

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

GOODHUE COUNTY, MN



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

June 21, 2016

Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Allen, and carried to approve the proposed resolution adopting the 2016 Comprehensive Plan:

WHEREAS, the Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan has not been substantially revised since 2004; and

WHEREAS, Goodhue County, has experienced significant changes in the past 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the Goodhue County Planning Advisory Commission has researched data, conducted surveys, discussed content, and held a public open house to garner comments regarding the future of land uses in Goodhue County; 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 May 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on June 21, 2016; and

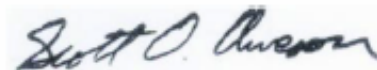
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts by resolution the 2016 Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan as presented, together with all records, supporting documentation, and comments collected during the planning process in all public hearings and in all meetings and actions of the Goodhue County Planning Advisory Commission.

State of Minnesota
County of Goodhue

Majerus	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___
Allen	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___
Seifert	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___
Rechtzigel	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___
Anderson	Yes <u>X</u>	No ___

I, Scott O. Arneson, 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 21st day of June, 2016, 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 21st day of June, 2016.

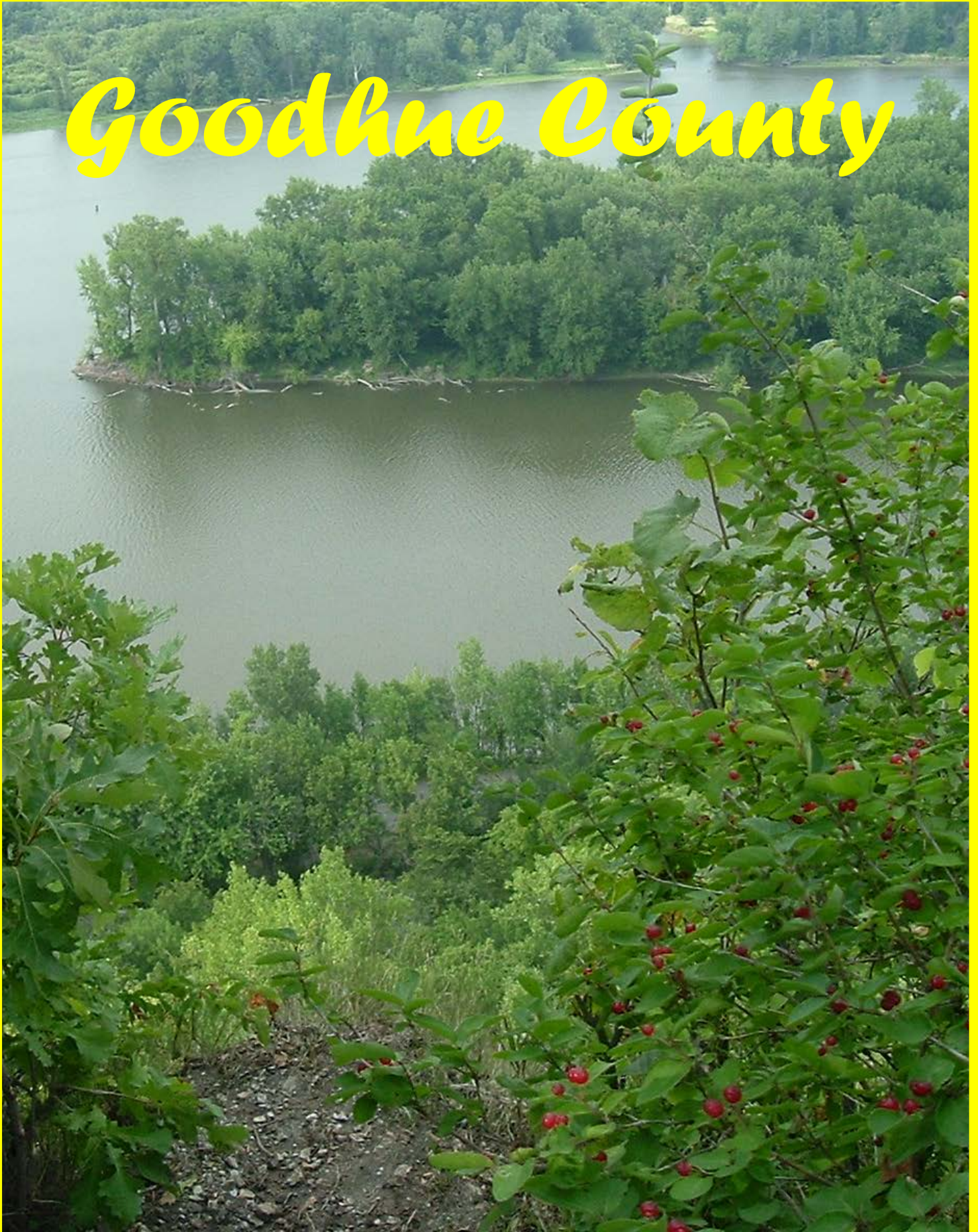


Scott O. Arneson
County Administrator

Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan 2016

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Goodhue County





The Goodhue County 2016-2040 Comprehensive Plan represents the fourth Plan the County has developed. The purpose of the Plan is to provide general guidelines to help manage growth and land use changes, and to promote sound management of the land and water resources within the County.

Prior versions of the County's Comprehensive Plan were adopted by the County Board of Commissioners in 1969, 1990 and in 2004.

With the prospect of continued growth and on-going concerns about its resulting impacts on agriculture and the County's natural resources, the 2004 Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan reinforced the County's priorities of sound management of natural resources and the preservation of agricultural land.

Actual population growth between 2000 and 2010 topped out at 4.7%, which was less than anticipated. Between 2010 and 2014, the rate of growth was a modest 0.5%.

The 2004 Comprehensive Plan continued many of planning priorities set forth in the 1969 and 1990 Plans such as "preservation of Agricultural Land" and "preservation of Natural Resources "

PLAN FOR GOODHUE

Key Planning Issues and Trends

Trends and conditions have changed considerably since adoption of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan



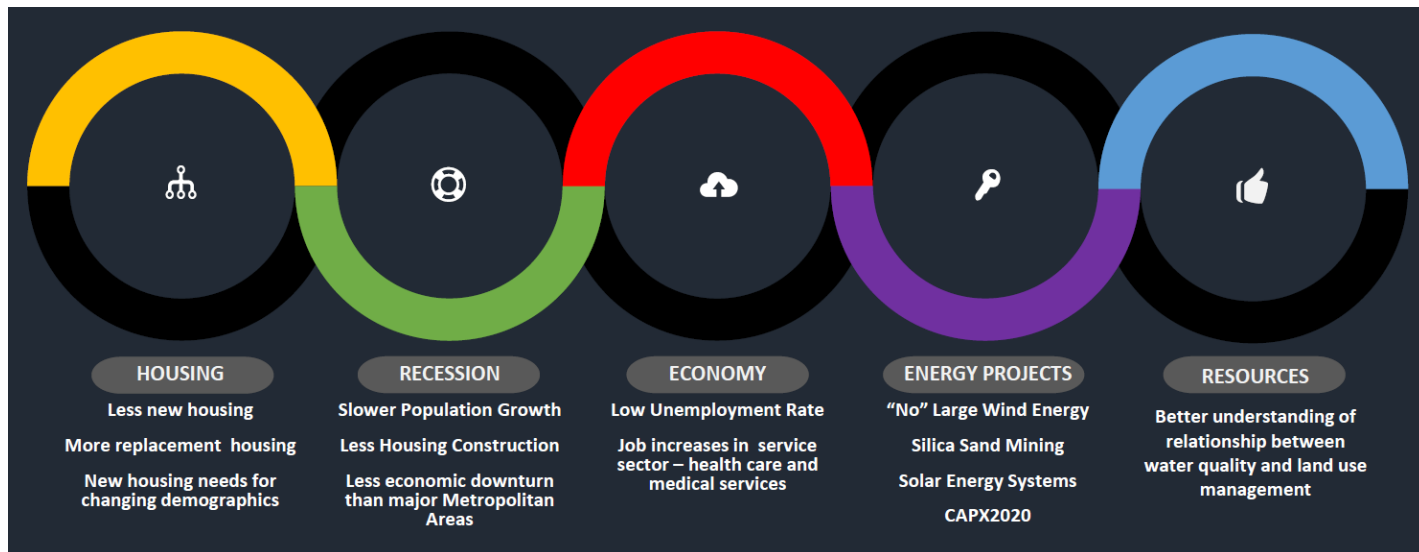
Growth projections from the Minnesota State Demographers Office for the 2015 – 2040 anticipated an average 5% increase per decade. However, the County's populations and rate of growth as of 2016 have lagged behind prior estimates and no current trends suggest that the pace of growth will pick up.

This new reality of slower population and housing growth along with changing demographics including aging of the "baby-boomers" has set the stage for identification of new planning challenges and opportunities.

Since the adoption of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, subdivisions of land for the purpose of multiple lot residential developments have been significantly curtailed due to Township and County land use policies. In addition, the availability of foreclosed residential properties in both urban and rural areas of the County has curtailed the demand for new residential housing.

The 2004 Comprehensive Plan was intended to be reviewed and updated within five years (2009). However other significant, controversial land use issues such as large wind projects, silica sand mining, and solar projects delayed the process. None of these items were addressed in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan nor the Zoning Ordinance. The Non-Metallic Mineral Resources section of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance were updated in 2014 in more detail after the moratoriums on silica sand mines expired.

In 2014, the Land Use Management Staff and the Goodhue County Planning Commission decided on a framework for a significant re-write of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. The process included researching, reviewing, and analyzing relevant data and materials. It also included public participation through a web-based questionnaire, public meetings and public hearings.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FORMAT

The updated Comprehensive Plan sets forth Key Points, Strengths, and Challenges for each major planning topic listed. This current revision of the County's Comprehensive Plan was prepared by Land Use Management Department Staff with input from other County Staff. The County Planning Advisory Commission guided staff through reviews and edits of the Plan and acted as conduits of the views and attitudes of the County residents they represent.

The nine major planning topics addressed in this Plan include: Agriculture; Natural Resources; Housing; Business and Industry; Recreation and Tourism; Cultural, Historic, and Scenic Amenities; Transportation; Intergovernmental Cooperation; and, Public Utilities and Energy. Element 10 of the Comprehensive Plan focuses on Implementation Tools and Strategies as well procedures for periodic review and update of the Plan.

This structure for framing the planning priorities of Goodhue County recognizes increased importance and relevance of some new major planning topics such as Recreation and Tourism - Cultural, Historic, and Scenic Amenities - and Public Utilities and Energy, while also bolstering content for other key planning topics. For example, as important as Agriculture is within Goodhue County as the dominant land use and the County's economy, prior versions of the Comprehensive Plan contained limited background information, analysis, planning policies and proposed actions related to Agriculture as a land use and as an industry.

The addition of Element 10 (Implementation Tools and Strategies) is intended to help make the Comprehensive Plan a working document that will be used by the County to guide land use decisions and investments in infrastructure. Procedures set forth in this Element will support on-going review and revision of the Comprehensive Plan as needed to best serve County residents, property owners, and visitors. The following overview for each Comprehensive Plan Element summarizes key issues and priorities for each major planning topic:

Comprehensive Plan – Priorities and Format



Goodhue County's future growth will be driven by the region's reputation as a national and global competitor in agriculture, medical services, education, commerce, innovation and tourism.

The area's abundance of quality recreation and cultural opportunities also add to the quality of life experienced by County residents.

The Plan establishes priorities including protection of the natural amenities of the area: its scenic views, rural setting, water resources, and its predominately agricultural character.

The 2016 Comprehensive Plan has been organized to include the following key planning topics in order to best address current and anticipated land use, economic development, natural resources management and infrastructure priorities.

Comprehensive Plan Key Topics :

Agriculture Element

Natural Resources Element

Housing Element

Business and Industry Element

Recreation and tourism Element

Cultural, Historic and Scenic Resources Element

Transportation Element

Intergovernmental Cooperation Element

Public Utilities and Energy Element

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is highly valued by both urban and rural residents. The preservation of agriculture is valued as a component of the economy, a land resource, a visual feature of the landscape, and a way of life. Desire to protect the County's agricultural and rural landscape also acknowledges the aesthetic and quality of life values of agriculture as well as the economics.

The limitation of housing density in the County has maintained large tracks of land for agriculture purposes. One of Goodhue County's important planning priorities is to preserve and protect agricultural land for sustained and long term use.

Goodhue County has a rich history of animal agriculture. The type of animals being reared include but are not limited to chicken, turkey, goats, lamb, alpaca, beef and dairy cattle, and hogs.

In addition to familiar crop agriculture of corn and soybeans, Goodhue County is also home to more specialized crops including vineyards, orchards, and vegetable producers some of whom are using the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Model to organize their farms.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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. Citizens have continually placed a high priority on sound management of the County's natural resources.

HOUSING

The Housing Element addresses current housing issues as well as future housing needs and preferences. This plan is not intended to stop growth, but rather to direct it into the most appropriate locations.

Limited projected demand for new housing in rural Goodhue County matches well with the County's priority to direct the majority of growth to the County's Cities. Although the County does not expect to see a great deal of new housing in the rural area, changing housing needs due to the aging of current residents, multi-generational households, farm laborers, and those with medical needs are expected to create a modest demand for construction of new housing types.

In addition the consolidation of farms and the increased availability of existing rural dwelling due to the aging of the County's rural population will provide opportunities for rural living through use of the existing housing stock or the replacement of existing dwellings.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Goodhue County has numerous unique economic advantages such as prime agricultural soils, proximity to the Twin Cities and Rochester metropolitan areas, and the beautiful natural environment. These aspects have provided the County with strong roots from which to grow into a competitive, innovative, and sustainable economy.

The Business and Industry Element sets forth concepts to guide how Goodhue County will grow jobs and property tax base while protecting the exceptional quality of life and natural environment.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Many recreation and tourism activities are available to the public in both rural and urban areas of Goodhue County. Goodhue County's existing recreation services are important to the health and well-being of the citizens of the County, and they are an asset in terms of future growth and development.

The objectives and implementation strategies set forth in the Recreation and Tourism Element encourage the continuation, expansion, and promotion of existing and new recreation and tourism businesses and activities.

CULTURAL HISTORIC SCENIC AMENITIES

Goodhue County has a unique scenic, historic and cultural landscape. Residents and visitors alike enjoy and appreciate the scenery and unique character of Goodhue County. Objectives and implementation measures established in this Element, address the preservation and protection of cultural, historic, and scenic areas within the County. Priorities include encouraging rejuvenation and enhancement of these areas.

Many County residents hold a deep respect for agricultural scenery, whether or not they are personally involved with agriculture. Residents and visitors alike appreciate that both traditional and newer agricultural uses combine to create a landscape of crops, vineyards, and orchards providing a captivating scenic landscape when added to the County's natural topography of bluffs, river valleys and forests.

TRANSPORTATION

Goodhue County's transportation system consists of numerous modes of travel. Transportation for automobiles and trucks include Federal, State, County, City and Township roads, streets, highways and bridges. Meeting the transportation needs of County residents, visitors, traffic passing through, and commerce represents a major logistical and economic challenge.

The Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan works in conjunction with the County's Transportation Plan and addresses more than just the County's road system. It takes into account the multimodal networks that move people and goods between their origins and destinations. This system is a vital part of Goodhue County and provides access to land, mobility to travelers, and efficiencies to commerce. Every Land Use request or action has a transportation component to it.

Goodhue County, like the rest of Minnesota, faces the challenge of keeping up with the need to maintain and expand its ageing and rapidly deteriorating transportation infrastructure. For this reason it is essential to coordinate land uses with transportation planning and to closely coordinate improvements with other units of government to maximize system efficiency and desired level of service.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

An important component of any land planning program is the coordination between the entities that have regulatory and permitting responsibilities for activities occurring within the area being planned. Many issues cross jurisdictional boundaries, affecting more than one community and agency. This Element addresses coordination issues relating to all levels of government from the federal to the most local service districts.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ENERGY

Goodhue County is home to numerous utility and energy opportunities. The County may not be responsible for regulating all of the activities, but can comment on projects that affect the County. This plan is designed to assist the County Officials to give a basis for comments and recommendations.

The County is responsible for issuing conditional or interim use permits for wireless communication towers, solar energy, wind energy, and biofuel projects up to the levels administered by Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). This Element provides guidance to help County Officials and Staff represent the best interests of the public when addressing planning and regulation of utility and energy related projects.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

To achieve the County's objectives, it is important to commit to a deliberate process to implement the measures described in each Plan Element. The Implementation Plan Element identifies tools and strategies to guide actions to realize measures set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. It also identifies procedures for periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan to assess progress towards implementation.

CONCLUSION

This Comprehensive Plan update is an effort to reinforce long standing planning priorities of the County while recognizing changing conditions, trends, and new issues. At its best, the County's Comprehensive Plan reflects "A Shared Vision" for the future of Goodhue County. Comprehensive Plans are a general and broad analysis of the interconnections between cultural, geographical, and natural components within the County, and the direction in which the County wants to develop. Technology, economic drivers, and demographic changes affect how we use and manage the land in the County, and we cannot foresee all future land uses. Although this Comprehensive Plan attempts to address possible future uses, it may not capture all of them. If this Plan does not mention a proposed land use, it shall not be assumed the County is supportive of the proposed land use. As new land uses are introduced, the County will determine how appropriate that use is to the zoning districts, and if the use should be regulated or prohibited through our public process.

A Shared Vision

Comprehensive Plan **Setting the stage:**

Current trends indicate planning for stability and modest growth.

The preference to limit new rural housing is offset by increased availability of existing rural housing due to an aging population.

Less conversion of agricultural land to housing or other uses will alter a key concern and focus of past plans.

Environmental challenges associated with intense land uses and water resources continue to be a common concern.

ELEMENT 1: AGRICULTURE



**AN ESTIMATED 70% OF THE COUNTY'S 758
SQUARE MILES HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS PRIME
FARMLAND BY THE USDA AND 92% OF GOODHUE
COUNTY'S PRIME FARMLAND IS HARVESTED.**

(USDA & NRCS, Web Soil Survey, 2013)

OVERVIEW

Goodhue County has a long history of agricultural priorities: with more than 492 square miles of land in Goodhue County being harvested. Agriculture is highly valued by both urban and rural residents. The preservation of agriculture is valued as a component of the economy, a land resource, a visual feature of the landscape, and a way of life. Desire to protect the County's agricultural and rural landscape also acknowledges the aesthetic and quality of life values of agriculture, as well as the economic benefits to both the farmers and the County as a whole.

Agricultural zoning districts have been established to maintain and preserve agricultural land. This Plan classifies agricultural lands into three general categories: plant agriculture, animal agriculture and agricultural related business. This element focuses on assisting the competitiveness of our agricultural enterprises and protecting the farmland base that is key to a thriving agricultural economy.

The success of agriculture in Goodhue County lies in the creativity and drive of our farmers. The nature of agriculture has evolved over the years, but changes have become even more pronounced recently. Farmers are becoming increasingly entrepreneurial and the line between agriculture and manufacturing, tourism, and other business is diminishing.



KEY POINTS	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
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Preserve and protect agricultural land for sustained and long term use

Maintain and promote agricultural infrastructure to enhance and sustain agriculture operations

Encourage best management practices for crop and animal agriculture in order to protect our water and land resources

Encourage farming practices that maintain and improve soil health

Continue to promote Erosion Control and adopt additional controls as farming practices evolve

Continue to allow and support a broad range of agriculturally related businesses within incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County

The majority of Goodhue County Soils are rated as prime farmland soils and an estimated 92% of the prime farmland soils are harvested

Goodhue County has a rich history of animal agriculture. The type of animals being reared include but are not limited to chicken, turkey, goats, lamb, alpaca, beef and dairy cattle, and hogs with the latter two being the County's largest animal industries

The limitation of housing through density controls has maintained large tracks of land available for agriculture purposes

The County has a desirable scenic, rural character providing open spaces that contribute to valuable aesthetics and a high quality of life

Secession planning for agricultural businesses and agricultural land uses

Erosion and sedimentation control is a concern for farmers and adjacent landowners within the County

An increase in housing density within agricultural zones could create potential conflicts between potentially incompatible land uses

It cannot be the goal or the responsibility of local government to regulate and preserve every acre of farmland within its jurisdiction, but it is the intent to create a planning framework that maximizes the possibilities for voluntary farmland protection

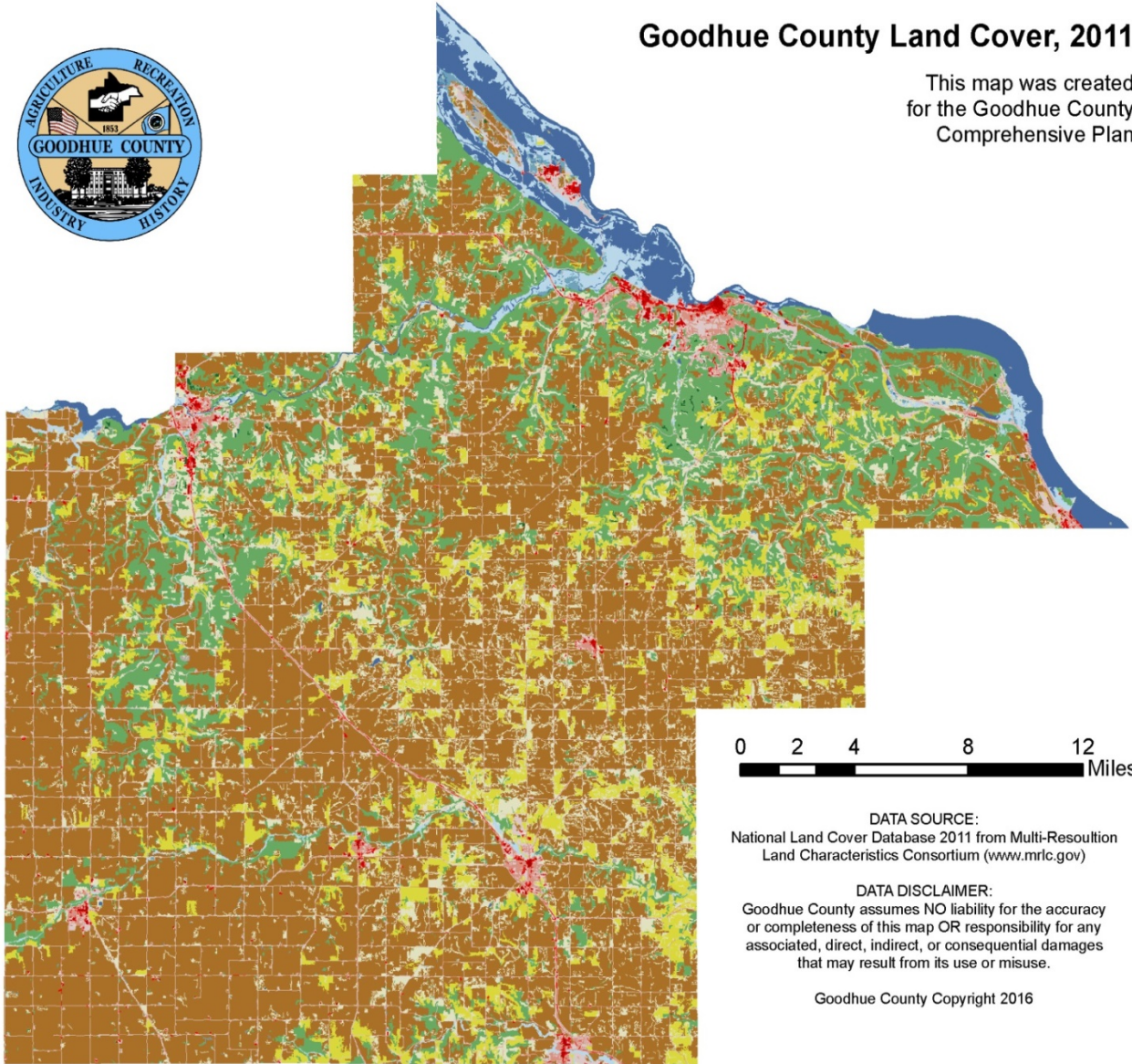
PLANT AGRICULTURE

Agriculture joins tourism and manufacturing as a pillar of the County economy. There was a 4% increase of harvested land in the Goodhue County between 2007 and 2012 according to the USDA, Censuses of Agriculture.



Goodhue County Land Cover, 2011

This map was created for the Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan

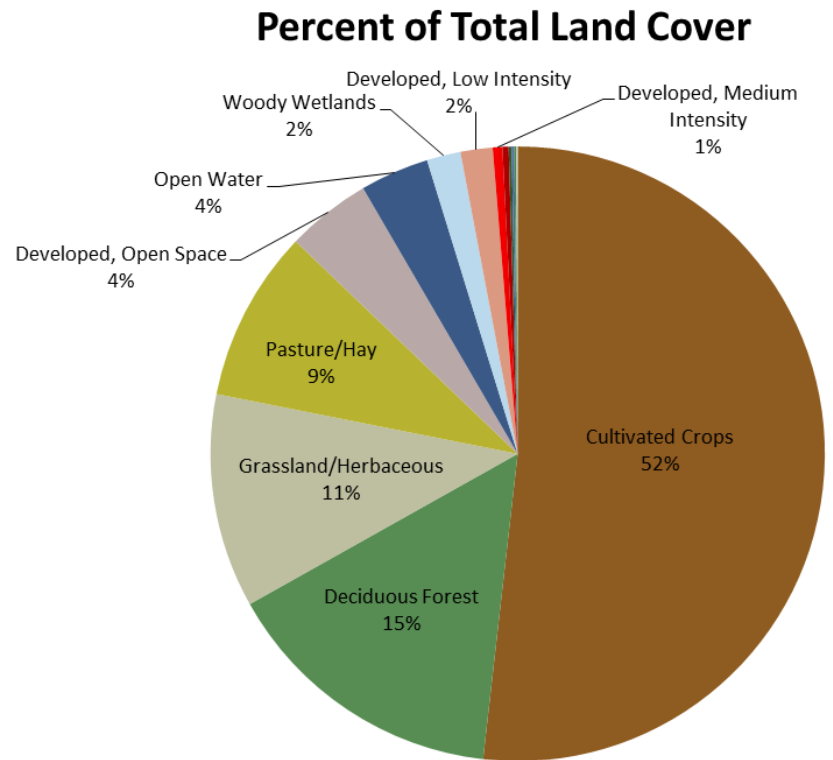
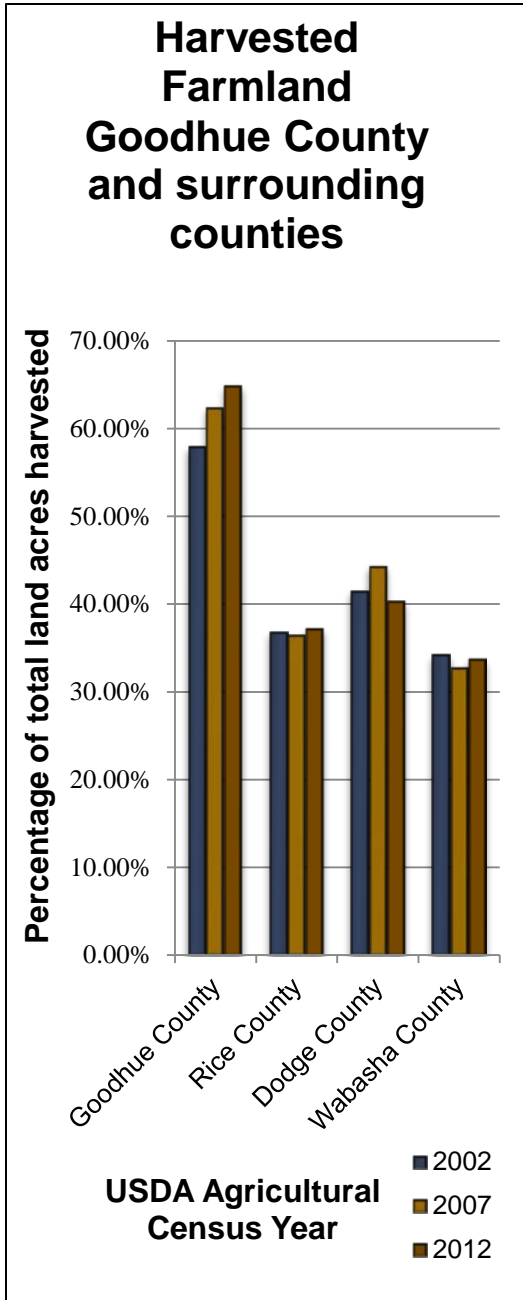


Landcover

Open Water	Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)	Grassland/Herbaceous
Developed, Open Space	Deciduous Forest	Pasture/Hay
Developed, Low Intensity	Evergreen Forest	Cultivated Crops
Developed, Medium Intensity	Mixed Forest	Woody Wetlands
Developed, High Intensity	Shrub/Scrub	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands

PLANT AGRICULTURE

Goodhue County has a higher percentage of land area in harvested agriculture than similar abutting Counties. During outreach activities, residents have continued to express the importance of maintaining and preserving agricultural land (Goodhue County, 2015).



