

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: August 19, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 25, 2019

Subject: Dakota County Rural Collaborative (DCRC) 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Review File 22002-1

District(s), Member(s): District 16, Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Land Planning Act (Minn. Stat. § 473.175)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Patrick Boylan, AICP, Sector Representative (651-602-1438)
Angela R. Torres, Local Planning Assistance Manager (651-602-1566)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1. Authorize the following Townships of the Dakota County Rural Collaborative (DCRC) to place their 2040 Comprehensive Plans into effect:
 - a. Castle Rock Township
 - b. Douglas Township
 - c. Greenvale Township
 - d. Hampton Township
 - e. Marshan Township
 - f. Nininger Township
 - g. Randolph Township
 - h. Ravenna Township
 - i. Vermillion Township
 - j. Waterford Township
2. Advise Nininger and Ravenna Townships to adopt their MRCCA Plans within 60 days after receiving final DNR approval and submit a copy of the final adopted plan and evidence of adoption to the DNR, Council, and National Park Service within 10 days after the adoption.
3. Advise the Dakota County Rural Collaborative to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for transportation, surface water management, forecasts, and water supply.

Advisory Comments

The following Advisory Comments are part of the Council action authorizing the townships called the Dakota County Rural Collaborative (DCRC) to implement their 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Plan).

Community Development Committee

1. As stated in the *Local Planning Handbook*, the DCRC Townships must take the following steps:
 - a. Adopt the Plan in final form after considering the Council's review recommendations as contained in the body of this report.
 - b. Submit one hard copy and one electronic copy of the Plan to the Council. The electronic copy must be submitted as one unified file.
 - c. Submit to the Council a copy of the respective Town Board resolutions evidencing final adoption of the Plan.
2. The *Local Planning Handbook* also states that local governments must formally adopt their comprehensive plans within nine months after the Council's final action. If the Council has recommended changes to the Plan, local governments should incorporate those recommended changes into the Plan or respond to the Council before "final adoption" of the comprehensive plan by the governing body of the local governmental unit. (Minn. Stat. § 473.858, subd. 3)
3. Local governments must adopt official controls as identified in their 2040 comprehensive plans and must submit copies of the official controls to the Council within 30 days after the official controls are adopted. (Minn. Stat. § 473.865, subd. 1)
4. Local governmental units cannot adopt any official controls or fiscal devices that conflict with their comprehensive plans or which permit activities in conflict with the Council's metropolitan system plans (Minn. Stats. §§ 473.864, subd. 2; 473.865, subd. 2). If official controls conflict with comprehensive plans, the official controls must be amended within 9 months following amendments to comprehensive plans (Minn. Stat. § 473.865, subd. 3).

Background

The DCRC townships are located in Dakota County and include the following rural townships: Castle Rock, Douglas, Greenvale, Hampton, Nininger, Marshan, Randolph, Ravenna, Vermillion, and Waterford.

The Townships are surrounded by Rosemount, Hastings, Denmark Township, City of Prescott (Wisconsin), Welch Township (Goodhue County), Cannon Falls, Northfield, Scott County, Lakeville, and Farmington.

The DCRC submitted its 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Plan) to the Council for review to meet the Metropolitan Land Planning Act requirements (Minn. Stats. §§ 473.851 to 473.871) and the Council's 2015 System Statement requirements.

Review Authority & Rationale

Minn. Stat. § 473.175 directs the Metropolitan Council to review a local government's comprehensive plan and provide a written statement to the local government regarding the Plan's:

- **Conformance** with metropolitan system plans
- **Consistency** with the adopted plans and policies of the Council
- **Compatibility** with the plans of adjacent governmental units and plans of affected special districts and school districts

By resolution, the Council may require a local government to modify its comprehensive plan if the Council determines that "the plan is more likely than not to have a substantial impact on or contain a substantial departure from metropolitan system plans" (Minn. Stat. § 473.175, subd. 1).

The attached Review Record details the Council's assessment of the Plan's conformance, consistency, and compatibility, and is summarized below.

Review Standard	Review Area	Plan Status
Conformance	Regional system plan for Parks	Conforms
Conformance	Regional system plan for Transportation, including Aviation	Conforms
Conformance	Water Resources (Wastewater Services and Surface Water Management)	Conforms
Consistency with Council Policy	<i>Thrive MSP 2040</i> and Land Use	Consistent
Consistency with Council Policy	Forecasts	Consistent
Consistency with Council Policy	<i>2040 Housing Policy Plan</i>	Consistent
Consistency with Council Policy	Water Supply	Consistent
Consistency with Council Policy	Community and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)	Consistent
Compatibility	Compatible with the plans of adjacent and affected governmental districts	Compatible

Thrive Lens Analysis

The proposed 2040 comprehensive plan is reviewed against the land use policies in *Thrive MSP 2040*. To achieve the outcomes identified in Thrive, the metropolitan development guide defines the Land Use Policy for the region and includes strategies for local governments and the Council to implement. These policies and strategies are interrelated and, taken together, serve to achieve the outcomes identified in Thrive.

Funding

The Metropolitan Council awarded the DCRC a Planning Assistance Grant of \$84,000 to complete its 2040 comprehensive plan. The first half of this grant was paid to initiate the local planning process. The second half of the grant will be paid after Council authorization of the DCRC's plan, local adoption, and the DCRC's submittal of final reporting requirements.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known local opposition to the 2040 comprehensive plan.

