



# Saint Louis County

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**Barbara Hayden**  
Director

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **St. Louis County working to update zoning ordinance, seeks public input**

St. Louis County is in the process of updating its zoning ordinance, and is looking for input and feedback from the public on the proposed changes. County staff from the Planning and Community Development Department, along with representatives of the Planning Commission, have been working for the past year to draft a new ordinance. It would replace the current zoning ordinance, which was adopted in 1993.

The 91-page draft ordinance, which the Planning Commission approved last month, is available for the public to review. The draft, as well as a feedback form, can be found online at [stlouiscountymn.gov/zoningordinance](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/zoningordinance).

Two informational meetings also have been scheduled. The public is invited to learn more about the proposed changes, ask questions and provide comments. The meetings will be conducted like an open house, so people are welcome to stop in at any time:

Wednesday, January 28, 4-6 p.m.

Northland Office Center, Liz Prebich Conference Room, Third Floor,  
307 1st Street South, Virginia

Wednesday, February 4, 1-3 p.m.

Richard H. Hansen Public Works and Transportation Complex  
4787 Midway Road, Duluth

One of the key proposed changes is a rewrite of the section on land use controls to better

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identify what types of uses are allowed in the county's various zone districts and what type of permitting is necessary for those uses. Other revisions include a new interim use permit for borrow (gravel) pits under certain circumstances, a rewrite of the performance and administrative standards, and the addition of a section on closed landfills and dumpsites, as is required by state statute. The draft also incorporates changes to make the zoning rules easier to understand through clearer references to other ordinances and policies to eliminate conflicting information, and better organization to improve readability.

In addition to the open houses and via the website, written comments may be emailed to [bourbonaisj@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:bourbonaisj@stlouiscountymn.gov) or can be dropped off or mailed to St. Louis County Planning and Community Development, Northland Office Center #117, 307 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Virginia, MN 55792. All comments received by March 1, 2015 will be included in the Planning Commission packet all other comments must be received by March 11, 2015 by 4:30 P.M. or presented at the hearing.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 12, 9 a.m., in the Northland Office Center in Virginia. Written comments or testimony at the hearing are welcome. For more information, contact Jennifer Bourbonais at 218-749-0629 or <mailto:bourbonaisj@stlouiscountymn.gov>.

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