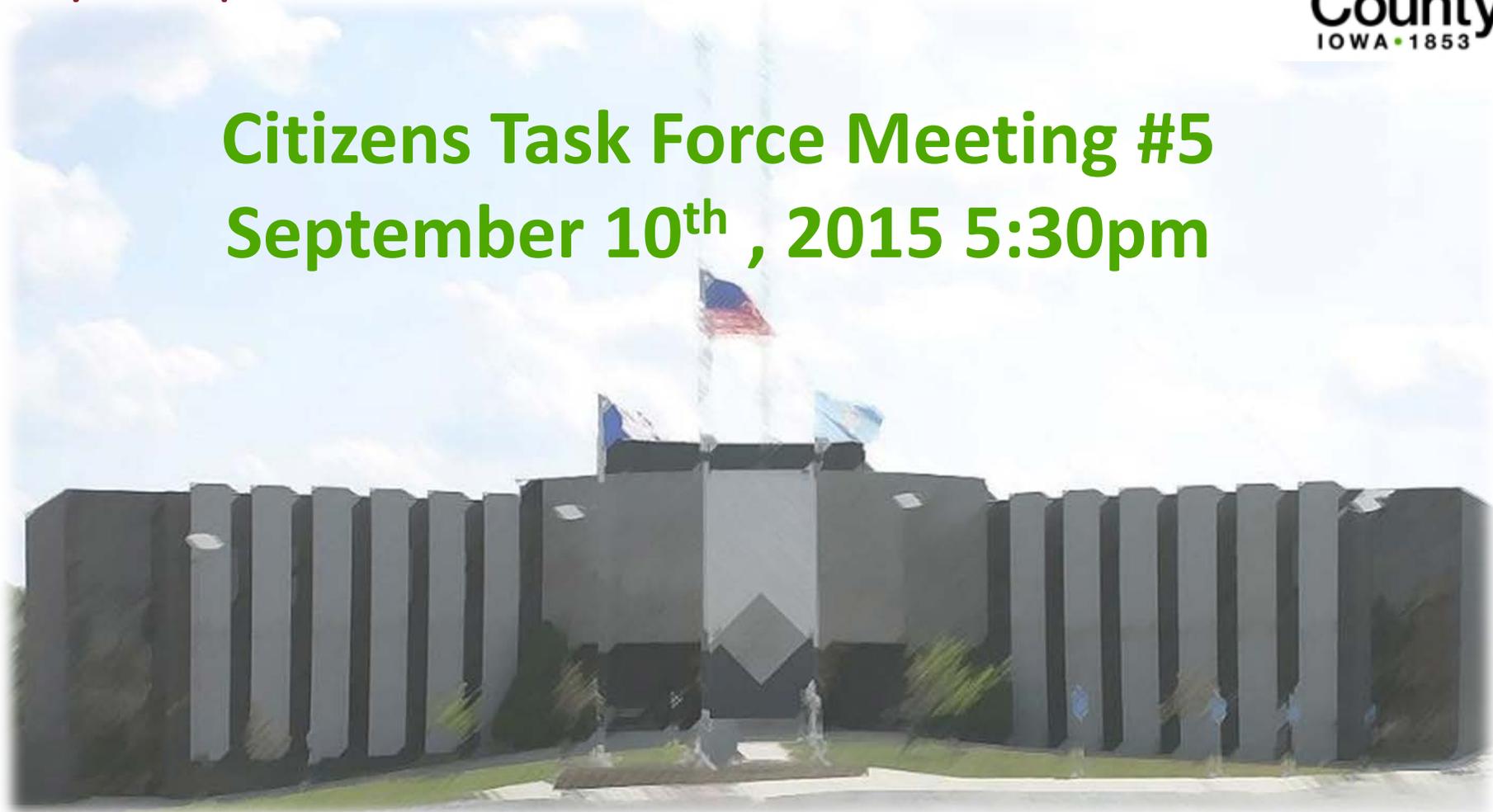


Story County  
Coordinated Long Range Plan  
From Cornerstone to Capstone  
Story County Comprehensive Plan



**Citizens Task Force Meeting #5**  
**September 10<sup>th</sup> , 2015 5:30pm**





# Meeting Agenda

- **Review Planning Schedule and Public Input Efforts to Date**
- Review Goals and Objectives from Conservation & Recreation Chapter
- Review Goals and Policies from Economic Prosperity Chapter
- Continue Future Land Use Discussion

# C2C Schedule and Tasks By Month Continued



Month Name	Calendar Year	Fiscal Year	C2C Milestone Task(s)	MSA Team Detailed Work and Meeting Activities
August	2015	2016	Plan Development	Complete Partial Draft and Partial Draft Presentations to Planning & Zoning Commission and County Board of Supervisors
September	2015	2016		C2C Project Team and Task Force Meeting and Finalizing Future Land Use Scenarios
October	2016	2016		C2C Project Team and Task Force Meetings to Review Draft Plan
November	2016	2016		Complete Final Draft Plan and Present to Planning & Zoning Commission and County Board of Supervisors
December	2016	2016		<i>Break for Holidays - No Scheduled Meetings</i>
January	2016	2016		Plan Review and Adoption
February	2016	2016	C2C Project Team and Task Force Meeting: Final Review and Recommendations	
March	2016	2016	Planning and Zoning Commission Work Session to Review Plan	
April	2016	2016	Planning and Zoning Commission Final Review, Hearing and Recommendation to Board of Supervisors	
May	2016	2016	Board of Supervisors Work Session to Review Plan	
June	2016	2016	Board of Supervisors Public Hearing and Consideration for Adoption	



