

# Chapter 12: Implementation

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Photo credit: GBAJPB



Photo credit: True North Bemidji

## Introduction

The section explains how the Comprehensive Plan will be implemented to achieve the desired goals as set forth by the Greater Bemidji Area. The Comprehensive Plan addresses many important components critical to sustaining a healthy community while preserving the area's natural resources and history. As change is inevitable, the plan may need to be amended to appropriately reflect those changes.

## Intergovernmental Collaboration

Intergovernmental cooperation involves working with the City of Bemidji, Northern Township, Beltrami County, neighboring communities, school districts, and other agencies to understand how future planning and development activity may impact other jurisdictions or where joint efforts can be pursued. Generally, this involves sharing plans and goals that may conflict or coincide with neighboring jurisdictions and local agencies to allow for cooperation that results in an optimum implementation process.

## Governmental Collaboration

### 1. Local Partnerships

Several organizations within Beltrami County work together to provide services desired by the Greater Bemidji Area residents and businesses. Various departments within county government are valuable to the region as the Greater Bemidji Area works to maintain a high quality of life for residents.



Photo credit: GBAJPB

## 2. Regional Partnerships

Regional partnerships can also benefit the Greater Bemidji Area, and several have been identified throughout this document. Key regional agencies that can help implement strategies in this plan include the Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC).

## 3. State Partnerships

The following is a list of state agencies whose departments and areas of expertise could assist the Greater Bemidji Area as it moves forward with the implementation of this plan:

- a. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- b. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
- c. Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

## Public Engagement

In addition to important intergovernmental collaborations, promoting additional public engagement in Greater Bemidji Area activities will be beneficial in the implementation of The Comprehensive Plan. Informing and involving the public is an essential part of providing transparency in governance. The Greater Bemidji Area understands that getting good results in community development depends on the support of its residents. The Greater Bemidji Area will continue to look for ways to promote its activities and decision-making process in building more productive resident engagement.

## Intergovernmental Collaboration Summary

Both intergovernmental cooperation and public engagement share the core requirement of effective communication. Collaboration and public engagement are important ways to make the most efficient use of the Greater Bemidji Area's limited resources and ensure fair and equitable decision-making processes.

## Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board Roles and Responsibilities

### Joint Planning Board (JPB)

The Joint Planning Board (JPB) is the regulatory body made up of five members for planning and zoning decisions within the Greater Bemidji Area consisting of the local jurisdiction of the City of Bemidji and Northern Township.

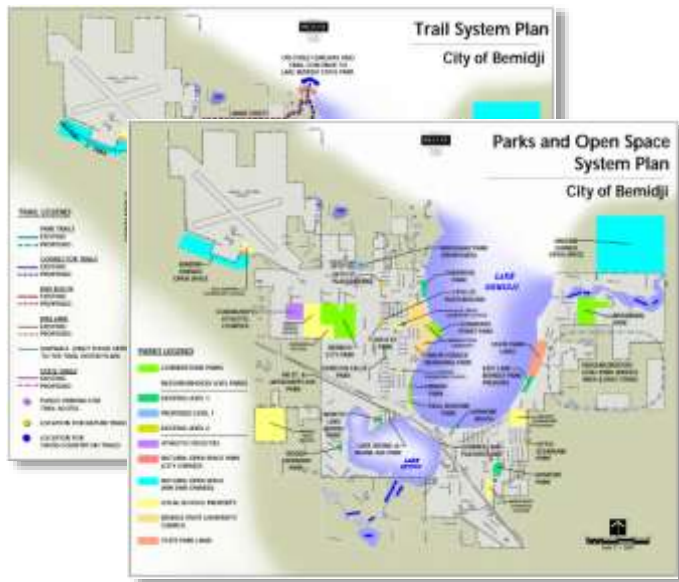
### Joint Planning Commission (JPC)

The Joint Planning Commission (JPC) is made up of nine individuals appointed by the JPB. The JPC is the primary entity responsible for the long-term, comprehensive planning in the Greater Bemidji Area. It also reviews and makes decisions on land use applications and development projects in compliance with zoning ordinance.

