

CHAPTER 7

Community Goals and Objectives

In developing community goals and policies, it is important to analyze existing community characteristics, such as: social and economic features, environmental resources, available services and facilities, and existing land use. In addition to examining existing characteristics, another important tool in the development of community goals and policies is to identify community assets, problems and other issues to be addressed.

Goals and Objectives

Land Use Goal

Maintain an ecologically sound balance between human activities and the environment to retain the Township's scenic and rural character.

OBJECTIVES:

- Review/modify Zoning provisions for consistency with this Master Plan.
- Control the location of new development by designating appropriate areas for new residential, recreational, commercial, and industrial land uses.
- Encourage access management standards, open space and landscape requirements for new development, such as appropriate setbacks, retention of green space, buffer zones between differing land uses, screened parking areas, and roadside landscaping; and encourage the retention of open space and scenic vistas with PUD's, clustering, and conservation easements.

Natural Resource Goal

Protect and preserve groundwater, surface water, woodlands, wetlands, open space wildlife habitat and steep slopes.

OBJECTIVES:

- Encourage a land use pattern that is oriented to the natural features and water resources of the area by evaluating type and density of proposed developments based on soil suitability; slope of land; potential for ground water and surface water degradation and contamination; compatibility with adjacent land uses; and impacts to sensitive natural areas like wetlands, greenways and wildlife corridors.
- Work to limit and control the density and type of development adjacent to lakes, streams, and wetlands.
- Encourage the maintenance of greenbelt areas adjacent to lakes, streams, and wetlands.
- Support the strengthening of groundwater protection and storm water management regulations in the Township's zoning ordinance, while encouraging the continued natural use of wetlands as groundwater recharge, storm water filtering and storm water holding areas.
- Limit developments on steeply sloped areas and require erosion control measures where construction is permitted. Require slope stabilization and revegetation on disturbed slopes or in extraction areas.
- Encourage planting of native tree and shrub species when properties are developed.

Forestry & Agriculture Goal

Acknowledge the importance of forestry management and agricultural practices.

OBJECTIVES:

- Recognize that the presence of forested and agricultural lands adds to the scenic and rural character of the Township.
- Work to provide economically feasible options for continued agricultural use of active farmland.
- Discourage the conversion of forested or farmland into other more intensive uses.
- Participate in efforts to educate the community regarding open space and agricultural preservation.
- Encourage the retention and management of existing forestland
- Promote re-forestation and sound forestry management practices for areas with productive forest soils.

Recreation Goal

Provide and maintain recreation lands and facilities for safe access and enjoyment by residents and visitors.

OBJECTIVES:

- Maintain an overall plan to address recreation needs (current and anticipated) and maintenance plan for all recreation facilities and parklands.
- Develop a network of non-motorized trails around the lakes and connecting to other trail systems and recreational facilities.
- Work cooperatively with trail organizations, including (but not limited to) the local chapter of the North Country Trail Association and local snowmobile associations.
- Seek grant funding for park and recreation improvements.

Residential Goal

Retain the Township's rural and scenic character, while providing for suitable housing opportunities for the varied economic and lifestyle needs of the residents.

OBJECTIVES:

- Designate areas appropriate for varying types of residential development consistent with environmental constraints of the area.
- Preserve the integrity of existing residential neighborhoods by protecting from intrusion of incompatible uses.
- Require a buffer between Residential uses and other more intensive uses.

Infrastructure & Public Service Goal

Maintain and improve the Township facilities, programs and systems consistent with the community needs, and the ability to finance the improvements.

OBJECTIVES:

- Continue to support the local emergency services including the local Fire and Rescue Department.
- Participate in efforts to establish a county-wide comprehensive waste management approach, with emphasis on recycling.
- Monitor and explore the needs for water, septic/sewer, and natural gas services as more development occurs.
- Pursue expansion of high-speed communications within Township.