REVIEW RECORD

Dakota County Rural Collaborative (DCRC) 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Review File No. 22002-1, Business Item No. 2019-232

The following Review Record documents how the proposed Plan meets the requirements of the Metropolitan Land Planning Act and conforms to regional system plans, is consistent with regional policies, and is compatible with the plans of adjacent and affected jurisdictions.

Conformance with Regional Systems

The Council reviews plans to determine conformance with metropolitan system plans. The Council has reviewed the City's Plan and finds that it conforms to the Council's regional system plans for Regional Parks, Transportation (including Aviation), and Water Resources.

Regional Parks and Trails

Reviewer: Colin Kelly, Community Development (CD) - Regional Parks (651-602-1361)

The Plan conforms to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (RPPP) for the Regional Parks System element. Dakota County is the Park implementing agency for Regional Parks System components in the Collaborative, for which the Plan accurately describes Regional Parks System components, as listed below:

Regional Parks, Park Reserves, and Special Recreation Features

- Lake Byllesby Regional Park (Randolph Township)
- Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (Douglas Township)
- Spring Lake Park Reserve (Nininger Township)

Regional Trails

- Chub Creek Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor (Greenvale and Waterford townships)
- Mississippi River Greenway Regional Trail (Nininger Township)
- Mississippi River Regional Trail Search Corridor (Ravenna Township)
- Vermilion River Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor (Marshan and Vermilion townships)

State Lands

The Plan also appropriately acknowledges State lands within the Collaborative, including:

- Chimney Rock Scientific and Natural Area (Marshan Township)
- Gores Pool #3 Wildlife Management Area (Ravenna Township)
- Hastings Sand Coulee Scientific and Natural Area (Marshan Township)
- Hastings Wildlife Management Area (Marshan Township)
- Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area (Greenvale Township)

Regional Transportation, Transit, and Aviation

Reviewer: Russ Owen, Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) (651-602-1724)

The Plan conforms to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) adopted in 2015. It accurately reflects transportation system components of the TPP. The Plan is also consistent with Council policies regarding community roles, the needs of non-automobile transportation, access to job concentrations, and the needs of freight.

Roadways

The Plan conforms to the Roadways system element of the TPP. The Plan accurately accounts for the metropolitan highway system of principal arterials.

The Plan accurately reflects the regional functional classification map of A-minor arterials and has delineated major and minor collectors.

The Plan identifies all the required characteristics of the relevant roadways, including existing and future functional class, right-of-way preservation needs, and existing and forecasted traffic volumes for principal and A-minor arterials. Forecasting was done consistent with regional methodology. The Plan also includes guidelines on how access will be managed for principal and A-minor arterials.

The Plan identifies roadway and corridor studies that include recommendations regarding alignments, changes in access, and/or changes in land use. They include the Rosemount/Empire/UMore Transportation System Study.

Transit

The Plan conforms to the Transit system element of the TPP. It shows the location of existing transit routes and facilities and acknowledges Transit Market Area V appropriately.

The Plan conforms to the Transit system element of the TPP. The Plan acknowledges that the communities are not within the transit taxing district and that the only transit services provided in these types of communities are Transit Link dial-a-ride service and various ridesharing services.

Aviation

The Plan conforms to Aviation system element of the TPP. There are no airports or protected air spaces within the Townships.

Bicycling and Walking

The Plan is consistent with the Bicycling and Pedestrian chapter of the TPP. The Plan identifies existing and future segments of and connections to the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN).

Freight

The Plan is consistent with Freight policies of the TPP. The Plan identifies the needs of freight movement in and through the community.

Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs)

The Plan conforms to the TPP regarding TAZ allocations. The TAZ allocations for employment, households, and population appropriately sum to the Council's citywide forecast totals for all forecast years.

The planned land uses and areas identified for development and redevelopment can accommodate the TAZ forecasted allocations in the Plan, and at densities consistent with the Thrive designations and applicable TPP policies.

Advisory Comments

The Plan addresses a Highway 52 Freeway Partnership from 2007 that is likely outdated. Council staff suggests removing this, as reference to two interchanges is outdated:

- The CSAH 86/TH 52 interchange has been built; and CSAH 66/TH 52 interchange is now a reduced conflict intersection (indicating that an interchange is not a likely outcome; if you still wish to refer to the interchange, please acknowledge that it has not been reviewed by the MnDOT/Metropolitan Council joint interchange committee.

Water Resources

Wastewater Service

Reviewer: Kyle Colvin, Environmental Services (ES) – Engineering Programs (651-602-1151)

The Plan conforms to the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP). The Plan represents 10 Townships in Dakota County, and is their guide for future growth and development through the year 2040.

The Townships included in the Collaborative are entirely provided wastewater service through the use of Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems or SSTs. The Plan indicates continued wastewater services will be provided through the use of SSTs through 2040.

The Collaborative Plan does not propose nor anticipates requesting connection to the Regional Wastewater Disposal system within the 20-year planning period; therefore, the Townships included in the Collaborative are not required to submit for approval of a Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Plan.

The Council does not have plans to provide wastewater services to any of the Townships included in the Collaborative within the 2040 planning period.

