

# ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP 2015 MASTER PLAN

Draft for Public Hearing: March, 2015



Ann Arbor Township Master Plan

Adopted by the Ann Arbor Township Planning Commission on (DATE)

Adopted by the Ann Arbor Township Board of Trustees on (DATE)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

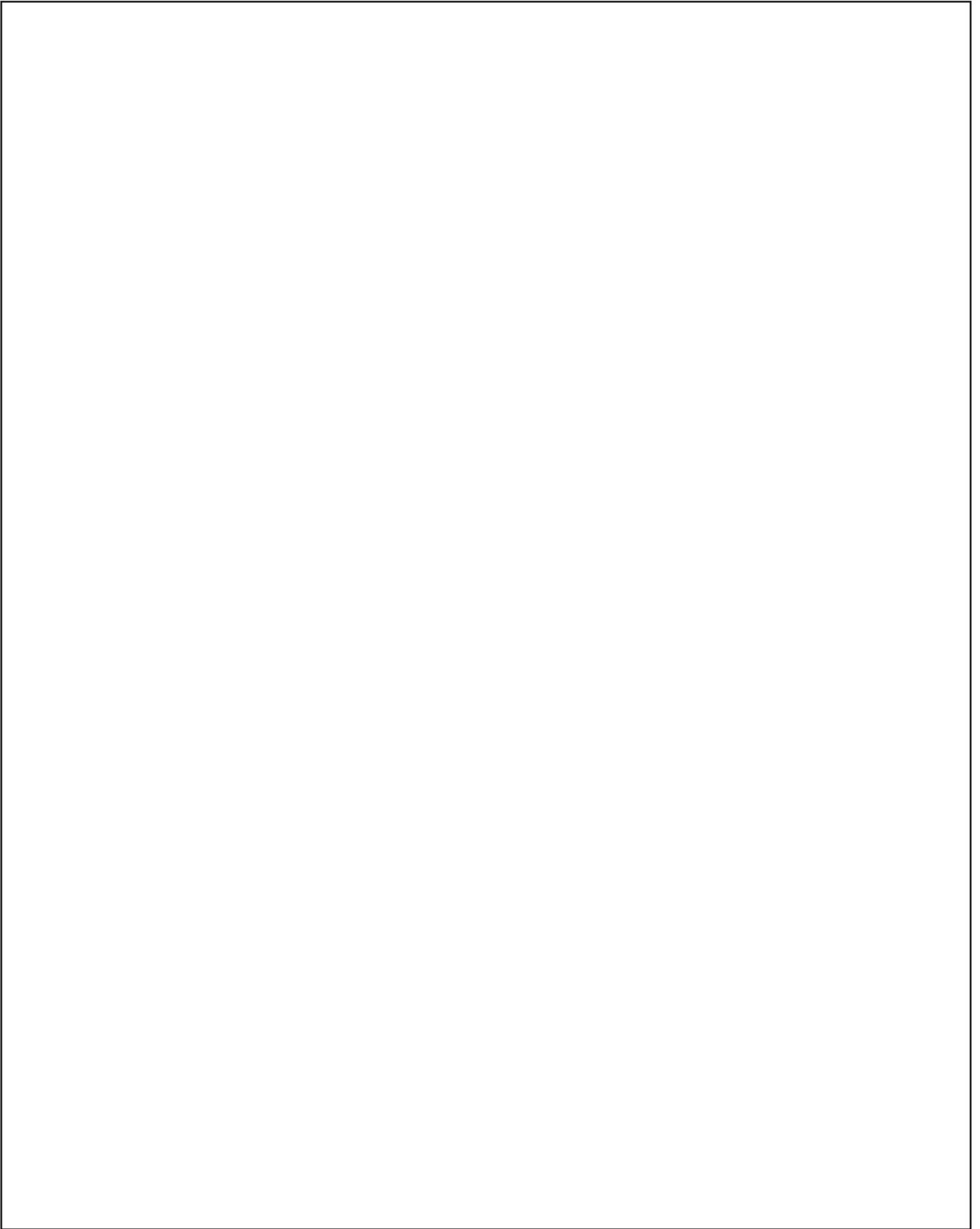
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Ann Arbor Township Master Plan



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# PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Under the Michigan Planning Act (Act 33 of the Public Acts of 2008), communities are required to review their Master Plan every five years, and update it if needed. The Township’s previous Master Plan was most recently amended in 2008 and then again in 2011. The 2008 update followed a previous revision in 2005, which fully replaced a Plan adopted in 2001.

The “Great Recession” in 2008 significantly slowed the pace of development in the Township. However, the economic recovery over the past five years has seen advances in other areas, such as agricultural preservation. Since conditions affecting the Township have continued to evolve, the Planning Commission has initiated amendments to the Plan to meet the changing needs of the community.

## A. PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLAN

The Master Plan describes the goals for the future of Ann Arbor Township and the policies that are intended to implement them. Those goals address the fundamental issues that the Township expects to face in the next 20 years. The Plan is focused on a limited number of issues in order to concentrate on those that can truly make a difference in the Township’s future. The Plan will work alongside the Washtenaw County 2004 document “A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County, A Sense of Place, a Sustainable Future”

in establishing long-term policies for the Township within the context of the greater Washtenaw County area.

Since the Plan concentrates on goals and policies, it is general in nature, focusing on the Township’s intended response to various issues. Goals express long-term rather than short-term expectations and are often general in nature.

Policies are specific statements that apply to the achievement of goals. When policies are officially adopted, they commit a jurisdiction to a course of action. The Plan also establishes implementation mechanisms which are specific, targeted courses of action devised to apply a Township policy.

The Plan provides guidelines for making decisions or recommendations in the future. For example, it provides the framework for Planning Commission recommendations on rezoning petitions, for subdivision plats brought to the Township Board, for Zoning Board of Appeals decisions, and for Planning Commission decisions on site plans. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis at the time necessary and within the context of the Plan. The Plan will be

amended if analysis generated by required decisions indicates that changes are appropriate.

The Plan recognizes the fact that the future is uncertain and that current perceptions of future conditions might change. The major issues it addresses

might also change over time and policies designed to respond to them might have to be modified or replaced with new ones. The Planning Commission intends to periodically review, refine and otherwise modify the Plan as events unfold. Refinement may be in the form of restating, deleting, or adding to the issues, goals, or policies set forth in the following pages. It may also involve the creation of detailed policies for specific areas of the Township. These changes might result from an analysis of a specific development proposal, such as a rezoning petition; a capital improvement proposal by the Township or other government body; or a periodic review of the Plan or a detailed study of a part of the Township by the Planning Commission. This approach can be viewed as a series of ongoing efforts to adapt the Plan to changing conditions as well as to the planning process.

The Plan is an overall guide to decision-making. Continual use of the planning process and not just the Plan itself will assure that decisions regarding land uses and facilities will be better than they would be in the absence of such a process. It is the Planning Commission's intent to continually improve the planning process as well as the Plan.

The Plan was designed to indicate the preferred uses for all parts of the planning area rather than for a projected population or a target year.

The maps in the Plan are intended only to illustrate some of the policies described in the text. They show general locations of uses and facilities. The text of the Plan should be consulted for a description of policies that apply to specific areas or features. If

there is inconsistency between a policy described in the text of the Plan and a policy illustrated on any map in the Plan, the text will control Township Policy.

## B. THE PLANNING AREA

The planning area includes all areas of the Township that are to remain in Ann Arbor Township based on the 1994 Boundary Policy Statement, as amended, with the City of Ann Arbor. The Plan does not designate uses for those areas currently in Ann Arbor Township but that are to be annexed by the City in accordance with the terms of the Boundary Policy Statement. The planning area does not include the Village of Barton Hills.

As of May of 2007, Ann Arbor Township contains approximately 15 square miles, or about 9,500 acres (Map 1.)

# PART 2: HISTORY OF ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP

## A. PHYSIOGRAPHIC HISTORY

The physical setting of the Ann Arbor area was established approximately 12,000 years ago at the end of the last glaciation. The melting glacier created the area's topography and natural drainage systems. Debris was deposited at the front of the melting glacier, creating two ridges, one on the east side of the present City and one on the west. Kettle holes were also formed and became ponds or lakes.

Glacial features play an important role in the settlement and subsequent development of the Ann Arbor area. Glaciers created the existing topography, the Huron River and tributary streams, wetlands, and ponds, which remained in that state until humans began excavating, filling and grading during the 19th and 20th centuries. Many of the results of glacial activity are still visible today. The area's fertile soils supported agricultural production after the area was opened in the early 1800's for settlement. Sand, gravel and boulders that were deposited by the glacier's melting were used for building materials.

The geologic feature with primary impact on the settlement and development of the Ann Arbor area was the Huron River and its tributary streams. The river was used as a transportation route from Detroit and Lake Erie west to Rawsonville (also known as Snow's Landing in early years). Since the river was not navigable west of this point, materials and supplies were shipped by

wagon for the remainder of the trip to Ann Arbor. Land shipment was undependable in wet weather because the roads that existed in early years were sometimes impassable. This forced the early settlers to become more self-sufficient, resulting in the establishment of flour, saw and paper mills on the river and its tributaries.

The natural features of the area encouraged establishment of an agricultural economy from the first days of settlement. Crops and livestock were raised, leading to the establishment of grain mills and later to tanneries and wool mills.

The site for the original settlement of Ann Arbor was selected because of its physical features. John Allen and Elisha Rumsey explored Washtenaw County for a possible settlement site and chose the Ann Arbor area because they found here "a natural clearing with fertile soil, a nearby river to furnish water power and transportation and proximity to the growing commercial center of Detroit."

One Ann Arbor historian described this area's natural attributes in 1881 as follows:

"The locality has had every advantage; nature made it beautiful, the American pioneer made it useful. The former conferred upon it a rich soil and a great water power; the latter utilized each, transforming the soil into well ordered gardens and turning the waters of the river into channels of industry."

## B. TRAILS OF NATIVE AMERICANS

Prior to the coming of the European settlers in the early 1800s, the area was inhabited by Native Americans. They had two village sites close to Ann Arbor Township, but none within it. One of the nearby settlements was located just to the north of the Township, between Pontiac Trail and Joy Road in Section 35 of Northfield Township. The second was located near the intersection of Packard and Stone School Roads in Pittsfield Township. A number of their trails crossed the Township, usually following high ground and waterways, skirting the edges of dense woods and swamps. They intersected on the west side of the current Ann Arbor central business district.

A map from a Washtenaw County history published in 1881 shows 11 trails in the Township. Many of them became roads in the early settlement period; these remain to the present day. For example, Plymouth Road, Fuller/Geddes, Geddes/Huron River Drive, Washtenaw Avenue east of Stadium Boulevard, Main Street, Liberty Street, Dexter/Huron Street west of Main Street and Miller Avenue all generally follow the earlier trails. Portions of Joy Road and Pontiac Trail also follow the route of earlier trails. The generalized location of these trails is shown on Map 2.

## C. EARLY SETTLEMENT

The history of Ann Arbor Township from the days of initial settlement to the present has been inextricably connected to the history of the City. Whereas the Township of Ann Arbor was created in 1827, five years after Washtenaw County was formed, the City was officially founded as a settlement on

February 2, 1824 when Allen and Rumsey registered their claim to 640 acres of land. The new settlement was named “Ann’s Arbor” after the founders’ wives and for the grove-like appearance of the site. Shortly after settlement Ann’s Arbor was designated the county seat.

Ann Arbor Township was created in 1827 when the Legislative Council of the Michigan Territory divided the county into three Townships – Ypsilanti, Dexter, and Ann Arbor. Those Townships were subsequently divided into the 20 that exist today. An 1843 map shows Ann Arbor Township with 36 sections, so its final size was established between 1827 and 1843.

The Township, including the future City of Ann Arbor, grew slowly in the first few years. The area experienced a spurt of growth after the Erie Canal was completed in 1825. The canal linked Detroit and points west with the east coast by connecting Lake Erie with the Hudson River. By 1827 the settlement of Ann Arbor had a population of 150 people and 20 to 30 dwellings. Supplies were procured in Detroit and brought by wagon through Plymouth or by boats pushed upstream on the Huron River to present-day Rawsonville where they were shipped by wagon for the remainder of the trip to Ann Arbor.

On April 23, 1833 the Michigan Legislative Council approved a statute that permitted incorporation of the Village of Ann Arbor. The act made the corporate limits of the new Village the same as the boundaries of the original plat that was laid out and recorded by Allen and Rumsey. In “A History of Washtenaw County,” written in 1881, the population of the Village and remaining Township was listed as 2,900 people. At that

time the area had 4 churches, 2 newspapers, 2 banks, 8 mills and factories, numerous stores, 11 lawyers and 9 physicians. In 1837 the state legislature approved the transfer of the University of Michigan from Detroit to the new Village. The university located itself on a tract of land on the east edge of the Village plat.

The railroad from Detroit was opened in 1839, spurring a new round of growth in the Ann Arbor area. Transportation to and from the area was now much easier, not to mention faster.

The earliest good map now available was prepared in 1843. This map, if it is reasonably accurate, shows a number of features that are historically important to the development of the area. First, the routes of most of the area's current surface roads were already established by 1843. There are, however, some notable differences between then and now. For example, Warren Road (all names are current ones) did not extend west of Pontiac Trail at that time; Dhu Varren Road crossed the entire Township, from what is now Ford Road at Dixboro Road to Maple Road; and Dhu Varren Road had a bridge across the Huron River. Maple Road terminated at Dhu Varren Road and also crossed the river.

The map also shows six roads crossing the river in 1840. They were Maple Road, Dhu Varren Road (across what is now Barton Pond), Beakes Street (as an extension of Plymouth Road), Maiden Lane (between Fuller/Glazier Way and Plymouth/Beakes), Fuller/Glazier Way and Geddes Road. Three of these crossings were within one-half mile of each other in the Village; the others were at the west and east edges of the Township. The river was therefore a physical barrier

to movement between the north and south parts of the Township between these widely separated crossing points.

The Village occupied about one square mile of land in 1843, leaving the Township with all but one of its original 36 square miles. The Michigan Central railroad is shown in the Huron River valley but the Ann Arbor railroad is not shown as it had not yet been constructed. A number of mills existed in the area in 1843: a sawmill (Chubb's) and a paper mill in Section 7 (between the railroad and the river in the vicinity of Newport and Bird Roads); a sawmill (Kellogg's) and a flour mill on the east side of the river in Section 17 (west of Whitmore Lake Road); a sawmill (Woodruff) on Mallets Creek in Section 35 (on the south edge of the swamp along Huron River Drive); a sawmill and flour mill (Geddes) between the railroad and river in Section 36) at the intersection of Dixboro and Geddes Roads and two sawmills on Fleming Creek, one south of Geddes Road in Section 25, probably Parker Mill, identified as Pages, and one in Section 24 on the present University of Michigan property. Another sawmill was located on Traver Creek (Traverse) in Section 21, just north of Plymouth Road.

Four schoolhouses were in or close to Ann Arbor Township. One was located south of Joy Road at Whitmore Lake Road. Two were located on the north side of Joy Road, one in Northfield Township at Pontiac Trail and the other in Salem Township at Dixboro Road. A fourth, Popkins School, is located at Plymouth Road and Old Earhart Road. A post office was located in Northfield Township just north of the school at Whitmore Lake Road.

Almost all the economic and social facilities that had been constructed by 1843 were either in the Village, along the river, or in the portion of the Township north of the river. The map shows nothing south of the river outside the Village, except a furnace just west of the Village in the vicinity of First Street and the aforementioned sawmill in Section 35. This suggests that developments existing by 1843 were either in the Village or north of the river.

Today, two Washtenaw County Local Historic Districts recognize the Township's historic character and serve as elements of the County-wide effort to document the development pattern of Washtenaw County. These districts are McMahan Springs, a 1.4 acre property with an Italianate residence and dairy barn located at 2426 Whitmore Lake Road and the Popkins School, a one-room brick schoolhouse constructed at 2385 Earhart Road in 1870.

## D. RAILROADS

Construction of railroad tracks had an impact on the settlement of Ann Arbor Township and the surrounding area in two ways. Because of their ability to move people, produce, products, and equipment with relative ease, the stage was set for economic growth. At the same time, the tracks created a barrier. Road extensions were less frequent than they might have been in the absence of the railroad. With the additional obstacles posed by the Huron River, crossings were difficult and expensive. A current example is the Dixboro Road crossing of the river and railroad.

The Township is crossed by two railroads. The Michigan Central, completed in 1839, crosses it in a northwest-southeast direction,

generally following the Huron River. The original route still exists. The second railroad, the Ann Arbor, was constructed during the latter part of the 19th century. A map dated 1895 shows the railroad in its current alignment except for the segment just north of Plymouth Road. The railroad track diverged from its current route to the northeast in the southwest corner of Section 15 in the vicinity of Upland Drive. It then followed a northeasterly course through Section 14 and turned north through Sections 11 and 4 about midway between Nixon and Earhart Roads. The track turned northeast again in Northfield Township to Leland Station at North Territorial and Earhart Roads. At this point it turned to the northwest to Whitmore Lake. The 1895 map shows a proposed "cutoff" route through Ann Arbor Township, which became the present alignment of the track. Since a 1911 map shows the entire railroad in its current alignment through the Township, the cutoff must have been constructed between 1895 and 1911.

## E. FREEWAYS

Construction of the freeway system in the Ann Arbor area continued the transportation improvements that attracted economic development. The freeways, especially M-14, improved travel time between the Ann Arbor and Detroit metropolitan areas and made the Ann Arbor area a more functional part of the larger southeast Michigan region. Ann Arbor Township, in particular, became a more accessible place to live. US-23 connects Ann Arbor with Toledo and Flint.

## F. AREA GROWTH

The interweaving of the City and Township histories is characterized by a pattern of the City’s incorporated area expanding into the Township. Since its founding, the City has expanded into Pittsfield Township to the south and Scio Township to the west. But the largest part of the City by far is located in what was at one time Ann Arbor Township.

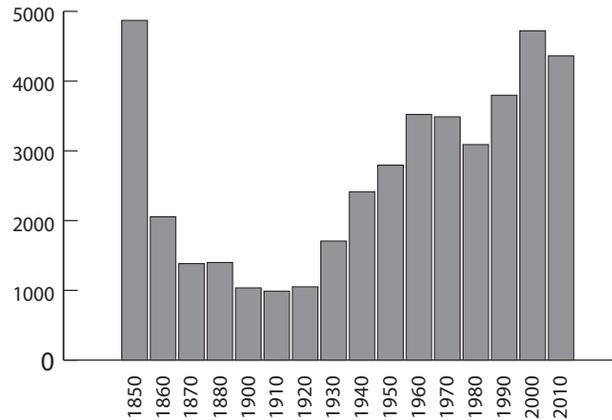
The City’s growth as expressed by its corporate limits was quite well balanced in all directions through the 1940s. Major growth occurred to the east and northeast between 1950 and 1970. A smaller amount of growth occurred in the Ann Arbor Township portion of the City from 1970 through the 1990s. This most recent growth consisted primarily of infill of older islands and relatively small accretions of land on the perimeter, particularly in the northeast part of the City.

Since 1843, the Township’s land area, as shown in the following table, has decreased by about 50 percent:

Year	Area in Sq. Miles
1843	35
1934	29.5
1949	27.5
1970	18
1991	17
2000	16.5
2007	15

*Note: The average figures are estimates and include Barton Hills Village*

The Township’s population has fluctuated over the years since its founding. The decennial population figures are reflected in the following graph (All population figures include Barton Hills Village):



## G. CONCLUSION

This brief survey of Ann Arbor Township’s past shows that the area’s potential for growth was established early by several factors that would influence its character and the opportunities it offered. First, its natural setting was created after the glacier melted and left the area with a scenic beauty, good soil for agriculture to support early settlers, and ample water supplies.

Second, human settlements provided the foundation for development. Native Americans traversed the area with trails that established the pattern for most of the current road system. European settlers who came later founded the City of Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor Township. The City gradually became the dominant social and economic force in the life of the Township and continues to be a magnet for urban growth, a consumer of Township land to support that growth, and a provider of commercial and service land uses.

The third factor contributing to the area's growth potential was the major improvements made to the transportation system tying the area to much larger economic regions. The railroads created the first dependable and efficient economic connection between the Ann Arbor and Detroit areas and provided a north-south connection to the rest of Michigan and to Toledo. More recently, the freeway system repeated the railroads' century-earlier impact on the area, but on a scale many times greater. The primary freeway orientation was east-west, particularly to the southeast Michigan region. A north-south orientation was created with construction of the I-75/US-23 freeway system from the Canadian border at Sault Ste. Marie to southern Florida.

While US-23 has had a significant impact on the development pattern of Ann Arbor Township, that impact varies greatly from one area of the community to the next. Given that two exits to US-23 exist within the east portion of the Township, on the east side of the City of Ann Arbor, most of the recent development within the community has occurred near Geddes Road or Plymouth Road. This phenomenon reinforces the generally east-west development pattern in this area of Washtenaw County, situated along Plymouth Road and Washtenaw Avenue, just south of the Township. In contrast, no US-23 exits are present within the Township north of the City of Ann Arbor, leaving the area mostly residential, agricultural, or open space.

Fourth, throughout this period of development the steady and sometimes rapid growth of the City took place primarily at the expense of Ann Arbor Township territory. Much of the original Township area, about 50 percent, has been absorbed by the City to support its growth.

Fifth, large public institutional uses within the Ann Arbor area are located in Ann Arbor Township. The North Campus of the University of Michigan is just within the City limit, and the University satellite medical campus is located at Earhart Road and Plymouth Road in the Township. Washtenaw Community College is also within the Township, and St. Joseph Medical Center lies just outside the Township boundary to the east. All these uses have influenced the somewhat more intensive land use patterns in the eastern part of the Township.

The remaining Township territory still has the natural character that made the area attractive for initial settlement. The attractiveness of these features is amplified many times by the fast, easy access to millions of people and thousands of businesses provided by the freeway system. It is with these historical forces, including natural beauty for a living and working environment, ready accessibility to a larger region and the attraction of a major city on its doorstep, that Ann Arbor Township moved from the final years of the 20th century into the 21st.

# PART 3: PLANNING CONTEXT

A number of existing and anticipated conditions are expected to affect Ann Arbor Township in the future. These conditions are the framework for developing goals and policies for planning in the next 20 years. These are the issues that the Master Plan is designed to meet.

## A. TOWNSHIP LOCATION AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Ann Arbor Township is located in a major development corridor. The southeast Michigan metropolitan area is growing westward along the I-96 freeway, 16 miles to the north, and west in the M-14 and I-94 corridors to the Ann Arbor area and beyond. Convergence of the M-14/I-94 freeways at the west edge of the City of Ann Arbor increases the strategic position of Ann Arbor Township in terms of development pressure. The force is augmented by the northeastward expansion of the City to the M-14/US-23 boundary.

North-south growth in the US-23 corridor between Ann Arbor and Brighton has been significant over past years and is expected to continue into the future. Development interests have been particularly intense in the northeast end of the corridor in Brighton and Green Oak Township. As a result of planning policy, the south end of the corridor has developed much less intensely. It is reasonable to expect that development pressure will continue in this corridor and the intensity of its impact is expected to

increase in the northwest and north parts of the planning area.

The Township is also affected by a general trend toward patterns of low density, large-lot development that requires longer commuting time to places of employment, schools, shopping, and recreation. At the same time, advances in technology allow more people to work from their houses. As a result more people will be able to live where they want without the constraint of commuting time. These factors, together with the attraction of the Ann Arbor area as a place to live and work, will add pressure to develop Ann Arbor Township.

At the same time, a counter trend has been occurring in recent years in the City of Ann Arbor, where the City has taken measures to permit development at higher densities and building heights than ever before. New residential projects in the city center, including new construction and adaptive use of formerly industrial buildings has created a new supply of urban, high-density living environments. Many of these new residential projects appear successful and have empowered Ann Arbor to retain more of its residents and accept new residents, while placing less demand on outlying areas than would have been necessary under previous regulations. Therefore, while it can be said that decentralization has and continues to occur across Southeast Michigan, the City of Ann Arbor has taken proactive steps to combat this phenomenon locally within Washtenaw

County. Much of the recently developed and currently undeveloped land that will be developed at these higher densities within the eventual city boundaries (US-23/M-14 freeway ring) has been or will be annexed from Ann Arbor Township to the City in accordance with the 1994 Boundary Policy Statement. (See Map 1.)

Ann Arbor Township is an integral part of the Ann Arbor area. While the Township does not have a single developed focal point, such as a central business district, it does have characteristics that establish the unique character of the Township. These are:

1. The Township has the character of a sparsely developed, generally rural land use pattern in the north and northwest areas. These areas, outside Barton Hills Village, have farming operations and scattered large residential parcels of land.
2. The three very low density urban land use areas (Domino's Farms, the U of M East Medical Campus, and the Ann Arbor Technology Park) together represent a unique part of the entire Ann Arbor area. These are located in the north part of the east area and provide a distinct low-density contrast to the more intensely developed City to the west.
3. The east edge of the planning area, north of the Huron River, is for the most part in permanent open space and consequently creates a greenbelt along the northeast edge of the Ann Arbor urban area. This open space consists of the Radrick Farms/Botanical Gardens/Fleming Creek corridor, Marshall Park and Horner McLaughlin Woods.

4. Ann Arbor Township is a geographically narrow community, forming a band of area around the north and east side of the City of Ann Arbor. Annexation into the City of portions of the Township have resulted in Ann Arbor Township's unusual configuration. This configuration plays a key role in land use policy. Because Ann Arbor Township is not a conventionally shaped community allowing for a central "downtown" or commercial center of its own, it exists symbiotically with the City of Ann Arbor. The City serves as the central urban hub of Washtenaw County and Ann Arbor Township plays an important role as the first "band" of rural area outside the City. This relationship reinforces the Township's regional role as a predominantly rural community working in tandem with the City of Ann Arbor to form a graduated, logical transition from the most intense center of Washtenaw County, Downtown Ann Arbor, to the most rural outer areas of the County

Thus, except for the higher urban density represented by Village Green, the Fleming Creek subdivision and the Arbors, Ann Arbor Township is a very low density contrast and boundary to the north and northeast edges of the City of Ann Arbor. Its proximity to the City helps emphasize the character of Ann Arbor Township.

The annexation issue between Ann Arbor Township and the City of Ann Arbor was resolved in 1994 when the City and Township adopted a mutual policy statement which recognized an orderly annexation of Township properties within a set boundary. The boundary generally follows the freeway around Ann Arbor formed by M-14 and US-23. Vacant land within that boundary has

developed at higher densities that require public water and sewer. Land beyond this boundary within the Township will not be annexed to the City. This transfer of density to the City has resulted in a situation in which a number of high density zoning categories are now accommodated within the City boundary, and are therefore no longer required within Ann Arbor Township.

At least half of the Township's planning area has a relatively fixed land use pattern because of existing development, lot sizes and location. Parts of this area are either fully developed or the existing land use pattern sets the stage for the future as in the case of Domino's Farms Office Park and the U of M East Campus, (although future uses at the University Medical Campus cannot be predicted presently, as only four medical buildings and the basic street and open space patterns exist).

In 2003 the Township Board of Trustees appointed a Farmland Preservation Board, which developed a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Ordinance that was approved later that year by the Township Board. The Farmland Preservation Board oversees applications for farmland owners who want to sell the development rights on their farmland. In November 2003, Ann Arbor Township voters approved a 0.7 mill tax to protect farmland and open spaces in the Township permanently. In parallel with this millage, the City of Ann Arbor also passed a Greenbelt millage with similar aims as the Ann Arbor Township PDR initiative. The goal of the Township program is to preserve over 2,000 acres of farmland in Ann Arbor Township, by leveraging Township funds with the City program, Federal and State PDR programs and private funds. This should strengthen the agricultural policies of the

Master Plan. Map 4 shows lands protected by PDR and other methods.

