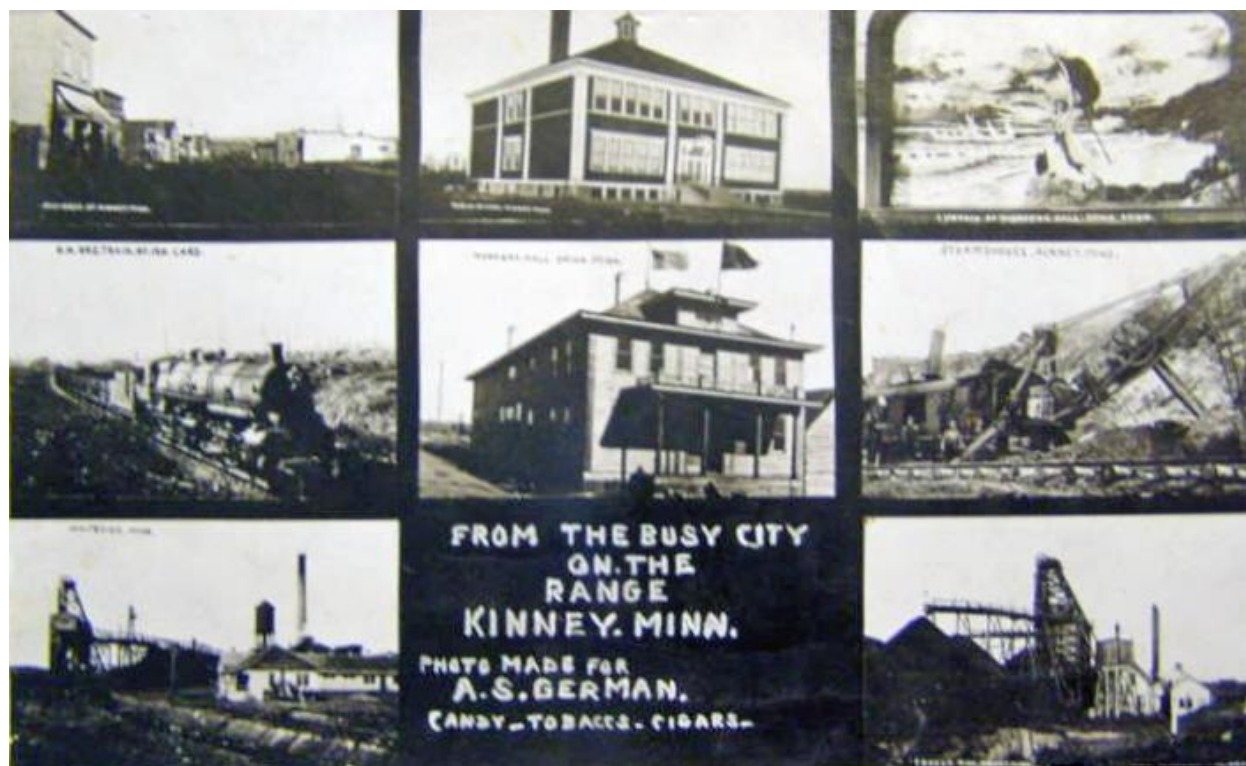


# Comprehensive Plan

**City of Kinney (St. Louis County, MN)**

*Final Draft – January 2017*

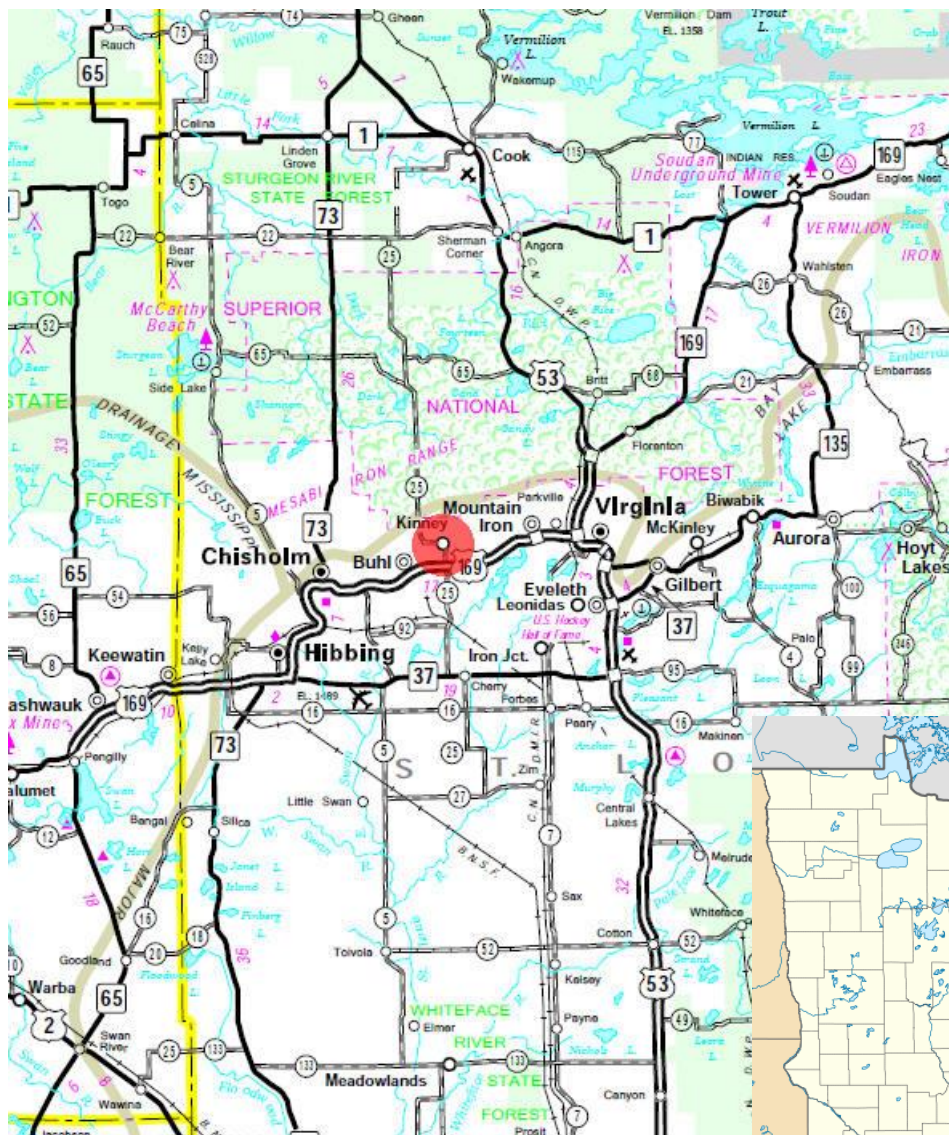


*Photo courtesy of LakesnWoods.com*



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## Prepared for: City of Kinney, MN



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## Acknowledgements

On behalf of the City of Kinney, the City Council would like to thank our residents for their contributions to the development of this Comprehensive Plan. Your participation in the survey process, the Community Visioning Sessions and discussions have helped define our common community vision and develop a plan for our future. We value your ideas and input and will do our best to serve and honor them as we carry this plan forward. The Board would also like to acknowledge the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board's financial contributions and support for this project.

### Kinney City Council Members, January 2017

Heath Knapper-Smith, Mayor  
 Marcy Gish, Council Member  
 Theresa Knapper-Smith, Council Member  
 Dale Wiltse, Council Member  
 Deb Bachel, Clerk  
 Kerry Bragge, Treasurer

## Plan Adoption

The Kinney City Council passed a resolution to adopt this Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the monthly City Council Meeting.

Never doubt that a small  
 group of thoughtful,  
 committed citizens can  
 change the world. Indeed,  
 it's the only thing that  
 ever has.

- Margaret Mead

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## APPENDIX A – COMMUNITY SURVEY

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## APPENDIX D – WEST RANGE LAND USE PLAN AND ZONING

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## APPENDIX F – ST. LOUIS COUNTY RECYCLING LOCATIONS

## APPENDIX G – RESOLUTION TO ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

### History of Kinney

In the late 1800's, mining and timber industries spurred mass migration to northeastern Minnesota and dramatically changed the demographic and economic landscape in the region. Immigrants from 43 different nations, mostly European, settled in the undeveloped frontier along the Cuyuna, Mesaba, and Vermilion iron ranges in pursuit of greater opportunities for their families and a better life. Many of these immigrants found work in the underground mines located near Kinney and settled there hoping to establish a community that would support their families and provide for their needs.



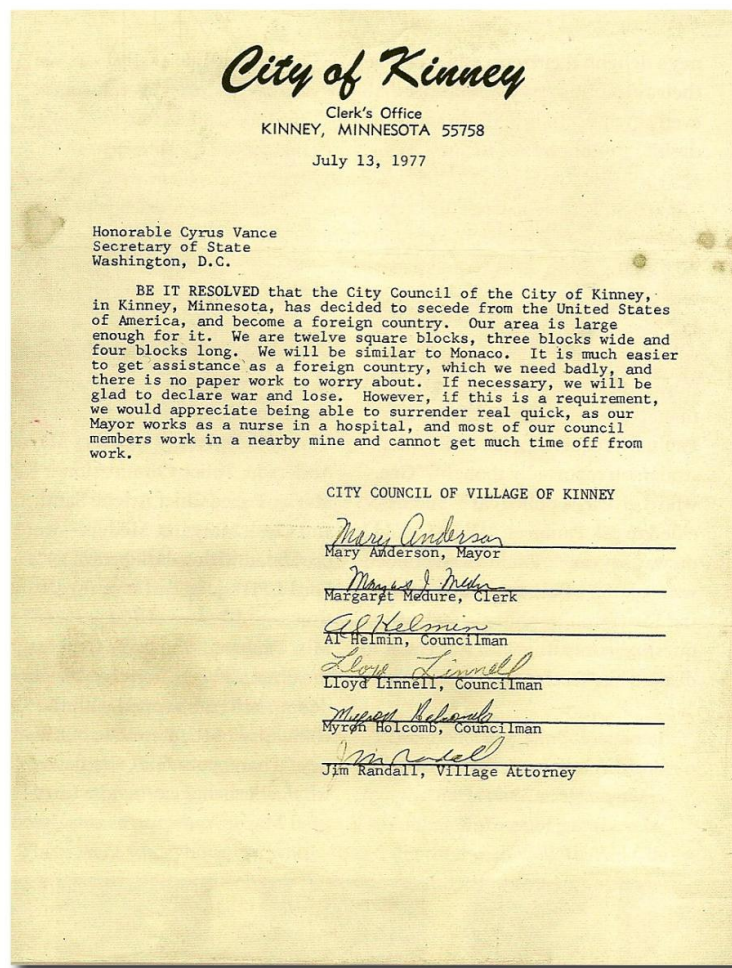
**Kinney Mine, Kinney, MN 1920's**

Named after O. D. Kinney, an explorer that discovered the site's mining potential, the Kinney mine opened in 1902 as a shaft mine and eventually became an open-pit mine. The Kinney mine was just one of many mines operating in the area including the Grant, Thorne, Sharon, Shiras, Woodbridge, Itasca, Cavour, Yates, Dean, Wade, Deacon, Wanless, Seville, Whiteside and Frantz. In 1911 alone, these mines produced nearly 1.5 million tons of taconite combined.

The Village of Kinney incorporated on November 11, 1910 after the Village of Mountain Iron which incorporated in 1892, the Town of Great Scott in 1896, and the Village of Buhl in 1901. The Village of Spina near Kinney, with a population 237, incorporated in 1913 but eventually was annexed and became part of Kinney in 1974. Kinney's population nearly quadrupled from 367 residents in 1909 to 1,200 residents in 1920. The population count surpassed Buhl which had 1,005 residents at that time. "In its prime, the bustling community of Kinney was completely independent. Five grocery stores, a bank, a show house, a livery stable, a candy kitchen, two hardware stores, a red-light district, two butcher shops, and two barber shops were present to meet the needs of Kinney's citizenry" (The Great Scott Township Centennial Book, 1996). A Finish Evangelical Lutheran Church and Catholic Church were built in addition to the Wilson School in Kinney, Hartley School in Spina, and Anderson School located 8 miles north of Kinney.

Kinney's flourishing community and economy in the early 1900's peaked but the boom did not last. Over the next 50 years, the population declined and many businesses closed. By 1970, Kinney's population had dropped to 325 residents. However, a \$450 million U.S Steel

Minntac Mine expansion in 1970 spurred an increase in population which nearly doubled to 600 by 1976. While the population boost was a welcome relief to its diminishing tax base, Kinney struggled with its aging and corroding utility infrastructure. “Like other mining locations scattered across the Iron Range, Kinney had been established near the edge of a mine solely to serve the interest of the mining company. Built between 1901 and 1903, it was intended to be a temporary site with an approximate lifespan of 25 years” (Kuzma, *A Retrospective on the Kinney Secession*, 2010). Mayor Mary Anderson and Kinney’s City Council pursued federal, state, and local aid and support for the city’s necessary water system repairs but were repeatedly unsuccessful in their attempts. Feeling frustrated and neglected, city leaders began to meet at the mayor’s family business, Mary’s Bar. They decided to take extraordinary measures and began the process of pursuing the city’s secession from the United States.

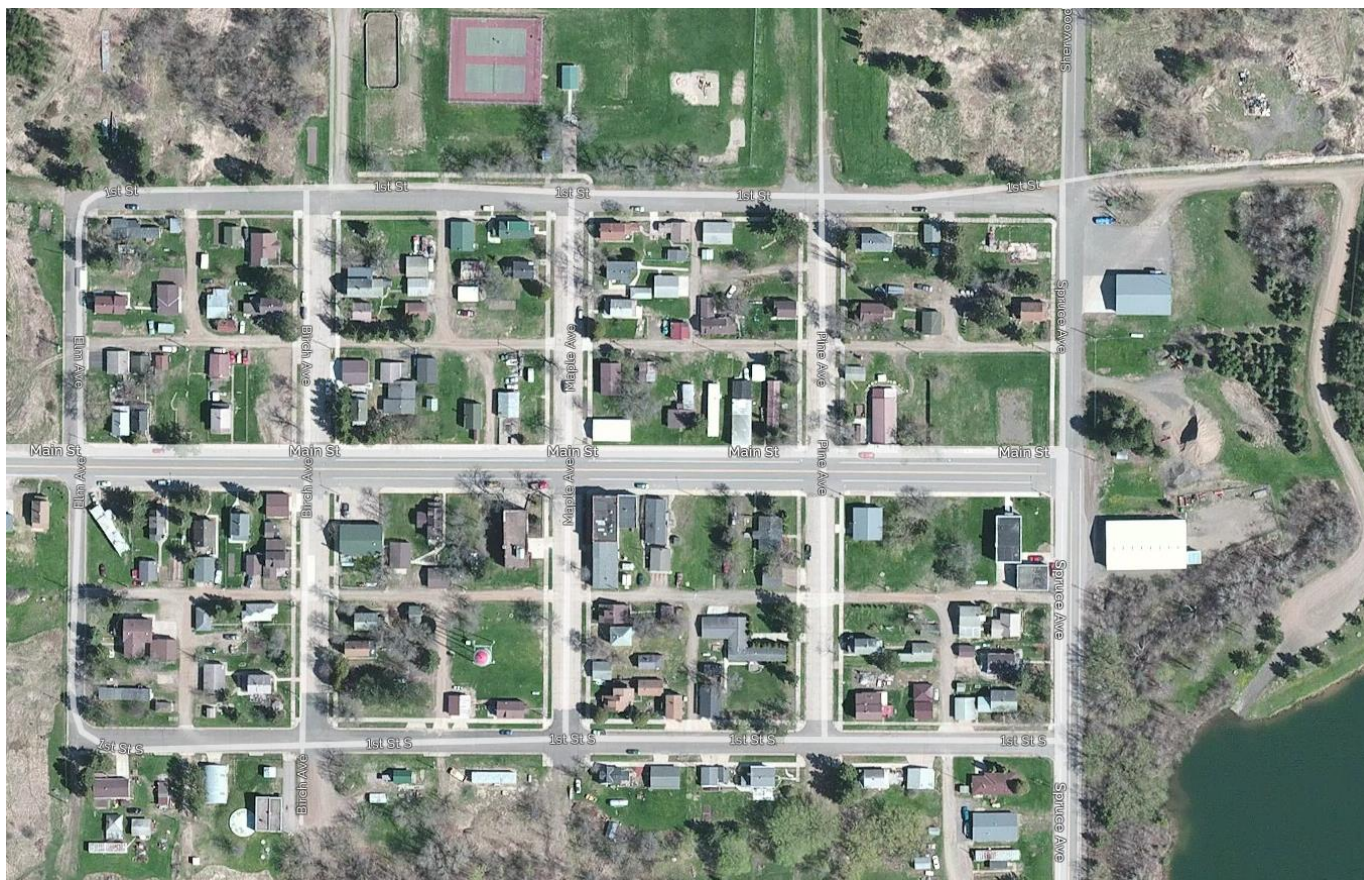


Proceeding to establish as an independent country (The Republic of Kinney), the city gained the political attention it needed to secure funding for its deteriorating water system. Kinney’s attempt to secede also raised public awareness of the little city that had experienced decades of decline and had been rendered somewhat insignificant to others outside of the city limits. While some criticized Kinney for being unpatriotic and publicity-seeking in seeking secession, others viewed the unconventional move to reflect a strong,



brave, and resilient community that was willing to fight and do whatever it took to survive. With a current population of 160 residents and one local business, Kinney still maintains the same fiery spirit to do what it can to sustain and ensure a promising future for its residents. Developing a solid comprehensive plan is just one of the city’s strategic moves to do so.





## City Geography and Map

The City of Kinney is in St. Louis County in northeastern Minnesota and covers a territory of 4.83 square miles, with 4.62 square miles of land and 0.21 square miles of water. It has a population density of about 36 people per square mile.

The four-lane U.S. Hwy 169 runs east and west a little over a mile south of Kinney. County Hwy 25 serves two main entrances into Kinney; one from U.S. Hwy 169 from the south, and the junction of County Highway 25 and County Highway 125 which connects into Buhl. The highway weaves through Kinney becoming Spruce Avenue (north and south) and Main Street (east and west).

The adjacent map shows the city's street system and geography of the area, including the location of Kinney Lake (a.k.a. the Kinney Mine Pit) which is located on the east side of Kinney.





The following St. Louis County plot map shows another aerial view of Kinney and Spina (which was annexed by Kinney in 1974), and property parcels surrounding them.



## Community Demographic Profile

According to the U.S. Census 2000, U.S. Census 2010, and the 2014 American Community Survey, Kinney's demographic profiles from 2000-2014 show the following:

| Demographic                                                   | U.S. Census 2000                                                       | U.S. Census 2010                                                                             | ACS 2014 Estimates                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Population                                                    | 199                                                                    | 169                                                                                          | 160                                  |
| Median Age                                                    | 41.5                                                                   | 40.1                                                                                         | 47.5                                 |
| Race/Ethnicity                                                | White: 188<br>American<br>Indian/Alaska<br>Native: 4<br>Two or more: 7 | White: 167<br>Black/African<br>American: 1<br>Amer<br>Indian/Alaska<br>Native: 2<br>Asian: 1 | White: 160                           |
| Employment (of pop.<br>age 16 or older)                       | Employed: 50.7%<br>Unemployed:<br>9.7%                                 | Employed: 59.3%<br>Unemployed:<br>8.1%                                                       | Employed: 53.2%<br>Unemployed: 4%    |
| Educational Attainment<br>(high school graduate<br>or higher) | 78.8%                                                                  | 95.7%                                                                                        | 87%                                  |
| Median Household<br>Income                                    | \$25,000                                                               | \$63,000                                                                                     | \$42,500                             |
| Poverty (below poverty<br>level)                              | Individuals: 13.6%<br>Families: 9.4%                                   | Individuals:<br>14.5%<br>Families: 7.7%                                                      | Individuals: 18.8%<br>Families: 9.1% |
| Housing Units                                                 | 88                                                                     | 83                                                                                           | 96                                   |

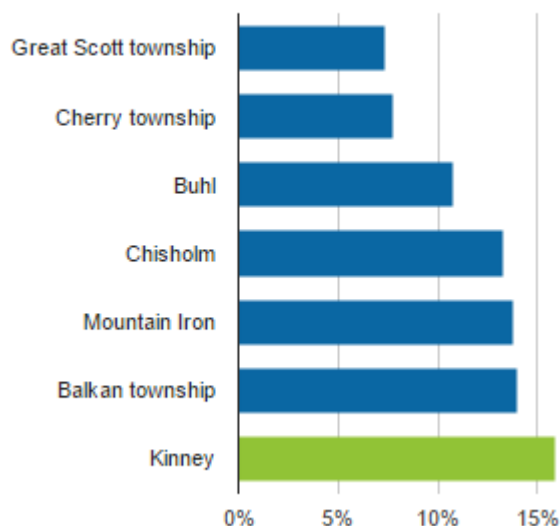
Kinney has shown a decline in the overall population count over the past 15 years, and spiked in median age between 2010 and 2015. The number of housing units between 2010 and 2015 increased also, but since the most recent collection of statistics, Kinney removed eight structures as part of a demolition project. Some of these structures were likely counted in census data as housing units but were former commercial buildings that were not ever used for housing.

In 2010, 61% of households were family households, and in 2014, 65% were family households. Approximately 23% of the population was under age 18 and a little over 10% was over age 62 in 2010. In 2014 estimates, approximately 22% was under age 18 while the population of those over age 62 grew to 23%. In 2015, a little over 72% of total occupied housing units in Kinney has 2 or less people living there; almost half of these have only one occupant. The average household size was 2.4 in both 2000 and 2010, and dropped slightly to 2.35 in 2015.

Within a margin of 1%, the proportion of males to females has remained consistent over the past decade with about 53% of the population male and 47% female. Educational attainment levels have noticeable fluctuations over the past fifteen years, particularly between 2000 and 2010. A potential reasonable explanation for this is that with Kinney's small population, demographic percentages can shift more dramatically with merely adding or removing a small number of individuals in the counts.

Median household income is lower than St. Louis County (\$53,482) and lower than the state of Minnesota (\$60,828). The cost of living for a family of four in St. Louis County is about \$56,954 which is more than \$14,000 over Kinney's median household income. Median income in 2000 was only \$25,000, an amount almost half of median income levels in Minnesota (\$47,000), and less than the county's median income of \$36,000. Kinney appears to be on a positive trend of closing the gap between median household income levels of its residents and those in the county and state.

**Figure 22: Percent of Population in Poverty**



## Comprehensive Planning History and Purpose

Like many other small towns, the City of Kinney operates with limited human capital and financial resources. The city elects six residents to serve on the City Council, manage an annual budget of \$200,000, address any issues that arise, and make decisions on behalf of the city. Kinney has a part-time Librarian, Emergency Management Director, and a full-time City Maintenance Worker. In comparison, larger municipalities have access to more employees, economic development associations, and sources of public and private community support. While it can be difficult for small communities to gather the resources to address anything beyond day-to-day demands, the City of Kinney has chosen to pursue comprehensive planning to accomplish its goals, contribute to informed decision-making, and ensure a sustainable future for the community.

The Kinney City Council knew effective comprehensive planning would require engaging its residents in the process, gaining a better understanding of the city's needs and challenges, and identifying its assets and opportunities. City residents contemplated the fate of the community without thoughtful strategic planning. They aligned with Yogi Berra's thought that, "If you (we) don't know where you are going, you (we) will probably end up somewhere else". Without having a comprehensive plan in place, city residents also



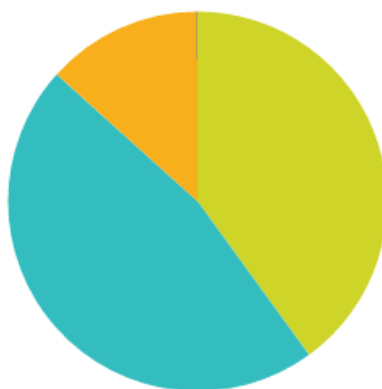
recognized that failing to plan may leave the community vulnerable to others who might otherwise make plans for it. Furthermore, the City Council realized that an inclusive, methodical, strategic, and visionary plan would validate how the city would allocate its resources and increase its opportunities to acquire funding and support from external sources.

In January 2016, The City of Kinney submitted a request for grant funds from the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) to support its comprehensive plan project. Once funding was secured in March 2016, the city officially launched the project with the development and disbursement of community surveys in April 2016.

One of the survey questions included how residents would rate the quality of life in Kinney. Nearly 87% of responses indicated that they thought life in Kinney was good or excellent.

### How would you rate the quality of life in the City of Kinney?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



Excellent Good Fair Poor No opinion

|            | Excellent   | Good        | Fair        | Poor       | No opinion | Total | Weighted Average |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------|------------------|
| (no label) | 40.00%<br>6 | 46.67%<br>7 | 13.33%<br>2 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 15    | 1.73             |

## COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

### Community Participation

As effective comprehensive planning relies on community participation, a variety of methods were used to communicate with residents and collect data, ideas, and feedback.

