

Implementation

Minnehaha County and Envision 2035

The revision and adoption of the comprehensive plan represents a step in a continually evolving planning process. Envision 2035 provides a framework consisting of goals and policies to assist in shaping the physical development of the county. The plan is intended to be a policy guide for decisions about the future spatial distribution of rural land uses and visualization of how these patterns should occur.

In 1862, Minnehaha County was established as a political subdivision of the State of South Dakota encompassing 810 square miles and is governed by ten elected officials—5 part-time Commissioners, an Auditor, a Treasurer, a State’s Attorney, Register of Deeds, and Sheriff. Daily operations are managed by 19 full-time Department Heads.

The County employs over 500 full-time employees providing services such as the following: law enforcement, jail administration, highway construction and maintenance, property valuation, planning and zoning, emergency management, poor relief, juvenile detention services, election administration, official recording of deeds and documents, vehicle tax and licensing and property tax collection and administration.

In conjunction with the City of Sioux Falls, the County maintains the Siouxland Library system, the Siouxland Heritage Museum system, and dispatches police, fire, and medical personnel through the Metro Communications 911 Center. The County also maintains two rural parks: Wall Lake and Bucher Prairie. Both of which were created through the request and the thankful assistance of private landowners.

Envision 2035 is a cooperative effort to effectively balance Minnehaha County’s historic and natural resources with municipal growth and development forces on the unincorporated area. The comprehensive plan is neither a beginning or an ending point, it is a continual public process to identify the needs of the community and its citizenry.

Zoning Ordinance

Zoning is the most commonly used legal mechanism to achieve the goals and policies of a comprehensive plan. The county's zoning ordinance regulates land use activities in the unincorporated area as well as maintains a joint (extraterritorial) zoning relationship with the cities of Dell Rapids and Sioux Falls, which the boundaries are depicted on the Zoning Map, pg. 116, in the appendix. Although three separate zoning ordinances regulate specific portions of the rural area, the regulations within each ordinance are similarly structured to promote uniformity throughout the county. The Minnehaha County Zoning Ordinance (MCZO) has undergone several revisions since it was first adopted in 1973. Most notably, density zoning requirements were added in 1988 in an effort to control scattered and haphazard nonfarm residential development within the rural area. The current zoning ordinance, the 1990 Revised Zoning Ordinance for Minnehaha County, was completely revised in text and format. Some major changes since then have included rules and standards regarding the Water Source Protection (WS), Planned Development (PD) Zoning, Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS), and the Red Rock Corridor Overlay (RRCO) Districts. Other ordinance updates since the revised ordinance adoption include minor changes to strengthen and streamline the permitting process as well as additional conditional uses.

The RRCO District was adopted in late November 2011, which adds development standards and guidelines to the existing base zoning districts. Future corridor development plans should utilize the similar planning efforts and implementation styles as the Red Rock Corridor.

The 1990 Revised Zoning Ordinance for Minnehaha County with subsequent amendments worked well to regulate land use and zoning over the years. However, a review of the ordinance should accompany this comprehensive plan in order to update regulations to better reflect modern trends and mend ordinances that do not function as intended. Creating an entirely new zoning ordinance would create yet another date that separates existing and new land uses that can over complicate implementation of an ordinance. It is recommended that zoning changes be adopted into the existing ordinance for this reason.

One of the key aspects that makes an ordinance work is enforcement. Strong enforcement protects the public and creates fairness and predictability for business and land development. Only when the ordinance applies equally and fairly to all properties can the desired intent of an ordinance be realized. Conversely, problems grow when regulations are enforced haphazardly or intermittently.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

GIS technology provides a valuable tool to assist in implementing the comprehensive plan. In fact, much of the spatial information included in this plan has been entered into the GIS database.

GIS is a computer technology used to gather, store, manipulate, analyze, and display spatial information in digital format. Site suitability analyses can be performed to determine the impact of a proposed land use based on various combinations of elements in a dataset. Modeling can be performed to determine the impact of new highway construction or if hazardous materials will reach the groundwater.

