



VILLAGE OF METAMORA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

AUGUST 2014

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PROJECT CONSULTANT

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Nick Hayward, Planner III

Ryan Harms, Planner I



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INTRODUCTION

“One of the nice things about a town like Metamora is that it’s a real community with a downtown and schools within walking distance and green spaces for kids to play and homes congregated in such a way that they give off a sense of neighborhood. The town is not just a series of subdivisions with few of those amenities. The best way to ensure that Metamora is able to keep what it has — which is very much worth keeping, by the way — is to plan for it, to get ahead of the curve so that the residents themselves, through their elected representatives, control their own destinies. And that’s why it’s great to see Metamora updating its comprehensive plan.”

- Adapted from “Planning for Growth Minimizes Mistakes”

Peoria Journal Star, January 24, 2001

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A comprehensive plan can be described as a blueprint for community improvement. It is a document created by a local unit of government that essentially answers the question, “How can our community become an even better place to live, work, and visit?” Local units of government such as the Village of Metamora must serve many functions and address many different issues to become vibrant, attractive places and to help residents attain a high quality of life. Planning is necessary to achieve these outcomes. Thus, a comprehensive plan is a document created by a local government that addresses a variety of community topics and concerns and puts forth recommendations for community improvement. This particular plan addresses the future of Metamora for the next twenty years.

A comprehensive plan typically addresses future land use by identifying desired changes in land development in and around the community, and this comprehensive plan for Metamora is no exception. While future land use is an important topic that comprehensive plans address, it is just one topic. A comprehensive plan can address a variety of issues,

and it should address the issues that are of greatest concern to an individual community. Therefore, a “one size fits all” approach to comprehensive planning does not work; a useful, well-developed comprehensive plan addresses a community’s most pressing issues in order to reflect the unique situation of that community.

Because a comprehensive plan is a document focused on community improvement, it outlines a vision for what the community wants to be in the future. This vision is expressed through the statement of goals. Goals are broad aims that the community wants to achieve in the future. When goals are accomplished, community improvement is realized.

Because goals are broad aims, specific tasks need to be identified that, when accomplished, will lead to the achievement of goals. The specific tasks that result in the achievement of goals are action items. The goal-action item framework employed in this comprehensive plan identifies the individual steps that Metamora can take to achieve its goals and improve the community.

WHY DID METAMORA CREATE THIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

Metamora created this comprehensive plan to chart a course for making the Village an even better place to live, work, and play. Metamora last developed a comprehensive plan in 2001. Comprehensive plans should be updated regularly because communities and the forces that impact a community are always changing. Thus it is important for a community to regularly assess itself and the forces that are impacting its well-being in order to identify new goals and action items as appropriate to strengthen the community and its quality life.

Prior to its 2001 plan, Metamora had not completed a comprehensive plan since 1963. In the 38 years between those two plans, the population of the village increased by nearly 50% and the population of Woodford County increased by nearly 45%. Woodford County has become an increasingly popular place to live, and with this trend likely to continue into the future, it is important for Metamora to take inventory of what it has, understand what it needs to improve, and answer the question, “How should our community grow?”

The development of this comprehensive plan was funded by a disaster recovery grant from a special allocation of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to assist areas that were

impacted in 2008 by Hurricane Ike and its remnants. This funding, known as the “Hurricane Ike” grant, was received by Peoria County on behalf of Woodford County and the City of Peoria, and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) administered the grant for Peoria County. TCRPC facilitated this comprehensive planning process for Metamora. This planning process represents an important step in making Metamora an even better place to live, work, and play.

HOW WAS THIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPED?

The Village of Metamora decided in October of 2013 to develop a new comprehensive plan using the Hurricane Ike funding and assistance from TCRPC. The Village established a Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) comprised of residents, Village Board members, Village staff, business leaders, and representatives of key organizations. The committee began holding monthly meetings with TCRPC staff in December 2013.

The first phase of the planning process consisted of collecting baseline information to determine existing conditions in Metamora. TCRPC staff collected population data, housing data, income data, and land use data. TCRPC staff also conducted a series of key stakeholder interviews with community leaders and developed two community surveys in both online and

print format that were promoted throughout the village. The resident survey was completed by 243 respondents and provided residents’ opinions on community issues and services, community assets, community challenges, economic development, recreation, and communication. The business survey was completed by 26 local business owners and gave insight on the advantages and disadvantages to doing business in Metamora, along with activities the village could pursue to facilitate running a successful business in the community. An open house was held in March 2014 to allow residents to review the baseline information, meet with committee members and TCRPC staff, and offer input.

The second phase of the planning process consisted of identifying goals and action items for village improvement. Using the baseline information, the Comprehensive Plan Committee identified goals and action items in eight topic areas. These topic areas are:

- Economic Development;
- Education;
- Communication;
- Recreation;
- Infrastructure;
- Public Safety;

- Transportation; and
- Disaster Mitigation.

Preliminary goals were presented to residents at a second open house held in June 2014.

The committee also developed the future land use map. After the goals, action items, and future land use map were completed, the final document was compiled and presented to the public on the village website and at a public hearing. The final document was then submitted to the Village Board for formal adoption.

Community engagement was an important part of the planning process. Obtaining input from the community helped the committee to identify important challenges facing Metamora and identify ways of addressing those challenges. In addition, obtaining input from the community helps to build capacity and support for implementing the plan's action items. The community surveys, key stakeholder interviews, and open house events were designed to engage community members and obtain their input.

HOW IS THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ORGANIZED?

The comprehensive plan is divided into different sections by topic area. After a community overview and a description of Metamora's population are provided, information about land use in Metamora

and the Village's future land use map are presented. Information about housing in the village is also presented. The remaining sections address the eight topic areas discussed above. Each of these sections contains text and applicable tables, charts, survey results, and/or maps that describe existing conditions and trends affecting Metamora. The goals and action items for each section are listed at the end of the section.

An important note is that neither the comprehensive plan nor the future land use map hold the force of law; they are advisory documents intended to guide village policy and land development. So, the future land use map does not prescribe how land will be developed in the future. Rather, the future land use map shows how land should be developed to promote a high quality of life in Metamora.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



Present-day Metamora has been inhabited since the settlement of the Sowards family in western Woodford County in the mid-1820s. The Hanover Company laid out what is now the village in 1836, naming it Hanover. Hanover was renamed Metamora in 1845, incorporated as a town in 1859, and incorporated as a village in 1875, which it remains today.

Metamora served as the seat of Woodford County from 1843 to 1896, and during that time, future President Abraham Lincoln and future Vice President Adlai Stevenson I practiced law in the village. Over the years, Metamora has grown from a farming community to one more closely related to the Greater Peoria region in terms of economic base and employment.

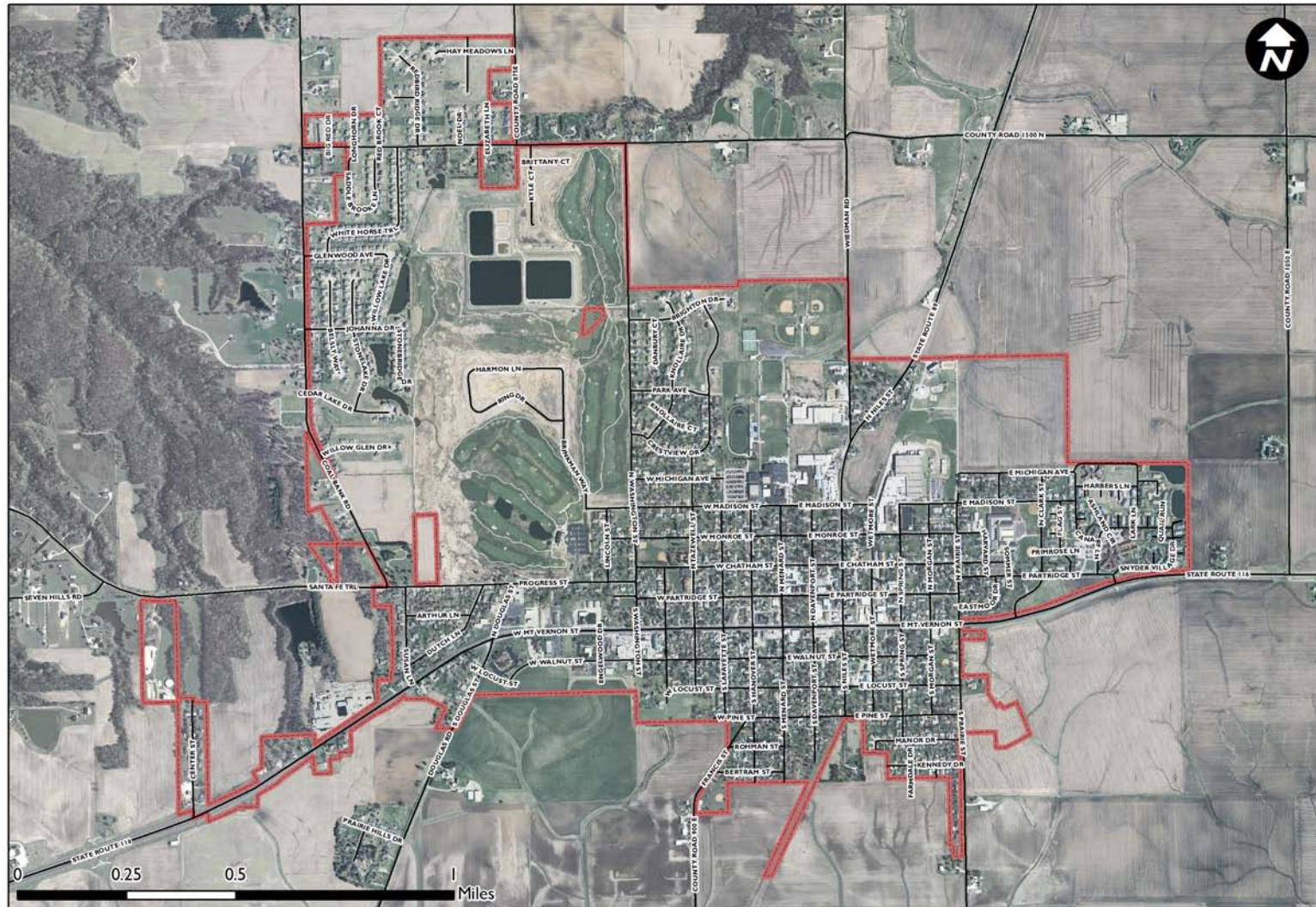
The historic core of Metamora follows a traditional grid street pattern. Village Square sits at the center of the grid and houses a park, local commercial uses, Village Hall, and the Metamora Courthouse State Historic Site. The remainder of the gridded

portion is comprised of mostly residential uses, with some commercial and light industrial uses scattered throughout. Metamora Grade School and Metamora Township High School are located just north of the village grid. St. Mary's Church and St. Mary's School are also located in historic Metamora, to the west. Illinois State Route 116 runs east-west through the village and serves as a focal point for commercial development, particularly near Village Square and to the west. Illinois State Route 89 runs through Metamora to the north near the village's larger industrial uses.

Newer post-war development on the periphery of the village exhibits development patterns typical of modern suburban development. Businesses and institutional buildings such as churches along Route 116 feature larger setbacks and parking lots. Residential subdivisions to the north near the high school, to the northwest along Coal Bank Road near Black Partridge Park, and to the west are built along curvilinear streets and cul-de-sacs. Residential units in the Snyder Village retirement community to the east follow a similar pattern. One of the most recent additions to the village is Metamora Fields Golf Club, an 18-hole golf course occupying former agricultural land between the core

of the village and residential developments along Coal Bank Road.

MAP 1: METAMORA OVERVIEW

**Village of Metamora**
Overview



POPULATION

The population of Metamora is changing. A review of population data enables the village to identify population trends, develop an understanding of possible upcoming changes, and identify issues that can be addressed to enhance quality of life in Metamora.

RECENT CHANGES

Table 1 displays the population of Metamora from 1940 to the most recent decennial census in 2010 along with the percentage change for each ten-year segment. After growing only modestly between 1980 and 2000, Metamora experienced rapid population growth between 2000 and 2010. This growth occurred to the northwest near Black Partridge Park.

**TABLE 1: POPULATION OF METAMORA
1940 - 2010**

Census	Population	Percentage
1940	896	—
1950	1,368	52.7%
1960	1,808	32.2%
1970	2,176	20.4%
1980	2,482	14.1%
1990	2,520	1.5%
2000	2,700	7.1%
2010	3,636	34.7%

Population growth in Metamora from 2000 to 2010 corresponds with growth throughout the Peoria area during this time, particularly in places away from the traditional urban core. Germantown Hills experienced a 63% population increase from 2000 to 2010, while Washington saw a 40% increase. This growth can be largely attributed to commuters living in Metamora and similar communities while working elsewhere in the region. Table 2 below presents the change in population during the last decade for Metamora, comparable communities, and Woodford County.

The American Community Survey (ACS), a program of the US Census Bureau that provides annual population data, has provided a more recent estimate of Metamora's population. The most recent estimate of Metamora's population (from the 2008-2012 ACS) is 3,396, a decrease of 240 residents from the 2010 Census. It is worth noting, however, that ACS estimates are developed using a sample of the population – not a complete count of the population like the decennial Census – and consist of multi-year averages and have a margin of error associated with them. The margin of error for this estimate is ± 334 residents, indicating that the estimate may be considerably low.

**TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE CHANGE OF POPULATION OF
METAMORA AND COMPARISON GEOGRAPHIES**

	2000	2010	Pct.
Metamora	2,700	3,636	34.7%
Eureka	4,871	5,295	8.7%
Germantown Hills	2,111	3,438	62.9%
Roanoke	1,994	2,065	3.6%
Washington	10,841	15,134	39.6%
Woodford County	35,469	38,664	9.0%

FUTURE POPULATION PROJECTION

Projecting a community's future population can help inform future land use decisions. By identifying the projected number of future residents, estimates of the quantity of land needed for residential development can be generated and included on a community's future land use map.

A common method of projecting future population is the cohort-component method. The cohort-component method involves dividing a population into age cohorts and using birth rates, death rates and migration rates to project the population change from one age cohort to the next age cohort. Metamora is a rather small community, and because rates that would have been used in the cohort-component method reflect population dynamics for a larger area, simpler projection methods were used to project Metamora's future population.

Four population projections were developed for Metamora. Three projections were based on simple assumptions of future growth and the fourth projection was based on a ratio of Metamora's population to Woodford County's population. The projections are explained below.

- **10-Year Linear.** This projection assumed Metamora's population would increase over the next 10 years by the total increase between 2000 and 2010. This method yielded a projected 2030 population of 5,508 residents.

- **20-Year Linear.** This projection assumed Metamora's population would increase over the next 20 years by the total increase between 1990 and 2010. This method yielded a projected 2030 population of 4,752 residents.
- **20-Year Exponential.** This projection assumed Metamora's population would increase over the next 20 years by the same percentage that it increased between 1990 and 2010. This method yielded a projected 2030 population of 5,246 residents.
- **Ratio.** This projection assumed the ratio of Metamora's population to Woodford County's population in 2010 would hold constant in 2030. Metamora's 2010 population was 9.4% of Woodford County's 2010 population, and assuming that Woodford County's population will grow to 45,000 residents in 2030, this method yielded a projected 2030 population of 4,232 residents.

The four population projections are presented in Table 3.

The 20-Year Linear projection of 4,752 is near the middle of the range of the four projections, and the Comprehensive Plan Committee chose to use this projection for this planning process. Of course, the future population cannot be known with certainty, so moving forward, the village should monitor its population and make adjustments to the future land use map as necessary.