# The C2C Plan

From Cornerstone to Capstone – Story County Comprehensive Plan

[HOME](#) [ABOUT THE C2C PLAN](#) [DRAFT CHAPTERS – WORKING OUTLINE](#) [SCHEDULED MEETINGS](#)

## Scheduled Meetings

*The following meetings have been scheduled as part of the C2C Plan Project.  
All meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.*

*Updated August 13th, 2015 at 2:10PM*

### Public Engagement Meetings

- Plan Review Open Houses
  - January 2016
  - Time: TBD
  - Location: TBD

### Citizens Task Force Meetings

- August 13th, 2016
  - 5:30PM

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### Story County Conservation Social Media



# C2C Plan Public Engagement Opportunities



- [www.C2Cplan.com](http://www.C2Cplan.com)
- County Planning & Development Staff
- Consultant Team
- Project Team Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays
- Citizens Task Force Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)
- Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings
- Board of Supervisor Meetings
- Youth Survey
- ISU Student Survey
- Plan Review Open Houses – January 2016
- *Natural Resources and Recreation Input Meetings*
- *Community Input Meetings – Completed*
- *Citizens Survey – Closed at end of July*

# Survey Review and Deployment



- Citizens Survey closed August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015
  - 684 responses
  - Summary in Chapter 2 and complete results in Appendix B
- Youth Survey is open and will stay open through September
  - 12-18yrs old is target audience
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C2Cyouthsurvey>
  - Link on C2Cplan.com
  - Open ended questions
- Iowa State Student Survey in development
  - Current ISU students will be the target audience
  - Mix of open ended and multiple choice questions



## The C2C Plan

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**Story County Cornerstone To Capstone  
Coordinated Long Range Plan Survey**

The survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/c2cyouthsurvey>

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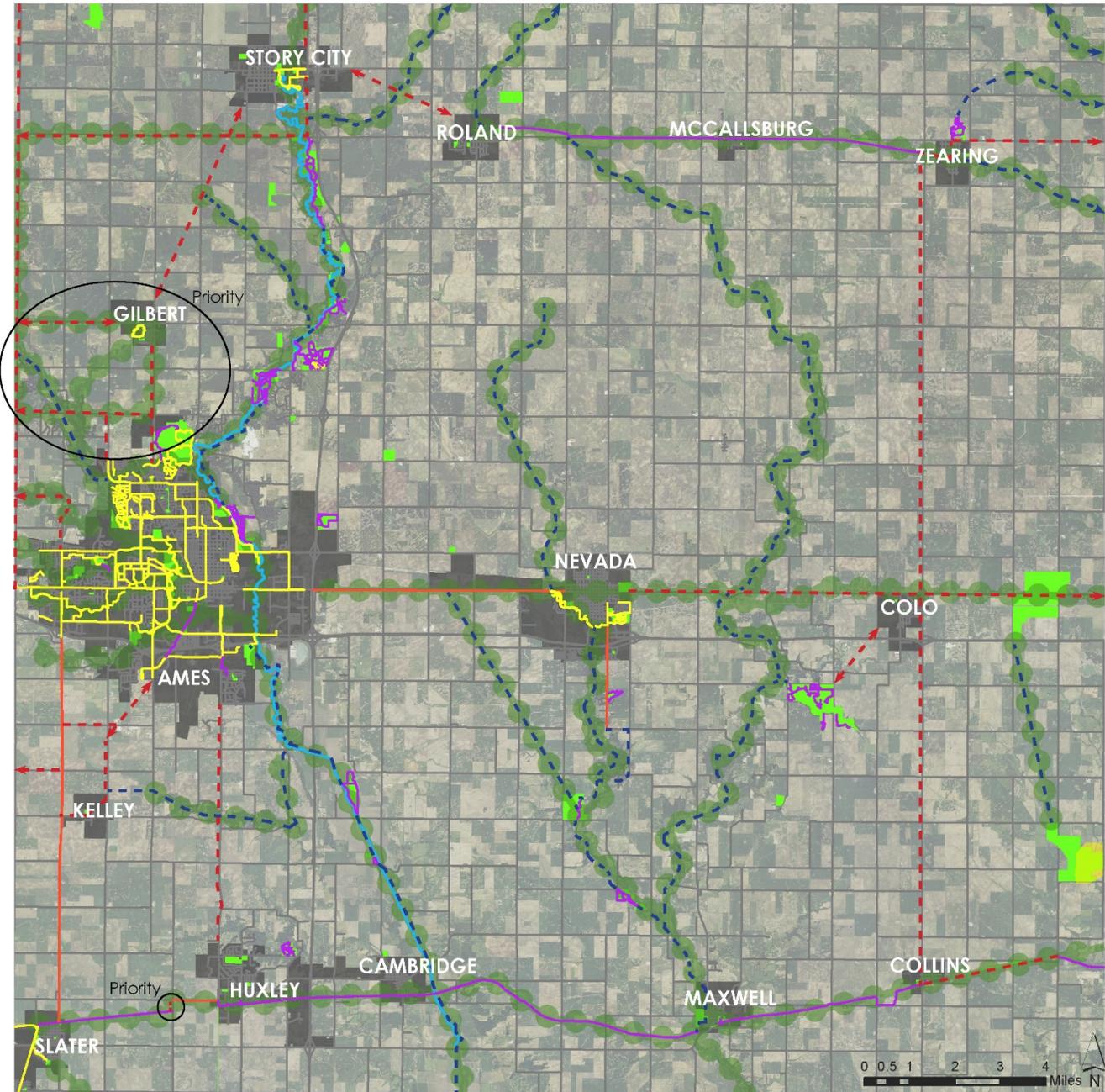
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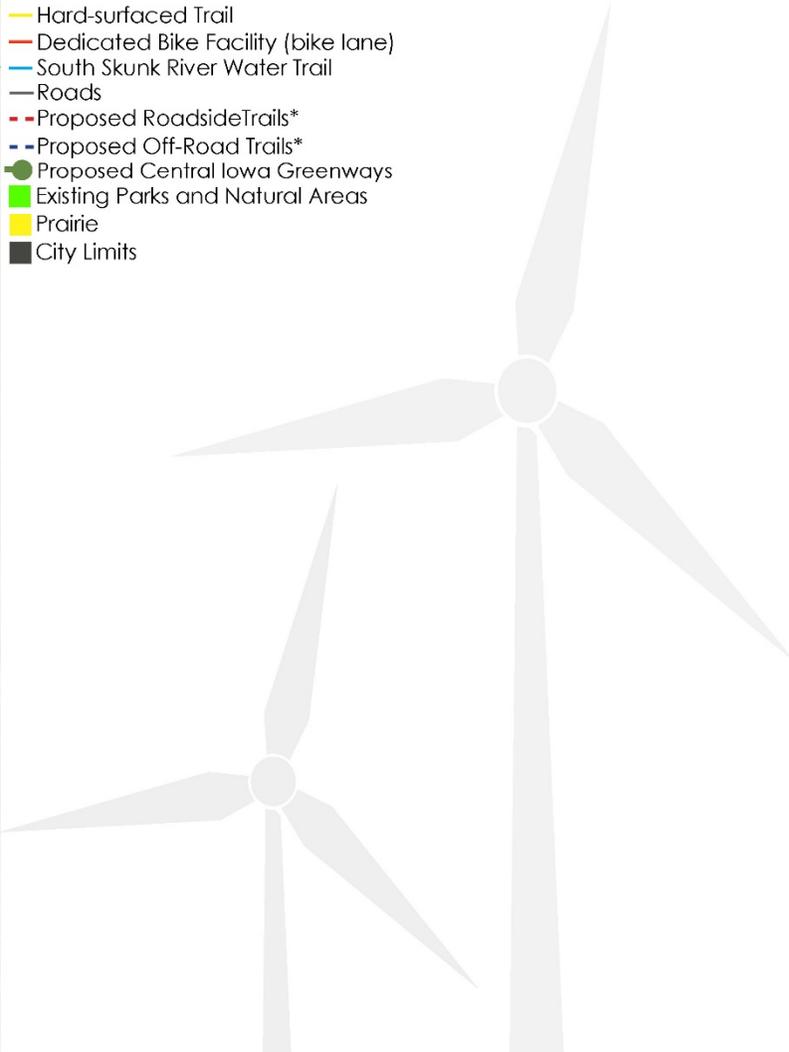