## B. LAND USE POLICIES OF NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

The future character of Ann Arbor Township will be affected by the development activities and planning policies of neighboring communities and the University of Michigan, which is a significant landowner in the Township. Ann Arbor Township shares its borders with seven communities, three of which touch the Township only at its corners. Understanding the existing conditions in these areas is essential to establishing policies for Ann Arbor Township.

- The University of Michigan. The University of Michigan has significant land holdings in and near Ann Arbor Township. The University owns 390 acres in the Ann Arbor Technology Park and additional acreage elsewhere in the Township. An office complex and a medical facility at the corner of Plymouth and Earhart Roads are currently the only existing University developments in the Township. However, the University is expected to develop the East Campus in coming years. The *2005 East Medical Campus Master Plan* envisions using the natural features of this unique site for many active, outdoor spaces that balance the Health System's mission with the best practices of land stewardship. Outpatient clinical care, including associated clinical research and medical education will occur at this site. Development will continue to be clustered to minimize impact on the natural environment, and scaling will be modest to respect the surroundings.

Such development will have significant impacts on Township water and sewer capacity, traffic and natural features.

- City of Ann Arbor. The City’s ability to annex Ann Arbor Township properties is limited to those areas agreed upon in the 1994 Boundary Policy Statement. In 2011, City staff summarized major issues regarding annexation of township islands within the overall City of Ann Arbor service area. The summary concluded with a recommended procedure to accomplish annexation of these remaining township parcels. To assist with this effort, the City developed a prioritization model to help determine an effective approach to annexing clusters of Township parcels. The Prioritization Tools ranks each parcel using 11 evaluation criteria. The results of the evaluation gives each parcel a score. The higher the score, the higher annexation priority. Example criteria include presence of sanitary sewer and/ or water main, fire safety capability, access and road infrastructure, natural features and other criteria. Council approved this process, and the City has moved forward to incrementally annex township islands into the City’s jurisdiction.

Development in areas of the City bordering the Township also affects land uses within the Township. For example, the City’s Northeast Area Plan (From the *2009 City of Ann Arbor Master Plan - Land Use Element*) encourages strategic development of high-density residential in clustered areas with a strong connection to mass transit opportunities. Additional density could have spillover effects on future land use in the adjoining parts of Ann Arbor Township.

A cooperative planning relationship with the City is important so that planning policies of both municipalities in border areas will be compatible with each other.

- Northfield Township. Northfield Township borders Ann Arbor Township to the north along Joy Road. Northfield Township adopted an update to the Township Master Plan in 2012, the strong focus of which is the containment and appropriate management of increasing development pressure along the US-23 Corridor, specifically at the intersection of US-23 and North Territorial Road. The Development Strategies and Design Guidelines for the southern area of the Township bordering Ann Arbor Township are focused on preservation of open spaces and agricultural operations, as well as maintaining scenic views and wildlife corridors. When residential development is permitted, clustered developments are strongly suggested.
- Pittsfield Township. The northeast part of Pittsfield Township (Section 1) borders Ann Arbor Township along Clark Road. Pittsfield updated its Master Plan in 2010. It shows business, multi-family residential, and public land uses along the border with Ann Arbor Township. Existing apartment and office complexes are located adjacent to Ann Arbor Township. The Washtenaw County Service Center property abuts Ann Arbor Township at the intersection of Clark and Hogback Roads. The north part of the service center property is open for further development for County government functions.

Pittsfield Township has identified a special planning area just south of Clark

Road along Washtenaw Avenue. The Township is planning for redevelopment of this area into a higher density, mixed use commercial and residential area with live-work units and townhouses. Transit service is also being planned as a component of this mixed-use area.

- Salem Township. Salem Township’s southwest corner touches the northeast corner of Ann Arbor Township at the intersection of Joy and Dixboro Roads. Salem’s 2009 Master Plan calls for clustered, low-density residential growth in this area (two-acre minimum lot sizes).
- Scio Township. Scio Township abuts the western border of Ann Arbor Township at Maple Road. The 2009 Master Plan designates low density residential uses in this area. Directly adjacent to the Huron River, the Master Plan recommends a greenbelt of recreation/conservation land uses. Adjacent to this, the plan recommends low-density residential development at one dwelling unit per 2.5 acres. In the area extending to the Township’s north boundary along Maple Road, land use is classified as open space agricultural/rural residential uses. This designation allows low density residential development only when it promotes open space preservation and is compatible with maintaining existing agricultural operations. Density in this area is described as one dwelling unit on lots greater than 2.5 acres. This designation is intended to preserve agricultural operations, and permit small, clustered residential developments with a minimum of 50% open space. Residential development is permitted through an innovative “sliding scale”

zoning technique to regulate density. Similar to Ann Arbor Township, Scio Township has a purchase of development rights millage in place to preserve farmland and natural areas.

- Superior Township. The western border of Superior Township is adjacent to Ann Arbor Township. The Township updated its Master Plan in 2010, and highlights protection of the character and quality of life in the Dixboro community and throughout the Township. Extensive preservation of farmland and open space has occurred in the central portion of Superior Township.

The 2010 Master Plan includes specific direction for the future of four sub-areas that abut Ann Arbor Township:

- University of Michigan property (Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Radrick Farms) forms a buffer between the two Townships from Plymouth Road south to Geddes Road for a length of approximately 2 1/2 miles. This buffer area is adjacent to one of Superior Township’s sub-areas (called Gale Road Sub-Area).
- The Rural Plymouth Road/M-14 Sub-Area is located north of the Dixboro community, where agricultural and rural residential uses predominate on one to five acre lots.
- Near the community of Dixboro (the Dixboro and Fleming Creek Sub-Area), a suburban residential pattern with one acre and larger lots is generally established by existing development (as in the Tanglewood subdivision),

## Stream Quality Categories

*(excerpted from How Much Development is Too Much? A Guidebook on using Impervious Surface and Gravel Road Capacity Analysis to Manage Growth in Rural and Suburban Communities. Huron River Watershed Council and Planning and Zoning Center, August 2003):*

- Sensitive streams are under 10% imperviousness in the watershed and typically have good water quality, good habitat structure, and biological communities if riparian zones are intact and other stresses are absent. Sensitive streams will typically be in rural areas that have not seen a great deal of development and may contain significant natural areas. In these areas, the community would set goals to maintain existing watershed hydrology by keeping impervious surface levels in the watershed below 10%.
- Impacted streams have 10 to 25% imperviousness in the watershed and show clear signs of degradation and only fair instream biological diversity. Impacted streams have already seen some measure of development. The community's main goal in these watersheds would be mitigation of the impacts of that and any new development through site design that minimizes imperviousness, stormwater BMP's and restoration of natural areas.
- Non-supporting streams have more than 25% imperviousness in the watershed, a highly unstable channel and poor biological condition supporting only pollutant-tolerant fish and insects. The community's goal for these watersheds is restoration and pollution reduction. The Center for Watershed Protection and many other planners recommend that these watersheds be target areas for urban infill development

If the goal of the community is to preserve water quality in a watershed around a sensitive stream, it needs to keep imperviousness under 10%.

If there are watersheds in the community where imperviousness is already over 25%, and urban services are available, concentrating new development there is better than allowing it to occur in another watershed classified as sensitive.

although the older part of Dixboro has smaller lots. The general thrust of this sub-area is to preserve the water quality and natural character of Fleming Creek, preserve the historic character of Dixboro, and implement traffic calming on Plymouth Road as it passes through Dixboro.

- The southern areas of Superior Township, which have access to public water and sewer, support relatively low-density residential development (two acre lot minimums) in the southeast and the St. Joseph Mercy Health System. St. Joseph abuts land in Ann Arbor Township and is designated as the Hospital Sub-Area. Future uses planned in this urban area include small commercial developments that would serve staff and visitors of St. Joseph Hospital.
- Webster Township. Webster Township touches the northwest corner of Ann Arbor Township at the junction of Maple and Joy Roads. Webster Township's updated 2009 Master Plan directs new residential development toward the existing settlement of Loch Alpine and the Village of Dexter. The agricultural area in the southeast corner of Webster Township is designated for low density residential use with lot sizes of one to two acres. Like Ann Arbor Township and Scio Township, Webster Township has a PDR millage in place.
- Ypsilanti Township. The northwest corner of Ypsilanti Township touches the southeast corner of Ann Arbor Township at the intersection of Golfside and Clark Roads. The 2007 Master Plan designates this area to reflect its current uses,

including multi-family residential land uses and office facilities.

### C. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

The gently rolling landscape of Ann Arbor Township is dominated by agricultural lands, woodlands, wetlands, the Huron River and three major stream corridors - Traver Creek, Fleming Creek and Swift Run Drain. These features help define the rural character of the area and distinguish it from the urban character of the City. The existence of sensitive natural features throughout the Township puts limits on the development potential of land and has resulted in Township policies and ordinances to preserve agriculture, open space and natural features. Natural features also add amenities and value to existing residential development. A description of the primary natural features that constitute the Township's environment follows; Map 3 indicates in a general manner where these features are located.

These natural features have also been identified by a number of studies, including the 2007 bioreserve project conducted by the Huron River Watershed Council. The Bioreserve project used a computer model to rank each natural area based on fifteen different measurements of its ecological value. These included the size of the area, whether wetlands, streams, or lakes are on the site, the diversity of the landscape on the site, the potential for the site to be a groundwater recharge area, the potential for the site to be connected to other natural areas, and how much native vegetation the site potentially still harbors. The resulting map showed over 1,700 sites, totaling about 237,000 acres of natural lands across the watershed.

In 2014, the Huron River Watershed Council conducted another valuable exercise with the Township's Planning Commission that resulted in the Green Infrastructure Map (Map 5). The exercise identified the Township's important natural areas and how they are connected. Large natural areas (hubs) and smaller natural areas (sites) are linked by linear features, such as tree rows or rivers and streams. The resulting network of hubs, sites, and links provide wildlife with access to various food sources, and nesting and rearing sites. By preserving the links as well as the hubs and sites, the Township will minimize the habitat fragmentation present in developed landscapes, and preserve the variety of habitats that local wildlife use to fulfill their life-cycle.

#### Watersheds and Watercourses.

Ann Arbor Township lies within the Huron River Watershed. The Huron River at Barton Pond serves as a drinking water source and the river and its tributaries provide wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and scenic beauty.

While the three primary watercourses in the Township are Fleming Creek and its tributaries, Swift Run Drain, and Traver Creek, portions of the Township are also located within other primary sub-watersheds, including the Middle Huron River, Boyden Creek, and Mallett's Creek. These waterways discharge into the Huron River. Recognizing these watershed units is useful for planning purposes and for monitoring the cumulative impact of development within each watershed.

Fleming Creek traverses several residential developments and the eastern side of U of M East Campus and Ann Arbor Technology Park. Swift Run Drain flows through wooded residential and developing areas on its way to the Huron River. Traver Creek flows through alternating agricultural and suburban residential areas.

Fleming Creek is one of the highest quality tributaries in the Huron River watershed. Fleming Creek has an active advisory council that formed in 1994. By Township Board resolution, the Fleming Creek Advisory Council is invited to review all development proposals within the Fleming Creek Watershed. The Fleming Creek Management Plan (FCMP) developed by the Fleming Creek Advisory Council proposes strategies aimed at protecting water quality and preserving the rural character of the stream. The FCMP recommends strict control of stormwater and erosion to preserve and improve the creek's water quality. FCMP addresses future development and recommends that construction in the creekshed is located away from streams, wetlands, steep slopes and groundwater recharge areas. In addition to the FCMP, the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office has updated its stormwater standards to require stricter stormwater controls and runoff mitigation techniques. However, most of the watershed's acreage is located outside of Ann Arbor Township and Ann Arbor Township's policies will affect only a portion of the watershed. Political units that share the watershed should develop common policies designed to protect water quality.

### Impervious Surface Capacity.

The percent of impervious surfaces within a stream’s watershed is a commonly used indicator of its quality and health. Research indicates that at levels of imperviousness of 8 to 10 percent, stream quality begins to deteriorate (Huron River Watershed Council, 2003). This level is reached at about 1 dwelling unit per 2.5 acres. Between 10 and 25 percent impervious surface, stream quality enters a level known as “impacted.” Once a stream’s watershed passes the 25 percent impervious threshold, research indicates it will no longer be able to support most kinds of aquatic life.

A study of the watersheds in Ann Arbor Township shows both the current (as of 2010) and the future (according to the Master Plan) impervious surfaces (see Maps 6 and 7). As of 2010, Traver, Boyden, and the Fleming Creek headwaters, all located in the northern part of the Township, are considered able to support “sensitive” species of aquatic life. However, the downstream portion of Fleming Creek, as well as Swift Run and the main stem of the Huron River, have fallen into the “impacted” category (between 10 and 25 percent impervious surface).

A buildout analysis conducted by the Huron River Watershed Council based on the 2008 Master Plan shows that all subwatersheds will increase in percent impervious surface. Fleming headwaters and Boyden, while doubling or tripling their impervious surfaces, will remain in the “sensitive” category, if land is built the way the 2008 Master Plan envisions it. Traver will increase its impervious surface by two-and-one-half times, pushing it into the “impacted” category. The downstream portion of Fleming will also be in the

“impacted” category. Swift Run will become “nonsupporting” of aquatic life with 35% impervious surface.

The buildout analysis shows that in the northern reaches of the Township, where the Master Plan calls for agriculture and less intense residential land uses, creeks will be able to continue to support aquatic life and provide clean water for recreation, drinking water, and other ecosystem services. In the southern areas, where the Master Plan calls for more intensive land uses and where the Township provides public water and sewer, impervious surfaces will continue to increase.

According to the Huron River Watershed Council, as development becomes more spread out, impervious surfaces increase in order to accommodate the longer and wider roads, driveways, parking areas, and additional commercial uses that must also be built to provide for everyday needs and services. The net result is an actual increase in imperviousness to accommodate less dense households on a regional or watershed scale. In fact, research from the Huron River Watershed Council shows that subdivisions designed in a typical pattern, where one single family residence is located on its own lot, increase imperviousness by 10 - 50 percent compared to developments that group the same number of households into smaller areas.

To address this issue, the Township has adopted stormwater standards that require mitigation for developments with imperviousness over 20%. It is described in greater detail on pages 54-56.

*(HRWC: Watershed planning: Determining impervious surface capacity to BETTER Manage Growth at the Rural/ Urban Fringe).*

### Wetlands.

Wetlands occur throughout the Township as either isolated pockets of saturated soil or swales filled with water only in wet months, as year-round ponds, or as complex systems of swales and ponds connected by streams and draining into larger water courses. Wetlands are often referred to as fens, bogs, or swamps. These wet areas serve as valuable wildlife habitat for fish, amphibians and migratory birds, provide flood control and groundwater recharge, help irrigate the landscape and drain rainwater from the soil. Because of the integral part they play in the landscape, wetlands are very sensitive to damage by polluted run-off, sedimentation from erosion and outright destruction by development. The size, quality, and connectivity of wetland systems are all important factors considered in Township planning. Many wetlands are protected under state law; others are protected by the Township's Wetland and Watercourse Protection Ordinance and zoning regulations.

### Groundwater Recharge Areas.

These are areas where water infiltrates into the soil, eventually reaching an aquifer. These areas are often found in floodplains or associated with wetlands but usually their boundaries are imprecise. Pavement in groundwater recharge areas reduces absorption area. Developing in these areas can also result in discharge of pollution into the soil and possible percolation into aquifers that supply well water. Groundwater recharge areas play an important part in the overall environmental health of the Township. These areas can also be important to maintaining water levels in wetlands and stream/river flows.

### Floodplains.

Floodplains are low lying areas adjacent to lakes, streams, rivers, or ponds and receive excess water from flooding. They protect downstream areas from flooding and control erosion, silting and contamination of water features by storing excess water during flood periods. Floodplains also serve as wildlife corridors and habitat for plant and animal species. Some floodplains have development restrictions imposed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Township development regulations should limit development in these areas. Delineated flood plains in Ann Arbor Township are relatively narrow bands of land adjacent to the Huron River and certain streams.

### Woodlands and Other Flora.

Once forested over most of its territory, the Township now has only fragments of native mixed hardwood forests and cultivated pine plantations. These stands of trees provide wildlife habitat, shade and scenic amenities to the Township, stabilize soil, and encourage infiltration. Woodlands are often along watercourses and floodplains, on wet soils, or in wetlands. Trees in wet areas include willow, red and black maple and elms. The Township also has some dry, upland forests, located on well-drained soils and often interspersed with residential development. These woodlands include remnants of beech/maple and oak/hickory forests. The Township is host to a number of threatened plant species, including the white lady-slipper, taprooted valerian, ginseng, American burnet, goldenseal, Jacob's ladder and Virginia snakeroot. A comprehensive inventory of botanical species in Ann Arbor Township is provided in the 1994 report, "Environmentally Significant Areas

of Ann Arbor Charter Township” by Ellen Weatherbee.

### Fauna.

The Township is home to at least two state-protected species, the redbreasted dace (an endangered fish species) and the Massasauga rattlesnake (a reptile of special concern). Common mammal species include deer, raccoons, opossums, skunk, rabbits, groundhogs and a variety of squirrels and smaller rodents. Red foxes and coyotes are occasionally seen. Commonly found bird species include a variety of hawks, turkey vultures, American crows, pheasant, blue jays, Mallards and wood ducks, great blue heron, great egrets, Canada geese, woodpeckers and a variety of songbirds. The wetlands and watercourses of the Township are home to a variety of amphibian and fish species.

### Soils.

Soil is the lifeblood of agriculture as well as the nourishment for many species of vegetation, and is an important resource for the Township. Much of the Ann Arbor area is composed of glacially deposited sandy and loamy soils and gravel, which are well drained. However, a significant amount of the Township is covered by wet soils, which are often associated with wetlands, woodlands or groundwater recharge areas. Wet or hydric soil is defined in the Natural Resources Conservation Soil Survey of Washtenaw County as having a slow infiltration rate and/or a high water table (depth to water one foot or less). Wet soils provide for vegetation important to wildlife and the aesthetic beauty of a green landscape. They are also an impediment to development. Soil type is therefore an important consideration in the Township’s

land use policies. Heavy, wet soils with high clay content limit residential development due to poor drainage and an inability to support septic systems. Wet soil areas are sometimes interspersed with pockets of well-drained soils.

The northwest area includes some soils that are not suitable for septic tanks and drain fields, based on the County Soil Survey. Those soils constitute an estimated 25 percent of the area. Other significant areas of hydric soils are found in the north area. In areas with wet soils, large lots may be needed to find an area appropriate for a drain field on each lot.

## D. AGRICULTURE

Ann Arbor Township is a desirable place to live, work and visit in large part because of its rural character, which is anchored by farming within the Township. Agriculture is a valuable natural, economic and aesthetic resource and should be protected. Class II soils, the highest quality soil in Washtenaw County for farming, cover much of the northwestern and north central portions of the Township. While not “natural” elements of the landscape, agricultural lands play an important role in defining the environmental conditions of the Township.

The climate, variety of soils and terrain make Ann Arbor Township well suited to the production of a great number of row crops, specialty crops and livestock. These resources include an estimated 2,800 acres of tillable land, approximately 2,600 of which are currently in agricultural production. These agricultural lands serve to link farm operations north, east and west of the City of Ann Arbor and as such play a critical role in stabilizing farming in the

northeastern region of Washtenaw County. Such lands provide unique aesthetic and economic benefits to the citizens of Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County and are an important part of the natural and agricultural heritage of the Township and county. Since the 1800s farming has significantly reshaped natural features in the area. Most of the remaining open spaces in the Township's landscape are agricultural lands and these areas are subject to increasing pressure from residential development. Residential growth must be balanced with maintaining and preserving good quality agricultural land.

In 1999, the Township sponsored a Farmland Analysis (Cost of Services) study conducted by the Washtenaw-Potawatomi Land Trust. The central conclusion of this study was that the preservation of agricultural land through purchasing development rights would cost less than if those acres were developed for residential uses. This analysis also included a survey of the attitudes of residents which indicated that over 73 percent agreed it was important to maintain farmland in the Township.

The agricultural industry in Ann Arbor Township provides the opportunity to harvest locally grown fruits and vegetables to sell at roadside stands, farmers markets, local retail food stores and other local outlets in the County. Land suitable for farming is an irreplaceable natural resource with soil and topographic characteristics that have been enhanced by generations of agricultural use. When such land is converted to residential or other more developed uses that do not require those special characteristics, a critical community resource is permanently lost to the citizens of Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County.

Agriculture in Ann Arbor Township produces a notable array of crops and livestock including corn, soybeans, wheat, vegetables and fruit; as well as beef cattle. While agricultural census data are not available for Ann Arbor Township, they do exist for Washtenaw County and reflect the general situation for Ann Arbor Township. Of the County's nearly 460,000 acres, the 2007 United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (N.A.S.S.) states that 166,811 acres are involved in agricultural production, located on 1,300 farms. These farms produce \$73,197,000 in direct sales of all agricultural products sold annually.

Generally, farmlands that are close to urban centers have a greater market value for future residential development than their market value for farming. Prime farmland has many of the same features that are components of desirable residential areas, such as favorable soil characteristics. This fact encourages the speculative purchase of these lands at high prices for future residential development, regardless of the current zoning of such lands.

#### County, State, and Federal Farmland Preservation

It is the policy of the State of Michigan and Washtenaw County to protect, preserve and enhance farmlands. Support for farmland preservation is established by the State of Michigan in The Michigan Land Use Leadership Council 2003 Report, "Michigan's Land, Michigan's Future" and the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act (P.A. 451 of 1994, MCLA 324.101-324.90106), the Conservation and Historic Preservation Easement Act (P.A. 197 of 1980, MCLA 399.251), and other

statutes and policies. Washtenaw County supports farmland preservation in its 2004 Master Plan entitled “A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County, A Sense of Place, A Sustainable Future,” which includes an in-depth analysis and inventory of active agricultural lands and identifies new market areas for Washtenaw County agriculture. It emphasizes the importance of finding new markets for Washtenaw County agricultural products and suggests that communities review their zoning provisions to ensure that supporting agribusiness is permitted and encouraged. The Plan also includes extensive language describing other funding mechanisms that are currently in place or are being contemplated to preserve agricultural lands. The primary goal of the agriculture chapter of the County Plan is to encourage and support programs that maintain the viability of the County’s agricultural sector.

Washtenaw County voters approved a ten-year renewal of the natural areas preservation millage in 2010. County policy now provides that 25% of funds generated are available to purchase development rights on farmland. That component is now operational, with \$800,000 available annually for direct purchases or in support of projects in other jurisdictions.

State farmland preservation efforts are most prominently carried out in the use of Farmland Development Rights Agreements (FDRAs), which are temporary restrictions on the land in exchange for state income tax benefits and exemptions from certain special assessments. The state Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program has suffered from funding constraints and has not been active for some time.

The Federal Government’s Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP), administered by the Department of Agriculture and the Commodity Credit Corporation, provides grant funds to assist local governments, Native American Tribes, and non-profit organizations with the purchase of development rights on high-quality farmland. FRPP is funded by Congress through the Farm Bill, which allocates funds to every state. Michigan has typically been allocated about \$2.3 million annually.

These measures by themselves, however, have not effectively provided long-term protection of agricultural areas from the pressure of increasing residential and commercial development.

### Washtenaw Metro Alliance

An additional effort undertaken to preserve open and agricultural space in the area is “Green Places: Open Spaces - A Plan for Coordinated Parkland and Open Space” developed by the Washtenaw Metro Alliance. The vision of this Plan is to create an interconnected system of open space throughout the Washtenaw County Metro Alliance region, which includes Ann Arbor Township, the City of Ann Arbor, the City of Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township, Scio Township, Superior Township, Ypsilanti Township, and Washtenaw County. The Alliance supports ecological function, biodiversity, water quality, productive farmland, recreation opportunity and scenic character for current and future residents.

The Plan sets forth a range of action items meant to guide open space preservation efforts across the region. It focuses on identifying an interconnected network

of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions, guides sustainable development, and provides associated economic and quality of life benefits to the county's communities.

### Township Farmland Preservation

Ann Arbor Township established a PDR program in 2003 with 80% voter approval of a 20-year dedicated millage, expected to generate \$8 million over its duration. The program seeks to preserve 2,000 acres of farmland near developing urban areas and provide permanent protection for the public interests served by farmland in Ann Arbor Township. Properties, or portions thereof, on which development rights are purchased, will remain substantially undeveloped in order to promote their agricultural character.

The PDR programs of Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt program play an essential supporting role to the Township PDR Program. As of 2014, 1,099 acres of agricultural lands – of which 17% are in woodlands, wetlands and ponds – have been protected in Ann Arbor Township, with 916 acres utilizing millage funds. The Township millage has expended about \$3.2 million and has attracted \$6.7 million of matching funds from the Greenbelt and FRPP. Moreover, several landowners who sold development rights have used the proceeds to invest in their operations, thereby overcoming the “impermanence syndrome” that often afflicts urban fringe agriculture.

### Small Farms

In addition to commodity grain and livestock on large acreage farms, there is growing local and nationwide interest in small farms as a source of food for local markets, an attractive way of life, and a community asset. Small farms can prosper in proximity to urban areas such as Ann Arbor where farming is well established and where there is a strong network of markets for farm goods, significant individual and institutional interest in fresh produce, engagement in community farming, and appreciation for organic produce. Michigan's climate and soils support an agriculture more diverse than any state except California, which makes these small farm activities particularly appropriate. Ann Arbor Township has important advantages in all these respects, and there are many properties between 10 and 50 acres in size that would be appropriate for such farm operations. In 2007, the Township Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board (FPB) established a Small Farm Initiative to encourage and develop small farm operations within Ann Arbor Township.

One of the Township's main achievements in supporting small farms is the lease of its own property to the Tilian Farm Development Center. In 2006, the Township took title to 153 acres of mostly agricultural land that was originally part of a residential development. The FPB was given the charge of determining the appropriate future use of this parcel. With new interest in local foods and small-scale farming expanding in the County, the FPB decided to support a proposal where new farmers could be trained and new farming businesses could be launched. The Township Board of Trustees invested funds to stabilize the barn, provide water for irrigation and supply electrical

service to match funds provided by USDA to construct hoophouses, install a wash/pack station and build storage for produce. Tilian operates its programs in conjunction with the nonprofit Food Systems Economic Partnership (FSEP) and the MSU Organic Farmer Training Program. Tilian’s programs include:

- Farmer Residency Program. Individuals with agricultural education further their skills through managing the Residency Farm. Program participants also learn how to market what they raise through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares to individuals, families, and local restaurants.
- Incubator Farms. Tilian assists new farming businesses by providing land at no cost to experienced farmers. The program also helps participants establish a network, develop their business model, and guide them into farming as a full-time livelihood on their own land.

The Township’s farm property may also be leased by small farm operations other than Tilian.

The Township PDR program has completed one small farm conservation easement and is pursuing several others. In addition to the typical easement prohibitions on use (division, residential construction, surface mining, etc.), a small farm easement requires the land to be in an agricultural use. It is intended for these properties to be used by small-scale fruit, vegetable and livestock producers, whether through lease or ownership. In addition, the Township facilitated the transfer of a 64-acre parcel from a group of investors to the

Tilian incubator Green Things Farm by first purchasing development rights.

## E. HOUSING AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The housing stock in Ann Arbor Township prior to 1987 consisted almost entirely of single-family detached dwellings. With the subsequent construction of the Fleming Creek subdivision, Village Green apartments, the Arbors and Laurel Gardens condominium complexes, the Township’s housing stock is now approximately 64 percent single-family and 36 percent multiple-family, including single-family attached units. Sixty-three percent of all units are owner occupied. The number of multiple-family dwelling units is not expected to increase in the future.

Based on the number of building permits issued, an average of 33 new single-family housing units were constructed each year from 1990 to 1998. Since 1999, new residential development has continued to decline in Ann Arbor Township. The following table demonstrates the number of single-family building permits issued each year from 1999 until the present.