TABLE 3: METAMORA POPULATION PROJECTIONS

	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
10-Year Linear	2,520	2,700	3,636	4,572	5,508
20-Year Linear	2,520	2,700	3,636	4,194	4,752
20-Year Exponential	2,520	2,700	3,636	4,441	5,246
Woodford County Ratio	2,520	2,700	3,636	3,950	4,232

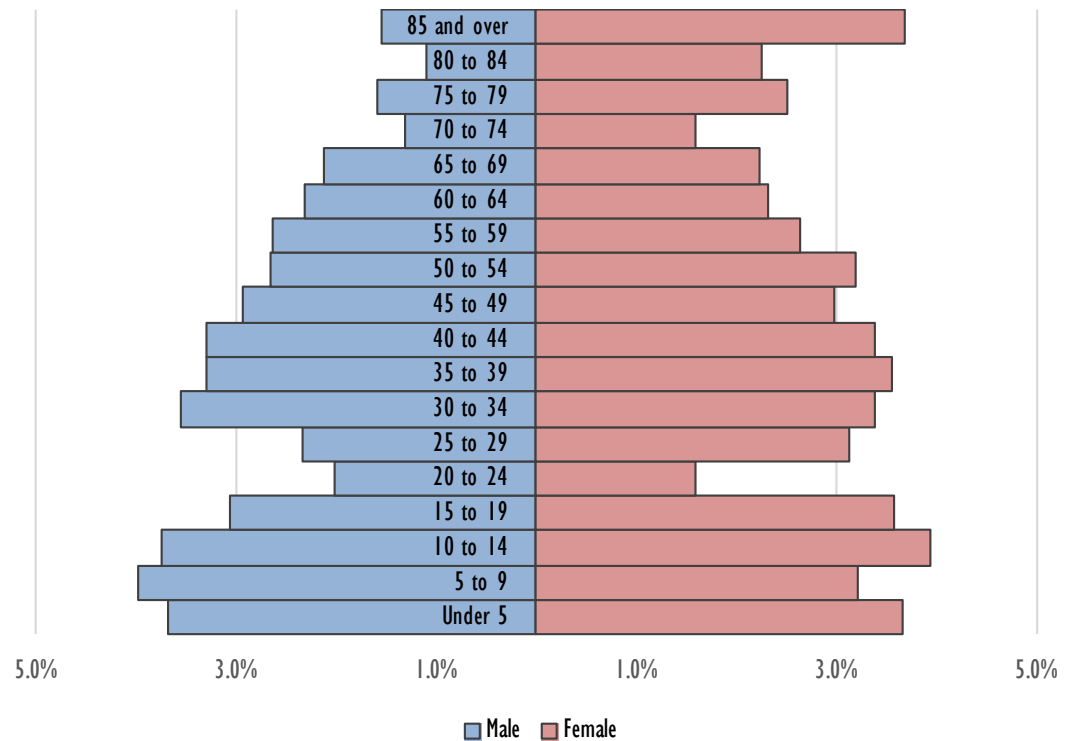
AGE

A population pyramid is a common method of conveying data about the age of a community's population. Chart 1 to the right is a population pyramid for Metamora. The chart presents the number of male and female residents broken down by five-year age cohorts according to the 2010 Census.

The age groups with the most males in Metamora in 2010 were the 5 to 9, 10 to 14, and Under 5 groups, and the age groups with the most females were the 10 to 14, 85 and over, and Under 5 groups. These data indicate a large number of young children are being raised in Metamora, and examining the total population of the five-year age cohorts confirms this inference. Children 10 to 14, Under 5, and 5 to 9 are the three largest age cohorts by total population. The total population of all age cohorts is presented in Table 4 on the following page.

Comparing the population of 2000 and 2010 age cohorts allows one to see which cohort populations increased, decreased, or remained constant during Metamora's period of robust growth. Table 5 on the following page shows this comparison. The population of every age cohort increased with the exception of the 70 to 74 and 80 to 84 age groups. The age groups with the largest increases were the Under 5, 5 to 9, and 30 to 34 cohorts.

CHART 1: POPULATION PYRAMID OF 2010 POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER



The 2000 and 2010 age cohort populations can be used to examine the sort of residents Metamora is or is not attracting. For instance, the data show that Metamora has done well attracting younger families. Large population increases among adults in their mid-20s to late-30s and children suggest that couples are choosing to start or raise their families in Metamora.

Another observation is the relatively large increase among adults 20 to 24 in 2010, which in 2000 was the smallest age cohort. This is traditionally the age where young adults either go to college or enter the workforce. These young people could be choosing to attend college closer to home and commute to avoid paying room and board, or choosing to enter the

TABLE 4: POPULATION OF FIVE-YEAR AGE COHORTS, 2010

	Total	Pct.	Males	Pct.	Females	Pct.
Total population	3,636	—	1,716	47.2%	1,920	52.8%
Under 5	267	7.3%	134	3.7%	133	3.7%
5 to 9	262	7.2%	145	4.0%	117	3.2%
10 to 14	279	7.7%	136	3.7%	143	3.9%
15 to 19	241	6.6%	111	3.1%	130	3.6%
20 to 24	131	3.6%	73	2.0%	58	1.6%
25 to 29	199	5.5%	85	2.3%	114	3.1%
30 to 34	252	6.9%	129	3.5%	123	3.4%
35 to 39	249	6.8%	120	3.3%	129	3.5%
40 to 44	243	6.7%	120	3.3%	123	3.4%
45 to 49	215	5.9%	107	2.9%	108	3.0%
50 to 54	213	5.9%	97	2.7%	116	3.2%
55 to 59	192	5.3%	96	2.6%	96	2.6%
60 to 64	168	4.6%	84	2.3%	84	2.3%
65 to 69	158	4.3%	77	2.1%	81	2.2%
70 to 74	106	2.9%	48	1.3%	58	1.6%
75 to 79	149	4.1%	58	1.6%	91	2.5%
80 to 84	122	3.4%	40	1.1%	82	2.3%
85 and over	190	5.2%	56	1.5%	134	3.7%

workforce and live near home to save money. Either way, these young adults can contribute greatly to the vitality of the community.

An important issue for Metamora will be retaining young families and attracting more to the area. This plan identifies action items Metamora can

pursue to promote itself as a desirable place to live, work, and play.

TABLE 5: CHANGE IN POPULATION FOR FIVE-YEAR AGE COHORTS, 2000-2010

	2000	2010	Change
Total population	2,700	3,636	+936
Under 5	151	267	+116
5 to 9	170	262	+92
10 to 14	198	279	+81
15 to 19	187	241	+54
20 to 24	88	131	+43
25 to 29	128	199	+71
30 to 34	165	252	+87
35 to 39	167	249	+82
40 to 44	171	243	+72
45 to 49	181	215	+34
50 to 54	169	213	+44
55 to 59	147	192	+45
60 to 64	103	168	+65
65 to 69	121	158	+37
70 to 74	123	106	-17
75 to 79	136	149	+13
80 to 84	138	122	-16
85 and over	157	190	+33

RACE AND ETHNICITY

The population of Metamora is becoming more racially diverse. Table 6 below compares the racial makeup of Metamora's population in 2000 and 2010. In 2000, persons of color only made up 0.9% of the village's population. In 2010, persons of color made up 3.3% of the population. All racial minority groups increased population or held steady, with the exception of the American Indian and Alaska Native group. The group with the largest increase in percentage was the population identifying as two or more races, growing from 0.3% of the population in 2000 to 1.6% in 2010.

TABLE 6: RACIAL COMPOSITION OF POPULATION, 2000 AND 2010

	2000	2010	Change
White	99.1%	96.7%	-2.4%
Black or African American	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.1%	-0.1%
Asian	0.1%	0.5%	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race	0.1%	0.8%	0.7%
Two or More Races	0.3%	1.6%	1.3%

The populations of several comparison geographies are also becoming more racially diverse, though Metamora appears to be doing so faster than most. Table 7 below shows the change in percentage of residents identifying as persons of color between 2000 and 2010 for comparable geographies.

TABLE 7: CHANGE IN PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS OF COLOR

	2000	2010	Change
Metamora	0.9%	3.3%	+2.4%
Eureka	2.0%	2.7%	+0.7%
Germantown Hills	2.1%	4.0%	+1.9%
Roanoke	0.9%	1.6%	+0.7%
Washington	1.6%	3.4%	+1.8%
Woodford County	1.5%	1.1%	-0.4%

Metamora is also becoming more ethnically diverse. Table 8 lists the percentage of the population that is of Hispanic or Latino origin for Metamora and comparison geographies. Individuals of Hispanic or Latino origin represented 1.8 percent of Metamora's total population in 2010, up from 0.6 percent in 2000. All comparison geographies also are becoming more ethnically diverse.

TABLE 8: PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS HISPANIC OR LATINO

	2000	2010	Change
Metamora	0.6%	1.8%	+1.2%
Eureka	1.0%	2.1%	+1.1%
Germantown Hills	0.8%	1.8%	+1.0%
Roanoke	0.2%	1.1%	+0.9%
Washington	0.7%	1.6%	+0.9%
Woodford County	0.7%	1.4%	+0.7%

The increasing racial and ethnic diversity of Metamora and other nearby communities reflects a national demographic trend.

MOBILITY

The United States Census Bureau provides data about where a community's residents lived one year ago. These data can be used to determine the extent to which residents are moving to a community from other areas. Table 9 shows where residents of Metamora and comparable communities in 2012 were living one year before. Metamora had the highest percentage of residents that lived in the same house one year before, along with one of the highest percentages of residents that lived in a different state the year before. This suggests that Metamora has managed to attract people moving to the area from out of state while remaining attractive to existing residents.

The Census Bureau also provides data about the percentage of a community's population that was born in a different country. Table 10 presents these data for Metamora and comparable geographies. Only 0.2% of Metamora's residents are foreign-born; this percentage is lower than that of all comparison geographies except Roanoke

TABLE 9: RESIDENCE ONE YEAR AGO (2012)

	Same House	Different House			
		Same County	Same State	Different State	Abroad
Metamora	93.3%	1.2%	3.6%	1.9%	0.0%
Eureka	80.5%	9.1%	8.2%	1.5%	0.6%
Germantown Hills	89.5%	3.3%	5.3%	1.9%	0.0%
Roanoke	88.5%	7.6%	3.4%	0.0%	0.5%
Washington	85.6%	7.3%	4.1%	2.9%	0.1%
Woodford County	89.0%	4.6%	5.2%	0.9%	0.3%

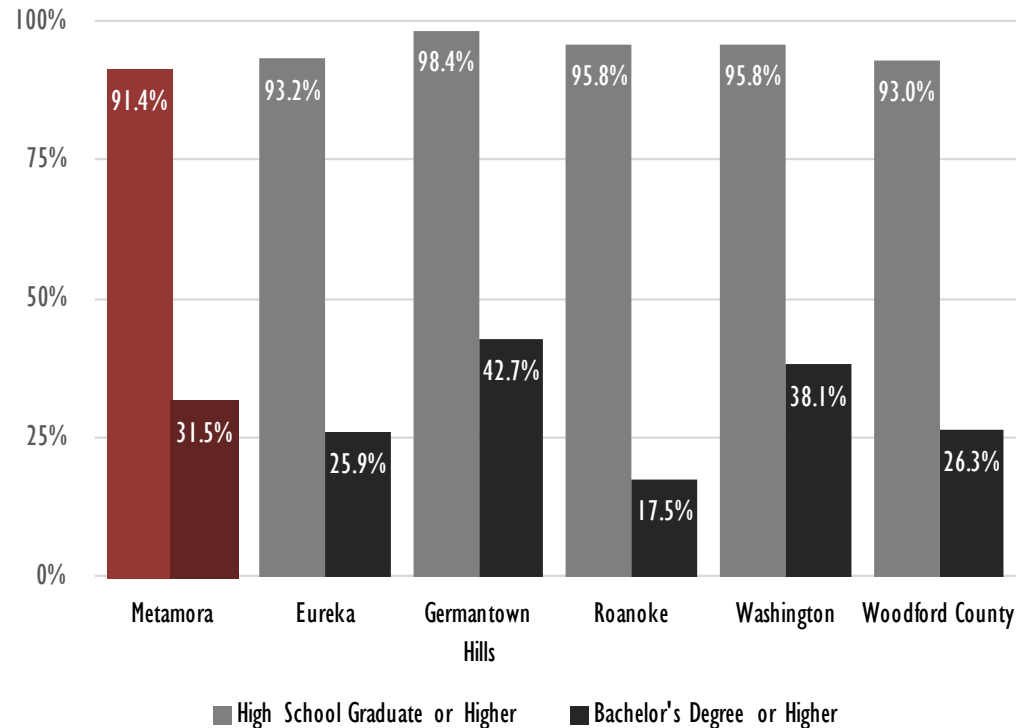
TABLE 10: FOREIGN-BORN RESIDENTS (2012)

Foreign-Born Population (2012)	
Metamora	0.2%
Eureka	1.9%
Germantown Hills	1.5%
Roanoke	0.0%
Washington	2.6%
Woodford County	1.2%

EDUCATION

Metamora is a well-educated community. Chart 2 shows the educational attainment of village residents in 2012. The chart shows both the percentage of residents that have received at minimum a high school diploma and the percentage that have received a bachelor's degree or a higher college degree. In 2012, more than 91% of Metamora residents had completed at least high school, and more than 31% of Metamora residents had gone on to achieve at least a bachelor's degree. Metamora's percentage of high school graduates is on par with nearby communities and its percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher is one of the highest among comparison communities. Metamora can make use of its residents' strong educational background when marketing itself to potential residents and businesses.

CHART 2: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (2012)



INCOME AND POVERTY

The median household income in Metamora in 2012 was \$58,793, a figure comparable to most nearby communities. Chart 3 to the right presents this comparison. The median household income of Metamora falls near the middle against comparison communities, though it is lower than the median for Woodford County and nearby Germantown Hills.

The poverty rates for families and individuals in Metamora were very low in 2012. Chart 4 to the right presents the 2012 poverty rates for families and individuals in Metamora and in comparison geographies. In both cases, poverty rates for Metamora were considerably lower than in comparison geographies.

CHART 3: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2012)

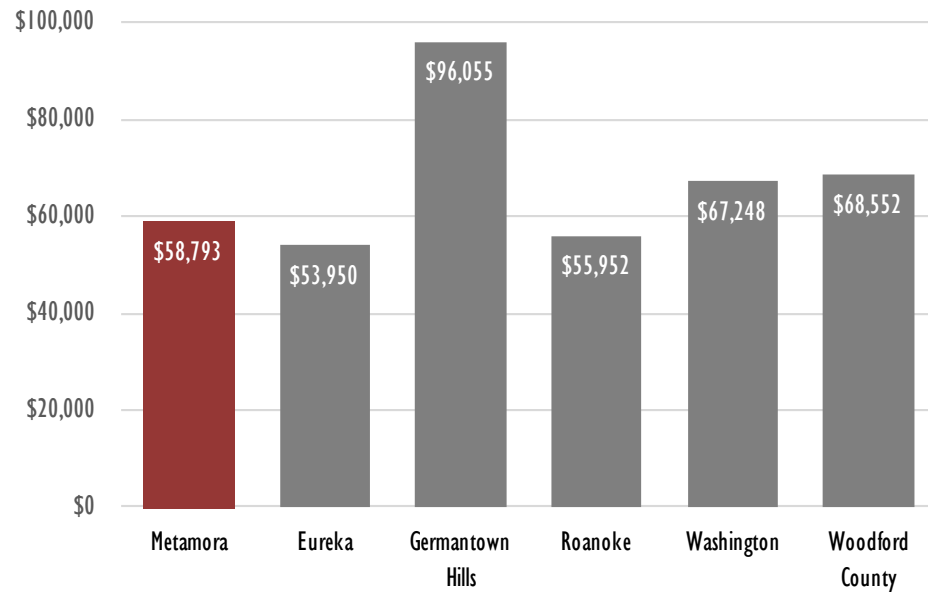
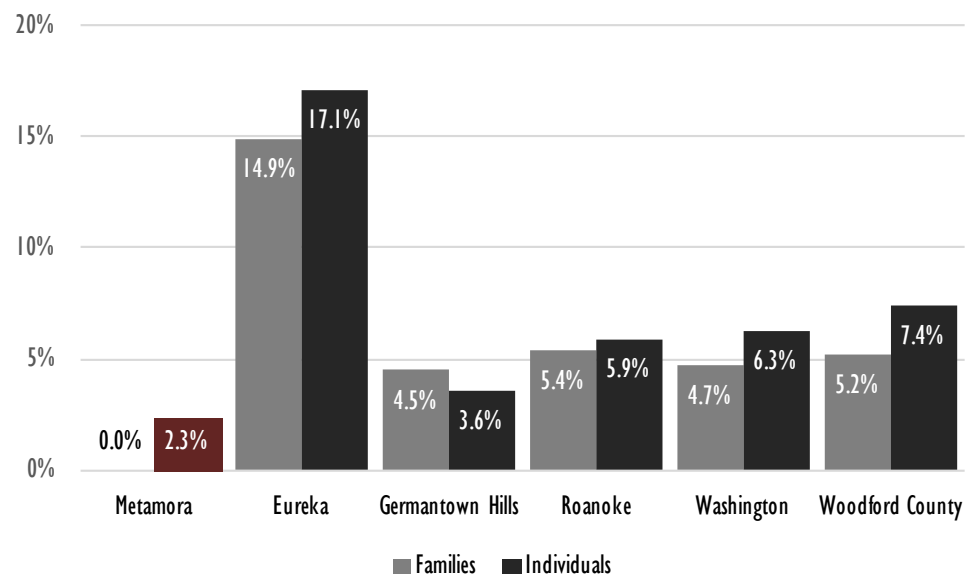


CHART 4: FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL POVERTY RATE (2012)



LAND USE

Metamora is a growing community yet retains its small-town character. As the village's population increases, new land development will occur, altering the community's fabric. It is important to ensure future land development follows a sound development pattern to accommodate growth while promoting the village's character.