**Community Survey:** An extensive in-depth community survey was developed to collect responses on common comprehensive planning topics and to solicit feedback on areas of interest unique to the Kinney. **(See Appendix A)** The community surveys were distributed to all residents and households in Kinney in both online and paper formats. From the estimated 70 households and 160 residents in the community, 16 surveys were returned with responses. While every Kinney resident was given the opportunity to complete a survey individually, some submitted surveys that represented responses from more than one individual in the household. Therefore, determining an accurate response rate is difficult. The American Customer Satisfaction Index reports that response rates for paper-based surveys are about 10% (and less for lengthy surveys like Kinney's), and the response rates for web-based surveys average between 5%-15%. In comparison, Kinney's community survey return rates were somewhere between 23% of households and 10% of individuals. The following data illustrates demographics of survey respondents:

- Age & Number of Responders: 13-14 (1), 26-44 (3), 45-64 (8), 65 or older (4)
- Employment: Full time (29%), Part time (14%), Retired (36%), Unable to work (21%)
- Household Income: Under \$25K (40%), \$25-50K (33%), \$50-75K (20%), Over \$100K (7%)
- Years in the City: <1 (0%), 1-5 (0%), 6-12 (27%), 13-20 (0%), 20+ (73%)
- Ownership: Own home/live in Kinney (93%), Rent home/live in Kinney (7%)
- School-aged Children: Yes (33%), No (67%)

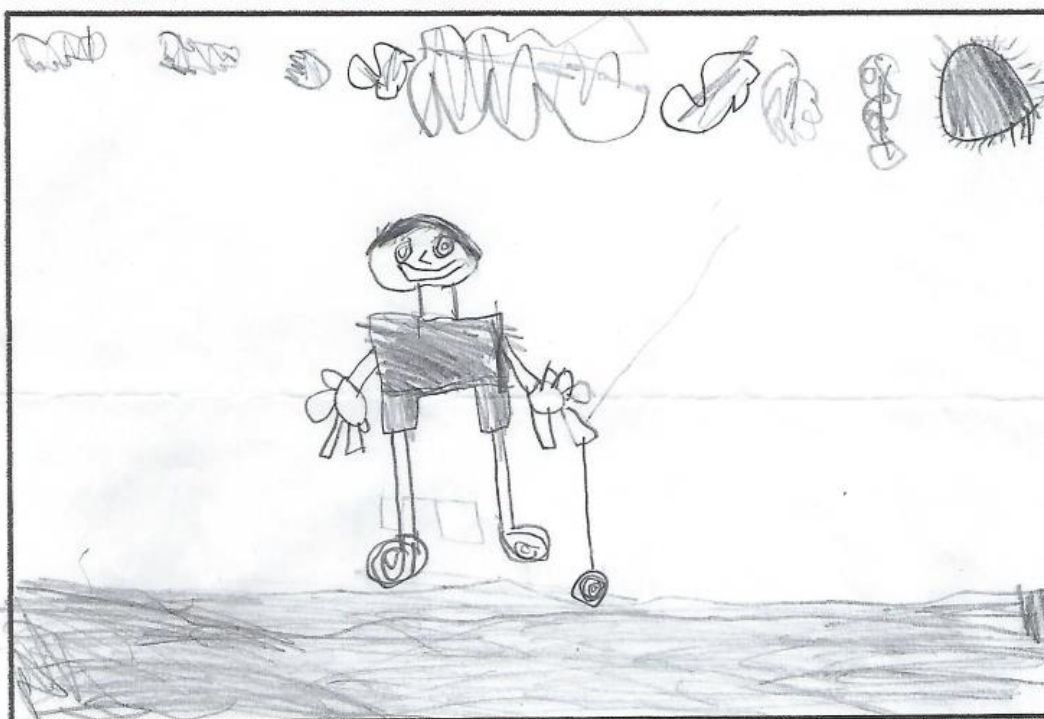
**Youth Involvement:** Kinney youth were invited to complete the community survey or respond to a shortened version of it that was made available online. **(See Appendix B)** Kinney's youngest residents were also given the chance to share their thoughts on Youth Feedback sheets **(See Appendix C)** as they drew pictures and responded to the following: 1.) why they liked living in the city, and 2.) their ideas for how they would like Kinney to be in the future. Youth Feedback sheets were mailed to each household and made available on the website. Some responses included:

I like living in Kinney because it is a fun place because  
there is a lot of fun things  
to do here.

I like living in Kinney because it's small and peaceful. That's why I like it.

When I think about my community in the future, I would really like it to be a place that (looks, feels, has, is, etc.) looks big and big. I would like more houses. What if it had that? People would like it more and more. (Also, I would like more public places.)

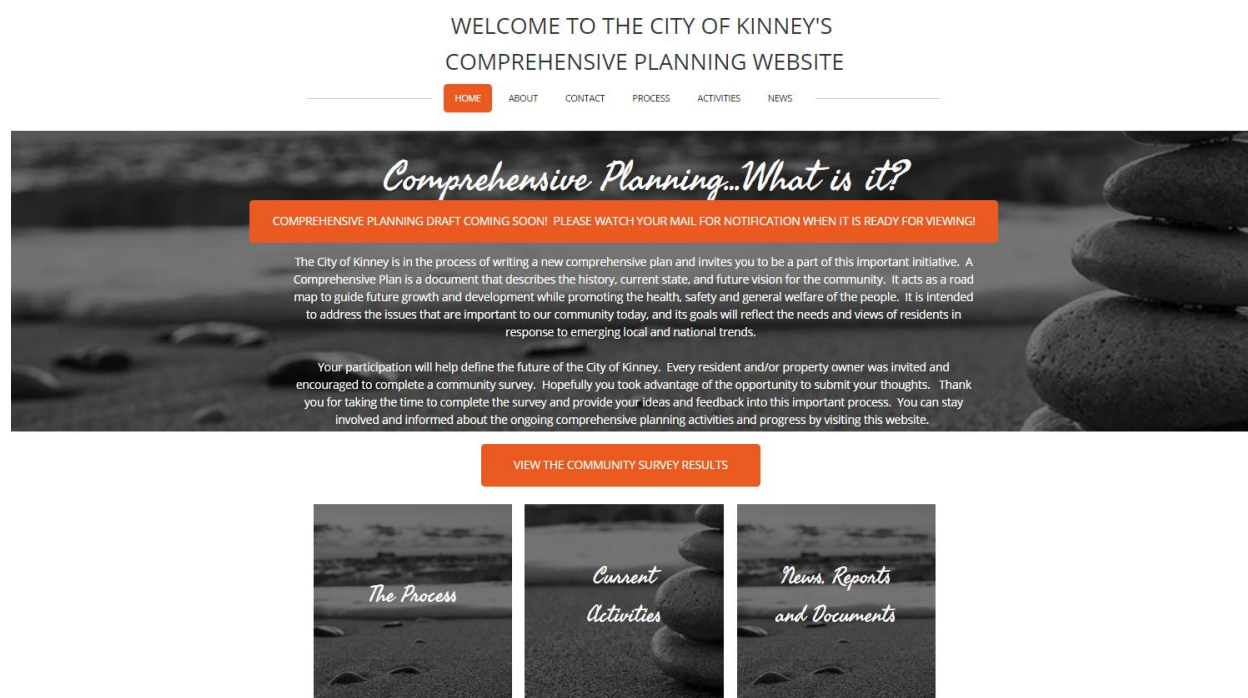
Here is a picture of what I hope my community will look like or be like in the future: (Please feel free to use the space below or attach a separate sheet of your artwork.)



When I think about my community in the future, I would really like it to be a place that (looks, feels, has, is, etc.) I would like new slides for older kids or a skate park or even a new baseball place but the best is a



**Website:** The <http://kinneymn.us> website was created to keep residents informed on the comprehensive planning process and progress made. Announcements for upcoming meetings were posted along with detailed reports of meetings held. The website was available in both desktop and mobile formats. Residents could also submit questions or comments via online. Kinney plans to keep the website, revise it, and use it to communicate with residents about city business, news, and community activities, as well as with visitors and others interested in knowing more about the city and what it offers.



**Community Visioning Sessions:** Residents were encouraged to participate in three Community Visioning Sessions for Kinney that were held at the Great Scott Township Hall. Invitations were mailed and information regarding session times and dates were shared at monthly council meetings and in utility bills. Each Community Visioning Session included formal presentations, interactive activities, and discussions. Attendance was taken, agendas and meeting reports were distributed, and refreshments were served. The meeting dates, times and goals accomplished at each session were as follows:

**Community Visioning Session I:** June 21, 2016; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Goals Accomplished:**

- Determined the city's identity, values, and what ought to be preserved
- Conducted future thinking for the city in short and long terms
- Began the work of developing an overall vision statement for the city

**Community Visioning Session II:** August 24, 2016; 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Goals Accomplished:**

- Identified and described key values
- Refined and decided on a common vision
- Discussed Healthy Communities and focus areas
- Brainstormed focus area goals and strategies
- Connected goals and strategies to the vision

**Community Visioning Session III:** October 11, 2016; 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Goals Accomplished:**

- Determined action plans and projects in goal areas

## COMMUNITY VISION, VALUES, AND PLANNING APPROACH

### Community Vision Statement

Kinney residents used Community Survey responses and Community Visioning Session discussions to develop the following vision statement:

***“Known for its history and strong sense of community, the City of Kinney is a rural small city where people are friendly, feel safe, know their neighbors, and are willing to step up to help each other and get involved. Residents and visitors feel welcome and connected with family and friends as they gather in the city’s public and business spaces, enjoy the park and recreational areas, and participate in the many events and celebrations held each year.”***

### Community Values

Through survey responses and community meetings, residents identified the following values as paramount to a strong and healthy community now and in the future:

**Friendly people:** *Kinney is full of kind, friendly people who are willing to get involved in activities that benefit the community.*

**Small-town:** *Kinney provides a quiet small-town atmosphere where neighbors know each other and are willing to help each other.*

**Family-oriented:** *Kinney is a great place to live and raise a family as family values are strong.*

**Safe:** *Kinney provides a safe place to live where crime rates are low and neighbors look out for one another.*

**Governance:** *Kinney has a small-town governance structure that keeps residents and stakeholders informed and engages them in discussions and decision-making processes.*

**Affordable:** *Kinney offers affordable small-town living and has fiscally responsible leadership that effectively manages the city’s assets, resources, and development.*

**Gathering Spaces:** *Kinney offers social and recreational spaces where residents and visitors can gather.*

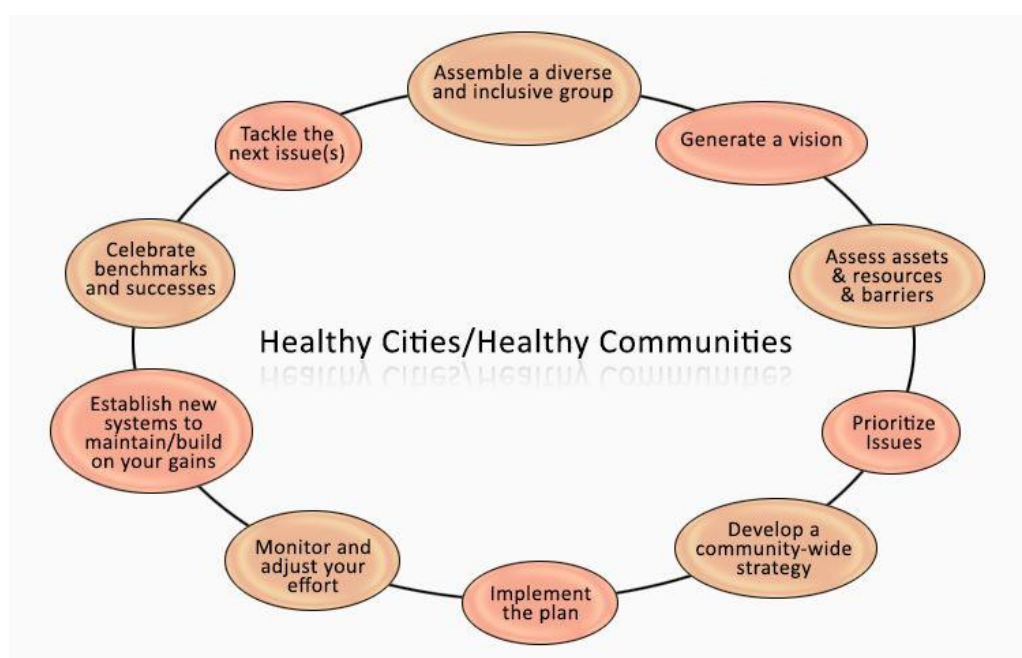
**Community Events:** *Kinney partners with other entities to provide a variety of events and activities that help build a sense of community among residents and neighboring communities.*



## Healthy Communities Model Approach

The City of Kinney chose to use the Healthy Cities/Healthy Communities model to provide an overall framework for developing its comprehensive plan. The Healthy Cities/Healthy Communities model was introduced in the 1980's in Canada and has since been used all over the world to provide “a theoretical framework for a participatory process by which citizens can create healthy communities” (Community Toolbox, 2016). The model initially launched with a specific focus on how community elements impact individual and community health and development. Since then, the loosely-defined adaptable strategy has been used by hundreds of cities and municipalities of all sizes for assessing, planning and developing healthier communities and engaging their community members in the process.

Comprehensive planning requires including stakeholders, developing a vision, assessing issues and opportunities, devising strategies, implementing plans, and ongoing monitoring/adjusting. A comprehensive plan is meant to be a living, working document that can be altered as needs and opportunities arise. The following diagram describes the Healthy Cities/Healthy Communities strategy which aligns perfectly with Kinney's process for establishing, evaluating, and revising its comprehensive plan:



The City of Kinney dissected the community in seven different focus environments as defined by the Healthy Cities/Healthy Communities model. While the city used defined focus areas to guide discussions and planning, it also altered them to better suit the city's situation, composition and aspects to be addressed. These adaptations are further described in the individual Goal Areas sections of the Comprehensive Plan. The Healthy Cities/Healthy Communities focus areas include:

- **Natural Environment:** Laws and regulations that restore and/or preserve clean air and water; preservation and creation of open space, natural beauty, and wilderness; restrictions on the use and disposal of toxic substances; conservation of natural resources, including plants and animals.
- **Built Environment:** People-friendly designs of buildings and spaces (human scale, with pedestrian passageways, gathering places, views, attractiveness, etc.); handicap access; preservation of historic and cultural heritage; cleanliness; safety (lighting, building design, long views, traffic patterns, bans on the use of toxic materials); good public transportation; traffic-free paths to encourage walking, jogging, and bicycling.
- **Economic Environment:** A healthy economic environment is one where there is work for everyone capable of working, where workers are treated as assets and are paid a living wage, where there is equal economic opportunity for all, where those who can't work are supported, and where money doesn't buy political power or immunity from the law.
- **Work Environment:** The work environment should be a source of stimulation, rather than stress. Respect for employees, good safety precautions and procedures, firm rules forbidding harassment or abuse, adequate pay and/or other compensation, humane and fair production expectations and treatment—all contribute to work environments that nurture creativity and enthusiasm, and improve, rather than detract from, both production and workers' quality of life.
- **Leisure Environment:** The work and home environments can provide time for leisure. The community can provide recreational and cultural opportunities to use in that leisure time; museums, parks and beaches, cultural and sports events, libraries, etc.
- **Social Environment:** A healthy community encourages social networks, provides gathering places where people from all parts of the community may mingle, nurtures families and children, offers universal education and other services, strives to foster non-violent and healthy behavior, invites familiarity and interaction among the various groups that make up the community, and treats all groups and individuals with respect.
- **Political Environment:** In a healthy community, all citizens have a say in how and by whom their community is governed, and have easy access to the information necessary to understand political situations and to make informed political decisions. Political decisions, opinions, and speech are protected. Citizens feel they have the power in the community—that they own it, and can and should control its direction.

## **FOCUS AREAS, GOALS AND ACTIONS**

## **FOCUS AREA 1: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

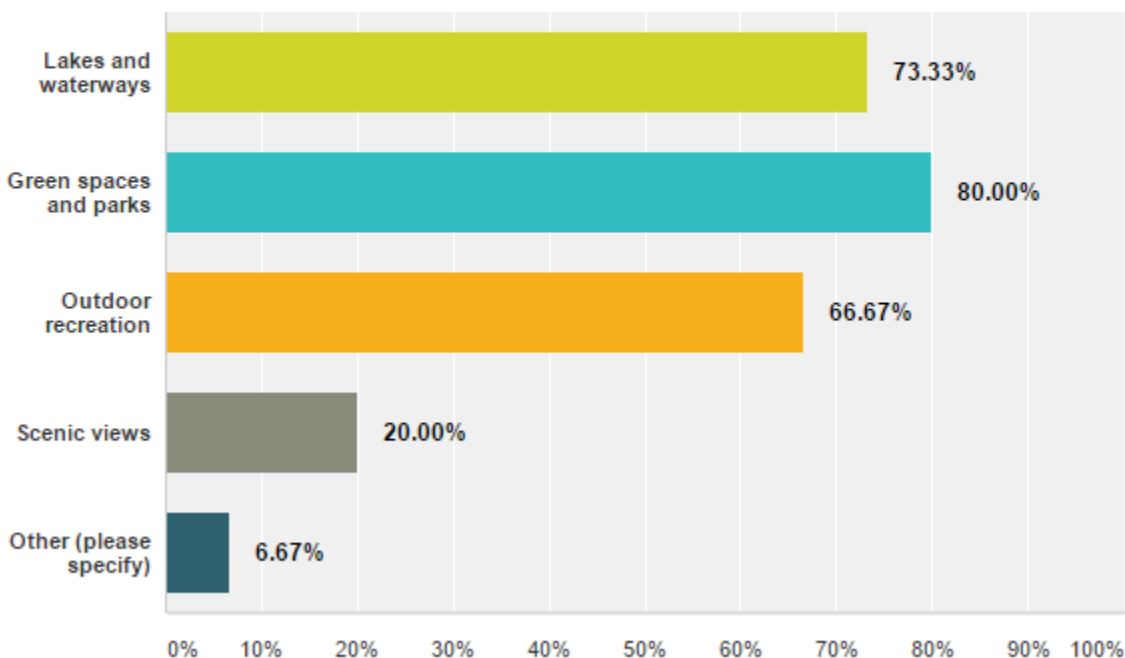
**Natural Environment:** Laws and regulations that restore and/or preserve clean air and water; **preservation** and creation of open space, natural beauty, and wilderness; restrictions on the use and disposal of toxic substances; **conservation** of natural resources, including plants and animals. **Land use** regulations and **mining** activities are relevant to the Natural Environment (NE) focus area and are included in this section.

### **Preservation and Conservation**

When asked about the city's natural resources and which they felt were most important, about 8 out of 10 residents (80%) reported that green spaces and parks were most important while 73% felt lakes and waterways were important. About 67% appreciate Kinney's outdoor recreation spaces, while only 20% believe that scenic views are an important feature in Kinney.

### **What natural resources do you feel are most important in Kinney? (check all that apply)**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0





## Kinney Lake (Kinney Mine Pit)

Kinney Lake (also known as the Kinney Mine Pit) is 51 acres in size and about 160 feet deep at its deepest point. Species of fish contained in Kinney Lake include green sunfish, northern pike, rainbow trout, splake walleye, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, white sucker, common shiner, creek chub, fathead minnow, golden shiner, mottled sculpin, northern redbelly dace, and rainbow smelt. Through support from the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Kinney Lake is stocked with about 2,400 Rainbow Trout each year.



Passed in 1969, the Mineland Reclamation Act was established to provide, “regulatory authority for reclamation of areas subject to mining, such as open pits, waste rock and surface material stockpiles, tailings basins, buildings and equipment, and infrastructure no longer needed for any other use. It also requires revegetation of disturbed ground, and mitigation of impacted wetlands” ([dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals/mineland\\_reclamation](https://dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/mineland_reclamation), 2016). The Kinney Mine Pit was one of the projects selected to receive funding from the Mineland Reclamation Program. With funding from the IRRRB through the Mineland Reclamation Program, a park was created along the lake with picnic areas and a cement slab boat landing. However, swimming is not currently allowed due to safety concerns as the lake drops off quickly due to the vertical walls formed by the former Kinney Mine.

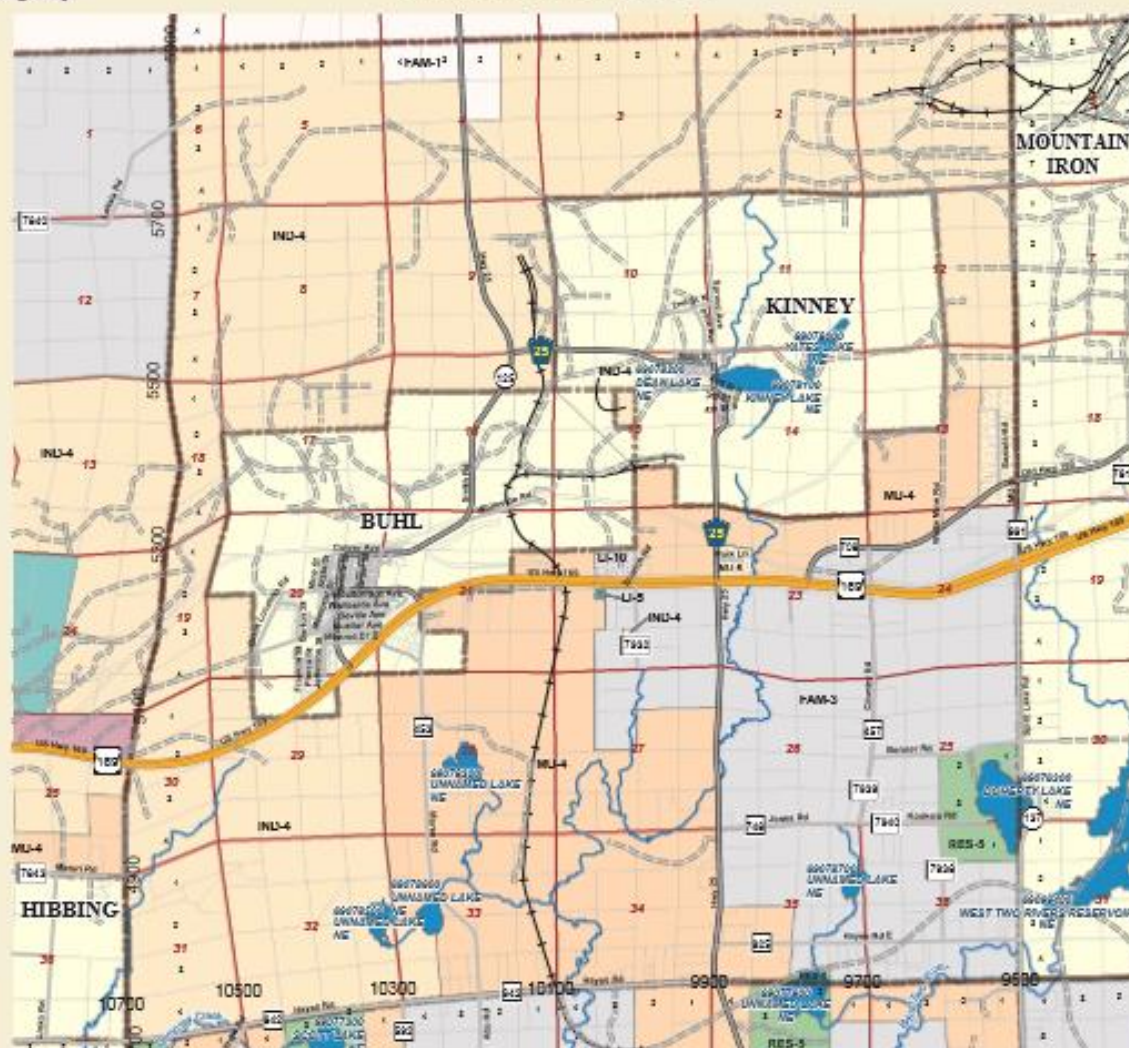


## Land Use

Effective October 1980, St. Louis County established Kinney’s land use and zoning policies as part of the West Range Land Use Plan and Zoning plan. The West Range Plan addresses some of the community’s areas of concern, particularly with mining, mentioned in this comprehensive plan. These include: 1.) existing residential development protections from future land development, 2.) supporting mining while protecting property rights and the public’s general welfare, 4.) mining companies providing buffering from residential areas, and 5.) engaging residents in land use planning and decision-making. This document is included in brevity in **Appendix D** and can also be found in full (with amendments of other towns) on the [St. Louis County website](https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/). St. Louis County’s Zoning Map that includes Kinney is as follows:

St. Louis County  
Zoning Map

# Great Scott 58-19



## Zone Districts

- Forest Agricultural Management  
FAM-1, 2, 3
- Residential  
RES-1, 1a, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
- Shoreland Multiple Use  
SMU-1, 2, 3, 3a, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
- Multiple Use  
MU-2, 3, 4, 5, 7
- Sensitive Areas  
SENS-1, 2, 3, 5
- Industrial  
IND-4
- Limited Industrial  
LI-1, 4, 5, 10, 11
- Commercial  
COM-4, 5, 6, 7, 11
- Lake Superior Overlay  
LSO-10

## River Classification & Setbacks

|  |                      |         |
|--|----------------------|---------|
|  | Tributaries          | 100 ft. |
|  | Primitive            | 300 ft. |
|  | SLC Remote           | 200 ft. |
|  | Recreational         | 150 ft. |
|  | Rural / Agricultural | 200 ft. |
|  | Urban                | 100 ft. |
|  | Trout Streams        | 150 ft. |
|  | DNR Remote           | 200 ft. |
|  | DNR Forested         | 150 ft. |

## Lake Classification

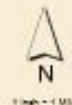
- General Development - GD 75 ft.
- Recreational Development - RD 100 ft.
- Natural Environment - NE 150 ft.

## Road Functional Classifications & Road Setbacks

- Arterials 110 ft.
- Collectors 85 ft.
- Local Roads 48 ft.
- Other Roads 48 ft.

## Parcels

- Parcels



11/23/2015

Lands within 500 feet of rivers, shall have same dimensional standards as adjacent non-shoreland area. Except for St. Louis, Cloquet, Whiteface, and Vermilion rivers.

St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 63  
Adopted February 17, 2009

St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 873  
Adopted December 21, 1999

St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 210  
Adopted April 26, 2005

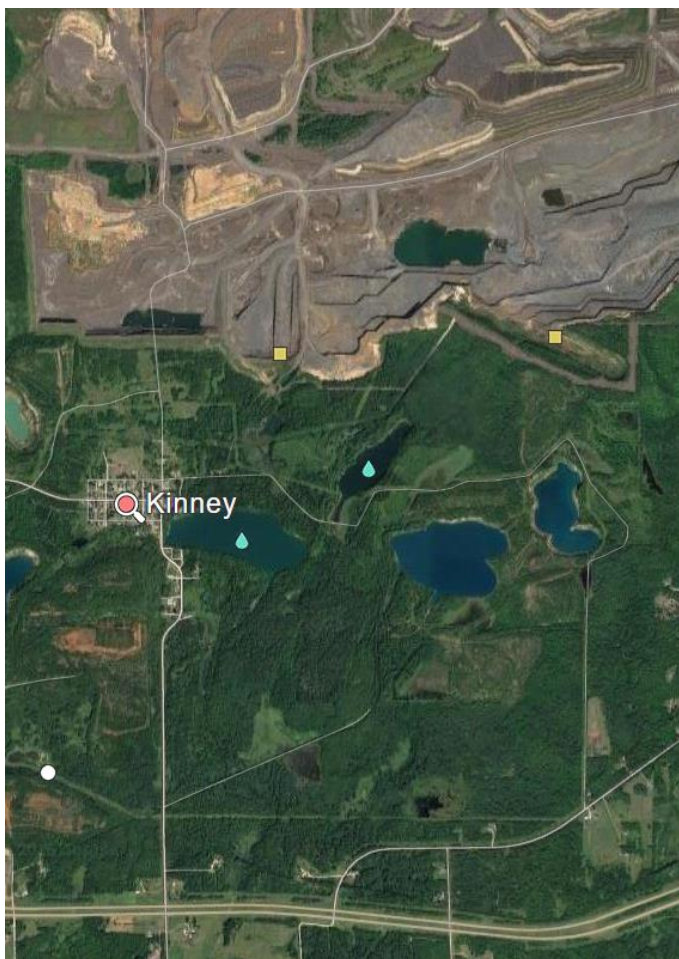
St. Louis County Board Resolution No. 961  
Adopted December 19, 1995.

