



Chapter 3

Goals and Policies

Table of Contents

Table of Contents3-i

Executive Summary 3-1

 2040 Comprehensive Plan Intent 3-1

 Goals, Policies and Strategies 3-1

 Goals: 3-2

 Policies: 3-2

 Strategies: 3-2

Land Use Goals, Policies and Strategies 3-3

Transportation Goals, Policies and Strategies 3-8

Water Resources Goals, Policies and Strategies 3-12

Parks, Trails and Open Space Goals, Policies and Strategies 3-16

Housing Goals, Policies and Strategies 3-19

Resilience and Sustainability Goals, Policies and Strategies 3-23

Economic Competitiveness Goals, Policies and Strategies 3-27

Executive Summary

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan is structured around core plan elements (i.e., land use, transportation, water resources, parks, trails, and open space, housing, resilience and sustainability, and economic competitiveness) that provide information on existing conditions and assumptions for the future. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan's goals, policies and strategies were developed to help set the stage for future decision making and actions for each of these plan elements. These should serve as the Comprehensive Plan's guiding principles that reflect the County's values and vision for the next twenty years. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan's goals, policies, and strategies are outlined throughout this chapter.

2040 Comprehensive Plan Intent

As part of the plan's public engagement efforts, the intent of the Comprehensive Plan emerged. The plan intent is a broad statement that encompasses the overarching aspirations of the plan. More importantly, this statement reflects the public's desire to maintain the County's unique character.

To accommodate the county's projected population growth of 79,185 people between 2018 and 2040 while incorporating sustainable growth and preserving the natural, cultural, and historic characteristics of the county.

This statement reflects the county's intent while updating the Comprehensive Plan. In that respect, the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Intent statement was used to help shape the overall plan's goals, policies and strategies.

Goals, Policies and Strategies

This chapter is meant to be employed as a tool for decision makers and residents. Therefore, the goals, policies, and strategies have been organized by plan element into a convenient matrix that aligns each goal with underlying policies and strategies. Elements may be duplicative across plan elements, as different county systems must work together to achieve the County's desired image by 2040. Specifically, the Comprehensive Plan goals, policies, and strategies work together to achieve the following:

- To promote the health, safety, and quality of life of residents.
- To provide accessible, high-quality services in a timely and respectful manner.
- To address today's needs while proactively planning for the future.
- To maintain public trust through responsible use of public resources, accountability, and openness of government.

These objectives are carried forward through each of the plan elements' goals, policies and strategies. These are further defined below:

Goals: Goals serve as broad statements for desired outcomes.

Policies: Policies provide specific direction needed to achieve a goal.

Strategies: Strategies provide detailed actions that policy makers can employ to realize the stated policies.



This chapter is meant to serve as a comprehensive collection of goals, policies, and strategies for the entire comprehensive plan. It is intended to be used in conjunction with all the plan elements. However, it is also designed to serve as a stand-alone document that can be referenced without corresponding plan elements. Throughout the entirety of this plan the goals, policies, and strategies specific to each individual plan element will be located at the beginning of each chapter and be replicated exactly as they are found here, in Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Land Use Goals, Policies and Strategies

| Land Use Goal 1: Utilize land and related natural, cultural, and water resources in the shoreland and riverways, so they are conserved for future generations. | |
|--|--|
| Land Use Policy | Land Use Strategy |
| Regulate land use for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Washington County. | Maintain land use regulations that provide for the orderly growth and renewal of the county; allow wise use of the land; protect and conserve the county’s natural resources and ecological systems; and provide for economic stability. |
| | <p>Collaborate with other agencies to implement a variety of strategies to protect the groundwater and surface water quality, and sensitive natural features such as wetlands, steep slopes, and native plant communities when making land use decisions.</p> <p>Where practical, encourage the extension of sewer and water lines to well advisory areas and areas that have been identified with groundwater contamination.</p> <p>Protect groundwater through the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Ordinance.</p> <p>Plan land use patterns that will facilitate groundwater recharge to protect the region’s water supply.</p> <p>Follow the Lower St. Croix Riverway land development regulations.</p> <p>Observe present floodplain rules while anticipating reduced assistance for flood protection.</p> <p>Identify, acknowledge, and seek alternatives to preserve, rehabilitate, and restore important cultural or historic sites, structures, and landscapes during the development process.</p> <p>Collaborate with local governments and watershed management organizations when setting their policies and regulations and when making land use decisions.</p> <p>Follow the policies and strategies contained in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Plan Chapter.</p> |
| Promote the proper management of natural, historic, and cultural resources for future generations. | |
| Support the preservation of natural and open landscapes of the county’s rural areas. | Support township land use regulations that allow open space developments whereby residential structures are clustered on small lots, leaving some land undivided for common use by all residents of the development, for lease to a farmer, or for conveyance to a public or a conservancy organization. |
| | Require adequate buffers from mining operations in order to preserve viewsheds from road corridors. |
| | Support programs to promote and manage roads that have significant scenic and/or historic value. |
| | Promote sensitive road design, bicycle-facility planning, signage, and regulations addressing building setbacks, site planning, and clearcutting along roadways designated as scenic. |
| | Encourage communities to identify important natural areas that will be preserved during the development process. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Conserve long-term land use options.</p> | <p>Regulate land uses and densities adjacent to developing communities to preserve the option for future urban development.</p> |
| | <p>Gradually expand the urban service area to meet demand.</p> |
| | <p>Support staged growth areas within communities, orderly annexation agreements, and joint powers agreements developed cooperatively between cities and townships in defined future metropolitan urban service areas.</p> |
| <p>Encourage sustainable agriculture as a land use and a viable economic activity in the county.</p> | <p>Encourage land use regulations that allow agricultural uses, particularly in prime farmland areas.</p> |
| | <p>Encourage land use regulations that locate incompatible uses away from agricultural areas to minimize conflicts.</p> |
| | <p>Take actions to ensure farmers’ abilities to maintain their farms and to provide a variety of farming opportunities.</p> |
| | <p>Support using sound scientific methods to assess agriculture and turf management impacts to groundwater resources and to develop education and best management practices programs.</p> |
| <p>Help maintain financially healthy governments through the wise planning of land and public facilities such as roads, parks, trails, and buildings.</p> | <p>Encourage communities to request expansions of the Metropolitan Urban Service Area in a gradual manner based upon analyses of available land, forecasted growth, and the capacity of regional systems.</p> |
| | <p>Encourage low development densities in rural areas not served by public waste treatment facilities, so as to preclude the need for untimely extension of public sewer or water lines.</p> |
| | <p>Coordinate county road improvement plans and land uses.</p> |
| | <p>Provide access to the county road system according to the county access standards.</p> |
| | <p>During the subdivision and development review process, identify, dedicate, or acquire future trail easements if they are identified on the county master plan system or provide a community link.</p> |
| | <p>Coordinate the Recreation and Open Space System Plan (see Chapter 7) with land uses and recreational facilities in local communities.</p> |
| | <p>Plan and site county facilities (e.g., service centers, libraries, roads, and parks) to support designated land uses.</p> |
| | <p>When possible, identify potential mining sites, and ensure county regulation does not preclude the feasibility of mining as a use.</p> |

