built on the foundation of the village's history, demographics, and existing village services. These strategies will equip Riverton to continue to respond to resident needs and wishes in an informed manner. Goals are divided into sections that parallel the plan, including demographic, environmental, utilities, transportation, economic development, and land use sections. Land use goals are also reflected in the land use map on page 85 and in Appendix E.

Many communities' comprehensive plans also include history and demographics-oriented concepts in other goal sections, rather than identifying and addressing goals specifically in these areas, as it is often difficult for communities to take action directly impacting historical and demographic considerations. However, because Riverton faces important challenges in these areas, the SSCRPC found it important to consider demographic considerations in a stand-alone section.

Though many strategies and actions are ultimately available for the Village of Riverton, the priorities facing Riverton can be distilled down to three simple goals. **Riverton should intentionally protect, cultivate, and promote its people, places, and products.**

Riverton's people are its most valuable resource. Riverton has experienced demographic changes over the last decade that its residents find concerning. Although to some extent demographic challenges are difficult to overcome, Riverton can work to minimize any negative associated with these challenges. Riverton's second key goal is to cultivate its "places," the locations and community design elements that make it unique. By focusing on its unique attributes, Riverton can increase pride in place in its community. This can be achieved through environmental, economic development, and land use efforts, but also pertains to the transportation networks that carry people to and from Riverton's places. Riverton should also thoughtfully consider the cultivation of its community as a "product," and work to create amenities and services that will be marketable to development entities. Without efforts to foster improvements in the look and feel of its village services, Riverton will likely be unable to attain many of its long-term goals.

Finally, the SSCRPC acknowledges that the Village of Riverton faces resource constraints, like many communities of its size. Yet Riverton also has many unique resources. The Village's resources in the areas of history, culture, and natural environment have led the SSCRPC to identify a vision that could make Riverton a regional destination for outdoor recreational tourism, and perhaps a national historic tourism destination. It acknowledges, however, that Riverton may not be able to pursue such a lofty vision in the short-term future. As such, the SSCRPC has identified three levels of strategies and goals the village may wish to pursue: "maintain" goals, "advance" goals, and "expand" goals.

These three levels represent different degrees of challenge for the village, and can assist the village in differentiating the feasibility of various products in the short and long terms. "Maintain" goals are those

Strategy 1: Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive areas through improved human stewardship.

Action 1: Expand village enforcement of property maintenance to ensure adequate protection of environment.

Action 2: Initiate or expand village enforcement preventing river dumping to ensure adequate protection of environment.

Action 3: Consider Sangamon River access as a priority amenity for future village redevelopment efforts.

Strategy 2: Develop storm water management efforts and recognize significant role of floodplain in Riverton's development prospects.

Action 1: Develop village rain barrel program, potentially in partnership with City of Springfield programs.

Action 2: Explore possibilities to partner in the creation of or independently construct model rain gardens or bioswales.

Action 3: Explore opportunities to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces within Village limits.

Action 4: Appropriately limit new development in the floodplain or ensure mitigation of floodwater displacement in all developments. Publicize and ensure adherence to county floodplain ordinances.

Action 5: As "grandfathered" properties within the floodplain and floodway become vacant, work to ensure their removal.

Strategy 3: Promote increased resident interaction with natural environment.

Action 1: Hire a consultant to develop an ecological study of environmental resources available in Riverton.

Action 2: Promote habitat development in special areas to ensure wildlife refuges.

Action 3: Consider the designation of an official "natural area" or similar designation in or near the village; explore Riverton area's eligibility for such a designation that will not conflict with development goals.

Action 4: Conduct study of nearby oxbow island in the Sangamon river South fork to determine timber quality and level of human disturbance of natural environment.

Strategy 4: Leverage environmental resources to assist in other village improvements.

Action 1: Market the village's natural areas for recreational opportunities.

Action 2: Consider partnerships with recreational tourism groups such as the Central Illinois Trails Association.

Strategy 5: Explore new revenue sources related to environmental heritage preservation efforts.

Action 1: Explore funding lines available for the promotion and improvement of a designated natural area.

Action 2: Seek information and opportunities from partner organizations such as Friends of Sangamon Valley and the Lincoln Heritage Water Trail Association.

Action 3: Explore CREP program enrollment for additional properties, ensuring that easements for recreational purposes are included in all new contracts.

Utilities Strategies

Riverton is somewhat unique among its peer Sangamon County municipalities in terms of the number and scope of village-owned and operated utility systems. While this provides the village with some additional potential revenue resources helpful to implementing its other goals, it also presents unique challenges. Riverton will need to consider a series of strategies specifically related to its utilities systems to ensure that on-going village improvement and expansion are fostered by continued high-caliber village-built infrastructure, utility pricing, and utility services.

Strategy 1: Address capital needs in existing utility system.

Action 1: Adopt a village long-range capital needs plan.

Action 2: Work toward the implementation of a long-range capital plan in phased increments.

Action 3: Utilize existing bond on a renewing basis to ensure on-going revenue needs for capital improvements are met.

Action 4: Consider, as possible, opportunities for collaborative bonding with other jurisdictions to reduce bond administrative costs.

Strategy 2: Expand utility access to new residents and businesses.

Action 1: Extend water, sewer, and gas access to southwestern portion of village.

Action 2: Extend water, sewer, and gas access to east side of village for new development.

Action 3: Work to ensure that private developers install utility lines when developing new areas.

Action 4: Expand treatment facilities to handle increases in capacity, as prioritized in village capital needs plan.

Strategy 3: Explore regional cooperation efforts that may benefit utility system.

Action 1: Conduct a feasibility study for connecting Riverton sewer to SMSD trunk near East Springfield.

Action 2: If feasible, consider transfer of sewage treatment operation to SMSD to reduce on-going costs.

Action 3: Conduct feasibility study and consider sewer expansion to residents of the Village of Spaulding.

Strategy 4: Improve resident experiences with village utility systems.

Action 1: Bolster staff training and professional development activities and resources.

Action 2: Consider shared administrative resources with other jurisdictions in the region, as is feasible given staffing needs.

Action 3: Add a non-trustee advisory citizen member to the Village Board's utilities committee.

Transportation Strategies

Where people live and work, where economic activity takes place, and how people travel all contribute to the demand for an efficient, safe, and connected transportation network that is vital to the success of any growing municipality. The following proposed strategies reinforce the key ideas discussed in the transportation section: pedestrian connectivity; recreation and trail opportunities; and planning for an effective road network.

Strategy 1: Provide a safe and efficient transportation network for all types and demographics of users.

Action 1: Adopt and incorporate the "complete streets" concept as defined by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Action 2: Develop Village complete streets requirements based on best practices in like communities.

Action 3: Ensure that future development includes complete streets designs, such as sidewalks or pedestrian ways.

Action 4: Review existing Complete Streets plan materials to ensure that proposed accommodations meet pedestrian needs; consider upgrading the Cardinal Hill Road Extension to an off-road path with historic heritage markers as appropriate.

Strategy 3: Expand pedestrian infrastructure to connect and feature community amenities.

Action 1: Construct sidewalks in areas where they do not exist.

Action 6: Open and expand trails near community facilities such as campground for recreational use.

Action 7: Consider corporate sponsors and partners for recreational trail development and promotion, and work to incent private investment and development in these unique assets and resources.

Action 8: Review CREP program enrollment; work with property owners to buy out easements from contracts where needed and possible.

Strategy 6: Link existing transportation network to economic development goals.

Action 1: Create and install transportation signage and markers that emphasize historic Riverton and its amenities.

Action 2: Target transportation network improvements to focus on village enter and historic main street corridor.

Action 3: Ensure that all transportation amenities that contribute to outdoor recreation environment are adequately marketed.

Strategy 7: Update existing vehicle transportation network as needed, and anticipate potential growth through coordinated transportation improvements efforts.

Action 1: Prioritize transportation improvements outlined in SATS plans.

