

Resolution No. 210-40
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 23rd day of June 2026.



Steve Notch, Chair
Stearns County Board of Commissioners

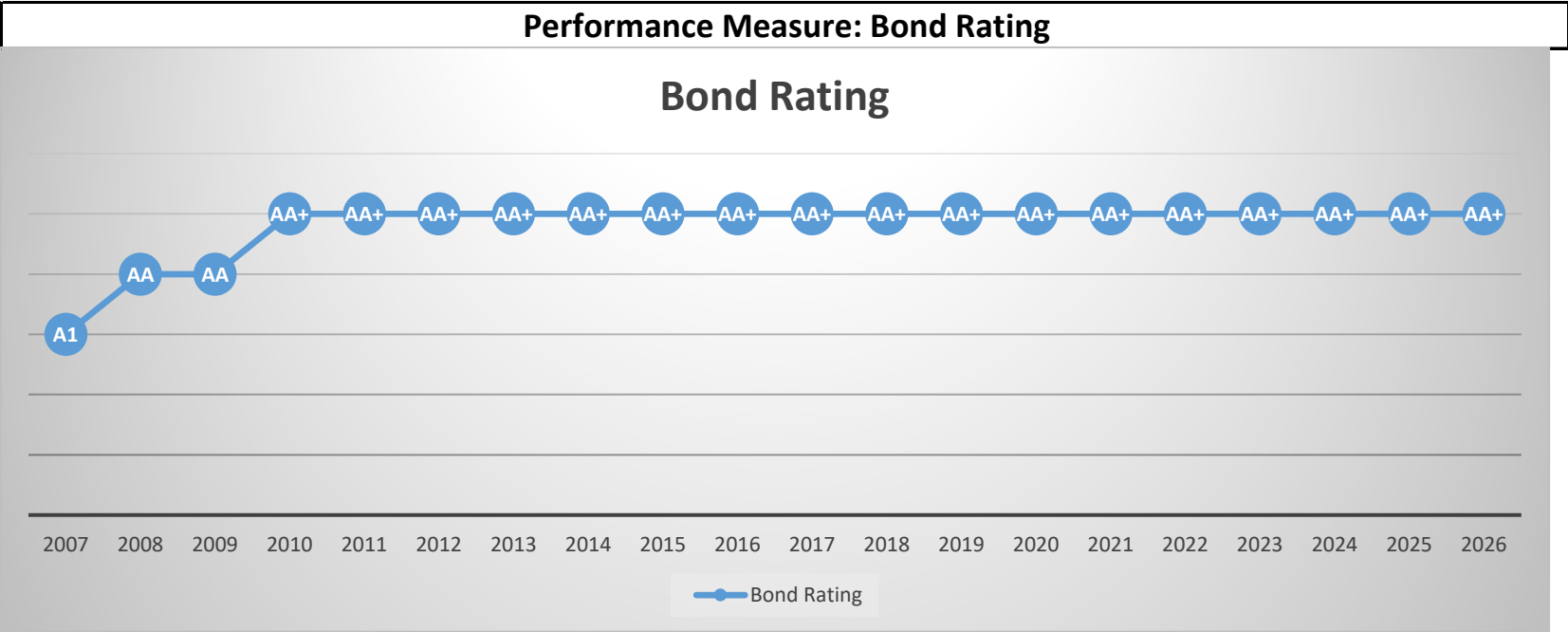
Attest: 

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



Stearns County

State Performance Measures



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 Auditor-Treasurer
Election Audit Performance Measure
How well are we doing?

Performance Measure: Accuracy of post-election audit (% of ballots counted accurately)

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

Point of Contact: Randy Schreifels

Efficiency & Effectiveness Measures (How well are we doing / Are we better off?)				
	2020	2022	2024	2026
Ballots counted accurately: post-election review	99.7%	100%	100%	*
Executive Summary				
After elections, the results of ballot counting are reviewed to determine the accuracy of the counting process. 99.5% is the minimum accuracy required by state. *State-county elections are not conducted in odd number years.				

Stearns County Department of Human Services

Public Health Division

General Life Expectancy Performance Goal

How well are we doing?

