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Kuna will invest appropriately in education, community facilities and cultural heritage

Goal Area 5: Kuna will invest appropriately in education, community facilities and cultural heritage.

Educated and Celebrated: Planning Principles

The City of Kuna exhibits pride in providing high-quality educational opportunities in collaboration with Kuna School District, while creating a vibrant, small-town culture enriched with an agricultural presence. As the City continues to grow in population, it is important to plan for both the future infrastructure to accommodate the increased population, while preserving open-space that provides for the agricultural heritage that citizens hold so near and dear.

With the population increase within the City of Kuna, a statistic was published stating that for each new home built in Kuna, an average of 0.76 additional individuals between the ages of 5-19 will be added to the Kuna population^{xxvi}.

The City of Kuna is anticipating approximately 580 homes to be built over the next year (October 2018- October 2019) which would equate to approximately 190 new students would be added to the Kuna School District within that time. The Kuna School District is readily prepared for the increase in students while strategizing for higher educational opportunities for those seeking postsecondary education within Kuna. While the City is well celebrated through community events such as Kuna Days, Mayor’s events, Farmer’s Market, etc., the City lacks specific and diverse cultural and community facilities that could assist in creating a better sense of unity. Additionally, it is necessary to strategize an efficient way to prioritize agricultural preservation in the midst of anticipated community expansion.

Education and Culture AT-A-GLANCE:



Goal 5.A Provide support to Kuna’s schools and pre-K education opportunities to meet population demands.

The following goals are intended to help guide Kuna with development of future educational opportunities, growth, preservation of community facilities, and cultural heritage.

The Kuna School District (KSD) offers quality programs in varying academic arenas to over 5,000 students. The KSD boundary encompasses the entire City of Kuna, as well as some unincorporated areas of Ada and Canyon Counties. The boundaries stretch as far northwest as Airport Road and Robinson Road in Canyon County, and as far southeast as W. Barker Road and S. Cloverdale Road in Ada County.

There are ten existing schools located within KSD. The ten schools include six elementary schools: Hubbard, Reed, Indian Creek, Ross, Crimson Point, and Silver Trail; two middle schools: Kuna Middle and Fremont Middle; and two high schools: Kuna High and Initial Point High, which serves as an alternative high school for the community. A second Kuna High school is planned to be located near the intersection of Columbia Road and Linder Road and is anticipated to be opened for the 2020-2021 school year. Their main focus will be professional technology.

The Performing Arts Center is located on the Kuna High School campus and provides a venue for a wide variety of events. The Performing Arts Center is dedicated to the promotion of the performing arts for both students and residents within our community.

The City of Kuna’s Area of Impact (AOI) transects with the West Ada School District to the north and southeast of City limits. The West Ada School District is located in the AOI north of the City from Amity Road to Lake Hazel Road, and southeast along W. Kuna Mora Road from S. Five Mile Road to Kuna Mora Road.

The City of Kuna is also home to two charter schools; these schools remain public; however, attendees are chosen by a lottery system. Falcon Ridge Public Charter School provides a curriculum for children in kindergarten through eighth grade and the PISem academy opened their doors for the first time for the 2018-2019 school year, and will eventually provide a curriculum extending from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Kuna School District illustrates their preparedness to meet population demands as they anticipate the openings of a new high school by 2021, additions to Reed and Silver Trail Elementary Schools by 2019, and an expansion of the middle school by 2018^{xxvii}.



Objective 5.A.1. Help ensure that Kuna’s school facilities meet increasing population demands.

Policies:

5.A.1.a. Support KSD in planning for adequate school capacity for present and future enrollment through regular demographic updates and notifications regarding additional residential development, etc.

5.A.1.b. Work with the Kuna School District and Charter School(s) to address future program and facility needs.

5.A.1.c. Consider access and bus stop safety when developing school sites to make travel to school safe and efficient.

5.A.1.d. Ensure developments include features that provide safe and connected bicycle, pedestrian, bus stop and vehicular access to schools.

5.A.1.e. Incentivize developments for providing land and/or school-related facilities.

5.A.1.f. Continue to seek input from Kuna School District on proposed developments for consideration of transportation, school facility and connectivity needs.

5.A.1.g. Coordinate with West Ada School District as new facilities are required to meet population demands.