| Land Use Goal 2: Support the growth of attractive urban communities while preserving rural functions and appearances. | |
|---|---|
| Land Use Policy | Land Use Strategy |
| Foster a low-density, truly rural land use pattern in areas without public sewer and water. | Support the extension of utilities and expansion of the Metropolitan Urban Service Area to strategically influence development patterns and safeguard the region’s rural character. |
| Encourage transit-oriented development (TOD), pedestrian-oriented, neotraditional, suburban-style growth that uses land in an efficient manner in locations that connect to transportation and transit systems. | Encourage communities to adopt higher densities and mixed land uses within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area that support multimodal transportation, transit-oriented development. |
| | Encourage communities to revitalize or expand traditional commercial districts in keeping with their present function and appearance. |
| | Encourage communities to approve developments that have a pedestrian orientation, civic focus, and preserve historic structures and districts. |
| | Encourage communities to keep local streets interconnected and relatively narrow so as to disperse and slow traffic. |
| | Encourage communities to efficiently reuse land through infill development, rehabilitation, and selective redevelopment. |
| | Review future planned land use designations to ensure that options for high-density development in the county’s planned transitways, transit corridors, and nodes are retained. |
| Recognize and plan for the county's share of metropolitan growth. | Encourage communities within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area to plan for staged, serviced residential, commercial, and industrial growth to the limits of the area. |
| Promote land uses throughout the county that encourage active and sustainable living. | Encourage cities to plan residential, commercial, office, and industrial developments that support transit, especially along identified transit corridors. |
| | Encourage cities and developers to create development patterns, including mixed land uses that provide good pedestrian and non-motorized circulation to provide the opportunities for residents to be more physically active. |
| Encourage land uses that promote a full spectrum of life cycle housing types for all incomes, ages, and races. | |

Land Use Goal 3: Design the land use plan to support economic development.

| Land Use Policy | Land Use Strategy |
|---|---|
| Locate commercial and industrial growth where urban services are available; continue to prohibit commercial and industrial land use in unsewered areas. | Zone commercial and industrial development in areas with urban services and with access to transportation systems capable of supporting the land uses. Encourage the extension of sanitary sewer lines and water mains to previously unserved areas in order to accommodate imminent demand for office, industrial, retail, or service businesses that appear to have potential for significant numbers of jobs and increases in the tax base. |
| Promote commercial and industrial development in planned clusters such as business parks and mixed-use developments. | Review the Development Code to ensure that it allows for this type of development. |
| Provide for the removal and processing of sand and gravel, rock, soil, and other aggregate materials vital to the economic well-being of the region, while protecting adjacent land uses from adverse impacts. | Administer the Washington County Mining Regulations. |
| Support land use patterns that efficiently connect housing, jobs, transportation, transit, and retail and commercial centers. | Support development that accommodates non-motorized travel and provides connections to housing, services, jobs, and open space. |

Land Use Goal 4: Work to retain important historic contexts and features, including structures, landscapes, archaeological sites, and pedestrian-oriented village development patterns.

| Land Use Policy | Land Use Strategy |
|---|---|
| Continue to acknowledge the county’s history when planning, preserving, and developing its infrastructure. | Through the environmental review and Section 106 process, follow state and federal laws in protecting historic sites on the Historic Register when designing and siting county sponsored projects such as facilities, roads, parks, and other physical structures. Avoid impacts where possible and mitigate where not. Be sensitive to sites that are not on the National Register but which are historically important locally or are locally designated. Review and update landscaping and maintenance work to include historically-accurate plantings and design features to accommodate use of the grounds by public and private clients. Use information from the Washington County Historic Contexts Study, as well as state and local contexts, as a baseline for evaluating properties. Use historical information and assessments in county planning processes. Investigate opportunities to identify and interpret historic Native American activities in the Washington County park system. |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Continue to preserve natural, scenic, open, and agricultural landscapes and encourage preservation of historic sites through land planning activities.</p> | <p>Encourage low-density housing development and site new houses carefully through lot averaging and open space design developments.</p> |
| | <p>Advocate development that is in keeping with historic town land use patterns.</p> |
| | <p>Encourage open space developments as a way to preserve historic landscapes.</p> |
| | <p>Analyze the impact on historical resources during the development process.</p> |
| <p>Provide stewardship of county-owned historic properties.</p> | <p>Encourage local governments and others to preserve significant historic sites, such as churches, residences, industrial sites, bridges, railroad depots, archaeological sites, and landscapes.</p> |
| | <p>Consider public and private funding sources to adequately maintain the county’s historic properties.</p> |
| <p>Collaborate with the Washington County Historical Society, cities, and others to promote and interpret county history with events and public information.</p> | <p>Identify opportunities to acquire, preserve, rehabilitate, or restore important cultural or historic sites, structures, and landscapes.</p> |
| | <p>Support the interpretation of historic structures and contexts located in county parks.</p> |
| | <p>Include a historic preservation and stewardship component in all Washington County park master plans.</p> |
| <p>Provide information on historic sites to the appropriate organization as surveys and information are available.</p> | <p>Investigate a county signage program along county roads and trails to identify and/or interpret historic sites.</p> |
| | <p>Continue supporting activities at the Washington County Historic Courthouse that foster knowledge and appreciation of the county's heritage.</p> |
| | <p>Work with the State Historical Preservation Office and local history groups to maintain and provide information on historic sites.</p> |
| | <p>Help provide information to aid historic preservation.</p> |
| <p>Encourage communities to preserve historic properties through their planning and preservation efforts.</p> | <p>Document and evaluate the historical aspects of county owned properties as part of maintenance and development plans.</p> |
| | <p></p> |