## Greater Bemidji Area Plans and Documents for Reference in Planning

- Bemidji Regional Airport Master Plan (Draft)
- Bemidji Regional Airport AUAR
- Bemidji Bicycle Plan
- City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation Plan
- 2012 Beltrami County Housing Study
- Bemidji South Shore PUD and AUAR
- 2009 City of Bemidji Comprehensive Sewer Study
- Beltrami County Forest Health Management Plan
- Beltrami County Local Water Plan
- Beltrami County Local Water Plan Priority Concerns
- Beltrami County Recreational Facilities Plan
- Beltrami County Recreational Trail Plan
- Amendment to Beltrami County Forest and Recreational Plan
- Beltrami County Ordinance No. 6 Shoreland
- Mississippi Headwaters Board Comp Plan
- Bemidji Central City Plan
- Bemidji Community Profile
- Bemidji Through the years History
- Bemidji Bike Plan
- JPB Land Use Analysis

- Hwy197 Access Management Assessment
- City of Bemidji Quality Neighborhood Study
- City of Bemidji Wellhead Protection
- City Parks Implementation Plan
- JPB Land Use Plan (excluding Bemidji Township)
- JPB Transportation Plan (excluding Bemidji Township)
- City of Bemidji Stormwater Plan
- MnDNR Shoreland Ordinances
- Bemidji GreenStep Initiative Sustainability Goals



## Official Controls

### Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance

The uncontrolled use of land within the Greater Bemidji Area affects the public health, safety and general welfare not only by contributing to pollution of land and waters, but also by impairing the local tax base. It is, therefore, in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of Bemidji Area residents for their local governmental entities to work together to develop plans for governing as one community and to provide for the wise utilization of land, water, and cooperative resources through the planned regulation of land uses within the Greater Bemidji Area. The Minnesota Legislature, through enabling legislation, has delegated responsibility to local units of government in Minnesota to conduct planning, regulate the subdivision of land, and enact official controls for the development and use of land within their jurisdictions. This includes shoreland regulation of public waters and wetlands in the Greater Bemidji Area. This responsibility is hereby recognized and embraced by the City of Bemidji and Northern Township acting together as the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board and will be accomplished

through the enactment and enforcement of the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance and this Comprehensive Plan.

## **Community Action Plan**

The community action plan is laid out in a table format for easy reference by city and township leaders and stakeholders. Each strategy identified within this plan is assigned a potential time frame, an agency or agencies responsible for ensuring that the strategy is carried out, and the general resources required to implement each strategy.

### **Potential Partnerships**

The Greater Bemidji Area understands that accomplishing the objectives of the community action plan will be a community effort comprised of elected officials, community leaders, foundations and development partnerships, and other local, county, regional, and state government agencies to be successful.

### **Elected Officials**

Elected officials working together to accomplish objectives that will have a positive impact on the Greater Bemidji Area as well as their local constituents will continue the recent successes of this growing regional center.

### **Community Leaders**

Community leaders have the potential to get the community rallied around new development, a healthy initiative, or other objectives to better the community. Typically, community leaders are volunteer citizens passionate about bringing positive change or new development into the community.

### **Foundations/Development Partners**

These partners have the potential to fund projects or team up with staff support to work on an objective.

### **Government Agencies**

Local, County, Regional, and State government agencies will need to work together as the Greater Bemidji Area continues to grow. Combining efforts for land use, environmental, transportation, as well as other items requiring additional planning for growth will be important to the success of the Greater Bemidji Area.

# Greater Bemidji Area Action Plan Table

## Chapter 4: Land Use

### *Objective 4.1: Preserve the Quality Residential Neighborhoods of the Greater Bemidji Area*

#### *Strategies:*

1. Review and update the land use ordinances and zoning map on a regular basis.
2. Promote “mixed-use” areas to improve the transition of residential land use to other land uses.
3. Identify specific redevelopment opportunities and promote revitalization while maintaining character.
4. Allow flexibility with site design standards to ensure high-quality development.
5. Promote pedestrian-scale designs to increase sense of place and improve active transportation in new developments or redevelopments.

#### *Potential Partnerships:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Residents</li><li>• Headwaters Regional Development Commission</li><li>• Greater Bemidji</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City Council/Township Boards</li><li>• Beltrami County HRA</li><li>• Local Developers and Contractors</li></ul> |
|--|---|

### *Objective 4.2: Preserve and Promote Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment or In-Fill Development Where Appropriate*

#### *Strategies:*

1. Promote flexibility for commercial and industrial redevelopment and encourage in-fill development.

2. Identify areas where commercial and industrial uses should be located, specifically adjacent to highways with controlled access where noise, odor, dust, and glare will have minimal impact.
3. Incorporate multi-modal transportation access and aesthetically pleasing site and building designs when reviewing commercial development and redevelopment.
4. Utilize overlay zoning districts to address emerging issues and increase connections and transition of land uses.

