



CITY OF FLORA, ILLINOIS



Flora Municipal Comprehensive Plan

March 2023

Acknowledgments

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The City of Flora has assembled a unique team of local stakeholders and advisory professionals to develop an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. This document will replace the now outdated plan, prepared and developed for the city in 1990. The Plan update will be a document incorporating goals and objectives that are realistic, achievable and, most importantly, measurable by the City's "keepers" of the Plan. Those involved in preparation of the Plan come from diverse backgrounds and provide a wide spectrum of input, ideas, visions, and opportunity. The vision of the Plan is long term and should be periodically reviewed and updated. The reviews should take place at least every five years and assess how the goals and objectives were met, will be met in the future, and if needed, provide new avenues to meet those goals. The planning process is a work in motion, and the Plan should never be considered a static document.

The purpose of planning, by basic definition, is the act or process of making or carrying out plans; specifically: the establishment of goals, policies, and procedures for a social or economic unit. Understanding this purpose and using statistical data, trend analysis, and community input, a vision of what this community is, can be, and/or should be, will be addressed in the Plan. It is a tool that community leaders should use to guide the growth and development of the community. Past comprehensive planning efforts are proof that the City of Flora is committed to ensuring good growth and development for their residents.

Designed as a guide, the comprehensive plan is not a document "required by law" to perform each and every task or goal in it. It is based on recommendations and should not be misinterpreted as an ordinance. However, the Plan recommendations may cause the City to change its development regulations contained in the Zoning and Subdivisions Codes.

This Plan focuses on land use, major streets, future public facilities for schools, and recreation. Under authority of the Illinois Municipal Code, the plan covers an area within the 4.757 square mileage of the City boundaries. This Plan utilizes data from the U.S. Census Bureau compiled from the 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census and the American Community Surveys (ACS).

Table 1.1: Flora Quick Facts

Population (2020)	4,803
Change since 2010	-267
Year Founded	1854
Zip Code	62839
Area Code	618
County	Clay
Township	Harter & Stanford

Chapter 2: Community Profile

The community profile is intended to provide updated information about the city that describes the most important trends and current conditions that influence housing, economic development, and the demand for city services. The data used in the profile comes from several sources. The historical data and projections are from the Census Bureau, American Community Survey estimates and ESRI, a third-party private data source. Several geographic benchmarks are used to aid in interpretation of the data.

Prioritizing problem situations in Flora that affect the population and/or segments of the population is the first step of this plan. Realizing the changes in population size, culture, and demographics is a critical part of this introductory phase. For many years, the community has seen increasing numbers in the school and recreation systems and in turn, growth in home construction and home purchases. The common factor is this; Flora needs to plan for people who are not traditionally from this area. The attractiveness of the community, what it has to offer, and where it is located, is estimated to have greater demand and desire over the next 10 years than the previous decade. Infrastructure needs and the effect population increases will have on current utility usage levels will also change, therefore leading to upgrades and improvements to these services to better serve the city. Flora, once defined as a bedroom community, now seeks to open their boundaries and become not only a residential area, but a destination for people.

The following sections of this document will provide a more detailed look at the various demographic and economic aspects of Flora as well as provide goals and objectives aimed at promoting the continuing success growth of Flora as a city and as a community.

Section 2.1: General Overview

Regional Context and Setting

The City of Flora is intimately located south of the Springfield metropolitan area. The Flora area map illustrates the exact location of the city. Its location offers the advantages of a small community with the accessibility to the major metropolitan area. Situated in the southern portion of Clay County, Flora is the largest city in the county and part of a region rich in manufacturing heritage.

ESRI's Tapestry Segmentation¹ divides US residential areas into 64 distinctive segments based on socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. The city Flora includes two basic tapestry segments, the Cozy Country Living and Hometown segments. Residents within the Cozy Country Living segment include semirural and semiretired older residents who own their own home and while they enjoy a slower pace of life, they do actively participate in community activities and outdoor recreations. Those residents that fall within the Hometown segment are a mix of married-couple families and singles. This segment is encompassing multiple generations that have lived and worked in the community, and their children are likely to follow suit.

The Flora Drive Time map provides a look at the community in comparison to the rest of the Effingham Metro Region. The nearest City with a population of over 100,000 is Evansville, Indiana, approximately 90 miles southeast of the Flora City limits. Neighboring municipalities include, Clay City (7.9 miles away),

¹ Further description of Flora's two ESRI dominant tapestry segments is located in the Appendix 1

Louisville (8.4 miles away), Xenia (9.2 miles away), Olney (23 miles away), Fairfield (27.4 miles away), Salem (25.9 miles away, and Effingham (33.1 miles away).

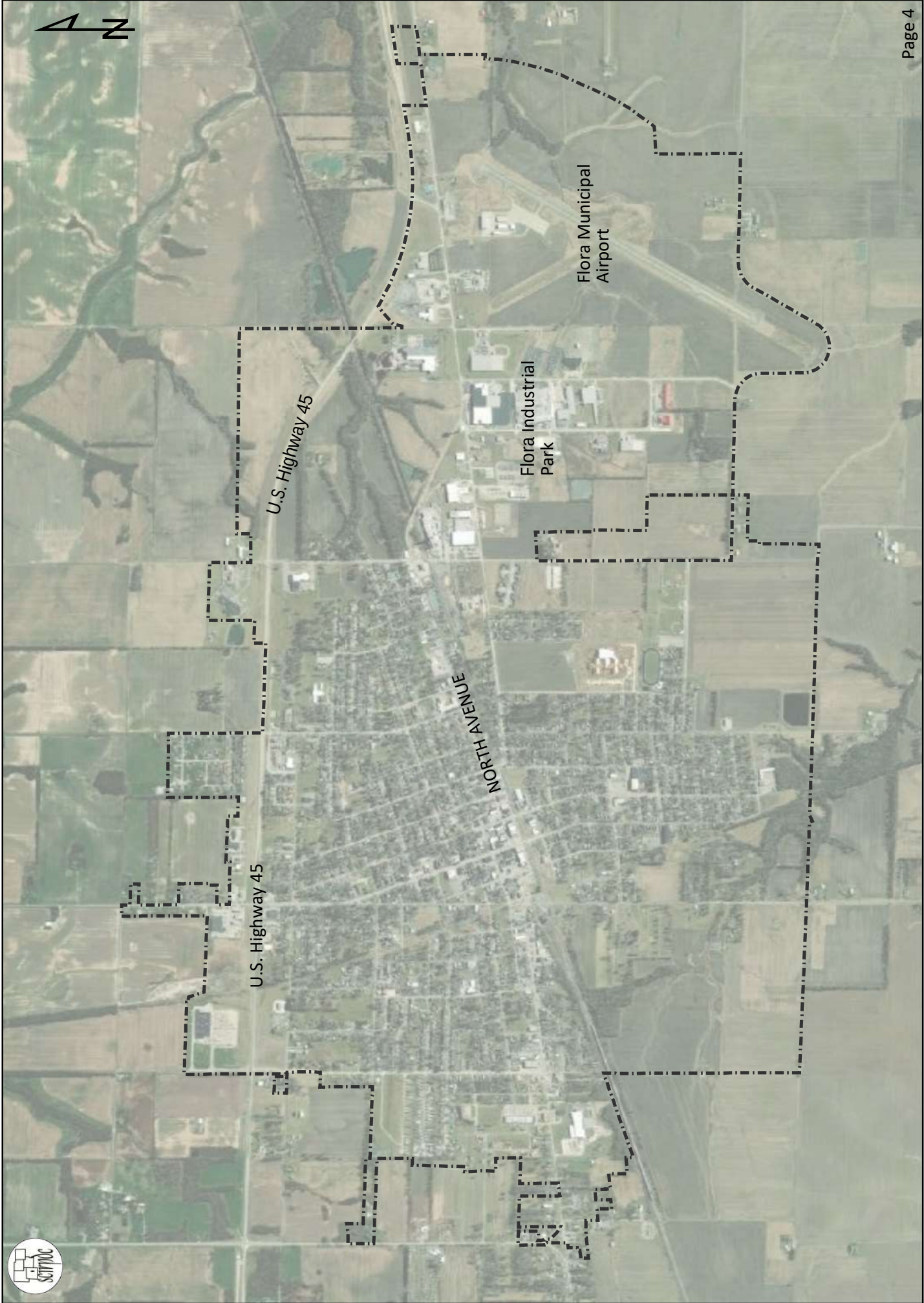
The planning area for the Comprehensive Plan Initiative encompasses the City of Flora proper and the adjacent area of the 1.5 mile “Facilities Planning Area”. The planning area, by Illinois Law, permits municipalities to exercise their zoning and subdivision requirements for long term development and annexation. The City of Flora’s established Zoning Ordinance was developed for and intended to achieve the following objectives:

1. To encourage the development of buildings and uses on appropriate sites in order to maximize community-wide social and economic benefits while accommodating the particular needs of all residents;
2. To protect and enhance the character and stability of sound existing residential, commercial and industrial areas;
3. To conserve and increase the value of taxable property throughout this municipality;
4. To ensure the provision of adequate light, air and privacy for the occupants of all buildings;
5. To protect property from damage caused by fire, flooding, poorly controlled storm water runoff, and adverse soil and topographical conditions;
6. To provide adequate and well-designed parking and loading space for all buildings and uses, and to reduce vehicular congestion on the public streets and highways;
7. To guide the provision of water mains, sanitary sewers, storm water sewers and other utilities and services, and to reduce the initial costs and future maintenance expenses thereof;
8. To provide for the efficient administration and fair enforcement of all the regulations set forth herein;
9. To clearly and concisely explain the procedures for obtaining variances, special use permits and amendments;
10. To remove, add, or reword definitions as contained in the original Ordinance; and
11. To eliminate, identify or create districts.

As of current, the city’s planning area does not extend into any other communities, thus providing the city the ability to maximize key growth management and planning tools in the unincorporated areas of Clay County.

Figure 2.1

Flora Municipal Map



Flora Regional Map

Figure 2.2

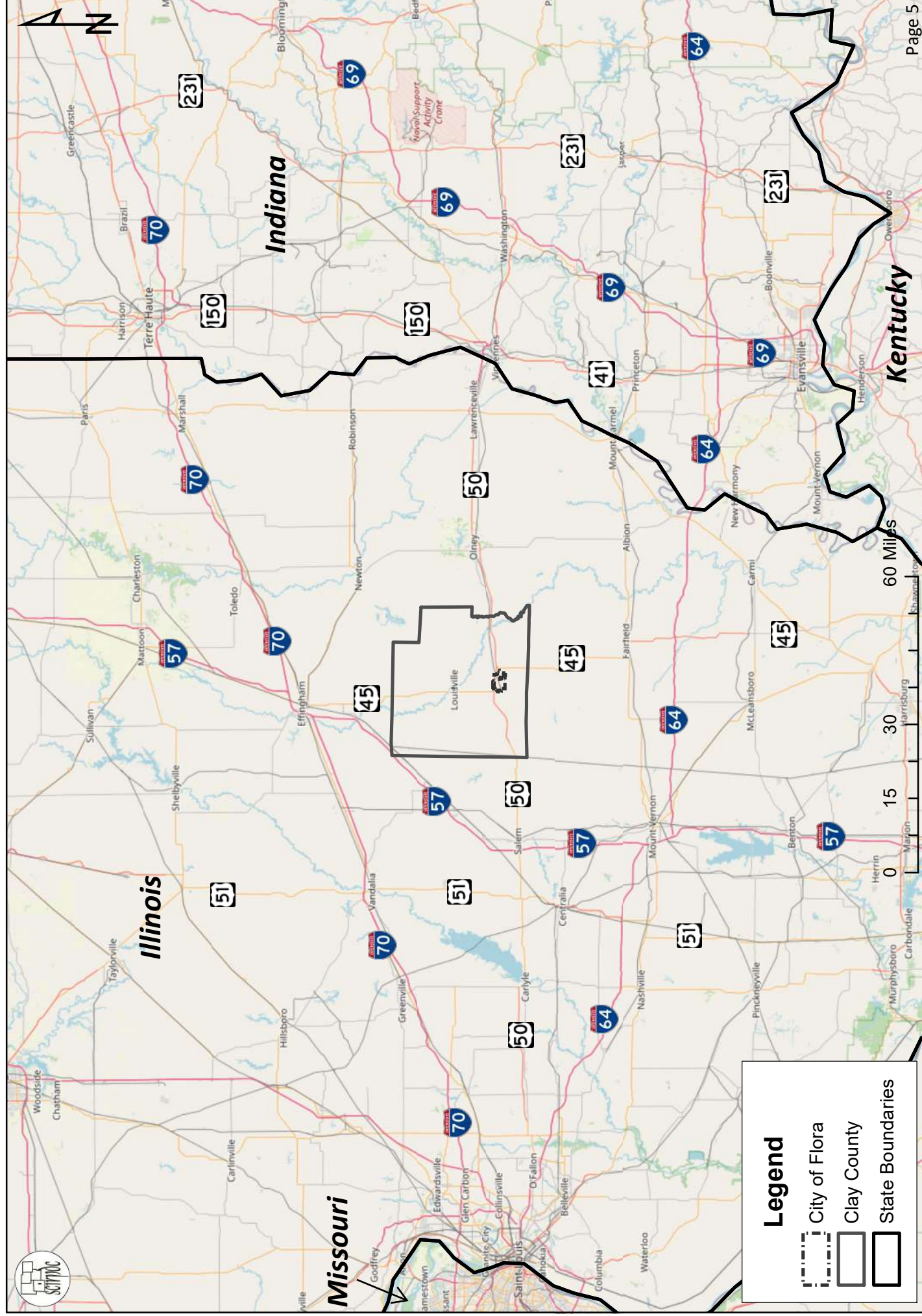
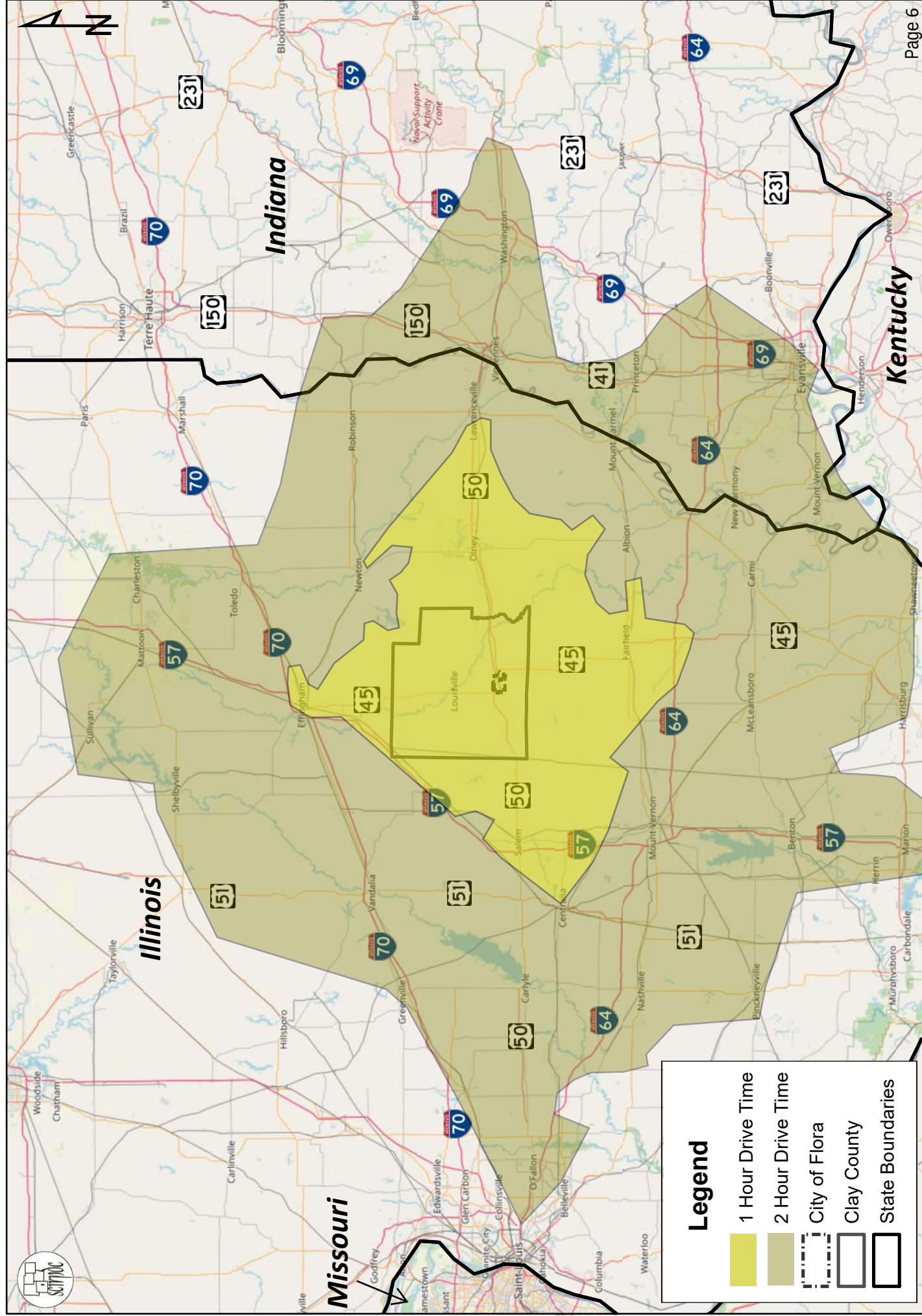


