

Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

**Date:** July 9, 2024  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The following actions were taken at the July 9, 2024, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota.

## **County Board adopts 2024-2029 Countywide Strategic Plan to guide decision-making**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to adopt the 2024-2029 Countywide Strategic Plan July 9.

The plan seeks to create alignment within the organization and guide county decision-making over the next several years. Washington County's previous strategic plan was developed over 10 years ago and reached its sunset in 2020. Much has changed since then, both within the organization and the communities the county serves. The 2024-2029 Countywide Strategic Plan reflects these changes.

The 2024-2029 strategic plan was developed through extensive engagement with stakeholders, including the County Board. The plan includes the county's updated mission, vision, and values statements. It also outlines four strategic priorities the county will focus on over the next several years, including Organizational Excellence, Safe Communities and Thriving People, Strong and Sustainable Environment, and Financial Health and Capacity.

The strategic plan clearly defines goals and objectives for each priority and establishes measures for tracking progress and accountability.

Following the adoption of the strategic plan, county staff will begin working on an implementation plan to put the plan into action. The implementation plan is expected to begin this fall.

**Contact: Emily Jorgensen, Planning Manager, 651-430-6011**

## **County receives two awards for monarch butterfly habitat conservation**

Washington County's Public Works Department received two awards for protecting and growing monarch butterfly habitats.

The awards were presented to county staff by the Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances Program (MCCAA), a voluntary program aimed at protecting and growing monarch butterfly habitats within roads' right-of-way.

The county received the Biggest Adopter Award given to partners with the most acres using adopted conservation measures. The county also received the Highflyer Award given to partners with the highest percentage of adopted acres above their 2023 target.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized staff for the awards July 9.

The Public Works Department intends to continue participating in this program to help establish, restore and maintain the monarch butterfly population in Washington County.

**Contact: Wayne Sandberg, Public Works Director, 651-430-4339**

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