

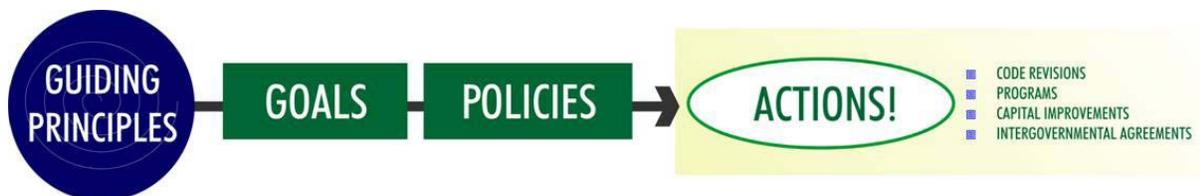


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The Vision, Guiding Principles, and Goals, Policies and Strategies of the Lyon County Comprehensive Master Plan will guide the County in its decisions, and as new development or changes occur, help to maintain and enhance the qualities that make Lyon County a great place in which to live, work, and play.

- ◆ The Lyon County *Vision Statement* sets out a desired picture of the future of Lyon County. It represents a future toward which the County will strive.
- ◆ *Guiding Principles* represent the broad values and ideals for the County.
- ◆ *Goals* are statements about what the County aims to achieve over the life of the Comprehensive Plan. Goals are intended to give decision-makers and citizens a clear idea about the County's intended direction.
- ◆ *Policies* provide ongoing guidance for elected and appointed officials, staff, and administrators as these community leaders make decisions about specific development, programs, and capital investments in the County.
- ◆ *Strategies* list detailed actions and methods for implementing the plan. We have listed a range of possible strategies to be considered. Some strategies will be possible to accomplish in the near term, while others will be on-going, or will take place later in the life of the Comprehensive Master Plan.



How Did We Get here?

The Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals, Policies, and Strategies in this document are based on public comments gathered in a series of open houses and workshops held in communities throughout Lyon County, in meetings with community advisory councils, and on comments and direction provided by the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners. Feedback from these meetings was first distilled into a draft Vision, Guiding Principles, and Goals document that was reviewed by the Planning Board and Board of County Commissioners in September, 2007. Subsequently, comments and concerns and detailed policy direction, in the form of policies and strategies, have been addressed in numerous drafts and updates during 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Overall Vision for Lyon County

A Vision statement is an overall image of what the community wants to be and how it wants to look in the future. It describes the kind of community that residents, business owners, and leaders want their county to become. The Vision for Lyon County describes the community's collective values and aspirations and creates an image of the County based upon what it is today and what residents would like it to be in the future. The Vision is founded on the premise that the health of the County and the quality of life of its residents depend on the balancing of multiple factors, including environmental, economic and community/social considerations. These components are interrelated and essential to the continued health and sustainability of the community. Addressing these factors in a comprehensive manner provides a balanced and flexible basis for formulating the County's Comprehensive Master Plan.



Lyon County Vision

Lyon County will guide growth and change to meet the needs of current and future residents, building on its heritage, and exploring new and innovative techniques to address challenges. The diverse communities within Lyon County will work together to meet shared goals while respecting and promoting the individual character of each community. Residents will enjoy an excellent quality of life characterized by: diverse lifestyle opportunities, quality housing choices, plenty of clean air and water, access to open lands, recreation and wildlife, outstanding public schools, an efficient transportation network, a safe community, and a range of employment and occupational choices. Our rural character, and agricultural and mining heritage, will continue to be a strong part of Lyon County's identity.

Guiding Principles

Eight broad “Guiding Principles” have been identified as the basic beliefs behind the overall County Vision and this Comprehensive Master Plan. The Principles reflect the community’s vision at a broad policy level and describe the community’s aspirations; highlighting areas where the County has opportunities to build on its strengths—as well as those areas where a change in policy direction is needed to improve a condition that is not consistent with the Vision.

The Guiding Principles set the stage for the more specific goals and policies contained in subsequent chapters of this plan and are organized into eight topics:

- Land Use, Economy and Growth;
- Transportation;
- Community Character and Design;
- Natural Resources and Environment;
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space;
- Public Facilities/Services;
- Regional Coordination; and
- Communities and Planning

Land Use, Economy and Growth



Lyon County will grow in an orderly fashion concentrating development within designated community cores, maintaining the diversity characterized by its settlement patterns and landscapes, providing jobs as well as housing, and sustaining quality public services and facilities.

Transportation



Lyon County will strive to provide a cohesive circulation system for a range of transportation choices that are safe, reliable, and offer sufficient capacity. The system will meet the current and future needs of residents and businesses, and will be an asset for attracting and retaining employment opportunities in our communities.

Community Character and Design



Lyon County will respect and promote the distinct character and heritage of its communities, strive to retain its rural and agricultural culture and promote cohesive and high quality development to improve the overall image and function of its communities.

Natural Resources and Environment



The proximity of the natural environment will continue to be an important part of life in Lyon County, where residents will enjoy sustainable supplies of clean water for drinking and agriculture; clean air; wildlife; access to rivers, lakes and public lands; scenic views, and dark night skies. Lyon County will work to reduce or mitigate natural hazards such as wildfire, flooding, earthquakes and dust.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space



Access to publicly-owned lands will provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, off-road vehicle uses and other activities, while playgrounds, sports fields and recreation facilities will be available to children and families within communities.

Public Facilities/Services



Lyon County residents will have access to excellent schools and libraries, and effective response from well-equipped emergency services. The timing and location of future development will be coordinated with improvements to services and infrastructure to provide cost-effective services to existing and future residents.

Regional Coordination



Lyon County will coordinate with other jurisdictions, including incorporated municipalities, adjoining counties, state and federal agencies, and tribal authorities that manage lands and other resources in or near the county, to coordinate planning efforts and provision of services.

Communities and Planning



Through its Community Planning process, Lyon County will address individual community needs and desires while implementing county-wide policies and actions.