Surface Water Management

Reviewer: Jim Larsen, CD – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1159)

The Plan is consistent with Council policy requirements and in conformance with the Council's WRPP for local surface water management. The Plan satisfies the requirements for 2040 comprehensive plans. The Townships of Castle Rock, Douglas, Greenvale, Hampton, Marshan, Nininger, Randolph, Ravenna, Vermillion, and Waterford lie within the oversight boundaries of either the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (JPO) or the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization (WMO), or both. Empire, Marshan, Nininger, and Ravenna Townships are fully within the oversight of the JPO and Greenvale, Randolph, and Waterford Townships are fully within the oversight of the WMO. Castle Rock, Douglas, and Hampton Townships all span the two Watershed boundaries.

The Dakota County Rural Collaborative (DCRC) submitted a draft Local Water Management Plan (LWMP) update to the Council in conjunction with its Preliminary Plan on July 2, 2018. Council Water Resources staff reviewed and commented on the draft LWMP to the DCRC and both Watersheds in a letter dated August 13, 2018. The North Cannon River WMO has approved the LWMP.

The DCRC has identified no existing or potential future water resource-related problems in its LWMP or Capital Improvement Program that it intends to address in the ensuing 10-year planning period. The Collaborative communities have adopted either the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization or Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization watershed plan or both as appropriate by reference and provided assurance that they will work with the Watershed(s) to implement projects within individual community boundaries. It will likely be incumbent upon the Watershed(s) to identify the existence of any water resource problems in the individual communities; as well as plan, design, and implement any projects to resolve future water resource problems. The Council encourages the Watersheds to reach out to and involve the Collaborative communities when it moves new projects forward to resolve water resources issues that may share either their source or resolution area within individual community boundaries.

Advisory Comments

The final Plan, which will include a revised LWMP element for the Collaborative communities must be sent to each of the Watersheds for a second review so that they can approve the LWMP element. The communities will each need to work with the Watersheds to update their Water Resources Management Ordinance once the Plan is adopted.

When available, we request that the DCRC provide to the Council the date that each Watershed approves the final LWMP, and the date the DCRC adopts the final LWMP. We also request that the

DCRC provide the Council with a copy of the final adopted LWMP that will be included in the final Plan document that the DCRC adopts, if it differs from the version in the Plan submitted to the Council on December 31, 2018.

Consistency with Council Policies

The Council reviews plans to evaluate their apparent consistency with the adopted plans of the Council. Council staff have reviewed the City’s Plan and find that it is consistent with the Council’s policies, as detailed below.

Forecasts

Reviewer: Todd Graham, CD – Research (651-602-1322)

The Plan includes Council forecasts. Population forecasts for each of the 10 Townships are found in table 7; employment forecasts, table 8; and households forecasts found in table 18 of the Plan.

Table 1. Forecasts for Townships of: Castle Rock, Douglas, Greenvale, Hampton, Marshan, Nininger, Randolph, Ravenna, Vermillion, and Waterford.

Township	Population			Households			Employment		
	2020	2030	2040	2020	2030	2040	2020	2030	2040
Castle Rock Township	1,320	1,300	1,280	520	520	520	360	360	360
Douglas Township	730	740	750	280	300	320	120	120	130
Greenvale Township	810	850	830	300	340	350	150	200	260
Hampton Township	940	1,000	1,080	360	400	450	90	100	100
Marshan Township	1,140	1,200	1,260	440	480	520	230	290	350
Nininger Township	930	960	960	380	400	400	160	200	250
Randolph Township	690	680	680	270	280	280	160	160	160
Ravenna Township	2,360	2,430	2,500	840	920	1,000	50	60	60
Vermillion Township	1,210	1,240	1,270	450	480	510	140	160	160
Waterford Township	500	510	510	200	210	210	750	760	780

Thrive MSP 2040 and Land Use

Reviewer: Patrick Boylan, CD – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1438)

The Plan is consistent with *Thrive MSP 2040* and its land use policies. The Plan acknowledges the *Thrive* community designations of Diversified Residential (Ravenna) and Agricultural for Castle Rock, Douglas, Greenvale, Hampton, Marshan, Nininger, Vermillion, and Waterford Townships; Randolph is both Diversified Residential and Agricultural (Figure 2). *Thrive* designates the Collaborative communities of Castle Rock, Douglas, Greenvale, Hampton, Marshan, Nininger, Vermillion, and Waterford Townships as Agricultural, which directs communities to plan for densities no greater than one housing unit per 40 acres. *Thrive* directs the Townships with the Diversified Rural designation (Ravenna and Randolph Townships) to plan for densities and development patterns that do not exceed 4 units per 40 acres. Typically, these communities include a very small amount of clustered housing with agricultural uses.

Currently, 79.7% of the Collaborative land area is in agriculture land uses. 8.7 % of the land is in residential use, 1.6% in parks and open space and just 7% in commercial use.

Thrive directs the Collaborative communities to limit residential development and adopt zoning ordinances and/or other official controls to maintain maximum residential densities reflective of either Agricultural or Diversified Rural community designations. The Plan acknowledges the respective community designations and includes land use goals and policies that are consistent with Council policies.

