

# Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park

## Community Sustainability Plan







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# INTRODUCTION

## The Need for a Sustainability Plan

The exhibit *'Rooted: The Richness of Land and Culture'* opened at the Pembroke Township Library in December 2015. It was developed by a group of residents from Pembroke/ Hopkins Park along with Chicago's Field Museum. The exhibit's title touched on the area's richness for both people and nature.

Richness for people is strongly expressed in that term — “rooted.” Pembroke people have loved their home dearly for a long time, and are determined for it to have a prosperous future.

Richness for nature is revealed in the area's rare black oak-savanna habitats that harbor one of the few remaining views of what the “Prairie State” looked like before landscape conversion to agriculture and intense development. Conservation organizations have moved to secure these remnants for future generations.

But along the way to securing a rich future for both people and nature, visions have diverged and questions have cropped up, such as how much land should be protected for conservation in Pembroke/Hopkins Park? Can people agree on where land should be protected, how, and by whom? How does land conservation relate to broader questions of the economic and cultural sustainability of the local community?

Such questions have been further prodded by big events that affect the Township. In May 2016, the US Fish and Wildlife Service established the new Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area through acceptance of a donation of land in Iroquois County. The area that is authorized for limited refuge land acquisitions includes key portions of Pembroke Township. Just to the north of the Township large infrastructure projects — including an airport, a toll road, and a new railroad — have been proposed. Within the Township concerns persist about economic security, population stability, and quality of life for the next generation who will call the area home.

These questions, rooted in sustaining the richness of land, culture, and community for Pembroke/Hopkins Park, have prompted this plan.

The idea for this plan was an outgrowth of an agreement entered in April 2016 and announced at a press conference in May 2016 between interested

and invested organizations: the Village of Hopkins Park, Pembroke Township, Pembroke Consolidated School District #259, Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission, Economic Alliance of Kankakee County, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Field Museum. The group agreed to prepare a Sustainability Plan “to preserve and sustain the community history, culture, and natural environments in addition to land preservation for current residents and future generations.” It would focus on “enhancing the quality of life and economic growth of current residents and future generations.” The group agreed to a planning boundary that focused on the areas of Pembroke Township of highest conservation interest. (See map in Appendix.)

The signers agreed that the Field Museum would coordinate the planning process, including raising funds to support the work and engaging a planner to advise, consult and prepare the plan. The Museum subsequently secured funding from The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation and engaged Dr. Andrew Greenlee of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

This sustainability plan used the Museum’s Quality of Life<sup>1</sup> planning methods and incorporated a series of “town hall”-type public meetings to receive community input.

The planners conducted further interviews with community residents and experts on specific questions to develop the recommendations found here. The planners have viewed the primary audience of the plan as the “current residents and future generations” of Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park.

The plan includes specific recommendations for how its advice may be embraced by local residents going forward, whether through formal political institutions or via freestanding associations of residents. Other stakeholders, including many of the natural resource conservation stakeholders who have an interest in the community (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission), have stated that they will consider the plan recommendations to help guide their actions as well. Although the Sustainability Plan itself is not legally binding, local governments such as Pembroke Township or the Village of Hopkins Park could choose to officially adopt the plan.

This first section of the plan says what it’s about and how it was prepared. It includes the plan’s core – proposed action steps that can set a course to sustainability. The middle section sets the scene of this unique landscape and its people. The final section discusses the action steps in more detail. An appendix includes important tables, maps, and references to key sources used in the preparation of this plan.



## What is a Sustainability Plan?

There are many different kinds of plans: comprehensive plans, land use plans, infrastructure plans, open space plans, and so forth. Some plans can be very specific for a particular local area or a corridor; others can be more regional in scope.

However diverse they are, every plan is written for a specific time and place and for a specific purpose. This plan grew from a local desire to resolve questions concerning the acquisition of land for conservation purposes in Pembroke Township by various conservation organizations. After much discussion, it was agreed that the best answers to these questions would occur within a long-range framework for the sustainability of Pembroke/Hopkins Park.

So this plan is not a “comprehensive plan,” such as the one prepared by the Kankakee County planning staff in the year 2000.<sup>2</sup> That plan was not adopted. However, it contained excellent research and good ideas which form some of the basis for this plan.

The plan is also not a traditional “land use plan.” However, how the land in the area is used is an ingredient in its sustainability. Arguably, the area’s past patterns of development have contributed to sustainability issues, straining the ability to provide adequate public services, to create a community economic “center,” and to ensure that land can be conveyed unhampered from one generation to the next. At the same time, conservation purchases of small parcels have created concerns regarding infrastructure and development, while raising questions about long-term land use and conservation goals. Given these issues, working towards consensus on land use planning principles is a key element of the recommended strategy to achieve long- term community sustainability in this plan.



While the plan articulates a community vision and recommends actions to achieve that vision, it does not prescribe how the vision should be achieved.

The plan provides recommendations which can be interpreted by community members and other stakeholders, but is not legally binding. It is the responsibility of the community (including elected leaders, residents, landowners, and other non-resident stakeholders) to develop a framework for accountability around achieving sustainability planning goals.

## What is meant by “sustainability”?

Sustainability has many definitions. One we find particularly useful in this context comes from the sustainability non-profit Forum for the Future:<sup>3</sup>

**Sustainability is a dynamic process which enables people to realize their potential and improve their quality of life in a way which simultaneously protects and enhances the earth’s life support systems.**

Principles of sustainability bring into balance concerns about the natural and physical environment, economy, and social relationships and relate them to each other.

To achieve the vision of sustainability where both local residents and nature thrive on a globally significant landscape, the plan considers not just a set of outcomes and action steps, but suggestions as to “how” decisions can be arrived at. To that end, it adopts the following principles:

- A broad cross-section of the community needs to be engaged in the process.
- Stakeholders should honor their commitments and obligations.
- Decision-making should be participatory and open
- Participants should respect differences and be flexible in accepting new ideas.
- The process should include opportunities to share out and reflect upon findings.

To achieve these principles, this plan is organized around the following areas:

- Cultural vitality: Preserving and celebrating local culture, heritage and traditions
- Economic health and social equity: Sustaining and growing the local economy for all
- Environmental responsibility: Building community and strategic connections around natural resources
- Planning for future land use, infrastructure, and institutions



For each of these topics, the plan describes current conditions, articulates a community vision for the sustainable future of this area, and provides a series of recommendations for principles and actions to be taken to achieve the vision over the next ten years.

The plan's proposed action steps are shown in the following table, with an additional column to highlight steps that involve the development of new generations of leadership. Some of these actions can be taken immediately. Many will need appropriate funding to get underway. Pilot projects can be undertaken with a goal to see substantial advances in the short term. They appear as Phase I steps on the table, followed by suggested Phase II steps for the longer term.

## Planning Process

The exhibit that opened in December 2015 at Pembroke Township Public Library provided a springboard for this plan. The *Rooted* exhibit was anchored in the rich assets of the Pembroke community. Community members shared their decades of knowledge and unique individual stories to create the exhibit and fuel the quality of life planning process.

The Quality of Life process coordinated by the Field Museum followed the exhibit and ran from March to June 2016. Over 100 Pembroke/Hopkins Park residents and stakeholders, gathered in small focus groups, took part in the three-stage process. Sessions took place at the Community Center, the Senior Center, Bible Witness Camp, Rehoboth Church, and St. Anne Woods Community Chapel. Participants embodied a range of interests and experiences, and included small organic and large commercial farmers, ranchers, leaders of the faith community, youth, elders,

## PEMBROKE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ACTION STEPS: PHASE I

- Area A: Preserving and Celebrating Local Culture, Heritage, and Traditions
- Area B: Sustaining and Growing the Local Economy
- Area C: Building Community and Strategic Connections Around Natural Resources
- Area D: Planning for Future Land Use, Infrastructure, and Institutions
- Area E: Developing Generational Leadership

Action Step	AREA				
	A	B	C	D	E
Create partnerships between the PHP Community Development Corporation and sustainability partners to support the community's Sustainability Plan and Quality of Life Assessment					
Continue and expand the Youth Conservation Corps, a US Fish and Wildlife Service summer program that employs and trains local youth and leaders in environmental conservation					
Develop a plan and proposal for a Pembroke Township Heritage Trail					
– Conduct a survey of historical resources					
– Create signage and other wayfinding					
– Create a proposal for funding of the Heritage Trail and implementation projects					
Develop a seed sourcing network					
– Develop community gardens as “seed” sources and engage the community in planting indigenous/native gardens to attract the birds and butterflies that also live in our community					
– Connect local growers to seed buyers outside the community when possible					
Increase the accessibility of employment and workforce training opportunities					
Draft an initial set of guidelines for identifying land appropriate for conservation and development					



## PEMBROKE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ACTION STEPS: PHASE II AND BEYOND

- Area A: Preserving and Celebrating Local Culture, Heritage, and Traditions
- Area B: Sustaining and Growing the Local Economy
- Area C: Building Community and Strategic Connections Around Natural Resources
- Area D: Planning for Future Land Use, Infrastructure, and Institutions
- Area E: Developing Generational Leadership

Action Step	AREA				
	A	B	C	D	E
Develop a plan for ongoing community education in sustainability that draws on partner networks locally, regionally, and nationally					
– Identify sustainable funding for STEM and environmental education opportunities at Lorenzo R. Smith Sustainability and Technology Academy					
– Integrate local culture and heritage into school curricula and youth development activities					
Resolve the status of the Cemetery's management					
Support the continued development of the Pembroke Library as a center for recreational, educational, and social activities					
Develop a plan and proposal for a Nature Center/Visitor Center/Museum					
Develop a Youth Leadership Action Committee					
Support the development of cultural heritage, environmental tourism, and agricultural tourism activities					
Develop a recreational trail network					
Expand cultural heritage tourism business by building on existing opportunities including festivals, rodeos and horse trails, and environmentally significant sites.					
Foster a physical environment that enhances the “green marketing persona” of Pembroke					
Encourage the expansion of retail opportunities					
Educate landowners about their legal rights and responsibilities					

## PEMBROKE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ACTION STEPS: PHASE II AND BEYOND, CONTINUED

- Area A: Preserving and Celebrating Local Culture, Heritage, and Traditions
- Area B: Sustaining and Growing the Local Economy
- Area C: Building Community and Strategic Connections Around Natural Resources
- Area D: Planning for Future Land Use, Infrastructure, and Institutions
- Area E: Developing Generational Leadership

