

Lands in Transition

Strategy Paper Update
November 16, 2016

Agenda

- Quick recap
- Land Development and Protection Trends
- GO TO 2040 Recommendations
- Draft strategies
- Next steps



Quick recap

Purpose

- Evaluate where and how development and preservation efforts have occurred on agricultural and natural lands.
- 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.



Land development and protection trends

Regional scale data: Reviewed where new development or land protection of agricultural and natural lands occurred between 2001 and 2015.

- National Land Cover Dataset, 2001 and 2011
- Northeastern Illinois Development Database, 2000-2015
- Protected lands, ownership and conservation easement data from a variety of sources.

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

Antioch
Aurora
Campton Hills
Homer Glen
Huntley

Kane County
McHenry County
Round Lake
Will County
Yorkville



Agricultural Lands

Lands identified as having agricultural land cover (pasture/hay or cultivated).

Row crops, field crops, pasture, livestock – including both commodity crops and local food farms.

Natural Lands

Lands identified as having natural land cover (forest, shrub land, herbaceous, wetland).

High and low quality natural lands.

Developed

lands identified as being developed (with impervious surfaces) through NLCD; specific development sites within NDD

Protected

lands that have been permanently protected through ownership or conservation easements



Land development and protection trends, 2001 - 2015

Developed:

140,000 acres

10% of total developed areas

Protected:

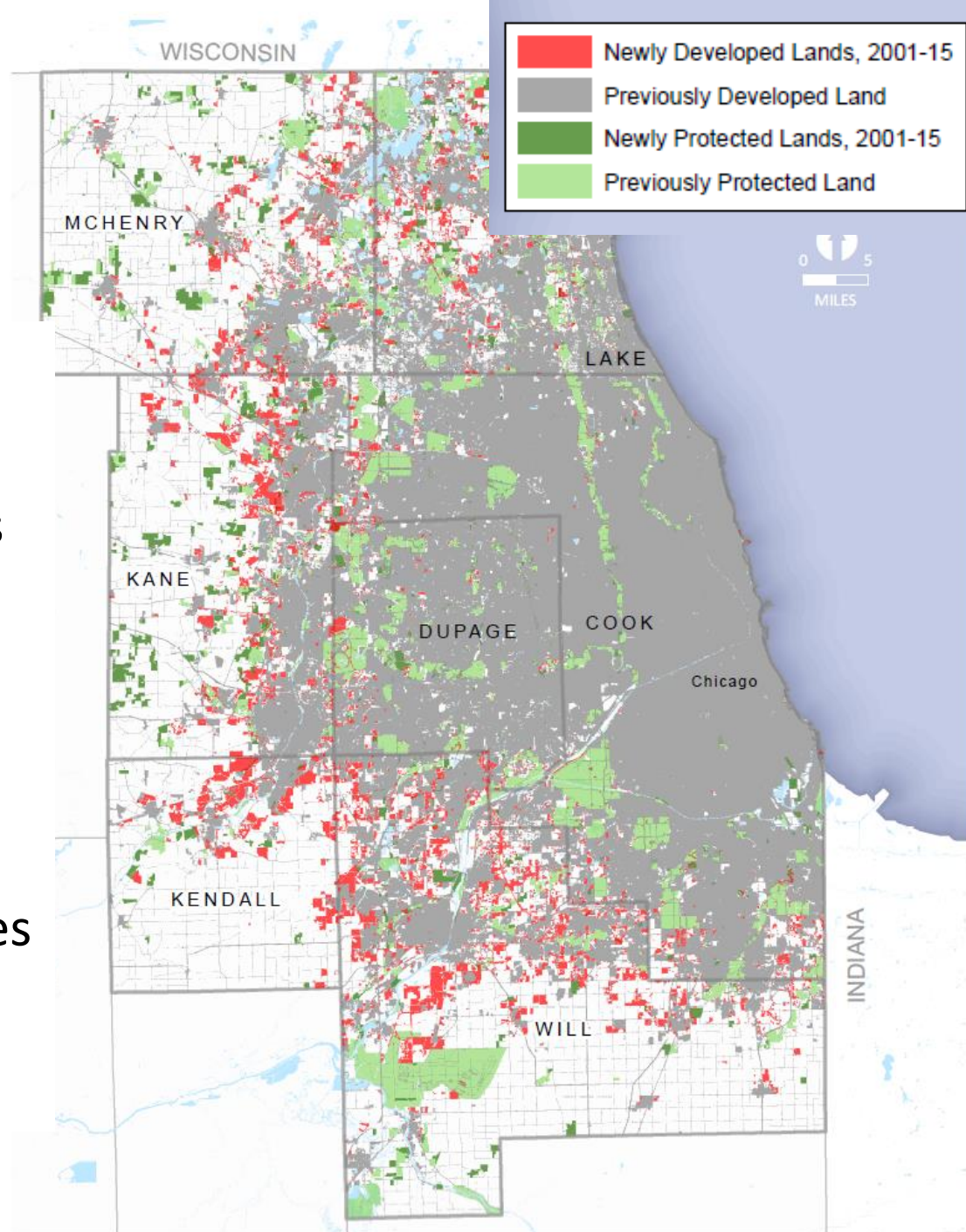
60,000 acres

22% of all protected areas

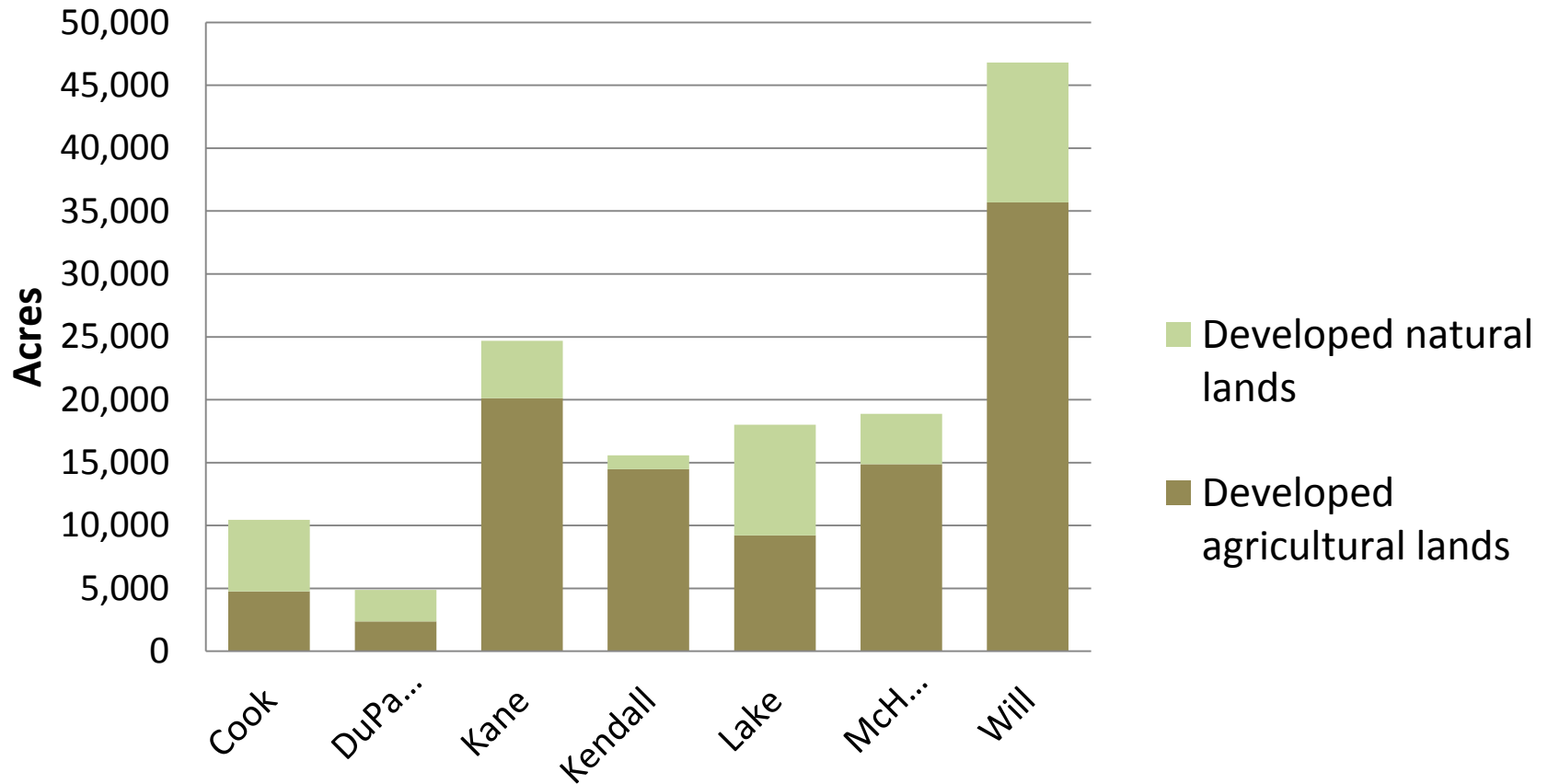
Total protected: 268,000 acres

GO TO 2040, 2015 target:

275,000 acres



Most development occurred on agricultural lands



- 100,000 acres.
- Case studies: few land use plans with agricultural land use categories or preservation strategies.



Development continues to impact natural resources

- Development within the Green Infrastructure Vision
 - 42,500 acres (23%) of all greenfield development
 - Estimated loss of \$273 million annually of four ecosystem services
- Development in floodplains and wetlands
 - 10 % of new development
 - Nearly 9,000 acres of new development occurred within the floodplain
- Case studies: wide variation in natural resource protection during site plan review.