National Land Cover Database 2011 from www.mrlc.gov

PLANT AGRICULTURE

Goodhue County has rich, prime farming soils which have created a strong history in field crop agriculture. The most common field crops in Goodhue County are corn and soybeans. Over 170,000 acres were reported in corn production for grain in 2012, and over 95,000 acres of land was reported in soybean for grain production (USDA, Census of Agriculture, 2012). As shown on the pie chart on the previous page, over half of the land in the County is classified as cultivated cropland. Due to potential conflicts between housing and agricultural production, the County has limited the dwelling densities within the agricultural districts.



An example of shares one could receive from a CSA during peak harvest.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms are direct-farm marketing and production model farms in which farmers sell shares to members who receive a portion of produce on a weekly schedule. Some CSA's are purely produce, others allow for add-ons such as artisan cheese, bread, meat, eggs, cut flowers, or canned goods. This model of farming allows for the consumers to share in the risks and benefits of the farm. It allows the farmer to get paid before the crop yield, which reduces the risk to the farmer and spreads the risk amongst all shareholders. According to the 2012 Agricultural Census, Goodhue County has nine CSA's, which dropped from twelve in 2007. CSA's can be supported through the same objectives and implementation measures for crop and animal agriculture, perhaps with an emphasis of agricultural tourism.



VINEYARDS

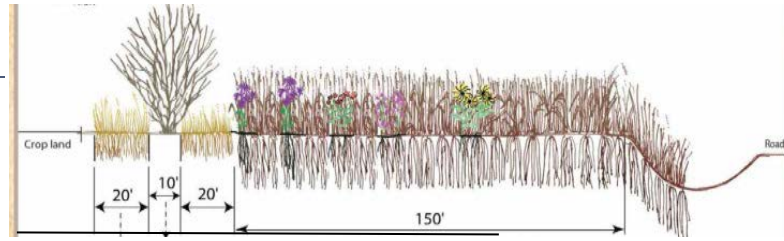
The University of Minnesota initiated a breeding program for cold hardy wine grapes in the mid 1980's. Through this research Minnesota has become a contender in the viticulture industry. It was reported in 2012 that Goodhue County was home to 16 vineyards (USDA, Census of Agriculture, 2012). Vineyards have a unique part of recreation and tourism in the County. More information on vineyards in the County is available in the Recreation and Tourism element of this plan.



Photograph courtesy of Cannon Valley Vineyard

ORCHARDS

As of 2012, the County had thirty four farms in orchards which equated to 178 acres. (USDA, Census of Agriculture, 2012). Orchards in Goodhue County typically harvest varieties of apples; however they could contain other fruit trees such as peach, pear, or cherry.



Example of a living snow fence with nesting bird and pollinator components incorporated in. More examples can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/environment/livingsnowfence/index.html>

BEE AND POLLINATOR COLONIES

Pollinators include butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, beetles, ants, hummingbirds and bees. There were 17 farms with honey bee colonies reported in 2012 (USDA, Census of Agriculture, 2012). Bees are a vital organism to our environment. Their pollination is a keystone role for the natural habitat and the productivity of agriculture. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, honey bee and some pollinator populations are declining (U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2015). Pollinator habitats provide food, shelter, and nesting resources for these species. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has developed best management practices for pollinator habitat for agricultural landscapes, yards, gardens, and roadside and right of ways. Creating pollinator habitat near roads have multiple benefits such as improved visibility on the road, increased crop yields, and controlled soil erosion.

**PLANT AGRICULTURE
OBJECTIVES:**



- 1. Soils with a prime farmland rating shall be protected from non-agricultural development whenever possible.**
- 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 be compatible with the continued operation of agricultural uses, their inherent activities, and lifestyle.**
- 4. If residential development occurs, it should be compact and designed to preserve the prime farmland for agricultural uses or other compatible uses to minimize conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural uses.**
- 5. Encourage farmers to adopt and maintain sound environmental practices through the utilization of buffer zones to aid in soil erosion prevention practices, chemical application procedures, manure spreading, irrigation, odor control, ensure a sustained agricultural use of the land, and to protect ground water and environmentally sensitive habitats.**
- 6. Support and encourage private and public agreements that preserve farmland.**
- 7. Support new and innovative agricultural products such as vineyards, orchards, bee production, and other innovative practices to enhance emerging agriculture industries..**

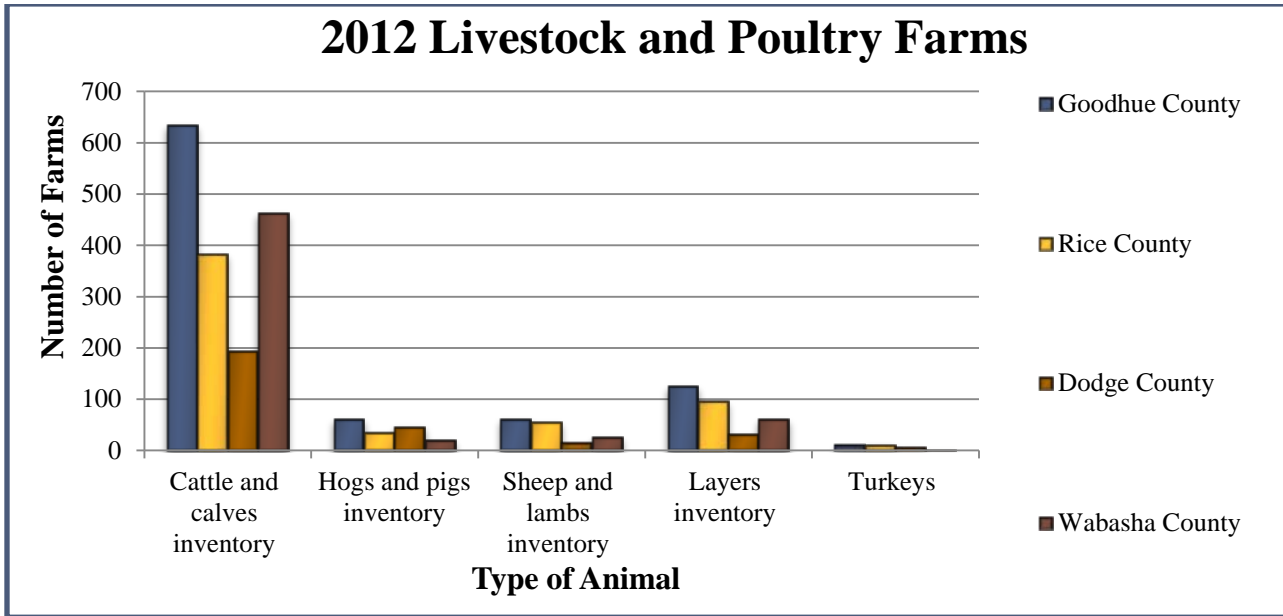
**PLANT AGRICULTURE
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



- 1. Soils with a prime farmland rating shall be protected from non-agricultural development whenever possible.**
- 2. Siting of dwellings or businesses should take into consideration the amount of farmland being used and shall minimize the impact to the greatest extent possible.**
- 3. Housing developments shall be directed to incorporated city limits first.**
- 4. Educate landowners on the requirements of management of protected waterways and agricultural uses.**
- 5. Establish a process for monitoring land applications of manure and processing of wastewater.**
- 6. Educational material will be made available to inform landowners the importance of pollinator habitats.**

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Goodhue County leads the region in the number of feedlot operations. The chart below shows number of farms with animal inventories for the types of animals listed.



(USDA, Census of Agriculture, 2012)

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

In 2012, it was reported that there were 636 farms with cattle and calves, equating to over 59,000 animals; and 63 farms with more than 143,000 hogs. Other typical animals in Goodhue County are sheep, chickens, and turkeys (USDA, Census of Agriculture, 2012)

PASTURE AND GRAZING LANDS

Soils that are not rated prime farmland may be better utilized as pasture and grazing lands. Marginal farming soils and topographically challenged areas were historically identified as “goat prairies.” These areas may be ideal for pasture and grazing lands if best management practices are utilized to ensure that land is not over grazed causing soil erosion issues.



ELEMENT 1: AGRICULTURE



EMERGING AGRICULTURE

Goats: Generally goat farming means rearing goats for the purpose of harvesting milk, meat and fiber. Local goat herds have even been used by the Minnesota Department of Resources for controlling invasive species.

Alpaca: Alpaca are docile creatures that are often raised for their soft fleece. They can produce an estimated 10 pounds of fiber each year.



Small farms: Small farms are also known as hobby farms and are on the rise in Minnesota, according to the University of Minnesota Extension data. Small farm needs are slightly different than major farming operations. They require less land and may be secondary to the individuals' main source of income. Small farms could be home to agricultural tourism opportunities such as corn mazes, direct farm markets, and pick your own produce.



**ANIMAL AGRICULTURE
OBJECTIVES:**



1. **Support and encourage farming activities so farmers can continue to provide an adequate supply of healthy livestock.**
2. **Support agricultural industries that are directly and indirectly related to animal agriculture such as veterinarian services, crop advisory services, livestock sales and auction services.**
3. **Encourage the use of best management practices for animal and crop agricultural practices.**
4. **Continue to allow for agricultural tourism opportunities to allow diversification of the agricultural economy.**
5. **Support the growth of animal agriculture in an environmentally friendly manner.**



**ANIMAL AGRICULTURE
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



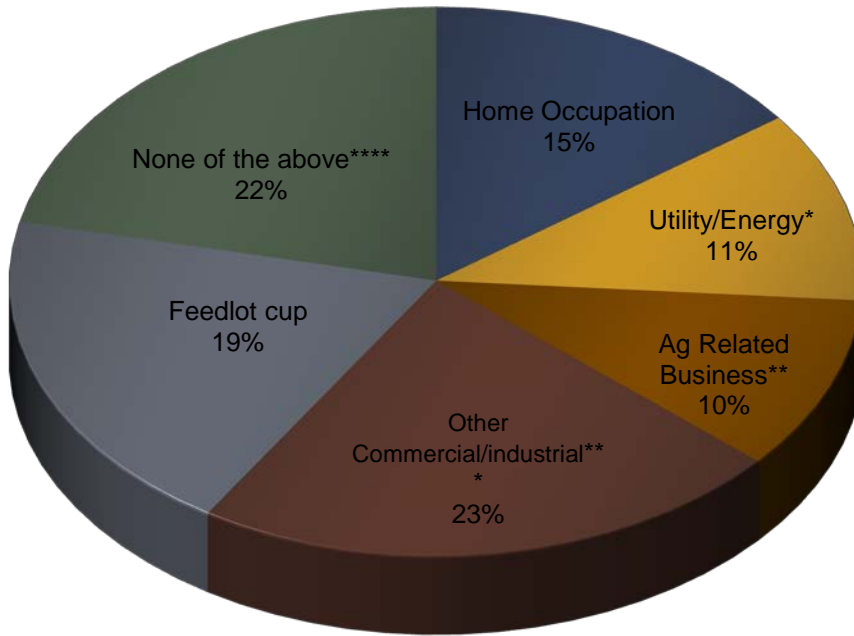
1. **The University of Minnesota’s odor OFFSET tool will be used when considering new feedlots and feedlot expansion requests.**
2. **Support and promote best management animal farming practices in order to protect the health, safety, welfare of the operation as well as surrounding properties.**
3. **Work with the Soil and Water Conservation District to enforce the designated feedlot program in accordance with MN Rules 7020.**
4. **Encourage best practices for waste handling, manure spreading, pest control, fertilizer application, and erosion control.**
5. **Evaluate feedlots and feedlot registration requirements to ensure they are addressing health, safety, and welfare concerns for adjacent landowners, water quality, and soil health.**



AGRICULTURAL RELATED BUSINESSES

Goodhue County contains a number of agricultural industries within the agriculturally zoned districts and even within the urban fringe districts. Such industries are vital to economic sustainability of the County. They support and enhance the agricultural products within the County as well as offer alternative income methods to landowners. Such businesses include seed and crop research, fertilizer transfer stations, agricultural cooperatives and grain elevators, turkey manure compost site and transfer stations, hay transfer stations, livestock and agricultural product auctions, and veterinary services. Other businesses have shown to support the agricultural community such as welders, electricians, mechanics, and trucking and transport businesses. As shown in the following chart, 10% of conditional use permit requests since 2002 were requests to establish or expand a commercial or industrial use intended to serve the agricultural community.

Land Use and Conditional Use Permits 2002-2014



* MET towers, wind turbines, solar and wireless CUP or LUP etc.

** farm winery, ag related business, farm retreat, etc.

*** kennel, shooting preserve, non-ag tourism

**** wetland, floodplain, mineral extraction

**AGRICULTURALLY
RELATED BUSINESS
OBJECTIVES:**



1. Identify agriculturally related businesses and industrial uses that are appropriate for the agricultural districts.
2. Support agriculturally related businesses and industrial uses when sited in compatible areas that would not create extraneous nuisances to adjacent landowners.
3. Provide appropriate expectations for minimizing impacts between industrial agricultural businesses and the surrounding uses such as landscape buffers and setbacks.
4. 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.
5. Create performance standards for business and industrial uses that primarily serve the agricultural community.
6. Allow the use of minimally intrusive signs to advertise and support agriculturally related businesses.

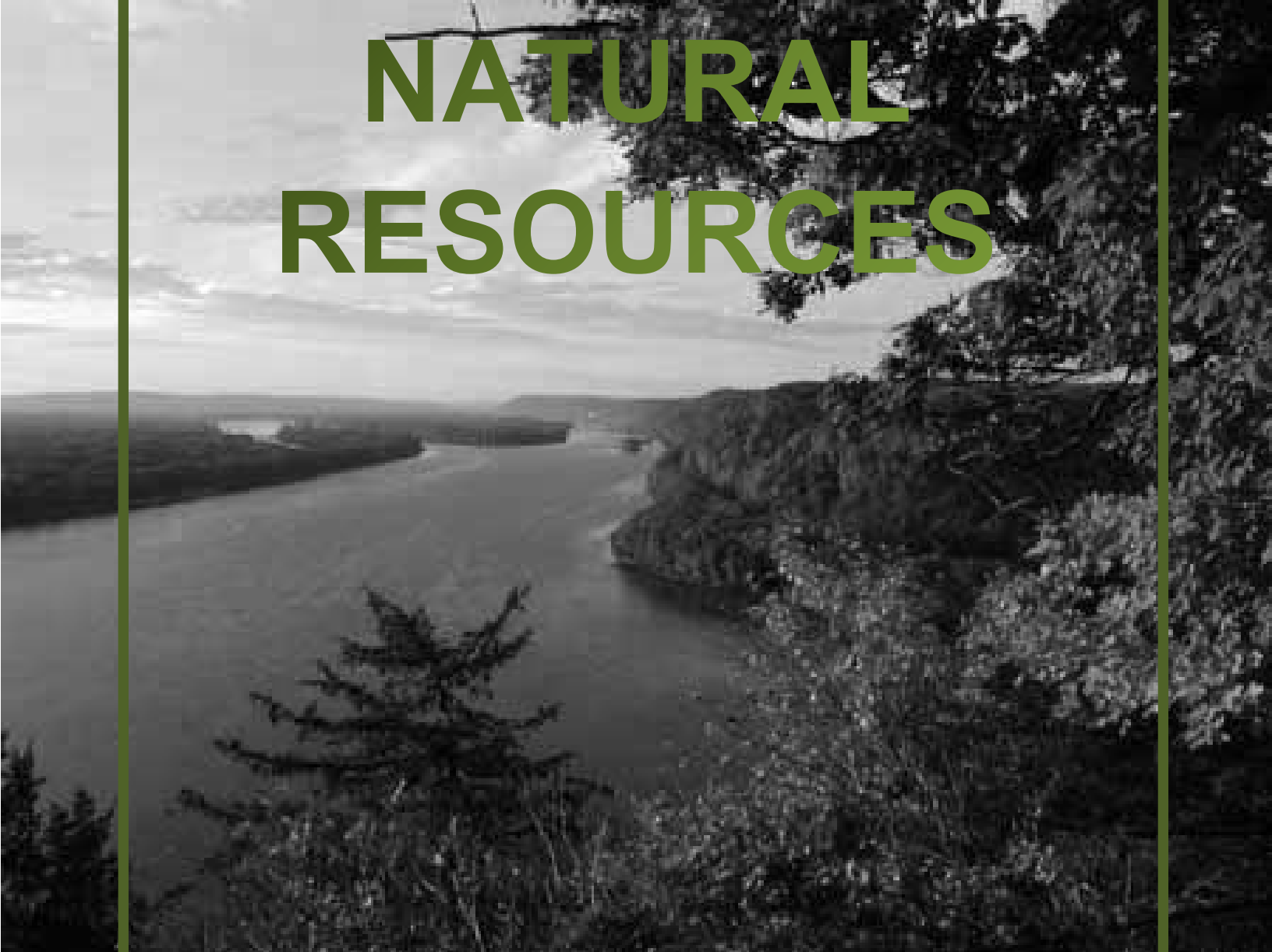
**AGRICULTURALLY
RELATED BUSINESS
OBJECTIVES:**



1. Create performance standards for business and industrial uses.
2. Allow the use of minimally intrusive signs to advertise and support agriculturally related businesses.

AGRICULTURAL RELATED BUSINESSES

ELEMENT 2: NATURAL RESOURCES



**THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF GOODHUE
COUNTY IS VERY DIVERSE INCLUDING ONE OF THE
MOST SCENIC STRETCHES OF THE MIGHTY
MISSISSIPPI RIVER.**

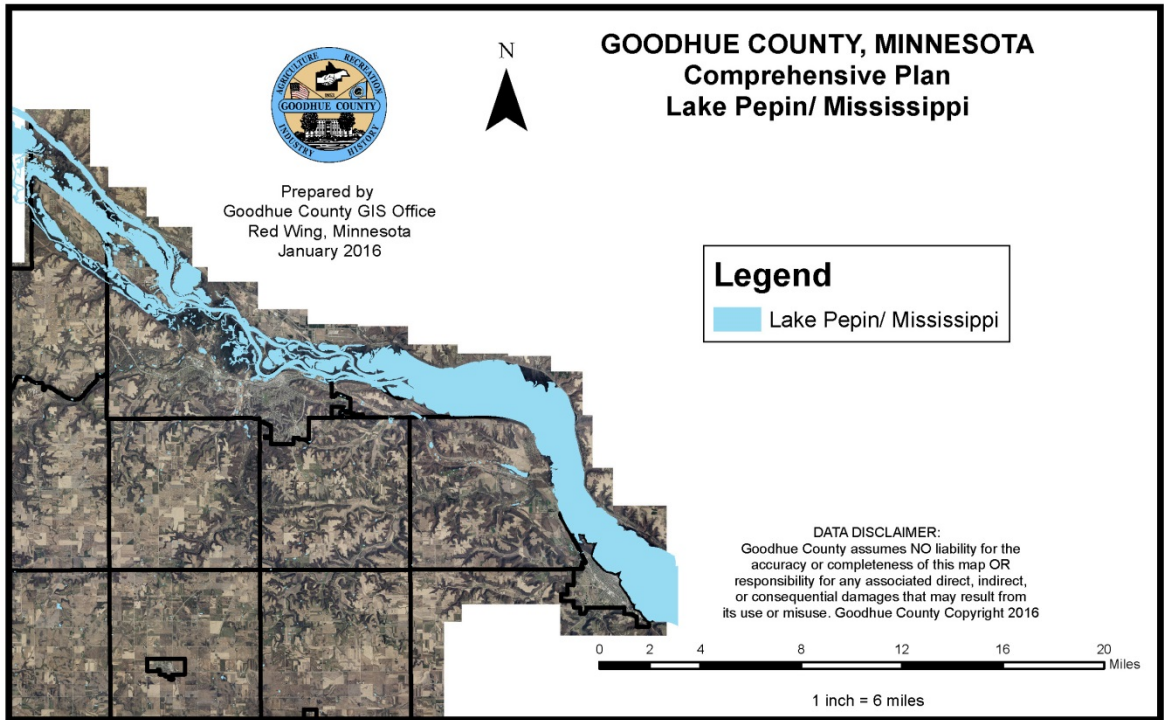
OVERVIEW

Understanding and preserving our environment is an important legacy for future generations. Goodhue County's physical environment is very diverse; its surface and underground features vary widely throughout the County.

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

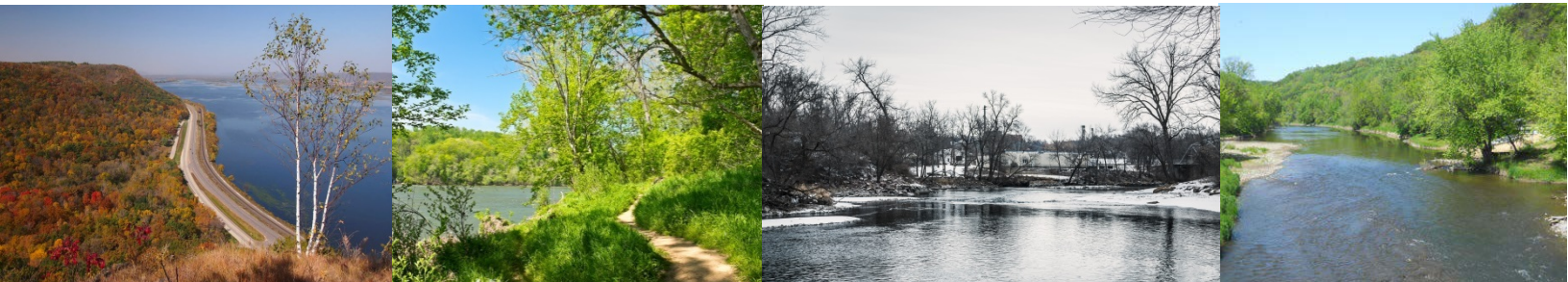
Citizens have continually placed a high priority on sound management of the County's natural resources. Examples of this interest are abundant including watershed partnerships, conservation organizations, volunteer efforts,

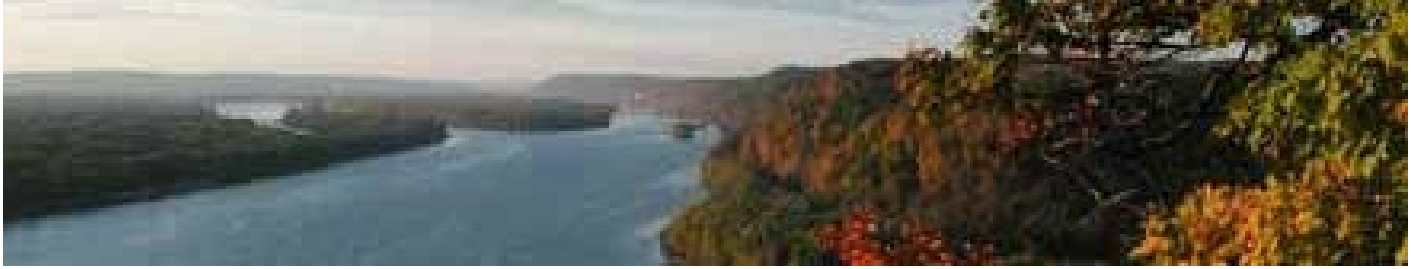
and partnerships between private landowners and public agencies, all of which have been developed to foster local stewardship and management of natural resources. A large part of the quality of life in Goodhue County is derived from the values that come with being part of a still-rural community. Other values are associated with the natural landscapes such as the Mississippi River, breathtaking Blufflands, forests, prairies, and wetlands. These areas provide opportunities for active and passive recreation as well as providing functions such as fish and wildlife habitats, stormwater infiltration, erosion control, and in some cases additional farm and household income. In addition, the aesthetic qualities and desirability of these natural areas increases property values.



The physical environment of Goodhue County is very diverse including:

- One of the most scenic stretches of the mighty Mississippi River including the upper portion of Lake Pepin
- The lower reaches of the State of Minnesota designated Wild and Scenic Cannon River
- Stretches of the North Branch and Middle Branch of the Zumbro River
- Numerous high quality creeks including Hay Creek, Wells Creek, Belle Creek, Spring Creek, Clear Creek and the lower portion of Gilbert Creek. Stretches of these creeks sustain water temperatures and oxygen levels suitable to support various species of trout.
- Recognized as one of the great American treasures, the Mississippi River Blufflands and its unique driftless features are one of the most scenic and culturally important regions in the United States





KEY POINTS

STRENGTHS

CHALLENGES

The federal Clean Water Act requires States to adopt water quality standards to protect lakes, streams, and wetlands from pollution

Significant portions of Goodhue County have been identified as having a “high” or “very high” susceptibility to groundwater contamination concerns

The forested areas in Goodhue County serve many purposes including stormwater management, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and commercial timber harvesting

The undeveloped natural areas are important to its citizens and are an important scenic amenity and tourist destination

The County has a vast source of tools to evaluate land uses such as the Environmental Constraints Land use model (ECLUE), Local Water Management Plan, and Geographic Information System databases including: historic aerial photography, contour datasets, a Natural Resources Inventory, and historical and cultural locations

Due to Goodhue County’s slow yet steady growth, natural areas such as bluffs, woodlands, and streams have remained relatively unaffected by urban development

The County has specific ordinances that limit development opportunities in the rural area. Residential and City growth expansions could reduce available land for agricultural purposes

Specific regulations that protect groundwater quality are difficult to establish due to the unpredictability of Goodhue County’s groundwater system

Many of the natural areas, such as the Dorer Memorial Hardwood state forest, have remained either privately owned or administered by other agencies, limiting overall preservation efforts

The County has many areas with either no shoreland vegetated buffers, or impaired buffers

Balancing non-metallic mineral extraction and transportation with reasonable environmental regulations

NATURAL RESOURCES

Goodhue County's past and current efforts to plan and implement sound management of its natural resources have been initiated and implemented in accordance with Federal and State Laws and Rules, however, the County is also directed to protect and properly manage its resources through local priorities and initiatives.