Transportation Goals, Policies and Strategies

| Transportation Goal 1: Plan, build, and maintain an interconnected and accessible transportation system that considers all users and modes of travel. | |
|---|---|
| Transportation Policy | Transportation Strategy |
| Coordinate transportation mobility and choice to meet a diversity of needs while considering appropriate systems levels of service. | Support levels and types of transit service that match specific needs of the community based on ridership forecasts, development patterns, and mobility needs. |
| | Provide information on availability of transit service to encourage greater use. |
| | Integrate non-motorized accommodations into the design of roadway and transit facilities to increase access to destinations. |
| | Adopt a bicycle and pedestrian plan to address county recreation and transportation needs. |
| Work with partners to identify and coordinate transportation system improvements to accommodate growth and development. | Coordinate with municipalities, the Metropolitan Council, and MnDOT to assign roads to their appropriate functional classification and jurisdiction. |
| | Balance existing and planned land uses with county goals through transportation planning. |
| | Identify gaps in trail network and prioritize investments to improve non-motorized access to destinations. |
| Ensure broad participation in transportation planning and decision making. | Complete annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) review process to identify fiscally responsible system improvements that are consistent with county priorities and meet the needs of municipalities. |
| Support regional planning activities to enhance interagency collaboration and coordination. | Contribute to local, regional, and state transportation coalitions and advisory teams. |
| | Coordinate with partners, including the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, to preserve, maintain, and expand the regional and state trail networks. |
| Pursue federal, state, regional, and local funding opportunities to preserve, maintain, expand, and modernize the transportation network. | Strategically apply for funding to offset county investment needed for the transportation system. |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Coordinate with partners to achieve the goals included in the other chapters of the Washington County 2040 Comprehensive Plan.</p> | <p>Identify opportunities to collaborate with intra-county and local partners to achieve Washington County 2040 Comprehensive Plan goals through investments in the transportation system.</p> |
| <p>Plan, build, and maintain roadways to accommodate existing and future traffic growth.</p> | <p>Design new or reconstructed roads to a 10-ton standard to accommodate truck traffic using the county road system.</p> |
| | <p>Monitor bridge sufficiency rating to prioritize maintenance, repair, or replacement to address deficiencies.</p> |
| | <p>Use Cost Participation Policy (#8001) to equitably distribute the costs of transportation projects.</p> |
| <p>Support land use policies and densities to promote the development of transit-supportive districts to focus transit service and capital investments that align with the county’s transit vision.</p> | <p>Coordinate transit investments with land use and transportation planning.</p> |
| | <p>Work with local partners to develop land use plans and policies that incorporate transit-oriented development opportunities near identified transit stations and transitway corridors.</p> |
| <p>Advocate and promote long-term investments in transit including METRO Gold Line, Red Rock Corridor, Rush Line Corridor Extension, and TH 36 Corridor to provide reliable and efficient transit services.</p> | <p>Coordinate with the Metropolitan Council, MnDOT, and municipalities through project development, engineering, and construction of METRO Gold Line to improve transit access and multimodal networks.</p> |
| | <p>Collaborate with local communities on station planning, park and rides, land use, streetscape, and other transit-related amenities.</p> |
| | <p>Implement recommendations from county-led transportation and transit studies.</p> |
| <p>Transportation Goal 2: Preserve and modernize the existing transportation system.</p> | |
| <p>Transportation Policy</p> | <p>Transportation Strategy</p> |
| <p>Support pavement preservation program to maintain the structural integrity of and maximize investment in the roadway system.</p> | <p>Use the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating to identify system needs.</p> |
| | <p>Conduct yearly field reviews to visually inspect roadway conditions.</p> |
| <p>Preserve, protect, and obtain rights of way to accommodate future transportation improvements.</p> | <p>Apply Ordinance for the Management of County Highway Right-of-Way (#188) to keep right-of-way in state of good repair and free from unnecessary encumbrances.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Explore and support emerging technology and information systems to improve planning, building, and maintaining the transportation network.</p> | <p>Consider opportunities to improve infrastructure (e.g., fiber optics and other utilities) in county right-of-way during transportation projects.</p> |
| <p>Transportation Goal 3: Improve safety and efficient for all users.</p> | |
| <p>Transportation Policy</p> | <p>Transportation Strategy</p> |
| <p>Support ongoing safety review process that promotes both proactive and reactive treatments to reduce crashes.</p> | <p>Use Washington County’s Intersection Control Ranking System (ICRS) Annual Report to identify intersections where increased traffic control is justified.</p> |
| | <p>Coordinate with partners to improve safety and usability of county roadways when developing safe, effective, and implementable strategies in key locations like near schools and at non-motorized crossings.</p> |
| | <p>Develop roadway crossings and trail facilities within county roadway corridors to promote safety for all users.</p> |
| | <p>Request engineering and traffic investigations as needed from the Commissioner of Transportation to establish safe and reasonable speed limits upon completion of reconstruction or major alteration of county roadways.</p> |
| <p>Use traffic management techniques to improve operations, safety, and useful life of the roadways.</p> | <p>Implement Intelligent Transportation Systems to efficiently manage the system, communicate travel information to users, and improve safety.</p> |
| | <p>Deploy intersection management strategies to prolong operational lifespan of roadways.</p> |
| <p>Pursue access management practices to maintain the intended balance of access and mobility on county roadways.</p> | <p>Review development proposals and construction plans for consistency with Access Spacing Guidelines (see page 41) to manage the number and location of public roadways, private roadways, driveways, median openings, roundabouts, non-motorized crossings, and traffic signals.</p> |
| | <p>Require consistency with county right-of-way ordinance Access Spacing Guidelines prior to issuing an access permit.</p> |
| | <p>Promote access from local roadways to develop and implement corridor-specific access management plans for county roadways to minimize access points on county roadways.</p> |
| | <p>Develop memoranda of understanding with communities on these corridors to streamline the project development process and help guide future development consistent with the county’s vision.</p> |
| | <p>Review plats to ensure remnant parcels can obtain future access from local roadways.</p> |

| Transportation Goal 4: Promote positive environmental and health outcomes. | |
|--|--|
| Transportation Policy | Transportation Strategy |
| Explore opportunities to improve the environment and encourage physical activity. | Work with local partners to promote land use patterns that enable alternative modes of travel and reduce reliance on the private automobile. |
| | Identify trail connections to provide links to key destinations. |
| Include strategies and best management practices related to the environment when planning, building, and maintaining transportation facilities. | Promote techniques to improve quality of water runoff. |
| | Develop and implement techniques for county roadway maintenance to minimize chemical and particulate runoff. |
| Prevent, minimize, or mitigate impacts to natural, cultural, and historic features. | Use community-based design to ensure board participation in transportation planning. |

