

Mille Lacs County

Comprehensive & Strategic Plan - Overview

Scope

The scope of this project is to develop a comprehensive and strategic plan for Mille Lacs County with a goal of a 10-15 year vision for the County. Each goal would then have intermediate objectives, which depending on the topic, may be 1 year, 5 year, 10 year or at other intervals. The order of the modules can be modified. The idea is to, based on resident input, have a plan of where the County would like to be in 5 or 10 or 15 years, and to have objective and goals along the way, in order to get there. If there is no plan, then it is harder to know where we are going. With that said, this would be an ongoing process, in that at least annually, the plan would need to be reviewed and adjusted. The Comprehensive Plan is a guiding tool, and as such needs to be used in our everyday tasks.

Scope Types of Questions:

- What do you see as Mille Lacs County's best assets that should remain the same in years to come?
- If you could change one thing about Mille Lacs County, what would it be?
- How do you see Mille Lacs County ten years from now?

Topics / Modules

Following are the topic areas under consideration:

Economic Development

Transportation

Environment & Energy

Public Safety

Recreation & Tourism Module

Intergovernmental Relations

Land Use

Social Programs / Housing / Quality of Life

The topic areas will be further developed through citizen surveys, public meetings, and other means of gathering resident input. Through this process, some topics may become combined, topics may be added or others may not be seen as important. This model relies heavily on resident participation. The development of topic goals will be based on community input for each planning module (each committee will then have direction from the whole as they refine the goals and go through their visioning process).

Public Input

- 1-2 Resident Surveys planned,
- 6-8 public meetings for information gathering.

Also, we have planned up to 4 public meetings each quarter during this process to gather additional information and to provide ongoing updates about the progress.

In addition, at the end of the process, there will be 6-8 Open House public meetings to take comment and feedback on the Comprehensive Plan, Goals and Objectives.

Committees

Steering Committee

This committee will keep the process on track and review demographics and background information and assist at public meetings.

Ad-Hoc Committees

Recommend 6-8 per committee, with representation of those affected by the topic area. Staff and experts would be used to present and review information, but committees would primarily be elected officials (city, township and county) and resident volunteers.

Planning Commission

The planning commission will also be asked to review and discuss the areas related to Land Use, Environment and any other areas that are impacted by codes, rules and regulations in relation to Planning Commission approvals. These pieces of a traditional Land Use Plan would need approval and recommendation from the Planning Commission.

County Board

The County Board has the final approval authority on the Comprehensive Plan / Strategic Vision for the County. Board members would be asked to serve on various committees to provide input and review. The Board will be provided updates on a monthly basis regarding the plan progress.