

The background of the cover is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a lighter blue and then to the orange of the sunset. Overlaid on the bottom half of the image are several decorative, wavy, horizontal lines in shades of white, light blue, and yellow, creating a sense of movement and flow.

Moultrie County, Illinois
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
2023

Written by Coles County Regional Planning &
Development Commission

Photos by Kevin McReynolds



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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
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The Moultrie County Comprehensive Plan would not have been possible without the incredible feedback and expertise provided by the county leadership, citizens, staff, federal and state agencies, and volunteers. We would like to give a special thank you to everyone who helped us with this by freely giving their time and input in hopes of building a stronger, more progressive county.

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INTRODUCTION

Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission (CCRP&DC) was chosen in 2017 to lead the development of a new Comprehensive Plan for Moultrie County. The Steering Committee met in 2018, 2019, and 2022, but due to the ongoing pandemic, the Committee did not meet in 2020 and 2021. During this period, several meetings were held, and a website was developed for the purpose gaining public input through surveys and other means. In addition, Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission staff met with the County Board on several occasions to report on the Plan's progress. This Plan was adopted by the Moultrie County Board on June 15, 2023. It is hoped that the final product will serve as the primary guide to Moultrie County's community development for many years to come.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan is a detailed, long range (10 year) plan intended to guide the growth and development of a community or region. The plan details and in-tegrates a community's land use, transportation, economic development, hous-ing, recreation, and open space, and relates these to the community's goals and objectives. The key component of a Comprehensive Plan is the land use plan.

- Moultrie County Comprehensive Plan has not been updated since written in the 1960's
- For future economic progress and downtown revitalization
- To develop and address critical areas such as housing opportunities and land use

What is the role of the Steering Committee?

The Steering Committee is comprised of various stakeholders such as local government leaders, area capitalists, and members of the community who are interested in helping Moultrie County develop and evolve into a better community. The Steering Committee helps to develop all Comprehensive Plan components. They direct the consultant in the development of the Plan, review the draft Plan, and coordinate revisions to ensure the Plan is responsive to the needs of Moultrie County.

After considerable work and many hours spent compiling data and gathering information for the plan, the Steering Committee is proud to present the completed Moultrie County Comprehensive Plan. Through the process of developing a countywide Comprehensive Plan, the following vision statement for Moultrie County was developed:

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Moultrie County offers a safe environment where all its citizens may reside, work, shop, learn and play. The rural character of our county is preserved through measures that protect our natural and cultural resources, minimize residential sprawl, and save farmland. Moultrie County is enriched by modern agriculture and agribusiness. The county strives to retain and recruit responsible, productive business and industry that offer family-wage jobs and employ the skilled workforce in the county. Adequate public facilities, services, and transportation infrastructure will be provided to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of all residents. County and local governments will work together to solve problems in a fiscally responsible manner.

HISTORICAL PROFILE

On February 16, 1843, Moultrie County was formed out of the northeastern portion of Shelby County and the southeast corner of Macon County. Macon and Piatt Counties bound on the north, Douglas and Coles Counties on the east, Shelby and Macon Counties on the west, and Shelby County on the south.

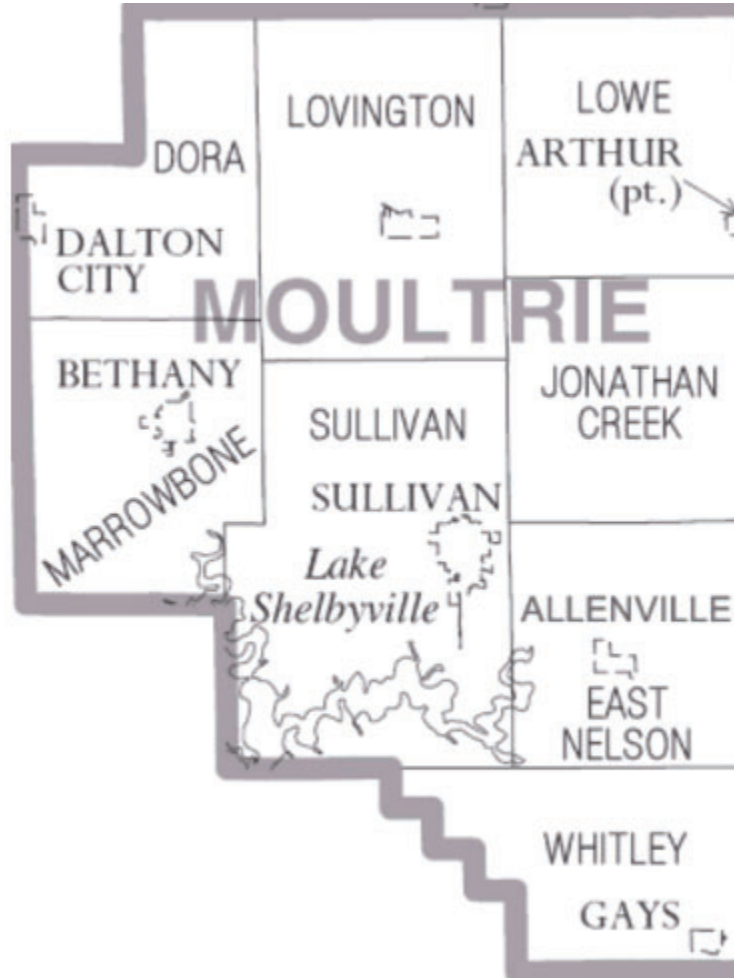
The first known settler in Moultrie County was John Whitley. He settled at the point of timber, hence known as Whitley's Point, with his family, in the fall of 1826. Here he broke the first ground and erected the first cabin in what is now Moultrie County.

Moultrie County was named after General William Moultrie, and the county seat, Sullivan, was named after General John Sullivan. Both men served as delegates to the Continental Congress and had distinguished

military careers. General Moultrie later became the Governor of South Carolina, and Sullivan became the Governor of New Hampshire and the first federal judge for the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire.

Before settlers came to the territory of Moultrie County, around the seventeenth century, the main tribe in the area was the Illini, (Illinois) in French, which was a branch of the Algonquin family. In the eighteenth century, the Kickapoos and Pottawatomies began invading and taking over the area.

The first election of officers for the county was in April 1843. In 1845, Asa's Point



won the majority vote, was named the permanent county seat, and renamed Sullivan. Court was first held at James Camfield's cabin three miles southwest of Sullivan. In 1844, it was moved to Nelson (near present day Allenville) by a vote of the people.

The first Courthouse was completed on March 6, 1848. Unlike the first courthouses in the older counties, this structure was built not of logs, but of brick, at a cost of \$2,800. This courthouse served the growing county for two decades. It was here that Stephen A. Douglas was scheduled to deliver a speech on October 20, 1858. Unbeknownst to him, Abraham Lincoln was in Sullivan that day and accepted the invitation of his admirers to speak to them at Freeland Grove, outside the town. Lincoln was equally unaware of Douglas' presence. Each party arranged a parade, headed by its favorite. When the two leaders met near the center of town, trouble broke out among some of the more boisterous followers, resulting in a few battered heads before peace could be restored.

On November 25, 1864, the Courthouse burned, destroying a large part of the county records. A new Courthouse was built with a fireproof vault in September 1866. By 1904 the County had outgrown that Courthouse and the present Courthouse was erected. It was dedicated November 12, 1906.

REGIONAL CONTEXT AND SETTING

INTRODUCTION

Every place is influenced by connected communities. Those connections include shared natural resources, like water and air, as well as the shared manmade resources such as transportation systems that provide for the movement of goods, services, and people. Regional context and location can have a significant influence on development potential. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service states it this way:

An area's geographic context has a significant effect on its size and its access to larger economies. And access to larger economies-centers of information, communication, trade, and finance enables a smaller economy to connect to national and international marketplaces.

Although globalization is increasing its influence on the world, in rural areas it is particularly true that neighbors and local bodies will often have the biggest influence on development potential. To understand the threats and opportunities Moultrie County faces, it will be useful to examine the regional context of the county.

REGIONAL LOCATION

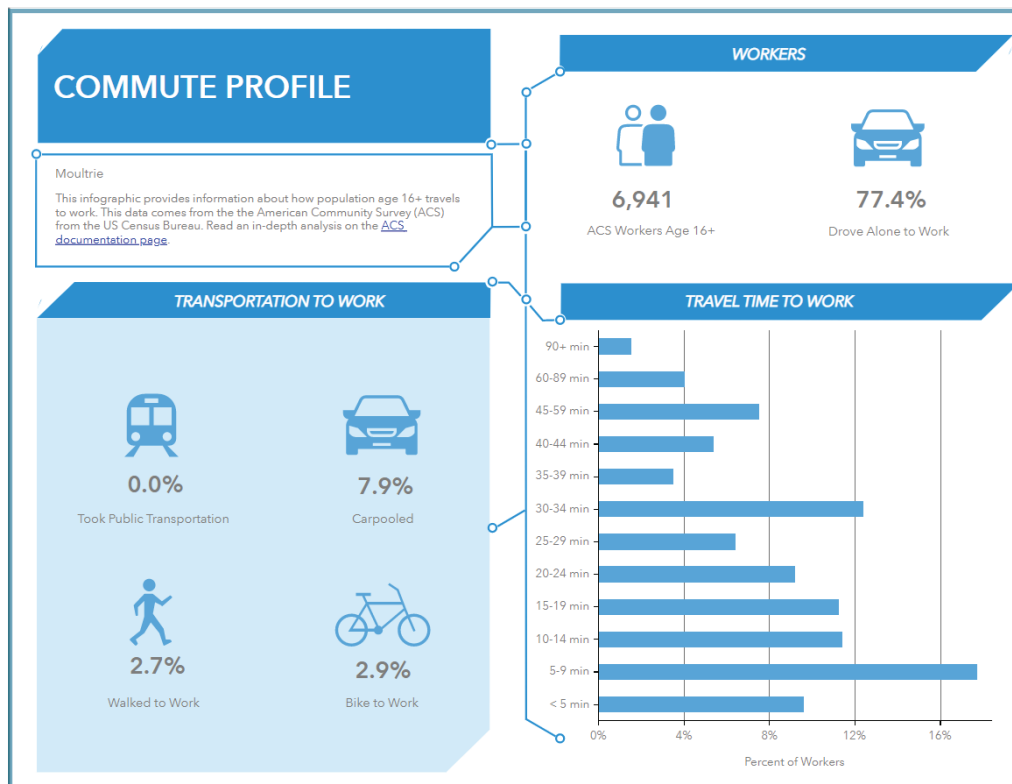
Moultrie County is in east central Illinois. The neighboring counties of Douglas and Piatt will often be used as benchmarks for comparing Moultrie County's performance on important demographic and socioeconomic indicators in the community profile. Because they share many of the same locational attributes, like access to transportation infrastructure, weather and climate, labor force and natural resources, they are good barometers of local development opportunity.

Moultrie County is crossed by several highways (121, 32, 133 & 128) providing connections with neighboring counties and larger metropolitan areas. Highway 121 crosses the county from southeast to northwest, giving access to both Mattoon and Decatur. Interstate 57 is just 20 minutes away, providing easy access to Champaign. St. Louis is just over 2 hours to the southwest, via I-70 with an interchange in Effingham. One and

a half hours to the east is Terre Haute, IN and just an hour further on is Indianapolis, IN. Both St. Louis and Indianapolis have major international airports, giving access to anywhere one might need to travel. Nearby Mattoon has an Amtrak station with trains running regularly from Chicago to New Orleans, with access to other routes across the country.



COMMUTING TRENDS



Almost 50% of workers in Moultrie County commute outside of the county for work. Over thirty percent of those workers travel more than 30 minutes to their jobs. This could lead to an assumption that many who are shopping for essentials, such as groceries and gas for these commuters, most likely do so in the county they are commuting to for work. This would indicate a need to focus efforts on bringing more job opportunities to the county to keep those workers and funds within Moultrie County.

Commuting

23.3 +/- 1.5

Average travel time to work (in minutes) in Moultrie County, Illinois

29.6 +/- 0.2

Average travel time to work (in minutes) in Illinois

Table: S0801

Table Survey/Program: 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Means of Transportation to Work (Workers 16 Years and Over)

Drove alone - 77.4%

Carpool - 7.9%

Public transportation - 0.0%

Walked - 2.7%

Other means - 6.6%

Worked at home - 5.3%

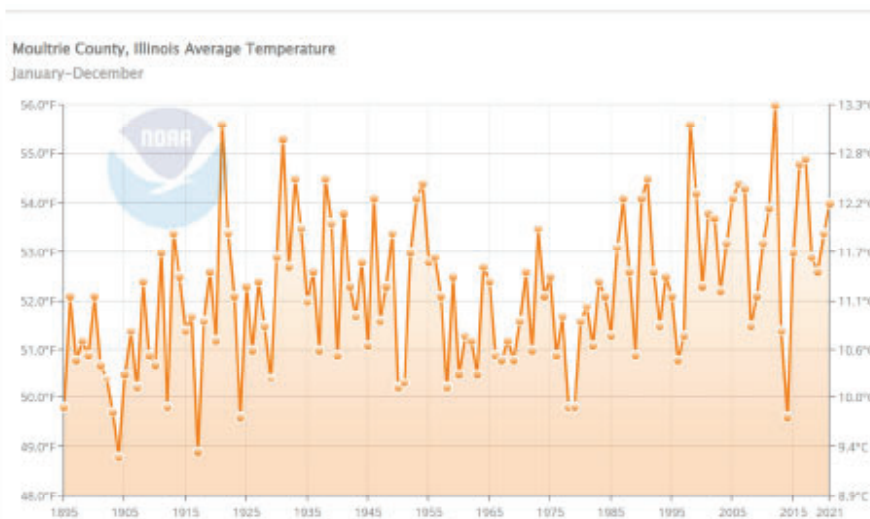
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80%

The exception to this is the Village of Arthur, which has a higher number of workers than the population of the Village, based on census numbers. This is likely attributed to the high volume of commerce present, due to the tourism generated by the Village. Of the millions of tourists that flock to Moultrie County every year, the Village of Arthur accounts for anywhere from 350,000-500,000.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

Climate

Moultrie County, IL, gets an average of 39 inches of rain per year. Of this, around 25.08 inches (64%) usually falls in April through October. The US average is 37 inches.



Average snowfall in Moultrie County is 21.4 inches per year and the average winter temperature is 30 degrees F. The average daily minimum temperature is 22.3 degrees. The lowest temperature on record, which occurred on January 24, 1915, was -26. The prevailing wind is from the south, and the

average wind speed is highest, between 11 and 12 miles per hour, from November through April.

In summer, the average temperature is 74.6 degrees, and the average daily maximum temperature is 85.5 degrees. The highest temperature on record, which occurred on July 14, 1936, was 111 degrees.

Geology

Illinois Bedrock is considered a preglacial valley formed during the Quaternary Period or earlier. Glaciers flowed across east-central Illinois from ice centers located over northern Canada northeast of the Great lakes during three main periods of glaciation: the Wisconsin, Illinois, and pre-Illinois episodes. Before the first glaciation, the landscape in the region was characterized by a rolling to undulating topography with steep-sided valleys cut into Pennsylvanian-age and older shale, siltstone, sandstone, and limestone. Today, the

Illinois bedrock is buried under glacial till formed during the Wisconsin glaciation across the region. (Illinois State Geological Survey, Geology of the Mahomet Aquifer, 2013). Moultrie County lies just to the south of the buried Mahomet Bedrock Valley which runs across several counties to the north, including Macon, Piatt, and Champaign. Although coal is present approximately 1,000 feet under the surface in Moultrie County, there are no mines in Moultrie County. Oil is also located deep beneath the surface in the southern part of the County but is not being produced at this time.

Soils

Most of the parent soil material in Moultrie County is a direct result of the glaciers and sediments of the Wisconsin Stage. The dominant kinds of parent material in the county are till, loess, lacustrine deposits, outwash, alluvium, and colluvium. These materials were deposited by wind, water, glaciers, or glacial meltwater. In some areas the materials were reworked by wind or water after they were deposited. Many of the soils in Moultrie County formed in more than one kind of parent material. For example, many formed in loess and the underlying till (Soil Survey of Moultrie County, 2003).

A soil association is a geographic area, which has a distinctive pattern of soils. A soil association contains one or more major soils and one or more minor soils and is normally named for the major soils of the area. A soil association has a distinctive pattern of soils, relief, and drainage.

Moultrie County soil has been covered entirely by the early Wisconsin glaciation with the Illinoian below. This glacial drift covers the county to a depth of about 200 feet and consists of a mixture of clays, silt, sand, gravel and boulders. The two glacial periods of deposits are separated by lowan loess. The Wisconsin drift is covered to a depth of 3 to 6 feet by a layer of wind-blown soil from which the present soil is formed.

Upland prairie soils, formed chiefly by the decay of prairie grass roots, covers 82% of the county and provides a rich soil comprised of sands and coarse silt to make it workable. It is excellent soil for growing crops. Such fine soils extending over most of the county indicates a strong agricultural economic base for the future years.

A small percentage of the county's soil (12.3%) is formed by timber, which is not as workable or fertile as the prairie soil. Swamp and bottomland soils cover 4% of the county and the terrace soils make up approximately 1.6%. Terrace soil is the poorest of the area in phosphorous, nitrogen and organic material.

Hydrology

According to the 2020 census, the county's total land area covers a mere 344.48 square miles, 8.53 of which is water. A large majority of this is due to Lake Shelbyville.



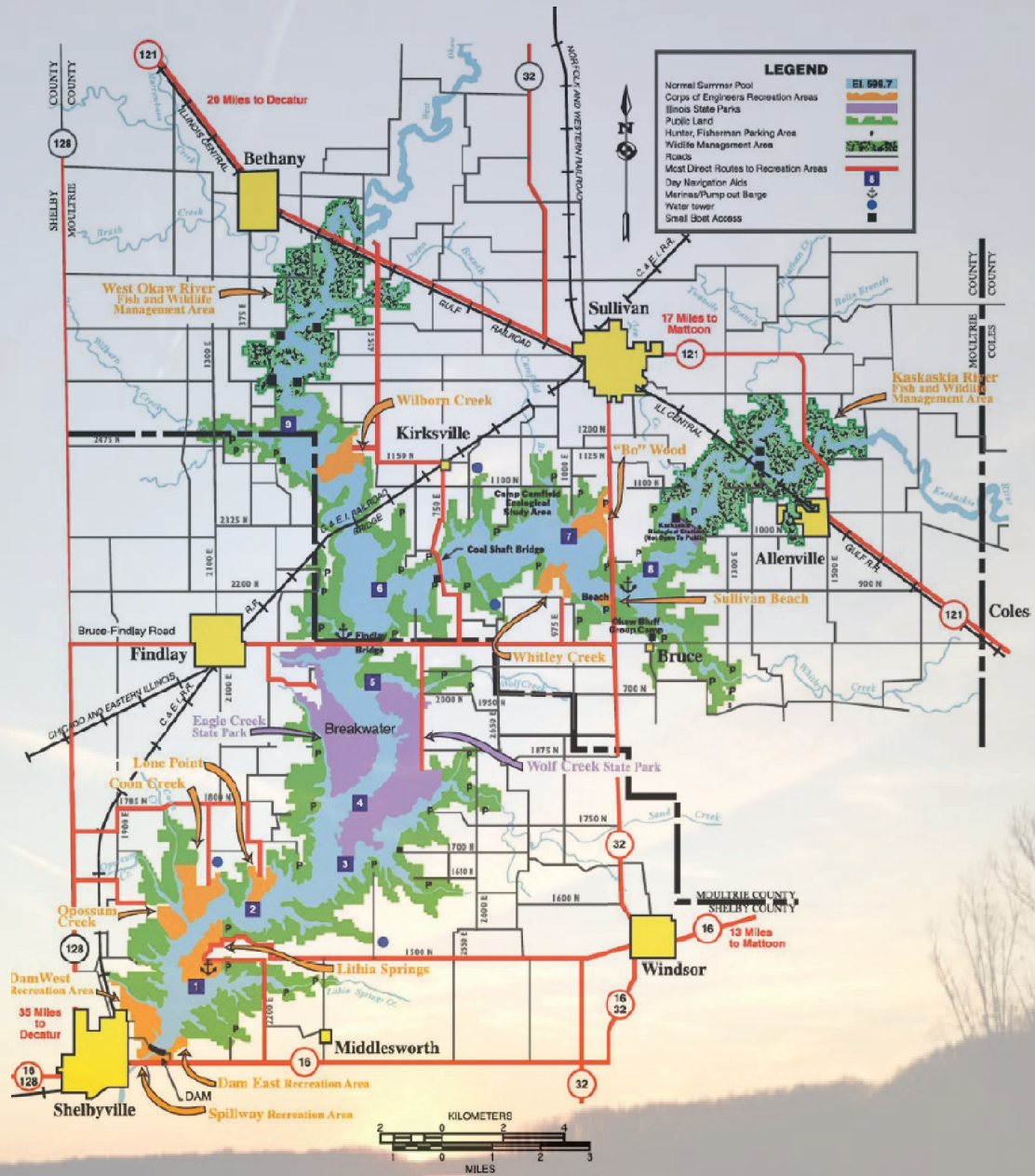
Lake Shelbyville is a reservoir located in Shelby County, Illinois and Moultrie County, Illinois created by damming the Kaskaskia River at Shelbyville, Illinois. The lake's normal surface pool is 11,100 acres. It is a recreational resource and tourist destination, containing trails for hiking and biking, camping areas, fishing, golfing, horseback riding and swimming areas.