Water Resources Goals, Policies and Strategies

| Water Resources Goal 1: Manage the quality and quantity of water resources to protect human health and ensure sufficient supplies of clean water to support human uses and natural ecosystems for current and future generations. | |
|---|--|
| Water Resources Policy | Water Resources Strategy |
| Lead by example in county operations with regards to water management. | Identify opportunities for water conservation, efficiency and/ or reuse in county facilities, grounds and operations. |
| | Support development and implementation of a county Energy Plan which includes water efficiency/conservation. |
| | Continue to review alternatives to using and storing salt for de-icing operations that are protective of public safety and the environment. |
| | Incorporate Low Impact Development practices and green infrastructure into county led projects and at county facilities. |
| | Demonstrate nutrient load reduction practices on county properties (i.e., volume control best management practices, reduced fertilizer use, minimized turf areas, use of native vegetation, etc). |
| Prevent future groundwater contamination by ensuring sound management of solid and hazardous waste within the county. | Maintain solid and hazardous waste regulation through local ordinances. |
| | Promote best practices for solid waste management through the waste hierarchy. This includes reuse, recycling, organics, and yard waste. See the Resilience chapter for more information. |
| | Continue to strengthen outreach and education on household hazardous waste disposal options through the use of county environmental center and other facilities/events that are available. |
| | Continue partnership with Ramsey County through the Recycling and Energy (R&E) Board to collaborate in joint programming and projects and explore new technologies at the R&E Center to produce energy and fuels, make compost or harvest materials for creation of consumer products. |
| Ensure no-net-loss of the quantity and quality of wetlands in accordance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. | Avoid wetland impacts, where feasible, in accordance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and watershed management organization rules. |
| | Where avoidance is not possible, mitigate wetland impacts in accordance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and watershed management organization rules, replacing the key functions as determined by local values. |
| | Restore degraded wetlands to a higher functional level where feasible. |
| | Work with the Washington Conservation District on implementing the Wetland Conservation Act and Best Management Practices for shoreland and wetland areas during the development process. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Encourage activities to reduce pollutant loading (e.g. nutrients, sediment, and thermal) to lakes, streams, and the St. Croix and Mississippi river basins.</p> | <p>Promote the use of volume control practices for annual pollutant load reduction.</p> |
| | <p>Support baseline monitoring to assess condition of water bodies in the county.</p> |
| | <p>Incorporate Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, as applicable, into county planning and construction projects.</p> |
| <p>Support a coordinated, multifaceted approach to managing subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS); including research, education, and regulation in accordance with state rules.</p> | <p>Continue implementing SSTS ordinance in accordance with Minnesota Rules 7080-7083. Update the local ordinance to be consistent with changes in state rules, as needed.</p> |
| | <p>Locate all new systems where soil capabilities are adequate to provide for proper treatment system installation.</p> |
| | <p>Conduct a countywide assessment for SSTS to determine levels of risk and inform future decision-making.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to provide financial assistance for SSTS replacement through the SSTS loan program. Explore additional financial assistance options for residents including local and state grants.</p> |
| | <p>Strengthen education efforts related to SSTS for homeowners, realtors, and other stakeholders.</p> |
| | <p>Promote development of community sewer systems in areas with high rates of noncompliant SSTS or where small groups of homes make such systems feasible.</p> |
| | <p>Promote the reuse of treated wastewater at metropolitan treatment plants for beneficial purposes.</p> |
| <p>Protect shoreland areas in order to maintain natural habitat and water quality.</p> | <p>Amend the Shoreland Ordinance in accordance with the state shoreland rules. See Land Use chapter for more information.</p> |
| | <p>Implement and enforce the Buffer Law in accordance with state law.</p> |
| <p>Implement and enforce a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) to reduce pollution created by stormwater runoff in order to protect water quality in the county.</p> | <p>Participate in the East Metro Water Resource Education Program to increase public awareness and understanding of stormwater issues and the impacts of stormwater runoff on water quality.</p> |
| | <p>Provide training opportunities for county staff in erosion control, best management practices, good housekeeping, and pollution prevention at construction sites.</p> |
| | <p>Coordinate with other Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4s) to improve implementation efficiency and effectiveness.</p> |
| <p>Protect land, structures, and natural communities from flooding that exceeds natural water level fluctuations.</p> | <p>Regulate flood- hazard areas subject to periodic inundation causing hazard to life and property, disruption of commerce and governmental services, unsanitary conditions, and interruption of transportation and communication.</p> |
| | <p>Prevent new building and limit expanding existing structures located in floodplains.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Protect land, structures, and natural communities from flooding that exceeds natural water level fluctuations. <i>(Continued)</i></p> | <p>Amend Floodplain Management Regulations as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and MN Rules 6120.5500.</p> |
| | <p>Participate in the Flood Insurance Program.</p> |
| | <p>Collaborate with local watershed organizations, local governments, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to update and adopt the flood insurance rate maps. These maps are used by insurance and mortgage companies to determine the need for flood insurance on properties within the county.</p> |
| <p>Support integrated resource management and projects that provide multiple or co-benefits.</p> | <p>Seek opportunities to enhance water quality protection in related projects such as those that promote and improve pollinator habitat, preserve open space, and encourage alternative agriculture practices including cover crops and emerging markets.</p> |
| <p>Support efforts to slow the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).</p> | <p>Continue Local AIS Prevention Aid program (as funds remain available from the State).</p> |
| | <p>Evaluate results of Local AIS Prevention Aid grant activities annually and encourage grantees to modify their approach, where needed, to most effectively slow the spread of AIS.</p> |
| | <p>Monitor the latest state and national AIS research, and encourage prospective grantees to implement best management practices to effectively slow the spread of AIS.</p> |
| <p>Water Resources Goal 2: Protect groundwater and surface water resources through coordination and collaboration with state and local water resource organizations.</p> | |
| <p>Water Resources Policy</p> | <p>Water Resources Strategy</p> |
| <p>Facilitate the sharing of groundwater and surface water information and resources through interdisciplinary and intergovernmental work.</p> | <p>Initiate shared projects and conduct joint studies and research initiatives related to water management as funding opportunities arise.</p> |
| | <p>Provide leadership for the Water Consortium to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of water management within the county.</p> |
| | <p>Develop collaborative strategies and actions to implement the Washington County Groundwater Plan and annual work plan.</p> |
| | <p>Support inter-governmental coordination and cooperation in implementing existing and developing new groundwater, surface water, and wetland rules, policies, and programs.</p> |
| | <p>Implement sound watershed management practices in cooperation and conjunction with state and local government entities engaged in water management programs.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Encourage local governments to consider groundwater and surface water protection when adopting land use plans and zoning ordinances and making land use decisions.</p> | <p>Encourage communities to regulate the siting and permitting of new land development to protect groundwater quality and quantity from degradation and depletion.</p> |
| | <p>Share technical information with communities so that they may develop effective groundwater policies and plans.</p> |
| | <p>Encourage use of sound scientific data and understanding in planning, zoning, and land use decisions.</p> |
| | <p>Encourage communities to develop groundwater protection policies related to the siting and permitting of new commercial and industrial development.</p> |
| | <p>Encourage communities to establish and enforce standards that prevent ground and surface water contamination.</p> |
| | <p>Establish and enforce more stringent standards to protect areas of significant groundwater recharge.</p> |
| <p>Collaborate with state agencies and local communities to promote and support the efficient use of groundwater resources to ensure that drinking water supplies are adequate for projected growth in the county.</p> | <p>Promote local planning and land use patterns that protect groundwater quality and quantity.</p> |
| | <p>Promote research and water supply planning to provide for sustainable water supplies and, to the extent possible, minimize the loss of flow to surface water features and groundwater dependent natural resources.</p> |
| | <p>Encourage local units of government to develop and implement water conservation and efficiency plans.</p> |
| | <p>Support local partners to implement water conservation and efficiency practices and programs.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to track on local and regional groundwater-surface water interaction issues.</p> |
| <p>Collaborate with partners including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, Washington Conservation District, watershed districts and management organizations, lake associations, and others on AIS activities.</p> | <p>Encourage organizations with similar or overlapping AIS management goals to work together to leverage resources.</p> |
| | <p>Convene organizations working on AIS education and management efforts annually to highlight the latest research and most effective practices.</p> |
| <p>Collaborate with partners to build climate resilience through integrated surface and groundwater management. See Resilience chapter for more information.</p> | <p>Promote green infrastructure practices that support resiliency and adaptability to climate events.</p> |
| | <p>Coordinate with other resilience efforts as described in the resilience chapter.</p> |
| <p>Collaborate with state and local agencies to involve and educate the public in water resource management.</p> | <p>Participate in the East Metro Water Resource Education Program to increase public awareness and understanding of water issues.</p> |
| | <p>Support regional education efforts, where feasible, including the Metro Children’s Water Festival, Watershed Partners, and others.</p> |

