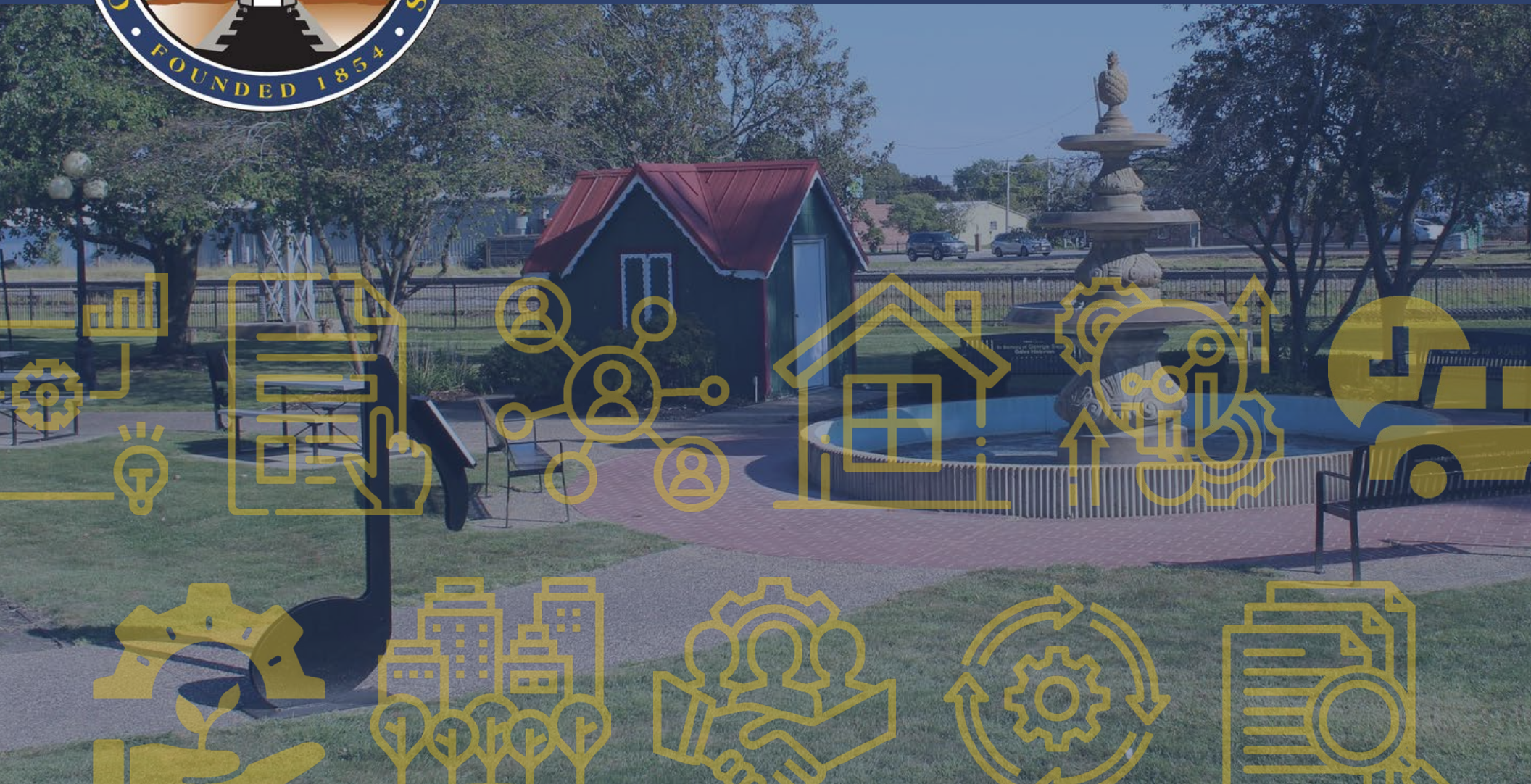




CITY OF GALVA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

November 2025





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Hometown Consulting is a professional community and economic development consulting group specializing in municipal administration, strategic planning, and revitalization. Helping small and mid-sized communities turn ideas into impact by bringing tools, expertise, and extra capacity needed to get things done.



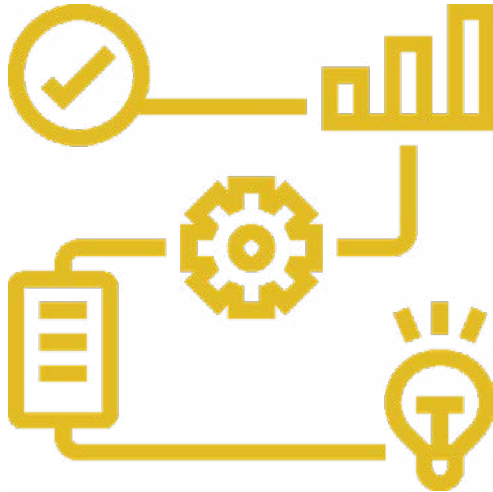
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SUMMARY



SUMMARY

Rooted in agriculture and industry, Galva has long thrived on the strength of its people. Today, like many Midwestern towns, the community faces critical challenges: attracting young families, revitalizing downtown, modernizing infrastructure, and staying competitive in a shifting economy.

The **Galva Comprehensive Plan 2025** provides a shared vision for meeting these challenges. Shaped through public engagement and the Community Questionnaire, it reflects input from residents, businesses, and civic leaders. The plan honors Galva's history while advancing innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable growth, and it aligns with the **Galva Community Unit School District's Galva2030 Strategic Plan**, as well as regional initiatives from IDOT and the Bi-State Regional Commission.

This plan lays out a practical roadmap for action. It prioritizes reinvestment in the historic downtown by addressing truck traffic, aging infrastructure, and vacant properties. Redirecting the state truck route will create safer, more inviting streets for pedestrians, cyclists, outdoor dining, and public art. Housing strategies focus on infill development, upper-story conversions, and senior-friendly options to ensure diverse, attainable homes for all ages and incomes. Economic development builds on Galva's industrial strengths while opening new opportunities in healthcare, trades, local food production, and cultural



tourism, strengthened by events like the **Back Road Music Festival** and **Levitt AMP Concert Series**.

Partnerships remain central to success. The plan calls for closer collaboration among city government, the school district, and regional partners to expand youth workforce programs, strengthen civic identity, and pursue joint grant opportunities that maximize resources and impact.

Above all, this plan prepares Galva for the future. It positions the city to compete for investment, manage growth wisely, and deliver safe neighborhoods, quality schools, job opportunities, and welcoming public spaces. By uniting the community around shared priorities, the Galva Comprehensive Plan 2025 provides clear direction and measurable outcomes that will guide leaders and residents alike in building a stronger, more vibrant Galva.



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PLAN CONTEXT



PLAN CONTEXT

Galva's story is one of resilience and community spirit. Founded in 1854 by Swedish immigrants, the city grew from a rail and agricultural hub into a place defined by its industrial strength, cultural pride, and close-knit identity. These roots remain visible in its historic downtown, strong workforce, and celebrated events like the Back Road Music Festival and Levitt AMP Concert Series.

The Comprehensive Plan is Galva's roadmap for guiding land use, economic development, transportation, quality of life, and the stewardship of cultural and natural resources. It is a practical tool for action, shaped by those who live, work, and invest in the city.

Building on Local Wisdom & Regional Insight

The plan rests on two pillars: local engagement and strategic alignment. Community surveys, public meetings, and stakeholder interviews brought forward both concerns—such as vacant downtown properties, aging housing, and workforce needs—and the optimism and pride residents feel for their hometown. These voices were paired with insights from partners, including the Galva Community Unit School District's Galva2030 Strategic Plan and regional transportation priorities from IDOT and the Bi-State Regional Commission. Together, they ensure Galva's strategies complement broader regional efforts and strengthen the city's ability to compete for outside funding.

Planning Area & Jurisdiction

Galva's planning authority extends beyond its city limits into a 1.5-mile area of unincorporated Henry County. This jurisdiction allows the city to coordinate with neighbors, protect open space where appropriate, and guide edge development so it aligns with local infrastructure capacity and long-term land use goals.

Within this geography, the plan identifies three tiers of focus:

- 1 Core Urban Areas** – existing neighborhoods, downtown, industrial districts, and civic facilities.
- 2 Infill and Redevelopment Zones** – vacant or underutilized parcels where revitalization is a priority.
- 3 Extraterritorial Growth Areas** – peripheral lands where annexation or cooperative development may occur.

This tiered approach balances reinvestment in Galva's core with readiness for future growth, ensuring the community remains rooted in its heritage while adapting to new opportunities.





COMMUNITY TRENDS



COMMUNITY TRENDS

Planning for the future requires a clear picture of Galva's people, economy, housing, and community strengths. This section provides that snapshot and highlights trends that will influence growth and opportunity in the years ahead.

Community Snapshot

Founded in 1854 by Swedish immigrants, Galva's early success as a rail and agricultural hub laid the groundwork for its resilience. While the city's history is important, its enduring strength lies in the combination of an industrial base, active rail connections, productive farmland, and a community culture that continues to foster pride through festivals, schools, and civic engagement.

Population & Age Trends

Galva's population stands at **approximately 2,385 residents (2025 estimate)**. Unlike many rural Midwestern towns that have experienced steep losses, Galva has maintained relative stability. However, the community is aging: **nearly one in five residents is now over the age of 65**, while the share of children and young families has declined modestly. **School enrollment has dropped by 10.5% since 2018**, underscoring the need to attract younger households through housing, jobs, and amenities that appeal to working-age families.



Households & Housing

Galva contains **about 1,050 households**, with an **average household size of 2.3 persons**. Single-person households, particularly among seniors, make up a growing share. Housing is largely owner-occupied, though older housing stock and limited new construction create challenges in meeting modern expectations. The **median home value is roughly \$95,000**, well below state averages, which makes Galva affordable but also reflects the need for reinvestment and updated housing options. Rental availability is limited, and vacancy rates in some areas highlight opportunities for infill or adaptive reuse.



COMMUNITY TRENDS



Workforce & Economy

Galva’s workforce remains strong and committed, with major employment sectors including manufacturing, healthcare, retail and services, education, and agriculture. The **median household income is \$55,446**, and the **average commute time is 25 minutes**, reflecting both local employment and commuting to nearby centers. Educational attainment shows high rates of high school completion, but bachelor’s degree attainment trails state averages, suggesting a need for expanded skills training and access to higher education pathways.

Poverty & Equity Considerations

Roughly 12% of residents live below the federal poverty line, a rate slightly above the state average. This points to the importance of attracting higher-wage employment, expanding access to healthcare and broadband, and ensuring that revitalization efforts are inclusive of all households.



Connectivity & Technology Access

Access to reliable broadband remains uneven across the community, particularly in peripheral areas. As education, healthcare, and business increasingly depend on digital access, broadband expansion is critical to Galva’s long-term competitiveness and quality of life.

Community Strengths at a Glance



Population: 2,385 (2025 estimate)



Median Household Income: \$55,446

Median Home Value: \$95,000



Household Profile: 1,050 households, avg. size 2.3; rising share of single-person households

Poverty Rate: 12% of residents below poverty line



Average Commute: 25 minutes

| Workforce Sectors: | Educational Attainment: | Age Distribution: | Technology Access: |
|--|---|--|--|
| Manufacturing, Healthcare, Retail/Services, Education, Agriculture | Strong high school completion; lower college attainment compared to Illinois averages | Growing senior population; modest decline in children/young families | Broadband access limited in some neighborhoods and rural edges |



COMMUNITY TRENDS

Workforce & Employment Landscape

Galva's economy continues to be anchored by its manufacturing and industrial base. **Major employers such as Big River Resources, Dixline Corporation, and J.H. Best & Sons** provide stable employment across skilled labor, production, and logistics roles. These companies not only supply good jobs but also represent potential partners in future workforce development strategies, especially as the city seeks to address regional shortages in skilled trades and construction-related fields.

Service and retail sectors contribute meaningfully to the local economy but face familiar rural challenges, including workforce recruitment and retention, limited consumer spending power, and competition from larger regional shopping centers in nearby Galesburg and Kewanee.

Healthcare and education also remain critical employment pillars, supported by the Galva CUSD #224 school system and regional medical providers. However, the lack of diversified healthcare services within the immediate community, particularly in behavioral health and senior care, presents both a challenge and an opportunity for targeted business attraction.

Retail Trends & Local Spending

Galva's retail environment tells a story of resilience with room for reinvention. **Sales tax revenues have shown a steady upward trend over the past four years, peaking at \$312,265 in 2024.** This growth has been bolstered in part by state-level adjustments to sales tax collection on internet purchases but also reflects local consumer support for small businesses and shops.



Still, opportunity remains. Many downtown buildings are vacant or underutilized, with deferred maintenance posing barriers to occupancy and investment. A concerted focus on building stabilization, façade improvements, and adaptive reuse will be essential to reenergizing these spaces. In addition, a strategic effort to fill identified market gaps, particularly in family dining, specialty retail, personal services, and destination entertainment, could substantially enhance both the local economy and community experience.

Housing Conditions & Affordability

Housing remains one of the most significant leverage points for Galva's future. Most of the **housing stock consists of single-family homes**, many of which are aging and in need of reinvestment. **Rental options, multi-family housing, and senior-accessible units are notably limited**, reducing choices for young adults, working families, and aging residents alike.

Despite these gaps, **Galva's affordability remains one of its strongest assets.** Home prices are accessible compared to state





COMMUNITY TRENDS



averages, providing an opportunity for the city to market itself as a cost-effective, quality-of-life alternative to larger urban centers. Yet affordability alone is not enough. Housing diversity, design quality, and proximity to amenities must also align with modern buyer and renter expectations if Galva hopes to attract new residents and retain the next generation.

Community Strengths

Galva's strengths run deeper than numbers. They are found in the loyalty of its residents, the dedication of its business owners, and the cultural richness that infuses its festivals, parks, and music scene. **Events like the Back Road Music Festival and the Levitt AMP Concert Series are not just attractions, they are expressions of Galva's soul**, drawing thousands of visitors while fostering local pride and connection.



Additional strengths include:

- **Four public parks**, including the event-ready Wiley Park and Veterans Park.
- **Regional rail access and direct highway connectivity.**
- **A high level of community safety and small-town atmosphere.**
- **Public willingness to engage**, as evidenced by robust participation in the community questionnaire and visioning sessions.

Challenges to Address

However, Galva's strengths do not diminish the very real challenges **Galva must confront:**

- **An aging and under-diversified housing stock.**
- **Workforce skill gaps and recruitment challenges**, particularly in health services and trades.
- **Downtown vacancies and deteriorating commercial properties.**
- **Youth retention struggles** tied to employment, amenities, and housing availability.