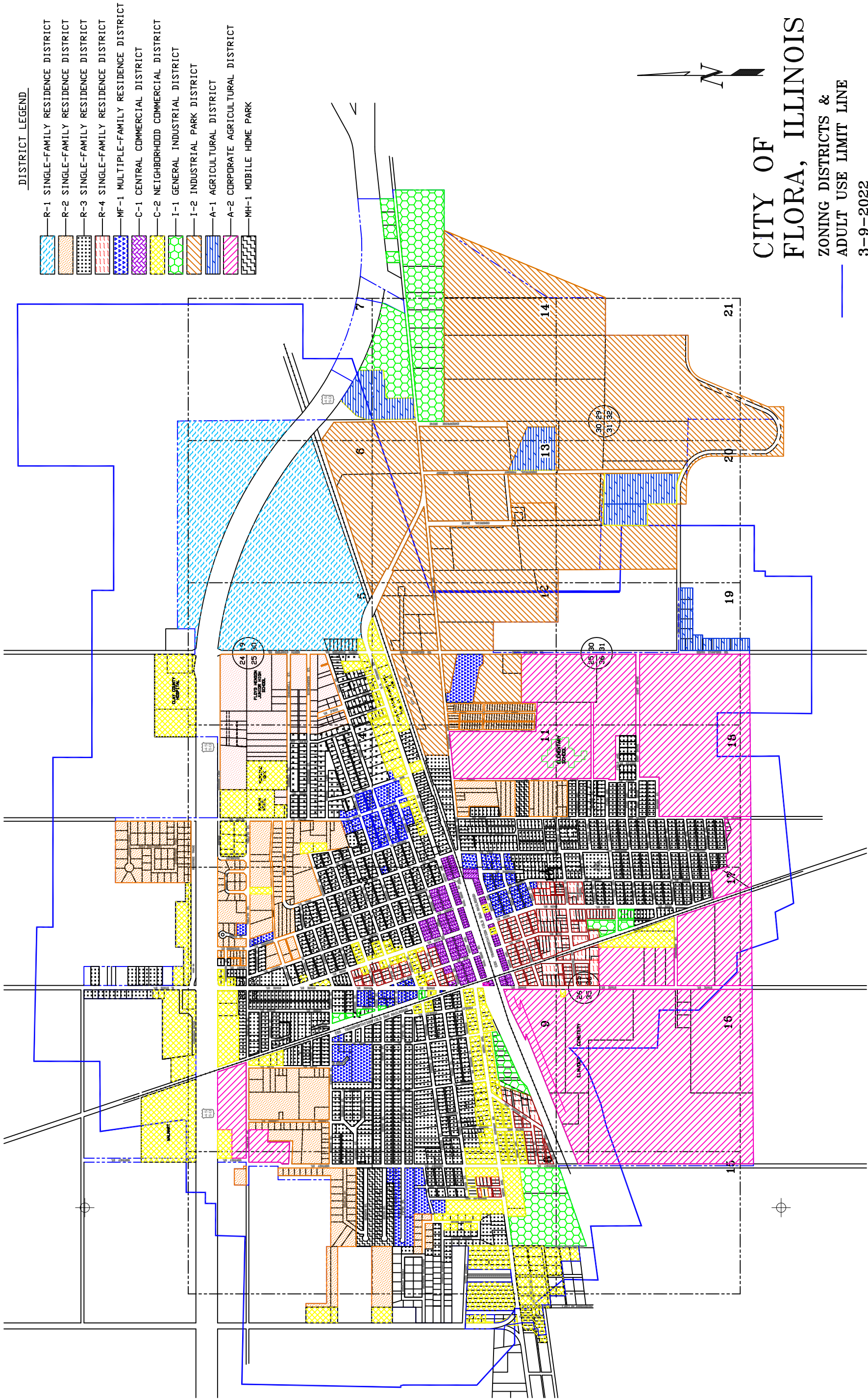
Figure 2.3

Flora Drive Time Map



Flora Zoning/Existing Land Use Map

Figure 2.4



Section 2.2: Demographic Overview

Population Trends and Projections

The foundational brickwork of a comprehensive plan is understanding the composition of the population and its characteristics. By taking these basics and building the City Vision, policy makers, city staff, business owners, and residents can strategically plan for questions such as “What are the community’s shared values?” and “What is important to the community?”

The 2020 Census Report indicates that Flora has recorded a recorded population of 4,803 residents of the city. This equates to a 6.3% decrease from the 2000 Census which cited their population being 5,128. Continued focus on economic development, community investment, and housing stock support are important factors that can help to buck this recent downward population trend. At the current rate, and not considering any significant changes to the local housing stock or local commercial and industrial sectors over the next 5-10 years, the population is expected to continue to decrease to 4,554 by the year 2030.

On a brighter note, the daytime population of the city is 7,603, an increase of 2,800 people over the population during the average workday. This daytime population calculation illustrates a 58.3% increase in individuals working and living in the city during the day. In terms of community and economic development, it is critical to keep this in consideration. This population increase due to the employment opportunities within the city indicates that increased quality housing opportunities, successfully developed and marketed, has the possibility of altering the current trend of a declining resident population.

Table 2.1: Flora Population Summary

2000 Total Population	5,128
2010 Total Population	5,064
2020 Total Population	4,803
2030 Total Population Projection*	4,554
2010-2020 Annual Growth Rate	-0.53%
2020 Total Daytime Population**	7,603
Total Resident Population	4,803
Total Workers	4,365
Workers Residing and Working in Flora	1,565

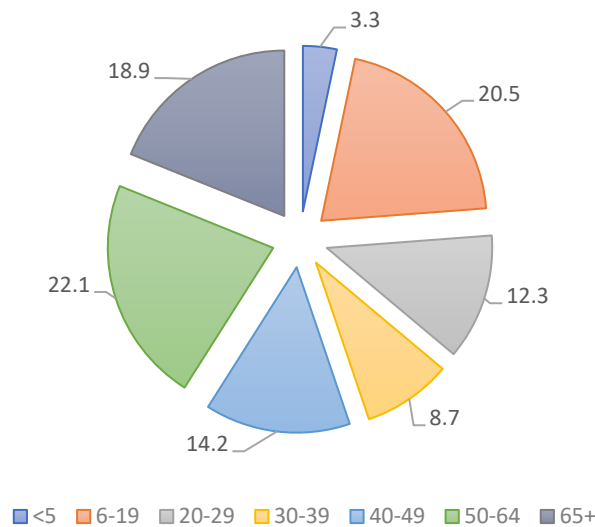
* Population project developed using 2010-2020 Annual Growth Rate

**Daytime Population Calculation: (Total Population + Total Workers) – Workers Residing and Working in Flora

Population by Age

As is the trend for many communities, Flora has an aging population. In total, 41% of the total population of the city is 50 years of age and older. This does indicate that the composition of Flora is shifting towards older residents becoming the primary segments of the population. With an aging population, the city should know that this will have impacts across all aspects of community well-being. This ageing will affect local patterns of work and retirement, economic growth, and the local healthcare system. It is additionally worth noting that the second largest population cohort are residents aged 6-19. This data point indicates that while the population is aging, there are still a significant number of families residing in the community. Actively engaging this youth population in the community can be vital to ensuring they choose to remain or come back to reside in the city during adulthood.

Figure 2.5: Flora Population by Age (%)



Population by Race

The City of Flora has a predominantly white residential population. Over 90% of the community is white, about 5% of the population identify as have two or more races, and less than 3% of the population identify as African American, American Indian and Asian.

Table 2.2: Flora Population by Race

White	4,462
African American	19
American Indian	15
Asian	38
Two or more Races	269

Section 2.3: Housing Overview

A household is the basic residential unit in which economic production, consumption, inheritance, child rearing, and shelter are organized and carried out. The number of households is equal to the number of occupied and vacant housing units. How people are organized in households can provide important insight into the opportunities and challenges a community face.

Housing Summary

The total number of households decreased from 2,355 in 2010 to 2,278 in 2020. This is a decrease of 77 total households, or 3.27%. This decline of available housing units within the city will make future population growth quite difficult unless measures are taken to increase the available housing stock. As discussed previously, the daytime population of the City of Flora brings approximately 2,800 non-residents into the city to for employment. This finding indicates a great opportunity to provide readily available housing within to those non-residents who currently travel to Flora for work from outside the city limits. Another noteworthy observation is the recent growth in the median household income over the past decade. In 2010 the median household income for the city was \$37,155. This has seen a strong increase in the past ten years, up \$12,567 or 33.8% to a median of \$49,722 in 2020. While this statistic lags behind the State of Illinois overall, which currently sits at a median household income of \$68,428, the percent increase in median income over the past decade in Flora was 11.0% larger than that of the State, which had a 22.8% increase.

Table 2.3: Flora Housing Summary

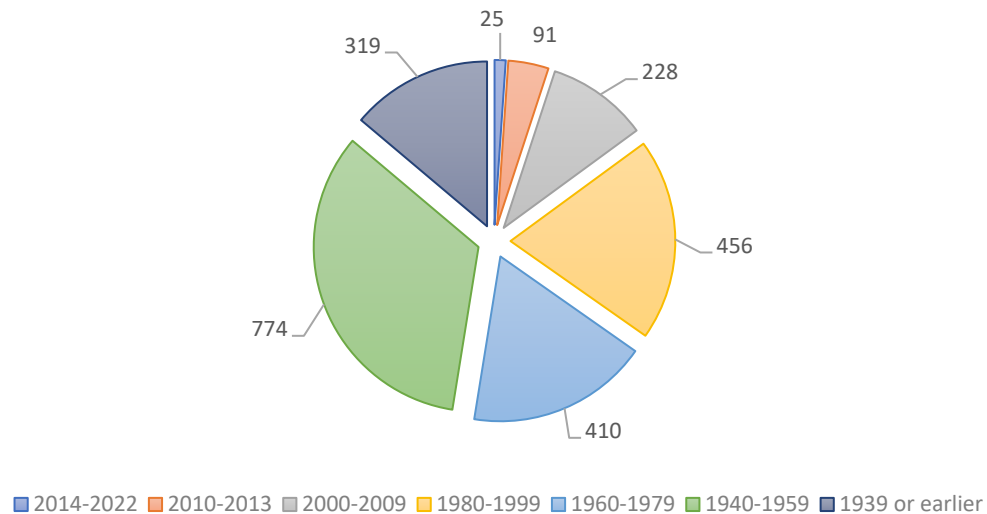
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>
Occupied Housing Units	2,124	2,053
Owner-Occupied Units	1,344	1,289
Renter-Occupied	780	764
Vacant Housing Units	231	225
Total Housing Units	2,355	2,278
Average Household Size	2.46	2.26
Median Household Income	\$37,155	\$49,722

Housing Stock Age

Flora's housing stock is neither particularly new, nor uncharacteristically old, as is indicated on Table 2.4 and Figure 2.5. The age of housing is a reflection of the historical development trends in the city. Flora grew rapidly in the 1920 to 1940 period which undoubtedly created a housing boom at that time. Approximately 30% of the housing units counted in the 2020 Census were built between 1940-1959. Although some of the housing stock is older, about 34% was 42 years old or less in 2020. There is a need for new homes to be constructed within the City of Flora, while there have been approximately 25 new homes constructed over the last decade, further expansion of the housing stock availability within the city is necessary . The city should explore all options to expand their current housing stock as it is likely that with proper marketing these homes will be filled by the large number of workers that travel to Flora for employment on a day-to-day basis.

