

CHAPTER 7: Community Facilities

The **Growth and Economic Vitality** Vision theme seeks to provide facilities and services to support economic activity and to practice good stewardship of public resources to keep the County fiscally sustainable over the long-term.

The **Community** Vision theme stresses the importance of connecting people to one another, supporting families, planning for the growing elderly population, and being inclusive of all County residents.

The **Unique Character** Vision theme sees the features of a small-town environment as part of the special personality of the County to be celebrated and developed.

The community facilities goals and policies below serve these elements of the Vision for Renville County.

GOALS AND POLICIES

COUNTY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Goal 1: *Maintain an on-going commitment to innovation, cost-effectiveness, and customer satisfaction in delivery of all County services.*

Policies

1. Encourage on-going training to keep County staff current in skills and professional practices.
2. Support refinements to the organization of County functions in response to identified needs and opportunities for quality improvements.
3. Invest in up-to-date technology and equipment that improves efficiency in County services.
4. Develop performance measures for County functions and conduct periodic review and evaluation based upon them.
5. Seek opportunities to enhance communications between County government and service providers and constituents/customers.
6. Seek opportunities to partner with other jurisdictions or agencies to make purchases, deliver services, and share facilities when doing so improves efficiency while maintaining high-quality customer service.

Goal 2: *Adopt a regular, comprehensive multi-year capital improvement program that identifies necessary and desirable public investments, funding sources, and schedules as the basis for an annual capital budget.*

Policies

1. Develop an overall policy direction for allocation of capital resources.
 - a. Set priorities for public investment in order of importance, as follows:
 1. Address health and safety deficiencies.
 2. Maintain existing levels of service, including improvement of cost-effectiveness of those services.
 3. Expand service to meet most critical unmet need.
 4. Expand service to support County community development goals and/or to take advantage of unique opportunities.
 - b. Identify appropriate use of available fiscal tools.
2. Structure capital improvement program process to:
 - a. Include all County departments responsible for significant capital expenditures.
 - b. Identify opportunities for interdepartmental coordination and cost-saving.
 - c. Incorporate coordination with municipalities.
 - d. Allow for an appropriate level of public involvement.
 - e. Cover a period of at least five years and be updated annually.
 - f. Be prepared in advance of the annual budget.
3. Provide for adequate staffing to prepare program as well as to identify and pursue outside funding opportunities for capital improvements.

Goal 3: *Make improvements to and manage County-owned facilities to maintain high quality customer service, improve efficiency, adapt to changing customer needs and state/federal requirements, provide necessary security for staff, records and visitors, and be sized and equipped appropriate to function.*

Policies

1. Commit to and budget for an ongoing program of maintenance to preserve quality of facilities.
2. Update the 2000 space study as conditions warrant.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, WELL-BEING

Goal 1: *Ensure a reliable system for wellness, preventative care, medical treatment, and emergency response in Renville County.*

Policies

1. Develop a coordinated effort among the hospital, clinics, and nursing homes to recruit and retain physicians, nurses, and other health care providers.
2. Ensure complete coverage for timely emergency medical service response.
3. Promote improvement in areas of public health which research indicates are problems of particular concern in the County including, but not limited to, unintended pregnancies and poor birth outcomes, substance abuse, and violence affecting youth.
4. Plan to meet the growing health needs of an aging population focusing on ways that allow elderly persons to maximize health, mobility, independence, and life enjoyment.
 - a. Promote healthy lifestyles among older persons, including good nutrition, physical activity, and active involvement with others.
 - b. Support health service delivery options that foster independence while meeting medical needs.
 - c. Increase the number of housing alternatives for aging persons, including low-maintenance choices, congregate housing, and assisted living, as well as maintaining well-staffed nursing homes.
5. Continue to coordinate with other counties to plan for avoidance of and response to natural and human-caused disasters in order to protect the public and minimize impacts to property and commerce.

6. Ensure that health standards are met in housing throughout the County particularly, but not limited to, housing for temporary migrant workers, rental housing, and manufactured home parks.
7. Ensure cooperation among County and municipal agencies to coordinate response to public health nuisance complaints.
8. Continue to provide effective law enforcement in the County to preserve the quality of life.

Goal 2: *Ensure that all citizens have good access to the services available in and near the County.*

Policies

1. Strengthen outreach to promote understanding of and appropriate use of health, social service, transit, and family education resources by all County residents who can benefit from these services.
2. Tailor service outreach and delivery to address the special population needs related to language, cultural, and/or mobility barriers.
3. Continue to provide transit and volunteer driver service to locations such as clinics, other health services, social services, senior dining programs, and early childhood programs for mobility-impaired persons.

Goal 3: *Define Renville County as a place of high quality, lifelong education.*

Policies

1. Promote good public schools as a strength of the County. Continue to emphasize academic achievement. Advocate for school attendance.
2. Seek opportunities for communication and joint planning between the County, cities, townships, the HRA/EDA and other agencies, and the school districts.
3. Support alternative choices for students who are not succeeding in traditional school environments.
4. Support programs that bring college and vocational education opportunities into the County.
5. Promote continuing education of adults in agricultural, vocational, academic, and general interest areas.

Goal 4: *Maintain and strengthen community connections at all levels within Renville County.*

Policies

1. Recognize and celebrate the ongoing contributions of existing community institutions to the quality of life in Renville County and encourage the development of new opportunities for education, enrichment, service, entertainment, and community-building.
2. Build ongoing rapport and a spirit of cooperation among townships, cities, school districts, and the County.
3. Encourage efforts by the individual cities to maintain and improve their downtowns, invest in housing quality, preserve historic resources, and provide good parks, libraries, and community centers, all of which contribute to the rural quality that is a Countywide strength.
4. Promote efforts throughout the County by schools, service organizations, civic groups, and church communities to build bridges across cultural differences.
 - a. Encourage open dialogue about cultural diversity issues.
 - b. Increase diversity of representation in service, economic development, education and recreational planning activities.
 - c. Continue to provide for translation services within County staff and in written materials.

Goal 5: *Recognize and acknowledge that children and youth are the future of Renville County.*

Policies

1. Promote development of activities for youth throughout the County including sports and recreation, clubs, school-based extracurricular activities, and entertainment.
2. Ensure that all children receive adequate health care, including immunizations, dental care, and early assessment.
3. Promote Countywide access to family support options such as infant care education for new parents, ECFE, Headstart, good quality day care, and ongoing mentoring of families and youth.

4. Support early intervention as a cost-effective and family-affirming approach to child/family services.
5. Encourage the development of intergenerational activities that nurture and mentor youth and utilize the resource of a growing population of elderly persons with time, skills, and maturity to share.
6. Promote University of Minnesota Extension Education Youth Programs such as 4-H.