

Imagine 2045: Vision and Goals

STRUCTURE

Vision Statement:	<p>Broad statement outlining the desired future for Isanti County over the next 20 years.</p> <p><i>How we want the county to be described in 2045.</i></p>
Goals:	<p>Statements that provide specific direction for the desired condition of specific elements of the county.</p> <p><i>What do we want decision makers to consider as they take action?</i></p>
Objectives:	<p>Statements that will inform future analysis and action as the elements of the plan are acted upon.</p> <p><i>What should be considered as we implement the plan? What is the purpose of the action?</i></p>
Implementation Actions:	<p>Listing specific actions and activities to assist the County in achieving its vision and goals.</p> <p><i>What actions must be taken to move towards the desired Isanti County?</i></p>

VISION STATEMENT

Isanti County embraces its physical, social, and economic characteristics that create a place the community is proud to call home. From the strong agrarian roots to the growing cities within and surrounding the county, there are many opportunities to preserve open space and agricultural uses with a balance of thoughtful growth.

Through a comprehensive approach, Isanti County balances the needs of its changing community, emphasizing the desire to be good stewards of the natural environment and agricultural lands; support a growing and balanced economy; provide access to recreational and transportation options that keep people and goods moving; manage growth in an intentional manner; and collaborate with partners and the community through action.

GOAL STATEMENTS

Statements that provide specific direction for the desired condition of specific elements of the county. Each statement should be rooted in the key themes identified through public outreach.



LAND USE

Isanti County supports access to a high quality of life through purposeful growth management policies that support varied community priorities, from preservation of agricultural lands to urbanization, while maintaining a unified sense of place.

Key Themes:

Rural

Intentional Growth

Agriculture

Identity

Opportunities

LAND USE OBJECTIVES:

1. Preserve and enhance the character and identity of Isanti County through flexible growth management policies that balance the needs of the county and celebrate existing resources.
2. Manage growth in a manner where development patterns preserve natural resources and agricultural land, make efficient use of existing infrastructure, and promote housing and economic development consistent with the goals of this plan.
3. Establish land use policies that support the agricultural economy by allowing and encouraging ag-related/supportive commercial uses and non-conventional agricultural development (e.g., small scale agricultural uses).
4. Adopt policies that result in a housing supply with a diverse range of housing types and cost levels that align with the growth-management priorities of the county.
5. Encourage subdivision design that supports smart growth management and preservation and effective use of resources.
6. Create policies that guide business development in a manner that supports the goals of the county and needs of local communities, including highway commercial, ag-tourism, and other economic growth.
7. Monitor growth patterns and trends in Isanti County and neighboring counties and collaborate with the local municipalities to understand and update county policies as appropriate to address changing needs and development pressures.
8. Develop and provide zoning and growth management educational tools and continue outreach to community members and local municipalities on zoning and land use issues.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Isanti County provides the ability to live, work, and play within the county, emphasizing and educating on strategies to support access to a living wage, thriving local businesses, a varied and skilled workforce, access to educational and training opportunities, and a strong economic climate that welcomes growth and enhancement.

Key Themes:

Living Wage

Local Businesses

Workforce

Opportunities

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Support economic development activities that protect and enhance the character and identity of Isanti. Protect the character and identity of Isanti County.
2. Utilize growth management policies and local priorities to manage employment and business growth throughout the county.
3. Create policies and procedures to effectively manage business and employment growth within Isanti County.
4. Collaborate with cities and the North 65 Chamber of Commerce to support economic development activities.
5. Support workforce development activities to encourage people to make a home in Isanti County, including the development of resources and outreach materials.



TRANSPORTATION

Isanti County emphasizes active transportation infrastructure that supports the movement of people and goods by all modes, connecting people to their destinations within and outside of the county, and supports the growing needs and connections of its local jurisdictions, also supporting enhancements that create green or alternative transportation options.

Key Themes:

Multimodal

Connection

Local Needs

Mobility

Access

TRANSPORTATION OBJECTIVES:

1. Support activities that improve and maintain the overall efficiency and accessibility of the county's transportation system to ensure safe mobility for all residents and visitors while using various modes of travel.
2. Collaborate with MnDOT and cities within the county to align transportation infrastructure decisions with current and future needs.
3. Support pavement preservation and other roadway maintenance programs to maximize investment in the county's existing transportation system, and support townships and cities with preservation activities for their systems.
4. Coordinate transportation planning with land use policies to create well-planned communities that reduce the need for long commutes to jobs, schools, and other important community destinations.
5. Integrate active transportation modes into infrastructure projects and land use and planning policies to ensure that new developments prioritize pedestrian and bicyclist safety and comfort.
6. Maintain and enhance transportation connections between rural areas of the county and cities within and around Isanti County to provide residents with access to services, employment opportunities, and broader recreational options.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Isanti County supports a system of parks and open spaces that provides quality infrastructure, access to outdoor recreation and connection to natural resources for the enjoyment and physical and mental well-being of the community.

Key Themes:

Outdoor Recreation

Natural Resources

Connection

Variety

PARKS AND RECREATION OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide a varied system of parks and recreational opportunities for county residents and visitors that will serve to enrich the health, safety, and general well-being of the community.
2. Continue to maintain and expand the county's park and trail system, consistent with adopted plans.
3. Provide a well-connected park system that preserves natural areas, provides recreational opportunities, and helps to maintain the rural character of the county.
4. Provide a trail system that provides engaging natural, cultural, and recreational trail resources and offers connections between the past, present, and future.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Isanti County prioritizes its natural and cultural resources through stewardship, education and enhancement, preserving the overall health, and providing access for future generations.

Key Themes:

Stewardship

Connection

Long-term health

Education

Access

NATURAL RESOURCES OBJECTIVES:

1. Protect and conserve critical natural resource areas, such as wetlands, forests, watersheds, and habitats, while guiding appropriate development in less sensitive areas.
2. Implement measures to safeguard water quality and quantity, including sustainable groundwater management, and protecting surface water sources.
3. Educate residents and visitors about the importance of natural resource conservation, sustainable practices, and the value of preserving rural land.
4. Provide public access points that provide the community with safe and enjoyable opportunities to experience the Rum River and its tributaries while ensuring its quality for future generations.
5. Manage and maintain a stormwater system that prioritizes the preservation of natural resources, ensuring that stormwater facilities remain functional while minimizing negative ecological impacts.



INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Isanti County is a welcoming place that supports connection and collaboration with the community, businesses, local organizations, townships, cities, and local/regional partners to take actions that improve livability and a thriving destination – recognizing a long history and changing needs.

Key Themes:

Welcoming

Family

Tradition

Growth

Change

Opportunity

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION OBJECTIVES:

1. Actively engage with county residents to share information and collaborate on long-range efforts.
2. Collaborate with Isanti County Cities and Townships regarding land use, transportation, and economic development initiatives.
3. Coordinate with adjacent communities and counties regarding implementation actions and future investments to identify partnerships and collaboration opportunities.
4. Provide adequate community facilities and services that support the changing needs of residents.
5. Celebrate the county's history, traditions, and current cultural assets that support a welcoming and thriving community, creating a place where everyone feels home.
6. Support efforts of the public and private sector that support green energy development and consider the use of green energy sources to power county facilities.