

Purpose of Policies and Goals

The goals and plan implementation section will draw together the analysis and policies in the plan into a program for implementation, including an action agenda and a method for plan review and maintenance.

The Comprehensive Plan is an important tool to provide guidance for the future development of Knox County. The strategic planning process has been utilized to provide citizen input into the development of planning goals and policies to provide the county with direction for the administration and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Goals and policies were developed through discussion with the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and three public input meetings. The public input meetings were held in Bloomfield, Verdigre, and Crofton. An average of 25 persons from all areas of the county attended the meetings.

Goals are defined as: “the purpose toward which an endeavor is directed; an end; objective.” Goal statements should be developed for the community so that a plan of action can be drafted. An overall county goal should be developed, as well as concise goal statements for each of the plan’s priority components.

A policy is defined as: “Any plan or course of action adopted by a government designed to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters. A course of action, guiding principle, or procedure considered to be expedient, prudent, or advantageous.” Policies help to further define the meaning of goals. They are a specific statement or achievement to be accomplished as a step toward fulfilling a goal. Each component of the plan should include one or more policies to achieve stated goals. The selection of policies is one of the most critical steps in the planning process. A number of alternative objectives should be discussed and then the most reasonable or feasible policies selected.

Overall Goal/Vision Statement

To promote a county with a high quality of living and working that will aid in new growth and development in Knox County. (County-Wide Development Goal 2.1 Original Plan)

Economic Goals and Policies

- Promote the expansion of the agricultural economic base. (Economic Goal 2.1 Original Plan)
 1. Encourage carbon credits.

2. Encourage agri-tourism.
 3. Encourage ag products to be used for energy production.
- Continue to utilize Knox County economic development director as well as using area economic development groups for grant funding and support. **(Regular Planning Commission Meeting/Bloomfield/Verdigre Public Input Meetings)**
 - Encourage new technology and advances in current practices. **(Regular Planning Commission Meeting/Verdigre Public Input Meeting)**
 1. Utilize new renewable energy resources.
 2. Conserve existing resources and implement new environmentally friendly products.
 3. Increase capabilities of both cell and Internet services.
 - Encourage part-time residents to become full-time residents. **(Bloomfield/Verdigre Public Input Meetings)**
 1. Provide adequate school facilities and services.
 2. Offer jobs that will retain people to the county (both traditional onsite and online job opportunities.)
 - Support all medical services and facilities in the Northeast Nebraska area. **(Regular Planning Commission Meeting)**

Growth and Land Use Goals and Policies

- Encourage responsibility of landowners for property maintenance and clean up. **(Bloomfield Public Input Meeting)**
- Develop zoning regulations which respond to the needs of Knox County and ensure quality new development. **(Land Use Goal 2.4 Original Plan/Regular Planning Commission Meeting)**
 1. Protect current ag uses and lands as well as current open spaces.
 2. Cluster development or PUD (Planned Unit Development).
 3. Help capitalize on the economic benefits of development while avoiding the liabilities of unplanned, uncontrolled growth.
 4. Recreational and non-recreational subdivisions should be limited to areas that can provide proof of necessary community facilities (i.e. water, sewer, and electricity.)
- Regulate land use development in critical environmental area such as: natural drainageways; floodplains; areas of steep topography; and areas of heavy natural vegetation in order to preserve the natural environment and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Knox County. **(Land Use Goal 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 Original Plan)**
 1. Floodplains should be developed only to the extent that flooding will not

- result in great economic loss or danger to human life.
2. Topography slopes in excess of 10% should be carefully evaluated and supervised.

Environmental Goals and Policies

- Use proper design and development techniques, including preservation of open spaces, recognition of floodplains, and provision of storm drainage to minimize the number of adverse environmental impacts caused by development. **(Environmental Goal 2.3 Original Plan)**
- Actively use a Hazard Mitigation Plan and the National Flood Insurance Program. **(Regular Planning Commission Meeting)**
- Improve the existing environment through rehabilitation and redevelopment of existing substandard development. **(Environmental Goal 2.3 Original Plan)**
- Protect unique features of the county such as the river and creek watersheds and pristine views. **(Regular Planning Commission Meeting/Bloomfield/Verdigre/Crofton Public Input Meetings)**

