

CHAPTER THREE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES



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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Transportation and Circulation Goal

To provide for a transportation system that allows the safe and smooth flow of pedestrian, motorized, and non-motorized vehicles.

Rationale: An efficient and safe transportation system is vital to the quality of life of business and residents.

Objective: Maintain and improve the condition of existing roadways.

Strategies:

- ◆ Develop, maintain and distribute a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan that prioritizes road and bridge improvement projects based on objective criteria and available funding.
- ◆ Establish a legally enforceable “frost law” and work with county officials, trucking companies, and engineers to develop an effective means to minimize road damage during seasonal frost and thaw cycles.
- ◆ Educate public officials and the public about the County’s roadways including construction costs, maintenance costs, weight limit issues, etc.

Objective : Develop and enhance an efficient vehicular road network.

Strategies:

- ◆ Require new development to link to existing road networks in existing or potential adjacent subdivisions.
- ◆ Require developers to comply with road and drainage requirements of a Subdivision Ordinance and Thoroughfare Plan.
- ◆ Work with developers to investigate funding options for street and access road improvements to minimize the potential expense to the County.
- ◆ Utilize and adhere to the Thoroughfare Plan Map during development decisions and approvals directing new growth to areas where road capacity is adequate.
- ◆ Periodically review the Thoroughfare Plan Map and adjust for previously unknown circumstances, update roadway classifications and capture newly discovered opportunities.
- ◆ Delineate truck routes that will cause the least amount of disturbance to residences and town/city centers. Exempt local deliveries and agricultural related vehicles.

Objective : Improve transportation safety.

Strategies:

- ◆ Require accessibility for police, emergency and fire personnel in new developments.
- ◆ Limit driveways along highways and arterial roads.
- ◆ Continue to maintain a snow removal policy so that heavily traveled county roads are cleared first, followed by secondary routes, and lastly,

subdivisions.

Objective : Promote a safe and appropriate alternative transportation network throughout Pulaski County.

Strategies:

- ◆ Improve mobility (e.g., buses, taxis, ride sharing programs) for seniors and others that may not have access to vehicles.
- ◆ Incorporate planning for sidewalks, pedestrian/nature trails, and bike paths into updates of the Thoroughfare Plan Map.
- ◆ Support trail development throughout the county and between neighboring counties in order to realize the recreational, natural, and health benefits they provide.
- ◆ Continue to work with the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission (KIRPC) and Arrowhead Transit to provide public transit services to the County.

Future Land Use Goal

To recognize, preserve and enhance existing land uses as a foundation of a strong community and provide a balanced residential and agricultural environment while preserving the County's rural character, agricultural industry, and natural areas. Determining the future land use plan for Pulaski County is challenging. There are differing opinions between lifetime residents and new arrivals to the county – especially where residential uses and agricultural uses are concerned.

Rationale: Land use decisions must be balanced with and support the interests of existing rural and urbanized areas.

Objective: Minimize land use conflicts.

Strategies:

- ◆ Utilize the Pulaski County Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Plan and Future Land Use Map when making land use decisions (i.e., zoning).
- ◆ Create and enforce the Pulaski County Zoning Ordinance (Code), Subdivision Ordinance (Code), and other applicable ordinances and regulations.
- ◆ Ensure adequate and suitable land exists for desired and necessary land uses.

Objective: Protect property values and rights.

Strategies:

- ◆ Buffer residential and other sensitive land uses from new commercial and industrial development.

Objective: Manage residential development in the County

Strategies:

- ◆ Strongly discourage placement of mobile homes, manufactured homes or duplexes in single family neighborhoods or on properties other than those zoned for such uses.
- ◆ Discourage low density growth near municipalities that can act as a barrier to their future growth.

Objective: Protect prime agricultural land because of its importance to the economy and to the character of Pulaski County.

Strategies:

- ◆ Create an agricultural zoning district(s) to better protect prime agricultural land from new residential, commercial and/or residential development and/or the impacts of such development.
- ◆ Recognize and plan for the industrialization and evolution of agricultural practices through re-evaluating and modifying applicable regulations.
- ◆ Plan for the continuation, expansion and growth of production agriculture and agriculture-related businesses (intensive agriculture) and develop regulations to minimize the impacts on nearby and adjacent existing land uses and nearby and adjacent future potential land uses.
- ◆ Increase new rural residential residents' awareness of the impacts of common agricultural practices and other challenges of rural living.
- ◆ Discourage conflicting land uses in predominately agricultural areas that hinder common farming practices.

Objective: Direct growth where it is most likely to have a positive effect on the community.

Strategies:

- ◆ Encourage the development of municipal infrastructure, especially sanitary sewer and water distribution to support existing and new development throughout the county.
- ◆ Develop Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance language that supports development on smaller sized lots (less than one acre and including condominium and duplexes) when these lots can be supported by adequate infrastructure.
- ◆ Establish policies in the Zoning and Subdivision ordinances requiring new commercial, industrial, and large residential development to connect to public utilities, especially sanitary sewer.