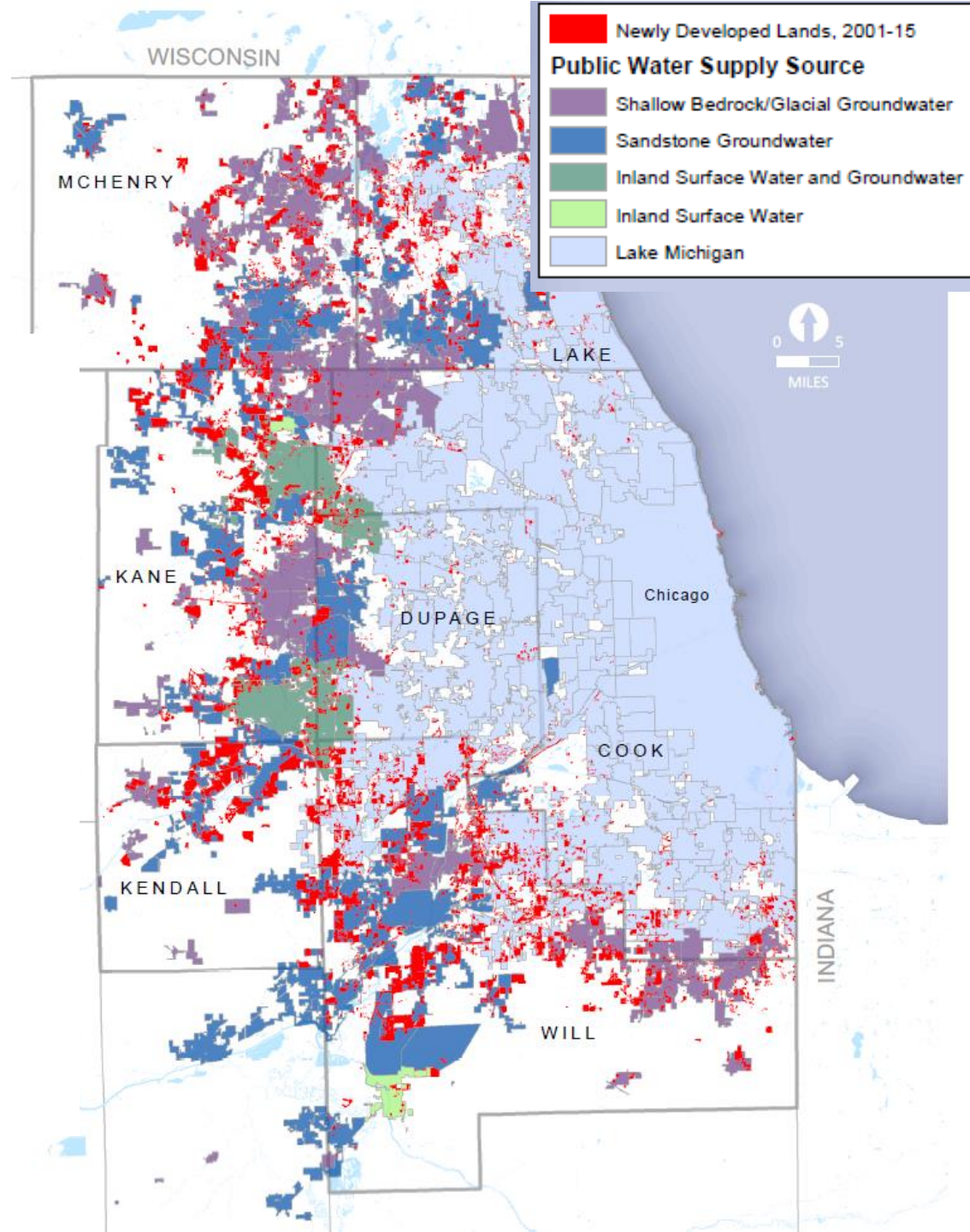
Development continues to impact natural resources, beyond the site

