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## 2 **Goals, Objectives & Strategies**

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This chapter presents a vision for the future of Rapids City and describes goals, objectives and strategies to achieve that vision. Housing, Mobility & Transportation, Economic Prosperity, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Community Facilities & Services, Hazards, and Collaboration & Partnerships are all addressed. See *Chapter 3* for Land Use.

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## Vision Statement

The following vision statement describes Rapids City as we wish it to be in 2034 or sooner. This shared vision is the foundation of our Plan - the goals, objectives and strategies that follow are all intended to help us realize this vision.

*“The Village of Rapids City is...*

*...a self-sustaining community with small town charm that is easily accessible from the Quad Cities. Our retail and service establishments are succeeding by meeting the needs of local residents, commuters and tourists (including Mississippi River and Great River Trail users).*

*The Village maintains strong public infrastructure and leadership to guide growth at a reasonable pace. The scenic landscape, including views of the Mississippi River, have been protected as the community’s and region’s major asset.”*

## Goals, Objectives & Strategies

Each element of the comprehensive plan contains goals, objectives, and strategies established during the planning process based on public input and the information contained in **Appendix A: Community Indicators**.

This section defines goals, objectives and strategies, as follows:

**Goal:** A goal is a long-term target that states what the community wants to accomplish. Written in general terms, the statement offers a desired condition.

**Objective:** An objective is a statement that identifies a course of action to achieve a goal. They are more specific than goals and are usually attainable through planning and implementation activities.

**Strategy:** A strategy is a specific rule of conduct or course of action intended to help the Village achieve the goals and objectives of the plan. Strategies using the words “shall” or “will” are firm commitments by the Village – all future actions and decisions made by the Village should be consistent with these policies, unless unforeseen reasons arise which make a policy impractical to adhere to. Such occasions should be rare and probably indicate a need to amend this plan according to the procedures in **Chapter 4**. Strategies using the words “should,” “encourage,” “discourage,” or “may” are intended to serve as a guide for Village decisions and actions.

## Goals Summary

To meet the community's vision (shown on the previous page), the Village looks to meet the goals listed below. See the subsequent pages of this chapter for the objectives and strategies that help achieve these goals.

### H Housing

**H1:** Rapids City will offer safe, attractive and diverse housing options.

### T Mobility & Transportation

**T1:** Rapids City will provide a safe, efficient, multi-modal, and well-maintained transportation network.

**T2:** Local transportation systems will be well-coordinated with regional systems and investment.

### E Economic Prosperity

**E1:** Employment will grow in Rapids City through the creation, expansion and further development of existing and new businesses.

**E2:** Expand Rapids City's tourism and destination travel industry.

**E3:** Rapids City's retail sector will continue to expand and diversify - thereby reducing leakage, enhancing the tax base, and adding to the quality of life of the community.

### R Agriculture & Natural Resources

**R1:** Rapids City will protect, improve and sustain its natural resources.

### FS Community Facilities & Services

**FS1:** Rapids City will have public facilities that meet current and future needs of the community.

**FS2:** Rapids City will maintain and meet the recreational needs of its residents.

**FS3:** Utilities and municipal services will effectively and efficiently meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

**FS4:** Rapids City will be fiscally responsible.

### CC Community Character

**CC1:** Rapids City will be proactive in maintaining a quality appearance that reflects pride in the community.

**CC2:** Rapids City will protect its historic and cultural heritage.

### HZ Hazards

**HZ1:** Rapids City will mitigate the risk of impacts before a disaster.

**HZ2:** Residents and assets will be protected during a disaster.

**HZ3:** Rapids City will successfully recover from disasters.

### CP Collaboration & Partnerships

**CP1:** Rapids City will maintain mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions, the County, and other governmental agencies.



*As the Village grows and changes, housing must change to meet the needs of the population. Housing is included in a comprehensive plan to provide guidance for decision-makers and developers when considering additions to and renovations of the Village's housing stock.*

## H1: Housing Goal 1

**Rapids City will offer safe, attractive and diverse housing options.**

**Objective H1.1:** Rapids City will expand the variety of housing types to meet changing and diverse housing needs.

### Strategies

- The Village plans to increase the mix of housing types within the community over time. This housing mix should be represented in future land use mapping and new subdivision development.
- The Village encourages a mixture of housing unit sizes, types and market-rate price points in all neighborhoods.
- The Village promotes condominium building development, such as townhomes, side-by-side buildings and multi-family buildings, to increase homeownership building options, especially for its aging population.