Objective: Ensure that new developments utilize high quality materials and design features that advance the character goals of the community.

Strategies:

- ◆ Use quality materials for public facilities and structures, including but not limited to buildings, signs, fences, park equipment and sidewalks.
- ◆ Adopt subdivision design standards that promote efficiency, create high quality neighborhoods and protect scenic or historic views.

Community Facilities and Infrastructure Goal

To provide essential community services that contribute to the overall improvement, economic prosperity and quality of life, by efficient expansion of necessary infrastructure as future growth and development occur.

Rationale: Providing basic facilities and services is an essential role of county government. Well-planned and strategically located community facilities can contribute to the advancement of other community goals.

Objective: Provide basic infrastructure that supports the other goals and objectives of the community within this Comprehensive Plan.

Strategies:

- ◆ *Identify the feasibility threshold for establishing a rural sewer district or for the extension of city or town sanitary sewers.*
- ◆ Encourage development that is consistent with the planning objectives of all jurisdictions within the county, especially with respect to water and sewer systems.

Objective: Discourage development practices that unnecessarily burden the County's financial position.

Strategies:

- ◆ Promote development where access to infrastructure, specifically where sanitary sewer and water are available.
- ◆ Require developments with septic systems to reserve suitable area on site to accommodate a second septic system when the original one eventually fails.
- ◆ Require new development to pay the full cost of on-site infrastructure improvements and to dedicate adequate easements and right-of-ways.
- ◆ Investigate the feasibility of establishing a conservation district to provide a rural wastewater collection and treatment system to serve residential, commercial and industrial areas throughout the county.

Objective: Support and coordinate emergency services among jurisdictions.

Strategies:

- ◆ Identify the responsible agencies and resolve existing address and street name issues within extra-territorial jurisdictional areas.
- ◆ Take inventory of the existing dry fire hydrants and determine strategic locations for additional dry hydrants in order to provide rural residents the benefit of having reasonable access to water in the event of a fire emergency. Also promote the use of dry hydrants in new and existing developments.
- ◆ Coordinate periodic meetings between emergency service providers to address current and future issues.
- ◆ Continue to maintain a County Emergency Management Plan in cooperation with the Pulaski County Emergency Management Agency / Local Emergency Planning Committee
- ◆ Establish language in the Zoning and Subdivision ordinances that requires a plan for providing an emergency warning system to alert residents of severe weather conditions (e.g., tornado sirens).

Objective: Coordinate and improve storm water drainage throughout the county.

Strategies:

- ◆ As part of the county's Capital Improvements Plan, generate a county-wide storm water drainage maintenance plan for existing tiles and drains to help anticipate the full impact of current and future development.

- ◆ Require developers to reduce runoff and provide adequate drainage facilities or tie into regional retention facilities for all types of development.
- ◆ Continue efforts to improve and maintain adequate drainage, flood control and erosion control projects to enhance agriculture practices in the County.
- ◆ Encourage new development to balance impervious surfaces with adjacent green space.

Development Standards Goal

To provide the community with up to date development regulations and standards to ensure that the maximum quality economic development potential will be reached.

Rationale: Promoting high development standards will attract the quality of investment that recognizes collective economic strength.

Objective: Establish ordinances to current development standards based on this Comprehensive Plan.

Strategies:

- ◆ Adopt a county wide Zoning ordinance in cooperation with existing jurisdictional ordinances.
- ◆ Adopt a Zoning and Subdivision ordinance.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Retention and Attraction Goal

Strengthen and improve the local economy, attract quality jobs, and encourage entrepreneurial growth along with improving both the function and economic impact of the commercial corridors while protecting and enhancing agricultural and residential areas.

Rationale: The appearance and stability of commercial corridors have a lasting effect on the visitor, resident, and potential resident.

Objective: Implement a comprehensive expansion and retention program.

Strategies:

- ◆ Continue to inventory existing business and industry and maintain an open and working relationship with as many of these operations as possible.
- ◆ Continue to promote the use of outside programs that provide assistance to existing and proposed businesses.

Objective: Position Pulaski County to attract the industry it needs to strengthen and diversify its economy.

Strategies:

- ◆ Continue to identify the types of businesses and industries are best suited to diversify, complement, and add value to existing industries.
- ◆ Recognize the need for and encourage the development of information infrastructure and internet access throughout the County.
- ◆ Recognize the relationship between quality of life, community character and economic development.

