

BROADWATER COUNTY Growth Policy Update

2024

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Introduction

Adopted in 2020, the Broadwater Growth Policy (Growth Policy) is an official public document that seeks to address key environmental, economic, physical, social, and land use issues. At its core, the Growth Policy includes big-picture goals, measurable objectives, and sets guidelines that will assist Broadwater County Commissioners and the public in making decisions about how to manage county resources.

Broadwater County is a beautiful place, with a rich history and culture. The county is home to a variety of landscapes, including mountains, valleys, forests, rivers, and an even more diverse population of farmers, ranchers, business owners, families, and young professionals.

Broadwater County is facing a number of challenges as it grows. These challenges are not only unique to the county itself, but unique to the two sub-areas within the county, the north sub-area and south sub-area. Broadwater County seeks to address these challenges and lay a clear path forward with this amendment to the 2020 Growth Policy, with ultimate goals that include providing adequate public services and reliable infrastructure as well as balancing economic development, housing development, and environmental protection with the rural lifestyle and values of the residents who call this place home.

This Growth Policy amendment is intended to help Broadwater County meet these challenges and ensure that the county remains a great place to live, work, and raise families for generations to come.



Image

The Growth Policy is based on the following principles:

Sustainable Growth

Broadwater County should grow in a way that is sustainable for the environment and for future generations.

Community

Broadwater County should be a place where you know your neighbors and feel safe and connected.

Preservation

Broadwater County is proud of its farmers and ranchers and values agriculture and the people who work the land as some of its most valuable assets.

Economic Opportunity

Broadwater County should provide opportunities for businesses to thrive, create jobs, and in turn benefit both the county and its residents.

Quality of Life

Broadwater County should be a place where people can enjoy the dark skies, peace, and open spaces of Montana.

The Growth Policy can be implemented through a variety of strategies, including:

Land Use Planning

Broadwater County can utilize the land use maps to guide future growth.

Infrastructure Investment

Broadwater County can invest in infrastructure such as roads, schools, and water and sewer systems, to meet the needs of a growing population.

Public Services

Broadwater County can work to ensure that all residents have access to quality public services, such as education and emergency services.

The Growth Policy is a living document that will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The county should work with residents and stakeholders to ensure that the Growth Policy is meeting the needs of the community and ensure that Broadwater County remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family for generations to come.

The Process: A Community Vision Approach

Updating the Broadwater County Growth Policy and implementing effective community outreach efforts involved a thoughtful and inclusive process. The plan was developed through comprehensive outreach that included gathering ideas and information at three public meetings in northern Broadwater County and four public meetings in southern Broadwater County, a survey, and an interactive land use map. Planners also met with a variety of stakeholders, including housing advocates, trail advocates, small farmers and ranchers, conservationists, developers, and state and local agencies. This outreach effort helped to identify the community's values and priorities for growth. These values and priorities were then used to develop the land use map, which outlines the community's vision for how the area should grow and develop in the future.

Community Vision Approach — A plan developed through community engagement

Community Assessment

- Understand Broadwater County's history, demographics, and current economic and social conditions
- Identify existing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
- Conduct surveys, interviews, and community meetings to gather input from community members

Setting Goals & Objectives

- Work with community members to define clear goals and objectives for the amended Growth Policy (these should align with the community's vision and address identified needs)

Data Collection & Analysis

- Gather data on existing land use, infrastructure, housing, transportation, and other relevant factors
- Analyze the collected data to identify trends and patterns that can inform the Growth Policy

Community Engagement

- Implement a comprehensive outreach strategy to engage the community
- Hold public meetings, workshops, and open houses to share information and gather input
- Encourage participation through surveys and feedback mechanisms

Drafting the Amended Growth Policy Report

- Work with the community to develop a Growth Policy report that addresses the community's needs and aspirations
- Include recommendations for future land use designations, infrastructure development, housing, and other topics

Review & Feedback

- Share the draft Growth Policy report with the community and state and federal agencies including USDA Forest Service, USDA Rural Development, US Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management, Montana Department of Transportation, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Department of Natural Resources Conservation, and neighboring counties and districts for review and feedback
- Incorporate valuable input and making necessary revisions

Finalization & Adoption

- Finalize the Growth Policy report based on community input and feedback
- Notify public of and hold public hearing, allowing for additional comments and questions
- Notify public of and hold public meeting to adopt the Growth Policy
- Make publicly available the finalized Growth Policy report

Vision & Objectives

In Broadwater County, we stand at a pivotal moment in our history, where the undeniable allure of our distinctive rural character meets the opportunities of growth and progress. Our vision for the future is to foster a thriving and sustainable community that celebrates our unique rural character and preservation of agricultural lands while embracing the benefits that growth brings.

Preserving Our Rural Heritage

We commit to safeguarding the essence of Broadwater County that generations before us cherished – our pristine landscapes, close-knit communities, and strong agricultural traditions. We will actively protect our natural beauty, open spaces, and the sense of belonging that defines us.

Balanced Growth

We seek to welcome new residents, businesses, and opportunities while maintaining the integrity of our rural way of life. We will strive for a balanced approach that ensures responsible development, affordable housing, and vibrant local economies.

Quality Education

We envision a future where our children receive a high-quality education, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to succeed in a changing world. Investing in our schools and educational programs will be a cornerstone of our growth strategy.

Sustainable Agriculture

We will continue to support our farmers and ranchers, promoting sustainable agricultural practices that not only preserve our rural identity but also contribute to a resilient local food system.

Community Connectivity

Our vision includes strengthening the bonds within our communities and improving infrastructure to connect our residents. Enhanced transportation networks, broadband access, and community hubs will facilitate growth without sacrificing our way of life.

Environmental Stewardship

We are committed to protecting our environment for future generations. Implementing eco-friendly policies, renewable energy initiatives, and responsible land use planning will be at the core of our growth strategy.

Health & Well-Being

Broadwater County will be a place where the health and well-being of our residents are paramount. We will invest in health care services, recreation, and mental health resources to ensure a high quality of life for all.

Inclusive Community

Our vision includes an inclusive community where diversity is celebrated, and all residents are welcome and valued. We will work to create an environment where everyone can thrive, regardless of background or circumstance.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Broadwater County will foster an environment that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship. We will support local businesses, startups, and creative endeavors to promote economic opportunities for all.

Collaborative Governance

Achieving our vision requires collaboration among residents, businesses, nonprofits, and government entities. We will work together transparently, engaging in open dialogue to make informed decisions that benefit the entire community.

... Broadwater County will continue to shine as a beacon of opportunity, sustainability, and rural beauty. Together, we will build a future that honors our past, celebrates our present, and secures our legacy for generations to come.

Building a Better Tomorrow

Values

Through the Community Vision Approach efforts outlined in the Community Vision Process on Page 5 of this report, the community engaged in discussions about values and ideas on growth in the planning area, which are summarized below. Together these values and ideas, combined with the realities our community faces, form the foundation of the future land use map.

Community Identity

When managing growth in an area, it is important to keep in mind the community identity and distinguishing features.

These features can be physical – such as the geography, buildings, parks – or social features – such as community-wide events with a sense of welcoming or belonging. In comparison to the surrounding counties of Gallatin and Lewis & Clark, Broadwater County does not hold a large city within it. Rather, it has smaller rural towns connected by agriculture lands. As the larger cities in surrounding counties grow, the development pressures are evolving in Broadwater County; the highly valued agricultural lands are turning into residential neighborhoods. To maintain Broadwater County's identity of a smaller tight-knit community it would be most beneficial to keep the rural feel of the towns with strategic planning concepts while balancing the inevitable need for public services and updated infrastructure. These services and infrastructure will need to be developed and updated in line with additional housing to mitigate costs with additional taxpayers.

Broadwater County recognizes that although the north and south sub-areas face different struggles, as a community they are united in their values. Protecting land, water, and quality of life are of the utmost importance to Broadwater County. Through this updated Growth Policy, we aim to provide guidance for balancing those values with future growth and development.



Open Space

Value

Broadwater County will continue to take decisive measures to conserve its sprawling grasslands, mountain views, and pristine waterways for sustained ecological balance.

Residents value their open space and dark skies, features which many contribute to settling in Broadwater County in the first place. The vast, unspoiled landscapes and expansive open spaces provide the county's unique character and promote a sense of tranquility and connection to nature. Conserving these dark skies ensures the preservation of diverse ecosystems and promotes biodiversity. Additionally, having open spaces and dark skies enhances the overall quality of life by providing a respite from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Reality

The impact of growth on the environment and local ecosystem, including air and water pollution, and loss of wildlife habitat is inevitable, but can be mitigated through careful planning and development that balances economic growth with environmental sustainability and community well-being.

One way to accomplish this is by allowing for higher density housing within rural areas through clustered development, which can preserve a majority of the land as open space and farmland. Rural clustering can in turn protect open space for wildlife habitat, recreation, and agriculture. Establishing greenbelts and open space preservation can buffer areas around urban centers to limit outward expansion.

It is a fundamental goal to continue to protect natural habitats, parks, and recreational areas within these agricultural lands, greenbelts and similar open areas, while accommodating new commercial and residential growth compatible with these goals.



Agriculture

Value

Broadwater County, committed to its deep agricultural roots, aims to cultivate a network of “agriculture first” communities where farmers and producers thrive, and their efforts are nurtured by a net of local support.

Reality

While growth can bring economic benefits, there is a risk that it will also bring negative impacts such as increased traffic and pollution. Additionally, there is a concern that growth will lead to the loss of the area’s rural character and way of life. The goal is to establish an agricultural-specific land use designation and incorporate protection of small agricultural operations into planning tools. Development in this area will be designed to protect important resources such as agricultural land, natural landscapes, and waterways. This land use would support economic diversity and contribute to the county’s health by providing for the local and regional production of agricultural products. With agriculture being Broadwater County’s largest industry, it is fitting that these lands will be preserved to enhance the production of food products to compensate for a growing population. Sustainable agricultural practices ensure the long-term viability of the county’s farming and ranching community.

Farmers and related ag producers are a large contributor to the local economy in Broadwater County. It is important that land suitable for crops, grazing, and production be utilized in these ways to promote the sustainability of this agriculturally centered community. Future land use designations for commercial, residential, and industrial development have been chosen to be primarily located off of agricultural land with prime soils. With agricultural activities being the county’s largest industry, it is a critical component to preserve these areas so that they can continue valuable production for the region. As water resources in the area become an increasing concern, it is crucial that the availability of water used for irrigation on these farmlands are not negatively impacted by future development.



Housing & Density

Value

Committed to balanced growth, Broadwater County strives to strategically expand housing and services within its rural framework, prioritizing both community needs and open spaces.

It is necessary to be mindful of the community's rural identity, which enticed many residents to the county in the first place, when considering future housing projects. Future housing should not distract from, but rather enhance the sense of place that has already been established within the community. It is important when planning for new areas of development that they do not put an excess strain on the water supply and should have minimal impact on surrounding homes.

Reality

Broadwater County has seen a significant 27 percent population growth since the 2010 Census, creating a delicate balance between maintaining a rural community feel and addressing housing needs. Strategic planning is essential to align with community identity and infrastructure constraints. The urgent demand for affordable housing across income levels is a statewide and national concern, exacerbated by rising land prices. Developers face challenges in balancing profitability, consumer space, and density. Innovative solutions like mixed-use buildings are effective in growth areas, but rural implementation faces unique infrastructure and risk challenges.

A land use designation map prioritizes higher density around existing infrastructure, considering factors like land use, access, and water availability. An evaluation framework for new housing subdivisions examines potential impacts on the environment, agriculture, local services, public health, safety, and wildlife habitat. Careful deliberation is crucial to ensure that future developments preserve the current residents' way of life and essential resources.



Infrastructure Planning

Value

Broadwater County should leverage its already existing infrastructure while thoughtfully planning for future development, ensuring its rural character endures alongside progress and modern conveniences.

