

Resolution No. 25-29
Stearns County Board of Commissioners
State Performance Measures

WHEREAS, Benefits to Stearns County for participation in the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation's comprehensive performance measurement program are outlined in MS 6.91 and include eligibility for a reimbursement as set by State statute; and

WHEREAS, Any county participating in the comprehensive performance measurement program is also exempt from levy limits for taxes, if levy limits are in effect; and

WHEREAS, The Stearns County Board of Commissioners has adopted and implemented at least 10 of the performance measures, as developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation, and a system to use this information to help plan, budget, manage and evaluate programs and processes for optimal future outcomes; and

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, The Stearns County Board of Commissioners will continue to report the results of the performance measures to its citizenry by the end of the year through publication, direct mailing, posting on the County's website, or through a public hearing at which the budget and levy will be discussed and public input allowed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Stearns County will submit to the Office of the State Auditor the actual results of the performance measures adopted by the Stearns County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted by the Stearns County Board of Commissioners this 24th day of June 2025.



Jeff Bertram, Chair
Stearns County Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____



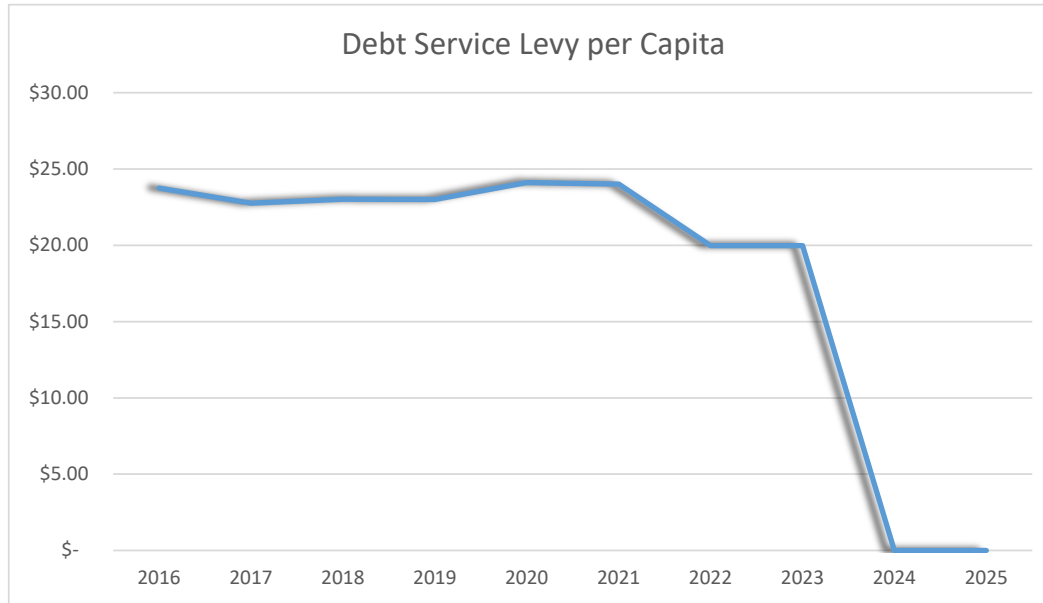
Randy R. Schreifels, Auditor – Treasurer
Clerk to the Board
Stearns County Board of Commissioners



