A soil survey report has been written for a city to use as a guide in future expansion of resident, industry, business and recreational sites. Why is this important to the soil scientist mapping in agricultural areas? The same soil map that you are preparing for the farmer can also be used by a city planner, a realtor, an engineer, and many other people. The following is a brief summary of how a soil survey report came to be published for a town.

Mr. Ken Wenner is a soils extension specialist on the Lake County Extension Staff. Mr. Wenner was hired to assist the residents of Lake County in utilizing the progressive soil survey being conducted in that county. His salary is paid by the county with partial matching funds from Purdue University.

Mr. Wenner contacted Mr. John Bunnell, Director of Public Works in Munster in regard to several construction problems resulting from the soils in the area. The incorporated area of Munster covers approximately 7.5 square miles. Munster is located approximately 20 miles southeast of Chicago, Illinois and has a population of about 18,000 people.

Together these two men conceived the idea of publishing a soil survey report with interpretations for urban development. Members of the Munster Chamber of Commerce were consulted for their ideas and suggestions. Interest ran very high even to the extent that seven members agreed to finance the report.

A detailed soil map of the Munster area was completed by Alvin Zachary and James Weilbaker of the Purdue Soil Survey which was assisting the S.C.S. in Lake County. Mr. Wenner received assistance from Robert Montgomery, S.C.S. Soil Scientist and Harry Galloway Purdue Extension Agronomist in writing the descriptions.