

First Workshop Session

Village of Homer Glen Green Visioning

Section 5.2

First Workshop Session - February 24, 2003

The first workshop began with an introduction and overview of the process and keypad polling to identify participants' background. Keypad polling was also used to identify main environmental concerns and to rank identified environmental issues. The stakeholders discussed the key environmental issues facing the community, identifying environmental challenges and opportunities. They worked at small tables with facilitators representing NIPC and The Conservation Foundation identifying the issues one by one. Issues were written on large flip-chart sheets at each table. Voting occurred by using dots to rank the importance of the issues. (NOTE: See pages in the addendum for "session 1" which contain a listing of these issues, the voting concerning the importance of each issue, and the development of the goal statements for the six major categories in which all of the issues were placed.)

In response to the identified issues, the stakeholders discussed goals. Again working at the small tables, goals were formulated and written. Voting took place at each table to determine the most significant or important goals, and the results were reported to the whole room. Then, each table was assigned one or more of the goals to continue to discuss and modify. The initial work on goal statements was followed by a discussion of objectives. Participants, writing on letter-size sheets, listed objectives and submitted these sheets for later consideration.

From the stakeholders' work emerged a first draft of the Green Vision goals and objectives. NIPC arranged the goals into general themes.

Agenda:

HOMER GLEN GREEN VISIONING WORKSHOP 1 of 3

FEBRUARY 24, 2003
Homer Junior High School
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | WELCOME
Mayor Petrizzo, Homer Glen | 6:30 p.m. |
| 2. | GREEN VISIONING
Ron Thomas, NIPC | 6:40 p.m. |
| 3. | KEYPAD POLLING - Who's in the Room? | 6:45 p.m. |
| 4. | CONTEXT SETTING FOR GREEN VISIONING
Eliot Alien, Criterion Planners, Engineers, Inc. | 7:00 p.m. |
| 5. | OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
Dennis Dreher, NIPC | 7:40 p.m. |
| 6. | BREAK | 8:00 p.m. |
| 7. | DISCUSSION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
John Paige, NIPC | 8:10 p.m. |
| 8. | DISCUSSION AND IDENTIFICATION OF GREEN VISION GOALS
John Paige, NIPC | 8:25 p.m. |
| 9. | WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS
Ron Thomas, NIPC | 8:45 p.m. |

Reminder

The Green Visioning process will include two additional workshops:

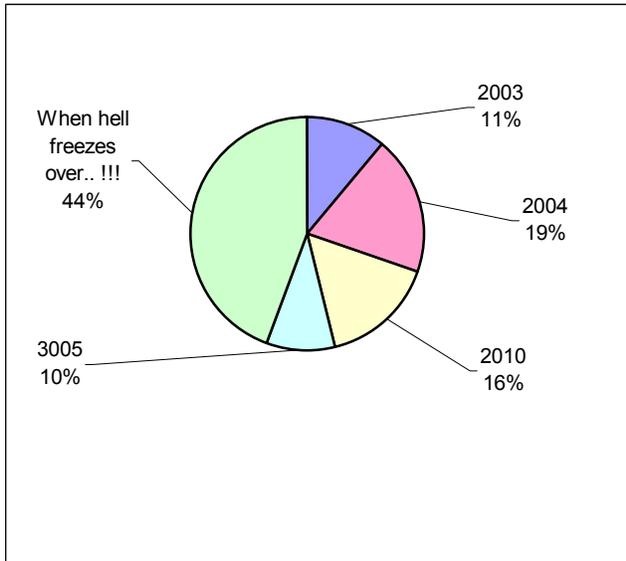
Saturday, April 26 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Monday, July 14 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

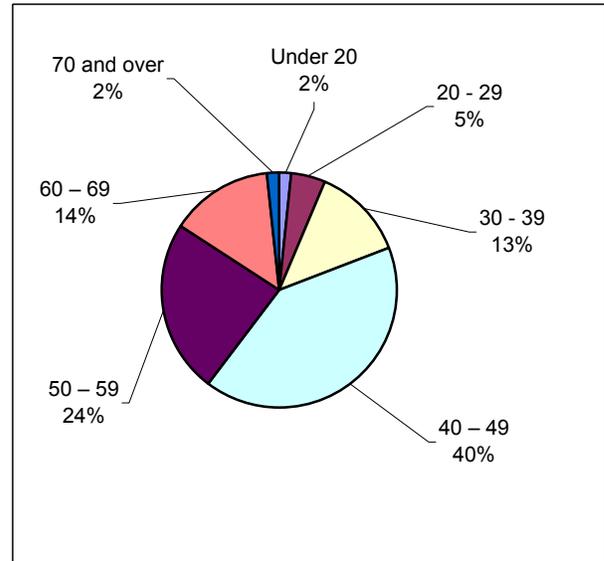
Polling Results for Session 1

The following are polling results instantaneously obtained from all session participants via wireless computer connections. The first few questions are meant to familiarize the participants with the operation of the wireless device, followed by demographic information of the participants, followed by specific questions about the environment.

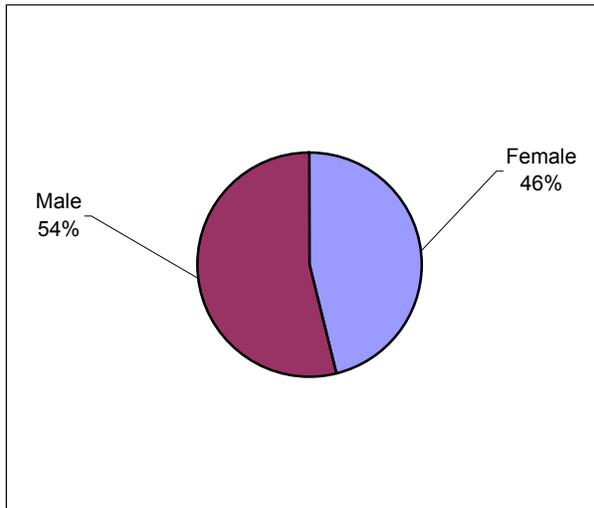
1.1 When will the White Sox win the World Series?



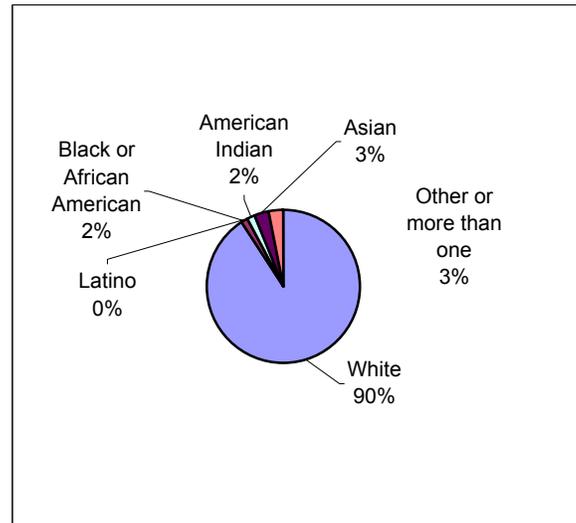
1.2 What is your gender ?



1.3 What is your age?

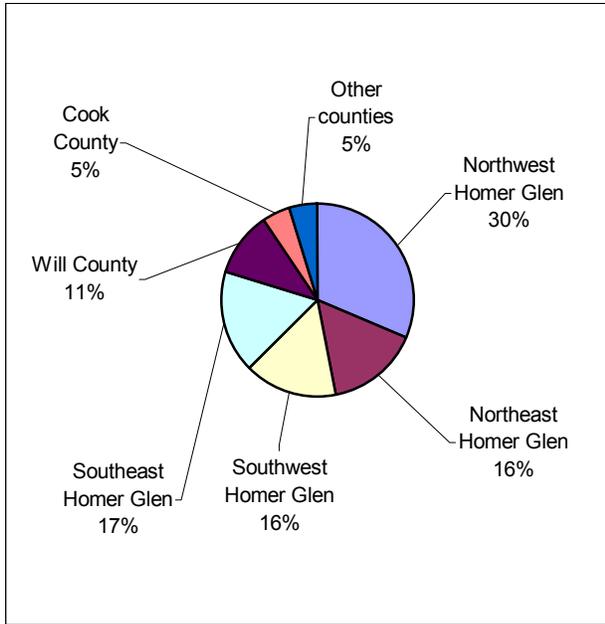


1.4 What is your race/ethnicity?

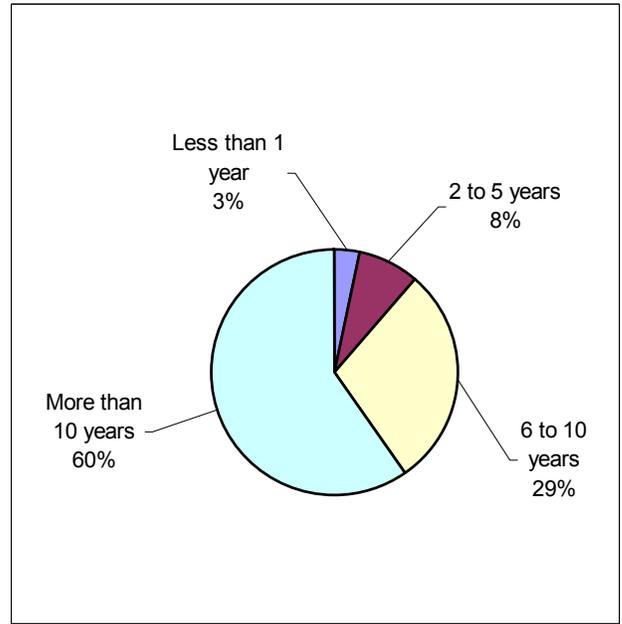


1.5

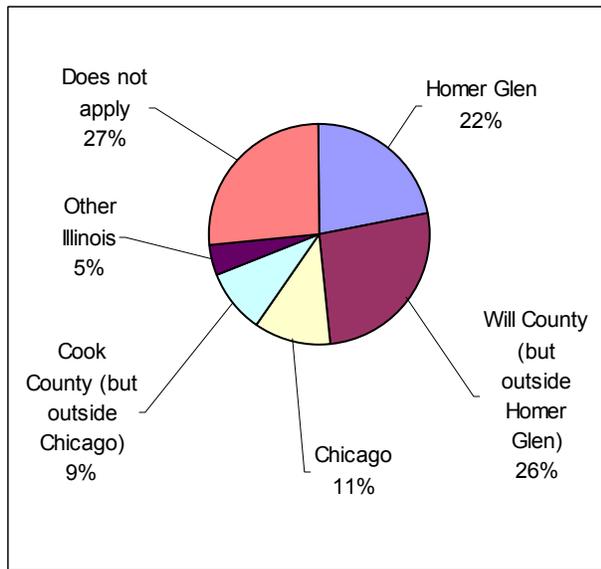
1.5 Where Do You Live?



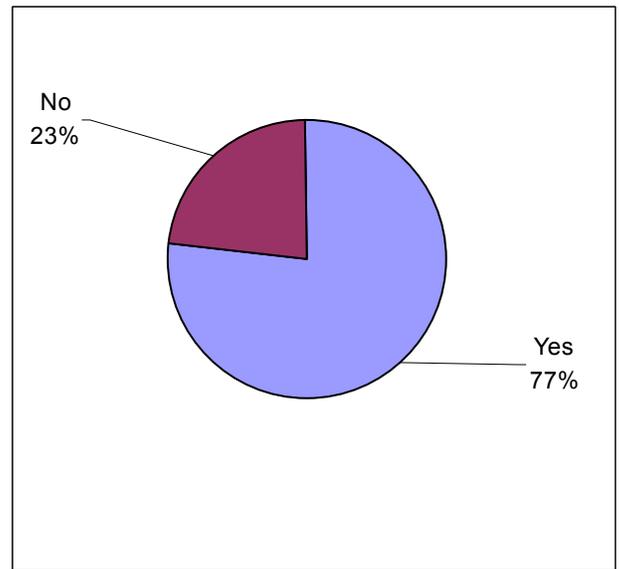
1.6 How Long Have You Lived in Homer Glen?



