

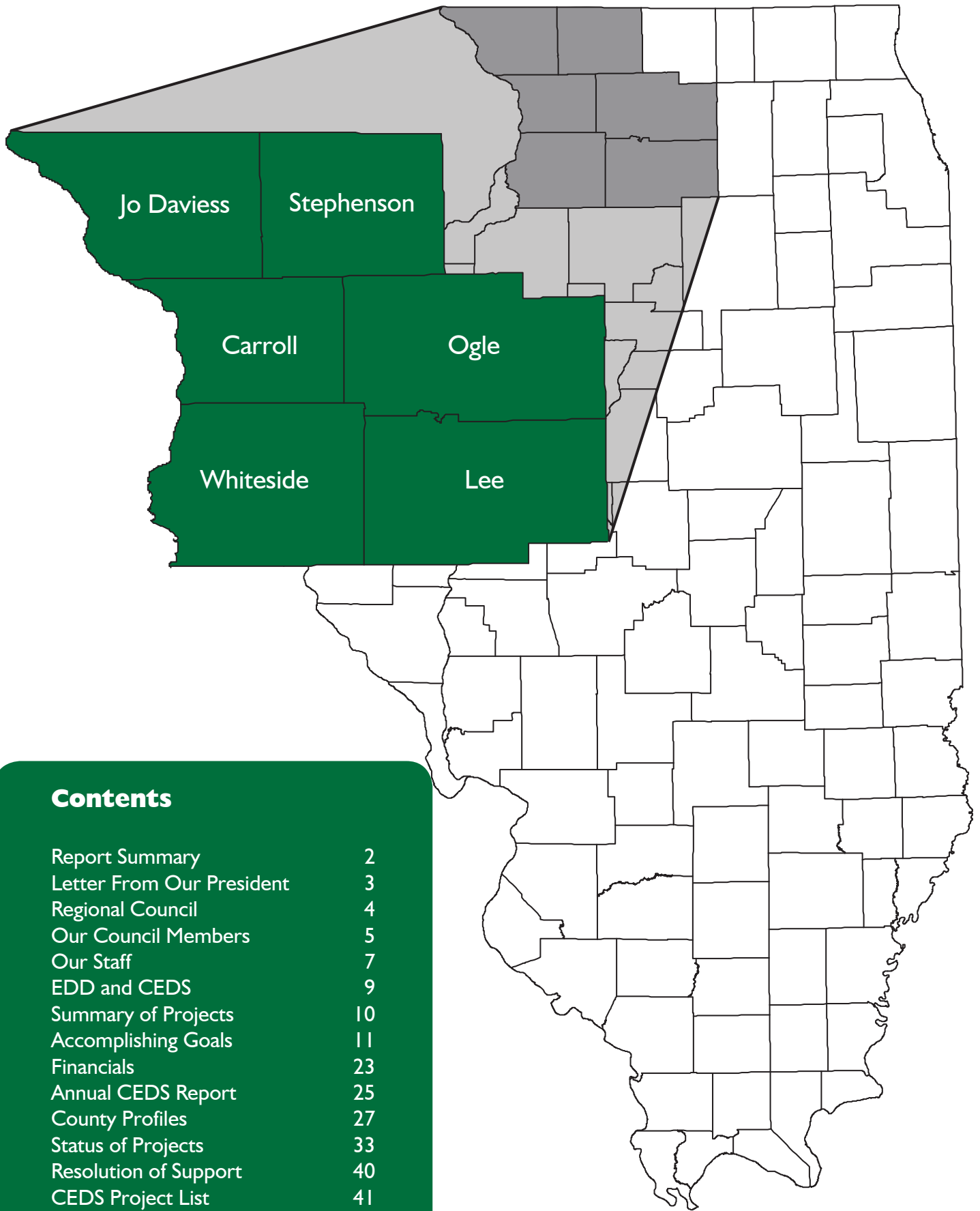
# BLACKHAWK HILLS



Resource Conservation and Development  
Jo Daviess • Stephenson • Carroll • Ogle • Whiteside • Lee

**2012 Annual CEDS Report**





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Cover photo provided by Daniel Payette

# Report Summary

This document highlights Blackhawk Hills' major goals and initiatives for 2012-2013. The document addresses the organization's transition to a regional council, topics of multi-jurisdictional concern, and funding distributions.

## Major Goals

Over the past year, Blackhawk Hills' initiatives focused on the following region-wide goals:

- **Encourage Long Term Regional Comprehensive Planning**  
Regional plans are essential to attracting growth and preserving resources. Blackhawk Hills works with federal and state agencies to promote and develop regional plans.
- **Assist with Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Planning**  
Plans at the local level support community development and outline timelines for improving and replacing infrastructure. Blackhawk Hills leverages funds for planning and ensures that suitable projects receive support.
- **Support Economic, Community, and Workforce Development**  
Recognizing people and location-based elements of development is critical. The partnerships that Blackhawk Hills establishes help the six counties invest in both human and community resources.
- **Support Natural Resources Preservation and Conservation**  
Initiatives that both recognize the region's physical beauty and support the efficient use of resources ensure that future generations may maintain a certain quality of life. Blackhawk Hills-sponsored conferences and discussions address significant environmental and recreational concerns.
- **Support Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Collaboration**  
Working with public and private sector officials to plan and encourage collaboration helps the entire region share in the benefits of development and resource-pooling. Round tables and meetings with officials maintain intergovernmental relationships and spread knowledge beyond local geographies.

**The mission of Blackhawk Hills Regional Council is to assist the people and local agencies of Northwest Illinois in developing and implementing a regional outlook that will enhance economic growth, workforce development, and quality of life for local communities through leadership, program and project development, planning, and leveraging of resources.**

June 25, 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council (formally known as the RC&D), I am pleased to present the 2012 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Report. This report contains information on the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council as it pertains to the Economic Development District. Included in this update are strategies for improving the district to benefit the counties and communities within the region. You will find attached our region's list of project needs for the remaining 5-Years of our CEDS Document, as well as our immediate project list for those projects that are ready to start now if funds were available.



In order to develop the strategies for improvement, Blackhawk Hills examines the area's demographic and economic trends, as well as the needs of the communities and counties, on an annual basis. The focus of the District is to encourage local sponsors, through implementation of these strategies, to support and maintain the economic vitality of the region.

The information contained in this report confirms the need for Blackhawk Hills to continue its involvement in promoting community planning, economic development, resource conservation and strengthening of partnerships through the county CEDS committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Colson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Colson  
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council President



## **THE BLACKHAWK HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

The Blackhawk Hills Regional Council (formally known as Blackhawk Hills RC&D) serves the region as an Economic Development District (EDD). The EDD was established under criteria of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 1992. The purpose of the program is to accelerate overall economic development program planning on a regional basis and to utilize all applicable federal, state, and local agencies, groups, and organizations in implementing the plan(s).

The Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D), was authorized in March 1974 by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and quickly became a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization sponsored by the local County Boards and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Boards, which has transformed into who we are today. The Blackhawk Hills area is a 3,777.8 square mile region that consists of the six north-western counties of the State of Illinois (Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside), and has a combined population of 235,689.

The council is governed by an 18-member Council, which is made up of one representative from each of the local sponsors (County Boards and County SWCD Boards) and one area representative from each county (appointed by the two sponsors).

The Council pursues its mission by hosting or facilitating more than 140 meetings annually with federal, state and local leaders. Issues include, but are not limited to; land management, business development, transportation, neighborhood preservation, health, the environment, taxes, legislation, economic development, recreation, land conservation, agriculture, forestry, emergency services, water quality/management and education. These topics are addressed using a network of agencies, organizations and individuals that consists of more than 600 volunteers, and it's growing each year.

Blackhawk Hills provides the following services and/or assistance.

- Community Planning
- Economic Development
- Natural Resources Conservation and Protection
- Grant Writing and Administration
- Demographic and Statistical Data
- Seminars, Summits, Workshops
- Meeting Facilitation and Group Development

We hope that you will continue to find the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council much more results oriented, striving to produce more tangible, regional results on issues important to Northwest Illinois.

# 2012 - 2013 Council Officers



Ron Colson  
President

## Council Members

### Carroll County



Kevin Reibel  
County Board



Ed Juracek  
Soil & Water Conservation District



Cathy Brunner  
Area Representative

### Jo Daviess County



Kim Monk  
County Board



William Tonne, D.D.S  
Soil & Water Conservation District



Vacant  
Area Representative

### Lee County



Isaac Mercer  
County Board



Vacant  
Soil & Water Conservation District



Marilyn Shippert  
Area Representative





William Tonne, D.D.S  
Vice President



Glen Kuhlemier  
Secretary/Treasurer

### Ogle County



Marcia Heuer  
County Board



Lynne Kilker  
Soil & Water Conservation District



Ron Colson  
Area Representative

### Stephenson County



Sam Newton  
County Board



Charles Moen  
Soil & Water Conservation District



Della Moen  
Area Representative

### Whiteside County



Kenneth Roeder  
County Board



Vern Latwesen  
Soil & Water Conservation District



Glen Kuhlemier  
Area Representative



**Theresa Wittenauer**  
Economic Development Coordinator

Theresa Wittenauer joined Blackhawk Hills in December 2006 as the Economic Development Coordinator. Her primary responsibilities include serving as the project manager for the district, working directly with the regional and local Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committees, updating and maintaining the CEDS document for the six-county region, and securing the annual planning grant. Theresa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree in Urban Management and a Master of Science degree in Geography and Urban Economic Development both from Northern Illinois University (NIU). Prior to working at Blackhawk Hills, Theresa worked at the Center for Governmental Studies at NIU as a Research Associate with the Community and Economic Development Group. She currently resides in Amboy, Illinois with her husband Jeramey and two sons, Westin and Jaron. She currently serves on the Northwest Illinois Workforce Investment Board, Lee County Tourism Council, and as Chairman of the City of Amboy's Planning Commission.



**Julie Jacobs**  
Administrations Coordinator

Julie Jacobs joined Blackhawk Hills in January 1987. She has more than 25 years of experience in the non-profit and government sectors. Julie has received training in non-profit management, board development, grant writing, and administrations. She has also taken several classes at Sauk Valley Community College. Since 2004, Julie has served on the Tri-County Opportunity Council Board and presently serves as the Secretary. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce. Julie has been recognized both locally and nationally for her work including receiving the Sterling Business Machine Secretary of the Year Award and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Women of Courage and Vision Award. Julie currently resides in Sterling, Illinois and enjoys spending time with her husband, Brad, and two daughters, Brittney and Kayla.





**Daniel Payette**  
Outreach Coordinator

Daniel Payette joined Blackhawk Hills in March 2011 as the Outreach Coordinator. His primary responsibilities include support of the iFiber broadband project and maintaining Blackhawk Hills' information technology systems. His outreach efforts for iFiber include various governments, libraries, schools, colleges, healthcare facilities, and non-profits in the region. Dan is a native of Shannon, Illinois and a graduate of Eastland High School in Carroll County. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Affairs and Political Science from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and a Master of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His professional interests include land use and brownfields redevelopment. Outside of work, Dan enjoys photography, directs choir, and volunteers with his hometown high school speech and theatre programs.



**Melanie Flesch**  
Assistant Outreach Coordinator

Melanie Flesch joined Blackhawk Hills in March 2012 as the Assistant Outreach Coordinator. Her primary responsibilities include outreach support on the iFiber broadband project, as well as general marketing including research, reporting, social media development, and design. Melanie was born and raised in East Dubuque, Illinois where she graduated from East Dubuque High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Clarke University with a concentration in marketing. She has specialized in working with small businesses over the past three years and has provided marketing consultation services with her company, Truly Organized Marketing. Her past work experience includes the positions of Marketing Project Specialist for Heartland Financial and Sales and Marketing Director for Dubuque Area Steamatic. She is a past president of the Quality Referrals Chapter of Business Networking International. Personally, she has donated her time to the event planning committee of the Dubuque Regional Humane Society including chairing the Scruffy Shuffle, an annual fund raising event held each May. Melanie currently resides in Sterling, Illinois.

## **BLACKHAWK HILLS AS THE EDD**

In response to tough economic times suffered in the 1980s, the original RC&D Council expanded and diversified into sponsoring economic development programs. In 1989, the six stand-alone county redevelopment areas formed a coalition with the RC&D Council to establish an Economic Development District under criteria set forth by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). In 1992, the EDA formally recognized the Blackhawk Hills RC&D area as an Economic Development District.

The focus that the Council has adopted for economic development issues is to

- 1) promote the importance of the planning process to facilitate positive feedback and desirable economic growth within the individual committee of the Council
- 2) assemble and implement a regional plan based on the needs of the communities within the region
- 3) provide technical assistance to the communities in the District by connecting local people with specific projects to appropriate local, state and federal offices
- 4) provide assistance in various grant or loan applications
- 5) provide support for communities in the form of statistical, demographic and economic data

## **COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)**

In order to assure that economic development initiatives come from the communities, the Council requires each participating county to participate in the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) planning process. The CEDS committee consists of a chairperson and a variety of volunteers recruited for their various economic interests and pursuits.

The CEDS Committee works to ascertain the needs of the individual counties and communities. The chairpersons of each county committee, along with other regional economic development leaders then gather to form the Regional CEDS Committee project list. Bi-monthly Regional CEDS Committee meetings are the forum to discuss each county's concerns and needs, and allow for networking and the exchange of information. This structure allows the Regional Council and the CEDS Committees to coordinate efforts to promote regional economic development.

In the upcoming year, it continues to be our mission to encourage every county in the Blackhawk Hills region to become more actively involved in their county CEDS planning process. It is our goal to help each county recognize the need to begin fostering a more encompassing, county-wide economic development planning initiative in partnership with the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council.



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## Encourage Long Term Regional Comprehensive Planning

- Management and Planning of the Economic Development Administration District
- Five County Economic Study and Recovery Plan
- Becoming a Regional Council

### Management and Planning of the Economic Development Administration District

Blackhawk Hills was designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) in March 1992. As such, Blackhawk Hills is responsible for the management and planning of the EDD, which includes updating and maintaining the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. The EDA CEDS 5-Year Report has been adopted by our council and submitted for the time period 2008-2013. An annual update has also been approved and submitted for the current year.

The Regional CEDS Committee meets every quarter with an average of 20 to 25 participants from the region. These meetings are used to give updates on the broadband initiative, on funding from the USDA and other sources, and on regional projects and issues. This past year, we have offered presentations from the University of Illinois Extension, iFiber, and the Quad Cities Regional Economic Development Authority.

Staff regularly attends the County CEDS Committee meetings that are held at the local level in the individual counties. Participants at the county CEDS meetings help share information at a local level and give updates on projects and initiatives our office is undertaking. These meetings are held monthly or bi-monthly, depending on the county administering the meeting.

