

The following is a listing of the Guiding Principle and Preliminary Goal statements for the **Portage County Urban Area Comprehensive Plan**. The *Guiding Principles* were adopted September 25, 2002 by the Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee. The *Preliminary Goal* statements were adopted by the Urban Area 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 Urban Area Comprehensive Plan.

Guiding Principle for Housing:

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

Preliminary Goals:

- *Meet the housing needs of our senior citizens and those with special needs.*
- *Encourage 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 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.

Preliminary Goals:

- *Develop an area-wide transportation planning and funding approach.*
- *Priority is given to maintaining and enhancing existing infrastructure before adding new.*
- *Utilize and update existing transportation related plans.*
- *Develop a public transportation network that encourages Portage County Urban Area residents to reduce automobile trips.*
- *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.

Preliminary Goals:

- *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.

Preliminary Goals:

- *Ensure the agricultural community remains economically viable for agribusiness.*
- *Agricultural practices are unencumbered by development pressure.*
- *Educate the public about the operations and activities of the agriculture community.*

Guiding Principle for Natural Resources:

Manage the natural resources that support and sustain us.

Preliminary Goals:

- *Utilize Agricultural practices that are environmentally sensitive and protect air, soil, water and wildlife resources.*
- *Identify, manage, preserve and protect natural resources throughout the Portage County Urban Area.*
- *Development takes place in ways that protect our natural resources.*
- *Local units of government work together to define and develop appropriate public access to natural resources.*
- *Develop an 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.*
- *Natural resources that provide recreational opportunities are protected to ensure their lasting presence.*

Guiding Principle for Historical and Cultural Resources:

Encourage identification and protection of historic and cultural resources.

Preliminary Goals:

- *Develop guidelines for identifying and protecting cultural and historic resources.*
- *The 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.

Preliminary Goals:

- *A central economic organization actively maintains and provides informational resources relating to economic development 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 established throughout the Urban Area.*
- *Support commerce and tourism throughout the county.*
- *Identify and preserve productive agricultural land within the Urban Area.*
- *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.

Preliminary Goals:

Not yet adopted.