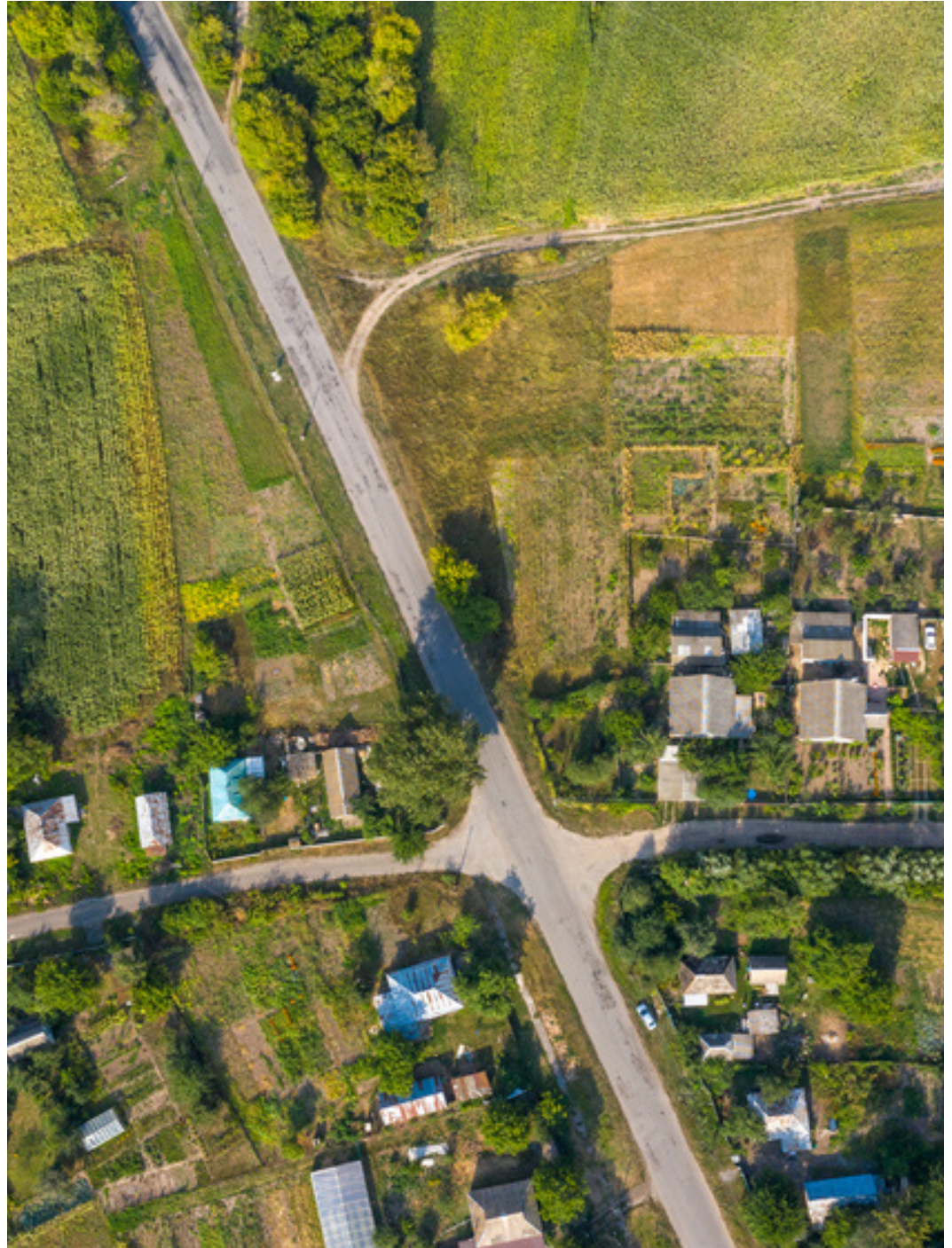
Focusing on critical areas and infrastructure that directly impact residents' daily lives shall be prioritized. These include water supply, sanitation, and road maintenance. Identifying essential needs versus wants for infrastructure planning is imperative when being mindful of financial constraints and utilizing public funds efficiently.

Reality

Expanding infrastructure strategically is crucial for county development. Upgrading existing systems during new developments benefits residents by reducing failures. Phased large projects offer flexibility for immediate needs and future expansions.

Cost-effective strategies involve utilizing existing infrastructure, like concentrating growth on upgraded arterial roads. This targeted approach allocates funds wisely, promoting community integration and social cohesion.

Developing around established infrastructure accelerates timelines, benefiting rural communities with sustainable, cost-effective approaches. Striking a balance is crucial for long-term sustainability, ensuring positive contributions to the community and surroundings.



Water Quality

Value

Committed to both environmental health and economic prosperity, Broadwater County values sensible measures to safeguard the quality and quantity of its surface and groundwater resources, ensuring long-term sustainability for agriculture, recreation, and industry.

Reality

Future growth and development of Broadwater County will bring challenges in maintaining the water quality if not addressed prior to construction. Infrastructure planning and development in the county should be aligned with water quality preservation objectives. It will be necessary to prioritize the expansion and maintenance of water treatment facilities, sewage systems, and stormwater management systems to safeguard water quality during concentrated growth.

Broadwater County must be proactive in protecting surface water bodies through land use designations and planning that would minimize the potential for contamination and conflict. Surface water bodies can be protected by establishing and enforcing buffer zones and regulations around lakes, rivers, and streams to prevent contamination from rural and agricultural runoff. Investment in the restoration and preservation of wetlands can enhance natural filtration and water purification processes.

Groundwater resources also need to be safeguarded from contamination. Monitoring and tracking water quality over time is crucial to detecting contamination as well as establishing policies to minimize the risk of groundwater pollution from industrial activities and hazardous materials.

Areas for residential, commercial, and industrial development can be designated away from sensitive water bodies, requiring the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) to prevent pollution in these areas.

Partnerships with local, regional, and national agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations and community groups can be forged to coordinate efforts, share resources, and leverage expertise in water quality management.



Water Availability

Value

As water resources become increasingly vital, Broadwater County will work with agencies and stakeholders to examine policies and practices that will ensure compatibility with long-term sustainability and development goals.

Reality

Broadwater County is located in the Upper Missouri River Basin, which is closed to new water right permits. The only way to obtain a new water right is through mitigation (or retiring) of an equivalent existing water right. Small groundwater developments (i.e., individual single-family dwellings) up to 35 gallons per minute (gpm) and 10 acre feet (af) per year are exempt from the water right permitting process but are subject to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Combined Appropriations Rules.

Essentially, any tract of record or current geocode parcel that was in existence prior to October 2014 has the potential to develop up to 10 af of exempt groundwater for beneficial use per development project. Remainder parcels outside of the project area (i.e., proposed subdivision) that are greater than 20 acres in size can each utilize an additional 10 af of volume for future projects as long as they are not manifolded with the preexisting project. Such exempt groundwater developments must be filed with the DNRC on Form 602 (Notice of Completion of Groundwater Development) after they have been established.

A large water right permit (with mitigation) for larger wells would allow for denser, clustered growth from community well systems without the impacts often felt by numerous small exempt wells that compete for water within the same aquifer. Aside from high permitting and construction costs for large well permits, there is significant cost and complexity associated with locating and acquiring a suitable mitigation water right because it typically requires the retirement of historical water use (often agricultural irrigation), and it also sometimes requires that infrastructure be built to enable active mitigation with pits or infiltration galleries to offset timing and location issues relative to surface water versus groundwater usage.



Develop Neighborhood Character

Value

Deeply rooted in its rural character, Broadwater County establishes development objectives that both preserve its cherished identity and enhance the quality of life for its residents.

Reality

Actions are needed in order to meet these objectives and provide a guideline for a strategically planned future. Some objectives to maintain and improve unique neighborhood character include preserving historic and architectural assets, promoting design guidelines, preserving green spaces/natural assets, promoting community engagement, balancing development, and promoting inclusivity and diversity.

Preserving and enhancing neighborhood character is an ongoing commitment that requires collaboration between the communities, residents, and stakeholders. By implementing strategies, we aim to protect the unique identity of our neighborhoods, ensuring they remain attractive, vibrant, and cherished places to live, work, and play for generations to come.



Quality Education

Value

Broadwater County envisions a future where our children have access to high-quality education, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to succeed in a changing world.

Reality

Broadwater County must be proactive when planning for future development, services, and infrastructure. Growing pains of existing school infrastructure are inevitable as class sizes become larger; facilities may seem to feel overcrowded, and education is therefore negatively impacted. Teachers are taking on higher class sizes, which can lead to a lack of individualized attention to support each student. Funding and lack of resources make it difficult to respond rapidly to unexpected increases in enrollment, but with proper future planning school systems can be more adaptable and able to serve the community at a higher capacity.

Investing in our schools and educational programs will be a cornerstone of the Growth Policy. Quality education is the foundation for personal growth, community development, and economic prosperity. In our rural community, we are committed to ensuring that every individual has access to high-quality education that empowers them to reach their full potential.

Map or image

Multi-Modal Transportation

Value

Broadwater County envisions well-connected communities that prioritize safety and resident wellbeing. Having multiple options of multi-modal transportation enhances accessibility and community cohesion. This also facilitates interactions among residents and the interconnectedness contributes to a supportive and safe community environment.

Reality

Residents in rural communities face a lack of public transportation options, making it difficult to get around for individuals without access to a personal vehicle. Multi-modal transportation systems integrate buses, bicycles, and walking paths enabling residents to navigate the town more conveniently and efficiently. This can be a catalyst for economic growth in small towns attracting more people to the area. Businesses benefit from the increased foot traffic and improved access to employees, leading to job growth and the expansion of the local economy.

The presence of well-maintained trails, bike lanes, and pedestrian friendly areas can encourage active lifestyles, which has far-reaching benefits for public health and mental health. Walking and biking to daily destinations can help combat sedentary lifestyles, leading to a healthier population in an area that is otherwise auto dependent.

These alternative forms of transport can also significantly reduce the carbon footprint by decreasing the number of vehicles on the road. Walking and biking promote healthier forms of transport and align with the environmental values of a rural community.



Land Use Trends & Additional Realities

In addition to the factors noted in the previous text, land use trends and growth opportunities are influenced by environmental realities and geographic and economic constraints and opportunities. Broadwater County must balance the impact of major transportation arteries, multiple mountain ranges and waterways including Canyon Ferry Reservoir and the Missouri River, as well as current economic realities. The following section outlines land use trends as well as the additional realities that impact growth and development.

Land Use Trends

Commercial Trends

- Focus on availability of current infrastructure as the key to locating office, retail, and commercial land uses
- Acknowledge that future retail development will likely incorporate amenities, entertainment, and mixed-use spaces
- Identify potential locations for small scale development to serve existing neighborhoods

Industrial Trends

- Utilize existing industrial areas and buildings more efficiently and effectively
- Locate potential industrial areas near existing infrastructure, but away from incompatible uses
- Understand that industrial uses often need commercial space as well to sell products or include a showroom

Residential Trends

- Allow for a wide range of housing types and densities in their respective areas
- Allow the market to react and adapt to changing housing needs for the consumer
- Accommodate an adequate supply of housing to provide people of all ages a place to live

image

Environmental & Geographic Factors

Development opportunities are naturally limited in Broadwater County, with 35 percent of the total land in the county being designated as federal and state managed public land. Accessibility to heavily traveled roads is also a factor in determining where to build development. US Highway 287 runs through Broadwater County, providing access to the larger economic hubs at Helena and Bozeman, and proximity to these systems proves to be a valuable asset for commuters.

Unlike communities in other parts of the country, the physical geography of Broadwater County plays a significant role in where and how the community can grow. These physical features, including the slopes of the nearby mountains, Canyon Ferry Lake, and the Missouri River, all play a part in directing where the community can expand and limits where future growth can and cannot occur. Oftentimes, these very scenic features are also a driving force for why people choose to live near or visit such a place. The county must be cognizant in preserving these very unique lands and landscapes.