Castle Rock, Douglas, Greenvale, Hampton, Marshan, Nininger, Vermillion, and Waterford Townships are identified as Agricultural. These areas should support enrollment in the Agricultural Preserves and Green Acres programs which help to preserve prime agricultural soils and agricultural land uses. Communities with the Agricultural designation are directed to maintain agricultural land uses through at least 2040 as a primary long-term use to preserve prime agricultural lands and to preserve land for efficient expansion of post-2040 regional infrastructure where appropriate. Finally, Thrive policy is for communities to develop and implement strategies for protecting farmlands, such as exclusive agricultural zoning, agricultural security districts, and lower residential densities such as one housing unit per 80 acres.

Thrive identifies Ravenna Township and a portion of Randolph Township as a Diversified Rural, which directs communities to plan for densities no greater than four housing units per 40 acres. Typically, these communities include a mix of a limited amount of large-lot residential and clustered housing with agricultural and other uses.

Diversified Rural communities are directed to plan for growth not to exceed forecasts and in patterns that do not exceed 4 units per 40 acres and preserve areas where post-2040 growth can be provided with cost-effective and efficient urban infrastructure. They are further directed to manage land uses to prevent the premature demand for extension of urban services, and so that existing service levels will meet service needs.

Housing

Reviewer: Hilary Lovelace, CD – Housing (651-602-1555)

The Plan is consistent with the *2040 Housing Policy Plan*. As of 2016, each of the townships in the DCRC had between 200 and 800 homes each. There are no publicly subsidized housing units in the DCRC communities, though all of them have some unsubsidized affordable housing. Each township has housing cost-burdened households with low-incomes.

DCRC communities do not have an allocation of affordable housing need in the 2021-2030 decade, as they are not expected to experience any sewer-serviced growth.

DCRC communities identified cost-burdened households as their main existing housing need. The Plan states that most of the DCRC communities are unlikely to utilize many of the available housing implementation tools, and instead work in partnership with Dakota County CDA to help meet their needs. DCRC communities will work with the Dakota County CDA to provide information on potential resources.

Water Supply

Reviewer: Lanya Ross, ES – Water Supply (651-602-1803)

This Plan is generally consistent with WRPP policies related to water supply, including the policy on sustainable water supplies, the policy on assessing and protecting regional water resources, and the policy on water conservation and reuse. The Townships rely on private wells and none own or operate a community public water supply system.

Advisory Comments

The DCRC should include additional information for Figures 19 and 20. For Figure 19, consider including the organization responsible for the wells. For Figure 20, please consider providing additional context about how this information will be used by communities to shape policy implementation.

The Townships should also incorporate water conservation into water resource education programs. The Council's online Water Conservation Toolbox is a resource that could be used to support this kind of effort. [https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Studies-Projects-Workgroups-\(1\)/Completed-Studies-Projects/Water-Conservation-Toolbox.aspx](https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Studies-Projects-Workgroups-(1)/Completed-Studies-Projects/Water-Conservation-Toolbox.aspx)

Community and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)

Reviewer: Jim Larsen, CD – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1159)

The Plan indicates there are an estimated 5,000 individual SSTS in operation within the DCRC area serving households and businesses. The DCRC Townships have adopted Dakota County SSTS Ordinance #113 and with the exception of Randolph and Waterford Townships, are responsible for the review, permitting, and inspections of existing and new SSTS. Randolph and Waterford Townships have turned back permitting responsibilities to Dakota County.

Dakota County Ordinance #113 is consistent with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Chapter 7080-7083 Rules and Council 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan policies. Dakota County maintains authority for permitting and inspections within shoreland and floodplain areas and provides maintenance management recordkeeping and SSTS owner notification for all DCRC Townships. Violations, complaints, and potential system repairs are referred to local Building Officials for enforcement. If the Building Official cannot remedy violations and corrections through normal enforcement procedures, the matter is turned over to the respective Township Attorney for prosecution.

Special Resource Protection

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) (Nininger and Ravenna only)

Reviewer: Jim Larsen, CD – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1159)

The Plan includes a MRCCA Plan component that was reviewed by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff and found to be substantially consistent with Minnesota Statutes 116G and Minnesota Rules Chapter 6106. Council staff also find the MRCCA Plan component to be consistent with *Thrive MSP 2040* land use policies, and Minnesota Rules Chapter 6106. The DNR's June 3, 2019 conditional approval letters to Nininger and Ravenna Townships are included as Figures 5 and 6 of this staff report, respectively. Final DNR approval of the MRCCA Plan will be sent to the Townships after the Council authorizes local adoption of the Plan.

Advisory Comments

Within 60 days after receiving final DNR approval, the Townships must adopt their MRCCA Plans, and submit a copy of the final adopted plan and evidence of adoption to the DNR, Council, and National Park Service within 10 days after the adoption.

Solar Access Protection

Reviewer: Cameran Bailey, CD – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1212)

The Plan is consistent with statutory requirements (Minn. Stat. 473.859) and Council policy regarding planning for the protection and development of access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems as required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act (MLPA). The Plan includes the required solar planning elements.

Aggregate Resource Protection

Reviewer: Jim Larsen, CD – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1159)

The Plan identifies, consistent with *Minnesota Geological Survey Information Circular 46* information, the presence of significant viable aggregate resource deposits within the DCRC area. The Plan contains an Environmental Resources goal calling for the protection of high-quality aggregate resources for future use. With exception of existing development and planned growth areas, many of the resource reserves are available for future extraction by the limited development density allowed in the agricultural land use areas of the Townships and through their zoning regulations and mining ordinances.

