



Goals & Objectives

Chapter Seven



Goals & Objectives

The Comprehensive Plan is a blueprint for the future which considers the Township's past and present while planning for its future. The vision statement and goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan are one way to articulate this planning continuum that acknowledges the past, present and future of Marion Township. The vision statement relays the prevailing aspirations of Township residents. The goals and objectives aid in decision making based on principles the township has decided are vital to the future well being of the community. Goals and objectives also provide valuable background in the development of the future land use map. For purposes of this plan, the relationship between goals and objectives is defined as follows:

Goal: Broad-based statements of intent that establish the direction for the Comprehensive Plan.

Objective: The stated "means" of achieving each goal, or the tasks to be carried out in the process of realizing goals. Objectives should be measurable.

The goals and objectives of the Marion Township Comprehensive Plan were created through the review of several information sources. For instance, several prevalent themes emerged from resident responses to the Comprehensive Plan Survey. Preservation of the rural atmosphere and growth and management issues were recognized as top concerns. Survey responses gave high marks to several traits related to rural atmosphere such as: country setting, large open spaces, wildlife, quiet, natural features (water, woodlands, etc...), small human population, small town atmosphere, country roads, clean air, large acreage lots, farmland, very little industry/commercial and very little traffic. Regarding growth and management issues, survey responses revealed that transportation issues, the rate of residential growth and growth in general are highly disliked township traits that residents feel deserve high planning priority. Transportation issues that were noted regard traffic volumes and speed, road conditions and maintenance. The most commonly expressed growth management issue was how growth is being guided in the township (*please reference the Appendix for full survey responses*).

The rural atmosphere and growth and management concerns that were expressed through the survey, as well as several other prevalent survey responses, are addressed throughout the following goals and objectives under subject headings such as Community Character, Planning and Land Use, Natural Environment and Transportation. Additionally, survey responses often stimulated ideas that were formed into new goals and objectives. Other important sources of information for formulating the vision statement and goals and objectives include the 2002 Livingston County Comprehensive Plan, the 1992 Marion Township Comprehensive Plan, and the extensive analysis and field research that went into creating other components of the comprehensive plan.

Following is a Vision Statement for Marion Township that captures the essence of the comprehensive plan goals and objectives, and portrays a common vision for the Township's future.

MARION TOWNSHIP VISION STATEMENT

Marion Township is a blend of town and country living environments. The township experiences a high rate of growth as a rural residential community and its residents and governing body place a high priority on preservation of the township's natural features which define the rural atmosphere of the community. Marion Township residents and their governing body are committed to providing a balance between growth and development, and protection and enhancement of the Township's rural character by formulating a thorough plan review process and enacting appropriate ordinances.

Following are goals and objectives to accomplish the vision statement for the future of Marion Township. The goals and objectives are grouped under several subject headings although there are numerous interrelationships among them.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

- GOAL:** Foster/encourage a balance between growth and development, and protection and enhancement of the quiet, scenic, rural character of Marion Township.
- Objective:** Document and establish the existing character of Marion Township to serve as the basis for programs to protect that character.
- Objective:** Develop and enforce ordinances and regulations which, to the greatest extent possible, better preserve the established character of the Township and promote the official goals and objectives of the Marion Township Comprehensive Plan.
- Objective:** Identify and preserve significant scenic, geologic, open space, and historic features to retain their benefits to the Township.
- Objective:** Identify and preserve significant wetlands, woodlands, inland lakes and streams, wildlife habitat, and scenic and environmental areas to retain their benefits to the Township.

