





BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, RURAL COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2026-2036.

PREPARED FOR:
Butler County Planning Commission.

PREPARED BY:

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NOVEMBER, 2026

BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, RURAL COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2026-2036.

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The **Butler County, Nebraska, Rural Community Comprehensive Plan** was completed by **Hanna:Keelan Associates, a Community Planning and Research Firm,** with the assistance of the **Butler County Planning Commission,** and **input from the citizens of the Rural Community of Butler County.**

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SECTION 1:

THE BUTLER COUNTY, RURAL COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS.

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SECTION 1

THE BUTLER COUNTY, RURAL COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS.

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

This **Comprehensive Plan** was prepared to establish the policy foundations needed to adopt zoning regulations that protect agriculture, guide future growth and manage future land uses pressures in the **Butler County, Nebraska, Rural Community** during the 10-year planning period (2026-2036). The geographic focus of this **Plan** is the unincorporated areas of Butler County, including the unincorporated Communities of Loma and Edholm and excluding the designated Community Planning Jurisdictions and Corporate Limits of the incorporated Communities of David City, Abie, Bellwood, Brainard, Bruno, Dwight, Garrison, Linwood, Octavia, Rising City, Surprise and Ulysses.

The primary focus of this **Comprehensive Plan** is to assess the effectiveness of balancing the preservation and protection of agricultural production lands and natural resource conservation, with the appropriate locating of development for non-farm dwellings, rural subdivisions and commercial and industrial land uses.

This **Comprehensive Plan** is intended to provide policy guidance to enable the County's elected officials to make decisions based upon the consensus of opinion by the **Butler County Planning Commission.** Implementation methods and activities should include incentives to stimulate private action consistent with the **Plan** and the use of Local, State and Federal programs for both economic development and land conservation activities.

The implementation of this **Comprehensive Plan** should be guided by ***"Land Use Preservation & Development Initiatives,"*** as determined by the evaluation and ***"statistical analysis"*** of local population, income, economic and agricultural figures, a ***"Land Use Profile & Plan," "Public Facilities & Transportation,"*** and an ***"Energy Element."*** The **Comprehensive Plan** also serves as a foundation and guide for the implementation of **Zoning and Subdivision Regulations,** as needed, to achieve the specific **Initiatives** identified in the **Plan**.

The **Plan** was prepared under the direction of the **Butler County Planning Commission** by Planning Consultants, **Hanna:Keelan Associates,** of Lincoln, Nebraska.

PLANNING PERIOD

The planning time period for achieving the goals, programs and economic development activities identified in this **Comprehensive Plan** for the **Butler County, Nebraska, Rural Community** is 10 years (2026-2036).

AUTHORITY TO PLAN

This **Comprehensive Plan** for the **Butler County, Nebraska, Rural Community** is prepared under the Authority of Sections 23-114 to 23-174.10, Nebraska State Statutes 1943, as Amended.

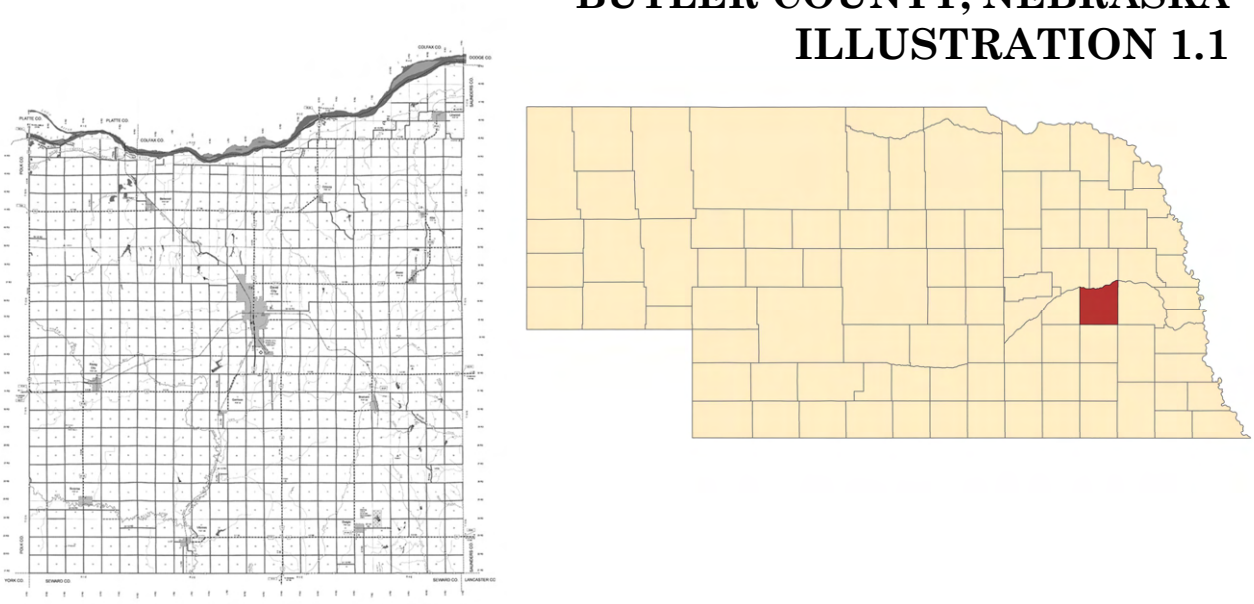
AMENDMENT

The **Comprehensive Plan** should be reviewed, amended and/or updated as the need arises as provided in the Nebraska State Statutes.

LOCATION

Illustration 1.1, identifies the location of Butler County, Nebraska. Butler County is located in the east-central portion of the State of Nebraska, bordered by Polk County (west), Platte and Colfax County (north), Saunders and Dodge County (east) and York, Seward and Lancaster County (south).

LOCATION MAP
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 1.1









SECTION 2:

PLANNING, PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.

HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES
COMMUNITY PLANNING & RESEARCH

SECTION 2

PLANNING, PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.

INTRODUCTION

This **Section** of the **Comprehensive Plan** provides proposed **Planning, Preservation & Development Initiatives for Butler County, Nebraska, Rural Community**. The **Rural Community** is comprised of an estimated 3,200 persons residing in 1,400 households outside of a City or Village's One-Mile Planning Jurisdiction.

These **Initiatives** address a wide spectrum of land use and planning topics, ranging from the preservation of general, traditional agriculture to planned residential subdivisions to economic development opportunities and will serve as the cornerstone of maintaining quality lifestyle and economic prosperity currently experienced in the **Butler County Rural Community.**

The purpose of each **Initiative** is to create a **"balance" of both land use preservation and development practices** at all levels of planning implementation, in an effort to address the health, safety and overall general welfare of the **Butler County Rural Community** residents. This, in turn, will promote the best possible planning and development practices to address the appropriate agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, public/quasi-public and land/water conservation needs and wants of the citizenry.

The **implementation of the Comprehensive Plan** should include the coordination of local **Rural Community** groups and organizations to carry-out these **Planning Initiatives.** The **success** of the **Comprehensive Plan** will greatly depend upon **planned programs of citizen participation,** to allow local residents the opportunity to both monitor and provide input for **Preservation and Development activities** in the **Butler County Rural Community.**

The **Planning, Preservation & Development Initiatives** are a product of the **qualitative and quantitative research activities** conducted for the **Comprehensive Plan.**

Qualitative research activities included meetings with the Butler County Planning Commission. Also included was the implementation of the **Butler County, Nebraska County-Wide Opinion Survey.** The **Survey** allowed the **Butler County Citizenry** to provide their opinion of **future land use activities** in the **Rural Community.** A total of **794 residents, including 358 from Rural Butler County, with 295 Rural Community residents living one+ mile from a community,** completed the **Survey.** The results of the **Survey** provided guidance for creating citizenry consensus and direction in the preparation of the following **Planning, Preservation & Development Initiatives.**

Quantitative research activities included the collection, analysis and projection of pertinent population, income, economic and agricultural data from local, State and National sources, all to understand both past and present demographic and land use development trends in the **Butler County Rural Community**.

The Land Use Preservation & Development Initiatives address the important components of planning implementation. The following identifies Three Primary Categories of Initiatives in the Butler County Rural Community.

1. **Population, Plan Participation & Implementation.**
    - **Population Stability & Growth.**
    - **Rural County Leadership.**
    - **Rural County Citizen Participation & Relationships.**
    - **Plan Review & Implementation.**

2. **Preservation of Existing Conditions in the Butler County Rural Community.**
    - **Agricultural Land Areas & Associated Farmsteads.**
    - **Housing Preservation.**
    - **Parks/Recreation & Other Public Amenities.**
    - **Road Network & Other Transportation Systems.**
    - **Commercial & Industrial Preservation/Expansion.**
    - **Rural Conservation Districts.**

3. **Future Development & Planning Practices.**
    - **Land Use Planning & Zoning.**
    - **Residential Development Practices.**
    - **Public Facilities, Utilities & Transportation.**
    - **Commercial & Industrial Development.**
    - **Alternative Energy Development Practices.**
    - **Broadband/Telecommunications.**

POPULATION, PLAN PARTICIPATION, & IMPLEMENTATION

The **success** of this **Comprehensive Plan** will greatly depend upon **planned programs of citizen participation,** to allow local residents the opportunity to both monitor and provide input for **Preservation and Development activities** in the **Butler County Rural Community.** Maintaining, at least, a stable population by 2036 will require local leadership to continue to **strengthen relationships** between the **Rural Community** residents, rural business/industrial operations and the leadership of each Community, to conduct planning practices supportive of proper land usage, economic growth, housing development, public facilities and services, transportation and recreation opportunities.

- **The purpose for the Zoning Regulations will be to successfully implement the Initiatives and Future Land Use Plan presented in this Comprehensive Plan**

- **Annual population statistics from the U.S. Census have identified a stable and increasing population throughout the County since the 2020 Census.** Butler County, Nebraska, is expected to increase, slightly, in population through 2036, with a projected population of 8,486.

  The **Butler County Rural Community** currently has an estimated population of 3,203. This population base is expected to remain stable and increase to an estimated 3,264 during the next 10 years. The increase in population will necessitate planned housing, public facilities and economic development activities in specifically designated areas where prime agricultural lands will not be encroached upon.

- **Butler County leadership** will need to continue to take an active role in **guiding the development potential of the Rural Community** supporting the broadening of the local economic base, expanding employment opportunities. Emphasis will be placed on both **traditional and modern agricultural related activities, including ag-related commercial and industrial entities, and rural residential development in specifically designated areas of the Community.**

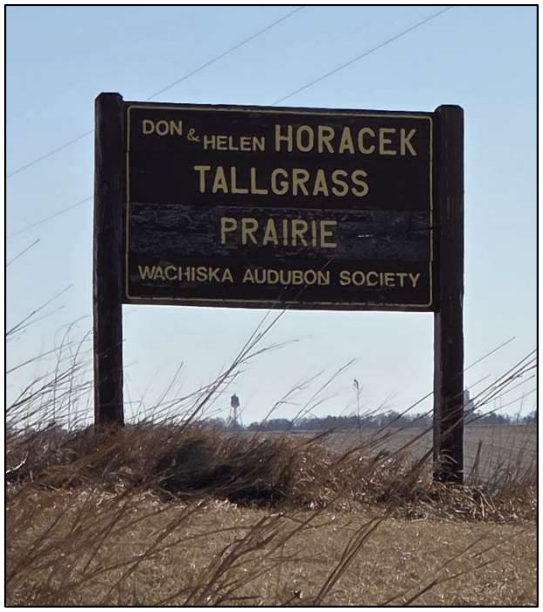
- Maintain and utilize the **Comprehensive Plan** as the **primary tool for decision making**, regarding the **Preservation and Development** of land areas in **the Butler County Rural Community.** This includes an **annual review process** of the **Comprehensive Plan and Zoning and Subdivision Regulations**, coupled with changes, modifications and/or amendments prepared upon consensus of the Planning Commission, Butler County Board of Supervisors and the public.

PRESERVATION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Preserving existing conditions in the **Butler County Rural Community** is important because it protects the very qualities that define the area's identity, stability, and appeal. Agricultural lands, natural landscapes, park and recreation areas and historic sites all contribute to the County's heritage and economic foundation, particularly in areas where farming, tourism, or outdoor recreation play key roles. Maintaining these assets helps prevent unmanaged or incompatible development that can strain infrastructure, increase costs, and erode the rural character residents value. Preservation also supports environmental sustainability by safeguarding water quality and quantity, wildlife habitats, and open spaces.

The **Butler County, Nebraska, Rural Community** has never officially adopted a Comprehensive Plan or Zoning Regulations, resulting in unplanned developments without land use development codes or rules and the creation of conflicting and inappropriate land uses. Many of these uses are "nonconforming" in character and conflict with existing agricultural and residential acreage developments.

To protect the existing natural environment in the Rural Community, during the Comprehensive Planning Process, a nine-month moratorium was recommended by the Butler County Planning Commission and enacted by the Butler County Board of Supervisors. The moratorium temporarily restricted the development of utility scale wind farms, utility scale solar farms, expansion of the Butler County Landfill, battery energy storage systems and large-scale data centers.





- An important statistical analysis of land use in Butler County was the preparation of a **Land Use Capacity Matrix,** presenting both the current and projected pertinent land use recommendations for the County. **Butler County comprises 378,240 acres, of which an estimated 340,525.8 acres consist of agricultural farm and pasture land.** Local leadership should continue to promote the **preservation of the agricultural industry in the Rural Community**, including the diversification and modernization of crop and livestock production. Historically, agriculture has been the primary income producing activity for the **Community**. This is anticipated to remain as such through the 10-year planning period, ending in 2036.



The Butler County Planning Commission, as well as participants of the County-Wide Opinion Survey, expressed strong support for official designation as a "Livestock Friendly" County by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

- County leadership must be cognizant of farming operation trends in the County, including the overall decline in the number of farms and an increase in average farm size, as per the 2012, 2017, and 2022 Census of Agriculture.

  A majority of County-Wide Opinion Survey participants identified the preservation of "General Agriculture Uses," including traditional farming and livestock operations, as the most important planning initiative in the County during the 10-year planning period.

- **Affordable housing stock** in the **Butler County Rural Community** should be developed during the next 10 years, ensuring that safe and decent housing types exist for both existing and future farmsteads, specifically for starter agricultural families. Land areas adjacent hard-surfaced roads/highways, as well as in close proximity to existing rural residential subdivisions are prime locations for rural residential development, either single family homes or a planned residential subdivision. **These developments should not infringe on the operation of any active or future farming and/or livestock activities, or associated land areas.**

- **Rural Butler County Park, Recreation and Wildlife Management areas** should be maintained and preserved to support local quality of life. **Participants of the County-Wide Opinion Survey were mostly "supportive" or "very supportive" of protecting park and recreation and uses in Butler County** throughout the 10-year planning period.

- **Public emergency services,** including police, fire and ambulance services should be maintained and enhanced where necessary to provide the **Butler County Rural Community** residents with reliable access to these services. Continue to provide the necessary funding for equipment and apparatus enhancements to maintain sufficient response times and personnel safety.

- The preservation of the **Rural Community transportation system** will require proper planning and implementation of all levels of local road networks, with emphasis on the safe transport of people and goods. Both the **State and County One- and Six-Year Road Plans** should be "key" in directing a proper, modern road system throughout the **Community.**

- Preserve and support the continuation and expansion of **existing commercial and light industrial land uses**, as needed, with emphasis on commercial and industrial types that benefit all **Butler County** residents, especially, the local agricultural sector. Most current land areas **designated for industrial uses in the Rural Community included a proposed Sandhills Energy Solar Farm in northwestern Butler County.**

- The County should consider establishing **Rural Conservation Districts** along major stream and river corridors, including the Platte and Big Blue Rivers.

  Participants of the County-Wide Opinion Survey were generally "Supportive" or "Very Supportive" of land and water conservation practices and the protection of creek and river corridors throughout Butler County.

  Rural Conservation Districts are important to the health of local residents, protecting the natural systems that directly support clean water, air quality, and overall well-being. By limiting intensive development and preserving vegetation along riverbanks, Conservation Districts help filter pollutants, reduce erosion, and maintain water quality for drinking, recreation and agriculture. Such Districts also reduce flood risks by allowing rivers to access their natural floodplains, which can lessen property damage and protect public safety.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING PRACTICES

Butler County leadership will be required to provide a clear framework for managing growth while preserving the rural community's character, resources, and long-term viability. Thoughtful planning helps local leaders make informed decisions regarding land use, infrastructure, housing, and economic development, ensuring that limited public funds are used efficiently and strategically. It also allows a county to anticipate challenges such as population shifts, workforce needs, and environmental pressures. By guiding where and how development occurs, The **Butler County Rural Community** can protect agricultural land and natural assets, support local businesses, and maintain a high quality of life for residents.

- **Maintain and follow the Future Land Use Plan** for the **Butler County Rural Community**, which is based upon present conditions and the sound forecast of future needs. Coordinate all land development and planning activities, including land use changes with the input of the general public and County and State officials.

- Ensure that **all developments** in the **Butler County Rural Community** conform to **uniform planning standards** and are in conformance with local **Zoning Regulations.** Evaluate the concepts of **"permitted"** and **"special"** or **"conditional" land uses** throughout the rural County, as it pertains to future developments. Special permitted uses should contain all land use provisions associated with permissive uses, with the addition of other development and/or operational conditions as deemed necessary by the County.

- Utilize the **Land Use Plan** and associated **Zoning Regulations** to ensure that all development efforts in the **Butler County Rural Community** result in the preservation and protection of the **highest concentration of irrigated and dry land crop production areas** County-wide. Emphasis on groundwater protection and preservation of agricultural land uses should be emphasized.



- **General farming practices** should continue to be the priority agricultural land use type in the **Butler County Rural Community**. Currently, Butler County maintains an estimated **340,525.8 acres** of agricultural farming and pasture land. Additionally, an estimated **1,566.6 acres** are dedicated to intensive agricultural operations, including confined animal feeding operations.

  The **development of new, and expansion of existing intensive agricultural operations, including livestock confinement facilities of varied sized should be determined by the Butler County Zoning Regulations,** and only allowed by Special or Conditional Use Permit. Such operations should be avoided in the **Butler County Rural Community** areas containing sensitive soils conditions, or in high-risk water areas. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the amount of land developed to support animal confinement operations through 2036.

  Participants of the County-Wide Opinion Survey provided a variety of responses regarding the development of new, and expansion of existing, confined animal feeding operations, expressing both supportive and unsupportive views.

- Avoid the development of non-agricultural commercial and industrial operations that could result in the **contamination or depletion of soils and groundwater resources.** Enforce State and Local regulations protecting the environment from developments resulting in **contamination or pollutants.** Enforce State and Local regulations protecting the environment from developments resulting in **contamination or pollutants.**

- Limit **future non-agricultural developments** in the **Butler County Rural Community, including general commercial and industrial operations** to locations that are relatively free of environmental constraints relating to soils, slope, flood plain, drainage, ground water, endangered species or other natural resources, or along hard-surfaced roads and highways.



- Prohibit the development of commercial/industrial operations not supported by the citizens of the **Butler County Rural Community, per the County-Wide Opinion Survey. These would include commercial wind and solar energy development projects, data centers, battery energy storage systems and any expansion of the Butler County Landfill.**

  Preservation of agricultural production, natural resources and the rural character of the **Butler County Rural Community**, shall remain the County's highest land use priority. Utility-scale wind energy facilities, utility-scale solar energy facilities, battery energy storage systems (BESS), large-scale data centers and expansion of landfill activities are considered generally incompatible with the predominant agricultural and rural land use character and safety of the **Butler County Rural Community** and should be prohibited.

- Continue to practice modern measures that limit or reduce flood hazards, control water run-off and enhance the quality of surface and ground water in the **Rural Community,** while avoiding development in and around floodplains and associated floodways.

- Promote the **development of housing** in the **Butler County Rural Community**, in locations consistent with the Future Land Use Map, utilizing appropriate Zoning Districts. Encourage **future residential development** in the **Rural Community** to be located in close proximity to communities, or at appropriate locations along paved transportation corridors that do not exploit agricultural lands.



- **Participants of the County-Wide Opinion Survey, overall, were generally "supportive" of housing development, both individual homes and planned subdivisions, occurring in the Butler County Rural Community.**

- Establish a **program of home repair or rehabilitation** of existing housing units in deteriorated condition, but worthy of repair. This program could include a **"Purchase – Rehab – Resale" component** for worthy housing structures in the **Rural Community.**

- **Establish a program to demolish substantially dilapidated housing units** within the **Butler County Rural Community that are a detriment to the health, safety and welfare of rural County residents**.

- **Provide adequate, efficient and appropriate public facilities, utilities and services** to both new and existing agricultural and residential developments in the **Butler County Rural Community**. Ongoing communication with public service providers will be pertinent to the proper location and design and development of any new facilities and/or systems. These public facilities should be consistent in meeting the **cultural, educational, social, recreational, safety and health needs of the Rural County.**

- **Ensure adequate open and recreation space, including state recreation and wildlife management areas** are both maintained and developed in the **Butler County Rural Community**. Emphasize both existing and potential recreational opportunities associated with local river corridors and channels.

- Encourage **joint Community/County economic development activities** in the **Butler County Rural Community** that create stable, long-term employment opportunities with competitive wages, especially for low- and moderate-income persons or families.

- Provide facilities and services in the **Butler County Rural Community necessary to prevent degradation of the environment**, including the proper disposal of animal waste. Ensure rules and regulations governing **potable water and sewage treatment** are adhered to.

- Ensure that **adequate public health, safety and crime prevention systems** are provided and accessible throughout the **County.**

- **Promote a social and cultural environment that provides opportunities for all residents to experience, develop and share their values, abilities, ambitions and heritage.**

- Continue to support the **evolution of the public educational system** and ensure that it is capable of maintaining and elevating the **Rural County**'s overall **educational level.**

- Utilize the **County's and State's One & Six Year Road Plans** to both maintain and provide new and improved transportation networks in the **Butler County Rural Community, as well as the continued maintenance of the existing County road network.** Coordinate **transportation systems with the planning and development of other elements** of the **Rural Community.**

- Continue to maintain County road systems in accordance with the standard State of Nebraska Department of Transportation "Functional Street Classifications."

- Utilize the Comprehensive Plan's **"Energy Element"** directed at both documenting and monitoring the consumption of energy and conservation policies for all sectors in the **Butler County Rural Community. Overall, residents of Butler County, including the Rural Community, were not supportive of the development of commercial scale alternative energy projects, as per the County-Wide Opinion Survey results.**









SECTION 3:

STATISTICAL PROFILE & CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.

HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES
COMMUNITY PLANNING & RESEARCH

SECTION 3

STATISTICAL PROFILE & CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.

INTRODUCTION

Population, income and economic trends in **Butler County** serve as valuable indicators of future development needs and patterns for the County and provide a basis for the realistic projection of the future population. The quantity and location of social and economic features play an important role in shaping the details of various development plans to meet the **County's** needs.

The population trends and projections for the years 2000 through 2036 were studied and forecasted, utilizing a process of both trend analysis and U.S. Census population estimates. A complete **"Table Profile"** is included in **"Appendix I"** of this **Comprehensive Plan. Butler County should encourage population growth and promote the development of a variety of businesses and housing types during the 10-year planning period.**

GENERAL POPULATION TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

The analysis and projection of population are at the center of all planning decisions. This process assists in understanding important changes which have and will occur throughout the planning period.

Estimating population size is a critical component to the planning process. The population base has an effect on the housing, economic, employment and fiscal stability of a county and each community. Projecting a county's population is extremely complex. Because projections are based on past trends and various assumptions concerning the future, projections must be carefully analyzed and continually re-evaluated due to an area's economic and social structure.

POPULATION

- **Table 3.1, Page 3.3** identifies **population trends and projections** for **Butler County**, each **Community**, and the **Rural Community** from 2000 through 2036. A decrease in population occurred for **Butler County** between the 2000 and 2020 decennial Censuses, though population is projected to slightly rise through 2036.

  Total population in **Butler County**, between the 2010 and 2020 Censuses, has declined by 0.31 percent, or from 8,395 to 8,369. Through the same period, all Butler County Communities, with the exception of David City and Dwight, experienced population decline between 2000 and 2020, this includes the **Rural Community**. Annual population estimates for 2026 and beyond highlight a more stable population trend with minimal increases in population for the **County** and **Rural Community**.

  The current (2026) estimated population for **Butler County** is 8,422, representing an increase of 0.63 percent since 2020. By 2036, the population of **Butler County** is projected to remain stable, increasing by an estimated 0.76 percent, or 64 persons. Slight increases are also projected for the **Butler County Rural Community** through 2036.



TABLE 3.1
POPULATION TRENDS & PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, COMMUNITIES & RURAL COMMUNITY
2000-2036

	2000	2010	2020	2026	2036	# Change 2026-2036	2036 CGI*
Butler County	**8,767**	**8,395**	**8,369**	**8,422**	**8,486**	**+64**	**8,643**
David City	2,638	2,906	2,995	3,025	3,084	+59	**3,155**
Abie	141	69	65	66	64	-2	**64**
Bellwood	469	435	407	408	391	-17	**395**
Brainard	374	330	336	353	358	+5	**362**
Bruno	101	99	95	97	95	-2	**95**
Dwight	225	204	229	232	226	-6	**229**
Garrison	67	54	55	56	53	-3	**53**
Linwood	126	88	94	93	87	-6	**87**
Octavia	149	127	107	107	95	-12	**95**
Rising City	369	374	356	359	349	-10	**357**
Surprise	43	43	37	40	38	-2	**38**
Ulysses	229	171	196	188	177	-11	**180**
Community Planning Jurisdictions	201	193	192	195	205	+10	**249**
Butler County Rural Community	**3,635**	**3,302**	**3,205**	**3,203**	**3,264**	**+61**	**3,284**

*Includes potential estimated population increase associated with a planned **"Community Growth Initiative" (CGI).** This could include increases in **145** Full-Time Employment (FTE) positions and/or Housing Development activities associated with workforce/population recruitment during the next 10 years. This would create an estimated Butler County population increase of **157** residents.

Source: 2000, 2010, 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

- For planning purposes, the various cohorts of population are important indicators of the special needs of a county. The cohorts of age, sex and family structure can assist in determining potential labor force and the need for housing, public facilities and other important local services.

  An analysis of age characteristics can be used to identify the potential needs of public schools, recreational areas and short- and long-term health care facilities.

- **Tables 3.2a and 3.2b, Page 3.5,** provides **age distribution trends and projections** for **Butler County**, and the **Rural Community**, from 2000 to 2036. Overall, the **County** is projected to experience a net increase in population during the next 10 years of approximately 64 persons. All age cohorts under 55 years are projected to decrease, while all age cohorts 55+ are projected to experience population increases in **Butler County**, by 2036.

  The *"65 to 74"* age group is projected to experience the largest population increase during the next 10 years, in **Butler County**, from 1,127 persons in 2026 to 1,347 by 2036, or an estimated increase of 220 persons. The **Rural Community** population is also projected to decline in two of the three youngest categories, *"19 and Under,"* and *"35 to 54,"* through 2036. The age groups between 55 and 85+ years of age are anticipated to increase by a combined 183 persons in the **Rural Community.**

  There is evidence of an "aging in place" population in **Butler County**. To support this segment of the **County's** population base, additional housing for elderly, frail elderly and retirees that includes independent living, assisted living and long-term care will be needed in **Butler County**.

  As of 2026, the median age in **Butler County** is an estimated 48.1 years, while the **Rural Community median age**, an estimated **50.2 years.** The median age for the **County** as a whole is projected to increase to 49.3 years. The **Rural Community** median age is anticipated to increase to 54.6 years between 2026 and 2036.

TABLE 3.2A
POPULATION AGE DISTRIBUTION
TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2000-2036

Age Group	2000	2010	2020	2000-2020 Change	2026	2036	2026-2036 Change
19 and Under	2,635	2,248	2,187	**-448**	**2,145**	**2,075**	**-70**
20-34	1,283	1,107	1,236	**-47**	**1,200**	**1,215**	**+15**
35-54	2,476	2,315	1,845	**-631**	**1,707**	**1,327**	**-380**
55-64	823	1,122	1,303	**+480**	**1,395**	**1,577**	**+182**
65-74	785	736	995	**+210**	**1,127**	**1,347**	**+220**
75-84	599	577	540	**-59**	**560**	**625**	**+65**
85+	166	290	263	**+97**	**288**	**320**	**+32**
Totals	**8,767**	**8,395**	**8,369**	**-343**	**8,422**	**8,486**	**+64**
Median Age	**38.7**	**44.3**	**43.2**	**+4.1**	**45.1**	**49.3**	**+4.2**

Source: 2000, 2010, 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 3.2B
POPULATION AGE DISTRIBUTION
TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, RURAL COMMUNITY
2000-2036

Age Group	2000	2010	2020	2000-2020 Change	2026	2036	2026-2036 Change
19 and Under	1,198	892	861	**-337**	**708**	**651**	**-57**
20-34	493	407	434	**-59**	**370**	**586**	**+16**
35-54	1,189	1063	707	**-482**	**687**	**606**	**-81**
55-64	393	516	648	**+255**	**667**	**744**	**+77**
65-74	329	337	443	**+114**	**469**	**545**	**+76**
75-84	191	219	232	**+41**	**227**	**242**	**+15**
85+	37	61	72	**+35**	**75**	**90**	**+15**
Totals	**3,635**	**3,302**	**3,205**	**-430**	**3,203**	**3,264**	**+61**
Median Age	**37.1**	**41.6**	**43.7**	**+2.1**	**50.2**	**54.6**	**+4.4**

Source: 2000, 2010, 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

- **Table 3.3, Page 3.7,** identifies **specific household characteristics** of **Butler County** and the **Rural Community**, from 2010 to 2036. The total number of households is projected to increase by an estimated 24 throughout the **County** and by eight households in the **Rural Community.** During the next 10 years, "persons per household" in **Butler County** is projected to remain stable, at 2.38, and increase slightly in the **Rural Community** from 2.21 to 2.24 in 2036.