Stearns County

State Performance Measures

Performance Measure: Debt Service Levy per Capita



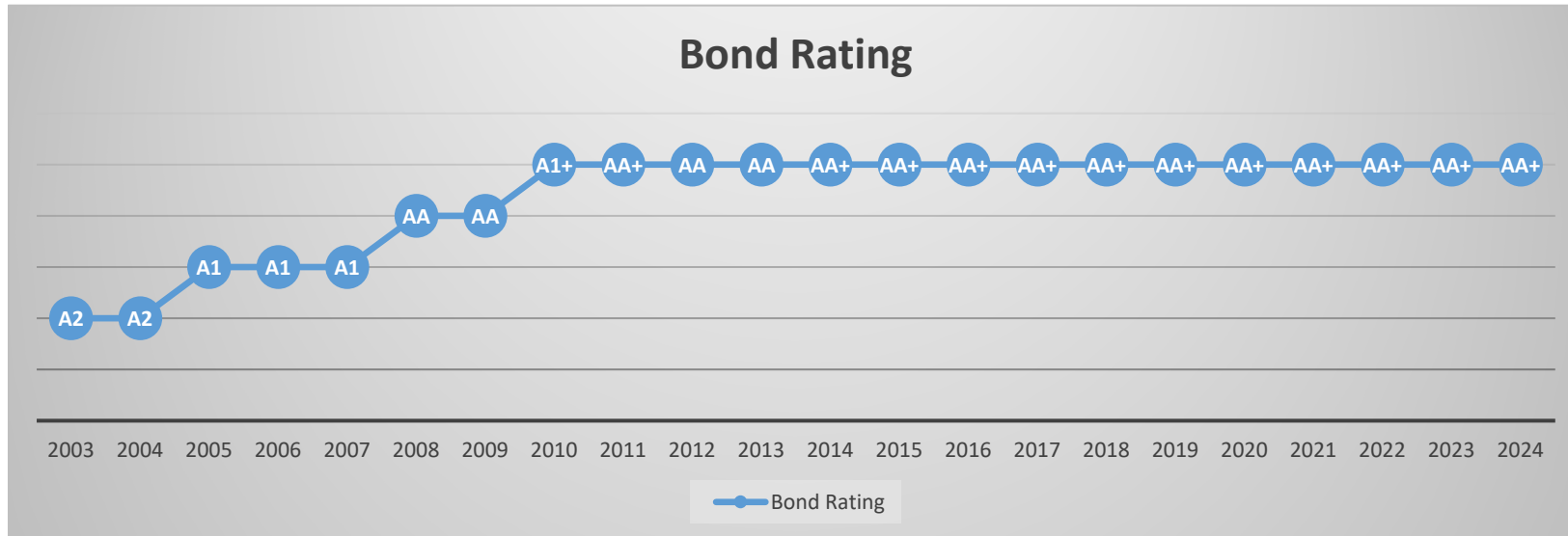
	Outstanding Debt per Capita	Debt Service Levy	Debt Service Levy per Capita
2013	\$ 109.91	\$ 4,900,904	\$ 32.21
2014	131.06	4,864,788	31.77
2015	120.74	4,026,109	26.02
2016	99.32	3,696,680	23.75
2017	76.38	3,586,132	22.75
2018	107.15	3,666,863	23.15
2019	80.68	3,704,340	23.00
2020	56.39	3,852,480	24.11
2021	44.95	3,852,480	24.02
2022	37.53	3,218,100	19.98
2023	33.59	3,218,100	19.98
2024	-	-	-
2025	-	-	-

The County's goal is to live within outstanding debt limits per Minnesota Statutes and to judiciously use debt to meet long-term capital needs of the County.

In 2024 the County refinanced its last outstanding bond issue and no longer needs to levy for outstanding debt as of that date.

The debt service levy and outstanding debt per capita is calculated by taking the total debt service tax levy or outstanding debt, divided by the total population of the county. When calculating the outstanding debt for the calculation, the County removed bond issues that will be repaid by special assessment revenue on specific individuals.

Performance Measure: Bond Rating



Credit ratings are opinions about credit risk that express an opinion about the ability and willingness of the issuer to meet its financial obligations in full and on time. Local economic factors such as unemployment influence these ratings as well as internal and management controls within Stearns County. Fund balances, fiscal policies and budget variances also impact the ratings.

Stearns County has been AA+ bond rating since 2010. With property taxes providing a significant portion of Stearns County's funding, it is vital that the community can have faith that the County is stable and less likely to default on its obligations.

Stearns County Human Services
Public Health Division
General Life Expectancy Performance Measure
How well are we doing?

Performance Measure: Average Number of Years a Person can be Expected to Live

Supports County Mission: Provide Exceptional Public Services to Assure a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant County for All

Supports County Value: Responsive: We serve our clients and customers with a keen awareness of their needs.

Point of Contact: Melissa Huberty

Performance Objective: Tracking the average number of years that a person can expect to live helps in planning for disabling illnesses or injuries.

Efficiency & Effectiveness Measures (How well are we doing / Are we better off?)	Stearns County	Minnesota	United States
2019 Life expectancy (years)	82.2	80.9	79.1
2020	82.2	80.9	79.1
2021	82.1	80.9	79.2
2022	81.1	80.4	78.5
2023	81.1	80.4	78.5
2024	80.5	79.7	77.6

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps- National Center for Health Statistics - Natality and Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program

Stearns County Human Services
Public Health Division
Tobacco and Alcohol Use Performance Measure
How well are we doing?

Performance Measure: Tobacco and Alcohol Use

Supports County Mission: Provide Exceptional Public Services to Assure a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant County for All

Supports County Value: Responsive: We serve our clients and customers with a keen awareness of their needs.

Point of Contact: Melissa Huberty

Performance Objective: Reduce behaviors that lead to unhealthy behaviors.