 **Objective 5.A 2. Provide framework for varying pre-K educational opportunities to be developed for Kuna citizens.**

Policies:

5.A.2.a. Work with Kuna School District and Charter Schools to consider providing educational resources to pre-K students.

5.A.2.b. Identify areas on Zoning and Future Land Use maps that would best serve as development areas for future pre-K facilities.



Goal 5.B Attract opportunities for higher education and training in Kuna.

While the City of Kuna and the Kuna School District consider primary and secondary education top priorities, the City lacks the framework for postsecondary education as well as the transportation resources to and from higher education facilities (College of Western Idaho, Boise State University, University of Idaho and Idaho State University, etc.) that are located in neighboring cities.

Currently there is a lack of technical trade facilities in Kuna as the technical trade programs offered at Kuna High School are facilitated through neighboring school districts (i.e. Boise School District and Meridian School District). Students must currently travel off-site in order to access these programs, however with the opening of the new high school in 2020 Kuna students will have access to local professional technology facilities and programs.

Located on the east side of Meridian Road/Highway 69 in Kuna's Area of Impact, the Northwest Lineman College is a postsecondary private vocational college offering training programs for the power delivery industry. Many Lineman College students temporarily live in Kuna while attending school.

South of the Lineman College on the northwest corner of Meridian Road/Highway 69 and Hubbard Road is a private Baptist College that provides a postsecondary education in the Christian Doctrine.

Objective 5.B.1. Develop resources to foster higher education and training opportunities in Kuna.

Policies:

5.B.1.a. Work with industry to assess feasible sites for postsecondary, vocational/technical training facilities and/or colleges that serve residents of Kuna and the surrounding area. Pursue the possibility of a technical/trade school to enrich student's career prospects.

5.B.1.b. Consider appropriate resources, such as the promotion of a satellite campus, to encourage and provide for higher education or any type of vocational training.

5.B.1.c. Establish public transportation and non-motorized (i.e. bike routes, bike lanes, crossings, wider sidewalks, etc.) routes to and from higher education facilities for Kuna residents.

5.B.1.d. Seek or establish joint venture possibilities between the City, Kuna School District and Charter Schools that could allow for varying educational and technical opportunities.



Goal 5.C Identify and develop cultural and community facilities.

This goal has similarities to Goal 2.C in the Health Goal Area of Envision Kuna; however, this goal focuses more on community facilities as gathering places. Due to the growing population, Kuna is in dire need of expanded and new community gathering places for families to be enjoyed by all ages.

Cultural and Community Facilities/Ownership

- Kuna Senior Center / City of Kuna, in partnership with the Kuna Seniors
- Kuna History Center / City of Kuna, in partnership with the Kuna Historical Society
- Kuna Community Hall / Privately-owned
- Kuna Library / Kuna Library District
- 4th Street Gym / Kuna School District
- Kuna Visitor Center / Privately owned (building only)
- Kuna Grange Hall / Kuna Grange #59
- Kuna Event Center / Privately-owned
- Kuna Cemetery / Privately-owned
- Pioneer Cemetery / Privately-owned



Objective 5.C.1. Identify and expand existing cultural and community facilities to be used as distinct gathering places within the community.

Policies:

5.C.1.a. Continually maintain functionality of and accessibility to the Kuna Senior Center.

5.C.1.b. Encourage the expansion and enhancement of the Kuna Community Hall.

5.C.1.c. Work with Library District representatives on the expansion and enhancement of Kuna Library.

5.C.1.d. Protect the 4th Street Gym property through public or public-private partnership to create enhanced public/community gathering space in Downtown Kuna.

5.C.1.e. Collaborate on the expansion and enhancement of the Kuna Visitor Center facility, access, signage and parking area.

5.C.1.f. Protect the integrity and character of the Kuna Grange Hall.

5.C.1.g. Support efforts to enhance access to and facilities that support the Kuna Event Center, as well as future, similar privately- owned gathering space facilities.

5.C.1.h. Collaborate with the Kuna Cemetery on the possible expansion of the Kuna Cemetery.

5.C.1.i. Preserve the land and incorporate the story of the Pioneer Cemetery into Kuna history and cultural projects.

5.C.1.j. Incorporate the story of the Kuna Railroad into history and cultural projects.