*Potential Partnerships:*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bemidji Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Greater Bemidji</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headwaters Regional Development Commission</li> <li>• Northwest Minnesota Foundation</li> </ul> |
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***Objective 4.3: Promote Land Use Decisions that Protect the Natural Environment through Smart Growth and Sustainable Practices***

*Strategies:*

1. Utilize guidelines for land use practices conserving natural landscapes and allow zoning flexibility for implementation.
2. Preserve existing natural habitat connections.
3. Promote in-fill development with access to public infrastructure.
4. Support a reduction of off-street parking requirements for appropriate land uses to allow for increased interior green space.
5. Allow flexibility for developments that use alternative energy sources or land use practices that conserve energy.
6. Use natural hazard and wildfire risk assessment information to make informed land use decisions.



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*Potential Partnerships:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bemidji State University Sustainability Office</li> <li>• City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation Department</li> <li>• Beltrami County Environmental Services</li> <li>• Beltrami County Natural Resource Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</li> <li>• Northwest Clean Energy Resource Team</li> <li>• Beltrami County Emergency Management</li> <li>• Local Naturalist Organization</li> </ul>
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**Chapter 5: Downtown Bemidji**

*Objective 5.1: Promote a “Mixed-Use” Downtown Bemidji to Preserve and Encourage Diversity in Business and Housing Opportunities*

*Strategies:*

1. Support initiatives and redevelopment designed to increase Downtown housing.
2. Support and encourage long-range master planning for the rail corridor and inner-city river frontage to meet the needs of the community.
3. Increase the density of mixed-use buildings in Downtown Bemidji.

*Potential Partnerships:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bemidji Downtown Alliance</li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater Bemidji</li> </ul>
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*Objective 5.2: Preserve and Enhance Civic Buildings, Public Plazas, Parks, and Gathering Spaces within Downtown*

*Strategies:*

1. Support efforts to increase multi-seasonal outdoor gathering spaces.

2. Continue to support spaces for community attractions and events within Downtown. The rail corridor presents opportunity for expansion of downtown with potential for a Riverwalk.

***Potential Partnerships:***

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bemidji Area Farmers Market</li> <li>• Rail River Folk School</li> <li>• Bemidji City Council</li> <li>• Gallery North</li> <li>• Bemidji Downtown Alliance</li> <li>• Visit Bemidji</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Save the Carnegie</li> <li>• Beltrami County Historical Society</li> <li>• Headwaters Science Center</li> <li>• Watermark Art Center</li> <li>• Public Arts Commission</li> </ul> |
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***Objective 5.3: Encourage preservation and enhancement of an attractive downtown landscape and environment.***

***Strategies:***

1. Require interior greenspace to be included in parking areas throughout the Downtown.
2. Promote using projecting signage within Downtown.
3. Encourage the use of public right-of-way for planters, signage, art, and landscaping to expand storefronts and sidewalk service in appropriate locations.
4. Encourage off-street parking in Downtown with redevelopment projects.

***Potential Partnerships:***

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit Bemidji</li> <li>• City of Bemidji</li> <li>• Greater Bemidji</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bemidji Downtown Alliance</li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul> |
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***Objective 5.4: The Downtown Will Continue to be the Centerpiece for the Enhancement of Artistic and Cultural Expression***

***Strategies:***

1. Include the use of markers throughout Downtown to represent historical structures and places.
2. Support the process of public arts commission as a means for selecting art and cultural opportunities within Downtown.

***Potential Partnerships:***

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watermark Art Center</li> <li>• Region 2 Arts Council</li> <li>• Bemidji State University</li> <li>• Gallery North</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headwaters School of Music and the Arts</li> <li>• Beltrami County Historical Society</li> <li>• Bemidji Public Arts Commission</li> <li>• Paul Bunyan Playhouse</li> <li>• City of Bemidji</li> </ul> |
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**Chapter 6: Economic Regional Center**

***Objective 6.1: Enhance and Maintain a Strong, Diversified, and Sustainable Local Economy***

***Strategies:***

1. Support the quality of life as a regional competitive advantage.
2. Encourage a diverse workforce through promoting internship and education programs.
3. Promote our lake-oriented culture through year-round events.
4. Support arts, culture, and active living initiatives that can bring an economic boost to the area.