*A healthy residential mix for a community of Rapids City size is generally 70-75% single-family homes, 15-20% multi-plex buildings (4 or less units) and 10-15% multi-family buildings (5 units or more).*

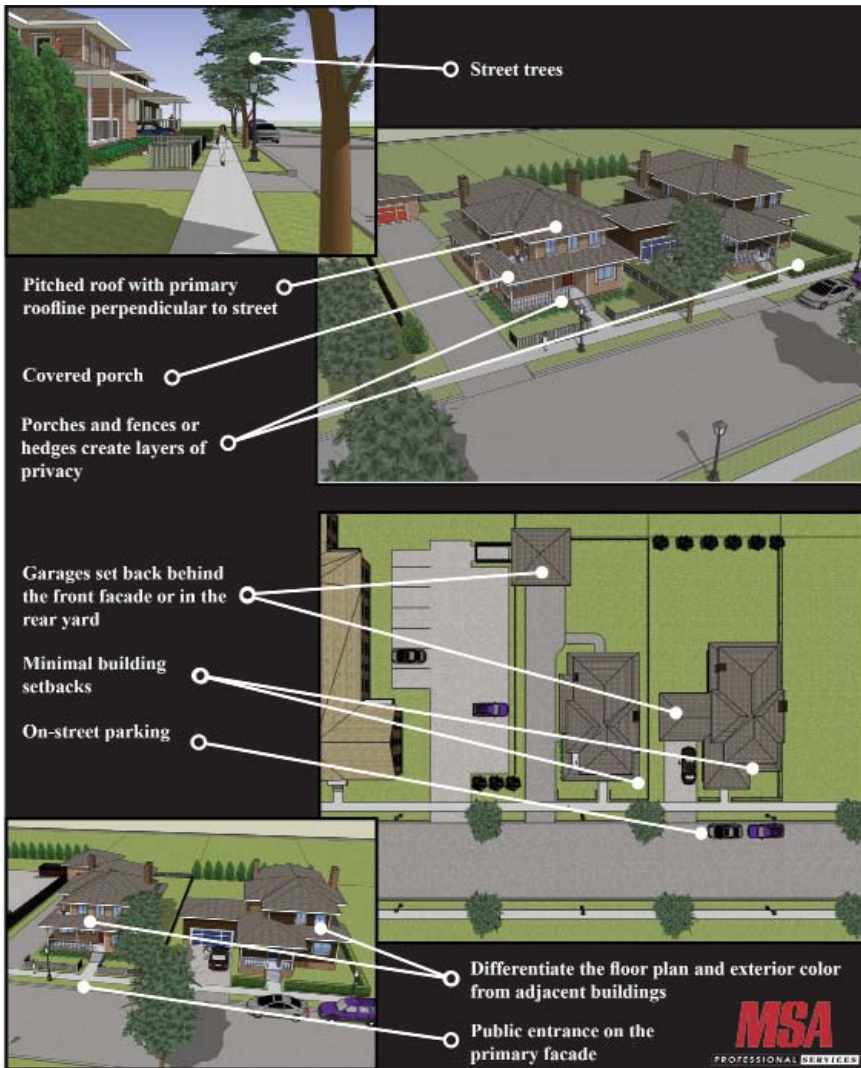


**Objective H1.2:** Rapids City homeowners will maintain their homes and properties.

### Strategies

- The Village will actively enforce code violations related to housing standards and property maintenance.
- The Village will consider starting a program that offers assistance in maintenance, rehabilitation, and energy conservation projects that will improve the local housing stock.
- The Village encourages improvements and additions to existing homes as an option to upgrade the existing housing stock and allow stay-in-place and multi-generational housing.
- The Village will promote property maintenance through annual award program (e.g. best yard contest).

*Traditional Neighborhood Design*



**Objective H1.3:** New development will support establishment of complete, livable neighborhoods.

**Strategies**

- New residential development should be connected to an existing or planned neighborhood area. Unplanned or unconnected residential development is discouraged.
- Residential development, and particularly multiple-family and senior living developments, should be located in areas where safe pedestrian access to parks, retail, and community facilities is possible.
- Principles of traditional neighborhood design (see graphic above) is encouraged for new residential development within the Village.

**Current and Existing Housing Conditions in Rapids City**

Population projections suggest only 1-6% growth over the next twenty years (12-56 persons). Household sizes nationally have been declining over the last few decades and this trend is projected to continue in the future. Based on these two factors (i.e. household size and population growth), the Village is projected to add approximately 30 housing units by 2030 (an increase of 8%). As a comparison, the County is projected to have a surplus of over 1,300 housing units by 2030 (a reduction of 2.0% in their housing stock).

Housing is generally considered “affordable” when the owner or renter’s monthly housing costs do not exceed 30% of their gross monthly income. Based on the rolling average between 2007-2011, roughly 15% of Village homeowners and approximately 30% of renters exceeded the “affordable” threshold.

The age of housing stock is a good indication of the likelihood of safety concerns or repairs needed. The 2007-2011 rolling estimate suggests approximately 45% of residential structures in Rapids City were built prior to 1970.

**ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

**Assets:** *high-end homes, diversity of price points, low taxes, home ownership, multi-generational families, long-term residents, and good housing market*

**Liabilities:** *limited multi-family housing, no condos, low-end housing, and a lack of rental properties*



*Transportation is an essential aspect of life. It is about the ability to readily and safely gain access to work, school, shopping, recreation, medical care and social gatherings. It is also an essential component of most economic activity.*

### T1: Mobility & Transportation Goal 1

**Rapids City will provide a safe, efficient, multi-modal, and well-maintained transportation network.**

**Objective T1.1:** Rapids City's street network will safely balance the needs of all users.

#### *Strategies*

- New roads shall be built according to Village standards and inspected before accepted for dedication.
- The Village will continue to map the preferred routes and connection points for major streets and recreational trails in growth areas and will ensure adequate and appropriate right-of-way dedication as land is divided.

**Objective T1.2:** Biking and walking in Rapids City will be safe, enjoyable, and efficient.

#### *Strategies*

- New development, and redevelopment, are encouraged to connect to adjacent developments through sidewalk installation and/or recreational trails (if possible).
- The Village will actively enforce sidewalk maintenance requirements and will continue to encourage sidewalk installation where gaps are present.

**Objective T1.3:** The Village will maintain the local transportation network at a level of service desired by residents and businesses.

#### *Strategies*

- The Village will maintain a Capital Improvement Plan to plan for the annual construction and maintenance of roads and other transportation facilities. Annual transportation investments will include funding for both traditional road improvements and alternative transportation modes (e.g. bike trails, sidewalks, rail, bus facilities).



## T2: Mobility & Transportation Goal 2

**Local transportation systems will be well-coordinated with regional systems and investment.**

**Objective T2.1:** The Village will maximize the cost-effectiveness of the regional transportation system by coordinating planning, design and funding with regional and state agencies, as well as neighboring jurisdictions.

### Strategies

- The Village will actively participate in any regional transportation planning process.
- The Village will work with the Illinois DOT to improve access to and efficiency of major transportation routes through joint planning and policy initiatives, especially those related to Illinois Route 84.
- The Village will inform the community about regional and state transportation projects, and will encourage public involvement.
- The Village will work with neighboring jurisdictions to plan, construct and maintain those roadways that cross jurisdictions, including cost sharing where appropriate.

**Objective T2.2:** The Village will promote alternative transportation options, reducing the percentage of single occupancy vehicle trips within the region.

### Strategies

- The Village will continue to promote the 84 Express and the Village's park and ride location; however, as the community grows the Village will work with MetroLINK to expand bus service to meet the needs of its residents.
- In coordination with local and regional organizations, the Village should sponsor (or hold) events that encourage and celebrate alternative transportation usage (e.g. Great River Bike Trail, Express 84, etc.).

### Transportation in Rapids City

Approximately 58% of the Village's workforce age 16 or older, commutes within the county. The percentage of those who work out of state is relatively high and is most likely due to the Village's proximity to the State of Iowa.

Commuting in Rapids City is mostly done by car, with 93.7% of commuters traveling in a single occupant vehicle. Nearly 55% of Rapids City workers commute between 15-24 minutes. These times suggest a significant number of residents work in the Quad Cities area.

Truck routes in the planning area include Interstate 80 (Class I), IL 84 (Class II), and 52nd Avenue and 221st Street (Class III).

Transit needs are served by the 84 Express, which offers limited connections between locations and major employers in the Quad Cities on weekdays only. Shuler's Shady Grove Parking Lot is the pickup/drop off location for this service.

Pedestrians and bicyclists primarily use Village streets with the exception of the Great River Trail and sidewalk along IL 84.

### ASSETS & LIABILITIES

**Assets:** bus route, Interstate 80, Illinois Route 92, proximity to the Quad Cities area, Great River Bike Trail, boating (water taxi), and bridges

**Liabilities:** railroad (separation/barrier), road conditions, and lack of stop light on Illinois Route 84



*Economic prosperity is realized through the growth and retention of jobs, a diversity of business types, an increase in buying power, investment in the built environment, and a general improvement in the community's quality of life. Creating economic prosperity requires the collaborative efforts of public and private entities, and the support of the community overall.*

## E1: Economic Prosperity Goal 1

**Employment will grow in Rapids City through the creation, expansion and further development of existing and new businesses.**



**Objective E1.1:** Existing Rapids City businesses will retain and expand employment.

### Strategies

- The Village will support the needs of growing businesses and will work with local partners to provide programs, space and infrastructure necessary to support an expanding workforce.
- The Village will contact local businesses at least once every two years to identify any changes or challenges with which the Village may be able to assist.



**Objective E1.2:** The Village will have both space and incentive tools to support business creation, growth and expansion.

### Strategies

- The Village will update the future land use map as necessary to ensure an adequate supply of land for commercial and industrial development.
- The Village will continue to use development tools such as tax incremental financing districts to offer incentives that support employment growth, and will target those incentives toward primary sector employers or businesses that have a direct impact on quality of life in the region.