Historic Preservation

Reviewer: Patrick Boylan, CD – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1438)

The Plan includes historic preservation information and meets MLPA requirements. The Plan includes a general history of the rural communities and the agricultural activities of its residents. The Plan states that the Collaborative communities will work with the Dakota County Historical Society, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, and the National Park Service in efforts to preserve cultural heritage.

Plan Implementation

Reviewer: Patrick Boylan, CD – Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1438)

The Plan includes a description of and schedule for any necessary changes to the capital improvement program, the zoning code, the subdivision code, the SSTS code, and the housing implementation program.

The Plan, with supplemental materials, describes the official controls and fiscal devices that the City will employ to implement the Plan. Specific implementation strategies are contained in individual chapters of the Plan, with capital improvements planning detailed in the appendix.

Compatibility with Plans of Adjacent Governmental Units and Plans of Affected Special Districts and School Districts

The proposed Plan is compatible with the plans of adjacent jurisdictions. No compatibility issues with plans of adjacent governmental units and plans of affected special districts and school districts were identified.

Documents Submitted for Review

In response to the 2015 System Statement, the DCRC submitted the following documents for review:

- July 2, 2018: DCRC 2040 Preliminary Plan
- December 31, 2018: DCRC 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- March 11, 2019: Revisions to the land use plan, housing, surface water plan, wastewater, and transportation section
- May 20, 2019: Revisions to aggregate resources and the Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area plan

Attachments

- Figure 1: Location Map with Regional Systems
- Figure 2: *Thrive MSP 2040* Community Designations
- Figure 3: Existing Land Use
- Figure 4: 2040 Planned Land Use
- Figure 5: Conditional Approval for Nininger Township for Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area
- Figure 6: Conditional Approval for Ravenna Township for Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area