Parks, Trails and Open Space Goals, Policies and Strategies

| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Goal 1: Plan, build, and maintain growing network of parks and trails that serve our communities and the greater region. | |
|--|---|
| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Policy | Parks, Trails, and Open Space Strategy |
| Prioritize investment in infrastructure and facilities to ensure safe, high quality experiences for park users. | Continue to assess condition of infrastructure and facilities. |
| | Provide timely and quality maintenance of existing infrastructure, facilities, and equipment. |
| | Assess, rank and fund new park and trail infrastructure and facilities. |
| Plan and build the park system to serve the needs of a growing and changing county and region. | Plan and adopt new park master plans; including, Square Lake Special Recreation Feature and Pine Point Regional Park. |
| | Assess the role of sites not currently a part of the regional or county park system for future inclusion in the park system. |
| Plan and build the trail system to link our regional parks and connect communities to local and regional amenities. | Plan and adopt trail master plans; including, Central Greenway Regional Trail (central and north segment) and St. Croix Valley Regional Trail (middle segment). |
| | Adopt a bicycle and pedestrian plan to address county recreation and transportation needs. |
| | Consider trail investment a priority in developing the capital improvement plan. |
| | Assess county policy on trail maintenance. |
| Incorporate principles of public health and sustainability into park and trail planning, operations, and maintenance. | Plan parks and trails to support healthy lifestyle choices. |
| | Incorporate active living by design in projects to support county health and wellness initiatives. |
| | Incorporate green infrastructure, pollinator-friendly habitat, sustainable landscaping and public art in projects, where feasible. |
| | Increase energy efficiency in facilities, operations, and maintenance. |
| | Whenever feasible, evaluate and implement operational best practices to reduce adverse impact of salt, pesticide, and fertilizer use to natural resources. |

| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Goal 2: Protect, enhance, and provide access to precious public resources – our land, water, and open space – through conservation and stewardship. | |
|---|---|
| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Policy | Parks, Trails, and Open Space Strategy |
| Prioritize investment in the protection and management of high quality open space. | Provide for ongoing investment to protect open space through land acquisition programs, such as Land and Water Legacy Program. |
| | Use Land and Water Legacy Program Conservation Priorities document to guide investment for the conservation of open space. |
| | Pursue land and right-of-way acquisition within and adjacent to regional parks and trails master plan boundaries. |
| | Continue partnering to expand open space acquisition and stewardship capacity. |
| | Develop and implement a plan to manage proper maintenance of conservation easements. |
| | Assess county policy on public access to protected open space. |
| | Evaluate strategies to protect agricultural resources and rural character within the open space system. |
| | Consider development of county conservation areas and greenways |
| Preserve, conserve, and restore natural resources by implementing sustainable practices that promote biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. | Develop a comprehensive, strategic park natural resource management approach. |
| | Develop and implement sustainable forest management plans that address wildlife habitat, forest health, and future forest adaptation. |
| | Develop and implement sustainable agricultural practices on existing cropland fields. |
| | Develop and implement land management practices that include effective and innovative methods, such as conservation-based grazing. |
| | Enhance natural areas through active restoration. |
| | Use integrated pest management practices in invasive species management efforts. |
| | Mitigate impacts to high-value trees, wetlands, and other natural resources in all projects. |
| | Collaborate with governmental units and non-governmental organizations on land and water stewardship efforts. |
| Coordinate partnerships to involve the community in the maintenance of parks and open space. | |

| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Goal 2: Protect, enhance, and provide access to precious public resources – our land, water, and open space – through conservation and stewardship. | |
|---|---|
| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Policy | Parks, Trails, and Open Space Strategy |
| Prioritize investment in the protection and management of high quality open space. | Provide for ongoing investment to protect open space through land acquisition programs, such as Land and Water Legacy Program. |
| | Use Land and Water Legacy Program Conservation Priorities document to guide investment for the conservation of open space. |
| | Pursue land and right-of-way acquisition within and adjacent to regional parks and trails master plan boundaries. |
| | Continue partnering to expand open space acquisition and stewardship capacity. |
| | Develop and implement a plan to manage proper maintenance of conservation easements. |
| | Assess county policy on public access to protected open space. |
| | Evaluate strategies to protect agricultural resources and rural character within the open space system. |
| | Consider development of county conservation areas and greenways |
| Preserve, conserve, and restore natural resources by implementing sustainable practices that promote biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. | Develop a comprehensive, strategic park natural resource management approach. |
| | Develop and implement sustainable forest management plans that address wildlife habitat, forest health, and future forest adaptation. |
| | Develop and implement sustainable agricultural practices on existing cropland fields. |
| | Develop and implement land management practices that include effective and innovative methods, such as conservation-based grazing. |
| | Enhance natural areas through active restoration. |
| | Use integrated pest management practices in invasive species management efforts. |
| | Mitigate impacts to high-value trees, wetlands, and other natural resources in all projects. |
| | Collaborate with governmental units and non-governmental organizations on land and water stewardship efforts. |
| Coordinate partnerships to involve the community in the maintenance of parks and open space. | |

| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Goal 3: Provide opportunities for all people to connect to the outdoors by cultivating a welcoming environment, providing robust programming, and building partnerships. | |
|--|--|
| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Policy | Parks, Trails, and Open Space Strategy |
| Engage the community in planning, stewardship, and programming through strategic partnerships and communication. | Conduct public engagement that minimizes barriers to participation and seeks input from a broad audience of community members. |
| | Develop educational opportunities and interpretive tools to spread awareness of County natural resource stewardship and sustainability efforts. |
| | Adopt a marketing and park visitor services plans to promote county parks, trails, and programs. |
| | Pursue mutually-beneficial partnerships that increase exposure to park and trail system. |
| Deliver a broad range of programs that provide opportunities for the public to experience the parks, trails, and open spaces. | Continue to use public-private partnerships in developing park programming. |
| | Expanding recreational opportunities and programs to grow park use in all seasons. |
| | Develop programs that provide the opportunity for visitors to connect with the county’s history. |
| Strengthen equitable usage of parks and trails, across age, income, race, ethnicity, national origin, educational attainment, and ability. | Target demographic groups underrepresented as park users in planning and programming efforts. |
| | Collaborate with the Metropolitan Council and other organizations on identifying implementable steps to strengthening equity within the parks and trails system. |
| | Use equity tools, such as Metropolitan Council’s equity lens, to evaluate projects. |
| Provide efficient and high-quality visitor services through innovation, technology, and trained staff. | Pursue technology upgrades, such as electronic pay stations, that will improve staff efficiency and service. |
| | Engage with the public on programs, events, and services through social media and other online tools. |
| | Measure and use visitor experience data to make informed decisions on park services. |
| | Continue efforts to provide staff with the training and resources to aptly serve an increasingly diverse audience of park and trail users. |

