

2004 GOODHUE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Goodhue County Land Use Management
Goodhue County Government Center
509 West Fifth Street ♦ Red Wing ♦ Minnesota ♦ 55066



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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AMENDMENTS

June 18, 2013
December 5, 2013

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

October 5, 2004

Moved by C/Bryant, seconded by C/Seifert and carried to approve the following resolution to update the Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan including the addition of historic to Goal 4:

WHEREAS, the Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan has not been updated since 1990; and
WHEREAS, Goodhue County, has experienced significant growth and change in the past 14 years; and
WHEREAS, the Goodhue County Land Use Management Office staff held numerous public meetings to take comment regarding the future of Goodhue County, in the form of an updated Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, said comments, together with the supporting documentation and procedures before the Goodhue County Planning Advisory Commission, led to the development of the draft Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Goodhue County Planning Advisory Commission conducted a public hearing on August 30, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on October 5, 2004; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts by resolution the 2004 Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan as presented, together with all records, supporting documentation, and comments collected during the planning process in all public hearings and in all meetings and actions of the Goodhue County Planning Advisory Commission.

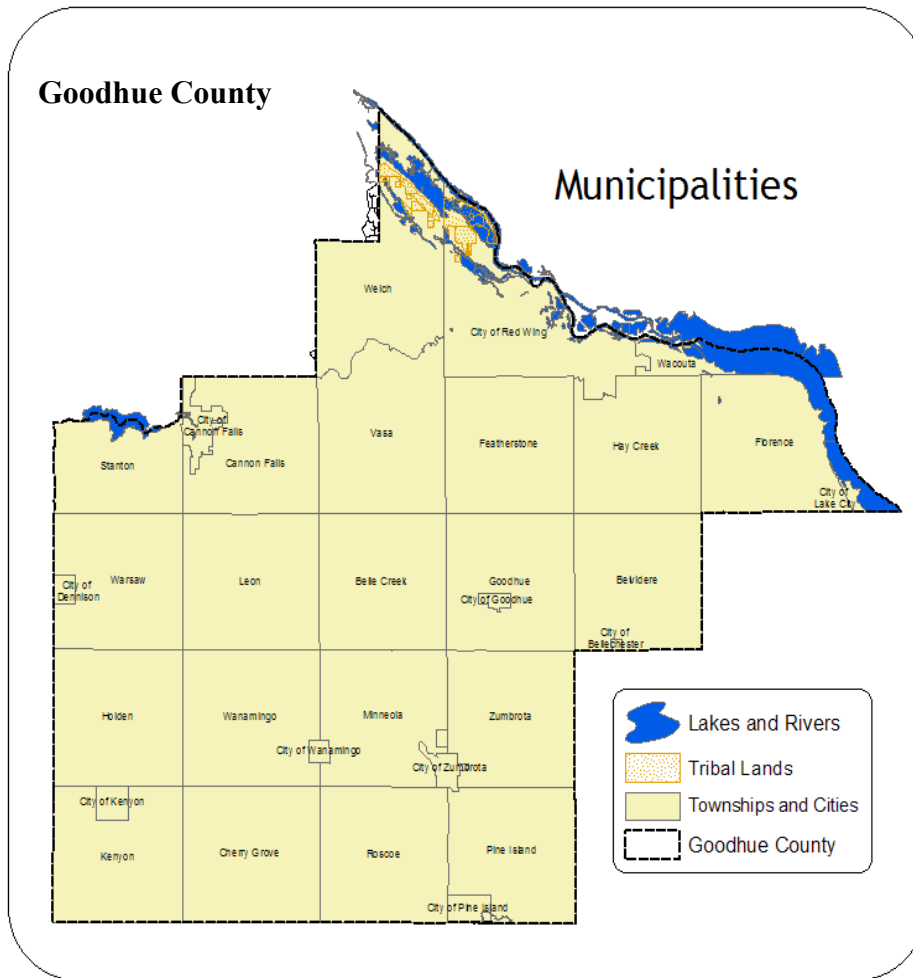
State of Minnesota
County of Goodhue

Bryant	Yes	<u> X </u>	No	<u> </u>
Grosso	Yes	<u> X </u>	No	<u> </u>
Seifert	Yes	<u> X </u>	No	<u> </u>
Noah	Yes	<u> X </u>	No	<u> </u>
Samuelson	Yes	<u> X </u>	No	<u> </u>

I, David Hamilton, duly appointed, County Administrator of the County of Goodhue, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Goodhue County, Minnesota at their session held on the 5th day of October, 2004, now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal at Red Wing, Minnesota, this 5th day of October, 2004.


David Hamilton
County Administrator



Statutory authority to carry on county planning and zoning

Minnesota State Statute 394.21

Subdivision 1. **Except most populous counties.** For the purpose of promoting the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community any county in the state having less than 300,000 population according to the 1950 federal census is authorized to carry on county planning and zoning activities.

