

PEOPLE

Ensures the safety, wellness and success of our local residents, employers and business owners.

We will EMBRACE our strong sense of community and our growing cultural diversity.

We will STRENGTHEN our local communities and residents by providing increased opportunities for housing, education, child care, workforce development, recreation and personal health and well-being.

We will ATTRACT new residents by providing thriving residential neighborhoods, vibrant commercial and retail destinations, high quality business areas and active civic places.

POLICY OBJECTIVES	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
	COUNTY	LOCAL CITY AND TOWNS	ORGANIZATIONS
1. Support the development of programming which assists new residents with entering and becoming integrated into the community.	---	LEAD <i>By identifying local needs and opportunities</i>	---
2. Encourage collaboration and sharing of resources between each community in order to continue annual festivals and other events.	SUPPORT <i>By sharing the knowledge and expertise of staff</i>	LEAD <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>By sharing the knowledge and expertise of staff</i>
3. Encourage the development of diverse and attainable housing options within the county to fill the needs of new home buyers and those working, but not living, within the county.	LEAD <i>Through development decisions and incentives</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in the development review process</i>	SUPPORT Through research, studies and financial discussions
4. Support the development of child care and early learning facilities and programs.	SUPPORT <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	---	LEAD <i>By developing training programs and local advocacy</i>
5. Promote the development of grocery stores and fresh food markets within each community to improve access to produce and shrink food deserts.	SUPPORT <i>Through development decisions and incentives</i>	---	LEAD <i>Through site identification and marketing</i>
6. Support improvements to alternative transportation systems (sidewalks, trails, public transit) to increase access to community amenities throughout the County.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>By providing administrative and financial assistance</i>
7. Support equitable access to healthcare in all areas of the County.	SUPPORT <i>Through development decisions and incentives</i>	---	---
8. Support the development and growth of local arts and theater facilities and initiatives within the County which promote and enhance local culture.	SUPPORT <i>Through development decisions and incentives</i>	LEAD <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
9. Encourage the development and expansion of outdoor recreation facilities and amenities.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>By providing administrative and financial assistance</i>
10. Encourage the development and use of a county-wide brand to promote the strengths and opportunities of the City, Towns and County.	SUPPORT <i>Through adoption and implementation of brand</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through adoption and implementation of brand</i>	LEAD <i>Through the development of a consistent brand</i>

PLACES

Provides for balanced, planned and orderly growth.

We will VALUE our historic and historically significant resources, districts and structures.

We will GROW our mix of land uses to include various housing types, employment opportunities, hospitality facilities and residential support services.

We will BALANCE the needs of our County's agricultural industries by protecting prime farmland from incompatible development

POLICY OBJECTIVES	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
	COUNTY	LOCAL CITY AND TOWNS	ORGANIZATIONS
1. Encourage commercial development and redevelopment within existing downtowns and commercial corridors.	LEAD <i>Through development decisions and incentives</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in the development review process</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
2. Support the redevelopment of historic buildings and sites and ensure that the character remains consistent with the surrounding context.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in the development review process</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
3. Encourage mixed-use and higher density residential developments within each community and support the availability of a greater range of housing types and sizes (single-family, duplexes, multi-family, etc.).	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in the development review process</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
4. Support the increase of code enforcement capacity within each community to ensure compliance with site design, building, construction and maintenance standards.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	---
5. Support the development of alternative housing types such as tiny homes, accessory dwelling units, and manufactured/modular housing to improve housing affordability and availability within the county.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
6. Encourage and prioritize the repurposing of existing commercial and industrial sites.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
7. Encourage building practices and infrastructure improvements which preserve natural areas and amenities.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
8. Encourage the preservation and conservation of productive agricultural land.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
9. Support the expansion of agritourism by providing for appropriate industrial and commercial uses within agricultural areas.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in the development review process</i>	SUPPORT <i>By providing administrative and financial assistance</i>
10. Encourage partnerships between local organizations, educational institutions, and farmers to identify current innovations and sustainable practices for agricultural uses.	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>	---	LEAD <i>By convening local parties and moderating discussions</i>

SYSTEMS

Plans for effective public services and facilities

We will ensure that public and private utility systems are maintained, improved and modernized so that they can adequately SERVE current and future residents and businesses.

We will maintain and improve our vehicular transportation system to safely and efficiently MOVE residents and visitors.

Through new routes and facilities, we will LINK residents, visitors and communities to one another.

POLICY OBJECTIVES	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
	COUNTY	LOCAL CITY AND TOWNS	ORGANIZATIONS
1. Support equitable access to reliable and affordable broadband services within both urban and rural areas of the county.	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>
2. Encourage the development, expansion and maintenance of wastewater systems along lakefronts to protect water quality.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
3. Support the extension or expansion of public and private utilities into appropriate underdeveloped areas.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
4. Support the expansion of local emergency services (police, fire, EMS) as development occurs and new residents enter the county.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
5. Partner with INDOT to improve safety along state roadways traveling through the communities.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	---
6. Encourage the maintenance, repair and enhancement of high-traffic county roads which connect residents and visitors to employment centers and amenities within Kosciusko County.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	---
7. Encourage new growth to minimize access points on to high-traffic roads and encourage the development of new collector streets and roads.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	---	---
8. Support the development of transportation alternatives, such as bike infrastructure and trails, which can connect to communities outside the county and draw visitors.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	LEAD <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
9. Support the expansion of pedestrian infrastructure to increase pedestrian accessibility within communities and connect residents to destinations.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
10. Support complete street policies within the county to encourage the creation of safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure during planned roadway improvement projects and new development.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>

DESTINATIONS

Creates and nurtures unique destinations for local and regional enjoyment.

