


**1 Introduction**

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**2** This Chapter provides the foundation for the  
**3** Comprehensive Plan, outlining why and how it was  
**4** funded and developed.

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## Ike Planning Grant

Funding for this Plan comes from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This grant funding was allocated to the State of Illinois by Presidential Declaration in response to the flooding in 2008 – known as the “Ike” disaster. “Ike disaster” funds were provided to communities to recover from the 2008 floods, as well as plan for and reduce the damage from future floods.

Based on the Ike Planning Program requirements, the Plan must at a minimum directly address the project area’s disaster recovery needs. Specifically, the plan must:

- Analyze the impact of the floods of 2008 on the area, paying special attention to the areas and groups that were most adversely affected, and the kinds of unmet “needs” that were created by the storm either directly or indirectly (e.g. infrastructure, housing, economic development etc.).
- Put forth principles/policies designed to best serve the affected populations and address the identified needs created by the disaster.
- Outline strategies designed to mitigate or minimize future disaster damage.

Additionally, this Plan must promote the Sustainable Planning Principles listed below:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate policies and leverage investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods

## Storms Affect on the Village

The 2008 flood event from Hurricane Ike severely impacted the Village of Rapids City in the immediate and long term, as described below.

- Short Term: Flood waters impacted traffic flow in and along the IL Rt. 84 corridor. This cut-off the major thoroughfare through the Village and limited access to many of the businesses within the community.
- Long Term: Flood waters damaged the sanitary sewer collection system throughout the village. *Figure 1.1 (on the next page)* shows the normal flows prior to the flood event, and the extremely high flows during and after the flood event. These flow patterns indicate that the sanitary sewer collection system is severely damaged, allowing substantial infiltration of clear water into the collection system and ultimately to the East Moline waste water treatment plant (*East Moline hands Rapids City’s waste water treatment*). This damage and excessive flows have caused the Village to raise user rates to cover excessive wastewater treatment cost (*as shown in Table 1.1 on the next page*).

A primary goal of this Plan is to predict and better prevent flooding, and thus, reduce the damage caused by future floods.