  Group quarters consist of living quarters that are not considered a household, such as dormitories, nursing care centers and correctional facilities. Currently, a total of 160 persons reside in group quarters in **Butler County**. Persons residing in group quarters is projected remain stable by 2036. No group quarters exist in the **Butler County Rural Community.**

TABLE 3.3
SPECIFIC HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2010-2036

	Year	Population	Group Quarters	Persons in Households	Households	Persons Per Household
Butler	2010	8,395	173	8,222	3,391	2.42
County	2020	8,369	154	8,215	3,424	2.39
	2026	**8,422**	**160**	**8,262**	**3,471**	**2.38**
	2036	**8,486**	**160**	**8,326**	**3,495**	**2.38**
Butler	2010	3,302	0	3,302	1,611	2.05
County	2020	3,205	0	3,205	1,490	2.15
Rural	**2026**	**3,203**	**0**	**3,203**	**1,449**	**2.21**
Community	**2036**	**3,264**	**0**	**3,264**	**1,457**	**2.24**

Source: 2010 & 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

HOUSEHOLD TENURE

❖ **Table 3.4, Page 3.9,** identifies **tenure by household** for **Butler County** and the **Rural Community**, from 2010 to 2036. The County is currently (2026) comprised of an estimated 3,471 households, consisting of 2,628 owner and 843 renter households. By 2036, owner households will account for an estimated 75 percent of the total households in **Butler County**, resulting in 2,621 owner households and 874 renter households.

Between 2026 and 2036, the number of owner households in both **Butler County** and the **Rural Community** is projected to decrease, while renter households increase. In total, the number of households in the **Butler County Rural Community** is projected to increase from 1,449 to 1,457 households by 2036, an increase of eight households, or 0.6 percent.

TABLE 3.4
TENURE BY HOUSEHOLD
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2010-2036

			Owner		Renter	
	Year	Households	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Butler	2010	3,391	2,633	77.6%	758	22.4%
County	2020	3,424	2,607	80.4%	817	19.6%
	2026	**3,471**	**2,628**	**75.7%**	**843**	**24.3%**
	2036	**3,495**	**2,621**	**75.0%**	**874**	**25.0%**
Butler	2010	1,611	1,352	83.9%	259	16.1%
County	2020	1,490	1,253	84.1%	237	15.9%
Rural	**2026**	**1,449**	**1,182**	**81.6%**	**267**	**18.4%**
Community	**2036**	**1,457**	**1,174**	**80.6%**	**283**	**19.4%**

Source: 2010 & 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

INCOME TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

ESTIMATED MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- **Table 3.5** identifies **household median income trends and projections** for **Butler County**, and the **Rural Community** from 2010 to 2036. Currently, median income in **Butler County** is projected at $66,697, and median income in the **Butler County Rural Community** is an estimated $74,213.

  Median income throughout the **County** is projected to increase by an estimated 7.5 percent to $71,673, with an increase of 7.5 percent to $79,782 in the **Butler County Rural Community**, by 2036. The number of households throughout **Butler County** having an annual income at or above $50,000 is expected to increase during the next 10 years, while the number of households below an annual income of $50,000 is expected to decrease.

TABLE 3.5
ESTIMATED MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME TRENDS & PROJECTIONS*
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2010-2036

	2010*	2020*	2026	2036
Butler County	**$44,595**	**$59,232**	**$66,697**	**$71,673**
Butler County Rural Community	**$49,481**	**$65,860**	**$74,213**	**$79,782**

*Subject to margin of error.
Source: 2010 & 2020 American Community Survey.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

PER CAPITA INCOME

- **Table 3.6** identifies **per capita income** for **Butler County** and the **State of Nebraska**, from 2012 to 2036. Per capita income is equal to the gross income of an area (State, County, City, Village) divided equally between the residents of the area. In 2024, per capita income in **Butler County** was an estimated $70,817. By 2036, per capita income will increase in the County by an estimated 34.9 percent, to $95,595.

  Per capita income in **Butler County** has generally followed the trend of the Nebraska state-wide per capita income, settling either slightly above or below the state-wide per capita income.

TABLE 3.6
PER CAPITA INCOME
TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY / STATE OF NEBRASKA
2016-2036

	Butler County		State of Nebraska	
Year	**Income**	**% Change**	**Income**	**% Change**
2016	$41,666	--	$48,688	--
2017	$42,796	+2.7%	$49,533	-0.4%
2018	$45,146	+5.5%	$51,436	+5.5%
2019	$49,070	+8.7%	$53,513	+2.3%
2020	$53,515	+9.1%	$56,909	+0.9%
2021	$63,711	+19.1%	$63,365	+2.8%
2022	$66,507	+4.4%	$66,365	+2.8%
2023	**$71,379**	**+7.3%**	**$71,517**	**+3.2%**
2024	**$70,817**	**-0.8%**	**$72,701**	**+1.9%**
2016-2024	**$41,666-$70,817**	**+69.9%**	**$48,688-$72,701**	**+49.3%**
2024-2036	**$70,817-$95,595**	**+34.9%**	**$72,701-$93,112**	**+28.1%**

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2024.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME

- **Table 3.7** identifies the number of **persons receiving Social Security Income and/or Supplemental Security Income** in **Butler County**. A total of 1,910 persons received Social Security Income in the County, in 2024. Of this total, 86.4 percent, or 1,650 persons were aged 65+ years.

TABLE 3.7
PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2024

Social Security Income-2024	**Number of Beneficiaries**
Retirement Benefits	
Retired Workers	1,910
Wives & Husbands	30
Children	10
Survivor Benefits	
Widows & Widowers	110
Children	40
Disability Benefits	
Disabled Persons	135
Wives & Husbands	0
Children	20
Total	**2,255**
Aged 65 & Older	
Men	755
Women	895
Total	**1,650**
Supplemental Security Income-2024	**Number of Beneficiaries**
Aged	X
Blind and Disabled	X
Total	**70**

Source: Department of Health and Human Services,
Social Security Administration, 2024.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC TRENDS

The most recent and comprehensive employment data available for Butler County was obtained from the Nebraska Department of Labor. A review and analysis of Butler County labor force statistics provides a general understanding of the economic activity occurring in and around the County.

EMPLOYMENT DATA

- **Table 3.8** identifies **employment data trends and projections** for Butler County, Nebraska, from 2016 through 2036. In 2025, Butler County was estimated to have 4,521 employed persons with an estimated unemployment rate of 1.8 percent. By 2036, employed persons in the County are estimated to increase by 179 persons, or by 3.2 percent. The 2036 unemployment rate is projected at approximately 2.5 percent.

TABLE 3.8
EMPLOYMENT DATA TRENDS & PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2016-2036

Year	Number of Employed Persons	Change	Percent Unemployment
2016	4,324	--	3.49%
2017	4,291	-0.8%	3.01%
2018	4,330	+0.9%	2.56%
2019	4,399	+1.6%	2.84%
2020	4,311	-2.0%	3.64%
2021	4,430	+2.8%	2.42%
2022	4,475	+1.0%	1.81%
2023	4,418	+1.3%	1.83%
2024	4,456	+0.9%	2.31%
2025	4,521	+1.5%	1.80%
2026*	4,553	+0.7%	2.40%
2036	**4,700**	**+3.2%**	**2.5%**
2016-2036	**4,324-4,700**	**+8.7%**	**1.80-3.64%**

*Estimate as of March, 2026.
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, 2026.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

- **Table 3.9** identifies **workforce employment by type,** in **Butler County, Nebraska**, for 2024. The "Local Government" Sector, is the largest non-farm employment sector in the County, with 692 employed persons. "Health Care & Social Services" was the second largest non-farm employment sector with 285 employed persons in this category as of 2024.

TABLE 3.9
WORKFORCE EMPLOYMENT BY TYPE
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2024

Workforce	
Non-Farm Employment (Wage and Salary)	**2,534**
Agriculture Forestry, Fishing & Hunting.	*
Mining, Quarrying and Oil/Gas Extraction.	*
Utilities.	0
Construction.	*
Manufacturing.	*
Wholesale Trade.	171
Retail Trade.	218
Transportation & Warehousing.	72
Information.	*
Finance & Insurance.	118
Real Estate & Rental/Leasing.	6
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services.	50
Management of Companies & Enterprises.	11
Administrative/Support/Waste.	46
Educational Services.	74
Health Care & Social Assistance.	285
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation.	8
Accommodation & Food Service.	94
Other Services (except Public Administration).	*
Federal Government.	35
State Government.	13
Local Government.	692

*Data not available because of disclosure suppression.
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, 2024.

BUTLER COUNTY-WIDE OPINION SURVEY

A **County-Wide Opinion Survey** was completed by **794 residents with a subset of 358 individuals residing in the Rural County**.

The **Survey** response shows a **Community** that strongly values agriculture as the keystone of Butler County and wants to preserve its rural character, private property rights, and local control. Residents support general/traditional agricultural activities and locally owned livestock confinement operations and view them as essential for economic stability, tax base growth, and keeping younger generations in the **County**.

Many **Survey** respondents draw a clear distinction between family-scale or locally owned agriculture and large-, corporate-, or out-of-state agricultural and confinement operations. Concerns regarding air quality, water quality, road damage, odors, traffic, and long-term impacts on health and property values are widespread, especially related to large poultry, hog, and cattle confinements, landfills, and other industrial-scale facilities.

The **Survey** results indicate no support for data centers, battery storage, and commercial wind and solar farms, as future land uses, viewed as incompatible with farmland preservation and rural quality of life.

The responses to the **County-Wide Opinion Survey** demonstrate clear Community support for the implementation of **Zoning and Subdivision Regulations** in the **Rural Community**. Respondents viewed **Regulations** as a tool to provide structure, predictability, and local control over future development in the **Rural Community**. Community members support Zoning to protect water and air quality, safeguard property values, manage pace, scale and location of development, and prevent incompatible land uses near built residential areas.

Survey Respondents prefer Zoning that is locally tailored, transparent, and focused on high-impact and large-scale developments. Zoning is viewed as a tool to guide growth, protect quality of life, and preserve the long-term interests of **Rural Community** residents.







SECTION 4:

LAND USE PROFILE & PLAN.

HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES
COMMUNITY PLANNING & RESEARCH

SECTION 4

LAND USE PROFILE & PLAN.

INTRODUCTION

The following **Land Use Profile & Plan** for the **Butler County, Nebraska Rural Community Comprehensive Plan** focuses on the analysis of existing and future land uses in rural Butler County. Detailed components include the natural environment, highlighting soils, watersheds, wetlands and ground water.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The objective of the **Comprehensive Plan** is to protect agricultural lands and, where appropriate, provide for the potential development of intensive agricultural and industrial uses, commercial uses and/or non-farm/ranch rural dwellings and subdivisions. The consensus of the Butler County Planning Commission is that the future of the **Rural Community** is reliant on both issues for continued economic prosperity. The challenge is to balance agricultural preservation with new commercial, industrial and rural residential development, in appropriate areas of the County.

HISTORY

The land area for Butler County was originally included in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. After the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, the newly formed Nebraska Territory was opened to re-settlement, and soon after, in 1856, **Butler County, Nebraska** was created. The **County** was later organized in 1868, when the population reached the required 200 residents. The original County Seat was Savannah, a small settlement located near the northern border, along the Platte River. In 1873, the County Seat was relocated to David City, due to the **County** residents desiring a more central location for their courthouse.



Old Court House, David City

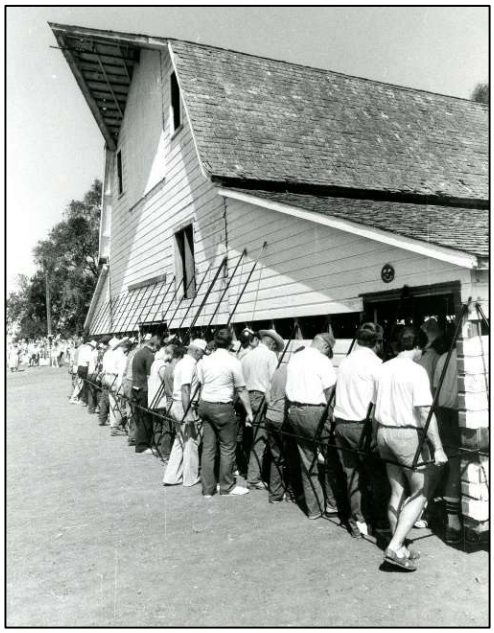
POPULATION TRENDS

Table 4.1 highlights historical population trends for **Butler County.** The **County** experienced early, rapid growth. The 1860 U.S. Census identified 27 people residing in the **County.** Ten years later, in 1870, the Census identified 1,290 persons in the **County.** The **County** continued growing at a rapid pace through the 1800s, reaching a peak population of 15,703, according to the 1900 Census. Between the 1910 through 1990 Census, the population dropped by 7,102 residents. **As of 2026, the population of Butler County is estimated to be 8,422.**

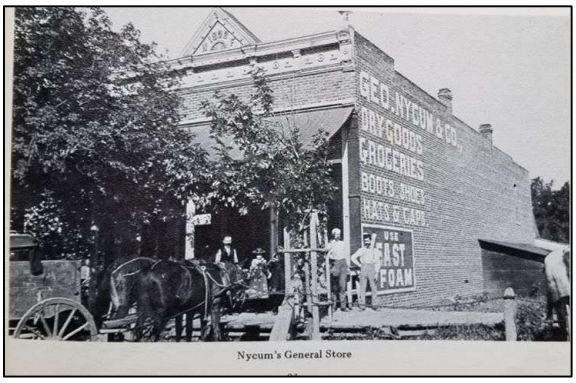
TABLE 4.1
HISTORICAL POPULATION
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
1860-2026

Year	Population	Change	Percent Change
1860	27	--	--
1870	1,290	+1,263	+4,677.8%
1880	9,191	+7,901	+612.7%
1890	15,454	+6,263	+68.1%
1900	15,703	+249	+1.6%
1910	15,403	-300	-1.9%
1920	14,606	-797	-5.2%
1930	14,410	-196	-1.3%
1940	13,106	-1,304	-9.0%
1950	11,432	-1,674	-12.8%
1960	10,312	-1,120	-9.8%
1970	9,461	-851	-8.3%
1980	9,330	-131	-1.4%
1990	8,601	-729	-7.8%
2000	8,767	+166	+1.9%
2010	8,495	-272	-4.2%
2020	8,369	-126	-0.3%
2026*	8,422	+53	+0.6

Source: University of Nebraska-Omaha, Center for Public Affairs Research, 2018; 2020 Census. Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2026.



Barn Moving on Herman Ostry's Farm



Nyeum's General Store, Rising City

CLIMATE

The climate of Butler County is continental and characterized by widely ranging seasonal temperatures and rapidly changing weather patterns. The temperature ranges from an average daily minimum of 11.7 degrees in January to an average daily maximum of 85.9 degrees in July. The average annual precipitation is 30.4 inches. The average annual snowfall is 31.8 inches.

EXISTING LAND USE ANALYSIS

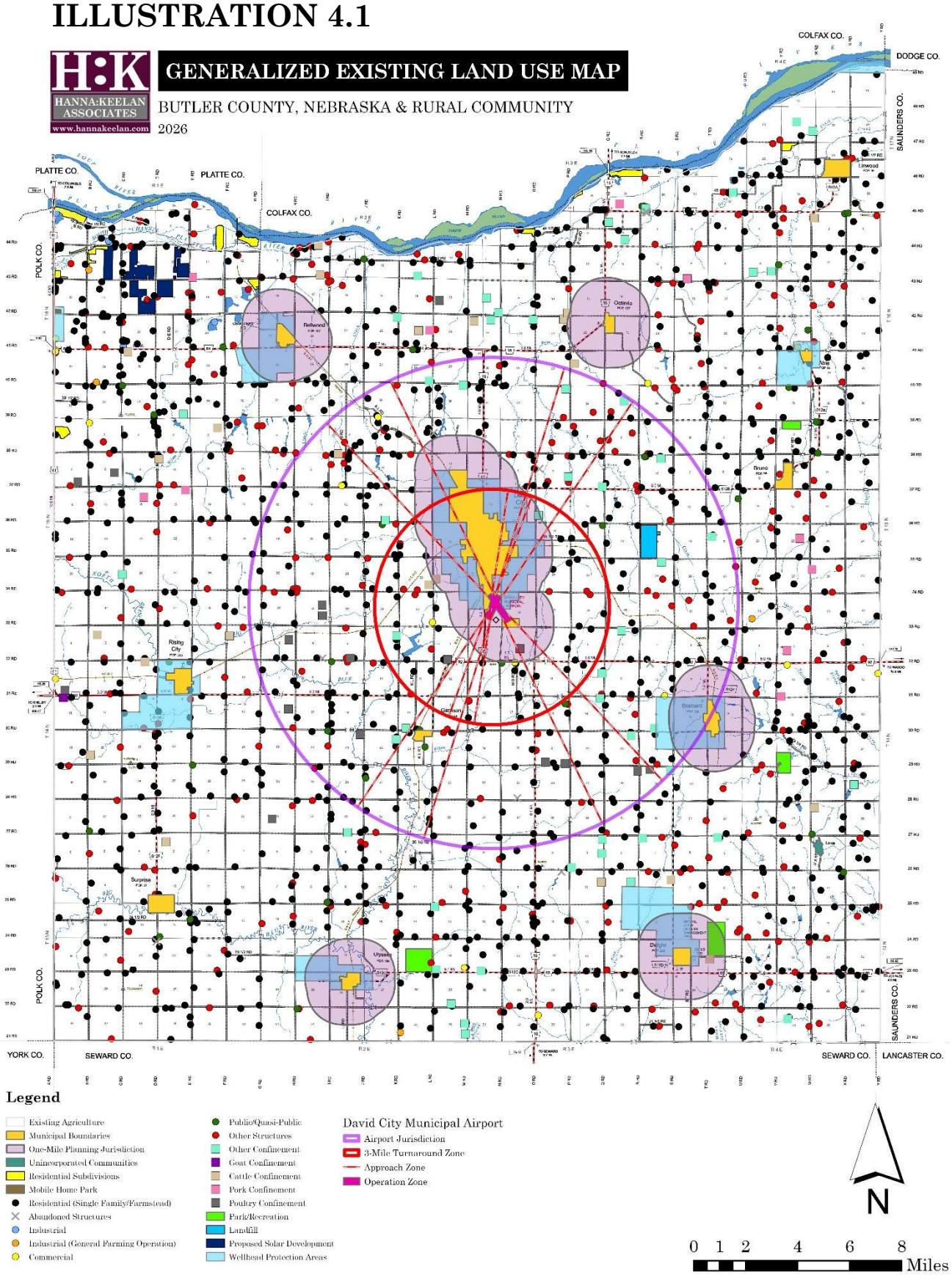
The **Generalized Existing Land Use Map**, **Illustration 4.1, Page 4.4**, serves as the basis for establishing the **Land Use Plan**. The **Map** highlights the impact of concentrations of rural dwellings and intensive agricultural facilities and production areas throughout the **County.** The impact of residential development on the production of crops and the raising of livestock in **Butler County** is available through the Nebraska Agricultural Census. **Table 4.2** identifies current, estimated acreages of existing land uses throughout the **County.**

TABLE 4.2
ESTIMATED EXISTING LAND USE CAPACITY MATRIX
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2026

Land Use	2026 Land Area (Acres)
- TOTAL ACRES	**378,240**
- Land Area	*374,000*
- Water Area	*4,240*
- Community Corporate Limits (CL) & Planning Jurisdictions (PJ)	**30,043.5**
- Butler County Rural Community	**348,196.5**
- Agricultural* (Open Farm/Pasture Land)	**340,525.8**
- Wellhead Protection Areas	*3,460.3*
- Animal Confinement Operations	**1,566.6**
- Cattle Confinement	*767.7*
- Pork Confinement	*289.2*
- Poultry Confinement	*509.7*
- Public/Quasi-Public	**184.6**
- Cemeteries	*156.2*
- Other	*28.4*
- Park/Recreation/Management Area**	**437.9**
- Residential/Farmsteads	**4,838.9**
- Single Family/Mobile Home Residential	*4,779.0*
- Residential Subdivisions	*594.1*
- Farmstead/"Other" Animal Confinement	*300.8*
- Mobile Home Park	*11.9*
- Abandoned Residential	*48.0*
- Commercial	**10.9**
- Industrial	**631.8**
- Landfill	*379.4*
- Other Industrial	*252.4*

*Includes agricultural structures/outbuildings.
**Includes Wildlife Management Areas.
Source: Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2026.

ILLUSTRATION 4.1



Agricultural land acres for traditional crop harvest and livestock production are the most prolific rural land uses in the **Butler County Rural Community,** an estimated **348,196.5 acres.** This also includes farming and ranch/pasture land and are not associated with any land conservation districts/restrictions. Of this total, an estimated 1,566.6 acres are utilized by animal confinement operations, between cattle, pork, poultry, and "other" animal confinements.

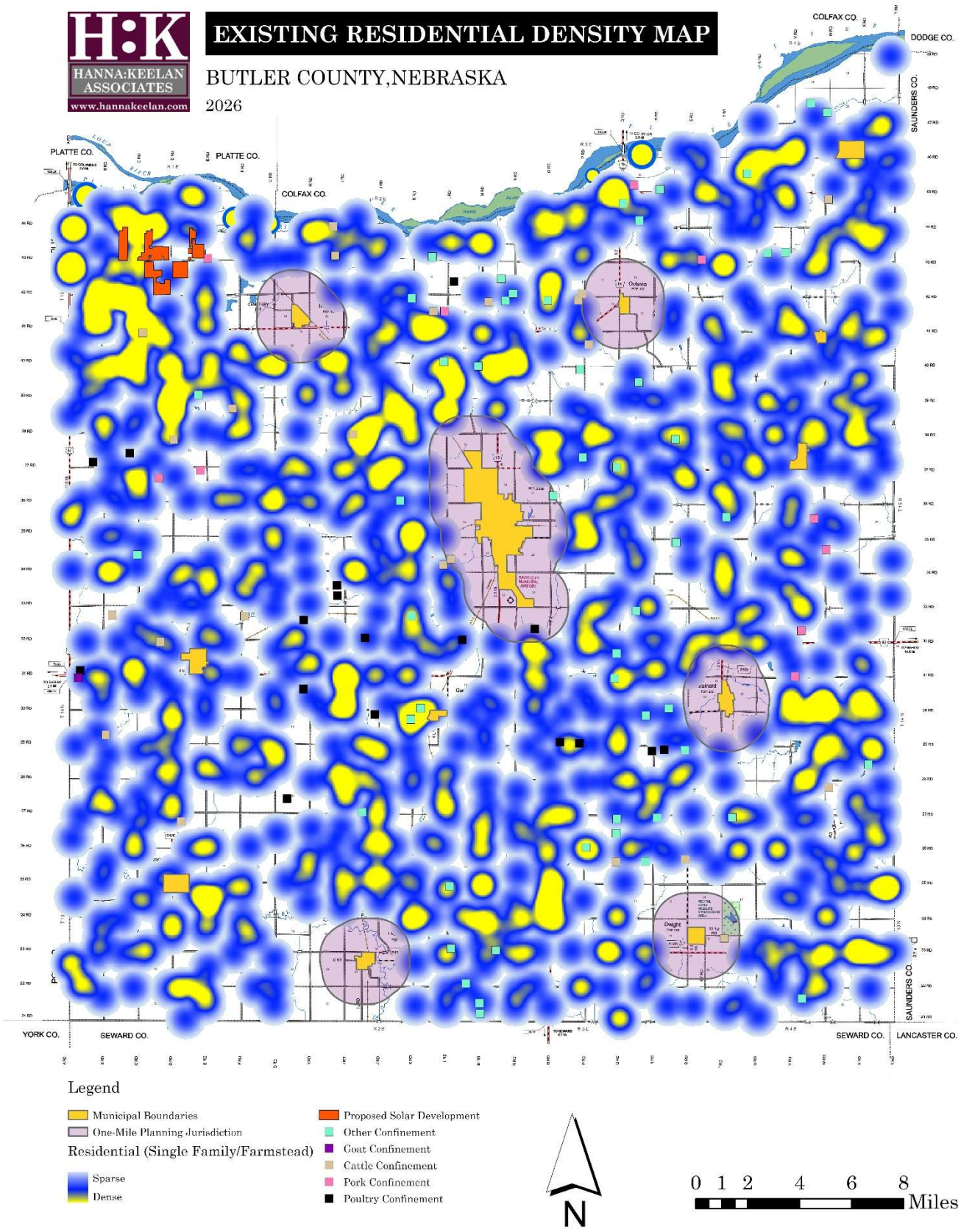
- **RURAL RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

  The **Existing Residential Density Map, Illustration 4.2, Page 4.6,** identifies residential development density throughout the **Butler County Rural Community**. Non-farm, rural subdivision dwellings present adjacent the Platte River along the northern border of the **County.** Rural farm dwellings are, generally, evenly spread throughout agricultural production areas and are present in nearly all square mile sections throughout the **County.** Rural residential dwellings are located along hard surfaced and gravel roads, with larger subdivisions located in northwestern **Butler County.**

  An estimated 4,779 acres of land in the **Butler County Rural Community** is currently dedicated to single-family residential developments, including farmsteads, with 594.1 acres of these constituting rural residential subdivisions. An additional 59.9 acres are comprised of a mobile home park and abandoned residential structures.



ILLUSTRATION 4.2



- **PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC AND RECREATIONAL USES.**

  Public/quasi-public land uses, such as government buildings, cemeteries, and rural utility substations are scattered throughout the **Butler County Rural Community.** Other public/quasi-public land uses associated with the functions of **Butler County** are located in the Communities/Planning Jurisdictions of Butler County Communities.

  Rural wildlife and recreational land uses in the **County** comprise an estimated 437.9 total acres. These areas include pubic access sites and habitat preservation lands across the County. These properties are managed by the Natural Resource Districts (NRDs) operating within Butler County.

- **COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL/INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE USES.**

  Commercial and Industrial land uses, including intensive **Agricultural Rural Livestock Facilities,** comprise an estimated 2,209.3 acres in the **Butler County Rural Community.** This includes 379.4 acres of land used for the Butler County Landfill. These land uses have all been located without the guidance and direction of Zoning Regulations.



THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SOIL ASSOCIATIONS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division have identified 13 **"Soil Associations"** in **Butler County.** These include the Alda-Boel-Barney Association, Brocksburg-Simeon-Thurman Association, Gibbon-Muir-Zook Association, Muir-Grigston-Cozad Association, Hall-Muir-Hobbs Association, Hobbs-Kezan-Muir Association, Uly-Coly Association, Crofton-Monona Association, Ponca-Sharpsburg Association, Sharpsburg Association, Hastings-Butler Association, Butler-Hastings Association, and Sharpsburg-Steinauer-Pawnee Association.

Illustration 4.3, Page 4.9, identifies the location of each of these **Soil Associations** within **Butler County.** The following narrative describes how each soil type is conducive to certain types of developments, as well as the general characteristics of the 13 Associations. All narrative regarding Butler County Soil Associations are sourced from the *"Soil Survey of Butler County, Nebraska"* as prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.





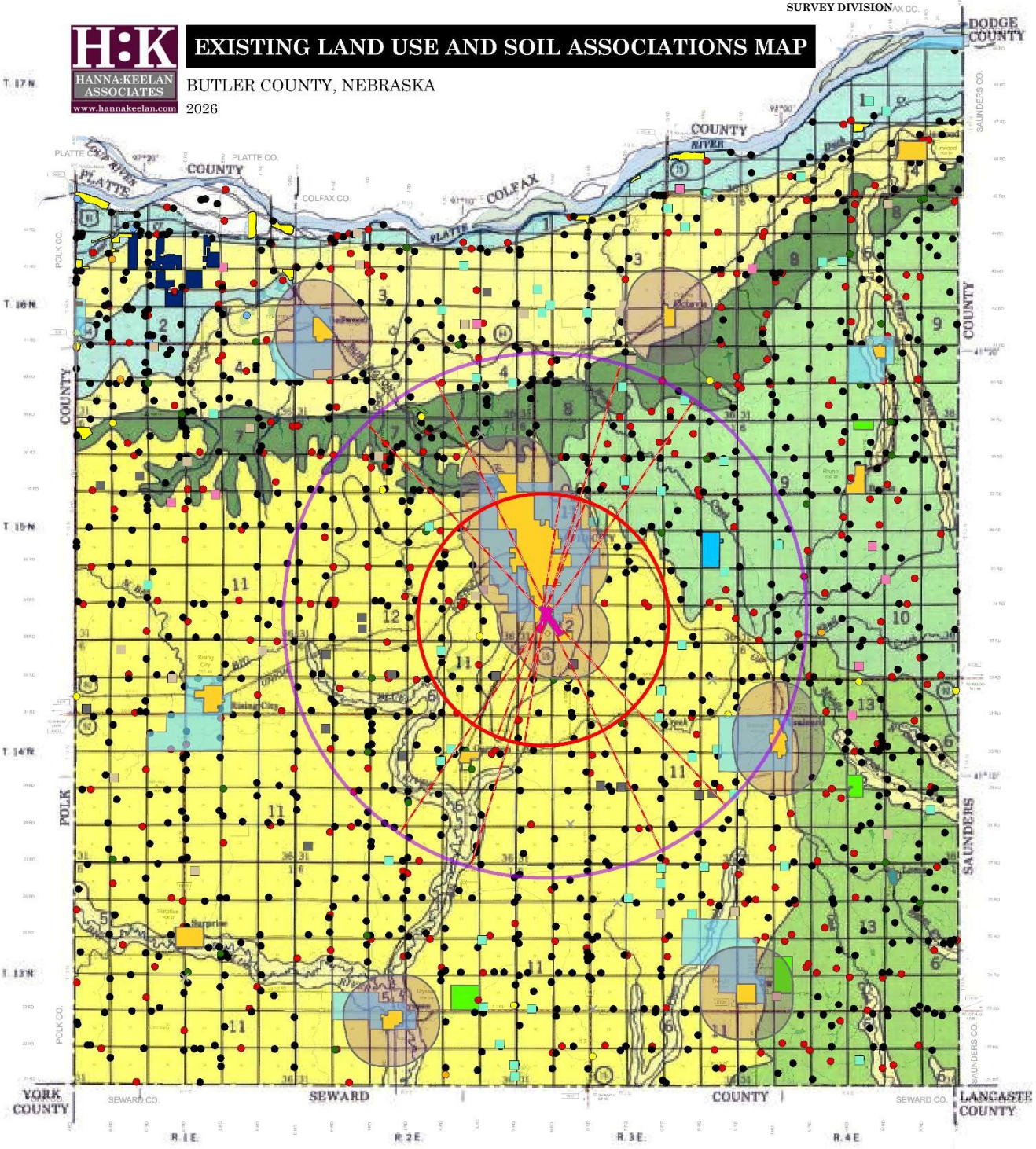
ILLUSTRATION 4.3

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA CONSERVATION AND SURVEY DIVISION

H:K HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES www.hannakeelan.com

EXISTING LAND USE AND SOIL ASSOCIATIONS MAP

BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2026



Legend

For EXISTING LAND USE LEGEND, see Illustration 4.1, Page 4.4.

