

CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY VISION, GOALS & STRATEGIES

Introduction

At the heart of a Comprehensive Plan is the Community Vision, Goals and Strategies Chapter which offers insight into the goals and aspirations of the community. This chapter reinforces the vision statement and also introduces general community goals and strategies that will address standards for intergovernmental coordination, land use, housing, community facilities, transportation, economic development, natural resources and other community issues.

The community's vision, goals and strategies are an integral piece to developing a sustainable and well planned community. These statements are a reflection of the goals and aspirations of the community, and clearly identify the type of living environment that its citizens strive to achieve. Although no system of land use, vision, or goal statements are resistible to change, these statements help to shape the pattern of land uses and the landscape for the short-term, and have lasting implications in the long-term. Therefore, while external factors influencing land use will change, the vision statements, goals and strategies will continue to provide the best perspective from which to view proposed land use changes.

In addition to the vision, goal and strategy statements contained in this chapter, more detailed objectives are contained within individual chapters of this Plan relating to that chapter's specific topic, such as land use, transportation, etc.

Formulation of Vision, Goals & Strategies

Community input and participation played a key role in the development of the vision statement, goals, strategies, and objectives. The Comprehensive Planning process began with a kick-off meeting and issues identification exercise which helped to identify key issues, concerns, and positive attributes from the community's perspective.

The Issues, Concerns and Positive Attributes identified during the initial kick-off meeting were used to formulate the goals and policy statements that were discussed and presented to the community at the second meeting in February 2005. This workshop focused on goal development and utilized local knowledge and community participation to refine and propose critical goals and policies that should be included in this document.

The input gained during these meetings helped guide the planning process and to formulate the community vision statements, goals and objectives presented in subsequent sections.

Issues, Concerns and Positive Attributes Exercise

Citizens were led through an exercise to identify the positive community attributes of Isanti, as well as the community's issues and concerns. Participants listed and then ranked the issues in order of importance. The top issues identified by participants are listed below in order of importance, according to the number of votes received, which are shown in parentheses.

Positive Community Attributes

- Small Town Atmosphere and Caring Community Members (15)
- Strong Sense of Community and Faith in People (8)
- Festivals (6)
- Good Schools (6)
- Rum River is Positive Asset, Opportunity to Take Advantage (6)
- Housing Affordability (5)
- Excellent Churches (5)

Community Concerns

- County Road 5 Congestion (13)
- Concern Property Taxes May Grow and Force People Out Of Their Homes (8)
- Older Buildings Need Revitalization or Removal (8)
- Lack of Professional Office Buildings (Doctor, Dentist, etc.) (7)
- Concern About Losing Community Identity (6)
- Inadequate East-West Transportation Access (5)
- Concern Regarding Use of Eminent Domain (5)

Community Issues

- Safety for Children on way to School (8)
- Traffic Pattern and Transportation Needs (8)
- Plan for Housing Around Golf Course Appropriate for Setting (6)
- Always Consider Property Owners Rights When Proposing New Regulations (6)
- Safe Pedestrian Crossing on Highway 65 (6)
- Downtown Development and Redevelopment (5)
- Consider Existing Business when Planning Future Land Uses (5)

It should be noted that the listed positive community attributes, concerns, issues, and other ideas are only the opinions and perceptions of the residents who chose to participate in the workshop. There were approximately 75 citizens in attendance at the first meeting.



Goals and Policies Workshop

On Thursday, February 2, 2006 the public was invited to the Goals and Policies Workshop for their second opportunity to participate in the Comprehensive Planning Process. The second meeting was focused on development of goals and policies that would accurately reflect the aspirations of the community. The concerns, issues and positive attributes from the first workshop were used to formulate goals that were presented to the community at the February meeting.

The meeting was conducted in two parts. The first portion of the meeting was devoted to gathering information from the public to ensure the public's interests were communicated and represented in the goals and policy statements of the plan. They were asked to fill out a worksheet to determine if any issue, concern, or attribute was missed during the kick-off meeting. In addition, some people in attendance at the second meeting were not present at the first meeting, therefore the worksheet provided another opportunity for people to respond and let their voice be heard.



