McLean County Regional Planning Commission

707 North East Street

Bloomington, Illinois 61701

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 of Supervisors
Citizens of Bloomington, Normal and McLean County

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The McLean County Regional Planning Commission is pleased to present, herewith, its Fourth Annual Report covering activities for the year ending November 30, 1971. 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 the 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, and we hope that we can merit their continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

H. Clay Tate, Chairman

Herman Dirks, Executive Director
ABSTRACT

TITLE: Fourth Annual Report - McLean County Regional Planning Commission

AUTHOR: McLean County Regional Planning Commission

SUBJECT: Report of Regional Planning Activities

DATE: December, 1971

LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY: McLean County Regional Planning Commission

SOURCE OF COPIES: McLean County Regional Planning Commission
707 North East Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information
2285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22151

For Reference: HUD Regional Office; Region IV
219 South Dearborn
Chicago, Illinois 60604

HUD Library, Washington, D.C.
Joint Reference Library
1313 East 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

HUD PROJECT NO.: ILL. P-307

NO. OF PAGES: 15

ABSTRACT:

This is the fourth 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 1970-1971 including work completed, financial statements, listing of members and a proposed work program.
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The preparation of this report was financed in part through a Comprehensive Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
MCLEAN COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

* FORMATION

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

Henry L. Booher,
Chairman

* ORGANIZATION

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


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 15 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.

* 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; and 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.
MEMBERSHIP

The following persons were members of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission on November 30, 1971:

COUNTRY

Henry L. Brown
1116 West MacArthur
Bloomington, Illinois
Ph. 828-5130
Bloomington, Illinois
Ph. 379-2676

John English
R. R. # 3
Bloomington, Illinois
Ph. 828-6714
Bloomington, Illinois
Ph. 378-3333

W. E. Froelich
Gridley, Illinois
Ph. 135

H. Clay Tate, Chairman
R. R. # 2
Bloomington, Illinois
Ph. 379-2676

Mrs. R. E. (Pamela) Yeast
R. R. # 1
McLean, Illinois
Ph. 648-2705

John Grimes
R. F. O.
Towanda, Illinois
Ph. 725-3371

BLOOMINGTON

John Cox
1613 East Olive
Bloomington, Illinois
Ph. 662-1933

William Driggs
915 Hastings Drive
Bloomington, Illinois
Ph. 652-1215

Paul J. Szybolczyk
1501 west Graham Street
Bloomington, Illinois
Ph. 828-6592

NORMAL

Peter Keiller
318 South Grove Street
Normal, Illinois
Ph. 452-6065

Henry Miller
1311 Spear Drive
Normal, Illinois
Ph. 452-6699

Keith Scott
32 Knollcrest Court
Normal, Illinois
Ph. 452-6372
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 eight full-time persons; the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, three Associate Planners, Draftsman, Secretary and Typist.

* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Herman Dirks received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Illinois in 1955. Before joining the staff, 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 programing and supervision of staff activities.

* ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Robert Ferren joined the staff in September of 1965. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from Eastern Illinois University in August, 1964. He also received a Master of Science degree in Geography from Eastern Illinois University in August of 1965. Before joining the staff, Mr. Ferren was associated with the Illinois Division of Highways as an Urban Planner for over three years. The Assistant Executive Director is responsible for the preparation of planning studies and the coordination of staff activities under the supervision of the Executive Director.

* ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Mr. Thomas Crouch resigned from the staff effective May 21, 1971.

* ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Mr. Pete Matson joined the staff on October 2, 1970. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Wesleyan University in June of 1971. Mr. Matson's responsibilities included the preparation of law and justice planning studies. Mr. Matson resigned from the staff effective October 1, 1971.
**ASSOCIATE PLANNER**

Mr. John W. Connery joined the staff on July 6, 1971. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Government, Cum Laude, from Boston University in June of 1969. He has also received his Master of Science degree in City Planning from the University of Illinois in June of 1971. Mr. Connery was previously associated with the City of Sandusky, Ohio as a summer intern.

**ASSOCIATE PLANNER**

Mr. Kenneth J. Emons 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. Emons was associated with the Johnson County, Iowa Regional Planning Commission, the City of Rock Island Planning Department, and the Metropolitan Planning Commission of Black Hawk County in Iowa.

**ASSOCIATE PLANNER**

Mr. Charles Heston joined the staff on June 1, 1971. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Planning from Iowa State University in May of 1971. Mr. Heston was previously associated with the Green Engineering Co. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**DRAFTSMAN**

Mr. Michael C. Everson retired from the staff effective in July of 1971.

**CARTOGRAPHER**

Mrs. Mary Anne Ballinger joined the staff in August of 1971. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from Illinois State University in June of 1969. She has also completed all course work necessary for a Master's of Science degree in Geography at Illinois State University in June of 1971. Mrs. Ballinger is presently working toward the completion of her thesis. She is responsible for production of research and graphic materials to document the staff planning reports.