# Meeting Agenda

- Review Planning Schedule and Public Input Efforts to Date
- **Review Goals and Objectives from Conservation & Recreation Chapter**
- Review Goals and Policies from Economic Prosperity Chapter
- Continue Future Land Use Discussion



- Legend**
- Soft-surfaced Trail
  - Hard-surfaced Trail
  - Dedicated Bike Facility (bike lane)
  - South Skunk River Water Trail
  - Roads
  - - Proposed Roadside Trails\*
  - - Proposed Off-Road Trails\*
  - Proposed Central Iowa Greenways
  - Existing Parks and Natural Areas
  - Prairie
  - City Limits



DRAFT: 08.21.2015

\*PROPOSED TRAIL LOCATIONS ARE VERY GENERAL. NO SPECIFIC TRAIL ALIGNMENTS OR LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN DETERMINED OR ESTABLISHED BY THIS MAP.

GIS Data Sources:  
Story County GIS Department  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources GIS Library (NRGIS)





# Chapter 4: Conservation of Natural Resources and Recreation

Goals, Objectives and Strategies



# Goals

In order to establish a shared vision for Story County that will help guide future actions and decisions, the following recreation and conservation of natural resources goals have been developed.



# Goal 1:

**Maintain, improve, and expand the current recreational system (parks, trails, and open space) and its services for current and future use and enjoyment.**

## Objectives:

- Ensure all public parks, green spaces, and services within Story County are safe and easy to access.
- Provide accessibility for all individuals through the use of handicap accessible parking spaces, play equipment, and paved trails where possible.
- Provide connected networks of pedestrian and bike friendly pathways that link public parks to the community.
- Maximize the use of current parks by researching, introducing, and implementing state-of-the-art equipment and activities.
- Provide safe biking opportunities within the county and connect to existing and future trails and routes within the cities and adjoining counties.

## Strategies:

- Encourage citizen participation in the planning, development, and operation of recreational trails and facilities through public hearings, surveys, and activities to ensure community needs and desires are met.
- Periodically review the existing trail network and the proposed trails and greenway plan to identify potential gaps within the system and determine trail improvement and greenway priorities. Develop and propose a future trails network to increase connectivity, and ensure safe access to all public parks and recreation areas.
- Partner with local school districts, conservation groups, and organizations in support of recreation and natural resource protection programs.