1. ALDA-BOEL-BARNEY ASSOCIATION
2. BROCKSBURG-SIMEON-THURMAN ASSOCIATION
3. GIBBON-MUIR-ZOOK ASSOCIATION
4. MUIR-GRIGSTON-COZAD ASSOCIATION
5. HALL-MUIR-HOBBS ASSOCIATION
6. HOBBS-KEZAN-MUIR ASSOCIATION
7. ULY-COLY ASSOCIATION
8. CROFTON-MONONA ASSOCIATION
9. PONCA-SHARPSBURG ASSOCIATION
10. SHARPSBURG ASSOCIATION
11. HASTINGS-BUTLER ASSOCIATION
12. BUTLER-HASTINGS ASSOCIATION
13. SHARPSBURG-STEINAUER-PAWNEE ASSOCIATION

N

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

- **ALDA-BOEL-BARNEY ASSOCIATION**

Nearly level, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained loamy soils that formed in alluvium; on bottom lands.

This Association consists of nearly level soils in long areas on the Platte River bottom lands.

This Association occupies an estimated 2 percent of the **County.** Alda soils make up an estimated 29 percent of this Association, Boel soils an estimated 25 percent, and Barney soils an estimated 23 percent. The remaining 23 percent is soils of minor extent.

The Alda soils are on long, smooth bottom lands. These soils are nearly level and somewhat poorly drained. The surface layer is dark grey and grey fine sandy loam. The underlying material, at a depth of approximately 14 inches, is light grey fine sandy loam in the upper part and light grey coarse sand in the lower part.

The Boel soils are on wide bottom lands. These soils are nearly level and somewhat poorly drained. The surface layer is dark grey, calcareous loam. The transition layer is mixed grey and light brownish grey loam. The underlying material is light grey coarse sand, sand, and fine sand.

The Barney soils are on the lowest part of the Platte River bottom lands. They generally are under the cover of native grasses and trees. These soils are nearly level and poorly drained. The surface layer is greyish brown, calcareous loam. The underlying material, at a depth of approximately 7 inches, is stratified fine sand.

Farms with this Association range from 200 to more than 800 acres in size. The farms are diversified and generally combine cash-grain farming and livestock raising. Approximately half of the farmland is cultivated, and half is in pasture and native grasses that are cut for hay. Corn, wheat, and grain sorghum are the main crops. Very little of the farmland is irrigated. Irrigation wells in some areas of this Association generally are low in yield.

- **BROCKSBURG-SIMEON-THURMAN ASSOCIATION**

Nearly level to gently sloping, well drained to excessively drained loamy and sandy soils that formed in loamy and sandy material; on stream terraces.

This Association consists mainly of nearly level to gently sloping soils on wide terraces that are an estimated halfway between the Platte River breaks and the flood plain of the River.

This Association covers an estimated 1 percent of the **County.** Brocksburg soils make up an estimated 38 percent of this Association, Simeon soils an estimated 28 percent, and Thurman soils 27 percent. The remaining 7 percent is minor soils.

The Brocksburg soils are on wide, smooth, high terraces. These soils are nearly level and well drained. The surface layer is dark grey sandy loam over very dark grey loam. The subsoil is dark greyish brown loam in the upper part and brown silty clay loam and clay loam in the lower part. The underlying material, at a depth of 40 inches, is yellowish brown and light yellowish brown sand.

The Simeon soils are on wide, high, sandy terraces. These soils are nearly level and very gently sloping, and they are excessively drained. The surface layer is dark grey and dark greyish brown loamy sand, and the transition layer is brown loamy coarse sand. The underlying material, at a depth of 20 inches, is pale brown and light grey coarse sand.

The Thurman soils are on wide, somewhat hummocky, high terraces of the Platte River Valley. These soils are gently sloping and somewhat excessively drained. The surface layer is brown loamy fine sand, and the transition layer is yellowish brown loamy fine sand. The underlying material, at a depth of 16 inches, is yellowish brown fine sand.

Farms with this Association, on the average, are 320 acres in size. The farm combine cash-grain farming and livestock raising. Approximately 60 percent of the acreage is rangeland, under a cover of short native grasses. Cow-calf herds are kept on the grassland. Most of the soils in this Association are very droughty, and all the soils that are under cultivation are irrigated. The water supply for irrigation is adequate in most areas. Center-pivot irrigation is generally used because the soils are too rapidly permeable to be suited to gravity irrigation.

- **GIBBON-MUIR-ZOOK ASSOCIATION**

Nearly level, well drained, somewhat poorly drained, and poorly drained silty soils that formed in alluvium; on bottom lands and stream terraces.

This Association consists mainly of nearly level soils on terraces and bottom lands that parallel the Platte River.

This Association makes up an estimated 10 percent of the **County.** Gibbon soils make up an estimated 23 percent of this Association, Muir soils 15 percent, and Zook soils 11 percent. The remaining 51 percent is minor soils.

The Gibbon soils are on wide bottom lands of the Platte River. These soils are nearly level and somewhat poorly drained. The surface layer is very dark grey and dark grey, calcareous silty clay loam. The transition layer is grey, calcareous clay loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 19 inches, is light grey, calcareous clay loam in the upper part and sandy loam and loamy sand in the lower part.

The Muir soils are on wide terraces of the Platte River. These soils are nearly level and well drained. The surface layer is dark grey and grey silt loam. The subsoil is brown and pale brown silt loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 36 inches, is pale brown silt loam.

The Zook soils are on wide bottom lands of the Platte River. These soils are nearly level and poorly drained. The surface layer is very dark grey silty clay loam in the upper part and silty clay in the lower part. The subsoil is dark grey silty clay. The underlying material, at a depth of 51 inches, is light olive grey silty clay loam.



Farms with this Association, on average, are 480 acres in size. They are diversified and generally combine cash-grain farming and livestock raising. Corn is the main crop. Soybeans, grain sorghum, wheat, and alfalfa are also grown. The soils are mainly under irrigation because the supply of irrigation water is abundant. Beef cattle are fed on the abundant supply of cornstalks in the fall and are then fattened on grain.

- **MUIR-GRIGSTON-COZAD ASSOCIATION**

Nearly level and very gently sloping, well drained silty soils that formed in loess, alluvium, or colluvium; on stream terraces, foot slopes, and bottom lands.

This Association consists mainly of nearly level and very gently sloping soils in long areas on stream terraces and foot slopes.

This Association makes up an estimated 5 percent of the **County.** Muir soils make up an estimated 55 percent of this Association, Grigston soils an estimated 16 percent, and Cozad soils 9 percent. The remaining 20 percent is minor soils.

The Muir soils are on foot slopes and on the smooth part of wide stream terraces. These soils are nearly level and very gently sloping, and they are well drained. The surface layer is very dark greyish brown and dark greyish brown silt loam. The subsoil is brown to very pale brown silt loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 50 inches, is very pale brown silt loam.

The Grigston soils are on wide, smooth stream terraces. They formed in outwash of old streams and drains. These soils are nearly level and well drained. The surface layer is dark greyish brown silt loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 19 inches, is mixed dark greyish brown and light grey silt loam that has some Strata of dark grey silt loam.

The Cozad soils are on foot slopes and on the higher part of stream terraces. These soils are very gently sloping and well drained. The surface layer is dark greyish brown silt loam. The subsoil is greyish brown and pale brown silt loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 29 inches, is pale brown and very pale brown very fine sandy loam.

Farms with this Association, on average, are 480 acres in size. Most of the acreage of this Association is under cultivation. Corn is the main crop, and most of it is irrigated. Soybeans, grain sorghum, and wheat are also grown in small amounts. Many farms keep hogs and feeder cattle to make use of grain and crop residue.

- **HALL-MUIR-HOBBS ASSOCIATION**

Nearly level and very gently sloping, well drained silty Soils that formed in alluvium and loess; on stream terraces, foot slopes, and bottom lands.

This Association consists of soils on terraces and bottom lands adjacent to the Big Blue River. These soils, for the most part, are nearly level and very gently sloping, but on some of the terrace edges they are gently sloping.

This Association comprise an estimated 2 percent of the **County.** Hall soils make up an estimated 33 percent of this Association, Muir soils 21 percent, and Hobbs soils 18 percent. The remaining 28 percent is minor soils.

The Hall soils are nearly level and are on terraces well above the flood plain. The surface layer is dark grey and dark greyish brown silt loam, and the subsoil is dark greyish brown and brown silty clay loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 39 inches, is pale brown silt loam.

The Muir soils are nearly level and very gently sloping and are on foot slopes and terraces. The surface layer is dark grey and grey silt loam. The subsoil is brown and pale brown silty clay loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 36 inches, is pale brown silt loam.

The Hobbs soils are nearly level and are on bottom lands adjacent to rivers and streams. The surface layer is greyish brown silt loam. The underlying material is Stratified dark greyish brown to light brownish grey silt loam.

Farms with this Association, on average, are 300 acres in size. Generally, these farms are cash-grain enterprises or combine cash-grain farming and livestock raising. Nearly all the acreage of this Association is cultivated. Both dryland and irrigation management are used. Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, soybeans, and alfalfa are the main crops. Row irrigation and center-pivot irrigation systems are used. The major concerns in management in this Association are maintaining soil fertility, the proper application of irrigation water, and the slight or moderate hazard of soil erosion. A concern on some minor soils is the saline-alkali conditions, which tend to delay tillage and limit crop growth. If these saline-alkali soils are irrigated, the main concerns are maintaining good tilth and properly managing irrigation water.

- **HOBBS-KEZAN-MUIR ASSOCIATION**

Nearly level and very gently sloping, well drained and Poorly drained silty soils that formed in alluvium and loess; on bottom lands, foot slopes, and stream terraces.

This Association consists mainly of nearly level to gently sloping soils in narrow stream valleys, near creeks that dissect the uplands, and on narrow bands of the colluvial slope along the sides of valleys. The creek channels generally are small and have low gradient. They range from shallow to deeply entrenched. They meander through the bottom lands except where they have been straightened. Most of the creeks overflow and flood the bottom lands in periods of high runoff. On some of the bottom lands, there is a high water table

This Association makes up an estimated 3 percent of the **County.** Hobbs soils make up an estimated 28 percent of this Association, Kezan soils 23 percent, and Muir soils 19 percent. The remaining 30 percent is minor soils.

The Hobbs soils are nearly level and well drained and are on long bottom lands. The surface layer is greyish brown silt loam, and the underlying material is stratified dark greyish brown to light brownish grey silt loam.

The Kezan soils are nearly level and poorly drained and are on narrow bottom lands adjacent to drainageways. The surface layer is stratified greyish brown and light brownish grey silt loam. The upper part of the underlying material is stratified dark grey to light brownish grey silt loam. The lower part is dark grey silt loam.

The Muir soils are nearly level and very gently sloping and are well drained. They are on foot slopes and narrow terraces. The surface layer is dark grey and grey silt loam, and the subsoil is brown and pale brown silt loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 36 inches, is pale brown silt loam.

Farms with this Association, on average, are 160 acres in size. The farms are diversified and generally combine cash-grain farming and livestock raising. Corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans are the main crops. Soils on foot slopes and bottom lands that are frequently or occasionally flooded are used mostly for grazing. Some cultivated soils that are well drained are irrigated with water pumped from creeks and rivers. The major concerns in management are flooding and wetness, which is caused by a high water table that limits crop growth. Some of the soils require tile drainage.

- **ULY-COLY ASSOCIATION**

Moderately steep to very steep, well drained to excessively drained silty soils that formed in loess; on upland breaks.

This Association consists of steep or very steep soils on breaks and gently sloping to strongly sloping soils on uplands and narrow ridgetops. The Association is on a long, narrow tract where the loess uplands border the Platte River Valley.

This Association takes up an estimated 2 percent of the **County.** Uly soils make up an estimated 46 percent of this Association and Coly soils an estimated 36 percent. The remaining 18 percent is minor soils.

Uly soils are on upland slopes. These soils are moderately steep to steep, and they are well drained and somewhat excessively drained. The surface layer is dark greyish brown silt loam, and the subsoil is pale brown silt loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 23 inches, is very pale brown, calcareous silt loam.

The Coly soils are on upland slopes and breaks. These soils are moderately steep to very steep, and they are somewhat excessively drained and excessively drained. The surface layer is dark greyish brown, calcareous silt loam, and the transition layer is greyish brown, calcareous silt loam. The underlying material, at a depth of nine inches, is pale brown, calcareous silt loam.

Farms with this Association average 450 acres in size, and farmsteads are widely separated. An estimated 65 percent of the acreage is rangeland or pasture, and 35 percent is cultivated. Wheat, alfalfa, and oats are the main cultivated crops. Raising livestock, mainly cow-calf herds, is the major enterprise.



- **CROFTON-MONONA ASSOCIATION**

Gently sloping to very steep, well drained to excessively drained silty soils that formed in loess; on upland breaks.

This Association consists mainly of gently sloping to strongly sloping soils on uplands and moderately steep to very steep soils in drainageways. The soils are on a long, narrow tract of upland breaks bordering the Platte River Valley.

This soil Association covers an estimated 4 percent of the **County.** Crofton soils make up an estimated 49 percent of this Association and Monona soils an estimated 30 percent. The remaining 21 percent is minor soils.

The Crofton soils are on side slopes of uplands and breaks. These soils are strongly sloping to very steep, and they are well drained to excessively drained. The surface layer is pale brown, calcareous silt loam, and the subsoil is light yellowish brown, calcareous silt loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 13 inches, is very pale brown, calcareous silt loam.

Monona soils are on side slopes and narrow ridgetops of uplands. These soils are gently sloping to steep, and they are well drained. The surface layer is dark grey silt loam, and the subsoil is dark brown and brown silty clay loam in the upper part and pale brown, calcareous silt loam in the lower part. The underlying material, at a depth of 54 inches, is light brownish grey, calcareous silt loam.

Farms with this Association, on average, are 400 acres in size. The farms are diversified and mainly combine cash-grain farming and livestock operations. Corn, soybeans, oats, grain sorghum, wheat, and alfalfa are grown under dryland management on the smoother, less steep soils. The soils have poor potential for irrigation because of the excessive slope. The steeper soils are used as pasture.



- **PONCA-SHARPSBURG ASSOCIATION**

  Nearly level to steep, well drained and moderately well drained silty soils that formed in loess; on uplands.

  This Association consists of nearly level soils on narrow divides, ridgetops, and narrow bottom lands and gently sloping to steep soils on side slopes. The dissected landscape has many small intermittent drainageways that join larger drainageways. Local relief is an estimated 100 feet. Slopes 1,000 feet in length are common.

  This Association makes up 13 percent of the **County.** Ponca soils make up an estimated 42 percent of this Association and Sharpsburg soils an estimated 16 percent. The remaining 42 percent is minor soils.

  The Ponca soils are mainly on narrow ridgetops and on long side slopes of uplands. These soils are gently sloping to steep. They are well drained. The surface layer is greyish brown silty clay loam, and the subsoil is pale brown and light brownish grey silty clay loam. The underlying material, at a depth of 22 inches, is light grey and very pale brown silt loam.

  Sharpsburg soils are on divides and side slopes of uplands. These soils are nearly level to strongly sloping. They are moderately well drained. The surface layer is dark grey silty clay loam. The subsoil is silty clay loam that ranges from dark greyish brown in the upper part to light yellowish brown in the lower part. The underlying material, at a depth of 46 inches, is very pale brown silt loam.

  Farms with this Association, on average, are 320 acres in size. The farms mainly combine cash-grain farming and livestock raising. Fattening hogs on locally produced grain and raising cow-calf herds are major enterprises. Most of the soils are dry-farmed, but some are irrigated by a center pivot system. Corn, grain sorghum, alfalfa, and soybeans are the main crops. Some of the steeper soils and eroded areas have been seeded to grasses and are used as pasture. A few areas are in native grasses. Reseeding the steeper, eroded slopes to grass can provide increased forage for beef cattle.

- **SHARPSBURG ASSOCIATION**

Nearly level to strongly sloping, moderately well drained silty soils that formed in loess; on uplands.

This Association consists mainly of nearly level to strongly sloping soils on rolling loess uplands.

This Association makes up an estimated 2 percent of the Farms with this Association Sharpsburg soils make up an estimated 66 percent of this association. The remaining 34 percent is minor soils.

The Sharpsburg soils are on ridgetops and smooth side slopes of the loess uplands. These soils are nearly level to strongly sloping and are moderately well drained. The surface layer is dark grey silty clay loam. The subsoil ranges from dark greyish brown silty clay loam in the upper part to light yellowish brown silty clay loam in the lower part. The underlying material, at a depth of 46 inches, is very pale brown silt loam.

Farms with this Association, on average, are 400 acres in size. The farms are diversified and mainly combine cash-grain farming and livestock enterprises. Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, and alfalfa are the main crops. The soils are mainly under dryland cultivation because of the steepness of slopes and the low yields of irrigation wells. Crop residue and some rough areas that are in permanent pasture are used for grazing. Some livestock is fattened for market.



- **HASTINGS-BUTLER ASSOCIATION**

  Nearly level to strongly sloping, well drained and somewhat poorly drained silty soils that formed in loess; on uplands.

  This Association consists mainly of soils on a broad upland loess plain. In most areas, the soils are nearly level or gently sloping. The Association includes nearly level soils in depressions and gently sloping to strongly sloping soils on side slopes adjacent to upland drains, on stream terraces, and on bottom lands.

  This Association makes up an estimated 42 percent of the **County.** Hastings soils make up an estimated 78 percent of this Association and Butler soils an estimated 5 percent. The remaining 17 percent is minor soils.

  The Hastings soils are in broad areas on loess-mantled uplands. These soils are nearly level to strongly sloping, and they are well drained. The surface layer is greyish brown silt loam in the upper part and dark greyish brown silty clay loam in the lower part. The subsoil ranges from dark greyish brown silty clay loam in the upper part to pale brown silty clay loam in the lower part. The underlying material, at a depth of an estimated 40 inches, is light yellowish brown silty clay loam in the upper part and very pale brown silt loam in the lower part.

  The Butler soils are in shallow depressions and on wide upland flats. These soils are nearly level and are somewhat poorly drained. The surface layer is dark grey silt loam, and the subsoil is very dark greyish brown and dark greyish brown silty clay in the upper part and light brownish grey silty clay loam in the lower part. The underlying material, at a depth of an estimated 40 inches, is light grey, calcareous silt loam.

  Farms with this Association range from approximately 200 to 700 acres in size. The farms mainly are cash-grain farms or combine cash-grain farming and livestock production. Nearly all of the acreage of this soil Association is cultivated, and both dryland and irrigation management are used. Corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans are the main cultivated crops. In a few small areas, the soils are in pasture.

- **BUTLER-HASTINGS ASSOCIATION**

  Nearly level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained and well drained silty soils that formed in loess; on uplands.

  This Association consists mainly of nearly level to gently sloping soils on uplands and in depressions where water sometimes ponds after rains. The soils are on a broad loess plain.

  This Association makes up an estimated 5 percent of the **County.** Butler soils make up an estimated 48 percent of this Association and Hastings soils an estimated 38 percent. The remaining 14 percent is minor soils.

  The Butler soils are in shallow depressions and broad flats on uplands. These soils are nearly level and are somewhat poorly drained. The surface layer is dark grey silt loam. The upper part of the subsoil is very dark greyish brown silty clay, the middle part is dark greyish brown silty clay, and the lower part is light brownish grey silty clay loam. The underlying material, at a depth of an estimated 40 inches, is light grey, calcareous silt loam.

  The Hastings soils are in broad areas on loess-mantled uplands. These soils are nearly level to gently sloping and are well drained. The surface layer is greyish brown silt loam in the upper part and dark greyish brown silty clay loam in the lower part. The subsoil is dark greyish brown silty clay loam in the upper part and pale brown silty clay loam in the lower part. The underlying material, at a depth of an estimated 40 inches, is light yellowish brown silty clay loam in the upper part and very pale brown silt loam in the lower part.

  Farms with this Association, on average, are 480 acres in size. The farms generally are cash-grain farms or combine cash grain farming and livestock raising. Nearly all the acreage of this Association is cultivated, and both dryland and irrigation management are used. Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, and soybeans are the main cultivated crops. In a very few small areas, the soils are in pasture.

- **SHARPSBURG-STEINAUER-PAWNEE ASSOCIATION**

Gently sloping to very steep, moderately well drained to excessively drained silty and loamy soils that formed in loess and glacial till on uplands.

This Association consists of gently sloping to very steep soils on uplands. The parent materials of these soils are loess and glacial till. The loess is mainly on gently sloping ridgetops and the upper part of the slopes. The glacial till is mainly on the middle and lower parts of the slopes. The drainage pattern extends to all parts of this Association. The largest streams are North Oak Creek, Middle Oak Creek, and Oak Creek.

This Association makes up an estimated 9 percent of the **County.** Sharpsburg soils make up an estimated 19 percent of this Association, Steinauer soils an estimated 16 percent, and Pawnee soils an estimated 15 percent. The remaining 50 percent is minor soils.

The Sharpsburg soils are gently sloping to strongly sloping, and they are moderately well drained. These soils are on loess-mantled ridgetops and the upper part of side slopes. The surface layer is dark grey silty clay loam. The subsoil ranges from dark greyish brown silty clay loam in the upper part to light yellowish brown silty clay loam in the lower part. The underlying material, at a depth of 46 inches, is very pale brown silt loam.

Steinauer soils are strongly sloping to very steep, and they are well drained to excessively drained. These soils are on middle and lower slopes adjacent to gullies. The surface layer is dark grey clay loam, and the transition layer is calcareous, greyish brown clay loam. The underlying material, at a depth of an estimated 18 inches, is calcareous, pale brown and light grey clay loam. Rocks and pebbles are common on the surface, and there are commonly pebbles and rocks throughout these soils.

The Pawnee soils formed in till. They are on upland slopes below the loess-mantled areas of Sharpsburg soils. These soils are gently to strongly sloping, and they are well drained. They have a surface layer of dark greyish brown and dark grey clay loam. The subsoil is greyish brown clay in the upper part, brown and yellowish brown clay in the middle part, and light yellowish brown clay loam in the lower part. The underlying material, at a depth of 45 inches, is calcareous, pale yellow clay loam. There are a few pebbles throughout the subsoil and underlying material.

Farms with this Association generally are an estimated 240 to 400 acres in size. The farms generally combine cash-grain farming and livestock production. Corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, and alfalfa are the main crops. Most of the acreage is under dryland management because of the steepness of slopes and the low productivity of some of the soils. Most soils on the steeper slopes are used as permanent pasture.

HYDROLOGICAL PROFILE

Butler County's hydrology is defined by a network of rivers, creeks, and associated floodplains that drain generally toward the **Platte River Basin** along the northern border of the **County.** Major riverways influencing the County include the **Platte River**, the **Big Blue River**, and several locally important tributaries. These waterways directly influence soil conditions, agricultural productivity, drainage patterns, and development constraints throughout the **Butler County Rural Community,** representing meaningful natural assets that require consideration in land use planning and development.

The **Platte River** is the dominant regional hydrological feature, influencing groundwater conditions, floodplain dynamics, and ecological systems across Nebraska. The northern border of **Butler County** lies within the Platte River watershed, where broad floodplains and shallow channels provide flood storage and support riparian habitats. The **Big Blue River** also affects drainage areas of the **County,** with its fertile bottomlands supporting agriculture while presenting sensitivity to flooding, erosion, and runoff during major storm events.

Skull Creek, along with **Bone Creek** and smaller tributaries, form important sub-watersheds within eastern **Butler County.** The Skull Creek watershed has been identified by the Lower Platte North Natural Resource District as a priority area for flood mitigation, water quality protection, and conservation practices. Future land use decisions within these corridors should recognize floodplain limitations and encourage development patterns and conservation practices that protect water quality, infrastructure, and agricultural lands.

Groundwater resources are another significant component of **Butler County's** overall water system and provide the primary source of water for agricultural irrigation, rural residences, and public water supplies. Groundwater availability and quality are closely connected to surface water features, soil characteristics, and recharge conditions across the **County**. Shallow aquifers near river and creek corridors are particularly influenced by rainfall, land management practices, and floodplain conditions.

As agricultural production and rural development continue, long-term land use planning in Butler County should recognize the importance of protecting groundwater recharge areas, minimizing contamination risks, and coordinating with regional water management agencies to ensure the sustainable use of groundwater resources.

TOPOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Butler County's landscape is shaped by generally shaped by flat to gently rolling terrain, with topographic variation occurring primarily by region. The County's topography has supported a grid-pattern rural road system, facilitating agricultural operations, efficient land division, and consistent access across the **Butler County Rural Community.** In the northern portion of the **County,** topography becomes more pronounced, with bluffs and rolling hills associated with the Platte River valley. These bluffs create visual variation in the landscape, while also creating a landscape that can be hostile towards center-pivot irrigation, and serve as a natural boundary between the river valley and upland areas.

The Platte River Valley itself is characterized by broad, flat terrain and expansive floodplains that contrast with the elevated bluffs to the south. Southwest of the northern hills, the landscape transitions to largely flat terrain. **Illustration 4.4, Page 4.25,** identifies flood risk areas and topography within the **County.** The eastern portion of the **County** is home to rolling hills, and more varied topography. This region is still well suited to agriculture; however, the topography can present localized constraints related to drainage, erosion, and development siting. While Butler County's topography presents few physical barriers overall, long-term land use planning should continue to account for elevation changes and slope conditions to protect infrastructure, maintain natural drainage patterns and minimize environmental risks.