Action Step	AREA				
	A	B	C	D	E
Develop a community sustainable housing plan					
– Repair existing housing stock					
– Develop an alternative energy plan for homeowners, including solar and weatherization					
Develop a green community economic development plan					
Develop a community energy policy					
Develop a community waste management and resource recovery strategy					
Support a local planning and action committee aimed at addressing local environmental hazards such as clear cutting, dumping, hazardous waste, ground & water contamination, noise and chemical pollution					
Make appropriate transportation improvements, especially for pedestrians					
Increase the accessibility of employment and workforce training opportunities within the green economy including conservation, wind/solar technologies and green/LEED building and construction					
Integrate sustainability with economic development opportunities					
Support Pembroke farmers with collective growing efforts, technical assistance, connections to markets, and on-farm infrastructure development projects					
Refine and work with Sustainability partners to implement a set of guidelines for identifying land appropriate for conservation and development					
Approve only new residential, commercial, and industrial developments which can be adequately served by existing Village and Township infrastructure, and which maintain and reflect the area's small town and rural atmosphere					
Build community consensus for growth and development along the Pembroke/Hopkins Park development corridor					

PEMBROKE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ACTION STEPS: PHASE II AND BEYOND, CONTINUED

- Area A: Preserving and Celebrating Local Culture, Heritage, and Traditions
- Area B: Sustaining and Growing the Local Economy
- Area C: Building Community and Strategic Connections Around Natural Resources
- Area D: Planning for Future Land Use, Infrastructure, and Institutions
- Area E: Developing Generational Leadership

Action Step	AREA				
	A	B	C	D	E
Provide adequate development opportunities while recognizing the need to preserve environmentally sensitive areas					
Manage local natural areas, in tandem with community development, through a local employment program and volunteer network					
Continue supporting a seed sourcing network					
Provide open space and recreational opportunities to enhance the quality of life for residents					
Work closely with federal, state, and local agencies to preserve environmentally sensitive areas					
Work with Riverside Hospital to develop a “nature prescription” program					
Connect to statewide efforts supporting the action steps here					



new landowners and longtime residents. The findings from these sessions were supported by additional research done in conjunction with the exhibit process and previous asset mapping conducted by the Field Museum.

The main goals of the Quality of Life Process were 1) to stimulate and guide meaningful conversations around matters important for the quality of life of individuals, families and the overall community of Pembroke/Hopkins Park, and 2) to encourage residents to become active planners, change agents, and owners of their community's future by identifying core values and available and sustainable resources and by determining attainable short and long term goals for the benefit of the overall community. The process involved the creation of a "community crest," asset maps, quality of life assessments, a statement of principles, and an inventory of factors of change and future scenarios.

Taken as a whole, the Quality of Life Planning Process provided a critical space for the voices and visions of community members to be heard. This Sustainability Plan utilizes the results of the Quality of Life Process including the statements of principles, the asset map, and the focus areas of recommendation.

The statement of principles are as follows:

- *We are a multi-cultural community of landowners and residents who believe in the right of empowerment living in peace with the hopes of a progressive, sustainable future.*
- *We are determined to steward our naturally rich, biodiverse resources to enhance our quality of life.*
- *We are a caring community rich in resources, talent, skills, wisdom, and good stewards of the land.*
- *We believe in God, the power of education and people — also environmental growth and protection.*
- *We value diverse people, land, animals, pure air and water, homes, peace and tranquility, and culture.*

The Quality of Life process also involved extensive mapping of community assets and an assessment of quality of life categories: culture, natural resources, social relationships, politics, and economy. The map reveals a remarkable array of assets, which are not only important foundations of community quality of life, but key places to know when considering future land use in the Township (see map on p. 23).

This Sustainability Plan builds on the key recommendations of the Quality of Life Process, and the basic categories of community, economy, and environment are built into the structure of this plan. Four community workshops were held at the

Pembroke Public Library to further explore issues raised in the Quality of Life process. Workshops and topics included:

- Existing conditions and moving forward in the plan process, October 11, 2016
- Natural resources, December 13, 2016
- Economy and politics, January 10, 2017
- Heritage, education, and faith, February 21, 2017

A separate session on tax issues was organized in March, 2017. Each session was marked by healthy discussion. As ideas were developed, small groups were formed to help drive the process forward. Much of the information contained below is a direct outcome from these sessions.

The plan is also informed by individual interviews and focus groups with local residents, direct interviews with public officials, independent research, and the professional judgement of the plan authors.

As the process unfolded, it also became increasingly evident that a strong non-political voice for community quality of life would help to sustain the effort into the future.

## Plan scope

As mentioned earlier, this plan is not designed to be comprehensive. While ten years may seem like a long way to look into the future, many traditional plans are designed to look 30 years ahead. Ten years was chosen as an appropriate timeframe for this plan to blend the need to be visionary with the stated need to take steps now. As circumstances naturally evolve and efforts to actualize plan goals are implemented, this plan should be updated accordingly. A recent development is the renewed effort to bring natural gas to Hopkins Park.

By its nature, focusing on issues related to sustaining the local natural, cultural, and economic environment have a broad reach into community quality of life. As such, this plan may serve as the basis for future planning efforts that look beyond the scope outlined above. The plan also provides several recommendations for areas which merit more in-depth engagement and planning.

It would be not be realistic to build a plan for the future that ignored the unique way that people and place came together in Pembroke/Hopkins Park. The people of Pembroke/Hopkins Park face particular opportunities and challenges that grow from when, how, and where the community developed. The next ten pages treat these points briefly — not to present a comprehensive history of the region, but to remind us of the richness that is to be sustained. After that, the planning framework and recommendations begin on p. 27 below. (Key steps are also summarized above on p. 6-9.)





# PEMBROKE/HOPKINS PARK TODAY

## Location: close, but far

Pembroke Township and the Village of Hopkins Park are often depicted as “remote,” and for historical reasons that was often true. While the early Hubbard’s Trace from Vincennes to Chicago cut through the Township, the main north-south routes through eastern Kankakee County — Illinois Highway 1 and the mainline of what was built as the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad (now the Union Pacific) — swing to the west of the Township. For years, road conditions in Pembroke made travel difficult, and in some places, still do. But with paved highways, the place is readily accessible: from Hopkins Park it is 80 minutes to City Hall in Chicago and a little more than 20 minutes from the Kankakee County Courthouse. The city of Momence is 15 minutes to the north and St. Anne 15 minutes to the west.

On the other hand, these times and distances can seem “far” if they represent trips to the nearest full-service grocery store, hospital, or high school. And other things can contribute to feeling at the margins: the Township’s 52 square miles lie in the far southeastern portion of Kankakee County, butting up against the state of Indiana; wet sandy soils and dry sandy dunes created challenges to modern commercial farming and road building; it remains disconnected from the natural gas grid; and

the social distances posed by race and class have tended to move some residents to the margins of political and economic power. These elements will reappear in discussing the community's sustainability within this plan.

## **An asset for sustainability: the globally rare landscape**

When his wagons trundled his large family into eastern Kankakee County around 1862 during the Civil War, being off the beaten path might have been precisely what Joseph (Pap) Tetter had in mind. The Tettters became the first African American family to settle in the region. What would they have seen around them, from their vantage point near today's Old Hopkins Park?

The flat parts of the landscape were comprised of wet prairies, marshes, flatwoods, and sedge meadows. Trees broke the horizon, growing on the scattered sandy hills that rise nearly one hundred feet above the marsh. The wetness and the sands would make farming in the region a more difficult proposition than most other places where loamy soils occurred under prairies, but the particular mesh of lifestyles and landscapes would ensure the preservation of one of the most important remaining examples of a particularly beautiful landscape: the black oak savanna.

Black oak savannas are park-like landscapes of mixed grassland and forest. While black oak savanna is common in Pembroke Township, only one percent of the original black oak savanna in the United States remains in existence today.<sup>4</sup> As such they are a significant asset to the people of Pembroke and many others. The savannas are rich in plants and animals, including some that are rare and endangered; they provide a buffer from sound and dust; they attract recreational tourists; and they grace the community with beauty. The savannas contain dozens of rare plant species, including the largest Illinois population of the endangered orange-fringed orchid and the only known population in the state of yellow false indigo. The plains pocket gopher plays a key role in maintaining soil health by loosening the soil and moving nutrients from deep in the ground to the surface. The mix of grasses and black oaks is perfect habitat for the red-headed woodpecker, an iconic species in decline across much of the state.

Fire plays an important role in the prairie landscape. Fires set by humans, beginning with Native Americans, played a major role in creating and sustaining Illinois prairies. As the landscape became more settled, fires were often suppressed, although even today brushfire and household waste fires are not easy to control and the all-volunteer Pembroke Fire Protection District is especially challenged by these fires. However, prescribed fires are an important ongoing management tool in places

where the goal is to sustain the ecological health of the unique habitat. The Nature Conservancy and other conservation partners have teamed up with local volunteer fire fighters to help suppress wildfires. Also, the Nature Conservancy and the University of Illinois' Fire Institute recently held a training class for local volunteer fire departments to help train them in wildland fire suppression techniques.

The savannas occur a few miles south of the Kankakee River, another well-known natural resource in the region. At one time the Grand Kankakee Marsh was famous as “The Everglades of the North”<sup>5</sup> — (and in fact a recent film by that name featured Pembroke residents). But the Marsh was drained for the most part, and is now primarily agricultural.

The dunes of the Pembroke area were once a part of the Grand Kankakee Marsh, which was a mosaic of wet soils and dry high dunes. A few scattered wetlands may be found within a couple miles of the four-way intersection, five of them larger than five acres in size. In addition, portions of this area have also been mapped as part of a 500- year flood zone, an indication that they are low-lying and not particularly well-drained.

Conservation groups are interested both in the black oak savannas and in the wetlands. In 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established a new Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area that will be composed of portions of both types of habitat, to be purchased from willing sellers and donors.

## **Pembroke: a unique cultural landscape**

A geographer once wrote that “a landscape is a medal struck in the likeness of its people.”<sup>6</sup> Since the Tettlers, a unique human stamp has been placed on the landscape of Pembroke, which, together with its natural endowments, make Pembroke one of the most distinctive places in the state of Illinois. One need drive only a few miles in any direction to see lands where rural Illinois gleams as the buckle in the Corn Belt: very large farm operations with few livestock (except in specialized confined operations); massive investments in machinery, drainage, irrigation, pesticides, and fertilizers; few fences; and fewer people as farms become larger. The farms near Hopkins Park, on the other hand, see smaller farm operations with a more diverse set of crops and some livestock, including horses; more seasonal and year-round residences scattered through the community; and a set of churches and cultural institutions that signal the strong and enduring presence of the African American community. Since this plan aims to preserve this distinctive landscape in a way that creates opportunity for its residents, it is worth considering briefly how it was formed.