The second portion of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the goals that were prepared in response to the issues, concerns, and positive attributes identified in the kick-off meeting. Each person was given a copy of the goal statements, and boards were prepared that listed each of the goal statements. Each goal statement was reviewed for accuracy and intent, and the public was invited to offer their opinions and recommendations. The objective for the meeting was to develop a comprehensive list of goal statements that would support the community vision, and eventually become the foundation for this plan.

Community Vision

The vision for Isanti is a compilation of ideas expressed by citizens during the community kick-off meeting, and goals and policies workshop. It is a collection of broad position statements that identify what the community wants to be in the future. These statements were used as a guide in developing more specific goals and strategies, and should be used during Plan implementation. These statements are not presented in a prioritized order.

The City of Isanti Shall Be...

A Place with a Unique Character and Small Town Atmosphere

The City will strive to maintain the small town atmosphere that makes Isanti a welcoming place to be. Isanti's small town character will help forge an identity for the City and will help create a unique destination for visitors.

A Place that Recognizes the Importance of Natural Resources

The community recognizes the need to preserve the Rum River and other natural resources in the City. These resources add value to the community and should be enhanced and protected to ensure that they can be enjoyed for generations to come.

A Place that Values its Residents, Community Facilities, and Community Involvement Opportunities

The City will continue to enhance and provide community facilities that meet the needs of current and future residents. The City will be a place with community gathering spaces and recreational opportunities that provide places for community engagement, participation and a healthy lifestyle for all of Isanti's residents.

A Place with a Growing and Thriving Downtown

The Downtown should strive to function as a focal point for business and retail opportunities to serve a variety of needs in the community. The Downtown should be seen as a place for people to gather and congregate. Downtown should be a place that is pleasant for residents and visitors, and should provide the basic necessities and everyday needs to its residents.

A Place with a Quality Park System

The City will provide a quality park system that includes places for children to play, bike and pedestrian trails, community centers, and athletic fields. These amenities add to the enjoyment of living in Isanti and should be accessible to all residents.

A Place with a Variety of Housing Types

The community recognizes the need to provide its residents with a range of housing options. It is important that residents have the opportunity to stay in the community while they continue through the lifecycle.

A Place with Well Planned Developments

The City must be thorough in its planning process to ensure that development occurs in the best possible places. The planning process must be diligent in order to meet the needs of residential, commercial, and industrial development.

A Place with High Quality Services

The City will strive to provide its residents with a high level of services. The City also needs to balance the distribution of City services with the desire to keep taxes reasonable. Contiguous and orderly growth will help improve efficiency and maintain costs of services in the City.

A Place with Employment Opportunity

The community wants to see Isanti as a place that is not only a great place to live, but also a great place to work. The community would like to see more prospects for employment in Isanti so that residents will not have to work elsewhere and spend large quantities of time commuting.

A Place Where an Effective Transportation System is Available

The City will strive for the most effective, safe, and coordinated transportation system possible. The community expects that the transportation system will move people around the City efficiently and avoid congestion. Connections between neighborhoods and commercial areas need to be made with sidewalks and trails to provide alternative methods to move around the City.

Goals and Strategies

Listed below are the overall goals and strategies for Isanti. In addition, more specific Plan recommendations and development principles are included within each chapter.

Definitions

The terms goal and strategy are subject to a wide range of interpretation and application. In order to provide a common frame of reference, the following definitions are included:

Goal: A general statement of community aspirations and desired objectives indicating broad social, economic or physical conditions to which the community officially agrees to try to achieve in various ways, one of which is the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Strategy: An officially adopted course of action or position to implement the community goals.

Goals and strategies assign various roles and responsibilities to the City of Isanti. To better understand the City's role for each goal and strategy, a number of the key terms are defined below, along with the City's corresponding responsibility:

Create: Bring about the desired goal, usually with City staff involved in all levels, from planning to implementation, and which may involve City financial assistance.

Continue: Follow past and present procedures to maintain desired goal, usually with City staff involved in all levels, from planning to implementation.

Encourage: Foster the desired goal through City policies, which may involve City financial assistance.

Endorse: Subscribe to the desired goal by adopting supportive City policies.

Enhance: Improve the current goal through the use of policies, which may include financial support and the involvement of City staff at all levels of planning.

Explore: Investigate the stated method of achieving the desired goal, which may involve City staff and financial resources to research and analyze such method.

Identify: Catalogue and confirm resource(s) or desired item(s) through the use of City staff and actions.