1999	34 permits issued
2000	24 permits issued
2001	11 permits issued
2002	13 permits issued
2003	15 permits issued
2004	13 permits issued
2005	11 permits issued
2006	0 permits issued
2007	3 permits issued
2008	1 permit issued
2009	0 permits issued
2010	2 permits issued
2011	1 permits issued
2012	2 permits issued

According to the U.S. Census, the 2000 population of the Township was 4,720 people. The population as of the 2010 Census was 4,361 persons, a 7.6 percent decrease since 2000. Like most Michigan communities, the Township's population has decreased slightly. This is most likely due, at least in part, to the economic down turn and reduction in manufacturing activity in the region. Another reason is due to annexation. Under the 1994 Boundary Policy Statement with the City of Ann Arbor, those areas of the Township lying generally within the freeway ring are subject to annexation by the City.

Census data for 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 show a progressively aging population in Ann Arbor Township. The 0-19 year-old age group decreased by seven percent between 2000 and 2010. The 20-65 age group also increased in 1980-2010 a total of 27 percent. The number of people 65 and older also increased by 115 percent over these 30 years, and comprise 16.5 percent of the 2010 population (versus 10 percent in 1980). It is reasonable to expect this aging trend to continue.

## F. TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

### Roads

The road network in Ann Arbor Township consists of a combination of rural, arterial roads, more prominent collector roads, and several major arterials, all maintained by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Ann Arbor Township also has a road designated as a Natural Beauty Road. Stein Road between Maple Road and Whitmore Lake Road was designated as a Natural Beauty Road by the Washtenaw County Road Commission in 2006.

The following characteristics of transportation in Ann Arbor Township may influence planning policy moving forward and will help to inform the goals and policies of this Master Plan.

*There is limited access to the northwest area.* Road access to the northwest part of the Township is restricted by the Huron River, railroad tracks, and freeways. The area has only two access points from the City: Maple Road and Barton Drive. Maple Road is limited in capacity by the one-lane Foster Bridge and the at-grade rail crossing just south of the bridge. The Barton Drive exit on M-14 connects Barton Drive and Whitmore Lake Road to North Main Street, but traffic must merge with freeway traffic over a short distance on the bridge.

In early 2005, the City of Ann Arbor Planning Department's revised Northeast Area Transportation Plan recommended closing the east entrance and exit ramps to the interchange on an interim basis to study whether a permanent closure of those ramps was warranted. The Township has consistently opposed closure of the exit. The most recent 2009 Ann Arbor Transportation Plan Update does not include this recommendation. However, it goes on to say that while many of the recommendations in the Northeast Area Transportation Plan were incorporated into the Update, there are some differences and the two plans should be viewed separately.

*Foster Bridge.* The bridge was built in 1880 and is designated an historical structure by the State of Michigan. The bridge provides access to Barton Hills and the northwest part of Ann Arbor Township, as well as the neighboring parts of Scio, Webster, and

Northfield Townships. Although the WATS Plan Update called for the replacement of the bridge, the Township helped save this historical bridge from replacement, while addressing its major limitations for access because of its single lane and weight limits. Foster Bridge was restored and updated in summer 2003 and reopened in the fall of that year. The upgraded bridge accommodates a heavier load limit allowing use by school buses, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles.

#### *US-23/Plymouth Road interchange.*

From Plymouth Road to Clark Road, US-23 serves as the boundary between Ann Arbor Township and the City; west side exit and entrance ramps at US-23 are in the City, while east side ramps are in the Township. The Plymouth Road/US-23 interchange was improved in 2004.

*Geddes Road/US-23 interchange.* This intersection and the two-lane bridge were a source of significant traffic congestion within Ann Arbor Township. However, in late 2010, the Michigan Department of Transportation completed a road improvement project that added roundabouts at the Geddes Road entrance/exit ramps, and at Earhart Road in the City of Ann Arbor. Other improvements along the corridor included concrete sidewalks and a new non-motorized multiuse asphalt path along the south side of Geddes Rd that connects to a new non-motorized pedestrian bridge spanning US-23.

### Non-Motorized Transportation

Recent amendments to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act require local communities to plan for a "...system of transportation to lessen congestion on streets and provide for safe and efficient

movement of people and goods by motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and other legal users." This is known as planning for "Complete Streets," which considers transportation by all methods, and by all people of all ages and abilities.

Existing non-motorized facilities within the Township consist mostly of on-road paved shoulders along major roadways. The shoulders are between two and five feet wide. Most are the narrower dimension, making these facilities seem dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists. Paved shoulders are found on Maple Road, Whitmore Lake Road, Nixon Road, Plymouth Road, Dixboro Road, Earhart Road (south of M-14), Goss Road, Woodridge Ave., and Clark Road. There are also small segments of off-road shared-use paths near the City/Township boundary (such as the the Border-to-Border Trail). These are shown on Map A in the Appendix.

Washtenaw County agencies and organizations have developed non-motorized plans that include proposed facilities within Ann Arbor Township, as well as connections within the County and the region. The proposed facilities in Ann Arbor Township are shown on Map B and Map C in the Appendix, illustrating proposals from the following plans:

- Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) 2012 Complete Streets Plan
- 2008 SEMCOG Greenways Data
- WATS 2006 Non-Motorized Plan
- 2006 Regional Trails & Greenways Vision

Townships don't have jurisdiction over the public roadway system. However, Ann Arbor Township developed a non-motorized plan (Map 11 - Appendix) to illustrate its priorities for future non-motorized facilities along both major roadways (under the jurisdiction of the Washtenaw County Road Commission - WCRC) and on lands controlled by the University of Michigan. One purpose of this plan is to communicate to the WCRC the Township's desires for non-motorized facilities within the right-of-way of major roads. The Township intends to work with the WCRC to implement these facilities as a part of roadway projects.

The non-motorized plan also illustrates a desired pathway through U of M's Radrick Golf Course and Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The Township has worked with Matthaei to secure partial funding for this pathway. It will continue to work with these partners, as well as adjoining communities, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, and others, to realize this vision for trails in the Township.

### Rail

*High Speed Rail for Detroit/Chicago.* Federal and participating state governments have conducted a study of a proposed Midwest High Speed Rail Network, which includes St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit. A segment linking Chicago and Detroit would have a state-of-the-art train control system, which enables higher speeds and greater passenger safety. The Detroit to Chicago line would run through Ann Arbor Township on the Conrail (formerly NYC) system. Any road improvements which involve railroad right-of-way should acknowledge that the high-speed railroad might become a reality. Existing legislation provides support for this strategy.

*Ann Arbor North/South Commuter Rail.* Since 2006, a coalition of local units of government, the Great Lakes Central Railroad, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, local advocacy groups, and other parties have been working on a potential plan for a Howell to Ann Arbor commuter rail service line dubbed "Wally," for "The Washtenaw and Livingston Line." Organized along an existing 28 mile segment of rail, the plan would provide regular commuter service between the City of Ann Arbor and the outlying areas to the north, and would travel through Ann Arbor Township. In 2012, AATA received a federal grant to study rail station locations and design along the route.

*Detroit/Ann Arbor/Jackson Commuter Rail.* In the City of Ann Arbor Northeast Area Transportation Plan, and the 2009 Transportation Plan Update, the City supports the establishment of commuter rail service between Ann Arbor and Detroit. The 2009 Update Plan also supports expansion of this line to Dexter, Chelsea, and Jackson. The Plan outlines the City's vision for a commuter train station near the UM Medical Campus at the Fuller Road/Maiden Lane intersection. The new station would also support multi-modal connections.

## G. PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Ann Arbor Township contracts with the City of Ann Arbor to provide public water and sanitary sewer service in part of the Township. Please refer to Maps 12 and 13. The Township may purchase approximately 1.2 million gallons of water per day (MGD) from the City. The Township may discharge 1.65 MGD of wastewater flow into the Ann Arbor Waste Water Treatment Plant. This capacity is divided between two utilities

## Ann Arbor Township Non-Motorized Plan

*To address Complete Streets in the Township, and provide for an integrated network of non-motorized transportation facilities, the Township developed a plan identifying the priority corridors for new non-motorized facilities and trails (Map 11 - Appendix). The following describes the process used to develop this plan:*

Maps were created to show the existing non-motorized facilities in the Township (Map A - Appendix), and future facilities planned by County and regional organizations (Map B and Map C - Appendix). Using this information, a draft priorities map was created, showing the Township's priority locations for future non-motorized facilities. Priorities were established by the number of other groups planning facilities for a particular corridor, potential connections with existing or planned non-motorized facilities, and accessibility to desirable destinations.

The public was invited to weigh in on this draft plan through an on-line survey and a public meeting, which was held in March, 2014. (Detailed survey and meeting results are included in the Appendix.) The input collected was then integrated into the draft map to create the Township's vision for non-motorized transportation.

Key components of this vision include:

- Partnering with the University of Michigan and Matthaei Botanical Gardens to create an easterly connection with the Border-to-Border trail that traverses Radrick Farms Golf Course and Matthaei Botanical Gardens. This segment would provide access between Parker Mill County Park to the south, and the natural areas (Marshall Nature Area) and Plymouth Road to the north.
- Creating better non-motorized facilities along Plymouth Road (Dixboro Road to US-23), connecting residents with shopping amenities in the City of Ann Arbor.
- Creating a connection along Pontiac Trail to the City of Ann Arbor. This corridor is also identified by WATS (2006 and 2012), and the Regional Trails & Greenways Vision. Heading north, this segment could also eventually connect with the Huron Valley Regional Trail in Livingston County.
- Creating a connection to the Border-to-Border trail on the west side of the Township, and to Skyline High School along Maple Road.

service areas, discussed below. The Township owns and maintains the water mains, sanitary sewers and appurtenances that are located in Ann Arbor Township.

The Township has two sanitary sewer and water service areas. These areas were originally designated by the 1976 Facilities Plan of the Ann Arbor Waste Water Treatment Plant. Area 3A was included in the service area in order to provide sanitary sewer service to Barton Hills in the event of septic system failures in the Village. Area 5A was designated due to its development as a research and technology center with public utility needs. Only district 5A is served by public sanitary sewer and water; the contract with the City limits water service to district 5A. District 3A may be served by public sewer only if septic systems should fail. Barton Hills Village has its own water supply. Line capacity within the City of Ann Arbor is not sufficient to provide full service to district 3A at this time. Should service ever be required in district 3A, the Township will work with the City to develop a strategy to resolve this issue.

The remainder of the Township is outside the designated service area and will be served by private wells, on-site septic systems, and, in certain limited circumstances, private wastewater systems as allowed by environmental conditions and by the County Environmental Health Department and other applicable governmental authorities, including the Township.

The Township has received requests to allocate excess wastewater treatment capacity from areas 3A or 5A to other areas of the Township. In order to respond to these requests, the Ann Arbor Township

Board adopted a Utilities Service Policy in 1996. The Utilities Service Policy basically restricts services to the designated service area. The unknown future sewer service needs by the University in district 5A is a major concern.

The Township's administrative offices and meeting hall are sufficient to meet the public needs in the foreseeable future. The facility underwent an update in 2006, which included improvements to the office and meeting facility. In 2010, the Township received a \$50,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to conduct an energy audit on the Township Hall/ Fire Station building, and install heating, insulation and lighting improvements.

The Township has two fire stations, and these provide adequate coverage to all parts of the planning area. No additional fire stations are expected to be needed through 2020.

The entire area is in the Ann Arbor public school district. All existing schools that serve the planning area are located in the City and there are no plans to construct public schools in the planning area.

## H. COMMERCIAL SERVICES

All existing and likely future residential areas in the Township planning area are located within two or three miles of major commercial centers on Plymouth Road, Washtenaw Avenue, Carpenter Road and Maple Road. In addition, downtown Ann Arbor, the Briarwood Mall, and the Oak Valley Shopping Center/Meijer area provide complete coverage of the existing and potential market in the planning area

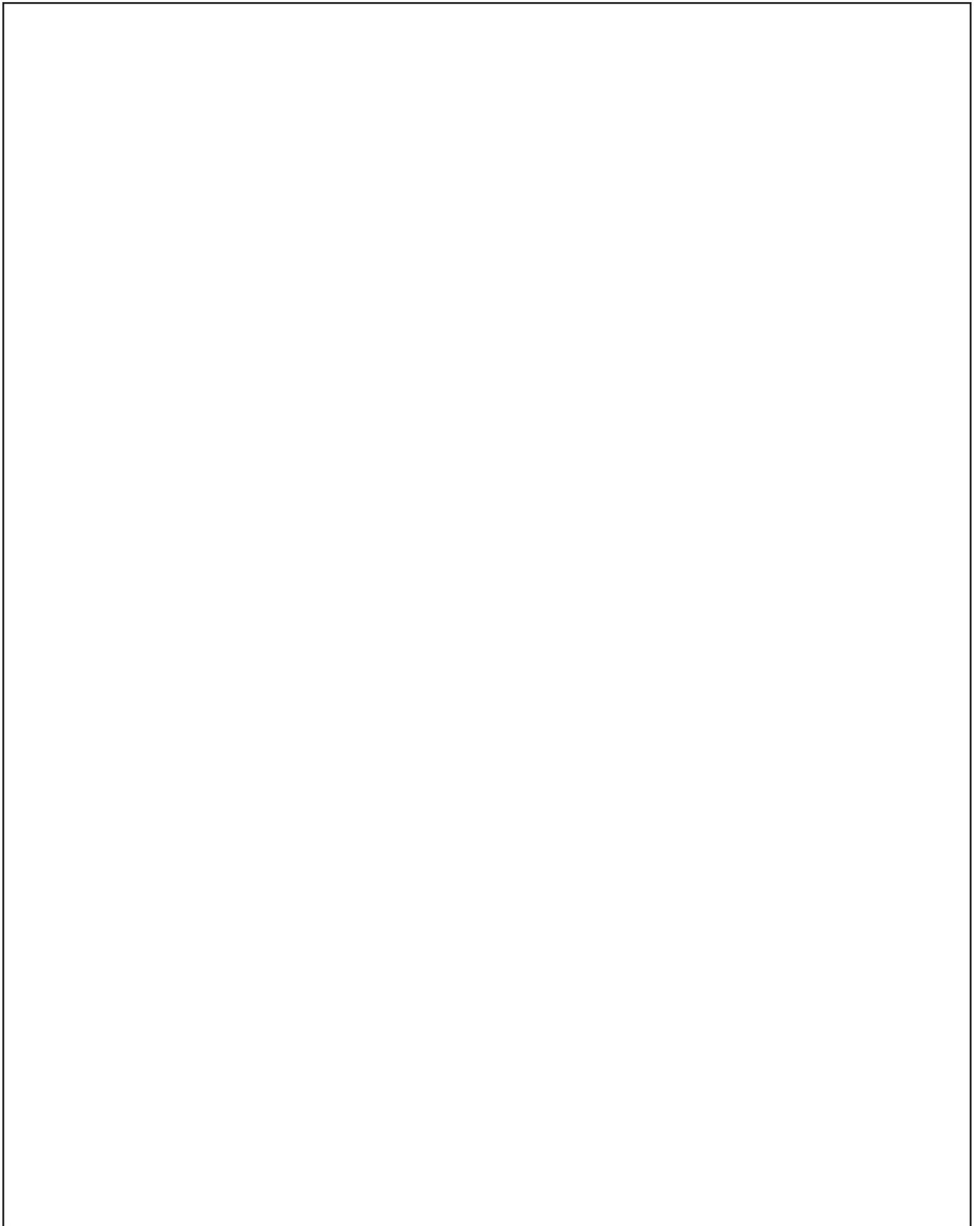
and are more than sufficient in terms of location, retail floor area and range of goods and services offered to meet existing and future needs of Township residents. Consequently, this plan does not anticipate a need to locate commercial services in Ann Arbor Township.

Motels, restaurants, gas stations and other highway commercial services are fully developed at the Washtenaw Avenue and Plymouth Road interchanges on US-23. These service areas are only three miles apart and meet the needs of motorists on US-23. Additional highway commercial services are not needed in the Geddes Road/US-23 and Plymouth Road/US-23 interchange areas.

are approximately 250 acres of office and office park zoned land in the Township, most of which is part of the Dominos Farms office park.

## I. INDUSTRIAL, OFFICE, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Ann Arbor Township has had a significant potential acreage of research and industrial development land removed from its tax base. Of the 600 acres of land originally intended to be part of the Ann Arbor Technology Park, fewer than 200 acres have been developed into research and light industrial uses. The University of Michigan owns 390 acres of the remaining land in the technology park as well as an 11-acre site north of Plymouth Road that is zoned for office use. The University has established the East Medical Campus at Earhart and Plymouth Roads. The University appears to be relocating many of its clinical practices to this area. Elsewhere in the Township opportunities for new research and development activities are limited to approximately 35 acres at the interchange of US-23 and Plymouth Road. There are 21 acres of industrial-zoned land in the Township that are partially developed. There



# PART 4: GOALS

Goals are broad, fundamental statements a community has identified to accomplish a desired future. Goals express long-term rather than short-term expectations and are often expressed in such general terms that it is difficult to measure the degree to which they have been attained. However, goals establish the overall framework and basis for more specific elements of the Plan.

The listing order of the following goals does not reflect or imply relative importance.

## A. PRESERVE THE TOWNSHIP'S RURAL CHARACTER

The Township's predominant character is rural. The rural character is created by lands still in agricultural use, very low density residences, large areas of publicly owned open space and an abundance of natural features—primarily stream corridors, wetlands and wood lots. Even part of the urban development east of US-23 and south of M-14 has a low-density character to it. Domino's Farms is a large office building surrounded by crop and pasture lands. The former Ann Arbor Technology Park was planned as a low-density research park with large areas of open space and preservation of existing natural features. Now that the University of Michigan owns almost all of the undeveloped land in the former park, the Township will encourage U of M to continue that concept as it develops its plans and facilities. The Village Green, the Arbors, Laurel Gardens, and Fleming Creek residential developments are exceptions

to this character but the higher density of these areas is somewhat mitigated by the presence of nearby large open spaces.

The Township wishes to retain a largely rural character when it is fully developed while accommodating a diversity of residential, office, research and recreational uses. The overall low population density associated with this vision would not require costly amenities. Large green belt areas, either devoted to agriculture or rural residences, will provide habitat for animal and plant life that cannot survive in an urban setting, even in parks. The continuing presence of a tranquil, rural setting close to the center of a large urban area will improve the quality of life for both Township residents and residents of the City and neighboring townships.

## B. PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE TOWNSHIP'S IDENTITY

This goal is closely related to the preceding goal, but it deserves separate mention because of its importance. The Township cannot achieve its other goals unless it preserves itself as a viable political entity. Many elements comprise the character of a municipality and create its identity. In Ann Arbor Township's case, the rural character is a major element; the physical shape, the "L" shaped land that wraps around the north and northeast sides of the City is another major element. The freeways and the Huron River provide a distinct, physical separation between the

relatively low density of the Township and the higher density of the City. The contrast helps define the Township's identity. The mutual policy statement between the City of Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor Township will ensure orderly annexation of properties to the City and protect the remainder of the Township from annexation, so as to preserve the integrity of Ann Arbor Township and maintain the urban edge of Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor Township is home to important historic and prehistoric resources. There are cultural and environmental benefits inherent in preserving archeological sites and material cultural resources of an historic nature, such as existing buildings and structures. Ann Arbor Township considers the preservation of these facilities a critical element in preserving the overall character of the Township.

### C. PRESERVE FARMLAND AND ENCOURAGE AND ENHANCE FARMING OPERATIONS

Preservation of farmland and enhancing farming operations are Township priorities for several reasons including protection of valuable and irreplaceable agricultural land, protection of an important economic contributor to the area's agricultural economy, maintenance of the rural character of the Township, protection of the local tax base, retention of the natural character of the Township and discouragement of unplanned growth. The Township has areas that are actively and successfully farmed. Agriculture is under intense pressure in areas that are close to the City of Ann Arbor. The Township believes that despite this pressure, farming, including smaller scale, niche-type farming operations, is feasible and should be

supported and enhanced. Such operations serve an important market need in the nearby urban area and provide a useful balance and contrast to the more intensely developed urban area. Farming provides important economic support for the goal of preserving the Township's rural character and is a facet of the goal of preserving open land.

### D. PROTECT AND PRESERVE NATURAL FEATURES

Existing natural features, such as wood lots, wetlands, stream corridors, and fence rows should be protected and preserved. They should be respected in farming activities, in daily living in rural residential areas, and in development planning and construction. These features are important as visual amenities, are critical elements in sustaining the rural character of the Township, and are essential in protecting water quality, wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors. Most communities, especially townships, have natural features but the patterns and relationships between various natural features that they collectively create are usually unique to each community. So it is with Ann Arbor Township. Its natural features play a vital part in establishing the Township's character and identity.

Protection and preservation of these features have an even more important purpose – they are vital elements in the region's natural system. As "green infrastructure," they perform many interconnected functions. Disruption of one can have adverse effects on others and can subtract from the quality of life in both the Township and neighboring communities.

## E. PROTECT THE NATURAL CONDITIONS OF WATERSHEDS

Watersheds, or the drainage sub-basins in the Huron River drainage basin, are important systems on which to focus for protecting the Township’s natural features, especially wetlands and stream corridors. The Fleming Creek and Traver Creek watersheds are the two largest in the Township.

A watershed is an ecological unit that can also serve as a unit for land use planning. By focusing on watersheds as units for planning, many policies relating to preservation of natural features can be realized. If not carefully planned, land use activities and development practices within an area can have a very detrimental effect on a watershed. The watersheds in Ann Arbor Township face the specter of continued degradation due to increasing impervious surfaces from the roads, parking lots, and rooftops accompanying growth.

The protection of elements within a watershed, such as steep slopes, woodlands, wetlands, and grasslands, is essential to maintaining stream flow, restricting stormwater runoff, and preserving surface water quality. Stream flow, runoff prevention, and overall surface water quality have a direct correlation to the long-term health of the local and regional community. The safe recharge of groundwater resources, preservation of prime soils, and conservation of habitat for flora and fauna are all benefits of strong watershed protection.

## F. MAINTAIN COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES

Achieving each of the preceding goals will require cooperation with neighbors. For example, the Fleming Creek watershed is located in four townships and the City of Ann Arbor. The creek discharges into the Huron River in the southeast corner of Ann Arbor Township. Success in reaching goals and implementing policies that Ann Arbor Township has regarding preservation of the water quality in Fleming Creek or of protecting the stream corridor will depend to a great extent on preservation efforts upstream in Northfield, Superior, Salem Townships and the City of Ann Arbor. An on-going planning and working relationship with its neighbors is essential if Ann Arbor Township is to have a reasonable chance at achieving its other goals.

The City and Township Boundary Policy Statement provides a significant example of cooperative community planning.

In addition, the Township is a participant in the Washtenaw Metro Alliance (WMA), an organization dedicated to “protect our quality of life by anticipating issues before they become problems, and to enhance our quality of life by identifying opportunities to maintain our sense of place through commitment to leadership and action.”

The WMA has adopted a document entitled: “Green Places: Open Spaces - A Plan for Coordinated Parkland and Open Space.” This document will help member communities better integrate and coordinate open space preservation

efforts. In addition to Ann Arbor Township, WMA includes the City of Ann Arbor, City of Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township, Scio Township, Superior Township, Ypsilanti Township, and Washtenaw County.

### **G. PROTECT EXISTING RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Existing residential areas should be protected from potentially adverse impacts of incompatible development. Where higher density residential development or non-residential development is close to existing residences, land use policies should be designed to create a secure and stable environment for those residences.

### **H. COORDINATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS TO SUPPORT LAND USES**

Future road improvements should be compatible with and supportive of the Township's land use policies. Too often land use policies must be adjusted to fit road improvement plans. Planning for traffic flows and necessary road improvements should be consistent with transportation policies of the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti urban area. Road improvements should respect natural features, especially trees and brush, and the natural character of road corridors. Existing residential areas should be protected from road widening and realignments.

### **I. SUPPORT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES IN DEVELOPING NON-MOTORIZED FACILITIES ALONG TOWNSHIP ROADWAYS**

All modes of transportation should be considered integral elements of the entire transportation system, and all improvements to this system should be considered opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers within the Township and throughout the region. To this end, future road improvements should include non-motorized transportation facilities to accommodate the needs of residents for walking, biking and public transportation riders of all ages and abilities. These facilities should be included during planning, programming, policy development, design, construction, reconstruction, retrofit, operations, and maintenance activities and during product selection.

On-road biking and walking facilities should be separately striped and at least four feet in width.

### **J. DEVELOP OFF-ROAD NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS**

Where feasible, the Township should partner with other entities, such as the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS), adjacent communities, the University of Michigan, and others to plan, design, and implement off-road, non-motorized transportation facilities. The locations of potential facilities are illustrated on Map 11 in the Appendix.

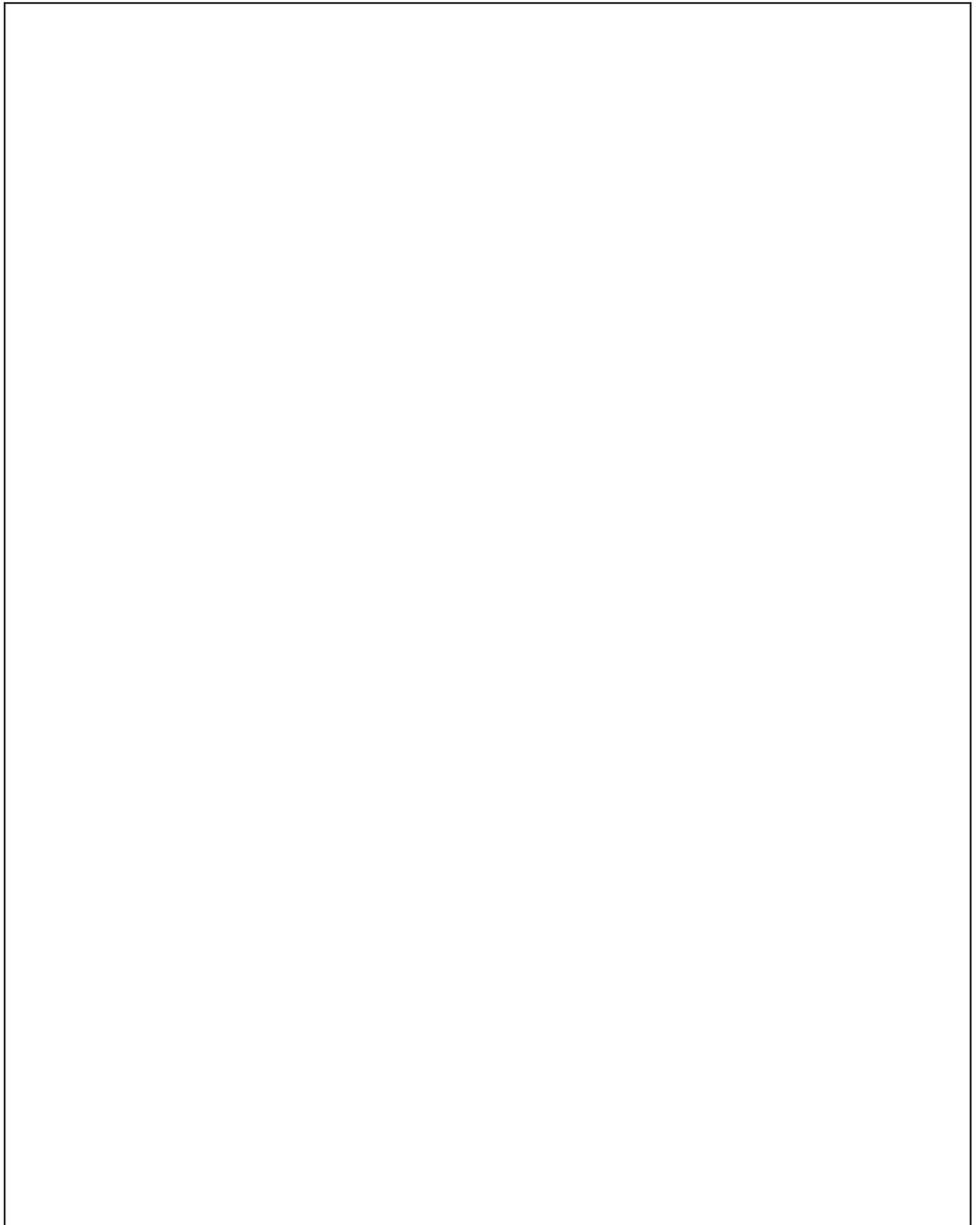
These facilities would coordinate with on-road facilities to create a looped system of non-motorized trails to allow for recreation, pedestrian and bicycle transportation throughout the Township, and to important local destinations. Separate paths should be at least eight feet in width and paved when located adjacent to major roadways.