Other regional meetings we host include the County Board Chairman's meeting and the County Zoning Administrators meetings. These meetings help officials share information and discuss current issues the region may be facing. These meetings are bi-monthly and very well attended. Staff is also bringing back the Regional GIS and IT meetings to address technological and logistical issues. These meetings all serve as a way for Blackhawk Hills to determine what the current needs are within our region and what type of assistance may be required at local and regional levels.

### Five County Economic Study and Recovery Plan



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Center for  
Governmental Studies

*Outreach, Engagement, and Information Technologies*

An application was submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in September 2011 to conduct a study on labor shed and cluster analysis, wages, and underemployment levels for the counties of Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside. Stephenson

County has also contributed funds to the project in order to be included in portions of the study which is being managed by the Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies.

The goal of the study is to obtain information on what types of businesses our area should be attempting to attract to the region based on what resources and labor base we have to support those businesses. The study is in reaction to layoffs and industrial closings that have occurred throughout the region. The EDA has funded the project and an advisory committee consisting of at least one economic development representative from each of the counties involved are steering the parameters of the survey. Blackhawk Hills staff is participating on this advisory committee.

# BLACKHAWK HILLS Regional Council



Jo Daviess • Stephenson • Carroll • Ogle • Whiteside • Lee

**The new logo for  
Blackhawk Hills  
Regional Council.**

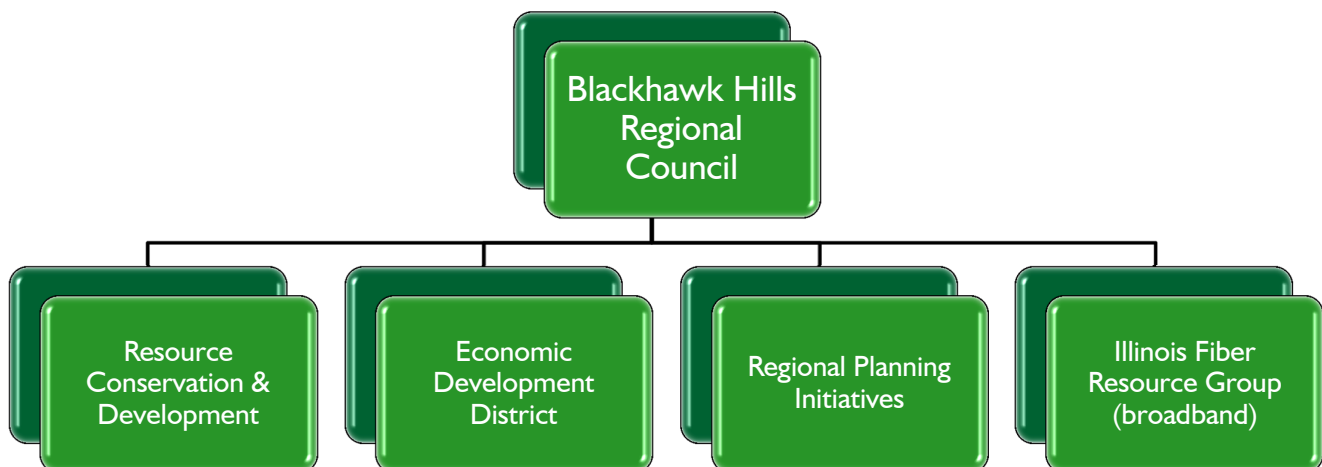
## **Becoming a Regional Council**

Following the loss of Resource Conservation and Development funding, Blackhawk Hills began the process of becoming a Regional Council. As Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, we will continue to be a multi-service entity with state and locally-defined boundaries that delivers a variety of local, state, and federal programs. The designation allows us to offer expanded services related to comprehensive planning, grant administration, data research, mapping, and technical assistance.

Regional Councils can enhance the economic competitiveness of a region and help strengthen the national economy as a whole. They have recently become more prominent in receiving federal and state aid for their regions. Certain programs and projects in which state or federal aid are involved must be submitted to the area's Regional Council for review in order to be considered.

According to the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), Regional Councils were conceived in the 1960's and today are organizations skilled at providing services, creating partnerships, problem solving, and fiscal management. The role of the Regional Council has been shaped by the changing dynamics in local, state, and federal government. There is now a growing recognition that local governments must work together to resolve social and environmental challenges in their regions.

As of April 2012, all six counties that Blackhawk Hills serves approved the change to Regional Council status. Blackhawk Hills will now be known as Blackhawk Hills Regional Council. Please refer to the organization chart below for the structuring of the organization.





## Assist with Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Planning

- Rochelle Project E-Rail
- Local Capital Improvement Plans
- Broadband Project

### Rochelle Project E-Rail

An application was submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and approved for the City of Rochelle in the amount of \$2.4 million. This project consisted of improving the municipal water, sanitary sewer, communications and electric utilities, as well as expanding the Rochelle Dual Access Railroad.

The Project Benefit Area consists of 540 acres of land located in the southeast corner of the City of Rochelle. Although this land is close to I-88, I-39, and the Union Pacific Railroad's Global III inter-modal facility, the acreage surrounding the Project Benefit Area lacks the essential infrastructure to allow for it to reach its development potential.

The new facilities will service the growing industrial area in Rochelle and is expected to help create 290 jobs and generate \$58 million in private investment, according to grantee estimates.



### Local Capital Improvement Plans

Blackhawk Hills earmarked planning funds to assist six additional communities with populations of less than 5,000 to develop or update their Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This was the second time we have offered this program to communities in our region.

To apply for the program, communities needed to submit the following items to our office: the name of the community, who would develop the plan, the approximate completion date of the plan, and the estimated total cost of developing the plan (\$3,000 minimum). The \$1,500 incentive payment was granted to the first six communities that contacted our office with their proposal and the required documentation.

The communities that participated included the cities of Byron, East Dubuque, Fulton, and Lanark and the villages of Chadwick and Orangeville. Over the two year period this program has been offered, Blackhawk Hills has assisted sixteen communities in developing a CIP.

## Broadband Project

Construction on the nine county regional broadband network began in July 2011. Crews working for the Illinois Fiber Resources Group (iFiber) started in Lee County, IL, near Sublette. The project – which is funded through a variety of federal, state, and local sources – has a budget of approximately \$68.5 million. A majority of the funding (approximately \$46 million) comes from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which is a bureau of the United States Department of Commerce. The State of Illinois also provided \$14 million in matching funds.

iFiber was established and recognized as an Illinois not-for-profit in April 2011. The organization was created to provide oversight during the network's construction and manage the system once the fiber is lit. iFiber consists of an eight member board, including two board members appointed by Blackhawk Hills. William Tonne and Samuel Newton were appointed in January 2011 to represent the six county Blackhawk Hills region. Currently, William Tonne serves as iFiber Treasurer. The remainder of the board's membership includes representatives from Northern Illinois University (2), the City of Rockford (1), Boone County (1), LaSalle County (1), and the North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) (1). The board typically meets once every month.

An official ground-breaking ceremony was held on August 29 at Sauk Valley Community College. The event included area legislators and a representative from the Illinois Governor's Office. Construction crews from three construction firms – Aldridge Electric, Kelso-Burnett, and PirTano Construction – were in attendance, along with the project's engineering firm, Baxter and Woodman.

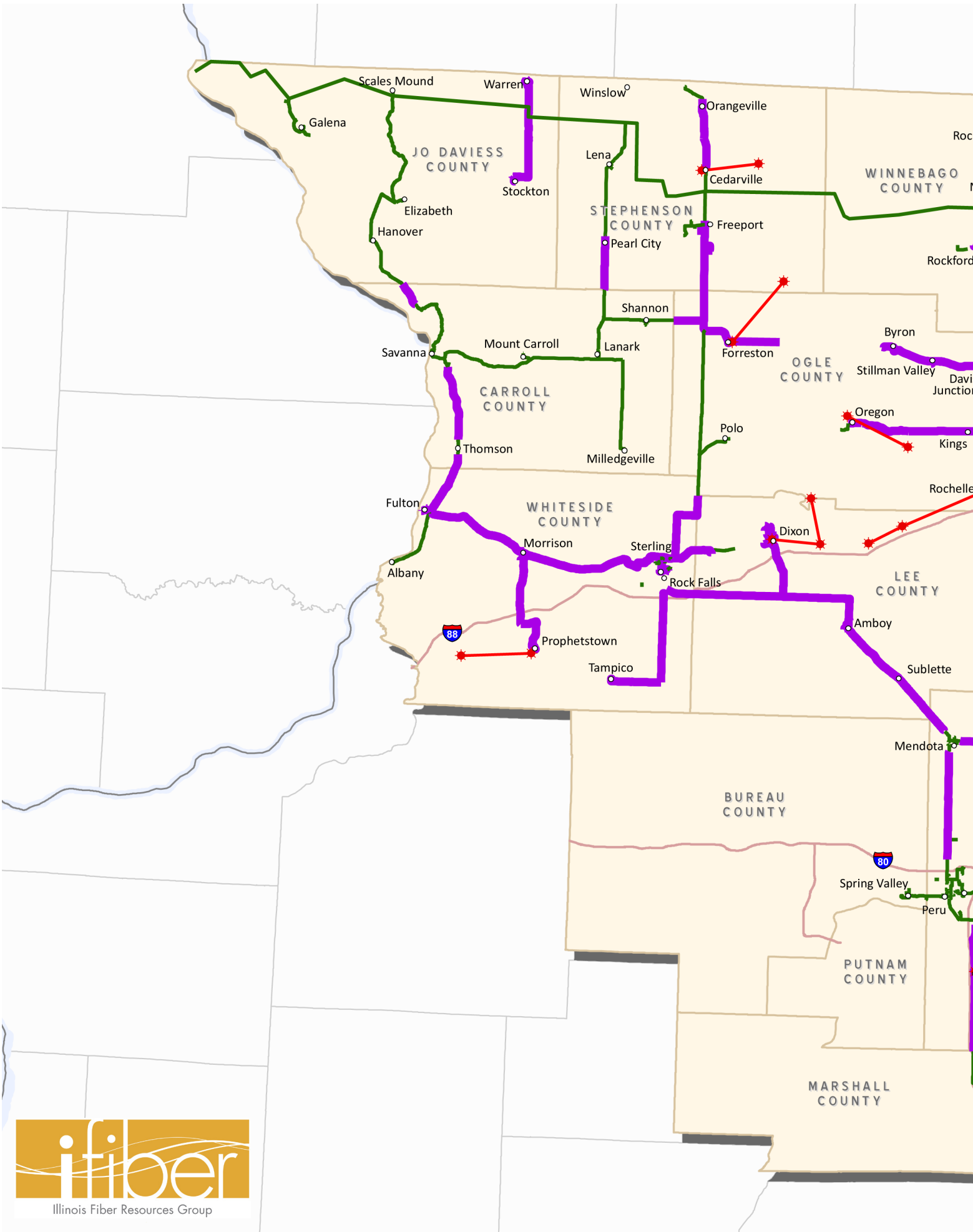


As of April 2012, nearly 300 miles of fiber optic conduit had been installed and 150 miles of fiber leased across all nine counties – including Boone, Winnebago, and LaSalle. Outreach teams have completed initial meetings with nearly 95% of the community anchor institutions (CAIs). CAIs appearing in the grant include K-12 education, community colleges, libraries, municipal and county governments, public safety, health care, not-for-profits, and other related entities. Approximately 65% of CAIs have provided either letters of intent and/or services agreements to participate on the network.

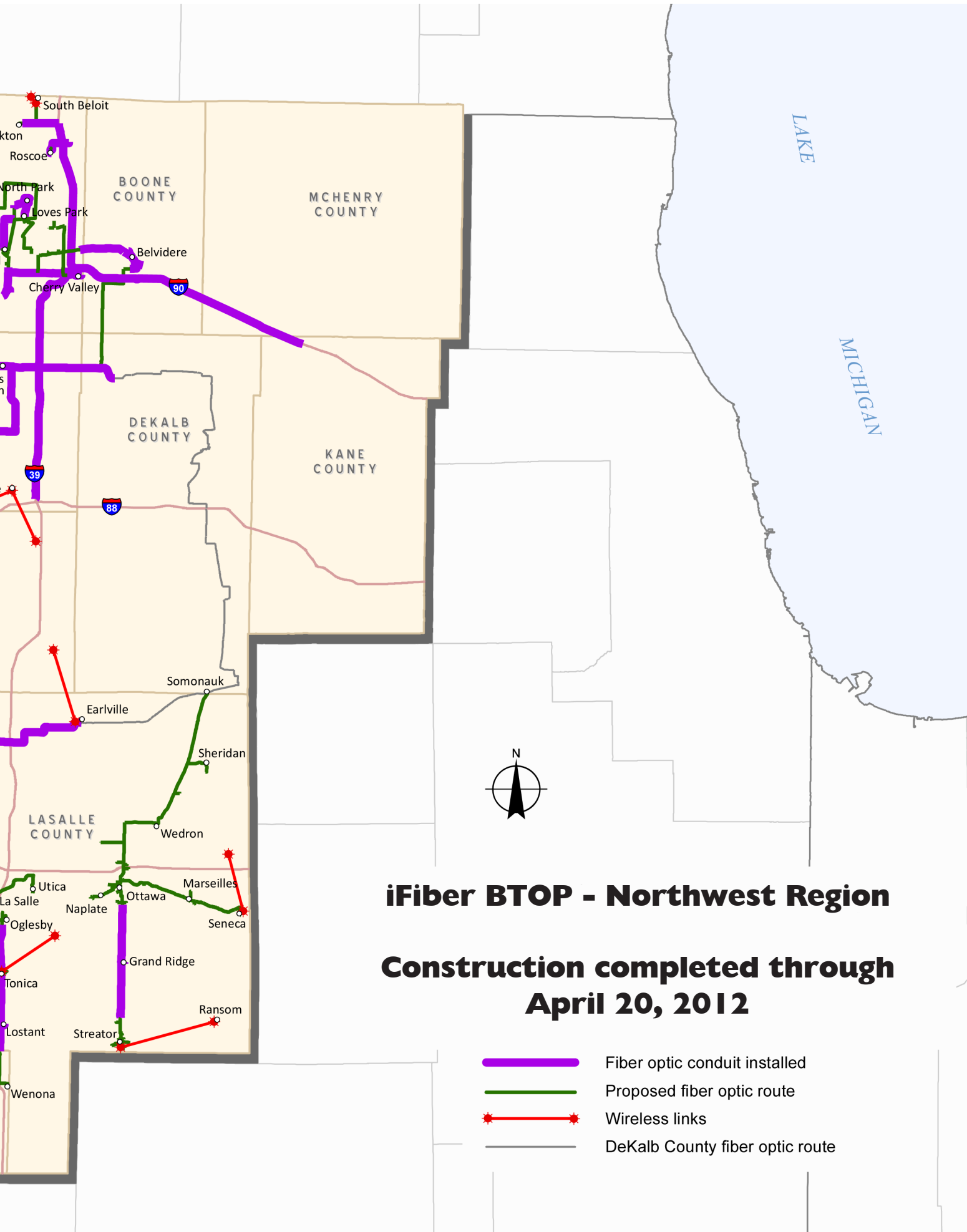
iFiber's initial goals, which are shaped by NTIA guidance, include establishing a core network to serve the nine counties and as many CAIs as possible. These CAIs will enjoy between 400Mbps to 1Gbps of transport bandwidth and cloud access. After the network build-out is complete and CAIs receive service, iFiber will encourage private sector service providers to expand service options to business and residential users.

