

Appendix

County History

The area of land known today as Minnehaha County was part of the Louisiana Purchase by the United States in 1803. The County was formed in 1862 and reorganized four years later. During this same year, the Homestead Act of 1862 encouraged settlers to stake claims in this part of the country.

Although economic depression, drought, and grasshoppers plagued expansion, the development of land offices, railroad expansion, and changing crop conditions contributed to the population growth.



Historic images courtesy of the Siouxland Heritage Museums

Immigration Begins.

Sioux Falls, S. D., March 3. – A. F. Pilber, local agent of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern railway, received word yesterday that a train, consisting of thirty-two cars of immigrant goods and fifty immigrants, would leave Eastern Iowa today over his road for new homes in Eastern South Dakota and Northwestern Iowa. Two cars of immigrants arrived in this city, having previously purchased their homes near Dell Rapids, twenty miles north of this city. Railroad officials predict an unparalleled rush for South Dakota land this year.

Source: Faulk County Record, Thursday, March 8, 1894, Page 2



Natural features within Minnehaha County have attracted people for both materials and for recreation since the early years of settlement. The area along the Big Sioux River was quarried for quartzite as early as the 1860s. The business of quarrying rock continues today; although modern quarries rely less on manual labor. East Sioux Falls (below) was the center of the mining activity.



EAST SIOUX QUARRY

Historic images courtesy of the Siouxland Heritage Museums



View of the Dells of the Big Sioux, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.

Devoted to this beauty



Rapid growth in population helped push the U.S. Congress to approve the division of the Dakota Territory, creating the states of North Dakota and South Dakota in 1889. With that division construction began on the first Minnehaha County Courthouse the same year.

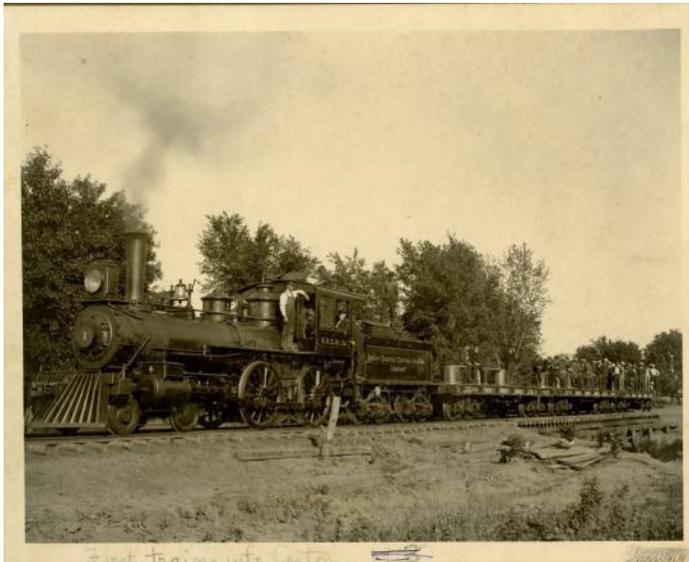


The building is constructed of native Sioux Quartzite stone, a popular local building material of the late 19th century. When completed in 1893 the architect, Wallace Dow, claimed the structure would be the “largest courthouse between Chicago and Denver.”



Historic image courtesy of the Siouxland Heritage Museums

The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad (formerly part of the Chicago & North-Western Railway System) was the first rail line to come into the county. The initial train reached Valley Springs on June 1, 1878, Brandon on July 15 and Sioux falls on August 1. Currently, this line is owned by Eastern & Ellis and is mostly abandoned except for the portion running from Brandon to the western boundary of Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls soon became the hub for rail transportation in the state. Other rail lines include the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, the Illinois Central, the Willmar & Sioux Falls, and the South Dakota Central.



Historic images courtesy of the Siouxland Heritage Museums



Planning & Zoning History

The county's planning efforts began in 1966 with the appointment of a planning commission. Their task was to work with a consultant to prepare a comprehensive plan. This work culminated in 1968 with the completion and adoption of the Minnehaha County Comprehensive Plan; this plan included zoning and subdivision regulations.

The Planning Commission worked several years without staff support until a planning department was formed in 1972. Legal problems were encountered in 1973 when the county refused a request to rezone property. The applicant commenced court action to strike down the comprehensive plan and zoning regulations on the basis of improper adoption. The court ruled that the plan had been adopted as an emergency measure, limited by statute to a period of two years, and struck down the plan. In late 1973 the county took action to adopt a permanent plan, including zoning and subdivision regulations. In 1974, the Uniform Building Code was adopted to regulate building construction in the rural area.

By the mid-1970's significant growth was occurring in the rural area as houses spilled outside of the cities onto agricultural land. While the plan warned of this phenomenon more than half a decade before, the zoning regulations failed to keep pace with development pressure. By 1978, elected officials recognized the need for change in order to more effectively manage residential densities in the rural area but the new zoning ordinance failed to be sustained by the electorate in a referendum election.