Introduction

The update of the comprehensive plan evolved out of the extensive review of the existing physical conditions and planning influences, discussions with citizens and elected officials about desired community character, and analysis of likely future trends

The comprehensive plan serves as collective voice for the citizens in Goodhue County to articulate their vision for the future of the county. This update strives to express the values and standards that the citizens come to expect as a “way of life” for Goodhue County.

Plan Update

Timing

Due to unanticipated growth pressures the rate of change in Goodhue County has accelerated, creating a need for an improved planning tool to address those changes. This Comprehensive Plan Update seeks to provide that tool as a framework for growth, change and stability in Goodhue County for the next five years.

A series of public meetings were held to solicit input from Goodhue County Citizens in an effort to construct a comprehensive plan that is better aligned with current and projected conditions. Goals and a course of action to address those goals were developed as a result of the meetings. Please see the appendix for an overview of the public process.

Organization of the Comprehensive Plan Update

The Comprehensive Plan is organized into 6 Elements as determined by past and anticipated planning issues and public participation. Elements 1 through 5 were developed by the Land Use Management Department of Goodhue County through a public participation process. Element 6- Transportation was developed by the Public Works Department with the assistance of a consultant.

Table of Contents

Element 1: Land Use, Urban Expansion, and Growth Zones..2

GOAL 1: PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	2
GOAL 2: PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.....	3
GOAL 3: GROWTH IN CITIES AND RURAL MULTIPLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	4
GOAL 4: COMPATBLE LAND USES	6
GOAL 5: RESPONSE TO EXTRATERRITORIAL GROWTH PRESSURE.....	7
GOAL 6: BALANCED GROWTH.....	8
GOAL 7: MANAGEMENT OF NON-METALLIC MINERAL RESOURCES.....	9

Element 2: Housing and Livable Communities 11

GOAL 1: ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL LIFE STAGES	11
GOAL 2: PROVIDE A RANGE OF HOUSING TYPES FOR ALL INCOME LEVELS.....	12
GOAL 3: MAINTAIN EXISTING HOMES	13
GOAL 4: SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES	14
GOAL 5: INCLUSIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM	15
GOAL 6: ACCESS TO SERVICES.....	16
GOAL 7: PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE.....	17

Element 3: Conservation, Water, Sustainable Development18

GOAL 1: ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS	18
GOAL 2: CLEAN WATER NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE	19
GOAL 3: COUNTY WIDE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.....	20
GOAL 4: PROTECT CULTURAL, HISTORIC AND SCENIC AMMENITIES.....	21
GOAL 5: RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES	22
GOAL 6: PROTECT FLOODPRONE AREAS.....	23
GOAL 7: THE PRESERVATION OF NATIVE PLANT AN ANIMAL COMMUNITIES	24

Element 4: Public Investment, Cooperation, Information, Education..... 25

GOAL 1: IDENTIFY PUBLIC INVESTMENT NEEDS	25
GOAL 2: DEVELOP MUTUALLY BENIFICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES.....	26
GOAL 3: RESEARCH AND EDUCATION	27

Element 5: Economic Development 28

GOAL 1: AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY	28
GOAL 2: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.....	29
GOAL 3: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT	30
GOAL 4: RECREATION AND TOURISM.....	31

Element 6: Transportation 32

GOAL 1: SAFETY	32
GOAL 2: EFFICIENT MOVEMENT	32
GOAL 3: MULTIMODAL.....	32
GOAL 4: LAND USE/DEVELOPMENT.....	33
GOAL 5: COORDINATION BETWEEN JURISDICTIONS	33
GOAL 6: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	33
GOAL 7: INVESTMENTS AND USE OF FUNDING	34



Element 1: Land Use, Urban Expansion, and Growth Zones

GOAL 1: PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Preserve, and enhance the beauty, integrity and viability of the natural environment of the County.

SUMMARY

Information regarding the interdependence of environmental systems has been increasing in volume and accuracy. This increase in knowledge has highlighted the importance of protection of diversity of species, habitat, and conservation of natural resources to human health and wellbeing.

Policy

1. Preserve land features including wetlands and marshes, lakes and ponds, surface drainage areas, woodlands, bluff lands, animal habitat, significant topographical features and soils appropriate for agricultural use.
2. Area development shall be compatible with features of the natural environment, and shall be accomplished without the destruction of the environmental character or natural amenities with consideration given to the natural aesthetics of the area.
3. Environmental assessments shall be conducted for those developments which have the potential for affecting the existence or quality of any of the affected environmental features.
4. Subdivision controls shall establish guidelines to assure the acquisition of easements over existing watercourses to preserve the stability of the water course.
5. Alterations to the landscape which will tend to inhibit or eliminate the role of any natural drainage way in the hydrologic system shall not be permitted.
6. State Department of Natural Resources comment will be required on all development with a potential for affecting public waters or adjacent shorelands. It shall be incumbent upon developers to seek this input and accomplish any recommended mitigating measures.
7. Tree and vegetation removal may be limited in areas sensitive to erosion such as shoreland and bluffland or other areas designated with significant scenic and environmental values.
8. Proof of absorption and percolation rates within established sanitary code parameters shall be provided prior to construction of any development, whether urban or rural.
9. Areas determined incompatible for on-site sanitary sewer systems shall be subject to review by the County for development potential.
10. Impervious surface shall be kept to a minimum to preserve the natural percolation and drainage of the soil.



