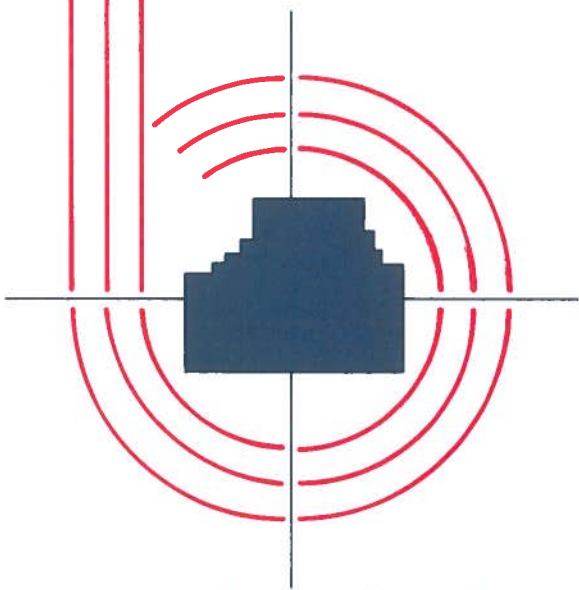


McLean County Regional Planning Commission



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1975 Annual Report



McLean County Regional Planning Commission

ILLINOIS HOUSE • SUITE 305 • 207 W. JEFFERSON ST. • BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61701 • PH. 309-828-4331

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Bloomington City Council
President and Members of the Normal Board of Trustees
Chairman and Members of the McLean County Board
Citizens of Bloomington, Normal and McLean County

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The McLean County Regional Planning Commission is pleased to present, herewith, its Eighth Annual Report covering activities for the year ending November 30, 1975. The report indicates the major aspects of the

year's work as well as the goals that remain to be accomplished in the future.

The Staff and Commission are indebted to those responsible for the cooperation of all governmental units and those individuals who have given so generously of their time, advice and inspiration in advancing the work of regional planning. We hope that we can merit their continued support and cooperation.



Sincerely yours,

William E. Froelich, Jr.
Chairman

Herman Dirks
Executive Director

Bibliography

Report No. AR-MCRPC-75
Title: Eighth Annual Report—McLean County Regional Planning Commission
Report Date: December, 1975
Author: McLean County Regional Planning Commission
Performing Organization McLean County Regional Planning Commission
207 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Project/Task/Work Unit No.: 101.05
Contract/Grant No.: CPA-IL-05-06-1049 (5-288)
Sponsoring Organization
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410

Type of Report & Period Covered: Eighth Annual Report

Abstracts:

This is the Eighth annual report made by the Regional Planning Commission to the residents and supporting agencies within McLean County, Illinois. The report includes a resume' of the Commission's activities for the fiscal year 1974-1975 including work completed, financial statements, listing of members and a proposed work program.

Availability Statement: Limited copies of this report will be available at no charge for residents of McLean County.

Security Class: Unclassified

Price: \$2.00

Formation

The McLean County Board of supervisors, on January 10, 1967, passed a resolution creating the McLean County Regional Planning Commission.



Organization

APRIL 1967 - A seven member steering committee was appointed. The Commission received \$3,000 for operating expenses from the County Board of Supervisors.

JUNE 1976 - The Commission adopted by-laws.

AUGUST 1967 - The Commission elected officers and members of the Executive Board.

FEBRUARY 1968 - A draft of the Regional Planning Services Agreement was approved by the Commission and presented to the County Board of Supervisors; the Bloomington City Council and the Normal Board of Trustees.

JUNE 1968 - Following approval of this Agreement, the nucleus of a professional staff was hired.

MARCH 1969 - The membership of the Commission was reorganized from 35 to the present 13 members.

1. The Chairman and 6 members appointed by the Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors.
2. 3 members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Bloomington.



3. 3 members appointed by the Mayor of the Town of Normal.

MARCH 1972 - An amendment to the original resolution was passed by the County Board of Supervisors providing that 2/3 of the members of the Commission must be elected officials or their direct representatives. The resolution provides for the appointment of:

1. 5 members of the County Board.
2. 2 members of the Normal Town Council, and
3. 2 members of the Bloomington City Council.