### Project History

The Northwest Illinois Broadband Taskforce was established in November 2008 to address broadband challenges in the six-county Blackhawk Hills region. In 2009, Blackhawk Hills partnered with NIU and applied for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program funding in Round 1 – funding which was denied in January 2010. Expanding the partnership, NIU, Blackhawk Hills, the City of Rockford, Boone County, LaSalle County, and NCICG re-applied in Round 2 (March 2010). In September 2010, the partnership's application was approved, leading to the creation of iFiber.







# iFiber BTOP - Northwest Region

**Construction completed through April 20, 2012**

- Fiber optic conduit installed
- Proposed fiber optic route
- \*—\* Wireless links
- DeKalb County fiber optic route

## Support Economic, Community, and Workforce Development

- Local Foods Initiative
- Tri-County Opportunities Council (TCOC)
- Lee County Tourism Council
- Rock River Trail Initiative (RRTI)

### Local Foods Initiative

The Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission recently received a Rural Business Opportunity Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support local food initiatives. They asked to partner with Blackhawk Hills and focus on our two northern counties of Jo Daviess and Stephenson. A number of meetings have been held in the region concerning a push to promote local foods. Blackhawk Hills, along with the University of Illinois Extension, began looking for opportunities to help coordinate all efforts to make one strong push for local foods in our region.

It continues to be a goal to increase awareness of the Market-Maker Program to local farmers and producers. This program, developed by the University of Illinois, is a web-based resource that connects farmers, fishers, processors, distributors, food retailers, and consumers. Blackhawk Hills sees this as an economic generator for our area, as agri-tourism continues to soar in northwestern Illinois.

These meetings have opened up the doors to the possibility of working closer with the County Farm Bureaus and we continue to collaborate on many other projects concerning the economic area of local farming and community gardening.



### Tri-County Opportunities Council

The Tri-County Opportunities Council (TCOC) is a Community Action Agency serving the nine Illinois counties of Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark, and Whiteside. The TCOC works to focus available local, state, federal, and private resources to assist low-income individuals and families in acquiring useful skills and knowledge to gain access to new opportunities and achieve economic self-sufficiency.



The TCOC oversees the following programs: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Foster Grandparents, Homemakers, Head Start/Early Head Start/Migrant Head Start, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Weatherization and Housing Program.

Julie Jacobs, Blackhawk Hills Administrations Coordinator, has served on the Governing Board of the TCOC for eight years and has served as the Board's Secretary for the last six years.

## Lee County Tourism Council



Theresa Wittenauer, Economic Development Coordinator, actively serves on the Lee County Tourism Council's (LCTC) Board of Directors. For her role, she helps with the planning of events and provides technical assistance when needed. The LCTC meets on a monthly basis and, over the past year, was primarily focused on the Reagan 100th Birthday Celebration.

Blackhawk Hills was named the 2012 Star Award at the LCTC's annual meeting which was held on April 18, 2012. Julie Jacobs, Administrations Coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of Blackhawk Hills from Diane Nicholson, Executive Director of the LCTC. We were recognized for our efforts since our inception in 1974 and for our coordination and support during the creation of the LCTC in 1988. Blackhawk Hills was also recognized for our involvement in a number of other initiatives in northwest Illinois over the past year.

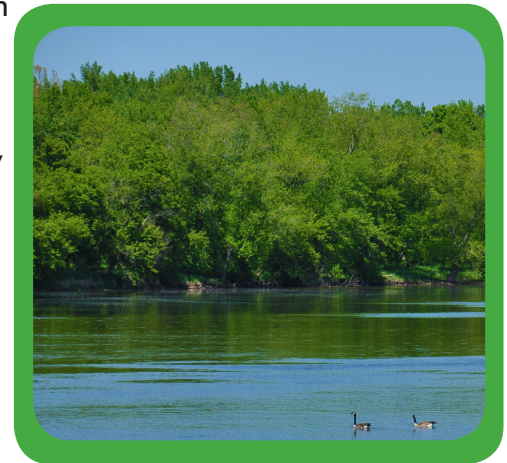


The LCTC and Blackhawk Hills both work closely with the Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau, a regional tourism agency.

## Rock River Trail Initiative

The Rock River Trail Initiative (RRTI) was formed in 2010 to help establish a recreation water trail and a historic scenic road route along the entire length of the Rock River from its headwaters in Wisconsin to its outlet in the Mississippi River. The initiative includes promoting eco-tourism and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. This will be done by enhancing the river's ecosystem through natural resource conservation and supporting the economic development and revitalization of communities along the river.

Theresa Wittenauer, Economic Development Coordinator, and Julie Jacobs, Administrations Coordinator, attended several meetings to discuss further communication between all of the local communities and groups that benefit from the Rock River.



Blackhawk Hills will be working with local RRTI board members to form a Tri-County Committee covering Ogle, Lee, and Whiteside Counties. This Committee will promote recreational activities along the Rock River and the surrounding trails that connect to the river. This will mean promoting the River Fronts and businesses in the area by looking for grant opportunities for the River Fronts, bike trails, water trails, and scenic road routes.



## Support Natural Resources Preservation and Conservation

- Driftless Area Initiative (DAI)
- Renewable Energy Biomass
- Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference
- Envirothon
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)

### Driftless Area Initiative



Blackhawk Hills is one of the six Resource Conservation and Development Councils that originally established the Driftless Area Initiative (DAI). DAI is a multi-state partnership whose goal is to develop a unified voice for natural resource issues in the Driftless Area.

The mission of DAI is to unite organizations and individuals within the Driftless Area of the Upper Mississippi River Basin for collaborative action to enhance and restore this region's ecology, economy, and cultural resources in a balanced, integrated fashion. Della Moen, Blackhawk Hills Council Member, serves as the Secretary for the DAI Board.

### Renewable Energy Biomass

Blackhawk Hills, in conjunction with the Driftless Area Initiative (DAI), works to promote production and utilization of perennial biomass crops to meet energy needs while reducing erosion, improving water quality, and benefiting wildlife.

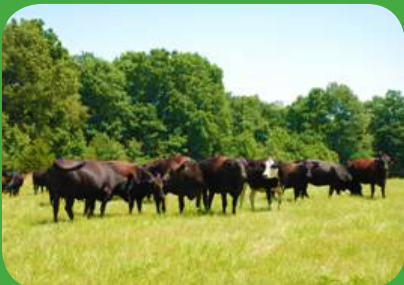
The 2nd Annual Biomass Conference was held at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, IA on November 2-3, 2011. The conference featured speakers and discussion pertaining to direct use biomass applications, feedstock development, feedstock harvest transportation, and biomass market development in the Midwest.



Jo-Carroll Energy  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections®

Blackhawk Hills is also working with Jo-Carroll Energy on developing a Biomass Energy Plant that would use 20 percent biomass from local farmers. The University of Minnesota is conducting a study to determine the Forest Biomass Analysis for Jo-Carroll Energy.

### Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference



Blackhawk Hills was one of the sponsors of the Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference. The event was held on March 16, 2012. There were 79 participants and of those participants including 56 producers. Three vendors also participated in the event.

The program featured eight speakers. The various topics included fence and watering systems, finances, forage species, pasture renovation, technical and financial assistance, and a grazier panel.

## Envirothon

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the Blackhawk Hills area hosted the annual Envirothon Competition on March 6, 2012. The Envirothon, a year-long learning process, provides an opportunity for high school students to learn more about the environment. The students are provided with study materials related to aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and non-point source pollution/low impact development. Students use the provided study materials to establish a knowledge base on each of the topics. They also listen to presentations on each topic given by area professionals on the day of the event. Upon completion of the year-long process, the students are tested on the five subject areas.

This past year, 23 teams participated in the competition. Members of the winning team will each receive a \$400 college scholarship and advance to the Illinois Envirothon Competition to be held in May 2012. The top three schools were:



Dixon High School students from left to right: John Thomas, Vivian Villegas, Justin Hohlen, Kacie Jo Dillow, and Joey Hammitt

- 1st Place - Dixon High School
- 2nd Place - Dakota High School
- 3rd Place - Erie High School

Julie Jacobs, Blackhawk Hills' Administrations Coordinator, served as the Emcee and a group leader at the competition. Blackhawk Hills is one of the funding sources for the scholarships.

## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Serving as the regional economic development and planning entity, Blackhawk Hills was awarded \$828,569 to be used for Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) in our area. All attempts were made to ensure projects and funds were spread throughout our six counties.

Twenty-seven communities and local entities of government were awarded grants to assist with projects in community facilities that promoted the conservation of energy. Twenty-five of the projects were completed by the deadline of March 31, 2012. The funds came from stimulus dollars from the U.S. Department of Energy, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Illinois Association of Regional Councils.



New energy efficient lights at the East Dubuque High School gymnasium.



Daniel Payette presenting Don Hoyle and Caryl Buford of the Village of Orangeville with a check for energy efficient street lights.

## Support Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Collaboration

- Website Assistance Program
- Geographic Information System (GIS) and Information Technology (IT)
- University of Illinois Extension
- Entrepreneurs and Inventors Club
- Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)
- Partnership for a Connected Illinois (PCI) and eTeam

### Website Assistance Program

A number of our communities and counties had outdated websites or no websites at all. When Blackhawk Hills received \$10,000 from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), we earmarked the funds to assist communities and counties within our administrative boundaries in the development of websites or updating of current websites. These funds were matched by local investments totaling of over \$15,000.

Nine entities participated in the program including the villages of Davis Junction, Hillcrest, Lena, Mt. Morris, and Steward, the cities of Morrison and Sterling, Lee County, and the Jo-Carroll Local Redevelopment Authority.

Program participants were invited to attend a series of two workshops.

Blackhawk Hills hosted the first workshop on November 4, 2011, with M45 Marketing Services of Freeport, Illinois presenting. Approximately 25 participants attended the event which was designed to assist with the basic construction and development of their website. The second workshop will be held in June 2012 and will center on how to maintain and regularly update the content and activities of a website.



Theresa Wittenauer presenting Sally Gray, Linda Miller, Diane Palmer, and Jerry Stauffer of the Village of Mt. Morris with a check for the website assistance program.

### Geographic Information Systems and Information Technology

Blackhawk Hills sponsored roundtable discussions with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Information Technology (IT) officials. GIS and IT from county and municipal governments heard presentations on the Win-GIS Consortium. The group's second meeting featured a discussion of legal issues in GIS, specifically those related to open records requests for governmental GIS data. Attendees have included representatives of Boone, Winnebago, and LaSalle counties.



## **University of Illinois Extension**

The University of Illinois Extension offices have undergone reorganization and consolidation. With this change, it has become a major goal of Extension to promote community and economic development education initiatives and cooperate in regionally focused activities. We are working on collaborating on regional initiatives and trying to find ways to partner on projects to help expand our existing resources. Typically, Blackhawk Hills identifies regional service and resource needs while Extension offers the programs to educate and train.



### **Entrepreneurs and Inventors Club**

Blackhawk Hills continues to provide technical and financial assistance to the Blackhawk Hills Entrepreneurs and Inventors (E&I) Club. This club formed in 2005 and is one of the only surviving E&I Clubs in the Northern Illinois and Quad Cities Region. The E&I Club is a place where individuals can meet to share knowledge, experiences, challenges, and ideas and find the resources and tools to attain success in their ventures.

The club continues to meet monthly. Planning took place over this past year to help add new elements to the group, such as finding ways to obtain youth involvement in our local communities. One approach was to begin a partnership with the University of Illinois Extension to determine how local foods can provide entrepreneurial opportunities for youth who would like to be involved in local farmer's markets or co-ops. Another approach was following the framework setup by the Effingham CEO Program. We have been coordinating efforts with the Whiteside Area Career Center and other partners to launch the program to Sauk Valley area high schools in Fall 2013.

### **Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)**

AmeriCorps VISTA is a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty in rural areas. VISTA members commit to serve full-time for at least one year at a nonprofit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, and strengthen community groups. The primary mission is to create or expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

Blackhawk Hills would like to thank John Huggins for his three years of service to the region as the Blackhawk Hills sponsored AmeriCorp VISTA volunteer. Over the three year period, Blackhawk Hills provided financial assistance to support John in his role with VISTA and his efforts to help improve life in the region.

As a part of John's VISTA service, he provided administrative support for the Entrepreneur and Inventor's Club on behalf of Blackhawk Hills. In this role, John provided meeting coordination, club administration, website maintenance and assistance, and helped create training sessions and workshops for club members.

### **Partnership for a Connected Illinois**

The Partnership for a Connected Illinois (PCI), also known as "Broadband Illinois," is responsible for collecting broadband data across the state, ensuring broadband access in the state's 102 counties, and maximizing the use and impact of broadband connectivity. In late 2011, Blackhawk Hills' Theresa Wittenauer was invited to participate on one of PCI's various regional eTeams; she now serves as a non-profit representative on the northwest Illinois eTeam.

# Blackhawk Hills Financials

## Funding Distributions

Providing grants assistance and funding to organizations remains an integral part of Blackhawk Hills' efforts. In 2011-2012, the council distributed over \$520,000 throughout the six-county region. Whether a community or organization receives funding is dependent on an organization's ability to engage in the project proposal process, the availability of local match dollars/in-kind contributions, and whether a project meets guidelines established by federal/state governments and other organizations that provide funding.

### Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2012 (unaudited) Fiscal Year April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012

#### Revenue

Carryover from 2010-2011	\$465,445.13
Federal	\$432,459.56
State	\$ 0
Local	\$ 23,671.31
Misc.	\$ 2,614.81
Interest	\$ 519.57
	<b>\$924,710.38</b>

#### Expenses

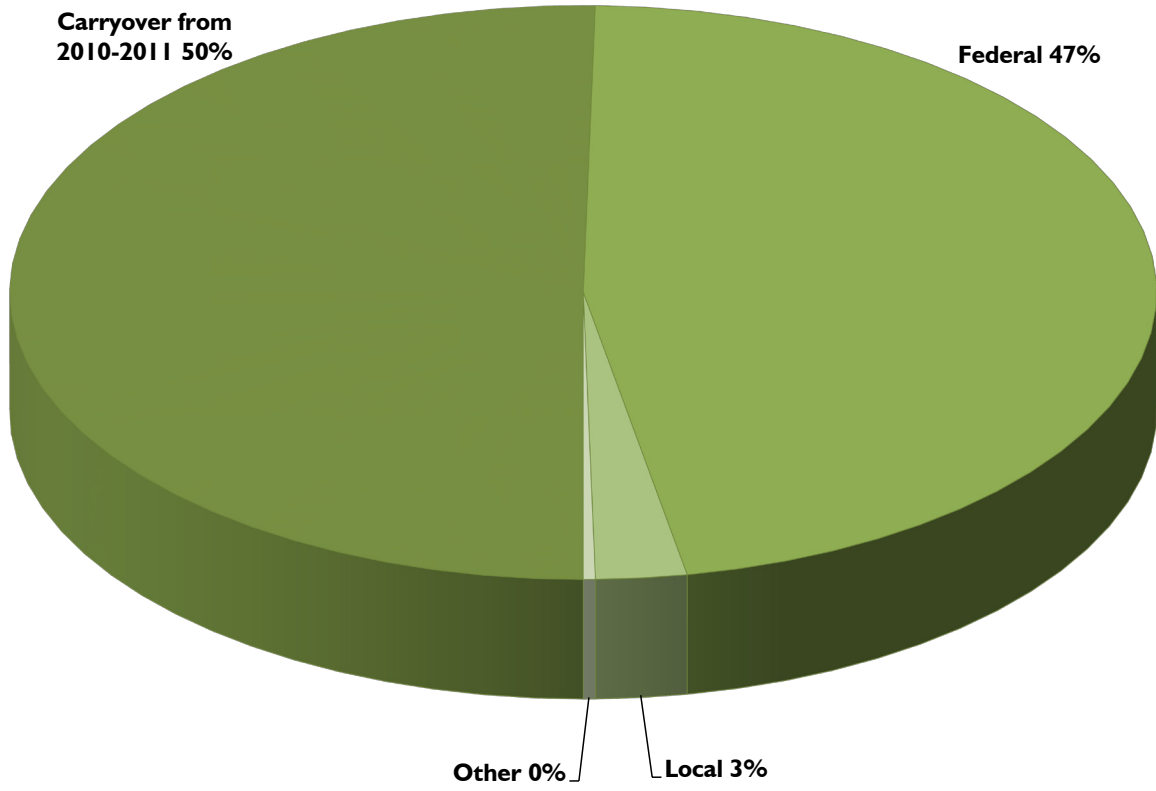
Salaries, Wages, and Benefits	\$158,656.05
Insurance	\$ 976.75
Consultants and Professional Fees	\$ 2,675.56
Travel	\$ 21,135.17
Meetings, Conferences, and Training	\$ 2,043.72
Equipment and Supplies	\$ 22,638.57
Printing and Copying	\$ 318.85
Postage	\$ 326.40
Rent and Utilities	\$ 13,648.36
Advertisement	\$ 759.55
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 910.00
Projects	\$520,687.70
Misc.	\$ 533.68
	<b>\$745,310.36</b>

#### Carryover to 2012-2013

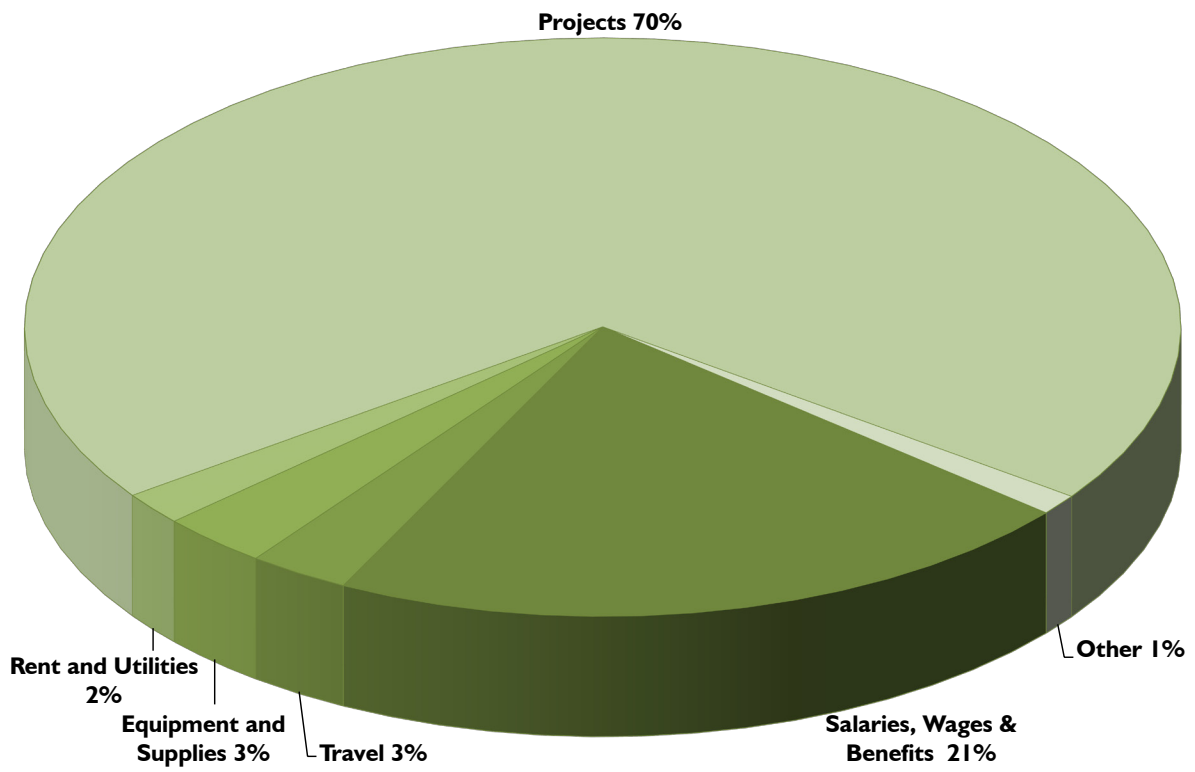
**\$179,400.02**

Copies of Blackhawk Hills' complete audited financial statements may be obtained by writing to:  
Blackhawk Hills, 102 East Route 30, Suite 3, Rock Falls, IL 61071

## Revenue



## Expenses



# **Annual Update Report on the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council CEDS 2012**

## **Introduction**

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in compliance with 13 CFR Part 303 requires the development of a strategy in order to remain eligible for assistance from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U. S. Department of Commerce. While a new or revised CEDS must be submitted every 5 years, 13 CFR Part 303.2(d) requires that “Each year thereafter (after initial approval), the planning organization must submit an annual strategy report, acceptable to EDA.” This annual report is submitted in compliance with EDA requirements and is intended to inform the public, decision makers and EDA on progress in implementing the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council CEDS.

EDA guidance provides that “the annual report documents the progress achieved on economic development activities, regardless of the source of funding, and reports on changing economic conditions.” The annual report should:

- Adjust the CEDS as needed.
- Report on the previous year’s economic development activities and any significant changes in the region’s economic conditions.
- Evaluate the effectiveness in meeting goals.
- Schedule achievable goals for the coming year.

## **Current Economic Conditions**

The Blackhawk Hills Regional Council Region continues to be impacted by economic conditions that have resulted in deterioration of public service, infrastructure and quality of life of the community at all levels.

Overall Labor Force statistics are updated monthly and annually. Therefore, we are able to obtain new figures for unemployment each year. For the Blackhawk Regional Council, Department of Labor and Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the average April 2012 unemployment rate for the region was 8.53 percent. This is a slight increase in unemployment for the region by .28 percent from April 2011 to April 2012. The highest unemployment remains to be seen in Ogle County at 10 percent, which is slightly down from the 2011 figure of .6 percent.

In terms of distress levels in the Region, EDA defines a distress-eligible region or community one which has 24 month unemployment rates that are 1% higher than the national rate for the same period or one which is experiencing a per capita income level that is 80% or less of the national level. Currently, the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council Region as a whole is deemed distressed in terms of unemployment rates. All but one of six counties that make up the region is considered independently distressed based upon unemployment figures calculated on [www.statsamerica.org](http://www.statsamerica.org).



Furthermore, the Bureau of Economic Analysis classified Ogle County as distressed under the Per Capita Income criteria. The chart below depicts the details of the distress figures.

Area	24 Month Unemployment	Threshold Calculation	BEA PCPI	Threshold Calculation
Carroll	9.87	0.87	\$ 33,529	84.00%
Jo Daviess	7.64	-1.36	\$ 39,574	99.10%
Lee	9.9	0.9	\$ 32,671	81.80%
Ogle	12.29	3.29	\$ 33,578	84.10%
Stephenson	10.29	1.29	\$ 34,955	87.50%
Whiteside	9.85	0.85	\$ 34,898	87.40%
BHH Region	10.25	1.25	\$ 34,629	86.71%
U.S.	9	*	\$ 39,937	*

\*www.statsamerica.org as reported on 5/31/2012

In terms of layoffs, the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council region has been hit fairly hard over the past decade. Though numbers do not seem as high as some counties throughout IL, our region is fairly rural and smaller in population size. Therefore, when recording layoff figures for over 50 employees for more than 30 days, the numbers certainly have a huge impact on our limited job opportunities. Over the past 10 years, layoff numbers have included: Lee County at 953, Ogle County at 2650, Stephenson County at 2463, and Whiteside County at 1648. Again, these figures only include layoffs that extended beyond 30 days and impacted more than 50 employees for the past 10 years (2000-2010). This also excludes any governmental or agricultural industries, which account for many jobs in our rural area.

Another useful analysis we can use in determining the state and growth of the region economy over the past year is by looking at reported building permit numbers. Overall, the region has seen a 32% drop in the number of building permits being issued by the counties. Similarly, the region has seen a 39% drop in the amount spent on construction costs throughout the counties. Carroll County actually saw a slight increase in both the number of building permits issued, as well as the investment in construction costs. Ogle County saw the largest drop in both categories (U.S. Census Bureau).

	Building Permits				Construction Costs		
	2009	2010	2011		2009	2010	2011
Carroll	21	18	23	Carroll	\$3,365,000	\$3,750,703	\$3,853,000
JoDaviess	45	37	33	JoDaviess	\$12,771,457	\$9,695,198	\$9,395,661
Lee	20	29	14	Lee	\$4,074,000	\$5,815,000	\$5,850,119
Ogle	35	51	24	Ogle	\$6,464,756	\$11,692,773	\$551,300
Stephenson	29	26	10	Stephenson	\$5,064,000	\$5,333,000	\$1,606,576
Whiteside	47	50	40	Whiteside	\$8,421,543	\$8,907,134	\$6,430,597
Totals	197	211	144	Totals	\$40,160,756	\$45,193,808	\$27,687,253

# Carroll County

Total Population 15,387

Unemployment 9.8%

Statistical data obtained from <http://2010.census.gov>  
and [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov)

## Industry

• Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining	5.0%
• Construction	9.4%
• Manufacturing	17.7%
• Wholesale Trade	3.0%
• Retail Trade	9.9%
• Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	6.7%
• Information	2.2%
• Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	5.9%
• Professional, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	6.6%
• Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	19.4%
• Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	7.3%
• Other Services including Public Administration	7.1%

## Educational Enrollment

• Elementary School	1,512
• High School	769
• College or Graduate School	637

## Income

• \$ 0 - \$24,999	25.8%
• \$25,000 - \$49,999	28.8%
• \$50,000 - \$74,999	22.1%
• \$75,000 - \$99,999	11.2%
• \$100,000 and above	12.0%



## Projects in Carroll County

- Capital Improvement Planning
  - City of Lanark
  - Village of Chadwick
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
  - Carroll County
    - Replacement of single pane entry door with energy efficient double-pane door at the Highway Department
  - City of Mt. Carroll
    - Replacement of electrical components in the existing decorative street lights to be more cost effective and energy efficient
  - City of Savanna
    - Installation of high performance glass in facade windows and doors, energy efficient track light fixtures, LED emergency exit signs, and two geothermal units at the Museum and Cultural Center
    - Installation of energy efficient lights, heating and air conditioning system, and windows for the new City Hall Administrative Offices and Police Department
- Five County Economic Study and Recovery Planning
- iFiber
- Website Assistance Program
  - Jo-Carroll Depot Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA)

# Jo Daviess County

Total Population 22,678

Unemployment 7.8%

Statistical data obtained from <http://2010.census.gov>  
and [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov)

## Industry

• Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining	4.9%
• Construction	6.0%
• Manufacturing	13.6%
• Wholesale Trade	2.0%
• Retail Trade	12.0%
• Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	5.1%
• Information	1.8%
• Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	7.1%
• Professional, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	6.7%
• Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	19.2%
• Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	13.3%
• Other Services including Public Administration	8.3%

## Educational Enrollment

• Elementary School	1,860
• High School	1,174
• College or Graduate School	911

## Income

• \$ 0 - \$24,999	22.0%
• \$25,000 - \$49,999	28.0%
• \$50,000 - \$74,999	21.8%
• \$75,000 - \$99,999	14.1%
• \$100,000 and above	14.2%



## Projects in Jo Daviess County

- Capital Improvement Planning
  - City of East Dubuque
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
  - City of East Dubuque
    - Energy efficient lights for the gymnasium at East Dubuque High School
  - Jo Daviess County
    - Replacement of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning units and balancing of the system in the Jo Daviess County Public Safety Building
  - Village of Elizabeth
    - Replacement of the heat exchanger and air conditioning coils and balancing the entire system in the Jo Daviess Carroll Area Vocational Center
  - Village of Stockton
    - Boilers re-tubed and controllers replaced at Stockton High School and Elementary School
- iFiber
- Website Assistance Program
  - Jo-Carroll Depot Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA)

# Lee County

Total Population 36,031  
 Unemployment 10.0%

Statistical data obtained from <http://2010.census.gov>  
 and [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov)

## Industry

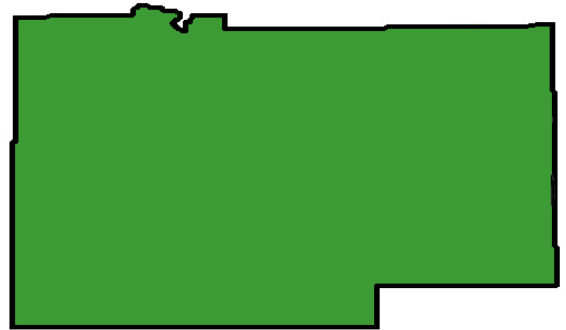
• Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining	2.5%
• Construction	4.7%
• Manufacturing	20.2%
• Wholesale Trade	2.7%
• Retail Trade	10.1%
• Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	6.8%
• Information	1.2%
• Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	4.7%
• Professional, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	7.1%
• Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	25.4%
• Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	6.4%
• Other Services including Public Administration	8.3%

## Educational Enrollment

• Elementary School	3,671
• High School	1,936
• College or Graduate School	2,304

## Income

• \$ 0 - \$24,999	24.5%
• \$25,000 - \$49,999	28.4%
• \$50,000 - \$74,999	20.1%
• \$75,000 - \$99,999	13.5%
• \$100,000 and above	13.6%