This zoning map is effective on August 15, 2015.  
For any subsequent changes contact the  
St. Louis County Planning & Zoning Department.



## Mining

Northeast Minnesota's mining industry has been an integral part of the Kinney's history and continues to be a driving force in the community and local economy. Kinney residents shared their perspectives on how mining has affected them in terms of opportunities and quality of life. Some talked about the opportunities mining has provided in employment and the ability to provide for their families. Others mentioned the negative impact of mine blasts with increased noise and structural damage to walls and basement foundations. Still others shared concerns about the mines buying out the town and whether mining activities are causing dangerous levels of pollution and ultimately affecting the health of Kinney residents. The adjacent map shows an aerial view of Kinney and its proximity to the Minntac Mining properties (gray-colored areas) located north of Kinney.



The *West Range Land Use Plan* (see **Appendix D**) promotes mining and works to protect communities. It states, “Land use decisions should be guided towards encouraging the development of this industry while protecting private property rights and the public’s health, safety, and general welfare”. In addition to environmental protections, the policies specific to mining require companies to have buffer zones between mines and residential areas and allow low-density residential development to occur near mining areas.

Working to limit the negative impact of mining on communities, the *Laurentian Vision Partnership* convenes stakeholders with the following goals: 1.) to encourage planned design efforts by mining companies and communities, 2.) promote new ideas for long-term restoration and development of mine sites, and 3.) facilitate meaningful actions among stakeholders. The Partnership identifies and maps the resources and land needed to sustain mining in the future at expected production rates. This mapping process is used to collaboratively plan for the mining industry’s future land use needs and locations while avoiding potential land use conflicts by non-mining development.

Over the next 15-20 years, Minntac expects to continue mining within its current boundaries. Purchasing properties takes a substantial amount of time, and acquiring permits for mining new properties typically takes 3-5 years. With the number of years left to mine within its boundaries and time it takes to expand into new areas, Minntac is anticipating that in five years, it will begin to identify properties to purchase to accommodate future expansions. These expansions are predicted to be on the south sides of Minntac's East and West pits (**see Map of Minntac Mines in Appendix E**) which may include properties in Mountain Iron, Buhl, and areas to the west and north of Kinney.

## Natural Environment Goals and Actions

**NE Goal 1:** Kinney will promote its natural spaces and work to keep them clean and safe.

**Action NE 1.1:** Continue to clean and beautify the newly acquired public access area at Kinney Lake. Develop a short and long-term plan for using, developing, and maintaining it.

**Action NE 1.2:** Maintain the open spaces and preserve the scenic views in the Kinney Community Park.

**Action NE 1.3:** Identify opportunities for beautifying the Main Street area of Kinney including green public spaces, flowerbeds or flowerpots along sidewalks, and small gardens.

**Action NE 1.4:** Review city ordinances and land use and zoning policies to see if they appropriately support the vision and goals of the city.

**Action NE 1.5:** Invite Minntac and the DNR to participate in a Special Meeting every 1-3 years to communicate efforts to protect residents, control pollution, and promote the natural environment in Kinney. Work with them to ensure that Kinney's goals and activities are in alignment.



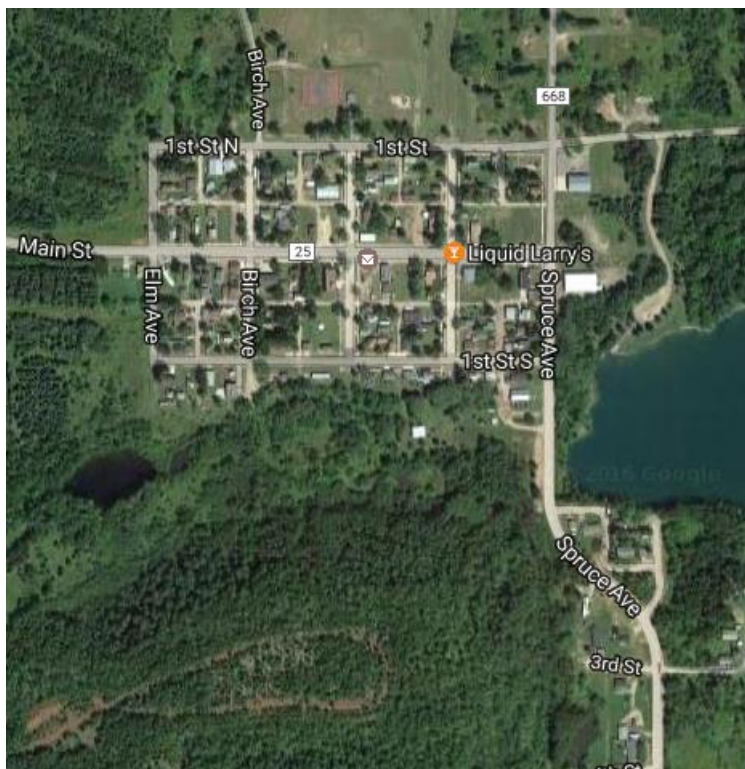
## **FOCUS AREA 2: BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

**Built Environment:** People-friendly designs of buildings and spaces (human scale, with pedestrian passageways, gathering places, views, attractiveness, etc.); handicap access; preservation of historic and cultural heritage; cleanliness; safety (lighting, building design, long views, traffic patterns, bans on the use of toxic materials); good public **transportation**; traffic-free paths to encourage walking, jogging, and bicycling. **Community facilities, utilities, and housing** are included topics in the Built Environment (BE) focus area.

### **Transportation**

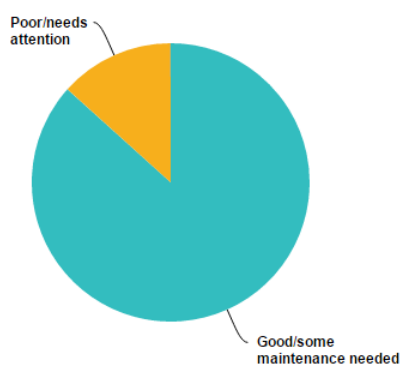
Kinney covers an area of approximately 5 square miles. It has twelve city streets including Elm Avenue, Birch Avenue, Maple Avenue, Pine Avenue, Spruce Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Street North, Main Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Street South, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South, 4<sup>th</sup> Street South and 5<sup>th</sup> Street South.

With an inventory of two trucks with plows, a grader, and front-end loader, Kinney maintains its city streets, alleys and sidewalks. Community survey responses indicate that most residents (87%) believe that streets in Kinney are in generally good condition with some maintenance needed. About 13% responded that the city's streets were in poor condition and needed attention.



**How would you rate the general condition of streets in the City of Kinney?**

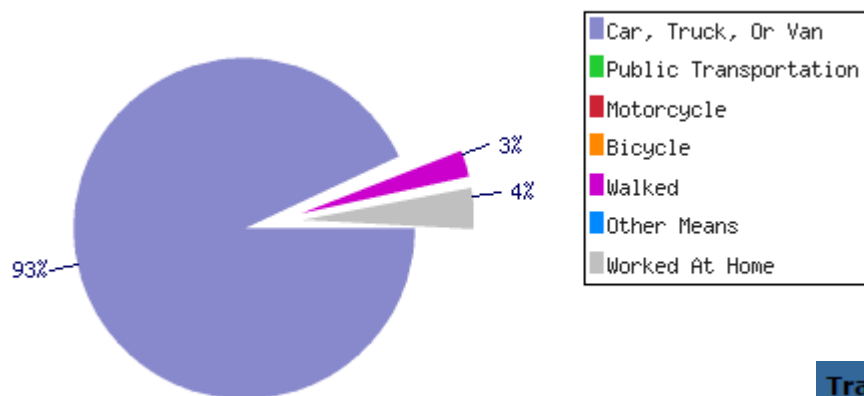
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



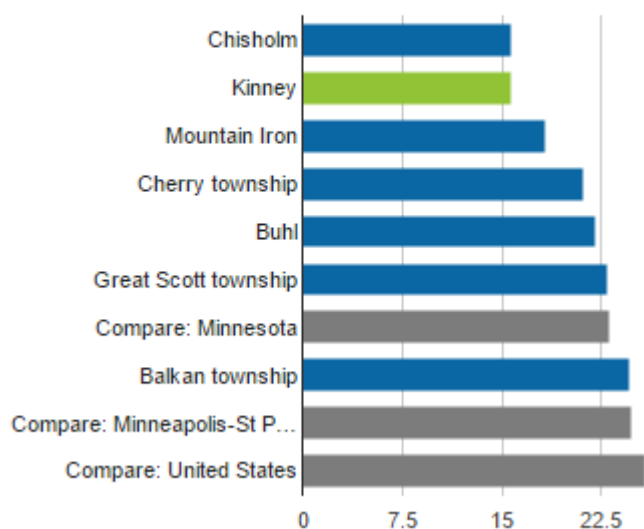
| Answer Choices               | Responses |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Fine/well maintained         | 0.00% 0   |
| Good/some maintenance needed | 86.67% 13 |
| Poor/needs attention         | 13.33% 2  |
| no opinion                   | 0.00% 0   |
| Total                        | 15        |

Living in such a small city, Kinney residents rely on personal vehicles to access local businesses and travel to work. Public transportation is not available and while taxicabs are available, the cost is excessive given the miles an individual would have to travel. Aside from those who work from home, most residents commute to work in a timeframe of 10-24 minutes while the furthest any residents travel is only a drive of between 25-29 minutes to reach their work site. The American Community Survey 2010-2014 estimates that 65 Kinney residents commute to work with an average travel time of 16 minutes.

#### Transportation in Kinney City, Minnesota



**Figure 35: Kinney, MN Average Commute Time in Minutes**



#### Travel Time To Work (Kinney City, Minnesota)

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Less than 5 minutes | : 3  |
| 5 to 9 minutes      | : 2  |
| 10 to 14 minutes    | : 13 |
| 15 to 19 minutes    | : 33 |
| 20 to 24 minutes    | : 24 |
| 25 to 29 minutes    | : 7  |
| 30 to 34 minutes    | : 0  |
| 35 to 39 minutes    | : 0  |
| 40 to 44 minutes    | : 0  |
| 45 to 59 minutes    | : 0  |
| 60 to 89 minutes    | : 0  |
| 90 or more minutes  | : 0  |

(updated 2009)

Kinney residents use city sidewalks to visit neighbors, get exercise, and access community facilities, the local business, and public spaces. Over 93% of survey responders reported that they use trails/sidewalks/paths to get from place to place in Kinney.

Kinney has easy access to the Range Regional Airport, which is owned and operated by the Chisholm-Hibbing Airport Authority and is located only 13 miles from Kinney. The Range Regional Airport provides commercial airline services, charter airline services, and general aviation. Minnesota Senator Al Franken stated, “By investing in the Range Regional Airport in Hibbing, we’re spurring economic development on the Range and bolstering our regional transportation network” (Duluth News Tribune, <http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/content/construction-set-start-new-range-regional-airport-terminal>, September 16, 2014).

## Community Facilities and Utilities

**Library:** Kinney has a public library that is part of the Arrowhead Library System which was established in 1965 with the vision of sharing resources, collaborating on services, and using technology to support libraries and patrons in accessing library resources. Open from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, the library provides a variety of materials including books, magazines, DVD’s, and newspapers. As a member of the Arrowhead Library System, patrons can order resources from other libraries and receive them at the Kinney library location. Patrons can also access the internet at the library and use its computer stations. The library has a part-time Librarian and is overseen by the City Council and Library Board.



**Fire Department:** Established in 1945, the Kinney-Great Scott Volunteer Fire Department serves the fire and emergency response needs of the City of Kinney and Great Scott Township and regularly provides mutual aid to five other area fire departments located in the region. The fire department maintains three fire stations, two of which are in the northern and southern parts of the service area which spans approximately 70 square miles. The third station, the main fire hall, is centrally located in the City of Kinney which is surrounded by Great Scott Township. The three fire stations are strategically equipped with emergency vehicles and equipment at each site. This allows the department to provide the most rapid response to the variety of calls they receive within their large primary response area and those from neighboring fire departments requesting mutual aid.

The Kinney-Great Scott Volunteer Fire Department's mission is “to protect and serve the people in the City of Kinney and Great Scott Township to minimize suffering, loss of life, and loss of property incurred by fire, accidents, disasters, and medical emergencies. We place great value on quality training, safety, and equipment maintenance to provide the

best protection for our members, service to our residents, and assistance to our local fire departments in serving their communities." Despite the small population which makes volunteer recruitment difficult and the risks and challenges involved in the job, seventeen members of the community currently serve on the volunteer fire department. With a small annual operating budget of about \$19,000, the Kinney-Great Scott Fire Department strives and struggles to ensure that each member is equipped with compliant protective gear and appropriately trained to respond in emergency situations.



**Kinney City Hall:** In 1921, Kinney constructed a city hall where city offices were located, meetings were held, and records were kept. Over the years, with a declining population and tax base, Kinney could no longer afford to operate in the inefficient building (in terms of both space and energy), and city offices were moved to the library location. Currently, the City Hall is used to store old city records and maps and houses some of the city's larger trucks and equipment. The structure has suffered the destructive effects of aging, weathering, and a leaking roof. City council members and residents are questioning its safety and stability and are contemplating whether it still should to be used, can be restored, or ought to be demolished.



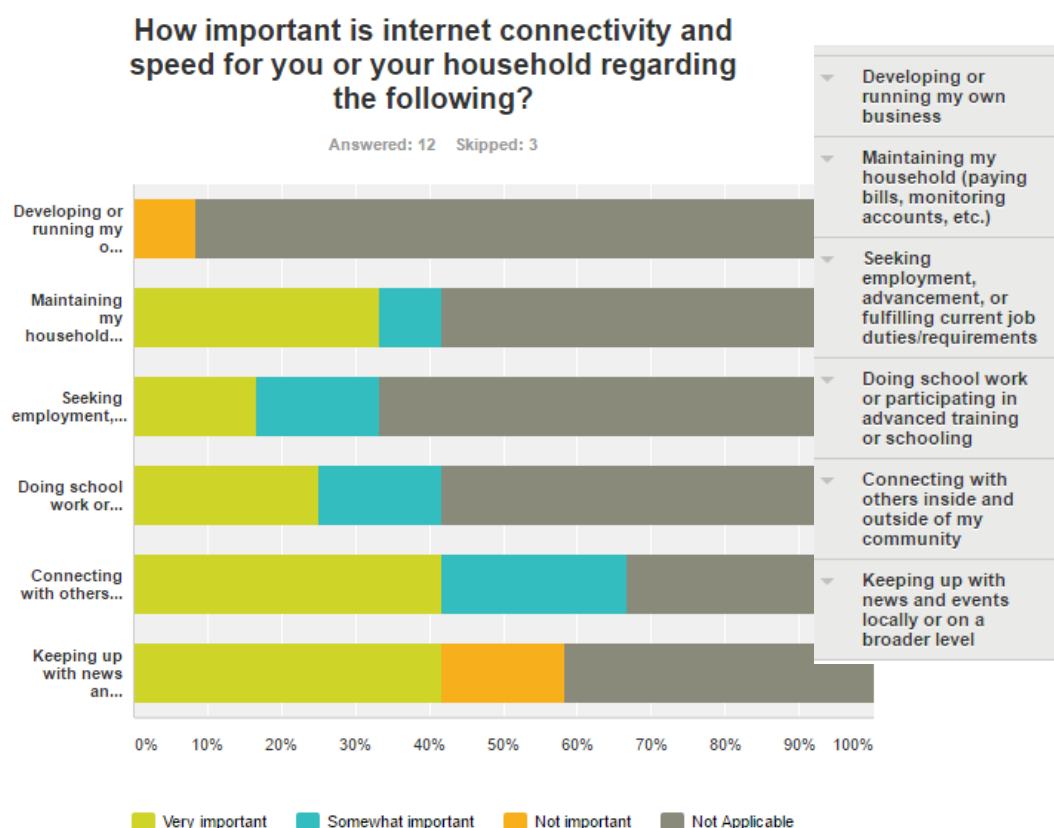
**City Garage:** In 1939, St. Louis County was awarded a Works Progress Administration (WPA) grant resulting in the construction of a County Garage in Kinney. The WPA provided employment, mostly construction projects, for millions of unemployed people suffering from effects of the Great Depression. The County Garage was eventually turned over to Kinney to serve as the City Garage which continues to be used today. While the garage has some heating efficiency issues and lacks internet connection, the building is effective in serving the current needs of the city.





**Broadband:** Served by the Mountain Iron – Buhl School District, Kinney has partnered on an Iron Range Broadband Communities grant funded through the Blandin Foundation, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board, and St. Louis County. Awarded in November 2016, the initiative’s mission is to develop, improve and expand both access and use of broadband technology to meet the needs of its students, families, workers and employers in the area. The Iron Range Broadband Communities project will help the MIB School District community and partners address the following issues: 1.) residential access to broadband in rural locations is sporadic, at best, depending on location, 2.) options for service providers are limited and expensive, 3.) access to high speed internet in public places is lacking, and 4.) the lack of affordable and accessible broadband will impact the community’s ability to develop and thrive. Along with Buhl, Great Scott Township, and Mountain Iron, Kinney is striving to understand its broadband challenges and make informed decisions to address them.

Results from the Community Survey reported that only half of respondents in Kinney had internet service in their homes. Yet, the survey also indicated that these residents rely on internet access for a variety of reasons such as maintaining their households (paying bills, monitoring accounts, etc.); seeking employment, advancement, or fulfilling job duties; doing school work or participating in higher education or advanced training; connecting with others inside/outside of the community; and keeping up with news and events locally or on a broader level.

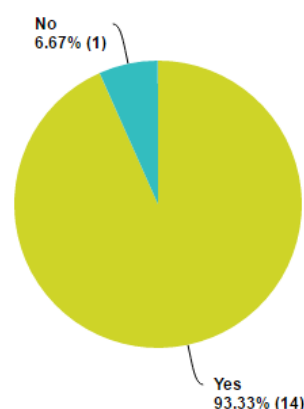


**Water and Sewer:** Kinney has a municipal water treatment plant that pipes clean water to residents and to fire hydrants throughout the city. The most recent update to the water system was a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant project that provided for the installation of new water lines to residents in the Spina location. Along with Chisholm, Buhl, and Great Scott Township, Kinney is part of the Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District (CIRSSD) which launched the CIRSSD Wastewater Treatment Facility to serve the needs of its member communities. The plant was established to collaboratively convey and treat wastewater from member communities rather than having them front the cost of constructing their own standardized facilities.

**Recycling:** Kinney participates in St. Louis County's recycling program and provides a drop off location at the Kinney City Garage. Over 93% of city residents reported that they recycle with nearly all stating that the Kinney City Garage location is their preferred drop off site. In terms of locations where hazardous household materials could be disposed, 20% of respondents were not aware of where to do so. St. Louis County offers two hazardous household waste collection sites, one located in Virginia and the other in Hibbing. Maps of these locations, hours of operation, and a list of acceptable hazardous waste materials can be found in **Appendix F** along with a list of 47 County recycling locations on the Iron Range.

#### Do you currently recycle?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



**Emergency Services:** Kinney has an Emergency Management Director who plans and directs disaster response and crisis management for the City of Kinney. If a crisis or disaster occurs in Kinney, the director coordinates assistance to ensure that the safety and basic needs of the city's residents are addressed. The director also maintains a file on all residents who have physical limitations or health conditions that could make them more vulnerable in emergency situations. This file safeguards residents and enables the city to act accordingly to better protect them in times of crisis.

## Housing

Kinney is a small city with a population of 160 residents occupying 70 of its total inventory of 83 homes. The average household size was 2.4 people, and the average family size was 2.9 people. The 2010 U.S. Census reported that of Kinney's occupied housing units, 61 were owner-occupied and 9 were occupied by renters. It also identified that about 13 homes, or 16% of the city's total housing inventory, were vacant. Of the vacant homes, one was reported for sale, one was vacant due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, and the remaining 11 were vacant for reasons unknown. The City of Kinney has a blight ordinance in place that provides guidelines for qualifying blight conditions and the process the city

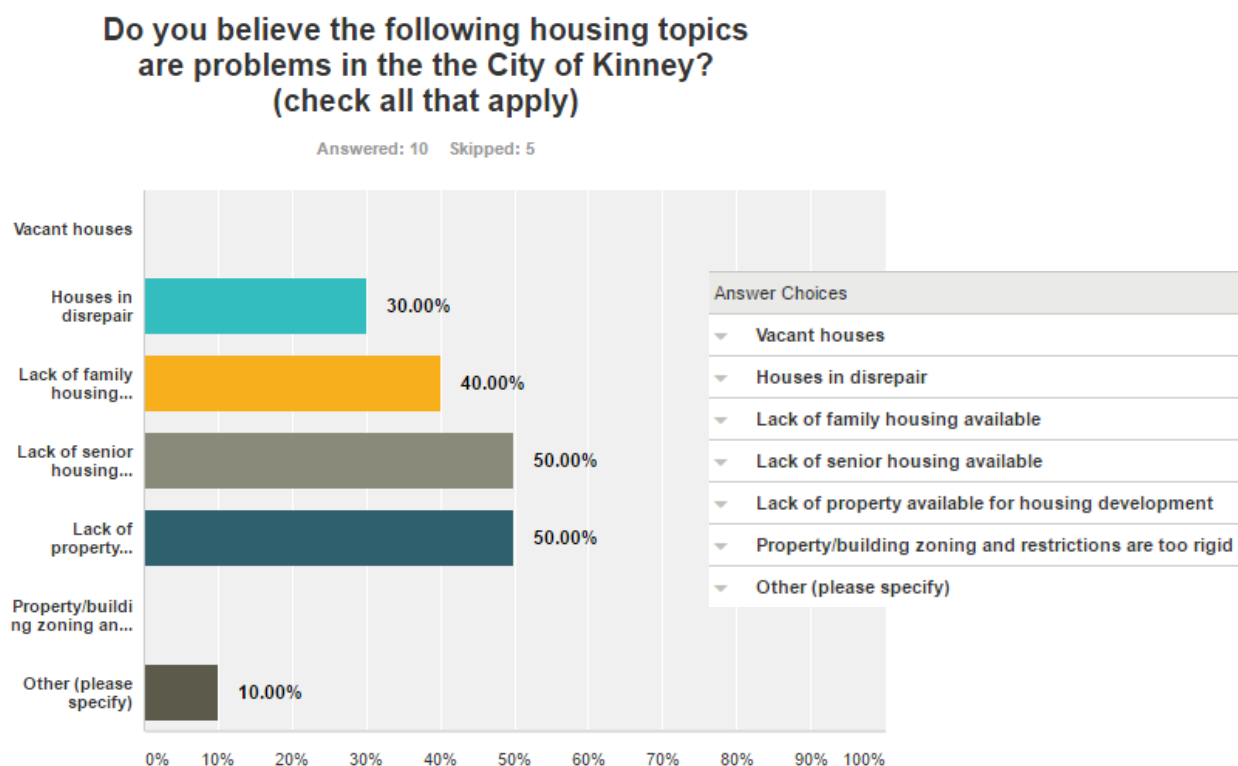
will take in addressing them. The ordinance was discussed when eight structures were demolished in Kinney in 2015, some of which were uninhabitable residential housing units.

The estimated median house value in 2013 was \$50,000 compared to the median house value in Minnesota of \$180,100. Nearly half of Kinney's occupied homes (34 homes) had values of less than \$50,000, and 30% (20) homes were valued between \$50K-\$100K.

Kinney's housing stock includes 59 homes that are at least 50 years old. Over 40% of housing units have no mortgage which is of little surprise since 43% of householders moved into their housing units prior to 1990. Twenty percent of householders have lived in their homes for over 50 years.

|                                            |                                     |    |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 83 |
| Built 2005 or later                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 0  |
| Built 2000 to 2004                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 8  |
| Built 1990 to 1999                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 7  |
| Built 1980 to 1989                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4  |
| Built 1970 to 1979                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5  |
| Built 1960 to 1969                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 15 |
| Built 1950 to 1959                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 6  |
| Built 1940 to 1949                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5  |
| Built 1939 or earlier                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 33 |

When Kinney's residents were surveyed on their perceptions of housing in the city, they provided feedback as described in the following chart:



## Built Environment Goals and Actions

**BE Goal 2:** Kinney strives to ensure that built structures and infrastructures are safe.

**Actions BE 2.1:** Implement speed reduction signs to reduce occurrences of people speeding into and through the city and compromising the safety of residents.

**Action BE 2.2:** Address the issues of holes, cracks and heaves in sidewalks, potholes and deteriorating curbs on city streets, and cemented areas in the park that are unsafe or in need of repair. Develop a schedule for when these issues will be addressed and establish a plan and budget to pay for them.

**Action BE 2.3:** Determine the state of the old City Hall and pursue steps to ensure the property/structure is safe through restoration, reconstruction, or demolition.

**Action BE 2.4:** Identify opportunities to make the city garage more energy-efficient.

**Action BE 2.5:** Develop a plan for addressing deteriorating lines and issues with the existing back-up well.

**Action BE 2.6:** Help recruit volunteer firefighters and emergency response technicians for the fire department.

**Action BE 2.7:** Continue to collaborate with Great Scott Township to support the fire department's mission in having appropriate gear, training, and equipment to safely and effectively respond to emergencies.