VISION & GOALS

VISION & GOALS

Galva is more than its infrastructure, it's a place shaped by the values, hopes, and collective vision of the people who live here. This Comprehensive Plan is rooted in that understanding, recognizing that revitalization must start with an honest look at both the city's strengths and the barriers to overcome. Through this lens, Galva embraces the work ahead: revitalizing neighborhoods, energizing the economy, and creating a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can thrive.

Our Community Vision

“Galva is a connected, creative, and welcoming community that honors its past while building a vibrant future for all generations.”

This vision is more than aspirational; it's a call to action. It reflects the community's desire for a city that offers strong neighborhoods, exciting public spaces, family-friendly amenities, and local job opportunities. It's about building a Galva that retains its charm while looking boldly to the future.



Community Values and Priorities

The development of this vision was guided by a robust public engagement process, including open house meetings, interviews, a public questionnaire, and youth feedback. Several core themes emerged:

Preserve What Matters

Residents cherish Galva's small-town atmosphere, history, and cultural traditions. Maintaining this identity while welcoming positive change is a top priority.

Promote Growth and Opportunity

Participants emphasized the importance of attracting new families and businesses, expanding retail offerings, and building a resilient, diverse local economy.

Foster Connection and Belonging

Walkability, safe neighborhoods, intergenerational engagement, and a sense of civic pride are vital to residents' quality of life.

Invest in the Next Generation

Residents support strong schools, career pathways, and housing options that encourage young adults to stay or return to Galva after college or training.

Guiding Principles

These principles guide all elements of the plan, shaping decisions on land use, investment, zoning, design, and community services:

1 Resiliency

Galva will plan for long-term sustainability by modernizing infrastructure, preparing for demographic shifts, and integrating green infrastructure like bioswales, rain gardens, and native landscaping.

Public support for visible stormwater management and sustainability investments was clear during the planning process.

2 Equity & Inclusion

The city will prioritize inclusive access to housing, jobs, transportation, and recreation.

Galva will consider the needs of older adults, working families, youth, and underserved populations when designing programs and services.

3 Quality of Life

Galva will improve daily life by enhancing walkability, beautifying corridors, and expanding daycare, youth programming, and recreation opportunities, such as community gardens and indoor public space.

4 Economic Vitality

The city will invest in local business retention and attraction while creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem that supports home-based businesses, remote workers, and food entrepreneurs.

Concepts such as a shared commercial kitchen or incubator received widespread support.

5 Cultural Identity

Galva will elevate its identity through public art, music festivals, and place-based design standards that reflect its history.

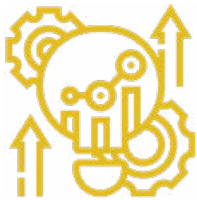
There is broad support for placemaking features like seasonal banners, street trees, decorative crosswalks, and temporary art displays in vacant downtown spaces.



Strategic Goals

The following goals reflect the city's long-term direction and priorities. Each will be advanced through specific actions and policies described throughout the plan:

Goal 1



Strengthen Economic Development and Workforce Pathways

Support local businesses, attract new employers, and connect students and job seekers with career pathways through schools and workforce partners.

Goal 2



Housing Diversity and Land Use Alignment

Promote affordable, diverse housing choices through zoning and land use policies that support infill, townhomes, and senior-friendly options while maintaining neighborhood compatibility.

Goal 3



Enhance Transportation Safety and Multimodal Connectivity

Relocate the truck route, improve sidewalk and trail infrastructure, and invest in pedestrian-oriented improvements downtown and near parks and schools.

Goal 4



Placemaking, Recreation, Historic Preservation, and Downtown Vitality

Revitalize downtown through façade improvements, cultural programming, and stronger connections to existing parks and recreation spaces while preserving the community's historic character, creating a vibrant hub for business, culture, and community life.

Goal 5



Advance Environmental Stewardship and Infrastructure Resilience

Pursue green infrastructure projects that support drainage, beautify public spaces, and reduce long-term infrastructure costs. Modernize water, sewer, and stormwater systems with sustainability in mind.

Goal 6



Foster Youth Engagement, Education, Partnerships, and Retention

Strengthen youth engagement and population retention by partnering with schools, local organizations, and community services to expand educational opportunities, youth programming, and civic involvement platforms that keep young residents connected, supported, and invested in Galva's future.





LAND USE

LAND USE



Galva, recognizes that future success depends on thoughtful land uses that shape how the community grows and thrives.

Future Land Use Categories

The following land use categories provide the framework for zoning updates, development decisions, and capital planning:

Residential (Single-Family and Multi-Family)

The backbone of Galva's neighborhoods will remain its single-family residential areas, characterized by tree-lined streets, front porches, and walkable blocks. However, the plan also calls for an increase in housing diversity to meet the needs of young professionals, seniors, and small households. Multi-family development, particularly townhomes, duplexes, and upper-story apartments in the downtown area, will help meet this demand while supporting downtown revitalization.

Key strategies include:

- **Promoting small-lot single-family infill** development on vacant parcels.
- **Encouraging accessory dwelling units (ADUs)** where appropriate.
- **Supporting mixed-income and senior-friendly housing** developments.

- **Aligning housing growth with Safe Routes to School** initiatives and walkability goals.

Downtown Mixed-Use Core

The heart of Galva, the downtown district, holds significant potential for renewal. With **64 commercial buildings in the core focus area**, many underutilized, this plan envisions upper-story housing, coworking spaces, small business incubators, artisan studios, and vibrant first-floor retail or dining options.

To support these uses, the city will:

- **Galva will position its downtown as both an Incubation Center and a Retail Village**—an environment where entrepreneurs, small businesses, and creatives can grow at a low cost and low risk. Upper-story spaces will provide compact professional offices and coworking hubs, while the city-owned parcel has potential to be programmed as a Retail Village offering flexible storefronts for start-ups and makers. These efforts will be supported through partnerships with regional industry leaders and local educational institutions, a structured three-year development program, and regular cultural programming in Veterans Park. Together, these initiatives will bring new opportunities, vibrancy, and a steady rhythm of activity to the heart of downtown.
- **Implement a Downtown Façade Improvement Program.**

- **Encourage adaptive reuse** with code flexibility for historic buildings.
- **Establish design guidelines that honor Galva's architectural character** while allowing for modern functionality.
- **Integrate arts, music, and cultural storytelling** as core components of downtown placemaking.

Highway Commercial & Corridor Development

Along U.S. Route 34 and other key corridors, Galva will promote commercial development that supports family dining, automotive services, lodging, and neighborhood-serving retail. Special attention will be given to site design that enhances visual appeal, pedestrian connectivity, and stormwater management.

Recommended actions:

- **Implement access management strategies** to consolidate driveways and improve traffic flow.
- **Require landscape buffering and design standards** to soften commercial frontages.
- **Prioritize redevelopment of underperforming commercial parcels** before encouraging new greenfield development.

Light Industrial & Employment Zones

To strengthen Galva's manufacturing and logistics sectors, **the plan designates areas east and south of existing industrial clusters for potential light industrial expansion.** These zones will accommodate

fabrication, warehousing, and value-added agriculture, supported by rail and highway infrastructure.

Development guidelines will:

- **Require compatibility buffers** between industrial and residential areas.
- **Promote sustainable site design** with green infrastructure for stormwater control.
- **Align with workforce development initiatives** to ensure local labor pipelines.

Parks, Public Spaces, & Agriculture

Preserving Galva's open spaces and surrounding agricultural land is central to the city's identity and health. **The plan calls for enhanced connections between parks, neighborhoods, and schools through a trail and greenway network** that supports active living and environmental education.

Key initiatives include:

- **Creating a downtown-to-Galva Park connector trail.**
- **Expanding pedestrian access to all parks within a 10-minute walk** standard.
- **Exploring partnerships with Henry County and regional agencies** for shared greenspace and agricultural land preservation.



Zoning & Land Use Alignment

To implement the land use vision, it is important to connect the Comprehensive Plan's categories with the City's zoning framework.

Galva's Ordinances currently establishes five districts:

- **R-1 One-Family Dwelling District**
- **B-1 Business District – Retail and Limited Service**
- **B-2 Business District – General Service**
- **M-1 Manufacturing District – Limited**
- **M-2 Manufacturing District – General**
- **P-1 Public Land Areas District**
- **A-1 Agricultural District**

While the Comprehensive Plan identifies categories such as Residential, Downtown Mixed-Use Core, Highway Commercial, and Light Industrial and Employment Zones, these do not always align directly with zoning. The chart to the right illustrates where alignment exists and where updates may be needed.



| Land Use Category | Current Zoning District(s) | Notes / Needed Updates |
|--|---|--|
| Residential (Single-Family & Multi-Family) | R-1 One-Family Dwelling | R-1 currently supports all housing types. In order to plan for duplexes, townhomes, and small apartments, the zoning code should be amended to create R-2 and R-3 districts and consider allowing accessory dwelling units. |
| Downtown Mixed-Use Core | B-1 Retail & Limited Service, B-2 General Service | Current B-1 and B-2 do not fully support true "mixed-use." Recommend Downtown Overlay District or text amendments to permit upper-story housing, coworking, artisan studios, and entertainment. |
| Highway Commercial & Corridor Development | Primarily B-2 General Service | Already supports corridor retail and services. Incorporate design standards (landscaping, buffering, access management) into zoning code. |
| Light Industrial & Employment Zones | M-1 Limited Manufacturing | Matches Plan vision. Strengthen performance standards (noise, screening, stormwater control) to protect nearby neighborhoods. |
| General Industrial Areas | M-2 General Manufacturing | Already provides for heavy industry. Maintain as-is, with updated buffering standards for compatibility. |
| Parks, Public Spaces & Agriculture | P-1 Public Areas and A-1 Agriculture | The published Galva Zoning Ordinance does not include the ordinance amendments establishing the P-1 Public Areas or Agricultural districts, even though both appear on the City's zoning map. To resolve this gap, the published code should be revised to include the Agricultural district and the Parks/Public Areas district so the map and code align and provide clear regulatory standards. |
| Newly Annexed Land | Default R-1 | By ordinance, annexed land defaults to R-1 until rezoned. Plan should emphasize pre-annexation agreements to align with the Future Land Use Map or consider zoning newly annexed land as Agriculture. |

Growth Management Strategies

Growth management in Galva means more than regulating land use—it means actively shaping the form and function of the community in ways that reflect local values and support long-term sustainability.

This plan recommends the following strategies to support responsible growth:

Infill First

Prioritize investment in underutilized properties and vacant lots within the city's core before extending infrastructure into new development areas.

Pre-Annexation Agreements

Require infrastructure assessments, fiscal impact studies, and design consistency for any development seeking annexation.

Utility Planning and Phasing

Align land use decisions with water, sewer, stormwater, and broadband infrastructure capacities.

Conservation Partnerships

Coordinate with land trusts, agricultural agencies, and regional planners to conserve high-value farmland and open space at the city's edges.

Implementation Framework – Zoning Action Steps

To ensure zoning remains a supportive tool for Galva's future growth, the city should implement:

1 Zoning Ordinance Updates (2–3 years):

- Create or amend districts to support housing diversity (duplexes, townhomes, ADUs).
- Establish a Downtown Overlay District or update B-1/B-2 uses to explicitly allow mixed-use redevelopment and upper-story residential.
- Clarify and strengthen performance standards for M-1 and M-2 districts.
- Create an Agricultural District to accommodate zoning for newly annexed properties.
- Create a Parks/Open Space category to match actual land uses.

2 Rezoning and Map Adjustments: Review and rezone parcels, where appropriate, to better reflect intended land use designations.

3 Annexation Procedures: Ensure newly annexed land is rezoned from the R-1 default to the appropriate classification consistent with the Future Land Use Map.





Land Use Compatibility

Galva will maintain a commitment to land use compatibility to ensure that new development enhances, rather than disrupts, the character of adjacent uses. This will be achieved through updated zoning regulations, site design standards, and the use of transition tools such as landscape buffering, alley networks, and scale-sensitive building placement.

generations. This land use framework is not just about controlling development, it is about inviting the right kinds of investment, encouraging creativity, and fostering neighborhoods and public spaces where people feel connected and at home.

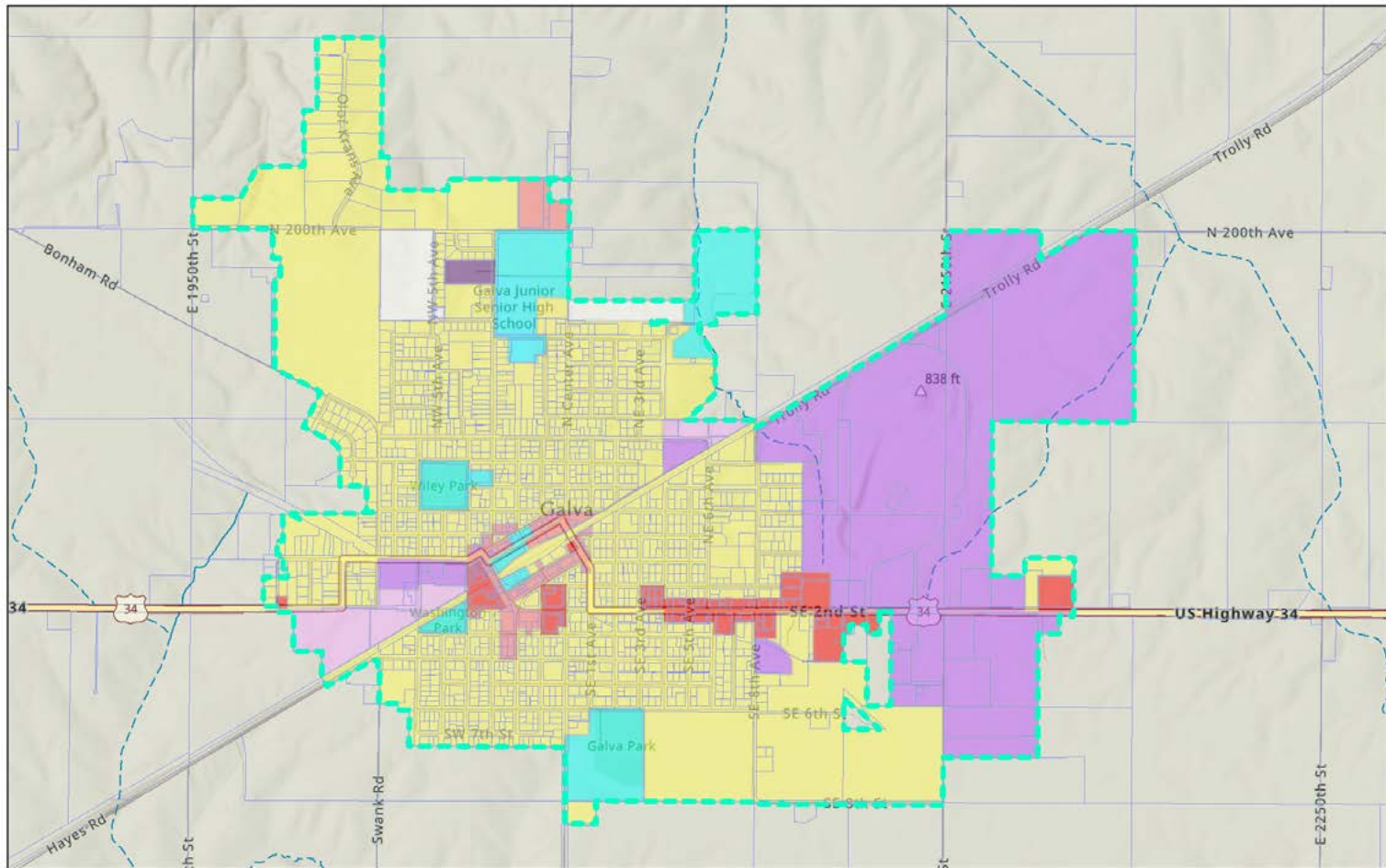
By balancing preservation and progress, and by focusing growth where it serves the community best, Galva will remain a place where history is honored, opportunity is cultivated, and the future is thoughtfully planned.

