

Merrick County, NE Comprehensive Plan/Zoning Regulations



Merrick County has had planning and zoning in place since the early 1970's; however, their first plan was still in effect over 40 years later. In 2014, the county hired Marvin Planning Consultants to update the county plan and regulations, as well as, the three Villages tied into the 1970's plan.

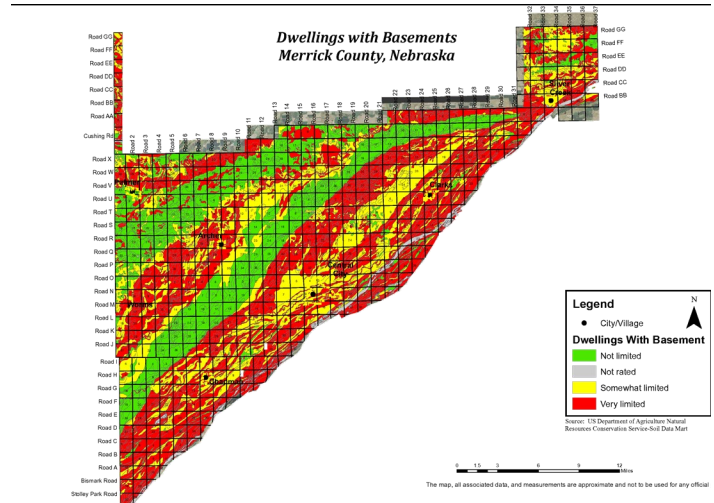
Merrick County sets adjacent to the city of Grand Island and Hall County. Grand Island, in 2010, became a Metropolitan Statistical Area. The new designation for Grand Island will provide additional growth opportunities for Merrick County and its communities during the planning period.

In addition, Merrick County has been designated as a "Livestock Friendly" county from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The county is home to several cattle feeders, swine operations, and at the time of adoption the county was seeing increasing numbers of chickens in the county.

The project included a total of four plans and four sets of regulations. The county actually provided services in kind to the project through map development.

Items to Address:

- Create an up to date Comprehensive Development Plan;
- Create a coordinated set of plans between the county and the three villages;
- Focus on agriculture and minimize the growth pressures seen on the western edge from the City of Grand Island;
- Update the zoning regulations to fit with current issues and needs including wind turbines, livestock friendly, agri-tourism, etc.;
- Protect the natural resources along the Platte River; and
- Establish guidelines that direct quality growth



Client Contact Person:
Jennifer Myer
Zoning Administrator
308.946.3120
pz@merrick.nacone.org

Project Completed:
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