Transportation and Infrastructure Goals and Policies

- Encourage the use of noticeable and understandable signals and signs given the high number of visitors to the area. **(Bloomfield Public Input Meeting)**
- Goals for Highways and County Roads will be detailed in the One-and Six-Year Plan developed by the County Board of Supervisors. The One-and Six-Year Plan is available for viewing in the Highway Superintendents office. **(Regular Planning Commission Meeting)**

Housing Goals and Policies

- Encourage new residential development along the river/encourage the development of new housing within the county without encroaching on ET AG. **(Bloomfield Public Input Meeting/Regular Planning Commission Meeting)**
 1. Development in the river area should be carefully controlled.
 2. Control rural subdivisions in ag zones.
- Multi-family residential areas should generally be located near major streets in order to reduce internal neighborhood traffic. **(Residential Development Policies 2.5)**

Original Plan)

- Encourage contemporary subdivision design techniques such as: curvilinear street patterns; planned unit development; and other land development innovations. (Land Use Goals 2.4 Original Plan)
- Low-and moderate-income housing should be provided in conjunction with County and community policies. (Residential Development Policies 2.6 Original Plan)
- Mobile homes should be limited as an acceptable form of medium density housing. In the lake area, mobile homes should be permitted only in mobile home parks, providing for central management and appropriate amenities and design controls. (Residential Development Policies 2.6 Original Plan)

Commercial/Industry and Agriculture Goals and Policies

- Encourage businesses that will utilize the resources of the trails and lake. (Regular Planning Commission Meeting)
- Promote businesses throughout the unincorporated areas of the county. (Regular Planning Commission Meeting/Bloomfield/Verdigre/Crofton Public Input Meetings)
- Encourage the family farm and younger generations to come back. (Bloomfield/Verdigre/Crofton Public Input Meetings)
- Support obtaining a “Livestock Friendly County” designation. (Regular Planning Commission Meeting)

Parks and Recreation Goals and Policies

- Improve existing recreational facilities, including roads to recreational areas. (Bloomfield/Verdigre/Crofton Public Input Meetings)
- Increase fire protection up at the lake area to compensate for continued growth and development. (Crofton Public Input Meetings)
- Community park standards for Knox County will remain based on facilities and minimum acreages, rather than on acres per capita. (Park and Open Space Policies 2.7 Original Plan)

- Maintain the heritage of the area while encouraging tourism. **(Bloomfield Public Input Meeting)**
- Seasonal home development, particularly in the Lewis and Clark Lake Impact Area, should be carefully controlled. **(Regular Planning Commission Meeting)**
- Help develop specific regulations pertaining to storm facilities and long-term camping in recreational areas. **(Croton Public Input Meeting/Regular Planning Commission Meeting)**

Social Goals and Policies

- Cultivate cross cultural communications **(Regular Planning Commission Meeting)**
 1. Involve the tribe in residential zoning and agricultural uses on the reservation
- Address the specific needs of the young, the elderly, minorities, and low-and moderate-income families. **(Social Goals 2.2 Original Plan)**
 1. Provide adequate employment, educational, housing, and recreational opportunities for all citizens of Knox County.
- Strive for equal opportunities for employment, housing, allocation of public resources, and involve the public in the planning and decision-making process. **(Social Goals 2.2 Original Plan)**

Implementation and Maintenance

State statutes give the planning commission the authority to prepare and adopt as its policy statement a comprehensive plan and such implemental means as a capital improvement program, subdivision regulations, building codes, and zoning ordinances.

The Comprehensive Plan includes an assessment of the county's current land use, public facilities, and transportation infrastructure, population and economic statistics upon which goals, policies, and a future land use policy are developed. The planning commission should utilize the plan as the basis for creation and adoption of a capital improvement program, subdivision regulations, building codes, and zoning

ordinances. The Board of Supervisors shall not hold its public meetings or take action on matters relating to the comprehensive development plan, capital improvements, building codes, subdivision development, or zoning until it has received the recommendations of the commission.

Annual Review of the Comprehensive Plan and Plan Amendments

The County Board and Planning Commission should hold a public hearing annually to measure its progress towards achieving the goals and policies of the plan. The comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances should be reviewed at least every five years to meet the changing needs and circumstances of the county. The 2010 Census and Bureau of Business Research will provide new population and economic data to assist in future planning.

A Comprehensive Plan must be amended in accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute Section 19-901.02. Public information meetings should be scheduled and conducted in the community to provide public input into the plan. The planning commission will make recommendations on changes to the County Board. A public hearing will be held to obtain public comment. The County Board will then adopt any plan amendments.