GOAL 2: PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

To preserve and protect agricultural land for sustained, long term use.

SUMMARY

Agricultural zoning districts have been established by the County to maintain and conserve agricultural interests and agricultural lands. Agricultural lands can be classified into two general categories: animal agriculture and crop production. An adequate supply of healthy livestock, poultry, and other animals along with the maintenance, conservation, and enhancement of crop production, pasture land, and natural habitat for plant and animal life have been identified through this process as a high priority.

Policy

1. Promote and preserve agricultural industries or uses in the agricultural lands of the County.
2. Promote sustained, long term, agricultural industry or use as the desired use on agricultural lands.
3. Lands outside the cities growth zones will be considered rural and shall be managed to preserve the rural character and the continued operation of agricultural uses, their inherent activities, and lifestyle.
4. Encourage farmers to adopt and maintain sound environmental practices to aid in soil erosion prevention practices, chemical application procedures, manure spreading, irrigation, odor control, to ensure a sustained agricultural use of the land.
5. Encourage cities to recognize the surrounding agricultural needs in their comprehensive plans.
6. Requests for land use changes or zoning changes in agricultural zone(s) will be based upon the relevant goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan Update. These decisions will take into account but not be limited to: the appropriateness of the requested change; soil type; Crop Equivalency Ratings, environmental impacts such as the impact on ground water; compatibility with surrounding land use; adjacent scenic values and landscape; surrounding housing density; preservation of agricultural lands; preservation of natural plant and animal communities; impact on existing infrastructure, including transportation; impact on agricultural practices and cumulative effects in a designated area.





GOAL 3: GROWTH IN CITIES AND RURAL MULTIPLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Encourage multiple housing growth in cities.

SUMMARY

Public discussions and research indicate that residential growth within the cities is the most efficient way to allocate urban resources and to preserve agricultural land. The county should encourage the growth and confinement of multiple housing developments within existing urban centers, provide for orderly, staged, diversified and compatible development of all cities of Goodhue County, and ensure an efficient transition from rural to urban land use.

Rural multiple housing developments (those which require a zoning change to a residential zoning designation) may occur outside the city growth zones only if certain criteria are met. The growth zones will be designated through a public process between the cities, townships, county, and its citizens. These zones will be areas projected for future growth and are adjacent to existing municipalities and unincorporated villages.

Policy

1. Support the efficient, orderly economic growth of the cities by encouraging redevelopment infill within the cities before expansion into rural areas.
2. Discourage the creation of new rural multiple housing developments.
3. Municipal growth zones shall be protected from development beyond what is permitted in the urban fringe or growth zoning district in order to provide for more efficient development when annexation occurs.
4. Discourage the leap-frog growth of rural multiple housing developments.
5. Discourage non-contiguous annexations, but support planned, staged growth that builds upon existing infrastructure.
6. Encourage joint planning efforts between Cities, Townships, and the County.
7. Promote a contrast in land use between cities and the agricultural areas surrounding them to allow the cities and communities to develop and maintain a clear visual demarcation of community borders.
8. Rural multiple housing developments outside the growth zones will provide more basic levels of services, such as single local road access, and individual or community wells and septic systems.
9. Rural residents and developments can expect agricultural, forestry, and mining activities within the vicinity of their homes.
10. Discourage developments that create irregular or piecemeal land divisions
11. Developers will assume the costs of public improvements as a result of their projects.
12. Rural multiple housing developments shall not be located in any natural hazard areas, such as floodplains, geological hazards, steep slopes, areas with severe drainage problems or soil limitations for building or sub-surface sewage disposal.
13. Rural multiple housing shall not be located in any rural areas that adversely impact the pre-existing agricultural uses to which adjoining property is already devoted, or which leads to an inefficient use of public resources.





14. Rural multiple housing developments will create visually appealing rural neighborhoods with little environmental impact.
15. Ponding areas and drainage courses are to be preserved and stormwater runoff from new development will be required to be controlled. It shall be incumbent upon the developer to provide and preserve new and existing drainage measures necessary to accommodate the new construction, whether on or off site.
16. Rural multiple housing development proposals will be evaluated, in concert with townships and cities within a two mile radius, based upon their cumulative impact on the existing surrounding land uses and the following criteria, including but not limited to: topography, vegetation, susceptibility to flooding, water storage, drainage and retention, water quality, the visual impact of the development, the proximity and protection of surrounding cultural and environmental amenities, the proximity and availability of existing infrastructure, and the physical suitability of the proposed density.