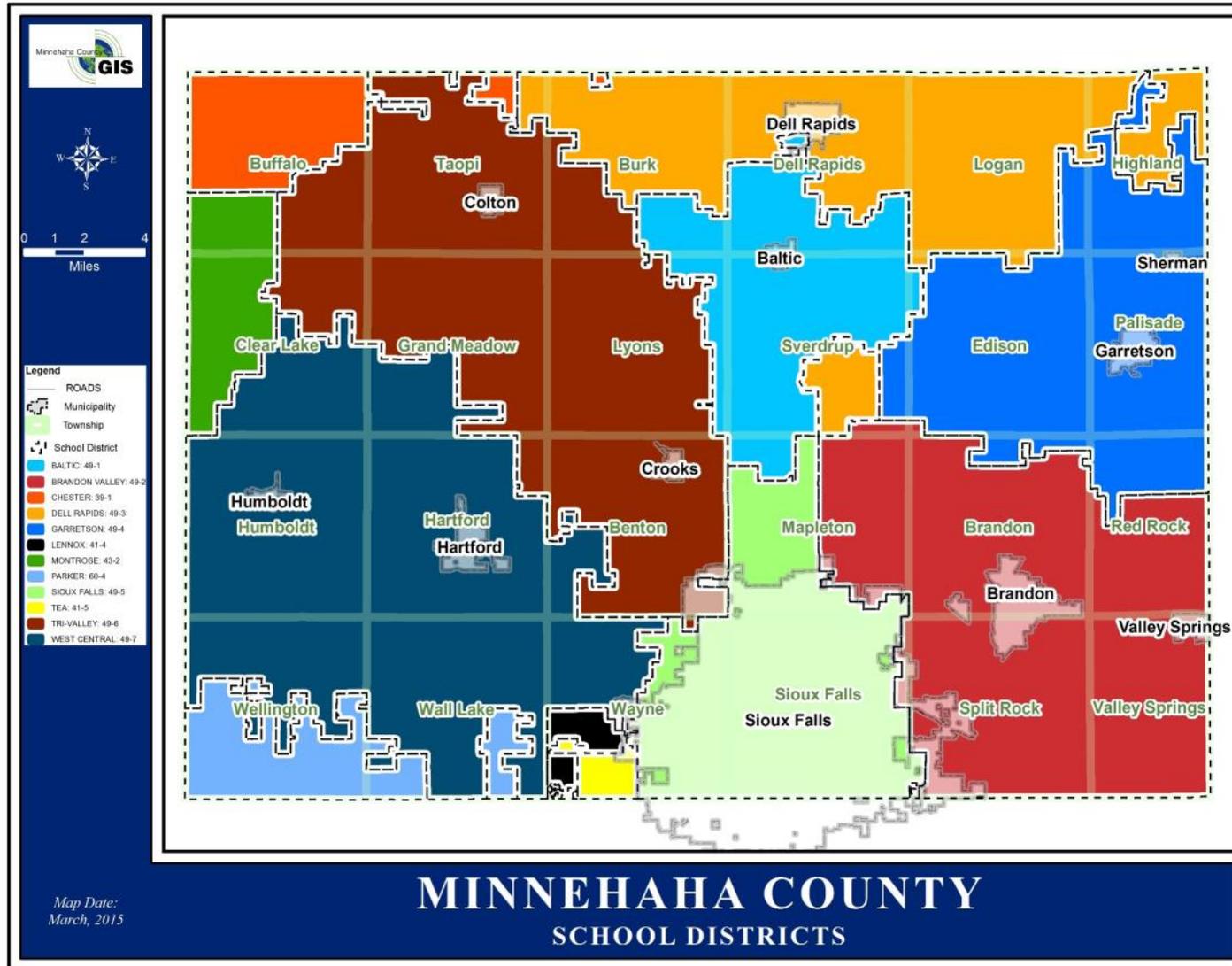
In 1980, the zoning regulations were amended to require property to be rezoned for residential subdivisions. Prospective homeowners were also required to obtain a conditional use before building permits could be issued on isolated nonfarm residential acreages. The Density Zoning Ordinance that was passed in 1988 significantly slowed the development of rural subdivisions by only allowing one residential dwelling on every quarter-quarter section of land or lot of record.

The zoning ordinance was overhauled and updated in 1990, and these regulations still govern land use in the county with several additions and amendments through the years. The last comprehensive plan was adopted in 1998. A joint jurisdiction boundary, not to exceed three miles beyond corporate municipal limits, was drafted a few years later in the early 2000s. Zoning regulations for each joint zoning jurisdiction, Dell Rapids and Sioux Falls, were adopted in harmony with the respective comprehensive plans to provide regulatory authority for the municipalities in land use and zoning matters within three miles of the outer municipal boundaries.