Maintain: Preserve the desired state of affairs through the use of City policies and staff. Financial assistance should be provided if needed.

Prevent: Stop described event through the use of appropriate City policies, staff, action and, if needed, finances.

Promote: Advance the desired state through the use of City policies and staff activity at all levels of planning.

Protect: Guard against a deterioration of the desired state through the use of City policies, staff and, if needed, financial assistance.

Provide: Take the lead role in supplying the needed financial and staff support to achieve the desired goal. The City is typically involved in all aspects from planning to implementation to maintenance.

Recognize: Acknowledge the identified state of affairs and take actions or implement policies to preserve or change them.

Strengthen: Improve and reinforce the desired goal through the use of City policies, staff and financial assistance, if needed.

Support: Supply the needed staff support, policies and financial assistance at all levels to achieve the desired goal.

Sustain: Uphold the desired state through City policies, financial resources and staff action to achieve the goal.

Work: Cooperate and act in a manner to create the desired goal through the use of City staff, actions and policies.

The following sections identify a set of goals and policy statements that relate to specific community aspirations. The Goals are arranged by the following categories:

- General Community Goals
- Intergovernmental Coordination Goals
- Community Appearance and Livability Goals
- Natural Resources Goals
- Growth Management Goals
- Land Use Goals
- Housing Goals
- Downtown Goals
- Economic Development Goals
- Community Facilities Goals
- Parks and Open Space Goals
- Transportation Goals

General Community Goals

Community Goal #1:

Promote community spirit, unity and diversity.

Strategies:

1. Recognize the assets of citizens of all ages, incomes, faiths and cultural heritages.
2. Continue to find ways to educate the public on cultural, economic, faith, age-based and other diversity issues.
3. Encourage increased interaction and communication between citizens of all ages, faiths, cultural heritages and incomes.
4. Support and coordinate City events that promote pride and a “sense of community”.

Community Goal #2:

Maintain and enhance a friendly and caring small town atmosphere.

Strategies:

1. Continue to provide community gathering opportunities to encourage resident interaction and support.
2. Work with local organizations and groups to keep residents involved and participating in community events.
3. Maintain and enhance existing community gathering spaces to ensure residents have adequate places to congregate and meet.

Community Goal #3:

Encourage citizen participation and education in all aspects of City government, planning and community life.

Strategies:

1. Actively encourage and utilize resident participation in the local decision-making processes.
2. Educate and communicate this Plan's overall goals, policies and recommendations to the public, particularly with regard to the growth management and sustainable development concepts embodied in the Plan.
3. Continue to seek out creative ways to communicate local government activities and information to the public through means such as newsletters, web sites, neighborhood associations and other community groups, and public cable access.
4. Coordinate and participate in programs that teach leadership skills to residents, area business owners, employers and non-profit leaders.
5. Encourage volunteerism, participation in community activities and acceptance of community leadership positions by citizens of all ages, faiths, cultural heritages and incomes.
6. Seek partnerships with community coalitions and interest groups to share resources and energies in order to address community problems and opportunities.

Intergovernmental Coordination Goals

Intergovernmental Coordination Goal #1:

Promote ongoing shared planning among all Isanti County jurisdictions.

Strategies:

1. Continue to work with adjacent municipalities and the County to ensure planning goals and objectives are understood and accepted.
2. Participate in short term and long term planning exercises with the County and adjacent municipalities.
3. Pursue new collaborative planning efforts among local governments and organizations to address existing and new issues as they arise with regard to land use, transportation, parks, natural resources and other areas of mutual concern.
4. Promote information sharing between the City and surrounding townships and counties and encourage their participation in City issues of shared concern.
5. Coordinate and invite surrounding townships and counties to workshops to discuss issues of mutual interest as they arise.
6. Maintain communications, and collaborate where appropriate, with state agencies involved in planning issues that affect the City and region.

Intergovernmental Coordination Goal #2:

Actively explore opportunities for all jurisdictions, agencies and public organizations in the County to share services and resources to reduce or eliminate duplication and improve efficiency.

Strategies:

1. Explore development of joint governmental ventures in the delivery of services in the areas of sewer and water, emergency services, solid waste, mental health, libraries, education, fiber optics, regular capital facility projects and other services.
2. Work with adjacent municipalities to identify areas where consolidation and/or collaboration could reduce overall cost and increase effectiveness of government in the region.

