

Lands in Transition

Strategy Paper Update
July 7, 2016

Agenda

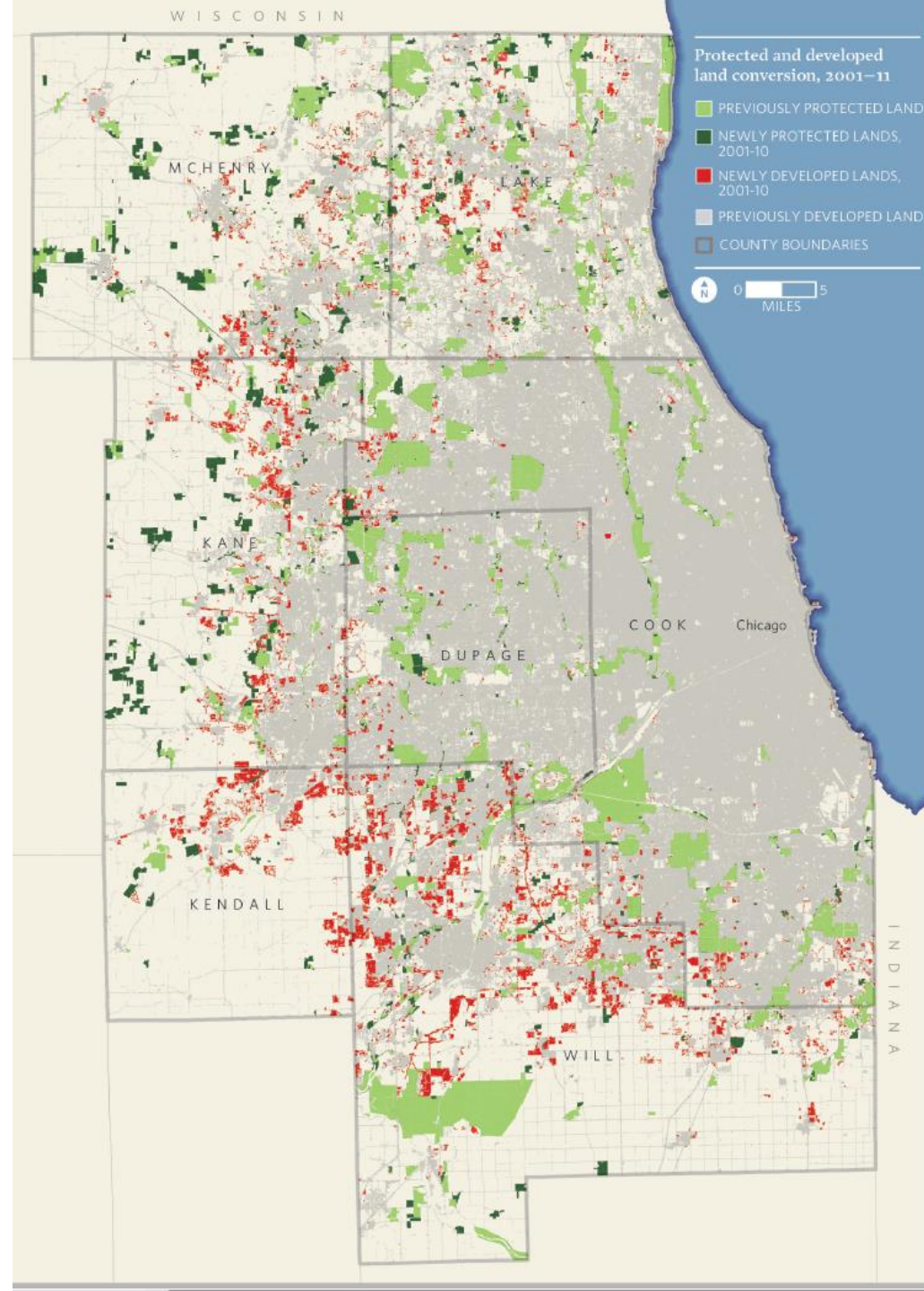
- Quick recap
- Case studies
- GO TO 2040 recommendations
- Draft strategies
- Next steps



Quick recap

Purpose

- 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.