***Potential Partnerships:***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bemidji Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Greater Bemidji</li> <li>• Bemidji Downtown Alliance</li> <li>• Headwaters Regional Development Commission</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headwaters Regional Finance Commission</li> <li>• Visit Bemidji</li> <li>• Bemidji Economic Development Authority</li> </ul> |
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**Objective 6.2: Promote and Grow an Economic Regional Center**

**Strategies:**

1. Promote the expansion of diverse industries in the region.
2. Grow the existing skilled labor industry, including healthcare and technology, and encourage new industries to locate in the Greater Bemidji Area.
3. Promote coordination among development organizations and existing businesses to continue economic growth.
4. Establish an awareness of natural hazards that could impact economic growth.

**Potential Partnerships:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bemidji Chamber of Commerce</li><li>• Beltrami County Workforce Impact Program</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greater Bemidji</li><li>• Revolving Loan Fund Pools</li></ul> |
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**Chapter 7: Public Infrastructure and Services**

**Objective 7.1: Preserve and Enhance Our Public Services and Private Utilities**

**Strategies:**

1. Plan for expansion of public service facilities through partnerships in planning with adjacent communities.
2. Plan for expansions of waste water treatment facilities.
3. Promote the objectives of the wellhead protection plan.
4. Encourage cooperation connecting government agencies and utility companies to continue expansion and maintenance of all utility infrastructure.

**Potential Partnerships:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Bemidji Public Works</li> <li>• Township Boards</li> <li>• Beltrami County Engineering</li> <li>• Beltrami Electric</li> <li>• Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ottertail Power Company</li> <li>• Minnesota Energy</li> <li>• MidCO Communication</li> <li>• Paul Bunyan Communications</li> <li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)</li> </ul>
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***Objective 7.2: Preserve and Enhance Area-Wide Stormwater Treatment Systems for All Public and Private Development and Educate Public on Importance of Stormwater Management***

***Strategies:***

1. Enhance drainage systems to reduce or eliminate stormwater backups and street flooding.
2. Allow flexibility for private development providing enhanced on-site stormwater retention and treatment facilities.
3. Promote low-impact development practices and native plants for stormwater management.

***Potential Partnerships:***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Bemidji Public Works</li> <li>• Township Boards</li> <li>• Public Housing Development Authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltrami County Engineering</li> <li>• Beltrami County Environmental Services</li> </ul>
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***Objective 7.3: Enhance Public Safety Response Time***

***Strategies:***

1. Plan for high risk hazardous materials emergencies.
2. Coordinate with Beltrami County Emergency Management when planning for natural hazard events.
3. Utilize land use planning to preserve and enhance life safety response time.

***Potential Partnerships:***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltrami County Emergency Services</li> <li>• Beltrami County Sheriff Department</li> <li>• City of Bemidji Police Department</li> <li>• Bemidji Ambulance Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanford Health</li> <li>• City of Bemidji Fire Department</li> <li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</li> <li>• First Responders</li> </ul>
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***Objective 7.4: Improve Sustainable Waste Management Practices, Including Recycling, in the Greater Bemidji Area***

***Strategies:***

1. Support educational initiatives in the community on existing recycling opportunities and improve accessibility.
2. Support educational initiatives in the community on the benefits of composting.
3. Support educational opportunities for businesses or institutions on implementing recycling programs.

***Potential Partnerships:***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltrami County Solid Waste and Recycling</li> <li>• Local Sustainability Advocacy Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private Waste Management Contractors</li> </ul>
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***Objective 7.5: Assess Infrastructure Vulnerabilities to Natural Hazards for All Public and Private Development***

***Strategies:***

1. Map critical infrastructure to plan for protection from natural hazards.

***Potential Partnerships:***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltrami Electric</li> <li>• Ottertail Power</li> <li>• Paul Bunyan Communications</li> <li>• Midco Communication</li> <li>• Beltrami County Emergency Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltrami County Sheriff Department</li> <li>• Bemidji Police Department</li> <li>• Bemidji Fire Department</li> <li>• Bemidji Public Works</li> </ul>
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## Chapter 8: Housing

### *Objective 8.1 Preserve and Enhance the Quality of Housing that is Affordable, Safe, and Energy Efficient*

#### *Strategies:*

1. Identify areas to allow flexibility when renovating existing old housing stock, while preserving the character of existing neighborhoods.
2. Improve the quality of housing with energy efficient building upgrades and though using renewable energy resources.