Conclusion

The choices Galva makes about how and where it grows will shape the daily lives of its residents and the legacy it leaves for future

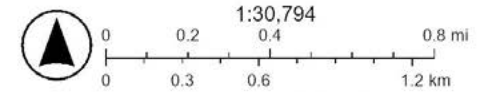


Current Zoning Map



10/7/2025

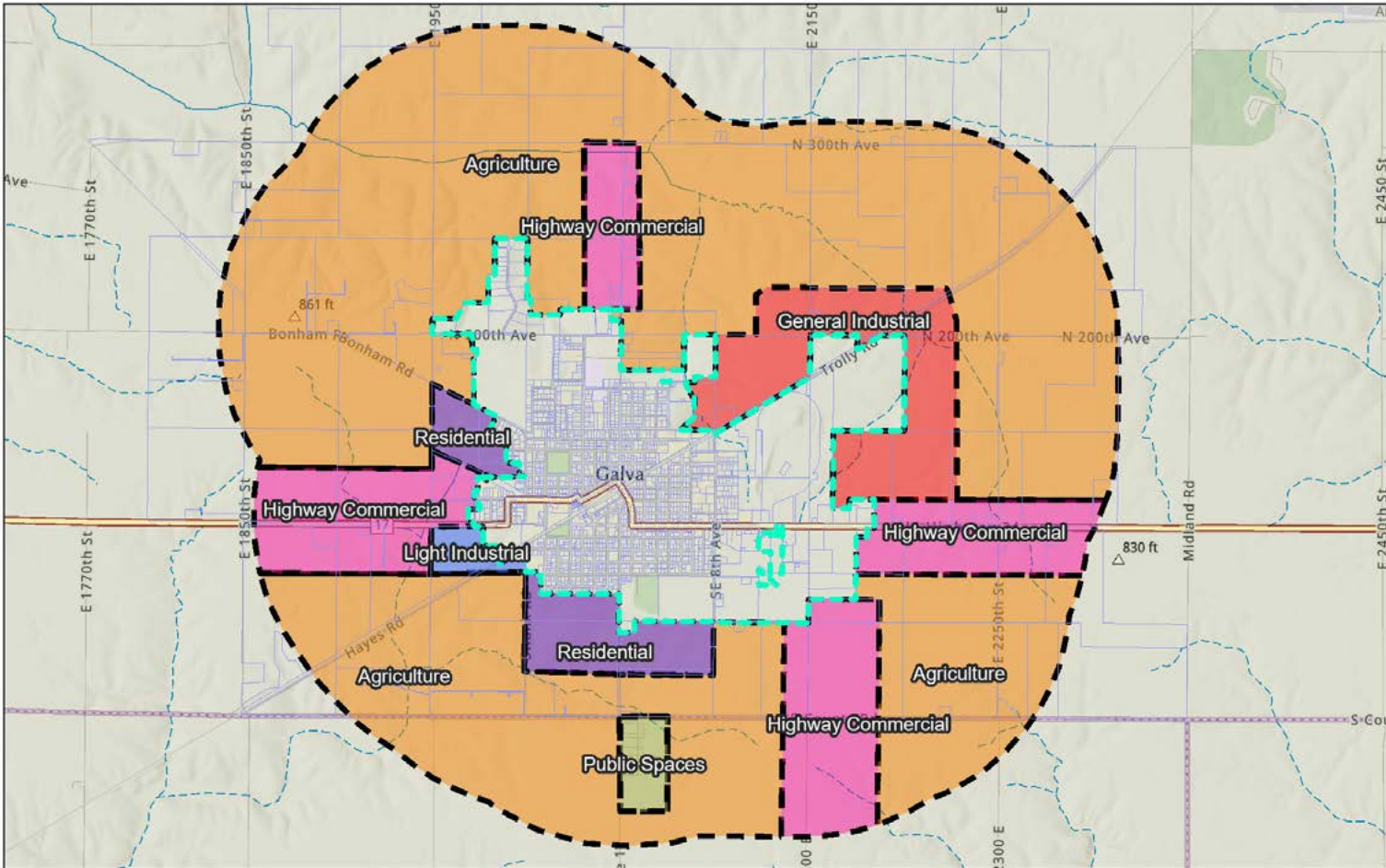
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|------------------|---|------------------------|
| Corporate Limits | R-1 Residential | M-2 District (General) |
| Parcels | B-1 District (Retail and Limited Service) | P-1 Public Areas |
| Zoning (Galva) | B-2 District (General Service) | R-1 Special Use |
| A-1 Agriculture | M-1 District (Limited) | World_Hillshade |



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User

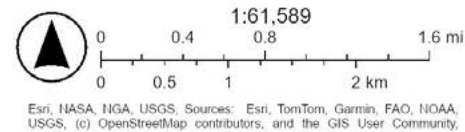


Future Land Use Map



10/7/2025

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Corporate Limits | Future Land Use Type (Galva) | Light Industrial | Public Spaces |
| Parcels | Residential | General Industrial | World_Hillshade |
| | Highway Commercial | Agriculture | |





HOUSING



HOUSING

A home is more than just a structure — it is where people live, raise families, and shape their daily lives. Strong and stable neighborhoods are the foundation of a successful community, and in Galva, they remain central to the city's identity.

However, housing needs are changing. In recent years, Galva has seen shifts in household size, an increase in its senior population, and the continued out-migration of young adults seeking both job opportunities and modern, affordable housing options. At the same time, aging housing stock, deferred maintenance, and limited rental choices have made it harder for the city to attract new residents and retain current ones.

This section of the plan addresses these challenges directly. It outlines a housing strategy that preserves quality homes, reinvests in aging properties, and encourages new housing options where possible. The goal is to ensure Galva's housing market meets today's needs while preparing for the future, supporting residents, neighborhoods, and overall community well-being.

Current Conditions

Galva's housing market presents a mix of strengths and challenges. With home prices well below the state average, housing remains accessible for many

families. However, a significant share of older homes and limited rental options point to areas in need of attention and investment.

| | Galva | Illinois Average | Notes |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|--|
| Median Home Value | \$95,000 | \$239,000 | Homes are significantly more affordable in Galva. |
| Homes Built Before 1970 | >60% | 40% | Indicates aging housing stock requiring modernization |
| Owner-Occupied Housing Units | 74% | 67% | Higher ownership rate in Galva |
| Renter Households Spending >30% Income | >20% | | Indicates cost burden for a portion of renters |
| Rental Housing Availability | Limited | | Suggests potential need for more affordable rental units |
| Housing Vacancy Rate | 10% | Slightly Lower | Vacancies concentrated in older neighborhoods |
| Redevelopment Opportunity | Infill & Adaptive Reuse | | Based on location of vacant/older properties |

FINDINGS

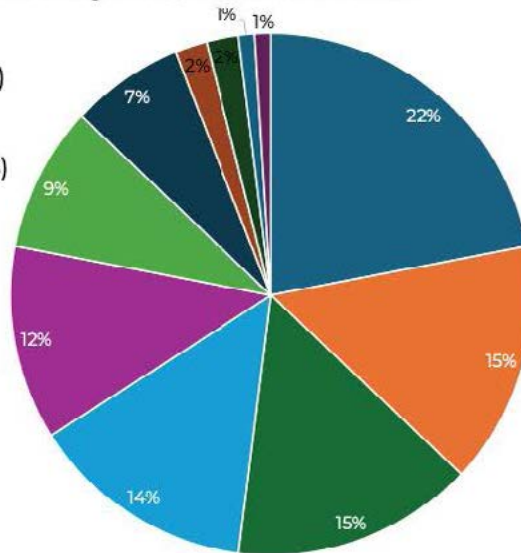
Housing Needs

1. More Rental Units:

- o 55% of respondents believe their community needs more rental units.

2. Types of Rental Units Needed:

- o Single-family detached houses (22%)
- o Assisted living apartments (15%)
- o Apartments (15%)
- o Independent living apartments (14%)
- o Duplexes or triplexes (12%)
- o Condominiums/townhouses (9%)
- o Government-subsidized apartment complexes (7%)
- o Manufactured Homes (2%)
- o Modular Homes (2%)
- o Mobile Homes (single wide)



Key Housing Challenges

The housing needs assessment conducted as part of this planning process, supported by data from regional and local sources and community feedback, identified the following key challenges:

- **A high proportion of older housing stock** requiring reinvestment or modernization.
- **Limited rental options**, particularly for younger households and seniors seeking downsized living.
- **Accessibility challenges for older residents** who wish to age in place.
- **Vacant lots and underutilized parcels** within established neighborhoods.
- **Missed opportunities for downtown upper-story residential conversions** in harmony with compact-sized professional offices and other incubation related facilities.

Addressing these challenges will require coordinated action between the city, private developers, nonprofit partners, and local residents themselves. The partnership particularly needs to offer creative solutions to balancing the homes' amenities with prices. **Residents are looking for single-family detached homes featuring 3 or more bedrooms, multiple bathrooms, in-home laundry, new/renovated kitchen and bath with energy efficient appliances, and an attached garage for prices ranging from \$50,000 to \$175,000. A smaller percentage of them can afford more than \$200,000 homes.**

A Vision for Housing in Galva

Galva envisions a housing landscape that offers choice, promotes affordability, and supports the health and stability of its neighborhoods. This means creating an environment where:

- **Young families can find affordable starter homes.**
- **Seniors can age in place or downsize** without leaving their community.
- **Downtown buildings come back to life with upper-story apartments** that put people within walking distance of shops, events, and public spaces.
- **Vacant lots are filled with new construction that respects neighborhood character** while offering modern amenities.
- **Renters can find high-quality options** that meet their needs, whether they are young professionals, adult students, single parents, or retirees.
- **Businesses and institutions including educational and health services can proudly offer quality homes** to attract talent and niche workforces.

This approach balances the preservation of Galva's historic neighborhoods with thoughtful new development that adds to, rather than detracts from, the city's small-town feel.

Strategies for Housing Improvement & Growth

1 Support Infill Development and Neighborhood Revitalization

Infill development is one of Galva's greatest untapped opportunities. Vacant lots within existing neighborhoods can be transformed into new homes that contribute to walkability, infrastructure efficiency, and neighborhood stability.

The City will prioritize infill by:

- **Marketing available lots to local builders and modular home developers**, including to local builders and development partners with the support of Galva's Development Track and its Incentive Package. The City of Galva owns two residential subdivisions; one already plated and one recommended within this comprehensive plan to undergo detailed site planning. These sites are ideal candidates for this strategy as ownership allows the city to tailor incentive packages to meet buyer's needs.
- **Offering attractive development packages** such as tax incentives, design assistance, expedited permitting, and incentive for training local skilled workforces for infill projects that meet design standards.
- **Encouraging the use of accessory dwelling units (ADUs)** for more affordable housing options where zoning permits.

Strategies for Housing Improvement & Growth

2 Promote Housing Diversity & Choice

To meet the needs of a changing population, Galva will consider policies that encourage a broader mix of housing types.

This includes:

- **Supporting the development of attached single-families, duplexes, townhomes, and small-scale apartment buildings.**
- **Targeting downtown for upper-story residential conversions,** especially for young professionals and retirees who value walkable access to amenities.
- **Boosting housing-driven mixed-use and market confidence by piloting a “bookend” approach to attracting diverse residents:**
 - Insert educational programs and daycare incentives into the housing offerings for young and growing families to ease them into returning to work or expediting their entrepreneurial interests.
 - Offer transitional spaces for recent corporate and professional retirees to ease them into the new life; ranging from executive assistant program, compact executive offices, to full-featured executive board room and decorated lounge for meetings and video conferencing – all rooted and featuring a smalltown touch to them.
 - Clearly connect these integrated housing-commercial needs to boost developers’ market confidence in and increasing urgencies for mixed-use development.
- **Working with housing developers on mixed-income projects that provide attainable units while maintaining neighborhood cohesion.** The recently city acquired 40-acre parcel on the southern edge of the community is an ideal location for this type of development.

3 Invest in Rehabilitation & Energy Efficiency

Preserving and improving the existing housing stock is critical to neighborhood health.

The City should:

- **Explore grant programs and partnerships to assist homeowners** with energy efficiency upgrades, roof repairs, and code compliance improvements.
- **Promote weatherization and home rehabilitation resources** through state and federal programs, such as the Illinois Housing Development Authority’s Single-Family Rehab Program.
- **Support senior homeowners with accessibility retrofits to allow aging in place.**



HOUSING

Strategies for Housing Improvement & Growth

4 Expand Senior-Friendly Housing Options

As the senior population grows, Galva must ensure that housing options keep pace.

This includes:

- **Encouraging the development of single-level townhomes or cottage-style homes** designed for aging residents.
- **Partnering with regional health providers to explore assisted living** or supportive senior housing development.
- **Integrating walkability, transportation access, and social opportunities** into housing designs for older adults.

5 Activate Vacant Downtown Spaces for Housing

Galva's downtown holds significant potential for residential redevelopment, particularly through the adaptive reuse of second-story spaces in historic commercial buildings.

The City should:

- **Provide code flexibility for building retrofits** while maintaining life-safety standards.
- **Offer incentive programs such as reduced permit fees or revolving loan funds** for downtown residential conversions.
- **Promote downtown living as part of the city's tourism and cultural branding strategy**, highlighting the walkability and access to events like the Levitt AMP concert series.



Neighborhood Stability and Design Standards

Healthy neighborhoods are not built on housing alone, they are built on the quality of their streets, sidewalks, green spaces, and social connections. **The city should strengthen neighborhood vitality by:**

- **Ensuring sidewalk maintenance and connectivity in residential areas.**
- **Prioritizing neighborhood beautification** through tree planting, lighting, and public space improvements.
- **Encouraging neighborhood associations and block clubs** to foster community pride, communication, and volunteer engagement.