CURRENT LAND USE

Current land use was mapped in Metamora as part of this planning process and is shown in Map 2. More than one-third of all land in Metamora is used for single-family residential use, and one-fifth of all land in Metamora is open space. The current land use map was developed using aerial photography and property ownership information, so since the land use of each individual property was not verified, land use totals are approximate. Table 11 lists the number of acres each land use occupies and the percentage of total land for which each land use accounts.

TABLE 11: METAMORA CURRENT LAND USE

Land Use	No. of Acres	Percentage
Agriculture	95.0	8.7%
Commercial	39.4	3.6%
Government	125.9	11.6%
Industrial	51.0	4.7%
Institutional	33.7	3.1%
Multi-Family		
Residential	45.3	4.2%
Open Space	236.2	21.8%
Single-Family		
Residential	398.9	36.7%
Vacant	60.1	5.5%

EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

The area within 1.5 miles of Metamora's boundaries is called the extraterritorial jurisdiction area, or ETJ. The ETJ is important because Metamora – as a result of having a comprehensive plan – can elect to require subdivisions developed within this area to conform to the city's subdivision ordinance. Municipalities in Illinois that have a comprehensive plan are given this right in order to have some control over development that may be annexed into the community at a later date. Thus the city has “subdivision control” over its ETJ.

Metamora's ETJ is shown in Map 3. Because Metamora's ETJ overlaps with the ETJ of Germantown Hills to the west, both communities have agreed upon a planning boundary. The planning boundary is a north-south line on axis with the intersection of Route 116 and Hickory Point Road. Should a land development project be proposed within this overlap area, Metamora should still coordinate with Germantown Hills and Woodford County to ensure the project is in keeping with a sound growth pattern and sound development practices.

EXISTING FUTURE LAND USE PLANS

Woodford County

Woodford County has a future land use map to guide development in the unincorporated area of the County. The County's future land use map was adopted in November 2011. This map shows the general areas where development should occur to ensure an orderly development pattern that is in the best interests of current and future residents of the county.

Woodford County's future land use map is shown as Map 4. The map displays a community growth area surrounding Metamora where growth is most likely to

occur. Land beyond the community growth area but still within the ETJ is largely within the “Agriculture” and “Conservation” land use forms, the latter being to the north and northwest of the village. The “Conservation” areas on the map are wooded areas typically surrounding creeks and streams that drain into the Illinois River. Metamora should coordinate with Woodford County when land development is proposed within the unincorporated area in Metamora’s ETJ to ensure the development follows a sound growth pattern and sound development practices.

Germantown Hills

Germantown Hills is undergoing a comprehensive plan update simultaneously with Metamora. The future land use map from that plan is shown in Map 5.

ZONING

It is important to emphasize that a comprehensive plan and a future land use map are advisory documents. Their purpose is to provide a framework for land development and guide village growth. A zoning ordinance governs how land is used within a community—it is the tool that regulates land use in the community.

Metamora’s zoning ordinance regulates land use within the city. The zoning ordinance establishes the following districts:

- AG District – Agricultural

- R-1A District – One Family Residential
- R-1 District – One and Two Family Residential and Zero Lot-Line
- R-2 District – Multiple Family Residential and Zero Lot-Line
- C-1 District – Neighborhood Business
- C-2 District – Central Business
- C-3 District – Highway Commercial
- I-1 District – Light Industrial
- I-2 District – Heavy Industrial
- Open Space District

The current zoning map for Metamora is shown in Map 6. Note that the zoning map can change due to property owners requesting their properties be rezoned.

SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

Metamora also has its own subdivision ordinance. The subdivision ordinance is another tool that regulates land development. It regulates land development by regulating how a property is subdivided.

The subdivision ordinance mandates the subdivision review and approval process; design requirements for subdivisions such as right-of-way width and block length; and utility improvements such

as water supply and wastewater disposal. Because the subdivision ordinance addresses the individual design and function of new subdivision developments, it is important for the Village of Metamora to periodically review its subdivision ordinance to ensure that new subdivision development reflects the community’s desire for how new developments should appear and function.

FUTURE LAND USE

A future land use map (Map 7) for Metamora was developed as part of this planning process. The future land use map identifies the areas where different land uses should be developed in the future. The future land use map is an advisory document and does not hold the force of law, so it should be used to guide development decisions in the future. The zoning ordinance and decisions made by the Planning Commission serve to implement the future land use map by identifying what land uses are allowed within zoning districts and identifying the zoning district in which land should be placed.

The future land use map identifies the types of land uses that should exist or be developed throughout Metamora. The land use categories are intended to provide a guide for the types of land uses that should be developed in certain areas. Again, the zoning ordinance and decisions made by the Planning Commission should serve to implement the future land use map by

enabling land to be within a zoning district that allows the land uses within the future land use category.

The population projection of 4,752 residents was used in the development of the future land use map. The projected population increase was used to estimate the quantity of residential land needed to accommodate the projected increase. The following calculations were used to develop this estimate:

1. The projected population increase in Metamora is 1,116 residents.
2. Using the 2010 average household size of 2.51 individuals, an estimated 445 houses are needed to accommodate 1,116 residents.
3. Using the gross residential density in northwest Metamora of 2.63 houses per acre, 169 acres of land are needed to accommodate 445 houses. The gross residential density of northwest Metamora was used because this area is a newer residential area. The gross residential density includes streets and open space.

The future land use map was developed so that a minimum of 169 acres are identified for future residential use.

Some of the land use categories on the future land use map merit additional explanation.

Future Commercial/Residential

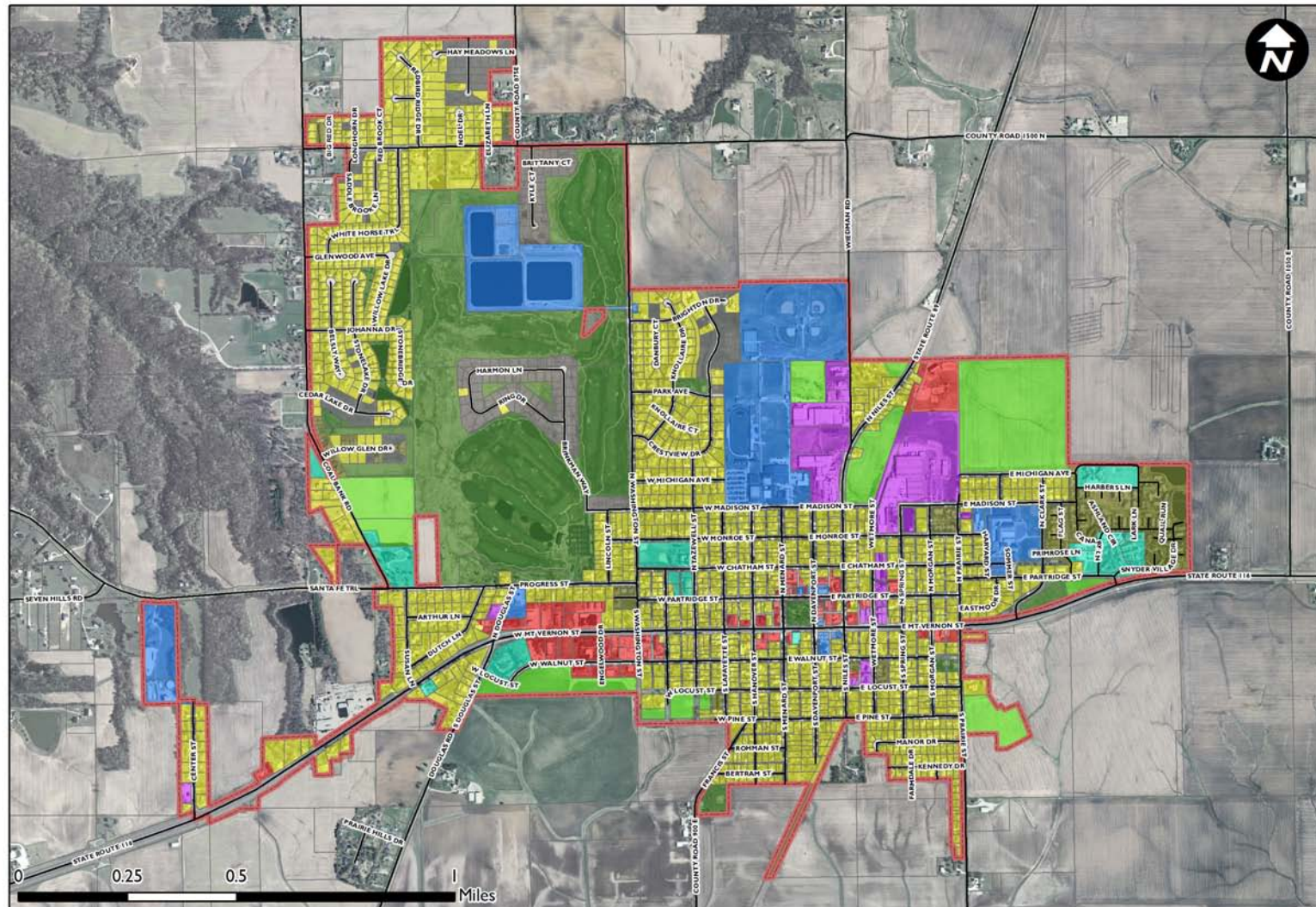
These areas are located at the western and eastern edges of the village along Illinois Route 116 and share unique characteristics. On the one hand, this land is located along Route 116, which lends some suitability for commercial development. On the other hand, there are existing residential uses within and near these areas, so some commercial uses and layouts could conflict with the nearby residential uses. Moving forward, the village will need to determine what specific uses and layouts are best for these areas if these areas are annexed into the village and development is proposed.

It is likely that the area at the western edge of the village will be developed first given its proximity to Peoria, Germantown Hills, and Douglas Road.

Future Conservation Residential

This area is located along Santa Fe Trail adjacent to portions of western Metamora. While this land could be developed for residential use, it also possesses valuable natural features such as wooded areas and a lake. This site is an ideal location for a conservation subdivision, or a residential development that clusters housing while preserving valuable natural features. Preserving these natural features should be pursued in the future if residential development is sought for this site.