Fragmentation

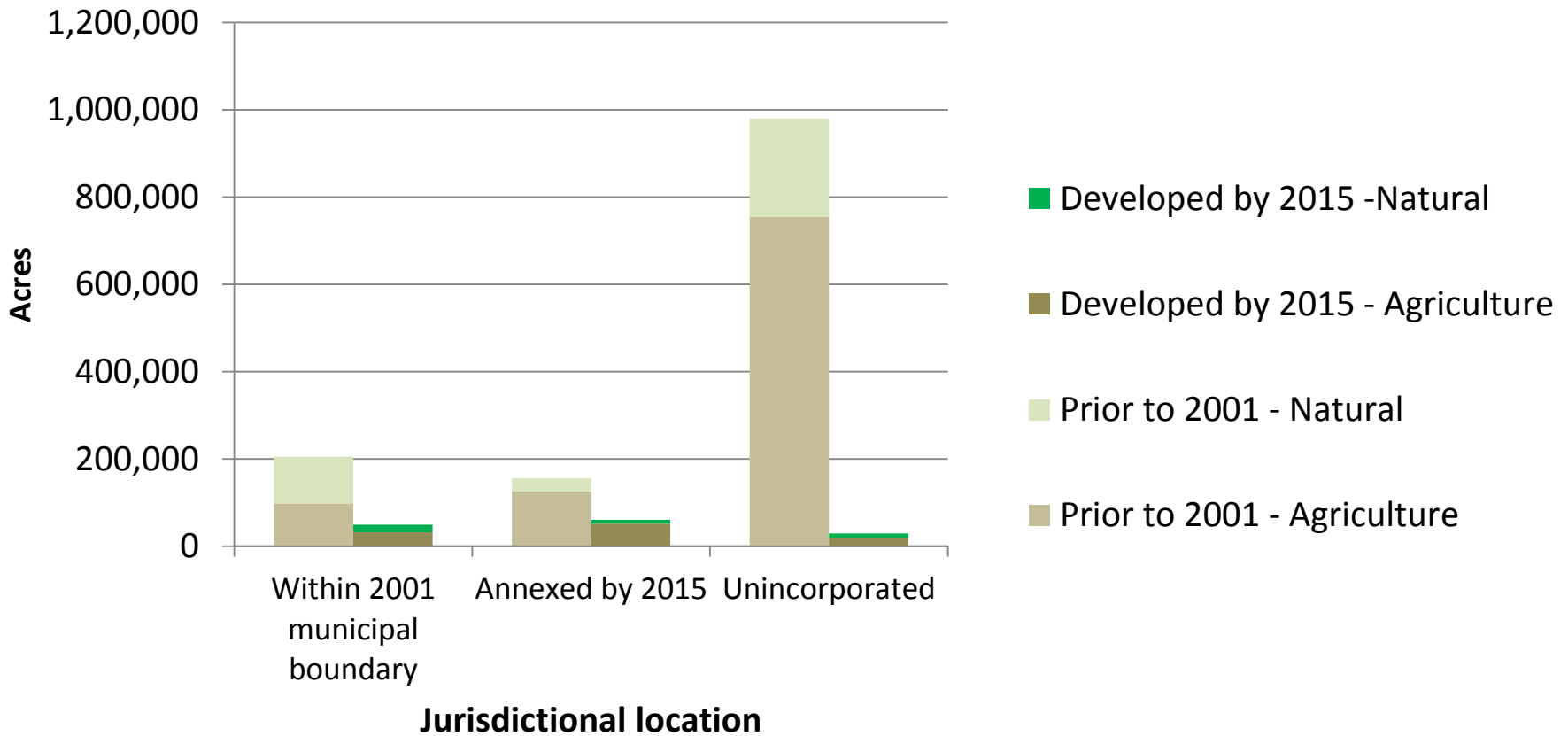
Watershed imperviousness

Water supply

- Desaturation of St. Peter Sandstone aquifer
- Contamination of shallow groundwater aquifers



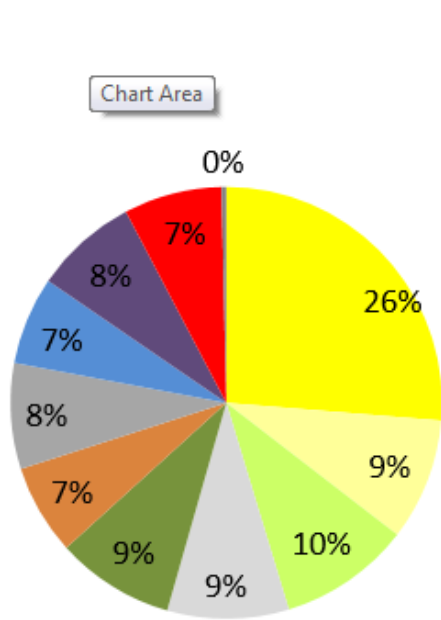
Most development occurred in newly annexed areas



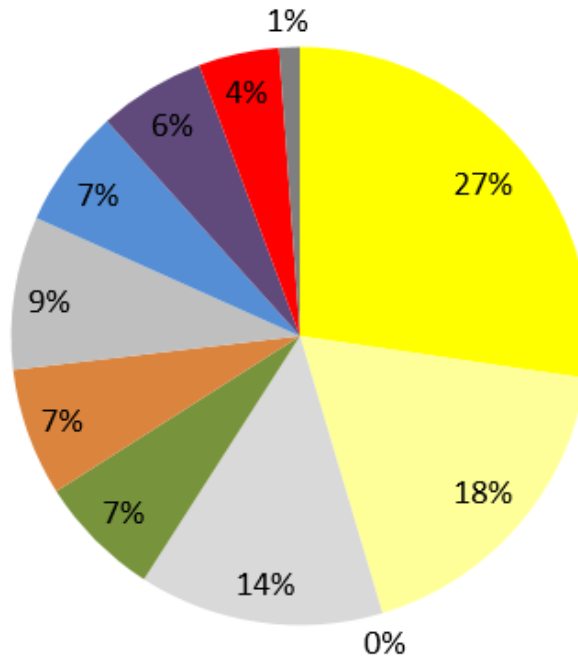
- 60,500 acres (43%) were annexed into a municipality by 2015.
- Most lands that were annexed had agricultural land cover in 2001.