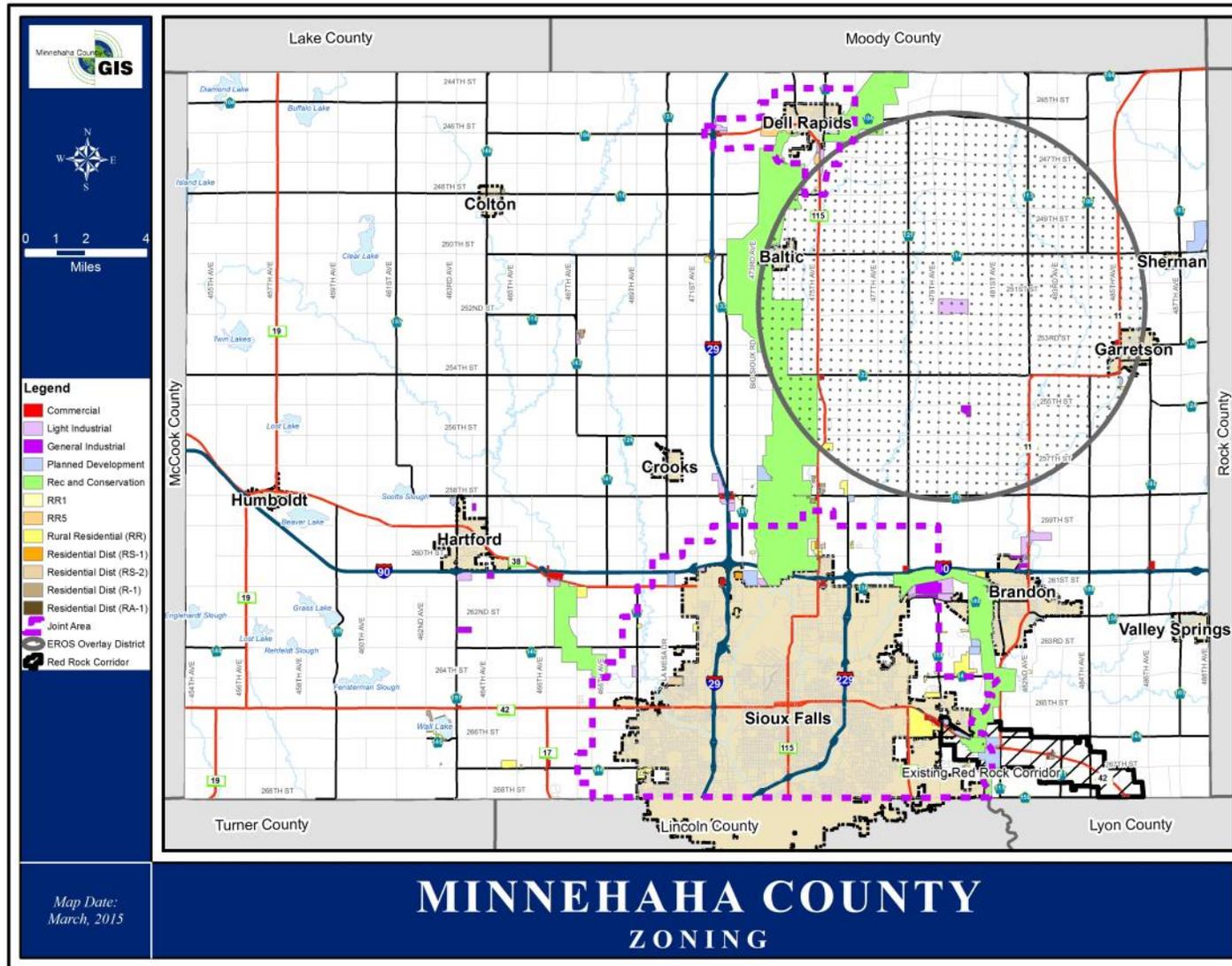
The responsibilities of the Planning Department have increased since its inception. Today, the department also manages building inspections, onsite wastewater treatment systems, agricultural drainage, code enforcement, solid waste disposal, rural addressing, road vacations, GIS, county-wide recycling and clean-up projects, floodplain management, and the county parks.