GOAL 4: COMPATIBLE LAND USES

Recognize the challenges and compatibility of present and future land use and strive for the most harmonious balance.

SUMMARY

The increasing desire to live outside of city limits has intermingled many non-farm residents amidst the farming community. The different expectations and values have led to an increased sensitivity to the land and its uses.

Policy

1. Consideration for the location, type, and intensity of surrounding existing land uses shall be taken into account during the process of reviewing permits or applications for the establishment of new or expanding land uses.
2. Manage the expansion of existing feedlots within the cities identified growth zones.
3. Encourage a process and appropriate expectations for minimizing impacts between incompatible uses such as landscape buffers and setbacks.





GOAL 5: RESPONSE TO EXTRATERRITORIAL GROWTH PRESSURE

Recognize and respond proactively to internal and external growth pressures.

SUMMARY

Through the public process the interconnected nature of the regional urban communities was acknowledged. The need for awareness of development and population trends outside of Goodhue County and the ability to predict, plan, and respond to the inevitable pressure was determined as an integral part of a controlled growth management strategy.

Policy

1. Encourage communication and participation in regional planning efforts.
2. Encourage compatible land uses along bordering jurisdictions.



GOAL 6: BALANCED GROWTH

To assure a balance and variety of land use needs.

SUMMARY

The variety of land uses that have emerged in Goodhue County have suggested that there is a need for a strategy to ensure a balanced response to land use needs. The balance between residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and undisturbed natural lands has been identified as vital to a healthy community.

Policy

1. Encourage co-existence with agriculture outside the cities growth zones in evaluating non-agricultural land uses.
2. Promote the balance of the amount of land required and the intensity of its use in evaluating new or expanded land uses with existing surrounding uses.
3. Encourage a rate and level of development that supports healthy economic, social, agricultural and natural systems within the County.



GOAL 7: MANAGEMENT OF NON-METALLIC MINERAL RESOURCES

Manage and maintain aggregate resources in future growth zones.

SUMMARY

Various non-metallic mineral resources of commercial value are present in Goodhue County. These include clay, peat, industrial sand and gravel, limestone and dolomite, and silica sand. The mining and use of some of these resources has played an important role in the development of Goodhue County.

Heightened interest in non-metallic mineral extraction has arisen in recent years due to increased demand for silica sand for use in the oil and natural gas industries. Increased public awareness regarding the potential for negative environmental impacts related to mineral extraction facilities and related transportation of various non-metallic mineral products emphasizes the need to thoughtfully plan and responsibly regulate this land use that has the potential to bring significant change to the Goodhue County Landscape.

County policies to guide management of Non-Metallic Mineral Resources are needed to support official controls including land use regulations and infrastructure investment programs and projects to protect the public health safety and welfare. Policies should strive to minimize land use conflicts and degradation of the County's scenic, recreational and natural resources while allowing limited opportunities for development of mineral extraction facilities.

In addition, it remains essential that the County's rural land use policies recognize the need to keep aggregate resources needed to supply local and regional infrastructure and development projects accessible into foreseeable future.

Policy

1. Protect environmentally sensitive areas. Utilize the County's Environmental Constraints Land Use Model (ECLUE) and all other available data resources as tools to evaluate potential impact on environmentally sensitive areas from mining of non-metallic mineral resources.
2. Establish and administer official controls to responsibly regulate non-metallic mineral extraction, processing and transportation facilities. This shall include any official controls that may be needed to address specific health issues or potential environmental impacts unique to silica sand mining, processing and transportation.
3. Evaluate any proposed new Mineral Extraction Facility or any proposed changes to any existing Mineral Extraction Facility to determine if the proposed project would be subject to requirements of the Minnesota Environmental Review program pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 116D.04 and 116D.045 and the administrative rules adopted by the EQB as Minnesota Rules, chapter 4410, parts 4410.0200 to 4410.7070.
4. Ensure that Environmental Review and/or Permitting Procedures for Non-Metallic Mineral Extraction Facilities follow the steps defined in the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Standards and Guidelines for the entire Area of Potential Effect (APE) for any proposed mineral extraction facility.
5. Plan and regulate the development, operation and reclamation of non-metallic mineral extraction facilities to be compatible with other rural land uses.



6. Require non-metallic mineral extraction, processing and transportation facilities to adhere to best management practices as recognized by Goodhue County.
7. Plan and regulate the use of land in rural Goodhue County to ensure on-going cost effective availability of aggregate to meet County and Regional needs.
8. Work closely with Goodhue County Townships and Cities to best determine areas within the county where various types of non-metallic mineral extraction and related activities may be most suitable from both land use compatibility and public acceptance standpoints.
9. Periodically analyze and evaluate demand versus supply of aggregate resources necessary to meet local needs.