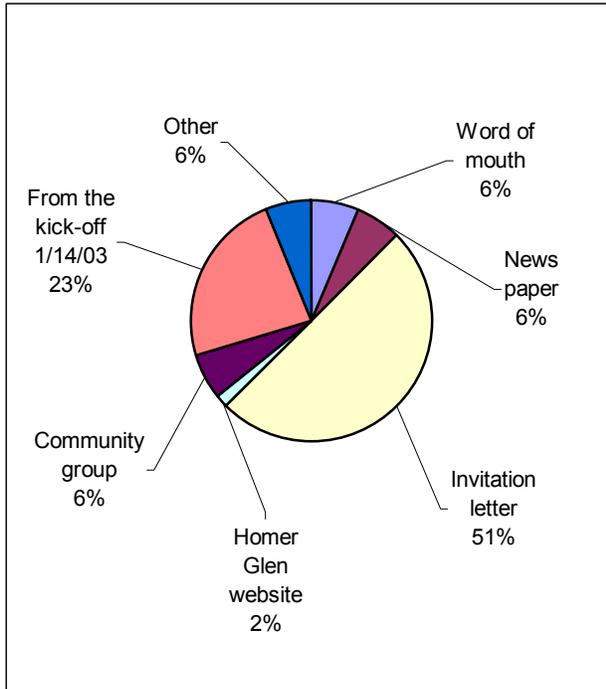
1.7 Where Do You Work?



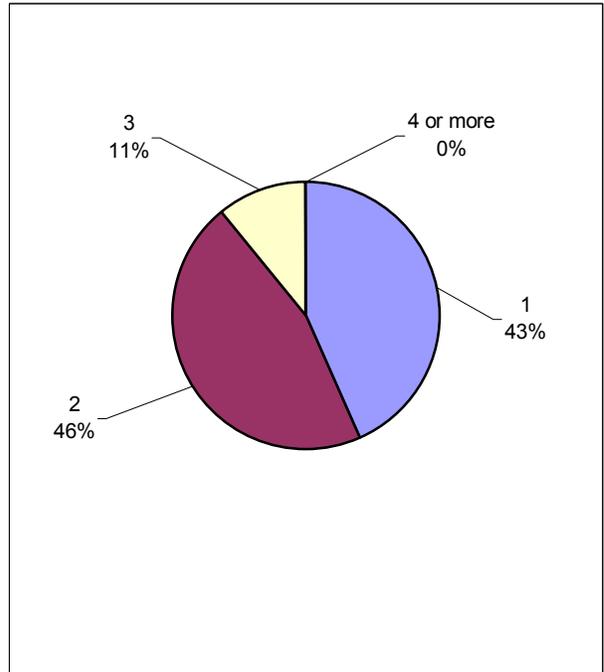
1.8 Have you attended a Homer Glen public meeting before?



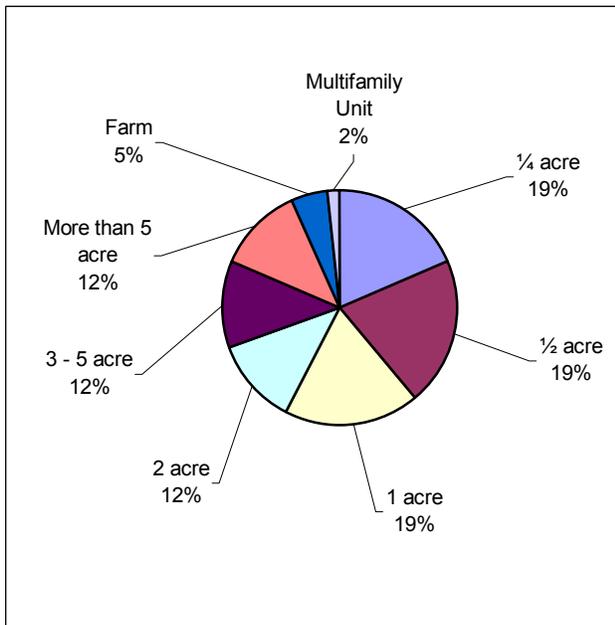
1.9 How did you learn about this meeting?



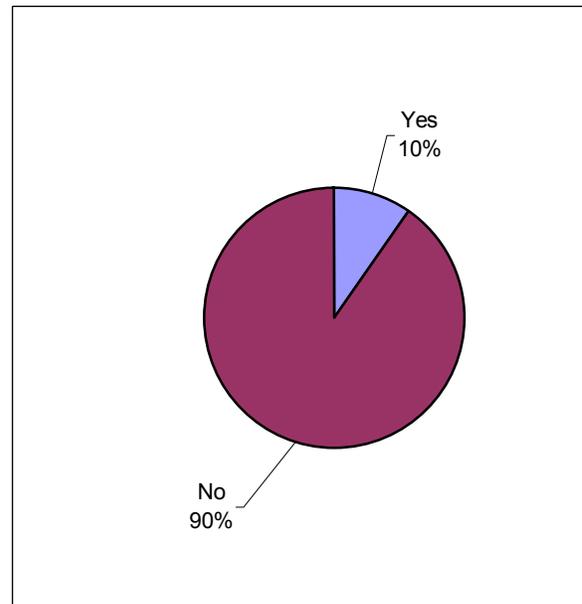
1.10 How Many Children Do You Have Living In Your House?



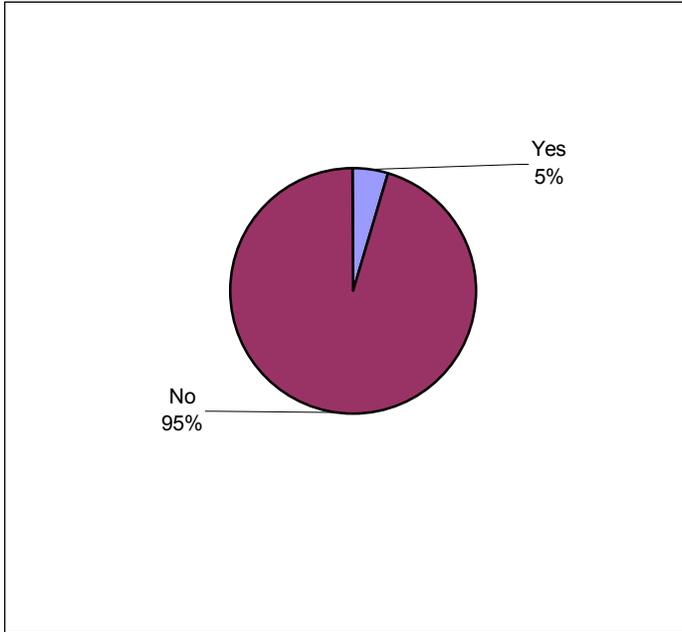
1.11 What is the size of the lot you are living on?



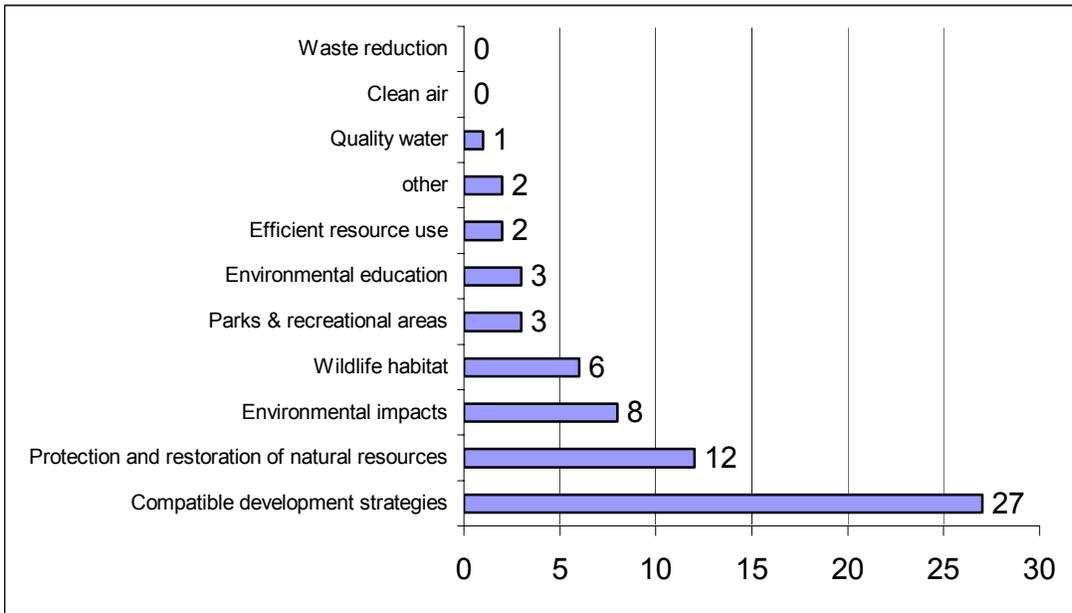
1.12 Do you have horses on your property?



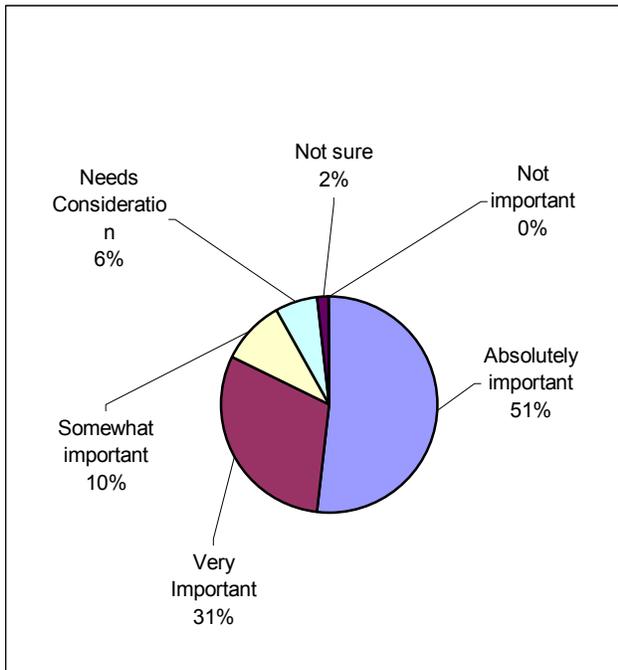
1.12 Do you have live-stock (not horses) on your property?



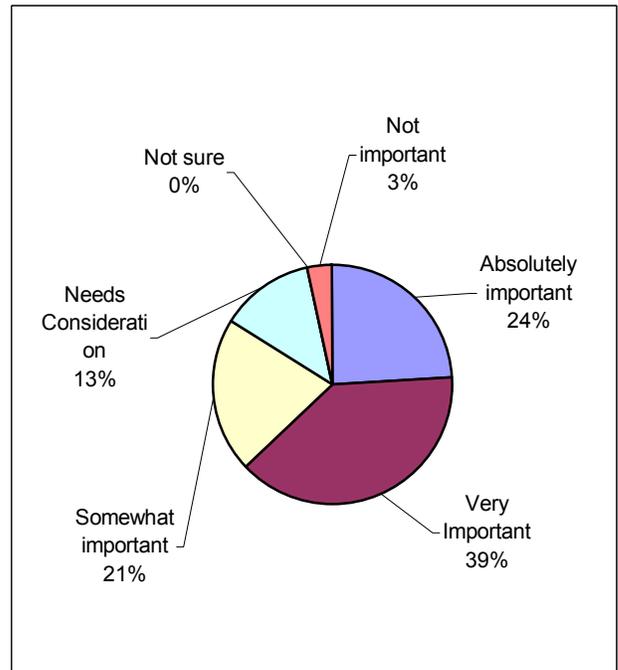
1.14 What is your primary interest for being in the workshop tonight?