Several key elements play a part in stamping the community with a particular likeness: how the Pembroke area came to be governed; how and where the community was connected to the outside world; how the land was used and how it was subdivided; and who chose to make the community their home.

**Independent political identity.** Twenty-four years after Kankakee County was formed in 1853, Pembroke Township finally came into existence as separate from both Momence and St. Anne Townships. Its 52 square miles make it the largest township in the County.

Nearly 100 years later, in 1974, the citizens of Pembroke voted to incorporate the mile square sections 20 and 21 into a Village. In 1988, the Village changed its name to Hopkins Park. By 2017, annexation nearly doubled the original size of the Village to just shy of four square miles.

**Branch line railroads.** For years, the primary connection to the region was via railroad. But while the developments that formed along other railroad lines were in many cases successful in other parts of Kankakee County, in Pembroke Township, only two small settlements appeared, the original Village of Hopkins Park and the original Town of Pembroke. Before and after the turn of the twentieth century, the railroads were instrumental in attracting hunters and wildlife enthusiasts to the region, an aspect of its remoteness yet proximity to nearby Chicago.

From Momence, the “Coal Branch,” built in the 1890s, ran diagonally from the northwest corner of the Township to Leesville in the southeast corner. On this line, the village of Hopkins Park, now called “Old Hopkins Park,” was platted in 1895.

Though located outside the municipal boundary of today’s Village of Hopkins Park, Old Hopkins Park still exists at the intersection of County Highway 2 and the route of the old Coal Branch railroad, four square blocks featuring a few houses, Sacred Heart Church, and the George Washington Carver school building. This rail line itself was abandoned around the end of World War II.

Another railroad traversed a line through the center of the Township just east of Main Street, what became the Milwaukee Road’s Chicago, Terre Haute, and Southeastern branch. This line moved due south from Tallmadge on the north end of the Township and ran to Iroquois County, with a flag stop known as “Pembroke” at the southern border of the county. This line was abandoned in 1979.

Though rail service no longer traverses the township, the abandoned grades, especially the north-south Milwaukee line, still have some potential to be used as recreational trails.

**Large and small farms.** In 1890, only 246 people lived in Pembroke Township; by 1900 that number more than doubled to 512, of whom perhaps 100 were African American.<sup>7</sup> For the most part, they farmed and grazed the land, ill-drained as it was.

But by the early 1900's, ditches and drain tiles permitted more rapid drainage off soggy farm fields. Several miles of ditches were constructed in the Township. At one point, the Hopkins Drainage District aimed to drain more than 10,000 acres, though that district no longer exists. Where farmers could afford to participate in drainage districts, their production tended to increase. In the core Pembroke sands area, though, production units are much smaller, and tend not to have tile or irrigation.

**Subdivision and land sales.** Land subdivision has played a key part in determining the look and development pattern of the landscape. Like most of the Midwest, the basic “checkerboard” pattern was laid down when the Federal Government surveyed the land to sell it off. But in the mid-1900s, much of Pembroke's land was subdivided into long, narrow plots. This episode coincided with an important moment in Pembroke's demographic history.

When World War II ended in 1945, the Great Migration from the American South to Northern cities kicked into high gear. The African American population of Chicago quadrupled to a million people between 1940 and 1970. This touched off a tremendous demand for better housing both in the city and in rural areas around it. It set up conditions that real estate speculators exploited, and rapid, unplanned development turned Pembroke from a sparsely settled, remote rural area into a low-density residential area with strong ties to Chicago.

Real estate speculators bought land in areas that were untilled and mostly lightly used and sold it, usually on land contract, especially to south side Chicagoans. Dozens of subdivisions were platted with the intent of giving the homeowner an opportunity to cultivate a small farm or garden in the back portion of a parcel. A typical lot size for this era is about 100 feet wide and nearly a quarter mile deep, or about 3-acres. The land developers did not make improvements to their subdivisions. Features such as hard-surfaced roads, drainage, lighting, and sanitary sewage treatment were not addressed when the lots were sold and many of these features do not exist today. If a purchaser was late or missed a monthly payment on the contract, they often lost their land.

Since 1970, few subdivisions have been created in Pembroke Township. The County of Kankakee passed a zoning ordinance in 1967 which regulated and monitored the development and usage of land and slowed down the process of subdivision. The strengthened land subdivision rules, declining population, and surplus of empty lots has slowed down residential development since 1970.

The visitor to Hopkins Park will note that much of its built environment dates from the “boom phase” of 1940-1970. The population of Pembroke Township grew 50 percent in the 1940’s, 73 percent in the 1950’s, and 145 percent in the 1960’s.

**Linear and dispersed settlement patterns.** One effect of past subdivision practice was to create a pattern of residential land that tended to keep to the main roads. Other landowners are dispersed through the township. The resulting land use pattern makes the most of the solitude that many residents say they love about life in Pembroke. But it also makes it difficult to cluster activity to build local market areas for commercial development, to create pedestrian-oriented community centers, and to make the economics of public or para-transit work. Generally speaking, it is nearly essential to own a car in Pembroke, and it is no wonder that the few commercial enterprises in the township are automotive-related.

Many communities try to guide development through the use of zoning. Zoning maps show what is permitted and, as in Pembroke, often do not reflect a description of the actual landscape. The Village has its own zoning ordinance and oversees all development within its corporate boundary. Most land in the Village of Hopkins Park is zoned single-family residential. The land located along County Highway 2 is zoned for commercial and industrial uses. Subdivisions located in the western edge of town are zoned for multi-family and mobile home uses. Kankakee County oversees zoning in the unincorporated parts of Pembroke Township. Kankakee County has assigned over 20 sections of land surrounding the Village of Hopkins Park for residential purposes on its Zoning Map, thus indicating its approval of the ultimate improvement of a number of unbuilt upon subdivision lots. The outer portions of the Township are zoned agricultural. In total, almost half of the land in unincorporated Pembroke Township and the Village of Hopkins Park is designated for residential development.

**Community institutions.** Pembroke has many small community institutions, especially churches. Many of these are visible along Main and Central, while others take advantage of the peaceful setting away from the roads to be retreat centers.

As a result of the Quality of Life Process, the institutions can be mapped as community assets, as shown on the next page.

Some community institutions are to be found aligned along the main roads. As one approaches the area from the North along Main Street, an immediate transition from farm fields to savanna and a sign indicates entry into Hopkins Park. Signs that indicate upcoming events or particular points of current concern are often seen. The Citgo announces itself quickly as a significant business enterprise and hub of activity. The Riverside Health Clinic is along this stretch, as well as several churches. Village and Township facilities and a few business structures (often not open) cluster at the four-way intersection. A turn to the east along Central Avenue, brings a string of



activity generating-institutions, including the Pembroke Township Library, community center, Leggett Funeral Home, Lorenzo R. Smith School, and Seniors Center. The Post Office is several miles to the east down this road.

In 1974, a Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan<sup>8</sup> for rural Kankakee County stated that “a municipal water supply system and sewage collection and treatment system [in Pembroke and Hopkins Park] are required to protect the public health.” In 1988, a municipal water system was constructed. The system was designed to supply water to the subdivided area of the Township as well as for the surrounding area of anticipated growth. In 1989, municipal sewer service became available to the Village and portions of the Township. Today, this pattern of infrastructure, while not in itself a visible part of the landscape, is an important asset that can guide future development thinking.

## Key challenges for the people of Pembroke

Pembroke continues to be a vital and distinctive community, though it faces a number of challenges common in rural Illinois. The community retains a strong African American presence, though overall numbers are down and there is a growing Latinx population. These and other points are elaborated below and are based on Tables that can be found in the Appendix.

**Declining Population.** 2018 estimates for Pembroke Township (2,072) and Hopkins Park (603) show that population has decreased slightly since the census year of 2010 and markedly since 1980. (See Table 1 in the Appendix). Based upon the 2010 Census, 80 percent of the Pembroke Township population is African American, compared with a figure of fifteen percent for Kankakee County as a whole. The proportions for the Village of Hopkins Park closely mirror those of Pembroke Township. Pembroke Township is also seeing a growing presence of Latinx households.

**An aging population.** Pembroke Township’s age structure is similar to that of Kankakee County as a whole. 24.9 percent of Kankakee County’s population, and 24.2 percent of Pembroke Township’s population, is under the age of 18, while 24.2 percent of Pembroke Township’s population is under that age. When compared to Kankakee County, Pembroke Township has a slightly higher proportion of population over the age of 65 (17.7 percent compared to 14.1 percent for Kankakee County). In Hopkins Park, the population age distribution skews older. Thirteen percent of Hopkins Park residents are under the age of 18 and 23.5 percent are over the age of 65. For Pembroke and Hopkins Park, these age groups are critical to its future growth and development as a community.

Pembroke and Hopkins Park have far fewer people in the 25-50 age range when compared with Kankakee County as a whole. This population squeeze within

prime working and childrearing years suggests that young adults growing up in the Township are choosing to relocate elsewhere during these prime years of productivity. Men in the 20-35 year age range are especially scarce.

**Education, employment and income challenges.** Education, income, and employment levels can help to provide a sense of the long-term direction that a community is taking, and reflect the health of the local economy. Compared with Kankakee County as a whole, Pembroke Township has poverty rates more than three times as high as the county rate, and median household income that is around half of that of the county. The Township has overall lower adult education rates when compared to the county, which under some circumstances can represent a barrier to employment in higher-paying jobs.

The community takes pride in hard work and self-sufficiency. But like many small communities in Illinois, it is facing economic challenges and they seem to be growing:

- Loss of young adult workers and workers in prime productivity years
- Employment accessibility issues that may force jobseekers to consider moving to other locations
- A weak market for consumption-based businesses within the Township
- Income instability leading to other problems including residential foreclosure and tax delinquency

The potential to address these problems depends upon several factors:

- Individual and family preferences to stay in the community
- Upgraded and higher quality housing stock
- Good schools
- Access to essential services, including public safety, adequate sewer and water service, better roads, natural gas, internet and cell services, public transportation, garbage service, and a community recreation facility
- The location of commercial and service facilities to conveniently serve the community
- Accessibility to high-quality jobs within the county and surrounding region

While some of these factors can be addressed through action taken within the community, many require partnerships with the county and other units of local government.

## Making a living in or near Pembroke

Economic stability is a challenge in the Pembroke region. The way in which the Township developed did not leave people with much disposable income to circulate in the local economy and to develop a robust locally-supported commercial sector. At present, there is very little economic diversity in the Township, and many residents must commute outside of the township for work. The leading industry sectors where residents work are Healthcare and Social Assistance (25.7%), Other (15.1%), Retail Trade (11.9%), Educational Services (9.8%), and Administration and Support (8.9%).