**Action BE 2.8:** Collaborate with area communities and partners to better understand the area's need for broadband, current and potential use, and opportunities for increasing access and affordability.

**Action BE 2.9:** Participate in a feasibility study to identify connectivity needs and issues, research potential providers, and acquire valuable detailed data to support grants and other broadband funding requests.

**Action BE 2.10:** Continue to promote recycling and inform residents on locations and acceptable items for hazardous waste disposal.

**Action BE 2.11:** Pursue appropriate sheltered space to protect residents in emergency disaster or crisis situations.



**BE Goal 2:** Kinney will work to increase its housing inventory and maximize its use of property.

**Action BE 3.1:** Inventory the city's housing stock including vacant homes and identify opportunities for increasing availability and occupancy.

**Action BE 3.2:** Enforce the city's ordinance on blight and pursue removal of uninhabitable vacant structures.

**Action BE 3.3:** Explore the implementation of a land use policy or ordinance to ensure that Kinney's limited residential property (and corresponding tax base) is maximized and not left vacant or undeveloped.

**Action BE 3.4:** Use the city's website to help promote properties for sale.

## **FOCUS AREA 3: ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

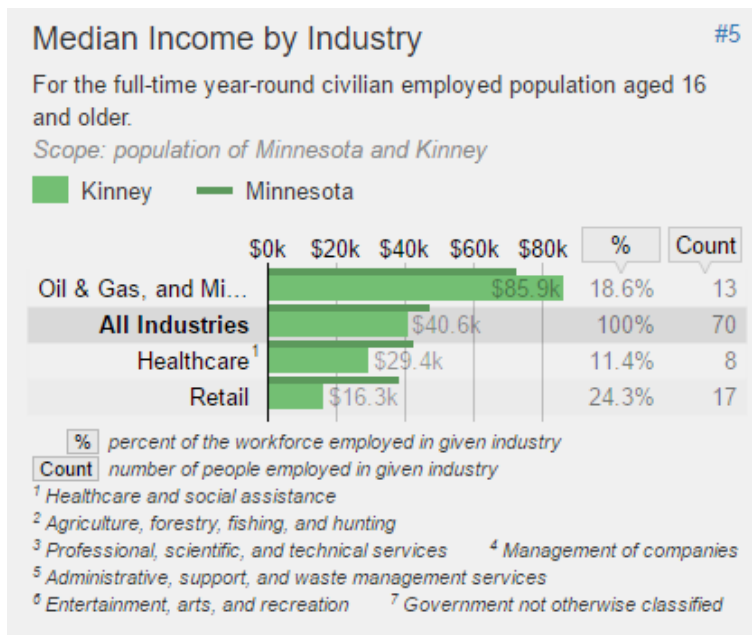
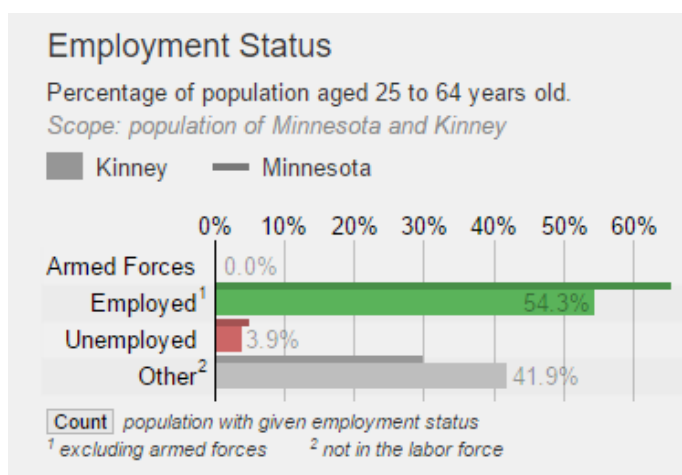
**Economic Environment:** A healthy economic environment is one where there is work for everyone capable of working, where workers are treated as assets and are paid a living wage, where there is equal economic opportunity for all, where those who can't work are supported, and where money doesn't buy political power or immunity from the law. Profiles of Kinney's economic base, employers, and labor force are included and **economic development** opportunities are discussed in the Economic Environment (EE) focus area.

### **Employment Profile**

Of the total population in Kinney, over 54% of residents ages 25-64 are employed of the nearly 58% of the population in the labor force. The city's unemployment rate of 3.9% is low compared to 5.3% for St. Louis County and 5.0% for the State of Minnesota. The highest sector employing Kinney residents is the retail industry which is employing nearly 25%, a quarter of the working population of Kinney. Other sectors that employ a significant percentage of the city's residents (greater than 7%) include:

- mining (18.6%)
- healthcare (11.4%)
- construction (8.6%)
- utilities (7.1%)

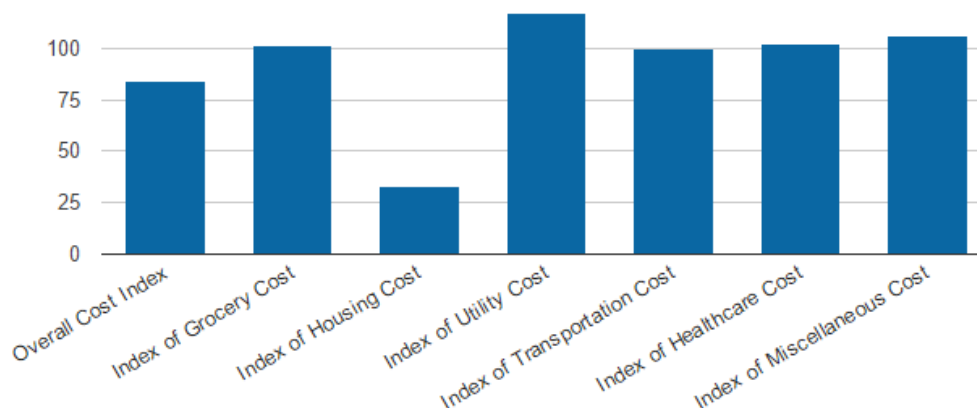
U.S. Census data shows that Kinney residents working in the mining industry are earning average incomes of \$85,900 which is substantially higher than those in the community working in the healthcare field (\$29,400) and the retail industry (\$16,300).



## Economic Development

**Economic Base:** Kinney is a small city that is primarily residential and has a limited commercial economic base. The only private business in the city is Liquid Larry's. The only other employer is the City of Kinney which has one full-time employee and a few that are hired for part-time occasional work, including summer youth. The City of Kinney relies heavily on its residents to provide a viable tax base to cover the city's budget. The cost of living in Kinney is overall lower than the U.S. average due in part to the significantly lower cost of housing. The city's low housing costs balance utility costs which are higher than the U.S. average. Diversifying and expanding the city's economic base would lessen the burden carried by its small population.

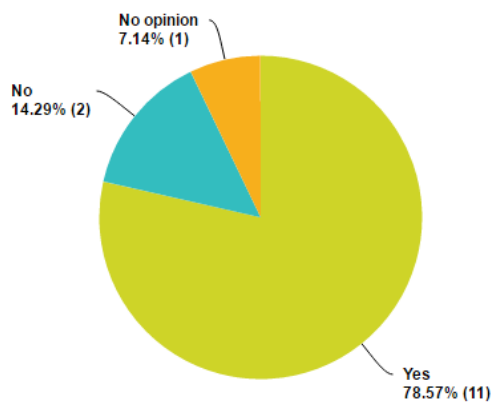
Figure 11: Kinney, MN Cost of Living (100 = U.S. Average)



**Attracting Businesses:** Survey results show that residents are in support of attracting new local business. To attract new local businesses, residents suggested Kinney should get involved by assisting with grant writing for business development and expansion (45%) and increasing partnerships and involvement with area cities and organizations (36%). They also considered a variety of potential businesses and determined whether they would encourage their development in the city. One of the responses in “other” suggested a church, kitchen, and community room for events. Other responses rating potential business developments are shown on the next page.

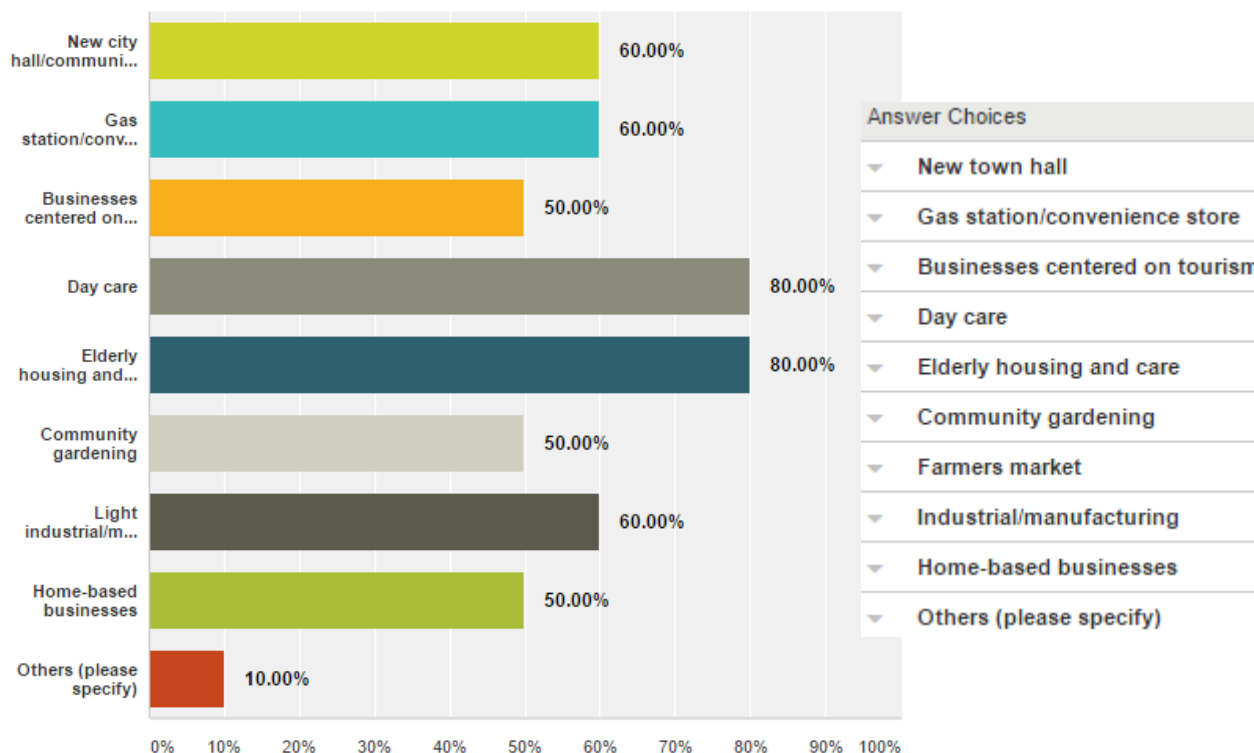
### Should the City of Kinney be actively involved in attracting new local business?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



**What type of business developments would you encourage in the City of Kinney?  
(check all that apply)**

Answered: 10 Skipped: 5



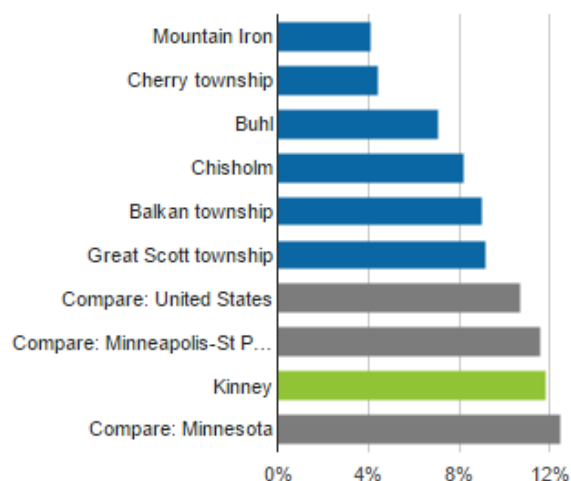
**Entrepreneurs and Self-Employed:** According to the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, “permanent employment growth for some of the largest employers in the U.S. has stagnated since the 2001 recession, and many of their permanent jobs are being contracted out, allowing firms to lower legacy worker costs and increase worker flexibility...Coping with these changes will most likely require an expansion of small-scale entrepreneurship, enabling rural residents to enjoy the quality of life benefits of ‘rural living’ and also tap economic opportunities” (2011). RUPRI suggests that these trends will be important to rural areas and will quite possibly shape rural development strategies in new ways for these reasons:

- ✓ Entrepreneurs will have the freedom to live where they want and still make a living.
- ✓ Rural areas can connect strategies to “quality of place” and “economic development” as they work to revitalize communities and attract people.
- ✓ Rural communities that have experienced “brain drain” or the perceived loss of the “brightest and best” will be able to attract entrepreneurs back to their rural areas and enhance their capacity for social and economic renewal.



Over the past decade, the percentage of self-employed workers in Kinney has almost doubled from 4.1% in 2000 to 8% in 2015. The percent of people self-employed in Kinney is higher than other local communities. Having limited options for developing main street businesses, Kinney could benefit from supporting home-based businesses and the opportunities they could provide for employment or extra income. These individuals contribute to the economic base and their successful ventures could have a positive impact on the city.

**Figure 7: People Self Employed in Kinney, MN**



**Telecommuters:** Some of the larger employers in the area including Delta Airlines, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN, and Delta Dental, offer their employees opportunities to work from home. Telecommuting has become an adopted practice for many employers looking for ways to reduce their costs and provide elements of flexibility to their employees. Like self-employment, telecommuters have more flexibility to choose where they live and still be gainfully employed. The telecommuting movement paired with Kinney's safe, quiet and friendly environment may attract these types of workers and their families to the community. Telecommuters are likely to need access to affordable and reliable hi-speed internet from their homes, and Kinney is making progress in being able to provide it.

---

#### **Telecommuting Trends:**

- Telecommuter work opportunities (non-self-employment) have grown by 103% since 2005
  - 3.7 million employees (2.8% of the workforce) work from home at least part-time
  - Workers tend to be college-educated, middle-aged, and making an income in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile (Globalworkplaceanalytics.com, 2016)
-

## Economic Environment Goals and Actions

**EE Goal 1:** Kinney will strive to be fiscally responsible and keep its small-town living affordable.

**Action EE 1.1:** Contemplate any major projects or significant expenses the city may incur over the next 20 years and determine how it will cover the costs for them.

**Action EE 1.2:** Identify potential physical locations for small business development to diversify and grow the city's economic base.

**Action EE 1.3:** Pursue grant funds to promote small business development.

**Action EE 1.4:** Promote entrepreneurship in the community by offering workshops and connecting individuals with small business development organizations and resources.

**Action EE 1.5:** Pursue reliable, accessible, affordable hi-speed internet to support business development and quality of life for residents.

**Action EE 1.6:** Invite Minntac and the DNR to participate in a Special Meeting every 1-3 years to communicate current mining activities and plans for expansion.

**Action EE 1.7:** Determine reasons for uninhabited homes in the city and take steps to promote occupancy.

**Action EE 1.8:** Identify current homes and properties available, and develop and launch a marketing campaign to attract small businesses, self-employed individuals, and commuting worker families to the community.

## **FOCUS AREA 4: WORK ENVIRONMENT**

**Work Environment:** The work environment should be a source of stimulation, rather than stress. Respect for employees, good safety precautions and procedures, firm rules forbidding harassment or abuse, adequate pay and/or other compensation, humane and fair production expectations and treatment—all contribute to work environments that nurture creativity and enthusiasm, and improve, rather than detract from, both production and workers’ quality of life. Kinney’s City Council and city employees are the focus of the Work Environment (WE) focus area.

Kinney has a small team of individuals who serve on its behalf. Six residents are elected to serve on the Kinney City Council which is comprised of the mayor, three council members, a clerk, and treasurer. The city also employs a full-time City Maintenance Worker, a part-time librarian, an Emergency Management Director, and a few other part-time occasional workers. City Council members receive a small monthly wage for their service, and the employees receive wages with the full-time employee also receiving benefits.

### **Best Practices**

Employers and human resource managers agree that one of the best practices in creating a healthy and productive work environment is to set clear expectations, responsibilities, and boundaries. This includes providing employees with rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. The following

**“START WITH GOOD PEOPLE, LAY OUT THE RULES, COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR EMPLOYEES, MOTIVATE THEM AND REWARD THEM. IF YOU DO ALL THOSE THINGS EFFECTIVELY, YOU CAN’T MISS.”**

LEE IACocca

organizations provide resources to understand the roles and responsibilities of city council members and templates for creating handbooks for employees:

The League of Minnesota Cities provides a Handbook for Minnesota Cities which is continuously updated. The handbook assists City Council Members with understanding their roles and laws affecting Minnesota city governments. It also includes information on governmental structures of cities, elections and meetings, personnel management, regulatory and development functions of cities, liability, budgets and finances, and reporting and records management. The Handbook for Minnesota Cities can be found at: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/handbook-for-mn-cities.jsp>.

Serving municipalities in New Jersey in risk management, the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund organization offers a Model Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual for Small Municipalities: <http://www.njmel.org/index.php/15-local-officials/57-personnel-policies-and-procedures-manual>. This document could be customized for any small municipality striving to develop an employee handbook that includes policies and procedures related to employee rights and obligations, workplace policies, leave policies, compensation and employee benefits, and supervision procedures.

## Work Environment Goals and Actions

**WE Goal 1:** Kinney is committed to providing a work environment that is healthy, safe, productive, and free from harassment or abuse.

**Action WE 1.1:** Develop a comprehensive employee handbook that includes policies and procedures, employee rights and obligations, workplace policies, leave policies, compensation and employee benefits, and supervision procedures. The Municipal Excess Liability organization offers a template for small municipalities at: <http://www.njmel.org/index.php/15-local-officials/57-personnel-policies-and-procedures-manual>.

**Action WE 1.2:** Provide annual performance reviews that compare employer expectations (job description) with job performance, provide positive feedback, and address any issues of concern.

**Action WE 1.3:** Establish an appropriate procedure for residents to follow if they have complaints about City Council Members or city employees.

**Action WE 1.4:** Keep a current copy of the Handbook for Minnesota Cities (developed by the League of Minnesota Cities and updated regularly) readily available for City Council Members. Chapters of the handbook can be individually downloaded at: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/handbook-for-mn-cities.jsp>.

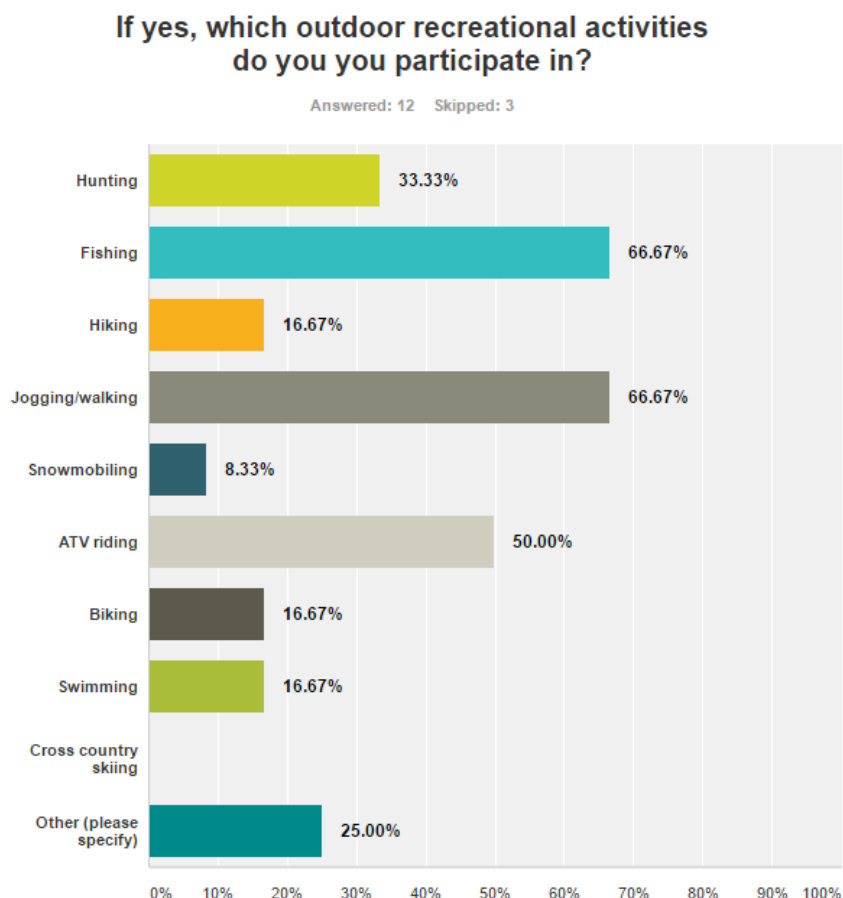


## **FOCUS AREA 5: LEISURE ENVIRONMENT**

**Leisure Environment:** The work and home environments can provide time for leisure. The community can provide **recreational** and **cultural** opportunities to use in that leisure time; museums, parks and beaches, cultural and sports events, libraries, etc. Kinney could also pursue opportunities to increase **tourism** in promoting its recreational assets and community events. The city's historical and cultural object assets are also considered in the Leisure Environment (LE) focus area as they could support leisure activities.

### **Outdoor Activities**

Aside from the public library, Kinney's leisure activities are mainly outdoors and recreational in nature. According to the Community Survey, 80% of Kinney residents participate in outdoor recreation in or near Kinney. Over 93% of survey responders believe that recreational activities are important to the city. Some provided individual responses that included participating in 4<sup>th</sup> of July games, golfing, and golf carting. Participation rates for the following activities were as follows:



**City Park:** Established in 1978, the Kinney Community Park is located on the north side of Kinney and resides on the former Wilson School site. The Kinney Community Park is comprised of a ball field, tennis courts, skating rink, sheltered picnic area, and playground. It is also the site where many of Kinney's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration activities place. The following photos further illustrate the park's amenities:



Some of the amenities in Kinney Community Park are no longer used or in operation including the tennis courts and skating rink. The City of Kinney has expressed an interest in updating the playground equipment. Recently, City Councilors and the City Worker have been discussing and addressing issues with sink holes developing in the section of the park where the school structure once stood. According to resident accounts, when the school was demolished, the basement walls and foundation were left in place. After the building structure was removed, the hole left behind was backfilled, including the walls, foundation, and potentially other items discarded from the school. The city attributes the current sink holes to shifting and decomposition of the known and unknown buried materials.





***Kinney Lake (Kinney Mine Pit):*** Kinney Lake is a 51-acre lake that was formed out of the old Kinney Mine Pit. Stocked with fish every year by the MN Department of Natural Resources, the lake offers a variety of species of fish. The property surrounding nearly all of the lake is uninhabited and belongs to the State of Minnesota. Kinney Lake has one public access located near the City of Kinney. In 2016, Great Scott Township conveyed the Kinney Lake public access area to the City of Kinney. The public access property provides places for people to picnic and a sloped cement slab easing into the water so anglers and others can launch watercraft. Swimming is not considered safe and is not allowed due to the vertical walls from the old mine pit that pose dangerous and deep water drop-offs. Funding for past Kinney Lake projects has come from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources through the Mine Reclamation Program.



***Mesabi Trail:*** Kinney is an identified access point to the Mesabi Trail which currently spans 120 miles and connects 28 communities in NE Minnesota. The trail provides recreational activities such as biking, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and even snowmobiling in some locations. It also connects Kinney to other communities that offer opportunities to explore Iron Range history, artifacts, and scenic views. The Mesabi Trail is a popular pathway as verified by a trail counter in a nearby location that calculated about 30,000 people passing by each year, which could deviate as some counts might be of the same individual. The [www.mesabitrail.com](http://www.mesabitrail.com) website gives virtual tours of the trail and information on the Kinney access point located in Great Scott Township.



## Tourism

The amount of outdoor recreation opportunities in and surrounding Kinney presents potential growth in tourism. Kinney is connected to or located near miles of trails that are used for ATV riding, snowmobiling, and horseback riding. Snowmobile associations and ATV clubs have organized to promote their activities, work with State and Federal agencies to affect legislation, and raise funds for trail funding and safety programs. They are a powerful influence on the local economy as they draw in visitors to the region, develop maps that link trail systems throughout Northeast Minnesota, and market businesses and amenities along them. Some of the area clubs and associations include the Range Trail Committee, Ranger Snowmobile/ATV Club, Hibbing/Chisholm Path Blazers, Northern Traxx ATV Club, and the Minnesota Trail Riders Association. One of the establishments in Kinney coordinates a vintage snowmobile ride that draws in tourists and utilizes some of the local trail systems.

## Historical and Cultural Assets

Kinney's historical structures would consist of the old City Hall which also served as a fire hall, and the City Garage which was constructed under the Works Progress Administration Program. Some of the city's old maps and documents which could be potential historic archives or artifacts are being stored in the volatile environment of the old City Hall. Proper care of these items is critical to preserving them for future generations who want to understand the history and significance of Kinney and its people. The Minnesota Discovery Center and the Minnesota Historical Society are two local organizations that can offer professional guidance and assistance to help ensure historical and cultural items are taken care of appropriately.

## Leisure Environment Goals and Actions

**LE Goal 1:** Kinney will develop attractive leisure opportunities and improve existing spaces to engage residents, enhance their quality of life, and attract visitors.

**Action LE 1.1:** Form a task force of residents and youth who can identify and work on projects to make the city more attractive to residents and visitors.

**Action LE 1.2:** Develop a city website that markets and provides information on the leisure and recreational activities available to residents and visitors.

**Action LE 1.3:** Pursue opportunities to improve or increase leisure and recreation activities using the following suggestions from city residents:



- Hire a recreational director
- Clean up areas and make them safe
- Fix the playground
- Maintain the ice rink
- Add new park equipment for all ages
- Add skateboarding in the park
- Provide a weight room/workout space
- Work with other organizations to get support for maintenance

**Action LE 1.4:** Promote an inviting and welcoming environment by installing “Welcome to Kinney” signs at city entrance locations.

**Action LE 1.5:** Develop a plan for using, developing, and maintaining the newly acquired public access at Kinney Lake. Several residents have suggested adding a dock/fishing pier.

**Action LE 1.6:** Pursue grant funds and support for addressing the old Wilson School site in the Kinney Community Park and the sink hole situation.