In addition, the city should pursue design guidelines that promote:

- **Architectural compatibility** in infill housing.
- **Front-porch-oriented designs** that foster community interaction.
- **Parking solutions that support walkability** rather than dominating streetscapes.

Housing Partnerships and Collaborative Solutions

Addressing Galva's housing challenges requires a coalition of partners. **The city should actively engage with:**

- **Private developers and builders willing to invest** in infill, rehabilitation, and mixed-use projects.

- **Nonprofit housing organizations and state agencies** for grant funding and technical support.
- **Galva CUSD #224 and local employers** to align housing availability with workforce needs, including potential employer-assisted housing models.
- **Regional planning agencies** to coordinate on housing needs across jurisdictional lines.



Improving existing homes' curb appeal creates a sense of place throughout Galva

BEFORE

AFTER

Credit: Rose Upper via Christa Lovell



Community-Based Housing Initiative

Through an innovative approach, **Galva can strengthen both development capacity and community engagement by:**

- Draws on proven models—such as: **Land trusts, Housing cooperatives, and Participatory budgeting.** And tailors these models to Galva’s unique needs and opportunities.
- **Focuses on the strategic reuse of underutilized and deteriorating properties** in and around downtown.

How this initiative works:

- **New homes and multi-family dwellings could be constructed on a 40-acre, city-owned parcel** at the southern edge of town. (See pages 27-29 for development examples.)
- **TIF funds generated by this new development could be used to:**
 - Support the purchase and renovation of neglected properties within the TIF area.
 - Provide TIF-backed incentives to individuals investing in the 40-acre site, enabling them to rehabilitate downtown and neighborhood housing in disrepair within the TIF area.

This dual initiative strategy:

- **Links growth on the city’s edge with reinvestment in the community’s core.**

- **Ensures that new construction fuels stabilization, revitalization, and reoccupation of Galva’s older housing stock.**
- **Creates a housing program that strengthens neighborhoods and reflects community values and aspirations.**

Measuring Success



Creating a strong and sustainable housing future for Galva is about more than just building new homes. **Success can be measured by:**

- **The number of new housing units constructed.**
- **The vitality and strength of its neighborhoods.**
- **The diversity of available housing choices.**
- **The level of community engagement in housing initiatives.**
- **The degree to which residents of all ages and incomes can find—and afford—a place to call home.**

Through these efforts, Galva can ensure that its neighborhoods remain the heart of its community, a place where tradition and innovation come together, and where the idea of “home” continues to mean something special.

City-Owned 40-Acre Housing Development Examples

SOUTHEAST LOT Housing-Only Development Option



City-Owned 40-Acre Housing Development Examples

SOUTHEAST LOT Mixed-Use Development Option



City-Owned 40-Acre Housing Development Examples

EXAMPLES

\$220,000 (2005)
2 Bed 2 Baths
1,644 sqft
spacious kitchen
2 sto. living room
private patio
2 car garage
\$134/sqft
\$4.4K tax value



ATTACHED SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

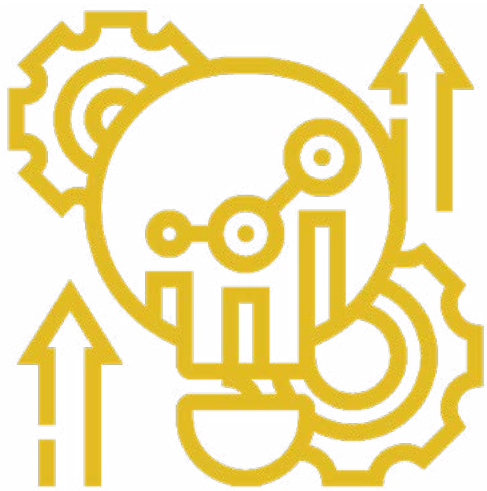


36'x120' blocks of 4 units on 50' x 140' shared lot





ECONOMIC GROWTH



ECONOMIC GROWTH

The prosperity of any community is deeply tied to the strength and diversity of its economy.

In Galva, economic development is not merely about jobs or tax revenue, it is about cultivating opportunity, supporting entrepreneurship, embracing innovation, and ensuring that both residents and businesses can thrive. It is about building a foundation where young people can envision their futures, where small businesses can flourish, and where visitors are welcomed by a vibrant downtown filled with activity, culture, and pride.

Galva's economic history is one of resilience and adaptability. From its origins as a rail town and agricultural marketplace to its present-day industrial base, the city has always been a place where hard work and innovation go hand in hand. **Major employers like Big River Resources, Dixline Corporation, and J.H. Best & Sons have long provided stable jobs that support local families.** At the same time, **Galva's cultural assets, its music festivals, downtown events, and creative spirit, offer a unique platform for growth through tourism, placemaking, and creative entrepreneurship.**

Yet, as the regional and national economy continues to evolve, Galva faces critical choices. How does the city strengthen its industrial base while also nurturing new sectors? How does it retain the young talent that too often leaves for larger cities? How does it transform its downtown from a space of underutilized potential into a true economic engine? This section provides the strategies and direction to meet these challenges head-on.

Galva's Economic Landscape Today

Galva's economy remains anchored by several key sectors:

Manufacturing & Industrial Fabrication

Led by major employers with strong regional linkages.

Agriculture & Agribusiness

A historic strength with continued relevance through grain processing, equipment fabrication, and value-added agriculture.

Retail & Services

Local businesses that provide essential goods, though facing competitive pressures from nearby larger communities.

Education & Healthcare

Key service providers and employment centers, including Galva CUSD #224 and area health services.

While these sectors provide a stable foundation, Galva's economy remains vulnerable to workforce shortages, limited retail diversity, and the outmigration of younger residents seeking employment or amenities not currently available in the community.

Downtown vacancy rates remain a visible sign of economic underperformance, despite a strong underlying potential for reinvention. Community feedback during the planning process repeatedly emphasized a desire for more dining options, family-friendly attractions, and investment in downtown revitalization.





Economic Development Vision

Galva envisions an economy that is as creative as it is resilient. **The city's economic development strategy seeks to:**

- **Strengthen its core industrial sectors while expanding into complementary industries** such as skilled trades, healthcare, and creative entrepreneurship.
- **Attract and retain talent** through housing choice, career development, and cultural vibrancy.
- **Revitalize the downtown** as a mixed-use, arts-infused destination where commerce, culture, and community converge.
- **Promote tourism** through its music heritage, festivals, parks, and historic downtown.
- **Leverage regional partnerships** to access resources, technical assistance, and investment capital.

This vision focuses on quality over quantity, building an economy that fits Galva's character, supports its people, and positions the city to compete effectively in the regional marketplace.



Strategic Focus Areas and Recommendations

1 Strengthen Business Retention and Expansion (BRE)

Supporting existing businesses is one of the most cost-effective and high-impact economic development strategies. **Galva will strive to formalize a BRE program that includes:**

- **Conducting quarterly check-ins with major employers and small businesses** to understand needs and barriers.
- **Offering technical assistance** on marketing, workforce recruitment, and digital transformation.
- **Promoting local procurement strategies** to support business-to-business connections within the community.
- **Facilitating access to incentive programs**, low-interest loans, and grant opportunities for business expansion.

2 Attract Targeted Business Sectors

While preserving its manufacturing base, **Galva will focus its business attraction efforts on sectors that align with local strengths and emerging market trends:**

- **Light Manufacturing & Skilled Trades:** Building on existing fabrication expertise and infrastructure.
- **Healthcare & In-Home Services:** Responding to the aging population's need for healthcare access and senior care.
- **Local Food & Beverage:** Encouraging farm-to-table concepts, microbreweries, family restaurants, and food-based entrepreneurship.
- **Creative Industries & Remote-Enabled Work:** Positioning Galva as an affordable home base for artisans, remote workers, and digital entrepreneurs seeking quality of life without urban costs.

The city will develop marketing materials that emphasize Galva's competitive advantages: affordable space, connectivity, cultural vibrancy, and a supportive business climate.



Strategic Focus Areas and Recommendations

3 Reimagine Downtown Galva as a Destination

Galva's downtown is the cultural and historic heart of the city—and revitalizing this space is key to broader economic success. **The plan calls for:**

- **Launching a Façade & Activation Grant Program**

The Program would support property owners in making exterior upgrades such as building restoration, storefront improvements, and signage enhancements. The program could offer matching grants, potentially up to \$20,000, to incentivize private investment and reinforce downtown revitalization efforts. It is recommended that a Design Review Committee (DRC) be created to oversee the application process and ensure consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Design Guidelines. To maintain visual harmony, the program should also include an approved paint color palette (example on page 34), with all proposed exterior paint colors subject to DRC review. Appeals for non-approved colors could be considered on a case-by-case basis, with final decisions made by the City Council. This approach would help protect the historic character of downtown while encouraging thoughtful, high-quality improvements.

- **Supporting upper-story residential conversions** to create built-in foot traffic and downtown living options. This support can be shown by developing a pre-approved TIF-based reimbursement agreement to reduce investment risk, showing

evidence of market demand by paying for a small-scale rental demand study, proactively helping assess other funding program options such as state grants, assessment freeze, or housing programs and by providing assurance of partnership through the adoption of a formalized program, signaling that the City is fully behind adaptive reuse.

- **Incentivizing the acquisition and rehabilitation of existing commercial and residential structures** by leveraging the investments made in the 40-acre city-owned parcel.

- **Incentivizing “pop-up” retail and seasonal markets** to activate vacant storefronts and test new business concepts. The downtown property where the city recently demolished a delapidated structure would make an excellent site for this type of programming activity.


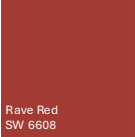
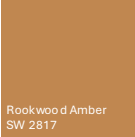
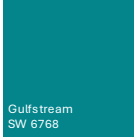
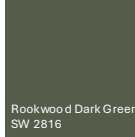
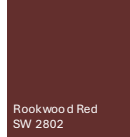
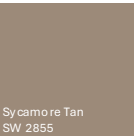
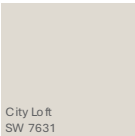



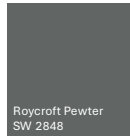
- **Establishing an “Arts & Entertainment District”** with mural installations, creative lighting, painted crosswalks, and public art features.

- **Developing a coordinated calendar** of downtown events, including music series, vendor fairs, and cultural festivals.

Through these initiatives, downtown Galva can transform into a vibrant, walkable destination where small businesses, artisans, and cultural attractions thrive side by side.



Downtown Facade Paint Color Palette Example

| | Color 1 | Color 2 | Color 3 | Color 4 | Color 5 | Color 6 |
|-------|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Walls |  Rookwood Sash Green SW 2810 |  Rave Red SW 6608 |  Rookwood Amber SW 2817 |  Gulfstream SW 6768 |  Rookwood Dark Green SW 2816 |  Rookwood Red SW 2802 |
| Trims |  Sycamore Tan SW 2855 |  City Loft SW 7631 |  Downing Slate SW 2819 |  Pediment SW 7634 |  Chelsea Gray SW 2850 |  Roccroft Pewter SW 2848 |

The above colors are versatile for diverse retail shops, culinary, and general services. Together, they convey an enduring legacy space in downtown Galva. The following may help in selecting the color palettes.

Color 1

This Victorian era green color is classic and versatile to be paired with a darker tone for elegant look or a light tone for a fresh take. This green is paired with a historic tan color for the building trims and other elements.

Color 2

This vibrant red will energize and bring excitement and dynamism to the corridor, paired with a warm off-white color with beige and red undertones for the building trims and other elements.

Color 3

This Victorian era deep yellow color brings warm and inviting atmosphere to any spaces. The shade has timeless appeal and is paired with a Victorian gray color for historical elegance.

Color 4

This vibrant blue color, paired with a classic bright white with blue and violet undertone for building trims and other elements, brings in a stately and serene look to the corridor.

Color 5

This Victorian era dark green, paired with a historic gray for building trims and other elements, was inspired by a luxury shades of a deep cool forest.

Color 6

This Victorian era dark red stands out in the corridor with its warmth and cozy look. Paired with an Arts and Crafts era gray for the building trims and other elements, this color exudes historical elegance.

Downtown Façade Improvements ^A



Strategic Focus Areas and Recommendations

4 Workforce Development and Talent Retention

A competitive workforce is central to Galva's economic strategy. Building on relationships with Galva CUSD #224 and regional employers, **the city will look to:**

- **Partner with local schools** on career awareness programs, internships, and job shadowing.
- **Collaborate with regional trade schools and community colleges** to expand technical training access.
- **Explore micro-credentialing and dual-credit programs** that prepare students for in-demand careers.
- **Promote remote work readiness and digital literacy** as part of workforce development.

Galva should also consider exploring employer-assisted housing models as a strategy to attract and retain talent, aligning housing availability with workforce needs.

5 Leverage Incentives and Financing Tools

The city will maximize the use of available economic development tools to catalyze investment, including:

- **Considering expanding current Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts** to include more of the downtown and key commercial corridors.
- **Exploring the creation of a Business Development District (BDD)** to leverage a local sales tax on targeted reinvestment.
- **Promoting awareness of state and federal incentives** such as the EDGE program, Small Business Development Center services, and historic tax credits.
- **Developing transparent guidelines for incentive use,** with a focus on measurable outcomes and return on investment.

Strategic Focus Areas and Recommendations

6 Position Galva as a Cultural and Tourism Hub

Galva's identity as a cultural hub, anchored by **the Back Road Music Festival and the Levitt AMP Concert Series**, provides a unique foundation for tourism development. The plan recommends:

- **Packaging these events as part of a "Weekend in Galva" visitor experience**, including dining, shopping, outdoor recreation, and historic tours.
- **Partnering with nearby communities** like Bishop Hill to develop regional heritage tourism itineraries.
- **Promoting branded merchandise, wayfinding signage, and marketing campaigns** tied to Galva's musical and industrial heritage.
- **Exploring agritourism opportunities**, leveraging surrounding farmland and local producers for farm tours, festivals, and seasonal experiences.

Measuring Success



Galva's economic success will not be measured by speculative growth or unsustainable expansion, but by **visible improvements in:**

- **Downtown occupancy rates and business vitality.**
- **Local employment levels and workforce participation.**
- **Youth engagement in local career pathways.**
- **Private investment leveraged through incentive tools.**
- **Community satisfaction with local goods, services, and events.**

By focusing on its own strengths and creating an environment where creativity, commerce, and culture intersect, Galva can build an economy that works for everyone now and into the future.



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION



The way a community moves, how people get from place to place, how goods are transported, how streets feel and function, says a great deal about the quality of life it offers. In Galva, transportation is not just about roads and vehicles; it is about safety, connectivity, economic development, and community experience. It is about ensuring that residents of all ages and abilities can move freely and comfortably, whether they are driving to work, walking their children to school, riding a bike to the park, or welcoming visitors to a downtown event.