Only 3 percent, or less than two dozen, of 530 Pembroke Township resident workers reported in 2014 that they work in Hopkins Park. The top five employment locations for residents living in Pembroke Township are Momence (12.4%), Kankakee (11.7%), Chicago (9.1%), Bourbonnais (3.6%), and Hopkins Park (3.1%).

The school is not only an important community institution, it is a bedrock of local employment. Approximately 80 workers commute into Pembroke Township to work. They work in the following sectors: Educational Services (60%), Agriculture (26.3%), Other Services (7.5%), Retail Trade (2.5%), and Public Administration (2.5%).

## Paying for services

Support for public infrastructure, the provision of basic services, and community development is largely driven by local government revenue, which in turn is heavily funded from county tax revenue. Pembroke Township contains around \$15.7 million in net taxable land value, which represents less than one percent of net taxable land value in Kankakee County. The net taxable value in Pembroke Township is driven largely by land used for residential purposes or for farming and agriculture.

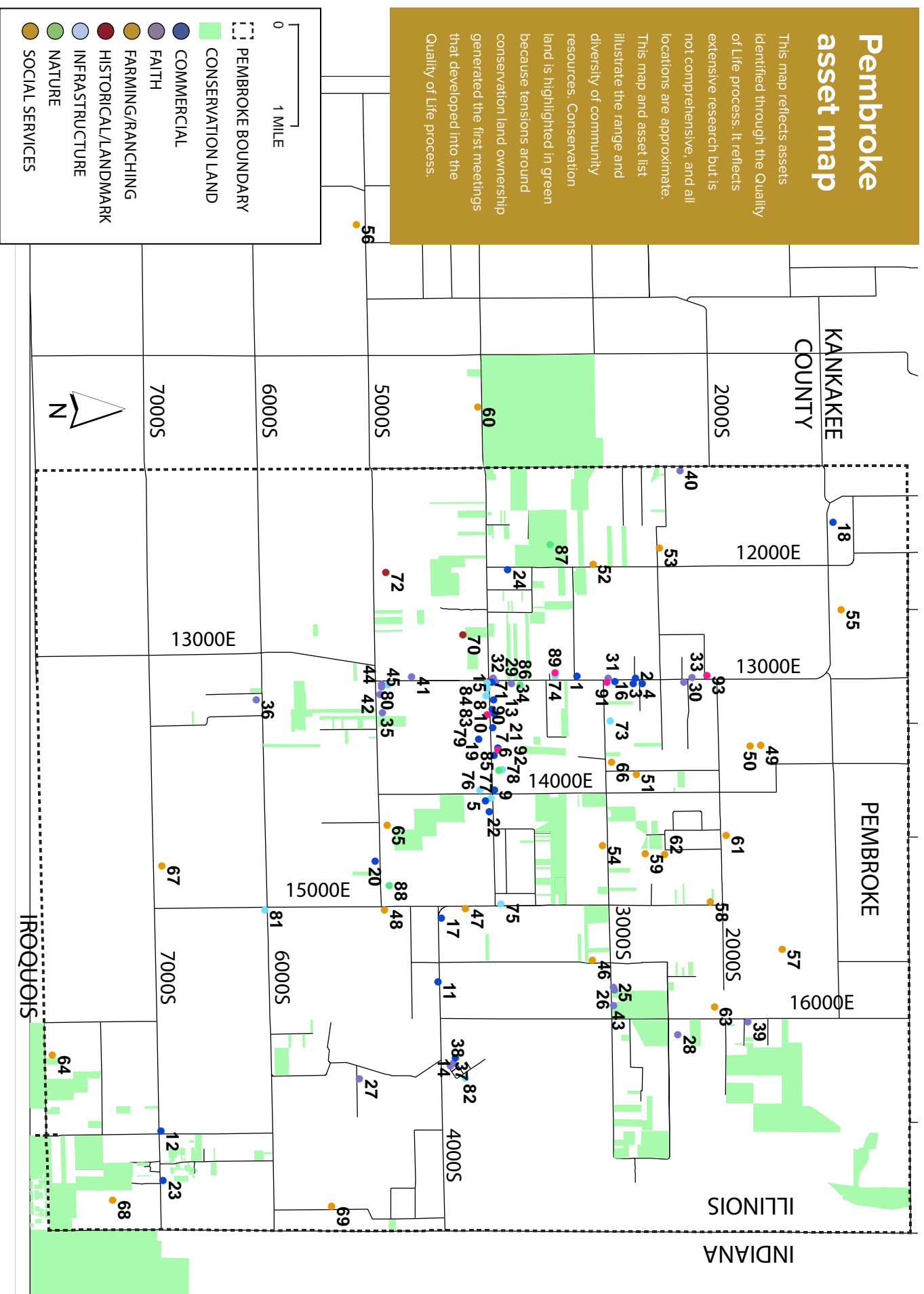
A major concern expressed during the planning process was that local government tax revenues for both Pembroke Township and the Village of Hopkins Park were not keeping up with expenses and emerging needs, particularly those associated with maintenance of essential infrastructure. This plan is not intended to be an exhaustive study of municipal finance. But in 2016, local government revenue from property taxes amounted to \$162,002 for Pembroke Township and \$47,780 for the Village of Hopkins Park.

Another concern raised in community meetings is that purchases of land by conservation interests is taking land off the tax rolls, and endangering the community's ability to provide basic services. The Kankakee County Treasurer's

reports show a steady increase in parcel ownership by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in the Township. It also shows that roughly 90% of the parcels, purchased by TNC since 2000, were designated by the county as either “conservation” land or “vacant lots/land.” At least 96 parcels of TNC owned parcels were previously not generating tax revenues for the county. They now do in the form of voluntary tax payments by TNC. TNC voluntarily pays taxes on property it owns to the county. It has paid \$256,000 to the County since 2000.

# Pembroke asset map

This map reflects assets identified through the Quality of Life process. It reflects extensive research but is not comprehensive, and all locations are approximate. This map and asset list illustrate the range and diversity of community resources. Conservation land is highlighted in green because tensions around conservation land ownership generated the first meetings that developed into the Quality of Life process.





## Pembroke asset map legend

### Commercial ●

- 1 Mondy Bros Repair
  - 2 Sandstone Hills Apartments
  - 3 SS Friendly Market #3
  - 4 CITGO Gas Station
  - 5 Hickory Hills Apartments
  - 6 Leggett Funeral Home
  - 7 Melissa's Daycare
  - 8 Myka Trucking
  - 9 Blades of Glory Lawn Care and Snow Removal
  - 10 Astros Heating and Cooling
  - 11 GG&M Hardware (Bobo's)
  - 12 Tipps Hardware
  - 13 East Restaurant & Banquet Room (Closed)
  - 14 Sacred Heart Resale Shop (Closed)
  - 15 Four-Way Gas (Closed)
  - 16 Charro & Sons Tire and Auto Repair
  - 17 Red Boy's (Closed)
  - 18 ROC Dog Kennel
  - 19 Pembroke POWER Center Business Incubator
  - 20 Auction House
  - 21 Tony Woods Food Service
  - 22 Wild Wind Estates Senior Housing
  - 23 We Custom Cars Inc.
  - 24 Magee Income Tax Service
- No Marker:
- Albert's Daughter
  - Ancestral Medicinals
  - Driven by Ambition (DBA)

### Faith ●

- 25 Rehoboth Mennonite Church
  - 26 Rehoboth Retreat Center
  - 27 Bethesda Church of God in Christ
  - 28 Bible Witness Camp
  - 29 Christian Hope Baptist Church
  - 30 Church of the Cross
  - 31 Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church
  - 32 Christ Deliverance Pentecostal Church
  - 33 Hope House
  - 34 Pembroke Church of Christ
  - 35 Pembroke Community Reformed Church
  - 36 St. Anne Woods Community Chapel
  - 37 Sacred Heart Church
  - 38 Greater St. Paul Church
  - 39 Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church (Closed)
  - 40 Forest Valley Community Church (Closed)
  - 41 Pembroke Bibleway Church of God in Christ
  - 42 Prayer & Deliverance Pentecostal Church
  - 43 The New Macedonia Church
  - 44 Union Missionary Baptist Church of Hopkins Park
  - 45 Wilson Memorial Temple COGIC Pentecostal
- Farming/Ranching ●**
- 46 Blueberry Patch

- 47 Mr. Ivey Homestead
  - 48 Thurman's Farm and Produce
  - 49 Basu Natural Farm
  - 50 Basu Museum and Cultural Center
  - 51 Boots and Saddles
  - 52 Big W Ranch
  - 53 Jackson Farm
  - 54 Nelson White's Chicken and Goats
  - 55 R&D Dandurand Farms Inc.
  - 56 Degroot Vegetable Farm
  - 57 Deyoung Farms
  - 58 Beagle Farm
  - 59 Black Oaks Center
  - 60 Latting Rodeo Production Inc.
  - 61 Runaway Buckers Ranch
  - 62 Iyabo Farms
  - 63 KLOs Ranch
  - 64 L&R Farms
  - 65 Smooth Ranch
  - 66 RR Ranch
  - 67 Pembroke Oaks Farm
  - 68 Hopkins Ridge Farms
  - 69 Zanjabil Gardens
- No Marker:
- Hoekstra Farms
  - Sod Farms
  - Blueberry Patches
  - Copper Tree Horse Ranch
  - Jackson Farm
  - Qualls Farm
  - Whitefield Family Farm
  - Fulton Farms
  - Baker's Farm
  - Nazir Farms

Garden City Farm  
Ellison and Sons  
Sunset Trails Farm

**Historical/Landmark** ●

70 Remembrance/Guiding  
Star Memorial Cemetery  
71 Four-Way Stop  
72 Rodeo Grounds

**Infrastructure** ●

73 Pembroke Hopkins  
Park Construction  
Outreach (Closed)  
74 Riverside Clinic  
75 Post Office  
76 LRS Sustainability &  
Technology Academy  
77 Senior Center  
78 Community Center  
79 Pembroke Public Library  
80 Pembroke Volunteer Fire  
Department  
81 Cell Tower  
82 George Washington  
Carver School (Closed)  
83 Hopkins Park Water  
Treatment & Water Tower  
84 Hopkins Park Village Hall  
(Closed)

No Marker:  
Show Bus

**Nature** ●

85 Martin Luther King Park  
86 Rodeo Park

87 Bald Hill  
88 Strickland Park (Closed)

No Marker:  
Swimming Hole  
Fishing Holes

**Social Services** ●

89 Current Food Pantry  
90 Future Food Pantry  
Location  
91 C.R.A.F.T. Organization  
92 Kankakee County Youth  
Intervention Agency  
93 A More Excellent Way  
Ministries

**Diffuse Assets**

Contractors  
Good Neighbors  
Health  
Informed People  
Rich History  
Historical Sites  
Property  
Heir Property  
Juneteenth Celebration  
Laughter  
People who care about  
the community  
Underground Railroad  
Agriculture  
Farm Stands  
Organic Farms  
Ranch Culture  
Apples

Black Cowboys  
Vaqueros  
Vegetables  
Government  
Black Oak Savannas  
Oak Trees  
Good Water  
Wildlife  
Birds  
Butterflies  
Camping  
Endangered Plants and  
Animals  
Feldspar Sand  
Fresh Air  
Hunting  
Land  
Moon  
Mushrooms  
Natural Resources  
Sand Dunes  
Sassafrass Trees  
Stars  
Trees  
Children  
Seniors  
Good Soil  
Rappers/Musicians  
Women's Education

## What it adds up to: the challenges and the assets

People made clear throughout the process that some issues need to be addressed with more urgency to ensure the long-term sustainability of the community. Long-term population decline, an eroding tax base, little commercial activity, and concerns about public safety loom as issues.