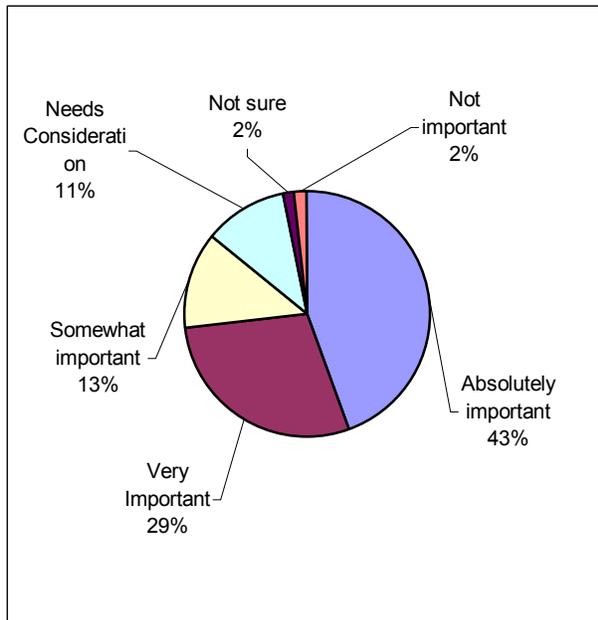
1.15 Village of Homer Glen will be known as a well planned community valuing its natural resources



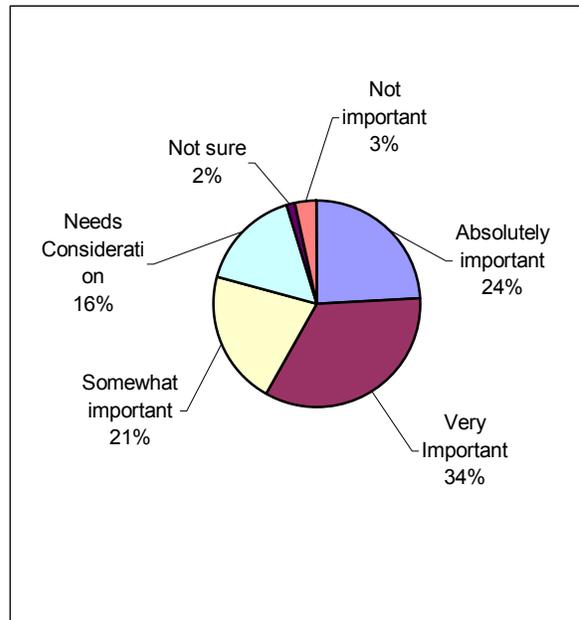
1.16 Homer Glen needs to develop and preserve active or passive recreation & open space



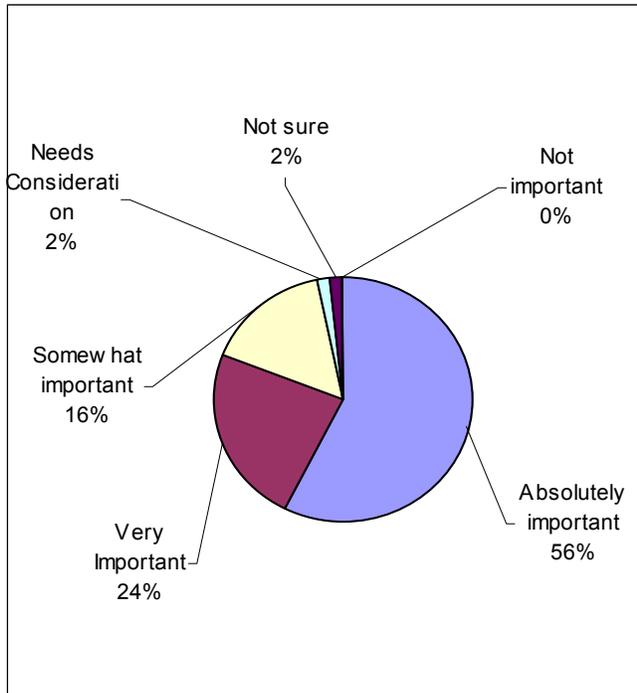
1.17 Homer Glen needs to develop goals to recognize farmers as valuable assets



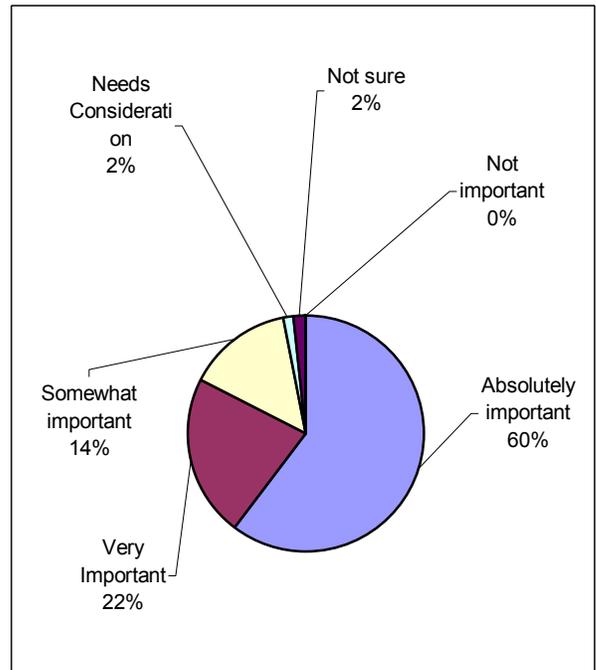
1.18 Homer Glen should develop a comprehensive plan establishing its fundamental values and mission



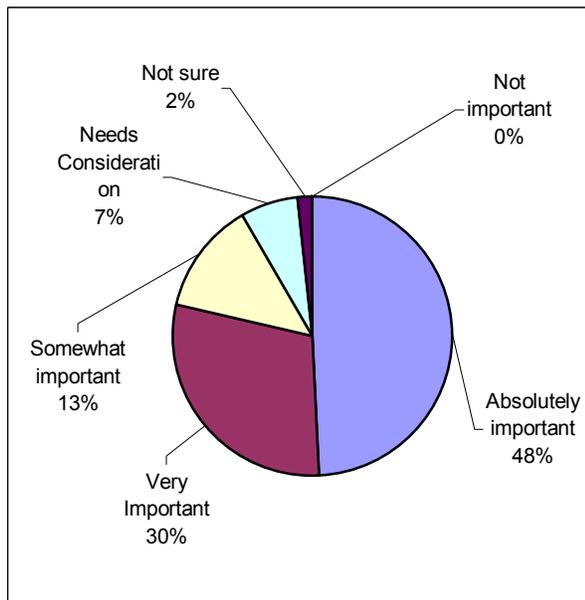
1.19 Homer Glen will have a town center with parks and municipality buildings



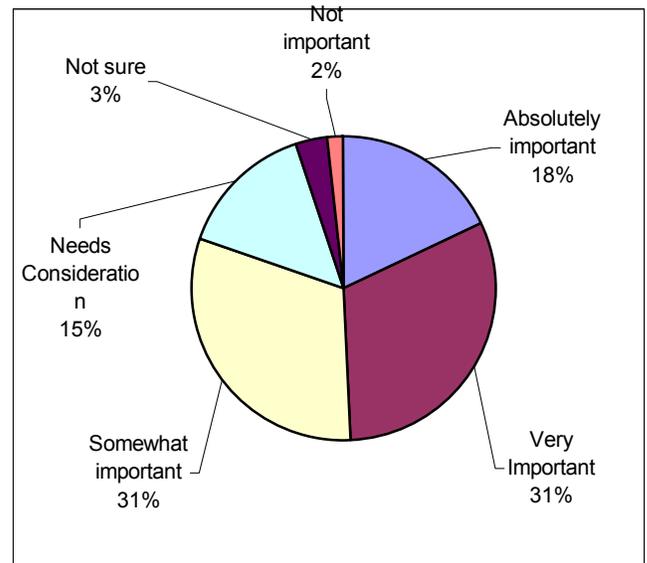
1.20 Homer Glen will maintain wetlands, flood plains and ground water resources



1.21 Homer Glen will have low density community with open spaces for various public uses



1.22 Homer Glen will develop common shopping & retail area in the central part of the community, such that it is walkable and easily accessible from residential areas



Context Setting:

The following is a 16 slide presentation detailing the context in which the Green Communities Grant process was conducted in Homer Glen. Information includes:

- The location of Homer Glen within Will County.
- The planning boundaries around Homer Glen.
- The water natural resources in Homer Glen.
- The woodlands natural resources within Homer Glen.
- The open space within Homer Glen.
- The parcelization of land within Homer Glen.
- The land use map of Homer Glen.
- Housing demographics within Homer Glen.
- Employers within Homer Glen.
- Major community facilities within Homer Glen.
- The roads network within Homer Glen.