Housing Goals, Policies and Strategies

| Housing Goal 1: Promote a diverse housing supply to provide residents with a range of housing options. | |
|--|---|
| Housing Policy | Housing Strategy |
| Support and assistance to homeless households and those at risk for homelessness. | Assist and counsel homeless or households at risk of homelessness using the housing phone line. |
| | Coordinate with other metro counties through the Regional Metropolitan Committee regarding homelessness prevention and assistance. |
| | Actively participate in the Suburban Metropolitan Area Continuum of Care (SMAC) regionalized wait list and utilize a regionalized wait list for homeless beds and referrals. |
| | Continue to manage this the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) in order to provide needed resources within our community. |
| | Continue to utilize the maximum 15 percent of the annual CDBG grant for crisis assistance and homelessness counseling. |
| | Participate with other SMAC counties in the Landlord Risk Migration Fund Pilot to see if offering additional incentives to landlords will help in securing more housing opportunities to household that are facing homelessness. |
| | Explore more cost-effective options to shelter households experiencing homelessness than using a hotel voucher system. |
| Support and assistance to vulnerable populations. | Continue to maximize use of Housing Support (previously Group Residential Housing) funds for housing programs for people with a disability. |
| | Continue to maximize use of Elderly Waivers to assist seniors with housing and assisted living expenses. |
| | Continue to maximize use of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs to assist the people on these programs to use services to maintain their current housing or to assist them with other housing costs such as assisted living or foster care. |
| | Continue to utilize person-centered planning best practices in ensuring that people with a disability are living and working in the most integrated setting possible. |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Support underserved populations to be successful homebuyers and homeowners.</p> | <p>Continue to provide Home Stretch educational workshops for prospective homebuyers.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to provide one on one professional homebuyer counseling by appointment to prepare households for the mortgage and realty process, including budget counseling.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to participate in the Minnesota Cities Participation Program to fund Minnesota Housing’s Start-Up first time homebuyer program through the sale of tax exempt bonds.</p> |
| | <p>Develop a program to fund down payment assistance to households.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to provide post-purchase counseling to homeowners looking at options to refinance their mortgage.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to provide one-on-one professional counseling by appointment for homeowners struggling with their mortgage payments looking to avoid foreclosure.</p> |
| | <p>Refer eligible homebuyers (Woodbury residents) to a city-funded down payment assistance program through Two Rivers Community Land Trust, as well as an affordable homeownership program through Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.</p> |
| <p>New construction of senior housing affordable to incomes at or below 30% AMI.</p> | <p>Consider an application for 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit sub-allocation to encourage senior housing affordable to 60% AMI, prioritizing units serving the lowest income tenants of 30% and 50% Area Median Income (AMI).</p> |
| | <p>Consider issuing housing bonds to support rental developments serving seniors at 50% and 60% AMI, prioritizing developments at 30% AMI.</p> |
| | <p>Consider an application for CDBG funds for land acquisition and environmental clean-up related to affordable senior housing.</p> |
| | <p>Consider an application for HOME Investment Partnership funds to construct affordable senior housing.</p> |
| | <p>Consider creating Tax Increment Financing (TIF) housing districts with the support of the applicable municipality to increase and diversify property tax base, eliminate blight, support employment, and promote housing diversity through affordable senior housing.</p> |
| | <p>Strongly consider sponsoring an application to the Metropolitan Council’s Livable Communities Account (LCA) program for affordable senior housing development.</p> |
| | <p>Consider an application to the GROW Fund financing program to construct housing affordable to 60% AMI, prioritizing units with greater affordability.</p> |

| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Goal 3: Provide opportunities for all people to connect to the outdoors by cultivating a welcoming environment, providing robust programming, and building partnerships. | |
|---|--|
| Parks, Trails, and Open Space Policy | Parks, Trails, and Open Space Strategy |
| Engage the community in planning, stewardship, and programming through strategic partnerships and communication. | Conduct public engagement that minimizes barriers to participation and seeks input from a broad audience of community members. |
| | Develop educational opportunities and interpretive tools to spread awareness of County natural resource stewardship and sustainability efforts. |
| | Adopt a marketing and park visitor services plans to promote county parks, trails, and programs. |
| | Pursue mutually-beneficial partnerships that increase exposure to park and trail system. |
| Deliver a broad range of programs that provide opportunities for the public to experience the parks, trails, and open spaces. | Continue to use public-private partnerships in developing park programming. |
| | Expanding recreational opportunities and programs to grow park use in all seasons. |
| | Develop programs that provide the opportunity for visitors to connect with the county’s history. |
| Strengthen equitable usage of parks and trails, across age, income, race, ethnicity, national origin, educational attainment, and ability. | Target demographic groups underrepresented as park users in planning and programming efforts. |
| | Collaborate with the Metropolitan Council and other organizations on identifying implementable steps to strengthening equity within the parks and trails system. |
| | Use equity tools, such as Metropolitan Council’s equity lens, to evaluate projects. |
| Provide efficient and high-quality visitor services through innovation, technology, and trained staff. | Pursue technology upgrades, such as electronic pay stations, that will improve staff efficiency and service. |
| | Engage with the public on programs, events, and services through social media and other online tools. |
| | Measure and use visitor experience data to make informed decisions on park services. |
| | Continue efforts to provide staff with the training and resources to aptly serve an increasingly diverse audience of park and trail users. |

