



Comprehensive Plan Community Forum Question Results

November 17, 2015, South Central College
Faribault, MN

(#) indicate times item listed on separate sheets

Question 1 – What do you love about living in Rice County?

<u># Dots</u>	<u>Response</u>
6	Community feel: small town with big city opportunities (2)
5	Good rural/urban mix
2	All needs are accessible & close proximity to: housing, health care, shopping, schools, recreation, etc.
2	Quality of life
2	Agriculture productivity
2	Parks and open space
1	Recreation
1	Proximity to Rochester medical facilities & Metro
1	Diverse economy
1	Better than average education system
1	Has a deaf community
	Other Table Comments/No dots
Small w/urban access :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to larger cities but still small • Easy access (transportation) • Location close to Metro
Nat'l Resources/ Rec:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike trails/system • River Bend • Outdoor rec • Lakes & fields beauty (2) • Parks & trails system
Ag/rural:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Rural character • Ag being #1 economic driver
Economy/ Jobs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job opportunity-fitness • Ag & business opportunity
Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education opportunities • Availability of educational choices
	Family (2) / Home
	Diversity-land use, in each town and in people (2)
	Nice city facilities
	Have deaf school/blind school
	Theater arts opportunities
	County government

Question 2- Imagine you are riding in a hot air balloon over Rice County 20 years from now. What do you see?

# Dots	Response
5	Rural/ag characteristics
4	Smart planned development and land use
3	Industrial growth/interstate
3	Improved industry/business
2	Development north of Faribault
2	Marginal land utilized for growth
2	Sense of being safe & comfortable
1	Strong employment opportunities
1	People first interconnected transit
1	Residential expansion of existing communities
1	More tar roads
	Other Table Comments/No dots
Ag/Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture land remain • Strong rural presence • Safe rural communities • Fields
Econ/Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger industrial areas • Mixed landscape-business/homes
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved transportation (+2 table checks) • More non-motorized transportation
Cities/ Housing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More house tops • More scattered housing if current plans continue • OPEN housing OPEN AREAS • More houses • Large cities with more apartments • Larger cities • Expanded cities in county growth • Small towns will expand in size
Nat'l Resources/ Rec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail connections • Recreational development along rivers • Less open land • Harmony of land & environment • Parks/trails • Maintaining greenery
	Lakes, woods, fields, industrial parks
	Lakes, cities, colleges
	Wind turbines, solar collectors (3)
	No smog
	Active country
	Vibrant social places

Question 3 – In thinking about Rice County over the next 20 years, what are the most pressing challenges we will need to work on as we plan for our future?

# Dots	Response
5	Balancing land use for ag & business development
2	Retaining and attracting a good labor force
2	Cultural diversity/population growth (5)
2	Transitional county zoning
2	Consistent conditional use permits
2	Make government more user friendly
2	A good comp plan with an emphasis on infrastructure & smart government
2	Breaking down silos for people
1	Population education
1	Quality schools
1	Education = handle more English learners (2)
1	More student financing for higher education
1	Training for future jobs
1	Roads/bridges improved & maintained
1	Increasing tax base to support infrastructure
1	Less government
1	Clarity of balanced land use (2)
1	Preserving/improving water quality (5)
	Other Table Comments/No dots
Jobs/ Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business friendly cultures • Offering living wage jobs (2)
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faribault northern interchange • Transportation plan for commuters
Ag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • Non-farm vs. farm • Preserve good ag land
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Housing development lakeshore • Affordable and safe housing
	Buffer strips
	Landfill/garbage/recycling
	Drug abuse
	Sustainable living
	County funding (revenue sources)
	Social services
	Affordability
	Accessibility
	Climate change response
	Maintaining Rice County

Question 4 – As we look at Rice County today, how can we take advantage now of what we have to enhance the area during the next 20 years?

# Dots	Response
6	Help protect and preserve ag land & farm businesses
3	Completing trail systems into downtowns, capitalizing on the physical activity benefits and economic opportunities
3	Positive & purposeful development along 60/35 corridor (2) / Take advantage of freeway (1)
2	Limit roundabouts
2	Develop/encourage strategic partnerships between existing organizations
2	Participation & continued encouragement of community events
1	Plan for airport expansion and improvements
1	Develop transportation plan to accommodate future growth
1	Maintain atmosphere of small town feel
1	Attract businesses that pay a fair wage
1	Clear zoning-best land use
1	Don't overspend budgets
1	Learn from our past
1	Build upon existing assets
1	Greater collaboration between government units
1	Invest deeply into technology
	Other Table Comments/No dots
Nat'l Resources/ Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike trails-recreational opportunities • Promote outdoor recreation (2) • Maintain river & lake quality • Measures to protect & preserve water & soil; protect natural resources • Conservation of energy, land resources, human & economic capital
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation-assets • Maintain roads & bridges
Community/ Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster and appreciate our diverse communities • Keeping it local, invest back into community • Don't let another Wal-mart into town / Invest money all over Faribault • Retaining talent • Build on & encourage good business • Capitalize on medical expansion
	Keep agricultural setbacks
	Communication-further enhance
	Improving implementation timeline, i.e. water quality
	Consider increase in public safety
	Good mix of rural/urban with access to other communities
	Cities maintain orderly annexation agreements
	Spreading knowledge via social media
	Engage youth
	Keep small community sense
	Synchronize with Faribault 2040



Comprehensive Plan Community Forum Question Results

December 8, 2015, Forest Town Hall
Forest Township, MN

(#) indicate times item listed on separate sheets

Question 1 – What do you love about living in Rice County?

# Dots	Response
9	Close proximity to things – Metro, airport, healthcare - but with rural living (8)
2	Trails – River Bend Nature Center
2	Strong community & sense of history (farmers markets, local shops, music & theater) (4)
1	Lake area
	Other Table Comments/No dots
Rural but close to city:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small town-rural/Country living (4) • Health care that is accessible • Services available for retirement community • Not part of the 7-county Metro area • Country values • Open spaces/countryside (3) • Strong arts
	Biking in the cities...
Community:	Community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged citizens • Generosity of residents (2) • Friendly people, farming, business • County amenities • Good schools (2) • Public input • Vibrant non-profits • Family friendly • Family/Roots (3) • Where we work & live • Colleges research efforts for community
Natural Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful landscape (lakes, rivers, bluffs) (2) • Diversity-recreation & employment opportunity (3) • Lakes & streams
	Climate
	Meaningful work opportunities
	Easy transportation/quiet roads (2)
	County that follows rational processes

Question 2- Imagine you are riding in a hot air balloon over Rice County 20 years from now. What do you see?

# Dots	Response
6	Cleaner lakes and streams (4)
2	Buffer strips where they need to be (2)
2	Commuter rail to Cities & Rochester (2)
2	Beautiful countryside, fertile fields, clean lakes, animals domestic & wild
1	Green space corridors
1	Connectivity
1	Health environment & <u>sustainable energy</u> (100%)
1	Increased biking county-wide and biking connectivity (3)
1	Well-planned development (3)
1	Connected Mill Towns Trail & small, supporting development
1	Well-maintained roads (maybe more tar)
	Other Table Comments/No dots
Natural Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural area preserved/wildlife preserves/health wildlife corridors (3) • Less green, more black soil, less wildlife • Preservation of natural resources • Brown waters, limited forest areas • More trees-preserved land/more parks (2) • Cannon River free of dams • Channel restored between Fox & Circle Lakes
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good highway from I-35 to 52; to Mankato/Six lane I-35 (3) • 2004 Transportation Plan implemented • No traffic congestion
Agriculture:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farms, pastures, lakes, roads, community • Neglected and newer farm structures • Ag land mixed with increased industrial, recreational, residential • Unfortunately, loss of ag land for urban area • Mix of ag uses/Profitable & vibrant farmland (3) • More small scale/sustainable farms
Renewable Energy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panels where they need to be • Solar panels, new homes, more people, passenger rail, community gardens
Housing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clusters of homes, possibly new city • Accessible/affordable housing • More buildings & traffic
	Countywide internet (wi-fi)
	Thriving industry & jobs
	Clean towns & less urban blight
	Lower real estate taxes
	Reclaimed gravel pits
	Flood mitigation efforts

Question 3 – In thinking about Rice County over the next 20 years, what are the most pressing challenges we will need to work on as we plan for our future?

# Dots	Response
2	Reasonable property taxes
2	Planning
2	Serving an aging population
1	Septic compliance
1	Safe water supply (ground/surface)
1	Water volume – runoff control (2)
1	Restoring lake quality
1	Having leaders in government not afraid to lead
1	Finding money to address issues
1	Focus on the children
1	Keeping/attracting young families
1	Lack of young people entering workforce/work ethic
1	Job opportunity (4)
1	Climate change/renewable energy/independence (2)
1	Keep cost of living low/quality of life high
	Other Table Comments/No dots
Gov't:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate regulation / fiscally responsible government (2) • Government service capacity: population growth
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for commuter population • Metro development pressures • Controlling residential growth • Managed development on I-35 (2)
Aging	Variable growth rates throughout the county/changing demographics (2)
Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurturing young entrepreneurs to provide more jobs • Equal opportunities
Rural/Ag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban encroachment-agricultural viability/urban-rural relationship (3) • Preserving ag land-for ag use • Preserve rural feel • Fewer farmers/higher food demand • Healthy local food supply
Nat'l Resources/ Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing recreation/environmental • Preserve natural habitat for plants & animals • Recreational opportunities
	Infrastructure maintenance/maintain roads/C.R.46 improvements/C.R. 9, I-35 access/transportation (5)
	Growing diversity/embracing cultural differences (3)
	Security/preventing the increase of crime/public safety (3)
	Maintaining why we like to live in Rice County
	Assuring good health of citizens & environment
	Keeping energy costs low
	Stress on infrastructure from weather

Question 3 (Continued)	
	Waste management efficiency
	Emergency preparedness

Question 4 – As we look at Rice County today, how can we take advantage now of what we have to enhance the area during the next 20 years?

# Dots	Response
4	Ability to connect natural corridors
4	Improve quality of our lakes & streams (3)
3	Support new farmers, small scale, organic
2	Build upon & improve Comprehensive Plan
2	Building up county & township roads for safety
2	Encourage rather than discourage renewable energy (2)
1	Utilize best management practices for soil conservation
1	Engage & educate youth to encourage them to stay and be more involved
1	Nurture responsible business development
1	Create cooperative business models
1	Promote businesses off 35 (2)
Other Table Comments/No dots	
Nat'l Resources /Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand & preserve parks & protected land/natural resources (3) • Set & enforce harvest limits (fish & wildlife) • Recreation & resorts on our lakes (2) • Turn railroads into bike paths • Complete Mill Town Trail • Explore neighborhood, town, community (by bike, walk canoe...)
Gov't/ Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart planning involving everyone • Control urban sprawl • Major growth yet to happen • Ability to keep incompatible uses apart • Plan & implement ag & small town qualities • Fund the priorities and values of the people of Rice County for a secure and healthy future • Reduce urban reserve area • Less government regulation
	Support existing agriculture
	Local production & consumption
	Create awareness of our carbon footprint
	Positive interactions with law enforcement
	Proximity to Metro areas
	Build community spirit and involvement



Comprehensive Plan Community Forum Question Results

December 15, 2015, Weitz Center for Creativity-Northfield, MN

(#) indicate times item listed on separate sheets

Question 1 – What do you love about living in Rice County?

<u># Dots</u>	<u>Response</u>
8	Diversity of land: farmland, parks and lakes (+2 table checks)
2	Living in a compact and human scale community
2	Parks & Trails/Bike Trails (2)
2	Strong farming community
2	Diversity & collaboration across the community (strong sense of community) (3)
2	Promotion of youth involvement
2	Quality of life (2)
1	Rural area not far from city (4)
1	Mix of urban and rural lifestyles (3)
1	Community of small organic farms (4; CSAs, small-scale farms)
1	Walkable downtown
1	Intellectual atmosphere and caring people (+2 table checks) (2)
1	Family-friendly (2)
1	Ability to be part of decision making (5)
	Other Table Comments/No dots:
Diversity of Land:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild and beautiful land/Topography and diverse plant communities (2) • Easy access to rural landscapes and natural areas/access to lakes (3) • Countryside and open space/space between towns (4)
Diversity/Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse activities & people • Cultural activities – art, music, sports, etc.
Rural but close to city:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to large metro areas – but not too close/Location between MSP & Rochester (4) • Easy access to goods and services • Transportation opportunities to major state resources
Gov't:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory Democracy • Low key level of County management
Environment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor activities (2) • Attention and concern for our environment • The waters-lakes and rivers
	Appreciate services of infrastructure
	Safe place
	Community Alert System
	Education system/Strong education base-colleges (4)
	Diverse industries
	Health care

Question 2- Imagine you are riding in a hot air balloon over Rice County 20 years from now. What do you see?

# Dots	Response
4	Open farm country with a scattering of homes
4	Desire cleaner lakes, streams, waterbodies (4) (+4 table checks)
3	Replacing industrial farms with permaculture farms
3	Local, sustainable permaculture. Local food production. (2)
3	Various forms renewable energy production/solar energy-farms/windmills (7)
2	GREEN! Ag crops, cover crops, buffers
2	Less urban sprawl
2	Walkable/bikeable cities (2)
2	Locally-owned sustainable cooperative businesses
1	More densely developed cities with same footprint
1	Greenways/recreation/wildlife corridors connecting cities and rural parks
1	Effective planning across jurisdictional boundaries
1	ATN, multi-modal interconnection
1	Perennial crops (+4 table checks)
	Other Table Comments/No dots:
Clean water:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean lakes and managed wetlands • Better protected waterways with wide buffer strips (2) • Crystal clear water and high air quality • Many lakes “in trouble” – pollution, weeds, etc.
Sustainable local farms/ag:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small communities centered around sustainable agriculture • Diversified crops (+4 table checks) • Agriculturally-based, diverse agriculture products • Fewer monoculture farms • Same % of ag with cover crops • No till farming practices/low till-no till – lots of cover crops (3) • Farmland conservation practices • Small, diversified farms – perennials
Renew-able energy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable energy production, community-owned • White winter – effects climate change • Connectivity with human power
Urban sprawl/ city:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No expansion of cities • More urban growth (2) • Planned, sustainable urban development / Multi-use zoning • Nice towns • Cities will be more dense-better connected for transit, biking & walking • Wise growth in Cities & Metro housing that maintains agrarian character • Increase in urban density to match population demands
Outdoor recreation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation-Fishing, Biking – OUTDOORS • Trail between Northfield and Faribault/trails connecting communities (2)

Locally-owned businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local worker co-ops/unions • Community land trusts • Decrease in corporate (outside) ownership • Local credit unions
Transportation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-maintained & environmentally wise transportation system (+2 table) • More efficient vehicles • Road made out of material take recharges car batteries • Mass transit along I-35 corridor/Trains (2) • Bicycle freeways • Multi-modal connection of cities • Fewer cars, more horses • Horse transportation • Devices to lower internal combustion engines
Land Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More protected public land • Expanded woodlands • Rural character-buffers • Managed erosion • Lots of wetlands and pollinator fields • Planned buffer zones, green waterways • Wind breaks replanted • Big Green Belts • Green corridors (+3 table checks) • Preserved farmland and forest
Housing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased sustainable homes (composting toilets) • Cluster housing/compact housing-more in less area (2) • Scattered housing outside planned communities
Other Ag:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger population density decreasing ag land • Towns are larger taking up ag land • Larger farm fields • Additional food hubs and livestock processing
	Clear support of the I-35 monarch migration corridor
	Compost sites & processing sites
	More industrial development @ 19 & 35
	Less pollution and cars and pesticides
	Much like now
	More youth engagement, services, empowerment
	More community-based education
	Immigrant empowerment and engagement
	More free range children
	Question will we see life in 20 years due to methane escaping North Pole

Question 3 – In thinking about Rice County over the next 20 years, what are the most pressing challenges we will need to work on as we plan for our future?

# Dots	Response
9	Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning & transitioning for climate change (7) • Dealing with climate change related threats (extreme weather events) (2)
3	Funding projects
3	Creating local jobs and tax base
2	Ensure Rice Co. residents own and control new food energy systems
2	Limit sprawl. Sustainable development
2	Sustainable economic development, employment of all types/levels, retain community wealth
2	Providing good/dignified work opportunities for low income/young people
2	Transition of energy production and ownership
2	Improving/protecting water and air quality//Protect groundwater (7)
1	Computer interconnectedness and infrastructure to enable such (+5 table checks)
1	Education around food systems and production
1	Survival programs for at-risk youth, issues of increasing poverty
1	Sensible, practical government negotiation
1	Leaders & citizens that are informed from a deeper place than Corporate America to know what the real issues are (2)
1	Pushing back against Metro-centric state government
1	How NOT to lose the rural character of land
1	Help older generation of farmers transition farmland
1	Implement buffers
1	Prepare and implement a soil erosion ordinance (+3 table checks)
1	Long term plans for growth that take into account visions of different cities
1	Implement low impact development (LID) framework
1	Transit (public, biking, multi-modal)
	Other Table Comments/No dots:
Renewable energy/ climate change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating an entirely new renewable energy system • Creating/implementing plan to be carbon-free by 2050 • Reduction of fossil fuel dependency/clean energy generation (3) • Data compilation of fossil fuel users
Economics/ Jobs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating the gap between high and low income earners • Living wage jobs (2) • Economics • Ingrain concepts of income production • Transition of small and midsize businesses to local ownership
Ag:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserving farmland • Protect and improve ag practices • Maintain local food supply and resources • Better use of land, sustainable agriculture

Ag:	<p>Question 3 (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to a sustainable food system (2) • Access to local/affordable food • Diverse and safe food shed • Keeping agriculture profitable • Keeping and sustaining farmland • Managing feedlots
Cities/ Sprawl/ Population:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suburban sprawl • Potential renewed Metro sprawl (Twin Cities – Rochester) • Interconnectedness of cities • Keep urban growth closer to municipalities • Development pressure/growth population • Population growth/aging • Population pressure from Metro
Natural Resources/ Recreation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing natural resource usage • Define & expand vegetation corridors for wildlife & conservation (+2 table checks) • Improving/retaining recreational facilities
Youth:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition assets to next generation • Youth retention & attraction – jobs, housing, etc. (2) • Provide jobs for next generation
Gov't/ Planning:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United direction/all agencies working together toward common goal (2) • Effective governance and leadership • Decisions that ensure equity and balance to the taxpayer • Planning ahead – 15-20 years and more • Planning for smart, efficient growth • Efficient decision making processes to deal with competing needs for resources • Designing for the future not the 80's • Creation oriented design and development
Infra- structure/ Transit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining infrastructure (3) • Paying for an aging infrastructure • Mass transit • Balancing transportation needs of urban and ag use • Improved, more available public transportation • Increase in transportation efficiency to Metro areas • Light rail to Metro to reduce pollution • Improving transportation for an aging population • Transportation to health care
Diversity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridging cultural/racial communities • Defined plan for refugees and immigrants • Increase in racial conflict • Social equality for changing populations • Services for all citizens of community (2)

Question 3 (Continued)	
Housing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explosive residential housing and services in rural areas • Accommodating population grow sustainable, affordable housing by densifying cities • Equitable, affordable housing (3)
Health Care:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good health care • Providing affordable medical care for an aging population
Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-centered education system/good schools (2) • Public schools not based on property taxes
	Balance quality of life/affordable cost of living
	Dealing with demographic winter (picture: pyramid to silo)
	Sustainable funding
	Keep our character

Question 4 – As we look at Rice County today, how can we take advantage now of what we have to enhance the area during the next 20 years?

# Dots	Response
11	Preserve Ag Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Preserve rural landscapes and limit city sprawl” (3) • “Preserve farmland and natural resources” (3) • “Preserve/restore quality of ag land; Farm sustainability-land trusts” (3) • “Keep residential and industrial growth in cities to preserve ag areas” (2)
6	Keep Things Local <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Use anchor institutions as markets-demand for local food and energy and other businesses” (4) • “Partner with local banks, Chambers, and Rotary Clubs to help retiring generation of business owners transition into employee or local ownership” (1) • “Local renewable resource companies/all local companies/community money stay in community” (1)
4	Connect all bike trails
3	Clean water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Cleaner water: raingardens, pavers buffers-ways of capturing run-off” (1) • “Measure and protect ground water/surface water” (1) • “Stress the importance of clean rivers/lakes for our quality of life” (1)
3	Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Welcome diverse cultures” (1) • “Cross-cultural justice and sustainability” (1) • “Cultural sensitivity among leaders and social programs” (1)
2	Challenge schools, ag, industries to use expertise toward community solutions
1	More collaboration & leadership from colleges: staff development, economic diversity. *Leverage them for community good

Question 4 – (Continued)	
1	Citizens group to counter efforts of corporate lobbying and individual efforts by people towards sustainability
1	Give fair and balanced voice to all communities and townships
1	Preserve existing natural areas
1	Create living wage/meaningful/sustainable jobs
Other Table Comments/No dots:	
Ag:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote local food movement/expand local food production year-round (2) Encourage ag tourism industry BMP challenges to encourage farmers Work with ag co-ops (the extension and County) as well as other sustainable ag organizations and farmers to transition farmland More collaboration, cooperative activities in agriculture Using models to encourage continuation of sustainable ag More small-food/energy producing farms Organics composting Control urban sprawl = ag-city balance Encourage land trusts
Keep Things Local:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local ownership of energy production Partner/work with the existing energy co-ops, community groups, and local businesses on scaling renewable energy. Leverage our location for economic development Leverage the wealth we have locally-draw on global \$\$ Better marketing/draw in visitors to support local economy
Bike Trails:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build upon trails, parks and transport networks – market them Continue to work with community partners to improve county park/trail recreation opportunities (mountain biking & fat biking) Lakes and rivers buffered with parks and trails Finish the Mill Towns Trail (Mankato to Red Wing) Connect existing park areas
Clean Water:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the Cannon clean/protecting water quality (2) Encourage creation of watershed districts Open river flow by removing dams
Diversity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police department receive cultural and sensitivity training Keep working/improving program to help minorities
Community & Citizen Input:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance role of faith communities caring for people and creation (+2-table) Getting citizens directly involved in gov't/engage citizens-continue (3) Support and encourage citizen initiatives Communication and coordination between all local groups and government Collaborative efforts w/local units of government Enhance support for volunteers-help people care for other people in need College and community partnerships

	Question 4 – (Continued)
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce and regulate environmental standards • Better use our natural resources (+2 table checks) • Community gardens on public grounds • Economic gardening!! (sheds) • Keep parks and natural areas in good condition • Soil conservation • Plant trees/forest preservation (2) • Provide permanent natural lands and ag easements (see Dakota County F-NAP program)
Jobs/ Econ Develop:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use funding from Economic Development Departments to create a worker co-op transition program
Role of History:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth in historical societies benefitting tourism that can preserve cultural treasures better • Better communication between historical associations and policy makers. • Learn from history • Write more about the history of the land and people.
Planning:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing good planning • Plan for reasonable/wise growth • Plan to maintain core elements: plan where change will happen; intentional change • Plan effectively around our ecological/climate niche • Cause higher density living (building vertically) mixing urban and residential/commercial • Identify underutilized land for re-development & infill development (+2 table)
Cities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen cities as economic and social centers • Quaint, friendly, enlightened small towns
Infra-structure/ Transit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towns working together on infrastructure • A legacy of public transportation systems available for renewal and growth • Preserve transportation corridors • Work with municipalities to provide multimodal transportation
Climate Change/ Renewable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impose tax on carbon (+1 table check) • Continue/increase the pace of new renewable energy production • Climate action plan
Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth education – lifelong learning • Maintain & improve schools to attract people & educate children for the future
	Flood control
	Educate of the limited space for landfill
	Utilize human potential/invest in people + quality of life (2)
	Take advantage of the cultural diversity we have
	Make communities safer and assisting people with mental illness/disabilities
	Identify existing strengths and protect them
	Keep work with a county-greater good in mind

What do you love about living in Rice County? (Community Attributes) (8 responses)

the dirty lakes

Natural amenities (lakes, parks, trails, etc), small town feel, proximity to Twin cities and Rochester, and diverse employment opportunities.

History

Northfield is a good small town

My family lives here. Had my family grown up and lived in another area, there would be no way I would move to this town. Rice County doesn't do much right. Northfield and Faribault need a better relationship. There needs to be 'certain' people kicked off the city council. Rice County social services needs a re-haul with better leadership. District One Hospital is a joke. We need more mental health facilities. The somali's have made Faribault their home, and the population will continue to increase substantially. The Faribault community members need to accept this and learn their culture, and vice versa. I believe we all can get along. Oh wait, the question is what I love about Rice County. The answer would be nothing.

Employed here.

Convenience to the cities. Great friends. Many memories.

Seasonal fruits

Imagine you are riding in a hot air balloon over Rice County 20 years from now. What do you see? (Visioning a Better Future) 8 responses

cleaner lakes

Beautiful countryside, large nature preserves, developed industrial areas, clean lakes and rivers.

Like it was in the early 1900s

Lots of worker-owned cooperatives

More retail stores and a movie theater. The mall torn down and reconstructed. Continued Shattuck, deaf and blind school growth. Mayo owned hospital.

More development focused along I-35 corridor.

For me still rural life.

Permaculture fruit forestry (fruculturalism), Natural Hygienism orthopathism water fasting centers, greenhouses, and homes (treehomes too) made from renewable resources and powered by free clean energy, much more diversity of wild animals species.

In thinking about Rice County over the next 20 years, what are the most pressing challenges we will need to work on as we plan for our future? (Opportunity for Improvement/Challenges)

(8 reponses)

cleaner lakes

Economic development, diversity issues, lake purity, trails, rural roads upkeep, township relationships, law enforcement/safety.

Housing and jobs

I worry about the quality of the working class. The middle class seems to see all the benefits of social and cultural programs. I want the working class to be more included in desicion-making, and right now they barely can.

RETAIL growth and Entertainment. Somali population growth.

Keeping urban style development within urban areas.

Making everyone happy with decisions that have to be made.

Living by instincts and language and communication practices such as NVC and general semantics. Using wild free Anarcho-voluntary-libertarianism through non preda-speciesism non-competitionism tactics via a consensus process by a free market system with P2P Currency, or resource based economy.

As we look at Rice County 20 years from now, how can we take advantage of what we have now to enhance the area? (Enhance Existing Assets)

(8 reponses)

mn DNR

Clean up lakes, trails, bring in amtrak, maintain roads and ditches, more jobs.

Downtown

Let's heal the soil while we can. Land needs to be redistributed for every one to benefit from it and the land to benefit from us doing better practices. More sustainability will be needed.

I would like to say downtown Faribault but because of the scum that live down there, that will never be the case. Northfield has a great downtown, but Faribault will never have one like that if apartments are continued to be rented out.

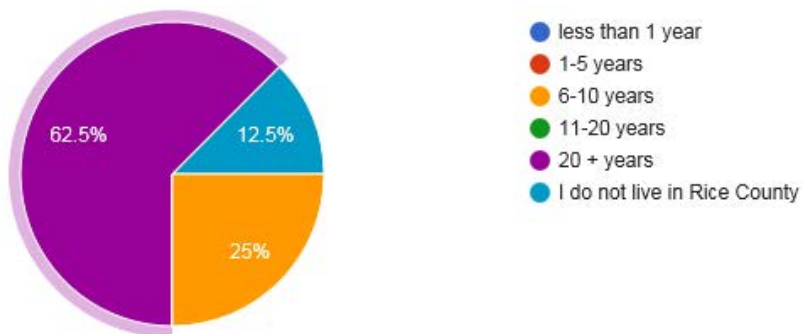
Enforce clean wter related requirements (compliant septic systems for example).

It is probably a dream on my part but keeping the country atsmosphere.

We can use seeds from fresh grocery stores to begin planting a variety of fruits in greenhouses. We can build compost systems. We can deconstruct/reconstruct a majority of buildings to utilize free energy and plant growing. We can remove our city signs, and open our area freely to humanity. We can remove each thing, or recycle it that doesn't meet above mentioned.

How long have you lived in Rice County? (8 responses)

less than 1 year, 1-5 years, 6-10 years (25%), 11-20 years, 20 + years (62.5%), I do not live in Rice County (12.5%)

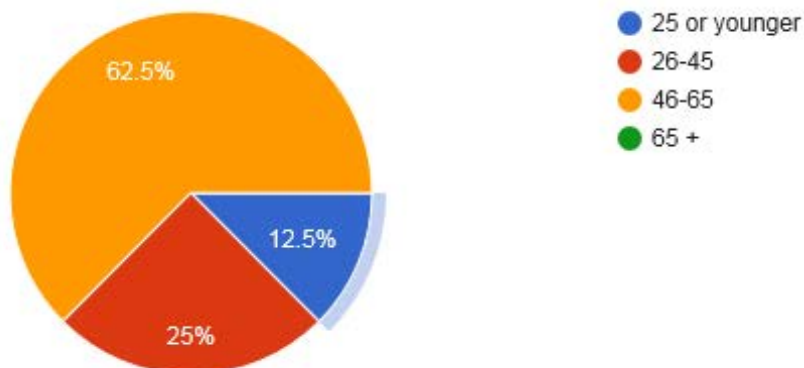


Where are you from? Please list: city/township/do not live in Rice County (5 responses)

- Faribault/Walcott
- Walcott
- Dundas
- Forest township
- Rice County

Age (8 responses)

25 or younger (12.5%), 26-45, (25%) 46-65 (62.5%), 65 + 12.5%



Please share any additional comments or suggestions. (6 responses)

Road maintenance very poor, Township support lacking, safety lacking.

I'm gonna help in every way I can

Young Latinos need to be more empowered and involved in decision making

I have a ton of advice if you need it.

I am unable to find the current Comprehensive Plan anywhere on the County's website.

Since this group of homo sapiens doesn't reside in a vital tropical environment for human evolution, we can utilize this space mainly with greenhouse technology, and space exploration sciences.