#### *Potential Partnerships:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beltrami County Housing and Redevelopment Authority</li><li>• Rental Association</li><li>• Local Utility Companies</li><li>• Local Builders Association</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Headwaters Regional Development Commission</li><li>• Northwood's Habitat for Humanity</li></ul> |
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### *Objective 8.2 Promote and Encourage Diversity with New Housing Developments*

#### *Strategies:*

1. Promote a variety of housing options based on market and need.
2. Allow flexibility when affordable housing units are part of a new development.

#### *Potential Partnerships:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beltrami County Housing and Redevelopment Authority</li><li>• Headwaters Regional Development Commission</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Northwood's Habitat for Humanity</li><li>• Headwaters Housing Development Corporation</li></ul> |
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**Objective 8.3 Promote Opportunities for Successful Homeownership**

**Strategies:**

1. Promote the development of smaller affordable single-family homes in compact developments.
2. Promote educational opportunities to support successful homeownership training.

**Potential Partnerships:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Headwaters Regional Development Commission</li><li>• Beltrami County Housing and Redevelopment Authority</li><li>• USDA Rural Development</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Mortgage Lenders</li><li>• Local Home Inspector</li><li>• Title Companies</li></ul> |
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**Chapter 9: Transportation**

**Objective 9.1 Design and Construct Transportation Facilities with Livability in Mind**

**Strategies:**

1. Promote cooperation among all road authorities.
2. When planning transportation projects, increase multimodal opportunities wherever possible.
3. Develop policy with flexibility to incorporate a diverse transportation system when redevelopment occurs.
4. Allow for public art that enhances community character within the transportation system when possible.
5. Develop traffic safety policy and guidelines to protect the transportation system.

**Potential Partnerships:**



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bemidji Regional Airport Authority</li> <li>• Beltrami County Engineering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Bemidji Engineering</li> <li>• Headwaters Regional Development Commission</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Objective 9.2 Encourage an All-Season Multi-modal Transportation System that Serves a Diverse Population</i></b></p>	
<p><b><i>Strategies:</i></b></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When reconstructing existing intersections, promote safety enhancements for all transportation.</li> <li>2. Encourage a multi-modal transportation study.</li> <li>3. Support a bike share program.</li> <li>4. Develop accurate usage statistics for all transportation types.</li> <li>5. Promote the long-term protection and development of the Bemidji Regional Airport.</li> <li>6. Promote new trailheads to increase multimodal transportation.</li> <li>7. Use informative signage policies to ensure the community is informed of all modes of transportation as well as the safest routes around the community.</li> </ol>	
<p><b><i>Potential Partnerships:</i></b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bemidji Regional Airport Authority</li> <li>• Minnesota Department of Transportation Aeronautics</li> <li>• Beltrami County Engineering</li> <li>• Bike Bemidji</li> <li>• Active Transportation User Groups</li> <li>• Headwaters Transportation Network</li> <li>• Bemidji Schools/ISD #31 School District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Bemidji Engineering</li> <li>• Headwaters Regional Development</li> <li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Trails and Waterways Division</li> <li>• Paul Bunyan Transit</li> <li>• Private Transportation Services</li> <li>• Public Transit Users</li> </ul>

## Chapter 10: Active and Healthy Community

### *Objective 10.1 Promote Active Living and Healthy Community Initiatives*

#### ***Strategies:***

1. Promote programs for individuals that need additional services or opportunities to be active.
2. Encourage activities and programming for alternative and emerging recreational trends.
3. Promote high-density residential development near schools and services with access to multimodal transportation opportunities.

#### ***Potential Partnerships:***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Active Recreation Event Planners</li><li>• City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation</li><li>• Bemidji State University Outdoor Program Center</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beltrami County Parks and Recreation</li><li>• Bike Bemidji</li><li>• Local Trail User Groups and Clubs</li></ul> |
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### *Objective 10.2 Promote All Forms of Recreational Activities*

#### ***Strategies:***

1. Promote awareness of available recreational opportunities.
2. Promote and encourage active recreation as a part of any community development or redevelopment.
3. Engage the community on public recreation projects and encourage private development.
4. Promote health and enhancement of water-oriented recreational opportunities offered to the community.
5. Support education about environmental stewardship and the impacts of human activity on the natural environment.