Two significant land use changes of the past twenty years have been the expansion of irrigation for agricultural purposes and the acquisition of land for conservation purposes by The Nature Conservancy. Until this planning process, the landscape as an asset was not yet seriously connected to the needs of the local community and the value of dedicated conservation lands were not formally tied to the long-range interests of the community. The Quality of Life Process returned feedback that the local political culture is underequipped to deal with these land use issues at present.

At the same time, the above discussion makes clear that there are a number of assets upon which citizens committed to the sustainability of the community can draw. How to understand the impact of these assets is a major consideration of this Plan, and is a reason why one of its key ingredients is to recommend the creation of a formal “sustainability hub,” comprised of key people from the community and outside the community to develop a network that connects to natural partners and policy makers to set sustainability goals and focus on their execution.

The more coordinated community activities can become, the better for the long-term sustainability of Pembroke/Hopkins Park. That is why this Plan sets some of the “typical” sustainability questions such as carbon emissions, energy efficiency, sustainable food systems and walkability in the context of the broader goal of community cohesion and capacity for collective action. The foundation for true sustainability needs the commitment and desire of its participants to be achieved.



# PEMBROKE/HOPKINS PARK TOMORROW: INGREDIENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

## A basic framework

The people of Pembroke/Hopkins Park will know they have developed a sustainable vision when progress is made in four key areas: preserving and celebrating local heritage, sustaining and growing a local economy, building on natural resource assets, and developing land use goals that foster sustainability. In each of these four areas, the path to sustainability will be made smoother by following sustaining principles.

The Plan's vision and sustaining principles bring together the background on community history and conditions with stakeholder wishes and input. The vision and sustaining principles are shown in this table:

PLAN AREA	VISION	SUSTAINING PRINCIPLES
Preserving and Celebrating Local Culture, Heritage, and Traditions	A community identity rooted in local history, heritage, and tradition is preserved, celebrated, and shared.	Share and celebrate the community. Regional destination for history and culture. Focus on the natural environment and landscape.
Sustaining and Growing the Local Economy	A diverse and vibrant range of businesses that build upon the unique character, agricultural heritage, and hospitality of the community is supported.	Connect economic development to other community goals. Promote quality of life through economic development. Focus growth strategically. Celebrate heritage.
Building Strategic Connections around Natural Resources	A tradition of local land and natural resource stewardship continues to protect and celebrate unique local natural resources through collaboration with a range of local stakeholders.	Use diverse strategies. Engage local ownership. Celebrate and share. Address community impacts. Cultivate partnerships.
Planning for Future Land Use, Infrastructure, and Institutions	Pembroke/Hopkins Park has physically developed with a rural, small- town atmosphere.	Grow around existing infrastructure. Make decisions collaboratively. Development pays a fair share. Create cohesive clusters.

Research from the Quality of Life Process, public meetings, small group conversations, and conversations with key interviewees form the basis for the vision and sustaining principles. County and local public officials were also consulted and invited to provide input. The vision and sustaining principles bring together these perspectives to reflect the community vision for sustaining Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park.

Unlike a number of communities preparing sustainability plans, Pembroke/Hopkins Park has an incredible asset in its midst. Dedicated conservation lands, whether public or private, play a strong role in the sustainable vision for Pembroke/Hopkins Park. Dedicating land in this way assures the community that agreed upon land uses will be preserved in perpetuity and not converted to other land uses. They indicate options for conservation-minded landowners who want to see this legacy preserved, and they can become destination sites for ecotourism and other ventures. As a result, an important component of this Plan is to incorporate the input from the conservation sector, so that conservation goals can be also be used by the community in each of the Plan areas.

Within each Plan area discussed below, a brief background statement provides context, followed by the vision statement and sustaining principles. Then, a series of action steps are recommended for the next three to five years. A priority is placed



upon those actions that are do-able with reasonably well mobilized local efforts, effective partnerships, and the opportunity to make measurable steps toward sustainability. Actions that are longer-range, or that will require significant assembly of resources and/or political will are noted.

## **Area A: Preserving and Celebrating Local Culture, Heritage, and Traditions**

### **Background**

“Sankofa”: this word from West Africa means “go back and get it” and is often represented by a forward flying bird that is bending back with an egg in its mouth. The meaning — to go forward, you need to know the past — expresses the core belief in Pembroke/Hopkins Park that a sustainable future should take off from a firm grounding in heritage, culture, and tradition. Residents repeatedly say that the region’s rural lifestyle, community members’ relationship to the land, and important community traditions and festivals are central to the community’s future. Many community members stress that sustaining principles for the community should center around the continuation and celebration of community culture and identity, and also on ensuring that historic values are shared with and passed on to younger members of the community.

### **Vision**

Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park continue to preserve, celebrate, and share a community identity rooted in local history, heritage, and tradition.

### **Sustaining Principles**

**Share and Celebrate the Community:** Foster a cohesive community identity around local history, heritage, and traditions which also recognizes and values the contributions of newcomers to the community.

**Regional Destination for History and Culture:** Support economic activities which preserve, celebrate, and share local culture, heritage, and traditions.

**Focus on the Natural Environment and Landscape:** Acknowledge and celebrate the significance of the unique natural environment and small-town landscape in shaping local culture, heritage, and traditions.

### **Action Steps**

1. Create a sustainable Pembroke/Hopkins Park non-profit hub as the critical link between heritage and sustainability, as an independent community voice that is linked with all voices, and to serve as the locally based “engine” to take or to

advocate for the steps outlined in this plan — Members of the hub will gradually assume more responsibilities as an independent entity acting on behalf of the community. An avenue to move in this direction could come with some foundation resources for a process to align the partners and to carefully assess their individual and collective interest and capacity. Such a hub should aspire to adopt best management practices from the very beginning, and receive quality legal advice from such low-cost or pro bono sources as the Community Law Project of the Chicago Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights. A key step is to consider moving toward non-profit status

2. Develop a plan for ongoing community education in sustainability that draws on partner networks locally, regionally, and nationally — Strong opportunities exist to rely not only on experts willing to engage with the people of Pembroke/Hopkins Park, but to share best practices with other communities via peer-to-peer exchanges. Pembroke's vision of sustainability can be inspiring to other communities facing similar challenges and opportunities. A modest way to begin is with an ongoing series of convened conversations with potential partners, using a place such as the Pembroke library as a venue
3. Support the continued development of the Pembroke Library as a center for recreational, educational, and social activities — The 2000 Comprehensive Plan called for the development of a centrally located community center. The Pembroke Library has largely served to fill this role within the community. On December 7, 2013, the Pembroke Public Library moved into its new facility on Central Road providing a place accessible to residents and visitors, with parking, restrooms, and a welcoming space and staff. The Library serves as a hub for community activity and events. The Plan recognizes the valuable role the Library has played in reflecting community values and needs, and calls for the continued support of the Library as a hub for community development and activity. In addition to the activities currently hosted by the Library, the continued reinforcement and strategic investment in the Library and surrounding area as a community hub could include a tourist information center and outdoor signage, a cultural center and museum, a place to demonstrate sustainable landscaping practices, and increased resources for small business development.
4. Identify sustainable funding for the STEM Coordinator at Lorenzo R. Smith school — A priority project for the Sustainable Pembroke non-profit hub should be to pursue grant funding to support and sustain a STEM Coordinator position at Lorenzo R. Smith school.
5. Promote community heritage and identity through the creation of community wayfinding resources including signage and maps — Wayfinding resources

offer the opportunity for greater visibility of community assets and identity for both locals as well as visitors to the community. These resources should highlight and direct people to culturally and historically significant community sites, and should also highlight the importance of land and the abundance of natural resources which make the community so unique. The first products of this effort can be as simple as a tri-fold pamphlet that locates and explains community resources to visitors. A second strategy is to create a kiosk and sign that can be placed in prominent location (possibly using Youth Conservation Corps support). Once these critical first steps are taken, it may be possible to apply for a small grant for an external consultant to develop a more “systematic” approach to wayfinding development, including a set of directional, locational, and interpretive signs.

6. Support the development of cultural heritage and environmental tourism activities within Pembroke/Hopkins Park — Cultural heritage and environmental tourism activities have the potential to build economic activity around existing community assets. Resources to help coordinate logistics and publicity around existing community festivals, rodeos, and retreat centers offer the possibility of increasing the other types of activities which visitors to the region can do, including horseback riding and horse trails, cultural heritage tourism, and experiencing community hospitality through restaurants and shops.
7. Support a historic resources survey of Pembroke/Hopkins Park — Such a survey, coupled with becoming a Certified Local Government by the State Historic Preservation Officer, can facilitate access to funding support for reuse/rehabilitation of historic structures, especially those that are more than fifty years old.
8. Develop the Pembroke Township Heritage Trail which utilizes active transportation to connect historically and environmentally significant points of interest within the region — Developing a heritage trail provides an opportunity for the community to further articulate and share important aspects of community identity. The trail should focus specifically on tying together area history while celebrating the abundance of unique natural resources in the community. The trail should focus on active transportation options including walking and biking, and where appropriate, may also integrate sections that are appropriate for horseback riding. In addition to a focus on connecting historically and environmentally significant sites, the trail should also focus on promoting accessibility of these sites (where appropriate) so that residents and visitors can see firsthand the unique history and globally significant natural resources in the community.