Membership

The following persons were members of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission on November 30, 1975.

COUNTY

- * John English, Bloomington, Illinois
- William E. Froelich, Jr., Chairman, Gridley, Illinois
- * David King, LeRoy, Illinois
- * Roy Henderson, Colfax, Illinois
- Mrs. Dale Ernst, Secretary-Treasurer, Danvers, Illinois
- * Paul Segobiano, Bloomington, Illinois
- * Delmar Streid, Chenoa, Illinois

BLOOMINGTON

- Henry L. Brown
- * Donald Olsen
- * Karl Passmore, Vice-Chairman

NORMAL

- Rev. James Pruyne
- * James Roudebush
- * Ralph Wrench

- * Elected official or their direct representative.

Responsibilities

The Commission is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of a Comprehensive Regional Plan for McLean County, and the preparation of special planning studies for units of government in McLean County at their request. The Commission is also responsible for providing the County Board; the Bloomington City Council and Planning Commission; the Normal Board of Trustees and Planning Commission with certain basic planning services designed to assist them in making day-to-day decisions which have planning and development implications.



Technical Staff

A full-time professional planning staff originated in June of 1968, with the hiring of an Executive Director and a Principal Planner. The present staff consists of twelve full-time persons; the Executive Director, one Principal Planner, six Associate Planners, two Planning Technicians, Secretary and Typist.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Herman Dirks received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Illinois in 1959. Before joining the staff in June of 1968, Mr. Dirks was associated with:

1. Department of City Planning—Phoenix, Arizona

2. Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission—Springfield, Illinois
3. Department of City Development—Bloomington, Illinois

The Executive Director is responsible for the liaison between the Commission and other units of government in McLean County; advising the Commission on regional planning matters; and over-all programming and supervision of staff activities.

PRINCIPAL PLANNER

Mr. Kenneth J. Emmons joined the staff on June 1, 1971. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art from the University of Northern Iowa in June of 1967. He has also received a Master's of Art degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa in May of 1971. Before joining the staff, Mr. Emmons was associated with the Johnson County (Iowa) Regional Planning Commission, the City of Rock Island Planning Department, and the Metropolitan Planning Commission of the Black Hawk County in Iowa. Mr. Emmons primary responsibility is to provide local planning assistance to the Bloomington City Council, City Manager and the City Planning and Zoning Commission.

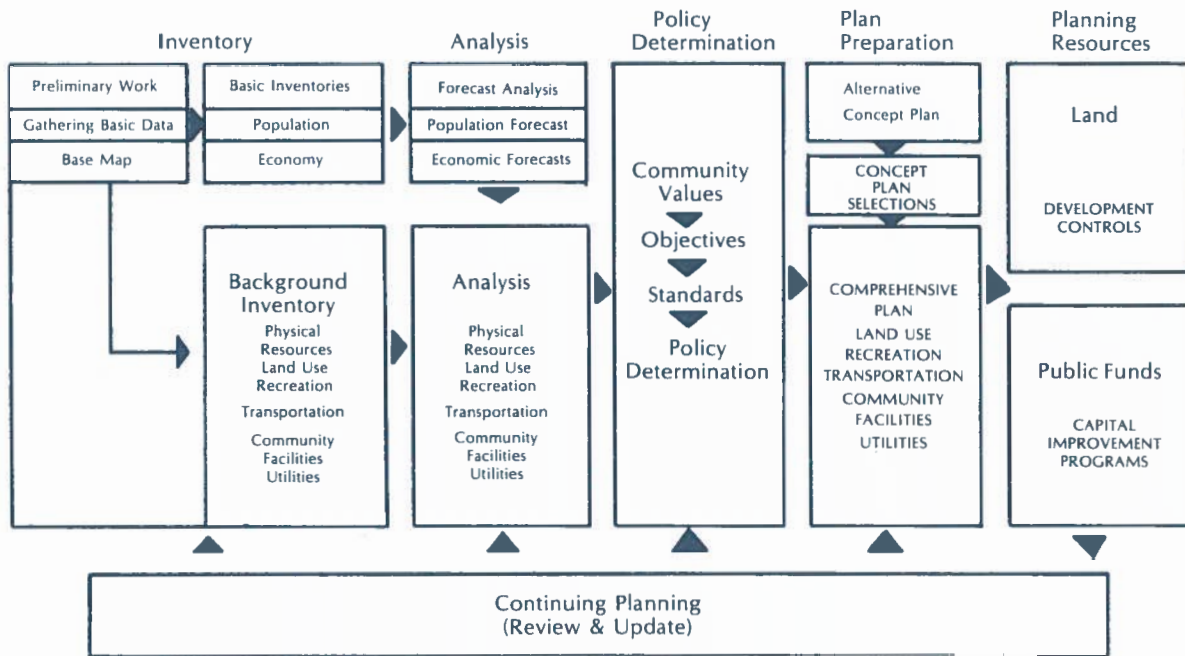
ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Miss Mary Anne Nelson received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography from Illinois State University in 1969, and a Master of Science Degree in Geography from Illinois State University in 1975. She has been employed with the Regional Planning Commission since 1971; from August, 1971 to May, 1972 as a Cartographer and as Associate Planner from May, 1972 to the present. Miss Nelson's primary responsibility is to provide local planning assistance to the Normal Town Council, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Mr. Steve Weeks joined the staff on July 15, 1974. He received a Bachelors Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois in June of 1974. Mr. Weeks primary responsibility is to provide local

REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS



planning assistance to the Environment Committee of the McLean County Board and the McLean County Zoning Board of Appeals.

ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Mr. Ronald Edwards joined the staff on September 30, 1974. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography from Drake University in May of 1971. He is presently working toward a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration at Sangamon State University. Before joining the staff he was associated with the Illinois Department of Transportation as a Transportation Planner. Mr. Edwards is responsible for coordinating the McLean County Transportation Study planning activities and documentation of the transportation planning process.

ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Mr. Vincent Serritella joined the staff on February 10, 1975. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from Illinois

State University in June of 1973 and will complete his Master of Arts in Sociology in August of 1976. He was formerly associated with American Airlines and the U.S. Peace Corps as a volunteer and program coordinator. Mr. Serritella is responsible for planning Manpower programs and Social Policy and Planning programs.

ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Mr. Craig Kessler joined the staff on March 31, 1975. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography in June 1972 from the State University College of New York at New Paltz, and holds a Masters of Science Degree in Geography from Illinois State University. Prior to coming to the Commission he was an instructor in the Geography-Geology Department at Illinois State University. Mr. Kessler is responsible for providing local planning assistance to Bloomington, Normal, McLean County and interested villages in developing a Community Development Program and to prepare yearly applications for funding on their behalf.

ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Mr. James W. Wheaton joined the staff on September 15, 1975. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Wittenburg University in June of 1972. He also received a Master's of City and Regional Planning from Ohio State University in June of 1974. Before joining the staff, Mr. Wheaton was associated with United Tribes of North Dakota as an ACTION volunteer. Mr. Wheaton is responsible for developing the Regional Development Plan and assisting in Social Policy and Planning for McLean County.

PLANNING TECHNICIAN

Mr. William Givens joined the staff on September 3, 1974. He received an Associate in Arts and Science degree in graphic design from Illinois Central College in August 1974. Mr. Givens is responsible for the design and preparation of visual materials used by the staff.



PLANNING TECHNICIAN

Mr. David Noren received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from Illinois State University in June 1974. He has completed one year of graduate work at Illinois State University. In May of 1975, he was hired as an intern, and in July, 1975, he was hired as a Planning Technician. Mr. Noren is responsible for providing assistance to the transportation planning study in the area of inventory, analysis and storage of planning data.

SECRETARY

Mrs. Loretta Jarvis joined the staff in July of 1968. She is responsible for providing secretarial and bookkeeping assistance to the staff.

TYPIST

Miss Cheryl Crain joined the staff on September 16, 1974. She is responsible for providing typing assistance to the staff.