<i>Potential Partnerships:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Active Recreation Event Planners</li> <li>City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beltrami County Parks and Recreation</li> <li>Trail User Groups and Clubs</li> <li>Bemidji State University Outdoor Program Center</li> </ul>
<b><i>Objective 10.3 Promote Active Recreation and Healthy Living Year-Round</i></b>	
<i>Strategies:</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the development of an outdoor gathering space for farmers market or indoor market to be used year-round.</li> <li>Preserve and maintain outdoor and indoor ice facilities, as well as curling facilities and other outdoor winter sites.</li> </ol>	
<i>Potential Partnerships:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Active Recreation Event Planners</li> <li>City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation</li> <li>Bemidji Community Arena (BCA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beltrami County Parks and Recreation</li> <li>Trail User Groups and Clubs</li> </ul>
<b><i>Objective 10.4 Preserve and Enhance Existing Local Goods and Foods Initiatives</i></b>	
<i>Strategies:</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of a local food hub.</li> <li>Encourage responsible urban agriculture as well as partnerships to promote the growth of urban and sustainable farming practices.</li> </ol>	
<i>Potential Partnerships:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmers Market Managers</li> <li>Community Garden Managers</li> <li>Food Shelf</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harmony Food Co-Op</li> <li>Local Garden Clubs</li> </ul>

## Chapter 11: Air, Water, and Our Natural Resources

### *Objective 11.1 Preserve and Enhance Our Air Quality*

#### *Strategies:*

1. Support the flexibility for green building construction or increased landscaping and vegetation with new or redevelopment projects.
2. Promote awareness of ecosystem-based fire management.

#### *Potential Partnerships:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability Committees</li><li>• City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beltrami County Natural Resource Management</li><li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</li></ul> |
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### *Objective 11.2 Preserve and Enhance Water Quality*

#### *Strategies:*

1. Encourage educational opportunities and inspections for aquatic invasive species.
2. Use shoreland restoration incentives and demonstrate success on public and private property to increase natural shoreland.
3. Maintain partnerships and enhance protection efforts of the Upper Mississippi River corridor.
4. Promote awareness of natural hazards, which can affect water quality.

#### *Potential Partnerships:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability Committees</li><li>• City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beltrami County Natural Resource Management</li><li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</li></ul> |
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***Objective 11.3 Promote the Preservation of the Night Sky of the Greater Bemidji Area***

***Strategies:***

1. Reduce nonconforming lighting.
2. Develop stricter sign illumination standards.
3. Promote regulation that decreases light pollution but does not decrease overall safety.

***Potential Partnerships:***

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability Committees</li><li>• City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beltrami County Natural Resource Management</li><li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</li></ul> |
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***Objective 11.4 Encourage a Resilient Urban Forestry System with High-Quality Wildlife Habitat***

***Strategies:***

1. Encourage private forestry management planning.
2. Preserve and enhance high-quality wildlife habitat where appropriate.
3. Promote cooperation between local, county, state, and federal agencies who manage conservation land, as well as private landowners with interest in conservation.
4. Promote resilient natural forest through public and private partnerships for tree planting initiatives.
5. Promote and expand capacity to educate, prevent, and implement wildfire mitigation activities.

<i>Potential Partnerships:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Committees</li> <li>• City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltrami County Natural Resource Management</li> <li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</li> </ul>
<b><i>Objective 11.5 Encourage Awareness of Sustainable Natural Resource Management</i></b>	
<i>Strategies:</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage cooperation among interest groups dedicated to environmental stewardship and sustainable best management practices for natural resources.</li> </ol>	
<i>Potential Partnerships:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Committees</li> <li>• City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltrami County Natural Resource Management</li> <li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</li> </ul>
<b><i>Objective 11.6 Encourage Bird and Pollinator Friendly Practices for New and Existing Buildings and Landscapes</i></b>	
<i>Strategies:</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote the use of Minnesota Department of Administration Buildings, Benchmarks &amp; Beyond (B3) Bird-Safe Building Guidelines to limit the risk of built environments to birds.</li> <li>2. Support Bemidji's participation in the 'Bird City Minnesota' program.</li> <li>3. Promote planting of native wild flowers, shrubs and trees to benefit birds and pollinators.</li> </ol>	

*Potential Partnerships:*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability Committees</li><li>• City of Bemidji Parks and Recreation</li><li>• Minnesota Headwaters Audubon Society</li><li>• Bemidji Garden Club</li><li>• Watermark Art Center</li><li>• Leech Lake Tribal Extension Service</li><li>• Bemidji State University Sustainability Office</li><li>• Minnesota Master Gardeners</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beltrami County Natural Resource Management</li><li>• Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</li><li>• Bemidji Area Nurseries and Garden Centers</li><li>• Visit Bemidji</li><li>• Bemidji Downtown Alliance</li><li>• Minnesota Master Naturalists – Bogs &amp; Logs Chapter</li></ul> |
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