Resource group

Name	Organization
Lenore Beyer-Clow	Openlands
Ed Collins	McHenry County Conservation District
Lisa Haderlein	The Land Conservancy of McHenry County
Janice Hill	Kane County Development and Community Services Department
Sarah Knobloch	Kinship Foundation
Brad Leibov	Liberty Prairie Foundation
Dan Lobbes	The Conservation Foundation
Charlie Nordman	Village of Huntley
Mike Schwarz	Village of Homer Glen
Todd Vanadilok	APA - Chicago Metro Section / Teska Associates
Mark Vankerkhoff	Kane County Development and Community Services Department



Scope

Understanding change

- Investigate which lands in the region have been developed or preserved and what type of transformation has occurred.
- Conduct case studies of the predominant types of change.

Understanding policy landscape

- Review of large scale pressures on land conversion
- Review existing local, county, state, and national policies, programs, and framing.

Costs and benefits

- Narrative format - not a cost benefit analysis



Case Studies

Purpose: to better understand local decision-making processes during land protection and development of agricultural and natural areas.

Targeted communities with high levels of development and/or protection within their boundaries

Antioch

Aurora

Campton Hills

Homer Glen

Huntley

Kane County

McHenry County

Round Lake

Will County

Yorkville



Case Studies – Key Findings

- Inconsistent natural resource protection in the development process.
- Few future land use plans cover agricultural protection.
- Varying applications of fiscal impact analysis.
- Development process doesn't consider long-term infrastructure maintenance.
- Varying coverage of the costs of utility expansion.
- Concerns about long-term open space management in residential subdivisions.
- Prioritizing and rethinking stalled subdivisions.
- Predicting smaller lots / subdivisions in the future.



GO TO 2040 Recommendations

Promote Sustainable Local Food

- **Facilitate sustainable local food production.**
 - Supporting urban agriculture as a source of local food.
 - Continue and expand farmland protection programs.
 - Encourage revisions of federal policy to promote local food.
 - Support local food production through other institutional support and procurement processes.

Expand and improve parks and open space

- **Provide more parks in developed areas to increase park accessibility.**
- **Preserve the most important natural areas in the region.**
- **Provide functional connections between parks and preserves, using the GIV as a design concept.**
 - Coordinate open space investment.
 - Harmonize actions by state and local government with natural resource protection.
 - Increase funding to achieve the level of park provision and land conservation.
 - Treat management needs as an important part of landscape preservation.



Draft Outline

1. Introduction
2. Regional value of natural and agricultural lands
3. Understanding land protection and development trends
4. GO TO 2040 and implementation
5. Principles
- 6. DRAFT STRATEGIES**
 1. Identify key agricultural and natural areas
 2. Strengthen natural land preservation and stewardship
 3. Strengthen agricultural land protection
 4. Support agricultural economy
 5. Minimize development impacts on natural and agricultural lands
 6. Minimize infrastructure expansion into key agricultural & natural areas
 7. Prioritize coordination within higher development pressure areas



Draft Strategies

Identify key agricultural and natural areas

- Refine and update conservation areas.
- Establish key agricultural areas.
- Support local asset mapping efforts.

Strengthen natural land preservation and stewardship

- Prioritize land preservation within conservation areas.
- Establish a state natural lands preservation program with substantial and reliable funding.
- Explore local financing strategies to protect critical lands
- Establish funding for stewardship efforts on existing and newly protected lands.
- Coordinate stewardship on protected lands with surrounding communities.
- Increase private landowner conservation.



Draft Strategies

Strengthen agricultural land protection

- Establish a state agricultural protection program with substantial and reliable funding.
- Investigate transfer of development rights programs.
- Support County-level farmland preservation plans.
- Support agricultural conservation easement programs.
- Allow local referendums to include farmland preservation activities.

Support agricultural economy

- Recognize economic contribution of our agricultural areas.
- Improve access to agricultural land and opportunities.
- Encourage climate resilient farming practices.
- Facilitate sustainable local food production.
- Maintain agricultural infrastructure.



Draft Strategies

Minimize development impacts on natural and agricultural lands

- Utilize agricultural and natural land use categories in land use planning.
- Update ordinances to better protect agricultural and natural assets.
 - Use agricultural and open space zoning districts
 - Identify and protect agricultural and natural resources in site plan review
 - Establish long-term stewardship provisions
- Adopt conservation design ordinances to accommodate development and preserve land.
- Encourage compact development designs.



Draft Strategies

Minimize urban infrastructure expansion into key agricultural and natural areas

- Extend urban services in an efficient manner.
- Incorporate long-term infrastructure maintenance in expansion decisions.
- Explore strategies to incentivize compact and conservation-oriented development regulations.