Regional Planning Studies

WATER RESOURCES:

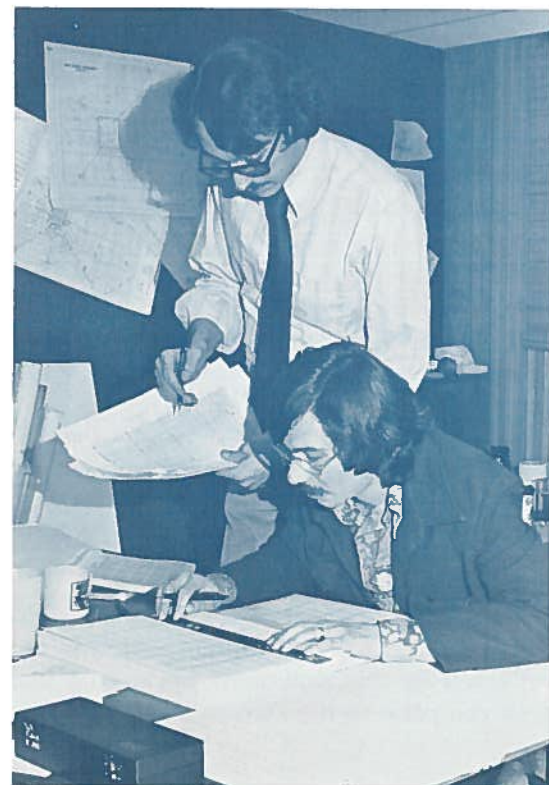
The staff has continued to work with the Water Resources Committee in developing preliminary data concerning alternative long-range water resources to support continued growth and development of McLean County.

SOLID WASTE:

The staff continued to work with the Solid Waste Committee in the development of their report to the commission. The report made recommendations concerning the collection and disposal of solid waste material within McLean County.

LAND USE:

The staff assisted the Land Use Study Committee in the development of a land use plan for the urban area and its environs. The Committee has also developed certain innovative techniques that are proposed to



result in the cooperative implementation of land use policies.

HUMAN SERVICES GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The staff has completed a comprehensive revision of the preliminary draft of the above report.

TRANSPORTATION:

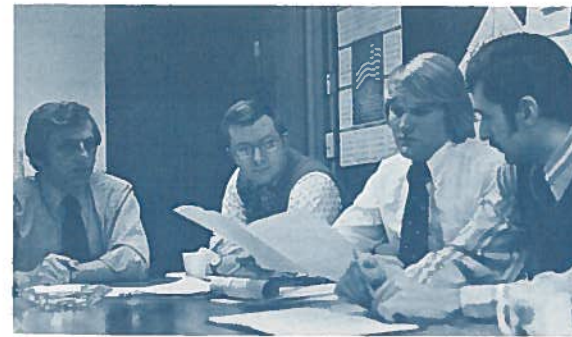
The staff has begun the studies necessary to reevaluate the 1990 Transportation Plan for McLean County. Some of the planning activities that were completed include: a land use survey of the Bloomington-Normal urbanized area, a travel time study between major traffic generators, a comprehensive review of the largest employers in the area, an analysis of air quality and an update of the Transit Development Program for the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System. As part of the major reappraisal, the MCRPC staff has developed a computerized data bank for monitoring land use. Upon completion of the major reappraisal, a new transportation plan will be prepared that reflects the current and future transportation needs of the community for the year 2000.



MANPOWER PROGRAM PLANNING:

The staff has prepared the applications for manpower program funding for McLean, DeWitt and Livingston Counties. Other responsibilities have included the:

1. Development of manpower training programs;
2. Administration of the Public Service Employment Program;
3. Assisting McLean County in developing their prime sponsor program; and
4. Providing staff assistance to various citizen groups.



