

# GOVERNANCE

## Chapter

# 2



*Image source (this page): Dover Kohl and Associates.*

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# GOVERNANCE

In today's world of increasingly complex challenges—from shifting economic power and social inequalities to aging societies and depleting resources—municipalities are under intensifying pressure. Now more than ever, they must rapidly adapt and deploy policies to meet these challenges.

But when confronting these challenges, communities struggle with implementing sustainable policies. As pressure rises to address issues quickly and cost effectively, communities sometimes shift debts and create unfair burdens for future generations.

*“The lack of equal opportunities in labor markets, education, and health care put the future viability of entire societies at risk. And many communities fail to prioritize the efficient use of natural resources for long-term sustainability. . . In order to ensure quality of life for present and future generations, stakeholders throughout society must pursue and demand more long-term thinking. And doing so requires more innovation in governance—in making policies work for us all, now and in the future.”*

([About the SGI. Sustainable Governance Indicators.](#))

Citizens and government officials must work together to find these approaches and ways of governing that support both short-term and long-term community goals.

Some communities are meeting these complex sets of challenges head on, testing new ideas while breathing new life into decades of tried and true governing techniques.

Principles of sound governance are not new but communities are beginning to employ them in unique ways: streamlining regulatory processes, increasing transparency, updating plans and zoning regulations, reimagining community engagement, exploring new opportunities for cost savings, and sharing techniques that work.

What does sustainable governance look like? Sustainable governance engages citizen participation. Its services function effectively and efficiently for all community members while cooperating to solve common problems. ([Sustainable Communities online. Governing Sustainably.](#))

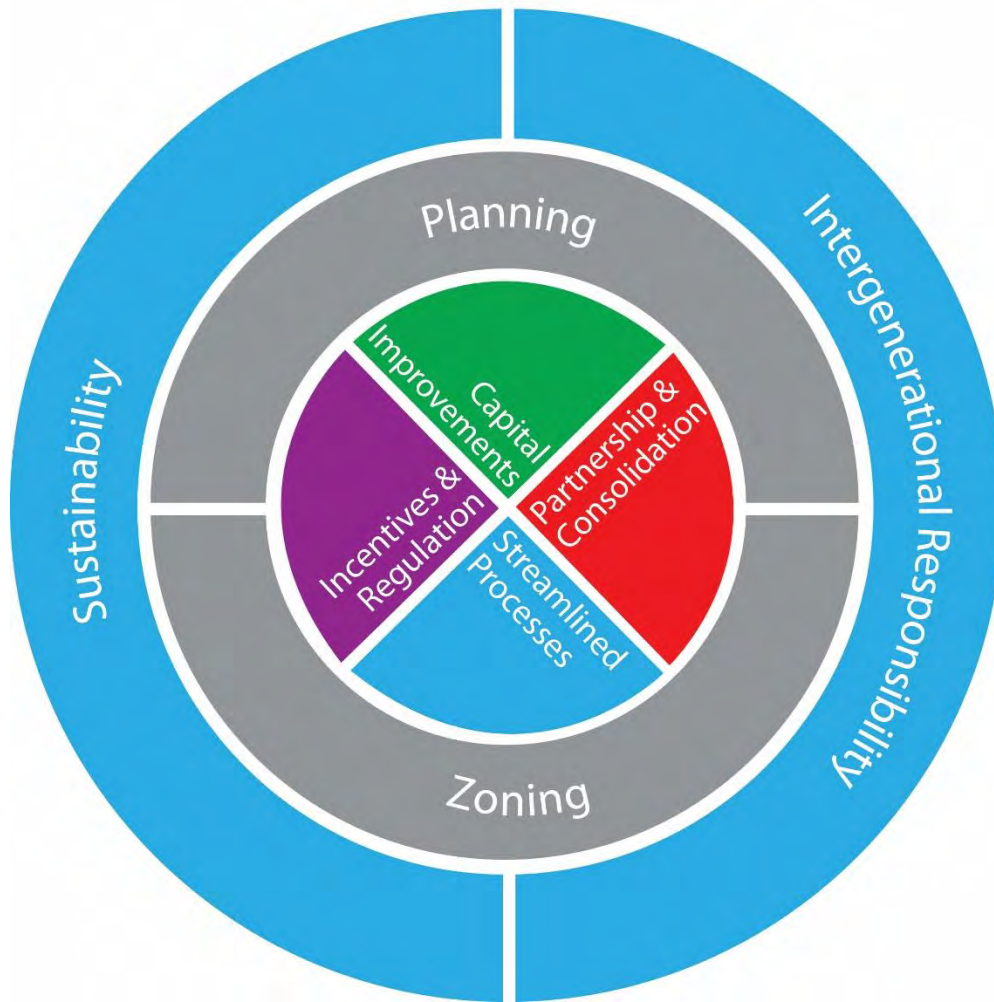
Indicators of sustainable governance in a community include policy, ordinances, and taxes that support sustainability; regional collaboration with feedback loops for improvement; waste and toxics management; transparency and accountable implementation; and urban boundary systems that manage growth and development.

As can be seen in the graphic on the opposite page, sustainability and intergenerational responsibility gird all activities associated with governing a community. In this graphic, concepts and overarching principles on the perimeter are universal to each activity within. Those activities become more focused as one moves toward the center of the circle.





# GOVERNANCE



Graphic source: Land Policy Institute, Michigan State University.

## GLOSSARY

**Center** – A center of activity or downtown along the transect. It is often the urban core zone on a transect.

**Corridor** – Major roadways that traverse the transect and connect downtowns and nodes.

**Intergenerational Responsibility** – Using sound, rational judgment to make decisions that account for impacts on future citizens. It is the duty of current generations to ensure that the quality and quantity of resources (natural, social, etc.), opportunities, and access that are currently enjoyed are available to future generations.

**Node** – If the urban core on a transect represents a center of activity or downtown, a node is another hub of activity that is a relatively short distance from the center or downtown, where two or more major streets or transit lines intersect. Along a transect, there is likely only one larger center, but many smaller nodes.

**Transect** – A progression through a sequence of natural and built environments of increasing density and complexity, from the rural hinterland to the urban core. Transportation, landscaping, buildings, setbacks, and all details of the human habitat vary across the transect.

Communities in Michigan have been legally authorized to prepare master plans since 1931. Through the Michigan Planning Enabling Act in 2008, the Legislature overhauled three outdated local planning acts and combined them into one, creating much needed uniformity. Communities that establish planning commissions are required to create and approve a master plan as a guide for development, and such plans must be reviewed and updated if needed every five years. Regional and local master plans, subarea plans, and infrastructure plans are key tools to implementing sustainability. Not only do such plans express the vision for a community, but they provide the foundation for zoning and other implementation tools that lay out the steps to achieve it. A typical table of contents of a master plan includes the following and also are represented in the graphic on the opposite page:

- Introduction,
- Regional setting or context,
- Existing conditions and trends,
- Goals and objectives,
- Infrastructure (transportation, sewer, water, etc.),
- Future land use plan,
- Zoning plan, and
- Implementation.

Master plans address a wide range of topics like land use, transportation, environment, economy, energy, civic engagement, and social justice, and they also may address many other locally important issues.

Implementation sections list action steps (who does what and by when) and include performance measures so staff and citizens know if progress is being made towards goals. Today's plans are often short, concise, highly visual, and include form elements to portray the community's desires. They also utilize broad citizen and stakeholder input techniques like charrettes to define the vision for the community.

## Why Should Planning Occur?

- The Michigan Planning Enabling Act *requires* local planning commissions to *develop a master plan*.
- Planning *permits communities to make choices and set goals* rather than just accept what happens.
- Planning contributes to orderly growth and development.
- Planning helps *prevent wasteful expenditure* of public and private funds. Planning enables local governments to anticipate service demands and to plan, locate, and build public service facilities accordingly. Costly mistakes are thus eliminated or at least reduced.
- Planning is a key way to *allocate scarce resources*. Without a public planning process, decisions that determine how land and other community resources are used are largely private decisions. Planning permits the community at large to have a say in how the community develops.
- Planning helps to *protect property values* largely through zoning by controlling the impact of one land use on a different use on adjacent or nearby land.
- Planning contributes to *economic development*. It provides information and data to those considering major investments in a community. It allows prospective investors to assess the ability of a community to meet its needs for public services as well as provide amenities the company's employees may require.
- Planning sets the stage of *building quality places* that can attract new workers, businesses, and add to the tax base.

Source: (Michigan Planning Guidebook: For Citizens and Local Officials. Mark Wyckoff. Planning & Zoning Center at MSU. May 2008.)

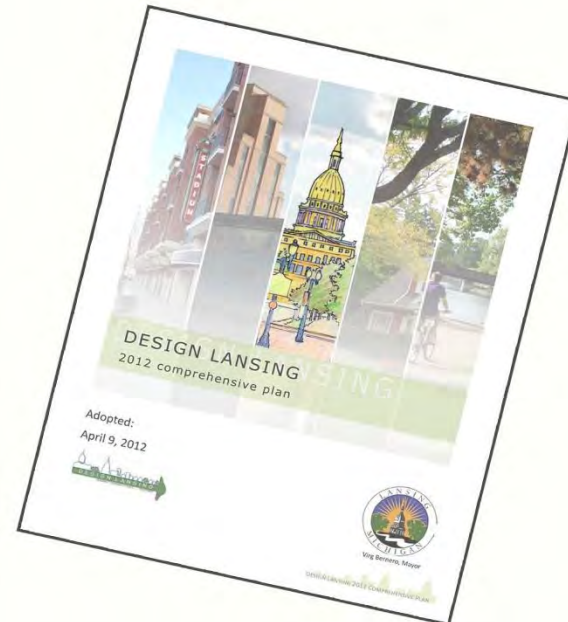
The techniques presented generally represent the differing geographies and settings where planning occurs.

[Image source \(top left\): Williamstown Township Master Plan, December 2013.](#)

[Image source \(top right\): Design Lansing 2012 Comprehensive Plan, City of Lansing.](#)

Goals

Economy

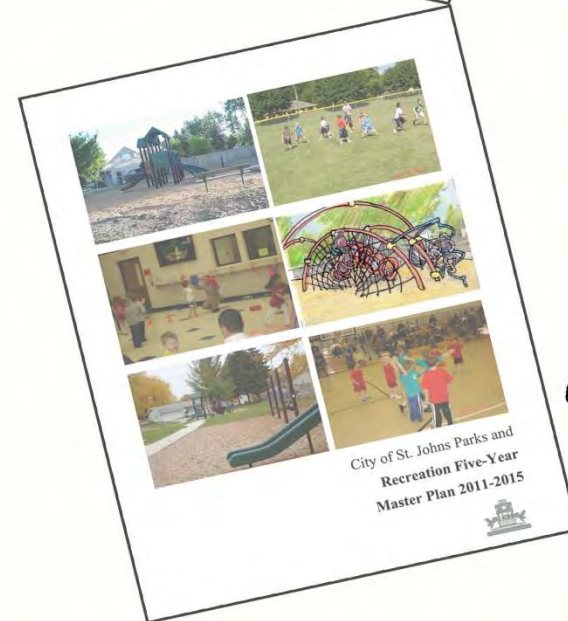
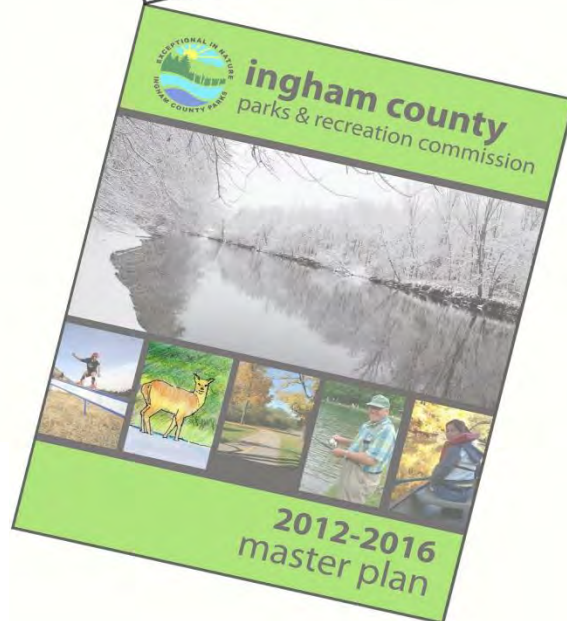


Natural Features

Infrastructure

Land Use

Vision



Housing

Parks & Other

Community Facilities

[Image source \(bottom left\): 2012-2016 Master Plan, Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission.](#)

[Image source \(bottom right\): Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan 2011-2015, City of St. Johns.](#)



# Urban Communities

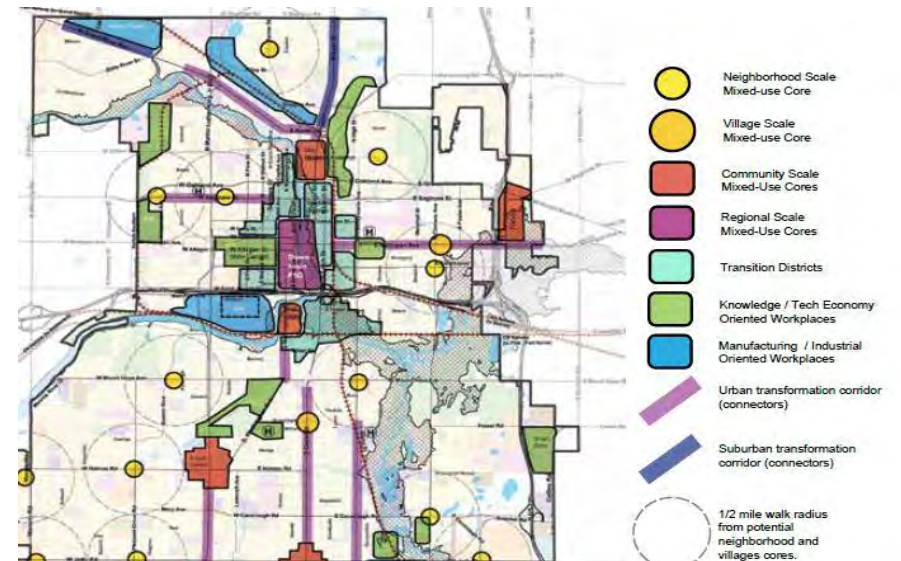
If Michigan's cities were lined up by population, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Ann Arbor would be among the old cities at the top. A few suburbs also make the list like Warren, Sterling Heights, and Clinton Township. Historic cities often have unique assets (jobs, culture, deep water port) that make them stand out as the center of commerce and culture in their region even when they have a small population. All of these urban communities must plan for and nurture those assets to anchor the region and help make it competitive.

Many of Michigan's largest urban areas have struggled to maintain population and businesses for a variety of reasons. But many too, have undertaken major planning efforts in recent years, signaling their readiness for a new phase of growth and renewal. Most recent plans that consider the community in its entirety use the transect to describe and plan for different areas of the community. There may be a center (downtown) and various nodes along a connecting corridor that receive special attention. These areas may have a vision for their desired look and feel, which is articulated through street design, building form, and appearance standards. These new plans usher in unprecedented civic engagement techniques, strategies, and efforts.

Because urban areas are geographically large, the master plans may be supplemented by Subarea, Neighborhood, or District Plans that break the community into more manageable pieces. This is important because retaining neighborhood quality and authenticity is of paramount concern. Subarea plans can identify an achievable vision and the tools for making it a reality.