The basis for the County's past and current natural resources management efforts include the following:

- Shoreland Management Act (Minnesota Statutes 103F)
- Floodplain Management Policy (Minnesota Statutes 103F.105)
- Wetlands Protection and Preservation (Minnesota Statutes 103G.221)
- Minnesota's Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (Minnesota Statutes 103F)
- Blufflands Management and Preservation
- Management of Non-Metallic Mineral Resources



WATER RESOURCES

There are three major watersheds in Goodhue County. They include the Mississippi River, Cannon River and Zumbro River. The Cannon and Zumbro Rivers eventually flow to the Mississippi River. Numerous tributaries flow into each of the rivers.

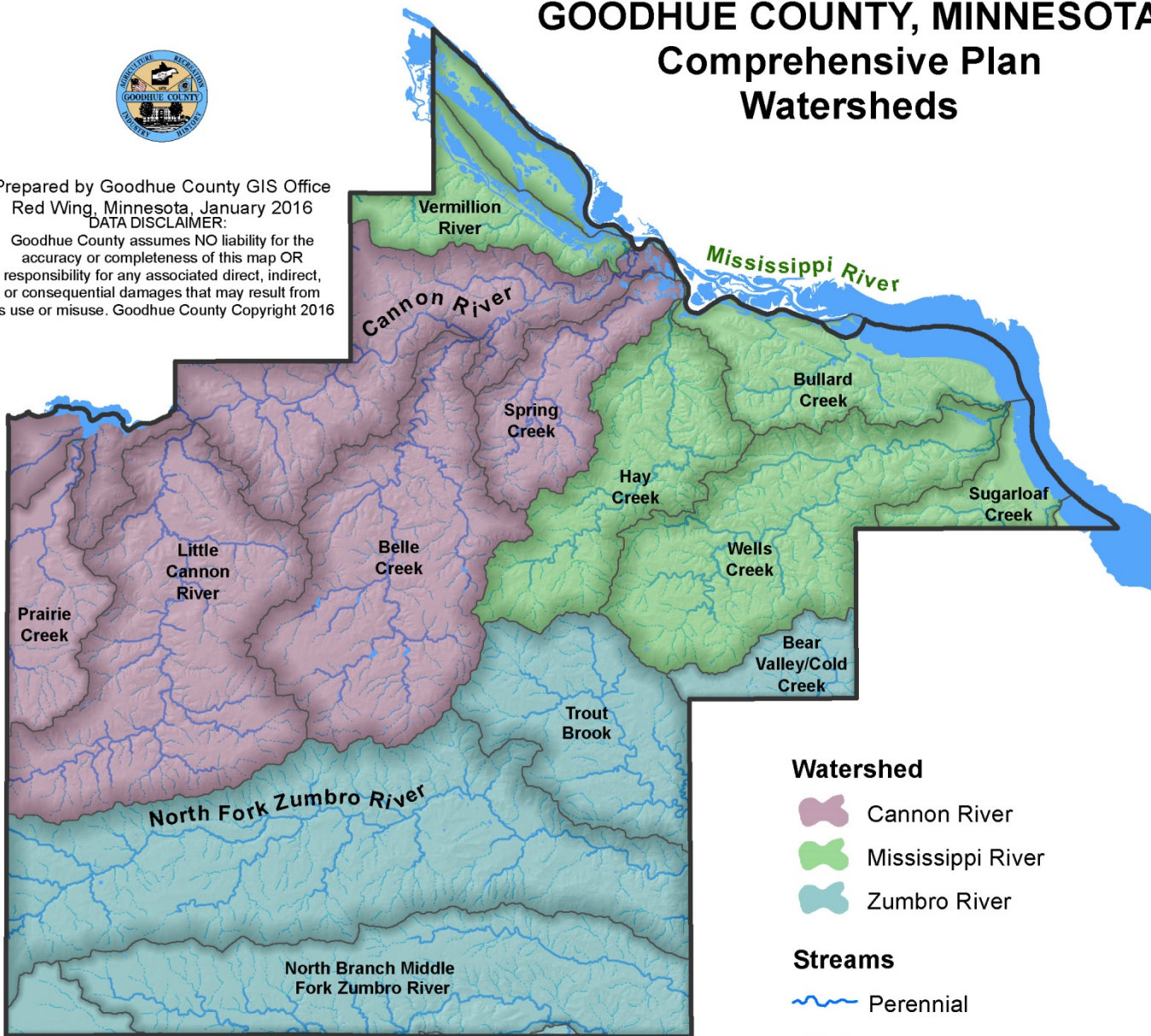
**GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA
Comprehensive Plan
Watersheds**



Prepared by Goodhue County GIS Office
Red Wing, Minnesota, January 2016

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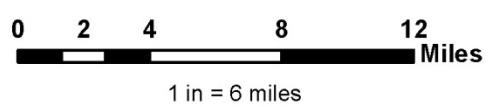
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- Watershed**
-  Cannon River
 -  Mississippi River
 -  Zumbro River

- Streams**
-  Perennial
 -  Intermittent

- Lakes & Rivers**
- 



GROUNDWATER

Ground water within the County is heavily influenced by karst features. Karst topography is a geologic landscape created by the dissolution of rock resulting in fractures, caverns, and sinkholes. This not only complicates groundwater systems, but decreases the time it takes for pollutants to enter the system. Regulations that protect groundwater quality are difficult to establish due to the unpredictability of Goodhue County's groundwater system.

Significant portions of Goodhue County have been identified as having a "high" or "very high" susceptibility to groundwater contamination concerns. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) defines a sensitive area as a geographic area characterized by natural features where there is significant risk of groundwater degradation from activities conducted at or near the land surface (MS § 103H.101).

IMPAIRED WATERS



IMPAIRED WATERS:

The Federal Clean Water Act requires states to adopt water quality standards to protect lakes, streams, and wetlands from pollution. The standards define how much of a pollutant (bacteria, nutrients, turbidity, mercury, etc.) can be in the water and still meet designated uses, such as drinking water, fishing, and swimming. A water body is "impaired" if it fails to meet one or more water quality standards. Numerous Goodhue County waters have been determined to be "impaired" based upon the various measures used to determine compliance with Clean Water Act standards.

GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

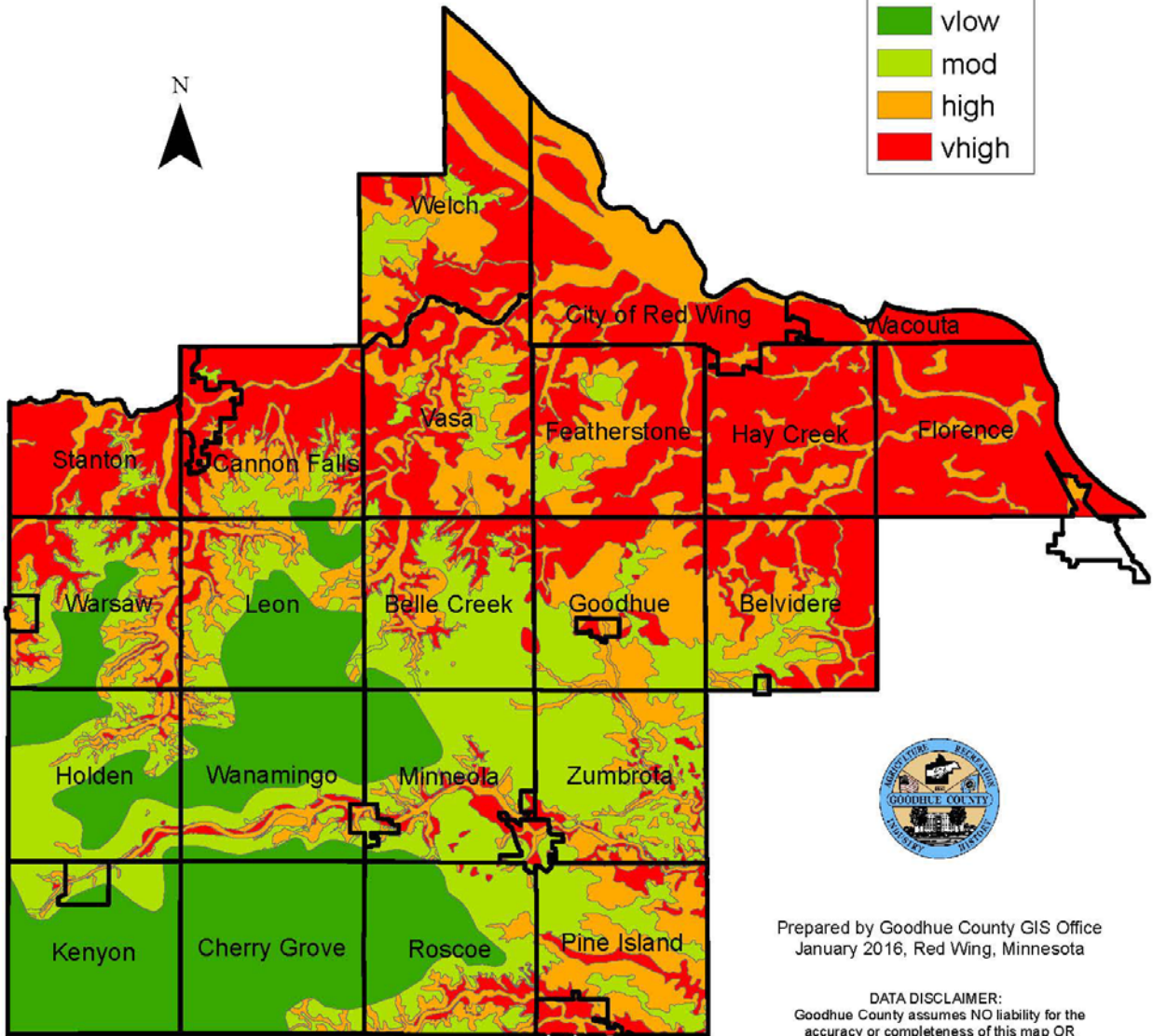
Comprehensive Plan

Groundwater Sensitivity

Legend

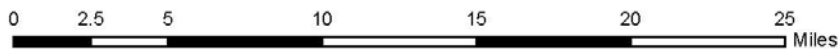
Sensitivity

- low
- mod
- high
- vhigh



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1 inch = 5 miles

GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

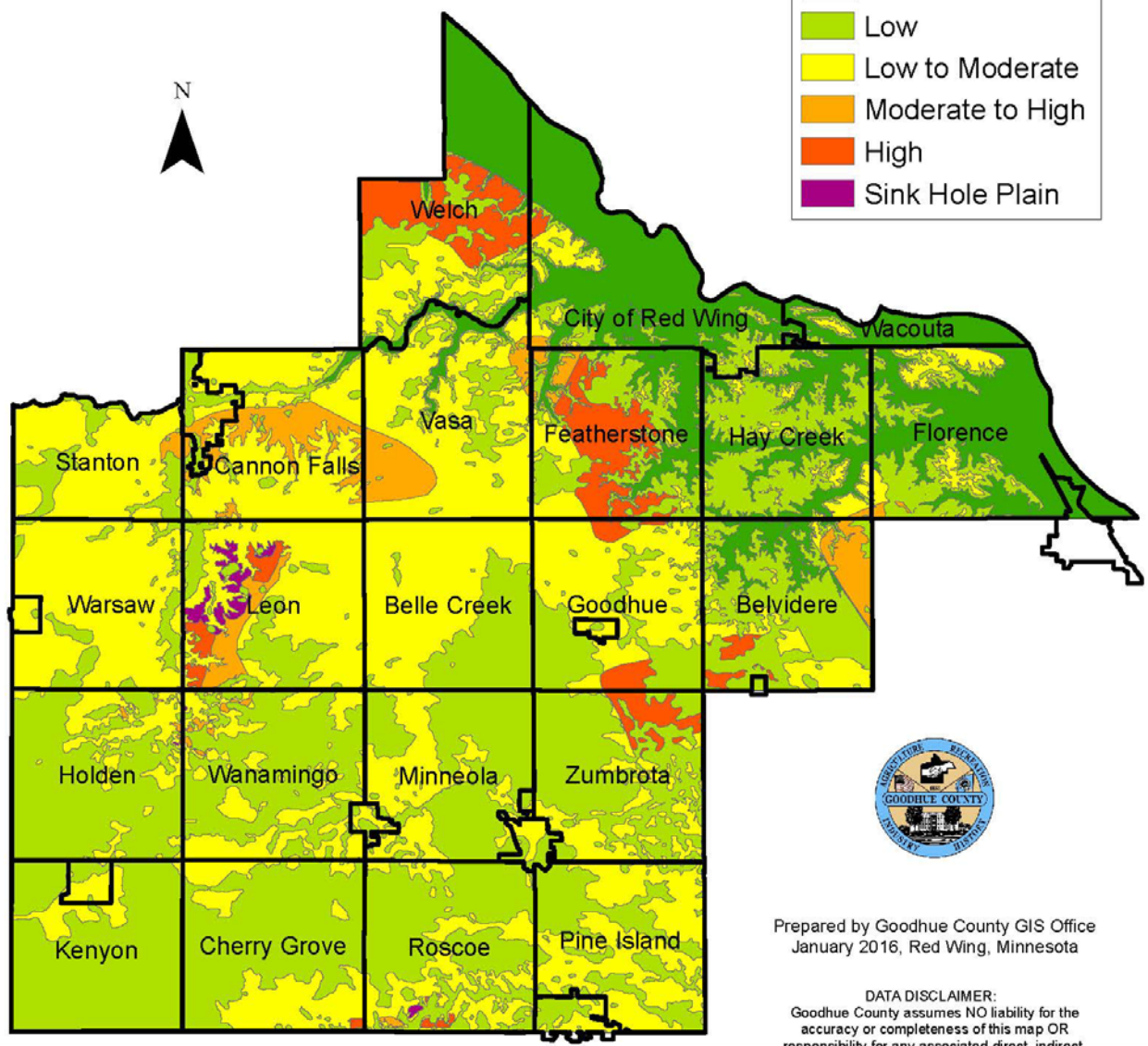
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Sink Hole Probability

Legend

Sink Hole Probability

- None
- Low
- Low to Moderate
- Moderate to High
- High
- Sink Hole Plain



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TROUT STREAMS

Goodhue County has several rivers, creeks or streams that have been designated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as “trout streams”. Like trout streams elsewhere in Southeastern Minnesota, Goodhue County’s Trout Streams rise from springs and thus are cool in summer. The trout streams are ecologically sensitive, and popular with anglers from around the upper Midwest. These streams require special attention to assure that they remain healthy and productive. A stream’s ability to support trout serves as an indicator of the health of the waters. This illustrates the geologic and hydrologic conditions that make Goodhue County a unique and special place.



WETLAND PRESERVATION

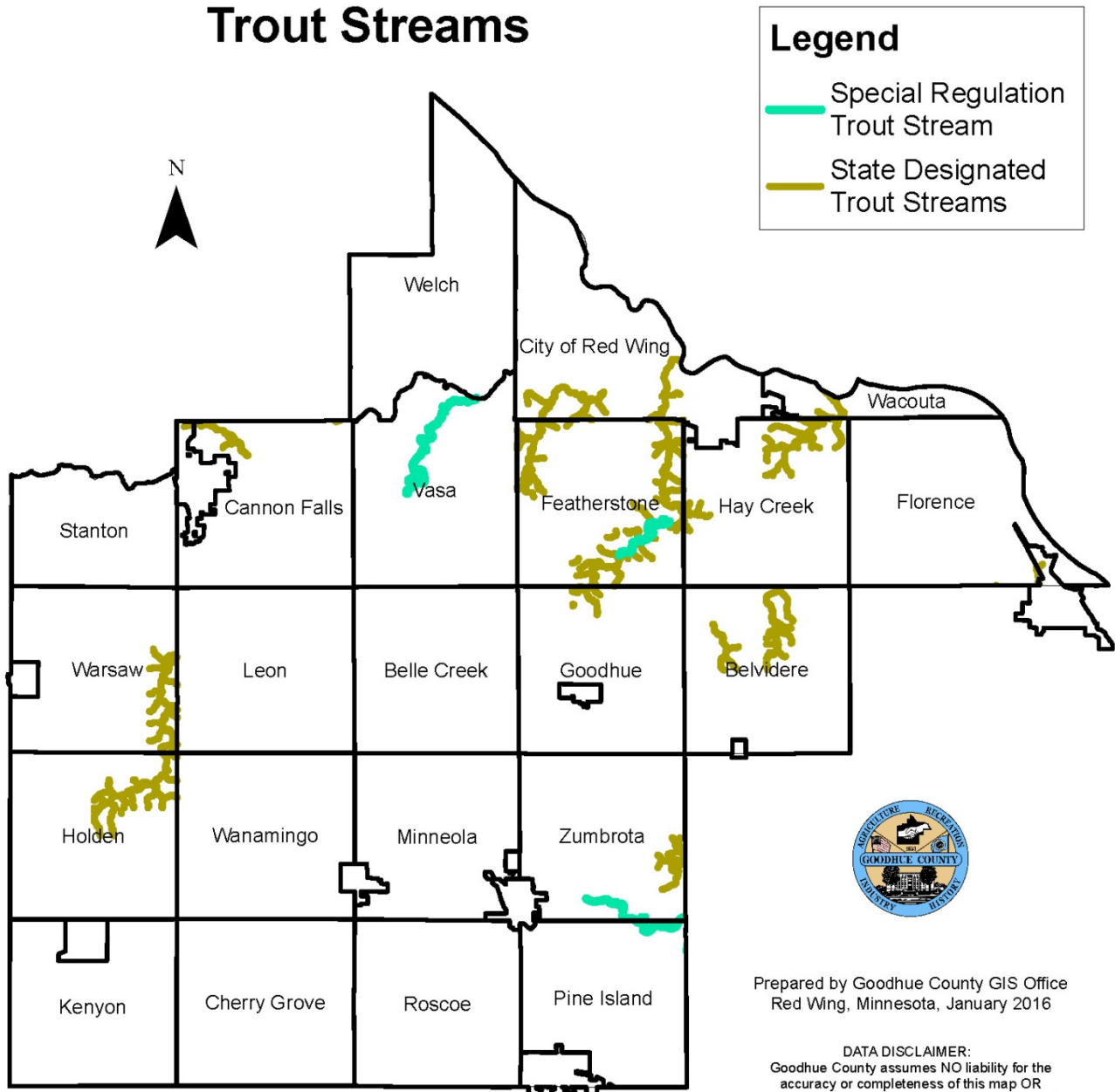
Wetlands provide a valuable service by improving water quality, providing for flood water retention, reducing runoff, reducing stream sedimentation, and preserving wildlife habitat.



GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Comprehensive Plan

Trout Streams



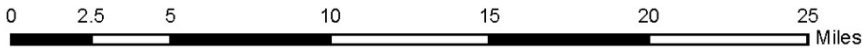
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- Special Regulation Trout Stream
- State Designated Trout Streams



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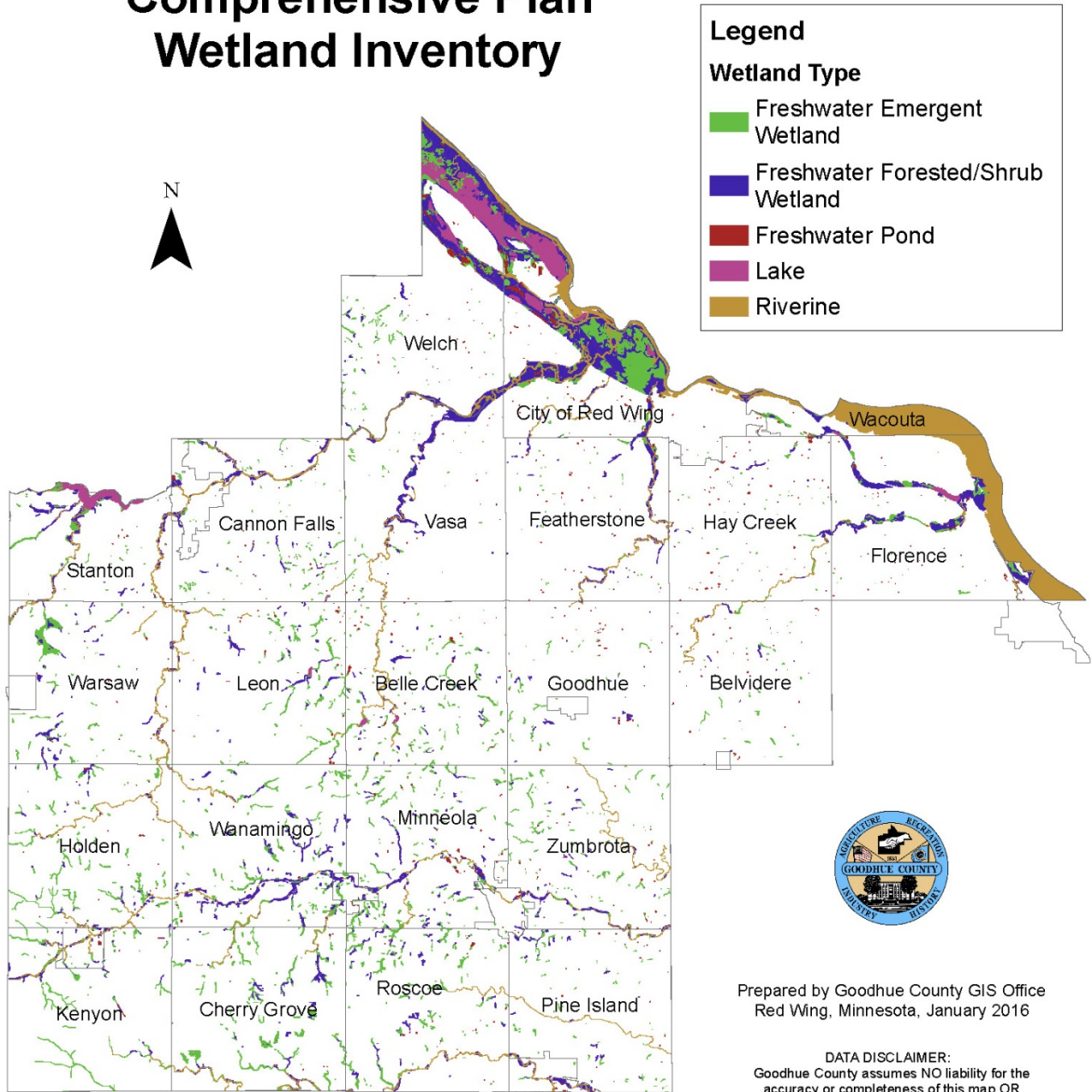
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GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Comprehensive Plan Wetland Inventory



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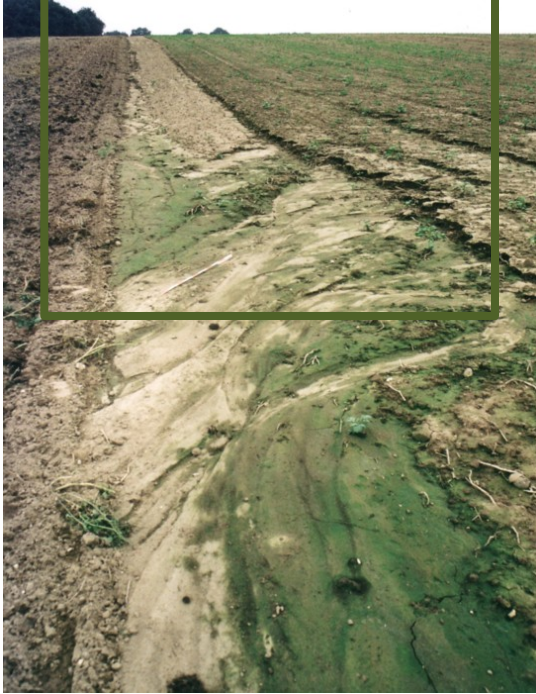
**WATER RESOURCE
OBJECTIVES:**



1. Provide guidance for the responsible development of shorelands of public waters and thus preserve and enhance the quality of surface waters.
2. Preserve the economic and natural environmental values of shorelands.
3. Provide for the responsible use of water and related land resources of the State.
4. Encourage floodplain stabilization.
5. Guide responsible development of the floodplains to reduce human and property losses due to flooding.
6. Discourage unsuitable structures in floodplains .
7. Protect, enhance, and conserve the wetlands of Goodhue County.
8. Integrate land use planning with water planning to achieve optimal management and quality of ground and surface water resources.



**WATER RESOURCE
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



- 1. Maintain and administer Shoreland Zoning Regulations consistent with Minnesota Statutes 103F (Shoreland Management Act) and Minnesota Administrative Rules 6120 (Shoreland Rules).**
- 2. Educate land owners within designated Shoreland Areas regarding applicable provisions of Shoreland Zoning Regulations.**
- 3. Further shoreland management through proactive administration of Shoreland Regulations including working with rural property owners to ensure compliance with vegetative buffer standards.**
- 4. Educate landowners on the requirements of management of protected waterways and agricultural uses.**
- 5. Maintain and administer flood plain regulation consistent with Minnesota Administrative Rules 6120.5400 (Floodplain Management Rules – Local Duties).**
- 6. Educate flood plain property owners on how to avoid or minimize flood hazard risks and the benefits of purchasing and maintaining flood insurance.**
- 7. Make relevant flood hazard area maps and supporting data available to emergency response planners and providers to facilitate essential flood warning practices, emergency response and evacuation measures.**
- 8. Maintain and implement regulations calling for the replacement of wetlands destroyed or diminished due to unavoidable activities.**

**WATER RESOURCE
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES
CONTINUED:**



- 9. Work closely with Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District to administer wetland’s regulations to minimize wetland’s impacts and to ensure wetland’s replacement in conformance with applicable State standards.**
- 10. Coordinate land use planning and regulation including promoting the use of best management practices for handling stormwater runoff for areas that drain into wetlands to limit contamination of wetland’s with sediment and other pollutants.**
- 11. Work collaboratively with the Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District to implement goals, objectives and action steps set forth in the 2010 – 2020 Goodhue County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.**
- 12. Participate in the “One Watershed, One Plan” water planning vision that is being implemented by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Work collaboratively with BWSR, Watershed Management Organizations, Local Governments, other State Agencies (such as the MNDNR or MPCA) and Federal Agencies (such as FEMA or the Army Corp. of Engineers) to further planning and management of land and water resources on a watershed basis.**
- 13. Maintain and administer the County’s Water Quality Ordinance and the Sub-Surface Sewage Treatment System Ordinance to protect, preserve and enhance the County’s ground water resources**



LAND RESOURCES

The Blufflands in Goodhue County are part of a unique region encompassing parts of Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin known as the “Driftless Area”. From a Natural Resources planning standpoint, considering the significance and the characteristics of the Driftless Area offers another perspective on understanding the natural features found in Goodhue County.