Avoiding Environmental Hazards

Development Near Floodplain

As Broadwater County considers future development, understanding flood risks is crucial. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps out floodplains, highlighting areas vulnerable to high water during extreme weather. Smart growth principles encourage development outside these zones, minimizing disaster risks for residents and infrastructure.

By clustering development safely away from floodplains, communities gain numerous benefits. This approach helps protect homes and businesses from flood damage, reducing the need for costly repairs and minimizing disruptions to daily life. It also allows for more sustainable land use, preserving valuable natural areas within floodplains and promoting biodiversity. Additionally, compact and walkable communities built outside flood zones can decrease reliance on cars and contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Wildfires

Broadwater County knows the devastating impact of wildfires. Thousands of acres have burned in past years, with peak fire season falling during the summer months. A significant portion of the county's residential development resides within the wildland urban interface (WUI). This zone, where private property edges up against fire-prone public forests, faces heightened wildfire risk.

Protecting homes in the WUI comes at a high cost, both financially and in terms of public safety. This burden grows as more development occurs within these vulnerable areas, straining the resources of firefighting agencies.

The Broadwater County Subdivision Regulations offer a proactive approach to managing wildfire risk within the WUI. These regulations recognize the fire-prone nature of these areas and set crucial requirements for new developments. By establishing regulations for access routes, construction materials, water supply, and fuel breaks, the county can significantly improve fire protection within the WUI. These measures can literally save lives in the event of a large wildfire.

By acknowledging the risks and taking proactive steps, Broadwater County can build a more resilient future for its residents and reduce the devastating impact of wildfires.

A large rectangular area with a solid blue background, intended for an aerial photograph of Broadwater County's geographical features.

Aerial image showing geographical features

Prices

In recent years, the rural areas of Montana have experienced a significant transformation that has caught the attention of both residents and observers alike. While Broadwater County has long been known for its friendly, tight-knit communities and affordable living, the rising housing prices in these rural areas have been a cause for concern.

Several factors have contributed to the rising housing prices in rural Montana:

Urban spillover

As urban areas become more expensive and crowded, people are increasingly looking to rural communities for more affordable housing options. This influx of urban residents has driven up demand in rural areas, pushing land and housing prices higher.

Remote Work

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the trend of remote work. Many people, particularly those working in the technology and creative sectors, realized that they could live anywhere with an internet connection. Rural Montana, with its natural beauty and lower living costs, became an attractive option.

Limited Housing Inventory

Broadwater County has a limited housing inventory to begin with, and new construction may be slow due to various factors such as lack of infrastructure or feasibility of developments. This limited supply exacerbates housing prices.

The rising housing prices of Broadwater County are a complex issue with multifaceted effects on local communities. While the influx of new residents and economic growth can be beneficial, it's essential to strike a balance that preserves the unique character of rural areas and ensures housing remains accessible to all. Implementing thoughtful policies and community driven initiatives can help Broadwater County continue to thrive while addressing the challenges of a changing housing market.

Attainable Housing

As Broadwater County continues to evolve, the need for attainable housing becomes increasingly apparent. Attainable housing is defined as housing that is affordable to those earning the Area Median Income and spending no more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs. Housing that is affordable and accessible is not only a fundamental human right but also a cornerstone for the economic and social well-being of the community.

Rural areas often face distinct challenges when it comes to housing. Lower wages, limited economic opportunities, and sparse infrastructure can contribute to the struggle for attainable housing. Additionally, the lack of large-scale development projects and the prevalence of agricultural landscapes can limit the available land for housing developments.

To overcome the challenges associated with limited resources, rural communities like Broadwater County can engage in collaborative partnerships with private developers, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. These partnerships can leverage a combination of funding, resources, and expertise to create housing solutions that are tailored to the specific needs of each community and at the same time protect and preserve natural resources and key agricultural lands and “ag” related industries and operations.

Developing attainable housing often requires finding creative financing solutions. Broadwater County can explore options such as public-private partnerships, low-interest loans, and grants to incentivize housing projects. Government incentives for developers who commit to creating affordable units can also encourage the private sector to participate in addressing the housing needs of the county.

Rural counties can maximize existing resources by exploring adaptive reuse and redevelopment of underutilized properties. Repurposing vacant buildings or converting unused spaces into housing units can provide a cost-effective solution while preserving the character of the community and meeting the demand for housing.

By fostering collaborative partnerships, exploring innovative financing models, repurposing existing structures, and implementing policy reforms, Broadwater County can build a foundation for sustainable and inclusive housing solutions. The goal is to not just create houses, but homes that contribute to the vitality and resilience of rural communities for generations to come.

Broadwater County Imperatives

Broadwater County strives to be a safe and affordable place to live, with a quality of life that provides its residents with services, education, and amenities for generations to come. While our values may, at times, conflict with the realities we are facing, compact development patterns, and a logical expansion of urban and or rural services are the best strategies for balancing the community's values. Keeping these values at the forefront of the mapping process means we can provide room for housing and employment while ensuring that our working lands and natural systems remain a part of the community fabric.

Communication & Transparency

Communication and transparency are essential in the relationship between rural local government and its residents.

Transparent communication builds trust between the government and its residents. Residents are more likely to trust their local government when they are kept informed about decision-making processes, budgets, and the allocation of resources. When trust is established, it leads to greater accountability on the part of the government as well as an overall sense of community trust.

Residents need to be aware of the government's plans, policies, and projects that directly affect their lives. When information is readily available, it empowers residents to make informed decisions and engage in processes such as voting and participation in public meetings. Residents are more likely to participate in public meetings, share their opinions, and collaborate with the government when they feel their input is valued and considered in the decision-making process.

Effective communication helps ensure that government services and resources are used efficiently. When residents and government officials can openly discuss needs, concerns, or feedback, it can lead to more effective solutions and policies that address the specific needs of the community. Effective communication prevents misunderstandings or misinterpretations of government actions or policies, leading to smoother implementation and fewer conflicts.

Prioritizing these principles of communication and transparency can create stronger, more resilient, and more inclusive rural communities.

Offer Rural Living with Accessible Services

Living in a rural community such as Broadwater County provides residents the opportunity to escape the hustle and bustle of urban life while also prioritizing accessibility to vital services such as health care, education, and grocery stores. Well planned infrastructure ensures that residents don't have to compromise on their basic needs.

Rural living with accessible health services includes medical clinics, telehealth options, and transportation solutions to ensure prompt medical attention when needed. These facilities should be strategically located within reach of rural communities.

Families choosing the rural lifestyle can access quality education through local schools or remote learning options. Rural areas are starting to become more desirable for professionals as remote work continues to be an option. Co-working spaces and remote work options enable individuals to pursue their careers while enjoying a lifestyle more suitable for themselves and their families.

In order to have the best of both worlds, digital connectivity with reliable internet is crucial to stay connected with jobs, friends, family, and colleagues as well as having access to online resources and entertainment.



Building a Resilient Agriculture Future

A thriving agricultural sector forms the backbone of a resilient and prosperous community. It ensures food security, bolsters economic stability, and promotes environmental sustainability. Cultivating the vibrant, agricultural landscape of Broadwater County will require a strategic, multi-pronged approach that vigorously empowers farmers and ranchers, strengthens market access, and safeguards the foundation for long-term success.

Empowering Farmers & Ranchers for Enhanced Productivity

Providing farmers and ranchers with access to knowledge and resources is paramount. This can be achieved through educational workshops and extension services, which equip them with modern techniques, sustainable practices, and data-driven decision-making tools. Additionally, establishing community funds, offering favorable loans, and fostering farmer cooperatives can alleviate financial constraints and enable investments in critical equipment and infrastructure.

Building Direct Connections for Improved Market Access

Connecting farmers and ranchers directly with consumers is crucial for optimizing profitability and reducing reliance on intermediaries. This can be achieved through the development of local markets, online platforms, and partnerships with local restaurants and institutions. Additionally, investing in robust rural infrastructure, including upgraded roads, reliable irrigation systems, and well-equipped storage facilities, encourages efficient distribution and minimizes post-harvest losses.

Safeguarding Agriculture Land for Future Generations

Responsible land use planning is essential for long-term agricultural sustainability. Implementing zoning regulations and conservation easements are options that can safeguard fertile land from encroachment by urban sprawl and unsustainable development. Furthermore, promoting crop diversification and the adoption of sustainable farming and ranching practices, such as organic agriculture and responsible water management, fosters a resilient ecosystem and enhances long-term land productivity.

Cultivating a Supportive Community Environment

Raising public awareness about the benefits of local agriculture is critical for building a supportive community environment. Public education campaigns can highlight the environmental advantages, economic contributions, and superior quality of locally grown produce and livestock, encouraging conscious consumer choices. Agricultural processors in Broadwater County also provide much needed jobs for local residents.

By implementing these comprehensive strategies, communities can cultivate a robust agricultural sector that not only ensures food security and economic stability but also contributes to environmental well-being. The core message and overall strategic plan is to maintain and foster a thriving agricultural community while at the same time accommodating economically strong local communities, including residential development with related supporting land uses and services.

Understand Water Availability to Make Informed Decisions

In Broadwater County, informed development decisions are intricately tied to understanding water availability. Accurate data on current and projected water resources is crucial for making sustainable choices about growth, ensuring both development potential and long-term water security for residents. This information should be collected and analyzed comprehensively, considering factors like precipitation patterns, groundwater levels, and potential changes due to climate or other external influences.

Public engagement is equally essential. Residents hold valuable knowledge about local water sources, historical trends, and potential usage patterns. By incorporating their feedback into the decision-making process, Broadwater County can develop strategies that align with community needs and priorities while respecting the limitations of its water resources. Open communication and transparency will foster trust and build a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to water management.

Ultimately, Broadwater County's future prosperity hinges on making data-driven and community-informed decisions regarding water availability. By prioritizing both reliable information and public engagement, the county can craft a development path that balances present needs with long-term sustainability, ensuring a thriving future for generations to come.

Use, Plan, & Expand Infrastructure

Broadwater County stands at a crossroads. Balancing its cherished rural lifestyle and abundant natural resources with the needs of a growing population requires a vision that embraces both preservation and progress. This approach demands strategic investment in infrastructure, both leveraging existing assets and thoughtfully expanding to accommodate measured growth.

Utilizing Existing Infrastructure

Developing around existing infrastructure is not just cost-effective; it's sustainable, minimizing environmental impact, promoting accessibility, and fostering economic viability. Building adjacent to existing roads, utilities, and services reduces upfront costs compared to building new infrastructure from scratch. This not only saves taxpayer dollars but also minimizes environmental disruption and preserves precious open spaces. Additionally, established infrastructure connects residents and businesses to necessary services, enhancing quality of life and attracting economic opportunities. By efficiently utilizing existing amenities, Broadwater County can lay the groundwork for smart, sustainable growth.

Planning for Expansion

While acknowledging the value of existing infrastructure, responsible long-range planning must also address areas where expansion is necessary. To maintain Broadwater County's rural character and protect its natural wonders, such expansion must be deliberate and strategic. Focusing on compact, sustainable development patterns is key. This can involve infill development within existing towns, encouraging pedestrian and bicycle-friendly communities, and prioritizing mixed-use zoning that promotes social interaction and reduces reliance on cars. Additionally, conservation easements, agriculture covenants, and land-use policies can safeguard agricultural lands and open spaces, ensuring that growth respects the very elements that define Broadwater County.

By adopting a strategic approach that utilizes current infrastructure and carefully plans for controlled growth, Broadwater County can secure a future that balances progress and preservation. This approach, rooted in sustainability and responsible planning, aims to support a thriving community while maintaining its distinctive qualities that contribute to its significance in Montana.



Emphasize Community Character & Quality of Life

Rural areas such as Broadwater County possess a unique charm and authenticity that is often absent within urban centers. The heart and soul of a rural community lie in its character and quality of life. While urban areas are bustling with activity, rural areas offer close-knit communities, tranquility, and a strong connection to nature. Preserving these qualities is crucial to ensure that rural communities thrive in the face of modern challenges.