Action 2: Adopt the suggested transportation corridor plan.

Action 3: Obtain the plan-suggested right-of-way widths through controlled development processes in the future.

Action 4: Evaluate development proposals for adequacy with the street network when they are submitted.

Action 5: Partner as needed with other jurisdictions to ensure successful and timely construction of Riverton-Rochester Road.

Strategy 8: Participate in regional efforts to improve transportation network.

Action 1: Educate, support, and publicize to Village residents the proposed Sangamon-Menard Area Rural Transit service.

Action 2: Consider avenues to gain formal representation on the Springfield Area Transportation Study group, potentially in conjunction with peer municipalities.

Action 3: Continue to participate in group procurement opportunities sponsored by SATS and the Regional Leadership Council.

Action 3: Create a “local heroes” exhibit in the village hall or a similar location, highlighting Riverton “celebrities,” athletes, etc. throughout its rich history.

Action 4: Develop an exploratory committee to take efforts to restore festivals and community activities historically emphasized in Riverton.

Action 5: Consider the creation of a mining museum that displays artifacts and research related to Riverton’s mining history, potentially located in a facility in the Jefferson Street commercial corridor.

Action 6: Provide funding necessary to engage a consultant to develop a full tourism plan for the Riverton area, which considers resources in the Sangamon River Valley, Camp Butler area, and Clear Lake area.

Action 7: Fund the development of comprehensive Riverton history study, emphasizing especially Riverton’s connection to the Sangamon River, Abraham Lincoln, the Donner Party, Native American History, Edward’s Trace, Civil War History, and coal mining.

Action 8: Consider efforts to “rebuild” Riverton history, in keeping with concepts at other regional locations such as New Salem historic site.

Action 9: Consider the creation of a Civil War Museum in association with Camp Butler Cemetery and other interested parties.

Action 10: Create a strong web presence that includes well-developed maps identifying historic assets and amenities of interest.

Action 11: Develop a Riverton historic sites inventory and mobile app to assist tourists in locating historic sites and activities.

Strategy 8: Work to make Riverton a regional recreation destination by utilizing Riverton’s unique assets to spur strong historic recreational tourism.

Action 1: Conduct village clean up of camp ground sites and boat launch.

Action 2: Acquire property as needed and develop additional camp sites, potentially including cabin and additional amenities.

Action 3: Assist in development of trails in and around the village of Riverton, including efforts to link to Sherman, Rochester, and Dawson.

Action 4: Collaborate with Illinois Department of Natural Resources to implement waterway programs and increase use of Sangamon River as a recreational resource, in keeping with Lincoln Heritage River Trail programming.

Action 5: Develop partnerships with regional recreation groups and corporate sponsors to foster greater recreational investment.

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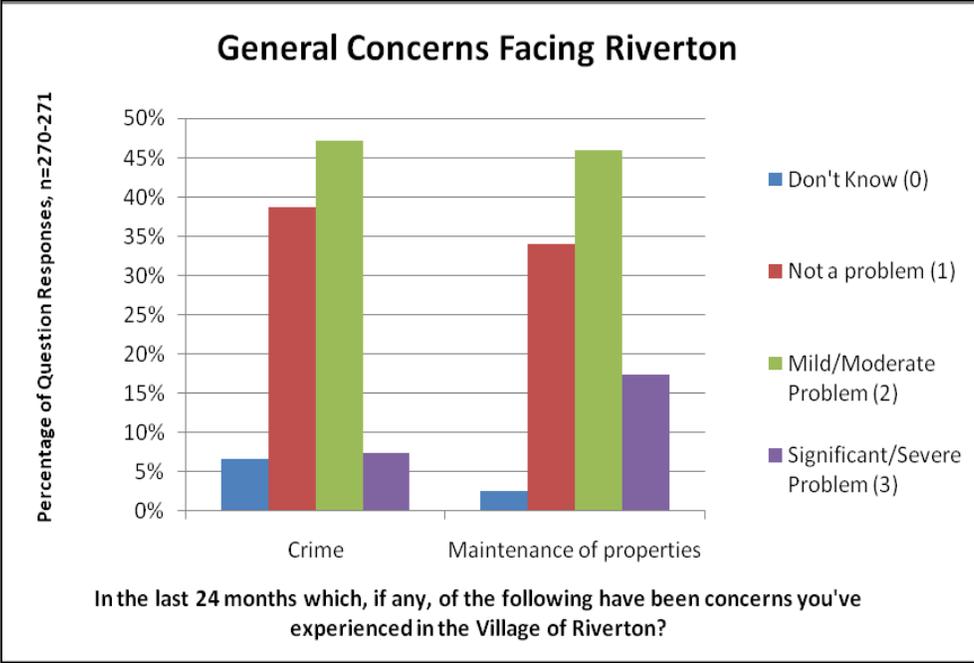
Because cultural and recreational activities offered in Riverton were, on average, ranked between “poor” and “fair,” a closer look at available amenities is in order. When asked how likely they would be to use a number of recreational amenities if they were created or expanded in Riverton, respondents reacted most favorably to bike and pedestrian trails, a public pool, lighting for athletic fields, and campgrounds, with 57%, 38%, 31%, and 23% indicating they would be likely or very likely to use each amenity, respectively.

Parks currently play a significant role in the Riverton community. After church groups (24%), sports programs were reportedly the activity in which respondents are most involved in the Riverton community (21%). However, residents appear to be relatively satisfied with their parks, as 55% of residents indicated that improving or expanding parks was a low priority or not a priority in Riverton. When asked *What do you like about Riverton?*, respondents often included the size and atmosphere of the community, noting that it is a small town, yet is close to the business resources and tourism amenities provided by Springfield as the state capital.

Conversely, the survey asked whether conditions such as crime, neighbors, noise, drainage, pets, property maintenance, and sidewalk or bike lane availability pose problems in Riverton. A majority or strong plurality of residents felt that neighbors, noise, drainage, and unleashed pets were not a problem, with smaller pluralities of residents calling these concerns mild or moderate problems.

A percentage of respondents expressed concern about both crime and property maintenance in the Village, as displayed below (Crime: 47% mild/moderate problem, 7% significant/severe problem; Property Maintenance: 46% mild/moderate problem, 17% significant/severe problem).

A much larger percentage indicated that availability of sidewalks, bike lanes, and public transit were problems, with over 40% calling each of these concerns severe or significant problems. These concerns will be further addressed in the transportation section below. Similarly, 48% of residents indicated that improving or installing sidewalks was a high priority.



One important feature of Riverton's demographic profile is its aging population. When asked how important it is to having housing available for all ages, 13% claimed it was not important or somewhat unimportant, while 85% stated that it was somewhat or very important. Additionally, 72% maintained that having housing available in Riverton for all income levels was important.

In light of trends related to environmental consciousness and energy conservation in Village homes, the survey asked Riverton residents if they have done anything to reduce the amount of energy or water they use at home. A significant percentage of respondents, 65%, claim that they have attempted to reduce energy use. While 31% of total respondents reported that these efforts have been successful, 28% say that they cannot tell whether their attempts have been successful, and 10% say their efforts have not been successful. A smaller proportion of respondents, 36%, report having reduced their water use. 51% of respondents report that they utilize a recycling service provided by their private waste hauler.