CONTEXT SETTING

Village of Homer Glen Vision Plan

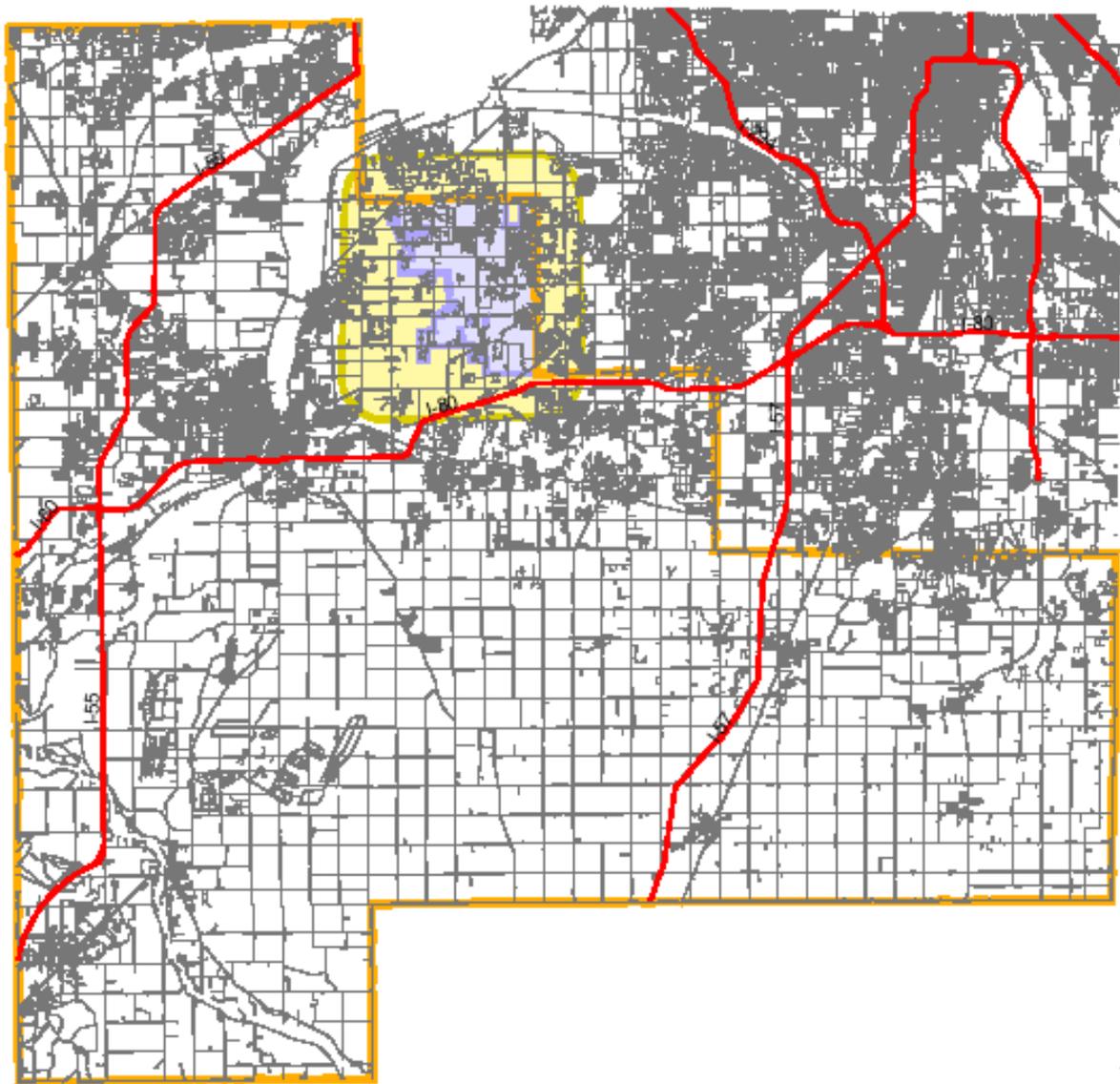
July 14, 2003 Workshop



CONTENTS

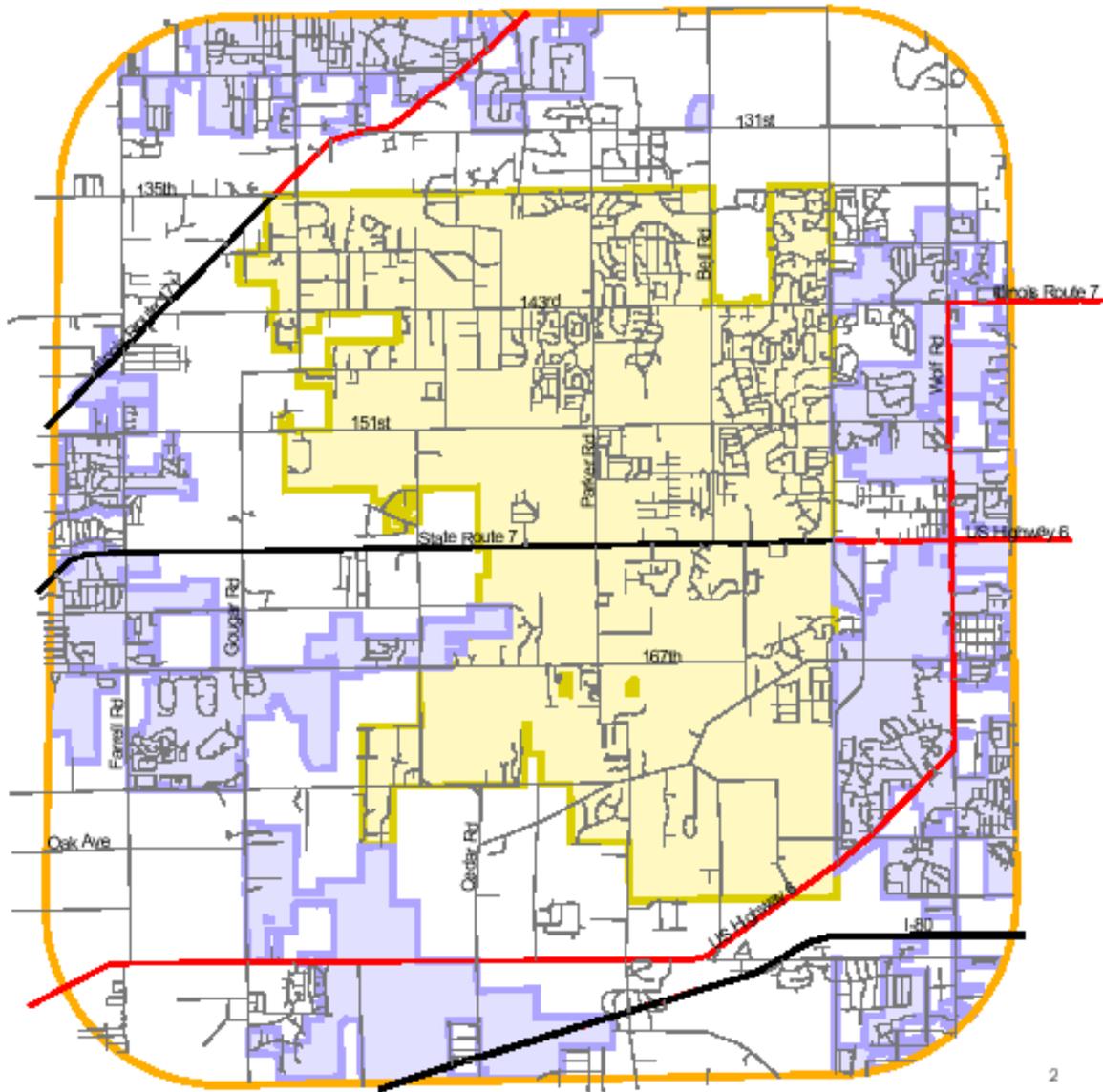
	<u>Page</u>
Location	1
Natural Resources	3
Land-Use	7
Housing	11
Employment	12
Community Facilities	13
Transportation	14

LOCATION



-  Interstate Freeway
-  Streets
-  Will County Boundary
-  Homer Glen Village Boundary
-  Planning Area Boundary

PLANNING BOUNDARIES



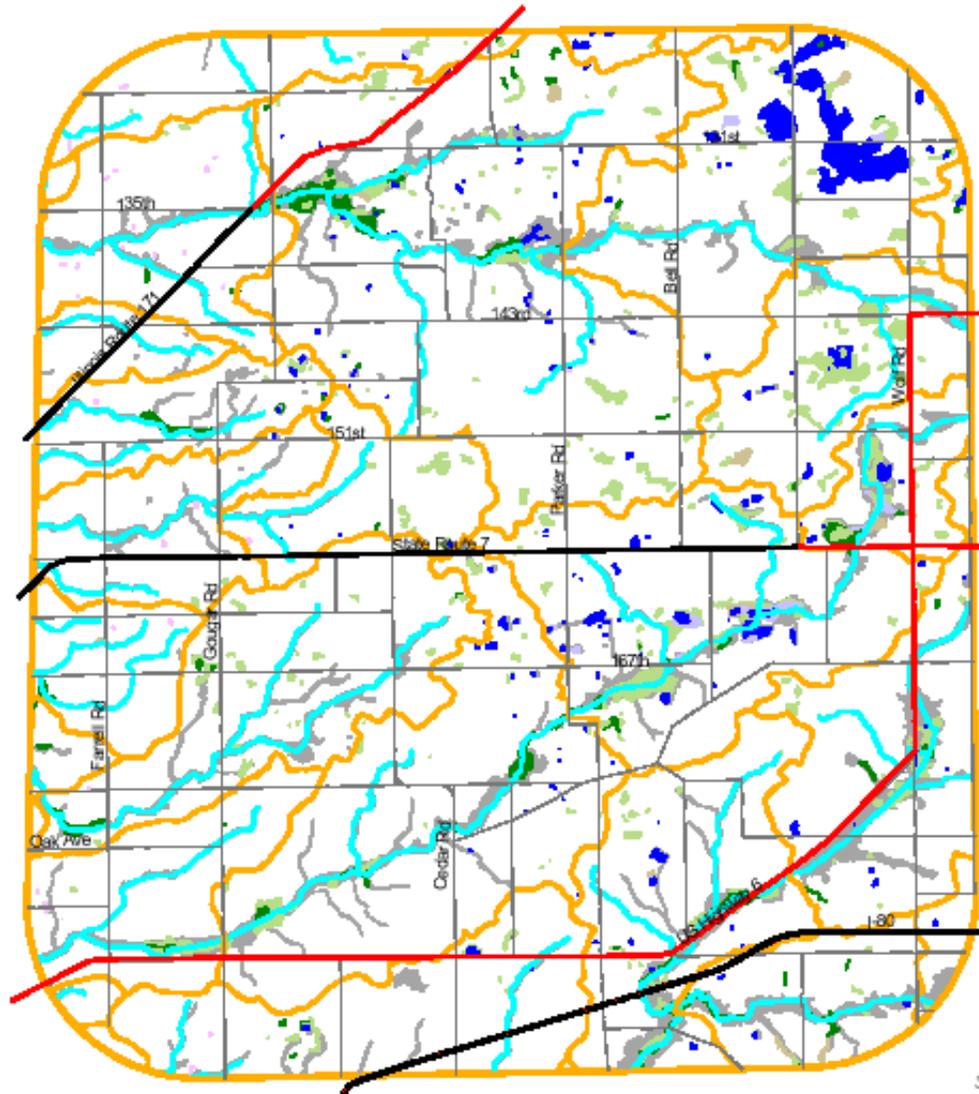
2

Streets

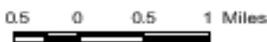
- Interstate
- Highway
- Arterial
- Local
- Planning Area Boundary
- Homer Glen Village Boundary
- Adjacent Municipal Boundaries

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

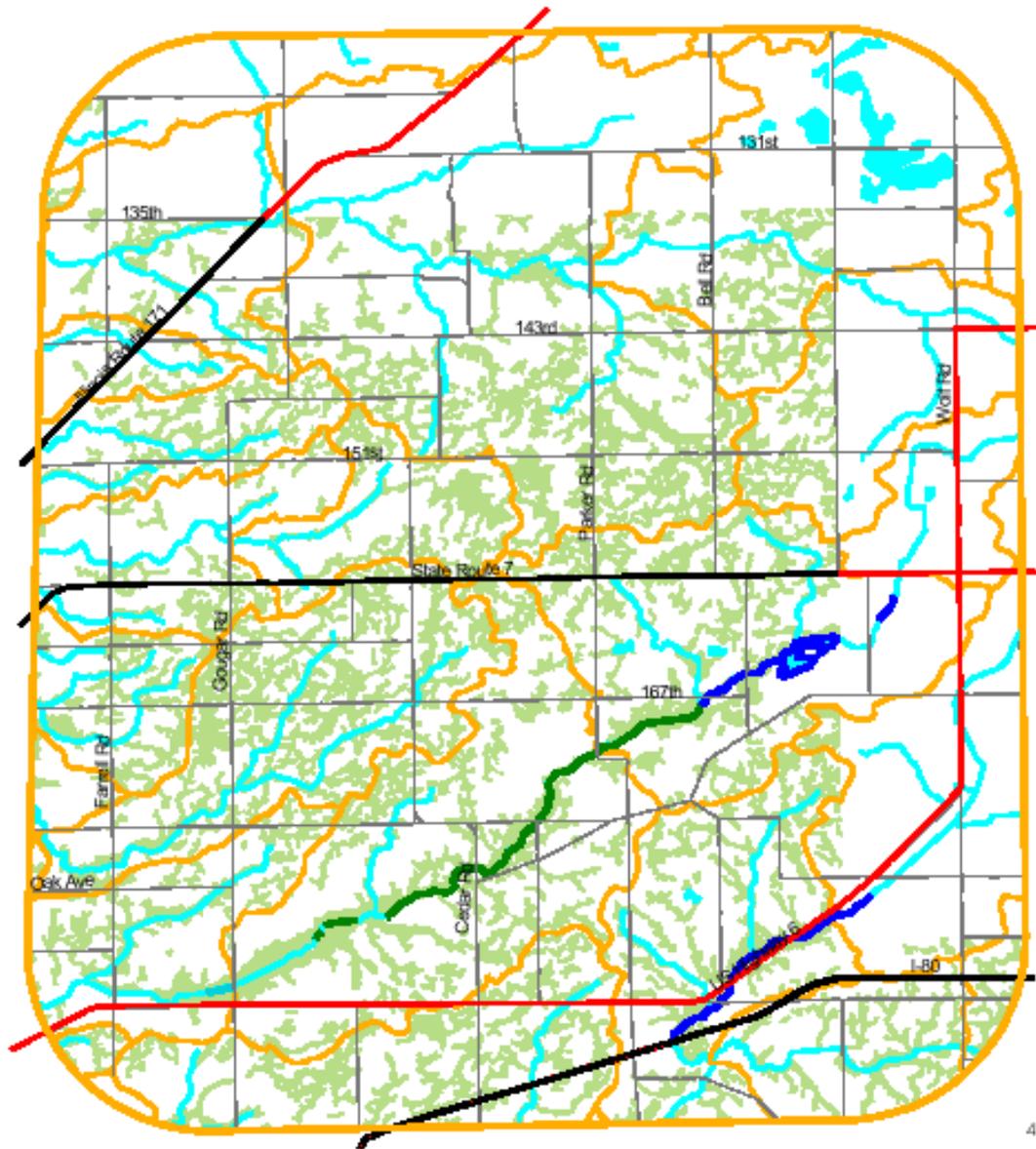
Planning area: 45,700 acres
 Village area: 13,695 acres



- Streams
- Wetlands**
- Aquatic Bed
- Emergent
- Forested
- Open Water
- Scrub/Shrub
- Uncls. Bottom/Sh
- 100 Year Floodplain
- Watershed Boundary
- Planning Area Boundary



	Acres
<i>Wetlands</i>	
Aquatic Bed	58.3
Emergent	943.0
Forested	426.5
Open Water	474.4
Scrub/Shrub	51.6
Uncls. Bottom /Sh	19.0
Total	1,972.8

