



DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The primary function of the Community Development Department is to help direct and manage growth and land use changes in DeKalb County. The principal way in which the department aids in such management is through the interpretation, application and enforcement of the county's Unified Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinances, Subdivision Regulations, Building Codes and Stormwater Management regulations by facilitating an efficient development process and influencing investment in the community.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The purpose of the Stormwater Management Plan is to allow management and mitigation of the possible negative effects of urbanization and development on flooding and stormwater drainage in DeKalb County. This purpose is to be achieved by consolidating the existing stormwater management framework into a united, countywide structure; recommending minimum standards for floodplain and stormwater management; and establishing a countywide Plan for the management of stormwater runoff, including the management of natural and manmade drainage ways, including watersheds. The Department convenes a 12-member advisory board that is responsible for plan review which meets at minimum once a quarter or as a need arises.

- Revising the Upper South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Plan
- Updating County Stormwater Ordinance to reflect new State of Illinois requirements
- Department staff have volunteered to sit on the City of Sandwich's Lower Little Rock Creek Watershed Planning Committee which includes other County and regional partners in order to analyze the watershed and develop a planning document for the betterment of the watershed.

HAZARD MITIGATION

The DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan identifies activities that can be undertaken by both the public and the private sectors to reduce safety hazards, health hazards, and property damage caused by natural and manmade hazards. The Plan focuses on the six major natural hazards facing DeKalb County:

- Severe summer storms
- Severe winter storms
- Floods
- Tornadoes
- Extreme cold events
- Extreme heat events

Along with four manmade hazards:

- Radiological release incidents
- Transportation related incidents
- Utility interruption
- Hazardous material incidents (HazMat)

This Plan fulfills the federal mitigation planning requirements, and provides the County and its municipalities and institutions with a blueprint for reducing the impacts of these natural and manmade hazards on people and property.
- Finished 5-year plan update and currently under FEMA review.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Business Incubator - Graduated the following tenant(s): New Traditions Publishing
New tenants: Learning Technology Center of Illinois
- Sustained partnerships with key entrepreneur service organizations to utilize Incubator for client meetings:
 - NIU EIGERlabs and Center for Product Development
 - Fox Valley SCORE Chapter
 - IL Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Waubensee Community College/Kishwaukee College
 - Kishwaukee College Workforce and Community Education
- Provided grant writing services to: Somonauk and Lee for DeKalb County Community Foundation programs
- Coordinator for DeKalb County Mayors Forum meeting quarterly/as needed for community collaboration and networking, esp. in sharing COVID-19 resources, impacts and coordinating communication with Gov Office.
- Coordinating DeKalb County Thriving - Comp Econ Dev Strategic Planning Teams 3 & 5
- Represented DeKalb County on the Kane/Kendall/DeKalb County Workforce Board
- Coordinates Small Business Network Resources Team (action item from DeKalb County CEDS) with updates of entrepreneurship support services and collaborative outreach planning:

Fox Valley SCORE

DeKalb Chamber of Commerce

City of Sycamore

Kishwaukee College

Sycamore Chamber of Commerce

DeKalb County Economic Development Corp

City of DeKalb

Sandwich Area Chamber of Commerce

Waubensee Comm College – IL SBDC

City of Genoa

Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce

Sandwich Economic Development Corp

Northern Illinois University: Center for Govt Studies, EIGERlab and Center for Product Development, Community Affairs

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (RPC)

Established in 2002, the DeKalb County RPC is a cooperative organization consisting of representatives from 14 municipalities and the County that serves as a forum for communication and coordination on issues of regional importance as outlined in the charter. Commission members are nominated from each municipality and appointed by the county board chair. DeKalb County Community Development Department provides staff support and technical assistance to communities on the issues discussed. The RPC convenes five to six times per year.

RPC 2020 Agenda Highlights

- DeKalb County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan & Teams
- Census 2020 Countywide Promotion, Events & Outreach
- Countywide GIS Community Infrastructure Mapping Project
- Local Government Archive Project – DeKalb County History Center
- Property Maintenance Codes & Enforcement
- COVID-19 Updates: Community & Business Impacts; State Assistance Programs
- Annexation Types, Processes and Resources
- Comprehensive Plan Status of Each Community
- IL Small Business Development Center (WCC/KC) Programs & Resources for your Community

OTHER DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

Staff continue to improve internal department operations and efficiencies with accepting credit card payments, updated permit and forms available online, and improved tracking of open permits. Beyond the efforts noted above the Department of Community Development remains involved in a variety of other capacities county wide. Staff are either seated on committees or boards or work in cooperation with our government and nonprofit partners. The following groups or organizations are just a few examples of the department’s partnerships:

- Northwest Water Planning Alliance (NWPA)
- DeKalb County Farm Bureau (DCFB)
- City of DeKalb’s Annie Glidden North Taskforce (AGN)
- DeKalb Sycamore Transportation Study (DSATS)
- International Code Council (ICC)
- American Planning Association (APA)
- DeKalb County Mayors Forum
- DeKalb County Economic Development Corp (DCEDC)
- DeKalb County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau (DCCVB)
- Soil and Water Conservation District of DeKalb County (SWCDDC)
- DeKalb County Community Foundation (DCCF)
- Illinois Association of County Zoning Officials (IACZO)
- Kane, Kendall and DeKalb County Workforce Board
- DeKalb County Thriving – CEDS Teams 3 & 5

PLANNING, ZONING & BUILDING ACTIONS

Site Development Permits	Previously Open	New	Closed / Waived
2018	14	28	17
2019	24	17	12
2020	22	26	29

Violations	Previously Open	New	Closed	State’s Atty / Admin Order*
2018	15	5	3	4
2019	17	16	12	4
2020	21	18	4	5

*ITEMS HELD IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND NOT TRULY OPEN/CLOSED

Zoning Actions	Special Uses	Variations	Text Amendments	Map Amendments	Other	TOTALS
2018	50	5	2	1	1	59
2019	7	5	0	1	0	13
2020	28	2	3	0	0	33

DeKalb County Community Development Department 10 Year Summary Building Report (FY 2011-2020)						
Fiscal Year	Homes, New	Farm Buildings	Other Permits	Total Permits	Total # of Inspections	Value of Construction
FY 11	6	47	128	181	534	\$14,876,816
FY 12	11	66	146	223	702	\$14,380,279
FY 13	13	53	142	208	731	\$9,360,431
FY 14	9	34	173	216	634	\$26,418,968
FY 15	27	44	208	279	830	\$15,707,332
FY 16	15	36	180	242	930	\$37,060,000
FY 17	12	28	197	237	798	\$10,547,745
FY 18	5	19	176	200	648	\$10,803,513
FY 19	8	21	244	273	762	\$17,206,929
FY20	7	30	320	357	899	\$28,700,091
10 Year Totals	113	378	1,914	2,416	7,468	\$185,062,104
10 Year Averages	11	38	191	242	747	\$18,506,210