Demographic Profile and Population Characteristics

Introduction

The demographic profile and population characteristics of Moultrie County for this Comprehensive Plan are based on information from the 2020 United States Census and the 2019 American Community Survey.

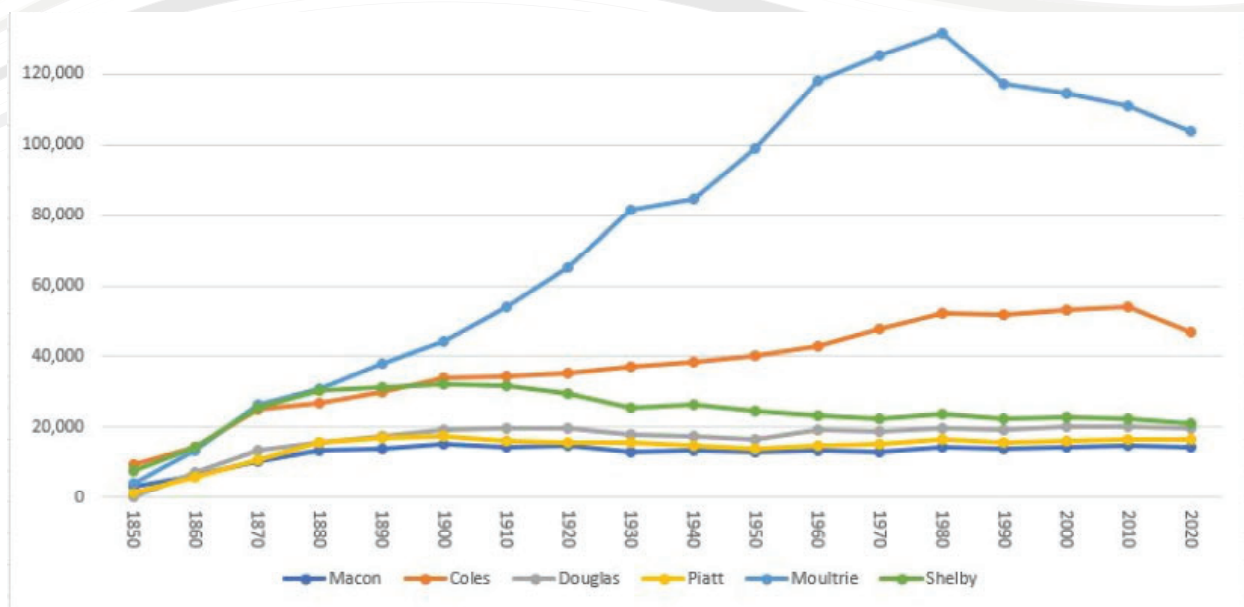
LAKE SHELBYVILLE



Throughout this section, the figures for Moultrie County will be compared to other similar counties in the area. This will allow the Planning Committee to recognize any differences between Moultrie County and other comparable incorporated areas in the region. Population characteristics in this plan include data on age, gender, race, household characteristics, income levels, and education levels.

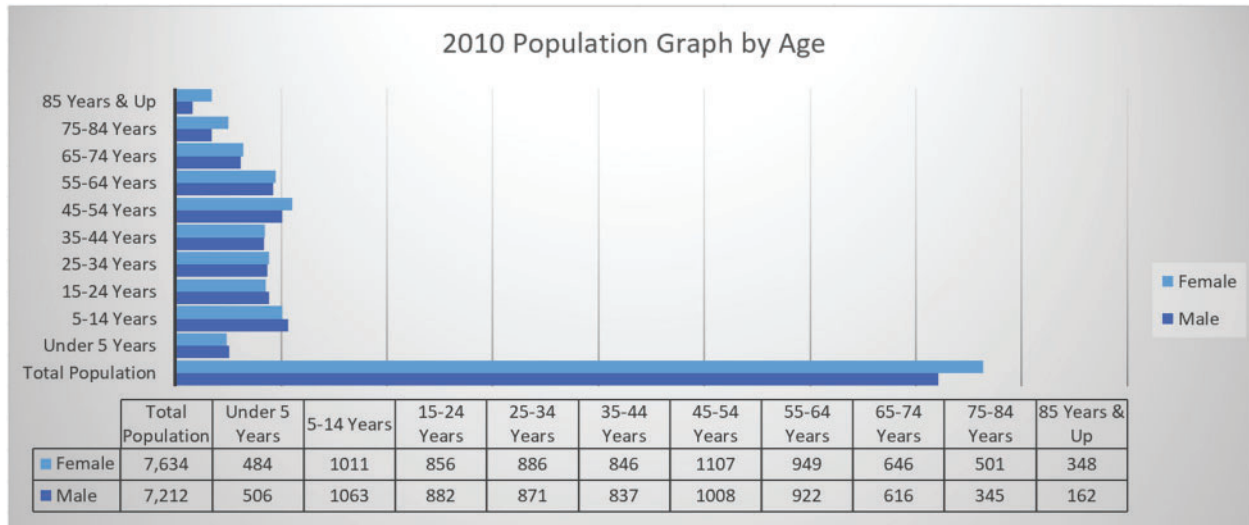
HISTORIC POPULATION TRENDS

YEAR	MOULTRIE		COLES		DOUGLAS		PIATT		MACON		SHELBY	
	Count	Change	Count	Change	Count	Change	Count	Change	Count	Change	Count	Change
1850	3,234	0.00%	9,335	0.00%	0	0.00%	1,606	0.00%	3,988	31.20%	7,807	17.20%
1860	6,385	49.35%	14203	34.27%	7,140	100.00%	6,127	73.79%	13,738	70.91%	14,613	46.57%
1870	10,385	38.52%	25,235	43.72%	13,484	47.05%	10,953	44.06%	26,481	48.12%	25,476	42.64%
1880	13,669	24.03%	27,042	6.68%	15,853	14.94%	15,853	30.91%	30,665	13.64%	30,270	15.84%
1890	14,181	3.61%	30,093	10.14%	17,669	10.28%	17,062	7.09%	38,083	19.48%	31,191	2.95%
1900	15,224	6.85%	34,146	11.87%	19,097	7.48%	17,706	3.64%	44,003	13.45%	32,126	2.91%
1910	14,630	-4.06%	34,517	1.07%	19,591	2.52%	16,376	-8.12%	54,186	18.79%	31,693	-1.37%
1920	14,839	1.41%	35,108	1.68%	19,604	0.07%	15,714	-4.21%	65,175	16.86%	29,601	-7.07%
1930	13,247	-12.02%	37,315	5.91%	17,914	-9.43%	15,558	-1.00%	81,731	20.26%	25,471	-16.21%
1940	13,477	1.71%	38,470	3.00%	17,590	-1.84%	14,659	-6.13%	84,693	3.50%	26,290	3.12%
1950	13,171	-2.32%	40,328	4.61%	16,706	-5.29%	13,970	-4.93%	98,853	14.32%	24,434	-7.60%
1960	13,635	3.40%	42,860	5.91%	19,243	13.18%	14,960	6.62%	118,257	16.41%	23,404	-4.40%
1970	13,263	-2.80%	47,815	10.36%	18,997	-1.29%	15,509	3.34%	125,010	5.40%	22,589	-3.61%
1980	14,546	8.82%	52,260	8.51%	19,774	3.93%	16,581	6.47%	131,375	4.84%	23,923	5.58%
1990	13,930	-4.42%	51,644	-1.19%	19,464	-1.59%	15,548	-6.64%	117,206	12.09%	22,261	-7.47%
2000	14,287	2.50%	53,196	2.92%	19,992	2.64%	16,365	4.99%	114,706	-2.18%	22,893	2.76%
2010	14,846	3.77%	53,873	1.26%	19,980	-0.06%	16,729	2.18%	110,768	-3.56%	22,363	-2.37%
2020	14,526	-2.20%	46,863	-14.96%	19,740	-1.22%	16,673	-0.34%	103,998	-6.51%	20,990	-6.54%



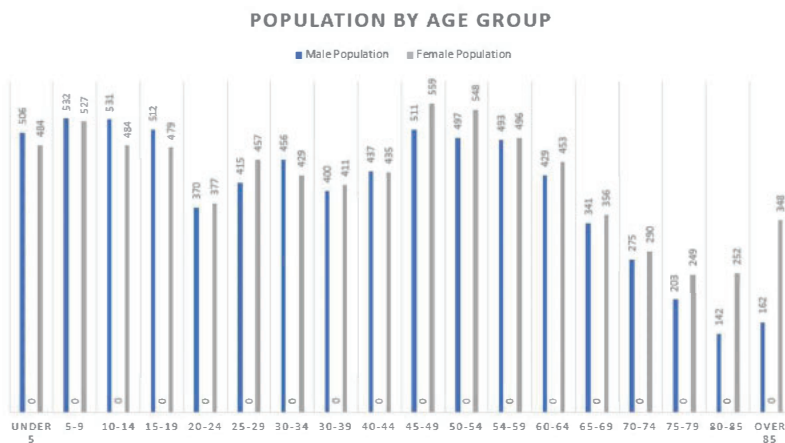
AGE AND GENDER

The table below illustrates the age and gender characteristics of Moultrie County according to the 2019 American Community Survey. (Census bureau immediately below)



AGE GROUP POPULATION

As illustrated above the data shows that over 75% of residents in Moultrie County are found in the category of 18 to 64.



This leaves approximately 25% of the population in the “more dependent” age groups of 18 & under and 65 & over. The gender breakout for Moultrie County reflects that there are 7,634 female resi-

dents in the county, or 51.42% of the population, so we can see that the male to female ratio within the county is almost even.

RACE

A breakdown of the racial composition of Moultrie County shows that the County is comprised primarily of White residents (98.5%). The next highest racial category is Hispanic or Latino (0.9%) followed by Black or African American (.3%). People of American Indian or Alaskan Native and Asian descent follow with 0.2%.

MOULTRIE COUNTY BY RACE		
POPULATION	NUMBER	PERCENT
Total Population	14,846	100
One Race	14,756	99.4
White	14,622	98.5
Black or African American	41	0.3
African Indian or Alaska Native	28	0.2
Asian	31	0.2
Asian Indian	4	0
Chinese	7	0
Filipino	13	0.1
Korean	3	0
Vietnamese	1	0
Other Asian	3	0
Some Other Race	34	0.2
Two or More Races	90	0.6
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	129	0.9
Mexican	95	0.6
Puerto Rican	4	0
Cuban	1	0
Other Hispanic or Latino	29	0.2

POPULATION TRENDS

As illustrated by the chart, all three counties have experienced population gains over

POPULATION COMPARISON	1900	2000	2010	2020
Moultrie County	13,930	14,287	14,846	14,526
Douglas County	19,464	19,922	19,980	19,740
Piatt County	15,548	16,365	16,729	16,673

the past 30 years. Part of this is attributed to a steady economy based largely on local manufacturing companies. The majority of all three county's populations are employed in the manufacturing industry, followed by healthcare and education.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

INTRODUCTION

The following section analyzes many different characteristics of housing in Moultrie County. A community's housing stock is a key asset and normally reflects changing demographic and socioeconomic conditions, so it is important to understand the characteristics of families and individuals who live in the housing units.

HOUSING TRENDS

The housing characteristics of Moultrie County share some common trends with the other counties in the area. As with Coles and Douglas counties, the housing in Moultrie County is predominately owner occupied and the occupancy rate is about 92%.

HOUSING TRENDS [2010]								
COUNTY	POPULATION	TOTAL HOUSING UNITS	OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS		VACANT HOUSING UNITS		FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE
Moultrie County	14,846	6,260	5,758	92%	502	8%	4,053	2.51
Douglas County	19,980	8,390	7,720	92%	670	8%	5,377	2.57
Piatt County	16,729	7,269	6,782	93.30%	487	6.7%	4,823	2.46

The population of Moultrie County was in an upward climb in the 50 years prior to 2010. This climb resulted in new housing being built. Over the last ten years, Moultrie County population fell from 14,846 in 2010 to 14,354 in 2020. The total number of housing units in Moultrie County decreased by 33 over the same period. The number of vacant units in 2020 was 497 as compared to 144 in 2010.

Moultrie County is within the jurisdiction of the Coles County Regional Planning & Development Commission. Regular housing rehabilitation grants administered by the Commission for low-income homeowners have assisted Moultrie County with maintaining its housing stock. To date, Coles County Regional Planning has administered one IL DCEO housing grant for the City of Sullivan in Moultrie County, which assisted 10 homes with needed repairs. Moultrie County residents have also had home repairs completed throughout the County using grants from the Federal Home Loan Bank and the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

INCOME CHARACTERISTICS

INTRODUCTION

Moultrie County must maintain current and create future business development strategies that will retain and create jobs, increase household incomes and enhance workforce skills. There is a need for quality, well-paying jobs, a need which should be one of the county’s highest priorities. To create a comprehensive countywide economic development plan, it is important to understand the composition of the local economy, how it changed over time, and what assets and strengths the county can deploy to improve future development prospects. No discussion of the Moultrie County economy can proceed without examination of the surrounding region.

As evidenced by the chart below, Moultrie County has had the most recent peak employment year out of all the surrounding counties. Considering the Covid-19 pandemic arrived in early 2020, it is possible the employment peak would have continued to climb in Moultrie County had the global economy not shut down.

EMPLOYMENT PEAKS BY COUNTY			
COUNTY	PEAK DECADE	PEAK YEAR	ANNUAL AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT DURING PEAK YEAR
Macon	2000s	2000	57,466
Coles	1990s	1998	28,243
Douglas	2000s	2002	8,403
Piatt	2000s	2001	3,655
Moultrie	2010s	2019	5,221
Shelby	2000s	2000	5,751

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Economic development is very reactive in nature and good planning will improve the efficiency and success rate of development efforts. Additionally, Moultrie has a lower poverty rate than

most of its neighboring counties. At a 7.2% poverty rate, it only ranks higher in poverty than Piatt County, with 5.2%. Moultrie's percentage is much lower than the highest poverty rate, with 20.8% of Coles County residents qualifying as living in poverty.

PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE IN POVERTY 2015 TO 2019						
COUNTY	Moultrie	Douglas	Piatt	Macon	Shelby	Coles
INCOME	7.2%	10.8%	5.2%	17.10%	10.8%	20.8%

COMMUNITY INCOME

The personal income of the County is based on the total income of families within the County. According to the 2020 Census, there are 4,053 family households in Moultrie County. The average family income is approximately \$67,768.00. Using these figures, the total community income for the County (4,053 X \$67,768) is approximately \$274,663,704.

To compare Moultrie to surrounding counties, below is information on median household incomes:

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2014 TO 2018						
COUNTY	Moultrie	Douglas	Piatt	Macon	Shelby	Coles
INCOME	\$59,623	\$54,218	\$69,271	\$50,444	\$51,157	\$44,071

This comparison shows that Moultrie County's Median Household Income is comparable to and competitive with surrounding counties. Once again, it comes second only to Piatt County. The lower poverty rate and higher median household income in Moultrie County point to a standard of living which is highly valuable and attractive to potential new residents. It will also play a role in keeping current residents who are happy with the way of life in Moultrie County.

EDUCATION

PRIMARY & SECONDARY

Moultrie County is served by several different school systems. Windsor CUSD #1. Mt. Zion CUSD #3, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond CUSD#39, Sullivan CUSD

#300, Okaw Valley CUSD #302, Cerro Gordo CUSD #100 and Mattoon CUSD #2.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Moultrie County is relatively close to a number of community colleges and universities. Parkland Community College in Champaign, Lake Land Community College in Mattoon and Richland Community College in Decatur and Eastern Illinois University in Charleston are all within relatively close driving distances.

PARKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Parkland Community College was established in 1967 in Champaign, Illinois. They offer over 100 associates degree and certificate programs and have a faculty of over 600. Smaller class sizes allow for a more personalized learning experience, and they also offer counseling and career advising. Parkland offers more than 40 campus clubs and organizations to provide students with opportunities for volunteerism and leadership development. They have a 320-seat performing arts theater and a 50-foot dome planetarium, named after William M. Staerke, Parkland's first president. The 255-acre main campus is located in the city's northwest corner, at 2400 W Bradley Ave.

LAKE LAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Lake Land Community College is home to 7,400 students from across East Central Illinois. Lake Land College (LLC) is a public community college offering career programs that lead to immediate employment, transfer programs that lead to a baccalaureate degree, liberal arts, adult education, special job training and retraining programs. Founded in 1966, the 308 - acre campus hosts nine major buildings plus six supportive buildings, two campus ponds, a 160-acre agriculture land laboratory, computer labs, CAD lab, childcare center, cosmetology clinic and a dental clinic. The library provides access to books, magazines and several electronic databases. Lake Land College's main campus is located at 5001 Lake Land Blvd. (U.S. Route 45), Mattoon, Illinois, near the junction of Interstate 57, exit 184 and U.S. Route 45.

RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Richland Community College is located in Decatur. Approximately 3,800 full and part time students attend annually. Richland serves its District with the main campus in Decatur and two extension centers. The College's main campus resides on a site of 155 acres of land. Following substantial growth and expansion, Richland currently has 293,590 feet of educational space. Richland moved into its permanent home during the fall of 1988.



The College has added three new wings to the main campus: the Industrial Technology Center in 2002, the Schrodt Health Education Center in 2003, and the Dwayne O. Andreas Agribusiness Education Center in 2007. In spring 2009, the Adele P. Glenn Academy for Early Childhood Education opened, and the new Fitness Center was unveiled. The Industrial Technology Center was renamed the Scherer Industrial Technology Center in April 2009, in honor of the \$6.8 million contribution to the college made by Walter & Alice Scherer.

College made by Walter and Alice Scherer. The Center for Sustainability and Innovation opened in July 2009, with the University of Illinois Extension Office located on the first floor. The Innovations Lab on the second floor opened during the fall of 2010.

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Eastern Illinois University (EIU) was founded in 1895 and is home to 7,415 students. The university offers Bachelor's, Master's, and Specialist's degrees. The university sits on 320 acres and contains 11 resident's halls. The staff of the University have a rich tradition of preparing students to accomplish their life goals through a combination of quality academics and personal relationships. Consistently ranked in the top third of Midwest universities in its class by U.S. News and World Report, EIU has earned its reputation by offering a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs taught by an experienced and caring faculty. In addition to reasonable tuition, fees, and room and board rates, the university offers a textbook rental system, saving the average student hundreds of dollars per semester. A variety of excellent on-campus housing opportunities are available on the safe, compact campus. Student graduation and retention rates are well above state and national averages, and that success continues after students earn their degrees -- year after year, Eastern Illinois University ranks high in job placement, alumni satisfaction and employer satisfaction.