One way to preserve these rural qualities is to support local economies. A thriving local economy is fundamental to enhancing the quality of life in rural areas. By focusing on community character, rural regions can promote businesses that align with their unique identity such as arts-based crafts, locally sourced agriculture and agritourism. This not only helps boost the local economy but also ensures that rural communities remain self-sufficient and maintain their character.

Strengthening social connections can emphasize community character, nurturing these connections through events, gatherings, and shared activities. From farmers markets to local festivals, these events help residents bond and create a stronger, more resilient community.

Implementation

Broadwater County and its partners must work together to implement this strategy over the next 20 years through a series of strategic steps. Successful follow through for the Growth Policy implementation includes ongoing community outreach, monitoring and evaluation, and recognition of achievements by contributors as detailed below:



Implementation Strategy

- Develop a detailed implementation strategy that outlines specific actions, responsible parties, and timelines for executing the recommendations in the Growth Policy



Community Outreach for Implementation

- Communicate the adopted Growth Policy to the community
- Provide regular updates on the progress of implementation through various channels
- Seek ongoing input and collaboration from the community throughout the implementation phase



Monitoring & Evaluation

- Establish a monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of the Growth Policy over time
- Review and update the policy to adapt to changing circumstances and community needs (every five years according to statute but annual review is best practice)



Recognition

- Acknowledge and celebrate achievements and milestones in the Growth Policy implementation
- Recognize the contributions of community members and stakeholders

The implementation strategy focuses on six major themes: Transparent Communication, Open and Rural Land Preservation, Water Availability Management, Infrastructure Planning, Collaboration, and Funding and Support Resources.

Transparent Communication & Information Platform

To facilitate an open exchange of ideas and feedback, developing and maintaining a communication platform that allows for resident notifications as well as input is crucial. This platform should inform residents of public and private development projects and provide continuous communication between residents and government agencies, which will ensure that all stakeholders are well-informed and have ample opportunities to contribute to the decision-making process.

Additionally, regular updates and notifications on public and private development projects will promote community engagement and foster a sense of involvement and understanding among residents. This transparent communication platform serves as a vital tool for establishing a collaborative and inclusive environment, where the concerns and perspectives of all stakeholders are considered in the ongoing development and decision making processes.

Open & Rural Land Preservation

Conservation easements and agriculture covenants have emerged as a powerful tool to protect and preserve natural landscapes and agricultural lands for future generations.

Conservation easements are facilitated between private landowners and conservation organizations as a means to safeguard the environment, biodiversity, and beauty of the natural landscape. Development is limited in these areas to protect the natural, scenic, and cultural values of the land. Conservation easements established within Broadwater County are for the purpose of preserving the area's natural resources and agricultural land. These conservation easements in Broadwater County can also exist for the purpose of water quality protection, where easements are designed to protect water sources ensuring the maintenance of water quality. Conservation easements are designated as open space on the land use map and are combined with other public lands.

Another way to preserve open space and encourage continued agricultural use of land is through agriculture covenants through the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act (MSPA and Agricultural Covenants). This Act provides an exemption from subdivision review for land divisions if an agricultural covenant is placed on each resulting parcel.



Understand Water Availability Constraints & Opportunities

Understanding water availability is fundamental to sustainable development in Broadwater County and throughout Montana. With a rising population and potential urban sprawl, managing water resources effectively becomes crucial. Water studies offer a critical tool to guide development planning in both urban and rural areas.

These studies analyze key factors like groundwater levels, river flow patterns, and recharge rates, providing a comprehensive picture of the county's water landscape. This knowledge informs decisions on where to develop, how densely, and how to minimize impact on existing water sources.

Efficient water management is also essential for sustainability. Water studies guide the design of infrastructure like drainage systems, treatment plants, and water supply networks. By understanding natural water flow, infrastructure can be optimized to minimize environmental impact and meet the needs of a growing population.

Investing in water studies is an investment in Broadwater County's future. By making informed decisions based on accurate data, the county can ensure sustainable development, responsible land use, and a secure water supply for generations to come.

Infrastructure Planning

Building and managing infrastructure to proactively guide how and where growth occurs is crucial for future development. By identifying key areas for growth and preservation and considering factors such as natural resources, environmental constraints, and existing infrastructure, Broadwater County will be able to prioritize investments in basic infrastructure such as roads, water supply, sewage systems, and utilities.

This proactive approach not only ensures efficient and sustainable development but also minimizes potential adverse impacts on the environment. By aligning infrastructure investments with the identified areas for growth and preservation, Broadwater County can create a resilient foundation for its future, fostering a well-balanced coexistence between development and environmental conservation.

Example:

Using the future land use map to identify key locations essential to proposed future development as well as possible amenities that will contribute to resident quality of life. Key projects and amenities may include but are not limited to road improvements and traffic calming features, shared-use paths connecting subdivisions with open space areas and town centers.

Collaboration

Broadwater County's collaboration with the City of Townsend and its growth policy and anticipated updates, as well as with neighboring counties, is essential for cohesive and efficient future planning of infrastructure and public services expansions.

Working together, Broadwater County, the City of Townsend, and neighboring counties can achieve a future where infrastructure and public services are efficiently planned and expanded, exceeding the limitations of individual boundaries. This collaboration fosters economic prosperity that is shared broadly, creating a sustainable and resilient region where everyone can thrive.

By actively investing in these partnerships and aligning their goals, Broadwater County and its neighbors can navigate future challenges and capitalize on opportunities more effectively, ensuring a bright and prosperous future for all.

Funding Support & Resources

Understanding available resources is crucial for strategic and comprehensive capacity building in Broadwater County. Coordination with entities such as the Department of Commerce to nonprofits that specialize in assisting boards with infrastructure development and planning coordination will provide the guidance needed for growth that enhances community and quality of life. The following list highlights key partners and resources for better understanding our infrastructure and capacity needs:

State Agencies

- Montana Department of Commerce
- Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Montana Department of Transportation
- Bureau of Mines and Geology
- Broadwater County Development Corporation
- Montana Business Assistance Connection

Federal Agencies

- USDA National Resource and Conservation Service
- USDA Rural Development
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Nonprofit Organizations

- Midwest Assistance Program
- Montana Land Reliance
- Prickly Pear Land Trust

Grant Funding Strategy

Positioning Broadwater County for grant funding opportunities involves a combination of strategic planning, community engagement, and effective communication. Following these steps can enhance Broadwater County's competitiveness for grant funding and better position itself to address the community's needs.

Utilizing Future Land Use Map

The future land use map should be used to assist in prioritizing and visualizing areas in need of infrastructure development and improvement. Identifying the areas planned for denser residential growth or commercial/industrial growth demonstrates the county's commitment to proactive planning efforts.

Identifying Community Needs

Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the challenges and needs of the community. This will help target specific areas that align with potential grant opportunities.

Establish Clear Goals & Objectives

Develop clear and achievable goals and objectives based on the identified needs. Define what the county wants to accomplish with grant funding and how it will benefit the community.

Build Community Partnerships

Collaborate with local community organizations, nonprofits, businesses, and other stakeholders. Strong community partnerships enhance credibility and demonstrate a collaborative approach to addressing community needs.

Research Grant Opportunities

Stay informed about available grant opportunities from government agencies, foundations, and other sources. Subscribe to newsletters, attend workshops, and regularly check grant databases to identify relevant opportunities.

Diversify Funding Sources

Explore various types of grants, including government grants, private foundation grants, and corporate grants. Diversifying funding sources reduces dependence on a single funding stream. Also, utilize varied funding sources to help accomplish larger projects, collaborate with multiple stakeholders, commit budget funds to priority projects, etc.

Grant Writing Skills

Develop or hire individuals with strong grant writing skills. A well-crafted proposal is essential for securing funding. Consider cross-training multiple staff or seeking professional grant writing assistance.

Understand Grant Requirements

Review and analyze the eligibility criteria, application guidelines, and reporting requirements for each grant opportunity. Ensure that Broadwater County meets all of the necessary criteria before applying. This is especially critical when it comes to having up-to-date regulatory documents and plans.

Data Collection & Documentation

Collect and document relevant data to support the grant applications. This may include demographic information, statistical data, and evidence of community needs. Having a strong evidence base strengthens the case for funding.

Community Engagement

Engage the community in the grant application process. Solicit input, involve community members in the process, and demonstrate community support in grant proposals.

Capacity Building

Strengthen the capacity of Broadwater County's administration and relevant departments to manage grant-funded projects. This includes financial management, project monitoring, and reporting capabilities.

Seek Technical Assistance

If needed, consider seeking technical assistance from grant writing experts or consultants to improve the quality of grant applications.

Update Stakeholders

Keep stakeholders, including community members, informed about grant activities. Regular updates build trust and transparency, which can positively impact future funding opportunities.

Track & Evaluate Impact

Implement a system for tracking and evaluating the impact of funded projects. Demonstrating positive outcomes strengthens credibility for future grant applications.

Land Use Designations

Land use designations serve as a blueprint for the future of the community as it grows and evolves. They provide a strategic approach for how growth is guided and prevent uncalculated development patterns by establishing regulations for each specific land use. These designations can help protect property values by keeping incompatible or unsuitable uses away from certain properties where it makes sense, as well as promote beneficial growth for all county residents.

LAND USE DESIGNATION	GENERAL USE DESCRIPTION	INTENSITY
Open, Resource, and Recreation	Primarily publicly-owned lands (USFS, BLM, State Land Trust)	Limited administrative buildings
Working Lands	Agriculture, timber, and low density residential	One unit per 160-640 acres
Agriculture	Agriculture and low density residential	One unit per 40-160 acres
Rural Residential and Agriculture	Low density residential, agriculture, timber	One unit per 10-40 acres
Rural Residential and Small Agriculture	Low density residential, agriculture, timber	One unit per 2-10 acres
Residential	Single family residential *could include essential public services	One unit per less than 1-2 acres
Planned Neighborhood	Single family and multi-family residential, small-scale commercial with public sewer and water	Eight units per acre for residential, 1,000-45,000 square foot commercial meetings
Commercial/Town Center	Commercial, mixed-use, single-family, multi-family residential *could include essential public services	Eight units per acre for residential, 1,000-8,000 square foot commercial buildings
Civic Employment Center	Public purpose and essential public services such as educational institutions and health care facilities	Varies by purpose
Industrial/Economic Development Center	Industrial and compatible commercial uses, high activity areas	Varies by building size

Broadwater County Land Use Designation Map: <https://wgmgrouppmissoula.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=cd04f70d3ee14d9bb36d3e09d40f2d06>

Open, Resource, & Recreation

GOALS

- Conserve the ecological integrity and function of natural landscapes, waterways, fish and wildlife habitat, movement corridors, water quality, and water quantity
- Allow for and preserve permitted agriculture, grazing, timber production, and recreation access
- Protect public health and safety from identified hazards such as wildfires and floodways through restricted development

Character

This area is mostly made up of natural areas and undeveloped landscapes that are set aside for open land, wildlife habitat, agriculture and grazing, timber production and recreation.

Structures and impervious surfaces are limited.

Where development is permitted and appropriate, it should be placed in a way that avoids or supports sensitive areas such as floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, native grasslands, wildlife movement corridors, agriculture land, soils, steep slopes, and natural landscapes and waterways.

Land Uses

Open, resource, and recreation land is primarily identified as publicly-owned lands (USFS, BLM, State Land Trust) but is also intended to restrict development from natural hazards such as wildfires and floodways.

Land uses include wildlife habitat, open lands, outdoor recreation, agriculture lands, range lands, and timber production.

Intensity

Development is limited.

Mobility & Access

Arterials, highways, and local roads may be present through this designation. Local road and trail networks, when present, are typically managed by the agency managing the landscape.



