

# Community Facilities

### Community Facilities Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives are intended to guide the communities of Dubuque County in providing high quality community facilities to all residents of the County by maintaining the existing intergovernmental and public-private facilities relationships, and looking for areas to establish new relationships. The goals and objectives included in this section address the following facilities: parks and other recreational facilities, educational facilities, health care facilities, childcare facilities, law enforcement, fire and EMS services, and libraries.

- 1. To encourage the majority of future development to locate within existing cities, or adjacent to existing cities in urban fringe areas planned for annexation, where adequate public services are planned or can be provided.**
  - 1.1. Initiate a County-led process with local governments to establish mutual fringe area planning and development agreements that include the planning for and placement of Community Facilities, and provide minimum development standards to reduce unplanned impacts on community services, infrastructure, and neighborhoods.
  - 1.2. Encourage Community Facilities to locate within existing cities and established urban fringe areas where adequate public services are planned or can be provided.
  - 1.3. Locate Community Facilities that provide public services that serve the local community in rural areas only if compatible with adjacent uses, and located along a road that is adequate to support projected traffic demand.
  - 1.4. Allow new Community Facilities to be sited and existing facilities to be maintained, expanded and/or redeveloped in unincorporated areas only when there is access to paved roads, adequate water and wastewater facilities (including provision of water for fire suppression), and adequate buffering from existing residential development.
  - 1.5. Locate future community services outside of flood hazard areas where feasible, and discourage new development within the floodplain; where development is allowed in the flood plain, require it to be elevated, floodproofed and located outside the floodway.
  - 1.6. Continue to improve cooperation and coordination between township and city fire departments, and the County, to maintain adequate fire protection and water supplies for fire suppression.
  - 1.7. Discourage non-farm uses from locating outside of urban areas, or limit such uses to areas that are appropriate for the development and least disruptive of the natural character, and which are designed to blend with the natural character as much as possible, in order to preserve the natural character of the land or community.
  - 1.8. Build Community Facilities to retain natural drainage patterns, and construct post construction best management practices (BMPs) to help ensure development activity will not add substantially to the flood problem.
  - 1.9. Require new development in the unincorporated area of the County to reduce site runoff, both during and after construction, through the use of storm water management, detention basins, and buffer strips and other BMPs in order to protect the water quality of streams and rivers.
- 2. To consider the use of sustainable design principles in Community Facilities.**
  - 2.1. Consider the use of Universal Design principles to ensure accessibility of new and existing community facilities.

- 2.2. Consider the use of Green Building Codes to reduce energy consumption and promote energy efficiency in new and existing community facilities.
- 3. To provide public facilities and services at levels which support a desirable "quality of life" for current and future residents.**
  - 3.1. Provide facilities and services in locations compatible with planned uses, populations, and needs.
  - 3.2. Encourage new development to over-size facilities to serve adjacent development when the adjacent development is expected to require service.
- 4. To foster cost-effective emergency services and facilities that enhance and protect the lives of County residents**
  - 4.1. Promote coordination and cooperation among all law enforcement agencies.
  - 4.2. Coordinate the design, location and construction of stand-pipes and fire hydrants with fire districts as needed to protect new development in rural areas.
  - 4.3. Investigate the best method to receive preliminary rezoning and subdivision review comments from the County's Fire Districts to address concerns of adequate roadway design, water supply, and water pressure.
  - 4.4. Support the provision of responsive, high-quality emergency medical services.
- 5. To ensure the fair, equitable, and uniform enforcement of rules, regulations, and laws.**
  - 5.1. Provide comprehensive investigation of criminal offenses.
  - 5.2. Continue to serve the public with compassion, competence, and open-mindedness.
- 6. To provide all law enforcement personnel with the training needed to deliver professional service.**
  - 6.1. Continue to maintain mandatory certifications as required by state law and accreditation standards.
- 7. To monitor public safety equipment, facilities, and procedures to ensure that adequate service is provided.**
  - 7.1. Review and update standard operating guidelines on a regular basis.
  - 7.2. Continue to expand the use of state-of-the-art technologies.
  - 7.3. Encourage public safety departments to consider sustainable design principles when renovating existing and constructing new facilities.
- 8. To prevent and control criminal behavior.**
  - 8.1. Prevent and control conduct that has been recognized as threatening to life, property, or public order by responding to reports of emergencies, identifying criminal activity or hazardous conditions, and taking appropriate action.
  - 8.2. Support comprehensive investigation of criminal offenses, apprehension of offenders, and recovery of stolen property and deterrence of criminal activities.
- 9. To use community activities, partnerships, and outreach to foster a positive attitude, good citizenship, and cooperation with public safety efforts.**
  - 9.1. Promote activities that foster positive relationships between youth and public safety personnel.

- 9.2. Maintain partnerships with schools and community based organizations.
- 9.3. Use community oriented policing to address the causes of crime and encourage long-term, innovative problem solving and improved law enforcement-community partnerships.
- 9.4. Implement special initiatives in neighborhoods with higher incidences of crime.
- 9.5. Support programs that promote safe behaviors. E.g. seatbelt enforcement, transportation safety education.