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD ELEMENT

TRANSFORMATIVE IDEAS	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 A CITY OF MANY KEY ASSETS</li> <li>2 A CITY OF NEIGHBORHOOD CHOICES</li> <li>3 A CITY OF DIFFERENT STRATEGIES FOR DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOODS</li> <li>4 A CITY OF DIVERSE HOUSING TYPES FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS</li> <li>5 A CITY OF RESIDENTS WHO ENGAGE IN THEIR OWN FUTURES</li> </ol> <p><b>WE MUST PROMOTE A RANGE OF SUSTAINABLE RESIDENTIAL DENSITIES.</b></p>	<p><b>A ADDRESS QUALITY OF LIFE CHALLENGES THAT AFFECT ALL RETIREDERS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Strengthen public safety networks to reinforce neighborhood stability.</li> <li>2 Establish neighborhood-based (community-based) senior care neighborhood anchors.</li> <li>3 Develop strategies to address the divide between high-traffic corridors and low-density city centers.</li> <li>4 Support programs that promote diversity, social inclusion, and economic mobility.</li> </ol> <p><b>B CREATE DENSE, WALKABLE, MIXED-USE NEIGHBORHOODS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Stimulate incremental market demand (LIVC programs, equity financing, etc.)</li> <li>2 Establish dedicated public, private and philanthropic pay financing sources.</li> <li>3 Create financial and regulatory flexibility incentives.</li> <li>4 Develop walkable retail nodes.</li> <li>5 Guide development to reinforce transit/public space investment (TOD).</li> </ol> <p><b>C REGENERATE NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH FUSION OF ART AND INDUSTRY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Relax business start-up and use regulations to stimulate entrepreneurship.</li> <li>2 Develop comprehensive start-up incentives and support packages for small businesses.</li> <li>3 Support training and R&amp;D development programs to engage local industries (advanced manufacturing, urban agriculture, green tech).</li> <li>4 Create cultural development packages for industrial adaptive reuse including brownfield remediation costs.</li> <li>5 Develop a variety of on-location spaces for incubated, artistic and entrepreneurial start-ups.</li> <li>6 Incorporate local art into comprehensive public space master plans.</li> </ol> <p><b>D REPURPOSE VACANT LAND TO CREATE GREEN NEIGHBORHOODS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Understate massive demolition/infrastructure program.</li> <li>2 Create community-based open space master plans.</li> <li>3 Deploy a variety of low-cost, low-maintenance open space improvements.</li> <li>4 Acquire large areas of public land for green space.</li> <li>5 Prioritize rehabilitation of historic or significant structures.</li> <li>6 Integrate blue and green infrastructure as part of open space plans.</li> </ol>





The *Detroit Future City: 2012 Detroit Strategic Framework Plan*, Detroit's new master plan, is the result of a two-year long planning effort that included unprecedented public involvement efforts. Each major element (Economic Growth, Land Use, City Systems, Neighborhood, Land and Buildings Assets) contains transformative ideas and implementation strategies and actions.

Source: [Detroit Future City: 2012 Detroit Strategic Framework Plan. City of Detroit.](#)

Flint's new master plan provides illustrations of typology, images, and descriptions, leaving little room for uncertainty of the community's desires.

Source: [Imagine Flint Master Plan for a Sustainable Flint. 2013. City of Flint.](#)

*Design Lansing* is Lansing's new comprehensive plan. Adopted in 2012, four guiding principles lead the plan: sustainability, placemaking, livability, and stewardship. This map identifies broad types of community character and ½ mile walkable radii, and reflects desired change areas and future land use.

Source: [Design Lansing Master Plan. 2012. City of Lansing.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [2008 Michigan Planning Enabling Act. 2008. MSU Extension Government and Public Policy Team's Land Use Services. Schindler's Land Use Page.](#)
- 2) [Plan Grand Rapids. 2002. City of Grand Rapids.](#)
- 3) [Ann Arbor City Master Plan. June 18, 2013. City of Ann Arbor.](#)



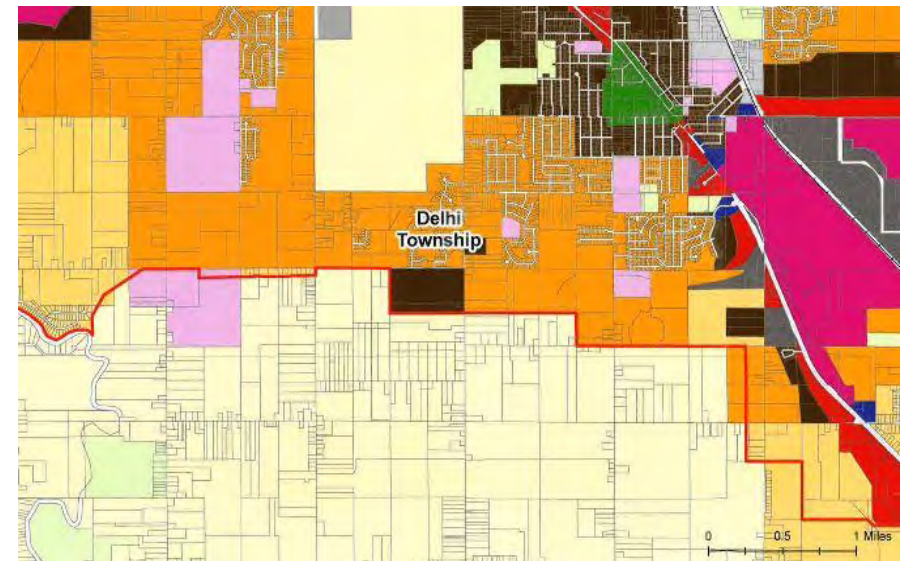
# Suburban Communities

Michigan’s mid-sized communities are categorized by a population between 35,000 to 100,000 persons and includes cities and many suburban townships.

While Michigan’s largest cities have struggled to retain their populations, mid-sized ones have had less of a struggle. Bedroom communities often lack a set of unique and identifying assets that urban cities possess and are subject to regional economic downturns.

Large suburban townships may desire more urban amenities like walkable downtowns. Stuck between worlds, many find themselves filling in parking lots and retrofitting existing development to accommodate some higher density along key transit corridors and at key nodes, while preserving the suburban or rural nature that drew many people to them originally.

Checklist to Implement Planning Commission Initiatives	Timeframe			Leadership		
	New	Near Future	Short Term	Approvals Required	Funding Source	Progress
	2014 & 2015	Completed by end of 2017	Completed by end of 2020			Initial Below Started Completed
Housekeeping amendments to the zoning ordinance that may come up from time to time.			X	PC, CC	Staff Time	
Develop storm water management regulations that comply with NPDES Phase II requirements (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) and encourage the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs are the use of structural, vegetative, or managerial practices designed to treat, prevent, or reduce degradation of water quality due to storm water runoff). Phase II of the NPDES program, administered by the MDEQ, requires all municipalities, industrial dischargers, construction sites of one acre or more, and other large property owners, have NPDES permits for their storm water discharges.			X	CC	Staff Time; General Fund	
Update the Plan for the Mission Street/Pickard Avenue Corridor that would give clear guidelines for streetscape and pedestrian improvements.		X		PC, CC	General Fund	
Develop a Downtown Plan that would take into account Downtown issues including parking management (include relevant aspects of the Residential Neighborhood Parking Study), streetscape improvements, and pedestrian amenities.			X	PC	General Fund	





Adopted in 2014, Mt. Pleasant's Master Plan includes a section on implementation which identifies key initiatives, who is responsible by when, progress, and how they will be paid for. Performance measures like these help the community understand how to move from a plan to implementation.

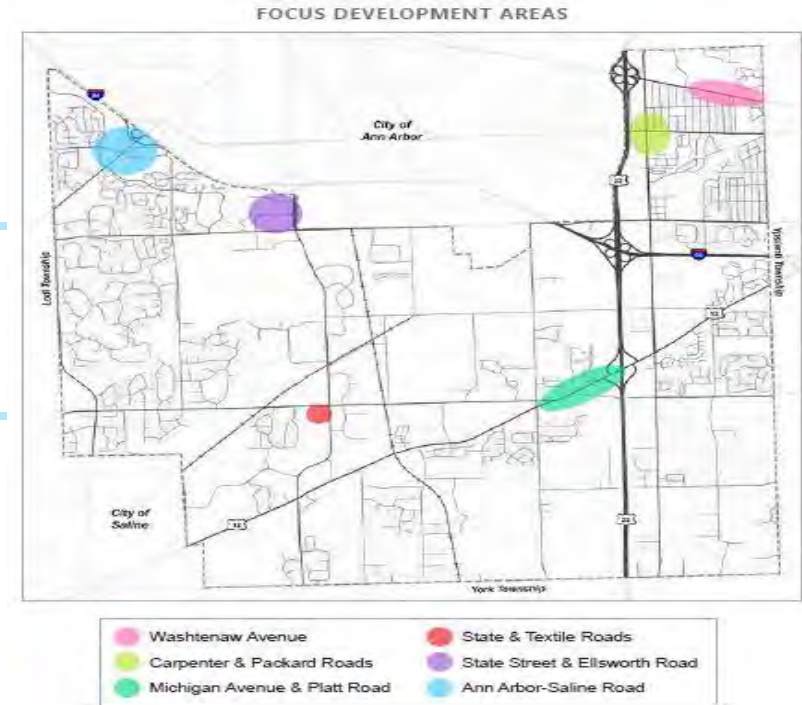
Source: [City of Mt. Pleasant Master Plan DRAFT. February 2014. City of Mt. Pleasant.](#)

Pittsfield Township identified mixed-use nodes along key corridors for focused development.

Source: [2010 Pittsfield Master Plan. Pittsfield Township.](#)

To preserve agricultural land and encourage growth and development of existing urban areas with public infrastructure already in place, Delhi Township implemented a public infrastructure boundary (a.k.a. urban service boundary in red) in the southern portion of the community.

Source: [Delhi Charter Township Comprehensive Development Plan. 2013. Delhi Charter Township.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [The Bigger Picture East Lansing: Comprehensive Planning for the Future. 2014. City of East Lansing.](#)
- 2) [City of Pontiac Master Plan. December 3, 2008. City of Pontiac.](#)
- 3) [Master Plan & Zoning Ordinance Library. Planning & Zoning Center at MSU.](#)
- 4) [Michigan Townships Association.](#)

# Small Town and Rural Communities

Michigan's small towns are typically communities with less than 15,000 in population. They are a diverse set of communities ranging from relatively rural communities to ones within larger metro areas. Examples include Williamston, Webberville, Traverse City and Luna Pier.

Recent research by Christopher Leinberger on shifting housing market trends towards walkable urban places reveals that a region needs a blend of walkable urban environments that are all connected, preferably via mass transit. Small towns and rural communities not only provide unique living opportunities for their residents but also for those visiting. Small towns and rural communities are an important component of a successful region, ensuring that a variety of experiences from urban to rural are offered within a region. Small towns at the centers of rural townships are often rural hubs of social and economic activity, but can also function as a standalone center of commerce.







This image along Grand River Avenue looking west toward Webberville's downtown shows current conditions. Webberville's master plan contains a section on a Grand Vision that includes both a land use master plan and conceptual illustrations.

Source: [GoogleMaps](#). 2014.

Traverse City's new master plan targets five corridors for revitalization.

Source: [City of Traverse City. Corridors Master Plan. 2013.](#)

This concept along Grand River Avenue looking west toward Webberville's downtown shows a bold vision of a gateway into the community as well as a more defined downtown. Webberville is one center along the Grand River Avenue corridor in the Tri-County Region.

Source: [Land Use and Recreation Master Plan. 2013. Village of Webberville.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [Luna Pier Master Plan. 2009. City of Luna Pier.](#)
- 2) [The Small Town and Rural Planning Division of the American Planning Association.](#)
- 3) [Michigan Rural Council. CEDAM.](#)

# County

County planning is highly varied and dependent on the availability of planning staff in Michigan. Depending on whether staff and/or a county planning commission exist, none to four roles are exercised: 1) provide education, 2) supply technical assistance, 3) coordinate planning efforts between jurisdictions, and 4) prepare a general, framework plan. [Emmet County](#), a higher capacity county, enumerates some of its significant roles on its website:

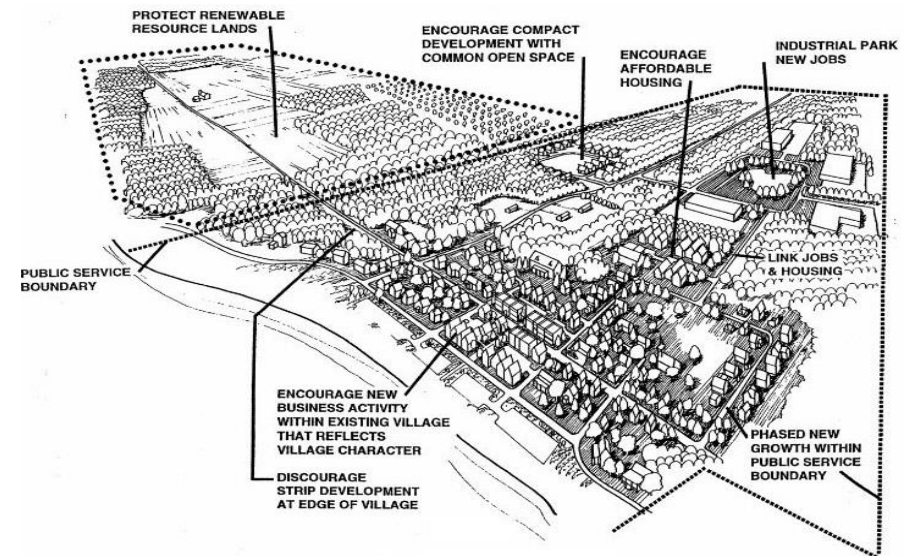
- Provide a regional scope to planning work, promoting coordination.
- Prepare/maintain a County Land Use Plan and Recreation Plan.
- Fill planning voids between State/Multi-County Planning Agencies and individual municipalities.
- Deal with services and facilities that cross municipal lines (i.e., highways, solid waste, trailways, parks, drains/sewers).
- Provide planning advisory services and resources that smaller communities may not have, and be an information center for development and conservation projects (i.e., zoning, land divisions, model ordinance language).
- Promote uniform development standards among several adjacent municipalities.
- Assist local units in satisfying grant agency requirements for plans and plan documentation.
- Carry out educational and promotional services in the County and among local units.
- Administer zoning regulations for unincorporated areas that may not have ordinances of their own.
- Set area-wide land use goals, encouraging local units and adjacent counties to coordinate good land use practices, and otherwise take a leadership role where such is deemed necessary or desirable to prepare for growing future needs.

## Community Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan Links

The links below connect to each community's zoning ordinance, zoning map, and master plan if they are available online. Each link leaves the Oakland County web site and will be opened in a new window.

Statewide Master Plan and Zoning Library - Michigan State University Planning and Zoning Center's library

Community	Zoning Ordinance	Zoning Map	Master Plan
Addison Township	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>		
Auburn Hills	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>	<a href="#">Zoning Map</a>	<a href="#">Master Plan</a>
Berkley	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>		<a href="#">Master Plan</a>
Beverly Hills	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>		<a href="#">Master Plan</a>
Bingham Farms	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>		
Birmingham	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>		<a href="#">Master Plan</a>
Bloomfield Hills	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>		<a href="#">Master Plan</a>
Bloomfield Township	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>	<a href="#">Zoning Map</a>	<a href="#">Master Plan</a>
Brandon Township	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>		
Clarkston	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>	<a href="#">Zoning Map</a>	<a href="#">Master Plan</a>
Clawson	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>	<a href="#">Zoning Map</a>	<a href="#">Master Plan</a>
Commerce Township	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>	<a href="#">Zoning Map</a>	
Farmington	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>	<a href="#">Zoning Map</a>	<a href="#">Master Plan</a>
Farmington Hills	<a href="#">Zoning Ordinance</a>	<a href="#">Zoning Map</a>	<a href="#">Master Plan</a>





Oakland County provides a clearinghouse of links to master plans and zoning ordinances to communities within its borders. The county also completes an annual land use inventory and keeps a county-wide composite master plan.