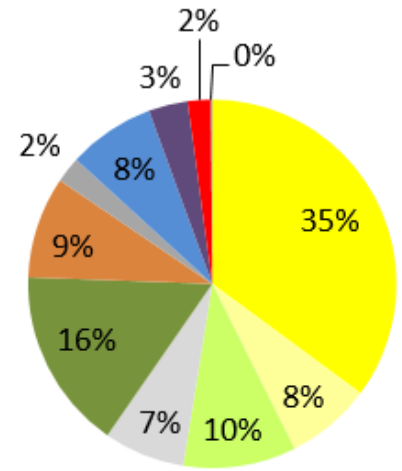
Most new development is residential



Within 2001 municipal boundary



Annexed by 2015



Unincorporated



- Residential land use: 52,000 acres, 37% of new development
- 14,000 acres of vacant residential land



New development often requires the extension of infrastructure and services

Regional data: no consistent dataset on the amount of local road, sewer, and other infrastructure and service extension.

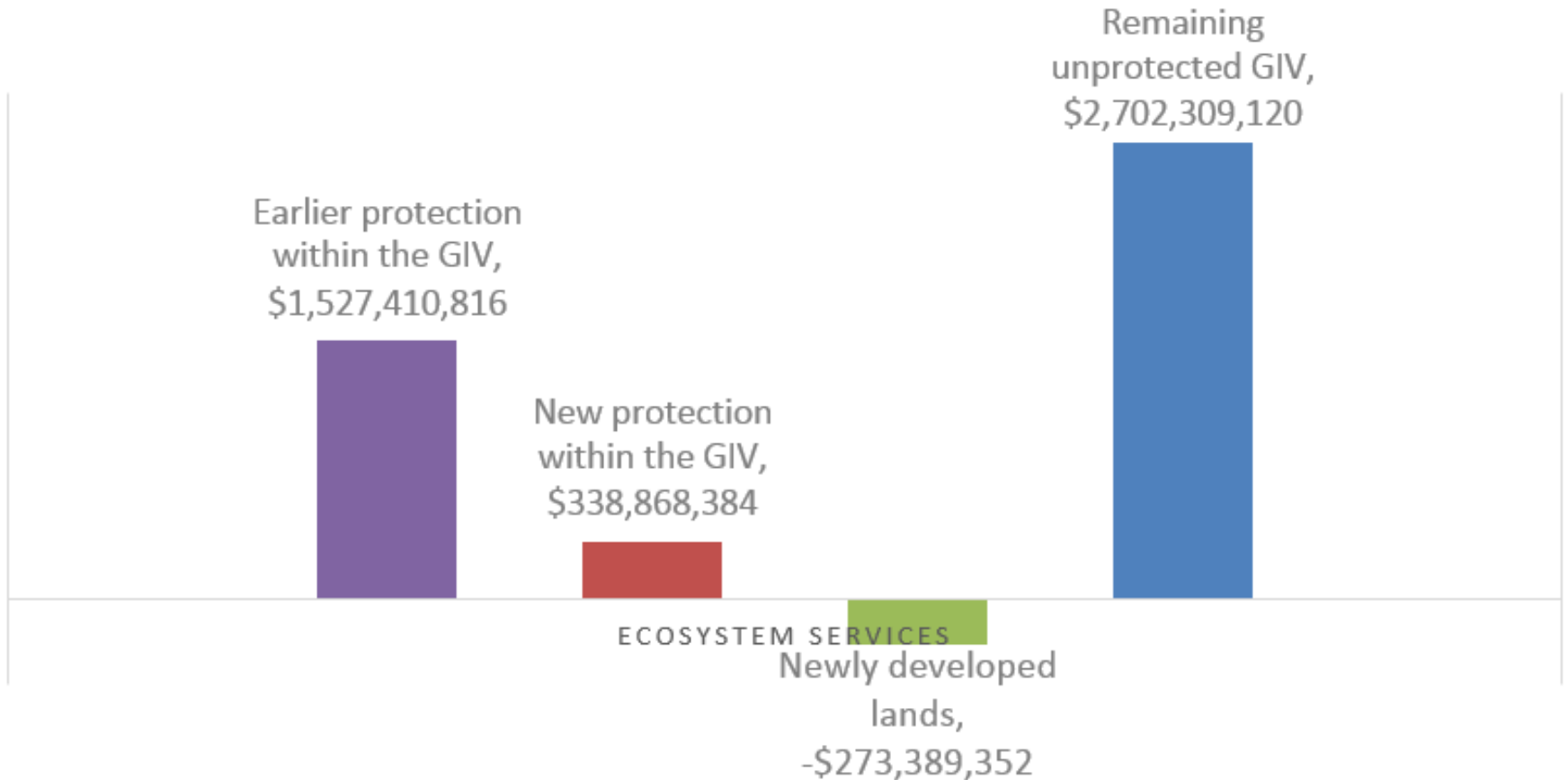
Case study interviews:

- Current struggle to maintain the community's older infrastructure.
- Recognize how the approval process for new development is not evaluating the long-term maintenance costs of these expanded areas.