Historically, Galva's transportation infrastructure has been shaped by its role as a rail hub and agricultural center. **U.S. Route 34 and Illinois Route 17 provide vital regional connections, and the rail lines that crisscross the city remain critical freight corridors.** Yet as Galva looks to the future, the community has voiced a clear desire for a transportation system that does more than move trucks and cars, it must support pedestrian safety, foster walkability, promote active transportation, and enhance the economic vibrancy of the city's core.

This section of the Comprehensive Plan lays out a strategy for modernizing Galva's transportation network, prioritizing not just efficiency but experience, not just throughput but placemaking. It identifies key projects, partnerships, and policies needed to ensure that Galva's streets and transportation systems reflect the values and aspirations of its people.



A Community Ready for Change

The message from Galva's residents during the planning process was consistent and clear: **the current flow of heavy truck traffic through the downtown district is incompatible with the city's vision for a vibrant, walkable center.** Residents described feeling unsafe crossing the street, concerned about the vibrations damaging historic buildings, and frustrated by the barriers these conditions create for outdoor dining, sidewalk commerce, and placemaking.

At the same time, **residents expressed enthusiasm for improvements that would support pedestrian mobility, cycling, and safe school routes.** While the crossing flag initiative had recently been installed in front of the Post Office, the plan calls for Complete Streets, a design approach that considers the needs of all users, not just drivers, echoed across surveys, public meetings, and stakeholder discussions.



Truck Route Relocation: A Catalyst for Downtown Revitalization

The state-designated truck route that currently bisects Galva's downtown presents one of the most significant barriers to achieving the community's vision. (See truck route map on page 37.) Moving heavy freight traffic away from the pedestrian heart of the city will not only reduce safety risks and protect buildings from structural damage but will also unlock the potential for downtown reinvestment.

The City of Galva should consider initiating **a formal corridor relocation study in partnership with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Henry County Highway Department.** This process will examine feasible alternate routes, traffic volumes, geometric design requirements, safety considerations, and cost-benefit analyses. Public engagement will be central to this effort, ensuring that business owners, property stakeholders, and residents have a voice in shaping the solution.

Upon successful rerouting of truck traffic, the City should then consider implementing a downtown street redesign that includes:

- **Pedestrian-focused streetscape improvements** such as bump-outs, raised crosswalks, and pedestrian-scale lighting.
- **Expanded sidewalk zones** to support outdoor dining, planters, benches, and public art.
- **Placemaking features** such as interactive art installations, historic interpretive signage, and shaded gathering spaces.

This truck rerouting effort is not simply a transportation project, it is a community-building initiative that will help redefine the experience of downtown Galva.

Complete Streets & Multimodal Planning

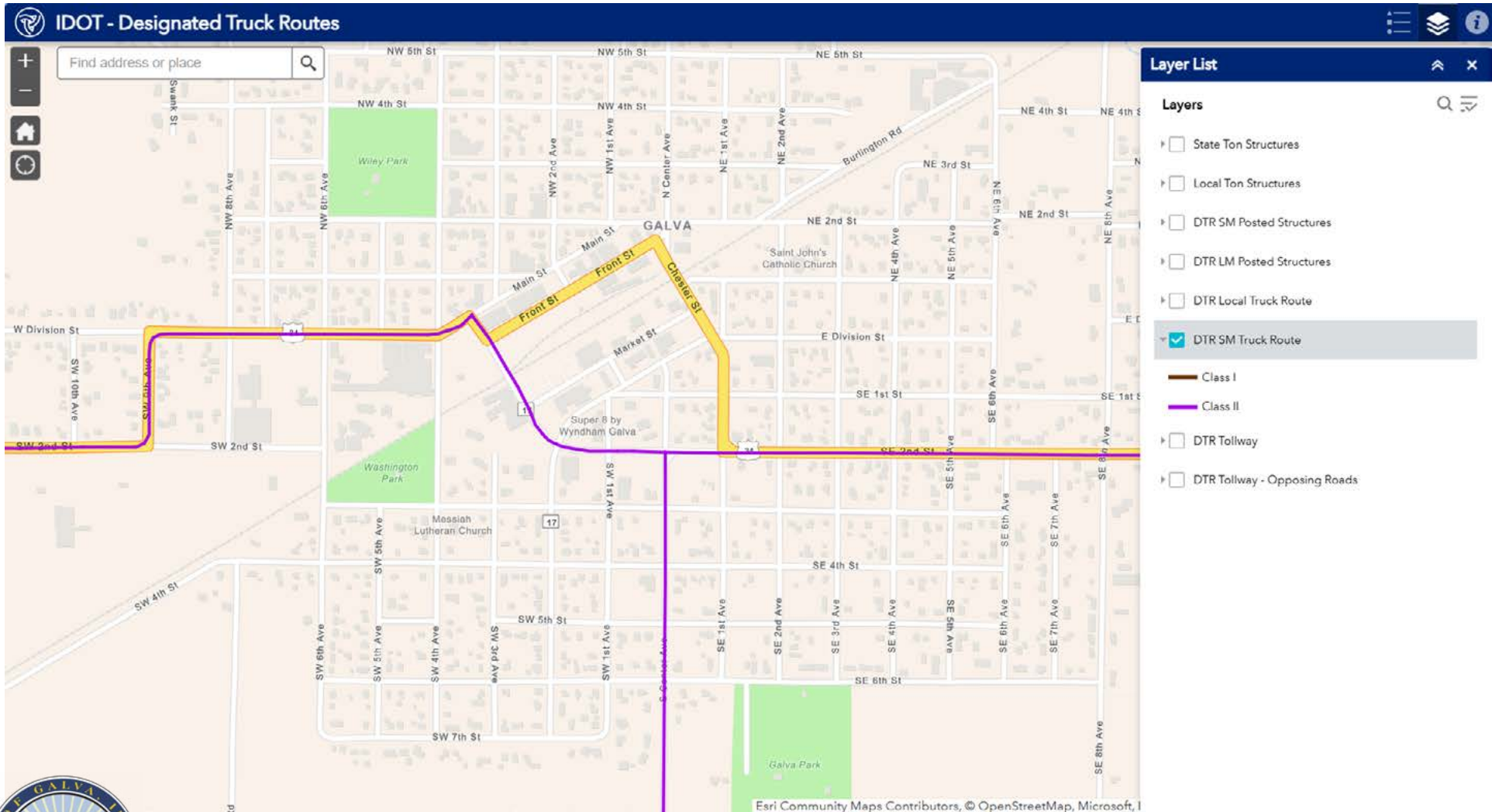
Galva recognizes that a truly inclusive transportation system must serve drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, individuals with disabilities, and transit users alike. To that end, the City should consider **adopting a Complete Streets policy** that ensures all future roadway investments consider the needs of these diverse users. **Key strategies include:**

- **Sidewalk Inventory and Gap Analysis:** Identify and prioritize areas where sidewalk connections are missing or deteriorated, especially near schools, parks, and downtown.
- **Bicycle Network Development:** Stripe and sign designated bike routes connecting key destinations such as Wiley Park, downtown, and Galva Park, with a long-term goal of developing a fully connected trail system.
- **School Safety Improvements:** Coordinate with Galva CUSD #224 on Safe Routes to School initiatives, improving crossings, signage, and pedestrian visibility near educational facilities.
- **ADA Compliance and Accessibility:** Ensure that all sidewalk upgrades, crossings, and public spaces meet or exceed ADA standards.

Through these efforts, Galva will create a transportation system that encourages active living, reduces dependence on cars, and promotes healthier lifestyles.



State Designated Truck Route Through Galva



Parking Management & Freight Circulation

While Galva benefits from abundant parking downtown, much of this resource remains underutilized or poorly organized. The city will consider **undertaking a Downtown Parking Management Plan that includes:**

- **Restriping lots** to maximize efficiency and add accessible spaces.
- **Installing clear, consistent wayfinding signage** for both vehicles and pedestrians.
- **Designating appropriate loading zones and freight delivery routes** to reduce conflicts between trucks, pedestrians, and parked vehicles.

Freight movement remains essential to Galva's industrial economy. However, the city will work to better **balance the needs of freight traffic with community livability** by:

- **Defining preferred truck routes outside the downtown core.**
- **Working with major freight carriers and rail operators to coordinate circulation patterns.**
- **Using landscaping, signage, and design to clearly distinguish freight zones** from pedestrian-oriented areas.

Public Transportation and Regional Connectivity

While Galva does not currently operate a fixed-route public transit system, regional demand-response service through Henry County Public Transportation provides essential mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The city will explore options to **strengthen and expand these services by:**

- **Adding designated transit stops** near senior housing, medical facilities, and downtown destinations.
- **Promoting rideshare, carpooling, and vanpool options** for industrial park workers and regional commuters.
- **Participating in regional transportation planning initiatives** through the Bi-State Regional Commission and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to improve long-term connectivity.

Regional Coordination and Funding Alignment

Galva's transportation improvements will align with key state and regional planning efforts to maximize funding eligibility and technical support. **These include:**

- **Move Illinois:** Long-Range Transportation Plan (IDOT): Emphasizing safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness.
- **Thrive 2055 Long Range Plan (Bi-State Regional Commission):** Supporting multimodal transportation, system preservation, and climate resilience.



- **Traffic Safety Action Plan (TSAP):** Applying data-driven approaches to reduce roadway injuries and fatalities.

The city should proactively pursue grant opportunities such as:

- **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A):** For pedestrian and traffic safety projects.
- **Illinois Rebuild Downtowns and Main Streets Program:** For streetscape and downtown access improvements.
- **IDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):** For bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

Implementation Priorities

To ensure steady progress on these initiatives, Galva should consider **establishing a Transportation Advisory Committee** composed of city officials, business owners, school representatives, and residents. **This group will help:**

- **Review project priorities and phasing.**
- **Guide public engagement processes.**
- **Assist with funding applications and grant readiness.**

The city should also **develop a 5-Year Capital Improvements Program (CIP)** focused on transportation infrastructure, sidewalk upgrades, ADA compliance, and multimodal investments.

Measuring Success

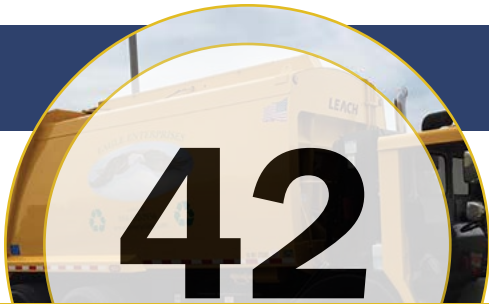


Galva's success in transforming its transportation system will be evident not only in smoother roads and safer crossings but in the lived experience of its people. **Indicators of success will include:**

- **Reduction in downtown truck traffic volumes.**
- **Increased pedestrian and cyclist activity.**
- **Enhanced perceptions of safety and accessibility.**
- **Improved downtown business occupancy rates following infrastructure improvements.**

Through these efforts, Galva can achieve a transportation system that is as welcoming as it is functional, a network that connects people, strengthens businesses, and supports the vision of a vibrant, livable city.





INFRASTRUCTURE



INFRASTRUCTURE

Behind every successful community is a system of essential infrastructure that makes daily life possible, from the water we drink to the broadband connections that keep us linked to the world. While roads, pipes, and wires may be out of sight for most residents, they are the foundation upon which homes are built, businesses operate, and public health is maintained.

In Galva, modernizing and maintaining this infrastructure is not only about preventing service disruptions, but also about positioning the city for future growth, supporting economic development, and ensuring that every resident, business, and visitor benefits from reliable, efficient, and forward-looking systems. As the community plans for reinvestment and revitalization, its infrastructure strategy must keep pace with these ambitions, proactively addressing aging systems while embracing innovation and sustainability.

This section of the Comprehensive Plan outlines the goals, priorities, and strategies that will guide Galva's approach to water, sewer, stormwater, broadband, energy, and green infrastructure improvements over the coming years.

Water Supply and Distribution

Water is one of the most critical services a city provides. Galva's municipal water system serves

hundreds of households and businesses, yet much of the system's underground infrastructure reflects mid-20th-century design and materials. Galva has already made significant progress in addressing lead service line replacements, a crucial step toward ensuring clean, safe drinking water, but additional investments are needed to upgrade aging water mains, reduce system losses, and modernize treatment technologies.

Priorities for Water System Improvements:

Complete the citywide inventory and replacement of lead service lines, meeting state and federal mandates.

Conduct a system-wide water loss audit to identify leaks and inefficiencies.

Invest in SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) technology for real-time monitoring of water system performance.

Expand the water supply's resilience through wellhead protection strategies and exploration of secondary supply sources.

Remove infrastructure under roadways to terraces.

Install a new well in ten years.

These improvements will not only ensure compliance with environmental standards but also build public trust in the safety and reliability of Galva's water infrastructure.



Sanitary Sewer and Wastewater Management

Like the water system, Galva's sanitary sewer network is aging and in need of targeted upgrades to prevent infiltration, inflow, and overflows during heavy rain events. Protecting the integrity of the sewer system is essential not only for environmental stewardship but also for accommodating new development and safeguarding public health.

Key Strategies:

- **Conduct smoke testing and video inspection of sewer lines** to identify problem areas.
- **Prioritize replacement or lining of deteriorated sewer mains** through a phased capital plan.
- **Explore green infrastructure solutions** such as rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavement to reduce inflow and stormwater burden on the sanitary system.
- **Coordinate sewer upgrades with street reconstruction and sidewalk improvement** projects for cost-efficiency.
- **Replace existing sewer infrastructure determined to be past its' useful life.**
- **Commission engineering firm to evaluate the need for a new treatment plant** to meet EPA mineral guidelines.

Stormwater Management & Green Infrastructure

Stormwater management is increasingly recognized as a critical component of infrastructure planning, particularly as heavy rainfall events become more common due to changing climate patterns. Galva's stormwater system relies on a mix of underground piping, open ditches, and surface drainage. However, portions of the system are undersized or outdated, leading to localized flooding and erosion concerns.

To address these challenges, Galva should look to **adopt a Green Infrastructure First policy**, which integrates natural drainage solutions into all new public projects and encourages similar approaches in private development.

Recommended Actions:

- **Complete a citywide stormwater master plan** with priority project phasing.
- **Implement rain garden demonstration projects on city-owned properties** to showcase best practices.
- **Incentivize private property owners to install rain barrels, native plantings, and bioswales** through education and grant programs.
- **Seek funding** through programs such as the **Illinois EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program**.

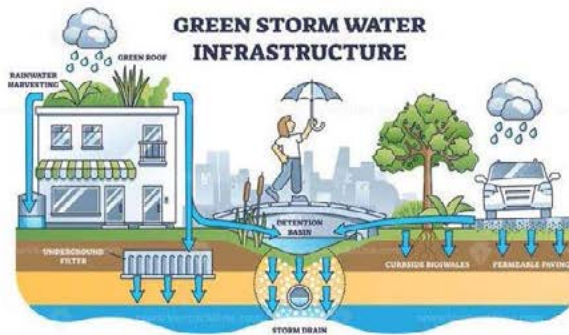
These approaches will enhance the city's stormwater capacity while also beautifying public spaces and supporting pollinator habitat.