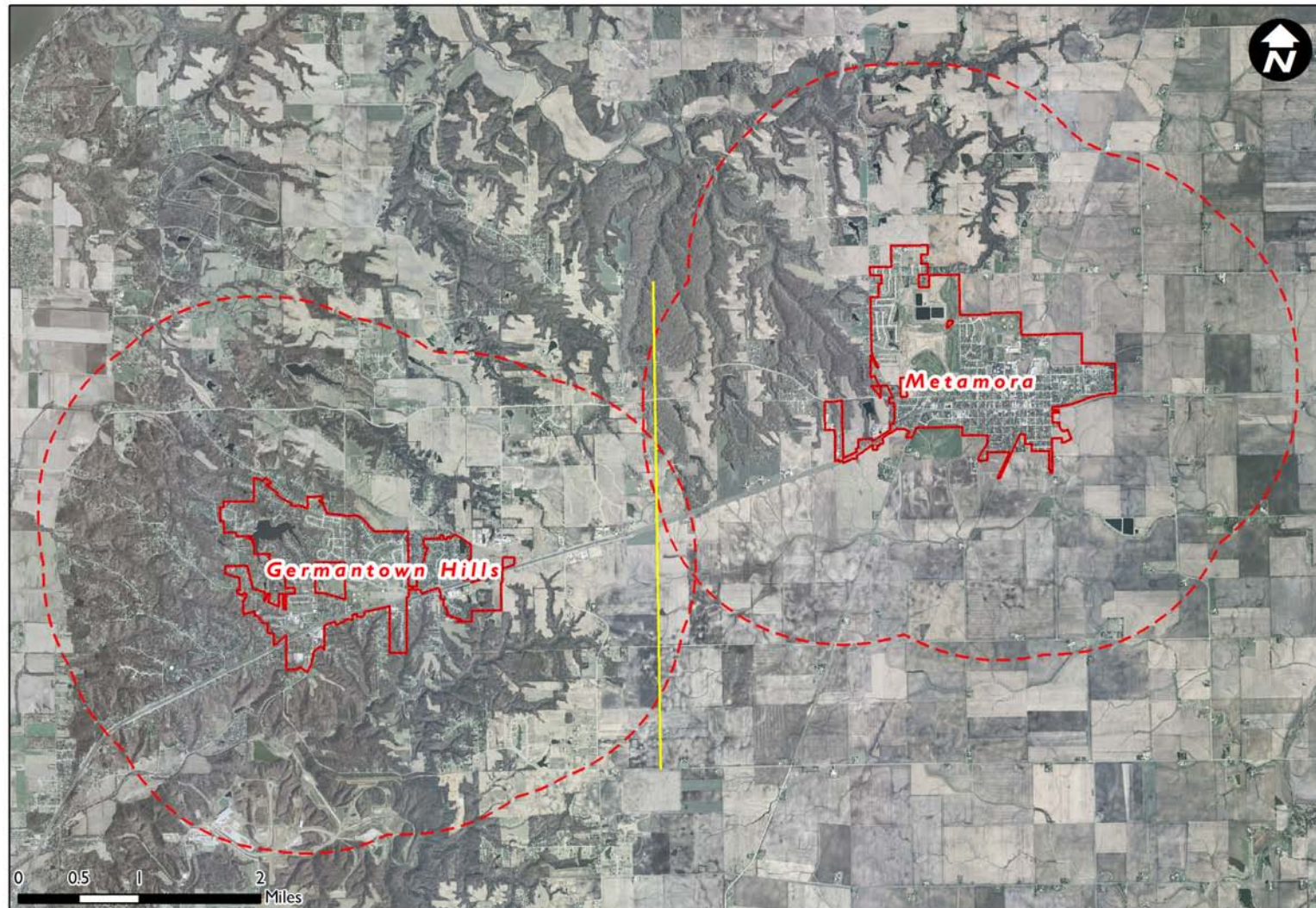
MAP 2: METAMORA CURRENT LAND USE



Village of Metamora
Current Land Use



MAP 3: METAMORA EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

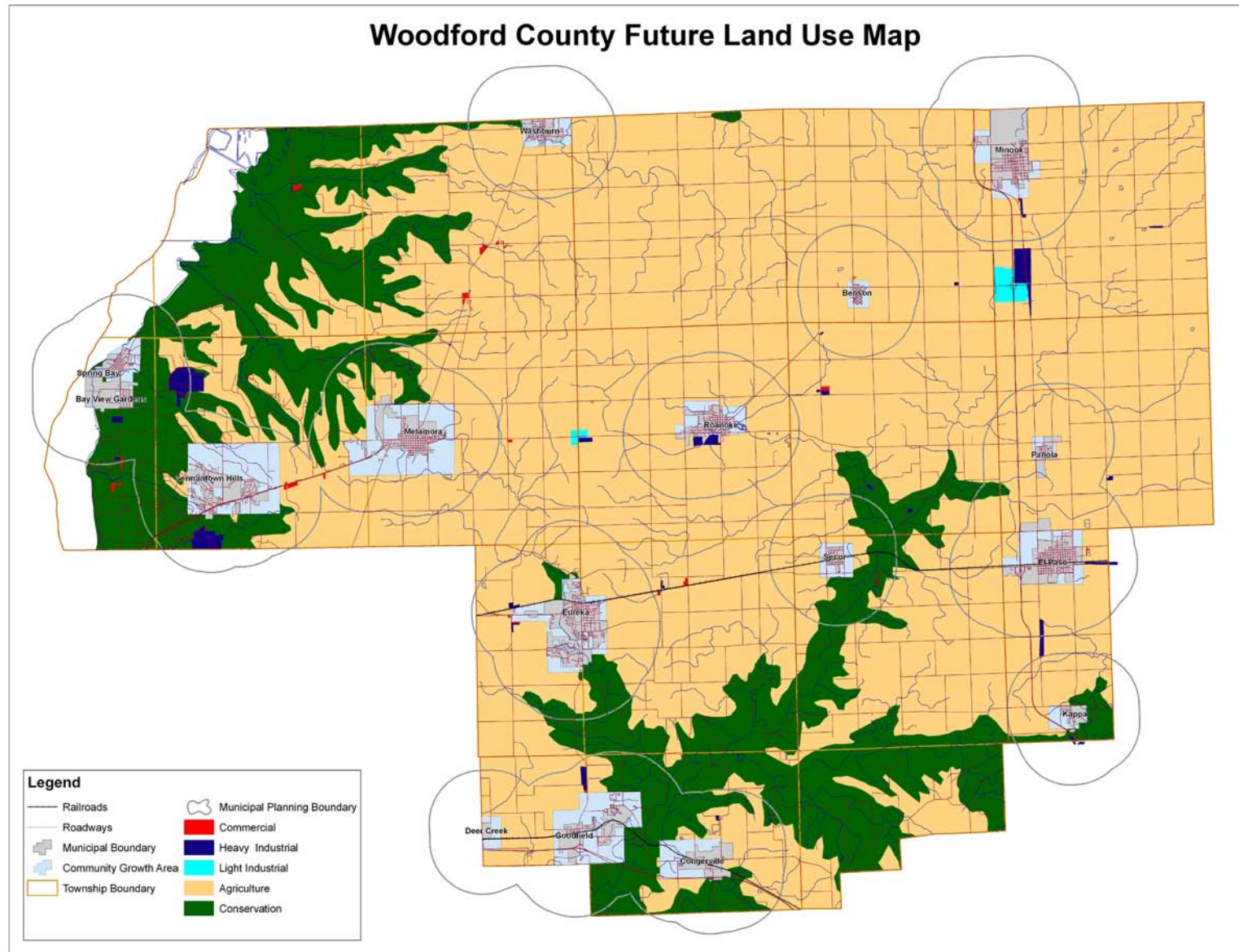


**Village of Metamora &
Village of Germantown Hills**
Extraterritorial Jurisdictions

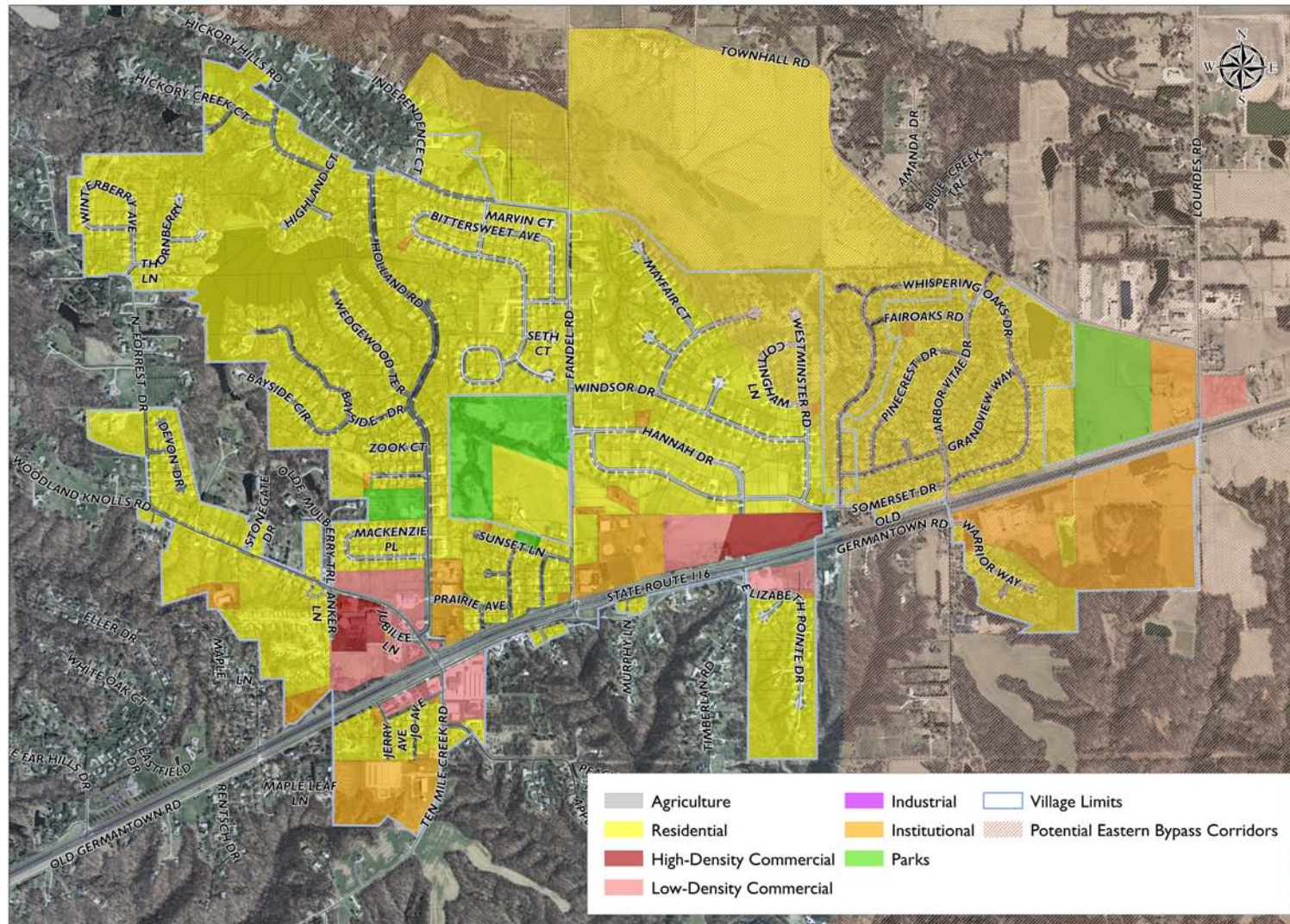
Municipal Boundary Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Intergovernmental Agreement Line



MAP 4: WOODFORD COUNTY FUTURE LAND USE MAP



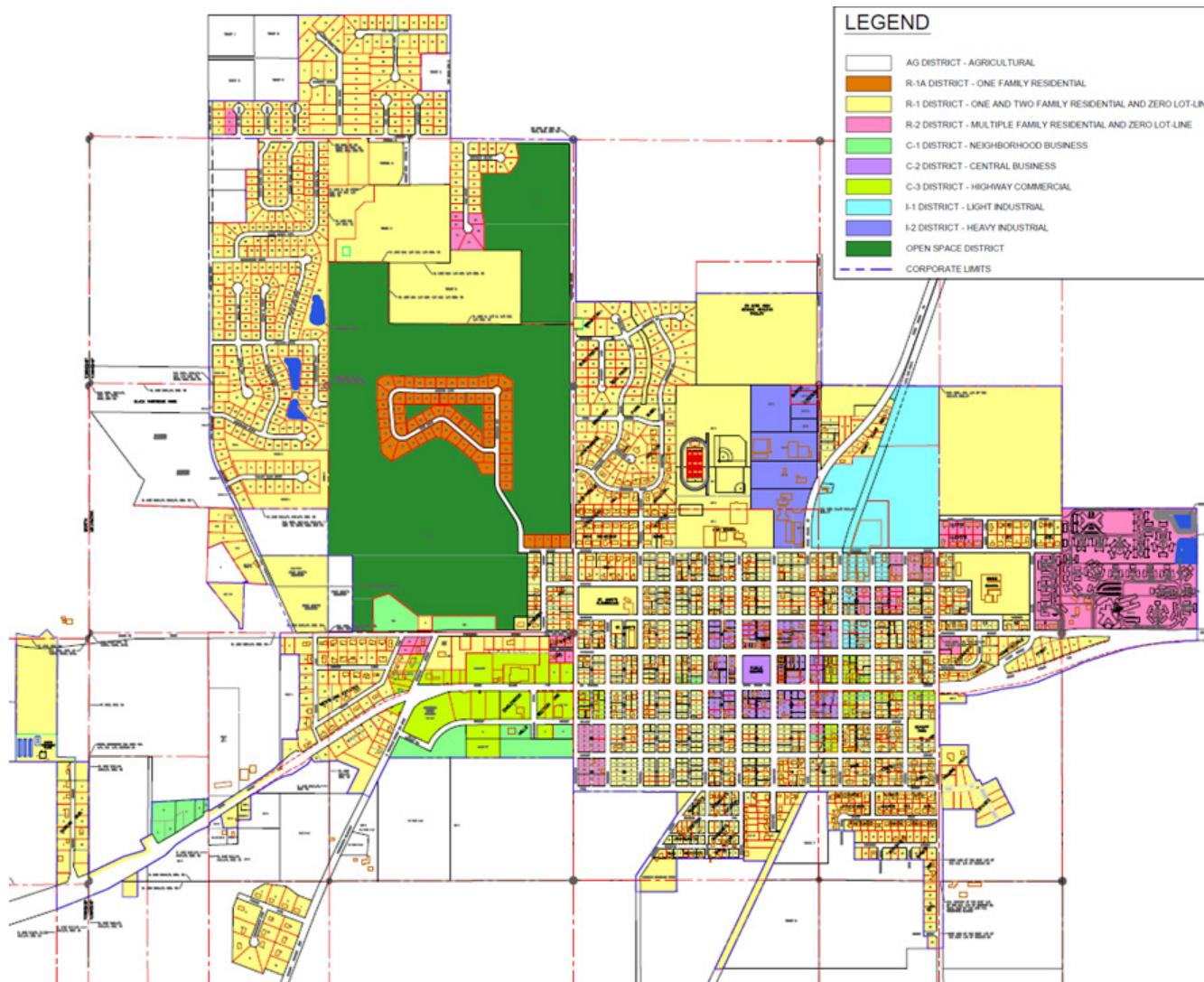
MAP 5: GERMANTOWN HILLS FUTURE LAND USE MAP



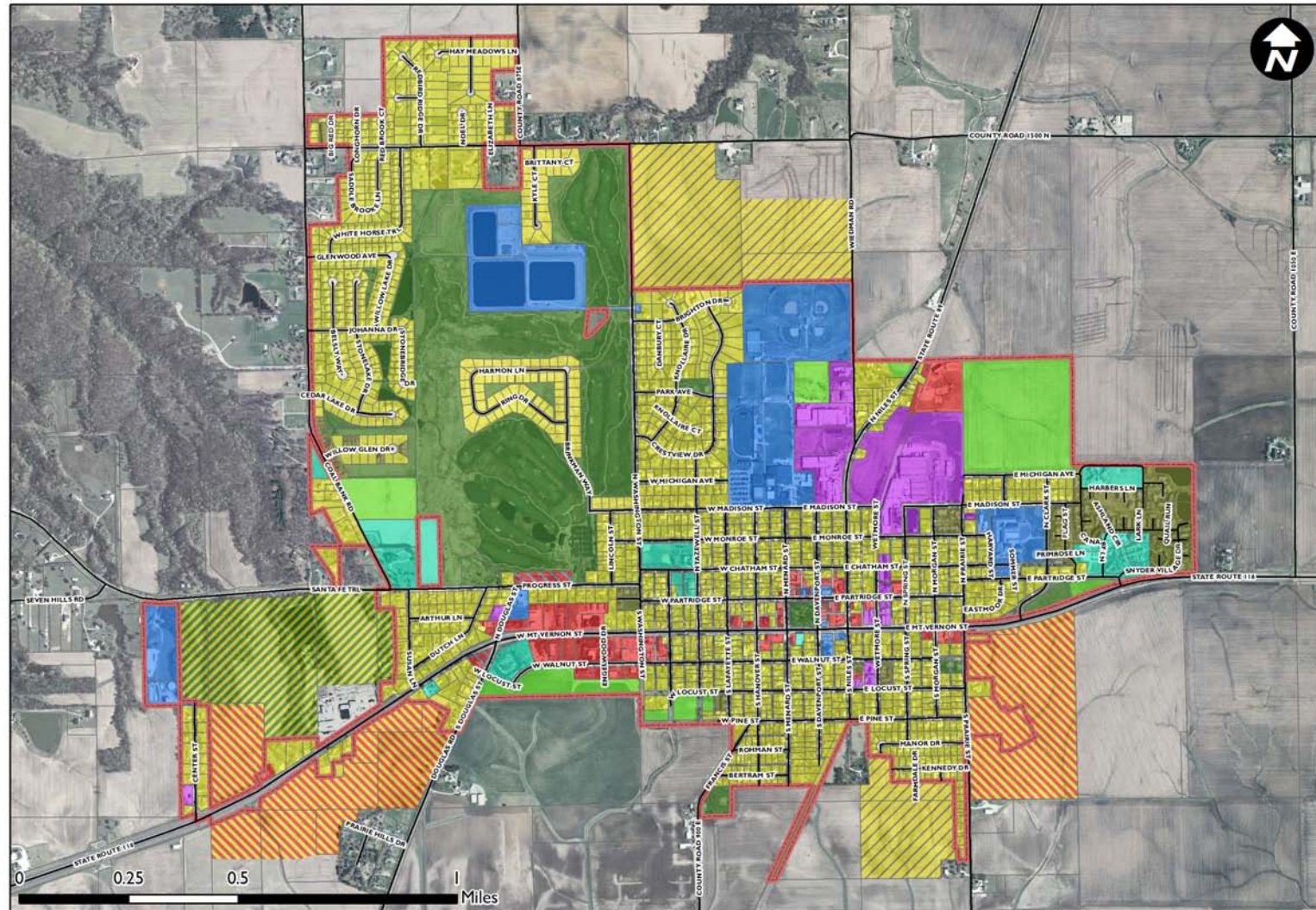
Germantown Hills Future Land Use



MAP 6: METAMORA ZONING MAP



MAP 7: METAMORA FUTURE LAND USE MAP



Village of Metamora
Future Land Use

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------|
| Single-Family Residential | Future Conservation Residential | Future Commercial | Government | Vacant |
| Multi-Family Residential | Future Commercial/Residential | Industrial | Agriculture | |
| Future Residential | Commercial | Institutional | Open Space | |



HOUSING

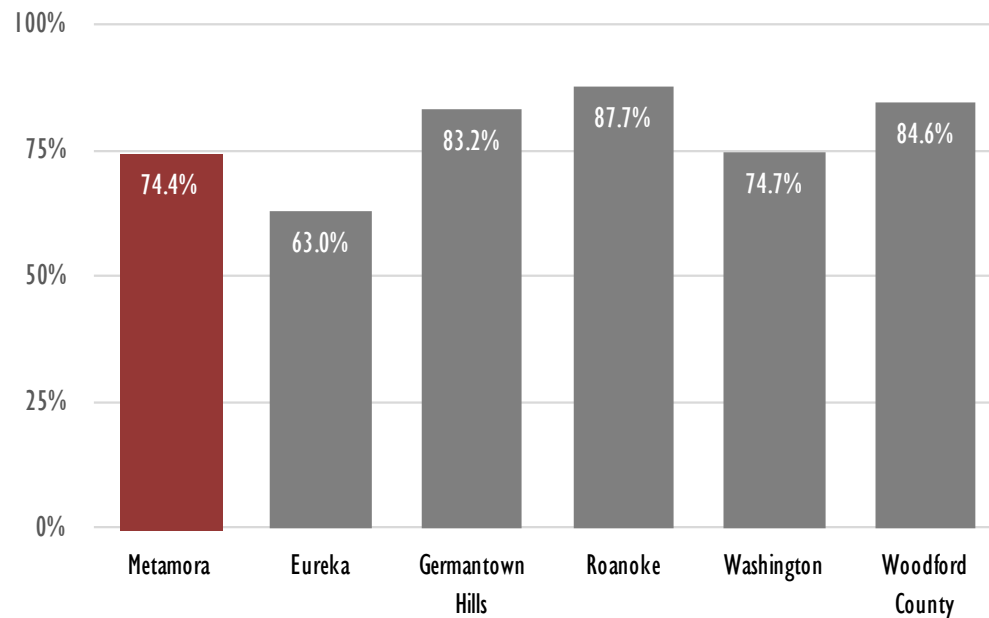
Metamora has a variety of housing types, and as demographic trends change, demand for different housing types will change as well. Assessing the community's housing stock enables the village to identify housing issues to address today and prepare for housing issues that may emerge in the future.

DATA

Metamora's housing stock consists primarily of single-family dwellings. Chart 5 to the right presents the percentage of housing units in Metamora and comparison geographies that consist of a single detached unit according to 2012 data. The percentage of single detached dwellings in Metamora is lower than that of Woodford County and all other comparison communities.

Metamora also has a relatively high percentage of owner-occupied housing units, as presented in Chart 6 on the following page. Just over 82% of housing units in the village are owner-occupied, nearly identical to that of Woodford County and similar to most other comparison communities.