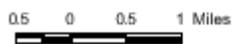
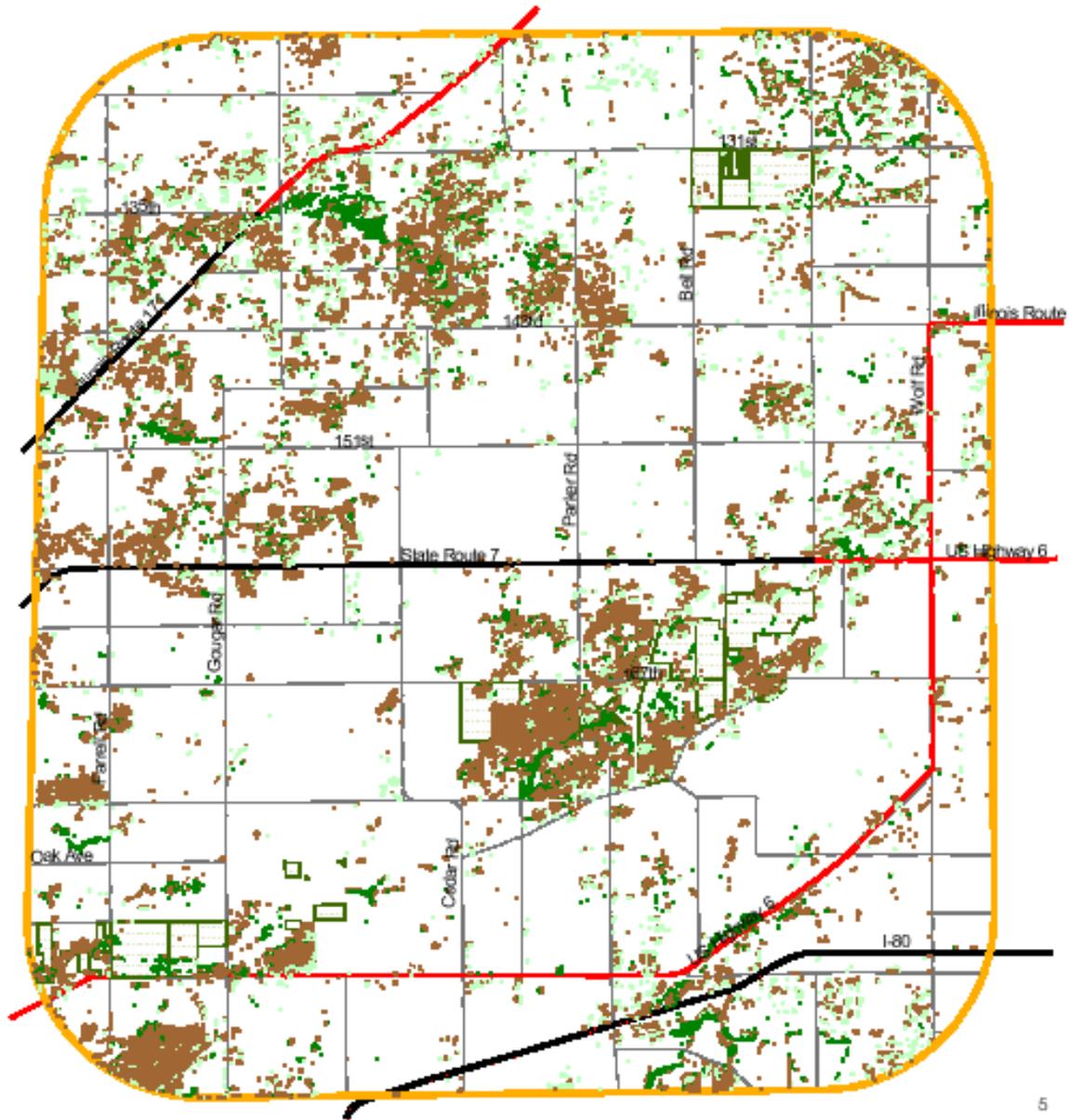


4

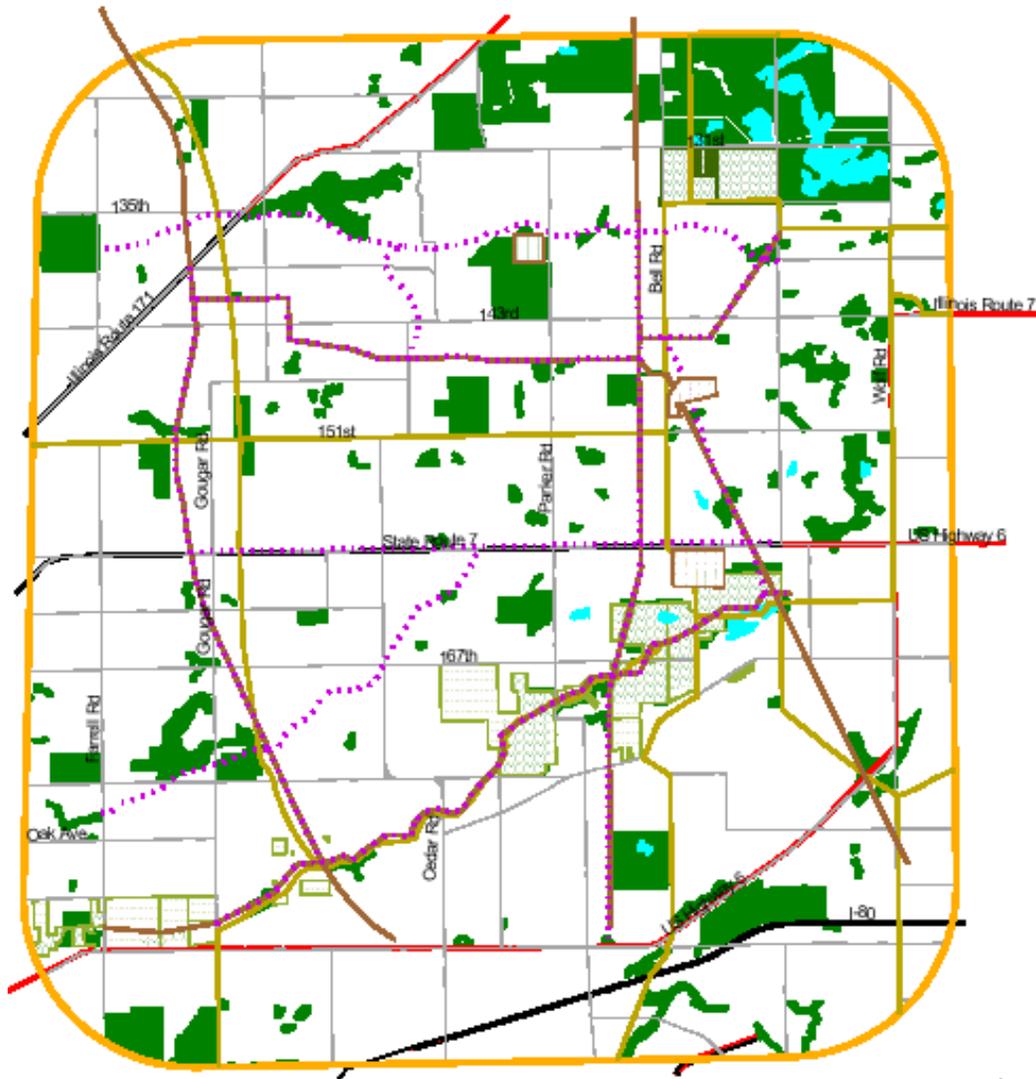
Biological Stream Characterization

- C (fair)
- D (poor)
- E (very poor)
- Streams
- Lakes
- Hydric Soil
- Watershed Boundary
- Planning Area Boundary

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles



NATURAL RESOURCES – OPEN SPACE

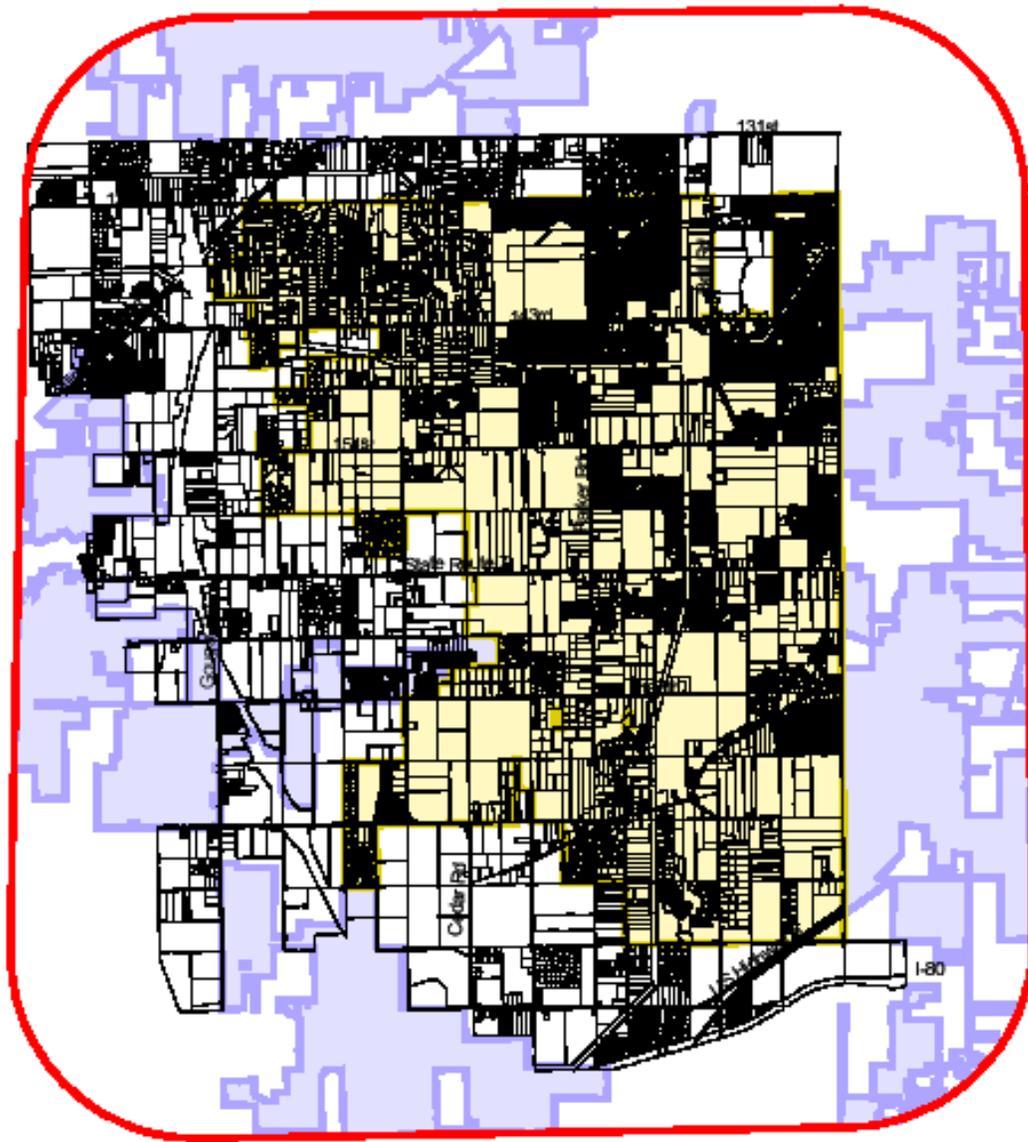


6

- Proposed Short Trails Area (from DP)
- Multi-Use Trail (from Homer Glen Comp Plan)
- Proposed Trail (from DP)
- Proposed Trail (from NEIL Greenways)
- Lakes
- Forest Preserve (Will Co.)
- Forest Preserve (Cook Co.)
- Open Spaces:
 - IL Recreation Facilities
 - Conservation Park (from LU 95)
 - Golf Course (from Lu95)
 - Recreation Park (from Lu95)
 - Wetland (from Lu95)
- Planning Area Boundary

	Acres
Open Space	
Conservation Park	1,581.4
Golf Course	1,327.7
Recreation Park	334.2
Other Parks & Open Space	283.0
Water	313.6
Wetland	1,429.2
Total	5,269.1