Stormwater Management & Green Infrastructure Examples



Rain gardens can become City's green and blue infrastructure and public amenity too



Broadband & Digital Equity

In today's economy, high-speed internet is as essential as roads and utilities. Whether for remote work, education, telemedicine, or business operations, reliable broadband access is a core requirement for growth and opportunity.

Galva currently benefits from a relatively strong broadband landscape, with fiber and cable networks reaching most households and **speeds of up to 1–5 Gbps available through providers such as Frontier and EarthLink**. Cable options like **Mediacom and Xfinity provide gigabit service across much of the city**, while **fixed wireless networks such as Nextlink offer nearly universal coverage, though often at lower speeds averaging around 50–100 Mbps**. **Satellite services like Starlink, Viasat, and HughesNet ensure citywide coverage, though they are typically used where wired service is limited**.

Despite this solid foundation, **gaps remain in speed, affordability, and reliability, especially on the rural edges of the community and in areas where older DSL or lower-tier fixed wireless service is the only option**. These gaps can disproportionately affect seniors, low-income households, and residents relying on telehealth or remote learning.

To close these gaps and improve digital equity, **Galva can:**

- **Partner with private internet service providers** to expand and modernize fiber infrastructure citywide.
- **Leverage state and federal funding programs**, such as Connect Illinois broadband grants, to strengthen last-mile connectivity and ensure all residents can access high-speed service.
- **Explore public Wi-Fi zones** in downtown, parks, and civic buildings to support community access.

- **Promote digital literacy** by working with schools, the library, and local organizations to help residents make the most of available technology.

By continuing to expand and improve digital infrastructure, Galva will position itself to attract remote workers, enable e-learning, support local entrepreneurs, and ensure that all residents share in the opportunities of a connected economy.

Energy Infrastructure & Sustainability

Electricity and natural gas services in Galva are **provided by regional utilities, offering reliable power for homes and businesses**. As energy markets evolve, there are growing opportunities to incorporate renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate-resilient infrastructure into the city's long-term utility strategy.

Energy-Forward Initiatives:

- **Encourage solar energy adoption** through zoning allowances for rooftop arrays and community solar projects.
- **Conduct an energy audit of city-owned buildings and prioritize retrofits** to improve efficiency and reduce operating costs.
- **Pursue LED streetlight conversion** for enhanced lighting and energy savings.
- **Explore vehicle electrification** for the city fleet where feasible.

These initiatives reflect Galva's commitment to environmental stewardship while delivering long-term fiscal savings.



Solid Waste and Recycling

Solid waste services remain essential to community health and aesthetics. Galva will continue to partner with licensed haulers to ensure reliable trash collection while expanding its focus on waste reduction and recycling education.

Opportunities for Improvement:

- **Promote recycling participation** through outreach and incentives.
- **Explore composting programs** for yard waste and food scraps, potentially through regional partnerships.
- **Support bulk waste drop-off events** to reduce illegal dumping and improve neighborhood cleanliness.

Infrastructure Coordination & Phasing

Galva will strive to maintain a **Five-Year Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** that aligns street, water, sewer, and stormwater investments for maximum efficiency. Coordination across departments will ensure that when streets are rebuilt, underground utilities are also assessed and upgraded as needed.

Priority will be given to:

- **Areas identified for infill housing development.**
- **Downtown districts undergoing revitalization.**
- **School zones and pedestrian corridors** where safety improvements coincide with infrastructure needs.



Funding Strategies

Infrastructure upgrades require creative financing and strategic grant-seeking. Galva should actively pursue:

- **State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans and grants** for water and sewer projects.
- **USDA Rural Development** infrastructure financing.
- **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)** stormwater and drinking water grant programs.
- **Coordination with Henry County and Bi-State Regional Commission** for regional project opportunities.

Transparent reporting and communication will ensure that residents understand both the need for these investments and the benefits they deliver.

Measuring Success



Galva's infrastructure success will be measured by the quality, safety, and resilience of its systems. **Specific metrics will include:**

- **Reduction in water loss rates.**
- **Compliance with water quality standards.**
- **Decreased sewer backups and stormwater flooding incidents.**
- **Increased broadband speeds and household access.**
- **Energy savings from efficiency projects.**

Through these investments, Galva will not only protect the health and safety of its people but also lay the groundwork for sustainable growth, business attraction, and community well-being.





PARKS & RECREATION



PARKS & RECREATION

The spirit of a community is often felt most vividly in its public spaces, the parks where children play, the greenways where neighbors walk and bike, the ballfields where friendships are forged, and the gathering places where traditions are celebrated. In Galva, parks and open spaces are much more than amenities; they are the threads that connect people to one another, foster community pride, and create opportunities for health, wellness, and joy.

Galva is fortunate to be home to an established and active park system, **featuring well-loved destinations like Wiley Park, Veterans Park, Galva Park, and Washington Park.** These spaces not only provide room for recreation but also serve as venues for cultural events like the Back Road Music Festival and the Levitt AMP Concert Series, drawing thousands of visitors each year and shining a spotlight on the city's vibrant community life.

However, even great assets need care, renewal, and thoughtful expansion. As Galva plans for the next generation, its approach to parks, recreation, and open space must reflect both the changing needs of its population and the evolving best practices in placemaking, environmental stewardship, and equitable access.

This section of the Comprehensive Plan sets forth a vision for enhancing Galva's parks and recreation system—not simply as standalone sites, but as an integrated network of spaces that promote health, foster connection, and tell the story of the community.

A Community Connected by Open Space

Galva's parks system, managed by the **City and Galva Park District**, offers a rich foundation of recreational resources. Yet, as the city grows and seeks to attract new residents and visitors, there is a need to expand and diversify the opportunities available, especially for young families, seniors, and those seeking active lifestyle choices.

Key goals for the future of Galva's park system include:

- **Ensuring that every resident lives within a 10-minute walk** of a quality park or recreational facility.
- **Strengthening connectivity between parks, schools, neighborhoods, and downtown** through trails, sidewalks, and greenways.
- **Expanding recreational programming** to serve all ages, abilities, and interests. This could include the addition of a splashpad to help attract young families with children to the community.
- **Integrating environmental education and sustainability** into park design and operations.

These priorities recognize that great parks are not only about sports fields or playgrounds, but they are also about experiences, engagement, and equity.



Park Inventory and Key Amenities

Galva's existing park system includes:

Wiley Park

A centerpiece for community events, equipped with a stage and event infrastructure. Home to the Levitt AMP concert series and other cultural programming. Some of other amenities include playgrounds, disk golf course and street ball hoops.

Veterans Park

A space of honor and reflection with memorial features, open green space, gazebo, fountain, and walking path creating opportunities for quiet recreation.

Galva Park District

Offering a swimming pool, large pavilions, playgrounds, ballfields, horseshoe pits and miniature golf. It's open green space is host to the annual Back Road Music Festival.

Washington Park

Centrally located and well-suited for neighborhood gatherings and passive recreation. Amenities include a pavilion, basketball hoops, and playground equipment.

Together, these parks serve as the backbone of Galva's recreational life—but gaps remain in access, amenity variety, and programming reach. This plan calls for an intentional focus on expanding these assets and maximizing their potential.



Trail & Greenway Development

One of the most requested amenities during the community engagement process was better pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, not only within individual parks but also between neighborhoods, schools, and downtown. Trails and greenways enhance both mobility and recreation, offering safe, scenic routes for exercise and everyday travel.

Galva will work to pursue a phased approach to trail development that includes:

- **Completing a Galva Trail & Greenway Master Plan,** identifying preferred alignments, right-of-way availability, and priority segments.
- **Connecting downtown to Wiley Park, Galva Park District, and the proposed 40-acre, city owned parcel housing development** via designated bike routes, off-street trail segments, strategic sidewalk replacements and wayfinding signage where feasible.
- **Collaborating with Henry County and regional partners** on multi-community trail networks that link Galva with nearby towns and rural landscapes.
- **Seeking grant funding** through programs like the Illinois Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

Incorporating these connections will promote active lifestyles, reduce car dependency, and enhance tourism potential.

Recreation Programming and Community Wellness

Parks are not just about physical spaces—they are about the experiences that happen within them. As Galva seeks to grow and diversify its population, offering inclusive, engaging recreation programming will be key to supporting wellness, community pride, and youth development.

Recommended initiatives include:

- **Youth Leadership and Outdoor Education Programs:** Partnering with Galva CUSD #224 to create nature-based learning, leadership camps, and recreation internships for local students.
- **Senior Wellness and Social Connection:** Hosting walking groups, fitness classes, and social programming for older adults to promote healthy aging and combat social isolation.
- **Seasonal Community Events:** Expanding movie nights, farmers markets, art-in-the-park events, and cultural celebrations to activate public spaces year-round.
- **Recreation Access for All:** Providing scholarship-based or free programming options to ensure income is not a barrier to participation.

These efforts will help ensure that Galva's parks serve as welcoming spaces for everyone, fostering connection and belonging across generations.



Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Equitable access to parks and recreation is a cornerstone of this plan. **The City and Park District will work together to:**

- **Ensure that all park upgrades and new developments meet or exceed ADA accessibility standards.**
- **Conduct a Parks Equity Analysis** to identify underserved neighborhoods and prioritize investment accordingly.
- **Explore inclusive design strategies**, such as sensory-friendly play areas, universal design playgrounds, and multilingual signage.

Through these efforts, Galva commits to making its parks places where every person—regardless of age, ability, background, or income—can feel welcome and engaged.

Environmental Stewardship in Parks

Galva's approach to parks and open space recognizes that these areas play a critical role not only in recreation but also in environmental health. The plan calls for the integration of green infrastructure and native landscaping into all future park improvements.

Strategies include:

- **Planting native species and pollinator-friendly gardens** to support biodiversity.

- **Installing rain gardens and bioswales** in parks to manage stormwater naturally.
- **Incorporating educational signage** about local ecosystems, pollinators, and water conservation.
- **Reducing pesticide and chemical use** on park grounds where possible.

By aligning parks planning with environmental stewardship, Galva enhances its resilience while providing meaningful educational and recreational experiences.

Partnerships and Regional Collaboration

The success of Galva's parks and recreation system will rely on strong partnerships, including:

- **Collaboration with Galva CUSD #224** for shared facility use and joint programming.
- **Coordination with local nonprofits, health providers, and arts organizations** for expanded event offerings.
- **Working with Henry County, neighboring municipalities, and regional planning agencies** to advance trail connections and shared outdoor initiatives.

These partnerships will extend the reach of the city's recreation offerings while sharing costs and leveraging regional expertise.



Funding and Implementation

Investing in the future of Galva's parks and recreation system will require a mix of local funding, grants, and creative partnerships. **The City and Park District should work together to actively pursue a variety of funding options, such as:**

- **Illinois Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grants.**
- **Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds.**
- **Private sponsorships and "Adopt-a-Park" models** for specific features like benches, planters, and play equipment.
- **Partnerships with healthcare providers** to fund wellness-based programming.

A Five-Year Parks & Recreation Improvement Plan will guide investment decisions, with annual progress reporting to the City Council and public.

Measuring Success



Galva's success in enhancing its parks, recreation, and open space **will be evident in:**

- **Increased participation in recreation programs and community events.**
- **Improved perceptions of safety and accessibility across all parks.**
- **Expansion of the trail network and pedestrian connectivity.**
- **Positive feedback from resident surveys on park quality and access.**
- **Growth in tourism activity tied to park-based events and amenities.**

Through these efforts, Galva will ensure that its parks remain not only places of recreation—but also places of pride, joy, and shared community identity.



COMMUNITY SERVICES



COMMUNITY SERVICES

A successful community is built not only on its roads, homes, and businesses—but also on the strength of its civic institutions, schools, and the services that sustain the health, safety, and well-being of its residents. In Galva, these community facilities form the essential framework of daily life. They are the places where children learn and grow, where neighbors gather for shared purpose, and where people turn in times of need. Whether it is the school district preparing the next generation of leaders, the fire department standing ready to protect life and property, or the library offering spaces for learning and connection, these institutions are pillars of Galva's identity.

This section of the Comprehensive Plan recognizes that maintaining and improving these public assets is as critical to the city's future as any infrastructure investment. It outlines a strategy for aligning municipal services with community needs, strengthening partnerships, modernizing facilities, and ensuring equitable access across all age groups and neighborhoods.

Education: Aligning Growth with Galva CUSD #224

The success of Galva's schools is inseparably linked to the health of the broader community. Strong schools attract new families, sustain property values, and



contribute to workforce readiness. Galva Community Unit School District #224, serving both elementary and junior/senior high school students, is a cornerstone institution, and its leadership in strategic planning through the **Galva2030 Strategic Plan** exemplifies a shared vision for future success.

Galva2030 identified key educational priorities through comprehensive community engagement, including surveys of over 225 parents, students, teachers, and residents. Among the **top skills prioritized for students were communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and financial literacy, skills that align directly with workforce development needs** across the region.



Yet the district also faces significant challenges:

- **Recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers** amid rural staffing shortages.
- **Addressing aging school facilities and declining enrollment.**
- **Strengthening parent and community engagement** to support student achievement.

The **City of Galva** can play an active role as a supportive partner to the district by:

- **Coordinating on Safe Routes to School improvements**, including sidewalk upgrades, crosswalk enhancements, and pedestrian safety campaigns.
- **Supporting internship and career readiness programs** by connecting students with local employers, tradespeople, and entrepreneurs.
- **Promoting joint use of facilities**—such as gymnasiums, auditoriums, and green spaces—for after-school programs, recreation, and cultural events.
- **Aligning housing development strategies** with family-friendly designs and locations to stabilize and grow school enrollment.

These collaborative efforts ensure that education remains not only a district priority, but a shared civic responsibility embraced across Galva.

Libraries, Civic Buildings, and Public Gathering Spaces

The **Galva Public Library** stands as a beacon of lifelong learning, digital access, and community connection. In an era where libraries serve as much more than book lenders, the Galva Public Library plays an essential role in providing:

- **High-speed internet access and digital literacy support.**
- **Meeting spaces** for nonprofit organizations, study groups, and civic forums.
- **Educational programming** for youth, seniors, and lifelong learners.



- **Cultural events, author visits, and summer reading programs** that bring the community together.

To further strengthen these services, **the city and library leadership should explore:**

- **Upgrades to library technology infrastructure.**
- **Expanded partnerships with Galva CUSD #224** for joint literacy initiatives and summer learning programs.
- **Use of library space for workforce development programming**, including resume workshops, financial literacy classes, and job seeker resources.

Beyond the library, other civic facilities, including City Hall, fire stations, and public works buildings, play vital roles in community life. Regular assessment of these facilities' conditions and capacity will ensure they continue to meet the evolving needs of Galva's residents and workforce.