We will PRESERVE our unique lakes, waterways, natural features and environmentally sensitive areas.

We will develop new opportunities for ENJOYMENT by creating, enhancing and activating local parks and open spaces.

We will highlight, PROMOTE and educate the community on the unique experiences and features found throughout Kosciusko County.

POLICY OBJECTIVES	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
	COUNTY	LOCAL CITY AND TOWNS	ORGANIZATIONS
1. Support the protection and restoration of local lakes, watersheds, natural drains, rivers and riverbank areas, forested lands, and natural habitats.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in the development review process</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
2. Support the preservation and use of public easements and rights-of-way to access local lakes and waterbodies.	LEAD <i>By using development and regulatory tools</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in the development review process</i>	SUPPORT <i>By sharing the knowledge and expertise of staff</i>
3. Support the safe activation of the Tippecanoe River.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
4. Support an increase in parkland to ensure an equitable access to parks, and open spaces based on the needs of county residents.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
5. Support the development of facilities and programming that enhance and promote park, recreation, and cultural destinations.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
6. Support the development of new connections between park spaces within the incorporated communities which allow for pedestrians and cyclists to access multiple sites without the need of a vehicle.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
7. Support the development of additional destinations, attractions and amenities as they become feasible.	SUPPORT <i>Through development decisions and incentives</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through site identification and marketing</i>
8. Promote the educational opportunities offered by Grace College- Lilly Center for Lakes and Streams, The Watershed Foundation, and the Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation for residents and visitors interested in exploring the county's natural features.	SUPPORT <i>By sharing the knowledge and expertise of staff</i>	SUPPORT <i>By sharing the knowledge and expertise of staff</i>	LEAD <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
9. Encourage the promotion of each community's unique assets in promotional campaigns which tie into a county-wide marketing effort.	SUPPORT <i>Through adoption and implementation of brand</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through adoption and implementation of brand</i>	LEAD <i>Through the development of a consistent brand</i>
10. Support the development and use of a county-wide brand for Kosciusko County and the incorporated communities.	SUPPORT <i>Through adoption and implementation of brand</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through adoption and implementation of brand</i>	LEAD <i>Through the development of a consistent brand</i>

PARTNERSHIPS

Manage local resources and plans for continued reinvestment throughout the County.

We will COLLABORATE with one another to better understand our local assets, concerns and goals.

We will SUPPORT the goals of the County and local communities by providing resources and assistance.

We will INVEST in policy, programs and capital improvements that support the shared success of our local communities and Kosciusko County.

POLICY OBJECTIVES	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
	COUNTY	LOCAL CITY AND TOWNS	ORGANIZATIONS
1. Encourage partnerships with local, regional, and state partners to ensure funding for future transportation projects matches the current and projected needs of communities within the County.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	LEAD <i>By identifying local needs and opportunities</i>	---
2. Encourage community engagement and increased communication between residents, businesses, town staff, and community leaders.	SUPPORT <i>By participating in collaborative discussions</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in collaborative discussions</i>	LEAD <i>By convening local parties and moderating discussions</i>
3. Continue to strengthen partnerships between towns and county, regional, and statewide governmental bodies which can provide administrative assistance or funding.	LEAD <i>By convening local parties and moderating discussions</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in collaborative discussions</i>	---
4. Promote the achievements and ongoing actions of community members who are advancing the vision of this plan within their community.	SUPPORT <i>Through continued communication</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through continued communication</i>	LEAD <i>Through the development of marketing platforms</i>
5. Develop programming in coordination with local schools to introduce students to civic leadership and encourage them to enter leadership roles within their communities.	SUPPORT <i>By participating in training program efforts</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in training program efforts</i>	LEAD <i>By developing training programs and local advocacy</i>
6. Encourage collaboration between municipalities, transportation agencies and organizations to facilitate the expansion of existing transportation systems and inform residents of their progress and availability.	LEAD <i>By convening local parties and moderating discussions</i>	SUPPORT <i>By participating in collaborative discussions</i>	---
7. Support the sharing and distribution of resources throughout the county so no individual community is unable to progress their future initiatives.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying local needs and opportunities</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through research, studies and financial discussions</i>
8. Support the exploration and adoption of economic development tools to increase and diversify revenue and funding sources.	SUPPORT <i>Through development decisions and incentives</i>	SUPPORT <i>By identifying specific community needs</i>	LEAD <i>Through tool identification and education</i>
9. Support the implementation of the recommendations outlined within this document to plan for and implement future facility and infrastructure improvement projects needed to guide and support growth.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>By providing administrative and financial assistance</i>
10. Support the concentration of resources around highly visible projects that stimulate additional investment and local benefits.	LEAD <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>Through strategic public planning and investment</i>	SUPPORT <i>By providing administrative and financial assistance</i>