

CHAPTER NINE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION



Audubon County - Cities

Audubon County works with a number of cities within the county to provide police protection as the jurisdictions are too small to warrant their own police departments. The Audubon County Sheriff's Office provides protection to the cities of Brayton, Exira, Gray, and Kimballton. For the City of Audubon, this may also be in effect within the near future as the costs continue to rise to maintain their own police force.

There are a number of services that the county provides to cities. Audubon County provides snow removal services for the City of Gray. Audubon County Secondary Roads/EMA provides 911 sign placement throughout the county.

Fire departments within the county provide services to each other as well. The Audubon Fire Department covers a portion of Exira's jurisdiction. In some instances, departments respond through mutual and automatic aid to help provide fire and rescue services throughout the county.

The county works with all of the jurisdictions through the development of the comprehensive plan. The planning process is headed by a county-based steering committee of the Planning and Zoning Commission, but all communities have been invited to provide input and attend meetings to ensure that the plan benefits the county and all cities within it.

Audubon County - Regional

Audubon County works with Shelby, Guthrie, and Cass Counties to provide road maintenance to roads that border the county. A partnership between Audubon County and Cass County provides trail maintenance and expansion throughout the two counties. Audubon Public health provides a large number of the Public Health services to the county, but contracts with Guthrie County to provide sanitarian and home health services.

In July, 2018, Audubon County became a Home Base Iowa Community. Home Base Iowa connects Iowa businesses with qualified veterans and their spouses looking for career opportunities. The program also provides resources to help connect veterans and their families with education and in transitioning to a new community.

Audubon County is a member of Region XII Council of Governments and Western Iowa Advantage. Region XII Council of Governments was organized in 1973 to assist local governments in Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac Counties in western Iowa. Region XII COG has two departments: Local Assistance and Western Iowa Transit. The Local Assistance Department provides technical assistance to communities in the areas of planning, infrastructure, transportation, housing, grant writing, recreation, ordinances, zoning, economic development, and other community and county projects. Western Iowa Transit is a demand-response public transit system that serves the six county region. Western Iowa Advantage is a multi-county collaborative marketing effort and the Region XII Development Corporation, which has several revolving loan funds for business development and expansion.

Audubon County joined an agreement to join the Western Iowa Workforce Development Area. This agreement allows Audubon County and seventeen other counties to work together to administer the

program. This program operates local American Job Centers which includes consultation regarding policies related to and funding of infrastructure costs.

Audubon County also is in an agreement to plan for and implement watershed improvements within the West Nishnabotna Watershed. This agreement is between eight counties (including Audubon County), eight cities, and eight Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This agreement ensures that the planning efforts of the organizations located in the West Nishnabotna Watershed are cohesive and work towards similar goals. The county has also entered into a similar agreement as the West Nishnabotna Watershed for the East Nishnabotna Watershed. The East Nishnabotna Watershed agreement includes eight counties (including Audubon), six cities, and seven Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Audubon County - State of Iowa

Audubon County is a part of the Hungry Canyons Alliance which was formed locally to research and implement solutions to the problem of stream channel erosion and degradation in a 23 county area of the deep loess soils region of western Iowa. The Hungry Canyons Alliance was formed through help from the 23 counties and Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development. This alliance is working to find affordable solutions to stream channel erosion and degradation in order to preserve the 404 bridges that are endangered due to stream channel degradation. This program has utilized state and federal appropriations to complete 290 grade control structures in 17 counties in western Iowa. Another 29 structures are currently in progress.

Audubon County works in agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation to perform driver's licensing functions, including skill testing and issuance of non-commercial and commercial licenses, non-operator ID cards, and disability ID devices. The county and state DOT also work together on a number of road projects and DOT inspections annually. The two jurisdictions also cooperate to provide maintenance and services, including policing, to U.S. Highway 71, and Iowa Highways 44 and 173.

The availability of grants to the County from a number of sources is highly beneficial. State grants available for roads, housing, and infrastructure to name a few benefits the county and the communities within it. The USDA's fund availability is also beneficial to the county in similar ways. The state also acts as a funnel for other federal funds that have benefitted the local communities.

GOALS

Increase number of 28E agreements to increase sharing of services

The purpose of 28E agreements is to permit state and local governments in Iowa to make efficient use of their powers by enabling them to provide joint services and facilities with other agencies and to cooperate in other ways of mutual advantage. Increasing the number of these agreements within the County would allow the County and its cities to work together for a mutual advantage.

Action Items: - Connect organizations/jurisdictions that may benefit from service sharing