CHART 5: UNITS IN STRUCTURE — 1 UNIT, DETACHED (2012)



Like many nearby communities, Metamora features a mix of older and newer housing units. In 2012, 37.1% of householders in the village reported living in a structure built prior to 1960, as presented in Chart 7 on the following page. This percentage is very similar to those of Woodford County and comparison

communities with the exception of Roanoke (which has a much higher proportion of pre-1960 housing) and Germantown Hills (which features a much lower proportion of older housing). It is worth noting that these data come from householders, some of whom may not know the exact year their unit was built. For

CHART 6: OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS (2012)

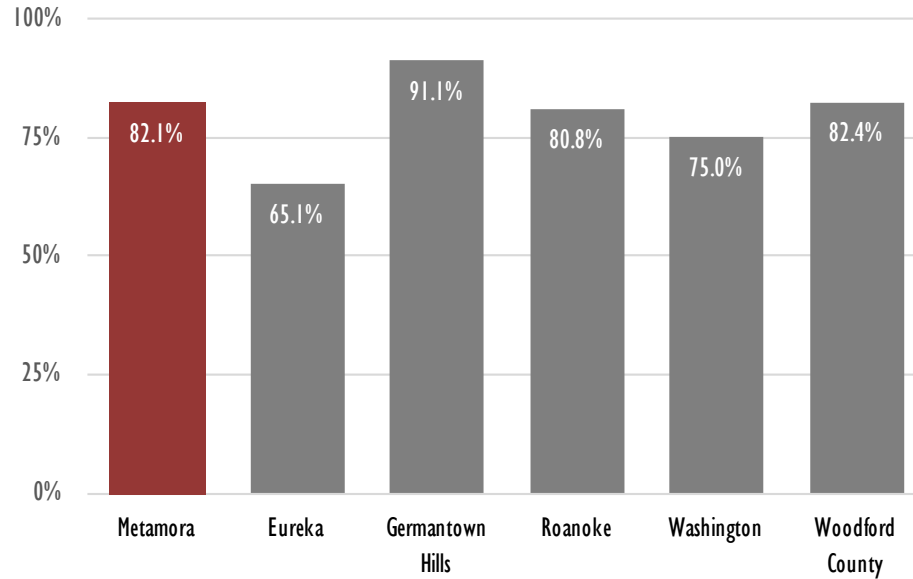
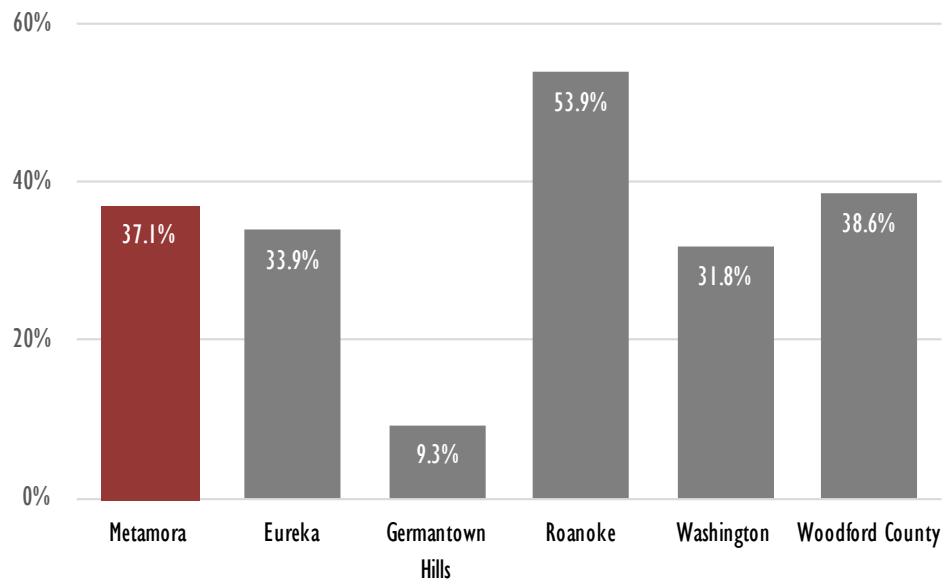


CHART 7: HOUSING UNITS BUILT IN 1959 OR EARLIER (2012)



this reason, this percentage should not be considered absolutely accurate. However, given Metamora's history and the recent residential development that has occurred, the data seems valid.

Metamora's housing stock is rather affordable as compared to comparison communities. The median housing value in 2012 was \$132,200, lower than that of Woodford County and comparison communities with the exception of Roanoke. Chart 8 on the following page presents median housing values for Metamora and comparison geographies in 2012. Housing values in Metamora are high compared to other places in the greater metropolitan area, but the relative affordability of homes in Metamora likely make the village attractive to younger families looking to move east of the Illinois River.

Conversely, the cost of renting in Metamora is rather high. Chart 9 on the following page shows the median rent in Metamora and comparison geographies in 2012. The median rent data includes units of all sizes, including apartments and rented houses. Metamora's median rent is greater than that of Woodford County and all nearby communities except for Germantown Hills. This may be a result of the size and quality of rental units, or it may also be a result of demand.

While median housing value and median rent provide some information about the affordability of housing in a community, a better method of measuring

CHART 8: MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE (2012)

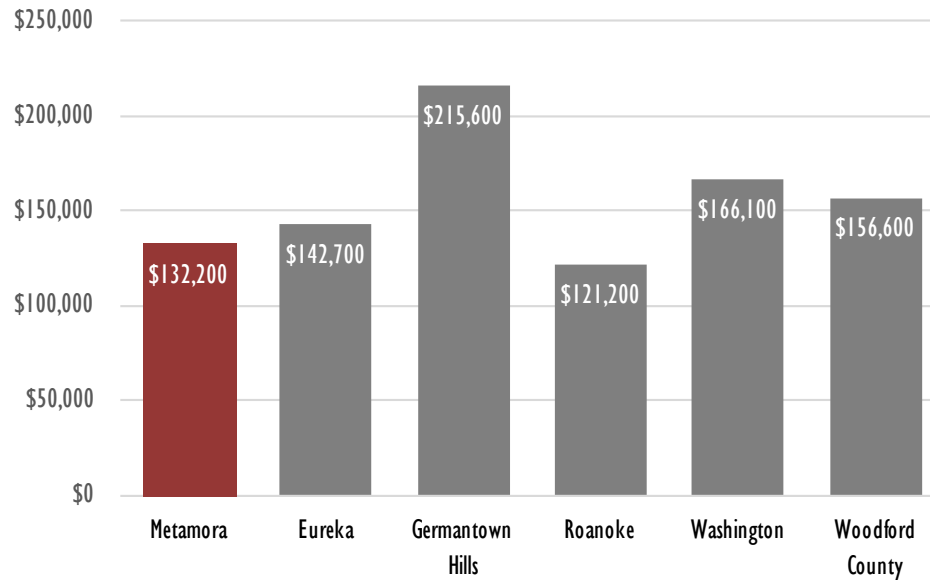
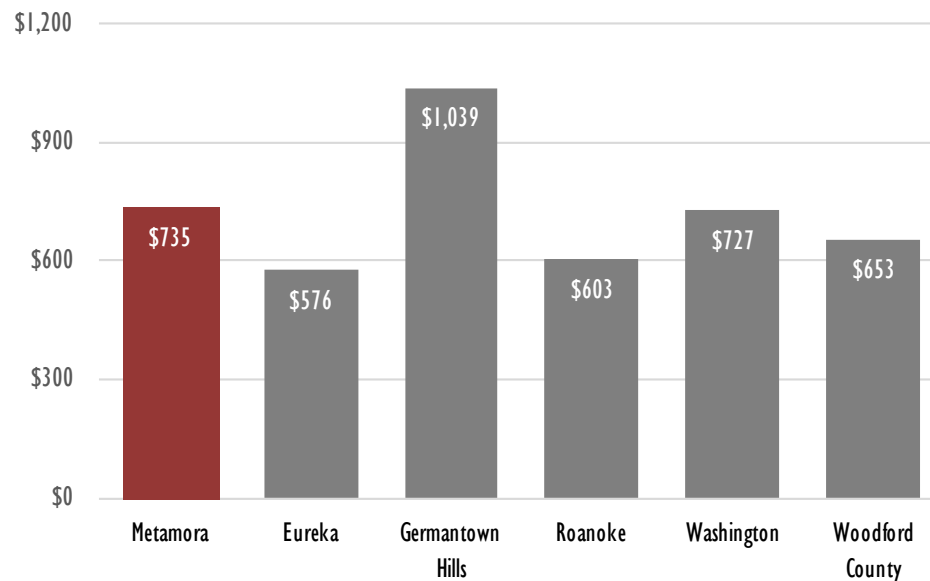


CHART 9: MEDIAN RENT (2012)



affordability is to compare a household's housing costs to a household's total income. Chart 10 on the following page presents the percentage of households with a mortgage in Metamora and comparable geographies for which SMOCAPI – Selected Monthly Ownership Costs as a Percentage of Income – was greater than 30% in 2012. The threshold for housing affordability is generally recognized as 30%, meaning that a household paying more than 30% of its income on housing costs may have difficulty paying for other necessities like transportation or medical expenses. As seen in the chart, a lower percentage of Metamora residents live in “unaffordable” housing than in most comparison communities.

Comparing the costs of rental housing to income suggests that Metamora is a relatively affordable market for the area. Chart 11 on the following page presents the percentage of households in Metamora and comparable geographies for which GRAPI – Gross Rent as a Percentage of Income – was greater than 30% in 2012. According to these data, almost 42% of renting households in Metamora are above that threshold and live in “unaffordable” rental housing. This percentage is lower than that of Eureka, Germantown Hills, and Woodford County as a whole.

CHART 10: SMOCAPI GREATER THAN 30% WITH A MORTGAGE (2012)

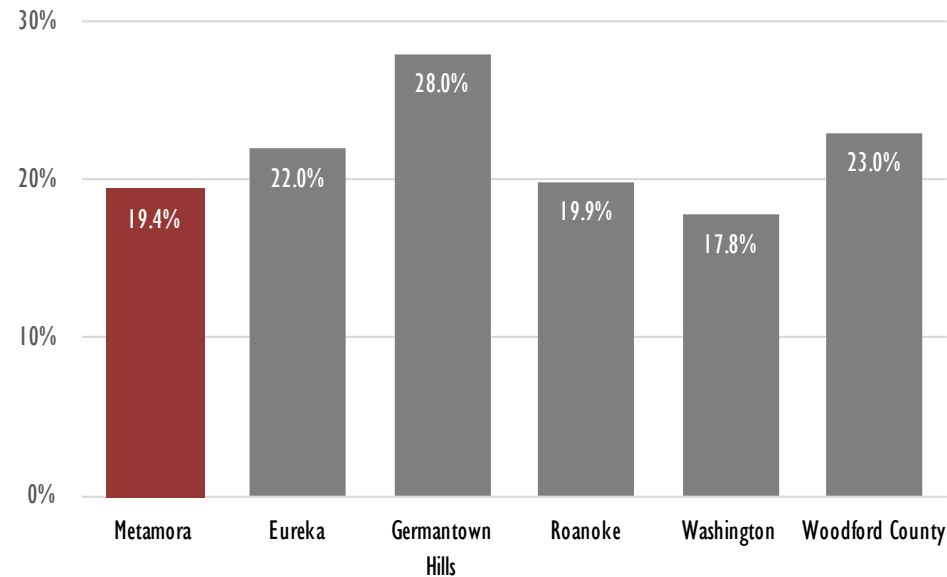
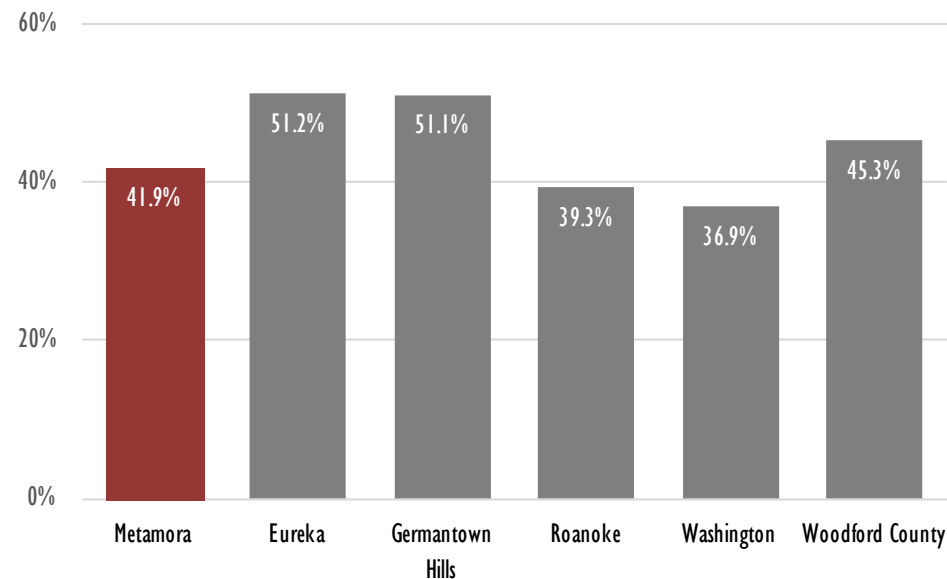


CHART 11: GRAPI GREATER THAN 30% (2012)



SURVEY RESULTS

A community survey was made available during this planning process to gather information from residents about how Metamora can be improved and strengthened in the future. A total of 243 residents responded to the survey. The following housing issues were addressed in the survey.

Code Enforcement

Question 2 of the resident survey asked, “What priority should be given to the following issues for Metamora?” and listed 13 issues. Respondents could identify an issue’s priority as “Very High,” “High,” “Medium,” “Low,” “Very Low,” or “Don’t Know.” 38% of respondents identified “Improving housing quality/code enforcement activities” as a very high priority or high priority issue. This issue received the 10th highest percentage of “Very High” or “High” responses.

Affordable Housing

Another issue listed in Question 2 was “Increasing the stock of affordable housing.” 30% of respondents identified this issue as a very high priority or high priority issue. This issue received the 11th highest percentage of “Very High” or “High” responses. The term affordable housing is vague, so it is difficult to reach a conclusion from these results. The affordability of housing is dependent on a household’s income and housing costs, and Metamora should promote a variety

of housing types that are affordable for different income levels.

Senior Housing

Another issue listed in Question 2 was “Building senior housing.” 13% of respondents identified this issue as a very high priority or high priority issue. This issue received the lowest percentage of “Very High” or “High” responses. Snyder Village, a large retirement community that provides assisted living and nursing care, is located at the eastern edge of Metamora. Snyder Village is an important asset for Metamora and provides a range of housing types for seniors. However, given the national demographic trend of an aging population and higher life expectancies, additional senior housing may be needed in Metamora in the future. Metamora should be ready for the need for additional senior housing and should work with Snyder Village to promote a variety of housing types for seniors in the future.

Growth

Question 5 of the survey asked respondents to identify the top three challenges facing Metamora. Respondents could submit any response. There were 22 responses addressing growth; this was the third-highest response to this question. This comprehensive plan addresses how Metamora can accommodate future growth while strengthening quality of life for residents.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development is a multi-faceted process; work by multiple entities in multiple arenas is needed to foster conditions to support future economic growth. Metamora enjoys several advantages for future economic growth, such as a growing population, an active business community, and assets that can be built upon for economic growth. This section will discuss economic development trends, economic development assets, and what can be done in the village to strengthen the business climate in the future.

SURVEY RESULTS

The following economic development issues were identified in the resident survey conducted as part of this planning process.

Bringing in New Businesses

Question 2 of the survey asked, “What priority should be given to the following issues for Metamora?” and

provided 13 issues. Respondents could identify an issue’s priority as “Very High,” “High,” “Medium,” “Low,” “Very Low,” or “Don’t Know.” 83% of respondents identified “Bringing in new businesses” as a very high priority or high priority issue; this issue received the highest percentage of “Very High” or “High” responses.

Question 5 of the survey asked, “What are the top three challenges facing Metamora?” and enabled residents to write down any response. There were 99 responses addressing *attracting/developing new businesses*; this was the highest response to this question.

Question 6 of the survey asked, “If you could change three things about Metamora, what would you change?” and enabled residents to write down any response. There were 32 responses each addressing *more businesses* and *more restaurants/dining options*; these issues received the most responses.

Desired Retail Businesses

Question 7 of the survey asked, “What retail businesses not currently in Metamora would you shop at if they were located in Metamora?” and enabled residents to

write down any response. The top three responses were:

- Hardware/home improvement store (40 responses)
- Restaurant(s) (31 responses)
- Small, local, and/or unique businesses (26 responses)

Where Residents Shop

Question 18 of the survey asked, “Where do you primarily shop for the following items?” and enabled residents to choose Metamora, Washington, Peoria, or Other for eight different items. Among the findings were:

- 63% of respondents primarily shop for groceries in Washington and 24% of respondents primarily shop for groceries in Metamora.
- 41% of respondents primarily shop for pharmacy items in Metamora and 41% of respondents primarily shop for pharmacy items in Washington.
- 72% of respondents primarily shop for home improvement items in Washington and 2% of respondents primarily shop for home improvement items in Metamora.

- 56% of respondents primarily dine out at restaurants in Peoria and 16% of respondents primarily dine out at restaurants in Metamora.
- 64% of respondents primarily shop for gifts and specialty items in Peoria and 1% of respondents primarily shop for gifts and specialty items in Metamora.

The following economic development issues were identified in the business survey conducted as part of this planning process.

Future Challenges

Question 6 of the survey asked, “From a business perspective, what are the three biggest challenges Metamora will face in the next five years?” and listed 13 items. Respondents were asked to rank the items from 1 to 3, with 1 being the greatest challenge. The three responses that were most frequently ranked as the top challenge were:

- Attracting new and different businesses (33% of respondents)
- Taxes and other costs (25% of respondents)
- Retaining existing businesses (17% of respondents)

Desired Physical Improvements

Question 7 of the survey asked, “Assuming you had control of the budget for physical improvements in the Village, how would you allocate it?” and listed 9 items.

