



Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update

Adopted: March 24

2009

This document was produced by the Scott County Community Development Division in cooperation with Public Works, Community Services, Administration, and all other County Divisions. For more information on the Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, please contact the Scott County Planning Department at (952) 496-8475 or visit www.co.scott.mn.us

*Making the
Vision a Reality*



Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update Executive Summary

This *2030 Comprehensive Plan Update* was created in the early years of this new century to guide decisions about the future needs of rapidly growing Scott County. The *Plan* includes a shared vision of our future in the face of projected population growth and ongoing societal, economic, demographic, and environmental change. It serves as a long-term policy “road map” for managing growth and adapting to change over the next two decades and beyond. This *Plan* establishes goals, policies and strategies intended to address the needs of people and balance the complex relationships between land use, transportation, public services, natural resources, and infrastructure in a manner that can manage the impacts of growth while helping achieve our common 2030 Vision.

The 2030 Vision sets the tone and provides the overall framework for this *Plan* by articulating the ultimate goals for sustaining a high quality of life for our citizens:

2030 Vision

In 2030, Scott County is a well-planned, safe, prosperous and fiscally responsible community built by citizens and businesses who value neighborhoods, education, families, health, and public safety, and who enjoy its natural beauty, rural character, and location in the region. In 2030, Scott County is recognized metro-wide as one of the best places to live, work, shop, and play in the Twin Cities because we have:

- prospered with a diversity of urban and rural lifestyle choices;
- respected and managed our natural and environmental resources;
- developed and maintained a safe, efficient, and comprehensive transportation and trail system;
- met the human and social service needs of our most important resource...our citizens and neighbors;
- diversified our economy; and
- secured a high quality of life for our citizens through leadership at the local, regional, state, and federal level.

Achieving this vision for our future will not happen overnight. It will take an ongoing commitment from individuals, jurisdictions and agencies across the public and private sphere of influence to “paint a picture” for our collective futures. Further plans, studies, official controls, capital investments and leadership will be needed. This *Plan* serves as a starting point towards achieving this vision and sets the course for further action.

In addition to setting a vision for the future, this *Plan* establishes other important planning legacies or hallmarks. The following pages describe these key legacies and the mark this *Plan* will leave on Scott County in the years to come:

Broadens the level of participation and coordination (both internal and external) by residents and stakeholders:

This *Plan* was prepared with input from thousands of County residents, numerous opportunities for formal and informal input, several stakeholder meetings, and countless hours invested by staff both within and outside County government. Work teams representing a cross-section of jurisdictions, agencies and areas of expertise participated by researching issues and drafting the policies and tactics advanced in this *Plan*

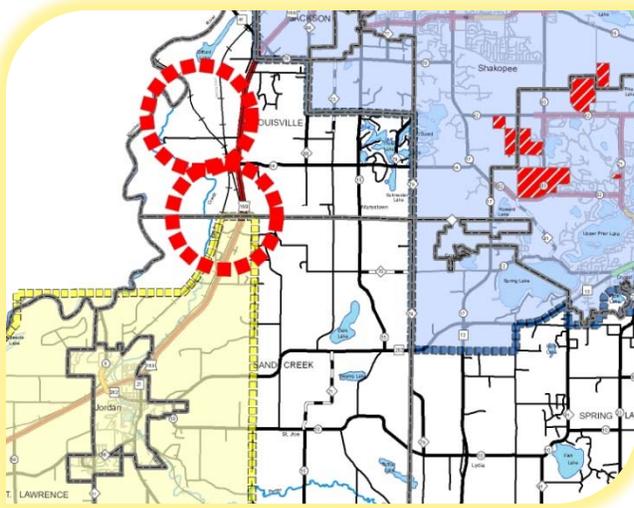


Intergovernmental cooperation and coordination was at the heart of Scott County's 2030 planning process

This *Plan* went beyond the traditional scope of planning and included teams focused on social services, public safety, and education. As this *Plan* was developed, key strategies were shared with the Met Council, cities, townships, schools, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and neighboring jurisdictions for feedback.

Establishes portions of Scott County planned for ultimate “urban” and ultimate “rural” land uses with anticipated regional investments:

This *Plan* sets the framework for which portions of the County will ultimately build out with urban-type development (i.e., city-lot subdivisions, multi-family homes, commercial areas, industrial parks, schools,) and which portions will build out with rural-type development (i.e., estate-lot subdivisions, hobby farms, small acreage farm land, rural businesses,). This framework requires certain state and regional investments in wastewater treatment, roads, bridges, transit, and parks needed to accommodate continued growth and development up to



and beyond the 2030 planning horizon. Investments in *all* of these regional systems – not just one or two – will be needed to provide health, safety, circulation and recreation to the possible three-quarters of million residents living in Scott County at full build-out at some point sixty, eighty or one hundred years from now. It will be the County's role to secure investments in these regional systems over the next few decades. If not secured, the next generation of County plans should assess this overall strategy and determine whether or not this framework is financially feasible without federal, state and regional support.

Identifies and maps important natural resources for preservation and protection:

This *Plan* intends to leave a “greenprint” for future generations through the Natural Area Corridors initiatives. Never before has the County comprehensively inventoried, mapped and outlined strategies in a program intended to preserve and protect critical natural resource areas. The mapped corridors shown in this *Plan* will serve several functions: water quality, wildlife habitat, open space, recreation, community buffers, education and rural character. The means to preserve and protect these natural areas ranges from site design criteria and conservation easements at time of development, to private land stewardship and public land acquisition opportunities.