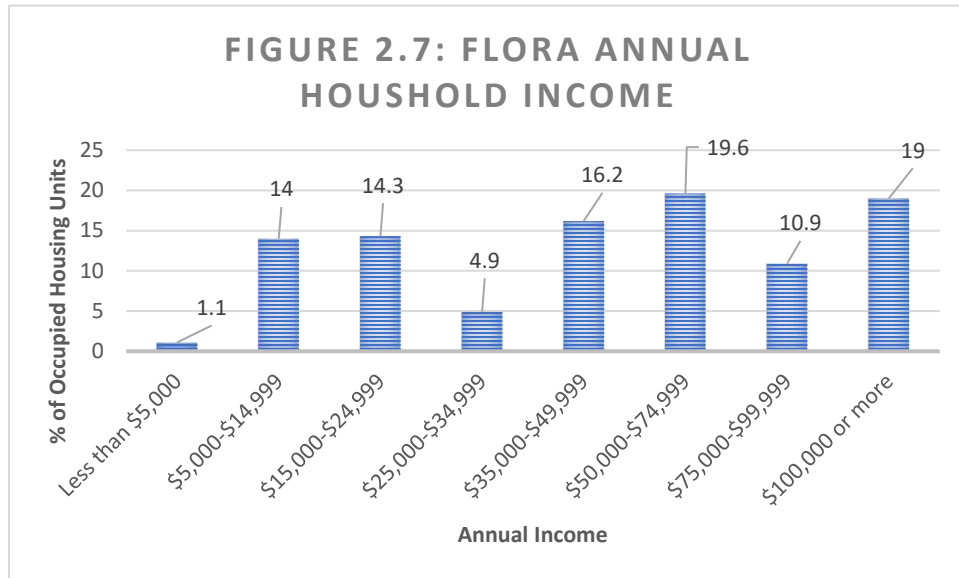
Table 2.4: Flora Housing Units By Age		
Year Built	Number of Homes	Percent
2014 or later	25	1.1
2010-2013	91	4.0
2000-2009	228	9.9
1980-1999	456	19.8
1960-1979	410	17.8
1940-1959	774	33.6
1939 or earlier	319	13.9
Total Units	2,303	100%

Figure 2.6: Flora Housing Units By Age (Year Built)



Household Income

After examining the 2020 annual household income of homes in the City of Flora it becomes obvious that the population cannot easily be characterized into a singular category. There is a large fluctuation of annual household income with approximately 33.2% of households earning \$5,000-\$34,999, 35.8% earning \$35,000-\$74,999 and 29.9% earning \$75,000 or more. This data is illustrated in Figure 2.6.



Section 2.4: Transportation

Public Transportation

Public transportation for Flora is currently provided by Central Illinois Public Transit. General public transportation initiatives, driven by increase in ridership, would make it desirable to create a single-point pick-up and drop-off point for commuters. Currently, Central Illinois Public Transit operates as a demand response, door-to-door-public transportation service. Demand response means that riders call the dispatch office in advance to schedule their ride. Currently, the majority of trips in Flora are to medical centers.

Flora Airport Authority

The airport complex is located two miles east of the center of the City of Flora, Illinois 62839 immediately south of new US Route 50 and adjacent to the Flora Industrial Park. The airport's main runway has been extended to 5,000 feet and is now classified as an executive jet facility. Pilots have access to a u-fuel system available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with both Jet-A and 100 low lead AV gas. The use of a courtesy car is provided to visiting pilots and businessmen.

The Airport Authority of Flora is a municipal corporation consisting of five commissioners, and runs out of a two-story office building. The officers of the board consist of a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary chosen from members and a treasurer selected from outside the membership, all residing within the territory comprising the Airport Authority of Flora. The Airport Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the airport, appointing necessary management and setting funding for maintenance and expansion as needed.

Park and Ride Lots

Park and Ride/Rideshare lots will be considered for future development, based upon one or more of the following circumstances:

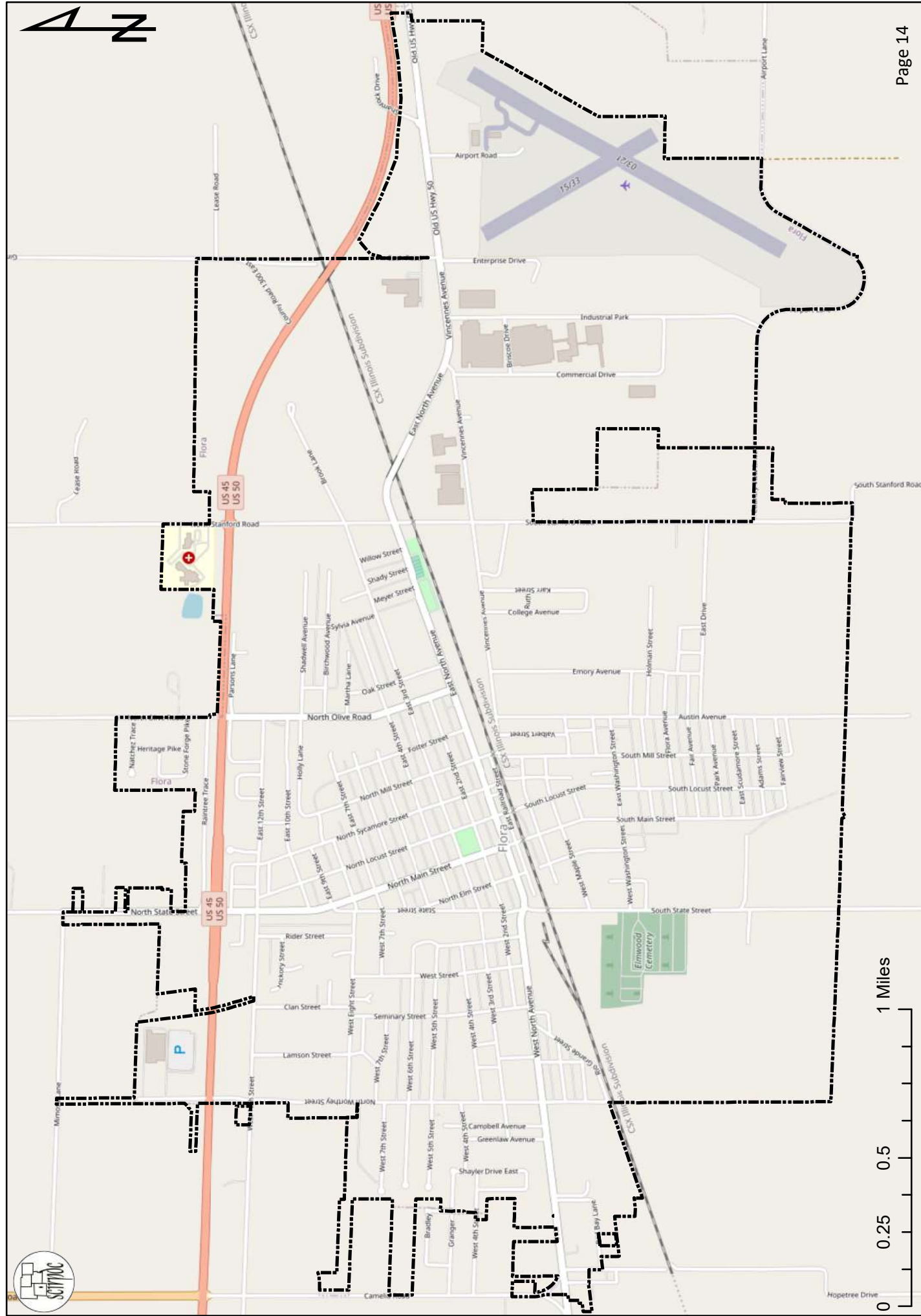
- The utilization by carpoolers of the off-street parking at the City Park interferes with parking availability for Park users a ridership, make it desirable to have a single point pick-up and drop-off point for commuters. Central Illinois Public Transit, which serves Flora, currently provides demand response, door-to-door public transit.
- The number of rideshare participants increases to a level making a dedicated lot (shared with Park and Ride) desirable, particularly if a program similar to Madison County Transit "RideFinders" is established.

Electric Vehicles (EV)

As the adoption of electric vehicles increases, citizens will require increased electrical grid infrastructure to support the vehicles use. There will be an increase in electrical consumption to charge personal electric vehicles at homes, and the need to charge a vehicle while traveling around the city will become apparent. Also, many municipalities have started researching the budgetary benefits of adopting electric vehicles in their municipal fleet to decrease fuel and maintenance costs. Another challenge from increased electric vehicle adoption will be budgetary deficits created by the decrease in motor fuel consumption. The city is currently in the development stages of installing two EV charging stations in the city.

Figure 2.8

Flora Street Map



Section 2.5: Local Economy

Employment Status

In 2020, the City of Flora had approximately 3,885 residents age 16 years and older. Of those residents, 2,394 (61.6%) are currently in the labor force with 2,235 employed (93.3%), 159 unemployed (6.6%). Of the total 3,885 residents, 1,491 (38.4%) are not currently participating in the labor force. Since an earlier finding indicated that 18.9% of the population is over the age of 65, at least 908 of these individuals not participating in the work force are of retirement age. This leaves approximately 583 individuals, or 12.1% of the total population of the city, between the age of 16 and 65 not participating in the workforce.

Workers by Industry

According to the ACS 2020 estimates, of the previously identified 2,235 employed residents 16 and older, 829 are employed in the manufacturing industry and 701 are working in educational and health care services. These two industry sectors make up 68.5% of the active workforce within the city. The table below illustrates the remaining industry's employing workers within the city as well as a comparison to 2010 numbers to show changes over the past ten years.

Table 2.5: Flora Employment By Industry

2010		2020		2010-2020
Industry	Employment	Industry	Employment	Net Change
Agriculture	43	Agriculture	44	1
Construction	171	Construction	106	-65
Manufacturing	510	Manufacturing	829	319
Wholesale Trade	29	Wholesale Trade	0	-29
Retail Trade	214	Retail Trade	141	-73
Transportation	118	Transportation	29	-89
Information	20	Information	17	-3
Finance & Insurance	63	Finance & Insurance	91	28
Science Professionals	112	Science Professionals	66	-46
Educational & Healthcare	606	Educational & Healthcare	701	95
Entertainment & Recreation	79	Entertainment & Recreation	50	-29
Public Administration	82	Public Administration	107	25
Other Services*	90	Other Services*	54	-36
TOTAL	2,137		2,235	98

* Other services category includes equipment and machinery repair, laundry services, personal care services, pet care services, administering religious activities, and death care services

Economic Development

The city is always looking for ways to remain competitive in business expansion, retention and recruitment. The City of Flora is well known in the south central Illinois region for its robust industrial park that includes several large manufacturing businesses providing jobs for hundreds of employees. The city has at their disposal several economic development tools to remain competitive in this space. Those that are locally controlled include Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Enterprise Zone Benefits.

Currently the city has two TIF Districts² which create property tax increment that can be utilized by the city for building rehabilitation, property assembly, infrastructure improvements, and other eligible project costs detailed in the Illinois TIF Act³.

In addition, the city serves as the administrator for and is part of the Flora/Clay County Enterprise Zone⁴ established in January 2016. The enterprise zone program allows existing and prospective businesses to utilize sales and property tax incentives to build new or rehabilitate current commercial or industrial facilities within the enterprise zone boundaries.

The city is also located in an Illinois designated Opportunity Zone⁵. The Opportunity Zone designation provides three tax benefits to investors who invest capital gains into a qualified opportunity fund within 180 days of the sale or exchange giving rise to such gains. These tax benefits include:

1. Investors can defer paying taxes on the capital gains they invest into a Qualified Fund until they sell their interest in the Qualified Fund or December 31, 2026, whichever is earlier.
2. Investors who hold their interest in a Qualified Fund for five years can eliminate 10% of the capital gains that they invested from tax, and investors who hold their interest in a Qualified Fund for seven years can eliminate an additional 5% of the capital gains from tax.
3. Investors who hold their interest in a Qualified Fund for five years can eliminate 10% of the capital gains that they invested from tax, and investors who hold their interest in a Qualified Fund for seven years can eliminate an additional 5% of the capital gains from tax.

Community Development

In order to promote community development, the city offers owners of downtown commercial business the opportunity to participate in the Façade Improvement Program. This program offers a 50% reimbursement of a total project cost, up to \$5,000, for improving the exterior of a downtown building within the West Central TIF District.

The city also provides small business loans through the USDA sponsored Intermediary Relending Program which can provided financial assistance to new or expanding businesses and community development projects within the City of Flora.

² Flora's TIF maps can be found in Appendix 2

³ Illinois TIF Act can be found at 65 ILCS 5/

⁴ Flora/Clay County Enterprise Zone Map can be found in Appendix 3

⁵ More information on Illinois Opportunity Zones can be found at [DCEO Opportunity Zones](#)

Section 2.6: Education

Educational Attainment

As illustrated in Figure 2.8, of the total 3,253 residents aged 25 or older, the majority 43.7% are high school graduates or GED recipients in second, individuals with some college completion, but no degree come in at 18.0%. Additionally, 9.1% have their Associate's Degree, while 7.3% have their Bachelor's Degree. 9.7% are reported to have some form of a graduate degree while the remaining 12.2% are not high school graduates. When comparing these 2020 census numbers to 2010, there was a significant increase of 6.4% in those individuals with only a high school diploma and a decrease of 7.5 percent of individuals with at least some college experience. This indicates that in the last decade a significant portion of the higher educated residents of the city have chosen to leave the city. This could be for other job opportunities or lifestyle reasons.