9. Resolve the issues surrounding the Guiding Star Memorial Cemetery — Pembroke Township’s cemetery oversight committee and adjacent landowners should continue to work to develop an agreement that resolves boundary, access, and management issues.
10. Integrate local culture and heritage into school curricula and youth development activities — Consistent focus on youth development is a priority. Stakeholders should collaboratively invest in and support youth and family programs such as field trips, workshops and trainings, mentorship, after school activities, and Lorenzo R. Smith and St. Anne High School ecology and sustainability curriculum. Curriculum should involve youth in decision-making and provide service-level opportunities for youth in green fields, and should support multi- generational exchange on heritage, farming, land use practices, and traditional knowledge.

## **Area B: Sustaining and Growing the Local Economy**

### **Background**

Many large cities are jumping on the “sustainable cities” bandwagon, and a number of entities such as ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) have grown to support these efforts. Building a sustainable economy in smaller cities and regions can be quite challenging. They have few professional staff members and are limited in the range of financial or infrastructural incentives they can offer to firms seeking to locate there. “But some small towns across the US have successfully adopted sustainable practices that lower environmental impact, enhance quality of life, and spark economic development. Columbus, Wisconsin, for example, has had great success in developing a “marketing persona” as a green city. In rural Tyrrell County, North Carolina, on the margins of the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, the Tyrrell County Community Development Corporation has built on that local natural asset to build strong youth- oriented workforce development and social entrepreneurship programming. Excellent links have already been established between members of the Pembroke/Hopkins Park community and Tyrrell County, and it is strongly recommended that these links be cultivated and sustained.

For decades, Pembroke/Hopkins Park has tried the approach of attracting a single major employer to radically jump start the local economy, but to no significant avail. This approach may yet work, and it will be important to say that if it does, that it will present not only an opportunity for new jobs and tax revenues, but for procurement to be structured such that it is both local and sustainable. The Sustainability Hub should consider a new approach to marketing the 159 acre prison site, building on the emerging sustainability identity for Pembroke.

Until that day comes, a sound strategy in the short term is to build the strong elements of an economy that makes the most of its cultural and natural endowments, ensuring that its young people are educated and supported, and that all have a smooth path to the labor force. In other words, to pursue a course of action where a better quality of life may become attractive to outside economic interests, rather than the other way around.

### **Vision**

Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park support a diverse and vibrant range of businesses that build upon the unique character, agricultural heritage, and hospitality of the community.

### **Sustaining Principles**

Promote connectivity: Strengthen linkages between the local and regional economy.

Promote quality of life that fosters economic development: Small business development should be consistent with increasing quality of life for local residents.

Focus growth strategically: Focus business development around hubs which have high levels of infrastructure access and service.

Celebrate heritage: Foster business opportunities that are consistent with cultural and environmental heritage tourism.

Seek opportunities in renewable energy sectors: Consider small-scale energy projects that can both sell energy back to the grid and lower local costs.

Re-use existing materials and existing sites: Lower costs by recycling materials and redeploying existing materials for reuse.

### **Action Steps**

1. Expand cultural heritage tourism business by building on existing opportunities including festivals, rodeos and horse trails, and environmentally significant sites — This action step builds upon the wayfinding and cultural heritage tourism recommendations within Area A above. Creating visibility around community assets and identity provides an opportunity not only to celebrate these aspects of the community, but also to create economic activity around it. Retail, hospitality, and tourism represent areas which could grow to complement to increased ways to share and celebrate community heritage, culture, and identity. It should be noted that the Library is located at a relatively visible and accessible location in the center of the Township, and also at the center of a broader potential eco-tourism region that extends east to Indiana, west to Kankakee, and north to the Momence Wetlands along the Kankakee River



2. Encourage the expansion of retail opportunities in the township and village — Local political leaders continue to pursue opportunities to bring retail and manufacturing firms into the community which have the potential to create additional jobs and tax revenue at the local level. Political leaders should continue to work with county economic development officials to pursue such opportunities and to think about how to best recruit potential firms to the community. Political leaders should also work to connect community residents to resources which support small business development and entrepreneurship for residents.
3. Increase the accessibility of employment opportunities within surrounding areas — Community leaders should work in partnership with county economic development officials to coordinate and build upon existing transit service to help reduce residents' dependence upon personal transportation to get to work opportunities. Coordination with economic development officials may include identifying alternate transportation options to areas where new jobs are currently located, and might also include a focus on accessibility to job training and readiness education opportunities.
4. Integrate workforce training with economic development opportunities — Be ready for implementation of Future Energy Jobs Act, which is likely to jump start training for careers in alternative energy installation. See [futureenergyjobsact.com](https://futureenergyjobsact.com)
5. Develop a community energy policy — Consider a comprehensive approach to energy usage at both the household and municipal scale. Ensure that all homes are properly weatherized. Employ solar/pollinator combinations on vacant land. The Future Energy Jobs Act has a community solar provision that should be explored: see [solarinthecommunity.com](https://solarinthecommunity.com). Good advice can be found by linking to the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) at the University of Illinois.
6. Develop a community waste management strategy — Better information about the local waste stream would permit a more strategic approach to waste management that could lower costs, create possible business opportunities, and protect the environment. A recommended first step is a Waste Characterization Audit, which would lead to an appropriate mix of recycling, composting, and household trash disposal strategies. A request for proposals for this audit would ensure that Pembroke is receiving competitive pricing. Zero waste practices can be piloted and tested at the school, library, and government buildings.
7. Support Pembroke/Hopkins Park farmers — Revitalize the Pembroke Farmers' Cooperative. Continue to forge links to ecotourism and heritage tourism efforts.

Pursue businesses and training initiatives that capitalize upon local small scale agricultural assets, and cultural traditions, e.g. culinary arts training, ‘farm-to-table’ business partnerships, farmers market networks, and commercial food packaging and transportation.

8. Connect to statewide efforts — Appoint representatives on Illinois Recycling Association and Illinois Solar Energy Association.
9. Educate landowners about their legal rights and responsibilities — Sponsor continuing workshops so that landowners know their rights and responsibilities in order to decrease property turnover through tax delinquency or heirs’ property disputes. The University of Illinois Legal Clinic demonstrated at its March 2017 Workshop that it is willing to provide high-quality advice and resources.
10. Foster a physical environment that enhances the “green marketing persona” of Pembroke/Hopkins Park — Continue to improve the scenic atmosphere of the central business district by adding facade and landscaping improvements to buildings. Conduct a building condition survey and demolish dilapidated buildings. Enforce building regulations to ensure high-quality developments and safe buildings.
11. Maintain quality housing stock — Homes that accrue in value can have economic benefit for the community; visibly deteriorated housing can depress other home values and turn away prospective investors and tourists. Most importantly, quality housing is a key material element in a healthy quality of life. Attending to quality housing will be especially important if downward population trends continue, meaning that some surplus housing may become available. One possibility is the creation of a locally- sponsored rehabilitation program. Similar programs have been created in other Illinois communities with some success. These programs provide financial support to homeowners to help in their rehabilitation efforts. For the Village, such a program would improve the quality housing stock, increase property values of the home and surrounding neighborhood, and add increasing revenues through higher property taxes. Strong policy consideration should be given to favoring the placement of new housing construction along the Village’s sanitary treatment system. Connecting new homes to the sewer system could lead to a reduction or stabilization of sanitary sewer fees for all homeowners’ if the revenue the new homes provide can cover the costs of installation and maintenance. Any new subdivisions should be encouraged to follow Conservation Design clustering principles, as at Sneed Court in the Sand Hills subdivision, to maximize the available green space.

12. Make appropriate transportation improvements, especially for pedestrians — Sustainable communities make provisions for non-motorized transportation. It will be helpful to have sidewalks for bicycles and pedestrians, especially in the zone extending from the four-way intersection to the school. Funding under “complete streets” type programs is available.

## **Area C: Building Strategic Connections Around Natural Resources**

### **Background**

Community residents have a deep connection to the land. Given that the region includes the best-preserved example of black oak savanna in the Midwest, residents have served as stewards of this regionally and globally significant habitat, which is an important component of the Kankakee Sands ecosystem. Institutions including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Friends of the Kankakee, and The Nature Conservancy have all expressed interest in working in partnership with community members and leaders to celebrate and preserve these resources.

### **Vision**

Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park continue a tradition of local land and natural resource stewardship, and continue to protect and celebrate unique local natural resources through collaboration with a range of local stakeholders.

### **Sustaining Principles**

**Be open:** Community leaders, elected officials, and organizations need to work openly together regarding land use planning, land acquisition, and land use activities.

**Support landowners:** Support and sustain landowners who seek to manage land for conservation where possible by providing technical advice and resources for voluntary habitat management practices.

**Diverse strategies:** Identify support for a range of land conservation strategies, recognizing the value of existing community land stewardship practices.

**Celebrate and share:** Community land stewardship and conservation practices are a celebrated part of local history and traditions.

Address community impacts: Conservation stakeholders and local government need to examine the fiscal effects of land being placed into permanent conservation purposes.

Connect to statewide efforts

### Action Steps

1. Develop a set of guiding principles for selection and protection of conservation lands that avoid unduly affecting public infrastructure and community assets (The guidelines are listed below on p. 45-46).
2. Provide open space and recreational opportunities to enhance the quality of life for residents of Pembroke/Hopkins Park — Opportunities to facilitate connectivity and active transportation options between community cultural and natural features is especially encouraged. Creating safe connections between such features, the library, and Lorenzo R. Smith School should also be a priority.
3. Work closely with federal, state, and local agencies to preserve environmentally sensitive areas — Conservation organizations play a critical role in protecting high-quality savannas, prairies, and flatwoods. They are a major landowner in the community with potential to facilitate the community's efforts to conserve and steward natural lands. Partnerships between local residents and conservation organizations such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Friends of the Kankakee, and The Nature Conservancy can promote conservation and land stewardship through voluntary relationships, ranging from land owner education to voluntary conservation agreements. Federal, state, and local agencies have a variety of conservation programs that promote private land stewardship, conservation education, tax reduction, and long-term protection on qualifying lands.
4. Connect to statewide efforts — Local boards and organizations consider joining the Illinois Environmental Council.
5. Develop a recreational trail network — A network of horse and pedestrian trails has the potential to support the Heritage Trail and ecotourism activities discussed on p. 35. In 1999, the Kankakee County Planning Department wrote a county-wide Greenways and Trails Plan<sup>9</sup> calling for the preservation and development of bike, walking, and natural trails in Kankakee County. Three trails in Pembroke Township are proposed: Savanna Trail, Willow Trail, and Pembroke Trail. The Savanna Trail would use the abandoned railroad right-of-way of the Milwaukee line running through the Townships of Yellowhead, Momence, and Pembroke. It traverses the entire length of Pembroke Township, from Talmadge

in the north to old Pembroke near the Iroquois County line. Willow Trail would start at the intersection of 7000 S. Road and the Savanna Trail and head east to the Indiana State Line, where it would head south into Friends of the Kankakee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife properties in Iroquois County and Willow Slough in Indiana. Pembroke Trail would begin at the intersection of Savanna Trail and 1000 S. Road. It would follow 1000 S. Road east to 16000 E. Road. At this point, it would head south flanking areas of woods and tall prairie grasses until it reaches the intersection of 16000 E. Road and 4500 S. Road. It would continue east on 4500 S. Road to the Indiana State Line. At the State Line, it would head south along a gravel road passing under large overhanging trees until it finally reaches its terminus at Willow Trail at 7000 S. Road. These trails are proposed for future construction, but it is the responsibility of local officials to fund and construct each project. There are state and federal programs that share the cost of developing trails. The National Park Service's Recreational Trails and Conservation Assistance program is an excellent source of technical expertise and advice for trail development.

