

A large, detailed topiary sculpture of a dog, possibly a Weimaraner, stands in a garden. The dog's body is covered in dense green foliage, while its head and ears are made of lighter, feathery material. The dog is surrounded by various colorful plants, including red and yellow flowers. In the background, a brick building with a mural and the word "Greenwood" is visible under a bright, sunny sky.

2026 - 2031 Strategic Plan

Letter from the Council Chairman

Dear Greenwood County Residents,

As Chairman of the Greenwood County Council, I am honored to share our new strategic plan with you. It's a roadmap that reflects our shared vision for Greenwood County's future and our commitment to serving the amazing people who call this community home.

Greenwood County is a special place built on strong foundations: small-town values, natural beauty, a proud history, and a community spirit that continues to shape our future. This strategic plan represents our commitment to preserving what makes Greenwood County unique while embracing thoughtful growth, new opportunities, and forward-thinking leadership that will benefit generations to come.

The opportunities before us today are possible because of the vision, dedication, and leadership of those who came before us. For generations, people across Greenwood County have invested in this community with the belief that each generation has a responsibility to leave tomorrow better than they found it. Their commitment created the strong foundation we enjoy today and established a legacy of service and stewardship that guides us still. As we look ahead, we have both the privilege and the responsibility to carry that legacy forward by making thoughtful decisions today that will leave Greenwood County even stronger for the generations that follow. This strategic plan is one of the key vehicles through which this generation's leadership will fulfill our bequeathed obligation.

The development of this plan was guided by valuable input from residents, community partners, stakeholders, and Greenwood County staff. Through these conversations, we identified the priorities that matter most to our community and established a framework to help guide decisions, investments, and services in the years ahead.

Our strategic plan focuses on six key areas that will help us achieve our vision: financial sustainability, community partnerships, a safe and engaged community, economic development, connected infrastructure and attainable housing, and quality of life amenities. Together, these priorities provide a balanced approach to managing growth while maintaining the character, opportunities, and quality of life that make Greenwood County a place we are proud to call home.

This plan reflects our responsibility to be thoughtful stewards of public resources, to strengthen partnerships throughout our community, and to ensure County services remain responsive, effective, and focused on the needs of our residents. It also recognizes the importance of investing in infrastructure, supporting economic opportunities, expanding attainable housing options, and enhancing the parks, recreation, arts, and natural assets that contribute to our exceptional quality of life, especially the treasured resource of Lake Greenwood.

This strategic plan is more than a document; it is a commitment to action. County Council, along with our dedicated employees, will use this plan as a guide to establish priorities, measure progress, and make informed decisions that move Greenwood County forward. As opportunities and challenges emerge, we will continue to evaluate our efforts, communicate our progress, and keep our community informed about the work underway to achieve our shared vision.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to this process. The insightful ideas, perspectives, and passion shared by our residents, business leaders, community organizations, and County staff were essential in creating a plan that truly reflects Greenwood County's values and aspirations.

The future of Greenwood County is bright, and the continued partnership and engagement of our entire community will shape its future. Together, we will build on our strengths, address our challenges, and create a safe, prosperous, and welcoming place for families, businesses, and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your County Council Chairman and for your continued commitment to Greenwood County. I look forward to the work ahead and to continuing our progress together as we build upon all that makes Greenwood County special.

Because of the dedication of our residents, the strength of our partnerships, and the opportunities before us, Greenwood grows greater.



Theo Lane
Chairman, Greenwood County

Strategic Planning Process Overview

In the Spring of 2026, Greenwood County launched an organization-wide strategic planning process to align County operations with long-term community priorities and establish a unified direction for the organization.

Greenwood County's strategic plan establishes a clear framework to guide the County's direction, address current and future challenges, and align daily operations with long-term priorities. By documenting fundamental focus areas and actionable strategies, the plan serves as a shared guide for decision-making and resource management across all departments. It provides leadership and staff with a practical roadmap to focus efforts, manage assets efficiently, and track organizational progress over time.

To ensure the strategic plan reflected local priorities and broad community input, the process involved extensive engagement with residents, community stakeholders, County staff, and leadership. Outreach began with broad information gathering through community focus groups, a public community meeting, staff focus groups, and an employee survey. Following this initial input, County Council convened for a strategic planning workshop to review findings and develop the strategic planning framework. The process also included a community open house to review the draft framework with residents, followed by an implementation workshop in which department directors translated the Council's vision into actionable operational steps.



