

**Undeveloped,
Agricultural, and
Natural Areas
Strategy Paper**

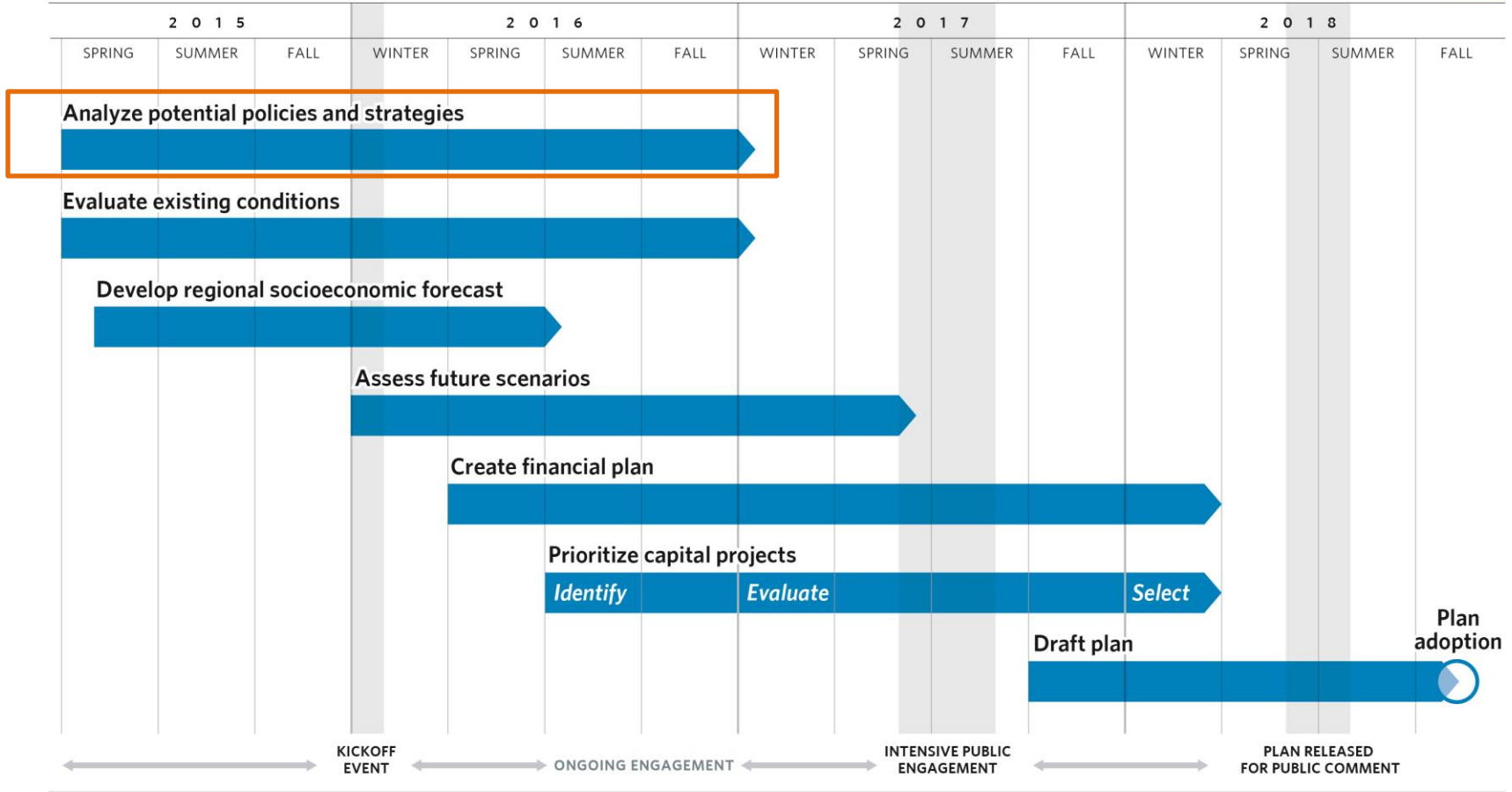
in the next comprehensive regional plan

October 7, 2015



Planning Process

CMAP comprehensive plan development timeline



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.