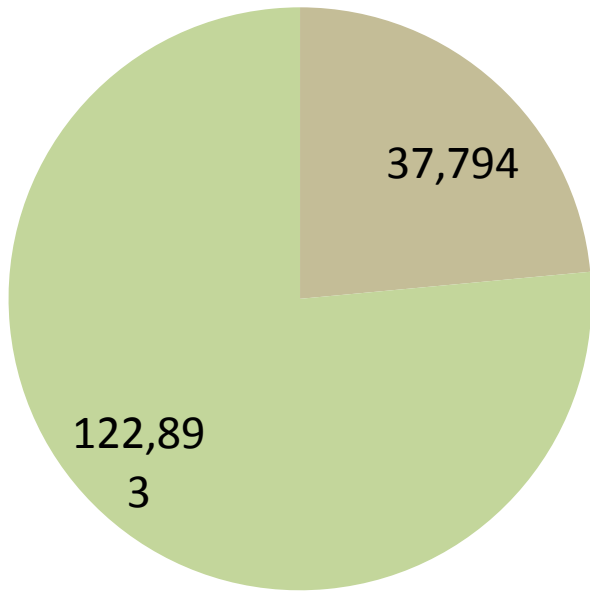


Concentrating land protection within the GIV

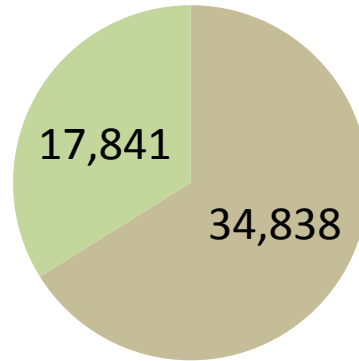
33,000 acres (62 percent) within the core landscapes of the GIV.



More agricultural land protection



Protected Prior to 2001



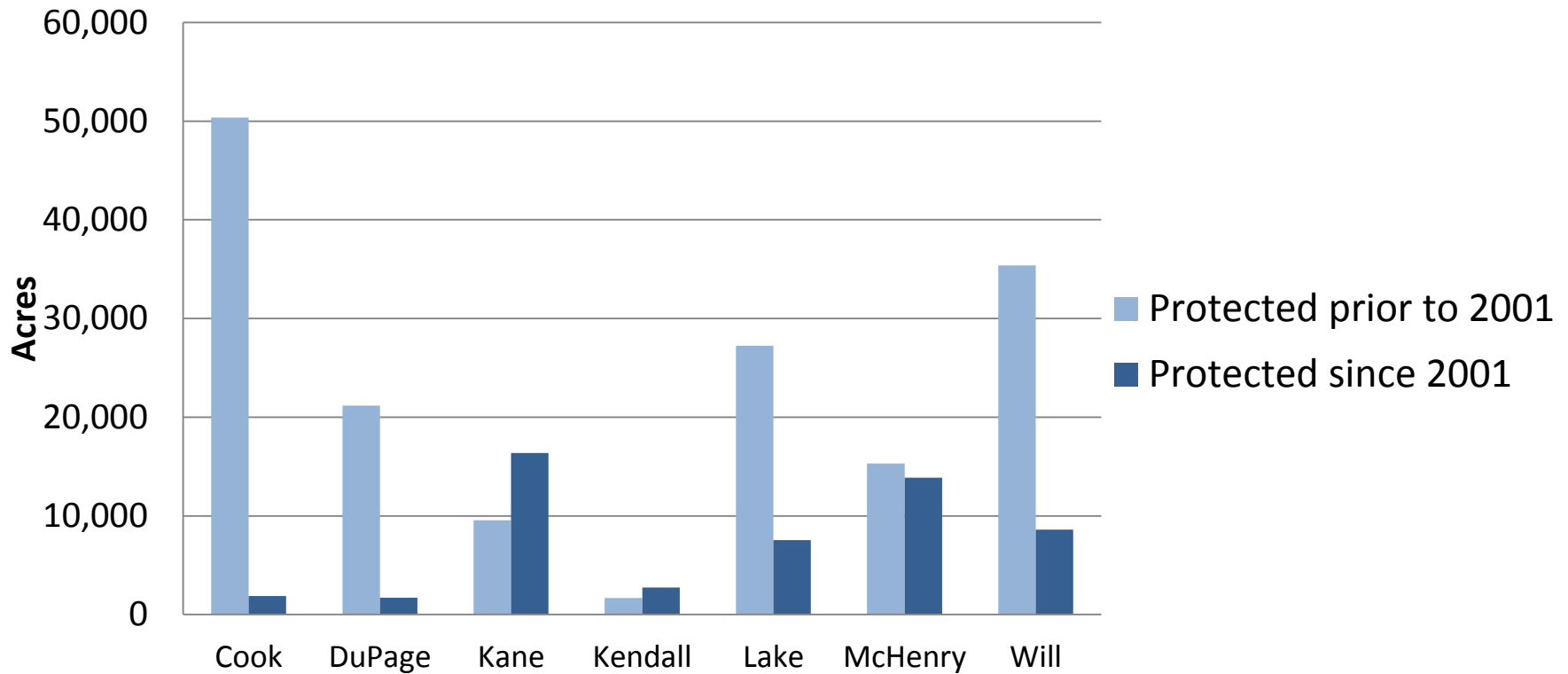
Protected between 2001-2015

■ Agriculture
■ Natural

- Increased agricultural preservation efforts
- Natural resource protection focused
 - high quality remnant resources
 - building bigger habitat cores