TRANSPORTATION

Moultrie County has a fairly unique assortment of transportation needs and modes compared to other counties in Rural Illinois. While it is expected that there be significant agricultural-related travel (such as large farm equipment repetitively traversing the same

paths year after year) there is also a significant Amish population in the county, most of whom travel by horse and buggy.

This presents slightly different needs and concerns when thinking about transportation in the county.

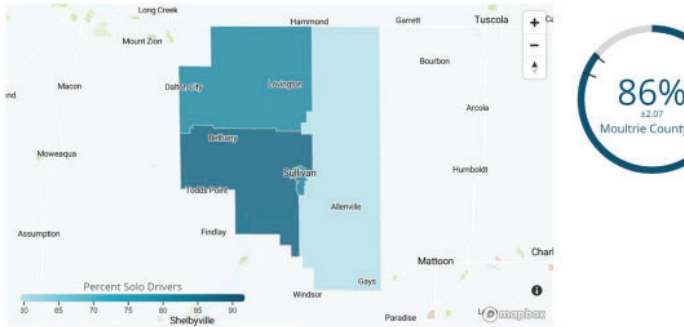
Some projects presently underway in the county include:

1. County Highway 4 underdrains and hot mix asphalt shoulders. This project begins 5 miles south of Sullivan at the intersection of IL Route 32 with County Highway 4 and extends westward 3.5 miles. Construction is scheduled for 2022.
2. County Highway 8 subgrade improvements from Illinois Route 133 south of Fairbanks north 5.6 miles to U.S. Route 36. The existing subgrade will be cement stabilized in two-mile segments yearly beginning in 2022.
3. Bridge Replacement on Whitley Point Road 2.8 miles north of Gays. Work includes the replacement of the existing bridge, re-alignment and raising of the existing roadway. The project is scheduled for construction in late 2022/early 2023.
4. Bridge replacement on CR 1400N, 3.3 miles northeast of Sullivan. The project is scheduled for construction in late 2022/early 2023.
5. Bridge replacement on CR 1400N, 4.2 miles southwest of Bethany. The project is scheduled for construction in 2023.
6. Guardrail upgrades on the County Highway system. This project is tentatively scheduled for construction in 2023.
7. County Highway 10 (Moultrie)/County Highway 12(Douglas): A joint project by Moultrie and Douglas counties on the county line south of Arthur to improve two miles of existing roadway by replacing the existing oil/chip road with a hot mix asphalt road, including wide shoulders for non-motorized traffic, and drainage improvements. Preliminary engineering is underway with construction tentatively scheduled for 2024, dependent upon funding.
8. Patching and resurfacing of the southern two miles of County Highway 13 southwest of Bethany. Three feet wide safety shoulders will also be included for the entire three-mile segment of County Highway 13. Not currently scheduled, the project is included in Moultrie County's multi-year program.

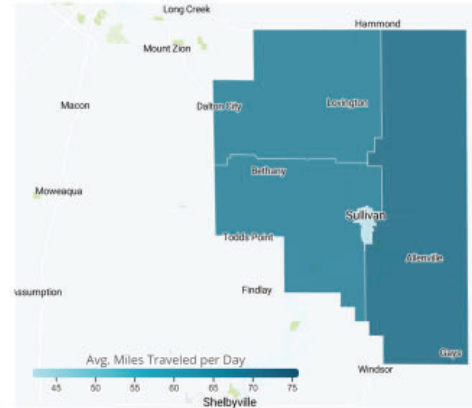
- 9. Replacement of an existing bridge on Moultrie County Highway 10, 0.4 mile east of Cadwell. The project is included in Moultrie County's multi-year program.

These are projects intended for completion in the next five or so years.

How many commuters drive to work alone in Moultrie County, Illir



Average Weekday Household Person-Miles Traveled



Additionally, a large portion of Moultrie County's population drives to work each day, and most commuters cover several miles to reach their place of work. The below maps show the percentage of workers in Moultrie County who commute alone by car to work, and the average miles traveled per weekday.

TOURISM

Moultrie County has 1 city and 5 incorporated villages. The county also has several unincorporated hamlets including Lake City, Kirksville, Cadwell, and Bruce.

The Moultrie County Board voted in 2019 & 2020 to help enhance tourism for the County by funding \$50,000 to tourism through the Sullivan Chamber & Economic Development group. As outdoor recreation is the number one draw for tourists in Moultrie County, bringing in millions of tourists throughout the year to visit Lake Shelbyville, the campgrounds and numerous agritourism farms in the area, the bulk of that funding is used for promotional activities. The funding has been used to print guides to the area and publish ads in Meredith Publications, Enjoy Illinois Guide, Midwest Living and Best of the Midwest. Advertising in these magazines led to a meeting with Meredith Magazine's editors so that the Chamber could submit stories to the publication for coverage. Funds were also used to attend Outdoor Travel shows in the Chicago area to specifically target persons interested in outdoor recreation. Data from Lake Shelbyville shows the campground Bo Woods, in Moultrie County, is the most booked campground on the lake with the median age of guests lowering; indicating more young families are visiting the area. This rise in numbers directly aligns with attendance at the Outdoor Travel shows.

However, due to financial difficulties as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, funding for tourism was remiss for 2021. Therefore, guide printing was halted, and guides are now available in digital format exclusively.

Lake Shelbyville is a reservoir located in Shelby County, Illinois and Moultrie County, Illinois created by damming the Kaskaskia River at Shelbyville, Illinois. The lake's normal surface pool is 11,100 acres. It is a huge recreational resource and tourist destination, containing trails for hiking and biking, camping areas, fishing, golfing, horseback riding and swimming areas. There have been attempts to locate funding to dredge the northern most region of the lake to preserve areas that are silting faster than projections anticipated. Local government should continue to seek funding for this project.

Within the Lake Shelbyville network, a Kayak water trail has been built with hopes to build more branching trails in the future and establish businesses that would offer Kayak delivery and pick-up services to visitors.

Outdoor recreation is Moultrie County's number one attraction. Lake Shelbyville and other agritourism farms in the region have attracted millions of visitors annually.

Allenville is a small rural village of 132 (2020 Census) residents, located in East Nelson Township in Moultrie County. It is on IL State Hwy 121 about 10 miles northwest of Mattoon. A branch line of the Canadian National Railway runs through town. It is the smallest incorporated village in Moultrie County, located just outside of the Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Management Area. Several outdoor recreational areas are accessible, including the Fish Hook Waterfowl Area, Fish Hook Nature Trail, Lost Pond, Ringneck Pond, Cone Flower Hill Prairie and several hiking and archery trails.

Allenville village residents are serviced by the Sullivan Community Unit School District. Health services are obtained at either Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System in Mattoon, Shelby Memorial Hospital in Shelbyville, the Moultrie County Health Clinic in Sullivan and St Mary's in Decatur. Most residents of Allenville work in the manufacturing industry. The average commute time to work for residents is 20-25 minutes.

Arthur is a village of 2,231 (2020 Census) split between Douglas and Moultrie Counties. It has a strong manufacturing base, coupled with a healthy retail community. Located on IL-133 and connected via a State Aid highway (1800E/Vine St.) to US Hwy 36 to the north, it also has a main rail line of the Union Pacific through town. Arthur employs more than its total population and attracts employees from miles around to work in their varied industries, including MasterBrand Cabinets and C.H.I. Overhead Doors.

Arthur and its immediate surrounding countryside support a thriving retail trade that draws regular customers from surrounding areas. They have several restaurants, antique stores, and coffee shops as well as the Amish Market and Yoder's Kitchen, which draw visitors from as far away as St. Louis and Indianapolis. Most recently they've added Aikman Wildlife Adventure, a drive-through wildlife park where you can get up close and personal with zoo animals, even feeding them from your vehicle on a 1-mile-long path through the Sanctuary. The 25-acre Sanctuary includes such animals as foxes, raccoons, bobcats, kangaroos, flying squirrels, porcupines, and mountain lions, to name a few.

Arthur's residential areas include everything from pretty tree lined older neighborhoods to well-planned mid-aged housing and exciting new upscale subdivisions. There are also over 4,000 Amish in the Arthur area. Amish Country Tours offers guided tours of the Amish farms and even meals with Amish families, while giving a well-versed history lesson on the religion and lifestyles of the Amish community.

Parks, ball diamonds, tennis courts, fairgrounds, and a new community pool provide plenty of recreation opportunities within walking distance. Nearby, the Kaskaskia River circles Arthur and feeds Lake Shelbyville less than 20 minutes away.

Medical care is given at the Arthur Clinic, Arthur Family Care Center, Arthur Medical Center, and Arthur Community Clinic at the Otto Center.

Bethany is a village in Moultrie County consisting of 1255 (2020 Census) people, centered within rich farmland. It is located on IL State Hwy 121 between Sullivan and Decatur. The district covers a large rural area in addition to the Village. Founded in 1877, it was originally named Marrowbone, but it was changed to Bethany through the efforts of W. P. McGuire, the second official post-master.

The Canadian National Railway provides rail service to Heritage Grain Company's two elevators in Bethany and Dalton City. They have a strong agricultural base and believe in getting residents of all ages involved in their community. Bethany is home to The Bethany Sales Company (fireworks distributors and H.O. Dick Transfer). In 2001, Bethany and Findlay schools consolidated to form the Okaw Valley High School in Bethany. There is also an elementary school located in the Village, although the middle school is located in Findlay.



The Marrowbone Public Library is located in a former lumber yard on Main Street in town. There is also a Casey's General Store, a new Dollar General and a Subway, all located on 121.

Dalton City was incorporated as a village in 1877. It is located along Route 121 at the intersection of Route 128, between Bethany and Mt Zion. It supports 454 residents as of the 2020 census, which was a sharp decrease from the 581 residents reported ten years before. Most residents of Dalton City are employed in the manufacturing and construction

industries.

The Dalton City area is known as “Racehorse Flats” which is an historic reference to the reputation of being the first to get crops planted in the spring. The Village’s largest business is Heritage Grain Cooperative. This is one of the largest elevators in the area with locations in Bethany and Dalton City. They ship quantities of grain via railroad and semi-truck.

Gays is a village of 218 people (2020 Census), which is located on IL 16 between Mattoon and Windsor, is the home of the two-story outhouse (pictured). Built in 1869, it is a popular tourist attraction built for use by the apartment dwellers that were attached to the general store.



Lovington is a rural community in Moultrie County. Like many other rural communities, the village lost population over the last 10 years, dropping from 1,243 residents to 1,069 in 2020.



Residents can enjoy the Lovington Public Library District, which holds over 19,000 materials, including books, books on tape and CD, VHS/DVD's, and magazines and newspapers. The "new" library, which replaced the one that burned down in 1985, occupies 3,600 square feet and includes adult and youth areas, a reading area, and a meeting area. They have programs for all ages, from "Toddlertime" to BINGO, as well as Family Movie Days. And for residents who can't get out, they offer Homebound Delivery services.

Lovington is part of the Arthur School district. An elementary school is located in town while the older children attend High School in Arthur. The Atwood- Hammond district recently consolidating with Arthur-Lovington.



Sullivan, previously named Asa's Point, is the county seat of Moultrie County and is home to 4,413 residents (2020 Census). Although farming is a big part of the community, they also have much to offer people who visit their town in the way of shopping and entertainment.

Sullivan contains a beautiful little downtown square with a historic courthouse, which is often the center of activities when The Little Theatre on The Square is in season. At this hidden gem, live performers act out everything from A Chorus Line to Disney's Beauty and the Beast, so people of all ages can find something they enjoy watching throughout most of the year. Season tickets are also available. The Little Theatre is the only Actor Equity theatre in Downstate Illinois and draws substantial crowds. Several downtown restaurants including Hole in the Wall BBQ, Sol Del Mar, and China King serve a variety of food as well as the Sullivan Bakery and Lounge satisfying the needs of visitors with a sweet tooth. Several variety shops are also located downtown. The Moultrie County Historical & Genealogical Society Museum is also located just off the square. Downtown buildings are maintained with the help of the Historic Downtown Façade Program. Approved applicants are awarded a 50% façade grant for exterior building renovations, not to exceed \$20,000.

Major industry is represented by two large manufacturers who contribute substantially to keeping unemployment low: Agri-Fab and Hydro Gear. Along with a multitude of small businesses, banks, churches, and retail stores, they contribute substantially to the overall economic foundation of the area.

Sullivan has an Elementary, Middle, and High School within city limits.



The safety of the community makes it an ideal place to raise a family as kids can easily walk or ride bikes to the public parks or pool located in the Sullivan Civic Center. The town has two 40-plus acre parks: Wyman and Tabor. Wyman was established in 1912 and offers picnic facilities, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, a skateboard park, a Frisbee golf course and playground equipment. There is also fishing available in Wyman Lake. Tabor Park offers jogging or hiking trails complete with exercise stations and it is handicapped accessible. Visitors may also enjoy outdoor recreation at the nearby 11,000 acres of nature and 200 miles of shoreline in and around Lake Shelbyville or cruising through the country to visit Amish establishments and explore a simpler way of life.

ECONOMY

Introduction

“Economic development is a choice. It is willed within an economy. Economic development occurs when local leaders choose to identify, invest in, and develop their list of comparative advantages to enable workers, firms, farms and industries to better compete.” -Steve Buttress

The recent economic crises highlights the need for Moultrie County to create future business development strategies that will retain and create jobs, increase household incomes and enhance workforce skills. To create a comprehensive county-wide economic development plan, it is important to understand the composition of the local economy, how it changed over time and what assets and strengths the county can deploy to improve future development prospects. Economic development is very reactive in nature and good planning will improve the efficiency and success rate of development efforts.

Economic Base & Activity

As previously stated, Moultrie County can be accessed from Interstates 57 and 72, U.S. Routes 36 and 45, and Illinois Routes 16, 32, 121, 128, and 133. It is centrally located to a number of major Midwest cities, which include Chicago (approximately 190 miles or 3 hours), St. Louis (approximately 135 miles or 2 hours 30 mins), and Indianapolis (approximately 148 miles/2 hours 30 mins).

The Sullivan Chamber has been working with Rep. Mary Miller on a grant to dredge the north end of the lake to preserve an area that is silting in faster than originally projected. This would be a \$10 million project, if awarded.

Although Moultrie County is primarily an agricultural area, several mid-sized firms and small home-grown businesses help to make it a very well-rounded community. MasterBrand Cabinets, C.H.I. Overhead Doors, Agri-Fab and Hydro-Gear are perhaps the most well-known factories in the County, producing cabinetry, garage doors, lawn mowers and associated products and parts. Mid-State Tank, located in rural Sullivan on Jonathan Creek Rd., manufactures stainless steel tank bodies for industrial trucks. Monarch Cabinetry is a family-owned business that provides quality craftsmanship. MasterBrand Cabinets in Arthur is another producer of quality cabinetry that contributes to the area. C.H.I Overhead Doors in Arthur also contributes economic growth to the region and manufactures prestigious garage doors.

Moultrie County completed construction on a new health clinic in 2014. Thanks to funding from a DCEO Community Development FLEX grant, the new 5,000+ sq. foot building in Sullivan is more visible, functional and handicapped-accessible than the previous facility, which ran out of the basement of the Fields’ Wright Medical Clinic.

The following information provides general details about the current economy of Moultrie County. The information in this section was gathered from the 2010 Census as well as information obtained through the IL Dept. of Employment Security (IDES), and County Representatives.

Community Income

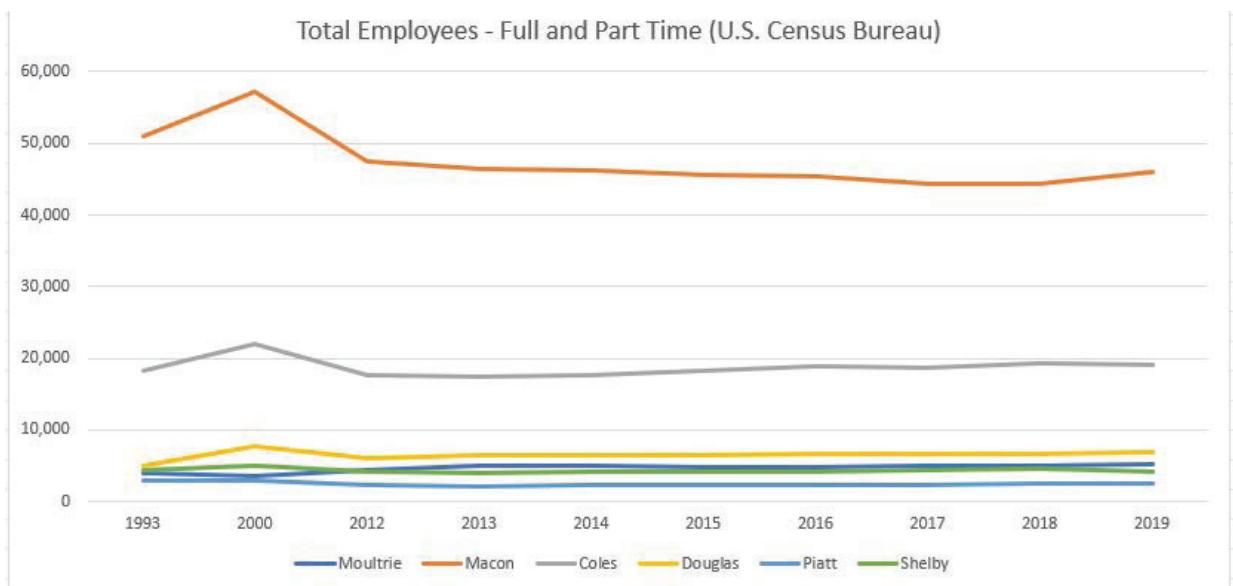
The personal income of the County is based on the total income of families within the County. According to the 2010 Census, there are 4,053 family households in Moultrie County. According to HUD, the average family income as of 2022 is \$79,600. Using these figures, the total community income for the County (4,053 X \$79,600) is approximately \$322,618,800.

2022 HUD AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
MOULTRIE	\$79,600
MACON	\$84,100
COLES	\$68,000
DOUGLAS	\$76,700
PIATT	\$91,300
SHELBY	\$72,800

Work Force Characteristics

Focusing on the employment of the County, the work force of an area details its educational attainment and labor force characteristics. In Moultrie County, most of the workforce is employed in the fields of Manufacturing, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Retail Trade. According to HUD, the average household income in 2022 was \$79,600. This places Moultrie County's average household income in a middle ground as it relates to the surrounding counties. The highest average household income by surrounding county belongs to Piatt County at \$91,300, and the lowest is Coles County, at \$68,000. The estimated percentage of residents who live below poverty level is 9.1%. The unemployment rate in 2019 was at 3.0%.

NUMBER OF FULL TIME & PART TIME JOBS						
YEAR	MOULTRIE	MACON	COLES	DOUGLAS	PIATT	SHELBY
1993	3,895	51,012	3,234	4,947	2,899	4,348
2000	3,516	57,135	6,385	7,590	2,862	5,059
2012	4,366	47,428	10,385	6,043	2,304	4,088
2013	4,928	46,406	13,669	6,396	2,133	4,035
2014	4,912	46,164	14,181	6,504	2,297	4,105
2015	4,881	45,585	15,224	6,458	2,294	4,167
2016	4,809	45,380	14,630	6,620	2,356	4,137
2017	5,024	44,389	14,839	6,615	2,359	4,399
2018	4,914	44,315	13,247	6,669	2,513	4,479
2019	5,158	46,084	13,477	6,768	2,410	4,206



Moultrie County is the only county in the area who grew the number of employees. The rest of the counties had a significant drop from 1993 until 2019.

Educational Attainment

Moultrie County has an educational attainment rate of 84.1%. This is the percentage of residents in the county who are high school graduates or higher. The education attainment rate in the state of Illinois is 88.3%

PLAN INCORPORATION, GOALS, & OBJECTIVES

The Goals and Objectives of a Comprehensive Plan are statements that describe specific elements of the vision. They represent the values and priorities of the community and serve as a guide for evaluating future land use and planning decisions. The shared vision articulated in the goals also provides guidance for decision makers at the local, county and State levels. The goals in the Comprehensive Plan are general in nature, so they can remain relevant over the long-term. These goals also provide a framework for the development of attainable policies and actions consistent with community values. The goals and objectives are based on the analysis of trends and conditions in the county; surveys of residents, community leaders and farmland owners; and input at public meetings.