Element 2: Housing and Livable Communities

Through its regulatory and legislative powers the county can greatly influence choices in housing types, location, density, and cost within its boundaries.

Quality housing is just one part of the livable communities' equation. Safety and community support, mobility, an adequate amount of open land, and parks, along with community identity also influences the quality of an individual's experience as a citizen of Goodhue County.



GOAL 1: ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL LIFE STAGES

To recognize the differing housing needs of citizens throughout their lifetime and to provide opportunities for those needs.

SUMMARY

Predicted demographic changes show a trend toward a large aging population. Housing needs differ in all age groups and Goodhue County needs to recognize the housing needs of our growing and changing population.

Policy

1. Encourage cities to provide a mix of housing styles in new developments to accommodate the range of age groups' needs.
2. Encourage cities to take into account current and predicted demographic projections in new developments.
3. Encourage the cities to cluster housing units to create opportunities of mixed uses, common open spaces, and the more efficient use of utilities and streets.
4. County continue to support SEMCHRA.





GOAL 2: PROVIDE A RANGE OF HOUSING TYPES FOR ALL INCOME LEVELS

Encourage diverse housing stock to meet a wide-range of community needs.

SUMMARY

Home ownership lends stability and a sense of community to its citizens. Adequate, economical housing is important to the economic and social wellbeing of the citizens of Goodhue County and is a priority issue.

Policy

1. Goodhue County will encourage the coordination of efforts with each city in order to avoid potential conflicts with respect to countywide housing opportunities and demand.
2. Encourage an adequate supply of new and rehabilitated housing units for rental, or purchase by low and moderate-income families and individuals through support of, and participation in, state and federal programs.
3. Encourage cities to continue to administer the Minnesota State Building Codes to ensure safe, efficient buildings, mechanical, and plumbing systems for all new construction.
4. Encourage cities to research and potentially implement rental code standards and inspections in order to provide safe and maintained rental units.
5. Encourage sufficient housing opportunities near job centers.



GOAL 3: MAINTAIN EXISTING HOMES

Promote the ongoing maintenance of the existing housing stock.



SUMMARY

Existing housing stock provides for the continuity of a community's history and represents stability for our neighborhoods. The existing homes are a valuable resource as infrastructure (roads, sewer and water) are typically in place. If maintained, these structures would serve as a vital housing resource for Goodhue County for years to come.

Policy

1. Continue to administer the Minnesota State Building Codes to ensure safe, efficient buildings, mechanical, and plumbing systems for all new construction, including remodeling and additions to existing structures.
2. Encourage the preservation and restoration of housing of historic value.



GOAL 4: SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

SUMMARY

For many communities, rapid growth can cause a loss of the supportive connections that develops between families, generations, and neighbors. Goodhue County should strive to build communities that integrate and support citizens of all backgrounds and abilities.

Policy

1. Support the development of neighborhoods that are a mix of ages and abilities.
2. Encourage cities to provide community designs that lend themselves to safer living conditions through lighting, street orientation, and house spacing.
3. Home occupations in areas outside the cities will apply to very low density residential and agricultural areas where small-scale, family-operated, home-craft industry or repair service has been traditionally carried on; such uses will be reasonable regulated, subject to limitations on location, scale, performance characteristics, commercial character, and visibility from bounding roads or adjoining property.



GOAL 5: INCLUSIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Assure a variety of transportation options to provide mobility for all citizens of Goodhue County.

SUMMARY

Transportation needs differ according to age, income and location. Many individuals do not have access to an automobile. Transportation within and between communities in Goodhue County is important in providing a choice in employment, health care, and educational opportunities.

Policy

1. Encourage local and regional transportation departments to explore multi-modal transportation options.



GOAL 6: ACCESS TO SERVICES

Ensure the citizens of Goodhue County access to necessary services to maintain a healthy life style.

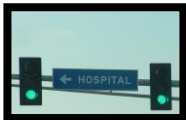


SUMMARY

As the population ages, there is a greater need for health and life maintenance assistance. A need for these services will increase along with a need for funding to meet the demand.

Policy

1. Continue to work with Public Health and the cities in developing strategies for evaluating current and future needs of the community and access to health services.



GOAL 7: PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE

The creation and preservation of open space and undeveloped natural areas are an important value in Goodhue County.

SUMMARY

Studies have show that healthy communities provide for plenty of park land and open space for its citizens. It was determined in the public process that more could be done to keep our natural areas a priority in Goodhue County.

Policy

1. Support the Goodhue County Park Board in its effort to create a county-wide park plan.
2. Support the development of the current County park.
3. Require residential developments to design open spaces within their plans.
4. Support new and existing trail opportunities.