#### **K. PRESERVE OPEN SPACE**

Open spaces are an important part of the Township's rural character. Preservation of open spaces supports all the other goals – preservation of rural character, preservation of the Township's identity, encouragement of farming operations, protection of natural resources, protection of the natural conditions of watersheds, protection of existing residential areas, and maintaining a cooperative relationship with neighboring government entities.

#### **L. MAINTAIN A DIVERSE MIX OF HOUSING**

The presence of a wide variety of housing options in Ann Arbor Township encourages a vibrant community. The current mix with regard to density, unit size, architecture, location, and other features allows Ann Arbor Township to foster an inclusive sense of community and should be maintained.



# PART 5: POLICIES

## A. INTRODUCTION

Policies define courses of action for the Township. While goals tend to be general in nature and provide a vision of the community, policies establish definite positions on particular topics. Policies are often quantifiable and are directly associated with a goal. When policies are officially adopted, they commit a jurisdiction to courses of action. Those courses of action are carried out through implementation plans, which define the actions the Township plans to take, such as an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance or the establishment of a new agricultural preservation program. Implementation recommendations are included in Part 6 of this Plan. The following are the policies established for the Township.

## B. LAND USE PATTERN POLICIES

These policies relate to all potential land uses and address the relationship between rural and urban densities, regardless of the land use.

1. A clear separation of rural and urban land uses will be encouraged by dividing the two with physical elements where possible.

The M-14 freeway and the Huron River west of the M-14 river crossing will be generally considered the transition area between urban uses to the south and much lower density uses to the north. The area north of this boundary will be rural residential and agricultural in use,

except the existing suburban residential use in the area between Whitmore Lake Road and US-23 and in the Warren Road/Pontiac Trail intersection area. The area south of this line will be primarily urban or suburban in use. The Ford Road residential area, which is south of M-14, is an exception because it is an established large-lot, low-density, rural residential area with significant natural features.

2. Public water and sanitary sewer services will be used to support the distinction between urban and rural areas, and to protect the designated rural area from intrusion by urban development.

These services will be provided only in the designated service areas. They will not be extended north of the M-14 freeway and Huron River line except in the designated areas shown on Maps 12 and 13.

Areas outside the designated public water and sanitary sewer service area will remain in agricultural use, or be served by on-site wells and septic tanks/drainfields as approved by the Washtenaw County Environmental Health Department, and under certain limited circumstances, private community wastewater systems.

## C. AGRICULTURAL AND OPEN SPACE POLICIES

### Agricultural Preservation Area Policies

Ann Arbor Township has a large area of actively farmed land located in the north section of the Township. However, the Township's farmland is under increasingly intense pressure for residential development. Intrusion of residences on scattered lots would quickly destroy the sustainability of this area for farming operations. Within this area, agricultural preservation is a priority. The Agricultural Preservation Overlay area is overlaid onto this section of the Township, but concentrated in two separate planning areas: an Agricultural Production Area and an Open Space Preservation Area. This region was selected because of suitable soils and the following farmland characteristics, which are necessary for long-term agricultural production:

- Soils are generally rated by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service as Class II, which are the highest ranking soils for crop production in Washtenaw County.
- The parcels of land within the preservation area would allow for preservation of large contiguous areas.
- Most parcels in the area are zoned A-1; with much of the remainder zoned R-C. Other actively farmed parcels are zoned for residential uses because of their proximity to major road corridors or the Village of Barton Hills.
- Most of the tillable land is currently farmed.

The policies are:

1. Existing agricultural lands in the Agricultural Production and Open Space Preservation Areas (identified as the Agricultural Preservation Overlay on Map 8) will be preserved. At the request of the property owner, this policy could also be applied to currently farmed lands in the Agricultural Preservation area even if the parcels are planned for uses other than agricultural use.
2. Small-scale agricultural operations will be encouraged in this area. These will include cultivation of fruits and vegetables, specialty farming, and non-intensive raising of livestock and fowl grazing and pasturing.
3. The designated agricultural area will not be served by public water and sanitary sewer service. The designated area is outside the Township's adopted water and sanitary sewer service area. In addition, such services would be incompatible with agricultural activities. Individual septic tanks/drainfields and water supply wells will be encouraged to serve residences on individual lots in this area, and under certain limited circumstances, private community wastewater systems may be used.
4. Natural features in the area will be preserved. Such features, including woodlands and woodlots, wetlands, stream corridors, steep slopes, groundwater recharge areas, landmark trees, and fence rows should not be modified or removed.
5. The amount of land in the designated area that is to be available for agricultural use should be maximized and

the remaining farming parcels should be contiguous.

6. The Township will coordinate planning efforts with adjacent Townships along the common boundaries to preserve agricultural land in the adjoining areas.
7. Land for agriculture and open space preservation in this area is eligible for purchase of development rights (PDR) under the Township PDR Program.
8. Specialized zoning districts for clustering residences will be established in the Agricultural Preservation Area. In such districts density bonuses will be allowed on properties in which land is permanently protected under a suitable conservation easement

### Agricultural Production Area Policies

The Agricultural Production Area is a core area of farmland located in the northwest and north central sections of the planning area (see Map 8). It has an area of approximately 5 square miles and is designated in the Plan for agricultural production. These lands have all the characteristics deemed necessary for long term agricultural production, namely:

- Soils are generally rated by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service as Class II, which are the highest ranking soils for crop production in Washtenaw County.
- Each parcel in the designated area, with one or two exceptions, is at least 20 acres in size.

- The parcels of land within the core area are contiguous within each of two large blocks.
- Most parcels in the area are zoned A-1; the remainder are zoned R-C.
- Most of the land is farmed.
- Most of the designated area does not have significant areas of natural features.

The policies are:

1. The minimum lot area for farming operations with a farm residence will remain at 10 acres.
2. Residences will be permitted in the designated agricultural production area under specific conditions designed to enhance the agricultural character of the area and preserve productive agricultural lands in the Township.
3. Clustering residences will be strongly encouraged and will be allowed in the Agricultural Production Area under these conditions:
  - They will be located on the smallest possible lots.
  - The lots will be located in areas that will have minimum interference with and from farming operations.
  - The locations and sizes of lots will minimize loss of the most productive farmland. To this end the maximum lot area will be one acre, unless a larger lot is required by Washtenaw

County for an on-site well and septic tank/drainfield. In that situation the maximum lot area will be the smallest area that is required to meet the county's requirements.

- The maximum number of residences that will be permitted will be based on a density of 0.10 DU/acre. The acreage will be based on the gross area of the lot, less the area in existing and planned road rights of way, regulated wetlands and 100-year floodways.
- Density up to a maximum of 0.14 DU/acre may be permitted when residences are clustered and the entire development is rezoned using a special Agricultural Preservation Residential District (APD). The APD will be the only zoning mechanism in which this density bonus will be allowed. In such a district at least 80 percent of the predevelopment tillable farmland will be permanently protected via a Conservation Easement with the Township (or an entity approved by the Township) and the post-development farmland will be owned by the Township or a person or entity whose principal occupation or purpose is focused on farming or preserving farmland.

### Open Space Preservation Area Policies

This area of mixed farmland and natural areas is located in the northeast and north central sections of the planning area. These areas are identified on Map 8. It has an area of approximately 5 square miles and is designated in the Plan for open space preservation, residential and agricultural use.

1. Clustering of residences will be strongly encouraged in the parts of designated rural residential areas that are intended for open space preservation. Clustering will maintain relatively large tracts of undivided and undeveloped land for possible small-scale agricultural uses, general open spaces and preservation of natural features. Small scale farming operations will be encouraged on larger lots in this area.
2. Residences will be permitted in the designated open space preservation area under conditions designed to enhance the rural character of the area and preserve quality open space in the Township.
3. Clustered residences will be permitted in the designated open space preservation area under the following conditions:
  - They will be located on the smallest possible lots.
  - The lots will be located in areas that will have minimum interference with and from farming operations or natural features.
  - The locations and sizes of lots will minimize loss of the most productive farmland or preserve natural features. To this end the maximum lot area will be one acre, unless a larger lot is required by Washtenaw County for an on-site well and septic system. In that situation the maximum lot area will be the smallest area that is required to meet the county's requirements.

- The maximum number of residences that will be permitted will be based on a density of 0.10 DU/acre. The acreage will be based on the gross area of the lot, less the area in existing and planned road rights of way, regulated wetlands, and 100 year floodways.
- A density up to 0.2 DU/acre is permitted when residences are clustered and the entire development is rezoned using a special Open Space Preservation Residential District (OSPRD). In such a district, at least 60 percent of the open space or farmland will be permanently protected via a Conservation Easement with the Township (or an entity approved by the Township) as the easement holder. The OSPRD is the only zoning mechanism in which this density bonus is allowable. Agriculture is a permitted use in an OSPRD.
- Additional residential policies for this area are included in Section 5.D.

#### D. RESIDENTIAL AREA POLICIES

The Master Plan is designed for a population capacity that is consistent with existing conditions and the objectives for the future Township. The Plan is therefore not designed for a specific time period or projected population. The following policies prescribe the location and character of future housing development and are intended to protect and enhance existing residential areas in the Township.

	Sub class	Density - Dwelling Units per Acre or Minimum Lot Size	Public Water	
Rural	Rural	0.2-0.5 du/ac or 2 to 5-ac. lots	N/Y	N/Y
Suburban		0.5-1.0 du/ac or 1 to 2-ac. lots	N/Y	N/Y
Urban	Low Density I	1.0-2.0 du/ac or 0.5 to 1-ac. lots	Y	Y
	Low Density II	2.0-4.0 du/ac or 0.25 to 0.5-ac. lots	Y	Y
	Medium Density	4.0-6.0 du/ac or 0.25 to 0.17-ac. lots	Y	Y
	High Density	6.0 du/ac or 0.17-ac. lots	Y	Y

#### Density Policies

1. The Plan designates three major classes of residential areas based on density: rural, suburban, and urban.

##### *Rural Residential*

The rural (0.2-0.5 DUs/acre) class is the least dense category for residential development. This area is made up of large lot, estate residences situated near areas that are primarily reserved for open space and agricultural use.

##### *Suburban Residential*

The suburban (0.5 to 1.0 DUs/acre) class is a transitional category between rural and urban residential areas, as far as density hierarchy is concerned, but not

necessarily in a geographic sense. Lots in this class are considered to be too small for agricultural activities. The suburban residential areas outside the water and sanitary services areas will not be served by public water or sanitary sewer services.

*Urban Residential*

The urban residential classes require central water and sanitary sewer services and are located in areas in which these services will be provided. The urban category is further divided by density.

- The 1 to 2 and 2 to 4 DUs/acre classes are both located in primarily single-family detached areas, although single-family attached dwelling units are possible in 2 to 4 DUs/acre areas as well. These classes are located in areas in which dwellings at similar densities currently exist.
- The 4 to 6 DUs/acre class is for medium density residences, such as single-family attached dwellings, mobile home parks, townhouses and low-density multiple-family dwellings. The high-density class is intended primarily for multiple-family type dwelling units.
- The 6 DU/acre class is the most dense residential category in the Township and is reserved for limited areas where the impact of high density residential development can best be mitigated and will have the least impact on less dense areas of the Township.

2. Residential areas will be designated in terms of density, rather than type of dwelling unit or residential building type (single-family detached or attached, multiple-family dwelling, etc.).

Density ranges do relate to certain types of dwelling units; for example, the rural residential classes are primarily single-family detached dwellings and the high-density class is primarily multiple-family dwellings. Density transfer might create a net density on a parcel of land within a density class that will be high enough to result in a change in dwelling unit type. An example is a concentration of density on one part of a site that is designated for rural residential use such that attached, rather than detached, single-family dwellings would be necessary to achieve the permitted number of dwelling units. See the discussion of density transfer in part 6, section G.

3. A variety of dwelling units, in terms of types, sizes and cost ranges, will be encouraged in Ann Arbor Township to maintain a diverse mix of housing options and assure a choice of dwelling unit types and prices and a socioeconomic mix of the population.
4. Public water and sanitary sewer will not be extended into the rural residential areas that are outside the existing water and sanitary service areas. These areas are intended for residences and certain agricultural activities that may be compatible with residences at a low density, such as small-scale farming and non-intensive raising of livestock. The residential areas are located in areas of similar existing lot sizes.

5. Development of existing undeveloped low-density and rural residential areas will be consistent with existing densities and character; densities and uses on such lands will not be permitted to adversely affect existing residential areas.

### Design Policies

1. Natural features will be preserved in residential areas to the maximum extent feasible.
2. New residential development will be compatible with existing residences, in terms of density and building types. Existing sound and stable residential areas will be protected. In areas in which a change in land use or density is planned or that are adjacent to an established residential area, density gradation, buffer uses or areas and natural features will be used to create a gradual transition.
3. In rural areas, residential lots or dwelling units will be clustered to protect natural features, open space and agricultural land. In rural areas, each lot in a cluster should have at least one lot line abutting open space. Clustering of residential lots or dwelling units will also be encouraged in suburban and urban residential areas within overall density limits established in the Master Plan. Private wastewater treatment plants will be carefully considered and will only be approved if it can be demonstrated that they are being used to allow for clustered developments to occur in areas outside the sewer district. Private wastewater treatment

plants will not be used to support a net density that is greater than suburban residential.

4. Residential areas will be organized to preserve the existing character of Township roadways.
5. Residential areas will be interconnected by local streets and pedestrian/ bicycle paths or sidewalks, where such interconnections will not adversely affect adjacent residential areas. This policy is intended to promote a physically integrated community. Future street and pedestrian path connections will be provided as required to create an integrated circulation system.

### **E. SPECIFIC AREA POLICIES:**

The following policies are directed toward specific areas of the Township to recognize the unique characteristics of distinct areas within the community. The following areas, A-F, are designated on Map 9.

#### *Area A*

This area has one acre or larger lots with on-site wells and septic tanks/drain fields. This is a residential neighborhood and will continue as such. The area is designated for suburban residential use at a density of 0.5 to 1 DU/acre (1 to 2 acre lots) to reflect existing conditions.

*Area B*

This area is designated for a density of 0.5 to 1 DU/acre, similar to the density of the existing residential area along Dhu Varren Road. The area to the west, south of the line of Dhu Varren extended, is designated for a density of 0.2 to 0.5 DU/acre (2-5 acre lots), to be consistent with the existing lot sizes and residences in the area to the north of Dhu Varren Road.

*Area C*

This area is designated for a mix of uses and densities. The central and northwest parts of this area are designated for agricultural use. The east part is designated for open space preservation/rural residential at a density of not more than 0.1 DU/acre (10 acre lots). Clustering of dwellings on the larger tracts of land in this area is intended. The area along Pontiac Trail, and north and south of Warren Road, is designated for suburban residential use at a density of 0.5 - 1.0 DU/acre (1-2 acre lots). A rural residential area exists just to the north of the Village of Barton Hills, at a density of 0.2 - 0.5 DU/acre (2-5 acre lots).

This pattern of development is well established in this area by existing lots and houses. However, there are a number of parcels in this area that are currently being farmed, but are planned for potential residential development due to their proximity to a major road corridor or the Village of Barton Hills. It is the intention of the Township to support preservation of agriculture on these parcels if the property owner so desires.

In Area C, in 1977, Ann Arbor Township accepted a court ordered mobile home park

zoning on the north side of Warren Road, east of US-23. The Township will permit the mobile home park to develop as directed by the court's decision. Other areas of the Master plan have been structured with this planning decision in place.

*Area D*

These areas are in the Boundary Policy Statement area. The Boundary Policy Statement between the City and Ann Arbor Township permits the City to annex parcels of land in this area after 2007 without legal protest from Ann Arbor Township. Individual parcels may be released for annexation if public water and sanitary sewer services are needed. The Township will continue land use and zoning policies that will protect the existing character of the area in the interim period prior to annexation.

*Area E*

The residential density pattern in the area east of US-23 and south of M-14 is largely established by two factors-existing residential development and availability of public water and sanitary sewer services in most of the area.

1. The area north of Ford Road is designated for rural residential use at a density of 0.2 to 0.5 DU/acre (2-5 acre lots). The area is mostly developed in this density range. Public water and sanitary sewer services are not intended for this area.
2. The residential area between Ford and Plymouth roads is designated for low-density suburban residential use at a density of 0.2 to 0.5 DU/acre. This area is undeveloped, has significant topographic variation and is partially

wooded. Dwelling units will be clustered and located in a manner that will preserve as much of the natural features and character as possible. The type and net density of dwelling units along Ford Road will be compatible with the rural residential character of the area north of Ford Road. This area is largely served by existing water and sewer.

3. The Ayrshire subdivision, located south of Plymouth Road between the old and new Earhart Roads, is an existing residential neighborhood of single-family detached dwellings. It is almost completely developed with lots approximately one acre in size and is designated for suburban residential use at a density of 0.5 to 1 DU/acre. This is a stable residential neighborhood that will be preserved. Preservation will require buffer uses or landscape screening along its boundaries on neighboring properties to protect it from existing and future non-residential uses to the south and east. Sanitary sewer services are intended for this area.
4. Not including the 40 acres already developed in this area, the remaining area between Old Earhart Road, US-23, and Plymouth Road (approximately 30 acres) is designated for urban residential use at a density of 2 to 4 DUs/acre. The low area will be retained as open space; residences should be clustered in the higher ground. The low land is subject to water ponding by off-site surface water run-off. Development of this area will be preceded or accompanied by improvements that will remove the drainage problem. Access to the area will be limited to Earhart Road. This area is largely served by existing water and sewer.
5. Two areas on the east side of Dixboro Road are designated for low-density urban residential uses. The north area, partially developed with single-family attached dwellings at a density of 3 DUs/acre, is in the 2 to 4 DUs/acre density class. The south area is mostly undeveloped and is designated for low-density urban residential use at a density of 1 to 2 DUs/acre. In both areas the layout of residential complexes will respect the adjacent open space owned by the University of Michigan. The area north of Geddes Road between US-23, Dixboro Road and the south end of the Technology Park is developed with multiple-family dwelling units and attached single-family dwellings at a density over 6 DUs/acre. Therefore, the area is designated for high-density urban residential use. This area is largely served by existing water and sewer.
6. There are two residential areas between Geddes Road and the Huron River, both designated for rural and suburban residential use. The area west of Dixboro Road south of Geddes is designated for 2 to 5 acre lots. The area east of Dixboro Road is designated for 1 to 2 acre lots. During the course of developing the 2008 Master Plan, the Planning Commission conducted a subarea study dated May 2008 entitled Geddes Road/Dixboro Road Subarea Study. The study focused on the area surrounding the Dixboro Road and Geddes Road intersection and considered a number of changes in the area including completion in 2005 of improvements to the Geddes Road and Dixboro Road intersection and the new Dixboro bridge spanning the Huron River, population aging trends and senior housing choices and characteristics, and other factors. The study concluded

that the parcels at the Southeast corner of the intersection may be suitable for senior housing developed as a planned unit development with a density of up to 9 dwelling units per acre under certain circumstances, including reduced traffic impact, substantial environmental mitigation, significant limitations on impervious surfaces to help protect existing groundwater recharge areas, wetlands and watersheds, and other protections of natural features. The study concluded that the existing residential planning category of 0.5 to 1.0 dwelling units per acre should be retained, but that the plan should indicate that the area may also be suitable for senior housing at a density of up to 9 dwelling units per acre in the circumstances described above. The study contains supporting analysis and data on which the Planning Commission came to its conclusion. The Future Land Use Map, Map 8, reflects the Planning Commission's determination. This area is largely served by existing water and sewer.

### *Area F*

These areas are mostly developed with single-family detached dwellings. Therefore, the density and lot size patterns are generally established. Fill-in of undeveloped parcels will be consistent with these established patterns. The area is designated for suburban residential use at a density of 0.5 to 1 DU/acre (1-2 acre lots) to reflect existing conditions. Wetlands and woodlands adjacent to Washtenaw Community College lands will be retained as open space.

## F. NON-RESIDENTIAL AREA POLICIES

### Commercial Area Policies

No new commercial areas will be designated in Ann Arbor Township. A vast range of commercial services is readily available in the City of Ann Arbor and Pittsfield, Scio, and Superior Townships. These developed commercial centers are all within a three-mile radius of all parts of Ann Arbor Township. Many of the predominant commercial areas now within the City of Ann Arbor were formerly within Ann Arbor Township and have been gradually annexed into the City over time. These existing areas are more than sufficient to serve the commercial and service needs of all existing and future residences, businesses and institutions in the Township.

### Office Area Policies

Domino's Farms office park will continue to be developed according to policies approved for the office park zoning district. The original approval would allow for one long low building, a single high rise building west of the low building and a large open space and operating farm surrounding the office complex. However, only 215,000 square feet of buildable area remains within the maximum established in the original approval, which would likely be insufficient to accommodate the high-rise without demolishing an existing building. Uses in the office park include the headquarters facilities of the Domino Pizza, Incorporated; professional and administrative offices; supporting uses for offices in the park; a limited floor area of retail and personal services for employees, visitors, and incidental use by the general public; farming operations and activities; and certain special events.

A second office area, designated for a corporate headquarters, is located south of Plymouth and west of Old Earhart. The uses of this property are defined by a PUD Agreement with Ann Arbor Township.

a part of the overall landscape of the park in accordance with the design standards included in the approved RRA zoning district.

### Research and Industrial Area Policies

Industrial areas in Ann Arbor Township consist primarily of research operations. One area is designated for light industrial uses.

1. The area between Pontiac Trail, M-14 and the Ann Arbor Railroad track is designated for light industrial uses, such as those permitted in the I-1 zoning district.
2. Ann Arbor Technology Park (RRA):
  - a. The park will be developed according to an overall plan with a unified landscape scheme as provided in the approved RRA zoning district for the park property.
  - b. Uses in the park will not create dangerous, injurious, noxious, or otherwise objectionable conditions, either within the park or on neighboring properties.
  - c. Where the park abuts residential properties a buffer will be provided to protect the residences. The buffer may consist of topography, trees, shrubs and distance. Existing natural features will be used as buffers where possible.
  - d. The steep slope areas, drainage corridors, wooded areas and fence rows should be preserved and made

### **G. STREET AND TRANSPORTATION POLICIES**

Mobility is changing as rapidly as the economy. Movement of and access to goods, services, recreation and employment are critical to the community's quality of life. Companies have more freedom than ever to choose their location, telecommuting is rising as a popular way to work, and e-commerce is taking a share of the conventional retail market, all of which have a dramatic effect on transportation needs. Rising fuel prices have changed the way consumers choose their homes or even plan their daily errands. Non-motorized transportation is becoming a viable option in many communities, especially when integrated with other forms of transportation to create a true multi-modal system. In the 21st Century, transportation demands of changing age groups and the desire for a regionally prominent non-motorized transportation network will play a significant role in land development.

Ann Arbor Township encourages Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) when considering transportation changes proposed within the Township. Context Sensitive planning is an approach introduced by the United States Department of Transportation which "...fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. CSS is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist." In other words, CSS demands that

a project must specifically respond to the surroundings in which it is located, and not be predetermined by regular universal design standards.

The street categories contained in this Master Plan parallel the National Functional Classification. The following establish roadway and alternative transportation policies for the Township.

### General Street Policies

1. Streets should be designed and constructed in accordance with the following functional classification system.

- a. Regional Arterials: Provide for regional traffic flows between cities in the region and between cities and major activity areas, such as employment centers, major airports, etc. In the Ann Arbor area they are all freeways (and are classified as freeways on Map 10).
- b. Major Arterials (120'-150' ROW): Surface streets that serve traffic movement in the Ann Arbor area, primarily between lower level streets and freeway interchanges, between cities in the area and between the central Ann Arbor and outlying areas. Access control is desired, but frequently not possible, on older arterials with developed frontages but is an objective in new development or major redevelopment. Their principal function is traffic movement; property access is secondary in importance and to be minimized where possible. There are no longer any roads classified as major arterials within Ann Arbor Township.

c. Minor Arterials (generally 120' ROW): Serve traffic movement within the Ann Arbor Township area, primarily between major arterials and collector or local streets, and between major parts of the area such as neighborhoods, employment centers, shopping centers, etc.

d. Collector Streets (66' ROW): Collect and distribute traffic between origins and destinations and the arterial parts of the street system. While the National Functional Classification differentiates between two types of collector, for the purposes of this Master Plan, they have been combined into a single category on Map 10.

2. Plans for new development will provide for extension of streets to connect with existing or future streets. Connections will occur at common boundaries where such extension is determined to be necessary for continuity in the public street system or to provide vehicular access to interior lands.
3. Traffic will be routed around, rather than through, neighborhoods and other land use areas. Local and through traffic will be separated by the design of the street system.
4. The number of driveway openings on arterial streets will be minimized. Strong access management will reduce the need for additional lanes and will improve the safety of traffic flow. The number of driveway openings on collector streets might also be limited in certain areas where necessary to obtain the same objectives.

5. The Township will be flexible with regard to roadways and roadway widths to ensure that critical resources can be protected. Variations in road standards, including increases in rights of way and decreases in paved width, will be considered by Ann Arbor Township where existing developments, trees or other vegetation, topography, or other conditions justify a change in standards.

### Specific Street Policies

1. The Barton Drive/M-14 on-ramp and off-ramp should be upgraded to increase capacity and improve traffic flow and safety.
2. Expansion of the freeways as proposed in the City of Ann Arbor transportation plan will not be considered a basis for changing use policies for lands in Ann Arbor Township that abut the freeways.
3. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) owns the right-of-way for an interchange on M-14 at Dixboro Road, but has no plans to construct one. Ann Arbor Township opposes construction of an interchange at this location.
4. The Geddes/Dixboro/Huron River Drive route will be maintained as a minor arterial between US-23 and the major traffic generators to the east, such as Washtenaw Community College, St. Joseph Mercy Health System and Eastern Michigan University. Access to the south side of Geddes Road between US-23 and Dixboro Road will be prohibited.

5. Plymouth Road, a minor arterial, was widened in 1991 to four lanes plus turning lanes. The widened road is expected to be sufficient for the foreseeable future.
6. Dixboro Road will be maintained as a collector between Plymouth and Joy Roads. It will function as a minor arterial between the Plymouth and Geddes/Huron River Drive corridors.

The road will have a right-of-way of 86 to 120 feet, with two driving lanes and additional turning lanes at major intersections. The number of access points will be minimized. Where necessary, access points will be combined in order to limit the number of lanes needed on the road. Access points will be located at least 500 feet from the intersections with Plymouth and Geddes Roads.

7. The portion of the existing New Earhart Road between the overpass and the intersection with Old Earhart Road will not have any driveway openings; access will be provided north of the intersection. Earhart south of US-23 to Geddes Road within the City of Ann Arbor should be developed as a major arterial to divert traffic from Dixboro Rd. between Plymouth and Geddes.
8. Old Earhart Road south of Plymouth Road will be maintained as a local road with a right-of-way of 66 feet and two driving lanes. Design of and access to the existing road will have as one objective the protection of the existing

residential area to the east, Ayrshire Subdivision, from traffic impacts. Major non-residential traffic will be required to use the “new,” relocated Earhart Road for access to Plymouth Road. Turning controls might be necessary at the existing road’s intersection with Plymouth Road for reasons of traffic safety and to maintain maximum traffic flow capacity on Plymouth Road.