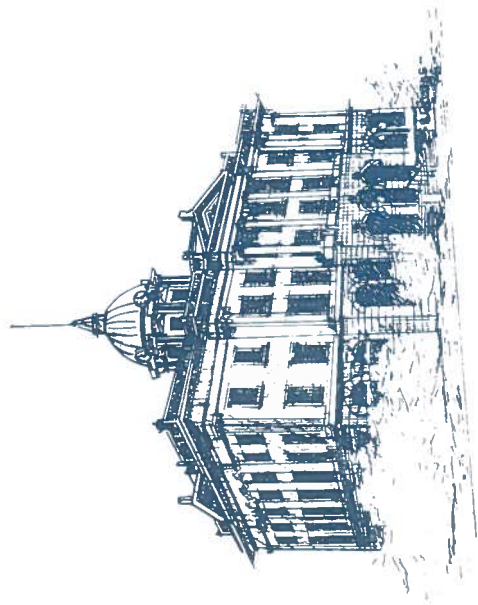
A-95 Review

1. Village of Colfax - Planning for wastewater collection and treatment system improvements.
2. FM Station WGLT - Increase in power.
3. Village of Carlock - Planning for wastewater collection and treatment system improvements.
4. Project Lighthouse - Funding to continue basic program.
5. City of Bloomington - Community Development Grant.
6. Bloomington-Normal - Development of the Towanda Avenue-Vernon Avenue intersection.
7. McLean County Community Development Program Pre-application - Funding for the surfacing of entrance roads and the beach parking lot at Comlara Park.
8. Village of Downs Community Development Pre-application - Funds for a portion of the cost for constructing an elevated water storage tank.
9. City of Bloomington - Widening and resurfacing of Emerson Street from Clinton Blvd. to State Street.
10. McLean County Correction Center - Purchase of recreation, food service and security equipment.
11. City of Bloomington - Acquisition of



- park land including: Forrest Park Addition, Rolling Brook Park-School, and Airport Park area.
12. Meadows Mennonite Nursing Home expansion.
13. Village of Lexington - State Highway safety sign placement.
14. McLean County - Safety projects including guardrails and railroad crossing warning signals.
15. Village of Colfax - Sewer system improvement study.
16. Town of Normal - Community Development Program Application.
17. Bloomington Township Public Water District - Construction of a water system to serve area west of Bloomington.
18. Project Lighthouse - Outpatient Drug Services.
19. School Unit District #16 - "Management by Objectives" training to district personnel.
20. Withers Public Library - New library construction.
21. State of Illinois, Highway Planning and Research Program - Conformance with the Unified Work Program.
22. State of Illinois - Improvement of the intersection of Fort Jesse Road and U.S. Rt. 66.
23. Lighthouse - Applied Research Studies.
24. Village of Stanford Water System Improvements - Application for a loan to install a 100,000 gallon water storage facility.
25. Village of Downs Police Services Contract - Request for the assignment of a full time trained law enforcement officer.
26. McLean County - Acquisition of open space from the Parklands Foundation, for public use.
27. Youth Services Agency - Funding to continue basic program.
28. Bloomington and Normal - Funding of Crime Prevention Program.
29. Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority - Funding of repairs to the existing crosswind runway.
30. Village of Colfax - Funding for construction of sewage treatment facilities.
31. State of Illinois - Illinois Route 9 Relocation.
32. Village of Carlock - Police Services Contract.
33. McLean County - Comlara Park Campground Development.
34. Village of Downs - Step I Sewage Treatment

Technical Assistance



McLean County

ZONING:

The staff has provided reports to the Zoning Board of Appeals concerning:

- 7 zoning map amendments
- 1 zoning text amendment
- 32 special use permits
- 19 Variations

SUBDIVISIONS:

The staff has provided reports and recommendations to the County Board's Environment Committee for subdivisions since December 1, 1975.

COMPUTERIZATION OF COUNTY TAX RECORDS:

The staff has advised the McLean County Board Advisory Committee's Computer Subcommittee regarding various systems for computerizing the real estate property tax cycle in McLean County.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

The staff has assisted the County Board's Recreation Committee and the Village of Downs in preparing preapplications for Federal Financial Assistance. The staff also prepared the final application for the Village of Downs leading to the grant of \$45,000 for the improvement of their municipal water system.

SMALL COMMUNITIES:

The staff has completed a new zoning ordinance for the City of LeRoy and the Village of Saybrook.

