



Core Community Values: Updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan



Duluth Township

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Acknowledgements



Town of Duluth

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A very special thank you to the people of the Town of Duluth and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Community Steering Group



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CORE COMMUNITY VALUES STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The Town's current Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) is from 2002 and is now in the process of being updated. The first step in updating the Plan is to identify the Township's core community values.

The components of a CLUP consist of a vision, a land use area map, and goals and policies. The core community values will be used to develop those components for the new CLUP. Illustration 1 depicts how core community values intersect with data and opportunities to guide development of the CLUP.

Illustration 1. Developing the Components of a CLUP



PROCESS

In the January 2019 Town Newsletter the community was asked to provide their ideas for community values by answering this question: "Above all else, I value _____ in the Township because _____."

The Community Steering Group (CSG), which was formed to update the 2002 CLUP, reviewed and synthesized the community responses. Twenty-nine people responded and their comments were grouped into three broad themes: Ruralness, the Natural Environment, and Community Life. The CSG developed **Draft Core Community Values** from these comments. A Community Open House on April 18, 2019 was held to allow the community an opportunity to provide further input on these **Values**.

Eleven community members attended the April 18th Community Open House. The CSG reviewed the comments from this open house resulting in the final **Recommended Core Community Values**.

At the May 23rd Planning Commission meeting three individuals were in attendance to provide comments on the values. There were no specific comments regarding the core community values. The Planning Commission recommended that these values be approved by the Town Board.

At the June 13th Town Board meeting there were no comments from the community regarding the values. With a unanimous vote the Board approved the core community values statements for use in updating the CLUP.

CORE COMMUNITY VALUES STATEMENTS: RURALNESS

The concept of ruralness and what it means has always been difficult to specifically define. The core community values statements listed for ruralness, when combined, attempt to depict the values / qualities of what ruralness means to our community.

Values Statements

- We value our natural environment with its streams, Lake Superior, undeveloped / open spaces, forested lands, farm lands, and wildlife.
- We value peace, quiet, and uncrowded living and the dark night skies that result from that.
- We value privacy.
- We value our opportunities for farming, gardening, and cultivating orchards which provide locally sourced food for ourselves and others and livestock forage.
- We value the people in our community, their neighborliness and resourcefulness, and the sense of belonging they provide.
- We value the aesthetics, beauty, and spiritual connections that result from the presence of nature in our rural areas.

CORE COMMUNITY VALUES STATEMENTS: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Values Statements

- We value the abundance of natural beauty, our connection to the land, and the intrinsic character that our natural environment provides.
- We value the life-sustaining resources that our natural environment provides including trees, wildlife, water, soil, wetlands, and air.
- We value the beauty and presence of Lake Superior and the many streams flowing into the Lake.
- We value the natural environment for the many recreational opportunities it provides.
- We value the public lands that contribute to large undeveloped areas in our Township, non-fragmented habitats, and forest resources.
- We recognize and value our interconnectedness with the natural environment and our responsibility to sustain it for the generations that come after us.
- We value planning for climate change.
- We value the diversity of species, both flora and fauna.
- We value the clean air and water we have in our Township.

CORE COMMUNITY VALUES STATEMENTS: COMMUNITY LIFE

Values Statements

- We value the respectful and friendly acceptance in our community towards our neighbors and others, honoring the richness, diversity, and inherent dignity of all people.
- We value the willingness of our community members to actively engage in our community and volunteer to provide vital, basic services for our Township such as Town government, the volunteer Fire Department and Medical Responders.
- We value the Township form of government whereby we have local control in governing ourselves and community members are able to directly vote on what is important to invest in for the well-being of our community.
- We value our neighbors and their friendliness, though they may not be close in proximity, we know that we can rely on them when needed.
- We value our Community School as it is one of the centers of our community, helps keep our community vibrant and alive, and provides an education for our children which is an investment in all our futures.
- We value the recreational facilities available to the community at the Community School which are currently managed in cooperation with the Community School, the Town, and volunteers.
- We value the facilities and services provided for our community by the Township including the Town Hall and its offices, community gathering spaces, and internet access; the Town Cemetery; the Fire Halls; Peace Officers; Town roads; Town Board; Planning and Zoning; and Recycling.
- We value the heritage and history of those who have lived here and those who are currently living here.
- We value how our community works together to create a sense of community that is unique to our Township.
- We value our elders and their ability to remain in the Township.
- We value a variety of housing to accommodate all members of our community.
- We value that individuals and families in the Township are able to remain in the area and find gainful livelihoods.
- We value a balance between community needs and individual freedoms.
- We value access to local goods and services within the Township.