**Objective E1.3:** Entrepreneurism and small business growth will be continuously supported in Rapids City.

### Strategies

- The Village will support low-impact home-based businesses.
- The Village will support and promote minority- and women-owned businesses.





**E2: Economic Prosperity Goal 2**

**Expand Rapids City’s tourism and destination travel industry.**

**Objective E2.1:** The Village will support activities and businesses that attract and accommodate tourists.

*Strategies*

- The Village will support development of lodging and accommodations to provide short term stays within the community.
- The Village will work to improve riverfront amenities, utilization, and access to make the most of the Mississippi River. This could include a dock for water taxi service.

**E3: Economic Prosperity Goal 3**

**Rapids City’s retail sector will continue to expand and diversify - thereby reducing leakage, enhancing the tax base, and adding to the quality of life of the community.**

**Objective E3.1:** Private developers will take the lead on the development of new retail projects.

*Strategies*

- The Village will support private retail development with financial tools such as tax abatement, tax increment financing, and other innovative means.
- When appropriate, financial incentives should generally take the form of property tax relief as opposed to a cash incentive from the general fund.

**Objective E3.2:** The Village will actively monitor policies to ensure that Rapids City is a development-friendly community.

*Strategies*

- The Village may offer incentives such as grants, low interest loans, land sales, public infrastructure improvements, and tax increment financing to encourage economic development.
- The Village will maintain a supply of sites with the appropriate zoning, access and infrastructure to accommodate new retail development.

**Rapids City’s Workforce**

Over the last decade the unemployment rates have more than doubled for both the State and County. Based on the American Community Survey, the Village also saw unemployment increase by almost 100% during this same period. These higher unemployment rates are largely due to the national economic downturn that began in 2008. Nevertheless, the Village has remained more stable than the region and State with unemployment rates between 2-5%, compared to 4-10% for the County and State.

In 2000, Rapids City’s median and per capita income levels were higher than the county levels, and slightly higher than the State’s per capita income level. More recent data from the American Community Survey, suggests that the Village has continued to outpace the County and the State in these two income indicators.

The Quad Cities region has an abundance of land available for business development and redevelopment; however, there is no business/industrial park in the Village.

The largest employer in the region is the Rock Island Arsenal. None of the region’s top 15 employers are located in Rapids City.

**ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

**Assets:** *proximity to the Quad Cities area, Moline Airport, Route 84 traffic, residential buying power, State tax breaks (after retirement), and home-based businesses (27+)*

**Liabilities:** *local competition, Iowa vs. Illinois competition, and no Village TIF district*



*The abundance and health of our agricultural and natural resources are vital to the well being of our community, the prosperity of our economy and the health of our regional ecological systems. This section outlines the objectives and strategies for preserving, protecting, and restoring our natural and agricultural resources. As our most visible natural resource, the Mississippi River is considered a priority resource for protection, in balance with its transportation and recreation functions. Because all systems are interconnected, these strategies address water, land, wildlife, air, vegetation, food systems, and the welfare of our citizens.*



### **R1: Agriculture & Natural Resources Goal 1**

**Rapids City will protect, improve and sustain its natural resources.**

**Objective R1.1:** Rapids City will protect and restore wildlife habitats and corridors.

#### *Strategies*

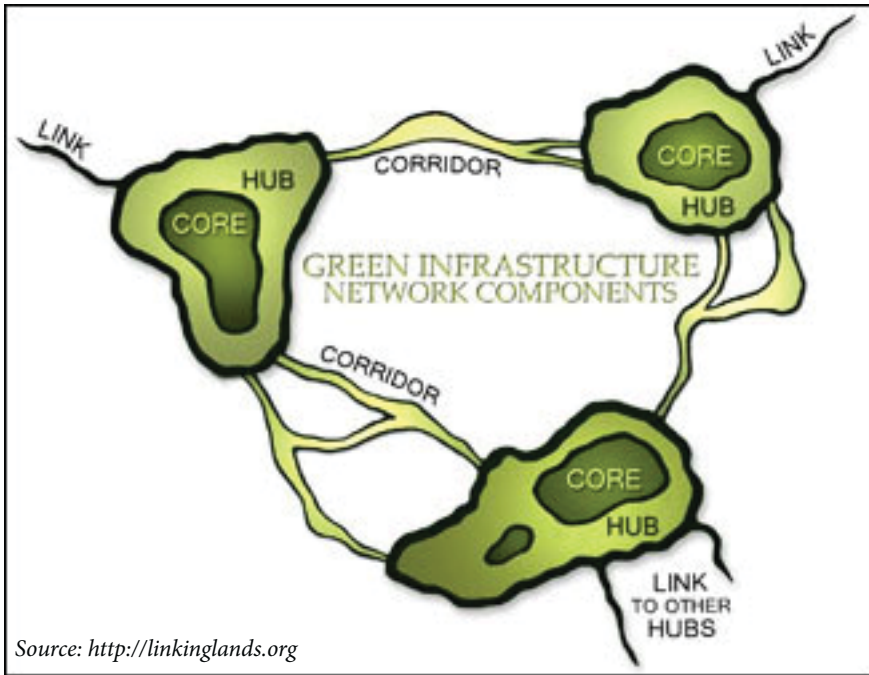
- The Village will seek opportunities to conserve existing “green infrastructure” (i.e. open space networks, mature trees, floodplains, wetlands, and other significant natural features) especially in ways that connect to and enhance the value of adjacent development.
- The Village will require conservation or comparable restoration of natural features during the development process, including conservation of natural waterways and protection or replacement of mature trees.
- The Village will restrict development in areas that have documented threatened and endangered species, have severe limitations due to steep slopes, soils not suitable for building, or sensitive environmental areas (e.g. wetlands, floodplains and streams) in order to protect these areas from degradation.
- The Village shall require natural resources features to be depicted on all site plans, preliminary plats, and certified survey maps in order to facilitate preservation of natural resources.

