

Hennepin County Active Living Policy

May 2009

Active Living is a way of life that integrates physical activity into daily routines through activities such as biking, walking and/or taking transit.

Active Living Guiding Principles

- a. Physical activity improves health and quality of life in our communities
- b. Places should be designed to provide everyone – regardless of age, gender, language, ethnicity, economic status or ability – with a variety of opportunities for safe, convenient; and affordable physical activity
- c. Development patterns should encourage mixed uses, compact designs, and a variety of transportation choices that link roads, transit, bicycling and walking
- d. Buildings and their landscapes should be designed with features that promote opportunities for active living and active transportation, including highly visible stairs, orientation to streets and sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and transit stops at main building entries
- e. Transportation systems, including transit and trails, should provide safe, convenient, and affordable access to destinations such as housing, employment, schools, and community services

Active Living Policies

1. Administration and Integration Policy

Hennepin County is committed to being a leader in providing Active Living infrastructure and opportunities for people who live, work and recreate in the county. It is Hennepin County policy to support the integration of Active Living into projects, training, programs and services provided or contracted by the county through its capital and operating budgets.

2. Awareness and Education Policy

Hennepin County realizes that Active Living will only become an integral part of people's lives with a comprehensive and ongoing outreach effort. Therefore the county will develop and implement an Active Living awareness and education initiative.

3. Multimodal Transportation System Integration Policy

Hennepin County recognizes the numerous opportunities for Active Living that a well-planned transportation system can provide. Whenever possible, Hennepin County will integrate Active Living and Complete Streets elements into its transportation system.

4. Site and Building Policy

Hennepin County recognizes that the location and design of buildings and public spaces influence Active Living. Hennepin County will strive to locate sites in areas that are linked to community destinations and accessible by all modes of transportation. Moreover, Hennepin County will integrate active living elements into the design of building infrastructure and interior spaces while continuing to ensure the safety and security of staff, customers and county property.

5. Employee Opportunity Policy

Hennepin County recognizes that employees who practice Active Living help to contain healthcare, transportation, and other costs, in addition to preventing adverse health and environmental outcomes. It is Hennepin County policy to create and support Active Living opportunities for employees during the workday.

6. Integration into Vendor and Contractor Activities Policy

Hennepin County can influence Active Living practices in the community through its contracts and permits. To ensure that all vendors and providers conducting business with Hennepin County address Active Living, the county will, where appropriate, integrate Active Living language into contracts and consulting agreements.

7. Leadership and Management Accountability Policy

Hennepin County recognizes that leadership and management will play a significant role in the implementation and promotion of Active Living strategies. It is Hennepin County policy that leadership and management incorporate the county's Active Living principles in their departmental operations.