**SECRETARY**

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

**TYPIST**

Mrs. Dianne Flint joined the staff in December of 1971. She is responsible for a majority of the typing work, including special planning reports.
RESEARCH

Data pertaining to existing and historical population and economic growth trends and land use patterns are gathered to provide a statistical base for the forecast of future development activities.

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

Combining the data obtained through research, the planning process is guided by the following principles. The principles are designed to ensure that the plans are consistent, consistent, and consistent with the overall plans and objectives of the area. These plans will then be turned into action by the appropriate public and private decision makers and action taking and action of the community or region.

- The comprehensive planning process is designed to provide a sound basis for public and private decision making and action concerning regional or community development opportunities.
## FINANCES

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<td>Town of Normal (12-1-70 to 12-1-71)</td>
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<td>Farmers Home Administration</td>
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<td>Law Enforcement Planning Expenses</td>
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<td>Total Disbursements</td>
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### BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD (11-30-71)

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BASIC PLANNING SERVICES

SUBDIVISIONS

All subdivisions of land within the corporate limits and within 1½ mile beyond those limits of Bloomington and Normal and all unincorporated land in the County fall within the jurisdiction of their respective Land Subdivision Ordinances. The staff has provided reports and recommendations to the Planning Commissions, Committees, and City Councils on 8 subdivisions in Bloomington, 8 subdivisions in Normal and 4 subdivisions in the County, since December 1, 1970.

ZONING

Public hearings are held on all requests for zoning changes. Since December 1, 1970 the staff has sent reports and recommendations on:

Bloomington

19 zoning requests
1 special use permit
8 county zoning cases within 1½ miles of the City
1 revision of shopping center plan
1 Residential Planned Development
2 Mobile Home Parks

Normal

17 zoning requests
6 Planned developments or shopping centers

County

16 zoning amendment requests
7 special use permits

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<tr>
<th>ZONING CHANGE REQUESTS*</th>
<th>No. Requests</th>
<th>No. Denied</th>
<th>No. Granted</th>
<th>No. Withdrawn or Rescinded</th>
<th>No. Approvals Recommended by Staff</th>
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<td>31</td>
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*Does not include County Zoning Requests
GENERAL ACTIVITIES

An effective planning process calls for interaction and contact with various governmental bodies and civic organizations in order to inform and implement plans and projects. Staff participation with organizations included the following:

Bloomington City Council 24 meetings
Bloomington Planning Commission 23 meetings
Bloomington Staff 45 meetings
Normal Staff 7 meetings
Normal Town Council 23 meetings
Normal Planning Commission 14 meetings
Regional Planning Commission 11 meetings
Transportation Technical Committee 10 meetings
Zoning and Regional Planning Committee 17 meetings
County Board of Supervisors 10 meetings
Reapportionment Committee (Co.) 3 meetings
Progress Committee 10 meetings
Bloomington Unlimited 26 meetings

Other groups the staff has appeared before or worked with are the Village of McLean, Illinois State University, Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, Farmers Home Administration, Illinois Division of Highways, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation, State Environmental Protection Agency and the Soil Conservation Service.

SECTION 204 REVIEW PROCEDURES AND REPORT

Section 204 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 provided that all applications for federal assistance be accompanied by the comments of an area wide planning agency. On June 20, 1967, the McLean County Regional Planning Commission was certified by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development as the Area Wide Review Agency for McLean County. Applications reviewed under Sec. 204 included:

1. Town of Normal
   Application for federal financial assistance under the T.O.P.I.C.S. program for the Improvement of the intersection of Linden Street with Beaufort Street and College Avenue.

2. McLean County
   Proposal to improve certain County roads by widening and resurfacing on existing right-of-way.

3. State of Illinois
   Proposal to improve certain State highways within McLean County including widening and resurfacing of existing highways and the replacement of 2 bridges.
4. State of Illinois
   Review of the 1972 Transportation Planning Work Program.

5. The Villages of Downs, Danvers, McLean and Heyworth
   Application for Federal financial assistance for the improvement
   of sewage treatment facilities.

6. Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority
   Application for Federal financial assistance for the widening
   of the major runway at the airport.

7. City of Bloomington
   Application for Federal financial assistance for the develop-
   ment of O’Neill Park.

8. Town of Normal
   Application for Federal financial assistance for the construction
   of a new library.

9. State of Illinois
   Proposal to redesign and improve the intersection of U.S. Route
   66 and U.S. Route 150.

10. State of Illinois
    Proposal to widen and resurface U.S. Route 136 from Heyworth
    to U.S. Route 150.

11. City of Bloomington
    Application for Federal financial assistance for the develop-
    ment of a swimming pool at O’Neill Park.

12. McLean County Regional Planning Commission
    Application for Federal financial assistance for conducting
    a public transit technical study.

NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN

A plan is being developed for the efficient use and/or conservation
of the land, water and biological resources that are located within
McLean County.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

A plan is being developed for the provision of necessary community
facilities to meet the needs of the existing and forecast population;
these facilities include:

1. Schools
2. Parks, recreation and open space
3. Public buildings
4. Private utilities
5. Water and sewer
6. Solid waste collection and disposal.
EVERGREEN LAKE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A physical development plan for the public use of the land surrounding Evergreen Lake was conducted by the staff and financed by McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District.

MCLEAN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

1. Terminal and Transfer Facilities - A plan for the provision of adequate off-street parking spaces is being developed for the Bloomington central business district, the Normal downtown area, Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University and Eastland Shopping Center.

2. Financial Resources - A plan for the efficient use of all federal, state and local financial resources that will be available for implementing the transportation plan is being developed.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

An application for Federal financial assistance to conduct a public transit study was prepared and submitted to the Department of Transportation.

COUNTY-WIDE WATER AND SEWER STUDY

The consulting firm of Reid, Quebe, Allison, Wilcox and Associates, Inc., are preparing a county-wide water and sewer plan for all of McLean County, except Bloomington and Normal. This study is being financed by the Farmers Home Administration.

REVIEW OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES

The staff has cooperated with the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and McLean County in reviewing and updating portions of their respective zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations to meet changing situations.

H.U.D. CERTIFICATIONS

The McLean County Regional Planning Commission has been certified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as being the authorized regional planning agency representing all of McLean County under an acceptable comprehensive planning program. The Commission has also submitted applications to H.U.D. for the certification of their Bloomington-Normal urbanized area water and sewer plan and also the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
CENSUS DATA DISTRIBUTION

A staff member of the Commission has been designated as a "Census Key Person" for the receipt and distribution of local 1970 Census data.

EWING PARK

The Executive Director was appointed moderator of a special committee to investigate and propose solutions to certain conflicts between the use of the park and adjacent residents. The committee included 2 members of the Bloomington City Council; 2 members of the Normal Board of Trustees; and 2 residents of the area. As a result of the work of this group, several improvements will be made in the facilities provided in Ewing Park and the recreation program will be altered to minimize conflicts with the resident's privacy.

COUNTY BOARD REAPPORTIONMENT

The staff worked closely with the County Board's Reapportionment Committee by preparing certain population data and alternate proposals to reapportion the County Board. This plan was adopted by the Board in May of 1971.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Until October 1, 1971, the staff acted as the administrative and planning staff for the newly created Region 12 Law and Justice Committee. Region 12 included McLean, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois and Kankakee Counties.

GOALS FOR DEVELOPMENT

A report titled "Goals for Development" was approved by the Commission. This report set forth certain goals and objectives for the comprehensive development of McLean County.

BLOOMINGTON CENTRAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The staff has prepared a plan for the physical development for Bloomington's central area. This plan includes the phasing of development proposals and suggests possible methods of funding.

COMPREHENSIVE REVISION TO THE BLOOMINGTON ZONING ORDINANCE

The staff has begun work on preparing a comprehensive revision to the Bloomington Zoning Ordinance.
FINANCES
DECEMBER 1, 1971 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 1972

ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS

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<td>City of Bloomington</td>
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<td>Town of Normal</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL RECEIPTS</strong></td>
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BUDGET

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WORK PROGRAM
DECEMBER 1, 1971 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 1972

ADMINISTRATION

1. Office Management
2. Collection and updating of planning data
3. Basic research and staff training

COORDINATION

1. Review of development proposals
2. Review of zoning amendments
3. Review of subdivision proposals
4. Assistance in obtaining State and/or Federal financial assistance

PLANNING STUDIES

1. Development of Regional Land Use Plan
2. Update the inventory and analysis of existing land use, population
   and economic data
3. Development of the Comprehensive Plan for McLean County
4. Development of citizens participation study

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Continue to develop a revised urban renewal plan for the central
   area of Bloomington
2. Complete the proposed comprehensive revision of the zoning ordinance
   for the City of Bloomington
FUTURE PLANNING STUDIES

SOCIAL SERVICE SYSTEM
1. Inventory and analysis of existing facilities and programs.
2. Develop goals and objectives.
3. Develop plan and program for system improvement.

SPECIAL STUDIES
1. Detailed soil surveys.
2. Flood plain control studies.
3. Electronic data processing studies.

SMALL AREA DEVELOPMENT PLANS
Detailed plans and implementation programs will be prepared for each census tract or some other suitable small geographic area.
The McLean County Regional Planning Commission and staff encourages inquiry and participation in the planning program by interested citizens and civic groups.

Questions and suggestions regarding any phase of the planning program are welcome.

for further information:
WRITE OR CALL
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
707 NORTH EAST STREET
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
PHONE 822-4331