Efficiency & Effectiveness Measures (How well are we doing / Are we better off?)	U.S. Rate	Minnesota Rate	Stearns County Rate
2021 Adult smoking	17%	16%	19%
2022 Adult smoking	16%	15%	18%
2023 Adult smoking	16%	14%	18%
2024 Adult smoking	15%	14%	17%
2021 Excessive drinking	19%	23%	23%
2022 Excessive drinking	20%	23%	28%
2023 Excessive drinking	19%	22%	22%
2024 Excessive drinking	18%	21%	22%

Executive Summary

Tobacco and alcohol use are indicators of unhealthy behavior that impact long-term healthcare costs for the community.

Source: **CountyHealthRankings.org & Center for Disease Control**

Stearns County Parks Department
Park Attendance Performance Measure
How well are we doing?

Performance Measure: Park Attendance per 1,000 Residents

Supports County Mission: Provide Exceptional Public Service to Assure a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant County for all.

Supports County Value: Approachable; We are eager to serve, friendly, helpful, and treat every with respect and dignity.
Responsive; We serve our clients and customers with a keen awareness of their needs.

Point of Contact: Ben Anderson

Performance Objective: To measure how well the Parks Department is meeting the needs of our residents' desire and need for outdoor recreational space.

Executive Summary
We estimate approximately 610,682 people used a Stearns County Park or Recreational Trail in 2024. • Stearns County population estimate as of July 1, 2024 was 160,977 (US Census Bureau) • $160,977 \text{ residents} / 1,000 = 160.977$ • $610,682 / 160.977 = 3,794$ park visitors per 1,000 residents or 3.79 park visitors per Stearns County resident *Overall based off our vehicle counters and park staff observations we estimate a slight decrease in the number of people using our parks and recreational trails in 2024. • 2022 we estimated 3,819 visitors per 1,000 residents • 2023 we estimated 3,947 visitors per 1,000 residents • 2024 we estimated 3,794 visitors per 1,000 residents

Stearns County Highway Department
Pavement Ratings Performance Measure
How well are we doing?

Performance Measure: Pavement Condition Ratings

Supports County Mission: Provide Exceptional Public Services to Assure a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant County for All

Supports County Value: **Professional:** We are ethical, reliable, accountable for our actions, and strive for continuous improvement.
Responsive: We serve our clients and customers with a keen awareness of their needs.

Point of Contact: Jodi Teich

Target/Deliverable	Progress
• Less than 5% of paved centerline miles in Poor condition; • 18 – 20% in Fair condition; • 75% or more in Good/ Excellent condition	Stearns County’s pavements were rated by MnDOT in 2024. After 2024 the county’s pavements fell into each category as follows: Poor: 2.45%; Fair: 10.32%; Good/Excellent: 87.22%. Of the miles that fell into the poor category 12.94 miles have been resurfaced in 2025, which would bring that amount down to 1.4%. One could also expect that some in the good/excellent category fell into the fair category.

Executive Summary
Maintaining pavement is important from a standpoint of both user satisfaction (no one likes to drive on a rough road) and long-term performance (properly maintained roads last longer). Stearns County’s pavements are rated every two years by MnDOT. Pavement ratings can be updated in the county’s database as they are improved between official ratings, but the increased testing by MnDOT will provide more accurate data for county analysis. Pavement ratings fall into three categories: Poor (PQI = 0.0 – 2.4); Fair (PQI = 2.5 – 3.0); or Good/Excellent (PQI = 3.1 or higher). In determining the PQI, both ride and surface condition are factored in.

Stearns County Highway Department
Snow Removal Performance Measure
How well are we doing?

Performance Measure: Snow/Ice Removal Times on County Highway System

Supports County Mission: Provide Exceptional Public Services to Assure a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant County for All

Supports County Value: **Responsive:** We serve our clients and customers with a keen awareness of their needs.

Point of Contact: Jodi Teich

Target/Deliverable	Progress
One complete round on each plow route takes 4 to 4.5 hours, even in heavy snow and ice events. • <u>High traffic volume, areas of high collection and major connection routes with more than 2500 cars a day</u>; Single pass with the plow in each lane with salted or sanded hills, curves and intersections within 4 hours of the start of the shift. Intermittent bare single wheel paths within 18 hours. • <u>Areas of rural collection, moderate to high volume with daily traffic counts between 250 and 2500 cars a day</u>; Single pass with the plow in each lane with salted or sanded hills, curves and intersections within 5 hours of the start of the shift. Intermittent bare single wheel paths in each lane within 48 hours. • <u>Low volume traffic counts with less than 250 cars a day</u>; Single pass with the plow in each lane with salted or sanded hills, curves and intersections within 18 hours of the end of the storm. Snow compaction on gravel roads should be expected. The Highway Department cannot ensure intermittent bare pavement, but will salt/sand, hills curves and intersections on paved roads.	One round on plow routes has averaged 4 to 4.5 hours. Plow routes continue to be modified throughout the county to optimize response time. The practice of hiring out gravel road snow and ice control has been cut back significantly for a variety of reasons, including past performance. Although we saw better response times on the higher volume paved roads in the same districts when gravel roads were contracted out, the level of service for a county road was not always acceptable. Snow and ice control related complaints have been higher in the St. Cloud district since utilizing only one shift compared to past years when a second shift was used. We will continue to evaluate how level of service can improve while utilizing only one shift, and at the same time continuing discussions with the union on how a second shift can again be implemented. During one event in the 2024 – 2025 winter the targets were not met on one road. This was a road that was previously contracted out, and there was new management within the district. The issue has been corrected.

