

Horizon 2020 – Environmental Chapter (Chapter 16): Overview

Section I: Overview and Strategies

Overview:

Douglas County has a rich and valuable environmental heritage that is characterized by a variety of environmental and natural conditions. Prairies, rivers, forests, wetlands, and other natural areas provide scenic beauty, recreation, natural habitats, and opportunities for interpretation and education. Natural areas are an important component of the quality of life for residents and the need for protection of these natural areas is an important component in planning for growth and development in Douglas County.

In addition to natural areas, other important environmental facets contribute to the overall health of the environment and community. Sustainable, low-impact development is recognized as an ever increasing and important part of an environmental preservation plan. Air quality, waste management, and resource management all contribute to protecting the health of our environment, as well as the personal health of the residents of Douglas County.

Strategies:

Consider the impact upon environmental and natural resources in all planning efforts, including balancing private land rights, land development, and environmental considerations.

Promote sustainable and efficient management of water, land and habitat resources.

Establish effective incentives for natural resource preservation, sustainable development and waste management.

Develop educational programs to foster community awareness of and support for the protection and enhancement of natural areas, efficient use of natural resources and waste management.

Encourage environmental policies and programs to secure the communities future economic, ecological and human health.