# Goal 2:

**Restore the natural diversity, dynamics, distributions, habitats, and behaviors of Story County's native plant and animal populations.**

## Objectives:

- Preserve and protect the existing native plants and animals, as well as seek to re-establish them where they historically occurred.
- Restore native plant and animal populations in parks where they have been eliminated due to natural processes or human activity, given adequate space and habitat for their re-establishment.
- Re-populate historic native plant types in areas where possible, and maintain the processes that sustain them (i.e. prescribed prairie burns).
- Maintain and establish healthy habitats that meet the needs of native animal populations and their migratory patterns.
- Minimize human impacts on native plant and animal populations, the ecosystem they comprise, and processes that sustain them.
- Restrict development within environmentally sensitive areas including floodplains, steep slopes, wooded areas, and wetlands.

## Strategies:

- Complete an inventory of the County's sensitive areas, habitats, and other natural resources.
- Continue to review and follow the County's floodplain regulations to restrict and regulate development within the floodplain.
- Encourage development to limit impact to existing wooded areas and preserve and restore natural wetlands.
- Research, map, and compare the historic vegetation types of Story County with the existing land cover.
- Promote environmental education programs to protect and restore Story County's native plants and animals, while fostering economic development through nature-based activities.



# Goal 3:

Actively secure, protect, and improve the quality of Story County's ground water and surface waters.

## Objectives:

- Provide leadership and work to limit the loss or degradation of Story County's wetlands and other water bodies.
- Preserve, enhance, and where possible restore the natural and beneficial functions of wetlands, streams, rivers, creeks and lakes.
- Restore wetlands and riparian zones in areas of destruction or degradation.
- Implement storm water Best Management Practices to reduce the speed and impact of storm water runoff.
- Educate the public on ways in which they can lessen the negative human impact on water quality.

## Strategies:

- Recommend the use of Best Management Practices (i.e. bioretention cells, permeable paving, vegetated swales, etc.) on county approved objectives and promote their use and requirement within city jurisdictions.
- Identify and map impaired water bodies within Story County to raise awareness on the severity of this issue.
- Provide citizens with educational documents and activities on ways to improve water quality at the watershed level.



# Goal 4:

**Foster air quality improvement to preserve natural resources and sustain community health and enjoyment.**

## Objectives:

- Provide safe, easy, and affordable options for sustainable transportation.
- Promote the use of sustainable forms of transportation to decrease the amount of harmful small particulates entering and jeopardizing the quality of the air.
- Increase the amount of tree canopy (to produce clean air) in Story County.

## Strategies:

- Increase the level of walkability within Story County.
- Promote the use of bicycle travel with an improved trail network and increase in safely designed bike lanes.
- Relate air quality to health to advocate others to lower their carbon footprint.
- Implement tree planting programs to increase the amount of tree cover within the County.



# Goal 5:

Preserve and protect Story County's land, soil, and geological resources.

## Objectives:

- Protect the native soils and geologic resources (processes and features) as integral components of natural systems.
- Prevent the unnatural erosion, physical removal, or contamination of native soils, as they support diverse biotic communities and serve as the foundation for all terrestrial ecosystems.
- Maintain and restore the integrity of existing geologic resources.

## Strategies:

- Research, map, and inventory the existing below-surface resources of Story County to identify particularly significant and sensitive areas.



# Goal 6:

**Promote environmental education to establish natural resource awareness and a sense of environmental responsibility.**

## Objectives:

- Educate the public on the significance of protecting, restoring, enhancing and conserving Story County's natural resources.
- Work with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of the water, air, and land.

## Strategies:

- Promote natural resource protection programs that are easy to implement and understand to allow people of all ages to become involved.
- Establish opportunities for community members to connect with nature to gain a sense of environmental awareness and responsibility.



# Goal 7:

**Promote sustainable lifestyles, behaviors, and activities, and provide a safe and healthy environment for all to live, work, and play.**

## Objectives:

- Encourage the citizens of Story County to utilize and take advantage of sustainable transportation options.
- Retain and improve food security through the use of sustainable agriculture practices.
- Advocate the responsible use of Story County's natural resources.
- Promote "smart growth" practices and principals and Story County continues to grow and prosper.

## Strategies:

- Partner with conservation groups and participating natural resource protection programs.



# Goal 8:

Focus available resources on high-priority areas identified within the County.

## Objectives:

- Identify and improve upon areas within Story County that have been identified as environmentally sensitive, habitat for endangered species, or lacking safe trails and recreational opportunities.
- Ensure that areas in need remain a high priority, and are able to improve over time.

## Strategies:

- Provide community members with safe and easy to access high-quality recreational opportunities.
- Protect biological resources including: sensitive species and habitat, native vegetation and wildlife, and limit the use of exotic plant species.
- Remove invasive and pest species.
- Restore historic habitat and native species.
- Protect the waters of Story County with storm water best management practices and a reduction in point and non-point source pollution.
- Protect and improve the quality of the air by reducing Story County's carbon and environmental footprint as a whole.
- Preserve and protect Story County's soil and geologic resources through the regulation of the extraction of Story County's below-surface resources.