Executive Summary

Stearns County has jurisdiction over more than 950 centerline miles of road. The removal of snow and ice from these roadways is one of the most important services the Highway Department provides during the winter months. Public safety is the number one priority for the Highway Department at all times. The efficient use of public funding to support effective snow and ice removal operations is also a top priority. Finding the balance point between these two priorities is sometimes challenging; however at no time will public safety be willfully compromised. One round on an average plow route generally takes 4 to 4.5 hours, and current staffing supports only one shift. Plow routes are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure proper distribution of lane miles and optimization of routes to effectively respond to traffic needs. Stearns County does not maintain a bare pavement snow and ice policy.

Environmental Services

Recycling Rate Performance Measure

How well are we doing?

Performance Measure: *Meet or exceed the target rate set by the State for Greater Minnesota (35%).*

Supports County Mission: Provide Exceptional Public Services to Assure a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant County for All

Supports County Value: **Collaborative;** We serve the public best with teamwork and community partnerships

Point of Contact: Chelle Benson

Performance Objective: Reduce the amount of waste in the overall waste stream, reuse or recycle as many products as possible to reduce the amount of material that is landfilled.

Efficiency & Effectiveness Measures (How well are we doing / Are we better off?)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Adjusted rate per MPCA	44.9%	41%	42.2%	33.9%	38.6%	39.6%	49.1%	46.9%*	
Agricultural Plastic Recycling	Not Captured	.05%	.05%	.09%	3.3 %	1.9%	.75%	.33%**	

Executive Summary

*The recycling rate provide is based upon the SCORE report and is only available from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for 2023. In reviewing the various material types that make up the recycling rate we found that there was a significant in increase in metals, the reasons for the increase are not evident, but are often related to commodity prices. **Stearns County as a part of Tri-County Solid Waste collects agricultural plastic in the Tri-County area. This program has seen several changes imposed by the company taking the material thus program participation has decreased as well as the amount/type of material collected. Tri-County is looking into other options for plastic wrap recycling.

Stearns County Sheriff
Response Times Performance Measure
How well are we doing?

Performance Measure: Call Response Time

Supports County Mission: Provide Exceptional Public Services to Assure a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant County for All

Supports County Value: Responsive: We serve our clients and customers with a keen awareness of their needs.

Point of Contact: Steve Soyka

Performance Objective: Maintaining the average response time to Emergency and Priority 1 calls for service is measured by tracking monthly Sheriff's Office response times in Stearns County.

Efficiency & Effectiveness Measures (How well are we doing / Are we better off?)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Response time to highest priority calls (minutes)	9.40	10	9.49	11.12	10.01	10.22

Stearns County Veterans Services
Veterans Benefits Performance Measure
How well are we doing?

Performance Measure: Dollars Brought into Stearns County for Veterans Benefits

Supports County Mission: Provide Exceptional Public Services to Assure a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant County for All

Supports County Value: Responsive: We serve our clients and customers with a keen awareness of their needs.

Point of Contact: Cory Vaske

Performance Objective: Ensure local veterans receive full benefits they are entitled to.

Performance Measures and Population Information	2021	2022	2023	2024
Estimated Veteran Population - Based on the VA's 2022 Veteran Population Study	9,300	9,528	9,286	9,028
Unique Client Interactions	2,968	3,123	3,288	3,392
Total Client Interactions - These represent an interaction note by department staff denoting some staff action in relation to the veteran. Examples include checking the status of a claim, making a note about an appointment or phone call with a veteran, or documenting an email exchange, etc.	8,274	9,041	10,148	11,134
Total Claim Submissions - Includes: Compensation Claims, Pension Claims, Supplemental Claims, VA Appeals, Supporting Evidence, and State Grants	1,661	1,606	2,396	2,226
VA Compensation and Pension Dollars - This number equals the total payments made to veterans and surviving spouses for disability compensation and non-service-connected pension within Stearns county during the given year. Disability compensation is payable to a Veteran who has a chronic injury sustained during military service. VA pension is payable to war-time veterans who meet income criteria.	\$65,477,000	\$71,513,000	\$72,103,000	VA DATA Not Available