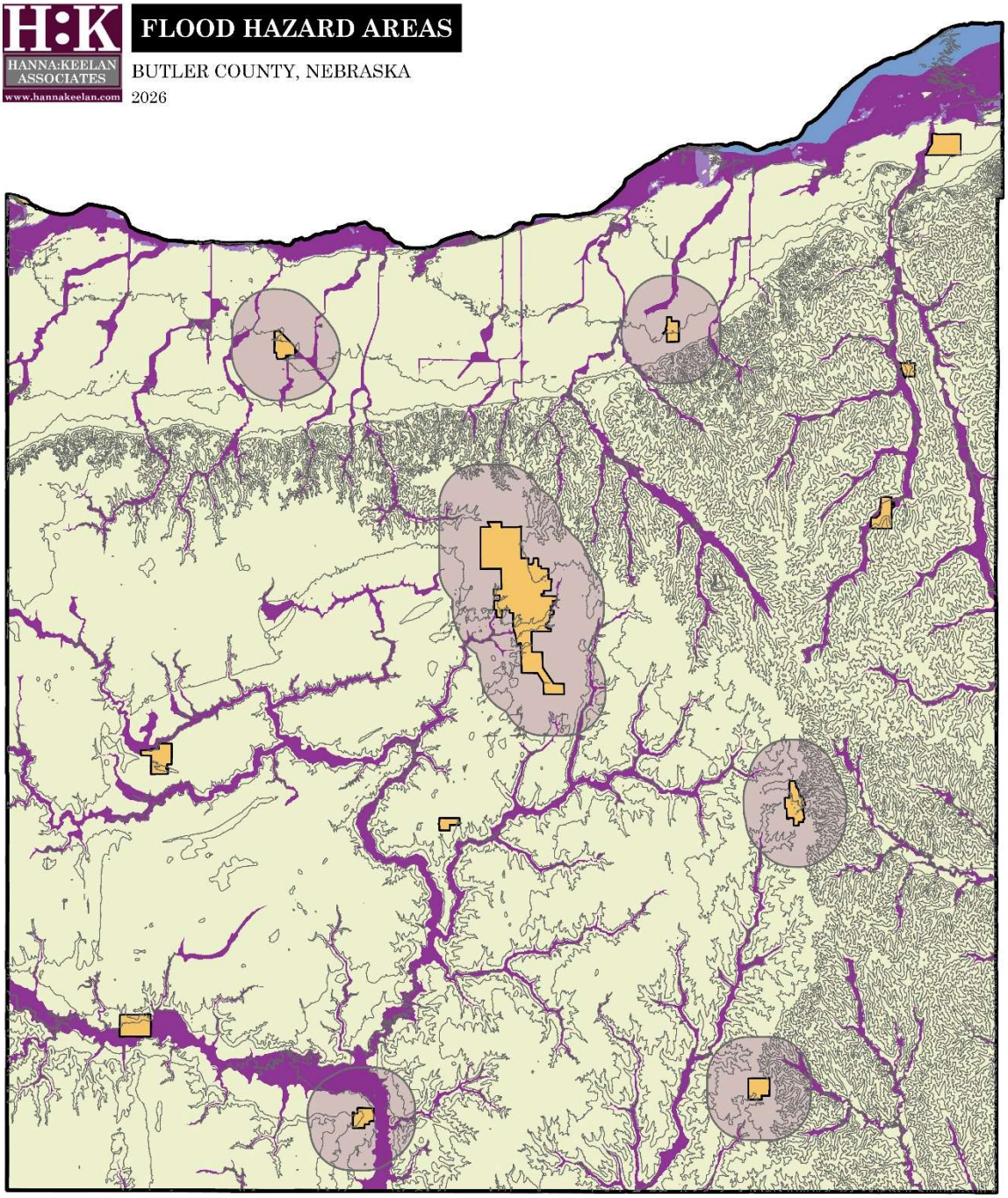


ILLUSTRATION 4.4

H:K HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES www.hannakeelan.com

FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2026



Legend

- Butler County Topography - Contour Interval 25ft
- Butler County Communities
- One-Mile Planning Jurisdiction
- Butler County

Butler County Flood Hazard Areas

Class Type

- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Area of Minimal Flood Hazard
- Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
- Not Mapped

N

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

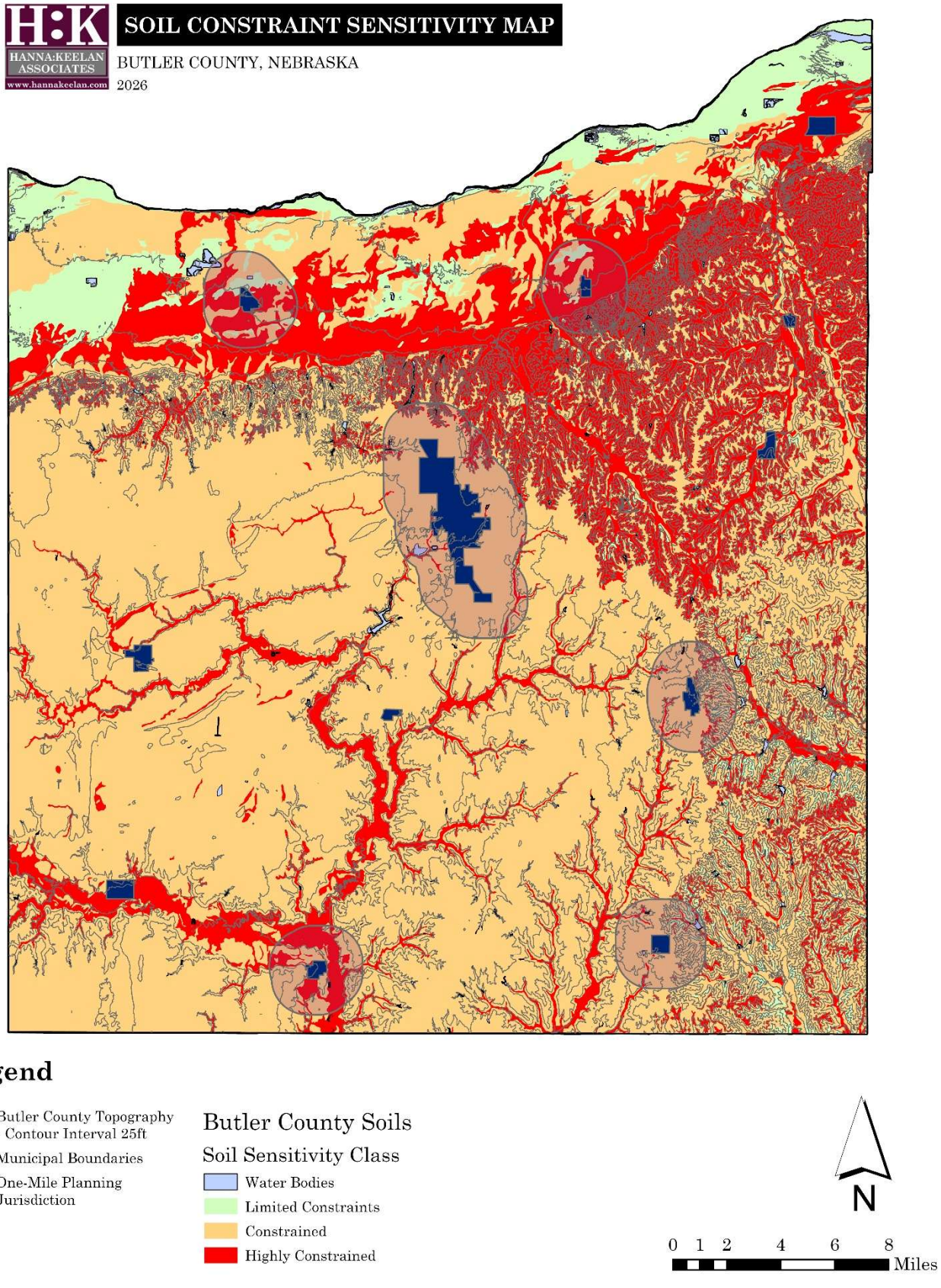
SOIL SENSITIVITY PROFILE

Butler County contains a diverse mix of soils that strongly influence development potential, agricultural productivity and long-term land management across the **County**. The landscape includes areas of **steeper upland slopes**, **drainage-limited soils** and **localized hydric or flood-affected zones** that shape how land responds to grading, construction, and stormwater. The **Soil Constraint Sensitivity Map (Illustration 4.5, Page 4.27)** organizes these conditions into four categories that include Open Water, Limited Constraints, Constrained and Highly Constrained. These categories are based on measurable physical characteristics such as slope steepness, drainage limitations, hydric indicators and flood frequency, which together provide a clear understanding of where natural soil conditions may restrict development, or require additional engineering considerations. The resulting sensitivity classification is shown in **Illustration 4.5, Page 4.27**.

The analysis shows that much of **Butler County** contains soils with meaningful limitations. Average slopes across the **County** are higher than typical for eastern Nebraska, creating broad areas where steep terrain increases erosion risk and complicates construction. NRCS soil ratings indicate that a large share of soils are limited or very limited for development due to drainage challenges, seasonal flooding, and moisture retention. These conditions contribute to extensive areas classified as Constrained or Highly Constrained, where development may still be feasible but must account for slope stability, drainage management, and soil moisture conditions. Areas classified as Limited Constraints represent the **County's** most favorable soils, with gentler slopes and better drainage, although these locations still benefit from standard best practice site preparation. Open Water areas, including ponds, lakes and municipal lagoons, are mapped in blue to distinguish them from soil-based constraint categories.

By illustrating how soil conditions vary across **Butler County**, the **Soil Constraint Sensitivity Map** assists in identifying locations where development is most compatible with the natural landscape and where additional caution or mitigation is warranted. This soil-based perspective supports long term land use planning by highlighting areas that may face higher erosion risk, structural challenges or water related impacts. Incorporating soil sensitivity into future development decisions will help protect infrastructure, reduce maintenance costs, and promote safe and sustainable growth throughout the **County**.

ILLUSTRATION 4.5



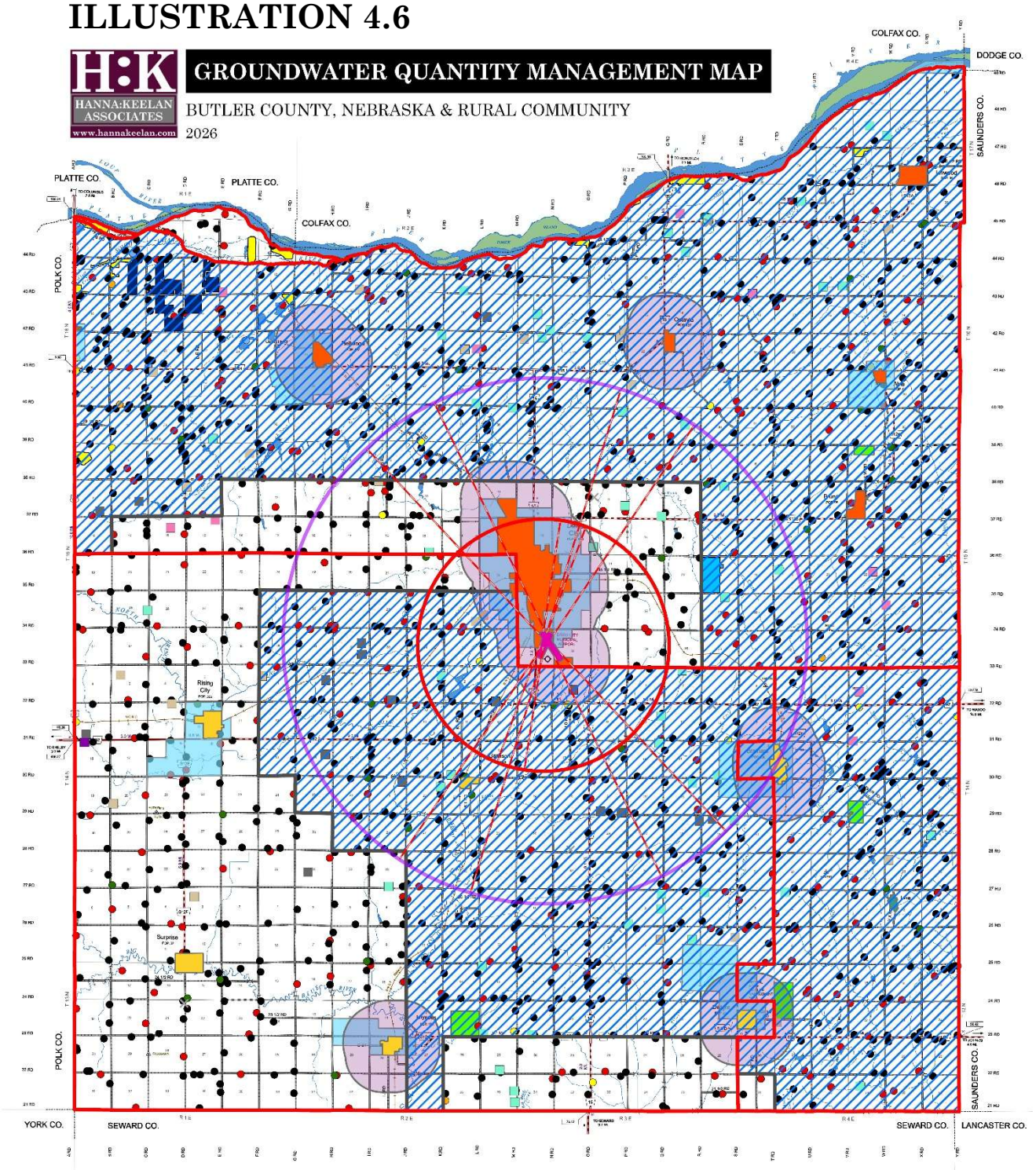
GROUNDWATER QUANTITY & MANAGEMENT AREAS PROFILE

Groundwater resources are an essential component of long-term water supply, agricultural production, and rural development across **Butler County**. The **County** is served by four Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) that administer groundwater quantity management programs based on local aquifer conditions and long-term water use trends. These districts include the **Lower Platte North NRD**, **Lower Platte South NRD**, **Upper Big Blue NRD**, and **Lower Loup NRD**. The Groundwater Management Areas shown in **Illustration 4.6, Page 4.29,** identify where groundwater quantity regulations apply within **Butler County**, with red boundary lines marking the jurisdictional limits of each NRD. This illustration provides a clear understanding of how groundwater oversight varies across the **County** and where specific management practices may influence future land use decisions.

Within **Butler County**, the **Lower Platte North NRD** administers an additional designation shown as **Limited Development Areas**. These areas occur only within the boundaries of the Lower Platte North NRD and surround the corporate limits of Communities located inside that District. Limited Development Areas represent locations where groundwater quantity is managed more closely due to local demand, recharge conditions, and municipal growth patterns. In these areas, new groundwater uses are subject to specific thresholds, including the parameter identified as **Limited Development Area Outside Groundwater Control Area (Up to 75 New Acre Feet Per Year)**. This threshold helps ensure that groundwater withdrawals near community boundaries remain sustainable and coordinated with long term water supply planning. The remaining NRDs within the **County** administer groundwater quantity management through their standard districtwide programs, which may include well permitting, monitoring, and conservation practices based on local aquifer characteristics.

By mapping groundwater quantity management areas across **Butler County**, this illustration assists in clarifying where groundwater regulations differ and where additional coordination with NRD programs may be required. The illustration supports long term planning by identifying areas with heightened groundwater oversight, areas with standard district-wide management, and areas where municipal growth intersects with groundwater availability. Understanding these management zones will assist in guiding development decisions, protect water supplies, and promote **sustainable groundwater use** throughout the **County.**

ILLUSTRATION 4.6



Legend

Groundwater Management

- Groundwater Quantity Management Areas
- Limited Development Area (LPNNRD)
- Butler County NRD Boundaries (LLNRD, LPNNRD, LPSNRD, UBBNRD)

For EXISTING LAND USE LEGEND, see Illustration 4.3, Page 4.4

N

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS

NUMBER AND SIZE OF FARMS

The development of new, small scale farms, has been the trend in **Butler County** between 2012 and 2022. ***Statistics included in the Nebraska Census of Agriculture are released every five years; the latest being 2022.***

Table 4.3 identifies that the number farms in the "1 to 9" and "10 to 49" acre categories decreased by a combined total of 22, between 2012 and 2022. The total number of farms in the four remaining, larger acreage categories decreased by 100 during the same time period. Mid-sized category farms, between 50 and 500 acres in size, decreased by 29 total farms between 2012 and 2022. The number of large scale, 500+ acre farms experienced the greatest change, decreasing by a total of 71 farms during the 10-year period.

Overall, the total number of farms decreased by 14.5 percent, or 122 farms, between 2012 and 2022 in **Butler County. The average farm size increased by 13.4 percent, from 441 acres in 2012 to 500 acres for 2022.** The increase in total crop land between 2012 and 2022, in comparison to the overall decrease of total farms, leads to the conclusion that mid-sized farms were consolidating into larger sized farms. The increase in the total number of smaller farms may reflect the increase in rural houses being constructed on smaller lots split off from larger tracts of land.

TABLE 4.3
FARMS BY SIZE
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012 – 2022

Size	2012	2017	2022	% Change 2012 – 2017	% Change 2012 - 2022
1 to 9 Acres	64	66	55	+3.1%	-14.1%
10 to 49 Acres	136	107	123	-21.3%	-9.6%
50 to 179 Acres	192	169	176	-11.9%	-8.3%
180 to 499 Acres	175	145	162	-17.1%	-7.4%
500 to 999 Acres	166	128	101	-22.9%	-39.2%
1,000 to Acres or More	107	108	101	+0.9%	-5.6%
Total Farms	**840**	**723**	**718**	**-13.9%**	**-14.5%**
Total Crop Land	**306,621**	**319,085**	**315,127**	**+4.1%**	**+2.8%**
Land in Farms	**370,869**	**374,138**	**359,127**	**+0.9%**	**-3.2%**
Average Farm Size	**441**	**517**	**500**	**+17.2%**	**+13.4%**

Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2026.

CROP PRODUCTION TRENDS

Table 4.4 identifies the **status of crop production** in **Butler County,** from 2012 to 2022. The total number of farms that harvested crops decreased by 86, or 14.5 percent from 2012 to 2022. During the same period, the number of farms with irrigated land decreased by 33, or by 13.6 percent. Total acres of irrigated land during the same period increased by 17,350 acres, or 15.7 percent. This trend indicates that farms with irrigated crop lands are consolidating into larger sized farms.

The total number of farms experienced similar trends in that the number of farms declined by 16.7 percent, or by 102, while the total acres of crop land increased by 4.1 percent or by 8,506 acres between 2012 and 2022.

TABLE 4.4
STATUS OF CROP PRODUCTION
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012 – 2022

	2012	2017	2022	% Change 2012 - 2022	% Change 2012 - 2022
IRRIGATED LAND					
Farms	272	235	239	-13.6%	-12.1%
Acres	110,839	102,290	128,189	-7.7%	+15.7%
HARVESTED CROP LAND					
Farms	620	530	534	-14.5%	-13.9%
Acres	287,992	297,113	296,811	+3.2%	+3.1%
TOTAL CROP LAND					
Farms	720	600	618	-16.7%	-14.2%
Acres	306,621	319,085	315,127	+4.1%	+2.8%

Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.



Table 4.5 identifies **harvested crops by type** in **Butler County,** from 2012 to 2022. Throughout the time period, "Corn for Grain or Seed" has continued to remain the primary crop in the County, accounting for 153,414 acres. Harvested acres of "Sorghum for Grain or Seed" had the largest increase by percentage of any crop in the County, increasing by 378.4 percent between 2012 and 2022. "Soybeans for Beans" accounted for 123,068 total acres in 2022, a 3.3 percent increase over the 2012 total of 119,130 acres.

TABLE 4.5
HARVESTED CROPS BY TYPE
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012-2022

	Production in Acres			% Change	% Change
CROP BY TYPE	**2012**	**2017**	**2022**	**2012-2017**	**2017-2022**
Corn for Grain or Seed	151,218	150,447	153,414	-0.5%	+1.5%
Corn for Silage or Green Chop	2,843	2,723	6,630	-4.2%	+133.2%
Sorghum for Grain or Seed	125	244	598	+95.2&	+378.4%
Wheat for Grain	1,044	376	923	-63.9%	-11.6%
Oats for Grain	39	(D)*	35	(D)*	-10.3%
Soybeans for Beans	119,130	131,661	123,068	+10.5%	+3.3%
Hay-alfalfa, Other Wild, Silage	13,135	11,538	11,694	-12.2%	-10.9%

*(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2026.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION TRENDS

Table 4.6 identifies **livestock production trends** in **Butler County,** from 2012 through 2022. During this period, the total number of livestock producing farms for "Cattle/Calves" decreased by 114 farms, while the total number of cattle/calves increased by 14,741 or 43.3 percent, from 34,036 in 2012 to 48,777 in 2022. "Hogs and pigs" farms increased by seven, but the total number of animals produced increased from 41,468 to 59,663. The number of farms for "Sheep and Lambs" decreased by 42, but the total number of animals produced decreased by 1,166, or 57.6 percent.

TABLE 4.6
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION TRENDS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012-2022
Total Farms / Total Animals

Type	2012	2017	2022	% Change 2012-2017	% Change 2012-2022
Cattle/Calves	328 / 34,036	263 / 38,347	214 / 48,777	-19.8% / +12.7%	-34.8% / +43.3%
Beef Cows	283 / (D)*	244 / (D)*	188 / (D)*	-13.8% / (D)*	-33.6% / (D)*
Milk Cows	3 / (D)*	5 / (D)*	2 / (D)*	+66.7% / (D)*	-33.3% / (D)*
Hogs and Pigs	17 / 41,468	21 / 62,686	24 / 59,663	+23.5% / +51.2%	+41.2% / +43.9%
Sheep and Lambs	63 / 2,024	25 / 1,031	21 / 858	-60.3% / -49/1%	-66.7% / -57.6%

*(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2026.

SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

The review of agricultural statistics between 2012 and 2022 indicates that the total number of acres harvested has increased, but the total number of farms has declined. Thus, farms in **Butler County** during this 10-year period appear to be consolidating into larger farms. During the same period, the number of livestock produced in **Butler County** has increased substantially.

FUTURE RURAL LAND USE ANALYSIS

The purpose of the following **Future Rural Land Use Analysis** is to establish a strategic growth management plan for the **Butler County Rural Community** that promotes and encourages economic development activity, as well as preserves agricultural production and environmentally sensitive land areas.

Illustration 4.7, Page 4.35, identifies the **Existing and Future Land Use Map** for the **Butler County Rural Community.** Future land uses are presented as **"land use concepts"** to be considered for implementation presented as **"districts"** in the future County Zoning Regulations.

Table 4.7, Page 4.36, identifies the **Future Land Use Capacity Matrix,** for **Butler County, Nebraska**, and anticipated acreage of various land uses, by 2036, for the **Butler County Rural Community. The Rural Community needs to prepare for an increase in acreage dedicated to various residential, commercial and industrial developments.**

The largest increase in developed land in the Rural Community during the next 10 years will be designated for industrial land uses due to the development of the Sandhills Energy Solar Farm in the northwest portion of the County, which will comprise an estimated 914 acres of land**.** A development of nature ultimately leads to a loss of agricultural production land.

Residential and commercial land uses in the **Rural Community** are also projected to increase by 2036. Much of the residential land uses will be confined to planned residential subdivisions in the northwest portion of Butler County, as well as along the Platte River Corridor. Commercial land uses will be mostly confined to areas adjacent hard-surfaced County roads and Highways.

The primary hard-surfaced County roads and State highways were reviewed to determine the potential impact of rural development adjacent these corridors. The conclusion of the Planning Commission was that rural development in commercial and light industrial activities, should primarily occur along the highway corridors throughout the Rural Community.

ILLUSTRATION 4.7

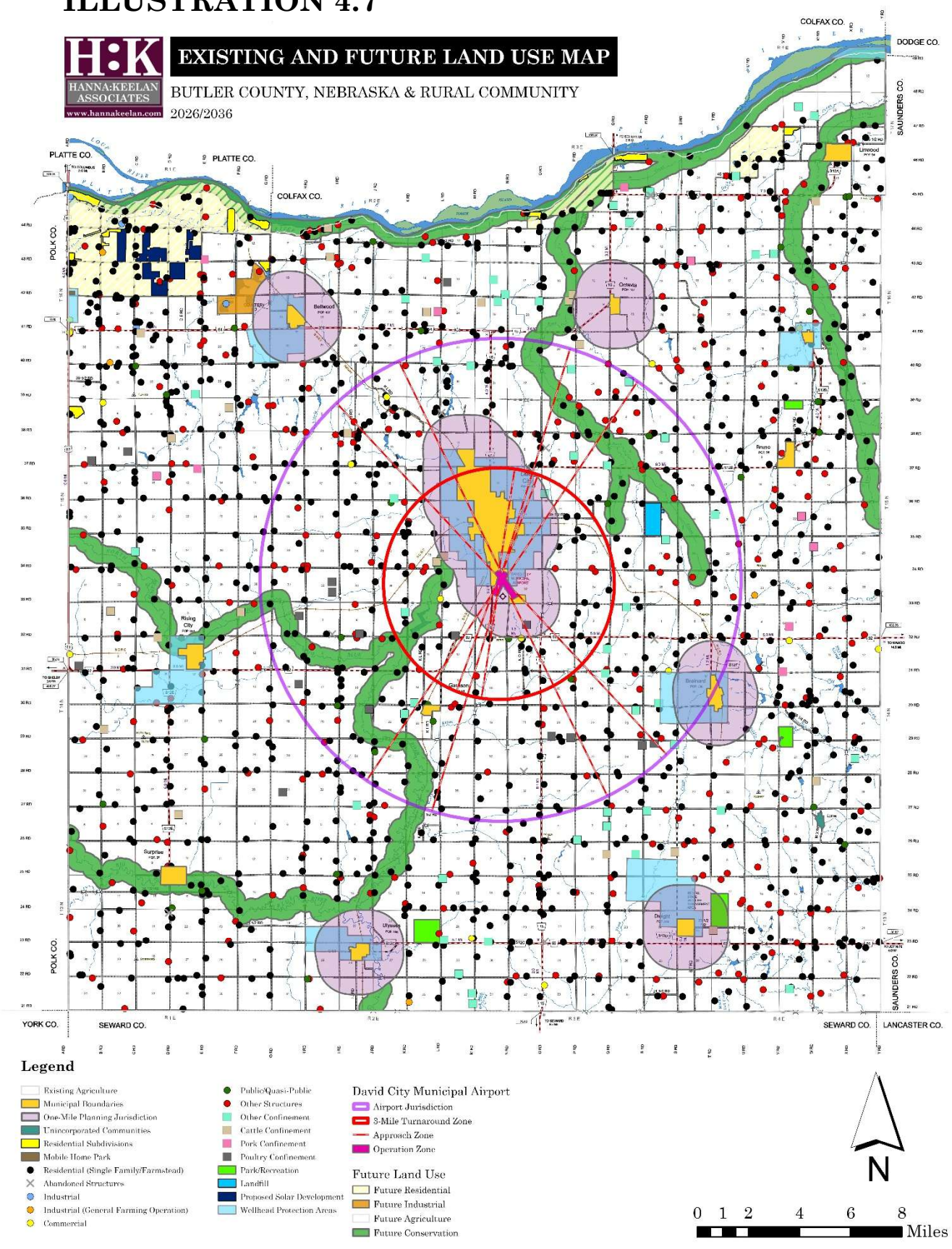


TABLE 4.7
ESTIMATED FUTURE LAND USE CAPACITY MATRIX
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2036

Land Use	2036 Land Area (Acres)
- TOTAL ACRES	**378,240**
- Land Area	*374,000*
- Water Area	*4,240*
- Community Corporate Limits (CL) & Planning Jurisdictions (PJ)	**30,043.5**
- Butler County Rural Community	**348,196.5**
- Agricultural* (Open Farm/Pasture Land)	**339,058.2**
- Proposed Rural Conservation District Areas	*--*
- Wellhead Protection Areas	*3,460.3*
- Animal Confinement Operations	**1,770.5**
- Cattle Confinement	*850.1*
- Pork Confinement	*326.8*
- Poultry Confinement	*593.6*
- Public/Quasi-Public	**184.6**
- Cemeteries	*156.2*
- Other	*28.4*
- Park/Recreation/Management Area**	**437.9**
- Residential/Farmsteads	**4,966.6**
- Single Family/Mobile Home Residential	*4,906.7*
- Residential Subdivisions	*661.3*
- Farmstead/"Other" Animal Confinement	*300.8*
- Mobile Home Park	*11.9*
- Abandoned Residential	*48.0*
- Commercial	**18.3**
- Industrial	**1,963.3**
- Landfill	*379.4*
- Other Industrial	*1,583.9*
- Solar Farm Project	*914.1*

*Includes agricultural structures/outbuildings.
**Includes Wildlife Management Areas.
Source: Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2026.

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AREAS

The **Butler County, Nebraska, Rural Community Comprehensive Plan** focused on evaluating the effectiveness of policies that were intended to both preserve and protect agricultural production areas, as well as encourage the development of all land use types in designated, appropriate locations throughout the **County**.

Future agricultural production land areas are expected to continue to be distributed throughout **Butler County,** as identified in the **Existing and Future Land Use Map,** are represented as **"Future Agriculture" areas.** An estimated 339,058.2 acres of land in the **Rural Community** is projected to be designated for open farming and pasture land. This represents a decline of 1,467.6 acres from the current estimated open farm/pasture land acreage of 340,525.8.

Land areas surrounding and adjacent municipal planning jurisdictions and highway corridors are largely targeted for commercial and/or light industrial developments. Additionally, the Platte River Corridor (northern border of Butler County) should continue to support residential developments in existing, appropriate locations. Otherwise, the Corridor is recommended to be preserved and protected from unnecessary encroachment of residential, commercial or industrial development.



AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL AREAS

An estimated increase from 4,838.9 acres of residential/ farmstead land uses to 4,966.6 acres should be anticipated by 2036. A significant portion of this land use will be geared towards development in rural residential subdivisions, primarily in the northwest portion of the County and along the Platte River Corridor.

Existing rural farmstead dwellings are generally located throughout the **County**. The **Comprehensive Plan** promotes the continued development of non-farm dwellings in designated residential subdivisions or residential areas, as well as in select, appropriate locations along the Platte River Corridor. By promoting higher density, non-farm residential development in these areas, the **Rural Community** also seeks to preserve and protect agricultural production areas from further encroachment of conflicting uses.

OPEN SPACE & PARKS/RECREATION AREAS

Three State Recreational Areas exist in **Butler County.** Homestead Lake State Recreation Area is located in the north-east portion of the County, between the Communities of Bruno and Abie. Oxbow Trail State Recreation Area is located in south-central **Butler County**, just east of the Village of Ulysses. Timber Point Lake State Recreation Area is located in southeastern **Butler County**, southeast of the Village of Brainard. Several recreational opportunities are also located within the Communities and the **Rural Community** in **Butler County**. Preservation of these and other natural open space areas, such as river corridors and wetland areas, should be a priority during the 10-year planning period.

"Rural Conservation Districts" should be considered in the Butler County Rural Community, in an effort to protect natural waterways and sensitive soil areas from intrusive developments, via designated buffer zones along either side of significant waterways in the Rural Community. This land use concept is highlighted in the Existing and Future Land Use Map (Illustration 4.7, Page 4.35).

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS

Existing and planned **future commercial and industrial developments** within the Butler County Rural Community should be promoted at selected highway corridors.

Both commercial and industrial designated land uses are projected to increase in acreage by 2036. Commercial land uses should increase from 10.9 acres to 18.3 acres, while industrial land uses have the potential to increase from 631.8 acres to 1,733.1 acres. A large portion of future industrial needs will be absorbed by the Sandhills Energy Solar Farm, located in the northwestern area of the **County**.

INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS

Agriculture-oriented uses, such as **intensive livestock confinement facilities** are the primary intensive land uses in the **Rural Community.** This **Comprehensive Plan** identifies these facilities as "Cattle," "Pork," "Poultry," or "Other" animal confinement operations. **Butler County leadership should anticipate and promote controlled, regulated growth of these intensive agricultural land uses/operations, as land areas dedicated to animal confinement operations are expected to increase by 2036.**

The **development of new, and expansion of existing intensive agricultural operations** should only be allowed via Special or Conditional Use Permit and be avoided in the **Butler County Rural Community** areas containing sensitive soils, and especially along major river corridors.





LAND USE & PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY IN FUTURE PLANNING

Understanding patterns in land use and physical geography within the **Butler County Rural Community** provides a foundation for responsible and effective future development. The current Siting and concentration of agricultural operations, rural housing, commercial activity, industrial uses and public facilities reflect a county operating without **Zoning and Subdivision Regulations**.

Documenting patterns of existing land uses assists in identifying areas suitable for future development in the **Rural Community**. These patterns demonstrate where transportation access, utility availability and residential settlement have established locations suitable for future development.

An understanding of the physical geography in Butler County supports the evaluation of suitable locations for future development in the **Rural Community**. Factors such as soil sensitivity, groundwater quantity, floodplains and topographic conditions shape development potential across the County.

By considering existing land use and physical geography together, the **Butler County Rural Community** is able to guide future growth in a manner that is efficient, effective and consistent with the County's long-term development goals.









SECTION 5:

PUBLIC FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION

HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES
COMMUNITY PLANNING & RESEARCH

SECTION 5

PUBLIC FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION.

INTRODUCTION

Section 5 of this **Comprehensive Plan** discusses current conditions and planned improvements to existing **public facilities and transportation systems** in Butler County, including the **Rural Community**. All improvements to these components are aimed at maintaining or improving the quality of life in the **County**. It is important that the Butler County Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors and other local government leaders determine the adequacy of these public facilities to meet the future estimated demand during the current planning period.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Public Facilities identify existing public places in the **County** and determine future needs of and desires for pertinent public facilities during the planning period (2026-2036). Public facilities provide citizens with social, cultural, and educational opportunities in **Butler County**. Facilities can include, but are not limited to, schools, fire protection, medical/elderly services, and recreational facilities such as parks and sports fields. A majority of the listed and public facilities are located withing the Community Corporate Limits or Planning Jurisdictions, but serve the needs of the **Butler County Rural Community** residents. **Butler County Public Facilities** are identified in **Illustration 5.1, Page 5.2**.



PUBLIC FACILITIES MAP
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 5.1



1. David City Public Schools
2. Bellwood Volunteer Fire Department
3. East Butler Public Schools
4. Brainard Volunteer Fire Department
5. Shelby-Rising City Schools
6. Skull Creek Volunteer Fire Department
7. Hruska Memorial Library
8. David City Volunteer Fire Department
9. Ulysses Township Library
10. Dwight Volunteer Fire Department
11. Rising City Community Library
12. Linwood Volunteer Fire Department
13. Oxbow Trail Recreation Area
14. Rising City Volunteer Fire Department
15. Timber Point Lake Recreation Area
16. Ulysses Volunteer Fire Department
17. Homestead Lake Recreation Area
18. Abie Volunteer Fire Department
19. Oak Creek Trail (Trailhead)
20. Bellwood Post Office
21. Redtail Lake Wildlife Management Area
22. Brainard Post Office
23. Butler County Fairgrounds
24. Bruno Post Office
25. Butler County Highway Department
26. David City Post Office
27. Butler County Health
28. Dwight Post Office
29. Butler County Senior Living Program
30. Rising City Post Office
31. Butler County Sheriff
32. Ulysses Post Office
33. Butler County Courthouse
34. David City Municipal Airport
35. Out-of-County School Districts
(Columbus, Lakeview, Seward, Centennial, Schuyler and Raymond Central)

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EDUCATION

A comprehensive education that emphasizes technical proficiency and interpersonal skills is increasingly important in today's society. Established standards developed by educators and planners help to guide the development and expansion of educational facilities within a public school system. During the 10-year planning period, it is essential that these facilities are capable of accommodating both existing students and the anticipated future school-age population.

Public schools in Butler County should strive to meet the following standards and guidelines:

- Schools should be centrally located.
- Schools should not be located near high traffic or heavily concentrated areas with high noise levels.
- Land acquisition should be made with future expansion in mind.
- Adequate open space should be available to students.
- Provide safe routes to schools from all neighborhoods of Butler County Communities, including sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and school bus access.

The following Public School Districts exist in **Butler County**:

- **David City Public Schools** – As per the latest State of the Schools report from the Nebraska Department of Education (2024-2025), David City Public Schools maintained 700 enrolled students during the 2024-2025 academic year and employs 62 total teachers. Enrollment in 2024-2025 increased from the previous year's enrollment of 694 students. Central offices are located in the City of David City, at 750 D Street. The District operates a high school and elementary school in David City. Another elementary school is also located in the nearby Village of Bellwood. Per pupil expenditures totaled $23,340, Public Schools athletics compete at the Class C-1 Level, as designated by the Nebraska School Activities Association.
  .
- **East Butler Public Schools** – Central offices and school facilities are located in the Village of Brainard, at 212 S Madison Street. An elementary school is also located in nearby Village of Dwight at 292 North 1st Street. East Butler Public Schools maintained 327 enrolled students during the 2024-2025 academic year and employs 35 total teachers. Enrollment in 2024-2025 increased from the previous school year's enrollment of 310 students. Per pupil expenditures totaled $26,265, Public Schools athletics compete at the Class D-1 Level.

- **Shelby-Rising City Public Schools** – Central offices and school facilities are located at 650 North Walnut Street in the Village of Shelby, in nearby Polk County. The District operates an elementary, middle, and high school at the same address. Enrollment during the 2024-2025 academic year was 403 students, down from 408 in the previous academic year. Per pupil expenditures totaled $23,532, Public School athletics compete at the Class D-1 Level.

- **Schuyler Community Schools** – Central offices are located at 120 West 20th Street in the City of Schuyler, in nearby Colfax County. The District serves the northeast corner of Butler County.

- **Columbus Public Schools** – Central offices are located at 2410 16th Street, Suite A in the City of Columbus, in nearby Platte County. The District serves a small portion of the northwestern corner of Butler County.

- **Lakeview Community Schools** – Central offices are located at 3744 83rd Street in the City of Columbus, in nearby Platte County. The District serves a small portion of the northwestern corner of Butler County.

- **Raymond Central Public Schools** – Central offices are located at 1800 West Agnew Road in the Village of Raymond, in nearby Lancaster County. The District serves a portion of southeastern Butler County.

- **Seward Public Schools** – Central offices are located at 410 South Street in the City of Seward, in nearby Seward County. The District serves a portion of south-central Butler County.

- **Centennial Public Schools** – Central offices are located at 1301 Centennial Avenue in the Village of Utica, in nearby Seward County. The District serves the southwestern corner of Butler County.



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Public Libraries play an essential role in supporting lifelong learning, access to information, and community engagement for residents of all ages. Through the 10-year planning period, it is necessary for **Butler County** public libraries to remain accessible, well-maintained, and responsive to changing community needs and advancements in information technology.

- **Roman L. and Victoria E. Hruska Memorial Public Library** – This Public Library is located at 399 North 5th Street in Downtown David City. The Library maintains a collection of 25,196 items and an average circulation of 82,512 items per year.

- **Ulysses Township Library** – A Public Library in the Village of Ulysses, is located at 410 C Street. The Library maintains a collection of 5,531 items and an average annual circulation of 890 items per year.



- **Rising City Community Library** – A Public Library in the Village of Rising City, is located at 675 Main Street. The Library maintains a collection of 3,936 items and an annual circulation of 2,340 items per year.

- **Dwight Community Library** – A Public Library in the Village of Dwight, is located at 120 North 2nd Street. As per the 2025 survey, the Dwight Community Library held a collection of 4,190 books and 150 periodicals. An estimated 200 items have been circulated in 2026, an increase of 25 percent compared to Q3 of 2025.

PARKS/RECREATION

Nebraska's **State Wildlife Management Areas** are managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Wildlife Division for the enhancement of wildlife habitat. These State of Nebraska lands are utilized for public hunting, trapping and fishing. However, they are also open to hiking, bird watching, nature study and primitive camping.

Hunters and anglers fund the acquisition, development and maintenance of these areas through the purchase of hunting, trapping and fishing permits, Habitat Stamps and through excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. Access to these lands is free, and no entry permit is necessary.

Three State Recreation Areas, one recreational trail, and one State Wildlife Management Area operate within the **County**:

- **Oxbow Lake State Recreation Area** – Named for the nearby Oxbow Trail used by pioneers during the mid-1850s, the Recreation area is located in south central **Butler County**. This environs of the State Recreation area includes a 39-acre lake and wildlife refuge. The Recreation Area offers a variety of boating, fishing, hunting and camping amenities.

- **Timber Point Lake State Recreation Area** – This Recreation Area is located near the Village of Brainard. The property covers 160 acres, including a 29-acre lake. The State Recreation area provides access to no wake boating, fishing, hunting, picnic areas, and camping amenities.

- **Homestead Lake State Recreation Area** – This Recreation Area is located between the Villages of Abie and Bruno, serving for flood control and public recreation uses. The property covers approximately 60 acres of land, including a 37-acre lake. The State Recreation area offers no wake boating, fishing, picnic areas, and restrooms.

- **Oak Creek Trail** – This trail occupies the corridor once taken by the Union Pacific Railroad, opening in 1996. The trail begins in the Village of Valparaiso, the mid-point is in the Community of Loma, ending in the Village of Brainard. The trail offers hiking, geocaching, and equestrian use.

- **Redtail Lake State Wildlife Management Area** – This WMA is located just northeast of the Village of Dwight. The property offers fishing, hunting, and no wake boating.



MEDICAL FACILITIES

Medical and senior care facilities for **Butler County** residents are located in the City of David City. David City also offers a number of specialized medical offices.

- **Butler County Health** – Located at 372 South 9th Street in southeast David City, the main Hospital is a critical access facility for all residents of the County. A variety of outpatient, inpatient, skilled care, specialty clinic, surgery and emergency services are available at the Hospital. Family practice clinics are also located in David City.

- **Butler County Senior Living Program** – Located at 592 D Street in David City, offering meals, to-go meals, and home-delivered meals. They also offer health and fitness, activities, transit, and counselling services to Butler County seniors.

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY

Public administration facilities serve the citizens of the County and conduct business of government and carry out its operations. These essential services are centrally located and convenient for the citizens of Butler County.

- **County Courthouse** – The **Butler County Courthouse** is located at 451 North 5th Street in David City, Nebraska. The Courthouse is also the location of the **Butler County Sheriff's Department.** The **Butler County Courthouse** includes the **Butler County** Jail, Child Support, County Assessor, County Attorney, County Clerk, County Clerk of District Court, County Election Commissioner, County Senior Services, County Veteran Services, County Register of Deeds and County Treasurer, and County DMV.

- **Law Enforcement** – The **Butler County Sheriff's Department** is located within the **Butler County Courthouse** at 451 North 5th Street in David City. The **County** Jail is also located within the Courthouse.

  The **Butler County Sheriff's Department** primarily provides rural law enforcement duties but also provides these services to all Butler County Communities and the **Rural Community**.



- **Fire & Rescue** – To assist in serving **Butler County,** including the **Rural Community**, nine volunteer Fire Departments are located in the Communities of Abie, Bellwood, Brainard, Bruno, David City, Dwight, Linwood, Rising City, and Ulysses:

  - **Abie Volunteer Fire Department** is located at 305 2nd Street in Abie, Nebraska.

  - **Bellwood Volunteer Fire Department** is located at 752 41 Road in Bellwood, Nebraska.

  - **Brainard Volunteer Fire Department** is located at 1948 West Washington Street in Brainard, Nebraska.

  - **Skull Creek Rural Fire Department** is located at 107 Elm Street in Bruno, Nebraska.

  - **David City Volunteer Fire Department** is located at 552 D Street in David City, Nebraska.

  - **Dwight Volunteer Fire Department** is located at 198 1st Street in Dwight, Nebraska.

  - **Linwood Volunteer Fire Department** is located at 211 2nd Street in Linwood, Nebraska.

  - **Rising City Rural Fire Department** is located at 105 Main Street in Rising City, Nebraska.

  - **Ulysses Volunteer Fire Department** is located at 125 4th Street in Ulysses, Nebraska.

- **Civil Defense** – Under state law, all local jurisdictions are responsible for initial response to a disaster. Nebraska State law also mandates that each local government participate in a full-time emergency management program. The **Butler County Emergency Management Office** is located within the County Courthouse at 451 North 5th Street in David City.

  Nebraska Emergency Managers and the Emergency Management Agency is charged by State Statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from the damage, injury and loss of life and property resulting from natural, technological, or man-made disasters and emergencies.

  The planning and preparation for natural disaster and man-made emergencies consist of Mitigation, Preparation, Response, and Recovery. Examples of natural and man-made disasters include, but are not limited to floods, tornados, winter storms, chemical spills, explosions and plane crashes.

❖ **Postal Services** – Rural delivery routes throughout **Butler County** are maintained by Post Offices in each of the incorporated **Communities** of the **County**.

- **David City Post Office** is located at 411 North 4th Street in David City. The Post Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm as well as Saturday from 8:00 am to 9:00 am.

- **Bellwood Post Office** is located at 502 Esplanade Street in Bellwood. The Post Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm as well as Saturday from 8:00 am to 9:00 am.

- **Brainard Post Office** is located at 100 North Madison Street in Brainard. The Post Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm through 3:00 pm as well as Saturday from 10:00 am to 10:45 am.

- **Bruno Post Office** is located at 205 2nd Street in Bruno. The Post Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 12:00 pm as well as Saturday from 8:30 am to 9:30 am.

- **Dwight Post Office** is located at 147 2nd Street in Dwight. The Post Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 12:00 pm as well as Saturday from 9:00 am to 9:45 am.

- **Rising City Post Office** is located at 750 Main Street in Rising City. The Post Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 12:00 pm as well as Saturday from 8:15 am to 9:00 am.

- **Ulysses Post Office** is located at 210 4th Street in Ulysses. The Post Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am through 1:00 pm as well as Saturday from 10:15 am to 11:00 am.



- **Township Governance – Butler County** contains 17 townships, shown in **Illustration 5.2, Page 5.11**, each governed by a three-member board responsible for maintaining township roads, managing drainage, and handling small scale rural service needs. While road maintenance is their primary function, some townships also use their statutory authority to adopt limited local regulations such as nuisance or setback rules that function similarly to basic land use controls. Township boards prepare and manage their own budgets for these responsibilities, funded through locally approved levies. Although the county oversees major roads and countywide services, townships remain the primary providers of localized rural maintenance and community level governance across the county.

- **Butler County Highway Department** – Located south of David City, on Nebraska Highway 92, the Highway Department manages road and infrastructure maintenance and planning of the **Butler County** road system.

- **Natural Resource Districts (NRDs)** – The **Upper Big Blue NRD (UBBNRD), Lower Platte North NRD (LPNNRD), Lower Platte South NRD (LPSNRD) and Lower Loup NRD (LLNRD)** serve **Butler County**. The main operation of these NRDs is to protect, develop and manage soil and water quality resources.

BROADBAND & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Broadband infrastructure and technology are critical for information accessibility in the United States, the State of Nebraska, and **Rural Butler County.** Fiber optic, wireless, Digital Subscriber Line, and Cable/Satellite are the most common methods of modern broadband delivery. According to "Fixed Broadband Deployment" statistics from the Federal Communications Commission, **an estimated 59.2 percent of the Butler County Rural Community residents have broadband available through fiber and cable accessibility, compared to 87.7 percent of the State of Nebraska.**

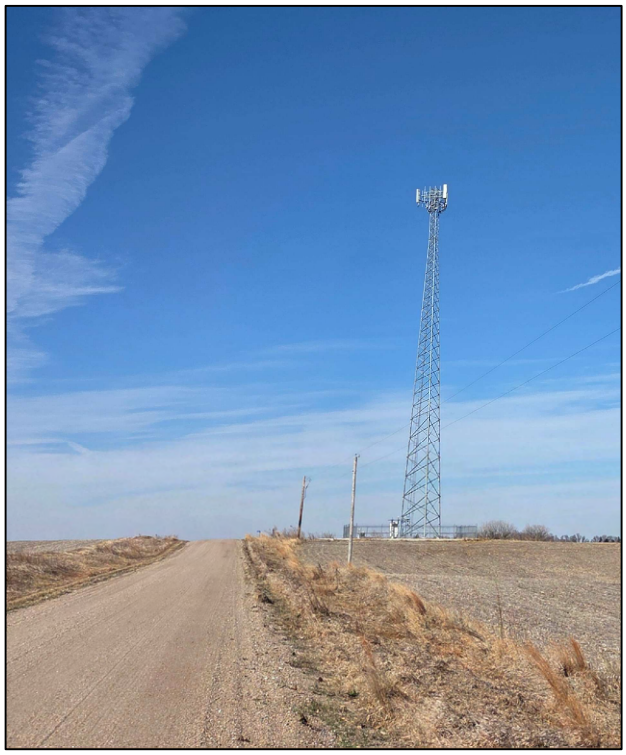
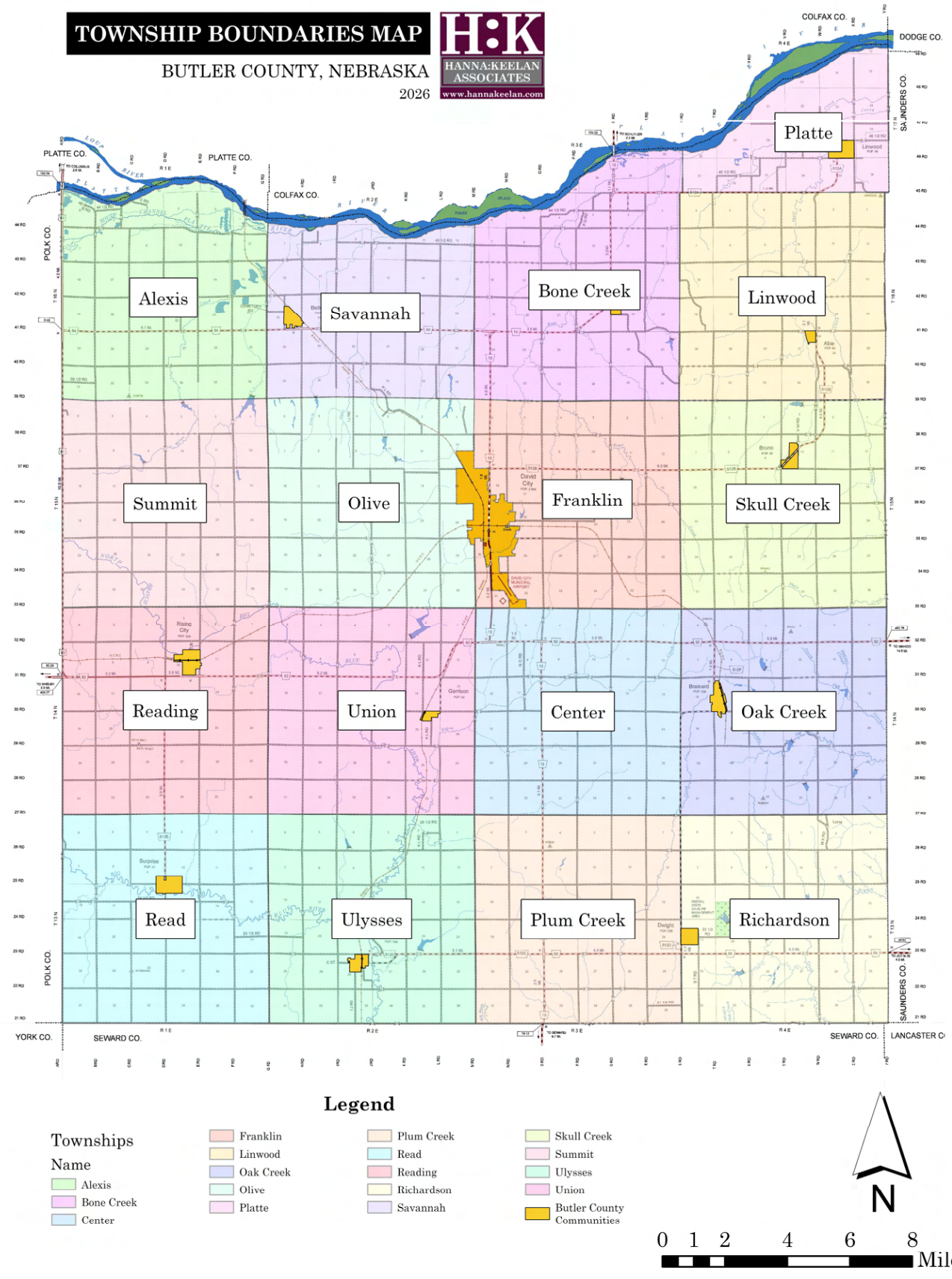


ILLUSTRATION 5.2

TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES MAP

BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2026

HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES
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TRANSPORTATION

The availability of a convenient and efficient transportation system is essential to the continued economic and physical development of **Butler County**. An adequate transportation system is required to transport goods and services to and from major travel routes and market centers within and outside the County. The overall purpose of this transportation analysis is to provide the necessary guidelines for the safe movement of people and vehicles throughout the **County**.

The primary sources of information utilized to develop the transportation analysis were **(1) Butler County "One and Six Year Road Improvement Program"** and **(2) State of Nebraska Department of Roads "Nebraska Highway Program" (Fiscal Years 2026-2031), Five-Year Road Improvement Program.**

EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Illustration 5.3, State Functional Classification Map, Page 5.15, as identified by the Nebraska Department of Transportation, depicts the existing transportation system in **Butler County**. The transportation system is comprised of one *"Expressway"* Highway, U.S. Highways 81, "*Major Arterial"* highways including State Highways 92, 15, and 66, as well as a variety of road segments identified as *"Other Arterial," "Collector"* and *"Minimum Maintenance"* Roads. The *"Major Arterial"* Highways link **Butler County** and its Communities with many cities and metropolitan areas throughout the region, while the other county and local roads provide transportation services throughout **Butler County** and into adjacent counties.

DAVID CITY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

A small, publicly owned airport located in southeast David City off Nebraska Highway 15. The airport provides a 24-hour self-serve 100LL fuel pump, and two runways, along with basic airfield facilities for light aircraft.

The **David City Municipal Airport** operates a 3,675′ x 60′ lighted asphalt 14/32 runway, and a 2,100′ x 60′ turf 01/19 runway. They have an apron with tie downs; windsock; beacon on dusk to dawn. Runway lights are radio controlled 122.9. Other facilities include a six-bay T-hangar building with two storage rooms, four additional T-hangars, one Quonset hangar, equipment building (for grounds maintenance equipment), administration building, hard-surface taxiway, and parking area. Eleven private planes are hangared there, none are available for charter.

ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS

Nebraska Highway Law identifies the eight functional classifications of rural highways as follows:

1) **Interstate:** Consists of the federally designated National System of Interstate and Defense Highways;

2) **Expressway (Other Freeways & Expressways):** Second in importance to Interstate, consists of a group of highways following major traffic desires in Nebraska and ultimately should be developed to multilane divided highway standards;

3) **Major Arterial (Other Principal Arterials):** Consists of the balance of routes which serve major statewide interests for highway transportation in Nebraska. Characterized by high speed, relatively long distances, and travel patterns;

4) **Scenic-Recreation:** Consists of highways or roads located within or which provide access to or through state parks, recreation or wilderness areas, other areas of geological, historical, recreational, biological, or archaeological significance, or areas of scenic beauty;

5) **Other Arterial (Minor Arterials):** Consists of a group of highways of less importance as through-travel routes which would serve places of smaller population and smaller recreation areas not served by the higher systems;

6) **Collector (Major and Minor Collectors):** Consists of a group of highways which pick up traffic from many local or land-service roads and carry it to community centers or to the arterial systems. They are the main school bus routes, mail routes, and farm-to-market routes;

7) **Local:** Consists of all remaining rural roads, except minimum maintenance roads;

8) **Minimum Maintenance:** Consists of (a) roads used occasionally by a limited number of people as alternative access roads for area served primarily by local, collector, or arterial roads, or (b) roads which are the principal access roads to agricultural lands for farm machinery and which are not primarily used by passenger or commercial vehicles.

9) **Remote Residential:** Consists of roads or segments of roads in remote areas of counties with (a) a population density of no more than five people per square mile or (b) an area of at least one thousand square miles, and which roads or segments of roads serve as primary access to no more than seven residences.

The rural highways classified, under subdivisions (1) through (3) of this Section should, combined, serve every incorporated municipality having a minimum population of 100 inhabitants or sufficient commerce, a part of which will be served by stubs or spurs, and along with rural highways classified under subsection (4) of this section, should serve the major recreational areas of the State. Sufficient commerce shall mean a minimum of $200,000 of gross receipts under the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967.

TRAFFIC VOLUME

The Nebraska Department of Transportation monitors traffic volume in **Butler County**, for local roads and State and Federal highways. This tabulation process is done to identify appropriate existing road classification and engineering standards. **Illustration 5.3, Page 5.15,** identifies the average daily traffic counts for State and Federal transportation routes throughout **Butler County**. Each of the road segments identified are classified as *"Expressway," "Major Arterial,"* or *"Other Arterial"* roads.

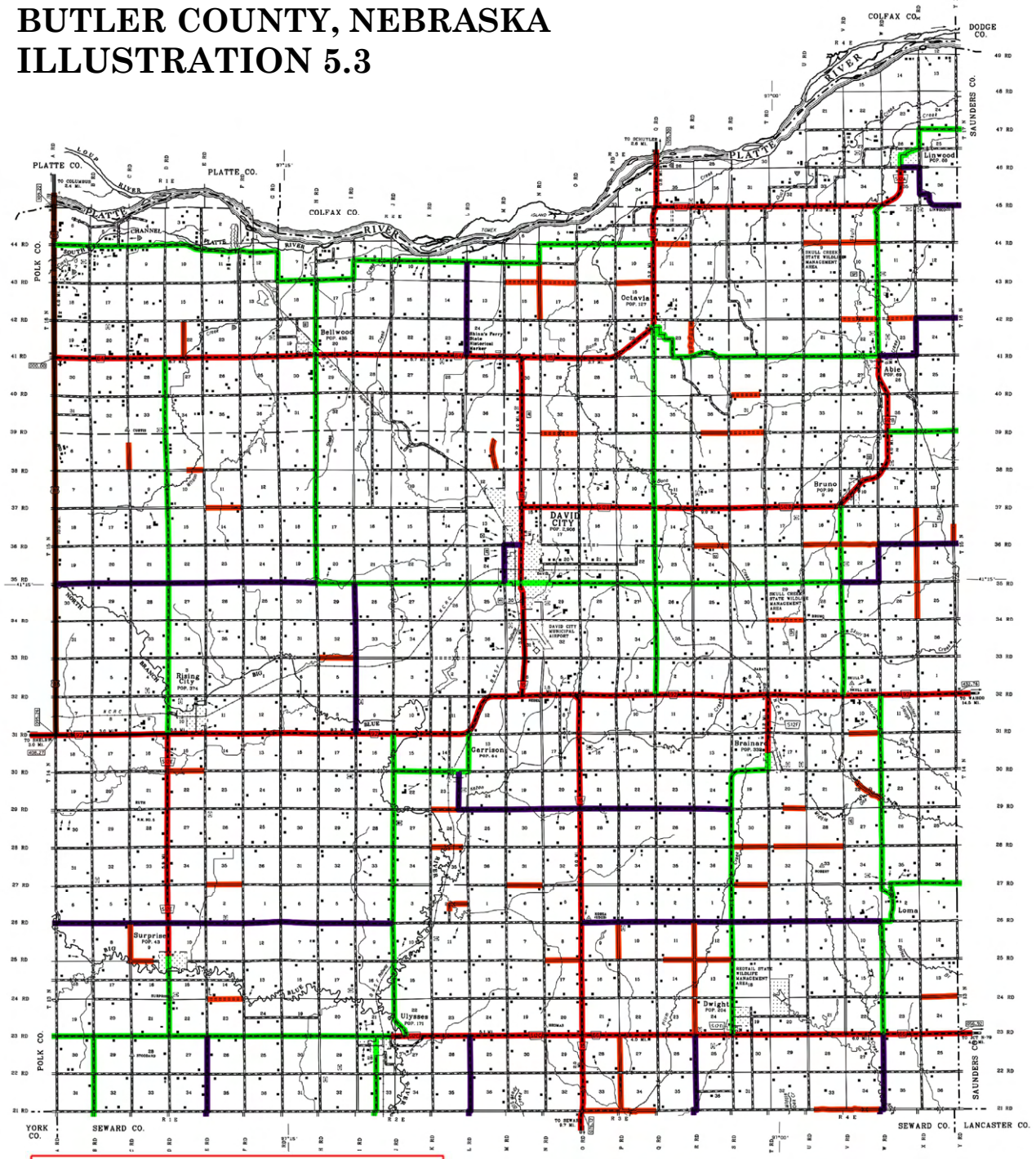
The analysis of average 24-hour traffic volumes at the locations identified in **Table 5.1, Page 5.16** during 2023.





STATE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP

BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 5.3



LEGEND

STATE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

- INTERSTATE
- EXPRESSWAY
- MAJOR ARTERIAL
- OTHER ARTERIAL
- COLLECTOR
- REMOTE RESIDENTIAL (Rural Only)
- MINIMUM MAINTENANCE (Rural Only)
- SCENIC RECREATION (Rural Only)
- URBANIZED BOUNDARY

NORTH

Source: Nebraska Department of Transportation.

