

CHAPTER 3

VISION



Formation of County Vision

Clay County held a number of community engagement events, meetings, focus groups, and other outreach efforts throughout the planning process of the comprehensive plan. These efforts were intended to elicit views on strengths, challenges, issues, and opportunities in the county, as well as to help formulate a new vision, goals, and objectives for the county to rely on. Key responses from each of these efforts and engagement events are summarized in this section. A comprehensive listing of all issues raised throughout the County is provided in an appendix to this plan.



City of Comstock



Parke Township

WHY I LOVE IT HERE

What do you love about Clay County today?



Small town feel	small town feel, larger metro	the people	THE PEOPLE!	changing topography!	Hills / topography!	Great access to good medical facilities	close access to health care systems
Welcoming small town atmospheres	small town atmosphere - big city amenities	Community events	Longest table event in 2019 was great	Barnesville Potato Days	City events, Ulen BBQ, Sabin Days, fun events to visit	Blue Eagle in Barnesville and the Clay County Fair, Steam Threshers, Hawley Rodeo, great local festivals	Close access to great healthcare systems
Emerging diversity	our diversity	Great hunting and fishing opportunities on lakes, rivers and wildlife management area	family recreational facilities such as Blue Eagle in Barnesville	Parks in Moorhead and trail running along the river is a big win for the City	Prairie chickens, scientific and natural areas, wide open spaces	Seasons - changing of seasons	Libraries
services provided		Wildlife, deer, prairie chickens	connection to natural places, Buffalo River State Park, trails along rivers and other natural places	Buffalo River State Park and Natural Areas	Buffalo River State Park and the Grasslands		strong library system
strong relationship with the State to provide public services - works well	Clay County & MN values the people	Community support for small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic	Easy access to business in Clay County via Bicycle	City restaurants and support for them in smaller communities throughout Clay County	Employment opportunities	Businesses like Stoneridge Software in Barnesville	High value placed on preservation of farmland
Collaboration between gov't entities and school districts across the County	County employees and elected officials make themselves accessible and show up at events	Growth opportunities	Everest Tikka House!	Lots of local businesses and support for them	Everest Tikka House!		beautiful farmland great County Highways
Lower special assessments and great schools	Larger residential lot sizes compared to neighboring Cass County	Great mix of Urban and rural landscape	Rural character - easy to get 'out of town' (into nature, etc.)	Lake Country begins in Eastern Clay County	Easy access to other amenities across the region (e.g. lakes, trails, etc.)	Fargo is next door	Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County
							Clay County and Unique History - places to see/learn about that
educational opportunities	Proximity to 3 universities and 2 tech schools	strong arts, starts in the schools	K-12 education is 2nd-to-none		Rush hours is only 5 minutes		Museum - Hjemkomst. Clay County Historical Society and their exhibits. High quality experience
							Hjemkomst is unique
Lakes, City amenities, spanish immersion education for my children	The three colleges are a great asset, with events hosted there, after pandemic is done	Bluestem Arts is an amazing amenity	College students as an asset and opportunity	good support for families	safe, welcoming place to live, family friendly	we are a welcoming community	People whom have moved here from different parts of the country feel very safe compared to where they may have came from
							Embracing the history while looking ahead to the future

Virtual Community Engagement

Clay County held its virtual community engagement meetings on March 23, 2021, which focused on listening to the community about potential issues and opportunities on a host of topics. As part of the virtual engagement activities, participants were asked to provide comments on what they liked about Clay County and what they hoped to see in the next 25 years. Participants were then asked to provide their views on eight themes: housing, businesses, agriculture/food systems, transportation, telecommunication, natural resources, recreation, and government services. A total of 66 residents participated in the virtual meetings.

Responses to themes were recorded as an issue, one that community members saw potential unmet needs, or an opportunity, one that the county could strive to achieve in the future.

MY FUTURE CLAY COUNTY

What would you like Clay County to look like in 25 years?



Increased employment opportunities to help better retain College grads

additional commercial and industrial business to provide jobs and better tax base

Still a safe welcoming place to live!

maintain family-friendly environment

more monuments and art pointing to the history of our County and its inhabitants

a vibrant community that embraces the river and prairie!