# Meeting Agenda

- Review Planning Schedule and Public Input Efforts to Date
- Review Goals and Objectives from Conservation & Recreation Chapter
- **Review Goals and Polices from Economic Prosperity Chapter**
- Continue Future Land Use Discussion



# CHAPTER 6: ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Narrative and Goals

# Sustainable County-Wide Economic Development



*This section provides goals and policies that support cooperation and coordination at a county-wide level to ensure sustainable economic development. There are a number of established organizations in the region that are engaged in economic development activities. It is in the best interests of Story County to support and collaborate with these regional organizations. By focusing on common goals and allocating resources accordingly, government and private organizations can work together regionally to maximize successful business start-up, retention, expansion and recruitment efforts.*

## **Goals**

### **EP1.1: Story County will cooperate regionally to:**

- a) Promote a sustainable, strong, diverse and healthy economy;**
- b) Promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses;**
- c) Foster the startup and development of new businesses;**
- d) Encourage the relocation of environmentally responsible businesses to the region;**
- e) Promote income levels that are higher than the national average;**
- f) Ensure the sustainable economic use of agricultural resources and agricultural lands.**

**EP1.2: Create a healthy and sustainable regional economy by the retention, expansion and recruitment of businesses.**

# Environment and Promoting Economic Development



*In recent years there has been a greater recognition that economic development should not come at the expense of environmental quality, which itself is recognized as an important component of the community. A balanced approach to environmental sustainability advocates a balance between the utilization of area resources and economic growth. Economic growth should not exceed the ability of the natural or built environment to sustain growth over the long term.*

## **Goal**

**2.1: Recognize the importance of environmental quality and acknowledge that protection of the environment will contribute to economic vitality.**

## Regulation

*A regulatory environment that offers flexibility, consistency, predictability and clear direction enhances economic development opportunities.*

## **Goals**

**EP3.1: Provide consistent, fair and timely regulations that are flexible, responsive and effective.**

**EP3.2: Promote public/private partnerships that encourage innovation and creativity in the economic expansion of our region.**

# Income

*One of the primary reasons to pursue economic development is to increase the standard of living for the citizens of Story County. One of the primary goals of this economic development element is to create more living-wage jobs. A strategic approach in the pursuit of new jobs is to recruit, retain and expand the types of industries that provide quality, good-paying jobs.*



**Goal EP4.1: Encourage the creation of jobs that provide annual incomes for all persons in the County to be above the Iowa average and above the national average annual income.**

# Qualified Labor Force

*Qualified labor is essential to retain and recruit business. The basic cornerstone in the development of a qualified labor force is the educational community. Located within Story County is a diverse group of higher-education facilities, including community colleges, universities, and private technical and business schools. These schools, as well as the K-through-12 public and private schools, should be encouraged to constantly evaluate their programs to be responsive to the changing job market. Partnerships between business and the educational community should be nurtured to further this process.*

*Business should be encouraged to partner with labor unions and other organizations to develop specialized training programs to meet the needs of employers.*

**Goal EP5.1: Promote a qualified labor force that is globally competitive and responds to the changing needs of the workplace.**

# Adequate Infrastructure and Land Supply



*In order to provide the foundation for economic development and expansion, the County and the various municipalities must ensure that businesses and organizations have sufficient resources in terms of infrastructure and available land, for expansion. The Land Use chapter outlines the areas of the county designated for various future land uses. Specific to economic development, the various communities must work individually and together to ensure that adequate space is available for expansion of business, including land for new buildings and facilities, as well as a sufficient base of buildings ready for business expansion and operations.*

## **Goals**

**EP6.1 Each community in Story County will conduct regular reviews (on an annual basis) to ensure that adequate land and space is available for business expansion.**

**EP6.2: Each community should have infrastructure studies completed to identify needs for additional infrastructure capacity in order to serve forecasted and anticipated economic expansion.**