The four-state Driftless Area is a stunningly beautiful 24,000-square-mile landscape island, once surrounded but never touched, by giant sheets of glacial ice. This ancient landscape has evolved over thousands of years to reveal rocky bluffs, ridge-tops flanked with steep hillsides, and more than 600 cold water springs and creeks flowing quickly through the valleys. Many rare species of birds, fish, plant and other wildlife have taken refuge and survived in this area.

The Driftless Area also serves as a rest and feeding stop for many bird species during migration season. The Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries provide vital migration corridors for more than half of North America’s bird species, forming the largest contiguous area of fish and wildlife habitat remaining in the Central United States.

The region also features soils particularly vulnerable to erosion. Sediment in runoff threatens the cold water streams and diverse habitats. Forestland converted to intensive agriculture further increases the risk to this delicate ecosystem.





PALEOZOIC PLATEAU SECTION AND BLUFFLANDS SUBSECTION

The environmental, cultural and historic significance of the Blufflands which encompass a significant portion of Goodhue County is well documented. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service have developed an Ecological Classification System (ECS) for ecological mapping and landscape classification in Minnesota following the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (ECOMAP 1993). This Ecological Classification System provides working definitions of ecosystems and supporting inventories of the components that comprise ecosystems. It helps us understand ecological patterns and processes and the interrelationships of social, physical, and biological systems.

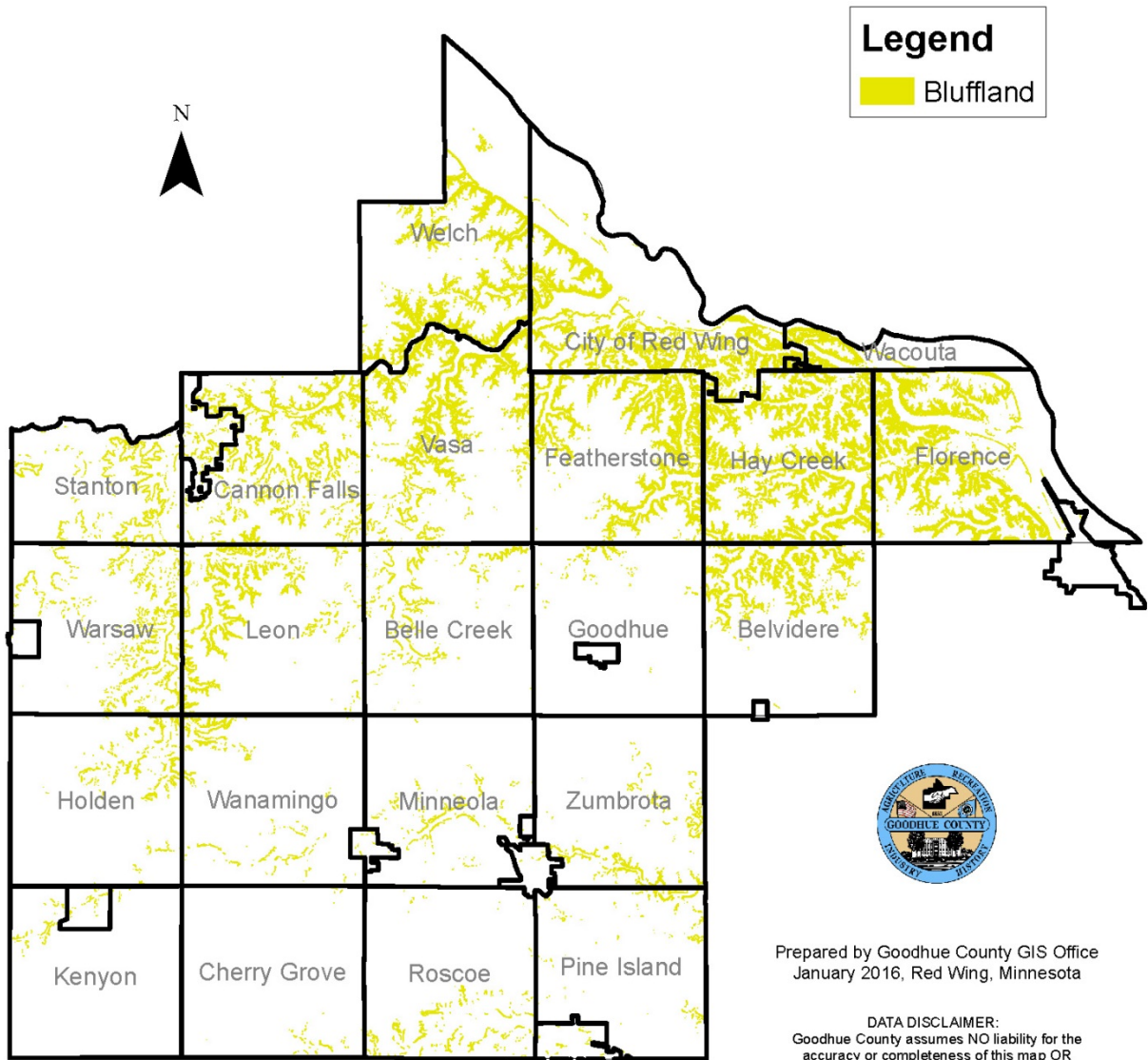
Goodhue County is part of the Paleozoic Plateau Section (PPL) which is described as a rugged region of bluffs and valleys that are quite different from the rest of Minnesota. Approximately the eastern third of the County is recognized as being in the Blufflands Subsection which is characterized by highly dissected landscapes associated with major rivers in southeastern Minnesota. Bluffs and deep stream valleys are common. River bottom forests have historically grown along major streams and rivers. This ecological classification system offers a way of understanding the landforms, geology, soils, vegetation and hydrology of Goodhue County.



GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Comprehensive Plan

Blufflands



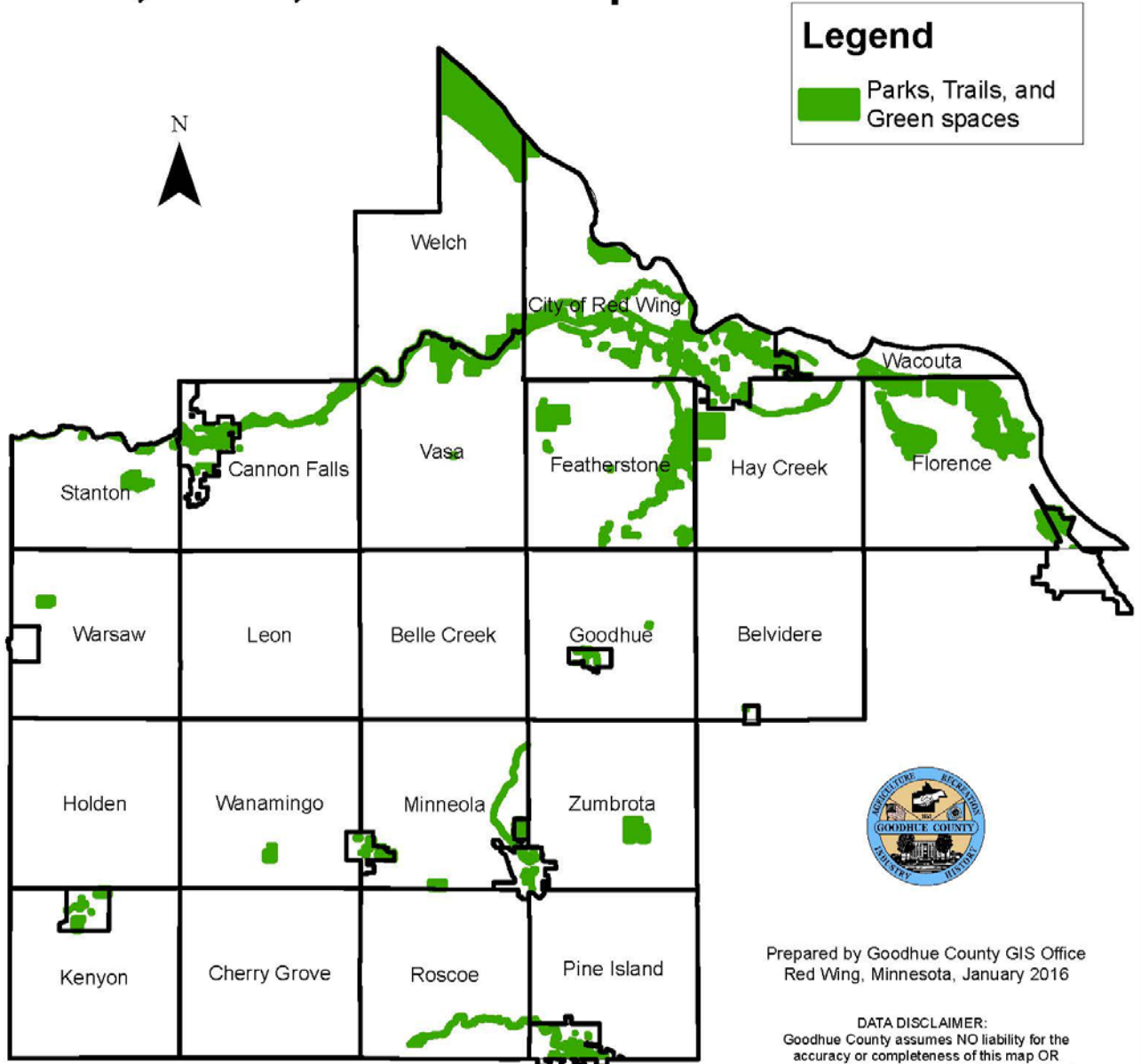
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Comprehensive Plan

Parks, Trails, and Green Spaces



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RICHARD DORER
MEMORIAL STATE FOREST

The Richard Dorer Memorial State forest is a 1 Million acre forest that spans seven counties in southeast Minnesota with approximately one hundred thousand privately owned acres within Goodhue County. The forested areas in Goodhue County serve many purposes including stormwater management, wildlife habitat, recreation and commercial timber harvesting. Much of the County's forested land is located within Blufflands.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Native plant and animal species and natural communities have evolved together for tens of thousands of years in some instances, and are particularly suited to certain areas in Goodhue County. If native communities are preserved, they will help to maintain a healthy landscape. These preserved landscapes can adapt better to disease, weather extremes, or other natural disturbances, and require less management than species that are less suited to the area. In addition, native plant and animal species contribute to biodiversity within the region and beyond.



ELEMENT 2: NATURAL RESOURCES



NON-METALLIC MINERAL RESOURCES

Goodhue County's Zoning Ordinance requires Mineral Extraction Facilities to register their operations. In 2016 the County had 36 registered facilities which mine materials such as limestone, sand, clay, and peat.

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 objectives and associated implementation measures 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. Objectives and implementation measures 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.



**LAND RESOURCE
OBJECTIVES:**



- 1. Goodhue County will evaluate Natural Resource protection standards in order to ensure effective regulatory strategies for protecting the natural land and uses in the County.**
- 2. Plan and implement reasonable land management of Shoreland Areas within Goodhue County as established by the State of Minnesota.**
- 3. Protect, preserve and promote responsible management of Goodhue County's Blufflands.**
- 4. Promote cooperative Natural Resources planning to promote responsible management of natural communities.**
- 5. Encourage the use of best management practices for Non-metallic Mineral Resources mining, processing, and transportation.**
- 6. Require mine reclamation plans to reflect compatible future uses.**
- 7. Establish regulations that minimize land use conflicts and degradation of the County's scenic, recreational and natural resources while allowing opportunities for development of mineral extraction facilities.**



**LAND RESOURCE
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



- 1. Create a forum to promote natural resource planning in the area.**
- 2. Build internal expertise for land planning and management of natural communities through on-going training of Land Use Management Staff and networking with public agencies and non-governmental organizations.**
- 3. Establish and administer mining regulations that ensure all mineral extraction facilities remain responsible, environmentally friendly operations.**
- 4. Establish and maintain mining regulations that ensure all mineral extraction facilities reclaim the mining area to an acceptable land use for future generations.**
- 5. 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 by utilizing available data resources including the County's ECLUE to evaluate site suitability for any proposed mineral extraction facilities.**
- 6. Periodically review mineral extraction regulations including Silica Sand regulations to consider any pertinent changes to Federal or State Laws or Rules and to adjust to changes in the industry practices with the primary goal of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Goodhue County's citizens.**
- 7. Ensure reclamation plans are adhered to and take into account future land uses in the design.**
- 8. Recognize the necessity of keeping aggregate resources available to supply local and regional**



infrastructure and development projects accessible for future needs.

**LAND RESOURCE
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES CONTINUED:**

9. **Maintain and administer Bluff Land Zoning Regulations.**
10. **Establish and administer permitting requirements for any allowable grading or excavation within Blufflands to minimize impacts such as erosion and sedimentation or loss of rare and endangered plant species.**
11. **Educate property owners through outreach efforts and connecting them with additional resources such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and professional Foresters to promote sound timber management practices within forested blufflands.**
12. **Promote maintenance and establishment of native and/or improved vegetation whichever is best suited for blufflands through education and outreach to property owners.**
13. **Promote and encourage removal of invasive plant species that may be detrimental to native plant and animal species through education and outreach to property owners. This may be achieved by coordinating with other Federal, State or Local Agencies and as part of the permit review process on properties that include Bluffland areas.**



ELEMENT 3: HOUSING



THE CHOICE OF WHERE TO LIVE IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES. VARYING LIFESTYLES CREATE DEMAND FOR A RANGE OF DWELLING TYPES, NEIGHBORHOODS AND DENSITIES

OVERVIEW

Quality housing is an essential component to healthy and vibrant communities. Individual preferences regarding housing design, lot size, density, and desirability of owning or renting can vary. Housing is a basic human need, and the Comprehensive Plan should continuously evaluate the vision and regulations to ensure that it promotes the best interests of the community.

The Housing Element addresses current housing issues as well as future housing needs and preferences. Housing forecasts are based on demographic trends, projected growth, and public opinion. This plan is not intended to stop growth, but rather to direct it into the most appropriate locations.

Growth management is based on an analysis of the natural environmental, resource base, and the community's economic viability including its physical infrastructure of roads and utilities.

The choice of where to live is an important decision for all individuals and families. Varying lifestyles create a demand for a range of dwelling types, neighborhoods and densities. A part of new and expanding business plans include researching an area for potential employees and housing for those employees. New residents in the area can bring vitality and property tax base to the community.



KEY POINTS

Proximity to population centers, available land, scenic, and natural amenities will attract a limited, but important population of homebuyer

Historic Hamlets in Goodhue County offer unique opportunities to enjoy rural living with neighbors in quaint mixed use village like settings

Some areas situated in the County's agricultural zoning districts are less productive for farming practices yet may be optimized for rural conservation subdivisions or single family homes

Changing housing needs due to the aging of current residents, multi-generational households, farm laborers, and those with medical needs create new preferences and demands for construction of new housing types



STRENGTHS

Goodhue County is uniquely situated between the metropolitan hubs of the Twin Cities and Rochester

The County has maintained a distinct sense of place by clearly separating urban and rural areas

The County administers the Building Code to help protect citizens and the public through permits and inspections, and ensure health and safety design standards for new construction

The County administers well and septic permits and inspections to ensure health and safety design standards for new construction and replacement systems for clean ground water



CHALLENGES

The County is challenged to promote a healthy rate of growth rather than having to address the challenge of too much growth

There are limited opportunities to construct new dwellings in rural Goodhue County based on current County Zoning residential density and parcel size standards

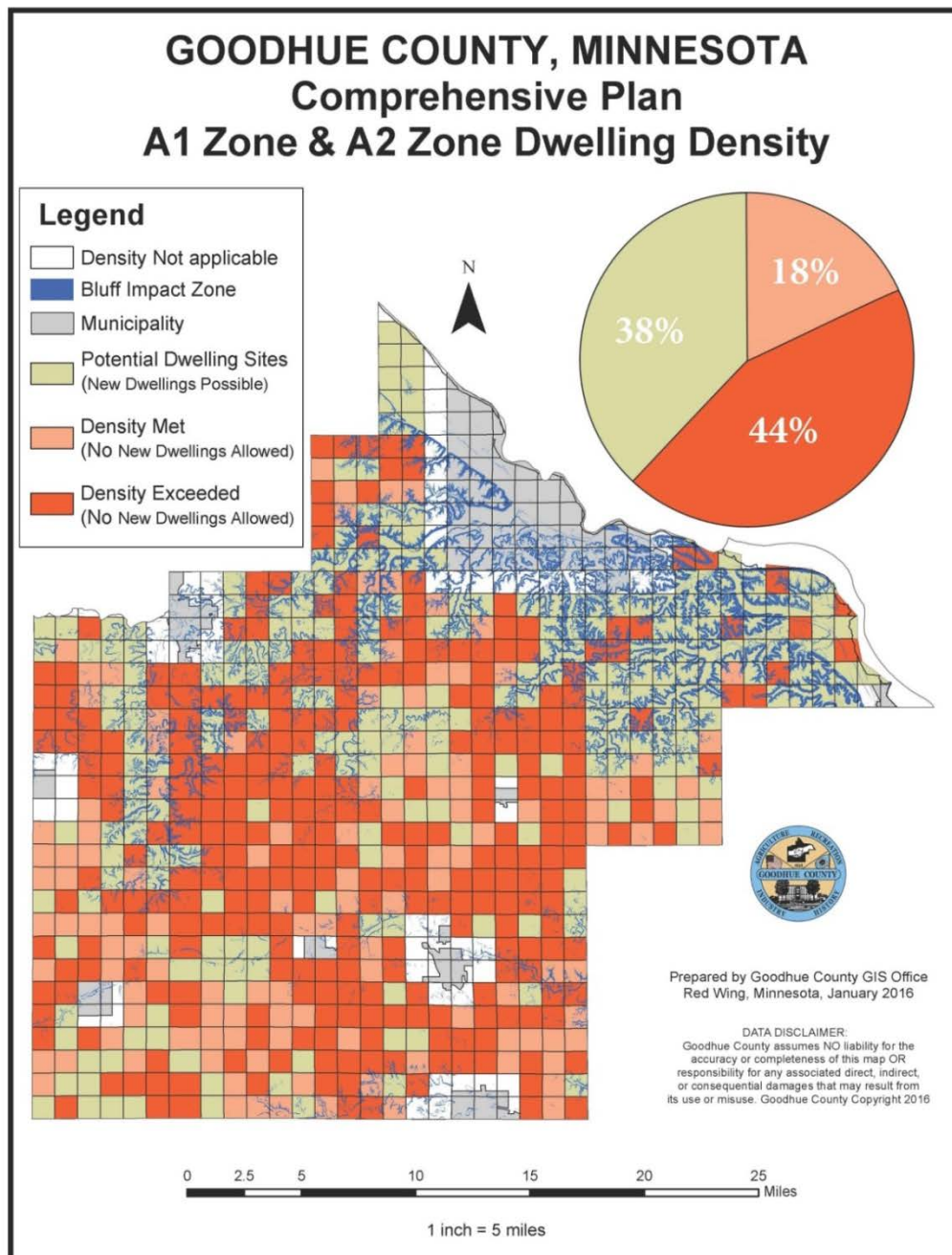
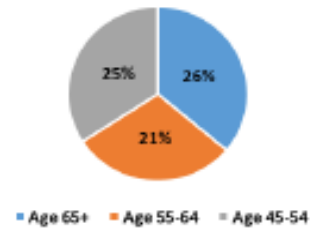
The construction of new dwellings in agricultural areas that may be occupied by residents not engaged in agricultural activities may increase the potential for conflicts with agricultural uses like, mining, timber harvesting, agricultural related businesses or some recreational uses of rural property

HOUSING

Residential development in most of rural Goodhue County is regulated by Section based limits on the number of dwellings allowed per square mile within the County's two Agricultural Zone Districts. Currently, prospective buyers interested in building a house in rural Goodhue County would find a very limited number of potential building sites.

An aging rural population migration pattern suggests that over the next 10 -20 years many existing dwelling sites may become available to prospective buyers wanting to live in rural Goodhue County.

Percent of Owner-Occupied Homes, 2010



HOUSING IN THE AGRICULTURE DISTRICTS

The agricultural districts are primarily for agricultural, mining, and forestry land uses. Establishing effective housing densities to maintain the economic agricultural value of the land and avoid incompatible land uses in these areas is important.

HOUSING ADJACENT TO CITIES

As part of the implementation of the County's 1990 Comprehensive Plan the Goodhue County Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map were amended in 1993, to add the Urban Fringe A-3 Zone District. The purpose of the A-3 Zone District was to facilitate planning for urbanization. The Planning Advisory Commission and County Board in 2014 expressed that the A-3 district is not serving its purpose as a growth zone and should be re-evaluated or perhaps eliminated.

In 2015 Goodhue County completed a Health Impact Assessment on potential changes to the A-3 district. The A-3 zoned sections around Goodhue County's cities could re-classify as A-1 or A-2 agricultural districts. Current landowners enjoy the rural atmosphere and would like to see smaller lot sizes which would allow easier access to home loans, succession planning for children, and possibly higher density.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

Current trends show an increase in the number of multi-generational households many of which include young adult children as well as older parents, grandparents, or extended family members. The high cost of living and housing costs, and other financial and health constraints are reasons for this trend.

Goodhue County has traditionally offered accessory dwelling unit options in the form of temporary farm labor housing and housing for family members with medical needs.

Creative designs for compact yet attractive accessory dwelling units bolstered by the "small housing movement" throughout the United States now offer unlimited possibilities to meet alternative and secondary housing needs.



HAMLETS

The purpose of the Hamlet classification is to provide for the improvement or expansion of existing historic rural villages located outside Goodhue County's cities. Hamlets contain limited commercial, community, industrial and residential services and uses. Public sewer systems are not always available and support services are usually limited.

The concentration and uses located within Hamlets must be appropriate to the character of the rural area. These areas are historically remnants of rural villages and offer opportunities for smaller scale community lifestyles.

OPENSOURCE SUBDIVISIONS

Conservation Subdivision design allows limited residential opportunities in rural areas while protecting the surrounding agricultural and forest lands, natural resources, and open spaces.

This could be achieved by transferring development rights from prime agricultural land to poor farming land. Conservation Subdivisions offer more compact, rural living in areas that may be less suitable for agricultural uses, while moderating the impact on natural resources.



**HOUSING
OBJECTIVES:**



1. Direct the location of new or replacement dwellings sites in areas that minimize loss or conversion of prime agriculture soils.
2. Consider adjustments to the density of Agricultural Zoning Standards, Quarter-Quarter Limit in A-2 Zone or other standards to allow limited additional rural dwelling sites in agricultural zones.
3. Consider regulations for open space development that allows development potential to be transferred to a rural subdivision to encourage the protection of agricultural lands and other sensitive natural areas.
4. Continue to emphasize in County Plans, Policies and Ordinances that rural residents within or abutting Agricultural districts can expect agricultural, forestry, and mining activities within the vicinity of their homes subject to provisions and standards established under the County's Official Controls.
5. Provide the public information about Goodhue County residential development regulations in unincorporated areas, and identify areas not eligible for additional dwellings.
6. Implement the *Goodhue County A-3 Urban Fringe District Health Impact Assessment* recommendations.
7. Periodically examine land use areas surrounding Goodhue County's cities and coordinate with City Officials and Staff to ensure potential growth areas accommodate future needs.

**HOUSING OBJECTIVES
CONTINUED:**



- 8. Monitor housing demand in the County's unincorporated areas effect on transportation improvements, business, and industrial development in the region.
- 9. Discourage non-contiguous annexations and support planned staged growth of Goodhue County cities that build upon existing infrastructure.



- 10. Restrict multi-dwelling rural subdivisions adjacent to Goodhue County cities as identified in city comprehensive plans, utility system plans or other city land use policy documents to avoid creating obstacles to orderly growth.



- 11. Allow appropriate growth and land use change within historic rural hamlets though the implantation of mixed use zoning.
- 12. Provide opportunities for smaller communities to thrive through more compact land development practices, diversity of business land uses, mixed use development and pedestrian oriented design.



- 13. Provide more housing choices for rural residents.
- 14. Provide flexible dwelling choices for other rural residents and family members wanting to stay with family at the homestead.
- 15. Provide opportunities for adequate and nearby housing for farm labor families

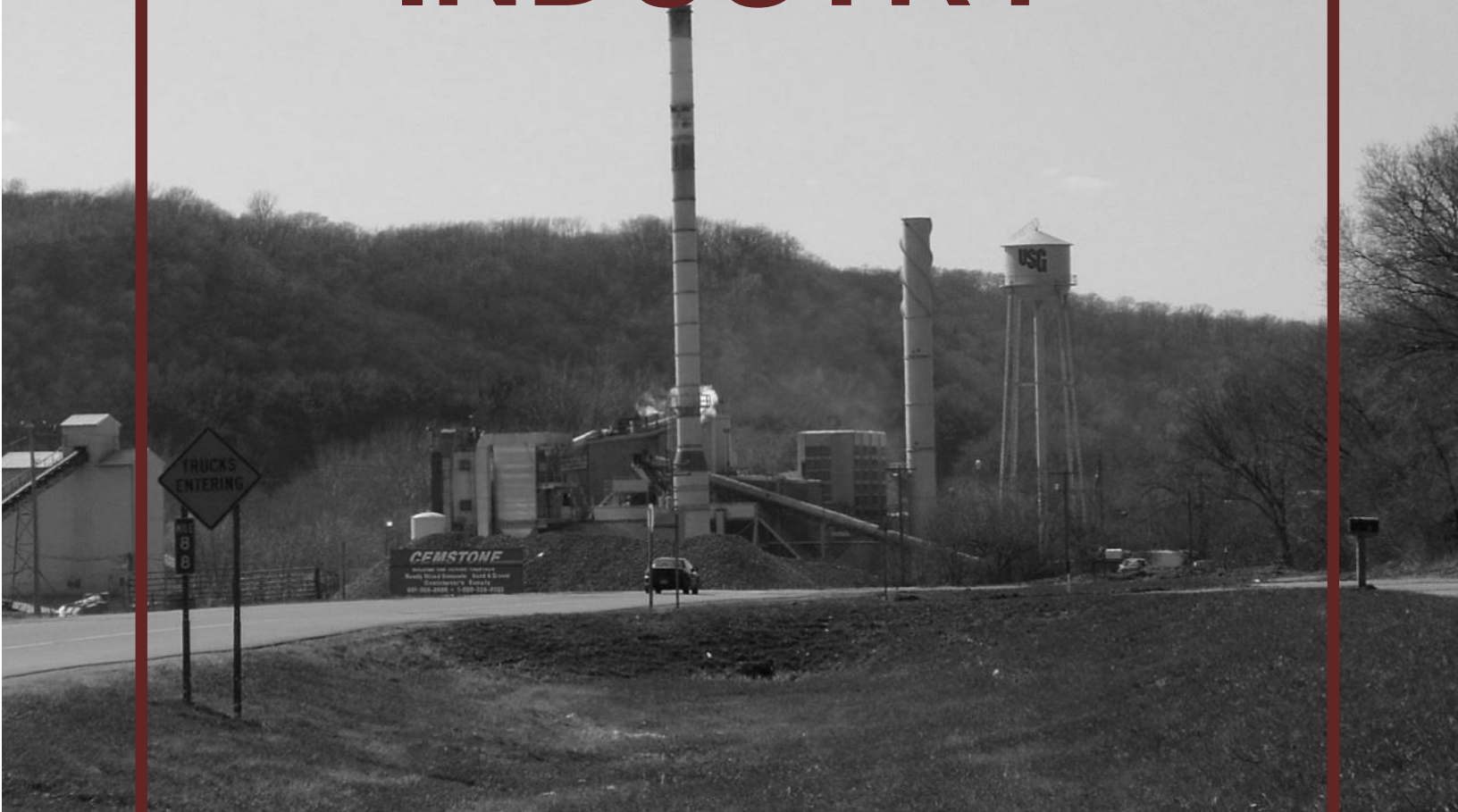
HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:



1. Explore other housing density criteria instead of the current Section based limits; take into account land use, topography, scenic views, and access to roads.
2. Work with Townships to evaluate and designate suitable residential sites that minimize conflicts with agricultural and rural uses.
3. Re-evaluate the purpose and need for the current A3 Urban Fringe district.
4. Work with the County's Economic Development groups to inventory vacant land zoned for residential, commercial, and industrial uses to ensure that sufficient land exists to meet documented needs.
5. Establish a process for monitoring:
 - a. The amount and type of land available for development;
 - b. The rate of consumption of various urban land types;
 - c. Changes in needs for particular land use types; and
 - d. Land value changes.
6. Expansion of a Hamlet or Village to adjacent land may be considered when the expansion may include a limited amount of Prime agricultural land when insufficient vacant available land exists within the Hamlet.
7. Establish criteria for Accessory Dwelling Units.
8. Establish Conservation Subdivision criteria in the County's zoning and subdivision ordinances taking into account surrounding agricultural uses, natural resources, and transportation networks.
9. Utilize the County's Environmental Constraints Land Use Model (ECLUE) and other available data resources to evaluate and identify areas within rural Goodhue County that may be suitable for rural residential development.