Element 3: Conservation, Water, Sustainable Development

GOAL 1: ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

In order to maintain healthy communities interdependent environmental systems must be protected.

SUMMARY

Conservation of natural areas, the maintenance, and improvement of water quality, and a built environment that does not compromise our natural resources were established as priorities for Goodhue County. Understanding and preserving our environmental system was determined to be an important legacy for future generations of citizens.

Policy

1. New or expanding land uses shall take into account the environmental impact of the proposed project, by referring to such information as the Natural Resource Inventory, the Geological Atlas, two foot contours, and other available datasets and outline mitigation strategies if necessary.
2. New or expanding land uses shall also take into account the cumulative environmental impact of surrounding development.



GOAL 2: CLEAN WATER NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

Ensure clean water now and for the future of Goodhue County

SUMMARY

Utilizing new information in the form of maps and research, we can gain a better understanding of our natural water systems and how they work. The protection and improvement of water quality was determined by Goodhue County Residents to be integral in sustaining a healthy community.

Policy

1. Promote resource planning on a watershed basis.
2. Establish a baseline for water quality.
3. Support policies that maintain or improve the baseline for water quality.
4. Encourage policies that ensure prudent applications of chemical and fertilizer use in agricultural, residential and commercial use to protect the ground water and environmentally sensitive habitats.
5. Identify critical areas for recharge, sink holes and fault lines and protect these areas from land uses that could adversely affect water quality.
6. Incorporate the Goodhue County Water Plan into the Comprehensive Plan.



GOAL 3: COUNTY WIDE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Ensure continued planning for future solid waste management for the entire county

SUMMARY

It has become increasingly difficult and costly to locate new properties for solid waste storage. Processes need to be established that adequately meet the solid waste needs of the entire Goodhue County. The cumulative effects on the environment including degradation of water quality and the ability for the soil to absorb effluence from current wastewater systems was identified as a concern for Goodhue County.

Policy

1. Support the monitoring and review of sewage and wastewater treatment systems.
2. Support effective and efficient solid waste management processes and practices.
3. Support reclamation/recycling as an important part of our waste management system.
4. Support update of The Goodhue County Solid Waste Management Plan.



GOAL 4: PROTECT CULTURAL, HISTORIC AND SCENIC AMMENITIES

Protect our cultural, historic and scenic areas from the built environment

SUMMARY

The scenic beauty of Goodhue County was sited as one of our most distinctive features. Bluff lands, river valleys, farmland and woodland were all mentioned as having significant importance. Concern was expressed that these views not be lost to the built environment.

Policy

1. Sign controls measures shall be in place along county roads and highways to preserve the unobstructed view of the natural beauty of the County.
2. An adequate amount of open space shall be preserved.
3. The natural, historic and cultural visual elements that define a community's sense of place shall be preserved.
4. Development and other land use activities shall be compatible with the natural environment and accomplished without destroying environmental character or natural amenities.
5. Development and other land use activities shall be compatible with the cultural environment, historic structures and historic districts and accomplished without destroying the historical and cultural character or amenities.
6. Community design patterns shall promote effective and efficient use of natural, historic and cultural resources.



GOAL 5: RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Encourage the use of sustainable animal and crop agricultural practices.

SUMMARY

Ensure long term productive, profitable agriculture.

Policy

1. Encourage policies that ensure prudent applications of chemical and fertilizer use in agricultural production to protect the ground water and environmentally sensitive habitats.
2. Encourage best practices for waste handling; manure spreading, pest control, fertilizer application, and erosion control.



GOAL 6: PROTECT FLOODPRONE AREAS

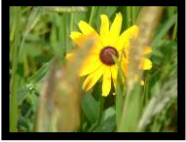
Protect flood prone areas from inappropriate development and excessive or accelerated shore land degradation.

Policy

1. Measures shall be taken to ensure the avoidance of short or long term flooding and runoff problems.
2. Floodplain regulation shall be regularly reviewed, updated, and enforced on a consistent basis.
3. Encroachments into watercourses or floodplains which would reduce their water carrying ability below natural capacity shall not be allowed.



GOAL 7: THE PRESERVATION OF NATIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITIES



SUMMARY

Native animal and plant communities that are linked together are necessary for the health of various natural communities. Communities that are fragmented by roads, urban development and agricultural practices are compromised and linear connection must be maintained.

Policy

1. New and expanded land uses shall use the Natural Resources Inventory and other Rare and Endangered Species data to determine if the project is negatively impacting native plant or animal communities.
2. Protect sensitive natural areas from human disturbance.





Element 4: Public Investment, Cooperation, Information, Education

GOAL 1: IDENTIFY PUBLIC INVESTMENT NEEDS

Account for the full environmental, social, and economic cost of new development, including but not limited to infrastructure costs such as transportation, sewers and waste water treatment, water, schools, recreation, and open space.