Performance Goal #4:	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.
Frequency of Data Collection:	Annual

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	82.1	80.4	78.5
2023	81.1	80.4	78.5
2024	80.5	79.7	77.6
2025	80.5	79.6	77.6

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

Stearns County Department of Human Services

Public Health Division

Tobacco and Alcohol Use Performance Goal

How well are we doing?

Performance Goal #5:	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.
Frequency of Data Collection:	Annual

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%
2025 Adult Smoking	16%	16%	15%
2021 Excessive Drinking	19%	23%	23%
2022 Excessive Drinking	20%	23%	28%
2023 Excessive Drinking	19%	22%	22%
2024 Excessive Drinking	18%	21%	22%
2025 Excessive Drinking	19%	21%	20%

Source: County Health Rankings.org & Center for Disease Control

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

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 everyone 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 evaluate the extent to which the Parks Department provides outdoor recreational opportunities that meet the needs and preferences of county residents.

Executive Summary
We estimate approximately 739,624 people used a Stearns County park or recreational trail in 2025. • Stearns County population estimate as of July 1, 2025 was 164,110 (US Census Bureau) • $164,110 \text{ residents} / 1,000 = 164.11$ • $739,624 / 164.11 = 4,507$ park visitors per 1,000 residents or 4.507 park visitors per Stearns County resident *Visitor estimates are collected through vehicle counters, park staff observations and cell phone data provided by the Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission. The 2025 data shows an increase in the number of people using our parks and recreational trails. • 2023 we estimated 3,947 visitors per 1,000 residents • 2024 we estimated 3,794 visitors per 1,000 residents • 2025 we estimate 4,507 visitors per 1,000 residents *** The estimated number of visitors for 2025 increased substantially because the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission provided us with more accurate usage data for our regionally designated parks. The Commission partners with a company that analyzes cell phone location data to estimate total park visitation. ***

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: Chris Byrd

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 and will be rated again in 2026. 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 were resurfaced in 2025, and another 36.1 miles will be resurfaced in 2026. By the fall of 2026 we should have the updated pavement condition ratings. In 2025 Stearns County acquired the Geographic Roadway Inventory Tool (GRIT) as an easy-to-use asset management program to assist in tracking pavement performance and to predict future conditions.

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). One could also argue that smooth roads are safer, if the driver isn’t avowing potholes, or experiencing vehicle damage. Stearns County’s pavements are rated every two years by MnDOT and are evaluated by looking at the Pavement Quality Index (PQI). 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: Chris Byrd

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.

Executive Summary

Stearns County has jurisdiction over more than 960 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%	51.1%*
Agricultural Plastic Recycling	Not Captured	.05%	.05%	.09%	3.3 %	1.9%	.75%	.33%	.12%** 225 tons

Executive Summary

*The recycling rate provide is based upon the SCORE report and is only available from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for 2024. **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 measure 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	2025
Response time to highest priority calls (Minutes)	9.4	10	9.49	11.12	10.01	10.22	12.32

Stearns County Recording Services

Compliance Performance Measures

Program Goal 1

Performance Measure: Perform duties pursuant to and in compliance with law; continue efficient processing of property records.

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 improvement.

Approachable: We serve everyone in a timely manner with respect and dignity.

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

Collaborative: We serve the public best through teamwork and community partnerships.

Fair & Equitable: We promote trust in the document recording process by following laws, policies, and performance standards to protect the rights and interests of individuals and institutions.

Point of Contact: Rita Lodermeier, Recording Services Manager

Performance Objective: Ensure compliance with state and federal laws by processing within 10 business days. Provide quality, accurate, archived record data and images during the recording process.

Description	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan – April 2026
Business Days Required	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Minimum Percentage Required	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Percentage Met	99.39%	99.61%	79.97%	85.98%	99.25%	99.83%	99.96%	99.26%	100%
Compliant	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Executive Summary

Minnesota Statue 357.182, Subdivision 6, requires the Office of County Recorder/Registrar of Titles to include with their annual budget request, a report showing the status of compliance under MN 357.182, Subdivisions 3 and 4. Failure to meet this requirement necessitates a report to the County Board of Commissioners to explain the failure to comply, recommendation to cure the non-compliance and prevent a recurrence, along with a proposal identifying actions, deadlines, and funding necessary to bring the County into compliance.