ELEMENT 4: BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY



**A GROWING AND HEALTHY ECONOMY
GENERATES A NEED FOR BUSINESS AND
INDUSTRY, HOUSING, AND INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSTRUCTION**

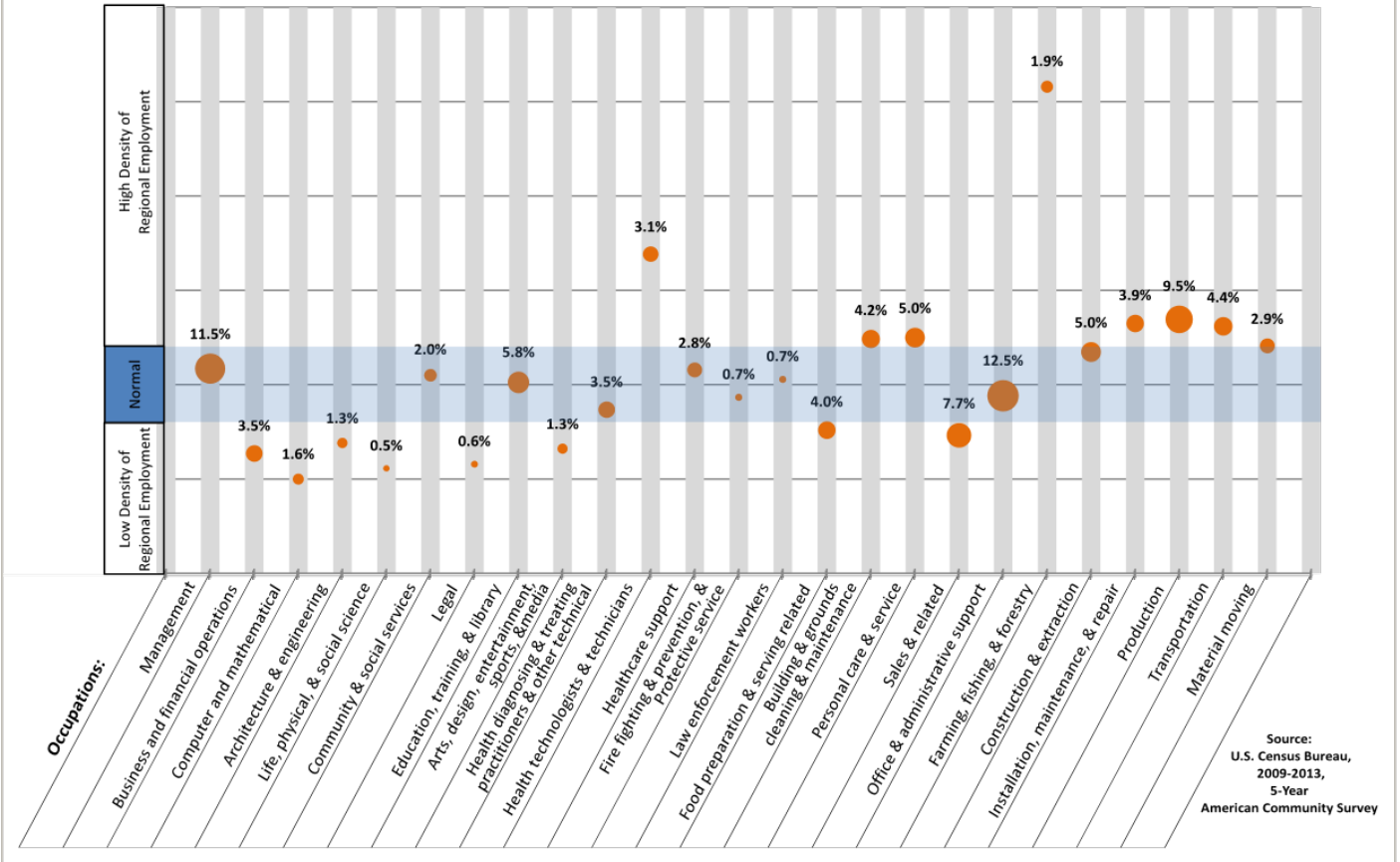
OVERVIEW

A growing and healthy economy generates demand for business and industrial site development, adequate housing, and infrastructure construction activity, in addition to a favorable business climate. Market opportunities stimulate expansion, diversification, and attraction of new economic activities, which in turn generate new employment opportunities. Goodhue County has numerous unique economic advantages such as prime agricultural soils, proximity to the Twin Cities and Rochester metropolitan areas, and the beautiful natural environment. These aspects have provided the County with strong roots from which to grow into a competitive, innovative, and sustainable economy.

The Business and Industry Element establishes the concepts of how Goodhue County will grow and protect the exceptional quality of life and natural environment. Goodhue County recognizes the connection between economic development and quality of life. It leverages new growth and redevelopment to improve the community and equitably share the public and private costs and benefits of growth. Local recovery and development of new market opportunities will stimulate business investment and job generation. Goodhue County embodies a unique set of physical, environmental, social and economic constraints and potentials. Whether a community will be able to capitalize on economic opportunities will be dependent upon its local policies, regulations and business climate.

LQ(Location Quotient) Analysis of Goodhue County Vs. Minnesota for all Occupations

Location Quotient is a measurement of regional concentration of employment. The percentages shown represent Goodhue County's workforce within that occupation.



LOCATION QUOTIENT ANALYSIS: A location quotient analysis is one tool for looking at the economic health and diversity of a local economy. By comparing the percent of local employment within an industry to the industry's percentage share statewide, it is possible to identify which industries are important to local economic activity and those industries that are not satisfying the area's local demand. If the economic base of a region is dominated by industries that are declining nationwide, the region may face hard times. If it's economic base is concentrated in sectors that are growing, the potential for future growth is promising.



ELEMENT 4: BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

The figures on the previous page show the location quotients used data from the *U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2013 5- year American Community Survey*. The percentage of Law Enforcement workers in Goodhue County (0.7% of workforce) is comparable with the rest of the state. The County has more Health diagnosing and treating practitioners (3.1% of workforce) than the state average. Similar to the rest of Minnesota, the County has the majority of its workforce in Office and Administrative Support positions (12.5% of workforce).

Even though the chart shows, Farming, Fishing, and Forestry as only 1.9% of the workforce, which is higher than the state average, our zoning indicates that 70% of the land is designated for agricultural uses (see Agricultural element for more information).

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

For Goodhue County to grow and become more economically, socially, and culturally vibrant the growth within the County should be managed to balance the economic, social and environmental health, as well as maintaining a sustainable business atmosphere. In today's global economy of telecommunications and Internet connectivity, the location where businesses choose to start-up, or expand is still important, although for different reasons. A community's attractiveness to the talented and diverse workforce, ideas, and innovation, and its adoption of new technology will be the key factors in economic success.



Land Use issues in Goodhue County are unique and diversified. The County must preserve its natural resources and allow for effective economic expansion of Cities and Townships. By understanding the characteristics of the local economy, we can plan accordingly and take advantage of all potential opportunities. A healthy economy is vital to the well-being of any community.



KEY POINTS

STRENGTHS

CHALLENGES

Proximity to population centers, available land, scenic, and natural amenities will attract businesses

Some areas situated in the County’s agricultural zoning districts are less productive for traditional farming practices yet may be optimized for non-traditional farming practices or other types of businesses

Diversified and value added businesses are important to the long term stability and tax base for the County

Goodhue County is uniquely situated between the metropolitan hubs of the Twin Cities and Rochester, has scenic and natural amenities that would attract businesses as well as a desirable place for employees to live

There are 46 higher education institutes within 100 miles of the County

Mayo clinic, Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Clinic, and Olmsted clinics are located within the County

The availability of a local and regional transportation system and broadband access provides opportunities to establish and expand businesses

Appropriately locating new businesses in compatible land use areas

Being open to new and innovative businesses

Growth and development that maintains the rural character and a healthy and diverse economy

Agricultural businesses need the ability to continue to engage in their permitted practices

Environmental issues including water quality, air quality, landfills and hazardous waste disposal

Need for improved, coordinated, regional economic development

DIVERSE BUSINESS

DIVERSE BUSINESS

With the aid of technology, citizens have more choices of where they work, how they distribute their products and services, and how they purchase goods and services. The County’s ordinances should be flexible and forward thinking to allow reasonable regulation of existing and emerging business opportunities.



- 1. Provide opportunities for businesses to compete in an emerging global economy.**
- 2. Protect, maintain and enhance our natural, cultural and historical resources to maintain Goodhue County’s unique qualities.**
- 3. Foster inter-jurisdictional economic development and resource management.**
- 4. Support economic development investments and land use actions that maximize the use of commercial and industrial zoned sites.**



- 5. Coordinate timely and efficient permitting decisions with other public agencies.**
- 6. Ensure that new and expanding commercial, industrial, and institutional uses are consistent and compatible with the County’s natural environment, quality of rural living, and the needs of County residents.**
- 7. Consider site capabilities and existing development patterns when determining the appropriate locations and intensities of land uses.**
- 8. Allow for tourism-related businesses and activities within the context of maintaining a diverse and balanced economy while minimizing potential negative impacts.**

**DIVERSE BUSINESS
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



- 1. Support a broad-based, diversified, stable, year-round economy that provides a range of goods, services and employment opportunities.**
- 2. Serve the needs of County residents, while safeguarding the rural, residential, and agricultural nature of the County.**
- 3. Provide for a variety of small-scale, low-impact uses in rural areas.**
- 4. Ensure that land use policies, ordinances and processes allow for flexibility and new economic opportunities.**
- 5. Promote greater regional planning and collaboration.**
- 6. Direct business and industry growth to the appropriately zoned districts keeping in mind access to public services and surrounding land uses.**
- 7. Inform citizens, policy makers, and the media about current development trends and their impact on the County.**
- 8. Allow the establishment or expansion of home occupations and cottage enterprises with appropriate performance standards while considering the scope and scale of proposals for the alteration, modification, or expansion of existing businesses.**
- 9. Encourage new commercial and industrial ventures that create permanent job opportunities.**
- 10. Support and promote the local purchase of goods and services by industry, business, residents, and visitors.**

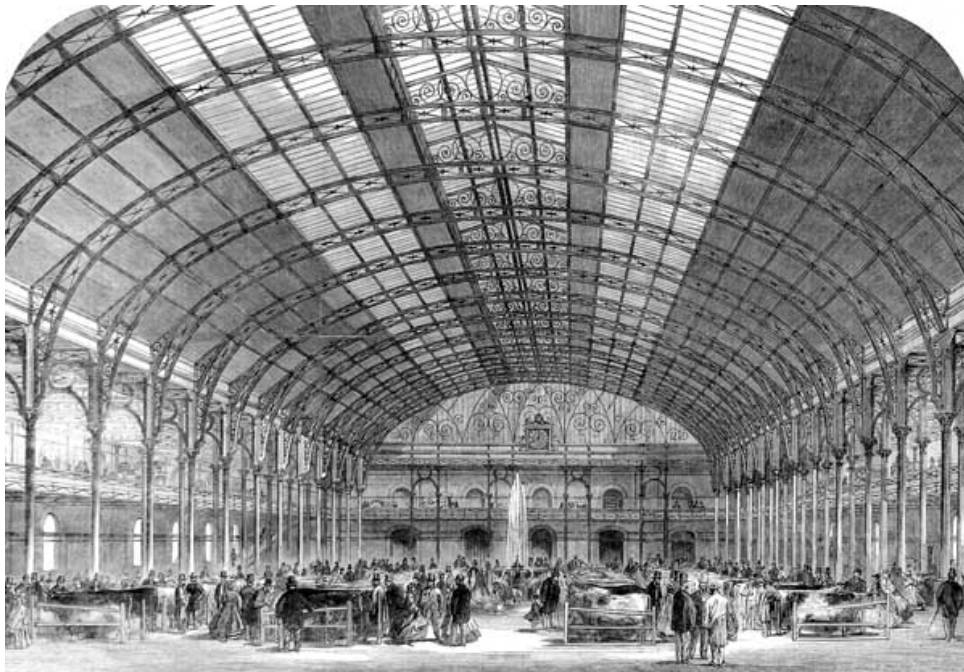
AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES

**AGRICULTURAL
BUSINESSES:**

Traditionally, Goodhue County has relied on agriculture as its core economic structure and 70% of Goodhue County's land use is in agriculture. The economic climate for agriculture has been influenced by continuing employment reduction through mechanization and more efficient farming practices.



The County can continue to diversify the economy through uses that are consistent with the County's agricultural base. The agriculture sector extends beyond the farm business and includes a range of farm-related industries.



ELEMENT 4: BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

**AGRICULTURAL
BUSINESS
OBJECTIVES:**



1. Support the sustainable management, use and protection of the County's agricultural resources to achieve the County's economic and environmental goals.
2. Strive for a land use balance, which recognizes both agricultural uses and the non-agricultural development that may be suitable for rural Goodhue County sometimes in close proximity.
3. Encourage the protection and enhancement of soils capable of supporting long-term agricultural production. The USDA with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has classified a large quantity prime farmland soil types as well as other soil types suitable for farming in Goodhue County under certain conditions.

**AGRICULTURAL
BUSINESS
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



-
1. Encourage the preservation and conservation of existing agricultural land uses and related agricultural activities in the County's plans and ordinances.
 2. Recognize that Confined Animal Feed Lot Operations may be more suitable in some areas of the County than in other areas of the County.
 3. Take into account environmental impacts to the ground water and land cover when reviewing new and expanding land use requests.
 4. Recognize Right-to-Farm (Minn. Stat. § 561.19 (2013)) and Forest Management Laws (Minn. Stat. Ann. § 89A.02 (West 1995)) provisions which establish priority and favored use of Rural Lands for farming and forestry activities.
 5. Promote education and encourage land owners to use best management practices and sustainable agricultural techniques.

TOURISM AND RECREATION BUSINESSES**TOURISM AND RECREATION BUSINESSES**

This industry is important to the County particularly due to the County's location between the State's two major population centers of the Twin Cities and Rochester. Large recreational and tourism businesses in the County include Treasure Island Casino, Welch Ski Village, and the Cannon Valley Trail. These and other recreational and tourism businesses attract thousands of tourists each year and employ hundreds of staff. A more detailed discussion of Recreation and Tourism trends can be found in the Recreation and Tourism element.



Welch Ski Village

**TOURISM AND
RECREATION
BUSINESSES
OBJECTIVES:**



1. Provide for recreational opportunities to meet the needs and interests of County residents while ensuring that recreational uses are compatible with the natural limitations of each specific site and surrounding uses.
 2. Ensure that existing, expanding, and emerging land uses take into account nearby historical or cultural areas in any development plan.
 3. Protect, preserve, and restore significant archaeological, historical, and natural resources in the County in order to encourage new developments that will enhance the community identity.
-

**TOURISM AND
RECREATION
BUSINESSES
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



1. Promote tourism by being actively involved with local and County organizations that provide tourism support.
2. Work with the County's Economic Development Authority (EDA) and other local Economic Development Agencies to evaluate whether County ordinances are conducive to new business opportunities.
3. Incorporate the preservation of archaeological, historical, and natural resources significance as a part of permit and land department reviews.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES**INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES:**

The County has a relatively small amount of land area designated for Industrial or Business districts outside City limits. The Industrial category addresses uses that are a mix of commercial or industrial uses that consists of assembly, fabrication, manufacturing or processing of goods and materials. The Commercial designations are intended to provide for a variety of uses that provide goods and services to businesses, travelers and residents of the County.



**INDUSTRIAL AND
COMMERCIAL
BUSINESS OBJECTIVES:**



1. Provide areas for rural based industrial and commercial uses which compliment rural character and development.
2. Recognize that commercial and industrial developments are an essential component of job creation and expansion of the tax base for the County.
3. Ensure that new or expanding commercial and industrial developments take into account the need for accessible public services such as utilities and road access.

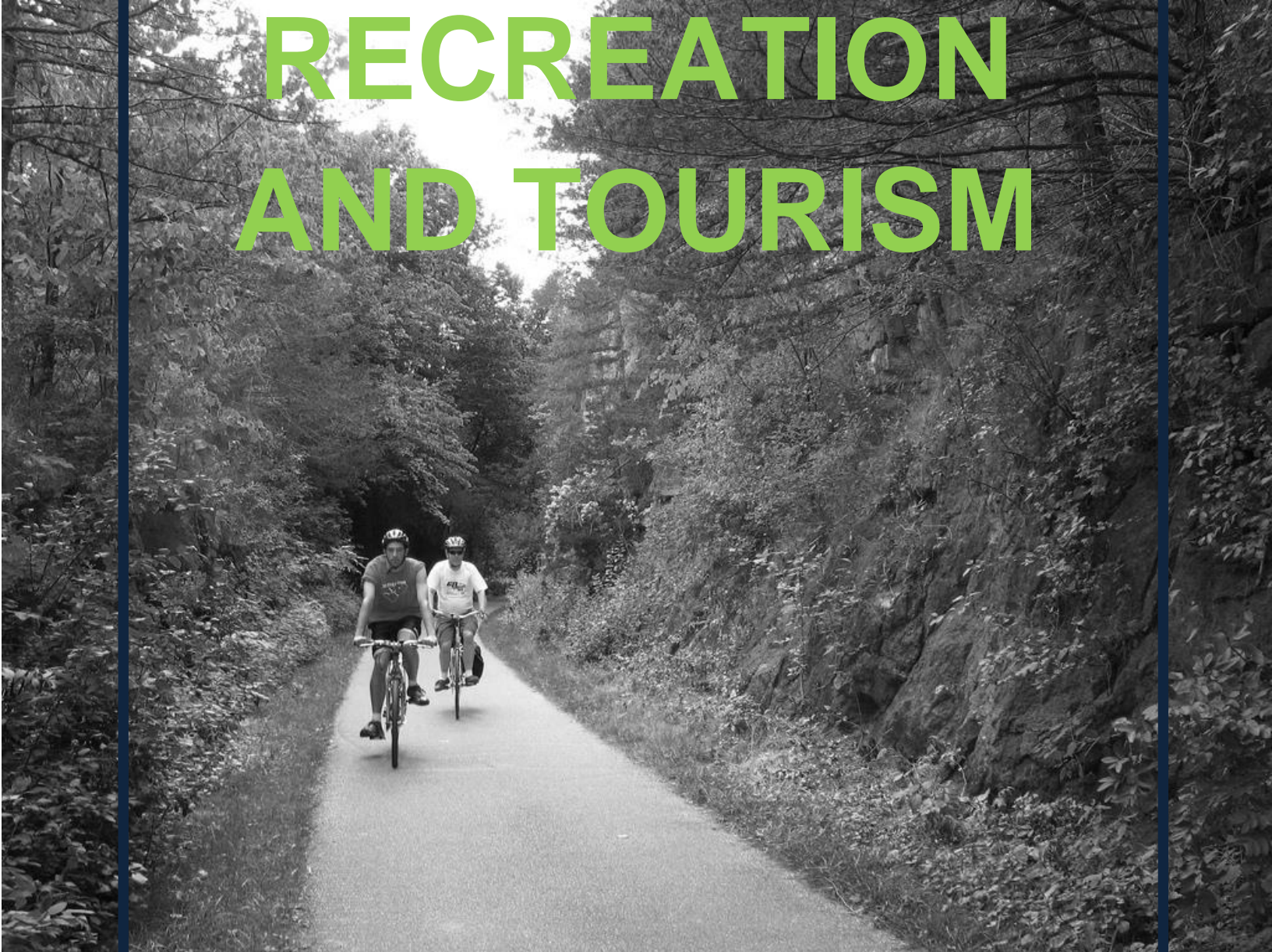
**INDUSTRIAL AND
COMMERCIAL
BUSINESSES
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



1. Review the potential for new or expanded industrial and commercial zoning districts by acknowledging areas which are characterized by the following criteria:
 - a. Lands with an existing or historical commitment to rural industrial or commercial uses;
 - b. Lands with direct access to a public roadway classified as a minor or major arterial;
 - c. Lands where on-site physical features can be used to protect surrounding lands from negative impacts; and
 - d. Areas with parcels sizes large enough to accommodate expansion of existing uses or serve several new uses in a concentrated area.
2. Review regulations and performance standards for commercial and industrial developments to minimize adverse impacts on adjacent non-industrial land uses.
3. Review permitted and conditionally permitted uses in the agricultural, industrial and commercial districts to ensure the listed businesses reflect the County's vision.

ELEMENT 5:

RECREATION AND TOURISM



**MANY RECREATION AND TOURISM
ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE
PUBLIC IN BOTH RURAL AND
URBAN AREAS OF GOODHUE
COUNTY**

OVERVIEW

Many recreation and tourism activities are available to the public in both the rural and the urban areas of Goodhue County. Recreation activities include hunting, fishing, golfing, skiing, snowboarding, motocross motorcycle riding, boating, sailing, birding, waterskiing, bicycling, and horseback riding.

Goodhue County's existing recreation services are important to the health and well-being of the citizens of the County, and they are an asset in terms of future growth and development. Many tourists admire the diverse landscapes of Goodhue County and are eager to engage in tourism activities that support the County's economy.

Goodhue County strives to enhance the quality of life and meet the needs of the community and currently offers significant opportunities for recreation and tourism activities. The purpose of this element is to identify key issues relating to parks, recreation, and greenways in Goodhue County, and to establish relevant strategies to address those issues. The following objectives and implementation strategies are intended to encourage the continuation, expansion, and promotion of existing and new recreation and tourism businesses and activities.



KEY POINTS	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
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<p>Maintain or enhance existing recreational opportunities</p> <p>Promote Agricultural tourism</p> <p>Prevent the degradation of natural areas by supporting rules against pollution and other forms of negative environmental practices</p> <p>Work with Economic Development Agencies in the County to promote the area</p> <p>Maintain a web based Tourism and Recreation application</p> <p>Work towards a more coordinated approach to promoting and marketing of recreation and tourism in the County</p>	<p>Goodhue County has many rich natural amenities that attract visitors from more urban settings</p> <p>Significant opportunities for recreation and tourism are currently available in Goodhue County</p> <p>The County is home to regionally significant tourism facilities in Treasure Island Resort and Casino owned and operated by the Prairie Island Indian Community</p> <p>Welch Village is a premier winter sports destination with over 60 runs on five distinct ridges overlooking the Cannon River Valley</p> <p>The County has potential for further development of public and private amenities to enhance recreation and tourism opportunities</p>	<p>Indirect pollution threatens wildlife and habitat of many of Goodhue County's natural amenities</p> <p>Public access to Lake Pepin is limited to seven sites within the County</p> <p>Facilities, services and infrastructure to support tourism and recreation are not sufficient to fully support the demand during the peak tourism season</p> <p>Privately owned scenic areas can be challenging to preserve and future scenic quality may change with ownership</p> <p>Some of Goodhue County's citizens expect a private country lifestyle and do not support tourism activities</p>
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AGRICULTURAL TOURISM

Agricultural tourism is a commercial enterprise at a working farm or agricultural operation conducted for the enjoyment or education of visitors, and that generates supplemental income for the owner. This Comprehensive Plan will suggest a number of additional Objectives and Implantation Strategies that address agricultural tourism and may also benefit farmland protection. The County will review its zoning requirements to ensure that on-farm sales, farm-related bed and breakfasts, agro-tourism related businesses, and other secondary agriculture-related operations are permitted where appropriately regulated.



AGRICULTURAL TOURISM

Visiting an Agricultural business, vineyard, orchard, farm, or greenhouse for recreation, education or active involvement is becoming a popular pastime. Goodhue County has a variety of Agricultural tourism activities such as farm wineries, wedding or special event facilities, and art fairs.



AGRICULTURAL TOURISM OBJECTIVES:



1. Support Agricultural Tourism activities by allowing permitted or conditionally permitted activities within appropriate zones.
2. Ensure that Agricultural Tourism activities are compatible with existing land uses.

AGRICULTURAL TOURISM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:



1. Create reasonable Performance Standards in the Zoning Ordinance to address the additional activity associated with visitors in an agricultural setting.
2. Identify areas within the County where Agricultural tourism activities will be allowed.
3. Promote greater regional planning and collaboration related to agricultural tourism.

PARKS AND TRAILS

PARKS AND TRAILS:

There are parks, trails and natural areas within the County managed by different levels of government that supply a connection to the County's natural areas while offering recreational opportunities. These parks and trails give citizens and tourists alike the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment necessary for a healthy community.



