

# McHENRY COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT CARD

MAY 19, 2026

## LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

McHenry County is committed to the quality of life, economic betterment, and forward-thinking governance of the County on behalf of all its citizens. The County sees its position as one of leadership in the region, building collaborative relationships with municipalities and other local governments along with leading by example for property tax control. Leadership and Governance embodies the County Board’s approach to the governance of the County and interaction with internal and external partners.

### GOAL 1

Develop and implement a reporting mechanism for all County appointed Boards to report activities and initiatives to the County Board to promote accountability, enhance information sharing, and improve overall coordination and communication

- ✓ **Ongoing:** Standardized interview questions and procedures have been developed for the McHenry County Conservation District and Fire Protection District appointment processes.
- ✓ **May 2026:** At the May 14, 2026 Committee of the Whole, Health Administrator Melissa Adamson, Board of Health President Joe Clark, and Board of Health Vice President Kyle Marcussen presented the Department of Health Annual Report.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** At the April 16, 2026 Committee of the Whole, representatives from the McHenry County Mental Health Board gave an overview of the Mental Health Board, including governance structure, responsibilities, and funding allocations in FY25 and FY26.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** At the April 9, 2026 Finance & Audit Committee, the Assistant County Administrator Adam Lentendre gave a Capital Plan presentation and overview.
- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** At the March 12, 2026 Committee of the Whole, County Engineer Joe Korpalski presented a comprehensive program evaluation of the Division of Transportation’s Township Bridge Program.
- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** At the March 5, 2026 Finance & Audit Committee, Chief County Assessment Officer Alejandro Benitez presented an updated overview of the Board of Review process.

- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** The Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District, the Huntley Fire Protection District, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District and Southeast Emergency Communications came before the November Law and Government Committee to discuss the many ways their departments are pursuing cooperation and efficiencies to improve services and save taxpayer money.
- ✓ **Aug. 2025:** At the August 5, 2025 Planning, Environment & Development Committee, Michael Von Bergen gave an update of the Hebron Drainage District activities and projects completed and underway.

**GOAL 2**

Create standards to determine program effectiveness, efficiency, and potential cost-savings

- ✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on an ordinance adopting an updated fee schedule for the Department of Planning and Development. This comprehensive revision improves the Department's revenue, adds process steps that will improve efficiencies for all, and reduces the amount the Department is subsidized by the County General Fund.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.
- ✓ **Sept. 2025:** The Artificial Intelligence Workgroup presented current McHenry County AI initiatives to the Administrative Services Committee.

**GOAL 3**

Explore and implement strategies to enhance regional collaboration with the County's intergovernmental partners to leverage resources, share information, and work together to identify quality solutions to current and potential challenges (e.g., control taxes, reach economies of scale, mitigate unfunded state mandates)

- ✓ **May 2026:** Lake County and McHenry County, in partnership with the American Red Cross, invited residents impacted by recent severe storms and flooding to visit a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC), a one-stop location where residents accessed recovery assistance, met directly with agencies and received help navigating next steps after flooding.

- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The McHenry County Department of Planning and Development and the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission are co-sponsoring a workshop for municipalities and townships to learn about green infrastructure while meeting permit training requirements.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board will vote on an Ordinance establishing a Film, Video and Photo Production Permit Policy. By instituting a permit requirement, the County will have the ability to assess the potential impact this activity may have and ensure the costs to public services are offset and the disruption to private property can be addressed.
- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** The County Board will review an Ordinance establishing a Film, Video and Photo Production Permit Policy.
- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Algonquin for construction and maintenance of a remote salt storage facility. The remote facility will enable McHenry County Division of Transportation to enhance the level of service delivery available to residents in the southeast portion of the County.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** County Administrator Scott Hartman was invited to Leadership Greater McHenry County to talk with the LGMC Class of 2026 about the importance of strategic planning.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board renewed a two-year contract for the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County to manage the McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the McHenry-Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District to obtain the services of a wetland specialist to aid in providing customer service, enforcing the wetland provisions of the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance (SMO), and reviewing permit applications based on the relevant wetland provisions of the SMO.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The 2026 Class of Leadership Greater McHenry County visited with County Administrator Scott Hartman and Deputy County Administrator Alicia Schueller, as well as Illinois State Sens. Craig Wilcox and Dave Syverson, and Reps. Suzanne Ness and Joe Sosnowski to learn more about the important work they do and what county government does for the people each day.
- ✓ **Dec. 2025:** Representatives from McHenry County Government joined community and civic groups and governments from across McHenry County to meet with