City of Bloomington

ZONING:

Public hearings are held on all requests for zoning changes. Since December 1, 1975, the staff has provided reports and recommendations to the Bloomington Planning and Zoning Commission and the Bloomington City Council on:

- 19 zoning map amendments
- 10 special use permits
- 5 zoning text amendments
- 7 zoning variances

SUBDIVISIONS:

The staff has provided reports and recommendations to the Bloomington Planning and Zoning Commission and the Bloomington City Council for 17 subdivisions since December 1, 1975.

BLOOMINGTON ZONING ORDINANCE:

The staff is preparing a final draft of the new zoning ordinance for review and public hearing by the Zoning Commission and subsequent adoption by the Bloomington City Council.

BLOOMINGTON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM:

The staff has worked with the Bloomington-Normal Metro-Manager and Bloomington's Assistant City Manager, Director of Finance and other department heads in completing a five year capital improvements program for inclusion in the 1976-1981 Five Year Budget for the City of Bloomington. This includes a priority listing of proposed public works with recommended sources of financing.

BLOOMINGTON CENTRAL AREA PLAN:

The staff has completed a detailed improvement plan for that portion of the Central Area bounded by Locust, Olive, Madison, and East Streets. This plan has been adopted by the Bloomington City Council as a guide for future public works programming.

BLOOMINGTON SIGN ORDINANCE:

The staff has worked in liaison with the McLean County Association of Commerce and Industry Sign Code Review Committee and the Bloomington Citizen's Beautification Committee in drafting new sign regulations for the City of Bloomington.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

The staff has assisted the Department of Community Development (Urban Renewal)

in the development of planning studies leading to the application for Federal financial assistance for improvements in the 40 Acres, Central Area, Eastwood and Park Hill Areas, as well as other community improvements. The City of Bloomington received funding in the amount of \$2,169,000.00.

BEAUTIFICATION:

The staff assisted the Beautification Committee in the development of landscaping plans for the new Route 51 improvements near Highland Park Golf Course. The staff also prepared the first draft of a report titled "A Street Tree Planting Policy" that will be submitted to the City Council for review in the near future.



ings of the first phase of the landscaping program for the public right of ways in the Normal Central Area.

NORMAL ZONING ORDINANCE:

The staff is preparing a final draft of the text of a new zoning ordinance for the Town.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

The staff has begun the task of updating the Comprehensive Plan for the Town that was prepared in 1970 by the consulting firm of Leo A. Daley in 1970.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

The staff has assisted the Town in preparing their application for funds under the Community Development Act. The town was awarded a grant of \$81,000, which will be used to improve the local street system.



Town of Normal

ZONING:

Since December 1, 1974 the staff has provided

ed reports and recommendations to the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Town Council concerning:

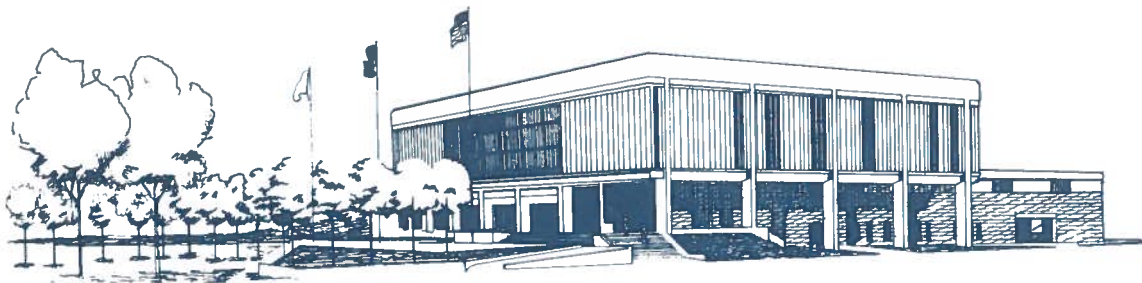
- 15 zoning map amendments
- 17 special use permits
- 8 zoning text amendments
- 26 variations

SUBDIVISIONS:

The staff has provided reports and recommendations to the Normal Planning Commission and Town Council for subdivisions and planned unit development since December 1, 1974.

NORMAL CENTRAL AREA PLAN:

The staff has completed illustrative render-



Acknowledgment:

The preparation of this report was financed in part through a Comprehensive Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.