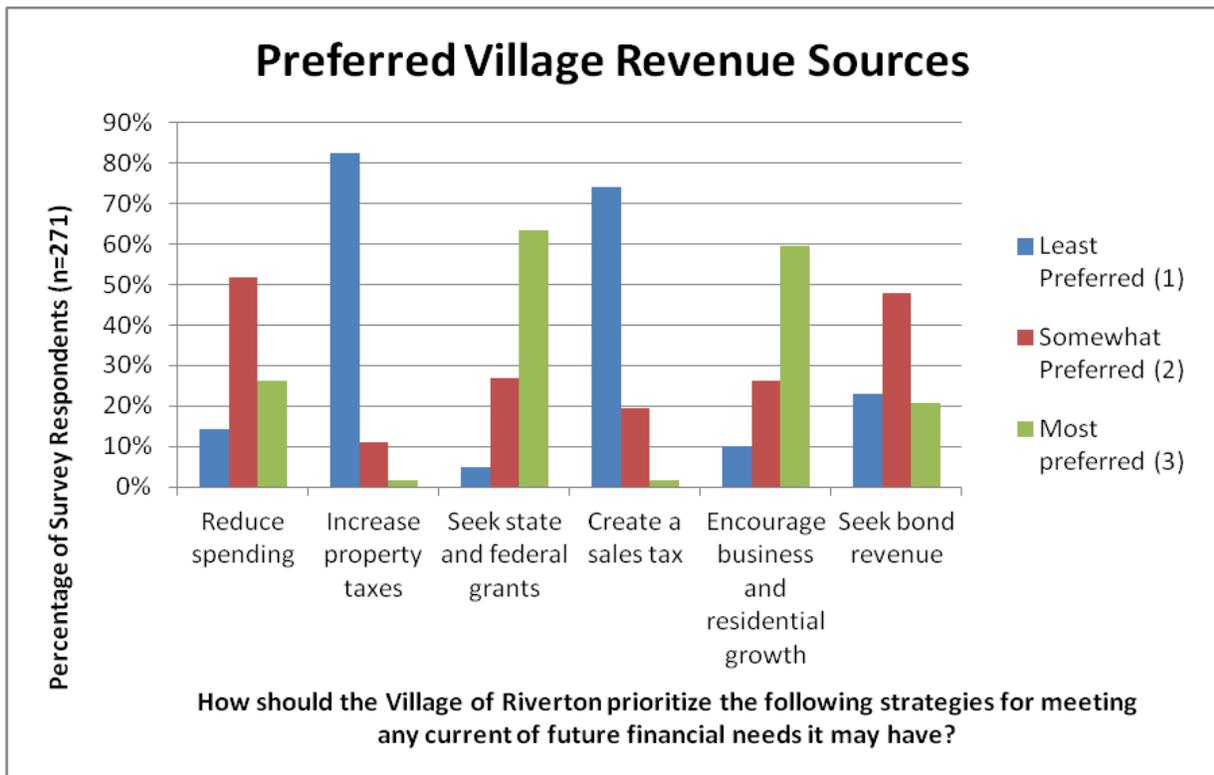
Another relevant component of the community survey related to the Village's housing is the amount of turnover in housing experienced in the Village, which has been perceived to be a long-term concern for the Village. Several respondents mentioned the prevalence of rental housing in their open-ended responses. To gauge the present reality of housing turnover in Riverton, the survey also asked residents a series of questions about their living situation and any plans they may have to move out of the community.

Among survey respondents, 80% reported owning their own home, and 17% reported renting their home. When asked if they planned to move out of Riverton in the next 1-2 years, 78% reported that they did not, and 17% reported that they did plan to move. Among respondents, 79% have lived in Riverton for over 5 years, and 67% have not changed their place of residence in the last 5 years. In contrast, only 14% have changed their residence within the last two years. This information may be less reflective of the actual community makeup due to the higher proportions of long-term or older residents that responded to the survey.

Village Finances and Economic Development

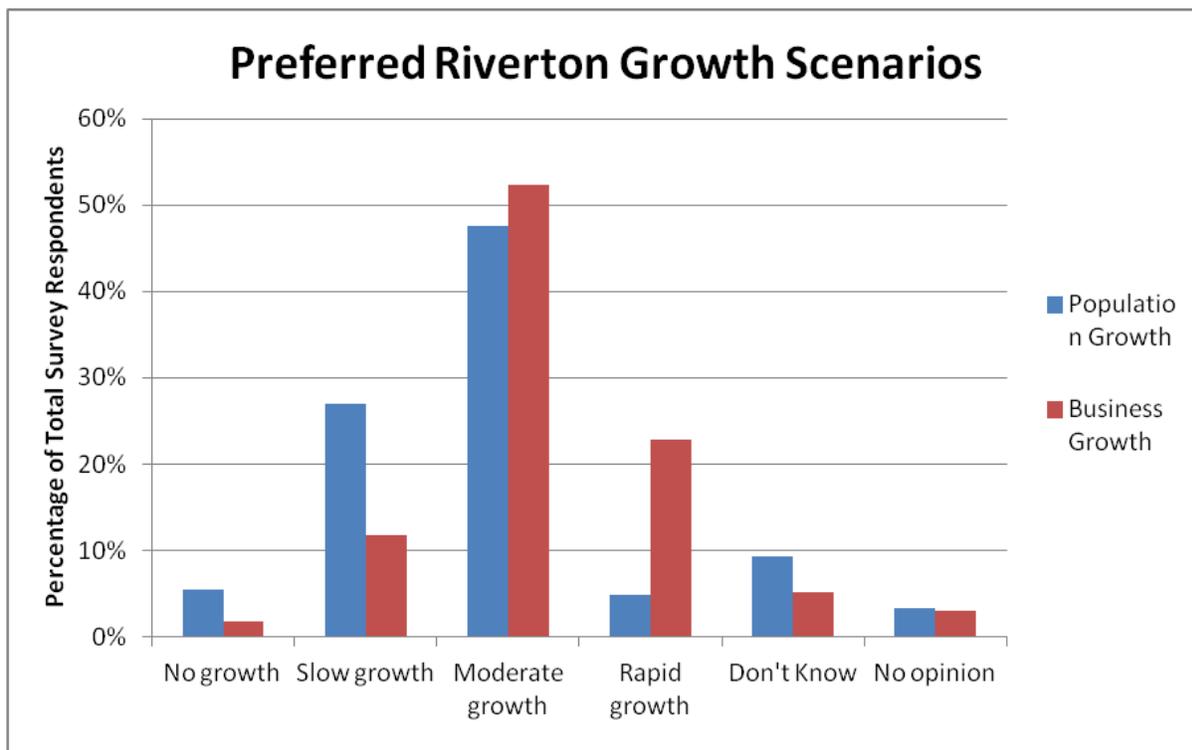
Generally speaking, Riverton residents do not desire to see tax increases to meet the financial needs of the Village. The majority of citizens responded “No” overall regarding their willingness to pay more taxes in support of sixteen categories of Village services. Respondents appeared to view improving streets/roads and creating storm sewers most favorably, with 50.0% and 46.1%, respectively, in favor of paying more taxes in these areas.

An important aspect of economic development is the quality and availability of the government services for residents. Residents are more likely to settle in areas where school districts are strong, and where they feel that the resources they provide to support local governments result in a good return on investment in terms of the services they receive. If governments are functioning efficiently and effectively it benefits economic development efforts. Toward this end, the community survey asked residents for their opinions on a number of avenues that could be taken in pursuit of new government service arrangements. The figures below describe these attitudes.



Residents are fairly neutral toward intergovernmental agreements, though more lean toward favoring these arrangements than disagree with engaging in intergovernmental cooperation. In contrast, Riverton residents are less inclined to support school district consolidation. Over 25% of respondents strongly disagreed that Riverton School District should be consolidated with Tri-City School District. This may present challenges for the moderate population growth desired by village residents, since village officials report that school district boundaries have considerable impact on the salability of housing stock.

Governmental service arrangements are particularly relevant in terms of Riverton’s ability to attract and retain residential and commercial growth. Respondents to the community survey did express a desire to see both kinds of growth. More residents preferred slow growth scenarios for residential than business growth. Conversely, rapid growth was preferred for businesses by over 20% of survey respondents. For both population and businesses, about 50% of respondents indicated a desire to see moderate growth levels, again, with slightly less emphasis on faster growth scenarios for population than business.