Working Lands

GOALS

- Provides opportunities for generating income from natural resources and amenities while maintaining a rural lifestyle

Character

Working lands are rural areas that have few services and limited infrastructure. Residential areas are low density or clustered in places with fewer land use constraints. Most of the undeveloped land is range or timber land, used in agricultural production, or raw land in its natural state.

Land Uses

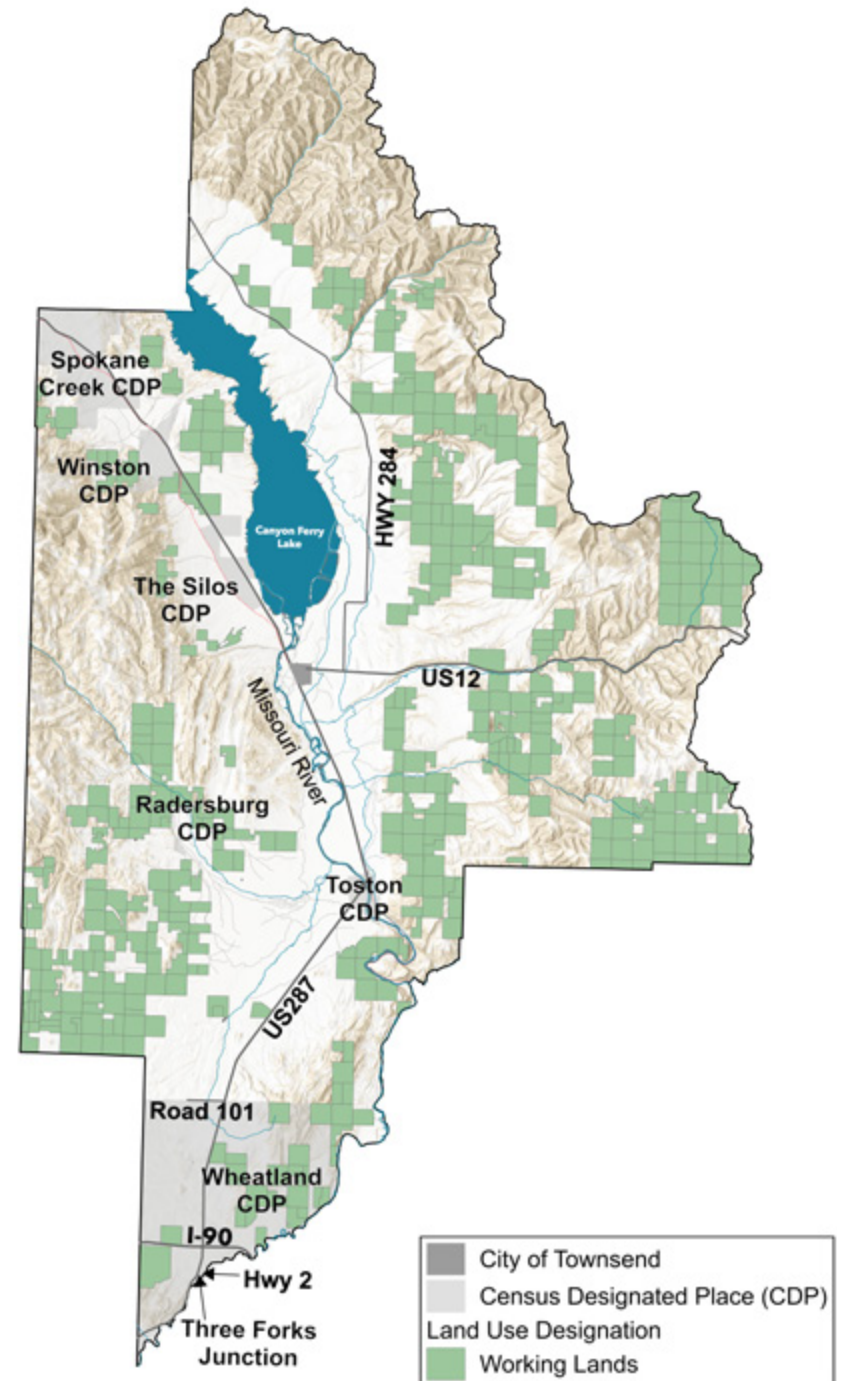
Land uses include residential, agricultural, grazing, timber production, mineral extraction, natural resource-based industries, and recreation.

Intensity

Residential density ranges between one unit per 640 acres to one unit per 160 acres. The appropriate density depends on site considerations, such as the transportation network, emergency services, presence of natural landscapes and waterways, fish and wildlife habitat and movement corridors, hazards, and applicable area plans.

Mobility & Access

Auto-centric travel is mostly dominant in these low-density areas. Roadways can vary for access, with arterials and highways or unpaved minimum maintenance roads connecting to these properties.



Agriculture

GOALS

- Support county economy and health by providing for the local and regional production of agricultural products
- Preserve large tract agricultural systems especially where prime soils and irrigation facilities are present
- Conserve the ecological integrity and function of natural landscapes, waterways, fish and wildlife habitat, movement corridors, water quality, and water quantity
- Protect public health and safety in areas with identified hazards such as wildfires and floodways

Character

Development is designed to provide a rural lifestyle that supports the production and distribution of agricultural products.

Land Uses

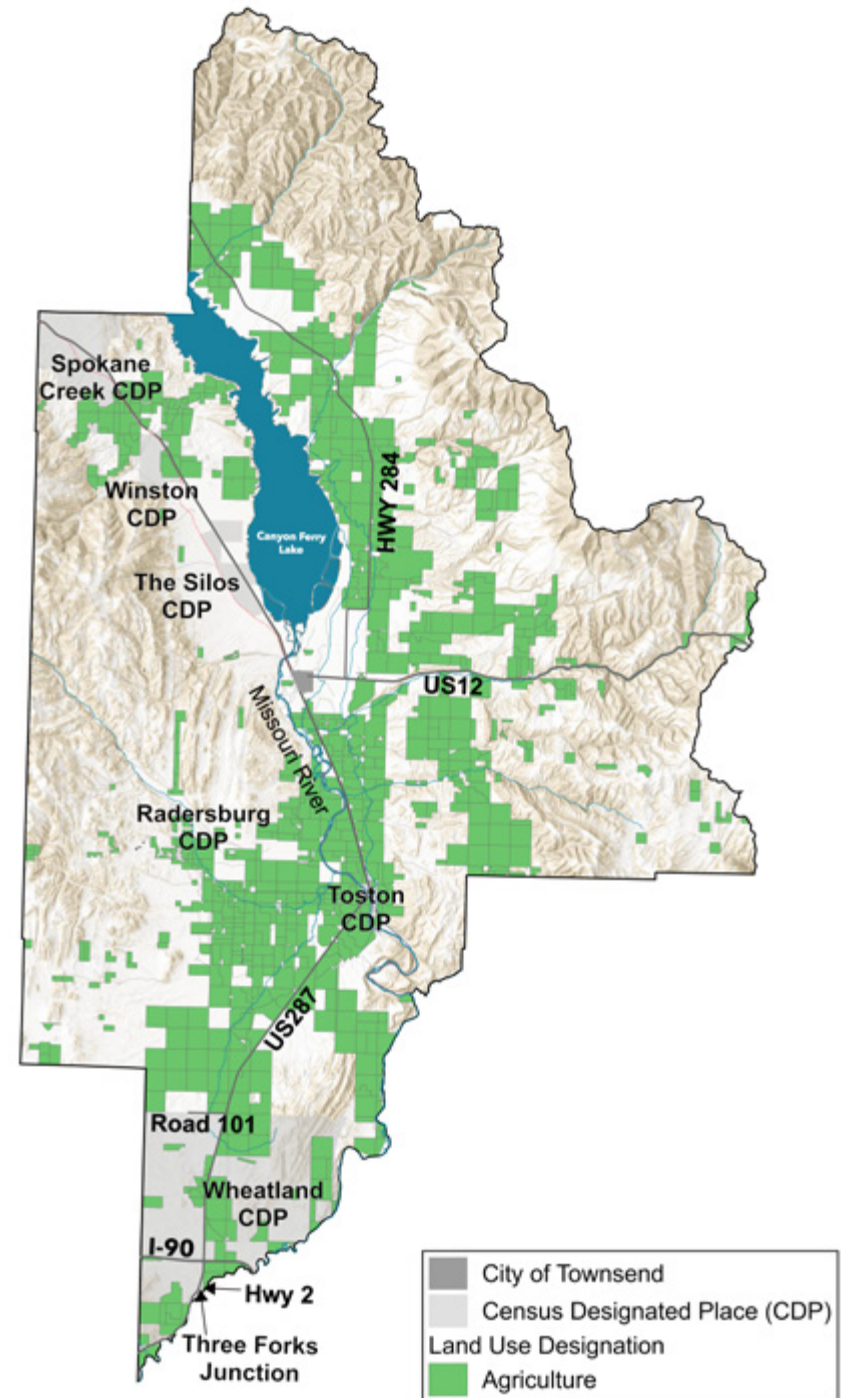
Land uses include a variety of agriculture activities, production, and natural resource conservation with low density development, which may include employee housing.

Intensity

Base residential density on one dwelling unit per 40-160 acres.

Mobility & Access

Lower densities are likely to produce auto-centric travel. Arterials and highways may provide direct access to properties within this designation. Local roads are in a grid pattern, usually following section lines or are irregular depending on topography. County and private roads may or may not be paved and/or regularly maintained.



Rural Residential & Agriculture

GOALS

- Support county economy and health by providing for the local and regional production of agricultural products
- Preserve agricultural systems especially where prime soils and irrigation facilities are present
- Conserve the ecological integrity and function of natural landscapes, waterways, fish and wildlife habitat, movement corridors, water quality, and water quantity
- Protect public health and safety in areas with identified hazards such as wildfires and floodways

Character

Development is designed to provide a rural lifestyle that supports the production and distribution of agricultural products.

Development will also be in support of preserving natural landscapes and waterways.

Land Uses

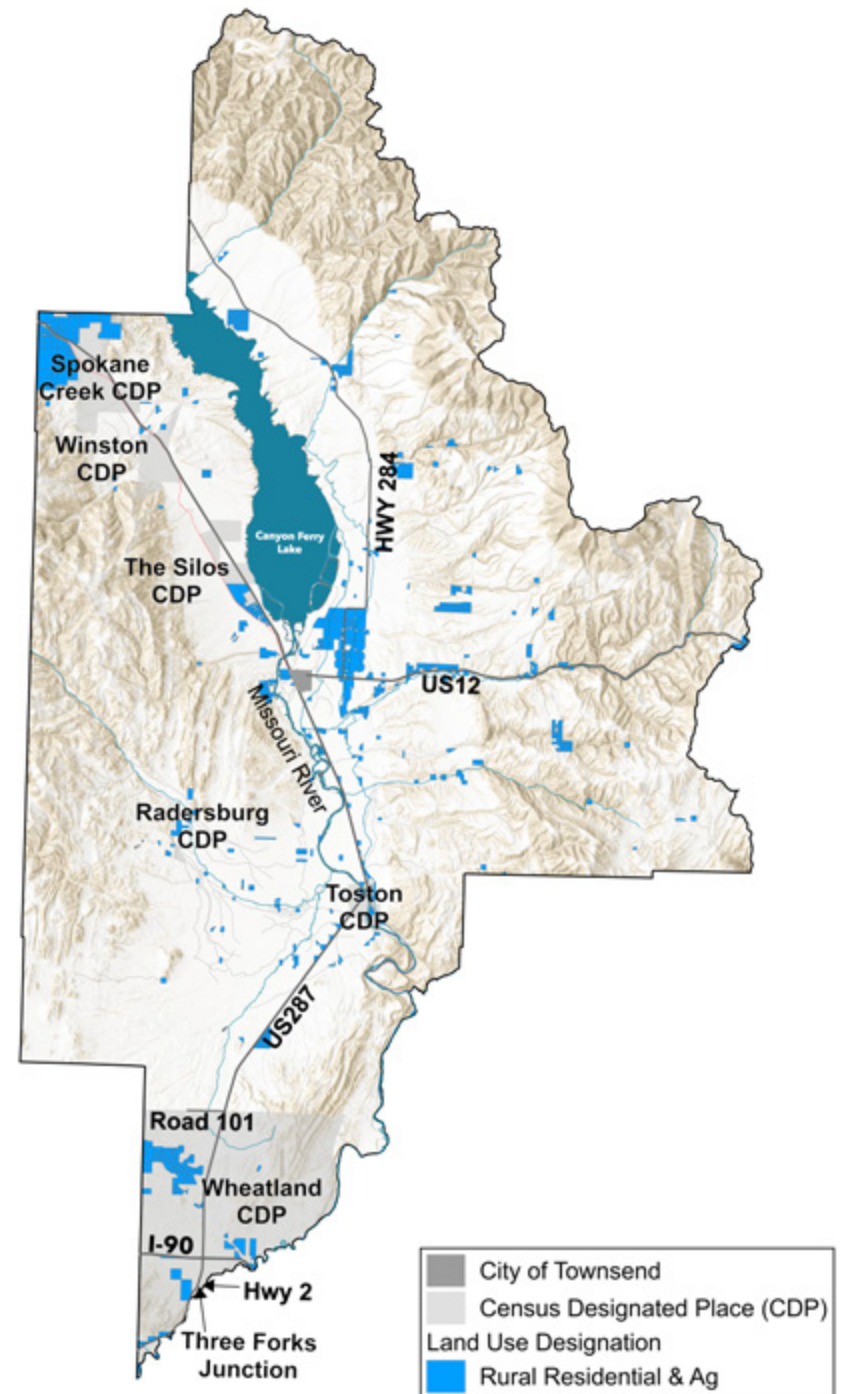
Land uses include a variety of agriculture activities and natural resource conservation with low density development.