## Projects in Lee County

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
  - City of Dixon
    - Energy efficient lights in the athletic area of Reagan Middle School and Dixon High School
  - Lee County
    - Installation of economizer for the boiler system in the Lee County Courts Building
  - Village of Sublette
    - Energy efficient windows and doors - 33 windows, 1 double-door, and 3 single-doors
- Five County Economic Study and Recovery Planning
- iFiber
- Website Assistance Program
  - Lee County
  - Village of Steward



# Ogle County

Total Population 53,497  
 Unemployment 12.1%

Statistical data obtained from <http://2010.census.gov>  
 and [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov)

## Industry

• Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining	2.6%
• Construction	8.5%
• Manufacturing	17.3%
• Wholesale Trade	3.6%
• Retail Trade	11.4%
• Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	8.4%
• Information	1.9%
• Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	5.8%
• Professional, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	6.7%
• Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	18.1%
• Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	7.5%
• Other Services including Public Administration	8.2%

## Educational Enrollment

• Elementary School	6,325
• High School	3,580
• College or Graduate School	2,870

## Income

• \$ 0 - \$24,999	18.3%
• \$25,000 - \$49,999	24.5%
• \$50,000 - \$74,999	24.8%
• \$75,000 - \$99,999	15.4%
• \$100,000 and above	17.1%



## Projects in Ogle County

- Capital Improvement Planning
  - City of Byron
- Five County Economic Study and Recovery Planning
- iFiber
- Rochelle Project E-Rail
- Village of Hillcrest Sewer Conversion
- Website Assistance Program
  - Village of Davis Junction
  - Village of Hillcrest
  - Village of Mt. Morris

# Stephenson County

Total Population 47,711  
 Unemployment 10.3%

Statistical data obtained from <http://2010.census.gov>  
 and [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov)

## Industry

• Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining	3.4%
• Construction	5.6%
• Manufacturing	20.5%
• Wholesale Trade	1.8%
• Retail Trade	10.0%
• Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	4.8%
• Information	1.0%
• Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	6.3%
• Professional, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	6.8%
• Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	22.6%
• Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	7.9%
• Other Services including Public Administration	9.3%

## Educational Enrollment

• Elementary School	5,173
• High School	2,783
• College or Graduate School	2,544

## Income

• \$ 0 - \$24,999	28.9%
• \$25,000 - \$49,999	28.6%
• \$50,000 - \$74,999	19.6%
• \$75,000 - \$99,999	11.8%
• \$100,000 and above	11.1%



## Projects in Stephenson County

- Capital Improvement Planning
  - Village of Orangeville
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
  - Stephenson County
    - Energy efficient lights at the Courthouse and county-owned nursing home
    - Replacement of four furnaces for the Freeport Park District
    - Insulation upgrade and replacement of the roof at Dakota Elementary School
  - Village of Lena
    - Upgrade to the heating system in the police squad car garage
  - Village of Orangeville
    - LED energy efficient street lights on High Street from Richland Creek Bridge to Church Street
- Five County Economic Study and Recovery Planning
- iFiber
- Website Assistance Program
  - Village of Lena

# Whiteside County

Total Population 58,498  
 Unemployment 9.9%

Statistical data obtained from <http://2010.census.gov>  
 and [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov)

## Industry

• Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining	3.7%
• Construction	5.0%
• Manufacturing	19.9%
• Wholesale Trade	2.7%
• Retail Trade	13.2%
• Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	5.3%
• Information	1.2%
• Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	5.0%
• Professional, Management, Administrative, Waste Management	5.8%
• Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	22.1%
• Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food Services	6.7%
• Other Services including Public Administration	9.4%

## Educational Enrollment

• Elementary School	5,938
• High School	3,400
• College or Graduate School	2,612

## Income

• \$ 0 - \$24,999	24.6%
• \$25,000 - \$49,999	30.9%
• \$50,000 - \$74,999	20.0%
• \$75,000 - \$99,999	12.5%
• \$100,000 and above	11.9%



## Projects in Whiteside County

- Capital Improvement Planning
  - City of Fulton
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
  - City of Rock Falls
    - Energy efficient lights and solar panel installation at the electric utilities building
    - Energy efficient lights and replacement of windows for the community building
  - Village of Tampico
    - Energy efficient lights in the gymnasiums at Tampico Elementary School, Tampico Middle School, Prophetstown Elementary School, and Prophetstown High School
  - Whiteside County
    - Replacement of 28 single-pane inefficient windows with high efficiency double-hung windows at the Morrison facility
- Five County Economic Study and Recovery Planning
- iFiber
- Website Assistance Program
  - City of Morrison
  - City of Sterling
- Western Whiteside County Business Climate Analysis

## Effectiveness in Meeting Goals - Status of Projects

During Fiscal Year 2011-2012, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council has been involved in the following activities as they relate to the Goals listed in the 2008-2013 CEDS document:

### **Goal 1 – Utilize long-term planning to improve the conditions, strategies and problem solving capabilities of the District to stay economically competitive. The following objectives have been accomplished.**

#### Website Assistance Program

Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) received from the EDA approximately \$10,000, which we earmarked to assist with regional planning efforts within our administrative boundaries, to be matched by local investments of \$10,000. In response to the calls for assistance with website updating, funding for the 2011 cycle had been earmarked to assist communities and counties with the development or updating of their websites. A number of our communities and counties either have outdated websites or simply lack a website presence at all. Program participants are invited to attend a series of 2 workshops: 1) Preliminary Website Development Basics and 2) Maintenance and Updating a Successful Website. We have 9 entities ready to participate in the program: Davis Junction, Mt. Morris, Lena, Steward, Morrison, Sterling, Lee County, the Savanna LRA and Hillcrest. We hosted the first website design clinic on November 4th with M45 presenting the basics of website design. About 25 participants came to the event and it was designed to assist participants in the construction and development of their website. The second workshop will be held in July 2012 and will highlight the steps needed to actively maintain and regularly update their website.

#### Regional Council Transformation

We have been in touch with other RPC/COGs, ILARC, IDOT and DCEO to determine what we can do to help expand our services and opportunities and if becoming an RPC is the right choice. The Blackhawk Hills Region is one of the last regional sectors for officially form as a Regional Council. The formation of a Commission would allow for us to offer expanded services related to Comprehensive Planning, Data Research, Mapping and Technical Assistance. In recognition of the importance of regional planning, Regional Councils have become more pertinent for certain federal and state aid programs. Numerous programs and projects in which state or federal interests are involved must be submitted to the area's Regional Council for review or administrations.

We held an information meeting on November 3 and had very good representation from each of our 6-Counties including County Board Chairs/Reps, County Engineers, Council Members, SWCD Reps and Zoning Administrators. A few questions and concerns emerged, and we had to spend months exploring more information that could be shared with the group as we were obtaining more definitive information from our attorney and State Agencies. Come to find out, it has been over 30 years since a Regional Council or RPC has been formed and no one knew the process well enough to give us guidance. It was finally determined that the decision is ultimately up to our County Board Chairs. Therefore, we have presented them with a Draft Resolution to establish the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council.

#### 5-County Economic Study and Recovery Plan

An application was submitted to EDA in September for a study to be conducted by NIU on Wages, Labor Shed and Clusters for the counties of Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside and Lee. Stephenson County has contributed funds to the project to also be included in portions of the study. The goal is to have information on what kinds of businesses the region should ultimately be trying to market to and what labor base they have to support them. This project is a reaction to the amount of layoffs and industrial closings we have had in the area. EDA has funded the project and currently an advisory committee is working to set up the parameters of the surveys and to help lead the project. Blackhawk Hill's staff is participating on this advisory committee. It is expected to take 18 months to complete.



## Western Whiteside County Business Climate Analysis

The cities of Fulton, Morrison, and Prophetstown have been collaborating on an economic development assessment and on strategies to help strengthen the potential of West Whiteside County. As part of these efforts, the Center surveyed businesses in Fulton, Morrison and Prophetstown (Spring 2010) to determine strengths of the region, obstacles to expanding production, future plans, and actions that could be taken to improve the local business climate. The group has come up with recommended actions for West Whiteside County to help with short-term economic stabilization and longer-term economic growth. It outlines a set of objectives, strategies and action steps that can provide the WWC project partners with a framework for improving and expanding business opportunities within their communities. Area leaders and economic development professionals have been asked to come together and begin collaboration with the Clinton area on how we can better implement/revamp existing programs to better serve small business in our region.

### **Goal 2 – Assist with the improvement of community infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, telecommunications) to provide for new economic growth, as well as support existing businesses. The following objectives have been accomplished.**

#### Broadband Task Force

Access to broadband fiber in northwestern Illinois emerged as a primary and serious goal of the group of our region. The Regional CEDS group felt there was an immense need to continue to explore, educate and bring grassroots pressure for governmental spending to access and expand existing broadband infrastructure in our 6-county region. In a response to a federal and state effort to fund large REGIONAL projects, the City of Rockford/Boone County and LaSalle County joined forces with Blackhawk Hills (Counties of Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside and Lee in NW Illinois) to apply for the funding. The Governor's announcement stated "Northern Illinois University (NIU), on behalf of the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership – Northwest Region (IBOP-NW), received \$46.1 million in federal dollars matched with \$14 million in state capital funds and \$8.5 million in private funding for the project.

The regular Broadband Board has met monthly over the past year. We have also had a number of other meetings related to Broadband over the past few months including the Communications Committee and a number of special meetings with NIU concerning future contracts. The Communications Committee has worked on media related items and printed brochures for the project. There have been a number of meetings happening with CAls throughout the region, as well as general presentations about the project to different entities. A ground breaking was held at SVCC on August 29th and was very well attended by the construction companies, local officials and the Governor's Office.

Currently, approximately 275+ miles of fiber have been installed, while 420+ miles of fiber duct have been constructed in the 9-county region. iFiber's construction companies are working in all counties in the Blackhawk Hills region. Crews will continue to work through most of the winter months as weather permitted. Pir-Tano Construction Company began blowing fiber into buried micro-duct on Route 52 south of Sublette the week of December 1st. Updates on this project can always be viewed at [ifiber.org](http://ifiber.org).

#### Rochelle Project E-Rail

An application was submitted for review to EDA for the City of Rochelle. This project consisted of improving the municipal water, sanitary sewer, communications and electric utilities, as well as expanding the Rochelle Dual Access Railroad to the Project Benefit Area consists of 540 acres of land located in the southeast corner of the City of Rochelle. Although this land is close to I-88, I-39, and the Union Pacific Railroad's Global III inter-modal facility, the area surrounding the Project Benefit Area lacks the essential infrastructure to allow for it to reach its development potential. The new facilities are required to service the growing industrial area in Rochelle. The City has received approval for this grant and has scheduled a ground-breaking for July 19, 2012.

### Hillcrest Sewer Conversion Schedule

Assisting them with sewer issues and finding funds to transition from individual septic to a sewer system. We brought together the Engineer and Rural Development to discuss what funding and assistance options may be available to them. After determining they were not eligible for the traditional grants, we helped the Village brainstorm a creative conversion/transition schedule to make the project more feasible and possibly grant eligible in phases.

### **Goal 3 – Work with and assist economic development professionals and organizations in our region. The following objectives have been accomplished.**

#### VISTA

John Huggins' third, and final, year of VISTA service ended with Blackhawk Hills Entrepreneurs and Inventors Club on November 20, 2011. John has done an excellent job again this year, continuing to strengthening the E&I Club and retain its membership, developing an Artisan's Club, and building sustainability in our region. John has agreed to stay with the Club and help manage the regular meetings.

#### Website Development Workshop #1

We hosted a website design clinic on November 4th with M45 out of Freeport presenting the basics of website design. About 20-25 participants came to the event.

#### LRA Tenant's Meeting

Blackhawk Hills assisted in organizing a tenant's meeting at the LRA to bring together the tenants, LRA staff and the board to discuss the immediate needs of conducting business at the site, infrastructure needs and what issues should be tackled first. We hoped this would be a first of many meetings, assisting the staff and tenants with better communication and to help them work together to advance the operations at the LRA. Additional meetings have been scheduled to explore the issue of expanding a natural gas line out to the property, as well as how to utilize/expand the broadband infrastructure throughout the facilities.

#### U-W Platteville University Center Application

Blackhawk Hills was a participating organization with the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Tri County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA), Southwest Wisconsin Technical College and Highland Community College in applying for FY 2011 University Center Economic Development Program Competition funding through the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. We worked together to develop the proposed University Center which would have allowed us all to implement comprehensive strategies that would support new businesses, new jobs, expand innovative entrepreneurship and increase our talent pool and workforce in our service region. Blackhawk Hills had collaborated with the other partners to support the overall mission of this Center and work toward the creation of a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to meet the needs of our regional constituents. The application was ultimately turned down by EDA.

### **Goal 4 – Encourage local economic and community development initiatives by providing necessary support and assistance as needed. The following objectives have been accomplished.**

#### Entrepreneurs and Inventors Club

Blackhawk Hills continues to provide technical and financial assistance to the Entrepreneurs and Inventors Club (the only surviving E&I Club in the Northern IL and Quad Cities Region). The club met monthly and planning is still taking place to help add new components to the E&I Club and to find ways to get youth involved.

One avenue we are exploring is a partnership with UI- Extension and local foods to provide mentors to youth who want to get involved in farmer's markets or co-ops. Another option we are exploring is following the framework setup by the Effingham CEO Program.

#### TCOC

Blackhawk Hills' Administrations Coordinator has served for 8 years on the Tri-County Opportunities Council's (TCOC) Governing Board. TCOC is a Community Action Agency serving the nine Illinois counties of Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside. TCOC works to better focus available local, state, private, and federal resources to assist low-income individuals and families to acquire useful skills and knowledge to gain access to new opportunities and achieve economic self-sufficiency. TCOC oversees the following programs: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Foster Grandparents, Homemakers, Head Start/ Early Head Start/Migrant Head Start, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Weatherization and Housing Program.

#### Lee County Tourism Council

Staff actively serves on the LCTC and helps with planning activities when needed. The Council meets on a monthly basis and was focusing on the Reagan 100th Birthday Celebration over the past year. LCTC also works very closely with the regional tourism agency called Blackhawk Waterways CVB. Meetings were held monthly. Blackhawk Hills was also recently awarded the annual STAR Award by LCTC for its dedication to the region and its involvement in organizing a number of active groups, agencies and councils in our district.

### **Goal 5 – Facilitate and participate in regional networking activities. The following objectives have been accomplished.**

#### NWIL Workforce Investment Board

The WIB met on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year. Staff has served on this board for the past 4 years and continues to remain actively involved in it. Recently, our role has included reenergizing the network between workforce development and economic development by bridging the gaps of communication that often occur between economic development leaders and the privacy of the manufacturing sector. We also serve on the Business and Economic Development Partnership Committee, which has been exploring ways to merge partnerships between Business, Workforce Development, and Economic Development.

#### University of Illinois Extension

University of IL Extension offices have undergone reorganization and consolidation. With this change, it has become a major goal of theirs to promote community and economic development initiatives, and cooperate in regionally focused activities.