GIS and aerial photography is already heavily used as a way to access information on individual sites and the areas around them in an organized and efficient manner. The use of GIS is essential to the implementation of and enforcement of County planning, regulations, and ordinances. Frequent updates of information and imagery allows for analysis of change over time throughout the county. Much of this reference information is also available for public viewing, including land parcels, zoning classifications, floodplains, aquifers, water resources, topography, and transportation systems.



Intergovernmental Cooperation

A majority of the goals and policies set forth in this plan cannot be achieved without the support of many different partners across local, regional, and state boundaries. Leveraging a combination of efforts with knowledge and human power will create opportunities for increased collaboration among the different levels and branches of government.

Although Minnehaha County has the largest and fastest-growing populations in the state, there will be a much larger push to do more with less resources available. A growing population for the County represents the challenge to continue to seek innovative solutions that stretch funding further to provide all county residents with responsible public service.

South Dakota State Departments

State government is the legislative, fiscal, and administrative branch that provides important resources to maintain and support a thriving state economy. The State will continue to play an important role in providing helpful assistance and an overall big picture viewpoint of how different parts of the state are performing.

Minnehaha County

County government services play a key role administering local policies and assisting members of the public with questions regarding issues of concern in a timely manner. The County should explore alternative solutions to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of government services.

Municipalities

Municipal government plays a broader role in delivering vital services and providing adequate public facilities to the public. The widespread coordination among cities, small towns, and the County will be crucial to the growth and preservation of the rural area.

South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG)

SECOG plays a significant role in assisting cities, small towns, and rural areas at the regional, multi-county level. It is important to note that SECOG will continue to be a critical link coordinating efforts for cooperation between the many different kinds of organizations.

Public Facilities and Services

Minnehaha County recognizes the benefits of having diverse services within the County. The County will continue to provide support and assistance to public facilities and services that enhance the quality of life of its residents.

County Buildings

Minnehaha County currently occupies 815,118 square feet of owned facility space. Although a number of the buildings are dispersed geographically, most services are headquartered in three locations: 1) Sioux Falls Downtown Campus; 2) Highway Department; and 3) other services located throughout the City of Sioux Falls.

The number and use of today's buildings have expanded the County's presence considerably since the first Courthouse was constructed in 1889. Since then, the County has outgrown the original Courthouse that is now the Old Courthouse Museum. The County campus in downtown Sioux Falls now contains the Administration Building, Courthouse, County Jail, Public Safety Building, and Law Enforcement Center.

County Highway Department

The Minnehaha County Highway Department supervises new construction and maintains all County highways including removing snow and ice, mowing, patching, and replacing signs. The Highway Department oversees various preparatory stages of construction including the acquisition of right-of-way, survey and design requirements, and the letting of contracts in addition to the actual supervision of construction. The Department also maintains all bridges on Minnehaha County and Township roads that are not part of the State or City Highway System.



Sheriffs Department

The Minnehaha County Sheriff, an elected position with a four-year term, is responsible for the operations of the Sheriff's Office. Within the Public Safety Building and Community Corrections Center, the Sheriff's Office is in charge of administration of the detention facilities for Municipal, State, and Federal prisoners for both Minnehaha County and several other surrounding counties as provided by contract. The office is also responsible for providing security to the S.D. Air National Guard as set forth in an annual contract.

All of the unincorporated area of Minnehaha County is served by the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department. The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department also contacts with nine municipalities (Baltic, Crooks, Colton, Dell Rapids, Garretson, Hartford, Humboldt, Sherman, and Valley Springs) to provide additional law enforcement services. The City of Sioux Falls and the City of Brandon are the only two municipalities within Minnehaha County that maintain its own police department.

Future development will have an impact on law enforcement services. When the population is concentrated in or around the incorporated areas rather than scattered across the rural area, response times can be maintained and the need to increase personnel is minimized. The Envision 2035 Comprehensive Plan should assist in maintaining efficient law enforcement services by encouraging compact development patterns.



Fire Protection Services

Minnehaha County is served by thirteen volunteer fire departments and one full-time fire department located within the City of Sioux Falls. Of the thirteen volunteer fire departments ten are located within the coinciding municipality. The remaining three volunteer fire departments are located in the unincorporated communities of Lyons, Renner and Split Rock Township. All of the volunteer fire departments within Minnehaha County are part of the Minnehaha County Fire Chief's Association. Minnehaha County Fire Chief's Association coordinates training for new members and is also dedicated to providing ongoing training for its current volunteers. The association has a dedicated training officer to assist the departments in finding and establishing training programs within their own department.