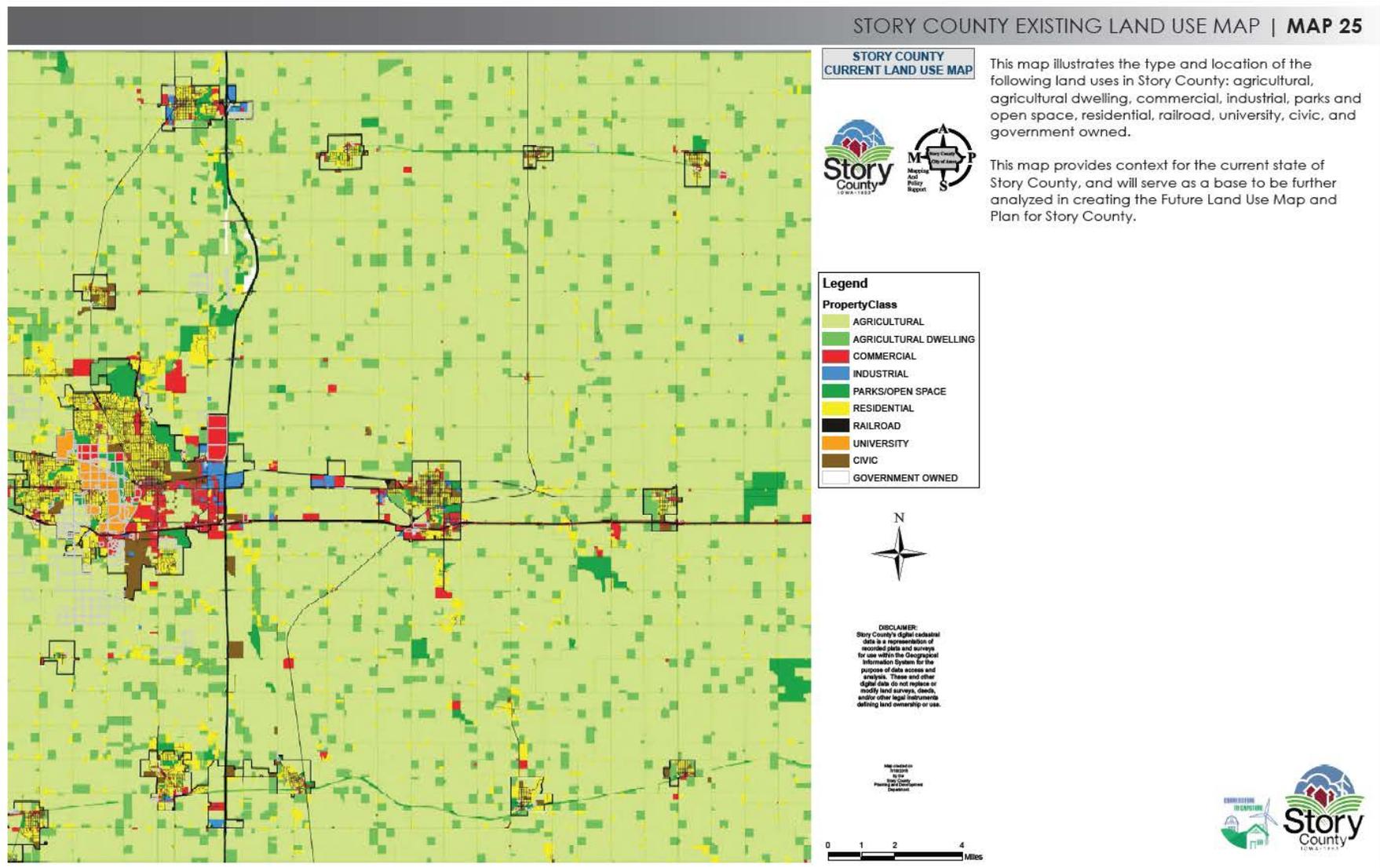


# Meeting Agenda

- Review Planning Schedule and Public Input Efforts to Date
- Review Goals and Objectives from Conservation & Recreation Chapter
- Review Goals and Policies from Economic Prosperity Chapter
- **Continue Future Land Use Discussion**

# Future Land Use Scenarios

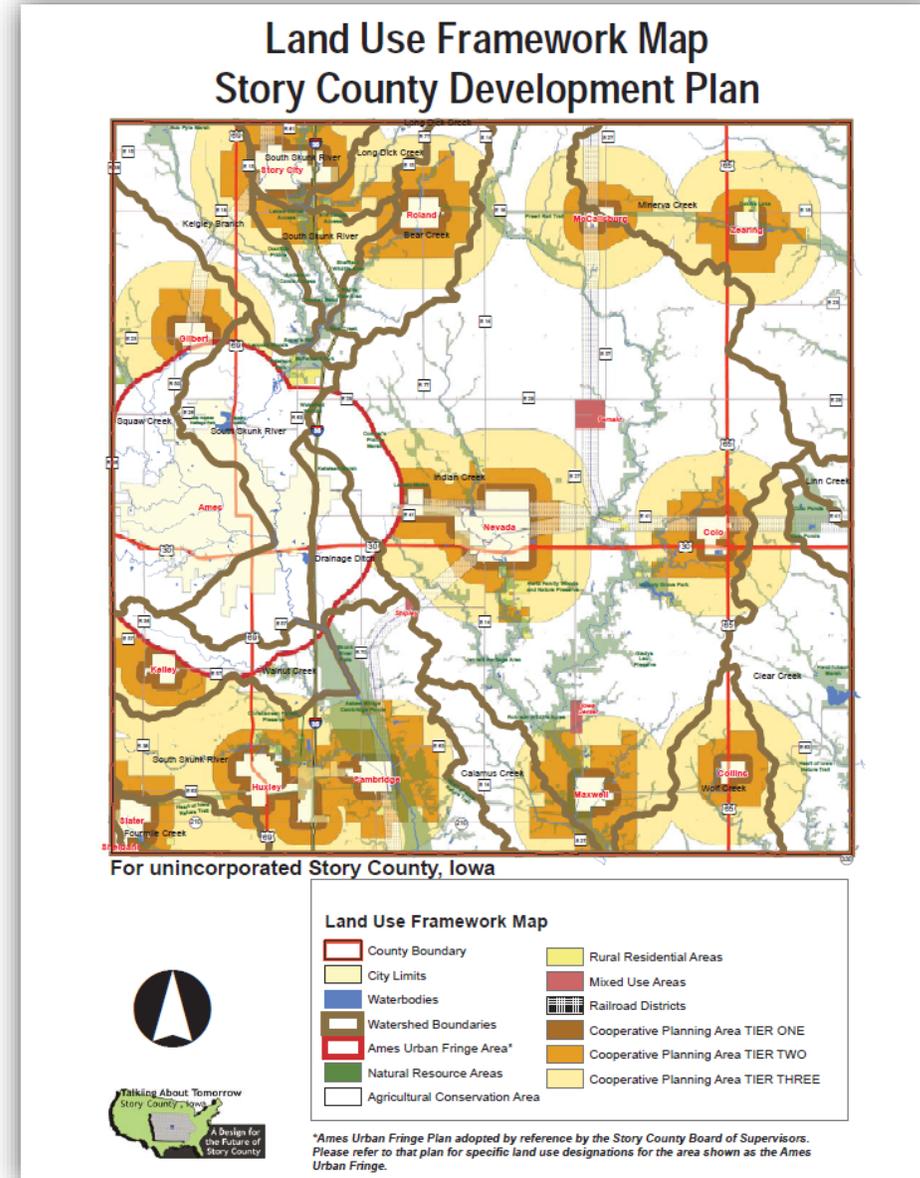
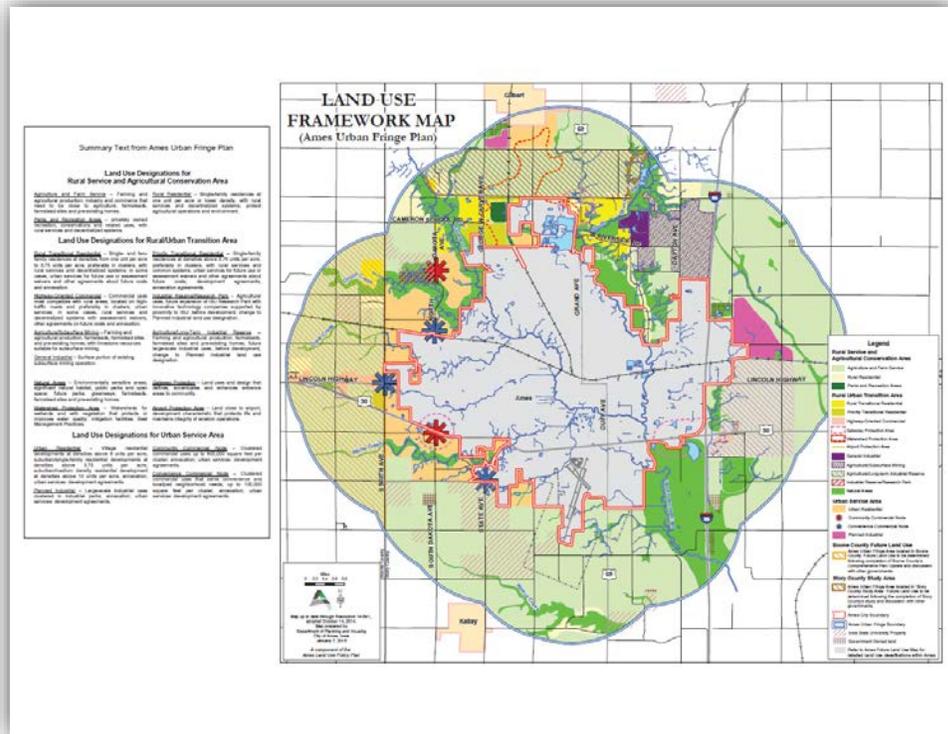
- Existing Land Uses