Housing Goals, Policies and Strategies

| Housing Goal 1: Promote a diverse housing supply to provide residents with a range of housing options. | |
|--|---|
| Housing Policy | Housing Strategy |
| Support and assistance to homeless households and those at risk for homelessness. | Assist and counsel homeless or households at risk of homelessness using the housing phone line. |
| | Coordinate with other metro counties through the Regional Metropolitan Committee regarding homelessness prevention and assistance. |
| | Actively participate in the Suburban Metropolitan Area Continuum of Care (SMAC) regionalized wait list and utilize a regionalized wait list for homeless beds and referrals. |
| | Continue to manage this the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) in order to provide needed resources within our community. |
| | Continue to utilize the maximum 15 percent of the annual CDBG grant for crisis assistance and homelessness counseling. |
| | Participate with other SMAC counties in the Landlord Risk Migration Fund Pilot to see if offering additional incentives to landlords will help in securing more housing opportunities to household that are facing homelessness. |
| | Explore more cost-effective options to shelter households experiencing homelessness than using a hotel voucher system. |
| Support and assistance to vulnerable populations. | Continue to maximize use of Housing Support (previously Group Residential Housing) funds for housing programs for people with a disability. |
| | Continue to maximize use of Elderly Waivers to assist seniors with housing and assisted living expenses. |
| | Continue to maximize use of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs to assist the people on these programs to use services to maintain their current housing or to assist them with other housing costs such as assisted living or foster care. |
| | Continue to utilize person-centered planning best practices in ensuring that people with a disability are living and working in the most integrated setting possible. |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Support underserved populations to be successful homebuyers and homeowners.</p> | <p>Continue to provide Home Stretch educational workshops for prospective homebuyers.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to provide one on one professional homebuyer counseling by appointment to prepare households for the mortgage and realty process, including budget counseling.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to participate in the Minnesota Cities Participation Program to fund Minnesota Housing’s Start-Up first time homebuyer program through the sale of tax exempt bonds.</p> |
| | <p>Develop a program to fund down payment assistance to households.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to provide post-purchase counseling to homeowners looking at options to refinance their mortgage.</p> |
| | <p>Continue to provide one-on-one professional counseling by appointment for homeowners struggling with their mortgage payments looking to avoid foreclosure.</p> |
| | <p>Refer eligible homebuyers (Woodbury residents) to a city-funded down payment assistance program through Two Rivers Community Land Trust, as well as an affordable homeownership program through Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.</p> |
| <p>New construction of senior housing affordable to incomes at or below 30% AMI.</p> | <p>Consider an application for 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit sub-allocation to encourage senior housing affordable to 60% AMI, prioritizing units serving the lowest income tenants of 30% and 50% Area Median Income (AMI).</p> |
| | <p>Consider issuing housing bonds to support rental developments serving seniors at 50% and 60% AMI, prioritizing developments at 30% AMI.</p> |
| | <p>Consider an application for CDBG funds for land acquisition and environmental clean-up related to affordable senior housing.</p> |
| | <p>Consider an application for HOME Investment Partnership funds to construct affordable senior housing.</p> |
| | <p>Consider creating Tax Increment Financing (TIF) housing districts with the support of the applicable municipality to increase and diversify property tax base, eliminate blight, support employment, and promote housing diversity through affordable senior housing.</p> |
| | <p>Strongly consider sponsoring an application to the Metropolitan Council’s Livable Communities Account (LCA) program for affordable senior housing development.</p> |
| | <p>Consider an application to the GROW Fund financing program to construct housing affordable to 60% AMI, prioritizing units with greater affordability.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| New construction of senior housing affordable to incomes at or below 30% AMI. (Continued) | Continue to expand ownership and management affordable housing for seniors ensuring long-term affordability. |
| | Strongly support allocating Group Residential Housing (GRH) assistance to maintain lower rental rates for seniors. |
| | Consider project-basing units in affordable senior housing, such as the Shelter Plus Care program as spots are available. |
| Affirmatively further fair housing actions and activities in Washington County. | Continue to affirmatively further fair housing through active compliance with its fair housing policy. |
| | Incorporate equal opportunity housing criteria and requirements for all recipients of its housing finance and housing assistance programs. |
| | Continue to educate homebuyers and homeowners about potential and known real estate scams. Furthermore, continue to counsel victims of foreclosure, lending, closing and real estate fraud and make referrals to pro-bono legal assistance to recover lost costs. |
| | Continue to be an active participant and contributor to regional fair housing activities. |
| Housing Goal 2: Ensure that affordable housing options are available to residents and those who work in the county. | |
| Housing Policy | Housing Strategy |
| Encourage resident participation and best practices in housing policy development. | Continue to encourage robust public engagement by involving residents in the development of housing, community development and economic development plans and allocation of CDBG and HOME funds. |
| | Continue to participate or designate an appropriate representative to actively engage in the Minnesota Chapter of National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). |
| | Continue to be an active member of the Housing Collaborative institute, attending and presenting at monthly regional industry meetings organized by Local Initiatives Support Corporation. |
| Preservation of publicly subsidized housing. | Prioritize applications for 4% or 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit sub-allocation which preserve subsidized units through extensions of housing assistance payment contracts and affordability periods. |
| | Consider issuing housing bonds to preserve units affordable at 50% and 60% AMI, prioritizing developments at 30% AMI. |
| | Consider an application for HOME investment partnership program funds to preserve affordable housing through acquisition or rehabilitation costs. |
| | Support use of funds from Minnesota Housing’s Preservation Affordable Rental Investment Fund (PARIF) program to preserve existing affordable rental units. |

| | |
|---|---|
| New construction of general occupancy rental homes at all affordability levels. | Maximize the usage of the 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit sub-allocation to encourage workforce housing affordable to 60% AMI; prioritizing units serving the lowest income tenants of 30% and 50% AMI. |
| | Consider issuing housing bonds to support rental developments serving tenants at 50% and 60% AMI. |
| | Consider an application for CDBG funds for land acquisition and environmental clean-up related to affordable housing at 80% AMI. |
| | Consider an application for HOME Investment Partnerships program funds to construct housing affordable to 80% AMI. |
| | Consider creating TIF housing districts with the support of the applicable municipality to increase and diversify property tax base, eliminate blight, support employment, and promote housing diversity through affordable housing. |
| | Strongly consider sponsoring an application to the Livable Communities Account (LCA) program for affordable housing development. |
| | Strongly consider supporting an application to Minnesota Housing and its funding partners for affordable rental housing, particularly those paired with CDA resources. |
| | Consider an application for its gap financing program (i.e. GROW) to construct housing affordable to 60% AMI, prioritizing units with greater affordability. |
| | Continue and expand its ownership and management of affordable housing ensuring long-term affordability. |
| Housing Goal 3: Safeguard the physical quality of housing to promote healthy living environments. | |
| Housing Policy | Housing Strategy |
| Assist lower income homeowners with home repairs. | Allocate a portion (at least 30%) of available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds each program year to continue the Home Improvement Loan Program to assist low and moderate income homeowners maintain and improve their home. |
| | Refer eligible homeowners to Minnesota Housing’s Fix-Up Fund lenders to assist homeowners with necessary repairs. |
| Promote the proper maintenance, repair, or replacement of residential subsurface sewage treatment systems. | Provide loans and, when income eligible, grants to mitigate the impact of failing septic systems on the county’s lakes, streams and rivers. |

Resilience and Sustainability Goals, Policies and Strategies

| Resilience and Sustainability Goal 1: Maintain and improve community preparedness and emergency response capacity to ensure public health and safety. | |
|---|--|
| Community Vulnerability Policy | Community Vulnerability Strategy |
| Continue and enhance county and city level all-hazard mitigation and response planning. | Ensure the Washington County All Hazard Mitigation Plan is kept active and ensure local communities are considered eligible for the associated funding sources. |
| | Encourage all communities within Washington County to maintain an updated all hazards Emergency Operations Plan. |
| | Partner with local communities and private partners to encourage individual preparedness through educational opportunities. |
| | Continue to utilize stakeholder involvement in the update and implementation of the Washington County All Hazards Mitigation Plan. |
| | Promote and implement the goals, objectives, and strategies written within the Washington County All Hazard Mitigation Plan when feasible. |
| | Incorporate mitigation strategies into other local planning documents, processes, or mechanisms such as Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP), Growth Management Plans, Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations, and Capital Improvement Plans (CIP). |
| Recognize and plan for the support of populations with high needs and vulnerabilities to all hazards including extreme weather and climate-related events. | Conduct a county wide climate vulnerability assessment that considers risk factors such as extreme heat events, poor air quality, changes in precipitation, changing ecologies, changing demographics, and psychological impacts. |
| | Incorporate, when possible, the needs of vulnerable populations such as elderly, low income, medically fragile, disabled, non-English speakers and children within applicable all hazards plans, training, and exercises at the city and county level of government. |
| | Encourage the inclusion of private partners in the identification and inclusion of vulnerable populations in preparedness planning. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Promote a disaster resistant community infrastructure of housing, utilities, transportation systems, and health care resources able to withstand natural, man-made and economic changes.</p> | <p>Promote mitigation efforts taken within Washington County for communities to reduce vulnerabilities.</p> |
| | <p>Encourage the collaboration between government agencies and private partners to incorporate mitigation activities for larger scale systems.</p> |
| | <p>Protect, maintain and improve constructed and natural systems that provide critical infrastructure.</p> |
| | <p>Consider current and future climate predictions in design of county infrastructure.</p> |
| <p>Resilience and Sustainability Goal 2: Promote personal and community health for all residents.</p> | |
| <p>Healthy Communities Policy</p> | <p>Healthy Communities Strategy</p> |
| <p>Pursue opportunities to address inequities and barriers to health.</p> | <p>Complete Community Health Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan every five years to address health equity.</p> |
| | <p>Assess social determinants of health in county services and practices.</p> |
| | <p>Adopt health in all policies guides.</p> |
| <p>Support individual and community health behaviors that reduce the risks of chronic disease.</p> | <p>Promote policies and strategies of the county parks, trails and open space to encourage healthy and active lifestyle choices for all ages and abilities (see Parks, Trails and Open Space section).</p> |
| | <p>Support public and private partnerships that promote and encourage healthy lifestyle choices within the county.</p> |
| | <p>Adopt steps for access to multi-modal transportation for all residents to encourage physical activity (See Transportation section).</p> |
| | <p>Support, maintain and enhance county policies related to the reduction in tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke.</p> |
| <p>Encourage practices and activities to achieve healthy food access for all residents.</p> | <p>Support public and private partnerships that promote and encourage healthy food access.</p> |
| | <p>Adopt steps for access to multi-modal transportation for all residents to support access to healthy foods (See Transportation section).</p> |
| | <p>Promote small scale food production of healthy foods and county-wide availability.</p> |