Public Participation

Moultrie County sent a letter to every resident requesting their participation in a survey. The survey was open to all residents in the winter of 2020. There were two separate surveys, one for County residents and one for City/Village residents. The surveys were well received and just over 10 percent of households in the county responded, or just shy of 600 persons. The survey was comprehensive and took approximately 30 minutes for residents to complete. Results of this survey can be found throughout this document and are also located in the attachment section of this document.

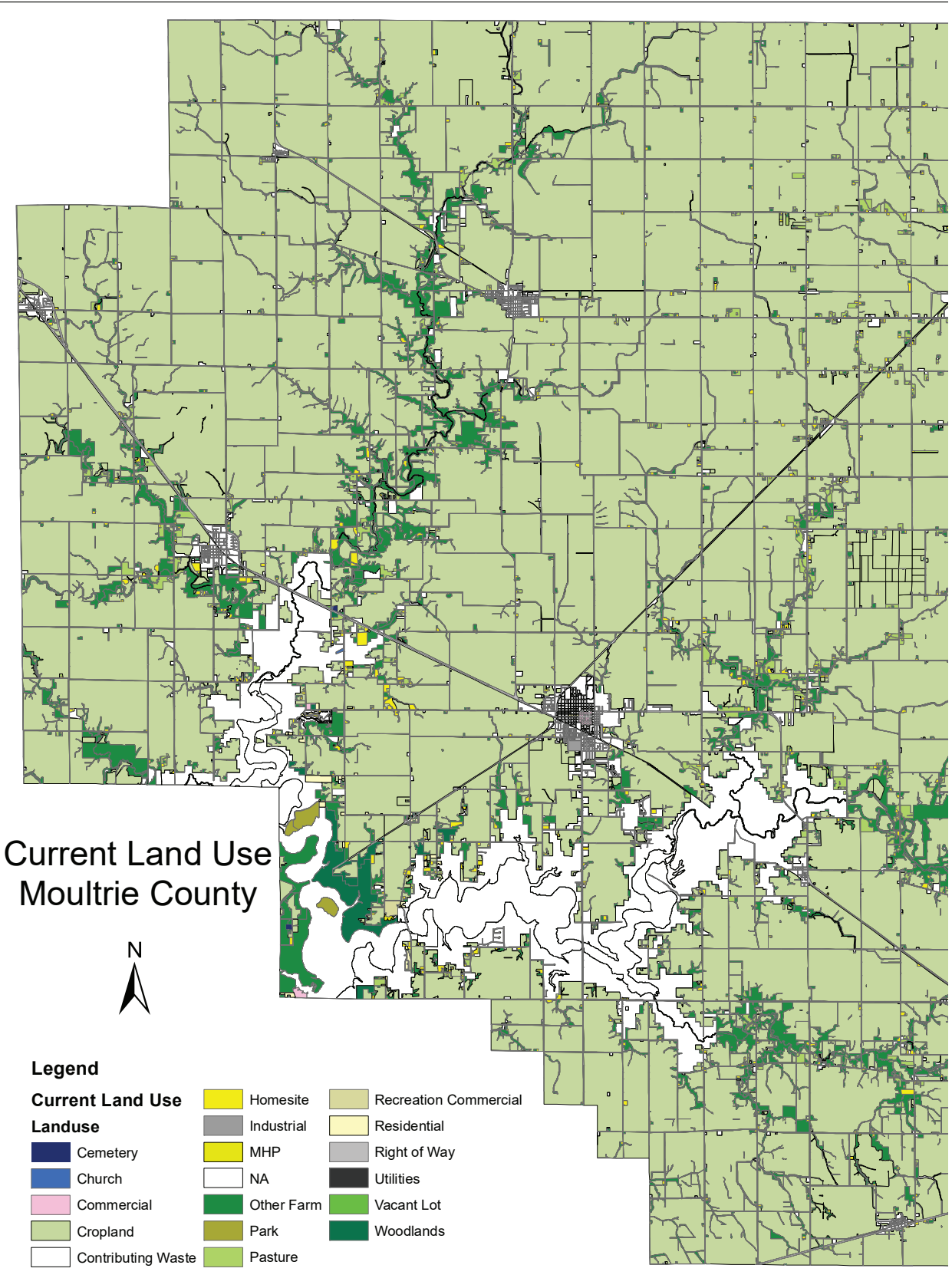
LAND USE PLAN & MAP

The evaluation of current and future land use is an important and integral part of any comprehensive plan. This planning element should serve as a useful guide for future development-related issues. The future land use plan was created with the recognition that there are a few easy land use decisions. With any plan, there are many uncertainties about future pressures for land resources. Care has been taken in researching public input, land use trends, and policy options to guide development.

Present Land Use

Moultrie County has a zoning ordinance in place. The Moultrie County Department of Building and Zoning is responsible for regulating construction activities in the unincorporated areas of Moultrie County. The office monitors construction activities to ensure that projects are meeting all local regulations. The department is also responsible for issuing permits for projects. The Zoning map is shown on the following page.

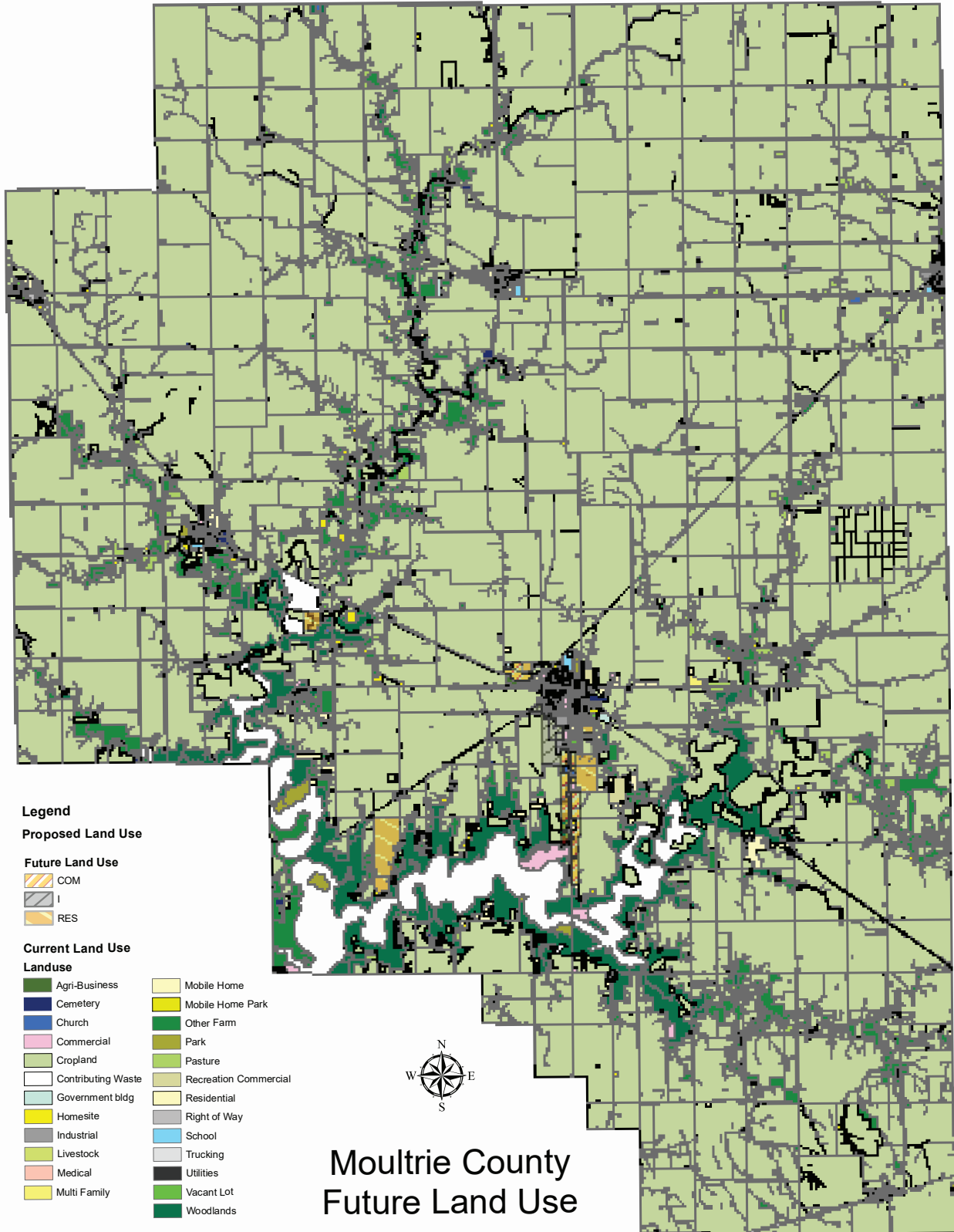
Moultrie County has had continued residential growth in the rural areas and outside of the municipal boundaries. These observations have been made in developing a future land use plan. Neighboring counties have also shown continued residential growth in their rural areas. In 1990, 38.3% of Moultrie County residents lived outside of the municipal boundaries. In 2010, 41.4% of residents lived outside of municipal boundaries and that trend continues today. Rural Sprawl has occurred in all parts of Moultrie County but is especially evident around Sullivan and Arthur.

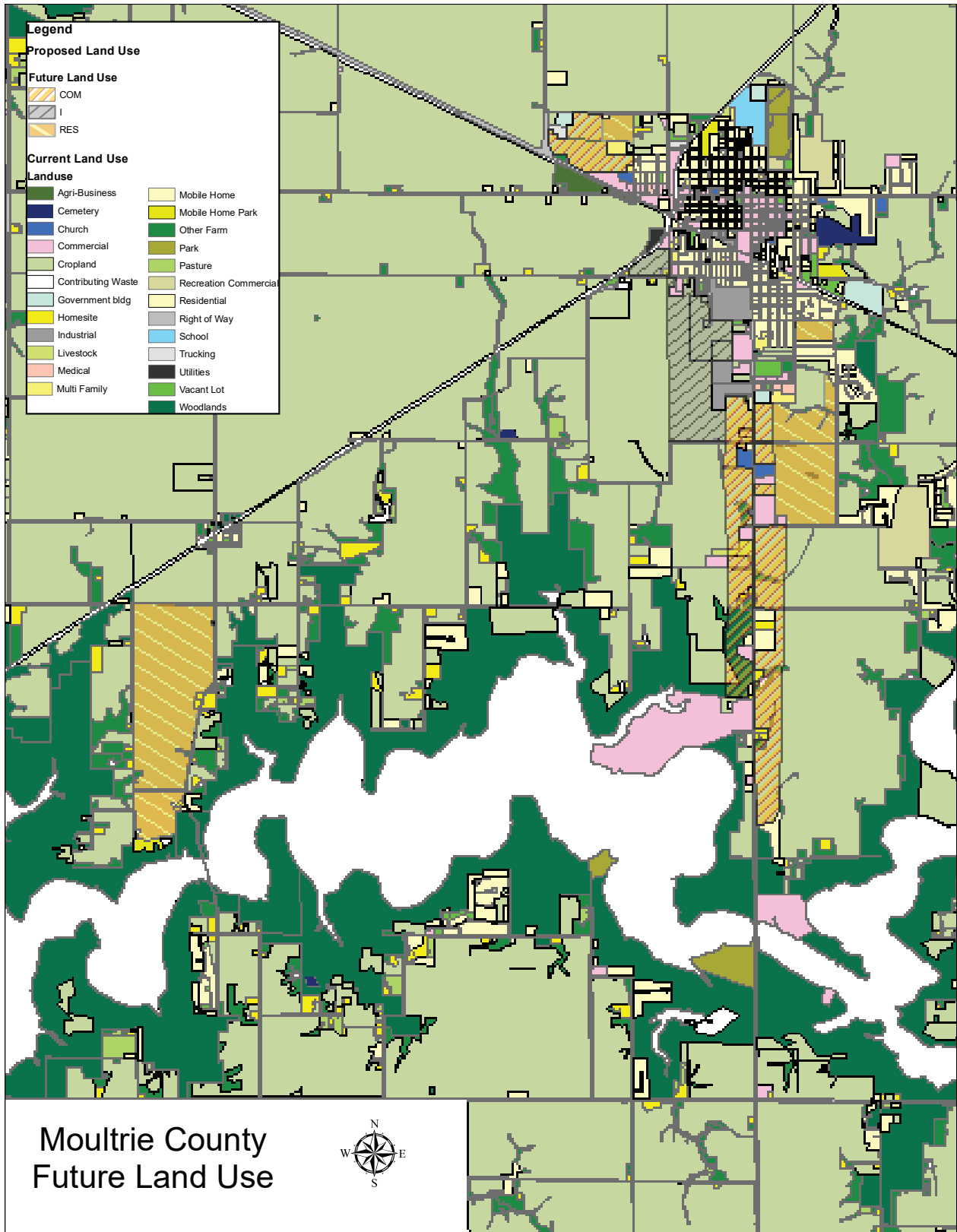


Future Land Use

In a meeting of the Steering Committee for Moultrie County's comprehensive plan, the committee developed a future land use map based on future development predictions. That map is shown on the next page:

Strong development is predicted around the lake. There are prime campground areas ready for development near the lake and opportunity for increased tourism and recreation. Renewable Energy development is expected in Moultrie County in the next several years, as is the case across most of rural Illinois. The Steering Committee identified several areas of growth, including new commercial development on the south and west sides of Sullivan. Housing growth will most likely occur south of State Highway 121 on the south and west sides of Sullivan and southeast of Bethany. These growth areas can be found on the future land use map.





Land use goals for Moultrie County are below:

Land Use Goal 1: Establish a land use and growth management program to enable greater control over land use and development.

1. Prohibit development in flood plains or ensure that proper development is taking place per the flood plain ordinance..
2. Promote intergovernmental cooperation for efficient use of future land use development.
3. Decrease flooding and drainage problems by incorporating storm water management practices, such as detention and infiltration, in new development.
4. Consider forming an Agricultural Areas Committee under the Agricultural Areas Conservation and Protection Act (505 ILCS 5/) to protect farmland.

Land Use Goal 2: Guide growth to developed areas where public facilities and services can be economically provided reducing the burden on taxpayers.

1. Phase and time development at a rate consistent with the County's ability to fund and expand community services and facilities through public and private resources.
2. Commercial and industrial uses which are not agriculturally related should be located in areas identified for such use and where the full range of public services (sewer, water, fire protection and police protection) can be economically provided.

Agriculture

Moultrie county is, as most counties in the State of Illinois are, a community with a strong agricultural presence. As of the last Census of Agriculture in 2017, the county had 526 farms, with a total farmland acreage of 201,752, and an average farm size of 384 acres. While the county and the communities within it may not be particularly large, they do account for 1% of all state agriculture, a number that speaks to some substance when nearly all the state is engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The soil in Moultrie County is some of the richest in the world. Staple products include corn, wheat, oats, hay, and sorghum. Agricultural resources are perhaps Moultrie's strongest resource. Comprised of much prairie land, the soil is rich, black peat. Only in a few areas, like on the Okaw hills, is there a stronger presence of red clay. The soil produces an

abundance of blue grass, timothy, and clover, which all make for nutritious livestock feed and high-quality hay. Praises have been sung for the productivity of Moultrie's land for years.

According to USDA's 2021 data, Moultrie County is currently farming 82,100 acres of corn with an average yield of 212.2 bushels per acre. The County also farmed 84,600 acres of soybeans with an average yield of 71.2 bushels per acre. Cash rent is presently at \$297, the second highest in the state, providing further evidence of how high-quality the county's farm ground and soil is. For livestock, USDA shows there are 6,300 head of cattle in Moultrie County, the predominant form of livestock farming in the county.

As for labor, the total amount of farms in Moultrie County is 526. The average size for a farm is 384 acres, and 130 of those farms have a total of 358 hired farm workers between them.

Preservation of the county's agricultural resources should be a high priority, considering the immense value they offer. Development of proper resource use will also be of great benefit to the county. Some agricultural goals for Moultrie County as they protect their environmental and natural resources are below:

Agriculture Goal 1: Promote the protection of economically productive resources like prime farmland.

1. Work closely with agricultural leaders and organizations to develop strategies for protecting prime farmland.
2. Encourage agritourism, production of specialty crops, direct marketing, farmers markets and other agriculture diversification strategies as a means of enhancing the economic vitality of agriculture.
3. Target value-added agricultural enterprises for location and expansion in Moultrie County.
4. Provide information about modern agriculture production to potential residents to foster understanding and tolerance between farmers and their residential neighbors.

HOUSING REVITALIZATION

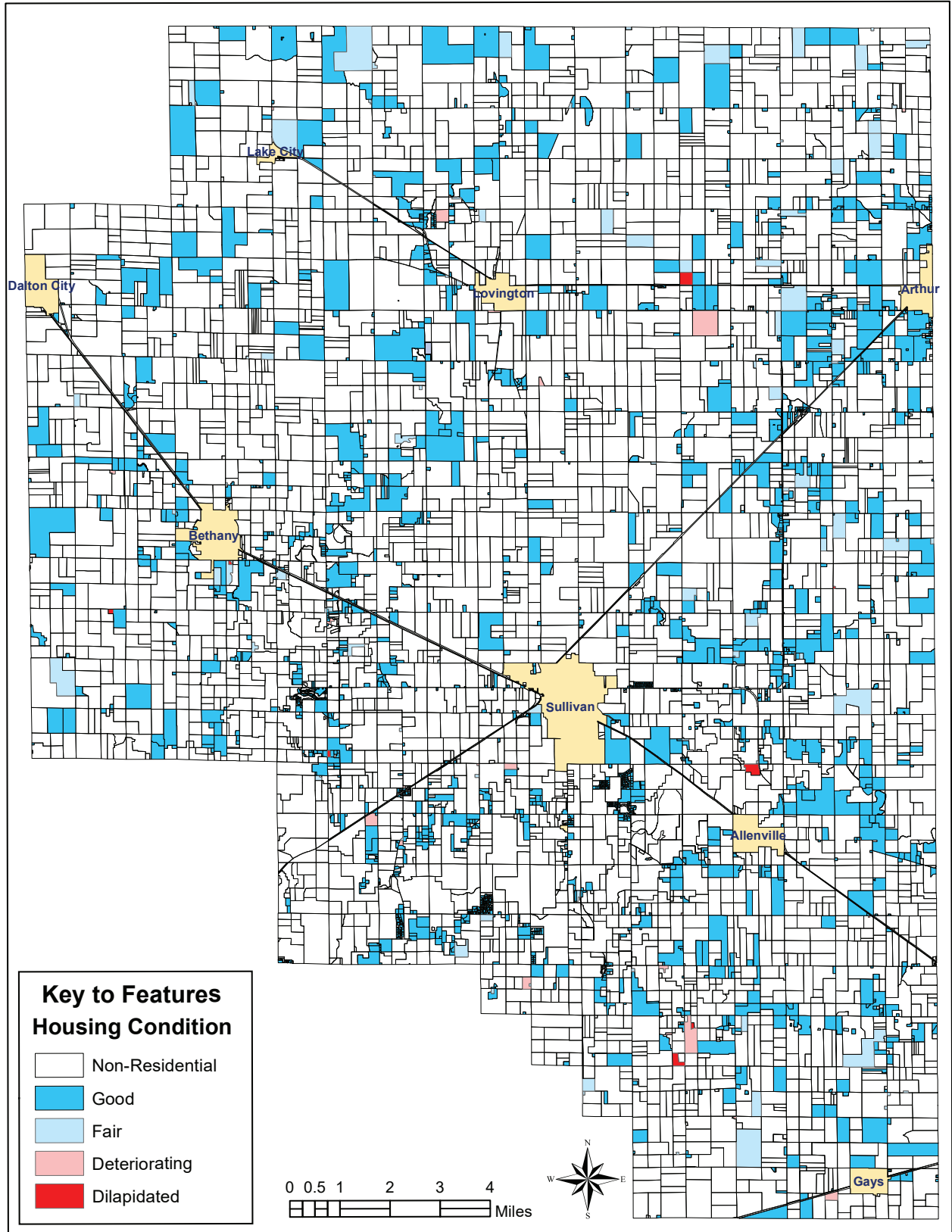
The housing stock in rural Moultrie County is in excellent condition, especially when compared to area counties. Coles County Regional Planning & Development Commission completed a field survey of all homes in rural Moultrie County. Of the 2,150 homes surveyed, 1,966 homes (91.4%) were in good condition needing little to no work, 144 homes were in fair condition with the home needing a roof, windows, siding or other repairs, 31 homes were in deteriorating condition needing significant improvements, and 12 homes were dilapidated and in danger of being torn down or condemned.