Frontenac State park displays the unique bluff lands of the area. The Cannon Valley Trail offers river, prairie, and bluff views along its route and it is visited by many year round. Goodhue County also has many other trails through its various scenic areas such as the Goodhue Pioneer Trail which extends from Red Wing through a portion of the Richard Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. The County Park along Lake Byllesby provides the County's only lake access separated from the Mississippi river. Additionally, there are many proposed expansions and extensions that will eventually provide a County wide parks and trails network.

**PARKS AND TRAILS
OBJECTIVES:**



1. **Enhance the Trail systems in the County.**
2. **Support safe and responsible private trail systems.**
3. **Encourage development of new parks.**
4. **Continue development of Byllesby park according to the park's Master plan.**
5. **Develop a master plan for the Kenyon Park.**
6. **Identify and set standards for the amount of recreation infrastructure and services that the local government should strive for on a per capita basis in order to satisfy the reasonable expectations of the public.**

**PARKS AND TRAILS
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



1. **Create trail connections to existing parks and natural areas to promote their use by visitors.**
2. **Stay involved in Trail initiatives throughout the County.**
3. **Create an interactive map of trails.**
4. **Work with the Parks Committee to plan and develop a Parks network.**
5. **Expand the Parks and trails system throughout the County by encouraging new public park and trail access.**
6. **Update the Lake Byllesby Park Master plan.**
7. **Develop a master plan for the Kenyon Park.**
8. **Maintain the existing parks and trails.**

OUTDOOR TOURISM AND RECREATION**OUTDOOR TOURISM AND RECREATION**

Goodhue County has many opportunities to enjoy its natural areas by camping along scenic rivers, hunting through oak savannas, hiking through lush forested bluffs, bird watching around thriving wetlands, fishing in bubbling trout streams, horse riding through rolling countryside, or canoeing and tubing through meandering rivers. Many outdoor activities and businesses rely on Goodhue County's healthy natural environment.

Goodhue County encourages outdoor tourism and recreational opportunities to help ensure that the County's natural environment is protected for future generations. Outdoor tourism and recreational businesses are welcomed in Goodhue County provided that they address all issues with the local area and adopt current best practices methods.



**OUTDOOR TOURISM
AND RECREATION
OBJECTIVES:**



1. **Provide opportunities for existing outdoor tourism and recreational businesses to expand.**
 2. **Protect existing natural resources so that current activities and businesses that rely on them will be available to future generations.**
 3. **Encourage new opportunities for outdoor tourism and recreational throughout the County.**
 4. **Ensure that outdoor tourism and recreational businesses responsibly manage the natural resources of the area.**
-

**OUTDOOR TOURISM
AND RECREATION
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



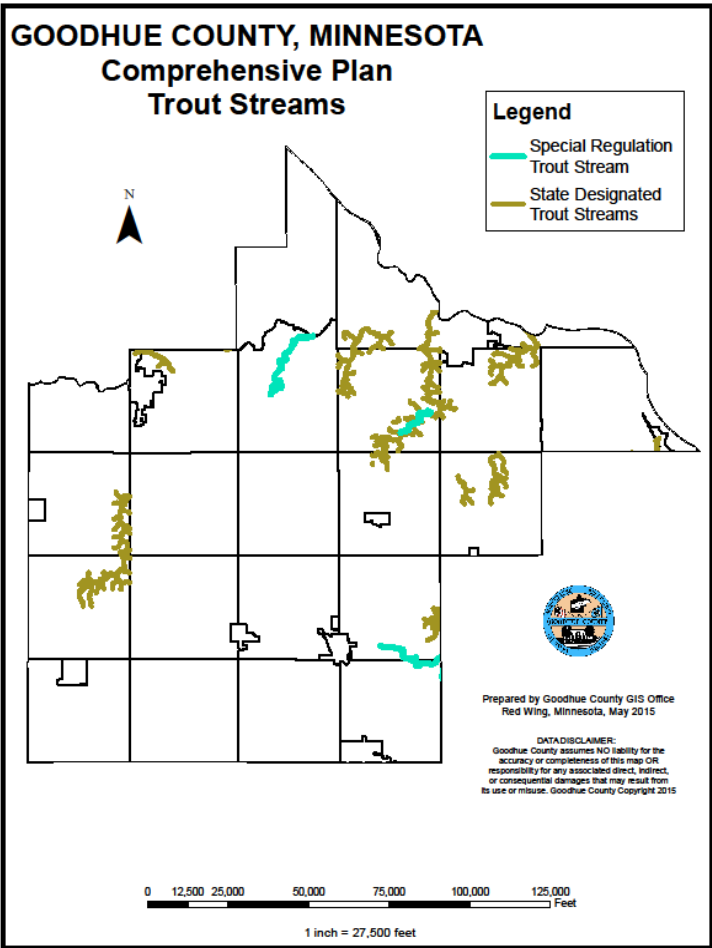
1. **Outdoor tourism recreation business must be responsibly managed to protect against negative environmental impacts from their activities.**
2. **Outdoor tourism recreation businesses need to consider neighborhood compatibility.**

TROUT STREAMS

TROUT STREAMS:

Southeastern Minnesota is an area with a unique hydrogeological system where old groundwater from glaciers and other sources seep into surface water streams supplying cold water habitats which are ideally suited for many species of trout.

There are several MNDNR designated trout streams within the County with statewide significance that bring many fishers from all over the Midwest. Unfortunately, nearly all of these Trout Streams are considered impaired waters by MPCA.



**TROUT STREAMS
OBJECTIVES:**



- 1. Protect Trout streams from environmental impairment.**
 - 2. Expand Trout stream viability throughout the County.**
-

**TROUT STREAMS
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



- 1. Ensure best practices for water quality and erosion prevention along these streams.**
- 2. Assist in the establishment of trout streams where desired.**
- 3. Help the private land owners along the designated trout streams educate the public as to the sensitivity of the area and private property rights.**

LAKE PEPIN**LAKE PEPIN**

Lake Pepin is the largest widened portion of the Mississippi River.

Goodhue County extends along nearly the entire western shoreline of Lake Pepin. It is utilized as a primary source of recreation for fishing , boating, sailing, and waterskiing.



BOATING OBJECTIVES:

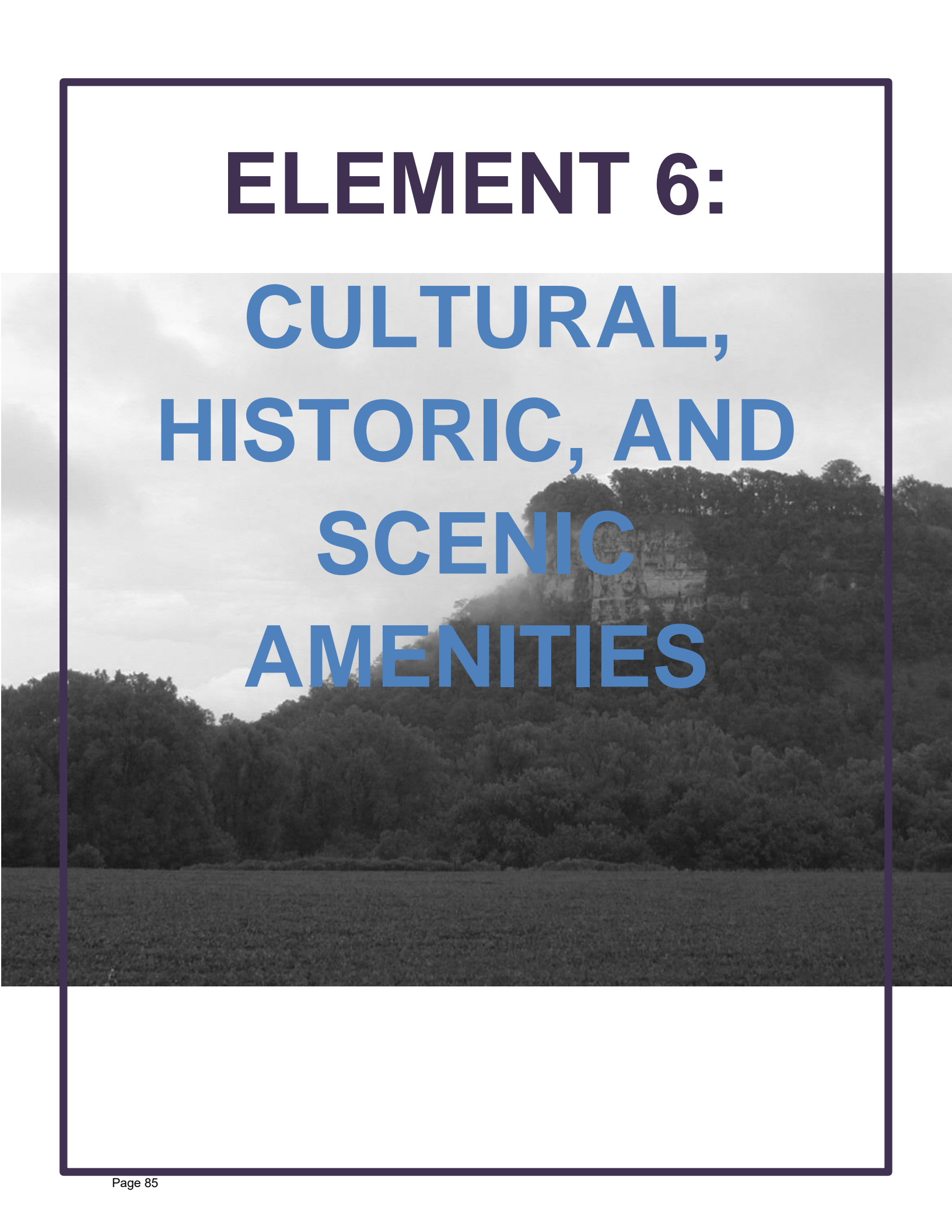


1. Encourage safe and responsible boating practices.
 2. Support the existing and new businesses dependent upon Lake Pepin tourism.
-

BOATING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:



1. Provide education to citizens about safe and responsible boating practices.
2. Create reasonable Performance Standards in the Zoning Ordinance for businesses that have a direct connection to public waters such as Marinas and water access points.
3. Continue to update and implement the Goodhue County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) plan to prevent degradation of waterways due to invasive species.



ELEMENT 6:
**CULTURAL,
HISTORIC, AND
SCENIC
AMENITIES**

**CITIZENS AND VISITORS ALIKE
ENJOY AND APPRECIATE THE
SCENIC, NATURAL, HISTORICAL,
AND CULTURAL AREAS THAT
GOODHUE COUNTY HAS TO OFFER.**

OVERVIEW

Goodhue County has a unique scenic, historic and cultural landscape.

Residents and visitors alike enjoy and appreciate the scenery and unique character of Goodhue County.

Landscapes range from towering bluffs overlooking the County's numerous

rivers and creeks, to stunning views of one of the most beautiful stretches of the iconic Mississippi River as it widens to form Lake Pepin, to views of historic river cities and classic Midwestern agricultural landscapes.



KEY POINTS	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
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Strive to preserve and protect cultural, historic, and scenic areas within the County

Encourage rejuvenation and enhancement of cultural, historic, and scenic areas.

Preserve and promote scenic natural and agricultural landscapes

The unique blufflands and forests are nationally recognized as a scenic amenity especially for their autumn colors

There are many burial mounds and archeological sites from early prehistoric Native Americans located in Goodhue County

Many structures in the County's cities built by early nineteenth century European and New England settlers are still in existence and use

With the aid of local Historical Societies and historians, the County recognizes and maps known areas of significance

There is a deep respect for agricultural areas to many of the County's citizens. Both traditional and newer agricultural uses provide a landscape of crops, vineyards, and orchards providing a scenic landscape when combined with the County's natural topography of bluffs, river valleys, and forests

The Goodhue County Historical Society is the oldest County historical society's in Minnesota and serves as the steward for County history. This and other local historical societies collect, preserve, and promote the natural and cultural history of Goodhue County through education and outreach

Heritage preservation programs in rural Goodhue County exist to protect and preserve historic areas such as "Old Frontenac" in Florence Township. The Historic area was established in 1989 and is managed by Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission

Balancing permitted uses with the preservation of these cultural, historic, and scenic areas can be challenging as many of the sites are on private property

Preservation of sites can represent a significant financial burden

Other historic and culturally significant sites and landscapes in rural Goodhue County have been studied and documented; however, they lack the added protection that may come through the establishment of a local heritage preservation program

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC AREAS

Preservation and sound management of Goodhue County's historic, cultural and scenic resources will help preserve the character and quality of life for Goodhue County residents and enhance the desirability of the County for tourism.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC AREAS

There are over 400 sites in Goodhue County located on the County's Historic Places web application, which include those listed on the National Register of Historic Places and many more sites with local historic value.

The following cultural and historic influences have shaped human settlement and the aesthetics of Goodhue County:

Nansen Historic District:

This is an agricultural district recognized by the Minnesota Historical Society as a place where Norwegian immigrants settled and which retains its field patterns and period agricultural buildings. The landscape of the Nansen Historic District includes towering bluffs and a stretch of the Little Cannon River and the original settlement pattern including locations of farm field, dwellings and accessory buildings has remained largely intact.



Prehistoric People and

Settlements: Humans have lived in the Goodhue County area for about 12,000 years. Artifacts related to one of the early know groups of humans in the area, the Archaic peoples, have been found along the Cannon River, Hay Creek and Spring Creek. Later prehistoric humans including those of the Mississippian culture occupied the Red Wing area during the 12th and 13th centuries. The Mississippian culture was centered on Cahokia a metropolis near present day St. Louis at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. It is estimated that Cahokia in A.D. 1150, had a population of more than 20,000, making it one of the largest urban centers in the world. The Mississippian culture, at its peak stretched from Red Wing in present day Goodhue County to Key Marco, Florida. In the Red Wing area the Mississippian cultures presence consisted of eight large villages or town sites with related locations including mounds, petroglyphs, rock cairns, and processing sites. It was known to be one of the earliest centers of corn cultivation in the Upper Midwest.

The Mdewakanton: The Mdewakanton Sioux a tribal group within the Dakota Nation has had a strong cultural and historic influence on the area that became Goodhue County since the first European visitors (French Fur Trader's) came to the area in the Mid-17th Century. This includes the strong influence of the Mdewankanton chief Tatankamani, known as Chief Red Wing, a renowned warrior chief and

Mdewakanton leader whose village was located within what has become the City of Red Wing. Following Euro-American settlement of present day Goodhue County, the Mdewankanton, faced many hardships, including diseases, ill-treatment, and broken promises from the United States Government.

The cultural and historic influence of the Mdewankanton tribal group has continued in Goodhue County with the presence of the Prairie Island Indian Community.

The Mdewakanton, “those who were born of the waters,” have lived on Prairie Island (between the Vermillion and Mississippi Rivers) for countless generations. Prairie Island Indian Community owns and operates Treasure Island Resort & Casino, which has helped restore the community’s self-sufficiency. Indian Gaming has given the Tribal Government the tools needed to operate the Prairie Island Indian Community and provide for their people. But it also has given the community a new and welcomed responsibility as an employer to thousands of Minnesotans. The Prairie Island Indian Community is proud to be Goodhue County’s largest employer and an important contributor to Minnesota’s economy.

American Settlement of Goodhue County:

American settlement of current day Goodhue County began in earnest in the 1850's following the establishment of the County in 1853. The towns and cities of County were gradually developed through settlement and immigration of groups of various national origins, bringing with them a variety of cultural influences. Both the physical and cultural development of Goodhue County has been well documented with historical accounts and analysis available from numerous publications and other sources. In rural Goodhue County, specific studies and documentation of historically and culturally significant areas include the Historic District of Old Frontenac in Florence Township and the Nansen Historic District located in Warsaw and Holden Townships along with many structures located throughout the County that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ghost Towns and discontinued Post Offices:

Goodhue County has numerous so-called "ghost towns", settlements that were planned but never materialized or established places that have declined or disappeared altogether. These "ghost towns" of Goodhue County played an important role in shaping the region. In order to preserve their history and to recognize their historical contribution, the Goodhue County Historical Society has installed historical interest signs at

the location of each of these former or currently existing post office sites.

Old Frontenac: The rural hamlet of Old Frontenac in Florence Township is situated at the north end of a plain which is 3 miles wide and 10 miles long that rises across successive terraces from the sandy beaches of Lake Pepin, a natural lake in the Mississippi River, to the foot of the encircling bluffs.

The District contains frontier adaptations of important architectural styles from the pre-Civil War and early post-Civil War periods with examples representing French Colonial, Greek revival, and Georgian. The District of Old Frontenac and many individual properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are recognized as a locally designated historic district by Florence Township.



**CULTURAL AND
HISTORIC AREAS
OBJECTIVES:**



1. **Maintain, enhance, and identify cultural and history areas of the County.**
2. **Encourage building projects to preserve or enhance existing historical structures, rather than demolish them.**
3. **Preserve, protect, and restore the County's historic and culturally significant landscapes, sites and structures.**
4. **Coordinate with other units of government to promote sound management of the County's historic and culturally resources.**
5. **Increase public awareness of area cultural and historic heritage, resources, and traditions.**

**CULTURAL AND
HISTORIC AREAS
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**

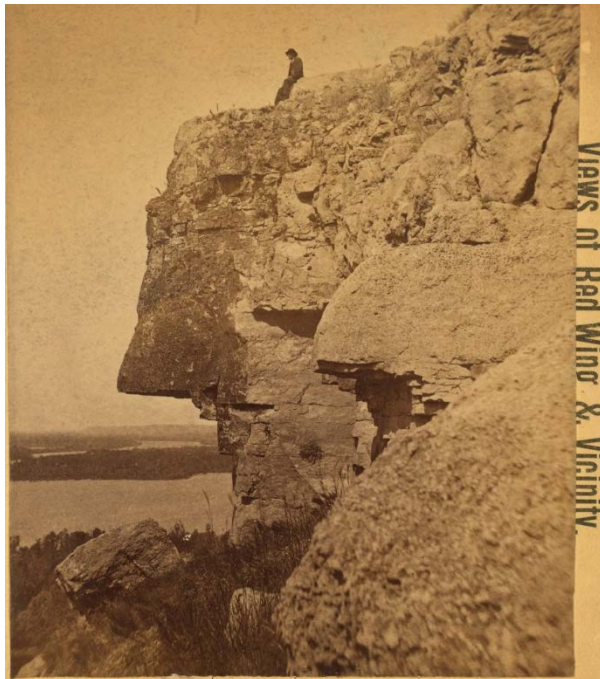


1. **Continue to work with Local, State and National History Organizations to study and map cultural and historic resources for planning purposes and public awareness.**
2. **Consider potential impacts on identified cultural and historic resources when reviewing permit applications for building and land alteration projects proposed in rural Goodhue County.**
3. **Encourage and facilitate preservation and adaptive reuse of historic structures including farm dwellings, barns and other accessory buildings.**

NATURAL LANDSCAPES

NATURAL LANDSCAPES:

Goodhue County has a diverse cross section of natural landscapes that make it a desirable place to live, work, and play. Some of the unique features include:



Blufflands: The dramatic views created by these features are considered an important amenity for citizens and an important draw for tourists. Visitors come from across the country during the autumn when forests surrounding the bluffs have the most color.

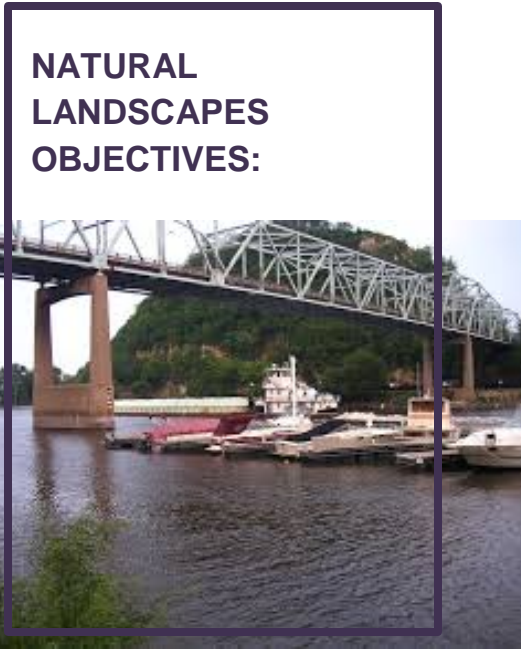
River valleys: Rivers and streams provide an access to water that is heavily desired by many prospective homeowners for its scenic and recreational amenities.

Woodlands: Forested areas cover much of the area of the County that is not farmed and is the second highest land cover in the County.

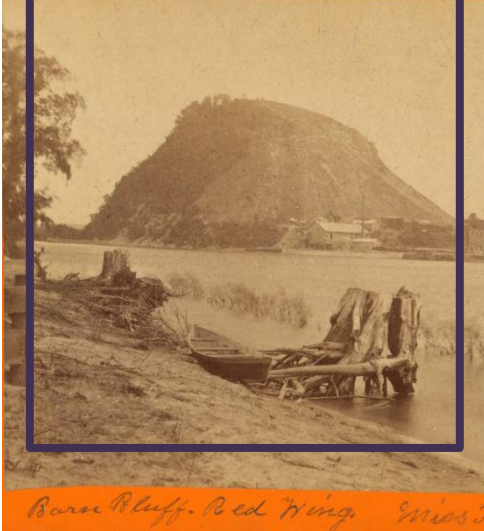
Native vegetation and prairie: The County has some native prairie areas as well as some restored prairies that contribute to the natural amenities of the area.

**NATURAL
LANDSCAPES
OBJECTIVES:**

- 1. Encourage the preservation the County's natural landscapes.**
- 2. Enhance the health of environmental sensitive area through best practices land management.**
- 3. Maximize the use of current land use regulation to protect, preserve or enhance scenic resources. Examples may include: Wild and Scenic River Regulations, Shoreland Regulations, Bluffland Regulations, Wetland Regulations and Floodplain Regulations.**
- 4. Educate the public regarding the importance of protecting and conserving the County's Natural Landscapes. For example: the many benefits and values of natural landscapes such as blufflands and flood plain forests are not universally understood.**
- 5. Improve public access to scenic resources.**
- 6. Coordinate with other units of government to promote sound management of natural landscapes.**



**NATURAL
LANDSCAPES
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



1. **Consider aesthetic impacts on natural landscapes when discussing development and land use alteration requests with residents, landowners, businesses, contractors and developers.**
2. **Take into account potential aesthetic impacts on natural landscapes when reviewing permit applications for higher impact land uses such as mining, land use-land alteration (grading permits), wind energy conversion systems, solar energy conversion systems, timber harvesting or larger scale building construction projects.**
3. **Further develop the County’s Environmental Constraints Land Use Model (ECLUE) for use as tool to identify scenic resources within the County’s Natural Landscapes.**
4. **Identify sites with road markers and signs to bring awareness to sites and scenic views. Investigate the possibility of establishing scenic roads in addition to the “Great River Road: within the County through the Minnesota Scenic Byways Program.**
5. **Work collaboratively with: the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), the State of Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources (BSWR), the United States Army Corp of Engineers, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District, the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Services, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and other agencies responsible for land and water resources management in Goodhue County to protect, preserve and promote the County’s Natural Landscapes.**

AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES**AGRICULTURAL
LANDSCAPES**

Although agriculture is discussed in more depth in the Agricultural and Recreation Elements, it is important to recognize that these features also have a cultural background to the County. Goodhue County contains a significant amount of prime farmland, in addition to slopes suitable for orchards and vineyards. Some of the recognizable agricultural features in the County include:

Farmland: Farming has a rich historical significance to many of Goodhue County's citizens. They see farmland as a defining landscape of the County.

Orchards: Orchards represent a traditional scenic landscape commonly found within the blufflands of southeastern Minnesota including Goodhue County.

Viticulture: Research conducted by the University of Minnesota in the 1980's has led to the development of varieties of high quality, cold hardy grapes suitable for cultivation in Goodhue County. Numerous vineyards have been established in Goodhue County and provide a new aesthetic to the agricultural landscape.



ELEMENT 6: CULTURAL, HISTORIC AND SCENIC AMENITIES

**AGRICULTURAL
LANDSCAPES
OBJECTIVES:**



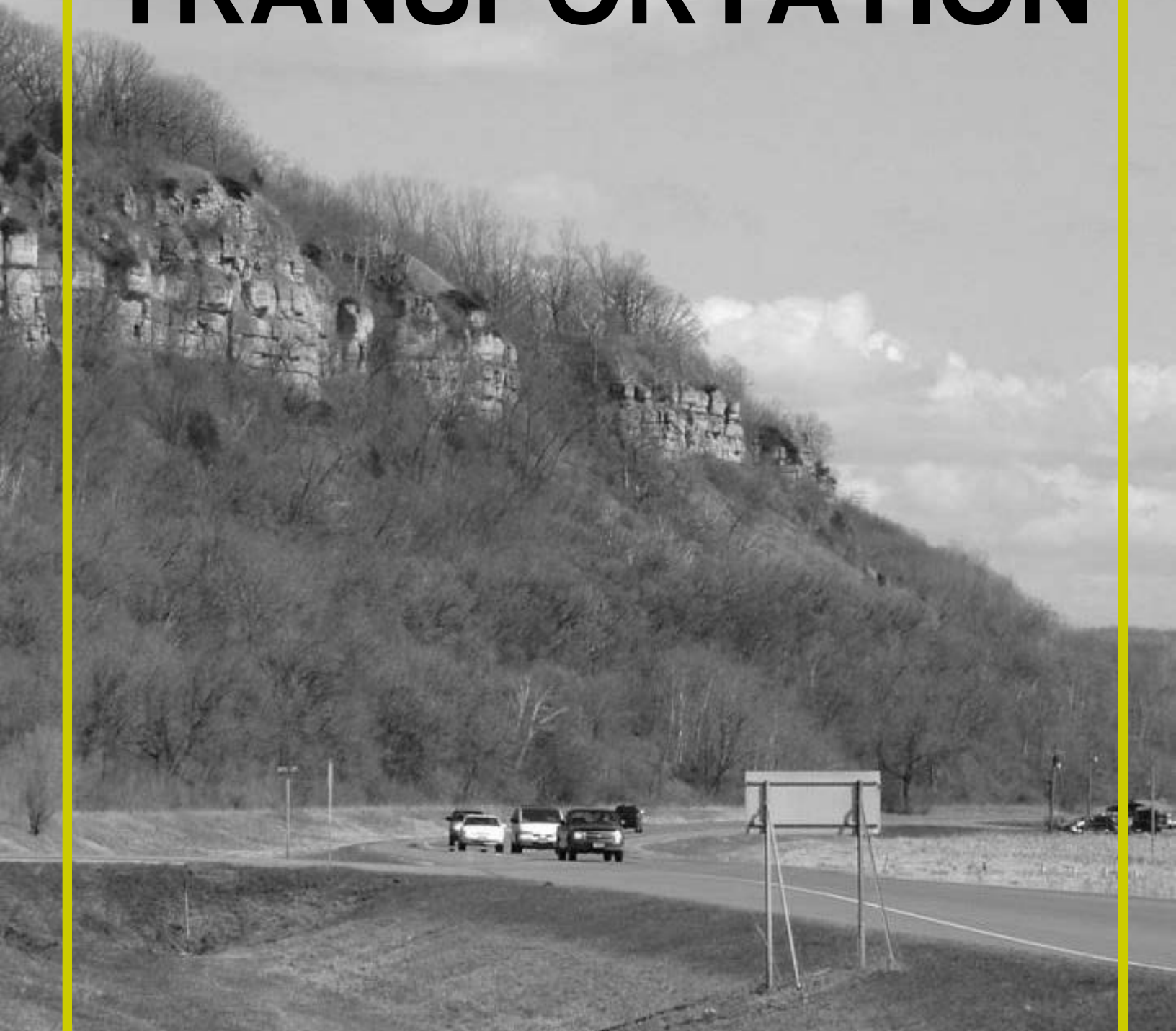
- 1. Promote the use of Best Management Practices to avoid or mitigate erosion and sedimentation in Agricultural Landscapes.**
 - 2. Administer nuisance related Ordinance requirements related to trash, junk and noxious weeds.**
 - 3. Promote the preservation of historic structures and landscapes throughout Goodhue County with special attention directed to recognized historic districts, sites and structures.**
 - 4. Consider allowing alternative uses of historic structures such as barns and other accessory buildings to make it economically feasible to maintain and restore such structures.**
-

**AGRICULTURAL
LANDSCAPES
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



- 1. Coordinate with the Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District and the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (Goodhue Office) to offer advice, guidance to farm owners and operators to promote and require as appropriate the use of best management practices to mitigate erosion and sedimentation in Agricultural Landscapes.**
- 2. Work to lessen aesthetic impacts on Agriculture Landscapes as part of administering nuisance related ordinance requirements (trash, junk and noxious weeds).**
- 3. Educate owners of historically significant structures located within Agricultural Landscapes regarding the opportunities for adaptive reuse.**
- 4. Work with Township Officials, local residents, and property owners in the Nansen Agricultural Historic District to implement recommendations set forth in “Managing a working Landscape: A Protection Strategy for the Nansen Agricultural Historic District, Goodhue County, Minnesota”.**

ELEMENT 7: TRANSPORTATION



**THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK IS A VITAL PART
OF GOODHUE COUNTY THAT PROVIDES
NECESSARY ACCESS AND MOBILITY FOR
TRAVELERS AND COMMERCE.**

OVERVIEW

Goodhue County's transportation system consists of several different modes of travel and a complex infrastructure. Federal, State, County, City and Township roads make up Goodhue County's road system and represents an estimated 25.8% of the 2016 County budget. The efficiency and safety of the transportation system depends on the design of the physical infrastructure, the types of vehicles, and the connections between the various systems.

The Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan addresses more than just the County's road system. It takes into account the multimodal network that moves people and goods between their origins and destinations. This system is a vital part of Goodhue County and provides access to land, mobility to travelers, and efficiencies to commerce. Every Land Use request has a transportation component to it.

The Goodhue County transportation system includes:

1. A north-south and east-west state highway network
2. City and County collectors, local and arterial systems
3. Township streets and roads
4. Trails
5. Sidewalks and bicycle paths
6. Public Transit
7. Trucking
8. Rail
9. Public and Private Airports
10. Tug and barge lines and Mississippi River Lock and Dam #3
11. Small-scale group of special services to provide access for elderly and handicapped users

Minnesota Transportation Plan

Minnesota has a transportation vision for the next 50 years called Minnesota GO.

The Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan serves as the framework plan for MnDOT's family of plans, or the system investment plans. This multimodal plan is important because it establishes guidance and directs state transportation decisions, which filter down into specific plans for each part of the transportation system.

Goodhue County Transportation Plan (2004 - 2025) excerpt:

The purpose of the Goodhue County Transportation Plan is to help the County and other affected jurisdictions assess anticipated growth over the next twenty years and to recommend a transportation system that addresses growth issues and current needs. This Plan will be used as a tool to guide major transportation investments and policy decisions. This planning effort has also been closely coordinated with Goodhue County's Comprehensive Plan Update in an effort to achieve both transportation and land use objectives.





KEY POINTS

The County conducted a planning review in 2004 and created a 20 year Transportation Plan: [Goodhue County Transportation Plan \(2004-2025\)](#)

A safe, convenient, effective and efficient transportation system connects people, resources, and business and to resources outside the County

Land Use requests include Transportation access and capacity issues

Multimodal options are being developed in the County

The transportation system must be flexible and continuously updated to adapt to changes in society, technology, the environment and the economy

STRENGTHS

The County's transportation network accommodates several modes of travel within public right-of-way and acknowledges different transportation needs of urban and rural areas of the County

A hierarchy of transportation system network provides necessary access to land and mobility for travelers and commerce

The County has an extensive transportation network including: Roadway systems: A north-south and east-west state highway networks; City and County collectors, local, and arterial systems; Township streets and roads; a multimodal freight network made up of highway, water, and rail systems, and County and city bicycle and pedestrian trails

CHALLENGES

Goodhue County's rugged topography presents land use challenges for transportation. Straight east-west and north-south roadway alignments are not always feasible

Goodhue County, like the rest of Minnesota, faces the challenge of keeping up with the need to maintain and expand its ageing and rapidly deteriorating transportation infrastructure

Improve coordinated efforts to link bicycle trails in the County

A Ten Ton road way system upgrade is needed to provide for the movement of freight on facilities designed and built to accommodate trucking

ROAD NETWORK

ROAD NETWORK

The Goodhue County road network needs to meet future requirements of the County. It is clear there is a link between desired growth, the transportation network, and land use. Decisions regarding transportation must be fully integrated with locally approved land use planning and development. A successful and viable transportation network requires continuous infrastructure investment and improvement.



ROAD NETWORK OBJECTIVES:

1. **Safety**
2. **Efficient Movement**
3. **Multimodal options**
4. **Land use development and transportation cooperation.**
5. **Coordination and cooperation between jurisdictions.**
6. **Economic development considerations.**
7. **Efficient use of investment and use of funding.**



**ROAD NETWORK
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



- 1. Develop and maintain a transportation network that promotes safety.**
- 2. Strive to ensure that the transportation network promotes the effective and efficient movement of people and goods.**
- 3. Promote multimodal transportation choices.**
- 4. Evaluate the impacts of proposed land use change on the transportation system.**
- 5. Comply with existing and future state and federal legislation and resulting rules and regulations regarding, energy, land use and transportation measures affecting the County transportation system.**
- 6. Build cooperation and coordination among state and local jurisdictions: coordinate roadway improvement plans with adjacent counties and an adjoining states and promote cooperative intergovernmental maintenance activities that increase efficiency and effectiveness of services.**
- 7. Recognize economic development issues when managing the transportation system's resources and ensure regional connections.**
- 8. Investigate opportunities to secure new funding for transportation needs and maximize the efficiency of current resources. Consider and acknowledge long-term funding obligations.**
- 9. Preserve, maintain, and manage the existing and future highway system.**

TRAIL NETWORK

TRAIL NETWORK

Goodhue County has three existing regional trails within its boundaries, including The Cannon Valley Trail, The Goodhue Pioneer Trail, and The Douglas State Trail.



There are Trails in the planning phase, such as the Mississippi Bluffland State Trail (Red Wing to Lake City), and the Hastings to Red Wing Trail.



Some users of the various bike trail systems also use the network to commute to and from work.

The recreational uses of trails are discussed in more detail in the Recreation and Tourism Element.



**TRAIL NETWORK
OBJECTIVES:**



1. Implement and connect the network of bicycle and pedestrian trail facilities.
2. Integrate transportation options such as bicycling and walking as viable commuting choices .

**TRAIL NETWORK
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



1. Coordinate with surrounding jurisdictions and regional partners in the development of connecting existing or new bicycle and pedestrian systems.
2. Promote bicycling and walking as vital transportation choices.
3. Consider road improvements, where bicycle and pedestrian facilities can be designed, constructed and funded as part of the road improvement.
4. Evaluate land use in constructing and maintaining the transportation system to improve the safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER NETWORK

MISSISSIPPI RIVER NETWORK

The Mississippi River shipping channel is a federally funded, integral part of the national transportation system, which has significant economic and social impact on the region, Goodhue County, and the State of Minnesota. The locks and dams system allows for safe and efficient transport of a wide variety of commodities.



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
NETWORK OBJECTIVES:**



1. **Maintain healthy river systems for recreational and environmental purposes.**
 2. **Identify, evaluate, and encourage the development of sufficient port and marine facilities.**
-

1. **Screen for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) at public access points.**
2. **Investigate marine opportunities: The portion of the Mississippi River that flows through Goodhue County is a part of the navigable waters maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the ports located in Red Wing, St. Paul and Winona are an important part of the region's total transportation network.**
3. **Consider the need for additional marine transportation facilities.**
4. **Recognize that sufficient, suitable and appropriately zoned land which can be served efficiently by rail, highway, and river is a critical component of the marine system.**
5. **Prioritize the protection, preservation and when appropriate, restoration of archeological, cultural, historical, and natural resources as part of the zoning and building permitting process.**

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
NETWORK
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



RAIL NETWORK

RAIL NETWORK

The rail network is primarily used for moving goods. Minnesota's freight rail system is critical in providing efficient connections to markets beyond state and country borders. In 2013 Minnesota State Rail plan indicated that Minnesota had a \$289 billion dollar economy, with 51 percent of businesses involved in producing, processing and handling commodities. These commodities—notably iron ore, farm products and food products—are moved by a multimodal freight network made up of highway, water, air and rail systems.



In Minnesota, rail carries on average 25 percent of freight by weight. Freight on rail takes pressure off the state's constrained highway network and provides environmental benefits through fuel efficiency. Trains are four times more fuel efficient than trucks, and one ton of freight on rail can travel 473 miles on only one gallon of diesel fuel.

RAIL NETWORK OBJECTIVES:

1. **Recognize the existing rail systems in Goodhue County.**
2. **Review the Land Use impacts for any new or proposed rail system in the County.**
3. **Any new or proposed rail system must benefit Goodhue County.**



RAIL NETWORK IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:



1. Work with Emergency Management to develop emergency management plans near existing rail corridors to ensure safety to both life and property in land use decisions.
2. Review and monitor improvements and investments to freight rail incrementally and simultaneously with MnDOT's support; depending on financing, right-of-way acquisition, and agreements with freight railroads.
3. The 2014 Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Transportation to conduct a [study of highway-rail grade crossings improvements](#) for rail corridors carrying unit trains of crude oil and other hazardous materials.
4. Recognize existing passenger rail service, Amtrak currently provides passenger rail service in Minnesota on its Empire Builder route from Chicago, Ill. to Portland, Ore. and Seattle, Wash. The Empire Builder operates one daily train in each direction in Minnesota, and makes station stops in Winona, Red Wing, St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Staples, and Detroit Lakes.
5. Consider the vision for passenger rail, as identified by the 2010 Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan, is that Minnesota should develop a robust intrastate and interstate intercity passenger rail system which results in improved travel options, costs and speeds for Minnesota and interstate travelers.

**RAIL NETWORK
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES
CONTINUED:**



6. Monitor the rail initiatives throughout the region and analyze the potential positive and negative effects of new rail systems, such as:

- A. ZipRail , a high-speed passenger rail service between the Twin Cities and Rochester. The ZipRail study area covers approximately a 100-mile corridor between Rochester and the Twin Cities, which includes Dakota, Dodge, Goodhue, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey and Rice counties and various end points in the Twin Cities and Rochester; and
- B. Twin Cities to Milwaukee High-Speed Rail Corridor to Chicago, the proposed improvements will help complete the [Midwest Regional Rail Initiative](#) (MWRRI) vision for developing an improved and expanded passenger rail system in the Midwest. The proposed service will eventually link to the existing [Amtrak Hiawatha service](#) between Milwaukee and Chicago; and
- C. Evaluate the potential benefit of and, if feasible, support an extension of the proposed Red Rock Commuter Rail System from Hastings to Red Wing; and
- D. Any new or proposed rail system must benefit Goodhue County.

ELEMENT 8: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION



**BY WORKING TOGETHER, LOCAL BUSINESSES,
CHAMBERS, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFITS CAN
FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEVELOP THEIR COMMUNITY
AS A WHOLE.**

OVERVIEW

A major element of any land planning program is the coordination between the entities that have regulatory and permitting responsibilities for activities occurring within the area being planned. Many issues cross jurisdictional boundaries, affecting more than one community and agency. This Element addresses coordination issues relating to all levels of government from the federal to the most local service districts.

Within Goodhue County there are numerous local governmental entities including twenty-one townships, ten cities, one tribal government, twelve school districts, six watershed organizations, and the Soil and Water Conservation District.

The County is adjacent to five Minnesota counties (Dakota, Dodge, Olmsted, Rice, and Wabasha) and is connected by the federal and state highways and river systems. Goodhue County also shares a common boundary of the Mississippi River with Pierce County in the State of Wisconsin.

Natural resources, school districts, and other issues cross intergovernmental boundaries. There are many benefits to intergovernmental cooperation such as cost savings, consistency, predictability, and service to citizens.

This plan considers Townships, incorporated Cities, school districts, tribal government to be units of local government within Goodhue County. The objectives of the local government units will focus on increased unity, cooperation and shared expertise.



KEY POINTS

Enhance our services by forming partners and collaborations in a fiscally responsible manner with other agencies

Maintain and enhance communication and partnerships with Townships, Cities, and the Tribal Council located within the County

Promote clean water and sustainability by coordinating efforts with the SWCD, Watershed districts and partnerships, DNR

STRENGTHS

The County currently utilizes many intergovernmental agreements and practices

The County and the Townships meet yearly to discuss planning and zoning related issues and City officials participate on a number of County level committees

There are good working relationships with MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through the area hydrologist for support regarding floodplain and shoreland management, wetland's regulations and timber harvesting

Staff works with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding water and air quality, solid waste, and feedlot regulations

The County contracts and administers the Building Code for all unincorporated areas of the County and six of its cities.

The County has created a GIS users group which shares GIS information and services across several municipalities

CHALLENGES

County zoning regulations are designed to set the overall goals and policies for the County as a whole.

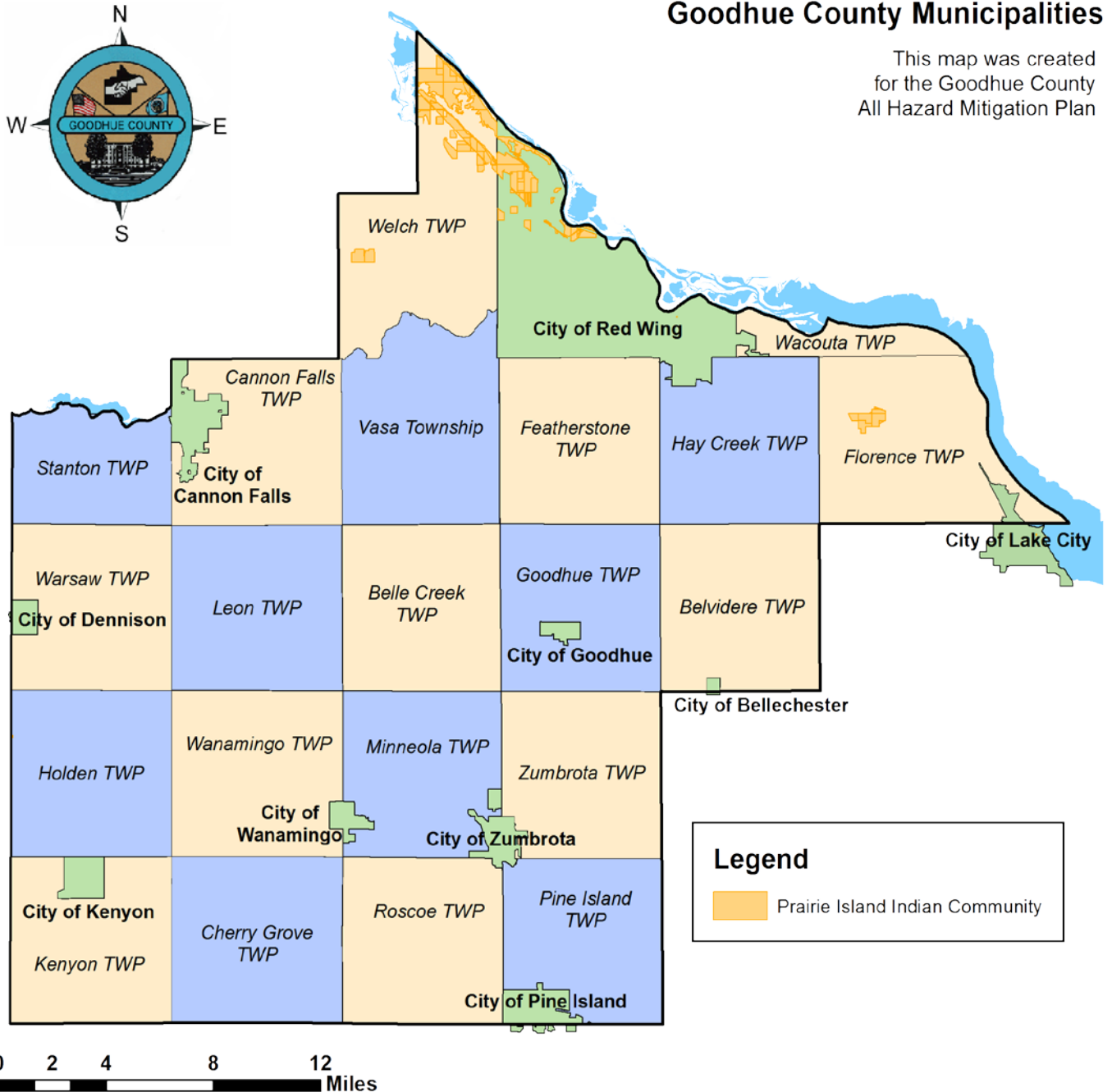
Townships differ across the County in topography and priorities and some Townships have created stricter regulations

Multiple layers of zoning regulations can be cumbersome for citizens

Environmental issues such as water quality cross jurisdictional boundaries

Finding time for collaboration efforts can be a challenge when you factor in the many different facets of local, regional, and state organizations that could form collaborations

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

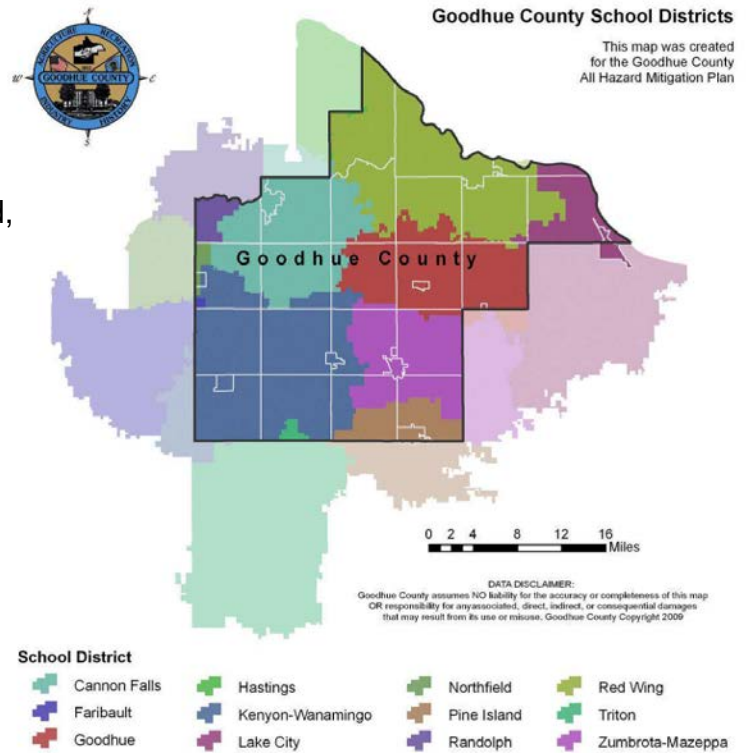


DATA SOURCE: Goodhue County and MN DNR

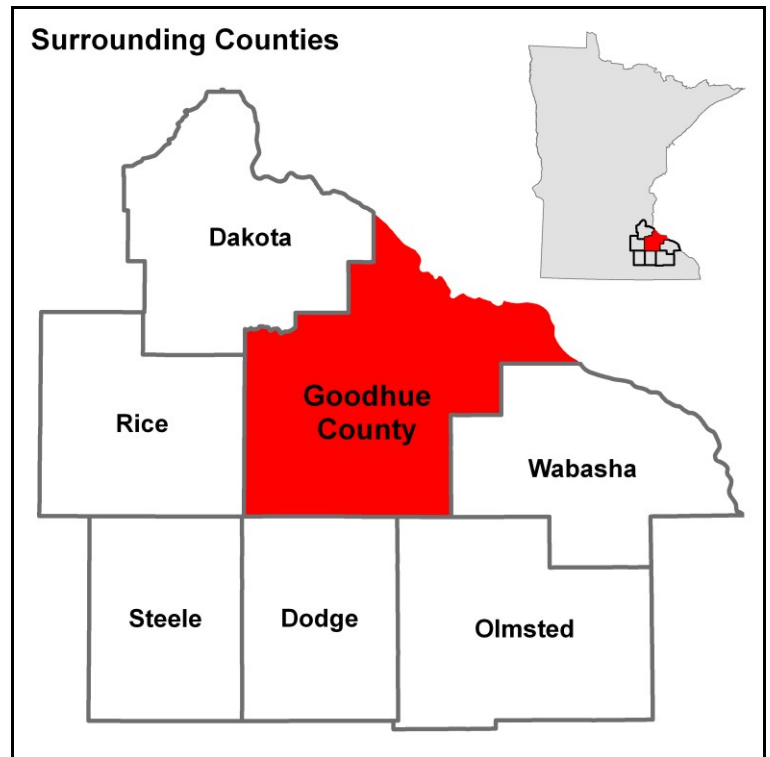
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LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Our Local Governments and partnerships include the Cities, Townships, School districts, Soil and Water Conservation District, Prairie Island Indian Community, Cannon Valley Trail, Cannon Valley Fair Board, Goodhue County Fair Board, and the University of Minnesota Extension services.



Map 1. State of Minnesota



Map 2. Surrounding Counties

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
AND PARTNERSHIPS
OBJECTIVES:**



- 1. Work on increased cooperation through permitting conditional use permits, variance, building permits, change of zoning districts, zoning text amendments, and preliminary and final plats.**
- 2. Continue to administer the building code for the contracted incorporated cities .**
- 3. Create stronger relationships regarding planning and zoning issues with other local governments.**
- 4. Establish and continue collaborative planning approaches to transportation, natural resources management, emergency response, and tourism.**
- 5. Include school districts in planning efforts.**
- 6. Work with Fair Boards when considering planning and zoning activities and issues that may affect the land surrounding and within the fair grounds.**
- 7. Create a stronger relationship with University of Minnesota Extension Services.**

**LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS
AND
PARTNERSHIPS
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



- 1. Communicate with other Local Governments as to the County's available planning and GIS information.**
- 2. Maintain staff contacts with incorporated Cities to coordinate planning, land use regulations and infrastructure development activities.**
- 3. Maintain staff contacts with Prairie Island Indian Community in regards to land use regulations and infrastructure development activities.**
- 4. Establish a cooperative planning meeting to discuss regional planning and zoning issues with local townships, cities, and tribal government.**
- 5. Continue yearly meeting with the Association of Township Officers and planning commissions.**
- 6. Continue working with the Goodhue SWCD to administer the County's Water Plan, fulfill wetland regulatory responsibilities, administer feedlot regulations, and to make available environmental and natural resource management assistance.**
- 7. Work with Local Government Units to participate in the All Hazards Mitigation Plan.**
- 8. Create an educational planning program to interact with school children regarding planning issues.**
- 9. Establish contact information for all school districts and include them in public notices and other planning meetings .**
- 10. Establish contact information for County Fair Boards and include them in public notices and other planning meetings.**
- 11. Include University of Minnesota Extension in planning and zoning efforts.**

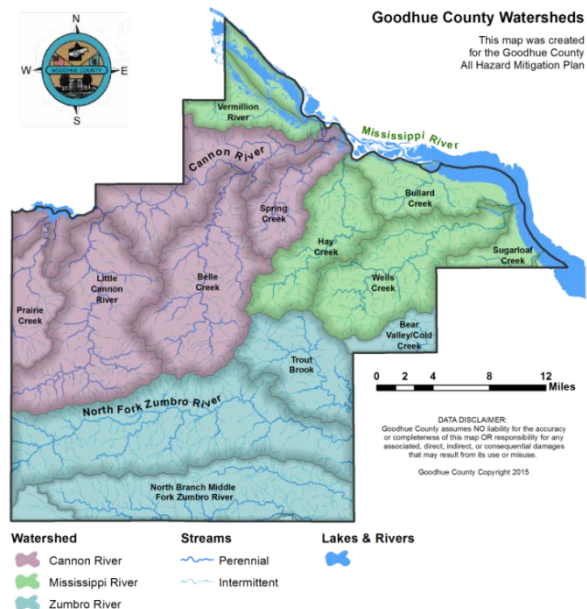
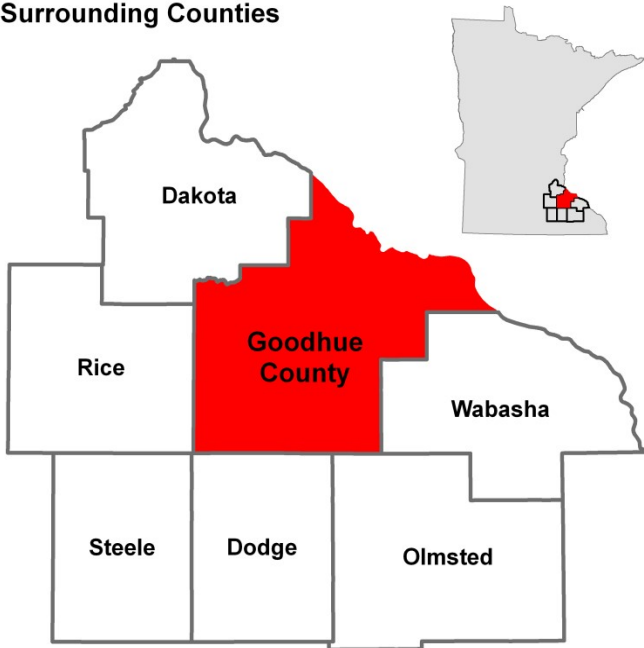
REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

This Comprehensive Plan considers surrounding Counties, watershed districts; transportation and trail entities to be Regional Government agencies. The objectives of the Regional Government Element will focus on increased unity, cooperation and shared expertise. More details about the transportation and trail systems are found in the Transportation Element.

Watershed partnerships within Goodhue County are the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization, Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Cannon River Watershed Partnership and the Wells Creek Watershed Partnership. The Bear Valley Watershed District and Belle Creek Watershed Districts are the only two taxing authority watershed districts in the County.