**Objective R1.2:** Rapids City will promote local food systems and responsible agriculture.

#### *Strategies*

- The Village will explore ways of creating and supporting community gardens, farmers’ markets, and other similar community-based food projects.





“Green infrastructure” is the interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas, such as greenways, wetlands, parks, forest preservers and native plant vegetation, that naturally manages stormwater, reduces flooding risk and improve water quality.



### Rapids City’s Agricultural and Natural Resources

Rapids City is located in the Galesburg Plain, which is part of the larger Tills Plains area, just east of the Mississippi River. The County topography consists of upland plains, highly dissected valley sides, terraces and flood plains. Rapids City is mostly flat to gently rolling.

As of 2013, the Village has roughly 585 acres of agricultural and natural resources (approximately 55% of the Village land area). The majority of this land is either woodlands (395 acres) or agricultural lands (140 acres).

### Rapids City’s Water Resources

The Village of Rapids City is located within the Mississippi River Basin and watershed. The Mississippi River is the most significant water feature in the area, and is noted on the Section 303(d) list (i.e. waters that are not meeting water quality standards).

The Village has approximately 15.5 acres of wetland-type soils (1.5% of the Village land area), primarily located around Shuler’s Shady Grove Park and the Great River Trail.

### ASSETS & LIABILITIES

**Assets:** boat launch, old cemetery, Mississippi River, and scenic views from hilltop

**Liabilities:** no historical buildings, floodplain, low lying run-off issues, and slope limiting development



*Local government is responsible for a broad array of essential services, from sewer and water service to park and recreation facilities, fire and police protection, and public schools. The quality, adequacy and efficiency of these services have a direct relationship to quality of life for residents. While each of these services is individually managed and monitored, they are considered in the comprehensive plan to ensure that investment in these services serves the overall vision for the Village.*



### FS1: Community Facilities & Services Goal 1

**Rapids City will have public facilities that meet current and future needs of the community.**

**Objective FS1.1:** Rapids City will continue to monitor and upgrade their public facilities to meet the needs of current and future residents.



#### Strategies

- Village will evaluate annually the condition of the Village's facilities and associated equipment to ensure that it will continue to meet Village needs.
- Upgrades for handicap accessibility will be considered for all Village facilities (including parks) whenever changes are made to those facilities.
- The Village will consider the use of energy efficient alternatives when upgrading local buildings or equipment.
- The Village will monitor its cemetery and consider future actions if the facility is no longer meeting the needs of the community.
- The Village will work with Rock Island County and adjacent communities to maintain and improve access to special needs facilities (e.g. health care, senior care, etc.) for area residents. The Village will collaborate with local non-profits and social service agencies to ensure there are adequate resources for all residents and that service is fair and equitable.



## FS2: Community Facilities & Services Goal 2

**Rapids City will meet the recreational needs of its residents.**

**Objective FS2.1:** The Village's recreation facilities will meet the diverse outdoor recreational needs and desires of the community.

### *Strategies*

- The Village will work to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.
- The Village will continue to improve existing park and recreation facilities and services to meet the needs of the community, especially along the riverfront.
- The Village encourages proposed residential subdivision developments to incorporate a public park, playground, or open space that is sized appropriately to meet the demand of its future residents.
- The Village encourages the connectivity of local parks and recreational facilities with regional facilities, via bicycle trails or marked routes on existing roads.

### **Rapids City's Park Network**

In total, the Village has 10.4 acres of parkland. Based on the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) "low demand" recommendations, the Village currently has a surplus of 5.8 acres. Assuming the population projections hold true and the Village doesn't add additional parkland, the Village will continue to have a surplus of park spaces. Contrarily, if the NRPA's high demand ratio is used, the Village has a shortfall of approximately 1-2 acres of park space.