Community Appearance and Livability Goals

Community Appearance and Livability Goal #1:

Maintain and enhance the appearance, integrity, heritage, identity and local character of the City's built environment.

Strategies:

1. Create and strengthen the appearance of key transportation corridors through streetscaping, design standards, zoning, trails, lighting, sidewalks, signage and other tools.
2. Develop and enforce design, performance, development and site planning standards, incentives and resources to ensure quality development.
3. Create and identify locations for community gateways that will encourage legibility and identity within the City.
4. Work with local historical organizations to create and maintain an inventory of historic community resources.
5. Prepare and/or adopt appropriate guidelines or regulations for the use or reuse of historically significant properties.
6. Support the efforts of local historical organizations to promote the preservation of historically significant places and records where practical and economically viable.
7. Explore methods and funding options to uphold the general appearance of older buildings and neighborhoods through their maintenance and upkeep.

Community Appearance and Livability Goal #2:
Enhance community and neighborhood livability.

Strategies:

1. Ensure new developments are connected to existing development through the efficient use of streets, utilities and infrastructure.
2. Encourage quality and appropriate development of housing, shopping and employment in proximity to each other.
3. Encourage the integration of multi-modal access including parking, sidewalks and bike paths within new developments.
4. Explore the need for a high school to serve existing and future residents.
5. Encourage a variety of types of neighborhood designs, including neo-traditional, conservation, and other alternative designs.

Community Appearance and Livability Goal #3: Maintain adequate active and passive open space to meet the needs of the community.

Strategies:

1. Require the integration of parks and green space within new developments to ensure that residential neighborhoods have adequate access to park facilities.
2. Enhance the quality of life and safety of residents by establishing bikeways, walkways and other multi-use paths in developing areas.
3. Work to link area parks, neighborhoods, natural amenities, and community facilities through the development of local and regional trails.
4. Continue to support and create new forms of funding for equipment, improvements, and maintenance of new and existing neighborhood parks and recreational facilities.

Natural Resources Goals

Natural Resources Goal #1:

Protect, conserve and enhance natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas within the City and its planned growth areas for the community's long-term environmental and economic benefits.

Strategies:

1. Avoid wetlands, native species (endangered and threatened), sensitive areas and other significant natural resources during development.
2. Minimize the impact of urban development on wetlands, rivers, forested areas and other environmental features.
3. Create a greenway corridor and natural areas plan that links environmentally sensitive areas, stream and river corridors, trail corridors, institutions, parklands and neighborhoods.
4. Encourage maintenance of wetlands and natural drainage systems when accommodating new growth and reestablishing wetlands and natural drainage systems within developed areas when opportunities arise.
5. Ensure that any future Rum River crossing is designed to avoid and/or mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
6. Protect both surface and groundwater from hazardous waste, fertilizers and pesticides.
7. Educate residents on home and yard use of hazardous chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides..
8. Continue to enforce erosion & sediment control requirements.
9. Continue to encourage public and private recycling programs to promote waste reduction.

10. Strictly limit development on unsuitable soils, including steep slopes, wet soils, floodplains, and those identified in the Natural Resource Inventory and County Soil Survey as unsuitable for development.
11. Work to protect endangered, threatened and rare species and their habitats.
12. Communicate and coordinate with surrounding jurisdictions in the development of wellhead protection plans.
13. Consider adopting a tree preservation policy and planting program.
14. Identify aggregate resources within the City and its planned growth areas and develop strategies to ensure the ability to extract those resources in the future.



Natural Resources Goal #2:

Conserve, restore, and enhance natural resource systems within the City's boundaries.

Strategies:

1. Work with adjacent municipalities, developers and residents to restore and enhance natural resource systems that may have been degraded or altered.
2. Utilize the Natural Resources Inventory prepared as a part of this Plan to guide future growth and expansion.
3. Communicate and coordinate with surrounding municipalities to ensure that connectivity and natural resource corridors are protected and well maintained.

Growth Management

Growth Management Goal #1:

Provide clearly defined growth management areas that are contiguous with existing development

Strategies:

1. Utilize the Natural Resources Inventory, projections and service capacity to designate areas for contiguous and efficient growth opportunities.
2. Work with residents, land owners and developers to develop land in a contiguous and efficient manner.

