

JACKSON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan?

The plan presents a shared vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect growth and development of the county. It is a 20-year policy guide shaped by public input that covers a wide range of issues.

How was the plan created?

To bring people together to build a community consensus around a vision for the future, a transparent and inclusive community outreach process provided diverse interests with the opportunity to participate in a variety of settings and formats: websites, public meetings, Facebook, contact cards, community survey, direct contacts with stakeholders and the general public, and media contacts.

What is the Shared Vision?

The shared vision statement for Jackson County declares where the community wants to be in the future:

Jackson County, Iowa is an engaging community, enthusiastically creating opportunity, supporting growth, and enhancing quality of life for all who live, work, and visit.

The shared vision helps local governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals to make strategic decisions that align with the following broad goals and future priorities to enable Jackson County to reach the destination described in the shared vision.

BROAD GOALS AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

1. Rural quality of life and safe communities that compete well with larger cities
2. Recreational opportunities, historic sites, natural resources, unique amenities, and river access points
3. Business retention, expansion, and recruitment
4. Available, trained workforce of professionals, skilled trades, and labor in general
5. Locally owned and operated shops and restaurants engaged in their communities
6. Quality, affordable, and accessible housing options and pathways, especially for underserved populations
7. Affordable childcare available countywide
8. Strong volunteerism

The full plan is available to view and download at: <https://jacksoncounty.iowa>

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CHAPTERS

1. Introduction	6. Transportation	11. Hazard Mitigation
2. Jackson County Snapshot	7. Economic Development	12. Land Use
3. Public Participation	8. Housing	13. Intergovernmental Collaboration
4. Community Facilities and Services	9. Agriculture and Natural Resources	14. Implementation
5. Infrastructure and Utilities	10. Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources	Appendix (separate document)

In the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan, Chapters 4 through 13 identify goals. Chapter 14 provides an implementation strategy to reach these goals. The chapter goals are summarized below.

4. COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES

- Address the top three community health priorities through community partnerships.
- Ensure high-quality child care opportunities are available and affordable to all residents.
- Support efforts to attract, maintain, and expand child care services in the region.
- Continue to support the Jackson County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES

- Maintain/modernize critical infrastructure for transportation, broadband, water, sewer, downtowns, and community facilities.
- Install solar panels on county buildings.
- Create solar-ready zoning and building codes.
- Expand data collection for solar installations.
- Advocate for clean energy policy.
- Encourage involvement in the Grow Solar Jackson County Program.

6. TRANSPORTATION

- Strategically preserve existing infrastructure and focus future investment in areas already served by significant public investments.
- Increase the safety, security, and resiliency of the transportation system.
- Support improvements and projects that promote economic development.
- Provide a high degree of multimodal accessibility and mobility for individuals, and better integration and connectivity between modes of travel.
- Support efficient freight system in the region.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Attract and maintain a diverse population and workforce that can meet the needs of regional employers.
- Continue to support business retention and expansion through capital investments and entrepreneurial centers.
- Improve the region's desirability by enhancing and expanding access to the arts and recreational opportunities.

8. HOUSING

- Provide affordable housing to make Jackson County attractive for young workers.
- Increase and diversify housing options throughout Jackson County.
- Provide more housing options for seniors.

9. AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

- Implement Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District 5-year priority goals.
- Implement Maquoketa River Watershed Management Plan – Phase 1 and Phase 2.
- Implement 2023 Outdoor Recreation Plan.

10. PARKS, RECREATION, & CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Implement 2023 Environmental Education Plan's 5-Year Plan for programming.
- Implement 2023 Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Enhance quality of life through honoring arts and cultural events and natural resources.
- Promote celebration of arts & cultural events.
- Ensure cultural sustainability for the wellbeing of all.

- Enhance access to natural excursion areas and recreational activities.
- Implement the updated Grant Wood Loop Master Plan's Future Priorities.

11. HAZARD MITIGATION

- Protect the health, safety and quality of life while reducing or eliminating property losses, economic costs, and damage to the natural environment caused by a disaster.
- Ensure government operations, response, and recovery are not significantly disrupted by disasters.
- Expand public awareness and encourage intergovernmental cooperation, coordination and communication to build a more resilient community against all hazards.

12. LAND USE

- Keep Land Use Policy current with changing growth conditions in the region.
- Ensure that cities are coordinating with each other for their best development.
- Preserve and protect viable agriculture land, parks, open spaces, and natural resources.

13. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

- Build capacity of local governments, non-profits, and community organizations.
- Collaborate with Jackson County, cities, schools, hospital, and service organizations.
- Promote engagement and entrepreneurship among the county's youth, including professional development opportunities for young workers.