Resource Group

- Provide expertise and guidance on the development of potential policy recommendations
- Drawn from people outside of existing CMAP committee membership
- Covers groups focused on agricultural and natural resource preservation, land planning, developers, among others



GO TO 2040 Recommendations

- Expand and Improve Parks and Open Space
 - Used the Green Infrastructure Vision as the way to prioritize and coordinate preservation of natural areas and the functional connections between them.
 - Goals for natural areas preservation; restoration and management
- Manage and Conserve Water and Energy Resources
 - Integrating land use and site planning with water resources
 - Protect sensitive groundwater recharge areas.
- Promote Sustainable Local Food
 - Two main themes - local food production and food access.
 - Local food production to address the challenges our agricultural system faces.
 - Reviewed the positive financial impacts of farmland and open space to the public sector.



GO TO 2040 Indicator Targets

- Conserve 400,000 acres of open space
 - 2013: 259,949 acres
- No more than 640,000 acres of Impervious Coverage
 - 2012: 556,000 acres
- 8,200 acres of land harvesting food for human consumption
 - 2012: 4,688 acres
- Develop within or adjacent to existing municipal boundaries
 - New indicator identified in plan update
 - Will track the number of acres of development that occurred within the desired boundaries over the life of the plan. Compared with development occurring in unincorporated areas.



Purpose of this Strategy Paper

- Evaluate where and how development and preservation efforts have occurred.
- Identify effective strategies for preserving these areas.
- Outline guidance on where and how development on these lands can reduce negative impacts and support community livability.



Current Definitions

- Agricultural lands: row crops, field crops, pasture, livestock – including both commodity crops and local food farms.
- Natural areas: lands identified in the Green Infrastructure Vision 2.3.
- Undeveloped lands: land in an undeveloped state within a municipal boundary with no agricultural activities or identified natural resources.



Scope of Work

- **Phase 1:** Understanding policy landscape
- **Phase 2:** Understanding change
- **Phase 3:** Costs and benefits



1. Understanding Policy Landscape

- Quick review of large scale pressures
 - Suburbanization trends, industrialization of agriculture, climate change, water supply, etc.
- Review existing policies, organizations, programs, preferences
- Review other MPO and County approaches



2. Understanding Change

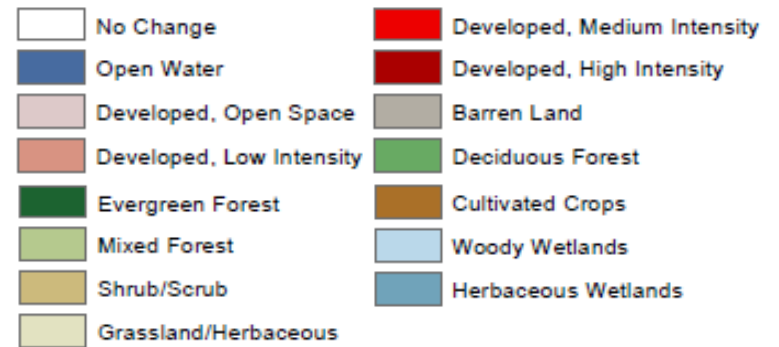
- Investigate which lands in the region have been developed or preserved and what type of transformation has occurred.
- Develop categories of change to better understand the land conversion that is happening.
- Conduct case studies of the predominant types of change.
- Identify which existing programs or planning techniques are in use and how effective these approaches have been.



NLCD

Land Cover Change

2001 - 2011



3. Costs and Benefits

- Narrative format - not a cost benefit analysis
- Types of costs could include
 - Infrastructure maintenance, municipal and school district services, loss of ecosystem services, loss of agricultural contribution, etc.
- Types of benefits could include
 - Tax revenue, ecosystem services, agricultural production, etc.



Deliverables for ENR to Review

- **Fall:** vision statement
- **Winter:** 2-pager / preview of findings
- **Spring:** draft strategy paper
- **Early Summer:** final strategy paper



Comments / Questions

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