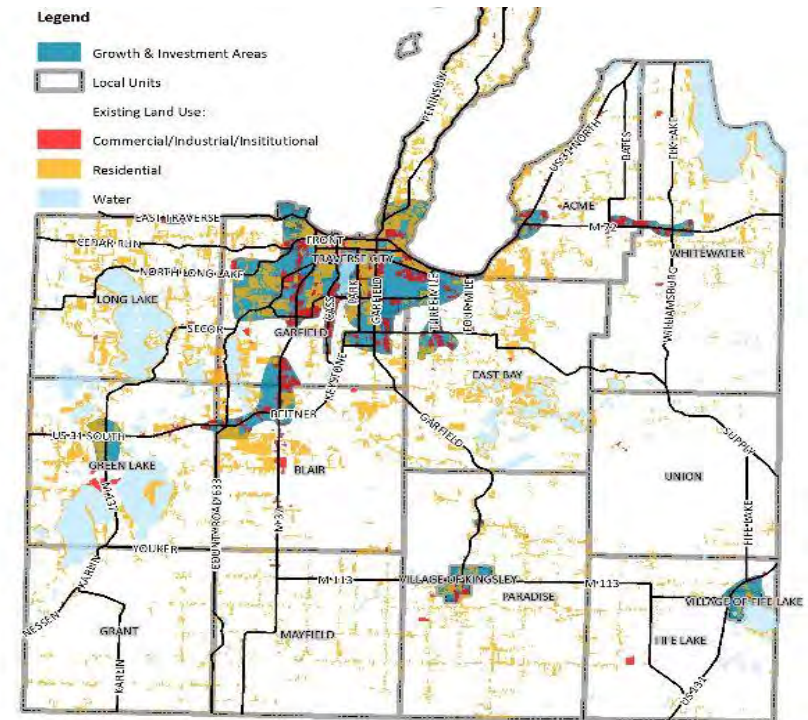
Source: [Community Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan Links. Advantage Oakland.](#)

Nearly 9,000 citizens across six counties asked that growth occur in existing developed areas of Grand Traverse County.

Source: [Grand Traverse County. A Master Plan for Grand Traverse County. 2013.](#)

A balanced growth ethic was a central part of the Leelanau County General Plan. This graphic illustrates the many concepts that were accepted as part of that principle.

Source: [General Plan. 2005. Leelanau County.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [Michigan Association of Counties.](#)
- 2) [County Planning Division. American Planning Association.](#)
- 3) [National Association of County Planners.](#)



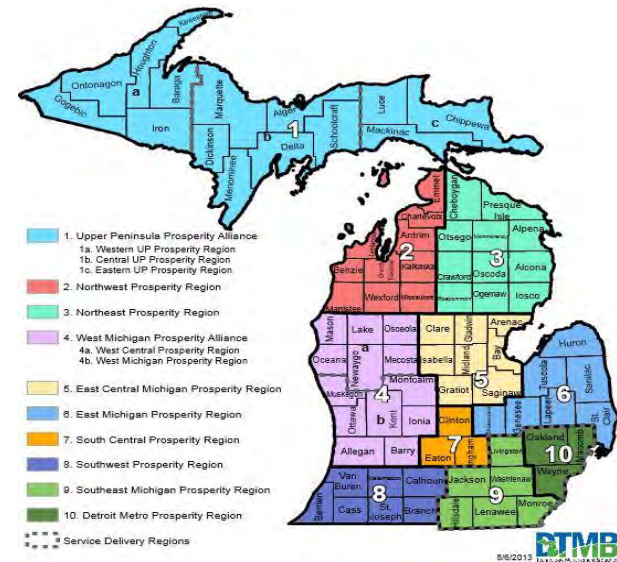
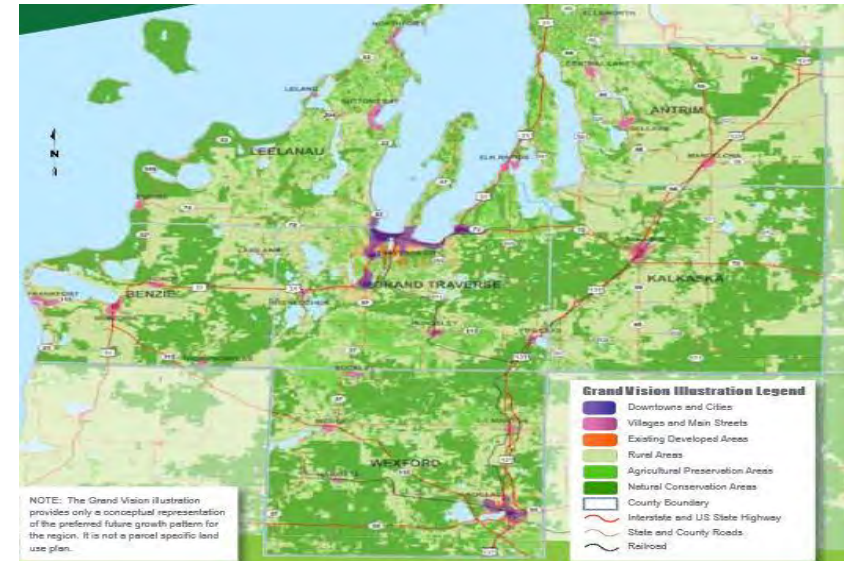
# Regional Plans

In today's economy that is based more on knowledge commodities, regions and states are competing globally for customers and resources. The region has become the principal geography for international trade, making it critical that regions have up-to-date economic and infrastructure plans that are based on regional assets and informed by local visions.

There are a variety of entities that provide a range of regional planning services. These include voluntary sub-state units of government known as state-designated planning and development regions (SPDRs) which are also known as regional planning commissions, regional planning and development commissions, or councils of government (COGs). Sometimes SPDRs are also Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) that conduct transportation planning in metropolitan areas. Michigan county planning commissions, if so designated by the county board of commissioners, can also *“perform metropolitan and regional planning wherever necessary or desirable”* (Michigan Planning Enabling Act.).

The SPDRs provide technical assistance and planning services. They coordinate local plans, fill gaps, identify issues and opportunities that may not be apparent at the local level, and help resolve overlapping issues. Many times, regional plans are a prerequisite to receiving federal and/or state financial assistance to implement local plans and projects so regional planning entities partner with local jurisdictions to apply for, receive, and accept grants. They also prepare regional transportation, watershed protection, solid waste, affordable housing, and economic development plans, all tying back to their governmental constituents' local plans. ([Michigan Association of Planning. Proposed Michigan Regional Councils Act. June 17, 2011.](#))

To help improve regional economic development planning and include other major players like workforce development boards, along with other regional economic development entities like universities, the Snyder administration has initiated a major regional prosperity initiative. A new geography for delivery of economic development services has been established and state agencies are now providing services based on the new geography.





The Grand Vision, a community vision for the future of transportation, land use, economic development, and environmental stewardship in the northwest Michigan region serves as guidance for Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, and Wexford Counties.

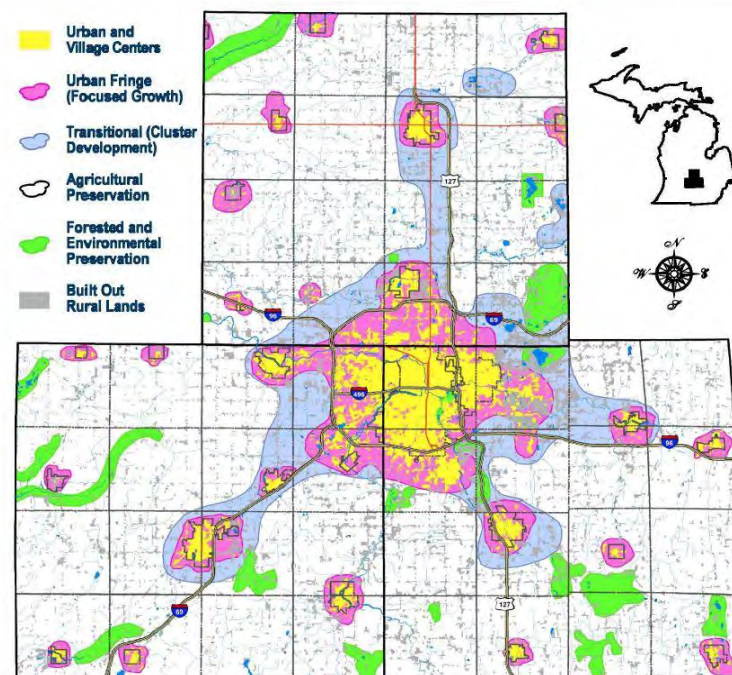
Source: [The Grand Vision. 2009.](#)

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and communities in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties continue to refer to, utilize, implement, and update the region's plan from 2005 which focused on wise growth.

Source: [Regional Growth: Choices for Our Future. 2005. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.](#)

Governor Snyder realigned service delivery boundaries for regions in 2013, reducing them from 14 to 10. For more information on Regional Economic Development Plans see p. 5-5.

Source: [State of Michigan Prosperity Regions Map. August 6, 2013. Michigan Department of Management and Budget.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [Michigan Association of Regions.](#)
- 2) [Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.](#)
- 3) [Regional Prosperity Initiative. MDTMB.](#)



# Sustainability Plans and Staff

Michigan communities recognize the importance of planning and developing for the future in a way that ensures there will be healthy and vibrant places to live, work, play, and learn in the future. There are three pillars that most sustainability plans rest on: a healthy environment, a high quality of life for citizens, and economic vitality. ([Audubon International Sustainable Communities Program](#)). Communities are facing the sustainability challenge in a variety of ways: by developing and adopting sustainability plans, creating a sustainability department with staff, supporting and promoting sustainability programs, or including principles of sustainability into their master plans and zoning ordinances.

Coordination within departments of local units of government is important to the success of sustainability initiatives. At a county or regional level, planning entities are supporting local jurisdictions by providing technical assistance, programs, and projects. In mid-Michigan, the [Tri-County Regional Planning Commission \(TCRPC\)](#) prepared the [Regional Growth: Choices for our Future](#) (1997 and ongoing) plan which helps guide sustainable development in the region. It received signature approval by a majority of communities that have local planning and zoning authority. TCRPC also developed [Greening Mid-Michigan](#), a regional vision for green infrastructure, and the [Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability](#) to support sustainability efforts in the region.

A companion tool to this Portfolio was created by MSU's School of Planning Design and Construction. The [Sustainability Audit Tool](#) provides communities with a baseline score and can be used to measure progress in achieving sustainable and green development. Accompanying local official training is also available online. The trainings convey best practices for implementing local sustainable communities and green development tools and techniques to help meet regional goals.

## “Green” Requirements

- No more than 33 percent of any single plant species.
- Invasive species are not allowed.
- 70 percent native species.
- Minimum green space requirement.
- Green roofs
- Porous pavement
- 100% stormwater mitigation



## Goal Overview

Goal	Responsible Staff	Supporting Unit(s)	Target Source(s)
Sustainable Energy	Systems Planning	Ann Arbor Housing Commission	Energy Challenge Resolution (R-11-142), Climate Action Plan, Housing Commission, City Council Resolution (R-15-288), new
	Energy Conservation	Information Technology	Climate Action Plan, Budget Goals, new
	Sustainable Buildings	Planning and Development	Solar Roofs Resolution (R-142-7-04), Downtown Zoning Incentives, Climate Action Plan, Washtenaw County Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant, new
Engaged Community	City Administrators Office – City Clerk, Communications	Systems Planning, Planning and Development, Information Technology, Parks, Project Management	Budget Goals, new
	Housing Commission	Community and Economic Development	Housing Commission, Budget Goals
	Human Services	Housing Commission, Community and Economic Development	Housing Commission, Budget Goals
	Safe Community	Police	Budget Goals, Flood Mitigation Plan, Housing Commission, new
Active Living & Learning Economic Vitality	Parks and Recreation	Community and Economic Development	Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan, Budget Goals
	Transportation Options	Planning and Development	Redevelopment Ready Community Best Practices Report, new
Sustainable Systems	Systems Planning	Project Management	Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Non-Motorized Transportation Planning and Policy Updates, Climate Action Plan, Connector Feasibility Study, Budget Goals, new
	Integrated Land Use	Planning and Development	Draft Urban and Community Forest Management Plan, Budget Goals, new
Clean Air & Water	Systems Planning	Water Treatment, Field Operations	City Master Plan, new
	Healthy Ecosystems	Field Operations	Budget Goals, Capital Improvement Plan, Transportation Plan, Climate Action Plan, new
Responsible Resource Use	Systems Planning	Field Operations	Draft Urban and Community Forest Management Plan, Budget Goals, Stormwater Management Program, Huron River Impoundment Management Plan, new
	Local Food	Parks and Recreation	Solid Waste Resource Plan, Budget Goals
		Farmers Market, Greenbelt	Farmers Market, Greenbelt District Strategic Plan, Budget Goals





Using the LEED-ND checklist as a starting point, Grand Rapids updated its zoning ordinance to address sustainability by emphasizing neighborhood design and connectivity. The ordinance takes a unique approach to parking, renewable energy, landscaping, and natural buffers.

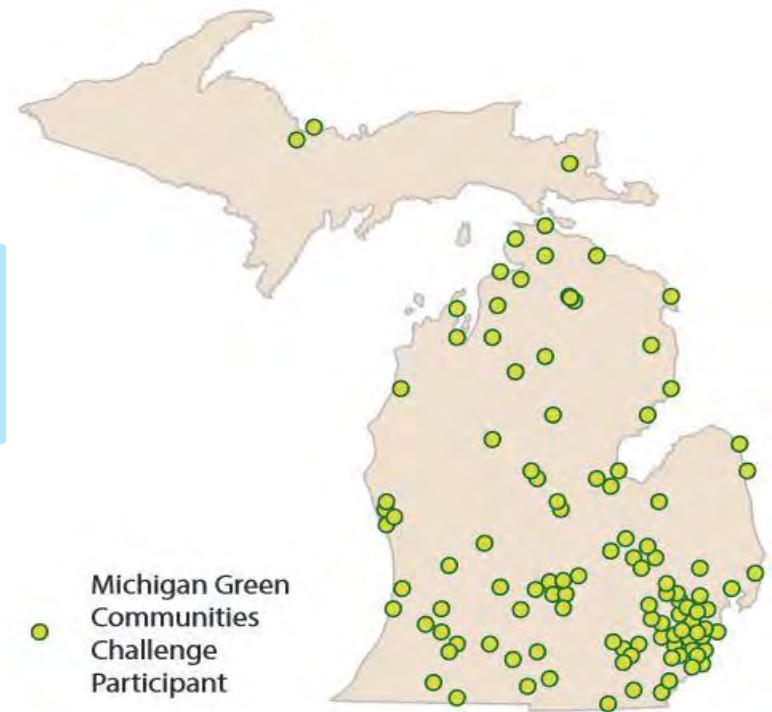
Source: [“Sustainability in the Master Plan and Zoning Code.” ICLEI Webinar by Suzanne Schulz. City of Grand Rapids.](#)

In 2012, over 90 local governments pushed themselves to be more sustainable by taking the Green Communities Challenge.

