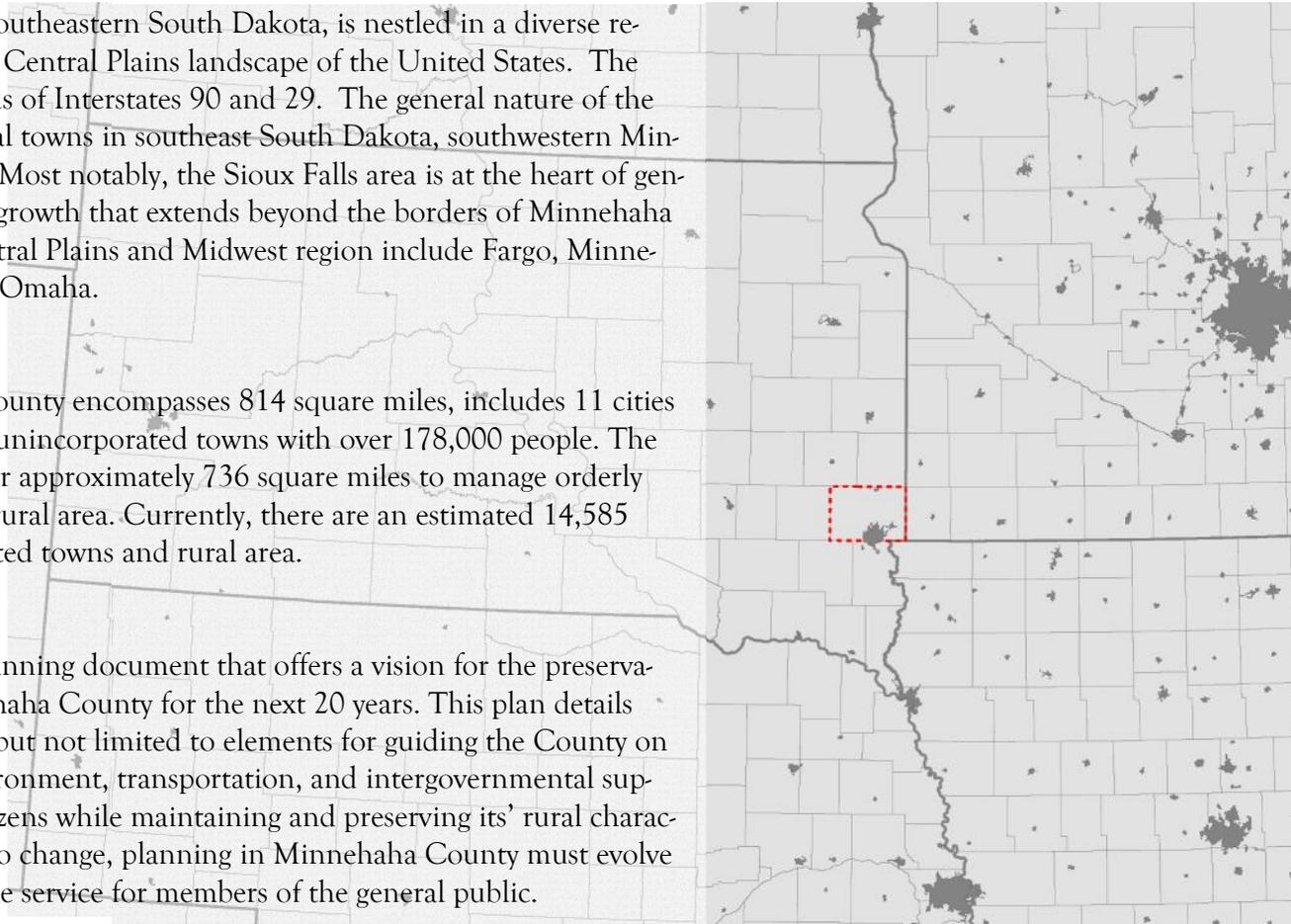


Introduction

Minnehaha County, located in southeastern South Dakota, is nestled in a diverse region among the Midwestern and Central Plains landscape of the United States. The county is located at the crossroads of Interstates 90 and 29. The general nature of the local region consists of small rural towns in southeast South Dakota, southwestern Minnesota, and northwestern Iowa. Most notably, the Sioux Falls area is at the heart of generating a high level of economic growth that extends beyond the borders of Minnehaha County. Major cities in the Central Plains and Midwest region include Fargo, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Des Moines, and Omaha.

The boundary for Minnehaha County encompasses 814 square miles, includes 11 cities and towns, 23 townships, and 3 unincorporated towns with over 178,000 people. The County exercises jurisdiction over approximately 736 square miles to manage orderly growth and development of the rural area. Currently, there are an estimated 14,585 people living in the unincorporated towns and rural area.

Envision 2035 is a long-range planning document that offers a vision for the preservation and development of Minnehaha County for the next 20 years. This plan details policies and strategies including but not limited to elements for guiding the County on land use, parks, agriculture, environment, transportation, and intergovernmental support to enrich the lives of its' citizens while maintaining and preserving its' rural character. As the landscape continues to change, planning in Minnehaha County must evolve to continually provide responsible service for members of the general public.



Source: United States Census, 2013 Cartographic Boundaries

Vision

ENVISION 2035 AIMS TO ENSURE OPTIMUM GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL AREA WHILE PROVIDING CITIZENS WITH INCREASED OPPORTUNITY FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE ALONG WITH ENHANCED ECONOMIC AND PHYSICAL VALUE.

