

Inventory of the

**Northeastern Illinois Planning
Commission**

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 159

INTRODUCTION

Professor Richard Dahlberg, Chair, N.I.U. Geography Department, donated the records of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission to the Regional History Center on December 8, 1982. Professor Dahlberg and the Center wish to express appreciation to the Kane County Development Office for its cooperation in supplying the records.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 5.25
Number of containers: 6
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 159

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission Records document efforts to solve major public problems in land, water, resource management, and economic development in the six county Chicago metropolitan area from 1960 to 1980. This collection presents a rich resource for geographic, demographic, public policy, and environmental research in region and complements other records collections the Center holds. This collection is especially strong in land use, water resources, and transportation development.

Three distinct records series may be found in the collection: documents relating to the entire region, records from county planning agencies within the region, and studies undertaken by municipalities. The first series is arranged by major problem areas (land, water, transportation) and contains many of the Commission's annual reports. The other two series are arranged by place name, alphabetically, then by subject of study.

Researchers using this collection should be aware that the Center holds other collections which complement the N.I.R.P.C. Records such as the Joliet Chamber of Commerce Records (RC 157); the Aurora League of Women Voters Records (RC 151); the Geneva-St. Charles League of Women Voters Records (RC 149); Will, DuPage, and Kane County Farm Bureau Records (RC 76, 87, 94); various documents in the Center's reference and vertical file manuscripts.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Planning on a regional scale began in northeastern Illinois as early as 1898. Fatalities from typhoid and cholera by then had reached epidemic proportions in Chicago and nearby communities, the result of using Lake Michigan both for drinking water and sewage disposal.

The regional solution was to create the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago to collect and treat the sewage and reverse the flow of the Chicago River.

Regional planning of a broader scope began soon after in 1908, when Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett produced the famous Plan of Chicago. The plan encompassed a region extending from Kenosha, Wisconsin to Michigan City, Indiana. To Burnham and his backers in the Commercial Club we owe the Chicago lakefront parks, which occupy 25 miles of the city's shoreline; the forest preserves along the river flood plains in suburban Cook County; the city's system of parkways and arterial streets, all planning concepts which have become reality.

In 1923, a group of business and civic leaders proposed forming a permanent regional planning office. Sponsored by the City Club of Chicago, in 1925 the Chicago Regional Planning Association was established as a private non-profit corporation. The Association's area of concern consisted, surprisingly, of nine counties in Illinois, three in Wisconsin, and three in Indiana.

The Association's program was aimed toward coordinating existing plans and conducting studies. For more than 30 years it assisted counties and municipalities with problems of street design, zoning, storm drainage, and subdivisions. It prepared inventories of land use, industrial location, open space, and transportation, occasionally going beyond inventories to prepare regional plans.

In the decade following World War II, the region's suburban population doubled. Almost all of this unprecedented growth occurred in subdivisions of single family homes on the peripheries of older cities and villages.

In 1955 the Illinois General Assembly appointed a commission to study the problems arising from this growth. The specific charge to the Northeastern Illinois Metropolitan Area Local Governmental Services Commission, Rep. Paul J. Randolph (R-Chicago), Chairman, was to make a "thorough study and investigation of the problems incurred in the Northeastern Illinois Metropolitan Area in adequately and economically supplying to the occupants of such area those services relating to public health, safety, welfare and convenience which are generally considered to be the responsibility of local government."

Representative Randolph sponsored a bill creating the Northeastern Illinois Metropolitan Area Planning Commission in 1957 to promote cooperation among hundreds of local governments in solving major growth problems: inadequate transportation, air pollution, disorderly land use, water supply problems, disappearing open space, and recurrent flooding are examples.

The N.I.R.P.C. began operations in 1958 and serves over eight million people in the six county Chicago metropolitan area: counties in the region are Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will. Within the region there are over 300 municipalities and 1,000

governmental units. Illinois Revised Statutes, chapter 85, sections 1119 through 1121 provides the statutory base for the Commission and its work.

(Taken from the N.I.R.P.C., Annual Report, 1975: Fifty Years of Organized Regionalism, p. 4.)