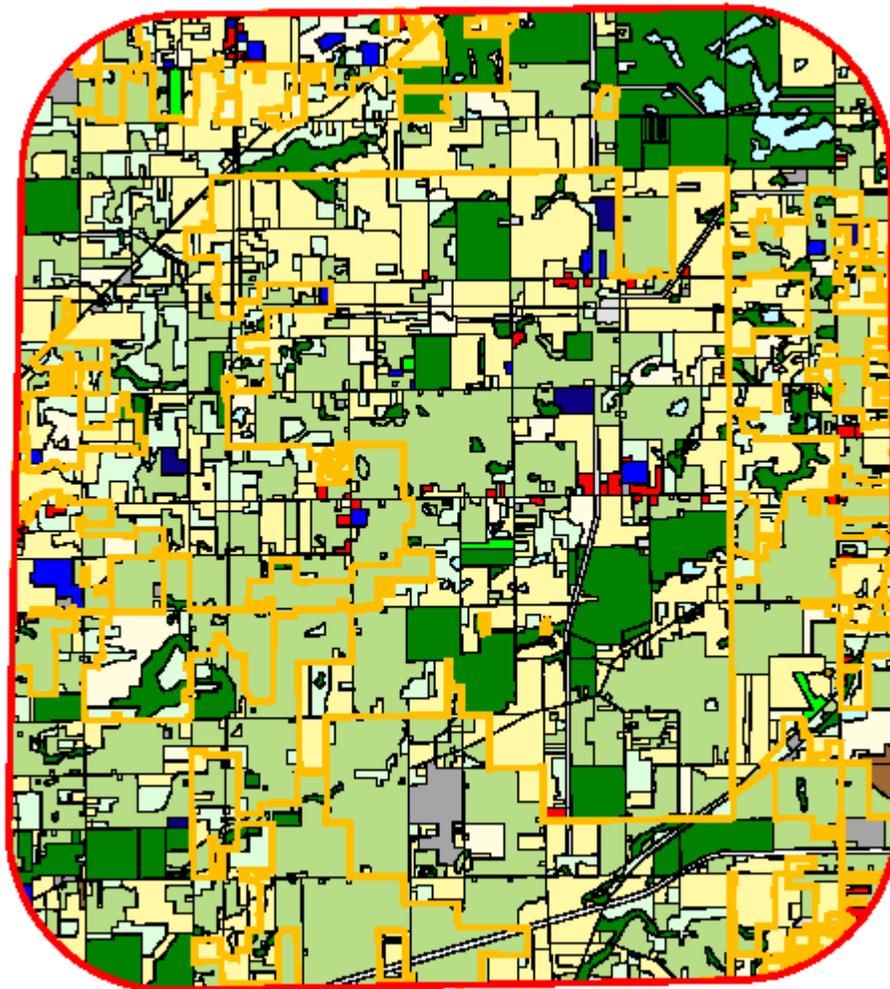




7

-  Parcels
-  Homer Glen Village Boundary
-  Adjacent Municipal Boundaries
-  Planning Area Boundary

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

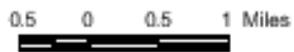
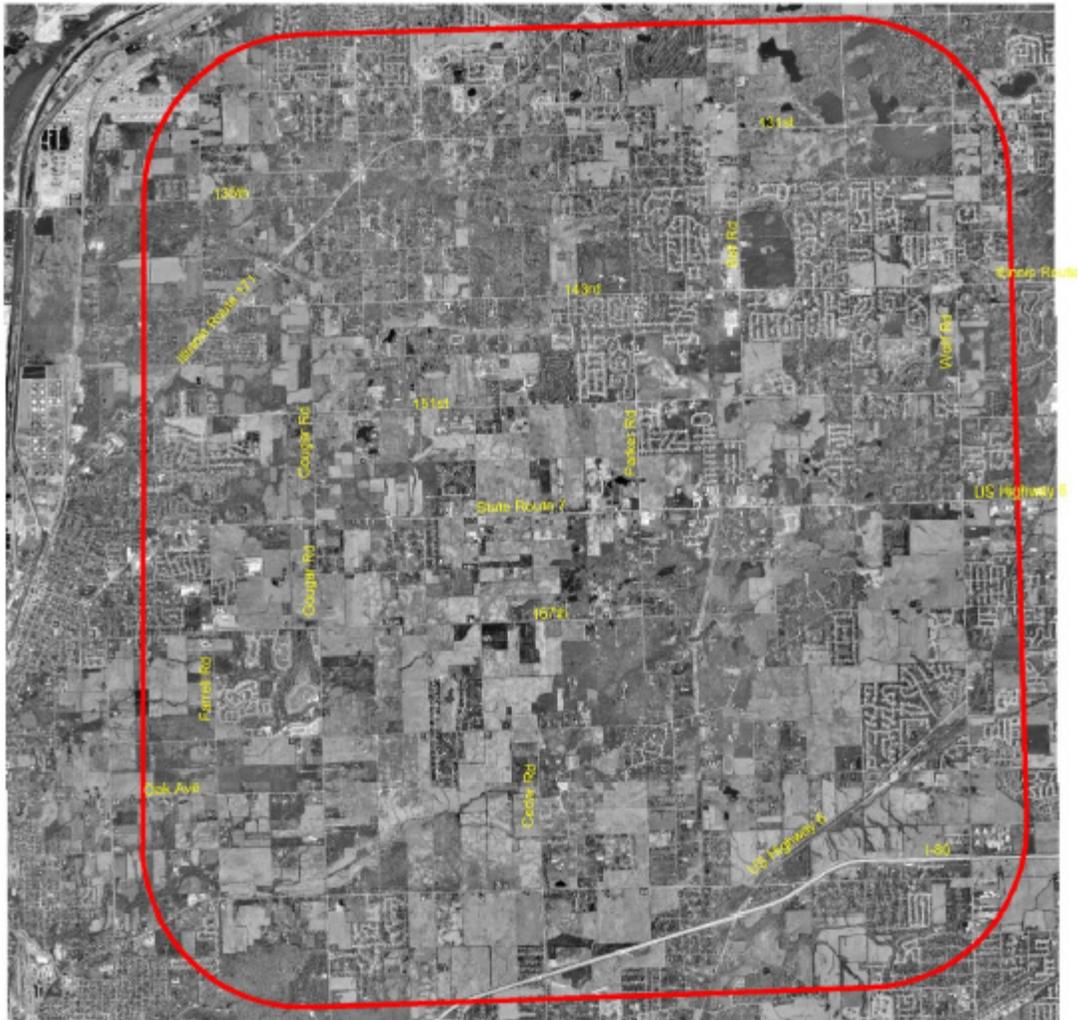
8

1995 Land-Use

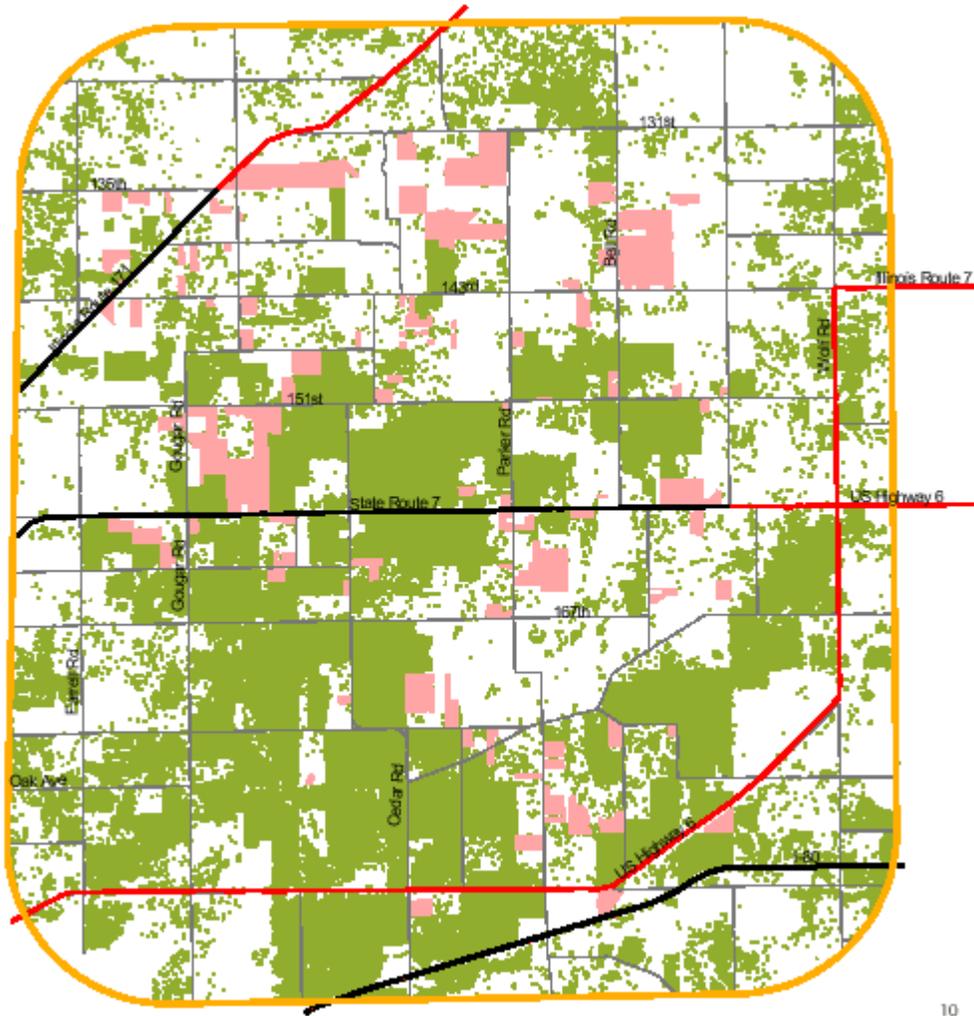
- Agriculture/Agricultural Wetland
- Farmhouse
- Vacant Forested and Grassland
- Under Development
- Single, Duplex and Townhouse units
- Mobile home parks
- Multi-family residential
- Commercial
- Institutional/Education/Cemetery
- Cultural and Entertainment
- Industrial
- Recreation Park
- Conservation Park/Golf Course/Wetland
- Water
- Communication/ROW
- Utilities and Waste Facilities
- Municipal Boundaries
- Planning Area Boundary



1995 Land-Use	Acres
Agricultural Wetland	206.4
Agriculture	17,024.7
Cemetery	35.2
Commercial	421.7
Communication	13.9
Conservation Park	1,581.4
Cultural and Entertainment	165.6
Educational	248.6
Farmhouse	186.5
Golf Course	1,327.7
Industrial	465.9
Institutional	7.9
Interstate and Tollway	165.2
Mobile home parks	7.6
Multi-family residential	86.6
Recreation Park	334.2
Single, Duplex and Townhouse units	14,238.2
Under Development	1,554.7
Utilities and Waste Facilities	396.4
Vacant Forested and Grassland	5,212.5
Water	521.1
Wetland	1,429.2
transportation corridors and facilities	6.6
Total	45,660.8