**FIGURE 2.9: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
POPULATION 25 AND OLDER**

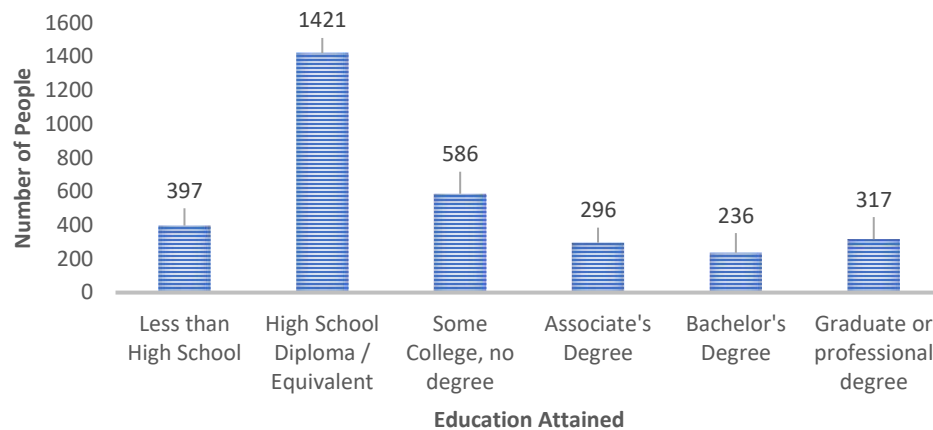


Table 2.6: Flora Educational Attainment Comparison

2010		2020		2010-2020
Education Attainment	% of Individuals	Education Attainment	% of Individuals	Net Change %
Less Than HS	11.1	Less Than HS	12.2	1.1
HS Diploma/Equivalent	37.3	HS Diploma/Equivalent	43.7	6.4
Some College	21.8	Some College	18.0	-3.8
Associate's Degree	10.1	Associate's Degree	9.1	-1.0
Bachelor's Degree	10.8	Bachelor's Degree	7.3	-3.5
Graduate Degree	8.9	Graduate Degree	9.7	0.8
TOTAL	100		100	

Clay County CEO Program⁶

The Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) Program connects local business community partners with area schools to create project-based experiences for students by providing funding, expertise, business tours and one-on-one mentoring. This program is open to high school juniors and seniors in any high school within Clay County and provides the opportunity for each student to delve into the process of starting their own business.

Higher Education

The closest institute for higher education is Olney Central College. Olney Central College is a fully accredited two-year institution, located in Olney, Illinois, about a thirty-minute drive from the City of Flora. This junior college offers Associates degrees, vocational certificates, and college transfer requirements. It also sponsors G.E.D. classes and the Upward Bound (UB) Program through Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC).

The UB program⁷ was established in 1989 and provides college preparatory advising, instruction, tutoring, test prep, social/emotional support, personal/career counseling, financial literacy, college admissions assistance, and cultural enrichment to participants who have the academic ability for the completion of a post-secondary degree.

Additionally, within a radius encompassing a two-hour drive from Flora are several four-year universities: Vincennes University in Vincennes, IN; Southern Illinois University Carbondale in Carbondale, IL; University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, IN; and Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL, which also offer post-graduate degrees.

Colleges/Universities with over 1,000 students nearest to Flora

- Olney Central College (about 23.5 miles; Olney, IL; Full-time enrollment: 1,330)
- Frontier Community College (25.5 miles; Fairfield, IL; Enrollment: 2,218)
- Kaskaskia College (about 43.6 miles; Centralia, IL; Full-time enrollment: 3,164)
- Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (about 23.1 miles; Olney, IL; Full-time enrollment: 2,777)
- Vincennes University (about 55 miles; Vincennes, IN; Full-time enrollment: 17,481)
- Eastern Illinois University (about 73.7 miles; Charleston, IL; Full-time enrollment: 7,526)
- University of Southern Indiana (about 85.9 miles; Evansville, IN; Full-time enrollment: 10,986)
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale (about 106 miles; Carbondale, IL; Full-time enrollment: 12,817)

⁶ More information on the Clay County CEO program can be found the [County CEO website](#)

⁷ More information on the IECC Upward Bound Program can be found at the [IECC website](#)

Section 2.7: Public Utility Infrastructure

Electric Grid Use and Development

The City of Flora provides reliable power to the residents of Flora supplied by Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA). The power grids construction maintains a capacity of approximately 18,250 Kilowatts of backup generation. Today, the city has a voltage of 4.15 kilovolts, and four substations. With a signed agreement, the city partners with the IMEA to protect the consumers of energy in the city from the high-rate spikes out on the market. Watching the demand for the city, the Council and Management have worked on keeping Flora fully supportive within its boundaries in situations of loss of power and mechanical failure. Once again, the peak demand for the city rises to the maximum output that the city can provide; therefore, future expansion in generation is needed to continue the 100% reliability in an outage environment.

As the growth of technology and alternate energy sources develop, the city considered revolutionizing the energy use of its consumers by providing means of “smart grid” techniques. Smart Grid systems provide improved capabilities for the electric system by allowing detection of system fault and isolation and auto recovery. The smart grid would also allow customers to save money by avoiding usage energy during high-cost periods and by educating customers about their usage patterns so they can conserve. In 2020, the City of Flora began using Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) with an enhanced feature can create wireless smart meters. The “Smart Meter” acts as a two-lane highway communicating information from the consumer to the provider. Thus, creating an environment that is able to adapt to the needs of the grid and conserve energy at peak times and use it at the cheapest point. So, for future smart grid development, the city should be progressive in examining the possibilities and more relevant technology as development and consumer awareness increase.

Water System Use and Development

The City of Flora directly receives water from Gateway Regional Water Company meeting the city’s daily water needs. Currently, there is the capacity for 2,000,000 gallons of water. The City’s source of raw water is from Carlyle Lake and its discharge goes into Racoon Creek.

The distribution system has been upgraded over the past several years with PVC water main constructed in areas that had previously deteriorating water lines. Currently, the goals and objectives of the distribution system is to maintain and control the quality of the mains and to replace or reconstruct the water tower on the original utility campus. Continued maintenance of the one-million-gallon ground storage tank will be performed as needed.

Sewer System Use and Development

Growth in the City has been progressive in past years. With an aging sewer system updates and improvements have been ongoing for the plant to stay in compliance with EPA regulations. The city of Flora has regularly invested in updating, installing, and expanding the city’s sewer system. Studies performed by area engineers and testing by city staff have shown that the treated water meets the current standards, however, the Infiltration & Inflow (I & I) to the plant aggravate the plants’ ability to treat legitimate sewage treatment flow. Several techniques and strategies are being analyzed to combat existing and potential problems due to changing laws and regulations. Currently, the city is in the process of constructing a new waste water treatment plant planned for completion in 2027.

Broadband Access

In early 2023, the State of Illinois currently ranks 18 among states in Broadbandnow's⁸ annual ranking of internet coverage, speed and availability. Residents of Flora have a choice of cable, satellite, fiber, and DSL internet services with several Internet service providers (ISP) and 4 mobile providers. A summary of these providers and the services they offer for the community is shown below on Table 2.7.

Table 2.7: Flora Internet Provider Summary			
<u>Provider</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Speed</u>
Wabash Communications	Cable, Fiber, & DSL	51.5% +	1,000 Mbps
Frontier Communications	DSL	80.2% +	24 Mbps
Wisper ISP	Fixed Wireless	7.2% +	20 Mbps
Viasat Internet (Formerly Exede)	Satellite	100%	35 Mbps
HughesNet	Satellite	100%	25 Mbps
Frontier Business	DSL	46.9% +	24 Mbps
Clearwave Communications	Fiber	3.6% +	1,000 Mbps
Frontier Communications	DSL	80.2% +	24 Mbps
Nextlink	Broadband	80.0%	100 Mbps

*Mbps is Megabits per second. The higher the Mbps, the faster the online activity.

Looking more broadly, residents of Clay County have average access to internet when comparing it to all other Illinois counties. Specifically, 90.5% of the county have available service at 25 mbps or higher, 84.4% have access to speeds of 100 mbps or more, and 81.9% can attain service that reach 1 Gigabit. Worth noting, the entire Flora Industrial Park has access to 1 Gigabit internet services.

⁸ Broadbandnow Data and information available at [BroadbandNow's Website](#)

Section 2.8: Parks and Recreation

The City of Flora has three publicly accessible parks. The Kiwanis Park includes six public tennis courts, a skate park and a lighted basketball court. The Charley Brown Memorial Park located west of the City on Old Route 50, includes 100 acres of green space and facilities including 85 camping sites, a playground, swimming pool, dog park, nine-hole golf course, and a disc golf course.

The 9-hole "Flora" course at the Flora Golf and Country Club facility near Flora, Illinois features 3,054 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 35. The course rating is 36.0 and it has a slope rating of 113 on Bermuda grass. Flora golf course opened in 1953.

The 58 par Disc Golf Course, opened in 2019, both located at Charley Brown Memorial Park. There are 19 holes on a moderately hilly and lightly wooded course. Additionally, there are multiple tees with the hole type being Gateway Titan. Finally, there is an annual Amateur Disc Golf Tournament held in the fall at the course.

The third community park is a small downtown pocket park that includes greenery and a gazebo with a small sitting area.

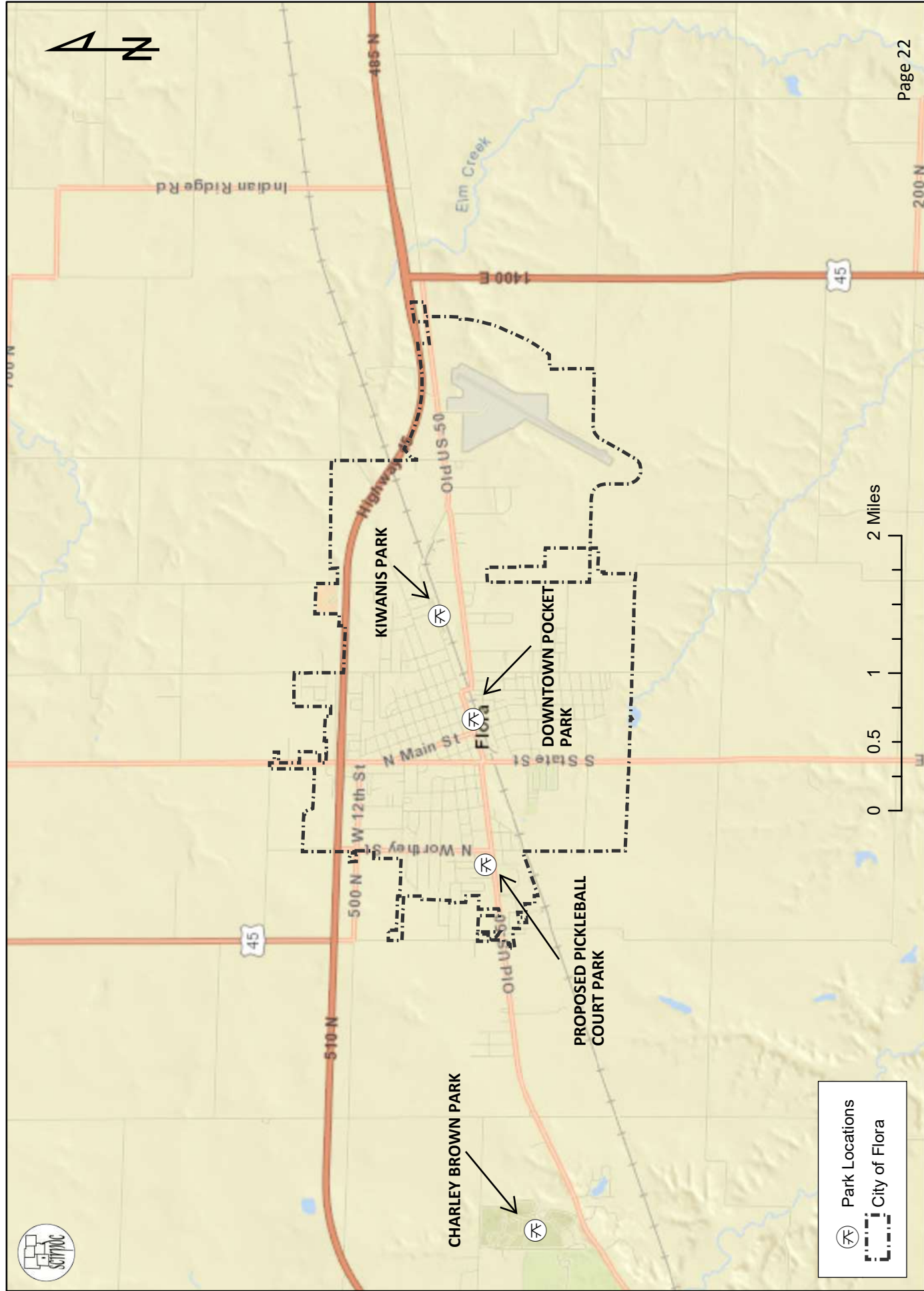
Park and Recreation Planning

In 2022, the City of Flora submitted an IDNR OSLAD grant application to aid in the development of a new park west of North Avenue that would include six pickleball courts. The city, in cooperation with the school district, hopes to development local pickleball teams for the youth of the community and surrounding area. While these pickleball courts will likely be used on a daily basis, as is evidenced by the enormous local support, ultimately the city hopes to host pickleball tournaments at this project location. Large scale sporting events, such as pickleball tournaments, will not only benefit local residents directly, but aid in community tourism efforts and bring in highly valuable sales tax dollars from outside of the community through hotel stays, restaurant visits, and local shopping.