**Action LE 1.7:** Develop a plan for using, developing and maintaining the Kinney Community Park. The plan should include a study on current use and usefulness of the park, plans for addressing deteriorating components and equipment, and ideas for potential new or expanded uses of the park property.

**Action LE 1.8:** Identify other public spaces where picnic tables, park benches, small playground units, gardens, and other attractive leisure spaces could be integrated. One suggestion was the property between the Kinney Library and Great Scott Township Hall.

**Action LE 1.9:** Form relationships with organizations and groups that promote outdoor recreation such as the Mesabi Trail, ATV and snowmobile clubs, etc., and can promote tourism opportunities for Kinney.

**LE Goal 2:** Kinney will protect its historical and cultural assets and preserve them for future generations to have and enjoy.

**Action LE 2.1:** Discuss the City Garage and former City Hall buildings to determine plans for maintaining or preserving them.

**Action LE 2.2:** Discuss the idea of a landmark located somewhere in Kinney that would provide information on Kinney’s historically significant secession story.

**Action LE 2.2:** Determine if historical maps, documents and artifacts are being stored at the old City Hall and take measures to properly store and protect them.

## **FOCUS AREA 6: SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Social Environment:** A healthy community encourages social networks, provides gathering places where people from all parts of the community may mingle, nurtures families and children, offers universal education and other services, strives to foster non-violent and healthy behavior, invites familiarity and interaction among the various groups that make up the community, and treats all groups and individuals with respect. The Kinney hosts events and partners with other communities on services and activities. It is also served by the Mountain Iron – Buhl School District which contributes to the Social Environment (SE) through its pre-K through high school education and community education opportunities.

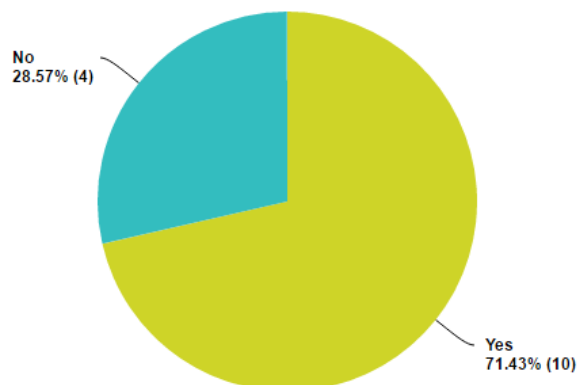
Residents were surveyed to rate various characteristics of the city, including what they value most about it and reasons why they choose to live there. Over 86% of them appreciate the small-town feel and 80% value that it is safe and has low crime. Kinney's vision statement and values describe "small-town" and "safe" as a place where neighbors know each other, are willing to help each other, and look out for one another. These contribute to a healthy community's social environment.

### **Community Activities and Events**

Community activities and events give residents the opportunity to get to know each other. When asked if they participate in city-sponsored activities, over 70% of residents reported that they do. One of Kinney's biggest events is its 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. The event consists of a parade down Main Street and a variety of family activities in the Kinney Community Park. Kinney also partners with Great Scott Township to coordinate Halloween and Christmas parties for kids in Kinney and Great Scott Township. While Kinney does not have a senior center of its own, the city contributes to the Buhl Senior Center where some of Kinney's seniors gather with others.

#### **Do you participate in city-sponsored community activities?**

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



Through the survey and at community meetings, residents were asked for input on community activities they would like to have in the city. Some of their ideas included:

- Summer ball games
- Hockey and skating
- Community picnic
- Improved playground

- Block parties
- More 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities and fireworks
- Library gatherings
- Community rummage sale
- Sleigh ride events
- Summer recreation for youth
- Bingo 1-2 times a month to support monthly recreation for children

Residents also weighed in on ways that Kinney could better support and promote community activities. Their suggestions included “organizing and sponsoring new events”, “hiring a summer worker to have youth activities in the park”, “getting new park equipment and cleaning/repairing what we have”, and “having something going on once-a-month for children, adults, and seniors”.

### **Mountain Iron – Buhl School District**

Kinney is part of the Mountain Iron – Buhl School District. Mountain Iron built its first school in 1892 followed by the construction of the Mountain Iron High School in 1911 and the Mountain Iron Grade and Athletic School in 1919. Reflective of the local economic boom in the mining and timber industries, schools in Buhl, Kinney and Great Scott Township were also added in the early 1900’s to meet the substantial increases in student enrollment. When mining jobs started to decline during the mid-1900’s, so did student enrollment which led to some of the area schools closing including the Wilson School in Kinney, Hartley School in Spina, and Anderson School north of Kinney. The Mountain Iron and Buhl school districts merged together in 1985 to form one Mountain Iron-Buhl School District which covers an area of about 140 square miles and includes the cities of Buhl, Kinney and Mt. Iron as well as Great Scott Township and the unorganized territory of Leander Lake.

The district’s mission is to “provide a quality education through shared responsibility in a safe supportive environment for all students to meet the challenges of a global society”. Students in Great Scott Township can enroll in the MIB School District or open enroll in other area school districts. The district currently serves approximately 500 students in grades K-12, employs about 55 teachers and staff, works collaboratively with other school districts using technology and sharing coursework, and provides early childhood and community education opportunities. Groundbreaking will take place in the spring of 2017 for a newly constructed MIB high school.

## Social Environment Goals and Actions

**SE Goal 1:** Kinney will work to sustain and grow its current activities and events.

**Action SE 1.1:** Invite community members (including area youth and representatives from partnering communities) to form a social activities committee to help plan and facilitate activities and events in Kinney.

**Action SE 1.2:** Identify other neighboring communities and opportunities to partner on activities or to help promote each other's activities.

**Action SE 1.3:** Continue to grow the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and continue to collaborate with the township on coordinating Halloween and Christmas parties for community youth.

**Action SE 1.4:** Use technology including social media, community calendars, and the city's website to announce community activities. Continue to also use the utility bill for communicating about city events.

**Action SE 1.5:** Make residents aware of opportunities for social activities that take place in Kinney and in neighboring communities.

**SE Goal 2:** Kinney will develop new social events for youth, adults, and seniors.

**Action SE 2.1:** Begin to implement social activities suggested by township residents including summer ball games, a community picnic, hockey and skating, block parties, more 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities and fireworks, library gatherings, community rummage sale, sleigh rides, summer recreation for youth, and bingo.

**Action SE 2.2:** Offer the library or identify other spaces where seniors can gather to have coffee, play cards, access technology, and attend workshops or other enrichment activities.

**Action SE 2.3:** Explore the possibility of coordinating public transportation for residents to travel to local senior centers, grocery stores, churches, shopping centers, casinos, and other social environments.

**Action SE 2.4:** Develop a list of local clubs and organizations that residents could participate in and distribute it to residents via online and in paper form.

**Action SE 2.5:** Connect with the Mountain Iron – Buhl School District and explore opportunities to provide community education workshops or courses in the library, at the Great Scott Township Hall, or at outdoor leisure and recreational sites. These could be done in partnership with the township or other neighboring communities.

**Action SE 2.6:** Hire a summer worker or high school youth to coordinate social and recreational activities at the library or in the park for kids in the community.



## **FOCUS AREA 7: POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Political Environment:** In a healthy community, all citizens have a say in how and by whom their community is governed, and have easy access to the information necessary to understand political situations and to make informed political decisions. Political decisions, opinions, and speech are protected. Citizens feel they have the power in the community—that they own it, and can and should control its direction. As it represents the vision, values and goals, the **implementation of the comprehensive plan** is addressed in the Political Environment (PE) focus area.

### **Governance**

As referenced from the League of Minnesota Cities, “People often incorrectly use the term “**town**” to describe a small **city**” ([www.lmc.org/page/cities-and-towns-townships.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/cities-and-towns-townships.jsp), 2016). To add to the confusion, Kinney became incorporated as a **village** in 1910. However, Minnesota Statue 412.016 enacted that any villages that existed in Minnesota as of January 1, 1974, would become statutory cities. Therefore, the Village of Kinney is officially and legally recognized as a city.

Of the three types of Minnesota statutory cities, the City of Kinney is a Standard Plan statutory city. The League of Minnesota Cities describes a Standard Plan statutory city as,

“Standard Plan cities operate with a weak mayor-council. The standard Plan city council consists of the elected mayor, an elected clerk, and three to five elected council members. The treasurer is an elected position, but not a member of the council. The clerk and treasurer positions may be combined into one elected position” ([www.lmc.org/page/1/types-of-cities.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/types-of-cities.jsp), 2016).

Kinney elects six residents to serve as council members on the City Council. These positions include a mayor, clerk, treasurer, and three council members with all but the treasurer having voting authority. State law sets the date for city general elections as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year (or odd-numbered year, if passed by city ordinance). Kinney’s elections are held on even-numbered years.

The Kinney City Council typically holds regular meetings every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. The City of Kinney also holds annual Year-End Meetings in December. It can also have the following meetings, as needed (as described LMC’s Handbook for Minnesota Cities):

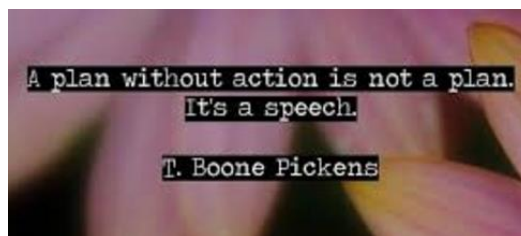
- **Special Meeting:** meeting held at a time or place different than the council’s schedule of regular meetings
- **Emergency Meeting:** meeting called by the council due to circumstances that, in its judgment, require immediate council consideration

- *Closed Meeting*: meeting of a public body that the public is not allowed to attend and meets specific requirements allowing it to be closed
- *Adjourned Meeting*: also known as a recessed or continued meeting, an adjourned meeting is postponed for lack of a quorum, for convenience, or to complete pending business from a regular meeting

## Plan Implementation

The League of Minnesota Cities describes a comprehensive plan as “an expression of the community’s vision for the future and a strategic map to reach that vision”. Once comprehensive plans are adopted, a map has been created and the journey to accomplish the vision, goals and action plans set forth truly begins.

Kinney is committed to the implementation of its Comprehensive Plan. Respecting the ideas and input of residents, the City Council will invest resources and work toward accomplishing the action plans, goals, and ultimately the shared community vision. As a working document, the plan may need to be amended or adjusted as situations change or opportunities arise. The plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to monitor progress and propose amendments as needed. It will also be updated every five years to ensure that it contains up-to-date information and continues to be a current and accurate representation of Kinney’s vision and goals.



## Political Environment Goals and Actions

**PE Goal 1:** Kinney is committed to a governance structure that is accessible, keeps residents informed, encourages resident participation, and engages residents in decision-making.

**Action PE 1.1:** Maintain a city website that includes information on times, dates, agendas and minutes of public meetings, community activities and events, emails and phone numbers to contact the city, and general information relevant to city residents.

**Action PE 1.2:** Establish one regular meeting a year that invites and includes youth participation.

**Action PE 1.3:** Review and report on the city’s progress on its comprehensive plan at the year at the annual Year End meeting in December to maximize the greatest number of residents in attendance.

**PE Goal 2:** Kinney values partnerships with other communities and organizations and will continue to seek opportunities to share resources, collaborate on activities, and form alliances that support the progress of the township.

**Action PE 2.1:** Organize a meeting with Great Scott Township to identify and discuss opportunities for more collaboration and partnership.

**Action PE 2.2:** Identify and form relationships with other municipalities, organizations, and agencies that could help promote city activities and goals.

**PE Goal 3:** Kinney will implement the adopted comprehensive plan, use it to guide decision-making, allocate resources to support it, track progress toward achievement of goals, and amend and update the plan every four years or when major changes occur within the community.

**Action PE 3.1:** Invest resources (human and financial) to support the achievement of the comprehensive plan's goals and action plans.

**Action PE 3.2:** Review the comprehensive plan, monitor progress, and make necessary amendments on an annual basis.

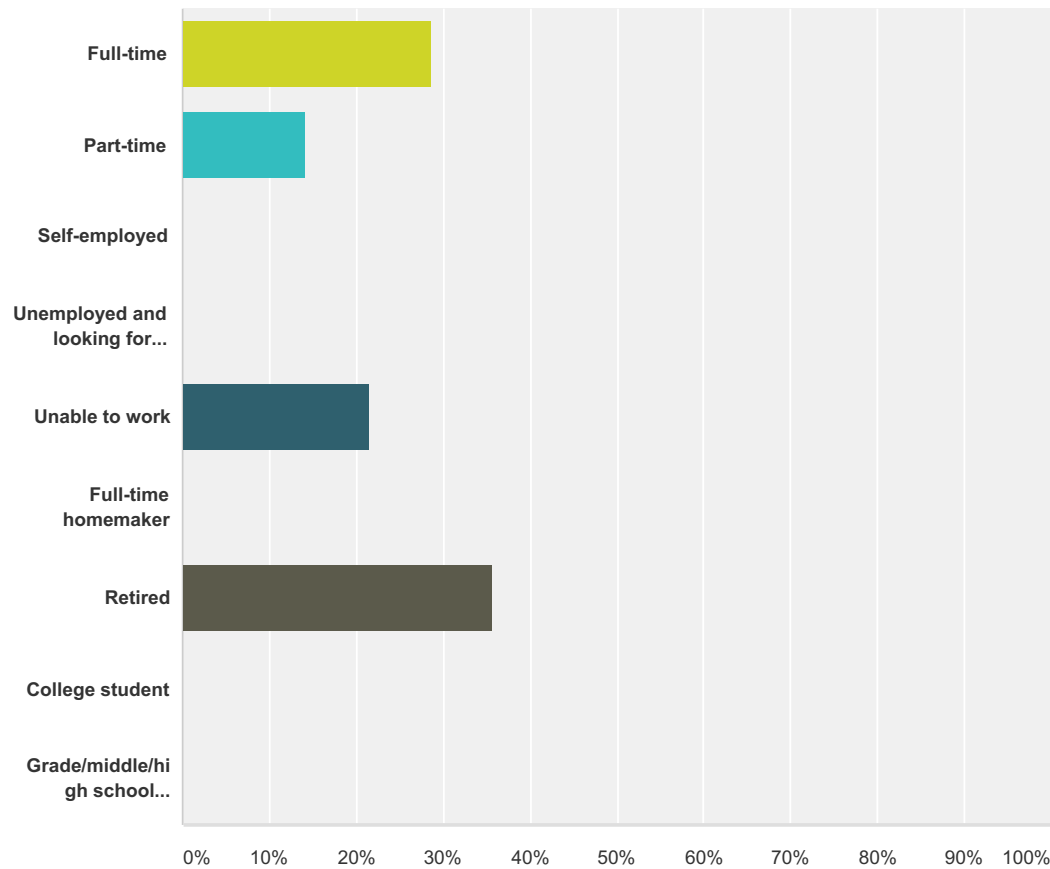
**Action PE 3.3:** Update Kinney's comprehensive plan every five years to ensure that it contains up-to-date information and continues to be a current and accurate representation of the city's vision and goals.

## **APPENDIX A – COMMUNITY SURVEY**



Q1 Current employment status:

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1

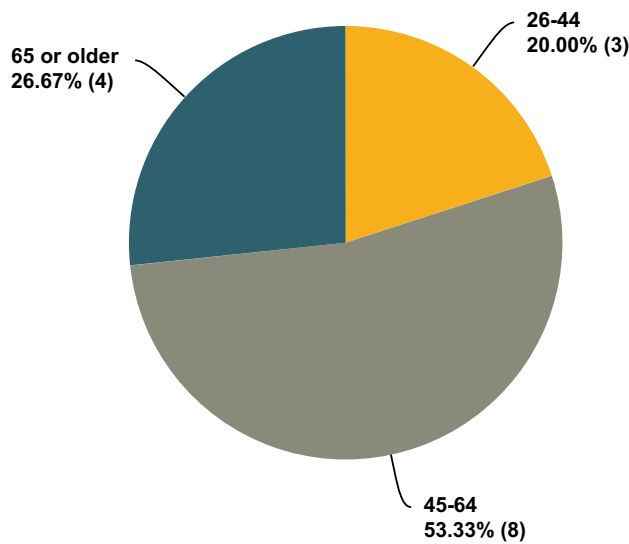


Q2 How many people currently live in your household?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 2

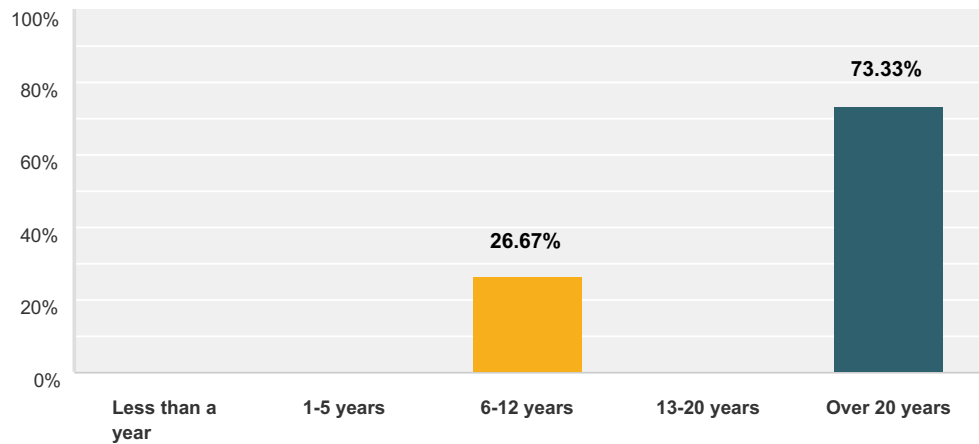
Q3 What is your age?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



Q4 How long have you lived in the City of Kinney?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices   | Responses |    |
|------------------|-----------|----|
| Less than a year | 0.00%     | 0  |
| 1-5 years        | 0.00%     | 0  |
| 6-12 years       | 26.67%    | 4  |
| 13-20 years      | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Over 20 years    | 73.33%    | 11 |
| Total            |           | 15 |

Q5 Do you rent or own your home or land?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



### Q6 If you own property other than your homestead, how many acres or lots?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 10

| Answer Choices       | Average Number | Total Number | Responses |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Number of Lots       | 4              | 19           | 5         |
| Number of Acres      | 0              | 0            | 0         |
| Total Respondents: 5 |                |              |           |

### Q7 What type of structure is your home?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

| Answer Choices          | Responses |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Single family permanent | 86.67% 13 |
| Multi-family complex    | 0.00% 0   |
| Mobile home             | 13.33% 2  |
| Total                   | 15        |

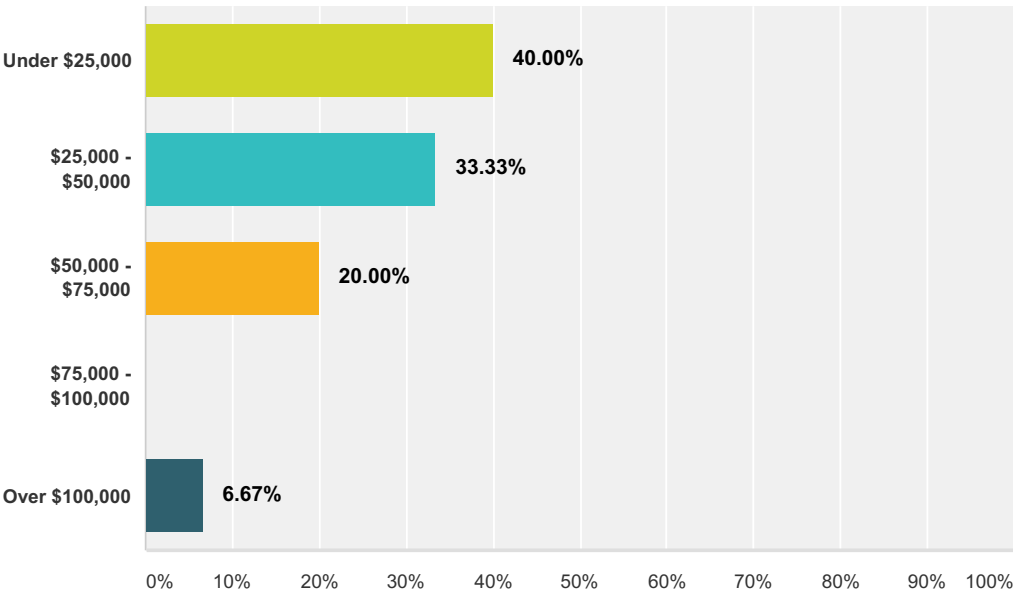
### Q8 Do you have school-age children?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 3

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 33.33% 4  |
| No             | 66.67% 8  |
| Total          | 12        |

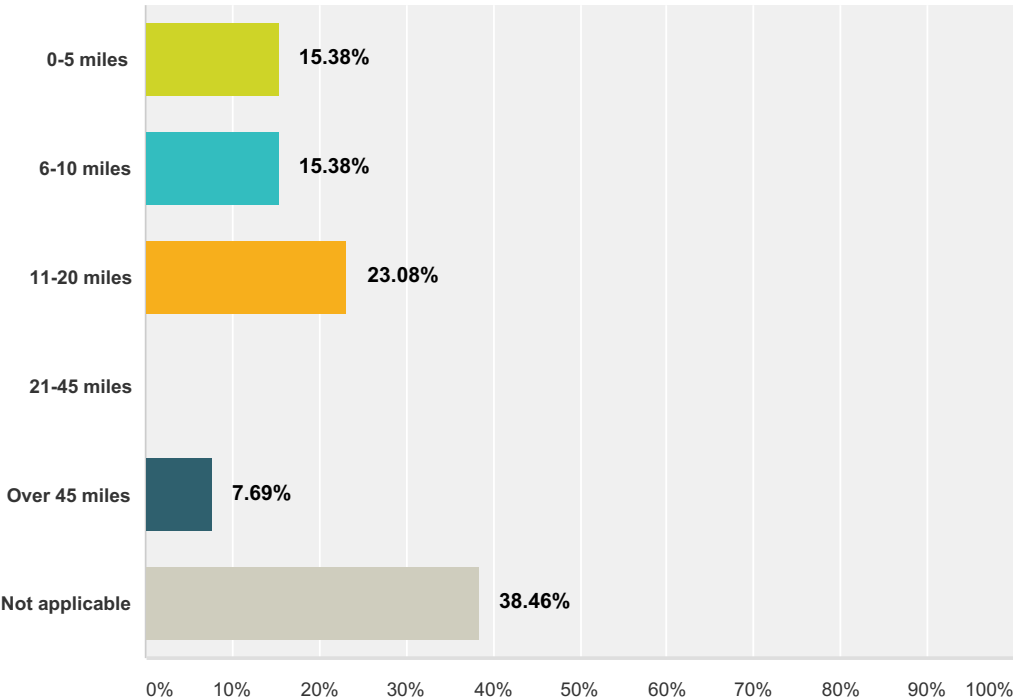
### Q9 What is your household income?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



**Q10 If you work outside of the home, how far do you travel for work?**

Answered: 13 Skipped: 2



**Q11 What mode of transportation do you most often use to get to work?**

Answered: 13 Skipped: 2

| Answer Choices         | Responses |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Walk                   | 7.69% 1   |
| Personal vehicle       | 53.85% 7  |
| Carpool/rideshare      | 0.00% 0   |
| Bicycle                | 0.00% 0   |
| Not applicable         | 38.46% 5  |
| Other (please specify) | 0.00% 0   |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>13</b> |

### Q12 How would you rate the general condition of streets in the City of Kinney?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

| Answer Choices               | Responses |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Fine/well maintained         | 0.00% 0   |
| Good/some maintenance needed | 86.67% 13 |
| Poor/needs attention         | 13.33% 2  |
| no opinion                   | 0.00% 0   |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>15</b> |

### Q13 Aside from roadways, do you use other trails, sidewalks, or paths in the City of Kinney?

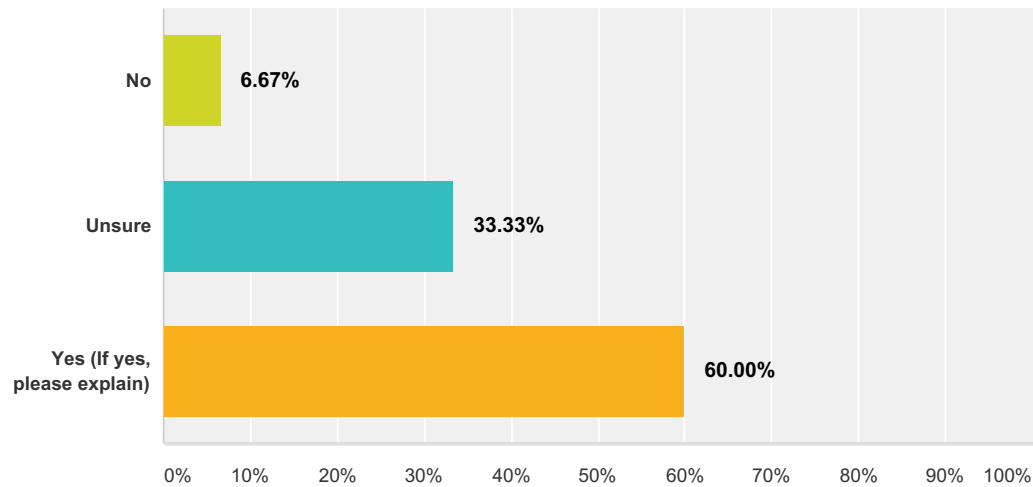
Answered: 14 Skipped: 1

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 92.86% 13 |
| No             | 7.14% 1   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>14</b> |

### Q14 Are there trails, sidewalks, or paths that you think could be developed or improved?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0