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Aurora
Batavia
Blackberry Center
Carpentersville
Cook County
Dundee
DuPage County
Economic Development
Elgin
Flood Control
Geneva
Gilberts
Hampshire
Kane County
Kaneland
Lake County
Land Use
McHenry County
Montgomery
Northeastern Illinois
Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission
Population
Railroad Stations
Regional Transportation Authority
Roads
Sauk Village
Sewage Disposal
Sleepy Hollow
Soil Conservation
St. Charles
Suburbs
Transportation
Valley View
Water Conservation
Wayne
Wildrose Springs
Will County

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
Series I. Regional Documents			
1	1-3	NIRPC Annual Reports, 1963-1977	
	4	Regional Planning, 1968-1978	
	5	Public Hearing, 1965	
	6	Fox River Valley Study, 1976	
	7	Local Resources/Cooperation, 1964	
	8-9	Water Supply, 1964-1978	
	10	Wastewater, 1969-1973	
	11-16	Water Quality Plan, 1975-1979	
	17	Flood Control, 1964-1976	
	18	Flooding/Stormwater Plan, 1974-1976	
	19	Soil Erosion/Sediment Control, 1973	
	20	Sewage Treatment, 1965	
	2	1-4	Clean Water Staff Papers, 1974-1978
		5-7	RTA Plans and Reports, 1977-1985
		8	System Plan, 1995
		9	Freight Transportation, 1975
		10	Traffic Survey, 1959
		11	Transit Station Reports, 1976
		12	Regional Planning Program, 1981-83
		13	Transportation Improvement Program, 1976-1980
14		Regional Data Report, 1977	
15		Patterns and Prospects, 1976; Year 2000	
16		Freeways, 1973	
17-18		Land Use Planning, 1968-1978	
19		Open Space Report, 1962	
20-21		Farm Land Preservation	
3	1	Solid Waste Plans, 1973, 1976	
	2-4	Residential Planning, 1971-1978	
	5	Rail Station Preservation	
	6	Recreational Planning, 1980	
Series II. County Records			
	7	DuPage, Soil Survey, 1976	
	8	DuPage County Building Ordinance, 1977	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
3	9	DuPage County Transit Study, 1977
	10	DuPage County Planning, 1974-1978
	11	Kane County Economic Development, 1967-1979
	12	Kane County Land Use, 1973-1979
	13	Blackberry Center, 1973-1975
	14	Kane County Subdivision Regulations, 1962-1979
	15-16	Kane County Soil Surveys, 1973, 1979
	17	Tyler Creek Watershed, 1976
	18	Kane County Planning, 1974-1976
	19	McHenry County, Land Use, 1979
	20	Lake County Zoning, 1979
	21	Will County Planning, 1976
	22	Will County Soil Manual, 1976
	4	1
2		Will County Acquisition Plan, 1976

Series III. City and Town Records

	3	North Aurora Planning, 1967-1977	
	4-5	North Aurora Zoning, 1969, 1974	
	6	Aurora Zoning Ordinance, 1975	
	7	Aurora Resources Inventories, 1975-1978	
	8	Aurora Transportation, 1976	
	9	Aurora Zoning/Ordinances, 1972-1979	
	10	Aurora Transportation, 1970-1978	
	11	Batavia Planning, 1952-1977	
	12	Batavia Zoning/Ordinances, 1953-1975	
	13	Batavia Schools, 1968	
	14	Batavia Housing, 1971	
	15	Batavia Soils, 1962	
	16-17	Elgin Economic Development, 1958-1970	
	18	Elgin Zoning, 1969-1972	
	19	Elgin Parks, 1977	
	20	Elgin Planning, 1968-1978	
	21	Geneva Zoning, 1977	
	22	Geneva Development Policy, 1975	
	5	1	Geneva Parks, 1968, 1980
		2-3	St. Charles Planning, 1972-1980
		4	St. Charles Zoning, 1963-1965
		5	Carpentersville Annual Budget, 1974-1975
6		Carpentersville Comprehensive Plan, 1972-1973	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	6
5	7	Dundee Township Traffic Plan, 1976	
6	1	Dundee Township Park District, 1975	
	2	Dundee Development Review Manual, 1975	
	3	East Dundee Ordinances, 1972	
	4	East Dundee Master Plan, 1973	
	5	Village of Gilberts Regulations and Ordinance, 1969-1980	
	6	Village of Hampshire Municipal and Building Code, 1950-1974	
	7	Kaneland School Sites, 1973	
	8	Montgomery Zoning Ordinance, 1975	
	9	Montgomery Comprehensive Plan, 1973	
	10	Montgomery Interim Report, 1967	
	11	Sauk Village Fiscal Resources	
	12	Sleepy Hollow Comprehensive Plan, 1974	
	13	Valley View Master Plan, 1973	
	14	Wayne Zoning Ordinance, 1960	
	15	West Dundee Zoning Ordinance	
	16	West Dundee Master Plan, 1974	
	17	Wildrose Springs Development Plan, 1970	