There is, of course, always room for improvement. There is a shortage of rental and short-term housing of any kind in the county. It is also important for the county to prioritize affordable housing that is in good condition, as it is common for affordable housing to be sub-par. For families and new employees relocating to the area, a lack of housing options is a serious detriment.

Some housing goals for Moultrie County are as follows:

Housing Goal 1: Encourage the development and preservation of long-term, affordable housing for low and moderate income residents and for retirement living options.

1. Encourage infill housing development in urban areas to take advantage of existing infrastructure and services.
2. Support Moultrie County Housing Authority in their efforts to expand the quantity and improve the quality of affordable housing.
3. Promote and support the rehabilitation of existing housing units to create a larger stock of safe, affordable housing. Consider housing rehabilitation grants through DCEO and IHDA.
4. Encourage property owners to maintain properties to acceptable community standards and enforce nuisance ordinances requiring property owners to dispose of junk, abandoned cars, and dilapidated buildings.
5. Provide support for development of retirement living communities and other housing developments for aging residents.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

Community resources and public facilities contribute to the basic needs of a community. Both can commonly require intergovernmental cooperation and close attention to the needs expressed by a community. They increase the quality of life for the whole population and offer opportunities for local governments to enhance their constituents' lives.

Some community resources and public facilities goals for Moultrie County include:

Community Resources Goal 1: Explore the expansion of childcare facilities in the county with extended hours for employees with out-of-the-norm working hours.

1. Encourage development of high-quality childcare programs with hours that make it accessible to the factory workers who make up the majority of the county's workforce.

Community Resources Goal 2: Encourage the expansion and the availability of affordable high speed internet access to residential, business, and public sector users.

1. Support the Cumberland County Development Corporation's efforts to expand broadband access in the County.
2. Coordinate efforts to expand broadband service across all units of government including regional development efforts.
3. Pursue grants and other sources of funding for expansion and enhancement of internet services.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

An economic development plan provides a comprehensive overview of the economy, sets policy direction for economic growth, and identifies strategies, programs, and projects to improve the economy.

The community survey can be particularly useful in the economic development section of a comprehensive plan, as it shows where residents place their priorities.

Some economic goals for Moultrie County for the next five-to-ten years are below:

Economic Development Goal 1: Support retention and creation of jobs providing wages and benefits sufficient to support families. Business expansion that does not provide living wage jobs may be given a lower priority.

1. Encourage and provide support as needed to create a business retention and expansion program.
2. Explore opportunities in business recruitment, working to develop a plan that provides the greatest potential for rate of return, look for partnering opportunities to offset costs.
3. Maintain the Location One Information System database of available properties and assets available within Moultrie County.
4. Encourage and provide support as needed in identification and development of industrial and commercial sites throughout Moultrie County.
5. Adopt an 'economic gardening' approach to economic development that focuses attention on business retention and expansion and nurturing locally owned small businesses.
6. Encourage and facilitate access to new markets for agricultural products.
7. Identify key industry sectors for growth opportunities, and then pursue development of policies and investment of resources to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

Economic Development Goal 2: Support efforts to provide education and training that will enhance employability and opportunities for advancement for all resident

1. Take a more active role in regional workforce development organizations and programs.
2. Explore collaborative opportunities in the development of additional secondary and post-secondary vocational educational programs.
3. Promote cooperative programs between schools and economic development organizations that provide area youth with opportunities to learn about the local economy, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurship.



TOURISM

Moultrie County has a robust tourism culture, especially for a county of its size and location. With clearly defined goals, this area can only continue to grow.

Some tourism goals for Moultrie County include:

Tourism Goal 1: Ensure a stable funding source annually so that outreach can continue, and the county can make a meaningful comeback from the Covid-19 Pandemic financial setbacks.

1. Watch and actively search for tourism grant opportunities, particularly for marketing and outreach so that engagement can increase.
2. Create mutually beneficial partnerships amongst cities, counties, and private entities for promotion, i.e. travel shows and group ads or collaborative events.
3. Utilize the hotel/motel tax dollars to promote Moultrie County as a tourism destination.

Tourism Goal 2: Find ways to include smaller towns in outreach wherever possible and spread marketing county-wide.

1. Continue to work with tourism-based businesses in the county on the promotion of their unique local destinations
2. Include community officials and tourism businesses from each community on the county tourism committee
3. Encourage active participation and cooperation amongst all of the communities in Moultrie County to promote tourist activities beyond city/village limits

Tourism Goal 3: Make efforts to preserve recreational areas where necessary with grant funding and continue to promote outdoor recreation as the biggest tourism draw to the county.

1. Continue the expansion of both water and walking trails, with Lake Charleston as a model for how development can be achieved, protecting Moultrie County's natural resources.
2. Maintain and update play areas and parks as necessary, including parking,

restrooms, and trail system upkeep

3. Expand new kayak/water trail into other trails and businesses to promote provision of kayak delivery/pickup services to tourists in the area
4. Procure funding to dredge the north end of the lake to preserve an area that is silting in faster than originally projected

Tourism Goal 4: The Sullivan Civic Center is in need of replacement.

1. Demolish the current non-ADA Compliant and dilapidated Sullivan Civic Center.
2. Build a new structure in it's place with similar amenities, including a pool, gymnasium, workout facilities, classroom space, and a community center.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation in Moultrie County will continue to require consideration for the Amish community and routine maintenance for roads heavily traversed by farmers. It should also be noted that commute times can be long in Moultrie County, so much of the population is driving daily for work.

Moultrie County was included in a seven-county transportation plan written by Coles County Regional Planning & Development Commission in 2015. In the plan, using Census Data from 2010, it was found that 41% of the Moultrie County population travels outside their county of residence for work. The importance of transportation in a county is undeniable, and its effects spread into the economic concerns of a community as well as many other areas. In rural areas, cooperation and discussion between counties can help advise the best course of action for each one.

Some transportation goals specific to Moultrie County include:

Transportation Goal 1: Improve mobility and accessibility by promoting public transportation options.

1. Plan for future expansion of buggy lanes and horse buggy facility for parking and access based on proposed development in portions of the region that will likely see Amish development. This primarily focuses on portions of Moultrie, Douglas and Coles Counties.
2. Improve the existing system to achieve access from residential areas to major shopping/entertainment areas.
3. Encourage logical land use patterns along travel corridors while being cognizant of the value of prime farmland as a natural resource in our region.
4. Enhance transportation system for recreational and general transit through pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and buggy corridors. Link land use and transit facilities with bike paths and pedestrian walkways for convenient and efficient alternative modes of travel as well as recreational opportunities.

Transportation Goal 2: Promote and support intergovernmental transportation system planning maintenance and construction with the appropriate federal, state, municipal and township governments.

Encourage collaborative efforts and planning among county, township and municipal governments.

1. Work to create opportunities for county, township and municipal governments to co-apply for funding to sustain and rebuild land transportation systems within Moultrie County.
2. Improve safety of railroad bridges, crossings and key roadways with high accident counts.
3. Coordinate all transportation planning with Illinois Department of Transportation to guarantee compliance with State transportation plans.

Transportation Goal 3: Create a long-term capital improvement and maintenance plan for the County Highway Department.

1. Promote the development and implementation of a multi-year capital improvement and maintenance plan for Moultrie County that incorporates current and proposed land-use changes in decision making.
2. Explore additional funding opportunities for maintenance and improvement of county, township and municipal roadways. Rigorously pursue grant funds for road construction, maintenance and improvements.
3. Support completion of the projects listed as the Highway Engineer's 5–10-year goals in the previous Transportation Overview (pg. 26).

ATTACHMENTS

MOULTRIE COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY (CITY/VILLAGE)

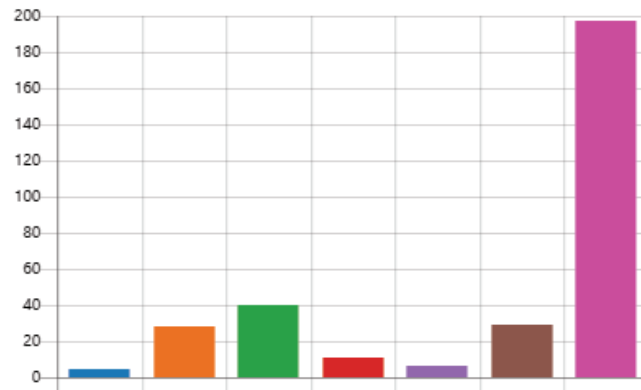
316
Responses

31:13
Average Time to Complete

Status
Closed

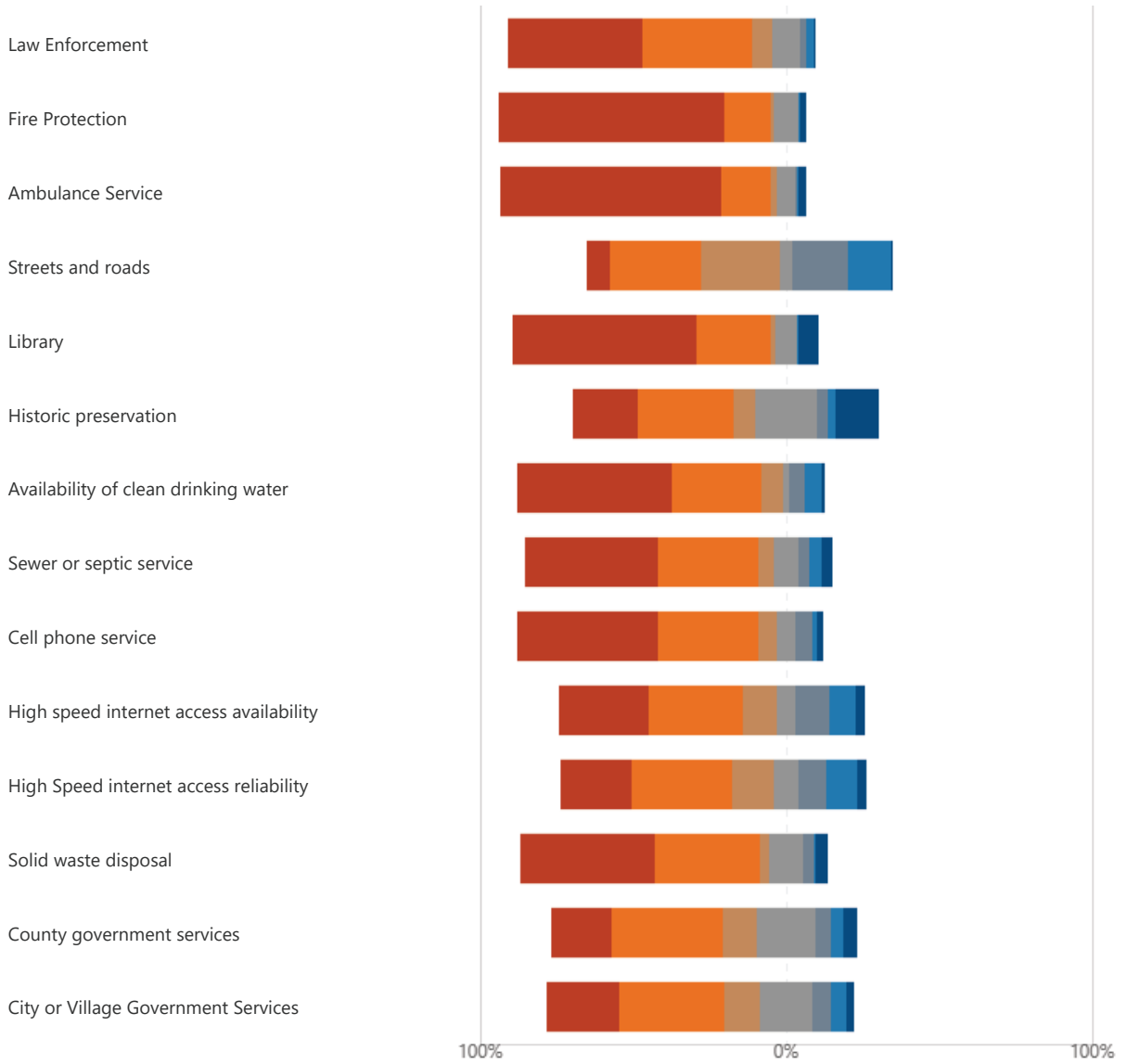
1. If so, which Community do you live in?

● Allenville, Village of	5
● Arthur, Village of	28
● Bethany, Village of	40
● Dalton City, Village of	11
● Gays, Village of	6
● Lovington, Village of	29
● Sullivan, City of	197



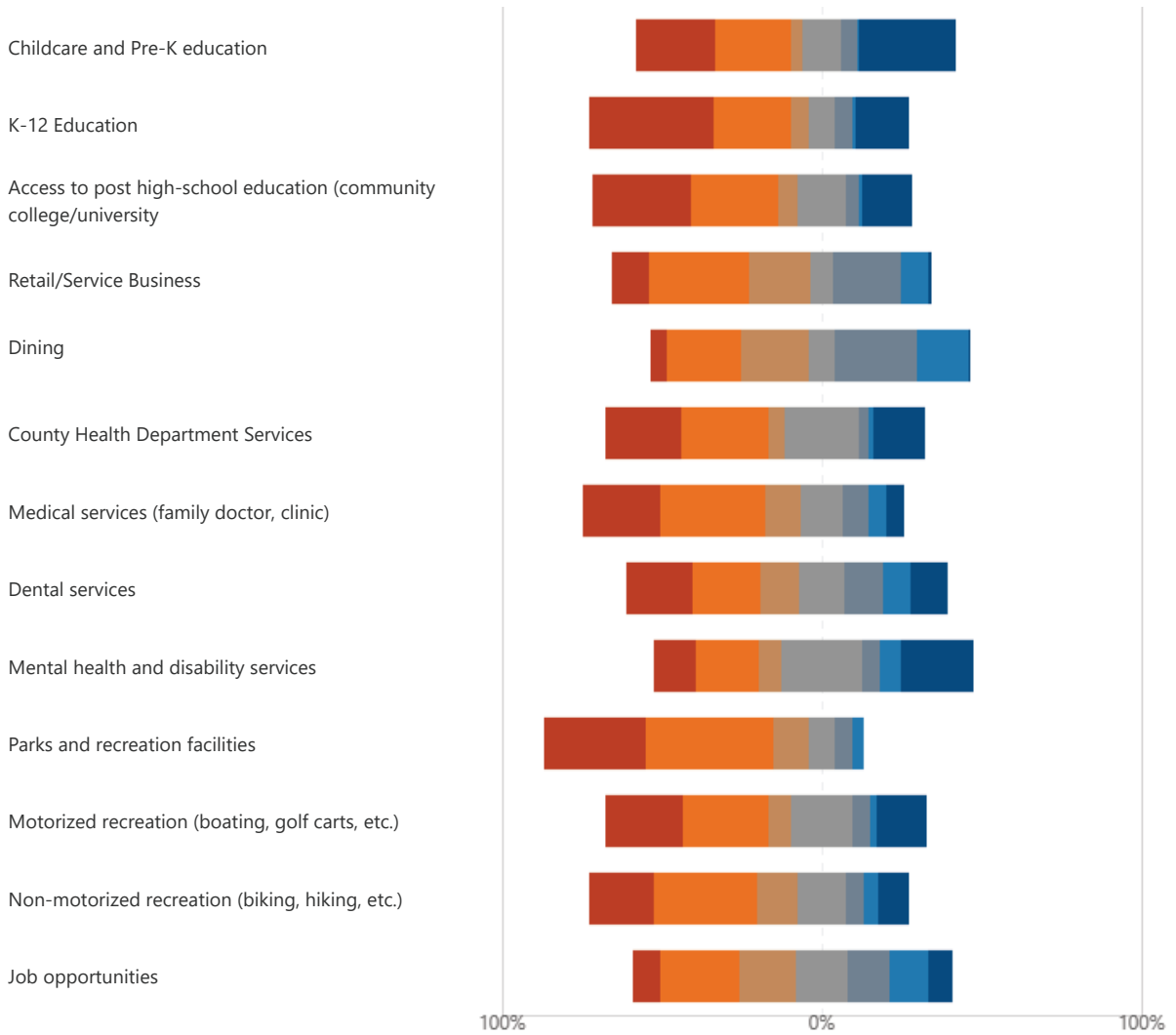
2. How satisfied are you with the following services and facilities where you live?

■ Very Satisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 ■ dissatisfied
 ■ Don't Know



3. How satisfied are you with the following services and facilities where you live?

■ Very Satisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 ■ dissatisfied
 ■ Very dissatisfied
 ■ Don't Know



4. Are there new services or improvements to existing services you are concerned about?

152 ^{Insights}
Responses

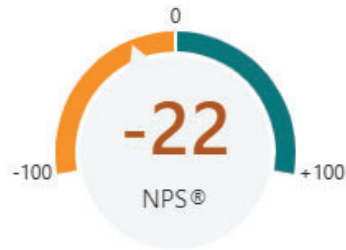
Latest Responses
"Recycling services needed"
"None noted"

34 respondents (22%) answered **need** for this question.



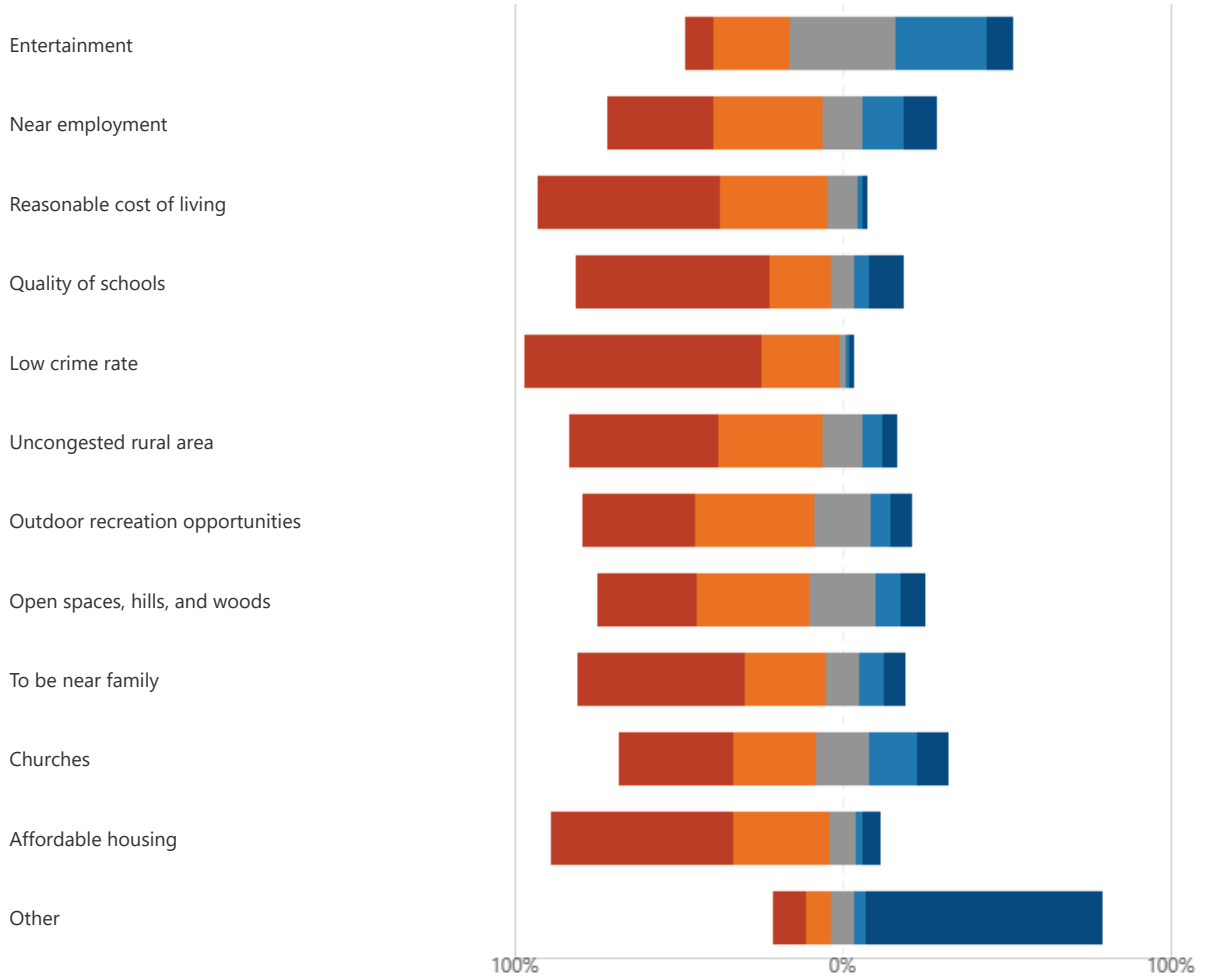
5. How would you rate the overall quality of life in Moultrie County?