### **Rapids City's Public Facilities**

The Village of Rapids City has several facilities that meet the needs of the community, as listed below.

- Village Hall and Community Center, located at 1204 4th Avenue, is in fair condition.
- Public Works Building, located on 17th Street, is in good condition.
- The Rapids City Cemetery is adjacent to the St. John's Catholic Cemetery located off of County Road EE.

### *ASSETS & LIABILITIES*

**Assets:** *good emergency and protection services (Hampton Police, Volunteer EMS, Port Byron Fire Department), good telecommunications (cellular, internet and cable), Riverdale School District, Port Byron Library, Village Parks, Community Center, and water service is good*

**Liabilities:** *sewer and inflow/infiltration issues, no treatment plant, no composting, Village Hall deficiencies*



### FS3: Community Facilities & Services Goal 3

Utilities and municipal services will effectively and efficiently meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

**Objective F3.1:** Utilities will be safe.

#### *Strategies*

- Water quality standards will be strictly adhered to, including both drinking water standards and standards for quality of treated wastewater returned to waterways (if such facility is established by the Village).
- The Village will work with representatives from the Public Service Commission and energy providers to raise awareness of local concerns during the planning and siting of any major transmission lines, facilities, natural gas lines, wind towers or telecommunication towers. If such facilities are proposed, they should be located in an area safely away from existing or planned residential areas and should avoid environmentally sensitive areas.

**Objective F3.2:** Utilities and municipal services will not be a constraint on economic or population growth.

#### *Strategies*

- The Village will monitor satisfaction with public and private utility and service providers (i.e. Riverdale School District, River Valley District Library, Hampton Police Department, Rapids City Fire Protection District, Volunteer EMS, and Allied Waste), and seek adjustments as necessary to maintain adequate service levels.
- The Village will have periodic communication with City of East Moline regarding their wastewater treatment plant capacity to verify it will adequately support the growth anticipated during next 20 years. If demand or efficiency become a hindrance to future development, the Village will consider building a treatment facility - potentially a joint facility with a neighboring community to reduce the upfront costs.



**Objective F3.3:** Development will support the efficiency and fiscal sustainability of sewer and water systems.

**Strategies**

- The Village will plan for sewer extensions on a system basis, rather than as a series of individual projects, and will require that developers locate and size utilities with enough capacity to serve adjacent future growth.
- The Village will avoid lift stations and extra pumps whenever possible to control the long-term cost burden of the water and sewer systems.
- The Village will encourage infill development and other practices that efficiently and cost effectively utilize existing infrastructure.
- The Village encourages programs and development techniques that support water conservation, groundwater protection and groundwater recharge.

**FS4: Community Facilities & Services Goal 4**

**Rapids City will be fiscally responsible.**

**Objective F4.1** Maintain fiscal practices that allow the most efficient and effective use of tax dollars.

**Strategies**

- The Village will use a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan to coordinate and prioritize long-term public needs.
- The Village will require developer agreements or fees to recoup the costs associated with processing, reviewing or inspecting building or land use proposals and permits.
- The Village will manage the ratio of general obligation debt to overall revenues at an appropriate level.

**Rapids City's  
Municipal Services**

Fire protection is provided by the Port Byron Fire Department and law enforcement through the Village of Hampton Police Department.

The Village is served by the Riverdale School District.. The School District services over 1,000 students within three schools that are all located in Port Byron. The River Valley District Library, also located in Port Byron, services Rapids City and surrounding areas.

**Rapids City's Utilities**

Stormwater management typically includes the collection and controlled release of storm runoff to natural receiving systems, typically through detention and/or retention facilities. The Public Works Department is responsible for approximately 30 miles of storm sewer. The Village addresses stormwater in several ordinances including Code of Ordinances Chapter 1 - Sections 13 and 14.

Sewer service is provided by the Village of Rapids City, which in turn pumps wastewater to the City of East Moline for treatment. In total, the East Moline Water Treatment Facility serves five communities, processing up to 27.8 million gallons per day of wastewater.

The Village of Rapids City maintains two active wells that provide water to residents. Both wells are capable of producing 250 gallons per minute. There are also 18 privately-owned and operated wells within the Village.



*Community character is about identity – characteristics that define Rapids City in the minds of residents and visitors. An identity can differentiate the Village from adjacent communities and foster community pride.*

### CC1: Community Character Goal 1

**Rapids City will be proactive in maintaining a quality appearance that reflects pride in the community.**

**Objective CC1.1:** Rapids City will encourage property maintenance and promote high quality site and building design.

#### *Strategies*

- The Village will advocate and sponsor community clean-up activities on an annual basis.
- The Village will encourage and promote home exterior improvements to help maintain the community's old and new housing stock.
- The Village will help guide future development using the design guidelines provided within *Chapter 3: Land Use* of this Plan.