VACANT & AGRICULTURAL LANDS



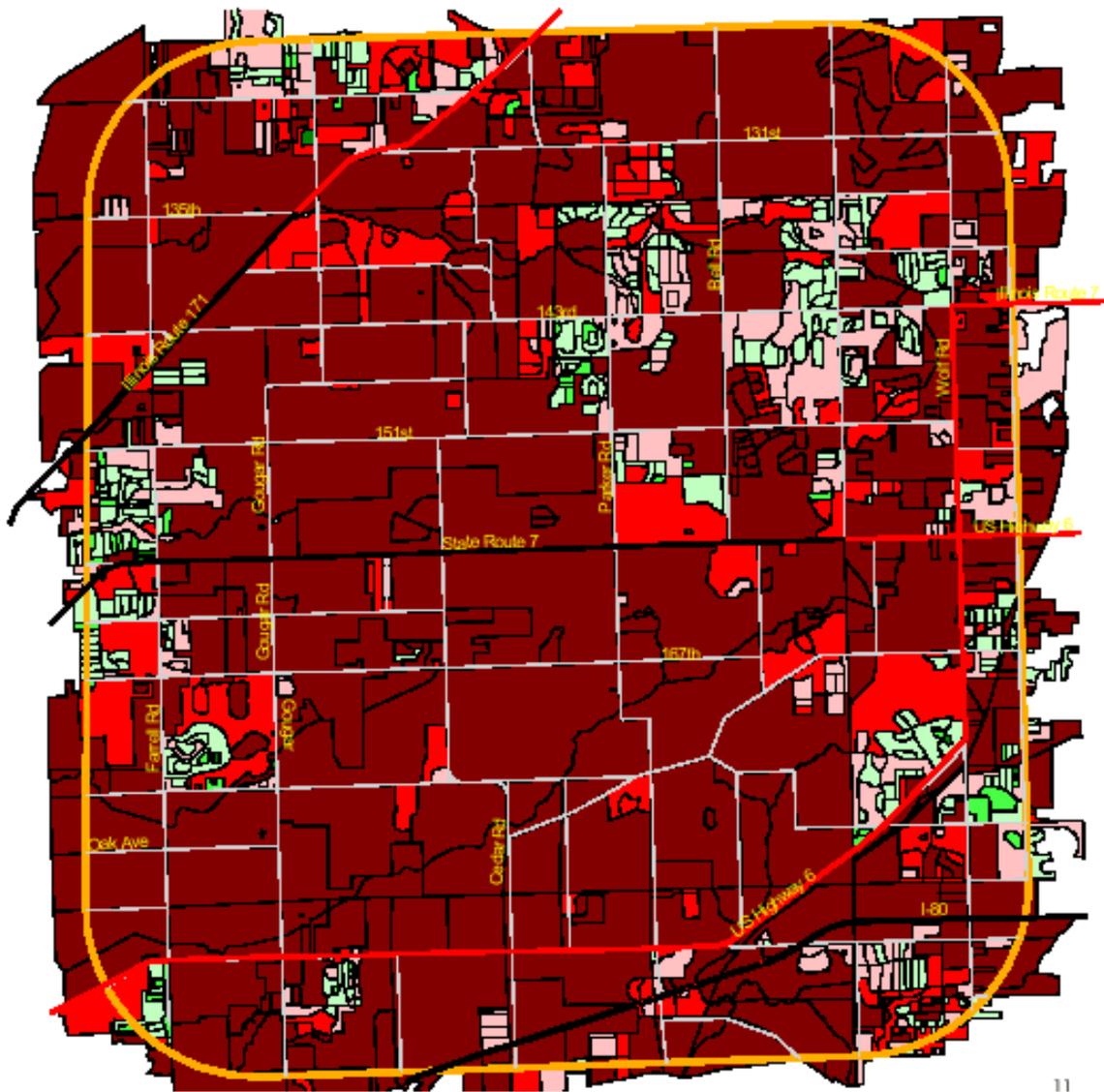
10

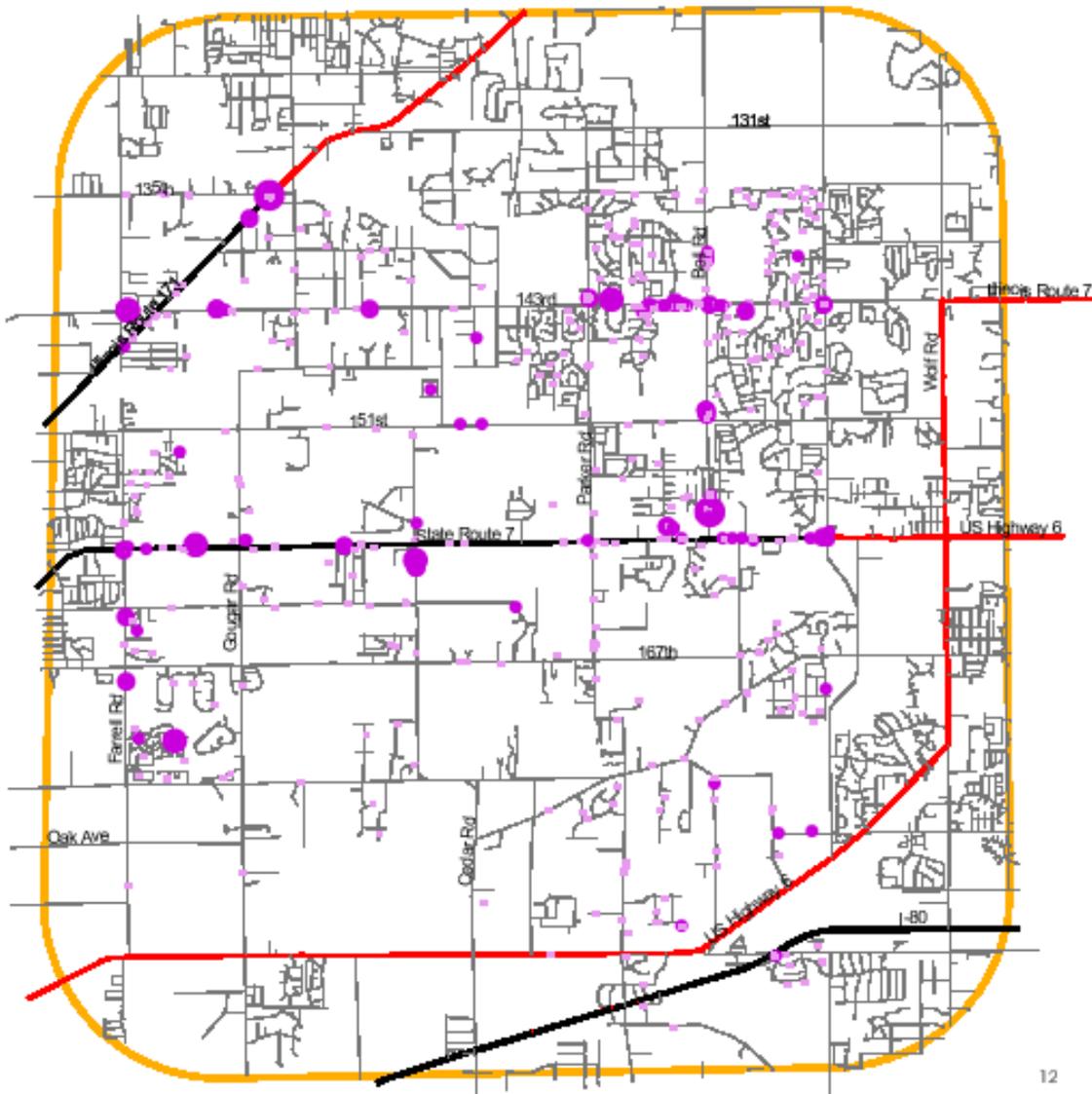
- Vacant Land
- Agricultural Land
- Planning Area Boundary

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles



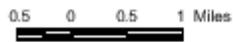
	Acres
Agriculture	19,641.8
Vacant	1,974.1
Total	21,615.9





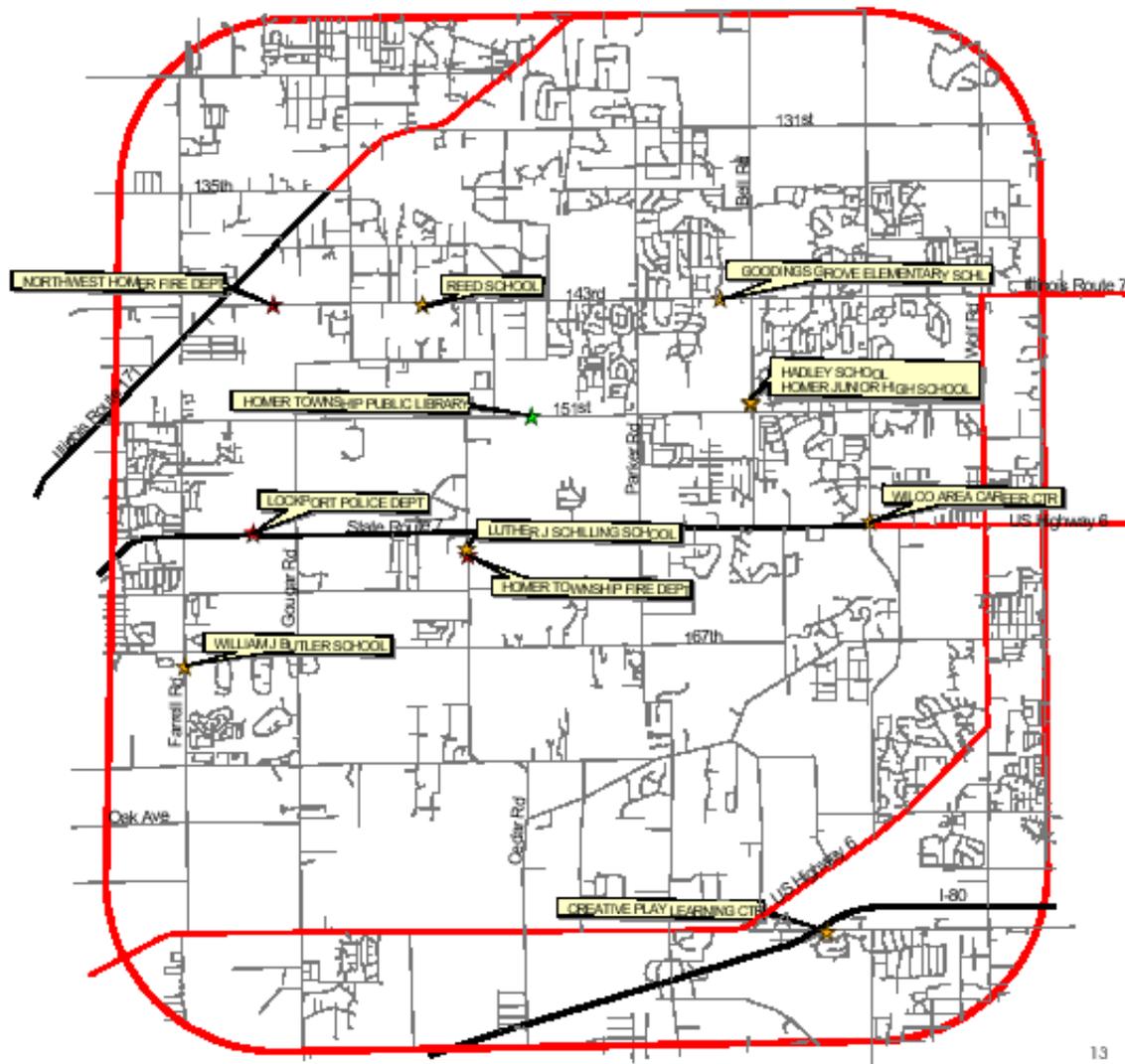
12

- Employment**
- 0 - 10 employee
 - 11 - 30
 - 31 - 70
 - 71 - 150
 - 150 +
- Streets**
- Interstate
 - Highway
 - Arterial
 - Local
 - Planning Area Boundary



Total 5,413 jobs

MAJOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES



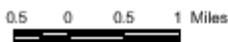
13

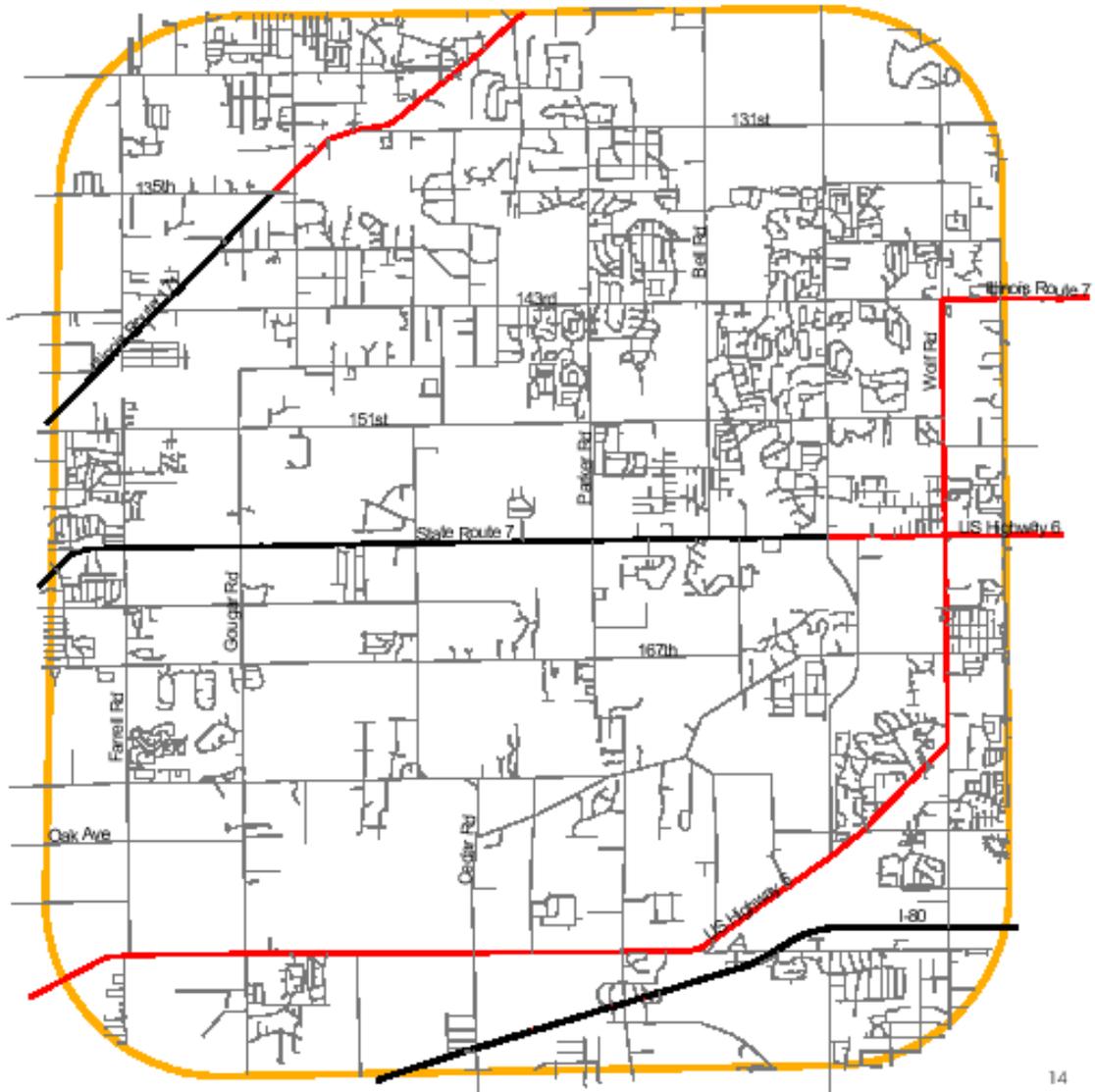
Community Facilities

- ★ Fire/Police Station
- ★ Library
- ★ School

Streets

- Interstate
- Highway
- Arterial
- Local
- Planning Area Boundary





- Streets**
-  Interstate
 -  Highway
 -  Arterial
 -  Local
 -  Planning area boundary

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

Total 469 street miles

Environmental Issues Presentation:

Key Environmental Issues

What are they?



