

TRENDS

PILLARS & GOALS

TRENDS

LAND USE

ENVIRONMENT

PARKS

TRANSPORTATION

ECONOMY

FACILITIES

IMPLEMENTATION



Stearns's County's Comprehensive Plan (*Shape Stearns 2040*) is a guiding document used by county staff and county leaders as they make future decisions regarding land use regulations and development, natural resources, parks and trails, transportation investments, and other community resources.

This information brief provides an overview of the demographics, social and economic trends in Stearns County. A full report can be found at shapestearns.com



The Minnesota State Demographer has projected Stearns County will add 7,500 **new people** by the year 2050. It is assumed this growth will primarily occur within the cities.



The Census of Agricultural reported a 14% decrease in the **amount of farm land** (acres) between 2012 and 2017. The number of farming operations also decreased by 16%. This national trend reflects some of the challenges farmers are facing in today's economy.



In 2000, there were 47,604 households, which increased to 57,695 households in 2016. **Household growth** from 2000 to 2016 has outpaced population growth.



14% of Stearns County's **farming operations** are of 35 years of age or younger, which is slightly higher than the state average of 13%.

The **number of jobs** in Stearns County increased by more than 30% between 2000 and 2018 from 68,455 to 89,371. The majority of these jobs are within Health Care/Social Assistance, Retail Trade, and Manufacturing sectors.



How do these trends affect me?

The population and demographic trends are primary factors shaping the land use patterns of our towns and cities. The number of people, their age, and the paces available to find employment, all play an important role in how we shape the future and what type of services/programs are needed to accommodate all their choices.

The following topics are key items the Comprehensive Plan is taking into consideration.

Technology:

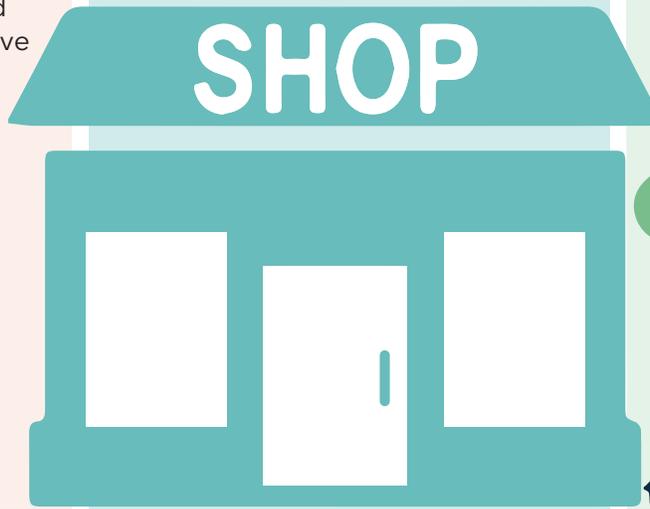
Technological advancements are always making new things possible and potentially more affordable than in the past. Transformations in how Stearns County residents communicate, live, work, learn, do business, and get around are actively shaping the future of the county. It will be important for Stearns County to keep up with the fast paced tech world and recognize the positive and negative impacts it can have on us.

Economy:

The County's wellbeing depends on job creation, business growth, agricultural strength, and income growth. An appropriate mix and supply of development ready land, quality and efficient infrastructure, and a well-trained, abundant workforce directly influence the economic vitality of the County.

Households:

People, related or unrelated, that occupy a housing unit are considered a household. The characteristics of the households in Stearns County heavily influence housing needs and future development patterns.



To Learn More: [visit shapestearns.com](http://visitshapestearns.com)

Environmental Services oversees the development of the County's Comprehensive Plan, which takes into consideration some of these emerging trends. Environmental Service is also responsible for environmental planning, land use planning, and zoning.

Contact Information:
Environmental Services
705 Courthouse Square Rm 343
St. Cloud, MN 56303-4701

Call our staff members at (320) 656.3613

Population:

Stearns County is about people. People live, play, work, and shop in the county. The characteristics of the people in Stearns County heavily influence future development patterns and the physical form of the county.