Like the 2030 Vision, achieving this countywide system of natural area corridors will take years, occur in an incremental pattern, and rely on a combination of opportunities from the private sector and investments from the public sector. But in the end, these corridors could become the landscape features that help distinguish Scott County from the rest of the Twin Cities metropolitan area while securing a successful quality of life.

This Plan intends to leave a “greenprint” for future generations through the Natural Area Corridors initiatives

Promotes flexible development options in rural areas to maximize public values:

This *Plan* advocates a new, more collaborative land development option that focuses on creating quality neighborhoods and places to live rather than meeting basic subdivision requirements. Through the optional planned unit development (PUD), a developer can negotiate zoning and subdivision requirements (i.e., lot sizes, setbacks, street widths, etc.) with the County and townships to provide more flexibility and creativity in designing a subdivision to the physical characteristics of the land. In return for the added flexibility and in some cases added incentives, the developer will provide the County with identified public values that promote varied housing options, improve public infrastructure investments (roadways, parks, trails, drainageways), and/or encourage natural resource protection.

These public values were borne out of the 2030 public participation process and reflect the range of values expressed by county residents. Providing a more collaborative and public values-driven approach allows for more creativity in the development process, holds greater promise for win-win outcomes for the public and the development community, and works toward achieving the 2030 Vision.



Provides a bold road map for system improvements for current and future county residents:

This *Plan* seeks to improve and maintain the very attributes and amenities that have attracted residents to Scott County for years: location and access to the metro area, rural small-town feel, schools, parks and open space.

Investing in these types of infrastructure needs not only enhances the County’s quality of life. It is also an important component of an overall economic development strategy advanced in this Plan

trails for a recreation system that accommodates a diverse and growing community. This *Plan* recognizes that such system enhancements come at a cost and suggests a process to begin assessing the fiscal impacts of these planning recommendations in an ongoing basis.

Investing in these types of infrastructure needs not only enhances the County’s quality of life. It is also an important component of an overall economic development strategy advanced in this *Plan*, predicated on the belief that employers are attracted to communities that: invest in well-planned infrastructure and services; develop a logical, integrated, and consistent land use plan; provide first-class amenities and support services; and focus on customer service.

With a commitment to achieving these strategies, this *Plan* envisions a sea-change in commuter trends over the next two decades as more and more employers “discover” the county and a majority of county residents work *within* (rather than outside) Scott County.

This *Plan* recommends ongoing commitments to maintaining and improving the County’s transportation and recreation systems. It includes transportation policies that increase efficiency and safety while meeting the access and mobility needs of county residents, including needs for non-motorized and alternative modes of transportation. It also includes policies that promote the development and management of natural resource-based parks and

Emerging Challenges

The following is a list of emerging local, regional and global challenges facing Scott County in the years to come:

- Climate change and energy uncertainty;
- Land use planning that encourages active living;
- Local food planning and agricultural sustainability;
- Economic development planning that positions the county in a global economy.

The next generation of county plans will need to recognize the impacts of these challenges, be able to adapt to change, and recommend the appropriate action steps to ensure residents maintain a high quality of life in Scott County.

Sets the foundation for more detailed planning and design considerations for the next generation of County plans:

In setting the broad framework for growth management over the next two decades, this *Plan* does not have the ability to cover all issues and topics necessary to achieve our desired vision. Further public engagement and detailed planning will be required, particularly to begin tackling the emerging trends and issues facing the county (see sidebar).



The *Plan* recognizes the strategic challenges facing the County's future, among them are:

- Determining the long-term future of agriculture in the County;
- Achieving consensus on the type and mix of transportation options for the anticipated increase in jobs and population;
- Securing countywide agreement on the type, intensity and location of commercial, institutional, and industrial development;
- Developing a consensus on issues related to governance, annexation and jurisdictional boundaries;
- Securing financial resources to carry out the Vision.

The Plan includes in its Implementation chapter a list of these more detailed planning efforts with a tentative timetable for completion. These efforts range from a comprehensive study of the Highway 169 corridor to completing the All-Hazard preparedness plans and studies. It is the intent of this document to establish the need and rationale for these more detailed planning efforts to address the strategic challenges the county faces over the next twenty years.

The plan document is organized into twelve chapters with background information, goals, policies and strategies that meets and surpasses state mandates and reflects the range of issues important to Scott County residents.

After four years of planning, the *2030 Comprehensive Plan Update* was adopted by the Scott County Board of Commissioners on March 24, 2009. The following is a list of accolades this *Plan* has received to date:

The City of Shakopee appreciates the County's efforts since 2004 to seek broad public input in the planning process, as well as inclusion of representatives of the cities within the County in several of the key public events – City of Shakopee comment letter (August 2008)

MAAA (Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging) is pleased to see the prominent integration of older adults into Scott County's planning documents – MAAA comment letter (January 2008)

[Metropolitan Council Chair Peter] Bell praised Scott County as a model for the region in its efforts to crack down on patchwork, large-lot development in rural areas that makes later suburbanization more difficult – Minneapolis Star Tribune article (August 2008)

Scott County has prepared a thoughtful comprehensive plan at a key juncture in its development and maturation. The plan provides a clear vision for its multiple regional systems, including a park and trail system that will contribute to community vitality and a high quality of life for residents and visitors – Dakota County comment letter (October 2008)

Identifying an ultimate build-out scenario is an innovative approach and will provide a strong framework for land use planning both in the short term and further out. The City's planning commission was impressed with the overall breadth of the plan and, in particular, the use of public values as a means to allow development while facilitating the implementation of long-range planning – City of Savage comment letter (October 2008)

Congratulations on a well-done plan and for being the first county in the region to have completed its plan successfully – Metropolitan Council approval letter (February 2009)