- ◆ Work closely with the *Community Development Commission (CDC)* and municipalities to coordinate distribution of economic development information to prospective entities to ensure a unified effort.
- ◆ Continue to focus economic development efforts on diversifying employment opportunities.
- ◆ Recognize renewable energy facilities (both small scale and large scale) (i.e. Wind Farms) as economic development opportunities for the County and make provisions for these uses in the Zoning Ordinance.
- ◆ Encourage investment in municipal sewer and water throughout the county in order to support growth.
- ◆ Recognize the economic value of tourism by promoting the County's local festivals and events.

Objective: Promote orderly economic growth.

Strategies:

- ◆ Continue to ensure that proposed new businesses and industrial uses are compatible with the character and use of surrounding areas.

Objective: Foster entrepreneurship and small business development.

Strategies:

- ◆ Develop a local entrepreneurship or business apprenticeship program to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs with developing the skills and concepts they need.
- ◆ Continue to work with existing business and industry to determine goods and services that are needed locally, but not available.

Objective: Encourage the expansion and diversification of the County's existing agricultural industry.

Strategies:

- ◆ Help local agricultural interests explore alternative crops and markets.
- ◆ Research and promote potential value-added industries related to existing agricultural land uses.

Workforce Skill Enhancement Goal

To improve the skill level of the Pulaski County workforce.

Rationale: In the ever changing local, state, national and global economies, skill level requirements are not static.

Objective: Improve work skill level of the community.

Strategies:

- ◆ Develop long-term publicity and marketing programs for existing workforce development programs.
- ◆ Continue to work with the local high schools, vocational programs, Ivy Tech, other regional or State-wide colleges or universities, and local libraries to equip students and displaced workers with the skills to fill voids that currently exist in local industry and to anticipate future needs.
- ◆ Work towards expanding and utilizing existing leadership programs in order to create and empower new leaders within the community.

- ◆ Strive to improve the quality of life by focusing on lifestyle amenities and facilities in order to attract and retain young adults and young families in the County.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Parks and Recreation Goal

To continue to provide Pulaski County with quality parks and recreational facilities.

Rationale: The desirability of Pulaski County as a residential community is enhanced by its quality of life. Parks and recreation contribute to the economic and social well being of the community.

Objective: Provide recreation land that is convenient and accessible to all residents.



Strategies:

- ◆ Provide for balanced distribution of parks.
- ◆ Encourage new development to reserve park and open space.

Objective: Provide facilities that meet community recreation needs.

Strategies:

- ◆ Provide and maintain recreation fields and facilities for organized team play.
- ◆ Educate towns and county at large of community recreational assets.

Objective: Conserve existing natural areas including woodlots, wildlife habitats, riparian corridors, open space, wetlands and floodplains.

Strategies:

- ◆ Utilize existing inventories of areas with environmental features that are rare, significant in size, or contain a rich diversity of species so that these areas can be identified for conservation.
- ◆ Restrict development in areas with environmental features that are rare, significant in size, irreplaceable or contain a rich diversity of species. Development that enhances or embraces the environmental feature, such as a nature trail, should be considered.
- ◆ Continue to participate in State and federal programs to conserve, sustain, and restore natural features and areas.

- ◆ Promote the donation and/or purchase of land with unique or important environmental features for conservation, nature preserves, park areas or environmental education.
- ◆ Educate the public about the benefits of preserving and protecting existing natural areas from development, such as the Jasper-Pulaski State Game Preserve.



Objective: Encourage the proper use of land application methods and practices.

Strategies:

- ◆ Continue to manage the land application of waste products (animal and otherwise) through local ordinances, IDEM regulations, and best management practices in order to safeguard human health, animal health, and environmental impacts.

Objective: Minimize conflicts between the built environment and the natural environment.

Strategies:

- ◆ Encourage new development to balance impervious surfaces with adjacent green space.
- ◆ Establish language in the Zoning and Subdivision ordinances that requires new development to be sensitive to environmental features through the use of conservation, buffering, landscaping, filtration strips, tree preserves, retention/detention and cluster development.
- ◆ Work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and local watershed organizations to obtain accurately delineated floodplain maps.
- ◆ Strongly discourage and restrict construction in the floodplain.
- ◆ Encourage and educate the development community about the benefits of “green” buildings.

Historic Resources Goal

To encourage the preservation of Pulaski County's historic character through the identification and preservation of historically significant properties.

Rationale: Pulaski County's preservation efforts such as rehabilitation and adaptive reuse will contribute to the County's overall character and attractiveness.

Objective: Recognize and promote the community's historic and culturally significant structures.

Strategies

- ◆ Inventory the historic structures and cultural amenities that are significant to the county.
- ◆ Develop guidelines and encourage the maintenance and enhancement of historic structures and cultural amenities.
- ◆ Ensure that infill and redevelopment in historic and cultural areas complement the surrounding context and character.
- ◆ Support educational efforts to publicize their importance to the communities.
- ◆ Encourage the maintenance and rehabilitation of historic structures and their surroundings.