Public Safety: Emergency Services and Preparedness

Public safety is foundational to community confidence. Galva's Fire Department, Police Department, and emergency medical services are trusted first responders, providing rapid, professional care and protection.

In alignment with best practices, Galva will look to invest in:

- **Ongoing training, certification, and equipment modernization for first responders.**



- **Cross-agency coordination for disaster preparedness**, including response plans for severe weather, hazardous materials incidents, and public health emergencies.
- **Continued community outreach through programs** such as neighborhood watch, CPR classes, fire prevention education, and school-based safety initiatives.
- **Exploring grant funding opportunities** through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program and Department of Justice public safety programs.

By supporting its emergency services through training, equipment, and partnerships, Galva ensures that safety remains a source of strength across the community.





Health, Social Services & Wellness

Access to healthcare and social services is critical for ensuring that residents of all ages can thrive. While Galva benefits from local health clinics and proximity to regional medical providers, the community has identified gaps in areas such as:

- **Behavioral and mental health services.**
- **Senior care options**, including in-home health and assisted living.
- **Transportation for medical appointments**, particularly for seniors and people with disabilities.

The city should actively support and collaborate with regional health partners, social service agencies, and nonprofits to:

- **Promote mobile health services and outreach clinics.**

- **Explore partnerships for behavioral health programming** through telehealth and visiting provider models.
- **Advocate for the development of senior housing and care facilities** within the community.
- **Connect families to nutrition assistance, utility relief, and other social supports** through centralized resource directories.

Galva can leverage its park system and civic spaces as tools for wellness by offering walking clubs, senior fitness classes, mental health awareness events, and healthy lifestyle programming.

Accessibility, Inclusion & Community Engagement

A modern community is an inclusive community—one where all people, regardless of ability, age, or background, can participate fully in civic life. Galva can prioritize accessibility and inclusion across all public services and facilities by:

- **Conducting regular accessibility audits** of municipal buildings, parks, sidewalks, and transportation systems.
- **Providing translation services or multilingual materials** where appropriate to serve non-English-speaking residents.
- **Partnering with local organizations to engage underrepresented voices** in planning and decision-making processes, including people with disabilities, youth, and seniors.
- **Establishing a Community Engagement Toolkit** to guide outreach methods, event accessibility, and digital participation.



By embracing these practices, Galva affirms its commitment to being a place where every resident feels valued, heard, and empowered.

Shared Facilities and Intergovernmental Collaboration

The success of Galva's community services relies on strong partnerships—not only within the city but across the region. This plan encourages:

- **Pursuing shared service agreements** with neighboring municipalities for specialized equipment, emergency response, or public works projects.
- **Collaborating with Henry County agencies** for public health initiatives, planning support, and emergency preparedness.
- **Coordinating with the Bi-State Regional Commission and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission** on long-term infrastructure, transportation, and environmental projects.

These collaborative efforts increase efficiency, stretch local resources, and enhance service delivery without duplication.

Measuring Success



The effectiveness of Galva's community facilities and services **will be reflected in:**

- **Improved educational outcomes and enrollment stability.**
- **Increased participation in recreation, library, and wellness programs.**
- **Enhanced satisfaction with emergency services response times and capabilities.**
- **Expanded access to health and social service resources.**
- **Positive community feedback on accessibility, engagement, and inclusion.**

By investing in these core services and civic institutions, Galva ensures that its commitment to quality of life is not just a goal, it becomes a daily reality for every member of the community.



ENVIRONMENTAL



ENVIRONMENTAL

Galva's future is tied not only to its roads, businesses, and schools, but also to the health of its land, water, air, and ecosystems. As a rural community rooted in agricultural heritage and enriched by open spaces, Galva's identity has long been connected to the natural environment that surrounds and sustains it. Stewardship of these resources is not simply about conservation; it is about creating a community that is healthy, resilient, and prepared for the challenges of the future.

Environmental resilience means more than reacting to crises. It means planning ahead, protecting the systems that sustain life, and making thoughtful choices that balance growth with sustainability. It is about understanding the role that green infrastructure plays in flood prevention, that trees play in cooling neighborhoods and cleaning air, and that biodiversity plays in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

This section of the Comprehensive Plan outlines Galva's commitment to environmental stewardship and resilience as a key pillar of its long-term strategy for growth and well-being. It provides a roadmap for action across stormwater management, energy efficiency, greenspace preservation, and climate adaptation—ensuring that as Galva builds its future, it does so in harmony with the natural world.



Embracing Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management

Managing water wisely is among the most pressing environmental priorities facing Galva today. Like many small towns in Illinois, Galva's stormwater system was designed decades ago to meet the needs of a smaller population and different climate patterns. With more frequent intense rainfall events and aging infrastructure, localized flooding and water quality issues have become recurring challenges.

Galva's response is to shift from traditional "gray" infrastructure—pipes and culverts alone, to a more integrated, green approach that works with nature to manage water sustainably.



Key Strategies for Stormwater Resilience:

- **Develop a citywide Stormwater Master Plan** that prioritizes system upgrades, identifies vulnerable areas, and integrates green solutions.
- **Promote the use of rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavement** in public projects, especially near parks, schools, and downtown.
- **Launch an educational campaign to encourage rain barrel use, native landscaping, and downspout disconnection** on private properties.
- **Partner with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and pursue Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program funding** for green infrastructure installations.

These strategies will not only reduce flood risks and improve water quality but also beautify public spaces, enhance wildlife habitat, and lower maintenance costs over time.

Protecting and Expanding Galva's Tree Canopy

Trees are one of the most cost-effective and beneficial investments a city can make in its environmental health. They provide shade, reduce energy costs, improve air quality, and create inviting streetscapes and public spaces. Yet like infrastructure, trees require careful management, strategic planting, and ongoing care.

Galva should consider **developing an Urban Forest Management Plan** to guide the care, maintenance, and expansion of its public tree canopy.

This plan would include:

- **A complete tree inventory** of public spaces, identifying species diversity, age, and condition.
- **A commitment to planting native species and pollinator-supportive trees and shrubs** that enhance ecological health.
- **Replacement of ash trees affected by emerald ash borer** and other vulnerable species with climate-resilient alternatives.
- **Engagement of local students and volunteers** through tree planting days, Arbor Day events, and environmental education programs.

By growing and maintaining a healthy tree canopy, Galva will make its neighborhoods cooler, healthier, and more beautiful—while reinforcing its identity as a green and welcoming community.

Clean Energy and Climate Resilience

Galva recognizes that the choices made today about energy use and emissions will shape the climate realities of tomorrow. While the city does not generate its own power, it can lead by example through policy, planning, and partnerships that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate-smart infrastructure.

The City's approach to energy and climate resilience would look to include:

- **Encouraging the installation of solar energy systems** on public buildings, homes, and businesses through zoning allowances and streamlined permitting.



- **Supporting the development of community solar projects** that allow renters and those without suitable rooftops to participate in renewable energy programs.
- **Conducting an energy audit of municipal facilities** and investing in efficiency retrofits such as LED lighting, insulation upgrades, and HVAC improvements.
- **Exploring electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure** at key public sites to prepare for the future of transportation.
- **Participating in state and federal grant opportunities**, including the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program.

Through these efforts, Galva will reduce its carbon footprint while improving energy security, cutting costs, and supporting green jobs.

Preserving Natural Areas and Farmland

Agricultural landscapes are integral to Galva's history, economy, and sense of place. Preserving farmland and open spaces not only sustains local food systems and economic productivity but also contributes to biodiversity, water protection, and climate resilience.

Galva will work collaboratively with landowners, Henry County, and conservation partners to:

- **Protect high-value farmland** at the edges of the city's planning jurisdiction through strategic annexation policies and pre-annexation agreements.



- **Encourage best practices in soil health, nutrient management, and sustainable farming** through educational partnerships with agricultural agencies.
- **Explore voluntary conservation easements and land trusts** as tools for preserving open space where appropriate.
- **Support native prairie restoration and pollinator habitat projects** on public lands and rights-of-way.

These strategies reflect Galva's understanding that growth and preservation can coexist—and that thoughtful planning can ensure both.

Waste Reduction and Materials Management

Effective waste management is another important piece of Galva's environmental vision. The City will work with waste haulers, regional agencies, and residents to reduce landfill dependency and promote sustainable materials handling.



Key Waste Reduction Actions:

- **Expand community education on recycling best practices** and contamination prevention.
- **Promote yard waste composting** and investigate the feasibility of a local or regional composting facility.
- **Host bulk waste drop-off events** to prevent illegal dumping and promote neighborhood cleanliness.
- **Encourage reuse and repair workshops** to reduce the volume of discarded goods.

These steps will help position Galva as a leader in responsible resource management.

Environmental Education and Public Engagement

True environmental stewardship comes from shared understanding and community participation. **Galva can foster an environmental ethic through:**

- **School-based partnerships that integrate environmental learning** into classrooms and extracurricular activities.
- **Interpretive signage in parks, trails, and green infrastructure** installations explaining the benefits of sustainable design.
- **Public workshops and volunteer opportunities**, including tree plantings, native garden maintenance, and citizen science projects like water quality monitoring.

By engaging residents of all ages, Galva will build a culture of stewardship that sustains its environmental goals long after the planning process ends.

Measuring Success



The success of Galva's environmental initiatives **will be reflected in measurable outcomes, including:**

- **Reduction in flood-prone areas and improved stormwater quality.**
- **Expansion of the urban tree canopy and pollinator habitats.**
- **Increased participation in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and waste reduction programs.**
- **Public satisfaction with green space quality and access.**
- **Progress toward climate resilience and emissions reduction benchmarks.**

By embedding sustainability into the heart of its planning, Galva will ensure that its growth does not come at the expense of its environment—but instead, honors and protects the natural systems that make this community strong.





HISTORIC RESOURCES



HISTORIC RESOURCES

Galva's story is written not only in history books but in its streetscapes, its architecture, its festivals, and the memories shared between generations. From its founding by Swedish immigrants in the mid-1800s to its proud legacy as a rail hub and manufacturing center, Galva's heritage is visible in the design of its downtown buildings, the layout of its neighborhoods, and the traditions celebrated at community events.

Preserving this rich history is about more than maintaining old buildings, it is about honoring the people and experiences that shaped the city. It is about recognizing that Galva's past is a valuable asset for its future, a foundation for cultural tourism, economic development, education, and community pride.

This section of the Comprehensive Plan outlines Galva's strategy for preserving its historic assets and celebrating its cultural resources as vital parts of the city's identity and economic landscape. It recognizes that history, when actively integrated into planning and placemaking, does not remain in the past, it becomes a living, breathing part of everyday life.

A Legacy Worth Protecting

Galva's built environment contains a collection of historic commercial buildings, rail infrastructure, early 20th-century residences, and civic spaces that reflect its evolution as a small-town industrial and agricultural center. These assets are tangible reminders of the city's origins and the hard work of generations who helped shape its growth.



Unfortunately, like many communities of its age, Galva faces the challenge of protecting these resources against deterioration, vacancy, and neglect. Many downtown buildings require investment to meet modern safety codes while retaining their historic character. Without proactive preservation efforts, these physical links to the past risk being lost to time.

Preservation is not about freezing the city in place. It is about adapting and reactivating historic structures so they continue to contribute meaningfully to the community's fabric. It is about creative reuse, sensitive rehabilitation, and economic incentives that make preservation not only possible but appealing.

Historic Preservation Goals and Strategies

Galva's approach to preservation will focus on four primary goals:

1

Encourage the Rehabilitation and Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings

Reactivating underutilized buildings, particularly in the downtown core, is key to both historic preservation and economic development.

The City should:

- **Promote the use of State of Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credits and federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits** for qualifying projects.
- **Offer guidance and flexibility through local zoning and building codes** to facilitate adaptive reuse while maintaining safety standards.
- **Provide educational resources** for property owners interested in historic preservation techniques and incentives.
- **Explore the creation of a Local Historic Preservation Commission or advisory body** to support preservation initiatives and coordinate grant efforts.

2

Integrate History into Downtown Revitalization

Preservation and revitalization go hand in hand. Galva's downtown can celebrate its heritage as a feature of its economic brand.

The City can:

- **Include historical markers, interpretive signage, and walking tour materials** as part of the downtown streetscape.
- **Coordinate historic themes with the city's Façade Improvement Program** to ensure compatible materials, colors, and design elements.
- **Feature local history through window displays, murals, and cultural programming** at events like the Back Road Music Festival and Levitt AMP concert series.
- **Support the use of vacant historic spaces for "pop-up"** history exhibits, artisan markets, or seasonal vendor fairs.



Historic Preservation Goals and Strategies

3

Elevate Cultural Storytelling Through Arts and Events

Galva's music festivals, community events, and traditions are cultural resources in their own right.

The city can strengthen its cultural identity by:

- **Partnering with local historians, artists, and schools** to curate rotating exhibits, oral history projects, and public art installations that tell Galva's story.
- **Encouraging the integration of history and culture into annual events** through heritage themes, performances, and educational programming.
- **Exploring opportunities to recognize and celebrate the city's Swedish heritage** through festivals, cultural exchanges, and collaborations with nearby Bishop Hill, an important Swedish settlement.

4

Protect Cemeteries, Monuments, and Memorial Spaces

Cemeteries and memorials are sacred spaces that hold historical and emotional significance.

Galva will strive to:

- **Maintain and enhance the care of historic cemeteries** through partnerships with local groups and veterans' organizations.
- **Incorporate educational components into these spaces** through signage, walking tours, and student projects.
- **Ensure that these sites are preserved with respect and dignity**, reinforcing their role as places of remembrance and learning.

Inventory and Documentation of Historic Assets

The first step toward meaningful preservation is knowing what you have. Galva should consider **initiating a formal Historic and Cultural Resource Inventory to catalog and assess:**

- **Historic downtown commercial buildings and façades.**
- **Residential structures of historic significance**, particularly early 20th-century homes and distinctive architectural styles.
- **Rail-related infrastructure**, including depots, switching yards, and remaining industrial facilities tied to Galva's rail heritage.
- **Monuments, memorials, and public artworks** that tell the story of the city's people and milestones.

This inventory will serve as a foundational tool for preservation planning, grant applications, and community education, as well as a resource for developers and property owners interested in rehabilitation projects.

Cultural Tourism and Economic Development

Historic preservation is not only about honoring the past—it is also a catalyst for economic development. **Galva can leverage its heritage as part of its tourism and branding strategy by:**

- **Developing a Galva Heritage Trail** that connects key historic sites, downtown attractions, parks, and event spaces through walking and biking routes.
- **Partnering with regional tourism organizations to include**



Galva in heritage travel itineraries, particularly those focused on rail history, Swedish heritage, and Midwest small-town culture.

- **Exploring the creation of a railroad viewing platform**—an elevated, ADA-accessible station designed for safely watching and photographing passing trains along the BNSF mainline. This attraction would celebrate Galva’s historic ties to the railroad, complement Galesburg’s established railfan tourism, and provide visitors with a unique perspective of the city’s active rail corridor while encouraging longer stays and local spending.
- **Promoting the city’s history through digital platforms**, including interactive maps, mobile-friendly tours, and storytelling videos.

