



Saint Louis County

Planning and Community Development Department • 100 Missabe Building, 227 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • Phone: (218) 725-5000 • Fax: (218) 725-5029
Toll Free in Minnesota: 1-800-450-9777 • www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Barbara Hayden
Director

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

March 20, 2015

CONTACT: Mary Anderson, Land Use Manager
Planning and Community Development Dept.
(218) 749-0626

Updated zoning ordinance draft ready for review

St. Louis County continues to move forward with efforts to update its zoning ordinance. Following a 60-day comment period and a public hearing last week, the newest draft of Ordinance 62 is available for review and further public comment. The latest draft can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/zoningordinance. It highlights those changes that were accepted by the Planning Commission after gathering and reviewing all public input.

This latest draft is available for review and feedback through Monday, April 13. The Planning Commission will then hold a second public hearing on Thursday, April 16, 11 a.m., in the Northland Office Center in Virginia. Following that, Draft Ordinance 62 will be forwarded to the County Board for final approval.

Comments may be submitted via letter to the Planning and Community Development Department, Northland Office Center, 307 First Street South, Virginia, MN 55792 or email to bourbonaisj@stlouiscountymn.gov. Comments must be received by April 13 in order to be considered. They will be presented to the Planning Commission as part of the public hearing.

County staff from the Planning and Community Development Department, along with representatives of the Planning Commission, have been working for more than a year to update the zoning ordinance, which was adopted in 1993.

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

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