

HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN

Team Name: Cass County Planning Team

Geographic Area: Cass County

HCP Round/Years: Round 8, March 2001 to March 2003

Priorities:

- Development of an updated Comprehensive Plan through the utilization of volunteer citizen groups, staff and considerable public hearings and review throughout the county.

Project Focus:

- The new comprehensive plan will integrate updated versions of the County Water Plan, Youth Plan, Public Infrastructure Plan, Public Lands Plan, and Private Land Plan into one document to better streamline and coordinate ordinances and regulations, while adequately protecting the natural resources which makes the County so attractive to residents and visitors.

Follow Up Grants and Loans:

- \$5,000 to support the Shoreland Management and “Lakescaping” training provided by the Cass County Extension Service; this program will certify 100 local volunteers in principals of native plant cultivation, design and restoration of vegetative buffer strips, and other techniques for preserving sensitive shoreland. The McKnight Foundation also contributed \$15,000 to this two-year effort;
- \$4,000 to Cass County Environmental Services to develop “*Welcome to Cass County: An Environmental Resources and Services Directory for Residents and Businesses.*”
- \$5,000 to Cass County Economic Development Office to provide community planning and assistance.
- \$20,000 to Cass County Environmental Services for the Healthy Lakes & Rivers Program, 2005.

Key Accomplishments:

- Hosted six regional hearings throughout the County to solicit public input and review of concerns, goals, and approaches to emphasize within the Comprehensive Plan.
- Completed draft Comprehensive Plan that was presented to the County Commission and interested public at the annual County meeting, January 18, 2002, at Deep Portage Conservation Center.
- Distributed outline of plan to all county residents in a newsletter format.
- Adoption of Comprehensive Plan and Merger of Ordinances (2004).

Date Updated: September 9, 2004