

Ward County Comprehensive Plan

INTRODUCTION

Ward County is in the process of developing a Comprehensive Plan to foster a more vibrant and resilient county.

The Comprehensive Plan is an official document adopted by the Ward County Board of Commissioners as a policy guide, vision, and roadmap to the future. Comprehensive plans are an essential tool for local governments that practice land use management. They are the legal foundation for related decisions. Basic land use and policy decisions of a comprehensive plan help the jurisdiction act with consistency and help avoid legal challenges. Comprehensive plans typically work to coordinate decision making about transportation, land development, public facilities, and other types of physical development.

The last Ward County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1994. Its primary focus was to encourage development where appropriate while protecting agricultural land. In the last 24 years, the county has experienced significant growth and change. The new Comprehensive Plan will provide guidance for public policy and decision making on land use and development, transportation, and potentially many other topics.

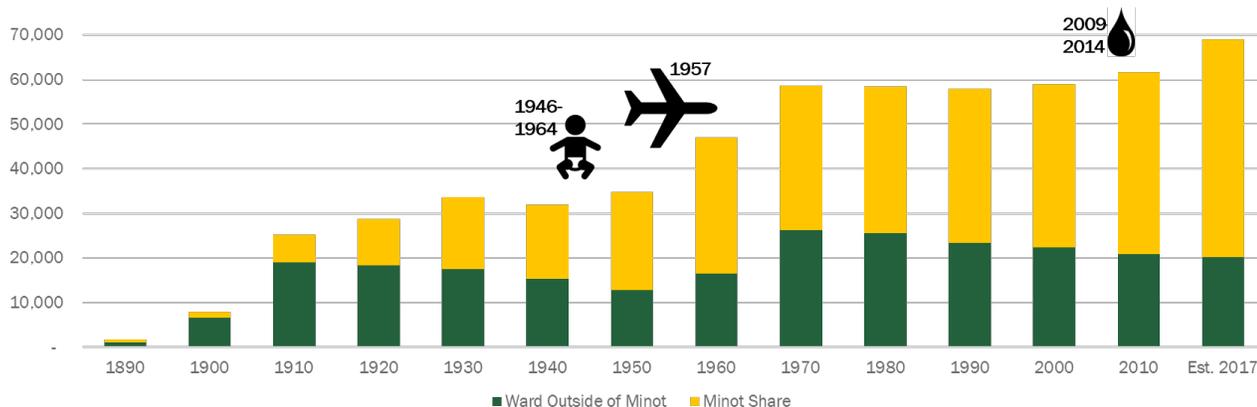
The development process for the new Comprehensive Plan will help the County evaluate physical needs for future growth, identify appropriate locations for that future growth, help prioritize investments, develop policies to address potential conflicts, and build a clear sense of

direction for the future. To ensure the Comprehensive Plan reflects the values and perspectives of Ward County citizens, this comprehensive plan process uses a variety of outreach methods to communicate with the people who live and work in Ward County. The back page of this flyer lists several ways to follow the planning process and offer feedback.

WHAT WILL THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

At North Dakota statehood, the Ward County of today was part of what was known as “Imperial Ward County” — the largest county in North Dakota. Two questions to split “Imperial Ward County” into smaller counties were on the 1908 ballot. Due to some legal questions, it took a series of court decisions to finally in 1910 result in the establishment of the current boundaries of Renville, Burke, Mountrail and Ward Counties. Since that time, the County has experienced three significant population growth spurts. After World War II the County saw a 35% increase from 1950-1960 which was the heart of the Baby Boomer years (1946-1964). The Minot Air Force Base initial development from 1957 to 1964 brought thousands of military personnel and their dependents. Then in 2009, the Bakken Oil Boom really began to take off and continued until the downturn in oil prices in 2014.

One of the objectives of the Ward County Comprehensive Plan process is to identify the factors most likely to influence growth in Ward County between now and 2040. Another is to understand what the people of Ward County want the County to be like in the future.



Project Timeline

The Ward County Comprehensive Plan is expected to be completed and adopted by March 2019. The three-phase process is shown below. Phase I identifies issues and opportunities, trends and existing conditions, Phase II studies and recommends options and alternatives, and Phase III creates an implementation plan, and completes a review and approval process.



Share your thoughts at the upcoming meetings!



Tuesday, June 5, 2018
6:00 PM

North Central Research Extension Center
5400 Highway 83 South
Minot, ND



Thursday, June 7, 2018
6:00 PM

Berthold Senior Citizens Club
309 Main Street
Berthold, ND

Stay Connected



Public comments welcome!

Joel Quanbeck
728 East Beaton Drive
West Fargo, ND 58078

or to Joel.Quanbeck@kljeng.com
with "Ward County Public Input"
in the subject line



Website

Information regarding the Comprehensive Plan will be housed on the project's website:

www.FutureForWard2040.com



Survey

Please take a short survey to help us understand your opinion about the future of Ward County.

Online: www.surveymonkey.com/r/wardcounty

A paper copy can be requested by calling 701-838-0767