While the City has numerous opportunities for personal fitness – disc golf course, 9-hole golf course, basketball, and tennis courts – there is no designated bikeway or multi-use trail to accommodate bicyclists or walkers. Currently, the city of Flora is searching for funding opportunities to create a bicycle path.

Figure 2.10

Flora Park Locations



Section 2.9: Public Safety and Emergency Services

Fire Protection

The Flora Volunteer Fire Protection District has approximately 31 volunteers and covers the City of Flora. The City of Flora has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating in the City of Class 6. The I.S.O. rating of a community can have a direct effect on the insurance premiums that individuals pay on their homes and especially on commercial buildings. The lower the I.S.O. rating on a scale of 1 to 10, the better the insurance rates are (generally). The I.S.O. reviews 3 areas primarily – the Fire Department (50%); the City water main & hydrant capabilities (40%); 9-1-1 dispatch & paging services (10%); and an extra 5.5 % comes from community outreach, including fire prevention and safety

Police Protection

Flora operates its own Police Department under the guidance of a Police Chief with a staff of 12 full-time officers, 5 full-time telecommunicators, and one full-time secretary who serve the community. The duties of the 911 Communications center are handled by the Clay County 911 where Police, Fire, and EMS units are dispatched for Flora and some of the surrounding communities. The hospital has an EMS personnel that currently support eight full-time paramedics and eight part-time EMTs.

Medical Service

The hospital maintains a cutting-edge primary care hospital while upholding its goal to be a model among rural health-care delivery organizations as measured by our: Outstanding patient advocacy and loyalty; Unsurpassed clinical quality and patient safety; significant contribution to medical education; Exceptional employee satisfaction and workforce development; and Excellent financial and operation management. Clay County Hospital is most proud of the caring attitude demonstrated by their dedicated employees and physicians who provide award winning care.

Healthcare Centers Near Flora, Illinois

- Clay Medical Center (Christopher Rural Health) (165 Kinnaman Dr., Flora, IL)
- Clay County Hospital (911 Stacey Burk Drive, Flora, IL)
- Clay County Medical Center (911 Stacey Burk Drive, Flora, IL)
- Flora Rehabilitation & Health Care Center (232 Given Dr., Flora, IL)
- Flora Gardens (701 Shadwell St. Flora, IL)
- Center for Senior Renewal (817 N. Stanford Rd., Flora, IL)

Chapter 3: Future Land Use Plan

The Land Use Plan proposes a variety of land use types and intensities⁹. In general, the land use proposals are based on existing land use, current zoning classifications, supporting infrastructure, and existing and proposed street network. The Future Land Use Plan map is color-coded to indicate the following land use categories:

A-1 (Agricultural District) & A-2 (Corporate Agricultural District)

This land use category proposes that the current agricultural land uses remain, along with the residential uses typically associated with agricultural uses. The City's current Agricultural zoning district has certain use and dimensional standards that allow for farmstead type residences and certain other uses for which the City has authority to control. While rural residential uses are permitted, it is not the policy of this Plan to encourage the development of residential subdivisions in these agricultural areas. Instead, such residential subdivisions should be developed in areas designated as Single-Family Residence District. By applying the City's subdivision authority within the mile and a half area surrounding the City, the City will be able to Efficiently plan for capital improvements and essential urban type services (e.g., streets, public safety, public education, parks and recreation, etc.).

C-1 (Central Commercial District) & C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial District)

To a large degree, proposed commercial land uses reflect current City zoning district designations. As future commercial development proposals arise within areas that are currently zoned for commercial use, then the applicable commercial district regulations will more specifically dictate the type and intensity of use. In instances where rezoning to a commercial district is proposed, then the Land Use Plan should serve as a guide. However, such rezoning requests should be examined in terms of their appropriateness for location, including assessing impact on the surrounding areas and street network.

I-1 (General Industrial District) & I-2 (Industrial Park District)

Industrial land uses proposed in the Plan reflect the City's General Industrial District and Industrial Park District. Light industrial land uses include manufacturing, warehousing, and similar uses that are limited by certain performance standards (e.g., limitation on impacts on surrounding or nearby properties). It is more likely that in today's market, along with more stringent environmental regulations; most future industrial development would be light industrial in character.

MF-1 (Multiple-Family Residence District)

The Multiple-Family Residence District consists of high-density residential proposals properties currently zoned residential.

MH-1 (Mobile Home Park)

This land use category represents Mobile Home Park, single-family dwellings.

⁹ Zoning/Land Use Map located in Appendix

R-1 & R-2 & R-3 & R-4 (Single-Family Residence District)

This land use category represents single-family dwellings on relatively large individual lots, with open space (yards) between all sides of such dwellings and their lot lines. This type of development would be accommodated under the City's Agricultural zoning district, which permits single-family dwellings and have minimum lot sizes of 2 acres.

Chapter 4: Plan Implementation

Section 4.1: Plan Adoption

The first official action toward plan implementation is the adoption, by the Flora City Council, of this Plan document. This action formalizes this plan document as being the current policy for the general development patterns in the planning area.

Section 4.2: Zoning

Also, the City should review and update its zoning ordinance (including the official zoning map) in context of this land use policy. Such a re-evaluation is important in order to ensure that the zoning ordinance is not in conflict with policies of the plan. However, this is not intended to restrict the city in maintaining certain zones that reflect current land use (e.g., agricultural) until such time development is eminent.

It is intended that this Plan serve as a guide for making decisions on community development issues that come before the Planning Commission and the City Council on a regular Basis. Typical situations in which staff, Planning Commission, and City Council members should consult the Plan include:

- Rezoning requests (consider the Plans recommended land use).
- Review of preliminary and final plats (consider the type of existing adjoining streets and proposed major street alignments).
- Requests for special use permits.
- Annexation petitions.
- Capital improvements programming (water, sewer, and street projects).

While not binding, the recommendations of this Plan should be given appropriate consideration and weight in making decisions.

Section 4.3: Annexation

The orderly development of the City of Flora depends upon periodic expansion of its boundaries. The city should continue to pursue annexation within the framework of the land use plan. This may include the use of annexation (or pre-annexation) agreements which set forth the terms and conditions under which the subject property would be annexed and developed.

The City of Flora has historically pursued a conservative, measured approach to annexation of adjacent properties into the City limits, responding to opportunities growing from commercial and residential changes and opportunities.

Annexation of small parcels occurs periodically.

Section 4.4: Plan Review and Updates

It is important to periodically reassess the plan (every 5 to 10 years). The plan is based on variables that are dynamic and whose future direction cannot always be accurately predicted. Accordingly, variables such as population and urban development characteristics should be compared against the plan's assumptions and recommendations. Based upon this periodic review, modifications to the plan, or elements thereof, should be made to ensure that the plan reflects current development policy.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Flora Dominant Tapestry Segments

Appendix 2: Flora Tax Increment Financing Maps

Appendix 3: Flora/Clay County Enterprise Zone Map

Appendix 4: Zoning/Future Land Use Map

Appendix 5: Development Goals and Objectives

LifeMode Group: Cozy Country Living

Heartland Communities

Households: 2,850,600

Average Household Size: 2.39

Median Age: 42.3

Median Household Income: \$42,400



WHO ARE WE?

Well settled and close-knit, *Heartland Communities* residents are semirural and semiretired. These older householders are primarily homeowners, and many have paid off their mortgages. Their children have moved away, but they have no plans to leave their homes. Their hearts are with the country; they embrace the slower pace of life here but actively participate in outdoor activities and community events. Traditional and patriotic, these residents support their local businesses, always buy American, and favor domestic driving vacations over foreign plane trips.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Rural communities or small towns are concentrated in the Midwest, from older Rustbelt cities to the Great Plains.
- Distribution of household types is comparable to the US, primarily (but not the majority) married couples, more with no children, and a slightly higher proportion of singles (Index 112) that reflects the aging of the population.
- Residents own modest, single-family homes built before 1970.
- They own one or two vehicles; commutes are short (Index 82).

SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- Retirees in this market depress the average labor force participation rate to less than 60% (Index 94). More workers are white collar than blue collar; more skilled than unskilled.
- The rural economy of this market provides employment in the manufacturing, construction, utilities, health-care, and agriculture industries.
- These are budget-savvy consumers; they stick to brands they grew up with and know the price of goods they purchase. Buying American is important.
- Daily life is busy but routine. Working on the weekends is not uncommon.
- Residents trust TV and newspapers more than any other media.
- Skeptical about their financial future, they stick to community banks and low-risk investments.



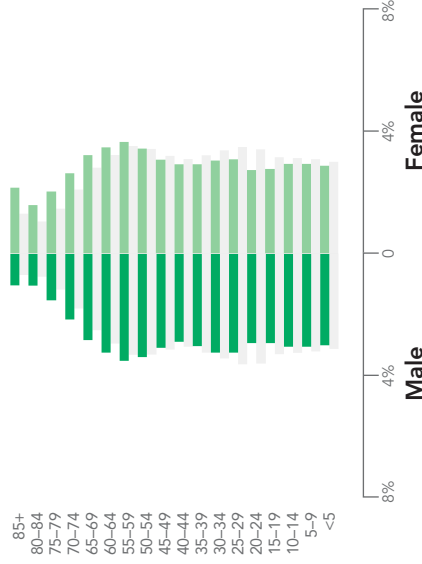
Note: The index represents the ratio of the segment rate to the US rate multiplied by 100. Consumer preferences are estimated from data by MRI-Simmons.



AGE BY SEX (Esri data)

Median Age: 42.3 US: 38.2

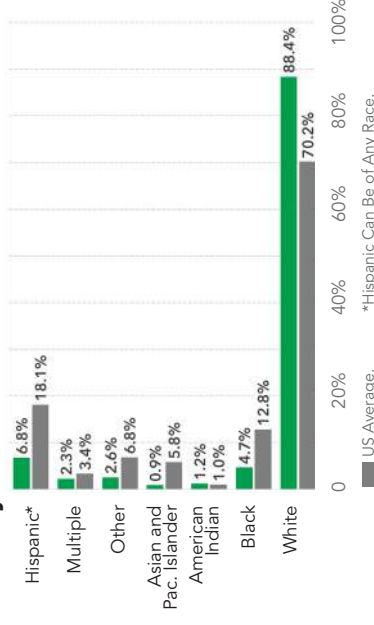
■ Indicates US



RACE AND ETHNICITY (Esri data)

The Diversity Index summarizes racial and ethnic diversity. The index shows the likelihood that two persons, chosen at random from the same area, belong to different race or ethnic groups. The index ranges from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity).

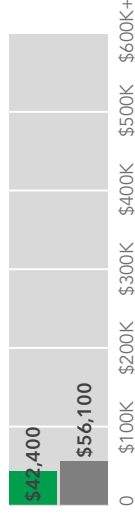
Diversity Index: 31.5 US: 64.0



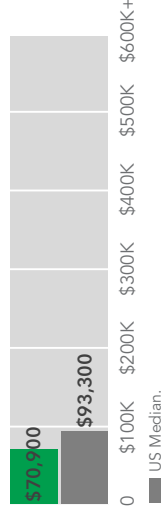
INCOME AND NET WORTH

Net worth measures total household assets (homes, vehicles, investments, etc.) less any debts, secured (e.g., mortgages) or unsecured (credit cards). Household income and net worth are estimated by Esri.

Median Household Income

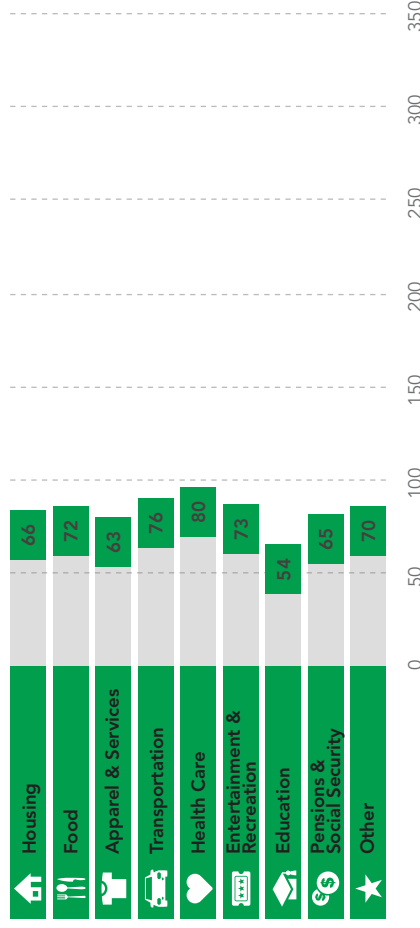


Median Net Worth



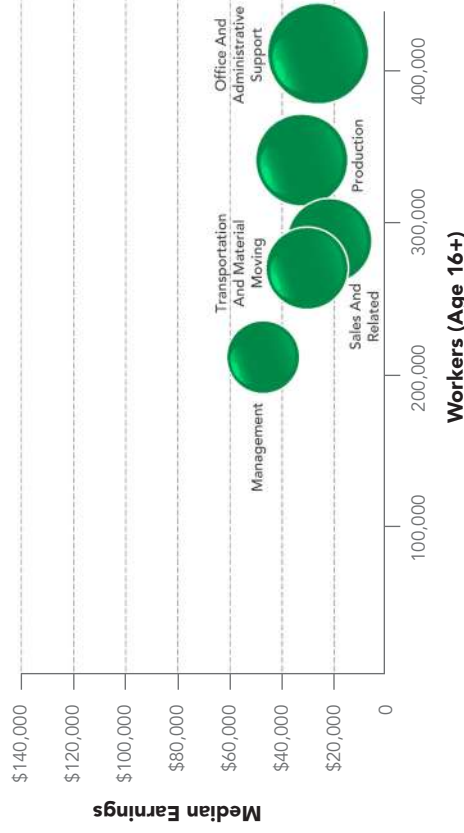
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD BUDGET INDEX

The index compares the average amount spent in this market's household budgets for housing, food, apparel, etc., to the average amount spent by all US households. An index of 100 is average. An index of 120 shows that average spending by consumers in this market is 20 percent above the national average. Consumer expenditures are estimated by Esri.



