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# BOONE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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2029



# Acknowledgements

Belvidere Park District	City of Loves Park Staff
Belvidere Family YMCA	Growth Dimensions
Boone County Arts Council	Ida Public Library
Boone County Conservation District	RAMP
Boone County Council on Aging	Region 1 Planning Council
Boone County Fire Districts	Rock Valley College
Boone County Health Department	School District 100 and 200 Staff
Boone County Housing Authority	University of Illinois Extension
Boone County Officials	Village of Caledonia Staff
Boone County Planning Commission	Village of Capron Staff
Boone County Residents	Village of Cherry Valley Staff
Boone County Sherriff's Office	Village of Poplar Grove Staff
Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District	Village of Timberlane Staff
Boone County Staff	Winnebago County Staff
Boone County Township Officials	Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau
Candlewick Lake Association Officials	Workforce Connection
City of Belvidere Staff	

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The Boone County Comprehensive Plan was created utilizing the established partnership between Boone County and the Region 1 Planning Council. Both Boone County and Region 1 Planning Council staff helped in the development, coordination, facilitation, and writing of the plan.

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# Executive Summary

## 2029 VISION

AN INCLUSIVE COUNTY THAT CHERISHES ITS RURAL HERITAGE, WHILE ALSO MAINTAINING ITS HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH A STRONG EDUCATION AND HEALTH SYSTEM, DIVERSIFIED HOUSING AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, STRATEGICALLY PLACED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES, AND A MULTITUDE OF FAMILY-FRIENDLY RECREATIONAL OPTIONS.

The Boone County Comprehensive Plan is made up of eight different topics. The following highlights both the major themes and key action plan projects of each topic. For more information, see the topic's associated chapter.

### Themes

### Action Plan Ideas

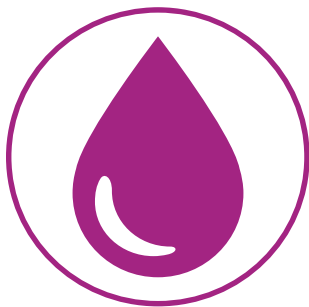
#### Livability and Recreation



- Preserve the rural character
- Increase the amount and awareness of recreational and tourism assets

- County-wide recreational events calendar
- New multi-cultural celebration
- Interactive online recreational facilities maps
- Tourism Committee

#### Environmental Sustainability



- Preserve open spaces
- Update, conduct, and implement more natural resources based planning efforts
- Increase communication and funding for environmental projects, plans, and studies

- Boone County Natural Resources, Water Resources, and Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Environmental volunteer network
- Capital Improvement Program for environmental projects

#### Health, Wellness, and Safety



- Increase equity of, access to and the public's knowledge of services
- Increase the physical and mental health of the population
- Lower overall crime rates through increased communication and developing proactive methods of providing services

- Social services volunteer network
- Health and wellness summit and community newsletters
- Mental health division in the BCHD
- Neighborhood watch programs
- Public Safety Committee
- Publish public safety data

## Education and Public Communication



- o Improve the overall skills of the workforce
- o Prepare students for existing and future job market
- o Continue to utilize partnerships between educational services and government
- o Use more effective communication methods with the public

- o Workforce Needs Assessment
- o Local high school alumni presentations
- o Regional Education Committee
- o County-wide mobile library service

## Economic Development



- o Promote business assistance programs and small-businesses
- o Increase communication and partnerships between government and the business community
- o Increase marketing of Boone County as a business destination
- o Diversify and increase the sales tax base

- o Forum for businesses to learn about incentives, assistance programs, and economic development
- o Expedited permitting processes for existing employers
- o Feasibility study for setting up of business incubators
- o Targeted Industries study

## Housing



- o Maintain affordability
- o Meet the needs of younger and aging populations

- o Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program informational workshops
- o Inclusionary zoning ordinance
- o County-wide housing inventory and needs assessment
- o Housing agency task force

## Transportation



- o Increase the use of public transportation and access to active transportation options
- o Maintain the efficiency of roadways
- o Better utilize the county's central location to major transportation hubs

- o Bus-Rapid transit and park-n-ride study
- o Residents reporting system for roadway conditions and safety concerns
- o Complete Streets Policy
- o Resurface the Long Prairie Path

## Land Use



- o Preserve prime farmland
- o Concentrate future commercial and industrial around main arterial roadways
- o Increase communication between governments on future development
- o Prioritize growth areas
- o Reevaluate zoning codes, procedures, and processes

- o Municipal-level updates of their future land use map and strategy
- o Establish boundary agreements between all municipalities
- o Corridor study for Highway 76 and Business Highway 20
- o Land use training session for elected officials and government staff