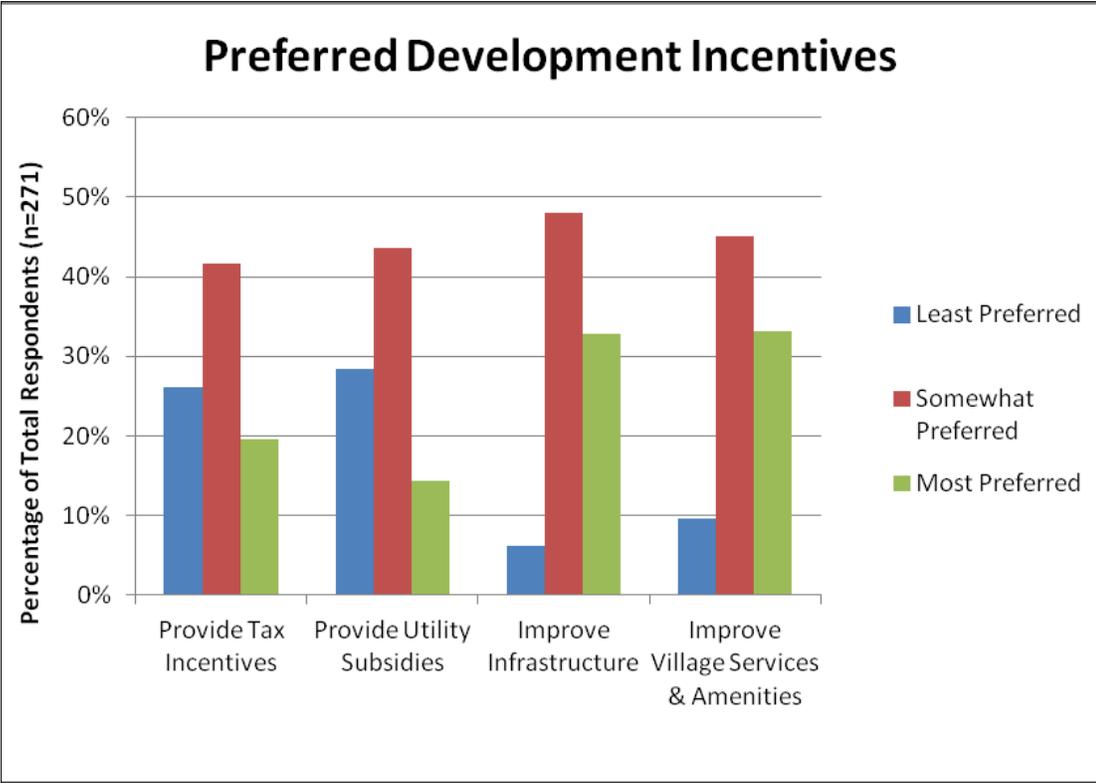
Also important to growth are the amenities that are available to residents and businesses that settle in Riverton, both those that are publicly and privately provided. While a high proportion of respondents (73%) are satisfied or very satisfied with their waste hauler, for example, 31% agreed that Riverton should develop an agreement with a single waste hauler. Respondents are mixed in their opinions of their local internet service. About 51% are satisfied or very satisfied, whereas 24% are unsatisfied or very unsatisfied.

To further develop the types of business growth residents would prefer to see, the survey asked residents to indicate which of a number of businesses and services they utilize within versus outside of the village, and which types they would like to see added to the community.

The top five business types that most residents reported utilizing within Riverton were the grocery store, gas station, car wash, dry cleaning service, and convenience store. Conversely, opportunities for expansion within Riverton might exist for sit-down restaurants, grocery stores, hardware stores, health and medical facilities, and fast food restaurants, which were the top five business types that residents reported utilizing outside of the village. Finally, the survey inquired which types of businesses or services residents would most like to see added to Riverton. These included a sit-down restaurant, small retail, a fast food restaurant, a hardware store, and a coffee shop.

Riverton residents also had opportunity in the survey to suggest their favored locations for future residential, commercial, and industrial development. When asked about a number of locations for residential development, including south of existing development, east of existing development, and as infill development for the current property area, most residents agreed or strongly agreed (53% total) that east of existing development (i.e. toward Dawson) was the preferred area for residential growth.

For commercial development, respondents favored the area along the current main street corridor most heavily (60% agree or strongly agree). The area near the I-72 interchanged received the second highest response rate, with 59% supporting commercial development here. Similarly, respondents also favored industrial development in this area, with 53% agreeing or strongly agreeing that Riverton should encourage additional industrial development near the interchange. The area south of existing development received the second-highest rating, with 30% expressing support.



The survey also asked residents about their opinions on strategies for the village to incentivize business development. Two responses each received a 33% “most preferred” ranking from respondents: “Improve infrastructure” and “Improve village services & amenities.” Improving infrastructure also garner 48% of respondents indicating it was the “somewhat preferred” strategy, and village services and amenities were marked as somewhat preferable by 45%. These incentives outranked tax incentives and utility subsidies as incentives for development.

Transportation Networks

To gauge Riverton residents’ outlook on the current conditions of the Village’s transportation network, the survey asked respondents about which of a number of items they considered concerning or

problematic in the Village in general. Availability of sidewalks (42%), bike lanes (49%), and public transportation (43%), were all reported to be significant problems in the village.

Similarly, the survey inquired as to transportation-related problems that residents encountered on a typical trip through the village. The top response cited as a problem was “Conditions of Roads” (43%), followed by “Vehicles parked along the street” (36%). About 27% of residents indicated that they didn’t have any problems. However, visual obstructions, pedestrians, bicyclists, and traffic being too fast were all indicated by about 20% of respondents. The survey also asked for respondents’ perceptions of road closures currently utilized in Riverton to slow traffic. The majority of respondents felt road closures should be left as they currently are (56%), with the next most numerous group indicating that they would prefer no closures (28%).

Riverton residents indicate that there is room for improvement in the village’s built transportation infrastructure. When asked about their priorities for any additional revenues the village might receive, 48% indicated that improving or installing sidewalks was a high priority, with 30% calling it a medium priority. Additionally, 41% of respondents suggested that improving streets and roads was a high priority and 39% called it a medium priority. The only other potential improvement that garnered similar support was school improvements, which 47% called a high priority and 32% called a medium priority.