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TABLE 5.1
TRAFFIC VOLUME - AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC COUNTS
STATE AND FEDERAL ROADS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2023

	2023
U.S. Highway 81, North of NE Highway 92	4,810
U.S. Highway 81, South of NE Highway 64	5,670
U.S. Highway 81, North of NE Highway 64	8,040
NE Highway 92, East of U.S. Highway 81	3,670
NE Highway 92, East of Rising City	3,005
NE Highway 92, West of NE Highway 15	3,290
NE Highway 92, East of O Road	2,765
NE Highway 92, West of NE Highway Spur 12F	3,090
NE Highway 92, East of NE Highway Spur 12F	3,320
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway 66	2,385
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway 92	2,145
NE Highway 15, West of O Road	4,445
NE Highway 15, North of NE Highway 92	3,610
NE Highway 15, David City (North of Nebraska Street)	4,935
NE Highway 15, David City (North of A Street)	5,290
NE Highway 15, David City (South of I Street)	6,435
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway Spur 12B	4,620
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway 64	4,050
NE Highway 15, East of NE Highway 64	2,490
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway Spur 12A	2,275
NE Highway 15, North of NE Highway Spur 12A	2,805
NE Highway Spur S12E, Surprise	285
NE Highway 66, Ulysses (East of 1st Street)	595
NE Highway 66, West of NE Highway 15	505
NE Highway 66, Dwight (Southwest of South 4th Street)	855
NE Highway 66, Dwight (Southeast of South 4th Street)	695
NE Highway Spur S12F, North of Brainard	710
NE Highway Spur S12B, Southwest of Bruno	585
NE Highway Spur S12B, Northeast of Bruno	455
NE Highway Spur S12B, Abie	455
NE Highway Spur S12A, Linwood	220
NE Highway Spur S12A, West of NE Highway 15	590

Source: Nebraska Department of Transportation, 2023.

FUTURE BUTLER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

COUNTY ONE- AND SIX-YEAR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The future transportation system is outlined in the **Butler County One- and Six-Year Road Improvement Plan.** The **County's One-Year Plan** identifies projects to be undertaken in Fiscal Year 2025, while the **Six-Year Plan** includes projects to be undertaken through 2031, or earlier if funding becomes available. **Road Improvement Plans are available in the office of the County Clerk.** The **Butler County Road Improvement Plans** as identified by the by the **County Clerk** are shown in **Illustration 5.4, Page 5.19.**

The **Butler County Highway Superintendent** annually prepares the One- and Six-Year Road Plan and reports directly to the County Supervisors. The Butler County Planning Commission reviews the Plan, and the County Board of Supervisors approves the Plan and files it with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Improvement projects included in the County's current One- and Six-Year Road Plan include the following:

One-Year Projects (Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2026):

- C12-905 – Culvert Replacement, Linwood 12-13, $26,000.
- C12-913 – Bridge to Culvert, Alexis 22-23, $20,000.
- C12-914 – Bridge to Culvert, Plum Creek 2-11, $20,000.
- C12-899 – Install Culvert, Olive 29-30, $5,000.
- C12-900 – Bridge Replacement, Polk County/Read West Side 7, $500,000.
- C12-931 – Culvert Replacement, Franklin 13-14, $10,000.
- C12-933 – Bridge Replacement, Bone Creek 3-4, $300,000.
- C12-876D – Bridge to Culvert, Bone Creek 2-11, $10,000.
- C12-908 – Bridge to Culvert, Read 16-17, $10,000.

Six-Year Planning Program Projects (Fiscal Years 2026-2031):

- C12-844 – Bridge to Culvert, Road "E" 41-42
- C12-907 – Replace Bridge, Road X 36-37
- C12-904 – Bridge to Culvert, Road V 42-43
- C12-892 – Replace Culverts, Grading, Road T 41 West & South
- C12-785 – Replace Bridge, Road Y 33-34
- C12-771 – Bridge to Culvert, Road 21 V-W
- C12-353B – Grading & Pavement 4.1 Miles, Road 44 B-G
- C12-786 – Bridge to Culvert, Road 39 N-O
- C12-635 – Grading & Pavement 4 Miles, Road W 41-45
- C12-834 – Replace Bridge, Road 26 R-S
- C12-917 – Grading & Pavement 0.25 Miles, Road "E" 31 North

STATE ONE- AND FIVE-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Nebraska "Surface Transportation Program 2019-2024" is an annual publication that includes a list of one-year short-term and five-year long-range improvement projects for State and Federal Highways. Improvement projects located in Butler County include the following projects:

One-Year Projects (Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2026):

- N/A.

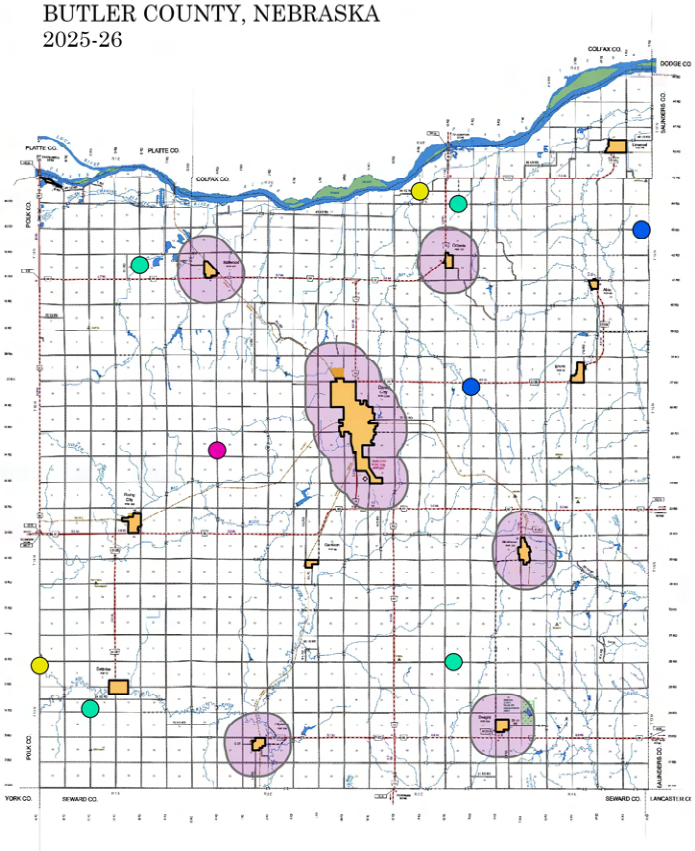
Five-Year Planning Program Projects (Fiscal Years 2026-2031):

- N/A.

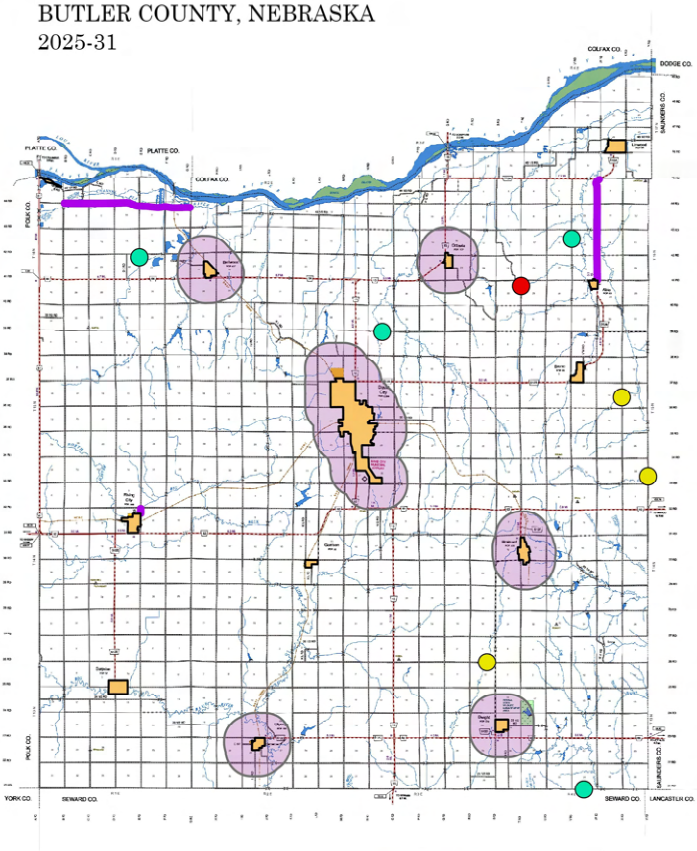


ONE- AND SIX-YEAR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN MAP
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 5.4

ONE-YEAR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2025-26



SIX-YEAR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2025-31



Legend

- Butler County Communities
- One-Mile Planning Jurisdiction

Road Improvements

Project Type

- Bridge Replacement
- Bridge to Culvert
- Culvert Replacement
- Culvert Replacement, Grading
- Install Culvert
- Grading and Paving

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SECTION 6:

ENERGY ELEMENT.

HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES
COMMUNITY PLANNING & RESEARCH

SECTION 6

ENERGY ELEMENT.

INTRODUCTION

This **Section** of the **Butler County, Nebraska, Comprehensive Plan** complies with a **July, 2010, amendment to Nebraska State Statues 23-114.02,** requiring updates to a County Comprehensive Plan to include an **"Energy Element."** This component of the **Plan** assesses the energy infrastructure and energy use by sector, including residential, commercial, and industrial. This section is also intended to evaluate the utilization of renewable energy sources and promote energy conservation measures.

PUBLIC POWER DISTRIBUTION

Energy usage and consumption throughout Butler County has followed the trends prevalent in the State of Nebraska. Electrical power is distributed across rural Butler County by the **Butler Public Power District (BPPD)**, which purchases electricity from the **Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD).** BPPD provides electricity to approximately 6,300 customers in rural Butler and Saunders Counties, and the Villages of Abie, Bellwood, Bruno, Dwight, Garrison, Linwood, Loma, Malmo, Octavia, Rising City, Surprise, Toughy, Ulysses, and Valparaiso. BPPD operates approximately 1,695 miles of line, 1,018 irrigation services, and 770 wells on control, with a total well horsepower of 50,028 and horsepower controlled is 45,927.

As the largest electric generating utility in the State of Nebraska, NPPD provides electricity to all or parts of 84 of the State's 93 Counties, including Butler County. The fuel source of NPPD's generating facilities includes coal, oil, natural gas, wind, solar, hydroelectric, and nuclear energy. Additionally, NPPD also purchases electricity from the **Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)**, which markets and transmits electricity for federally owned hydropower facilities.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT (NPPD)

As of 2025, NPPD had a total of 631.4 megawatts (MWs) generated from renewable resources, primarily wind, hydroelectric, and solar energy. Energy from renewable resources comprise 16.8 percent of the total energy generation.

- NPPD was formed in 1970 through the merger of two public power districts and the assets of the former Nebraska Public Power System.
- More than 5,200 miles of overhead and underground power lines make up NPPD's electric system.
- NPPD revenue is derived from wholesale power supply agreements with 35 municipalities and 23 public power districts and/or cooperatives. NPPD also serves 81 Nebraska communities at retail, consisting of more than 95,000 customers.

GENERATING RESOURCES

The source of NPPD's generating facilities includes Fossil Fuels, Nuclear, Hydroelectric, Wind, Solar, and Methane. Additionally, NPPD purchases electricity from the **Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)**, which markets and transmits electricity for federally owned hydropower facilities.

In 2025, NPPD's energy generation for Nebraska customers was comprised of:

- 46.5 percent of NPPD's energy generation was from coal.
- 21.3 percent was from nuclear.
- 13.6 percent generation from oil & natural gas.
- 1.6 percent from renewable wind generation.
- 0.7 percent from renewable hydroelectric generation.
- 0.6 percent from renewable solar generation.
- The remaining 15.7 percent of NPPD's energy was supplied through wholesale purchases.

MORE THAN 38% OF NPPD'S GENERATION SOURCES ARE CARBON-FREE.



NPPD RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPABILITIES

1.) Western Area Power Administration –
In 2025, Nebraska utilities were allocated 832 MWs of "firm" hydropower capacity from WAPA, the majority of which was purchased by NPPD through long-term federal preference power contracts.

2.) Hydropower Facilities –
NPPD owns and operates two hydroelectric generating facilities, the North Platte and Kearney Hydropower facilities on the Platte River, and purchases 100 percent of the energy output from facilities owned by Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and Loup Public Power District. At each plant, water passes through turbines, generates electricity and continues on unchanged. The generators, totaling 25 MW, can serve 9,500 homes.

3.) Wind Turbine Generators –
NPPD owns 41 MW of the Ainsworth Wind Energy Facility, while Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) owns 10 MWs, Municipal Energy of NE owns 7 MWs, and the City of Grand Island purchases one MW.

NPPD has power purchase agreements with six additional wind generating facilities in Nebraska. NPPD purchases a total of 433 MWs, of which NPPD utilizes 280 MWs and has purchase agreements for the remaining 153 MWs to other utility districts.

4.) Solar Energy –
Ainsworth installed a 500 KW facility in 2021, Kearney opened a 5.7 MW facility in 2017, Norfork opened an 8.5 MW facility in 2022, Ogallala opened a 1.5 MW facility in 2023, Scottsbluff operates two solar energy facilities totaling 4.5 MW, Venango opened a facility in 2017 that generates 96 KW, and York opened a facility that generates 3.2 MW.

NPPD has developed a "Community Solar Program;" the Program allows community members to purchase solar energy without having to install solar panels on individual rooftops. Solar subscribers can purchase different amounts of solar energy based on their annual electricity usage.

NPPD TRADITIONAL PRODUCTION FACILITIES

Coal-Fired Generators –

NPPD owns the Gerald Gentleman and Sheldon Stations, which are both coal-fired generating stations. Together, these facilities produce 1,590 MWs. The Gerald Gentleman Station produces enough power to supply electricity to 600,000 Nebraskans. Additionally, NPPD has a coal power purchase agreement with the Nebraska City #2, owned by Omaha Public Power District, for 162 MWs.

Natural Gas & Oil-Fired Generators –

Gas- and Oil-fired generators are utilized only during peak loads or as replacement power if another facility is down. NPPD owns two natural gas-fired generation facilities, the Beatrice Power Station and the Canaday Station that produce a combined total of 350 MW.

Three oil-fired generation facilities located in Hallam, McCook, and Hebron, Nebraska produce 162 MW. NPPD also have capacity purchases agreements with 12 municipal systems in Nebraska for an additional 69 MWs.

NPPD EMISSION FREE ELECTRICITY

Nuclear Facilities –

Cooper Nuclear Station operates as the largest single unit electrical generator in Nebraska, by generating 800 MW of electricity. This facility is capable of supplying power to more than 310,000 customers during peak summer usage. In November of 2010, NPPD received an additional 20 years beyond its initial 40-year license to provide power through at least January, 2034.



WIND TURBINES AND "NET METERING"

Commercial, large scale wind turbines, or "Wind Conversion Systems," are being promoted in Nebraska Counties by companies and local property owners alike. Wind towers of up to 400' in height are typically developed as "wind farms," where multiple wind towers are constructed in a single area, or linearly along a ridge line, such as Laredo Ridge Wind Farm, east of Petersburg in Boone County, for example. This facility consists of 54 commercial scale, 1.5 megawatt (MW) turbines.

In 2009, the State of Nebraska Legislature approved and signed into law, LB 439 (**Nebraska State Statute §70-2001 to 2005**), which is also referred to as "**Net Metering**." This law allows individual residences and businesses to supplement their standard electric service with one, or combinations of, five alternate energy systems, including Solar, Methane, Wind, Biomass, Hydropower and Geothermal. By implementing these types of alternative energy systems, individuals will reduce their reliance on public utility systems, potentially generating more electricity than they use and profit by the public utility districts purchasing their excess energy. The **Butler County Planning Commission** can choose to allow usage control of Net Metering by allowing residential and businesses property owners to seek a **Conditional Use Permit,** if the applicant can document they are in conformance with the provisions of the **Butler County Zoning Regulations.**

While Nebraska law outlines Net Metering up to one percent of average peak demand, Butler Public Power District has reached its statutory one percent capacity cap and does not currently accept or offer Net Metering interconnections.

> ***A new net metering service was developed by NPPD to assist its Communities in complying with net metering laws. As of 2025, NPPD had 378 net metering customers.***



ENERGY CONSUMPTION

STATE-WIDE TRENDS IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION

During the last 40+ years, the State of Nebraska, as a whole, has vastly increased energy consumption. Trends in the Total Energy Consumption for the State of Nebraska, published in the ***"2025 Annual Report" of the Nebraska Energy Office***, is mirrored in each of the individual energy categories, coal, natural gas, gasoline and distillate fuel oil (primarily diesel fuel), nuclear power, and hydroelectric production. Each energy type is detailed between 1960 and 2016, as follows:

- **Coal** consumption has increased from 20 trillion British Thermal Units (BTUs) in 1960 to 195.6 trillion BTUs in 2023. Peak use of coal was reached in 2013, at 292.9 BTUs. The increase through 2013 was attributable to coal energy used to generate electricity.

- **Natural Gas** consumption has risen and fallen during the 63-year period between 1960 and 2023, beginning at 140.4 trillion BTUs, peaking in 1973 at 230.8 trillion BTUs. By 2023, usage declining to 206.7 trillion BTUs.

- **Petroleum** product has nearly doubled in consumption from 1960 to 2023. In 1960, 136 trillion BTUs were consumed, while 243.5 trillion BTUs have been consumed in 2023. Gasoline and distillate fuel (primarily diesel fuel) comprise a vast majority of consumed petroleum.

- **Diesel Fuel** consumption increased nearly five times in Nebraska between 1960 and 2023. Gasoline consumption increased, from 24.2 to 109.4 trillion BTUs in 2023. Usage peaked in 1978 at 116 trillion BTUs.

- **Nuclear** power generation began in Nebraska in 1973 at 6.5 trillion BTUs. Usage has since increased to 72.4 trillion BTUs as of 2023. The peak use of nuclear power was in 2007 at 115.8 trillion BTUs.

- **Renewable energy** consumption has fluctuated, beginning in 1960 at 13.4, and peaking in 2023 at 164.5 trillion BTUs. Hydropower was the primary renewable energy source from 1960 to 1994. Biofuels, or ethanol production, began equaling hydropower in 1995. As of 2023, 68.4 percent of all renewable energy produced came from biofuels, 2.4 percent from hydroelectric, 24.4 percent from wind, and 2.7 percent from wood products. Minor amounts came from geothermal and solar energy.

NEBRASKA ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY SECTOR

- **Commercial Sector:** The commercial sector includes non-manufacturing business establishments, including energy use by local, state and federal governments. Energy use in the commercial sector closely parallels consumer energy use and economic activity in the State of Nebraska. Around 26.4 percent of all fuel used in the commercial sector was supplied by natural gas, and electricity accounted for an estimated 28 percent in 2023. Although natural gas has historically been the dominant fuel type, recent trends suggest a period of near parity between the two fuel types is likely into the near future. In 2023, a total of 137.5 trillion BTUs were consumed in the commercial sector. commercial sector consumed 16 percent of the State's total energy consumption in 2023.

- **Residential Sector:** The residential sector consumed 16 percent, or 137.5 trillion BTUs, of the State's total energy demand in 2023. Natural gas accounted for 28.9 percent, and electricity accounted for 26.5 percent of the total energy use in the residential sector in 2023.

- **Industrial Sector:** The industrial sector includes manufacturing, construction, mining, forestry and agricultural operations. Energy use in the industrial is more diverse, with natural gas, renewable energy, electricity, coal and a variety of petroleum products all being utilized. The industrial sector consumes more energy than any other sector in the State. In 2023, it accounted for 44 percent, or 366.1 trillion BTUs, of the State's total energy consumption.

- **Transportation Sector:** Public and private vehicles, railroads, aircraft and boats are all included in the transportation sector. Petroleum products accounted for 97.1 percent of the energy use in the transportation sector in 2023. Approximately 24 percent of the State's total energy consumption (199.3 trillion BTUs) was used in the transportation sector in 2023.

- **Electric Power Sector:** The electric power sector consists of facilities which generate electricity primarily for use by the public. About 58 percent of energy usage in this sector comes from coal, while nuclear energy accounted for approximately 22.9 percent in 2023. Demand in the State's electric power sector totaled 317.1 trillion BTUs in 2023.

- **Agricultural Sector:** As per the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 44,479 farms and ranches on 43.9 million acres in Nebraska in 2022, encompassing 89.7 percent of the State's total land area. Energy demand information in this sector is not available on a consistent or annual basis.

INCREASED ENERGY COSTS & CONSERVATION

A comparison of **"Total Energy Expenditures Per Capita"** between the United States and the State of Nebraska indicated that between 1970 and 1994, Nebraska and the Nation's per capita energy consumption were very close to one another. But, after 1994, Nebraska's consumption began to be drastically higher than that of the Nation. The industrial sector, which includes agriculture, was the one sector that was surging in energy consumption in Nebraska.

Ethanol production in Nebraska in 1994 was 78.9 million gallons, by 2016 production had increased to 2.1 billion gallons. Considering ethanol production uses high volumes of both electricity and natural gas, the State's energy expenditures per capita increased as well. **Additionally, in 2024, 35 percent of the State's total corn harvested, or 503 million of the total 1.802 billion bushels of corn, was consumed by ethanol production.**

High fuel costs or limited availability of a particular energy type increases the desire for energy efficiency practices. For example, historic peak prices for natural gas in 2008 motivated farmers to convert natural gas and propane fueled irrigation equipment to electric power; to limit frequency and amount of applications of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer (a natural gas product); and to increase the use of conservation tillage practices to reduce crop cultivation. Access to low-cost financing through the Nebraska Energy Office and locally available low-interest loans to modernize agricultural equipment have led to conservation increases in the Agricultural Sector.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a report in 2008 which concluded that farmers have increased conservation practices. **Since the 1970s, total farm energy consumption had fallen by 26 percent, while farm production increased by 63 percent, due to the adoption of energy conservation practices**. This figure is even more significant when the consolidation of farms is considered.

In 2023, 9.4 million acres in Nebraska were irrigated. As 3.1 million acres were irrigated in 1966, irrigated lands have increased by at least 6 million acres over the last five decades. In addition to transportation of agricultural products and inputs, irrigation makes up a growing share of the energy demand for Nebraska's agricultural sector. Rainfall shortages are replaced with irrigation, which requires external energy input. According to the 2023 USDA Irrigation and Water Management Survey, irrigation pumps were powered by electricity (67.1%), diesel/biodiesel (21.6%), natural gas (6.6%), propane (4.6%) and gasoline/ethanol (0.1%).

The increasing use of irrigation helps to boost yields and helps minimize losses during drought, but it creates an increased dependence on energy use in Nebraska's agricultural sector. The increase in irrigated acres results in significantly higher electrical demand during periods of drought. For example, in 2012, record droughts put strain on the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) transmission system due to increased irrigation use. Mobile diesel generators were used to meet this additional demand, though NPPD has since made transmission system additions and upgrades to meet additional demand.

ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICIES

The following is a list of policies to guide energy practices throughout Butler County:

- **Support the voluntary use of personal and commercial Alternative Energy Sources to reduce public/quasi-public, residential, commercial and industrial facilities consumption of energy.**

    - Utilize the **Butler County Zoning Regulations** to regulate the placement and operation of alternative energy systems.

    - Require compliance with the Conditional Use permit process so that established conditions are met by the applicant.

- **As Alternative Energy Systems are developed, or become cost-effective for use in Nebraska, the planning documents of the County are recommended to be revised to guide their locations and monitor their operation.**

- **Increase Building Efficiency.**

    - Retrofit Residential Buildings – Provide incentives and construction advice to the public to expand the restoration of homes including windows, doors, attic ventilation, insulation, and alternative energy systems, such as solar panels

    - Retrofit Public and Commercial Buildings – Provide incentives and construction advice to the public for Best Management Practices (BMPs) for windows, doors, attic ventilation, insulation, solar panels, and lighting.

    - New Construction Codes should include BMPs to fit existing and future county codes and ordinances, as well as to educate homeowners and realtors.

    - Encourage residents to plant new trees and replace damaged trees to maintain and expand the County tree canopy. Shade from trees reduces peak electric demands during the summer, while providing wind breaks during the winter.

- **Promote the use of conservation methods to reduce the consumption of energy usage in each of the individual sectors including residential, commercial and industrial (which includes agricultural and public uses).**

  - Promote the expanded use of personal residential or business wind, solar, methane, biomass, hydropower and geothermal exchange energy systems, or other sources of alternative energy systems, for applications throughout the **Butler County Rural Community**. The use of a personal alternate energy source or combinations of these energy sources should be considered by farming and ranching operations to lower energy consumption and to make energy more affordable.

  - Promote the rehabilitation of agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial and public/quasi-public buildings utilizing weatherization methods and energy efficient or "green building" materials in conformance to the "LEED" Certified Building techniques.

  - Promote the use of conservation programs supported by Butler Public Power District, and in its association with Nebraska Public Power District, for its member Communities and public power districts. For example, the ENERGYsmart Lighting Program provides cash incentives to businesses that replace old lighting fixtures with high-efficient light fixtures such as LED to reduce energy costs.

  - **Butler County Rural Community** residents and farming/ranching operations could also access grant and loan programs to replace light fixtures with LED fixtures that reduce consumption and are more energy efficient.

  - Support and provide incentives for the expanded use of agricultural practices to reduce energy consumption. Techniques such as conservation tillage, high efficiency irrigation equipment and cost-effective fuel sources to power irrigation systems. Data has revealed that the pairing of center pivot corner systems with a variable frequency drive (VFD) can lead to energy efficiency savings of 20 to 30 percent.

  - Support State and Federal incentive programs to continue to provide low-cost financing to purchase modern agricultural equipment such as low-pressure pivots and no-till equipment. Programs such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) that finances irrigation efficiency improvements switching diesel, propane and natural gas pumps to electric operated.

- Promote the availability of incentives provided by public power districts to develop alternative energy sources for, and from, agricultural practices. Modern methods such as producing methane gas from livestock confinement facilities to power agricultural equipment, is one example.

- Promote the expanded use of personal solar and geothermal exchange energy systems for agricultural applications that power equipment and heat/cool farm and ranch buildings.

♦ **Support Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure Programs.**

- Specify LID design options in engineering services contracts for subdivision development, stormwater, and parking lot improvements.

- Provide continuous education to the **Butler County Rural Community**, Public Works Staff in the new LID designs and BMPs for operation and maintenance of LID projects.

- Calculate and track the public and private construction and life cycle cost savings for LID projects.

- Promote Water Conservation through use of low impact lawn care, rain barrels, alternative to paved driveways, grey water and potable water systems, and xeriscaping.





APPENDIX I:

BUTLER COUNTY TABLE PROFILE.

HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES
COMMUNITY PLANNING & RESEARCH

APPENDIX I

BUTLER COUNTY TABLE PROFILE.

TABLE 1
POPULATION TRENDS & PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, COMMUNITIES & RURAL COMMUNITY
2000-2036

	2000	2010	2020	2026	2036	# Change 2026-2036	2036 CGI*
Butler County	**8,767**	**8,395**	**8,369**	**8,422**	**8,486**	**+64**	**8,643**
David City	2,638	2,906	2,995	3,025	3,084	+59	**3,155**
Abie	141	69	65	66	64	-2	**64**
Bellwood	469	435	407	408	391	-17	**395**
Brainard	374	330	336	353	358	+5	**362**
Bruno	101	99	95	97	95	-2	**95**
Dwight	225	204	229	232	226	-6	**229**
Garrison	67	54	55	56	53	-3	**53**
Linwood	126	88	94	93	87	-6	**87**
Octavia	149	127	107	107	95	-12	**95**
Rising City	369	374	356	359	349	-10	**357**
Surprise	43	43	37	40	38	-2	**38**
Ulysses	229	171	196	188	177	-11	**180**
Community Planning Jurisdictions	201	193	192	195	205	+10	**249**
Butler County Rural Community	**3,635**	**3,302**	**3,205**	**3,203**	**3,264**	**+61**	**3,284**

*Includes potential estimated population increase associated with a planned **"Community Growth Initiative" (CGI).** This could include increases in **145** Full-Time Employment (FTE) positions and/or Housing Development activities associated with workforce/population recruitment during the next 10 years. This would create an estimated Butler County population increase of **157** residents.