# Future Land Use Scenarios



- Existing Story County Land Use Framework Map
- Ames Urban Fringe Area Map



# Future Land Use Scenarios

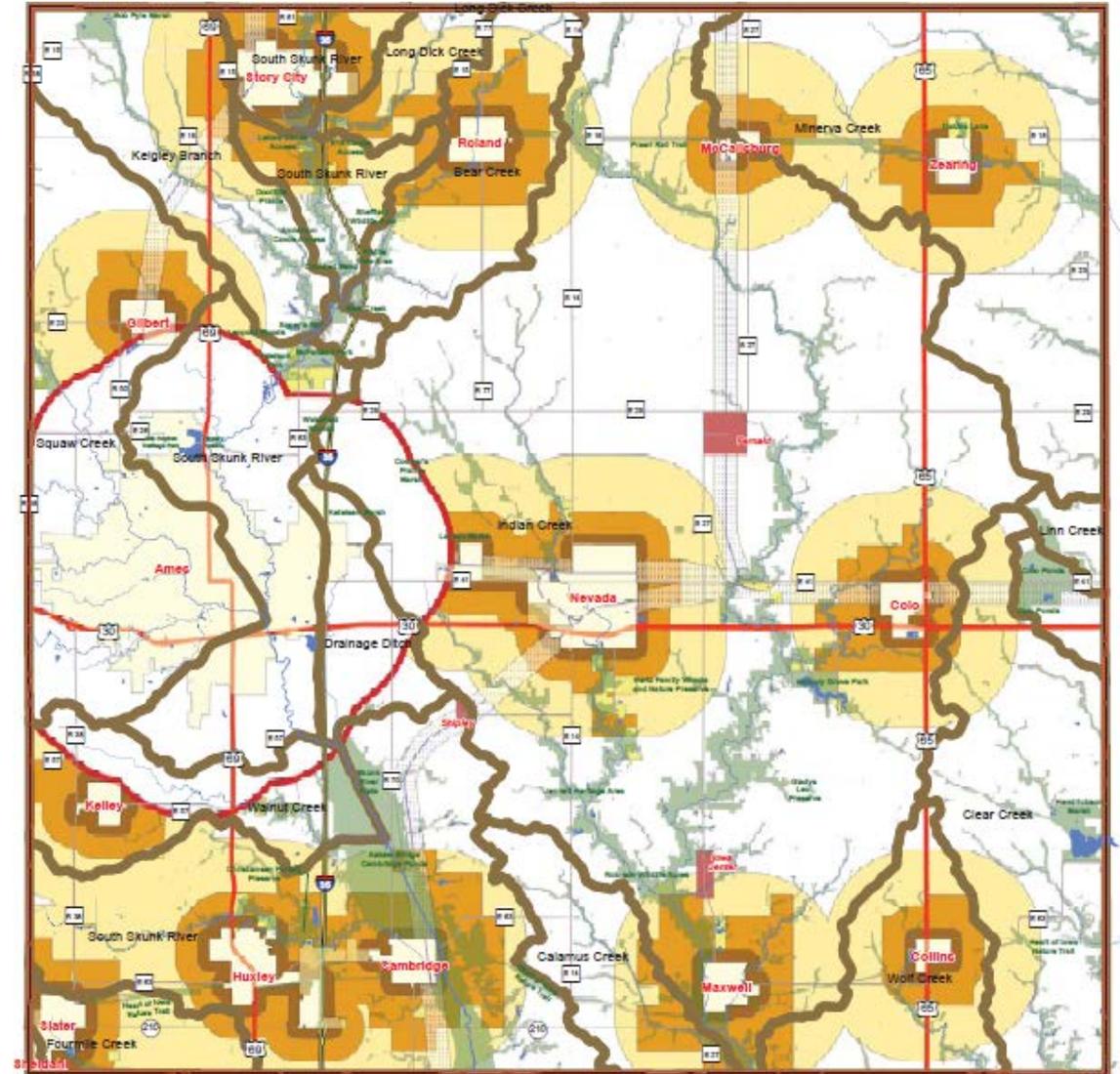


- **Proposed Land Use Designations Based on Existing Land Use Framework Map:**

- Natural Resource Area
- Agricultural Conservation Area
- Rural Residential Area
- Mixed Use Area (Rename “*Rural Village Area*”)
- Cooperative Planning Area (2 mile buffer)
- Ames Urban Fringe Area