Respondents were asked to assign a percentage to the items they chose. The items with the highest average percentage were:

- Other (39%)
- Recreation facilities (30%)
- Stormwater improvements (29%)
- Improve roadways (22%)

Village Activities

Question 8 of the survey asked, “List the three most important things Metamora could do to improve your ability to operate a successful business in the Village” and listed 14 items. Respondents were asked to rank the items from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most important item. The three responses that were most frequently ranked as the most important item were:

- Improve signage to attractions/businesses (30% of respondents)
- Marketing of the Square (22% of respondents)
- Business incentives (13% of respondents)

EMPLOYMENT

Given Metamora’s relatively small size, there is little data available that describes employment characteristics of village residents and employment opportunities that exist within the village. Available data from the U.S. Census must be combined with observation of existing

conditions and local knowledge to reach conclusions about employment in Metamora.

Employment of Village Residents

The U.S. Census Bureau provides data about the industry and occupation in which residents of a specific geography work. Table 12 provides information about the industry in which employed Metamora residents work and Table 13 provides information about the occupation employed Metamora residents work.

It is important to note that residents select the industry and occupation they believe most closely fits them when completing the Census, and because the categories are broad and open to interpretation, it can be difficult to reach sound conclusions from this data. Also, this data describes the industry and occupation in which Metamora residents work; it does not describe the number and type of jobs that are available in Metamora.

TABLE 12: INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYED METAMORA RESIDENTS

Industry	Employed	Percentage
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	16	1.0%
Construction	70	4.2%
Manufacturing	351	21.1%
Wholesale trade	29	1.7%
Retail trade	183	11.0%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	67	4.0%
Information	36	2.2%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	79	4.8%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	154	9.3%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	376	22.6%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	193	11.6%
Other services, except public administration	58	3.5%
Public administration	50	3.0%

TABLE 13: OCCUPATION OF EMPLOYED METAMORA RESIDENTS

Occupation	Employed	Percentage
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	663	39.9%
Service occupations	295	17.7%
Sales and office occupations	364	21.9%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	78	4.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	262	15.8%

Employment Opportunities Within Metamora

There is no formal list of major employers in Metamora. Among the village's largest employers are:

- **Hallmark.** The greeting card company operates a plant in Metamora that processes orders and manufactures display fixtures found in Hallmark retail stores. This location is the primary distribution center for Hallmark display fixtures. The plant has 90 employees and at one time had 260 employees.
- **Metamora Industries, LLC and McBride & Schoff, Inc.** These sister companies manufacture machine parts and offer other capabilities such as machining, fabricating, and assembling. These businesses are located along Illinois Route 89 near Metamora Township High School.
- **School Districts.** Metamora Township High School District 122 is the village's high school and Metamora Community Consolidated School District 1 houses Pre-K through eighth grade students.

Other employment opportunities in the village are provided by small-scale retail, office, and industrial uses located along Illinois Route 116, along Illinois Route 89, and at Village Square.

FUTURE EMPLOYMENT IN METAMORA

Because of Metamora's small size, there are no formal employment projections available for the village. The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) produces employment projections to the year 2020 for local workforce areas (LWAs) in Illinois. Metamora is within LWA 15, which encompasses Marshall, Peoria, Stark, and Woodford Counties; there are no county-specific employment projections available from IDES.

Table 14 provides employment projections for LWA 15 by industry and Table 15 provides employment projections for LWA 15 by occupation.

The industries forecasted to gain the most jobs are educational and health services, professional and business services, and financial activities. The occupations forecasted to gain the most jobs are healthcare practitioners and technical occupations; education, training, and library occupations; and office and administration support occupations. Again, these projections are for a four-county area, so they give some sense of the types of jobs and businesses that could be developed in Metamora.

Developing some understanding of future employment in Metamora is important because changes in the economy impact land use. It is unlikely that any large-scale redevelopment will occur on already developed properties in the village in the near future, so any business redevelopment occurring on

TABLE 14: EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS OF LWA 15 BY INDUSTRY — 2010 TO 2020

Industry	2010 Employment	Projected 2020 Employment	Projected Change
Self Employed and Unpaid Family Workers	5,499	5,610	111
Agricultural Production, Total	2,868	2,783	-85
Natural Resources and Mining	90	109	19
Construction	4,586	4,654	68
Manufacturing, Total	11,793	11,689	-104
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	20,813	21,098	285
Information	1,995	1,896	-99
Financial Activities	5,462	6,554	1,092
Professional and Business Services	17,176	19,888	2,712
Educational and Health Services	33,304	38,010	4,706
Leisure and Hospitality	10,183	10,715	532
Other Services	6,081	6,677	596
Government, Total	6,494	6,348	-146

already developed properties is likely to be small, site-scale redevelopment. It is possible that larger-scale development could occur on undeveloped land at the fringe of the village.

HISTORIC ASSETS

The historic character of Metamora is one of the village's strongest economic development assets, and this asset should be promoted for economic growth.

Village Square retains its historic character, and the buildings along Village Square provide opportunities for the development of unique, small-scale retail uses. The continued development of retail uses at Village Square could create a synergy among the different uses and establish Village Square as a unique retail shopping experience. This unique experience could attract new residents to live in Metamora and attract visitors from the region to shop in Metamora.

TABLE 15: EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS OF LWA 15 BY OCCUPATION – 2010 TO 2020

Occupation	2010 Employment	Projected 2020 Employment	Projected Change
Management	9,086	9,401	315
Business and Financial Operations	5,306	5,973	667
Computer and Mathematical	2,048	2,353	305
Architecture and Engineering	2,398	2,674	276
Life, Physical and Social Science	1,137	1,243	106
Community and Social Services	2,271	2,596	325
Legal	874	999	125
Education, Training and Library	7,129	8,388	1,259
Arts/Design/Entertainment, Sports/Media	1,978	2,058	80
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	11,556	13,151	1,595
Healthcare Support Occupations	4,548	5,139	591
Protective Service Occupations	2,312	2,458	146
Food Preparation & Serving Occupations	9,226	9,665	439
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	5,291	5,987	696
Personal Care & Service Occupations	3,266	3,726	460
Sales & Related Occupations	12,178	12,300	122
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	17,980	18,938	958
Farming, Fishing & Forestry Occupations	1,617	1,414	-203
Construction & Extraction Occupations	4,965	5,126	161
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	4,757	5,170	413
Production Occupations	9,066	9,255	189
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	7,352	8,019	667

The village's Abraham Lincoln heritage also should be promoted. The Metamora Courthouse State Historic Site at Village Square is an important Lincoln site, and it could be promoted along with retail shopping at Village Square to create a unique tourist destination. A partner in this effort could be the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition. This not for profit organization works collaboratively with local partners to tell the stories of Lincoln's life and times, provide high quality experiences for visitors, and provide economic opportunities for communities. The village could work with this organization to strengthen and enhance its heritage tourism effort pertaining to Abraham Lincoln.

Metamora has other historic sites of importance. The Adlai E. Stevenson I House – at one time the home of the nation's 23rd vice president – is located in Metamora, and the Lee Cabin, one of the oldest structures in Woodford County, is located in Black Partridge Park. All of these historic assets can be promoted to attract residents who seek to live in a community with historic character and attract visitors who seek heritage tourism experiences.

PROMOTING METAMORA

Promoting the village and continuing to strengthen Metamora's image are important activities for economic development. Quality of life assets in Metamora such as strong schools, recreational amenities, historic

character, and fiber-to-the-home broadband internet service should be promoted to attract new residents and businesses. Maintaining and improving infrastructure will help demonstrate the village's commitment to residents and businesses. Improving the aesthetics in the community can help show prospective residents and businesses that Metamora is a desirable community in which to live and work. All of these activities will help develop conditions that are favorable for future business growth.

PROMOTING VILLAGE BUSINESSES

Promoting village businesses and encouraging residents to patronize local businesses can help existing businesses and encourage new business development in the village. An important partner in this work is the Metamora Area Business Association (MABA). MABA is an active organization that promotes local businesses and organizes several events each year such as the Meet Your Heroes event and Christmas on the Square. The village should continue to work with MABA to support and promote Metamora businesses.

PURSUING A HOTEL

Metamora Fields Golf Club is an important community asset because it attracts visitors to Metamora, whether they be golfers, friends and family members attending a wedding, or individuals attending another special event. One way to build upon this asset is by attracting

a hotel. Right now, individuals who attend Metamora Fields for special events and stay overnight must stay elsewhere in the region. The development of a hotel in Metamora would bring additional tax revenue to the village and encourage overnight visitors to patronize Metamora businesses. The first step in pursuing the development of a hotel is to assess the market to determine whether a hotel is economically feasible in Metamora. The village should work with the Economic Development Council for Central Illinois and other partners to support and promote the development of a hotel in Metamora.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

This planning process is occurring as a new regional economic development effort is advancing in central Illinois. Focus Forward Central Illinois (FFCI) is a new organization created in 2013 to lead economic development efforts in the greater Peoria area. The incorporation of FFCI followed a year-long regional economic development planning process that focused on an asset-based approach. Moving forward, the region's assets and strengths will be built upon to leverage economic growth.

Metamora should be involved with this effort to coordinate its economic development effort with the region's effort and identify benefits that may result from the region's effort. For example, economic

growth in the region will lead to population growth, and Metamora can market itself to prospective residents who seek to live in a community with a small town atmosphere, historic character, and varied recreational opportunities. Marketing these attributes could help Metamora to sustain population growth in the future.

Metamora should also work with Germantown Hills in the economic development realm. The combined market area of Metamora and Germantown Hills could be attractive to businesses and services that are seeking a market area larger than that of either individual community. As the two communities continue to grow, the combined market area will only become larger, further highlighting the importance of working together for mutual economic growth.

GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

GOAL 1**Promote Metamora's quality of life.**

- Develop an information packet for future residents in conjunction with school districts. The information packet can contain information about the village, the schools, recreation options, and other information. The information packet could be available at Village Hall and village businesses, and the information should be available on the village website.
- Promote fiber-to-the-home broadband internet service provided by MTCO.

GOAL 2**Promote a positive image of Metamora.**

- Continue to improve water infrastructure and sewer infrastructure.
- Continue to improve streets .
- Continue to repair existing sidewalks and construct new sidewalks.
- Continue efforts to improve the aesthetics of unsightly properties and address stationary vehicles.
- Develop a brand for Metamora.

GOAL 3**Promote supporting Metamora businesses.**

- Coordinate with MABA to encourage residents to support local businesses.
- Support MABA's Meet Your Heroes and Christmas on the Square events.

GOAL 4**Promote Metamora's historic assets.**

- Promote Village Square and maintain its historic character.
- Work with the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition to stimulate economic development and heritage tourism by promoting the village's Lincoln heritage.
- Promote the Adlai Stevenson Home and the Lee Cabin at Black Partridge Park.

GOAL 5**Coordinate with other regional entities to strengthen economic development.**

- Coordinate and cooperate with Germantown Hills to attract businesses that will serve a market larger than that of just the village.
- Collaborate with Focus Forward Central Illinois to stay informed of regional economic development efforts and identify how the village can contribute to and benefit from regional economic development efforts.
- Collaborate with the Economic Development Council for Central Illinois.

GOAL 6**Pursue the development of a hotel to serve the village and Metamora Fields Golf Club.**

- Work with the Economic Development Council for Central Illinois to assess the market for a hotel and contact prospective hoteliers.

GOAL 7**Pursue the development of new businesses.**

- Pursue the development of a hardware store
- Pursue the development of an automobile dealership
- Pursue the development of additional retail shops at Village Square

GOAL 8**Study and assess merit of different possible business incentives.**

- Assess existing low interest loan program for businesses while promoting the program
- Assess merit of establishing a tax increment financing (TIF) district
- Assess merit of adding on to community center building in order to develop business space
- Assess merit of a rent-sharing incentive to assist new businesses during the early stages of their operation
- Assess merit of developing a business park or industrial park

GOAL 9**Promote growth in Metamora.**

- Continue to support the development of new residential subdivisions.



EDUCATION

A community's educational resources play a very important role in promoting a high quality of life, not just for children, but residents of all ages. Identifying ways of maintaining and strengthening educational resources is an important activity to support a vibrant, strong community.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The public schools that serve Metamora are operated by Metamora Community Consolidated School District 1 and Metamora Township High School District 122. Schoolchildren in Metamora and the surrounding area attend Metamora Grade School for kindergarten through eighth grade and Metamora Township High School for grades nine through twelve. MTHS also serves high-school aged children from Germantown Hills and Spring Bay.

Respondents to the community survey overwhelmingly expressed satisfaction with the public schools serving Metamora. This was identified in the following questions:

- Question 1 of the survey asked, "Please select your level of satisfaction concerning services in Metamora" and listed 31 services. Respondents could identify their satisfaction level as "Very Satisfied," "Satisfied," "Indifferent," "Dissatisfied," "Very Dissatisfied," or "Don't Know." 83% of respondents indicated they were either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with public schools; this service ranked 2nd of the 31 listed.
- Question 4 of the survey asked, "What are the three things you like best about Metamora?" and allowed residents to write down any response. There were 113 responses addressing *schools*; this was the most common response to this question.

The high level of public education in Metamora is an asset to current residents of the community and stands as a significant selling point to potential residents. Maintaining excellent schools is vital to Metamora's continued success. Moving forward, school administrators, teachers, local leaders, and residents should engage in regular discussions to identify and address issues and concerns quickly and effectively.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Some schoolchildren in Metamora attend private schools. According to data from the 2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 8.1% of Metamora schoolchildren in grades one through twelve attend a private school. This percentage is based on a sample as opposed to a complete count, so there is a margin of error associated with these data. Many of these children likely attend St. Mary's School, a Catholic grade school located in the village.

Among residents surveyed, 39.3% indicated they were either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with private schools in Metamora. This service ranked 23rd of the 31 services listed. As is the case with public schools, communication between administrators, teachers, local leaders, and residents is necessary to maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship between St. Mary's School and Metamora.

LIBRARY

Metamora is within the Illinois Prairie District Public Library system. There is a branch located in Metamora, along with branches in Benson, Germantown Hills, Roanoke, Spring Bay, and Washburn. A portion of

residents' property taxes go toward the library district, so any Metamora resident can apply for and receive a library card. This card can be used at any Prairie District library and most public libraries in the State of Illinois.

Opinions of library service in Metamora expressed in the community survey were mixed. Concerns were raised in the following questions:

- Question 1 of the survey asked, "Please select your level of satisfaction concerning services in Metamora" and listed 31 services. Respondents could identify their satisfaction level as "Very Satisfied," "Satisfied," "Indifferent," "Dissatisfied," "Very Dissatisfied," or "Don't Know." 56.1% of respondents indicated they are either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with library service. This service ranked 17th of the 31 services listed.
- Question 6 of the survey asked, "If you could change three things about Metamora, what would you change?" and allowed residents to write down any response. There were 11 responses addressing *improve library*; this was the seventh-highest response to this question.
- Multiple responses pertaining to *library improvements* were listed in response to Question 3 identifying important issues to address and Question 5 identifying the top challenges facing Metamora.

It appears there is support for improvements in the library system. Because Metamora's library is part of a larger district, any improvements to facilities or services will result from cooperation with the Illinois Prairie District. The District is in the process of evaluating its services, and the village can support and assist this effort. The village also can work with the District to encourage volunteerism and involvement with library programs among residents to provide a better library experience at little taxpayer expense.

GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

GOAL 1

Promote and support quality schools in Metamora.

- Promote the educational rankings of the school districts
- Promote school district successes on road signs

GOAL 2

Maintain regular communication with school districts to proactively address issues and support improvements

- Coordinate with high school district to ensure adequate traffic flow occurs near high school
- Keep informed of school district initiatives to support school improvements where feasible

GOAL 3

Promote and support the Illinois Prairie District Public Library.

- Assist the Library in its effort to evaluate services.



COMMUNICATION

Communication between the village government and residents and businesses is key to promoting a high quality of life in Metamora. Excellent communication can help existing residents and businesses be aware of important announcements and events and promote a cohesive community character. Excellent communication also can help attract prospective residents and businesses to Metamora by informing them of village assets and amenities. The topic of communication was examined to help Metamora achieve these outcomes.

SURVEY RESULTS

The topic of communication was addressed in the resident survey. Question 2 of the survey listed 13 issues and asked residents to select the priority that should be given to each issue. 71% of respondents identified “Increasing communication between the village and

residents” as a very high priority or high priority issue. This issue received the 2nd highest percentage of “Very High” or “High” responses, suggesting this should be a high priority issue for Metamora.