Clay County will be more aesthetically pleasing and have a more modernized look. Clay County will also recognize the City of Moorhead as a suburb that is part of the Fargo-Moorhead metro area and not as a rural city

visible commitment to methods of carbon sequestration and maint. of healthy soil, water, and air

more working lands - cattle, bison operations but also provide other habitat and other ecosystem services

Moorhead is much more "urban" (dense with integrated land use and great public transportation), but rural Clay County remains "rural" so individuals and families can choose what type of environment they want to live in.

I would love to see generational farms continuing their way of life. But also seeing new emerging farming opportunities for others.

Still heavily agricultural

affordable, energy-efficient housing for working families, possibly smaller units for singles and downsizers.

Create a more self-sustained local/regional economy (think circular economy) that is energy neutral by using renewable energy sources.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Key:

ISSUES

OPPORTUNITIES



HOUSING

affordable housing is limited	don't see a lot of investment or upkeep of homes in my neighborhood makes me nervous about the investment	how development should be managed how we should grow	smaller communities need more rental housing	senior housing is quite expensive	diversity of senior housing choice	housing is located on higher elevation when compared to across the river and surprisingly is cheaper. not always the case across the US	one-level houses for aging population looking to downsize	
rising rates of homelessness in our senior population	limited options for first time homeowners ins single-family dwellings and limited in location as well	building codes do not address future energy realities - need to insulate better	affordable senior living	unbalanced tax structure with ND neighbor	more unique types of homes (e.g. shop houses, tiny homes, modular homes)	Variety of size and pricing of housing.	tiny house communities could be explored for affordable housing?	need more options for new home buyers and retiring (down sizing) residents
shortage of variety of housing available in smaller communities	tax burden on senior residents whom may be on a fixed income - explore working with State	prime farmland being converted to residential housing spaces. Long term plan might consider if prime ag land should have higher density housing - take less ag out of production	the need to address housing options such as accessory dwelling units		work with HRA to access other funding opportunities for remodeling or new affordable housing	housing is affordable when compared to med income here	Support of 2 year property tax rebate for new residential homes	



BUSINESSES

Very different business climate than neighboring ND makes it challenging to recruit and retain businesses	better job of telling our story - programs are out there and need to be marketed better	Clay County Revolving Loan Fund to help businesses start and expand	great community support for our local businesses	small businesses development center at Concordia!	lets get some Clay County businesses to apply for the Bicycle-Friendly Business designation by the League of American Bicyclists	leverage local industry sectors and ecosystems, ag tech, med device, manufact. software, etc.
better parking (on street) in downtown Moorhead. Traffic needs to slow down so they see the business.	ND v MN taxes for businesses	development patterns with greater density patterns in strategic locations are needed to support an over saturated retail business environment	I-94 running through	need to make policies to help foster investment	more mixed use housing with business on street-level	Continue pushing for leveling playing field for new businesses so fewer go to ND
			proximity to higher pop. metro area	proximity to Lakes Country draws in visitors	access to capital - entrepreneurs, startups, expansion	working with townships and smaller cities to welcome business, even if it means changing prior future growth ideas



AGRICULTURE / FOOD SYSTEMS

Chinese tariff on soybeans reduces buyers	Co-ops (vegetables other farm fresh ingredients)	Collaborating with American Crystal and Busch	resource to link food production with farm to table opportunities	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) opportunities	backyard POULTRY	SWCD has low interest loan program available to rural landowners for ag BMPs	amazing farmland, streams and lakes, wetlands, clean air	more food truck options	
interest in food trucks - regulations can cause a challenge	addressing cottage food laws and border issues related	soil erosion issues, sustainable practices needed	more permissive of food options and full-suite of urban gardening options	connect locally grown and produced food to locals	seeing more industrial hemp production in the County - lack of infrastructure for processing and sale	expanded community gardens	Permanent food truck park?	community gardens - more development in food deserts	backyard chickens
cost of services for farmland	lack of transportation for rural citizens to food pantry	lack of grocery stores in rural areas such as Ulen and Felton	prepare for autonomous food delivery options	promote no till operations to reduce soil erosion	utilize food waste for ag purposes	find ways to encourage new farmers	extension services are great for both rural and urban residents	some of the best soil in the world	



ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Key:

ISSUES

OPPORTUNITIES



TRANSPORTATION

Address bike friendly roads. More walking/ biking paths throughout the county	horrendous transit - routes, stop amenities, and how fares are administered	aging population in both metro and rural could use more public transportation options	cities and counties have no electric vehicle fleets	improve 3rd St S from 60th Ave S to 50th Ave S by bluestem	fast electric vehicle charging stations	Senior Center transit route to and from local senior centers - that may run on specific days	partnered senior center and childcare center facilities	future bypass? Possible interstate route around the Metro?	dedicated bike path through the middle of Moorhead
Better connections that don't bring you back to the downtown Fargo Ground Transportation Center (MATBUS)	impacts of increased commodity/freight traffic on township and county roads	better speed transitions from entry little to no entry	11th St S between Main and 12th Ave is abysmal	7th Ave S in Moorhead, by the river... road is awful needs improvement	Great County Highways	All Aboard MN - 2nd train (daytime) between Fargo/ Moorhead and the twin cities	more train options	transit and weather impacts - planning public transit with seniors in mind	
Moorhead roads overbuilt, not aesthetically pleasing and have weird route patterns.	last mile connections (MATBUS)	small town access to multimodal options	make roads more bike friendly	locate funding to bring back Clay County Rural Transit	future Heartland Trail connection	Heartland Trail!	public transportation options with autonomous vehicle service	Complete streets policy - highlight in plan somehow	
commodities impact on roadways and strain moving forward	Railroad barriers in Moorhead	Main avenue traffic control (Moorhead) is frustrating	more active transportation opportunities especially outside of Moorhead	do more for volunteers as part of the volunteer driver program	Heartland Trail!	better link to Cass and Clay bike routes	expand on shared use path network	bicycle access or canoe access to Bluestem	



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

telemedicine is only possible from homes that have broadband access	lack of broadband in rural areas	broadband in Moorhead is amazing, very good	Starlink coming soon to the Hitterdal area!	telecom..wired internet solution to replace wireless
increased fiber optic lines along County Highways	cell service deadspots in Rural areas	options for tele-communciations / internet	tele-communciations	broadband



NATURAL RESOURCES

balancing protection of natural areas with aggregate resources	urban forests and prairie spaces	the Dakota Skipper and birding	Great water need to protect aquifers	parks with surfaces, equipment and design to be inclusive for children with disabilities
	county could reduce carbon emissions through energy generation that does not emit CO2 and electric vehicle fleet	More urban prairie pockets throughout the urban areas	access to natrual resources	Felton Prairie, Healthy Groundwater (aquifer), State Park and Trails

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES



RECREATION

indoor play spaces for young families

identification of all public accesses for rivers and lakes

indoor activities for teens as well including skateboarding



GOVERNMENT SERVICES / OTHER

Tax burdens continue to go up - need to balance wants and needs is very important

MPS should proactively work to avoid black outs now that we are tied into a national system

additional meeting room space for community groups



Community Input Survey

A community input survey was developed and shared with the community from February 19 to April 23. The survey had 35 unique questions that gauged general feelings towards the county and issues related to housing, economic development, agriculture, mobility, and other topics. The survey had 319 respondents, with about 90 percent from residents in cities and urban areas and 10 percent from townships and rural areas. The majority of responses fell into six broader themes and issues:

Community

The most common responses to what respondents enjoy about Clay County were related to the community, through family and friend networks. Responses suggest that this sense of community is protected by maintaining a perceived high “quality of life” and low crime rates.

“Safe, people, community”

“People care for other people”

“FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES”

Rural/small town feel

Respondents showed concern for preserving the existing small town atmosphere of its cities and the rural character of the county as a whole. One of the top future challenges identified by respondents was traffic congestion, which would disrupt the county’s rural feel.

“Small town living”

“Rural communities with amenities nearby”

“Quietness”

Natural environment

Many respondents valued easy access to nature within the county including river trails, parks and outdoor recreational activities. One of the biggest future fears is the loss of

natural areas and open space.

“Biking the river corridor”

“Parks, paths, and recreation.”

“Preserving and improving green spaces and protecting clean water is vital to our community.”

Economic development

According to respondents, the top strength of living and working in Clay County is its proximity to the FM metropolitan area and other regional destinations. There is strong backing for local businesses and more employment opportunities.