3. Adopt a land use plan that clearly identifies areas suitable for growth and efficient services.

Growth Management Goal #2:

Guide growth in areas suitable for urban services and preserve agricultural land uses to the greatest extent possible.

Strategies:

1. Work with large land owners and farmers to plan for future growth and appropriate phasing of development.
2. Identify key agricultural lands that should be preserved or enhanced.
3. Maintain low densities within areas outside the growth areas to ensure opportunities for City services in the future exist.
4. Ensure that land outside the growth area is well planned for and phasing for development is considered.



Land Use Goals

Land Use Goal #1:

Support the compact, efficient and orderly growth of all urban development including residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

Strategies:

1. Identify planned growth areas outside the current City boundaries (Urban Service Areas).
2. Work with surrounding townships and counties to develop orderly annexation agreements for the planned growth areas and to maintain low densities within those areas until such time as urban development can be facilitated and provided with an appropriate range of urban services in a cost-effective manner.
3. Require that properties served by public utilities be located within the City.
4. Coordinate with surrounding townships and cities to create conceptual master plans for the planned growth areas that will promote connectivity to existing and future transportation systems and natural resource corridors.
5. Encourage a balanced strategy of “infilling” within the City and annexing and developing new areas.

Land Use Goal #2:

Achieve availability and adequacy of municipal services to ensure a high quality of life for all existing and future residents.

Strategies

1. Work with adjacent townships to plan for the extension of services and growth into areas contiguous to existing development.
2. Plan to develop and provide all municipal services prior to initiating annexation.
3. Avoid the premature development of rural areas before City services are available thus preserving agricultural character.

Land Use Goal #3:

Plan land uses and implement standards to promote quality development and minimize land use conflicts.

Strategies

1. Prepare and adopt a land use plan that designates land use areas and guide(s) development to appropriate areas in order to ensure desirable land use patterns and minimize conflicts.
2. Require transitions between incompatible land uses through appropriate planning practices and zoning standards.
3. Prepare performance, design and/or other development standards for commercial and industrial development.
4. Design and/or locate industrial and commercial developments to avoid adverse impacts on residential areas, while continuing to promote compatible, contiguous development patterns.
5. Achieve a balanced mixture of land uses through the implementation of zoning and other tools.
6. Follow the US Constitution in all matters related to the acquisition of private land for public uses.

Land Use Goal #4:

Identify adequate, appropriate and accessible locations for future commercial, business, and industrial development.

Strategies

1. Protect and enhance the investment in existing business when planning for future land uses.
2. Explore commercial and industrial opportunities along the Highway 65 Corridor.
3. Protect and encourage development and redevelopment of the downtown that is consistent with the City's historic character.

Land Use Goal #5:

Support development that enhances community character and identity.

Strategies

1. Promote and provide high quality housing in areas surrounding the golf course
2. Prepare and adopt master plans for all community growth and redevelopment areas prior to development
3. Locate appropriate senior housing opportunities in close proximity to services and community amenities
4. Establish lot sizes and other performance standards that support or enhance the community vision.
5. Embrace conservation development practices to conserve and enhance natural resources and add interest and amenity into community subdivision design

Land Use Goal #6: Create healthy, livable, neighborhoods designed to foster and support a sense of community.

Strategies

1. Successfully integrate parks, open spaces, and natural areas into the community fabric.
2. Establish and integrate natural and man-made amenities within planned neighborhoods.
3. Work with property owners and developers to encourage walkable neighborhoods and a more sustainable neighborhood form.

Housing Goals

Housing Goal #1:

Promote a variety of housing types in Isanti for existing and future community residents.

Strategies:

1. Continue to study housing goals, needs and resources.
2. Work closely with the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Veteran's Affairs (VA), Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF), local lenders, builders, and other organizations that can help Isanti meet its housing goals.
3. Encourage public-private partnerships to expand affordable housing opportunities.
4. Explore zoning methods that allow neighborhoods with mixed housing types and/or other appropriate uses within residential areas.
5. Encourage the appropriate dispersion of housing types throughout the City.
6. Encourage an adequate supply of senior housing options to meet the needs of the City's aging population.
7. Examine zoning and other development standards to ensure they do not unreasonably hinder the provision of affordable housing.

Housing Goal #2:

Create a high-quality environment in all residential neighborhoods.