By positioning history as part of the visitor experience, Galva can attract cultural tourists whose interests align with the city’s authentic character and historic assets.

Building Preservation Capacity

Effective preservation requires leadership, expertise, and resources. **Galva will work to build this capacity by:**

- **Encouraging the formation of a Historic Preservation Committee** of local stakeholders, historians, architects, and community members.
- **Hosting preservation workshops and training events** to equip property owners and contractors with skills and knowledge.
- **Applying for technical assistance grants** through agencies like

the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

These steps will ensure that Galva’s preservation efforts are sustained by both policy and community commitment.

Measuring Success



Galva will measure success in historic preservation **through:**

- **Increased occupancy and reinvestment in historic downtown buildings.**
- **Growth in cultural tourism and participation in heritage events.**
- **Successful rehabilitation projects using tax credits and incentives.**
- **Community awareness of local history, demonstrated through program participation and positive survey feedback.**
- **Enhanced visibility and care for monuments, memorials, and historic public spaces.**

Through these strategies, Galva will not only protect its past—it will celebrate and share it, making history an active, visible, and enriching part of everyday life.



PARTNERSHIPS



PARTNERSHIPS

No community thrives in isolation. Successful planning and progress—especially in today’s interconnected world—require partnerships that extend beyond municipal boundaries. In Galva, the strength of these partnerships will be key to achieving the ambitious goals set forth in this Comprehensive Plan. From infrastructure funding and transportation planning to economic development and environmental stewardship, collaboration with neighboring communities, county agencies, regional organizations, and the State of Illinois will provide the resources, expertise, and support necessary to turn vision into reality.

Intergovernmental cooperation is not simply a matter of formality, it is a strategy for efficiency, resilience, and shared success. In an era where local governments face resource constraints and increasingly complex challenges, pooling knowledge, coordinating initiatives, and aligning investments can maximize outcomes while reducing duplication and waste.

This section outlines Galva’s approach to intergovernmental and regional collaboration, positioning the city as an active participant and trusted partner in shaping the future of northwest Illinois.

The Value of Strategic Partnerships

Galva’s geographic position within Henry County, its proximity to Kewanee, Galesburg, and Bishop Hill, and its ties to the Quad Cities region provide a natural platform for collaborative action. **By engaging constructively with regional partners, Galva can access:**

- **Technical assistance and grant-writing expertise.**
- **Regional transportation and infrastructure planning frameworks.**
- **Joint economic development strategies that attract businesses and visitors.**
- **Shared services and equipment that lower operational costs.**
- **Coordinated emergency preparedness and disaster response.**
- **Educational partnerships that align workforce development with regional employer needs.**

The success of these collaborations relies on clear communication, shared priorities, and a willingness to think regionally while acting locally.



Key Partners in Regional Cooperation

Galva will work to actively maintain and strengthen relationships with the following entities:

Henry County Government

Collaboration on land use coordination, building permits, emergency management, and public health initiatives.

Joint efforts on rural broadband expansion and infrastructure planning in the extraterritorial jurisdiction surrounding Galva.

Galva Community Unit School District #224

Alignment on Safe Routes to School projects, career readiness programming, and shared use of facilities.

Support for enrollment stability and housing development that meets family needs.

Galva Park District

Coordination on park upgrades, trail connections, green infrastructure projects, and recreation programming.

Shared grant pursuits for outdoor spaces and community wellness initiatives.

Neighboring Municipalities (Kewanee, Bishop Hill, Galesburg, Toulon, Cambridge)

Regional tourism collaboration, including heritage tourism packages, music festivals, and art walks.

Opportunities for shared equipment, staff training, or specialized services where economies of scale exist.

Bi-State Regional Commission (BSRC)

Access to regional transportation planning, GIS mapping, data analysis, and funding strategies.

Participation in long-range planning efforts like the Thrive 2055 Transportation Plan and Traffic Safety Action Plan (TSAP).

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

Ongoing partnership on truck route relocation, corridor improvements, and multimodal planning.

Grant opportunities through TAP, Rebuild Illinois, and Safe Streets for All (SS4A).

Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and USDA Rural Development

Funding support for infill housing, senior-friendly development, and housing rehabilitation.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Technical assistance and grant funding for stormwater management, drinking water system upgrades, and green infrastructure projects.

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) and National Trust for Historic Preservation

Support for historic building documentation, preservation planning, and tax credit utilization.



PARTNERSHIPS

Shared Services & Regional Resource Efficiency

In an era of limited municipal budgets, shared services represent a practical pathway for maintaining quality service delivery without duplication. **Galva will explore shared service agreements in areas such as:**

- **Specialized equipment** for street maintenance, water line flushing, and sewer inspections.
- **Joint staff training** for first responders, public works, and planning departments.
- **Cooperative purchasing agreements** for materials and supplies.
- **Shared legal or engineering services** on a project-specific basis.

By working with partners to identify opportunities for cost-sharing and resource pooling, Galva can focus its limited funds on high-impact priorities while strengthening regional relationships.

Emergency Preparedness & Mutual Aid

Disasters do not respect jurisdictional lines. Whether facing severe weather, fire, public health crises, or hazardous material incidents, coordinated emergency preparedness is essential for effective response.

Galva will strive to actively participate in mutual aid networks and regional emergency management planning, ensuring that:

- **Emergency response plans are current and aligned with county and state protocols.**

- **Communications systems are interoperable across agencies.**
- **Joint training exercises are conducted regularly.**
- **Public education on preparedness and emergency response is consistent and accessible.**

These efforts will help ensure that in times of crisis, Galva and its neighbors are ready to stand together.

Regional Economic Development & Tourism Collaboration

Economic opportunity does not stop at the city limits—and neither should economic strategy. Galva will continue to engage in regional business attraction, workforce development, and tourism promotion efforts, leveraging its cultural strengths and industrial base within a broader market context.

The city will look to:

- **Partner with regional economic development organizations** where appropriate.
- **Coordinate with tourism bureaus on marketing campaigns** that highlight the Back Road Music Festival, Levitt AMP series, and historic downtown experiences.
- **Advocate for regional investments in broadband, rail, and highway infrastructure** that support business growth and visitor access.

Advancing Shared Goals Through Communication and Coordination

For intergovernmental and regional cooperation to succeed, it must be intentional and ongoing. **Galva should look to:**

- **Establish annual or semiannual intergovernmental meetings** with key partners.
- **Designate a liaison or staff point person to coordinate regional initiatives and represent Galva** in multi-jurisdictional efforts.
- **Integrate regional goals and strategies into local grant applications** to strengthen competitiveness and alignment.

By committing to clear communication and shared action, Galva ensures that collaboration remains an active, purposeful component of its community-building strategy.

Measuring Success



Galva's effectiveness in intergovernmental and regional cooperation **will be reflected in:**

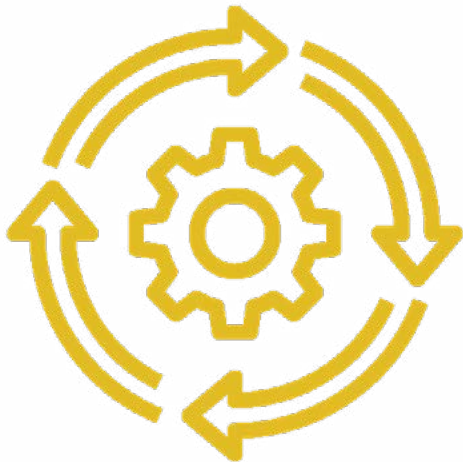
- **Successful joint grant applications and funding awards.**
- **Participation in regional studies, initiatives, and planning processes.**
- **Cost savings achieved through shared services and cooperative agreements.**
- **Positive feedback from partner agencies and mutual aid networks.**
- **Visible progress on cross-jurisdictional projects** such as trail connections, broadband expansion, and transportation improvements.

Through these efforts, Galva acknowledges that partnership is not simply beneficial, it is essential. By working together with neighbors, agencies, and regional leaders, Galva amplifies its voice, strengthens its position, and builds a foundation for shared prosperity across the region.





RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION



RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION

A plan is only as valuable as the action it inspires. The Galva Comprehensive Plan 2025 is not intended to sit on a shelf gathering dust—it is a living, working document designed to guide daily decisions, shape long-term investments, and provide a consistent framework for leadership, staff, and the community. Its true success will be measured not by how well it is written, but by how well it is implemented.

This section translates the vision, goals, and strategies articulated throughout the plan into a structured roadmap for action. It outlines how the City of Galva, in partnership with residents, businesses, institutions, and regional agencies, will move from ideas to outcomes. The Implementation & Action Plan provides both the organizational structure and practical tools necessary to sustain momentum, monitor progress, and adapt to changing conditions over time.

Above all, this section reinforces a central truth: successful planning is not the work of government alone, it is the shared responsibility of the entire community.

Turning Vision Into Action

Throughout the development of this Comprehensive Plan, community voices, business leaders, students, and civic partners expressed hope and optimism—but also the need for focus, discipline, and follow-through. Their message was clear: Galva has many of the pieces needed for success; what is required is coordination, accountability, and persistence.

This Implementation Plan responds to that call by providing:

- **A clear organizational structure for who is responsible for what.**
- **A phased timeline for short-, mid-, and long-term actions.**
- **Tools for tracking progress and reporting back to the community.**
- **Flexibility to adjust priorities as new opportunities and challenges emerge.**



Organizational Leadership and Responsibility

City Council and Mayor

The Galva City Council and Mayor will provide overall leadership and policy direction, adopting budgets and ordinances that reflect the plan's priorities. They will serve as champions for the plan, promoting its goals to residents, businesses, and partners.

Planning and Zoning Commission

The Planning and Zoning Commission will play a central role in reviewing development proposals, zoning changes, and special use permits to ensure alignment with the Comprehensive Plan's land use and growth management goals.

City Staff and Department Leads

City staff, including public works, and administrative personnel, will oversee day-to-day implementation tasks. Their responsibilities include project management, grant writing, communications, and coordination with outside agencies.

Transportation Advisory Committee (Recommended New Entity)

This committee, comprised of city officials, school representatives, business owners, and residents, will guide the prioritization of transportation projects, including truck route relocation, sidewalk improvements, and multimodal initiatives.

Historic Preservation Committee (Recommended New Entity)

To support preservation goals, this advisory body will help document historic assets, coordinate tax credit applications, and engage the community in cultural resource planning.

Intergovernmental Coordination Team (Recommended New Entity)

Representatives from Galva CUSD #224, Henry County, Galva Park District, the Library Board, and neighboring municipalities will participate in semiannual coordination meetings to align projects, share resources, and pursue joint funding opportunities.



Action Timeline: Phased Priorities

Short-Term Priorities (Years 1–3)

Conduct downtown truck route relocation feasibility study and initiate project design.

Launch Downtown Façade Improvement Program.

Complete sidewalk inventory and prioritize Safe Routes to School upgrades.

Initiate Galva Trail & Greenway Master Plan.

Establish Transportation Advisory Committee and Historic Preservation Committee.

Apply for Rebuild Illinois and SS4A transportation grants.

Develop and begin implementation of the Stormwater Master Plan.

Conduct Historic and Cultural Resource Inventory.

Promote housing infill development through targeted incentives and builder outreach.

Launch community engagement on broadband needs and pursue Connect Illinois grants.

Codify all municipality's laws, rules, and regulations into a single, coherent, and systematically arranged code.

Mid-Term Priorities (Years 4–7)

Implement first phases of downtown streetscape improvements and truck reroute completion.

Support adaptive reuse of vacant downtown buildings for residential and small business use.

Begin greenway and trail construction for downtown-to-park connections.

Expand energy efficiency retrofits for municipal facilities and streetlights.

Promote solar and community solar adoption through educational workshops and zoning updates.

Continue housing rehabilitation and senior-friendly housing development.

Roll out neighborhood beautification and tree planting initiatives.

Host regional tourism marketing campaign featuring music festivals and heritage tourism.

Long-Term Priorities (Years 8–20)

Complete full build-out of Galva's pedestrian and bicycle network.

Achieve citywide broadband coverage with robust digital equity programming.

Complete phased sewer and water line replacements based on capital planning.

Achieve 10-minute walk park access for all neighborhoods.

Maintain and expand cultural tourism partnerships, including Swedish heritage programming.

Review and update the Comprehensive Plan at Year 10, with community input and revised goals.



Funding Tools and Grant Pursuit Strategy

Successful implementation will require a combination of local investment and external funding. Galva should aggressively pursue federal, state, and philanthropic grant opportunities while leveraging local match funds through TIF, BDD, and capital improvement budgeting.

Key funding sources include:

- **Rebuild Illinois (infrastructure grants)**
- **IDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Safe Streets for All (SS4A)**
- **Illinois EPA Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management Grants**
- **State Revolving Funds for Water and Sewer Upgrades**
- **Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credits**
- **Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grants**
- **Connect Illinois Broadband Grants**
- **USDA Rural Development Programs**
- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)**

A city staff member or consultant will be designated as Grant Coordinator to oversee applications, reporting, and compliance.

Tracking Progress and Reporting

Accountability and transparency are essential to maintaining public trust and momentum. Galva will look to implement the following tools for tracking and reporting:

Annual Progress Report

Prepared by city staff and presented to the City Council, highlighting accomplishments, challenges, and adjustments.

Public Dashboard

Hosted on the city website, providing easy-to-understand updates on major projects, grant awards, and progress toward goals.

Community Engagement Forums

Annual meetings with residents, business owners, and partners to share updates, gather feedback, and adjust priorities as needed.

Five-Year Plan Review

Formal review and adjustment of the action plan every five years, with comprehensive public involvement.





PLAN REFERENCES



PLAN REFERENCES

The Galva Comprehensive Plan 2025 was developed using a blend of local input, regional coordination, and state and national data resources. The following sources were explicitly referenced or clearly influenced the content of the plan:

Community Engagement

Surveys, public meetings, stakeholder interviews, and youth feedback.

Local Strategic Alignment

Galva CUSD's Galva2030 Strategic Plan.

Regional Planning

Bi-State Regional Commission (Thrive 2055 Plan, TSAP)

Transportation Planning

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) long-range plans and corridor relocation studies.

Funding & Program References

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), Illinois Rebuild Downtowns & Main Streets, IDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

Housing & Development

Terra Lumen, Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) programs, USDA Rural Development resources.

Environmental & Infrastructure

Terra Lumen, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, and NRCS programs.

Downtown Facade Development

Terra Lumen

Historic & Cultural Resources

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Economic & Demographic Data

U.S. Census Bureau, ESRI Business Analyst data for demographics, income, housing, and retail trends.

Local Context

City-owned land parcels, park system assets, and existing TIF districts and incentive programs.