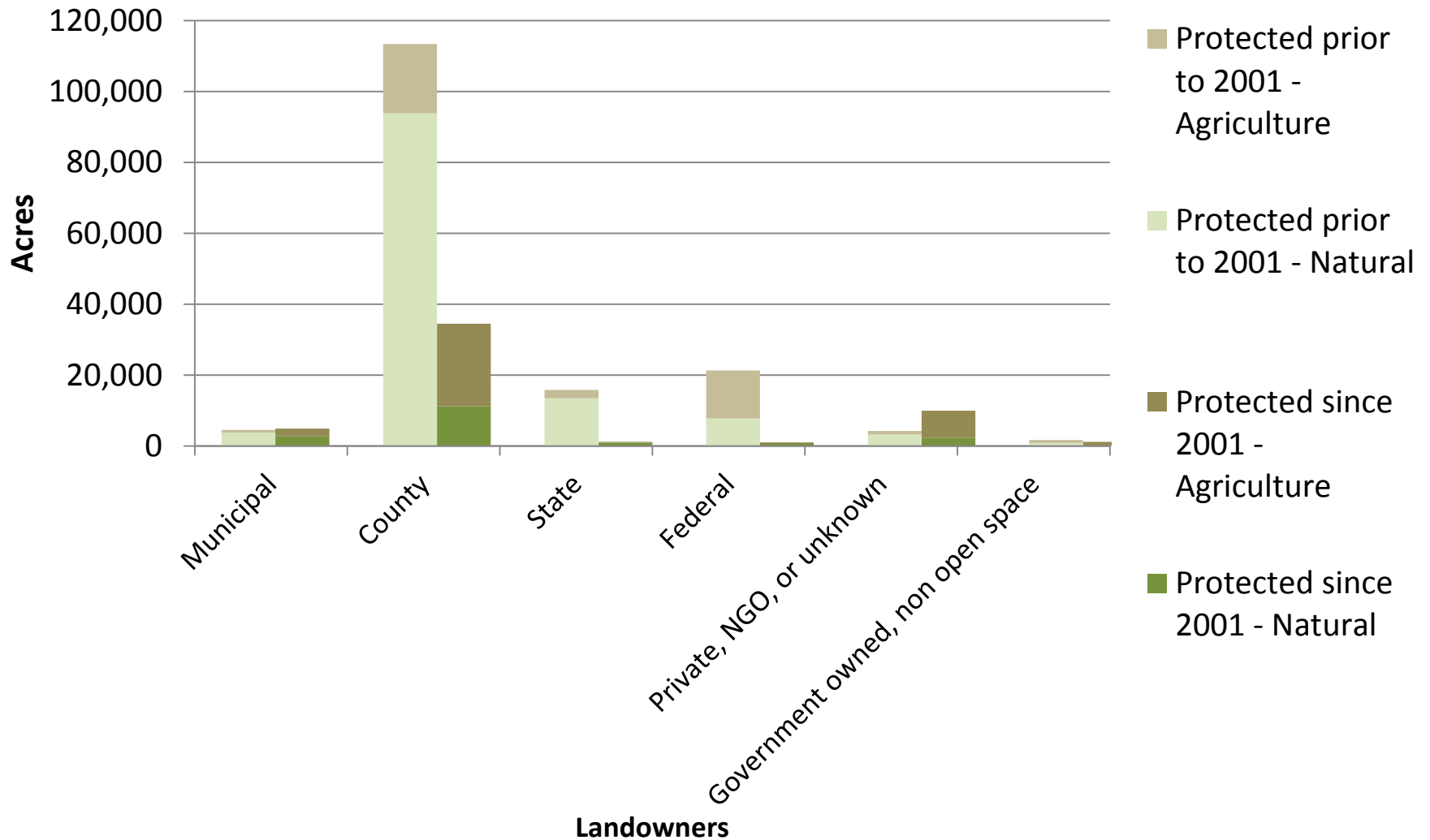
Kane and McHenry County leading protection efforts