SUMMARY

It has become increasingly difficult to fund new infrastructure while maintain existing infrastructure.

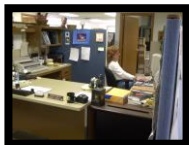
Policy

1. Ensure the most effective and efficient use of public resources.
2. A plan shall be in place to determine future demand for resources and the County's response to those needs.
3. The cumulative social and environmental cost shall be taken into consideration when allowing for new development.



GOAL 2: DEVELOP MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES

Explore opportunities to share ideas, information, and resources beneficial to all Goodhue County citizens.

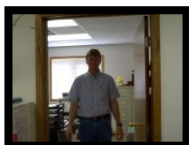


SUMMARY

Research and data gathering necessary to develop dynamic decision making tools can be costly and time consuming. Through discussions with other agencies, it has become apparent that much of the data needed for educated decision making may be information already gathered by other agencies or of similar use to other agencies. Priority was placed on developing mutually beneficial partnerships to save resources.

Policy

1. Sharing of resources and information shall be investigated and made use of in responding to County development issues.
2. Continue to support the County/City staff meetings to discuss cost sharing ideas.





GOAL 3: RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

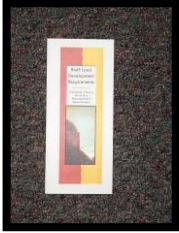
Support research and educational opportunities for the public concerning growth and environmental issues.

SUMMARY

As regional growth pressures increase, Goodhue County is facing accelerated demands to provide more and more development opportunities. Allocation, mitigation, preservation and education regarding resources need to be addressed at a county-wide level.

Policy

1. Promote opportunities to communicate with the citizens of Goodhue County concerning land development and resource management.
2. Initiate, coordinate and require research as necessary.



Element 5: Economic Development



GOAL 1: AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

SUMMARY

Agricultural based industries play an essential part of preserving agriculture in Goodhue County.

Policy

1. The county will encourage industry that compliments and enhances existing agricultural infrastructure.
2. The county will foster the preservation and growth of existing agricultural industry.
3. The county will seek ways to preserve the land to support agricultural industry.
4. The county will support the development of innovative industrial agricultural uses such as ethanol production, wind generation, buckwheat cleaning.
5. The county will support value added agricultural industry.





GOAL 2: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Encourage the preservation and development of industrial areas within urban growth boundaries.

SUMMARY

Industrial development is important to the economic vitality of Goodhue County.

Policy

1. The county will encourage higher waged industrial jobs.
2. The county will promote the utilization of the JOBZ programs.
3. The county will encourage industry that is energy conserving and energy efficient. Energy efficient and conservation measures will promote the following: efficient building, manufacturing, and heating practices; cogeneration systems including the burning of wastes; and utilization of new and alternative systems.
4. The county will encourage growth of industrial development which utilizes our local agricultural products and resources.
5. Heavy industrial uses with seasonal or high nuisance characteristics will be encouraged to locate or relocate only in or immediately adjacent to urban areas where all required services are available, well removed and shielded from existing or projected residential development; and conversely, that prime heavy industrial sites will be identified and protected from encroachment of other urban uses pending acquisition and development.
6. Industrial growth and development should be directed to occur within the cities where adequate municipal services are available. Growth zones should be protected from development beyond what is permitted in the urban fringe or growth zoning district in order to provide for more efficient development when annexation occurs.
7. Industrial uses will be located so that adequate buffer space is provided between incompatible land uses.
8. Agricultural, forestry, and mineral resource-oriented industry will be accommodated in areas close to the resources utilized, provided that such industrial uses are compatible with any nearby urban development, city water supply and sewerage are not required, and waste discharges constitute no threat to the environment.
9. Industrial development will utilize the transportation system in an efficient and safe manner.

GOAL 3: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Preserve commercial development for cities central business districts

SUMMARY

Create an environment for commercial development which will preserve and enhance the vitality of the central business districts, assure more convenient and attractive community and neighborhood commercial centers, and protect prime commercial sites for use in advance of need.

Policy

1. Discourage the development of strip type, multiple access, commercial and industrial development.
2. Commercial uses unsuited to downtown areas will be directed to other appropriately zoned areas within the cities before consideration of locating within County zoning areas.
3. Goodhue County will adopt landscape and design criteria for all forms of commercial development occurring outside urban growth boundaries.
4. To maintain the integrity and function of highway system, new commercial development shall be discouraged along the route of any limited access highway.



GOAL 4: RECREATION AND TOURISM

Recreation and tourism contribute to the Goodhue County economy and quality of life by directly and indirectly supporting local

SUMMARY

The Inventory document for this Comprehensive Plan includes a section on “Recreation and Tourism (pages 64-66). Key recreation and tourism uses and activities are identified including: preserved natural lands; historic sites and tourism amenities; recreational facilities; airports, marinas, boat access and dams; and recreational trails.