“Location – next to Fargo.”

“Staying competitive... attracting people and businesses”

“Lack of new businesses, restaurants and retail”

Education

A strong economy is supported by a high-quality education system which was also identified by almost half of respondents as a top strength.

“Access to schools”

“Public schools have been improved”

“Education opportunities is huge in my book.”

Affordability

Among those surveyed, the number one challenge to the quality of life in Clay County in the next 25 years is a “higher cost of living”. Furthermore, respondents were also concerned about a lack of housing choices.

“AFFORDABLE Senior living.”

“Housing is getting to be overpriced”

“... we need our lower income families to be able to afford decent housing”

A full listing of survey responses can be found in the appendix.

Pop-Up Events and Additional Community Engagement Events

On July 15 and 16, 2021, Clay County hosted community pop-up events at the Clay County Fair in Barnesville. At these events, county staff and elected officials were present to answer questions and listen to ideas and concerns from community residents. Display board were used to solicit feedback on topics discussed at the March virtual meetings, as well as allow for new comments and observations.

Some of the comments received include the following:

"Innovative solutions to affordable home ownership"

"More shopping opportunities"

"Childcare is a pressing issue; difficult to find childcare in smaller cities"

"More recycling options"

"Desire for multicultural childcare/community center"

"Some township roads can be tough to travel on, especially in winter"

Clay County hosted two in-person public input meetings for the comprehensive plan on July 26 and 27, 2021. The first meeting was at the Hitterdal Community Hall and the second meeting was at the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Office in Barnesville.



City and Township Feedback

Clay County reached out to each city and township in Clay County to solicit feedback on three open-ended questions: what are current challenges, what are current strengths, and what topics should be addressed in the comprehensive plan. The county received responses from seven townships and five cities.

City Challenges:

- Current shortage of labor
- Higher income tax and business restrictions in comparison to neighbors in North Dakota
- Childcare
- Affordable housing
- Activities for community members of all ages to engage in year round
- Roadway and infrastructure funding
- Lack of land for city expansion or future development
- Budget constraints and bond balances
- Traffic from County Roads through cities
- Recycling
- Ordinance enforcement

City Strengths:

- Location - access to jobs and shopping in the FM area
- K-12 Education with expansion of the curriculum
- New trade school in Moorhead and school additions in Glyndon.
- Students have the opportunity to attend two universities and a community college in Clay County
- Youth sports, arts, and theater opportunities
- Increase in tax base with commercial and housing developments
- Development in downtown areas
- Development of more community gardens and fruit orchards
- Full-time and part-time employment opportunities
- Great park and athletic facilities
- Expenses for utilities are generally minimal
- Comradery - knowing neighbors and neighbors who care



City of Hitterdal

Township Challenges

- Road maintenance (including snow removal, dust control, and blading), especially for corridors that see heavy agriculture and industrial traffic
- Flooding concerns, including flooding from waterways and retention ponds
- Slow or limited broadband service
- Garbage and illegal dumping
- Developers using phase subdivisions to circumvent size limitations for number of housing units
- Lack of defined requirements that developers need to meet in applying for a subdivision (including agriculture use value and proof of well and septic compliance)
- Expansion of conservation areas that impact taxable parcels

Township Strengths

- Strong agriculture and mining activity
- Quality schools and school districts
- Proximity and access to the FM area
- Having access to both state and federal highways
- Tاراcon, located within the Spring Prairie Hutterite Colony, is a vital employer in rural Clay County
- Quiet lifestyle
- Strong work ethic



Moland Township



Riverton Township



Buffalo River State Park

State Agency Responses

- Clay County asked several state agencies for input and to get a sense of which issues, either broad or specific, that they see as important in the county. Of the six that Clay County reached out to, the county heard back from four: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Detailed issues brought forth by state agencies include the following:

- Erosion and sediment control on agricultural land are concerns. Sedimentation in rivers, streams, and ditches has been a continuing concern due to altered farm practices and an increase in precipitation and frequency of major precipitative events. In particular, the portion of Clay County below the beach ridge area, erosion has caused sediment to build in surface water which affects both the hydrology and aquatic life habitat.
- Flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement are important issues within the Buffalo-Red and Wild Rice Watershed District areas. As recently as 2009 Clay County has experienced major flooding events as part of the Red River Valley, not only from spring melts but major summer storm events as well.
- Collaborate with neighboring entities to reduce stormwater pollutant loading. Although the majority of Clay County is agricultural land, it is also home to a portion of a large metropolitan area in Fargo-Moorhead. An increased effort to work with neighboring Cass County in North Dakota, as well as the cities in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area, to educate the public and promote urban BMP adoption such as rain gardens, stormwater utility credits, and other stormwater mitigation practices is recommended. The County should also include a discussion on climate change and how that may influence water management within the County.
- Collaboration and communication between agencies are priority issues. Maintain an open communication channel between the state agencies and county to utilize the expertise of both offices.
- Environmentally sensitive resources should be considered for future long-range land use planning and used to identify environmentally sensitive areas, including calcareous fens.
- Several additional species have been added to Minnesota's list of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species list since the comprehensive plan was last updated. Clay County should apply for an NHIS data license to have access to updated information and to conduct initial screens for rare species to incorporate into permitting processes.
- The plan should include solar as a potential source of energy along with wind energy.

- One item that should be added as a goal throughout the document is mitigation and adaptation to the changing climate. With changing temperatures, rainfall patterns, and increased drought and storm events, planning for climate resilience takes intentional and significant effort.
- Surface water-based drinking water systems are highly susceptible to potential contaminants entering the public water supply at a level that may result in an adverse human health impact. Based on a comparison of the sensitivity of the surface water intake to the presence of potential contaminant sources, the susceptibility of the city of Moorhead is considered to be high for a surface water based public water supply system.
- Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) boundaries establish a protection area through an extensive evaluation that determines the contribution area of a public water supply well, aquifer vulnerability and provide an opportunity to prioritize specific geographic areas for drinking water protection purposes. DWSMA boundaries often extend beyond city jurisdictional limits or are established in Wellhead Protection (WHP) Action Plans for non-municipal public water supplies, like mobile home parks which rely on local government partners for land use controls, can be a special focus for the county in prioritizing drinking water protection activities.
- Land use planning/zoning and coordination of city, township, and county ordinances can be used to address risks both from groundwater overuse and from the introduction of pollutants. Land use management should target the prevention of conflict in groundwater sensitive areas and regions of limited water supply. Voluntary practices such as conservation programs, best management practice implementation, and use of emerging conservation technology should also be encouraged in addition to regulation at the most local government level.
- Unused, unsealed wells can provide a conduit for contaminants from the land surface to reach the sources of drinking water. This activity is particularly important for abandoned wells that penetrate a confining layer above a source aquifer.
- Many residents of Clay County rely on a private well for the water they drink. However, no public entity is responsible for water testing or management of a private well after drilling is completed. Local governments are best equipped to assist private landowners through land use management and ordinance development, which can have the greatest impact on protecting private wells. Other suggested activities include hosting well testing or screening clinics, providing water testing kits, working with landowners to better manage nutrient loss, promoting household hazardous waste collection, managing storm water runoff, managing septic systems, and providing best practices information to private well owners.

- Consider designing transportation infrastructure to deal with increasing and more extreme precipitation events due to changes in climate. We expect that in parts of the state the stormwater infrastructure will need to be able to absorb more rainfall and deal with more frequent flooding through use of larger conveyance systems and redundant stormwater controls. Managing stormwater can also be increased by maintaining natural systems, including preservation of open space, use of vegetated infiltration swales using native vegetation and multiple small vegetated basins along roadways.
- To improve the water quality of the County's water resources, consider making minimization of erosion and stormwater runoff in the County a priority. This can be accomplished by inspecting and maintaining existing stormwater systems, promoting low-impact development and green infrastructure for newly developed and redeveloped properties, encouraging agricultural best practices, requiring wetland protection and restoration, and supporting innovative stormwater management practices.
- To improve overall water quality, consider efforts to restore impaired waterbodies or protect waterbodies at risk of impairment in the County. Impaired waters are those that fail to meet applicable water quality standards for aquatic life, aquatic recreation, and/or aquatic consumption.
- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) reports identify potential strategies or best management practices that can be implemented to restore or protect waters, and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports identify necessary pollutant reductions for impaired waterbodies to be restored and meet standards. Potential strategies might include nutrient management, cover crops, vegetative buffers, lakeshore and streambank riparian vegetation management, and septic system maintenance and upgrades.
- Restoration of impaired waters and protection of waters at risk of impairment may require significant effort, but benefits of those efforts can be seen not only locally but also downstream. Minnesota's Nutrient Reduction Strategy calls for significant nutrient reductions in major rivers, including the Red River, by 2025 with additional reductions by 2040.