**Objective CC1.2:** Rapids City will maintain and update the public realm to present a positive public image.

#### *Strategies*

- The Village will properly maintain streets, curbs, signs and light fixtures, and plan for replacement of any that have passed their productive lifespan.
- The Village will work with property owners to ensure maintenance of sidewalks and street trees to provide safe, walkable neighborhoods and districts.
- The Village will enhance the aesthetic appearance of 2nd Avenue (Illinois Route 84). This can be accomplished at key locations, or with extensive improvements during a street reconstruction project. A design theme should be incorporated and implemented throughout the community.



CC2: Community Character Goal 2

Rapids City will protect its historic and cultural heritage.

**Objective CC2.1** The Village will respect its history and heritage by preserving historic resources and celebrating the past.

**Strategies**

- The Village supports community events and programs that celebrate the history and culture of Rapids City.
- The Village will ensure that any known cemeteries, human burials or archaeological sites are protected from encroachment by roads or other development activities. Construction activities on a development site shall cease when unidentifiable archaeological artifacts are uncovered during either land preparation or construction. The developer shall notify the Village of such discovery.

**Rapids City's History**

Laid out in 1838, Rapids City grew around the site of a grist and saw mill. These sawmills provided lumber for building homes and businesses, while the grist mills turned locally grown grain into flour for household use. The Village's first grist and saw mill was built by the Wells brothers (from nearby Hampton).

The village boomed during the 1870's through the 1880's due to neighboring coal mine operations. The Village's local stores (e.g. grocery/dry goods stores, blacksmith shop, restaurant, hotel, millinery and shoe store) provided services for miners, farmers and their families. An important figure of the 1880's was Charles Shuler, who operated the Rapids City Coal Mining Company during that time.

Modern day Rapids City is located in the eastern portion of the Quad City metropolitan area along the banks of the Mississippi river in northwestern Illinois. It is a part of Rock Island County and is situated where Interstate 80 crosses into Iowa.

**ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

**Assets:** Christmas banners and community entry signs

**Liabilities:** Illinois Route 84 lighting, and lack of identity / streetscaping



*The Village of Rapids City is committed to protecting people and property from natural and man-made disasters. A community must first identify potential hazards and mitigate the risk of impacts pre-disaster, then respond efficiently during a disaster, and plan for a comprehensive recovery post-disaster. The Rock Island County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies potential hazards and recommends mitigation efforts for the County and the Village of Rapids City (see right side bar).*



### ■ HZ1: Hazards Goal 1

**Rapids City will mitigate the risk of impacts before a disaster.**

**Objective HZ1.1:** Rapids City will be prepared for potential disasters.

#### *Strategies*

- The Village will actively participate in any update to the *Rock Island County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*.
- The Village recognizes the potential for disaster impacts beyond the capacity of the Village's contracted emergency and protective service providers. Therefore, the Village will work with these providers to develop/update their procedures in requesting timely assistance from neighboring communities, Rock Island County and the State government.
- When forewarning is possible, as with rising river levels, the Village will strive to keep citizens accurately apprised of the situation and possible outcomes.
- The Village will collaborate with local agencies and organizations to inform the community about disaster preparedness, especially evacuation procedures in flood-prone areas and the location of public shelters.



**Objective HZ1.2:** The Village's use of smart development practices will effectively limit disaster impacts to new development due to flooding.

#### *Strategies*

- The Village will continue NFIP compliance by enforcing local floodplain ordinances based on State of Illinois Model Code.
- The Village discourages new private development in flood-prone areas and will work to restore the natural floodplain of the Mississippi River and associated tributaries, where feasible and appropriate.
- The City will commit to the safe development of public facilities, and will evaluate upgrading facilities to mitigate potential hazards.



## HZ2: Hazards Goal 2

**Residents and assets will be protected during a disaster.**

**Objective HZ2.1:** Residents' basic human needs will be met during a disaster.

### *Strategies*

- The Village will call upon partners if unable to handle immediate needs in the event of a disaster.
- The Village will collaborate with all engaged entities, including other government agencies and non-profit organizations, to meet residents' immediate needs.

**Objective HZ2.2:** Assets and infrastructure will be protected during a disaster.

### *Strategies*

- The Village will develop and maintain a plan for protecting community facilities, including emergency supplies acquisition, volunteer management, and prioritization of municipal sites to be protected.
- The Village will recruit and safely utilize volunteers to protect public assets when necessary.
- The Village will ensure alternatives/backups are in place for necessary utility infrastructure.