PLANNING AND LAND USE

- GOAL:** Coordinate planning efforts with neighboring communities regarding shared resources such as corridors and commercial, conservation and development areas.
- Objective:** Minimize zoning and future land use conflicts along boundaries with neighboring communities.
- GOAL:** Maintain easy to understand, action-oriented comprehensive plan language that guides future land use decisions and includes a procedure for periodically updating the plan while providing meaningful public participation in the process.
- Objective:** Use the Marion Township Comprehensive Plan as a basis for establishing land use regulations that are easily understood by citizens and developers.
- Objective:** Use the Marion Township Comprehensive Plan as a basis for ensuring that preservation of environmental resources is incorporated into the design of residential, commercial, and industrial developments in a manner which promotes and enhances the character of the Township.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- GOAL:** Protect environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, wellhead protection areas, and inland lakes from the harmful effects of incompatible development.
- Objective:** Maintain an inventory of environmentally sensitive areas, provide the information to interested parties, and incorporate the information in land use regulation documents.
- Objective:** Devise regulations for land development in environmentally sensitive areas which permit development consistent with identified protection objectives and which complement state and federal regulations for those areas.
- Objective:** Continue the protection of areas around community drinking water wells as wellhead protection areas to protect groundwater drinking supplies.
- Objective:** Implement watershed management and wellhead protection techniques which seek to reduce pollution and soil erosion/sedimentation, and carefully consider development in sensitive areas.
- Objective:** Cooperate with appropriate watershed districts to address water quality issues.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

GOAL: Provide a variety of recreational opportunities to area residents through a system of public and private facilities.

Objective: Periodically review and expand the Marion Township Parks and Recreation Plan.

Objective: Investigate sources of state and federal funding for parks and recreation facilities.

Objective: Design open space and recreation areas to enhance the character of residential areas. Encourage the incorporation of such areas into new residential developments.

Objective: Where possible, open space easements should be preserved to provide an interconnecting network of non-motorized trails that follow natural greenway corridors.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GOAL: Minimize strain on local infrastructure through land use decisions and infrastructure improvement planning.

Objective: Encourage development in areas of the Township where adequate infrastructure is present or easily available.

Objective: Maintain infrastructure improvements in areas of the Township that can support dense development.

GOAL: Assist the Livingston County Road Commission in maintaining a safe and efficient road network and improve roads to promote use in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives of the Marion Township Comprehensive Plan.

Objective: Prioritize township road needs in cooperation with the Livingston County Road Commission.

Objective: Where a loss in roadway efficiency is likely to occur with an excessive number of driveways, prevent individual lot access to arterial or collector streets from intensive development.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Continued...

- GOAL:** Where public utilities exist, insure a safe and adequate water supply and environmentally sound sewage treatment that is efficiently provided and cost effective.
- Objective:** Continue to coordinate and maintain the provision of public sewer and water infrastructure, and designated wellhead protection areas. Prepare and implement a plan for the carefully timed provision of public sewer and water service in limited areas of the Township, consistent with the development goals and objectives of the Marion Township Comprehensive Plan.
- Objective:** Discourage private community sewage/waste water treatment facilities and if permitted by the State, require that projects meet underlying zoning density.
- GOAL:** Develop township services and facilities as necessary and financially practical.
- Objective:** Increase public services and facilities only when consistent with demand from township population growth.

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

- GOAL:** Encourage a variety of residential dwelling types which meet the needs of a changing population, are sensitive to existing natural features, and are compatible with the character of existing residences.
- Objective:** Encourage new residential development that fits into the rural character of Marion Township.
- Objective:** Ensure that the designs of new development provide for preservation of existing trees, scenic features, and sensitive environmental areas.
- Objective:** Encourage manufactured housing development in limited areas adjacent to the City of Howell, or within the City of Howell as established through a legal agreement, with site and architectural design that will create neighborhoods of lasting value and stability.
- Objective:** Encourage the clustering of new residential development so as to preserve open space and agricultural land.
- Objective:** Structure zoning and land division regulations to permit open space developments.

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Continued...

Objective: Encourage an array of zoning districts and innovative zoning ordinance language that permits many different types of housing opportunities such as live-work units, elder cottage housing, granny flats, and housing for special needs.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: Encourage the development of commercial and light industrial activity in locations where adequate public facilities are available, and that are consistent with the Marion Township Comprehensive Plan.