The City of Sioux Falls maintains a full-time fire department with 194 members and ten fire stations throughout the City. Sioux Falls Fire Rescue not only fights fires but also answers to emergency medical calls that make up half of their emergency responses. The Fire Rescue team has one of the larger Public Access Defibrillator programs in the County, and also provides regular CPR classes. They are committed to the safety of Sioux Falls and its residents.

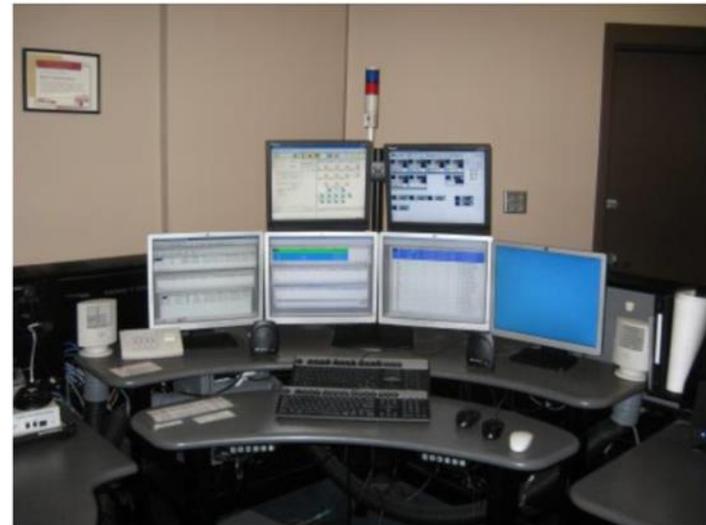


Metro Communications

Metro Communications was formed in 1980 as a joint department with Minnehaha County and the City of Sioux Falls. Before this joint department was established dispatch was provided solely by the Sioux Falls Police Department. This department is responsible for coordination and dispatching emergency services throughout the area, such as emergency response personal, law enforcement, fire and ambulance services and emergency management. A rural addressing system was developed in 1993 that allowed Metro Communications to fully implement its E-911 (Enhances 9-1-1) services within the county. The E-911 system allows the dispatcher to see the location and phone number of the incoming calls.

Metro Communications operates under the direction and supervision of the Metro Management Council (MMC) to plan, organize, control and manage all communications systems used by Minnehaha County and the City of Sioux Falls for emergency services.

The MMC has five board members that include the Mayor of Sioux Falls, two members of the Sioux Falls City Council, and two members of the Minnehaha County Board of Commissioners.



Dispatch Console

Ambulance Services

In Minnehaha County there are six ambulance districts or PSA's (Primary Service Areas) that include Brandon, Dell Rapids, Garretson, Humboldt, Jasper and Sioux Falls. The ambulance districts provide EMT (Emergency Medical Technicians) support and ambulance services within the County.

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Department provides practical and effective plans to the Federal, State and Local governments during times of disaster or extreme emergency. In addition to responding to these extreme events, the department also conducts hazard analysis and develops and updates plans for emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and hazard mitigation. The Emergency Management Department more specifically, establishes, implements, maintains, tests, and evaluates operational systems for responding to natural disaster and severe emergencies.

In times of emergency the department is called upon to coordinate response and recovery activities and provide specialized emergency services. The department also coordinates and guides a large number of volunteers who assist in providing these services. The volunteers who volunteer their time are often specialized in the areas of reserve law enforcement, rescue squad, diver search, and severe weather.



Schools

The County's education facilities provide a significant contribution to the overall quality of life and economic strength in the area. In addition to how these education facilities affect our families they also have an influence on land use and traffic patterns.

Twelve public school districts retain jurisdiction over portions of Minnehaha County. Of these twelve school districts, seven are headquartered within Minnehaha County, while the remaining five districts are based in adjacent counties. The majority of the schools within the public school systems are located in municipal settings with the exceptions of two schools that occupy property within the rural area of Minnehaha County. The Tri-Valley School District facilities are located three miles south of Colton and the Renberg Elementary serves the northern most portion of the Sioux Falls School District.

A map of school district boundaries can be found in the appendix on page 113.

Minnehaha County School Districts Fall Enrolment (K – 12)

School District	2000	2012
Baltic 49-1	333	411
Brandon Valley 49-2	2,533	3,458
Chester 39-1*	374	565
Dell Rapids 49-3	860	905
Garretson 49-4	499	518
Lennox 41-4*	1,608	1,002
Montrose 43-2*	230	222
Parker 60-4*	484	365
Sioux Falls 49-5	19,066	22,342
Tea Area School District 41-5*	-	1,449
Tri-Valley 49-6	797	829
West Central 49-7	1,163	1,291

* School District has main school located outside of Minnehaha County

Figure 8.1 - School District Enrollment



Libraries

Libraries located throughout Minnehaha County are a valuable asset for lifelong learning and enrichment through open access to ideas, information, services and experiences for all residents to enjoy. These facilities are places where people of all ages can read, learn, connect and discover new and exciting things.

The Siouxland Library system serves the City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County residents who live outside of the Dell Rapids city limits. The Siouxland Library system has twelve branches and one Children's Bookmobile. These branches are located in Baltic, Brandon, Colton, Crooks, Garretson, Hartford, Humboldt, Valley Springs and five locations in Sioux Falls. In 1995 the Siouxland Library system was formed by a merger of the Sioux Falls Public Library system and the Minnehaha County Rural Public Library system. The Siouxland Library system now provides its services to the citizens of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County with the exception of Dell Rapids.



The City of Dell Rapids operates its own public library system at the Dell Rapids Historic Carnegie Library. Carnegie Library opened in 1910 and has since served the community for many years. The Dell Rapids Library has expanded the current facility by constructing a sizeable addition to the original building on the property. The new expansion complements the original architecture while serving the modern demands of the 21st Century. The addition includes accessibility and more shelf space for an expanding collection.

Implementation - Goals & Actions

Goal 1. Provide quality services and facilities to the residents of Minnehaha County.

Action 1.1 Continue to plan for the future needs of Minnehaha County facilities and services by monitoring population trends and demographic changes.

Action 1.2 Ensure high quality services are provided in a cost-effective manner.

Goal 2. Create safe, healthy, and livable communities in Minnehaha County.

Action 2.1 Follow the goals and policies for land use, economic development, rural conservation, parks and open space, natural resources, and transportation.

Action 2.2 Enforce the ordinances of Minnehaha County in a predictable and equitable way.

Action 2.3 Consider impacts of signs, landscape buffer areas, opaque fences, and lighting on visual aesthetics to protect the natural character of Minnehaha County.

Goal 3. Manage the challenges and opportunities derived from growth and development.

Action 3.1 Plan and provide essential resources for education, health, human services, public safety, and justice to meet mandates and prioritize community needs.

Action 3.2 Promote the use of technology to make the most efficient use of scarce resources.

Goal 4. Maintain the County's excellent financial health and economic profile.

Action 4.1 Share resources across jurisdictional lines.

Action 4.2 Engage the business community in promoting common interest economic development.

Goal 5. Incorporate sustainable principles into the operation of Minnehaha County facilities and services.

Action 5.1 Provide education on sustainable practices for Minnehaha County residents.

Action 5.2 Incorporate sustainable principles into County plans and programs.

Action 5.3 Consider the ecological and economic benefits of utilizing sustainable materials and resources on new projects.

Action 5.4 Collaboration with local, regional, state, and national agencies to provide technical and financial assistance on conservation best management practices.

Goal 6. Maintain and enhance the accuracy and efficiency of GIS and its use.

Action 6.1 Update information and imagery for GIS on a regular basis.

Action 6.2 Continue and enhance collaboration of the GIS department and data among Minnehaha County, municipalities, neighboring counties, and State entities.

Action 6.3 Create new data layers for information that is useful but not presently available such as County Highway lots and easements.

Goal 7. Support and plan for public services within Minnehaha County.

Action 7.1 Collaborate with schools and public services in the planning and siting of future development.

Action 7.2 Enforce development setbacks around schools and sensitive areas.

Action 7.3 Plan and consider sustainable principles into operation and growth of county funded public services.