Personnel Meetings

A series of 10 personnel meetings were held with Clay County staff from April 21 to May 4, 2021. These meetings were a way to learn more about the different programs and services the county offers and whether county staff saw any potential issues or emerging needs.

Emerging needs and comments from personnel meetings include the following:

- "Accommodating residential growth in rural areas"*
- "Business recruitment and retention"*
- "Agriculture will continue to be the backbone of Clay County"*
- "Educating residents about potential programs for property tax relief"*
- "Mental health needs have increased, especially with student and elderly populations"*
- "Additional staffing – recruitment has been challenging"*
- "Space needs – as county population grows, need for more employees grows"*
- "Emergency management needs have grown"*
- "Emphasize health in all policies"*
- "Lack of transportation is a chronic issue – impacts access to food, healthcare, childcare"*
- "Affordable housing is an issue"*
- "More regional cooperation; shared facilities"*

Focus Groups and Targeted Outreach

Clay County also conducted a series of focus groups and targeted outreach with individuals representing important areas in the county. This included virtual or in-person meetings with aggregate producers, agricultural producers, and individuals and specialists in natural resources and economic development. Additional outreach occurred with public safety and emergency response officials and the five main public school districts in the county.

The following represent a sample of some of the issues brought forth:

Aggregate Producers

- "Hardest part – permitting; seven permits between county/township/state"*
- "Hauls getting longer...efficiencies haven't led to cost reductions"*
- "FM Diversion will soon play a huge part in aggregate demand"*
- "Finding truck drivers is going to become even more of an issue"*

Agricultural Producers

- "Right to Farm – continue to minimize conflicts between agricultural and nearby non-farm residential use"*
- "Where do we house migrant workers? How can you house them on a property?"*
- "Producers are open to sustainability practices and many of us have experimented with cover crops, though with mixed results"*
- "Don't feel that we have much of a voice on roadway improvements"*
- "Get landowners on the Heartland Trail Committee"*
- "Border Cities Enterprise Zone – can this be made county-wide?"*

Natural Resources

"Grassland birds are in steep decline due to habitat loss and degradation"

"Continue to enhance water quality of streams and rivers for benefit of groundwater quality"

"Extension of Heartland Trail, Red River water trails, access to Buffalo River for canoeing and kayaking"

"Engage community in citizen science activities"

Economic Development

"Mass resignation – the pandemic has accelerated this, which is even more of a concern in rural areas"

"Resources for ownership transition and helping business owners exit"

"Beneficial for the county to have clear information about the development process; can be just as powerful as incentives"

"County needs to share its success stories"

"Remote working, childcare, and housing are all issues that we are beginning to focus on more and more"

Public Safety and Emergency Response

"Lack of membership and ability to have (volunteer) responders during working hours"

"Often, smaller towns have not prepared and/or do not have the ability to properly fund a fire department"

"Like the idea of a county-wide fire department...combination paid/paid per call department with current volunteers of each town providing personnel"

School Districts

"More funding for student mental health services in out-lying communities"

"Better coordination between rural schools and snowplowing schedules; this creates huge issues in determining to call off school or have late starts"



Tansem Township

Clay County Vision

Based on a culmination of input received during the community engagement process and an examination of recurring themes, the following has been put forth to describe the future vision for Clay County through 2045:

Clay County values its existing rural and agricultural character while ensuring a thoughtful, balanced approach to growth and development in the years to come. Clay County is committed to the principles of equity, inclusion, and service by providing quality services and facilities for all citizens and future residents. Clay County recognizes the importance of its agricultural and natural resources while looking for new opportunities to support economic vitality. Clay County will promote sound planning principles that foster economic, environmental, and community resiliency to ensure that Clay County thrives into 2045 and beyond.