**Q15 For each of the services below, please indicate whether you think the level of service is appropriate, should be increased, or should be decreased. (Please check only one for each service.)**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

|                                            | Appropriate  | Increase    | Decrease   | No opinion   | Total |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Street maintenance                         | 40.00%<br>6  | 40.00%<br>6 | 0.00%<br>0 | 20.00%<br>3  | 15    |
| Snow plowing                               | 46.67%<br>7  | 40.00%<br>6 | 0.00%<br>0 | 13.33%<br>2  | 15    |
| Law enforcement protection                 | 46.67%<br>7  | 20.00%<br>3 | 6.67%<br>1 | 26.67%<br>4  | 15    |
| Fire/rescue protection                     | 73.33%<br>11 | 0.00%<br>0  | 0.00%<br>0 | 26.67%<br>4  | 15    |
| Emergency preparedness                     | 60.00%<br>9  | 13.33%<br>2 | 0.00%<br>0 | 26.67%<br>4  | 15    |
| Access to City officials                   | 66.67%<br>10 | 13.33%<br>2 | 0.00%<br>0 | 20.00%<br>3  | 15    |
| Access to City meeting records and minutes | 46.67%<br>7  | 26.67%<br>4 | 0.00%<br>0 | 26.67%<br>4  | 15    |
| Responsiveness of City Council to concerns | 60.00%<br>9  | 6.67%<br>1  | 0.00%<br>0 | 33.33%<br>5  | 15    |
| City building permit process               | 53.33%<br>8  | 6.67%<br>1  | 0.00%<br>0 | 40.00%<br>6  | 15    |
| City of Kinney website                     | 6.67%<br>1   | 20.00%<br>3 | 0.00%<br>0 | 73.33%<br>11 | 15    |
| Animal control                             | 42.86%<br>6  | 21.43%<br>3 | 7.14%<br>1 | 28.57%<br>4  | 14    |
| Internet connectivity and speed            | 14.29%<br>2  | 35.71%<br>5 | 0.00%<br>0 | 50.00%<br>7  | 14    |

|                                          |              |              |            |             |    |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|----|
| Cell service                             | 33.33%<br>5  | 46.67%<br>7  | 0.00%<br>0 | 20.00%<br>3 | 15 |
| Community events                         | 46.67%<br>7  | 46.67%<br>7  | 0.00%<br>0 | 6.67%<br>1  | 15 |
| Library hours and access                 | 46.67%<br>7  | 40.00%<br>6  | 6.67%<br>1 | 6.67%<br>1  | 15 |
| Services/activities for youth            | 0.00%<br>0   | 66.67%<br>10 | 0.00%<br>0 | 33.33%<br>5 | 15 |
| Services/activities for senior citizens  | 0.00%<br>0   | 53.33%<br>8  | 0.00%<br>0 | 46.67%<br>7 | 15 |
| Recycling                                | 86.67%<br>13 | 6.67%<br>1   | 0.00%<br>0 | 6.67%<br>1  | 15 |
| Availability of buildings for public use | 66.67%<br>10 | 26.67%<br>4  | 0.00%<br>0 | 6.67%<br>1  | 15 |
| Public recreational opportunities        | 40.00%<br>6  | 33.33%<br>5  | 0.00%<br>0 | 26.67%<br>4 | 15 |

### Q16 Do you attend Kinney's City Council meetings?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

| Answer Choices | Responses   |
|----------------|-------------|
| No             | 53.33%<br>8 |
| Yes            | 46.67%<br>7 |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15</b>   |

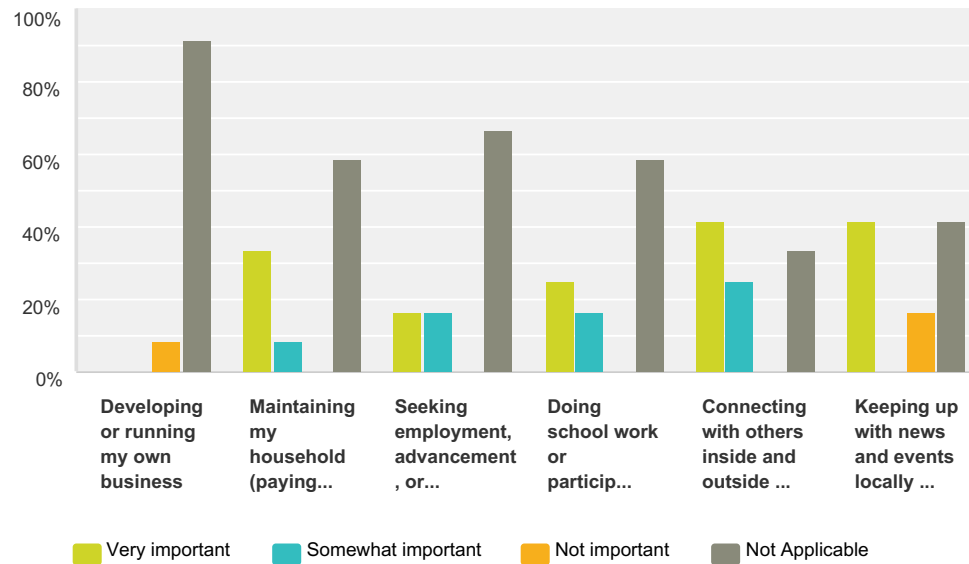
### Q17 Do you have internet service at your home or property located in Kinney?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1

| Answer Choices | Responses   |
|----------------|-------------|
| Yes            | 50.00%<br>7 |
| No             | 50.00%<br>7 |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>14</b>   |

### Q18 How important is internet connectivity and speed for you or your household regarding the following?

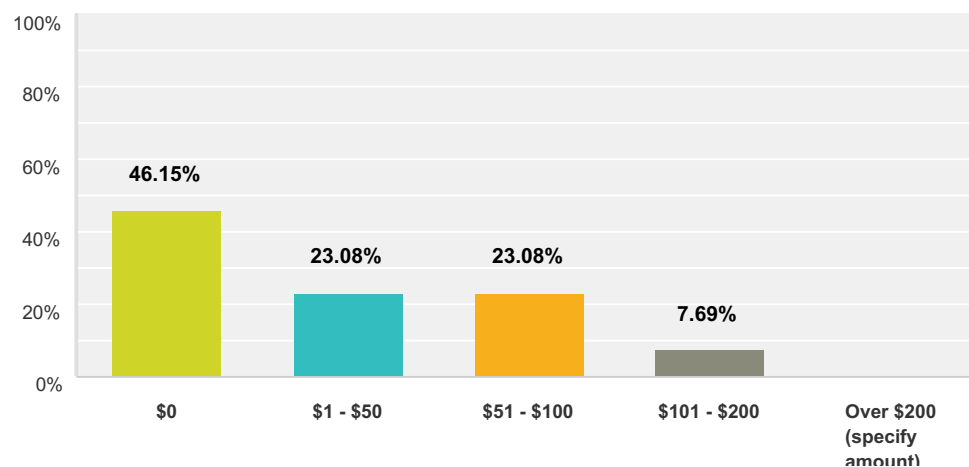
Answered: 12 Skipped: 3



|                                                                                | Very important | Somewhat important | Not important | Not Applicable | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-------|
| Developing or running my own business                                          | 0.00%<br>0     | 0.00%<br>0         | 8.33%<br>1    | 91.67%<br>11   | 12    |
| Maintaining my household (paying bills, monitoring accounts, etc.)             | 33.33%<br>4    | 8.33%<br>1         | 0.00%<br>0    | 58.33%<br>7    | 12    |
| Seeking employment, advancement, or fulfilling current job duties/requirements | 16.67%<br>2    | 16.67%<br>2        | 0.00%<br>0    | 66.67%<br>8    | 12    |
| Doing school work or participating in advanced training or schooling           | 25.00%<br>3    | 16.67%<br>2        | 0.00%<br>0    | 58.33%<br>7    | 12    |
| Connecting with others inside and outside of my community                      | 41.67%<br>5    | 25.00%<br>3        | 0.00%<br>0    | 33.33%<br>4    | 12    |
| Keeping up with news and events locally or on a broader level                  | 41.67%<br>5    | 0.00%<br>0         | 16.67%<br>2   | 41.67%<br>5    | 12    |

## Q19 How much do you spend monthly on internet service?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 2



**Q20 Do you currently recycle?**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 93.33% 14 |
| No             | 6.67% 1   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15</b> |

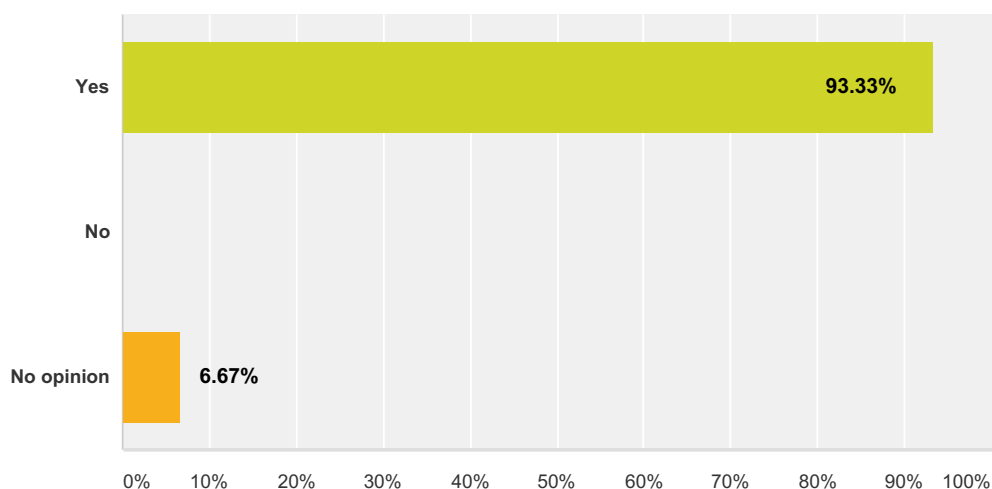
**Q21 Are you aware of local sites where hazardous materials can be disposed?**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 80.00% 12 |
| No             | 20.00% 3  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15</b> |

**Q22 Is the City of Kinney's natural environment important to you?**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

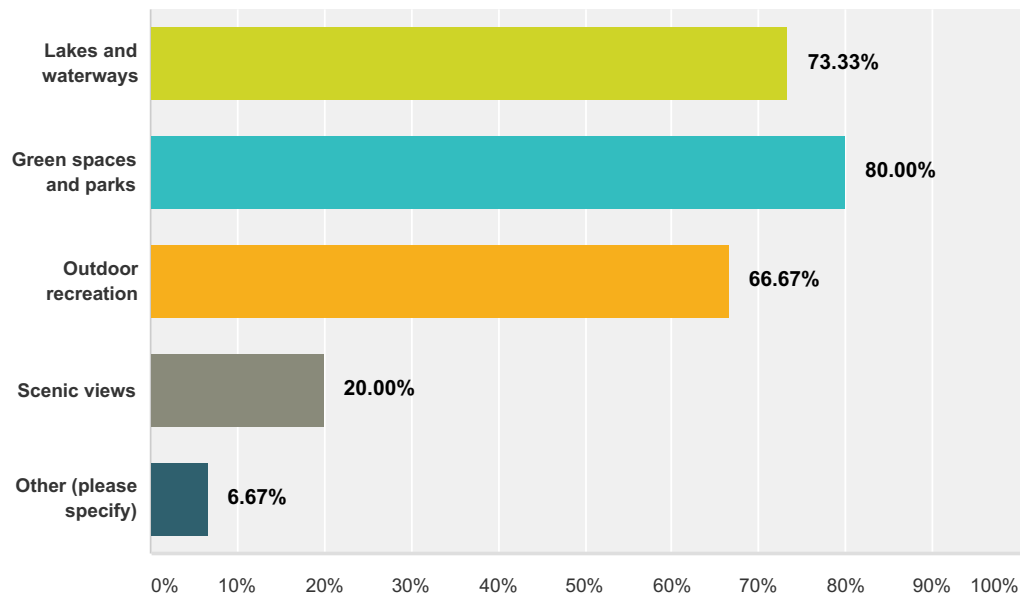


| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 93.33% 14 |
| No             | 0.00% 0   |
| No opinion     | 6.67% 1   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15</b> |

**Q23 What natural resources do you feel are**

### most important in Kinney? (check all that apply)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



### Q24 In what ways do you believe the City of Kinney could better support or promote these natural resources?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 6

### Q25 How do you believe local mining affects you in terms of opportunities, limitations, and quality of life?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 6

### Q26 Do you participate in city-sponsored community activities?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 71.43% 10 |
| No             | 28.57% 4  |
| Total          | 14        |

### Q27 What community activities would you like to see taking place in the City of



**Kinney?**

Answered: 8 Skipped: 7

**Q28 In what ways could the City of Kinney better support or promote community activities?**

Answered: 8 Skipped: 7

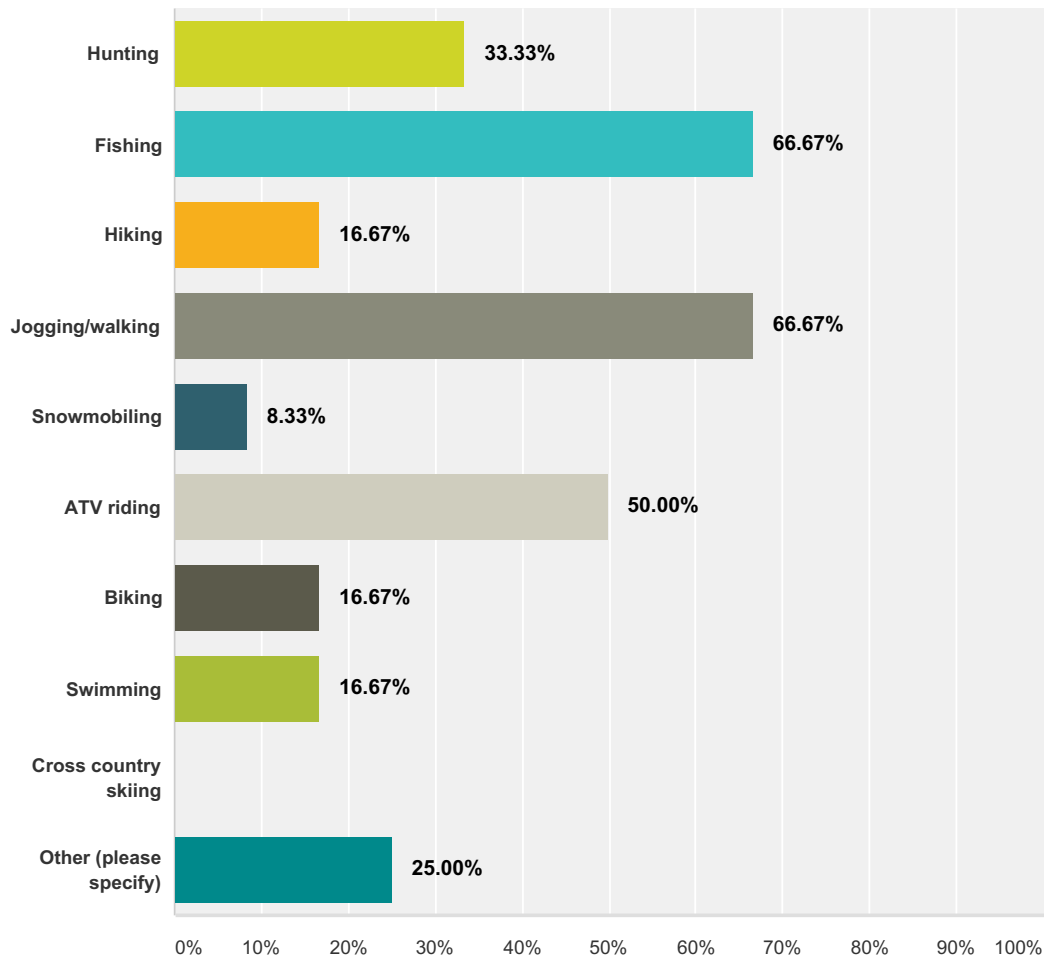
**Q29 Do you participate in outdoor recreation in or near the City of Kinney?**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

| Answer Choices | Responses |           |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Yes            | 80.00%    | 12        |
| No             | 20.00%    | 3         |
| <b>Total</b>   |           | <b>15</b> |

**Q30 If yes, which outdoor recreational activities do you participate in?**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 3



### Q31 Do you believe these recreational activities are important to the City of Kinney?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 93.33% 14 |
| No             | 6.67% 1   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15</b> |

### Q32 In what ways do you believe the City of Kinney could better support or promote recreational activities?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 7

### Q33 In what ways do you believe the City of Kinney could develop recreational

## opportunities or promote tourism in the township?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 9

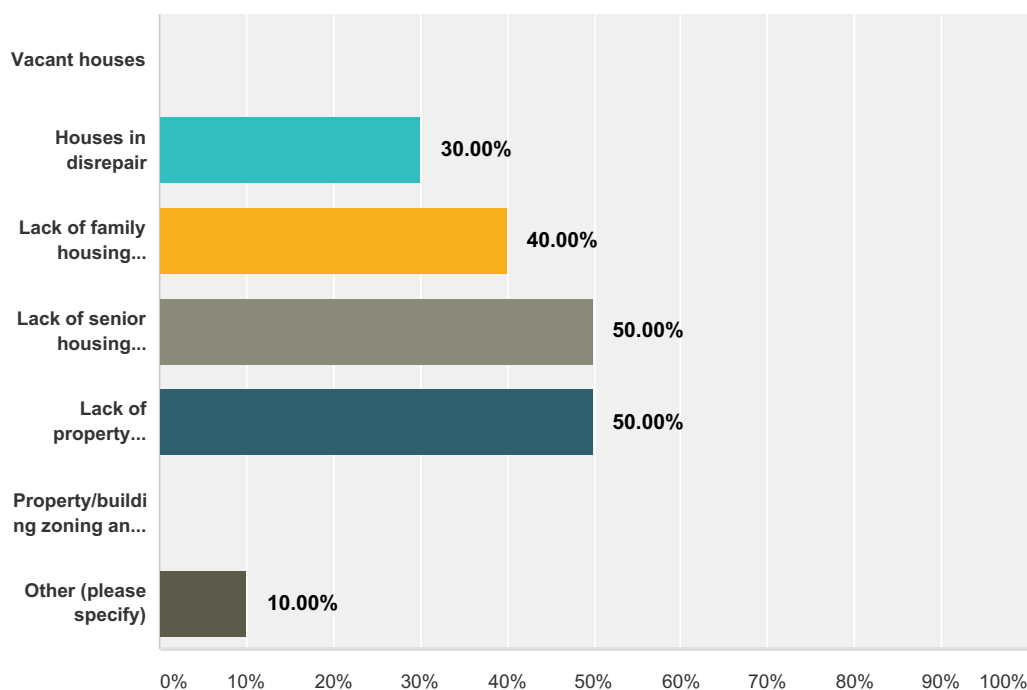
### Q34 Are you aware of any sites, locations or properties in the city that ought to be recognized for their historical or cultural value?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 5

| Answer Choices       | Responses |
|----------------------|-----------|
| No                   | 80.00% 8  |
| Yes (please explain) | 20.00% 2  |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>10</b> |

### Q35 Do you believe the following housing topics are problems in the the City of Kinney? (check all that apply)

Answered: 10 Skipped: 5



| Answer Choices                   | Responses |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Vacant houses                    | 0.00% 0   |
| Houses in disrepair              | 30.00% 3  |
| Lack of family housing available | 40.00% 4  |

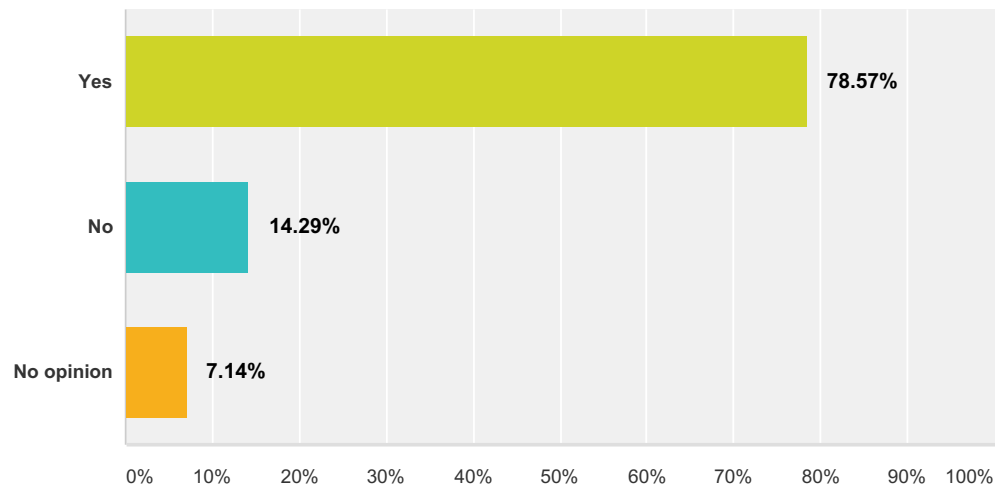
|                                                         |        |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|---|
| Lack of senior housing available                        | 50.00% | 5 |
| Lack of property available for housing development      | 50.00% | 5 |
| Property/building zoning and restrictions are too rigid | 0.00%  | 0 |
| Other (please specify)                                  | 10.00% | 1 |
| <b>Total Respondents: 10</b>                            |        |   |

### Q36 What ideas do you have for the City of Kinney to promote and attract new housing development?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 11

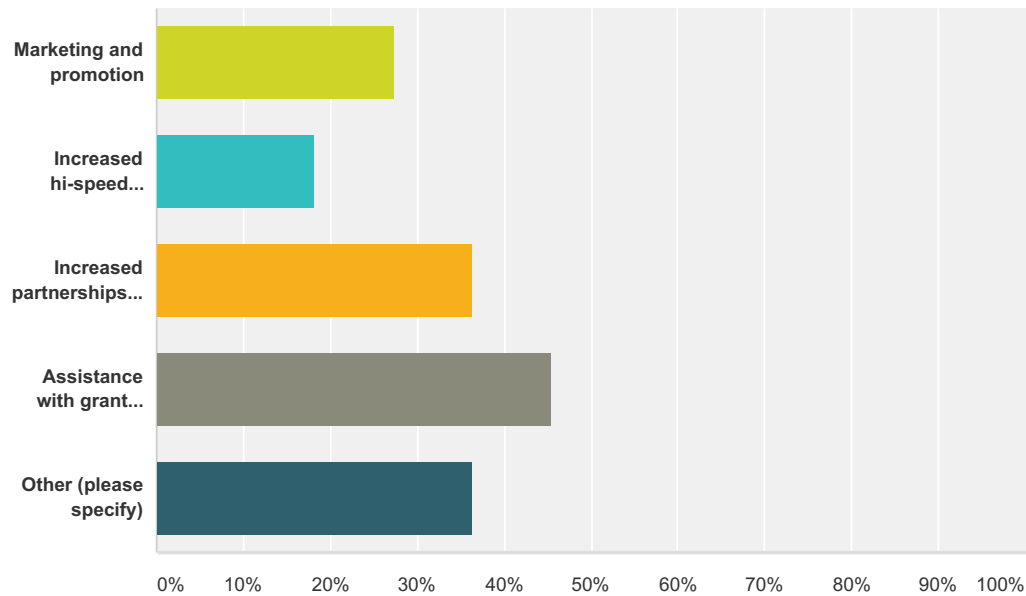
### Q37 Should the City of Kinney be actively involved in attracting new local business?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



### Q38 If you answered yes, in what way? (check all that apply)

Answered: 11 Skipped: 4

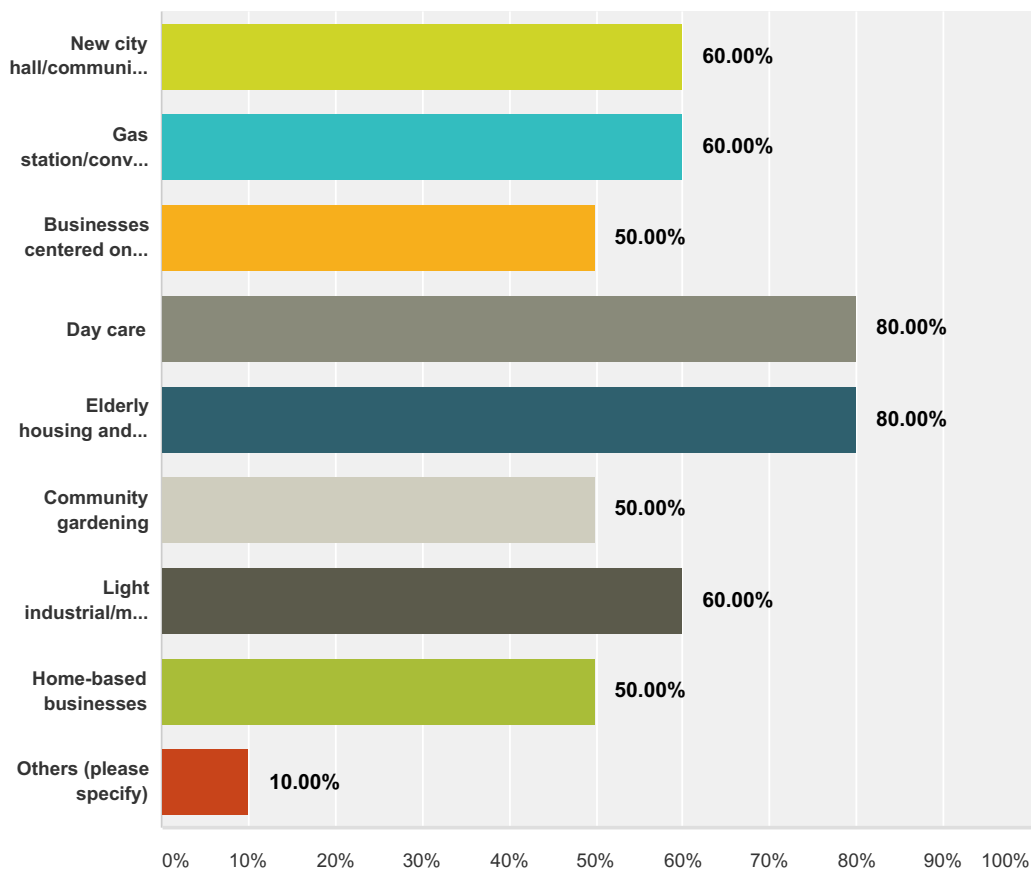


| Answer Choices                                                            | Responses |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Marketing and promotion                                                   | 27.27%    | 3 |
| Increased hi-speed internet access                                        | 18.18%    | 2 |
| Increased partnerships and involvement with area cities and organizations | 36.36%    | 4 |
| Assistance with grant writing for business development and expansion      | 45.45%    | 5 |
| Other (please specify)                                                    | 36.36%    | 4 |
| Total Respondents: 11                                                     |           |   |