We have been working on collaborating on a number of regional initiatives and trying to find ways we can partner on projects to help expand our existing resources.

#### ILARC

Our organization continues to remain active participants in ILARC and attend the regularly scheduled meetings, as well as other events they promote. We are able to share their information with our region when an issue or topic is something that will immediately impact our district. We have worked with them very closely over the past 6 months in our efforts to explore our options of becoming a Regional Council.

**Goal 6 – Update and maintain the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. The following objectives have been accomplished.**

EDA CEDS 5-Year Report

The EDA CEDS 5-Year Report has been adopted by our Council and submitted for the time period 2008-2013. An annual update has also been approved and submitted for the current year. We are currently working on our annual update and beginning to strategize the construction of our 5-year plan.

Regional CEDS Meetings

The Regional CEDS Committee met on a quarterly basis for this time period covered. We are still averaging 20 to 25 participants at each meeting. These meetings were used to give updates on the Broadband Initiative, provide funding updates in regards to USDA and other sources, and to provide updates on regional projects/issues. We have provided presentation from University of IL Extension, iFiber, the Quad Cities Regional Economic Development Authority, and the Midwest Intellectual Property Management Institute.

County CEDS Meetings

Staff attends a number of individual County CEDS Meetings in each of our counties to help share information at a local level and give updates on projects and initiatives our office is undertaking. These meetings are held monthly or bi-monthly.

Other Regional Department Meetings

We meet on a regular basis with our County Board Chairman, as well as our County Zoning Administrators to help share information and discuss current issues they may be facing. These meetings are bi-monthly and very well attended. Staff is also bringing back the Regional GIS Administrators and IT Meetings to help assist with the initiatives of the Broadband Project we are carrying out. All of these meetings serve as a way for our organization to help the region when immediate needs arise or help us determine what type of assistance may be needed.

**Goal 7 – Promote and encourage sustainability focused activities that conserve land, manage water resources, and stimulate energy efficiency projects.**

EECBGP

Serving as the regional economic development and planning entity, Blackhawk Hills RC&D was awarded \$750,000 to be used for Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants in our District. 27 communities and local entities of government were awarded grants through our office to assist with projects in community facilities that will promote the conservation of energy. All projects and paperwork have been completed by the deadline of March 2012.

Community Gardens

Community gardens are part of a growing trend in self-sufficiency and the desire to eat locally grown produce. Hundreds of community gardens thrive nationwide as a way to provide gardening space for those who don't have suitable space of their own and who wish to grow their own produce. Blackhawk Hills has assisted with a number of community gardening efforts in the region and has partnered with the University of IL Extension office to host a workshop and roundtable on "Creating and Maintaining Sustainable Community Gardens." The event will cover topics such as the basics of creating a community garden, choosing the proper cultivation site for your growing, waste management planning, and what you should consider growing for the remainder of this planting season. There will also be a roundtable discussion on various topics to be addressed by civic leaders who are currently managing very successful community gardens throughout our region. We are currently planning the workshop for July 27, 2012.



## Local Foods Initiative

A number of meetings have been popping up in the region concerning a push to promote Local Foods. Primarily in JoDaviess and Stephenson County, but interests are also high in Whiteside and Carroll Counties. However, SWWRPC recently received a RBOG Grant from USDA to push this same issue and are looking to partner with us and with our 2 northern counties. Our office and UI-Extension are looking for opportunities to help coordinate all the efforts to make one strong push for Local Foods in our region. It has become a goal of ours to increase awareness of the MarketMaker Program, promoted by Extension, to local farmers and producers. It's a web-based resource that connects farmers, fishermen, processors, distributors, food retailers, and consumers. We see this as an economic generator for our area, as agri-tourism continues to soar in northwestern IL. This meeting also opened up the doors to the possibility of working closer with the County Farm Bureaus on a regular basis. We have a lot we could collaborate on in the economic area of local farming.

## Objectives for the Upcoming Year

The overall objective for the upcoming year is to continue to implement the adopted Goals found in our 5-Year CEDS Document, which is only 3 year old. All appropriate projects contained in the CEDS will be pursued by the various entities in our region, and a complete list of the projects is attached. Furthermore, we will collaborate regionally on those goals that focus heavily on the following items:

- Strengthen our collaborative regional partnerships, as well as our public/private partnerships;
- Aggressively promote renewable energy and environmentally sustainable development, being mindful of land conservation and water management;
- Determine our fullest potential use of the new Broadband Infrastructure being installed in our region as a result of our recent NTIA grant;
- Continue to work with the entities currently submitting applications to EDA for funding in our region;
- Create a stronger relationship and partnership with local and regional utility companies to promote business development and expansions;
- Diversify local industry and create jobs to reach global competitiveness;
- Improve quality of life for residents and business leaders in economically distressed and underserved communities;
- Aggressively promote our agency's ability to write and administer grants;
- Continue to provide any assistance and regional coordination to the Federal Bureau of Prisons to bring light to the use of the Thomson Correctional Facility;
- Introduce new ideas, create a web component and improve membership in the E&I Club to help re-energize the group and help reach out to youth;
- Continue to push for the implementation of the youth Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) Program in the local high schools;
- Explore the idea of securing a Revolving Loan Fund and gain experience in administering a successful program.

## **Partnerships and Associations**

Illinois Rural Partners  
Sauk Valley Partners in Economic Development  
Rock River Valley Partners  
Friends of the Chicago Rockford International Airport at Rockford  
IL Association of Regional Councils (ILARC)  
IL Development Council (IDC)  
IL Affordable Housing Committee  
Regional CEDS Committee  
IL Highway 30 Coalition  
Midwest High-Speed Rail Association  
NADO  
Regional Marketing Taskforce  
Regional Infrastructure Taskforce  
Regional Entrepreneurship Taskforce  
Tri-County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA)  
Tri-State Alliance (Highway 20)  
Community Development Institute-Midwest

### **Close Working Associations with:**

Bi-State Regional Planning Commission  
East Central Intergovernmental Association  
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities  
Greater Dubuque Development Corporation  
Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation  
Highland Community College Business Development Center  
IL Association of RC&Ds  
IL Institute for Rural Affairs, WIU  
IL Finance Authority  
Jo-Carroll Energy  
Local, State and Federal Legislators  
Local, State and Federal Economic Development Funding Organizations  
Kishwaukee Community College Business & Industry Development Center  
National Association of RC&Ds  
North Central IL Council of Governments  
Northern IL University  
Regional Engineering/Planning Firms  
Regional Economic Development Professionals  
Regional Community and County Development Committees & Corporations  
Regional Utility Providers  
NW IL Workforce Investment Boards  
Sauk Valley Community College Small Business Development Center  
Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Board Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
Tri-County Economic Development Council  
Tri-County Opportunities Council  
University of Wisconsin-Platteville  
University of IL-Extension  
USDA/Rural Development

# BLACKHAWK HILLS Regional Council



Jo Daviess • Stephenson • Carroll • Ogle • Whiteside • Lee

## RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Whereas, the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council (formally known as Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council) serves the six Northwest Counties of Illinois as an official U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development District;

Whereas the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report assesses existing conditions, formulates a development strategy and recommends the implementation of said strategy;

Whereas the 2012 CEDS Annual Report includes a variety of projects and activities identified as priorities for our region;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012, that the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council hereby adopts this resolution in support of the development strategies and projects outlined in the 2012 CEDS Annual Report and strongly recommends the implementation of said projects.

Passed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012.

Ron Colson, President  
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Attest:

Glen Kuhlemier, Secretary/Treasurer  
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Alphabetically Listed		2012 CEDS Project List				Updated 6/30/12	
Project Name (& Champion)	Estimated Cost	50% Local Match Source	Purpose	Possible Start Date (Year)	Potential Job Creation/Retention	Project Summary	
Amboy: Green River Industrial Park Infrastructure			Technical Assistance			Creation & implementation of a plan for public works and facilities at site	
Amboy: Storm Water System Improvements			Technical Assistance			Upgrade the current system and land of holding areas in city to properly drain, old or slow the water runoff	
Amboy: Park Upgrades and Additions			Provide technical assistance and seek funds for the parks			Improvements to existing parks in town and addition of new park space to the northside	
Apple River: Public Works and Facilities			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Water system upgrades, sewer system, study and 80,000# road upgrades throughout town	
Byron: Mill Rd.-Colfax St. to City Limits	\$1,500,000	Anticipated 50%	Upgrade rural cross section to curb and gutter with bike path	Fall 2012	Temporary Construction Crews	Existing roadway is badly deteriorated due to traffic. Needs storm sewer system, curb and gutter and bike path to provide safety for kids walking and riding bikes to school	
Byron: Third St. – Lafayette St. to Route 2	\$3,000,000	MFT Funds	Upgrade major street with curb and gutter, sidewalk and infrastructure	2012	Temporary Construction Crews	Existing roadway is badly deteriorated due to traffic. Needs storm sewer system, curb and gutter and sidewalk	
Byron: Luther Drive – Mineral Street to Route 2	\$100,000	MFT Funds	Maintenance project with bituminous overlay	Fall 2012	Temporary Construction Crews	Existing roadway is badly deteriorated due to traffic. Needs bituminous overlay to prevent total failure of the street	
Byron: Rose Meadows Subdivision	\$300,000	MFT Funds	Micro Surface existing streets for maintenance	2012	Temporary Construction Crews	Existing roadway is badly deteriorated due to traffic. Needs bituminous overlay to prevent total failure of the street	
Byron: Alley between Walnut Street and Union Street and 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Streets	\$125,000	MFT Funds	Reconstruction with bituminous overlay of existing alley	2012	Temporary Construction Crews	Existing roadway has failed due to heavy traffic. Needs total reconstruction and drainage improvements	
Chadwick: Generator for Sewer System	\$20,000	Village General Fund or Water/Sewer Fund		2012			
Chadwick: Water Main Replacement	\$100,000	Village General Fund or Water/Sewer Fund	Need to replace water main on Calbert between 1st and 4th	2012			
Dakota: Main Street – Route 75 to Dakota Road	\$1,500,000	MFT funds	Reconstruction of existing high volume street that has failed	2012	Temporary Construction Crews	Existing roadway is badly deteriorated due to traffic. Needs storm sewer system, curb/ gutter/bike path to provide safety for kids getting to school	
Dakota: Water System Improvements	\$1,500,000	MFT funds	Upgrade existing water system with improvements to the distribution system, elevated tank and wells 1 and 2	2012	Temporary Construction Crews	Existing system is deficient in providing fire protection for the Village	
Dakota: Lift Station Upgrades	\$150,000	Sewer Funds	Maintenance project to recondition existing lift stations with pump, high efficiency motors and telecom system for monitoring	Fall 2012	Temporary Construction Crews	The existing lift stations are in need of maintenance of the pumps and motors and the control systems for monitoring the alarm levels	
Dixon: Industrial Park Drive Infrastructure			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Public works and facilities for Industrial Park Dr. east to IL Rt. 52 for future development needs	
East Dubuque: Donna Drive Water & Sanitary Sewer Extension	\$80,000	\$40,000	Public Safety	2012	12	Extend water service to newly annexed property which has an existing restaurant business and potential for additional Commercial Development.	

<b>East Dubuque: Extension of Water and Sanitary Sewer to Commercial/Industrial Properties along Highway 35</b>	\$1,381,770	\$690,885	People, Work, Opportunity	2012	200	The engineering is completed for this project. This project is part of the largest business expansion project of the City. Extension of infrastructure consisting of 7800 I.f. sanitary sewer, 3500 I.f. water main along with the installation of a booster pump station.
<b>East Dubuque: Flood Levy Road (6<sup>th</sup> St) Reconstruction</b>	\$500,000	\$250,000	Public Safety	2012	20	The engineering is partially completed for this project. 6 <sup>th</sup> St. is the primary access to the East Dubuque Harbor. Rebuilding the road to a higher standard, 80,000 lb capacity.
<b>East Dubuque: Frenress Rail Relocation &amp; Overpass Construction</b>	\$5,000,000	\$2,500,000	Public Safety	2012	200	Project is for a major business development project. Business development along Hwy 20 is absolutely at a standstill because of conflicts with rail traffic.
<b>East Dubuque: Highway 20 Access</b>	\$600,000	\$300,000	Public Safety	2012	50	Project is for the engineering and construction of an intersection required for commercial/industrial access along Hwy 20.
<b>East Dubuque: Levy Rip Rap Project</b>	\$35,000	\$17,500	Public Safety	2012	2	This project is for continued flood protection to residents in the Flats and Shore Acres subdivisions located adjacent to the Mississippi River.
<b>East Dubuque: Loop Water Systems</b>	\$250,000	\$125,000	Public Safety	2012	10	This project is for preliminary engineering to loop together the water systems connecting the North and the East systems.
<b>East Dubuque: Municipal Parking Facility</b>	\$300,000	\$150,000	Public Safety	2012	6	This project would be to construct a parking facility for joint use of municipal services and library services.
<b>East Dubuque: Realign Intersection of Hwy 20, Wall St. and 6<sup>th</sup> Street</b>	\$100,000	\$50,000	Public Safety	2012	6	Provide a safer access to Hwy 20 for businesses and citizens and at the same time provide space for expansion of an existing business.
<b>East Dubuque: Rehabilitation Well Number One</b>	\$150,000	\$75,000	Public Safety	2012	3	This project is part of another project, a new well far outweighs the cost to rehabilitate Well #1
<b>East Dubuque: SCADA for Water &amp; Sewer Systems</b>	\$60,000	\$30,000	Public Safety	2012	2	This project is for an automated system to evaluate and control operations of City Wells and Sanitary Sewer Facility.
<b>East Dubuque: Water Meter Reading System</b>	\$60,000	\$30,000	Public Safety	2012	2	Update current system which is not compatible with billing software, thus creating reading error.
<b>East Dubuque: Water Tower(s) Rehabilitation</b>	\$250,000	\$125,000	Public Safety	2012	4	This project is for preliminary engineering to estimate the cost to the City of East Dubuque and Frenress Water towers. Recent inspections highly suggest immediate repairs to both water towers.
<b>Elizabeth: Additional Digester at Wastewater Treatment Plant</b>	\$550,000	Sewer, TIF, DCEO, USDA, IEPA	Increase digester capacity at wastewater facility	2012	0	Construction of an additional digester at the wastewater treatment plant
<b>Elizabeth: New Municipal Well</b>	\$750,000	Water, TIF, DCEO, USDA, IEPA	An additional water source for the Village	2014	0	Construction of a new municipal well to increase the water system's capabilities.
<b>Elizabeth: Improvements to Old School Buildings</b>	\$2,000,000	TIF, USDA, DCEO, IEPA Brownfields, EDA	To provide rental space for offices, park district and other community - type services	2012	50 to 100	Renovate and upgrade the old school buildings to promote economic development
<b>Elizabeth: Pleasant Street Road Repairs</b>	\$500,000	Motor Fuel Tax, TIF, Jo Daviess County Road & Bridge Fund, DCEO, USDA	To repair heavily traveled street to Nursing Home.		0	Complete tear out and replacement of existing street, new water and sewer mains and new sidewalk
<b>Elizabeth: South Madison Street Road Repairs</b>	\$750,000	Motor Fuel Tax, TIF, Jo Daviess County Road & Bridge Fund, DCEO, USDA	To repair street and provide an improved road		0	Reconstruct three blocks of roadway with new storm sewer, curb and gutter, and sidewalks