Promoters	58
Passives	133
Detractors	125



6. How Important to you are the following reasons for living in Moultrie County?

Very Important Important Somewhat Important Not Important No Opinion



7. Are there any cultural or historic resources you are particularly concerned about preserving or restoring?

Insights

316

Responses

Latest Responses

"Concerned about the Titus trust"

"No they tore everything down"

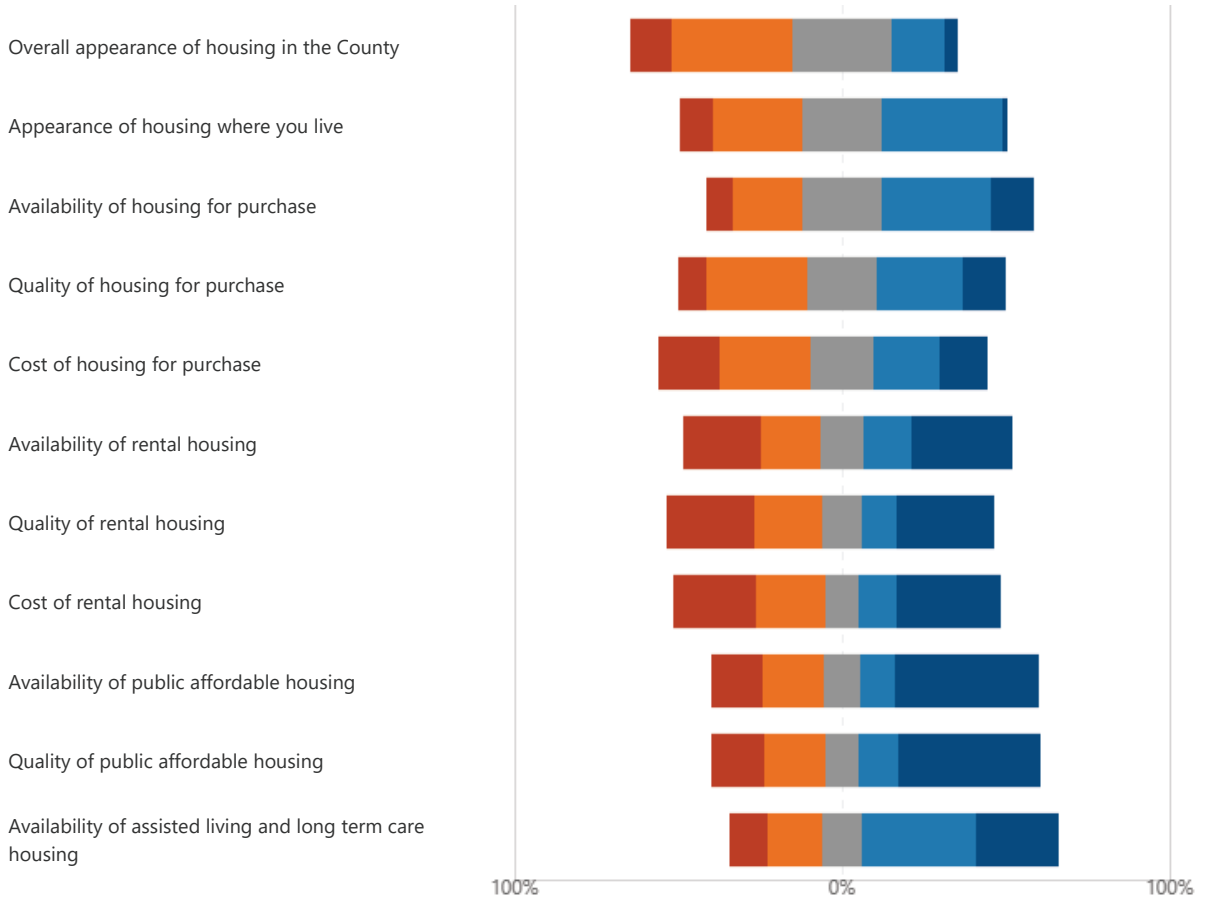
"Lincoln"

154 respondents (49%) answered **No** for this question.

A word cloud of responses for the 'No' category. The word 'No' is the largest and most prominent. Other words include 'Historical Society', 'court house', 'civic center', 'school', 'Little Theater', 'square', 'Titus home', 'Titus House', 'Sullivan', 'need buildings', 'Old homes', 'No opinion', 'Little Theatre', 'town', 'important', 'no comment', and 'no longer'. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern around the central 'No'.

8. To what extent do you think the following housing issues are a problem?

■ Serious Problem
 ■ Moderate Problem
 ■ Slight Problem
 ■ Not a problem
 ■ Don't Know

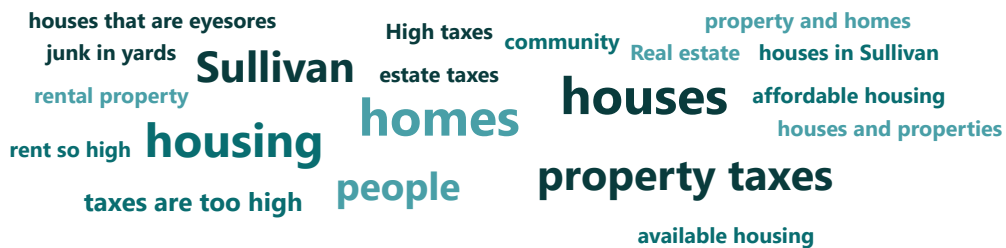


9. Are there any other housing issues you are concerned about?

134
Responses

Latest Responses
"taxes are too high"
"None noted"

13 respondents (10%) answered **homes** for this question.



10. Do you think more needs to be done to demolish and remove dilapidated and rundown houses and other buildings in your community?

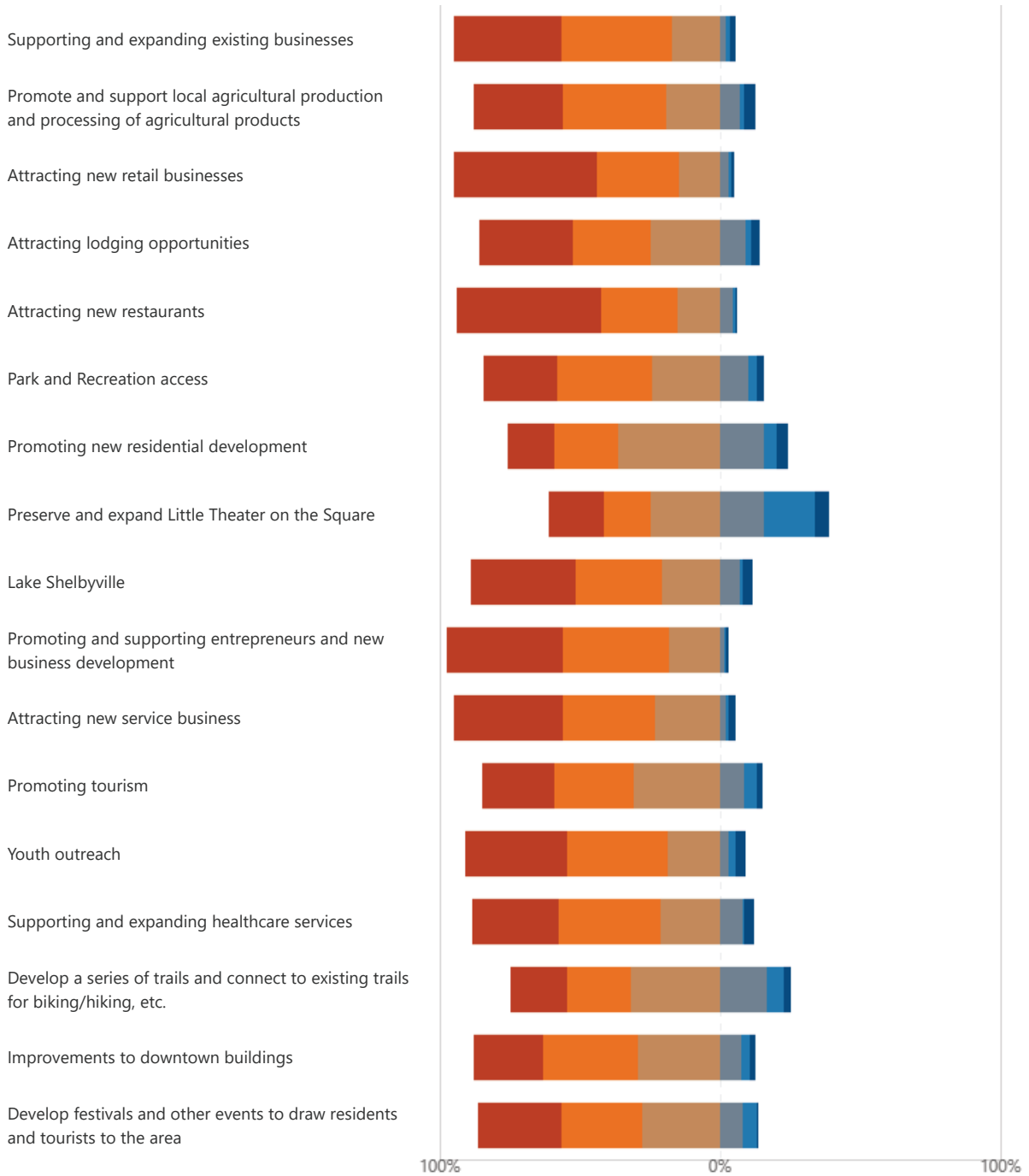
Insights

● Yes	241
● No	75



11. Please identify the relative priority for the following economic development programs in Moultrie County.

■ Very High Priority
 ■ High Priority
 ■ Medium Priority
 ■ Low Priority
 ■ Very Low Priority
 ■ Don't Know



12. Do you have any other ideas for promoting economic development in the County?

141
Responses

Latest Responses

"tax incentives? we really need to limit the number of mexican restaur..."

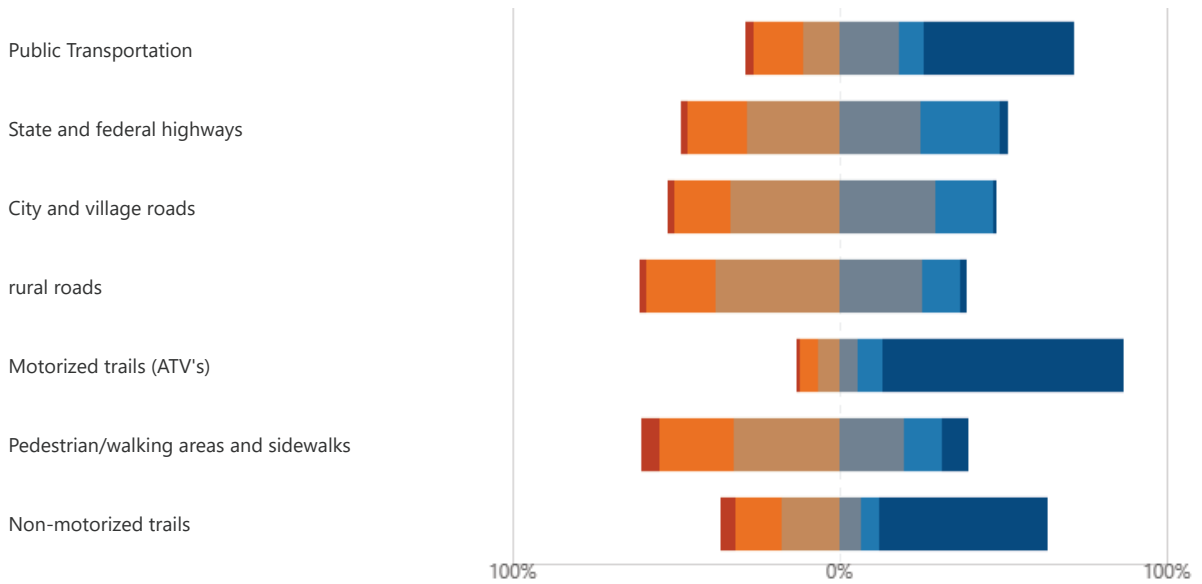
"None noted"

24 respondents (17%) answered **need** for this question.



13. Please identify your level of satisfaction for the following transportation resources in Moultrie County.

Very Satisfied Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Don't Know



14. Do you have any comments or other concerns about transportation?

114 ^{Insights}
Responses

Latest Responses
"no public transportation; uber or taxi available?"
"None noted"

22 respondents (19%) answered **roads** for this question.



15. BUILDING INSPECTION/CODE ENFORCEMENT

^{Insights}

● Yes	238
● No	78



16. Should there be more rigorous enforcement of nuisance ordinances requiring property owners to dispose of junk, abandoned cars, and dilapidated buildings?

^{Insights}

● Yes	266
● No	50



17. What do you like most about living in Moultrie County?

200 ^{Insights}
Responses

Latest Responses
"Pretty safe, pretty area, small town"
"Nothing anymore, they took everything away"

33 respondents (17%) answered **small town** for this question.



18. What are the biggest problems facing Moultrie County today?

191 ^{Insights}
Responses

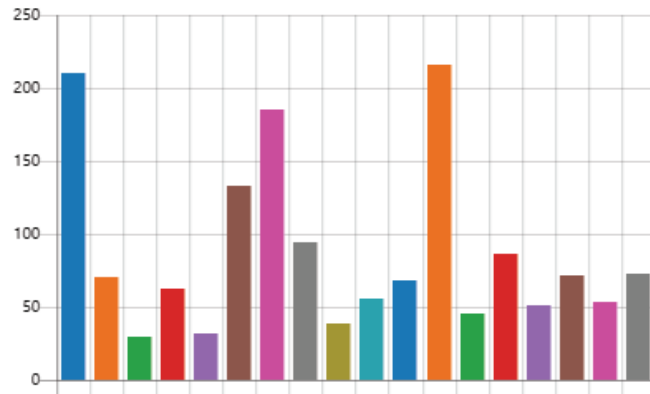
Latest Responses
"Attracting new businesses and restaurants"
"Everything"

28 respondents (15%) answered **people** for this question.



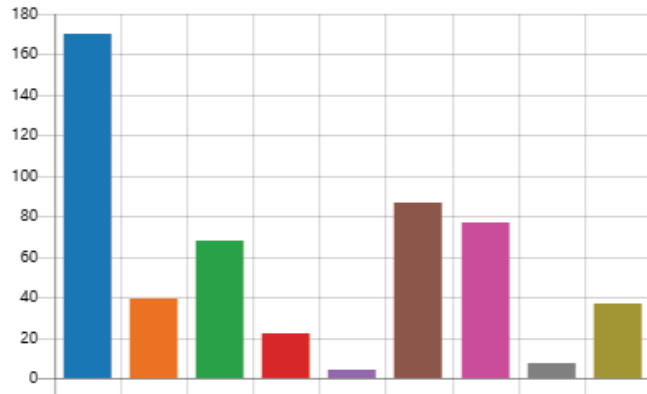
19. If you were talking to a county official about the five most important issues facing Moultrie County in the future, what issues would you identify? Please check five boxes that reflect your concern.

- Jobs and economic opportunity 210
- Access to healthcare 70
- Cell phone service 29
- Lake Shelbyville 63
- Preservation of cultural and hi... 32
- Access to affordable and quali... 133
- Quality of streets and roads 185
- Affordable housing 94
- Fire Protection 39
- Out migration of young adults 56
- Affordable access to high spe... 68
- Property taxes 216
- Water and sewer services 46
- Quality of schools 86
- Quality of available housing 51
- Law enforcement and public s... 72
- Preserving farmland 53
- Government leadership 73



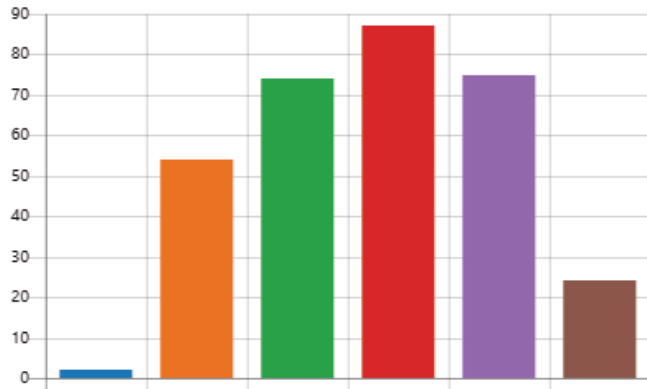
20. Please identify your top priority for the following Environmental natural resources in Moultrie County.

● Flooding and drainage	170
● Camp grounds	39
● Lake Shelbyville	68
● Water shed (Kaskaskia River)	22
● Non-motor watercraft access	4
● Parks and recreation	87
● Protection of natural resources	77
● Motor watercraft access	7
● Hunting and fishing	37



21. What is your age?

● 18 to 25	2
● 26 to 39	54
● 40 to 54	74
● 55 to 65	87
● 66 to 75	75
● over 75	24



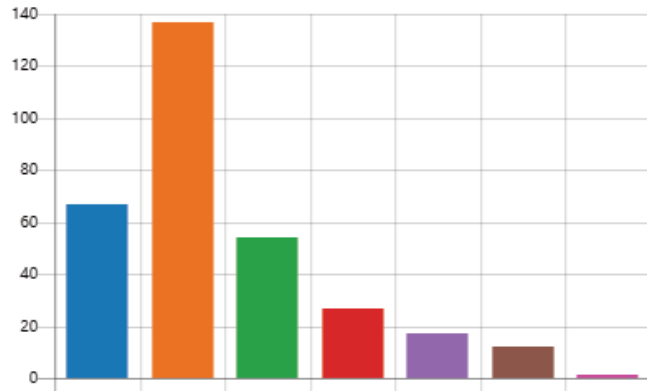
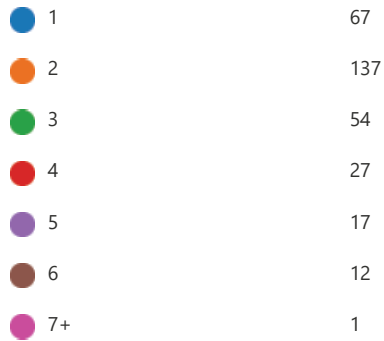
22. How many years have you lived in Moultrie County?

● Less than 10 years	26
● 11 to 20 years	53
● 21 to 30 years	48
● More than 30 years	188



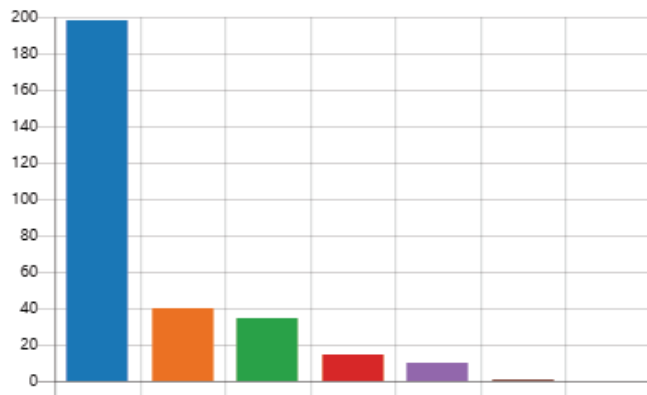
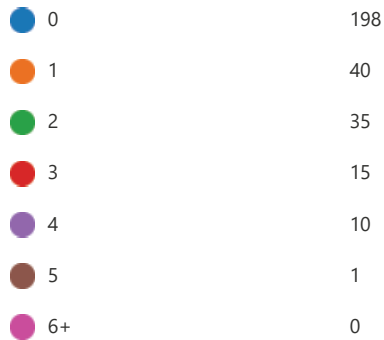
23. How many people live in your household?