Source: [Michigan Green Communities Challenge. 2012 Annual Report.](#)

Ann Arbor scoured over 20 city plans to produce an overarching sustainability framework that integrates all city planning. It also produced a sustainability action plan that connects goals with quantifiable targets.

Source: [SustainA2ble: Cultivating Our People, Place and Potential. Draft April 2014. City of Ann Arbor Sustainability Action Plan.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability. Tri-County Planning Commission.](#)
- 2) [Sustainability. Advantage Oakland.](#)
- 3) [Michigan Green Communities. Michigan Municipal League.](#)
- 4) [The Sustainable Communities Program. Audubon International.](#)
- 5) [LEED ND Checklist. U.S. Green Building Council.](#)

*“Zoning was created in the early 20th century as a response to problems associated with overcrowding in central cities and the intrusion of heavy industry into retail and residential areas. Developed in the later years of the industrial revolution, zoning sought to address these problems through separating incompatible uses and limiting residential density. However, the evolution of zoning in concert with rapid suburbanization has had the effect of dispersing suburban development over large areas of land and creating a host of problems such as loss of farmland, increased environmental impacts, greater auto-dependency, inefficient provision of public services, and loss of community character within the suburbs. While there is a resurgence of interest in older, more traditional urban communities, existing zoning regulations make redevelopment of urban communities more difficult by applying suburban zoning standards. Larger setbacks and excessive parking requirements make many cherished urban buildings and spaces nonconforming.*

*The conventional form of zoning currently used throughout Michigan and the United States is what is commonly referred to as Euclidean zoning. This name is derived from the 1926 United States Supreme Court decision in *Euclid v. Ambler Realty Co.* (272 U.S. 365) to uphold the constitutional validity of zoning. Euclidean zoning has been in place in Michigan since 1921 with the *City and Village Zoning Act, Public Act 207 of 1921*. Enabling legislation for townships and counties soon followed in 1943.”*

The 2008 Michigan Zoning Enabling Act overhauled the three outdated zoning acts and combined them into one, creating much needed uniformity.

*“Michigan communities have experienced many changes over the past 80 years. With this, a new set of challenges in how to regulate development resurfaces. Instead of concerns with overcrowding in cities, the focus is now on the negative impacts that uncontrolled sprawl has on the landscape of Michigan. And while the need to separate housing from heavy industry is still a valid concern, planners are now concerned with use-segregated suburbs, where it is not possible to walk to the corner store or for children to walk to school.*

*The New Urbanism movement (1980 to present) has attracted a great deal of interest in re-creating walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods. As an outgrowth of this movement, form-based codes are the latest technique to re-examine the underlying zoning principle of separating uses and instead provide new means to develop vibrant mix-use communities. This is accomplished by placing a strong focus on the creation of proper urban form, wherein a mixture of uses can flourish.*

*In response to the limitation of Euclidean zoning, a number of zoning techniques have been created with varied levels of success. These include mixed-use planned unit developments, cluster development, performance zoning, and design standards.” (Michigan Association of Planning. *Smart Growth Tactics. Issue 28: Form-based Code.*)*

The image on the opposite page is an example of an element in a form-based code with concepts related to form throughout the image. Many of the images presented address how communities can use zoning to achieve these goals.

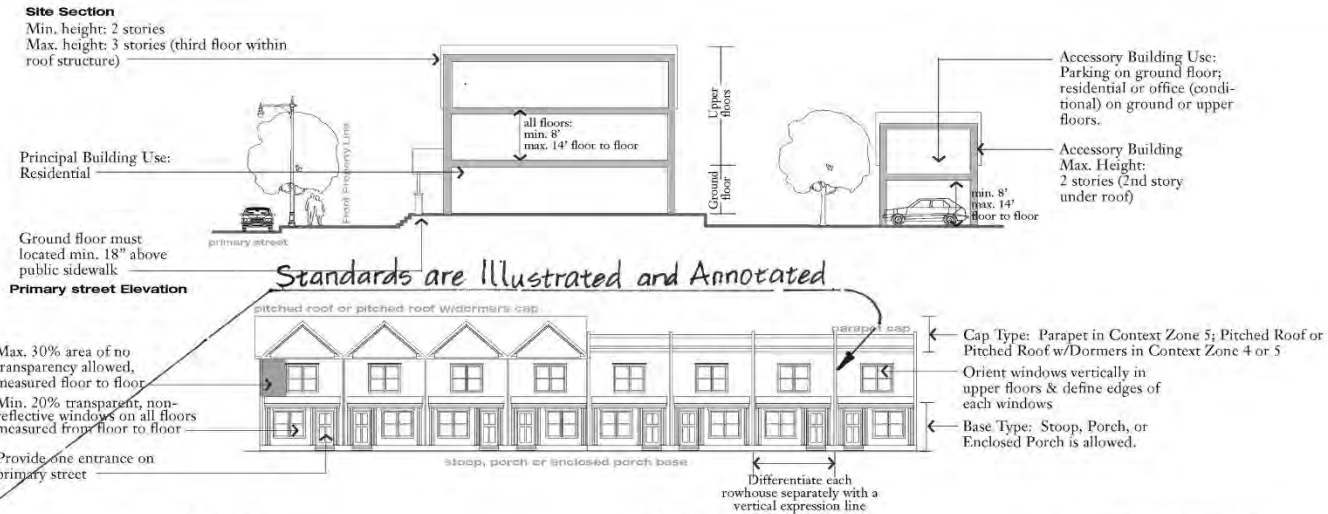
*Image source (opposite page): Parr Associates. Overlay illustration by Na Li, Land Policy Institute, Michigan State University.*

# More Focus on Design and Form

## Form-Based Code Template Building Type Standards: Rowhouse Site

Other Elements of a FBC

- Regulating Plan
- Administration
- Definitions



Standards are Illustrated and Annotated

### 3.0 HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS

#### 3.1 Building Height

- 3.1.1 Building height is measured in stories.
- 3.1.2 Buildings shall be a minimum of two stories and a maximum of three stories in height. The third story must be located fully within the roof structure.

#### 3.2 Floor Heights

- 3.2.1 Allowable floor height is a minimum of 8', maximum of 14', as measured from floor to floor.
- 3.2.2 Ground floor must be located a minimum of 18" above sidewalk.

#### 3.3 Accessory Building Height

- 3.3.1 Accessory building shall be a maximum of 2 stories in height. Second story must be located within the roof structure.

#### 3.4 Cap Type Height

- 3.4.1 Parapets must be a minimum of 2' in height.
- 3.4.2 Pitched Roofs may not be less than 6:12 (rise:run); an approximately 12:12 pitch is preferred.

### 4.0 USES

#### 4.1 Uses

- 4.1.1 In the principal building, residential uses allowed on all floors.
- 4.1.2 In the accessory building, parking, office and residential allowed on the ground floor and office and residential allowed on the upper floors.
- 4.1.3 Office uses subject to conditions.

Standards for

- Public Spaces
- Building Form
- Architecture

### 5.0 FACADE REQUIREMENTS

#### 5.1 Transparency

- 5.1.1 A minimum of 20% of the front and side facade shall have transparent, non-reflective windows.
- 5.1.2 A maximum area of 30% of the front or side facade may have no transparency.

#### 5.2 Building Entrance

- 5.2.1 The building's main entrance must be located on the primary street.

### 6.0 FACADE ELEMENTS

#### 6.1 Allowable Base Types

- 6.1.1 Stoop, porch, or enclosed porch are permitted base types.

#### 6.2 Allowable Cap Types

- 6.2.1 In Context Zone 5, a Pitched Roof, Pitched Roof with Dormers or a Parapet are allowable cap types.
- 6.2.2 In Context Zone 4, a Pitched Roof or Pitched Roof with Dormers are allowable cap types.

#### 6.3 Facade Proportions

- 6.3.1 Differentiate each rowhouse separately with a vertical expression line.
- 6.3.2 Orient windows vertically and define the edges of windows.



# Urban Areas

Urban areas across the country are experiencing extraordinary revival and renewal. Michigan is no exception. Driven in part by populations that are seeking out walkable urban places, there is renewed interest in urban centers.

Simultaneously, many of Michigan’s urban communities have undertaken major planning efforts in recent years, signaling their readiness for a new phase of growth and renewal.

But many communities struggle under traditional zoning ordinances that do not allow the types of amenities that urban populations are seeking (higher density, mass transit, walkable environments, etc.). This convergence of factors is encouraging communities to update their implementation devices (i.e. zoning ordinances and complementary design guidelines and standards) to reflect new goals and visions for their communities.

Several tools are being deployed in this area including Transit-Oriented Development (see p. 1-115), Form-Based Codes (see p. 2-31), Residential above Commercial in Downtowns (see p. 2-25) and Suburban Form along Key Connecting Corridors (see p. 1-71).



Table 3.2—Comparison of Context Zones

Zoning	Business Corridor (Existing)	Urban Mixed-Use Corridor (Proposed Zoning)	Activity Corridor (Proposed Street Typology)	General Urban (Form Based Code Model)
<b>Block &amp; Lot Width</b>	Medium Block sizes; Lot sizes vary from small to large	TBD by City of Lansing	N/A	Walkable blocks, predominately in a grid
<b>Street Characteristics</b>	Multiple driveway curb cuts, medium to large parking lots, little/no parking screening	Shared driveways and cross-access easements along the rear property line	3-5 lanes or 2-4 lane boulevard. Center turn lanes, center lane median, crosswalk bump-outs, on-street parking	All right-of-way have curb, sidewalk, and on-street parking.
<b>Building Height</b>	1 story	2-4 stories	N/A	1-3 stories
<b>Building Siting</b>	Variable	Front setbacks 0-15ft	Buildings built close to the right of way edge and oriented toward the street.	Little to no setbacks for commercial. Some setback for residential
<b>Building Coverage</b>	N/A	80% Maximum coverage	N/A	40-95% for commercial & 30-75% for residential
<b>Coverage of Front Property Line</b>	Variable	TBD by City of Lansing	May include parallel, angle or reverse-angle on-street parking spaces. Off-street parking should be provided in the rear.	50-100% for commercial
<b>Use</b>	Commercial/Office	Retail, personal services, office, live-work, and selected light industrial with special approval	Provide access to entertainment, businesses, and employment for motorists, transit users, and pedestrians	Commercial & Residential - single & multiple-family



East Lansing adopted a form-based code in 2006 for the East Village District which is bounded by Bogue Street, Grand River Avenue, Hagadorn Road, and the Red Cedar River. *“Building envelope requirements assure that the streetwalls in the District create a pedestrian-oriented, human-scale environment while at the same time allowing flexibility in architectural design.”*




Source: *East Village District Zoning Ordinance (Division 6). City of East Lansing.*

Adopted in 2011, Ann Arbor’s *Downtown Ann Arbor Design Guidelines* provide guidance for context and site planning, buildings, building elements, and character districts.

Source: *Downtown Ann Arbor Design Guidelines. 2011. City of Ann Arbor.*

A 2014 MSU Urban and Planning student Practicum project explored the feasibility of a form-based code in a portion of Lansing. This table compares elements of various implementation strategies.

Source: *Visioning the South Cedar Corridor. P. 48. Spring 2014. Calabria, Cox, Falconer, Fang, Morgan, Schultz. Michigan State University. Urban & Regional Planning Program.*

	Applies To	Addresses
<b>Zoning</b> 	All properties and projects in downtown Ann Arbor must comply with zoning standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use</li> <li>• Height</li> <li>• Floor Area</li> <li>• Setbacks</li> <li>• Basic Massing</li> <li>• Required Parking</li> </ul>
<b>Historic District Design Guidelines</b> 	Properties and projects in downtown Ann Arbor that are within a designated historic district must comply with the Historic District Design Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Design</li> <li>• Building Articulation</li> <li>• Street Level Design</li> <li>• Parking Design</li> <li>• Windows</li> <li>• Maintenance of Historic Materials</li> <li>• Replacement of Historic Building Elements</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of Historic Structures</li> </ul>
<b>Downtown Design Guidelines</b> 	Properties and projects in downtown Ann Arbor that are not within a designated historic district are encouraged to comply with the Downtown Ann Arbor Design Guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Design</li> <li>• Building Articulation</li> <li>• Street Level Design</li> <li>• Parking Design</li> <li>• Windows</li> <li>• Materials</li> </ul>

## RESOURCES

- 1) [Essential Smart Growth Fixes for Urban and Suburban Zoning Codes. Kevin Nelson. November 2009. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA 231-K-09-003.](#)
- 2) [Urban Areas: Policy, Planning, and Zoning Recommendations. Capitol Region Council of Governments.](#)
- 3) [Sprawl Repair Manual. 2010. Galina Tachieva.](#)



# Suburban Areas

Much like their urban counterparts, suburban areas are also experiencing pressure to embrace walkable urbanism. Historically dominated by auto-oriented development, many suburban communities are looking for tools to enable more walkable and human-scaled redevelopment in areas of their communities that can support such development.

Unfortunately, suburban communities are finding that traditional zoning ordinances require significant overhauling to allow for greater densities, different building forms, reduced parking ratios, and other policies and design standards that allow for more walkable and urban-oriented infill and redevelopment. Fortunately, many examples exist and several tools are being deployed including Transit-Oriented Development (see p. 1-115), Form-Based Codes (see p. 2-31), and Residential Above Commercial in Downtowns (see p. 2-25).

*“Since 1950, metropolitan areas in the United States have been divided into the two broad U.S. Census categories of “central city” and “outlying counties,” many times referred to in the popular press as “urban” and “suburban.” New development patterns suggest this old dichotomy is less meaningful today. Now, the only reason to use the old dichotomy is to show how far we have moved beyond it.*

*A far more useful understanding of metropolitan America is “walkable urban” and “drivable sub-urban” development. Because both types of development can occur in a metro’s central city and in its suburbs, the old dichotomy is now obsolete.*

*Walkable urban development is characterized by much higher density and a mix of diverse real estate types, connected to surrounding areas via multiple transportation options, such as bus and rail, bike routes, and moto vehicles. For those living or visiting a walkable urban place, everyday destinations such as home, work, school, stores, and restaurants, are within walking distance.*

*Walkable urbanism is already a powerful driver of the economy, as shown by substantial downtown and suburban town center redevelopment, the redevelopment of regional malls into mixed-use developments, brown and green field walkable urban development and the rise of the New Urbanism movement.” ([Foot Traffic Ahead: Ranking Walkable Urbanism in America’s Largest Metros. 2014. Christopher B. Leinberger & Patrick Lynch.](#))*







The City of Novi was developed as a traditional suburb lacking a true downtown, but due in part to its easy highway access became a regional attraction for employment, entertainment, and shopping. In 1998, the City began investigating ways to address this deficiency and focused on the Main Street district, a nontraditional design concept.

Source: [Main Street Novi. McKenna Associates.](#)

Many communities are moving their ordinances to user-friendly formats that cross reference and are interactive such as this one from clearzoning®.

Source: [Watertown Township Zoning Ordinance. Ordinance 40. 2014.](#)

To accomplish Novi's vision for the Main Street project, it's zoning ordinances needed to allow the design of a unique traditional neighborhood community. The City's existing Town Center (TC) zoning ordinance was refined to "promote the development of a pedestrian accessible, commercial service district in which a variety of retail, commercial, office, civic, and residential uses. . ." (["Planning and Design of a Suburban Neotraditional Neighborhood."](#) Brian Wolshon and James Wahl. TRB Circular E-C019: Urban Street Symposium.)