Objective: Encourage new commercial and industrial development in areas with safe access to major roads and adequate public sewer and water utilities.

Objective: Encourage new commercial and industrial development where activities will not cause undue interference with traffic patterns and will not pose a nuisance to adjacent land uses.

Objective: Implement site plan requirements for new or altered commercial and industrial uses so that impacts on the natural environment and surrounding land uses are minimized.

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

GOAL: Ensure the safe, efficient, and cost-effective disposal of solid waste and toxic substances.

Objective: Encourage the reduction of solid waste through recycling, composting, and other resource recovery projects, and encourage the use of biodegradable containers.

Objective: Adopt regulations for on-site storage and containment of hazardous substances.

Objective: Establish regulations for landfills and other solid waste collection sites.

Objective: Regulate the importing of solid waste from other counties into Marion Township, within the parameters of statutory and common law.

Objective: Endorse a recycling program with a central drop-off site or possibly a curb side program.

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

Continued...

Objective: Develop and distribute community education materials on recycling procedures and facilities.

Objective: Endorse a collection site for household hazardous waste and/or distribute community education materials on proper waste disposal methods.

Objective: Encourage larger residential developments in the Township to coordinate the use of one waste hauler for all residences within the development.

**INTERJURISDICTIONAL
COOPERATION**

GOAL: Encourage uniform or compatible land use planning and zoning across municipal boundaries by coordinating efforts with the surrounding Townships and the City of Howell.

Objective: Provide adjoining municipalities with up-to-date copies of the Marion Township Comprehensive Plan.

GOAL: Enhance the feasibility and effectiveness of providing public facilities and services through cooperation and sharing of costs with other municipalities.

Objective: Where mutual benefits are apparent, cooperate with the City of Howell to provide public services for the development of prime commercial and industrial land near the Pinckney Road & I-96 interchange.

Objective: Develop a public sewer and water policy for extension of lines into areas contiguous with those served with existing facilities by surrounding municipalities.

Objective: Develop cooperative agreements between municipalities for the maintenance of common roads.

AGRICULTURE

GOAL: Keep farming a viable and visible part of Marion Township's future land use plan.

Objective: Educate the public on zoning and site planning techniques which preserve agricultural land, open space, and unobstructed views of fields, pastures, and agricultural buildings.

AGRICULTURE

Continued...

- Objective:** Explore purchase of development rights (PDR), land conservancy, P.A. 116, or other methods to preserve working agricultural lands.
- Objective:** Support the landowner's Right to Farm when proper agricultural practices are followed.
- Objective:** Protect drainageways for agricultural land.
- Objective:** Give farmers the tools or range of options necessary to conduct farm-related activities on their property while keeping farming viable on the rest.
- Objective:** Encourage property tax policies that assess farmland for present use rather than potential use.

HAZARD MITIGATION

- GOAL:** Cooperate with County, Regional, State and Federal hazard mitigation initiatives.
- Objective:** Keep the Township's Hazardous Materials Ordinance updated and timely.

TRANSPORTATION

- GOAL:** Promote a transportation system that is safe for all modes of transit.
- Objective:** Promote interconnections between residential developments to minimize traffic on main roads.
- Objective:** Promote an interconnected greenway system that enhances opportunities for safe pedestrian and bicycle transportation.
- GOAL:** Provide a transportation system that maximizes the mobility of people and supports the efficient transfer of goods and services.
- Objective:** Endorse the efforts of Livingston Essential Transportation Service (LETS).
- Objective:** Evaluate impacts of traffic generated by development and work toward improvements concurrent with new development.

TRANSPORTATION

Continued...

- GOAL:** **Develop a transportation system that is sensitive to, and which compliments, the natural environment.**
- Objective:** Reduce the adverse effects of the transportation system on prime agricultural lands, essential open spaces and recreational resources, and historically significant sites and districts within the Township.
- Objective:** Preserve the rural feel of the current road network, including a mix of paved and unpaved roads, and screening buildings from the view of passers-by on roads.