9. Hogback Road is a minor arterial. The right-of-way should be 86 feet with two driving lanes and additional turning lanes at major intersections. The primary function of this section of the road will be to collect traffic from the adjacent areas and Huron River Drive west of the road. Access points will be limited to the minimum number necessary to serve the adjacent properties.
10. Clark Road is a minor arterial between Hogback and Golfside roads. Its principal functions will be to provide access to Washtenaw Community College, office and apartment complexes and other adjacent properties and to serve as a feeder route for the major east-west arterials. Ann Arbor Township does not support any extension of Clark Road west over US-23 to Huron parkway because this extension would not divert enough traffic from Washtenaw Avenue or other east-west arterials to justify the cost of construction.
11. Nixon Road is a collector between Plymouth Road and Pontiac Trail. The road connects Pontiac Trail, Dhu Varren/ Green Road and Plymouth Road; serves as an extension of Huron Parkway; and serves as a connecting route between the central area of the City

and the outlying areas in Ann Arbor and Northfield Townships. Right-of-way will be 120 feet. An interchange should not be constructed on Nixon Road at M-14.

12. Pontiac Trail is considered a minor arterial from beyond Joy Road to Beakes Street in the central area of Ann Arbor. The principal functions of this road will be to provide access to the north part of Ann Arbor Township and the north and central parts of the City from M-14 via Barton Drive, provide access to the north part of the Township and City from areas north and east of the Township and provide access to properties in the general vicinity.

The road will have a right-of-way of 120 feet in the Township area. Two driving lanes with turning lanes at principal intersections will be sufficient in the Township to carry projected traffic.

13. Whitmore Lake Road is a minor arterial from Barton Drive north. Its principal functions will be to interconnect major east-west roads in Ann Arbor and Northfield Townships; serve as a feeder route for the Barton Drive interchange at US-23; provide a connecting link between Barton Hills Village, other residential areas, and the central area of Ann Arbor; and provide access to properties in the general vicinity. The right-of-way will be 120 feet. Two driving lanes will be sufficient in this area.
14. Maple Road is considered a minor arterial between West Huron River Drive and M-14. The street’s principal functions will be to provide access to the northwest part of Ann Arbor

Township, Barton Hills Village and the developing residential areas in the northeast part of Scio Township, as well as to adjacent properties, including Skyline high school. The right-of-way will be 86 feet, unless additional width will be needed for drainage purposes. Open drainage will be provided, and existing right-of-way trees and brush will be preserved in Ann Arbor Township to maintain the road's character.

15. Huron River Drive west of Hogback Road is classified as a minor arterial. It provides a secondary, alternate route between central Ann Arbor and the east-side residential areas and important points further east, such as Washtenaw Community College and the St. Joseph Mercy Health System. It will continue to function in this manner, but Ann Arbor Township opposes the upgrading of this corridor to accommodate more traffic. Huron River Drive should not be widened or otherwise improved or changed to carry additional traffic. The existing streetscape and corridor characteristics will be preserved, particularly the wetland south of the road and the river basin area on the north side.
16. Joy, Warren, Ford, Stein, Maple north of Huron River Drive and Gleaner Hall Roads will remain as rural, local roads, whose principal function will be to provide access for adjacent properties. Open drainage will be provided and existing trees in the right-of-way and adjacent frontages will be preserved.

### Policies for Public Transportation

The Township encourages innovative application of mass transit options in Washtenaw County and will participate in regional studies and programs to cooperatively plan for alternative transportation.

1. Express bus service should be provided on Plymouth Road between Dixboro Road and the central area of the City, and in the Fuller/Geddes corridor between US-23 and the City's central area.
2. Ann Arbor Township, through the Planning Commission and Board, should be a full and active participant in decisions regarding public transportation in the Township. The planning process for public transportation should be a joint effort involving the Township, the City, the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS), Washtenaw County, and the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AATA).

### Policies for Non-Motorized Transportation

The Township supports development of an integrated system of non-motorized transportation facilities in both the Township and throughout Washtenaw County. It will participate in county programs and projects, as well as partner with other communities and organizations to implement non-motorized facilities within its jurisdiction and connecting to other communities. These activities include the following:

1. Partner with the University of Michigan and Matthaei Botanical Gardens to implement the off-road trail planned from Geddes Road to Dixboro Road through Radrick Golf Course and Matthaei Botanical Gardens.
2. Pursue grants and other funding sources to contribute to design and implementation of non-motorized projects.
3. Evaluate zoning changes that require installation of sidewalks or other non-motorized transportation facilities in new residential and non-residential development projects, and multi-purpose paths connecting neighborhoods with other community focal points and adjacent community trails.

Barton Hills Village, Whitmore Lake Road Area, and the Windshadow/Hawthorne Hills Area as a reserve against a future time when central wastewater treatment might be needed. Thus Service Area 5A has a capacity of 1.51 MGD. Estimated current sewage flow for Ann Arbor Township is 0.39 MGD, based on 2006 usage.

The following are policies for sanitary sewer service.

- a. The 2005 Wastewater Treatment Capacity and Services Agreement is recognized as the basis for providing sanitary sewer service for Ann Arbor Township. Under the Agreement and for purposes of this Master Plan, the sewer service area is defined in Map 12.
- b. Sanitary sewer service from the Ann Arbor Area Wastewater Treatment Plant will not be extended outside the service area boundary established in the 2005 City - Township Wastewater Treatment Capacity and Services Agreement.
- c. The Township's contract with the City of Ann Arbor specifies maximum volumes of sewage treatment capacities reserved for use by the Township. By Township policy portions of contractually available capacities must be reserved for current and reasonable anticipated future demands. Because there is no guarantee that contractually available capacities can be increased or shifted at some time in the future, it is important to balance future demands with the contracted capacities.

## H. PUBLIC FACILITIES POLICIES

### Sanitary Sewer Service Policies

Ann Arbor Township contracts with the City of Ann Arbor under the 2005 City - Township Wastewater Treatment Capacity and Services Agreement for a specified maximum volume of sewage treatment capacity reserved by the City for use by the Township. By Township policy portions of the contractually available capacities must be reserved for current and reasonably anticipated future demands. There are two service areas identified as Service Area 3A and Service Area 5A. A total capacity of 1.65 million gallons per annual average day is allocated to the Township by the 2005 Agreement.

The 2005 City - Township Wastewater Treatment Capacity and Services Agreement allocates 0.13 MGD for Service Area 3A, which includes the Newport Road Area,

Capacity reservations should be made in the following order of priority:

- i. Within Service Area 5A, properties that were included in the original special assessment districts in 1982 and 1984 to fund construction of the sewer and water infrastructure in the 5A area.
- ii. In-fill lots within the 5A area, north of the Huron River, whether or not within the original special assessment district.
- iii. The area south of the Huron River and east of US-23 that was added to the 5A service area by the 1994 Boundary Policy Statement between the Township and the City.
- iv. Within Service Area 3A, Barton Hills Village, as contemplated in the 1976 agreements to expand capacity of the Ann Arbor Wastewater Treatment Plant and the original sewer/water contracts between the Township and City. This area was considered because of the potential for failure of existing septic systems.
- v. The area south of the Huron River that was added to the 3A Service Area by the 1994 Boundary Policy Statement between the Township and City, which includes existing residential areas and in-fill of vacant lots in the Newport Road area. These include the platted of subdivisions Huron River Heights,

Barton Plateau, Village of Newport and Chubb’s Alterations.

- vi. Existing residential developments in the 3A area, north of the Huron River, and south of Country Club and Landsdowne Roads, including Hawthorne Hills and Windshadow developments and in-fill of currently vacant lots within these developments.
- vii. Other properties within the 3A Service Area.
- d. If necessary to service properties in Service Area 5A the Township might attempt to negotiate increases in the contractually specified water and sewage treatment capacities.
- e. The Township will not attempt to negotiate capacity increases to serve properties outside the established service area.
- f. Lateral sewers and appurtenances will be installed at developers’ expense.
- g. On-site septic tanks and drain fields may be permitted on properties in an area designated for public sewer service, but only on a temporary basis, pending availability of public sewer service.
- h. Development in the sewer service area will be limited to uses and densities that are within the capacity limits of the 2005 Wastewater Treatment Capacity and Service Agreement. Major water-using industries are not consistent with this

policy because of adverse impact on sewage treatment capacity and will not be permitted.

- i. As described above, the Township provides public wastewater disposal services within designated sewer service areas under a contract with the City of Ann Arbor. Those areas outside the public sewer service area are either designated as agricultural preservation areas, open space preservation areas or rural residential areas. These areas are generally to be served by individual septic systems, and in certain limited circumstances, privately owned and operated community wastewater disposal systems.

### Water Service Policies

Ann Arbor Township contracts with the City of Ann Arbor for a specified maximum quantity of water. By Township policy portions of the contractually available capacities must be reserved for current and reasonably anticipated future demands. The Township will continue to analyze and maintain its storage capacity to ensure that it will have sufficient volume to meet peak demands of customers and fire demands, especially as the East Medical Campus continues to develop. There are two (2) service areas identified as Water Service Area 3A and Water Service Area 5A. The maximum quantity of water which the Township may take shall not exceed 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD) and shall not exceed an instantaneous rate equivalent to 3.0 MGD.

The 2005 City - Township Water Supply Agreement allocates 0.12 MGD for Water Service Area 3A and 1.38 MGD for Water Service Area 5A.

The following are policies for water service.

- a. The 2005 Water Supply Agreement is recognized as the basis for providing water service for Ann Arbor Township. For purposes of this Master Plan the Water Service Area is defined in Map 13.
- b. The Water Service Area will not be extended outside the service area boundary established in the 2005 Water Supply Agreement.
- c. Transmission and distribution lines will be looped to assure adequate system pressure and continuity of water service.
- d. Water transmission and distribution lines and appurtenances will be constructed at developer expense.
- e. Each dwelling unit will connect to a public water line when service becomes available.

### Storm Drainage and Impervious Surface Policies:

The entire planning area is in the Huron River drainage basin. All stormwater run-off either drains directly into the Huron River by permanent or intermittent drainage courses, or indirectly through major tributary streams, such as Fleming and Traver Creeks, and the Swift Run Drain and Mallett's Creek.

Some areas drain into wetlands that have no regular outlets. The stormwater drainage system consists of both natural drainage features as well as those constructed as part of farming operations or land development projects. These drainage facilities are important parts of the Township's utility systems, even though most are not publicly owned or maintained. They are also important landscape features and elements in the ecosystem.

The following are policies for storm drainage in the planning area:

- a. Storm drainage will have equal importance with water and sanitary sewer services in determining the suitability of land for development and proper density and layout of uses, buildings and other improvements.
- b. On-site drainage facilities will be adequate to deliver surface water run-off to established drainage courses.
- c. Drainage systems will be located and designed to prevent sediment and pollutants carried by surface run-off from entering watercourses and groundwater aquifers.
- d. Suitable mechanisms will be established as part of each development to assure proper long-term maintenance of drainage facilities.
- e. Open and natural drainage courses will be used where possible as part of the drainage system. Open drainage courses that are constructed will be graded and landscaped so as to appear a part of the natural landscape.
- f. Stormwater retention will be provided as part of site development or as part of area-wide drainage systems. Retention basins will be used to control the volume, quality, and rate of stormwater run-off and discharge and to recharge the groundwater supply. Retention basins will be designed in accordance with the current standards of the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner. Area-wide retention facilities serving two or more lots are encouraged in place of an individual retention basin on each lot. Such area-wide facilities will generally be required to be established as county drainage districts with the WCWRC.
- g. Stormwater run-off from any development should not exceed that which existed under undeveloped, natural conditions in terms of volume and velocity. Run-off under existing undeveloped conditions that causes problems will be altered to acceptable rates and volumes by drainage improvements.
- h. Natural water areas within the Township will be preserved in their natural form and condition. Each storage area as well as its fringe area will be protected from encroachment by development. The quality of run-off water that might drain into such areas will be properly maintained.

- i. Impervious area, such as pavement, will be minimized in order to reduce the quantity of stormwater run-off and permit groundwater recharge. The Township has adopted an ordinance that requires developments with impervious surface greater than 20% to establish special mitigation procedures such as retention basins, infiltration systems, permeable pavement and green roofs. Developments with impervious surface greater than 20% are required to retain on site or by infiltration, cumulative water volumes and rates in excess of that produced by 20% impervious surface.
- j. Wetlands may be used as stormwater retention facilities provided the condition and character of the wetland will not be adversely affected. Direct discharge into the wetland is prohibited. Township and MDEQ approval will be required for use of a regulated wetland as a retention facility.
- k. Drainage swales and courses and retention facilities will be designed, constructed and maintained to appear and function as natural features in the landscape.
- l. The design and location of stormwater retention facilities will consider the potential for groundwater contamination.
- m. Each developing site will provide for accommodation of flow of upstream drainage. Costs associated with accommodating off-site flow will be the responsibility of the developer.

- n. Construction sites will be regulated to prevent discharge of soil, debris and other material onto streets or adjacent properties or into drainage courses or wetlands.

### Cable Utility Policies

Electricity, telephone and similar lines will be placed underground in new developments.

The Planning Commission will evaluate overhead lines and their routes for proper alignment, effect on the appearance and character of existing and future development and effect on trees and other natural features before construction. Overhead lines and easements or rights of way for overhead and underground lines will be located to avoid disruption of stands of trees, specimen trees, or significant fence rows, and to avoid arbitrary or unwise division of land use or ownership parcels.

Surface equipment to serve underground lines will be judiciously placed as part of landscape design and will be screened from view.

Substations and similar buildings will be designed and landscaped to be compatible with the character of the area in which they are located.

### Wireless Communication Facilities Policies

Wireless communication facilities will be permitted in Ann Arbor Township in accordance with the following policies.

- a. The number of facilities permitted will be the minimum necessary to

provide a reasonable level of service to the public.

- b. Locations will be limited to existing and future non-residential areas as designated in this plan.
- c. Location and design of facilities will respect the character and property values of the area of impact.
- d. Co-location of antennas will be required to concentrate facilities in the fewest number of locations.
- e. Facilities will be designed and located to minimize intrusion on existing and future residential areas and the Township's natural landscape.
- f. Facilities will be designed to provide for the safety of adjacent properties and people.
- g. Removal will be required if a facility becomes obsolete, inoperable, or unused.

## I. NATURAL FEATURES POLICIES

Ann Arbor Township has many areas with natural features. These features will be preserved and will be used to maintain and, where necessary, create a connected system of open space. These features, together with large open areas and very low density uses, give the Township its unique character. They are important to the Plan in that they provide a visual and physical structure to the Township. Most importantly, they are respected for their integral role in maintaining balance in the environment.

The Plan focuses on watersheds that are tributary to the Huron River as critical planning areas within the larger Township planning area. The Township will strive to limit development within each watershed to the capacity of that watershed and impervious areas will be monitored and controlled to protect water quality.

The Township will also work to coordinate policies with neighboring municipalities, especially with regard to the watersheds tributary to the Huron River.

It is also the intent of this Plan to preserve continuity of natural features and so create systems of open space. This will be accomplished by using proximity as well as contiguity of natural features. An open space system may be any combination of natural features.

The natural features described in the Plan are intended only to illustrate the concept of natural systems and the general location of such features. These areas are not intended to be specific for any site. The actual location, extent, and relationship to existing or proposed development will be determined at the time of development review when detailed information will be available. The policies in this part of the Plan are generalized and are based on existing information, such as USGS maps, County soil maps, aerial photographs and studies made by Washtenaw County and the Huron River Watershed Council

### General Policies

1. Streams, water bodies and wetlands will be used as part of the drainage system of the Township. To the maximum feasible extent, their character and ecological health should be maintained or improved.

These features will be protected from disturbance by construction and from pollutants and sediment that might be carried by surface water run-off.

2. Natural features will be used, where feasible, to create boundaries between use areas or to separate development areas from agricultural areas.

These features can help create a meaningful physical structure for developing areas and the Township as a whole.

3. The following lands are generally considered to be unsuitable for development:
  - a. Lands that cannot be developed in their natural state, such as flood plains and wetlands.
  - b. Lands that are essential to the continuity and preservation of natural systems.
  - c. Lands on which development would result in environmental destruction of a larger natural system or create hazards to the environment or the public.

4. The Township will enhance and protect wildlife corridors to minimize impact on animal habitats.
5. The Township will enhance its green infrastructure by protecting natural areas and establishing connecting corridors between natural areas.
6. The Township will participate in and support the Washtenaw Metro Alliance document “Green Places: Open Spaces - A Plan for Coordinated Parkland and Open Space”

### Stream Corridor Policies

The unique flora and fauna of stream corridors require special attention for adequate preservation.

1. Detailed information about stream corridors will be required at the time of development review to determine the nature and extent of the stream corridor and the specific area that should be protected or preserved.

The width of a stream corridor will vary, depending upon the configuration of the stream course, the types of soil on adjacent lands, the nature of the filtration of surface water into the ground, the types and amounts of vegetative cover and the slope of land adjacent to the watercourse.

2. There will be no disturbance to stream hydrology or alignment by topographic alteration within the corridor unless such alteration will improve existing conditions or remove a hazard or threat to the community.

Filling or removal of material; construction of buildings, culverts, bridges, or other structures; removal of vegetative cover and the location of wells, septic tanks, and drain fields within stream corridors will be regulated and reviewed by appropriate agencies.

3. Development projects will be reviewed not only in the context of the stream corridor, but also in relation to the corridor's watershed.

A stream corridor and its watershed comprise an ecological unit. Protection of slopes, woodlands, and wetlands, as well as proper management of land use development in that watershed is essential to maintaining the quality and quantity of stream flow within the corridor.

4. A protective buffer strip will be provided in new developments along stream corridors.

### Watershed Policies

The Township is dedicated to the preservation of the Huron River Watershed and has identified a series of specific policies in this regard.

1. The rate of surface water run-off will not exceed that which occurs under undeveloped conditions. This policy will prevent overloading of streams receiving run-off and will help prevent long-term erosion created by uncontrolled, high velocity discharges.
2. Erosion control methods and drainage plans will recognize soil types and land slopes of a construction site.

3. Not more than 15 percent of a watershed's land area should be in impervious surfaces.
4. The Township will protect subwatersheds that are at the sensitive level. In these subwatersheds new development shall not result in increasing the total percentage of impervious surface to the point it pushes the subwatershed to further significant degradation. Conversely, the Township has determined certain subwatersheds to be the preferred location for most new dense development provided that infrastructure shall be adequate to ensure that existing water quality is not degraded further, and where possible is improved.
5. In order to protect subwatersheds listed as sensitive as of 2010 (as listed in table 1), the Township has designated Boyden, Traver, and the upper reaches of Fleming Creeks as open space and agricultural protection areas.
6. In order to prevent further degradation of subwatersheds listed as impacted or nonsupporting as of 2010 (as listed in table 1), Ann Arbor Township will require stormwater management and impervious surface limits to reduce the frequency of post-development bankfull and subbankfull flooding, maintain or improve channel stability, and provide maximum removal of designated pollutants of concern.
7. In order to reduce the impacts of impervious surface and stormwater runoff the Township will require stormwater management and site design that reduces impervious surfaces, and the protection of natural features such

as stream buffers, wetlands, and steep slopes.

8. The Township will explore policies and public education that result in the reduction of use of phosphorus fertilizers, increased use of native landscaping, and awareness about watersheds.
9. In order to minimize impervious surface on a watershed and regional scale, the Township will work to encourage compact, transit-oriented development in areas where infrastructure already exists; to preserve large, contiguous areas of natural areas and farmland; and to protect critical ecological areas, such as wetlands, floodplains, and riparian corridors.

### Wetland Policies

Wetlands consist of low areas with poor drainage and either temporary or permanent standing water. They also include areas with a high water table and hydric soils.

1. Wetlands will be protected in order to preserve water quality, stabilize surface water run-off, and provide wildlife habitats. They will be retained as possible wild areas but, where feasible, will be incorporated into surface water drainage systems, provided that inflow of sediment, pollutants and nutrients will not damage their viability.
2. Wetlands will be used as ground water recharge areas where possible and as areas to stabilize run-off during periods of heavy precipitation.

3. Actual boundaries and significance of specific wetlands will be determined at the time of development review. Current information about the location, extent and type of wetlands in Ann Arbor Township is generalized.
4. Uses permitted in or adjacent to wetlands will be compatible with the purposes and functions of wetlands.
5. Wetlands and the remainder of the watershed that drains into the wetland beyond the fringe area will be recognized in reviewing proposed developments within or in the vicinity of wetlands and in conducting future studies to develop detailed policies and regulations for wetlands.
6. A protective buffer strip will be provided in new development along the edge of a wetland.

### Ground Water Recharge Area Policies

Ground water recharge areas collect and hold precipitation and surface run-off for percolation into aquifers. They are vital elements in the hydrologic cycle because they restore water tables and supply water to lakes, streams and wetlands.

1. The location, nature, and extent of recharge areas will be identified during development review. Detailed information will allow the Township to work with developers to ensure that the site design observes the highest level of respect for specific ground water recharge areas.

2. Development in a recharge area will be controlled to retain as much of the permeable surface as possible. Land grading will be controlled to retain the water holding characteristics of the land. Vegetation essential to the water holding characteristics will be preserved or, where necessary, enhanced as part of a development program. The balance and integrity of the hydrologic system will be maintained in a proposed development.
3. Recharge areas will be protected from pollution by regulating the uses permitted within such areas and by controlling the quality of surface water run-off from tributary areas.
4. Areas classified in the county soil survey as having soils with water tables at or near the surface will also be protected from pollutant entry. Pollutants on such soils quickly and easily enter the underground water system.

### Woodland Policies

The high-quality woodlands in Ann Arbor Township are critical to the environmental health, aesthetic beauty, and character of the community.

1. Woodlands will be preserved in order to protect water and soil quality, buffer air and noise pollution, moderate local climate and storm severity, preserve wildlife habitats and preserve aesthetic values and community beauty. Associated flora and fauna will also be preserved. Development that is permitted in or adjacent to wooded areas or significant specimen trees will be planned, constructed and maintained so that existing healthy trees and vegetation

are preserved to the maximum feasible extent. Native trees that are healthy will be preserved rather than removed and replaced with young stock. Diversity of woodlands will be protected to improve their long-term stability.

2. The location, species, and quality of wooded areas or individual trees will be considered during review of developments to determine preservation requirements.
3. The type and density of uses permitted in and adjacent to wooded areas will be compatible with the objective of preserving woodlands.
4. Clustering will be encouraged to preserve woodlands.
5. Specimen and landmark trees that must be removed for permitted development will be replaced based on an equivalency measure.
6. Fence rows will be identified on development plans and will be preserved if evaluation shows they are performing one or more of these important functions: providing habitat and paths of travel for birds and animals; serving as natural snow fences and windbreaks; providing visual relief in otherwise open areas; serving as connecting links between larger areas of natural features, such as woodlands and wetlands.

### Steep Slope Policies

Steep slopes associated with watersheds are sensitive in that threats to steep slopes can impact water quality. Slopes also foster local biodiversity and contribute to the community's aesthetic character. Slopes will be considered in terms of soil types as well as steepness. Steep slopes are those that are 12 percent or greater.

1. Areas of steeper slopes, such as more than 12 percent, will be protected. Protection of steep slopes will reduce erosion potential, maintain slope and soil stability, control amounts and velocities of surface water run-off and protect an aesthetic resource.
2. Development that is permitted on steep slopes will maintain or enhance the natural contours, vegetation and drainage patterns. Existing land form will be a major factor in the land use and site planning processes. The primary objective will be preservation of natural contours rather than alteration by mass grading.

# PART 6: IMPLEMENTATION

## A. INTRODUCTION

Policies in this Master Plan must be implemented, for the most part, by the Township’s administration, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Trustees. To be effective, the Plan must be a key consideration in daily decision-making. Used in this manner, the Plan will provide advance notice to landowners and prospective developers and assurance of stability to property owners and residents. The Plan can be a forum for modifying certain policies, with all affected parties involved, when conditions underlying the Plan change or new opportunities arise. Thus, in terms of policy implementation, the Plan is for communication and for reference.

The following will establish implementation mechanisms, or strategies, which are specific, targeted courses of action devised to apply the Township policies established in Part 5.

## B. ZONING REGULATIONS

The principal means of implementing Master Plan policies is the Zoning Ordinance. Zoning will be used in any one or more of the ways listed below.

1. Zoning Districts: Land will be zoned in a manner consistent with uses and densities designated in the Plan. For example, land currently used for residences on one-acre lots will be zoned R-2; land used for residences on lots less than one acre in area will be zoned R-3, and so on. The table on

the following page illustrates how the existing zoning designations relate to the land use designations in this Plan.

2. Special Districts: A special zoning district is created using an area plan, a form of a site plan sufficient to describe the essential features of the proposed development, and a specific list of uses that will be permitted on the site. Future use of the property must be in accordance with the approved area plan. Major changes in site layout or uses may only be permitted by a zoning amendment which would create a new version of the special district, if approved by the Township Board. Special zoning districts will be used for the following purposes:
  - a. To create a compatible mixture of uses on a site where such a mixture is desirable and consistent with adopted policies,
  - b. To fit a proposed use into an existing developed area in a compatible manner,
  - c. To permit density transfer within a site,
  - d. To assure that a site will be developed in a manner consistent with the Master Plan and in the manner promised by the petitioner.

Future Land Use Designation	Corresponding Zoning District
Agricultural Production	A-1 General Agriculture
Residential 0.2-0.5 DU/acre (2 to 5-ac. lots)	A-R Agriculture-Rural Residential
	R-1 Single-Family Rural Residential
Residential 0.5-1.0 DU/acre (1 to 2-ac. lots)	R-1A Single-Family Rural Residential
	R-2 Single-Family Suburban Residential
Residential 1-2 DU/acre (0.5 to 1-ac. lots)	R-3A Single-Family Urban Residential
Residential 2-4 DU/acre (0.25 to 0.5-ac. lots)	R-3 Single-Family Urban Residential
	R-4 Single-Family Urban Residential
Residential 4-6 DU/acre (0.25 to 0.17-ac. lots)	R-5 Single-Family Urban Residential
	R-6 Mobile Home Park Residential
Residential 6 DU/acre (0.17-ac. lots)	R-7 Low Density Multiple-Family Residential
	R-8 Moderate Density Multiple-Family Residential
	R-9 High Density Urban Residential
Open Space Preservation	Open Space Preservation Residential
	Open Space Preservation Community
Recreation	RC - Recreation Conservation
Public Institutions	PL - Public Lands
Senior Home	
	C-1 Convenience Commercial
Office	O - Office
	OP - Office Park
Research	R-D Research and Development
	RRA - Research and Research Applications
Industry	I-1 - Limited Industrial

The Township’s current Zoning Ordinance has five special districts, although additional special districts might be created in the future:

- a. Planned Unit Development (PUD).
- b. Research and Research Applications (RRA), intended for research parks, such as Ann Arbor Technology Park.
- c. Office Park (OP), intended for office parks, such as Domino’s Farms.
- d. Open Space Preservation Residential District (OSPRD), intended to preserve natural areas and fragmented farmland and allowable only in the Open Space Preservation Area.
- e. Agricultural Preservation Residential District, intended to preserve farmland in the Agricultural Production Area and Open Space Preservation Area designated by this Plan.

The Township should also review and potentially reconsider the methods used to calculate density with regard to wetlands and other features in all circumstances throughout the community.

3. Overlay Zones: Overlay zones can be used to regulate the use of a specific part of a parcel of land. The regulations of the overlay district are in addition to the regulations of the underlying basic zoning district. Overlay districts could be used to protect stream corridors, wetlands, woodlands, or other features.