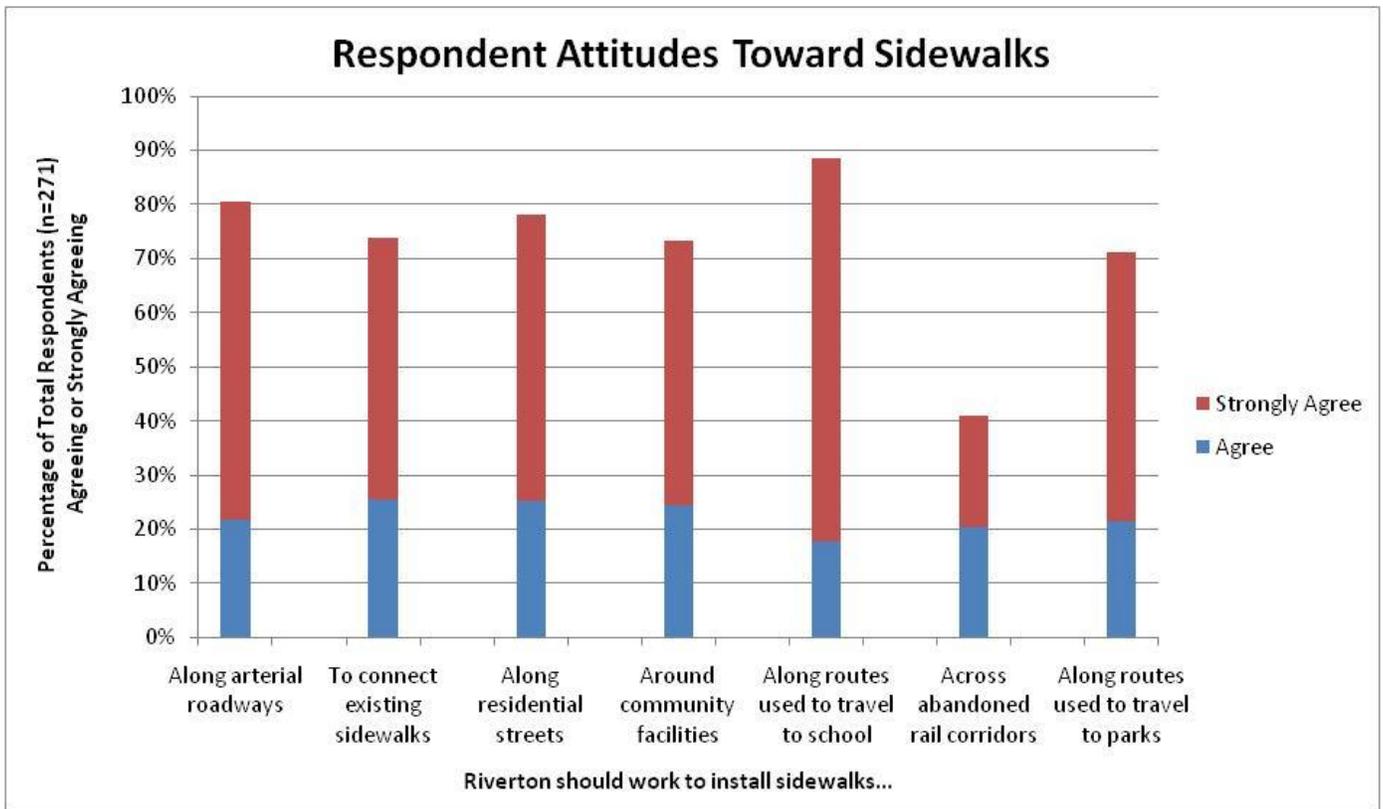
The survey questioned respondents about their personal habits related to transportation network use. When asked how household members generally travel to work, 70% of respondents indicated that they traveled by car alone. Reported use of other modes of transportation to work was minimal; carpooling (4%), walking (1%), taking public transit (0%), or biking (0%). A large number of residents (30%) suggested that they are retired or work from home.

The survey also asked residents how often they walk or bike in their neighborhood. Most respondents reported that they walk or bike either daily (40%) or weekly (32%). This means that over 70% of respondents walk or bike at least once a week in their neighborhoods. Only 19% very rarely walk or bike in their neighborhood. This suggests that residents favor biking and walking in general, but may not have the infrastructure or resources to walk or bike as their primary form of commuting transportation.

To look more closely at pedestrian travel patterns by age cohort, higher percentages of younger age cohorts are likely to walk or bike on a daily basis. For respondents under age 45, 57% walk or bike daily, and 36% report doing so weekly. For those between 46 and 65, only 38% walk or bike daily, and 33% do so weekly. For those over 65, 32% walk or bike daily and 34% do so weekly. This suggests that the younger generation, for whom the policies outlined in a long-range plan will have most impact, are very likely to utilize alternative forms of transportation, and appear to do so with greater frequency than prior generations.

Activities like walking and biking are impacted by the existing infrastructure for pedestrian transportation. To gauge opportunities for encouraging more bicycle and pedestrian transportation, the community survey asked under what circumstances respondents and their families would walk or bike more often. Respondents reported that more sidewalks or bike paths would most likely encourage them to bike or walk more frequently (65%). Riverton residents also commonly suggested that sidewalks in better conditions (53%), safer routes (46%), and more pleasant paths (45%) would all encourage them to walk or bike more frequently.

The community survey asked Riverton residents to indicate their level of support for the Village installing sidewalks in a number of types of locations. The vast majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that sidewalks should be installed along routes used to travel to school (88%), along major or arterial roadways (81%), and along residential streets (78%). Numerous residents also favored sidewalks that connect existing walks and trails (73% agreed or strongly agreed), or around existing or potential community facilities (73% agreed or strongly agreed), and along routes used to travel to parks (71%). In fact, Riverton respondents expressed far more favorable attitudes toward sidewalks than most communities, with a large majority of residents expressing support for sidewalks in all locations except for across abandoned rail corridors, which was favored by only 40%.



The information presented above related to sidewalks is even more compelling when examined by age cohort. For example, among the population under the age of 36 who responded to the survey, 93% agree or strongly agree that sidewalks should exist along routes used to travel to school. Among all of those under the age of 46, this percentage was 90%. For the population between ages 46 and 65, this percentage remained at a robust 95% agreeing or strongly agreeing, but for those over age 65, only 86% saw this as a goal.

There was more consistent but slightly less robust support for sidewalks in residential areas. For example, 81% of the age cohort under 46 expressed agreement or strong agreement. Those aged 46-65 expressed 79% support, as did those over age 65. When asked about sidewalks along arterial roadways, the age cohort between 46 and 65 again expressed highest levels of support (87%), with those under 45 expressing comparably 85% and those over 65 expressing only 77% agreeing or strongly agreeing.

Public transit is another important component of a complete transportation network. While no public transit currently serves Riverton, program development is underway for the Sangamon-Menard Area Rural Transit service (SMART). The community survey inquired as to residents' awareness of this transit service, and their likelihood of utilizing the service. Only 18% of respondents were aware of the service. Similarly, only 21% of respondents reported that they were likely or very likely to use the service, whereas 19% were unsure, 12% reported being neutral, and 46% reported being unlikely to use the service. This varied only slightly by age cohort. Those in the 65+ age cohort reported being "very unlikely" to use the service more infrequently (30%, rather than 35% of the total respondent pool). Most of this shift in responses occurred because more elderly respondents reported that they didn't know yet whether or not they were likely to use the service. Additional efforts to make residents aware of this option and its benefits may be required once the service is functional.

Conclusions

The community survey provides several significant insights to guide Riverton's comprehensive plan. Riverton residents largely favor improvements of bike and pedestrian infrastructure on a number of different metrics and across numerous question types and age cohorts. Riverton residents appear to desire medium to slow growth for population and residences, with slightly faster growth rates preferred for businesses. Riverton respondents appeared to be pleased with village services overall, but feel that improvements in cultural activities and roads, as well as additional efforts to address crime levels and property maintenance would be of benefit in the community. The community survey is an essential portion of a comprehensive plan in guiding analysis to ensure that strategies for Riverton's future parallel the desires of community residents.

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Appendix B: Potential Community Partners and Resources

A number of entities with shared interests or service locations may be partners for the Village of Riverton as it works to attain the strategies prescribed throughout the plan document. The SSCRPC has identified a number of these resources and provided a listing below to facilitate community efforts.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Sangamon County
City of Springfield
Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County
Illinois Audubon Society
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Lincoln Heritage Water Trail Association
Looking for Lincoln Coalition
Lower Sangamon Valley Resource and Conservation District
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Regional Leadership Council
Regional Office of Education #51
Riverton CUSD #14
Sangamon County
Sangamon County Farm Bureau
Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission
Sangamon County Soil and Water Conservation District
Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau
Springfield Historic Sites Commission
Springfield YMCA
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Tri-City CUSD #1
United States Department of Agriculture
Village of Clear Lake
Village of Dawson
Village of Rochester
Village of Spaulding

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Appendix C: Bike and Pedestrian Improvement Illustrations



Share the Road sign-
Springfield, IL

Meadowbrook Road
bicycle lane-
Springfield, IL



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Appendix D: Strategies and Actions Chart

