6.0 Community Goals and Objectives

6.1 Introduction

Before a community can actively plan for its future growth and development, it must first develop a set of goals and objectives that define the boundaries of its needs and aspirations and thus establish a foundation for Master Plan formulation. The goals and objectives must reflect the type of community desired and the kind of lifestyle its citizens wish to follow, given realistic economic and social constraints.

The following is a recommended set of community goals (the ultimate purposes or intent of the Plan), and objectives (means of attaining goals) as established by the Lake Township Planning Commission. These goals and objectives are based upon the background studies and analysis, as presented in the preceding Sections 3.0 through 5.0, and upon a survey of the Planning Commission, conducted on January 27, 1999, to assess the Commission members' likes and dislikes and future improvement needs for the Township.

6.2 Community-Wide Goals

1. To create an optimum human environment for the present and future residents of Lake Township, an environment that will meet their physical, social and economic needs, while preserving the rural character of the community.

2. To redevelop and maintain the Saginaw Bay shoreline as the Township's greatest asset.

3. To preserve and promote the rights of individual property owners while maintaining the aesthetic character of the community.

4. To relate land use primarily to the natural characteristics of the land and the long-term needs of the community, rather than to short-term economic gain.

5. To encourage intergovernmental cooperation with the State of Michigan, Huron County, and surrounding communities in the provision of area-wide facilities.

6.3 Residential Goal and Objectives

Goal

To promote the development of residential areas designed to offer a variety of safe, sanitary, and affordable housing choices.

Objectives

1. Encourage and guide housing developments at densities that relate to the natural and environmental features.

2. Encourage innovative development techniques as a means of ensuring lasting identity and stability of residential areas.

3. Require adequate buffers or transition areas between residential and non-residential developments to maintain property values and attractiveness.

4. Encourage the removal of conflicting or undesirable land uses from residential areas through code enforcement and other means.

5. Encourage the removal of unsanitary or unsafe housing through code enforcement or other means.

6.4 Commercial Goal and Objectives

Goal

To provide for a selected range of commercial facilities to serve the needs of local population.

Objectives

1. Encourage the development of small commercial establishments in strategic locations.

2. Discourage strip commercial development along highways except where a specific need can be substantiated for highway-oriented type businesses and where such businesses will not adversely impact existing residential uses.

3. Establish a compatible relationship between commercial and adjacent residential uses through the use of buffer devices such as walls, fences, landscaped areas, and transitional uses.

6.5 Industrial Goal and Objectives

Goal

To encourage a variety of light industrial development with attractive sites to strengthen the tax base and provide employment opportunities for area residents.

Objectives

1. Encourage the development of new industries that are economically associated with the existing industrial base in the region.

2. Locate industrial areas that have reasonable boundaries, are easily accessible from existing transportation network, and are not subject to encroachment by incompatible uses.

6.6 Transportation Goal and Objectives

Goal

To develop and maintain a network of roads that meets the needs of all Township residents and businesses in a safe and convenient manner.

Objectives

1. Utilize the federal/state road and highway classification system for classifying existing and future roads in Lake Township.

2. Cooperate with the Michigan Department of Transportation and Huron County Road Commission in the planning and design of road improvements.

3. Limit points of ingress/egress on major roads.

4. Segregate truck and automobile traffic as much as possible.

5. Develop and implement a plan for improvements of secondary roads through a public participation process.

6.7 Park and Recreation Goal and Objectives

Goal

To preserve the natural resources of Lake Township and provide for the recreation needs of all Township residents.

Objectives

1. Encourage public participation and utilize professional expertise to determine needed and desired recreation facilities.

2. Cooperate with the State of Michigan and adjoining communities in the development of recreation and community facilities.

3.   Acquire desirable sites to meet the future recreation needs of the Township residents.

4.   Encourage the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop more recreational facilities within the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Preserve area located in the Township.

6.8 Natural Environment Goal and Objectives

Goal

To preserve and enhance the natural and environmental resources of Lake Township for all current and future Township residents.

Objectives

1.   Implement land use patterns, which will direct new growth away from environmentally sensitive areas, such as shoreline, woodlands, wetlands, steep slopes, and areas subject to flooding.

2.   Implement development controls, which will maximize the protection of land-based natural resources while preserving the quality of air and water.

3.   Encourage the removal of conflicting, unattractive, or undesirable land uses from the Township.

6.9 Infrastructure Goal and Objectives

Goal

To improve and enhance the infrastructure of the Township for all present and future Township residents.

1.   Cooperate with the surrounding communities in meeting infrastructure needs of the Township.

2.   Encourage public participation and utilize professional expertise to develop a long-term infrastructure plan.

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