OCCUPATION BY EARNINGS

The five occupations with the highest number of workers in the market are displayed by median earnings. Data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.



MARKET PROFILE

(Consumer preferences are estimated from data by MRI-Simmons.)

- Traditional in their ways, residents of *Heartland Communities* choose to bank and pay their bills in person and purchase insurance from an agent.
- Most have high-speed internet access at home or on their cell phone but aren't ready to go paperless.
- Many residents have paid off their home mortgages but still hold auto loans and student loans. Interest checking accounts are common.
- To support their local community, residents participate in public activities.
- Home remodeling is not a priority, but homeowners do tackle necessary maintenance work on their cherished homes. They have invested in riding lawn mowers to maintain their larger yards.
- They enjoy country music and watch CMT.
- Motorcycling, hunting, and fishing are popular; walking is the main form of exercise.
- To get around these semirural communities, residents prefer domestic trucks or SUVs.

HOUSING

Median home value is displayed for markets that are primarily owner occupied; average rent is shown for renter-occupied markets. Tenure and home value are estimated by Esri. Housing type and average rent are from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.



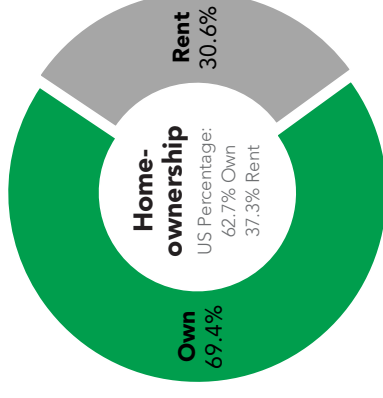
Typical Housing:

Single Family

Median Value:

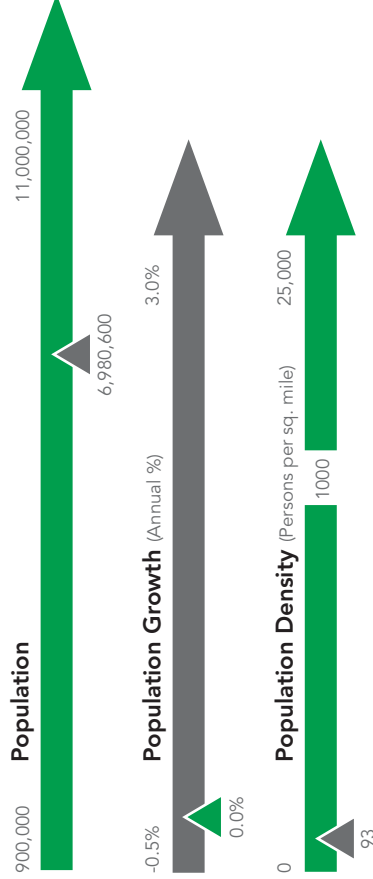
\$95,700

US Median: \$207,300



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Total population, average annual population change since Census 2010, and average density (population per square mile) are displayed for the market relative to the size and change among all Tapestry markets. Data estimated by Esri.



ESRI INDEXES

Esri developed three indexes to display average household wealth, socioeconomic status, and housing affordability for the market relative to US standards.



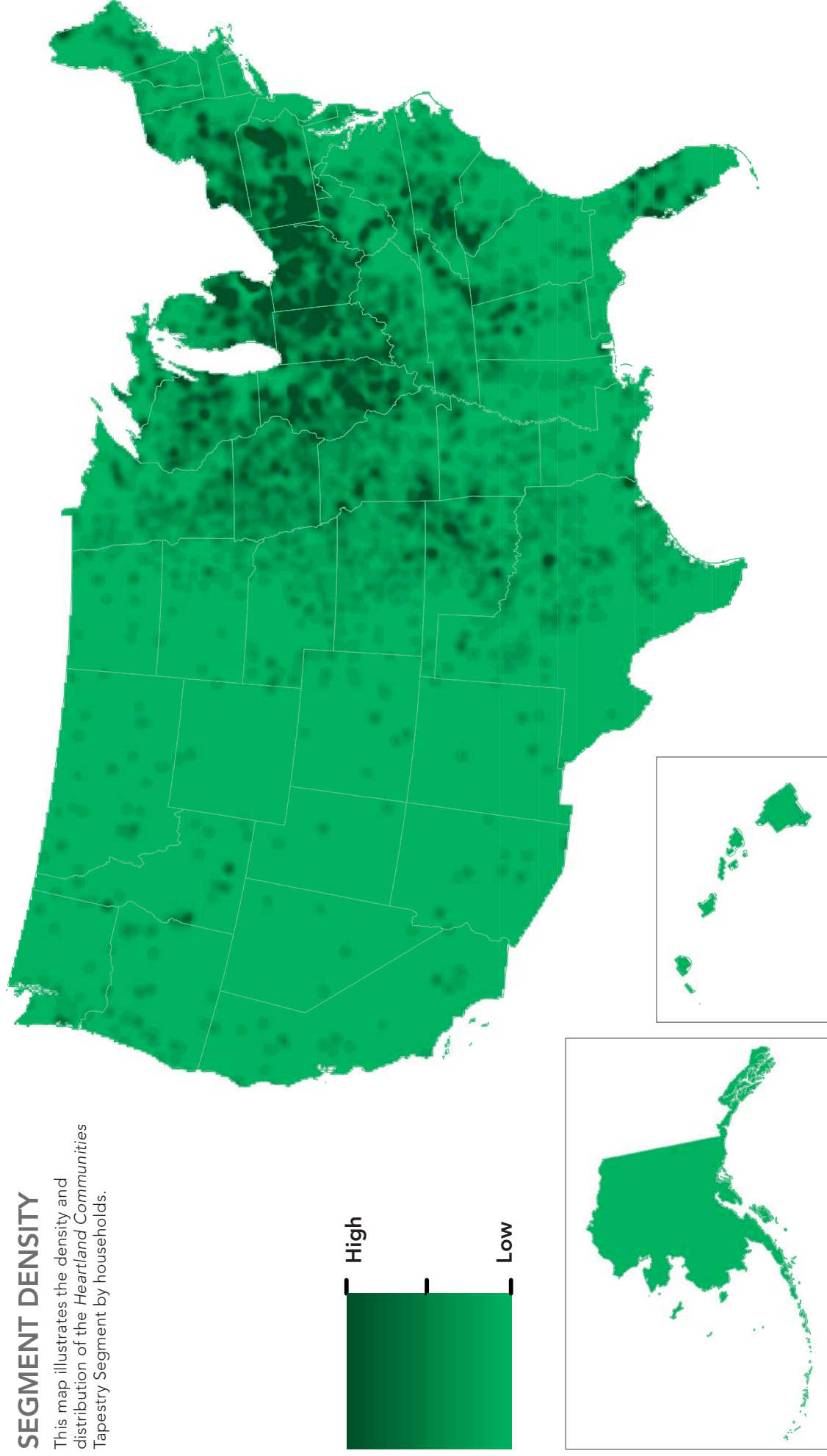


LifeMode Group: Cozy Country Living Heartland Communities



SEGMENT DENSITY

This map illustrates the density and distribution of the *Heartland Communities* Tapestry Segment by households.



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For more information
1-800-447-9778
info@esri.com
esri.com



esri®

THE
SCIENCE
OF
WHERE®

Traditional Living

Households: 2,395,200

Average Household Size: 2.51

Median Age: 35.5

Median Household Income: \$39,300



WHO ARE WE?

Residents in this segment live primarily in low-density, settled neighborhoods in the Midwest. The households are a mix of married-couple families and singles. Many families encompass two generations who have lived and worked in the community; their children are likely to follow suit. The manufacturing, retail trade, and health-care sectors are the primary sources of employment for these residents. This is a younger market—beginning householders who are juggling the responsibilities of living on their own or a new marriage, while retaining their youthful interests in style and fun.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Married couples are the dominant household type, but fewer than expected from the younger age profile and fewer with children (Index 79); however, there are higher proportions of single-parent (Index 146) and single-person households (Index 112).
- Average household size is slightly lower at 2.51.
- Homes are primarily single family or duplexes in older neighborhoods, built before 1940 (Index 228).
- Most neighborhoods are located in lower-density urban clusters of metro areas throughout the Midwest and South.
- Average commuting time to work is very short (Index 22).
- Households have one or two vehicles.

SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- Over 70% have completed high school or some college.
- Labor force participation is a bit higher than the national rate at 63.4%.
- Almost three-quarters of households derive income from wages and salaries, augmented by Supplemental Security Income (Index 139) and public assistance (Index 152).
- Cost-conscious consumers that are comfortable with brand loyalty, unless the price is too high.
- Connected and comfortable with the internet, more likely to participate in online gaming or posting pics on social media.
- TV is seen as the most trusted media.

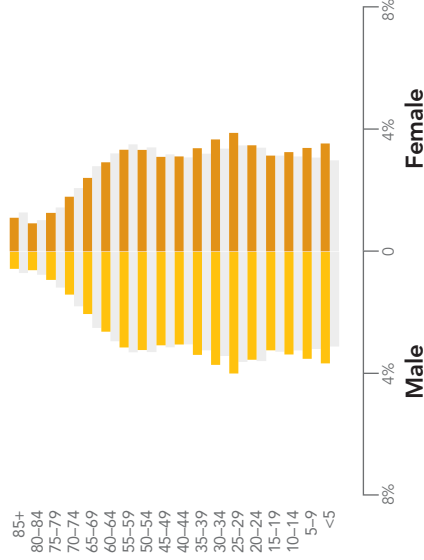


Note: The Index represents the ratio of the segment rate to the US rate multiplied by 100. Consumer preferences are estimated from data by MRI-Simmons.

AGE BY SEX (Esri data)

Median Age: **35.5** US: 38.2

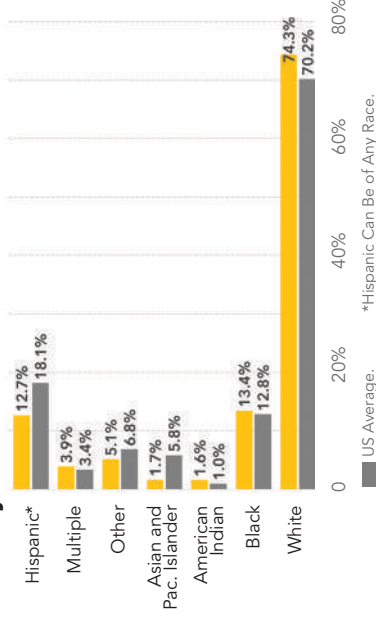
■ Indicates US



RACE AND ETHNICITY (Esri data)

The Diversity Index summarizes racial and ethnic diversity. The index shows the likelihood that two persons, chosen at random from the same area, belong to different race or ethnic groups. The index ranges from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity).

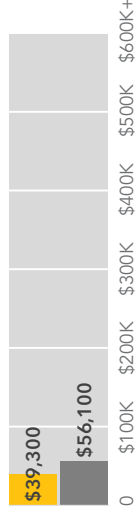
Diversity Index: **55.6** US: 64.0



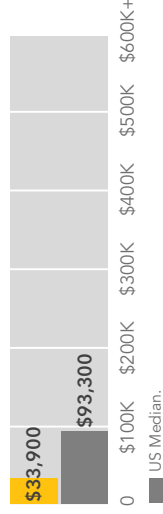
INCOME AND NET WORTH

Net worth measures total household assets (homes, vehicles, investments, etc.) less any debts, secured (e.g., mortgages) or unsecured (credit cards). Household income and net worth are estimated by Esri.

Median Household Income

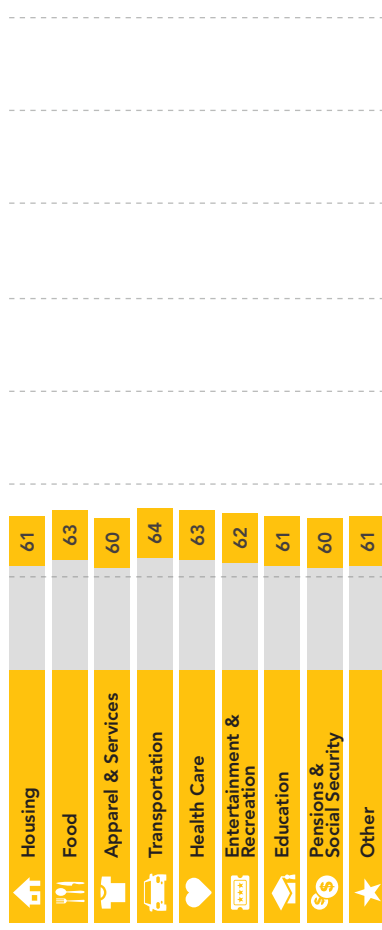


Median Net Worth



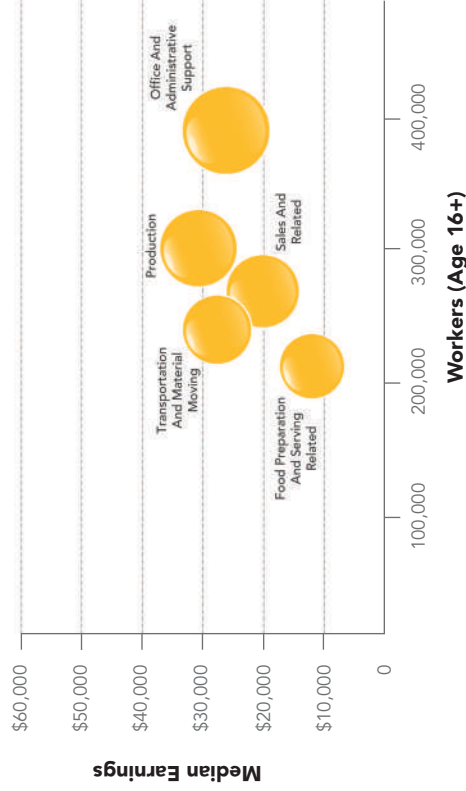
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD BUDGET INDEX

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OCCUPATION BY EARNINGS

The five occupations with the highest number of workers in the market are displayed by median earnings. Data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.