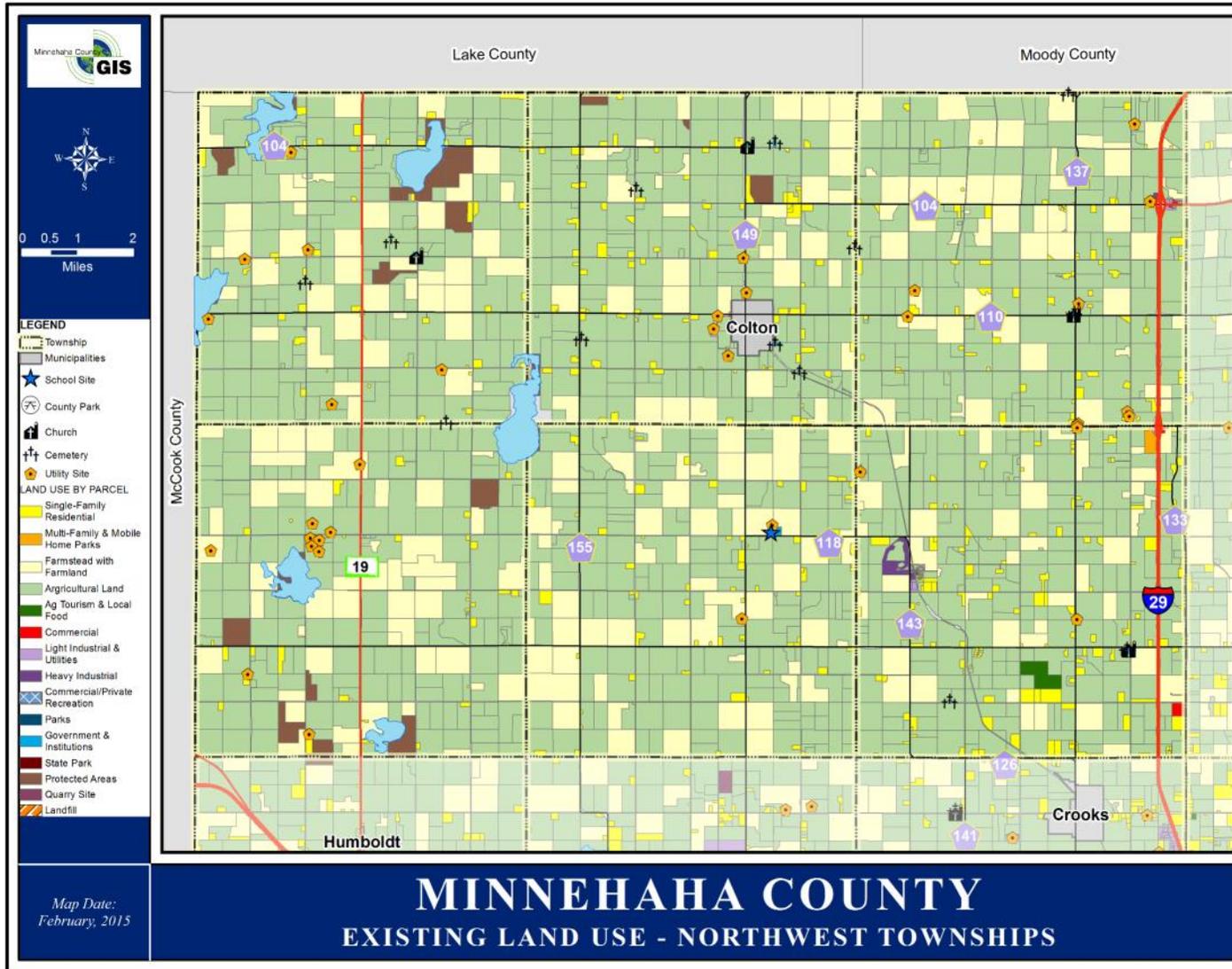
School District Boundaries Map



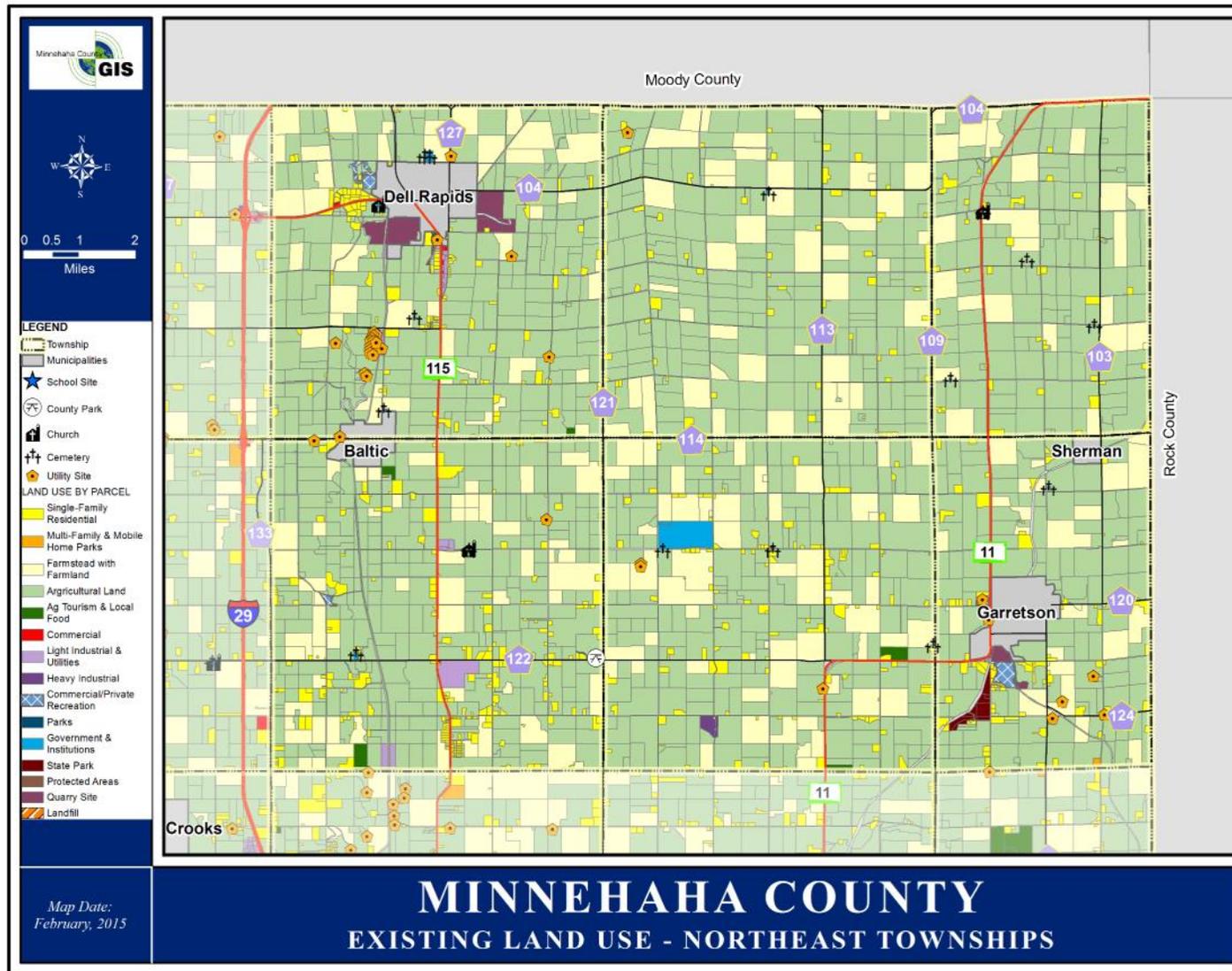
