

## **5. Future Development Plan**

County land use decisions will have far reaching effects on future development patterns not only within the rural area but for the municipalities as well. These impacts will range from quality of life issues to public facility and service needs. Careful study and analysis of the location, density and timing of development is important to the future vitality and liveability of Minnehaha County.

Minnehaha County is not a large service provider in terms of supporting physical development. The provision of public services and facilities is generally limited to law enforcement, roads and recreation. Water supply and distribution, wastewater collection and disposal, storm water drainage, and fire protection are either municipal functions or the responsibility of special purpose districts which have been created to provide for a specific service. Townships will continue to be responsible for a substantial portion of the local rural road system. Whether these services can be provided in an economical and efficient manner will in part depend on the county's ability to manage future growth.

Minnehaha County has the role not only to promote orderly, compatible and efficient growth within the rural area but also to ensure that land use decisions are in the best interests of other governmental entities who will eventually be expected to provide services to development areas.

Projections to the year 2015 indicate that over 1,900 housing units will be constructed in the rural area and additional agricultural land will be converted to commercial and industrial uses, causing significant changes in the county's physical environment. This anticipated growth will present challenges to the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners as well as to citizens of the county in dealing with substantially more population and economic development than exists today.