Governor JB Pritzker at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry to discuss McHenry County's needs, food insecurity, workforce housing, and economic development.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board approved the reclassification from Director of Procurement and Special Services to Assistant County Administrator to effectively adapt to new strategic priorities, provide support for municipal economic development and infrastructure initiatives, and provide for more efficient management of its services and departments.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** The Regional Office of Education has developed the McAid Alliance, an agreement between all McHenry County school districts, the Emergency Management Agency, and the State's Attorney's Office that establishes a coordinated system for joint planning, training, emergency preparedness, and assistance in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Marengo and the Department of Planning and Development to provide professional planning services, including future development to the I-90/Rt 23 interchange, and zoning administration services to the City.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** Over 40 local government and private sector partners attended the 2025 McHenry County Municipal Partnering Initiative Annual Expo to share the latest information on permitting and stormwater requirements, cybersecurity best practices, and asset management.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** County Administrator Peter Austin and County Coordinator Chalen Daigle gave a presentation on county and municipal government shared services at the Illinois Municipal League Annual Conference.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Algonquin to design a shared salt storage facility.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized the Department of Planning and Development to engage with Baxter and Woodman Engineering to complete a comprehensive Watershed-Based Plan. As drainage projects are completed, municipalities in McHenry County and Lake County will be better able to manage significant rain events and will benefit from McHenry County's analysis of the Fox River Watershed.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement for continued police services provided by the County Sheriff Deputies to the Village of Port Barrington.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized an intergovernmental agreement that will allow the Northern Illinois Land Bank to represent the County for Acquisition of Abandoned Properties. The purpose of the Land Bank is to acquire distressed properties and return the properties to productive use.

#### GOAL 4

Work to encourage Springfield to help mitigate unfunded mandates and secure Federal Funding for identified local needs

✓ **Ongoing:** The County Coordinator continues to work with local governments and the County on shared service opportunities, including the McHenry County Municipal Partnering Initiative (McMPI) which recently held a bid opening for bulk water softener salt for seven agencies in McHenry County. The McMPI also recently approved their 2023 joint purchasing opportunities which were shared with all communities in McHenry County.

✓ **Mar. 2026:** Representatives from McHenry County Government and the McHenry County Council of Governments attended the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington, DC to share our priorities and needs with our representatives in Congress.

✓ **Mar. 2026:** McHenry County Sheriff Robb Tadelman recently traveled to Springfield to meet with legislators and highlight the innovative work the McHenry County Sheriff's Office is doing through its collaborative, multi-jurisdictional Police Social Work Program. House Bill 1329 adds our Sheriff's Office to the state-funded Co-Responder Pilot Program, ensuring our existing Police Social Work Program is recognized under the state's model.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the 2026 Legislative Program, which outlines priorities to pursue with the state and federal legislatures.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** Representatives from the McHenry County Council of Governments met with U.S. Representative Bill Foster to hear about our legislative priorities, and to update us on legislation in Washington.

#### GOAL 5

Work to make the County welcoming and inclusive to all

✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board issued a proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month to honor individuals, families, and communities across McHenry County.

- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** The County Board issued a proclamation honoring Janiah Slaughter for winning the IHSA State Wrestling Championship, recognizing the first girls' wrestling state champion in Huntley High School's history.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.
- ✓ **Dec. 2025:** The McHenry County Sheriff's Office participated in the annual Shop With a Cop program. The mission of the Shop With a Cop program ensures each child knows they are deserving of such gifts and develops a positive relationship between local police officers and the youngest members of our community.
- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** McHenry County proudly joined the National Association of Counties and local governments nationwide in observing Operation Green Light for Veterans. Through Veterans Day, green lights are shining at county facilities to help raise awareness of the benefits that our veterans have earned, and that our Veterans Assistance Commission stands ready to help them.
- ✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution honoring McHenry County's veterans and affirming its participation in the National Association of County's Operation Green Light for Veterans.
- ✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board issued a proclamation declaring August 2025 as National Emergency Management Awareness Month to recognize the value of local emergency management programs, support preparedness efforts, and honor the service and sacrifice of those who work to keep our communities safe.

## GOAL 6

Educate residents on County processes and how to become involved

- ✓ **May 2026:** McHenry County Treasurer Donna Kurtz, County Clerk and Recorder Joseph Tirio and Chief Assessment Officer Alex Benitez teamed up to hold a workshop event to educate the public on property taxes. The workshop was a great opportunity

to learn the ABCs of property taxes and took place at the Luecht Auditorium of McHenry County College.

- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** County Administrator Scott Hartman and Deputy County Administrator Alicia Schueller spoke with 101.5 FM Huntley Community Radio about McHenry County government and transitioning into a new vision for county administration as they settle into their new roles.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.
- ✓ **Oct. 2025:** The McHenry County Treasurer, County Clerk and Recorder, and Chief Assessment Officer are teaming up to hold property tax workshops through November at libraries across the county. Residents will learn about available exemptions, know the impact of increasing assessments, how to protect their property with fraud alerts, and understand how tax levies, budgets, and elections affect property taxes.

## GOAL 7

Explore sustainable funding sources to reduce reliance on property taxes

- ✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on an ordinance amending the McHenry County Enterprise Zone to clarify incentives and add parcels to bring long-term additional revenue to the County through increased development and improved property use and values.
- ✓ **May 2026:** Starting this year, McHenry County properties that are only adjusted by their equalization factor will not be receiving a mailed copy of their assessment. The County Board made the switch to online assessment notices to save taxpayers more than \$65,000 a year in postage costs.
- ✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on an ordinance adopting an updated fee schedule for the Department of Planning and Development. This comprehensive revision improves the Department's revenue, adds process steps that will improve efficiencies for all, and reduces the amount the Department is subsidized by the County General Fund.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** McHenry County was awarded \$1.2 million in Community Project Funding. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky selected the County's project to put forward to Congress for inclusion in the Federal Government's budget.

- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board approved an ordinance regulating and imposing fees for video gaming terminals in unincorporated areas of McHenry County. The County is projected to generate upwards of \$47,500 in additional revenue.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board accepted \$25,000 in Vaccine Access Program Grant Funds that reduces the Department of Health personnel costs by \$25,000.
- ✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board accepted \$9,500 in FY26 Cemetery Relief Grant funds from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to revitalize grave markers at Valley Hi Cemetery.
- ✓ **Dec. 2025:** The Deputy County Administrator, Scott Hartman, presented an update on mental health sales tax revenue at the County Board's Committee of the Whole. Mental Health Board services are now funded by a sales tax, which reduces the county's property tax levy.

## GOAL 8

Improve Resiliency to Emergencies and Disasters

- ✓ **May 2026:** Lake County and McHenry County, in partnership with the American Red Cross, invited residents impacted by recent severe storms and flooding to visit a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC), a one-stop location where residents accessed recovery assistance, met directly with agencies and received help navigating next steps after flooding.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.
- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution authorizing a two-year contract with Christopher B. Burke Engineering to provide secondary stormwater plan review and inspection services for the Department of Planning and Development.
- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** The Regional Office of Education has developed the McAid Alliance, an agreement between all McHenry County school districts, the Emergency Management Agency, and the State's Attorney's Office that establishes a coordinated system for joint

