

BUILDING A BETTER STEARNS COUNTY

SUMMER 2019



Comprehensive Plan Update

Stearns County is embarking on an update to their Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan sets a path for achieving the County's vision for the future (the year 2040). This document is used by county staff and county leaders as they make future decisions regarding land use regulations and development, natural resources, parks and trails, and other community resources. The last plan was adopted in 2008. The Comprehensive Plan is typically updated every ten-years to reaffirm the County's goals and policies, while evaluating community needs and growth projections.

The Five Pillars

A successful Comprehensive Plan must accommodate and adapt to the aspirations and values of the county. As part of our early public engagement activities, five pillar statements have emerged that reflect these aspirations and values. The pillar statements are intended to be all inclusive and visionary. During times of conflict, the County can look to the pillars as a way to find common ground and shared values. The pillars will offer a source of energy and enthusiasm for maintaining a commitment to the future of Stearns County.



Living - Stearns County shares a broad set of values about ourselves and the place where we live. We will continue to embrace a shared feeling of belonging, acceptance, and trust. The success of the County as a whole depends on the contributions and engagement of every individual to make Stearns County a great place to call home.



Agriculture - Stearns County's agricultural heritage is the root of our prosperity and identity. Through product diversity, innovation, and sustainable practices, we will enhance and promote the advancement of our agricultural economy.



Business - Stearns County will invest in economic development strategies that are rooted in our shared values, skills, and identity. This will require a balanced economy that supports our existing businesses, while attracting new business that encourages entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity.



Nature - Stearns County recognizes the inherent value of the natural environment and connecting people to nature. We are committed to protecting, preserving, and restoring our natural resources, while offering outdoor recreational opportunities. This will require sustainable practices that balance growth between urban and rural communities.



Connectivity - Stearns County's infrastructure, facilities, and services play an important role in connecting the places where we live, work and play. We recognize the inherent responsibility in maintaining these systems in a sustainable and fiscally responsible manner. Enhancing these systems will require public and private partnerships that strive to maintain our quality of life.

Let us know what you think.
shapestearns.com

How Can I Help Shape A Better Stearns County?

Information about the planning process is available through the County's project website at shapestearns.com. Please visit the website to provide your comments on the plan, learn more, and sign-up for e-mail notifications.

**Have a comment about the pillar statements, but don't have access to the internet?
Fill out the form below and mail it back.**



Living

Do you agree or disagree with the pillar statement (circle your preference below)?

Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

Comment:



Agriculture

Do you agree or disagree with the pillar statement (circle your preference below)?

Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

Comment:



Business

Do you agree or disagree with the pillar statement (circle your preference below)?

Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

Comment:



Nature

Do you agree or disagree with the pillar statement (circle your preference below)?

Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

Comment:



Connectivity

Do you agree or disagree with the pillar statement (circle your preference below)?

Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

Comment:

Comments can be mailed or emailed back to:

Stearns County Environmental Services
705 Courthouse Square, Room #343
St. Cloud, MN 56303
Angie.Berg@co.stearns.mn.us