Intensity

Base residential density on one dwelling unit per 10-40 acres.

Mobility & Access

Lower densities are likely to produce auto-centric travel. Arterials and highways may provide direct access to properties within this designation. Local roads are in a grid pattern, usually following section lines or are irregular depending on topography. County and private roads may or may not be paved.



Rural Residential & Small Agriculture

GOALS

- Support county economy and health by providing for the local and regional production of agricultural products
- Preserve rural and semi-rural characteristics such as small-scale agricultural and larger lots
- Conserve the ecological integrity and function of natural landscapes, waterways, fish and wildlife habitat, movement corridors, water quality, and water quantity

Character

Development is designed to provide a rural lifestyle that supports the production and distribution of agricultural products.

This land use designation is characterized by a uniform pattern having one principal residential building per lot. Agricultural uses and buildings can be the primary use of the property, or secondary to a principal residential building.

Residential buildings are predominately single-family dwellings. Residential buildings are sited in relation to well isolation zones, septic systems, and drain fields.

Development is designed to protect important resources such as agricultural lands, sensitive natural landscapes and waterways, fish and wildlife habitat and movement corridors, and avoid hazards such as floodplains and wildfire. Conservation design sets aside a major portion of a site for preservation, clustering development on the remaining portion.

Buildings are sited with a minimum distance from streets and lot lines.

Land Uses

Land uses include a variety of agriculture activities and natural resource conservation with low density development.

Intensity

Base residential density on one dwelling unit per two to 10 acres.



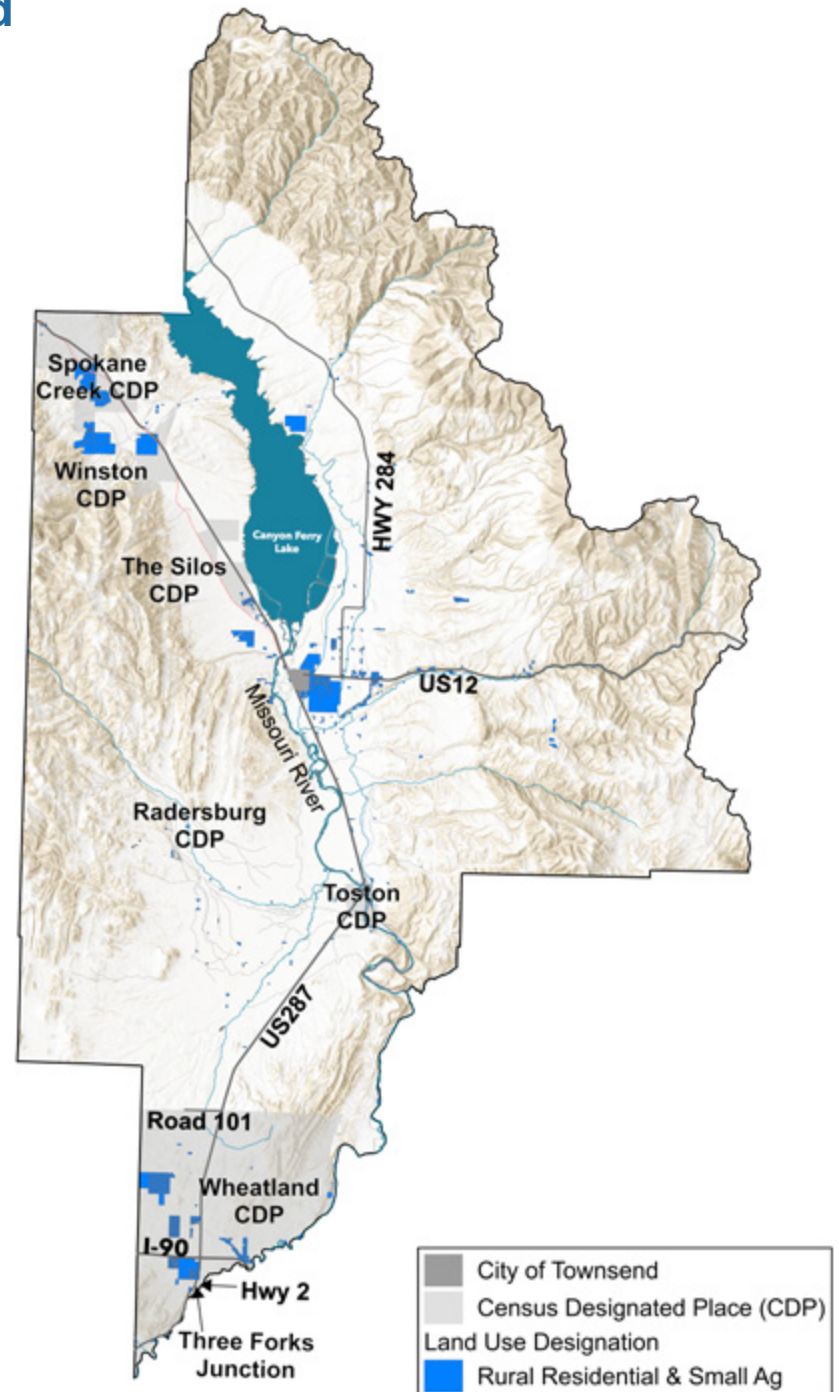
Rural Residential & Small Agriculture Continued

Mobility & Access

Lower densities are likely to produce auto-centric travel.

Arterial, collector, and local roads are in a traditional grid pattern or irregular pattern, depending on topography. Most local roads are paved and/or regularly maintained.

Non-motorized facilities, typically located along arterial and collector roads, provide connectivity to schools, parks, recreation facilities, and other parts of the community.



Residential

GOALS

- Provide low-density housing
- Preserve rural and semi-rural characteristics, such as large lots, natural landscapes, and waterways

Character

This designation is characterized by a uniform pattern having one principal residential building per lot.

Buildings are predominately single-family dwellings. Multi-family dwellings may be appropriate when applied through clustering to protect a resource or provide a public benefit, or through density bonuses to create permanently affordable housing.

Buildings are sited with a minimum distance from streets and lot lines.

Land Uses

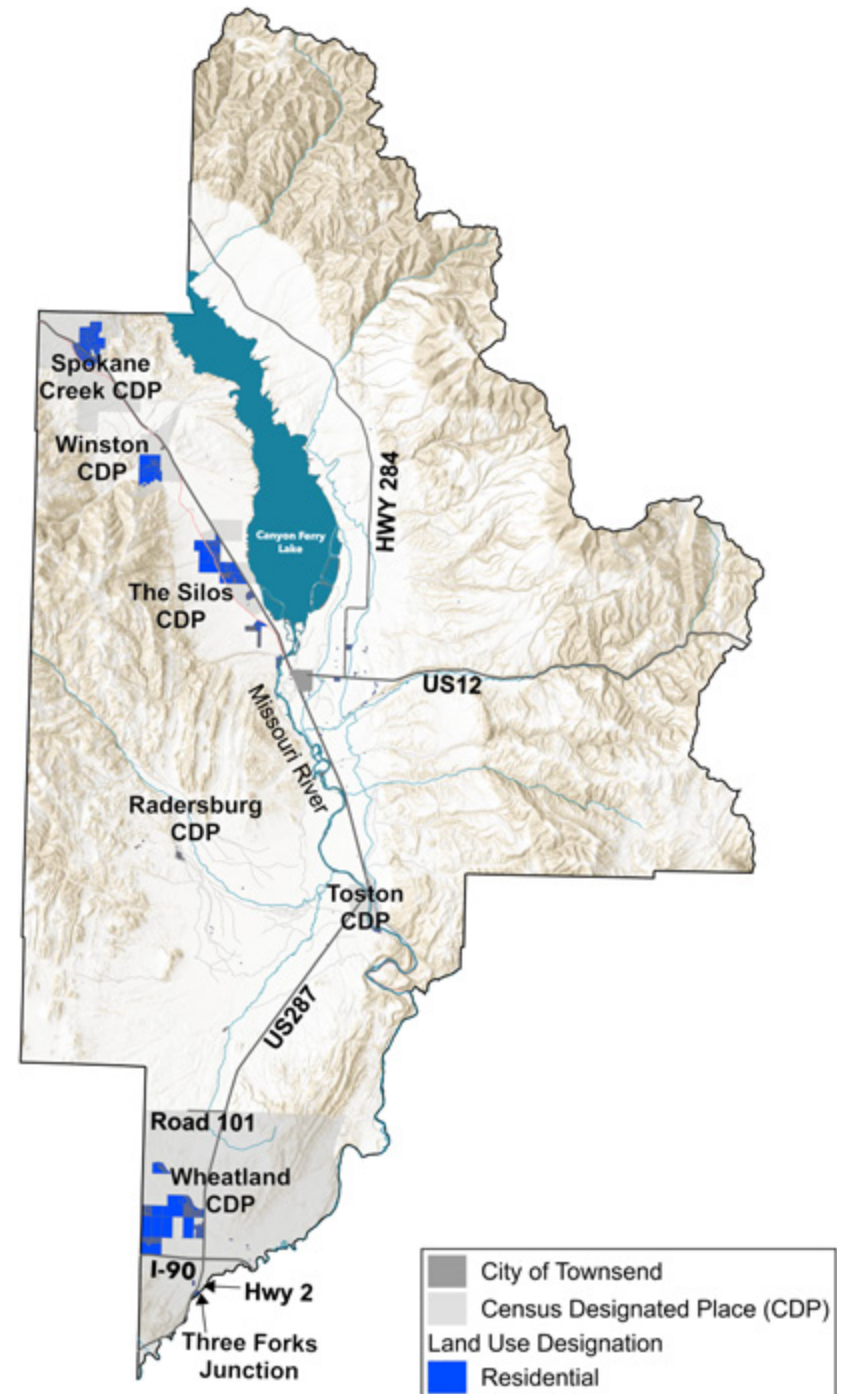
Land uses include residential, small agriculture, grazing, and natural areas.

Secondary uses may include small-scale commercial and essential public services such as educational institutions and health care facilities where appropriate.

Intensity

Residential density ranges between one unit per less than one acre and one unit per two acres requiring connections to public sewer and water.