| Resilience and Sustainability Goal 3: Identify, promote, and expand the use of energy efficient practices and renewable energy resources. | |
|--|--|
| Energy Efficiency & Conservation Policy | Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy |
| <p>Collaborate with public entities, community organizations, businesses within the county, and with other counties to achieve mutual energy goals.</p> | Support cities, townships and schools working on conserving energy, using renewable energy, or taking steps to reduce greenhouse emissions. |
| | Partner with key stakeholders in the development and implementation of a countywide energy plan. |
| | Support the use of technologies that increase the use of local energy resources. |
| | Continue to promote Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loans to finance energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy installations in commercial buildings. |
| | Promote equitable access to energy resources for all. |
| | Continue to work with regional partners to connect and expand options for initiatives such as multi-modal transportation (see Transportation Chapter). |
| <p>Lead by example in county operations to conserve energy, use renewable energy sources in an effective manner, and take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> | Champion, adopt and implement a countywide energy plan. |
| | Incorporate energy conservation into existing and new building plans by using material and equipment to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. |
| | Leverage reduction of non-renewable consumption with renewable energy sources. |
| Resilience and Sustainability Goal 4: Protect public health and the environment by reducing the amount and toxic character of waste and ensuring proper management of wastes. | |
| Waste Management Policy | Waste Management Strategy |
| <p>Minimize land filling through an integrated waste management system in accordance with the state hierarchy of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and waste-to-energy.</p> | Communicate and educate about sound environmental practices related to waste management activities and county programs, services, and resources to waste generators. |
| | Manage wastes generated by the county in accordance with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (MPCA) Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan, the Washington County Waste Management Master Plan (both are updated every six years), state law and county ordinances, and work with other public entities so that their waste is managed in the same manner. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Minimize land filling through an integrated waste management system in accordance with the state hierarchy of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and waste-to-energy. (Continued)</p> | <p>Continue partnership with Ramsey County through the Recycling and Energy (R&E) Board to collaborate in joint programming and projects, and explore new technologies at the R&E Center to produce energy and fuels, make compost or harvest materials for creation of consumer products.</p> |
| | <p>Explore ways to increase awareness and develop tools to address health equity and environmental justice in county waste and recycling programs and services.</p> |
| | <p>Establish solid and hazardous waste and wastewater management policies and programs to include best management practices and implementation plans for proper management, measurable performance goals and objectives, and regular performance and accomplishments reporting.</p> |
| <p>Lead by example in county operations to develop and implement innovative waste management solutions.</p> | <p>Implement best management practices in waste reduction, reuse, toxicity reduction, and recycling and organics diversion in county-owned and operated facilities.</p> |
| | <p>Ensure all municipal solid waste generated by county activities is processed and require all public entities to process municipal solid waste generated as a result of their activities.</p> |
| <p>Identify ways to collaborate with public entities, community organizations and businesses to develop and implement innovative waste management solutions.</p> | <p>Provide technical assistance, grant funding, and networking opportunities to share resources to cities, townships, and schools to make progress in implementing best practices to reinvigorate recycling, increase organics diversion, and refresh waste reduction and reuse opportunities.</p> |
| | <p>Continue partnership with Ramsey County, through the R&E Board, to assist businesses in organic waste diversion and recycling opportunities.</p> |
| | <p>Provide technical assistance and outreach to solid and hazardous waste generators to improve compliance to state regulation requirements.</p> |

Economic Competitiveness Goals, Policies and Strategies

Five goals with corresponding policies and strategies are established to promote economic competitiveness throughout Washington County. The policies and strategies identified for economic competitiveness collectively respond to the element’s five goals. This comprehensive approach provides an opportunity to utilize the policy or to employ strategies in a manner that supports one or more of the defined goals.

| Economic Competitiveness Goals | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Goal 1: Promote and market the quality of life, rich diversity and assets of the county. | Goal 2: Provide resources to help entrepreneurs get started and existing businesses grow. | Goal 3: Be a value-added partner to other public and private entities. | Goal 4: Find ways to help our businesses attract and retain talent and find ways to keep our working residents here in the county. | Goal 5: Promote strong infrastructure, multi-modal transportation and highspeed broadband. |
| Economic Competitiveness Policy | | Economic Competitiveness Strategy | | |
| The private sector is the lead that drive the economy. | The County will work in partnership with the private sector. | | | |
| | Help existing businesses grow and entrepreneurs get started. | | | |
| The County will not duplicate or replace the work of cities and other public and private partners. | The County will work in collaboration with public and private partners, and will provide leadership where the County can make the most difference when asked. | | | |
| | Promote multi-modal transportation, transit and highspeed broadband opportunities that will stimulate economic growth in Washington County. | | | |
| Business attraction and business retention are essential policy objectives. | A balanced approach to pursue both of businesses attraction and business retention policy areas is required. | | | |
| | Market and promote Washington County, enhancing the efforts currently being implemented by our public and private sector partners. | | | |
| The County supports a strong collaborative approach to economic development. | No matter the location, economic development is a benefit to the entire County. | | | |
| | Support efforts to ensure a highly skilled workforce and adequate workforce housing. | | | |
| Economic Competitiveness Policy | | Economic Competitiveness Strategy | | |
| The County supports a strong collaborative approach to economic development. (Continued) | | Provide resources to cities, townships and local government economic development authorities located in Washington County. Assist communities and local area chambers of commerce with Business Retention and Enhancement visits when requested. | | |
| The diversity of the County requires an adaptable and open-minded approach. | The distinctive qualities of the County require flexibility. | | | |
| | Promote the quality of life and assets of the county including the rich diversity of communities with unique micro-markets. | | | |