

HAWLEY TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Hawley Township Comprehensive Plan (the “Plan”) is a document developed by the Hawley Town Board to set forth basic guiding principles to shape the Township’s future land use. The Plan is developed to guide the Township as it addresses environmental, land use, transportation, and economic development issues in the present and future.

These principles have been developed from the Township’s 1980 Comprehensive Plan, the Town Board’s experience in land use since then, the Clay County Comprehensive Plan, the laws of the State of Minnesota, and public input.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Hawley Township environmental conditions are described in the Clay County Comprehensive Plan in Section II, Inventory and Analysis, Environmental Conditions, Pages 2-35 thru 2-49. Along with the associated maps, the Hawley Comprehensive Plan adopts these conditions descriptions as the environmental conditions to be used in the Plan.

LAND USE INVENTORY

Hawley Township land use is mainly agricultural, along with a small part that is residential developmental and commercial. It is classified by the Clay County Land Use as “general rural and agricultural preserve”. It also contains aggregate deposits and native prairie areas, and has overlay designations on top of the agricultural preserve designation.

The Hawley Township Comprehensive Plan’s goal is to preserve the prime agriculture land for use in agriculture. Accordingly, non-farm residential dwellings are limited to 1 per 40 acres, and rural subdivisions require conditional use permits. No subdivision will be allowed on any acreage with a CER Land Score greater than 60, as stated in the Clay County Comprehensive Plan.

Hawley Township Land Use Designations are based off the maps and designations used in the Clay County Comprehensive Plan. Hawley Township will adopt these maps as the official guide to Hawley Township’s Land Use Designations.

TRANSPORTATION

Hawley Township has approximately 34 miles of roads. All 34 miles consist of gravel roads that are maintained by blading and adding gravel in season and snow blading in the winter. There are no township hard surface roads in the Township.

If any hard surface roads are to be established in the future, the Township will establish a service district to pay for the maintenance costs of such road that are over and above what maintenance costs would be if it were gravel.

Any new roads developed in a subdivision or for other purposes that does not benefit the entire Township must be paid for by the benefitting party. The new road will be inspected and approved by the Clay County Engineer as meeting his/her standards to be maintained by Clay County. No roads will be accepted by the Township without County approval.

The Township shall not incur any costs, expenses, or fees related to the maintenance of any road in a subdivision until the subdivision, as the benefitting properties, is able to generate enough of a tax base to cover the costs of maintenance. Until the subdivision is able to generate said tax bases, the Township will make special assessments to the subdivision property owners to cover the costs of maintenance.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hawley Township encourages agricultural and commercial development in designated areas in the Township. Hawley Township has partnered with Clay County to allow certain tax related incentives to said property to encourage such developments.