Zoning Map



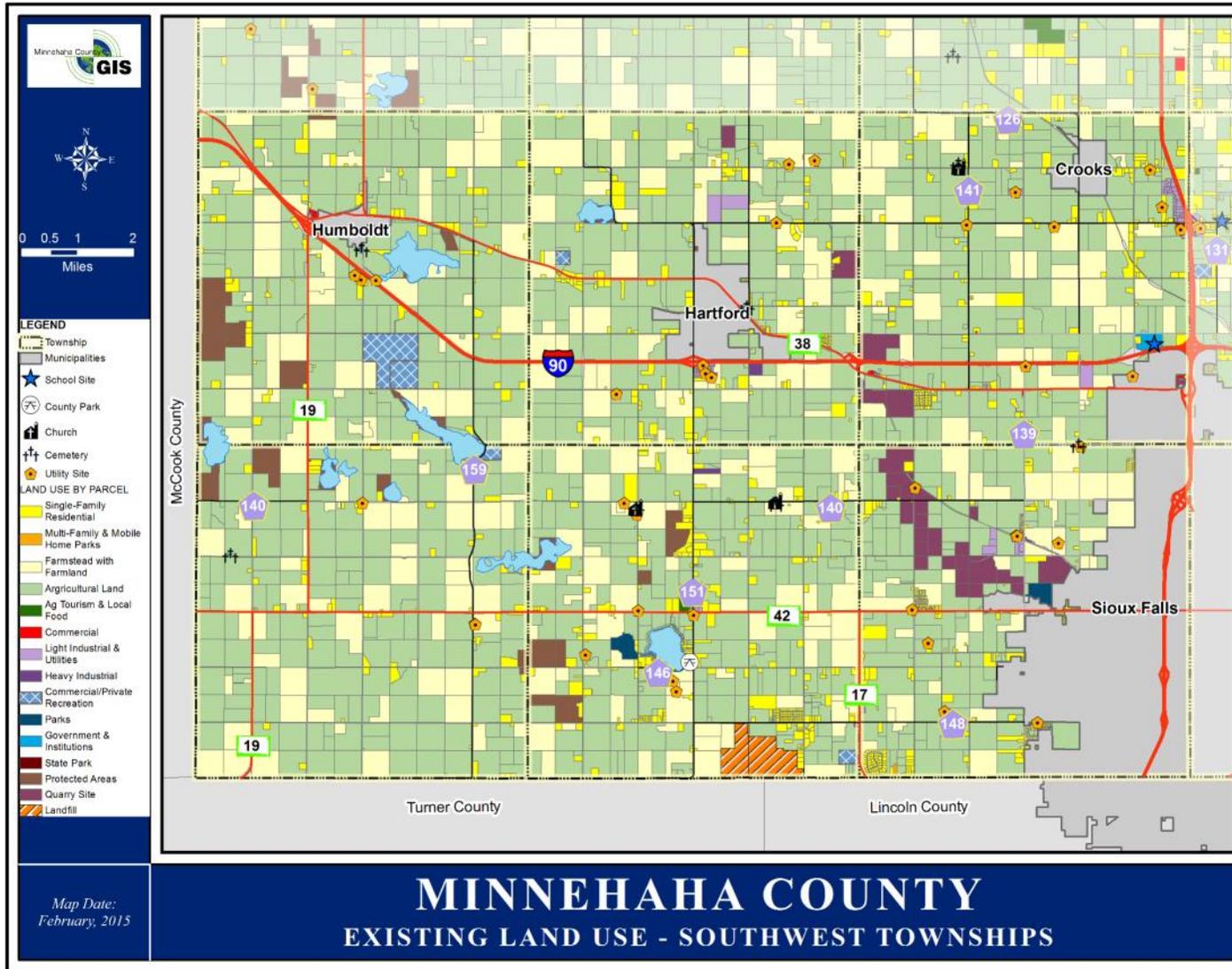
Existing Land Use Quadrant Maps - Northwest Townships



