

## **INTRODUCTION**

The last Comprehensive Plan for Nobles County was completed in 1966. Change has occurred in both the cities and townships during the last 20 years to warrant an update to the Comprehensive Plan. This plan endorses many strong elements of the previous plan, while recognizing the many challenges that the County faces during the next 25 years and beyond.

The Comprehensive Plan is intended to not only set forth the research and information assembled through the project and the goals, policies, and recommendations that are the heart of the plan, but also to document the planning process that was conducted during the development of the plan.

The background includes the findings of all of the research that was completed by the Southwest Regional Development Commission and Nobles County staff during the planning process. This includes research findings related to demographics and housing. It also includes information related to economic conditions within the County's communities and other issues related to economic development. Historic information is included in this section, along with an analysis of the environmental features within the County. In addition, data collected on land use, transportation, and county facilities is included.

## **OVERVIEW**

A major goal of Nobles County was to ensure that the residents had opportunities to voice their opinion regarding the Comprehensive Plan. The first step was to solicit members to serve on the 2025 Committee, which was established to guide the County and the consultant during the planning process. This Committee will also recommend the Comprehensive Plan to both the Planning Commission and the County Board for final approval.

The 2025 Committee was created with 30 members that represent various cities, townships, and county boards in Nobles County. On April 13, 1999, an orientation was held for the 2025 Committee members to describe the concept of CBP and to focus on the issue of sustainability. In addition, a timeline was provided to the Committee for the project.

On May 24, 1999 various individuals presented some of the current issues and trends facing Nobles County that should be addressed as the County planned for its future. A subsequent meeting was held on June 10, 1999 to conduct an issue discovery and discussion that would provide a framework for the community meetings. Local community meetings were held from June 1999 to September 2000 and specific issue meetings covering Transportation, Ground Water Resources, Housing, Feedlots and Economic Development, were held from April 2000 to September 2000.

From October 2000 to January 2001, the 2025 Committee has met monthly to develop the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan. Every Committee member has had the opportunity to provide his or her ideas and suggested changes at each one of these meetings. This has led to a great deal of ownership of the plan by Committee members.