Source: 2000, 2010, 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 2A
POPULATION AGE DISTRIBUTION
TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2000-2036

Age Group	2000	2010	2020	2000-2020 Change	2026	2036	2026-2036 Change
19 and Under	2,635	2,248	2,187	**-448**	**2,145**	**2,075**	**-70**
20-34	1,283	1,107	1,236	**-47**	**1,200**	**1,215**	**+15**
35-54	2,476	2,315	1,845	**-631**	**1,707**	**1,327**	**-380**
55-64	823	1,122	1,303	**+480**	**1,395**	**1,577**	**+182**
65-74	785	736	995	**+210**	**1,127**	**1,347**	**+220**
75-84	599	577	540	**-59**	**560**	**625**	**+65**
85+	166	290	263	**+97**	**288**	**320**	**+32**
Totals	**8,767**	**8,395**	**8,369**	**-343**	**8,422**	**8,486**	**+64**
Median Age	**38.7**	**44.3**	**43.2**	**+4.1**	**45.1**	**49.3**	**+4.2**

Source: 2000, 2010, 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 2B
POPULATION AGE DISTRIBUTION
TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, RURAL COMMUNITY
2000-2036

Age Group	2000	2010	2020	2000-2020 Change	2026	2036	2026-2036 Change
19 and Under	1,198	892	861	**-337**	**708**	**651**	**-57**
20-34	493	407	434	**-59**	**370**	**586**	**+16**
35-54	1,189	1063	707	**-482**	**687**	**606**	**-81**
55-64	393	516	648	**+255**	**667**	**744**	**+77**
65-74	329	337	443	**+114**	**469**	**545**	**+76**
75-84	191	219	232	**+41**	**227**	**242**	**+15**
85+	37	61	72	**+35**	**75**	**90**	**+15**
Totals	**3,635**	**3,302**	**3,205**	**-430**	**3,203**	**3,264**	**+61**
Median Age	**37.1**	**41.6**	**43.7**	**+2.1**	**50.2**	**54.6**	**+4.4**

Source: 2000, 2010, 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 3
SPECIFIC HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2010-2036

	Year	Population	Group Quarters	Persons in Households	Households	Persons Per Household
Butler	2010	8,395	173	8,222	3,391	2.42
County	2020	8,369	154	8,215	3,424	2.39
	2026	**8,422**	**160**	**8,262**	**3,471**	**2.38**
	2036	**8,486**	**160**	**8,326**	**3,495**	**2.38**
Butler	2010	3,302	0	3,302	1,611	2.05
County	2020	3,205	0	3,205	1,490	2.15
Rural	**2026**	**3,203**	**0**	**3,203**	**1,449**	**2.21**
Community	**2036**	**3,264**	**0**	**3,264**	**1,457**	**2.24**

Source: 2010 & 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 4
HOUSEHOLD TYPE BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2025 ESTIMATE*

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7+ Persons
Butler County	1,143	1,354	363	285	160	172	47
Butler County Rural Community	369	517	171	153	57	85	13

*Subject to margin of error.
Source: 2024 American Community Survey.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 5
TENURE BY HOUSEHOLD
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2010-2036

			Owner		Renter	
	Year	Households	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Butler	2010	3,391	2,633	77.6%	758	22.4%
County	2020	3,424	2,607	80.4%	817	19.6%
	2026	**3,471**	**2,628**	**75.7%**	**843**	**24.3%**
	2036	**3,495**	**2,621**	**75.0%**	**874**	**25.0%**
Butler	2010	1,611	1,352	83.9%	259	16.1%
County	2020	1,490	1,253	84.1%	237	15.9%
Rural	**2026**	**1,449**	**1,182**	**81.6%**	**267**	**18.4%**
Community	**2036**	**1,457**	**1,174**	**80.6%**	**283**	**19.4%**

Source: 2010 & 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 6
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2010 & 2020

	2010		2020	
Race	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
White	8,092	96.4%	7,626	91.1%
Black	24	0.3%	28	0.3%
Native American	10	0.1%	22	0.3%
Asian	27	0.3%	9	0.1%
Other	47	0.6%	201	2.4%
Totals	**8,395**		**8,369**	
Hispanic Origin	**195**	**2.3%**	**482**	**5.8%**

*Specified Data.
Source: 2010 & 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 7
ESTIMATED MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME TRENDS & PROJECTIONS*
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2010-2036

	2010*	2020*	2026	2036
Butler County	**$44,595**	**$59,232**	**$66,697**	**$71,673**
Butler County Rural Community	**$49,481**	**$65,860**	**$74,213**	**$79,782**

*Subject to margin of error.
Source: 2010 & 2020 American Community Survey.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 8
PER CAPITA INCOME
TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY / STATE OF NEBRASKA
2016-2036

	Butler County		State of Nebraska	
Year	**Income**	**% Change**	**Income**	**% Change**
2016	$41,666	--	$48,688	--
2017	$42,796	+2.7%	$49,533	-0.4%
2018	$45,146	+5.5%	$51,436	+5.5%
2019	$49,070	+8.7%	$53,513	+2.3%
2020	$53,515	+9.1%	$56,909	+0.9%
2021	$63,711	+19.1%	$63,365	+2.8%
2022	$66,507	+4.4%	$66,365	+2.8%
2023	**$71,379**	**+7.3%**	**$71,517**	**+3.2%**
2024	**$70,817**	**-0.8%**	**$72,701**	**+1.9%**
2016-2024	**$41,666-$70,817**	**+69.9%**	**$48,688-$72,701**	**+49.3%**
2024-2036	**$70,817-$95,595**	**+34.9%**	**$72,701-$93,112**	**+28.1%**

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2024.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 9
PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2024 ESTIMATE

Social Security Income-2024	**Number of Beneficiaries**
Retirement Benefits	
Retired Workers	1,910
Wives & Husbands	30
Children	10
Survivor Benefits	
Widows & Widowers	110
Children	40
Disability Benefits	
Disabled Persons	135
Wives & Husbands	0
Children	20
Total	**2,255**
Aged 65 & Older	
Men	755
Women	895
Total	**1,650**
Supplemental Security Income-2024	**Number of Beneficiaries**
Aged	X
Blind and Disabled	X
Total	**70**

Source: Department of Health and Human Services,
Social Security Administration, 2024.

TABLE 10
EMPLOYMENT DATA TRENDS & PROJECTIONS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2016-2036

Year	Number of Employed Persons	Change	Percent Unemployment
2016	4,324	--	3.49%
2017	4,291	-0.8%	3.01%
2018	4,330	+0.9%	2.56%
2019	4,399	+1.6%	2.84%
2020	4,311	-2.0%	3.64%
2021	4,430	+2.8%	2.42%
2022	4,475	+1.0%	1.81%
2023	4,418	+1.3%	1.83%
2024	4,456	+0.9%	2.31%
2025	4,521	+1.5%	1.80%
2026*	4,553	+0.7%	2.40%
2036	**4,700**	**+3.2%**	**2.5%**
2016-2036	**4,324-4,700**	**+8.7%**	**1.80-3.64%**

*Estimate as of March, 2026.
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, 2025
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 11
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2024 ESTIMATE*

9 Minutes or Less	10-19 Minutes	20-29 Minutes	30-39 Minutes	40 Minutes or More
820	802	931	745	593

*Subject to margin of error.
Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 12
WORKFORCE EMPLOYMENT BY TYPE
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2024

Workforce	
Non-Farm Employment (Wage and Salary)	**2,534**
Agriculture Forestry, Fishing & Hunting.	*
Mining, Quarrying and Oil/Gas Extraction.	*
Utilities.	0
Construction.	*
Manufacturing.	*
Wholesale Trade.	171
Retail Trade.	218
Transportation & Warehousing.	72
Information.	*
Finance & Insurance.	118
Real Estate & Rental/Leasing.	6
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services.	50
Management of Companies & Enterprises.	11
Administrative/Support/Waste.	46
Educational Services.	74
Health Care & Social Assistance.	285
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation.	8
Accommodation & Food Service.	94
Other Services (except Public Administration).	*
Federal Government.	35
State Government.	13
Local Government.	692

*Data not available because of disclosure suppression.
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, 2024.

TABLE 13
HOUSING STOCK PROFILE/UNITS IN STRUCTURE*
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2020 & 2024*

	Year	1 unit	2-9 units	10+ units	Other Δ	Total
Butler County	2020	3,461	248	59	298	4,066
	2024	3,453	211	53	322	4,039
Butler County	2020	1,461	9	0	158	1,628
Rural Community	2024	1,925	0	0	168	1,696

*Subject to margin of error.
Δ Includes mobile homes and trailers.
Source: 2020-24 American Community Survey.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 14
HOUSING STOCK PROFILE
SUBSTANDARD HOUSING – HUD
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2024 ESTIMATE*

		Complete Plumbing		Lack of Complete Plumbing		Units with 1.01+ Persons per Room	
	Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Butler County	3,524	3,488	98.9%	36	1.1%	28	0.8%
Butler County Rural Community	1,365	1,329	97.4%	36	2.6%	14	1.0%

*Specified Data Used. 2024 Estimate subject to margin of error.
Source: 2024 American Community Survey Estimate.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 15
HOUSING STOCK PROFILE/YEAR UNITS BUILT
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA RURAL COMMUNITY
2026

Year	# Units
2016 and After	**169**
2010 to 2015	**66**
2000 to 2009	**176**
1990 to 1999	**195**
1980 to 1989	**166**
1970 to 1979	**232**
1960 to 1969	**137**
1950 to 1959	**76**
1940 to 1949	**35**
1939 or Before	**592**
SUBTOTAL	**1,844**
% 1939 or Before	**32.1%**
% 1959 or Before	**38.1%**

Source: Butler County Assessor, 2026.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 16
HOUSING CONDITIONS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA,
RURAL COMMUNITY
2026

Condition Rating	**Rural Butler County/CPJs**
Very Good +	0
Very Good	1
Good +	86
Good	105
Average +	406
Average	633
Fair +	141
Fair	233
Low +	76
Low	161
Total	**1,842**

Source: Butler County Assessor's Office, 2026.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 17
HOUSING STOCK OCCUPANCY/VACANCY STATUS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA RURAL COMMUNITY
2026

a) Housing Stock	**1,844 (O=1,485; R=359)**
b) Vacant Housing Stock	**395**
c) Occupied Housing Stock	**1,449**
*Owner Occupied	**1,182**
*Renter Occupied	**267**
d) Housing Vacancy Rate*	**21.4% (395)**
*Owner Vacancy	**20.4% (303)**
*Renter Vacancy	**25.6% (92)**
e) Adjusted Vacancy Rate**	**5.8% (107)**
****Owner Vacancy**	**5.4% (81)**
****Renter Vacancy**	**7.2% (26)**

* Includes all housing stock, including seasonal and substandard housing.
** Includes only year-round vacant units available for rent or purchase, meeting current housing code and modern amenities.
Does not include vacant units either not for sale or rent, seasonal units, or units not meeting current housing code. Census adjustment.
Source: Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 18
ESTIMATED MEDIAN GROSS RENT &
MEDIAN OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING VALUE
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA & RURAL COMMUNITY
2000-2036

	Year	Median Rent	Median Value Owner Housing
Butler County	**2020**	**$739**	**$127,200**
	2024	**$776**	**$184,200**
	2026	**$795**	**$208,425**
	2036	**$856**	**$329,550**
Butler County Rural Community	**2020***	**$815**	**$185,000**
	2024*	**$790**	**$225,000**
	2026	**$800**	**$240,300**
	2036	**$935**	**$265,800**

*Specified Data Used. 2020-2024 Estimate subject to margin of error.
**Data not available due to disclosure suppression.
Source: 2020 & 2024 American Community Survey
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2026

TABLE 19
FARMS BY SIZE
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012 – 2022

Size	2012	2017	2022	% Change 2012 – 2017	% Change 2012 - 2022
1 to 9 Acres	64	66	55	+3.1%	-14.1%
10 to 49 Acres	136	107	123	-21.3%	-9.6%
50 to 179 Acres	192	169	176	-11.9%	-8.3%
180 to 499 Acres	175	145	162	-17.1%	-7.4%
500 to 999 Acres	166	128	101	-22.9%	-39.2%
1,000 to Acres or More	107	108	101	+0.9%	-5.6%
Total Farms	**840**	**723**	**718**	**-13.9%**	**-14.5%**
Total Crop Land	**306,621**	**319,085**	**315,127**	**+4.1%**	**+2.8%**
Land in Farms	**370,869**	**374,138**	**359,127**	**+0.9%**	**-3.2%**
Average Farm Size	**441**	**517**	**500**	**+17.2%**	**+13.4%**

Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 20
STATUS OF CROP PRODUCTION
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012 – 2022

	2012	2017	2022	% Change 2012 - 2022	% Change 2012 - 2022
IRRIGATED LAND					
Farms	272	235	239	-13.6%	-12.1%
Acres	110,839	102,290	128,189	-7.7%	+15.7%
HARVESTED CROP LAND					
Farms	620	530	534	-14.5%	-13.9%
Acres	287,992	297,113	296,811	+3.2%	+3.1%
TOTAL CROP LAND					
Farms	720	600	618	-16.7%	-14.2%
Acres	306,621	319,085	315,127	+4.1%	+2.8%

Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 21
HARVESTED CROPS BY TYPE
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012-2022

	Production in Acres			% Change	% Change
CROP BY TYPE	2012	2017	2022	2012-2017	2017-2022
Corn for Grain or Seed	151,218	150,447	153,414	-0.5%	+1.5%
Corn for Silage or Green Chop	2,843	2,723	6,630	-4.2%	+133.2%
Sorghum for Grain or Seed	125	244	598	+95.2&	+378.4%
Wheat for Grain	1,044	376	923	-63.9%	-11.6%
Oats for Grain	39	(D)*	35	(D)*	-10.3%
Soybeans for Beans	119,130	131,661	123,068	+10.5%	+3.3%
Hay-alfalfa, Other Wild, Silage	13,135	11,538	11,694	-12.2%	-10.9%

*(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 22
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION TRENDS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012-2022

Total Farms / Total Animals

Type	2012	2017	2022	% Change 2012-2017	% Change 2012-2022
Cattle/Calves	328 / 34,036	263 / 38,347	214 / 48,777	-19.8% / +12.7%	-34.8% / +43.3%
Beef Cows	283 / (D)*	244 / (D)*	188 / (D)*	-13.8% / (D)*	-33.6% / (D)*
Milk Cows	3 / (D)*	5 / (D)*	2 / (D)*	+66.7% / (D)*	-33.3% / (D)*
Hogs and Pigs	17 / 41,468	21 / 62,686	24 / 59,663	+23.5% / +51.2%	+41.2% / +43.9%
Sheep and Lambs	63 / 2,024	25 / 1,031	21 / 858	-60.3% / -49/1%	-66.7% / -57.6%

*(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.
Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 23
HISTORICAL POPULATION
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
1860-2026

Year	Population	Change	Percent Change
1860	27	--	--
1870	1,290	+1,263	+4,677.8%
1880	9,191	+7,901	+612.7%
1890	15,454	+6,263	+68.1%
1900	15,703	+249	+1.6%
1910	15,403	-300	-1.9%
1920	14,606	-797	-5.2%
1930	14,410	-196	-1.3%
1940	13,106	-1,304	-9.0%
1950	11,432	-1,674	-12.8%
1960	10,312	-1,120	-9.8%
1970	9,461	-851	-8.3%
1980	9,330	-131	-1.4%
1990	8,601	-729	-7.8%
2000	8,767	+166	+1.9%
2010	8,495	-272	-4.2%
2020	8,369	-126	-0.3%
2026*	8,422	+53	+0.6

Source: University of Nebraska-Omaha, Center for Public Affairs Research, 2018; 2020 Census. Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 24
TRAFFIC VOLUME - AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC COUNTS
STATE AND FEDERAL ROADS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2023

	2023
U.S. Highway 81, North of NE Highway 92	4,810
U.S. Highway 81, South of NE Highway 64	5,670
U.S. Highway 81, North of NE Highway 64	8,040
NE Highway 92, East of U.S. Highway 81	3,670
NE Highway 92, East of Rising City	3,005
NE Highway 92, West of NE Highway 15	3,290
NE Highway 92, East of O Road	2,765
NE Highway 92, West of NE Highway Spur 12F	3,090
NE Highway 92, East of NE Highway Spur 12F	3,320
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway 66	2,385
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway 92	2,145
NE Highway 15, West of O Road	4,445
NE Highway 15, North of NE Highway 92	3,610
NE Highway 15, David City (North of Nebraska Street)	4,935
NE Highway 15, David City (North of A Street)	5,290
NE Highway 15, David City (South of I Street)	6,435
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway Spur 12B	4,620
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway 64	4,050
NE Highway 15, East of NE Highway 64	2,490
NE Highway 15, South of NE Highway Spur 12A	2,275
NE Highway 15, North of NE Highway Spur 12A	2,805
NE Highway Spur S12E, Surprise	285
NE Highway 66, Ulysses (East of 1st Street)	595
NE Highway 66, West of NE Highway 15	505
NE Highway 66, Dwight (Southwest of South 4th Street)	855
NE Highway 66, Dwight (Southeast of South 4th Street)	695
NE Highway Spur S12F, North of Brainard	710
NE Highway Spur S12B, Southwest of Bruno	585
NE Highway Spur S12B, Northeast of Bruno	455
NE Highway Spur S12B, Abie	455
NE Highway Spur S12A, Linwood	220
NE Highway Spur S12A, West of NE Highway 15	590

Source: Nebraska Department of Transportation, 2023.

TABLE 25
ESTIMATED EXISTING LAND USE CAPACITY MATRIX
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2026

Land Use	2026 Land Area (Acres)
- TOTAL ACRES	**378,240**
- Land Area	*374,000*
- Water Area	*4,240*
- Community Corporate Limits (CL) & Planning Jurisdictions (PJ)	**30,043.5**
- Butler County Rural Community	**348,196.5**
- Agricultural* (Open Farm/Pasture Land)	**340,525.8**
- Wellhead Protection Areas	*3,460.3*
- Animal Confinement Operations	**1,566.6**
- Cattle Confinement	*767.7*
- Pork Confinement	*289.2*
- Poultry Confinement	*509.7*
- Public/Quasi-Public	**184.6**
- Cemeteries	*156.2*
- Other	*28.4*
- Park/Recreation/Management Area**	**437.9**
- Residential/Farmsteads	**4,838.9**
- Single Family/Mobile Home Residential	*4,779.0*
- Residential Subdivisions	*594.1*
- Farmstead/"Other" Animal Confinement	*300.8*
- Mobile Home Park	*11.9*
- Abandoned Residential	*48.0*
- Commercial	**10.9**
- Industrial	**631.8**
- Landfill	*379.4*
- Other Industrial	*252.4*

*Includes agricultural structures/outbuildings.
**Includes Wildlife Management Areas.
Source: Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.

TABLE 26
ESTIMATED FUTURE LAND USE CAPACITY MATRIX
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2036

Land Use	2026 Land Area (Acres)
- TOTAL ACRES	**378,240**
- Land Area	*374,000*
- Water Area	*4,240*
- Community Corporate Limits (CL) & Planning Jurisdictions (PJ)	**30,043.5**
- Butler County Rural Community	**348,196.5**
- Agricultural* (Open Farm/Pasture Land)	**339,058.2**
- Proposed Rural Conservation District Areas	*--*
- Wellhead Protection Areas	*3,460.3*
- Animal Confinement Operations	**1,770.5**
- Cattle Confinement	*850.1*
- Pork Confinement	*326.8*
- Poultry Confinement	*593.6*
- Public/Quasi-Public	**184.6**
- Cemeteries	*156.2*
- Other	*28.4*
- Park/Recreation/Management Area**	**437.9**
- Residential/Farmsteads	**4,966.6**
- Single Family/Mobile Home Residential	*4,906.7*
- Residential Subdivisions	*661.3*
- Farmstead/"Other" Animal Confinement	*300.8*
- Mobile Home Park	*11.9*
- Abandoned Residential	*48.0*
- Commercial	**18.3**
- Industrial	**1,963.3**
- Landfill	*379.4*
- Other Industrial	*1,583.9*
-Solar Farm Project	*914.1*

*Includes agricultural structures/outbuildings.
**Includes Wildlife Management Areas.
Source: Hanna:Keelan Associates 2026.





APPENDIX II:

BUTLER COUNTY SURVEY RESULTS.

HANNA:KEELAN ASSOCIATES
COMMUNITY PLANNING & RESEARCH

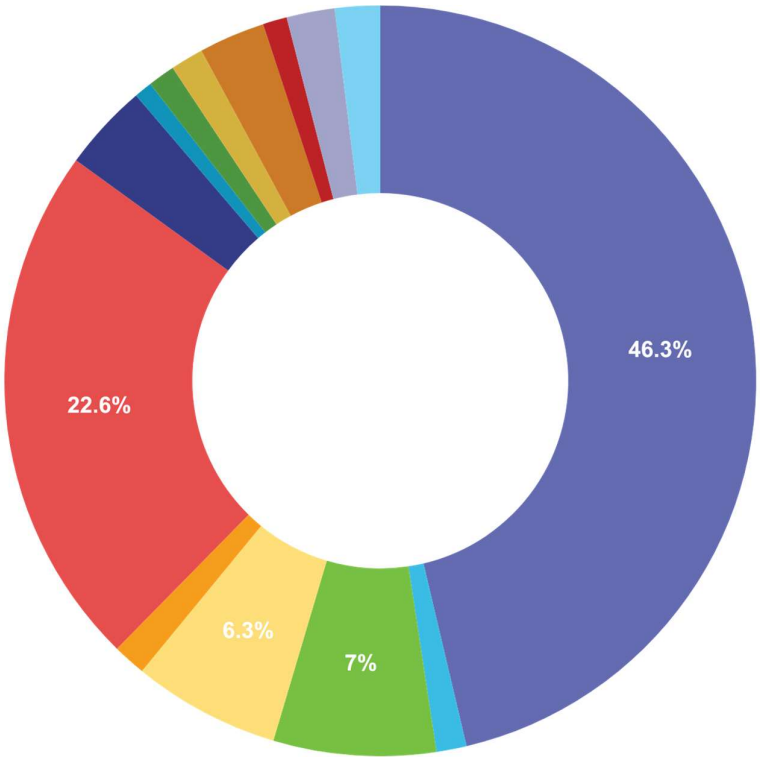
COUNTY-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS – FULL COUNTY

BUTLER COUNTY NEBRASKA
COUNTY-WIDE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Butler County, Nebraska County-Wide Opinion Survey

FUTURE LAND USE IN RURAL BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA The Butler County Planning Commission is preparing a new Comprehensive Plan and County Zoning and Subdivision Regulations for Rural Butler County, Nebraska, to determine future land uses and developments. As a resident of Butler County, your opinion is very important in the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan that fits the needs and desires of Rural Butler County residents. Complete this Survey online or return a hard copy to the Butler County Clerk's Office (451 N. 5th Street, David City, Nebraska 68632) by **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH.** **ALL SURVEY RESPONSES WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.** Thank You for Your Participation!

Q1 Where do you live?
Multiple Choice

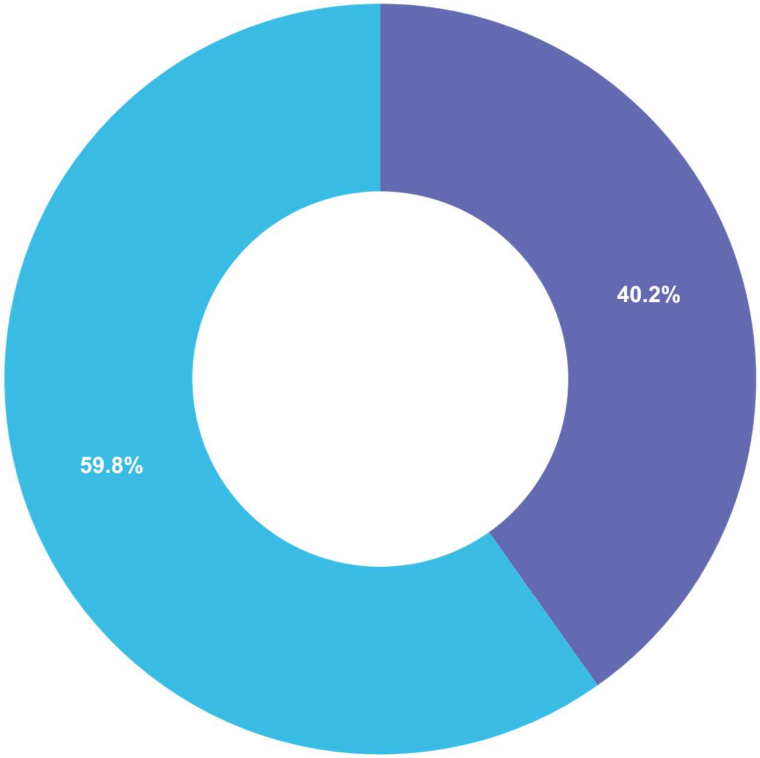


	Choice	Totals
●	Rural Butler County	358
●	Abie	10

Choice	Totals
Bellwood	54
Brainard	49
Bruno	11
David City	175
Dwight	29
Garrison	6
Linwood	9
Octavia	11
Rising City	22
Surprise	8
Ulysses	16
Outside Butler County	15

Responses 794 **Answered** 773 **Unanswered** 21

Q2 Do you live within one mile of a City/Village?
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Yes	299
●	No	445

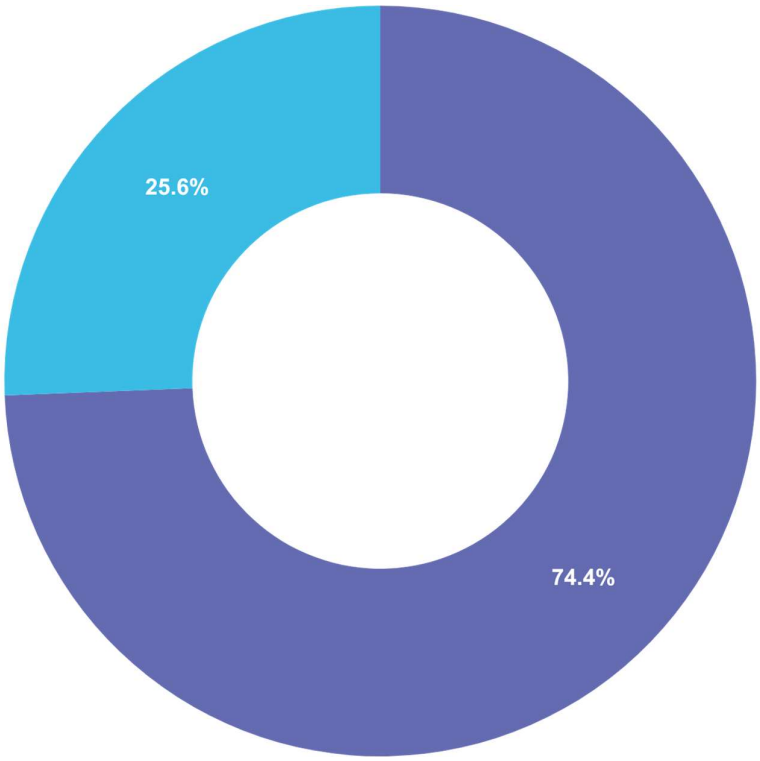
Responses 794 **Answered** 744 **Unanswered** 50

Q3 If Yes to Question #2, Please identify the closest Community:
Essay

See Survey Comments

Responses 794 **Answered** 440 **Unanswered** 354

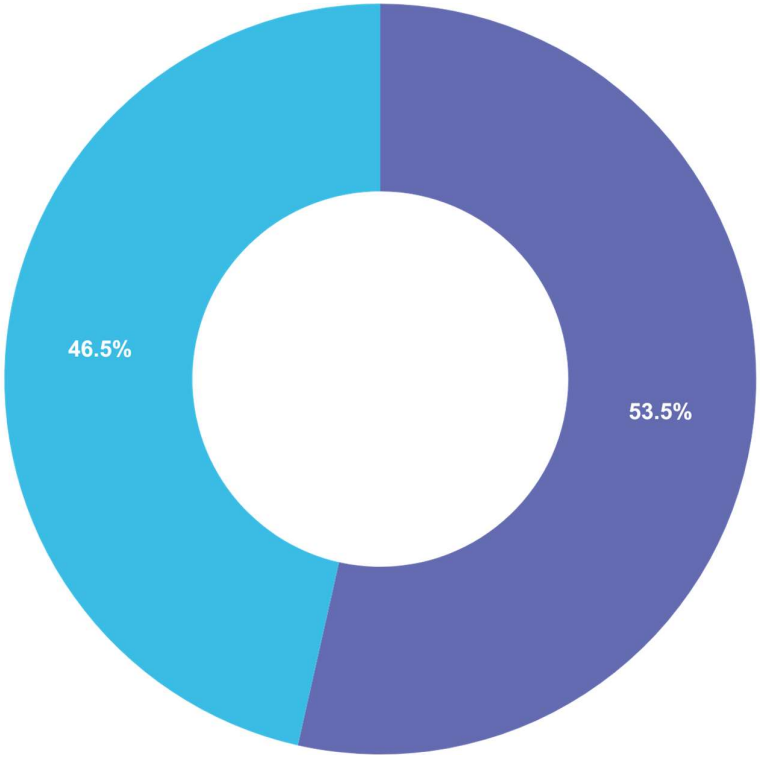
Q4 Do you own property in Rural Butler County?
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Yes	578
●	No	199

Responses 794 **Answered** 777 **Unanswered** 17

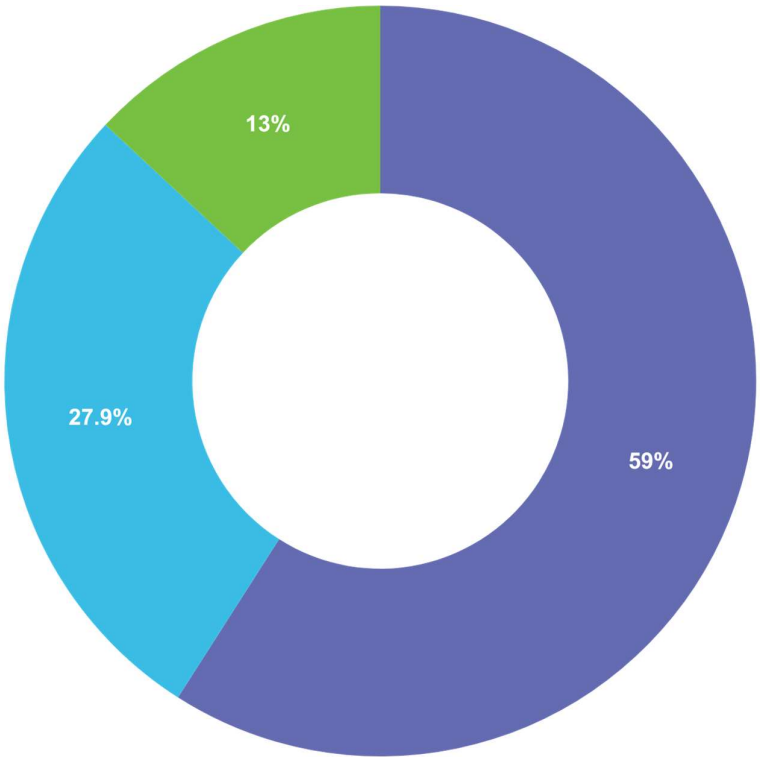
Q5 Do you maintain an agricultural operation in Rural Butler County?
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Yes	418
●	No	363