Vision

Greenwood County is a community where small-town values, natural beauty, forward-thinking leadership, and economic opportunity come together to create a safe, prosperous, and welcoming place for families, businesses, and future generations.

Mission

Greenwood County brings together hardworking, dedicated public servants who provide professional services and strengthen the community, ensuring the County remains a welcoming place to live, work, and thrive.

Values

Stewardship:

We are accountable and responsible caretakers of public resources, investing wisely in our people, infrastructure, and community to build a stronger Greenwood County.

Cooperation:

We work as one unified team, building strong relationships across departments and with our community partners through mutual respect, open communication, and shared purpose.

Integrity:

We hold ourselves to the highest standards of honesty, professionalism, and ethical conduct in every interaction, earning trust through consistency in our words and actions.

Customer Service:

We are committed to service excellence, treating every resident and colleague with respect and professionalism.

Innovation:

We engage employees at every level to find better ways of serving Greenwood County, embracing new ideas and continuous learning.



Strategic Focus Areas

- Financial Sustainability
- Community Partnerships
- Safe and Engaged Community
- Economic Development
- Connected Infrastructure and Attainable Housing
- Quality of Life Amenities



Strategic Focus Area 1: Financial Sustainability

Greenwood County utilizes public funds responsibly. We carefully manage future growth through fiscally responsible planning and sustainable service delivery.

Strategies

- Provide clear, accessible information about County finances through public-facing publications and online tools.
- Engage in long-term financial planning that accounts for projected growth, lifecycle costs, and emergency preparedness.
- Adopt and maintain fiscal policies that position the County to manage growth responsibly and sustain service delivery over time.



Strategic Focus Area 2: Community Partnerships

Greenwood County engages with the community to understand their needs. We build strong partnerships and strategic alliances that advance shared goals and effectively address local needs and opportunities.

Strategies

- Enhance intentional partnerships with utilities, schools, and other community organizations to align shared goals and coordinate on local priorities; advocate local priorities to our state delegation.
- Proactively create regular opportunities for two-way dialogue among Council, staff, and residents through town halls, forums, and other engagement formats.
- Share easily accessible government information that helps the community stay informed and make meaningful decisions.
- Keep County employees informed and engaged as ambassadors of the County's vision and priorities.





Strategic Focus Area 3: Safe and Engaged Community

Greenwood County enhances community safety and engagement by providing responsive public safety services, creating a welcoming atmosphere, and fostering meaningful public participation across every generation.

Strategies

- Ensure public safety staffing, equipment, and facilities are maintained and keep pace with the County's growth.
- Foster participation for residents of all ages in public safety awareness through school visits, community demonstrations, and youth engagement programs.



Strategic Focus Area 4: Economic Development

Greenwood County prioritizes planned investment, opportunity, and quality of life. By aligning economic growth initiatives with community values, we create an environment where families and businesses can prosper for generations.

Strategies

- Position Greenwood County as the premier location for industrial investment by recruiting targeted industries and supporting the expansion and long-term success of existing businesses.
- Connect education, industry, and community partners to prepare residents for high-demand careers in order to enhance the workforce pipeline.
- Develop and maintain a competitive inventory of industrial sites and infrastructure that positions Greenwood County to successfully compete for new investment and business expansion opportunities.



Strategic Focus Area 5:

Connected Infrastructure and Attainable Housing

Greenwood County supports thoughtful infrastructure and transportation planning, and the County supports its community partners who strive to create attainable housing opportunities.

Strategies

- Secure long-term funding and increase marketing of microtransit to support expansion and sustainability.
- Prioritize road improvements around planned growth to meet the County's 25-year resurfacing cycle goals.
- Support community partners (such as The Self Family Foundation) to address affordable housing.
- Coordinate with utility providers on infrastructure expansion that supports planned growth and community development goals.



Strategic Focus Area 6:

Quality of Life Amenities

Anchored by Lake Greenwood, the County ensures our open space, recreation, and arts offerings are appealing and accessible to all segments of our population.

Strategies

- Partner with the Greenwood Parks and Trail Foundation to expand the trail network, increase trail usage, and broaden recreation opportunities.
- Preserve and enhance the amenities on and around Lake Greenwood, including efforts to increase public access and support lake-centered events and programming.
- Support community partners who offer recreation, arts, entertainment, and lifelong learning opportunities through financial support, marketing, and coordination.