Density bonuses may be available if development is clustered according to conservation design principals to protect important natural landscapes and waterways, agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat and movement corridors, or if public facilities such as public access or trails are provided.



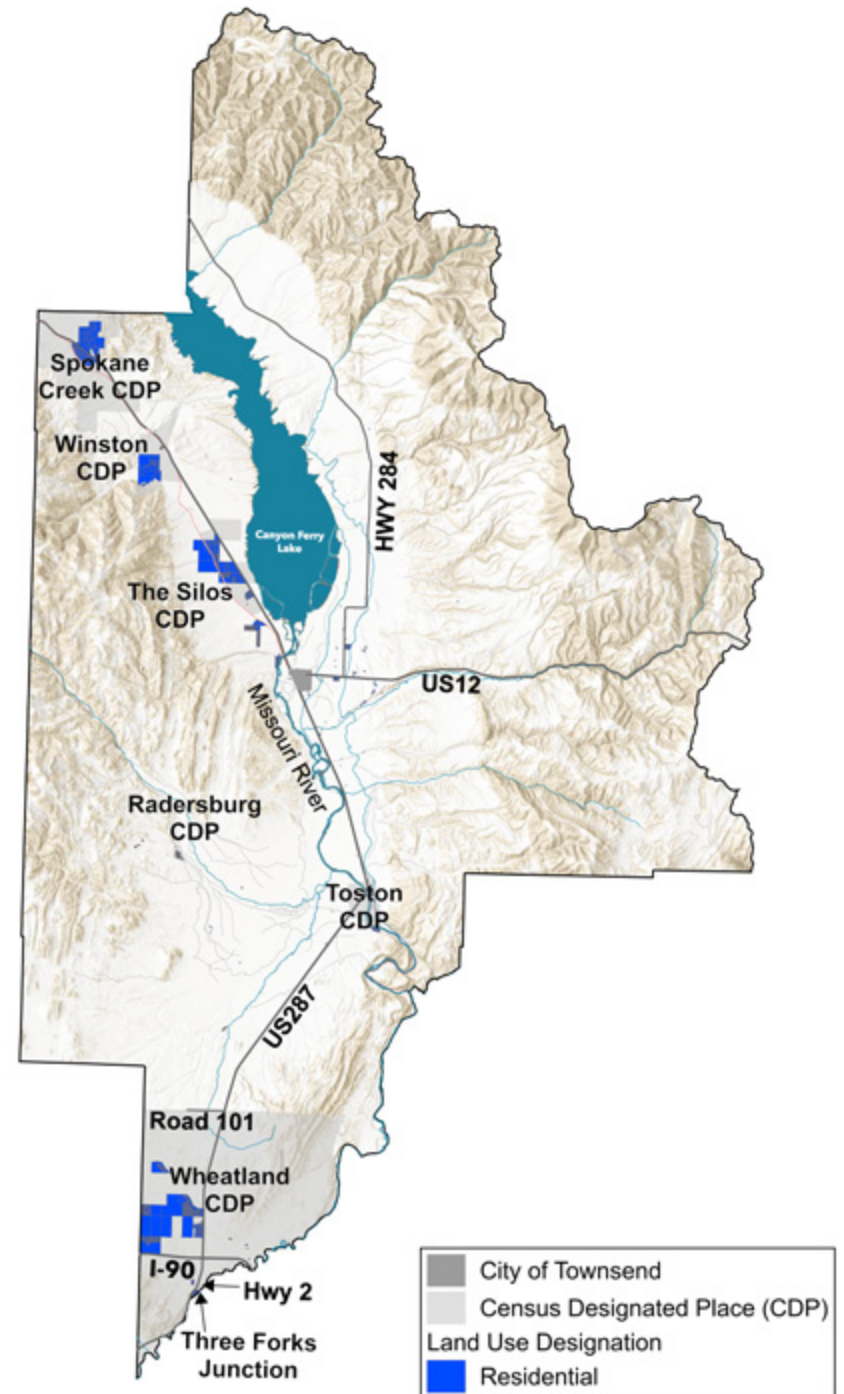
Residential Continued

Mobility & Access

Lower densities are likely to produce auto-centric travel.

Arterial, collector, and local roads are in a traditional grid pattern or irregular pattern, depending on topography. Most local roads are paved and/or regularly maintained.

Non-motorized facilities, typically located along arterial and collector roads, provide connectivity to schools, parks, recreation facilities, and other parts of the community.



Planned Neighborhood

GOALS

- Preserving development potential that accommodates a substantial portion of future growth until infrastructure is in place or planned for
- This designation will accommodate a range of residential options which will contribute to countywide housing diversity

Character

A mix of building types providing a range of housing options to accommodate household sizes and preferences.

Single family, two-family and multi-family dwellings are the primary building types. Buildings are predominately single-family dwellings. Multi-family dwellings may be appropriate when applied through clustering to protect a resource or provide a public benefit, or through density bonuses to create permanently affordable housing.

Parking and utilities for multi-family and commercial buildings should be oriented toward the rear of buildings away from the street and front façade.

Commercial buildings should be placed along arterial or collector roads providing clusters of limited commercial activity with a compatible intensity level, scale, and form to the adjacent neighborhood.

Buildings are sited with a minimum distance from streets and lot lines.

Land Uses

Predominately residential with secondary uses including small scale commercial in limited locations.

Intensity

Residential density ranges between one unit per one acre and one unit per two acres requiring connections to public sewer and water.

Density bonuses may be available if development is clustered according to conservation design principals to protect important natural landscapes and waterways, agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat and movement corridors, or if public facilities such as public access or trails are provided.



Planned Neighborhood Continued

Mobility & Access

A mix of land uses and access to nearby destinations and amenities encourage walking, biking, and transit use.

All roads should provide non-motorized facilities. Non-motorized facilities, typically located along arterial and collector roads, provide connectivity to schools, parks, recreation facilities, and other parts of the community. Additional separation for non-motorized facilities, such as protected or buffered bike lanes, boulevard sidewalks, and enhanced crossings, are needed when vehicle speeds and traffic volume increase.

Arterial and collector roads are in a traditional grid pattern, or irregular pattern depending on topography, with short block lengths.



Commercial/Town Center

GOALS

- Designed to be a town focal point and center of activity, providing opportunities for retail, dining, service, and employment

Character

Mix of uses can be both horizontally and vertically integrated, having shared walls, ceilings, and floors. Building design is sensitive to its relationship to adjacent uses. Commercial/Town Centers are typically located on arterial or collector roads.

Parking and utilities for multi-family and commercial buildings should be oriented toward the rear of buildings away from the street and front façade.

Over time these areas are expected to redevelop and experience infill, transitioning to a more vertically mixed-use place. Buildings are sited with a minimum distance from streets and lot lines.

Land Uses

Land uses primarily consist of retail, lodging, offices, food service, and institutional uses.

Secondary uses may include residential and essential public services such as educational institutions and health care facilities where appropriate.

Intensity

Commercial and mixed-use buildings generally range from small (1,000 square feet) to large (80,000 square feet or more).

Residential density is eight units per acre or greater, requiring connections to public sewer and water.

The ability to achieve higher densities may be limited by site considerations, such as lot size, setbacks, floodplain, and slope.



Commercial/Town Center Continued

Mobility & Access

Typically located along arterial roads and near interstate interchanges.

A mix of land uses and access to nearby destinations should be accommodated, including pedestrian, bike, and transit facilities. Additional separation for non-motorized facilities, such as protected or buffered bike lanes, boulevard sidewalks, and enhanced crossings, are needed when vehicle speeds and traffic volume increase.

Arterial and collector roads are in a traditional grid pattern, or irregular pattern depending on topography. The local street network disperses traffic through a well-connected-grid system, or an irregular system depending on topography, with short block lengths.



Civic Employment Center

GOALS

- Provide for facilities that offer a public service or satisfy a public need

Character

These areas are typically master planned with a clear design and purpose for the primary user.

Depending on the purpose of the primary user, setbacks or buffers from adjacent land uses should be required.

Land Uses

Land use is primarily civic/institutional uses, which may be comprised of offices, flex space, light manufacturing, or distribution. Examples include educational institutions or health care facilities that require a significant amount of space for various activities. Depending on the purpose, residential uses, such as assisted living facilities, may be appropriate. Other residential uses in this designation may include attainable housing to provide for working class residents. Residents making around the Area Median Income (AMI) would not pay over 30 percent of their income on housing and would be considered attainable.

Intensity

Buildings support the need for distinct types of activities dependent upon the purpose of the primary user.

Building types and sizes will vary depending on the purpose of the primary use.



Civic Employment Center Continued

Mobility & Access

Civic Employment Centers are typically located along arterial roads with connectivity to other areas in the community by transit and non-motorized facilities.

Roads to and from this area should provide non-motorized facilities alongside or separated from the road. Additional separation for non-motorized facilities, such as protected or buffered bike lanes, boulevard sidewalks, and enhanced crossings, are needed when vehicle speeds and traffic volume increase.

Roads within this area may provide non-motorized facilities depending upon the purpose of the primary user and the land use being accessed.



Industrial/Economic Development Center

GOALS

- Contributes to the county's economic base by providing places where people work, create, build, manufacture, process, store, and distribute goods and services
- Accommodates uses that may have impacts such as noise, odors, clutter, or hazardous materials that require separation from other land uses

Character

Buildings are typically single use but may host a mix of uses that integrate horizontally rather than vertically, having shared walls rather than shared ceilings or floors.

Buildings are sited with a minimum distance from streets and lot lines. Development is sited away from streams, riparian corridors, and wetlands to protect sensitive natural features and waterways and fish and wildlife habitat and movement corridors.

Land Uses

Land use is a mix of office, research, studios, manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution.

Intensity

Building size varies depending on context and need and could range from small (1,000 square feet) to very large (over 150,000 square feet).

Mobility & Access

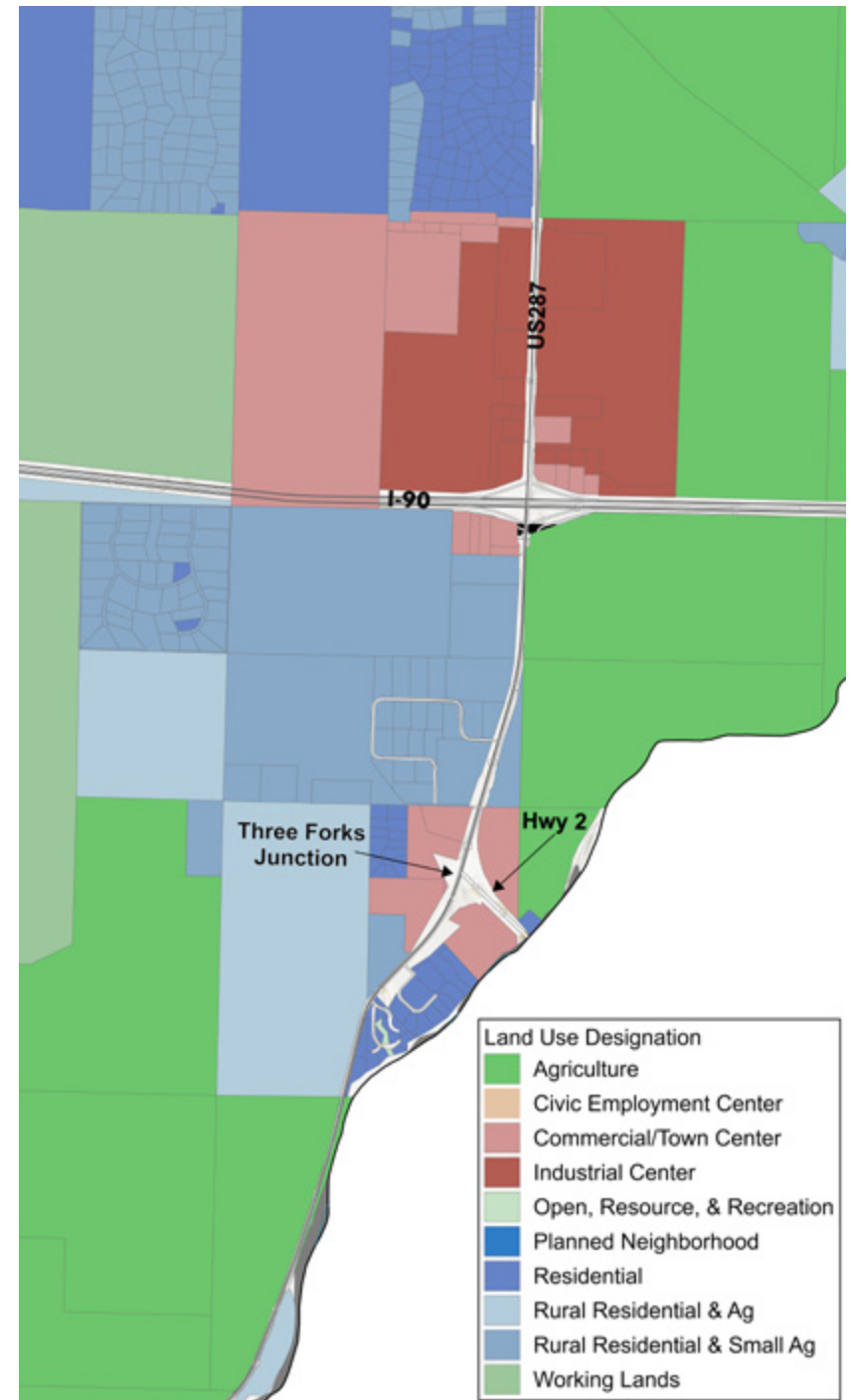
Industrial Centers are typically located along arterial roads, near or adjacent to rail, with connectivity to other areas in the community by transit and non-motorized facilities.

