

JORDAN

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

A SMALL COMMUNITY, TAKING BIG STEPS TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

Located in Scott County, Jordan is a small, 3.3 square mile rural center community of 6,200 people that is driven by its broad commitment to sustainability and innovation. Jordan's City Council and staff are committed to creating lighter environmental footprint. The City works toward sustainability solutions that balance practical concerns of the City's operations and the need to conserve its unique natural and built environment. The City has been successful in creating pragmatic solutions to sustainability efforts, which provide environmental benefits and many times at great cost savings too.

WHAT MAY HELP OTHER COMMUNITIES?

Staff Development Opportunities and Partnerships

As a small City, staff have many roles and responsibilities. Staff remain flexible and work closely with each other to make sure the City operates effectively for residents and businesses. The City utilizes the educational opportunities for staff trainings that allow them to grow professionally. Participation in free programs such as [Minnesota GreenStep Cities](#), the [Minnesota Rural Water Association](#), and the [SolSmart Solar Program](#) help the City pursue its sustainability goals with technical, policy, and planning assistance from professionals across Minnesota and the country. The City also leverages the enthusiasm of their interns and staff with education in and passion for environmental sustainability to the City pursue their goals.

Integrating and Implementing Sustainability Goals and Policies

With the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, the City is working on its first sustainability and resilience plan with the assistance of [Great Plains Institute](#). The City will be incorporating and integrating sustainability goals across the 2040 Plan and supporting those goals and policies with an updated City Code.

The City has an [Alternative Energy Systems Ordinance](#) (§ 154.391-394) that provides language guiding the use of Solar Energy, Wind Energy, and Ground Source Heat Pump Systems. In addition, City Code requires the preservation of greenspace in every area of the city to retain the benefits provided by vegetation. City Code stipulates that a Tree and Woodland Preservation Plan is required when building new housing. All residents and businesses must incorporate pervious landscaping; for example, residential uses must maintain 60% or more of the lot as pervious. In commercial areas, planted parking islands are required in 20+ stall parking lots.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

COUNTY: Scott
POPULATION: 6,213

Jordan:

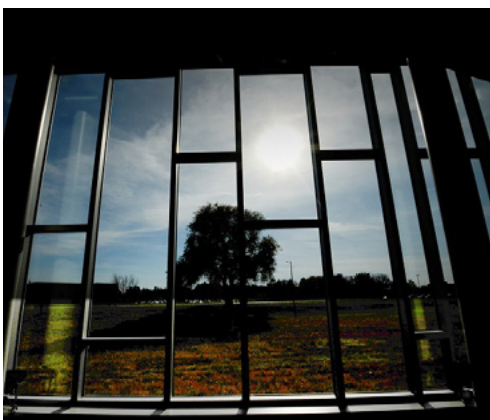
- is a [Step3 GreenStep City](#).
- offers city-wide organic collections.
- saved \$10k by investing in a de-watering bag, simplifying local wastewater treatment.
- partners with Scott Co. in emergency preparedness.

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RECOGNITIONS:

- Freshwater Society Environmental Leadership Award
- National recognition for the renovation of the Jordan Public Middle School, including Grand Prize Award from Learning and Design Magazine
- Project of the Year Award from American Public Works Association – Minnesota Chapter, 2015



Jordan Public Middle School was rebuilt in 2015, bringing more natural light into the school space and improved building efficiencies.



Jordan's City Code requires the preservation of greenspace in every area of the city, to provide shade and reduce heat absorption.



The cost saving from the City's creatively adapted brine sprayer was reinvested to purchase a more efficient and integrated fleet vehicle salt brine sprayer.

Advancing Sustainability Goals and Saving Money

The City is committed to advancing and providing additional sustainability best practices and was recently recognized as a **Step3 GreenStep City** in 2017. The City has been implementing successful sustainability practices, while also saving money. For example, these efforts have included:

- An executed **25-year community solar garden subscription** that will offset 120% of the City's electricity usage likely saving **approximately \$2.7 million** over the life of the contract.
- An improved pre-wet system for salting roads in the winter that cut salt use in half, while providing better results. In 2017, Jordan Public Works reduced about 120 tons of its roadway salt usage through a combination of creatively adapted **salt-brine sprayers and changed driving practices**, which also saved the City thousands of dollars.
- Investing in a **de-watering bag**, which simplifies Jordan's local wastewater treatment process by filtering sediment, which reduced truckload trips to haul solid waste and saved \$10,000 in 2016.
- Offering city-wide organic collection in 2017. Jordan has a new waste hauler and is now one of only a few Cities in the State that offer food and yard waste collection to all residents. Residents are provided background on managing organics, yard waste, solid waste, and recycling. In addition, annual fall leaf and winter tree collection are provided for free to all residents, which help keep excess organic matter out of surface waters. The change to new hauler is anticipated to save a considerable amount of money while also now offering additional services.



The City's Downtown Redevelopment included bump-outs with raised planter areas, decorative paver sidewalk sections, improved walkability, community branding street light banners, planting numerous trees – adding more trees to every block, historic style way-fairing signage, and decorative benches.

Strong Public Involvement Process for Downtown Redevelopment

The City's **Downtown Jordan Master Vision** made the downtown greener, denser, and more vibrant. In 2015, Jordan completed a rebuild of its downtown streetscape, which was informed by the City Planning Commission and a significant public engagement process. Redevelopment involved lane width reductions and reduced overall asphalt coverage while incorporating street trees and bump-outs with native planter beds into the streetscape for the first time in Jordan. It also included widening sidewalks, adding bike lanes, and calming traffic. The City has continually invested in park space. A partner organization, **Explore Jordan**, has designed a historic walking tour and provides maps of the parks and trails for visitors.

Partnering on Extreme Weather Planning

The City partners with Scott County in emergency preparedness, including exercises to maintain staff readiness for extreme weather events. The City uses an Emergency Operations Plan developed for potential situations produced by catastrophic weather events. Their planning includes identifying and outlining specific precautions to respond to extreme weather events and emergencies. Responsibilities for potential emergency events are assigned to City staff members. Jordan is also working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to update its floodplain maps so that the City and its residents understand where vulnerabilities to flooding exist.

Commitment to Efficiency Upgrades in Public Buildings

Jordan had an energy audit performed to inform lighting and efficiency improvements for City buildings. The City has been implementing improvements and upgrades in the existing and renovated municipal buildings that reduce impact on the environment and save the City operating costs. Improvements have included motion-activated light sensors, LED lighting, increased natural light, Energy Star appliances, public water filling stations, low-flow plumbing fixtures, and monthly HVAC maintenance. The City is a **B3 energy Benchmarking** participant. B3 benchmarking provides energy data for participating public buildings to help manage and reduce energy costs. **Energy use** of the City's buildings, including the Council Chambers, Police Department, City Hall, Fire Department Building, and Local Wastewater Treatment Plant are demonstrating improved energy use and efficiencies.

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