The village website also was addressed in the resident survey. Question 1 of the survey asked respondents to indicate their level of satisfaction with different services provided in Metamora, and 39% of respondents indicated they are either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the village website. This service ranked 24th of the 31 services listed. In addition, Question 10 asked respondents to identify how often they access the village website to obtain information. The following results were obtained:

- Daily – 0%
- Weekly – 1.3%
- Monthly – 13.0%
- Several times a year – 33.6%
- Never – 33.6%
- Other – 18.4%

Only about 14% of respondents access the village website to obtain information monthly or more

frequently, while two-thirds of respondents access the village website to obtain information either several times a year or never. These results suggest the village website is an underutilized resource for the village.

Question 11 of the survey also addressed communication. This question asked respondents if they would be interested in receiving an annual flyer concerning village services and news. 79% of respondents indicated they would be interested in receiving an annual flyer.

VILLAGE WEBSITE

The primary idea for improving communication is to improve the website by adding new capabilities and increasing its functionality. Given the increasing emphasis on electronic information today, improving the website is seen as an effective method for improving communication in the village.

An improved village website could consist of the following capabilities:

- **Information packet.** One of the economic development action items is to develop an information packet targeted to prospective

residents that could contain information about the village, the schools, recreation options, and other important information for prospective residents. After this information is compiled, it could be provided on the website to serve as an “electronic information packet.”

- **Subscription email service.** This service would allow village residents to opt-in to receiving email alerts from the village. Residents choosing to opt-in would provide their email address to the village, and when the village wanted to provide information to residents, an email alert could be sent to residents who have provided their email addresses. This service could be used to provide information about infrastructure repair issues, community events, seasonal village services, and other useful items. This service could be an efficient and cost-effective way of providing information to mass numbers of residents.
- **User forms and service requests.** Adding this functionality would enable village forms such as building permit applications to be downloaded from the website. A method of making requests for village services, such as the reporting of lighting outages and infrastructure problems, could also be added. These services would offer residents a user-friendly option of obtaining forms and making service requests.

- **Annual flyer.** A page on the website could be devoted to providing information about village services and important village reminders. This page could be updated as often as necessary and could serve as an “electronic annual flyer” to provide residents with seasonal information.

Other capabilities could be added to the website as desired. To implement these ideas, cost estimates of the different website capabilities need to be gathered and decisions about how funding should be best used to improve the website need to be made. The desire for electronic information should continue to grow, so regularly assessing and improving the website will be a sound activity for the village moving forward.

GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS**GOAL 1****Update and improve the website.**

- Regularly update the website, including information about village services and important reminders; this could serve as an electronic “annual flyer”
- Promote website address via new village sign, MTCO Connections Magazine, stickers in business windows, decals on village vehicles and equipment, and a banner on Village Hall
- Implement a subscription email service so that residents can receive automatic email alerts about village news and activities
- Provide downloadable building permit applications
- Enable the reporting of lighting outages and other service requests to be submitted via the website
- Include links to websites of other community entities such as schools, churches, the Metamora Park District, businesses, and historic sites
- Include link to Metamora Area Business Association website
- Post emergency services information on website
- Post information about properties available for business development on website

GOAL 2**Maintain a village Facebook page.**



RECREATION

Metamora has valuable recreational amenities that strengthen the quality of life for residents and could help attract new residents to the community. However, the resident survey identified the desire for additional recreational offerings that could make the village even stronger. This section will discuss existing recreational assets, review survey results, and discuss important recreation issues moving forward.

EXISTING ASSETS

Metamora Park District

The Metamora Park District maintains parks in the community and provides recreational activities. The Park District maintains four parks, the largest of which is Black Partridge Park, and a public pool. The Park District offers various activities such as a summer kids camp, art and photography classes, sign language classes, and golf lessons. The District is funded by property tax revenue paid by village residents; the tax

base is no larger than the village. Individuals who live outside the village pay higher fees for some services, and the District recently established a foundation that will be able to apply for grants to supplement district revenue.

Black Partridge Park

Black Partridge Park is the largest of the four parks in the Metamora Park District. Located along Coal Bank Road, Black Partridge Park provides sports fields, playground equipment, and pavilion facilities. The Park also has an extensive trail system through its wooded areas that can be used by walkers and mountain bikers. The Peoria Area Mountain Bike Association worked with the Park District to build over 8 miles of mountain bike trails in the Park. Black Partridge Park is a unique regional asset located in Metamora.

Other Metamora Park District Facilities

The Park District operates the following facilities in addition to Black Partridge Park.

Brighton Memorial Park

This park is located along Park Avenue between Metamora Fields Golf Club and Metamora Township High School facilities. It features playground equipment, a shelter, and a basketball court.

Lincoln Douglas Park

This park is located along Frances Street at the south edge of the village. It features playground equipment, a shelter, a baseball/softball diamond, and a basketball court/ice rink.

Schnupp Park

This park is located along Prairie Street just south of Illinois Route 116. It features playground equipment, a shelter, and a baseball/softball diamond.

Metamora Pool

The pool is located at Douglas Road and Progress Street across from Metamora Fields Golf Club. The pool is available for parties, and swimming lessons are offered at the pool.

Metamora Fields Golf Club

Metamora Fields Golf Club is a new golf facility in Metamora located just north of the intersection of Illinois Route 116 and Douglas Road. The facility is privately owned and open to the public. It features an 18-hole golf course and a clubhouse that contains a restaurant and bar. There are also 102 residential lots located within the golf course. The facility is popular

for weddings and banquets and can continue to help attract out-of-town visitors to the village. Metamora Fields Golf Club is another unique asset for the village.

SURVEY RESULTS

The resident survey had two questions that specifically addressed recreation in the village, and recreational issues were raised in response to other survey questions. The following is a summary of recreational issues raised in the resident survey.

Recreation and Parks

Question 1 asked residents to select their level of satisfaction concerning different services in Metamora. 47% of respondents indicated they are either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with recreational activities in the village; this service ranked 21st of the 31 services listed, suggesting improvements can be made to recreational offerings in Metamora.

Question 4 asked residents to state the three things they like best about Metamora. There were 34 responses addressing *parks*; this item was the fourth-highest response to this question. This finding suggests that respondents are satisfied with park facilities in the village.

Fitness Center

Question 2 listed 13 issues and asked residents to select the priority that should be given to each issue. 56%

of respondents identified “Attracting a fitness center” as a very high priority or high priority issue; this issue received the fourth-highest percentage of “Very High” or “High” responses.

Question 6 asked residents to state three changes they would like to see occur in Metamora. There were 22 responses addressing *community center/fitness center*; this was the fourth-highest response to this question.

Question 9 asked residents to state new recreational activities, programs, or events they would like to see offered in Metamora. There were 29 responses addressing a *recreation center (fitness activities, sports)*; this was the highest response to this question. The results of these three questions suggest there is support for establishing a fitness center in Metamora.

Music and Concerts

The second highest response to Question 9 was *music/concerts*. There were 17 responses addressing this item.

Youth Activities

The third highest response to Question 9 was *activities for small children*. There were 12 responses addressing this item.

Old Settlers Days and School Events

Question 8 asked residents to list the recreational activities, programs, and events they attend in Metamora. The top three responses were *Old Settlers*

Days (60 responses), *school sports events* (50 responses), and *school activities (general)* (41 responses). Old Settlers Days and school activities are important recreational offerings in the village.

IMPORTANT ISSUES

The following recreational issues are important issues identified by the Comprehensive Plan Committee for improving recreational offerings in Metamora moving forward.

Promoting Recreational Assets

As discussed above, Metamora features a variety of valuable recreational assets. These assets should be promoted to attract new residents and out-of-town visitors to the village. The recreational assets offered in Metamora could form the basis for developing a brand to attract recreation enthusiasts to the village.

Indoor Recreation Facility

The development of an indoor recreation facility could meet several needs. An indoor recreation facility could provide space for fitness activities, for which support was identified in the resident survey. An indoor recreation facility could enable the Metamora Park District to increase the services it offers. An indoor recreation facility also could provide space for other recreational activities and events in the village.

The village should work with the Metamora Park District and other interested community organizations in the pursuit of an indoor recreation facility. The Metamora Park District has developed a preliminary site plan showing where an indoor facility could be located in Black Partridge Park. By working together, multiple organizations could pool resources toward the development of an indoor facility.

Community Center

The community center is the former American Legion building located at Village Square at the corner of Davenport Street and Partridge Street. It is owned by the village. The community center is an older building that is used often by different community groups, so it will be worthwhile to examine how the building can be improved and how this asset can be leveraged. For example, given its location at Village Square, one possibility is to add a welcome center component and public restrooms to enhance the visitor experience at Village Square. Different options should be examined before a decision is made on how to improve and maximize the use of the community center.

GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

GOAL 1

Pursue the development of an indoor recreation facility in cooperation with the Metamora Park District and other interested community organizations.

- Coordinate with the Metamora Park District and other interested community organizations on this issue and other recreation issues.
- Research processes for establishing an indoor recreation facility, such as the process used to establish Five Points Washington.

GOAL 2

Promote the Metamora Park District and recreation amenities in the village.

- Promote the Metamora Park District on the electronic entrance sign.
- Establish signage near the electronic entrance sign promoting the Park District.

GOAL 3

Promote recreational activities for families and youth.

- Attract summer performances at Village Square that are geared toward families and youth in addition to existing performances.

GOAL 4

Determine plan of action for existing community center.

- Partner with other community entities to explore expanded uses of the community center.
- Assess feasibility of adding a welcome center component and public restrooms.

INFRASTRUCTURE



Quality infrastructure is needed to foster a high quality of life in Metamora and support public health and safety. An examination of existing infrastructure systems and the identification of important infrastructure-related issues are needed to ensure quality infrastructure is provided in the village in the future.

WATER

Metamora operates its own water system. The village's water treatment plant is rated at 600 gallons per minute and is undergoing a multi-phase rehabilitation. Phase I of the rehabilitation was recently completed and Phase II will be completed in 2014 or 2015. Phase II will consist of pipe cleaning, repair of structural defects, and replacement of media. The proposed Phase III of the project will consist of tank cleaning, rehabilitation of the pump room, and cleaning of the lime silo.

The water treatment plant can serve an approximate population of 5,000 residents, so suitable

capacity exists for future development. As the village continues to grow, the capacity of the treatment plant should be monitored to ensure that any necessary expansion is budgeted for and pursued.

The community survey conducted as part of this planning process asked respondents to indicate their level of satisfaction with different services provided in Metamora. 79% of respondents indicated they are either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with drinking water quality and service in Metamora; this service ranked 5th of the 31 services listed.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Metamora operates its own wastewater treatment system. This system consists of two treatment facilities – a north facility and a south facility. The facilities underwent a \$3.5 million upgrade in 2003 to improve operations.

Both wastewater treatment facilities have excess capacity to serve future growth. The north facility can serve an approximate population of 3,600 and currently serves about 1,800 residents, while the south facility can serve an approximate population of 3,800 and currently serves about 1,800 residents. Each facility

currently serves about half of its capacity, so significant capacity exists for future growth. Space exists for future expansion of the wastewater treatment facilities if necessary.

A significant wastewater treatment issue being faced by the village is the infiltration of stormwater into sanitary sewers. In some locations in the village, groundwater seeps into sanitary sewers. This excess water can overwhelm the pumping facilities and cause sewer backups. The village is addressing this issue and should continue to address this issue to improve sanitary sewer service in the village.

According to the community survey, 67% of respondents indicated they are either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with sewer service in Metamora. This service ranked 12th of the 31 services listed.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The village maintains a storm sewer system to manage stormwater runoff. In the older portions of the village a series of swales and storm sewers is used to divert runoff away from developed areas. Newer areas of the village have a curb and gutter system and, where necessary, detention ponds to divert runoff and enable it to infiltrate the ground.

A significant stormwater management issue being faced by the village is the ponding of stormwater. In some locations, stormwater is not infiltrating the ground properly, leading to ponding of stormwater after rain events. The village is addressing this issue and should continue to address this issue to improve stormwater management and promote public safety.

Stormwater management has received increased attention nationwide as a result of the US EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program that addresses municipal storm sewer systems. Under this program, communities in urbanized areas across the country must obtain a permit from the US EPA to discharge stormwater runoff from its storm sewer system into waterways. Communities that have a permit must develop and implement a stormwater management program to reduce the contamination of stormwater runoff and prohibit illicit discharges of stormwater runoff. Metamora is not subject to these regulations. However, it is possible that Metamora could be subject to these regulations in the future if both Metamora and Germantown Hills continue to grow and Metamora becomes part of the greater Peoria urbanized area. The village should stay abreast of the NPDES program in the event that Metamora becomes subject to the regulations in the future, and it is good practice to put measures in place that reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff that empties into water bodies and drainages.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

Metamora maintains the streets within its jurisdiction. Some of the activities the village pursues to maintain its streets are asphalt spray projects, blackrock chip projects, and filling potholes.

Some special initiatives pertaining to streets are being pursued. The village is seeking to improve the brick streets that surround Village Square to enhance the historic character of this area. The village is replacing all street name signs by 2018 in response to a mandate. Finally, all regulatory signs – such as speed limit signs – are being replaced. The cost of sign replacement is being split between the village and the State of Illinois.

The village operates a sidewalk program to repair sidewalks. Under this program, the improvement costs are split between the village and adjacent property owners; the village purchases the materials and the property owners pay for labor. In the most recent budget year, \$15,000 was budgeted for the program and 3 projects were completed. The village should continue this program in the future to improve pedestrian safety and quality of life in the village.

According to the community survey, 53% of respondents indicated they are either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with condition of streets in Metamora. This service ranked 20th of the 31 services listed. 57% of respondents indicated they are either “very satisfied”

or “satisfied” with snow plowing in Metamora. This service ranked 16th of the 31 services listed.

Sidewalks were not listed in this question. In Question 3, residents were asked to identify other important issues that need to be addressed to improve the village, and the top response was sidewalks (receiving 13 responses). This finding suggests sidewalk improvement should be a priority for the village moving forward.

ORGANIC WASTE SITE

The village formerly operated an organic waste site at which residents could deposit lawn waste. When this planning process began in December 2013 the organic waste site was no longer in operation. Question 14 of the survey asked residents if they would use the organic waste site if it were re-opened on Saturdays, and 63% of respondents said they would use the site. The site has now been reopened by the village.

OTHER SERVICES

The community survey addressed other common services not provided by the village to identify any issues that may need to be addressed. Different services were listed, and respondents could indicate their satisfaction level with the service as “Very Satisfied,” “Satisfied,” “Indifferent,” “Dissatisfied,” “Very Dissatisfied,” or “Don’t Know.” The following responses were obtained:

- Trash collection: 85% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 1st of the 31 services listed.
- Internet services: 81% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 3rd of the 31 services listed.
- Wireless internet services: 75% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 8th of the 31 services listed.
- Electricity: 71% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 9th of the 31 services listed.
- Natural gas: 70% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 10th of the 31 services listed.
- Telephone service: 69% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 11th of the 31 services listed.
- Cellular phone service: 67% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 13th of the 31 services listed.
- Television services: 67% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 13th of the 31 services listed, tied with cellular phone service.
- Responsiveness of city employees: 54% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 18th of the 31 services listed.
- Leaf/brush pickup: 41% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 22nd of the 31 services listed.
- Recycling: 29% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 29th of the 31 services listed.
- Organic waste site: 20% of respondents are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with this service; this service ranked 30th of the 31 services listed.

Recycling and organic waste site were among the lowest-ranked services, but improvements to both services have recently been made. When this survey was distributed, the only recycling service available to residents was drop-off service; there was no curbside recycling service. Since the time of survey distribution a local business has signed up residents for curbside recycling service; this service now exists in Metamora.

As mentioned previously, the organic waste site was closed at the time of survey distribution but has since been reopened.

GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

GOAL 1

Provide quality infrastructure to support health, safety, and a high quality of life in Metamora.

- Continue street maintenance program to improve village roadways.
- Continue sidewalk improvement program to install and repair sidewalks.
- Pursue Phase III of water treatment plant rehabilitation after Phase II is completed (Phase II scheduled to be completed in 2014/2015).
- Monitor capacity of water treatment plant as population grows and develop a plan for providing excess capacity when necessary.
- Continue sanitary sewer maintenance program to address wastewater treatment plant backups caused by groundwater seepage.
- Continue efforts to improve drainage where ponding of stormwater runoff occurs in the village.
- Ensure new developments are designed to enable suitable stormwater management and drainage.
- Promote the re-opening of the village's organic waste site.
- Study possible use of alternative energy sources such as solar and wind for use by the village and residents to reduce expenditures.
- Assess feasibility and develop plan to add public restrooms to Village Square.
- Plant trees at village entrances along Route 116 and Route 89 to improve aesthetics of entrances.