Strategies:

1. Enforce necessary codes to ensure the continued maintenance of the existing housing stock.
2. Encourage infill housing where appropriate.
3. Examine and change, if necessary, zoning and other regulations to ensure that an appropriate mix of housing is developed.

Downtown Goals

Downtown Goal #1:

Identify the function of Downtown Isanti and improve the economic viability of the redevelopment district.

Strategies:

1. Prepare and implement a downtown plan that integrates design standards that support its historical character.
2. Renovate and rehabilitate existing downtown buildings.
3. Provide safe, adequate and convenient parking to support downtown growth.

Downtown Goal #2:

Work to improve the economic vitality of downtown Isanti to provide services for current and future residents.

Strategies:

1. Identify businesses and services that are most appropriate for downtown to attract more residents and visitors.
2. Encourage the development of small, independently owned businesses and services to maintain the small-town character of Isanti.
3. Encourage development that is complimentary to community facilities and events to encourage activity in the downtown.

Economic Development Goals

Economic Development Goal #1:

Maintain, develop and grow industrial and commercial opportunities in the City to increase the number of jobs and diversify the tax base.

Strategies:

1. Expand the number of service providers and shopping opportunities to meet the needs of the existing and future community.
2. Realize the opportunities to attract and support new businesses and community facilities.

3. Explore the expansion of the industrial park to increase the community's tax base and provide employment opportunities.
4. Maintain and enhance the friendly and responsive services currently associated with community businesses.
5. Provide adequate space and location for professional services to meet the community's future needs.
6. Explore the recruitment of commercial uses that will provide spin off benefits to existing small businesses.
7. Attract and retain high valued land uses.
8. Take a lead role in coordinating and streamlining economic development initiatives and programs within the area.
9. Target resources and programs to attract businesses that have an emphasis on job creation, businesses that meet or exceed livable wage requirements or address other public community needs.
10. Continue to support or expand local business retention and expansion initiatives.
11. Recognize the fundamental linkage between housing and economic development and work to match housing availability with community employment.
12. Promote the rehabilitation and redevelopment of existing commercial facilities by continuing to pursue and make available various financial programs and assistance.

Economic Development Goal #2:

Promote efficient, planned commercial and industrial expansion within the City's growth areas, accessible to public infrastructure and transportation.

Strategies:

1. Identify key commercial and industrial development opportunities within the City's planned growth areas in locations with access to major transportation systems.
2. Ensure the appropriate provision of street and rights-of-way in new commercial and industrial developments.
3. Encourage compact and mixed-use commercial developments that will make efficient use of infrastructure and resources.

Economic Development Goal #3:

Enhance the character of the City's commercial and industrial developments.

Strategies:

1. Develop and adopt architectural, design or other development standards such as landscaping, screening and other standards within the City's commercial and industrial districts.
2. Encourage the provision of open/green space within commercial and industrial development.
3. Encourage historic preservation to enhance the character of commercial areas with historical significance.
4. Assist businesses in locating local, regional, state, federal and private resources that will provide rehabilitation assistance.

Community Facilities Goals

Community Facilities Goal #1: Work to provide the services and facilities required to protect and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of Isanti citizens in an equitable and cost-effective manner.

Strategies:

1. Work with adjacent municipalities to prevent premature urban development within the planned growth areas that is located beyond the City's long-term ability to provide services, such as streets, sewer and water.
2. Create conceptual master plans for the planned growth areas that will identify, map, and preserve future utility corridors.
3. Encourage the protection of public health by requiring any on-site sewage systems to conform to state requirements for siting, design, construction and maintenance.
4. Foster and maintain a commitment to open, inclusive, and mutually respectful community governance.

Community Facilities Goal #2:

Promote the expansion and development of the community's green infrastructure which consists of parkland, environmentally sensitive areas,

river and stream corridors and trail facilities throughout the City and its planned growth areas.

Strategies:

1. Explore all federal, state and other funding opportunities for local and regional parks, open space and trail acquisition, development, and maintenance.
2. Continue to require the dedication, acquisition and maintenance of parkland in the planned growth areas to meet future park needs of the community.
3. Continue to implement the City's Comprehensive Park Plan.

Community Facilities Goal #3: Ensure that development or expansion of community facilities takes into account anticipated future population growth and needs of existing and future residents.