planning, training, emergency preparedness, and assistance in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution supporting McHenry County ETSB with the award and implementation of a Countywide Next Generation 9-1-1 System that allows digital information to flow seamlessly from the public, through the 9-1-1 network, to emergency responders.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** Emergency Management Agency Director David Christensen gave a presentation to public information officers from local governments across McHenry County on EMA's purpose and the vital role of PIOs in disaster response and recovery.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** McHenry County Emergency Management Agency Resiliency Specialist Peter Dawson and agency director David Christensen gave a presentation on disaster resiliency efforts for the local Coordinating Council.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized the Department of Planning and Development to engage with Baxter and Woodman Engineering to complete a comprehensive Watershed-Based Plan. As drainage projects are completed, municipalities in McHenry County and Lake County will be better able to manage significant rain events and will benefit from McHenry County's analysis of the Fox River Watershed.

## GOAL 9

Provide training and continuing education for County Board Members

✓ **Sept. 2025:** The McHenry County Department of Planning and Development gave an informative presentation on zoning board procedures to the Committee of the Whole.

## ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

To achieve McHenry County's mission of providing the highest quality services and its vision as a leader and innovator in local government, elected officials and staff should continuously seek methods for delivering quality services with the most effective approaches while emphasizing the judicious use of resources. Additionally, County leaders recognize the value of advancing the County's administrative and programmatic affairs via an organization comprised of highly qualified, competent, and committed public servants and professionals. Innovation, stewardship, best practices,

and professional development should be the hallmarks of the County's administrative functions and service delivery approaches. Organizational Advancement reflects the actions and efforts to improve the organization, and how it can efficiently and effectively carry out the business of the County with this mission in mind.

## GOAL 1

Identify strategies to enhance integration, coordination, communication, and information-sharing between County-wide departments

- ✓ **Ongoing:** The County Administrator distributes a monthly e-newsletter to all employees sharing important updates.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board voted to authorize annual enhancements and modifications to iJustice case management software. The use of the iJustice case management software is mission-critical to the entire court system.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.
- ✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution authorizing the contract renewal with eSCRIBE for agenda management, live high-definition streaming of county board and committee meetings, electronic voting, board appointment tracking and closed captioning software.

## GOAL 2

Continue County-wide recruitment and retention efforts for qualified/skilled employees

- ✓ **May 2026:** During Public Service Recognition Week, County Administrator Scott Hartman delivered a heartfelt video acknowledging and thanking the hard work,

dedication, and leadership exhibited by employees across all departments and offices of McHenry County.

- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board issued a proclamation acknowledging May 3-9, 2026, as Public Service Recognition Week to honor the accomplishments and contributions of government employees at all levels.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board issued a proclamation to honor the McHenry County Department of Health for its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board voted to reclassify the Self-Help Center Navigator position, the Deputy Trial Court Administrator position, and the Fiscal Operations Manager position to accurately reflect additional responsibilities and the work performed in support of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board voted to reclassify, re-title and regrade positions within the McHenry County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office division review concluded that these changes efficiently realign division needs and reduce annual personnel expenses by \$17,415.
- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** The County Board approved a resolution to eliminate the Senior Community Develop Specialist position and restructure the Community Development Specialist position to delegate responsibilities, promote professional development, and ensure an efficient organization.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.
- ✓ **Dec. 2025:** Elected Officials and department heads took up the annual tradition of serving food for county employees at our annual holiday luncheon. County employees also stepped up to their annual tradition of using the event to give back to the community by donating to local food pantries, Toys for Tots, the Sheriff's Office Shop With a Cop program, and the Animal Control and Adoption Center.
- ✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board approved the reclassification from Director of Procurement and Special Services to Assistant County Administrator to effectively adapt to new strategic priorities, provide support for municipal economic development and infrastructure initiatives, and provide for more efficient management of its services and departments.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution reclassifying the Community Development Specialist I and II roles to a Community Development Specialist role that will equalize teammates and further the Planning and Development Department's ability to accomplish its goals through collaboration.