6. Develop a seed sourcing network — The growth in native landscaping in the Chicago region, driven in part by the decline in pollinators like the Monarch butterfly, has increased demand for prairie plants and seeds. A greenhouse at the school could be developed from which native plants and plugs can be supplied to its own garden and to others in the community.
7. Develop a volunteer network to assist in the management of natural areas — Support organizations and citizens who wish to take an active role in maintaining and beautifying public park and open space areas. It should be noted that volunteers based in Chicago are periodically interested in working on landscapes in Kankakee County. These volunteers are possible supporters of local efforts as well as potential eco-tourists.
8. Work with Riverside Hospital to develop a “nature prescription” program — Such programs have made the most of places that border natural areas by using them as prescribed recreation zones. In places where the National Park Service has developed such partnerships, as with Porter Memorial Hospital and the Indiana Dunes National Park, measurable public health benefits have been seen.



## Area D: Planning for Future Land Use, Infrastructure, and Institutions

### Background

Many conversations as part of the visioning process centered on the nature of future land use, infrastructure, and institutions. Residents expressed the desire to promote change, but were concerned to do so in a way that preserves the small town and rural character for the benefit of current and future community members. With regards to land use, residents were concerned that land remain held and controlled by local landowners or in accordance with local principles and values. Residents asked for clear commitments and targets prioritizing conservation activities as well as activities that might involve intensification of land use. The vision and sustaining principles in this section seek to address these questions, and promote greater coordination around land use decision making, consolidation of existing land use and conservation activities, and promotion of targeted economic development activities.

### Vision

Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park promotes development consistent with sustaining a rural environment and small-town atmosphere.

### Sustaining Principles

Grow around existing infrastructure: Focus new development around existing infrastructure and community activity hubs.

Collaborative Decision-Making: Foster community leadership around land use and infrastructure decision-making.

Development pays a fair share: Ensure that new development pays for its impact on existing infrastructure and ongoing infrastructure costs.

Land use design: Housing developments and conservation acquisitions should use best practices in site planning and in preserve design.

### Action Steps

1. Approve only new residential, commercial, and industrial developments which can be adequately served by existing Pembroke/Hopkins Park infrastructure, and which maintain and reflect the area's small town and rural atmosphere
  - New development should occur in areas that can be adequately served

by water, sewer, gas, and transportation infrastructure. While compact development is preferred, new development should be designed and built in a manner that reinforces the region's small town and rural atmosphere. As a priority action step, zoning standards should be reviewed for consistency with these principles.

2. Provide adequate development opportunities while recognizing the need to preserve environmentally sensitive areas — Based upon conservation and development guidelines discussed below, new development should be encouraged in areas designated for growth and should be discouraged in areas designated for conservation. As a priority action step, zoning codes should be reviewed for consistency with these principles.
3. Build community consensus for growth and development along the Pembroke/Hopkins Park development corridor. Target major development around development hubs — The Pembroke/Hopkins Park development corridor (See map in Appendix) represents an area in which growth should be encouraged. Working with local residents, conservation groups, and community economic stakeholders, consensus should be built around where new development should be encouraged within this corridor. New development should focus on being compact and should take advantage of existing infrastructure. Discussions about the development corridor should also address the potential for using impact fees as a way to make more substantial development pay for a portion of its impact on public infrastructure. Consideration should be given to a consultant-led “corridor study” to determine development opportunities, design considerations, and linkages to other goals outlined in this Plan.
4. With consent of the landowner, potential revenue could be derived by leasing land for ground mounted solar arrays, which can be paired with pollinator friendly plantings for both ecological value and lower maintenance — [solarpowerworldonline.com/2017/05/pollinator-friendly-solar-vegetation/](http://solarpowerworldonline.com/2017/05/pollinator-friendly-solar-vegetation/)
5. Agree on Land Use Principles — In this Plan, a broad vision and sustaining principles provide guidance for specific action steps. With consultation from the conservation community and discussion with local residents, the following set of sustaining principles has been developed specifically to guide land use planning in the region. It is recommended that an advisory group continue to meet to review and refine these principles.



## Ecological and Social Conservation Principles

### Vision

A landscape where globally significant oak savannas and sand prairie are sustained in perpetuity, and where both the greater Pembroke/Hopkins Park community and nature thrive as a result.

### Ecological

1. High priority lands are those identified through the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI). These are exceedingly rare statewide, and represent the most ecologically intact and diverse examples of undisturbed natural communities left in the state.
2. Consolidate INAI sites where possible. Fewer perimeters per unit area is better, ecologically and from a management standpoint.
3. Connect where possible. Connected is better than disconnected because it increases patch size and allows for better plant and animal movement and dispersal.
4. Restore selected large parcels currently in crop production to create grasslands from 30-100 acres in size. These will a) provide critical grassland bird habitat consistent with the original Wildlife Refuge concept; b) create buffers adjacent to oak savanna remnants; and c) increase the size of natural habitat patches.

## **Social**

1. All acquisitions, easements, cooperative agreements, or other conservation actions are conducted only with the full consent of the landowner.
2. Be aware of sites of cultural and historical importance, especially those identified in the Quality of Life Planning Process, and assure that land conservation does not adversely affect them.
3. Avoid acquisition of lands for conservation that are served by water and sewer infrastructure as much as possible.
4. For lands acquired for conservation, create as welcoming an environment as possible as allowed by law or in concert with conservation objectives.
5. Promote land uses and developments which are compatible with adjacent conservation lands.
6. Foster the community's connectivity to the natural assets in its neighborhood.
7. Uphold existing laws and regulations that prohibit flooding of neighboring properties.
8. Create effective and transparent communication channels.

## **Additional**

1. Foster public-private partnerships when possible.
2. Acquire and utilize resources for the education of youth in the community, through programs such as the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Youth Conservation Corps.



# ACTIVATING THE PLAN

## Getting organized

Numerous stakeholders have demonstrated a willingness to work together to support the sustainability of the Pembroke/Hopkins Park community. These stakeholders range from local to regional actors and include governmental and private non-governmental organizations.

Different action steps will require different partnerships and forms of organization. Formalizing agreements around waste management, infrastructure, and land tenure will involve stakeholders including local boards, elected officials, and public agencies. Other initiatives can move forward with the leadership of citizens working together and engaging larger partners as necessary. One example is the Pembroke Public Library, which came into being due to citizens volunteering their time, Olivet Nazarene students providing support, Township leadership, and a state grant.

Many have already spent significant time thinking through the actions proposed here, and building momentum behind them. To those who supported the creation of the plan, the authors say “thank you.”

## The plan as a reflection of community

This plan is rooted in the belief that the most sustainable Pembroke/Hopkins Park will be achieved through the collective impact of local residents working together with other partners. Natural and cultural assets are abundant in the community, but those assets will lie underused unless key steps are taken with the

common goal of sustaining quality of life for future generations. It might be helpful to remember that the great Plan of Chicago by Daniel Burnham was followed two years later by a book called Wacker's Manual of Chicago. This book turned the plan into a text taught to every 8th grader in Chicago Public Schools for twenty years, because, as its author wrote, **"...our children shall be taught that they are the coming responsible heads of their...communities."**



# LINKS AND REFERENCES

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# APPENDICES

## Tables

**TABLE 1: KANKAKEE COUNTY POPULATION BY TOWNSHIP: 1970 – 2010**

TOWNSHIP	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	CHANGE 1970 – 2010	% CHANGE 1970 – 2010
Aroma	5,847	6,107	5,565	5,835	5,157	-690	-11.80
Bourbonnais	20,987	29,316	29,129	33,061	40,137	19,150	91.25
Essex	802	995	994	1,294	1,480	678	84.54
Ganeer	3,404	3,490	3,146	3,222	3,215	-189	-5.52
Kankakee	33,819	31,081	28,502	28,029	27,558	-6,261	-18.51
Limestone	4,092	4,627	4,358	4,659	5,035	943	23.04
Manteno	8,159	4,951	5,059	7,846	11,185	3,026	37.09
Momence	3,545	4,383	3,570	3,884	3,820	275	7.76
Norton	1,130	1,239	1,129	1,067	978	-152	-13.45
Otto	2,649	2,714	2,558	2,430	2,582	-67	-2.53
<b>Pembroke</b>	<b>4,351</b>	<b>4,693</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>2,784</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>-2,211</b>	<b>-50.82</b>
Pilot	696	1,868	1,917	2,065	2,086	421	25.28
Rockville	1,004	612	614	786	879	183	26.29
Salina	2,408	1,218	1,189	1,317	2,191	1,187	118.23
St. Anne	772	2,547	2,196	2,108	1,396	-1,012	-42.03
Sumner	1,920	815	799	879	910	138	17.88
Yellowhead	97,250	2,270	2,210	2,567	2,700	780	40.63
<b>Total County Population</b>		<b>102,926</b>	<b>96,255</b>	<b>103,833</b>	<b>113,449</b>	<b>16,199</b>	<b>16.66</b>
<b>Village of Hopkins Park</b>		<b>673</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>603</b>		

**TABLE 2: POPULATION BY RACE**

	Kankakee County	Pembroke Township	Hopkins Park
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>111,493</b>	<b>2,208</b>	<b>413</b>
<b>One race</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>96.8%</b>	<b>96.4%</b>
White	80.0%	14.5%	6.5%
Black or African American	15.2%	80.8%	84.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%	0.2%	1.0%
Asian	1.1%	0.9%	1.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race	1.7%	0.5%	2.7%
<b>Two or more races</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census American Community Survey (2016 5-Year, Table S0601)