Responses 794 **Answered** 781 **Unanswered** 13

Q6 Do you support Zoning & Subdivision Regulations for Rural Butler County to provide rules and guidance for land development?
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Yes	457
●	No	216
●	No Opinion	101

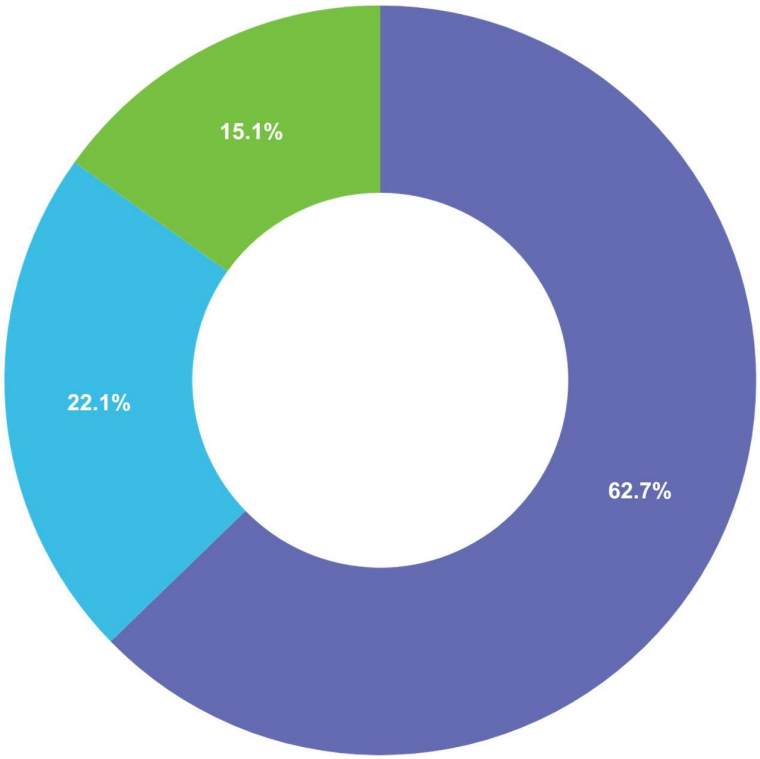
Responses 794 **Answered** 774 **Unanswered** 20

Q7 Please explain why or why not.
Essay

See Survey Comments

Responses 794 **Answered** 484 **Unanswered** 310

Q8 Do you support Butler County seeking “Livestock Friendly” status which recognizes the County’s commitment to supporting growth and development of the livestock industry.
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Yes	473
●	No	167
●	No Opinion	114

Responses 794 **Answered** 754 **Unanswered** 40

Q9 Which of the following Land Use types do you support for the future of Rural Butler County (new or expanding)? (1 = No Opinion; 2 = Not Supportive; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive).
Scoring

Choice	Score	Average
Commercial Wind Farms Energy Systems:	1692	2.18
Commercial Solar Farms Energy Systems:	1724	2.22
Personal Alternative Energy Systems (Solar, Wind, etc.):	1980	2.55
General/Traditional Agricultural Activities (Farming/Ranching):	2778	3.58
Agricultural Use-Cattle Confinement:	2193	2.82
Agricultural Use-Hog Confinement:	2110	2.72
Agricultural Use-Chicken/Bird Confinement:	2078	2.67
Small-Scale “Hobby Farms”:	2546	3.28
Land & Water Conservation Districts:	2414	3.11
Protection of Creek/River Corridors:	2520	3.24
Natural Resource Areas (Wetlands, Wildlife, Prairie, etc.):	2475	3.19
Residential Development (Individual Homes):	2314	2.98
Planned Rural Residential Subdivisions:	1948	2.51
Parks/Recreation/Trails:	2300	2.96
Private and/or Public Infrastructure/Facilities/Utilities:	2055	2.64
Highway Commercial Development (Including Lodging):	2084	2.68
Light Industrial Uses (Consumer Goods, Food Processing, Packaging, etc.):	2121	2.73
Heavy Industrial Uses (Fuel/Chemical Production, Machinery, Power Production, etc.):	1882	2.42
Transportation Systems (Roads, Air, etc.):	2278	2.93
Entertainment Facilities (“Party Barns”):	1945	2.5

	Choice	Score	Average
●	Short-Term Rental Housing (AirBNB, VRBO):	2010	2.59
●	Data Processing Centers:	1665	2.14
●	Battery Energy Storage Systems:	1611	2.07
●	Landfill:	1764	2.27
●	Other (rank, then identify below).	328	0.43

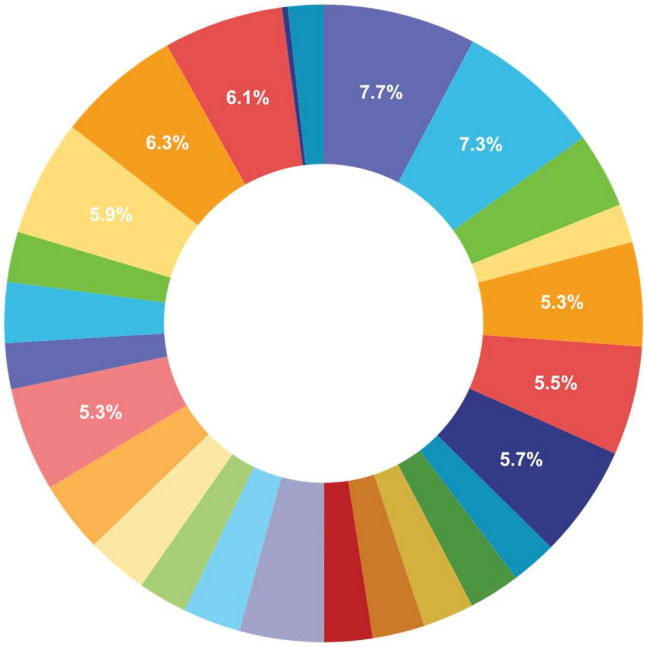
Responses 794 **Answered** 777 **Unanswered** 17

Q10 Please identify your "Other" option here.
Essay

See Survey Comments

Responses 794 **Answered** 63 **Unanswered** 731

Q11 Which of the following Land Use types do you support imposing a temporary, nine month development moratorium, in Rural Butler County, during the Comprehensive Planning/Zoning Development process? Check all that apply.
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Commercial Wind Farms Energy Systems:	448
●	Commercial Solar Farms Energy Systems:	425
●	Personal Alternative Energy Systems (Solar, Wind, etc.):	222
●	General/Traditional Agricultural Activities (Farming/Ranching):	114
●	Agricultural Use-Cattle Confinement:	305
●	Agricultural Use-Hog Confinement:	320
●	Agricultural Use-Chicken/Bird Confinement:	330
●	Small-Scale “Hobby Farms”:	134
●	Land & Water Conservation Districts:	150

Choice	Totals
Protection of Creek/River Corridors:	150
Natural Resource Areas (Wetlands, Wildlife, Prairie, etc.):	153
Residential Development (Individual Homes):	141
Planned Rural Residential Subdivisions:	248
Parks/Recreation/Trails:	169
Private and/or Public Infrastructure/Facilities/Utilities:	144
Highway Commercial Development (Including Lodging):	180
Light Industrial Uses (Consumer Goods, Food Processing, Packaging, etc.):	209
Heavy Industrial Uses (Fuel/Chemical Production, Machinery, Power Production, etc.):	306
Transportation Systems (Roads, Air, etc.):	135
Entertainment Facilities (“Party Barns”):	178
Short-Term Rental Housing (AirBNB, VRBO):	148
Data Processing Centers:	343
Battery Energy Storage Systems:	363
Landfill:	351
Other (rank, then identify below):	17
None:	104

Responses 794 **Answered** 707 **Unanswered** 87

Q12 Please include any additional comments/suggestions regarding the future of Rural Butler County, Nebraska.
Essay

See Survey Comments

Responses 794 **Answered** 254 **Unanswered** 540

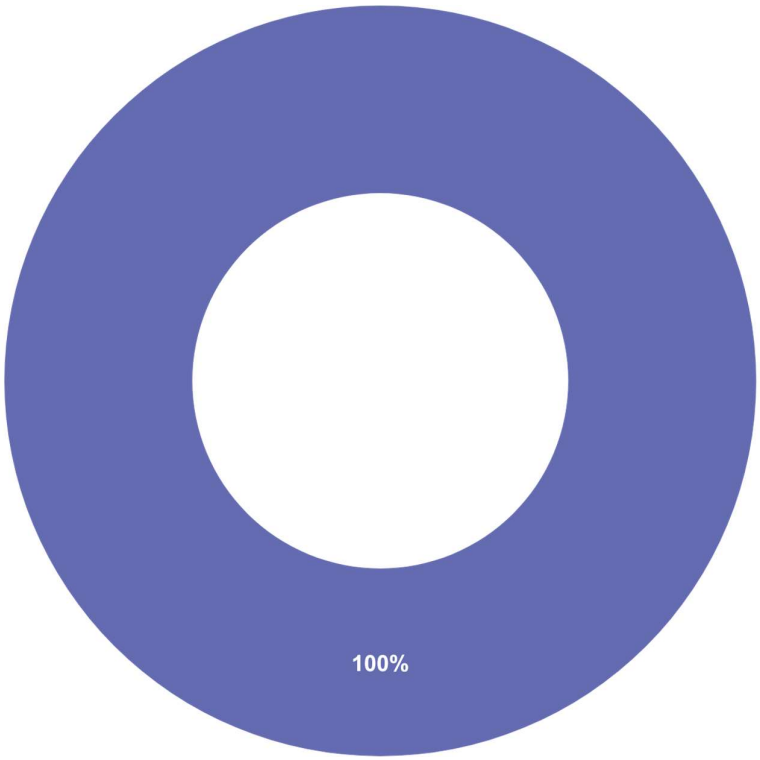
COUNTY-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS – RURAL COMMUNITY

BUTLER COUNTY NEBRASKA
COUNTY-WIDE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Butler County, Nebraska County-Wide Opinion Survey

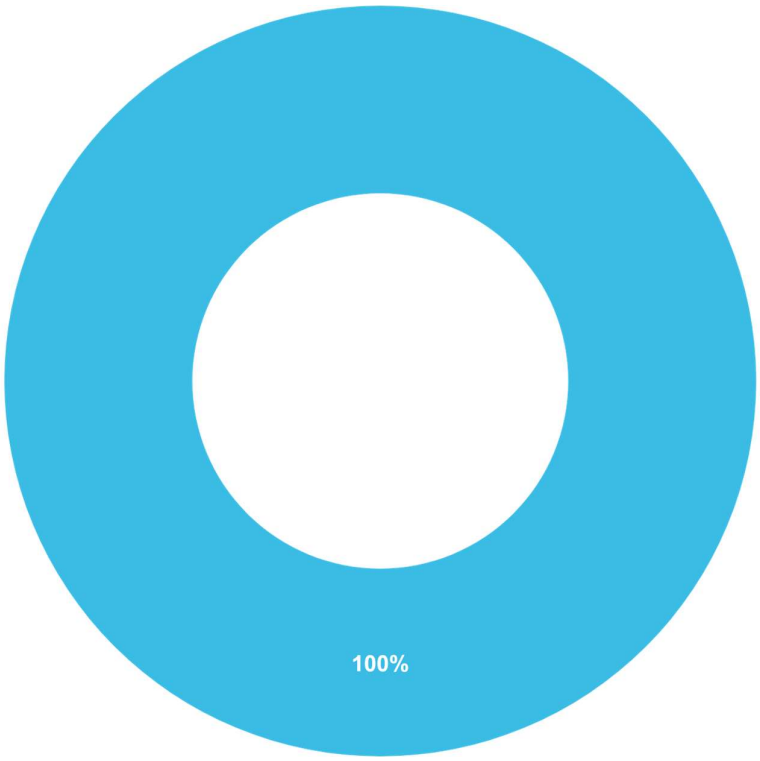
FUTURE LAND USE IN RURAL BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA The Butler County Planning Commission is preparing a new Comprehensive Plan and County Zoning and Subdivision Regulations for Rural Butler County, Nebraska, to determine future land uses and developments. As a resident of Butler County, your opinion is very important in the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan that fits the needs and desires of Rural Butler County residents. Complete this Survey online or return a hard copy to the Butler County Clerk's Office (451 N. 5th Street, David City, Nebraska 68632) by **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH.** **ALL SURVEY RESPONSES WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.** Thank You for Your Participation!

Q1 Where do you live?
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Rural Butler County	295

Q2 Do you live within one mile of a City/Village?
Multiple Choice



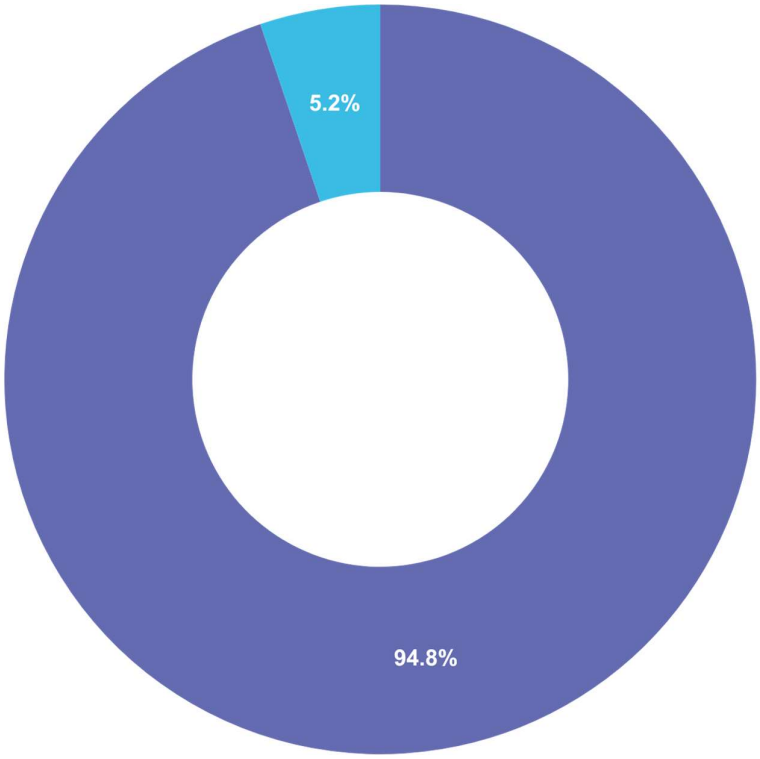
	Choice	Totals
●	No	295

Q3 If Yes to Question #2, Please identify the closest Community:
Essay

See Survey Comments **Response**

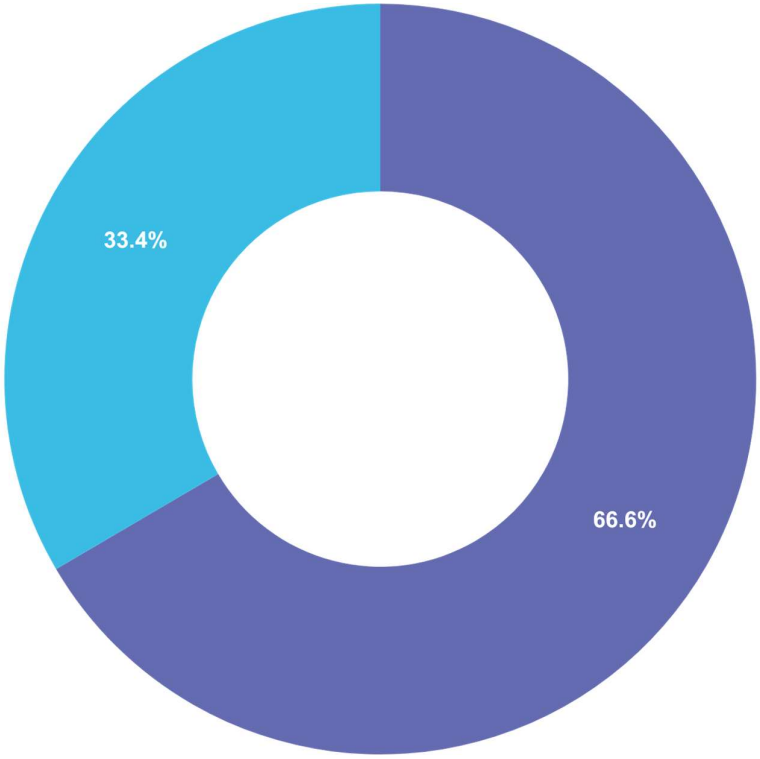
Responses 794 **Answered** 440 **Unanswered** 354

Q4 Do you own property in Rural Butler County?
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Yes	275
●	No	15

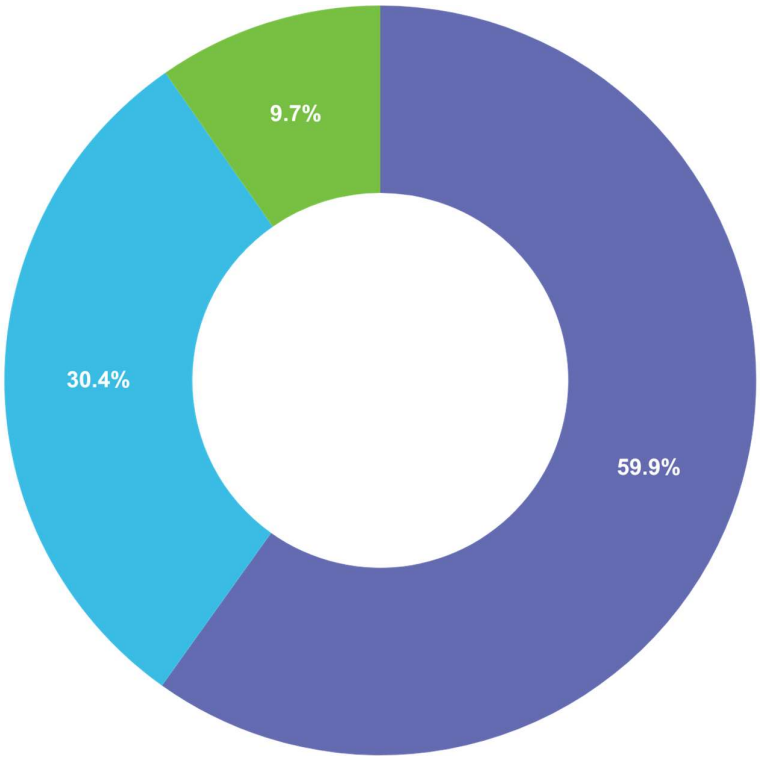
Q5 Do you maintain an agricultural operation in Rural Butler County?
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Yes	195
●	No	98

Q6 Do you support Zoning & Subdivision Regulations for Rural Butler County to provide rules and guidance for land development?

Multiple Choice

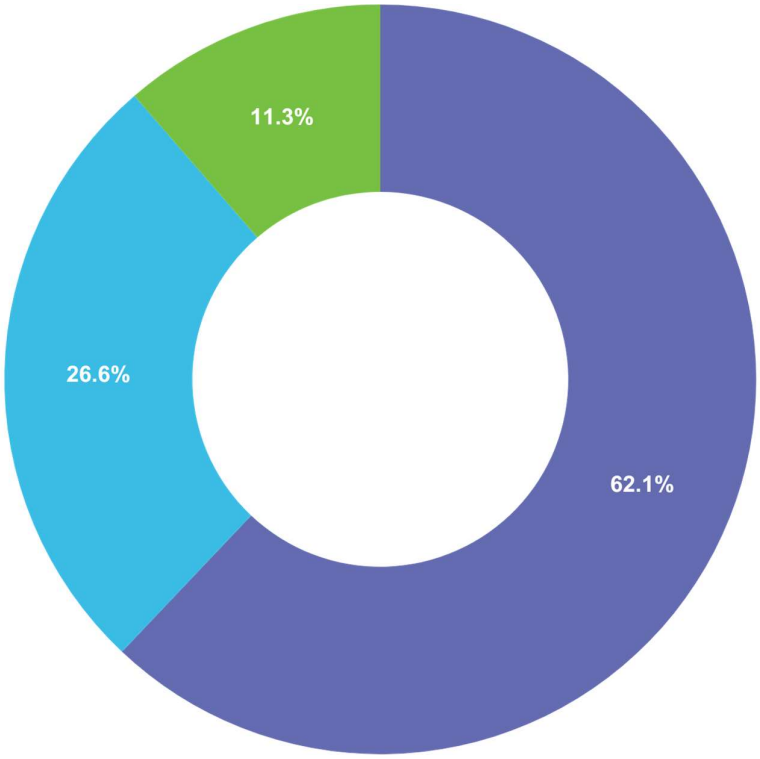


	Choice	Totals
●	Yes	173
●	No	88
●	No Opinion	28

Q7 Please explain why or why not.
Essay

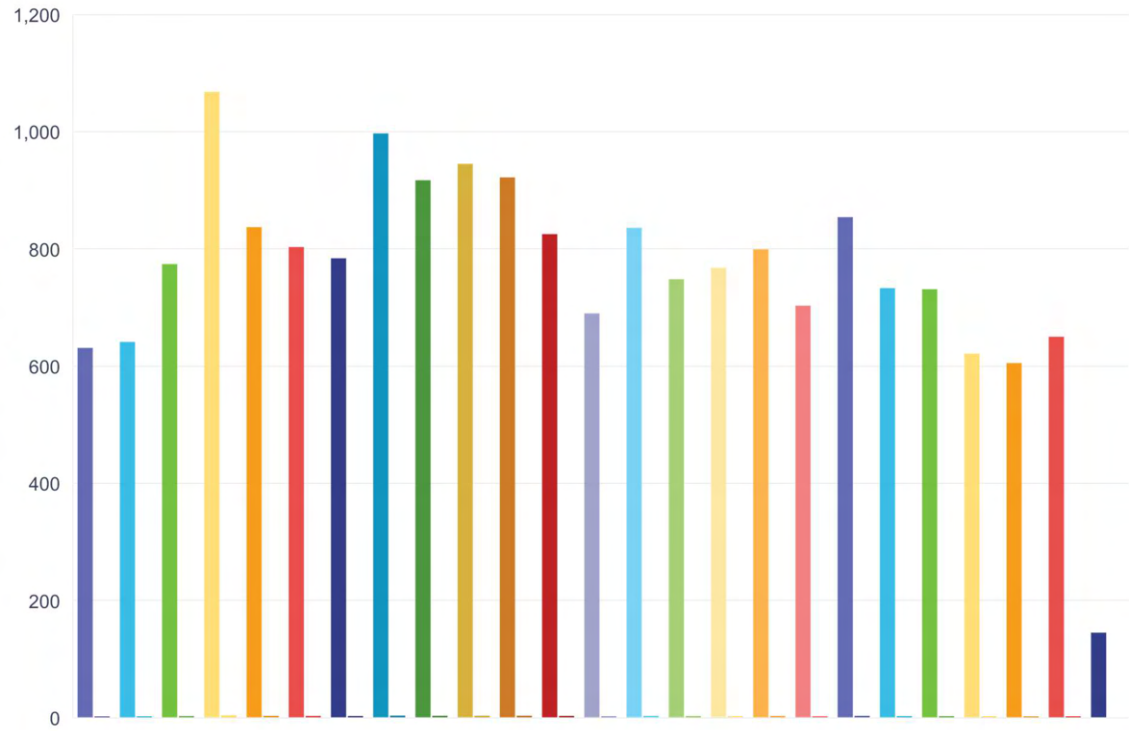
See Survey Comments

Q8 Do you support Butler County seeking “Livestock Friendly” status which recognizes the County’s commitment to supporting growth and development of the livestock industry.
Multiple Choice



	Choice	Totals
●	Yes	175
●	No	75
●	No Opinion	32

Q9 Which of the following Land Use types do you support for the future of Rural Butler County (new or expanding)? (1 = No Opinion; 2 = Not Supportive; 3 = Supportive; 4 = Very Supportive).
Scoring



	Choice	Score	Average
●	Commercial Wind Farms Energy Systems:	631	2.17
●	Commercial Solar Farms Energy Systems:	641	2.2
●	Personal Alternative Energy Systems (Solar, Wind, etc.):	774	2.66
●	General/Traditional Agricultural Activities (Farming/Ranching):	1068	3.67
●	Agricultural Use-Cattle Confinement:	837	2.89
●	Agricultural Use-Hog Confinement:	803	2.77
●	Agricultural Use-Chicken/Bird Confinement:	784	2.7
●	Small-Scale “Hobby Farms”:	997	3.44

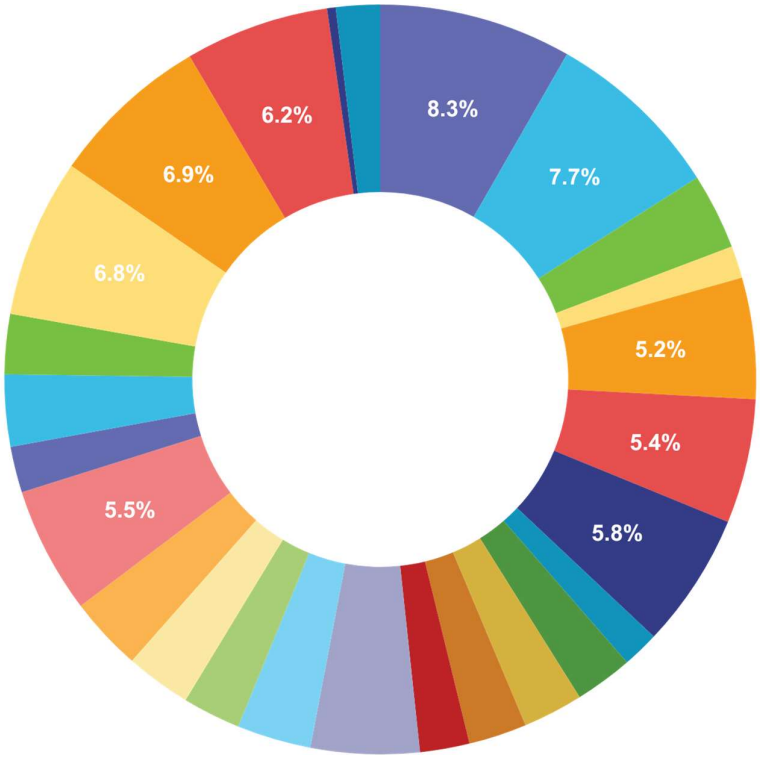
Choice	Score	Average
Land & Water Conservation Districts:	917	3.16
Protection of Creek/River Corridors:	945	3.26
Natural Resource Areas (Wetlands, Wildlife, Prairie, etc.):	922	3.18
Residential Development (Individual Homes):	825	2.84
Planned Rural Residential Subdivisions:	690	2.38
Parks/Recreation/Trails:	836	2.88
Private and/or Public Infrastructure/Facilities/Utilities:	748	2.58
Highway Commercial Development (Including Lodging):	768	2.65
Light Industrial Uses (Consumer Goods, Food Processing, Packaging, etc.):	799	2.76
Heavy Industrial Uses (Fuel/Chemical Production, Machinery, Power Production, etc.):	703	2.42
Transportation Systems (Roads, Air, etc.):	854	2.94
Entertainment Facilities (“Party Barns”):	733	2.53
Short-Term Rental Housing (AirBNB, VRBO):	731	2.52
Data Processing Centers:	621	2.14
Battery Energy Storage Systems:	605	2.09
Landfill:	650	2.24
Other (rank, then identify below).	145	0.5

Q10 Please identify your "Other" option here.
Essay

See Survey Comments

Q11 Which of the following Land Use types do you support imposing a temporary, nine month development moratorium, in Rural Butler County, during the Comprehensive Planning/Zoning Development process? Check all that apply.

Multiple Choice



Choice	Totals
Commercial Wind Farms Energy Systems:	179
Commercial Solar Farms Energy Systems:	166
Personal Alternative Energy Systems (Solar, Wind, etc.):	71
General/Traditional Agricultural Activities (Farming/Ranching):	30
Agricultural Use-Cattle Confinement:	113
Agricultural Use-Hog Confinement:	116
Agricultural Use-Chicken/Bird Confinement:	126
Small-Scale “Hobby Farms”:	34

Choice	Totals
Land & Water Conservation Districts:	54
Protection of Creek/River Corridors:	56
Natural Resource Areas (Wetlands, Wildlife, Prairie, etc.):	54
Residential Development (Individual Homes):	46
Planned Rural Residential Subdivisions:	101
Parks/Recreation/Trails:	69
Private and/or Public Infrastructure/Facilities/Utilities:	54
Highway Commercial Development (Including Lodging):	61
Light Industrial Uses (Consumer Goods, Food Processing, Packaging, etc.):	69
Heavy Industrial Uses (Fuel/Chemical Production, Machinery, Power Production, etc.):	118
Transportation Systems (Roads, Air, etc.):	43
Entertainment Facilities (“Party Barns”):	67
Short-Term Rental Housing (AirBNB, VRBO):	56
Data Processing Centers:	148
Battery Energy Storage Systems:	149
Landfill:	134
Other (rank, then identify below):	8
None:	41

Q12 Please include any additional comments/suggestions regarding the future of Rural Butler County, Nebraska.
Essay

See Survey Comments