

The following is a listing of the Guiding Principles and Goal statements for the **Portage County Comprehensive Plan**. The *Guiding Principles* were adopted September 25, 2002 by the Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee. The *Goal* statements were adopted by the Rural Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee on October 23, 2002. The Principles and Goals are intended to provide direction for the drafting of the different elements that will make up the Portage County Comprehensive Plan. The Goal statements are also to be considered by local communities as they develop their individual plans.

Guiding Principle for Housing:

Allow for an adequate supply of housing to meet the needs of all citizens.

Goal statements:

- *Meet the housing needs of our senior citizens and those with special needs.*
- *Allow for adequate, affordable housing in every community.*
- *Housing development takes into consideration the protection of natural resources and open spaces.*
- *Maintain or improve the quality and integrity of existing housing and neighborhoods.*
- *Local units of government work together to develop creative ways to plan for and share the benefits of growth across municipal boundaries.*
- *Develop an ongoing educational program for municipal boards and the public related to housing issues.*
- *Neighborhood design enhances community character.*

Guiding Principle for Transportation:

Develop an area-wide transportation planning and funding approach that maximizes efficiency and minimizes conflicts between modes as well as jurisdictions.

Goal statements:

- *Develop an area-wide transportation planning approach.*
- *Priority is given to maintaining and enhancing existing infrastructure before adding new.*
- *Utilize and update existing transportation related plans.*
- *Develop a viable public transportation network.*
- *Encourage and accommodate human-powered transportation options.*
- *Decisions regarding transportation should be consistent with other elements of the Comprehensive Plan.*
- *Transportation options are available for persons with disabilities.*

Guiding Principle for Utilities and Community Facilities:

Provide adequate infrastructure, utilities, and community facilities and services to meet existing and future community needs.

Goal statements:

- *Life long learning is an opportunity in our community.*
- *Places and activities for the youth of the community are provided.*
- *Create and protect public green space and water resources County-wide.*
- *Design standards are used to enhance urban and rural character.*
- *Provide criteria and direction for protecting and developing land.*
- *Share services across County or municipal borders whenever possible.*
- *Plan for the provision of infrastructure, utilities, and community facilities and services to efficiently meet community needs.*

Guiding Principle for Agriculture:

Sustain an economically viable agricultural industry.

Goal statements:

- *The agricultural community is economically viable.*
- *Agricultural practices are unencumbered by development.*
- *Educate the public about the operations and activities of the agriculture community.*
- *Develop a process where the general public shares in the cost of protecting agricultural resources.*
- *Utilize agricultural practices that are environmentally sensitive and protect air, soil, water, and wildlife resources.*
- *Preserve productive agricultural land county-wide.*

Guiding Principle for Natural Resources:

Manage the natural resources that support and sustain us.

Goal statements:

- *Utilize Agricultural practices that are environmentally sensitive and protect air, soil, water and wildlife resources.*
- *Identify, manage, preserve and protect natural resources throughout Portage County.*
- *Development takes into consideration the protection of our natural resources.*
- *Local units of government work together to define and develop appropriate public access to natural resources.*
- *Develop an ongoing educational program for municipal boards and the public related to natural resources issues.*

- *Develop partnership efforts that result in the preservation and restoration of natural resources.*
- *Metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources are identified for their extraction potential.*
- *Natural resources that provide recreational opportunities on public land are managed to ensure their lasting presence.*

Guiding Principle for Historical and Cultural Resources:

Encourage identification and protection of historic and cultural resources.

Goal statements:

- *Develop guidelines for identifying and protecting cultural and historic resources.*
- *Historic and Cultural Arts become an integral part of our communities.*
- *Make the general public more aware of cultural resources.*

Guiding Principle for Economic Development:

Promote the stabilization and expansion of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities.

Goal statements:

- *A central economic organization actively maintains growth and informational resources in the community.*
- *Ensure adequate resources are allotted for economic development efforts.*
- *Ensure that an adequate skilled workforce is available through retention and recruitment for our business community.*
- *Coordinate Public and Private educational efforts to maximize the investment in our workforce.*
- *Planned development areas are identified and/or established throughout the county.*
- *Support commerce and tourism throughout the county.*
- *Identify and preserve productive agricultural land countywide.*
- *Identify and prioritize the needs of the business community.*
- *Promote the stabilization and expansion of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities.*

Guiding Principle for Intergovernmental Cooperation:

Encourage cooperation between local units of government to ensure efficient delivery of services.

Goal statements:

- *A central economic development organization actively maintains the growth and informational resources in the community.*
- *Support commerce and tourism throughout the county.*
- *Planned development areas are identified and /or established throughout the county.*
- *Preserve productive agricultural land countywide.*
- *Develop partnership efforts that result in the preservation and restoration of natural resources.*
- *Local units of government work together to develop public access to natural resources.*
- *Identify, manage, preserve and protect natural resources throughout Portage County.*
- *Develop a process where the general public shares in the cost of protecting agriculture.*
- *Share services across county or municipal borders whenever possible.*
- *Create and protect public green space and water resources county-wide.*
- *Develop a viable public transportation network.*
- *Develop an area-wide transportation planning approach.*
- *Local units of government work together to develop creative ways to plan for and share the benefits of growth across municipal boundaries.*