**10. To foster collaboration among municipal departments and the Dubuque County Sheriff's Department.**

- 10.1. Review and update existing intergovernmental agreements.
- 10.2. Evaluate and promote new intergovernmental agreements.
- 10.3. Improve interdepartmental emergency communications through interoperable communications technologies.

**11. To protect life and property from fire.**

- 11.1. Study fire department response times and deployment, to help determine future needs.
- 11.2. Continue to conduct inspections and enforce fire codes.
- 11.3. Provide emergency first responder and advanced life support medical care throughout the county.

**12. To monitor fire and emergency medical service (EMS) equipment, facilities, and procedures to ensure that adequate service is provided.**

- 12.1. Review and update standard operating guidelines on a regular basis.
- 12.2. Continue to expand the use of state-of-the-art technology.
- 12.3. Encourage fire and EMS departments to consider sustainable design principles when renovating existing and constructing new facilities.

**13. To minimize the impacts of manmade and natural disasters.**

- 13.1. Encourage collaboration of the Dubuque County Firefighters Association and Law Enforcement agencies to review and update the County Incident Management Manual and the Dubuque County Disaster and Hazard Mitigation Plan on a regular basis.
- 13.2. Continue to develop and maintain comprehensive emergency management planning for local governments which include severe weather, major mass casualties, hazardous material incidents, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.
- 13.3. Support a high level of disaster preparedness, to meet or exceed state and federal requirements.
- 13.4. Develop mitigation programs and activities which will lessen possible catastrophic results from possible disaster occurrences.
- 13.5. Promote appropriate disaster response training and equipment for public safety agencies.

**14. To provide staff with current training and certifications.**

- 14.1. Encourage collaboration of the Dubuque County Firefighters Association and Law Enforcement agencies on the operation of the Regional Training Center.

14.2. Encourage fire departments to work with local Emergency Management Office to develop and review plans, exercises, and training.

**15. To promote community education and outreach on fire safety.**

15.1. Educate all members of the community on fire safety.

15.2. Educate homeowners on fire safety and proper smoke detector installation and use.

15.3. Continue to work with the community to ensure fire code compliance.

**16. To maintain quality health care facilities and services.**

16.1. Reduce and prevent the occurrence of disease, and disability in the community.

16.2. Promote the physical and mental health, safety, and wellness of the citizens of Dubuque through educational and outreach efforts.

16.3. Promote access to adequate health services for all members of the community through a collaborative effort of federal, state, local, private and charitable agencies.

16.4. Address the special health needs of pregnant women, children, and the elderly.

16.5. Create safe and sanitary work, play, and housing environments.

16.6. Strive to contain the rising costs of health care in an equitable, efficient, and collaborative manner through community-wide planning.

16.7. Retain and recruit quality health and medical personnel for our community.

16.8. Continue to serve as a regional health care center providing a full-range of both general and specialty health and medical services.

16.9. Work with the Dubuque County Board of Health to achieve the goals included in the County Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan.

**17. To promote healthy behaviors throughout the population.**

17.1. Encourage programs that reduce obesity.

17.2. Promote reductions in “high risk behaviors” e.g. tobacco use, alcohol abuse, and drug use.

17.3. Promote access to medical, dental, and mental health care for all.

17.4. Promote prevention and screening for chronic diseases.

**18. To prevent injuries**

18.1. Reduce injuries resulting from alcohol and substance abuse related accidents.

18.2. Encourage violence reduction programs.

18.3. Create safe and sanitary work, play and housing environments.

18.4. Increase the number of employers and organizations offering safety, wellness promotion, substance abuse and employee assistance programs.

**19. To protect against environmental hazards.**

- 19.1. Develop programs to improve air and water quality.
- 19.2. Promote a safe and healthy environment by ensuring sanitary conditions and practices are in accordance with public health, housing and environmental ordinances, codes, and regulations.
- 19.3. Promote safe and sanitary housing conditions through the reduction of radon, lead hazards, carbon monoxide poisoning, and other environmental health concerns.

**20. To prevent epidemics and the spread of disease.**

- 20.1. Evaluate and improve communications between health care providers, facilities, and Dubuque County Public Health.
- 20.2. Investigate the feasibility of a Dubuque County Laboratory that would increase the availability of testing.
- 20.3. Provide education on ways to reduce the spread of disease

**21. To prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.**

- 21.1. Foster collaboration of local governments and health care providers to create emergency preparedness plans and participate in emergency preparedness training.

**22. To strengthen the public health infrastructure.**

- 22.1. Improve transportation system to enable Dubuque County Residents to travel to health related appointments.
- 22.2. Ensure all residents of Dubuque County have access to primary care physicians.