Figure 1. Location Map with Regional Systems

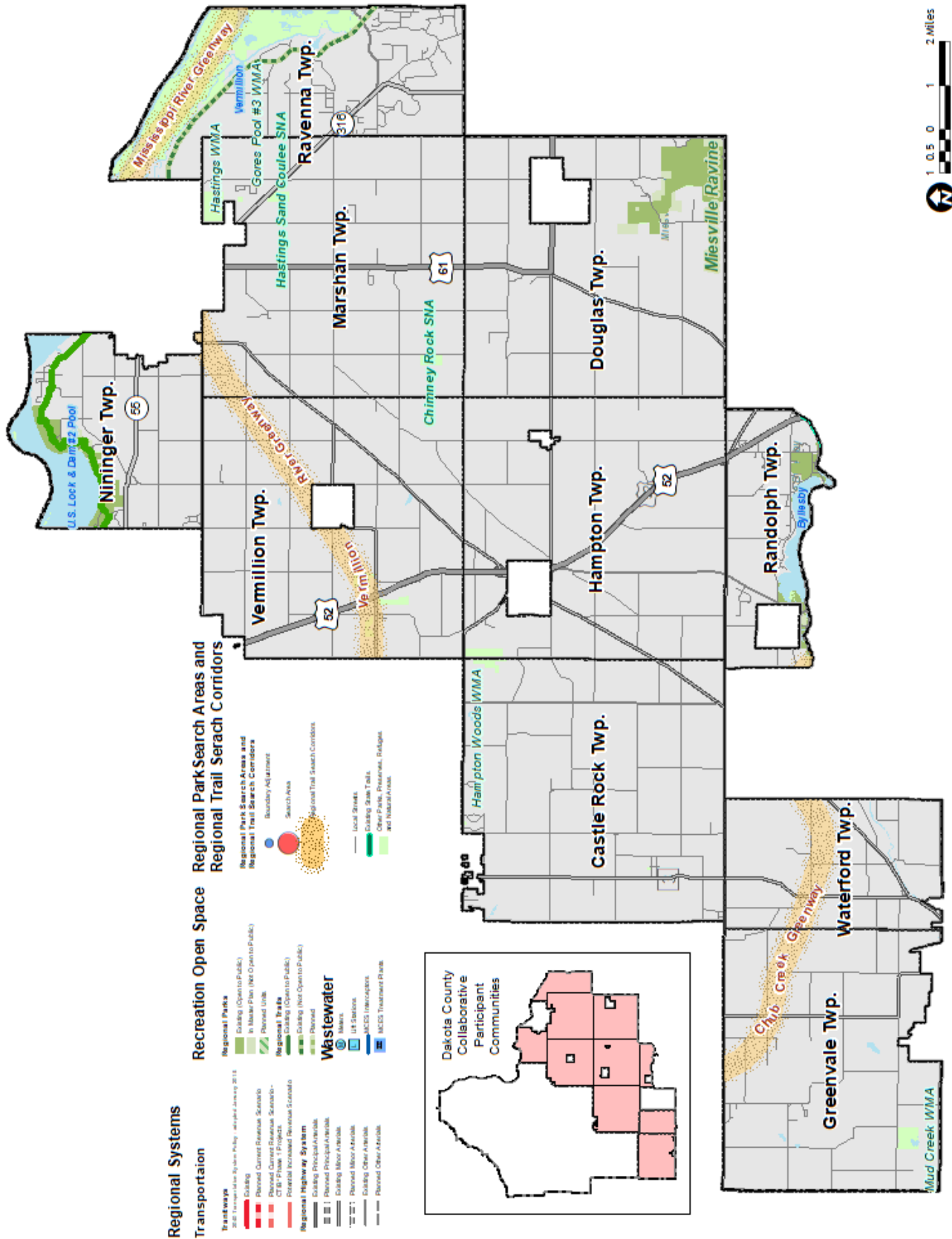


Figure 2. Thrive MSP 2040 Community Designations

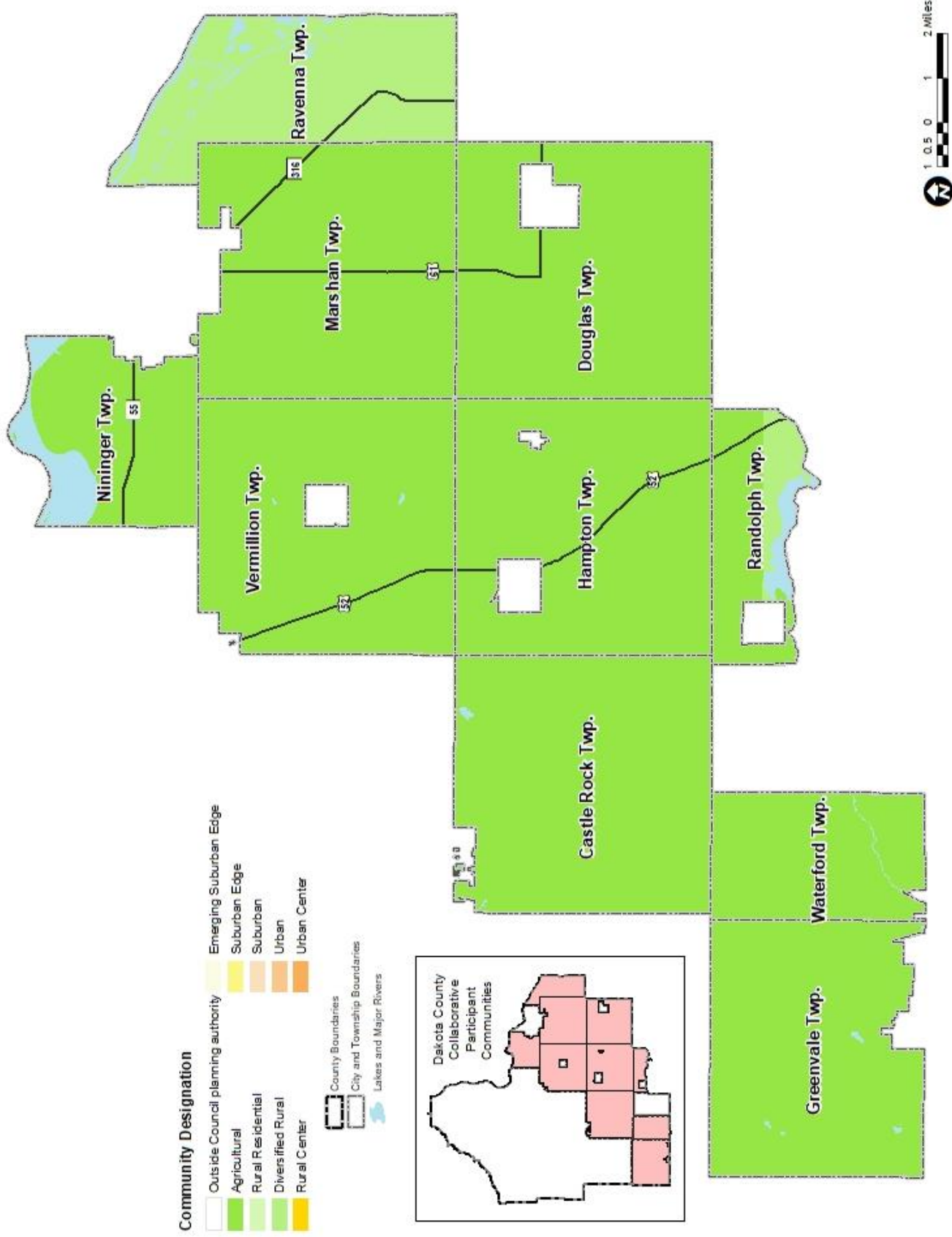


Figure 3. Existing Land Use

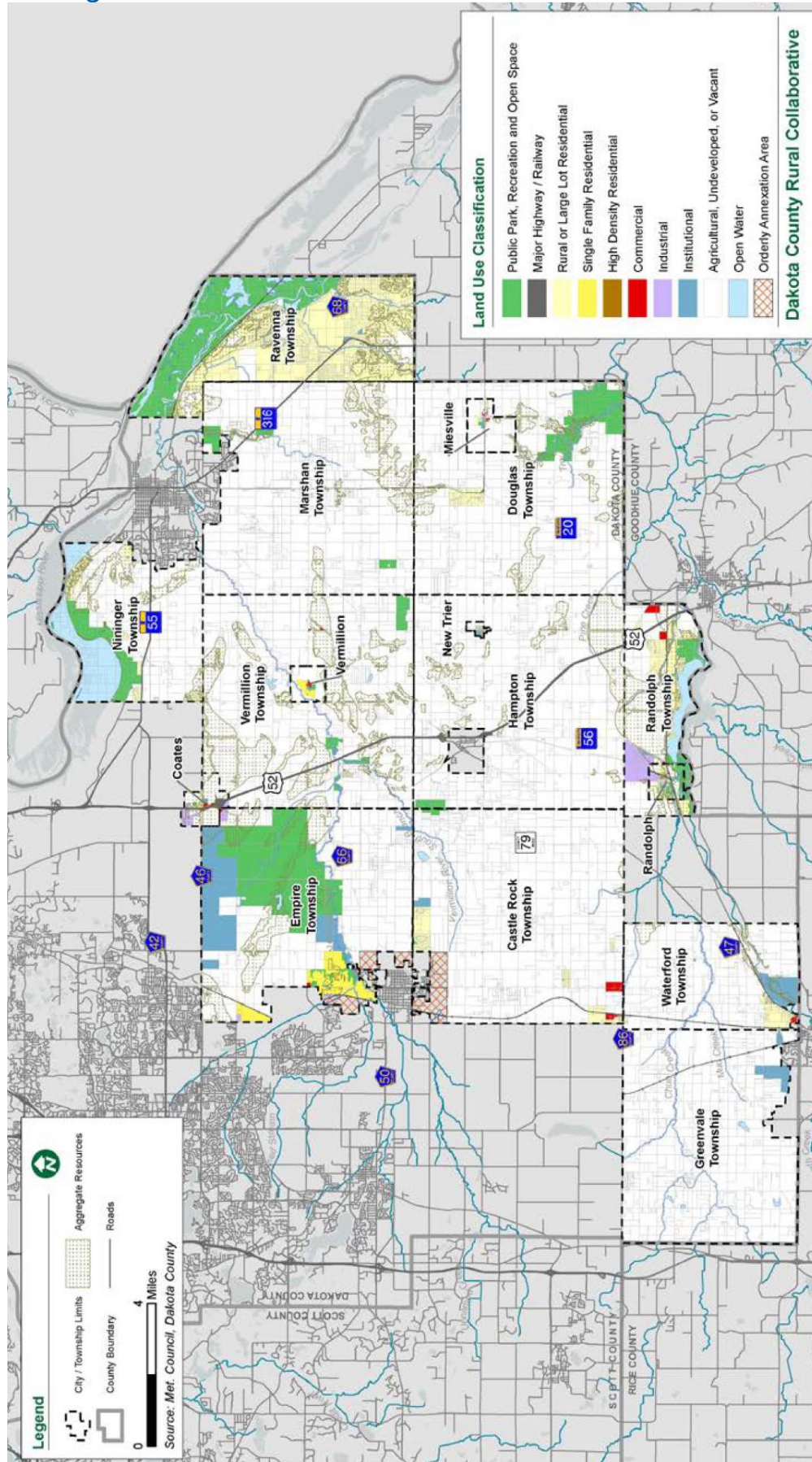


Figure 4. 2040 Planned Land Use

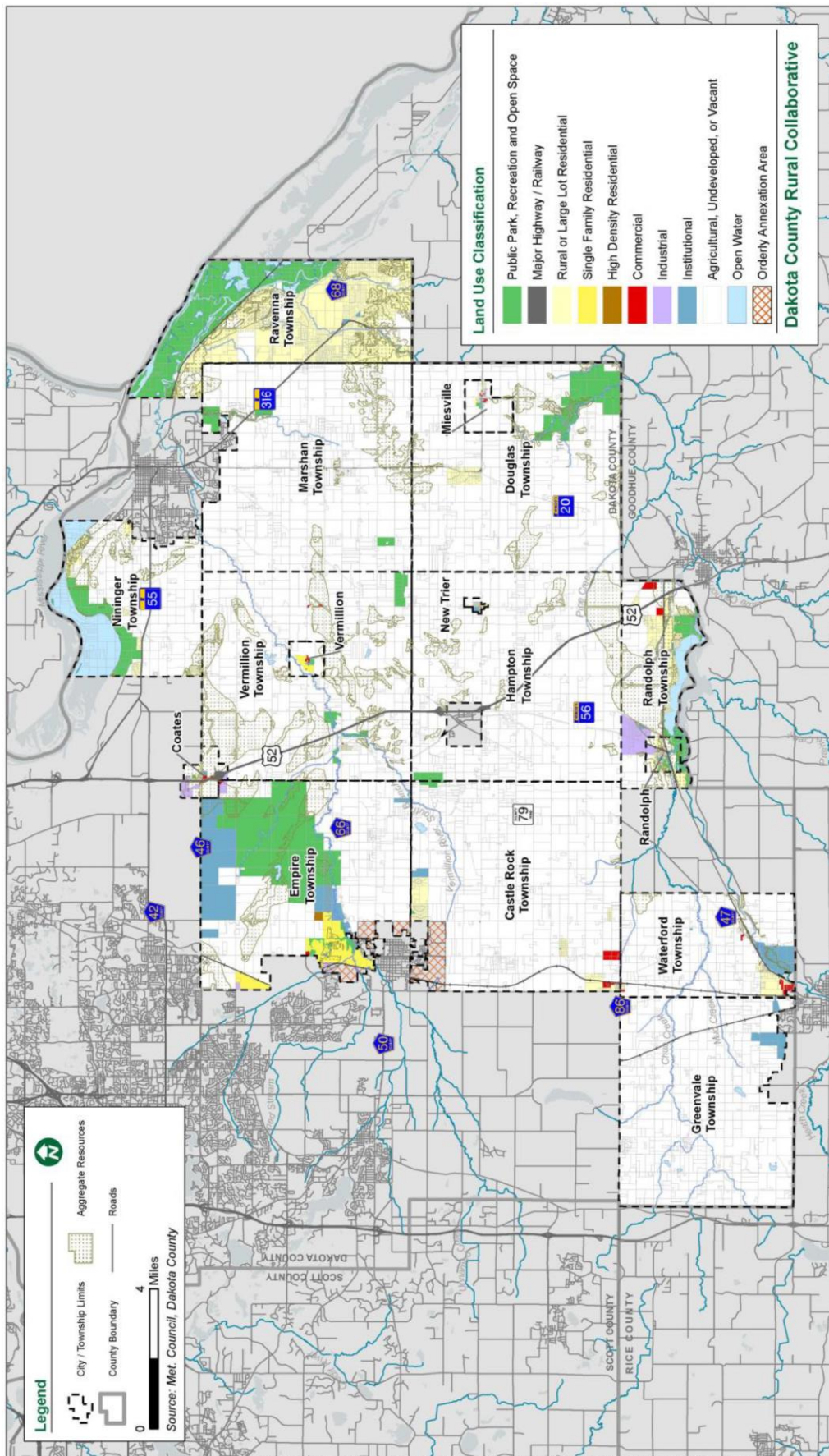


Figure 5. Conditional Approval for Nininger Township for Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area



June 3, 2019

Jane Kansier, Consulting Planner
Dakota County Rural Collaborative
12224 Nicollet Avenue
Burnsville, MN 55337

Re: Conditional Approval of Nininger Township MRCCA Plan

Dear Ms. Kansier:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conditionally approves Nininger Township's Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) plan.

We reviewed the supplementary information for your 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update that was submitted to the Metropolitan Council on May 30, 2019. We have found that between the supplement and plan previously reviewed, the MRCCA plan is substantially consistent with Minnesota Statutes, §116G and Minnesota Rules, chapter 6106.

We will send final approval of your MRCCA plan after the Metropolitan Council authorizes Nininger Township to put the comprehensive plan into effect. Within 60 days of receiving DNR final approval, the town must adopt the MRCCA plan. Nininger Township must then submit a copy of the final adopted plan, with evidence of adoption, to the DNR, the Metropolitan Council, and the National Park Service within ten days of the adoption.