4. **Site Plan Review:** Site plan review is a means of assuring that proposed developments will meet certain established standards of the Township, including applicable policies in the Master Plan. The review process will be a mechanism for the property owner or developer and Township officials to tailor a proposed development to the specific site and immediate neighborhood, and to the policies in the Master Plan, particularly those concerned with protecting valuable natural features. The Township amended the site plan review requirements in the Zoning Ordinance to ensure that the process is efficient while providing the Planning Commission and Township Board with all necessary information to make informed decisions which reflect the policies of the Township as reflected in this Plan. Completion of all improvements shown on an approved site plan should be assured by appropriate financial guarantees.

5. **Changes in Regulations:** The Planning Commission and Township Board will consider changes to the Zoning Ordinance to implement policies in the Plan, including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Elimination of categories that are no longer relevant due to annexation and other factors.
- Require non-motorized transportation facilities, such as sidewalks or paved shoulders in new residential subdivisions or non-residential developments. Require sidewalk/trail segments

along arterial roadway frontages of new developments.

- Require bicycle parking facilities as a part of any new multiple-family residential, office, and/or commercial development project which abuts or is located within 500 feet of an existing or planned non-motorized pathway or paved shoulder designed for use as an on-road bicycle lane.

### C. INFRASTRUCTURE

*Roads:* All roads in Ann Arbor Township except state highways and private roads are under the jurisdiction of the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC). State highways such as US-23 and M-14 are under the jurisdiction of MDOT. Costs of road construction and maintenance are the responsibility of the County Road Commission or MDOT. New developments will provide internal roads at developer expense. The developer will also be strongly encouraged to pay a reasonable share of any improvements to existing roads that might be needed to adequately and safely serve a new development. The developer will work out that share with the agency holding jurisdiction and all agreements will be in place before the Township grants final development approval.

*Public Utilities:* The Township's water and sanitary sewer systems were constructed by special assessment districts and major extensions of these systems will be financed in the same manner. System maintenance is financed by user fees. Developers will be required to construct, at their expense, lines and appurtenances from the existing or

future trunk sewers or water mains needed to serve their properties and dedicate them to the Township, which will maintain them. The Township’s policy is that general fund money will not be used to support the water and sanitary sewer systems.

*Stormwater Drainage:* On-site retention of stormwater is required of all new developments. Large-scale retention areas serving several properties, in place of a retention area on each property, are required and are also required to be established as County drainage districts. Drainage courses, retention areas and outlets will be constructed at developer expense and will be maintained at the expense of properties served by the facilities. Proper long-term maintenance of all parts of a drainage system will be established in an acceptable manner before the Township gives final development approval.

*Non-Motorized Transportation Facilities:* The plan entitled Priority Corridors for Non-Motorized Transportation (Map 11 in Appendix) should be implemented through roadway improvements (via the WCRC), and development of off-road facilities. Partnerships with WATS, adjacent communities, and other entities, such as the University of Michigan, should be pursued to develop off-road facilities that connect to important destinations in and outside of the Township.

Financing opportunities should be pursued to address non-motorized facility deficiencies. Possible sources include:

1. Transportation Alternatives Program
2. Safe Routes to School

3. Highway Safety Improvement Program
4. Recreational Trails Program
5. Michigan Transportation Fund (Act 51)
6. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
7. Land and Water Conservation Fund
8. Michigan Passport Grant Program
9. Local Rail/Highway Crossings
10. Bikes Belong Community Partnership Grants
11. National Trails Fund of the American Hiking Society
12. DALMAC Fund
13. Millage, Special Assessment, or General Funds

#### D. LAND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The Ann Arbor Township Land Development Standards are designed to implement policies of this Plan by complementing regulations in adopted ordinances. They are also designed to clarify development regulations, standards and procedures for applicants, Township officials and the interested public. The Planning Commission and Township Board will continue to integrate certain portions of the Land Development Standards within the Zoning Code whenever possible by adopting Ordinance amendments which formally codify those standards. Areas that have been integrated recently include site plan

submittal requirements, landscaping, signage, outdoor lighting, and natural features protection. Standards specifically relating to site engineering and provision of utilities are intended to remain in the Land Development Standards.

## E. NATURAL FEATURES PROTECTION ORDINANCES

The Township will continue to investigate new ways to protect natural features through the adoption of specific natural features protection ordinances or amendments to the Zoning Code, such as the Wetland and Watercourse Protection Ordinance and the Natural Features Setback Section of the Zoning Ordinance. Ann Arbor Township will participate in the Washtenaw Metro Alliance “Green Places: Open Spaces - A Plan for Coordinated Parkland and Open Space.”

## F. PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Ann Arbor Township will continue to actively pursue opportunities to use its adopted PDR Ordinance. The Ordinance was adopted for the purpose of preserving agricultural lands and open space areas in areas designated within the Master Plan Agricultural Preservation (Overlay) area.

In 2003, Ann Arbor Township voters approved a land preservation millage which will raise about \$5.7 million over 20 years, and Ann Arbor City residents also approved a similar millage in 2003. The Township will partner with the City to secure matching funds from additional sources.

Ann Arbor Township will also pursue other partners, such as the Federal Government and State of Michigan, to secure matching grants and other support for PDR programs.

## G. DENSITY TRANSFER

This concept applies only when a development site spans two or more areas with different density classifications within Ann Arbor Township. It involves moving (transferring) proposed development (density) from one part of the site (with one density classification) to another part of the site (with a different density classification) that is more suitable for development. The process results in a portion of the site remaining undeveloped and the developed part having a higher net density (although the overall density of the site will not be increased).

The Township will encourage the practice of density transfer to preserve farmland and natural features (such as open fields, woodlands or stream corridors), while permitting a reasonable use of the entire property. This method is applicable to larger sites and requires use of a special zoning district, such as a PUD district. Note that the same result can be obtained on a site with a single density classification through density concentration or clustering, where appropriate.

Transfer of density should meet certain standards set forth in this Plan and may result in a concentration of dwelling units that would require housing types different than those suggested by the gross density designation. This may be acceptable as long as open space or agricultural lands are preserved, the overall density limit is

not exceeded and the resulting residential development is compatible with existing neighboring residential areas. A property owner may transfer density allocated to one part of the owner's land holdings to another part, provided:

- a. All lands are located in Ann Arbor Township, are contiguous and the owner has fee simple title to the lands.
- b. The total number of dwelling units allocated to the owner's total land area involved will not be exceeded.
- c. The transfer is made as a part of PUD or similar special zoning district that includes all land involved in the transfer.
- d. If public water and sewer services will be provided within the area from which density will be transferred, then that area, after the transfer, will have sufficient remaining density to support municipal water and sanitary sewer services.
- e. The parcel of land receiving the transferred density will, with the additional dwelling units, be compatible with the existing or planned use of the surrounding area.

#### H. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DENSITY IN THE DESIGNATED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AREA AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AREA.

The Township will review residential development proposals within the Agricultural Production and Open Space Preservation Areas with respect for a

heightened sensitivity towards potential impacts. In that spirit, the Township will strongly encourage the use of agricultural preservation techniques, and ensure that residential development is located in an area that will have minimum interference with and from farming operations, natural features, or open space.

In these areas, residences should be clustered and located on the smallest possible lots to minimize loss of the most productive farmland and most sensitive or desirable open space or natural features. To this end, lots in these areas should not exceed one acre, unless a larger lot is required by Washtenaw County for an on-site well and septic tank/drainfield. In that situation the maximum lot area should be the smallest area that is required to meet the County's requirements.

Ann Arbor Township will encourage clustering by developing policies which grant density bonuses for projects in which residences are clustered. Such incentives may be offered through special zoning districts designed to permanently protect a substantial portion of the predevelopment tillable farmland or open space via a conservation easement with the Township (or an entity approved by the Township). The primary objective of this technique will be to preserve farmland or open space for an owner whose principal occupation or purpose is focused on farming or preserving farmland or open space.

#### I. CREEKSHED PLANNING

The Township Planning Commission will work closely with the Fleming Creek Advisory Council and the Huron River Watershed Council to prepare and update

management plans for each creekshed in the Township. The plans may be adopted as special area plans in the Master Plan.

## J. IMPERVIOUS SURFACE

The Township Planning Commission, working with the Huron River Watershed Council and the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's office, will prepare policies, standards and ordinances for limiting impervious area in new developments in the Township to the minimum that will be consistent with reasonable use of the land.

## K. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Township Planning Commission will use studies made by various agencies to prepare policies, standards and ordinances for managing stormwater run-off in the Township. These policies, standards and ordinances will be consistent with regulations for wetlands, natural features and management plans for creeksheds.

## L. ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL VALUE AND PROFITABILITY

The Township will work with other agencies (Washtenaw County MSU Extension) to develop local markets for local produce.

The Township will encourage legislation to improve tax policy for land in PDR and agricultural production, and will support property tax abatements to encourage land to remain in agricultural use.

The Township will explore other mechanisms to improve value and profitability of agricultural operations in the Township. Such mechanisms may include preservation of agricultural drain tiles; buffering between agricultural uses and residential uses; and assisting in regional efforts to promote food hub development, local markets, value-added agricultural operations, recreational agriculture, agri-tourism, and local farm awareness.

Ann Arbor Township supports the development of a regional agricultural production and preservation plan with adjacent townships.

Ann Arbor Township will study innovative zoning techniques for agricultural production and preservation including sliding scale zoning and small farm zoning.

## M. PLAN MONITORING PROGRAM

The planning process, in order to be effective, must be continuous. The Master Plan must have a character that encourages its regular use in the planning process, as it represents the Township's policies for the future. If the Plan is to perform its proper function in a continuous planning process and serve as the official reference for discussions and decisions on many different matters it must be kept up-to-date. This program for revision of the Master Plan is therefore necessary.

In addition to keeping the Master Plan up to date, a regular monitoring program has several other benefits. First, such a program broadens the area of community agreement on development policies over time. The process invites open reconsideration

of alternatives to major decisions and encourages exploration of new issues and secondary questions.

Review of the Plan at regular intervals will broaden and deepen the Planning Commission's and Township Board's knowledge of the Plan, and help to identify its shortcomings. Along with the Plan's use in day-to-day decision making, a regular review process will assure that the Plan will be a living document. The Plan's policies, while firm and definite, must not be frozen in time.

Regular review will avoid delays that might otherwise be caused by calls for more study on certain issues before the Plan updates are adopted. A regular review program assures that issues requiring further examination will be studied at proper levels of detail at appropriate times and that policy changes resulting from such studies can be made swiftly.

The program will have two objectives:

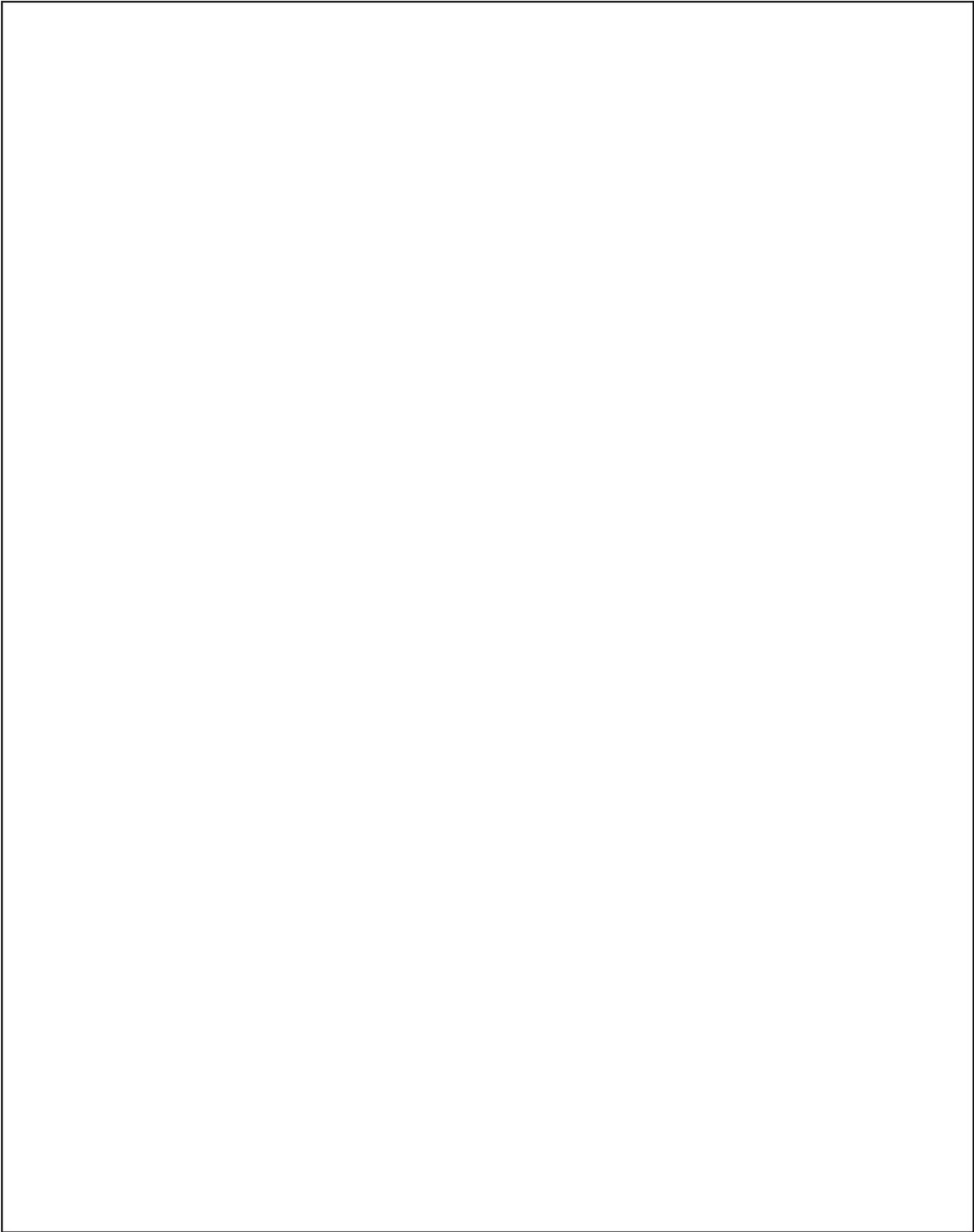
- Determine the extent to which the Township is actually implementing the policies of the Master Plan.
- Determine whether the Plan's policies are still desirable and appropriate in light of changing circumstances.

The program will consist of an annual review by the Planning Commission; the results of which will be transmitted to the Township Board in a report. Such review might result in a recommendation to change a portion of the Plan. A more comprehensive review of the Master Plan should be made at intervals no longer than

five years to comply with State of Michigan enabling legislation. This practice will also enable the Planning Commission and Township Board to see the implications of accumulated annual revisions in perspective and to make proper adjustments. Annual reviews may indicate the need for a major review in less than five years.

# KEY CONCEPTS INDEX

Topic	Pages
Agricultural Production and Farmland Preservation	11, 19-23, 32, 37-40, 41, 64, 67-69
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Commercial and industrial development in the greater area	7, 10, 28-29, 46-47
Impervious surface	17, 54-56, 59-60, 69
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Stormwater management	14-15, 33, 54-56, 59, 66, 69
Watershed and subwatershed preservation	15, 16, 17, 32-34, 57-61, 68-69





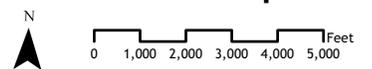
# Map 1

## PLANNING AREA

### Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

#### Legend

- Ann Arbor Township
- Annexation Policy Statement Boundary

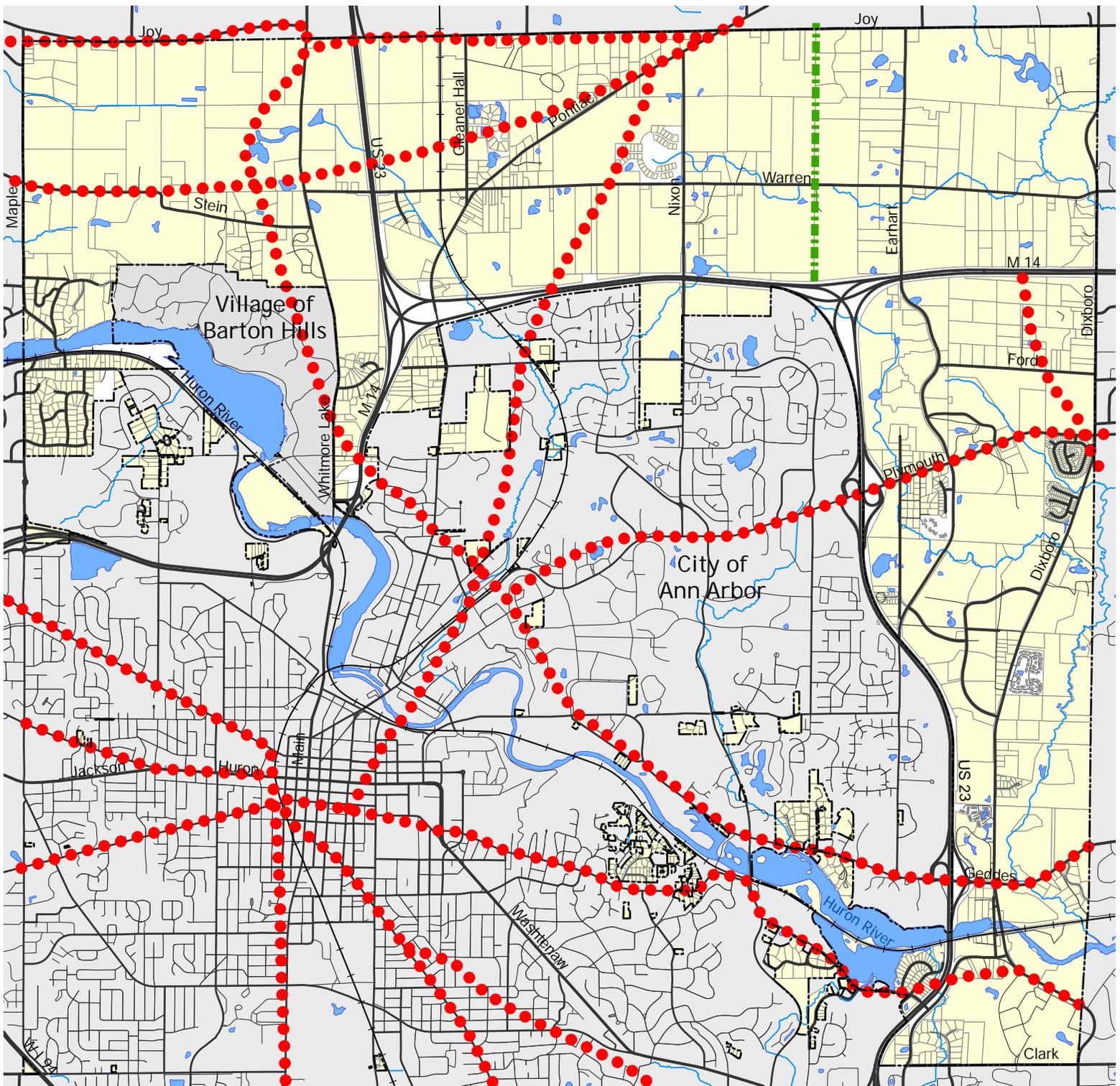


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

9-25-14

Carlisle/Wortman Associate, Inc.  
Community Planners & Landscape Architects





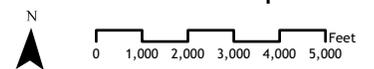
Map 2

# EARLY TRAILS

Ann Arbor Township  
Master Plan Update

## Legend

-  Ann Arbor Township
-  Early Trails
-  Ann Arbor to Whitmore Lake Railway in Ann Arbor Township (approximate)

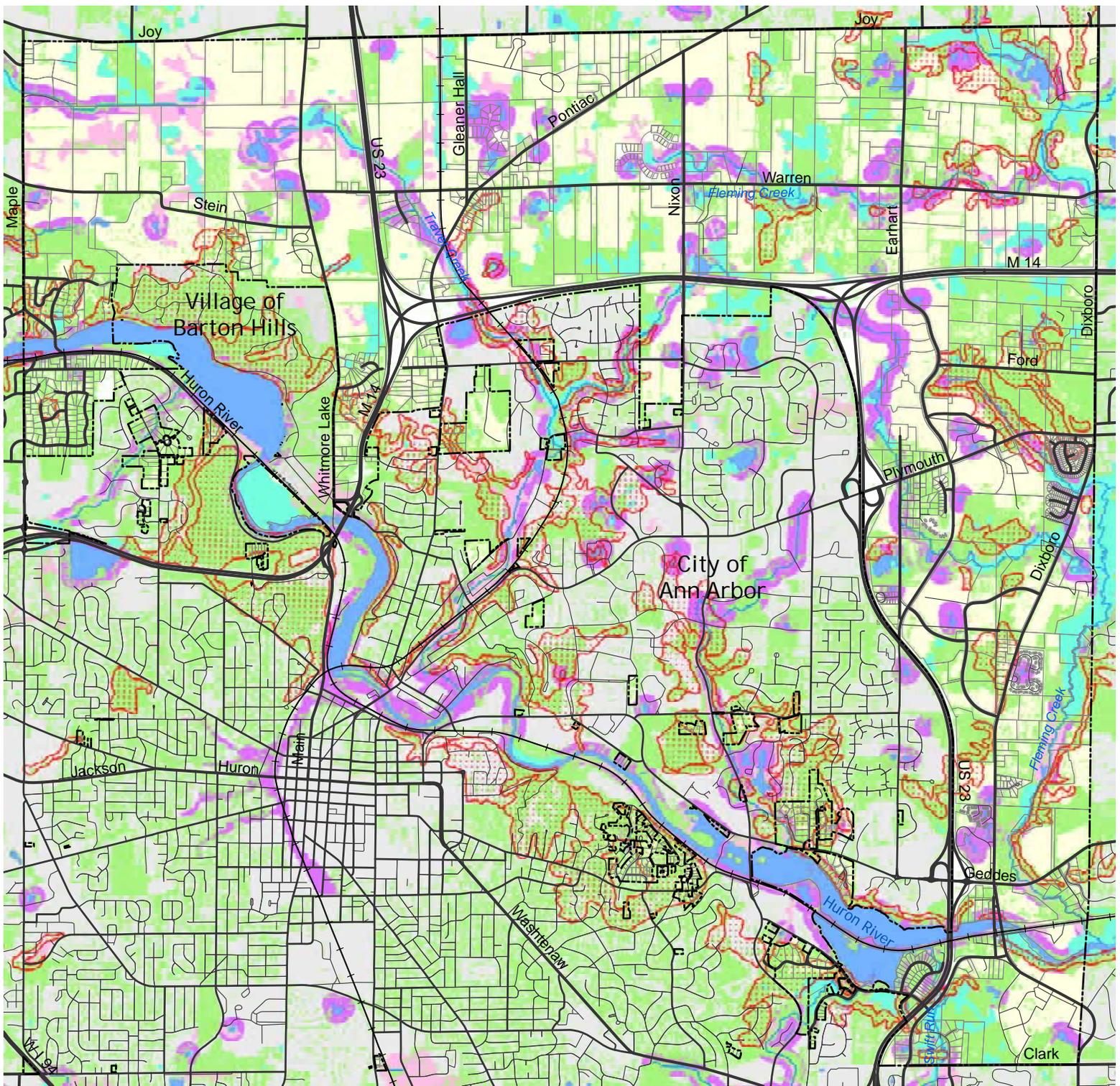


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

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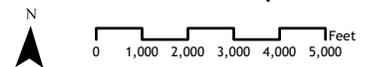
Map 3

# NATURAL FEATURES

Ann Arbor Township  
Master Plan Update

## Legend

- |   |                     |   |                    |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Steep Slopes (>12%) |  | Riparian Corridor* |
|  | Upland Forests      |  | Lakes              |
|  | Wetlands            |  | Streams            |
|  | Hydric Soils        |  | Ann Arbor Township |



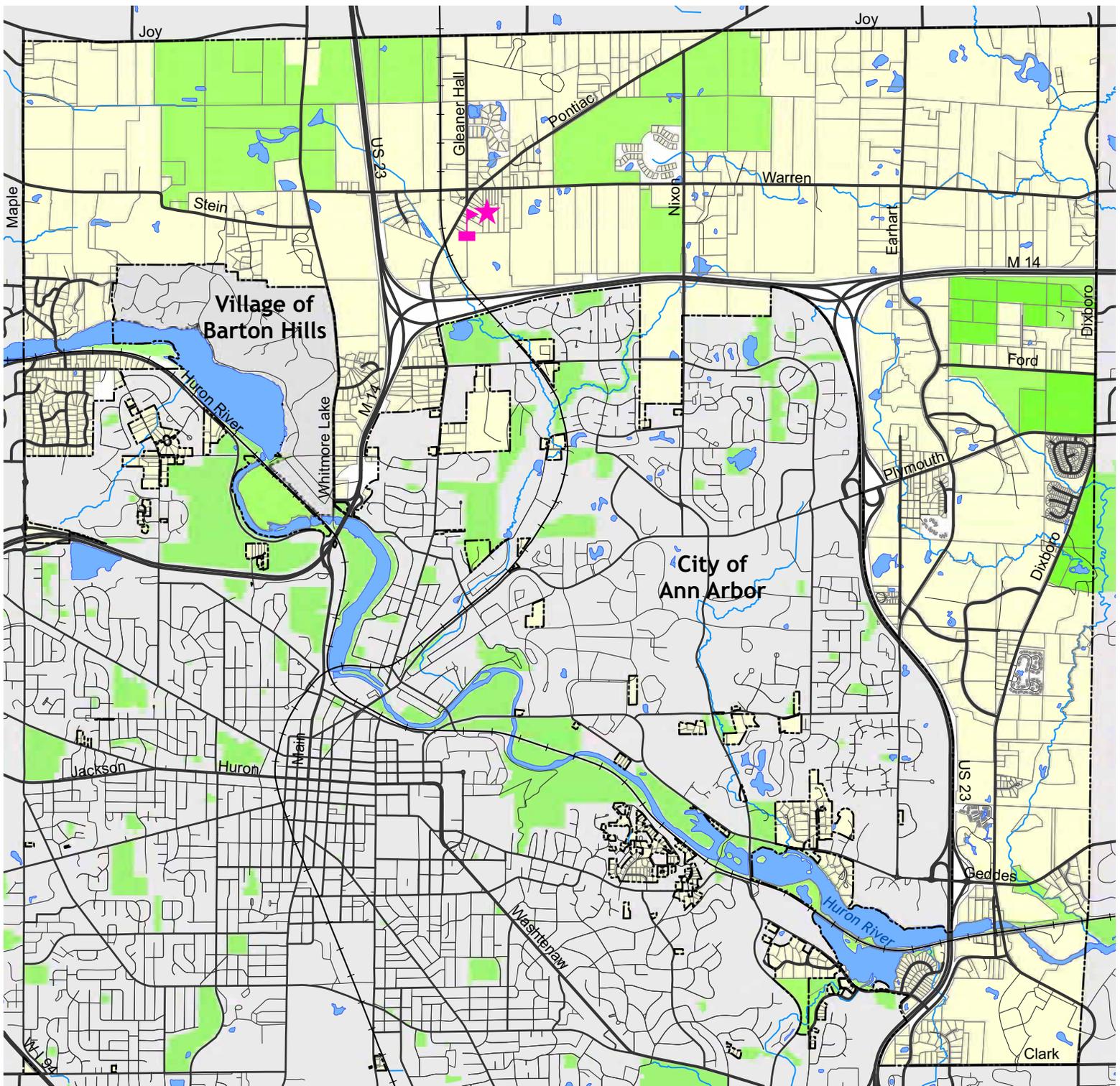
Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

\* Riparian corridors consist of a 300 foot buffer and floodplain boundary from surface waters.