**Article Tabs** link to the first page of each Article. Red tab indicates the Article in which the current page is located.

**User Notes** provide helpful information for digital and hard copy formats. User Notes are always highlighted in blue.

**Sections and Subsections** contain the Ordinance regulations in a hierarchical manner.

**Blue bold font** links to standards in other sections of the Ordinance.

**Graphics, figures, and tables** illustrate concepts or clarify regulations.

**1** Article Tabs  
**2** User Notes  
**3** Sections and Subsections  
**4** Blue Bold Font  
**5** Graphics, Figures, and Tables  
**6** Table of Contents  
**7** Map Link

**3-4** Link to How to Use This Ordinance.  
**3-5** Link to Zoning Map.

**Notes** provide relevant district information recommended for review.

**Link to Table of Contents.**

**Selected References** list other sections or Ordinances that may pertain to a development in the district.

**Pages** are numbered sequentially within each Article.

## RESOURCES

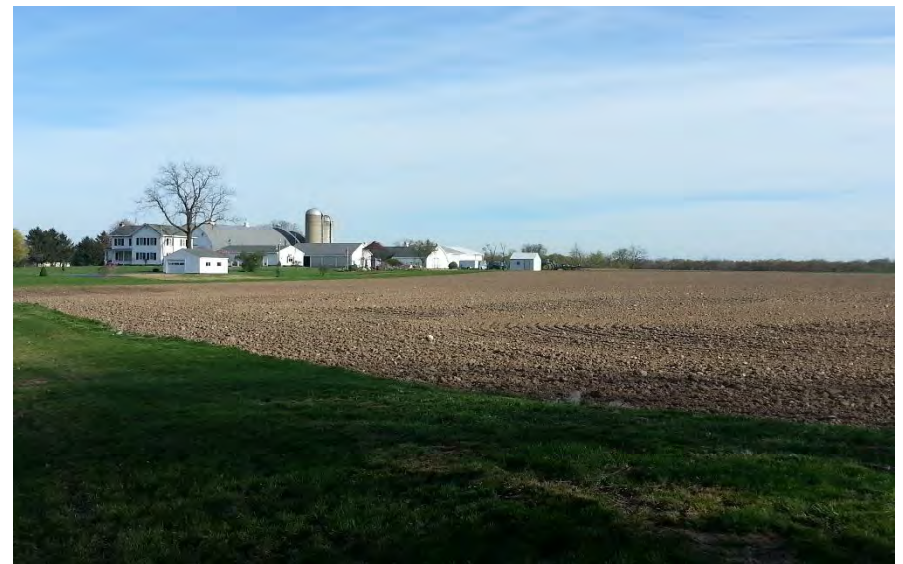
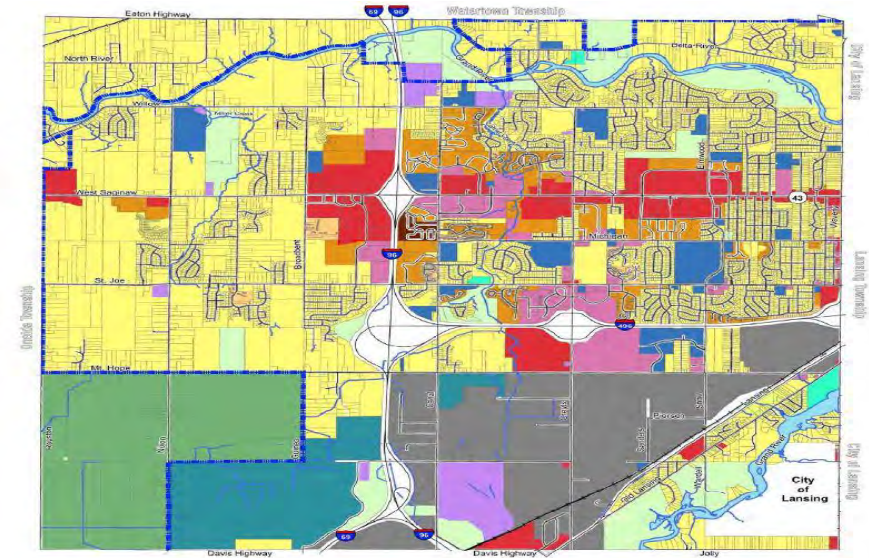
- 1) [Essential Smart Growth Fixes for Urban and Suburban Zoning Codes](#). November 2009. Kevin Nelson. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA 231-K-09-003.
- 2) [Retrofitting Suburbia](#). June 2009. Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson. Urban Land Institute.

# Rural Areas

One quarter of Michigan's citizens reside in rural areas. Rural economies are driven by natural resources such as agriculture, forestry, mining, and a wide variety of recreation and tourism opportunities. They also often support private and quiet lifestyles on very large lots.

Many rural communities cite a desire to preserve their rural heritage and culture as a goal within their master plans. The vision of the community often seeks to offer future residents the same solitude and natural beauty that current residents and visitors enjoy.

This is typically accomplished through preserving large parcels of land, thereby limiting the number of lots. Several tools have been used for decades to ensure that rural character is maintained, including Large-Lot Zoning (see p. 1-41), Quarter-Quarter Zoning (see p. 1-43), and Sliding Scale Zoning (see p. 1-45).





Delta Township uses an urban service boundary to protect cropland, parks and conservation areas in its extreme northwest and southwest corners of the township. It also established a 20-acre minimum lot size in its zoning ordinance in the southwest portion.

Source: [2013 Comprehensive Plan for Land Use. Delta Charter Township.](#)

4-H exhibitions at County Fairs are a part of rural Michigan life and tradition.

Source: [Barrels of Tradition: the St. Croix County Fair. Sarah Young. July 25, 2014.](#)



Preserving rural character is an important element of a successful regional strategy. A region needs to offer a variety of experiences, including the rural one. Agricultural production and food security area also an important part of a regional strategy.

Source: *Dover Kohl and Associates, under contract for Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, reproduced with permission.*

## RESOURCES

- 1) [Hillsdale County: Zoning techniques for farmland preservation.](#)
- 2) [Planning and Zoning for Farmland Protection: A Community Based Approach. 1987. American Farmland Trust.](#)
- 3) [Kalkaska County: Zoning Techniques for Farmland Preservation.](#)



# Residential above Commercial in Downtowns

Most downtown buildings originally allowed residential use above commercial use below but many communities no longer permit it, yet wonder where customers have went. Adapting those spaces is also more energy efficient and cost effective than building new in many cases.

The [MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities®](#) Program Best Practice 2.1-Zoning Regulations, outlines evaluation criteria requiring communities to allow for a variety of housing options. Expectations include:

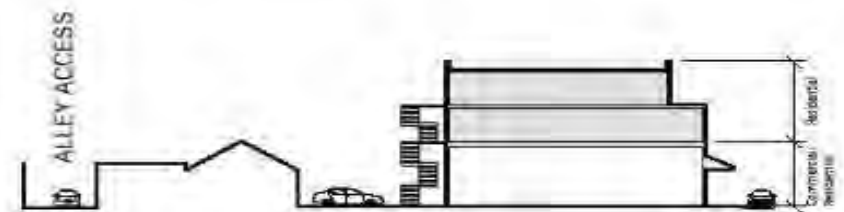
- Accessory dwelling units,
- Attached single family units,
- Stacked flats,
- Co-housing,
- Live/work,
- Residential units above non-residential uses,
- Mixed-income housing,
- Corporate temporary housing, and
- Housing for those with special needs.

One of the ways to meet future housing demand for more housing in urban, walkable settings and more diversity in housing stock is to allow mixed-use developments that combine residential and commercial uses. This is often done more easily in downtown districts where multi-story buildings can provide retail on the first floor and residential opportunities on upper floors. What is old is new and what is new is old.

See also Expanding the Range of Choice p. 1-19, Mixed-Use Development p. 1-23, and Commercial – Downtown p. 1-27.



**B. [BLW] Live/Work.** A building that can be used flexibly for commercial and residential uses. Each unit in the building will contain a maximum of one dwelling unit and one commercial unit, with the dwelling units being located on upper stories or behind the work portion of the building.



**Live/Work Unit Example**



In recent years, developers have built several mixed-use developments with retail on the main floor and residential above in downtown East Lansing along and adjacent to Grand River Avenue.

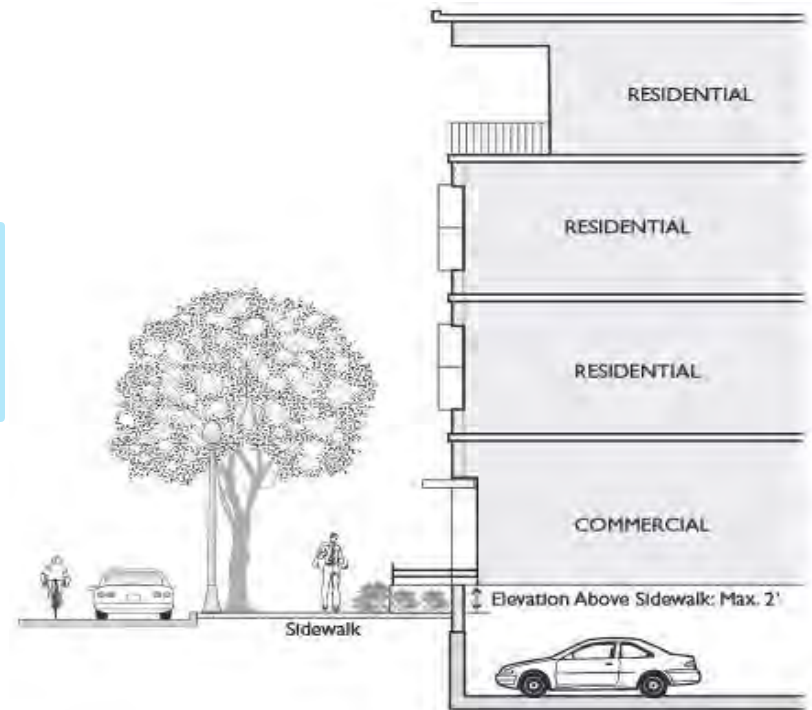
Source: Holly Madill, Planning & Zoning Center at MSU.

Renderings in development standards show clearly what type of development is expected.

Source: [Development Standards for Residential Mixed-Use Projects. Alameda County.](#)

Allowing for flexible space that can accommodate a variety of housing needs (stacked flats, studio, live-work, etc.) is an important consideration when supplying residential opportunities in downtown.

Source: [The Village of Oxford Zoning Ordinance. P 45. Village of Oxford.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [Santa Ana Renaissance Transit Zoning Code. June 7, 2010. City of Santa Ana.](#)
- 2) [Development Standards for Residential Mixed-Use Projects. Alameda County.](#)

# Zoning for Housing Diversity

As communities seek to diversify their housing stock, there are an increasing number of zoning tools at their disposal. Three of these are: inclusionary zoning, cottage zoning, and accessory dwelling units.

*“Inclusionary zoning is a technique in which developers are encouraged or required to include a certain amount of affordable housing in development projects. Most inclusionary ordinances offer incentives that can offset costs and provide valuable flexibility for a project. Common incentives include density bonuses, which allow a developer to build more units than normally allowed, and flexibility for parking, height, and setback standards. Some ordinances allow the developer to build affordable homes off-site, or to pay a fee in lieu of constructing the homes. The fees are paid to a community’s housing trust fund to finance affordable housing programs and projects throughout the community.*

*Cottage zoning allows for developments of small, single-family homes that are clustered together around a common area, often with shared parking. Cottage housing developments are often built within existing neighborhoods under provisions that permit higher densities than regulations might normally allow, with design guidance that limits the impact of the added density.*

*Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are small homes created on a lot with an existing home. Often referred to as granny flats or mother-in-law apartments, ADUs might be located within the home, as a detached unit, or above a garage or other accessory building. Because zoning generally restricts their size, ADUs are typically more affordable than full-size homes.”* ([Grand Traverse County 2013 Housing Strategy](#). [Grand Traverse County](#).)







Inclusionary zoning ordinances ensure that new growth includes a range of housing types and prices, while providing the added benefit of integrating different housing types throughout new developments and existing neighborhoods. See also Affordable Housing (p. 1-21).

Source: [Accessory Dwelling Unit. "Exploring Small Spaces and Simple Living." October 19, 2012. Intentionally Small.](#)

An example of cottage zoning implemented.

Source: *Dover-Kohl and Associates, under contract to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, reproduced with permission.*

Generally less than 1,000 square feet in size, these compact homes can result in lower homeowner costs while providing options for singles, empty nesters, seniors, and other small households.

Source: [Parkview Neighborhood Affordable Homes. Innovations Housing.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [Accessory Dwellings.](#)
- 2) [Accessory Dwelling Units: Model State Act and Local Ordinance. 2000. Rodney L. Cobb and Scott Dvorak. The Public Policy Institute of the AARP.](#)
- 3) [Accessory Dwelling Units Report to the Florida Legislature. September 2007. Florida Department of Community Affairs.](#)
- 4) [Achieving Lasting Affordability through Inclusionary Housing. 2014. Robert Hickey, Lisa Sturtevant, and Emily Thaden. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.](#)

# Streamlined Processes

[Redevelopment Ready Communities® \(RRC\)](#) is a statewide program offered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation that certifies Michigan communities who actively engage stakeholders and plan for the future. An RRC certification signals to business owners, developers and investors that the community has removed development barriers by building deliberate, fair and consistent processes. The RRC Best Practices, developed by public and private sector experts, are the standard for evaluation. The information in the following section is reproduced from the [RRC Best Practices](#) with permission.

The [MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities®](#) program states “*zoning is a key tool to implement plans in a community.*” Inflexible or obsolete zoning regulations, lengthy or complex reviews, and subjective approval processes can discourage (re)development by forcing developers to pursue rezoning or variance requests, disturbing project timelines, and creating uncertainty, which in turn can raise costs and impact the feasibility of the project. “*Communities should look to streamline ordinances and regulate for the kind of development that is truly desired.*”

RRC Best Practice 2.1-Zoning Regulations outlines the following evaluation criteria:

- The governing body has adopted a zoning ordinance that aligns with the goals of the current master plan.
- The zoning ordinance is user-friendly and accessible online.
- The zoning ordinance provides for areas of concentrated development in appropriate locations and encourages the type and form of development desired.
- The zoning ordinance includes flexible zoning tools to encourage development and redevelopment.
- The zoning ordinance allows for a variety of housing options.
- The zoning ordinance includes standards to improve non-motorized transportation.
- The zoning ordinance includes flexible parking and green infrastructure standards.

The screenshot shows a web application interface. On the left is a navigation menu with categories: Permits (Apply for a New Permit, Search), Projects (Apply for New Project, Search Projects), Contractor (Search Contractors), Properties (Search), and Inspections (Schedule). The main area is titled 'Project Search' and includes a search bar with 'Address' selected, 'Contains' as the operator, and 'main street' as the search term. Below the search bar is a 'Search Results' table with a list of project numbers. To the right of the search results is a detailed view for 'Project #9322A20.2'. This view includes tabs for 'Project Info', 'Site Info', 'Contacts (2)', 'Fees \$0.00', and 'Inspections'. The 'Project Info' tab is active, showing details such as Description: GROUP FOUR REALTORS, Type: CONVERTED PETITION, Subtype: REZONING, Planner: WR, Status: APPROVED, Applied Date: 8/7/1989, Approved Date: 11/6/1989, Closed Date, and Expired Date.