### GOAL 3

Departments should collaborate on programs to maximize effectiveness and efficiency

✓ **Mar. 2026:** The McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission convened a veterans' Mental Health Summit at the County Administration Building, bringing people and agencies together to talk about what they do and how to share resources to help our veterans. Our VAC was joined by McHenry County Court Services, the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC), Veterans Path to Hope, NAMI McHenry County, and the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Police Social Work Program.

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board authorized a contract with Alpha Controls & Services for the upgrade of the building automation system. The County saves approximately \$934,000 over the 15-year lifespan of this project by lowering energy costs and reducing major HVAC run times.

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** The Regional Office of Education has developed the McAid Alliance, an agreement between all McHenry County school districts, the Emergency Management Agency, and the State's Attorney's Office that establishes a coordinated system for joint planning, training, emergency preparedness, and assistance in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

### GOAL 4

Annually select and analyze the County's mandated versus nonmandated programs for financial sustainability

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.

### GOAL 5

Create and maintain a living three-year financial model

✓ **Aug. 2025:** Chief Financial Officer, Kerri Wisz, gave an informative presentation on McHenry County's three-year financial model at the Committee of the Whole. The presentation can be found on the meeting portal page.

### GOAL 6

Support the Sheriff's efforts to optimize the use of the corrections facility and enhance law enforcement across McHenry County

✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution authorizing a contract between the Sheriff's Office and CCI Flooring for the removal and replacement of the kitchen floor in the corrections facility to ensure the safety of inmates and staff.

✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board voted to authorize the McHenry County Sheriff to purchase a 3D scanner to provide more accurate and immediate measurements for crime scenes and traffic accidents.

✓ **March 2026:** The County Board approved a resolution accepting \$195,534.30 in grant funding from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board for the purchase of body worn cameras.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board authorized the purchase of portable and mobile radios for the McHenry County Sheriff, Emergency Management Agency, and the Division of Transportation to ensure coordinated communications and collaboration amongst local public safety agencies.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

McHenry County's balance of rural and suburban areas sets it apart from many other counties in the state of Illinois. While population and commercial growth are economically beneficial, that growth must be sustainable and balanced with efforts to preserve open space, agricultural land, agricultural production, and conserve the County's groundwater supply. Additionally, advances in alternative energy sources and

'green' technologies have opened the door for McHenry County to explore ways in which it can integrate sustainable alternatives into its operations. Environmental Sustainability establishes the County's priorities and commitments to ensure the preservation and protection of open space, natural resources, agricultural heritage, water supplies, air quality, and energy conservation.

### GOAL 1

Work to enhance and maintain long-term sustainability of the strong agriculture industry within the County

- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board authorized the execution of a stormwater management conservation easement to preserve the scenic and agricultural characteristics of property located in Alden Township.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

### GOAL 2

Remain aware of advancement in alternative energy sources. Develop and implement an environmental sustainability plan.

- ✓ **Ongoing:** The Planning & Development Department along with its consultants have conducted virtual and in-person visioning sessions to seek input for the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. A public survey has also been available since the summer of 2022.
- ✓ **Ongoing:** The Facilities Department is using its utility tracker software to continuously monitor building efficiency and make improvements.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The McHenry County Department of Planning and Development and the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission are co-sponsoring a workshop for municipalities and townships to learn about green infrastructure while meeting permit training requirements.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board authorized a contract with Alpha Controls & Services for the upgrade of the building automation system. The County saves approximately \$934,000 over the 15-year lifespan of this project by lowering energy costs and reducing major HVAC run times.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three

themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

### GOAL 3

Consider the reactivation and consolidation of drainage districts whenever future area development presents the opportunity

