2040 Dakota County Rural Collaborative

Goals:

1. Agricultural Goals

   • Minimize conflicts between land uses.

   • Protect the rural atmosphere of the area.

   • Minimize the impact on long-term agricultural areas by maintaining very low density residential development.

   • Preserve agriculture as a primary land use and economic opportunity in the area.

   • Minimize the conversion or disruption of agricultural land uses by limiting non-farm uses in long-term agricultural areas.

2. Residential Goals

   • Protect residential uses from potential impacts of incompatible uses.

   • Maintain the quality and character of existing residences.

   • ~~Promote higher density housing, life-cycle housing, and affordable housing opportunities in the communities with public utilities.~~

   • Support affordable housing opportunities for all age groups.

   • Limit non-farm residences in areas designated long-term agriculture.

   • Educate non-farm residents on the potential impacts from normal farm practices and the support for long-term agriculture as a primary land use in the area.

   • Maintain the rural atmosphere.

3. Commerce/Industry Goals

   ~~• Promote the expansion of non-farm business development in area cities and designated rural centers.~~

   • Support agri-business expansion in the community and retain existing service industries.

   • Promote the economic viability and vitality of long-term agricultural operations.

   • Limit non-farm business development to areas not designated for long-term agriculture and areas where the provisions for higher levels of service may be available.

4. Public Facilities and Services Goals

   • Cooperate and coordinate with neighboring communities and governments on issues that have the potential for affecting the long-term goals of the community.

   • Support the preservation of cultural heritage sites.

   • Maintain responsible fiscal management based upon limited tax values and government aids.

   • Protect the health, safety, and welfare of area residents and businesses.

   • Maintain a level of public services appropriate for the rural/agricultural nature of the area, the needs and desires of the community, and the priorities of the community.

   • Ensure that residents have the opportunity to offer input and have access to local government activities.

   • Promote solar access and sustainable energy alternatives for residents and businesses.

5. Environmental Resources Goals

   • Ensure that all land use activities take place in harmony with natural systems.

   • Protect the open space quality

   • Reduce instances of harmful erosion, sedimentation, and pollutants from affecting water resources.

   • Protect surface waters and wetland areas to promote water quality, natural habitat areas, groundwater recharge, and recreational opportunities.

   • Protect the natural habitat qualities and biodiversity of the area.

   • Protect and preserve natural systems for the collection and dispersion of stormwater and runoff.

   • Protect existing woodlands throughout the area.

   • Protect the quality and quantity of the groundwater supply.

   • Protect high quality aggregate resources for future use.

6. Recreation and Open Space Goals

   • Preserve open spaces that enhance rural aesthetic values, protect natural habitat, allow recreational uses, and promote area-wide greenway corridor potential.

   • Support active youth and senior recreational opportunities and facilities in area cities and schools.

   • Support recreational opportunities that are not disruptive to long-term agriculture and are compatible with the rural character of the area.

   • Promote regional trails that provide connectivity between communities, regional parks, water resources, and significant natural features.

7. Water Resources Goals

   • Maintain and enhance natural systems and water resources for future generations to enjoy.

   • Protect the habitat and biodiversity of the area.

   • Protect water resources from improper land use resulting in unnecessary impacts.

   • Protect surface waters and wetland areas to promote water quality, recreation opportunities, aesthetic qualities, natural habitat areas, and ground water recharge.

   • Work with local watershed organizations to improve water resources.