5.C.1.k. Encourage property owners and developers to maintain the integrity and character of historic and cultural resources and employ techniques to restore such resources.

5.C.1.l. Pursue educational and entertaining walking tour that tells the story of Kuna History through signage, participant-activated recordings, art and displays.

 **Objective 5.C.2. Work to develop new cultural and community facilities to be used as distinct gathering places within the community.**

Policies:

5.C.2.a. Support the development of new community facilities, including multi-purpose facilities (recreation, meeting spaces, etc.).

5.C.2.b. Consider developing an outdoor amphitheater within existing or new community spaces.

5.C.1.c. Work with Library District representatives on an expansion of the Library as the population increases.

5.C.1.d. Create new public/community gathering space in Downtown Kuna, possibly located at the 4th Street Gym property.

5.C.1.e. Encourage developers to incorporate elements of Kuna culture through design, art, signage, etc.



Goal 5.D Identify specific strategies to preserve Kuna’s open space, agricultural lands and heritage.

Agriculture, open space, and dairies are a few of the things that describe Kuna. From the very beginning, agriculture and farming have been largely routine industries within the City as they are characteristics that residents have grown to love.

As the population increases, open space/agricultural land is some of the first to be considered for development areas. Identifying specific strategies to encourage new developments to consider infill projects, incorporate open space, and include elements of Kuna’s identity as an agriculturally-rich community, will be vital in preserving Kuna’s agricultural heritage.

Objective 5.D.1. Encourage specific strategies to assist in the preservation of Kuna’s open space, agricultural lands and heritage.

Policies:

5.D.1.a. Support agricultural partnerships, programs and activities through the Kuna Grange, Kuna Farmers Market, Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H, etc.

5.D.1.b. Incorporate agricultural and open space elements into development projects.

5.D.1.c. Support efforts to develop community-wide agri-tourism and agri-tainment establishments, activities and opportunities.

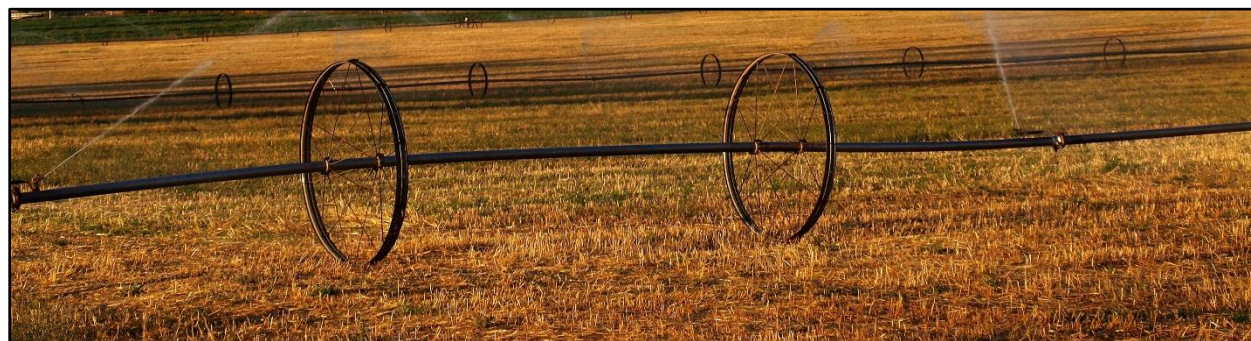
5.D.1.d. Support industries that directly connect agriculture to the community (i.e. brewery with restaurant, dairy with store/public access, winery, garden/farm with restaurant, etc.).

5.D.1.e. Increase more agri-tainment or agritourism opportunities available to the public in Kuna (i.e. rodeo grounds, petting zoo, corn mazes, seasonal farming/activity festivals/carnivals, etc.).

5.D.1.f. Encourage clustered development patterns to preserve agricultural uses and/or promote historical education on remaining lands, when appropriate.

5.D.1.g. Identify key areas on the Future Land Use Map that should remain as agricultural/open space.

5.D.1.h. Identify agricultural areas and sites that are vulnerable to development pressures and when feasible, work with the development community to preserve these areas.