## Parking Requirements

- No requirements for existing structures Downtown; new buildings 1 space per 1,000 square feet.
- Parking reductions for secure bike parking, and more for showers and bike work stations.
- Parking spaces for carpooling or vanpooling counts as 2 regular parking spaces.
- Parking requirements may be reduced for buildings, structures or uses within 300 feet of a Bus Rapid Transit station or 100 feet of a transit stop.
- Planning Director has the ability to waive 50% of all parking.
- 1 bike parking space for every 10 automobile parking spaces.



Transparent and accessible processes and tracking devices, like this permit managing website that allows users to track a permit through the application process are an efficient way to streamline processes and make the development process predictable.

Source: [Mobile eTRAKiT for Smart Phones. City of Ann Arbor.](#)

Standardized, user-friendly, and accessible forms are another way to streamline processes.

Source: [Zoning Administrator Certificate program from the Planning & Zoning Center at MSU.](#)

Zoning ordinances should allow for flexible parking requirements that consider the availability of on-street parking, requiring pervious parking spaces, and allowing for interconnected vehicle passage between lots and shared parking agreements.

Source: ["Sustainability in the Master Plan and Zoning Code." ICLEI Webinar by Suzanne Schulz. City of Grand Rapids.](#)

In the Plan		Specific Information Outline
Yes	No	Not Applicable
The following items are to be used solely as guidelines. Each should be considered, but the necessity of their completeness or presence shall be left to the discretion of the reviewer.		
<b>A. Type of Site Plan:</b>		
		1. Basic (dwellings, additions to dwellings, accessory structures, etc.)
		2. Medium (appeals, other specified, etc.)
		3. Detailed (special use, PUD, etc.)
		4. Needs additional groundwater data
<b>B. Drawing Requirements:</b>		
		1. Basic
		A. Sketch, drawn to scale or superimposed on an aphoto or survey of the parcel.
		2. Medium
		A. Drawn on paper which is not smaller than 8 1/2 by 11 inches, and not larger than 26 by 42 inches.
		B. The drawing can be readily interpretable (including multiple drawings, if necessary).
		3. Detailed
		A. Scale not greater than 1 inch equals 20 feet, nor less than 1 inch equals 200 feet.
		B. The drawing can be readily interpretable (including multiple drawings if necessary).
		C. Designed/drawn by a registered professional architect, landscape architect, engineer, land surveyor or community planner (or, if acceptable to the Commission, owner or other qualified individual).
<b>C. Content:</b>		
		1. Basic Site Plan
		A. The property, identified by parcel lines and location and size.
		B. Name and address of the property owner(s), developer(s), and designer(s), and their interest in said properties.
		C. The scale, north point.
		D. Natural features such as woodlots, water bodies, wetlands, high risk erosion areas, slopes over 25%, beach, sand dunes, drainage and similar features.
		E. The location of proposed and main and accessory buildings, existing structures, fences on the site, the height of all buildings and square footage of floor space.
		F. The proposed driveway, if any.
		G. Show any changes or modifications required for any applicable regulatory agencies' approvals. (Site plan or design plan changes required after the planning commission/zoning board/zoning administrator (pick one) issues a Special Use Permit shall also be changed in accordance with procedures established in the zoning ordinance for minor adjustments or amendments to Special Use Permits.)
		2. Medium Site Plan
		A. All the data required for a Basic Site Plan, above.
		B. The parcel's legal description.

## RESOURCES

- 1) [Redevelopment Ready Communities®. Michigan Economic Development Corporation.](#)
- 2) [Guide to Permitting and Zoning: Leelanau County. 2012. Northwest Michigan Council of Governments. Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation.](#)



# Form-Based Codes

Adopted by a municipality, a form-based code is a land development regulation that fosters predictable built results and a high-quality public realm by using physical form (rather than separation of uses) as the organizing principal for the code. It offers a powerful alternative to conventional zoning regulation and is becoming more widely used.

*“Form-based codes address the relationship between building facades and the public realm, the form and mass of buildings in relation to one another, and the scale and types of streets and blocks. The regulations and standards in form-based codes are presented in both words, clearly drawn diagrams, and other visuals. There are five main elements to a form-based code:*

1. *Regulating Plan – A plan or map of the regulated area designating the locations where different building form standards apply. Similar to a zoning map in conventional zoning ordinance.*
2. *Public Standards – Specifies elements in the public realm including sidewalks, travel lanes, on-street parking, street trees, and furniture.*
3. *Building Standards – Regulations controlling the features, configurations, and functions of buildings that define and shape the public realm.*
4. *Administration – A clearly defined and streamlined application and project review process.*
5. *Definitions – A glossary to ensure the precise use of technical terms.”*

Source: [Form-Based Codes Defined. Form-Based Code Institute.](#)





Birmingham adopted the first form-based code in Michigan in 1997. In 2007, it created the Triangle District Plan and Form-Based Code. Within two days of adopting it, a developer resubmitted plans for a \$25 million development to allow for an increase to four stories and 100 condos. ([Metromode, 9/5/2007.](#))

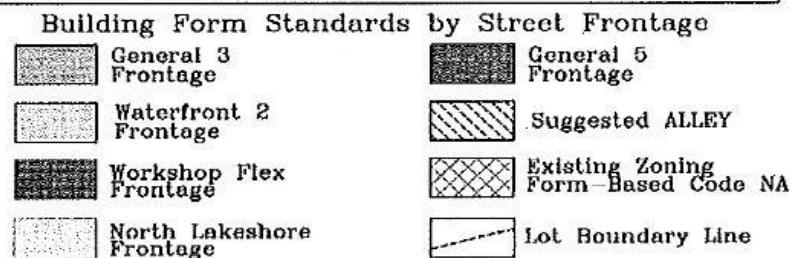
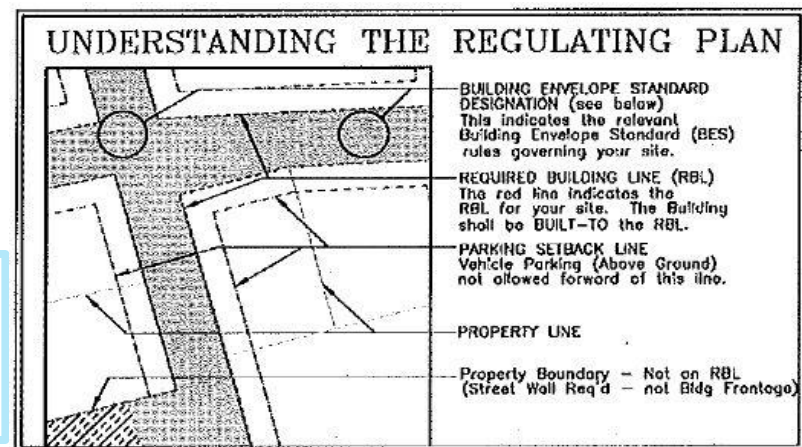
Source: [Triangle District Urban Design Plan, 2007. City of Birmingham.](#)

Marquette's Downtown Waterfront District form-based code includes instruction on interpreting the regulating plan.

Source: [Marquette Waterfront Form-Based Code, March 2007. Marquette Downtown Waterfront District. SWMPC.](#)

Form-based codes provide for development that is compact, mixed-use, and pedestrian friendly to create livable neighborhoods and healthy vibrant communities. This concept suggest how a form-based code could create a gateway into the Village of Suttons Bay.

Source: [Illustration by Jeff Schwaiger of Schwaiger Design.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) ["Smart Growth Tactics." January 16, 2007. Michigan Association of Planning. Issue Number 28: Form-based Codes.](#)
- 2) [Form-Based Codes in 7 Steps: The Michigan Guidebook to Livability. January 2010. Congress for New Urbanism, Michigan Chapter.](#)
- 3) [Form-Based Code Institute.](#)
- 4) [SmartCode Central.](#)

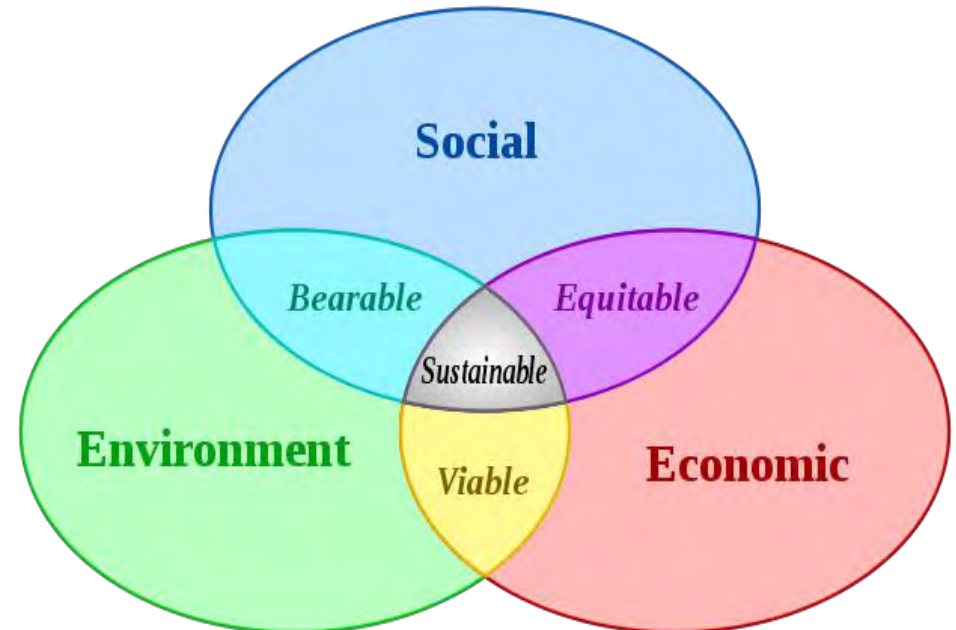
One of the concepts rooted in sustainability is intergenerational justice or intergenerational responsibility. *“Intergenerational justice means that today’s youth and future generations must have at least the same opportunities to meet their own needs as the generation governing today. The concepts of intergenerational equity and intergenerational justice are not new, having been used for decades in the contexts of economics, social policy, and natural resource stewardship. However, our responsibility to future generations has taken on new significance in the face of increasing evidence of anthropogenic global warming.”*

([Intergenerational Justice. Eco Justice Collaborative.](#))

This is increasingly difficult for municipalities that are faced with a multitude of complex, interlacing, and sometimes competing issues that are displayed in the graphic on this page. But ensuring that proper foresight and planning are accomplished through balancing budgets, self-enforcing fiscal responsibility, and conducting and implementing community planning can go a long way toward balancing today’s and future needs. Cross-jurisdictional planning and implementation are also tools that can be used for sustainability. Reaching across jurisdictional boundary lines for collaboration and consolidation and sharing of services can not only help individual municipalities be more sustainable, but it can have positive benefits for the region as well.

On the opposite page is an illustrated overlay of the Delta Charter Township library with some of the major themes and techniques of this chapter.

Image source (opposite page): Holly Madill, Planning & Zoning Center at MSU. Overlay illustration by Na Li, Land Policy Institute, Michigan State University.



[Graphic source \(this page\)](#)



Blend of Incentives and Regulation  
Consolidation  
Cross-Jurisdictional Planning and Implementation  
Fiscal Responsibility





# Capital Improvements

A capital improvements program (CIP) is the result of the preparation and updating of a plan listing all new major public facilities to be built, substantially remodeled, or purchased in a community within the foreseeable future. “Capital improvements” (also called “public improvements”) are all major physical facility projects over and above annual operating expenses. A CIP establishes a schedule, or program including cost estimates and the sources of financing, for each capital improvement project according to its priority in the community. A six-year programming period is the most widely utilized, although the CIP must be updated annually to reflect changing priorities and financial resources in the community.

Public investment in capital facilities has a significant impact on the size, location, and timing of future development projects in the community. For this reason, the CIP must be developed with a clear understanding of community objectives regarding growth and land use as outlined in the master plan. Michigan’s planning enabling legislation stipulates that in all municipalities with an adopted master plan, the planning commission must review all proposed public improvements for consistency with the master plan before construction can begin. This assures that large-scale public expenditures are coordinated with long-term planning goals. The CIP bridges the gap that otherwise exists between the comprehensive plan and the actual construction of public facilities. It is the most effective vehicle for approving new public improvements. CIP activities must also be coordinated with similar activities in neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions. ([Excerpted from the MSPO Community Planning Handbook.](#))

Capital Improvement Program										Total Per Project	General Fund
Projects	2014 Proposed	2014 Actual	2015 Proposed	2016 Proposed	2017 Proposed	2018 Proposed	2019 Proposed	2020 Proposed			
Municipal/Public Facilities											
City Hall											
1	Repaint Exterior of City Hall	18,000	18,000								
2	Replace Carpet in Courtroom #1 and #2	15,000	24,100								
3	Quarter Master HVAC Air Quality Improvements	50,000	42,800								
4	Jail/City Hall Video Recording System			80,000	25,000	25,000					110,000
5	Replace Handrails, Repair Stairs at S Abbot Entry			12,000							12,000
6	Replace Exterior Entry Doors at Det. Bureau Entrance			13,000							13,000
7	Replace Freight Elevator with a Lift			30,000							30,000
8	Install Auto Door Opener on Court Rooms-ADA			8,000							8,000
9	Rebuild Main Air Handler and Return Air				15,000						15,000
10	Add Interior Way-Finding Signs				10,000						10,000
11	Replace Electrical Panel and Transformer in Penthouse				8,000						8,000
12	Remove Wallpaper and Paint Courtrooms, Court Lobby, Secured Corridor, Jury Room and Offices				40,000						40,000
13	Replace Carpet in Court Secured Corridor				10,000						10,000
14	Replace Carpet and Paint - Community Events, Communications, and Pre-Sentencing Offices and Paint Second Floor Hallways				40,000						40,000

Priority A (Urgent)	Projects which cannot reasonably be postponed. These may be needed to complete an essential or a partially finished project, or to maintain a minimum level of service in a presently established Township program. Also, any project needed to address an emergency situation.
Priority B (Necessary)	Projects which should be carried out within a few years to meet the anticipated needs of a current Township service, or replacement of unsatisfactory facilities.
Priority C (Desirable)	Projects needed for the proper expansion of a Township service. The exact timing of which can wait until funds are available.
Priority D (Deferrable)	Projects which would be needed for ideal operation, but which cannot yet be recommended for action. They can be postponed without detriment to present services.



The City of East Lansing’s CIP includes expenditures related to municipal facilities such as City Hall, library, fire station, rescue vehicles, Department of Public Works, community centers, park facilities, infrastructure and utility improvements, IT projects, parking and paving, and economic development projects in addition to specific improvements to downtown.

Source: *Capital Improvements Program. 2004. City of East Lansing.*

Although for Massachusetts communities, this is a sample schedule for preparing a Capital Improvements Plan.

Source: [Capital Improvement Planning Schedule. State of Massachusetts. Municipal Data Management and Technical Assistance Bureau.](#)

All projects submitted for inclusion in the Delhi Township CIP are prioritized by a classification system adapted from Principles and Practice of Urban Planning, published in 1968 by the International City Manager’s Association (pp. 392-394).