Prioritize coordination within higher development pressure areas

- Identify areas with higher development pressure.
- Explore coordination models between agricultural, natural resource preservation and community development.



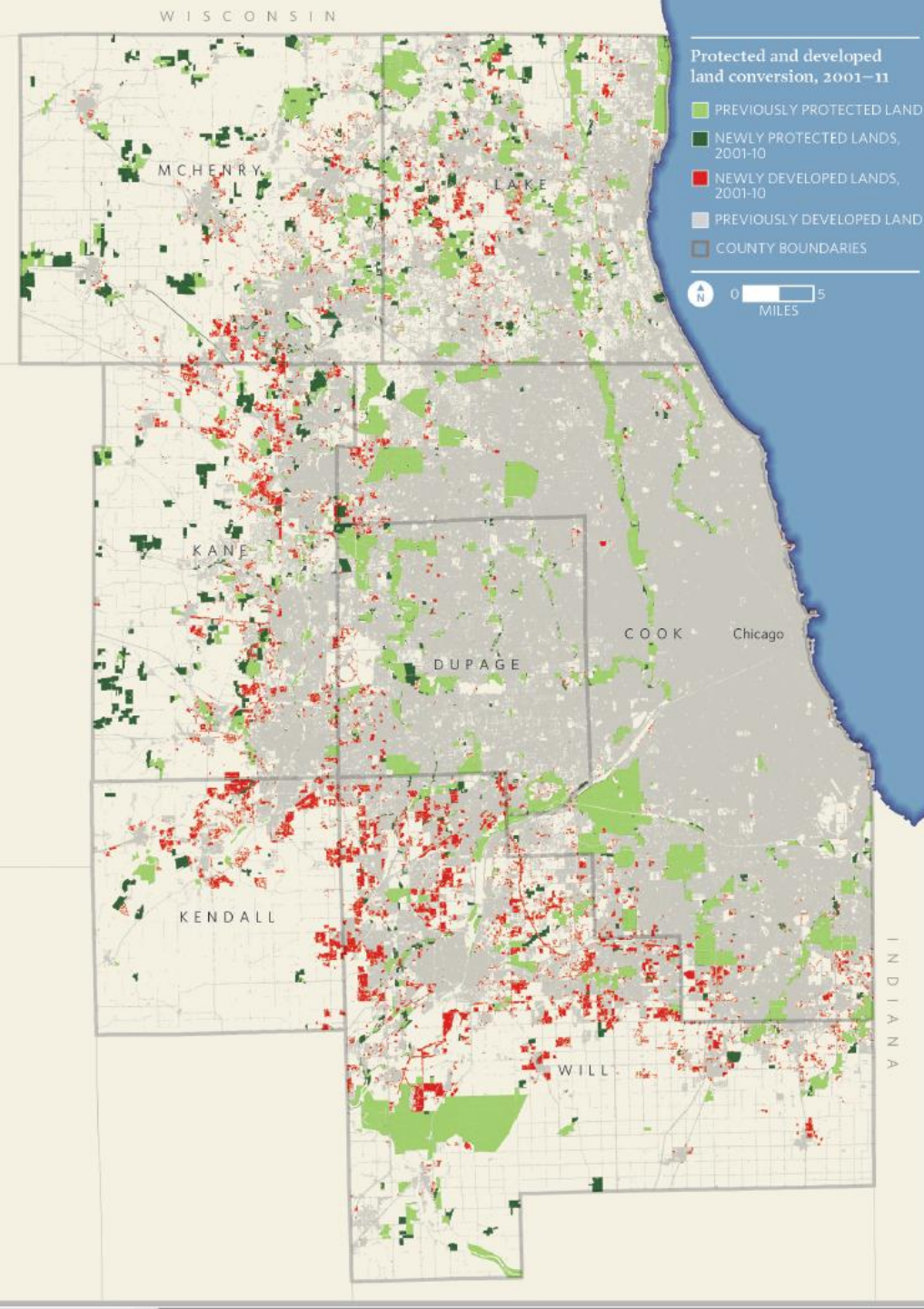
Comments/questions

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Protected and developed land transition, 2001 - 11



- PREVIOUSLY PROTECTED LAND
- NEWLY PROTECTED LANDS, 2001-10
- NEWLY DEVELOPED LANDS, 2001-10
- PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES