

**Bigfork Comprehensive Plan  
Community Issues and Goals Identification**

February 16, 2011

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Present: Wayne Kruse, Roger Logdahl, Bob Zimmer, Gene Madsen, Krista Lane, Brian Rauzi, Ellen Pillsbury, ARDC

Attendees reviewed drafts of a Bigfork Community Vision Statement and nine Plan Section Goal Statements. The group also discussed and determined key assets and issues to be addressed in each Plan section.

Below are the **revised** draft Community Vision Statement and Plan Section Goal Statements. Along with the key assets and issues:

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Draft Community Vision Statement

*In the future the City of Bigfork is a vibrant, progressive, safe city with residents and visitors that value it as a wonderful place to live, raise children, work, play and retire due to the community's commitment to balance its small town quality of life and surrounding natural beauty with economic stability, and excellent health care, schools and public services.*

Bigfork Comprehensive Plan Sections

**Housing**

GOAL: *Bigfork will have healthy neighborhoods with varied affordable housing options for residents and visitors.*

Assets

1. Bigfork Valley Hospital-Clinic-Communities
2. WilderNest
3. Condor Apts
4. Mobile Home Park
5. Scenic Estates

Issues

1. Incidence of blighted, dilapidated and poor condition of existing units
2. Need housing for a variety of income levels and resident types
3. Undeveloped sites at Legacy development (Scenic Estates)
4. Need assistance to identify funding options and potential partners to work on housing goal.

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**Transportation**

*GOAL: Bigfork will provide transportation infrastructure for local and regional connections and will have well-maintained streets, sidewalks, trails and airport that serve all users needs.*

Assets

1. Local roads
2. Scenic Byway Highway 38
3. County Roads
4. Bigfork Airport
5. Sidewalks
6. Trails-snowmobile, ATV, walking
7. Pedestrian bridge

Issues

1. Lack of transportation options-transit service
2. Bigfork Airport
3. Unpaved local roads
4. Scenic Highway 38
5. County Roads 7
6. Pedestrian facilities(sidewalk, trails, bridge)

**Utilities and Community Facilities**

*GOAL: Bigfork will have improved infrastructure and maintenance for city structures, parks, the water and sanitary system, and roads through both systematic long and short-range planning process.*

Assets

1. City Hall and garage
2. Fire Hall
3. EMT service
4. Water treatment facilities
5. City parks
6. Cemetery

Issues

1. Aging water and sanitary sewer infrastructure
2. Aging public buildings and equipment
3. Adequate resources (funds, equipment, personnel) to perform regular maintenance and clearing of streets
4. Adequate resources to maintain City parks and cemetery

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**Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources**

*GOAL: Bigfork will sustain and enhance its Bigfork and Rice rivers, natural resources and memorials and promote its cultural facilities like the Edge Center for community cultural events.*

Assets

1. Scenic State Park
2. The Edge Center
3. Military Memorial
4. Social and religious organizations

Issues

1. Changes in the future population demographic
2. Limited recreation and social opportunities for all ages (youth to seniors)
3. Need support for cultural events and activities
4. Unenhanced access to lakes and rivers
5. Need continued efforts to increase community spirit and volunteerism

**Economic Development**

*GOAL: Bigfork will promote and seek partnership opportunities with new and existing business and industry maximizing positive economic connections.*

Assets

1. Bigfork Airport
2. Bigfork Valley Hospital-Clinic-Communities
3. Bigfork School
4. Bergquist Co
5. Rajala Mill
6. North Itasca Electric Coop.
7. JOBZ Park
8. Edge Center
9. Downtown businesses
10. Grocery store
11. Golf course
12. Legacy development -Scenic Estates
13. Cable TV/High Speed Internet

Issues

1. Decrease in local employment opportunities for the population
2. Non-support for local business and industry
3. Need community activities that complement economic development

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**Intergovernmental Cooperation**

*GOAL: Bigfork will work cooperatively with the Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board, surrounding counties and communities, the State of Minnesota, and other public and private entities to provide cost effective high quality public services.*

Assets

1. Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board
2. Itasca County
3. Koochiching County
4. Police and Fire
5. Bigfork Valley Hospital-Clinic-Communities
6. Bigfork Schools
7. Bergquist Co.
8. Bigfork Township

Issues

1. Need adequate reliable resources to deliver high-quality public services in a cost-efficient manner

**Land Use**

*GOAL: Bigfork will have strong land use policies that promote wise land use, will actively plan for the future and seek to promote the highest and best use of each property. Bigfork's land use policies will be clear, efficient and easy to administer.*

Assets

1. Housing
2. Business
3. Industrial
4. Medical
5. Agricultural

Issues

1. Need future land use plan

**Implementation**

*GOAL: Bigfork will actively work to complete the strategies identified in the comprehensive plan and will review implementation periodically.*

1. An implementation checklist will be developed listing each strategy action item in the Plan and organized in a spreadsheet with some general implementation steps, responsible entities and timeframe.

# Bigfork Comprehensive Plan Community Issues and Goals Identification

February 16, 2011

## Community Visioning Assets and Issues Identified on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

### Community Assets

- Airport
- Bigfork Valley-Hospital-Clinic-Communities
- Pharmacy
- School Complex
- Bergquist Co.
- Raja Mill
- Northern Itasca Electric Co-op Inc.
- Downtown business
- Customer services
- Golf Course
- Scenic State Park
- Scenic Byway Highway 38
- Good Roads
- Business growth (hospital/housing)
- Housing (Mobile Home Park, WilderNest, Condor Apts)
- Social organizations (Fraternal and Over 50 Club)
- Churches
- Military Memorial space
- Cemetery
- Outdoor Recreation Opportunities (snowmobile trails, beaches)
- Local artists
- The Edge Center
- Cable TV/High Speed Internet
- Lakes and rivers
- Local restaurants
- Water treatment facility
- Engaged volunteers and community spirit
- Cooperative Local Units of Government
- City Hall
- Clean air
- Legacy development-Scenic Estates
- JOBZ Park
- Kiosk
- Fire Hall and ambulance service
- Proximity/Location to cities
- Leadership
- Riverwalk Trail Project\*
- Bank\*
- Post Office\*
- Super amenities for a City of it's size\*

### Community Threats and Issues

- Aging population/no-growth/declining population
- Non-support of local businesses
- Lack of affordable housing
- Unemployment (downturn in logging)
- Young-adult leaving
- Blight-(empty and dilapidated buildings)
- Citizens Against Virtually Everything (C.A.V.E.)
- Lack of business opportunity
- Business on the brink
- Government negativity (stagnancy)
- Need for civility
- Decaying infrastructure
- Lack of WOW when entering the community
- Main St lacks decorative landscaping \*
- Lack of transportation options
- Gas prices
- Illegal drug use
- Police protection/enforcement response time
- Middle of nowhere
- Entertainment opportunities for youth
- Funding availability
- Youth involvement
- Unpaved roads
- Plowed streets\*
- Legacy development-Scenic Estates\*
- Need to define what is affordable housing for Bigfork\*

\*Reflect comments received after the Public Visioning meeting.

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**Small Group Vision Statement Exercise completed on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

In the future, the City of Bigfork is.....

1. A progressive, growing City that is a safe and friendly place to retire, vacation, and raise your family with economic stability/development, an excellent school system, and State-of -the-art health care facilities and services.
2. Bigfork, a vibrant community, is a family oriented, safe destination for shopping, recreation, working and living.
3. A high quality place to live and work as well as a valued destination because of its rich history, recreation, opportunities, quality healthcare, arts and education, thriving economy, and modern infrastructure while maintaining its small town quality of life and natural beauty.

**Comprehensive Plan Questions:**

Ellen Pillsbury, ARDC  
221 West First St  
Duluth, MN 55802  
1-800-232-0707 ext. 554  
218-529-7554  
epillsbury@ardc.org