Educated and Celebrated Implementation

The following table shows specific projects and actions identified during the comprehensive plan process that would help achieve the goals, objectives, and policies identified in this plan. The top projects and actions for this goal area are listed below. For the purposes of the Comprehensive plan, a priority project is any project or action that the city has identified as actionable within the next one to three years and is anticipated to receive resource allocation to help achieve its implementation. These priority projects will help guide short-term implementation of this plan, however if a project is not included on the priority projects list that does not preclude it from short-term implementation or resource allocation.

Top Connected Projects and Actions

1. Create public gathering spaces in Downtown Kuna.
2. Work with industry to assess feasible sites for a postsecondary, vocational/technical training facilities and colleges that serve residents of Kuna and the surrounding area.
3. Create standards for bicycle and pedestrian connectivity evaluation from developments to existing and proposed school sites.
4. Start focus group to encourage recruitment of agri-tourism and agri-tainment establishments, activities and opportunities.
5. Recruit industries that directly connect agriculture to the community (i.e. brewery with restaurant, dairy with store/public access, winery, garden/farm with restaurant, etc.).

Projects and Actions Table 5 on the following page highlights all of the projects and actions that have been identified to implement the objectives and policies in this goal area and includes the top priority projects listed above. Other educated and celebrated projects and policies that are priorities for the City may not be listed in the table as they are less likely to be actionable implementation items.

Connected Policy Focus Areas:

Core guiding policy areas for objectives, policies and actions related to this goal area include.

1. Support education
2. Continued and higher education opportunities
3. Strong community/cultural spaces and facilities
4. Preserve open spaces and agricultural heritage

Projects and Actions Table 5: Educated and Celebrated

Goals	Potential Projects and Actions
<p>5.A Support Kuna’s schools and pre-K education opportunities to meet population demands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to coordinate development reviews with Kuna School District and Charter Schools. • Cooperate with the School District and the Charter Schools to address future program and facility needs.
<p>5.B Attract opportunities for higher education and training in Kuna.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek or establish joint venture possibilities between the City, the School District and Charter Schools that could allow for varying educational and technical opportunities, using approaches such as (community schools model) • Work with industry to assess feasible sites for a postsecondary, vocational/technical training facilities and colleges that serve residents of Kuna and the surrounding area. • Consider appropriate resources, such as the promotion of a satellite campus, to encourage and provide for higher education or vocational training. • Pursue the possibility of a technical/trade school to enrich student’s career prospects.
<p>5.C Identify and develop cultural and community facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop design standards for restoration, rehabilitation and incorporation of history, culture and character into projects. • Identify specific capital improvement projects that improve public access to privately and publicly owned event centers and gathering spaces. • Work with Kuna Grange Hall representatives to identify specific projects to improve accessibility to facility. • Incorporate Kuna Grange Hall in historical and cultural projects when appropriate. • Create public gathering spaces in Downtown Kuna. • Create maintenance and capital improvement plan for Kuna Senior Center. • Work with Historical Society and railroad representatives on the inclusion of the Pioneer Cemetery and railroad in history and cultural projects. • Develop specific educational and entertaining walking tour plan that identifies specific projects to tell the story of Kuna History through signage, participant-activated recordings, art and displays. • Develop specific plan with Kuna Chamber of Commerce to identify specific projects and funding sources to improve access, signage and parking area at the Kuna Visitor Center. • Support identifying capital improvements to improve access to the Kuna Library branch sites, mobile library program, participation in regional library network.

Projects and Actions Table 5: Educated and Celebrated

Goals	Potential Projects and Actions
<p>5.D Identify specific strategies to preserve Kuna’s open space, agricultural lands and heritage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key areas on the Future Land Use Map that should remain as agricultural/open space. • Develop specific standards for agricultural and open space elements to be included in projects. • Start focus group to encourage recruitment of agri-tourism and agri-tainment establishments, activities and opportunities. • Create focus group to identify specific strategies to increase agriculture establishments (i.e. rodeo grounds, petting zoo, corn mazes, seasonal farming/activity festivals/carnivals, etc.). • Recruit industries that directly connect agriculture to the community (i.e. brewery with restaurant, dairy with store/public access, winery, garden/farm with restaurant, etc.). • Identify specific agricultural partnerships, programs and activities through the Kuna Grange, Kuna Farmers Market, Future Farmers of America (FFA), etc. • Develop standards and incentives for clustered development patterns that preserves agricultural uses and/or promotes historical education on remaining lands.