Source: *Capital Improvements Program. Delhi Township.*

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING SCHEDULE		
Timetable	Step Number	Step
Annual Town Meeting	1	Adopt CIP bylaw and appoint CIP Committee (first year only).
Oct. 1 - Nov. 1	2	CIP Committee prepares inventory of current facilities.
	3	CIP Committee surveys status of previously approved projects.
	4	CIP Committee prepares financial analysis.
Nov. 1 - Dec. 1	5	Departments prepare and submit requests.
	6	CIP Committee reviews and ranks requests.
Dec. 1 - Jan. 1	7	CIP Committee prepares six-year schedule of projects and makes decision on method of financing based upon financial analysis.
Jan. 1 - Feb. 1	8	CIP Committee presents Capital Budget and Capital Program to the Board of Selectmen.
		Board of Selectmen reviews CIP.
		Board holds public hearing.
		Board approves and prepares CIP.
Feb. 20 - Apr. 15		Finance Committee reviews Capital Budget and prepares recommendation for Town Meeting.
		Projects scheduled for upcoming year are incorporated into budget.
Apr. 1 - Apr. 15		Distribution or notification to citizens of capital budget and five-year capital plan.
Apr. 15		Town Meeting approval of upcoming year's capital budget and review of capital plan, followed by department head preparation for acquisition and development activities on July 1.
July 1-Ongoing	9	Beginning of fiscal year; monitoring of new and ongoing projects.
Next fiscal year	10	Update Capital Program.

## RESOURCES

- 1) [Capital Improvements Plan Guide. Redevelopment Ready Communities® Program. MEDC.](#)
- 2) [“Capital Improvements Programming.” 2010. Terry Holzheimer. PAS Quicknotes No. 25. American Planning Association.](#)
- 3) [About Strong Towns.](#)



# Balanced Budget

According to the [Center for Local, State and Urban Policy](#), more than two-thirds of Michigan's local governments experienced declines in property tax revenue and state aid in 2010. More than a third continued to experience declines in 2013. ([Michigan Suburbs Alliance](#).) From 2005-2012, 84% of Michigan cities lost General Fund revenue while 25% lost over a quarter of their General Fund revenues. Communities have seen their tax base decline, employee numbers and benefits drop, and a reduction in benefits to new hires. ([Department of Treasury](#).)

The state-level Local Government Task Force on Municipal Finance is examining the issue and developing recommendations such as:

- Encouraging local governments to adopt multi-year budgets and long-term forecasting.
- Updates to the property tax act and considering other taxing mechanisms without reducing revenue sharing.
- Strengthening support for unfunded mandates.
- Streamlining tax reversion processes in some communities.
- Developing early warning signs and improved reporting requirements.

Many communities have structured consolidation and shared-service agreements with adjacent public entities (municipalities, counties, school districts, universities, etc.) to save costs and improve services. See also Service Sharing and Consolidation of Services p. 2-41, Cross-Jurisdictional Planning and Implementation p. 2-43, and Shared Use of School Facilities p. 1-201.





“Reforming the current system, ensuring Michigan’s local governments can balance their budgets and provide services, is critical. According to the [Center for Local, State and Urban Policy](#), less than half of Michigan’s local governments believe they can maintain existing service levels without reform.” ([Michigan Suburbs Alliance](#).)

Source: “[Glen Rock Council Begins Municipal Budget.](#)” December 10, 2013. Ted Burke. [Glen Rock Gazette](#).

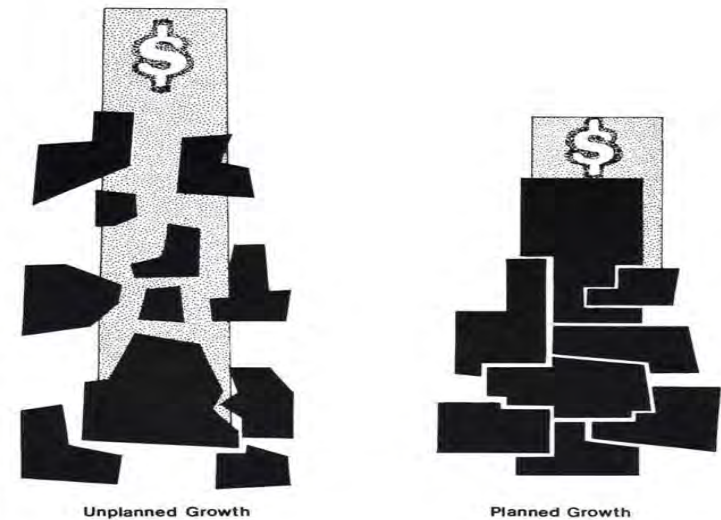
An entire issue of the Planning & Zoning News is devoted to understanding and weighing the costs and benefits of development patterns.

Source: [Planning & Zoning News, Vol. 11, No.3, January 1993](#).

Without a balanced budget that is based on a predictable revenue stream, most of the quality of life improvements described in this portfolio will not be possible.

Source: [Land Policy Institute, Michigan State University](#).

## THE FISCAL IMPACTS OF GROWTH



### RESOURCES

- 1) [Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy. Michigan Public Policy Survey. September 2013. University of Michigan. Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.](#)
- 2) [Fixing the Future of Municipal Finance in Michigan. Steve M Duchane. 2014 Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference.](#)
- 3) [About Strong Towns.](#)

# Incentives

Because not all property is owned publicly (most of it is in private ownership) communities often need to partner with or rely entirely on the private sector for achieving some of its goals such as business retention and attraction or development that molds to a specific design standard. Typically there are two strategies that communities use to achieve goals that they cannot realize alone: regulations and incentives. Regulations are most effective when they are enforced. Communities should not adopt regulations that they can't or don't intend on enforcing. While human behavior tends to favor the incentive approach, in practice both regulations and incentives are necessary to achieve community goals and are often employed in tandem.

Incentives are used to acquire results that communities want without regulations or within regulations. Examples include building density, low/moderate income units, use type, and open space preservation. These incentives can be applied to zoning, economic development initiatives, and within building design. Some programs used in the Tri-County Region to encourage redevelopment along the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Avenue corridor include the *“Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Brownfield Tax Increment Financing, Ingham county Land Bank, and Neighborhood Enterprise Zone.”* (The Capitol Corridor Plan. 2014.)

Benefits of incentives are often more clear for the private sector. Communities may have to remind stakeholders that using incentives is a holistic approach and public funds for incentives supports broader community goals and don't just benefit the private good. This can also be reinforced by recalling the goals of the incentives.

When establishing incentive programs, clear goals are required for a number of reasons. Clear goals and targets guide safeguards and policies to ensure that there is no chance they could be manipulated. If working cross-jurisdictionally, clear goals are also essential as many agencies may administer incentives or direct incentive-based programs. Having all stakeholders focused on the target will advance achievement.



## b. Design Incentives

The city may allow up to a twenty percent (20%) increase in permitted density for a development that includes any two of the following housing types according to the following Schedule A:

- i. Multi-family dwellings containing more than four (4) units per building;
- ii. Single-family detached dwellings;
- iii. Two-family dwellings, triplexes, or four-plexes; or
- iv. Attached townhome dwellings (no more than six (6) dwelling units per townhome structure).

SCHEDULE A: DWELLING MIX DENSITY BONUS		
Maximum Density Bonus	Dwelling Mix Based on Project Size	
	50 to 100 Units	100+ Units
10% bonus	10% mix	20% mix
15% bonus	15% mix	30% mix
20% bonus	20% mix	40% mix





Referencing Transit-Oriented Development from a proposed Bus Rapid Transit line on Michigan Avenue/Grand River Avenue in the Tri-County Region, a recent corridor plan highlights the importance of incentives. “Public incentives should target attracting development to “prove” the market for urban developments, improving walkability, reinforcing employment destinations, and adding housing to leverage employment access.

Source: *Dover-Kohl and Associates, under contract to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. reproduced with permission.*

Density bonuses are used to aggregate development and conserve open space.

Source: [Density Methods & Tools. New Designs for Growth.](#)

This example shows how design incentives are communicated within a community’s design guidelines and standards. It establishes density bonuses for various residential types.

Source: [Design Incentives: Multi-Family Residential Design Guidelines and Standards. 2004. City of Overland Park, Kansas.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [Incentives & Taxes. Michigan Economic Development Corporation.](#)
- 2) [Fact Sheets. Michigan Economic Development Corporation.](#)
- 3) [Section 3. Using Tax Incentives to Support Community Health and Development. Community Tool Box.](#)

# Service Sharing and Consolidation of Services

Local governments use state funding, called revenue sharing, to pay for core government services such as police protection, fire services, roads, water, sewer, and garbage collection services. Revenue sharing began in the 1920s when the State of Michigan streamlined tax collection by eliminating local taxes and replacing them with state taxes. The State collects and records these taxes and then reimburses local jurisdictions to offset the general budgets of local communities. Since 2000, the State has continually reduced revenue sharing payments to local units of government and 10 consecutive years of cuts have left local communities more than \$4 billion short on revenue sharing. While [revenue sharing](#) still continues, communities must provide a consolidation plan to receive funds.

This, combined with the Great Recession's shrinking tax base and resulting lack of revenues for municipalities, communities have become creative in their budgeting and service-delivery processes. First steps are usually internal reorganizations that bring a cost savings; or they may be external, partnering with other local units of government to realize a cost savings in service delivery or operations. This type of service sharing can result in significant savings if carefully done. For example, preparing joint newsletters, sharing equipment, joint insurance pools, and cooperative purchasing agreements. The next step is consideration of consolidation of service across jurisdictions such as fire or police departments. Communities may have a variety of agreements in place across multiple budget items in any given year.

See also Cross-Jurisdictional Planning and Implementation p. 2-43.

Item #	Description of Service	Participating Units	Estimated Annual Cost Savings/Revenue
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>			
1	Fire Services Contract	Tecumseh Township	\$60,000.00
2	Fire Mutual Aid Agreement	18 Units of Government	\$50,000.00
3	Shared Fire Training	Various	\$10,000.00
4	Air Bottle Services	Lenawee County	\$400.00
5	Technical Rescue Team	Lenawee County	\$500.00
6	Firefighter Training School	Lenawee County	\$3,000.00
7	Fire Investigation Team	Lenawee County	\$5,000.00
8	Lenawee County Fair Medical Care	Lenawee County Fair Grounds	\$500.00
<b>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)</b>			
1	Rental of Idle Equipment	State of Michigan	\$3,000.00
2	Sign Fabricating	City of Adrian	\$1,500.00
3	Sidewalk Rehab Services	City of Adrian	\$1,500.00
4	Various Park Maintenance Projects	Local Scout Troops	\$5,000.00
5	Joint Salt Purchase	State of Michigan	\$2,500.00
6	Various Public Works Projects	Village of Britton	\$3,000.00
7	Tree Removal Services	Various Entities	\$3,000.00
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>			
1	Gun Range	Three different agencies	\$3,000.00
2	LIVESCAN Fingerprinting	Four different agencies	\$3,000.00
3	Limited Dispatch/Lien Services	Two different agencies	\$2,500.00
4	Accident Investigation Team	Lenawee County	\$2,500.00
5	SEM Criminal Investigation Consortium	Southeastern Michigan	\$2,500.00
6	Breath Test Calibration Services	Lenawee County	\$1,500.00
7	Off Hours Dispatch	Lenawee Central Dispatch	\$50,000.00
8	Police Car Group Purchase	State of Michigan	\$1,000.00
9	Drug/Search Dog	Raisin Township	\$2,500.00





The City of Tecumseh lists all of the ways that it consolidates with partners in different budget categories and lists the estimated cost savings associated with actions.

Source: [City of Tecumseh, MI, Plan to Cooperate, Collaborate, and Consolidate Services.](#)

This Table of Contents provides a glimpse inside Eastpointe’s consolidation and shared services strategic plan.

Source: [Creating a Collaborative City Government: Impacting Joint and Shared Services, Public Policy and Management Reform. Collaborative, Consolidated and Shared Municipal Services Strategic Plan. City of Eastpointe.](#)

Many communities are consolidating public safety services to realize cost savings and to qualify for revenue sharing. The City of Williamston, the Village of Webberville, Leroy, Williamston, Wheatfield and Locke Townships established the Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority to provide fire suppression, life safety, ambulance/paramedic, and rescue services.

Source: [Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority.](#)

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## RESOURCES

- 1) [Revenue Sharing Programs. Michigan Department of Treasury.](#)
- 2) [Funding Michigan’s Communities. Michigan Municipal League.](#)



# Cross-Jurisdictional Planning and Implementation

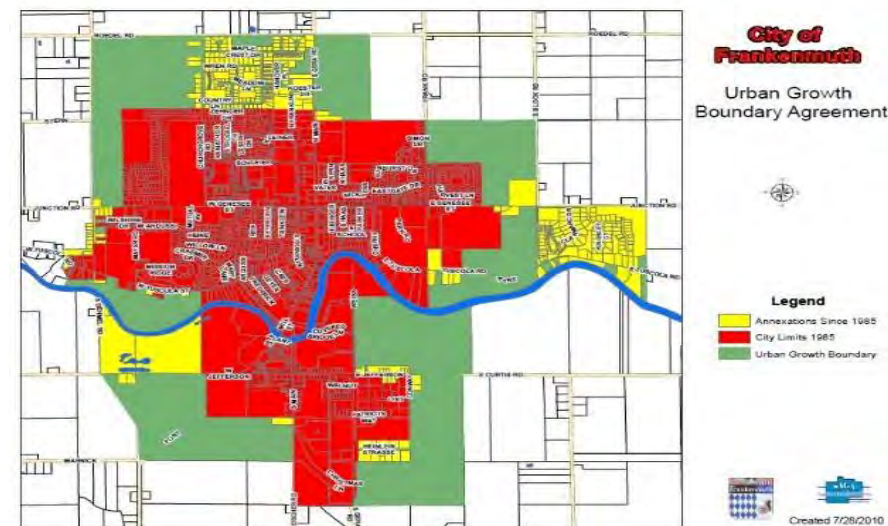
Many of the issues that planners address like public health, transportation, natural resources, poverty, and economic development know no jurisdictional boundaries yet cross-jurisdictional coordination can create efficiency, safety, and sustainability in efforts to combat these challenges. Additionally, it is increasingly important for municipalities to work together across jurisdictional boundaries to ensure that regions are strong and successful.

While county and regional planning entities can help broker discussions and facilitate solutions at municipal boundaries (see Regional Plan p. 2-13), communities also work more directly with neighbors to address issues at their common borders. Some communities do this informally through established relationships between departments and staff.

The [Joint Municipal Planning Act \(Act 266 of 2003\)](#) allows communities to formalize relationships and create joint planning commissions for the purposes of creating, adopting, and implementing a plan or zoning ordinance in a defined area in multiple jurisdictions. These informal and formal efforts have resulted in joint master plans and ordinances, coordinated plans, 425 agreements, and growth management plans.

These types of cross-jurisdictional plans address common issues among neighboring communities, bring cohesion in community and character and continuity to regions, cost savings and revenue sharing, and enhance safety and sustainability goals.

See also Service Sharing and Consolidation of Services p. 2-41.





Adopted in 2011, the City of Grand Haven and Grand Haven Charter Township Joint Robbins Road Corridor Plan was intended to improve safety and traffic operations as well as overall development character by integrating design standards and implementing access management.