Let's take a step back...

What are some important environmental and natural *resources* in the Village?



Abundant Water Resources

- Streams
- Wetlands
- Lakes
- Groundwater



Clean Air

Land Resources

- Public open space
- Private open space
- Cropland and pastures
- Soils – including hydric soils



Recreational Amenities

- Forest preserves
- Township open space
- Parks
- Greenways and trails



Habitats for Plants and Animals

- Woodlands
- Grasslands
- Wetlands
- Stream corridors and floodplains
- Roadsides



What are some possible issues affecting these resources?

- 1) **Existing** impairments or problems
- 2) **Potential** problems that might be caused by new development

Examples of Possible Issues

- Loss of rural character
- Inadequate open space and trails
- Degradation of natural areas
- Water pollution
- Air pollution
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Inefficient resource use
- Inadequate waste disposal options
- Traffic congestion and other impacts of growth



What's are some growth-related problems at the regional level?

And how do they happen?









Flooding Problems

- The NE Illinois region has average annual flood damages of nearly \$40 million

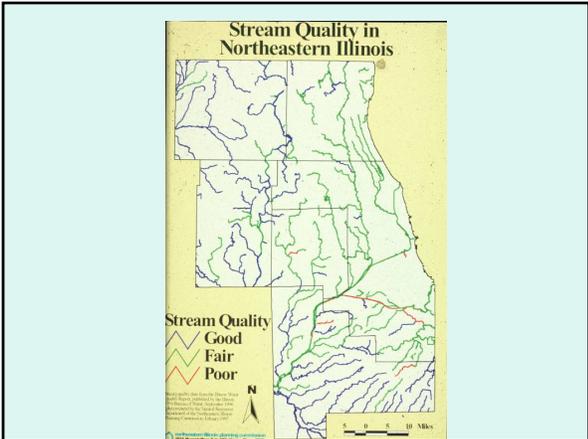


Recent Regional Flood Damages

Date of Event	Rainfall Amount	Damages
Sept-Oct 1986	4 to 10 inches	\$34.6 million
August 1987	3 to 9 inches	\$77.6 million
July 1996	8 to 16 inches	\$564 million
August 1997	6.1 inches	\$40 million

Water Quality and Stream Uses Impacts

- Nearly all suburban and urban streams are degraded
- In contrast, most rural stream support healthy fish populations



Natural habitats are degrading.

- One of the biggest culprits is invasive species.

Loss of Farmland

- The 6-county region lost xx percent of its farmland between 1970 and 1990
- Will County lost yy percent in the same period



Air Pollution

- At a regional scale, air quality indicators are improving
- BUT, we are still in non-attainment for ozone

Now it's your turn. After the break, we'll ask you to identify the key environmental issues facing Homer Glen.



Questions?

Community and Nature . . . in Harmony

Listing of Environmental Issues Developed

The following is a compiled list of the environmental issues developed by the stakeholders at the first session. The number of "dots" represents the number of "votes" given each issue, which indicates the relative importance given to each issue by the participants.

Issues

Loss of Natural Resources, Wildlife and

Habitat

- Loss of wildlife, mature trees, habitat, open space (31 dots)
- Need for "open" environment - avoid density (5 dots)
- Lack of definition of open space acreage; how much? (4 dots)
- Squeezing out the wilderness (3 dots)
- Lack of wildlife corridors (2 dots)
- Secure more open space (2 dots)
- Too much clear cutting w/development
- Improve wildlife mgmt in development planning

Character/Attitude

- Loss of rural character (13 dots)
- Loss of dark skies - light pollution/ noise pollution (11 dots)
- Lack of community identity (4 dots)
- Heritage communities (4 dots)
- Loss of farmland (4 dots)
- Too much impervious surface (3 dots)
- Lack of respect for environment (2 dots)
- Unfamiliarity with natural resource issues among youth
- Lack of pride of community

Recreation

- Not enough recreational public areas, parks (9 dots)
- Trails connecting spaces, schools, wetlands (9 dots)
- Need more parkland - parkland is not balanced throughout the community (4 dots)
- Open lands - make more accessible trails, etc. (3 dots)
- Lack of greenways and trails (2 dots)
- More small "natural neighborhood parks"
- Open space for public events (4 dots)

Flooding

- Flooding/Stormwater management (12 dots)
- Flooding in Chickasaw Subdivision (2 dots)
- Maintain existing stormwater facilities 151st and Parker

Schools/Education Funding

- Funding for schools - lack of government support
- Neighboring community impacts especially schools

Transportation/Traffic Congestion

- Traffic congestion (15 dots)
- Lack of alternate transportation modes: sidewalks and pathways (9 dots)
- Lack of Transportation Planning (5 dots)
- Access to/enhance public transportation (4 dots)
- Impact of roadway expansions (4 dots)
- Need major roads that can handle increased future traffic (3 dots)
- Rural street enter-sections vs. urban x-sections (2 dots)
- Traffic impacts (issues - noise, environment/air, safety, etc.)
- Environmental impacts of long commutes
- Too many parking lots
- Make no changes to Parker Rd south of 159th
- Reduce speeds around forest preserves and other open space
- I-355 and Bruce Road Strategic Regional Artery - Environment impacts

Utilities

- Lack of sewage treatment capacity
- Septic system problems

Drinking Water

- Maintaining aquifer for diminishing supply (4 dots)
- Crisis in well water (purifier)
- Better management of aquifers

Housing

- Housing density (4 dots)
- Resource efficient residential construction (lack of)

Growth/Management

- Development in the remaining wooded areas (mature) (6 dots)
- Growth (4 dots)
- Encroaching of next door communities (4 dots)
- Look at “conservation design” “cluster development” (4 dots)
- Development is too rapid - no chance to develop infrastructure and services (4 dots)
- Avoid environmentally unfriendly development (3 dots)
- Lot sizes: loss of large lots (2 dots)
- Big lot size does not equal open space (2 dots)
- Retain the open area on 151st west of Parker to Gougar (2 dots)
- Keep open space areas within the developed areas (2 dots)
- Large lot size/pattern (1 ac.) (2 dots)
- Development (2 dots)
- Development near power lines
- Save 147th and Lemont on the NW corner
- Reclamation facility on South Bell road and 163rd
- Too much development on small lots with no open space
- Subdividing larger lots to smaller ones
- Need for protection of 40 acres woods south of 135th, west of Parker
- Work against development of Leona’s prop. Parker and 131st (dense dev)
- Lack of control of destiny
- Competition with surrounding communities
- Hazard materials - here and going through and result of growth
- Need “watch-dog” / maintaining development

Commercial/Industrial Development

- Balance commercial and residential development residential is now ahead of commercial (3 dots)
- Low quality of commercial development amount, management, type
- Fear that commercial will take over for environment concerns
- Industrial pollution
- Lack integrated landscaping, stormwater management in commercial development

Water Pollution/Water Impact

- Preservation of all wetlands, loss of wetlands (6 dots)
- Water and groundwater pollution (4 dots)
- Poorly developed detention ponds (4 dots)
- Erosion/erosion of stream banks (3 dots)
- Water drainage (2 dots)
- Stream degradation, pollution (2 dots)
- Long run creek water shed quality (2 dots)
- Retention of water
- Development on lowlands/wetlands
- Building too close to streams
- Water control and quality
- Impervious material

Materials for the Development of Goals Statements

The following is a list of issues used to define goals statements developed by the stakeholders at the first session. The number of “dots” represents the number of “votes” given each issue, which indicates the relative importance given to each issue by the participants.

Community Character

- Maintain rural character/quality (9 dots)
- Widely recognize private farmers as valuable assets to the community (5 dots)
- Homer Glen has a unique characteristic that draws people (4 dots)
- A town known for its community involvement (3 dots)
- Change public perceptions that large lots equal open space (3 dots)
- Balance between economic development and rural charm
- Preserve the existing character
- Generate community with highest levels of harmony and security
- A town center, with small town character, with park, recreation center, municipal building, accessible by walking or cycling (10 dots)
- Village thought of as a well-planned community with a reputation for valuing and preserving natural resources (7 dots)
- Housing for seniors
- Diverse housing

Transportation

- A transportation plan to address congestion (10 dots)
- A network of non-motorized transportation alternatives, paths, greenways, walkways (5 dots)
- Tree-lined streets, natural buffers for transportation corridors (2 dots)
- A system of streets and highways only beneficial to Homer Glen

Aesthetics

- Homer Glen at night - dark island in sea of light (6 dots)
- Integrated public art into community spaces. (3 dots)
- Minimize strip malls/neon signs

Recreation

- Have a variety of active and passive park and recreation areas (17 dots)
- The community is connected by trails and greenways and connected to other towns by trails (7 dots)
- A trail system so people would not need to drive to trail heads, but instead could bike or take a horse from community to community. (4 dots)
- Mechanisms to develop and maintain parkland with identified funding
- Developers incorporate parks into development
- Linked waterways for boating
- Horse trails

Habitat and Wildlife

- Use native plantings as much as possible throughout the town, library, along roadways (3dots)
- Preserve wildlife and its diversity and its habitats (6 dots)
- Maintain and increase woodlands (7 dots)
- Educated community on natural ways to preserve environment (3 dots)
- Balance wildlife protection and development
- Maintain prairie look
- Still seeing the hawks

Water Resources

- Preserve the quality of flood plains, wetlands, and groundwater supply (aquifers) (7 dots)
- Identify and protect groundwater recharge areas (3 dots)
- Attractive, more natural, stormwater management. (8 dots)
- Natural looking retention ponds.

The following are items from the February 24th discussions that will be incorporated into process for developing strategies for plan implementation.

- Comprehensive plan reflecting community's wants, fund values, core goals, mission (9 dots)
- School system supports the community, is a resource
- Reduce impervious surface (3 dots)
- Comprehensive K-12 ecological curriculum with local component
- Incentives to developers to preserve natural
- Land donations for open space (2 dots)
- Planned, managed, strategic growth (15 dots)
- Control commercial development one place for commerce and industry (5 dots)
- High quality integration development areas into natural environment (4 dots)
- Attractive, environmentally sensitive community development (3 dots)
- Land set aside from development to prevent complete build out
- Control development mix - residential/commercial
- Town is planned and looks like it
- Promote conservation design
- Respect property rights and environmental protection.
- Obtain border agreement on west border
- Zero population growth
- Examine the impacts of regional transportation plans, e.g., I-355, Metra, Caton farm rd. (4 dots)
- A diverse economic base to help control property taxes (4 dots)
- Managed growth that does not negatively affect schools, other governmental units (4 dots)
- Slow, balanced tax base growth
- A sustainable village (development and taxes)