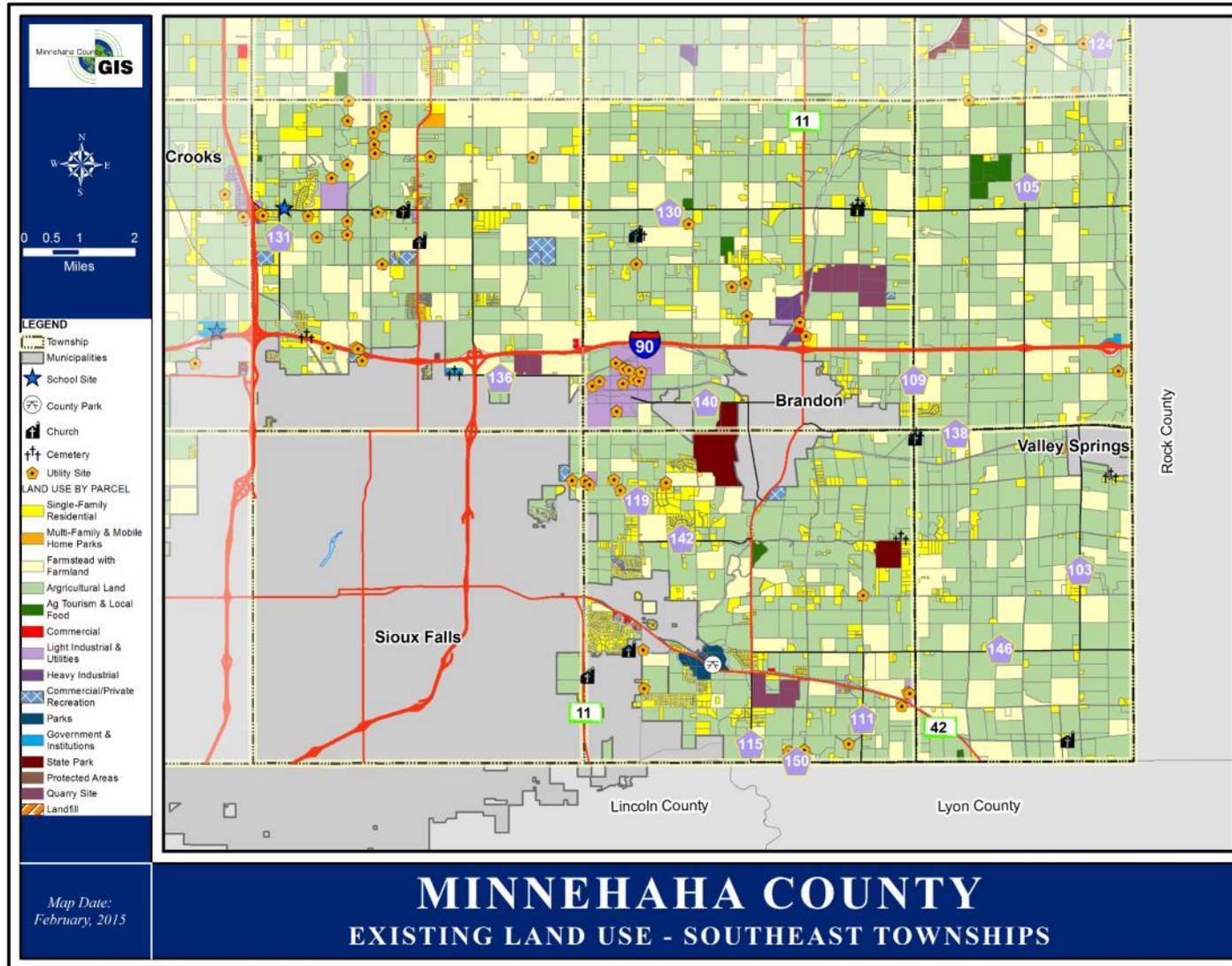
Existing Land Use Quadrant Maps - Northeast Townships



Existing Land Use Quadrant Maps - Southwest Townships



Existing Land Use Quadrant Maps - Southeast Townships



Public Comment - Agricultural Survey & Results

AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

Agriculture is an important part of Minnehaha County's economic health and regulations supporting the preservation of agriculture should be required in this plan.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Current regulations allow one single family dwelling per quarter-quarter (40 acres). I think this regulation should allow:

1 house per 10 acres 1 house per 80 Acres 1 house per acre No change

People who want to build a house in the county should not be allowed to build within ___ of an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (Feedlot).