Figure 1.1: Precipitation vs. Sewer Flow Graph

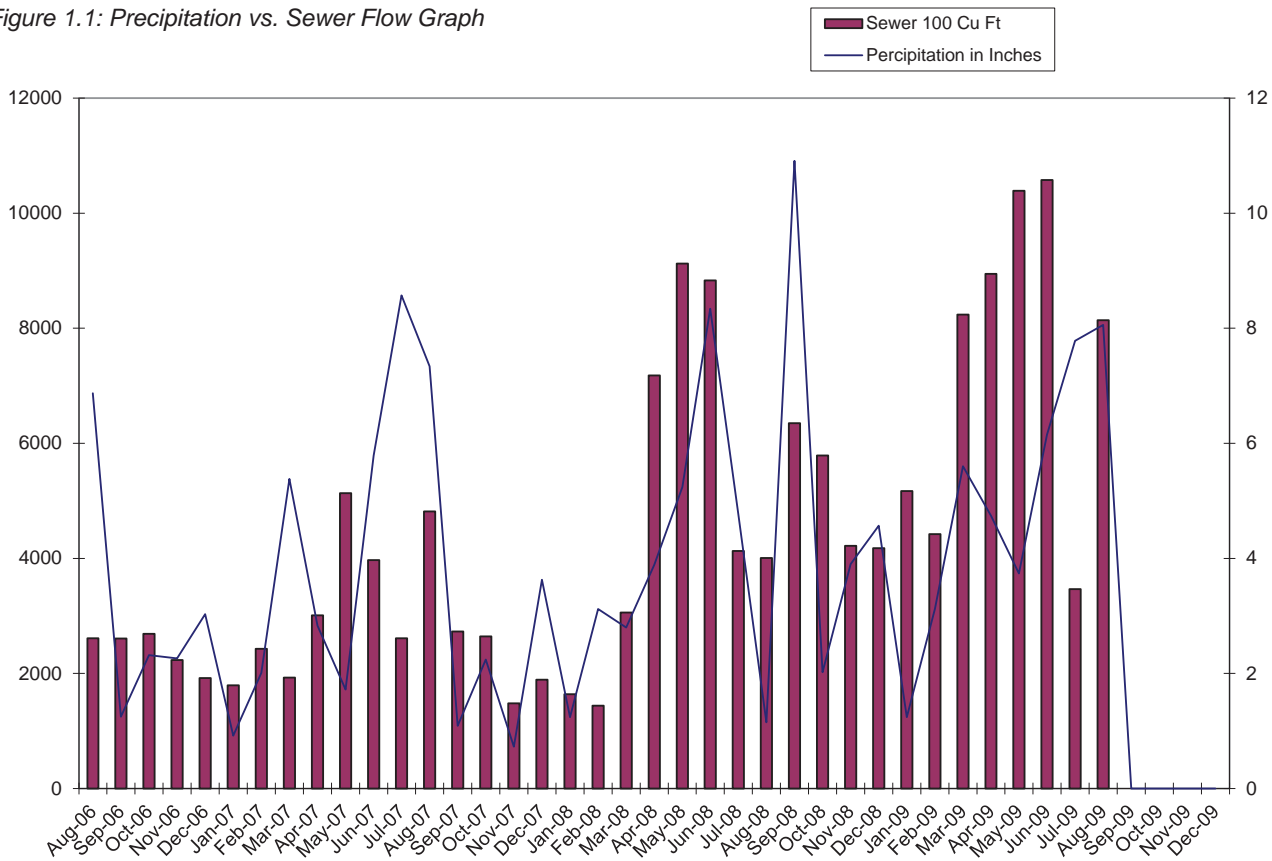


Table 1.1: Water & Sewer Cost Summary

|                                  |         |           |
|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Highest Volume 2007              | 5133    |           |
| Average Volume 2007              | 2869    | Base Load |
| Cost per Resident per Month 2007 | \$8.05  |           |
|                                  |         |           |
| Highest Volume 2008              | 9124    |           |
| Average Volume 2008              | 4996    | Base Load |
| Cost per Resident per Month 2008 | \$29.35 |           |
|                                  |         |           |
| Highest Volume 2009              | 10576   |           |
| Average Volume 2009              | 7418    |           |
| Cost per Resident per Month 2009 | \$28.22 |           |

### Why a Comprehensive Plan?

It is difficult to know what the future may bring for Rapids City, or for any community. As residents and businesses come and go, and economic trends rise and fall, changes will occur. The purpose of this plan is to establish a shared vision for Rapids City to guide future actions and decisions. This guidance provides predictability and consistency over time, which encourages investment. We plan so that we can act and react in a changing world with a confident understanding of our common values and goals.

### Plan Maintenance

This planning document is a “living” guide for growth and change in the City of Rapids City. The plan represents the City’s best effort to address current issues and anticipate future needs; however, it can and should be amended from time to time if conditions warrant reconsideration of policies in this plan. If decisions are being made that are not consistent with this plan, then the plan has lost its relevance and should be amended. The process of amending the comprehensive plan should not be onerous, but it should trigger a brief pause to consider again the long term vision for the community. This plan’s value is dependent upon frequent use and occasional updates.

### Illinois Comprehensive Planning

Comprehensive plans are defined in the Illinois Local Planning Technical Assistance Act (Public Act 92-0768, Sec. 5). The common elements addressed in a comprehensive plan are:

1. Land Use
2. Natural Resources
3. Historic Preservation
4. Transportation
5. Economic Development
6. Housing
7. Utilities & Community Facilities
8. Urban Design / Community Character
9. Agricultural & Forestry
10. Intergovernmental Cooperation

All comprehensive plans include:

- A statement of authority to prepare and adopt the plan
- Background data and analysis – including area history, a description of existing social, economic and physical (natural and man-made) conditions and trends, and economic and demographic projections.
- Documentation of stakeholder’s interests and involvement – these include interests of residents, public officials, the business community, and developers.
- Vision statement (or statement of desired goals and objectives) – desired Village outlook, generally 20 years from now.
- Future plan map or maps – these maps depict various components, including land use, transportation, community facilities, and housing areas.
- Plan Implementation – framework or schedule that describes specific measures to carry out the plan, the time frame to execution, and potentially cost ranges.

## Plan Organization

The plan is divided into six chapters plus several important appendices, as described below:

### **Chapter 1: Introduction**

Chapter 1 discusses the damage sustained by the 2008 disaster “Ike”, the role of this Plan, the planning process, and planning area.

### **Chapter 2: Vision, Goals, Objectives and Strategies**

Chapter 2 includes a vision for the future of the Village, and goals, objectives and strategies for each element of the plan, including:

*Housing*

*Mobility & Transportation*

*Economic Prosperity*

*Agriculture & Natural Resources*

*Community Facilities & Services*

*Community Character*

*Hazards*

*Collaboration & Partnerships*

### **Chapter 3: Land Use**

Chapter 3 describes current land use characteristics, defines future land use categories and policies, and presents the future land use map.

### **Chapter 4: Implementation & Action Plan**

Chapter 4 describes the tools and procedures by which the plan will be implemented and provides a detailed timeline of action steps for successful implementation of the plan.

### **Appendix A: Community Indicators**

Appendix A is a compilation of data that describes the existing conditions, trends, and projections for the Village of Rapids City. This data informs the planning process and should be updated from time to time to track progress and change in the Village.

### **Appendix B; Public Input**

Appendix B is a compilation of complete results from the public input process.

### **Appendix C: Plan Area Maps**

## Planning Process

This Plan was discussed and developed through a series of working session meetings between June 2013 and February 2014 (*see side bar for the project milestones*). All meetings were public meetings and noticed as such. In addition, a letter was sent with the Village's water bills expressly inviting residents to attend and participate in the public informational meetings.

### Project Milestones

Comprehensive Plan Kickoff

*June 5, 2013*

Public Informational Meeting

*July 18, 2013*

Working Session - Community Indicators Report

*September 26, 2013*

Working Session - Goals, Objectives & Strategies

*October 8, 2013*

Working Session - Land Use

*January 14, 2014*

Working Session - Draft Review

*February 11, 2014*

Village Board - Plan Status Update

*February 11, 2014*

Public Open House & Presentation

*March XX, 2014*

Plan Commission Recommendation / Village Board Adoption

*April XX, 2014*



## Planning Area

The study area for this Plan includes all lands in which the Village has both a short- and long-term interest in planning and development activity. As shown in *Figure 1.2 (below)*, the Planning Area includes all lands within the current municipal limits and within the Village's potential 1.5-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction. The Villages is approximately 1,066 acres (1.67 square miles). The entire Planning Area is approximately 8,028 acres (12.54 square miles).

Figure 1.2: Planning Area Map