**Q39 What type of business developments would you encourage in the City of Kinney? (check all that apply)**

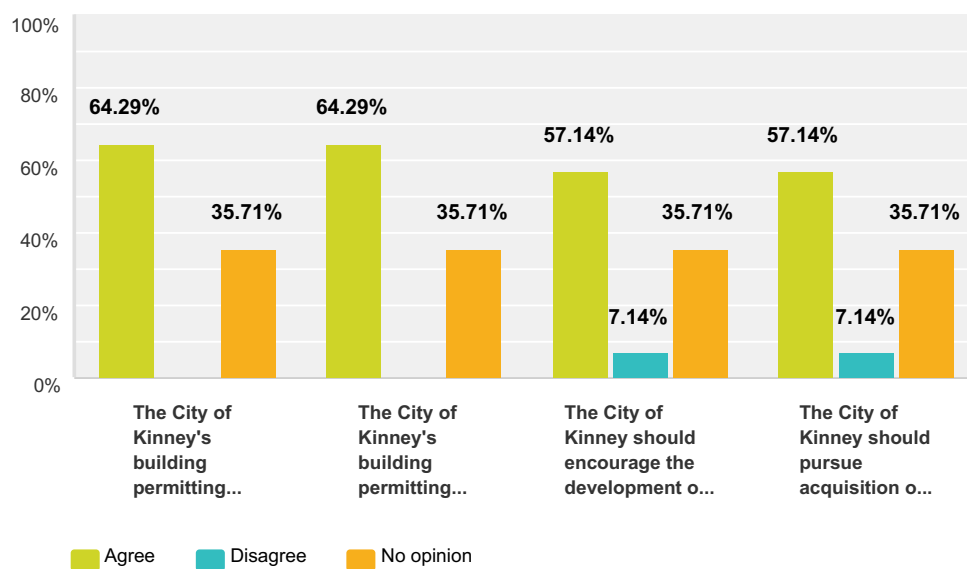
Answered: 10 Skipped: 5





### Q40 Which statements describe your opinions concerning land use? (select one answer for each item)

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



**Q41 Do you own any vacant lots in Kinney?**

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1

| Answer Choices | Responses |           |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Yes            | 21.43%    | 3         |
| No             | 78.57%    | 11        |
| <b>Total</b>   |           | <b>14</b> |

**Q42 If yes, what are your plans with them?**

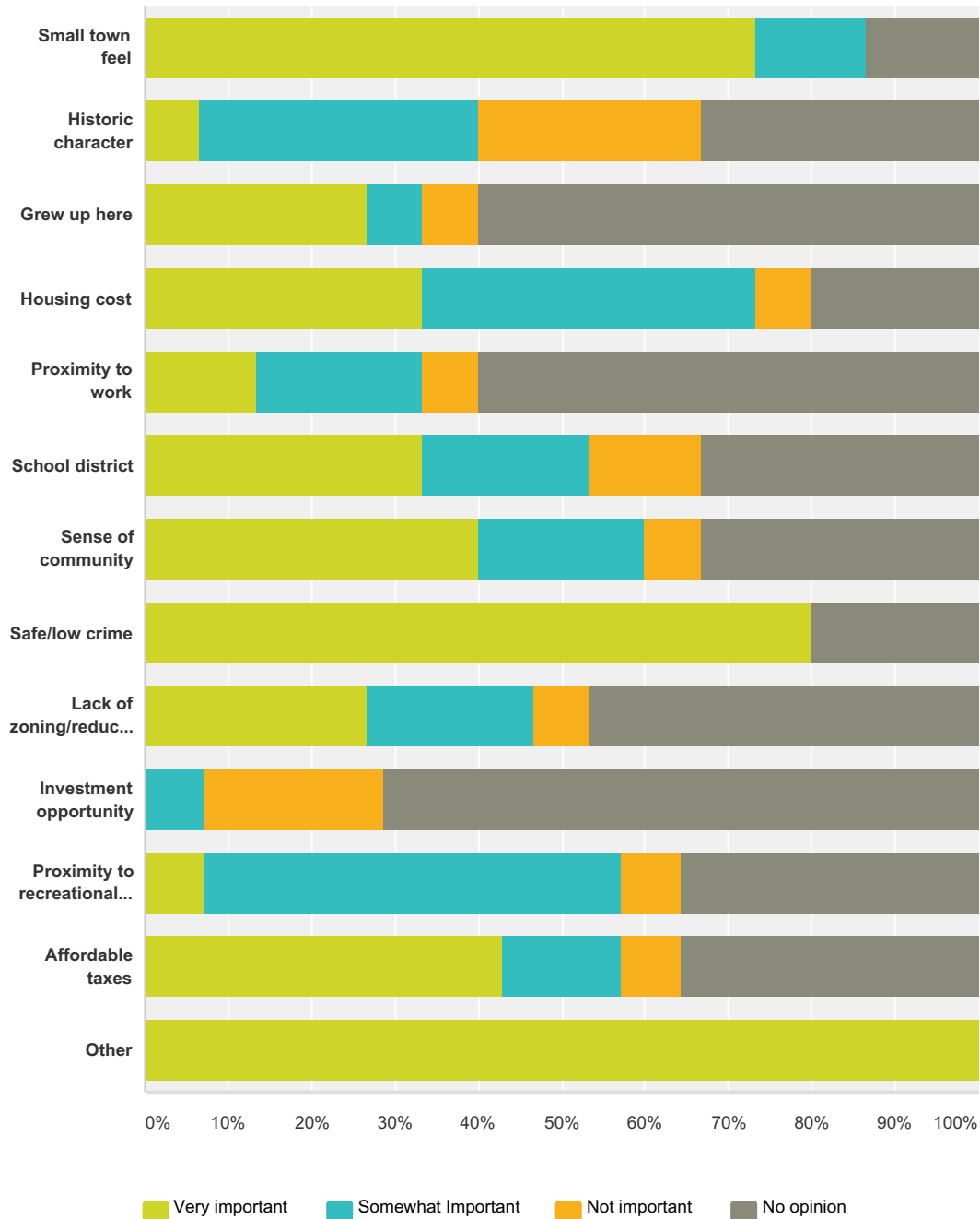
Answered: 3 Skipped: 12

**Q43 What issues do you believe affect land use in Kinney?**

Answered: 7 Skipped: 8

**Q44 Please rate each reason describing what you might value about the City of Kinney or why you choose to live in it.**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

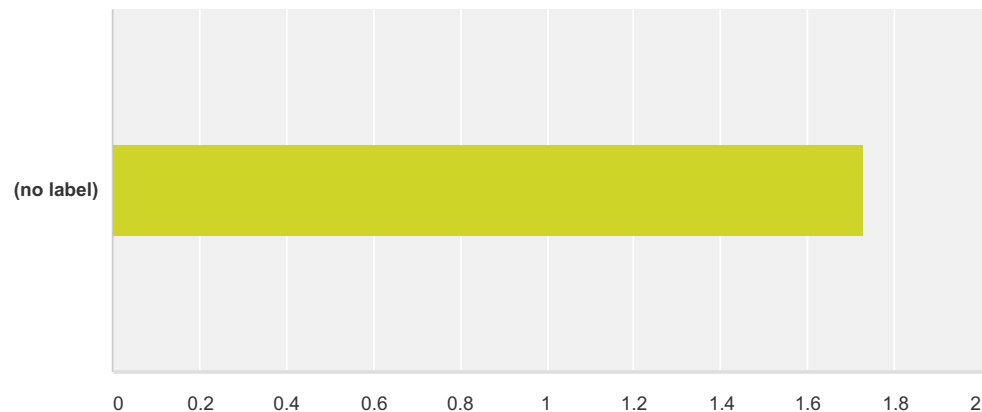


|                    | Very important | Somewhat Important | Not important | No opinion  | Total |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|-------|
| Small town feel    | 73.33%<br>11   | 13.33%<br>2        | 0.00%<br>0    | 13.33%<br>2 | 15    |
| Historic character | 6.67%<br>1     | 33.33%<br>5        | 26.67%<br>4   | 33.33%<br>5 | 15    |
| Grew up here       | 26.67%<br>4    | 6.67%<br>1         | 6.67%<br>1    | 60.00%<br>9 | 15    |
| Housing cost       | 33.33%<br>5    | 40.00%<br>6        | 6.67%<br>1    | 20.00%<br>3 | 15    |
| Proximity to work  | 13.33%<br>2    | 20.00%<br>3        | 6.67%<br>1    | 60.00%<br>9 | 15    |

|                                         |              |             |             |              |    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----|
| School district                         | 33.33%<br>5  | 20.00%<br>3 | 13.33%<br>2 | 33.33%<br>5  | 15 |
| Sense of community                      | 40.00%<br>6  | 20.00%<br>3 | 6.67%<br>1  | 33.33%<br>5  | 15 |
| Safe/low crime                          | 80.00%<br>12 | 0.00%<br>0  | 0.00%<br>0  | 20.00%<br>3  | 15 |
| Lack of zoning/reduced regulations      | 26.67%<br>4  | 20.00%<br>3 | 6.67%<br>1  | 46.67%<br>7  | 15 |
| Investment opportunity                  | 0.00%<br>0   | 7.14%<br>1  | 21.43%<br>3 | 71.43%<br>10 | 14 |
| Proximity to recreational opportunities | 7.14%<br>1   | 50.00%<br>7 | 7.14%<br>1  | 35.71%<br>5  | 14 |
| Affordable taxes                        | 42.86%<br>6  | 14.29%<br>2 | 7.14%<br>1  | 35.71%<br>5  | 14 |
| Other                                   | 100.00%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0  | 0.00%<br>0  | 0.00%<br>0   | 1  |

### Q45 How would you rate the quality of life in the City of Kinney?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



|            | Excellent   | Good        | Fair        | Poor       | No opinion | Total | Weighted Average |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------|------------------|
| (no label) | 40.00%<br>6 | 46.67%<br>7 | 13.33%<br>2 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 15    | 1.73             |

### Q46 What do you like most about the City of Kinney?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 4

### Q47 What is your biggest concern about the City of Kinney?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 5

### Q48 What would you change in the City of Kinney?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 9

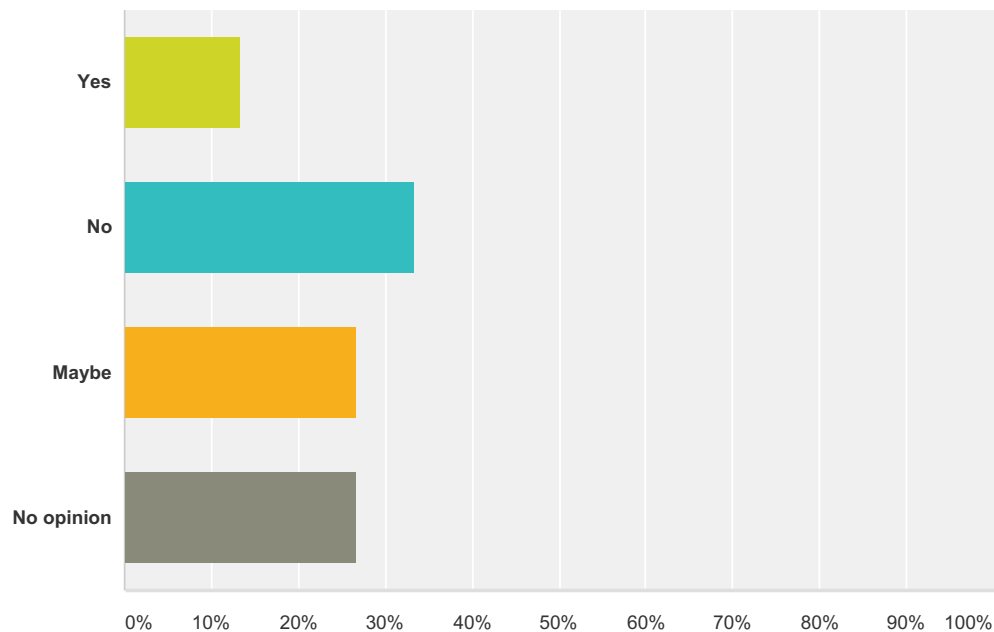
### Q49 What do you believe are the City of Kinney's most important issues to address? (please list in order of importance, with #1 being most important)

Answered: 7 Skipped: 8

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| #1             | 100.00% 7 |
| #2             | 85.71% 6  |
| #3             | 71.43% 5  |

### Q50 Would you be willing to pay higher taxes or fees to address the issues you have identified above?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes            | 13.33% 2  |
| No             | 33.33% 5  |
| Maybe          | 26.67% 4  |

|            |        |    |
|------------|--------|----|
| No opinion | 26.67% | 4  |
| Total      |        | 15 |

**Q51 Would you like to serve on a committee to help with the City of Kinney's Comprehensive Planning project?**

Answered: 6 Skipped: 9

| Answer Choices | Responses |   |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| No             | 0.00%     | 0 |
| Yes            | 100.00%   | 6 |
| Total          |           | 6 |



## **APPENDIX B – YOUTH SURVEY**

## City of Kinney - Youth Survey

### City of Kinney Youth Survey

**Welcome and thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts on your community! So often, young people have opinions and ideas but are never asked to share them. Even in the earliest conversations about the potential Comprehensive Planning project, the City of Kinney's leadership has wanted you to be included in the process and is very interested in what you think and how they can better serve your wants and needs. Please take the time to thoroughly complete this survey (which should take about 10-15 minutes). Also, please note that your thoughts and perspectives will be integrated into the planning activities while your personal information will be kept separate and confidential. Thank you, again, for being such an important part of planning for the future of Kinney!**

1. What is your age?

- ☐ 17-18
- ☐ 15-16
- ☐ 13-14
- ☐ 11-12
- ☐ 10 or under

2. What grade are you in?

3. Do you attend public school?

- ☐ Yes, I attend public school
- ☐ No, I am home schooled
- ☐ No, I attend a private school
- ☐ Other (please specify)

4. What type of transportation do you use to get to school?

- ☐ I take a school bus
- ☐ My parents drive me
- ☐ I carpool with friends or family
- ☐ I ride my bicycle
- ☐ I walk
- ☐ I am home schooled
- ☐ Other (please specify)

5. Do you use trails, paths or other walkways in Kinney?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

6. If yes, how often do you use area trails, paths or walkways in Kinney?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ 1-6 times a year
- ☐ Never/Not Applicable

7. Are there trails, walkways, or paths that you think could be developed or improved?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Yes (If yes, please explain)

8. For each of the services below, please indicate whether you think the level of service is appropriate, should be increased, or should be decreased. (Please check only one for each service.)

|                                   | Appropriate           | Increase              | Decrease              | No opinion            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Internet connectivity and speed   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cell service                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Hiking trails/bike paths          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Community events                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Services/activities for youth     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Recycling                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Public recreational opportunities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Library services                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Library hours                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify)

9. Do you have internet service at your home or property located in Kinney?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

10. How important is internet connectivity and speed for you or your household regarding the following?

|                                                               | Very important        | Somewhat important    | Not important         | Not Applicable        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Seeking employment                                            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Doing school work                                             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Connecting with others inside and outside of my community     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Keeping up with news and events locally or on a broader level | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

11. Is Kinney's outdoor natural environment important to you?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

12. What natural resources do you feel are most important in Kinney? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Lakes, streams, rivers
- ☐ Parks and green space
- ☐ Outdoor recreation
- ☐ Other (please specify)

13. In what ways do you believe Kinney could better support or promote these natural resources?

14. Do you participate in city-sponsored community activities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, which activities do you take part in? If no, why do you not participate?

15. What community activities would you like to see taking place in Kinney?

16. Do you participate in outdoor recreation in Kinney?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

17. If yes, which outdoor recreational activities do you participate in?

- ☐ Hunting
- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ Hiking
- ☐ Jogging/walking
- ☐ Snowmobiling
- ☐ ATV riding
- ☐ Biking
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Cross country skiing
- ☐ Athletic courts and fields at the park
- ☐ Park playground
- ☐ Other (please specify)

18. Do you believe these recreational activities are important in Kinney?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

19. In what ways do you believe Kinney could better support or promote recreational activities?

20. In what ways do you believe Kinney could develop recreational opportunities or promote tourism in the city?



21. What type of business/community developments would you encourage in Kinney? (check all that apply)

- ☐ New community center
- ☐ Gas station/convenience store
- ☐ Businesses centered on tourism (bed and breakfasts, restaurants, gift shops, etc.)
- ☐ Community gardening
- ☐ Farmers market
- ☐ Others (please specify)

22. Please rate each reason describing what you might value about Kinney or why you choose to live here.

|                                         | Very important        | Somewhat Important    | Not important         | No opinion            |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Rural character                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Natural beauty                          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Grew up here                            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| School district                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sense of community                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Safe/low crime                          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Proximity to recreational opportunities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

If you selected "other", please explain.

23. How would you rate the quality of life in Kinney?

| Excellent             | Good                  | Fair                  | Poor                  | No opinion            |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

24. What do you like most about Kinney?

25. What is your biggest concern about Kinney?

26. What would you change in Kinney?

27. What do you believe are Kinney's most important issues to address? (please list in order of importance, with #1 being most important)

#1

#2

#3

28. What can Kinney do to better support our youth?

29. How do you or can you contribute to making Kinney a great place to live?

## **APPENDIX C – YOUTH FEEDBACK SHEET**

## My Thoughts and Ideas

*\* Perspectives from the youngest residents (ages 4-12) in Kinney \**

Hi! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ . I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

I like living in Kinney because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

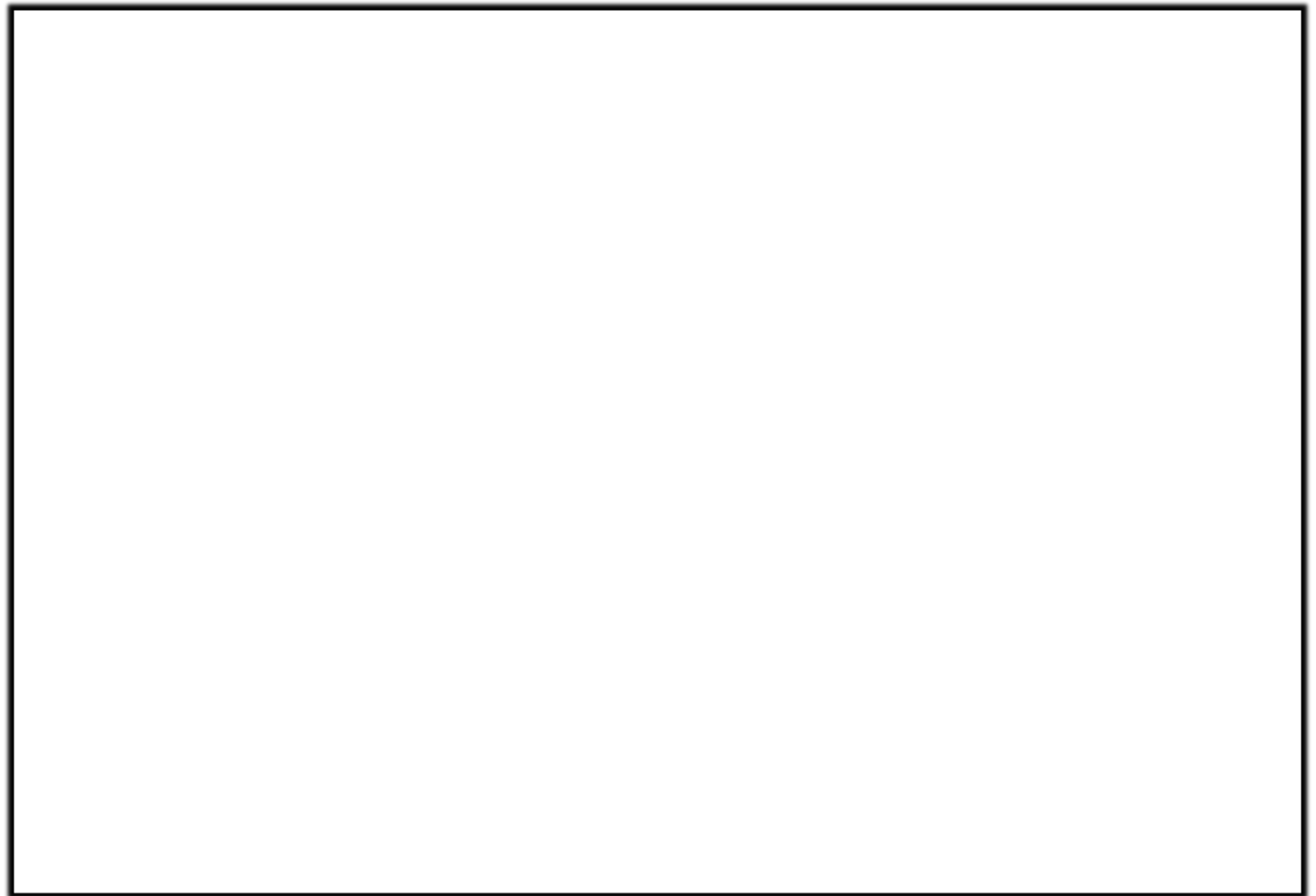
\_\_\_\_\_

When I think about my community in the future, I would really like it to be a place that (looks, feels, has, is, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Here is a picture of what I hope my community will look like or be like in the future: (Please feel free to use the space below or attach a separate sheet of your artwork.)



Please mail along with the survey or return this important document to the city offices/library at 404 Main Street, Kinney, MN 55758. Extra copies of this document can be found on the website at <http://kinneymn.us>.

## **APPENDIX D – WEST RANGE LAND USE PLAN AND ZONING**

COUNTY BOARD DRAFT

September 1980

PROPOSED WEST RANGE LAND USE PLAN AND ZONING

WEST RANGE PLANNING AREA

This draft was prepared by the St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Department in cooperation with a citizen committee representing Townships in the West Range area.

Recommended by the St. Louis County  
Planning Commission, August 14, 1980

Adopted by Board of County Commissioners  
September 22, 1980

Effective Date: October 6, 1980



## INTRODUCTION

This report contains goals, policies, plan concepts and zoning proposed for the West Range area. The following Towns are included in this effort: Balkan, Cherry, Clinton, French, Great Scott, Sandy, Wuori, Township 59-Range 21, Township 60-Range 20, Township 60-Range 19, Township 60-Range 18, and Township 59-Range 18. This document reflects the results of a nine month planning effort during which twelve public meetings were held throughout the area. Additionally, two public hearings were held by the Planning Commission on August 11th in Balkan and August 14th in Virginia.

## GOALS

- Goal 1: Existing residential development area should be protected from land development that will alter the area's rural character, substantially reduce property values, or adversely affect the environmental quality presently enjoyed by area residents.

- Goal 2: New residential, commercial and industrial development should be encouraged in areas with adequate public facilities and services, adequate soil and topographical conditions and away from conflicting uses, and such development should be done in a manner that holds down housing costs.
- Goal 3: Government, private industry and individuals should as a matter of high priority take actions that will conserve energy.
- Goal 4: The continuation of the taconite industry is very important to the economic well being of the area. Land use decisions should be guided towards encouraging the development of this industry while protecting private property rights and the public's health, safety and general welfare.
- Goal 5: The water resources of the area should be protected from development that will result in overuse and degradation of the resource.
- Goal 6: Lands suitable for forest crop production, including firewood cutting, are becoming increasingly valuable, efforts should be made to maintain a stable commercial forest land base of public and private lands to provide for the perpetuation and development of forest related industries.
- Goal 7: Existing agricultural activities and lands should be enhanced for the benefit of area and state residents.
- Goal 8: Commercial development should occur in a manner that would provide increased convenience to the general public while having only a limited impact upon nearby dissimilar uses and public facilities.
- Goal 9: Industrial development is encouraged in areas that have adequate support facilities and with provisions that will protect adjacent uses.
- Goal 10: Recreation facilities should be developed that meet the needs of local residents; whenever possible, recreation facilities intended for use by tourists should be developed by private enterprise.
- Goal 11: Township and citizen participation in the land use planning effort and review of applications is encouraged and should be expanded, particularly through the increased involvement of town government.

## POLICIES

- Policy 1: The rural nature of much of the West Range area is recognized, and where it is determined that residential development is to be encouraged the minimum lot size should be at least 4.5 acres. Smaller lot development should be permitted only near urban areas where a possibility exists for public water and sewer or within areas already densely populated and are capable of supporting additional development.
- Policy 2: Land development should be designed in a manner that takes into consideration the following concerns: flooding potential, drainageways, adverse soil or rock formations, wetlands, erosion potential, slopes, adequacy of water supply, and sewage disposal capabilities. Development which conflicts with such concerns should either not be approved or designed to minimize such impact.
- Policy 3: Cluster subdivisions are encouraged in order to preserve open space, reduce road mileage, avoid environmentally sensitive areas and maximize energy conservation.
- Policy 4: Mining companies, using their own land, should provide buffering from residential area. The County and Towns should examine the State's reclamation regulations as to buffering and, when not adequate, implement more restrictive buffering standards.
- Policy 5: Residential development should be permitted near mining areas provided densities are kept low in the area of the ore body and near environmental and safety hazard areas.
- Policy 6: Residential development in shoreland areas but not with lake frontage should be guided by the same land use densities requirements that control adjacent lands outside the shoreland area.
- Policy 7: Forest lands should be protected and managed as a renewable natural resource, a recreation resource and a potential industry contributing to the welfare of the areas.
- Policy 8: The development of forest management plans by Federal, County, and State governments and forest land owners is encouraged, with provisions for firewood supply being included in these plans; no land use decisions should be made during plan development that will significantly alter the intended results of these plans.
- Policy 9: Industrial development should occur either in industrial parks or in areas which have adequate support facilities but where the industrial activity will not hinder development of the area's dominant use.
- Policy 10: All commercial, industrial, public, semi-public and residential development should have

access to roads capable of handling anticipated traffic.