MARKET PROFILE

(Consumer preferences are estimated from data by MRI-Simmons.)

- Shop for groceries at discount stores such as Walmart Supercenters.
- Convenience stores are commonly used for fuel or picking up incidentals.
- Tend to carry credit card balances, have personal loans, and pay bills in person.
- Half of households have abandoned landlines for cell phones only.
- Favorite TV channels include Freedom, CMT, and Game Show Network.
- Fast-food devotees.
- Enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing and taking trips to the zoo.

HOUSING

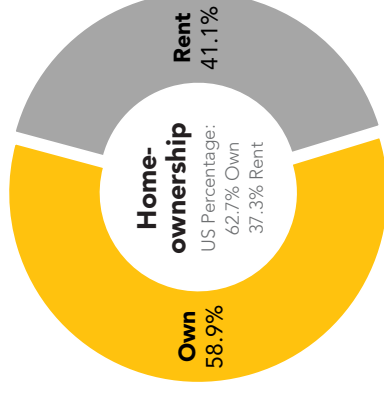
Median home value is displayed for markets that are primarily owner occupied; average rent is shown for renter-occupied markets. Tenure and home value are estimated by Esri. Housing type and average rent are from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.



Typical Housing:
Single Family

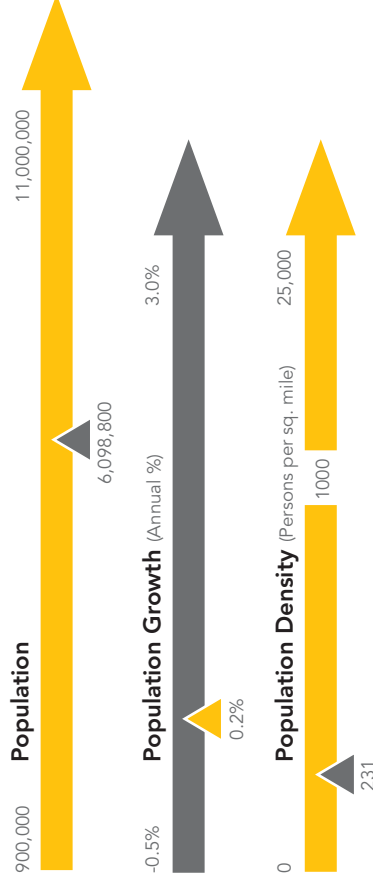
Median Value:
\$83,200

US Median: \$207,300



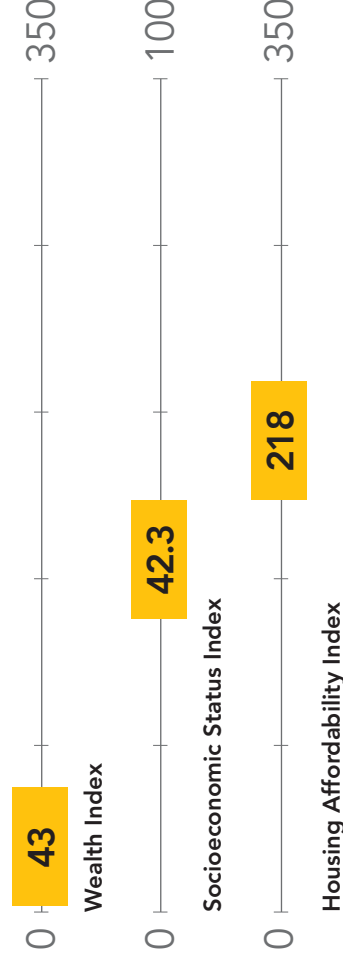
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Total population, average annual population change since Census 2010, and average density (population per square mile) are displayed for the market relative to the size and change among all Tapestry markets. Data estimated by Esri.



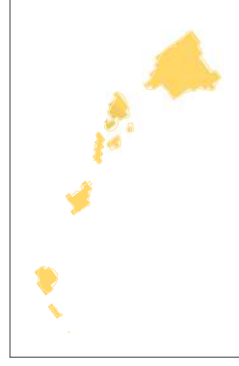
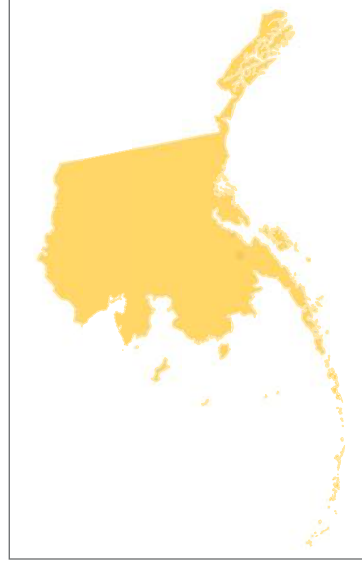
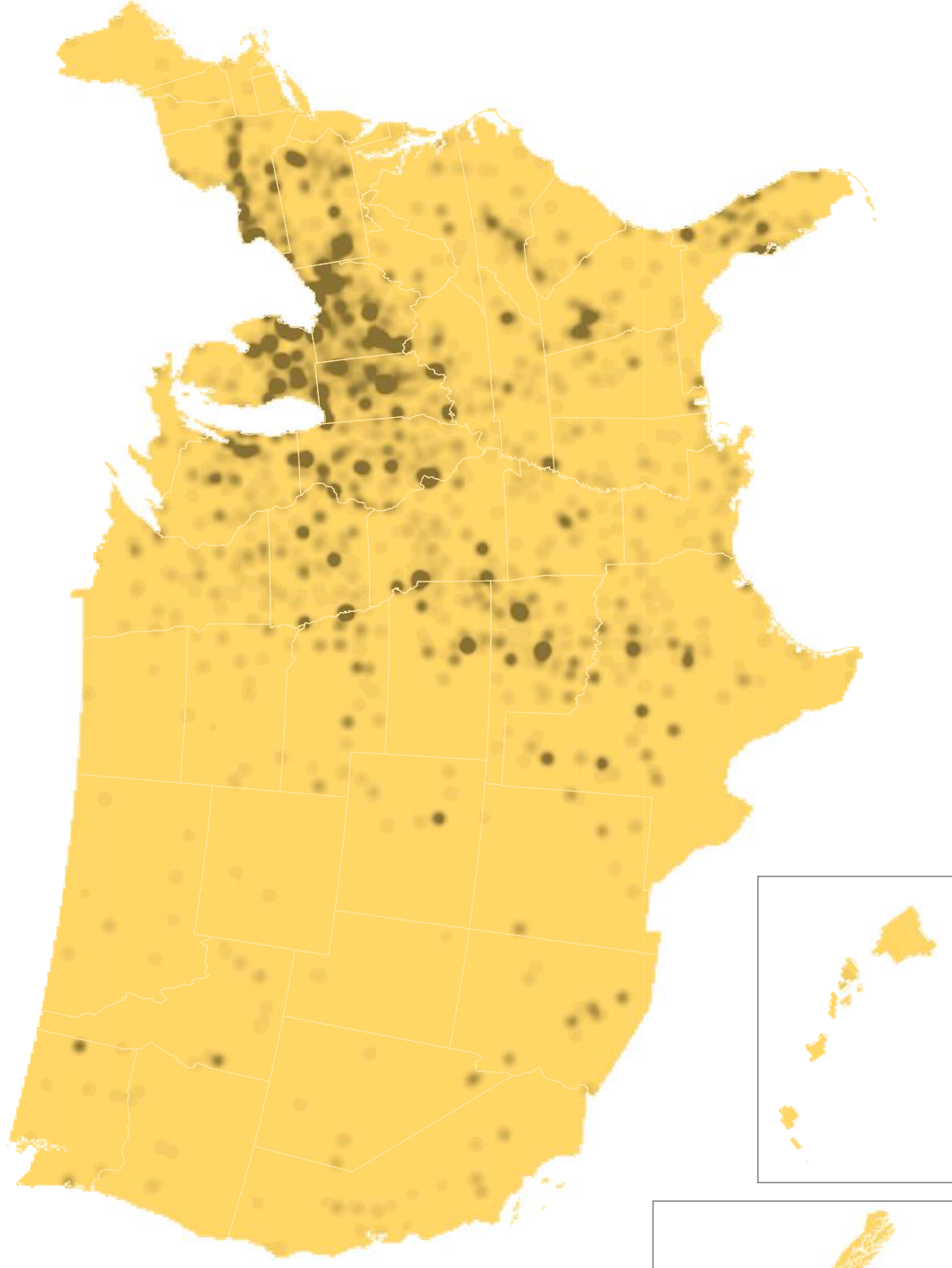
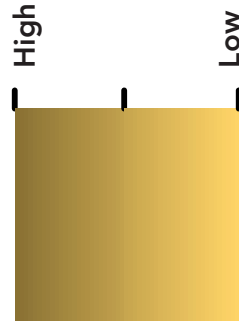
ESRI INDEXES

Esri developed three indexes to display average household wealth, socioeconomic status, and housing affordability for the market relative to US standards.



SEGMENT DENSITY

This map illustrates the density and distribution of the *Traditional Living* Tapestry Segment by households.