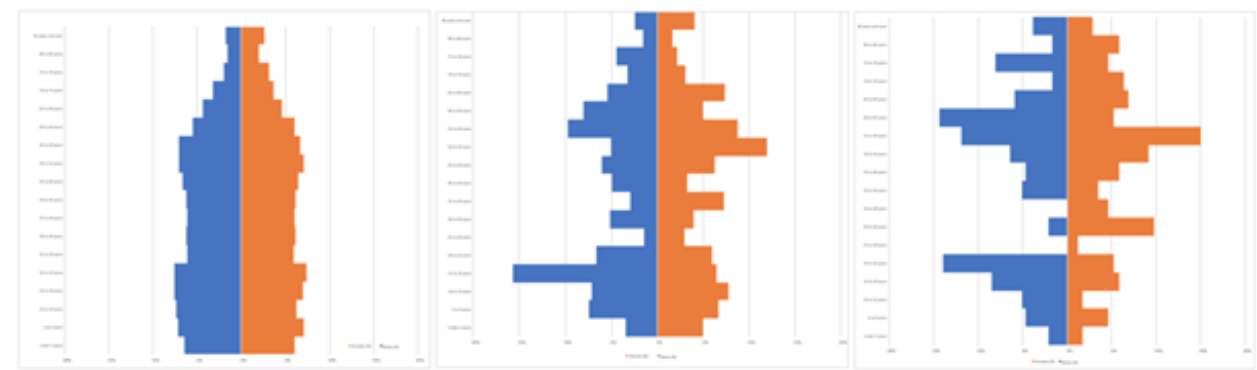
Note on Table 2: The columns for Kankakee County and Village of Hopkins Park represent estimates from the 2016 American Community Survey that the Census reports. In addition, the total population estimate for Pembroke is taken from the 2016 survey, though the percentage breakdowns by race are from the 2010 census. The ACS is a survey of a sample and not a census effort to literally count everyone, and so can undercount population, especially for small or remote areas.

**TABLE 3: AGE STRUCTURE FOR KANKAKEE COUNTY, PEMBROKE TOWNSHIP, AND THE VILLAGE OF HOPKINS PARK (2015 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES)**

Age	Kankakee County		Pembroke Township		Village of Hopkins Park	
Under 18 Years	26,831	24.9%	537	24.2%	53	13.0%
18-64	65,578	60.9%	1,291	58.1%	260	63.6%
65 and Over	15,193	14.1%	394	17.7%	96	23.5%

Data Source: ACS 2015 5-year estimates (Table S0101)

**TABLE 4: AGE PYRAMID FOR KANKAKEE COUNTY, PEMBROKE TOWNSHIP, AND THE VILLAGE OF HOPKINS PARK (2015 ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES)**



Data Source: ACS 2015 5-year estimates (Table S0101)  
Note on Table 4: Age pyramids for Kankakee County, Pembroke Township and the Village of Hopkins Park help to illustrate the distribution of population by age cohorts. Each bar on an age pyramid shown depicts a five-year age group, with youngest at the bottom, and males on the left in blue and females on the right in red

**TABLE 5. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, INCOME, AND POVERTY**

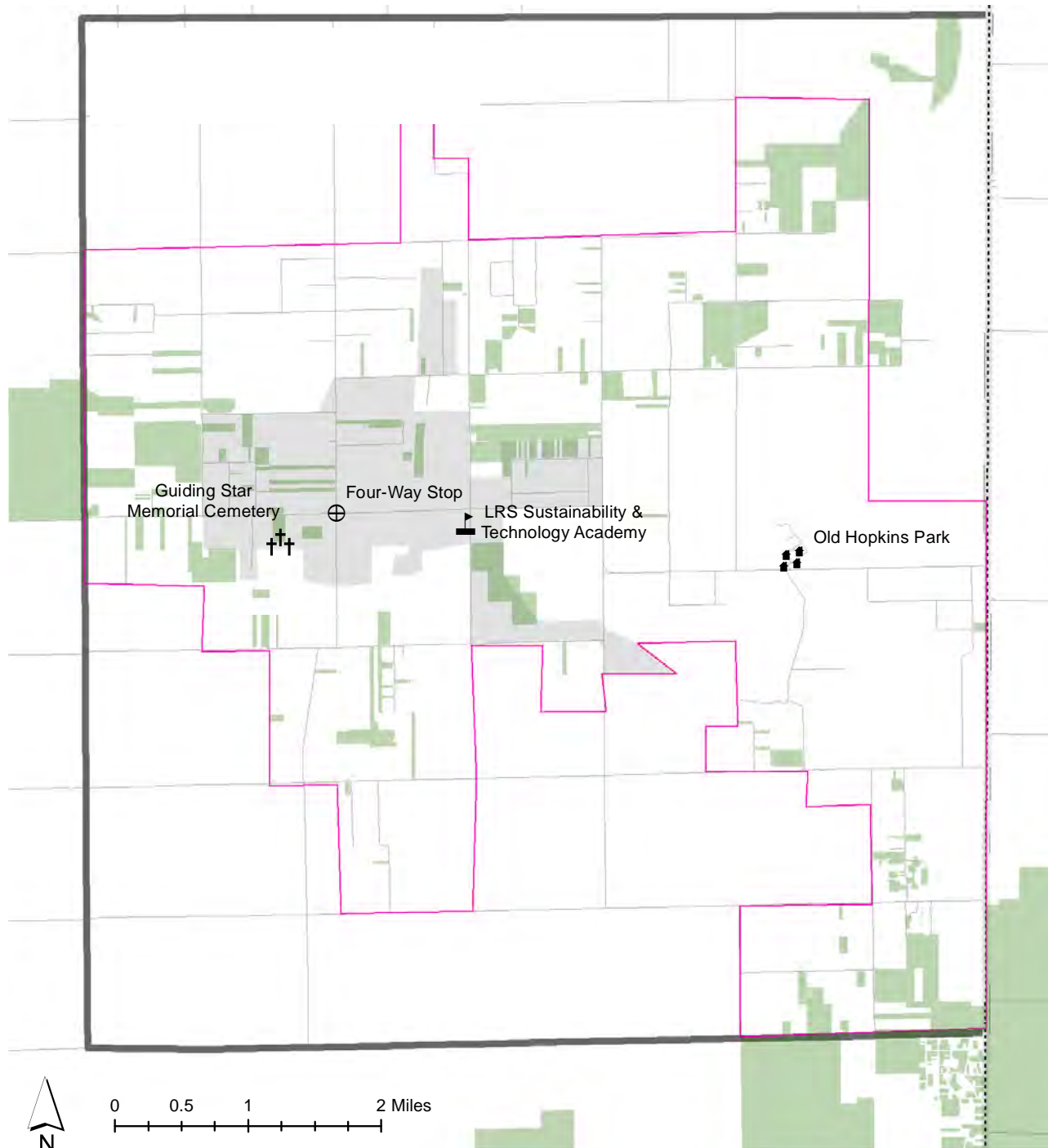
	Kankakee County		Pembroke Township		Village of Hopkins Park	
Adult Education (Population 25 Years and Over)						
Less than High School	8,448	11.9%	340	23.8%	94	31.9%
High School Diploma	24,125	33.9%	479	33.5%	101	34.2%
Some college, associates degree	24,961	35.1%	459	32.1%	75	25.4%
Bachelors degree or higher	13,653	19.2%	151	10.6%	25	8.5%
Total Population 25 Years and Over	71,187	100.0%	1,429	100.0%	295	100.0%
Unemployment Rate						
Labor Force	54,356		818		135	
Unemployed	5,287		247		33	
Unemployed Rate	9.7%		30.2%		24.4%	
Median Income						
	\$52,110		\$26,039		N/C	
Poverty Rate						
	16.1%		33.9%		27.9%	
Employment						
Management	15,012	30.1%	140	24.5%	26	25.5%
Service	9,115	18.3%	157	27.5%	38	37.3%
Sales	11,655	23.4%	102	17.9%	25	24.5%
Natural Resources	5,162	10.4%	35	6.1%	3	2.9%
Production and Transportations	8,871	17.8%	137	24.0%	10	9.8%
Total Civillian Employed Population	49,815	100.0%	571	100.0%	102	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census American Community Survey (2015 5-Year, Table S0601)



# Conservation Stakeholders

Approaches								
Name	Web	Mission	Land Ownership in Pembroke	Acquisition	Easement	Restoration on Private Land	Engagement	Education
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<a href="https://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Planning/Kankakee/index.html">https://www.fws.gov/Midwest/Planning/Kankakee/index.html</a>	Works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.	Own no land in Pembroke; owns 66 acres in Iroquois County	X - Willing seller or donor only	X - Willing seller or donor only	X	X	X
The Nature Conservancy	<a href="http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/illinois/placesweprotect/kankakee-sands-1.xml">http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/illinois/placesweprotect/kankakee-sands-1.xml</a>	Conserves the lands and waters on which all life depends.	~1600 acres in Pembroke; 900 acres in St. Anne	X	X	X	X	X
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission	<a href="https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/INPC/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/INPC/Pages/default.aspx</a>	Assists private and public landowners in protecting high quality natural areas and habitats of endangered and threatened species; in perpetuity, through voluntary dedication or registration of such lands into the Illinois Nature Preserves System. Promotes the preservation of these significant lands and provides leadership in their stewardship, management and protection.	Doesn't own land; has dedicated 10 preserves in the Pembroke area		X	X	X	X
Friends of the Kankakee	<a href="http://friendsofthekankakee.org">friendsofthekankakee.org</a>	The mission of the Friends of the Kankakee is to support the US Fish and Wildlife Service in its goals to preserve the biological and cultural diversity of the Kankakee River Basin through the establishment of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.	~250 acres of land in Iroquois county	X				
Keller Science Action Center at the Field Museum	<a href="https://www.fieldmuseum.org/science/research/area/keller-science-action-center/science-action-chicago">https://www.fieldmuseum.org/science/research/area/keller-science-action-chicago</a>	A team of scientist-explorers expert in translating museum knowledge into lasting results for conservation and cultural understanding, both in the midst of a great urban center and in the wildest, most remote places on Earth.	Cannot purchase land				X	X



### Pembroke Landmarks

⊕ Four-Way Stop

🚩 LRS Sustainability & Technology Academy

⛔ Remembrance/Guiding Star Memorial Cemetery

🌳 Old Hopkins Park

🌿 Conservation Land

📐 Sustainability Planning Area

🏘️ Village of Hopkins Park

🗒️ Pembroke Township

— Roads

Document Path: \\clark\geodata\NorthAmerica\US-Midwest\PROJECTS\Kankakee\MXD\Sustainability\_Plan\_Map.mxd