As close as they want 1/8 mile 1/4 mile 1/2 mile 1 mile

Large corporate farming operations should be allowed in Minnehaha County.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Some agricultural operations, such as a dairy, need employees on site 24/7. I think that these operations should be allowed to construct bunkhouses or other types of living quarters on their property.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Run-off from farm fields and other agricultural uses cause environmental problems.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

The following best describes me:

Farmer Hobby Farmer Rural Acreage Resident Subdivision Resident

Tri-Valley	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Preservation	1	3			
	1/10 Acres	1/80 Acres	1/1 Acre	No change	
dwelling per acre	1			2	
	no limit	1/8 mile	1/4 mile	1/2 mile	1 mile
CAFO setback	2				2
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Corporate Farms		2	2		
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
bunk-houses		2	2		
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
run-off		2		2	1
	Farmer	Hobby	Acreage	Subdivision	
personal description	1	1	2		

HARTFORD	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Preservation	12	4			
	1/10 Acres	1/80 Acres	1/1 Acre	No change	
dwelling per acre	3	2		11	
	no limit	1/8 mile	1/4 mile	1/2 mile	1 mile
CAFO setback	4		1	6	5
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Corporate Farms	2	6	1	3	3
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
bunk-houses	1	7	3	3	2
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
run-off	4	7	3	2	1
	Farmer	Hobby	Acreage	Subdivision	
personal description	6	4	6		

DELL RAPIDS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Preservation	5				
	1/10 Acres	1/80 Acres	1/1 Acre	No change	
dwelling per acre				5	
	no limit	1/8 mile	1/4 mile	1/2 mile	1 mile
CAFO setback				3	2
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Corporate Farms			1	3	
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
bunk-houses		3	2		1
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
run-off	1	2	1		1
	Farmer	Hobby	Acreage	Subdivision	
personal description	3	1	1		

BRANDON	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Preservation	8	3	1		
	1/10 Acres	1/80 Acres	1/1 Acre	No change	
dwelling per acre	2			11	
	no limit	1/8 mile	1/4 mile	1/2 mile	1 mile
CAFO setback			3	5	6
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Corporate Farms	4		4	4	2
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
bunk-houses	4	4	1	2	3
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
run-off	6	4	1	3	
	Farmer	Hobby	Acreage	Subdivision	
personal description	3	2	4	5	

TOTAL	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Preservation	26	10	1	0	0
	1/10 Acres	1/80 Acres	1/1 Acre	No change	
Dwelling per acre	6	2	0	29	0
	no limit	1/8 mile	1/4 mile	1/2 mile	1 mile
CAFO setback	6	0	4	14	15
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Corporate Farms	6	8	8	10	6
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
bunk-houses	5	16	8	3	6
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
run-off	11	15	5	7	3
	Farmer	Hobby	Acreage	Subdivision	
personal description	13	8	13	5	



Public Comment - Open Ended Comments from Open Houses

TRI-VALLEY	
1	Jake breaking from trucks at feedlot located at 459th/249th Avenue
2	Scott Again. Terminal dust control on road? Have not seen water down attempts yet with traffic. Looks like gravel base to me and not aggregate as was said.
3	Thanks for taking time to ask for ideas and opinions.
4	Stop sign at 257th & 465th leaning to the left.
5	RR Crossing on HWY 130, 1/10 mile east of Hwy 11, is very rough
6	running 57th street east to the casino would be very helpful
7	keep county as it is, no more people
8	hold a meeting for all rural county bike riders to focus on developing trails
9	there is enough land owned by the government; support private industry and ag
10	No building structures in a wetland unless a land mitigation is purchased (example 2 to 1 ratio). Wetland determination should be needed before building any type of structure. Just as it is needed for drainage.