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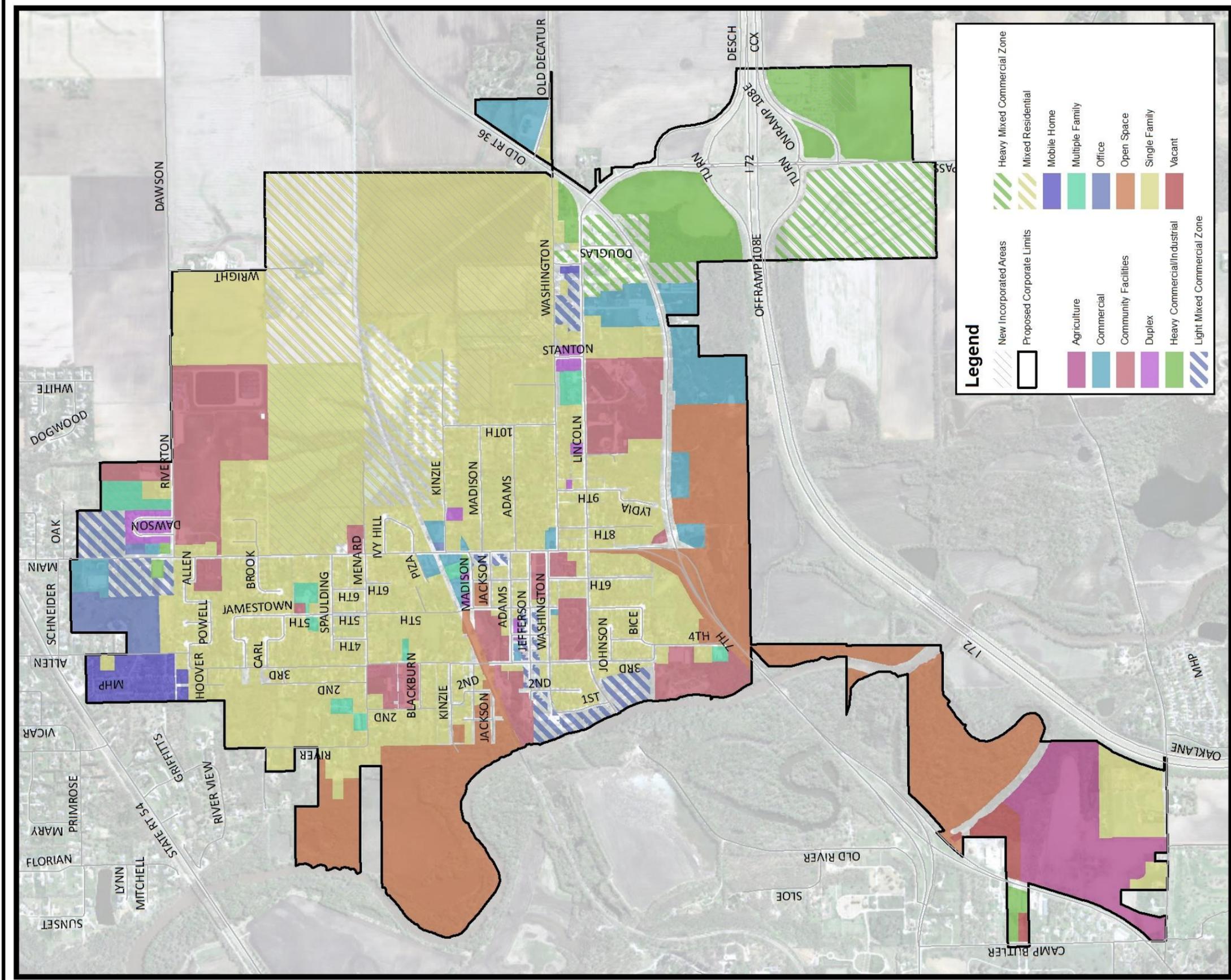
	<i>Consider a plan to incentivize the start-up of a Riverton branch recreational outfitter in the village commercial district.</i>	Products	•••
	<i>Support efforts to create an inviting trail head and park incorporating the riverfront and associated amenities.</i>	Places	•••
	<i>Utilize and market access and proximity to Springfield and its tourism opportunities as unique Village assets.</i>	Places	••
	<i>Pursue opportunities to link Riverton to Springfield, its tourism amenities, and the trail network in Sangamon County through priority corridor bike trail development.</i>	Places	•••
	<i>Encourage expansion of recreational opportunities through on-going maintenance and expansion of park resources.</i>	Products	••
	<i>Ensure that village has working understanding of CREP-enrolled land and restrictions on development; take CREP programming into account in future planning.</i>	Places	••
Engage in on-going preparation for long-term development.	<i>Maximize public and private resources through partnerships, including economic development partnerships with regional actors such as the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.</i>	Products	••
	<i>Offer municipal support to local civic organizations to encourage growth and participation, and to foster citizen involvement in local projects.</i>	People	•
	<i>Encourage local leaders to attend educational and professional development forums, including civic and other engagement seminars and learning opportunities.</i>	People	••
	<i>Encourage on-going leader participation in regional efforts such as Regional Leadership Council and intergovernmental forum involvement.</i>	People	•
	<i>In keeping with the implementation goals of the current plan, develop a comprehensive Economic Development plan in the future.</i>	Products	•••
	<i>Ensure that future state and federal CREP/CRP enrollment contracts include right of way consistent with proposed economic development uses.</i>	Places	••
	<i>Consider forming an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Springfield related to extraterritorial jurisdiction overlap.</i>	Places	••
	<i>Adopt an ordinance expressing support for the Regional Strategic Plan for Sangamon County and newly formed Regional Leadership Council, in order to be well positioned for participation in future regional efforts.</i>	Products	•
Land Development Strategies			
Promote an economical and efficient growth pattern which ensures development occurs in appropriate areas.	<i>Facilitate the continued renewal and strengthening of existing infrastructure as a priority over the creation of new infrastructure.</i>	Products	•
	<i>Target new infrastructure to areas where growth is encouraged in the Proposed Land Use plan.</i>	Places	••
	<i>Amend or update land subdivision ordinance as needed, or adopt a unified development ordinance that meets Riverton’s unique needs.</i>	Products	•
	<i>Ensure that all new development is served by public water and a public sewer.</i>	Places	•
	<i>Clarify extraterritorial jurisdiction through intergovernmental agreements where needed; work to exercise authority over development within ETJ.</i>	Products	••
Make aggressive efforts to eliminate existing dilapidated housing.	<i>Limit the future use of mobile homes and place them in sites (such as mobile home parks) specific to this use.</i>	Places	•
	<i>Enforce local building codes and require existing substandard structures to come into compliance or be removed from the site. Explore legislative rezoning of mobile homes to an appropriate district.</i>	Products	••
	<i>Identify housing varieties and price ranges under-utilized in community and region.</i>	People	••
	<i>Promote development specifically targeted to meet these market needs.</i>	People	••
Gradually develop land use patterns that maintain similar uses in similar areas.	<i>Gradually reposition land uses to phase Riverton into a scenario more closely paralleling Euclidean zoning.</i>	Places	••
	<i>Adopt land use plan and work to increase property values through implementing strong land use principles as contemplated in target zone areas.</i>	Places	••
	<i>Consider efforts to rezone property in accordance with the proposed land use plan as needed.</i>	Places	••
	<i>Consider implementing a land swapping program to assist homeowners in moving out of targeted commercial districts</i>	People	•••
	<i>Consider alternatives for increasing stringency of zoning enforcement, such as SSCRPC partnership, engaging consultant, or hiring a zoning administrator.</i>	Products	••
Periodically assess this comprehensive plan for any needed updates.	<i>Review and amend the comprehensive plan as necessary in five years to account for changes in land use and development patterns since inception.</i>	Products	•
	<i>Update the comprehensive plan as needed in ten years.</i>	Products	•

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Appendix E: Proposed Land Use Map and Additional Community Development “Views”

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Data Source:
Sangamon County GIS
AU, 9.16.14



Village of Riverton Proposed Land Use

Additional Views of Historic Mixed-Use Commercial Area along Sangamon Riverfront and Jefferson Street Corridor