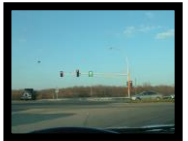
Policy

1. Recognize public and private recreation facilities and activities that serve both the local population and visitors.
2. Recognize economic benefits generated by recreation and tourism businesses and activities.
3. Consider potential impacts on recreation and tourism when evaluating proposed land use changes.
4. Coordinate with local Chambers of Commerce, Tourism Organizations, the State of Minnesota, the Prairie Island Indian Community, and existing recreation and tourism oriented businesses to promote Goodhue County.

Element 6: Transportation



NOTE: The Goodhue County Transportation Plan was completed as a separate document by the Public Works Department of Goodhue County. Both plans address the need to work in conjunction with each other and are mutually referenced. The format of the transportation plan differs from the first five elements. The goal statements are included as they appear in the transportation plan as the 6th element of this plan. The transportation plan is also referenced in the inventory document of the Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan 2003 Update.



GOAL 1: SAFETY

Develop and maintain a transportation network that promotes safety for its users by;

- Reviewing County roadway geometrics and identifying improvement needs.
- Enforcing speed limits along principal arterial routes (e.g., TH 52).
- Addressing problems at high-crash locations (locations to be determined through technical analysis).



GOAL 2: EFFICIENT MOVEMENT

Strive to ensure that the transportation network promotes the efficient movement of people and goods by:

- Maintaining County roadway infrastructure.
- Providing roadways serving new development areas and planning future urban bypass routes with affected governments.
- Constructing improved County highway linkages to major State Highway improvements.
- Reviewing the current functional classification system, and proposing a new 2020 framework.
- Encouraging consistency between roadway jurisdiction, designation and functional classification.



GOAL 3: MULTIMODAL

Promote transportation mode choice as part of the County transportation system by:

- Preparing a County-wide recreation trail system map that is coordinated with the cities throughout the County.
- Utilizing the trail system plan to incorporate bike and pedestrian improvements into the appropriate County road upgrades.
- Establishing County connections to regional trail systems.
- Expanding major private employers' existing commuter transit programs for employees that live in Goodhue County.



- Encouraging Mn/DOT to construct park-and-ride lots, as part of the US 52 reconstruction program, to promote ridesharing.
- Assuring good connectivity of agricultural product movement to the Port of Red Wing for rail and barge intermodal transfers.
- Evaluating the potential benefit of, and if feasible, supporting extension of the proposed Red Rock Commuter Rail System from Hastings to Red Wing.

GOAL 4: LAND USE/DEVELOPMENT

Recognize the linkage between Goodhue County's desired growth and its transportation system to ensure that decisions regarding transportation are fully integrated with locally approved land use planning and development policies by:



- Identifying and preserving potential transportation corridors, utilizing such tools as official mapping, footprinting and new subdivision requirements.
- Managing access along State and County arterial roadways in accordance with local and State spacing guidelines.
- Identifying growth areas within the County, and evaluating the impacts of proposed land use on the transportation system.
- Utilizing smart growth techniques to balance mobility and access; economic development with system preservation; and agricultural preservation with urbanization policies.
- Providing the County Public Work's Department an opportunity to review land use, zoning and subdivision proposals as they move through the development review process.



GOAL 5: COORDINATION BETWEEN JURISDICTIONS

Build cooperation and coordination among state and local jurisdictions by:

- Encouraging Mn/DOT to implement, in a timely manner, IRC improvement plans; sufficiently coordinated with the County and its jurisdictions so that local road connections can be planned.
- Seeking opportunities to coordinate roadway improvement plans with adjacent counties and an adjoining state.
- Reviewing and proposing logical jurisdictional modifications for discussion among affected governments.
- Promoting cooperative intergovernmental maintenance activities that increase efficiency and effectiveness of services.



GOAL 6: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Recognize economic development issues when managing the transportation system's resources by:

- Preparing a ten-ton roadways system plan.
- Developing a County trail system that supports economic development endeavors.



- Ensuring that major economic development generators are adequately served by the overall transportation system.

GOAL 7: INVESTMENTS AND USE OF FUNDING

Investigate opportunities to secure new funding for transportation needs and maximize the efficiency of current resources by:



- Preserving, maintaining and managing the existing highway system.
- Examining the current system designation and seek changes in state assistance.
- Preparing an impact fee negotiation procedure with major private developers as part of the permitting process.
- Securing federal transportation funding for priority multimodal improvements.
- Encouraging joint-agency and/or public-private partnerships, and cost sharing strategies.
- Updating the County's project priority list for incorporation into the County's Capital Improvement Plan.
- Exploring and developing new strategies to balance the realities of construction and maintenance needs with available financial resources.



Supporting Documentation Located In

2004

Inventory Document

Goodhue County

Comprehensive Plan