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

### GOAL 4

Explore opportunities to exercise local control of solar and wind farms

### GOAL 5

Advance awareness of the water supply and demand throughout the County

✓ **Jan. 2026:** Water Resources Specialist, Scott Kuykendall, provided an overview of water resources and water resource leadership in McHenry County to the McHenry County Coordinating Council Meeting.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** Water Resources Specialist, Scott Kuykendall, gave two separate presentations at the Stormwater Leadership Summit on how a county-wide approach to watershed planning in McHenry County has empowered community resilience.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** The Planning & Development Department along with support from sponsors and the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County hosted and presented the annual Water Forum educating the public on threats to our water supply and on water resiliency efforts.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized the Department of Planning and Development to engage with Baxter and Woodman Engineering to complete a comprehensive Watershed-Based Plan. As drainage projects are completed, municipalities in McHenry County and Lake County will be better able to manage

significant rain events and will benefit from McHenry County's analysis of the Fox River Watershed.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** McHenry County's Water Resources Specialist, Scott Kuykendall, gave a presentation to county employees on water resource management, the threats to our water, and how attendees can help protect water in McHenry County.

## ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Successful economic development is the key to achieving the County's vision of a diversified tax base and strong financial position which is necessary to ease the property tax burden of County residents. New commercial developments provide greater employment opportunities in the County, increase the overall value of property, lessen the burden of property taxes, and broaden the diversity of government revenues allowing for better service provision. Workforce development efforts promote the availability of a skilled workforce to ensure that the human resources in the County adequately meet the needs of both new and existing businesses. Economic and Workforce Development articulates the strategies identified to advance McHenry County's economic opportunities and attend to the needs of its workforce.

### GOAL 1

Identify strategies to attract and retain a younger demographic in McHenry County

✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on an ordinance amending the McHenry County Enterprise Zone to clarify incentives and add parcels to bring long-term additional revenue to the County through increased development and improved property use and values.

✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution authorizing the Workforce Network Board to enter into a contract with First Institute Training and Management for facilitation of the Medical Assistant program that provides work-based learning for out-of-school youth at established healthcare sites.

✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution authorizing the Workforce Network Board to enter into a contract with Parents Alliance Employment Project for individualized employment services and training for out-of-school young adults with disabilities.

- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** The County Board issued a proclamation honoring Janiah Slaughter for winning the IHSA State Wrestling Championship, recognizing the first girls' wrestling state champion in Huntley High School's history.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The McHenry County Board Chairman delivered his State of the County via video, which was posted to County social media, and highlights the county's many 2025 accomplishments and laid out priorities for 2026.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** McHenry County was proud to host and present to the students of the Youth Program for Leadership Greater McHenry County on their local government day.
- ✓ **Sept. 2025:** Representatives from McHenry County Government attended the opening of the new ETCHED Center. Short for Education, Transportation, Community, Housing, Employment, and Daily Living Skills, the ETCHED Center will prepare students for life after high school by giving them the skills to live more independently.

## GOAL 2

Develop and implement strategies to match workforce skills with employer needs and maintain a strong working relationship with labor and trade groups, McHenry County College, and workforce development

- ✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution allocating \$150,000 in federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program and Community Development Housing Grant funding to Habitat for Humanity for the development of workforce housing.
- ✓ **May 2026:** McHenry County, as part of the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership (GCEP), participated in a nine-day trade mission to Germany, advancing international relationships and reinforcing Chicagoland's position as a premier destination for global investment and expansion.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board voted to accept \$75,000 in grant funding from the McHenry County Community Foundation for an employment specialist to work with the clients of the Specialty Court Programs.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board voted to authorize a four-year contract between McHenry County College, McHenry County Workforce Network, and the Illinois

Department of Employment Security to manage the OneStop Center and provide individuals with employment resources.

✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board voted to accept \$116,000 in grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity to the Workforce Network to cover training costs for dislocated workers living in McHenry County.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The McHenry County Board was proud to stand alongside the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation at the EDC's 2025 Annual Dinner to honor several outstanding institutions with Business Recognition Awards. This year's award winners include Action Packaging, McHenry County College, Phoenix Woodworking Corp., as well as honoring retiring County Administrator Peter Austin with the Outstanding Contribution Award for his many contributions to MCEDC.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** McHenry County EDC and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity co-hosted the 2025 Business Development Roadshow at McHenry County College to provide local businesspeople with the latest program updates, learn about upcoming funding opportunities, and learn about initiatives that support business growth and economic development.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution accepting \$22,405 in grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity for the Workforce Network to cover training costs for dislocated workers living in McHenry County.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** McHenry County College welcomed representatives from McHenry County Government at the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Manufacturing Industry Council Breakfast to learn more about the future of manufacturing and manufacturing education in McHenry County.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** Eighty high school student interns completed the Manufacturing Pathways Consortium's Summer Internship Program this year. The program has provided 361 opportunities for McHenry County high school students to gain valuable workplace skills with host manufacturers over the past four years.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The McHenry County Workforce Network installed new kiosks at the McHenry and Harvard libraries to provide patrons with one-stop access to workforce development programming, unemployment resources, and housing resources.

### GOAL 3

Develop the Route 23/I-90 corridors to act as an economic engine for the County

✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on an ordinance amending the McHenry County Enterprise Zone to clarify incentives and add parcels to bring long-term additional revenue to the County through increased development and improved property use and values.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Marengo and the Department of Planning and Development to provide professional planning services, including future development to the I-90/Rt 23 interchange, and zoning administration services to the City.

### GOAL 4

Advocate for workforce housing availability in McHenry County through collaboration with municipalities

✓ **Mar. 2026:** McHenry County Government joined Northpointe Development Corporation, the Housing Opportunity Development Corporation, and the City of McHenry to officially cut the ribbon for Taylor Place Apartments and further expand workforce housing in McHenry County. McHenry County Board voted to award this project \$800,000 from its Advance McHenry County program.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board accepted \$51,843 in grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity to the Workforce Network to provide adults and young adults impacted by the justice system with reintegration support and work-experience training.

- ✓ **Dec. 2025:** Representatives from McHenry County Government joined community and civic groups and governments from across McHenry County to meet with Governor JB Pritzker at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry to discuss McHenry County's needs, food insecurity, workforce housing, and economic development.
- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** Representatives from McHenry County Government joined Lake-McHenry Habitat for Humanity to celebrate their groundbreaking at Trinity Trails, which will bring 10 new homes for working families into our community. McHenry County contributed \$215,066 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding to help make this workforce housing initiative possible.
- ✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Marengo and the Department of Planning and Development to provide professional planning services, including future development to the I-90/Rt 23 interchange, and zoning administration services to the City.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

A healthy population and a robust system of social services to meet the needs of the people are the cornerstone of a successful community. McHenry County recognizes how critically important it is to understand the needs of our residents and ensure those needs are met through a variety of public, private and nonprofit service providers. Ranging from public health, mental health, long term nursing care and a variety of support services and assistance programs to meet the needs of specific populations, McHenry County is committed to strategically addressing the Health and Social Services needs of the community.

### GOAL 1

Review the McHenry County Board of Health's 2026 Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan

### GOAL 2

Review the social services network in the County- continue to offer quality services, identify additional needed services, including those pertaining to homelessness, and work together for long-term operational and financial sustainability