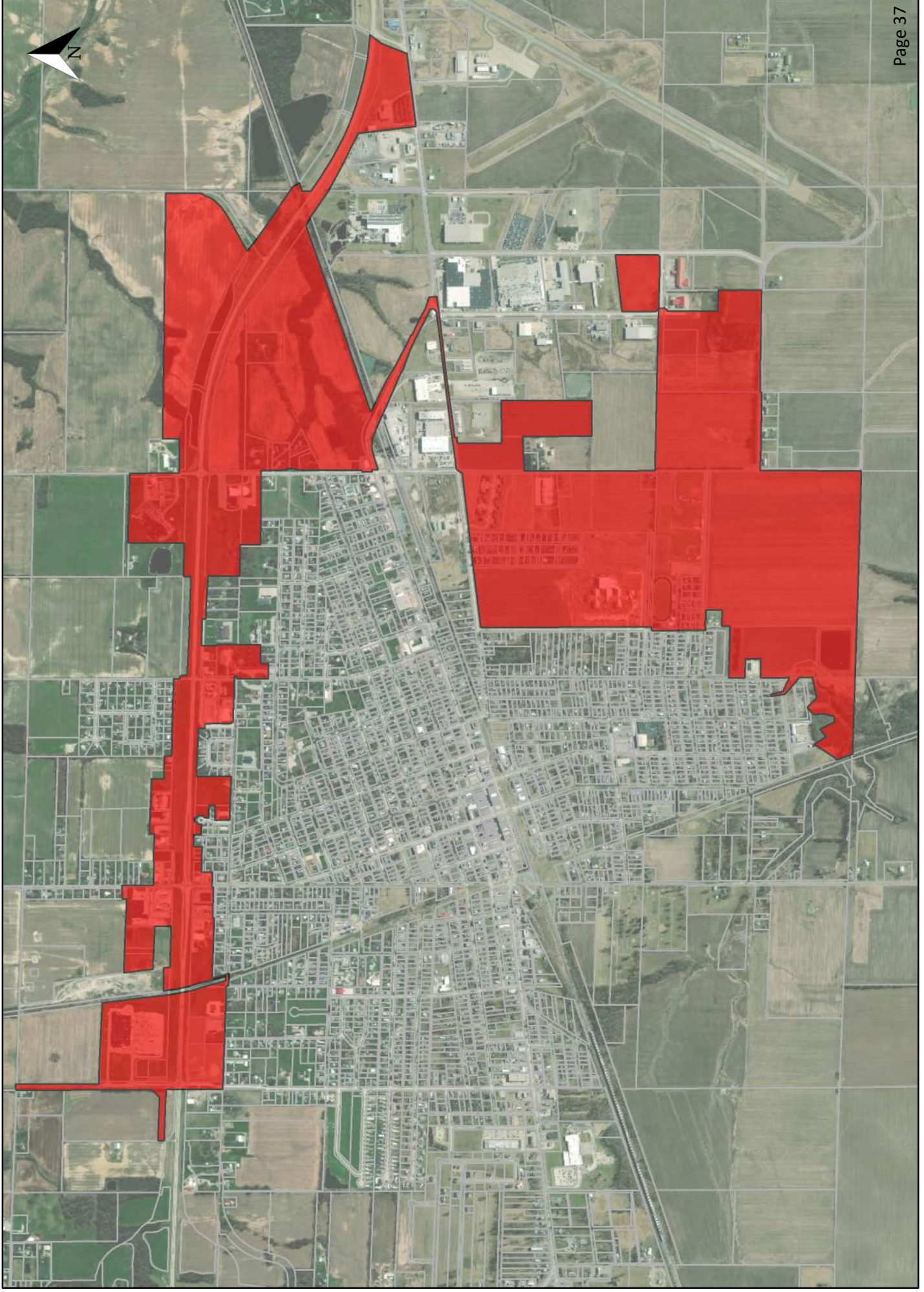


Appendix 2



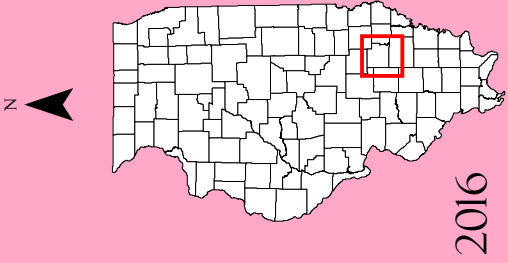


City of Flora US 50 Corridor TIF 2

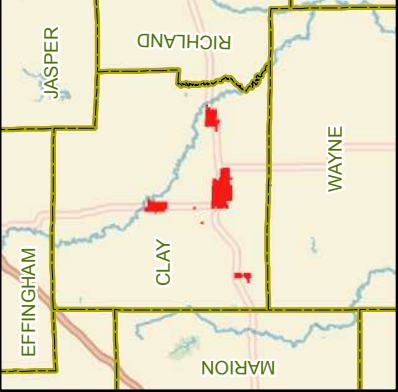




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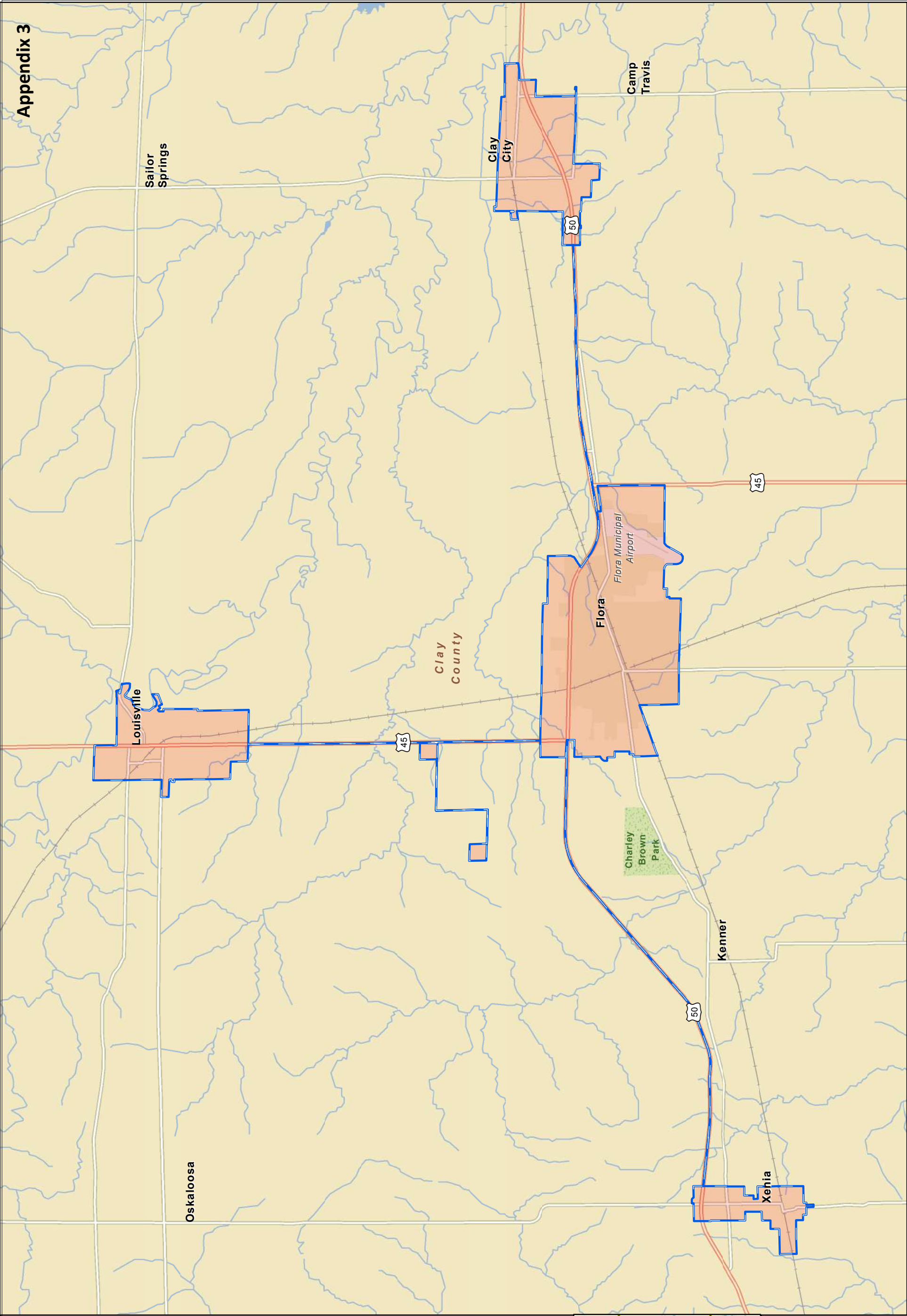
2016

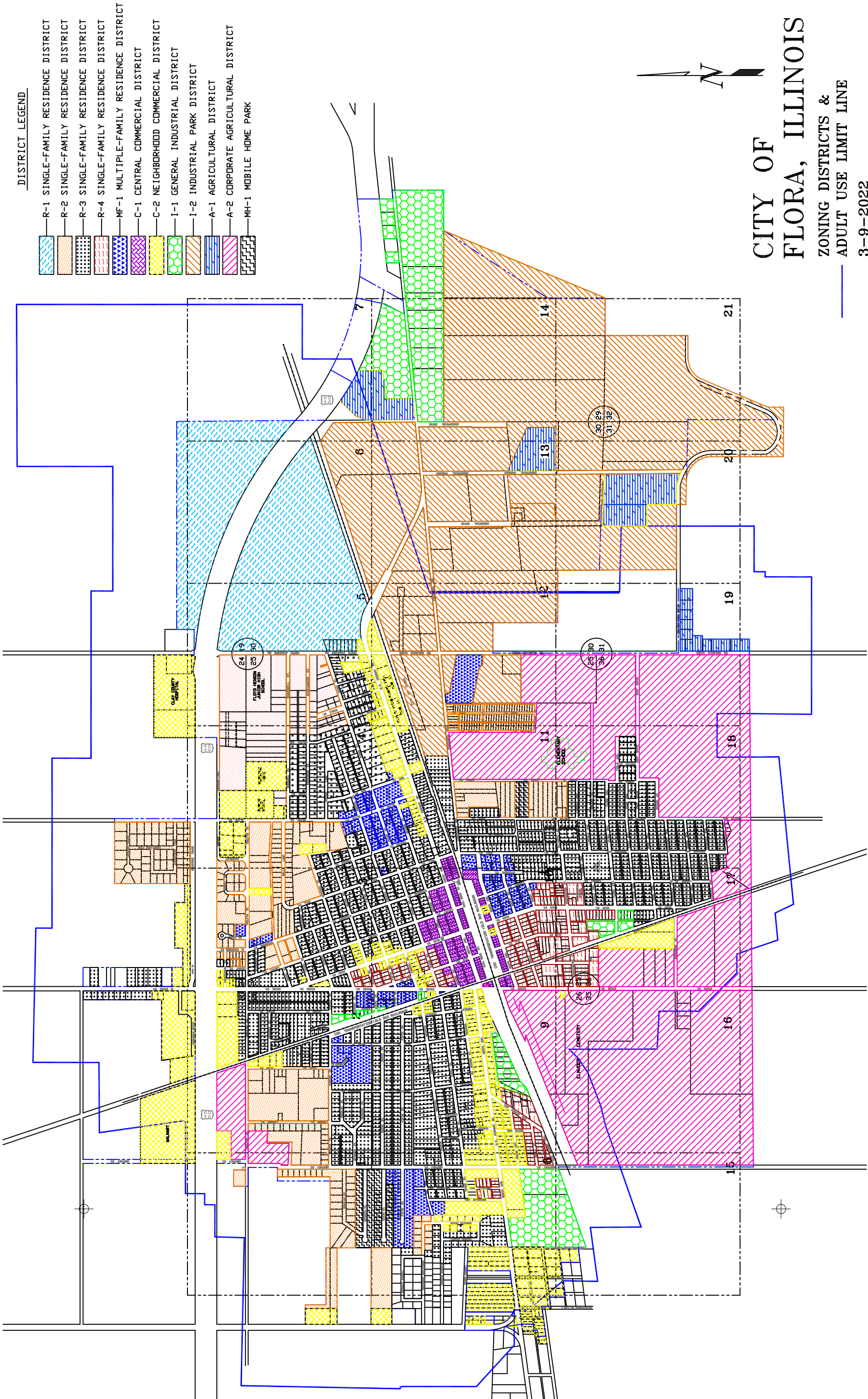


DISCLAIMER

In preparing these maps, constraints of scale, data, time, and personnel required the generalization and extrapolation of boundaries which have not been field-checked. The base maps used by the Department in this process were obtained from the United States Geological Survey, and the Department of Commerce (of the Bureau of the Census (TIGER)). These maps may not be used to determine any boundary or the location of monuments, railroads, roads, or streets, with any precision, because the boundaries and locations on these maps are ONLY GENERALIZED REPRESENTATIONS OF APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS AND BOUNDARIES.

The Illinois Department of Revenue and the State of Illinois hereby give notice to all users that these maps and the data included herein, lack the accuracy required for site-specific information derived from sources outside the Illinois Department of Revenue, the Illinois Department of Revenue and the State of Illinois make no representation, guarantee or warranty, either express or implied, regarding the accuracy of these maps or the data furnished thereon, including, but not limited to, the condition of this product, this product's merchantability, or this product's fitness for any particular





Appendix 5: Development Goals and Objectives

Housing Goals & Objectives

Goal: Promote safe, attractive housing options with a high quality of life and stable property values.

Objectives:

- Create a welcome package for potential new residents that include community information including schools, recreation, real estate contacts, civic organizations, home builders, local businesses and other information. Create a link to this information on the city website.
- Maintain vacant lots in residential areas and consider alternative uses for those lots such as community gardens or mini-parks.
- Preserve the integrity of residential neighborhoods by enforcing zoning and nuisance ordinances. Review and update ordinances as necessary to guarantee emerging problems are addressed in a timely manner.
- Encourage homeowners and landlords to maintain and upgrade their properties.
- Sponsor clean-up days and provide assistance to property owners that are interested in cleaning up unsightly lots and structures.
- New housing development should be restricted to locations that can be served by utilities and surface transportation at the lowest cost to the city. Development contiguous to the city is preferred over rural subdivisions that will require costly extensions of infrastructure.
- Create a safe pedestrian friendly environment in residential neighborhoods.

Goal: Create living options for elderly residents of Flora and surrounding communities.

Objectives:

- Explore options for development of assisted living housing or other housing that will allow Flora residents to age in place.
- Develop and encourage local community activities geared toward older adults.

Goal: Enforce the City's Housing Codes.

Objectives:

- Create and consistently apply a system for identifying neighborhoods and individual residences requiring enforcement activities.
- Create and consistently enforce the rules and regulations necessary to ensure that all residential structures meet the City's housing codes.

Transportation Goals & Objectives

Goal: Increase the function of usability of streets throughout Flora

Objectives:

- Develop a 5-year capital improvement plan that outlines short-term and long-term roadway maintenance and improvements.
- Annually review the condition of the roadways within the Flora Industrial Park to ensure the efficient movement of goods.
- Examine funding opportunities for incorporating commercial electric vehicle charging stations at high traffic locations within the community.
- Work with strategic partners, such as the Regional Planning Commission and/or Engineering Firm to develop transportation enhancement projects that are eligible for grant funding through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Transportation Enhancement Program.

Goal: Prepare for a future of increased electric vehicle adoption

Objectives:

- The city will pursue electric vehicle infrastructure such as vehicle charging stations to meet citizens demands.
- Additionally, Flora will research ways to bridge the funding gap electric vehicle usage will create in the motor fuel tax.
- Flora will conduct feasibility studies of the implementation of electric vehicles in the municipal fleet.

Public Utilities Goals & Objectives

Objectives:

- Distributed Generation
- Substation revamp/Automation
- SCADA upgrade and expansion
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Demand Management System
- Fault Detection and Isolation with Automated System Recovery

Goal: Stopping of Infiltration & Inflow (I & I) into the system and maintaining legitimate wastewater flow.

Objectives:

- Relining of manholes throughout the city to prevent ground water penetration into the system.
- Slip lining of existing sewer mains by CIP (Cure in Place) or another standard for which the objective is achieved.
- Perform sewer I & I Study of the system.
- Upgrade and replace, as needed, equipment to the system that maintains the effective use of it and structural integrity.

Goal: Build new sewage Treatment Plant.

Objectives:

- Upgrade and improve the plant for treatment of existing and future regulations set by State and Federal Agencies.
- Examine opportunities for grant and/or loan funding to aid in the development of a new treatment plant.
- Use of “Best” technology practices in the industry today and explore future advancements in technology as alternatives.

Parks and Recreation Goals & Objectives

Goal: Connect with continuity, the recreational facilities throughout the city.

Objectives:

- The city should consider the implementation of vest pocket playgrounds in newly adopted subdivisions.
- Development of a hiking/walking/bicycle path around the city tying in park facilities.

Goal: Encourage future development of existing park features while meeting or exceeding the recreation facilities inventory standards calculated by Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Objectives:

- The city should consider future improvements of Charley Brown Memorial Park with its 85 camping sites with electrical hookups, modern washrooms/showers, a playground, swimming pool, small fishing lake, nine-hole golf course, and disc golf course to accommodate for increase in regional recreational activities.

- The city should consider future development of Kiwanis Park with its public playground, with distinctive Rocket Slide, six public tennis courts, a skate park, and a lighted basketball park.
- The city should consider additional developments in the recreational plan that encourages “all access features” that allows users from varying ages and disabilities to participate.
- Enhance current park facilities that may include, but not limited to, dog park areas, skate parks, frisbee golf course, outdoor winter ice rink, physical fitness walking trail, and camping facilities for tents and campers.
- Maintain useable pavilion space and consider future developments if demand increases significantly.
- Construction of recreational facility hub to centralize all recreation and park programs.
- Upgrade Park facilities to the highest possible standard while ensuring existing structures such as box culverts and bridges are maintained properly.

Public Safety Goals & Objectives

Goal: Promote safety within neighborhoods.

Objectives:

- Maintain 24-hour police protection and continue to hire new police officers.
- Investigate grants and financing options for police protection services. Upgrade currently owned police equipment and vehicles to assist in providing services.
- Create more after-school programs to keep kids active, entertained, and off the streets.
- Increase Neighborhood Watch programs to promote safety.
- Construct more street lighting throughout the city.

Goal: Provide community facilities and services that enhance the quality of life in Flora and make the community an attractive place for residents and businesses.

Objectives:

- Provide high quality law enforcement.
- Support and collaborate with local emergency medical and fire protection service providers to address critical needs for these services.

- Continue to improve equipment and education in best practice applications for life safety and community health awareness.

Education Goals & Objectives

Goal: Continue to support and encourage activities supporting education and learning.

Objectives:

- Support and encourage the school system as they try to provide the best quality educational services possible.
- Support and enhance the library and the services it provides.
- Encourage development and growth of CEO Program with Flora CUSD #35