

2050 Scenarios

What are scenarios?

Scenarios are stories about the future that can be used to bring to life future possibilities. Scenarios allow us to re-perceive our present through a set of lenses that explore how our choices today and the uncontrollable dynamics today will shape the future. In scenario planning we consider a broad range of possibilities to assure we are making informed decisions in our communities.

Why scenarios for Meadowlark?

Many things have been considered and tried in the northern Great Plains over the last several years to create a positive future, yet many of the same challenges remain. Although opinions on why these efforts have fallen short may vary, everyone can agree that the issues and opportunities within the region are complex and that creating a bright future must involve everyone. Scenarios were created as a part of the Meadowlark Project to capture and frame these complex issues and opportunities in an inviting way to engage our communities and region in a dialogue on the future they desire. Through these scenarios we are able to face and discuss many topics including: economic opportunity, social justice, quality of life, and our changing demographics.

Meadowlark Project 2050 Scenario Set

The scenarios are four different, relevant and plausible time capsules that span a broad range of possibilities of how our region may unfold over the next two generations. When reading the scenarios, avoid the tendency to personally choose one as most likely, most desirable or the only one you want to discuss. Once all stories are explored, you will find that each of the scenarios contain both desirable and undesirable characteristics as well as the key choices we must make. Use the full set of scenarios to spark the conversation about those choices and the future you want for the northern Great Plains.