<b>Elizabeth: Sanitary Sewer Extension to Pleasant Hill Subdivision</b>	\$650,000	Sewer Fund, Bonding, USDA, IEPA	To extend the Village limits and get subdivision on Village sewer		0	Extend sanitary sewer to subdivision - abandon private septic systems
<b>Elizabeth: Sanitary Sewer Extension to West Side along Highway 20</b>	\$1,500,000	Sewer Fund, Bonding, USDA, IEPA	Encourage development along the highway and annex in subdivision that is on private septic systems.		0	Extend sanitary sewer and construct a lift station to provide sewer service to the west side of the Village
<b>Elizabeth: Water System Improvements - Phase III, IV, V</b>	\$1,000,000	Water Fund, Bonding, CDAP, USDA, IEPA	Improve the water system throughout the Village		0	Extend water mains and replace undersized mains throughout the system to improve water service
<b>Elizabeth: Walking Trails</b>	--	DNR, DCEO, IDOT's Safe Routes to School	Provide recreational activities for the residents		0	Construct walking trails within the Village and to the River Ridge School.
<b>Elizabeth: Downtown Streetscape Project</b>		USDA, TIF	Present a more inviting downtown to attract more businesses and visitors to downtown	2012	0	Reconstruct new sidewalks and install historical street lighting
<b>Elizabeth: Turn Lanes - Route 20 West</b>		IDOT, DCEO, TIF, Private Investment	Provide safer roadway access to Route 20 on the west side of town	2012	0	Construct turn lanes on Route 20 on the west end to assist local business expansion effort
<b>Forreston: Water System Upgrades</b>			Improve the water system throughout the Village			Replacement of water main from Balsam to North Walnut and upgrade existing treatment plant
<b>Franklin Grove: Public Works Upgrades</b>			Technical Assistance			Upgrade current systems to increase capacity and support future growth
<b>Freeport: Agricultural Entrepreneurship Center/Commercial Kitchen (planning project)</b>	\$100,000	\$20,000 (in-kind)	Provide business opportunities for ag producers	2012		Complete planning portion of project in 2012
<b>Freeport: Amtrak Station</b>				Ongoing		
<b>Freeport: Boat launch at Tutty's Crossing</b>	\$209,000	\$15,000	Provide recreational access to Pec River	2012	Construction jobs	Build boat launch on Pecatonica River at Tutty's Crossing trailhead
<b>Freeport: Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup grants</b>	\$1,400,000	\$200,000	Prepare properties for development	2012		Assess and cleanup environmentally contaminated properties to prepare them for redevelopment
<b>Freeport: Clearwell Inspection and Sealing</b>	\$25,000			2012		
<b>Freeport: Comprehensive Plan Update</b>	\$97,000	\$67,000	Update the City's comprehensive plan	2012		Complete the City's first plan update since 1980.
<b>Freeport: Elevated Water Storage Improvements</b>	\$1,585,000			2012-2012		
<b>Freeport: Expansion of Public Transportation</b>	\$600,000			2012		
<b>Freeport: Housing rehabilitation grants</b>	\$904,979	\$0	Improve properties to sustain City's tax base	2012		Rehabilitate properties owned or occupied by low-to-moderate income residents
<b>Freeport: Jane Addams Trail - Section B Construction (Freeport, Stephenson County, Freeport Park District, and Orangeville)</b>	\$3,250,000	\$650,000		2012-2012	Construction Jobs	Construction of Section B of Jane Addams Trail from Tutty's Crossing west to the Wes Block Trailhead
<b>Freeport: New Water Source - Well No. 9 and Building</b>	\$800,000			2012		
<b>Freeport: Construction of structures for Pecatonica Prairie Path (Freeport, Stephenson County, and Freeport Park District)</b>	\$1,500,000	\$300,000		2012	Construction jobs	Construction of three structures, including a bridge over the Pec River at Tutty's Crossing
<b>Freeport: Rawleigh Redevelopment Complex</b>			Support efforts for redeveloping the site			Continue efforts to rehab site to a multiuse facility and ED incubator area
<b>Freeport: Storm Sewer Construction - Rawleigh, Bidwell, Blackhawk, Cottonwood, Arcade Sts</b>	\$1,850,000			2012-2013		
<b>Freeport: Streetscape Improvement on East Stephenson Street</b>	\$267,500	\$0		2012		Streetscape improvements to East Stephenson Street west of the Pecatonica River Bridge (HUD-EDI Grant)
<b>Freeport: Water Main Improvements</b>	\$500,000			2009 - 2013		
<b>Freeport: Water Treatment Plant Vulnerability Assessment Compliance</b>	\$25,000			2012		

Freeport: WWTP Phosphorus Removal	\$11,825,000			2012-2013		
Freeport: Amtrak Station				Ongoing		
Freeport: Clearwell Inspection and Sealing	\$25,000			2012		
Freeport: Elevated Water Storage Improvements	\$1,585,000			2012-2012		
Freeport: Expansion of Public Transportation	\$600,000			2012		
Freeport: New Water Source - Well No. 9 and Building	\$800,000			2012		
Freeport: Storm Sewer Construction - Rawleigh, Bidwell, Blackhawk, Cottonwood, Arcade Sts	\$1,850,000			2012-2013		
Freeport: Water Main Improvements	\$500,000			2012- 2013		
Freeport: Water Treatment Plant Vulnerability Assessment Compliance	\$25,000			2012		
Jo Daviess County Scout Camp Road Bridge Replacement	\$4,300,000	FHWA Jo Daviess County	Replace failing bridge	2012	20	Scout Camp Road bridge replacement and approach roadway improvements
Lanark: Sewer Extension	\$150,000			2012		
Lanark: Redevelopment of former Automotive Garage and City Hall Renovations			Public works and facilities associated with the site	TBA		Provide Brownfield clean-up and City Hall renovations
Leaf River: Street and Infrastructure Upgrades			Public works and facilities associated with community center	Anytime		Street surface and infrastructure upgrades to existing Community Center
Lee County: Reynolds Rd.	\$800,000		HMA Surfacing from Ashton to Village of Franklin Grove	2012	Retain Jobs	Maintenance
Lee County: Reynolds Rd	\$400,000		HMA resurfacing from Brooklyn Road to Rt. 251	2012	Retain Jobs	Maintenance
Lee County: Angling Rd.	\$535,000		Resurfacing from South Paw Paw Rd. to LaSalle Co.	2012	Retain Jobs	Maintenance
Lena: Water Tower	\$875,000	50% Local Match/Loan		2013		Component of Water Tower Project
Lena: Well Improvements	\$425,000	50% Local Match/Loan		2013		Component of Water Tower Project
Lena: Tower Controls	\$200,000	50% Local Match/Loan		2013		Component of Water Tower Project
Lena: Water Main Upgrades	\$200,000	50% Local Match/Loan	Connecting to existing water mains	2013		Component of Water Tower Project
Lena: Drainage repair at the Butternut Woods Sub division	\$38,000		Erosion Control and Drainage	2012		Heavy rainfall overtops and erodes the banks of a natural creek that runs along the subdivision. The overflow creates maintenance issues for land owners and the street department
Milledgeville: Downtown Sidewalk Replacement	\$155,000	Yes USDA, IDOT's Safe Routes to School Program	Existing sidewalk in downtown district is deteriorating and in bad condition	2012		Replace existing sidewalk on west side of Main Avenue in downtown district
Milledgeville: First Street Storm Sewer Repair	\$225,000	Motor Fuel Tax, TIF, USDA, DCEO	Address storm sewer issues	2012	0	Coordinate with Old Mill Street Road repair project
Milledgeville: Main Avenue Road Repair	\$750,000	Motor Fuel Tax, TIF, USDA, DCEO, IDOT	Repair street - provide improved entrance to Village	2012	0	Reconstruct three blocks of existing road that leads to downtown district; does have heavy truck traffic
Milledgeville: New Industrial Park	\$2,500,000	IDOT EDP, DCEO, EDA	To provide improved lots for small business creation	2012	150	Create a new Industrial Park, complete with water, sewer, gas, electric and broadband.
Milledgeville: Old Mill Street Road Repair	\$925,000	Motor Fuel Tax, TIF, USDA, DCEO	Reconstruct street to address storm sewer issues	2012	0	Reconstruct six blocks of existing road with curb and gutter, storm sewer and new sidewalks
Milledgeville: Water Main Looping / Replacement Projects	\$1,100,000	Water Fund, DCEO, USDA, IEPA	To provide improved water service, increased pressure and improved fire flow	2012 to 2013	0	To eliminate undersized and dead-end water mains for an improved water system

<b>Morrison: Railroad Crossing</b>			Address Railroad Safety Issue	ASAP		Provide alternative routes across UP tracks for safety issue
<b>Mt. Carroll: Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements</b>	\$4,500,000	Sewer Fund, TIF, Bonding, DCEO, USDA, IEPA	To address identified problems at the wastewater treatment plant		0	To address identified improvements needed at the wastewater treatment plant to prolong the life of the facility
<b>Mt. Carroll: Commercial Street Infrastructure Extension</b>	\$130,000			2012		
<b>Mt. Carroll: Benton Street Road Repair</b>	\$200,000	Motor Fuel Tax, TIF, IDOT	Repair street to provide an improved roadway entrance to City	2012	0	Grinding, milling and repair of roadway base from Route 52/64 to Clay Street
<b>Mt. Carroll: Brick Street Replacement</b>	\$1.5 million	IDOT, General Fund, TIF, Historical Programs	To enhance and protect the City's existing brick streets - promote historical setting		0	To replace/improve the existing brick streets in the historic downtown district.
<b>Mt. Carroll: Commercial Street Extension</b>	\$90,000	Sewer & Water Fund, General Fund, TIF, DCEO, USDA	Provide infrastructure for a new commercial business	2012	6 to 8	Installation of 370' of water and sewer lines and roadway improvements for new business.
<b>Mt. Carroll: Galena Street Bridge Repair</b>	\$200,000	IDOT, Carroll County Bridge & Road, General Fund	To make the bridge structurally sound	2012	0	Structural report identified recommended improvements necessary to comply with IDOT standards.
<b>Mt. Carroll: New Industrial / Business Park</b>	\$1,500,000	TIF, bonding, DCEO, IDOT	Create new industrial / business park to provide land for new business development		50 to 100	Proposed new Park will be located along Route 52/64 and will have highway access. Develop 25-acre parcel; extend water, sewer and construct interior roadway for 10 improved lots.
<b>Mt. Carroll: North side Residential Development</b>	\$475,000	TIF, bonding	Create new residential subdivision			Extend water and sewer to northeast side of City; annex in land for new residential subdivision
<b>Mt. Carroll: Phase 2 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project</b>	\$1,300,000	Sewer Fund, General Fund, DCEO, USDA, IEPA	To address problems in sanitary sewer collection system		0	Repair and construct identified sanitary sewer mains throughout the collection system.
<b>Mt. Carroll: Sidewalk Replacement</b>	\$300,000	IDOT's Safe Routes to School, USDA	To encourage more people and kids to walk and bike more.		0	Construct new sidewalks along identified route from Middle School to Point Rock Park.
<b>Mt. Carroll: Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Plan</b>	\$50,000	Sewer Fund, General Fund	To study future needs for a new wastewater facility		0	An extension study of the existing wastewater treatment plant to provide recommendations for a future facility.
<b>Mt. Carroll: Water Main Looping / Replacement Projects</b>	\$1,500,000	Water Fund, DCEO, USDA, IEPA	To provide improved water service, increased pressure and improve fire flow	2012 to 2014	0	To eliminate undersized and dead-end water mains throughout the City for an improved water system
<b>Mt. Carroll: Renovation of the Campbell Center</b>			Provide assistance with development needs for site			To renovate to a multi-use community & ED opportunity for region
<b>Mt. Carroll: Renovation of the Kraft Building</b>			Provide assistance with development needs for site			To renovate to a multi-use community & ED opportunity for the downtown
<b>Mt. Morris: Community Facility Improvements</b>			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Improvements to municipal campus, band shell, Coliseum Building and museum
<b>Mt. Morris: Park Upgrades</b>			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Includes upgrades to existing 4 parks, as well as Coliseum shower/rest room improvements
<b>Mt. Morris: Public Works Upgrades</b>			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Upgrade current systems to increase capacity and support future growth
<b>Mt. Morris: Street-Scape</b>	\$250,000	Grant, MFT	Downtown Improvements	2012		Improve the appearance of Downtown Business District to enhance the area.
<b>Orangeville: High Street Lighting (Village Board)</b>	\$80,000	DCEO EECBG TIF General Fund	Public Safety, Conserve Energy, Enhance Tourism	Fall 2012	1	Replace lighting from Church to Mill with decorative LED fixtures and new poles & bases
<b>Orangeville: Water Tower Park Playground ( A Community Together (ACT), Village Board)</b>	\$2,000	Possible donated labor	Recreation	Fall 2012		Grade area add suitable substrate purchase/assemble equipment
<b>Orangeville: Covered Bridge (ACT, Northwest Illinois Trail Foundation (NWITF))</b>	\$2,000	Donated labor and materials	Recreation Tourism	Fall 2012/Summer 2013	2	Construct structure over existing JAT bridge
<b>Orangeville: Sidewalk Replacement (Village Board)</b>	\$17,000	General Fund/TIF	Public Safety/Livability	Summer 2012	Construct Contracts	Replace at abandoned or depressed properties