PUBLIC SAFETY

The Village of Metamora works with other entities to provide public safety services for village residents. A review of these services is important in order to identify pertinent issues in order to improve public safety and promote a high quality of life in Metamora.

POLICE PROTECTION

Metamora has a village police department that provides police protection services 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The department consists of five full-time officers and six part-time officers. The department recently added a canine unit as part of its effort to pursue specialization of services.

Crime is relatively low in Metamora. The primary crimes addressed by the police department are theft activity, drug activity, and speeding. Drug activity is increasing in the village, and this is consistent with the regional trend.

Police protection was addressed in the resident survey. Question 1 of the survey asked respondents to indicate their level of satisfaction with different

services provided in Metamora. 78% of respondents indicated they are either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with *law enforcement* in Metamora; this service ranked 6th of the 31 services listed. Question 2 of the survey listed 13 issues and asked residents to select the priority that should be given to each issue. 53% of respondents identified “Improving public safety” as a very high priority or high priority issue; this issue received the 5th highest percentage of “Very High” or “High” responses. Question 4 of the survey asked residents to state the three items they like best about Metamora, and there were 28 responses addressing *safety/low crime*; this item was the sixth-highest response to this question. Overall, these responses suggest that residents are generally satisfied with police protection in Metamora.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection services are provided by a volunteer fire department. The department serves the village and surrounding rural areas. Rescue calls and traffic calls are the most common calls responded to by the department because building fires do not occur as often as they once did. False alarms of carbon monoxide detectors are an increasing issue within the service area. The department does not provide ambulance service.

The department was first formed in 1889 and has a rich legacy in Metamora.

Survey respondents are highly satisfied with fire protection services in Metamora. Question 1 of the survey asked respondents to indicate their level of satisfaction with different services provided in Metamora, and 80% of respondents indicated they are either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with *fire protection* in Metamora. This service ranked 4th of the 31 services listed.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Ambulance service in Metamora is provided by the Emergency 116 Ambulance volunteer service. Emergency 116 Ambulance provides ambulance service for Metamora and surrounding rural areas 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The service provides pre-hospital emergency medical care and has an emergency medical technician and paramedic on site at the ambulance garage to provide faster response times to emergency calls.

Survey respondents are also highly satisfied with ambulance services in Metamora. In response to Question 1 of the survey, 75% of respondents

indicated they are either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with *ambulance services* in Metamora. This service ranked 7th of the 31 services listed.

IDEA OF A PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

One idea that has been raised is to construct a new public safety building. This is just an idea, and no specific plans have been developed. Currently the Metamora Police Department operates out of Village Hall and the fire department and Emergency 116 Ambulance service operate out of a nearby facility. Under one possible scenario, these three units could operate out of a new public safety building and the village public works department could occupy space being vacated. Again, no specific plans exist for a new public safety building, and the space needs of the four entities mentioned above should be assessed moving forward to determine the feasibility of a new public safety building.

GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

GOAL 1

Develop a new public safety building to benefit the village police department, village public works department, Metamora Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency 116 Ambulance.

- This would be a long term goal since construction would require significant funding. However, a new building would be beneficial for all four units since a new public safety building would enable the village public works department to occupy additional existing space.

GOAL 2

Continue to improve the village police force.

- Identify specialization needs, training needs, and staff needs.



TRANSPORTATION

A community's transportation network is important because it supports economic development and quality of life. An effective transportation network enables people and goods to move efficiently through a community while also promoting safety and enabling the use of multiple modes of transportation. This discussion reviews Metamora's transportation network and identifies important transportation issues.

MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION

Not surprisingly, a personal automobile is the primary form of transportation for Metamora residents. According to the 2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 89% of Metamora workers 16 years and older drove alone or carpooled to work. According to this data source, 3% of residents work at home, 2% of residents walk to work and 6% use other means.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) provides average daily traffic counts for major

roadways in Metamora. The most heavily travelled roadway in Metamora is Illinois Route 116, known as Mt. Vernon Street within the village. This roadway is the east-west thoroughfare that connects Metamora with roadways leading to Peoria. The average daily traffic count for Illinois Route 116 between Douglas Road to the west and Route 89 to the east is 13,500 vehicles.

Other roadways in Metamora with relatively high average daily traffic counts are:

- Illinois Route 89 north of Illinois Route 116: 5,650 vehicles per day.
- Douglas Road south of Illinois Route 116: 5,100 vehicles per day.
- Santa Fe Trail at Coal Bank Road: 3,500 vehicles per day.
- Coal Bank Road north of Santa Fe Trail: 2,550 vehicles per day.
- Washington Street north of Illinois Route 116: 2,000 vehicles per day.

All other roadways in Metamora have fewer than 2,000 vehicles per day.

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION

Metamora is a walkable community and has a multi-use trail to facilitate bicycle travel. As mentioned above, 2% of Metamora workers 16 years and older walk to work and 6% of workers use other means to get to work. It is presumed that some of the trips made via "other means" are made via bicycle.

Sidewalks enable pedestrian travel in Metamora. While not all Metamora streets have sidewalks, sidewalks are prevalent in the village. Sidewalks exist in residential neighborhoods, along Illinois Route 116, and at Village Square. While this sidewalk system does enable pedestrian access to destinations along Illinois Route 116 and Village Square, the traffic volume and flow along Illinois Route 116 inhibits pedestrian travel across the roadway.

The resident survey suggests that further improvements to sidewalks can be made. In response to Question 3, respondents identified *sidewalks* as the top issue not listed in Question 2 that should be addressed to improve Metamora. This finding suggests sidewalk improvement should be a priority for the village moving forward.

Bicycle travel in Metamora can occur on local streets and the Lincoln Circuit Trail. Local streets in Metamora have relatively low vehicular traffic and are generally safe for bicycling. The Lincoln Circuit Trail is a paved, multi-use trail that traverses portions of northern Metamora. While the Trail does not form a complete loop, it does connect residential areas along Coal Bank Road with residential and recreational uses near Metamora Township High School.

IMPORTANT ISSUES

The Comprehensive Plan Committee identified future transportation projects that could have a significant impact on Metamora. These projects are addressed below.

Traffic signal at Illinois Route 116 and Douglas Road

There is support in the village for installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Illinois Route 116 and Douglas Road. Currently, vehicles on Douglas Road must stop at the intersection while vehicles on Illinois Route 116 do not stop. This intersection does have a high traffic volume, for as discussed above, these roadways are among the most heavily travelled roadways in Metamora – Illinois Route 116 connects Metamora with roadways leading to Peoria and Douglas Road connects Metamora with Washington. Moreover, the recent development of residential uses along Coal

Bank Road and the development of Metamora Fields Golf Club have added to the traffic volume on Douglas Road north of Illinois Route 116.

This issue did arise in the resident survey. In Question 3, the need for a traffic signal received the fourth-highest number of mentions as an issue not listed in Question 2 that should be addressed to improve Metamora. This issue was mentioned elsewhere in the survey as one of the challenges facing Metamora and as one of the changes respondents would like to see in Metamora.

Because Illinois Route 116 is a state highway, it is the decision of the State of Illinois as to whether a traffic signal should be installed at this intersection. The village has been in communication with the State about this issue in the past, and the village should continue communication with the State moving forward. As Washington continues to grow and Metamora Fields Golf Club attracts more visitors, it is expected that traffic volumes at this intersection will continue to increase.

Coal Bank Road

There is concern about the safety of non-motorized transportation along Coal Bank Road. Newer residential areas and Black Partridge Park are located along this roadway, so increases in pedestrian and bicycle use could occur in this area in the future. Vehicular traffic speeds along Coal Bank Road are rather high, so

measures to reduce vehicular traffic speeds should be examined in order to make this area more attractive for pedestrians and bicyclists and improve the quality of life for residents seeking to walk or bike to Black Partridge Park.

Eastern Bypass

The Eastern Bypass is a proposed highway that would connect Interstate 74 east of Peoria with Illinois Route 6 north of Peoria to complete the interstate loop around the City of Peoria. As proposed, the Eastern Bypass would pass through Woodford County between Metamora and Germantown Hills.

Because the Eastern Bypass is a proposed major transportation improvement, it is subject to a multi-phase study process. The project is currently at the *Corridor Study* phase of the process. In this phase, the best corridor location – or general route – and the project's general effects on communities and the environment will be identified. Currently there are four corridors under consideration, and each corridor would pass between Metamora and Germantown Hills.

The Eastern Bypass was addressed in the resident survey. In response to Question 2 in which respondents were asked to select the priority level that should be given to 13 different issues, 45% of respondents identified “Supporting the Eastern Bypass” as a very high priority or high priority issue. This issue received the 8th highest percentage of “Very High” or “High”

responses. The Eastern Bypass also was mentioned elsewhere in the survey as one of the challenges facing Metamora and as one of the changes respondents would like to see in Metamora.

Much work remains to be done before the Eastern Bypass would ever become a reality. After the *Corridor Study* phase, the next phase of the project – which has not yet been funded – is the *Alignment Study*, which will identify the specific location for the highway and the detailed environmental and community effects of the highway. After the *Alignment Study* the decision would be made as to whether the Eastern Bypass should be built. If the decision were to be made to build the Eastern Bypass, the remaining project steps would be developing detailed construction plans, acquiring the land for the highway, and building the highway.

Because the Eastern Bypass would accommodate high traffic volumes and provide faster access to other parts of the region such as northern Peoria, it would have a substantial impact on Metamora. Therefore, the village should remain involved with the Corridor Study process and subsequent study work.

Lincoln Circuit Trail

The Lincoln Circuit Trail is a multi-use paved trail that passes through portions of Metamora north of Illinois Route 116. The Trail follows Coal Bank Road, runs through residential areas and alongside the northern wastewater treatment facility, and passes through

residential areas and around baseball fields north of Metamora Township High School. A portion of the trail also runs along the east side of the Hallmark facility and the north side of Metamora Grade School.

The Lincoln Circuit Trail was addressed in the resident survey. In Question 3, *bike trail extension/improvements* received the third-highest number of mentions as an issue not listed in Question 2 that should be addressed to improve Metamora. The Lincoln Circuit Trail is a unique amenity that can be promoted by the village to prospective residents who are interested in outdoor recreation activities, and extending the Trail into other portions of Metamora will increase the value of this amenity. Work should continue to increase connectivity and extend the Lincoln Circuit Trail.

Trail connection with Germantown Hills

An idea raised during this planning process was the development of a multi-use trail to connect Metamora with Germantown Hills. A trail of this type could be used by residents of both communities for transportation and recreation purposes. No detailed plans exist for this trail, but a conversation with Germantown Hills officials about this idea would be worthwhile. If mutual support exists for a trail, implementation work would involve assessing potential locations, identifying costs, and identifying mechanisms for acquiring and reserving land.

GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

GOAL 1

Pursue the installation of a stoplight at the intersection of Route 116 and Douglas Road.

- Communicate with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Woodford County on this issue.

GOAL 2

Reduce the speed of vehicular traffic along Coal Bank Road.

- Increase police presence along Coal Bank Road to enforce speed limit.

GOAL 3

Support Eastern Bypass planning.

- Support the completion of the Eastern Bypass Corridor Study.

GOAL 4

Complete the Lincoln Circuit Bike Trail.

- In the short term, pursue access between Didley's Car Hop and the nearby baseball fields.
- In the long term, complete the entire loop.
- Pursue Illinois Department of Transportation grant funding to complete the trail.

GOAL 5

Pursue the development of a multi-use trail connecting Metamora with Germantown Hills.

- Work with Germantown Hills to assess potential locations, identify costs, and identify mechanisms for acquiring and reserving land.

GOAL 6

Address any necessary traffic flow issues near schools.

- Work with school districts to address traffic flow issues.

GOAL 7

Avoid confusion from giving new streets names that are similar to the names of existing streets.

- When reviewing proposals for new developments, identify proposed street names that may cause confusion and request alternate street names.

DISASTER MITIGATION



This planning process is being funded by a disaster recovery planning grant received as a result of Hurricane Ike, which struck the United States in 2008. Hurricane Ike made landfall near Galveston, Texas in September of that year, but its damage was not limited only to coastal areas. The remnants of Hurricane Ike moved through the continental United States and passed through central Illinois, leading to flooding in Woodford County.

In addition to the flooding that occurred in 2008, other natural disasters, such as tornados and even greater flooding, have impacted central Illinois. Therefore, it is appropriate to identify strategies for how Metamora can mitigate and recover from natural disasters.

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

A Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed for the Tri-County region of Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties in 2010. While Metamora was not a participating entity in this planning process, Woodford County was a participating entity, and the information from this plan can help to inform disaster mitigation and recovery policies.

As part of the hazard mitigation planning process, potential hazards that may impact the region were prioritized in order to focus on the most significant hazards. Three hazards were categorized as high priority: floods; severe storms and tornados; and winter storms. Of these high priority hazards, tornados and floods have significantly impacted central Illinois in recent years.

RECENT DISASTERS

2013 Washington Tornado

An EF-4 tornado struck the Tazewell County community of Washington in November 2013; Washington is just 7 miles southwest of Metamora. The tornado was approximately one-half mile wide

and had a peak wind speed of 190 miles per hour. The City of Washington sustained major damage; over 1,100 homes were destroyed or badly damaged, and five businesses were destroyed. Three individuals lost their lives and 121 injuries were reported in or near Washington.

After passing through Washington, the tornado continued to the northeast and passed east of Metamora between Metamora and Roanoke. No damage occurred within the village, but some homes in rural areas were destroyed. In the aftermath of this disaster, it was realized that some Metamora residents were not able to hear the emergency sirens that sounded as the tornado was approaching the Metamora area.

The substantial damage caused by this tornado in a nearby community prompted the Village Board to begin a review of Metamora's emergency management and disaster response policies and procedures. This review occurred concurrently with this comprehensive planning process.

2010 Elmwood Tornado

An EF-2 tornado struck the Peoria County community of Elmwood in June 2010, approximately 40 miles

west of Metamora. The tornado was approximately 50 yards wide and packed winds at speeds of up to 130 miles per hour. The tornado struck Elmwood's downtown area, uprooting trees, toppling power lines, and damaging 41 buildings. No lives were lost and no injuries were reported.

While this tornado did not impact Metamora, it further demonstrates the risk that tornados pose to Central Illinois communities such as Metamora.

2013 Flooding

Historic flooding occurred in the greater Peoria area in the spring of 2013. In mid-April, torrential rains fell in the Tri-County region, leading to flooding of the Illinois River and other local waterways. The flooding that occurred in the City of Peoria set a record. The Illinois River at Peoria crested at 29.35 feet, besting the 70-year-old previous record by about six inches.

There are no waterways that flow through Metamora, and no part of Metamora is within a 100-year flood zone as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. So, Metamora was not impacted like other communities were by the 2013 flooding. Because no waterways flow through Metamora, flash flooding is the only flood concern in the village.

SURVEY RESULTS

Because this planning process began soon after the City of Washington sustained major tornado damage,

disaster preparedness was addressed in the resident survey. Question 1 asked residents to select their level of satisfaction concerning different services in Metamora, and 65% of respondents indicated they are either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with emergency sirens in the village. This service ranked 15th of the 31 services listed. It is a fact that some residents were not able to hear emergency sirens when the tornado that damaged Washington passed near Metamora, and the village is addressing this issue.

Question 2 listed 13 issues and asked residents to select the priority that should be given to each issue. 69% of respondents identified "Emergency and disaster preparedness" as a very high priority or high priority issue; this issue received the third-highest percentage of "Very High" or "High" responses. Clearly, disaster preparedness is an important topic in Metamora in the aftermath of the Washington tornado.

MOVING FORWARD

As mentioned above, the tornado damage that occurred in Washington prompted the Village Board to begin a review of Metamora's emergency management and disaster response policies and procedures. This review was a separate effort that occurred at the same time as the comprehensive planning process. The recommendations that arise from this review should be implemented by the village, for as demonstrated in November 2013, a major tornado occurring in Metamora is a very real possibility.

The fact that some residents could not hear the emergency sirens when the tornado that damaged Washington passed near Metamora has already been addressed. Additional sirens have been ordered and will be installed when received by the village. Moving forward, Metamora should regularly ensure that test sirens can be heard throughout the entire village. The village should also communicate with Woodford County about the possibility of having sirens sounded remotely.

The possibility of designating a community emergency shelter was raised during this planning process. A designated shelter could accommodate residents seeking shelter when a severe weather event is approaching and could also serve as a base of operations after a disaster. The possibility of designating a community emergency shelter should be examined further.

GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

GOAL 1

Improve emergency management and disaster response policies and procedures.

- Implement the recommendations of the current effort to review the village's emergency management and disaster response policies and procedures.
- Install new emergency sirens where needed.
- Communicate with Woodford County on the possibility of having village sirens sounded remotely by Woodford County ESDA.
- Determine whether a community emergency shelter should be designated.