All roads should provide non-motorized facilities. Additional separation for non-motorized facilities, such as protected or buffered bike lanes, boulevard sidewalks, and enhanced crossings, are needed when vehicle speeds and traffic volume increase.



Wheatland & Three Forks Area

Located at the southern tip of Broadwater County, Wheatland and the Three Forks Junction function as key points for individuals passing through the county. These areas are strategically positioned to support commercial and industrial activities, attracting travelers to and from the county. Anticipated developments include commercial and industrial centers, with the possibility of residential growth contingent upon the exploration of options for a sewer and water district.



Toston Area

Toston, situated between Townsend and Wheatland, has an established residential block grid network. There is potential for additional commercial uses or civic employment centers to benefit this area. Low-density residential development may extend beyond the Missouri River Floodplain, while agricultural lands are expected to remain largely unaffected. This indicates a measured approach to development, considering the balance between residential, commercial, and agricultural considerations.

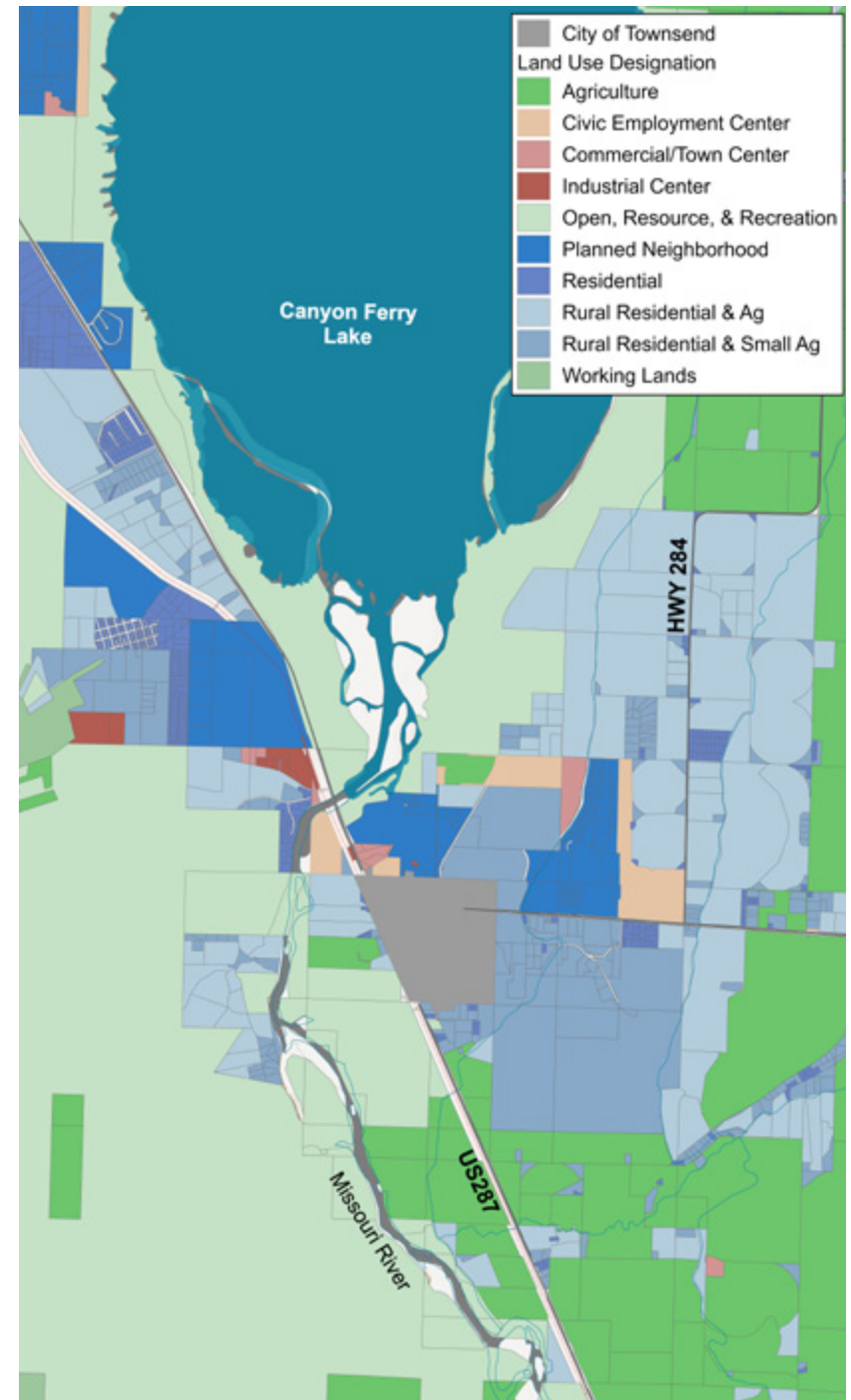


Townsend Area

The land adjacent to the incorporated area of Townsend is versatile, allowing for a variety of uses. Positioned in close proximity to the heart of Broadwater County, its adaptability supports different activities and purposes, contributing to the overall flexibility of the region

Industrial and commercial development play a vital role in fostering a functional community and economy. It's essential to note that industrial land use designations encompass a variety of activities beyond heavy industry.

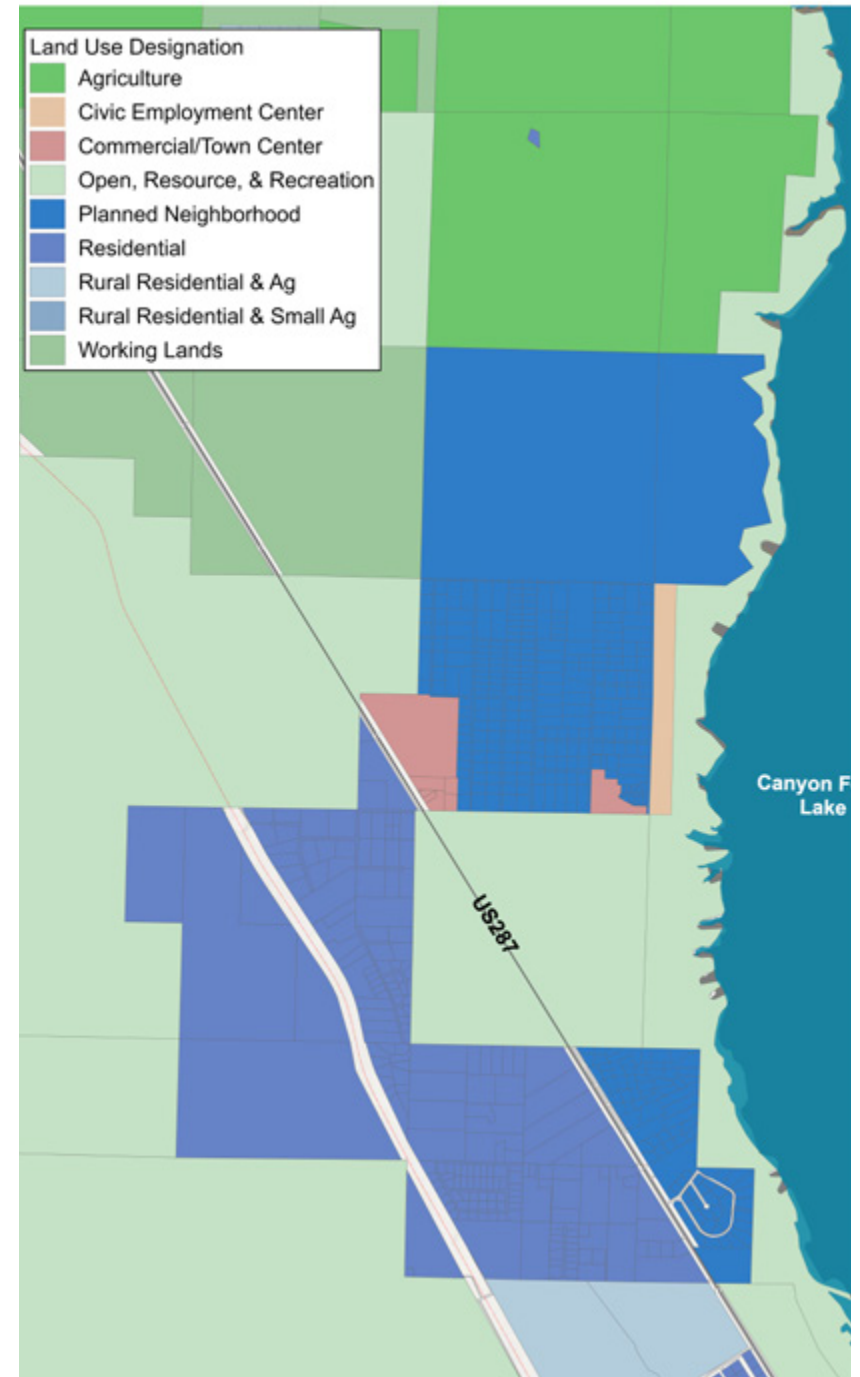
Light industry, including food processing, textiles, and consumer goods manufacturing can directly benefit the community and contribute to economic growth. This approach supports a more diverse and resilient local economy, aligning with sustainability objectives and minimizing environmental impact



Silos Area

Consideration for potential dense development around Canyon Ferry Lake is essential to uphold its natural surroundings and find a balanced approach between growth and conservation. If residential development at higher densities is under consideration, it's advised to plan for potential future subdivisions.

Developing at the Planned Neighborhood density should only be considered with the implementation of a public and sewer water system and minimize the use of septic systems.



Winston Area

Winston, situated between larger, more established communities like Helena and Townsend, serves as a strategic location for local residents who often depend on neighboring areas for various services and opportunities. By designating Civic and commercial land use in the Winston CDP, the county can utilize these areas to address specific needs within the community.

Civic land use designations can be used for essential public services like recycling facilities and emergency services, ensuring Winston residents have convenient access without the need to travel to neighboring towns. Moreover, establishing commercial land use designations provides the potential for creating employment opportunities and supporting economic development tailored to the unique needs of the Winston community



Land Use Designation Map

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