Only MRCCA plans and plan amendments approved by the DNR have the force and effect of law. Once in effect, local governments must implement and enforce the DNR-approved plans.

We appreciate your efforts to develop and adopt the MRCCA plan, which provides a solid basis for future ordinance amendments and MRCCA management. Please contact Matt Bauman at 651-259-5710 or at matthew.bauman@state.mn.us if you have any questions about next steps.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Shillcox
Land Use Unit Supervisor

c: Judy Krupich, Nininger Township Clerk
Raya Esmaili, Metropolitan Council
Alan Robbins-Fenger, National Park Service
Jennie Skancke, DNR Region 3 Area Hydrologist
Matt Bauman, DNR Land Use Unit

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources • Division of Ecological and Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25, Saint Paul, MN 55155-4025

Figure 6. Conditional Approval for Ravenna Township for Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area



June 3, 2019

Jane Kansier, Consulting Planner
Dakota County Rural Collaborative
12224 Nicollet Avenue
Burnsville, MN 55337

Re: Conditional Approval of Ravenna Township MRCCA Plan

Dear Ms. Kansier:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conditionally approves Ravenna Township's Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) plan.

We reviewed the supplementary information for your 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update that was submitted to the Metropolitan Council on May 30, 2019. We have found that between the supplement and plan previously reviewed, the MRCCA plan is substantially consistent with Minnesota Statutes, §116G and Minnesota Rules, chapter 6106.

We will send final approval of your MRCCA plan after the Metropolitan Council authorizes Ravenna Township to put the comprehensive plan into effect. Within 60 days of receiving DNR final approval, the town must adopt the MRCCA plan. Ravenna Township must then submit a copy of the final adopted plan, with evidence of adoption, to the DNR, the Metropolitan Council, and the National Park Service within ten days of the adoption.

Only MRCCA plans and plan amendments approved by the DNR have the force and effect of law. Once in effect, local governments must implement and enforce the DNR-approved plans.

We appreciate your efforts to develop and adopt the MRCCA plan, which provides a solid basis for future ordinance amendments and MRCCA management. Please contact Matt Bauman at 651-259-5710 or at matthew.bauman@state.mn.us if you have any questions about next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Shillcox'.

Jennifer Shillcox
Land Use Unit Supervisor

- c: Caroline Spurgeon, Ravenna Township Clerk
Raya Esmaili, Metropolitan Council
Alan Robbins-Fenger, National Park Service
Jennie Skancke, DNR Region 3 Area Hydrologist
Matt Bauman, DNR Land Use Unit

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources • Division of Ecological and Water Resources
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