	HARTFORD
1	We got a post card invitation. Some got a post card invitation and a 3 page letter of invitation.
2	Will Ellis Road area be another major route around west Sioux Falls off I-90 exit?
3	Regrade and blacktop Madison street to Ellis Road.
4	Support commercial/industrial development along railroads. Do not place residential growth along the railroads.
5	Environmental protection is critical. For example, water quality, landscaping buffers, farm/livestock run off should be monitored.
6	Very poor construction an reworking of Highway 38. Speed limits, passing lane markings. Extremely poor resurfacing job.
7	Bridge conditions on 253rd Street, 1/2 mile east of Highway 19
8	Sign of notify Highway 122 at the intersection of Hwy 133 & Hwy 122
9	Road condition 268th Street from Big Sioux River to the Casino was damaged by the Lewis & Clark project and is in bad shape in spots
10	Road condition Highway 100 west and east side of Sioux falls
11	Need lighted intersection at Hwy 42 and Hwy 19- very dark and dangerous at night
12	Humboldt needs a grocery store
13	As highways are upgraded, add bike lanes. Consider bike paths in northwest part of the county
14	Have a canoe launch on the east side of the Big Sioux River across from the F.O.P. and west of Iverson's crossing on Hwy 42. Have public access on both sides of the river.
15	The more development for businesses or places of people to live - leaves less land to grow food for people and livestock. This should be considered.

	DELL RAPIDS
1	Thanks for your time. Great discussion.
2	Cities/Municipalities need adequate treatment systems
3	Industrial use at I-29 Dells exit is needed. Land is already zoned for light industrial.
4	More commercial uses in Dell Rapids - grocery and businesses
5	Commercial use on the north side of Sioux Falls - grocery and drug store
6	Highway 154 - speeding over I-29 bridge at Dells exit. Poor visibility over bridge
7	255th Street from 478th Ave to 480th Ave needs to be hard surfaced to Nordstrom's
8	272nd Avenue - speeding but there is minimal enforcement. Posting signs could help. Bridge closure has made it worse.
9	Bridges on EROS road - all county roads in general
10	Dust control needed by Nordstrom's due to all the truck traffic. Pave the access. Township should not bare the costs of this part of the road

	BRANDON
1	Please supply information door to door or in Shopping News about wind energy for homeowners - such as permits
2	Allow poultry in subdivisions
3	Allow more pets per home in subdivisions than are allowed in Sioux Falls
4	Pave roads in subdivisions
5	Drain tile is a HUGE issue affecting downstream properties. This needs to be addressed. The amount of tile installed over the last few years has dramatically increased. Flooding downstream is a result along with a dramatic affect on wildlife habitat.
6	There has been a visible decrease in wildlife because of tiling "farmable/seasonal wetlands" and removal of large shelter belts. With the dry year, areas that have very seldom been farmed have now been tile affecting downstream drainage and wildlife.
7	Need more environmental protection
8	Water quality needs to be checked
9	Saddle back
10	Trail Access
11	Sweep old Brandon RD #140
12	Build some roads through the hills southeast of Rice St. between Cleveland Ave. and Six Mile Road. This area is a barrier to economic activity due to no traffic corridors. Also prevents ease of access for emergency response vehicles
13	Reconstruct SD HWY 42 east of Sioux Falls
14	RR crossing on 70th Street in Swanson Tracts is in need of repair
15	70th Street needs to be paved
16	Move traffic away from 26th St (between Hwy 42 & Hwy 11) residential area with too much heavy traffic now.
17	Would like hard surfacing at West Chestnut Blvd to Redwood Blvd and Redwood Blvd to North Chestnut Blvd
18	Pave Maple St. from 6- Mile Rd east to Brandon (Sioux River Bridge)

Public Comment - Parks & Recreation Assessment Survey

	Playground	Bike Trails	Picnic Shelters	Walking Trails	Parks	Snowmobiling	Kajak/Canoe	Hunt/Fishing	Camping	Cross Country	Ball Fields
TRI VALLEY	1	12	3	7	2	1	3	2	3	0	0
HARTFORD	9	37	22	13	25	12	30	12	12	8	3
DELL RAPIDS	0	2	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	0
BRANDON	5	14	15	8	4	2	5	2	2	8	0
TOTAL	15	65	41	28	38	15	38	16	17	17	3



Image Source: SD Game, Fish, & Parks



Image Source: SD Game, Fish, & Parks



Image Source: SD Tourism



The Minnehaha County Planning Department would like to thank this group of citizens and community leaders for their time and efforts.

Contributing Members

Barb Himmel-Roberts	Mark Rogen
Brian Roegiers	Karin Renner
Monte Albertson	Walt Bones
Kevin Gallo	Jeff Eckhoff
Scott Swanson	Jason Bieber
David Swier	Nick Fosheim
Arden Petersen	John Parker
Steve VanDerBeek	Brian Top
Sam Trebilcock	Amber Gibson
Larry Carlson	Toby Brown
Lynn Boadwine	Ryan Streff
Robert Hafstad	Dustin Powers
Jeff Oyen	Pat Herman

Planning Staff

Scott Anderson, Director
David Heinold, Planner I
Kevin Hoekman, Planner I
Deb Johnson, Planning Tech.
Heidi Jerke, GIS Coordinator
Josh Hellman, GIS Analyst
Dan Kistler, Building Inspector



MOVING FORWARD

Planning Ahead



Minnehaha County Planning & Zoning

Administration Building, 3rd Floor
415 N. Dakota Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

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P: (605)367-4204

F: (605)367-4713

minnehahacounty.org