- Policy 11: The grouping of commercial activities is encouraged. Site design shall provide for the continued flow of traffic and limit impact upon nearby dissimilar uses and activities.
- Policy 12: Neighborhood commercial activities are encouraged when such uses provide increased convenience to area residents and the use can be designed to limit conflict with nearby uses.
- Policy 13: Existing agricultural lands with relatively high soil productivity should be preserved. For example, measures should be taken to preserve such tracts for agricultural use including limiting small lot residential development; generally this means a minimum lot size ranging from nine to thirty-five acres.
- Policy 14: Public recreation facilities intended to serve more than local needs should not be concentrated in a manner that will create hardship upon area residents.
- Policy 15: The Federal, State, County and Town governments should prepare recreation plans that take into account needs of local residents and other concerns including:
- Compatibility with surrounding land uses and planning policies.
  - Project characteristics: types of recreational uses to be offered, design and layout of the facilities, carrying capacity of the resource, aesthetics, safety and costs.
  - Serving of special needs (handicapped, elderly, etc.).
  - Environmental limitations.
  - Accessibility.
  - Local fiscal capabilities.

Recreation proposals which generally meet these standards should be supported for funding and permit approval.

- Policy 16: Township planning committees are encouraged to assist in the review of plans and applications. The County must give great weight to Town-Committee recommendations, and specific reasons must be given when the Town's recommendations are not followed.

- Policy 17: There shall be one resident from each Township appointed by the Town Board as an ex-officio member of the County Planning Commission.
- Policy 18: Townships shall be promptly notified of all plan amendments, zone changes, conditional use and variance applications.
- Policy 19: Performance standards rather than conditional use permits should be used for non-controversial routine development in order to speed approval.
- Policy 20: Rural industry and home business conditional use permits particularly in areas where density within one-half mile of the proposal is or where zoning permits more than 4 lots per "forty", shall be approved only if the following standards can be met:
- A need for such a use at this particular location exists.
  - The use has light industrial rather than heavy industrial characteristics.
  - Employment at the site generally limited to not more than five employees.
  - Stringent site design standards are implemented which protect adjacent properties from adverse impacts.
  - The proposed use will not significantly increase traffic on local roads.
  - The use conforms with other land use policies and the Zoning Ordinance.
- Policy 21: Mobile homes are recognized as an important housing alternative to the conventional single family dwellings; therefore, mobile homes on individual lots should be regulated in the same manner as conventional single family homes in the same zone district.
- Policy 22: Mobile home parks containing three or more mobile homes shall be restricted to areas that have public water and sewer facilities, and all parks shall be connected with these facilities, and when a mobile home park is being reviewed, the design requirements found in the Subdivision Regulations shall be generally applied.
- Policy 23: All lakes and rivers should have a developed and maintained public access with the design of the access determined by a water's ability to support additional use. The Department of Natural Resources should apply for a conditional use permit for all new public access.

- Policy 24: The Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on all subdivision proposals in shoreland area containing more than twenty lots to determine if the need exists to prepare an Environmental Assessment Worksheet. Consideration should be given to requiring an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for other major development proposals.
- Policy 25: There should be strict and increased enforcement of junkyard regulations particularly in residential area.
- Policy 26: Van pooling and other energy saving transportation methods should be encouraged by government and industry.
- Policy 27: Hazardous waste disposal is recognized as a problem for the area and suitable disposal sites should be found for waste created in this area. Hazardous waste created from outside the Iron Range should not be disposed of on the Iron Range but in suitable locations in the vicinity of where the waste was created. The site selection process and final approval of a disposal site should be done through extensive public hearings on the Iron Range.
- Policy 28: It is recognized by St. Louis County that individual Towns may wish to further refine or make additions to these policies. This action will be recognized by the County in reviewing development proposals provided the Town's goals and policies do not conflict with County goals, policies and regulations or the overall public interest. It shall be the responsibility of the Town's ex-officio representative to the Planning Commission to inform the County as to the appropriate Town goals and policies.

## PROPOSED WEST RANGE PLAN CONCEPTS

The goals and policies statement provides the general guidelines for a plan; the concepts identify specific criteria for land development. The concepts are based, in part, on the goals and policies, which should be consulted when the concepts do not fully explain a proposed action or in those situations where no concepts have been developed. The purpose of concepts is to explain why certain implementation steps are being taken. Implementation steps include zoning and can be found elsewhere in this document.

The following are the proposed West Range Plan concepts:

### Concept 1 - Fragile Lands

Lands in this concept occur most often near developed residential areas or where pressure exists for residential development. However, due to environmental concerns, particularly poor soil conditions, these lands should not sustain similar development and, in fact, development of any type, unless it is carefully planned, could seriously affect the development of adjacent properties. Therefore, land placed in this category should fall under the zone district that is most restrictive as to uses. Land may be removed from this category only after the approval of a plan amendment and the completion of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet.

### Concept 2 - Existing Residential Development

The existing development concept recognizes that some development has taken place which would no longer satisfy the development goals of the public. Therefore, this concept will be applied to areas outside shoreland areas when those areas are developed at higher densities than what would be called for under the plan. This concept will make it simpler for persons to construct residential and other uses.

### Concept 3 - Forestry

The forestry concept has many purposes and land falls within this category for many reasons, including suitability for forest management and forest product processing or remoteness where development would require expensive public services and facilities. The land may be environmentally unsuited for intense development, but due to its remote location need not be placed under the fragile lands concept, or the land is used for large scale agricultural purposes. Lands within this category will likely be zoned to the largest lot size requirement available. Rezoning from the zone district implementing this concept may take place without a plan amendment only if it is a zone change to the next less restrictive zone district according to lot area requirements or if the rezoning is to a more restrictive lot size standard. In an effort to preserve management options on tax forfeited land and to prevent unwise capital investments in the development of that land, it is essential that this concept, and related ones, be reviewed with resource management plans developed by the Land and Timber Department.



#### Concept 4 - Forest Transition

Lands within this category tend to be less isolated than land found in the forestry concept but many of the needs stated for the requirements in the forestry concept still exist; therefore, a need exists for rather stringent lot area requirements. Additionally, this concept allows for a buffer between the higher density development and the forestry areas which in many instances require large area for efficient operations. Lands within this category may be rezoned to the next higher or lower lot area requirements without requiring a plan amendment.

#### Concept 5 - Rural Estate

This concept recognizes the fact that many persons have moved into the country to farm including part-time or participate in other activities needing large amounts of land or to meet their needs. This concept is often applied to areas where farming activity is underway or where land is suitable for agricultural purposes. Additionally, land may be placed in this category in order to avoid the public costs associated with urban sprawl. This concept can serve as a buffer between highly developed residential uses and other uses. Rezoning from this implemented concept will usually require a plan amendment unless the rezoning is to a more restrictive lot size district.

#### Concept 6 - Rural Residential

This concept recognizes that many people desire to live in a rural setting generally free from the problems associated with higher density development, but where there is no need to purchase larger tracts of land for their needs. This concept will permit residential development on 4.5 acres provided adequate public services and facilities are available to serve the development. This concept may also be applied to areas where soil conditions are not conducive to higher density development or where there is a need to provide transition areas between potentially conflicting land uses.

#### Concept 7 - Suburban Residential

This concept is intended to point out areas where residential development on smaller lots should occur. These areas should have adequate soils, good road access and sufficient public facilities to serve the development. Development at this density will usually require the approval of a subdivision plat and, therefore, will have a more extensive review than other development. This review may show a need for larger lots than the minimum zoning requirement. This concept supports the need for larger lots or other actions as a result of subdivision plat review. No plan amendment is needed for any rezoning from the implemented concept if the rezoning does not result in lot sizes of less than one acre or more than 4.5 acres.

#### Concept 8 - Mobile Home Park

This concept shall be used for all mobile home park proposals. The Suburban Residential concept cannot be used if the intended use is a mobile home park. The purpose of this concept is to insure that the special issues involving mobile home parks are adequately addressed. Additionally, no one town should be expected to be the primary site for mobile home parks within the West Range area, and these parks should normally be located near the area cities since they have the public facilities and services to meet the needs of the usually high density mobile home parks.

#### Concept 9 - Waterfront

This concept provides for compliance with the State's shoreland management program, and shall include all land 300 feet either side of a stream that drains more than two square miles and around area lakes. The distance which this concept extends from the shores of lakes depends upon enforcing the intent of the shoreland management program and the intent of this planning process. Any zone change from the implementing zone district, including the development of an overlay zone district, shall require a plan amendment.

#### Concept 10 - Commercial

This concept is intended to set aside land for commercial purposes when the proposed or existing uses do not fit within the highway, neighborhood, waterfront, home business or occupation commercial categories. A plan amendment is required for any proposals falling under this concept.

#### Concept 11 - Mining

This concept recognized the importance of assuring that sufficient land will be provided for mining activities, including mining (existing and potential), stockpile areas, tailings basins and taconite plants. The zoning which implements this concept cannot be changed without a plan amendment. However, land within this concept may be eventually zoned to a special mining zone district which provides for reclamation, buffering and other concerns with no plan amendment. In some instances land within this concept is not under control of the mining companies which in those cases the land shall not be zoned so as to create nonconforming uses on the property. However, when such land is brought under control of the mining company within one year of the effectuation of this concept, the land shall be rezoned to permit mining. After the one year period the mining companies shall initiate a rezoning for the property if it is under their ownership.

#### Concept 12 - Industrial

This concept recognizes that certain industrial uses may need to locate within the study area. In those situations this concept should be implemented through the light industrial zone district in order to place

adequate controls on the industry. Additionally, the proposed use shall conform with the adopted goal and policy statements relating to this type of development. The plan amendment process shall be used for all proposed industrial uses.

#### Concept 13 - Recreation

This concept recognizes the need for major recreational facilities in the West Range area. This concept shall be used for recreational facilities outside of waterfront areas and have an excess of forty acres in area. This concept need not be used for recreation trails.

THE FOLLOWING TOWNSHIP MAPS ARE A PART OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

TOWN OF BALKAN

TOWN OF CHERRY

TOWN OF CLINTON

TOWN OF FRENCH

TOWN OF GREAT SCOTT

T 60 R 19 UNORGANIZED

TOWN OF SANDY

TOWN OF WUORI

T 59 R 21

T 60 R 20

T 60 R 18

T 59 R 18

TOWN OF NICHOLS

## EFFECTUATION

- Section 1      This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force on the 6th day of October, 1980, upon its adoption by the St. Louis County, Minnesota, Board of Commissioners.
- Section 2      Public hearings held by the St. Louis County Planning Commission on August 11 and 14, 1980.
- Section 3      Recommended by the Planning Commission to the County Board for adoption on August 14, 1980.
- Section 4      Commissioner Kron moved the adoption of this Ordinance and Chairman Shannon duly seconded the motion and it was adopted on the following vote:
- Yeas:   Doty, Dodge, Kron, Hoff, Dicklich, and Chairman Shannon
- Nays:   None
- Absent:        Hall
- Abstain:       None

This Ordinance was declared adopted by the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners on the 22nd day of September, 1980.

A. LLOYD SHANNON  
A. Lloyd Shannon, Chairman  
St. Louis County Board of Commissioners

Certified as a complete and accurate copy of Ordinance No.  
27, Article II, Section 7

RUSSELL PETERSEN  
Russell Petersen, County Auditor

ATTEST:

RAYMOND C CARLSON

Raymond C. Carlson, Deputy Auditor  
Clerk of the County Board

## **APPENDIX E – MINNTAC MINE LANDS & MINERALS MAP**



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Lands and Minerals

# Mine Lands and Mineral Resources of the USS Minntac Area - Central Mesabi Range

Taconite Pit Outline <sup>(1)</sup>

Natural Ore Pit Outline

Surface Overburden Stockpile

Rock Stockpile  
(or other Auxiliary Land)

Fine Tailings Basin  
(Natural Ore Processing)

Fine Tailings Basin  
(Taconite Processing)

Taconite or Natural Ore Plant Facility

Iron Formation Subcrop Limit <sup>(2)</sup>

Fault Line

Selected Magnetic Taconite Resource <sup>(3)</sup>

Documented Underground Mine Working <sup>(4)</sup>

Documented Mine Shaft

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Minnesota Geological Survey

1) Current mine land data developed and maintained by the MnDNR Division of Lands and Minerals, Hibbing, MN.

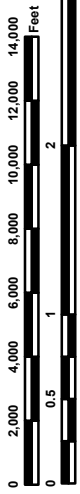
2) Bedrock geologic data developed by the Minnesota Geologic Survey.

3) Magnetic taconite data developed by the Laurentian Vision Partnership. Resources are depicted outside of existing taconite pits.

4) Underground mining data developed by the MnDNR Division of Lands and Minerals, Hibbing, MN

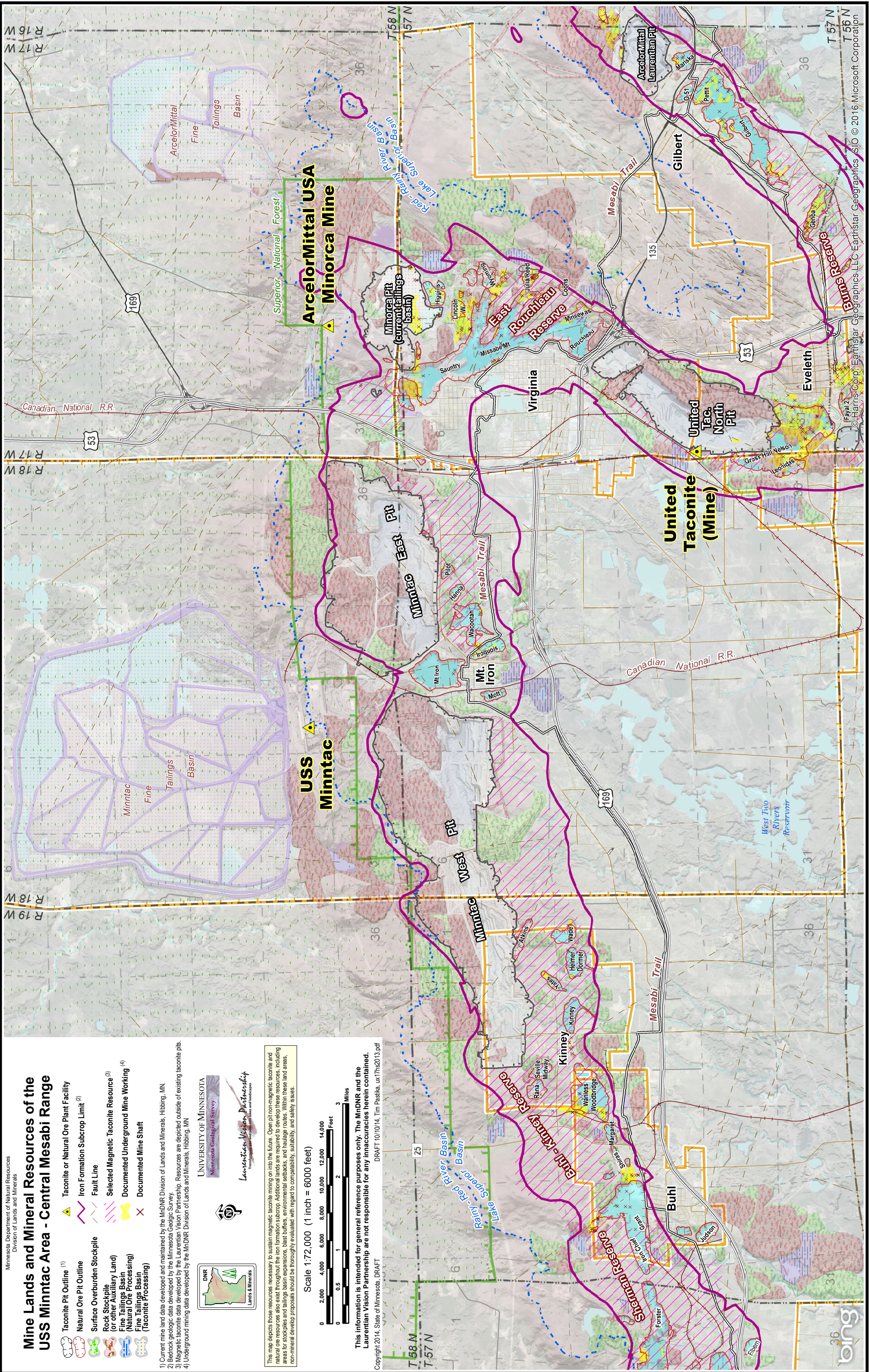
This map depicts those resources necessary to sustain magnetic taconite mining on into the future. Open pit non-magnetic taconite and natural ore resources also exist throughout the iron formation subcrop. Additional lands are required to develop these resources, including areas for stockpiles and tailings basin expansions, blast buffers, environmental setbacks, and haulage routes. Within these land areas, non-mineral develop proposals should be thoroughly evaluated with regard to compatibility, suitability, and safety issues.

Scale 1:72,000 (1 inch = 6000 feet)



This information is intended for general reference purposes only. The MnDNR and the Laurentian Vision Partnership are not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

Copyright 2014, State of Minnesota, DRAFT  
DRAFT 10/10/14, Tim Paslitka, ut7hs2013.pdf





## **APPENDIX F – ST. LOUIS COUNTY RECYCLING LOCATIONS**

## ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES RECYCLING DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

The Environmental Services Department has 47 recycling drop-off bin locations throughout the Solid Waste Management Area.

**Ash River Trail Solid Waste Canister Site** 11391 Ash River Trail. Open site hours.  
**Aurora City Garage** Open limited hours.  
**Aurora Solid Waste Transfer Station** 5910 Hwy 135 N. Open site hours.  
**Babbitt** City Hall parking lot. Open 24 hours.  
**Balkan Township Solid Waste Canister Site** 5524 Hwy 73 N. Open site hours.  
**Biwabik City Garage** Open limited hours.  
**Biwabik Township Hall** 6555 Oak Dr. Open 24 hours.  
**Brookston Solid Waste Transfer Station** 8609 Hwy 2. Open site hours.  
**Buhl City Garage** Open 24 hours.  
**Cedar Valley Canister Site** 7995 Highway 73. Open site hours.  
**Comstock Lake Solid Waste Canister Site** 4649 Comstock Lake Rd. Open site hours.  
**Cook Solid Waste Transfer Station** 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Open site hours.  
**Cotton Solid Waste Canister Site** 8467 Hwy 53. Open site hours.  
**Dewey Lake Solid Waste Canister Site** 6315 Dewey Lake Rd. Open site hours.  
**Ely** Hwy 169 across from Ferrell Gas. Open limited hours.  
**Embarrass Solid Waste Canister site** 7530 Koski Rd. Open site hours.  
**Eveleth** 6 Fayal Rd. Open 24 hours.  
**Fayal Township Hall** Open 24 hours.  
**French Solid Waste Canister Site** 7150 Greenrock Rd., Side Lake. Open site hours.  
**Gilbert** Lower Dakota Ave. Open 24 hours.  
**Great Scott North Solid Waste Canister Site** 7075 Hwy 25. Open site hours.  
**Great Scott South Solid Waste Canister Site** 9619 Bonner Rd. Open site hours.  
**Greenwood Township Hall** Hwy 77. Open 24 hours.  
**Hibbing Recycling Center** 1600 Plant Rd. (East end of Howard St.). Open limited hours.  
**Hibbing Waste Water Treatment Plant** Hwy 16. Open 24 hours.  
**Hoyt Lakes Recycling Center** Hwy 110. Open limited Hrs.  
**Kabetogama Solid Waste Canister Site** 10150 Gamma Rd. Open site hours.  
**Kelly Lake** 2nd Lane. Open 24 hours.  
**Kinney City Garage** Open 24 hours.

**Lavell Solid Waste Canister Site** 3249 Hwy 25. Open site hours.  
**Makinen Solid Waste Canister Site** 6327 Long Lake Rd. Open site hours.  
**McKinley Main Street** Open 24 hours.  
**Meadowlands Solid Waste Canister Site** 7722 Pine Rd. Open site hours.  
**Mt. Iron** 5580 Mineral Ave. Open 24 hours.  
**Northwoods Solid Waste Transfer Station** 9384 Hwy 21 N. Open site hours.  
**Orr Solid Waste Canister Site** 4038 Hwy 53. Open site hours.  
**Pike Town Hall** 6862 Hwy 68. Open 24 hours.  
**Portage Solid Waste Canister site** 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Open site hours.  
**St. Louis County Regional Landfill** East of Virginia off of Hwy 135. Open site hours.  
**Sandy Town Hall** 7580 Hill Road. Open 24 hours.  
**Silica Township Fire Dept** 1659 Hwy 73. Open 24 hours.  
**Soudan Solid Waste Canister Site** 5160 Hwy 169. Open site hours.  
**Sturgeon Solid Waste Canister Site** 8380 Hwy 73 N. Open site hours.  
**Virginia Public Works Garage** 15th Ave W. and 20th St. S. Open 24 hours.  
**West Eveleth Playground** Open 24 hours.  
**White Township** Hwy 100 S. of Aurora. Open limited hrs.  
**Wuori Township Hall** 7449 Werner Rd. Open 24 hrs.

## THANKS FOR RECYCLING!

Thanks to you the recycling program in St. Louis County works! But we can still do better. Studies show that a high percentage of recyclable paper, plastic and aluminum are still being thrown into the garbage. Recycling in St. Louis County provides local jobs and revenue for our recycling programs and helps extend the life of our Regional Landfill.

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department  
Solid Waste Division

307 First St. S., Ste. 115  
Virginia, MN 55792

Phone: 749-9703  
1-800-450-9278

Fax: 218-749-0650

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle)



Find us on  
**Facebook**



# St. Louis County

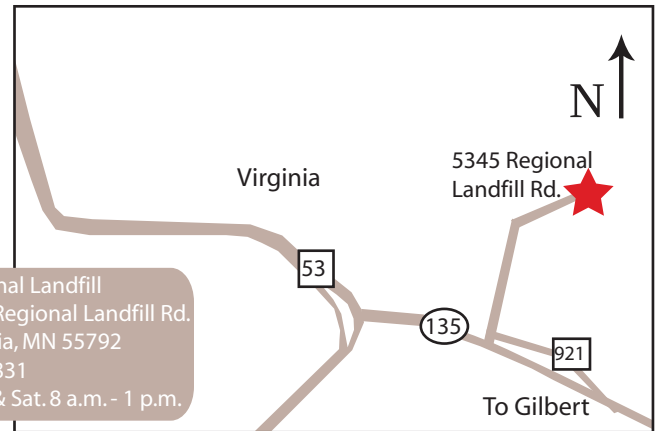
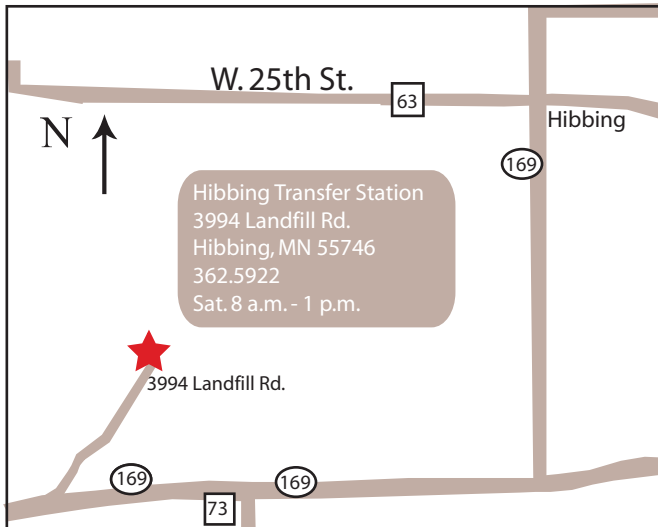
## Environmental Services Department

*Open all year*

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Sites

Regional Landfill, Virginia  
Tuesdays: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Saturdays: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Transfer Station, Hibbing  
Saturdays: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.



## HAZARDOUS MATERIAL WASTES

Accepted by St. Louis County

### Automotive

Brake fluid  
Antifreeze  
Fire extinguishers  
Driveway/garage sealers  
Gasoline  
Used oil  
Other automotive fluids & grease



### Hobby/recreation products

Lead weights  
Fireworks  
Lighter fluid  
Rechargeable batteries  
Used cooking oil



### Household Products

Cleaners  
Fluorescent tubes & bulbs  
Mercury thermometers  
Paint & stains  
Thinners & solvents  
Aerosol products  
Adhesives

### Lawn & Garden

Herbicides  
Insecticides  
Fertilizers  
Pesticides  
Stump remover



Residential Hazardous Wastes are  
accepted **FREE** of charge!!  
*Minimal Quantity Generator Businesses  
should call for appointment and cost  
information 218.741.8831*

*Look for these words on the label:  
"Caution", "Corrosive", "Poison",  
"Flammable", or other warnings.*

**For any general garbage questions or questions about Special Waste, such as:**

Appliances

Asbestos

Drained Used Oil Filters

Computers, TVs, other electronics

Construction/Demolition Waste

Scrap metal

Explosives

Home-use medical waste

Tires

Mattresses

Treated wood

Yard waste

---

**Disposal sites in your area  
Recycling drop-off locations  
call us toll-free at 1.800.450.9278**



***Keep hazardous waste  
out of the trash!!***

**St. Louis County Environmental Services Department**

**Solid Waste Division**

**307 1st St. S., Suite 115**

**Virginia, MN 55792**

**[www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle](http://www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle)**

**749.9703**

**1.800.450.9278**

## **APPENDIX G – RESOLUTION TO ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**CITY OF KINNEY**

400 Main Street

Box D-14

Kinney, MN 55768

(218) 258-3385

**Resolution No. 2017-1**

State of Minnesota

County of St. Louis

City of Kinney

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KINNEY TO ADOPT THE FINAL DRAFT  
OF THE PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF KINNEY.**

WHEREAS, the City of Kinney approves the adoption of the proposed Comprehensive Plan document and plan for the City of Kinney; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kinney agrees to implement the City of Kinney's Comprehensive Plan and pursue the goals and actions therein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the authorizing authority of the City of Kinney does adopt this resolution.

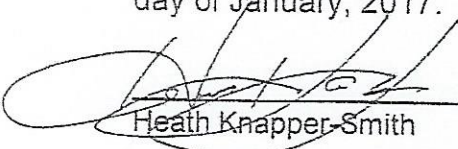
Upon vote taken thereon, the following voted:

For:

Against:

Whereupon said Resolution No.  
day of January, 2017.

was declared duly passed and adopted this 10<sup>th</sup>

  
Heath Knapper-Smith

Mayor  
Title

  
Deb Bachel

Clerk  
Title