Aerial view



Overhead view, Jefferson Street looking west



Jefferson Street facing west toward riverfront park



Close-up: Scenic viewing area view from west



3rd Street and Jefferson Street looking west

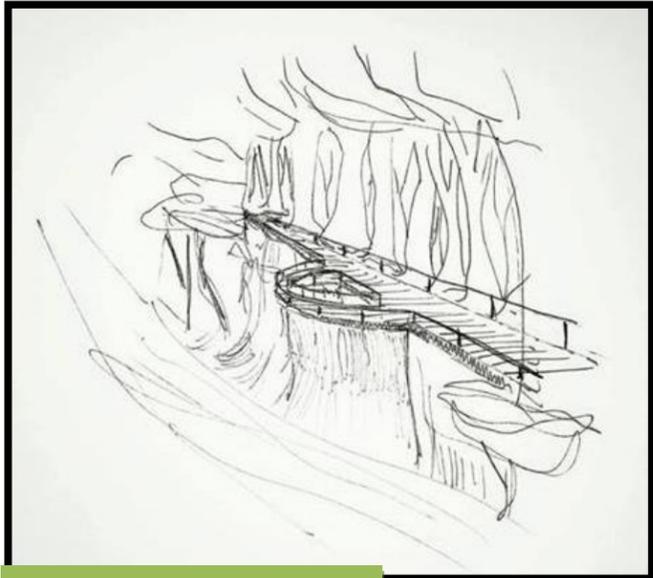


Clockwise from Left: Birdseye View, 3rd and Jefferson; 3rd Street and Jefferson Street, view to the east; Jefferson Street looking west towards river; Scenic viewing area at riverfront



Proposed mixed-use development with scenic viewing area in foreground.

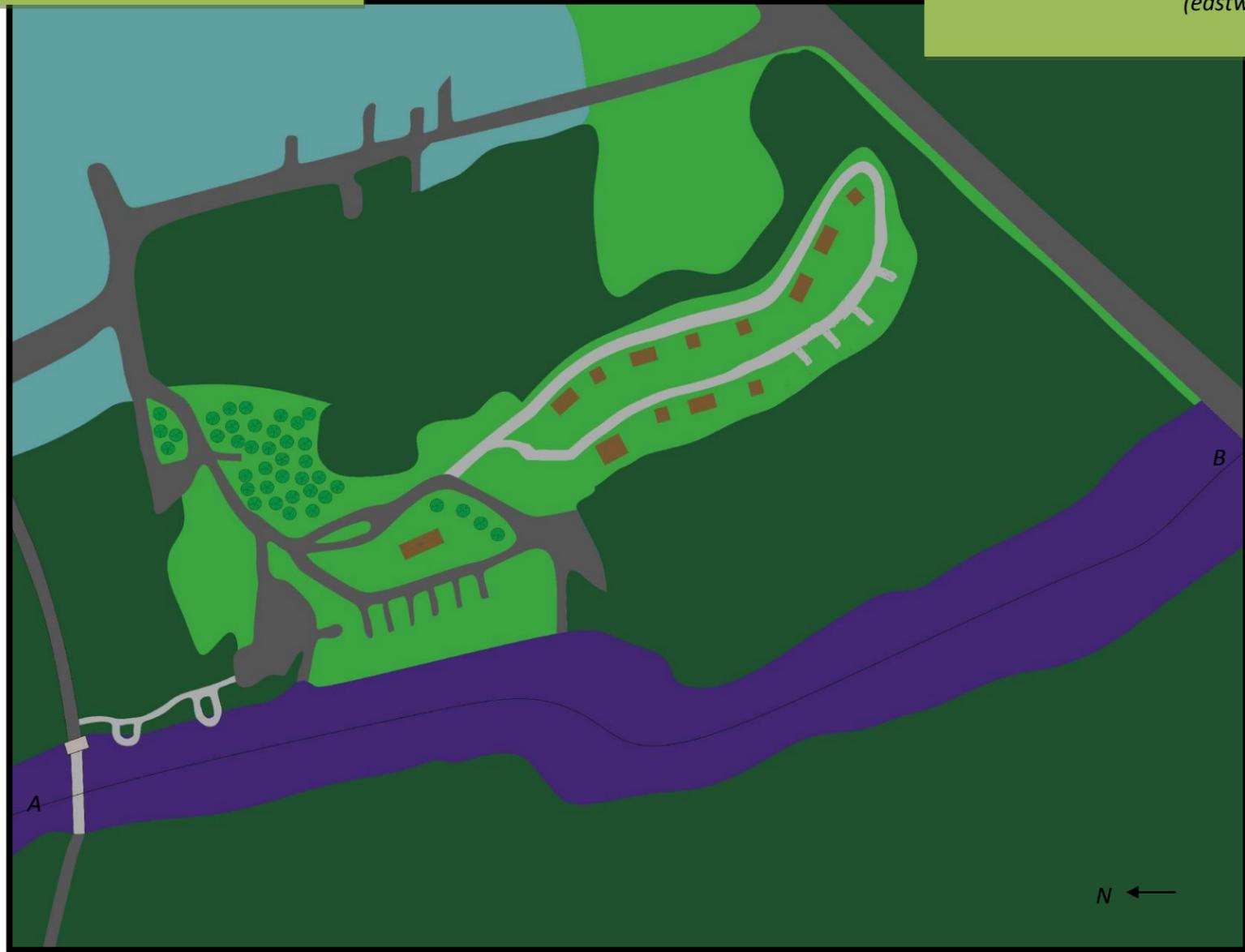
Additional Views of Wheeland Park Recreational Destination Character Area Improvements



Envisioned River walk Area



Actual image of current boat launch area, prior to improvements contemplated in Comprehensive Plan



Envisioned Campground Improvements (eastward view)

	EXISTING ROAD
	PROPOSED ROAD
	RIVERTON
	CAMPGROUND
	WOODLAND

PERMANENT PICNIC SHELTER

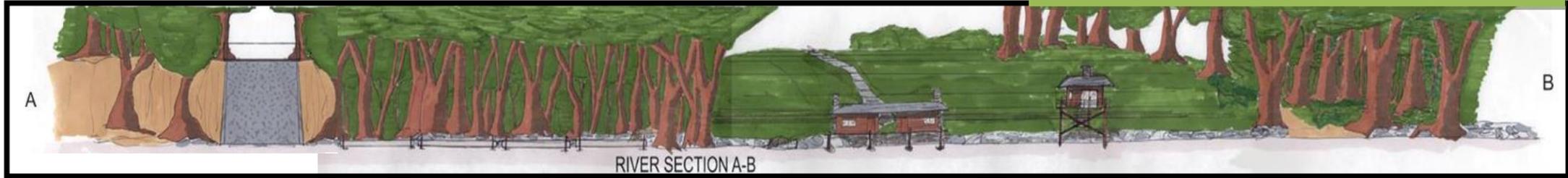
CABIN EXTERIOR STILTS

CABIN EXTERIOR STYLE TWO

CABIN INTERIOR

Envisioned Rustic Cabin Improvements

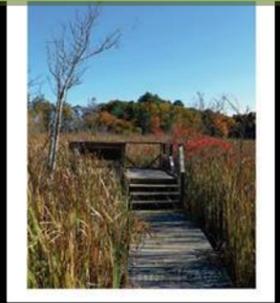
Envisioned Pedestrian Bridge and Campground Area Side View (eastward view)



Additional Views of Clear Lake Recreational Destination Character Area Improvement