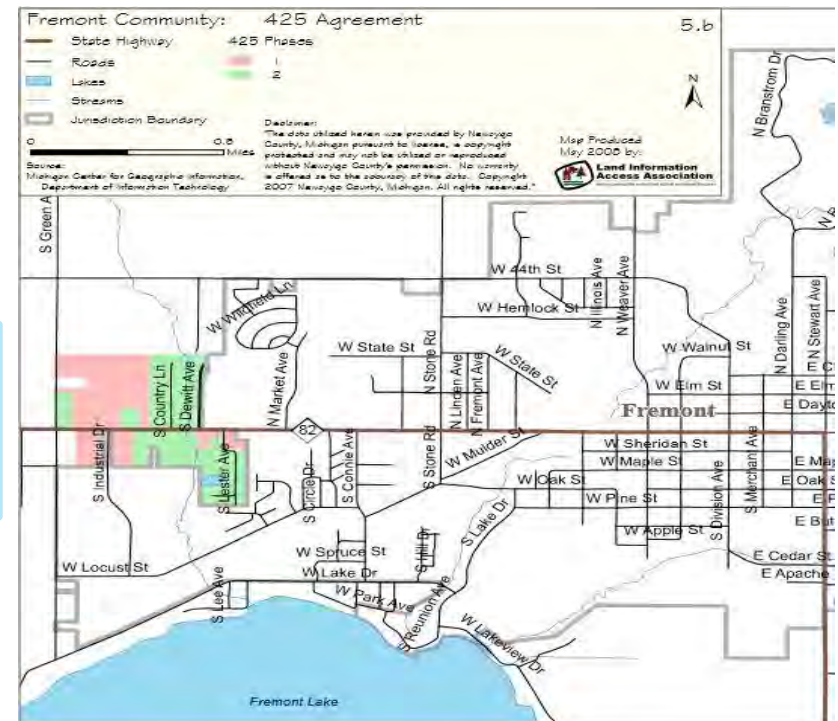
Source: [Joint Robbins Road Corridor Plan. 2011. City of Grand Haven and Grand Haven Charter Township.](#)

Three Fremont area communities' joint master plan smoothed the way for a number of developments that may not have otherwise been possible.

Source: [Joint Comprehensive Development and Growth Management Plan, Map 5b – 25 Agreement. 2008. City of Fremont. Land Information Access Association.](#)

The City of Frankenmuth and Frankenmuth Township began a joint planning effort in the mid-1980s to preserve area farmland. The most recent Growth Management Plan was adopted in 2010. More than 60 annexations have occurred within the urban growth boundary since the first plan was adopted.

Source: [2010 Joint Growth Management Plan. City of Frankenmuth and Frankenmuth Township.](#)



## RESOURCES

- 1) [“Cooperative Land Use Planning with the Joint Municipal Planning Act: Are Michigan’s Local Governments Ready?”](#) June 2005. Joe VanderMeulen. [Planning & Zoning News.](#)
- 2) [“Making Joint Public Service Work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Intergovernmental Cooperation: Case Studies in Southeast Michigan.”](#) 2004. Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.
- 3) [“Multi-Jurisdictional Planning.”](#) August 3, 2004. Smart Growth Tactics Issue Number 4. Michigan Association of Planning.



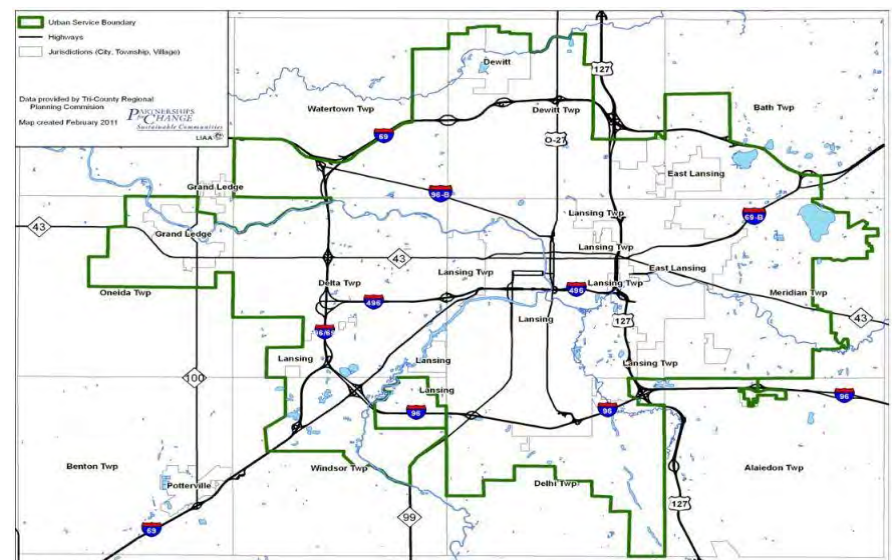
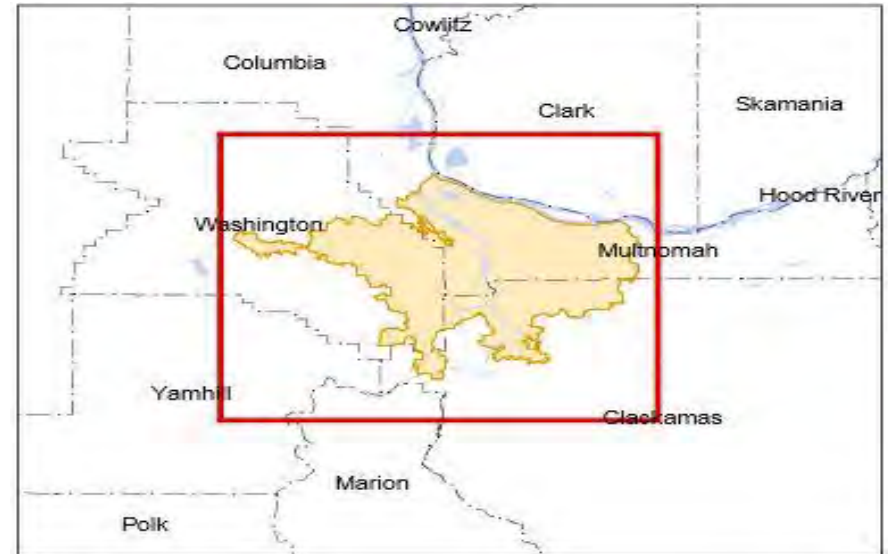
# Growth and Service Boundaries

*“Urban growth boundaries and urban service districts are planning tools that promote more efficient, orderly, and compact development. For communities adopting them, they are two components of a municipal growth management program designed to uphold community character, protect water and other natural resources, promote efficient development and use of public infrastructure, stimulate community and economic development, and impart long term, comprehensive thinking about the community’s future.*

*An urban growth boundary is the line on a map showing the demarcation between land that has or may receive concentrated development (urban, suburban) and land that has or may receive less development (rural, scattered). On one side of the boundary line are predominantly low-density land uses such as farms, timberland, large residential lots, and natural or protected lands. On the other side are more intensive land uses and densely developed lands, such as commercial and industrial uses, multifamily and small lot residential, schools, government facilities, and transit services. An urban growth boundary provides a clear picture of what lands will be developed for a given period of time as specified by a growth management plan” ([Urban Growth Boundary and Urban Service District. Chapter 1.8. Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development.](#)). It should be a product of the master plan process and may require zoning amendments or an overlay district.*

An urban service district (or boundary) designates where development within the growth boundary occurs by establishing where water and sewer services are provided or planned for. An urban service boundary may be the same as or smaller than the urban growth boundary, but never larger.

When to expand the boundaries and a boundary’s impact on housing prices are two areas where conflict may occur.







In 1974, Oregon mandated the creation of urban growth boundaries in each city. Today, Oregon's 241 cities all have an urban growth boundary, a line drawn on planning and zoning maps showing where the city expects to grow. This is the boundary surrounding the Portland metro area, dated August 2014.

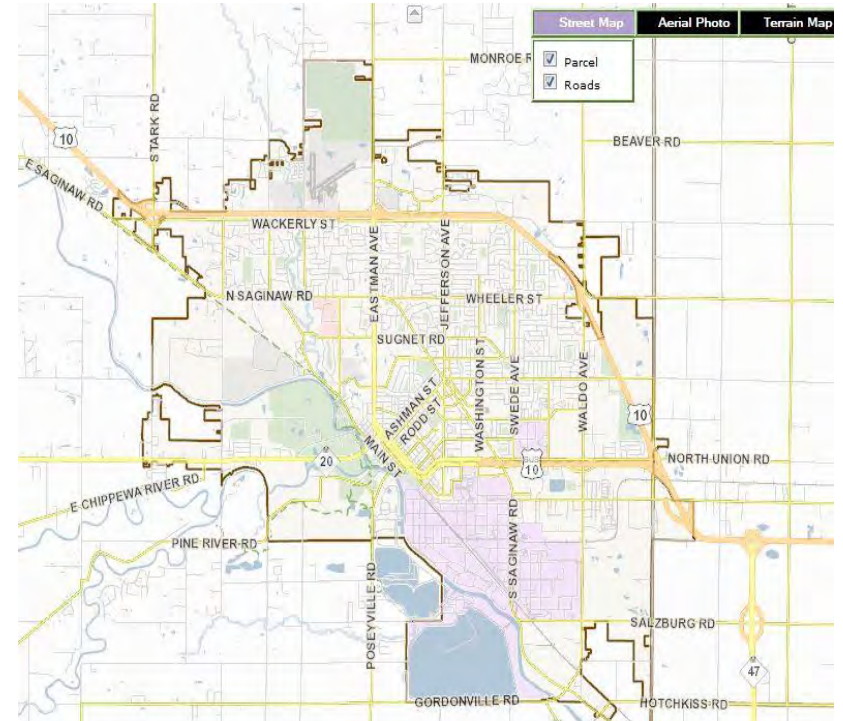
Source: [Metro Data Resource Center](#).

In 1969, the Midland Urban Growth Area, a two-mile band that was defined by the City alone, was created to promote orderly urban growth. Within the band, Midland instituted a "no annexation, no water" policy. Today, Midland and its surrounding townships see it as a valuable planning tool. This map shows Midland's City limits.

Source: [City of Midland](#).

A preliminary Greater Lansing Area Urban Service District Area and Boundary was developed by a committee that established 10 criteria. Based on these criteria, supplied data, and analysis, a draft boundary was drawn during a series of planning exercises.

Source: [Tri-County Urban Service Management Study, March 2011. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and the Land Information Access Association](#).



## RESOURCES

- 1) [Tri-County Urban Service Management Study, March 2011. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and the Land Information Access Association.](#)
- 2) [Urban Growth Boundaries. A Policy Brief for the Michigan Legislature. December 2000. Urban & Regional Planning Program and the Department of Geography. Michigan State University.](#)
- 3) [Urban Growth Boundaries and Urban Service Areas. Kalamazoo College.](#)

# Placemaking Assessment Tool

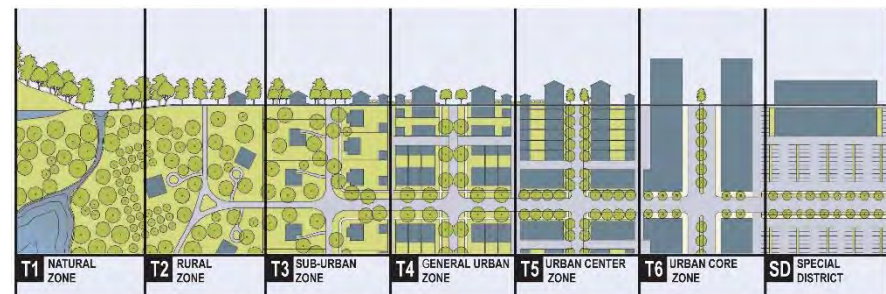
The primary goal of the Placemaking Assessment Tool is to help communities evaluate readiness for strategic placemaking. A secondary goal is to help communities decide which type of placemaking should be pursued. There are approximately 98 Strategic Placemaking questions on topics such as master plans, downtown development plans, corridor improvement plans, zoning ordinances and other codes, economic development, community development, green development and activities.

The Placemaking Assessment Tool walks community stakeholders and local officials through the following self-assessment steps:

- Determine if there is enough of a “Place” to warrant engaging in placemaking activities.
- Determine if the community has the infrastructure in place to support placemaking.
- Determine if the culture of the community is sufficiently accepting of the idea of placemaking to engage in it, or if building a culture that will accept placemaking is one of the first steps.
- Determine which type of placemaking to engage in, or if a community needs to start with one type and then proceed to another.
- Provides a resource list for more information on placemaking, economic development, infrastructure planning, etc.

This tool can be used alongside or separate from the [Smart Growth Readiness Assessment Tool \(SGRAT\)](#) or alongside the [Redevelopment Ready Communities \(RRC\)](#) assessment process operated by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Table 5. Strategic Placemaking Assessment Questions	Yes	No
<b>Regarding your Master Plan</b>		
Are homes or apartments readily available in key centers, nodes or key corridors in your community that people of all income levels can buy or rent?		
Do you have a complete streets plan?		
Is your community a cooperating partner in implementing a regional plan that directs development toward key centers, nodes and key corridors?		
Does the Master Plan include a redevelopment strategy (or redevelopment ready community plan) that identifies priority redevelopment sites, neighborhoods and/or districts? (also see the Redevelopment Ready Communities Best Practice Review Process)		
Does the redevelopment strategy contain problem statements and goals for redevelopment? (also see the Redevelopment Ready Communities Best Practice Review Process)		
Does the redevelopment strategy specify implementation strategies and tools to accomplish stated goals and actions? (also see the Redevelopment Ready Communities Best Practice Review Process)		
Does the redevelopment strategy include a 2-5 year timeline, that identifies leadership and outreach, economic development, and planning and zoning benchmarks? (also see the Redevelopment Ready Communities Best Practice Review Process)		
Has the community demonstrated that it has attempted to hit the stated redevelopment strategy benchmarks in annual reports on its progress? (also see the Redevelopment Ready Communities Best Practice Review Process)		
Has the community adopted a capital improvement plan, coordinated with the Master Plan, with a six-year minimum projection and reviewed it annually?		





A short version (33 questions) of the Placemaking Assessment Tool is available for those communities or organizations seeking to evaluate their readiness for standard, creative or tactical placemaking. A longer, more thorough assessment is available for communities seeking to evaluate their readiness for strategic placemaking.

Source: [Placemaking Assessment Tool. MiPlace Partnership Initiative.](#)

The Placemaking Assessment Tool provides an extensive and valuable list of resources regarding a variety of topics related to Placemaking.

Source: [Placemaking Assessment Tool. MiPlace Partnership Initiative.](#)

Placemaking may be most effective in large or small towns, in the downtowns, along key corridors, and at key nodes on those corridors. This graphic shows that placemaking opportunities differ depending on the location along the transect.

Source: *Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company.*

## Placemaking Assessment Tool

### Part Five: RESOURCES & GLOSSARY

This resource section provides a list of agencies, institutions, organizations, publications and web sites that offer additional and supporting information for those pursuing an assessment of their community's readiness to engage in placemaking, or those simply wanting to learn more about placemaking and related topics. Resource topics provided below are:

- Active Living and Healthy Communities
- Arts and Culture
- Citizen Input/Participation
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Form and Form-Based Codes
- Placemaking and Planning for Placemaking
- Planning/Master Planning Update Process
- Sustainability
- Transportation Infrastructure/Streets/Walkability
- Urban/Urbanism/Cities

#### RESOURCES

- 1) ["Placemaking Assessment Tool." April 15, 2015. MSU Land Policy Institute.](#)
- 2) [MiPlace Partnership Initiative.](#)
- 3) [Michigan Municipal League Placemaking.](#)
- 4) [Project for Public Spaces.](#)