- ✓ **Ongoing:** The Department of Health conducts a CHA and CHIP, also known as IPLAN, every five years to look at community health needs and develop a plan to address those needs through community partnerships.
- ✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution approving the addition of \$32,000 in Illinois Tobacco Free Communities Grant funding to reduce tobacco use among youth and tobacco-related disease.
- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** The County Board voted to accept \$181,473 in grant funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation to cover the costs of a treatment clinician in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit. This position will allow for greater access to the DUI Specialty Court Program, reduce wait time, and increase capacity to better serve the community.
- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** The McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission convened a veterans' Mental Health Summit at the County Administration Building, bringing people and agencies together to talk about what they do and how to share resources to help our veterans. Our VAC was joined by McHenry County Court Services, the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC), Veterans Path to Hope, NAMI McHenry County, and the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Police Social Work Program.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The McHenry County Department of Health has once again joined forces with the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center for Operation Dropbox. Now in its seventh year, Operation Dropbox will place collection boxes at participating sites throughout both counties where people can donate goods to assist local veterans and their families.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board authorized allocations of Senior Services Grant funding for program year 2026. The Senior Services Grant fund provides funding for projects at the Senior Care Volunteer Network, Veterans Path to Hope, Home of the Sparrow, Habitat for Humanity, and many more.
- ✓ **Sept. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution accepting \$9,000 from the Illinois Department of Public Health for the Opioid Overdose Prevention program to help combat the ongoing opioid crisis.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** The County Board approved an agreement between McHenry County and the Senior Care Volunteer Network to provide cost-effective transportation services for seniors in the County.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized \$6,000 in new award funding for the AgeGuide Foundation for Aging Grant to address social isolation and connectedness in older adults.

### GOAL 3

Review and support of the Police Social Work Program and explore opportunities for continued funding

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board accepted \$150,000 in grant funding from the Community Foundation for McHenry County to support the Police Social Worker Program.

## QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

High quality infrastructure promotes economic development, ensures the functionality of the community and services, and enables residents and businesses to conduct their daily lives in a reliable and efficient manner. As used in this plan, quality infrastructure is a broad term that extends beyond the roads and transportation system and contemplates the physical systems, appurtenances, amenities, utilities, and facilities essential to support the community needs and quality of life in McHenry County. This includes high speed internet access, recreation, multi-modal transportation systems and county facilities. Quality Infrastructure captures McHenry County's key strategic priorities for the advancement of economic, transportation and livability goals to accommodate the needs of County businesses and residents.

### GOAL 1

Evaluate the County's infrastructure system and identify strategies to routinely maintain roads and bridges, work with the State of Illinois to improve Routes 23, 47, 31, 120, 176, and 173, develop "Complete Streets" on County roads, promote the expansion of transit service in McHenry County, and implement a "Vision Zero" safety goal.

✓ **Ongoing:** MCDOT is updating its Five-Year Transportation Program (2025-2029) and will bring it forward for County Board consideration in September/October.

✓ **May 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution approving an engineering services agreement to improve and address safety concerns at the intersections of

Charles Road and Queen Anne Road and Charles Road and Route 120 in Greenwood Township.

- ✓ **Apr. 2026:** Representatives from McHenry County Government joined the City of Woodstock, Mayor Mike Turner, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Woodstock Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry and US Rep. Bill Foster to break ground on the Route 47 widening project. Route 47 between US 14 and Route 120 will be widened, and safety improved through the addition of three roundabouts, signal improvements, as well as pedestrian and ADA improvements.
- ✓ **Mar. 2026:** The County Board approved a resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Algonquin for construction and maintenance of a remote salt storage facility. The remote facility will enable McHenry County Division of Transportation to enhance the level of service delivery available to residents in the southeast portion of the County.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2026-2030 Transportation Program.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board appropriated \$720,000 for the MCRide Connect program in 2026 to continue providing an affordable, on-demand transportation option for residents of McHenry County.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board accepted \$2.25 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation for safety improvements on Charles Road to reduce fatal and severe injury crashes.
- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between McHenry County and the City of Harvard for pedestrian improvements on Airport Road and McGuire Road.
- ✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Marengo and the Department of Planning and Development to provide professional planning services, including future development to the I-90/Rt 23 interchange, and zoning administration services to the City.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with Kane County for an Advanced Traffic Management System to save costs and improve traffic flow between counties.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board passed a resolution approving the Transportation Safety Action Plan to establish a comprehensive and strategic approach to significantly reduce and ultimately eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries on our roadways.

## GOAL 2

Monitor and support ways to expand recreational opportunities for all demographics across the County

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2026-2030 Transportation Program.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

## GOAL 3

Investigate the need for a stand-alone public safety building