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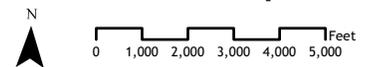
Map 4

# PROTECTED LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

## Legend

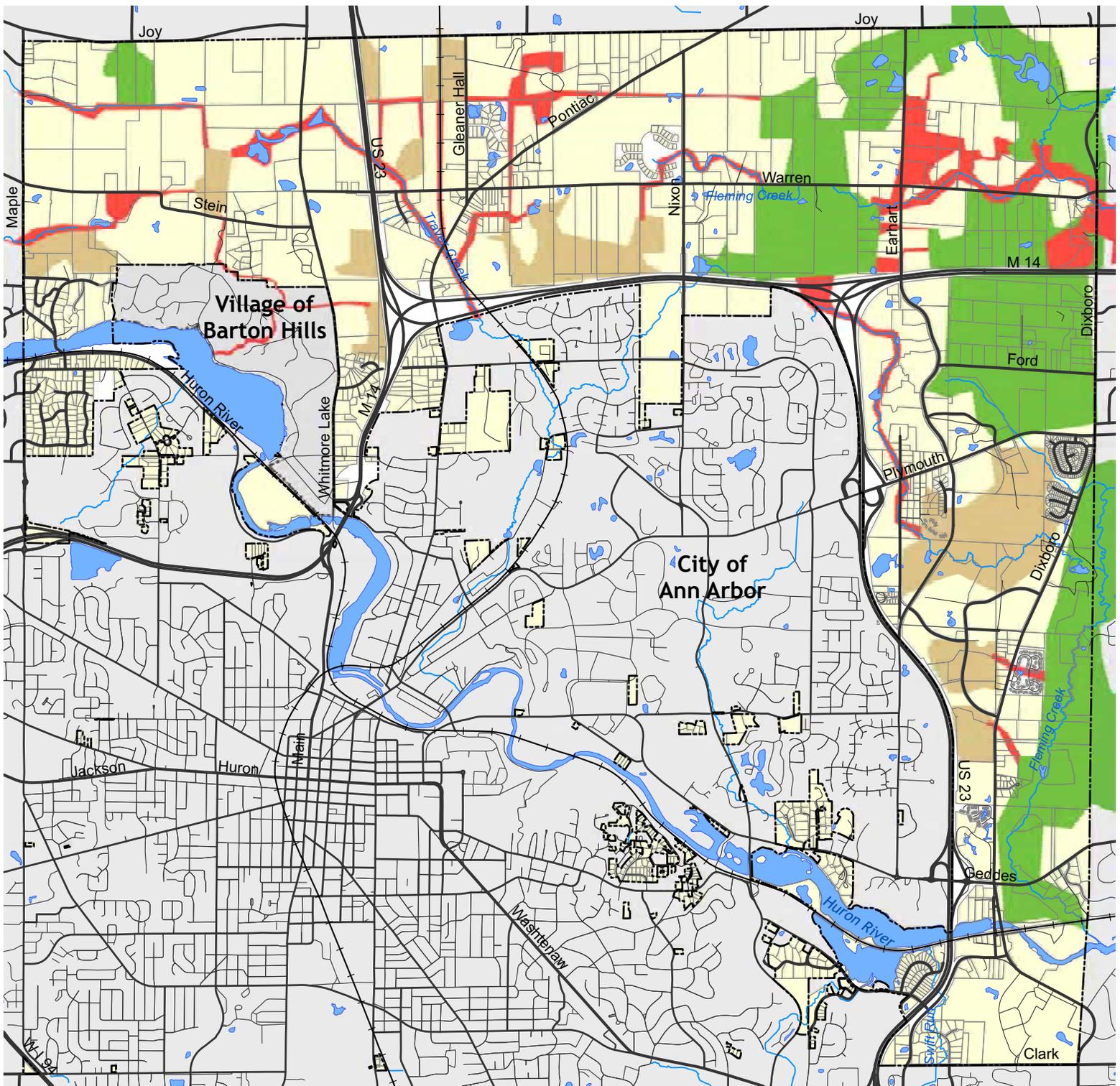
-  Protected Lands\*
-  Fire Station
-  Township Hall
-  Ann Arbor Township

## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update



\* Protected lands and greenways consist of County Parks, Local Parks, Washtenaw Land Trust, Washtenaw County Conservation and Recreational Lands, Public and Quasi-Public Lands, Township Conservation Easements, and properties protected by PDR programs.

Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

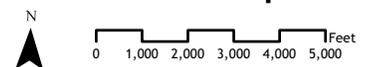


# Map 5 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

### Legend

- Hub
- Link
- Site
- Ann Arbor Township

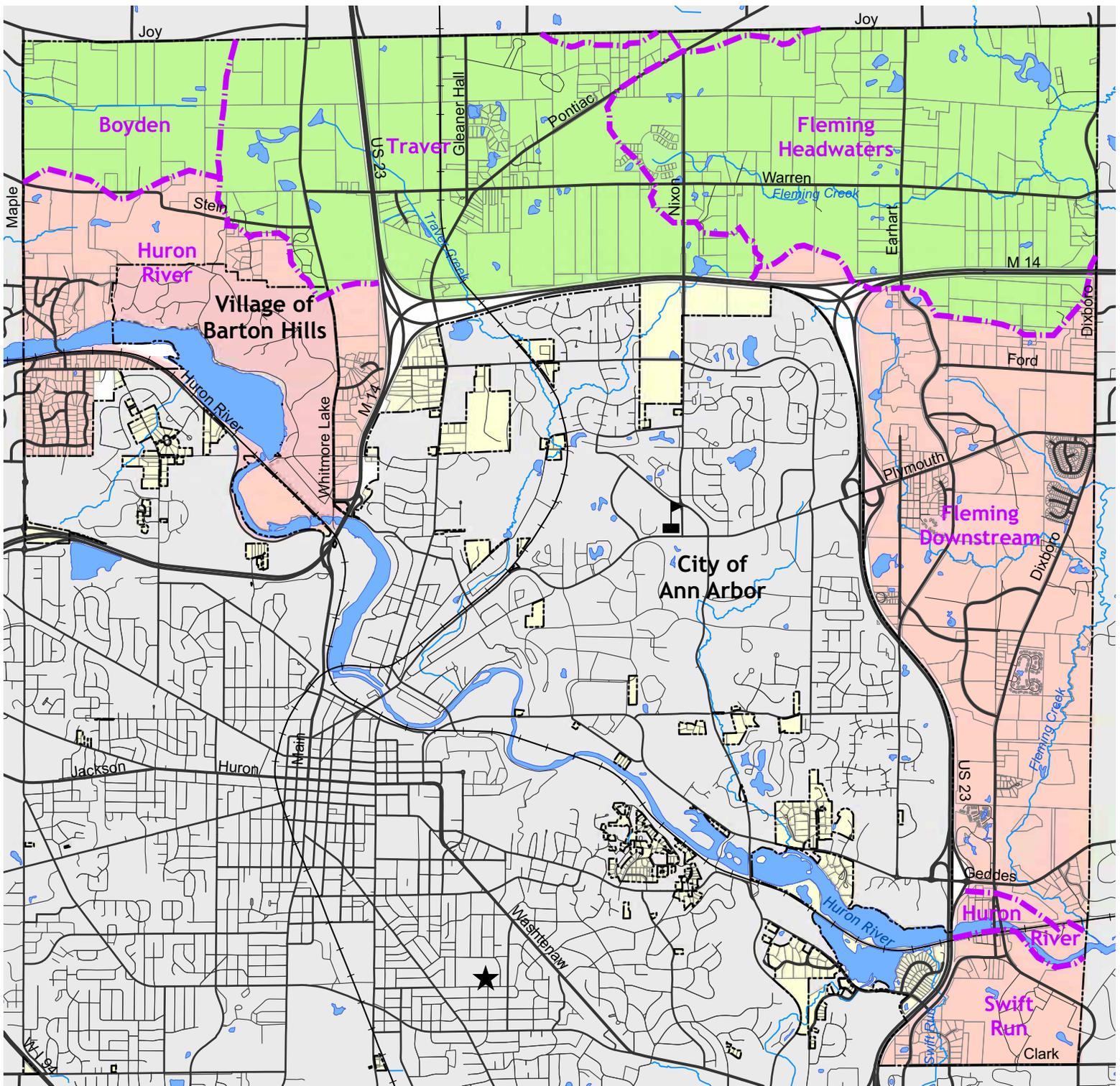


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County  
Green Infrastructure Data from Huron River Watershed Council

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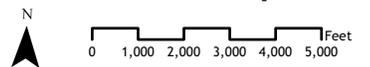


# Map 6 2010 IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

### Legend

- 0 - 10% Imperviousness
- 10 - 25% Imperviousness
- Major Creeksheds

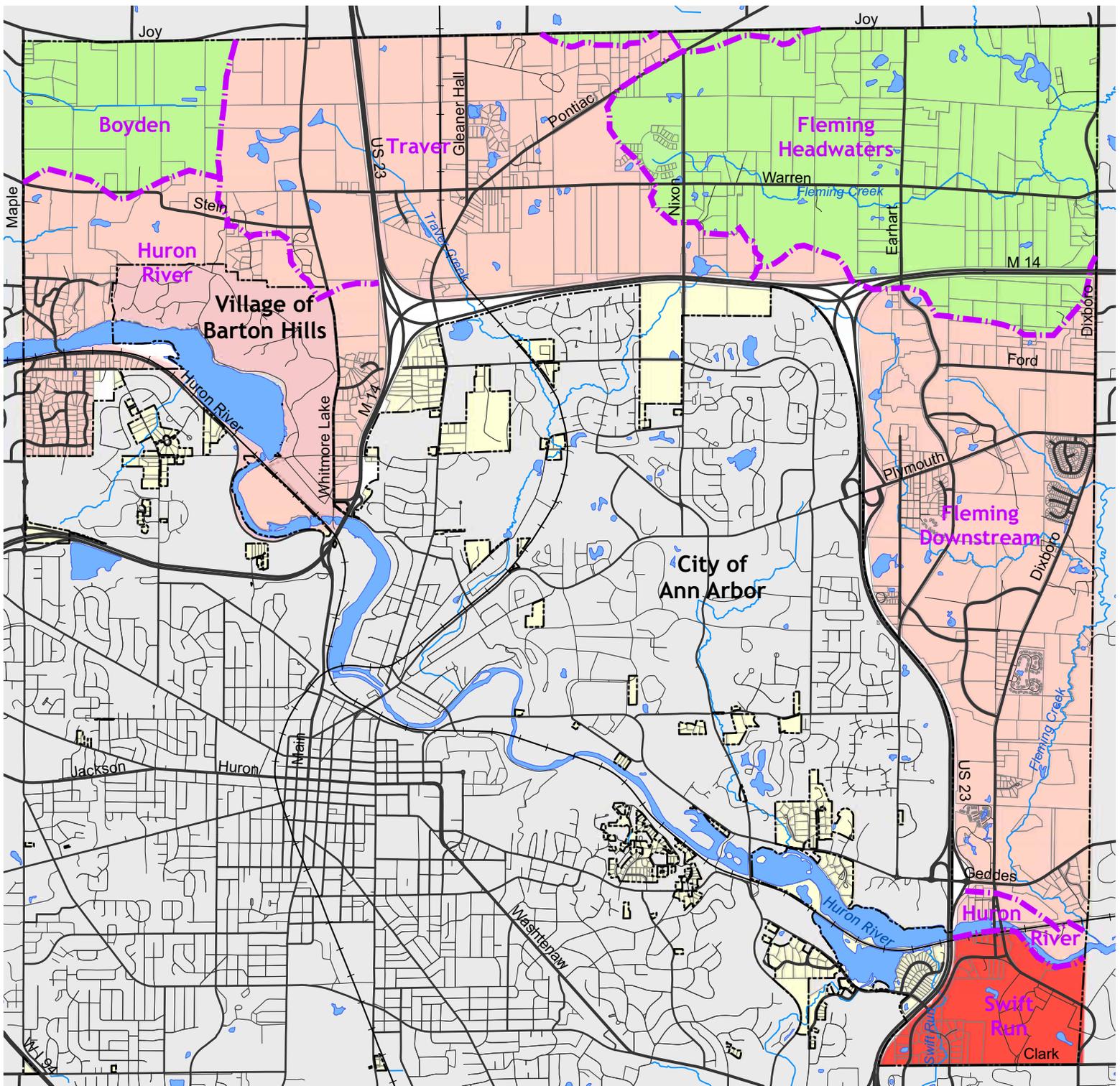


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County  
Impervious Surface Data from Huron River Watershed Council

9-25-14

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Community Planners & Landscape Architects



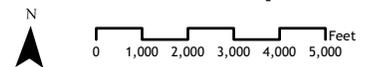


# Map 7 FUTURE IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

## Legend

- 0 - 10% Imperviousness
- 10 - 25% Imperviousness
- 26 - 35% Imperviousness
- Major Creeksheds

## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

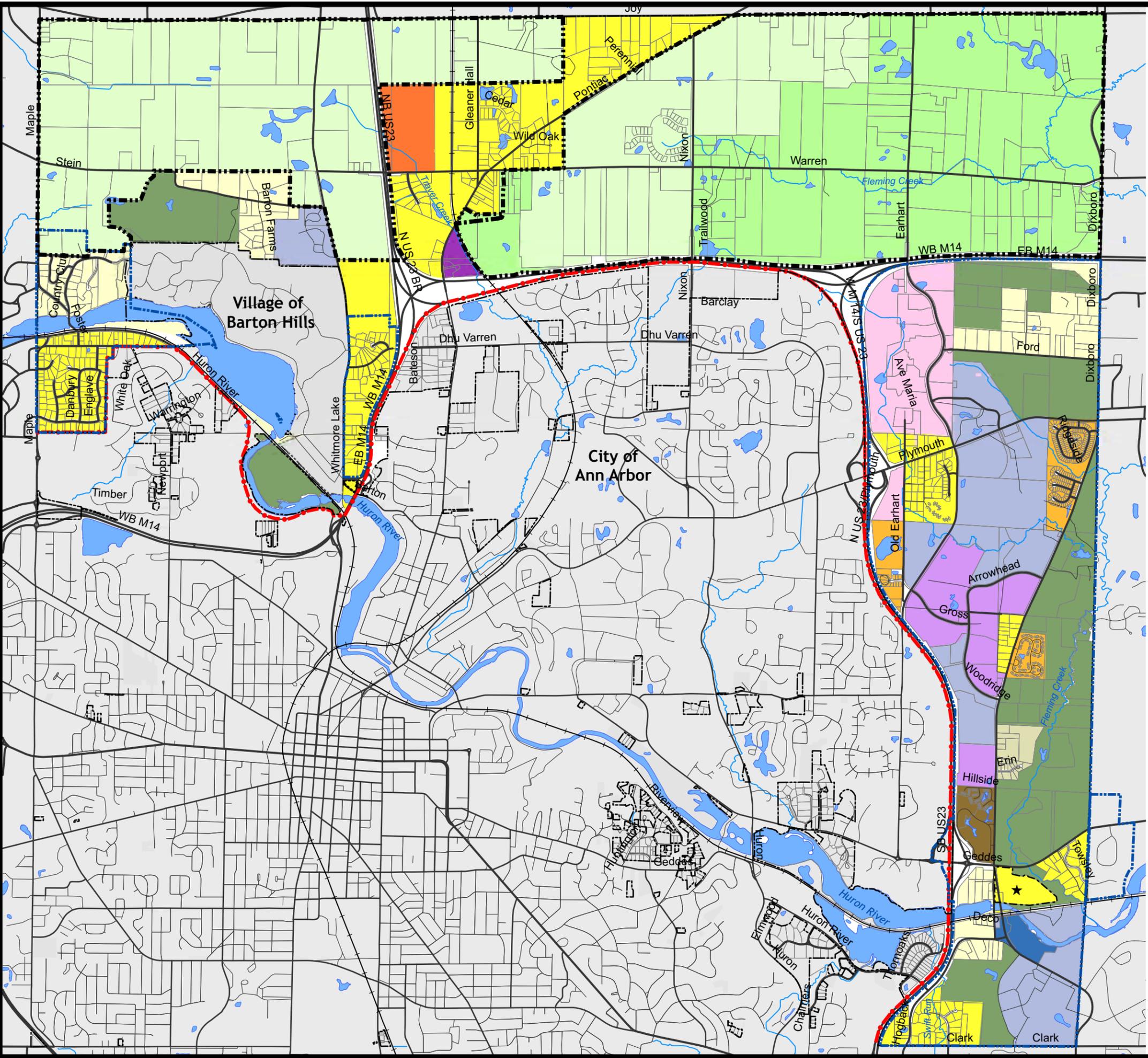


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County  
Impervious Surface Data from Huron River Watershed Council

9-25-14

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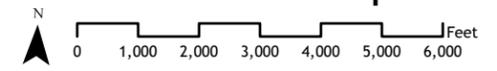




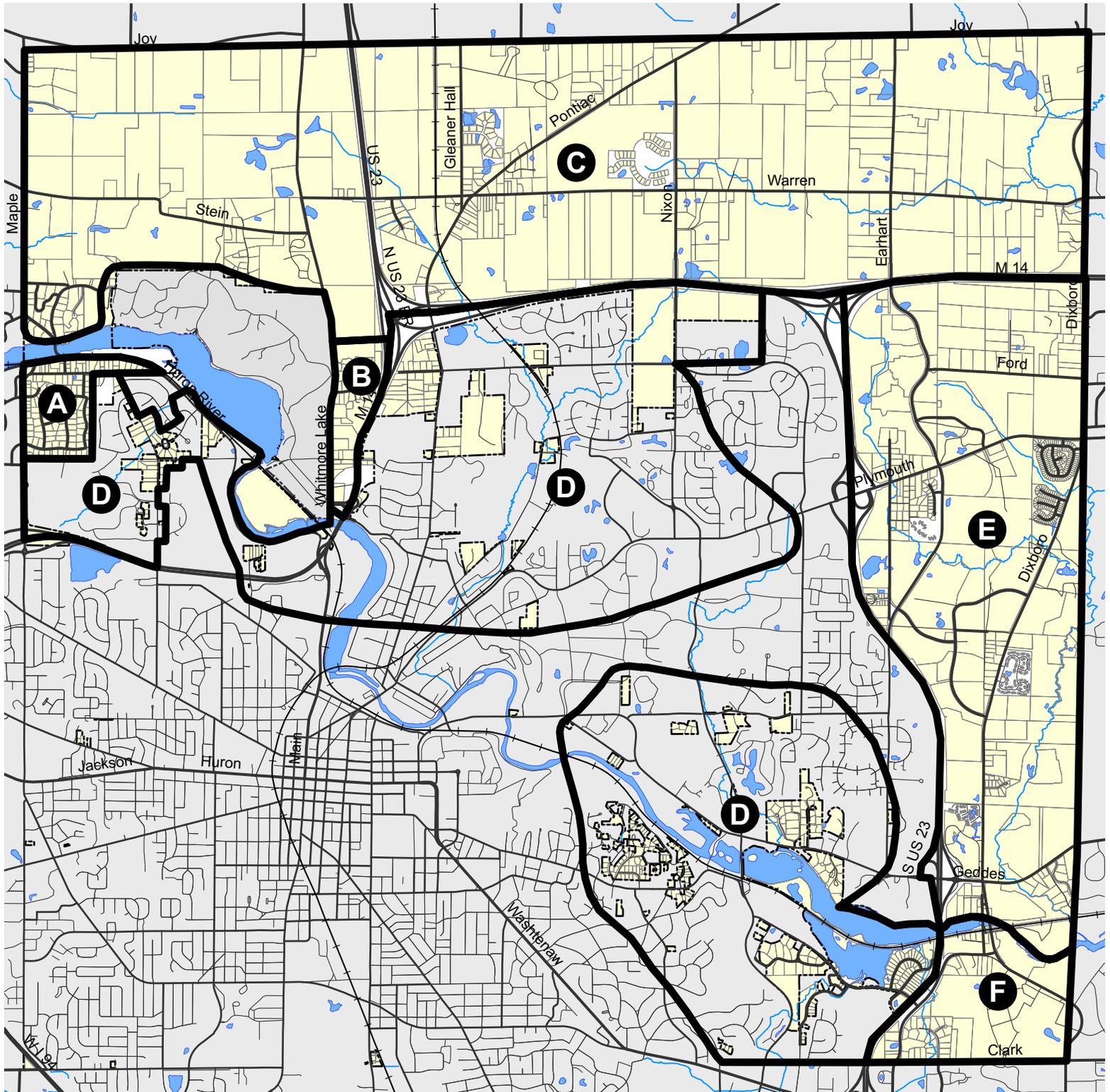
- Agricultural Production
- Residential 0.2-0.5 D.U./acre
- Residential 0.5-1.0 D.U./acre
- Residential 1-2 D.U./acre
- Residential 2-4 D.U./acre
- Residential 4-6 D.U./acre
- Residential 6 or more D.U./acre
- Open Space Preservation
- Recreation
- Public Institutions
- Senior Housing
- Office
- Research
- Industry
- Agricultural Preservation Overlay
- Annexation Policy Statement Boundary
- Water Service Areas
- Ann Arbor Township also recognizes that this property may also be suitable for senior housing at a density of up to 9 units/acre.

## Map 8 FUTURE LAND USE

Ann Arbor Township  
Master Plan Update

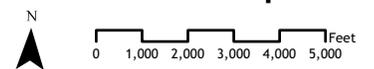


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County



## Map 9 SPECIFIC STUDY AREAS

Ann Arbor Township  
Master Plan Update

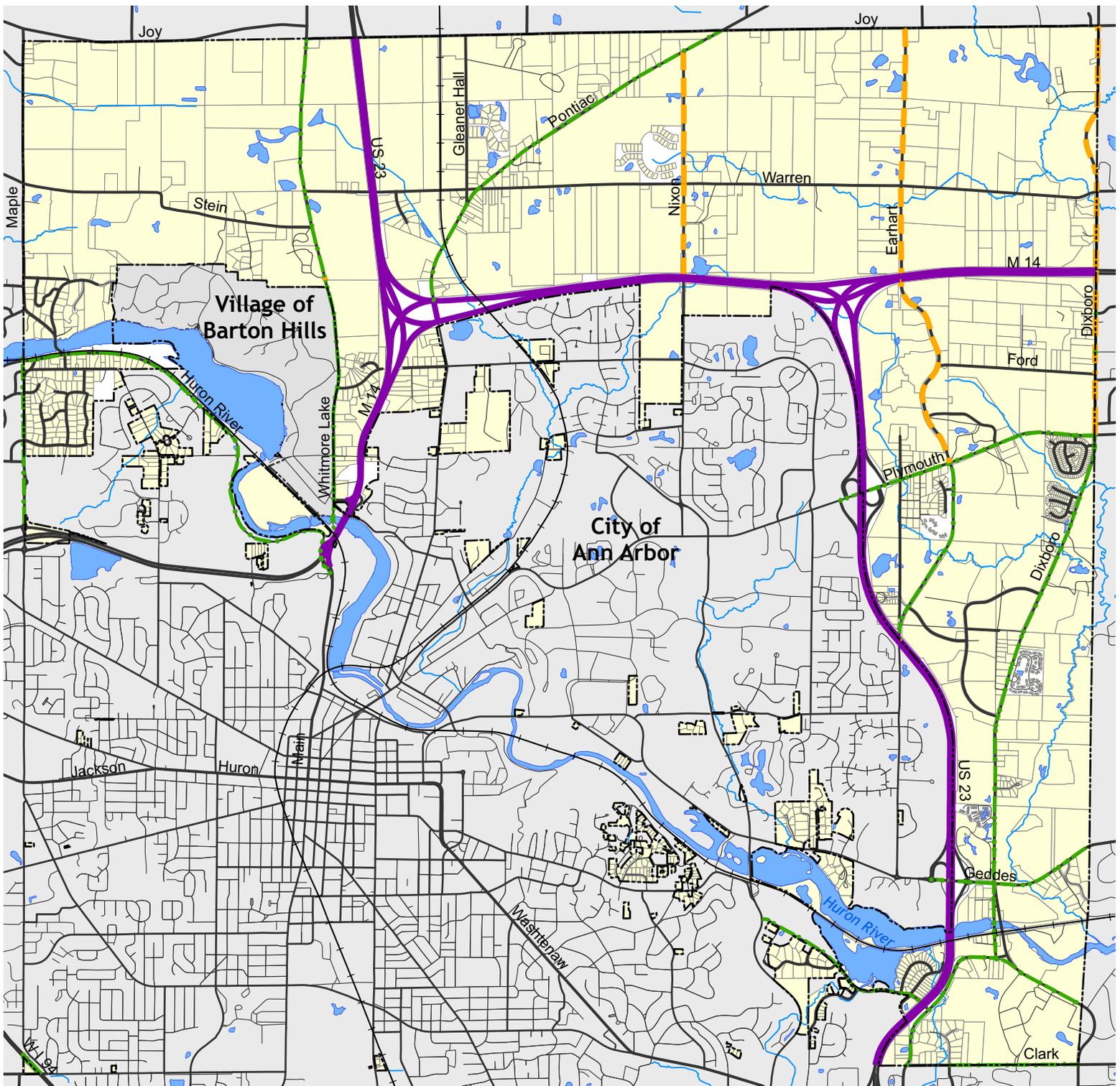


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

8-13-14

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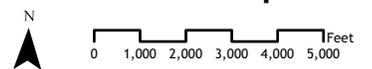
## Map 10

# STREET PLAN

## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

### Legend

-  Collector
-  Minor Arterial
-  Freeway

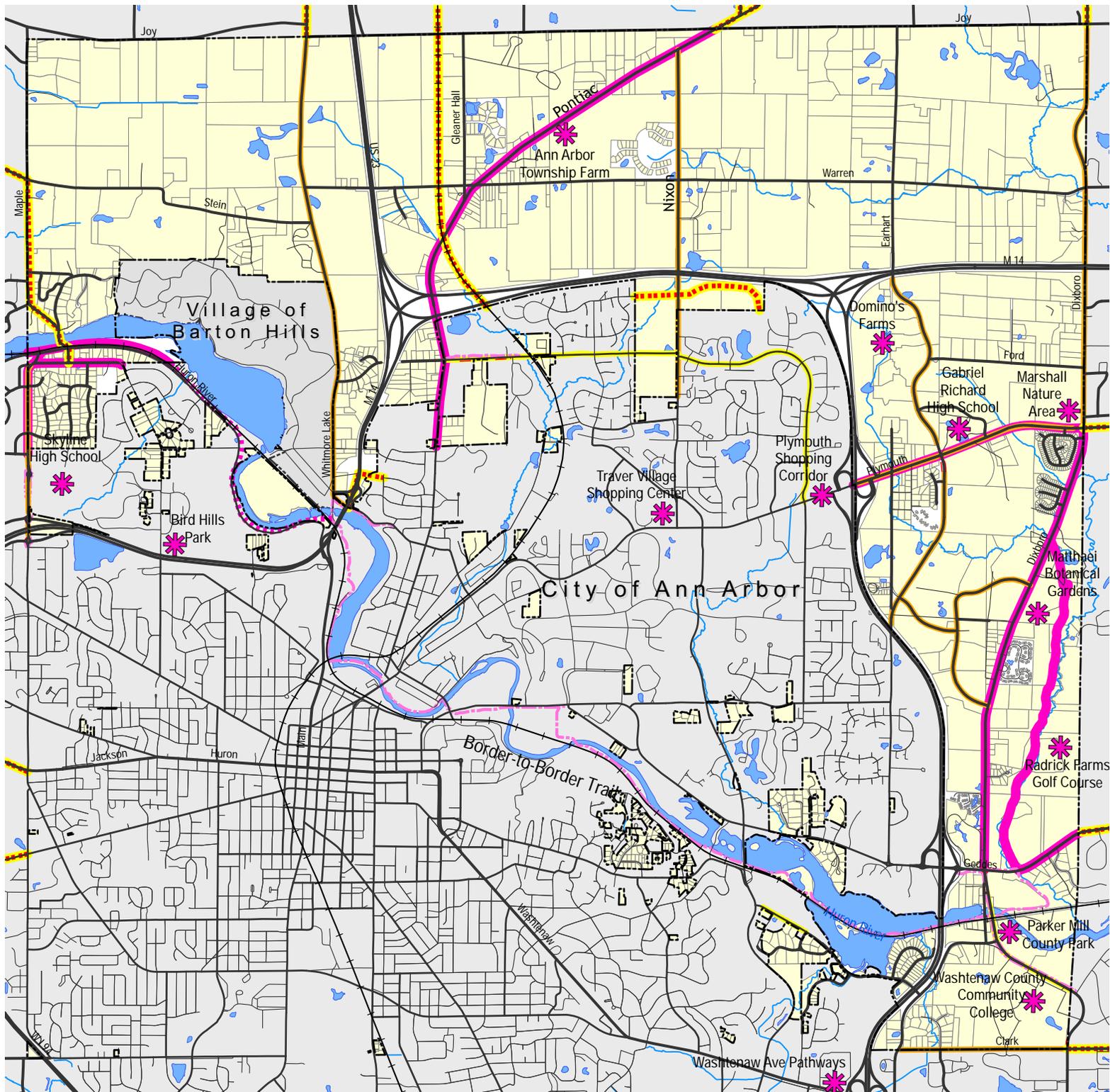


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

9-25-14

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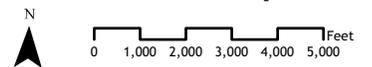
Map 11