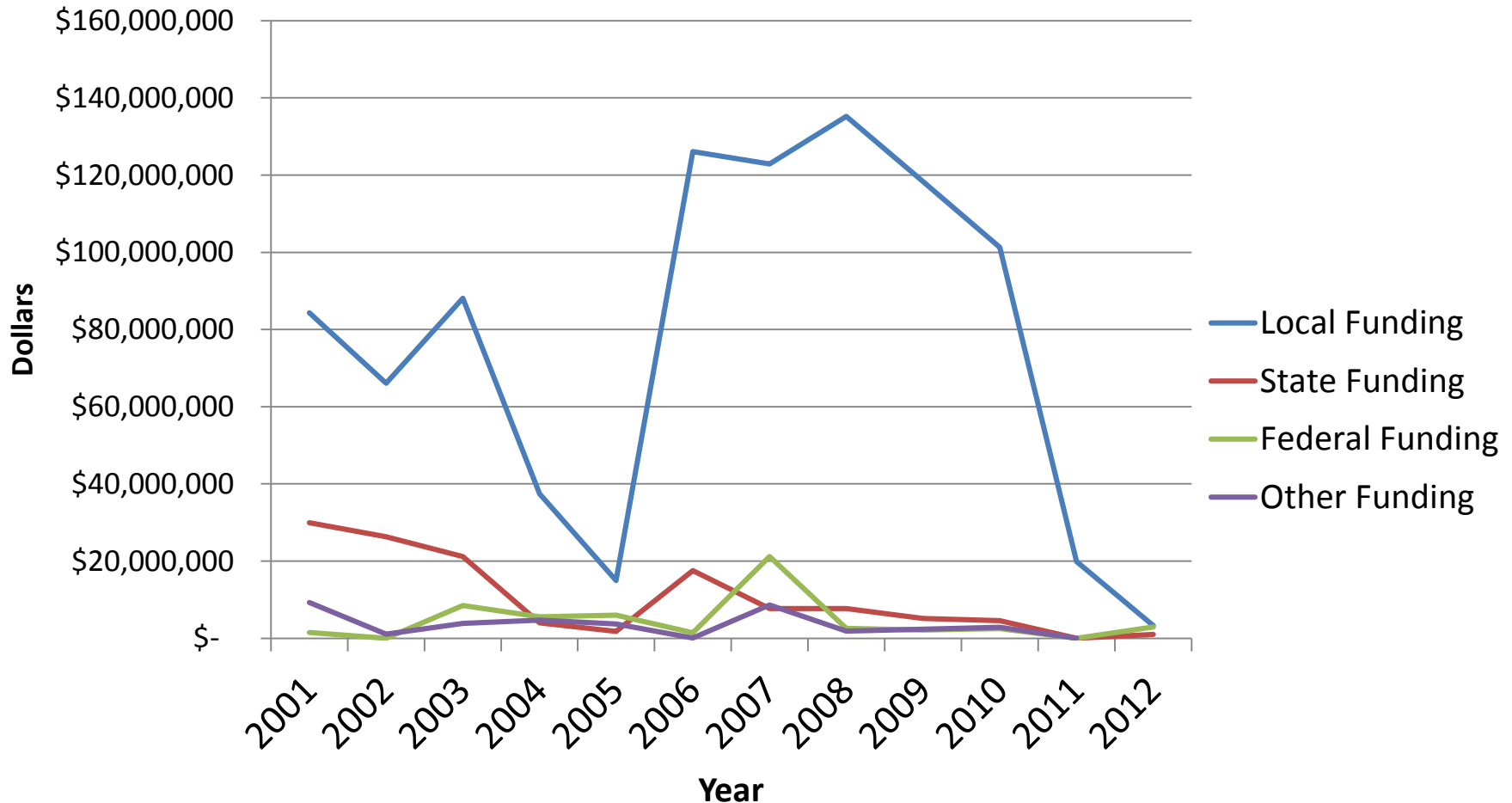
Most protected land remains in unincorporated areas as of 2015.



Counties continue to protect the most land



Declining funds for land protection, critical local support



Open space referendum approved \$888 million from 2001-2015.



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

- **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.



Could say more about....

- Role of planning to assist with agricultural and open space preservation
- Efficient, cost effective development forms
- Agriculture as a whole
- The economic value of agricultural areas
- Local funding sources for preservation
- Role of conservation easements
- Coordination between private and public landowners



Draft Outline

- Introduction
- Understanding land protection and development trends
- GO TO 2040 and implementation
- Policy recommendations
 - Minimize development impacts on natural & agricultural lands
 - Strengthen natural land preservation and stewardship
 - Support agricultural economy and strengthen agricultural land protection



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.
- Identify areas with higher development pressure.
- Incorporate long-term infrastructure maintenance in expansion decisions.



Strengthen natural land preservation and stewardship

- Refine key areas for conservation with best available science.
- Prioritize land protection to meet key performance criteria.
- Expand land acquisition and funding strategies.
 - Stable state funding source
 - Expand local and county governments funding abilities
 - Increase private landownership role
- Establish funding for stewardship efforts on existing and newly protected lands.
- Coordinate stewardship on protected lands with surrounding communities.



Support agricultural economy and strengthen agricultural land protection

- Recognize farmland and agricultural uses as positive, legitimate, and economically valuable
- Identify key agricultural assets in the region
- Support and diversify food and agriculture systems
- Enhance and modernize transportation and logistics infrastructure
- Support state and county farmland preservation efforts
- Encourage sustainable and climate resilient food and agriculture systems



Comments/questions

Nora June Beck

nbeck@cmap.illinois.gov

312-386-8677