Plus:

- Industrial Area
- Commercial Area

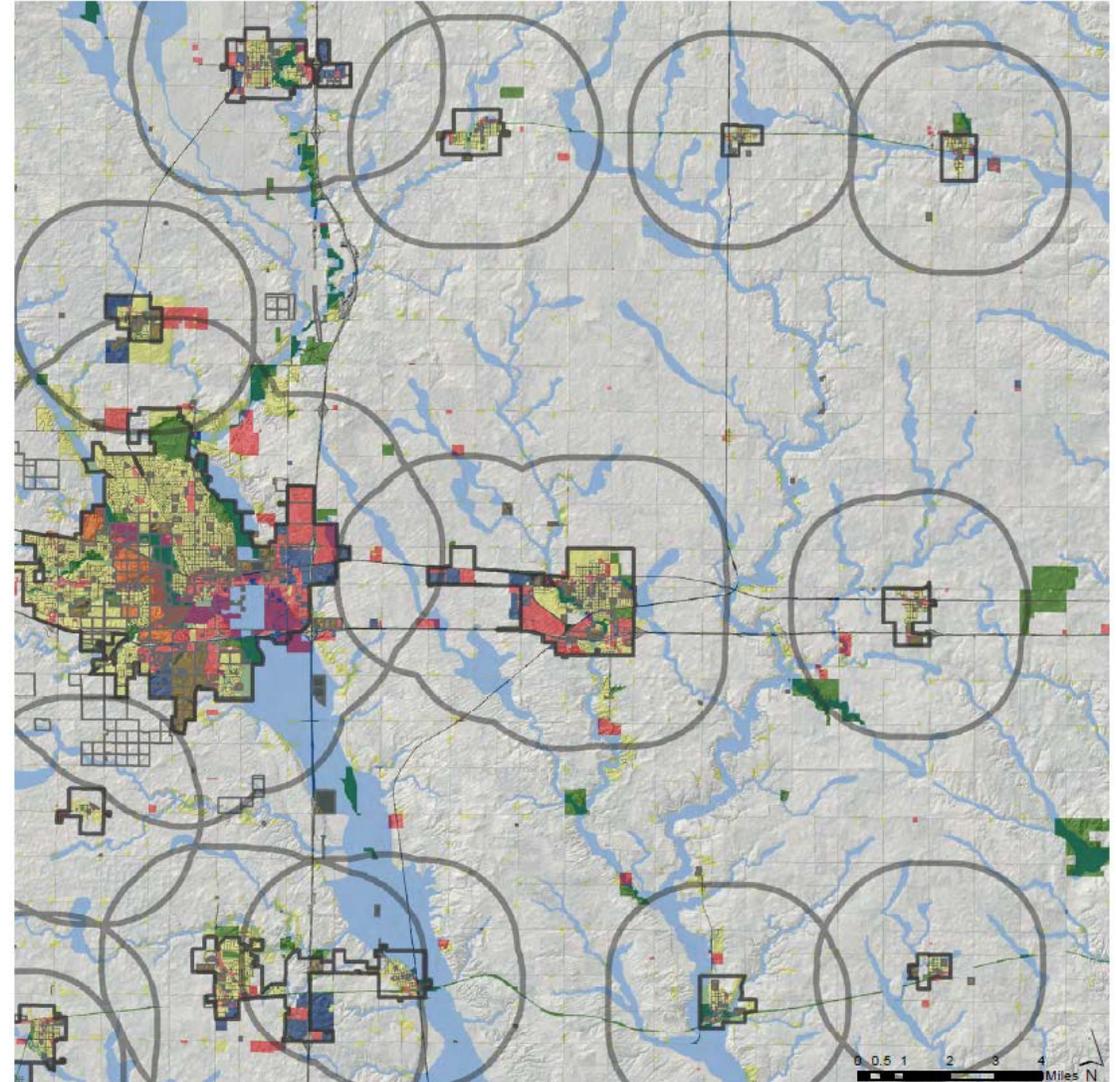


# Future Land Use Scenarios



- **Proposed Land Use Approach Based on Public Input:**

- Preserve and protect both valuable ag land and sensitive natural areas.
- Limit sprawl and encourage growth within and near existing urbanized areas.



# Upcoming C2C Project Meetings



- C2C Project Team Meetings
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the very month through February 2016
  - Next is September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am
- C2C Citizen Task Force Meetings
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month through February 2016
  - Next is October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015
    - 5:00pm Food and Socializing
    - 5:30pm Meeting
- Plan Review Open Houses (four meetings across County)
  - January 2016
- Meetings with County Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors
  - November 2015, March – June 2016



# Next Meeting

- October 10th, 2015 5:00pm
- Review Public Input to Date
- Review Draft Chapters
- Finalize Land Use Scenarios