Insights

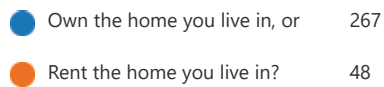


24. How many persons 18 years or younger live in your household?

Insights



25. Do you:



26. Please add any comments, ideas, or opinions here:

83 ^{Insights}
Responses

Latest Responses

"we have healthcare facilities, but NO doctors."

"None noted"

27 respondents (33%) answered **need** for this question.

A word cloud of responses related to the word "need". The words are in various shades of teal and green. The most prominent words are "need", "people", "town", "live", "Sullivan", "city", "community", "years", "work", "government", "area", "good people", "Moultrie County", "property taxes", "small town", "young people", and "city manager".


MOULTRIE COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY (RURAL)









255
Responses

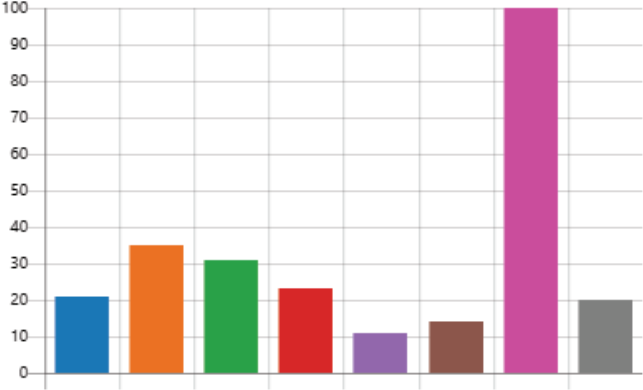
29:22
Average Time to Complete

Status
Closed

1. Which Township do you live in?

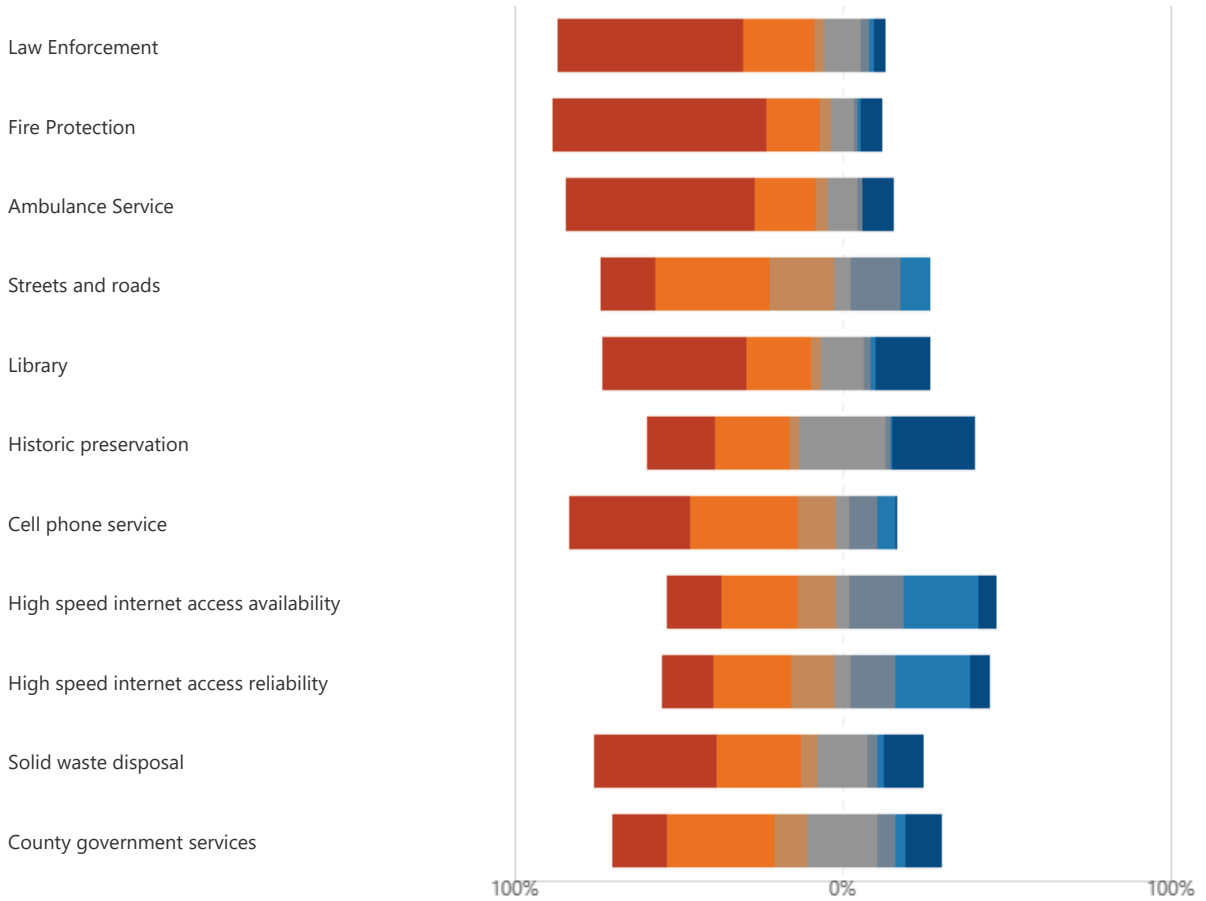
 Insights

 Dora	21
 East nelson	35
 Jonathan Creek	31
 Lovington	23
 Lowe	11
 Marrowbone	14
 Sullivan	100
 Whitley	20



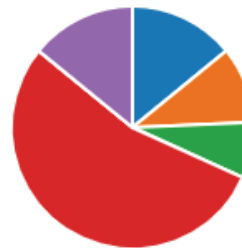
2. How satisfied are you with the following services and facilities where you live?

■ Very Satisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 ■ dissatisfied
 ■ Very dissatisfied
 ■ Don't Know



3. Would you be interested in rural water service?

● Yes Insights 36
● No 26
● Maybe 19
● I already have rural water servi... 138
● I already have rural water servi... 36



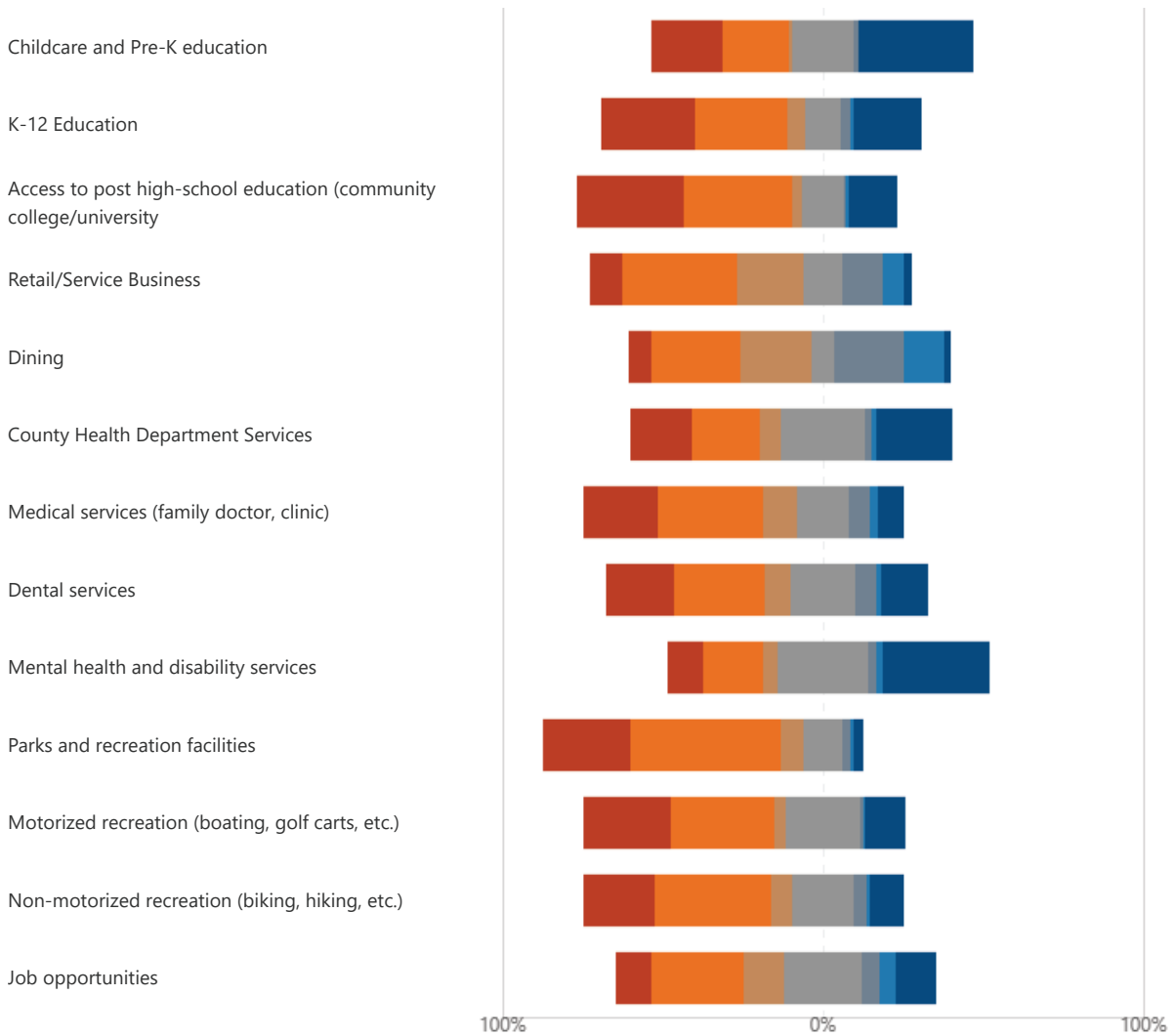
4. Would you be interested in rural sewer service?

● Yes	Insights	55
● No		121
● Maybe		66
● I already have rural sewer serv...		13
● I already have rural sewer serv...		0



5. How satisfied are you with the following services and facilities where you live?

■ Very Satisfied	■ Somewhat satisfied	■ Somewhat dissatisfied	■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	■ dissatisfied
■ Very dissatisfied	■ Don't Know			



6. Are there new services or improvements to existing services you are concerned about?

119 Insights

Latest Responses

"No"

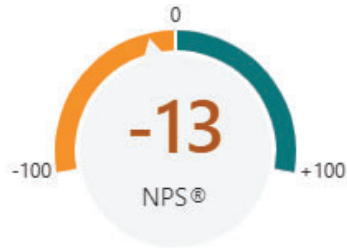
Responses

18 respondents (15%) answered **roads** for this question.



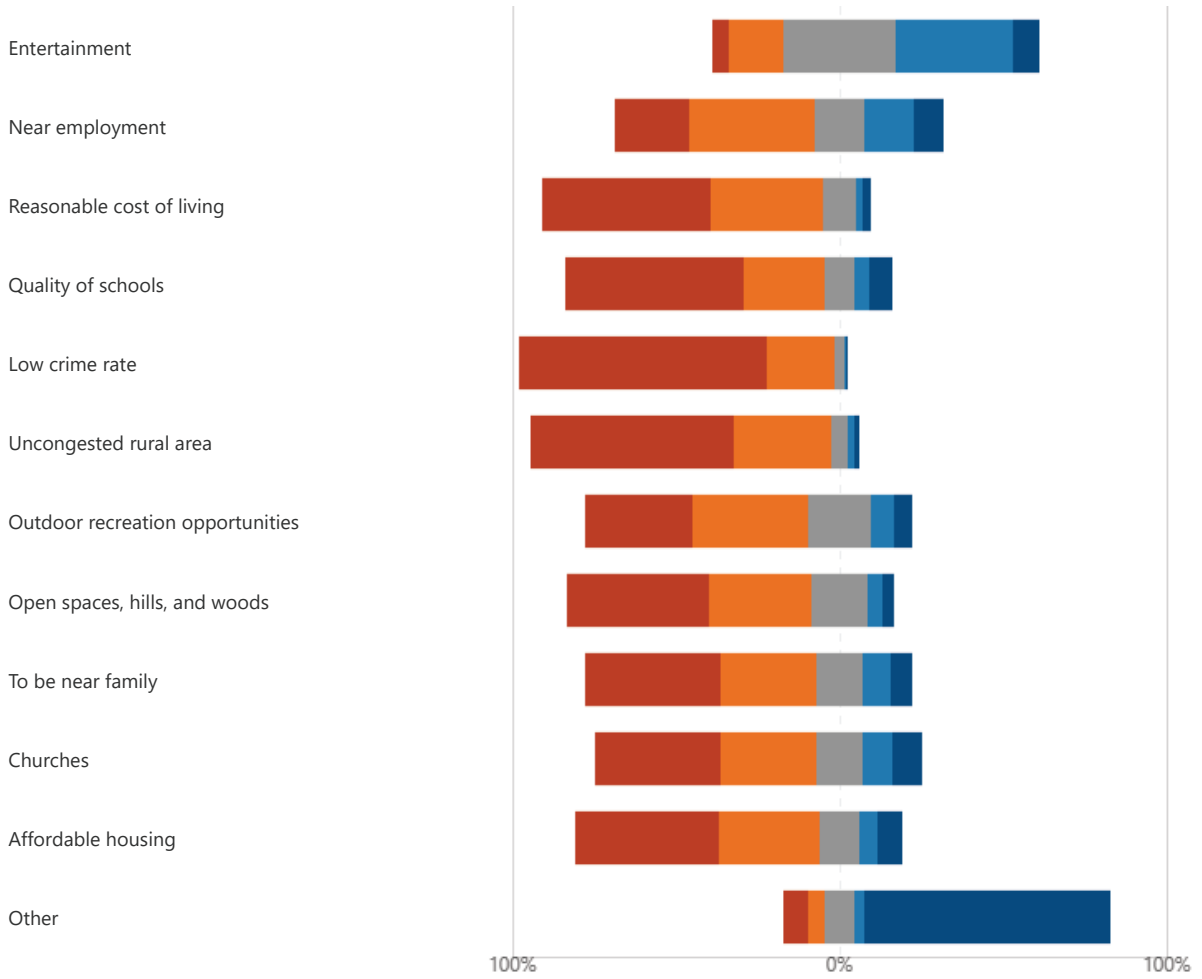
7. How would you rate the overall quality of life in Moultrie County?

Promoters	52
Passives	118
Detractors	85



8. How Important to you are the following reasons for living in Moultrie County?

Very Important Important Somewhat Important Not Important No Opinion



9. Are there any cultural or historic resources you are particularly concerned about preserving or restoring?

Insights

255

Responses

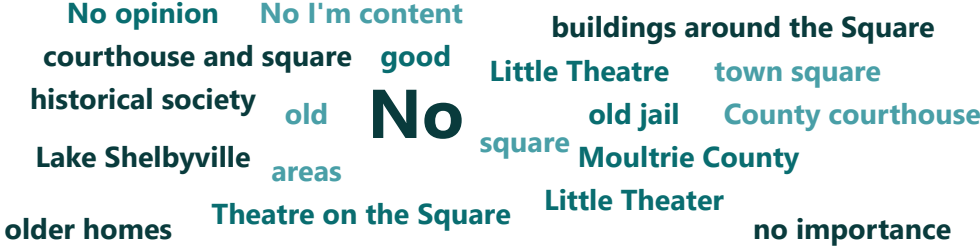
Latest Responses

"I don't know"

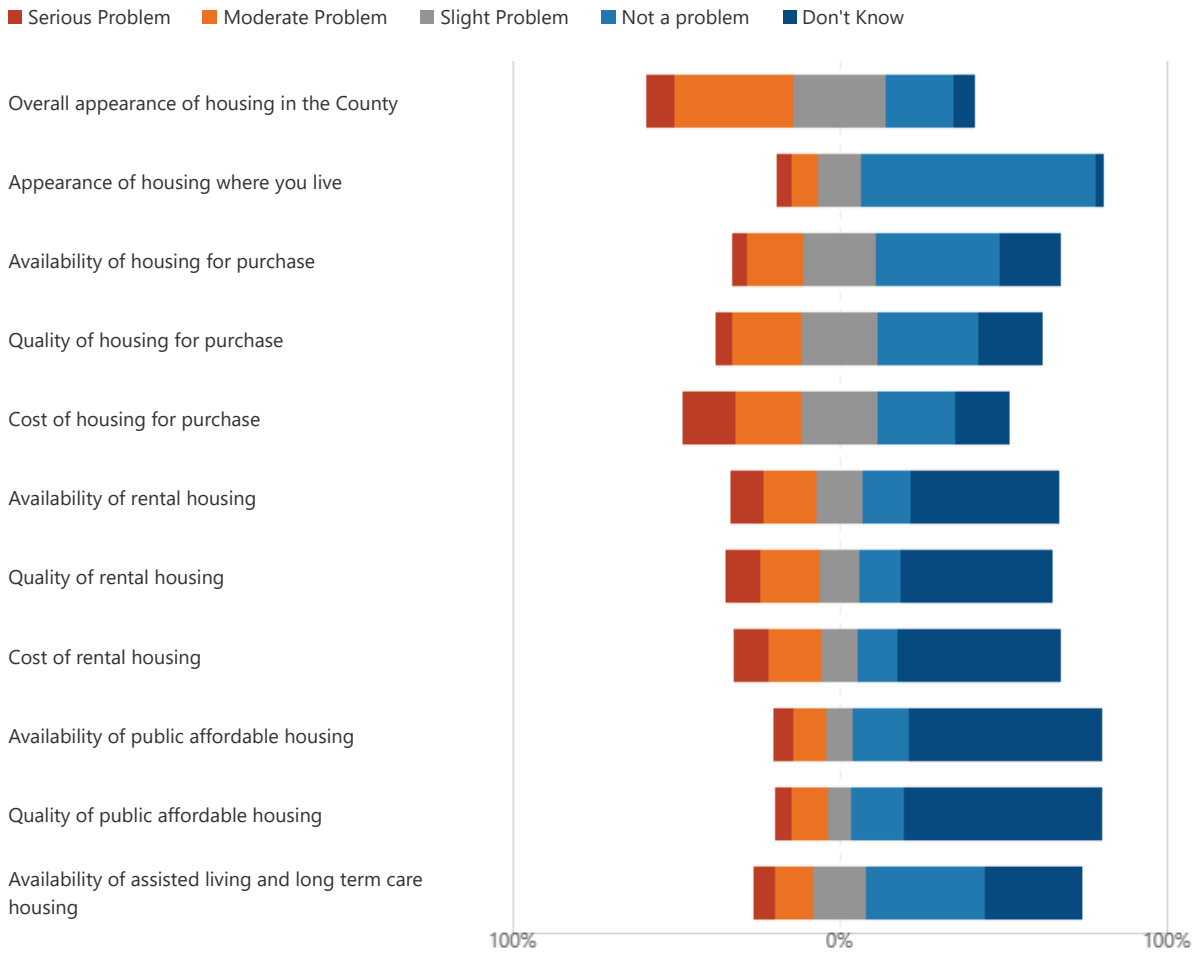
"No"

"Any that are researched and the majority of tax-paying county reside..."

