

Wright County NE Quadrant Land Use Plan Update – Goals from 1988 Plan and New/Updated Goals

Goals from 1988 Plan

- To make the most efficient and economical use of public funds and investments.
- To provide a wide range of opportunity for urban and rural development.
- To protect agricultural land from encroachment by incompatible land uses, and provide assurances that such areas will remain agricultural in nature.
- To protect, preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment, and require development to take place in a manner which makes wise use of Wright County's resources without degradation.

Themes that emerged from SWOT Analysis and Task Force Meetings

Rural Lifestyle and Quality of Life

Residents of Northeastern Wright County value the quality of life and rural character that the area provides. The following are specific characteristics cited by residents:

- Lower density, rural lifestyle
- Privacy
- Open land/greenspace
- Small towns, small communities
- Low crime
- Good area for families

Green/Open Space Preservation

Residents of Northeastern Wright County value green space, parks, open space, lakes, and other natural and environmental resources and the beauty they provide. The following are specific characteristics often cited by residents:

- Open space associated with agriculture
- The importance of setting aside land for open space preservation
- The preservation of remaining "big woods"
- Outdoor recreational activities such as biking, hiking, walking, fishing, and hunting

Access to Quality Jobs

Residents of Northeastern Wright County would like access to more higher-paying job opportunities. These employment opportunities will allow residents to work close to where they live. The following are specific characteristics often cited by residents:

- There is a lack of quality, high paying jobs
- There is a need for more industrial jobs in the area
- Easier, more direct access to jobs (i.e. transportation routes)

Balance Land Use and Annexation Planning with Development

Residents of Northeastern Wright County feel that it is important to balance sound land use planning with the rights of property owners. The following additional information is related to this topic:

- Growth should be driven by personal values not money and greed
- Annexation should be planned for and carefully implemented
- Lack of long range planning and coordination between entities causes poor planning
- Without proper planning the character of Northeastern Wright County will be destroyed

Transportation

Residents of Northeastern Wright County feel congestion and increasing traffic volumes are problematic, as well as deteriorating and unsafe roads and the lack of signalized intersections. The following specific issues were often cited by residents:

- Residents value good access to the local and regional transportation system
- If not resolved, traffic congestion will continue to worsen
- Transit is lacking in the area

Proximity to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Residents of Northeastern Wright County value the area's proximity to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The following additional information supports this statement:

- Wright County is "rural" but has good proximity to the Metro Area
- The Metro area provides higher paying jobs
- Real estate/property values continue to rise
- The area is close to shopping and entertainment

New/Updated Goals

- To make the most efficient and economical use of public funds and investments.
- To provide a wide range of opportunity for urban and rural development.
- To protect agricultural land from encroachment by incompatible land uses
- To protect, preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment, and require development to take place in a manner which makes wise use of Northeastern Wright County's resources without degradation.
- To enhance the strength of the Northeastern Wright County economy by supporting local industry and attracting quality jobs, enhanced tax base and new capital to the region.
- To make improvements to the transportation system that balance travel, desired land uses and environmental factors by facilitating movement to and from regional highway facilities and supporting current and planned land use patterns.