

Toulon, Illinois

Stark County

1990 Population - 1,328

2000 Population - 1,400



Program Date: January 27, 1999

Program Type: Single Community

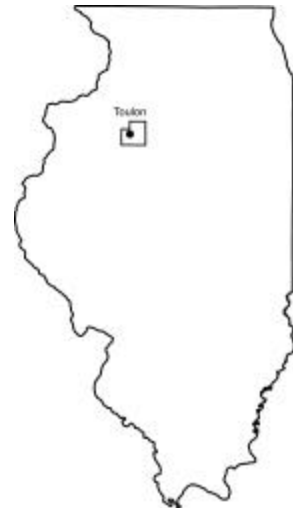
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Sponsors: Toulon Progress Council
Toulon State Bank
Connie's Country Kitchen



Toulon's Community Vision Statement

Toulon is Terrific. "The Center of Toulon" is the hub of health, fitness, and community activities. The town's unique "community forest" concept is gaining national attention, and the high school-community college partnership is producing some of the state's best-prepared graduates. The folks in Toulon are enthusiastically involved in making Toulon even more Terrific.



Long-Range Goals

Greater Sales and Revenue/Stronger Local Economy. Toulon's expanding economy relies on an effective commercial and industrial base that employs residents in high-tech and/or specialty niche markets. In addition, Toulon is an increasingly important member of a regional economy where people enjoy civic recreation, entertainment, and many other consumer-friendly amenities.

Model Community. As a model community, Toulon is admired for its environmentally friendly, healthy, safe, and accessible atmosphere within which residents live productive lives and proudly call this place their home.

Community Promotion. Toulon is a model community that is appreciated by its residents, but is also known throughout the Midwest as a place where people can live, learn, shop, and prosper in small town U.S.A.

Educational System. Education is an important asset to Toulon area residents who ambitiously support their schools as an educational system preparing young people for careers in the 21st century.



Accomplishments and Works-in-Progress

- 1 The Toulon MAPPING group has created the Toulon Community Foundation. This group has received not-for profit 501(c)(3) status. Sub-committees have been formed to work on the following projects: public library/conference room, youth, Rock Island Trail, landscaping and lighting in the downtown area, and marketing.
- 1 The top priority is building the library/conference room. The project is expected to cost \$1.2 million. Several grants have been already been awarded, and a fund raising event will take place this year. The construction is planned to begin next year.
- 1 A major building on Main Street is being renovated to house a newspaper, coffee shop, and community room. The renovation will restore the exterior to its 1895 appearance. The newspaper will be produced weekly, with an electronic version available. There is currently no newspaper in the county.
- 1 Toulon is considering forming a co-op to produce ethanol, and a gasoline/ethanol mixture. Stark County is one of the highest in agricultural production in the state and would like to become an example of ethanol production. This group is talking with government agencies and other potential partners regarding this initiative.
- 1 The Toulon Community Foundation is active in welcoming new members to the community by supplying information on the community. In 1999 a

directory was compiled and a brochure was produced on the community. This is also given to prospective new residents and businesses.

- 1 Toulon is working to bring the Rock Island Trail into the center of town. The new coffee shop will provide riders a place to rest and eat.
- 1 A forestry student from Western Illinois University has completed a tree inventory. The Village is waiting for the report before taking further action.