Surrounding Counties



**REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS AND
PARTNERSHIPS
OBJECTIVES:**



- 1. Ensure Goodhue County participates in cross county issues.**
 - 2. Maintain professional associations with Regional Governments to leverage grants and joint financial opportunities.**
 - 3. Ensure that Goodhue County represents the best interests of County residents and landowners by engaging with abutting counties to address cross-jurisdictional planning, regulatory and infrastructure issues.**
-

**REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS AND
PARTNERSHIPS
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



- 1. Continue cost sharing partnerships with neighboring counties.**
- 2. Attend and organize Regional Government meetings to discuss common planning issues.**

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

State and Federal Governments establish rules and regulations that are passed down to the County for implementation and enforcement. The following are agencies the County works with directly:

- 1. *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: Shoreland and Floodplain Management and Forestry***
- 2. *Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: Individual Sewage Treatment System regulations, stormwater management, feedlot regulations, demolition permits, solid waste regulations, and air quality permitting***
- 3. *Minnesota Department of Health: wellhead protection areas***
- 4. *Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources: Watershed and wetland administration***
- 5. *Minnesota Department of Transportation: State and Federal highway systems***
- 6. *Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office: Historic and archaeological property directory***
- 7. *United States Corps of Engineers: Operate Lock and dams along Mississippi River and permit activities regarding waters of the U.S.***
- 8. *Natural Resources Conservation District: NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to make conservation improvements to their land. They also maintain the Web Soil Survey application showing the soils of the County.***
- 9. *Farm Service Agency: Delivers agricultural programs to farmers and ranchers.***

**STATE AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENTS AND
PARTNERSHIPS
OBJECTIVES:**



1. **Continue to work with our State and Federal partners to achieve the best outcomes for the County.**

**STATE AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENTS AND
PARTNERSHIPS
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES:**



1. **Ensure planning and zoning requests are referred to agencies as appropriate for review and comment.**
2. **Provide the necessary reports to continue to receive funding for programs such as the Natural Resources Block Grants.**
3. **Become an active participant in rule making processes when appropriate in a fiscally responsible manner.**
4. **Engage with elected officials to represent the County's interest in Land Use issues.**

ELEMENT 9: PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ENERGY



**THE COUNTY OFFERS MANY TYPES
OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ENERGY
OPPORTUNITIES.**

OVERVIEW

Goodhue County is home to numerous utility and energy opportunities. The County may not be responsible for regulating all of the activities, but can comment on projects that affect the County. This plan is designed to assist the County Officials to give a basis for comments and recommendations.

The County is responsible for issuing conditional and interim use permits for wireless communication towers, solar energy, wind energy, and biofuel projects, up to the levels administered by Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The PUC regulates the rates, services and policies of natural gas, electricity, and telecommunications providers. The PUC also approves the development of large energy facilities.



KEY POINTS

Promote development of renewable energy sources where appropriate and compatible with surrounding land uses

Support creation, maintenance and upgrades for wireless communication facilities

The County will strive to be an active participant in siting issues.

The County supports the use and development of renewable energy when done within the values of the County and landowners

STRENGTHS

Goodhue County has a diverse landscape from bluff lands, to rolling hills, and high quality agricultural land.

The County is situated between two major metropolitan areas, the Twin Cities, and Rochester which are large energy users

The County is home to four major state road corridors: Highway 52-connecting the Twin Cities with Rochester; Highway 61- known as the Great River Road; Highway 60-which is an east-west corridor in southern Minnesota; and Highway 19 which runs west to the South Dakota border. These road corridors lend themselves as logical locations for utility corridors

CHALLENGES

The County has been home to controversial siting issues for utilities and other infrastructure

There are contradicting opinions regarding utilities and energy sources and the compatibility with surrounding land uses

The County has a higher population than some of our surrounding rural counties

UTILITIES

The County will strive to support utility and energy developments when done in an environmentally responsible manner compatible with surrounding land uses.

Utilities distribute essential services throughout the County, such as telecommunication and electricity. These services are important to the County to keep residential, educational, and businesses operational.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

Wireless communications facilities have now become an essential service for much of the public. The Federal Communications Commission has indicated that wireless companies are working diligently to keep up with the technology revolution that is occurring. These facility locations are permitting locally through Conditional and Interim Use Permits and building permits.

HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

As the need for energy grows in the country so does the need to move that energy from one location to another. High Voltage Transmission lines are part of an overall regional grid operated in coordination with other systems throughout the Upper Midwest and Eastern United States. Goodhue County is part of the High Voltage project called CAPX2020 which primarily follows the Highway 52 corridor.

RURAL BROADBAND

A high speed Broadband connection is no longer a privilege reserved for the few. It has a direct impact on American opportunity. An internet connection allows us to communicate, collaborate, and do business on a global scale. The Governor's Task Force on Broadband stated that as of February 2015, 91.45 percent of Minnesota households have broadband access available at a speed of at least 10 Mbps download and 5 Mbps upload, while 80.16 percent of rural Minnesota households have a broadband connection that meets these speeds (these figures include broadband service provided by wired, fixed wireless and wireless technologies as Minnesota Statutes did not specify a technology). Goodhue County is further ahead of the state with 93.54% of its households accessing these broadband speeds. The legislative goal is to have 100% access to such speeds. To date no local permits are required for broadband transmission.



UTILITIES OBJECTIVES:



1. Support the creation, maintenance, and upgrades for wireless communication facilities.
 2. Streamline permitting requirements where appropriate for wireless communication facilities.
 3. Support transmission lines that are placed within existing transportation corridors first and new corridors where appropriate.
 4. Continue to support broadband development activities.
-

UTILITIES IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:



1. Review the zoning ordinance for ways to streamline permitting for wireless communication towers along with conformance with applicable Federal Telecommunication laws and rules.
2. Consider inclusion of wireless telecommunication to the Counties definition of “essential services”.
3. Comment on transmission line proposals when appropriate.
4. Support and promote broadband development and wireless broadband facilities.

ENERGY

Minnesota has a plethora of energy producing facilities ranging from nuclear to renewable sources. The State’s Twenty-five by Twenty-five goal is stated in Minnesota Statutes 41a.11:

It is the goal of the state that no later than January 1, 2025, the state's agricultural, forestry, and working land should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in this state while continuing to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

Goodhue County is the home to a nuclear power plant, and water, solar, wind, and biofuel facilities.

NUCLEAR

Xcel Energy’s Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant is located in Red Wing and began producing energy in 1973. The plant was expanded to 2 reactors and according to Xcel Energy, it currently generates about twenty percent of the electricity used by its customers in the Upper Midwest (generating 1,100 megawatts and serving approximately one million homes).

Xcel was recently relicensed for its two generators until 2025.

Efforts have been made by Prairie Island Indian Community, the City of Red Wing, and Xcel Energy to persuade the federal government to relocate used nuclear fuel to a permanent U.S. repository in Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

SOLAR ENERGY

Solar Energy utilizes sunlight to produce electricity. The County adopted solar regulations into the Zoning Ordinance in 2014, based upon existing model ordinances. There has been recent interest in developing solar resources as energy companies try to increase their renewable energy capacity. If 300 megawatts of solar energy could be installed in Goodhue County, it would only require less than an estimated 1.23% of our total land area.



WIND ENERGY

Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) are regulated by either the County or the Public Utilities Commission depending on the size of the project. The County regulates projects that have a total nameplate capacity of five megawatts or less, and are not otherwise subject to siting and oversight by the State of Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216F. The County has supported small wind energy projects, including residential wind projects, and those that are of five megawatts or less. Larger wind projects, even though regulated by the PUC have not been supported by many Goodhue County residents.

HYDROLOGICAL ENERGY

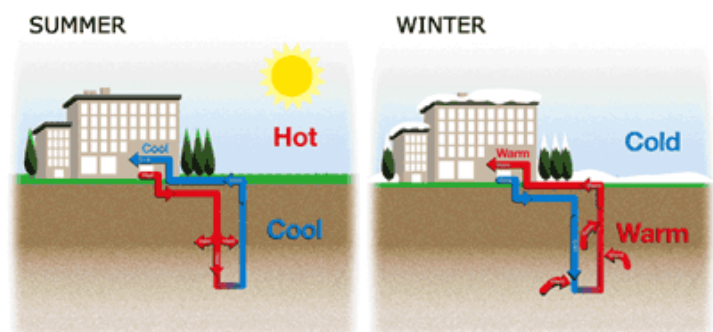
Lake Byllesby Dam is located on the Cannon River, between Goodhue and Dakota Counties. The facility was jointly owned and operated by both Counties for over 60 years. Dakota County has since acquired the Dam and its operations. The Dam is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Xcel Energy buys the hydro-energy produced electricity to distribute along its grid. The Dam generates enough electricity to power approximately 2,400 homes for a year (Dakota County, 2012).

BIOFUEL

Biofuels refer to a variety of fuels that are created from organic matter. One product, Ethanol, can be created from agricultural sources such as corn, soybeans, and sugar beets. Wood is another biofuel that is used to create energy. Biofuels are considered renewable sources of energy because they are derived from plants that can be grown on a yearly basis. There is some controversy around using biofuels use as an energy source in regards to the sustainability of forest lands, and using agricultural products for food instead of fuel. (Minnesota Bio Fuels Association, 2015).

GEO-THERMAL ENERGY

Heat from the earth can be used as an energy source in many ways, from large and complex power stations to small and relatively simple pumping systems. Geothermal energy takes advantage of the thermal energy generated and stored in the Earth. The difference in temperature between the core of the planet and its surface creates a continuous conduction of thermal energy. Recent technological advances have dramatically expanded the range and size of viable resources, especially for applications such as home heating, opening a potential for widespread exploitation. Forecasts for the future of geothermal power may depend on assumptions about technology, energy prices, subsidies, and financing.



ENERGY OBJECTIVES:



1. Support the efforts to persuade the federal government to allow used nuclear fuel to be stored off-site.
2. Promote responsible development of renewable energy resources including wind energy, solar energy, hydro-electric energy, and geothermal energy consistent with the values of County residents and land owners.

ENERGY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:



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1. Assist with the existing partnerships in persuading the federal government to allow used nuclear fuel to be stored off-site.
 2. Accommodate the use of small scale wind energy conversion systems while discouraging development of Large Wind Energy Projects by maintaining and administering Zoning Regulations for Wind Energy Conversion Systems.
 3. Represent the interests of Goodhue County residents by participating in any Environmental Review and Site Permitting processes undertaken by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for Large Wind Energy or Solar Energy Projects.
 4. Allow opportunities for construction and operation of residential, business and utility-scale solar energy systems throughout rural Goodhue County by maintaining and administering Zoning Regulations for Solar Energy Systems.

ELEMENT 10:

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

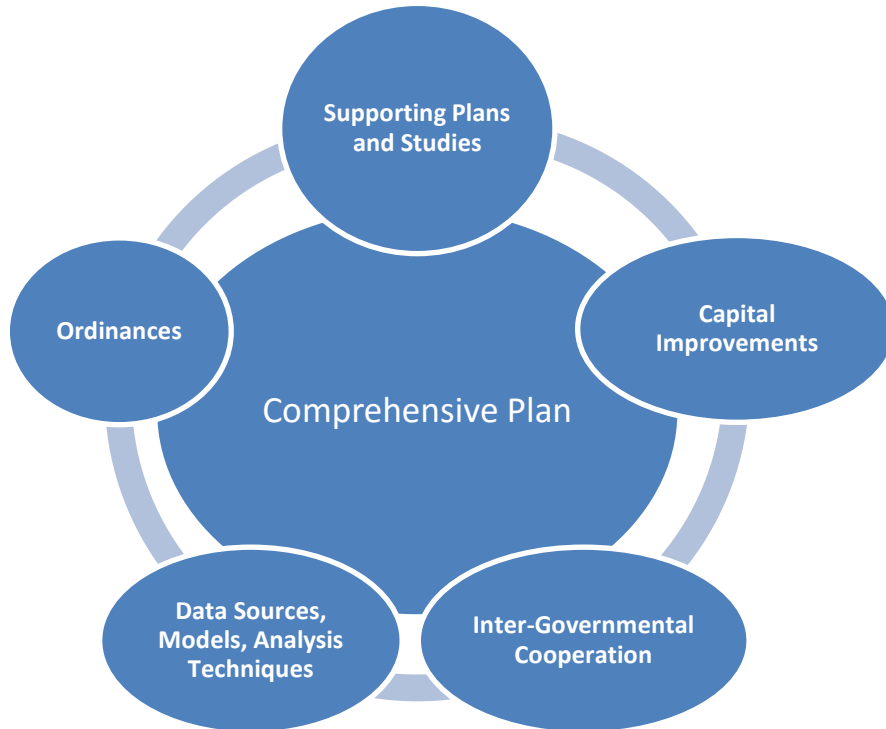


**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES
TO ACHIEVE COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN OBJECTIVES AND
IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES**

OVERVIEW

The Goodhue County 2016– 2040 Comprehensive Plan serves as a guide for future planning and development. To achieve the County’s objectives, it is important to commit to a deliberate process to implement the measures described in each Plan Element. While some of the recommendations found in the plan will be automatically implemented, others require changes to existing regulations or new proposed regulations. Achieving other plan objectives and implementation measures may require County capital investments or

cooperation/collaboration with other units of government. Specific follow-up actions will be required for many plan objectives to become reality. The Implementation Plan Element identifies tools and strategies to guide actions to realize measures set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. In addition, this plan element identifies procedures for periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan to assess progress towards implementation and to determine when changing trends and conditions dictate future plan amendments.



SUPPORTING PLANS AND STUDIES

Various other County Plans serve as tools to implement the Comprehensive Plan. The following County Plans support implementation of key Comprehensive Plan planning priorities

TRANSPORTATION PLAN (2005-2025)

The Goodhue County Transportation Plan helps the county and other affected jurisdictions assess anticipated growth over the next twenty years, and recommends a transportation system that addresses growth issues and current needs. This Plan is used as a tool to guide major transportation investments and policy decisions. The use of land is inherently dependent on the transportation system that allows for the movement of people and goods. The Comprehensive Plan coordinates objective and implementation measures to guide land use to ensure consistency with the County's transportation system capacity.

GOODHUE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (2010- 2020)

The Local Water Management Plan, developed and administered by the Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District, identifies potential and existing water resource related issues and how these resources can be protected, sustained and enhanced in Goodhue County. The plan addresses problems in the context of watershed units and groundwater systems. The Water Plan supports objective and implementation measures set forth in the Natural Resources Element of the Comprehensive Plan. More broadly-based water planning is integral with many Comprehensive Plan objectives and implementation that relate to managing growth and change within the County.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN FOR GOODHUE COUNTY (2015)

These non-native species harm fish populations, water quality, and recreation. This Plan outlines the efforts that Goodhue County will undertake to prevent the spread of harmful AIS within the County's water resources.

ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to determine how to reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property damage resulting from natural, technological, and human-caused hazards. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initiated all hazard mitigation planning in light of the increasing number and harm of disasters in recent years.

MANAGING A WORKING LANDSCAPE: A PROTECTION STRATEGY FOR THE NANSEN AGRICULTURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

This report surveys the past, present and future of an historic agricultural landscape, the Nansen District, also known as the Sogn Valley, consisting of about 4800 acres in western Goodhue County. It offers a summary of the district's past, an overview of issues that currently affect the district, and offers specific recommendations to protect and preserve an agricultural landscape largely representative the original pattern of settlement in the mid-1800's. The Nansen Historic District Report may be used to help implement objectives of Element 6 (Historic, Cultural and Scenic Amenities) of the Comprehensive Plan.

HIAWATHA VALLEY ATLAS

The Hiawatha Valley Atlas is a set of maps and narratives concerning factors relevant to regional land-use planning. It is a companion to the Hiawatha Valley Partnership Presentation and Ordinance Matrix. The Hiawatha Valley, the corridor from Red Wing to Wabasha, Minnesota, is nationally recognized for its breathtaking scenery. The Atlas highlights the environmental and geologic intricacies that are not common knowledge. The purpose of the project was public environmental education to aid in land use decision-making. The Atlas serves as a valuable companion to the Comprehensive Plan especially for educating public officials and the general public regarding threats to the environmentally sensitive landscape found within the Hiawatha Valley.

GOODHUE COUNTY A-3 URBAN FRINGE DISTRICT HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT (2014)

This study evaluated potential health impacts on County residents of changing the zoning of the County's Urban Fringe Areas. This innovative project involved collaboration between the County's Land Use Management Department and Health and Human Services Department. This planning report provides a valuable overview of public opinion and a thorough analysis to inform decision-making regarding alternatives for planning and regulation of the County's Urban Fringe Areas.

GOODHUE COUNTY MINING STUDY COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT – (MAY 2013)

This planning report addressed a variety of public concerns regarding potential mining, processing and transportation of “silica sand” in Goodhue County. Some of the recommendations set forth in this report have already been implemented. However, this report will continue to serve as a valuable tool to inform planning and regulation of mineral extraction facilities.



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REGARDING NON-METALLIC MINING IN GOODHUE COUNTY (JUNE 2012)

Summit Envirosolutions, Inc. (Summit) assembled a team of geologists, engineers, hydro-geologists, planners, biologists, archaeologists, and landscape architects (Summit Team) to work with the Goodhue County Mining Study Committee (GCMSC) to answer questions, review technical data, review suggested revisions to Article 14 (Mining Regulations) of the Goodhue County Zoning Ordinance. The Summit Team prepared this report to provide relevant data and information on nonmetallic mining, particularly with respect to best management practices.

This report serves as a valuable guide to inform implementation of Comprehensive Plan objectives related to non-metallic mineral resources.

ORDINANCES

The following Goodhue County Ordinances serve as important tools for implementing the Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan.

ZONING REGULATIONS

The Goodhue County Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map are important tools to implement the Comprehensive Plan. The County’s Zoning Ordinance regulates the use of unincorporated areas of the County including all 21 Townships. The purpose of the Goodhue County Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map is to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare of the people of Goodhue County. Specifically its purpose includes protection

and preservation of prime agricultural land by limiting the density of residential development in these areas. Also, the Ordinance assists in the economic growth of the County by providing a basis for reasonable and orderly residential, commercial and industrial development. At the same time, the Zoning Regulations encourage farmers, residents and businesses to protect the land from erosion, loss of wetlands, loss of water quality, and loss of woodlands.

The purpose of Goodhue County’s Subdivision Controls Ordinance is to regulate the subdividing of land outside the incorporated limits of any City,

SUBDIVISION CONTROLS ORDINANCE

so that new subdivisions will be integrated with the development objectives of Goodhue County, as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. This Ordinance is intended to help create an attractive, stable and wholesome environment, adequate public services and an integrated and safe road and highway system.

MINNESOTA STATE BUILDING CODE

Goodhue County has adopted the Minnesota State Building Code by Ordinance. The County's Ordinance provides for the application, administration, and enforcement of the Minnesota State Building Code by regulating the erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, moving, removal, demolition, conversion, occupancy, equipment, use, height, area, and maintenance of all buildings and structures in the County. Administration of the Building Code further numerous priorities established in the Comprehensive Plan. These include ensuring a safe, sanitary housing stock and generally assuring that all structures subject to the building code are designed and constructed to ensure public health safety.

SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM ORDINANCE

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish minimum requirements for regulation of ISTS and MSTs for the treatment and dispersal of sewage within the applicable jurisdiction of the County to protect public health and safety, groundwater quality, and prevent or eliminate the development of public health nuisances. It is intended to serve the best interests of the County's citizens by protecting its health, safety, general welfare, and natural resources.

WATER QUALITY ORDINANCE

The Goodhue County Board accepts the premise that an abundant source of safe water is essential to the maintenance of

the public health and the continued economic and social development of the County. The County has an extensive supply of ground water. These waters are subject to contamination from a variety of sources. The karst geology of the County increases the potential risk of contamination. The County's Water Quality Ordinance provides that wells which are identified as actual or potential sources of pollution or contamination to the aquifers shall be the primary concern for the health officials enforcing the Ordinance.

WASTE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

This Ordinance authorizes and provides for County Waste Management, establishing powers and duties in connection therewith, establishing standards and requirements for waste management operations, including, but not limited to, compost facilities, recycling centers, transfer facilities, land disposal facilities, refuse-derived fuel processing facilities, and incinerators, within the County of Goodhue, requiring a license for the establishment and use of a waste management operation; embodying minimum standards and requirements established by rules of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and established by Goodhue County.

INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM AND WELL LOAN PROGRAM ORDINANCE

This Ordinance authorized Goodhue County to establish and administer a low interest public loan program that assists

private landowners to finance site evaluation, installation, repair, and replacement of individual sewage treatment systems and to finance the sealing and replacement of wells on private property.

OFFICIAL MAPPING

Official maps are an important, though less commonly used, tool for implementing a comprehensive plan. An official map designates and signals to developers and citizens where a local jurisdiction expects roads and other public facilities to go in the future. This avoids the expense and controversy of the government having to acquire and remove buildings later if they are located within the designated areas. A formally adopted official map allows the community to withhold building permits. It also authorizes the community to acquire structures placed in these designated areas without compensating property owners if the structures were built without a permit. Adoption of an official map does not create public ownership of the land. The government must compensate the property owner for the land at the time it is acquired for a public facility. Minnesota counties, cities and townships may use official mapping for roads, rights-of-way and other public facilities such as parks, schools and libraries.

Goodhue County has used “Official Mapping” for planning related to transportation improvements in the past and because of the increased cost of land acquisition for public infrastructure it remains an important tool to be used selectively for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

INTERIM ZONING (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 394, Section 394.34)

If a county is conducting or in good faith intends to conduct studies within a reasonable time, or has held or is holding a hearing for the purpose of considering a comprehensive plan or official controls or an amendment, extension, or addition to either, or in the event new territory for which no zoning may have been adopted, may be annexed to a municipality, the board in order to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare may adopt as an emergency measure a temporary interim zoning map or temporary interim zoning ordinance, the purpose of which shall be to classify and regulate uses and related matters as constitutes the emergency. Such interim resolution shall be limited to one year from the date it becomes effective and to one year to renewal thereafter.

Interim Zoning, more popularly referred to as “moratoriums”, is a useful tool when used judiciously to implement planning priorities set forth in the Comprehensive Plan especially in areas subject to development pressure.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Construction and major maintenance projects related to the County’s transportation system including highways, bridges and trails. In addition, capital investments are made periodically to develop and maintain the County’s parks.



County capital improvement related investments also include construction and maintenance projects for numerous County Government Buildings and Sites. These buildings and associated grounds are necessary for the provision of important public services. County facilities also serve as important community landmarks.

DATA, MODELS, ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

Goodhue County’s Geographic Information System managed by the County’s Survey Department provides a wide array of land and water resource related data resources made available for planning and land use analysis purposes. The County’s GIS Program provides important maps and databases of key land records and physical features. The GIS represents an invaluable tool for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

MINNESOTA BIOLOGICAL SURVEY - NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND RARE SPECIES OF GOODHUE COUNTY

A survey of Natural Communities and Rare Species was completed for Goodhue County as part of the Minnesota Biological Survey in 1995. The Biological Survey offers mapping of areas with concentrations of native vegetation and rare species. This important data represents a valuable tool to help implement objectives and measures set forth in Element 2 (Natural Resources) of the Comprehensive Plan



Trout Lilly

GEOLOGIC ATLAS OF GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The Geologic Atlas of Goodhue County, Minnesota, completed in 2003 provides a series maps, diagrams and descriptive information about the subsurface geology of the County. This information is especially valuable due to presence of Karst Geologic features in Goodhue County which presents many challenges regarding management of surface and ground water resources. The Geologic Atlas provides valuable data and aids decision-making for many types of land use and land management related matters. This data resource is useful for implementing numerous Comprehensive Plan objectives related to planning and regulation of development and related infrastructure.

GOODHUE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

Natural Resource Inventory Grant for a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) In 1997, the Goodhue County Land Use Management Department received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to conduct a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) of the Lower Wells Creek Watershed area.

The Rest of Goodhue County

This inventory covered approximately 6,000 acres, defined by the watershed boundaries on the north and south sides, county Highway 5 on the upstream portion, and the Mississippi River on the northeast. Then in late 1998, the Goodhue County Land Use Management Department received a grant from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources to conduct a Natural Resources Inventory for the rest of Goodhue County

Tremendous Cooperation

This would involve an inventory of almost 60,000 acres within the Cannon, Zumbro and Mississippi and Lake Pepin Watersheds. The 2 inventories were made possible as a result of a tremendous amount of cooperation from a multi-agency peer group, and most importantly, the residents and landowners of Goodhue County. This document and data source offers important information about native plant communities and wildlife and is a valuable tool for implementing the Natural Resources Management related objectives.

GOODHUE COUNTY SOIL SURVEY

The most current Goodhue County Soil Survey completed in 2005, provides detailed mapping and descriptions of soils found throughout the County. This information is available to the public through the United State Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service – Web Soil Survey Portal and for Goodhue County Staff through the County's Geographic Information System. This important data is useful for a wide array of public and private purposes including implementation of a wide array of Comprehensive Plan objectives and specific implementing measures including but not limited to prioritizing land for agricultural uses and reducing soil erosion and sedimentation.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS LAND USE MODEL (ECLUE)

The Goodhue County Environmental Constraints Land Use Evaluation (ECLUE) Model was created to help support decision makers in this challenging work by providing easier access to information about environmental and other characteristics of Goodhue County.

The results from the Goodhue County land use model highlight areas containing high quality natural resources, other potential resources, and those governed by zoning ordinances – all landscape features that are key considerations in making land use decisions.

The model was created by combining geographic datasets that represent existing conditions or characteristics of Goodhue County, such as elevation, locations of lakes, streams and wetlands. The ECLUE Model developed for this project is a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) model that takes many sets of data representing geographic features in Goodhue County and then combines them. The model assigns a numerical value to each dataset based on its characteristics. These sets of information, or data layers, combined in a GIS model create an overall picture of natural resources and other characteristics in Goodhue County.

The ECLUE is used by County Staff and County Officials as a tool to efficiently view a wide-array of data in a land use mode to aid decision-making.



ON-GOING REVIEW, UPDATE AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

The Planning Advisory Commission and County Board work in conjunction with the Land Use Management Staff to prioritize and implement the Comprehensive Plan objectives.

Progress Reports and Yearly Plan:

At the end of each year, the Land Use Management Staff will prepare a synopsis of the Ordinance Amendments and land use requests that occurred during the year. This will help give an overall picture of the activity and trends that occurred. Staff will also prepare a draft work plan for the upcoming year for the Planning Advisory Commission. This draft work plan will give the Planning Advisory Commission an opportunity to prioritize the direction, research, and public participation for Staff to coordinate for resulting Ordinance or Plan amendments for the year.

Ordinance Amendments:

After the work plan is approved, the Land Use Management Staff will prepare Ordinance Amendments to address or refine the pertinent ordinances to be in harmony with the current Comprehensive Plan. This is an on-going process, and may be prompted by citizen requests.

Five-Year Comprehensive Plan Review.

Although the Plan may be amended on occasion, a typical organization with a Comprehensive Plan undergoes a thorough review of the Plan every five years. This review looks at the entire document to see if it is still in harmony with the direction and priorities of the community, knowing that certain aspects of our County will change. Our demographics, land use requests, capital investments, and resources will be different in five years than what it is at the time of the adoption of this update.



2010 Photography



2014 Photography