Community Principles

Growth & Conservation

- Support the development of sustainable agricultural practices
- Balance rural housing with existing and new agricultural operations
- Consider costs and benefits of all new development proposals

Environmental Stewardship

- Protect & Encourage wildlife habitats, patches, and corridors
- Promote low impact development to maintain rural character
- Provide for the needs of a growing population while protecting the safety and security of the general public

Transportation

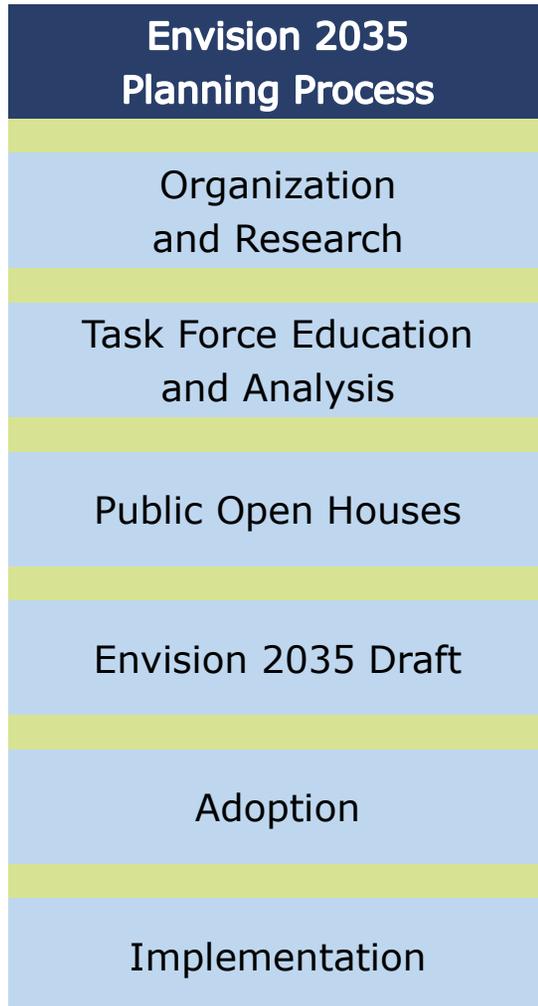
- Coordinate efforts with Local, State, and Federal entities
- Encourage growth near major railroads and highway intersections
- Expand access to utilities and infrastructure for new businesses



Plan Elements

Economic Development	Rural Character & Housing Density	Land & Water Resources	Transportation	Future Land Use	Intergovernmental Cooperation
<p><i>Strengths</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural economy • Tax climate • Entrepreneurial atmosphere 	<p><i>Strengths</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Density zoning preserves farmland • Good balance for differing land uses 	<p><i>Strengths</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of natural resources • Strong rural quality of life • Well defined drainage network 	<p><i>Strengths</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crossroads of two major interstates • Convenience to major railroads • Proximity to Sioux Falls growth center 	<p><i>Strengths</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime farmland • Existing Rural Service Areas • Park amenities • School facilities 	<p><i>Strengths</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint planning with municipalities • Effective dialogue with State/Federal/Other Entities • Update services as necessary
<p><i>Challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate impact of competing land uses • Support existing operations and businesses 	<p><i>Challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage population growth effectively • Potential conflicts with CAFOs & Ag. operations 	<p><i>Challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate impact of economic growth • Support individual landowner rights • Conservation of natural resources for future generations. 	<p><i>Challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand access to major services • Provide for the needs of a growing population • Access Management 	<p><i>Challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing demand • Agricultural preservation • Development corridors 	<p><i>Challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth management • Transition area development • Limited funding opportunities • Opportunities for consolidation of government

Envision 2035 Comprehensive Planning Process



The County Commission appointed fourteen members to the Envision 2035 Task Force. The members included rural residents, business owners, and agricultural producers. In addition to the task force an advisory board was created encompassing state, regional, and local governments, as well as large industry representatives. Over a two to three year period, the task force met monthly.

The process began with educational and fact gathering task force meetings, which brought various speakers of important topics to enhance the task force’s knowledge on a variety of subject matter. This was followed by a period of brainstorming, discussions and debates, and idea production. From these sessions, many different land use scenarios were created and contemplated.

A series of community meetings were held throughout the county to involve the county’s residents and business owners in the development of this plan. The final months were spent drafting the Envision 2035 plan to exemplify the future of Minnehaha County.



Four community open houses were held in the fall of 2012. In addition, a workshop was held in October 2014 to generate feedback on a few of the chapter topics. A public open house was held in March 2015 to gather feedback on a comprehensive plan draft document. The meeting sites were spread throughout the county to ensure maximum participation.

The open house meetings helped to build understanding of the project and credibility for the process while also allowing staff and task force members to gain an understanding of the needs and interests of the County's constituency.

Five different stations were erected, each focusing on different aspects of the County's future. Through activities and in visiting with staff and task force members, participants were able to make detailed comments, suggestions, and criticisms.

- Task force was formed with representatives from the business, agricultural, and rural resident communities.
- An advisory committee had delegates from various government agencies and local businesses.
- A website was created for the public to review draft documents and provide feedback.
- Monthly updates were presented to the County Planning Commission.
- Planning staff had a booth at the county fair to solicit public input.
- Six community open house meetings were held throughout the county to provide opportunity for public comment.