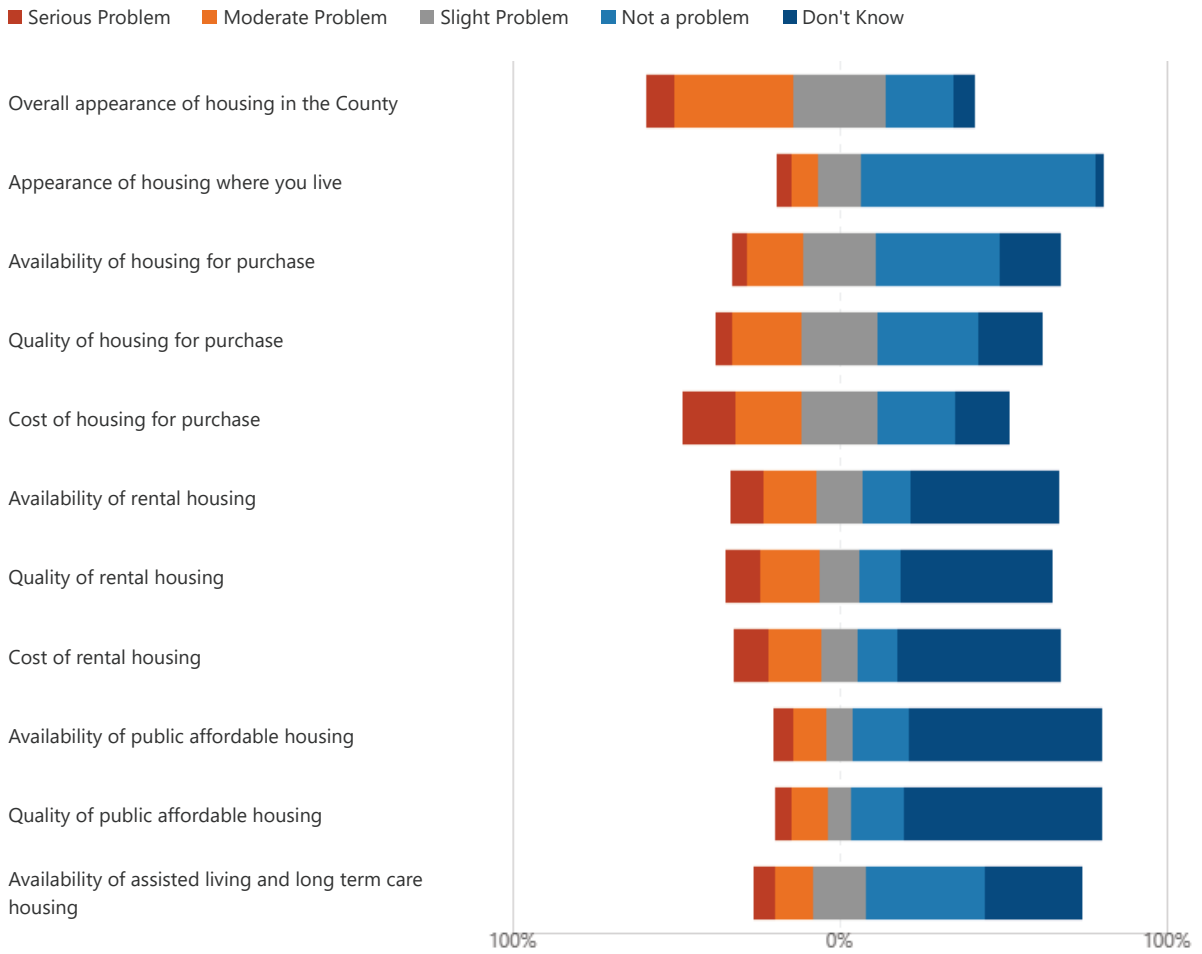
143 respondents (56%) answered **No** for this question.



10. To what extent do you think the following housing issues are a problem?



10. To what extent do you think the following housing issues are a problem?



11. Are there any other housing issues you are concerned about?

101 ^{Insights}
Responses

Latest Responses
"No"

"The property seen leaving west out of Lovington on State Hwy 32 & a..."

17 respondents (17%) answered **Property taxes** for this question.



12. Do you think more needs to be done to demolish and remove dilapidated and rundown houses and other buildings in the County?

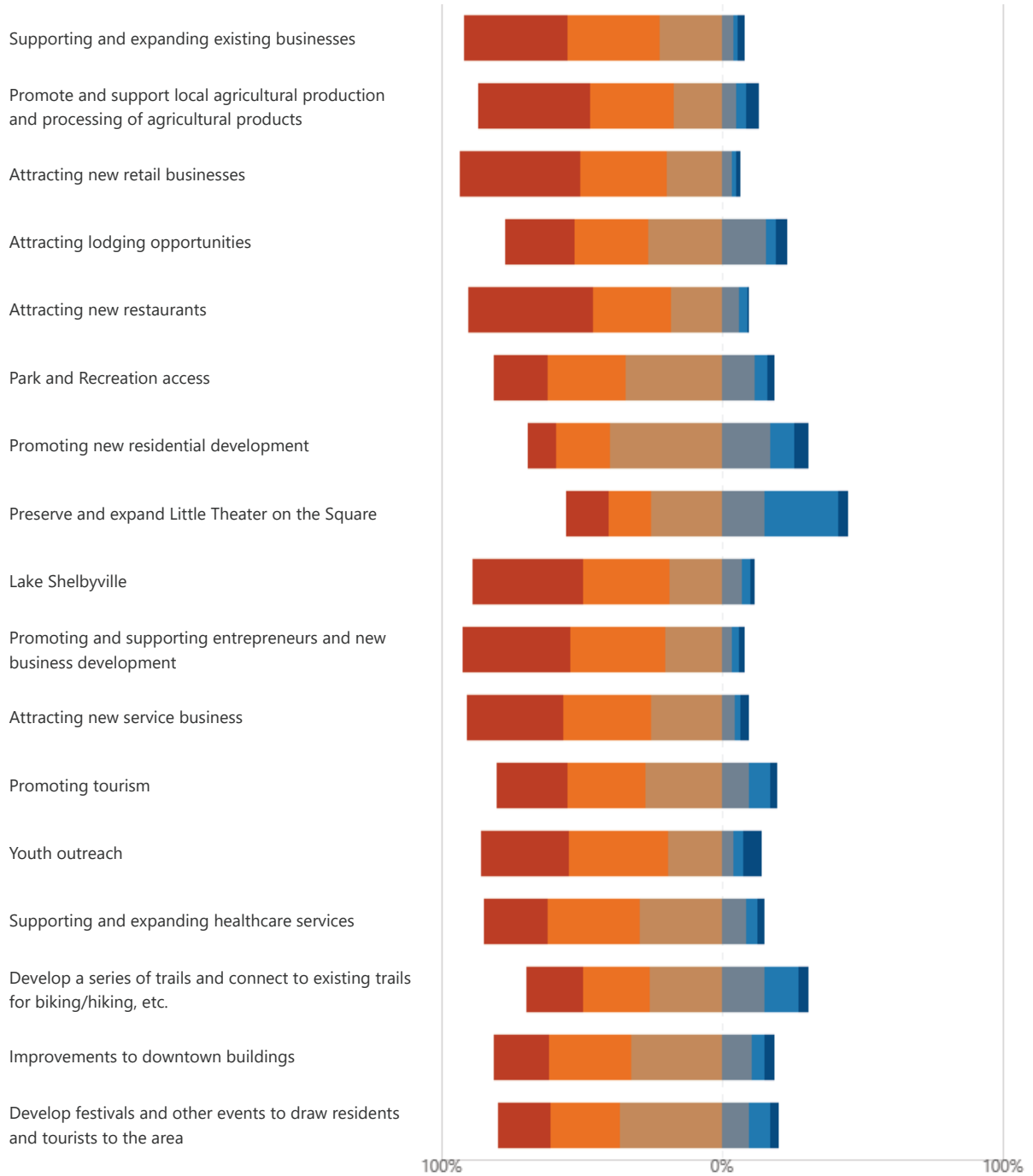
^{Insights}

● Yes	175
● No	80



13. Please identify the relative priority for the following economic development programs in Moultrie County.

■ Very High Priority
 ■ High Priority
 ■ Medium Priority
 ■ Low Priority
 ■ Very Low Priority
 ■ Don't Know



14. Do you have any other ideas for promoting economic development in the County?

90 Insights
Responses

Latest Responses

"No"

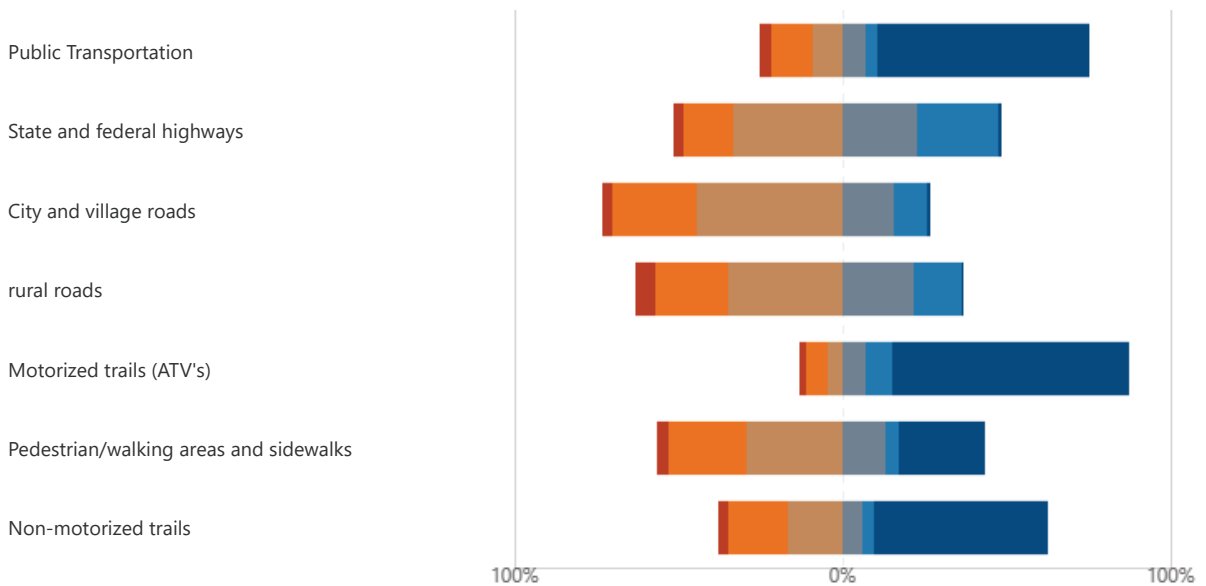
"Keep taxations as low as possible for enticing others to consider Moultr..."

18 respondents (20%) answered **businesses** for this question.



15. Please identify your level of satisfaction for the following transportation resources in Moultrie County.

Very Satisfied Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Don't Know



16. Do you have any comments or other concerns about transportation?

75  Insights
Responses


Latest Responses
"No"

16 respondents (21%) answered **need** for this question.



17. BUILDING CODES/INSPECTION

 Insights

	Yes	214
	No	41



18. Should there be more rigorous enforcement of nuisance ordinances requiring property owners to dispose of junk, abandoned cars, and dilapidated buildings?

 Insights

	Yes	195
	No	60



19. What do you like most about living in Moultrie County?

Insights

173

Responses

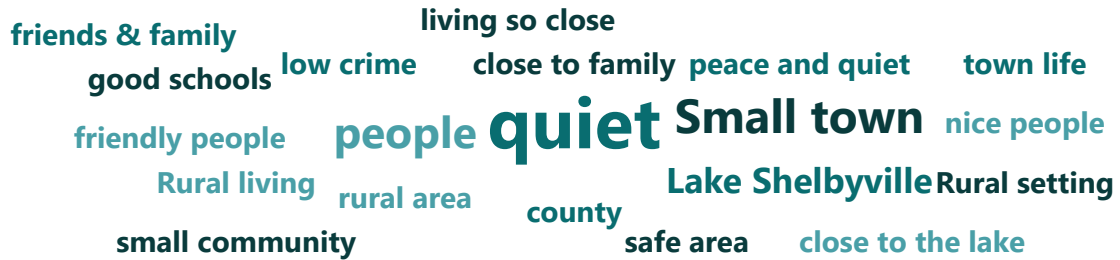
Latest Responses

"Close to family and living in a rural area"

"The peace and quiet"

"Small rural existence vs. metropolitan area."

23 respondents (13%) answered **quiet** for this question.



20. What are the biggest problems facing Moultrie County today?

Insights

173

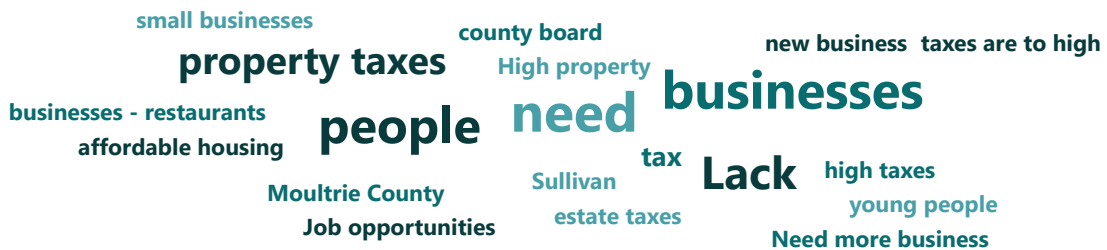
Responses

Latest Responses

"Not being able to keep small business here such as Pamida. "

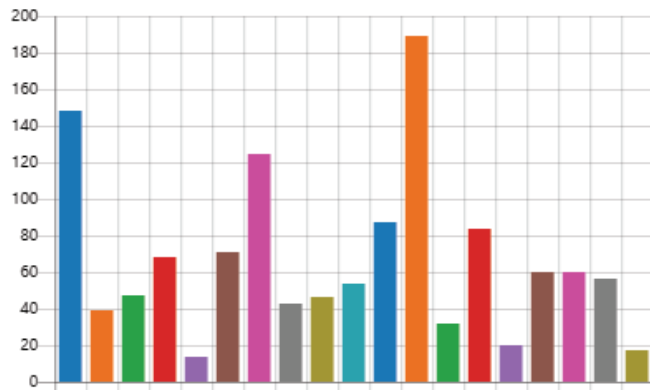
"Lack of better church attendances within the county and the fact muc..."

28 respondents (16%) answered **need** for this question.



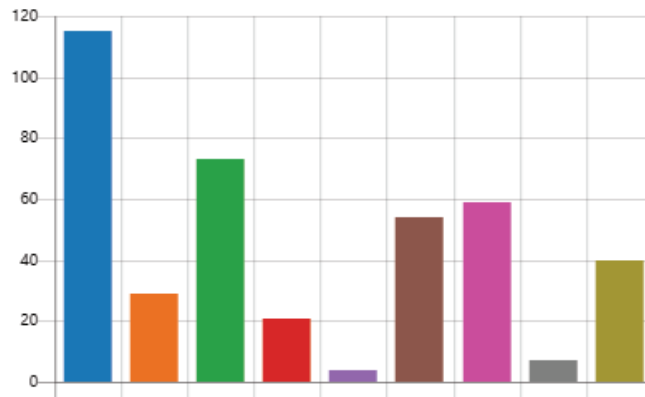
21. If you were talking to a county official about the five most important issues facing Moultrie County in the future, what issues would you identify? Please check five boxes that reflect your concern.

- Jobs and economic opportunity 148
- Access to healthcare 39
- Cell phone service 47
- Lake Shelbyville 68
- Preservation of cultural and hi... 14
- Access to affordable and quali... 71
- Quality of streets and roads 125
- Affordable housing 43
- Fire Protection 46
- Out migration of young adults 54
- Affordable access to high spe... 87
- Property taxes 189
- Rural water availability 32
- Quality of schools 84
- Quality of available housing 20
- Law enforcement and public s... 60
- Preserving farmland 60
- Government leadership 56
- Rural sewer availability 17



22. Please identify your top priority for the following Environmental natural resources in Moultrie County.

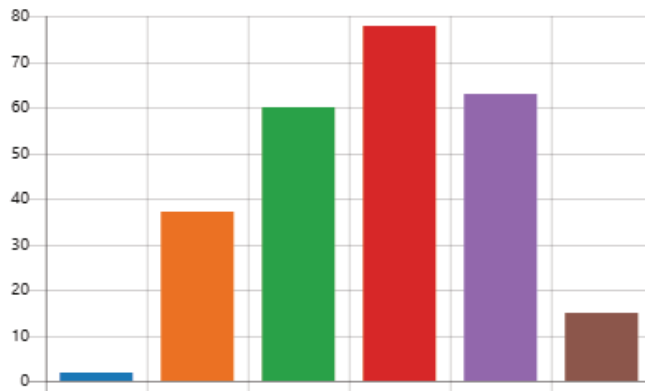
● Flooding and drainage	115
● Camp grounds	29
● Lake Shelbyville	73
● Water shed (Kaskaskia River)	21
● Non-motorized watercraft acc...	4
● Parks and recreation	54
● Protection of natural resources	59
● Motorized watercraft access	7
● Hunting and fishing	40



23. What is your age?



● 18 to 25	2
● 26 to 39	37
● 40 to 54	60
● 55 to 65	78
● 66 to 75	63
● over 75	15

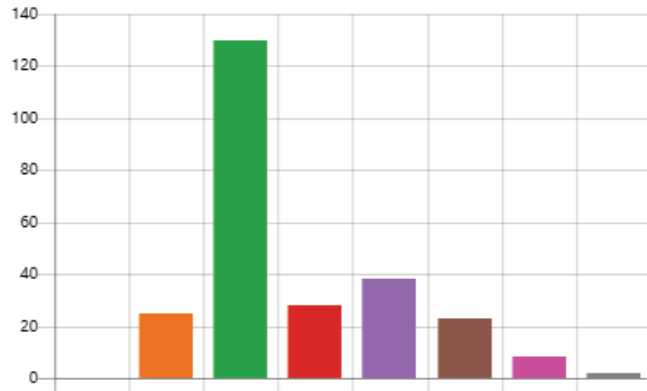
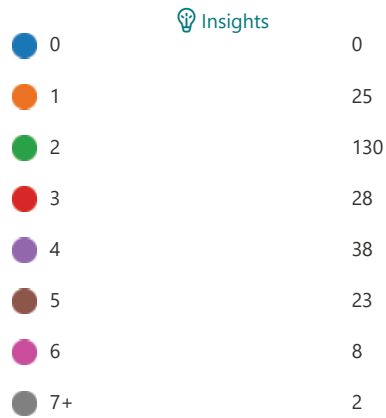


24. How many years have you lived in Moultrie County?

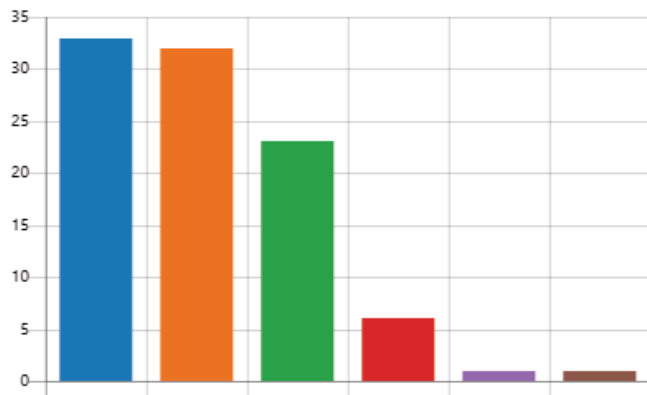
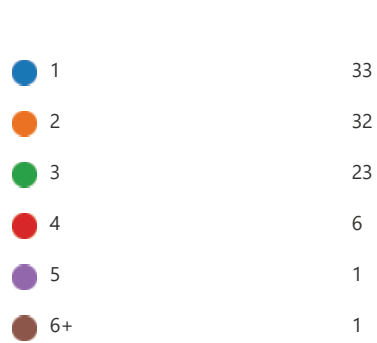
● Less than 10 years	21
● 11 to 20 years	28
● 21 to 30 years	46
● More than 30 years	160



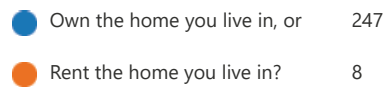
25. How many people live in your household?



26. How many persons 18 years or younger live in your household?



27. Do you:



28. Please add any comments, ideas, or opinions here:

80 Insights
Responses

Latest Responses

"Get rid of property on State Hwy 32 on left side of highway as leaving..."

14 respondents (18%) answered **people** for this question.



