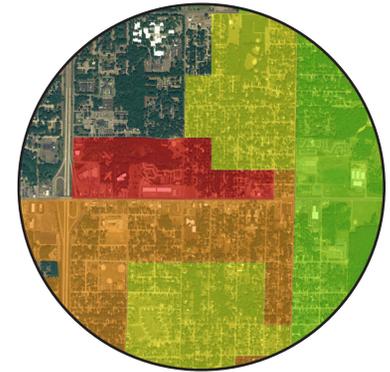


Muskegon Charter Township



MASTER PLAN

January 2011

Williams & Works
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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	A		
Part One: The Plan	1	<u>Chapter Nine</u>	
<u>Chapter One</u>		Transportation and Utilities	69
Goals and Objectives	3		
<u>Chapter Two</u>		<u>Chapter Ten</u>	
Future Land Use and Zoning Plan	7	Community Facilities	77
<u>Chapter Three</u>			
Implementation	15	Appendix	
Part Two: The Process	27	Community Opinion Survey Instrument and Results	
<u>Chapter Four</u>		Adopting Resolutions	
Public Input Results	29	Available for Review at Township Offices	
Part Three: Community Profile	39	M-120 Corridor Study Executive Summary	
<u>Chapter Five</u>		Higher Education Access Study Summary	
Our Natural Environment	41		
<u>Chapter Six</u>			
Population and Land Use	49		
<u>Chapter Seven</u>			
Housing and Neighborhoods	57		
<u>Chapter Eight</u>			
Economic Development	63		



Executive Summary

Muskegon Township is open for business! A dynamic community with excellent natural resources, including the Muskegon River and Muskegon State Game Area, two local colleges and a higher education center (Baker College, Muskegon Community College and the Stevenson Center for Higher Education located immediately outside of the Township border), the award-winning school districts of Reeths-Puffer and Orchard View, as well as educated, committed, and dedicated professionals in leadership roles, make this community ripe for economic growth and development.

Located only minutes from the Lake Michigan shoreline and downtown Muskegon, Muskegon Township offers the alternative to city living in a more relaxed environment where residents can find homes ranging from suburban sites, to master-planned neighborhoods, to large, wooded lots secluded from the distractions of urban life.

With recent investments made to expand the water and sewer system, improve roadways and, as detailed in this plan, expand sidewalks, trails, and walking paths, Muskegon Township strives to continually listen to its residents and provide them with quality amenities and infrastructure. This, combined with a talented workforce with a strong work ethic, make Muskegon Township an excellent location to live, work and play.

Residents and business leaders value their Township. The progressive, visionary leadership has ensured that the community is balanced with lifestyle amenities and job potential. The Township's proximity to US-31 and its accessibility make it desirable for businesses. Quality schools and excellent higher education opportunities, coupled with abundant natural resources, are valued by all.



The vision for Muskegon Township, which is carried out in the goals, objectives, future land use and implementation steps of this plan, is the following:

By the year 2030, Muskegon Township will continue to be a sustainable community, through economic development, investments in community amenities, and strong neighborhoods. A variety of housing options will support public transit, non-motorized trails, and new recreational facilities for all ages and abilities. An employed working population will engender civic collaboration and quality services, and a family-friendly environment will welcome residents to the Township with open arms.

With this vision and the community's values in mind, this Master Plan places a strong focus on physical and institutional changes which, when implemented, will enhance the quality of life for all current and prospective residents, businesses and community leaders.

Part One: The Plan

Producing a Master Plan requires a solid foundation of data to substantiate current conditions and trends of the recent past coupled with the values of the community and a vision for the future.

The Muskegon Township Master Plan contains three parts. Part One, includes the goals, objectives and implementation steps necessary to achieve the desired community over the next 20-30 years. The future land use plan and the zoning plan are also included in Part One. Part Two includes a detailed description of the process the community engaged in to articulate its plans for the future. Part Three provides the background information about the Township, including growth projections, demographics, and economic, transportation, infrastructure and community facilities data and information.

The intent of this Master Plan is to be used as a guide for residents, potential residents, decision-makers and elected and appointed officials to assist in planning for a cohesive and vibrant community. Cohesiveness is generated from not only broad participation and involvement from an active and engaged citizenry, it is also a function of the built environment providing the necessary infrastructure to connect all parts of a community. Vibrancy is achieved by providing quality housing for all income levels and resident needs, commercial and industrial enterprises that provide jobs for all skill levels and attractive streetscapes, parks and natural areas accessible to all individuals.

This 2010 Master Plan builds upon all of the previous planning work conducted in the Township. It is an update to the 2000 Master Plan and is meant to be consistent with and support other regional long-range planning efforts, including the joint planning work that has occurred with the North Central Muskegon County Joint Planning Commission representing the Townships of Fruitland, Dalton,



Muskegon, Laketon and Blue Lake.

Part One of the 2010 Master Plan includes three chapters, all of which form the essential direction for the Township. These chapters should be consulted prior to any land use decision occurring in the Township, as they provide the goals, objectives, implementation, future land use and zoning plan. These key elements of the Master Plan were developed through engaged citizen involvement and represent a consensus approach to land use in the Township.

Chapter One: Goals and Objectives

This chapter provides the goals (desired future state) and objectives (measurable achievements) for several key topics in the Township, including housing, transportation, economic development, and others.

Chapter Two: Future Land Use and Zoning Plan

This chapter provides the future land use map for the Township, which is the basis for future zoning initiatives. Each land use designation is described and related to a plan for consistency with existing zoning and recommendations for zoning changes.

Chapter Three: Implementation

This chapter provides the implementation tasks (steps or strategies required to achieve the goals) of the Master Plan. In addition to the narrative descriptions of the tasks, compilation of each task is included in an implementation table identifying the task, parties involved, time frame, priority level and potential funding source.