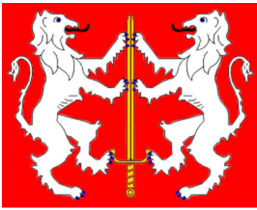
<b>Orangeville: Downtown Façade Improvement (Village Board)</b>	unknown	Landowner/TIF share	Economic Dvlpmnt Tourism	2012	Construct Contracts	Cost Share downtown façade upgrade IAW historical look/master plan
<b>Orangeville: 2012 Street Improvement (Village Board)</b>	\$52,700	Motor Fuel Tax	Public Safety/Livability	Summer 2012	Construct Contracts	Remove paving, recrown, curb & gutter High St. Main to Mill
<b>Orangeville: Sidewalk Replacement (Village/ School Boards)</b>	\$178,000	SRTS TIF General Fund	Public Safety/Livability	Fall 2012	Construct Contracts	4 Locations providing routes to Elem and Middle Schools
<b>Orangeville: Richland Creek Flood Mitigation (Village Board)</b>	Variable, especially land acquisition	Possible disaster mitigation grant COE	Public Safety (Flood Control) Recreation (fish habitat)	Spring/Summer 2012	Construct Contracts	Acquire flood plain property, stabilize stream bank
<b>Orangeville: Richland Creek Wetlands Overlook (ACT, NWITF)</b>	\$4,500	Memorial Gift/Some donated labor	Education and Recreation	Spring/Summer 2012 or earlier	Tourism, 2 jobs	Construct overlook platform/blind to observe wetlands wildlife
<b>Orangeville: Canoe Launch (ACT, NWITF)</b>		Donated labor	Recreation Tourism	Spring/Summer 2012	Tourism, 2 jobs	Construct a parking area, access ramp, and floating canoe launch on site of old sewage plant
<b>Orangeville: Gazebo (ACT NWITF)</b>	\$5,000	Donated labor	Recreation Tourism	Spring/Summer 2012		Construct a gazebo on the capped aeration tank of the old sewage plant
<b>Orangeville: 2012 Street Improvement (Village Board)</b>	\$50,000	Motor Fuel Tax	Public Safety/Livability	Summer 2012	Construct Contracts	Cyclical Seal Coating
<b>Orangeville: 2013 Street Improvement (Village Board)</b>	\$50,000	Motor Fuel Tax	Public Safety/Livability	Summer 2013	Construct Contracts	Cyclical Seal Coating
<b>Orangeville: 2014 Street Improvement (Village Board)</b>	\$50,000	Motor Fuel Tax	Public Safety/Livability	Summer 2014	Construct Contracts	Cyclical Seal Coating
<b>Oregon: Public Works Facilities</b>			Public Works Assistance	Anytime		Includes water, sewer, and street improvements to service industries in community and extensions to the northeast area
<b>Oregon: Roadway Upgrade</b>			Technical Assistance			Upgrade of 1st Street to a 120,000# roadway
<b>Oregon: Street Improvements</b>			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Improve streets, including curb, gutter, and sidewalks
<b>Oregon: Downtown Façade Upgrades</b>			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Improve the appearance of Downtown Business District to enhance the area.
<b>Paw Paw: I-39 Development Opportunities</b>			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Extend water and sewer to I-39 along Chicago Road to enhance ED opportunities
<b>Prophetstown: Genesis III</b>	\$300,000	No	Business Expansion	2012	5	
<b>Prophetstown: Lyndon Road Improvements</b>	\$300,000	USDA, State of IL, MFT	Public Works replacement	2012	8	Long over due replacement of Lyndon Road.
<b>Prophetstown: New Warehouse Construction</b>	\$400,000	No	Business Expansion	2012	5	Construction of a new warehouse for Sterling-Multi Products.
<b>Prophetstown: Street-Scape</b>	\$250,000	Grant, MFT	Downtown Improvements	2012		Improve the appearance of Downtown Business District to enhance the area.
<b>Prophetstown: Water and Sewer Separation</b>	\$800,000	CDAP	Public Safety	2012	5	
<b>Rochelle: Jack Dame Road Overpass/City of Rochelle</b>	\$14,000,000	City of Rochelle, IDOT, ICC	Grade Separation over 4 Railroad tracks	2012 -2012	200-300	Connects Rt 38 to I-39 and the Global III Intermodal Park
<b>Rochelle: City Airport Runway Extension/City of Rochelle</b>	\$7,000,000	FAA, City of Rochelle	Extend Airstrip to 5000 ft.	2012	100+	Runway extension will allow larger planes to land and be serviced in Rochelle
<b>Rochelle: City Industrial Rail Extension/City of Rochelle</b>	\$6,600,000	City of Rochelle, Developer, IDOT	Extend rail service to over 2000 acres	2012	200+	Rail System connects to both the UP and BNSF mainlines
<b>Rochelle: Ext. of Water &amp; Sewer lines/City of Rochelle</b>	\$3,400,000	CDAP grants, Developer,	Provide Utility services to new Industries	2012	200+	Provide water/sewer to industrial/commercial projects
<b>Rochelle: I-88/Thorpe Rd. Interchange/Ogle County</b>	35-40,000,000	IDOT, FHWA, Tollway Authority	Access on to I-88 from Intermodal Pk.	2012	100+	New interchange will reduce traffic in to City and improve truck access to I-88
<b>Rochelle: North Dement Road/Extension/City of Rochelle</b>	\$1,500,000	City of Rochelle, Developer, IDOT	Expansion of the Rochelle Tech Park	2012	50+	North Dement is a gravel road which needs upgrading
<b>Rochelle:Dement Road Extension/City of Rochelle</b>	\$5,500,000	Developer, IDOT, City of Rochelle	Connect Industrial Park to I-39 via overpass	2012	200-300	Truck access directly to I-39 w/o going through town
<b>Rochelle:Southwest Truck Loop/Ogle County</b>	\$3,500,000	City of Rochelle, Developer, IDOT	120,000# Truck Route	2012	100+	Connect Intermodal Park to sites to breakdown overweight loads to legal limits
<b>Rock City: Water System Improvements</b>	\$350,000	Water Funds	Upgrade existing water system with improvements to the distribution system and well 1 and construction of a backup well	2012	Temporary Construction Crews	Existing system is deficient in providing fire protection for the Village and has no backup well in the event of an emergency or the failure of Well 1

<b>Rock City: Main Street Improvements from Route 75 to Jefferson Street</b>	\$250,000	MFT Funds	Improvements to Main Street including drainage, curb and gutter and new pavement	Fall 2012	Temporary Construction Crews	The existing lift stations are in need of maintenance of the pumps and motors and the control systems for monitoring the alarm levels
<b>Rock Falls: East Second Street Extension</b>			Extension of East Second St. from Wood Ave. to Avenue A			
<b>Rock Falls: McNeil Road</b>			Upgrade of Existing Road			
<b>Rock Falls: Water and Sewer Extension</b>			Extension to McNeil Road from Industrial Park			
<b>Rock Falls: 5th Avenue Overlay</b>			Provide safe and secure roadway from schools to Route 30	Anytime	Construction jobs, Preserve retail	Overlay to protect access to high density population area providing access to schools and shopping.
<b>Rock Falls: West 12th Street Drainage</b>			Improve Street with severe drainage problems.	Anytime	Construction jobs, Preserve retail	Rebuild to provide safe and flood-free route for high density area including seniors to underutilized shopping centers from 1st Avenue to 5th Avenue.
<b>Rock Falls: West 13th Street Improvement</b>			Improve Street between retail shops that depend on traffic for survival.	Anytime	Construction jobs, Preserve retail	Rebuild to provide safe and flood-free access to retail area of 1st Ave. (Rt. 40).
<b>Savanna: North 4th Street Road Rehabilitation Project</b>	\$230,000	\$80,000 CDAP and \$150,000 City Funds		Summer 2012		
<b>Savanna: North East Water Main</b>	\$420,000			2012		
<b>Savanna: Sewer Lining Project</b>	\$350,000	CDAP and City Funds		2012		
<b>Savanna: Super 8 Water Main Extension Project</b>	\$925,000			2012		New city main to benefit city and Sullivan's Property
<b>Scales Mound: Improvements to storm and sanitary sewers as well as the water system</b>			Improve existing system for residents and development	Anytime		Repair sewer lines to reduce clean water infiltration and provide services to new areas and increase water pressure in existing areas.
<b>Scales Mound: Development of Charles Mound</b>			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Obtain land acquisition and development of Charles Mound site as a tourist destination
<b>Sterling: Public Works and Facilities for Industrial Parks</b>						
<b>Sterling: Riverfront Project Development for Multi-Use Facilities and Infrastructure</b>						
<b>Sterling: Broadband Access in Industrial Parks</b>						
<b>Stockton: Dollar Store</b>	?	TIF	Provide retail store with a variety of goods for local residents		??	Attract a dollar store to the Village that sells merchandise at a low cost and provides reasonably priced clothing
<b>Stockton: DURA Road Project</b>	\$2,500,000	Jo Daviess County Road & Bridge, TIF, IDOT (secured), DCEO, Bonding	Provide weighted street through new Industrial Park for redirected truck traffic from Carpenter Ave.	2012	200+	Construct a new road from Simmons to Route 78 through new Industrial Park area to handle truck traffic from DURA Automotive
<b>Stockton: East Carpenter Avenue Road Improvements</b>	\$400,000	Motor Fuel Tax, Jo Daviess County Road & Bridge, IDOT	Repair street, redirect truck traffic and add sidewalks to provide a better and safer road		0	Large volume of heavy truck traffic. Complete tear out and rebuild of road from Route 78 to Simmons; construct new sidewalk.
<b>Stockton: New Community Building</b>	\$750,000	General Fund, Bonding	To provide a community building for community events		0	Construct a new community building that could house 200 to 300 people. Provide open meeting space with kitchen facilities.
<b>Stockton: New Industrial Park</b>	?	General Fund, TIF, Bonding	To create a new Industrial Park to provide land for light manufacturing		100 to 200	The new proposed Industrial Park area is located at the south side of the Village near existing industry. The DURA roadway project will provide a new road through Park area.
<b>Stockton: North Stockton Street Roadway Improvements</b>	\$500,000	Motor Fuel Tax, Jo Daviess County Road & Bridge, IDOT	Provide weighted street for truck traffic			Roadway improvements at intersection of Route 20 and N. Stockton Street; accommodate heavy truck traffic from Stockton Travel Center
<b>Stockton: Roadway Improvement Projects</b>	\$400,000	Motor Fuel Tax, Jo Daviess County Road & Bridge, IDOT	Repair streets to provide improved travel safety	2012 to 2014	0	Roadway repairs on East Benton Avenue, East Front Avenue, Rush Street and Simmons Street
<b>Stockton: Senior Housing Complex</b>	?	TIF, Tax Credits, Bonding	Provide senior housing living		??	Construct a senior housing facility near existing nursing



			facilities for the elderly			home. Provide apartments and assisted living facilities
<b>Stockton: Sidewalk Construction / Replacement Program</b>	\$200,000	General Fund, IDOT's Safe Routes to School	Construct new sidewalks and repair existing to provide a safer walking environment	2012/2012	0	Construct new sidewalk along Carpenter from Route 78 to Simmons; new sidewalk along Railroad from Route 78 to Post Office; new sidewalk along Rush Street.
<b>Stockton: Water Main Replacement Program</b>	\$1,100,000	Water Fund, DCEO, USDA, IEPA	To provide improved water service, increased pressure and improved fire flow	2012	0	To replace undersized and dead-end water mains throughout the Village for an improved water system
<b>Stockton: West Railroad Avenue Road Improvements</b>	\$400,000	Motor Fuel Tax, Jo Daviess County Road & Bridge, IDOT	Provide weighted street for trucks and safer road for pedestrians		10	Complete tear out and rebuild to 80,000 lb roadway from Route 78 to North Rush Street; widened with storm drains and add sidewalk
<b>Stockton: Wind Turbine Manufacturing Facility</b>	?	TIF, Bonding, DCEO, USDA	To diversify industry and attract a manufacturer of wind turbines		??	To work with EcoEnergy and Highland Community College and attract a manufacturer associated with wind turbines to the new Industrial Park area
<b>Sublette: Water Tower Construction</b>	\$875,000	?	Improve the water system throughout the Village	Anytime funding is available		Provide adequate water supply for Village and future development through construction of a new Tower
<b>Sublette: Public Works Upgrades</b>			Technical Assistance			Upgrade current systems to increase capacity and support future growth
<b>Sublette: Street Improvements</b>			Technical Assistance	Anytime		Improve streets, including curb, gutter, and sidewalks
<b>Thomson: Technical Assistance with Facility Upgrades for Potential Ethanol/Biodiesel Plant</b>			Compile Planning Information for preparation of future development needs	TBA		Provide assistance with planning to upgrade public works at edge of town to enhance development opportunities
<b>Thomson: Sand Ridge Road Upgrade to 80,000#</b>	\$1,400,000	IDOT, EDP, TARP	Upgrade of the road to support truck traffic	2012	35-40	Upgrade Sand Ridge Road to an 80,000# road to support potential truck traffic associated with BioMass Plant
<b>Thomson: Sewer Lining</b>	\$70,000	Village General Fund or Water/Sewer Fund		2012		
<b>Warren: Demolition of old water tower</b>	\$30,000		Demolish of old water tower and haul away of material.	Anytime		Water tower was replaced in 2004. Much of materials will be recycled, keeping the cost relatively low.
<b>Warren: Water System Upgrades</b>	\$391,000	ARRA/DCEO Grant & In-Kind Labor Match	New Water Meters and Repair to Well #4	2012		
<b>Warren: Sewer System Upgrades</b>	\$468,762	DCEO Grant with a match	System Improvements	2012		
<b>Warren: Water Tower Project</b>	\$50,000	Second half of 2012 Grant	Demolition or Refurbishment of Old Water Tower	2012		
<b>Warren: Highway 78 Improvements</b>	\$1,380,000	IDOT and Village	Resurfacing of Highway 78	2012		Resurfacing of parking lanes, manholes and inlets.
<b>White Rock Township: Construction of Sanitary Sewer System</b>	\$30,000 Engin. Fees \$2,000,000 Project Cost		Construction of lift station and force-main from Rochelle	Spring 2012		Community currently lacks a functioning sewer system and needs funds to construct system.
<b>Whiteside County: US Highway 30 and Route 2 Infrastructure Upgrades</b>	\$1,600,000		Provide adequate infrastructure along Route 30 near the Wal-mart Distribution Center.	Anytime		Implementation of infrastructure needs along Route 30 and Route 2 to provide service to future business.
<b>Whiteside County: Land Use/Strategic Planning for County Development Needs</b>	\$75,000	Match by Whiteside County Enterprise Zone Management Organization	Compile Planning Information for preparation of future growth needs	Anytime		Completion of a Planning Process to improve development opportunities throughout the County
<b>Whiteside County: Black Road</b>	\$950,000	MFT Funds	Reconstruct Black Rd. over Drainage Ditch			Need reconstructed to carry 80,000# loads. Truck route for Hyponex Corp & Markman Peat Corp.
<b>Whiteside County: Black Road</b>	\$950,000	MFT Funds	Reconstruct Black Rd. over Rock Creek			Need reconstructed to carry 80,000# loads. Truck route for Hyponex Corp & Markman Peat Corp.
<b>York Township: Road for Future JCE BioMass Plant</b>			To construct 80,000 # Road to the BioMass Plant	2012		Upgrade road to support 80,000# truck traffic

# Blackhawk Hills would like to thank our financial supporters:



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Jo Daviess County, Illinois



Lee County, Illinois



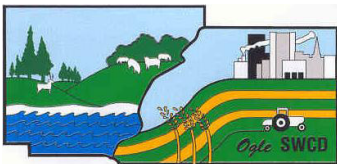
Ogle County, Illinois



Carroll County SWCD



Soil and Water Conservation District



Whiteside County SWCD



**If you would like Blackhawk Hills to be involved in a program or project, or if you would like to donate to Blackhawk Hills, please contact us.**

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