

**CITY OF BATAVIA
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: REGIONAL AND INTERJURISDICTIONAL ISSUES
ELEMENT**

Northeastern Illinois is home to hundreds of local governments and other units of jurisdiction. Each property in northeastern Illinois is located wholly or partially in several of these jurisdictional and governmental units. The City of Batavia is just one of these entities. For any unit of jurisdiction to effectively navigate through the complex system of local governments, each jurisdiction needs to establish goals and policies to address its working relationship with these other jurisdictions.

The Regional and Interjurisdictional Element is intended to identify issues the City faces now and in the future in working cooperatively with other jurisdictions for the controlled growth, development, and redevelopment of Batavia's Planning Area. In addition, this Element recognizes the importance of Batavia's role in the continuing growth and evolution of the Fox Valley, Kane and DuPage Counties, and beyond.

Background

Located in the heart of the Fox Valley in northeastern Illinois, Batavia's unique character is largely attributed to the beauty of the Fox River and the surrounding natural environment. The City likewise is surrounded by a variety of government and special service jurisdictions. Many of these jurisdictions have the authority to allow for land uses and development that can affect areas outside of its own jurisdiction. In turn, Batavia's land use decisions can affect conditions in other jurisdictions.

All jurisdictions need to rely on each other to allow reasonable and predictable use and development of land. This can allow for each jurisdiction to plan effectively to best serve its constituents, and be responsible stewards for the natural environment and for the economic and livability conditions of the area. These jurisdictions must communicate openly and effectively and work together to balance each one's own agenda with the overall good of the broader Fox Valley community.

The common denominator among all these jurisdictions is that each covers a defined area of land. Where jurisdictions' spheres of influence adjoin or overlap, the issue of cooperation among jurisdictions is heightened. The City of Batavia has a strong history of outreach and collaboration with the surrounding region and neighboring jurisdictions. At the same time, the City is committed to improving its communication with these jurisdictions. The Comprehensive Plan plays an important part in establishing goals and policies to guide the City as it evolves, and to cooperate with and respect the sovereignty of its neighbors.

Other governments and jurisdictional areas include:

- Municipalities
- Township governments
- County governments
- The State of Illinois
- United States Federal Government
- School districts
- Community college districts
- Park districts
- Library districts
- Fire districts
- Public safety/emergency response districts
- Sanitary sewer districts

Issues

The items listed below are the most important issues the City of Batavia must consider in formulating goals and policies to address its communication with other units of government and entities regarding land development and redevelopment. These issues are:

1. Coordination among jurisdictions. Northeastern Illinois is a tapestry of interlocking and overlapping units of government and areas of jurisdiction. To effectively to plan for any jurisdiction, coordination among jurisdictional units is essential to the prosperity of each and the region.
2. External effects of decisions. Land use decisions can profoundly affect quality of life outside of the jurisdiction of origin.
3. Regional land use authority. Northeastern Illinois does not have a regulatory regional planning authority.
4. Unincorporated territory. Many properties adjacent to Batavia are unincorporated. Future development likely would require annexation by a municipality that can best serve the site.
5. Utility service. The City's defined Planning Area includes properties that may be served by Batavia utilities or more easily served by those of neighboring municipalities. In addition, some properties within Batavia's Planning Area may never be able to be served by Batavia.
6. County "islands." The City essentially surrounds several individual properties and groups of adjoining properties with established uses that form unincorporated "islands" within the City limits. Unincorporated islands pose difficulties providing swift and efficient public safety response and delivery of basic local government services.
7. Emergency service interdependence. Municipalities, townships, and county governments often are dependent on each other for emergency assistance.
8. Population growth and natural resources. Increasing land development within Batavia and nearby communities places pressures on ecosystems and water supply for all.

Goals and Policies

Goal 1: Increase awareness of the regional context in which local government decisions are made to increase efficiency of infrastructure improvements, manage traffic, and protect the environment

Policies

- a. Be a leader in fostering effective intergovernmental cooperation within the Fox Valley area
- b. Consult comprehensive plans and recommendations of other jurisdictions and agencies when Batavia land use and capital investment decisions are made
- c. Participate in long-range planning activities of neighboring jurisdictions and regional agencies that have potential to affect Batavia
- d. Consider effects to supply of natural resources and disturbances to flora and wildlife habitats in light of land use policies among jurisdictions
- e. Engage landowners of significant properties within the planning area in the City's planning process
- f. Encourage landowners of significant properties within the City's planning area to conduct their own long-range land use planning efforts and to seek input from the community

Goal 2: Review all boundary and service area agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to determine if adjustments are appropriate. Establish such agreements where none exist

Policies

- a. Include development agreements within boundary agreements on properties where development most affects both jurisdictions
- b. Review expiration dates of intergovernmental agreements to determine if new agreements are needed when opportunities arise
- c. Where possible, attempt to make jurisdictional and service area boundaries more rational

Goal 3: Eliminate negative effects of unincorporated properties essentially surrounded by the City

Policies

- a. Do not allow annexations that would create or reduce the size of properties either surrounded by or essentially surrounded by the City
- b. Maximize opportunities to eliminate unincorporated islands when annexation proposals are considered
- c. Establish annexation requirements appropriate for vacant and developed land
- d. Investigate infrastructure improvement needs as part of the annexation process, or if utility service is requested without annexation
- e. Develop a plan for conversion to City electric service upon annexation (consider developing a plan to convert all properties within Batavia's planning area)

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- f. Coordinate with County Sheriff for public safety response support
- g. Coordinate with County administrative government departments for code compliance support

Goal 4: Expand telecommunication through joint efforts among governments, utility providers, research and educational institutions

Policies

- a. Engage efforts of local councils of governments and regional planning agencies
- b. Work with FermiLab to expand communication utility facilities on its property
- c. Review improvement opportunities with franchise renewals or awards
- d. Invite institutions of higher learning to partner with the City in contributing to telecommunication network improvement
- e. Support efforts to provide quality wireless internet service within the City