Strategies:

1. Explore rebuilding the community center to adequately serve existing and future residents.
2. Provide additional year round recreational opportunities and facilities.
3. Maximize opportunities to share facilities between the City and the Cambridge-Isanti school district.
4. Explore the optimum location for a community high school.



Parks and Open Space

Parks and Open Space Goal #1:

Adopt and maintain a parks, open space and trail plan to meet Isanti's current and future needs.

Strategies:

1. Provide and maintain parks and open spaces that meet the needs of current and future residents.

2. Plan for future park needs and demands for current and future residents in the City of Isanti.
3. Work with City Staff, residents and adjacent municipalities to develop and maintain an efficient and well-kept park and trail system.
4. Revise and update the Park and Trail Plan to ensure that current and future needs of the residents are met.

Parks and Open Space Goal #2:

Provide and maintain a trail system with connectivity to the City sidewalk system, county trail system, and state trails.

Strategies:

1. Provide and maintain trails that meet the needs of current and future residents.
2. Work with adjacent municipalities, residents and City staff to implement a comprehensive Trail Plan.
3. Encourage trail connectivity to promote active healthful living.
4. Continue to work on pedestrian bridge over Highway 65.

Transportation Goals

Transportation Goal #1:

Provide a safe, efficient and adequate transportation system that serves and balances both access and mobility needs.

Strategies:

1. Use the functional classification system to define and plan existing and new roadways.
2. Develop and utilize access management guidelines.
3. Require the provision of safe and adequate access to all properties through the implementation of subdivision regulations.
4. Create safe sidewalks, trails and bus stops and incorporate appropriate safety features into all transportation improvement projects.

Transportation Goal #2:

Create and provide excellent north-south and east-west connections and movements throughout Isanti.

Strategies:

1. Prepare and implement a transportation plan with a hierarchy of community roadways providing excellent north-south and east-west movements throughout the City.
2. Provide best available access to Main Street.
3. Provide safe and convenient crossings at key locations along the Highway 65 Corridor.
4. Successfully integrate the east and west sides of the Highway 65 Corridor through transportation and open space linkages and pedestrian paths including a pedestrian bridge.
5. Continue to provide access points to support economic development by increasing direct transportation connections and movements.

Transportation Goal #3:

Maintain a transportation system that is coordinated and cost-effective.

Strategies:

1. Continue to work with surrounding municipalities, townships and Isanti County to ensure an integrated regional transportation system.
2. Schedule future transportation projects in the capital improvement program.
3. Connect streets in developing areas to the existing network of streets and reflect the existing street character and design.
4. Achieve concurrency between development and all of the municipal improvements and services needed to support it.
5. Create conceptual master plans of the City's growth areas that identify future transportation corridors.
6. Work to preserve future transportation corridors both by acquiring needed right-of-way in advance when possible, and through the use of official mapping.



7. Continue to explore all federal, state and other funding opportunities for local and regional transportation projects.

Transportation Goal #4:

Coordinate transportation with land use planning and environmental protection.

Strategies:

1. Consider the impacts to neighborhoods when planning new or upgrading existing roadways.
2. Support transportation projects that support the compact, orderly development of the City and region and are supportive of the preferred development pattern emerging from this Plan.
3. Design transportation systems to avoid, where possible, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas and consider Minnesota Wild and Scenic or other state rules.
4. Identify and consider the costs of lost environmental benefits for proposed transportation projects.

Transportation Goal #5:

Establish a strong multi-modal transportation plan to meet the community's current and future needs

Strategies:

1. Incorporate, where feasible, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and safety standards when planning changes, additions, or maintenance to roads, sidewalks, bridges, paths or other public facilities.
2. Encourage bike parking facilities at parks within neighborhoods, and at retail/commercial developments.
3. Continue to maintain and seek ways to expand the existing network of bicycle and pedestrian trails throughout the City.
4. Establish and maintain a commitment to improved transit services to support the community's transit needs.
5. Encourage sidewalks and separated pathways along all arterial and collector streets when developing residential and commercial areas through the City's subdivision regulations.
6. Promote the connectivity of alternative transportation systems and have such transportation systems connect efficiently to community and recreational facilities.

7. Ensure the provision of adequate arterial roadways and design local streets and subdivisions to discourage driving at unsafe speeds and to promote pedestrian and bicycle use.
8. Explore commuter rail and mass transit options for commuters from Isanti to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
9. Continue to work on the pedestrian bridge over Highway 65.