## HZ3: Hazards Goal 3

**Rapids City will successfully recover from disasters.**

**Objective HZ3.1:** Reconstruction and recovery will be quick, safe and collaborative.

### *Strategies*

- The Village will advocate for quick and equitable disbursement of individual and business assistance funds.
- The Village will work with Rock Island County and other local organizations / agencies to plan for assisting those impacted by a disaster in smaller-scale events (i.e. those not declared by the state or federal government).
- The Village will implement temporary regulations when necessary to facilitate safe and expedited recovery.

### Rock Island County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

(Rapids City adopted on  
Nov 11, 2008)

The Plan was developed to meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, also known as DMA 2000. Representatives from each participating jurisdiction were asked to score all of the profiled hazards from perspective of their own communities. The top five hazards for each local government was highlighted and the scores were averaged to establish a draft prioritized list broken into a First, Second and Third Priorities.

The first priority hazards for the Village of Rapids City were: Severe Storms (combined), Tornado, Severe Winter Storms, Extreme Heat, River Flood, and Hazardous Materials.

Also the Village listed twelve facilities as critical facilities with half of them being associated with the Village operations. Facilities include the Village Hall, Public Works building, wastewater/water infrastructure, public boat dock and restroom, a bank, and convenience stores.

Two actions were specific to the Village of Rapids City, as listed below:

- **Action 1:** *Continue NFIP compliance by enforcing local floodplain ordinances based on State of Illinois Model Code, which exceeds NFIP minimum requirements.*
- **Action 2:** *Establish warming and/or cooling center.*



*Successful and vibrant communities rely upon collaborative efforts among Village businesses and organizations and benefit from partnerships with regional organizations and state and federal agencies.*

### CP1: Collaboration & Partnerships Goal 1

**Rapids City will maintain mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions, the County, and other governmental agencies.**

**Objective CP1.1:** Rapids City will think regionally while acting locally.

#### *Strategies*

- The Village acknowledges the importance of regional systems and connections, especially for transportation, economic development, and natural resources protection, and will make a conscious effort to include neighboring jurisdictions and Rock Island County.
- The Village will continue to work with the Bi-State Regional Planning Commission to develop, fund, and implement regional planning and mobility efforts.
- The Village will consider establishing regional partnerships for special projects and issues, such as trail and recreation improvements, local foods systems, and sustainability.

**Objective CP1.2:** Rapids City will reduce costs and improve quality of municipal service through partnerships.

#### *Strategies*

- The Village will continue to seek cost efficiencies through shared services with neighboring communities.
- When considering the addition or expansion of services and facilities, the Village will consider the costs and benefits of developing partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to meet local service demands.



### Potential Intergovernmental Cooperation Efforts

- **Voluntary Assistance:** Your community, or another, could voluntarily agree to provide a service to your neighbors because doing so makes economic sense and improves service levels.
- **Trading Services:** Your community and another could agree to exchange services. You could exchange the use of different pieces of equipment, equipment for labor, or labor for labor.
- **Renting Equipment:** Your community could rent equipment to, or from, neighboring communities and other governmental units. Renting equipment can make sense for both communities – the community renting gets the use of equipment without having to buy it, and the community renting out the equipment earns income from the equipment rather than having it sit idle.
- **Contracting:** Your community could contract with another community or jurisdiction to provide a service.
- **Sharing Municipal Staff:** Your community could share staff with neighboring communities and other jurisdictions – both municipal employees and independently contracted professionals. You could share a building inspector, assessor, planner, engineer, zoning administrator, clerk, etc.
- **Consolidating Services:** Your community could agree with one or more other communities or governmental units to provide a service together.
- **Joint Use of a Facility:** Your community could use a public facility along with other jurisdictions. The facility could be jointly owned or one jurisdiction could rent space from another.
- **Special Purpose Districts:** Special purpose districts are created to provide a particular service, unlike municipalities that provide many different types of services. Like municipalities, special purpose districts are separate and legally independent entities.
- **Joint Purchase and Ownership of Equipment:** Your community could agree with other jurisdictions to jointly purchase and own equipment such as pothole patching machines, mowers, rollers, snowplows, street sweepers, etc.
- **Cooperative Purchasing:** Cooperative purchasing, or procurement, is where jurisdictions purchase supplies and equipment together to gain more favorable prices.
- **Intergovernmental Agreements:** These can be proactive or reactive. There are three types of intergovernmental agreements that can be formed including general agreements, cooperative boundary agreements, and stipulations and orders.

Source: WIDOA Intergovernmental Cooperation Element Guide

### Rapids City's Collaborative Efforts

The Village has existing cooperation efforts with the following:

- **Rock Island County:** Police support
- **Village of Port Byron:** Storage and administration space for Rapids City Fire Protection District
- **Village of Hampton:** Police Protection services
- **City of East Moline:** Wastewater Treatment
- **Riverdale School District:** School system
- **Candian Pacific Railroad Co.:** Added additional crossings

The Village sees potential future cooperation efforts with the following:

- **CORP of Engineers:** Boat dock