Natural Amenities in Clear Lake Area



Envisioned recreational uses



TO LINCOLN'S NEW SALEM
25 MILES

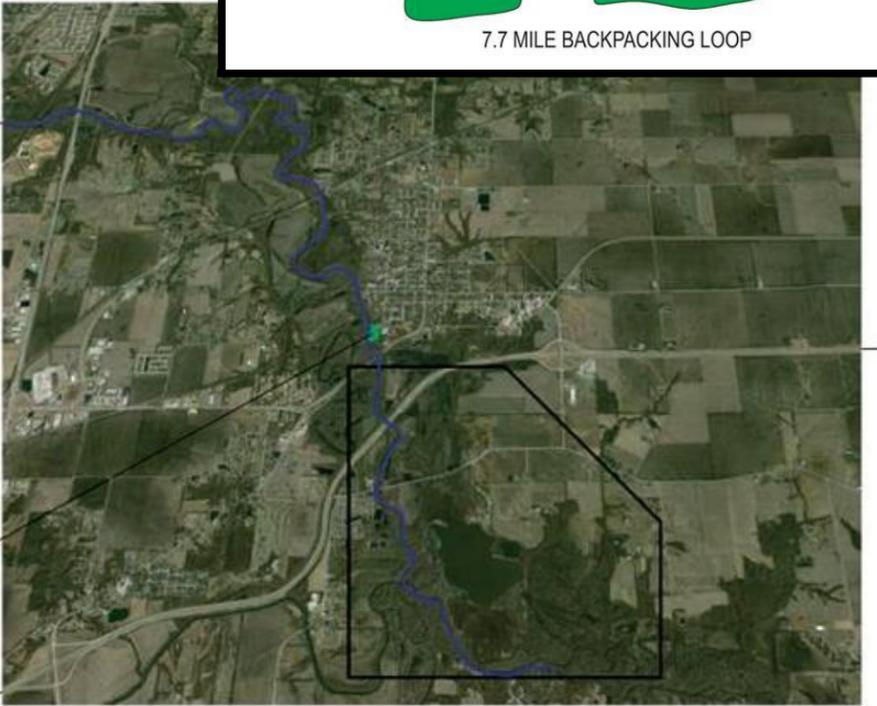
CARPENTER PARK
3 MILES

RIVERSIDE PARK
2.5 MILES

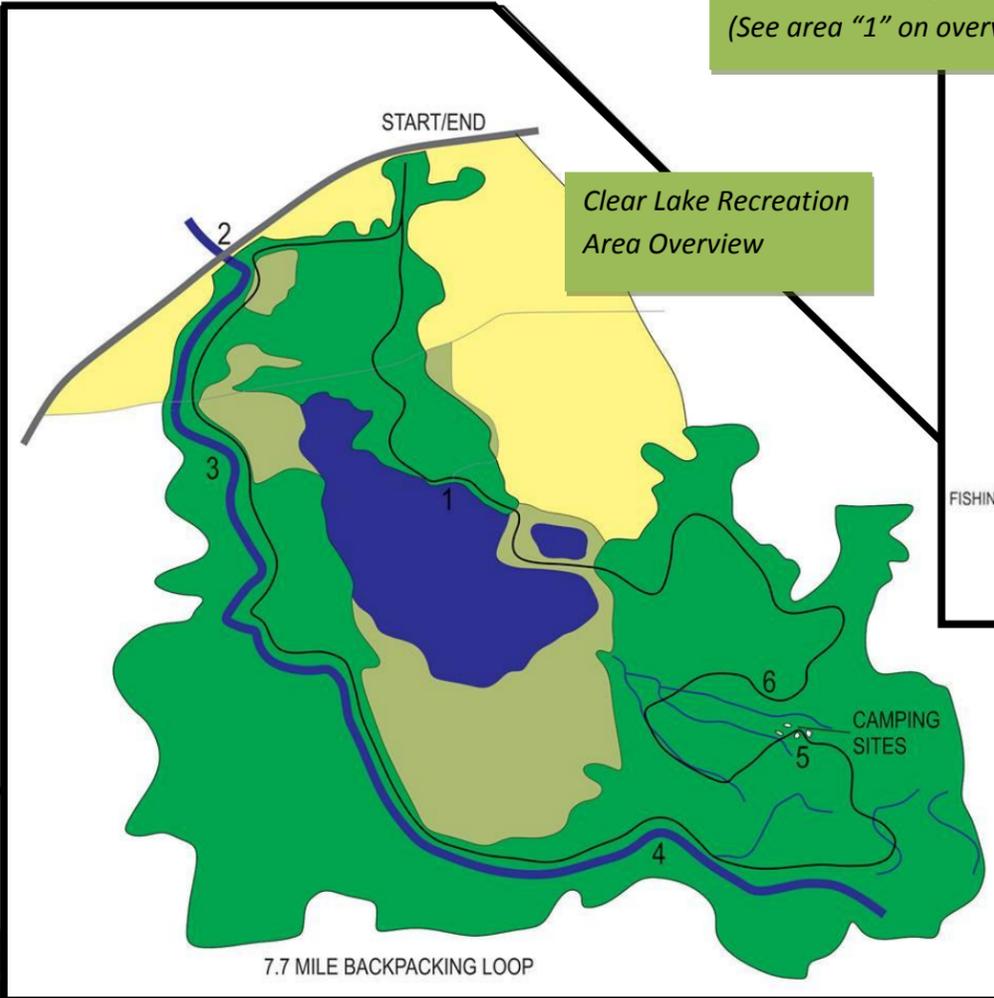
GURGEN'S PARK
3.5 MILES

WHEELAND PARK

TO SPRINGFIELD
3 MILES

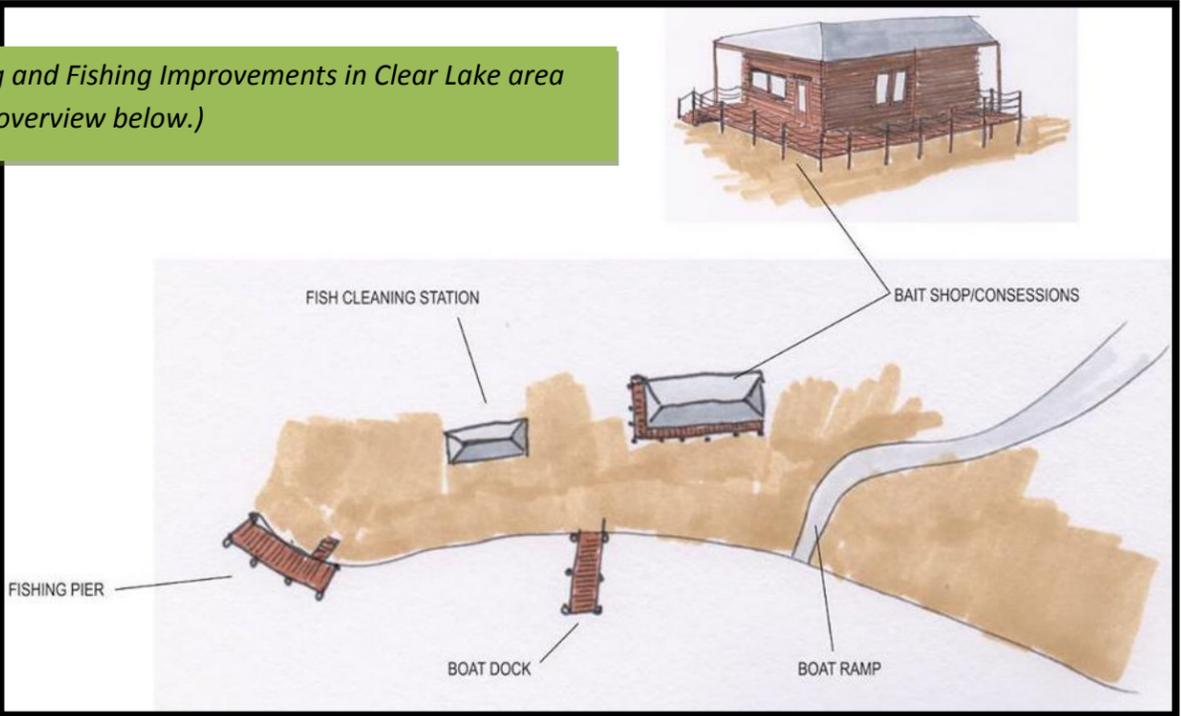


TO DECATUR
32 MILES



Clear Lake Recreation Area Overview

Proposed Boating and Fishing Improvements in Clear Lake area (See area "1" on overview below.)



Envisioned recreational uses





**Village of Riverton
Comprehensive Plan**