**23. To support access to good quality, affordable dependent care.**

- 1.1. Support increased supply and range of available, high quality, affordable childcare, especially for low and moderate income households and those families with special needs children.
- 1.2. Support increased opportunities for the elderly to maintain an independent lifestyle.
- 1.3. Support the continuation and expansion of family services and foster care.

**24. To maintain high quality school systems.**

- 24.1. Coordinate with appropriate school districts to ensure that proposed developments can be adequately served by existing schools and student transportation systems.
- 24.2. Encourage providers of education services to provide adequate educational facilities and improve educational opportunities for all age groups.
- 24.3. Encourage public/private partnerships with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to improve existing facilities and programs and to plan and promote future education facilities and program.

**25. To support opportunities for life-long learning for residents of all ages.**

- 25.1. Support efforts to increase adult literacy.
- 25.2. Promote access to all levels of education for all persons.
- 25.3. Support individuals of all ages in pursuit of a sustained program of learning independent of any educational provider.

25.4. Encourage public and private employers to offer continuing education incentives.

**26. To provide access to timely, accurate, and useful information through reading, audio-visual, and electronic materials and programming through public libraries.**

26.1. Support coordination and sharing of resources to better serve the needs of the public.

26.2. Promote featuring current, high-demand, high interest materials in a variety of formats for persons of all ages and abilities at public libraries throughout the region.

26.3. Promote use and awareness of the quality of the public libraries.

26.4. Support expansion and accessibility of library services throughout the community.

26.5. Foster a learning environment that utilizes state-of-the-art technologies.

**27. To create and deliver a quality education that allows all students to reach their highest potential.**

27.1. Promote a variety of assessment tools, methods, and strategies to evaluate and/or document student progress, in accord with national and state standards.

27.2. Champion superior standards of academic excellence, in which values are integrated in the lives and work of all members of the school community.

27.3. Support a comprehensive educational program that provides services to students ranging from severely and profoundly disabled programs through gifted programs and advanced placement courses.

27.4. Strive to prepare students for careers, lifelong learning, and citizenship in contemporary international society.

27.5. Encourage activities that promote lifelong physical fitness and health awareness.

27.6. Provide services that allow high school students to pursue either college or vocational education.

27.7. Promote high school completion and encourage postsecondary education or vocational training.

27.8. Provide adequate and nutritional food service before and during school.

**28. To encourage school districts to consider smart planning and sustainable design principles when developing school facilities plans.**

28.1. Encourage school districts to consider sustainable design principles when renovating existing and constructing new facilities.

28.2. Encourage school districts to consider neighborhood impacts when considering closures of existing school facilities and locations for new school facilities.

28.3. Foster collaboration of school districts and transit providers to explore clean, safe, efficient, and cost effective student transportation.

**29. To provide opportunities for residents to enjoy outdoor recreational activities.**

29.1. Provide an integrated system of public parks, trails, and related open space areas that will provide County residents with adequate opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.

- 29.2. Support parks, green space, trails, and similar park/ open space uses easily accessible to residents at neighborhood level.
- 29.3. Encourage and consider development of incentives for providing common open/green space, hike/ bike trails, and landscaping in all new development wherever possible.

**30. To provide a safe park and recreation system that continues to meet the community's needs for useable and accessible parkland and open space.**

- 30.1. Work with the County and neighboring communities to improve the existing high quality, safe, park and recreation system.
- 30.2. Work with the County and neighboring communities to identify the type of parks, park facilities, and hike/bike trails lacking in the community.
- 30.3. Continue to identify potential park and recreation sites and hike/bike trails to meet the needs identified in the Dubuque County Comprehensive Plan.
- 30.4. Continue to identify funding sources and partnerships for land acquisition and development of interconnected recreational open space and parkland.

**31. To provide a variety of affordable and accessible recreation classes and activities for people of all ages.**

- 31.1. Continue to identify the needs and interests of people of all ages and the types of programs they desire/need.
- 31.2. Support maintenance of an inventory of organizations and groups identifying what programs they are offering in the community.
- 31.3. Support a varied public program offering activities and programs not being provided by other organizations and groups.
- 31.4. Assess the facility needs of the region so as to meet the recreational needs of the region.

**32. To enhance the visual attractiveness of the community and park system.**

- 32.1. Support maintaining and enhancing all park areas in a manner that fosters community pride in the park system.
- 32.2. Consider providing flowers and other landscaping accents to enhance the beauty of all park areas and County-owned property, including use of indigenous plants, where possible.
- 32.3. Support continuing improvement programs for park equipment, pavilions, and rest rooms.
- 32.4. Encourage property owners to plant more trees.
- 32.5. Encourage local residents to participate in community beautification through community clean-up events, gardening clubs, and other volunteer opportunities.

**33. To provide interconnected recreation facilities for residents throughout the region.**

- 33.1. Continue to promote and maintain existing parks and public open spaces.
- 33.2. Implement the Tri-State Integrated Biking, Hiking, and Walking Plan, including recommendations for a regional trail system connecting area parks, community facilities, and other locales to the Dubuque County Heritage Trail and the Mississippi River Trail.