# PRIORITY NON-MOTORIZED CORRIDORS

## Legend

-  Priority Corridors
-  Destinations
-  Future Border-to-Border Trail
-  Potential Future On/Off-Road Routes (WATS, 2006 & 2012; SEMCOG, 2008; & SE Mi Foundation, 2006)
-  Existing Sidewalks
-  Existing On-Road Bike Lanes/Marked Paved Shoulders
-  Existing On-Road Unmarked Paved Shoulders
-  Existing Off-Road Shared-Use Paths

## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

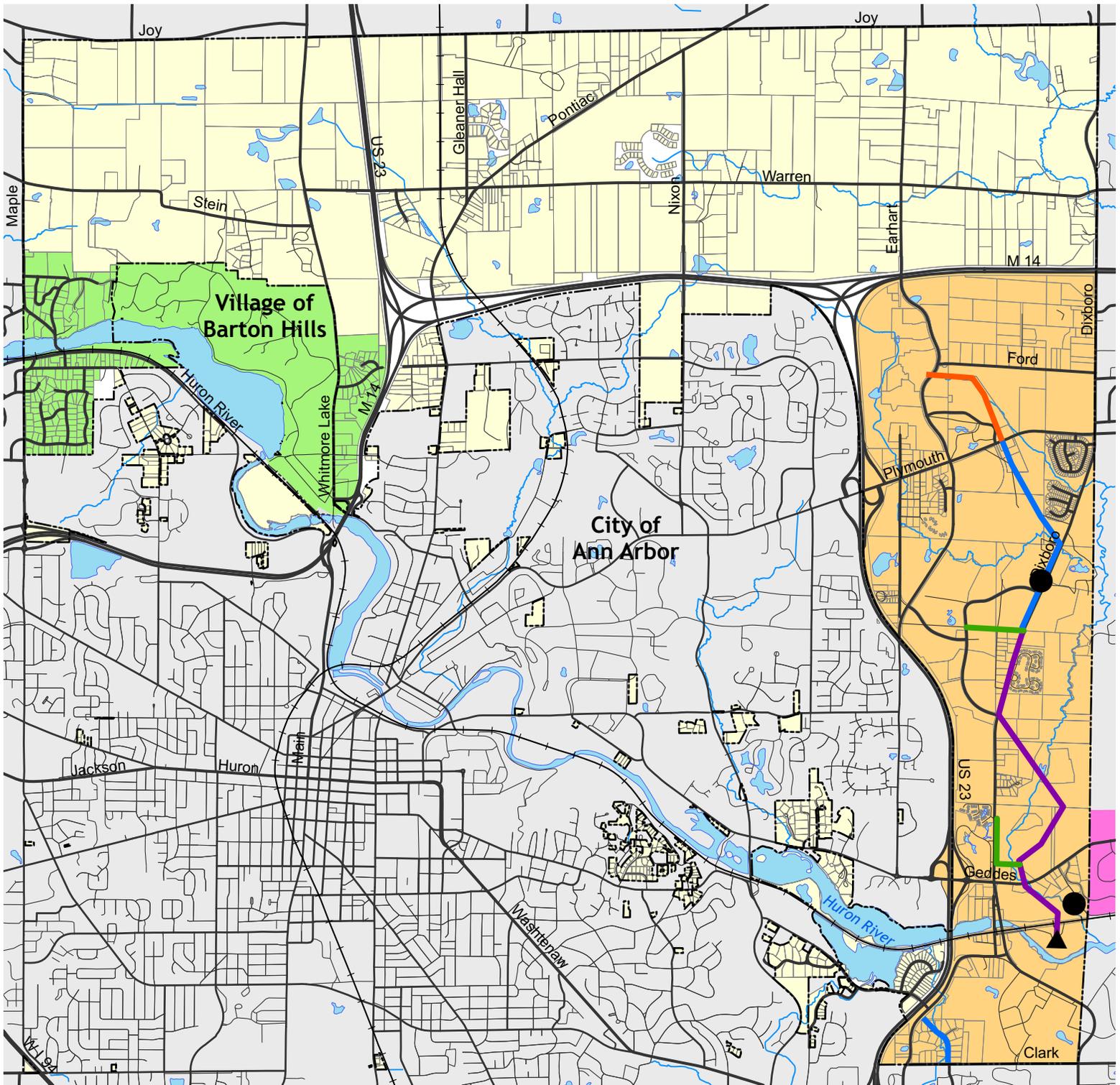


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

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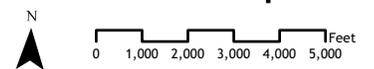
Map 12

# SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

### Legend

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ● Lift Station Area | Service Areas       |
| ▲ WWTP              | 3-A                 |
| — 10 Inch           | 5-A                 |
| — 12 Inch           | 5-A (Superior Twp.) |
| — 15 Inch           |                     |
| — 18 Inch           |                     |

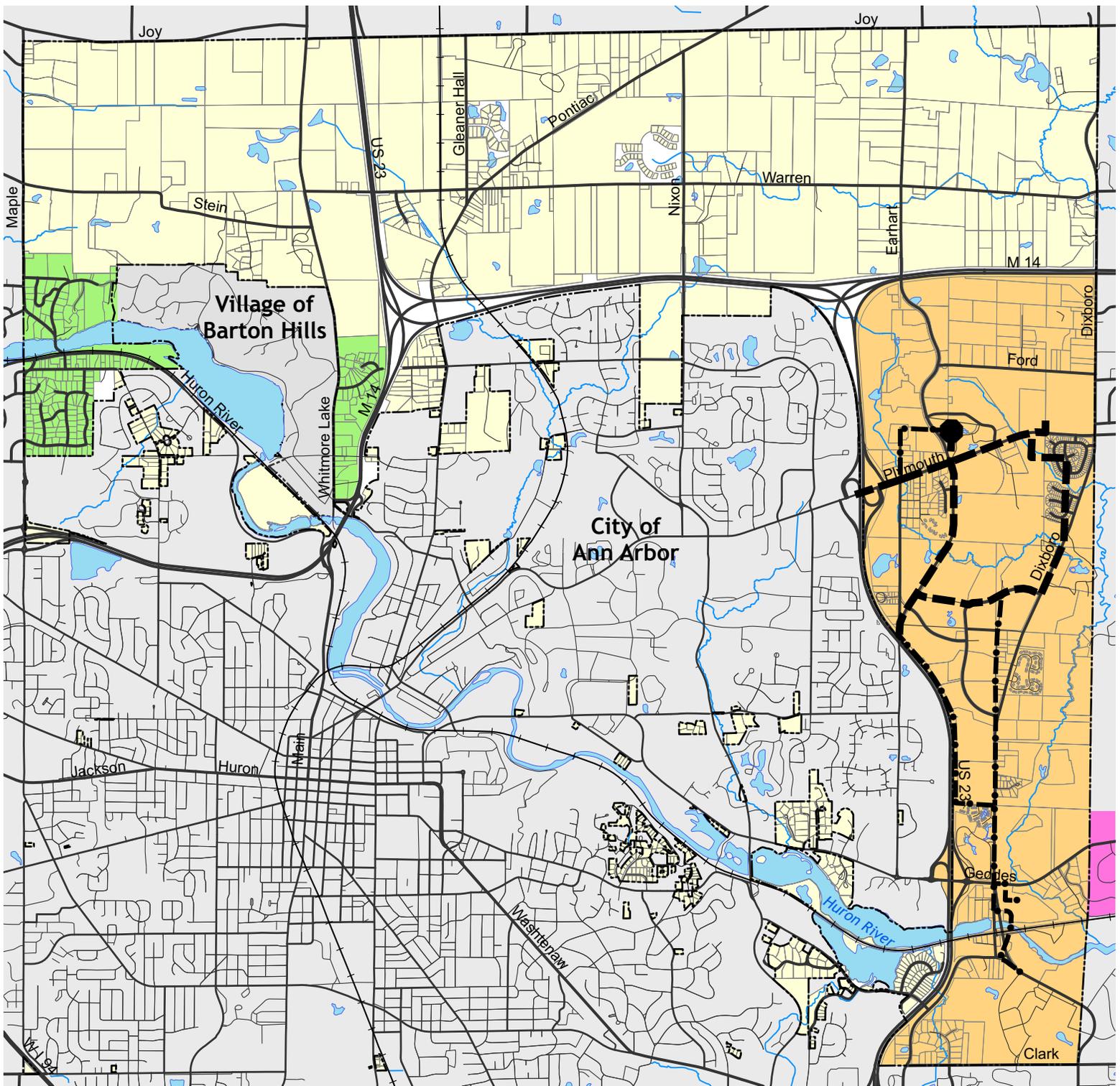


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

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Map 13

# WATER SERVICE

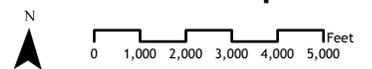
## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

### Legend

-  Pump Station / Storage Tank
-  12 Inch
-  16 Inch

### Service Areas

-  3-A
-  5-A
-  5-A (Superior Twp.)

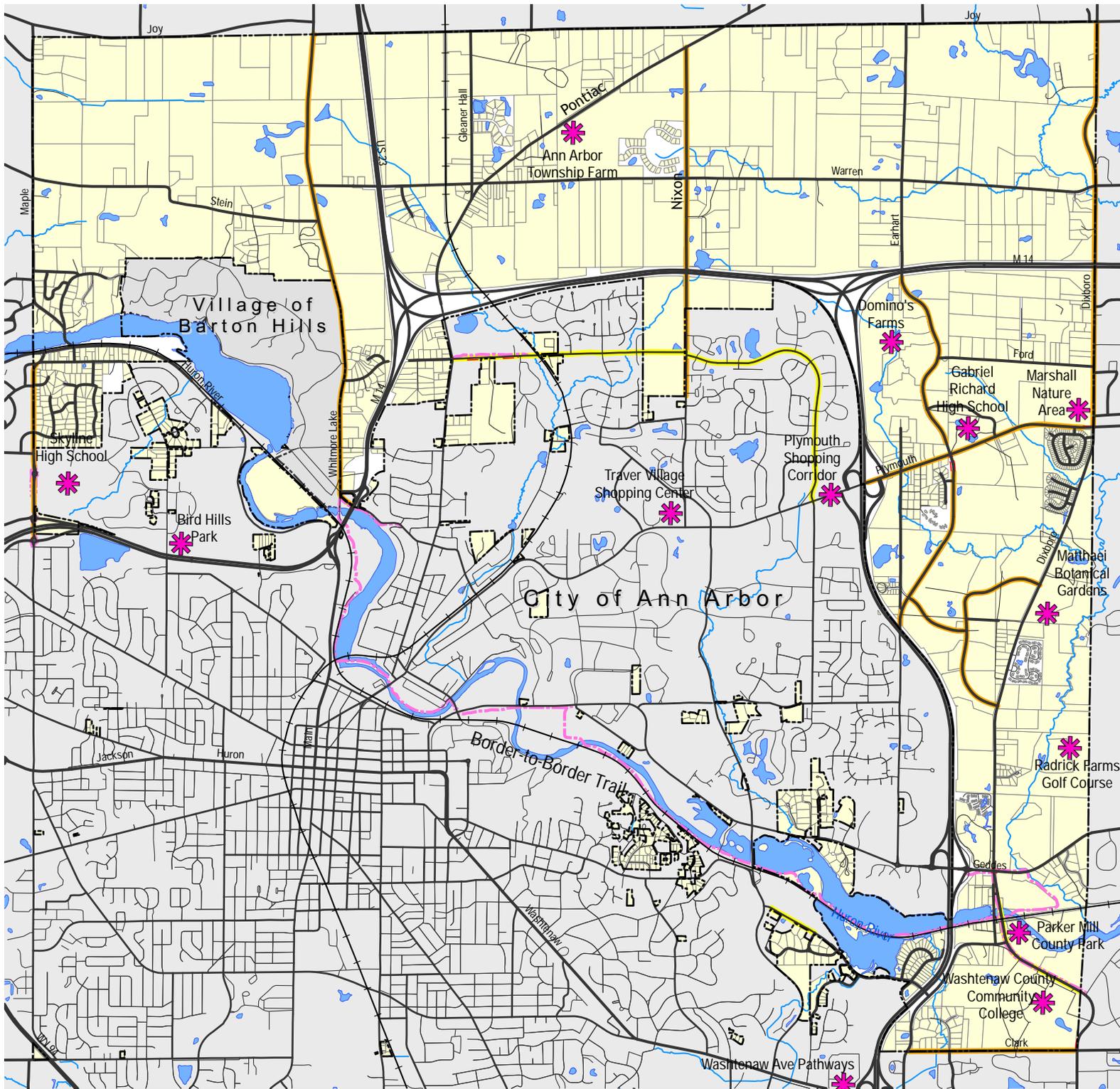


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

8-13-14

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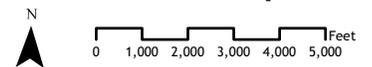
Map A

# EXISTING NON-MOTORIZED FACILITIES & DESTINATIONS

## Legend

-  Destinations
-  Sidewalks (5' wide min.)
-  On-Road Bike Lanes/Marked Paved Shoulders (4-5 ft. wide min.)
-  On-Road Unmarked Paved Shoulders (about 2-3' wide)
-  Off-Road Shared-Use Paths (8-10' wide, asphalt)

## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

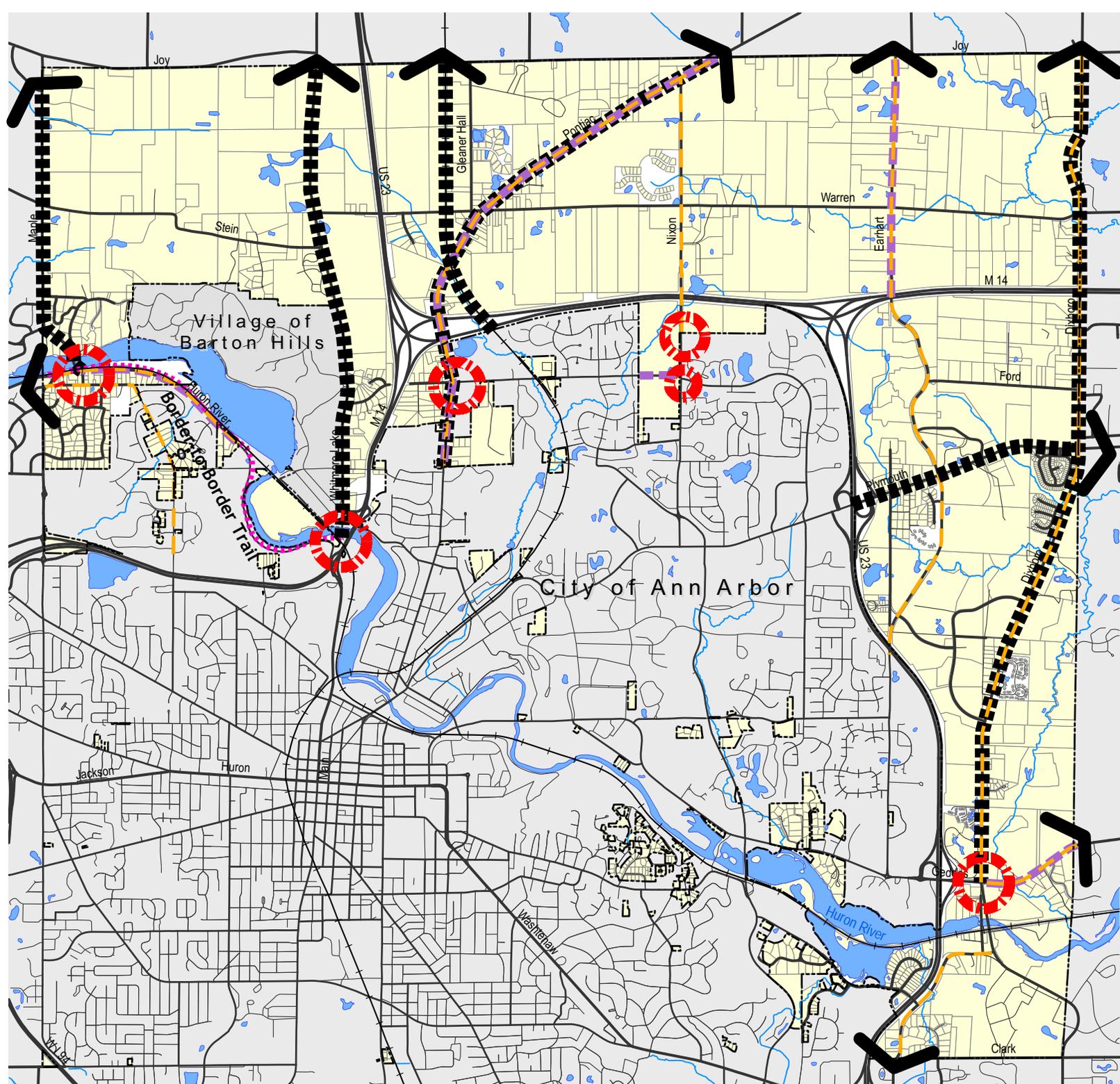


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

8-13-14

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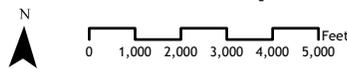
Map B

# BASIS FOR NON-MOTORIZED PRIORITIES

## Legend

- WATS 2012 Complete Streets Plan
- WATS 2006 Non-Motorized Plan
- Regional Trails & Greenways Vision 2006
- ⋯ Future Border-to-Border Trail
- Connections with Adjacent Townships
- Connections with City of Ann Arbor

## Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

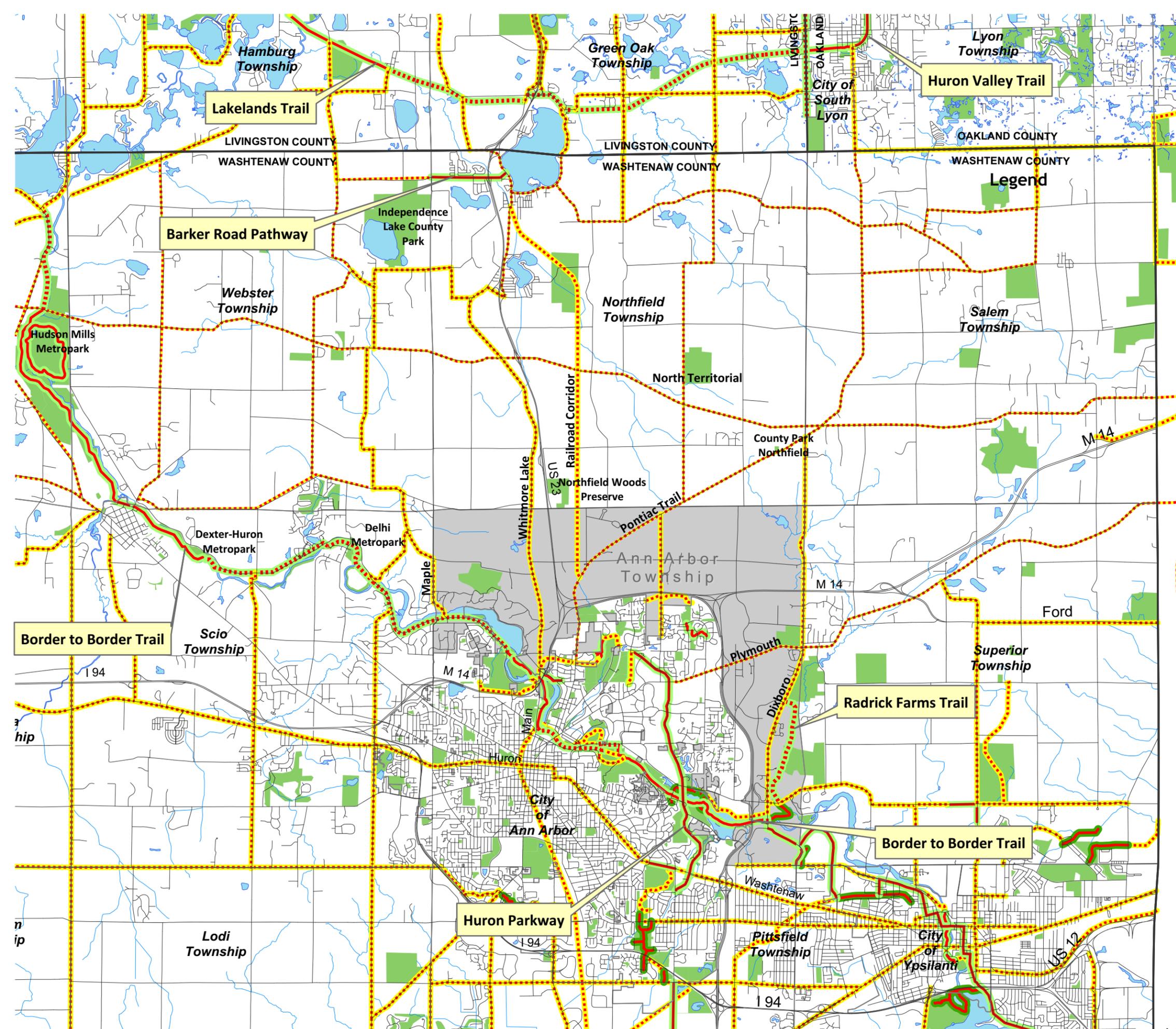


Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

8-13-14

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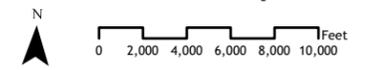


- Existing Off-Road Shared-Use Path
- - - Planned Off-Road Shared-Use Path
- - - Potential Future On/Off-Road Routes

Source: WATS Complete Streets Plan (2012) and Non-Motorized Plan (2006), SEMCOG Greenways Data (2008), and Regional Greenways Initiative (2006)

## Map C EXISTING & PLANNED REGIONAL NON-MOTORIZED ROUTES

Ann Arbor Township  
Master Plan Update



Base Map: Ann Arbor Township and Washtenaw County

# APPENDIX - PRIORITY CORRIDORS FOR NON- MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION

## A. ON-LINE SURVEY RESULTS

A short questionnaire was posted to the Township's website asking residents to provide their ideas regarding trails in the Township. The survey was also advertised in a post-card mailed to all Township addresses, and on flyers for a public trails meeting.

Sixty-one people took the survey, 38 of which were Township residents. Respondents were mostly between the ages of 18 and 55 years (41), with the remainder being seniors (19). Respondents provided the following opinions:

1. Eighty-one percent ride a bike in the Township.
2. Of those, almost all ride for fitness/recreation, and about half are adults that use a bike to commute to work.
3. Eighty-three percent have ridden their bike to downtown Ann Arbor in the past 18 months; 70% to the Border-to-Border Trail; and more than 60% to both U. of M.'s north and central campuses.
4. The five roadways that were ranked highest to receive new bike lanes/trails include (in order of priority):
  - a. Plymouth Road
  - b. Huron River Drive
  - c. Geddes Road
  - d. Dixboro Road
  - e. Maple Road
5. Eighty-nine percent reported that they walk/run for exercise or recreation in the Township.
6. Seventy-eight of them stated that they walk/run on trails in existing parks.
7. Ninety-eight percent reported that they do not feel safe when walking/running along the shoulder of a major Township road.
8. Of these, 71% thought a wider shoulder or a separate path along the road would help them feel safer.
9. Sixty-seven percent stated that they walk/run along Huron River Drive; 45% along Pontiac Trail, and 43% along Dixboro Road. Twenty-four percent stated that they also walk/run along Plymouth Road.
10. Most respondents (51%) usually walk/run three to five miles.

## B. PUBLIC TRAILS MEETING RESULTS

A public meeting was conducted on March 10, 2014 at the Township Hall's meeting room. Over sixty people attended, most of whom were Township residents. After introductions, a background presentation was made describing the Planning Commission's efforts to date. The presentation also reviewed the draft Priority Corridors for Non-Motorized Transportation Map.

The attendees were divided into six small groups of approximately eight people each for a planning exercise. Each group was given a large aerial map of the Township, and marking pens of various colors. They were asked to identify important bike/walk destinations and the corridors to each these destinations, and then prioritize the destinations/corridors. Priorities were determined by each person placing "sticky dots" next to destinations/corridors they thought most important. The table on the next page identifies the total number of votes (or sticky dots) each destination or corridor received.

The small group maps also illustrated some additional ideas:

1. Prioritize routes/corridors that create loops. For example, create a loop with Pontiac Trail and Dixboro Road (Note that these roads connect in Northfield Township)
2. Coordinate non-motorized lanes/trails with existing bus stops. Bus stops identified include:
  - a. Pontiac Trail at Dhu Varren

- b. Dhu Varren at Nixon Road
  - c. Geddes Road at Dixboro Road
4. Plymouth Road needs wider shoulders and improvements for non-motorized access into the City.
5. Two destinations north of Ann Arbor Township were identified: German Park and Alexander's Farm Market.
6. Don't improve Maple Road or the CSX Railroad tracks for trails.

Table 2: Results of Public Trail Meeting - Votes with Sticky Dots

Priority Routes/Corridors	Number of Sticky Dots Received							% of Total
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Total	
U. of M./Matthaei/Township Trail (east of Dixboro Rd.) / Dixboro Rd.	4	27	10	15	5	3	64	30%
Pontiac Trail	5		30	10	5	2	52	25%
Plymouth Road (west of Dixboro Rd.)				10	8	3	21	10%
Future Border-to-Border Trail	2		1		10	4	17	8%
N. Pontiac Trail (to Earhart & Dixboro Rd. in Northfield Twp.)	6			3		2	11	5%
Huron River Drive		9	1				10	5%
Ex. Pedestrian Trail under M-14 (Pontiac Trail to Barton Drive)	4				2		6	3%
Earhart Rd. (north of M-14)	3				2	1	6	3%
Connection to Gallup Park		6					6	3%
Connecting U. of M./Matthaei/Township Trail with Parker Mill path	1					4	5	2%
Dixboro Road (connecting Matthaei with Woodridge Ave.)	3						3	1%
Warren Road (west of CSX tracks; coordinate with ex. bus stop)				3			3	1%
Whitmore Lake Road					2		2	1%
Earhart Road (south of M-14)/Woodridge Ave.						2	2	1%
Stein Road				1			1	.5%
Dhu Varren Road (City of Ann Arbor)					1		1	.5%
Connection with Downtown Ann Arbor					1		1	.5%
Maple Road							0	
Newport Road							0	
East Huron River Drive/Hogback							0	
Geddes Road (between Border-to-Border Trail & Superior Twp.)							0	
Total	28	42	42	42	36	21	211	

